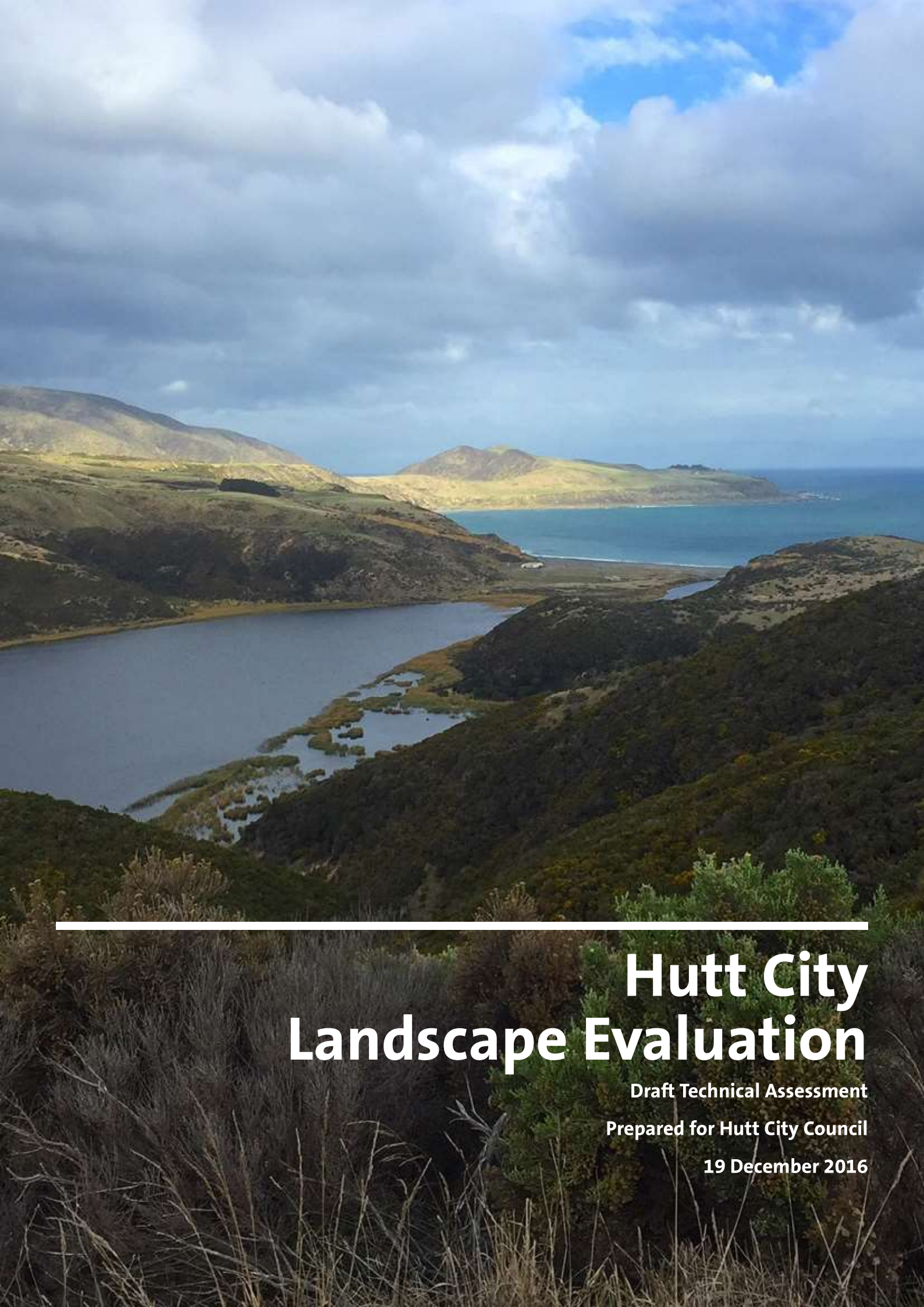

Hutt City Landscape Evaluation

Draft Technical Assessment

Prepared for Hutt City Council

19 December 2016

Document Quality Assurance

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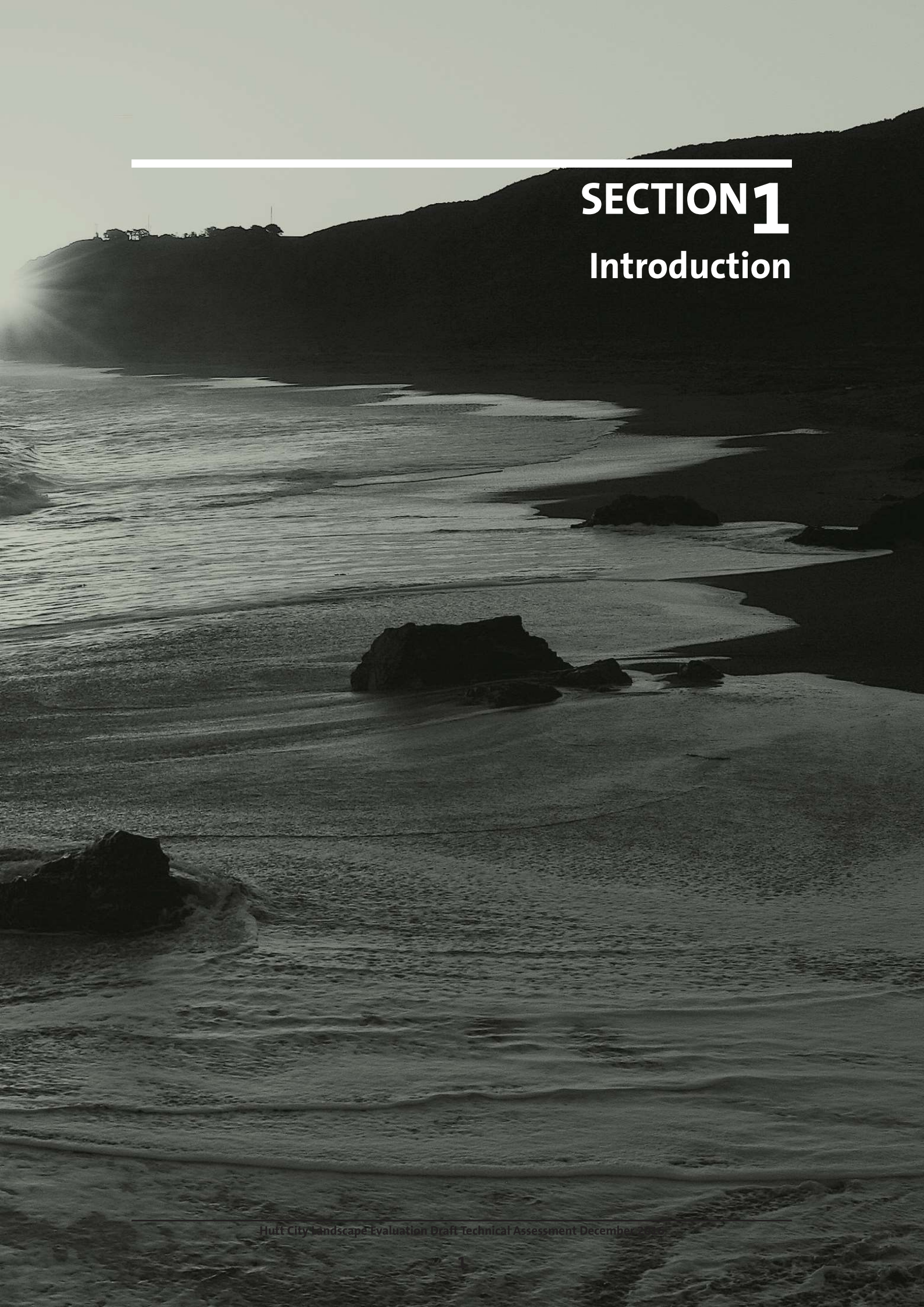
Hutt City Landscape Evaluation



SECTION 1
Introduction

TURAKIRAE HEAD

The Hutt City Landscape Evaluation was commissioned by Hutt City Council to inform the development of measures for the long term management of the City's landscapes. The evaluation identifies and maps the landscapes as required by the Wellington Regional Policy Statement (RPS). The landscapes and features identified are categorised as either outstanding natural landscapes (ONLs), outstanding natural features (ONFs), or special amenity landscapes (SALs).

This study builds on the 2012 Landscape Character Description (Boffa Miskell Ltd, 2012) that describes the Hutt City landscapes. This evaluation considers which landscapes and natural features are highly valued and describes the characteristics that make them valued in terms of the RPS and Resource Management Act.

Hutt City Council commissioned Boffa Miskell Ltd to undertake the evaluation and prepare this technical report which will subsequently be submitted to the community as part of consultation.

Purpose/Statutory Requirements

All landscapes are dynamic, they are continually changing as a result of the combination of natural processes and changing land uses and activities. Sometimes, changes in land use alter landscapes in a way that conflicts with the special attributes that the community values about a landscape or natural feature. Consequently, there is a need to manage landscape change. A key step in developing policy to manage landscapes is to identify, evaluate and map them. The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the Wellington Regional Policy Statement (RPS) provide direction with regard to outstanding natural landscapes and 'amenity' landscapes.

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

Sections 6 and 7 of the RMA outline principles for managing the use, development and protection of resources in order to achieve the purpose of the Act. Matters of National Importance, Section 6 (b) shall recognise and provide for the *protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision use and development*. Section 7(c) has particular regard to *the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.*

Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (RPS)

The RMA requires Regional Councils to prepare a regional policy statement that includes policies and methods to achieve the purpose of the RMA through integrated management of each region's natural and physical resources. The RPS, adopted in 2013, addresses these commitments under the RMA by requiring that regional and district councils complete the following:

- Identify outstanding natural features and landscapes (ONL or ONFs) using a list of 12 criteria set out in the RPS (Policy 25);
- Include policies, rules and/or methods in district and regional plans that protect outstanding natural features and landscape values from inappropriate subdivision, use or development (Policy 26);
- May identify special amenity landscapes (SALs) and provides a list of 12 criteria to be used (Policy 27);
- Include policies, rules and/ or methods for managing these landscapes in order to maintain or enhance their special amenity landscape values (Policy 28).

Policies 25 and 27 of the RPS address the identification of ONL or ONFs and SALs in Regional and District Plans, respectively. The policies are described below:

Policy 25: Identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes:

District and regional plans shall identify outstanding natural features and landscapes having determined that the natural feature or landscape is:

A exceptional or out of the ordinary; and

B that its natural components dominate over the influence of human activity, after undertaking a landscape evaluation process, taking into account the factors listed below.

1 ***Natural science factors***

a Natural science values: these values relate to the geological, ecological, topographical and natural process components of the natural feature or landscape:

i Representativeness: the combination of natural components that form the feature or landscape strongly typifies the character of an area.

ii Research and education: all or parts of the feature or landscape are important for natural science research and education.

iii Rarity: the feature or landscape is unique or rare within the district or region, and few comparable examples exist.

iv Ecosystem functioning: the presence of healthy ecosystems is clearly evident in the feature or landscape.

2 ***Sensory factors***

b Aesthetic values: these values relate to scenic perceptions of the feature or landscape:

i Coherence: the patterns of land cover and land use are in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of landform and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.

ii Vividness: the feature or landscape is visually striking and is widely recognised within the local and wider community for its memorable and sometimes iconic qualities.

iii Naturalness: the feature or landscape appears largely unmodified by human activity and the patterns of landform and land cover appear to be largely the result of intact and healthy natural systems.

c Expressiveness (legibility): the feature or landscape clearly shows the formative processes that led to its existing character. The legibility is not compromised by human activity.

d Transient values: the consistent and noticeable occurrence of transient natural events, such as seasonal change in vegetation or in wildlife movement, contributes to the character of the feature or landscape.

BEACH AT BARING HEAD

3 ***Shared and recognised factors***

e *Shared and recognised values: the feature or landscape is widely known and is highly valued for its contribution to local identity within the immediate and wider community.*

f *Tangata whenua values: Māori values inherent in the feature or landscape add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special place.*

g *Historical associations: knowledge of historic events that occurred in and around the feature or landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community attaches to the natural feature or landscape.*

Policy 27: Identifying special amenity landscape:

District and regional plans may identify special amenity landscapes which are distinctive, widely recognised and highly valued by the community for their contribution to the amenity and quality of the environment of the district, city or region. Any special amenity landscape evaluation process carried out to inform the identification of any such special amenity landscapes shall take into account the factors listed in policy 25.(above).

The Policy explanations goes on to clarify that an SAL need not be predominantly natural; *..special amenity landscapes when compared to outstanding natural landscapes will have, when assessed under the factors listed in Policy 25:*

a *highly valued, but not clearly exceptional landscape values, in an area where the natural components of landscape character dominate; or*

b *highly valued, including exceptional landscape values, in an area where the modification of landscape by human activity is a dominant influence on landscape character.*

Landscape Evaluation/ Process

Landscape Evaluation

The landscape evaluation process essentially seeks to identify, map and describe those landscapes and features in a district or region that are highly valued. An integral part of the description of these landscapes and features is identifying what particular aspects make them highly valued. Policy 25 sets out the criteria to be used for the evaluation of potential or candidate sites to asses if they are an ONL, ONF or an SAL.

The landscape evaluation is based on the landscape character description phase which identified, mapped, and described landscape character areas of Hutt City. These character areas distinguish landscapes from one another based on descriptions of biophysical and cultural attributes that make a particular contribution to landscape character.

The detailed knowledge of the landscapes obtained from the character description, combined with additional research, consultation with Hutt City council officers and field work is then used to make judgements (based on the criteria in the RPS) on the relative value or importance of natural features and landscapes during the evaluation process. The evaluation of landscape in turn can inform what features or landscapes require protection or how they should be managed in order to retain or enhance the identified values that have made them an ONL, ONF or SAL.

Evaluation Process

Figure 1 summarises the key steps taken in the evaluation process. Additional detail about the evaluation process is located in Appendix A.

