



0 0.5 1KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area  
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

**Landforms** | intact volcanic landform with strong relief and a jagged profile characterised by ridgelines, coastal slopes, hollows and gullies.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | sequence of remnant and regenerating vegetation cover reflects underlying topography. Large pockets of wilding pines and other exotic species impact on the intactness of the vegetation cover.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the flat expanse of the Firth of Thames amplifies the relief and steepness of the coastal slopes.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | the unit contains a power line which traverses the hill country, tracks and exotic vegetation. Despite this a high degree of naturalness is retained due to extensive indigenous forest and legible landform.

**Habitat Value** | minimal modification, extensive forest cover and landform including valleys, ridgelines, streams and coastal slopes provide varied habitat.

**Natural Processes** | coastal landforms. Interplay of indigenous forest with regenerating shrublands and exposed slopes reinforce areas of coastal erosion, river and stream entrenchment.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

**Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | despite areas of exotic vegetation, the extensive native vegetation cover and the landforms engagement with the Firth of Thames impart a sense of wildness.

**Experiential Attributes** | legible volcanic landform reinforced by vegetation patterns impart a high degree of naturalness despite encroaching exotic vegetation.

**Context / Setting** | the unit is part of a contiguous sequence of elevated hill country covered in indigenous forest. Nearby developed pastoral valleys, manmade escarpments, exotic vegetation and roads impact on the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

**Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | elevated landform and exposed slopes make the unit highly receptive to atmospheric conditions with the upper slopes being lost to low cloud in adverse weather. The streams display ephemeral qualities which vary during seasons and weather patterns.

**Night-time Values** | a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights given the absence of dwellings and structures. Proximity to SH25 and dwellings at Ruamahunga and Waiomu do however start to affect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

**HIGH**