

Inventory of coastal areas of local or regional significance in the Taranaki Region

Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford

January 2004

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 PURPOSE.....	1
1.2 SCOPE.....	1
2. METHODOLOGY.....	2
2.1 SITES OF LOCAL OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.....	2
2.2 SUBDIVISIONS.....	2
2.3 UNFORMED ROADS.....	3
3. INVENTORY SHEETS.....	3
3.1 NUMBER.....	3
3.2 GPS.....	3
3.3 INFORMATION SOURCES.....	3
3.4 LOCATION.....	5
3.5 LAND TENURE.....	5
3.6 VALUES.....	5
3.6.1 <i>Amenity values</i>	5
3.6.2 <i>Recreational values</i>	6
3.6.3 <i>Cultural/historical values</i>	6
3.6.4 <i>Ecological/scientific values</i>	7
3.7 PUBLIC ACCESS.....	8
3.8 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH.....	9
4. APPENDIX I.....	9
5. DEFINITIONS.....	9
6. INVENTORY.....	13
APPENDIX I.....	155

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the *Inventory of coastal areas of local or regional significance in the Taranaki Region* (Inventory) is to provide information on coastal areas of local or regional significance in the Taranaki region, and to provide information on public access to the coastal marine area. Further, the Inventory identifies where subdivisions have occurred in the coastal area since 1999. The Inventory will facilitate statutory bodies in their decision-making on the management of public access and development in the coastal area.

1.2 Scope

This document has been compiled by the Taranaki Regional Council with assistance from New Plymouth District Council, South Taranaki District Council and Department of Conservation.

Much information exists about the Taranaki coast, however, prior to the compiling of this document, the information was scattered and in various publications. This Inventory encapsulates published information regarding sites that have locally or regionally significant scenic, amenity, recreational, cultural, historical or ecological values. Further, it outlines whether access exists to sites and the land tenure of sites.

Unformed roads in the region that are located adjacent to the coast are also identified. The location of unformed roads provides an indication of where, at present, public access to the coast can be obtained, however in some instances the route may not be obvious or known, and therefore the public may not be aware that they can pass through, or to, an area.

With respect to use and development within the coastal area, the location of subdivisions that have occurred since 1999 in the coastal area are identified.

A discussion of the key facts on the 'state' and pressures affecting public use of and access to areas identified in this Inventory are outlined in an accompanying summary and discussion document '*Inventory of coastal areas of local or regional significance in the Taranaki regional. Summary and discussion*'.

2. Methodology

A working party was formed in response to concerns (whether real or perceived) that access to the coast was diminishing and there was increasing pressures for development in the coastal area. The working party consists of members from the Taranaki Regional Council, South Taranaki District Council, New Plymouth District Council and the Department of Conservation.

2.1 Sites of local or regional significance

Members of the working party have identified sites for inclusion in the Inventory based on features and values that make the site of local or regional significance, or outstanding in some way (section 6). It is noted that many features and values that make a site significant occur along the whole Taranaki coastal area and are not only confined to sites included in this Inventory. This inventory is not meant as a comprehensive inventory of the whole Taranaki coast and therefore only identifies features and values associated with specific sites.

Information was obtained from existing publications, databases and staff knowledge. Features of sites were assessed based on the following values: amenity, recreational, cultural/historical, and ecological/scientific.

In order to assist in identifying the significant or outstanding values of a site or area, and the quality of access, criteria have been developed and applied by the working party. The criteria help to reduce the subjective nature of value assessment. To be included in the Inventory a site had to rank 'high' in relation to one or more of the values, noting that many sites encapsulate a number of the values.

To assist the reader in their understanding of the Inventory, section 3 provides guidance and further explanation of categories and key terms used in the Inventory.

2.2 Subdivisions

Information has been obtained from the District Council's with respect to subdivision consents granted in the coastal area. Subdivisions within the coastal area have been identified as those that commence seaward of the 'coastal protection line' in the South Taranaki District and seaward of the 'coastal hazard area' in the New Plymouth District. The information is shown on maps in Appendix I.

Information has been sourced since 1999, being the date that the New Plymouth District Council notified their District Plan. It is noted that the South Taranaki District Council notified their District Plan in 1996 and two subdivision consents were granted between 1996 and 1999 however for consistency numbers granted after 1999 have been used. Prior to 1999 minimal subdivisions in the coastal area occurred in both districts. The development of District Plans, which contain rules relating to subdivisions, provide applicants with a clear knowledge of the steps required to undertake subdivision. The New Plymouth District Plan essentially freed up subdivision processes and therefore made it easier to obtain subdivision consents.

The subdivision information has been divided into three categories, being: subdivision; proposed subdivision; and proposed resubdivision (of subdivision). The 'subdivision' category is those subdivision consents that have been granted and had survey plans deposited, and are therefore shown on a property certificate of title. 'Proposed subdivision' includes subdivision consents that have been granted by the district councils, but no survey plans have been deposited, therefore the subdivision consent has not been exercised and the subdivision cannot legally occur on the ground. 'Proposed resubdivision (of subdivision)' are subdivisions that have been created on the title of a property that are being further subdivided.

2.3 Unformed roads

The location of unformed roads, being roads that have been surveyed and designated as roads on survey plans but have not been formed, has been sourced from Land Information New Zealand data.

3. Inventory sheets

For every site that has been identified as having local or regional significance in the Taranaki region an 'inventory sheet' has been compiled with information of the site. Following is a general explanation and guide to use of the inventory sheets.

3.1 Number

Coastal areas of local or regional significance in the Taranaki region have been identified along the coast and numbered chronologically from north to south. The number enables reference to the inventory sheet.

3.2 GPS

Identifies the eastings and northerings of the site using Global Positioning System (GPS).

3.3 Information sources

Information on coastal areas of local or regional significance has been gathered from documentation held by the South Taranaki District Council, New Plymouth District Council, Department of Conservation and Taranaki Regional Council. Information sources include district plans, the Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki, and the Conservation Management Strategy. The district plans contain information about significant coastal areas, significant natural areas, regionally significant landscapes, outstanding natural features, notable trees, heritage items, wahi tapu and archaeological sites. The Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki identifies areas of outstanding coastal value. These are areas with outstanding natural features and landscapes, significant habitats of marine life or bird life, significant or unmodified natural character, or regionally important amenity values. The Conservation

Management Strategy identifies areas with important natural values in the coastal environment. Information on conservation units, size, and ownership of reserves, and in some cases access to the sites, has been recorded. Information that has not been obtained and confirmed from a source as outlined above has not been referenced, for example general knowledge of an area by a staff member of the working party organisations.

The specific or general comments and information contained on the inventory sheet is referenced using superscript numbering which correspond to the following sources of information: (e.g. “*attractive landmark on the North Taranaki Coast*” shows that this information is from the Conservation Management Strategy).

1. Taranaki Regional Council (1997); Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki.
2. Department of Conservation (1997); Conservation Management Strategy – Wanganui Conservancy.
3. New Plymouth District Council (2002); Proposed New Plymouth District Plan as amended by decisions on submissions.
4. Department of Conservation (1990); Coastal Resource Inventory First Order Survey, Wanganui Conservancy.
5. The Department of Conservation database identifying sites of special biological interest. The database details include; area; habitat; flora and fauna species present; and for some of the sites listed, the values and other information.
6. Taranaki Regional Council (2001); Wetlands of Taranaki, Priorities for Protection and Enhancement.
7. Taranaki Regional Council (1995); Comparative Assessment of Ecological and General Conservation Values in the Tongaporutu Estuary.
8. De Jardine, Margaret (1981); Shipwrecks on and off the Taranaki Coast. Unknown publisher.
9. Prickett, Nigel (1990); Historic Taranaki an Archaeological Guide. GP Books.
10. Department of Lands and Survey, Bayfield MA and Benson MA, (1986); Egmont Ecological Region, Survey Report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme, No.2.
11. South Taranaki District Council, Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd & Jane Douglas Lane consultant (1996); South Taranaki Proposed District Plan.
12. South Taranaki District Council (2002); Heritage variation to the Proposed South Taranaki District Plan. Variation 14: Heritage Protection.
13. Department of Conservation, Ravine DA, (1992); Foxton Ecological District, Survey Report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme, No.19.

14. Partridge, Trevor R (1992); The Sand Dune and Beach Vegetation Inventory of New Zealand, I. North Island. DSIR Land Resources Scientific Report No.15.
15. Department of Conservation (October 1998); Coastal herbfield plants of South Taranaki. 2nd edition. Re-issued 2003. Department of Conservation.

3.4 Location

Location is an estimate of linear distance from urban centres in Taranaki to the site.

3.5 Land tenure

Identifies whether the area or site, and any access route to the area or site, is owned by the Crown, district councils, or is privately owned with public access rights attached (for example an esplanade reserve or strip has been covenanted to the property). Further, the status of the land is identified, for example whether the land is a reserve, formed road or unformed road. Reserve types, are defined in section 5.

3.6 Values

To be included in the Inventory, the area or site must be ranked 'high' in relation to one or more of the following attributes:

- € Amenity values
- € Recreational values
- € Cultural/Historical values
- € Ecological/Scientific values.

Notwithstanding the above, coastal areas of local or regional significance may encapsulate a number of values. Outlined below is a description of the aforementioned values plus an explanation of the matters considered in evaluating these values.

3.6.1 Amenity values

Amenity value means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetics, coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes. Amenity values include landscapes, seascapes, landforms and associated processes.

In relation to amenity values, coastal areas of local or regional significance are ranked as follows:

High

- € Site is identified in regional or district plans as an area having local or regional importance, or outstanding amenity values or features; or
- € Site has outstanding, unique or dramatic seascapes, extensive views; or

€ Site has been declared a scenic reserve.

Moderate

€ Site contains common features that occur frequently throughout Taranaki.

Low

€ The site contains no qualities or attributes that contribute to people's appreciation of its amenity values, or the qualities and attributes have been degraded to the extent that they no longer contribute to people's appreciation of its amenity value.

3.6.2 Recreational values

Recreational value means the qualities, attributes, and opportunities associated with an area that contributes to people's recreational use and enjoyment. Recreational areas include areas of high passive and active recreational use (e.g., swimming, walking, fishing and boating) or areas unique and highly valued for a particular recreational experience (e.g., scuba diving or surfing).

In relation to recreational values, coastal areas of local or regional significance are ranked as follows:

High

- € Site provides outstanding passive or active recreational experiences;
- € Site provides unique recreational experiences or opportunities;
- € Site provides for a variety of often competing recreational experiences; or
- € Site is widely used by a large number of people for recreational purposes.

Moderate

€ Common passive or active recreational experiences or opportunities are available.

Low

€ The site contains no qualities or attributes that contribute to people's appreciation of its recreational values, or the qualities and attributes have been degraded to the extent that they no longer contribute to people's appreciation of its recreational value.

3.6.3 Cultural/historical values

Cultural or historical sites of value include: wahi tapu sites; archeological sites (over 100 years old); and sites of historical significance (greater than 30 years old).

In relation to cultural/historical values, coastal areas of local or regional significance are ranked as follows:

High

- € Site has been declared a historic reserve or archeological site;
- € Site is identified in district plans as having cultural or historical value;
- € Site is identified on the Historic Places Trust Register.

Moderate

- € Site known to have historic or cultural value, but not identified in a district plan or on the Historic Places Trust Register.

Low or not known

- € Site has no cultural or historical values or values are unknown at this time.

3.6.4 Ecological/scientific values

Ecological or scientific sites of value include areas or features that: contain rare and endangered indigenous flora or fauna; are of scientific interest; important or unique coastal environment ecosystems; or contain spawning, nursery or feeding areas for marine animals.

In relation to ecological/scientific values, coastal areas of local or regional significance are ranked as follows:

High

- € Site is relatively unmodified;
- € Site contains rare or endangered indigenous flora and fauna;
- € Site contains high indigenous species diversity;
- € Site contains important habitats (e.g., herbfields, sanddunes, primary or remnant vegetation), or are important spawning, breeding, nursery, or feeding areas for marine animals;
- € Site contains geologically important, unique or outstanding features (for example: fossils, turbidite exposures);
- € Site contains outstanding ecological or scientific values; or
- € Site is identified in district plans, regional plans, or conservation plans as having significant ecological values (for example: conservation area, regionally significant wetland, significant natural area, or priority waterbody).

Moderate

- € Site is relatively modified, however contains important but not outstanding ecological or scientific values;
- € Site contains notable indigenous flora and fauna;
- € Site contains important but relatively common habitats such as: tidal reefs, regenerating vegetation; or
- € Site contains geological features with general interpretive value for scientific processes (for example: cliffs and reefs).

Low or not known

- € Site has no ecological or scientific values or values are unknown at this time.

3.7 Public access

In relation to each coastal area of local or regional significance, a description of current legal access to that area has been provided. Outlined below are the matters considered in evaluating public access. Note that in ranking public access as excellent, good, or poor, it is not necessary that the area have all of the matters listed below, but would be expected to best fit the category.

Excellent

Signs/definition	Signposts identifying reserves and any public access
Distance from road	Directly adjacent to a formed public road
Condition of access	Sealed or clearly defined road or pathway
Tides	Accessible at low and high tide

Good

Signs/definition	No signposting, but access points or existence of reserves can more or less be identified
Distance from road	Short walk ¹ from a formed public road
Condition of access	Rough track
Tides	Access is sometimes constrained by tides

Poor

Signs/definition	Access via reserves or unformed roads not clear
Distance from road	Long walk ² from a road
Condition of access	No clear pathway, rough or difficult topography
Tides	Inescapable at low tide, or site is offshore

None

Site is on private land and access can only be gained by obtaining landowner approval.
--

It is noted that the above classifications are an assessment of public access to an area or site, they are not a measure of whether it is appropriate or not to improve access. Depending on values associated with an area or site in some cases it may not be appropriate to gain access, for example where access to an area or site that contains rare or endangered indigenous flora and fauna is classified as 'poor' this may be appropriate to restrict people accessing the site and thereby protect the flora and fauna.