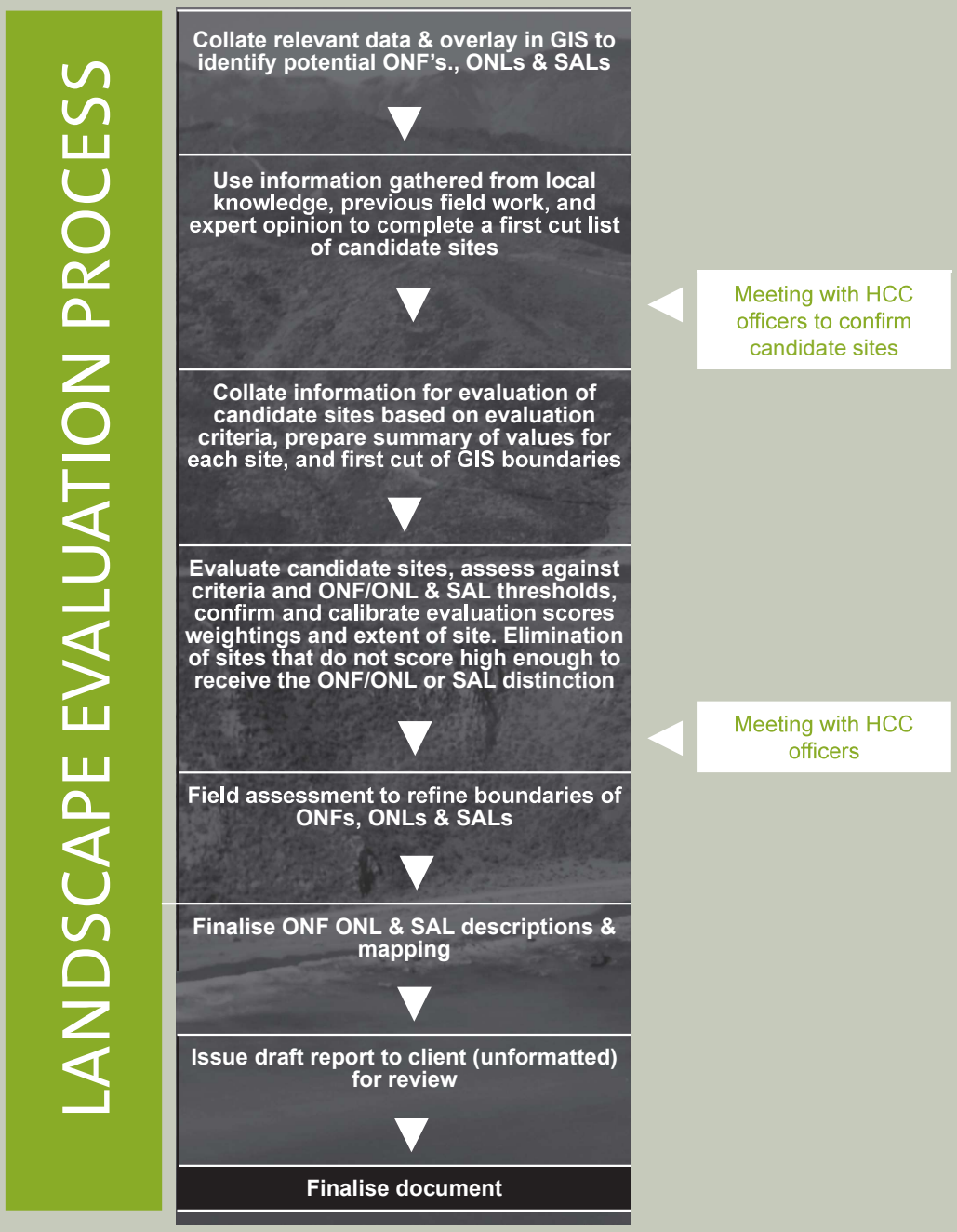


Figure 1: Landscape Evaluation Process

The initial step of the evaluation identified 'candidate sites'- or the natural features and landscapes that were considered to have values that potentially deem they could be assigned as ONLs, ONFs, or SALs. These were selected based on the landscape character study, additional research, fieldwork, interrogation of GIS data and consultation with Council officers.

Policy 25 sets out three groupings of evaluation factors for consideration- natural science, sensory, and shared and recognised factors each with several sub-criteria (refer Appendix) Each candidate site was assessed against each of the factors using a seven point scale, from very low to very high, to come up with an evaluation for the natural science, sensory, and shared and recognised factors for each candidate site. These 'scores' for each candidate site were then assessed against the ONF/ONL/ SAL thresholds, that had been defined, to determine which category (if any) should be assigned; not all candidate sites reached one of these thresholds.

Typically, community input is sought through consultation to inform the evaluation process, in particular the 'shared and recognised' aspects. In this case the study team have worked closely with Council officers who have provided input in relation to the community point of view. Consultation on this technical report will occur as the next stage of the process, when the community will have the opportunity to provide input and consequently some adjustments may be needed.

ONF / ONL / SAL Thresholds

While evaluation criteria are provided, the RPS does not identify the thresholds for what constitutes an ONF, ONL or SAL. Thresholds for the evaluation were established by the study team based on interpretation of Policies 25 and 27 in relation to the list of sub criteria (Appendix).

Interpretation of Policy 25 to establish a threshold for an ONF or ONL

According to Policy 25, for an ONF or ONL the feature or landscape must be;

- *exceptional and out of the ordinary*, and importantly
- *the natural components must dominate over the influence of human activity.*

Therefore, aesthetic values within 'sensory' such as coherence, vividness, and naturalness and rarity within 'natural science' are deemed to be distinctive and necessary characteristics of an ONL or ONF. In addition, since healthy ecosystem function is an essential element for maintaining natural components and processes, especially in areas of human activity, ecosystem function within 'natural science' is also a necessary characteristic of an ONL or ONF. Since, both natural factors and sensory factors are essential to the identification ONL or ONFs they are weighted higher than shared and recognised values.

The threshold used was that an ONL or ONF must;

- score at least **High** in both 'natural science' or 'sensory' factors and,
- score **Very High** in one of these factors.

Landscape and Feature Designation

Section 6b in the RMA and Policy 25 in the RPS require the identification and protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes. However, neither document indicates what constitutes a landscape versus a feature.

Policy 27 in the RPS specifically relates to identifying Special Amenity *Landscapes* and does not include features. Therefore, when evaluating areas relating to this designation, it is important to define what constitutes a landscape.

For the purpose of this landscape evaluation, *scale* was used to determine whether an area qualified as a landscape or feature. While there are many definitions for landscape scale, it is a term commonly used to refer to processes that cover a spatial scale addressing a range of ecosystem functions, land uses and land cover. In contrast, a feature is something that can be observed and often refers to a landform. The scale of a feature is such that a feature or features may be contained within a landscape.

Interpretation of Policy 27 to establish a threshold for an SAL

In contrast to Policy 25, modification of landscape by human activity can be a dominant influence on landscape character when identifying SALs.

According to Policy 27 for an SAL the landscape must be;

> '*distinctive and widely recognised by the community for the contribution to the amenity and quality of the environment…(*interpreted as the contribution the landscape amenity values make to the pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, cultural and recreational attributes).
>
> Although visual and physical attributes are important elements for distinguishing an SAL, community values and people's relationship with the landscape have a greater significance. Therefore, shared and recognised factors must be a highly valued element when identifying SALs.

The threshold used was that a SAL must:

- be of a scale to be considered a landscape and,
- score at least **High** in 'shared and recognised' and **High** in at least one other factor i.e.. ('sensory' or 'natural science') OR score **Very High** in 'shared and recognised', with no threshold regarding 'sensory' or natural science.

Summary of Findings

Four ONFs, three ONLs, and four SALs are identified in Hutt City. A summary of the ONFs, ONLs, and SALs and scores for each of the three factors, natural science, sensory, and shared and recognised, are contained within **Table 1** below.

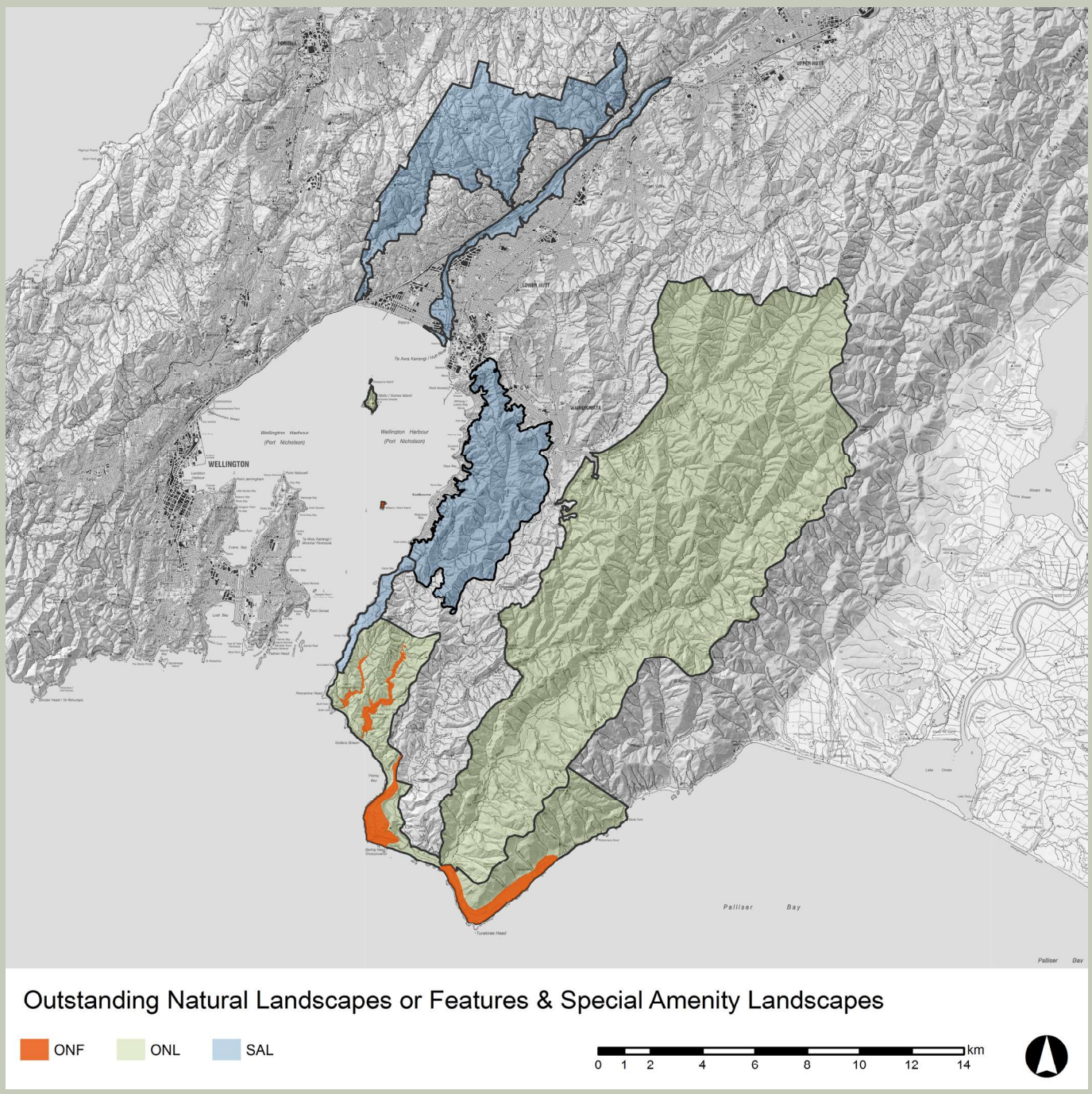
LANDSCAPE OR FEATURE	NATURAL SCIENCE	SENSORY FACTOR	SHARED AND RECOGNISED	DESIGNATION
SOUTH COAST	VH	VH	VH	ONL
TURAKIRAE HEAD	VH	VH	VH	ONF
BARING HEAD/ ŌRUA-POUANUI	H	VH	VH	ONF
PARANGĀRAHU LAKES (LAKE KOHANGAPIRIPIRI & LAKE KOHANGATERA)	VH	VH	VH	ONF
MATIU/SOMES ISLAND	H	VH	VH	ONL
MĀKARO/WARD ISLAND	VH	VH	H	ONF
RIMUTAKA RANGE	VH	VH	VH	ONL
BELMONT HILLS	M	H	H	SAL
EASTBOURNE HILLS	H	H	H	SAL
EASTERN ESCARPMENT	M	H	VH	SAL
HUTT RIVER/TE AWA KAIRANGI	M	H	VH	SAL

SEVEN POINT EVALUATION SCALE						
Very High	High	Moderate-High	Moderate	Moderate-low	Low	Very Low
VH	H	MH	M	ML	L	VL

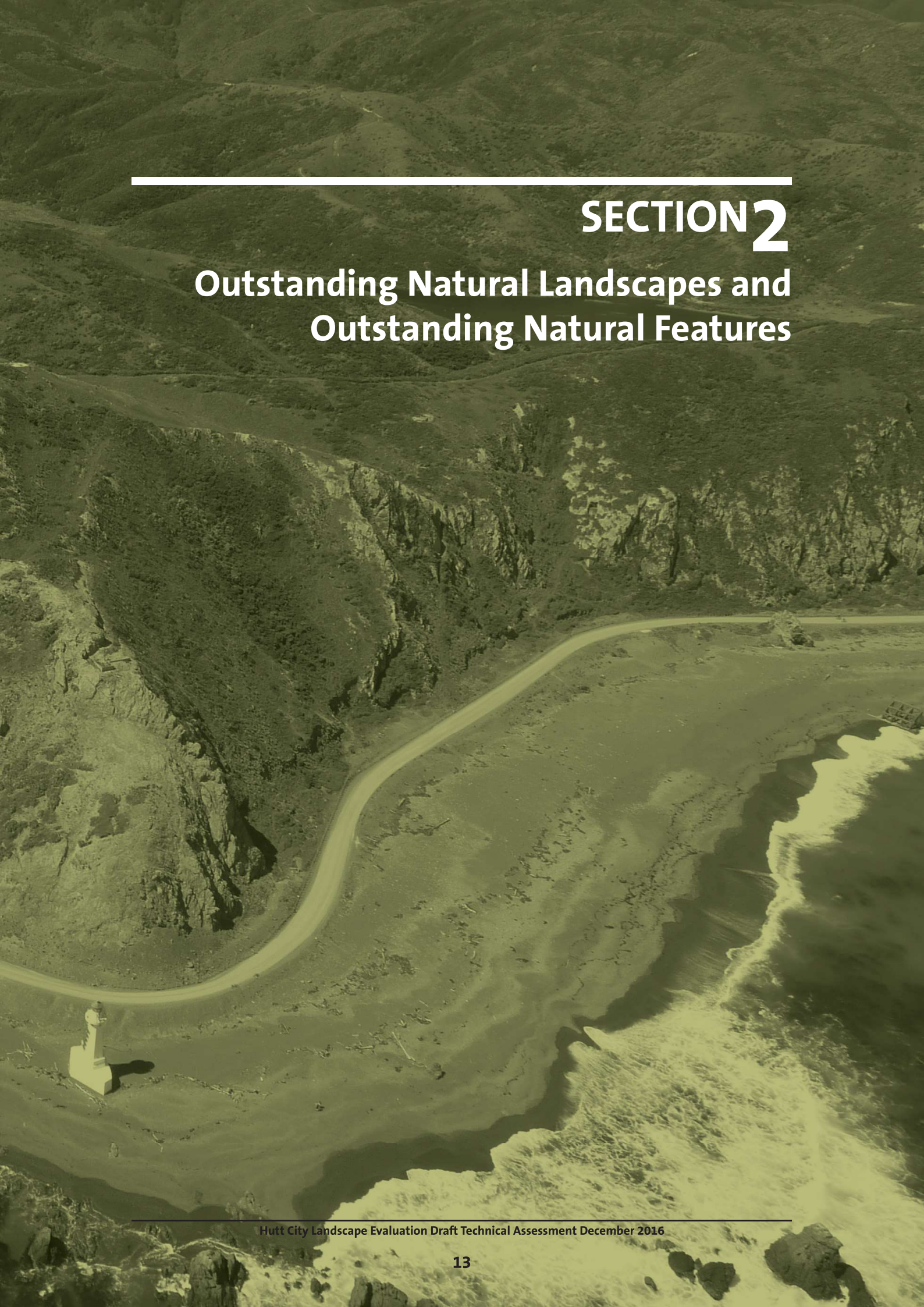
Maps and Mapping Scales

The maps included in this document are for reference; they simply illustrate the detailed mapping provided in the corresponding GIS data sets. Detailed interrogation of the boundaries shown on the maps should be carried out using the GIS data sets.

