

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>TROUNSON KAURI PARK</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> (refer to list overleaf)  Low rolling land.	The unit displays limited relief and mirrors the landform character of the surrounding rolling pastoral land. It is contained within a single catchment.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)  Manaia / Bream Head stratovolcano	Rolling hill country in deeply weathered Waipoua Subgroup basaltic lava flows.
<b>Soil Types</b>	<p>The unit is predominantly overlain by Whatoro clay with a small area of Aranga clay overlying the south eastern corner and the northern edge of the unit.</p> <p>Trounson Kauri Park Scenic Reserve is a soil site of international importance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Undisturbed soil-kauri forest associations featuring unmodified kauri forest.</li> <li>ii. Only example of Whatoro soils in this inventory. (Arand <i>et al.</i> 1993).</li> </ul>
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>The Trounson Kauri Park Scenic Reserve (O07/005) is a Level 1 site located within the Tutamoe Ecological District that comprises 379 ha of forest, and 33.1 ha of shrubland.</p> <p>The PNAP survey reports that the following significant flora is present within the site; kirk's daisy (Serious Decline), willow-leaved maire (Gradual Decline), kawaka, monoao and <i>Microlaena carsei</i> (all Sparse) with an historical record of <i>Thismia rodwayi</i> (Sparse) from 1963. Black maire, <i>Brachyglottis kirkii</i> var. <i>angustior</i>, <i>Collospermum microspermum</i>, <i>Dicksonia lanata</i>, <i>Grammitis billardiarei</i>, horopito, <i>Metrosideros colensoi</i>, tawari and wharariki (all Regionally significant species).</p> <p>Fauna of significance includes the following species; NI kaka and Australasian bittern (both Nationally Endangered), NI brown kiwi (Serious Decline), kukupa (Gradual Decline), and NI tomtit (Regionally significant species). Long-tailed bat (Nationally Vulnerable) are recorded at a number of sites</p> <p>Other species of significance include longfin eel (Gradual Decline), shortfin eel, inanga, banded kokopu (Regionally significant species), Cran's bully, common bully, red-finned bully, common smelt, koura, copper skink, kauri snail (Gradual Decline), and northland tusked weta (Sparse).</p> <p>The Reserve was officially opened in 1921. Since 1995 the reserve has been intensively managed as a mainland island, creating a refuge for threatened and regionally significant species. Kiwi and kukupa numbers are particularly high and dispersal of both species occurs to outside areas.</p> <p>Outside the large forest tract of Waipoua/Mataraua/Waima, this forest</p>

	contains the best examples of kauri-taraire and taraire-totara forest in the Ecological District.
Archaeological sites	To be added.
Heritage Landscapes	Trounson Park was initiated in 1890, when the government set aside 3.34 hectares. James Trounson added another 22 hectares and a further 364 hectares (sold to the Government) resulting in the creation of Trounson Kauri Park Scenic Reserve. The Reserve was officially opened in 1921.
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics) <p>Trounson Kauri Park forms a discrete area of some 586ha of native bush set within a rolling rural landscape and rises to a maximum height of some 300 metres. Although not prominent from within the wider landscape, the scale of the vegetation, most notably the kauri accentuates this feature.</p> <p>The unit includes the catchments of several first order streams of a tributary of the Waima Stream and is bounded on its south western side by one of these streams.</p> <p>The unit is accessed via Trounson Park Road off State Highway 12 and this road separates the unit from an area of less diverse shrubland and forest that extends to the north and north west.</p> <p>The character of the unit is powerfully endemic, the vegetation displaying a diversity and scale that reflects the lack of historical modification. The scale of the vegetation is clearly evident when approaching the Park from Trounson Park Road, with the taller trees – kauri, rimu and totara extending above the canopy.</p> <p>From within the forest, the numerous trunks of large trees that punctuate the view is a sight that is relatively rare in native forests and evidences the quantity and age of trees present within the unit.</p>	

## 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	The unit is highly representative of Northland kauri forest and the plant associations present in that forest type. The scale of the native trees, most notably the kauri generate powerful endemic associations.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Although the forest type is well represented in this part of the country, nationally it is rare, and the strength, both perceptually in a landscape character sense, and ecologically, lies in its close association with other similar areas of forest.
<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	The unit displays a high level of coherence, with vegetation patterns clearly reflecting the underlying landscape and hydrological patterns.  The unit displays no significant discordant elements.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	The unit displays a high degree of ecological diversity and complexity.

<b>Vividness</b> Natural features and landscape are widely recognised 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	Although the unit is not very striking when seen in the context of the wider landscape – appearing as an area of bush within the rural landscape, a hint of its memorability becomes evident when viewed from more proximate locations, from where the crowns of the kauri breach the canopy. The scale of these trees is striking when viewed from Trounson Park Road, but particularly when seen from within the forest itself. Within the forest, it is the scale of the tree trunks, and the numerousness of the large trees that impresses the visitor rather than the height of the trees – an aspect which is less evident when within the forest.
<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	When viewed from within the unit, the prevailing naturalness is clearly evident, although infrastructure installed to cater for visitors such as car parking, bridges and other structures, and walkways detract slightly.  Having said this, these elements are confined to a very limited portion of the unit, whilst the balance retains a highly natural character with strong and resilient natural processes and patterns.  The resilience of natural processes is aided by the ongoing pest control undertaken by DoC within the Park, based on its status as a mainland island.  The unit is, however of modest scale when compared to nearby forest areas such as Waipoua, and is bounded by farmland.
<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	The unit displays natural systems that are intact and coherent with minimal evidence of historical intervention such as logging or clearance. The intensive pest management undertaken assists with the maintenance of robust natural processes, and maintaining the presence of endemic fauna species.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	3	Whilst the landscape is clearly 'natural' there is limited evidence of large scale and dramatic formative processes. Hydrological processes are evident within watercourses, and evidence of biological processes such as vegetative decay, the presence of rata vines on the larger trees and vegetation succession and regeneration are evident.
<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).	5	Again, the forest presents relatively subtle qualities, such as the scent of the bush and the sound of wind in the trees rather than dramatic qualities. The nocturnal sound of the kiwi calling is, however a particularly notable and special experience.
<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.	4	The unit is strongly influenced by light and weather conditions, although light conditions on the southern side tend to be more muted in scope. Seasonal influences of blooming and fruiting of trees, shrubs and climbers are also of note.

<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>	Individuals can gain a sense of remoteness and isolation when within the unit, however views to the surrounding rural landscape, and proximity of vehicular access routes diminish the sense of wildness.
<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>5</b>	The Trounson Kauri Park is a widely recognised tourist attraction of the west coast, promoted for the opportunity of experience the large kauri, and kiwi. The proximity of the campground from which night walk eco-tours are organized assists in promoting the popularity of the Park and its values. As such, the unit is valued and recognised by the community.
<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. 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.	<b>5</b>	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.  Eco tourism and ease of access to the Reserve has increased public perception and knowledge of the unit. Social associations are therefore considered to be strong.

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

