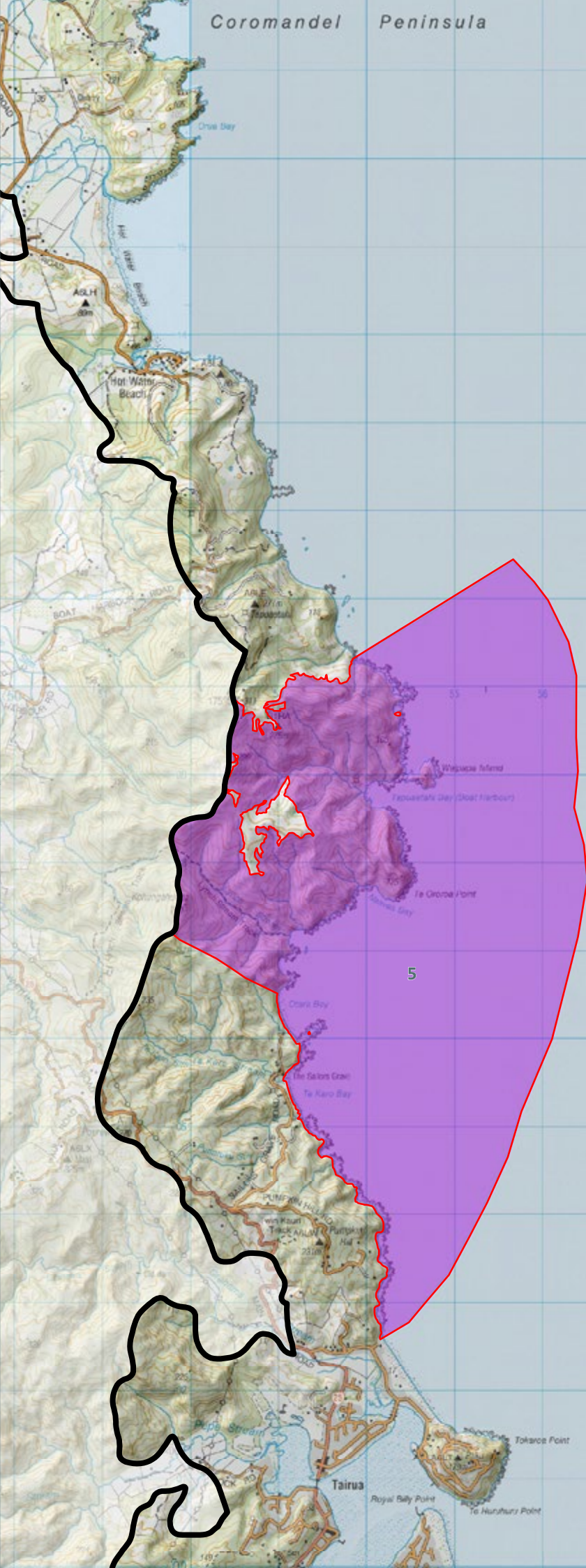


Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas
- 5 Tapuaetahi Bay and Coastline
- Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