¹ A short walk is estimated as less than 10 minutes at normal pace.

² A long walk is considered to be greater than 10 minutes.

3.8 Aerial photograph

An aerial photograph has been provided for each coastal area of local or regional significance. The aerial photographs identify the following information:

- € Physical location
- € Land tenure, including land owned by the Crown (i.e. Department of Conservation administered estates), district council's (i.e. recreation reserves) and private land which has public access rights attached (i.e. esplanade strips)
- € Formed and unformed roads.

A photograph of the general area is provided for most sites.

4. Appendix I

Maps showing the location of inventory sites, unformed roads and subdivisions located adjacent to the coast are shown in Appendix I.

5. Definitions

Amenity values means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.

Archaeological site means any place in New Zealand associated with human activity which occurred more than 100 years before that time.

Coastal areas include the coastal marine area, dune systems, estuaries and areas adjoining the coast where coastal vegetation, processes and features dominate.

Endangered means species in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating.

Endemic means a species which is confined to New Zealand and is not found elsewhere.

Endemic subspecies means a subspecies or geographic race which is confined to New Zealand.

Fauna means all the animal life of a given place or time.

Flora means all the plant life of a given place or time.

Fur seal haul-out is an area where fur seals are able to come out of the water. The areas are usually flat and located at sea level.

Geopreservation Inventory is a listing of significant geological features held by the Geological Society of New Zealand.

Historic place means a place which is associated with the past. This includes archaeological sites, traditional sites, buildings, natural objects and historic areas.

Holostratotype is a geological term describing the type section that has become the time definition for a New Zealand stage.

Indigenous means originating or occurring naturally within New Zealand.

Introduced means a species which has been transported to New Zealand, and helped establish by humans.

Land tenure means the type of land ownership.

Midden means Maori shell deposits.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust is the lead historic heritage agency in New Zealand. It is responsible for promoting the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of the historic and cultural heritage of New Zealand.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register is a register of areas and places of historical significance in New Zealand held by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust [a place must be at least 30 years old to have heritage significance].

Outstanding for a site or area means a feature or landscapes of exceptional value, or of eminence or distinction a local, regional or national scale.

Pa means a stockaded village.

Paper road see unformed road.

Parabolic dunes means a curving, broad, low dune ridges without steep slip faces.

Priority waterbodies means those waterbodies identified as being important for natural character or public recreation and access purposes, as identified in Appendix 17 of the Proposed New Plymouth District Plan as amended by decisions on submissions [2002], and important for the management of riparian margins as identified in the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki [1994].

Private land means land that is in private ownership and/or the general public are excluded from entering [unless an informal agreement is obtained].

Proposed resubdivision (of subdivision) means proposed subdivision of lots that have already undergone subdivision since 1999.

Proposed subdivision means a subdivision consent has been granted pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991 but no survey plans have been deposited, therefore the subdivision consent has not been exercised and is not shown on the certificate of title for the property.

Public access means the public as a whole having rights or permission to freely enter.

Public land means land that is not privately owned and the general public can enter the land [although mode of access may be restricted i.e. no vehicular].

Recreational values means the qualities, attributes, and opportunities associated with an area or site that contribute to people's use and enjoyment.

Rare means species with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable, but are at risk. These are usually localised within restricted geographic areas or habitats or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range.

Reef means a ridge of rock or sand of which the top lies close to the surface of the sea.

Reserve: **Recreation Reserves** are for the purpose of providing areas for recreation, sporting activities, physical welfare and public enjoyment. Recreation reserves are also for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities.

Historic Reserves are for the purpose of protecting (in perpetuity) places, objects, and natural features that are of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational, and other special interest.

Scenic Reserves are for the purpose of protecting and preserving (in perpetuity) areas of scenic interest, beauty, natural features or landscape for their intrinsic value and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public.

Local Purpose Reserves are for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve.

Marginal Strips (Resource Management Act 1991) are for conservation purposes, to enable public access to, and recreational use of any adjacent watercourses or bodies of water. Marginal strips are usually created on sale of crown land. They exist along the foreshore, waterways greater than 3 metres, and lakes. Marginal strips are 20 metres wide (unless a reduction of width has been approved by the Minister of Conservation), and they move with erosion or accretion.

Esplanade Reserves (Resource Management Act 1991) are local purpose reserves for the purpose of protecting conservation values as well as enabling public access to or along the sea, river or lake and for recreational use; where this is compatible with conservation values. Esplanade reserves can be up to 20 metres wide, and are vested in the territorial authority or the Crown. Esplanade reserves are usually created as a result of subdivision of private land.

Esplanade Strips (Resource Management Act 1991) are created through subdivision or by agreement, but they are not surveyed and the strip

moves with erosion or accretion. Esplanade strips are recorded on the title of the land, and ownership remains with the landowner.

Access strips (Resource Management Act 1991) are easements, which are a negotiated agreement between a local authority and land owner, with the landowner retaining ownership. They are surveyed and remain in the same place.

Significant for a site or area means a feature or landscape that is important at a local, regional or national level.

Subdivision means that a subdivision consent has been granted under the Resource Management Act 1991 and a survey plan has been deposited, therefore the subdivision is shown on the certificate of title for the property.

Threatened means species believed to likely move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating.

Turbidite exposures is a type of rock, or set of rocks with sandstone and mudstone layers, in reasonably equal proportions. It takes around 1000 years to form each layer.

Unformed road means any land which is vested to a district council for the purpose of a road as shown on a deposited survey plan but which has not been constructed.

Urupa means a burial place.

Ventifacts are rocks shaped by wind and sand erosion.

W hi tapu means places or things which are sacred or spiritually endowed.

Wetland includes permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem or plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.

6. Inventory

Number	Site name	Page No.
1	Mokau-Mohakatino (Epiha Reef)	16
2	Mohakatino Estuary	18
3	Te Kawau Pa	20
4	Te Puia	22
5	Rapanui	24
6	Tongaporutu Estuary	26
7	Tongaporutu Coast	28
8	Whitecliffs (Parininihi)	30
9	Pariokariwa Reef and Opourapa Island	32
10	Pukearuhe	34
11	Waiiti Beach	36
12	Mimi Estuary	38
13	Urenui Estuary and Beach	40
14	Onaero Estuary and Beach	42
15	Buchanans Bay	44
16	Motunui	46
17	Waitara Estuary	48
18	Waitara, Waiongana and Airedale Reefs	50
19	Waiongana Estuary	52
20	Bell Block Beach and Waipu Lagoons	54
21	Waiwhakaiho Estuary	56
22	Fitzroy Beach	58
23	East End Beach	60
24	New Plymouth Foreshore	62
25	Kaweroa Park	64
26	Ngamotu Beach	66
27	Sugar Loaf Islands Marine Protected Area	68
28	Paritutu/Back Beach	70
29	Lloyds Ponds (Tank Farm Ponds)	72
30	Tapuae Stream Mouth	74
31	Oakura Beach	76
32	AhuAhu, Weld and Timaru Road Beaches	78
33	Tataraimaka	80
34	Leith/Perth Road Beaches	82
35	Stony River	84
36	Komene Road Beach	86
37	Puniho Road Beach	88
38	Paora Road	90
39	Stent Road	92
40	Bayly Road	94
41	Cape Egmont	96
42	Kina Road and Oaonui Beach	98
43	Arawhata Road Beach	100
44	Middleton's Bay	102
45	Opunake Beach	104
46	Mangahume Beach	106
47	Julian's Pond	108

Number	Site name	Page No.
48	Puketapu Road End	110
49	Oeo Cliffs	112
50	Rawa Stream Mouth	114
51	Otakeho Beach	116
52	Kaupokonui Stream	118
53	Sutherland/Normanby Road Ends	120
54	Inaha Beach	122
55	Waingongoro River Mouth, Ohawe Beach and Four Mile Reef	124
56	Waihi Beach	126
57	Rifle Range Road Lakes (Nowell Road Ponds)	128
58	Manawapou-Tangahoe River Mouths and Cliff Tops	130
59	Manawapou Road Coastal Lagoon	132
60	Lake Kaikura	134
61	Kakaramea Beach	136
62	Patea Beach and River Mouth	138
63	Waitore Swamp	140
64	Whenuakura Estuary	142
65	North and South Traps	144
66	Waipipi Dunelands	146
67	Waverley Beach	148
68	Waitotara Estuary and Dunes	150
69	Waiinu Beach and Reef	152

Mokau-Mohakatino (Epiha Reef)

Number: 1

GPS: 2649936E
6274891N

General description

Epiha reef is a large intertidal reef system between Mokau and Mohakatino Rivers, just north of the Waihi Stream. It is the most extensive intertidal reef system in North Taranaki². The coastal cliffs along this section of the coast are of varying height, and have communities of native flax-shrubland and native herbs⁵.

Location

2 km south of Mokau, between Mokau River and Mohakatino River.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Seabed (administered by Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: on the right bank of Mohakatino River; State Highway 3 (administered by Transit New Zealand) and Mohakatino Swamp Conservation Area (administered by Department of Conservation)
- Private Land: no formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- within an area of outstanding coastal value ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- access limits recreational use - fishing and shellfish collecting ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	High	- important traditional fishery for local hapu ⁴ - midden and pa site in the area ^{3,4}
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- herbfields on cliffs ^{3,5} - the reef supports encrusting organisms including mussels, limpets and barnacles ² - coastal cliffs are a significant natural area ³

Public access

Poor - The reef can be accessed via the beach at low tide from the Mohakatino Swamp Conservation Area on the right bank of the Mohakatino River. The reef is located approximately 2 km north of the Mohakatino River. Land in private ownership is located immediately adjacent to the reef and no public access is provided (previously informal access was provided via Mohakatino Station).

MOKAU-MOHAKATINO (EPIHA REEF)



Mohakatino Estuary

Number: 2

GPS: 2649992E
6273217N

General description

Mohakatino Estuary is one of the least modified estuaries in North Taranaki². The estuary has a brackish swamp and extensive mudflats visible at low tide. Directly adjacent to the estuary is the Mohakatino Swamp Conservation Area - a regionally significant protected wetland of approximately 10 ha⁶. Surrounding the area is farmland and 20-30 metre high cliffs².

Location

3.5 km south of Mokau.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Seabed and foreshore of the estuary, and Mohakatino Swamp Conservation Area (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: on the right bank; State Highway 3 bridge (administered by Transit New Zealand) crosses the estuary, and is directly adjacent to the Mohakatino Swamp Conservation Area (administered by the Department of Conservation)

- Private land: on the left bank; no formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- within an area of outstanding coastal value ¹ - regionally important amenity value ¹ - significant coastal area, and a regionally significant landscape ³ - land/seascape in this area is very unusual and dramatic ²
Recreational	Moderate	- boating and fishing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa and midden sites ³
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- notable fauna (bittern and spotless crane), and possibly petrel burrows. Australian bittern, Caspian tern, and variable oystercatcher roost on sandflats and in wetland adjacent to the estuary ^{1, 2, 5} - notable flora (raupo and flax) ² , a coastal herbfield and tussock shrubland, and Tainui, a nationally vulnerable tree grows on the edge of the swamp ⁴ - the river supports whitebait, flounder and shellfish ^{1, 2} , and native freshwater fish spawning areas are likely to be present ⁵ - regionally significant wetland ⁶

Public access

Good - Mohakatino Swamp Conservation Area is directly adjacent to State Highway 3, which enables access to the estuary and beach at low tide. No access is available to the left bank of the estuary.

MOHAKATINO ESTUARY



Te Kawau Pa

Number: 3

GPS: 2649147E
6269659N

General description

Te Kawau is a small (1.0244 hectare), flat-topped, steep sided island Pa protected as a historic reserve and archaeological site. The top of the island is 25 metres above sea level, and is covered in thick native shrub. The sea surrounds the eroding sandstone cliffs at high tide. The Pa is an ancient site of the Ngati Tama. The island is an attractive landmark on the North Taranaki coast.^{2,5}

Location

7 km south of Mokau and 6 km north of Tongaporutu.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Te Kawau Pa Historic Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: State Highway 3 (administered by Transit New Zealand)
- District Land: Esplanade Reserve (administered by New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- within an area of outstanding coastal value ¹ - attractive landmark on the North Taranaki coast ²
Recreational	Low	- accessibility to possible recreational spots is low
Cultural/ Historical	High	- archeological site, protected historical reserve ² - ancient island Maori pa site, burial site (urupa), and midden ³ - site of great spiritual and historical significance to local iwi ⁵ - boundary between Taranaki and Waikato tribes
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- blue penguin common around the area, and other seabirds nest on the cliffs and offshore stacks ^{1,4} - cliffs have high interpretive and scientific values for coastal processes ⁴

Public access

Poor - The historic reserve is signposted off State Highway 3, and a car parking area is available. No access track is available to the beach around the island. A rough track through bush exists onto the nearby headland (Te Puia) to view Te Kawau Pa. Access onto Te Kawau Island is forbidden.

TE KAWAU PA



Te Puia

Number: 4

GPS: 2649128E
6269531N

General description

A Pa site on the headland adjacent to the mouth of the Kuwhatahi River. The site covers approximately 3 ha and is vegetated with coastal scrub and forest. It is one of the few remaining natural areas on the uplifted marine terrace. The headland is separated from Te Kawau Pa Reserve by a narrow sea channel⁵.

Location

7 km south of Mokau and 6km north of Tongaporutu.

