

Practice and Guidance Note

Outstanding Natural Features

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1 Introduction

Auckland has a diverse range of Outstanding Natural Features (ONFs). These include geological features, volcanic features, natural landforms, caves and coastal features. The ONFs form part of Auckland’s natural and physical heritage. In combination, ONFs document the unique geological history of Auckland, the development of its landforms, and the evolution of its flora and fauna.

Volcanic cones, explosion craters and tuff rings are perhaps the most well-known and visually apparent ONFs in Auckland. But volcanic features also include the extensive lava flows that erupted and now underlie much of urban Auckland. These lava fields also include associated caves and tunnels and geological exposures. Only small areas of these lava fields now remain relatively unmodified.

ONFs in the coastal environment include those features that are the result of natural processes, particularly those reflecting a particular geology, topography, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, or other physical attributes that create a natural feature or combination of natural features.

What does 'outstanding' mean?

Practice and case law provide guidance on the meaning and application of 'outstanding' when assessing and evaluating natural features and natural landscapes.

The rank of 'outstanding' relates to an area’s pre-eminence or exceptional nature, relative to the scale of assessment; e.g. national, regional or local. What is 'outstanding' involves subjective judgement.

2 Why do we identify ONFs?

ONFs are an important component of the natural environment and can be fundamental to our sense of place, well-being and quality of life. Importantly, [section 6\(b\)](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires “***the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development***” as a matter of national importance.

A feature must be both natural and outstanding to fall within section 6(b). While it must be a product of nature in the urban environment, many noted features will have a cultured context, marked by human structures or patterns rather than pristine.

‘Outstandingness’ is ranked within the context of the area covered by the plan i.e. [Auckland Unitary Plan \(Operative in Part\)](#) (AUP (OP)) at a regional level or Hauraki Gulf Islands at a district level. That is, Auckland’s features may not rank against ‘The Remarkables’ or ‘Aoraki’ (Mt Cook), but are still conspicuous, eminent, iconic or ‘remarkable’ in our Auckland context.

The inclusion of ONFs in plans is a response to concerns about the progressive degradation of natural features, particularly from cumulative adverse effects.

For tangata whenua, the ongoing ability to associate with and to access natural resources, including ONFs, is an important element of cultural well-being.

What does “inappropriate” mean?

Outstanding natural features and landscapes are not protected absolutely. Instead, a decision maker must assess whether an activity is “inappropriate”. The term “inappropriate” is affected by context and should be assessed with reference to what it is that is sought to be protected.

In the context of [section 6\(b\)](#) of the RMA, the standard of inappropriateness relates back to the attributes of the feature that is to be protected.

Whether an activity is “inappropriate” will depend upon the extent to which a location can absorb development without adverse effects on the natural qualities of the site and the surrounding environment. This will turn upon the characteristics of the area and the proposed activity.

3 What values does an ONF have?

Regional Policy Statement (RPS) Policy B4.2.2(4) identifies the factors to be used for the identification and evaluation of ONFs. Each ONF is different and [Schedule 6](#) lists which of the factors are associated with an individual ONF. Most ONFs are identified in relation to a combination of several factors as they can incorporate a range of values such as; scientific, geological, social, cultural, historical, amenity, open space and landscape values.

ONFs could be of international, national, regional, and/or local significance. ONFs of regional significance or above are identified in the AUP (OP), although the significance level is not specified and does not affect the objectives, policies or rules that are applicable.

What types of things are an ONF in Auckland?

Some of the types of ONFs found in Auckland include:

- **Geological features** e.g. mélange, landform, intrusion, gorge, fault, ridge, rock stack, overthrust, dike swarm, freshwater springs, gorge, landslide.
- **Volcanic features** e.g. maunga, explosion crater, tuff ring, scoria cone, scoria mound, lava flow, lava cave, lava tube, rift cave
- **Coastal features** e.g. beach, island, island bluff, waterfall, shore platform, coastal cliff, coastal terrace, sea passage, sea stack, estuary, sand spit, barrier spit, dunefield, river meanders, intertidal platform, exfoliated dome, beach and foreshore platform, shell spits, dune-dammed lake, rocky shores, reefs, sand dune, river terraces, wave-cut notch, salt marsh, mangroves, shell banks, estuarine and harbour mudflats, sea caves, reef corals, arches, blow holes, submarine slide.
- Specific sediments, sands, soils and rock types, grit beds.
- Fossilised forest, fossils.

In addition, the broad characteristics of each ONF are identified under the 'site type' heading in [Schedule 6](#), for the purpose of identifying which rules apply under the various activity tables. The nature of each 'site type' is defined in [Table D10.4.1](#) 'Outstanding Natural Feature Code for activity tables applying to outstanding natural features'. In this table the 'Site type' from [Schedule 6](#) is labelled as the 'Feature Code' (for details, please refer to [Section 9](#) of this Practice and Guidance Note).