Map 39



0 1.2 km

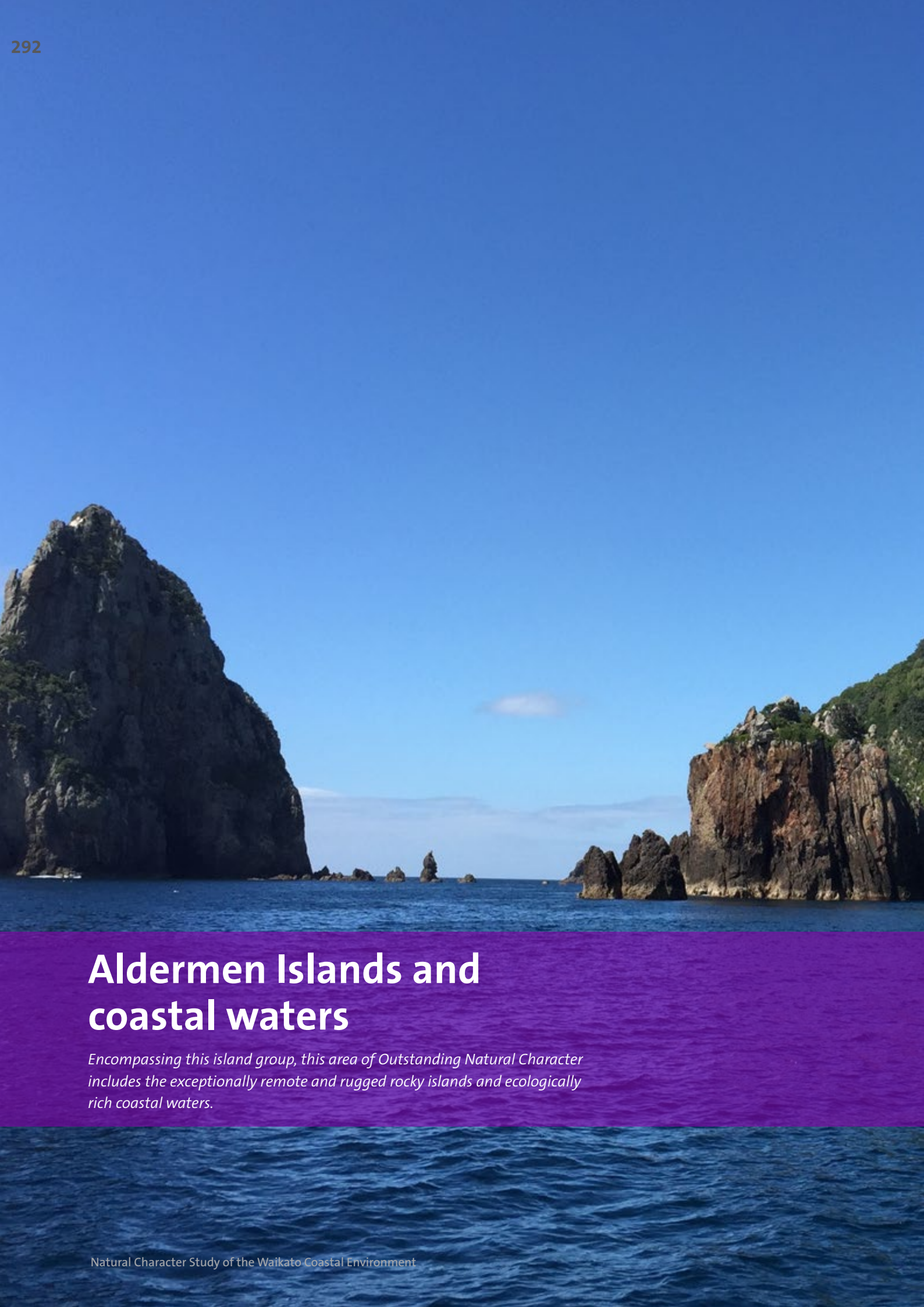


Remote coastline and coastal waters south of Hot Water Beach Outstanding Natural Character Attributes (Level 4)	
CTA and rating (Level 3)	Hot Water Beach (Moderate- High)
CMA and rating (Level 3)	Eastern Coromandel (High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exposed rocky cliffs, shores and beaches
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Comprised mainly of Coromandel State Forest Park (notably southern sections) and numerous areas of QEII landStrong unmodified sequential link between land and sea
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Access is difficult to gain which amplifies perceived naturalnessVery high degree of experiential values due to limited modification and extent of indigenous bush coverWildness and remote experiential values along the rocky and indigenous bush-clad coastline.
Mapped extent <p>The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character Area is defined by the following:</p> <p>For the marine area, the extent follows the very high marine mapping at the Level 4 scale, which is approximately 2km off shore. The 2km limit was decided by the marine experts as an appropriate offshore distance with respect to understanding the marine environment, where greatest knowledge is around the areas closest to land. Although not always the case, it was concluded that this would be appropriate for this Outstanding Natural Character Area.</p> <p>The terrestrial component is contained by the very high terrestrial mapping at the Level 4 scale which is determined primarily by the extent of indigenous intact mature bush (i.e. Coromandel State Forest Park)</p>	
Remote coastline and coastal waters south of Hot Water Beach Rating	Outstanding

Right (above): Rocky shores

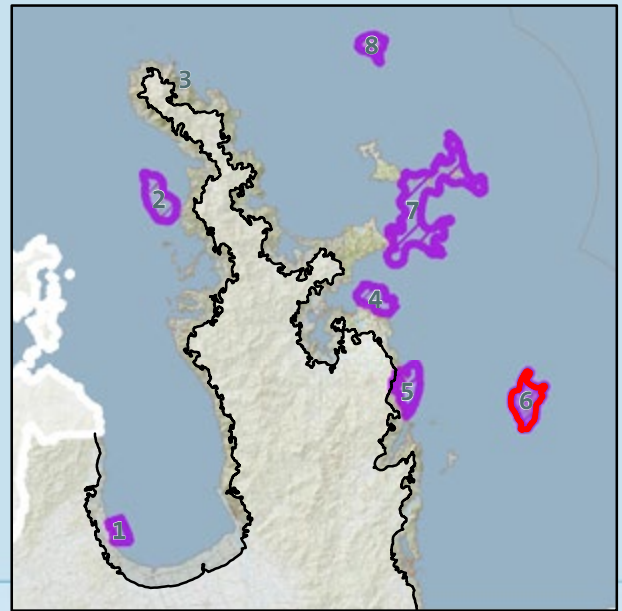
Right (below): Wave-cut peninsulas pepper this coastline





Aldermen Islands and coastal waters

Encompassing this island group, this area of Outstanding Natural Character includes the exceptionally remote and rugged rocky islands and ecologically rich coastal waters.



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas
 - 6 Aldermen Islands
 - Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas

Map 40



Aldermen Islands and coastal waters Outstanding Natural Character Attributes (Level 4)	
CTA and rating (Level 3)	Outer Island Group (Very High)
CMA and rating (Level 3)	Eastern Coromandel (High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forms part of a larger submarine platform that has been eroded almost entirely by wave action.• Steep rhyolite features provide a range of spectacular rocky coastal landforms such as spires, needles and vertical bluffs that extend through the archipelago
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A nature reserve/wildlife sanctuary comprising five main islands with high reef fish• Contains threatened and endangered species including tutatara, giant centipedes; lizards (geckos and skinks) and tusked weta and giant weka. These islands also support large populations of seabirds, notably petrels, storm petrels and shearwaters.• High diversity and richness of demersal reef fish.• Strong unmodified sequential link between land and sea
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very high remote values evident, including darkness of the sky
Mapped extent The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character Area is defined by the following: For the marine area, the extent follows uses bathymetric data to inform the extent of the identified Coastal Marine Area of the Outstanding Natural Character Area. Terrestrially, this covers the entire Aldermen Island Group, as identified at the Level 4.	
Aldermen Islands and coastal waters Rating	Outstanding

Right (above): Impressive wave-cut rock formations

Right (below): Jagged rocks and secluded bays

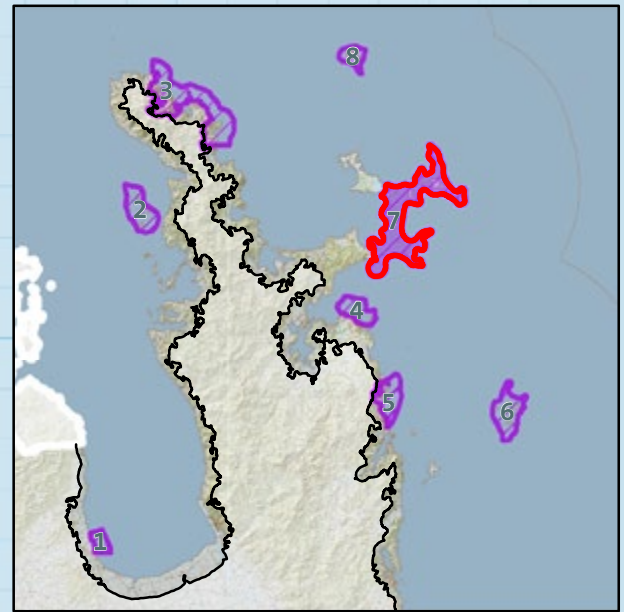




Mercury Islands, Cuvier Island and associated coastal waters

This area of Outstanding Natural Character encompasses the remote and ecologically rich islands associated with the Mercury Group as well as Cuvier Island. The unmodified and spectacular coastal landforms retain outstanding degrees of naturalness as well as holding a diverse range of ecological biota.

