

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – WAITANGI TREATY GROUNDS	
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION		
Component	Comment	
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Bays and headlands	A broadly rounded headland with narrow coastal reefs that projects subtly from the northern mouth of the Waitangi River. Topped by a very gently undulating crest that runs over to the mid reaches of the Waitangi River.	
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Waipapa greywacke rolling terrain overlaying Kerikeri basaltic lava flows. NZ Geopres. Inventory: Waitangi flow gabbroic inclusions – A 20 x 50m columnar jointed basalt flow as a shore platform. Best location for gabbroic inclusions of a Quaternary age in Northland.	
Soil Types	Waiotu friable clay.	
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Mature kanuka shrubland, with pockets of puriri, totara, taraire and kohekohe. Adjacent to PNAP sites of Waitangi River alluvial remnants and Waitangi wetlands. North Island brown kiwi are found in the general locality on this northern side of the Waitangi River.	
Archaeological sites	An intensity of recorded sites on the Treaty House grounds.	
Heritage Landscapes	One of New Zealand's best known heritage areas, closely related early contact and trading, and to the Treaty of Waitangi.	
Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics)		
<p>One of New Zealand's most important cultural landscapes, closely linked to the origins of modern nationhood. Its position in a moderately natural setting and with a sweeping connection to the sea, and the Bay of Islands, is a key part of Waitangi's identity. It may also be seen to feed back into a national identity that sees many New Zealanders relating closely to the sea, and having an affinity for natural and wilderness areas.</p> <p>The coastline of this very small landscape unit is interesting, diverse and predominantly natural in its character. It features a variety of rock formations, typically clear water and assemblages of indigenous plants, including pohutukawa of some stature, that appear to be a reasonably natural state. The Treaty House grounds include a backdrop of kanuka shrubland of scale, with a varied understory and groves of native hardwood species in a couple of sheltered gullies. The main body of the grounds contain substantial trees that are of mixed native and exotic origins, set amongst meticulously mown lawns.</p> <p>On the inland edge of this substantial lawn sits the modest Treaty House and nearby whare. A small formal garden relates to the Treaty House, leaving the main body of the managed grounds with a spacious, informal atmosphere that focuses upon the imposing flag pole that is central to the main lawn and the vista over the wider bay from Purerua to Tapeka Point, and round past Russell to Te Tii embayment closer by.</p>		

EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
Natural Science Factors		
Representativeness 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.	3	Spatially and in terms of identity, this place is high representative of its locale, particularly in light of the uses and meanings that are associated. In terms of natural science factors however, the modified and managed status of the site results in those aspects being less elevated.

Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Rarity arising from geological site on coastline and inter-relationship between those natural elements and systems that are present, and the cultural dimension of the site.
Aesthetic Values		
Coherence 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	Unified through a strong vegetative framework, the predominance of the coastal margin and the restrained development and management of the site in relationship with its Treaty role.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	Despite being modified and heavily used, the Treaty House grounds maintain a strong component of natural elements through blocks of vegetation and the relatively intact state of the coast. Coastal formations, the diversity of the coast generally and the interface between cultural and natural dimensions of the site generally contribute to the diversity and complexity rating.
Vividness 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.	5	Very widely recognised and with a strong measure of vividness. Hosting the well publicised annual national celebration, and hosting large numbers in person, makes this a place that is widely known. Its position on the brink of the inner Bay of Islands and the Waitangi River add a powerful coastal dimension to its memorability, including the use of waka and naval vessels in ceremonial situations.
Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of buildings and associated built development. • Presence of infrastructure services. • Extent of indigenous forest cover. • Homogeneity of exotic vegetation. • Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use. • Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns. • Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform. • Presence of water. 	2	Whilst containing a relatively high measure of indigenous and natural components, particularly along the coastal margin, the built development and manicured nature of the site's management sets this area apart from less developed areas on the coast.
Intactness 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.	2	Widely modified and managed from a natural state. Due to the restraint of that historic development and current management, a measure of natural character and the related functioning of natural systems remains.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	3	Highly expressive – in terms of context sitting on the edge of the bay and the built cues within the site – the flagpole, Treaty House, nearby whare and whare waka.
Sensory qualities (These are landscape phenomena as directly perceived and experienced by humans, such as the	5	A strong historical and spatial ambience arising from the historical development of the site and its locale.

view of a scenic landscape, or the distinctive smell and sound of the foreshore).		
<p>Transient Values</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>	3	Whilst influenced most by light conditions, the use patterns of this very important cultural site, particularly around Waitangi Day, may be considered the most relevant transient value.
<p>Remoteness / Wildness</p> <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development 	1	A heavily visited and used site that is highly accessible and in close proximity to a modest settlement. Also influenced by the proximity of the adjacent resort and business of the water body relative to Paihia and the Waitangi River.
<p>Shared and recognised values</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>	5	Widely acknowledged and recognised as a place of great social and cultural importance. The natural dimension of the site is a key aspect of its recognised character.
<p>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</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>	5	<p>On the very highest tier of cultural and historical association values in recognition of its place in the “birth of a nation”. Will have different meanings to different people and cultures, but one of New Zealand’s most prominent and well known cultural landscapes.</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



