

# KAW\_35 – Rahui – Beach Road, Little Tōtara River – Water Race, Rahui, Little Beach (11.5882 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Rahui - Beach Road	0.1961	2808270	1
Conservation Area - Rahui - Beach Road	2.7992	2808271	2
Conservation Area - Little Tōtara River - Water Race	2.1026	2808273	2
Conservation Area - Rahui - Beach Road	1.5622	2808277	4
Conservation Area - Little Tōtara River - Water Race	1.3077	2808278	1
Conservation Area - Rahui	0.8957	2808279	4
Conservation Area - Little Tōtara River - Water Race	2.3827	2808280	1
Conservation Area - Little Beach	0.342	2808284	2

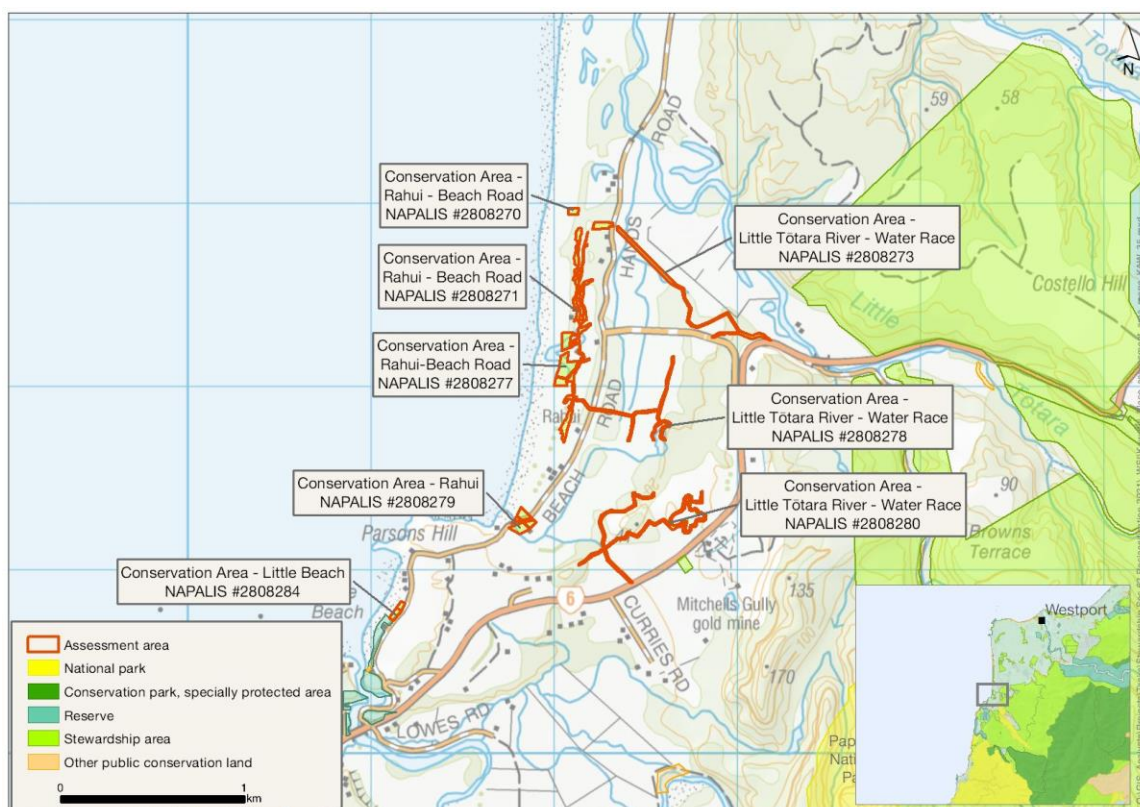
## Location

At the southern end of Nine Mile Beach, 2 km north of Charleston township.

## Brief Description

This assessment area is composed of eight small, discrete conservation areas with a mix of native and exotic vegetation cover almost completely enclosed by grazing land, although some strips run through larger pockets of regenerating scrub. The southernmost area consists of regenerating natives planted by the local community. There has been very little archaeological research in this area, but pounamu and argillite adzes have been found in the vicinity and there is goldmining history. The unusual shape of this area reflects the old mining water races on which these conservation areas were based. The areas that provide access to the beach are used by locals. Kawatiri Coastal Trail may pass through some of the areas, and is popular for walking and cycling.