Cuvier Island Repanga

**Legend**

— Extent of Coastal Environment

Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas

7 Mercury Islands

Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas

Mercury Islands

Map 41

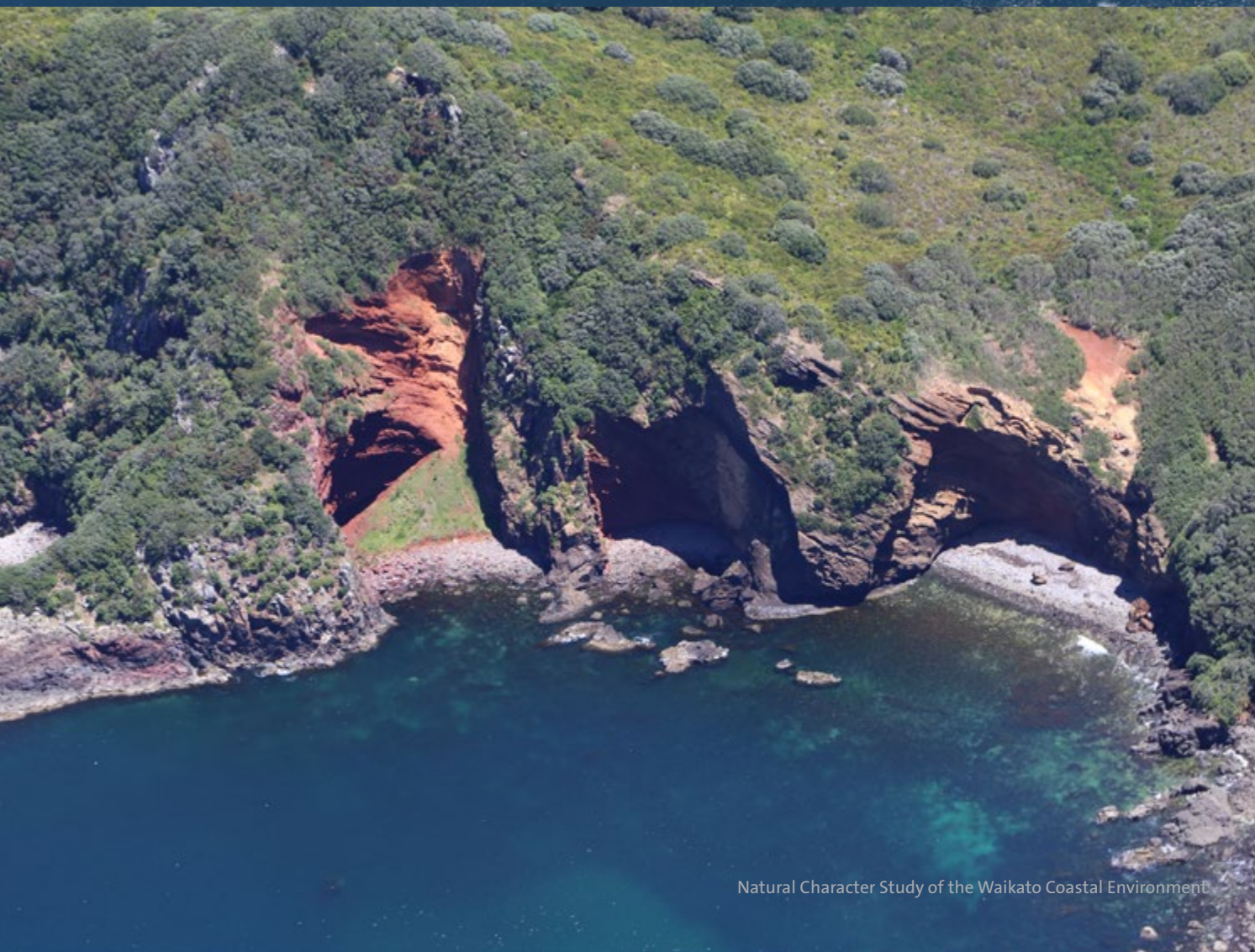
0 3 km



Mercury Islands, Cuvier Island and associated coastal waters Outstanding Natural Character Attributes (Level 4)	
CTA and rating (Level 3)	Outer Island Group (Very High)
CMA and rating (Level 3)	Eastern Coromandel (High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exposed and rocky shorelines are devoid of modification;Cuvier Island tourmalinised rocks represents a good example of exposed large black crystals of tourmaline evident from the shoreline.Spectacular exposed geology and coastal landforms exemplify coastal processes including the Korapuki Sea Arch; the Stanley Island basalt vents and cone; and Red Mercury Island basalt.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Six of the Mercury Islands (excluding Great Mercury Island) and Cuvier Island are nature reserves.High species of reef fish and intact habitats around islandsThese Islands contain threatened and endangered species including tutatara, giant centipedes; lizards (geckos and skinks) and tusked weta and giant weka. These islands also support large populations of seabirds, notably petrels, storm petrels and shearwaters.Strong unmodified sequential link between land and sea
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High perceived naturalness values due to limited modification
<p>Mapped extent</p> <p>The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character Area is defined by the following:</p> <p>For the marine area, the extent follows uses bathymetric data to inform the extent of the identified Coastal Marine Area of the Outstanding Natural Character Area.</p> <p>Terrestrially, this covers the entire Mercury Group (apart from Great Mercury Island) and Cuvier Island, as identified at the Level 4.</p>	
Mercury Islands, Cuvier Island and associated coastal waters Rating	Outstanding

Right (above): Red Mercury Island (Whakau)

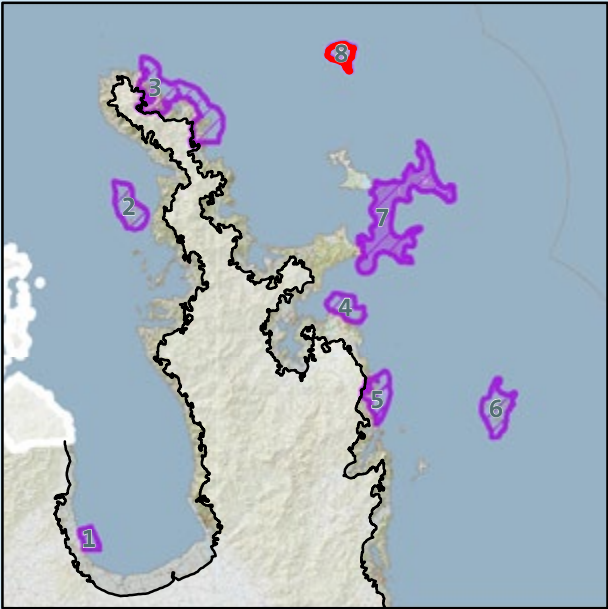
Right (below): Exposed red rock on Red Mercury Island (Whakau)





