

**SCHED9 –Landscapes of High Amenity Value**

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
LHAV1		Kawhia Harbour	LHAV 1 Kawhia Harbour relates to the more pasture dominated and inhabited eastern portion of LCU 1a.	Landscape of High Amenity Value	<p><b>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Richly indented harbour coastline with rolling to steeply dissected lowland hill country backdrop. Coastline characterised by a mix of sandy beaches and mud flats interspersed with highly attractive and distinctive coastal cliffs and rock outcrops.</p> <p>Sites of geological significance including: Waiharakeke Bridge-Kinohaku (Jurassic sediments) and Puaroa Creek (Jurassic fossils).</p> <p>Areas of high-quality bush (identified as SNA). Habitat for threatened and at risk flora and fauna.</p> <p>Kawhia Harbour and its margins are habitat for many species of shore and wading birds, including threatened species such as black stilt, Australasian bittern, banded dotterel, banded rail, spotless crane and North Island fernbird. Other species include New Zealand dotterel, black-fronted tern and Caspian tern. The harbour is also used by international migrant species such as bar-tailed godwit, lesser knot, turnstone, Asiatic whimbrel and eastern curlew.</p> <p>Strongly tidal harbour setting.</p>

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					<p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly attractive panoramic coastal views to the area from the Kawhia Harbour, Kawhia settlement, Whakapirau Road, the DoC track, the air and the surrounding rural and rural residential context. The complex arrangement of fingers of pastoral hill slopes and ridgelines interspersed with gully remnants and edged with an intricate patterning of coastal vegetation around the indented harbour edges, all set within the context of the vast Kawhia Harbour setting creates an attractive composition that is highly engaging.</p> <p>The generally low key, modest and informal character of built development means that it sits comfortably within the wider rural coastal outlook.</p> <p>The visibility of Mt Karioi and Pirongia, adds to the drama of the outlook in places.</p> <p>Generally high aesthetic values as a consequence of the perceptual values described above.</p> <p>A moderate-high degree of naturalness across much of the unit, as a consequence of the dominant influence of the low-intensity pastoral landscape. The low key, modest and informal character of built development means that it generally comprises a sympathetic element within this context.</p> <p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of the richly dissected landform patterning.</p>

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					<p>Harbour and coastal margins strongly expressive of coastal processes.</p> <p>The highly tidal nature of the harbour and avifauna values imbue a high level of transient values.</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Coastline richly endowed with cultural heritage sites. Harbour is the birth place of Te Rauparaha (Ngāti Toa) who lived in the area until the 1920s when he and his tribe, along with Ngāti Rārua and Ngāti Koata, migrated southwards.</p> <p>Some recreational values associated with the DoC track around the coastal edge and the adjacent harbour.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally the area qualifies as an Amenity Landscape as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cultural landscape values.</li> <li>b. The highly scenic qualities of the area as a consequence of: the complex arrangement of fingers of pastoral hill slopes and ridgelines interspersed with gully remnants and edged with an intricate patterning of coastal vegetation around the indented harbour edges, all set within the context of the vast Kawhia Harbour setting; the generally modest, low key and sympathetic character of existing built</li> </ul>

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					<p>development; and the views across the harbour to Mt Karioi and Pirongia afforded from much of the area.</p> <p>The area stands apart from the more 'ordinary' working rural landscapes in the district (e.g. LCU 10 Central Rolling Lowlands and LCU 11 Eastern Hills) largely as a consequence of its almost unbroken visual connection to the highly scenic Kawhia Harbour in combination with the scenic qualities of the area itself as described above.</p> <p>Whilst LHAV 1 stands apart from the more 'ordinary' working rural landscapes of the district, it is not assessed to qualify as Outstanding. The values of the area primarily derive from its scenic and aesthetic qualities which aligns it with an amenity landscape classification (that is valued for its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence and cultural and recreation attributes) rather than as an ONL.</p>
LHAV2		Awakino Gorge	LHAV 2 Awakino Gorge relates to the gorge landform stretching from the south end of the Mahoenui Valley to the eastern end of the Awakino Valley.	Landscape of High Amenity Value	<p><b>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Steeply incised gorge alongside the Awakino River. The rugged Mokau hill system and elevated terraces (LCU 6) frame the south side of the gorge, and similarly rugged hills and terraces associated with the southern foothills of the Herangi Range define the northern side.</p> <p>Spectacular limestone bluffs in places.</p> <p>Awakino Gorge Tunnel (Oligocene and Miocene record).</p> <p>Virtually all of the bush cover in the area is identified as SNA of Local or Regional Significance.</p>

