

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Manawatū Coastline</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	NZ Topo BM33	
<b>Description:</b>	Coastal foredunes from Rangitikei River to District boundary south of Himatangi Beach.	
<b>ONL/ONF/SAF:</b>	Outstanding Natural Landscape	
<b>Natural Science:</b>	Geological/ Geomorphological:	Coastal dune system seaward of the Tangimoana pine plantation. Includes active dune areas located around Himatangi township containing the north-western edge of the Foxtangi Dunefield. This part of the dunefield is unique in that it is the last remaining area of functioning duneland ecosystem that remains in private ownership in the area between Himatangi and Foxton (primarily Horowhenua District), and is known as the Foxtangi RAP (DOC Recommended Area for Protection). These areas of the Foxtangi Dunefield either side of Himatangi (within Manawatū District) are recommended as ONL, excluding the areas containing pine plantation. The coastline soils are primarily deep, well drained sandy loam. Research has recognised the Manawatū dunefield as the best representative example of Holocene dune development in New Zealand, and one of the best examples of parabolic dune development in Australasia.
	Biological/Ecological:	Modified vegetation with prevalence of coastal grasses and acacia covering dunes between the high water mark and pine plantations. Inland dunefields have been planted in pine plantation for erosion control however these lie outside the ONL within the productive Tangimoana Forest. This area contains part of the Tangimoana Dunes, where the rare spiked sand sedge ( <i>Eleocharis neozelandica</i> ) can be found, and Fernbird area listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002) Appendix 1A (W3), along with part of the Foxtangi Dunes, Appendix 1A (W11).
	Hydrological:	Coastal lagoons located inland of the ONL, which contribute to the hydrological functioning of the coastal processes where rivers and streams meet the sea, and transporting the mauri from the coastal grasses and dunes to the surrounding land. These include Pukepuke Lagoon and Lake Kaikokopu located inland of the dunes but set in farmland or adjacent to pine plantation. The ONL includes the mouth of the Rangitikei River and its coastal sand bank plus remnant flows across open floodplains in the southern oxbow.
<b>Perceptual:</b>	Memorability:	Memorable as an expansive unbuilt coastal foredune system.
	Legibility/Expressiveness:	Clearly expressive of coastal dune processes.
	Transient:	Climatic changes of onshore/offshore winds, sea spray and coastal birds.
	Aesthetic:	Extensive linear repetitive dune landform combined with the coastal grassland and native vegetation cover contributes to the coherence of this feature and is vivid particularly when observed from the beach. High aesthetic value due to naturalness and linear extent of unbuilt coastal frontage.
	Naturalness:	Generally high naturalness, but with some areas of modification due to tracks and non-native vegetation. Naturalness also influenced by proximity of settlements and pine plantations parallel to the beach.
<b>Associational:</b>	Historical:	The beach was the highway in early European times, with the Scott's Ferry serving the Rangitikei area from 1850 – 1908. A port operated at the Rangitikei River mouth servicing steamships from 1867-97 when flooding swept away all bridges across the Rangitikei and silted up the port, closing it forever. The coastal area is abundant in archaeological evidence, with over 35 recorded sites.
	Tangata Whenua:	Under the Settlement Act, the coastline is an area of interest, as well as a statutory acknowledgement area for both Ngāti Apa and Rangitāne o Manawatū. There are also cultural redress properties in Tangimoana. Foredunes are part of the wider coastal dune system, which was highly significant to Māori. Linked with the historic wetlands inland of the coastal dunes, fish (e.g. eels), flora (e.g. flax, pīngao) and fauna was an important food source for Māori. Numerous middens have been discovered inland of the sand dunes. Himatangi was an important source of a variety of foods for Rangitāne o Manawatū. The correct hyphenation of the Himatangi is said not to be Hima-tangi but Hi-matangi, and thereby provides a different tale. "Hi" means to fish, and Matangi was a Chief who lived in the mystic past in the Mohaka District of the East Coast. The name also refers to Matangi capturing and slaying a Taniwha in the area upon his settlement. Himatangi was also famous for the abundance of eel and birds available from the wetlands and dune lakes in the area. The mouth of the Rangitikei River being of strategic importance to Rangitāne o Manawatū as it provided an entrance to the Rangitikei and Central North Island. The name "Tangimoana" was allocated to a small coastal area. Traditionally the dune area around the town was referred to as Te Ruahine. The most recognised area or settlement (nearest to the present day township) was Tawhiriho. Tawhiriho was originally a pā, then a mahinga kai and cultivation, and finally the flat now known as Scott's Ferry and Tangimoana. The culturally significant feature of this coastline was the shellfish that were found in areas where the freshwater met the ocean and the wetland areas and small swallow dune lakes that were found between large dune structures. Within these lakes and the freshwater streams that feed them were a variety of native fish and eel as well as birds.