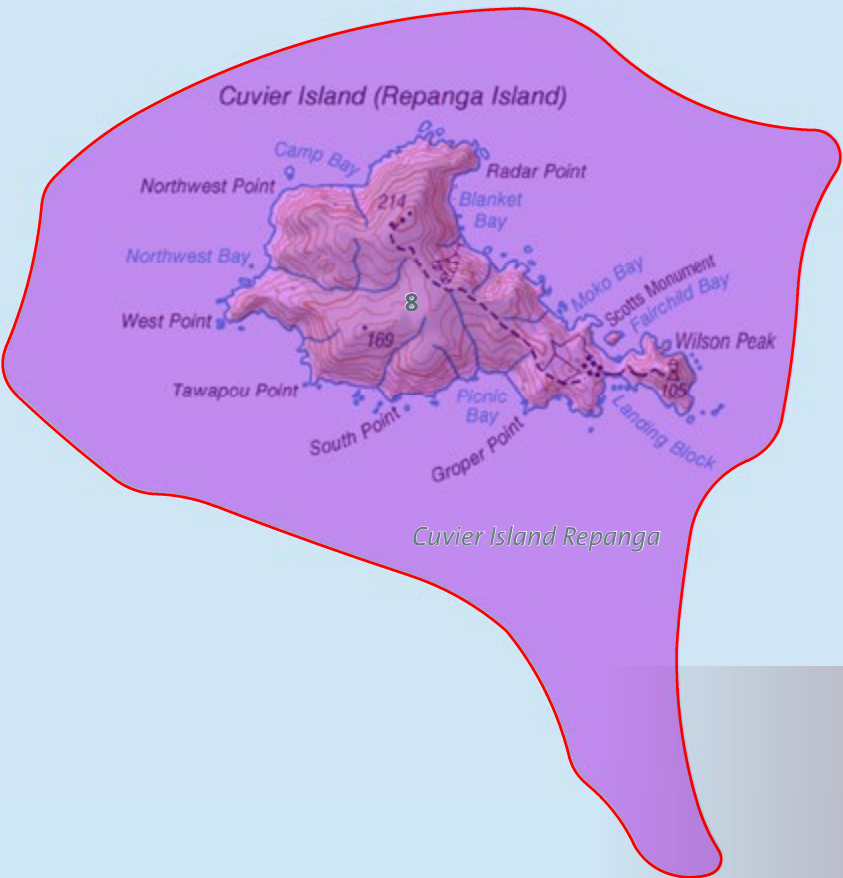
Cuvier Island and associated coastal waters

This area of Outstanding Natural Character encompasses the remote and ecologically rich island of Cuvier Island. The unmodified and spectacular coastal landforms retain outstanding degrees of naturalness as well as holding a diverse range of ecological biota.

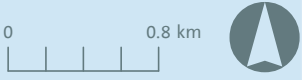


Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas
- 8 Cuvier Island Repanga
- Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



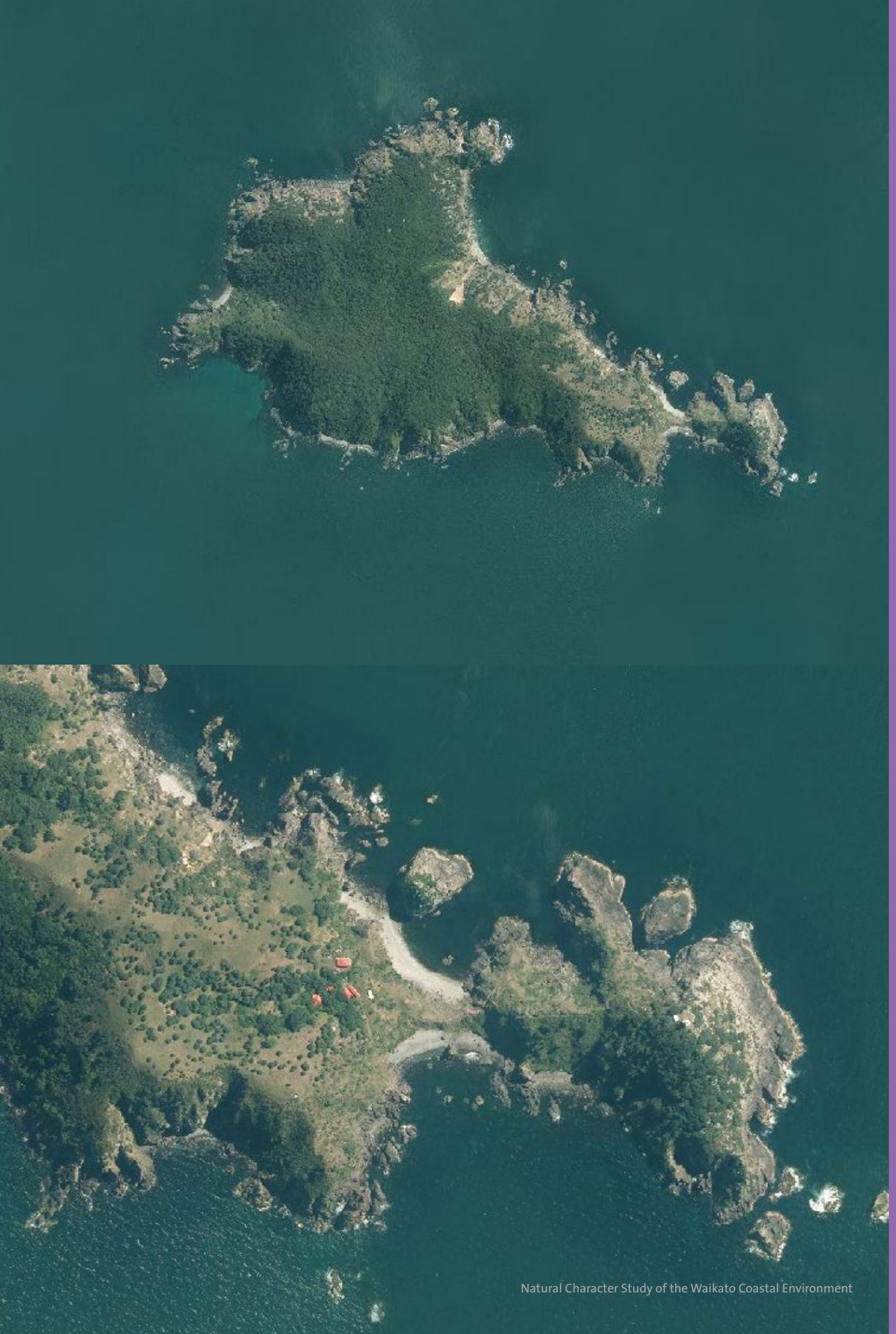
Map 42



Cuvier Island and associated coastal waters Outstanding Natural Character Attributes (Level 4)	
CTA and rating (Level 3)	Outer Island Group (Very High)
CMA and rating (Level 3)	Eastern Coromandel (High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exposed and rocky shorelines are devoid of modification;Cuvier Island tourmalinised rocks represents a good example of exposed large black crystals of tourmaline evident from the shoreline.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cuvier Island is a nature reserve.High species of reef fish and intact habitats around the island.Contain threatened and endangered species including tutatara, giant centipedes; lizards (geckos and skinks) and tusked weta and giant weka. These island also support large populations of seabirds, notably petrels, storm petrels and shearwaters.Strong unmodified sequential link between land and seaRegenerating native bush cover.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High perceived naturalness values due to limited modificationStrong sense of remoteness due to distance from mainland.Modificiation associated to DOC cabins and historical light house.
Mapped extent <p>The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character Area is defined by the following:</p> <p>For the marine area, the extent follows uses bathymetric data to inform the extent of the identified Coastal Marine Area of the Outstanding Natural Character Area.</p> <p>Terrestrially, this covers the entire Cuvier Island, as identified at the Level 4.</p>	
Cuvier Island and associated coastal waters Rating	Outstanding

Right (above): Red Mercury Island (Whakau)

Right (below): Exposed red rock on Red Mercury Island (Whakau)



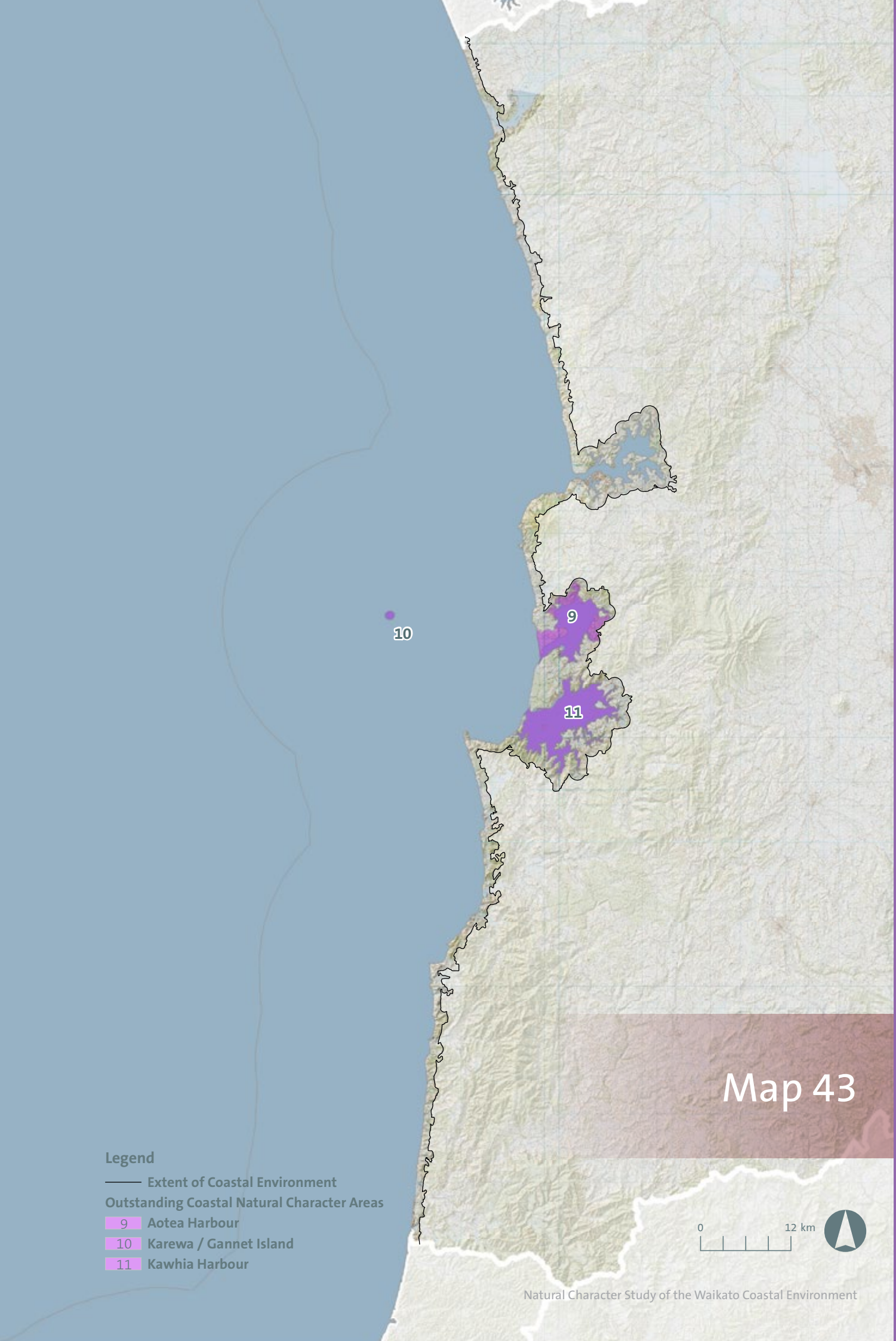
Waikato’s West Coast

On Waikato’s West Coast, three Outstanding Natural Character Areas (ONCs) have been identified. They are listed in the table below, identified collectively on the facing map and described in the following es.