The mapping scale provided in the GIS data is generally 1:10,000. At this scale boundaries should be considered to be a zone of transition rather than a definitive line in a landscape. Interrogation of the GIS lines at scales finer than 1:10,000 and ground truthing will reveal that they are not aligned to some fine scale physical features. Further details about the GIS mapping are provided in the Appendix.



This Figure shows the extent of the ONLs, ONFs and SALs identified and mapped in this landscape evaluation. Each area is described in the following Sections 2 and 3



SECTION 2

Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features

South Coast ONL

DESCRIPTION

The South Coast Outstanding Natural Landscape extends from a point just south of Inconstant Point on the east side of Wellington Harbour along the coastal edge to Mukamuka Stream in Palliser Bay. A series of exposed headlands and sandy and shingle beaches rising to steep coastal escarpments and hill slopes comprise the coastal landscape. Four outstanding natural features (ONFs) are contained within the South Coast landscape; these are Turakirae Head, Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui, and the Parangārahu Lakes (Lake Kohangapiripiri and Lake Kohangatera).

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — VERY HIGH

The series of raised uplifted beaches and marine terraces are internationally renowned as a model for tectonic education.

Several outstanding natural features along the South Coast are designated as Department of Conservation scientific reserves used for research and education.

A number of naturally uncommon ecosystems consisting of coastal turf (nationally critical); stony beach ridges, shingle beaches, dune slacks, stable sand dunes, coastal lagoon (all nationally endangered), estuary (nationally vulnerable), and weed free, macrophytic freshwater lakes (nationally rare) are found within the landscape (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2014).

The ecology of the landscape supports large populations of fur seals, at risk birds, and endemic lizards and invertebrates.

SENSORY VALUES — VERY HIGH

The expressive landscape exhibits a continuous record of uplift and wave action through a series of raised beaches, marine terraces, and dune associations.

Recognised both locally and regionally as an iconic and memorable landscape, the visually striking coastline can be observed at considerable distances.

The feature is highly natural with little modification as evidenced by a limited presence of roads, structures, and communities of introduced vegetation. Disturbance is generally limited to occasional grazing and structures associated with the Baring Head and Pencarrow lighthouses.

There is a rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tides, wave patterns, light conditions, aromatic and auditory elements, and the presence of marine mammals.

SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — VERY HIGH

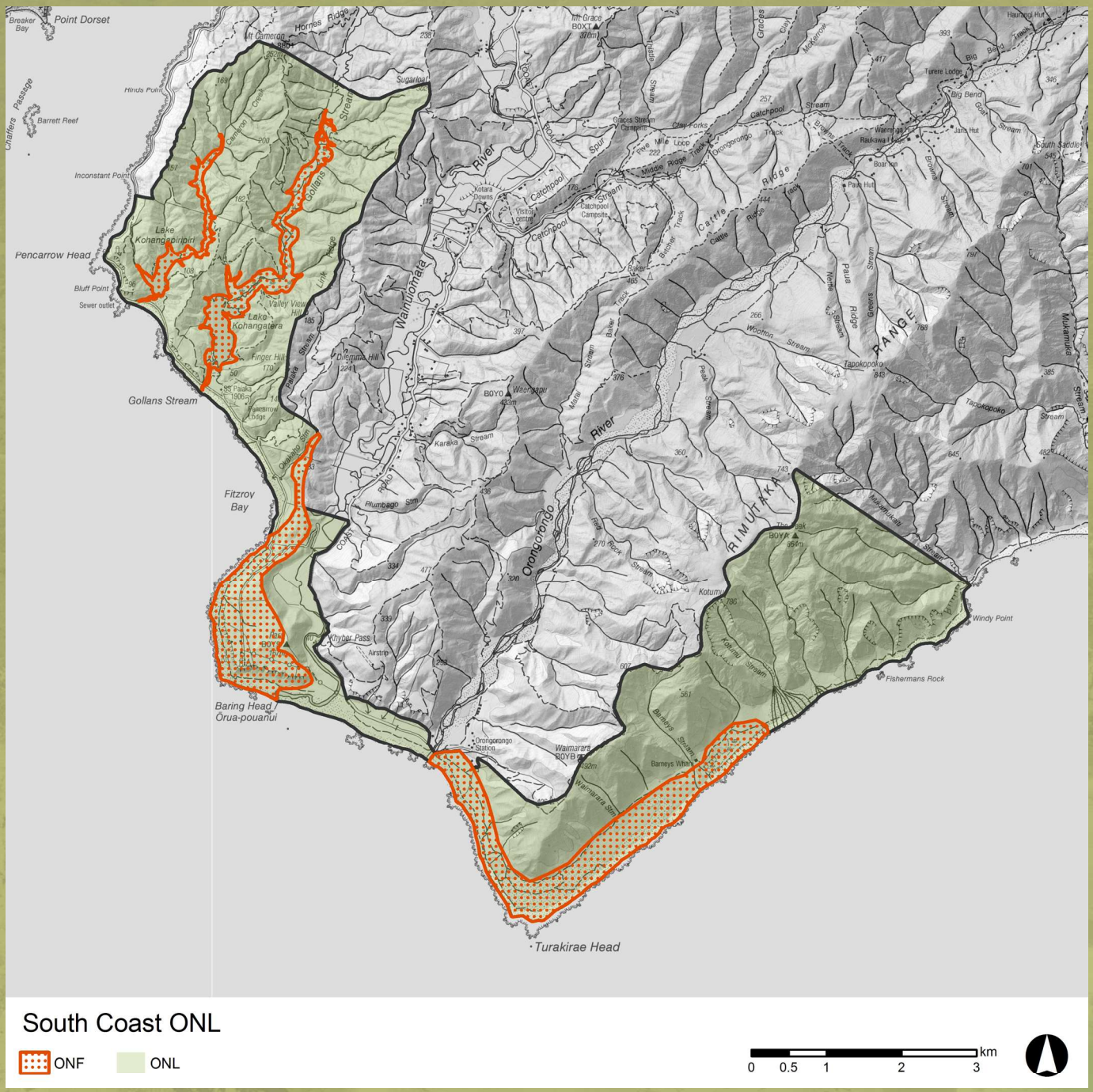
The coastal landscape is highly valued for both terrestrial and aquatic recreational opportunities.

Significant in Māori culture, the landscape served as the tribal boundary between Te Atiawa, Ngāti Kahungunu, and Rangitāne, and was the site of the first landfall by Māori navigators. Middens, pits, and pa sites provide evidence of early Māori settlement.

Rare karaka tree dendroglyphs can still be found in the freshwater lake region within the landscape (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2015).

Historically significant as the site of several shipwrecks and subsequent establishment of lighthouses, the landscape also served as the route for early European settlers traveling between the Wellington and the Wairarapa Regions (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2007).

WAINUIOMATA RIVER MOUTH, SOUTH COAST


Point Dorset
Breaker Bay
Chalfers Passage
Barrett Reef
Hinds Point
Inconstant Point
Pencarrow Head
Bluff Point
Sewer outlet
Lake Kohangapiripiri
Lake Kohangatera
Valley View Hill
Finger Hill
Dilemma Hill
Gollans Stream
Fitzroy Bay
Baring Head / Ōrua-pouanui
Mt Cameron
Hornes Ridge
Sugarloaf
Waiwhetu Stream
Waiwhetu River
Kotara Downs
Visitor centre
Catchpool Campsite
Catchpool Stream
Middle Ridge Track
Cattle Ridge
Baker Track
Waiorongomai River
Waiorongomai Stream
Karaka Stream
Rimutaka Road
Orongorongo Station
Khyber Pass
Airstrip
Waimarara Stream
Barneys Whare
Kotumi Stream
Tree Peak
Rimutaka Stream
Mt Grace
Gracefield
Motorroad
Tyrere Lodge
Big Bend
Jans Hut
Waiorongomai Track
Catchpool Stream
Cattle Ridge
Pauka Hut
Boar Spur
Browns Stream
South Saddle
Paua Stream
Nerine Stream
Greens Ridge
Woolton Stream
Tapokopoko
Tapokopoko Stream
Mukamuka Stream
RANGE
Windy Point
Fishermans Rock
South Coast ONL
ONF
ONL
0 0.5 1 2 3 km

Turakirae Head ONF

DESCRIPTION

Turakirae Head is a prominent headland comprising a sequence of well-defined earthquake raised beaches and marine terraces. Contained within the South Coast Outstanding Natural Landscape, the terraces are bound by the Orongorongo River to the west and the Kotumu Stream to the east. Turakirae Head extends inland to the toe of the slopes that form the southern extent of the Rimutaka Range. The headland is protected as a Department of Conservation (DoC) Scientific Reserve.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — VERY HIGH

The series of raised beaches and marine terraces are internationally renowned as a model for tectonic education and is identified as a Geopreservation Site.

Parts (128 hectares) of the landform were gazetted as a scientific reserve in recognition of their geological importance (Department of Conservation, N.D..).

The large area of contiguous indigenous coastal vegetation, including the nationally threatened shrubby tororaro (*Muehlenbeckia astonii*) form important ecological connections.

The ecology of the landscape supports large populations of fur seals, at risk birds, and endemic lizards.

The ONF lies within an area identified as having outstanding natural character (Boffa Miskell Ltd, 2016)

Turakirae Head wetland is identified as having outstanding indigenous biodiversity values (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2015).

SENSORY VALUES — VERY HIGH

The expressive landform exhibits a continuous record of uplift through a series of raised beaches and marine terraces.

The visually striking feature can be seen throughout the region due to the headland's prominence into Cook Strait, and is recognised both locally and regionally as an iconic and memorable landscape.

The feature is highly natural with little modification as evidenced by an absence of roads, structures, and small areas of introduced vegetation. Disturbance is limited to occasional grazing.

There is a rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tides, wave patterns, light conditions, aromatic and auditory elements, and the presence of marine mammals.

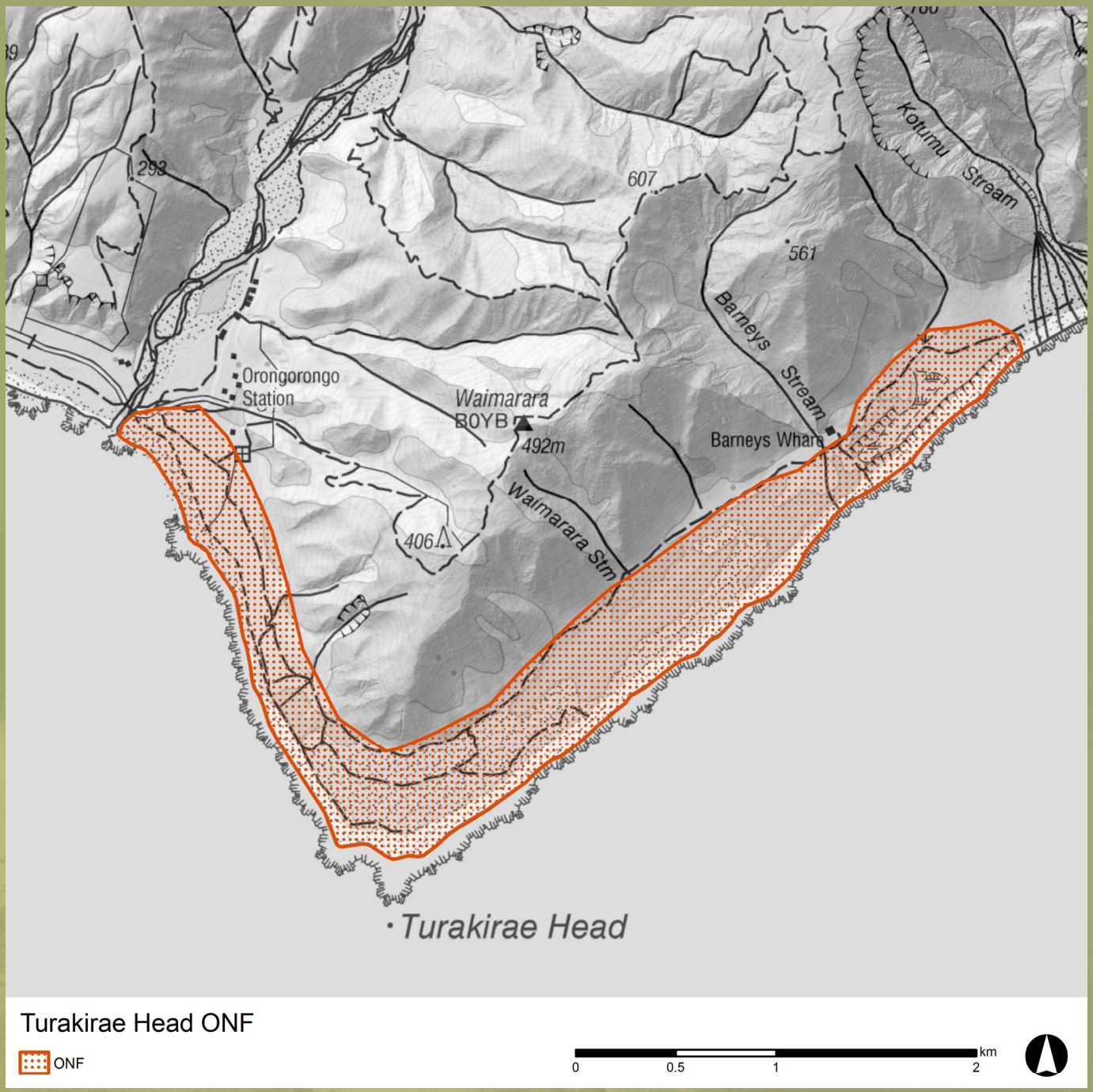
SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — VERY HIGH

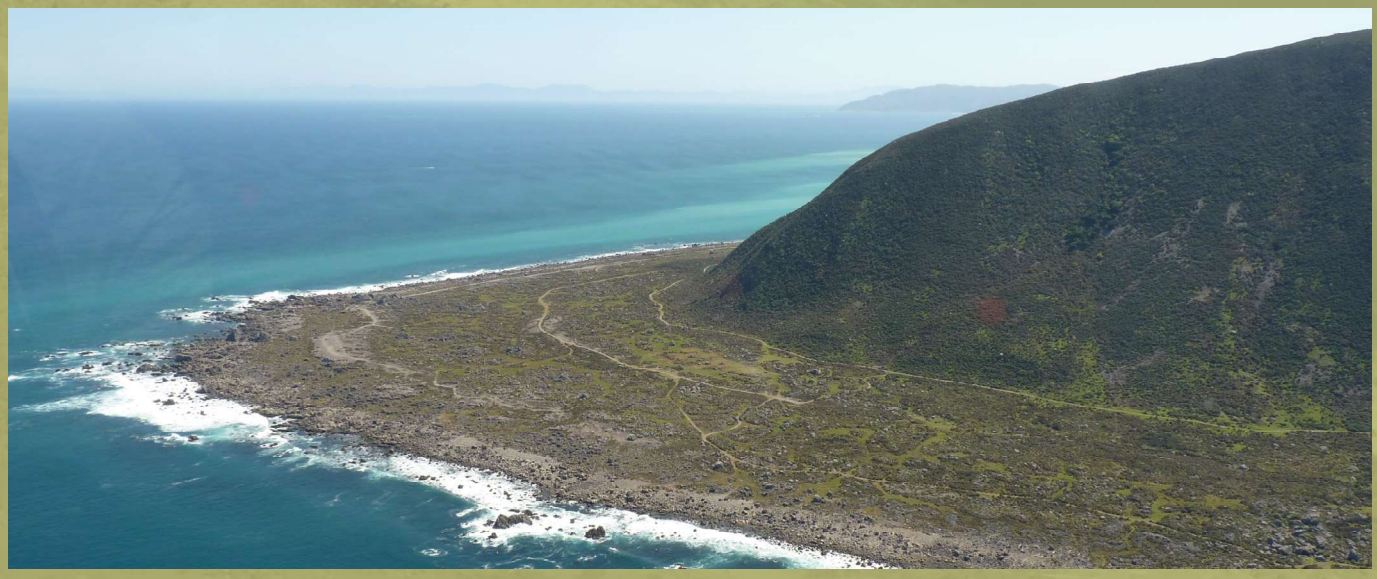
Highly valued for both terrestrial and aquatic recreational opportunities. The cycleway through this area is part of the Rimutaka Cycle Trail. Its proximity to the Nicholson Trench also makes it a popular destination for surfcasting.

