

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>BUSH CLAD HILLS TO WEST OF OPUA &amp; PAIHIA, INCLUDING MOREWA FLANK</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> (refer to list overleaf) Rolling hills	A broad belt of bush clad rolling hills which extend inland from Paihia & Opuia with a consistent flank extending from the north of Kawakawa through to the west of Morewa. A second ridgeline extends to the west further to the north, adjacent to Oromahoe. These inner portions of the area ascend to peaks in the order of 220 – 230 metres. Whilst the profile of the terrain is typically rolling, some lower catchment valleys become moderately steep sided.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Waipapa Group greywacke overlying Te Kuiti Group glauconitic sandstone and Mangakahia Complex mudstones (near Morewa) and Waipapa Group greywacke for balance.
<b>Soil Types</b>	Marua clay loam; Te Ranga steep land soils, light brown clay loam and sandy clay loam; Rangiora clay, clay loam, and silty clay loam; White Cone steep land soils, clay loam and sandy clay loam.
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Predominant indigenous cover consists of pockets of podocarp. hardwood association & with fringes typically transitioning from kanuka dominant. Includes 2 PNA sites: Taramawa Forest PO5/056 (flank north of Morewa) and Opuia Forest PO5/058. Former involves 6 vegetation types, with tanekaha, towai taraire, manuka and kanuka being prevailing species. Latter covers 7 types, with similar species embodied, but also areas of kauri and raupo reedbed. Noted habitat for NI brown kiwi, NZ pigeon, Northland green gecko and NZ weka. Includes some areas and scattered specimens of more exotic growth, primarily pine and wattle, which native species are emerging through and tending to dominate.
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Largely situated around the coastal margins – most of which are settled – or associated with the Puketona stonefields, both of which are outside of this unit. Small clusters of identified sites are found within the ONL near Kaipatiki Stream (off of the lower Waitangi River), the southern side of Taratara, the main peak on the Puketona ridgeline, and in the vicinity of Paringaringa and Hukahuka pa, at Taumarere just north east of Kawakawa.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	Past extractive use for milling of native timber.
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics)	
<p>A block of moderately elevated terrain that stretches from estuarine coastal flanks to ridges and scarps running some distance inland. A coherent cover of predominantly indigenous vegetation, with some variation in species composition, is the unifying theme. In addition to its intrinsic role as an extensive area that is primarily natural in its character, this landscape unit has an important task as a backdrop to the inner Bay of Islands around Paihia and Te Haumi.</p> <p>It is also a powerful influence in the identity of Morewa and the travelling experience between Kawakawa and Morewa. Here the canopy features a diversity of forest species and is rapidly developing a particular richness as a result. Large parts of this landscape are administered as conservation estate.</p>	

<b>EVALUATION</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<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.	<b>4</b>	Vegetation cover is very characteristic of prevailing Northland themes, including the interplay between young shrubland that has developed from former pastoral use, and the developing forest types that occupy varying conditions.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>3</b>	A relatively common landscape type.
<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.	<b>4</b>	A consistency of indigenous vegetation species brings a relatively high level of unity. Some variability through remnant exotic species and weeds such as hakea and acacia. Margins around Paihia and Te Haumi influenced by scattered housing and related infrastructure.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	<b>3</b>	Subtle variations in species composition relative to terrain. Varying influence of maritime area relative to the coast.
<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.	<b>4</b>	Particularly important in terms of the backdrop role to the inner BOI and the influence of the Morewa flank upon that town and, to a lesser extent, Kawakawa.
<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>	<b>4</b>	Buildings and other infrastructure typically confined to margins. Limited road corridors through unit itself. Area has a large margin with settlement to the east and rural landuse to the west.  Exotic tree and weed species are present in varying degrees of intensity, but largely confined to north of Kawakawa. Native plant cover generally consistent and unifying, but with subtle compositions and patterns in response to past land use, terrain and habitat types.  Relationship with estuarine coastal areas in parts and freshwater, catchment orientation over larger body of this landscape.  Landform largely intact, but with some incursions by quarrying, roading and building developments around margins (and typically outside) of unit.
<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.	<b>4</b>	Main body of the unit is very intact and cohesive. The relatively large "edge" means that the coastal margins and interface of the two inland spurs are particularly influenced by immediately adjacent land uses.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	<b>3</b>	Broadly expressive in terms of elevated landform and relatively cohesive vegetation, but not as graphic as some landscapes where the formative origins are of critical importance to the contemporary character of that landscape.
<b>Sensory qualities</b>		Richness in terms of backdrop role to Paihia and inner Bay

(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>4</b>	of Islands. Similar sensory aspect to the flank that acts as a northern context to Kawakawa and Morewa.
<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>	Somewhat limited, but character of area changes subtly according to light and atmospheric condition, being sometimes very textured and graphic, and at other times more subdued and simple – acting more as a mass.
<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>	Large parts of this area are in quite close proximity to areas of settlement or agriculture. The two inland spurs are narrow and closely related to nearby busy road corridors. Central portion of the Opuia Forest and being within the forest canopy lead to a greater sense of isolation and wilderness.
<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>4</b>	Strongly aligned to the identities of Kawaka and, more particularly, Morewa. Important relationship with inner BOI means that the eastern part of the unit is strongly connected with Paihia, Waitangi and related maritime identity and tourism promotion.
<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>**</b>	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.

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