Outstanding Natural Character Areas for Waikato’s West Coast	
9	Aotea Harbour and Margins (Map 44)
10	Karewa Island (Gannet Rock) (Map 45)
11	Kawhia Harbour and Margins (Map 46)

Below: Potahi Point and Aotea Harbour





Legend

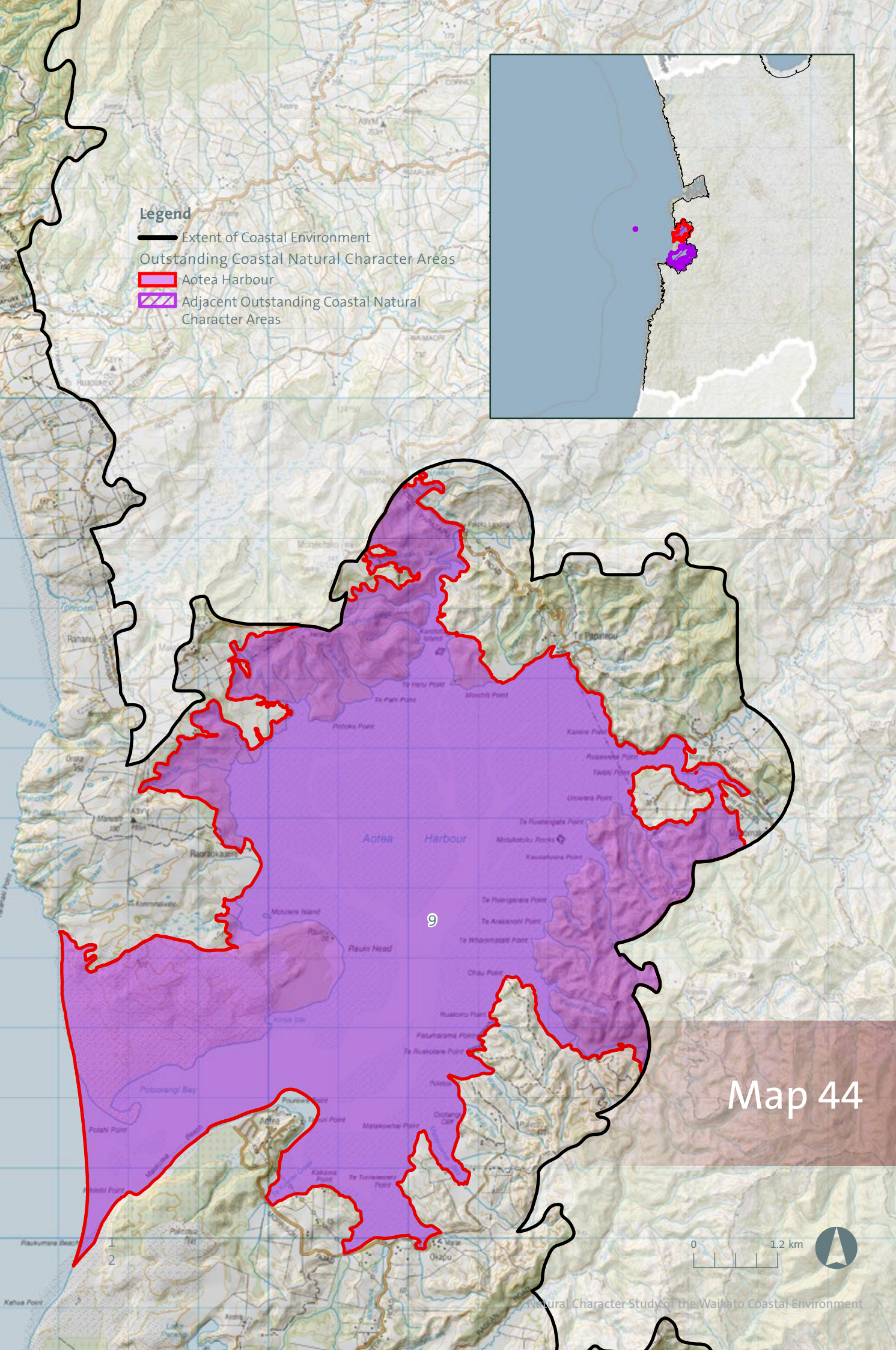
- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas
 - 9 Aotea Harbour
 - 10 Karewa / Gannet Island
 - 11 Kawhia Harbour

Map 43



Coastal waters & margins of Aotea Harbour

This area of Outstanding Natural Character encompasses the remote and ecologically important Aotea Harbour, coastal dunes and harbour estuarine and bush margins. The unmodified and spectacular coastal landforms retain outstanding degrees of naturalness as well as holding a diverse range of ecological biota.



Coastal waters and margins of Aotea Harbour Outstanding Natural Character Attributes (Level 4)	
CTA and rating (Level 3)	Aotea Harbour Margins (Very High),
CMA and rating (Level 3)	Aotea Harbour (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dramatic and highly dynamic large active dune system at the harbour mouth. Considered a geopreservation site the abiotic processes are an excellent example of the unmodified coastal processes of the west coast.• The shallow harbour and its intertidal zone remain largely unmodified except for the margins of the residential settlement. The fluvial processes remain largely unmodified excluding some culverts at the southern edges of the harbour where vehicle access is provided for. The remainder of the harbour retains the natural estuarine and wetland features which contribute to the movement of water into and out of the harbour.• Inner harbour islands are remnants of the harbour margins
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some 930ha of regenerating forest and indigenous scrubland borders the harbour, with seven ecological sites registered by Waikato Regional Council.• Potahi Point sand dunes provides an excellent example of native vegetation sequencing from dune to coastal shrubland to estuarine vegetation. This is a key ecological site.• Rauiri Head dune scrubland is also a registered ecological site.• Large areas of the harbour margin are heavily vegetated with native bush cover transitioning to estuarine vegetation and wetlands upstream. The natural patterns and their connectedness highlight the natural landform and microclimate present in each area of the harbour.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High perceived naturalness values due to limited modification.• High experiential values associated with the interpretation of the dominant abiotic and biotic processes occurring within the harbour and on its margins. The experience of the 'entire dune process' from coast to inner harbour is memorable and recognised as completely natural and unmodified.• The lack of access and inturn remoteness is apparent in the mid to northern parts of the area.• The lack of human modification within the identified area is a significant part of the experience of the naturalness of the area.
Mapped extent <p>The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character Area is defined by the following:</p> <p>For the marine area, the extent follows the very high marine mapping at the Level 4 scale, which excludes the modified coastal edge and waters around Aotea village.</p> <p>Terrestrially, this covers Potahi Point dunes including large areas of native bush cover and excludes smaller pockets of narrow native bush along the harbour margin.</p>	
Coastal waters and margins of Aotea Harbour Rating	Outstanding