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					<p>Convoluted course of the Awakino River runs alongside SH3.</p> <p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable views of the river winding through the dramatic and richly textured bush-clad (gorge) cliffs, with spectacular views of limestone bluffs towering over the gorge in places.</p> <p>Markedly contrasting enclosed and (predominantly) densely vegetated character of this stretch of the highway serves to heighten its visual impression and appeal.</p> <p>Distinctive road tunnel through natural rock adds to the scenic/aesthetic appeal.</p> <p>At southern end of gorge, highly attractive and memorable views open up to the coast and Mt Taranaki.</p> <p>The large-scale and striking (predominantly) vegetation-clad cliff landforms and limestone bluffs create a strong sense of enclosure and intimacy. The convoluted nature of the route through the gorge promotes a sense of mystery.</p> <p>Close-range views of: the winding river flanked by richly textured native vegetation; the rock tunnel; and the towering bluffs serve to enrich the overall experience.</p> <p>The vivid contrast of the gorge with the more open valley landscapes at either end serves to heighten this experience.</p> <p>For southbound travellers, the gorge reads as somewhat of a gateway to the 'wild west coast' and for northbound</p>

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					<p>travellers, the gorge reads as a gateway to the more sheltered and working rural landscapes associated with the lower portion of the Waikato region.</p> <p>Generally a moderate to high degree of naturalness and remoteness as a consequence of: the dominant influence of the large-scale and dramatic vegetation-clad landforms that enclose the road corridor; and the limited extent of built development. The highway itself, presence of production forestry and, to a lesser degree, pasture cover contribute a moderating effect in this regard; however, it is fair to say that the generally quite modest scale of the highway together with its winding character (such that long range views of the highway are not available) serves to limit its influence on the sense of naturalness associated with the unit.</p> <p>Memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values discussed above and its identity as a 'gateway' highway corridor.</p> <p>Bluff features and winding river expressive of landscape-shaping processes.</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Awakino Gorge Tunnel.</p> <p>Awakino Gorge- scenic route</p>

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					<p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally the area qualifies as an Amenity Landscape as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The highly scenic qualities of the gorge as a consequence of: the striking (predominantly) vegetation-clad gorge landforms and expressive limestone bluffs; the highly attractive and expressive winding river course alongside the road; the distinctive rock tunnel; the overall sense of mystery accruing from the convoluted nature of the road alignment through the gorge; and the enclosed and intimate character of the area arising from the landform and vegetation patterns, which is amplified by the contrasting more open landscapes at either end.</li> <li>b. The role the gorge plays as an attractive and memorable 'gateway' landscape.</li> <li>c. A sense of naturalness and remoteness as a consequence of the relatively limited extent of built development (acknowledging the presence of the SH3) and the area's aesthetic/scenic qualities.</li> <li>d. Its moderate - high ecological values.</li> </ul> <p>An appreciable portion of the gorge is in bush cover, although there are sizeable areas of pasture and production forestry cover. Whilst these latter landcover types tend to be of lesser amenity value (than indigenous</p>

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					<p>bush cover), the overall legibility of the gorge as a cohesive landscape means that it would be artificial to exclude these areas.</p> <p>The narrow gorge landform and 'gateway' character of the area means that the area stands apart from the more ordinary working rural landscapes of the district.</p> <p>The values of the area primarily derive from its scenic and aesthetic qualities which aligns it with an amenity landscape classification (that is valued for its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence and cultural and recreation attributes) rather than as an ONL.</p>
LHAV3		Limestone Country	LHAV 3 Limestone Country relates to much of LCU 13 Elevated Central Hills and Valleys throughout the central portion of the District that sit between the Herangi Ranges and rugged hills to the west, and the rolling lowland hills to the east (roughly following the course of SH3). It also captures the western portion of LCU 10 Central Rolling Lowlands where there is a proliferation of scenic features.	Landscape of High Amenity Value	<p><b>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly complex patterning of steeply incised hills, ridges and stream valleys.</p> <p>Numerous extremely high value limestone bluffs, rock outcrops, tomos and cave features throughout. Often within highly attractive bush setting or as highly sculptural elements within pastoral landscape.</p> <p>Virtually all of the bush cover in the area is identified as SNA of Local or Regional Significance.</p> <p>Highly complex patterning of streams throughout the unit.</p> <p>Several highly scenic waterfall features.</p> <p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable close and mid-range rural views to: dramatic limestone bluffs, rock outcrops</p>