Land tenure

Site: - Private Land

Site access: - Crown Land: State Highway 3 (administered by Transit New Zealand)
- Private Land: No formal access

Values

Amenity	Moderate	- extensive views along the coast
Recreational	Moderate	- fishing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa site ³
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- vigorously regenerating coastal vegetation, one of few natural remaining on the uplifted Marine Terrace land system ^{3,4} - significant natural area ³

Public access

None - Te Puia is on private land, however there is a rough track from a carpark on road reserve off State Highway 3 to the headland from which Te Kawau Pa can be viewed. The Te Kawau Historic Reserve is signposted off State Highway 3.

TE PUIA



Rapanui

Number: 5

GPS: 2648230E
6265955N

General description

The area consists of a beach and a significant wetland of less than 5 ha containing indigenous species. The area contains a small patch of raupo.

Location

2 km north of Tongaporutu, adjacent to Rapanui Stream mouth.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Recreation Reserve (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- Crown Land: on right bank; State Highway 3 (administered by Transit New Zealand)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	Moderate	- small roadside picnic area, sandy beach, swimming and fishing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa and midden/oven sites ³
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- threatened flora (raupo and <i>Hypolepis dicksonioides</i>) ⁵ - wetland area ⁶

Public access

Excellent - Car parking area off State Highway 3 with direct access to the recreation reserve and beach on right bank of Rapanui Stream. No access is available via the left bank.

RAPANUI BEACH



Tongaporutu Estuary

Number: 6

GPS: 2647792E
6264284N

General description

A large (40 hectare), relatively unmodified and unpolluted estuary containing extensive mudflats⁴. Hardwood forests, bluffs, and offshore stacks surround the estuary⁵. A small settlement, consisting mainly of holiday baches, is located on the left bank of the estuary.

Location

15 km south of Mokau.

Land tenure

- Site:
- Crown Land: Tongaporutu Estuary (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- Site access:
- Crown Land: on the right bank; State Highway 3 (administered by Transit New Zealand) and Pou Tehia Historic Reserve and Umukaha Point Recreation Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)
 - District Land: on the left bank; Tongaporutu Recreation Reserve, esplanade reserve and Clifton Road (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)
on the right bank; Pilot Road and unformed Seaview Terrace (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)
 - Private land: on left bank; no formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- highly scenic area, with regionally important amenity values ¹ - significant coastal area, and a regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	High	- various recreational activities, including waterskiing, whitebaiting, floundering, and holiday baches
Cultural/ Historical	High	- Pou Tehia Historic Reserve adjoins the estuary - various pa and midden sites ³ - holiday baches have heritage value
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- contains abundant shellfish, with high species diversity ¹ - inanga and whitebait spawning site, and likely to contain other native freshwater ⁴ - several small areas of wetland with plant life uncommon in Taranaki, ⁴ excellent saltmarsh communities ⁵ - offshore stacks considered regionally important and show turbidite exposures ² - priority waterbody ³

Public access

Excellent - The recreation reserve off Clifton Road has parking and toilet facilities directly adjacent to the left bank of the estuary. A public concrete boat ramp is located on the seaward side of the State Highway 3 bridge on the left bank. Access is also available from the right bank of the estuary via Pilot Road off State Highway 3, and through Umukaha Point Recreation Reserve (no signpost exists to indicate this is a recreation reserve however there is a stile over the fence and rough track).

TONGAPORUTU ESTUARY



Tongaporutu Coast

Number: 7

GPS: 2647365E
6263875N

General description

A wide sandy beach on either side of the Tongaporutu Estuary, from the Rapanui Stream to the Whitecliffs. Approximately 15 metre high steep cliffs back the beach. The beach is only accessible at low tide. There are extensive caves and offshore stacks along the coastline.⁴

Location

15 km south of Mokau.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: on the right bank; Umukaha Point Recreation Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: on the left bank; Tongaporutu Recreation Reserve, esplanade reserve, and Clifton Road (administered by the New Plymouth District Council).
on the right bank; Pilot Road and unformed Seaview Terrace (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)
- Private Land: on left bank; no formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- outstanding natural features and landscapes, within an area of outstanding coastal value ^{1,4} - significant coastal area ³
Recreational	Moderate	- commonly used for recreation (boating, fishing, walking)
Cultural/ Historical	High	- Maori rock art visible in a cave (one of 18 rock art locations in New Zealand) ⁴ - pa and midden sites ³ - shipwreck off Umukaha Point ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- caves, cut back into the cliffs to the south of the river mouth, feature strong horizontal strata and frequent waterfalls ² - nationally important for geology; with fossils of the Miocene Epoch (halostratotypes of the Tongaporutuan stage) present ⁴ - offshore stacks and cliff edges have breeding colonies of grey-faced petrels, fluttering shearwater and white fronted terns, northern blue penguin have been recorded as nesting in the area ² - excellent saltmarsh communities and small sand dunes ⁵

Public access

Poor - This stretch of the coast is inescapable at high tide due to the high cliffs. Access to the beach is by wading through the estuary from the recreation reserve off State Highway 3 and Clifton Road at low tide, or by walking along the coast from Rapanui at low tide. Access can also be obtained to the coastline north of the Tongaporutu Estuary from Umukaha Point Recreation Reserve off Pilot Road (no signpost exists to indicate this is a recreation reserve, however there is a stile over the fence and rough track).

TONGAPORUTU COAST



Whitecliffs (Parininihi)

Number: 8

GPS: 2644240E
6258259N

General description

Huge white cliffs (reaching up to 200 metres high) along a 7 km stretch of coastline. At high tide the area is inaccessible. During low tide the area is accessible via the beach and inland Whitecliffs Walkway. A small sand dune of national importance is located at the mouth of the Waipingau Stream⁴. The dune is approximately 8 metres high and contains a population of Pingao.

Location

6 km south of Tongaporutu and 2 km north of Pukearuhe.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore and Whitecliffs Conservation Area (state forest – 856 ha with 32 ha in grazing and occupation licences – administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Unformed Clifton Road (vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- The Whitecliffs Walkway (9.6 km long) follows a pipeline corridor, unformed road and beach. The walkway is on a combination of land administered by the New Plymouth District Council, Department of Conservation and privately owned.

Values

Amenity	High	- outstanding natural landscape, and within an area of outstanding coastal value ¹ - regionally significant landmark, and landscape ³
Recreational	Moderate	- recreational fishing, walking, and surfing (at northern end)
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa sites, and terraces, ovens and pits ³ - 'hand-dug' Te Horo stock tunnel and a well known pre-european pathway ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- geologically important 'B' rating on geopreservation inventory ⁴ - best remaining examples of primary coastal hardwood and podocarp hardwood forest on the west coast of the North Island ⁴ - fluttering shearwaters breed on the cliffs and blue penguins burrow near stream mouths ¹ - sand dunes at Waipingau Stream are a threatened plant site (Pingao – <i>Desmoscheonus spiralis</i>) ⁴ - land adjoining the whitecliffs is a significant natural area ³

Public access

Good

- Access to the walkway via Clifton Road in Tongaporutu to the north, and Pukearuhe Road in the south. The route is signposted with an option to use the inland track or beach. Access via the beach is two hours either side of low tide. The inland route is closed during the lambing season.

WHITECLIFFS (PARININIHI)



Pariokariwa Reef and Opourapa Island

Number: 9

GPS: 2640923E
6256264N

(Shipwreck 2642021E, 6256800N)

General description

This section of the coast is dynamic, high energy, and supports diverse marine life. Opourapa Island stood as high as the nearby mainland in the mid-nineteenth century. Connected to the island is a large reef system, approximately 8 km long extending north to Waikiekie Stream. The reef extends between 1.5 km and 900 m offshore, with a small intertidal area known locally as Waikiekie Reef which has approximately 30 m of rocky habitat. The reef is relatively shallow (approximately 8 to 20 m deep)². The ship 'H.M. Colonial Transport Alexandra' was wrecked off the coast in 1865, at the time when the military settlement at Pukearuhe was being set up. The H.M. Colonial Transport Alexandra (273 tonnes) was one of the many ships carrying materials and garrison to this area. Many parts have been salvaged, and most of the ironwork is badly corroded. The ships bell hangs in St Peter's by the sea at Mokau.⁸

Location

16 km north of Urenui.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Seabed (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: Recreation reserves and Pukearuhe Historic Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Pukearuhe Road and unformed roads in the Pukearuhe 'township' (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

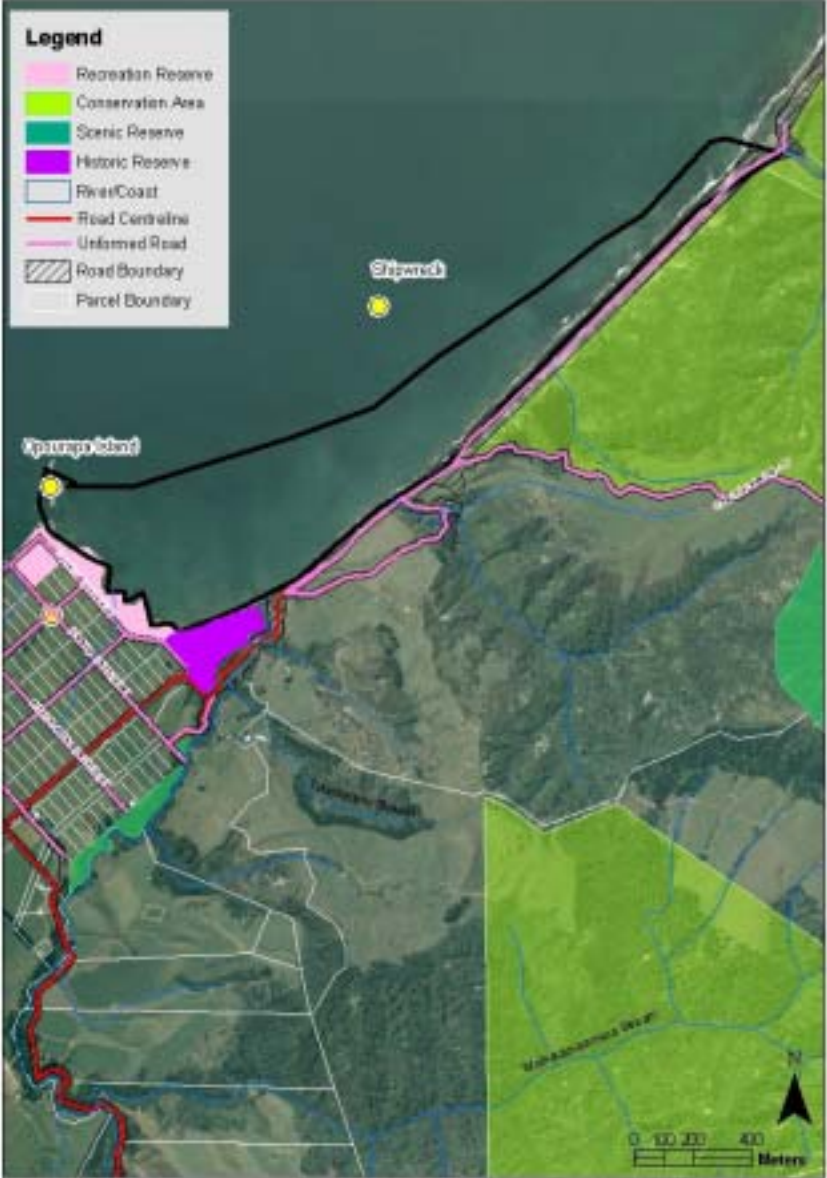
Values

Amenity	High	- within area of outstanding coastal value ¹ - unusual marine feature
Recreational	Moderate	- popular fishing and kaimoana gathering, and underwater divers
Cultural/ Historical	High	- site of the shipwreck 'Alexandra' in shallow water offshore (archeological site) ^{1,2}
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- abundant marine life ^{1,4} - diversity of encrusting (attached) marine animals, sponges, shellfish, crustaceans and large variety of fish ⁵ - fur seal haul-out and a seabird roosting area ¹

Public access

Poor - The island is accessible at low tide from the beach at the end of Pukearuhe Road. There is no visible indication that a recreation reserve or unformed roads exist on the ground. The shipwreck is located offshore approximately half way between Opourapa Island and Waipingau Stream.

PARIOKARIWA REEF AND OPOURAPA ISLAND



Pukearuhe

Number: 10

GPS: 2640907E
6255744N

General description

Pukearuhe was the site of one of the great pa of Ngati Tama whom controlled the northern route and movements in and out of Taranaki. The area was established as a military settlement in the 1860's in an attempt to stabilize the political situation in the province following the Taranaki Wars of the period. As a result there are many surveyed unformed roads in Pukearuhe.⁴

Location

14 km north of Urenui, at the end of Pukearuhe Road (no-exit road).