## Map



# Ngāi Tahu Values and Interests

*Mo tātou, a, mo ka uri, a muri ake nei – for us and our children after us*

There is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā. A section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles perspective is required, and it may be that areas of land are significant to Ngāi Tahu from that broader perspective. To avoid doubt, nothing in the proposed classification affects, limits or derogates from the rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu over its takiwā, including in relation to freshwater; and/or any other rights or interests Ngāi Tahu may have.

A historic occupation site is in the vicinity.

## Ecological Values

### Representativeness

The assessment area is on Holocene beach deposits and includes areas of pasture, regenerating native forest, flaxland, gorse and broom. The southernmost area consists of regenerating natives planted by the local community. Common passerines and other native avifauna, including weka (*Gallirallus australis*) and heron (*Ardeidae*) use the area. These modified environments on coastal plains are now common in the Foulwind Ecological District.

### Diversity and pattern

There is likely a moderate flora and fauna diversity utilising this area.

### Rarity and distinctiveness

No known records of threatened or at-risk flora ecosystems. Some parts of the area support fernbird (mātātā, *Bowdleria punctata*) (At Risk: Declining) habitat, and there is also potential for other wetland and shorebird species and nesting habitat for kororā (blue penguin, *Eudyptula minor*) (At Risk: Declining). Newman's speckled skink (*Oligosoma newmani*) (At Risk: Declining) is potentially present.

### Ecological context

The assessment area is 11.5 ha in total, of linear and fragmented pieces that represent historic mining infrastructure. Almost completely enclosed by grazing land, although some strips run through larger pockets of regenerating scrub. The disparate parcels of the assessment area are connected via legal road, and to Nine Mile Beach, creating buffers along the coast and riparian margins.

## Recreation Values

### Setting

These areas are in a Backcountry-remote zone, located adjacent to the coast, west and east of Beach Road. There are no tracks and facilities managed by the Department. The areas are highly developed and grazed. The southern parcels provide access to the beach. The Kawatiri Coastal Trail may pass through some of these small parcels.

### Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

The areas that provide access to the beach are used by locals. The Kawatiri Coastal Trail is a Grade 2 which goes from Westport to Charleston and appeals to a wide range of domestic visitors for walking and cycling.

## **Access**

Access via Beach Road and Hands Road off SH 6.

## **Heritage Values**

### **Historical overview**

The Charleston goldfield occupied the section of pākihi extending from Four Mile Stream to beyond Nile River. The field was distinctive – the gold lay in a number of lens-shaped black sand leads roughly parallel to one another overlaid by 3–4 m of marine shingle. By March 1868, around 120 cement stampers were operating.

Gold mining operations at Nine Mile Beach are largely associated with a community from the Shetland Islands.

Early survey plans show an extensive network of water races and fluming providing water for the workings along the beach along with residential sections. This particular conservation area is recorded as "lagoon dams" on these plans. Water races are specifically named including Noonan's race, Harper's race and Parson's race.

### **Sites recorded**

K29/35 artefact finds including pounamu and argillite adzes recorded in the vicinity. Site record says that the area was known as Pou-Rahui, reportedly a tribal boundary marker. No recorded archaeological sites present but given its coastal location there is a risk that previously unidentified occupation evidence may be present.

### **Heritage values**

Charleston was an important goldfield on the West Coast where a variety of mining methods were used including ground and hydraulic sluicing, crushing auriferous cement, and working auriferous sand with hydraulic elevating. This last method was not common outside of the West Coast and was a response to the challenges posed by the pākihi. Any archaeological sites remaining along this section of coastline have potentially high archaeological values given the likelihood that many of them will have been destroyed by mining. There has been very little archaeological research in this area with the exception of the early colonisation period site near Carters Beach.

### **Modifying factors**

Given how heavily the beach has been worked it is possible that other evidence of Māori occupation in this area has already been destroyed by mining. No evidence of in situ archaeological sites nor the exact location of the find spot has yet been identified. Much of the race is in pastoral land and has been infilled or ploughed out. Intact sections may exist in the bush gullies.

### **Permissions summary**

None recorded.

# Map (aerial photo)