	<p>Rangitikei River was one of the sites of significance for Ngāti Apa located along the coastline as a fishing station and tauranga waka of Tawhirihoē and the Rangitikei Heads. The latter area was noted as the place that Rangipowhatu, an early ancestor of the Ngāti Tauira hapū of Ngāti Apa (North Island), first settled. From there, his descendants moved into the Rangitikei Valley and populated the area.</p> <p>The Manawatū Coast has been an integral part of Rangitāne o Manawatū culture, history and existence with those connections being unbroken for over seven hundred years. These connection to the Manawatū Coast and coastal sand dune country have been recorded in waiata, korero and whaikaro. The coastline or area that was traditionally referred to as Okatia, the spirit that created the Manawatū River, resides on the coast. The coastal area is abundant in archaeological evidence, with over 35 recorded sites. Rangitāne o Manawatū earliest connections with the Manawatū Coast are recorded by their Kurahaupo ancestor, firstly Kupe who navigated the coastline from the East Coast around Te Whanganui a Tara and along the Manawatū River Estuary.</p> <p>Tawhirihoē Scientific Reserve is located immediately south of the Rangitikei River mouth. The reserve and dune-lands are of historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū. Tawhirihoē was an important site and Nohonga area for people travelling along the coast or linking up with trails following inland to Pukepuke and Puketotara. The Tawhirihoē area has traditionally been a launching area for waka and Rangitāne o Manawatū fishing station. Rangitāne o Manawatū also commonly collected pipi along the coastline. The Tawhirihoē area had a number of large active dunes where traditionally plant and weaving resources such as pīngao were collected. Tawhirihoē and the adjacent coastline is recognised by DOC as a unique area for its flora, fauna and landforms. The area is also recognised by Rangitāne o Manawatū for this and the natural resources utilised by the iwi. The area is one of the last natural coastal (backshore – foredune) environments with a number of rare sedges and flora. This is one of the last places that the endangered native Katipo spider is found. The Katipo spider is an important figure within Rangitāne o Manawatū lore. Over recent years numerous archaeological sites have been discovered unearthing middens and numerous artefacts providing important insights into the early history and use of the area by Rangitāne o Manawatū. The Tawhirihoē Scientific Reserve is also recognised under the Statement of Association under the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 and Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010.</p>
Shared/Recognised:	Dunes recognised for the importance they play in coastal processes and high degree of perceived naturalness. The Tawhirihoē Scientific Reserve, located on the coast immediately south of Tangimoana, contains one of the last examples of a dynamic dune and ephemeral wetland system, which once stretched along the west coast. The Reserve is partially planted in exotic pine plantation, the areas of which are excluded from the ONL. The Natural Character Assessment for the Manawatū District Coastal Environment did not recognise any areas as Outstanding Natural Character. However, the Landscape Assessment does recognise some areas as an Outstanding Natural Landscape. This is due to the weighting on Associational values in a landscape assessment which are absent from a natural character assessment.
Recreation:	Foredunes accessed from coastal settlements, although off-road bikes threaten their stability, particularly in proximity to these settlements.
<b>Summary of Key Characteristics:</b>	Vital contribution to healthy functioning of coastal processes and erosion control with high perceived naturalness of the coastal landforms. High aesthetic values of expressiveness and naturalness resulting from extensive unbuilt coastal strip. Very high cultural associational values of spiritual well-being and kaitiakitanga for Māori. Some protection is also afforded under the NZCPS and the Statutory Authority.
<b>Potential Issues:</b>	Coastal foredunes and estuaries define the landscape and contribute to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist preservation of the key characteristics if the following were to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● discourage the loss of native vegetation;</li> <li>● discourage built development;</li> <li>● discourage earthworks; and</li> <li>● discourage adverse effects on cultural values.</li> </ul>



# ONFL2 - Outstanding Natural Landscape - Manawatu Coastline



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