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Pukearuhe Recreation Reserves and Pukearuhe Historic Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Pukearuhe Road and many unformed roads in the Pukearuhe 'township' (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

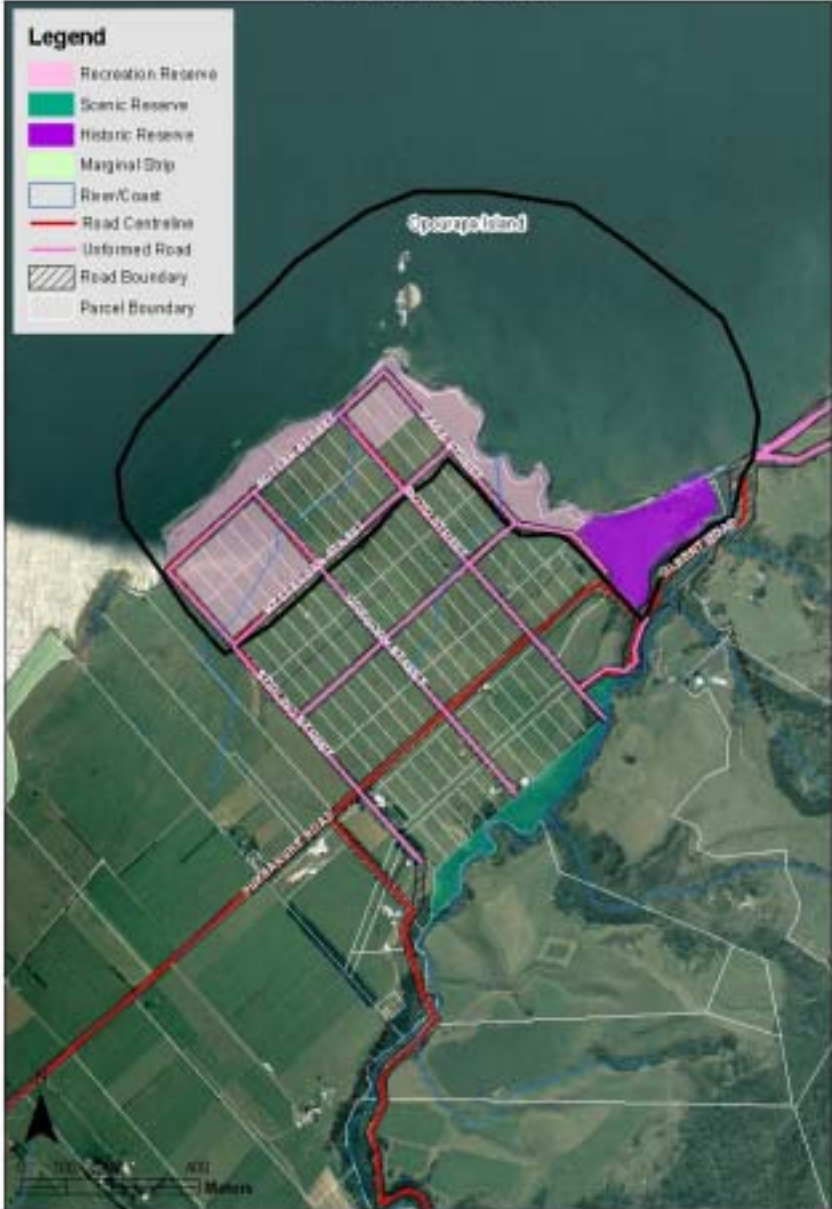
Values

Amenity	Moderate	- scenic reserve nearby
Recreational	Moderate	- gathering kaimoana, fishing, beach use, picnics, start of whitecliffs walkway ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	High	- historic reserve - military redoubts, occupations sites and artifacts found ⁹ - pa sites, w hi tapu sites, and ovens ³
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	

Public access

Good - At the end of Pukearuhe Road is a road sign indicating the Historic Reserve, which is a popular picnic spot with tables. The many other recreation reserves in Pukearuhe can not be distinguished from the adjacent farmland. Pukearuhe is also the start of the Whitecliffs Walkway.

PUKEARUHE



Waiiti Beach

Number: 11

GPS: 2637812E
6252345N

General description

Waiiti beach is an iron sand beach with 20-30m high cliffs and papa boulders. The beach has high recreational use by day visitors, and there is a popular campground with baches.⁴

Location

10 km north of Urenui.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Marginal Strip from Waiiti to the Mimi River (administered by Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade Reserve along the beach front (administered by New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Land owned by New Plymouth District Council used for public parking area, and Beach Road (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- area used for swimming, surfing, fishing and walking
Cultural/ Historical	High	- Waiiti Stream is the tribal boundary for Ngati Tama and Ngati Mutunga - w hi tapu and pa sites in the area ³ - heritage building ³
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- internationally important shark and whale bone fossils ⁴ - previously buried forest is now exposed on the reef ⁴ - fluttering shearwaters and grey faced petrels on the cliffs and stacks and northern blue penguin in the area ⁴ - a huge protected kahikitea ⁴ - stabilised sand dunes, with marram, some tall karo, taupata, and native herbs ⁴

Public access

Excellent - Parking area at the end of Beach Road (off Pukearuhe Road) by the campground shop. The adjoining esplanade reserve gives direct access to the beach.

WAIITI BEACH



Mimi Estuary

Number: 12

GPS: 2634693E
6248022N

General description

The Mimi Estuary has tidal mudflats, saltmarsh and sand dune habitat that are uncommon in North Taranaki^{1,2,4}. Planting of marram grass has been undertaken to stabilise the dunes⁴. Adjacent is the wide, sandy Waitoetoe Beach.

Location

5 km north of Urenui.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Mimi Estuary (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: Recreation reserve and marginal strip from Waiti to the Mimi River (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Waitoetoe Road, unformed Carrs Road and unformed Johnson Road (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- area of outstanding coastal value ¹ , significant coastal area, and a regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	Moderate	- wide sandy beach adjacent to the estuary, used for various activities such as fishing, surfing, walking, floundering, and picnics
Cultural/ Historical	High	- many wahi tapu and pa sites ^{3,4} - Maori artifacts have been found ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- dunes/sand spit south side of estuary ⁴ - habitat of migratory and wading birds, and periodically a blue penguin breeding site ^{2,1} - whitebait spawning area in upper estuary, feeding ground for snapper and trevally and a nursery area for juvenile marine species and flounder ^{1,2,4} - priority waterbody ³

Public access

Good - Waitoetoe Road provides direct access to Waitoetoe Beach via the recreation reserve. The estuary is approximately 1 km north along the beach from Waitoetoe Road and can be reached at low tide. Access to the right bank of the Mimi Estuary is via Johnson Road. Johnson Road is formed to approximately 500 metres from the coast with the unformed portion across farmland to the estuary.

MIMI ESTUARY



Urenui Estuary and Beach

Number: 13

GPS: 2630414E
6245000N

General description

The Urenui Estuary covers approximately 80 ha and contains tidal mudflats and earth banks^{2,4}. The township is situated on the left bank and on the right bank is a popular camping ground.

Location

16 km north of Waitara.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Estuary and foreshore (administered by Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: on the right bank; recreation reserve (incorporates the campground and golf course) and Urenui Beach Road (administered by the New Plymouth District Council) on the left bank; recreation reserve and Mokena Street (administered by the New Plymouth District Council).
- Private Land: on the left bank; no formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹ - significant coastal area and regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	High	- large campground, golf course, whitebaiting, fishing, amateur boats, and high use by school groups ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	High	- W hi tapu and pa sites ³ - several important historic sites surround the estuary ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- whitebait spawning in the upper reaches, snapper and trevally spawn offshore and feed in the estuary, also an important flounder fishery ^{2,4} - migratory birds roost and feed here ² - endangered Hector's dolphin occasionally sighted offshore ^{2,4} - good coastal kohekohe and karaka trees – remnants of what has now been almost completely cleared from the uplifted marine terrace ⁴ - two significant natural areas adjoining the estuary ³

Public access

Excellent - Direct access to the estuary via Urenui Beach Road through the campground and recreation reserve. Access on the left bank is through the recreation reserve via the Urenui township. A walking track previously existed along the esplanade reserve north of Urenui Beach to a bay called Honeymoon Bay however the track has eroded and no access to Honeymoon Bay now exists.

URENUI ESTUARY AND BEACH



Onaero Estuary and Beach

Number: 14

GPS: 2627666E
6244912N

General description

A rugged coastline with protruding cliffs. The area is popular for recreational activities with many baches, a camping ground and domain. There are several historic sites in the area.

Location

2.5 km south of Urenui and 11 km north of Waitara.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Estuary, foreshore and marginal strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade reserves (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- Crown Land: Scenic reserve and Pukemiro Historic Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation) and State Highway 3 (administered by Transit New Zealand)
- District Land: Onaero Domain Recreation Reserve plus additional recreation reserves and Onaero Beach Road (administered by New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- scenic reserve, regionally important amenity values ¹ , a significant coastal area, and regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	High	- popular recreational area especially during summer and whitebait season ⁴ - surfing at the western end of beach
Cultural/ Historical	High	- historic reserve - Pukemiro pa site (sacred pa) on south bank, and other wahi tapu sites ^{3,4} - ancient Maori pathway from coast to Te Rau o te Huia inland ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- northern blue penguins nest in cliffs ⁴ - fossils present in the cliffs, an important area geologically ⁴ - large historic puriri tree in the Pukemiro Reserve ⁴

Public access

Excellent - A parking area and boat ramp is provided to the beach at the end of Onaero Beach Road. Access to the estuary can be through the domain off State Highway 3. Access to the mouth of the estuary and adjoining beach is through the campground however the current lease agreement restricts vehicular access. Access cannot be gained around the coast from the mouth of the estuary to the beach at the end of Onaero Beach due to rugged cliffs.

ONAERO ESTUARY AND BEACH



Buchanans Bay

Number: 15

GPS: 2625210E
6245063N

General description

An area with a huge tidal reef system, sand/cobble beaches and eroding cliffs. Within this area is the boundary between debris from Pouakai volcanic eruptions and uplifted Tertiary mudstones to the north. There is a spawning ground for snapper and trevally offshore, and a trawling ban covers the offshore area⁴.

Location

Located between Turangi Road to the south and Waiiau Stream to the north, 9 km north of Waitara.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Esplanade reserves, land owned by New Plymouth District Council and Turangi Road (administered by the New Plymouth District Council).
- Private Land: no formal access

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	- used extensively for fishing and kaimoana gathering ⁴ - surfing at the end of Turangi Road
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa sites, w hi tapu sites, and a urupa ³
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- tidal reef system rich in marine life ⁴ - snapper and trevally spawning ground ⁴ - boundary between debris from Pouakai volcanic eruptions and uplifted Tertiary mudstones to the north ⁴

Public access

Poor - Turangi Road is the only access point to this section of the coast. Parking and picnic tables are provided at the road end. Buchanans Bay is approximately 2 km east from Turangi Road and may be accessible at low tide.

BUCHANANS BAY



Motunui Beach

Number: 16

GPS: 2621255E
6245662N

General description

An area of coastline with offshore reefs, sand and cobble beaches, and low vegetation on volcanic cliffs. The Motunui Synfuel plant dominates this section of coastline.⁴

Location

5 km north of Waitara.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Esplanade reserve, Epiha Road and Otaraoa Road (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	- surfing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- ancient canoe launch ⁴ - wooden artifacts discovered in the past ⁴ - pa sites, urupa, w hi tapu sites, and oven/pits ^{3,4}
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	

Public access

Excellent - Access and parking areas are provided at the end of Epiha Road and Otaraoa Road. Access along the esplanade reserve is restricted due to health and safety issues with industry in the area.

MOTUNUI BEACH



Waitara Estuary

Number: 17

GPS: 2616537E
6245469N

General description

The Waitara River is the largest river in Taranaki and is located in the centre of the Waitara urban area⁴. Small areas of native vegetation remain near the river mouth. A regionally significant protected wetland with salt marsh vegetation (approximately 2.3 ha) is located on the mudflats approximately 500 metres from the river mouth⁶. Extensive tidal reef systems are located offshore (see Waitara, Waiongana and Airedale Reefs information sheet).⁴

Location

Waitara township.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Estuary (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: Waitara River Scenic Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land - Foreshore reserve, land owned by the New Plymouth District Council which is used as recreation reserve, and includes a campground, Battiscombe Terrace, West Beach Road and East Beach Road (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹ , and a significant coastal area ³
Recreational	Moderate	- boating, fishing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- river, estuary and adjacent coast has important spiritual and historical value to the local Maori people ⁴ - pa and w hi tapu sites ³ - fourteen shipwrecks have been recorded on the Waitara bar ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- part of the North Taranaki uplifted marine terraces ⁴ - was previously an important lamprey fishery, although now badly damaged ⁴ - wetland area adjacent to estuary ⁶ - small areas of native vegetation remain near the river mouth and the location of regionally uncommon indigenous plants, including saltmarsh ribbonwood ⁶ - important habitat for migratory wading birds ⁴ - notable Norfolk Island Pine on road reserve ³

Public access

Excellent - Access is available along the length of the western foreshore. Both the left and right banks are very accessible from the Waitara township, including from Battiscombe Terrace, West Beach Road, East Beach Road, the campground, and golfcourse.

WAITARA ESTUARY



Waitara, Waiongana and Airedale Reefs

Number: 18

GPS: 2616101E
6245663N

General description

An extensive reef system that is exposed at low tide. The beach is sandy and stony with low coastal foredunes.^{2,4}

Location

Waitara township, adjacent to Waitara golf course and between Waiongana Stream and Waitara River.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Seabed (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Foreshore reserve (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- Crown Land: Marginal strip (from right bank of Waiongana Stream, continues along coast to New Plymouth District Council owned land in Waitara)
- District Land: Esplanade reserves, New Plymouth District Council owned land (including land used as recreation reserve, campground and land leased by Airedale Golf Club), Battiscombe Terrace, West Beach Road, and East Beach Road (administered by the New Plymouth District Council. Unformed road off Brown Road and Waihi Road (vested in the New Plymouth District Council).

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- significant mussel beds, important for collection of edible shellfish ^{2,4} - surfing
Cultural/ Historical	Moderate	- reef used for Kaimoana gathering ²
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- Airedale reef contains the roots and trunks of a buried forest ^{2,4}

Public access

Poor - The reef is offshore, but access is available along the length of the western foreshore in Waitara. Access is via Battiscombe Terrace, West Beach Road and East Beach Road, the campground and golfcourse. An unformed road exists off Brown Road that could provide access to the Waiongana Reef.