Right (above): Potahi Point

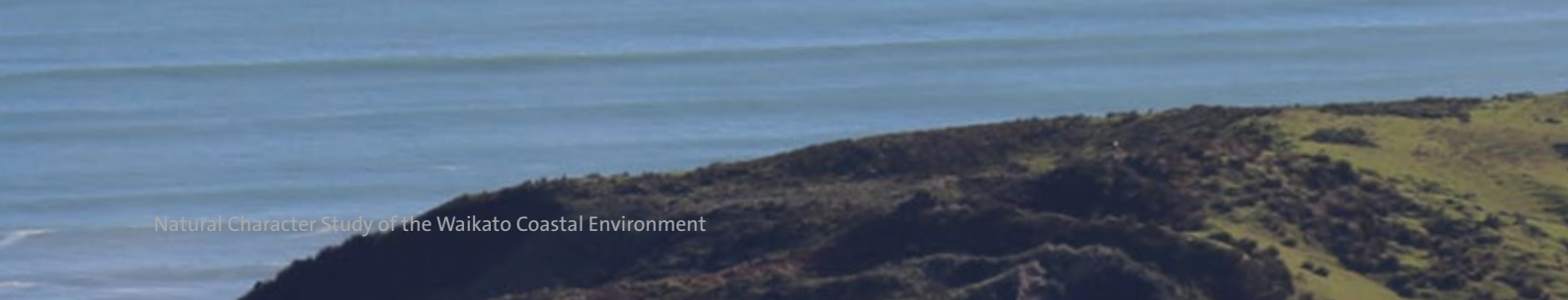
Right (below): Pirau Native Bush and Aotea Harbour

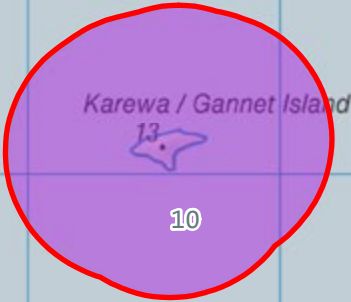
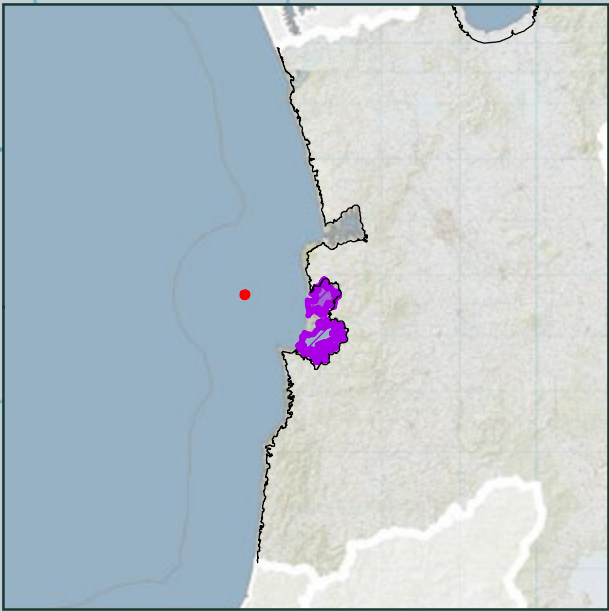




Karewa Island / Gannet Island

This area of Outstanding Natural Character encompasses the very remote and ecologically important rock cone of Karewa Island. The unmodified and spectacular feature retains its outstanding degree of naturalness as well as providing a colony for gannet seabirds and a haul out for furseal.

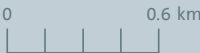




Map 45

Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas
- Karewa / Gannet Island
- Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



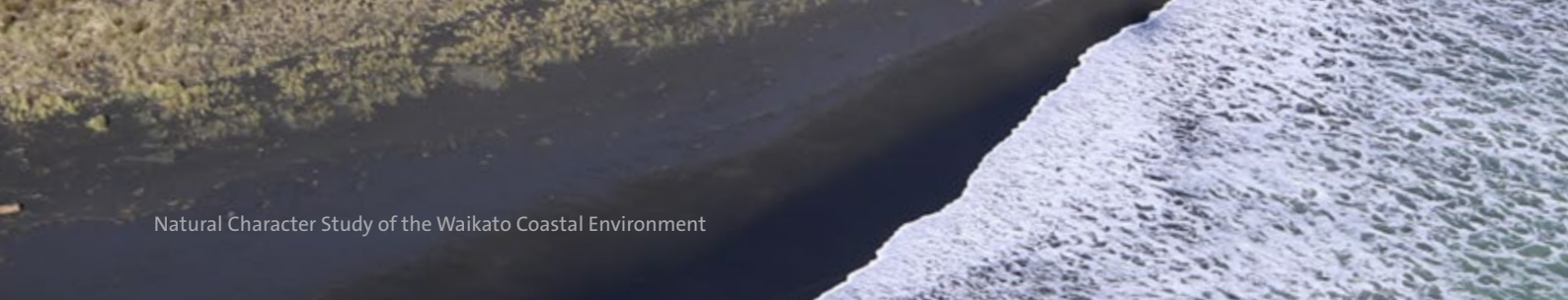
Karewa Island / Gannet Island Outstanding Natural Character Attributes (Level 4)	
CTA and rating (Level 3)	Karewa Island / Gannet Island (Very High)
CMA and rating (Level 3)	Karewa Island / Gannet Island (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Located 19 kilometres off the coast the island is 2ha in size rising some 15m above seal level from a 65m base. The island is an eroded tuff ring that erupted about half a million years ago.• The conditions are harsh with no permanent fresh water.• The low lying nature of the island means that in big swells the island can be entirely washed over.• Guano is present and was mined in the late 1800's for a short period of time.• Dynamic and exposed island expressive of the natural abiotic processes which formed it and continue to erode it.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A wildlife sanctuary and New Zealand's largest breeding colony for Australasian gannet birds (<i>Morris serrator</i> / takapu), holding about 8000 breeding pairs.• It is a haul out for NZ Fur Seal.• Sealife is abundant and is popular destination for diving and• Extreme isolation and exposure results in a absence of vascular plants and flora.• Vegetation is limited to a small area (3m² on the summit cliffs) comprising <i>Prasiola</i>, <i>Xanthoria</i>, <i>Tortula</i> and <i>Xanthoparmelia</i>, primarily lichen, moss and green alga.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High perceived naturalness values due to extremely minimal modification• High sense of remoteness and experience of the daily natural processes from abiotic and biotic factors.
Mapped extent The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character Area is defined by the following: For the marine area a 500m offset around the island extent and including the entire 2ha of the terrestrial area.	
Coastal waters of Karewa Island/ Gannet Island Rating	Outstanding