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					<p>and landforms; intimate stream valleys and gorges (e.g. Totoro Gorge); and impressive waterfalls.</p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable views of large-scale bush-covered hills at varying ranges, including views to the Herangi Ranges.</p> <p>Attractive rural views across low intensity farmland in which the complex landform patterns and arrangement of vegetation (exotic and indigenous) create a pleasing composition.</p> <p>Attractive rural views from highpoints on Te Anga Road and Troopers Road.</p> <p>Generally high aesthetic values as a consequence of the perceptual values described above.</p> <p>A moderate degree of naturalness across much of the unit, as a consequence of the dominant influence of the low-intensity working rural landscape and, to a lesser extent, production forestry and the prevalence of tourism activities (signage, parking, traffic etc). The frequent occurrence of dramatic limestone bluffs and outcrops within the pastoral areas confers a sense of naturalness.</p> <p>In general, the relatively low-key built development character (outside of Waitomo Caves village) assists the perception of naturalness.</p> <p>Localised areas of higher naturalness on the more 'off the beaten track' unsealed roads towards the margins of the unit and in areas dominated by extensive tracts of bush cover.</p>

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					<p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Several scattered cultural sites throughout the unit.</p> <p>Very high public profile as a consequence of Waitomo Caves, numerous waterfalls and walkway features, local tourism operations, Te Araroa and scenic routes. The close proximity and relatively easy access of the unit to SH3 confers a higher public profile than, many other parts of the District.</p> <p>Very high recreational values associated with the as a result of the proliferation of a range of varied and highly engaging features including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible caves offering a wide range of recreational experiences on offer ranging from glow-worm boat tours to blackwater rafting and abseiling adventures.</li> <li>• Accessible limestone bluff and rock outcrops (and associated tourism facilities e.g. Hairy Feet).</li> <li>• Quad biking, rock climbing, clay bird shooting, heli flights and farms shows.</li> <li>• Te Araroa.</li> <li>• Numerous other tracks, including: the Gorge and Double Falls Tracks (south of Te Anga); the Mangaotaki Scenic Reserve; Waitanguru Falls; Ruakuri Walkway; Mangapohue Natural Bridge, Piripiri Caves, Marokopa Falls.</li> <li>• Several scenic routes:</li> </ul>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Piopio – Waitanguru – Pungarehu - Mairoa Road. Features along the way include: numerous dramatic bluff and limestone outcrops with bush (including Hobbit filming location) along the highly attractive Mangaotaki Road between Piopio and Waitanguru; Mangaotaki Scenic Reserve walkway; and Waitanguru Falls.</li> <li>- Waitomo - Te Anga Road- Marokopa- Kiritehere – Pomarangai- Mangaotaki Road- Piopio. Features include: Marokopa Falls, Piripiri Caves, Mangapohue Natural Bridge; Ngahuinga Bluffs beside Te Anga; the sleepy old school NZ settlement of Te Anga.</li> <li>- Mahoenui - Aria - Piopio via Totoro Road (highly attractive and intimate, winding rural stream valley with numerous limestone bluff and rock outcrops) and Aria Road (attractive old school NZ rural settlement at Aria) passes through part of the unit. Features along the way include the Wairere Falls.</li> </ul> <p>A high level of shared and recognised values as demonstrated by the popularity of the above recreational features.</p>

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					<p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally the area qualifies as an Amenity Landscape as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the very high biophysical values associated with the various karst and cave landform features and waterfalls scattered throughout the area.</li> <li>b. its moderate-high ecological values in places.</li> <li>c. the highly scenic qualities of the area as a consequence of: the attractive views of dramatic limestone bluffs, rock outcrops and landforms; intimate stream valleys and gorges; impressive waterfalls, bush clad hills and sculpted low intensity pastoral slopes and valleys.</li> <li>d. The very high recreational values (as described above).</li> <li>e. cultural landscape values.</li> </ul> <p>LHAV 3 includes the bush and pastoral areas in between the various karst and cave features. These areas display a level of visual appeal in their own right and effectively form the 'glue' between the more unique and dramatic limestone features, culminating in a highly attractive and generally cohesive landscape character that stands apart from the more 'ordinary' working rural landscapes in the district (e.g. LCU 11 Eastern Hills and the majority of LCU 10 Central Rolling Lowlands).</p>

