

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>PAREKURA HEADLAND &amp; OROKAWA PENINSULA</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Beach Reefs and islands	The repeated pattern of headlands of this unit, together with the fringing reefs at their apex, are a defining feature.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Paleozoic – Mesozoic Waipapa Terrane greywacke
<b>Soil Types</b>	Marua clay loam
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>Identified as part of the wider Russell Forest with connecting fingers that reach the coast in this area. Whilst kanuka and manuka dominated shrubland appear to be the prevailing species amongst the vegetation cover, there are areas where evident “pohutukawa coastal forest on hillslope” and pockets of “taraire–kohekohe–puriri forest on hillslope” exist. Other tree species commonly present include towai , tanekaha, totara and kauri.</p> <p>In terms of significance, the wider Russell Forest, and its contiguous areas of private and Crown–owned forest, constitutes one of the largest contiguous forest blocks in the Eastern Northland Ecological Region. The area contains a significant number of threatened animal and plant species and is a representative site for 6 forest types</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Contains five pa sites at Huirangi inlet, Pareanui Bay, Te Hua Pa, Tanikuirā pa, Tokatukahau Point, Tangitu Point and Motukauri Island, Opunga Cove and Jack’s Bay southern headland. Recorded sites are numerous and particularly focused on headlands and the brink of the coastal flank.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics)	
<p>Shares many characteristics with the Wairiki-Rawhiti unit, but in a more contained setting and with a simpler, in detailed terms, coastline.</p> <p>A defining aspect of this unit is the repeated series of minor peninsulas, all projecting from a broader underlying landform that separates Parekura Bay from Manawaraoa Bay to the west. Most of those strategic points were occupied by an equally regular sequence of pa sites.</p> <p>This broader landform also acts as a southern shore to the Bay of Islands and echoes the common headland form that is found on the islands themselves. It also has pronounced reef platforms associated with each headland and a more modest rocky shoreline around much of the hard coast.</p> <p>Just as the headlands establish a coastal pattern, so too do the regular sequence of small beaches that lie between those projections. A fringe of pohutukawa runs along much of the coastal flank, emerging from a more consistent cover of indigenous shrubland that is a strong unifying theme. Built development is a component of this coastline. Most of that housing tends to be focused in embayments, leaving the headlands and peninsulas almost entirely free of development.</p>	

An extensive and relatively recent subdivision on the headland has continued that pattern, and linked the coastal sequence with an extensive restorative planting programme.

## EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
<b>Natural Science Factors</b>		
<b>Representativeness</b> Natural landscapes are clearly characteristic of the area, district or region. The key components of the landscape will be present in a way that defines the character of the place and distills its character and essence. Endemic associations.	4	Strongly related to this part of the Bay of Islands, but also replicated elsewhere around the eastern coast.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	3	Relatively common in the adjacent area, but less so on a wider scale
<b>Aesthetic Values</b>		
<b>Coherence</b> The patterns of land cover and land use are largely in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of the landform of the area and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.	4	Repetition of landform, both in terms of topography and in alignment, are reinforced by indigenous vegetation patterns and the prevalent siting of the houses that exist.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	Topographically diverse, with added layers of complexity created by the interaction with the sea and vegetation associations.
<b>Vividness</b> Natural features and landscape are widely recognized across the community and beyond the local area and remain clearly in the memory; striking landscapes are symbolic of an area due to their recognisable and memorable qualities.	4	Distinctive and very memorable as a result of its clear structure. Experienced as part of the containing landform that defines this coast of the Bay of Islands.
<b>Naturalness</b> How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of buildings and associated built development.</li> <li>• Presence of infrastructure services.</li> <li>• Extent of indigenous forest cover.</li> <li>• Homogeneity of exotic vegetation.</li> <li>• Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use.</li> <li>• Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns.</li> <li>• Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform.</li> <li>• Presence of water.</li> </ul>	4	A settled landscape, albeit sporadically, in which the overriding landscape form and patterns prevail and unify over that level of development.  Landform largely intact, with only minor modification associated with dwellings and access. More substantial landform changes in the recent subdivision have been comprehensively addressed through detailing and planting.  Connections with the sea are integral to this ONL and bring a strong component of natural character.
<b>Intactness</b> Natural systems are intact and aesthetically coherent and do not display significant visual signs of human modification, intervention or manipulation, visually intact and highly aesthetic natural landscapes.	4	Some compromise by residential settlement, but the natural patterns are dominant.

<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	<b>4</b>	Very legible as a result of its bold underlying structure. Natural weathering and erosion of the reefs at the apexes of the peninsulas is clearly demonstrated and vegetation patterns are also influential.
<b>Sensory qualities</b> (These are landscape phenomena as directly perceived and experienced by humans, such as the view of a scenic landscape, or the distinctive smell and sound of the foreshore).	<b>3</b>	Has a strong sense of local character and relatedness to the wider Bay of Islands.
<b>Transient Values</b> The consistent and repeated occurrence of transient features that contributes to the character, qualities and values of the landscape; landscapes are widely recognised for their transient features and the contribution that these make to the landscape.	<b>3</b>	Influenced primarily by the water conditions that prevail across the Te Rawhiti Inlet, which are not particularly dramatic due to the sheltered nature of that waterbody. Flowering pohutukawa herald summer proper.
<b>Remoteness / Wildness</b> Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	Moderately settled, but set some distance off of mainland public access and primary boating corridors.
<b>Shared and recognised values</b> Natural features and landscape are widely known and valued by the immediate and wider community for their contribution to a sense of place leading to a strong community association with, or high public esteem for the place.	<b>3</b>	Whilst likely not to be extensively known for its own qualities, this area is closely related to the wider identity and character of the Bay of Islands. The popularity of protected anchorages to either side mean that many cruising boats retreat to this area in bad weather.
<b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b> Natural features and landscapes can be clearly and widely known and influenced by their connection to the spiritual, cultural and historical valued in the place and includes associative meanings and associative activities valued by the community. Associative meanings are spiritual, cultural or social associations with particular landscape elements, features, or areas, whilst associative activities are patterns of social activity that occur in particular parts of a landscape, for example, popular walking routes or fishing spots.	<b>***</b>	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period  Connections with the Bay of Islands and its cultural, recreational, scientific and tourism related aspects.

Rank scale between 1 (low) and 5 (high)

<b>Land Types</b>
Coastal cliffs / escarpment
Low escarpment
Bays and headlands
Beach
Dune complex
Reefs and islands
Estuarine / inlet
Open harbour
Coastal plain
Rolling hills
Steep hills; moderate to high relief
Ranges; high relief
Strongly rolling land
Low rolling land
Valley floors and flats
Plains
Volcanic cones
River mouth
Wetland
Watercourses
Lakes and water bodies



Photographs of unit