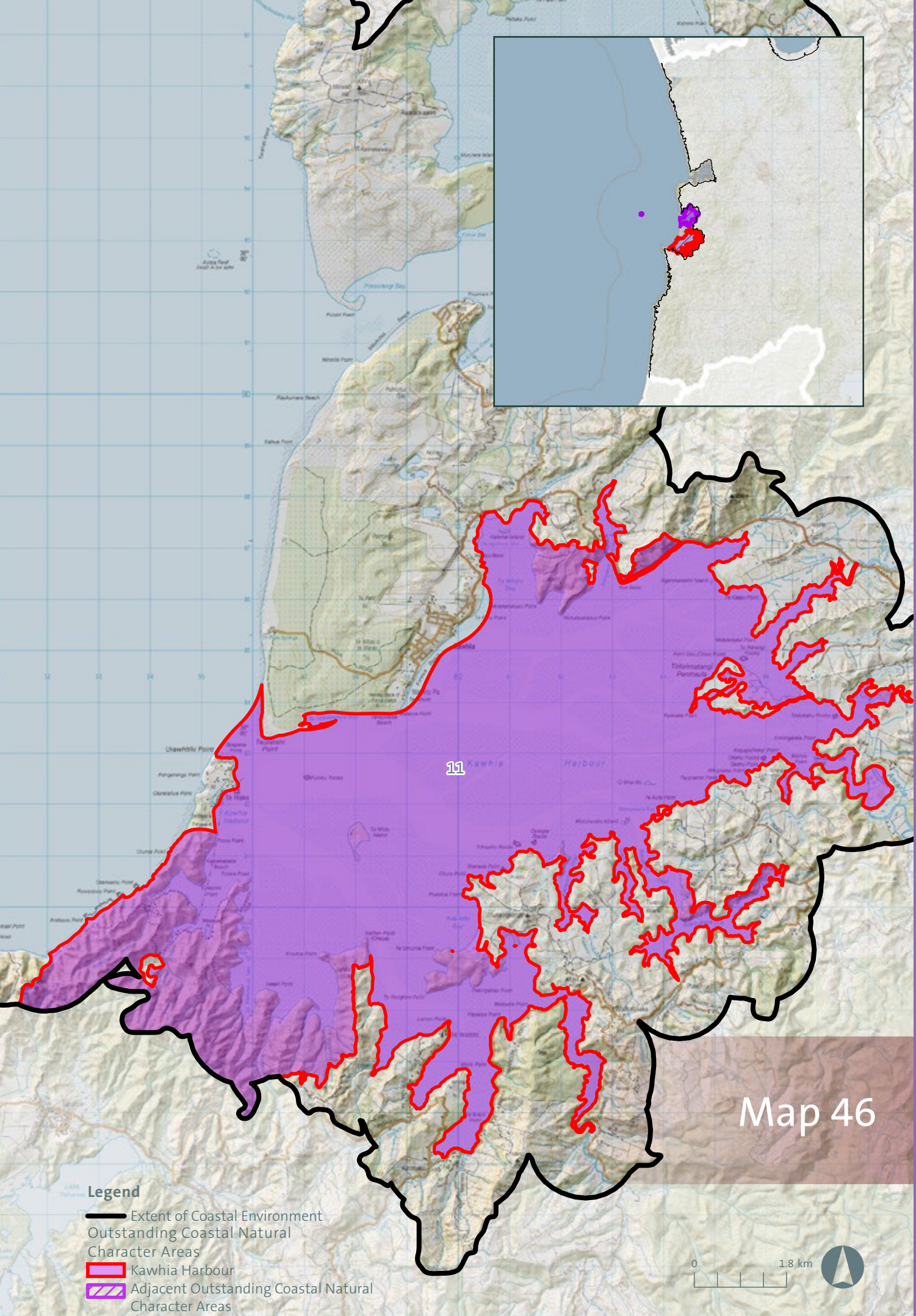




Coastal Waters and Margins of Kawhia Harbour

This area of Outstanding Natural Character encompasses the remote and ecologically important Kawhia Harbour and bush margins. The unmodified and spectacular coastal landforms retain outstanding degrees of naturalness as well as holding a diverse range of ecological biota.





Coastal Waters and Margins of Kawhia Harbour Outstanding Natural Character Attributes (Level 4)	
CTA and rating (Level 3)	Kawhia Harbour (High and Very High)
CMA and rating (Level 3)	Kawhia Harbour (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The shallow harbour and its intertidal zone remain largely unmodified except for the margins of the residential settlement. The fluvial processes remain largely unmodified excluding some culverts at the southern edges of the harbour where road and vehicle access is provided for. The remainder of the harbour retains the natural estuarine and wetland features which contribute to the movement of water into and out of the harbour.• The heavily vegetation southern extent of the harbour demonstrates impressive sequencing of native vegetation through to estuarine vegetation.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Known for containing sites of national importance for wintering indigenous and international migratory shorebirds.• The harbour is identified as being an Area of Significant Conservation Value by Waikato Regional Council.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High perceived naturalness values due to limited modification on the southern extents of the harbour margin and the mid to southern portions of the harbour body itself.• High experiential values associated with the interpretation of the dominant abiotic and biotic processes occurring within the harbour and on its margins.• The lack of access and inturn remoteness is apparent in the southern areas of the harbour.• The lack of human modification within the identified area is a significant part of the experience of the naturalness of the area.
Mapped extent <p>The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character Area is defined by the following:</p> <p>Much of the harbour and its native bush margins excluding the settlement area and modification of the harbour edges and channels around Kawhia settlement.</p>	
Coastal waters and margins of Kawhia Harbour Rating	Outstanding