Significant in Māori culture, it served as the tribal boundary between Te Atiawa, Ngati Kahungunu, and Rangitane, and was on the coastal route to Wairarapa. Middens, pits, and pa sites provide evidence of early Māori settlement.

It is historically significant as a route for early European settlers traveling between the Wellington and the Wairarapa Region (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2007).

UPLIFTED BEACHES, TURAKIRAE HEAD


293
607
561
Kotumu Stream
Barneys Stream
Orongorongo Station
Waimarara
BOYB
492m
Barneys Whare
Waimarara Stm
406
Turakirae Head
Turakirae Head ONF
ONF
0
0.5
1
2
km



Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui ONF

DESCRIPTION

Shingle and sand beaches, raised marine terraces, cliffs, and escarpments form the prominent headland, Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui. This ONF, contained within the South Coast Outstanding Natural Landscape, is bound by the Okakaho Stream to the north and the Wainuiomata River to the east. The flat land above the escarpment includes a lighthouse reserve with a collection of buildings and other structures surrounding the lighthouse. Collectively, these landscape elements are contained in Greater Wellington Regional Council's *East Harbour Regional Park*.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — HIGH

A series of raised beaches, marine terraces, and escarpments are representative of the South Coast Outstanding Natural Landscape

The headland is home to a NIWA clean air monitoring station that contributes to global knowledge of greenhouse gases.

A number of naturally uncommon ecosystems consisting of coastal turf (nationally critical); stony beach ridges, shingle beaches, dune slacks, stable sand dunes, coastal lagoon (all nationally endangered), and estuary (nationally vulnerable) are found throughout the ONF (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2014).

The habitat supports a large population of at risk birds and rare lizards and invertebrates.

Seepages containing the naturally uncommon Kirk's crassula (*Crassula kirkii*) and the nationally endangered pygmy clubrush (*Isolepis basilaris*) are present on the headland (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2014).

SENSORY VALUES — VERY HIGH

The expressive landform exhibits a continuous record of uplift through a series of marine terraces and pronounced escarpments.

Although parts of the headland are highly modified by farming practices, its remote location and exposure to coastal conditions means that it retains a high level of natural character. The highly unmodified escarpments and shingle beach support many important endemic fauna and threatened indigenous vegetation.

It is a vivid and memorable landform at the entrance to Wellington Harbour

The feature contains a vivid contrast between productive land and extensive areas of indigenous habitat.

There is a rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tides, wave patterns, light conditions, aromatic and auditory elements, and the presence of marine mammals.

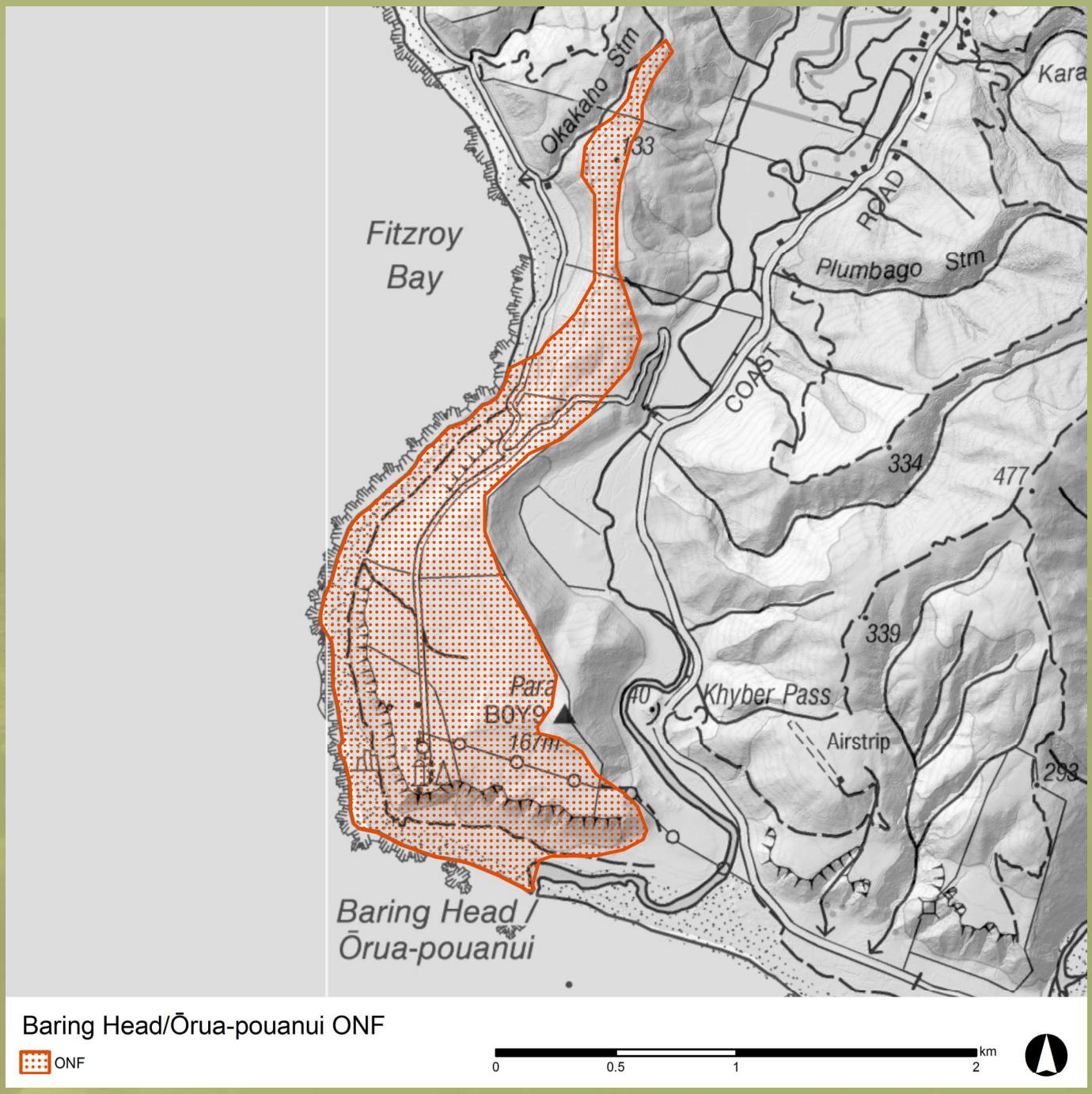
SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — VERY HIGH

The headland is highly valued for both terrestrial and aquatic recreational opportunities. A large greywacke rock formation is a popular bouldering destination.

It is significant in Māori culture as the site of the first landfall by Māori navigators.

Significant to Wellington's maritime history as the site of several shipwrecks, which prompted the establishment of the lighthouse reserve. The Baring Head/ Ōrua-pouanui lighthouse served as the second to last manned lighthouse in New Zealand and is one of only three New Zealand lighthouses where the associated buildings remain in situ (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2011a).

BEACH AT BARING HEAD


Okakaho Stm
33
Kara
ROAD
Fitzroy
Bay
Plumbago Stm
COAST
334
477
339
Para
BOY 9
16m
40
Khyber Pass
Airstrip
293
Baring Head /
Ōrua-pouanui
Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui ONF
ONF
0
0.5
1
2
km

Parangārahu Lakes ONF (Lake Kohangapiripiri & Lake Kohangatera)

DESCRIPTION

At the easterly entrance to Wellington Harbour, cliffs, escarpments, marine terraces, and shingle beaches form Pencarrow Head/Te Rae-akiaki. Directly east of the headland along the South Coast Outstanding Natural Landscape are Lake Kohangapiripiri and Lake Kohangatera. Collectively known as Parangārahu Lakes[1], these freshwater lakes fed by Cameron's Creek and Gollans Stream, are part of a drowned valley wetland system cut off from the sea by beach ridges. The Parangārahu Lakes are protected and managed along with Pencarrow Head/Te Rae-akiaki as both a DoC Reserve as a part of GWRC's East Harbour Regional Park.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — VERY HIGH

The lakes, wetlands and raised beaches together support a wide range of native and regionally threatened flora and fauna.

The lake and wetland system is the largest and sometimes only breeding habitat for several species of waterfowl.

One of the only weed-free, macrophytic native lake communities remaining in New Zealand.

The lakes are recently designated as a DoC scientific reserve used for research and education.

Both lakes are identified as outstanding water bodies[2] for having outstanding indigenous ecosystem values (fish diversity and threatened fish species). Both lake wetlands are identified as having outstanding indigenous biodiversity (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2015).

SENSORY VALUES — VERY HIGH

The raised beaches separating the lakes from the sea are expressive of the seismic activity that led to the formation of the lakes.

Although the vegetation along the hill slopes of the lakes is highly modified from years of burning and grazing, the wetlands and beaches support highly indigenous plant communities in a relatively unmodified state. The absence of roads and structures contributes to a high natural coastal character.

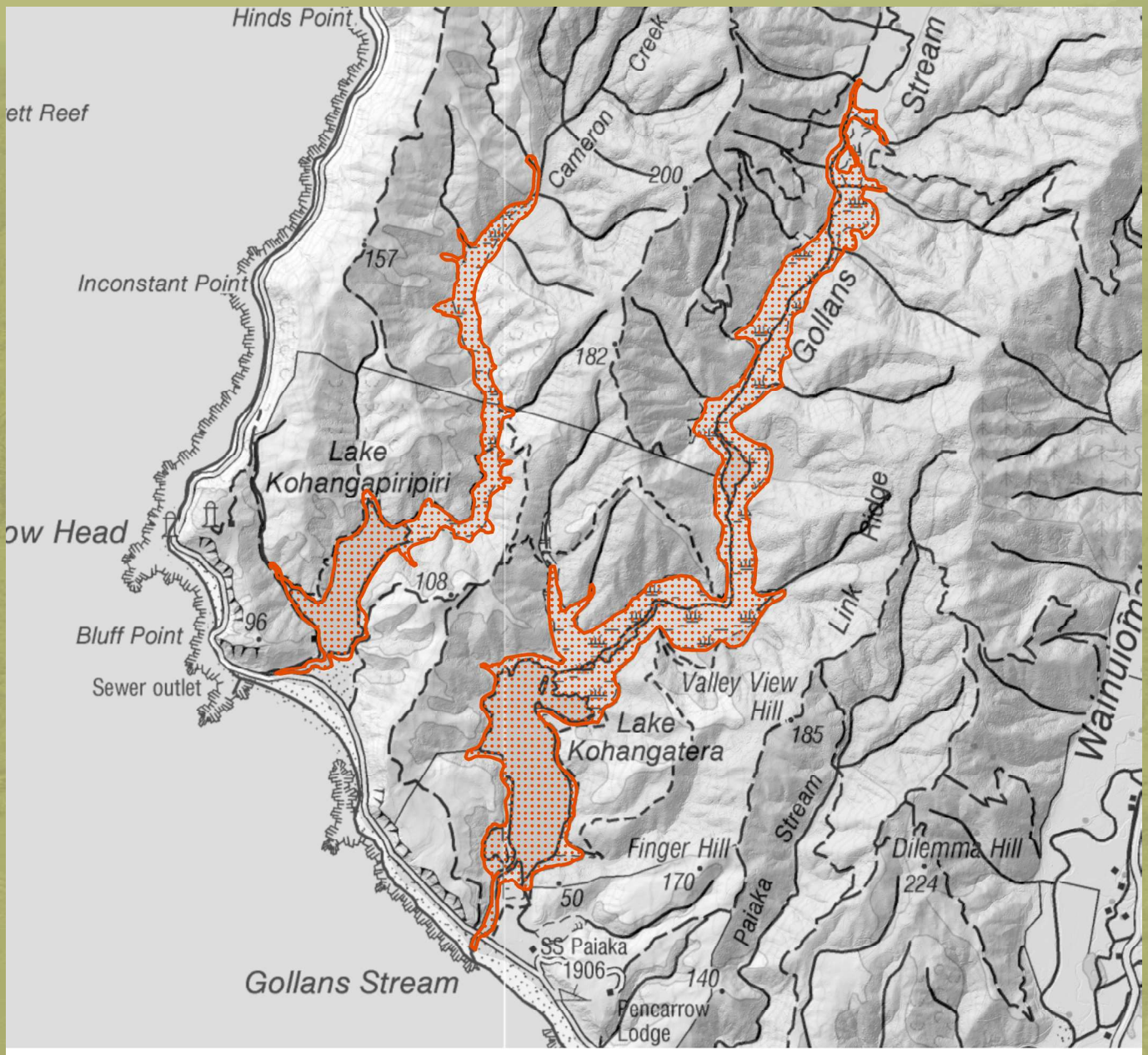
There is a rich association with transient terrestrial wetland and coastal experiences. The shifting tides, wave patterns, light conditions, and aromatic and auditory elements are prevalent at the southern reaches of the lakes. The sensory wetland experience of the northern reaches provide intimate views of migratory waterfowl and reflections of the rising hills are captured in the open water of the lakes (Gibbs,2002).

SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — VERY HIGH

While the tracks along the lakes are not well used the headland is highly valued for both terrestrial and aquatic recreational opportunities. The coastline walkway from Eastbourne to the lighthouses is especially popular with bikers and walkers.

Remnants of Māori settlement are evidenced in the upper reaches of both lakes. Extremely rare karaka tree dendroglyphs are found at the head of Lake Kohangapiripiri (Gibbs 2002).

1 GWRC Proposed Natural Resources Plan 2015
2 GWRC Proposed Natural Resources Plan 2015


Hinds Point
ett Reef
Inconstant Point
ow Head
Bluff Point
Sewer outlet
Cameron Creek
Stream
200
157
182
Gollans
Ridge
Lake
Kohangapiripiri
108
96
Link
Valley View
Hill
185
Lake
Kohangatera
Wainuiom
Finger Hill
170
Stream
Paiaka
Dilemma Hill
224
50
SS Paiaka
1906
140
Pencarrow
Lodge
Gollans Stream
Parangārahu Lakes ONF (Lake Kohangapiripiri & Lake Kohangatera)
ONF
0
0.5
1
2
km

Matiu/Somes Island ONL

DESCRIPTION

The Matiu/Somes ONL includes Mokopuna Island at its northern tip. Matiu/Somes Island is both a historic and scientific reserve and is pest free. Mokopuna is also designated as a DoC reserve. Centrally located within the harbour, the island is part of a now submerged valley system. The island is encircled by a shore platform cut by the sea, together with sea caves and rock arches.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — HIGH

It is a DoC scientific reserve used for not only research, but as a site for school environmental education programmes as a part of the National Environmental Education Strategy.

