

# *appendix h: outstanding natural features*



## OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES

NAME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	AREA MAP	NO.
Bendall Knoll	300m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.	1km from Scenic Drive/West Coast Road/ Forest Hill Road intersection	Waiaatarua; Waiaatarua-Parklands	1
Cascade Falls	Waterfalls are a feature of the catchments of the river valleys of the Waitakere Ranges, the Cascades are among the better examples.	500m south of Falls Road in Cascade-Kauri Park	Scenic Dr North; Bethells-Te Henga	2
Clark's Brickyard, Hobsonville	The largest and one of the oldest brickyards and pottery factories in west Auckland. Of regional significance.	Around the head of Limeburner's Bay, Hobsonville	Hobsonville	3
Cornwallis Peninsula proximal volcanic-rich flysch	High cliff exposure of flysch dominated by thick sandstone beds and minor mudstone. Of regional significance.	On western side of Cornwallis Peninsula about 10km, SW of Titirangi	Huia-Cornwallis	4
Cowan Point to Paratutae Island	Unique association of landforms of national significance. Has excellent examples of features which characterise the Waitakere West Coast. The high tide platforms of Paratutae Island are particularly well noted. Also extremely rare extensive sand deposition - the Whatipu Coastal Flats are huge areas of sandflats and low dunes, most of which were deposited between 1900 - 1903. The best example of recent sand aggradation in New Zealand. Of national importance.		Whatipu	5
Driving Stream Knoll	280 m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.		Opanuku	6
Fairy Falls	Waterfalls are a feature of the catchments of the river valleys of the Waitakere Ranges. The Fairy Falls are among the better examples.	1 km west of Scenic Dr and south of Main Rd on Fairy Falls Stream	Waiaatarua - Parklands	7
Forest Hill Knoll	298 m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.		Opanuku	8
Jacobson's Knoll	232 m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.	Off Scenic Drive 2km from Arataki Visitor Centre	Oratia; Parau	9
Kaiwanake Point complex landslide	Complex landslide consisting of coastal slip and flow occurring in one of the few places where pumice silts exist at sea level. Of national importance.	Kawanake Point, Hobsonville	Hobsonville	10
Karamatura-Marama Stream Catchments	Two stream catchments which contain a range of landforms including bluffs, waterfalls, gorges, and steep hillslopes. The area also includes Mt Donald McLean and is of regional significance for the range and diversity of landforms within a small area.		Whatipu; Little Huia	11
Kitekite Falls	Waterfalls are a feature of the catchments of the river valleys of the Waitakere Ranges. The waterfalls are of regional significance.	In Auckland Centennial Park, 1 km north of Piha Rd, on Glen Esk Stream	Piha; Piha - Parklands	12
Lion Rock	An excellent example of an isolated rock mass. Provides an important depositional record of the Waitakere Ranges. Of district significance.	Piha Beach, 11 km north of Manukau Harbour Entrance	Piha-Parklands; Piha	13
Mercer Bay Chimney	Te Atua Point, the northern headland of Mercer Bay, contains a vertical shaft descending about 90 m to sea level and 20 - 30m wide. A good example of a sea cave that has eroded vertically upwards. Unique in the District and of regional significance.	High in the cliffs above north end of Mercer Bay, 2km north of Karekare Beach, Waitakere Ranges	Piha-Parklands	14