WAITARA, WAIONGANA AND AIREDALE REEFS



Waiongana Estuary

Number: 19

GPS: 2612531E
6244716N

General description

The Waiongana Estuary is adjacent to flat to rolling land, consisting of horticulture and dairying areas, and a cobble beach with 20-30 metre cliffs. The Waiongana Stream is actively accreting and a sand dune system consists of a low coastal foredune and a lagoon about 2ha in size that was formed by river diversion works. The lagoon is a regionally significant wetland and is used by waterbirds.^{6, 4}

Location

3 km south of Waitara and 4 km north of Bell Block.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Estuary and marginal strip (that extends from the Waiongana Stream to the Waitara River) (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: on the right bank; Airport (owned by the New Plymouth District Council)
on the left bank; Brown Road and the unformed road off Brown Road (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹ , a significant coastal area, and a regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	Moderate	- access limits recreational use - surfing on coast
Cultural/ Historical	High	- Pukatapu pa and other historic and spiritual sites ³
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- dunes and dune lakes ⁴ - important for migratory wading birds ² - breeding location of New Zealand Dotteral and Oystercatcher - offshore reef system adjacent to river mouth ² - whitebait spawning habitats ² - cliffs of geological interest, banding and a petrified forest buried by the Pouakai Volcanic Eruptions ⁴ - priority waterbody ³

Public access

Poor - On the right bank an unformed road off Brown Road could provide access to the coast. Access can be gained along the beach from Waitara township.

WAIONGANA ESTUARY



Bell Block Beach and Waipu Lagoons

Number: 20

GPS: 2608254E
6241951N

General description

A boulder beach backed by 20 m high cliffs and sand dunes that are mostly covered in rough scrub and marram. Construction of seawalls, fencing and planting of dunes has been undertaken in an attempt to combat erosion^{4,2}. Waipu lagoons are two natural coastal lagoons (approximately 4.5 ha) that are a rare dune swamp/lagoon system valued for its wildlife habitat^{5,10}.

Location

Just south of Bell Block.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade reserves (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- Crown Land: Recreation reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Recreation reserves and Sewerage and Drainage reserves (administered by New Plymouth District Council).

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- popular recreation area ² with variety of uses including surfing - facilities include a small boat ramp, carpark, and toilets
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa and midden/pit sites ³
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- threatened bird species (Australasian bittern), and habitat for other wetland birds ^{4,5,7} - relatively natural state ⁴

Public access

Excellent - Direct access to the lagoons from Ellesmere Avenue, and direct access to the beach from Mangati Road in Bell Block. A walkway exists through the recreation reserve areas.

BELL BLOCK AND WAIPU LAGOONS



Waiwhakaiho Estuary

Number: 21

GPS: 2605955E
6240230N

General description

The Waiwhakaiho Estuary is an important wildlife area and nearby are extensive sand dunes covered in rough scrub and marram. Offshore are Te Whioa and Rewarewa kaimoana reefs and two shipwrecks. There is an old canoe launch ramp. The surrounding beach is mainly boulder with sand and cobbles. Adjacent to the left bank is Lake Rotomanu - a freshwater wetland/lake.⁴

Location

On the northern outskirts of New Plymouth city.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Estuary (administered by the Department of Conservation)
On the right bank; Crown Land Conservation Area
(accretion in river mouth) (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: on the left bank; Recreation reserves and Clemow Road
(administered by New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹ , and a significant coastal area ³
Recreational	High	- surfing and fishing, and use of Lake Rotomanu
Cultural/ Historical	High	- Rewarewa Pa ³
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- inanga spawning site, diverse freshwater shrimp habitat ⁵ - was once an important lamprey fishery ² - important for wading and migratory birds ² - priority water body ³

Public access

Good - Direct access to the left bank by driving from Clemow Road past Lake Rotomanu. Access can also be gained by walking north along Fitzroy Beach. No access to the right bank.

WAIWHAKAIHO ESTUARY



Fitzroy Beach

Number: 22

GPS: 2605063E
6239341N

General description

Fitzroy Beach is sandy and backed by sand dunes. The beach and adjacent recreation reserve is extensively used for recreation, with a campground, surf life saving club, playground, and walkway in the area. The beach is one of the most popular surfing areas in the region.

Location

Within New Plymouth city, just south of Waiwhakaiho River Mouth.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Recreation reserve, Beach Road and coastal walkway (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- high recreational use, including: surfing, surf life saving club, campground, playground, walkway
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	

Public access

Excellent - Direct access to a carpark adjacent to the beach via Beach Road, Fitzroy. The beach is also accessible from the coastal walkway.

FITZROY BEACH



East End Beach

Number: 23

GPS: 2604573E
6238983N

General description

East End Beach is sandy and backed by sand dunes. The beach and adjacent reserves are extensively used for recreation, including skating rink/skate park, miniput, bowling club, surf life saving club, and playground. The coastal walkway passes through the area. The Te Henui Stream, with adjacent walkway, is in the vicinity. The beach is a very popular surfing area in the region.

Location

Within New Plymouth city.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Recreation reserves, esplanade reserve, Buller Street and Nobs Line, coastal walkway (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- high recreational use, including: surfing, surf life saving club, playground, miniput, indoor skating rink, skate park, bowling club, walkways
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa site ³
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	

Public access

Excellent - Direct access from several roads, specifically Buller Street and Nobs Line, with car parking areas. The beach is also accessible from the coastal walkway.

EAST END BEACH



New Plymouth Foreshore

Number: 24

GPS: 2602855E
6238220N

General description

New Plymouth foreshore is a boardwalk and grassy area that makes up part of the coastal walkway that extends for 7 km from Port Taranaki to the Waiwhakaiho River mouth. The Huatoki Stream mouth discharges into the Tasman Sea within the area, with a short walkway adjacent to the Huatoki Stream crossing under St Aubyn Street and connecting with Puke Ariki Landing.

Location

Within New Plymouth city, adjacent to the central business area.

Land tenure

Site: - District Land: Recreation reserve (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access: - District Land: Recreation reserve plus various streets including St Aubyn Street and coastal walkway (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- unique feature in the New Plymouth District connecting city with coastal environment - location of 'Wind wand' designed by kinetic sculptor Len Lye
Recreational	High	- high recreational use, including: fishing, playground, walking, running and surfing
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	

Public access

Excellent - Various access points from St Aubyn Street, including via carparks, and is part of the coastal walkway.

NEW PLYMOUTH FORESHORE



Kaweroa Park

Number: 25

GPS: 2601850E
6238211N

General description

This is an area of rocky foreshore between Belt Road and Weymouth Street. Within the recreation reserve is a public swimming pool, playground and squash club, and the coastal walkway passes through the area. The remains of a swimming pool built into the rock pools can still be seen.

Location

Within New Plymouth city.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Recreation reserves, including playground, and swimming pool (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Weymouth Street, Belt Road and coastal walkway (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- wide variety of recreational uses
Cultural/ Historical	Moderate	- historic value of old swimming pool in rock pools
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	

Public access

Excellent - Direct access from a carpark off Weymouth Street and from the coastal walkway to the foreshore and recreation reserves.

KAWEROA PARK



Ngamotu Beach

Number: 26

GPS: 2600043E
6237749N

General description

Ngamotu Beach is a very sheltered and popular beach within the port area.

Location

Within the Port area, New Plymouth city.

Land tenure

Site: - Private Land: Westgate Transport

Site access: - District Land: Bayly Road and coastal walkway (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- very high use
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa site ³ - historic and spiritual sites in the port area, and shipwrecks offshore ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- highly modified, but supports an assortment of seabirds, and fur seals use the harbour to shelter in bad weather ⁴

Public access

Excellent - Direct access to the beach from a car park off Bayly Road and the coastal walkway passes through the area.

NGAMOTU BEACH



Sugar Loaf Islands Marine Protected Area

Number: 27

GPS: 2598167E
6237825N

General description

The area consists of five Islands and two rock groups (volcanic in origin) located offshore from Port Taranaki. The area includes underwater reefs, caves, platforms, boulders and ledges where northern warm currents and southern cold currents mix.²

Location

Off shore from Port Taranaki.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Sugar Loaf Islands Conservation Park, Sugar Loaf Islands Sanctuary Area, and Sugar Loaf Islands Wildlife Refuge (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Paritutu Centennial Park, recreation reserves and Centennial Drive (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- area of outstanding coastal value, and regionally important amenity values (Sugar Loaf Islands, and Back Beach) ¹ - significant coastal area, regionally significant landscape, and outstanding natural feature ³
Recreational	High	- surfing, swimming, diving
Cultural/ Historical	High	- evidence of Maori occupation; Pa, island refuges, and several archaeological sites in the area ^{2,3}
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- oldest volcanic formations in Taranaki ^{1,5} - diverse and abundant marine life and underwater habitats ^{1,2} - important nesting habitat for many seabirds per year (Grey-faced petrel, Gull spp, white-fronted terns) ^{2,5} - Moturoa and Motumahanga islands free of exotic predators ¹ - New Zealand fur seal breeding ground (northernmost breeding ground in NZ) ^{1,2} - mineral locality of taranakite (phosphate mineral associated with guano) ^{1,2} - some scattered colonies of spinifex ⁵

Public access

Poor - Most of the islands are sanctuaries and access onto the islands is by permit only. Information signs for the Sugar Loaf Islands are located at the Lee Breakwater and Paritutu lookout. Access through the port to the Main Breakwater is at the discretion of Westgate. Boat trips and kayak hire are available.

SUGAR LOAF ISLANDS MARINE PROTECTED AREA



Paritutu/Back Beach

Number: 28

GPS: 2598167E
6237825N

General description

Paritutu/Back Beach is a popular recreational area located to the west of the Sugar Loaf Islands.

Location

West of Port Taranaki.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Paritutu Centennial Park (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Recreation reserves and Centennial Drive (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- popular beach, activities include surfing and walking
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	

Public access

Excellent - A road off Centennial Drive provides direct access to a car park adjoining the beach. Additional parking areas are located within Paritutu Centennial Park off Centennial Drive.

PARITUTU/BACK BEACH



Lloyds Ponds (Tank Farm Ponds)

Number: 29

GPS: 2597804E
6235715N

General description

Two semi-natural coastal lakes on the Pouakai ring plain approximately 4 hectares in size. The margins have a variety of native plantings with reed swamp and areas of flax. The area is an important water bird habitat.⁶

Location

2.5 km south of Port Taranaki.

Land tenure

Site: - Private Land

Site access: - Private Land: No access provided
- District Land: Can be viewed from Centennial Drive (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- important water bird habitat (Australasian bittern) ⁴ - threatened plant site nearby (<i>Hypolepis dicksonioides</i>) ⁵ - a 'regionally significant wetland' ⁷ - significant natural area ³

Public access

None - The ponds are located on private land however can be viewed from Centennial Drive.

LLOYDS PONDS (TANK FARM PONDS)



Tapuae Stream Mouth

Number: 30

GPS: 2594624E
6233525N

General description

A beach at the Tapuae Stream mouth with a dune wetland area, and some scattered colonies of spinifex on dune.⁴

Location

5 km south of New Plymouth and 2 km north of Oakura.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation). On the left bank; Marginal Strip from Tapuae Stream to the Oakura River (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: State Highway 45 (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: On the right bank; Esplanade Strip (private ownership)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	Moderate	- fishing and whitebaiting, access limits use
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa sites, redoubt, fort and pits ³ - petroglyphs (rock carvings) ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- scattered colonies of spinifex on dunes ⁴ - dune wetland area ⁴

Public access

Poor - Access to the coast from State Highway 45 via a 20 m wide esplanade strip down the right bank of the Tapuae Stream. New Plymouth District Council have advised that a recreation reserve will be acquired at the stream mouth beach area. There are no signposts or indications that the public can access the beach via the stream bank. Access to the stream mouth cannot be obtained via the marginal strip along the coast due to physical and topographical constraints.

TAPUAE STREAM MOUTH



Oakura Beach

Number: 31

GPS: 2591968E
6231720N

General description

Oakura Beach is a wide sandy beach backed by small dunes and extends the length of the township. Offshore are cobble and boulder reefs.

Location

8 km south of New Plymouth.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade reserves (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Recreation reserves, Messenger Terrace and Tasman Parade (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity value of beach ¹ , and a significant coastal area ³
Recreational	High	- windsurfing, surfing, swimming and camping
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa and redoubt sites ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- notable fauna – Australasian bittern and gold-striped gecko ⁴ - several historic trees, largest pohutukawa in it's southerly range ⁴

Public access

Excellent - There are many access points along this section of the coast, both from roads and walking around the coast at low tide. Access to right bank of the Oakura River via Corbett Park, to left bank through Oakura township.

OAKURA BEACH



AhuAhu, Weld and Timaru Road Beaches

Number: 32

GPS: 2590158E
6231375N

General description

This area has wide sandy beaches backed by small dunes. The dunes from Greenwood Road to Timaru Stream are degrading due to animal grazing. Offshore are cobble and boulder reefs⁴.

Location

1.5 km south of Oakura.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Recreation reserve (shoreline between Oakura and Timaru Road) (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Weld Road, AhuAhu Road, Timaru Road and unformed Timaru Road (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values of beaches (AhuAhu, Timaru, Weld Road) ¹
Recreational	High	- windsurfing, surfing and swimming
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa and redoubt sites ³ - several shipwrecks offshore – ‘Gairloch’ (sank in 1903) still has some wreckage visible (one of most popular for visitors in Taranaki)
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- notable fauna – Australasian bittern and gold-striped gecko ⁴ - Several historic trees, largest pohutukawa in it’s southerly range ⁴

Public access

Excellent - Many access points along this section of the coast from roads and by walking around the coast at low tide. Direct access from AhuAhu Road and Weld Road, with parking and recreational areas at the road ends. The section of Timaru Road to the east of the Timaru Stream is unformed.