The predator-fee status and restoration efforts have resulted in a habitat that supports a variety of threatened bird species and endemic reptiles. Notable birds include the red crowned parakeet (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*) which only inhabit predator free islands and the blue penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) (Department of Conservation Wellington Conservancy, 2009).

The coastal cliffs provide nesting habitat for several coastal bird species.

SENSORY VALUES — VERY HIGH

The island is a visually striking feature, central to the Wellington Harbour. Highly visible from many areas, the island is recognised as an iconic and memorable feature.

The high cliffs and shore platform along the coastal edge create an expressive landform exhibiting uplift from previous seismic activity.

Although the island has a history of human use, as evidenced by the collection of structures, exotic vegetation, and grazed pasture, there have been extensive efforts to eradicate pests, significant restoration work to establish vegetation indigenous to the coastal environment, and the reintroduction of endemic fauna, all of which contribute to a high level naturalness.

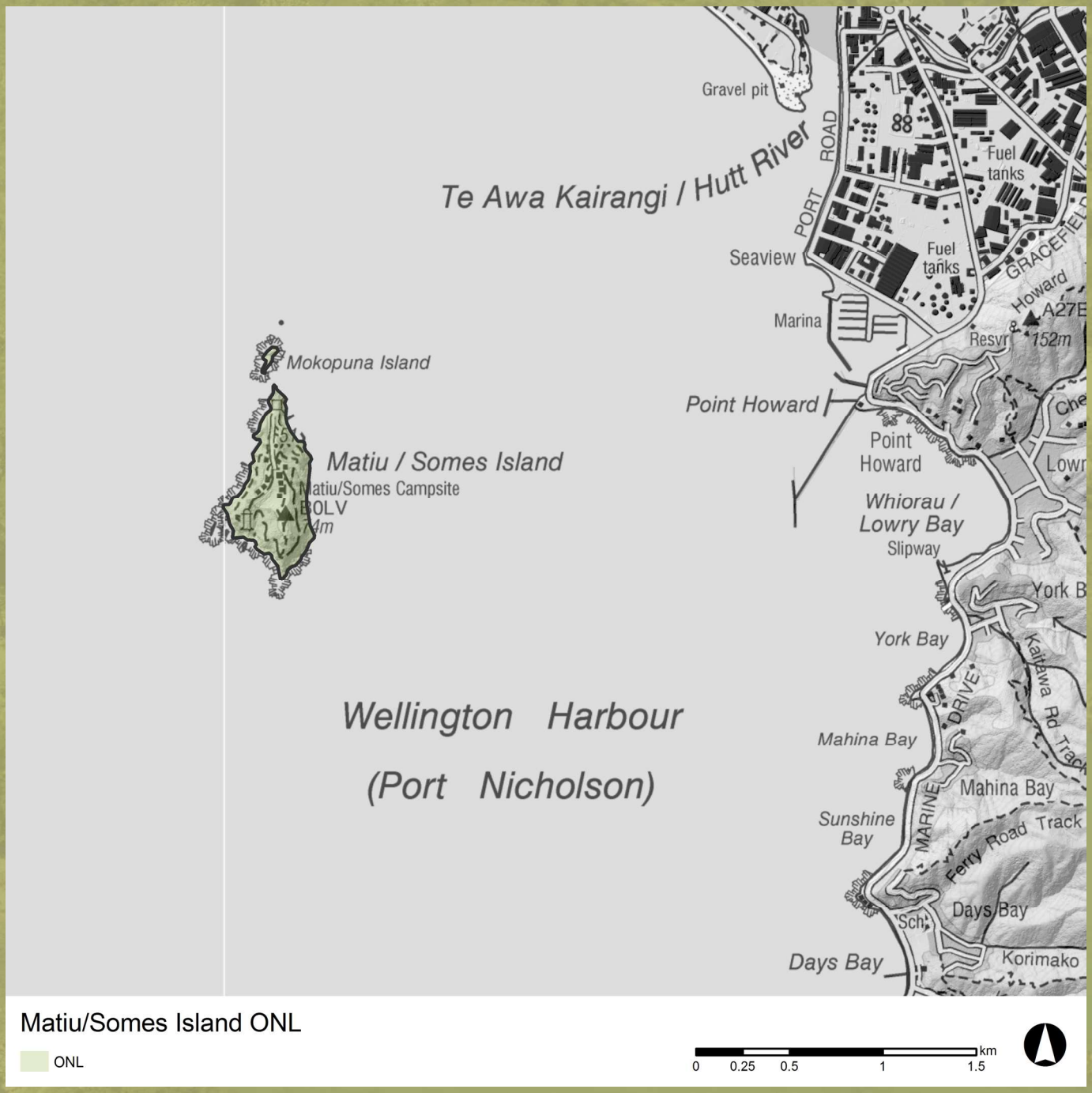
There is a rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tides, wave patterns, light conditions, and aromatic and auditory elements.

SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — VERY HIGH

Archaeological sites such as middens, pits, and pa sites provide evidence of early Māori settlement (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, 2012).

The island, named by Kupe, is culturally significant to Māori for several reasons; Kupe was the first Polynesian to discover New Zealand, the island is believed to be named after one of his nieces, and while many place names from other ancestors have been lost, this name was preserved by several generations of Māori (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, 2012).

There are several historic European settlement associations unique to the island. Once serving as a human and animal quarantine station, the island was earlier used as an internment camp for 'enemy aliens' during both world wars. Several of the animal quarantine buildings and gun emplacements remain on the island today (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, 2012).


Gravel pit
Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River
PORT ROAD
88
Fuel tanks
Seaview
Fuel tanks
GRACEFIELD
Howard
A27E
Marina
Resvr
152m
Mokopuna Island
Point Howard
Matiu / Somes Island
Matiu/Somes Campsite
Point Howard
Whiorau / Lowry Bay
Slipway
York B
York Bay
Kaitawa Rd Track
DRIVE
Wellington Harbour
(Port Nicholson)
Mahina Bay
Mahina Bay
MARINE
Sunshine Bay
Ferry Road Track
Days Bay
Sch
Days Bay
Korimako
Matiu/Somes Island ONL
ONL
km
0
0.25
0.5
1
1.5

Mākaro /Ward Island ONF

DESCRIPTION

This is one of three small islands in Wellington Harbour. The island is located due west from the Eastbourne shoreline and serves as a deep channel guide for ships entering and exiting the harbour. The island is part of the same submerged valley system as Matiu/Somes.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — VERY HIGH

The island is designated as a DoC scientific reserve, important for research and education.

Hardy coastal indigenous vegetation and rocky shoreline provide habitat for a number of threatened or at risk seabird species. The island is one of the few large and secure nesting habitats for blue penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) in the Wellington region (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, 2012).

SENSORY VALUES — VERY HIGH

The island is a visually striking feature, central to the Wellington Harbour. Visible from a wide area, the island is recognised as a memorable feature.

The high cliffs and shore platform along the coastal edge create an expressive landform exhibiting uplift from previous seismic activity.

The island is highly natural with little modification as evidenced by an absence of roads, structures, and introduced vegetation.

There is a rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tides, wave patterns, and light conditions, aromatic and auditory elements, and the presence of marine mammals.

SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — HIGH

The island is highly valued as a destination for recreational watercraft.

The island, named by Kupe, is culturally significant to Māori for several reasons; Kupe was the first Polynesian to discover New Zealand, the island is believed to be named after one of his daughters, and while many place names from other ancestors have been lost, this name was preserved by several generations of Māori (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, 2012).

There are historical associations related to both world wars. These include the construction of a wooden piled anti-submarine barrier between the island and Robinson Bay and a suspended net from buoys on the western shore to Kau Point on the Miramar Peninsula (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, 2012).


Eastbourne
Mākaro / Ward Island
Robinson Bay
Point Arthur
178
Mākaro /Ward Island ONF
ONF
0
0.25
0.5
1
km

Rimutaka Range ONL

DESCRIPTION

Tectonic and glacial processes led to the formation of the Rimutaka Range. The range serves as the far eastern backdrop and skyline to the Hutt Valley and creates a substantial barrier to the Wairarapa Valley to the east. Running north-east/south-west the ranges rise from Turakirae Head on the south coast and extend to the Hutt City boundary. The Rimutaka Forest Park extends along nearly the entire length of the range, however the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Catchment Area is confined to the northern reaches of the range within Hutt City. Along the southern edge of the Rimutaka Forest Park there is clear transition from indigenous forest landcover to matagouri and regenerating bush. While, the regenerating landcover is of lower ecological value, it is included within the bounds of the Rimutaka Range ONL as it is part of the ridge and valley system forming the Orongorongo watershed catchment. Modification to this part of the ONL is limited to grazing, therefore, the landscape retains its expressive and visually striking values.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — VERY HIGH

Topography consisting of varying slopes, aspects, and elevations and bioclimatic zones ranging from coastal to alpine give rise to a variety of ecosystems contributing to a highly biodiverse, species-rich environment.

The extensive contiguous corridor of protected forest contain original tracts of indigenous vegetation consisting mainly of beech and kamahi communities with pockets of podocarp communities.

The Orongorongo Valley within the southern reaches of the range is the site of one of the longest running ecological studies about the impacts of possums and forest health in New Zealand. Knowledge gained from this research was used to develop curriculum for school groups (Wellington Conservancy, 2006).

Due to the highly functioning, healthy ecosystems present in the range, a portion is designated as a water catchment area for parts of the Wellington region.

SENSORY VALUES — VERY HIGH

The expressive landform exhibits characteristics of continual geological uplift and down-cutting of stream systems through easily fractured rock.

The range provides a visually striking forested backdrop to the eastern Hutt Valley. Visible from many areas, the range is recognised as both iconic and memorable.

Large contiguous areas with little modification, as evidenced by an absence of roads and limited structures and communities of introduced vegetation, contribute to a high level of naturalness.

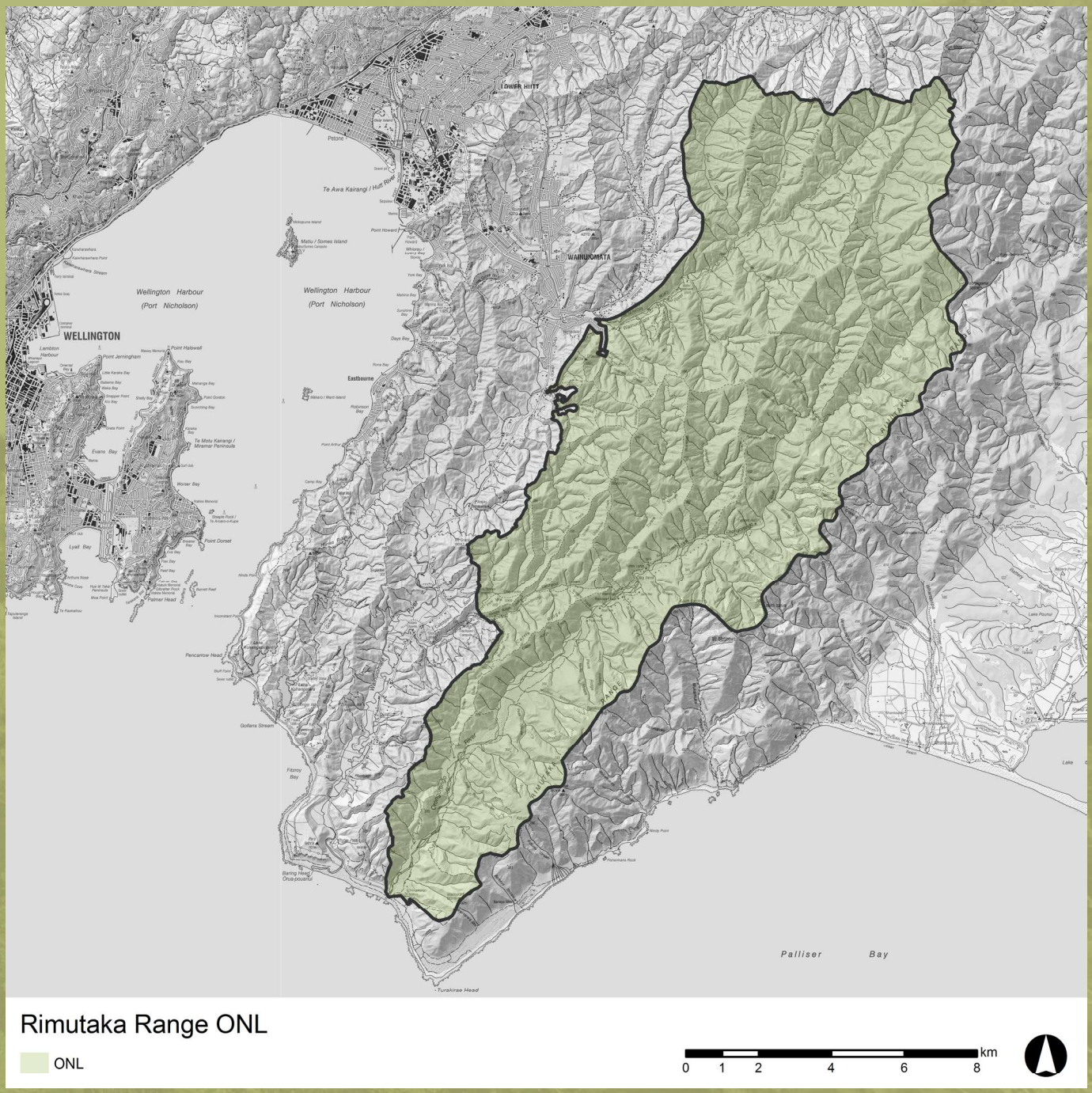
An abundant presence of wildlife and diversity of climatic zones that highlight seasonal changes are important transient values of this feature.

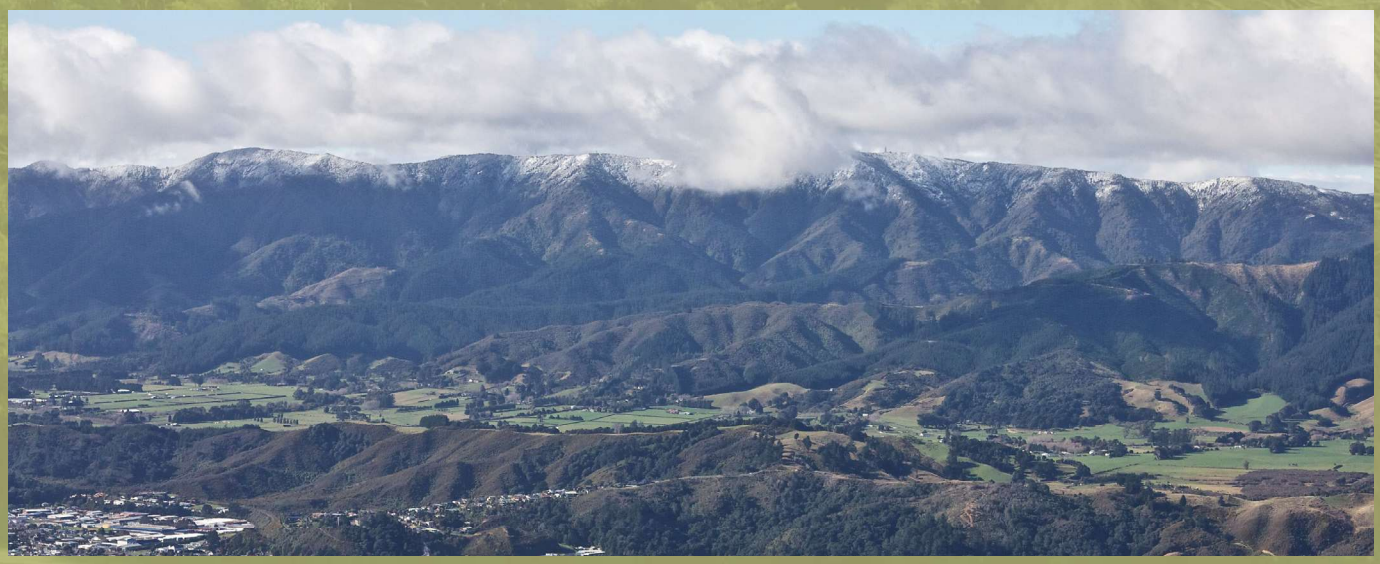
SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — VERY HIGH

Highly valued for a diverse range of recreational opportunities, the long-established network of tracks and huts are especially popular with hunters and trampers.