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NAME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	AREA MAP	NO.
Nihotupu Gorge	Contains an exposure of a sequence of interfingering volcaniclastic flysch and conglomerate of national significance.	Downstream from Upper Nihotupu Reservoir	Waiatarua-Parklands	15
Nihotupu pillow lavas	Well exposed easternmost pillow lavas of regional significance. These form the Nihotupu Falls that are amongst the better examples of waterfalls in the Waitakere Ranges.	Head of Upper Nihotupu Reservoir and in adjacent old quarry.	Waiatarua-Parklands	16
North Pararaha Cliffs submarine slide	Cliffs behind sand dunes consisting of 100m + thick unit of slumped and slump folded blocks of fine and coarse-grained volcaniclastic sediments. Of national importance.	Forming Cliffs for 400m north from the mouth of the Pararaha Stream	Whatipu	17
Northway Knoll	210 m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.	Between Shaw Road, Cochran Road and Scenic Drive	Oratia; Parau	18
Ohaka Head dike swarm	Best exposed dike swarm in the Waitakere Ranges. Of regional importance.	In Western Cliffs at base of Ohaka Head, 1km south of Pararaha Stream mouth	Whatipu	19
Opanuku Rd Knoll	200 m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.	Off Opanuku Road	Opanuku	20
Pararaha Valley	The Pararaha Stream has eroded down through deep unbedded breccias to produce a spectacular steep-sided gorge. The valley is of regional significance.		Whatipu	21
Paratutae Wave-Cut Notch	Best example of a wave-cut notch in the West Coast of Auckland. Of regional significance.	Northeast side of Paratutae Island, Whatipu, Manukau Harbour Entrance	Whatipu	22
Parkinson's Lookout Knoll	260 m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.		Opanuku	23
Piha Gorge	Best example of a gorge in the Waitakere ranges. narrow, steep sided: 5-20m wide and 50-100m high. Of regional importance.	On Piha Stream, between junction with McKenzie Stream and Centennial Stream, Waitakere Ranges	Piha-Parklands	24
Pukematekeo	336 m high. Road to summit. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.	2km from Scenic Drive/ Te Henga Road Junction	Scenic Dr North; Waitakere	25
Ruaotu-Uhenua	440 m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.	Off Opanuku Road	Opanuku	26
Shaw Knoll	An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.	By Scenic Drive/ Shaw Road intersection	Oratia	27
South Piha Coastline	Contains landforms such as a rock stack (Nun Rock), cliffs, blowholes, caves and shore platforms which are of regional significance. Best example of sea arches and blowholes on the West Coast of Auckland and Northland. The volcanic intrusion and marine volcaniclastic conglomerate sequence are also of regional significance for the record they provide of important events in the geological history of the District.	South end of Piha beach, Waitakere Ranges, including Nun Rock, Taitomo Island, The gap and Kaiwhare Blowhole.	Piha; Piha-Parklands	28

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NAME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	AREA MAP	NO.
South Te Henga pillows and hyaloclastites	Well exposed pillow lavas and hyaloclastites. Of national importance	In coastal cliffs surrounding points on either side of Wigmore Bay, south end Te Henga Beach	Bethells-Te Henga	29
Te Atatu Pleistocene plant beds	Remnants of swamp and estuarine vegetation of Pleistocene age now exposed at intertidal levels. Of regional importance.	Northern end (eastern side) of Te Atatu Peninsula	Te Atatu Peninsula	30
Te Henga Valley	Deposition of sand has resulted in the formation of large mobile sand dunes, which extend approximately 2 km inland associated with the formation of dune lakes (Wainamu and Kawaupaka and Waitataru) and Te Henga Wetland. This association of landforms is of regional significance as it is unique in the Auckland Region.	1-2km inland of Te Henga Beach, north end of Waitakere Ranges	Bethells-Te Henga	31
Te Komoki exfoliation dome	A rock dome shaped top of prominent hill. Of regional importance.	South side of Little Huia Bay, south Waitakere Ranges	Little Huia	32
The Watchman dacite dome and crater	A good example of flow structures in volcanic rocks. Only flow banded dacite in the Waitakere Ranges. Of national importance	Headland north end of Karekare Beach, Waitakere Ranges	Karekare; Piha-Parklands; Whatipu	33
Waitatarua Knoll	320 m high. An isolated outcrop of erosion resistant volcanic breccia surrounded by softer tertiary sedimentary rocks that forms a prominent peak.	By Scenic Drive/West Coast Road/Forest Hill Road intersection	Waitatarua; Waitatarua - Parklands	34
Wainamu Lakes	Two lakes formed by damming of the valleys by active sand dunes, well defined as little modified by humans. Of regional importance.	1-2km inland of Te Henga beach, north end of Waitakere Ranges; Lake Wainamu, Lake Kawaupaka	Bethells-Te Henga	35
Waitakere Falls	Waterfalls are a feature of the catchments of the river valleys of the Waitakere Ranges, the Waitakere Falls are among the better examples.	Below the Waitakere Dam on the Waitakere River	Waitatarua-Parklands	36
Waitakere Wetland	Originally a lake, the wetland occupies the lower reaches of the Waitakere River and Mokoroa Stream and is of regional significance as the largest freshwater wetland in the Auckland Region.	Lower 5 km of Waitakere Valley, north end of Waitakere Ranges	Bethells-Te Henga	37
Whatipu Caves pyroclastic breccia dikes	Group of 4-5 caves eroded by sea. Of national importance.	At back of Whatipu sand flat, 1km north of end of Whatipu Road and 300m north of Whatipu Stream valley mouth	Whatipu	38
Whites Beach crater	One of the three best exposed craters in Waitakere Ranges. Unusual type of pillow lava. Of regional significance.	In cliffs surrounding Whites Beach and Paiea Bay	Piha; Piha-Parklands	39

## REPRESENTATIVE SOIL SITES

NAME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	AREA MAP
Wainamu Scenic Reserve	Huia steepland soils. Parent material andesite and derived colluvium; aeolian sands. Good examples of Huia soils are uncommon.	2km east of Bethells Beach	Bethells-Te Henga