

Guidance - Conservation Values Checklist

(Note - remove red text and change font to black)

NOTE: This is checklist for identifying conservation values when considering a potential exchange, disposal or vesting proposal.

Protected Area:

Ocean Beach Conservation Area; Part of Rimutaka Forest Park

NaPALIS (ID):

2798457 (Ocean Beach). 2798523 (RFP)

Locally known as:

Ocean Beach

Area (hectares):

Operations Region:

LNI

Operations Manager:

Kathy Houkamau

	Conservation Values Checklist	
General:	What is the existing purpose of the site?	Conservation, camp site, baches.
	Does the site adjoin any other public conservation area?	Yes - Rimutaka Forest Park. Also Wairarapa Moana Wetland Ramsar site.
	Does the site improve the natural functioning or integrity of an adjoining area?	Yes - it's at the interface of the mountains of Rimutaka Forest Park and the beach. The beach leads to an interface of kanuka forest and then into beech forest of the Rimutakas. There are raised marine terraces overlain by alluvial fans where water courses exit the Rimutaka Range. The Rimutakas are highly erodible; and drop off steeply to meet the beach. This eroded material contributes to the formation of the beaches. This erosion is natural feature, not something that can or should be managed. The sites also have connections along the coast. to the east they adjoin the Wairarapa Moana Wetland Ramsar site. to the west there's a 5 km stretch of undeveloped natural land to Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve, and from there to Baring Head and the eastern bays of Wellington. So it contributes to a long stretch of undisturbed coastline, stretching from Wellington's eastern suburbs to the mouth of Onoke Spit.
	Does the site improve the amenity or utility of the local area?	Yes, there is a DOC campsite. A 4WD track through to the other side of the Rimutakas qalong the beach also passes through the area. There is also a mountainbike track connecting the Wairarapa to Turakirae Head and then to Wellington.
	Does the site have international, national or regional significance?	The site borders on a Ramsar site, a site of international importance for birds. The Ramsar site could quite feasibly have been extended to include the wetland immediately behind the dunes, as it is a unique habitat being wedged between the beach and the forest behind.
	Does the site have any local importance?	Yes. Boats can launch from there, it's a campsite, and it has local and national ecological values.
	Is the area / site noted in the relevant Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)?	<i>if yes - note the plan, relevant section and what it relates to, i.e. to be reclassified, re-zoned for XX purpose etc.</i>
	Is the area / site noted in a management plan (local or Council)?	<i>as above.</i>
	Is the site / area noted in the relevant District or Regional Plan?	<i>if yes - note the plan, relevant section and what it relates to, i.e. to be reclassified, re-zoned for XX purpose etc.</i>
	Are there any assets on the site?	<i>Buildings, signage, tracks, etc</i>
DOC	What DOC management has been undertaken or is in place?	<i>Is it part of or in a 1080 area, is it part of a maintenance programme, etc</i>
	Are there any management agreements in place?	<i>local grazing, hunting or maintenance contracts or agreements.</i>
	Does the site secure practical walking access to public conservation lands and waters, rivers, lakes or the coast?	A national mountain biking route (Remutaka Cycle Trail) between Wellington and the Wairarapa passes through the site. It would also be a practical walking route, and possible access to the Rimutakas.
Biological	Does the site form part of a Business Management Unit (BMU)?	