While there is little evidence of Māori settlement, the range served as a key resource for collection of food (kai), medicinal plants and animals (rongoā) and weaving materials (taonga raranga).

The range has strong regional historical value as the site for the first rail link between the Wellington and Wairarapa regions (Department of Conservation Wellington Conservancy, 2009).


WELLINGTON
LOWER HUTT
WAINUIOMATA
Eastbourne
Wellington Harbour
(Port Nicholson)
Wellington Harbour
(Port Nicholson)
Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River
Matiu / Somes Island
Lambton Harbour
Point Jerningham
Point Halswell
Evans Bay
Lyall Bay
Point Dorset
Te Motu Kairangi / Miramar Peninsula
Pencarrow Head
Golfans Stream
Fitzroy Bay
Baring Head / Orua-pouanui
Turakirae Head
Palliser Bay
Rimutaka Range ONL
ONL
km
0 1 2 4 6 8



SECTION 3
Special Amenity Landscapes

Belmont Hills SAL

DESCRIPTION

Belmont Hills SAL is located within the hill country of Hutt City forming the Valley's westerly backdrop. Rising above the Wellington Fault, the hills are bound by the district's western, northern, and southern boundaries. The grazed rolling hilltops and forested valleys and gullies contain notable features such as Korokoro Valley, Speedys Stream, Dry Creek and several distinctive geological natural features.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — MEDIUM

Although ecosystem function along open hilltops has been compromised by grazing practices, highly functioning ecosystems are evident along many of the sheltered slopes and gullies where indigenous hardwood vegetation and regeneration is prevalent.

The Korokoro Valley contains significant stands of rimu, rata, tawa, and kohekohe.

SENSORY VALUES — HIGH

The broad, undulating, rounded hilltops are highly expressive of the uplifted ancient peneplain.

The hills form the visually striking westerly backdrop to the Hutt Valley. They are recognised both locally and in adjacent districts for their memorable qualities.

While the forested slopes and gullies are highly natural with little modification as evidenced by an absence of roads, structures, and small communities of introduced vegetation, the hilltops are modified by grazing.

SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — HIGH

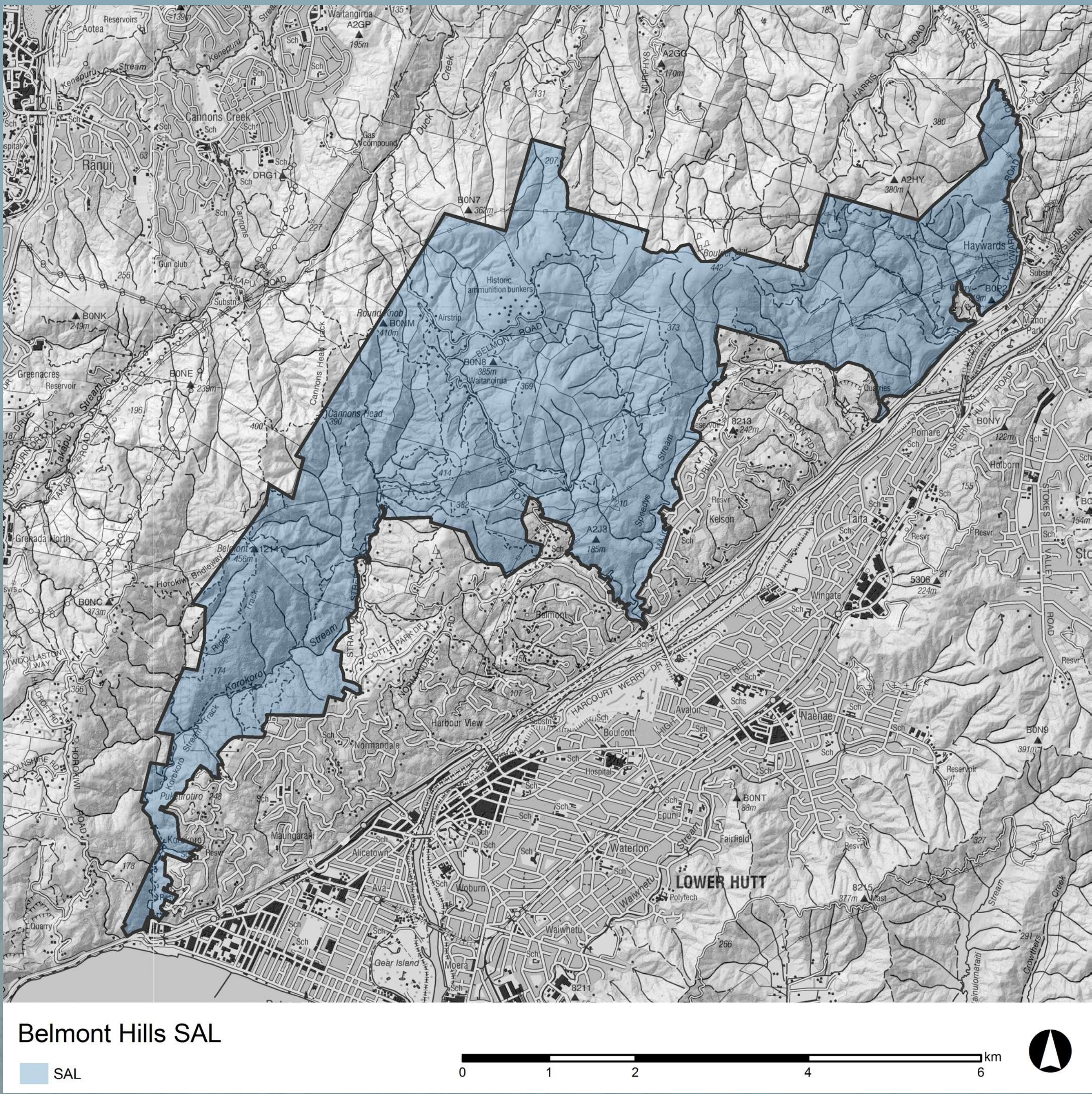
Highly valued for a diverse range of active recreational opportunities.

Old Coach Road is significant to Māori as a war trail route linking Normandale and Pauatahanui. As early settlers established homestead sites within the Hutt Valley, the straight survey line through Belmont formed the alignment for The old Belmont to Pauatahanui Road (Old Coach Road), (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2012).

They are historically significant for having an extensive system of concrete magazines used to store weapons during World War II.

New Zealand's first gravity concrete dam is found within the Korokoro Valley (Astwood & Baines, 2014).

HILLTOPS IN BELMONT REGIONAL PARK- BELMONT TRIG


Belmont Hills SAL
SAL
0
1
2
4
6
km
Cannons Creek
Ranui
Historic ammunition bunkers
Airstrip
BELMONT ROAD
Round Knob
Cannons Head
Belmont
Korokoro
Haywards
Quarries
Kelson
Taita
Pomare
Wingate
Naenae
Avalon
Boulcott
Harbour View
Normandale
Maungaraki
Alicetown
Waterloo
Epuni
Fairfield
Woburn
Waiwhetu
Gear Island
LOWER HUTT
Polytech
HARCOURT WERRY DR
Speedys Stream


Eastbourne Hills SAL

DESCRIPTION

The Eastbourne Hills are prominent beech forested hills that rise steeply from the eastern shores of Wellington Harbour. The hills, bound by Port Howard to the north and Burden's Gate near Point Arthur to the south, extend east across two parallel ridge systems to the Wainuiomata River valley. Notable bays along the coastline below these forested hills include Days Bay, Lowry Bay, and Robinson Bay (Eastbourne).

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — HIGH

The large contiguous corridor of variously-aged indigenous beech forest with rata populated stream valleys support a fauna rich environment.

The forested hills are the headwaters for Gollans Stream and its tributary Butterfly Creek, which feed the outstanding natural feature (ONF), Lake Kohangatera

Several rare plants are found throughout the forested hills. These include, red mistletoe (*Peraxilla. tetrapetala*), terrestrial and epiphytic orchids, and *Pittosporum divaricatum*, one of Wellington's rarest plants (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2011b).

SENSORY VALUES — HIGH

The hills provide a visually striking forested backdrop to the Eastern Bays and Wainuiomata Valley. Observable from distant locations within Wellington Harbour, they are recognised both locally and regionally for their memorable qualities.

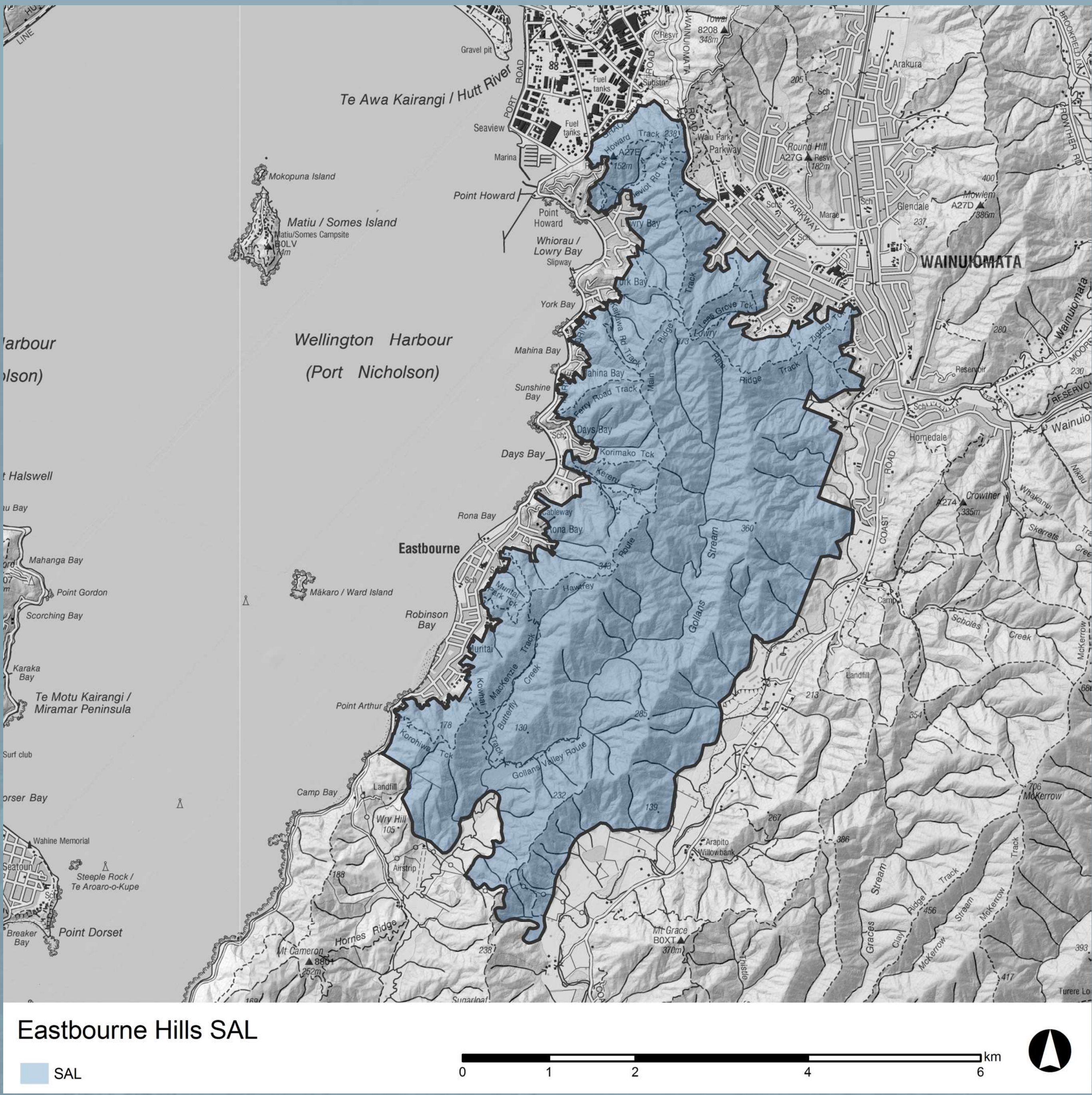
Prominently featured in the arts, the hills are frequently a subject in paintings and literature.

The hills are highly natural with little modern modification as evidenced by an absence of roads, structures, and introduced vegetation.

SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — HIGH

Highly valued by local communities for recreational opportunities and also for the distinctive landscape setting for residential development situated on the lower slopes. The long established track network, is highly popular with walkers.

THE BEECH FOREST CLAD HILLS PROVIDE A PROMINENT BACKDROP TO EASTBOURNE


Eastbourne Hills SAL
SAL
0
1
2
4
6
km
Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River
Wellington Harbour
(Port Nicholson)
Matiu / Somes Island
Mokopuna Island
Mākaro / Ward Island
Eastbourne
WAINUIOMATA
Point Howard
Lowry Bay
York Bay
Mahina Bay
Sunshine Bay
Days Bay
Rona Bay
Robinson Bay
Point Arthur
Camp Bay
Point Dorset
Te Motu Kairangi / Miramar Peninsula
Gollans Stream

Eastern Escarpment SAL

DESCRIPTION

The Eastern Escarpment is a series of shingle and sand beaches that rise to a steep escarpment along a narrow coastal edge on the east side of Wellington Harbour. The landscape is bound by Burden's Gate near Point Arthur to the north and Inconstant Point to the south, extending east to the top of the escarpment. A portion of the landscape, along the coastal edge, is within East Harbour Regional Park.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — MEDIUM

Shingle beaches forming the coastal edge of this landscape are rare.

While the vegetation along the escarpment is highly modified from grazing, matagouri, which is rare in the North Island, is prevalent.

SENSORY VALUES — HIGH

The landscape is highly expressive with the escarpment exhibiting a record of uplift, while the coastal weathering process caused by sediment movement and wave action is apparent along the coastal edge.

Recognised both locally and regionally as a memorable landscape, the visually striking coastline escarpment can be observed at considerable distances within the Wellington Harbour catchment.

