

KAW_32 – Omau Beach, Cape Foulwind beach, Tauranga Bay Accretion (19.8266 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Omau Beach	8.0973	2808258	2
Conservation Area - Cape Foulwind beach	10.6574	2808259	1
Conservation Area - Tauranga Bay Accretion	1.0719	2808260	3

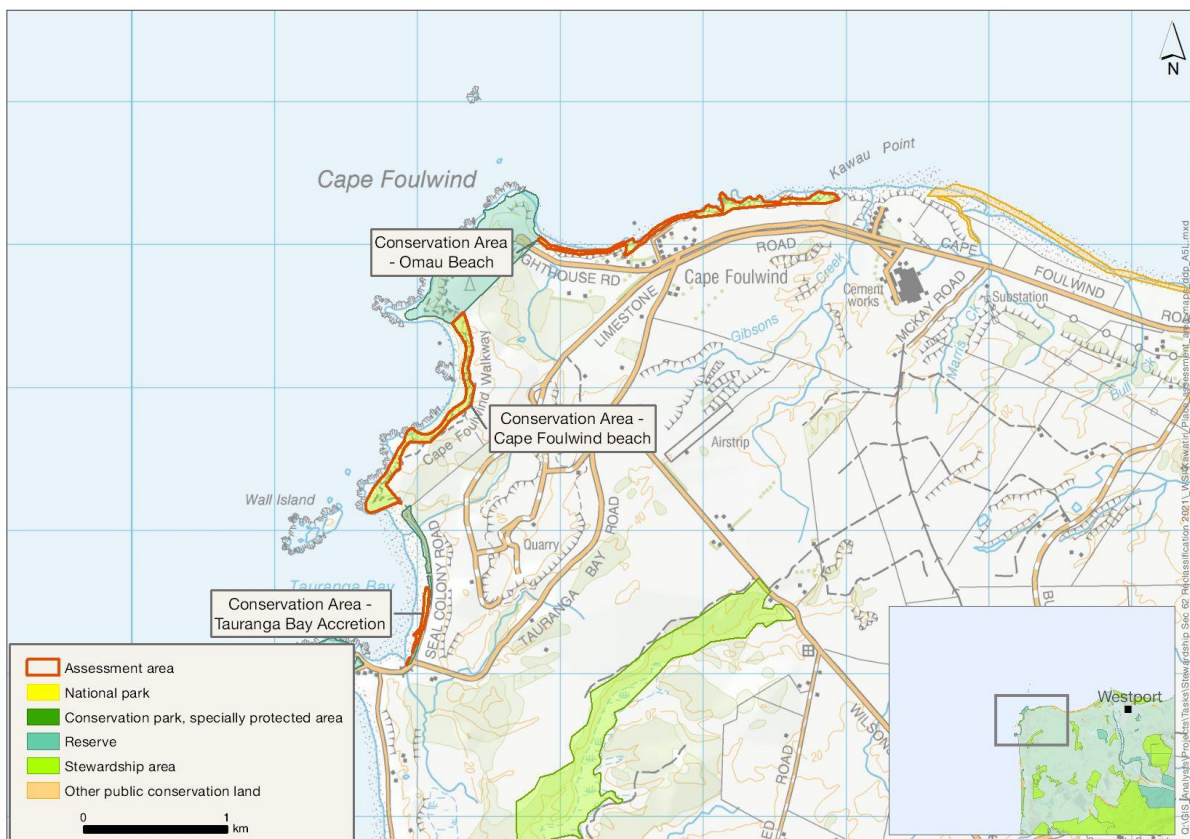
Location

Either side of Cape Foulwind, also including a section of Tauranga Bay.

Brief Description

Three narrow, disjunct conservation areas along the coast that include active beach, old stabilised dune and parts of a 40 m limestone cliff. It is congruent with the Cape Foulwind Biodiversity Priority site and the Tauranga Bay Ecosystem Management Unit. This area supports breeding colonies of fur seals, blue penguins and sooty shearwaters. The Cape Foulwind Walkway is promoted as an Icon Visitor site and one of DOC’s best short walks. Much of the surrounding area is privately owned and developed for agriculture and mining. Archaeological sites along this section of the coast have the potential to provide valuable information about pre-European use and settlement of the area.

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.

Mahinga kai sites and a historic kāinga site are in the vicinity.