AHUAHU, WELD & TIMARU ROAD BEACHES



Tataraimaka

Number: 33

GPS: 2587030E
6229827N

General description

Tataraimaka Pa (Crows Nest) is a prominent coastal feature, and was part of a military site. The pa is now covered in pohutukawa. The area has cobble and boulder beaches, backed by low cliffs. The coast is low lying with coastal forest headlands including patches of wetland.^{2,4}

Location

5.5 km south of Oakura and 7 km north of Okato.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Tataraimaka Pa Scenic Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade reserve (administered by the New Plymouth District Council)

Site access:

- Crown Land: Okato Coast Marginal Strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Recreation reserves, Greenwood Road, Pitone Road and unformed Coast Road (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally significant amenity values (Pitone Road Beach) ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- surfing, and launching ramp at Fort St George
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa sites, St Georges redoubt, flour mill ³ - two tauranga waka (original canoe landing site) are located on the foreshore ^{4,2}
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- presence of northern blue penguin, many burrows indicate important breeding area ^{4,2} - notable pohutukawa trees ⁴

Public access

Excellent - Pitone and Greenwood Roads form a loop, with a section of the road directly alongside the coast. The land between the road and coast is in esplanade reserves. Information signs are present.

TATARAIMAKA



Leith/Perth Road Beaches

Number: 34

GPS: 2585323E
6228872N

General description

A low-lying stretch of coast, with cobble and boulder beaches and volcanic reefs offshore. The beach is backed by low cliffs, which are covered in coastal scrub⁴.

Location

7 km south of Oakura and 5.5 km north of Okato.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore and Maitahi Scientific Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: Okato Coast Marginal Strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Local reserves, Perth Road, Leith Road, unformed Coast Road (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally significant amenity values ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- surfing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- Pa site ³
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- Maitahi Scientific reserve contains uncommon plants, a good variety of coastal vegetation, including patches of wetland ⁴ - threatened sea birds regularly use the area ⁴

Public access

Good - There is a road sign to the Scientific Reserve off Perth or Leith Roads, with access along the boulder beach.

LEITH/PERTH ROAD BEACHES



Stony River

Number: 35

GPS: 2580855E
6225589N

General description

The Stony River (Hangatahua) is the most undisturbed river in the region. Large sand deposits from the river form the beach, which changes constantly due to storms. This is a top surfing location with many offshore reefs.

Location

4.5 km west of Okato.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: Okato Coast Marginal strip (from Tataraimaka Pa to Stony River Mouth) (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: on the right bank; Kaihihi Road, Brophy Road, unformed Brophy Road and unformed Coast Road (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹ , and a regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	High	- 'Kumara Patch' – considered one of best surfing spots in Australasia, and other surf breaks ⁴ - popular for fishing and walking, but access limits use
Cultural/ Historical	High	- cooking site, kainga, and many Pa sites ³ - two shipwrecks offshore, the "Marchioness" (1864) and the "Ottawa" (1877)
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- significant natural area ³ - priority water body ³

Public access

Excellent - The unformed section of Kaihihi Road is fenced off from the adjacent farmland and a vehicular track is provided to approximately 30 m from the coast. New Plymouth District Council have recently purchased the section of land from Kaihihi Road adjoining the coast. Historically 4WD vehicular access was provided to the beach however this has now been prevented. The main access route was historically via unformed Brophy Road and down a private farm track. This route was widely known and used however no formal agreements were obtained and the route is now closed. Access can be obtained via unformed Brophy Road and along the Stony River. Unformed Coast Road runs parallel to the coast. The Kumera Patch is situated on the northern flank of the Stony River mouth delta.

STONY RIVER



Komene Road Beach

Number: 36

GPS: 2581092E
6224533N

General description

The Stony River (Hangatahua) is the most undisturbed river in the region. Large sand deposits from the river form the beach, which changes constantly due to storms. A large area of sand dunes is located to the south of the river mouth, which is almost devoid of vegetation. A regionally significant wetland Komene Lagoon is located at the back of the dunes. The dune lake dries up in the summer months.^{6,4} The area is popular for surfing.

Location

5 km west of Okato.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Komene Road, unformed Komene Road, and unformed Coast Road (administered and vested in the New Plymouth District Council)
- Private Land: No formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹ , and a regionally significant landscape ³
Recreational	High	- surf breaks along entire length of beach - popular for fishing and walking, but access limits use
Cultural/ Historical	High	- cooking site, kainga, and many Pa sites ³ - two shipwrecks offshore, the 'Marchioness' (1864) and the 'Ottawa' (1877)
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- area important for rare and threatened bird species (such as golden plover, sharp-tailed sand piper and wrybill) ^{4,6} - breeding location of New Zealand Dotteral and Banded Dotteral - sanddunes and a regionally significant wetland – Komene lagoon ⁶ - significant natural area ³ - priority water body ³

Public access

Poor - Komene Road ends approximately 300 m prior to the coast with the unformed section ends approximately 100 m prior to the coast. Between the end of the unformed road and the foreshore is privately owned land. Access from the end of formed Komene Road is via a walking track roughly following the unformed section of Komene Road to the coast, the land owners approval is required to cross private land.

KOMENE ROAD BEACH



Puniho Road Beach

Number: 37

GPS: 2579302E
6223840N

General description

This area has sandy beaches, backed by sand dunes.

Location

2.5 km south of the Stony River.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Puniho Road and unformed Coast Road (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)
- Private Land: No formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- used for surfing, windsurfing, and fishing ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	Not Known	
Ecological/ Scientific	Not Known	

Public access

Poor - Land owners approval to cross private land is required. Access may also be achieved by walking from Paora Road and Komene Road at low tide.

PUNIHO ROAD BEACH



Paora Road Coast

Number: 38

GPS: 2578707E
6223347N

General description

A popular surfing area with many top surfing breaks.

Location

3.5 km south of the Stony River.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade reserve (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Esplanade Reserve, Paora Road and unformed Coast Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council).
- Private Land: Esplanade strip (20m wide)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- numerous top surf breaks between Paora and Stent roads, namely Graveyards, Boat Harbours, Rocky Point, Rocky Rights and Birds Nest
Cultural/ Historical	High	- two sites of spiritual significance ⁵
Ecological/ Scientific	Not Known	

Public access

Excellent - Paora Road continues all the way to the coast, and adjoins an esplanade reserve. A car parking area with facilities is located at the end of the road, with direct access to the coast.

PAORA ROAD COAST



Stent Road

Number: 39

GPS: 2577224E
6219960N

General description

A popular surfing area. The area also contains a coastal herbfield (less than 0.5 ha) adjacent to the sea.⁵

Location

7.5 km south of Stony River and 7 km north of Pungarehu.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Stent Road and Coast Road (to the north) and unformed Coast Road to the south (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- area popular for surfing. Stent Road is one of the top New Zealand surf breaks
Cultural/ Historical	High	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- herbfield containing <i>Lepidium flexicaule</i> [recently discovered and only known site in Taranaki and only known natural location outside of West Nelson-North Westland area]. Also contains <i>Crassula manaiia</i> , which is endemic to the Egmont-Waverley coast ^{5,4} .

Public access

Excellent - Stent Road is formed to the coast and a section of Coast Road to the north has also been formed. A car parking area is provided.

STENT ROAD COAST



Bayly Road

Number: 40

GPS: 2576976E
6217590N

General description

The area consists of a large bay which is partially sheltered by an offshore reef and a 3 km length of low-lying coastline, characterised by extensive gently sloping boulder and cobble reefs and beaches. The area contains a small nationally important herbfield, and an internationally significant geomorphic feature. The Cape Egmont Boat Club, and a concrete boat ramp is located in the bay.

Location

8 km south of Stony River and 6.5 km north of Pungarehu.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Bayly Road and Coast Road (south of Bayly Road) and unformed Coast Road (to the north of Bayly Road).

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	High	- boating, fishing, surfing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- Warea River mouth was location of a large Maori village - Pa sites and a redoubt are still evident
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- threatened plant site on exposed bank 35m long x 3m wide (<i>Euphorbia glauca</i>) ⁵ - herbfield, with <i>Crassula manaia</i> , which is endemic to the Egmont-Waverley coast ^{5,4} - most extensive well-preserved geomorphic surface of a volcanic debris avalanche deposit in New Zealand ⁴

Public access

Excellent - Bayly Road is formed to the coast. The concrete boat ramp in the bay provides boat launching facilities. Note that in some places unformed Coast Road to the north of Bayly Road has eroded which may prevent access to the Warea River.

BAYLY ROAD



Cape Egmont

Number: 41

GPS: 2574953E
6213981N

General description

Three major ocean currents converge at this location, resulting in a diverse range of marine organisms. A 2-3 m high bank separates the cobble beaches from farmland. The area is farmed to Mean High Water Springs. Located in the vicinity are lahar debris and offshore andesitic boulder reefs, caused by erosion of coastal lahars, which extend 5-10km offshore².

Location

5 km from Pungarehu and 10 km north of Rahotu.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore and Cape Egmont Marginal Strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: Cape Egmont Conservation Area and Cape Egmont Recreation Reserve (in grazing licences) (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land River Bank Reserve, Cape Road and unformed Coast Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	- seafood gathering, fishing, surfing and windsurfing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- New Zealand's oldest lighthouse ^{1, 2, 4} - Pa site - site of European redoubt built in 1881
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- areas of coastal herbfield from Cape Egmont to Otahi Stream ^{5, 4} - geologically important (internationally) mound field, created by volcanic debris avalanche deposits ⁴ - complex, unique marine environment ²

Public access

Excellent - Cape Road continues directly to the coast, there is also a rough track north along unformed Coast Road.

CAPE EGMONT



Kina Road and Oaonui Beach

Number: 42

GPS: 2578035E
6200104N

General description

A wide sandy beach and sand dunes. This is one of the few significant areas of coastal dunes that still exists in Taranaki. The dunes cover an area of approximately 35 hectares, and are approximately 1.5 km long¹⁴. The dune is relatively unstable, prone to wind erosion, and eroding inland. Some pingao exists on the dune but mainly marram and spinifex. This area has had several sand stabilisation schemes, with the main area now retired from grazing.^{5,4} The area is a popular surfing area.

Location

8 km north of Opunake.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: Recreation Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land - Esplanade strip (adjacent to Oaoiti Stream), esplanade reserve and Lower Kina Road (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- significant natural area ¹² - high natural and aesthetic values, largely unmodified ⁴ - regionally important amenity values (Kina Road reef) ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- internationally renowned for surfing & windsurfing ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	High	- several pa and occupation sites, and a spiritually significant site located at Oaonui ⁴ - shipwreck 'Northern Monarch' lies offshore ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- regionally significant dunefield ⁴ - breeding location of New Zealand Dotteral and Banded Dotteral ² - important wildlife habitat ¹⁴ : black backed gull colony, and green gecko in surrounding scrublands ⁴

Public access

Good - The surfing break is signposted on State Highway 45. Access to the coast is via the beach from Kina Road.

KINA ROAD AND OANUI BEACH



Arawhata Road Beach

Number: 43

GPS: 2579108E
6198116N

General description

Arawhata Road is important as the habitat for a nationally rare herb. The area is popular for surfing with reefs present offshore⁴.

Location

6 km north of Opunake.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade Reserve (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Arawhata Road and unformed Arawhata Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values (Arawhata Road) ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- high use for surfing, low to moderate use for fishing and gathering kaimoana ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- habitat of the herb <i>Crassula manaia</i> , (nationally rare species ⁴), and <i>Myosotis pygmaea</i> var <i>pygmaea</i> ¹⁵ - location of endemic moth <i>Notoreas</i> sp

Public access

Good - Arawhata Road ends approximately 300 metres from the coast with the unformed section of the road extending through a paddock down to the coast. The unformed road adjoins an esplanade reserve. This area of coast is low-lying.

ARAWHATA ROAD BEACH



Middleton's Bay

Number: 44

GPS: 2583035E
6194295N

General description

A sandy beach in the bay, separated from Opunake Beach by 30-40 metre high cliffs⁴.

Location

In Opunake township, one bay north from Opunake Beach.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade Reserve (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Halse Place (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- boat launching ramp - numerous surfing reefs at Opunake East, and between Mangahume and Arawhata Road
Cultural/ Historical	High	- nearby pa sites, and cemetery ^{4, 12} - ten shipwrecks on reefs in the area – remains of 'Lord Worsley' still visited by snorkellers and divers ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- important area geologically – shows complete lahar sequence, and contains buried forest and lignite in bays ⁴ - important habitat for waterfowl ⁴

Public access

Excellent - Vehicle access to Middleton's Bay via road from Halse Place.

MIDDLETONS BAY



Opunake Beach

Number: 45

GPS: 2583769E
6193815N

General description

Sandy beach between 30-40 m high coastal cliffs. Spillway from Lake Opunake hydroelectric scheme is located at the southern end of the beach.

Location

In Opunake township.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Recreation Reserve (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Beach Road (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- beach, surf life saving club - numerous surfing reefs at Opunake East, and between Mangahume and Arawhata Road
Cultural/ Historical	High	- nearby pa sites, and cemeteries ^{4 12} - ten shipwrecks on reefs in the area – remains of ‘Lord Worsley’ visited by snorkellers and divers ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- important area geologically – shows complete lahar sequence, and contains buried forest and lignite in bays ⁴ - important habitat for waterfowl ⁴

Public access

Excellent - A walkway provides direct access to Te Namu Pa, the old wharf, lake, surf club, campground, lookout and an historic cemetery. Vehicle access via Havelock Street in Opunake township.

OPUNAKE BEACH



Mangahume Beach

Number: 46

GPS: 2584592E
6192868N

General description

A sandy beach just north of the Mangahume River mouth.

Location

1 km south of Opunake Beach.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Esplanade Reserve (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Site access: - Private Land: No formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- fishing and popular for surfing
Cultural/ Historical	Moderate	- Maori reservation land adjacent
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	- <i>Euphorbia glauca</i> located on back dunes (nationally rare plant ¹⁵)

Public access

Poor - No formal access is provided across the private property to the beach, approval from landowner to cross land is required.

MANGAHUME BEACH



Julian's Pond

Number: 47

GPS: 2586942E
6190123N

General description

A small dune pond that is almost circular, approximately 3 ha in size. In the past the pond has been used as an effluent settling pond. Important area for native water birds, also has large long finned eels in the pond.^{5,6}

Location

5 km south of Opunake.

