



0 0.50 1KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | the rugged landform comprises headlands, coastal slopes, valleys, bluffs, and escarpments with medium to steep relief. Tukituki Bay has an intimate scale and exhibits a sequence of rocky outcrops, white sandy beaches, and a small stream following the valley floor.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | land cover is predominantly pastoral with regenerating native forest in valleys. The north eastern slopes are flanked in windswept pioneering species highly expressive of the unit's coastal exposure. This gives way to secondary species and large clusters of Nikau Palms in valleys.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the landform has dramatic engagement with the Hauraki Gulf a result of the interface between the flat expanse of the ocean and the sudden rise in landform.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | the character area is dissected by power lines, roads, dwellings, and associated driveways. These land uses do not disrupt the integrity of the underlying landform and it therefore retains a strong sense of naturalness.

Habitat Value | there are a range of habitat opportunities, a result of indigenous vegetation cover in part; and diversity of landform including sandy beaches, a variety of aspects, valleys, ridgelines, streams, sheltered bays and the rocky shoreline.

Natural Processes | the coastal edge is dynamic featuring rocky shoals, outcrops, headlands and steep eroding slopes, highly expressive of tidal interaction and coastal exposure.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the combination of the islands remoteness and expression of coastal processes impart a strong sense of wildness despite modified land cover.

Experiential Attributes | evident coastal processes associated with the exposed nature of the landforms and tidal variations impart a sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | the character unit forms part of a bigger area of rural land with tracts of native vegetation adding to the sense of naturalness. The nearby settlements of Waitete Bay to the south and Wharf Road to the north contain clusters of dwellings which are subservient in the context of the wider landscape.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | the elevated landform and the exposed aspect make the unit highly receptive to atmospheric conditions with the upper slopes being lost to low cloud in adverse weather. The streams and ocean display ephemeral qualities resulting from variations of day / year, tide and wildlife.

Night-time Values | the presence of dwellings at Tukituki Bay and along wharf road impact the perceived integrity of the natural environment at night due to light pollution.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH