

Napier Landscape Study. Draft for Consultation.

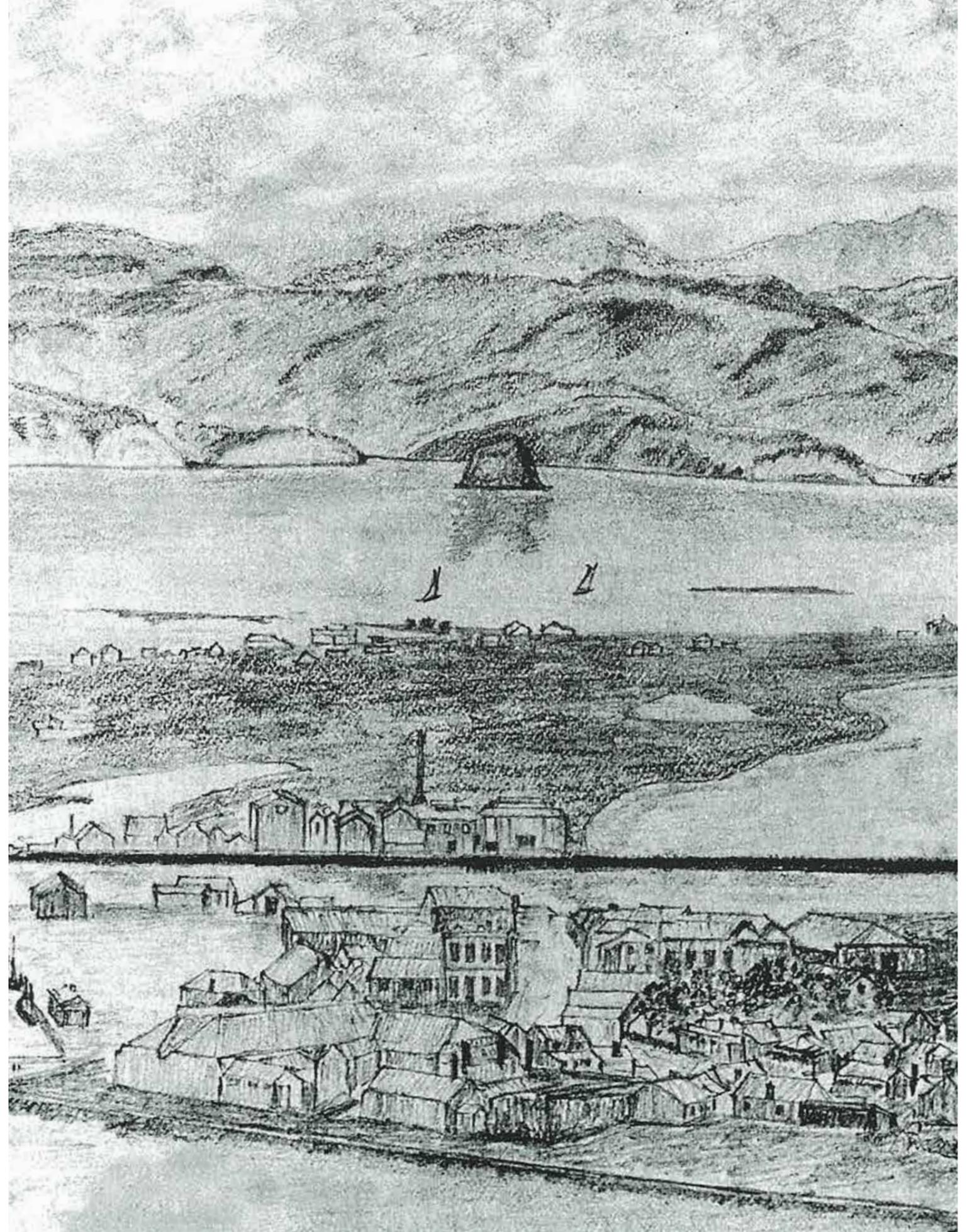
13 February
2020

Isthmus.



Land.
People.
Culture.
Isthmus.

Pencil Drawing of
Port Ahuriri, c1900.
Artist unknown.
Illustrates Te
Whanganui-ā-
Orotū and Tapu
te Ranga (The
Watchman)



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Isthmus.

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Te Tangi ā Rawiri Tareahi mō Ahuriri¹

Waiho au kuia takoto ki taku taumata okiokinga
 O Poraiti ki Rere a Tawhaki
 Kia Rongo tonu ai maua ko taringa
 I te hāruru i te pā paki maai o ngā tai
 Aku mai ki uta ra ki Ahuriri e

Leave me rest atop my special place
 At Poraiti at Te Rere a Tawhaki
 From whence I am continually washed
 With the sounds of the waves
 Lapping the shores of my beloved Ahuriri

E koingo nei a ngakau kia kotahi ano te kitenga
 Pere te titiro ki a Hine -moana ki to motu o Tapu te Ranga
 Wahi tohinga Karauria Pupu
 Te Otinga atu e

That which I yearn to see just once more
 As I look seaward it is the island of Tapu te Ranga
 Where baptised was Karauria Pupu
 Alas the last baptism performed on the island

Kei mua tonu i te aroaroko Te Taha
 Whakauenukutanga a Rangatira
 Tataetanga a Ruawharo
 Whakangotonganga tapuwae hoki o Mahu tapoa nui e

There stretched before me too is Te Taha
 The burial place of Rangatira
 The Son of Ruawharo
 And the place where so often were left the
 Footprints of Mahu Tapoanui

Whiti i te hongere ko Mataruahou
 He whatinga ai i te pa maunga o Raukawa
 E ai ki te korero e

I look across the channel to Mataruahou
 Said to have broken away from Raukawa Ranges

Nohonga o Pania o te iri Ponaturi mai i te moanan
 Tunui o Heipipi tona ūri
 Ka hoki komuri te mahara ki Tuhinapo
 O tua atu i Mataruahou
 Ki te wai tuku kiri ki te puna a wai māori Whakaahurutanga a Pania e

And hence to become the island home of Pania
 of the Ponaturi people of the sea
 Great grandmother of Tunui of Heipipi Pa
 I am reminded too of Tuhinapo where
 Nestled on the other side of Mataruahou
 Was the fresh water bathing
 Spring of Pania

Pohepohe kau ana i te tukawikawi i te toritori
 O roto mai o Heipipi te tohu o te mana
 O te mauri o Whatumamoa
 Hoki ana te mahara ki te tohunga ariki
 Ki a Tunui e

I am distracted by the hustle and bustle
 Of Heipipi Pa, the headquarters
 Of the Ngati Whatumamoa people
 I recall Tunui the tohunga ariki

¹Lament for Ahuriri by Rawiri Tareahi provided in Landscape Statement on behalf of Te Taiwhenua O Te Whanganui Ā Orotū

Ko keteketerau tona ara ki te ripi paua ki Matariki
Ko Ruamano te Kaikawe e

Going through Keteketerau on the back of his whale Ruamano
to fetch paua at Matariki

Piki ana au ki Titi o Kura
Kei te taepaepatanga o te rangi
Ko te waka o Nga rangi ka taka
Titia ko nga pou tarawhao e

I begin my climb towards Titi o Kura
And in the skyline before me
Is the waka of nga rangi ka taka
Where below pou were erected as boundary markers

Ko rongomaipapa Ko Kahungunu
I toku taumata tiro iho ana au ki te wharuarua
a hoki a mahara, ka heke a roimata
Mo te heke o Maruiwi e

Rongomaipapa and Kahungunu
It is here that I look down the valley
And am reminded and mourn
Of Te Heke o Maruiwi

Tu tonu mai ki toku aroaro
Ko nga Pou e wha nei ara ko
Kaitahi, Tukapua, Henetaumoa
Ko Rangi tau mapu e

Before I am confronted
With four more pou
Kaitahi, Tukapua, Hinetaumoa e
And Rangi tou mapu e

Kau ana au i taku awa o Mohaka ki Ranga A Tawhao
E takoto mai ra i te take o te taupae ki Kaweka
Haere tonu atu ki Maharakeke
Ki te tahatika o Ngaruroro ko
Taumataita ko Ngati Ruapirau
Te tunga o Kohu rau o Umukiwi e

I travel upstream of the Mohaka river to Ranga a Tawhao
Lying at the end of the Kaweka ranges
And make my way to Maharakeke
At the edge of Ngaruroro
Is the Pa of Tumataita of the Ngati Ruapirau
Where stands two more pou Kohu rau and Umukiwi

Tutuki ana te haere ma Tutaekuri
Ko Otatara nohonga o te upoko ariki o Turauwha Nona nei te tipuna i hinga i te apiti ki
Pokopoko rohe o Te Pohue

I end my journey down the Tutaekuri river
To Otatara Pa to the great chief Turauwha
Whose tupuna Maruiwi dies in the Pokopoko gorge at Te Pohue

Kati ra e koro Rawiri
Na to ohaki ka puta ko te kupu
Ka kai kino ko te aroha me te mamae e

And so dear koro Rawiri
With your passing these words were spoken
We grieve with love and hurt

Introduction.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to:

- **Describe and evaluate** Napier's landscapes
- **Identify** any Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, Special Features and Landscapes, or Areas of Outstanding or High Natural Character
- **Recommend measures** for the proposed District Plan based on potential risks to landscape values (valued characteristics and qualities) and opportunities to enhance such values.

The study is one of the background reports being prepared for the District Plan Review. It relies in part on information from the following parallel and overlapping reports:

- 'Napier Significant Natural Areas Assessment', Draft 2, June 2019, R Johnsson, T.S. Cornes, C.L. Kirby, Environmental Research Institute
- 'Te Taiwhenua O Te Whanganui Ā Orotū Landscapes Statement', Tania Eden, January 2020
- 'Sites of Significance to Māori in Napier City: History, Culture, Archaeology', Heritage Services Hawke's Bay, Patrick Parsons and Elizabeth Pishief, August 2019
- Heritage Character Inputs,
- Clive and Memorial Squares, Napier, Heritage Services Hawke's Bay, Elizabeth Pishief, John Adam, Justin Pishief, March 2019

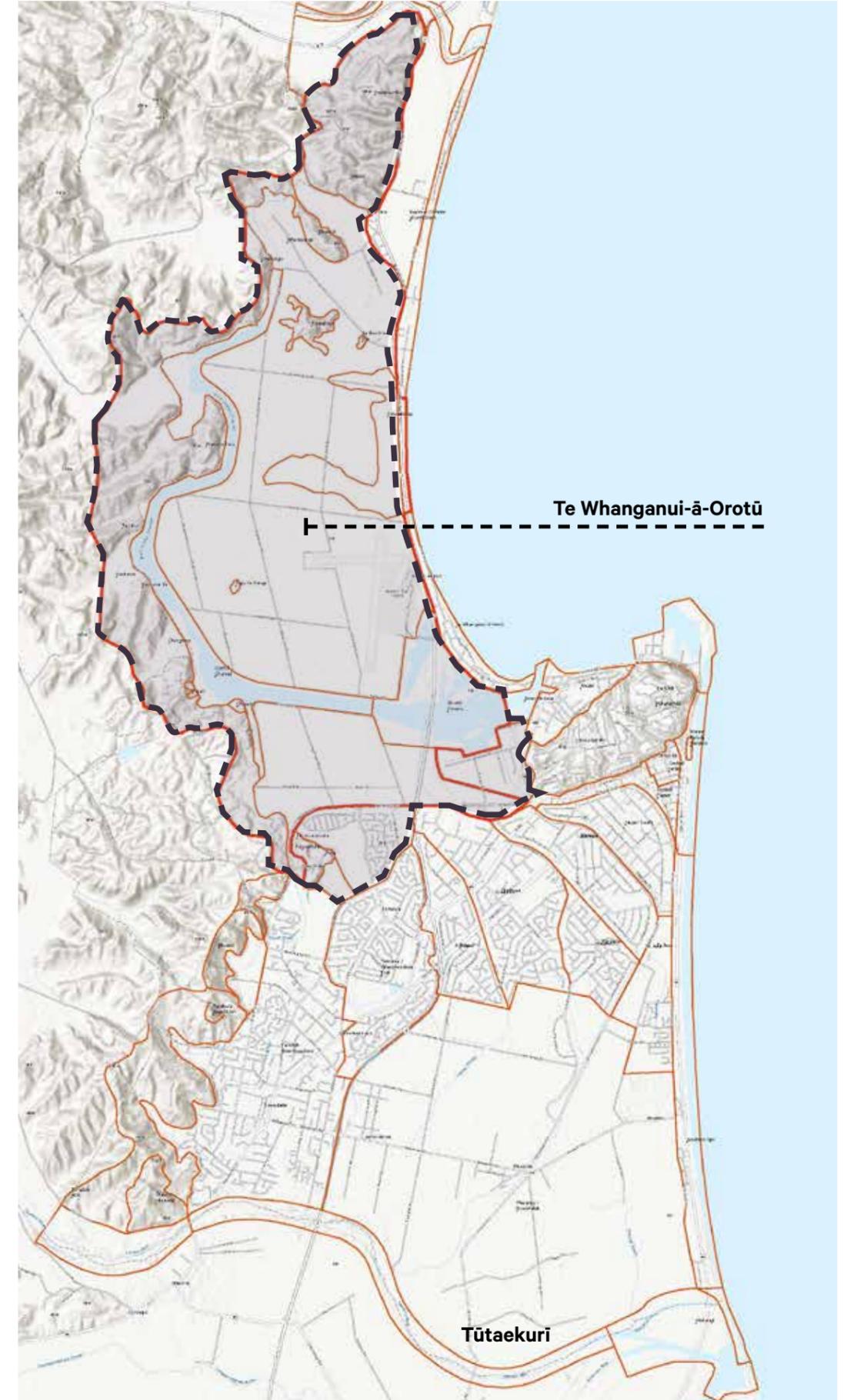
The study revises the 2009 'Napier Landscape Assessment' prepared by Isthmus, King Consultants and Civic Solutions which in turn updated a 2000 report prepared by Environmental Management Services (EMS).



Left:
Port Ahuriri from
Hospital.
(Auckland Library)

Opposite Page, left:
Aerial Imagery of
Napier

Opposite Page, right:
Mapped character
areas of Napier.



1. Background.



1.1 ‘Landscape’ in the Resource Management Act. (RMA)

What is Landscape?

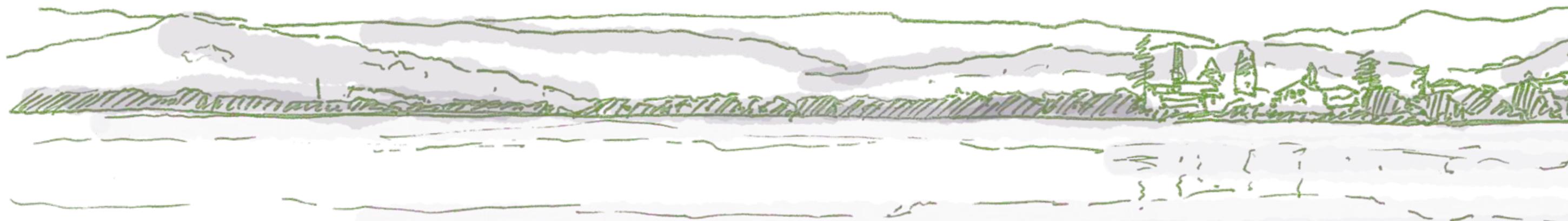
Landscape is an area’s physical characteristics, how they are perceived and experienced, and what they mean: It embodies the relationship between people and place.

Professional practice in Aotearoa uses three dimensions to describe landscapes:

- **Physical** (the natural and physical resources (natural and human) of an area – including their features and processes); and
- **Perceptual** (how we see and experience the landscape); and
- **Associative** (the meaning and memories we associate with a place)

These dimensions collectively make up a landscape’s character – its distinctive combination of characteristics and qualities. They include tangible and intangible aspects. Landscape ‘values’ means the valued characteristics and qualities.

Sketch of Ahuriri Estuary and Westshore (Western Spit)



Landscape and the Resource Management Act (RMA)

Landscape is a component of **‘amenity values’** and **‘the quality of the environment’** – the maintenance and enhancement of which are the subject of RMA sections 7(c) and 7(f). Features and landscapes of special quality or amenity values are sometimes identified to give effect to the RMA. The key to such places is their distinctive combination of characteristics and qualities. Napier City, for instance, has several special areas, each with their own distinctive character and significance. Examples include the Marine Parade, the Mission, Mataruahou/Napier Hill, Pukekura/Sugar Loaf and the Ahuriri Port.

A variety of generic terms is used for such areas. This report adopts ‘Special Character Features’ for discrete elements and ‘Special Character Landscapes’ for larger areas.

The RMA also requires, as a matter of national importance, the protection of **‘outstanding natural features (ONF) and outstanding natural landscapes’ (ONL)** [section 6(b)]. These are the most significant natural features and natural landscapes in a district. Several of the outstanding natural features and landscapes that are important to Napier fall outside the city’s boundaries, such as include Cape Kidnappers, Kahuranaki, Te Mata Peak, Kohinerākau (Mt Erin), Maungaharuru (including Te Waka and Titiokura), and Whakaari-Tangoio Bluffs. These are all identified as ONFs or ONLs in the Hastings District Plan. This report examines potential ONFs and ONLs within Napier’s territorial confines but contextualises them as part of the wider setting.

Other sections of the RMA address matters that overlap with landscape such as the relationship of Māori with land and water [s6(e)], historic heritage [s6(f)], and the intrinsic value of ecosystems [s7(d)]. While other disciplines provide the information to address these sections of the Act, the information is drawn upon to also help understand and appreciate landscapes. The focus of landscape is the **combination** of physical, perceptual and associative dimensions.

1.2 Natural Character.

The RMA [s6(a)] requires too, as a matter of national importance, the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins. Such places are to be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

Natural character is a type of character: It is the distinctive combination of **natural** features and qualities. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) describes natural character by listing matters that contribute to such character (with respect to the coastal environment) including an area's natural features, its natural processes and ecology, and how such phenomena are perceived and experienced. This study adopts the following definition:

'Natural character is the natural characteristics and qualities of an area – including degree of naturalness – such as natural elements and processes, and how they are perceived and experienced.'



Above:
Shingle spit pebbles.

Above right:
Sand shadows and patterns. Image: www.naturespic.co.nz

Right:
Open Horizon



1.3 Methodology.

As discussed, professional practice in New Zealand describes landscapes under three dimensions: physical, perceptual and associative. The common approach – adopted by this study – is to describe the various factors and then interpret how they come together as a distinctive landscape.

The second chapter of the study ‘sets the scene’ by providing an overview of Napier’s landscapes including its:

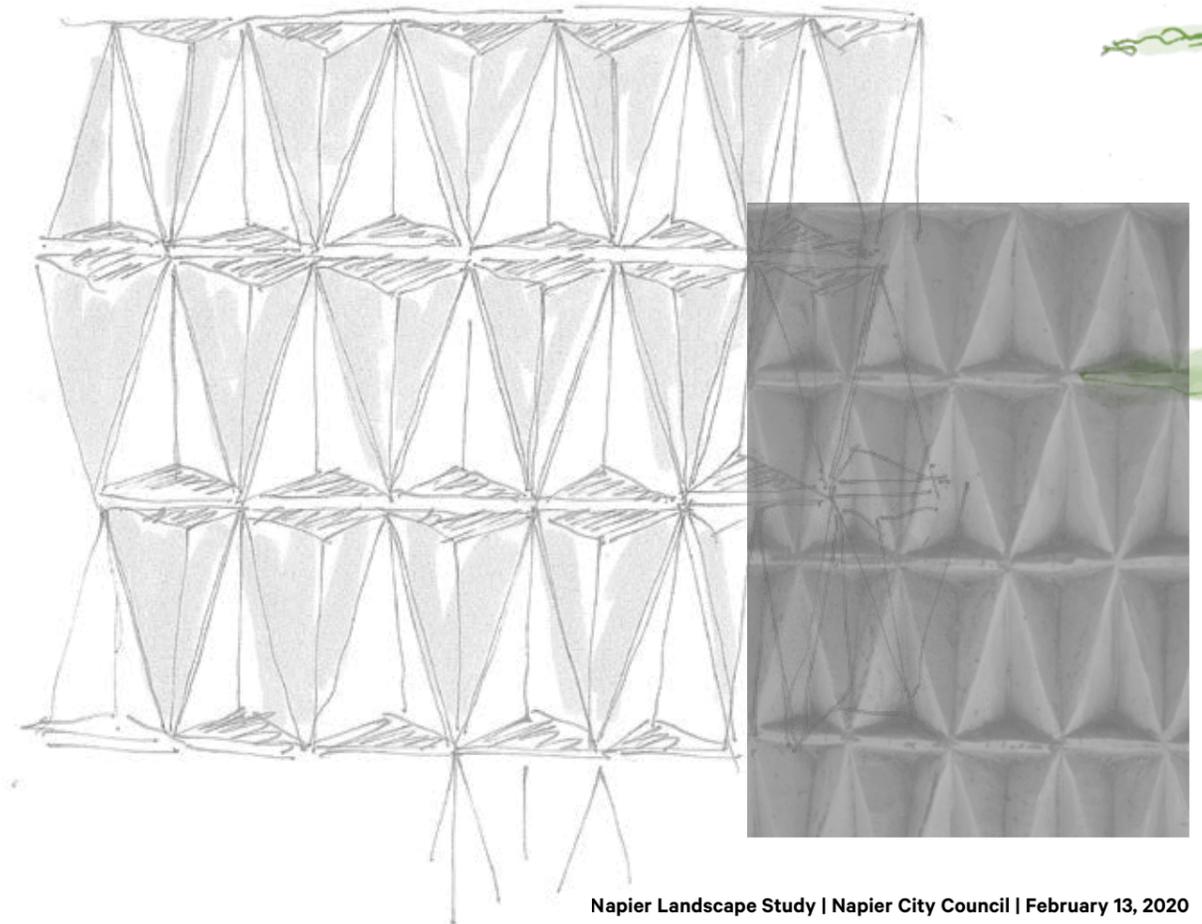
- **Natural landscape** – Napier’s main landforms, rivers and ecology
- **Human overlay** – tangata whenua and pākehā landscapes
- **Experience and perception** – how we use the landscape to orient and navigate our surroundings, its aesthetic qualities, and how we experience it
- **Meanings associated with landscape** – the foundation stories, historical associations and metaphysical aspects



The third chapter focuses on Napier’s distinct features and landscape character areas. Each is assessed as follows:

- **Description** of each area’s distinctive **characteristics and qualities** (tangible and intangible). Where relevant this includes the **natural character** for the coastal environment and rivers.
- **Evaluation** of its significance. Reasons for significance generally emerge from the landscapes characteristics and qualities in its Napier context rather than from predetermined criteria.
- **Identification of potential risks** to an area’s valued characteristics and qualities (including sensitivity to such risks), and opportunities for enhancement
- **Recommendations** for management. The recommendations follow a general format of tailoring the District Plan provisions (and other measures where appropriate) to the specific characteristics and qualities of each area.

The report addresses both natural and urban landscapes: In Napier especially, they are interwoven.





Opposite page, left:
Former Ahuriri Lagoon

Opposite page, right:
Photo & Sketch of carved
Pou at Ātea a Rangī,
Waitangi

This page:
Sketch view of former
lagoon seafloor and western
shoreline from Roro-o-Kuri

2. Napier's Landscapes: Setting the Scene.

2.1 Napier Landscapes in Context.



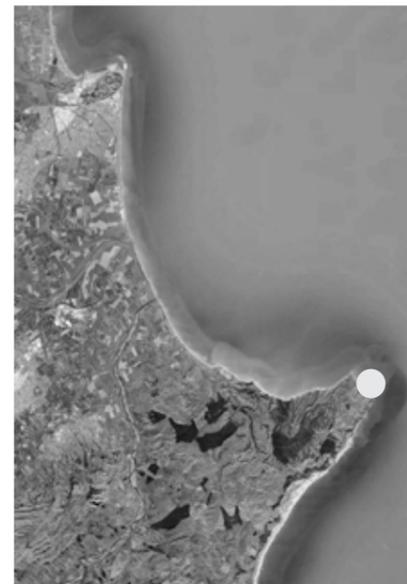
Sketch view of Napier in context of Hawke's Bay



Introduction.

Although Napier City occupies only a small area, it is at the centre of a wider landscape that provides the context for any assessment. This chapter illustrates the concept of 'landscape' and provides an overview of Napier's landscapes, (and illustrates the concept of 'landscape') under the following headings:

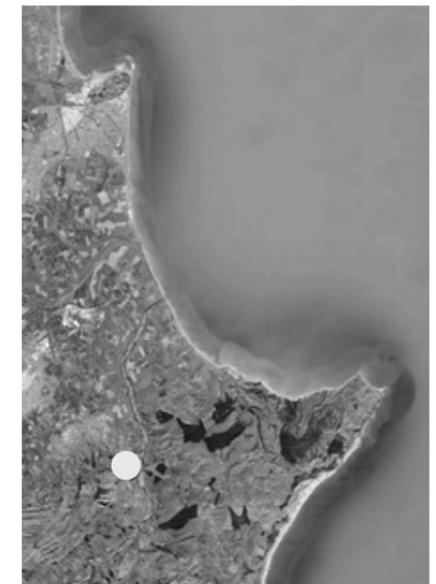
- Land and Lagoon
- Rivers and Streams
- Ecology
- Tangata Whenua Ahuriri
- Early Napier
- 1931 Earthquake
- Orientation and Navigation
- Aesthetics
- Meaning



Cape Kidnappers
aerial imagery.



Tangoio Bluff
aerial imagery.



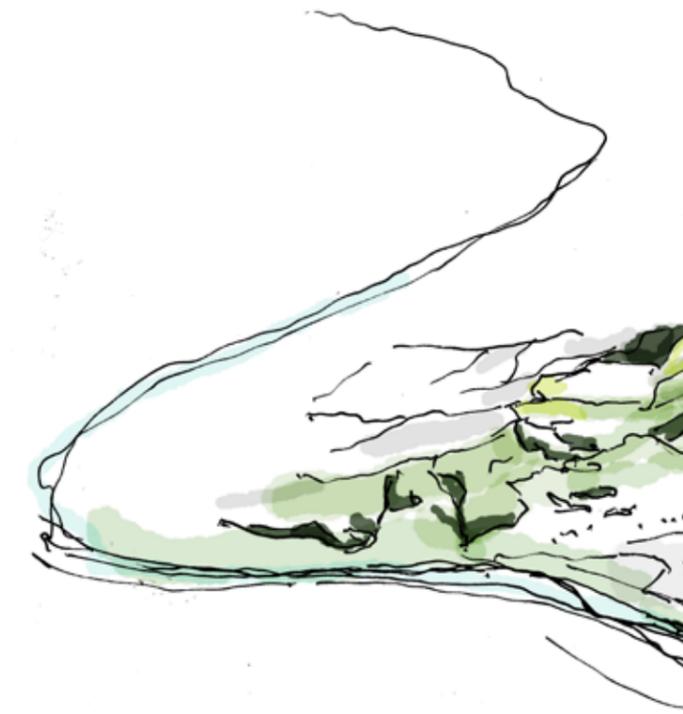
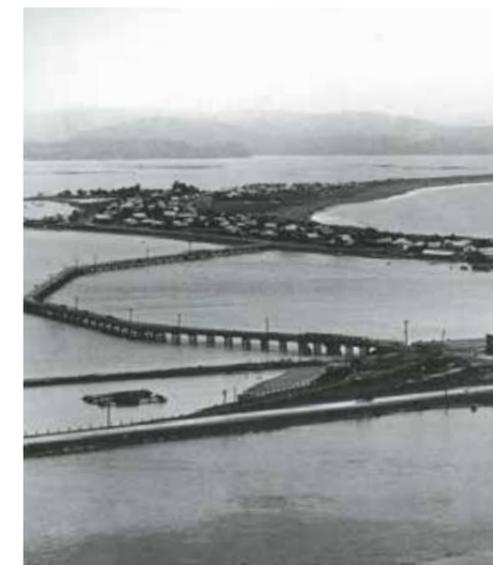
Te Mata Peak
aerial imagery.

2.2 Land and Lagoon.

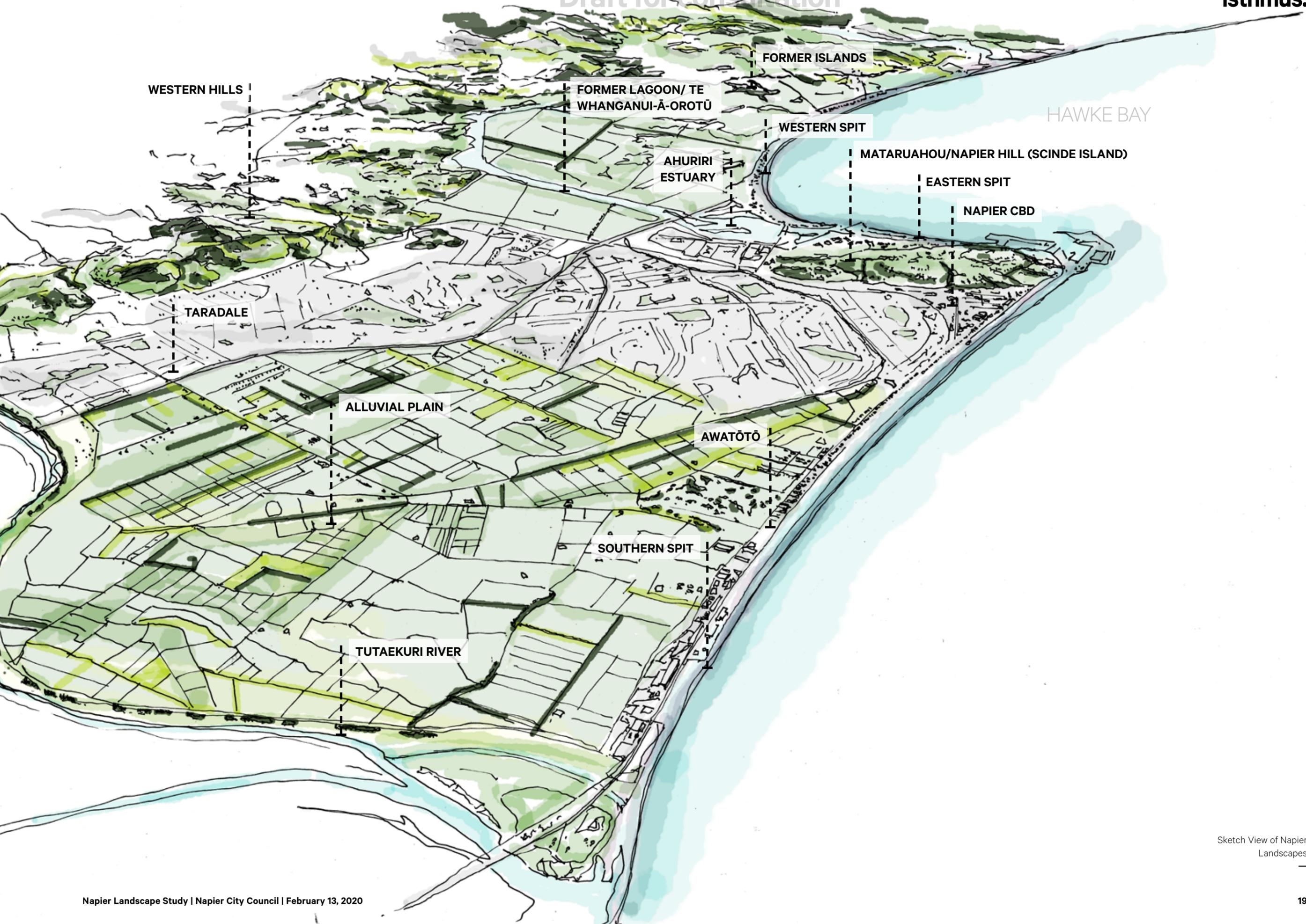
More than most places, Napier is a negotiation between land and sea.

Mataruahou /Napier Hill is the ‘blip’ in the otherwise smooth sweep of Hawke Bay. It is an outcrop of hard rock that anchors the shingle spits. Mataruahou is the feature around which the coastline and city coalesced. It is the reason Napier is where it is.

Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū is the other seminal natural feature. It is the former lagoon trapped between the shingle spits and the western hills, and largely drained following the 1931 Earthquake. The lagoon was central to tangata whenua life and Napier’s early history. It is still evident as a distinctive landscape, and its former influence is still traced within the city.



Far left:
Mataruahou i, 1931
—
Central top:
Section of Western Spit.
—
Central below:
Mouth of the Ngaruroro and
Tūtaekuri Rivers
—
Left:
c1910 Westshore Bridge looking
towards former lagoon.
—



WESTERN HILLS

FORMER LAGOON/ TE WHANGANUI-Ā-OROTŪ

FORMER ISLANDS

HAWKE BAY

AHURIRI ESTUARY

WESTERN SPIT

MATARUAHOU/NAPIER HILL (SCINDE ISLAND)

EASTERN SPIT

NAPIER CBD

TARADALE

ALLUVIAL PLAIN

AWATŌTŌ

SOUTHERN SPIT

TUTAEKURI RIVER

Napier lies within a ‘fore-arc basin’—part of the pattern of folds, ridges and faults that characterise the east coast of the North Island – the collision between the Pacific and Australian plates. The basin runs through the Heretaunga Plains and Hawke Bay. The geological history of this area can be characterised as episodes of uplift and subsidence (folding and faulting), and deposition in the basins.

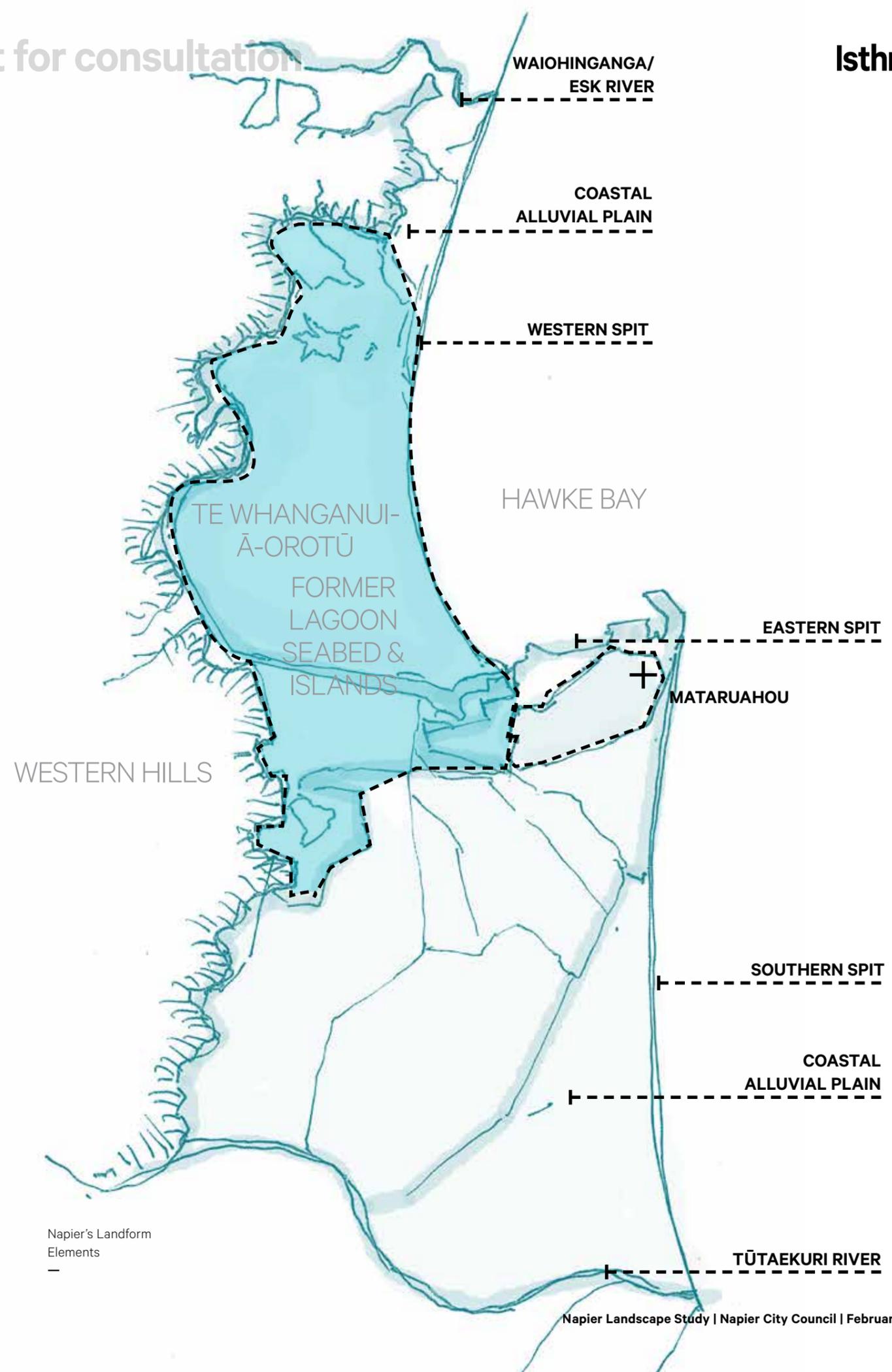
The city comprises the following five main landforms:

- Mataruahou (Napier Hill)
- Shingle spits
- Western hills
- Saline plains of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū Lagoon (with its former shoreline features and islands)
- Alluvial plains of the Tūtaekuri and Waiohinganga/Esk Rivers

Mataruahou is a rocky outcrop in the basin. It is calcareous, cross-bedded sandstone and limestone rock (‘Scinde Island Formation’). Mataruahou is former marine sediment from between approximately 2 to 3 million years ago and lifted out of the sea by the compressive folding and faulting. It extends below the sea as Pania Reef.

The light-coloured, crumbly, sandy limestone is a feature of walls and other structures in the older parts of Napier. Examples include edging in the Marine Parade gardens and Clive Square, the gates and fences to Nelson Park School and Taradale’s war memorials, and retaining walls lining the streets on the hill. It is distinctive and expresses Napier’s marine origins.

The **western hills** are a similar type of rock (‘Petane Formation’) but a little younger than Mataruahou – deposited approximately 2 million years ago. The Geology of Hawkes Bay notes that “the alternating conglomerate, limestone and sandstone ... (is) interpreted to represent deposition in fluctuating non-marine to (marine) shelf environments”. In other words, whereas the Scinde Island Formation was laid down in the sea, the Petane Formation was deposited at the edge between land and sea.



Napier's Landform Elements





The shingle spits are greywacke gravel and sand from the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges brought down by the Tukituki, Ngaruroro and Tūtaekuri Rivers. The spit south of Napier, closer to the river mouths, has a coarser appearance (larger gravel, less sand) than the spits north of the city which have been more sorted by the sea.

The land behind the gravel spits comprises **saline and alluvial plains** as follows.

- **Estuarine deposits** underlying the former Te Whanganui-o-Orotou lagoon and Napier's suburbs (Marewa, Maraenui, Onekawa, Pirimai and Tamatea).
- **Alluvial deposits** underlying the southern part of the city (Meeanee, Brookfields, Taradale and Greenmeadows) and around Bay View.

The key recent geological event was the '1931 Earthquake' which lifted Napier 1-2m, which enabled draining of most of the former lagoon and swamps. The Earthquake pervades Napier's landscapes. It is essential to understanding Napier's form and identity.

Above:
View from Mataruahou showing shingle pits, pre 1931 lagoon and islands, and backdrop western hills.

Right:
Southern Shingle Spit looking towards Mataruahou/Napier Hill.

Far right:
Westshore Wildlife Reserve, a remnant of the former lagoon.



2.3 Rivers and Streams.

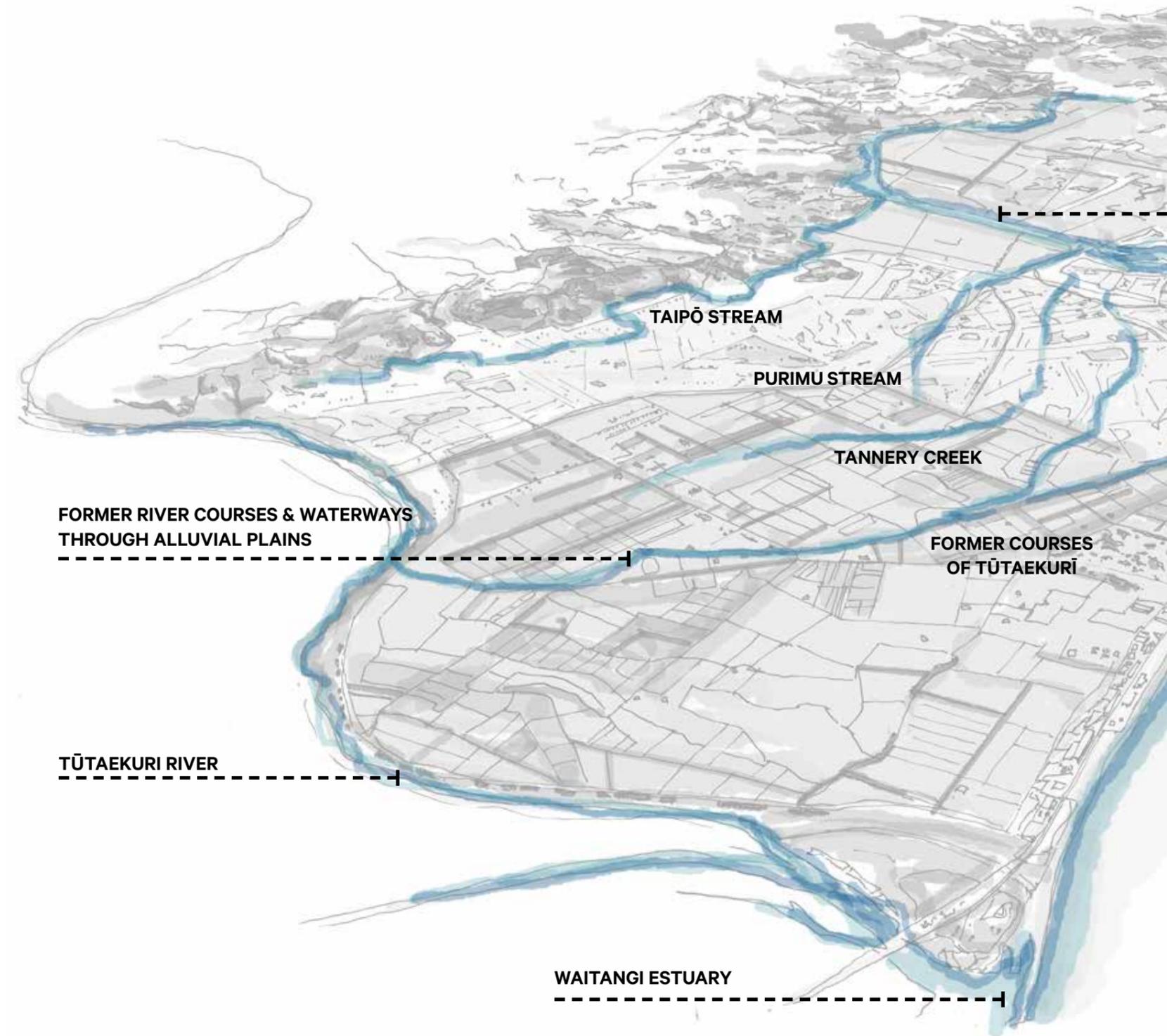
Napier's landscape is also the history of its rivers and streams.

The north and south boundaries of Napier City are the current courses of the Waiohinganga/ Esk and Tūtaekuri Rivers. Both rivers, though, formerly converged on Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū.

Most notably, the Tūtaekuri River frequently flooded and helped confine Napier. Echoes of the river's former courses remain at places such as Meeanee and Riverbend Road. The Tūtaekuri was harnessed in the 1890s and 1900s to reclaim Napier South as a distinct piece of the city's jigsaw – the river's course at that time echoed by the stream adjacent to Georges Drive. The Tūtaekuri River was finally diverted away to a new mouth at Waitangi in 1938.

Traces of the smaller streams and creeks are also evident in Napier's current landscape.

- Taradale Road traces the former banks of the **Purimu Stream**.
- Echoes of **Saltwater Creek** and **Tannery Stream** remain in the drainage canals adjacent to Westminster Avenue and at the boundary between Onekawa and Pirimai.
- **Taipō Stream's** meandering course is imprinted on the suburban landscape along the toe of the Taradale hills.
- **Petane Stream** – a former course of the Waiohinganga/Esk River – is still imprinted across the rural landscape at Bay View.
- The former **Awatōtō** arm of the lagoon is still evident in the curve of Wellesley Road and the depression along Te Awa Avenue.

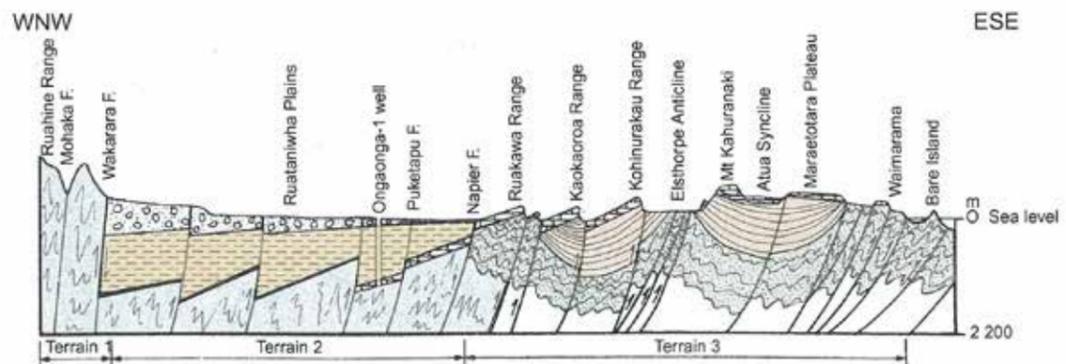
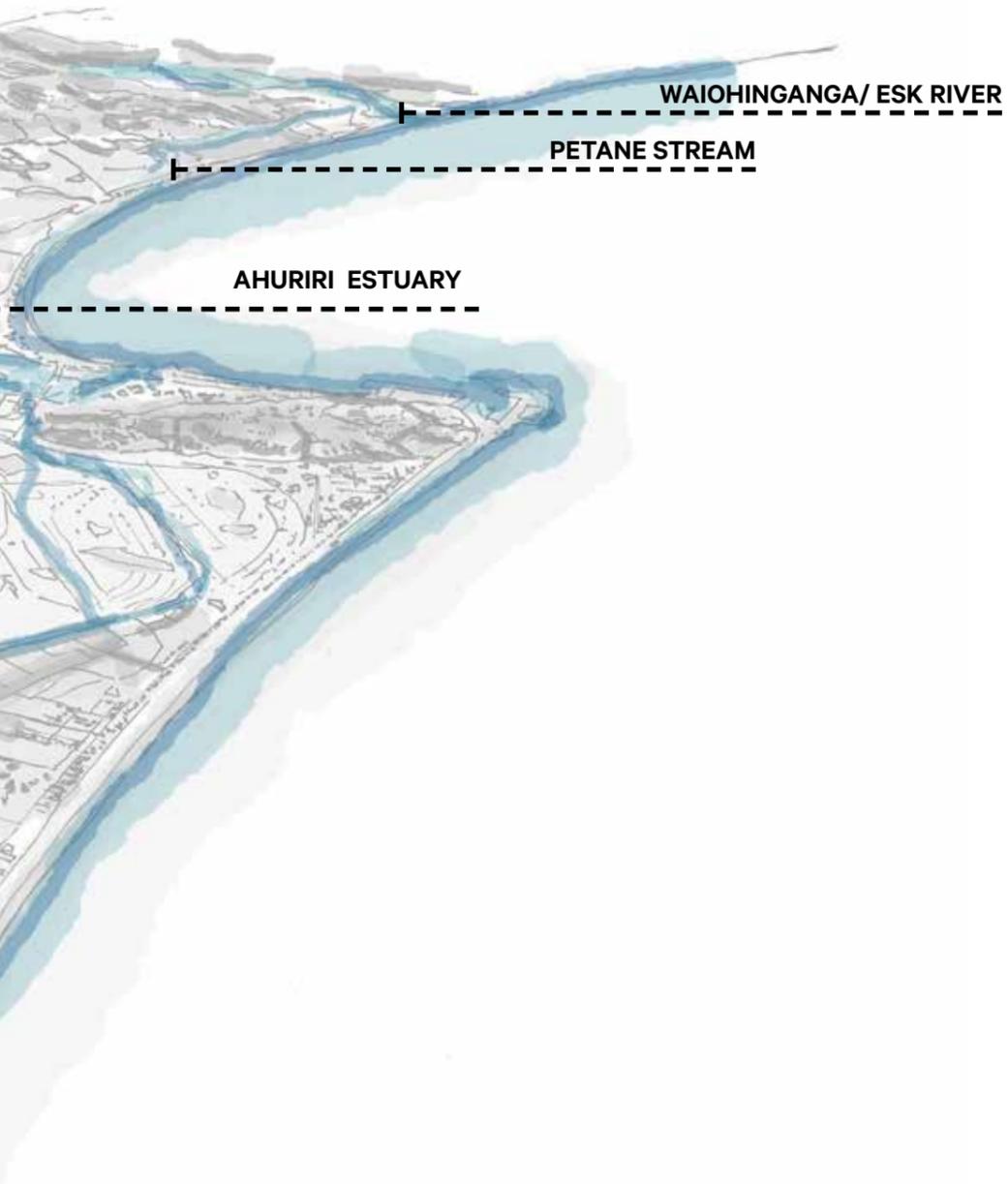


Far left:
Waiohinganga/ Esk River

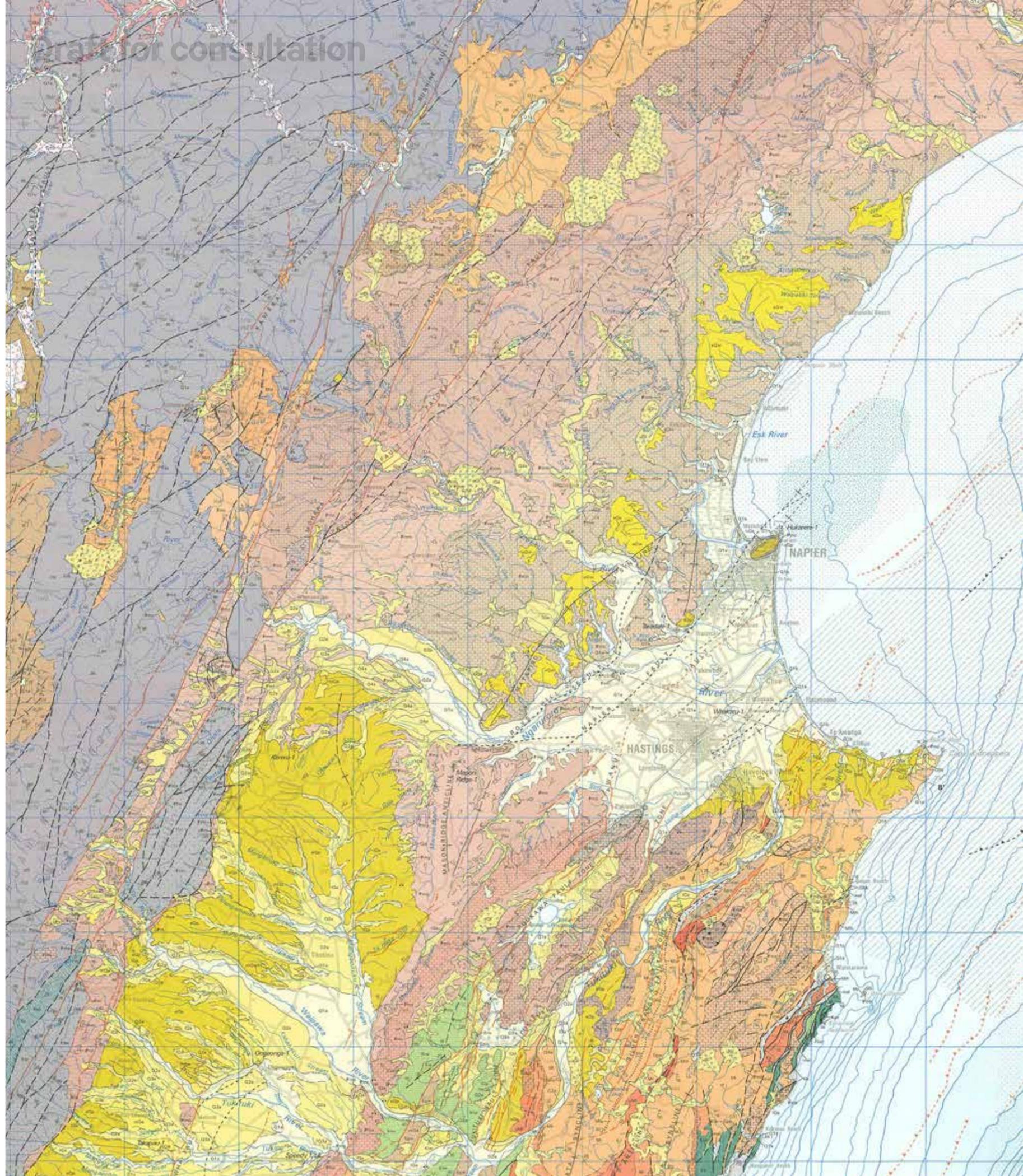
Left:
Mouth of the Ngaruroro
and Tūtaekuri Rivers

Figure 27 (Above):
Rivers and Streams

Figure 28 (Opposite page):
Hawke's Bay Geological
Map & Chart



- Conglomerate and pumice (Mid- to Late Pleistocene)
- Mudstone and sandstone (Early Pleistocene-Late Pliocene)
- Limestone (Late Pliocene)
- Shelly sandstone (Late Pliocene)
- Mudstone (Mid- to Late Miocene)
- Late Cretaceous-Early Miocene strata
- Indurated sandstone and mudstone (Triassic-Jurassic)



2.4 Ecology.

Napier's natural vegetation reflected the city's five main landforms. The Environmental Research Institute (ERI) report² describes the following likely pre-human vegetation pattern:

- **Hills (and drier parts of the plains)**

Coastal broadleaf forest including karaka, tawa, kohekohe, nikau, pūriri, ngaio, wharangi, and titoki. Disturbed areas would be dominated by danthonia, bracken, mānuka and kānuka.

- **Alluvial plains**

Swamp and semi-swamp podocarp forest including kahikatea, mataī, rimu, tī /cabbage tree, tōtara, pukatea and the occasional tawa. Freshwater wetlands and swamps including rushes, sedges, swamp kiokio, toetoe, reeds, raupō, manuka and harakeke flax.

- **Saline plains**

Salt marsh on the fringes of the lagoon and estuary including sea rush and other rush-like communities. Salt meadow on drier fringes including turf plants such as glasswort and herbfields of plants such as remuremu and māakoako.

- **Gravel spits**

Foredune communities dominated by spinifex and pīngao, transitioning to raised beaches and back-beaches dominated by herbfields and low shrublands.

² 'Napier Significant Natural Areas Assessment', Draft 2, June 2019, R Johnsson, T.S. Cornes, C.L. Kirby, Environmental Research Institute



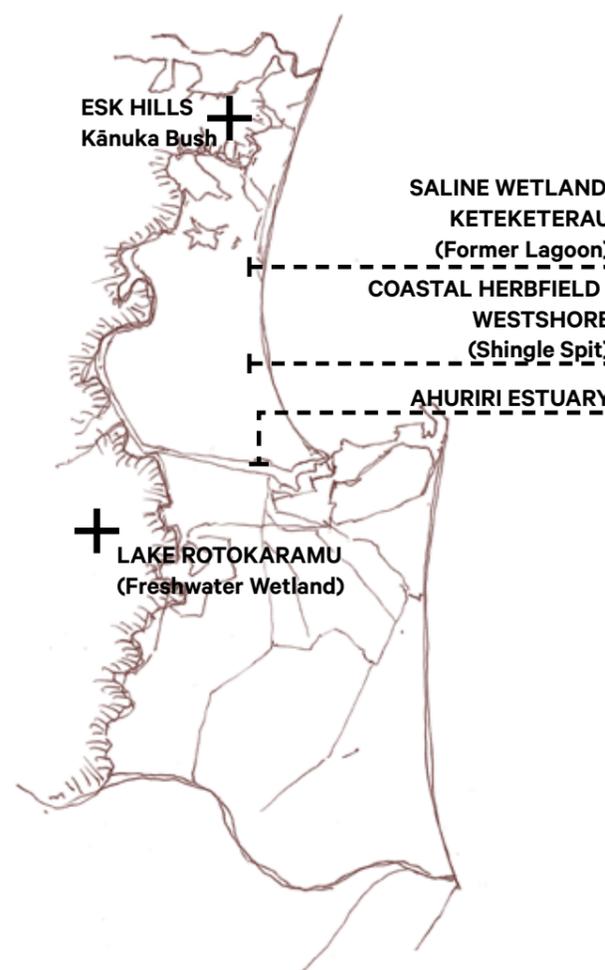
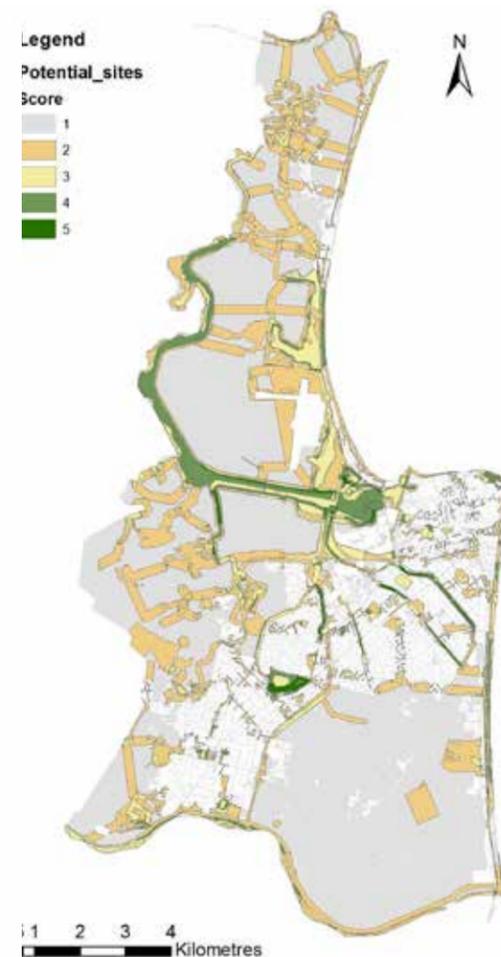
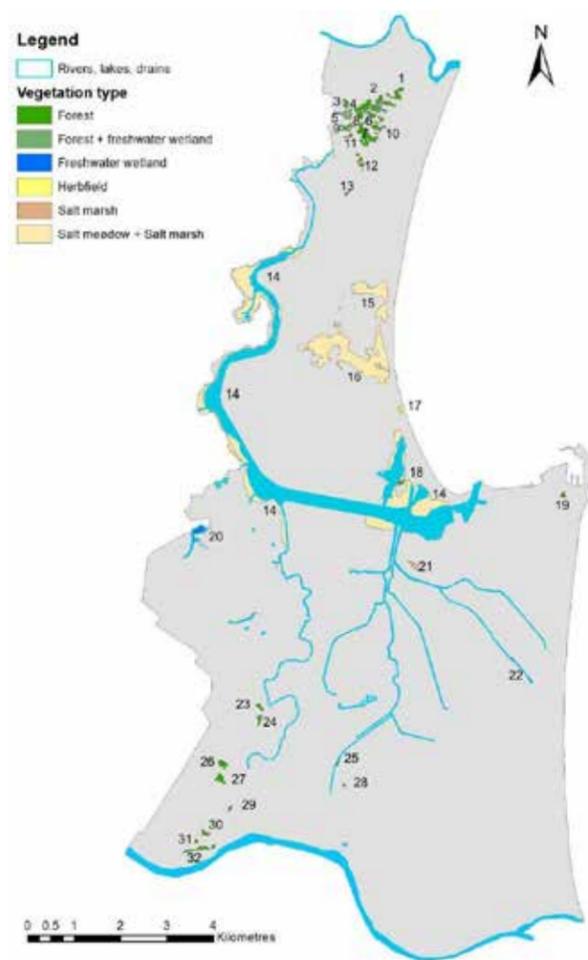
However, Napier's indigenous vegetation and habitat are now greatly diminished. ERI identified 32 'Significant Natural Areas' (SNA), accounting for only 5.9% of Napier's territorial area. Most SNA are also modified, and many have been artificially revegetated. The six most significant SNAs are:

- An area of kānuka-mixed broadleaf bush on the Esk Hills
- Ahuriri estuary
- Two areas of saline wetland near the Beacons (i.e. Keteketerau)
- A back-beach coastal herb-field in 'the gap' at Westshore
- A freshwater wetland, Lake Rotokaramu, at Poraiti

By area, the SNAs are dominated by salt marsh and salt meadow associated with Ahuriri Estuary and the saline plains. ERI noted that "this vegetation type is the best (remnant) match to a historic, indigenous Napier ecosystem". ERI highlighted the importance of the Ahuriri Estuary because its habitat value for water-birds including 17 migratory species, and for 29 species of fish that are supported at some stage of their life cycle.

The other main SNA type is coastal forest, particularly on the Esk Hills. Much of this is planted and dominated by kānuka (particularly the relatively rare species *Kunzea robusta*). ERI noted the absence of indigenous beach-land communities except for one modified site at Westshore. They also noted the absence of the flax communities that would once have characterised large areas of the alluvial plains, along with the gradient from wetland sedges and grasses to flaxland and swamp forest.





ERI provided a map illustrating and ranking opportunities to link SNAs into a network making use of existing vegetation and natural landform corridors. Such matters overlap with landscape quality and amenity values. Areas of high potential include the following:

- The salt marsh areas and the adjacent gravel spit in the vicinity of the Beacons and Keteketerau
- The Ahuriri Estuary (including the outfall channel) and connections along the Taipō Stream and along drainage reserves to Anderson Park
- Sections of the gravel spit south of the Marine Parade
- The Tutaekuri River to connect revegetation on the Taradale hills with Waitangi
- Cliffs at Hukarere / Bluff Hill

Opposite page:
View from Hill Road Petane toward Roro o kuri and lagoon in background.

Left & centre:
ERI Maps - Vegetation Types & potential sites

Right:
Significant Natural Areas

Below:
Westshore Wildlife Reserve



2.5 Mana Whenua Ahuriri.

The following section draws on the ‘Landscapes Statement’ provided on behalf of ‘Te Taiwhenua O Te Whanganui Ā Orotū’ in response to an early draft of the landscape report. It is understood the following hapū have mana whenua in the area: Ngāti Hinepare, Ngāti Māhu, Ngai Tawhao, Ngāti Hineuru, Ngāti Matepū, Ngāti Whakāri, Ngāti Tātara, Ngāti Pārau, Ngāti Te Ruruku, Ngāti Hori, Ngāti Toa Harapaki, Ngāti Tū, Ngāti Marangatuhetaua.

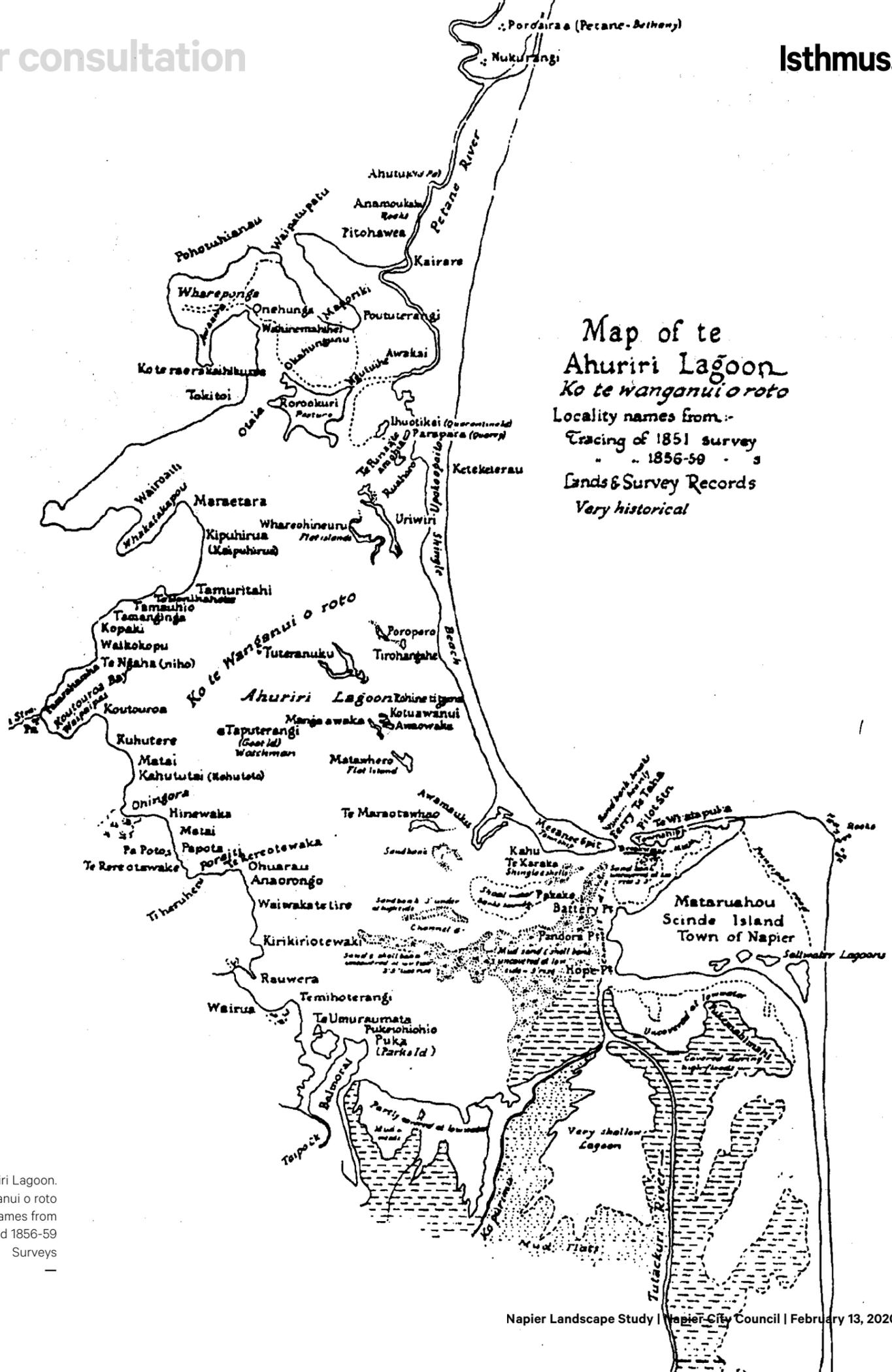
“Landscape embodies the relationship between people and place, it is an area’s collective characteristics and qualities, how they are perceived and experienced and what they mean. From a mana whenua perspective all three elements are relevant for landscapes and cultural sites of significance. One does not stand on its own.

- Physical (natural and human)
- Perceptual (see and experience physical environment)
- Associative (meaning and memories)

For Mana Whenua of Ahuriri, the spiritual world is also seen to be intimately linked. Ultimately all elements of the physical world share the same spiritual components. Therefore, in the Māori view, humanity is a part of, rather than apart from, the natural world in both a physical and spiritual sense.”³

“The following cultural values also apply when recognising landscape value to mana whenua:

- Kaitiakitanga: Protection and maintenance of waahi tapu and other heritage sites. Placing of rahui to allow replenishment of harvested resources. Directing development in ways which are in keeping with the environment. Observing the tikanga associated with traditional activities. Providing for the needs of present and future generations.
- Manaakitanga: Caring for the environment so that we can care for the people. Landscape which embodies the relationship between people and place. It is important to Mana Whenua that values are upheld, and the collective natural and physical resources of the area are cared for.
- Sustainability – promoting use of environmentally friendly and sustainable practices and materials.



Map of Ahuriri Lagoon.
Ko te Whanganui o roto
(sic) Locality names from
tracing of 1851 and 1856-59
Surveys

³Te Taiwhenua O Te Whanganui Ā Orotū Landscapes Statement, January 13th 2019, Prepared by Tania Eden QSM MPM, ⁴Ibid

- Principle of enhancement – restoration of degraded sites
- Long-term cultural wellbeing – a healthy environment for future generations
- Whānaungatanga: Through our whakapapa, our identity, and knowing our matauranga.
- Maumaharatanga – Remembrance and honouring our heritage, sites of cultural significance and taonga.
- Mana Motuhake – active leadership and decision making.
- Ki uta, ki tai (mountains to sea) – Holistic integrated resource management of landscapes and sites of significance
- Wairuatanga – The spiritual world is also seen to be intimately linked to the physical world. Therefore, in the Māori view humanity is a part of rather than apart from the natural world in both a physical and spiritual sense.
- NB. These values are elaborated and embodied through the Sites of Cultural Significance Report.⁷⁴

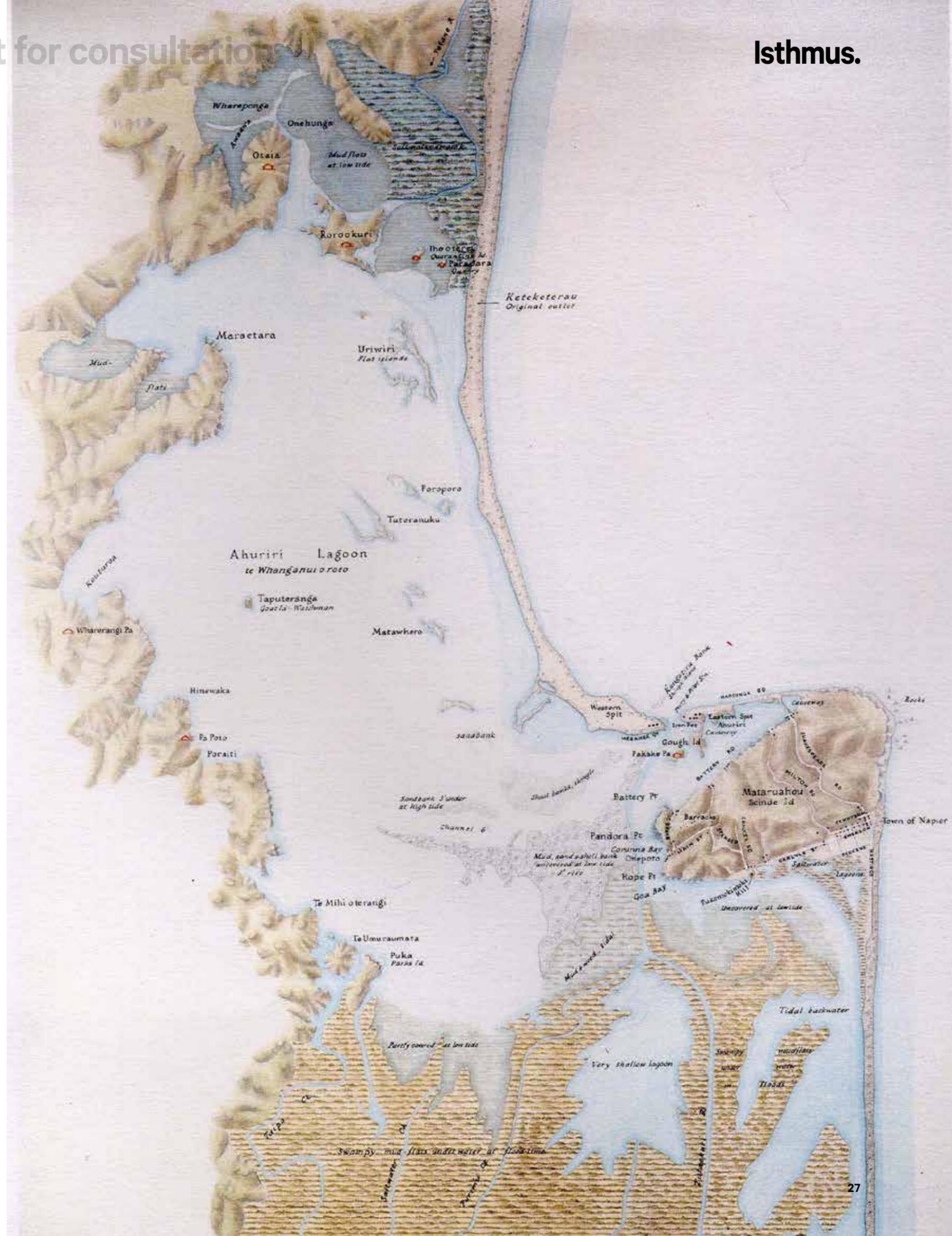
The lament ‘Te Tangi ā Rawiri Tareahi mō Ahuriri’ that is the frontispiece to this report provides an overview of the area’s landscapes and features, their history and meaning.

Te Taiwhenua have identified the following landscapes and features that they consider have outstanding landscape value within Ahuriri. Each of these is discussed in Chapter 3 of the report:

- Te Whanganui ā Orotū
- Otatara Pā
- Heipipi Pā
- Poraiti (Pā sites including Te Rere ā Tawhaki)
- Roro o Kuri
- Tapu Te Ranga and Te Ihu-o-Te Rei
- Mataruahou (incl Te Pakake)
- Pukekura Pā

Tangata whenua are the proper authority to impart and interpret traditional narratives and meanings associated with landscapes. Where these are shared, though, they add to understanding and appreciation of landscapes amongst the wider community.

Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū,
1865



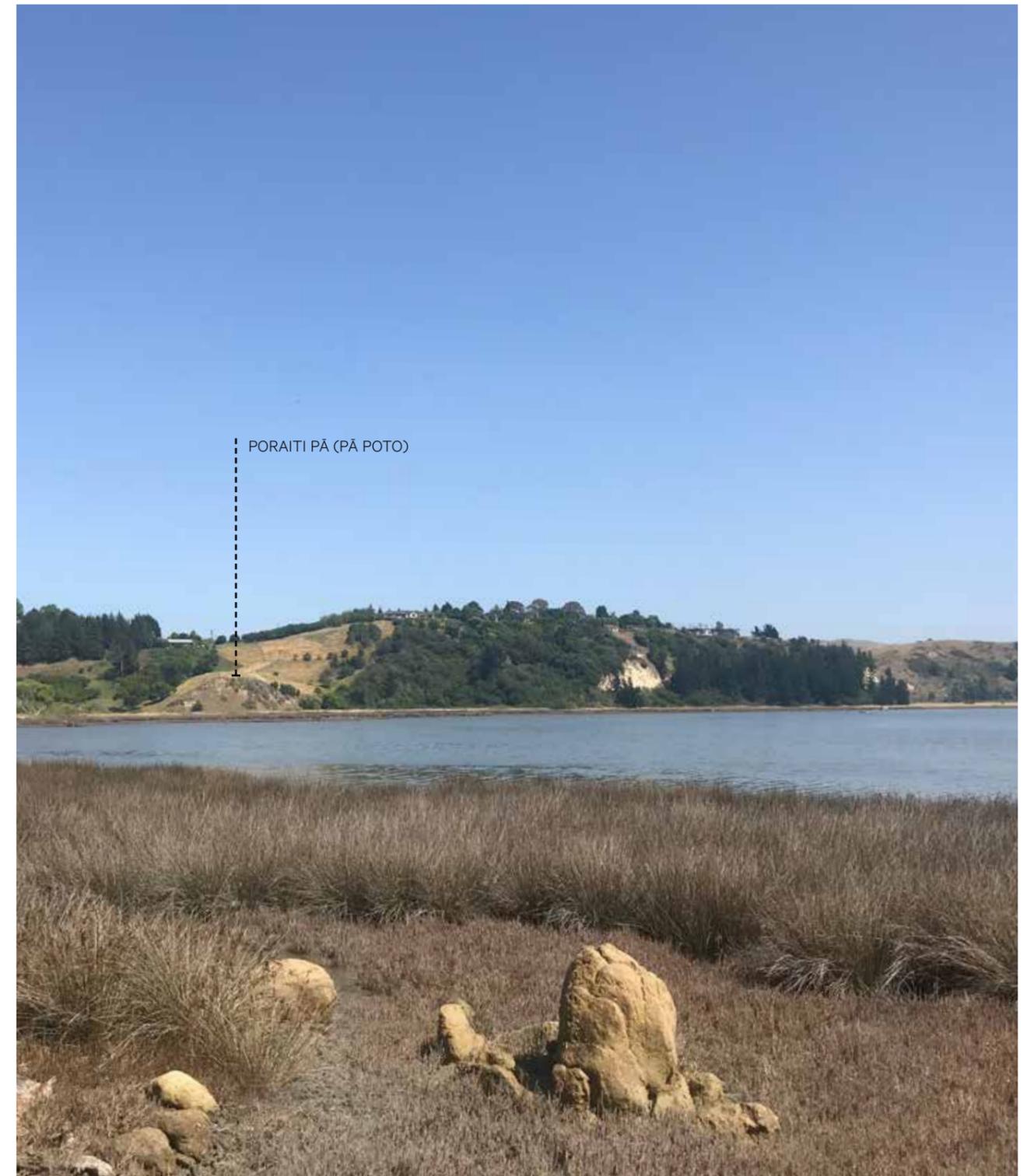
A theme of the widely known narratives associated with Napier is the interplay between land and sea.

- The narrative of Māui raising the land (Te Ika a Māui) from the sea is associated with Te Matau-a-Māui – the hook-shaped sweep of Hawke Bay with its barbs at Cape Kidnappers. The stranded waka is silhouetted in Napier’s western skyline (Te Waka-o-Ngārangikataka).
- More specifically, Ahuriri is associated with the narrative of Pania – a sea person from the bay – and Karitoki – a human from Mataruahou. Their relationship was curtailed by Pania’s people turning her into a reef to prevent her return to land. Their son, Moremore, descended of both Tangaroa and Tane, became a tupuna and kaitiaki of the people of Ahuriri and Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū.

The relationship between people and place is also evidenced in the density of Māori place names from the ‘Map of Ahuriri Lagoon/Ko te Wanganui o Roto’ traced from 1851 and 1856-59 surveys. The names identify natural features (headlands, bays, islands, rivers), human features (landings, settlements, pā), resources, tupuna and historical events. Noteworthy places include:

- Heipipi – the prominent hill controlling the northern approaches to the lagoon (along the coast and the valley of the Waiohinganga/Esk River)
- Mataruahou – commanding the Ahuriri lagoon entrance
- Ōtātara – controlling the southern approaches to the lagoon, the Tūtaekurī River and the adjacent Heretaunga Plains
- Promontories and bays on the inland side of the lagoon – especially the several pā around Poraiti
- The lagoon islands – especially Roro-o-kurī and Te Ihu-o-te Rei near the Keteketerau lagoon entrance, and the sacred islet of Tapu te Ranga.

Poraiti Pā across Poraiti Bay from shoreline of Ohuarau



2.6 Napier's History.

Likewise, the physical landscape helps explain Napier's colonial history – history is geography.

Mataruahou determined Napier's location. The Ahuriri harbour, sheltered by the Hill and shingle spits, provided the only sheltered anchorage within Hawke Bay for exporting the wool on which the province developed. But, while it provided a port, the geography simultaneously constrained the city to the hill and shingle spits – a Faustian pact between sea and land.

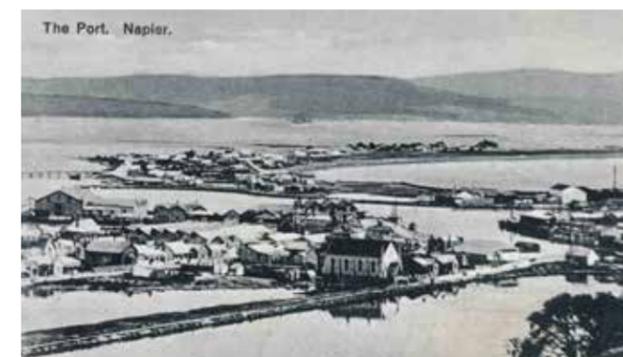
The city's form still reflects this earlier landscape. For example:

- The unusual separation between Napier's central city and its original port district is explained by the scarcity of land. The port was built on reclaimed land in the Ahuriri estuary, while the city squeezed into the fragment of flat land on the other side of the hill.
- The central city reflects the original shape of its triangular spit. The street grid is tucked against the hill, chamfered by the coast and truncated by the former estuary shoreline (the curve of Wellesley Road).
- The oldest residential parts of the city are shoe-horned into the inconvenient topography of Mataruahou, creating the Hill's rich mix and characterful streetscapes.
- Main roads follow the spits north and south.
- Awatōtō, Meeanee and Taradale are waypoints on the original circuitous tracks skirting the swamps south of Napier.

Events associated with places also add to landscape appreciation. For example, the Colenso mission story, and the reason it was located at Waitangi, add layers of meaning to that place.



Historic map of Napier Hill, city centre, and Port Ahuriri (note south is at top of map)



Clockwise from top left:
 Ahuriri Port pre-1931.
 Looking across South Pond towards Battery Road.
 Westshore Bridge c1910 (Port to Port).
 Napier Hill 1877/78 (Hawke's Bay Collection)

2.7 1931 Earthquake.

The historical event that left the most distinctive mark on Napier is the 1931 Earthquake. It fundamentally changed the natural and urban landscapes.

- The uplift led to the loss of the former lagoon, and a new landscape of islands in a sea of pasture.
- It enabled Napier to spread onto the former swamps, creating distinctive new suburban landscapes.
- It led to the city centre being rebuilt in the art deco style for which Napier is now celebrated.

The Earthquake raised the land between one and two metres. This uplift was leveraged by hydraulic engineering so that a characteristic of Napier’s new landscapes is its network of drains, floodgates, pumping stations and stop banks. It is something of a little Holland.

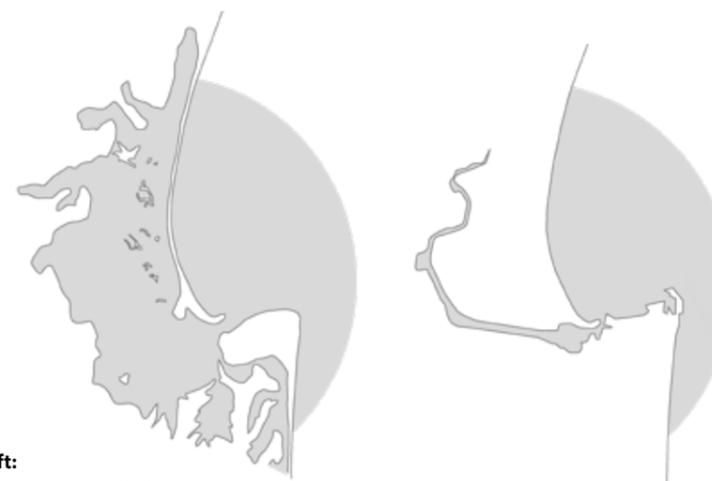


The most celebrated urban landscape arising from the Earthquake is Napier’s city centre. The rebuilding was coordinated between a small panel of architects who ushered the city towards an art deco and stripped-classical style that was both contemporary and suited the circumstances.

One of the most distinctive and important features of art deco Napier are the Marine Parade Gardens constructed over Earthquake rubble dumped on the beach. The Gardens are in scale with the city centre and express the same art deco and stripped classical style. They provide outlook to Te Matau-a-Maui and Cape Kidnappers and are a setting for civic events, celebrations and commemorations. The Gardens are the lynchpin between the city centre and ocean.

The Earthquake had a significant influence on Napier’s new suburbs. The Napier Harbour Board and City Council assumed ownership of the former seabed and swamp following the Earthquake and controlled its release for suburban development. The landscape consequently comprises a collage of suburbs, developed sequentially like tree rings with boundaries defined by drainage reserves. Each suburb has its own discrete street pattern and style of domestic architecture.

A common Napier narrative is the extent to which the city gained land as a result of the Earthquake and was released from its watery confines. A less-told narrative is what was lost, particularly the lagoon – Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū – which had been a defining feature of Ahuriri’s earlier landscape. The Earthquake gifted land but stole the sea.



Left:
Emerson Street, 1931
(History of Hawkes Bay)

Above:
Lagoon extent pre & post
1931 Earthquake.

Right:
Redcliffe Bridge 1931,
Ōtātara



2.8 Navigation.

Our appreciation of landscapes depends in part on how we use them to orientate ourselves, create mental maps and navigate our surroundings, and how we experience landscapes as we move through them.

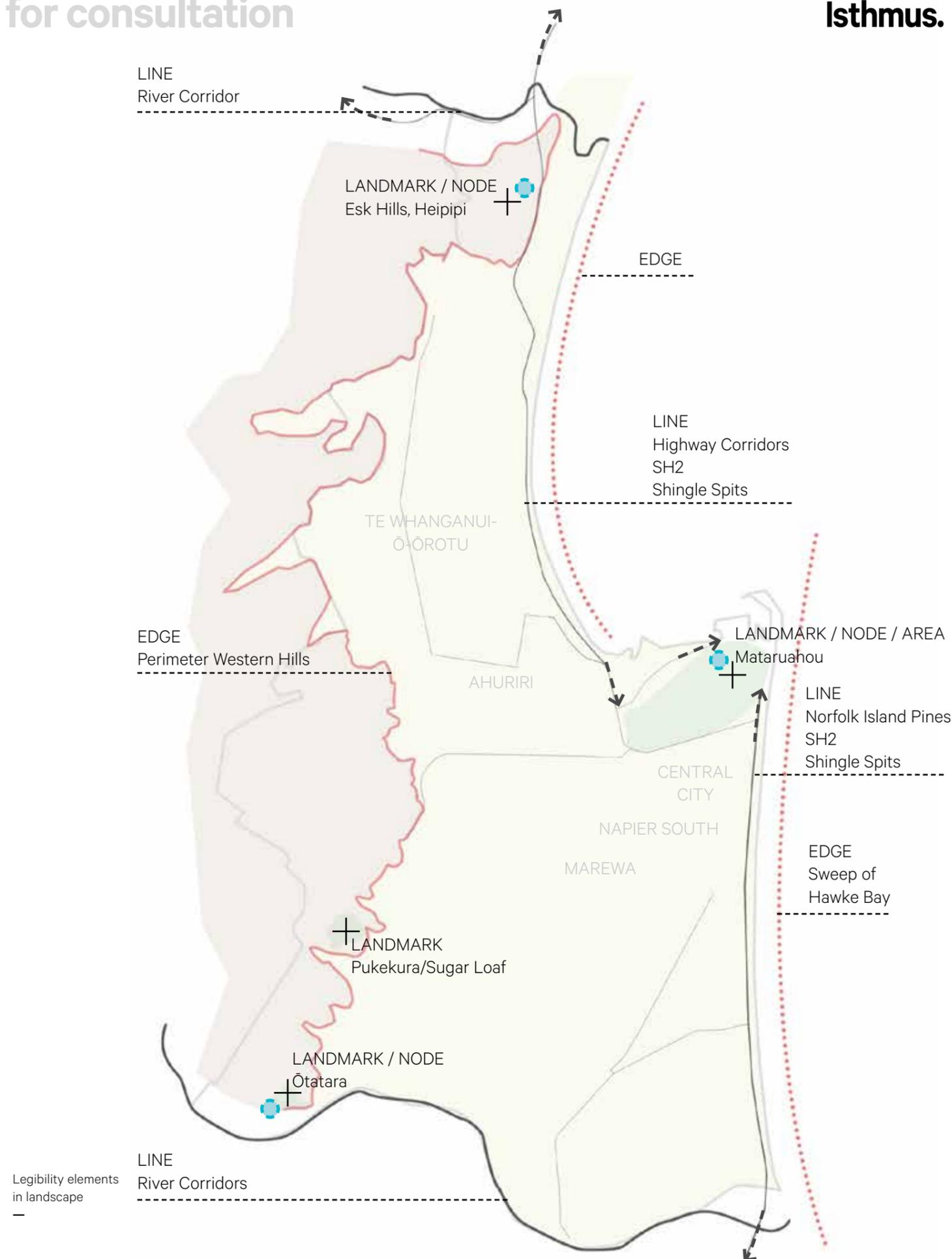
Mental Maps

'Mental maps' are conventionally described by landmarks, nodes, edges, lines and character areas. In a Napier context these include:

Edges	Curving sweep of the bay – Te Matau-a-Maui Toe of the western hills
Lines	Rivers - Tūtaekurī, Waiohinganga/Esk Shingle spits Highways
Landmarks	Mataruahou (Napier Hill/Scinde Island) Pukekura/Sugar Loaf Ōtātara Heipipi/Esk Hills
Nodes	Mataruahou (junction of shingle spits, hill, estuary, sea) Ōtātara (junction of plains and Tūtaekurī valley)
Areas	Mataruahou /Napier Hill Central city Ahuriri Napier South Te Whanganui-ō-Ōrotu

By way of further observation:

- The linearity of the spits is reinforced by the Norfolk Island pines
- The course of the Tūtaekurī River is reinforced by its stop banks and lines of Lombardy poplars
- The landmark qualities of Mataruahou are accentuated by its prominent 'Bluff' and its contrast with the Napier's flat lands.
- The landmark qualities of Pukekura/Sugar Loaf are accentuated by its symmetrical profile.



2.9 Approaches to Napier.

Sequential experience is particularly pertinent for the approaches to Napier from different directions.

Marine charts illustrate that Pania Reef controls the ‘Approaches to Napier’ **from the sea**. Ships from the north must sail on the inside of the reef to reach the port, while ships from the south must sail through the gap between Bluff Hill and the reef – a course historically signalled by the ‘The Beacons’ north of the airport. Prominent landmarks from the sea include Hukerere/Bluff Hill, the Port, the Norfolk Island pines, and the backdrop hills and mountains to the west. Captain Cook observed from the Endeavour “a bluff head . . . On each side a low narrow stone beach,’ and ‘a pretty large lake of salt water – as I suppose”.

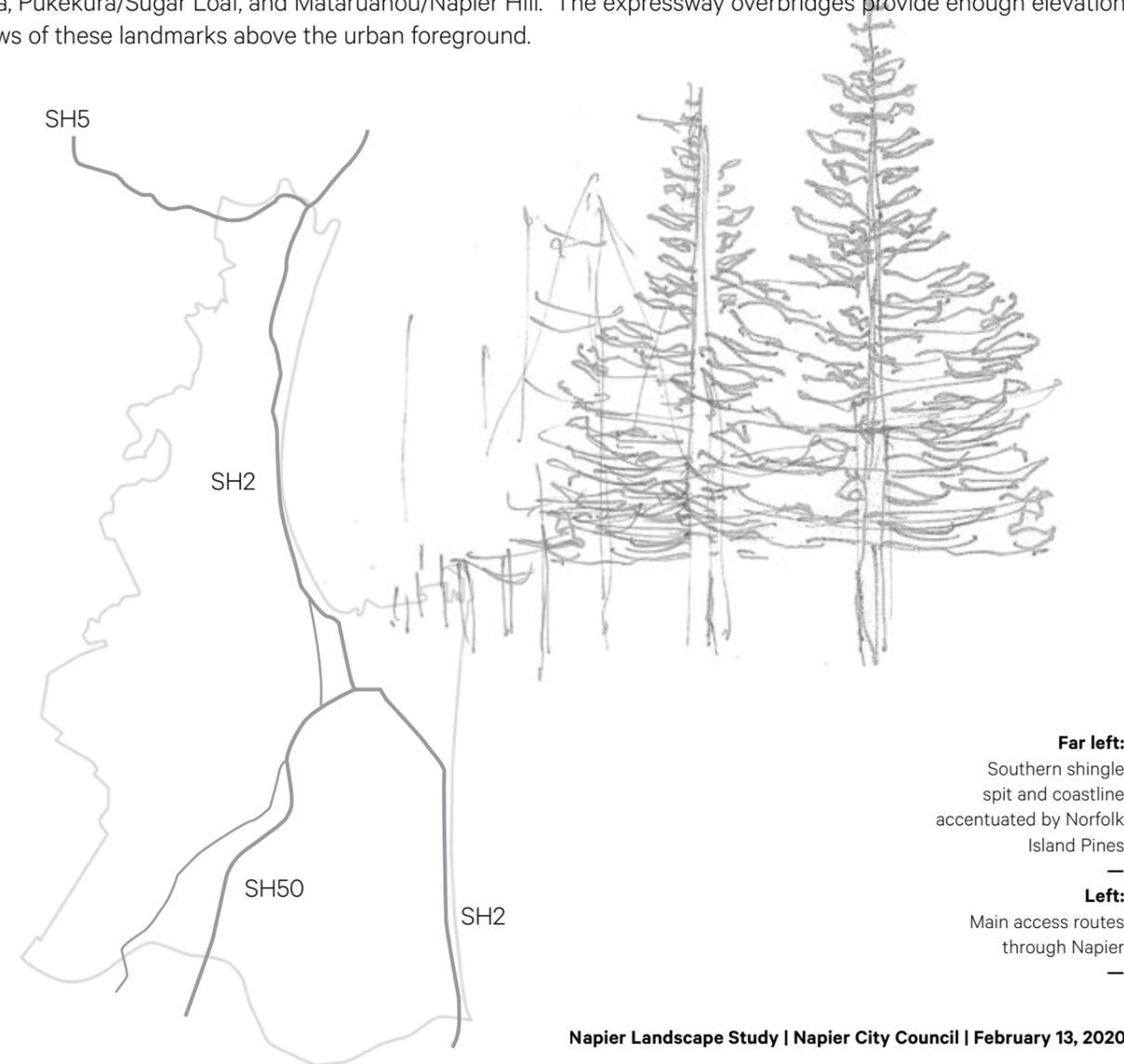
On the **Taupō Road (SH5)** a sense of arrival is experienced when one encounters the cultivated landscape of the Esk Valley and Bay View coastal plain – tracing the toe of the Bay View hills. The views then open up toward Mataruahou (Scinde Island/Napier Hill) and the distant Kahuranaki/Te Mata Peak/Kohinerakau as one travels along the shingle spit. There is an important view across the bay to Napier where the road rises to the crest of the spit in the vicinity of ‘The Beacons’.

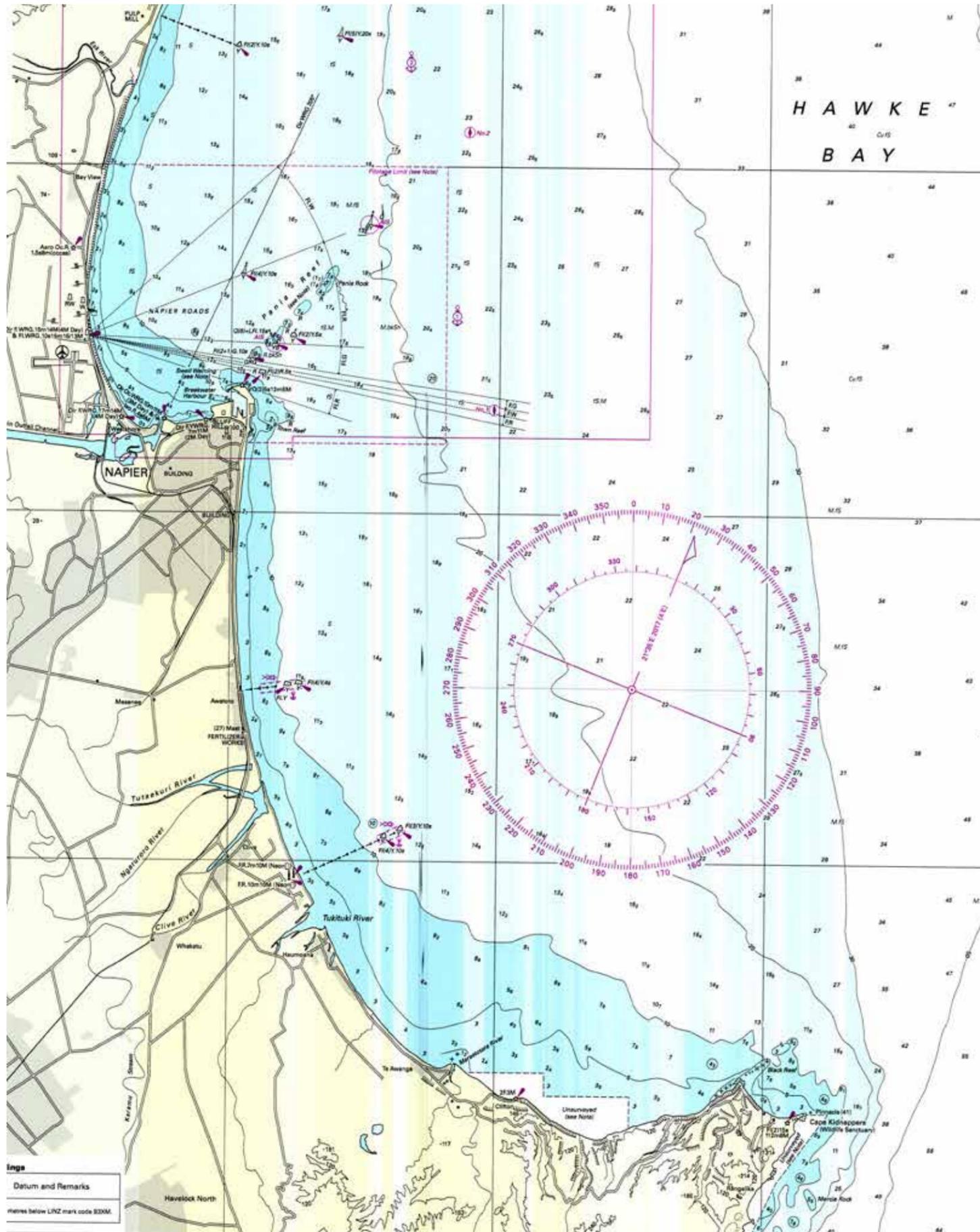


On **SH2 from Wairoa** and Gisborne, the sense of arrival is portended by the cultivated Tangoio valley. An important long view of Mataruahou/Napier Hill opens where the road meets the coast at a point landmarked by Kōnui (the ‘thumb’). The route then joins the Taupō Road (as above) at the Waiohinganga/Esk River and bluffs below Kaimata Pā.

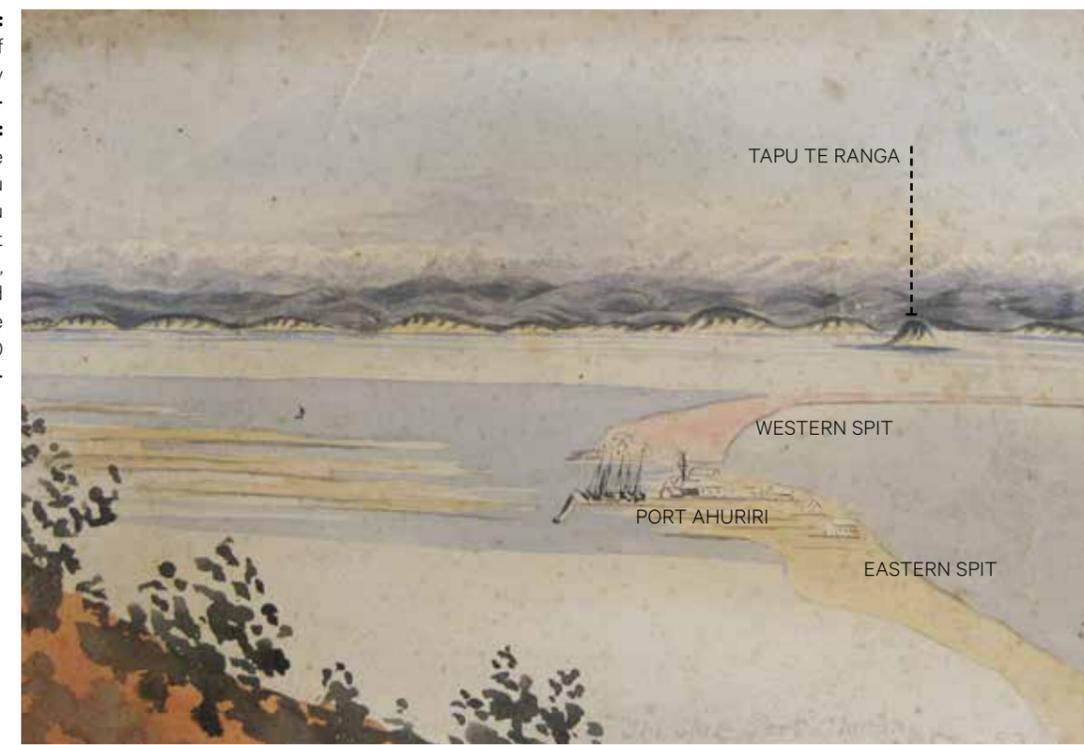
On **SH2 from Hastings** the view of the ocean and Mataruahou/Napier Hill is first gained at the bridge over the Tūtaekurī and Ngaruroro Rivers at the Waitangi estuary. This marks a change from an enclosed Hastings landscape to an open ocean outlook – landmarked by Te Atea-a-Rangi star compass. The route is then along the shingle spit directly toward Bluff Hill (albeit past the Awatōtō industrial gateway) accentuated by the Norfolk Island pines.

The approach to Napier on the **SH50 expressway** is not as strong in landscape terms as the other routes. Nevertheless, there is a sense of arrival when crossing the Tūtaekurī River bridge from where there are views of Ōtātara, Pukekura/Sugar Loaf, and Mataruahou/Napier Hill. The expressway overbridges provide enough elevation for views of these landmarks above the urban foreground.





Left:
Marine Chart of
Hawke Bay
—
Right:
Artist Impression of Te
Whanganui-ā-Orotū
from Mataruahou
illustrating the east
and western spits,
Port Ahuriri and
Tapu te Ranga (The
Watchman)



Above:
Docked Boats Inner
Harbour
—
Right:
Esk Hills- Kaimata
Pā from SH2
—



2.10 Aesthetics.

At first glance, Napier does not stand out for its picturesque natural landscapes. Most of the city is flat, the hills are modest, the coast is exposed, and there is little natural vegetation. However, Napier rewards those open to its distinctive qualities.

Some natural features have a powerful presence:

- The scale of Hawke Bay and its open horizon
- The rawness of the open beaches
- The sentinel presence of Mataruahou
- The expansiveness of the former lagoon seabed and the western hills backdrop

Other features have more subtle qualities:

- The reflective qualities of the Ahuriri estuary
- The ordered orchards, vineyards and poplar-lined stop-banks
- The evocative forms of the stranded islands and former shorelines
- The picturesque and historic Mission landscape

These combine with distinctive urban landscapes:

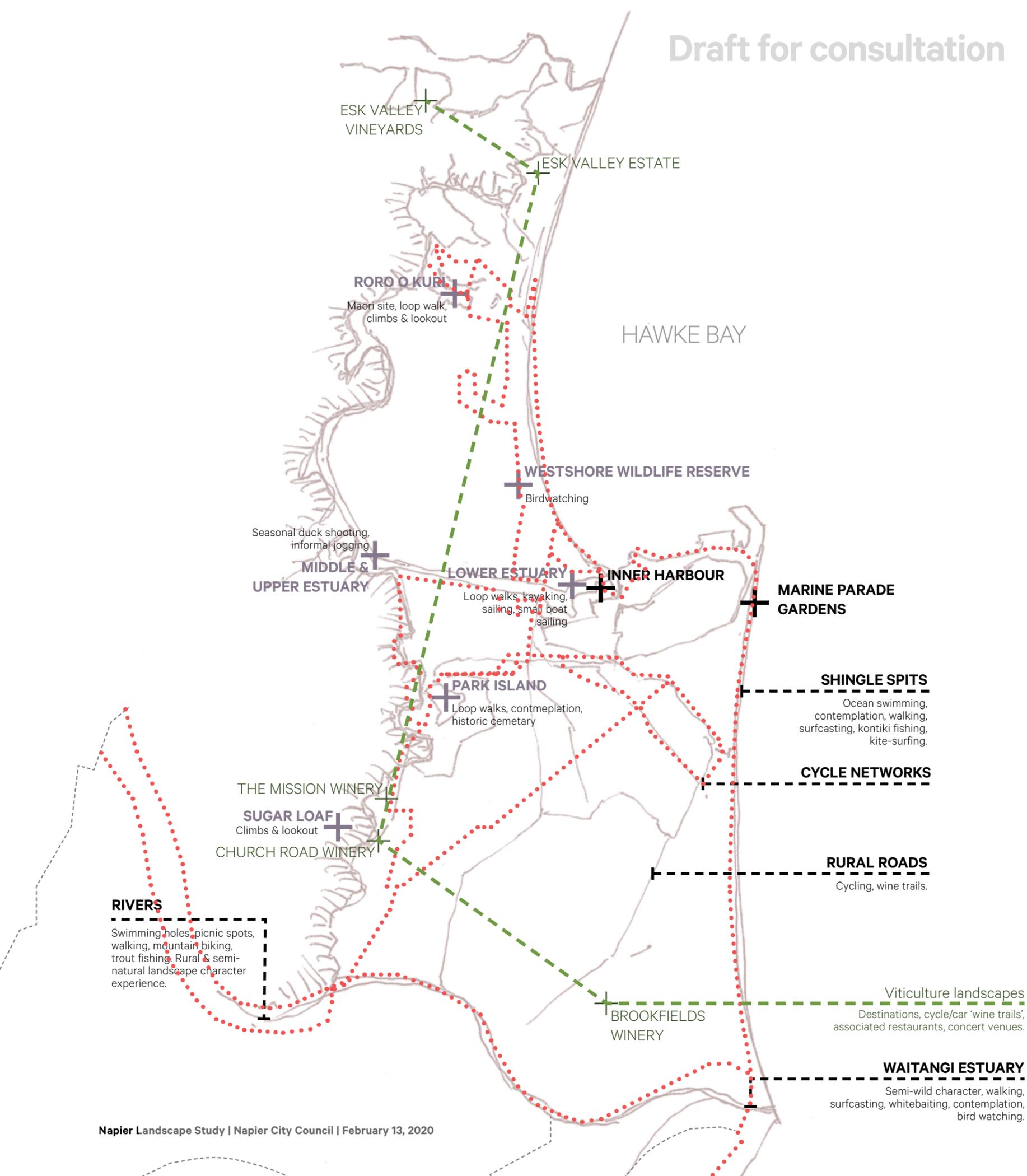
- The art deco central city – including the Marine Parade Gardens
- Ahuriri inner harbour wool store precinct
- The Hill
- Napier South – the 1920s transitional villa and bungalow suburb
- Marewa – the 1940s art deco and state housing suburb

“There is a way of looking where, if you’re not paying attention, you won’t see anything at all” - Nadine Anne Hura

Below:

Mataruahou from Napier Port breakwater, 1931





Left:

Recreation-based Landscapes of Napier, including cycle networks.

Top:

Viticulture Landscapes - The Mission

Above:

Southern Shingle Spit and coastline accentuated by Norfolk Island Pines

2.11 Meaning.

Intangible meanings are also interwoven with landscapes. Such meanings (or ‘associative aspects’) are essential to understanding and appreciating Napier.

History and identity

Some meanings derive from the traditional narratives discussed earlier under ‘Tangata Whenua Ahuriri’ which form Napier’s foundation stories. As discussed, a theme evoked by these narratives is tension and kinship between land and sea.

Some meanings derive from the association of landscape with history, including the oral history of Ahuriri and Te Whanganui-ā-Orotōū, and the history of Napier’s colonial settlement.

Napier’s identity is dominated by the history of the 1931 Earthquake and its emblematic art deco buildings such as the T&G building, Soundshell, the National Tobacco Company building. The city re-lives the 1930s through the Art Deco Festival. Less tangible meanings associated with this urban landscape is the quality of resilience expressed, for instance, in the Marine Parade arches:

*Courage is the thing – All goes if courage goes
Without vision the people perish*

Napier’s identity also revolves around its climate. The city styled itself at one time as the ‘Nice of the South’. It is promoted in images of sunshine, blue sea, white cliffs. This is most evident in images of the Marine Parade and outlook across the bay to Cape Kidnappers. Napier’s emblematic trees support this theme: Norfolk Island pines, Washingtonia palms (e.g. Clive Square) and phoenix palms (e.g. Kennedy Road)

Napier’s identity encompasses a broader Hawke’s Bay theme of abundance. Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū⁵ was regarded as an abundant storehouse, expressed in the following excerpt from Whatu’s lament.

Kia horo te haere
Nga taumata ki / Te Poraiti
Ko te kainga tena i pepehatia / e o tipuna
Ko rua te paia ko te Whanga
He kainga to te ata
He kainga ka awatea
He kainga ka ahiahi e tama e i

Go quickly to the heights of Poraiti
That is the land in a proverb of your ancestors
The store house that never closed is Te Whanga
A meal in the morning
A meal at noon
A meal in the evening

This is expressed in the contemporary landscape in wine, fresh produce, artisan products - exemplified in such landscapes as the Mission, Meeanee and Bay View.

⁵Sometimes shortened to ‘Te Whanga’

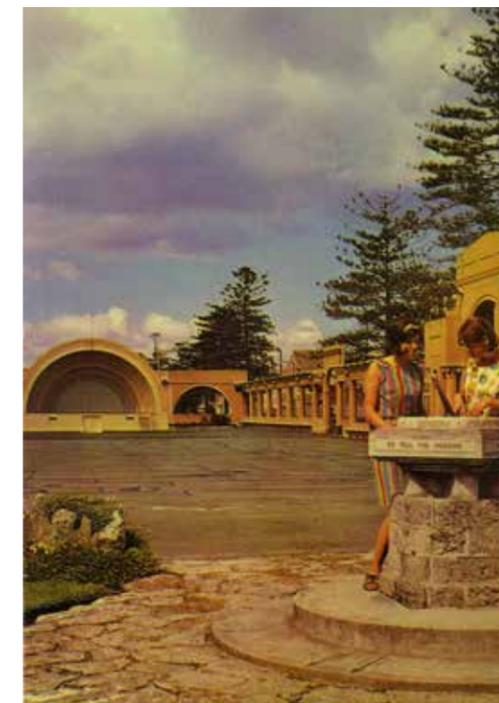
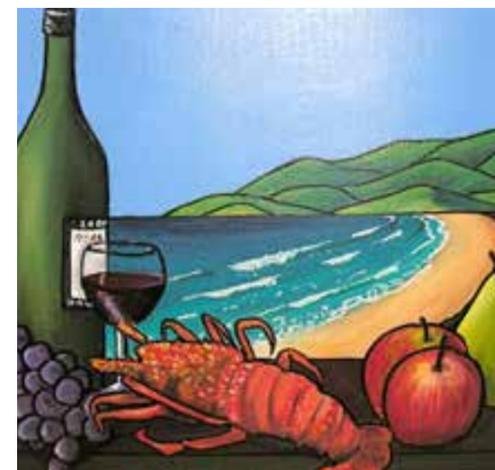
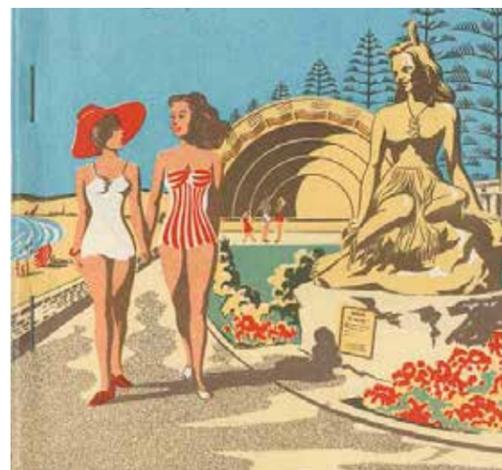
From left:

Sunny Napier Booklet, 1957.

Broad sweep of Hawkes Bay, sun, blues sea, dry hills; Entry by Helen Dynew in Telecom Art Awards 2006

Wine Country, wine fresh food, bounty. Entry by Kath Fletcher in Telecom Art Awards 2006

Sound Shell Post card, Marine Parade



Metaphysical experience

There is often a connection between the physical landscape, language, and metaphysical or spiritual experience. Typical associations include:

- Origins – how we got here
- Belonging – landscapes and landmarks shared as symbols of community
- Continuity – landscapes that precede us and will remain, a link to ancestors and descendants
- Transcendence – a sense that landscapes represent something beyond us
- Contemplation – landscapes that promote perspective beyond the everyday – opportunities to reflect

“one of the ecosystem services the environment gives us is metaphor – landscape gives us ways of figuring ourselves to ourselves ...everyone thinks to some degree in landscape and with landscape...all have been shaped by places, by phenomena experienced and recollected... paths connect real locations but also lead inward to the self...” – Robert McFarlane, ‘Landscape and the Human Heart’

Te Atea-a-Rangi star compass at Waitangi, for example, expresses origins and connections between culture and nature. The Marine Parade encompasses commemoration of shared disaster. Both places have outlook to an empty horizon and the constant witness of Cape Kidnappers.

As noted earlier, for mana whenua of Ahuriri “the spiritual world is seen to be intimately linked. Ultimately all elements of the physical world share the same spiritual components. Therefore, in the Māori view, humanity is part of, rather than apart from, the natural world in both a physical and spiritual sense.”



Above & right:
Te-Atea-a-Rangi Star Compass

Right:
Spirit of Napier

Far right:
Tutaekuri River



2.12 Summary.

Napier's character is the interplay between its physical landscapes (natural and built), how we experience them, and what they mean to us. While this 'scene-setting' chapter dissects components for analysis, it is how they come together that is important. That is where Napier's unique sense of place exists.

"This text-that-was-not-my-own didn't work when it was overlaid on this place. It demanded a different story be made, one that included dog's brains and a taniwha and a buried lagoon, an Earthquake, shards of ceramic and the complicated life of a family. I write about this place as a way of reclaiming it, not as possession or appropriation, but – quite literally – as a text for which it's possible for me to be the author, since this is a place that exists only for me, as me."

(‘Underwater Reach’, Cherie Lacey, in Extraordinary Anywhere, Essays on Place from Aotearoa New Zealand, 2016)

View from Roro-o-kuri towards Mataruahou





3. Assessment of Features & Landscapes.





3.1 Introduction.

This chapter focuses on Napier's individual features and landscapes as follows:

- **Central Napier**
 - Mataruahou/Napier Hill
 - Pania Reef
 - Napier City Centre
 - Marine Parade Gardens
 - Port Ahuriri and the Inner Harbour
- **Suburbs**
 - Napier South
 - Marewa
 - Taradale and Greenmeadows
- **Spits**
 - Overview of the Spits
 - South Spit (Napier Foreshore Reserve)
- **Rivers and River Mouths**
 - Tūtaekuri River
 - Waitangi
 - Waiohanganga/Esk River
- **Te Whanganui-ā-orotū**
 - Ahuriri Estuary
 - Outfall Channel (middle and upper estuary)
 - Former lagoon floor
 - Former islands and shoreline features
 - Western shoreline (including Poraiti)
 - Heipipi – Esk Hills
 - Roro-ō-Kurī
 - Te Iho-ō-Te Rei (Quarantine Island)
 - Keteketerau
 - Tapu-te-Ranga (the Watchman)
 - Pukeiohiohio, Puka, Te Umumoirata (Park Island)
- **Alluvial Orchard-Vineyard-Market Garden Landscapes**
 - Bay View
 - Meeanee and Brookfields
- **Taradale Hills**
 - Ōtātara
 - Pukekura/Sugar Loaf
 - The Mission
 - Poraiti

Each of these features or landscapes is addressed as follows to satisfy the District Plan purpose of the report:

- **Characteristics and qualities** – a description of the landscape 'values' (i.e. valued characteristics and qualities) of each area
- **Evaluation** – the significance of the feature/landscape in a Napier context and its appropriate classification
- **Risks and Opportunities** – potential threats to the area's characteristics and qualities, and opportunities to enhance them
- **Recommendations** – measures to manage (protect, maintain and enhance) landscape values having regard to the above matters

Opposite page:
Tutaekuri River from
stop bank at Brookfields
Bridge
—

Below:
Section of Western Spit
looking across Hawke
Bay to Mataruahou.
Distant backdrop of Te
Mata Peak, Kahuranaki,
and Kohinerākau
(Mt Erin)
—



3.2 Mataruahou. Napier Hill.

Historic Napier can be divided into three areas, each with a distinctive character:

- Mataruahou/Napier Hill
- City centre
- Port Ahuriri and the Inner Harbour

Napier Hill
(Hawke's Bay Museum)



Characteristics and Qualities

As discussed, Mataruahou – ‘the Hill’ – is the cornerstone of Napier’s landscape. It provided the sheltered harbour but at the same time confined early Napier to the hill and spits.

Mataruahou is a block of limestone encircled by former shoreline features such as cliffs, headlands and bays. It is characterised by its flat top and steep sides, highlighted by the bright cliffs of Hukarere (the bluffs of ‘Bluff Hill’). It was referred to as ‘Scinde Island’. It is a singular landmark, an outlier surrounded by plains and sea.

There is a close fit between landform and urban form. The street pattern follows the topography. Development follows the hill’s flat top (grander homes) or is squeezed into the narrow valleys (workers’ cottages). Characteristic features include houses perched above and below the street, flights of steps, limestone retaining walls, and garages on the street boundary. At the same time, the steeper faces and gullies are vegetated so that the urban development sits within a green framework.

There is an intensity and variety that might not otherwise have been shoe-horned into such inconvenient topography but for Napier’s early spatial confines. The Hill contains schools, former hospital, botanic gardens, historic cemetery, former prison, neighbourhood shop nodes, and houses reflecting a cross-section of colonial society from grand residences to workers cottages.

The Hill’s physical landscape provides for such experiences as views from places such as the Bluff Hill lookout and Clyde Road, and exploring the intricate streetscapes (including promoted walks such as ‘Round the Hill’, ‘Bluff Hill’, and ‘Ramps and Steps’). The Hill imparts a strong sense of history.

Mataruahou was one of three sentinels (with Heipipi and Ōtātara) at the corners of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. It commanded the Ahuriri entrance to the lagoon and therefore was a centre of tangata whenua life. Strategic sites included Hukarere Pā (on the clifftops in the vicinity of Hukarere Road), Matapane Pā (on a headland overlooking the Ahuriri Heads), and Pukemokimoki Pā (on a small island hill, since quarried away, opposite the toe of Chaucer Road). There was also adjacent living areas at the Ahuriri Heads and on Patake and Te Kaou islands in the inner harbour discussed below under ‘Port Ahuriri and the Inner Harbour’.

The operative District Plan recognises Napier Hill as a Special Character Zone with the following characteristics:

- Diverse mix of housing styles, including art deco, bungalows, villas and modern architectural design
- Close pattern of development
- Many houses close to or abutting the road, and garages common abutting the road reserve
- Some houses built to side boundaries
- Houses typically taller with a smaller footprint
- Development concentrated close to road, so that steep parts of sections are undeveloped
- Pattern of vegetation within undeveloped valleys and gullies.

Evaluation

The Hill has significant amenity value because of the interplay between landform, urban form, and history. At a broad scale Mataruahou is a key landmark that anchors Napier. At closer scale, the Hill has distinctive and coherent character (i.e. it has 'aesthetic coherence') that contrasts with the surrounding flat parts of the city. It has high amenity values. It contributes significantly to Napier's sense of place.

Mataruahou/Napier Hill's special character warrants classification and management, although this is likely best implemented through a precinct or zone) as a composite of architectural, historic and cultural heritage, and natural and urban landscape aspects. The provisions for the area should include identification of the landscape values, and measures to maintain and enhance their identified characteristics and qualities.

Risks and Opportunities

The mixed and fine-grained character of the Hill is reasonably robust and able to accommodate similarly fine-grained change. The patterns of development underpinning the area's special character is given some recognition in the 'Napier Hill Character Zone'. However, assessment criteria are general rather than specific to the actual characteristics and qualities. For instance, the Hill has idiosyncratic streetscapes that could be eroded accidentally – for instance through over-zealous imposition of contemporary traffic engineering standards, parking requirements, or garage setbacks. Characteristic setbacks and building grain that could be eroded by insensitive development or a different scale of development. While the area has mixed building styles and can accommodate new building styles, its character is still underpinned by historical C19th and early C20th building fabric which could be eroded to the point the Hill loses its heritage flavour.

There are opportunities to enhance the green framework on the steep hillsides. The ERI report identifies restoration of distinctive indigenous communities on the bluffs as a priority opportunity.

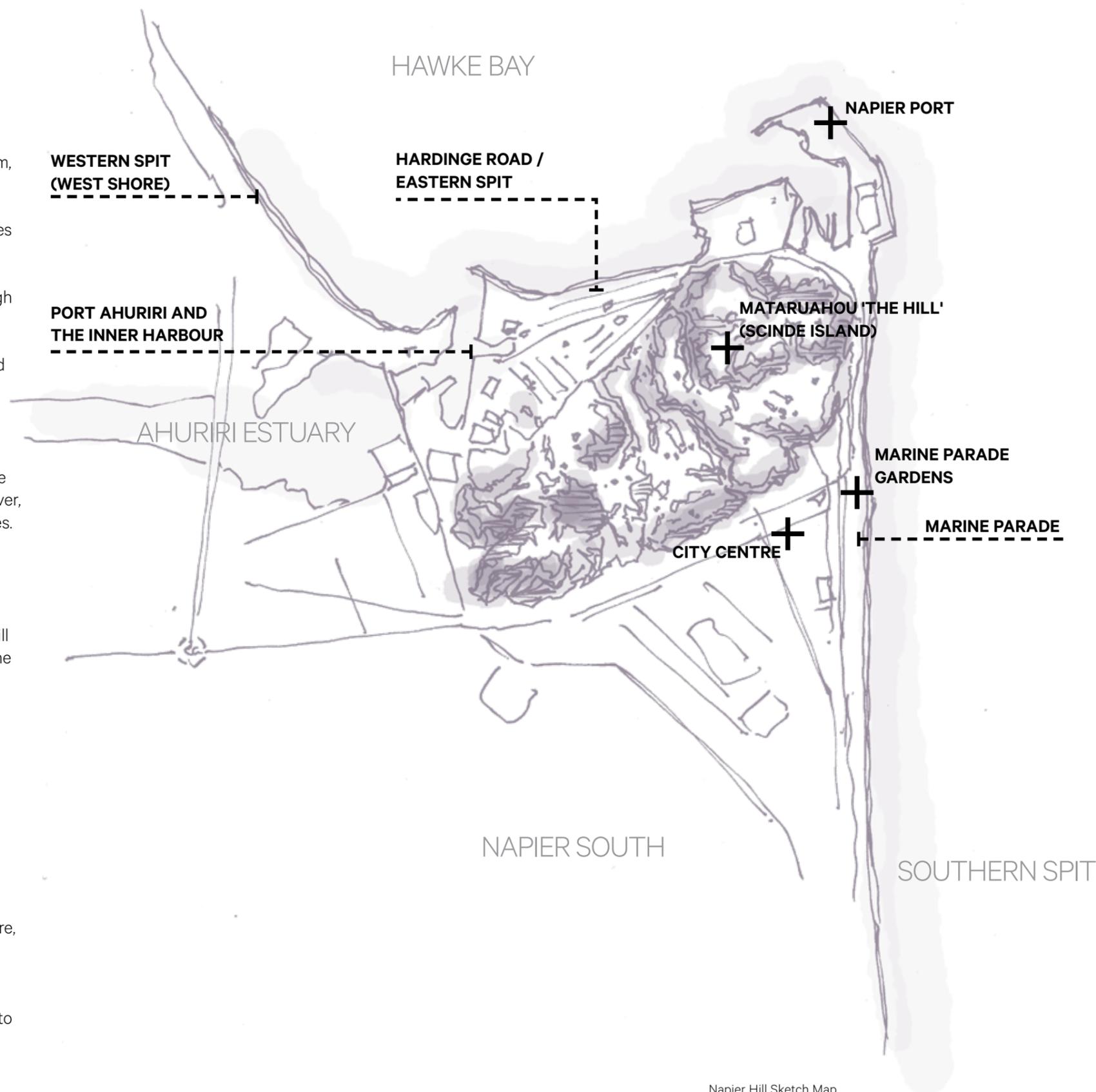
Recommendations

Continue to recognise Napier Hill as a special area or precinct. Adjust the boundaries to respond to landform, tracing the toe of the hill.

Recognise that the Hill derives its special character from a suite of characteristics including the natural landform, vegetation patterns, street and lot pattern, streetscape, and architecture, and history.

Compile a detailed character analysis of Napier Hill coordinating all aspects of urban form including street and lot pattern, building fabric, streetscape, retaining walls etc, relationship to landform, and associated history and meanings.

Tailor controls and assessment criteria to characteristics and qualities identified by such analysis – including its landscape values.



Napier Hill Sketch Map.

3.3 Pania Reef.

Characteristics and Qualities

While Pania reef lies beneath sea and outside Napier City’s boundaries, it is important to an appreciation of Napier’s landscape.

The reef extends the geology of Mataruahou into Hawke Bay. There is a 500m gap between Mataruahou and the reef which then continues on a NE alignment another 1.6km further into the bay. The top of the reef rises to just below sea level. It is understood to have an intricate underwater topography of cliffs, plateau, caves and ravines – in contrast with the otherwise featureless plain of the Hawke Bay seafloor. The diverse underwater topography is reflected in a diversity of marine life. Pania reef is therefore important as a traditional and contemporary fishing location.

The connection between land and sea is echoed in the legend of ‘Pania of the reef’. The narrative has become part of the city’s identity – evidenced by the ‘Pania of the Reef’ statue on the Marine Parade and its appropriation as an icon for various ventures.

Features on Mataruahou associated with the narrative of Pania and Karitoki include a spring formerly at the foot of Coote Road where Pania came ashore each evening to bathe and where the liaison with Karitoki began – it is understood this area is known as Tuhinapo – and the foot of Sturm’s Gully where the couple lived. Pania was a sea person who came ashore nightly and lived with Karitoki. Their son Moremore therefore traced descent from both Tane and Tangaroa – land and sea. Pania was turned to a reef to prevent her returning to land. Moremore is regarded as a kaitiaki who watched over the area warning of danger and ensuring tikanga (protocols) were observed. He frequented the Ahuriri heads but appeared elsewhere along the coast and throughout Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, appearing in different guises resembling shark, stingray or octopus. Moremore lived in a sea cave just off Sturm’s Gully. A rock visible at high tide used to mark the location and was also associated with Pania but was destroyed during construction of Napier Port.

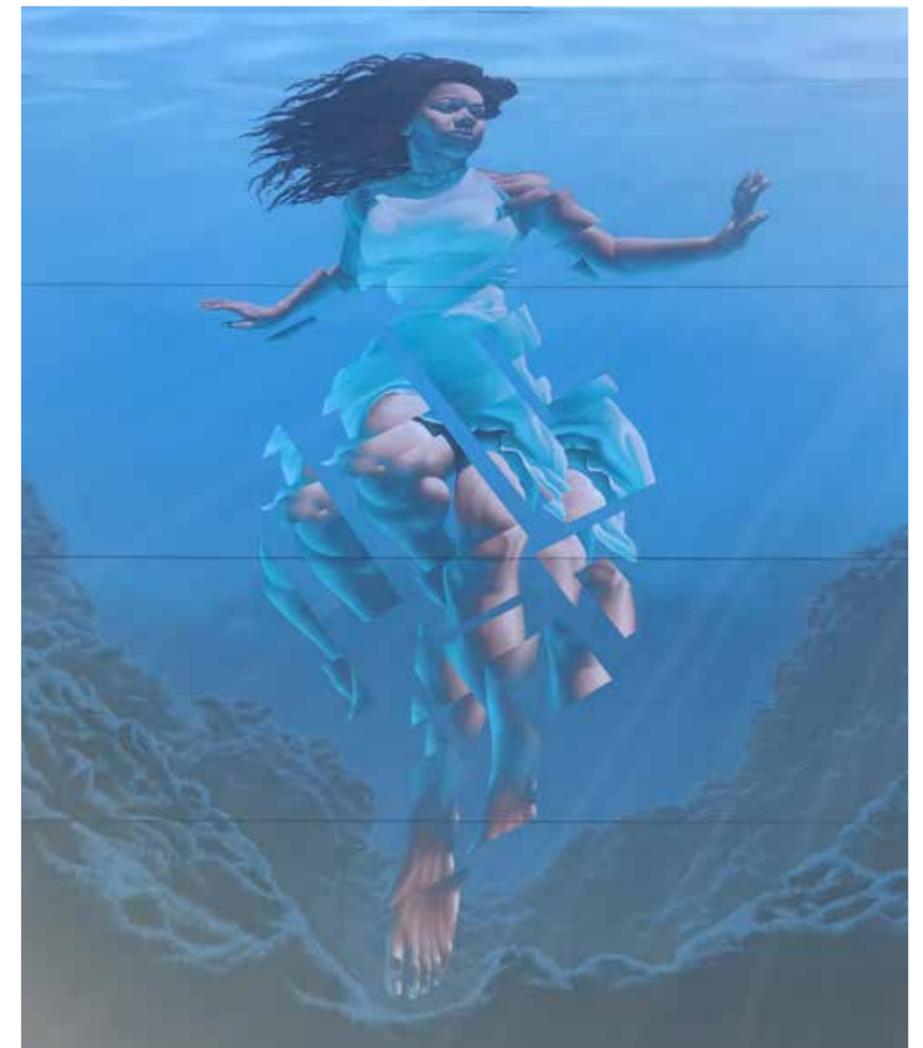
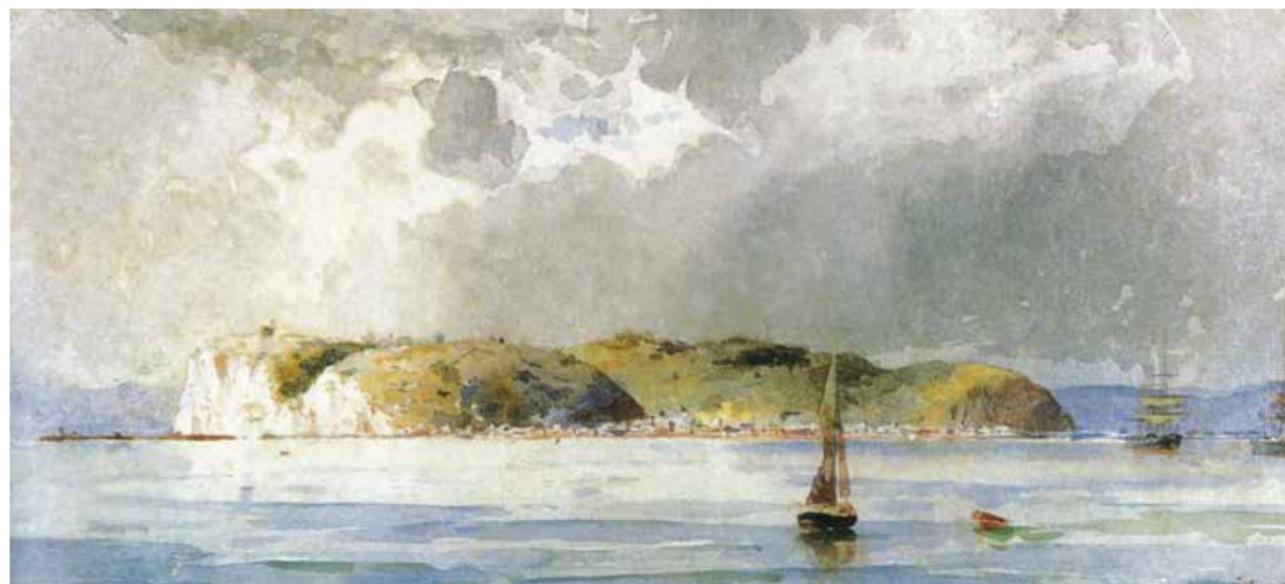


Left:
Painting by FH Atcherley,
looking towards Scinde
Island, 1893
(Port to Port)

Above:
Pania of the Reef statue on
Marine Parade Gardens

Right:
Pania of the Reef wall mural
by James Bullough

Opposite page:
Marine Chart of Pania Reef



Evaluation

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to Pania Reef’s natural character include its intricate natural landform features, its contrast with the surrounding seafloor, and its associated marine ecology.

Pania Reef might potentially be regarded as having ‘high’ natural character (possibly ‘outstanding’) considering the characteristics and qualities described above. Some natural aspects have been diminished: The natural continuum between marine and terrestrial environments is interrupted by the Port, it is understood that parts of the reef closest to the shore were damaged or destroyed - including the landmark Pania Rock – and the reef is subject to recreational fishing. Nevertheless, the reef remains an essentially natural feature, with important natural characteristics and qualities.

Pania Reef might also potentially be regarded as an ‘Outstanding Natural Feature’ (ONF) because of the combination of its strong natural and associative qualities. It is a landmark location for marine navigators and fishers. While it is not visible from land, the presence of the reef is well known and is amplified by the ‘Pania of the reef’ legend. It contributes to Napier’s identity.

Risks and Opportunities

While Pania Reef is important to Napier’s identity and is linked to sites within the city, the reef falls within the jurisdiction of the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council. This is a cross-boundary matter with Napier City Council’s role restricted to advocacy.

Recommendations

Advocate for recognition of Pania Reef’s high natural character and as a potential ‘Outstanding Natural Feature’.

Advocate for protection of Pania Reef and preservation of its natural character because of its importance to Napier’s identity.



3.4 Napier City Centre.

Characteristics and Qualities

Napier's central city is a well-recognised precinct because of its art deco architecture. The city's urban landscape, however, comprises more than its architecture: It includes all aspects of its urban form, its relationship to the underlying natural and human history, and the associated history and meanings.

As discussed earlier, the street pattern reflects natural history. The central city grid (contrasting with the Hill's organic pattern) describes the small shingle delta at the base of Mataruahou. The grid is squeezed against the toe of the hill. It is chamfered by the straight alignment of the Marine Parade with the ocean, and by the curving alignment of Wellesley Road tracing the former estuary. The spatial constraints were also reflected in the narrowness of Napier's early streets and its high pre-1931 density compared to other New Zealand cities.

The underlying natural history is also evident in the Marine Parade's elevation on the crest of the shingle spit. The sea wall along the Marine Parade (in front of the Marine Parade Gardens) is a reminder that waves occasionally washed over the crest into the city.

A key characteristic of the urban form is the angled intersection of the street grid and Marine Parade. The alignment of the Marine Parade with the coast is accentuated by the line of Norfolk Island Pines, the historic seawall, and the Napier Arches. Its junction with the central city grid, on the other hand, is accentuated by the acute intersection with Hershell Street, the angle of the Masonic Hotel façade to the Marine Parade, the triangular reserve in front of the Masonic, and the landmark T&G building at the apex of the angles. This area is a keystone of Napier's urban character.

The most obvious characteristic of the central city is the collection of buildings Earthquake– a mix of 1930s styles including art deco, stripped classical, Spanish Mission and prairie-style modern architecture, and including distinctive local motifs. Their coherence, though, is not limited to style. It also importantly derives from consistency of scale (mostly one to three storeys fine grain (pattern of narrow buildings), and consistent definition of street edge. Such spatial definition is assisted by single-storey buildings typically having tall stud-height and parapets, and by the pattern of two and three storey buildings book-ending blocks at the key intersections. The original crisp footpath details complemented the architecture.

The post-1931 central city streets had classical 800mm x 600mm concrete flagstones, simple kerb-lines, and tiled street names set into the pavement. The replacement paving in Tennyson Street retains the light-colour and clean lines that contribute to the character of the street. However, these qualities have been eroded by streetscape changes in other parts of the central city.

The central city's legibility is accentuated by its clear physical boundaries. Views along city streets typically terminate on Mataruahou, or the Norfolk Island pines and space that implies the presence of the ocean. The boundary to the south, though, is less clear. While the curving alignment of the former estuary edge (reinforced by the railway line) once provided a clear boundary, the legibility of the southern end of the city has been eroded through reconfiguration of the street pattern and large format development surrounded by car parks. Clive Square has become a de facto southern boundary of the central city.

The Marine Parade Gardens and Clive Square help to define and anchor each end of the 'main street'. These public places are integral to the central city's physical fabric and the history. They are part-and-parcel.

A historical assessment and evaluation of Clive Square/Memorial Gardens has recently been carried out by Heritage Services Hawkes Bay. A similar assessment is warranted for the Marine Parade Gardens which are discussed separately below.

Evaluation

Napier's central city is an urban landscape with self-evident value. It is well recognised as an architectural precinct to the point that it has been considered for nomination as a potential World Heritage Site. The city's associated Earthquake history is also well documented and integral to the city's identity. What is perhaps less recognised is the extent to which its character also derives from its urban landscape aspects including the street pattern, response of urban form to natural setting, streetscape details, spatial definition, and the public spaces (Clive Square/Memorial Gardens and the Marine Parade Gardens). Overall it has outstanding value that is fundamental to Napier's sense of place.

The outstanding character of Napier's Central City warrants classification and management, although this is likely best implemented through a precinct or zone as a composite of architectural and historic heritage, and urban landscape aspects. The provisions for the area should include identification of the landscape values, and measures to maintain and enhance their identified characteristics and qualities.



Norfolk Island pines along Marine Parade - open horizon

Risks and Opportunities

The special character of Napier’s central city relies on the integrity of the precinct as a whole – including streetscapes, spatial patterns, and public spaces – in addition to architecture. There is a risk that such matters are overlooked because of a focus on the more obvious architectural style. The character is sensitive to erosion because of the extent to which it relies on coherence between a number of elements that are in both public and private ownership.

Potential threats are demonstrated by examples where Napier’s special character has been eroded:

- The loss of historic buildings – notably the character defining buildings on two corners of Napier’s central intersection (Hastings Street and Emerson Street)
- The disruption to scale by the over-height building at 104 Emerson Street
- The disruption to scale by the under-height recent building at the intersection of Hastings Street and Dickens Street (2 Dickens Street)
- The erosion of the street pattern and spatial definition south of Clive Square.
- The erosion of streetscape and clean kerb lines through traffic engineering measures.
- The dilution of integrity through faux art deco details.
- The loss of some genuine detail such as the original concrete flagstones and mosaic street names.



Left:
Napier CBD from Mataruahou.

Right:
Marine Parade Gardens, city centre, and Mataruahou.

Recommendations

Continue to recognise central Napier as a special precinct, the boundaries encompassing the Marine Parade Gardens and Clive Square/Memorial Gardens.

Recognise that Napier’s Central City derives its special character from a suite of characteristics in addition to its architecture including its natural setting, street and lot pattern, streetscape, spatial definition, and public places.

Recognise that the public places are as important features of Napier’s heritage: that the Marine Parade Gardens, Clive Square/Memorial Gardens and the streets themselves are integral to the precinct.

Compile a detailed character analysis of Napier City Centre coordinating all aspects of urban form (history, natural setting, street pattern, blocks and lots, streetscape details, spatial definition, public spaces) in addition to architectural and historic heritage.

Tailor the District Plan provisions to promote the coherence of such characteristics and qualities, including the landscape values described above.



3.5 Marine Parade Gardens.

Characteristics and Qualities

The Marine Parade Gardens (between the Soundshell and Convention Centre) are one of New Zealand’s most important designed landscapes. They are significant for their design qualities, their place in the city’s urban form, and the meanings associated with them. They are essential to central Napier.

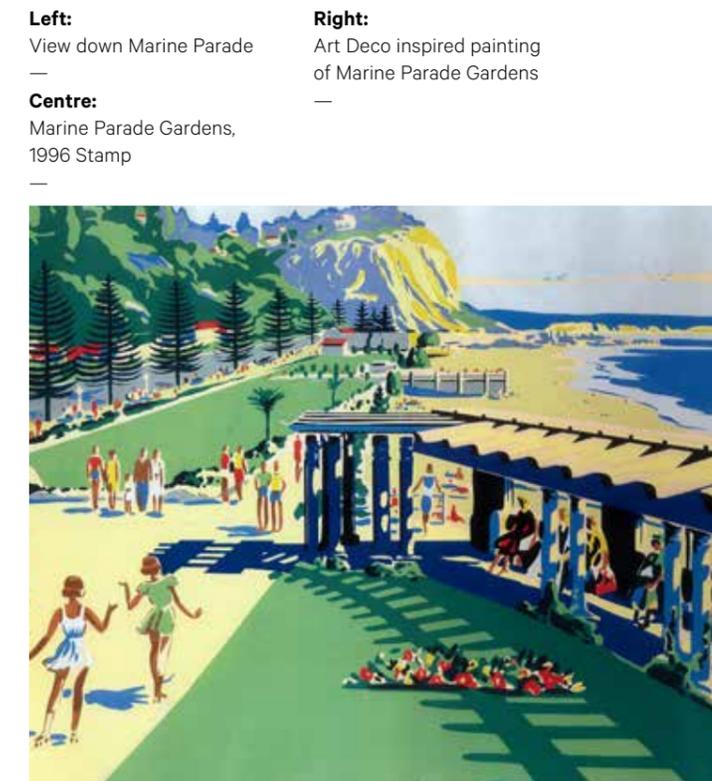
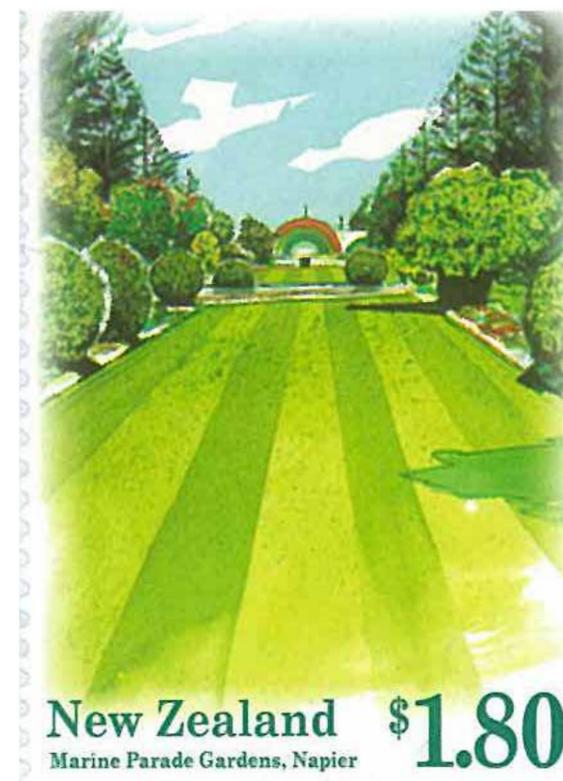
A community group – the Napier Thirty Thousand Club – began constructing an ocean-front promenade during the 1920s by constructing a seawall that was progressively raised to trap shingle at the crest of the beach. The beach ‘nourishment’ was boosted by the 1931 Earthquake uplift and supplemented by rubble from the ruined city dumped on the beach. The rubble was capped with clay and soil.

The Gardens were designed by members of the same small group of architects responsible for Napier’s reconstruction, and are consistent with the stripped classical and art deco styles adopted in the rest of Napier’s central city. The layout was designed by Stanley Natusch, a partner in Natusch and Sons, a Napier architectural practice that played a leading role in reconstruction of the city, assisted by Louis Hay.³³ The Soundshell, Colonnade, Veronica Sun Bay and Tom Parker Fountain were designed by J. T. Watson, Borough Architect.

The design comprises clean lines and geometric shapes. The layout reinforces the parallel lines of the coast, the spits, the Marine Parade, and the Norfolk Island pines. This simple form is interrupted by the concentric circles of the Tom Parker Fountain and the Veronica Sun Bay which protrude toward the ocean. Art deco motifs include the (now faded) concrete paving between the colonnades, the sun-burst pattern of the Sound Shell (coinciding with the ‘Sunny Napier’ identity also expressed in the Veronica Sun Bay), and the base of the Tom Parker Fountain. The colonnades, on the other hand – are in a stripped classical style.

The Marine Parade Gardens are in scale with the central city – they act as a lynch pin connecting central Napier with Hawke Bay. Whereas the city streets are below the beach crest, the Marine Parade provides a vantage to the ocean. A characteristic of Napier’s outlook is the unbroken horizon. As discussed earlier, the junction between the lines parallel with the coast on the one hand, and the angled street grid on the other, is a lynchpin of Napier’s urban form.

The Marine Parade Gardens are closely associated with the history of the 1931 Earthquake. They were constructed as part of the city’s rebuild between 1932 and 1939, built literally on the rubble of the ruined city. The inscription on the New Napier Arch captures the spirit of a community determined to rebuild: ‘Courage is the Thing – All Goes If Courage Goes’, ‘Without Vision the People Perish’. The Veronica Sun Bay commemorates the New Zealand navy ship HMS Veronica that was in port at the time of the Earthquake and whose crew were instrumental in rescue efforts.



Left:
View down Marine Parade
—
Centre:
Marine Parade Gardens,
1996 Stamp
—

Right:
Art Deco inspired painting
of Marine Parade Gardens
—

Napier City Centre and Marine parade, looking down Southern Spit. Image. www.naturespic.co.nz



Marine Parade 1933



Marine Parade Norfolk Island Pines



Marine Parade Gardens



Evaluation

The Marine Parade Gardens have exceptional value. While New Zealand has several notable C19th parks and gardens, the Marine Gardens are a rare example of a mid-century designed landscape. They are instantly recognisable. They have a high degree of aesthetic coherence. Their value is amplified by their significance to Napier’s central city. They are integral to the city’s urban form and post-Earthquake rebuild history. Their style is consistent with that of the central city. The Gardens are also integral to Napier’s history and identity.

The Marine Parade Gardens are of such significance for a combination of architectural, landscape, urban form and historic heritage matters that they warrant formal recognition. The Gardens self-evidently have ‘special character’ from a landscape perspective and therefore warrant classification as a ‘Special Character Feature’.⁶ They also almost certainly warrant recognition for their historic heritage.

Risks and Opportunities

Although the Marine Parade Gardens have considerable significance, their distinctive characteristics and qualities may not be as readily appreciated as that of Napier’s better documented art deco buildings. There is therefore potential for inadvertent erosion of their character. For instance, it is important that that the deteriorated concrete paving due to be replaced between the colonnades has fidelity to the original understated art deco design.

The area is sensitive to inappropriate contemporary styles, or a faux art deco style, or to changes that might inadvertently erode the clean lines and spatial forms.

Recommendations:

Classify the Marine Parade Gardens as a ‘Special Character Feature’

Include the Gardens as an integral feature of the Central Napier precinct. (for example, include the Marine Parade Gardens as an essential element if an ‘Art Deco Precinct’ was to be recommended for World Heritage Status)

Add the Marine Parade Gardens in their entirety to Council’s schedule of art deco features (in addition to individual components such as the Soundshell and Tom Parker Fountain)

Carry out a historical appraisal with a view to potential (likely) classification as an ‘historic heritage site’.

Prepare a Conservation Plan to manage the gardens.

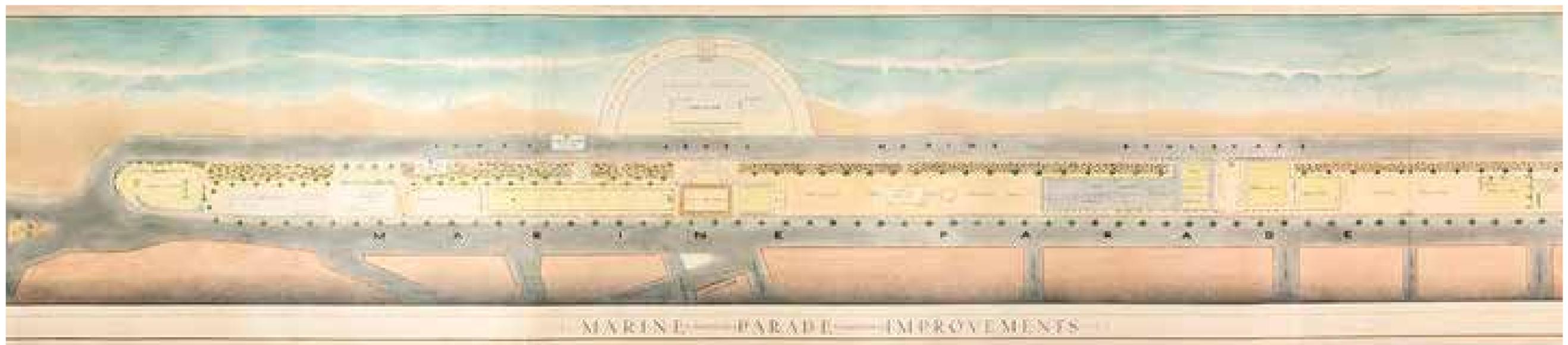
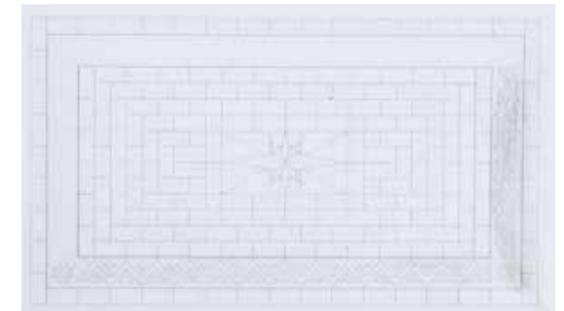
Tailor District Plan provisions to maintain and enhance the Marine Parade Gardens’ distinctive characteristics and qualities.

⁶ While they have ‘outstanding value’, they are not natural, and therefore would not qualify as an ONF or ONL

Right:
Marine Parade Skating Rink paving pattern, 1931

Below:
Marine Parade Improvements Plan

Opposite:
Proposed Marine Parade





3.6 Port Ahuriri and the Inner Harbour.

Characteristics and Qualities

The 'Inner Harbour' was Napier's original port. Its water depth was reduced by the 1931 Earthquake and it is now home to a fishing fleet and smaller vessels.

The eastern side (including the Iron Pot and West Quay) is defined by quays lined by former wool-stores and shipping offices. By contrast the Inner Harbour's western side is characterised by a sloping shoreline, individual buildings (rather than a wall of wool stores) and jetties / slipways aligned perpendicular across the harbour shore.

The precinct has high aesthetic qualities because of the connection between city and water, the backdrop of Mataruahou/Napier Hill, and the coherent form, scale and style of the quays and wool-store buildings. It also enjoys a sunny and sheltered harbour outlook, and views to the Maungaharuru Range.

The Inner Harbour reflects an era when Napier was one of New Zealand's main wool trading centres– handling the fleece from a large Hawke's Bay hinterland. Other industrial activities included a freezing works on the harbour's western promontory, the National Tobacco Company factory, ship chandlers and a foundry.

Ahuriri includes the wool-store area and town centre – both of which have distinctive character:

- The wool-store area was built on former Te Koau (Gough) and Te Pakake Islands and reclamation. The streets in this area (Coronation Street, Campbell Street, Ossian Street, Lever Street, Riddell Street) are oriented towards the Iron Pot and West Quay. Corrugated-iron wool-stores abut the street – some narrower streets (e.g. Mahia Street, Te Atua Street) are paved wall to wall. The streetscapes are characterised by strong spatial definition, distinctive industrial materials and forms, the scale and rhythm of the wool-stores, and a gritty/salty port flavour.
- 'The Port' town centre is on Waghorne Street, the alignment of which reflects the underlying shape of the Eastern Spit. The earliest anchorages were just inside the eastern spit, the area now occupied by Nelson Quay and the Iron Pot. The adjacent cluster of historic buildings around the former tram terminus includes the Crown and Royal Hotels and former shipping offices. Further back along the spit are closely packed nineteenth century cottages and community buildings such as the Knox Presbyterian Church. Bridge Street recalls the original bridge connecting the eastern spit with Te Koau and Te Patake Islands.

The wool-store district – particularly on West Quay – has been gentrified to cafes, restaurants, offices and apartments based on its special character and sheltered harbour outlook.

Some re-development eroded the integrity of parts of West Quay and Nelson Quay because of a discordant architectural style and spatial configuration. However, there are still enough intact stretches of streetscape to retain the character of the precinct.

Ahuriri was the southern entrance to Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. Traditional narratives describe Tu Ahuriri organising the digging of a new entrance through the shingle spits to alleviate flooding on an occasion when Keteketerau (the northern entrance) was blocked –the word 'ahuriri' also describes a channel and turbulent water. Tangata whenua occupied the spits either side of the Ahuriri Heads, and two low sand-bank islands within the inner harbour – Te Koau (Gough Island) and Te Patake. The latter was used as a refuge pā and was the scene of a massacre in 1824 during the 'Musket Wars'. It therefore has particular significance to mana whenua, and relevance in the history leading up to the sale of the Ahuriri Block. Both islands have been absorbed into the reclaimed land: Te Patake underlies West Quay, while Te Koau (Gough Island) underlies the area opposite Bridge Street (recalling the bridge that connected the island with the East Spit).

Evaluation

Ahuriri and the Inner Harbour has special character and amenity value because of its:

- Harbour setting and quays,
- Urban form (including its intimate scale, fine-grain street pattern, spatial definition),
- Collection of historic industrial and town centre buildings, and cottages
- Place in Napier's history and identity.

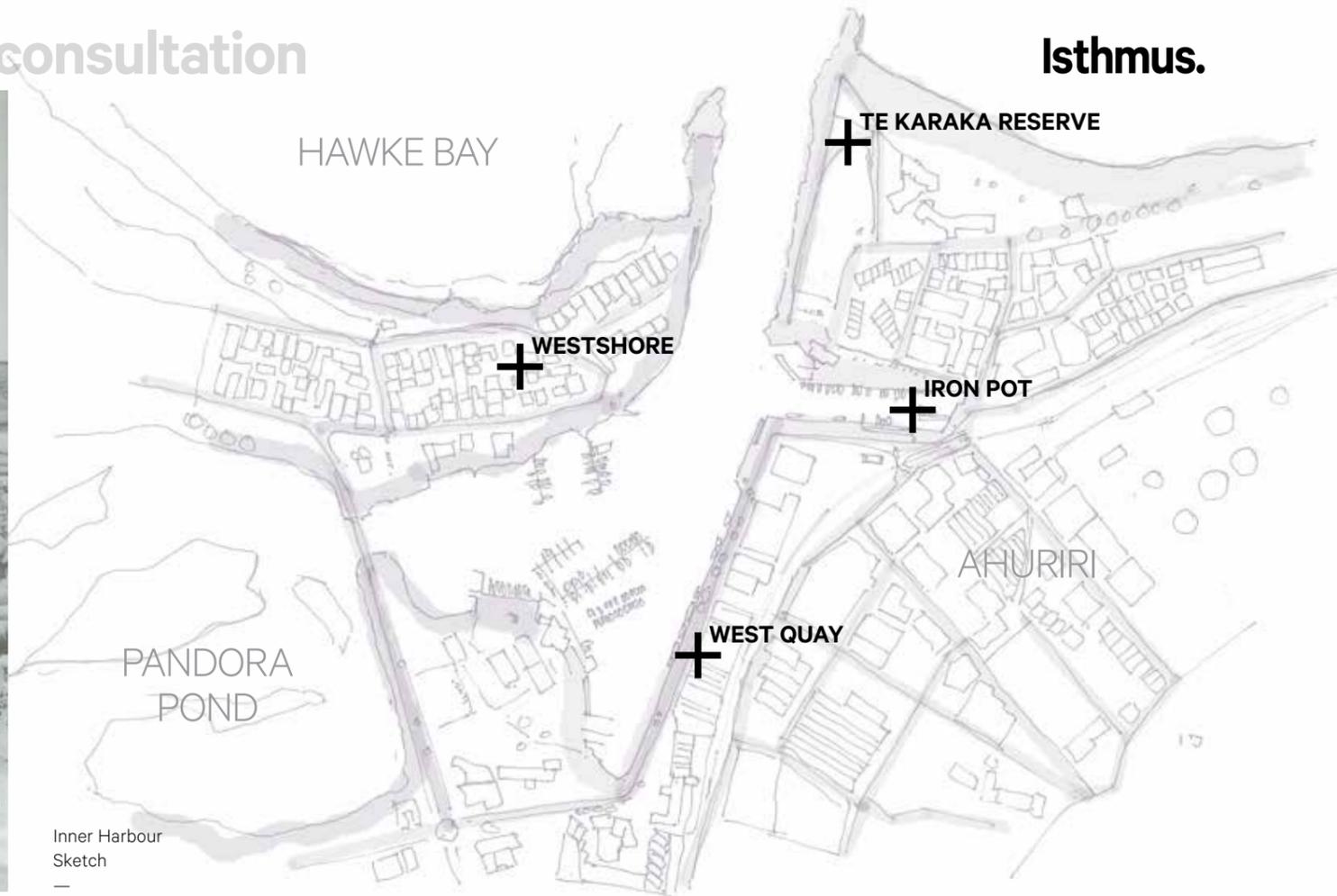
Collectively, its three distinct precincts – the inner harbour, wool-store area, and historic 'Port' town centre – are essential to Napier's sense of place. Its special character warrants classification management although this is likely best implemented as a precinct or zone as a composite of architectural, historic and cultural heritage in conjunction with natural and urban landscape. The provisions for the area should include identification of the landscape values and measures to maintain and enhance their identified characteristics and qualities.

The Inner Harbour's natural character is predominately defined by its urban shoreline. It has a low-moderate degree of naturalness because of the extent of modification. Nevertheless, characteristics and qualities that contribute to its remnant natural character remain very important for both biophysical and experiential reasons.

- Biophysically, the inner harbour is the critical connection between the sea and the rest of the Ahuriri Estuary. All water and aquatic life run the gauntlet of the Inner Harbour.
- Experientially, the Inner Harbour is important to the experiential connections between Napier and its ocean setting: these include outlook to Hawke Bay through the Ahuriri Heads, the rise and fall of the tides, the sights and smell of the sea, the berths of vessels (working fishing fleet, voyaging waka 'Te Matau a Māui', recreational boats and small craft).



Iron Pot - post 1931 earthquake



Inner Harbour Sketch



Historical Aerial Imagery - 1943



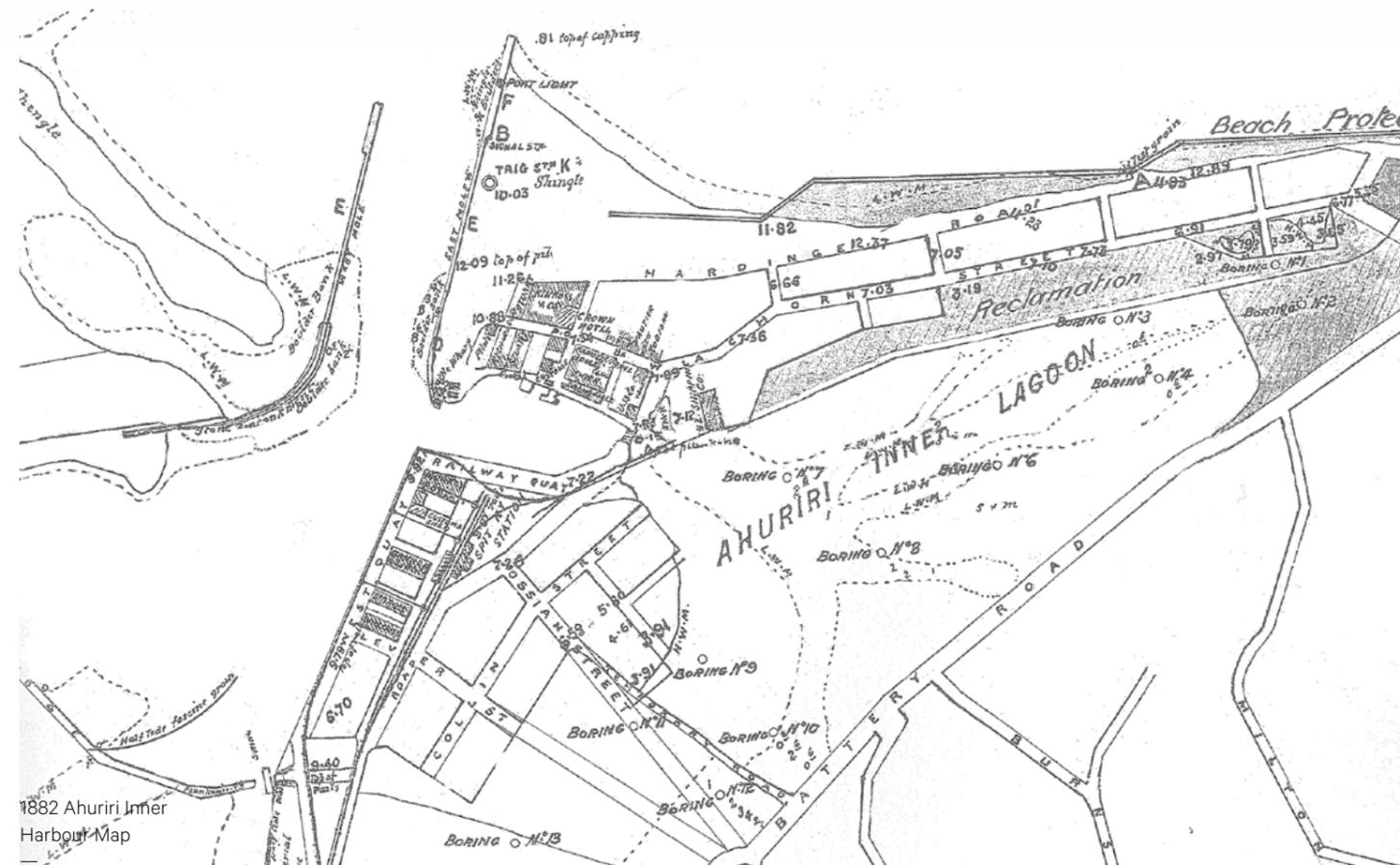
Historical Aerial Imagery - 1948



Historical Aerial Imagery - 1969



Historical Aerial Imagery - 1988



1882 Ahuriri Inner Harbour Map

Risks and Opportunities

As with the city centre, Ahuriri's special character relies on the integrity of the area as whole. It depends on the integrity of all elements that make up the urban landscape (including street and lot pattern, spatial definition, architecture and streetscape), on the relationship of urban form to the underlying natural landscape, and on consistency with the associated history and meanings. It depends on the distinct differences between the different precincts (quays, the wool-store district, and the historic Port town centre) and the connections between them.

The character is sensitive to erosion because it relies on coherence between a number of different elements that are in both public and private ownership – increasing the potential for inadvertent erosion of character. Ahuriri's special character also increases pressure for redevelopment because of the area's desirability.

Potential threats are demonstrated by the following examples where Ahuriri's special character has already been eroded:

- The loss of historic buildings – such as loss of warehouses at the south end of West Quay, and heritage buildings in Hardinge Road and Waghorne Street
- Erosion of spatial definition – such as the setbacks and open car parks with some redeveloped sites in the wool-store area
- The erosion of street pattern – such as at Bridge Street
- The cluttering of streetscape with traffic engineering measures.

The main road and rail link to Napier Port bisects Ahuriri which raises challenges to accommodate heavy transport in a way that does not sever the precinct and disrupt its intimate scale.

It is understood the historic breastwork around the Iron Pot and adjacent quays may require replacement, raising the risk of unsympathetic works.

Recommendations

Recognise Ahuriri and the Inner Harbour as a special character area (precinct or zone) with three sub-precincts reflecting the differences between the Inner Harbour Quays, the Woolstore District, and the Port Town Centre.

Recognise that Ahuriri derives its special character from a suite of characteristics including its natural setting, street and lot pattern, streetscape, spatial definition, mix of industrial, commercial and domestic architecture, and cultural and historic heritage.

Steamers at Port Ahuriri

Compile a detailed character analysis of Ahuriri and the Inner Harbour coordinating all aspects of the natural and urban form (estuary waters, underlying historical geography, quays and foreshore conditions, streets and lots, building fabric, cultural significance, and associated history and meaning).

Tailor the District Plan provisions to characteristics and qualities identified by such analysis including:

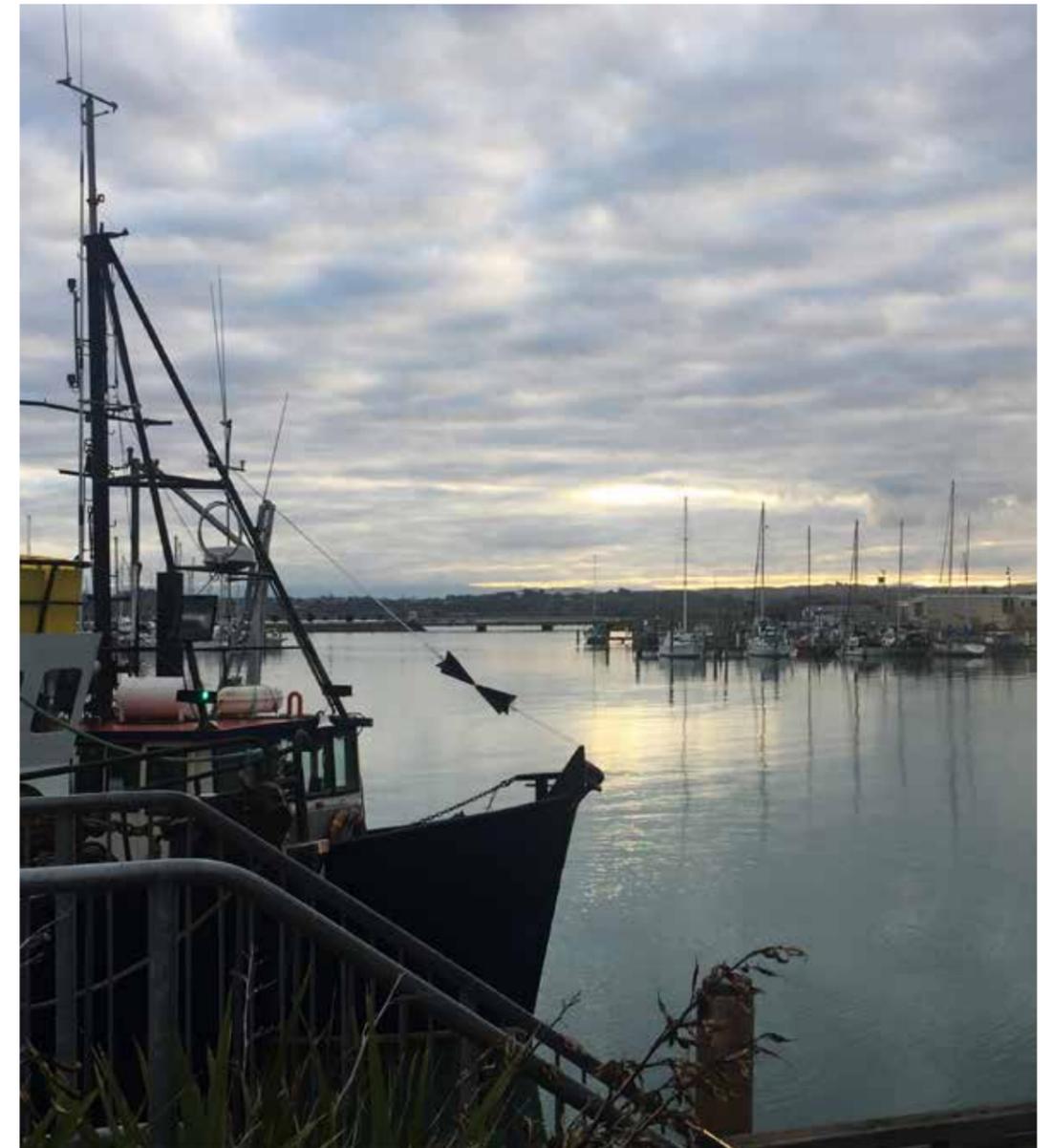
- Quay typology on eastern side of the Inner Harbour (parallel quay backed by wall of buildings, hard edges, working character)
- Warehouse typology in the wool-store district – street connections to the quays, spatial definition of streets, utilitarian streetscape, relatively coarse grain and large scale, industrial materials (corrugated iron), south-light skylines
- Historic town centre character in Waghorne Street – fine grain, spatial definition of street, one and two storeys, signature heritage buildings, mix of building types and activities.



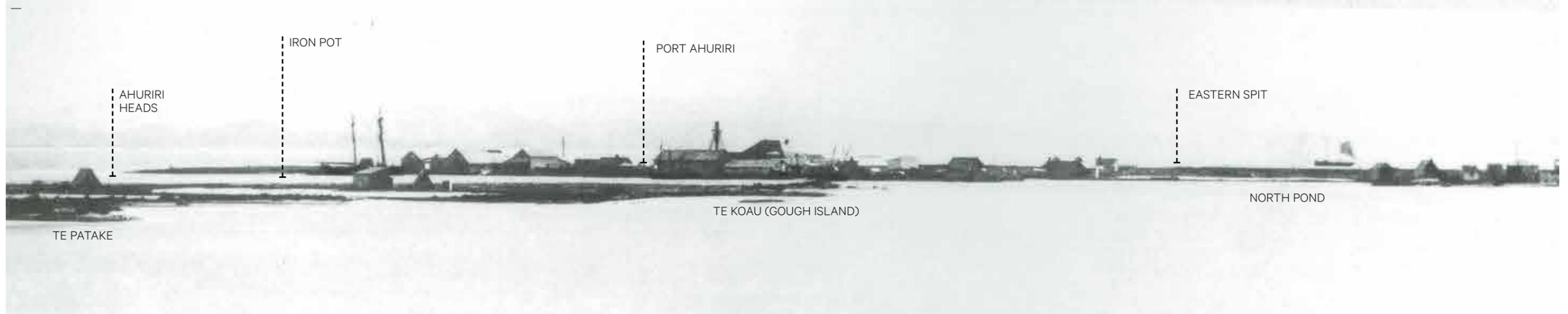
Left:
Inner Harbour Wool store Architecture

Centre:
Remnant piles from western spit pier extending north into bay.

Right:
View from West Quay across Iron Pot



Early photo of Port Ahuriri c1860.



3.7 Suburbs.

Napier's suburbs were master-planned and developed in an orderly manner. The city has grown incrementally like tree rings, with drainage reserves and canals marking the boundaries between successive suburbs. Each suburb, therefore, has its own character. The two most noteworthy examples are Napier South and Marewa.

Napier South

Characteristics and Qualities

Napier South is built on land reclaimed from the estuary of the Tūtaekurī River in the first decade of last century. At the time, Napier had the second highest density of New Zealand cities on account of its being hemmed in by sea, lagoon and river estuary.

The reclamation was undertaken by trapping the silt of the Tūtaekurī River. A stop-bank was built parallel with Wellesley Road and a weir built across the tidal flats on the alignment of the current Georges Drive, the river being diverted into this stilling basin. Following completion of the reclamation, the Tūtaekurī was re-aligned to the current Georges Drive drainage reserve, and the new suburb was laid out as a distinct piece of the city jigsaw.

Napier South, therefore, has clear boundaries and expresses an era different from that of its adjoining areas. Its characteristics include:

- A distinct and coherent street pattern:
 - Nelson Crescent echoes the former estuary edge
 - The other long streets (Georges Drive, Vigor Brown Street and McDonald Street) echo the alignment of the weir.
- Two central parks – including the Nelson Park oval
- Long and narrow lots with narrow side yards, houses reasonably close to the street, and deep back yards.
- A coherent residential style of transitional villas and 'California' bungalows
- Period details such as the entrances to Nelson Park School and Nelson Park, , and the avenue of Phoenix Palms on Kennedy Road,.

Most elements of the character are intact. While there has been infill and some redevelopment of sites, the suburb is still characterised as Napier's transitional villa and bungalow suburb.

Evaluation

Napier South has amenity values that derive from its distinctive history and character. It contributes to Napier's sense of place.

Aerial 1936 showing
Napier South,
drainage works
and laying out of
Marewa



Napier South's special character warrants classification and management although this is likely best implemented through a precinct or zone as a composite of architectural and historic heritage in conjunction with urban landscape aspects. The provisions for the area should include recognition of the landscape values and measures to maintain and enhance their identified characteristics and qualities.

Risks and Opportunities

Napier South's special character includes its history, street pattern, streetscapes, typical lot width and setbacks, public spaces, and domestic architecture. It relies on coherence between a combination of elements that are in both public and private ownership.

The character is reasonably robust. Elements such as Napier South's boundaries, street pattern, lot proportions, and open space are unlikely to change. More sensitive aspects include architectural style, building grain, and certain details. The transitional villa and bungalow character relies on its group value rather than particular buildings – it can absorb change so long as the majority of houses reflect the historic character.

Recommendations

Recognise Napier South as a special character area (precinct or zone).

Recognise that Napier South derives its distinctive character from a suite of characteristics including its history as a reclaimed and master-planned suburb, street and lot pattern, streetscape (including its typical street trees), spatial definition, open spaces and architecture.

Compile a detailed character analysis of Napier South coordinating all aspects of urban form (streets and lots, architecture, public places, associated history).

Tailor the District Plan provisions and assessment criteria to characteristics and qualities identified by such analysis including:

- Transitional villa and bungalow domestic architecture
- Typically modest street setbacks and narrow side yards
- Views between house and street (moderate height fences)
- Garages located behind houses
- Streetscape (including characteristic street trees and footpath treatment)



Marewa State Housing street view



Napier South street view



Marewa street view

Marewa

Characteristics and Qualities

Marewa ('raised up') was a subsequent accretion developed in the late 1930s and 1940s on land raised in the 1931 Earthquake. As with Napier South, Marewa has clear boundaries, was master-planned, and represents an era of development distinct from adjacent areas.

The suburb is defined by the Georges Drive drainage reserve to the north-east and the Riverbend Road drainage reserve (another former course of the Tūtaekurī River) to the south-west. It was de-watered as part of Napier's post-Earthquake drainage works.

Marewa's street pattern breaks from the grid in favour of diagonals and geometric arcs. There is a difference in the pattern east and west of the Kennedy Road spine which is reflected in different architectural patterns and character – the area east of Kennedy Road included a master-planned state housing area, whereas the area west of Kennedy Road was sold to individual purchasers.

In contrast to Napier South, Marewa typically has wider lots, deeper set-backs, and more open front yards with lower or no front fences.

The area has modern architecture styles. However, this is differentiated between the state housing areas comprising cottage bungalows typically with tiled roofs (such as on Russell Road) and areas which include art deco, 'Spanish bungalow', and modern bungalow styles (such as Tom Parker Avenue and Logan Avenue).

Marewa also has a master-planned suburban shopping centre characterised by its stripped art deco style, and setback from Kennedy Road to accommodate right-angle parking.

A detail is the avenue of Phoenix palms which was continued through Marewa to Riverbend Road.

Marewa is characterised as Napier's 'art deco suburb' although this style is most evident in the Marewa Shopping Centre and such streets as Tom Parker Avenue, Logan Avenue and Sanders Avenue. In fact, the suburb has a more mixed – but nonetheless rich – character.

Evaluation

Marewa contributes to Napier's overall identity, including its character as Napier's first post-Earthquake suburb and its show-casing of suburban art deco architecture. It is distinct from other parts of Napier.

Marewa's special character warrants classification and management, although this is likely best implemented through a precinct or zone as a composite of architectural and historic heritage in conjunction with urban landscape aspects. The provisions for the area should include recognition of the urban landscape values and measures to maintain and enhance their identified characteristics and qualities.

Risks and Opportunities

As with other areas, Marewa's special character derives from a combination of characteristics – including its history as the first post-Earthquake suburb and first state housing suburb, its street pattern, streetscapes, spatial patterns, domestic architecture, and mid-century shopping centre. It relies on elements in both public and private ownership.

The character is reasonably robust. Elements such as Marewa's boundaries, street pattern and lot proportions, are unlikely to change. More sensitive aspects include architectural style and certain details such as fencing of street boundaries and streetscape.

Recommendations

Recognise Marewa as a special character area (precinct or zone).

Recognise that Marewa derives its distinctive character from a suite of characteristics including its history as a master-planned suburb, street and lot pattern, streetscape (including typically open front yards), spatial definition, and domestic architecture styles (including art-deco, Spanish bungalow, mid-century modern, early state houses).

Compile a detailed character analysis of Marewa coordinating all aspects of urban form (streets and lots, architecture, public places, associated history).

Tailor the District Plan provisions and assessment criteria to the characteristics and qualities identified by such analysis including:

- Modern architectural styles (art deco, mid-century modern, 1940s state houses)
- Relatively wide lots, generous setbacks
- Garages located behind houses
- Relatively open front yards, with low or no front fences
- Street trees in nature strips

Taradale and Greenmeadows

Characteristics and Qualities

Taradale and Greenmeadows grew organically from cross-roads settlements in contrast to Napier's concentric master-planned suburbs.

Taradale was originally an intersection on routes skirting the swamps south of Napier. It was subdivided for small farms, and then connected with Napier by a causeway route (Taradale Road) following the natural levee of the Purimu Stream.

Taradale and Greenmeadows' geography revolves around intersections.

- Taradale's original centre was the intersection of Meeanee Road, Puketapu Road and Gloucester Street (to Ōtātara).
- A landmark node also developed around the town clock at the seven-way intersection of Gloucester Street (with Lee Road, Peddie Street, Elbourne Road, Neeve Road, Avondale Road) at the north end of the town centre.
- Greenmeadows developed around the triangular intersections of Gloucester Street with Guppy Road, York Avenue and Auckland Road.



Taradale and Greenmeadows have grown from the inside out, by subdivision and re-subdivision of small farms and sections. The junction between that type of organic development and Napier's master-planned suburbs is where the rectilinear streets of Taradale and Greenmeadows meet the curvilinear pattern of Tamatea and Greenmeadows East.

Because Taradale and Greenmeadows developed organically over a long time, they comprise a mixed character and greater variety of lot size, streetscape, and housing style.

Taradale and Greenmeadows are on flat alluvial land. Natural features are limited to the backdrop hills (particularly Pukekura/Sugar Loaf) and the Taipō Stream whose meandering course at the base of the hills is imprinted across the suburban grid. It retains the most natural course of Napier's streams.

Evaluation

Taradale and Greenmeadows' have amenity values and identity that derive, in part, from the organic growth of the townships in contrast to Napier's master-planned suburbs. The local character contributes to Napier's sense of place. It is not as distinctive or essential, though, as areas such as Marewa and Napier South.

Taradale and Greenmeadows do not warrant classification as special character areas, but still possess landscape qualities that contribute to Napier's amenity values and sense of place. The provisions for the area should include measures to maintain and enhance their identified urban landscape characteristics and qualities.



Risks and Opportunities

As with other areas, Taradale’s and Greenmeadows’ character is an expression of historical development including such aspects as road and street patterns, a comparatively wide range of community and commercial activities, the historical subdivision pattern and subsequent lot parameters, mix of architectural styles, typical scale and streetscapes. It also derives from a small number of landmark buildings in key nodes.

The mixed nature of the character means it is robust.

Recommendations

Recognise Taradale and Greenmeadows character and, especially, its distinctive difference from Napier’s master-planned suburbs.

Recognise that Taradale and Greenmeadow derive their distinctive character from a suite of characteristics including its history of organic growth in contrast to the master-planned suburbs.

Compile a detailed character analysis of Taradale and Greenmeadows coordinating all aspects of urban form (natural features such as streams, streets and lots, architecture, public places, associated history).

Include District Plan provisions and assessment criteria tailored the area’s distinctive characteristics and qualities including:

- Idiosyncratic but rectilinear street and road pattern
- Landmark buildings and distinctive public spaces at key intersections (especially the Taradale Town Clock intersection)
- Backdrop of Taradale Hills – particularly Pukekura/Sugar Loaf
- Mix of building types and community facilities
- Variety of architectural styles



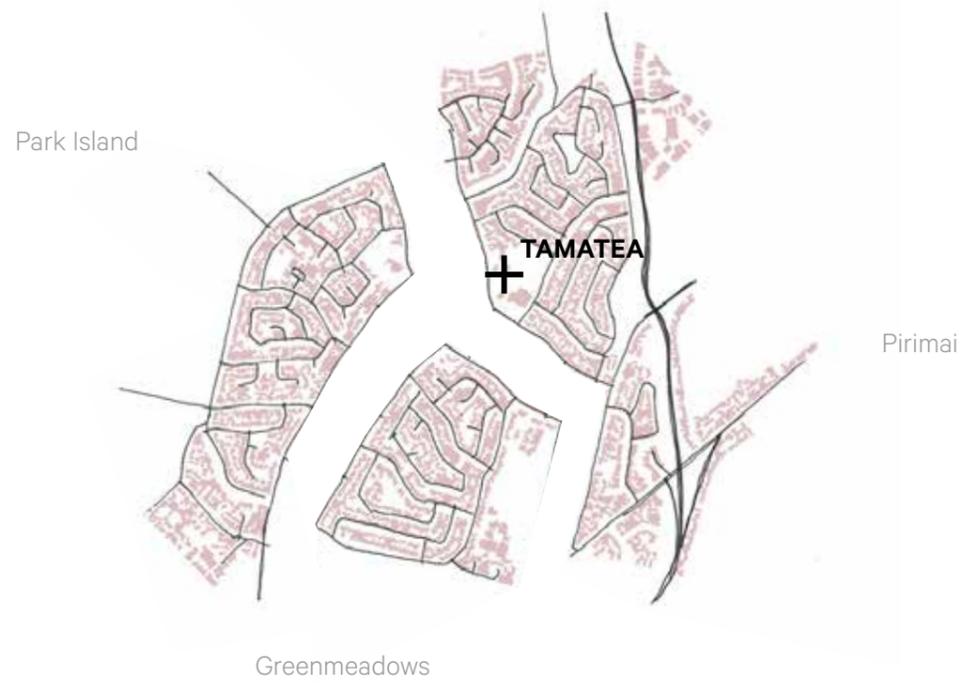
Opposite Page left
Taradale and Greenmeadows
1936
—
Opposite Page right
Historic aerial of Taradale Snip
—
Left
Taradale Mural of Pukekura/
Sugar Loaf
—
Right
Taradale Town Clock
—



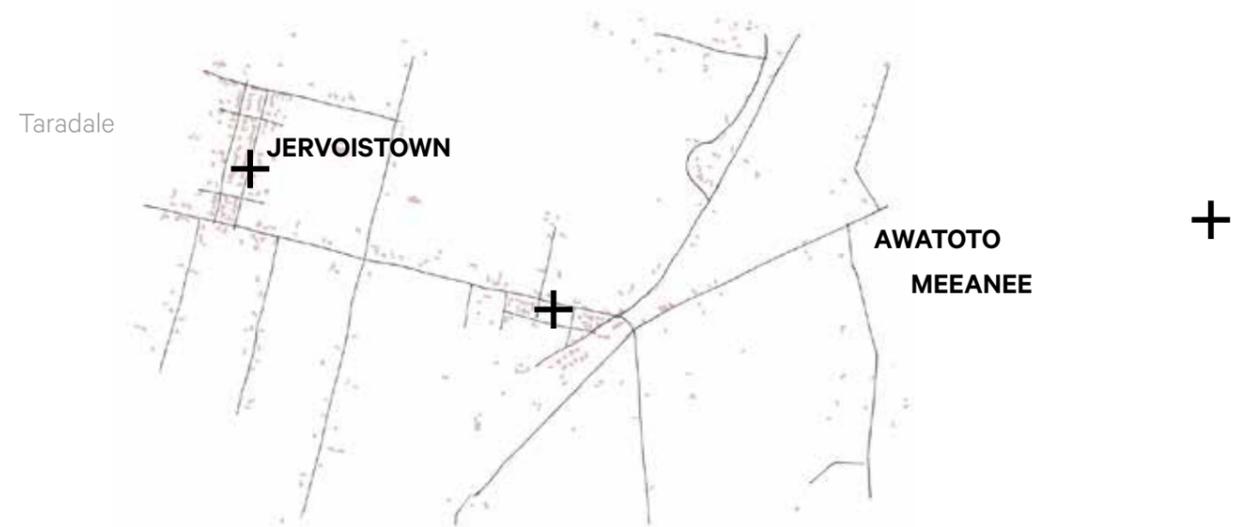
Ahuriri Port.



Napier Port.



Tamatea



Alluvial Plain

3.8 The Spits.

Napier’s coastline comprises shingle spits tethered to Mataruahou. The outlook takes in the scale of Hawke Bay, its unbroken horizon, bold landmarks (Cape Kidnappers, Bluff Hill, Tangoio), dumping waves and the sounds of surf on shingle.

Overview of the Spits

Characteristics and Qualities

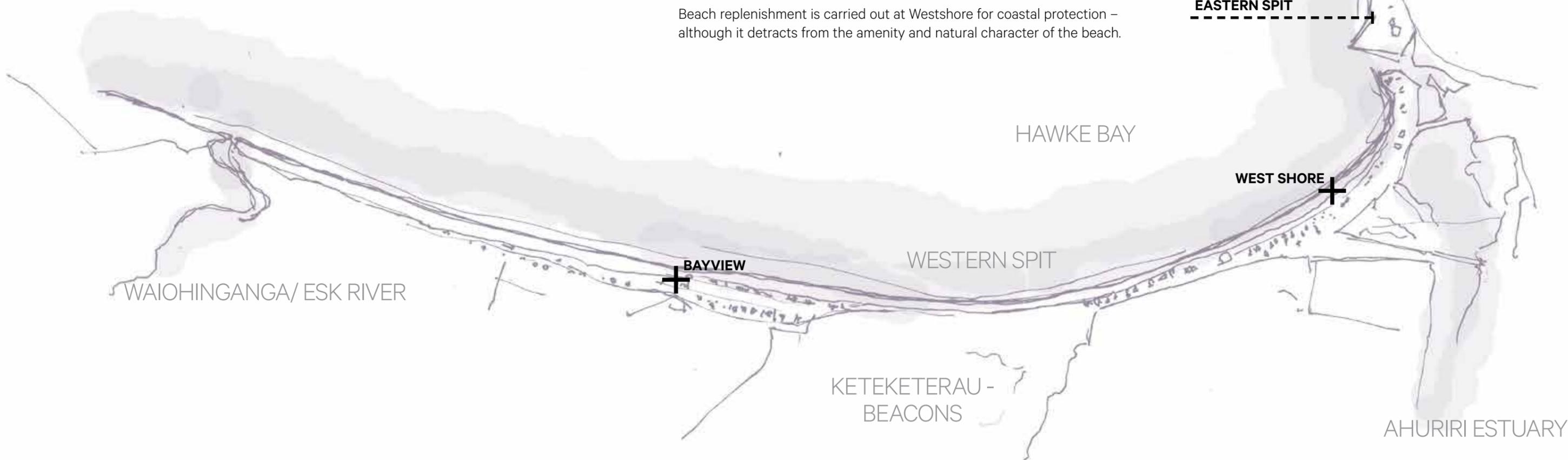
There are three spits: West Spit (Westshore to Waiohinganga/Esk River), East Spit (Hardinge Road Ahuriri), and South Spit (Marine Parade to Waitangi).

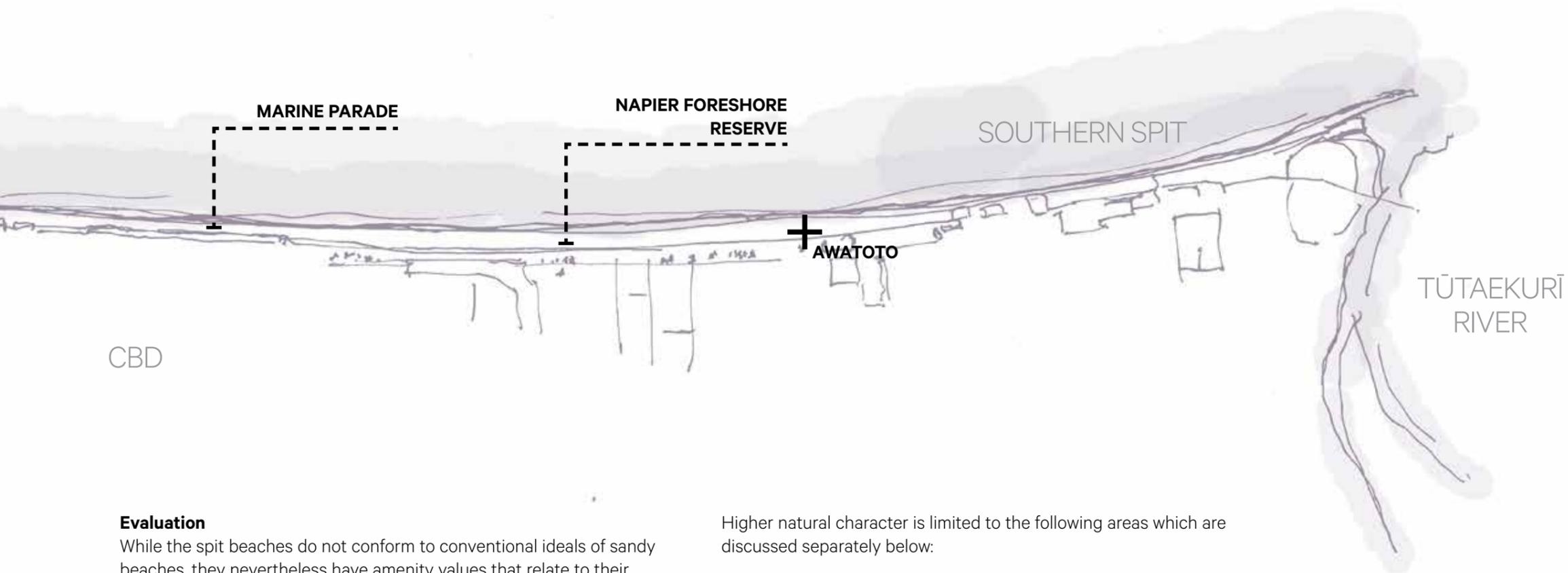
As discussed above, the spits are greywacke brought from the inland ranges by the main rivers: Tukituki, Ngaruroro and Tūtaekurī. The beaches have steep faces and a typically dumping surf.

There are ribbons of development for long sections of the spits at Bayview, from Westshore to the southern end of the Marine Parade, and at Awatōtō.

Rows of Norfolk Island pines accentuate the line of the spits along the Marine Parade, Hardinge Road and at Westshore.

Beach replenishment is carried out at Westshore for coastal protection – although it detracts from the amenity and natural character of the beach.





Evaluation

While the spit beaches do not conform to conventional ideals of sandy beaches, they nevertheless have amenity values that relate to their experiential qualities –the outlook to Hawke Bay and the sights and sounds of the surf. Their amenity values are attested to by the popularity of the walkways/cycle paths, and other recreational use of the beaches.

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character of the spits are mostly confined to the underlying geomorphology, coastal processes on the beach faces, and the outlook to Hawke Bay. There is little indigenous vegetation, the ground cover being mostly a mix of grasses and low exotic vegetation. The only ‘significant natural area’ identified by Environmental Research Institute on the spits is a small area of coastal herb-field in ‘the gap’ at Westshore (a gap in the row of houses opposite the cross-runway of Hawkes Bay Airport). In the urban area the grass is largely mown and backed by Norfolk Island pines. For these reasons the spits typically have moderate-low degree of naturalness.

Higher natural character is limited to the following areas which are discussed separately below:

- Keteketerau (discussed under Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū)
- Napier Foreshore Reserve between the Marine Parade and Awatōtō
- Waitangi estuary
- Waiohanganga/Esk River mouth

The spits in general (excepting Keteketerau, East Spit/Hardinge Road) do not warrant classification as ‘Special Character Features’, but still possess landscape qualities that contribute to Napier’s amenity values and sense of place. The provisions for these areas should include measures to maintain and enhance their identified landscape characteristics and qualities.

Shingle Spits Sketch map

Risks and Opportunities

Potential threats include coastal protection works (such as Westshore), and beautification in a manner unsympathetic to the scale and qualities of the beaches. It is important to maintain difference between the more developed areas adjacent to urban Napier, and areas of spit that retain their raw natural qualities.

ERI identified opportunities to reinstate indigenous vegetation communities on the spits, especially on parts of the Napier South Reserve (see below) and at Keteketerau (covered under the section on Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū).

Recommendations

Recognise that the shingle spit beaches have their own distinctive character and beauty that contributes to Napier's sense of place.

Design public areas to respond to and reinforce the characteristics and qualities of the spits including:

- The scale of Hawke Bay
- The linearity of the coastline and its unbroken horizon
- Openness
- Natural texture of sea-sculpted shingle
- Restoration of indigenous vegetation
- Backdrop of Norfolk Island pines adjacent to urban Napier

Southern spit between Marine Parade and Awatōtō (Napier Foreshore Reserve).⁷**Characteristics and Qualities**

The shingle spit between the south end of the Marine Parade and Awatōtō is reasonably undeveloped. It is broad, high and characterised by deep banks of relatively coarse shingle – reflecting its proximity to the river mouths.

Its undeveloped character is complementary to the manicured parts of the Marine Parade.

SH2 follows the crest of the spit on the approach to Napier and provides important views to Hawke Bay. The area of undeveloped coast also provides a buffer separation between the Awatōtō industrial area and Napier.

Awatōtō ('stream where waka are hauled') was a land bridge between the heads of an arm of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū and the Waitangi Stream which flowed to the then estuary of the Ngaruroro and Tukituki Rivers. It was therefore a portage on a navigable waterway. It was also a land bridge for tracks skirting the southern end of the swamps. Tareha's Pā controlled this junction of land and sea routes in Napier's early days. This historic landscape is echoed in the current roads and can be traced in the subtle topography.

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character include the unbroken line of exposed coast, the raw shingle beach, and constant reworking of the beach face by dumping surf. Experientially, the area is characterised by the simplicity of the coastline, raking sounds of surf on shingle, scale of Hawke Bay, unbroken horizon, and the framing landmarks of Cape Kidnappers and Bluff Hill. The open coastal grassland contributes to this spacious and austere character. While the vegetation is largely exotic, it has value as the northern-most habitat



Southern Shingle Spit

(and sole location in Hawkes Bay) for the spotted skink. Characteristics and qualities that detract from natural character include the highway, the Awatōtō industrial area on the beach crest to the south, and the urban development along Te Awa Avenue – although the latter is set back some distance from the coast on the inland side of the railway line and well below the crest of the spit. The rows of exotic Norfolk Island pines along the crest of the spit accentuate the linearity of the spit and reduce the prominence of traffic as experienced from the reserve.

Evaluation

The influence of natural and human aspects is balanced as described above. This section of the spit is therefore considered to have moderate natural character.

The amenity values are generally aligned with the spit’s natural characteristics and qualities described above. The area has amenity value as an undeveloped coastline close to – and in contrast with – the urban parts of Napier. It is a foil to the developed parts of the Marine Parade, an important part of the city’s approaches.

The Napier Foreshore Reserve does not warrant classification as a ‘Special Character Features’, but still possesses landscape qualities that contribute to Napier’s amenity values and sense of place. The provisions for this area – and its management as a reserve – should include measures to maintain and enhance its identified landscape characteristics and qualities.

Risks and Opportunities

The area is part of the Napier Foreshore Reserve. Potential threats include overdevelopment or over manicuring of the reserve’s raw character.

There is the potential to restore low coastal vegetation as highlighted in the ERI report – while maintaining views to Hawke Bay from SH2.

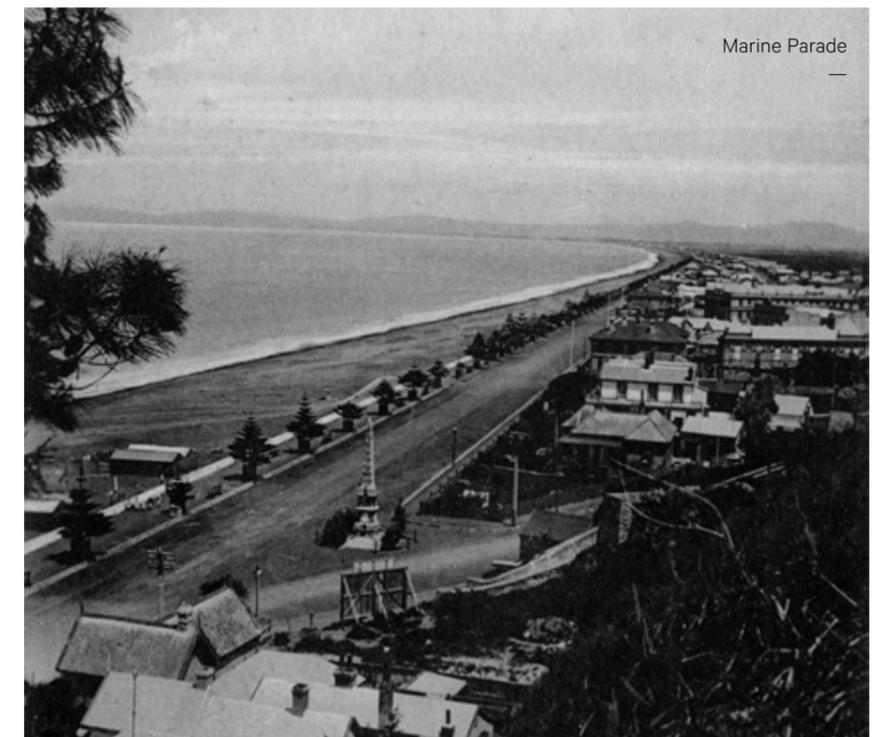
Recommendations

Manage the reserve to promote the characteristics and qualities that contribute to the natural character and landscape value of the area.

- Open outlook
- Uncluttered austere appearance of beach and beach berm
- Avenue of Norfolk Island Pines
- Restoration of low-growing indigenous coastal vegetation
- Interpretation of the area’s natural, experiential and historical qualities

“At Napier sprawled on the Earthquake beach, Watch your children stumble in to bathe on pebbles black as flint...”
 -James K Baxter, ‘At Napier’ (1957)

⁷ Keteketerau is covered as part of Te Whanganui-ō-Orotū landscape



3.9 Rivers and River Mouths.

The Waiohanganga/Esk and Tūtaekurī Rivers are Napier’s north and south boundaries. Although they now flow direct to the ocean, their former courses into Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū are still imprinted in Napier’s landscapes.

Tūtaekurī River

Characteristics and Qualities

The Tūtaekurī River is confined within stop-banks and its lower reaches have been engineered to a shared mouth with the Ngaruroro River at Waitangi.

The river flows over a grey, stony and occasionally braided bed, its channel typified by a sequence of runs, riffles and shallow pools.

Each of the four bridge crossings has a distinctive character:

- Waiohiki Bridge (landmarked by to the adjacent Ōtātara)
- SH50 Expressway Bridge (open crossing in the middle of the plains)
- Brookfields Bridge (one-lane bridge amidst a horticultural landscape – characterised by adjacent Lombardy poplars)
- Waitangi Bridge (adjacent to river mouth and estuary)

The stop-banks and lines of Lombardy poplars in places accentuate the river as a linear feature. Lombardy poplars were once a more common feature of Hawkes Bay’s landscapes, and distinctive rows of the trees remain in the vicinity of Brookfields Bridge, highlighting the curves of the stop-banks.

The stop-banks and vegetation lend the Tūtaekurī a somewhat secluded character where one can experience a relatively quiet landscape screened from adjacent development. Road ends are popular picnic, swimming and occasionally white-baiting locations. At the same time, the stop-banks are sufficiently elevated to afford views over adjacent landscapes. Walkways and cycle paths follow the tops of the stop-banks connecting Waitangi and Ōtātara and continuing upriver to Puketapu).

It is understood that the Tūtaekurī River is significant to mana whenua. It is one of the main rivers flowing into Te Matau-a-Maui, connects Ōtātara with coastal and inland routes, and was a source of mahinga kai. The marae of Ngāti Pārau is located on the banks of the river at Waiohiki immediately opposite Ōtātara.

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to the natural character of the river and its margins include the shingle bed and semi-braided nature of the river channel, and the untamed vegetation (albeit mostly exotic) of the riverbanks. While the stop banks are artificial, they screen adjacent activities and development so that the experience within the river margins is reasonably natural.

Evaluation

The Tūtaekurī River has moderate natural character. On the one hand its lower course has been redirected, and it flows through a completely modified landscape confined between stop banks. On the other hand, its water flows and its bed are still natural, and experience of the river along its margins is reasonably natural.

The river’s amenity values overlap with its natural characteristics. Its amenity values derive from the river flow, natural vegetation, the reasonably natural experience and relief from urban areas, the aesthetic attributes of the riverbanks and the stop-bank paths.

While the river’s amenity values are important to Napier’s residents, the Tūtaekurī does not warrant classification as a ‘Special Character Feature’, but still possesses landscape qualities that contribute to Napier’s amenity values and sense of place. The provisions for this area – and its management – should include measures to maintain and enhance its identified landscape characteristics and qualities. It is recognised that this is a cross-jurisdiction issue with the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council.

Risks and Opportunities

The character of the river is robust. The dominant processes are those of the river, and the stop banks and riparian trees screen adjacent activities.

At the same time, there is potential to enhance natural character and amenity values through restoration of indigenous vegetation along the river margins, and potentially replanting the characteristic lines of Lombardy Poplars adjacent to the stop banks. The ERI report identifies the restoration of a natural corridor between revegetation on the Taradale Hills and Waitangi (hills to sea) as a priority ecological opportunity.

This is a cross-boundary matter because the river is administered by the Hawkes Bay Regional Council, including provision of access over the stop-banks to the river, and the path network on the stop-banks. Napier City’s role is therefore restricted to advocacy.

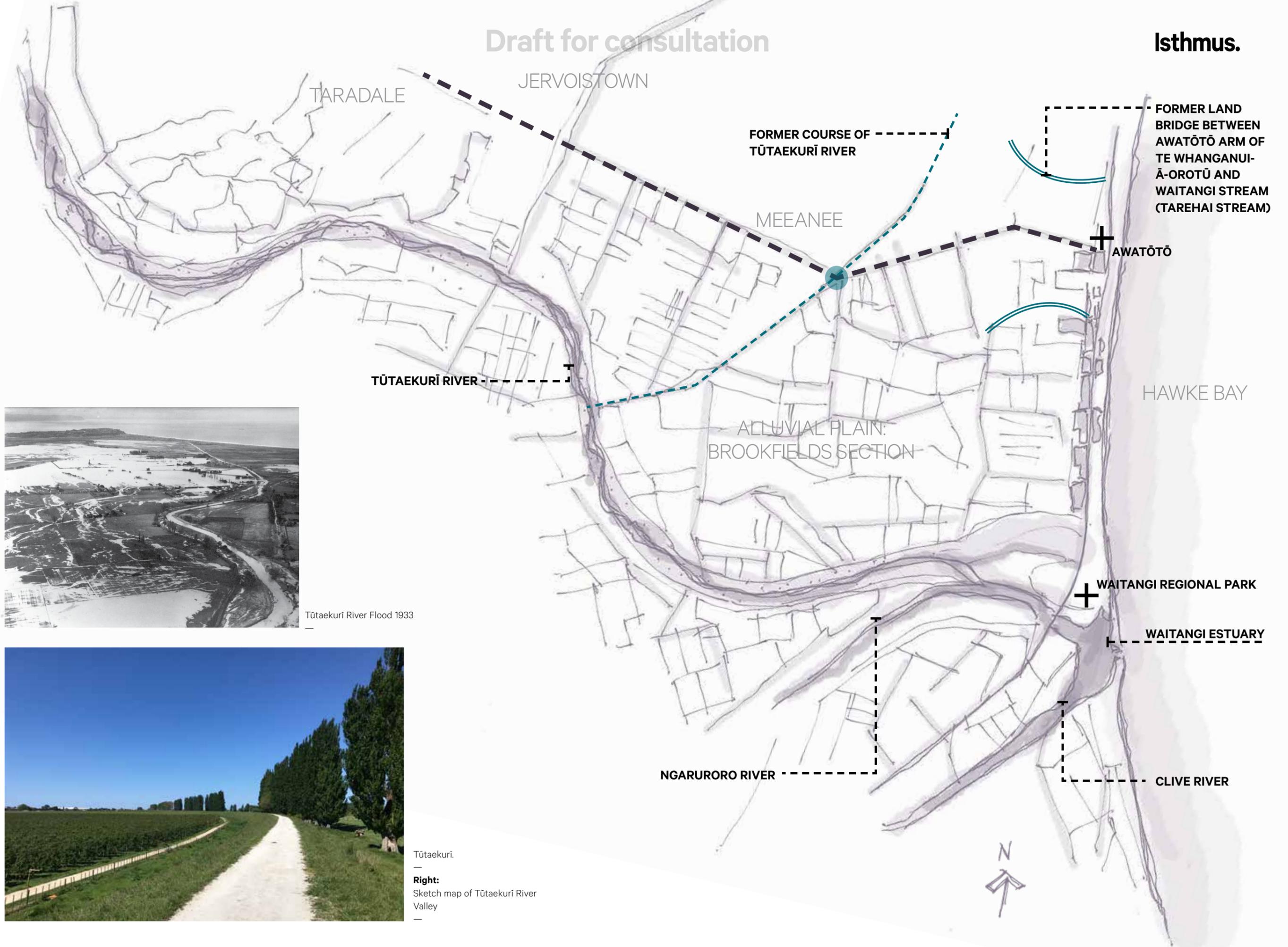
Recommendations

Advocate for management of the Tūtaekurī River corridor to promote the characteristics and qualities that contribute to its landscape value

- Natural character of river margins – including restoration of indigenous vegetation
- Rural character of the stop-banks – including maintenance and replacement of traditional Lombardy poplars
- Continued access for picnics, swimming and long-distance paths.

Draft for consultation

Isthmus.



Tūtaekuri River Flood 1933



Tūtaekuri.
Right:
Sketch map of Tūtaekuri River Valley

Waitangi

Characteristics and Qualities

Waitangi is a complex area of rivers, estuary backwaters, wetlands and shingle spit. Although most of Waitangi falls within Hastings District, it is, however, a single landscape straddling the boundary between the two local authorities.

Napier's southern boundary is the old course of the Waitangi Stream (the northernmost of the two bridges). The Tūtaekurī River at one point had its own mouth at this location but has been diverted to a combined mouth with the Ngaruroro River through a breach in the shingle banks. The estuary margins display the evidence of frequent flooding including mudflats, wetlands, colonising vegetation, and jetsam. Each of the rivers and streams converging on Waitangi is confined within stop-banks.

Despite the river engineering, the area has a raw character subject to tides, floods and surf.

The Waitangi Estuary and lower Ngaruroro River are listed as a 'Significant Conservation Area' in the Hawke's Bay Regional Coastal Environmental Plan because of its value as a fish habitat. While it was not classified as 'outstanding' by the Regional Council, it is rated as having important ecological value.

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to the area's natural character include the interaction of coastal and river processes. The continuous flux is obvious. Experientially, the area offers a contrast between the relative quietness and enclosure of the estuary and the surf-dominant outer shingle bank. There is outlook from the spits and other elevated locations (such as the car park and Ātea-a-Rangi star compass) to Hawke Bay, Cape Kidnappers and the open horizon. The mouth itself is characterised by the interplay between wave surge and outflow. It is a 'big sky' landscape because of Waitangi's flatness and the scale of Hawke Bay. The area has important habitat value (particularly for its diverse fish habitat) which is perhaps most evident in the seabirds, including a breeding colony for the white fronted tern. Characteristics and qualities that detract from natural character include and the evidence of river engineering, the presence of SH2 and bridges, and the Awatōtō industrial backdrop.

The recently constructed Ātea-a-Rangi star compass – used to teach traditional navigation – highlights qualities of Waitangi's landscape including connections between people, ocean and sky.

There are also historical associations with William and Elizabeth Colenso's mission station which occupied a flood prone location between what would have been the mouth of the Waitangi Stream into the estuary of the Ngaruroro and Tukituki Rivers. It is understood Waitangi was regarded as a neutral location at a rohe boundary between Ahuriri and Heretaunga hapū, and it now lies on the boundary between Napier and Hastings. It coincides with the first view of Hawke Bay on the approach to Napier from the south.



Right:
Sketch Map River
Valley's of Napier
Region

Below:
Ātea-a-Rangi Star
Compass at Waitangi



Evaluation

The Waitangi Estuary and its margins have moderate-high natural character because the dynamic natural processes, wildlife and habitat significance slightly outweigh the modification of the area through river engineering, the presence of the highway, the backdrop of industry and farmland.

It is not sufficiently outstanding to be considered an outstanding natural landscape.

Waitangi nevertheless has important amenity values because of its natural characteristics, historical and cultural significance, its experiential and recreational use, and as the location where Hawke Bay is first encountered on SH2.

Waitangi may warrant recognition as a 'Special Character Feature' because of its suite of values that contribute to Napier's identity and amenity values. However, this is outside Napier's jurisdiction as Waitangi is largely in Hastings District.

Waitangi's contribution to Napier's sense of place – including its location at the city's boundary – warrants the Council advocating for the maintenance and enhancement of the area's natural character and landscape qualities.

Risks and Opportunities

Management is a cross-boundary matter because Waitangi mostly falls within Hastings District and is administered as a regional park by the Hawkes Bay Regional Council. Napier City's role is restricted to advocacy.

Waitangi's character is determined largely by dynamic natural processes and is relatively robust.

Hawkes Bay Regional Council have enhanced landscape qualities by restoring wetlands (along with paths and boardwalks) and controlling vehicle access and parking. The Ātea Trust have enhanced perceptions of place through the star compass.

There may be opportunities to further naturalise the margins of the Waitangi landscape and screen the Awatōtō industrial area.

It is understood that tangata whenua would prefer a return to separate mouths for the Tūtaekuri and Ngaruroro Rivers: While combining the rivers' flows has benefits in keeping the mouth open, the mixing of the rivers is at odds with concepts of protecting each river's separate wairua.

Recommendations

Advocate for management of the Waitangi area to promote the characteristics and qualities that contribute to the landscape value of the area.

- Natural character of the estuary margins and river mouth
- Indigenous vegetation
- Habitat quality
- Screening of the industrial backdrop
- Potential to restore separate mouths for the Tūtaekuri and Ngaruroro Rivers

Waiohinga River
Mouth





Waiohinganga/Esk River

Characteristics and Qualities

The lowest reaches of the Waiohinganga/Esk River – where the river emerges from the Esk Valley and loops across the narrow coastal plain – constitute the northern boundary of Napier City.

This section of the river has poor public access and low visibility apart from a fleeting glimpse from the SH2 bridge.

At normal flows the river comprises pools runs and riffles in a shingle bed, fringed by willows and poplars. It traverses an alluvial floodplain characterised by vineyards, orchards and cropping.

Historically, the river had two mouths: The river ponded behind the shingle bank at the coast with the overflow diverting along the Petane Stream to the northern end of Whanganui-ā-Orotū lagoon, and the periodically creating enough head to breach the shingle bank. The two outlets therefore pulsed depending on the amount of water in the river and the state of the shingle bank.

The 1931 Earthquake, though, stranded the Petane Stream leaving the shingle spit as the River's sole mouth.

The mouth is in continuous flux – the sea throwing up a shingle barrier and the ponding river breaching the barrier and sliding into the surf. The interplay between river and surf at the mouth is a mesmerising foreground to a view across the bay to Mataruahou/Bluff Hill. It is an outlook with an austere beauty and exposure to the scale of Hawke Bay. Although there are nearby houses, the river mouth seems reasonably remote because there is no road access.

It is understood that intervention is required from time-to-time to keep the river mouth open and prevent flooding.

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character include the dynamic interplay between the river and ocean. Experientially the river mouth is dominated by the sight and sounds of the surf and ocean. The pond behind the shingle spits is fringed in part with raupō. The river mouth is relatively uncluttered by human development compared to other parts of the shingle spits – the backdrop is rural with houses located some distance away. However, the northern bank of the pond comprises raw earthworks, earth-moving machinery and stockpiles of fill. It is understood this comprises reclamation for river protection purposes. It nevertheless detracts from both the natural character and amenity values of the river mouth.

Evaluation

The mouth of the Waiohinganga River has moderate natural character having regard to the characteristics and qualities described above. It would have higher natural character but for the backdrop on the pond's northern bank.

The amenity values of the river mouth and its surroundings overlap with the natural characteristics described above and, in addition, include the recreational use of the area and the distinctive austere aesthetic quality of the outlook.

Waiohinganga/Esk River's does not warrant recognition as a 'Special Character Feature', but still possesses landscape qualities that contribute to Napier's amenity values and sense of place. The provisions for this area – and its management – should include measures to maintain and enhance its identified landscape characteristics and qualities. It is recognised that this is a cross-jurisdiction issue with Hastings District and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Risks and Opportunities

The character of the river mouth itself is dominated by natural processes and is relatively robust.

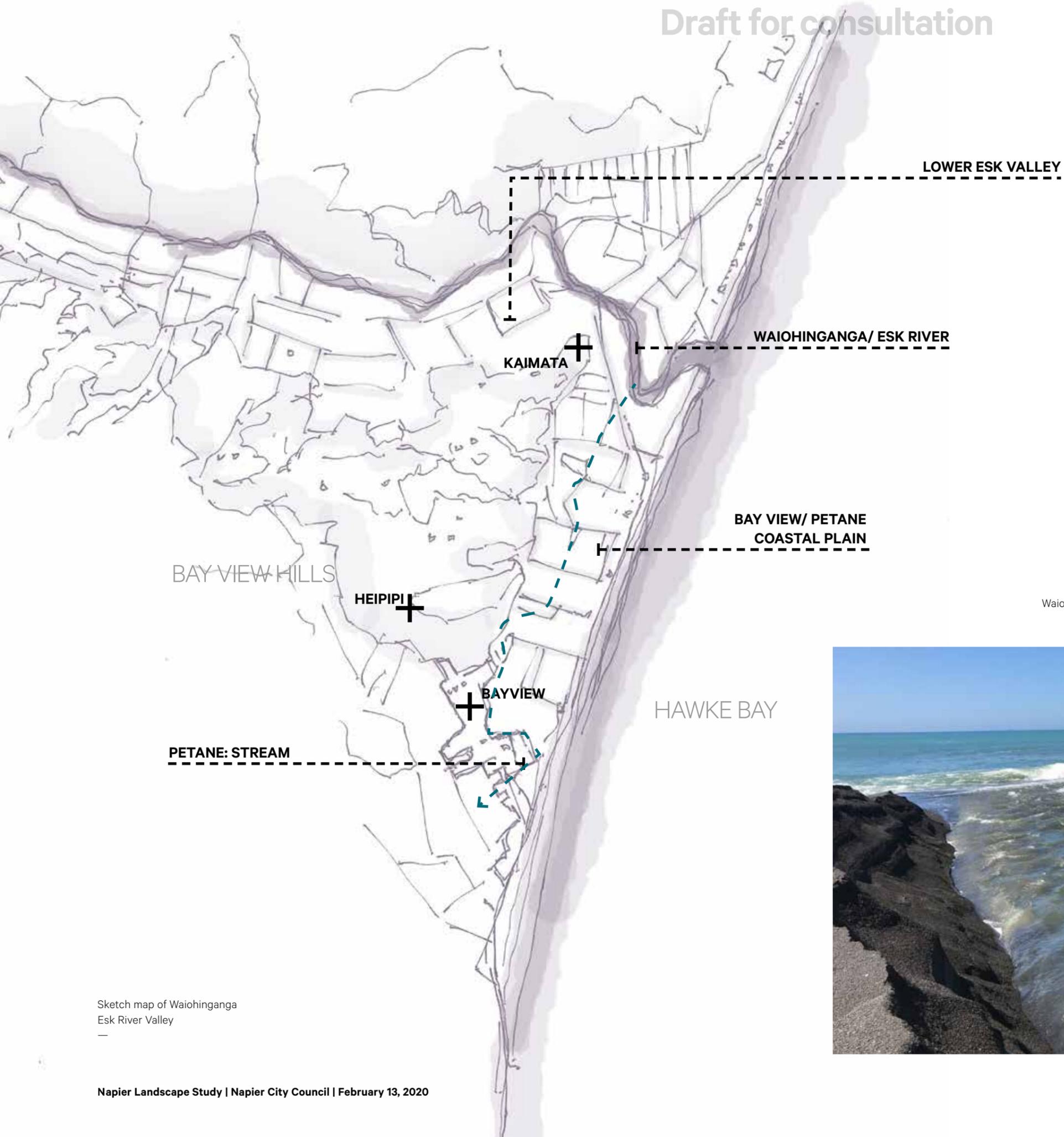
The main risk is detracting from natural character from the land use on the north side of the pond. At the same time, opportunities include naturalising the shores of the pond.

The river is administered by the Hawkes Bay Regional Council, and the northern bank is within Hastings District. It is therefore a cross-boundary situation with Napier City's role restricted to advocacy.

Recommendations

Advocate for management of the Waiohinganga/Esk River mouth to promote its natural characteristics and qualities:

- Naturalness of the pond margins and river mouth
- Indigenous vegetation to the pond margins including raupō fringe and indigenous river-bank species
- Restoration of naturalness of the northern bank of the pond – screening of backdrop land use



Esk River —
 Waiohinga River —



Sketch map of Waiohinga
 Esk River Valley
 —

3.10 Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary and Former Lagoon)

The former lagoon, Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, is an expansive and open landscape that contains subtle former shorelines and islands. It has significance to tangata whenua and is an essential part of Napier’s history, pre-and-post Earthquake.

Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū makes up a significant proportion of Napier’s non-urban landscape. It is approximately 3800ha in area, largely reclaimed through a combination of Earthquake uplift and drainage engineering. To put its size in context, the remnant Ahuriri estuary comprises approximately 275ha.

The Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape includes the following features:

- The lagoon’s former seabed and islands
- The barrier shingle spits
- Western shoreline and backdrop hills
- Ahuriri estuary and outfall channel
- Mataruahou/Napier Hill

The following commentary is taken from the Landscape Statement provided by Tania Eden on behalf of Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū:

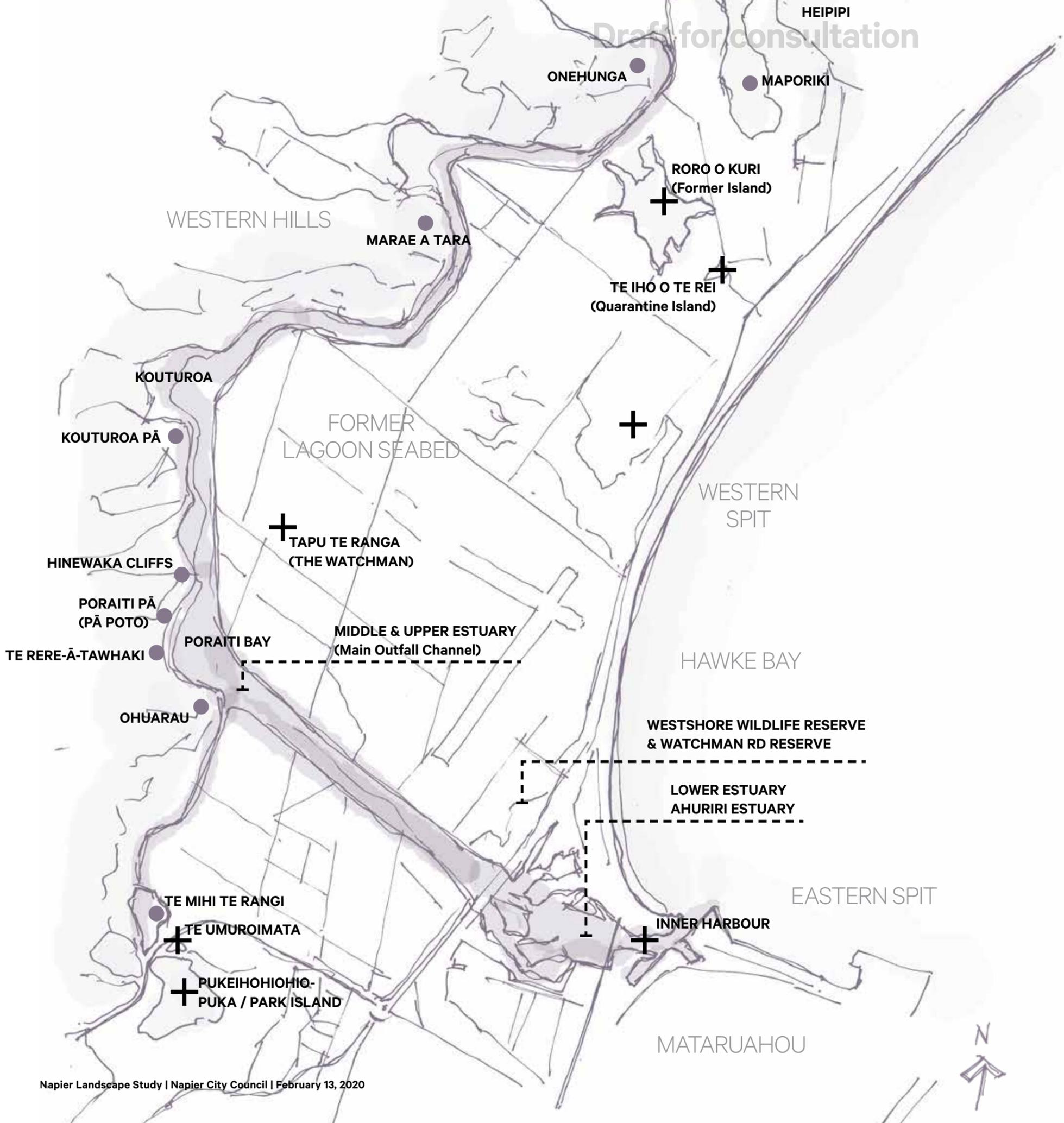
“Te Whanganui ā Orotū holds great cultural and spiritual significance to all hapū of Ahuriri. It is central to hapū existence and identity. It is named after the ancestor Te Orotū who was a descendant of the explorer and ancestor Māhu Tapoanui, who is the very beginning of the Ahuriri people.”

“The area around Te Whanganui ā Orotū was a very important source of food and was heavily populated. Consequently, numerous sites of cultural, historic and archaeological significance are situated around what was its shoreline. The estuary was a vitally important fishing and resource gathering area for a group of interconnected hapū with strong whakapapa ties, a shared history and an affiliation both prior to, and after, the arrival of Kahungunu.”⁸

The Ahuriri Inner Harbour and Mataruahou are discussed above under Napier’s urban landscapes but are part-and-parcel of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape also: Mataruahou as the prominent anchor to the barrier spits and the bastion controlling the southern lagoon entrance – the Ahuriri Heads and Inner Harbour as the connection between the estuary and ocean. The remaining features are described below. Importantly, while each feature has its own identity, they come together collectively as a single landscape. The whole is more than the sum of the parts.

⁸ Te Taiwhenua O Te Whangniui Ā Orotū Landscapes Statement, January 13th 2019, Prepared by Tania Eden QSM MPM





Left: Former Lagoon Sketch Map

Above top: Napier West Shore (before quake uplift)

Above: Napier West Shore (after quake uplift)

Ahuriri Estuary

Characteristics and Qualities

The Ahuriri estuary (referring to the area between the Pandora Bridge and the outfall channel upstream of the SH2 bridge) is one of Napier's most significant natural features. Despite modifications – including perimeter reclamation, dredging, stormwater discharges, and backdrop development – Ahuriri Estuary still has the appearance of a natural estuary. It is reasonably broad (approximately 1.5km diameter), is fringed with salt marsh and salt meadow, and contains natural spits, mud/shell banks and channels. It is still subject to the natural ebb and flow of tides, albeit constricted by the Pandora Bridge causeway.

The estuary is recognised as a strategically important site for wildlife.

- As noted in the first section of the report, Environmental Research Institute (ERI) identify the estuary as a 'Significant Natural Area'.
- Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary) is also proposed as an 'Outstanding Water Body' (the only one in Napier) in Plan Change 7 to the Regional Policy Statement currently being prepared by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Such a classification is based on outstanding values including regard to ecological, landscape, natural character, and spiritual values. While the estuary is acknowledged as degraded and diminished, it retains outstanding values including:
 - Outstanding wildlife values: It has the highest diversity of waterbirds in the region, comprising 70 species of which 17 migratory species. In particular, the estuary is a summer feeding ground for bar-tailed godwit and lesser knot and has high numbers of banded dotterel and Caspian tern. The birdlife includes 7 'threatened' species, three of which are nationally 'critical'. The estuary was classified by the Department of Conservation as satisfying RAMSAR criteria that identify wetlands of international significance.
 - Outstanding fish values: It has the highest diversity of indigenous fish species in the region, supporting 29 species, with a significant number of species relying on the estuary as a spawning, nursery and feeding habitat.
 - Moderate values for indigenous plant communities in the remnant wetlands bordering the former lagoon – although not comprising rare or important indigenous plant communities.

Mana whenua attach high significance to the Ahuriri Estuary as a remnant of the much more expansive Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū and a repository of values associated with the lagoon. Significance is attached to the current estuary's strategic biodiversity and ecological values, the history associated with sites around the estuary, and traditional kaimoana harvesting – albeit the degraded water quality currently curtails such activities.

A walkway traces the perimeter of the estuary, taking in the historic Embankment Bridge and salt marsh areas. According to the Department of Conservation it is used by 35,000 visitors a year and is the most popular of its Hawke's Bay walkways.

Ahuriri Estuary has high visibility because of its location on the entrance to Napier and its adjacency to the urban area. Aesthetically the estuary sets up a juxtaposition between natural feature and urban backdrop. There is a visual connection between the estuary and Mataruahou that recalls the former physical relationship between the lagoon and the Hill. Likewise, the distant western hills backdrop evokes the space of the former lagoon. While the sounds of the city are an audible background, the estuary is placid and internally focused. In this regard it is a quieter and contrasting experience to that of Napier's surf beaches.

The adjacent Westshore Wildlife Reserve and Watchman Road Reserve contain brackish ponds fringed by reeds and rushes. This area similarly has high wildlife values, complementing those of the estuary. Aesthetically the ponds are a landmark at Napier's northern entrance. The recent reconfiguration of the airport entrance has increased visibility and drawn attention to the ponds and their wildlife.

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to the natural character of the Ahuriri Estuary include:

- Its relatively natural form and shoreline
- Natural features (shell and shingle spits, mud banks, salt marsh)
- Tidal processes
- Evident presence of wildlife
- Strategically important ecological value
- Relative placidness

Characteristics that detract from natural character include the backdrop city (for example the Humber Street apartments, Pandora industrial area, container storage yard, West Shore suburban area along Meeanee Quay) and the reclamations that have occurred around the margins. The water quality is degraded from untreated storm water discharges, and the city's wider drainage discharges through the estuary from floodgates upstream of the Embankment Bridge. Dredging has also been carried out in the 'Pandora Pond' corner of the estuary – this now accommodates such activities as board and dinghy sailing, kayaking, and waka ama.

Evaluation

Ahuriri Estuary has moderate-high natural character taking account of the characteristics and qualities listed above. Despite modifications, the estuary retains substantial natural processes and form, it supports a rich ecology and wildlife, and is strategically important for fish and bird species. Likewise, despite the pervasive urban backdrop, the experience around the margins of the estuary is weighted toward natural processes, natural features and wildlife. On balance, the natural characteristics and qualities outweigh the modifications.

The HBRC report 'Selecting a list of outstanding water-bodies in Hawkes Bay' ranked Ahuriri Estuary relatively low for natural character because of the extent of modifications including those resulting from the (natural) 1931 Earthquake. The landscape report comes to a different finding because it places greater emphasis on the existing natural characteristics and qualities rather than divergence from a pre-existing pristine state.

Ahuriri Estuary has landscape value in step with its natural characteristics. It has high landscape value for its biophysical qualities, aesthetic value, historical context as a remnant of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū lagoon, and value to tangata whenua.

While Ahuriri Estuary has considerable value, on balance it is not recommended as an 'Outstanding Natural Feature' because of the extent to which modification and adjacent urban development detracts from its naturalness and aesthetic value. Management of the framing landscape is key to managing the estuary. Rather, classification as a 'Special Character Landscape' appropriately recognises both its natural landscape qualities and the fact that it is inseparable from its urban setting. Provisions for the area should include identification of the landscape values (relating to both amenity values and quality of the environment) and measures to maintain and enhance them.

Risks and Opportunities

The estuary is a Department of Conservation Reserve. It is part of the coastal marine area (CMA) and its margins are therefore within the coastal environment. Management, then, is a cross-boundary matter between the Department of Conservation, Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Napier City Council. It requires coordination of matters relating to the estuary itself, water quality and adjacent land use. There is a risk that management falls through the gaps between separate responsibilities.

There are potential threats to the biophysical and experiential qualities of the estuary. It is sensitive to both types of effect because of its confined nature and subtle characteristics. Potential threats include development around the perimeter, discharges through the estuary, and effects on wildlife from activities within the area.

From a landscape perspective, it is important that the 'Special Character Landscape' include the adjacent urban frame to the Ahuriri Estuary so that it is managed as integral to the health and amenity of the estuary.⁹

Recommendations

Classify the Ahuriri Estuary as a 'Special Character Landscape' – for its biophysical, aesthetic, cultural and historical characteristics and qualities – and taking in the landscape frame to the estuary.

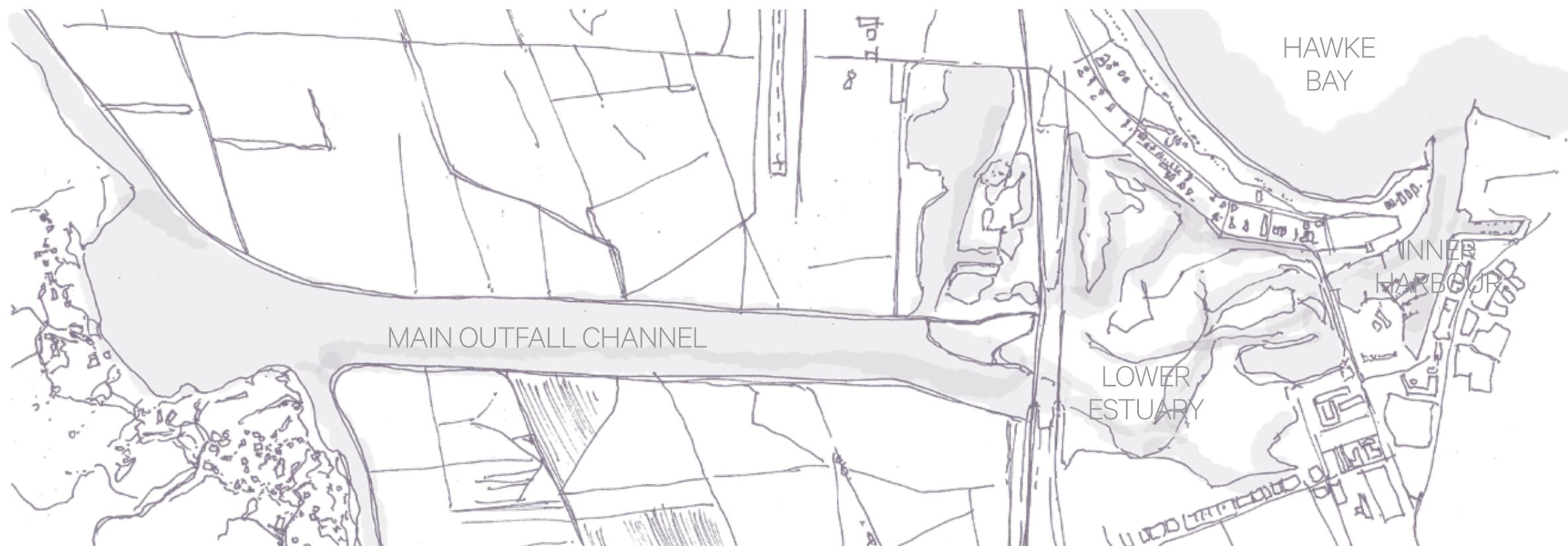
Recognise Ahuriri Estuary as a remnant of the former lagoon and key part of the broader Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.

Tailor the provisions for the estuary and its perimeter areas – and manage those areas in Council control – to maintain and enhance the characteristics and qualities that contribute to its landscape value.

- Natural shoreline and features (shell and shingle spits, mud banks, salt marsh)
- Indigenous estuary margin vegetation and salt marsh
- Screening or softening of adjacent urban development
- Tidal processes
- Habitat value
- Water quality
- Relative quiet and placidness

⁹For this reason it is described as a 'landscape' rather than a 'feature'

Ahuriri Estuary Sketch Map



Outfall Channel (Middle and Upper Estuary)

Characteristics and Qualities

The remnants of the former lagoon upstream of the Embankment Bridge are now limited to the canal-like outfall channel confined by stop banks. The outfall channel is divided into the middle estuary (up to the main bend at Poraiti) and upper estuary (along the western shoreline of the former lagoon). Despite the degree of hydraulic engineering, the outfall channel retains some landscape values.

- The channel contains extensive mud flats and salt marsh, which are part of the remnant estuary's ecological values.
- The shoreline against the western hills is still essentially natural comprising relict headlands, cliffs, inlets and beaches and areas of salt marsh and meadow.
- With the exception of Poraiti lifestyle area in the south-west corner of the channel – the backdrop western hills are rural with relatively few human structures.
- While Napier and the airport are visible, along with the distant intrusion of human noise, one's experience of the upper estuary is of being reasonably removed from the city.

However, the outfall channel has relatively low public visibility. The western shoreline is not accessible (except for a short section below Poraiti), and public access is not promoted on the inland stop bank of the upper estuary. It is a forgotten corner. The main recreational use appears to be the path along the side of the middle estuary between Park Island and the Embankment Bridge, and seasonal duck shooting.

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character of the middle and upper estuary include the ecological value, presence of wildlife, ebb and flow of the tide, natural features of the western shoreline, and reasonably remote experience.

The features of the western shoreline and the backdrop hills of the upper estuary are a key aspect of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū's landscape and are discussed under separate heading below.

Evaluation

The middle and upper estuary has moderate-high natural character taking into account the characteristics and qualities described above. It has high ecological value and, while it is obviously modified, natural processes and experience predominate over human. More pertinently, its reduced extent increases the importance of the remnant lagoon to fish and bird species.

The middle and upper estuary also has high landscape amenity as a reasonably natural area close to the city. It offers a different quiet experience compared with that of Napier's ocean

coastline. Its value is amplified, though, as part of a wider Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape that includes the Ahuriri Estuary, the former lagoon seafloor, the western shoreline features, and the islands.

The middle and upper estuary warrants recognition as a 'Special Character Feature' as part of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū 'Special Character Landscape'. Provisions for the area should include identification of the landscape values (relating to both amenity values and quality of the environment) and measures to maintain and enhance them. It is recognised that this includes cross-jurisdictional matters.

Risks and Opportunities

The outfall channel and upper estuary is moderately sensitive because its character relies to a significant extent on the openness and undeveloped nature of the adjacent farmland and backdrop hills.

Potential challenges to landscape characteristics and qualities include urban development of adjacent 'Lagoon Farm' and 'Harbour Board Farm' land, and potential housing development on the shoreline hills overlooking this area. The latter hills are within Hastings District and therefore outside control of Napier City. The outfall channel itself is under control of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Department of Conservation.



Outfall Channel (Upper Estuary) from stopbank

Recommendations

Recognise the Outfall Channel (middle and upper estuary) as a 'Special Character Feature' in its context as part of the Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.

Recognise the Outfall Channel as key remnants of the former lagoon.

Tailor the provisions for the middle and upper estuary and its perimeter areas – and manage those areas in Council control – to maintain and enhance the characteristics and qualities that contribute to its landscape value.

- The naturalness and undeveloped nature of the former western coastline and coastal features of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū
- Opportunities to increase tidal areas to soften the Outfall Channel's geometry – for instance near the mouth of the Taipō Stream.
- Wildlife habitat values
- Water quality
- Public access on the stop-bank around the western part of the Outfall Channel

Former lagoon seafloor, islands and shoreline features**Characteristics and Qualities****Lagoon seafloor**

Most of the former lagoon is now in pasture or grassland (including the airport land) and is kept drained by a system of drains, canals, floodgates, pumping stations and stop-banks.

The former islands and shoreline features are legible because of their contrast against this flat plane ('green sea').

Its openness means the former lagoon can still be imagined. It has presence because of its expansive scale.

The New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory lists the 'Ahuriri Lagoon uplifted sea-floor and islet' as a feature of regional significance for earth science reasons.¹⁰

¹⁰ The HBRC report 'Selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay' identified Te Whanganui-a-Orotu as having outstanding landscape values on the basis that it is a nationally important example of tectonic processes. While geomorphic aspects are essential to appreciating the former lagoon, this landscape report takes a broader approach to assessing landscape as the interplay of physical, perceptual and associative aspects



Western Shoreline

The western shoreline and backdrop hills are essential to Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū's landscape. The spurs have a north-east trend (similar to the alignment of Mataruahou and Pania Reef) so that the western shoreline is convoluted with headlands and inlets. Their alignment – and the extensive grassland – means the hills display a strong pattern of light and shadow that gives them a contrasting sculptural appearance to the flatness of the lagoon floor. The backdrop hills rise as serried ridges towards the Te Waka and Maungaharuru skyline.

This landscape is an important part of the western outlook from Napier – for example it is a memorable view for people passing through Hawkes Bay Airport. At closer quarters, the former shoreline features are important to the legibility of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape: Although the cliffs, beaches and tidal bays have been stranded by the uplift, the outfall channel still approximates the former shoreline.

Historical maps highlight the density of Māori place names marking the features of the western shoreline. For instance, the 1851 map lists more than 40 place names along the western shoreline – a straight-line distance of roughly 10km. The names record such physical features as headlands, cliffs and bays – and their associated pā, kainga, urupā, landings and resources. The density of names reflects the richness of the area. The Heritage Services Report (Parsons and Pishief) describes oral history and archaeology associated with these places.

It is understood the section of the western shoreline in the Poraiti area forms a significant cultural landscape for tangata whenua, particularly for Ngāti Hinepare and Ngāti Mahu whose principal settlements on the shores of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū were Ohuarau, Tiheruheru and Kouturoa.

The following are noteworthy features from a landscape perspective:

- The small headland and cliffs opposite the bend in Prebensen Drive, **Te Mihi o te Rangi**, is a relatively small and unremarkable feature but for the fact that it has high visibility because of its proximity to Prebensen Drive, is a headland rounded by the Taipō Stream and walkway, and provides part of the context for the Park Island features. It has localised landscape value.
- **Ohuarau** is the prominent headland commanding the southern side of Poraiti Bay at the main bend in the outfall channel. The headland is a natural bastion with a narrow neck connecting it to the mainland. It is prominent because it juts into Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū and terminates sightlines along the outfall channel. The headland can be circled by a shoreline walk reached by a bridge over the mouth of the Taipō Stream. A line of Lombardy poplars highlights the stranded beach below the headland. Ohuarau's location would naturally afford wide views over Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape, but the outlook is currently hindered by wilding macrocarpa on the cliffs. It contained a pā that

it is understood belonged to Ngāti Hinepare and was occupied from the 1700s to the 1820s, but that the pā earthworks were erased by bulldozing during the 1980s.

- **Tiheruheru** was a settlement within the bay with a long history. It is understood Tiheruheru was associated with Orotū and therefore goes back to earliest days of tangata whenua in the area. It was known as a waka landing and the kainga was located on the hill above. The backdrop is now characterised by lifestyle properties, and the stranded beach
- **Poraiti Pā – or Pā Poto** – is on a spur commanding the opposite side of the bay. Although the spur is lower than the backdrop ridge, the pā is prominent within the bay and affords wide views over Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū towards such landmarks as Mataruahou, Tapu te Ranga (the Watchman) and Roro-o-kurī. It has natural defences of steep faces and a narrow neck with intact defensive berms and ditches. The headland between Poraiti Bay and the adjacent bay to the north (Ohingora) has prominent cliffs referred to as **Hinewaka Cliffs**. **Te Rere-ā-Tawhaki** is a spur at the back of the bay, just to the south of Poraiti Pā (see below) which is the location of an urupa of significance to mana whenua. The spur is not especially prominent or distinctive as a landscape feature in its own right, but it is undeveloped and understood to be an integral part of Poraiti Pā, and that it forms part of cultural landscape around Poraiti. Te Rere-ā-Tawhaki was the identifying landmark at one corner of the Wharerangi Block that was excluded by the Māori owners from the sale of the Ahuriri Block.
- **Kouturoa** is the bay at the western-most bend of the outfall channel. The valley at the head of the bay provides access to inland Wharerangi. The bay's southern headland was occupied by **Kouturoa Pā** – whose earthworks are still visible – and its northern flank by **Te Niho** (Te Ngaha).
- The long and prominent peninsula protruding furthest into Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū is known as **Marae-ā-Tara** – a key early ancestor associated with the area. The peninsula was opposite the Keteketerau entrance to the lagoon.
- Whareponga, the former tidal bay north-west of Roro-o-kurī, is enclosed by two slender peninsulas – **Onehunga** to the south and **Maporiki** to the north. Both are distinctive landforms. The latter is now characterised by lifestyle properties.

The lagoon was also used for recreational boating and beaches on the western shoreline were popular for picnicking.

View across Poraiti Bay from Poraiti Pā (Pā Poto) towards Ohuarau and main outfall channel

—
Opposite page left:

View from Heipipi across coastal plain to mouth of Waiohinga/Esk River

—
Opposite page right:

View from Esk Hills residential area toward Heipipi Ridge and Mataruahou



Heipipi - Esk Hills

The 'Esk Hills' – also referred to as the Petane Hills or Bay View Hills – are the most prominent landmark at the northern end of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape. While the rolling summit ridges are characterised by rural residential properties within a revegetation framework, and the surrounding land has a closely developed horticultural character, the steep and prominent hillsides remain relatively undeveloped and rise sharply from the plains.

The Esk Hills also mark Heipipi, a significant cultural landscape. With Mataruahou and Ōtātara, Heipipi is one of three sentinels at the corners of the district.

It is understood the name 'Heipipi' refers in general to a complex of pā and occupation sites on the hills. Three well-defined pā sites are recognised. The northern-most is Kaimata Pā, overlooking the intersection of SH2 and SH5, and commanding the Waiohinganga River valley and coastal routes. At the toe of the pā are two archaeological features identified as waka landings that indicate the former course of the river. The pā on the southern ridge within the 24ha 'Heipipi Historic Reserve' is usually identified as Heipipi Pā (sometimes Titi-o-Haweā). However, it is understood the earthworks within the reserve are only part of what was a larger complex that extended to what is referred to as the 'middle pā' (Ahuta Pā) on the headland north of the Esk Valley Winery.

Heipipi is traditionally regarded as one of the oldest pā in Hawkes Bay, and is associated with tupuna important to the identity and whakapapa of tangata whenua of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. It is understood Heipipi belonged to Whatumamoa and his descendants and was occupied by sections of Ngāti Whatumamoa and Ngāti Awa. Importantly, in the late fifteenth century Heipipi was occupied by the tohunga chief Tunui-a-rangi whose whakapapa traced descent from Tangaroa by way of Pania and Moremore. The oral history of Tunui demonstrates a close affinity with the sea consistent with such whakapapa. One account is of Tunui riding his taniwha, Ruamano, which took the form of whale, through the Keteketerau entrance and out to sea: Such

affinity with the sea as a result of descent from Pania is a theme associated with the area. This includes the protective influence of Moremore who was a kaitiaki or guardian of his descendants occupying the shores of Te Whanganui ā-Orotū, and would appear to warn of danger or ensure that tikanga (protocols) were observed. Moremore took the form of different sea creatures such as a shark, stingray or octopus.

Heipipi is known as 'the pā that was never conquered'. Taraia, who led the Kahungunu move into Heretaunga, was thwarted in attempts, and bypassed Heipipi to attack Ōtātara instead. Te Whatu's lament records this unconquered status:

Ehara taua I te heki I a Taraia e.
He whenua tipu he tangata tipu tonu.
He takere taua no roto no Heretaunga.

We are not of the migration of Taraia.
The land is permanent, the people also permanent.
We are the principals within Heretaunga.

Heipipi has close cultural and historical connections with Ōtātara. Turauwha, rangitira of Ōtātara pa, was also a descendant of Pania and Moremore.

Heipipi – Esk Hills remains a prominent landmark. It affords an overview of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape including visual links with the Mataruahou and Ōtātara sentinels, and a wider outlook over Hawke Bay from Māhia to Cape Kidnappers.



Roro-ō-Kurī has a long occupation as the principal island in Te Whanganui-ā-Orotu, located inside the Keteketerau lagoon entrance. Notable inhabitants included Te Koaupari who occupied Ōtiere, and Kahutapere II who occupied Ōtiere after the Ngāti Kahungunu conquest of Heretaunga in the mid-1500s, Ngāti Hineterenga and Te Hike-ō-Te Rautangata were principal inhabitants until 1760-1780.

The importance of the island is indicated by its retention by Māori owners as one of three reserves (with Wharerangi and Puketitiri) when the 'Ahuriri Block' was sold to the Crown in 1851. (The reserve later passed to private ownership through the Māori Land Court).

From a distance Roro-ō-kurī tends to merge with the backdrop hills, but from close quarters the shoreline is evident and evocative of its origin as an island. The open land surrounding the island and the crushed limestone path tracing the perimeter helps legibility of the hill as an island. The intricacy of the shoreline contributes to its high aesthetic qualities. The 70m summit provides expansive views that enable one to envisage the whole Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape, including the key landmarks of Heipipi and Mataruahou.

Te Iho-ō-Te Rei (Quarantine Island)

Te Iho-ō-Te Rei is a much smaller former island a short distance east of Roro-ō-kurī. It is a small flat-topped hill, with a cliff perimeter rising directly from the plain. There are old pines on top of the island, and a cover of weed vegetation including wilding pines, wattle, and bone-seed. Part of the island has been damaged by quarrying and there is a firing range tucked against one corner.

The island is close to SH2 and is therefore visible on the approaches to Napier.

Te Iho-ō-Te Rei has significance to tangata whenua as a pā and urupā. It was a fighting pā close to the Keteketerau entrance to the lagoon. It also has historical interest because of its use for quarantine purposes. However, its greater landscape significance is as part of the broader Te Whanganui-ō-Orotū landscape

View from Roro-o-Kurī Island showing former lagoon sea bed, western shoreline and foreground Ōtaia Pā peninsula



Keteketerau

Keteketerau is a former northern entrance to Te Whanganui-ā-Orotu a short distance north of 'The Beacons'. It gave direct access to the northern end of the lagoon – including Roro-ō-Kurī island, and Heipipi Pā. The entrance apparently changed location from time to time – there also being a former channel south of 'The Beacons'. The presence of the former channels is marked by dips in the road and low-lying marshland on the inland side of the road. The entrance was recorded a map made of 'Hawke's Bay' by Pickersgil on Captain Cooks Endeavour.

The area has significance to tangata whenua because of its strategic significance and its association with historical events. Its significance is suggested by the fact it is included in the following pepeha quoted in the Waitangi Tribunal Whanganui-ō-Orotū report.

Ko wai Te Waka: **Takitimu**

Ko wai Te Tangata: **Tamatea Arikinui**

Ko wai Te Tohunga: **Ruawharo**

Ko wai Nga Maunga: **Hikurangi, Puketapu, Kohukete, Heipipio, Haruru, Mataruahao**

Ko wai Nga Awa: **Ngaruroro, Tūtaekurī, Te Waiohinganga**

Ko wai Te Ngutu Awa: **Keteketerau**

Ko wai Te Iwi: **Ngāti Kahungunu**

The section of the western spit between Keteketerau and Westshore is the only section not backed by a ribbon of houses, so that the spit is open on both seaward and inland sides. It provides slightly elevated views over the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape and enables a visual connection between the sea and former lagoon.

The open section of spit also provides a brief but important view of Mataruahou and Bluff Hill from SH2 on Napier's northern approach.

The historic beacons add to the landscape character. The two beacons were constructed on a low island and the shingle spit respectively and are aligned to guide vessels through the gap between Pania Reef and Mataruahou.

Characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character include the coastal processes on the exposed shingle spit coastline, the sights and sounds of the surf on shingle, exposure to the scale of Hawke Bay and an open horizon, and the marshland on the inland side of the spit. The absence of housing behind the beach means a stronger experience of natural character compared to other parts of the spit. Characteristics that detract from natural character include traffic on SH2, the railway line on the crest of the beach, the pattern of drains cut in the marshland, and the urban background.

Tapu-te-Ranga (The Watchman)

Tapu-te-Ranga is an isolated 25m high 'stack' west of the airport. Its solitariness and conical form stand out against the featureless plain highlighting its former nature as an isolated sentinel in the lagoon – hence its colloquial name.

It is understood that Tapu-te-Ranga is regarded as one of the most significant features for mana whenua of Ahuriri. It was a place of spiritual significance where the Ngāti Hinepare chief Te Wheao, a grandson of Hikateka, lived. Rituals performed at the island included baptism ceremonies for the first-born sons of high-ranking chiefs. The island was visited by Tamatea and Kahungunu on their odyssey: Kahungunu also mentions Tapu Te Ranga in the pepeha on the previous page.

The New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory records the 'Watchman Island Macrofossils' as being of regional significance. The stack, however, appears to have been partly damaged by quarrying.

There is no public access to the vicinity of Tapu-te-Ranga, from a distance it tends to merge with the background hills, and it is screened from some angles by shelter belts. It is nevertheless an intriguing feature with geological and aesthetic value and regarded as sacred to mana whenua. It also has 'group value' as part of the larger Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.



Figure 130:
Sketch view of Park Island

Pukeiohiohio - Puka - Te Umuroimata (Park Island)

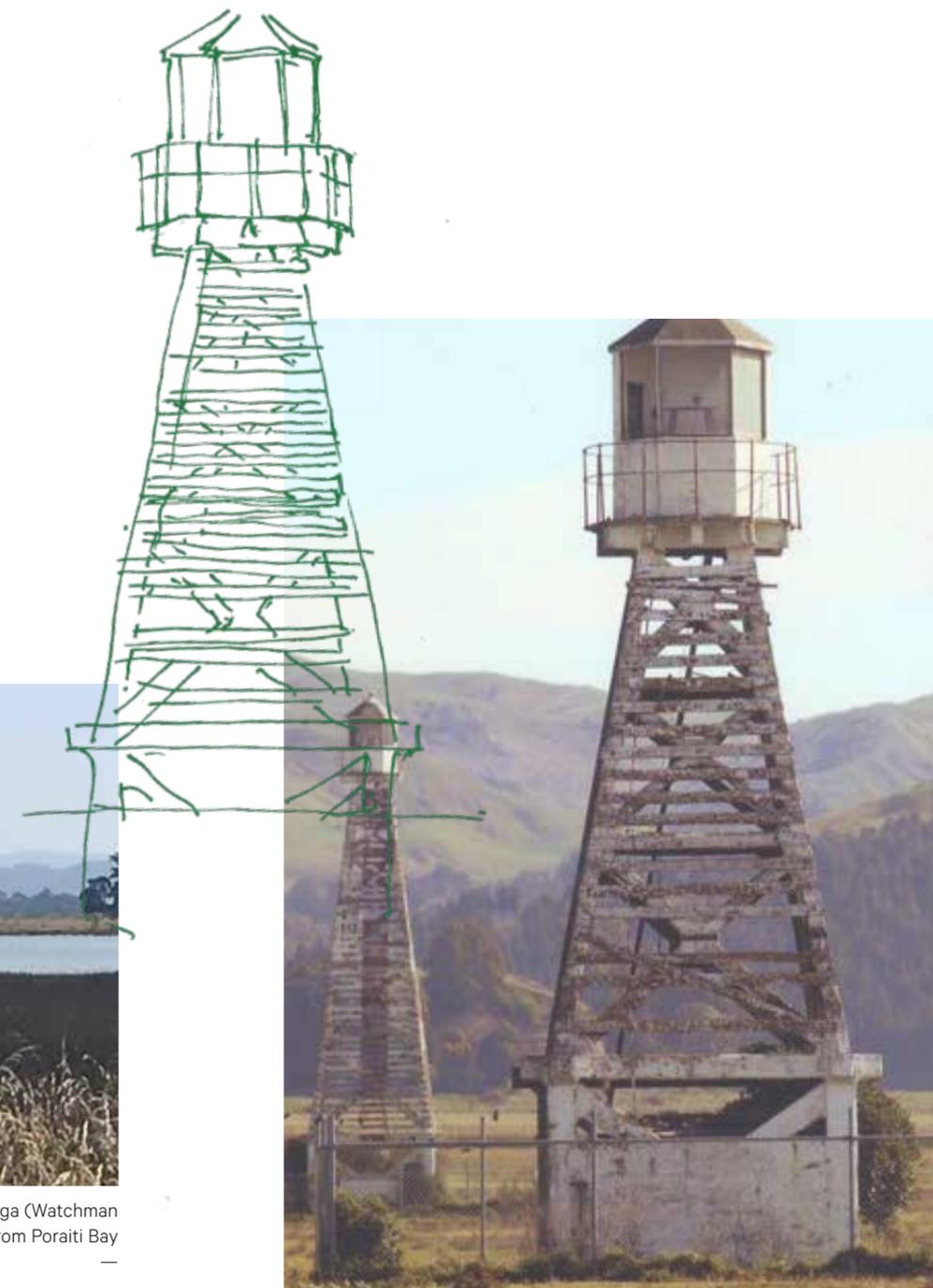
The feature commonly referred to as Park Island comprises two hills, Pukeiohiohio and Puka, formerly connected by a shell bank, and an adjacent small knoll Te Umumoirata. Pukeiohiohio is occupied by the Park Island Cemetery and Puka by the Western Hills Cemetery. They have relatively flat summits and perimeter wave-cut escarpments now clad in trees (similar in form to Te Iho-ō-Te Rei). A walking track skirts the former shoreline cliffs. Prior to the 1931 Earthquake, Shelly Beach on the north side of Park Island was a popular picnic spot for people sailing on the lagoon.

'Park Island Cemetery' was used mainly from 1917 until just after WWII. The quiet park-like grounds are now a place of contemplation. The cemetery includes a mass grave and art deco cenotaph for victims of the 1931 Earthquake. The 'Western Hills Cemetery' (on the eastern island) is still in use. The hill provides an elevated perspective of the former lagoon including views to Mataruahou, Roro-ō-kurī and the former western shoreline.

Te Umuroimata is a small but distinctive scrub covered former islet between Pukeiohiohio and Prebensen Drive. It was located adjacent to the former mouth of the Taipō Stream. It contained an island pā and is understood to be wāhi tapu of significance to tangata whenua.



Tapu-te-Ranga (Watchman Island) from Poraiti Bay



Beacons



Evaluation of Significance

Each of the former lagoon's shoreline features and islands have individual value. While the details vary, each has geomorphic interest, aesthetic and landmark qualities, mana whenua significance and historical associations. They are part of Napier's sense of place including connections with the 1931 Earthquake.

Western shoreline (including Poraiti). It is understood **Poraiti and Te Rere ā Tawhaki** is a landscape of outstanding significance to tangata whenua. Mana whenua strongly believe it is a candidate for an outstanding natural feature. However, it is considered that the landscape in this part of the western shoreline is too modified to be considered as a natural feature under RMA s6(b). The special cultural significance of this area would primarily be recognised by the 'Sites of Significance to Māori' workstream under other sections of the RMA, but such significance also contributes to the distinctive character and value of the features from a landscape perspective. **Ohuarau Pā** and **Poraiti Pā (Pā Poto)** warrant recognition as 'Special Character Features' [with respect to RMA s7(c)] because of the landmark qualities and cultural associations as part of a suite of features that form the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape. **Te Rere ā Tawhaki** warrants recognition as part of the Poraiti Pā 'Special Character Feature'. While the spur is not especially prominent or distinctive in its own right, it is understood to be integral to Poraiti Pā.

Heipipi -Esk Hills is a prominent landmark with high visibility because of its location adjacent to highways at the northern entrance to Napier City. It is also of special significance to mana whenua as a strategic pā and occupation area, with a long history, and associated with important tupuna. The special cultural significance would primarily be recognised by the 'Sites of Significance' to Māori workstream under other sections of the RMA, but such significance also contributes to the distinctive character of the feature from a landscape perspective. The site is too modified to be considered a potential ONF or ONL. Rather, Heipipi – Esk Hills warrants recognition as a 'Special Character Feature' because of its landmark qualities and cultural associations as part of a suite of features that form the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.

Roro-ō-kurī is the largest and highest of the former islands and has the most diverse suite of shoreline features. It has distinctive pā and other archaeological features, and important mana whenua history. It offers perhaps the best views of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape from within. Although modified, it remains a natural feature. On balance, though, it falls just below the threshold for an ONF – it is not particularly prominent from the wider landscape and, although significant to tangata whenua, it is not widely recognised by Napier's community. It certainly warrants recognition as a 'Special Character Feature' in its own right and collectively as part of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.

Ihu-ō-te Rei (Quarantine Island)



Te Iho-ō-Te Rei (Quarantine Island) is more prominent than Roro-ō-kurī because of its proximity to SH2. It is significant to tangata whenua and has some historical value. However, it does not have the same suite of shoreline features as Roro-ō-kurī. The firing range (which, it is understood, mana whenua regard as desecration) detracts from its naturalness and aesthetic qualities. It is not outstanding enough to be an ONF but warrants recognition as a ‘Special Character Feature’ in its own right and as part of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape. It forms part of a localised suite of related features with the adjacent Roro-ō-kurī and Keteketerau.

Keteketerau has significance as the former lagoon entrance and events associated with such a strategic location, including many tangata whenua narratives. This undeveloped section of the spit has moderate-high natural character – natural characteristics predominate over human characteristics. It is the section of the spit with the highest natural character on the western spit. It similarly has important amenity values: It is one of the few places one can enjoy Napier’s coastline free of overlooking buildings, and where one can best appreciate the relationship between the shingle spits and the former lagoon and islands. It is important because of views towards Mataruahou/Napier Hill on the approaches to Napier from the north. However, Keteketerau’s landscape significance is as much the visual connections it provides between other features. It warrants recognition as a ‘Special Character Feature’ in its own right and has greater collective significance as part of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape – especially in context with Te Iho-ō-Te Rei (Quarantine Island) and Roro-ō-kurī.

Pukeiohiohio and Puka/Park Island are arguably the best known and most visible of the former islands because of their location adjacent to Prebensen Drive and their use as a cemetery. They are a distinctive and prominent landmark that afford good views. They have additional significance as an historic cemetery – including association with 1931 Earthquake victims. The islands are not sufficiently natural to warrant consideration as an ONF. They warrant recognition as a ‘Special Character Feature’ in their own right and as part of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.

Te Umuroimata has significance to mana whenua. While the feature is distinctive and highly visible to passers-by, it is small, and its significance is not widely known. It is not outstanding enough to be considered an ONF. It warrants recognition as a ‘Special Character Feature’ in combination with the adjacent Pukeiohiohio and Puka (i.e. as part of ‘Park Island’). It also has collective significance as part of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.

Tapu te Ranga is understood to be one of the most significant sites in Ahuriri for mana whenua, having spiritual significance and formerly being the location of sacred rituals. While the cultural significance contributes to its landscape significance, in this case such cultural significance would primarily be recognised by the ‘Sites of Significance to Māori’ workstream under other sections of the RMA. From a landscape perspective, Tapu te Ranga is not outstanding enough to be an ONF because it has relatively low visibility and recognition amongst the wider community. It warrants recognition as a ‘Special Character Feature’ in its



Right:
Tapu te Ranga (The Watchman)

Below:
Te Umuroimata



own right (because of its distinctive form and associated history and cultural significance) and also has collective significance as part of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.

Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape is greater than the sum of the parts

While the former islands and shoreline features have individual significance, they have greater group significance as parts of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape. This landscape derives its distinctiveness collectively from the group of features and their contrast with the open plain of the former seafloor. The landscape encompasses the residual Ahuriri Estuary and outfall channel, and the shingle spit which is expressed most clearly at Keteketerau (The Beacons). While the landscape does not conform to picturesque conventions and its significance might not be immediately apparent to passers-by, it rewards those who take the time to understand and appreciate it. For Ahuriri hapū, “Te Whanganui ā Orotū holds an elevated status with its own mauri, wairua and spiritually”. It is a powerful and moving landscape of subtle features. It is important to Napier’s history and identity.

The Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape – taken as a whole – is not natural enough to be considered an ‘Outstanding Natural Landscape’: It contains the airport and its associated business park, other infrastructure, and fringes of urban development. While the significance of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū to mana whenua contributes to its landscape value, such cultural significance would primarily be recognised by the ‘Sites of Significance to Māori’ workstream under other sections of the RMA.

From a landscape perspective Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū warrants recognition as a ‘Special Character Landscape’ for the reasons listed above. For the avoidance of doubt, Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū encompasses, but is more than, the ‘Special Character Features’ listed above.

Provisions for the area should include identification of the landscape values and measures to maintain and enhance them.

Risks and Opportunities

Some of the individual features within Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū have a degree of protection:

- 24ha of the Heipipi complex is within an Historic Reserve
- Roro-ō- Kuri is Department of Conservation land.
- Te Iho-ō-Te Rei (Quarantine Island) is Council reserve
- Parts only of Keteketerau (the shingle bank but not adjacent wetlands) are within Foreshore Reserve
- Pukeiohio, Puka and Te Umuroimata (Park Island) are Council reserve

Tapu te Rangi (the Watchman), however, is not reserve land, does not appear to have any protection, and is a small feature that could readily be destroyed. Ohuarau Pā and Poraiti Pā (Pā Poto) are in private land, and earthworks on the former were destroyed.

The identification of the features as ‘Sites of Significance to Māori’ in the Operative District Plan reduces the risk that their cultural values are compromised inadvertently. However, their landscape significance is not currently signalled, which increases the risk that their more general landscape values might be undermined.

Most importantly, the features listed above do not exist in isolation but derive group value as part of a wide landscape. That landscape also depends on the unifying open plain of the former seafloor. Without that context, the individual features would lose some of their value and legibility. To put it another way, the sea floor plays the same unifying role as the water of the former lagoon.

The Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape is reasonably sensitive to development because its legibility and unity depends on contrast between the features and an open, uncluttered plain. Potential threats to legibility of the plain include plantations, compartmentalisation with shelter belts, and urban development. It is recognised that there may be conflict between maintaining landscape values and economic use of the area. For that reason, the following areas are identified as priority parts of the landscape:

- The northern part of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū including Keteketerau, the Beacons, Roro-ō-Kuri, Ihu-o-Te Rei and the adjacent part of the western shoreline and connecting former lagoon sea-floor.
- South-western corner of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū including Pukeiohio, Puka and Te Umuroimata (Park Island), Taipō Stream, Ohuarau Pā, Poraiti Pā (Pā Poto), Hinewaka cliffs, Tapu te Ranga (the Watchman) and the connecting former lagoon seafloor and outfall channel.
- Outlook to western hills from Hawke’s Bay Airport
- The ERI report identifies key opportunities to enhance natural values within Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū:
- Restoring a natural ecotone between the undeveloped section of shingle spit at Keteketerau/Beacons and the remnant salt marsh west of SH2.
- Improving ecological conditions within the Ahuriri Estuary (including the outfall channel), restoring natural margins along the Taipō Stream, and restoring natural connections along drainage reserves to Anderson Park

There is a cross-boundary situation because most of the western shoreline features and backdrop hills of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū fall within Hastings District. While outside Napier City’s jurisdiction, they are integral to the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape.

Recommendations

Classify Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū as a ‘Special Character Landscape’. Recognise that Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū derives its special character from its open former seabed and the collective suite of former shoreline features and islands.

Classify the following as ‘Special Character Features’ in their own right, and as key elements of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape: Ohuarau Pā, Poraiti Pā (Pā Poto), Heipipi, Roro-o-kurī, Te Ihu-ō-Te Rei (Quarantine Island), Keteketerau, Tapu te Ranga (the Watchman), and Pukeiohiohio-Puka-Te Umuroimata (Park Island).

Tailor the provisions for the Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape and the special character features within it – and manage those areas in Council control – to maintain and enhance the characteristics and qualities that contribute to their landscape value.

- Integrity and legibility of the individual features (Roro-ō-Kurī, Ihu-o-Te Rei/Quarantine Island, Keteketerau, the Beacons, Tapu-te-Ranga/The Watchman, Pukeiohiohio, Puka and Te Umuroimata (Park Island), Ohuarau Pā and Poraiti Pā (Pā Poto))
- Openness of the former lagoon seabed as foil for the islands and shoreline features
- Visual connections between the key parts of the Whanganui-ā-Orotū landscape
- Naturalness of shingle bank and marshland at Keteketerau and openness of outlook in both seaward and landward directions
- Enhancement of the outfall channel including opportunities for increasing the tidal areas and naturalising former shoreline.

Advocate for protection of the characteristics and qualities of the western shoreline and backdrop hills that fall within Hastings District.

Roro-o-Kuri & Ihu-ō-te Rei from Keteketerau



3.11 Alluvial Orchard-Vineyard-Market Garden Landscapes.

The alluvial plains of the Waiohinganga / Esk River and Tūtaekurī Rivers frame the north and south parts of the city respectively. In contrast to the openness of the spits and former lagoon, these are enclosed landscapes characterised by shelter belts, orchards, vineyards, and market gardens.

Characteristics and Qualities

Bay View

The narrow Bay View alluvial plain is sandwiched between the shingle spit and the Bay View coastal hills. It is part of the approach to Napier from the north – SH2/SH5 tracing the toe of the hills around the edge of the horticultural landscape.

The former meandering course of the Petane Stream is still over-printed on the otherwise rectilinear pattern of fields and shelter belts.

The area is part of the wine trail and activities based around local produce – characterised by road-side stalls, the wine trail, and businesses with a locavore theme. In this regard, Bay View is linked with the Esk Valley which straddles the boundary with Hastings District.

As discussed, there is a sharp contrast between the compartmentalised landscape north of Bayview and the open former seabed of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. ‘Crab Farm’ is an apt name for the margins between the two landscapes.

Meeanee and Brookfields

The Meeanee and Brookfields area is similar to Bay View discussed above.

The alluvial plain along the former courses of the Tūtaekurī River has a mosaic of mostly high-value soils, and a closely cultivated landscape of crops, orchards and vineyards. While there are some open spaces, it is typically an enclosed, compartmentalised, fine-grained rural landscape.

The landscape supports activities based around local produce. Routes that typify such activities include the quiet rural byway from Riverbend Road to Pakōwhai via Brookfields Bridge, and the route between Awatōtō and Taradale. Meeanee is at the intersection of this routes. The village has potential to build on such enterprises.

Aesthetically, the Meeanee and Brookfields area is a rural foil to the urban area.

Evaluation

The amenity values of the Bay View landscape derive from its intensive horticulture-viticulture-crops, enhanced by the backdrop of hills and the coastal edge.

The amenity values of the landscape around Meeanee and Brookfields similarly derive from its intensive horticulture-viticulture-crops.

Both landscapes contribute (together with the Mission and Church Road) to Napier’s identification with local food and wine. Aesthetically, both are a rural foil to the urban landscapes.

Bay View, Meeanee and Brookfields do not warrant classification as special character areas, but their productive landscapes still possess qualities that contribute to Napier’s amenity values and sense of place. The provisions for these areas should include measures to maintain and enhance their identified landscape characteristics and qualities.

Risks and Opportunities

Potential threats include erosion of the productive activities – and the resultant erosion of amenity values – through developments unrelated to rural production such as life-style subdivision and peri-urban activities. Such erosion of amenity values could arise inadvertently through provisions that are not tailored to the characteristics and qualities of the area. Such inappropriate development could also give rise to reverse sensitivity effects impacting on rural production.

However, there is potential to leverage visitor activities tailored to experience of the productive rural character.

Recommendations Recognise the contribution of the productive nature of the area to amenity values, including to Napier’s identity and tourism.

Manage the areas to promote horticulture-viticulture-cropping and avoid erosion of primary production, while providing for visitor activities directly related to local produce.

Include District Plan provisions and assessment criteria tailored the area’s distinctive characteristics and qualities including:

- Rural character typified by intensive horticulture-viticulture-cropping.
- Compartmentalised pattern of fields and shelterbelts.
- Rural hill backdrop and ocean outlook.
- Buildings that retain rural character having regard to numbers, density, scale and appearance.
- Visitor activities directly based around local produce and experience of a productive rural landscape.

Source: Crab Farm. Crab Farm
Vineyard on edge of Lagoon

Below:
Meanee Plains Poplar Row



3.12 The Taradale Hills.

Characteristics and Qualities

While they are only of moderate stature – typically rising to around 100m – the Taradale hills rise abruptly from the coastal plain and provide a backdrop to the city.

This section of the report focuses on the hills behind Greenmeadows and Taradale. While the hills north of Poraiti are equally important, they form part of Te Whanganui-ō-Ōrotu landscape discussed above and also mostly lie within Hastings District.

Geologically, the western hills are former seabed of alternating limestone, sandstone, mudstone and conglomerate. They are long and undulating with subtle skyline features – the notable exceptions being Pukekura/Sugar Loaf and Ōtātara-Hikurangi.

Historically grazed or planted in small pine plantations, the hills now support considerable residential and rural-residential development. However, while there are some prominent individual houses, the hills mostly retain a natural skyline and reasonably natural backdrop. The more intensive residential areas – such as at Ōtātara Heights, Kent Terrace and Cumberland Rise – are generally located on lower spurs or are tucked in valleys. Much of the rural residential development is also visually absorbed by extensive revegetation, and the planned residential development in the Mission Special Character Zone is to be located so that a treed scarp maintains a natural backdrop to Greenmeadows.

The hills contain several walking tracks although these are yet to be joined in a continuous network. Such tracks provide an important perspective over the city.

The following section of the report describes different areas and features of the Taradale hills in more detail:



Taradale School Onion Patch

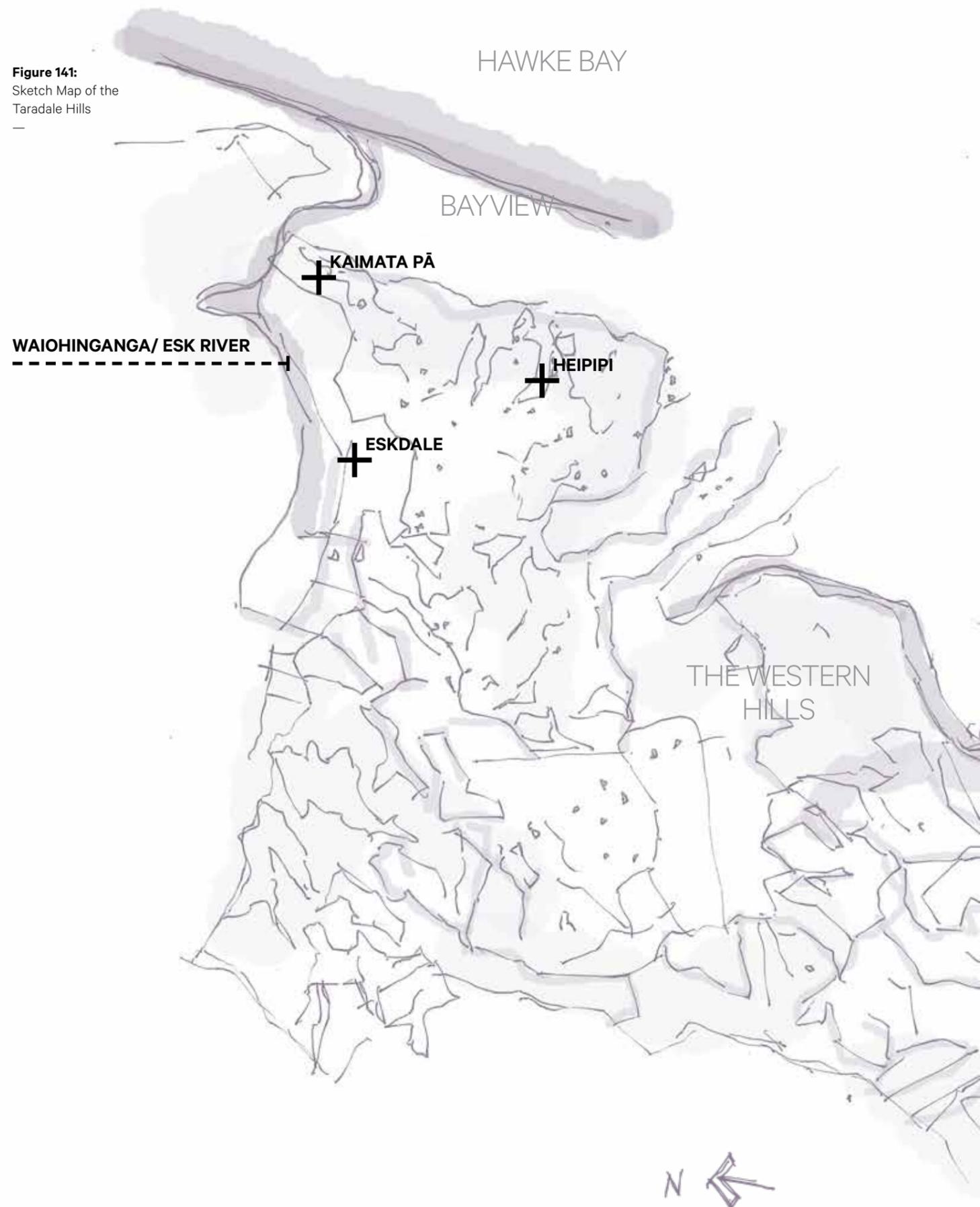


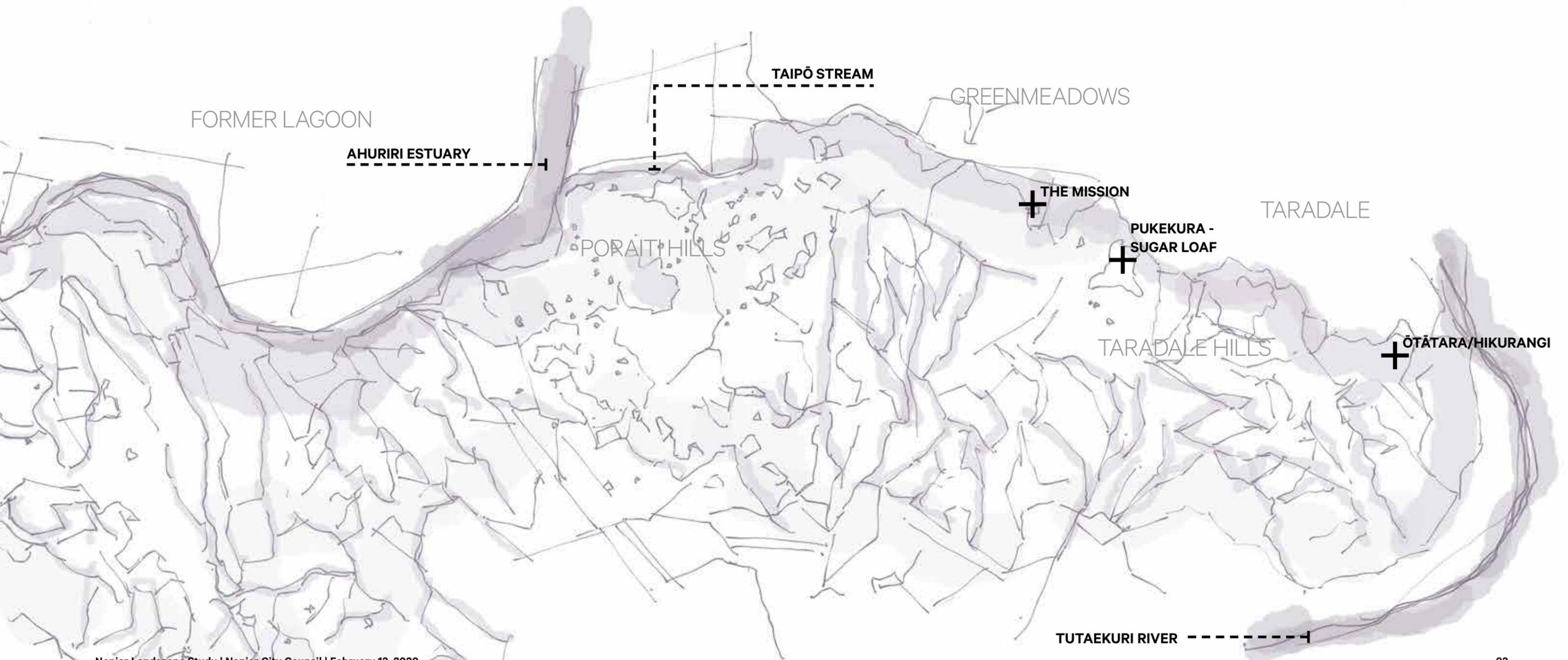
Figure 141:
Sketch Map of the
Taradale Hills



St Mary Seminary, The Mission (Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery)



The Mission Vineyard (Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery)



Ōtātara

Ōtātara is the bastion at the southern end of the Taradale hills. It commanded the southern approach to Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū.

Ōtātara is slightly older and harder rock than the rest of the Taradale hills: It is 'Scinde Formation' rock on a NE alignment with Mataruahou and Pania Reef.

Ōtātara is a prominent landmark. Although it is part of the long western skyline, it is amongst the highest and bulkiest of the Taradale hills, forming a bulwark or 'book-end'. It is a landmark from the Heretaunga Plains and SH50 to the south. It is (together with Sugar Loaf) an identifying landmark backdropping Taradale. It is the focus of views along Gloucester Street between Greenmeadows and Taradale.

Likewise, Ōtātara affords wide views. These take in key landmarks of Mataruahou, Heipipi, Hawke Bay, Cape Kidnappers, Te Mata, Kohinerakau and Kahuranaki. It is a strategic location controlling historical routes and resources including the northern end of the Heretaunga Plains, the Tūtaekurī River, and Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. It is the landmark above the Waiohiki Bridge and the marae and kainga of Ngāti Pārau (see photo page 101).

The hill contains two adjacent pā (the upper Hikurangi Pā and the lower Ōtātara Pā), collectively referred to as Ōtātara, the earthworks of which sprawl extensively over the ridges and spurs. The defensive works cover approximately 40ha, one of the largest pā complexes in

Hawke's Bay. Part of the lower Ōtātara Pā was destroyed through quarrying of the spur for road metal. Palisades erected on the former 'Redclyffes' quarry are now a local landmark, but the main pā complex is more subtly etched over a very large area extending up on to the main skyline ridges.

There is significant Māori history associated with Ōtātara. It is regarded as one of the oldest, largest and most important pā in the area. It is associated with important tupuna, and especially with the critical battles that established Ngāti Kahungunu in the area. It is understood that those associated with Ōtātara are descendants of the first people of the area, tracing descent from Toi to the explorer Māhu Tapoanui to Orotū who gave his name to Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, to his son Whatumamoa who settled in the area, and eventually to Turauwha who was the principal rangitira at Ōtātara when Taraia, son of Kahungunu, invaded Heretaunga around 1550. Between that time and the 1820s, Ōtātara remained one of the dominant centres of Māori life in Hawke's Bay. It is understood that all Heretaunga tangata whenua are associated through whakapapa with Ōtātara.

Ōtātara and Hikurangi are closely associated with Heipipi at the opposite end of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. The following pepeha highlights their significance.

Ko Ōtātara, Hikurangi me Heipipi ngā maunga
 Ko Tūtaekurī te awa
 Ko Takitimu te waka
 Ko Ngāti Kahungunu ki Ahuriri te iwi
 Tihei Kahungunu!

Taradale



Pukekura/Sugar Loaf

Pukekura/Sugar Loaf is the most distinctive knoll on the Taradale skyline.

Although not much higher than the nearby hills, Sugar Loaf is prominent and memorable because it stands forward of the main ridge and has a distinctive symmetrical shape with steep sides and a flat summit. Its pasture cover helps accentuate its profile.

Sugar Loaf is an emblem for Taradale – its memorable form adopted as a logo for organisations and businesses.

The summit reserve, reached by a short, steep climb, provides expansive views over Taradale towards Napier and the coast, and also inland over hill country toward the Kaweka Ranges. It is a destination lookout. Its views include the key sentinels of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Heipipi, Mataruahou and Ōtātara), the foreground landmarks at Park Island (Pukeiohiohio and Puka), and the distant backdrop of Te Matau-a-Maui/Hawke Bay.

Pukekura was the site of a pā, although there are few earthworks evident. The Heritage Services Report records information that the hill may have been the site of a whare wānanga, a place of instruction for tohunga, which were commonly located at places considered to have spiritual significance.

The Mission landscape including Pukekura/Sugar Loaf



The Mission

The Mission is a distinctive historical landscape at the north end of the Taradale Hills comprising the former Marist Brothers seminary and its mixed farm and winery.

The landscape is an amphitheatre framed by spurs. Aesthetically it is a composition of vineyard on the valley floor, historic buildings on a terrace overlooking the vineyard, and backdrop of bold hills. Each of the three compositional elements conforms to landform, and creates a foreground, middle-ground and background perspective that contributes to its aesthetic coherence.

Other details that add to the memorability of the landscape include an avenue of pollard planes trees, Pukekura/Sugar Loaf (which is part of the backdrop) and the meanders of the Taipō Stream overprinted on the rows of vines.

The Mission has historical significance associated with the seminary and its pioneering role in New Zealand's wine industry. It attracts visitors – together with the adjacent McDonalds (Church Road) winery – as part of the wine trails.

Panorama from Pukekura/Sugar Loaf



Poraiti

(Refer to the earlier section on Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū for assessment of the former coastal landforms in the context of the former lagoon landscape. The following is a brief commentary on the hills inland of this edge in the context of the Taradale hills).

Poraiti is an established lifestyle landscape at the north end of the Taradale hills – overlapping with the backdrop to the south-west corner of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū.

The hills are relatively lower – typically in the order of 40m-60m high – so that they are generally less prominent than the rest of the Taradale hills.

The roads and houses typically follow the ridges and spurs of a picturesque and fine-grained topography of small valleys and steep-sided hills. The landscape is a well-treed patchwork of farmlets and lifestyle properties – although some recent rural residential subdivision that has occurred further west (for instance Rotowhenua Road) has had insufficient time to be softened by trees.

Lake Rotowhenua is a wetland that has been identified as a significant natural area, although in landscape terms it is a localised and relatively incidental feature.

Evaluation

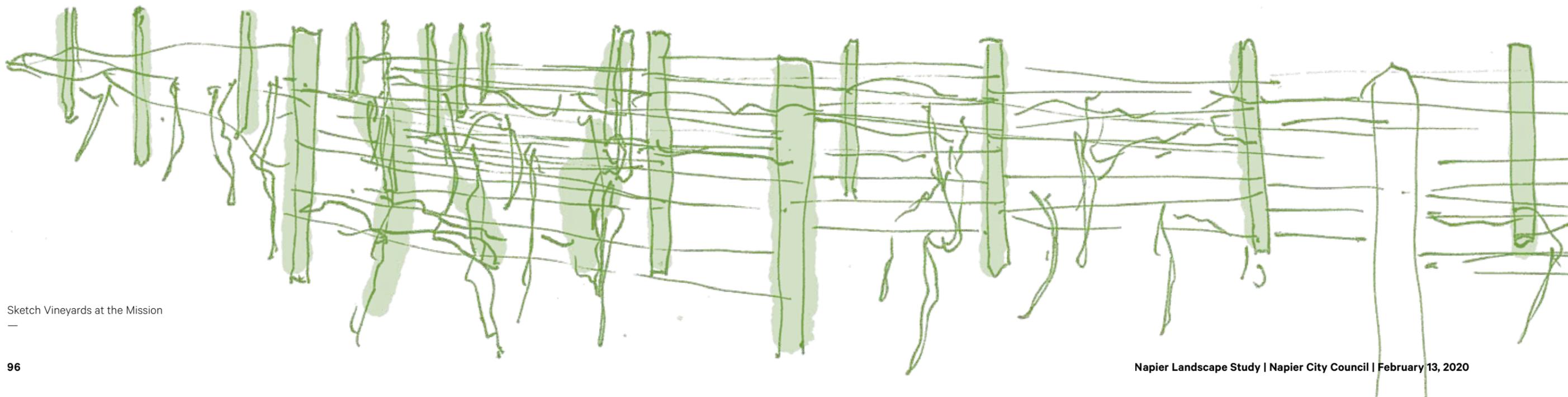
Ōtātara is a distinctive landmark, accentuated by its archaeological earthworks, and given weight by its historical associations and mana. It is the prominent ‘bookend’ to the Taradale hills.

On balance, Ōtātara warrants classification as an ‘Outstanding Natural Feature’. While Ōtātara’s value derives most strongly from its cultural and heritage attributes, it is also outstanding from a landscape perspective for the reasons given above. Such recognition is warranted to ensure its landscape qualities are protected alongside its cultural and heritage qualities. Ōtātara is also sufficiently natural to be regarded as a ‘natural feature’. The archaeological earthworks are a secondary patina on the hill’s natural form. While nearby development is encroaching up nearby hill faces, Ōtātara still appears aloof on the skyline. While the former quarrying damaged the landform, it is confined to lower parts of a spur.

Pukekura/Sugar Loaf was considered as a potential Outstanding Natural Feature, but on balance it is considered it more appropriate to classify as a ‘Special Character Feature’. It has important landmark attributes, is emblematic to Taradale’s identity, provides an important outlook, and has significance to mana whenua. However, its value is relatively localised, and its integrity as a natural landform is somewhat diminished by development that has encroached up its slopes.

The Mission has high significance as a historic and picturesque landscape. It is important to Napier’s identity and amenity values. It is an important contributor to the city’s attraction to visitors. This has already been recognised in the Mission Special Character Area within the Napier District Plan.

The rest of the Taradale Hills do not warrant classification as a ‘Special Character Feature or Landscape’ but still contribute to Napier’s amenity values as a backdrop to the city. The provisions for the area should include measures to maintain and enhance their identified landscape characteristics and qualities.



Sketch Vineyards at the Mission

Risks and Opportunities

Ōtātara-Hikurangi is protected within Ōtātara Historic Reserve administered by the Department of Conservation. It is registered as a Category 1 Historic Place for its historical and cultural significance. Classification as an Outstanding Natural Feature would reinforce this by recognising its landscape qualities. The visual presence of the hill as a bulwark or bastion, for instance, would be maintained by a buffer of open land around the perimeter of the reserve, by avoiding development on higher parts of the adjacent spur beyond the end of Churchill Drive (in the vicinity of the reservoir tank).

The summit of Pukekura/Sugar Loaf is protected within NCC reserve. However, its qualities as a natural landmark is reasonably vulnerable to development around the reserve. Residential subdivision that has occurred high on Sugar Loaf's slopes already challenges its prominence and profile from some angles. There is potential for buildings, boundary fences and planting to further erode its landmark qualities.

The Mission landscape is protected through the provisions of the Mission Special Character Area, which also provide for the landscape amenity to be enhanced through replanting of the hill backdrop. Deviation from the provisions could detract from the aesthetic coherence of the three main components contributing to the amenity of that landscape.

The landscape qualities of the balance of the Taradale hills are moderately sensitive to potential adverse effects.



Vineyards at The Mission

- On the one hand, the patchwork character of the hills means they can absorb further development, particularly as part of the progressive revegetation of the hills.
- On the other hand, the steep hill faces are sensitive to aggressive earthworks, and development on the flatter ridgelines potentially disrupt the natural skyline.

Development would help retain the amenity values of the hills by avoiding steep faces, skylines and prominent earthworks, and planting to anchor buildings and screen earthworks.

There are opportunities through a coordinated approach to subdivision to acquire reserves to create a connected pathway network along the hills.

Recommendations

Classify Ōtātara as an 'Outstanding Natural Feature'. Include provisions to maintain and enhance its landscape characteristics and qualities (in addition to those relating to cultural heritage):

- A prominent bulwark proud on the skyline, unencumbered by nearby development.

Classify Pukekura/Sugar Loaf as a 'Special Character Feature'. Include provisions to maintain and enhance its landscape characteristics and qualities:

- The natural profile of Pukekura/Sugar Loaf uncluttered by adjoining planting, fencing or development.

Retain the existing recognition of the Mission as the 'Mission Special Character Zone' and its provisions to maintain and enhance its landscape characteristics and qualities.

- The aesthetic coherence of the Mission landscape and replanting of the backdrop hill face (as provided for in the Mission Special Landscape Zone).

Recognise the contribution of the Taradale hills collectively as Napier's backdrop. Include provisions to maintain and enhance its specific characteristics and qualities.

- Maintenance of steep upper slopes as a natural backdrop to Taradale and Greenmeadows, avoiding discordant houses and earthworks.
- Maintenance of a skyline dominated by natural landform or vegetative silhouette. Avoidance of discordant houses and earthworks, and development on knolls that contribute to the skyline's character.
- Locating development on lower spurs, less prominent valley slopes, or ridgelines where they can be screened and softened by revegetation.
- Visually anchoring development with trees and continuation of revegetation to absorb further development
- Avoiding discordant geometric vegetation patterns.
- Connecting a network of paths along the hills

4. Conclusions.



4.1 Conclusions.

Napier is characterised by distinctive urban and natural landscapes that bring the city's unique history to life. Their diversity lends Napier to a precinct-based (rather than activity-based) management approach.

The following strategy is therefore recommended for each of Napier's landscapes:

- Recognise their individual distinctiveness and their collective contribution to Napier's sense of place.
- Manage each of Napier's landscapes to promote their specific characteristics and qualities – recognising that each has its own unique character.

It is important to also recognise the extent to which Napier's landscapes (urban and natural) typically derive their special character from a whole suite of characteristics. For example, in addition to its architecture, Napier's City Centre also derives its character from its street pattern, lot layout and grain, spatial definition and scale, public places, and the way these elements reflect Napier's natural setting and history. This requires an integrative approach between landscape and parallel workstreams such as architectural, cultural, historical, and ecological heritage.

The report recommends classifying the following special features and landscapes with provisions to maintain and enhance their characteristics and qualities:

- **Ōtātara** as an 'Outstanding Natural Feature'
- **Pukekura/Sugar Loaf** as a 'Special Character Feature'
- **Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū** as a 'Special Character Landscape', incorporating the following suite of 'Special Character Features': **Ohuarau, Poraiti Pā (Pā Poto), Heipipi-Esk Hills, Roro-ō-kurī, Te Ihu-o-te Rei (Quarantine Island), Keteketerau, Tapu-te-Ranga (the Watchman), Ahuriri Estuary, Pukeiohio/Puka/Te Umuroimata (Park Island)**
- **Marine Parade Gardens** as a 'Special Character Feature', integral to the Napier Central City precinct.

Some other areas are identified as having special (even outstanding) character but it is recommended that their landscape qualities are best managed as part of precincts or zones (rather than classifying them as 'Special Character Landscapes') in a way that integrates landscape with architectural, historical and cultural heritage. In some cases, such precincts or zones already exist. Their landscape characteristics and qualities are described to assist tasks such as drafting policies and criteria. These areas include:

- **Mataruahou/Napier Hill**
- **Napier City Centre.**
- **Port Ahuriri and the Inner Harbour**
- **Napier South**
- **Marewa**
- **The Mission**

Other areas do not possess character that is special enough to warrant special classification, but still possess landscape qualities that contribute to Napier's identity and amenity values. The recommended approach for these areas is to recognise their contribution to Napier's sense of place, highlight the pertinent landscape characteristics and qualities, and suggest approaches to their management including District Plan provisions to maintain and enhance amenity values. These areas include:

- **The Spits**
- **Taradale and Greenmeadows**
- **Taradale Hills**
- **Tūtaekurī River**
- **Waiohanganga/Esk River**
- **Bay View (rural coastal plain)**
- **Meeanee-Brookfields**

Advocacy is also recommended in the cross-boundary situations where areas falling within overlapping jurisdiction have significance to Napier. These include water bodies within the city listed above (such as the Ahuriri Estuary and Rivers) and the following areas outside Napier's boundaries:

- **Pania Reef**
- **Waitangi**
- **Western hills (north of Poraiti)**

Finally, attention is drawn to the extent to which Napier has a particularly distinctive sense of place, rooted in its history – that emerges from the unique combination of natural and urban landscapes highlighted above.

Ōtātara- Hikurangi and Tūtaekuri River
looking toward Mataruahou.
Image. www.naturespic.co.nz



Isthmus.