4 Matters of consideration for ONFs

ONFs can be vulnerable to damage from subdivision, development and use. The different types of ONFs can be affected in different ways by development and activities. An ONF can cover a wide area which exhibits important aspects of the feature such as the overall landform, but it can also contain sub-components such as geological outcrops that, on their own, have important values. These sub-components of larger ONFs may be susceptible to smaller scale activities, or different activities, than what might affect the wider feature. Therefore, consideration of development impacts on the value of the wider ONFs, as well as for sub-components of the ONF (which may be different to the wider values) is required. Refer to the [Matters of consideration for ONFs](#) in the Appendix for a discussion on how various activities may affect ONFs.

5 ONF application information and assessments

Due to the range of factors an ONF could be scheduled for, there is a range of expertise that may need to input into development associated with an ONF. The necessary geological expertise may need to span geomorphology (landforms) as well as understanding the management requirements of smaller more technical components of a geological feature, such as sedimentary structures, fossils or coastal processes. Additional expertise may be needed to consider the other values an ONF may be scheduled for, such as importance of the feature to Mana Whenua or its landscape values.

Landform ONFs (such as volcanic cones, craters and other larger landform / landscape features), especially those scheduled under RPS policy B4.2.2(4)(e) may require an assessment of the visual impacts on the ONF landform as a result of development. This assessment needs to focus on the visual impact on the geomorphic landform which may be different to purely aesthetic landscape matters ([Self Family Trust case](#)). Applicants may provide a landscape assessment. Within the council, these are sent for review by a landscape specialist.

Geomorphologists can consider coastal ONF matters relating to coastal processes and they have a better understanding of the whole of a system that might encompass an ONF. However, they too may not fully understand all the values the ONF has been scheduled for.

Note that this practice and guidance note focuses on the physical aspects of ONFs, and not any arboricultural or landscape specialist design assessment that may be required.

6 What information should be provided with a resource consent application?

Resource consent application site plans should show:

- the location and extent of the ONF on the site or its proximity to the site, if on an adjoining site;
- the location and extent of any earthworks and details of area and volume in relation to the ONF;
- for earthworks/land disturbance in ONFs, details of where fill is being taken from and is going to;
- the location and extent (in plan form and elevation) of any buildings and structures existing and proposed on the site, importantly including where these are in relation to the ONF; and
- measures proposed to protect the ONF.

The Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE):

Information required for AEEs is set out in clause 6 of [Schedule 4](#) of the RMA. To assist with the preparation and assessment of the application, the AEE should:

- identify the ONF – its location and extent on, within or adjacent to, a site;
- describe the ONF, including its AUP (OP) ID number;
- identify whether the specific part of the ONF within the extent of the proposed works has been previously modified and how and when this occurred (where likely to be known);

ONF Special Information Requirements in AUP(OP)

The following chapters or sections of the AUP(OP) all contain a 'special information requirement' section relating to ONFs which must be met:

- [D10 Outstanding Natural Features Overlay](#);
- [E26.7 Infrastructure](#) – Network utilities and electricity generation – Earthworks Outstanding Natural Features Overlay;
- [E26.14 Infrastructure](#) – Network utilities and electricity generation – Outstanding Natural Features Overlay (excluding outstanding natural landscapes)

All of these require that **any application for resource consent must be accompanied by a site plan showing the location of the Outstanding Natural Feature Overlay and the location of the proposed activity.**

- identify which AUP (OP) rules relevant to the proposal, and extent of compliance with any relevant standards, including a thorough description of the extent of any infringement;
- provide an explanation and discussion of what effects the proposal will have of the ONF, including physical and visual effects;
- provide an explanation and discussion of any alternative locations or development options considered and why these are not suitable;
- contain an assessment against the objectives and policies; or if a restricted discretionary activity, the matters for discretion and any assessment criteria;
- contain an assessment by a suitably qualified person (refer to [Section 5](#) of this Practice and Guidance Note);
- outline measures proposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects;
- outline conditions being offered to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.

7 ONFs in the AUP(OP)

[Section B](#) in the Appendix outlines the approach taken to ONFs in the AUP(OP) and the location of the provisions. The AUP(OP) has objectives, policies, rules, standards, notification requirements, assessment matters and criteria for ONFs located in many different chapters and sections throughout the AUP(OP). Works on ONFs are also controlled by provisions in the following AUP(OP) chapters:

- [D12 Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Overlay](#)
- [D14 Volcanic Viewshafts and Height Sensitive Areas Overlay](#)
- [E12 Land Disturbance – District](#)
- [E15 Vegetation Management and Biodiversity](#)
- [E26 Infrastructure](#)
- [E38 Subdivision - Urban](#)
- [E39 Subdivision – Rural](#)
- [Coastal ONFs and Chapter F Regional Coastal Plan](#)
- [E20 Maori Land; E21 Treaty Settlement Land and H27 Special Purpose – Maori Purpose Zone](#)
- [Chapter I Precincts](#)

A summary of these can be found in Section B of the Appendix.

8 Hauraki Gulf Islands and ONFs

Those AUP(OP) regional coastal plan (rcp) provisions which apply to the coastal environment (i.e. below mean high water springs) also apply to the Hauraki Gulf Islands. This includes provisions for the ONFs which have been identified in the AUP(OP) within the coastal environment.

The AUP(OP) does not include district plan (dp) provisions for Outstanding Natural Features on the Hauraki Gulf Islands. The [Auckland Council District Plan Hauraki Gulf Islands Section – Operative 2018](#) (HGI Plan) provides district plan level identification of ONFs.

The HGI plan has its own provisions for geological features or items which are generally similar to those at the district level in the AUP(OP). [Objective 7.3](#) of the HGI Plan requires the values of geological features to be protected by controlling use and development (policy 7.3.2), ensuring that development does not result in damage or destruction of geological sites and their surrounds (policy 7.12.3.3) and avoiding a reduction in heritage values associated with a geological site (policy 7.12.2.3).

[Part 7 Heritage](#) of the HGI Plan includes objectives, policies, rules, notification requirements and assessment matters and criteria for geological features/ONFs.

[Appendix 1\(e\) Schedule of geological items - inner islands](#) in the HGI Plan contains the key information regarding the location, category of scheduling and reasons for scheduling for geological items/ONFs.

The criteria for scheduling geological features/ONFs is found in [Appendix 4](#) of the HGI Plan. Specifically, Section 5.0 Criteria for scheduling geological items.

9 Steps for preparing an application involving ONFs

Step 1: Identify the ONF

The tools for [identification of the ONFs](#) can be found in the Appendix. The steps include checking:

- [Auckland Unitary Plan planning maps](#)
- [Schedule 6 – Outstanding Natural Features Overlay](#)
- [Hauraki Gulf Islands maps and other scheduling information referred to in Section 8 of this Practice and Guidance note, if relevant](#)

Step 2: Prepare AEE and review ONF Practice and Guidance note

Prepare the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) and plans, ensuring they contain sufficient information (see [Section 6](#) of this Practice and Guidance note for information requirements).

Step 3: s88 review and/or s92 further information request

Council will review the application to determine if there is enough information, subject to Section 88 and 92 of the RMA.

Step 4: Plan provisions, consideration of notification and assessment of application

AUP(OP) and HGI provisions

[Sections 7](#) and [8](#) of this practice and guidance note outline the various chapters or sections of the AUP(OP) and HGI that contain requirements for ONFs. These also provide some guidance around how to consider the provisions and the links within them to other higher order documents i.e. the RPS, the [NZCPS](#) and the RMA.

What plan are ONFs considered under?

When an ONF is located below mean high water springs then it is considered under the regional coastal plan provisions.

When an outstanding natural feature is located on land above mean high water springs then it is considered under the district plan rules under section 9(3) of the RMA.

Notification

Activities in the ONFs are subject to the normal notification tests under the RMA. The objectives and policies of the AUP(OP)/HGI Plan set out the planning context relevant to assessing the effects on the environment that may result from development and subdivision on, or near, an ONF.

Where the council's recommendation is to not publicly notify the application, refer to [Section 12](#) 'Iwi and local board engagement' below, which discusses what council will consider when assessing the adverse effects of activities in/on an ONF in the context of specific iwi.

Case law

[*RJ Davidson Family Trust v Marlborough District Council \[2018\] NZCA 316*](#)

indicates that where the NZCPS is involved, it will be an error to use Part 2 to subvert a directive policy or clear restriction in the NZCPS. In addition, a separate Part 2 assessment need not be undertaken where Part 2 has clearly been taken into account in the preparation of the planning provisions, as in the case of the AUP (OP).

Assessment of application in an ONF

Council will consider development or works on an ONF in relation to all the values it is scheduled for and will protect those values from inappropriate development, use etc. Having just one type of expert comment on the effects of development or works on an ONF may not be sufficient. Refer to [“AUP\(OP\) Schedule 6 – Outstanding Natural Features Overlay”](#) section in the Appendix for further information on the types of values.

10 Iwi and local board engagement

Iwi engagement

An assessment of cultural values is required where any activity / development is proposed in/ on an ONF. This is because the objectives and policies at both the RPS, Regional Coastal Plan and District Plan level require the recognition and provision of the relationship of Mana Whenua with ONFs. For the AUP(OP), this is supported by the matters for discretion and assessment criteria in [D10](#) which mean that effects on Mana Whenua values must be considered.

It is important to note that only iwi can determine whether their cultural values are affected.

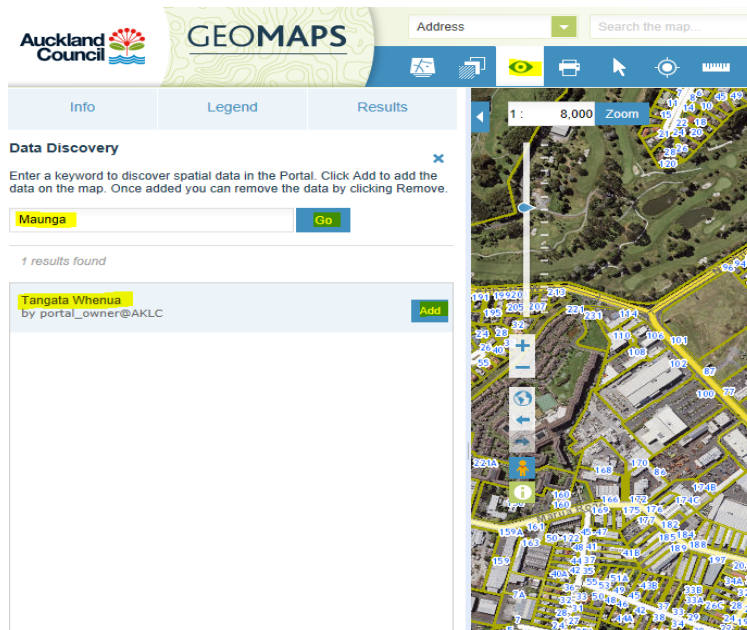
Iwi engagement when an ONF is, or is on, a maunga

Further to the above, where development is proposed on a maunga identified under the [Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014](#), that is also identified as an ONF, then potentially affected persons may include iwi and/or the Maunga Authority. You can contact the Maunga Authority by email: maungaauthority@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

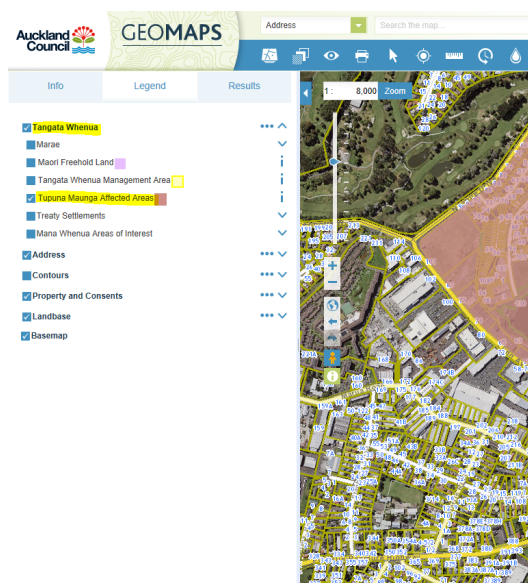
It is noted that not all maunga in Auckland are identified under the [Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014](#) and if the Maunga Authority is not affected there are still likely to be iwi that have an interest in the Maunga that is greater than the general public. Tupuna Maunga affected areas are identified in the internal resource consents [Geomaps viewer](#), see the steps set out below.

Pursuant to the [Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014](#) (the Collective Redress Act), the fee simple estate in the Maunga is vested in the Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust Limited. The [Maunga Authority](#) is the administering body of the Maunga for the purposes of the [Reserves Act 1977](#). The Authority is charged with decision-making powers, including the administration, management and control of the Maunga. Both the Trust (in its capacity as land owner) and the Authority (in its capacity as an administering body of the Maunga) meet the definition of an “affected person” for the purposes of the RMA. For the purpose of providing land owner approval, the Authority, as the administering body of the reserves, can make decisions on behalf of the Trust as land owner. In exercising its decision-making functions, the Authority should be informed by the views of the Trust.

1. Search for 'Maunga' and then add the 'Tangata Whenua' layer:



2. Add the 'Tupuna Maunga Affected Area' under the layer selection:



Local board engagement

Council will check the latest version of the Local Board Resource Consent Triggers to see if a relevant local board is interested about applications on, in or near ONFs.

Appendices

A) Matters of Consideration for ONFs

Subdivision

Subdivision	<p>Subdivision creates the expectation of future development which may entail earthworks and structures that can alter, damage or destroy an ONF.</p> <p>Additionally, subdivision of ONFs reduces the potential for integrated management of the ONF by breaking it up into different sites / titles.</p>
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Landform ONFs

Earthworks	<p>Earthworks or land disturbance that is too extensive or in the wrong location can destroy or have significant adverse effects on an ONF, whether it is identified for landform or specific geological values.</p> <p>Does the proposal include earthworks such as trenching? What is the depth of earthworks impacting on landform? Tunnelling or thrusting under an ONF landform might be more appropriate as it has a lesser impact. This is dependent on the type of ONF and the values it is scheduled for.</p>
Vegetation removal	<p>A common part of development and unless done sensitively, vegetation removal can alter or damage the values of a landform or geological feature. In some cases, the values of ONFs may incorporate their vegetation cover and ecological processes in addition to other natural science factors (e.g. geology, topography). Large and small-scale vegetation removal both from public parks/reserves and on private land can result in land disturbance causing damage where trees are pulled out and dragged, or by the disturbance of soil which can degrade and damage the ONFs values.</p> <p>Vegetation removal can be undertaken in certain circumstances and under certain conditions and in some cases it is necessary to maintain the visibility of geological exposures. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the methodology for removal?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how is it ensuring the ONF values are protected? • Would the vegetation removal result in excavation or surface damage on an ONF? • Will heavy machinery such as bulldozers or large vehicles that can cause surface damage be used? • Will soil or other materials from one part of an ONF be disposed to another part of an ONF, changing the soil, topographic characteristics and visibility of an ONF?
<p>Development (Earthworks/Buildings/ Structures)</p>	<p>Many ONF landforms occur in residential Auckland suburbs, particularly the volcanic landforms of central Auckland where modified and unmodified parts of the landform are incorporated within residential sites. Development, including earthworks and structures, will be assessed on a case by case basis to ensure the ONFs are protected from inappropriate development. The term “inappropriate” is affected by context and should be assessed with reference to what is sought to be protected. Each application is considered on its merits and based on the circumstances that apply at that time. However, poor practice risks precedent setting, particularly where the historical consents granted cannot be differentiated in any way from a new proposal.</p>
<p>Development (earthworks/buildings/structures) on lava cave ONFs</p>	<p>Careful consideration on works methodology is required to ensure the lava cave is protected. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal include rock breaking or blasting, with the resulting vibration or shockwaves potentially damaging a lava cave? Excavation near a lava cave risks may direct irreparable damage to the lava cave. Specialist acoustic/ vibration expertise must be sought for applications involving blasting or heavy rock breaking near scheduled lava caves. <p>Does the proposal include building over a lava cave? This can be risky for the cave and without the correct engineering considerations, there is</p>

	potential for buildings to damage or even collapse into a lava cave. For this reason, both ONF value and geotechnical expertise must be sought to ensure ground conditions and building loadings have been appropriately considered when development on or near a lava cave is being contemplated.
Vegetation planting	<p>Some ONFs consist of exposures of rocks, which reveal a cross-section of the subsurface geology allowing it to be viewed, researched and appreciated. These may occur naturally (e.g. sea cliffs) or artificially (e.g. road cuttings or disused quarry faces). For ONFs with these values or characteristics we want to retain visibility of the geology. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal include a maintenance regime to keep these ONFs free of weeds? <p>Does the proposal include vegetation planting that may obscure the geology?</p>

Coastal ONFs

Climate change	Climate change is likely to result in more pressure and adverse effects on coastal ONFs as people seek to use coastal engineering and structures to defend against sea level rise and damaging weather events.
Coastal development, protection works or structures	<p>Coastal ONFs are often formed as a result of ongoing, dynamic coastal processes i.e. movements of water, sand, sediment, wind etc. They are often scheduled because of the scientific interest in the coastal process that created them. In order for the identified ONF to be protected, the dynamic coastal processes need to continue. NZCPS Policy 15 has a very strong 'protect by avoiding' requirement that needs to be followed. Consider: Does the proposal include development or structures that result in changes to the coastal process, which can damage or destroy the ONF?</p> <p>Dune systems and sand spits are examples of coastal ONFs that have been created by and scheduled as a result of their dynamic coastal processes. Does the application propose to stabilise dune systems or sand spits or put structures on them? It could alter the natural process that created them and therefore adversely affect the ONF.</p>
Planting	The native ecosystem i.e. flora and fauna are another natural part of a coastal system. Conservation planting (as defined in Chapter

	<p>J1 of the AUP(OP)) with native planting of species from that area, in compliance with standard E15.6.3 is acceptable.</p>
<p>Coastal cliffs</p>	<p>Often identified and scheduled as ONFs because of scientific and aesthetic interest of the exposed rocks/sediments.</p> <p>Stormwater disposal from a coastal cliff results in stormwater pipes running down the face of the ONF/coastal cliff to the foreshore, where stormwater is disposed of to the sea. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the application propose pipes down the face of the cliff, which may ruin the aesthetics of the ONF? It would be preferable that stormwater discharges are disposed of on land, to the council stormwater network. In some cases, an acceptable solution may be to tunnel or thrust pipes down from behind the cliff (beneath the surface) and construct a discrete outfall at the base of the cliff, disguised into the rock. <p>Common responses to coastal cliff erosion are construction of concrete palisades or drilling soil nails and stabilising the surface with mesh or geotextile materials. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the methods proposed result in unacceptable physical damage to the ONF, adversely affect the visibility and visual or aesthetic values of the ONF? • If geotextiles are unavoidable, does the colour of the geotextile match the colour of the ONF and surrounding rock as far as possible? Commonly available black geotextiles are usually inappropriate for this reason. • Conservation planting (as defined in Chapter J1 of the AUP(OP)) may assist with erosion control and is often reasonably acceptable so long as vegetation does not conceal the bare rock face which is usually the geological feature of interest. Planting at the top, where the ONF coastal cliff rolls back and is more weathered, is typically quite appropriate. The standards that apply to conservation planting are found in Chapter E15.
<p>Coastal reefs</p>	<p>Examples of coastal reef ONFs in Auckland include many that involve sedimentary rocks and their geological structures, which are often associated with coastal cliffs. A few of the reefs preserve volcanic lava flows, notably Takapuna Reef fossil forest and cliff lava exposures and Meola Reef (Te Tokaroa). Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the application affect the reefs with structures for coastal erosion protection, and by infrastructure such as roads, wharves and navigation structures?

Fossils	<p>Fossils are relatively rare in Auckland and the ONFs where they occur are typically small, sensitive sites such as small outcrops or roadside exposures. On such small sites, even minor earthworks can cause substantial damage to the value of the ONF. On small exposures of geological material, it is also often necessary to manage vegetation to maintain visibility of the feature.</p> <p>A number of coastal ONFs incorporate fossils, so these areas may be vulnerable to erosion and damage from erosion protection structures.</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are the works involving ONFs with fossils well managed so as not to damage or cover up the exposure, or to modify it with materials brought in from elsewhere?
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B) ONFs in the AUP(OP)

The section below outlines the approach taken to ONFs in the AUP(OP) and the location of the provisions. The AUP(OP) has objectives, policies, rules, standards, notification requirements, assessment matters and criteria for ONFs located in many different chapters and sections as outlined in Figure 1 and text below. Note also that the RPS contained in the AUP(OP) is relevant to the HGI Plan.

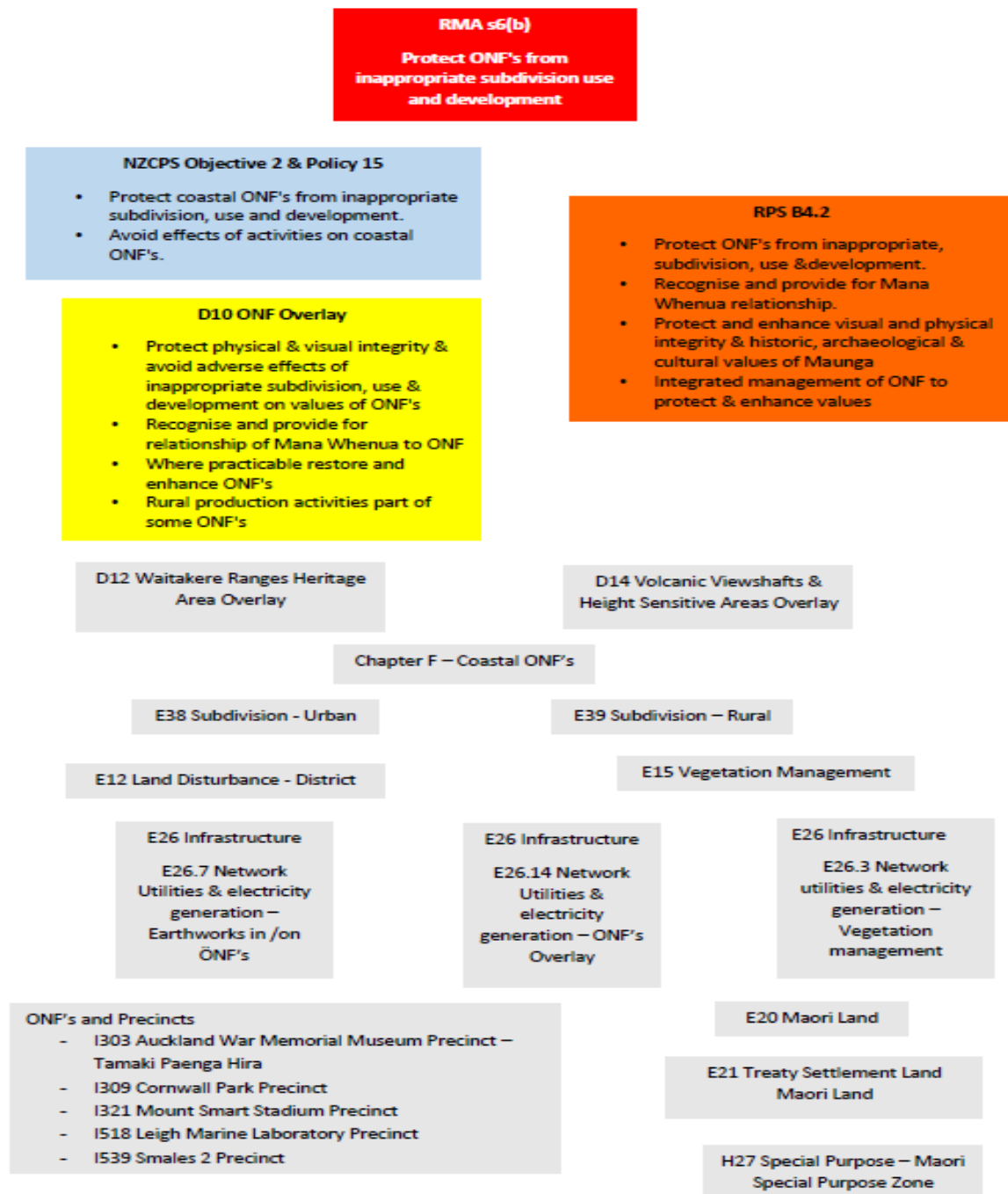


Figure 1: Where ONFs are cited in the AUP(OP)

C) How the Outstanding Natural Features Overlay is identified on the AUP(OP) planning maps

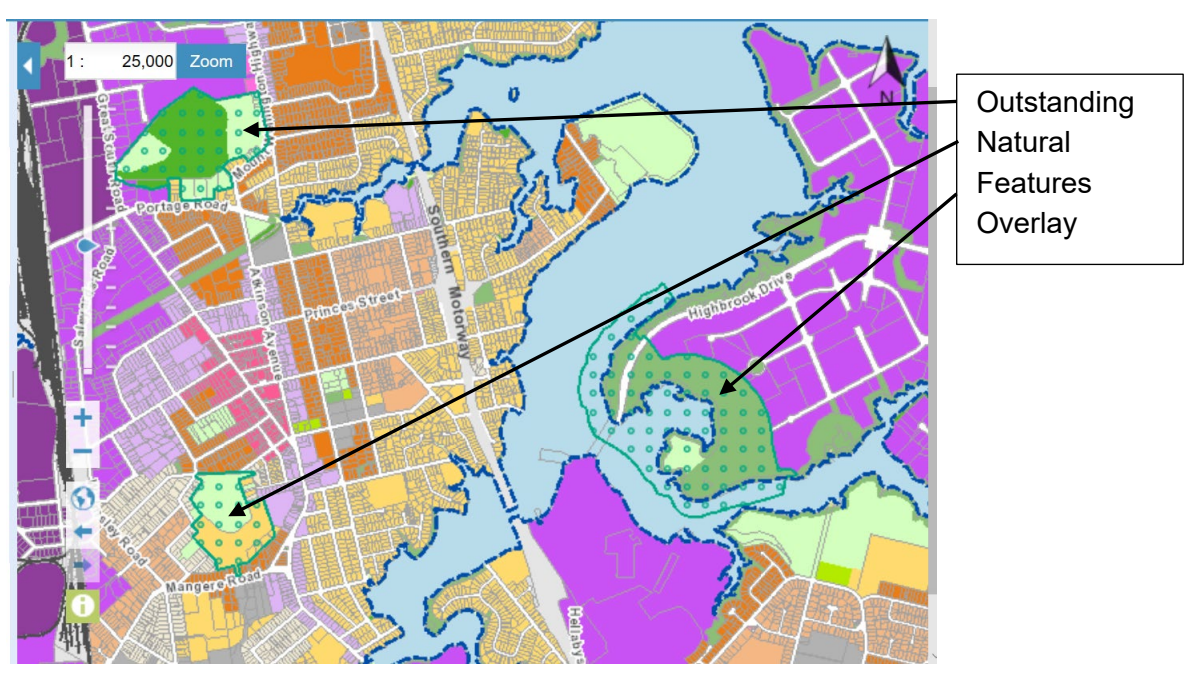
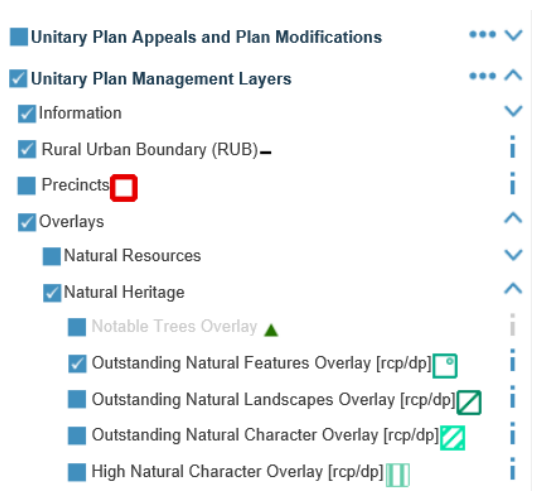
The council website has several [guides](#) on how to use the GeoMaps. For example:

[Search layers in GeoMaps](#)

[Reorder and display layers in GeoMaps.](#)

The legend to the AUP(OP) maps can be found [here](#).

The Outstanding Natural Features Overlay is identified in the AUP(OP) planning maps with a turquoise outline and turquoise circles. To display the layers, use the drop-down arrows to select the map services you want to see. Click on the checkbox next to the 'Outstanding Natural Features Overlay' to turn on that layer.





Click on the 'i' icon and then click on the area of the map you want to view the information on.

If more than one address returns, select the one you want to find out more about.

The Property Summary will show on the left of the screen in the Results panel. Information displayed in the Results summary box, will include the Outstanding Natural Feature identification number and a brief description of the name/type of feature. The identification number corresponds with the number in the AUP(OP) Schedule for Outstanding Natural Features—[Schedule 6](#).

D) AUP(OP) Schedule 6 – Outstanding Natural Features Overlay

Chapter L of the AUP(OP) provides all the schedules of items. [Schedule 6](#) is the schedule containing the list of all identified ONFs across the region that are within the Outstanding Natural Features Overlay.

The schedule contains an identification number ('ID') for the feature, and the name and location of the feature. It also provides a brief description of what the ONF is.

[Schedule 6](#) also notes the criteria or factors in the AUP(OP) ([RPS Policy B4.2.2\(4\)](#)) that the feature is scheduled for (note the factors are outlined in [Section 3](#) of this Practice and Guidance note).



[Schedule 6](#) contains a letter corresponding to the type of feature (called 'Site type') that the ONF is.




<p>'Site type' is also known as 'Feature Code' in Table D10.4.1</p>	ID	Name	Location	Site type	Description	Unitary Plan criteria	<p>'Criteria' are also called 'Factors' in RPS policy B4.2.2(4)</p>
	2	Algies Beach melange	Algies Bay	E	This site is one of the best examples of an exposure of the contact between Northland Allocthon and Miocene Waitemata Group rocks.	a, b, g	
3	Ambury Road lava cave	Mangere Bridge	F	A complex 140m long lava cave with two branches and many well-preserved flow features. Part of the cave contains unusual lava stalagmites with corresponding stalactites above.	a, b, c, d, g, i		




E) AUP(OP) Table D10.4.1 Outstanding Natural Feature code for activity table applying to ONFs



As mentioned earlier in this Practice and Guidance note, the 'Site type' identified in [Schedule 6](#) is further defined in AUP(OP) [Table D10.4.1 Outstanding Natural Feature code for activity table applying to outstanding natural features](#). In this table the 'Site type' from the schedule is referred to as the 'Feature Code'.

Table D10.4.1 also provides a further brief description of how the different types of ONFs have been grouped (to achieve their 'Feature code' or "Site type') and a brief description of the type of ONF and its susceptibility to damage. The activity status of use and development has been developed based on the sensitivity to damage and destruction, which is identified by the feature code or site type.

Feature code	Feature Type	Example
A1	Large landforms in working rural environments	 <p data-bbox="799 1335 1145 1368">Tapora dunes (ONF #205)</p>
A	Large landforms	 <p data-bbox="799 1798 1305 1865">Karamatura, Marama catchments & Mt Donald McLean (ONF #55)</p>

Feature code	Feature Type	Example
V (V1 and V2)	Large volcanic landforms	 <p data-bbox="794 689 1369 763">Mt Eden (Maungawhau) (ONF #109). Type V.</p>  <p data-bbox="794 1189 1369 1223">Crater Hill (ONF #22). Type V2.</p>
B	Smaller more fragile landforms	 <p data-bbox="794 1644 1369 1677">Takapuna Reef fossil forest (ONF #200).</p>

Feature code	Feature Type	Example
C	Dynamic landforms and features	 <p data-bbox="794 689 1141 728">Rangiriri Spit (ONF #175).</p>
D	Exposures of geological material	 <p data-bbox="794 1200 1300 1238">Parnell Baths Parnell Grit (ONF #154).</p>
E	Fragile exposures of geological material	 <p data-bbox="794 1599 1324 1675">Jordans Road Miocene fossils exposure (ONF #54)</p>

Feature code	Feature Type	Example
F (F1 and F2)	Caves	 <p data-bbox="794 689 1353 763">Auckland's largest known lava cave – Wiri lava cave (ONF #253).</p>  <p data-bbox="794 1182 1326 1256">The only “rift cave” known in Auckland – Mortimer Pass lava cave (ONF #100).</p>