The escarpment has been highly modified by the clearing of vegetation and grazing, resulting in vegetation that reduces the landscape's naturalness. However, there is a limited presence of structures, a pathway that is generally restricted to non-motor vehicles, and a highly unmodified coastal edge, which contribute to the landscape's naturalness.

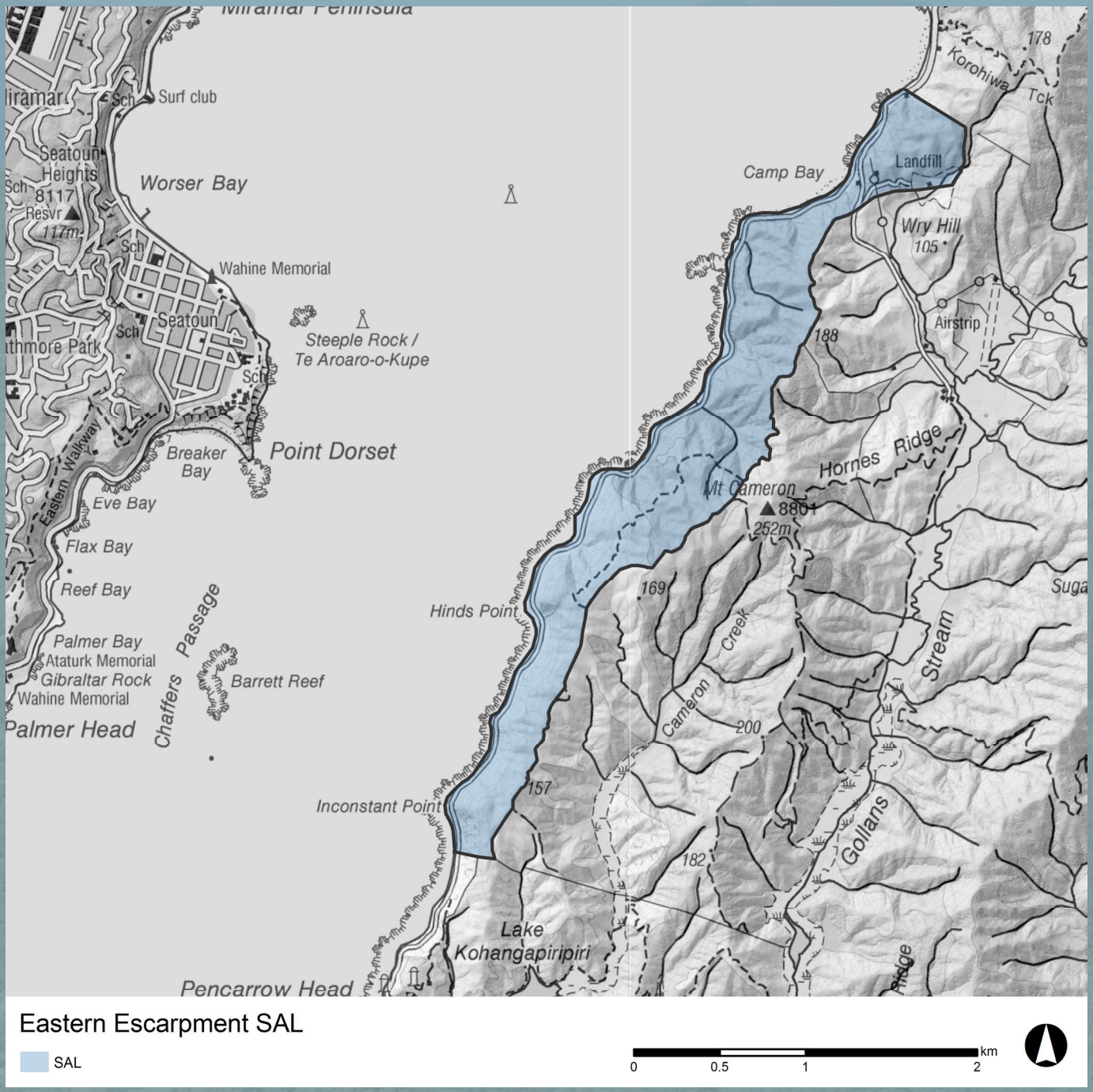
There is a rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tides, wave patterns, light conditions, and aromatic and auditory elements.

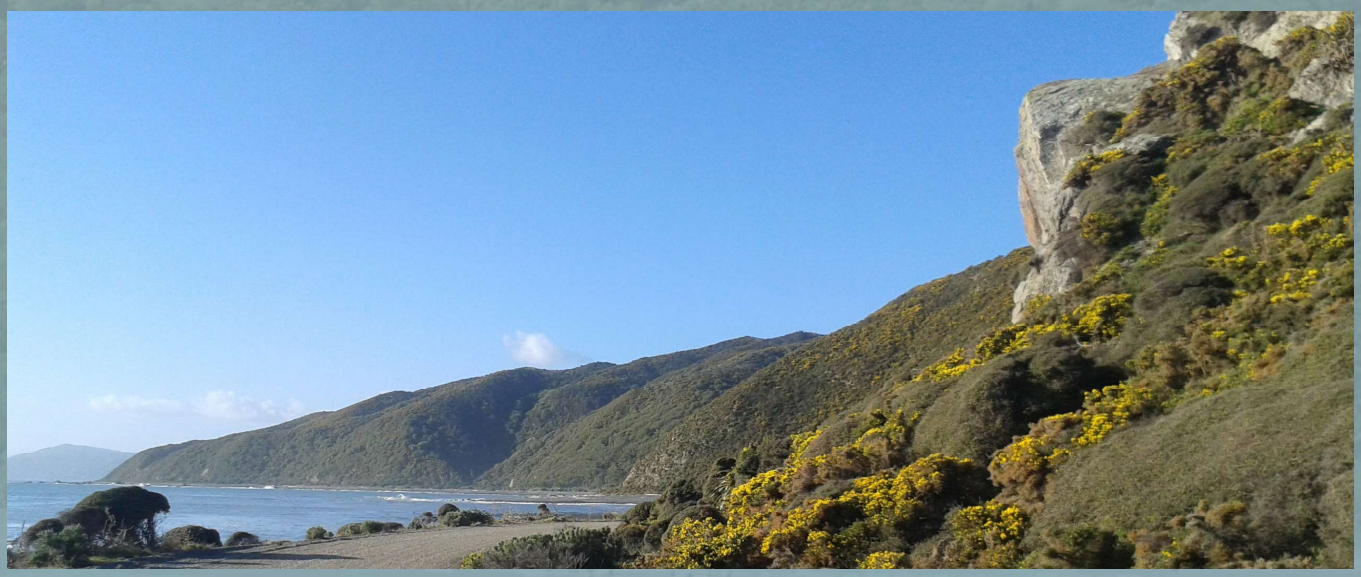
SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — VERY HIGH

The coastal landscape is highly valued for both terrestrial and aquatic recreational opportunities.

It includes the beaches where passengers of the Wahine perished along the shore of Eastbourne in 1968.

ESCARPMENT ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE HARBOUR IS A POPULAR RECREATION AREA


Miramar Peninsula
Miramar
Surf club
Seatoun Heights
Worser Bay
Resvr
117m
Wahine Memorial
Seatoun
Steeple Rock / Te Aroaro-o-Kupe
Point Dorset
Breaker Bay
Eastern Walkway
Eve Bay
Flax Bay
Reef Bay
Palmer Bay
Ataturk Memorial
Gibraltar Rock
Wahine Memorial
Palmer Head
Chaffers Passage
Barrett Reef
Inconstant Point
Pencarrow Head
Lake Kohangapiripiri
Hinds Point
Camp Bay
Landfill
Korohiwa
Tck
178
Wry Hill
105
Airstrip
188
Hornes Ridge
Mt Cameron
880
252m
169
Cameron Creek
Stream
200
157
182
Gollans
Ridge
Eastern Escarpment SAL
SAL
0
0.5
1
2
km



Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi SAL

DESCRIPTION

The Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi was instrumental in the formation of the Hutt Valley. The southerly flowing, highly modified braided river system is central to Hutt City. The river and adjacent passive and active spaces extend from the district's northerly boundary to the outlet into Wellington Harbour at Petone.

NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES — MEDIUM

Although the health of this reach of the river and surrounding landscape is affected by flood management strategies, intensification, and inclusion of exotic riparian vegetation, the linear open space network supports a diversity of fauna.

The estuary at the mouth of the river in Petone is home to a number of threatened and at risk birds.

The river and its vegetated margins provide a wildlife corridor connecting the mountain and the sea.

SENSORY VALUES — HIGH

The river (along with seismic activity) was instrumental in the formation of the Hutt Valley. Although straightened from its original alignment, the river and its broad floodplain situated between steep escarpments and hillsides strongly expresses the natural processes that led to its character.

The river floodplain system is an iconic landscape central to the Hutt Valley. It is widely recognised both locally and regionally.

The river floodplain landscape is highly modified with a low level of naturalness, as evidenced by ongoing channel realignment, engineered stop banks, presence of roads and structures within the floodplain, and the introduction of large areas of exotic riparian vegetation.

The flood pulses of the river system and the presence of wildlife are important transient values of the landscape.

SHARED AND RECOGNISED VALUES — VERY HIGH

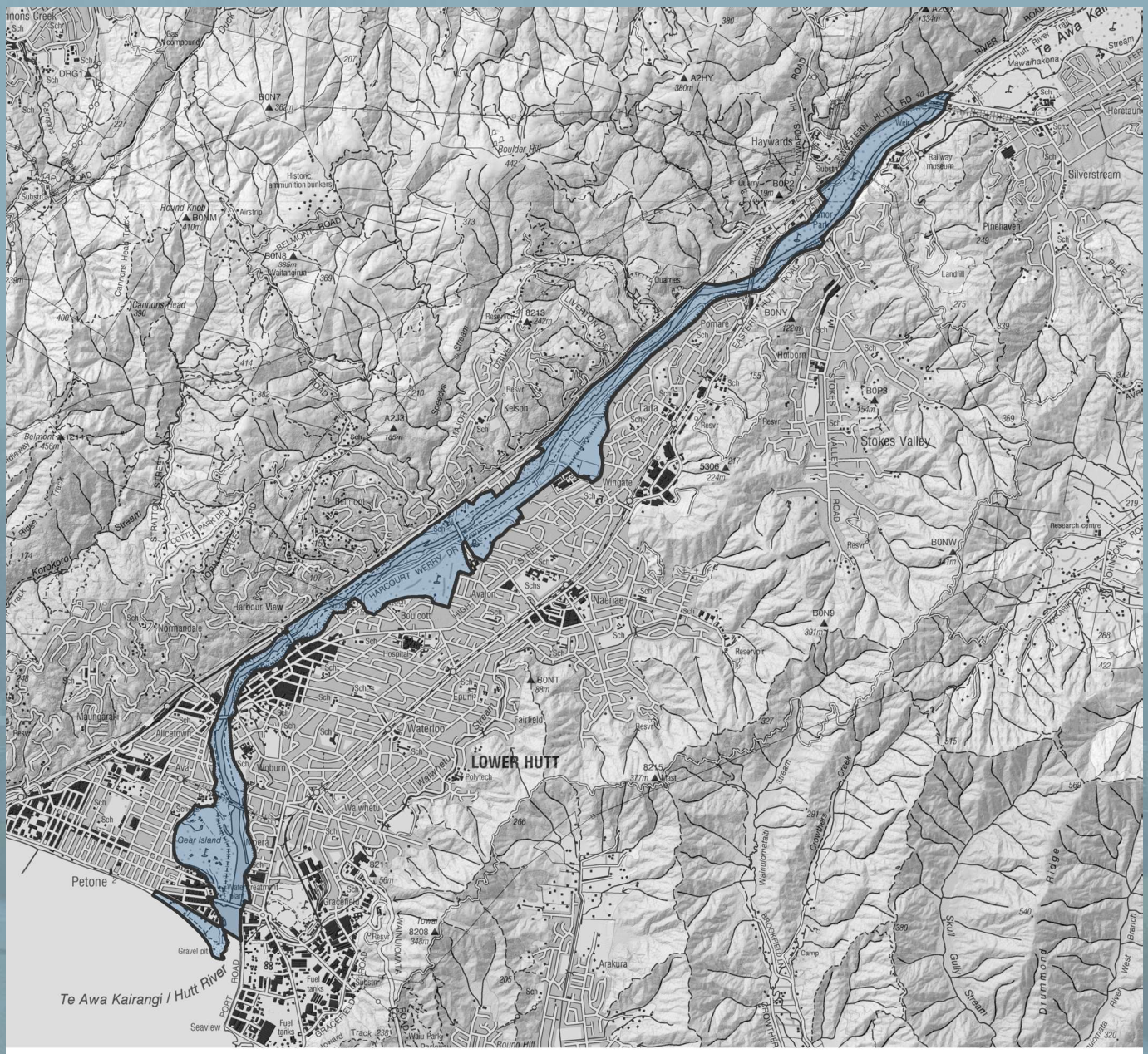
Highly valued for a diverse range of recreational opportunities and open spaces where people can escape urban life. Recent estimates indicate that visits to the Hutt River are well over 1,000,000 per year, which makes it the most visited park in the region.

The linear pathways along the river floodplain serve as an important commuter cycleway for the district.

The river floodplain system has a significant amount of cultural associations for Māori. The fertile valley supported extensive flaxland plantations, the river system was an important source for food gathering and waka transport, and the original name Te Awa Kairangi is attributed to Kupe (Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2007).

The river valley is historically significant as the site of Wellington's first European settlement (Easther, 1991).