Land tenure

Site: - Private Land

Site access: - Private Land: No formal access

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Low	
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presence of uncommon bird species⁴ - a regionally significant wetland⁶ - two nationally threatened species with a national conservation status of 'critically endangered' – <i>Amphibromus fluitans</i> and an unnamed species of dicot herb in the Scrophulariaceous genus <i>Limosella</i>

Public access

None - The pond is located on private land, approval from landowner to access land is required.

JULIAN'S PONDS



Puketapu Road End

Number: 48

GPS: 2588472E
6187126N

General description

An area with 30-40 m high lahar cliffs, and boulder and gravel beaches. An important botanical site in the Department of Conservation Wanganui Conservancy. The area is an old redoubt site with 1 m x 1 m holes scattered over the rocky outcrop⁴. There is limited access to the coast north of Puketapu Road due to the very high cliffs between Opunake and Kaupokonui.

Location

8.5 km south of Opunake.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- Private Land: Maori Reservation

Site access:

- District Land: Puketapu Road (ends approximately 700 metres prior to the coast) and unformed Puketapu Road and esplanade reserve (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - boatshed and ramp carved out of rock face⁴ - popular area for surfcasting and diving - surfing, fishing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- historic pa of Papakaka Te Rangi & Puketapu redoubt ¹²
Ecological/ Scientific	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - area of coastal herbfield towards headland, which is habitat for moth <i>Notoreas</i> sp⁴ - threatened plant site – only site in Taranaki containing <i>Crassula peduncularis</i>⁵ - steep south facing cliff, with remnant of taupata scrub, and occasional emergent karaka⁴

Public access

Poor - An unformed road is located in the vicinity. Private land (Maori Reservation) exists between the end of road, and the coast and esplanade strip. No legal access is available to the coastal area south from Puketapu Road.

PUKETAPU ROAD END



Oeo Cliffs

Number: 49

GPS: 2591575E
6184726N

General description

A rugged coastline with very high cliffs, and areas of coastal herbfields on the cliff tops.

Location

12 km south of Opunake and 15 km west of Manaia.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- Private Land

Site access: - District Land: Unnamed unformed road off State Highway 45 to the coast.

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	- surfcasting, shellfish gathering and traditional fishing site ⁴ - access limits recreational use
Cultural/ Historical	High	- site of four major shipwrecks, 'Annie Wilson', 'Lizzie Bell', 'Manaia' and the 'Marramarra' ⁴ - marae and cemetery nearby - boatsheds cut into cliff ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- coastal herbfields

Public access

Poor - An unformed road exists off State Highway 45 however the location is not apparent on the ground.

OEO CLIFFS



Rawa Stream Mouth

Number: 50

GPS: 2595015E
6183095N

General description

This coastline has very high cliffs, with areas of coastal herbfield on the cliff tops.

Location

16 km south of Opunake and 12 km west of Manaia.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore and marginal strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Unformed road off State Highway 45 (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

- Private Land: Marginal strip

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	- surfcasting, shellfish gathering and traditional fishing site ⁴ - access limits recreational use
Cultural/ Historical	High	- site of four major shipwrecks, 'Annie Wilson', 'Lizzie Bell', 'Manaia' and the 'Marramarra' ⁴ - marae and cemetery nearby - boatsheds cut into cliff ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- coastal herbfields

Public access

Poor - An unformed road exists off State Highway 45 however the location of the road is unclear.

RAWA STREAM MOUTH



Otakeho Beach

Number: 51

GPS: 2600313E
6181981N

General description

Otakeho Beach is a small sandy beach at the bottom of high cliffs. The area is popular for fishing.

Location

6.5 km west of Manaia.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore and marginal strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Dingle Road and unformed Dingle Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- fishing
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- site of nationally threatened plant <i>Craspedia</i> "Otakeho" (found in only two sites in the North Island, both being in Taranaki, the only other sites being around Nelson)

Public access

Poor - Access to the cliffs above the beach is via formed Dingle Road (which ends approximately 300 metres from the coast). A paper road continues to the coast and connects with a marginal strip.

OTAKEHO BEACH



Kaupokonui Stream

Number: 52

GPS: 2601120E
6181474N

General description

The Kaupokonui Stream and beach is a popular area during the summer months with a camp site and facilities located on the left bank. The area is an important 'moa-hunting' archaeological site with nine species of moa and fifty five species of other birds having been found in the area (the remains are estimated to be from 660 – 610 years before present). There is also a 50 ha area of stabilised sand dunes on the right bank of the stream.⁴

Location

5.5 km south west of Manaia.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore and estuary (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: To the left of the Stream mouth; marginal strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: On the left bank; recreation reserve, esplanade reserve and Kaupokonui Heads Road (administered by the South Taranaki District Council).
On the right bank; Formed Rama Road and unformed Rama Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)
- Private Land: On the right bank; no formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- popular area during summer, especially for camping, swimming, fishing and surfing - whitebaiting
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa and w hi tapu site ¹² - important 'moa-hunting' archaeological site ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- Inanga spawning site ⁵ - moa and bird remains (as above) ⁴ - presence of sand dunes ⁴

Public access

Excellent - Direct access to the Kaupokonui Stream mouth from Kaupokonui Heads Road. A bridge across the Kaupokonui Stream provides walking access to the right bank. No vehicle access is provided to the right bank.

KAUPOKONUI STREAM



Sutherland/Normanby Road Ends

Number: 53

GPS: 2604579E
6180277N

General description

At the end of Sutherland and Normanby roads are steep mudstone cliffs, overlaying sand and tephra. Native shrubs exist on ledges, and native herbfields on the cliffs⁴.

Location

3.5 km south of Manaia and 15 km east of Hawera.

Land Tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Marginal Strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Normanby Road, Sutherland Road and unformed Sutherland Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	
Cultural/ Historical	High	- pa sites nearby ^{12, 4}
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- threatened plant sites ⁵ , one of the most important botanical sites in the region ⁴

Public access

Poor - The cliffs in the area are steep and access to the beach is difficult although a rough steep track to the beach does exist. From the end of Normanby Road a marginal strip runs adjacent to the coast to Sutherland Road. From the end of Sutherland Road an unformed road provides access to the cliffs however location of the road on the ground is unclear.

SUTHERLAND/NORMANBY ROAD ENDS



Inaha Beach

Number: 54

GPS: 2610854E
6179369N

General description

A sandy beach below high cliffs. The area is used for fishing.

Location

5 km south east of Manaia and 2.5 km west of Ohawe.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore and marginal strip (from Inaha Stream to Waingongoro River) (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Inaha Road, unformed Inaha Road, Rainie Road and unformed Rainie Road.

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	Moderate	- fishing, surfing
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	Not known	

Public access

Poor - Formed Inaha Road and Rainie Road both finish approximately 300 and 500 metres respectfully prior to the coast. The location of the unformed roads to the coast is unclear.

INAHA BEACH



Waingongoro River Mouth, Ohawe Beach, and Four Mile Reef

Number: 55

GPS: 2612500E
6179200N

General description

This area consists of a beach settlement and is a popular recreational area. The Waingongoro River is the southern most stony stream in Taranaki. The high cliffs at the river mouth and coast consist of mudstone, shell beds and sands overlaid with tephra.⁴ Offshore is a reef system^{2,4}.

Location

The Waingongoro River is located adjacent to the Ohawe settlement, 8 km west of Hawera. Four Mile Reef is approximately 6.5 km offshore from Ohawe Beach.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land - River, foreshore and marginal strip (administered by the Department of Conservation).

Site access:

- Crown Land: Recreation Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: to the right bank; unformed Waingongoro Heads Road to the left bank; Rangatapu Street, and unformed Ohawe Terrace (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)
- Private Land: no formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- popular for swimming, whitebaiting, surfcasting, surfing and seafood gathering - scuba diving, and boat fishing near the reef ^f
Cultural/ Historical	High	- historic pa and midden sites ^{12,4} - military cemetery ⁸ - Four mile reef is a traditional fishing reef, important to local Iwi ² - remains of moa and other birds (such as takahe, kakapo, huia and kokako) were found here ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- inanga spawning site ⁵ - rare example of coastal scrub ⁴ - distinctive form of native angelica (<i>Scandia rosifolia</i>) only known location in Taranaki ⁴ - moa and bird remains (as above) ⁴ - abundant and diverse marine life on the reef ^{2,4} - patch of nationally rare <i>Euphorbia glauca</i> at river mouth

Public access

Excellent - Access to Ohawe Beach is via Rangatapu Street from the Ohawe Beach settlement. Public toilets and a boat ramp are provided. Access to the Waingongoro River Mouth is via the beach from Rangatapu Street.

WAINGONGORO RIVER, OHAWE BEACH & FOUR MILE REEF



Waihi Beach

Number: 56

GPS: 2616606E
6176971N

General description

The coastline is stony, with sandstone and siltstone cliffs. Herbfields that exist on the cliff face are dynamic communities, often disturbed by weather and erosion.

Location

From Hawera township.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Marginal strip (from Ohawe to the Hawera Golf Club)
(administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Denby Road and Waihi Reserve (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	High	- fishing, surfing and beachwalking ⁵
Cultural/ Historical	High	- archeological site ¹¹
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- fossil bivalves and gastropods in the cliffs ^{4,5} - herbfield ⁴ - site is part of an internationally important sequence of uplifted marine terraces ⁴

Public access

Excellent - There is good access from Denby Road, with a parking area, and a walking track to the beach. Signposted from State Highway 45.

WAIHI BEACH



Rifle Range Road Lakes (Nowell Road Ponds)

Number: 57

GPS: 2620452E
6175674N

General description

Two adjacent coastal dune lakes with highly modified margins. An important feeding area for native water birds^{4,6}.

Location

2.5 km south of Hawera.

Land tenure

Site: - Private Land

Site access: - District Land: Can be viewed from Nowell Road (administered by the South Taranaki District Council), however no formal access to the site due to location on private land.

- Private Land: No formal access

Values

Amenity	High	- significant natural area ⁸
Recreational	Moderate	- birdwatching and shooting ⁵
Cultural/ Historical	Moderate	- midden ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- a regionally significant wetland ⁶ - important area for native water birds ^{4,5}

Public access

None - Private land, approval is required from the landowner to cross land.

RIFLE RANGE ROAD LAKES (NOWELL ROAD PONDS)



Manawapou-Tangahoe River Mouths and Cliff Tops

Number: 58

GPS: 2625889E
6171197N

General description

Areas of turf community extend over the cliffs near the Tangahoe River and Manawapou River mouths. Both of the rivers have small areas of indigenous vegetation on their banks upstream from the coast⁴.

Location

9 km south of Hawera.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore and river mouths (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Manawapou Road, Mokoia Road and unformed Manawapou Road and unformed Mokoia Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

- Private Land

Values

Amenity	High	- unusual landforms of stacks, pinnacles and peninsulas ⁴
Recreational	Moderate	- fishing
Cultural/ Historical	High	- Pa sites including Manawapou Pa ^{4,8} - Thatckers redoubt, Cameron's redoubt, and Inman's redoubt ⁸ - traditional food gathering area for local Maori ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- area representative of coastal vegetation, presence of coastal herbs and other halophytes in sand pockets on cliff edges. ⁴

Public access

Good - Access to Manawapou River mouth along Manawapou Road (accessed via Manutahi), which is a formed metal road across farmland. The track has gates across it, however signs advise that it is a public road and access is provided to the river mouth. Access is also provided from Mokoia Road to both river mouths. There are two signs at the end of formed Mokoia Road, which advise that the public, by the most direct route, may have access to the Manawapou River and Tangahoe River passing through the privately owned land. One of the routes follows a paper road, the other is over private land.

MANAWAPOU-TANGAHOE RIVER MOUTHS & CLIFF TOPS



Manawapou Road Coastal Lagoons

Number: 59

GPS: 2626875E
6170588N

General description

Two coastal lagoons, being half a hectare and two hectares in size⁵.

Location

10 km south of Hawera.

Land tenure

Site: - Private Land

Site access: - District Land: Unformed Manawapou Road (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)
- Private Land: No formal access

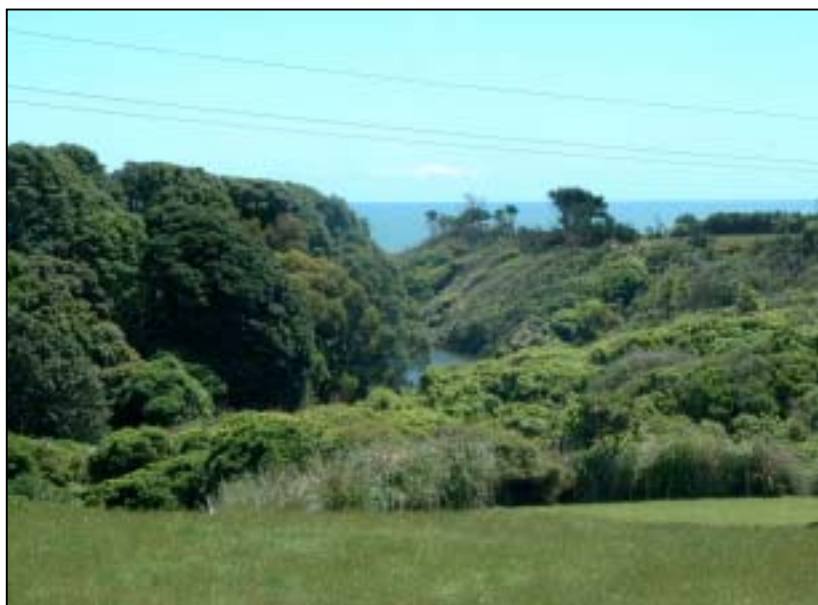
Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- large number of healthy frogs ⁵ - high diversity of plant species ⁵

Public access

None - The lagoons can be seen from Manawapou Road however they are on private land and no public access is provided. An unformed road exists along the coast from the end of Manawapou Road to the southern side of the lagoons however it may be inaccessible in some places due to coastal erosion.

