

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>MAHINEPUA AND MATAURI AREA COAST</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Reefs and islands Low escarpment Bays and headlands Beach	A convoluted and complex coastline featuring numerous small headlands, embayments/coves, reefs and beaches.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Primarily steep coastal hill country on Waipapa Group greywacke, but with areas of chert, downslope from basalt plateau remnants (Kerikeri Volcanics Horeke Basalt).
<b>Soil Types</b>	Marua light brown clay loam, Te Ranga steepland soils, light brown clay loam and sandy clay loam. Rangiora clay, clay loam and silty clay loam. Whananaki sand.
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>Mahinepua estuary and foreshore are a habitat for NZ dotterel (Category B threatened species), Caspian tern (Category O threatened species), variable oystercatcher (Category C threatened species), white-faced heron. Remnant of a diminished habitat type and a representative site for shore ribbonwood and sea rush. The habitat supports threatened shorebirds.</p> <p>Much of the coast is covered by 5 ecological units, consisting of scattered pohutukawa on coastal cliffs; coastal manuka shrubland on coastal cliffs; pohutukawa-mamaku shrubland on coastal hillslope; Mamangi shrubland on coastal hillslope; and Taraire forest on hillslope.</p> <p>Behind Orua Bay, in the Kairawau Stream catchment, is a remnant of taraire with kanuka and scattered rimu, northern rata, rewarewa and puriri. There is also a taraire remnant at Whangaihe Bay, in which both tanekaha and manuka are frequent and puriri. Overall significance includes this being a remnant of coastal vegetation types of which very little remains between Whangaroa and the Bay of Islands. It is the only site in the Ecological District of pohutukawa-mamaku and mamangi.</p> <p>Inland of Orokaraka Bay, south of Matauri Bay, secondary manuka/kanuka with towai is predominant. Kauri occurs on the ridges. Puriri, rimu, kahikatea, tanekaha, kohekohe, taraire, nikau and pohutukawa are all present. Mapou, rangiora, lacebark, ponga, kiekie, turepo, kawakawa, and kanono are found in the understorey. This latter area is part of a large, almost contiguous area supporting kiwi. It contains representative examples of manuka-kanuka forest and pohutukawa – puriri forest (the only example in the Ecological District of the latter).</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Moderately intensive concentration of archaeological sites along the coastal margin, points and related foothill. A particular concentration on the Mahinipua headland. General area of coast contains a minimum of 9 pa sites, including Opounui, Opepe, and Rawhitiroa,
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	Rainbow Warrior memorial on the apex of the hill at Matauri Bay, acknowledging an important event in New Zealand's recent history and the presence of the sunken wreck off of the coast.

## Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

A narrow unit that extends from the southern end of Tauranga Bay to the headland to the south of Matauri Bay, approximately 4km north of Takou Bay. This is a complex coastal landscape that is unified by repeated patterns of minor embayments (the only exception being Matauri), small pebbly or sandy beaches, rocky spurs and headlands, fringing reefs often with associated minor islets or rocks, and stretches of steep, rocky coastal flank. Scattered pohutukawa clinging to the top of these rocky faces where a small patch of soil is available are another consistent element. The intertidal and nearshore ecology of this area of coast is one of its defining characteristics, and, combined with high water clarity, it adds to the diversity and natural character experienced.

In areas where there is a more fertile flank, a small gully or places where farming or coastal lifestyle properties have allowed, there are a number of larger pockets or blocks of indigenous vegetation, ranging from young manuka-dominant shrubland through to areas of coastal broadleaf forest.

Whilst the coastal fringe has a predominantly natural character, adjacent landward areas are typically in some form of productive or residential/holiday home use. The hinterland to the northern and central portions of this unit is dominated by plantation forestry, with scattered holiday homes near the coastal margin. The central segment is predominantly pastoral, but with some confined areas of rural residential and coastal residential property in the Wainui and Te Ngaire locale. Further south the interface is largely grazed land, whilst on the southern margins of the unit a larger block of indigenous forest features, backed inland by pine plantation. With this range of nearby land uses creating a variety of inland characteristics, it is the coastal margin that is arguably the most consistent and cohesive component.

## 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>4</b>	A lucid coastal landscape signature, as outlined above, is definitive of this stretch of eastern shoreline. The scale and repetition of these elements reinforce the character of this area.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>3</b>	Whilst distinctive as a repeated pattern, the component parts of this coastline are experienced elsewhere on the Northland seaboard. There is a measure of rarity amongst the ecological associations found here, but not markedly so.
<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>3</b>	Repeated themes within the unit provide for a moderate level of cohesiveness, but that unity is eroded somewhat by the varied landuses adjoining and residential activities within, and more typically, on the margin of the ONL.
<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>	Highly varied due to the level of change experienced along the coastal margin. That variety occurs, however, in response to natural forces and influences, so it is typically self-explanatory and cohesive.
<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>	Visually strong and graphic within its narrow extent, this unit is layered and memorable. Much of the unit is relatively inaccessible, but the popularity of the coast road and availability of easy access at Mahinepua, Te Ngaire and Matauri allow for reasonable exposure and awareness.
<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</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	Whilst the coastal margin and the defined outstanding landscape has typically high levels of naturalness within itself, the influence of adjacent, more developed or modified areas that are in close proximity dampens the expression of

<p>development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>		natural values.
<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>	<b>3</b>	A high level of cohesiveness within the unit, but nearby landuses tend to reduce that sense of intactness.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p> <p>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	<b>4</b>	Graphic and evocative. The coastal landscape along this strip, together with the component ecological elements, are a clear representation of local forces (primarily in terms of coastal sea conditions), soils and geology.
<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>	<b>3</b>	The spatial scale and detail of this coastline bring a distinctive ambience to the area. Breaking waves and intertidal exposure of reefs bring shoreline smells and sounds.
<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>	<b>3</b>	Primarily related to sea conditions and time of day lighting.
<p><b>Remoteness / Wildness</b></p> <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence?</p> <p>Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	Generally moderately accessible, but stretches of this coast are more difficult to get to and divorced from buildings that are focused in some areas only. Many of the small coves and beaches appear to be little-visited and separated from the inland area by steep flanks.
<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>	<b>4</b>	Whilst the areas associated with the coastal route, such as Mahinepua, Wainui, Te Ngaire and Matauri Bay, are well known, and most closely related to the highest intensities of settlement, others are likely to have a far less prominent public or community profile.
<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. 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>	<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)

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