	Are there any active restoration plans or activities in place?	The site doesn't need any restoration activity. There's some weed management, but compared to many other sites there are no environmental issues at these sites. The vegetation is largely intact; there are some understorey weeds, but not at a density that would preclude simple management. The erosion is a natural feature. Rehabilitation of any beach site would focus on managed regeneration initially.
	Are there any iconic features?	An ecologist would consider the beach from Turakirae Head to Onoke Spit as iconic, but it's not iconic in the sense of Mt Taranaki that can be seen from the South Island on a good day. An area just to the east of Mukamuka Stream mouth is identified in the <i>Inventory of important geological sites and landforms in the Manawatu and Wellington Regions</i> as "possibly the best example of pillow breccia in basement of the southern North Island", a site of regional importance.
	Is there any indigenous species present?	The environment is still in very good natural condition, dominated by native vegetation and natural processes. Yes, there's some clearing around the beaches, but the beach is natural, with native sandbinders, there's a wetland, and beech forest leading down to the beach.
	Are any:- Threatened, Critically Under-protected, Acutely Threatened, Chronically Threatened, Under-protected or At Risk?	pingao <i>Ficinia spiralis</i> (At Risk -Declining). Sand tussock <i>Poa billardierei</i> (At Risk - Declining). Fierce lancewood <i>Pseudopanax ferox</i> (At Risk - Naturally Uncommon). katipo <i>Latrodectus katipo</i> (At Risk - Declining). <i>Korthalsella slaicornioides</i> (Threatened- Nationally Critical; a dwarf mistletoe on kanuka). <i>Brachglottis greyi</i> (At Risk - Naturally Uncommon). <i>Notoreas perornata</i> subsp "WA/WN" (Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable). There's a good population of <i>Muehlenbeckia astonii</i> at Turakirae Head 5 km west, and it may be present here.
	is it important for the survival of any threatened indigenous species?	The beach from Onoke Spit to Ocean Beach has the best population of sand tussock in the lower NI, if not NI. It's no longer found at historic sites on the Kapiti Coast northwards. This site has the best population of fierce lancewood in the lower NI.
	Are there any weed species present?	There are weeds present, but none of them are "threatening". Yellow flag iris in the adjacent wetland is probably the worst weed around. There's a small infestation of old man's beard, but it's earmarked for control. Biocontrol is being considered for the small infestation of tradescantia. There were a few isolated brush wattle. There are small patches of marram on the beach. None of these are changing the landscape. The sites are remarkably free of major weeds.
Environmental	What Land Environment Category is it?	
	Does the area provide a habitat for indigenous fauna? Could it provide a habitat?	what are the habitat features - include migratory species considerations
	Does the site represent a habitat or ecosystem that is under-represented in public conservation lands?	<i>some historic reports have details on sites</i>
	Does the site have the potential to be restored to improve the representation of habitats or ecosystems that are under-represented in public conservation lands. What are the land form values?	Yes. Should beaches be removed it would be easy to manage natural regeneration of the sites. Surrounding areas are in good shape.
	does the area contribute to another factor/impact, i.e: flood retention, erosion or mitigate external impacts (buffer area)?	The mountains are naturally prone to erosion and slips. The gravel beach features wind-blown sand and gravel. It's not a very hospitable habitat at times, but the processes are allowed to occur uninterrupted, and therefore contribute to the values of the site. The interface between the forest and the beach has a track along it, but sand is able to blow across this without interference.
	Are there any "use values"?	Camp ground; fishing; launch site for boats; national mountain bike trail.
Aquatic	What Freshwater Environment Category is it?	Wetland, rivers. This is probably the only wetland fed by fresh water from the mountains behind it and sea water from the front in the lower NI. I'm not sure how much of it is within the boundaries of the areas under discussion, but like many dune wetlands it may move around in the landscape as its bed is filled in or eroded, and storm events bring in more water.

	Is it located within a designated RAMSAR area?	No, but it borders on the Wairarapa Moana Wetland Ramsar Site. Given the quality and uniqueness of the nearby wetland I'm surprised the Ramsar site boundaries weren't extended to include it.
Historic	Are there any cultural or tohu whenua associations with the site?	<i>iwi or European - local story or historic knowledge / use, e.g. was it a health camp in a previous life..</i>
	Is there any historic artefact, icon, feature on or within the site?	
Community	What is the sites presence in the local area?	It is part of a larger beach. It's used to haul out fishing boats.
	Is it used by the community?	Yes. Recreation, baches, fishing, boat launching, camping, 4WD, mountainbiking, hiking.
TOW	Is it in an area that has been settled or is it a re-dress area?	
	If settled is it affected by legislation?	<i>is it in an RFR or is it a deferred settlement property (DSP), an acknowledgement or protocol area etc.</i>
	Which iwi or groups have an interest in the site?	

Recommendation:	<i>based on the values what is/are your recommendations, e.g.;</i> <i>- the current status or recreation reserve is "fit for purpose" as the local bike track is being highly utilised and ...)</i>
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Compiled by:		
	<i>(print name and position)</i>	<i>(signature)</i>

Manager:		
	<i>(print name)</i>	<i>(signature)</i>