HUTT RIVER CORRIDOR PROVIDES IMPORTANT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE VALLEY FLOOR


Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi SAL
SAL
0
1
2
4
6
km
LOWER HUTT
Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River
Petone
Gear Island
Waterloo
Naenae
Avalon
Taita
Stokes Valley
Wingate
Pomare
Haywards
Silverstream
Pinehaven
Boulcott
Woburn
Waiwhetu
Alicetown
Normandale
Harbour View
Belmont
Kelson
Arakura
Seaview
Gracefield
Maungaraki
Korokoro
Cannons Creek
Round Knob
Boulder Hill
Historic ammunition bunkers
Te Awa Kai
Mawaihakona
Heretaunga
Hobson
Fairfield
Epuni
Research centre
Landfill
Railway museum
Drummond
Ridge
Gravel pit
Fuel tanks
Sewage treatment
Substn
Camp
Quarries
Reservoir
Resvr
Hospital
Polytech
Tower
Weir
Stream
Creek
Track
Sch
Dwellings
Airstrip
Gas compound
Waiwhetu Stream
Waiwhetu Creek
Waiwhetu Marae
Stokes Valley Stream
Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Trail
Western Hutt Road
Eastern Hutt Road
Harcourt Werry Dr
Port Road
Gracefield Road
Waiwhetu Road
Cannons Head Track
Stratton Street
Cottle Park Dr
Dowse Drive
Ironwheel Inn
Johnsons Drive
Research Centre
Substn
Fuel tanks
Gravel pit
Round Hill
Wainuiomata
Stoats Gully
Drummond Gully
West Branch
Stream
Creek
Ridge
Track
Camp
Weir
Reservoir
Resvr
Sch
Substn
Landfill
Quarries
Research centre
Railway museum
Hospital
Polytech
Tower
Gas compound
Dwellings
Airstrip
Historic ammunition bunkers
Boulder Hill
Round Hill
Cannons Head
Belmont
Korokoro
Maungaraki
Alicetown
Woburn
Waiwhetu
Normandale
Harbour View
Boulcott
Avalon
Naenae
Waterloo
Epuni
Fairfield
Wingate
Taita
Kelson
Stokes Valley
Pomare
Hobson
Haywards
Silverstream
Pinehaven
Heretaunga
Mawaihakona
Arakura
Seaview
Petone
Gear Island
Gracefield
Maungaraki
Cannons Creek
Round Knob
Belmont
Boulder Hill
Historic ammunition bunkers
Te Awa Kai
Mawaihakona
Heretaunga
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Stream
Creek
Track
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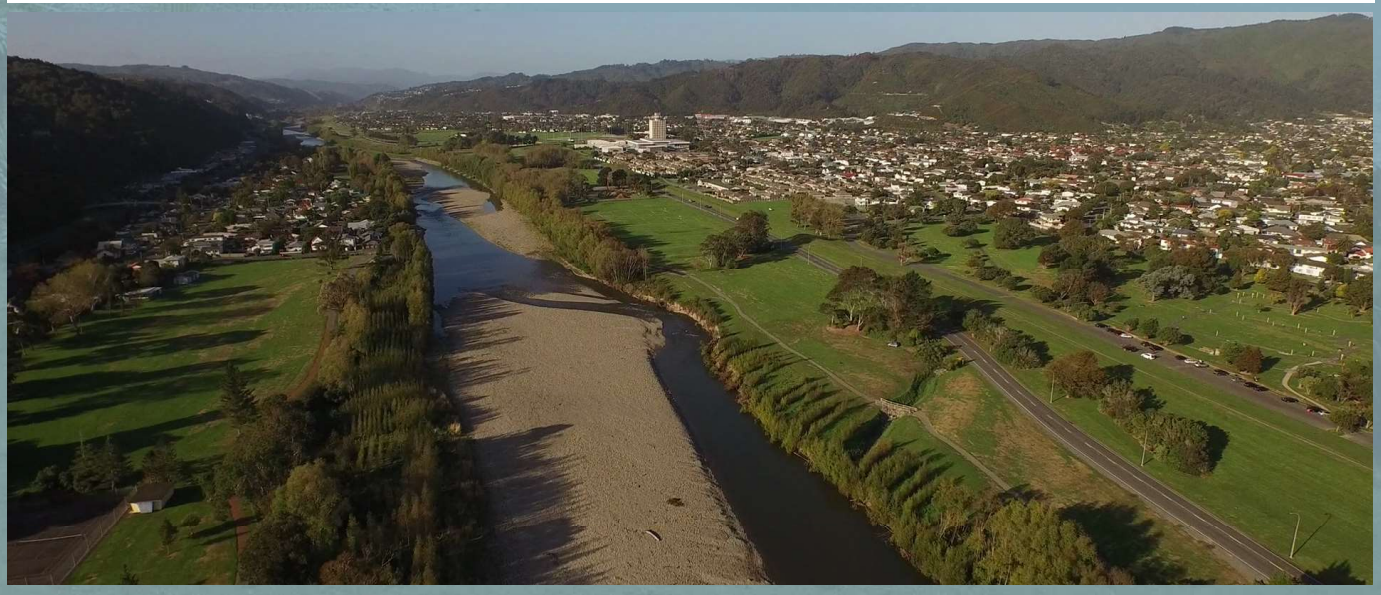
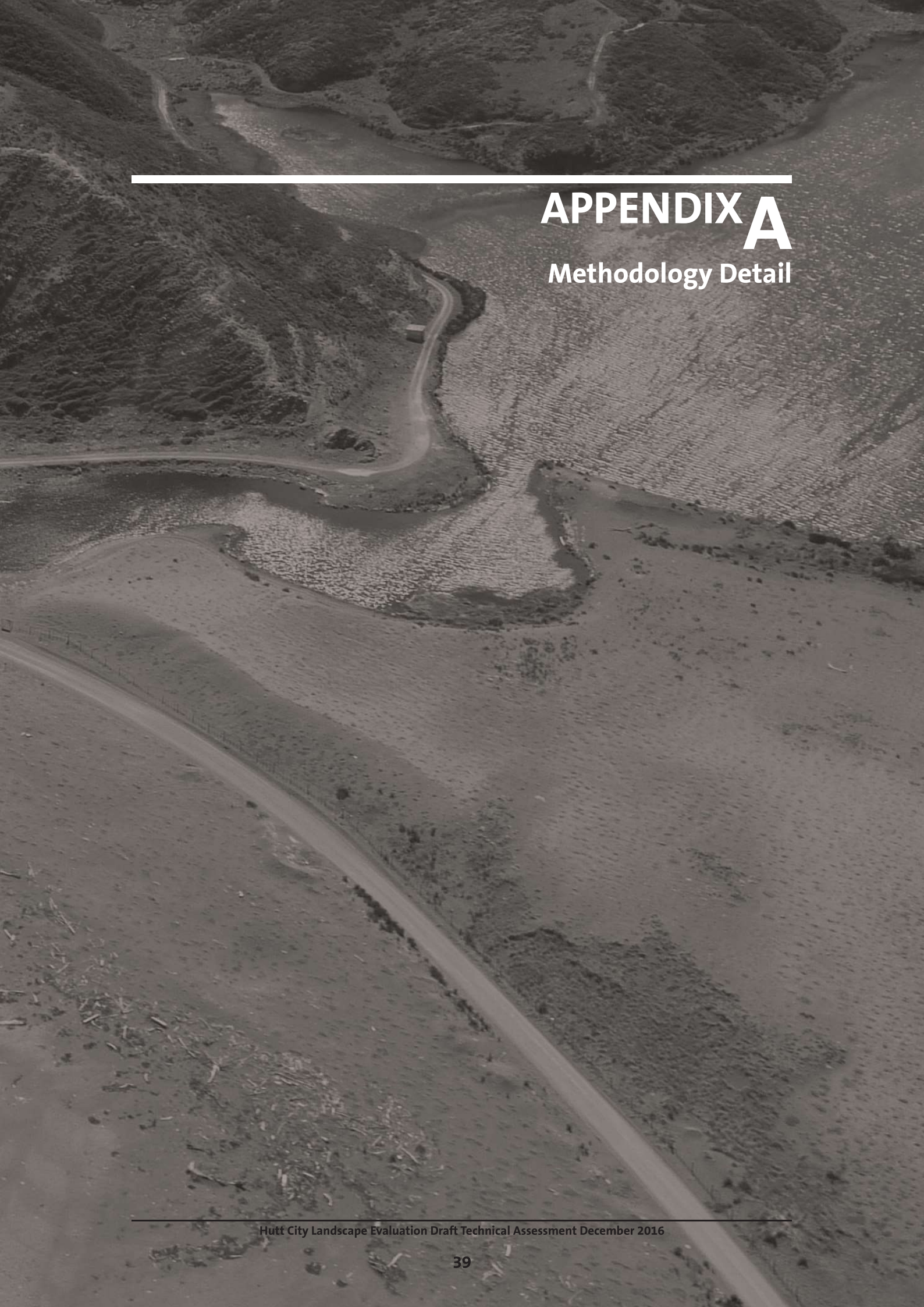
Dwellings
Airstrip
Gas compound
Waiwhetu Stream
Waiwhetu Creek
Waiwhetu Marae
Stokes Valley Stream
Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Trail
Western Hutt Road
Eastern Hutt Road
Harcourt Werry Dr
Port Road
Gracefield Road
Waiwhetu Road
Cannons Head Track
Stratton Street
Cottle Park Dr
Dowse Drive
Ironwheel Inn
Johnsons Drive
Research Centre
Substn
Fuel tanks
Gravel pit
Round Hill
Wainuiomata
Stoats Gully
Drummond Gully
West Branch
Stream
Creek
Ridge
Track
Camp
Weir
Reservoir
Resvr
Sch
Substn
Landfill
Quarries
Research centre
Railway museum
Hospital
Polytech
Tower
Gas compound
Dwellings
Airstrip
Historic ammunition bunkers
Boulder Hill
Round Hill
Cannons Head
Belmont
Korokoro
Maungaraki
Alicetown
Woburn
Waiwhetu
Normandale
Harbour View
Boulcott
Avalon
Naenae
Waterloo
Epuni
Fairfield
Wingate
Taita
Kelson
Stokes Valley
Pomare
Hobson
Haywards
Silverstream
Pinehaven
Heretaunga
Mawaihakona
Arakura
Seaview
Petone
Gear Island
Gracefield
Maungaraki
Cannons Creek





APPENDIX A

Methodology Detail

Candidate Sites

Drawing on feedback received from consultation with Hutt City Council representatives, together with information contained within the 2012 Hutt Landscape Character Study, local knowledge, field investigation, and GIS data containing spatial attributes pertaining to landscape, an initial list of 'candidate sites' was compiled for evaluation. In order to ensure overall consistency, sites contained within this list were assessed using a ranking system and qualifying thresholds described below.

Ranking system

Professional judgement was used to assess and provide an assessment of landscape value using the following seven point scale for each of three categories of natural science, sensory, and shared and recognised factors:

SEVEN POINT EVALUATION SCALE						
Very High	High	Moderate-High	Moderate	Moderate-low	Low	Very Low
VH	H	MH	M	ML	L	VL

The following criteria were used to further assist with understanding the assessment scale used:

Natural Science Factors

	JUDGMENT	
	LOWER	HIGHER
NATURAL SCIENCE VALUES	Values relate to the geological, ecological, topographical, and natural process components of the natural feature or landscape	
REPRESENTATIVENESS	The combination of natural components that form the feature or landscape are discordant with the character of the area	The combination of natural components that form the feature or landscape strongly typifies the character of the area
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION	No parts of the feature or landscape are important for natural science research and education, nor are there elements to be considered for research and education No DoC scientific reserves are established Natural processes and patterns are not recognised as a model for research and education	All parts of the feature or landscape are important for natural science research and education Established as a DoC scientific reserve Established education program for schools Recognised as a model for natural patterns and processes
RARITY	Feature or landscape is commonly found throughout region or district No naturally uncommon or nationally threatened species, habitats, or environments are present	Unique or rare with few comparable examples within the region or district Naturally uncommon or nationally threatened species, habitats, or environments
ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING	Indigenous vegetation is absent or fragmented in a way that disrupts connective landscape ecology patterns, reducing ecological value Exotic vegetation is the dominant vegetative landcover Extensively modified geological, geomorphological, hydrological elements, patterns and processes Ecosystem function is compromised as evidenced by habitat degradation Low level of biodiversity present and not a result of low nutrient environments	Primarily intact indigenous vegetation with important ecological value Exotic vegetation is absent or occurs in small areas of regeneration Relatively intact geological, geomorphological, hydrological elements, patterns and processes are present The presence of healthy ecosystems is realised through the establishment of high value habitats High level of biodiversity present

Sensory Factors

	JUDGMENT	
	LOWER	HIGHER
AESTHETIC	Values relate to scenic perceptions of landscape or feature	
COHERENCE	Land cover and land use are incongruent with natural patterns or processes with either random or significant discordant elements evidenced	Land cover and land use are in harmony with natural patterns and processes with no apparent random or significant discordant elements
VIVIDNESS	Unremarkable or ordinary landscape elements and patterns Unlikely to remain clear in the memory or recalled in a mental map of the district or region	Striking landscape elements or patterns Highly recognised within the local and wider community for its memorable and sometimes iconic qualities
NATURALNESS	Human intervention and / or modification dominates the area resulting in undifferentiated modified systems	Area appears largely uncompromised by human modification and / or built elements resulting in intact and natural systems
EXPRESSIVENESS	Landscape patterns, elements and processes have been heavily modified with little evidence of the formative process that led to its existing character	Formative landscape patterns, elements and process are clearly and legibly expressed
TRANSIENT VALUES	There is limited change relating to patterns and processes that is evident across the day, season, or year Encounters with wildlife are unlikely	Changing elements, patterns and processes remain clearly apparent throughout different times of the day, season or year Frequent opportunities to encounter wildlife

Shared and Recognised Factors

	JUDGMENT	
	LOWER	HIGHER
SHARED AND RECOGNIZED VALUES	The landscape or feature is not widely recognised in the community The feature or landscape is not considered to be an important contribution to the local identity Not commonly referred to in art, literature, or tourist information and therefore not highly frequented by those outside of the community	The feature or landscape is widely recognised in the community The feature or landscape is valued for its contribution to local identity Commonly referred to in art, literature or tourist information and therefore, widely visited by people outside of the community
TANGATA WHENUA	Of limited value or importance to local iwi	The area of landscape or natural feature contains cultural sites or values which are important to local iwi
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS	Limited historic and heritage association	Important historic / heritage sites and association

Analysis and Boundary Designation

The ONF, ONL, and SAL boundaries were initially mapped at a scale of 1:10,000. Some boundaries were required to be mapped at a finer scale where they adjoined the smaller land parcels of residential areas. The notes below provide the rationale for how the area boundaries were defined.

Because landscapes are inherently heterogenic and dynamic they do not neatly start and stop at a given point on the ground. Hence, defining the boundary extent of ONFs, ONLs, and SALs can be challenging. Landscape boundaries could more practically be considered as transition zones between adjoining landscapes with differing values or attributes. While multiple landscape attributes and values were used to inform ONF, ONL, and SAL boundaries, landscapes are generally defined by topography. Subsequently, topography delineating catchment area and landform were used to define ONF, ONL, and SAL boundaries where possible. There were several instances for which land cover was used to extend or contract the ONF, ONL, and SAL boundary from catchment and landform edges.

Boundaries were extended to include large contiguous areas of mature indigenous and/or rare vegetation contributing to landscape value and were contracted to exclude areas of managed exotic forest and other non-indigenous vegetation. However, where managed exotic forest and other non-indigenous land cover are contained within ONF and ONL boundaries, these areas are of small scale and are contained within a larger landform or catchment area. Since SALs may include landscapes modified by human activity, non-indigenous land cover was often not considered in the determination of SAL boundaries. Regional park and forest boundaries are generally contained within ONL and SAL designations, forming the boundary in instances where indigenous vegetation transitioned to exotic land cover or settlement areas.

Landscape boundaries that purely follow catchment, landform, and land cover often include residential dwellings or extend within private cadastral boundaries. In Hutt City, this generally occurs near areas of transition from residential (hill, rural, special and general) land use to rural or recreation land use. Although the presence of residential dwellings or private ownership does not exclude an area from ONL, ONF, or SAL designation, land use transitions and careful consideration of cadastral boundaries were used to make finer scale adjustments to these boundaries along residential land use edges. Both land parcel size and location were used to include or exclude residential property (or a portion of the property). Section 76 (4C) of the RMA was used establish a threshold regarding land parcel size, which designates an urban environmental allotment being no greater than 4000m^2. Residential properties meeting this definition along edges of ONFs, ONLs, and SALs were excluded from the boundary, while portions of residential properties larger than 4000m^2 were included in the boundary.

In some instances, where no clear boundary was present, it was necessary to use an arbitrary boundary. For mapping clarity, the coastline designation on the topographical map, rather than the cadastral designation, was used to specify the boundary along the coastal edge of Wellington Harbour.

It should be noted that the mapped boundaries have been defined using GIS mapping. Therefore, the boundaries will need to be ground-truthed in order to achieve a level of accuracy for legal purposes.

Refer to additional notes about mapping on Page 10

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