MANAWAPOU ROAD COASTAL LAGOONS



Lake Kaikura

Number: 60

GPS: 2630500E
6166500N

General description

This is a gully system that has been blocked by windblown sand, forming a lake and swampy gully^{5,6}.

Location

16 km south of Hawera.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Conservation Area (for wildlife purposes) (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- Private Land

Site access:

- District Land: Unformed Manawapou Road (vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- high landscape values ⁵
Recreational	Moderate	
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- important wildlife habitat ⁵ - a regionally significant wetland ⁶

Public access

Poor

- Unformed road exists off Lower Manutahi Road however location on the ground is unclear.

LAKE KAIKURA



Kakaramea Beach

Number: 61

GPS: 2631600E
6162700N

General description

A coastal area with 25 m high cliffs with a series of 'fingers' that extend out to sea which are approximately 50 m long and 10-15 m across, with bays in between. There are native herbfields found on the cliff faces and in boggy areas on the cliff tops. Also within this area was the site of one of the first hydroelectric power stations established in New Zealand. Water spilt over the cliffs to a powerhouse at the base. The station was destroyed in the early 1920's when the dam at the top of the cliffs gave way.⁴

Location

20 km south of Hawera and 5 km north of Patea.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- Private Land

Site access:

- Crown Land: Marginal strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Powerhouse Road, unformed Powerhouse Road and unformed Manawapou Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)
- Private Land: No access provided

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	- recreational fishing from the cliff tops ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	High	- the site of one of the first hydro-electric stations established in New Zealand ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Moderate	- herbfield, and Black-backed gull colony ^{4 5}

Public access

Poor - A paper road exists from the end of Powerhouse Road which connects to the marginal strip along the coast. Pine trees are growing on the unformed road and the location of the unformed road is unclear.

KAKARAMEA BEACH



Patea Beach and River Mouth

Number: 62

GPS: 2637226E
6158364N

General description

The Patea River mouth area has been extensively modified due to the construction of wharves when a port operated in the area, groynes and seawalls. The area is popular for recreation and includes a campground. The area is part of the South Taranaki uplifted marine terraces that forms a 20 km wide coastal strip from Hawera to Wanganui, and which represents NZ's most complete sequence of uplifted marine terraces. Sand margins of the tidal river have little native vegetation, but nearby sand dunes have a small patch of pingao. There are unbroken vegetation sequences from estuary to cliff-face, and areas of tidal saltmarsh, backed by steep mudstone cliffs.⁴ The area is spiritually valuable for the Nga Rauri Iwi.

Location

1 km south of Patea township.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Estuary and foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: Patea Coast marginal strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Harbour Endowment (Golf Club), recreation reserve, District Council owned land (public toilets, and beach pavilion), Taranaki Road and unformed Pilot Station Road (administered and vested by the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	Moderate	- highly modified, but with high landscape values ⁵
Recreational	High	- camping, fishing, surfing, and golf ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	High	- two redoubts ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- threatened plants – Pingao on dunes and taupata at base of cliffs (<i>Coprosma repens</i>) ¹⁴ - drowned forest ⁴ - part of South Taranaki uplifted marine terraces ⁴ - used by wading and coastal birds ⁴

Public access

Excellent - The beach is signposted from the main road, with access to the right bank via Taranaki Road, through Patea township. There is a car park, playground, toilets, and a riverside walkway. Access to the right bank can also be via unformed Pilot Station Road.

Waitore Swamp

Number: 63

GPS: 2638800E
6157500N

General description

Waitore Swamp is a small coastal peat swamp in an area of coastal dunes. The swamp is an important archaeological site containing the oldest wooden artifacts known from New Zealand (AD1380-1500).⁴

Location

1.5 km south of Patea River, north of the Whenuakura River.

Land tenure

Site: - Private Land

Site access: - District Land: Harbour Endowment Farm (leased) and unformed Pilot Station Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

- Private Land: No formal access

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Low	
Cultural/ Historical	High	- archeological site ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	Not Known	

Public access

None - Private land.

WAITORE SWAMP



Whenuakura Estuary

Number: 64

GPS: 2639407E
6157240N

General description

A small but relatively unmodified estuary with extensive mudflats. The Whenuakura Estuary has tidal lagoons, a sand bar, and an island often forms. To the south west of the estuary the cliffs gradually disappear under eight metre high sand dunes. This is part of the 20 km wide coastal strip of South Taranaki uplifted marine terraces, and is a dynamic coast with many unvegetated and unstable dunes. Much of the area is continually being eroded by wind and wave action. The sand dunes extend either side of the river for approximately 3 km, with high irregular foredunes, and dune ridges extending up to 50 metres inland. The dunes are vegetated with marram, some sand convolvulus and isolated pingao and spinifex. The area is important for seabirds.^{1, 2, 14}

Location

3.5 km south of Patea.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Estuary, foreshore and Foreshore Reserve (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: On both banks; Harbour Endowment Farm
On right bank; unformed Pilot Station road
On left bank; unformed Whenuakura Road
- Private Land: On left bank; no formal access

Values

Amenity	Moderate	
Recreational	Moderate	
Cultural/ Historical	High	- site of a Maori Kainga (village) on sand dunes on left bank ⁴ - a pa existed on island in the estuary ⁴ - sites of spiritual significance ^{4, 8}
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- relatively unmodified estuary ^{1, 2} - habitat of threatened caspian tern and rare variable oyster catcher ^{1, 2} - nationally important for presence of Royal spoonbill ⁴ - whitebait spawning on northern bank ¹ - on the route for migratory birds ^{1, 2} - large area of sand dunes, with a loud frog population in the dune swales ⁴

Public access

Poor - An unformed road leads to the right bank. On the left bank an unformed road stops approximately 100 m from the river bank. The unformed roads are not discernable on the ground.

WHENUAKURA ESTUARY



North and South Traps

Number: 65

GPS: 2640500E
6147500N

General description

Two large adjoining reef systems approximately 6 km offshore from Patea. This is an important marine habitat in a sandy environment.^{1,2}

Location

6 km offshore from Patea.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Seabed (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Values

Amenity	Moderate	- tall underwater pinnacles, an unusual feature on sandy coast ^{1,2,5}
Recreational	Moderate	- used for recreational diving and fishing ⁴
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- large seaweed (Ecklonia) forests ^{1,2,5} - diverse and abundant marine life ^{1,2}

Public access

Poor - Offshore, access via boat.

NORTH AND SOUTH TRAPS



Waipipi Dunelands

Number: 66

GPS: 2643400E
6153300N

General description

A dynamic coast with many unvegetated and unstable dunes, with much of the area continually being eroded by wind and wave action. Waipipi Dunes is a 40 hectares area, consisting of small wet sand flats, low dunes of less than 4 metres, and dunes extending inland to taller (15 metres) more stable relict foredunes. The water meanders across these dunes in a NW to SE direction periodically forming shallow lagoons on the beach and patches of quicksand can occur. It is thought that the unusual drainage is due to earlier ironsand mining in the area which flattened the dunes⁶.

Location

5.5 km southwest of Waverley.

Land Tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore Reserve and Waipipi Marginal Strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Foreshore Reserve (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Unformed Dryden Road (vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- significant natural area ⁸
Recreational	Moderate	- fishing, walking, tramping ²
Cultural/ Historical	Moderate	- archaeological material found ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- vulnerable flora species ⁵ - one of best remaining examples of pingao and spinifex sand dune vegetation in South Taranaki ⁵ - a regionally significant wetland ⁶

Public access

Poor - Off Rangikura Road unformed Drydon Road crosses farmland and continues to the coast, however the location of the road on the ground is unclear.

WAIPIPI DUNELANDS



Waverley Beach

Number: 67

GPS: 2649780E
6151295N

General description

A beach with unique landforms of caverns, ravines, blowholes and eroding stacks carved into the cliffs by wave erosion. Eleven small peninsulas project 5-15 metres out to sea, and one island has been formed. The cliff tops support mats of small native plants. A dynamic coast with many unvegetated and unstable dunes, with much of the area continually being eroded by wind and wave action. Waverley beach is approximately 8 km long with 13 metre high cliffs. The low undulating dunes are on the cliff tops and extend inland. These dunes are stable and the vegetation includes lupin, marram and kikuyu. Also, the nearby Lake Waikare and Lower Waikare are a significant natural area.^{2,8}

Location

5.5 km south of Waverley.

Land tenure

Site:

- Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: Wairoa Recreation Reserve and Okahu Maori Reservation (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Site access:

- District Land: Wairoa Domain Recreation Reserves and Waipipi Road (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values, outstanding natural landscape ¹ - eroding stacks, caverns and tunnels produce unique landforms, and blow holes ^{1,2}
Recreational	High	- walking, offroad vehicles, camping, boat ramp, fishing ⁵
Cultural/ Historical	Not known	
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- Ototuku Conservation Area, a remnant sand dune - rare plant species (<i>Leptinella dispersa rupestris</i>) ⁵ - part of the South Taranaki uplifted marine terraces (which forms a 20 km wide coastal strip from Hawera to Wanganui, NZ's most complete sequence of uplifted marine terraces) ⁴ - native herbfields on cliff tops ²

Public access

Excellent - Direct access via Waipipi Road from Waverley. There is no beach sign at the main road.

WAVERLEY BEACH



Waitotara Estuary and Dunes

Number: 68

GPS: 2654245E
6149257N

General description

A relatively unmodified estuary with an area of tidal mud and sand flats. The sub-fossilised totara stumps of a 'drowned forest' give the river its name. A continuous dune system extends north of the Waitotara River mouth, and is approximately 203 hectares in size. The area includes a regionally significant protected wetland comprising of a dune lake, wetland in dune slacks, sand dunes, and river margins of Waiiau Stream and Waitotara River. There are also sand dunes south of the river mouth.²

Location

10 km south west of Waverley.

Land Tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Estuary and Hawken's Lagoon Conservation Area (192.76 ha, with grazing license covering 18.7903ha) (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - Crown Land: On right bank; Waitotara River Marginal Strip (administered by the Department of Conservation)
- District Land: On left bank; Recreation Reserve (administered by the South Taranaki District Council)
On right bank; Hawken Road, unformed Hawken Road and unformed Waipipi Road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- significant natural area (Hawkens Swamp) ⁸ , relatively unmodified with high natural values ⁵
Recreational	Moderate	- whitebaiting
Cultural/ Historical	High	- ferry punt landing from early European settlement ⁴ - site of original Waitotara Hotel the 'rising sun', which used a cave in the cliff for the cellar ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- unmodified, representative estuary, with dune lake, wetland, sand dunes and damp dune flats adjacent (a regionally significant wetland) ¹ - important habitats for bird and insect species - threatened Australian bittern, NZ shoveller, black swan, stopover for migratory wading birds (royal spoonbill, banded dotterel) and international migrant birds (eastern bar-tailed godwit) ^{1,2} - notable flora: pingao and <i>Eleocharis neozelandica</i> , large number of different plant communities ^{2,4} - sub-fossil totara stumps in estuary (unique artefacts) ¹

Public Access

Good - Walking access from the end of Hawken's Road, via Hawken's Lagoon Conservation Area. There is a Department of Conservation 'Conservation Area' sign, but the pathway across public land to the river is hard to distinguish from the adjacent private land. There is also access by walking along the coast from Waiinu Beach to the left bank of the Waitotara River mouth (6 kms).

WAITOTARA ESTUARY



Waiinu Beach and Reef

Number: 69

GPS: 2659396E
6147303N

General description

Waiinu Beach is the southernmost beach in Taranaki. There is a small settlement and camping area. Nearby are steep eroding coastal cliffs, approximately 46 metres high. The beach is long and sandy with extensive sand dunes. Between Waiinu settlement and Waitotara River Mouth is an iron sand beach with defined foredunes between 5 and 500 metres wide. This is a dynamic dune system with large areas of bare sand backed by ephemeral wetland areas. The high dunes back on to an uplifted marine plain. The area was much larger in the 1950's, and now some of the older stabilised dunes are eroding through stock damage⁴. Waiinu reef is offshore, and features limestone outcrops extending from Mean High Water Spring to 3-5 kms offshore. Reefs in the area are made of an extremely hard rock (resistant calcareous conglomerate of Pleistocene origin) containing abundant well-preserved fossils of oysters, toheroas, cockles, paua and barnacles.^{1, 2, 5}

Location

7 km south of Waitotara.

Land tenure

Site: - Crown Land: Foreshore (administered by the Department of Conservation)

Site access: - District Land: Nukumar Domain Board, Recreation Reserve, Waiinu Beach Road and unformed unnamed road (administered and vested in the South Taranaki District Council)

Values

Amenity	High	- regionally important amenity values ¹
Recreational	High	- Snapper rock, local fishing spot, and surfing ⁹ - large sandy beach
Cultural/ Historical	High	- old Maori fishing village, and site of a Maori fishing canoe (Karewaonui) ⁹ - the reef is used for gathering kaimoana and has been a major fishing ground ⁴
Ecological/ Scientific	High	- extensive sand dunes - ventifacts (rocks shaped by wind and sand erosion) in the area. They occur in very few places around the world ⁴ - the reef has an abundance of marine invertebrates, plants and fish ^{1, 2} - the reef is a rock platform of Pleistocene origin containing many well-preserved fossils ^{1, 2}

Public access

Excellent - Located at the end of Waiinu Beach Road is a large recreation reserve which stretches from the mouth of the Waitotara River to three km south of Waiinu Beach settlement. A parking area and information sign about the area are provided in the reserve.

WAINU BEACH AND REEF



Appendix I
Maps - unformed roads and coastal subdivisions





