

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>TE KOPUA POINT HEADLAND &amp; HARBOUR EDGE</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION</b>	
<b>Component</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Land Types</b> <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small>  Low rolling land Low escarpment.	Surrounded on three sides by the harbour, this unit has a simple appearance; a result of its gentle rolling slopes and generally uniform vegetation cover
<b>Geology</b> <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	<p>The Northland Geopreservation Inventory identifies Te Kopua Point, as being nationally significant as a 'Well exposed Puriri Formation within the top of the Northland Allochthon.' It states that it is a 'Volcaniclastic sequence with good sedimentary structures, in deep marine environment'.</p> <p>In addition, the same publication states that there are three nationally important geological sites within the unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Pakaurangi Point Miocene fauna,</li> <li>• the Pakaurangi–Puketi shelf sediments and</li> <li>• Te Kopua Point Hukatere Miocene volcaniclastics and sedimentary structures.</li> </ul> (Kenny & Hayward 1996).
<b>Soil Types</b>	The unit is overlain by three soil types. To the east, and including the high point the soil type is Hukerenui silt loam, whilst to the west, the valley and ridge is overlain with Mahurangi fine sandy loam and Warkworth clay and sandy clay loam.
<b>Ecology</b> <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	<p>The unit is included within site Q08/185 identified in the Otamatea Ecological District PNAP report. A Level 1 site, it comprises an area of 427.3 ha (162.1 ha forest, and 265.2 ha shrubland)</p> <p>The significance of this site lies in its large size (it is the largest area of indigenous terrestrial vegetation in Otamatea ED Northland), as well as in containing four representative ecological units: kanuka forest on moderate to steep hillslope, totara–kowhai–puriri forest on steep coastal margin, pohutukawa–akepiro–kowharawhara forest on steep coastal margin, and pohutukawa treeland on coastal cliff. In particular, this latter ecological unit is significant as it is the only example of its type in the Northland Conservancy part of Otamatea ED.</p> <p>The length of Arapaoa River and Otamatea River coastline bordered by the vegetation in this site is considerable; hence it provides a valuable protective buffer to the estuarine habitats of the inner Kaipara Harbour.</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Not known.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	Not known.

## Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

Also known as Pakaurangi Forest, this unit comprises a vegetated headland which extends out into the Kaipara Harbour at the mouth of the Arapaoa River and a length of coast some 2-3km in length. The unit is understood to be the most extensive area of indigenous forest and shrubland within the Otamatea Ecological District and comprises 162.1 ha of forest, and 265.2 ha of shrubland.

On the north coast of the headland there is an open, shallow, sandy bay with mangroves enclosing its western edge. On the eastern side there are sandy beaches which drop off steeply into the river channel of the Arapaoa River. To the south, Coates Bay is a broad shallow and sandy bay. Pine plantations border the western edge of the unit.

The topography of the unit is mildly undulating and is drained by only two significant streams. It rises to two high points, both of which are 125 metres in height. The first is near the western edge of the unit and is un-named, the second is near the eastern harbour edge of the unit and is named 'Pakaurangi'. The unit is bisected by a low ridge that extends from the north west corner and trends to the south east.

Limited development appears to occur within the unit, on the south western edge of the unit at Coates Bay, and on the valley floor to the south of Te Kopua Point.

Vegetation within the unit comprises mainly kanuka- radiata pine shrubland with also kanuka forest. Pohutukawa are abundant along the eastern coastal fringe and the south western coastal edge of Pakaurangi Point.

## 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.	<b>3</b>	The PNAP report notes that this unit represents the largest area of terrestrial native vegetation in the ecological district. The unit represents a vegetated landscape that has largely disappeared from the Kaipara Harbour fringes, and in that sense it is of significance.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>5</b>	Few areas of native vegetation of this scale and extent remain on the Kaipara Harbour fringes.
<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>	Transitions from terrestrial vegetation through to mangrove harbour vegetation are clearly evident as well as terrestrial vegetation patterns that reflect the hydrological patterns within the unit. Although subtle, these vegetation patterns reflect a high level of coherence.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	<b>4</b>	The unit displays an ecological diversity and complexity, containing 4 representative ecological types, one of which is the only example of its type in the ecological district.
<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.	<b>3</b>	Although the elevation of the unit is not great, the contrast with the harbour, and relationship to the harbour makes the unit particularly striking.  The unit is enveloped on three sides by the harbour and this relationship characterizes the unit.  The fully vegetated nature of the unit, and vegetation patterns which reflect the landform patterns and topography present a strongly structured appearance to the landscape.

		The native vegetation is largely contiguous.
<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	Built development is present in the south western corner of unit however built development is generally subservient to the prevailing natural values and vegetated character.  Little evidence of infrastructure is visible and no landform modification is visible.  Coastal forest and shrubland largely contiguous throughout the entire unit and vegetation patterns reflect the underlying topographical and hydrological patterns.  Scattered wilding pines visible as emergent.
<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 landscape and vegetation cover appears largely intact, although logging is likely to have been undertaken in the past. The natural systems within the unit appear healthy and reasonably intact.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	The unit displays clear evidence of depositional coastal, and hydrological processes.
<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).	3	The relationship between the harbour, landform and vegetation is strong, simple and pleasing, although not particularly powerful nor dramatic.  Proximity to the estuarine areas and mangroves lend the unit a distinctive smell and character.
<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	These include tidal fluctuations, changes in character of beach with sun angle and weather conditions, seasonal variations with changes in character of weather and changes in the character and colour of the harbour, where the colour and appearance of water varies depending on weather conditions and tidal fluctuations.
<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>	3	Despite the proximity of the unit to Tinopai, it has a remote character particularly on those parts of the feature that are orientated away from the settlement. The separation afforded by the Harbour / Arapaoa River are important in this regard.
<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.	2	The unit is not easily seen from public land based locations and the unit is in private ownership with restricted access. It is likely that there is limited awareness of its values.
<b>Spiritual, cultural and</b>		Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.

<p><b>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>		
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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



View of unit looking along Otamatea River to south west