



0 0.25 0.5KM  
— Outstanding Natural Character Area  
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

**Landforms** | largely intact sequence of moderate to steep coastal escarpments at the western end of Matapaua Bay including a weathered rock field that covers its upper slopes, distinctive shoreline of basalt boulders, and island landform.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | largely covered remnant coastal forest with pastoral cover on upper slopes. Windswept coastal scrub and remnant pohutukawa line the coastal edge.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | exposed aspect and interaction with the Pacific Ocean amplifies the relief and steepness of the coastal slopes.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | devoid of buildings and structures – the open areas of pasture become subservient to the interplay of landforms, escarpments, exposed cliffs and the open waters of the Pacific Ocean.

**Habitat Value** | clearly defined matrix of native forest descending into varied shoreline habitat including boulder beaches, rocky outcrops, and island formations.

**Natural Processes** | strongly expressed coastal processes evident in the sequence of landforms and their dramatic interaction with the Pacific Ocean. The basalt rock fields are expressive of the landscapes formative processes. Interplay between remnant vegetation and rural pasture, reinforcing topography.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

**Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | absence of building and structures and the raw and exposed character of the coastal environment impart a strong sense of wildness despite the proximity to Matapaua settlement.

**Experiential Attributes** | the raw and exposed character of the coastal environment is accentuated by the field of weathered boulders, exposed island landform as well as the relationship with the Pacific Ocean all contributing to a very endemic landscape.

**Context / Setting** | part of the coastal interface of an extensive sequence of hill country that rises up to Waitaia (311m).

**Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | variations resulting from atmospheric conditions, time of day/year, tides, and wildlife reinforce coastal processes.

**Night-time Values** | a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights within the unit given the absence of dwellings and structures.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

**HIGH**