

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>WAIKUKU BEACH TO TOM BOWLING BAY LOWLAND</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> (refer to list overleaf) Beach Dune complex Coastal plain (tombolo) Wetlands Lakes and waterbodies	A broad tombolo of accumulated sand that has formed between the former island of North Cape headland and the mainland body. Swamps and peat deposits have built up on this area as sands have created pans and drainage is impeded.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Holocene foredunes overlying eroded Pleistocene consolidated dune sand associated with Tom Bowling Bay and Waikuku Beach.  Pleistocene-Holocene muddy and sandy interdune deposits on tombolo bordered by Pleistocene-Holocene foredune belts creating freshwater wetlands in muddy and sandy interdune deposits.  NZ Geopres Inventory: Waikuku Beach (north) and Waikuku Beach (south) Miocene limestone sites – only marine middle or late Miocene fauna known north of Kawhia or East Cape. Waikuku Flat dune dammed swamp – a large area in the centre of the tombolo.
<b>Soil Types</b>	Te Kopuru sand, Ohia sand, Ruakaka peaty sandy loam, Hurewai fine sandy loam, Te Hapua fine sandy loam, Kapuwairua clay and silty clay, eroded remains of Red Hill sandy clay loam.
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Waikuku Beach is considered a good example of a nationally threatened habitat type supporting threatened and regionally significant species.  Tom Bowling Bay contains a diverse array of plant and animal taxa, including several threatened species within a nationally uncommon habitat type (dunefields).  A range of wetland / peat favouring ecological units are developed around depressions and wet areas in the central part of the tombolo.  Area provides a critical link between the North Cape area with the rest of Te Pahi, creating a land-bridge corridor which will aid the dispersal and reintroduction of many species. Predominantly in a natural (albeit semi-modified) state, including an extensive wetland system containing threatened species and prime habitat for North Island fernbird. A representative site for all vegetation types.
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Numerous sites recorded through the foredune area of each coast and the harder material at either end of the respective bays. Little recorded evidence in the wetland centre of the landform.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	Relationship with serpentine quarry via the access corridor.

## Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

A very graphic landscape formed across a tombolo, which connects between the hard geology of the “mainland” and the former island that contains North Cape. The bold forms of Waikuku Beach and Tom Bowling Bay define either side of the landform and transition into a broad dunefield with *Spinifex* and pingao associations. These dunefields in turn give way to a complex of shrubland, reedbeds and wetland in the core of the tombolo. Collectively these landforms and vegetation associations give the landscape unit a very legible character that is clearly responsive to the forces of sea and wind. The special geophysical characteristics of the tombolo, its drainage patterns and developed soils/peat deposits have resulted in distinctive habitats and flora/fauna associations.

There is a small dwelling, an associated area of exotic grassland and the track to the serpentine quarry as signals of human habitation. Apparently the area is, or until recently was, informally grazed by cattle, pigs and horses, which has impacted upon the integrity of the vegetation cover, although possibly not lastingly.

## 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.	5	Highly distinctive and reflective of its specific location, coastal processes and as a Northland coastal landscape at a broader scale. Very graphic landforms and patterns are a direct consequence of ongoing formative process (coastal sediment transport and dune building forces) and vegetative responses to those forces and habitats.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	A very unusual tombolo form with high energy coasts to either side. Also rare in terms of ecological associations.
<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.	5	Almost entirely unified and reflective of the natural forces that continue to shape the unit. A small shed and related area of grazing, along with the access track, are the only disruptions.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	Ecologically rich and diverse. Dynamic and subtly complex in terms of coastal process and resulting landforms that continue to evolve and develop.
<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.	3	Highly distinctive and memorable due to its very graphic nature. However, accessibility is extremely limited, so few people will know of the existence of this unit.
<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</li> </ul>	5	Almost no buildings (a single small dwelling) or infrastructure (an informal track only).  Natural processes and cover are responsive to non-human forces, with the possible exception of browsing stock if this still occurs.  Strong relationship with coast to either side and with adjoining, bodies of more elevated, “hard” land as a wider system.

<p>processes / ecological patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform.</li> <li>• Presence of water.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Intactness</b></p> <p>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.</p>	5	Very intact and barely modified – as noted previously.
<p><b>Experiential Values</b></p>		
<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p> <p>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	5	This unit has a strong identity that is a direct result of its formation and continued dynamic as a tombolo that is subject to open coastal influences on both sides.
<p><b>Sensory qualities</b></p> <p>(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).</p>	5	A strong and distinctive landscape entity, where natural patterns and processes prevail. Likely to be evocative in terms of the smell and sound of breaking waves, wind exposure, tidal range, damp areas and the distinctive odour of native shrublands and wetlands.
<p><b>Transient Values</b></p> <p>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.</p>	4	Highly responsive to sea conditions, wind exposure and light conditions in recognition of the very reflective nature of the pale dune sands. Seasonal changes are likely to be subtle.
<p><b>Remoteness / Wildness</b></p> <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	5	One of the least accessible parts of Northland. Difficult to reach by boat in most seas, and accessed only via a long and rough private track.
<p><b>Shared and recognised values</b></p> <p>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.</p>	2	Some connection with well known North Cape, but generally likely to be little awareness of this area due to its inaccessibility and little publicity about its presence or values.
<p><b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b></p> <p>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. These can include both activities and meanings 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.</p>	***	<p>Likely to be high due to location and association with Te Wairua Rerenga.</p> <p>Takahua Cemetery at north east end of Tom Bowling Bay.</p> <p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period</p>

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

Land Types
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