Ecological Values

Representativeness

Within this assessment area are good representative areas of dunes, rocky reefs and intertidal platforms, coastal terrace, and limestone cliff landforms with a mix of native and exotic vegetation, typical of the Foulwind Ecological District. Marine birds and mammals use this assessment area and marine shellfish are present. It is a known habitat for small passerines and lizards. Dune systems and lower lying areas are heavily modified with introduced pasture grasses and marram. There is a moderate level of naturalness in this assessment area.

Diversity and pattern

The area is underlain by a range of substrates including limestone, granite, sandstone and beach deposits. The area includes several coastal habitats with mixed native coastal shrub vegetation associations and exotic pasture grasses and forbs.

Rarity and distinctiveness

A population of coastal cress (*Lepidium flexicaule*) (Nationally Vulnerable) is present in the rocky platforms north of Tauranga Bay; the herb *Lepidium naufragorum* has also been found there. A remnant population of kōwhangatara (*Spinifex sericeus*) is present at Tauranga Bay, likely very close to its southern distributional limit on Te Tai o Poutini.

This area supports breeding colonies of fur seals (kekeno, *Arctocephalus forsteri*), kororā (blue penguin, *Eudyptula minor*) (At Risk: Declining) and sooty shearwaters (tītī, *Puffinus griseus*) (At Risk: Declining). Banded dotterel (tūturiwhatu, *Charadrius bicinctus*) (Nationally Vulnerable) are likely present on the flat sand areas of Tauranga Bay. There are other seabird colonies on the offshore sea stacks that have the potential to establish on the mainland, such as fairy prion (tītī Wainui, *Pachyptila turtur*) (Relict), diving petrel (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*) (Relict), black shag (kōau, *Phalacrocorax carbo*), spotted shag (pārekareka, *Stictocarbo punctatus*) and gulls (*Larus*). A diurnal *Naultinus* gecko (Threatened) was identified within the area, as was forest gecko (*Mokopirirakau granulatus*) (At Risk). West Coast green gecko (*Naultinus tuberculatus*) (Nationally Vulnerable) is known from this area, particularly the southern vegetated parcel on the spit. Fernbird (mātātā, *Bowdleria punctata*) (At Risk: Declining) is likely to inhabit the area. Australasian bittern (matuku hūrepo, *Botaurus poiciloptilus*) (Nationally Critical) are known to use the wetlands.

The area is classified as two land environments (level 3) (Leathwick et al. 2002) dominated by the O1.3 land environment of which 8.6% is within public conservation land in the ecological district. The other land environment (F1.1) is a minor element, constituting only 0.05% of the ecological district of which 50% is within public conservation land.

Ecological context

A group of three conservation areas totalling 19.8 ha, 30 m wide at their narrowest. The area makes a significant contribution to the surrounding reserves to which it is connected through vegetation cover and the legal road that follows the walking track. The intertidal shallow rocky platforms and reefs form a mainland link to Wall Island and Steeples Island (offshore sea stacks that are important seabirding breeding sites). The area forms a strip between the sea and farmland inland and creates a corridor between Kawau Point and Tauranga Bay, with the Cape Foulwind Recreation Reserve in the middle. Much of the surrounding area is privately owned and developed for agriculture and mining.

Recreation Values

Setting

Part of the Cape Foulwind Walkway is in these areas. The Cape Foulwind Walkway is managed as an Icon Visitor site and promoted as one of the Department's best short walks. The walkway provides access to cliff tops, the lighthouse and views of the Cape Foulwind seal colony. This area is accretion beside the Tauranga Bay Recreation Reserve. The area provides access to the beach.

Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

People doing short walks and wildlife viewing. The conservation area in Tauranga Bay is a popular access point for surfers.

Access

Access via Lighthouse road and Seal Colony Road.

Heritage Values

Historical overview

Sites recorded

- K29/6 is a tunnel that the sea comes through at the end of the beach. It is possible that this was associated with early transport/mining in this area. It may also be natural.
- K29/1 is a midden layer containing shell and seal bones in dunes. There is a possibility that other unrecorded archaeological sites are present in this conservation area.
- K29/3 is a shell midden exposed in the stream banks. There are other recorded archaeological sites (mostly middens) in the immediate vicinity including the reported location of a Māori village on the headland at the south end of the bay which was mentioned by Brunner who called it Omau.

Heritage values

Archaeological sites along this section of the coast have the potential to provide valuable information about pre-European use and settlement of the area. Settlement of the region began during the early colonisation phase of the fourteenth century but little is known archaeologically about later occupation, settlement patterns and resource use.

Modifying factors

The site record has not been updated since the site was recorded in 1965 so there is no current condition information available.

Permissions summary

None recorded.

Map (aerial photo)