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					<p>The exception to this description is the northern portion of LHAV 3 adjoining the Otorohanga District where there is generally a paucity of karst and cave features. Here it is the dominance of very high quality bush cover together with the recreational values of at least part of the area (e.g. Te Araroa Trail) and relatively limited extent of human modification that confers the aesthetic (and ecological) values such that the area for inclusion within LHAV 3.</p> <p>East of SH3 in the vicinity of Aria, it is the highly attractive patterning of the rolling lowlands, sculpted landforms, karst features, waterfalls and bush features interspersed with pasture that merit the inclusion of this part of LCU10 Central Rolling Lowlands within LHAV 3.</p> <p>Areas of LCU 13 Elevated Central Hills and Valleys excluded from LHAV3 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inland hills and valleys north, west and south west of Te Anga where there is a general paucity of limestone features and high value bush cover;</li> <li>• A central area roughly in the vicinity of Ngapaenga and Mairoa where again there is a general paucity of limestone features and high value bush cover;</li> <li>• The very high value bush covered hills in the vicinity of Rock Peak that adjoin an ONL in the Otorohanga District – see <b>ONL 5 Rock Peak</b>.</li> </ul>

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					<p>Whilst LHAV 3 stands apart from the more 'ordinary' working rural landscapes of the district, it is not assessed to qualify as Outstanding largely as a consequence of the influence that human modification (particularly in the form of buildings, pastoral farming and production forestry) exerts on the landscape character of the area. It is acknowledged that this is very finely balanced as clearly this part of the District plays a critical role in shaping the identity of the wider Waitomo area suggesting very high associative values. However overall it is considered that the values associated with this portion of the District more closely align with an amenity landscape (which are valued for their pleasantness, aesthetic coherence and cultural and recreation attributes), rather than as an ONL.</p>
LHAV4		Rangitoto Range and Waipa River	LHAV 4 Rangitoto Range and Waipa River relates to the bush covered southern slopes of the Rangitoto Range that fall within the District and the Waipa River together with its steep bush clad margins.	Landscape of High Amenity Value	<p><b>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Steeply incised bush clad gorge alongside the Waipa River and rugged southern slopes of the Rangitoto Range. The latter form the eastern boundary of the King Country. Streams on the eastern slopes drain into the Waikato River.</p> <p>Spectacular limestone bluffs in places.</p> <p>Waipa River exhumed fossil forest</p> <p>Virtually all of the bush cover in the area is identified as SNA of National Significance. Habitat for threatened or at risk species.</p>

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					<p>Endangered species present include North Island kōkako, kaka, whio falcon, North Island brown kiwi, blue duck, long tailed bat and Hochstetter's frog.</p> <p>Much of the area is in either DoC ownership or subject to QE II Covenant.</p> <p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Attractive and memorable views of the rugged and dramatic large-scale bush-clad foothills and ridges and steeply incised river valleys from local roads and walking tracks (albeit noting the relatively limited extent of the latter). The continuity of bush cover together with the bold and sculpted landforms create a high level of aesthetic coherence.</p> <p>The dense and extensive bush mantle extending throughout area, confers a strong sense of 'indigenous New Zealand'.</p> <p>High degree of naturalness as a consequence of: the dominant influence of the rugged bush-clad terrain; river gorge landforms, the relatively inaccessibility of the area; and the generally very limited level of human modification evident.</p> <p>Memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values discussed above.</p> <p>Complex ridgeline patterns and winding streams expressive of landscape shaping processes.</p>

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					<p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of the bold landform and watercourse patterns.</p> <p>Generally a high perception of remoteness/wilderness as a consequence of the strongly endemic character of the landcover, the very limited level of built development and the inaccessibility of the area.</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>The Waipa River is a tupuna (ancestor), a taonga (treasure), and the mauri (life force) of Ngati Maniapoto.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally the area qualifies as an Amenity Landscape as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. its high to very high ecological values;</li> <li>b. The highly scenic qualities of the area as a consequence of: the attractive views of the rugged and sculpted bush clad hills river gorge landforms with little human modification evident; and</li> <li>c. the cultural landscape values associated with the area.</li> </ul> <p>The extent of LHAV 4 is defined by bush edges.</p> <p>NB LHAV 4 adjoins a LHAV in the Otorohanga District throughout the balance of the Rangitoto Range (to the north).</p>