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| land area: ONEKAKA ESTUARY | | | | |
| PIGEON BAY CRITERIA | | | | |
| (a) THE NATURAL SCIENCE FACTORS: | geological | topographical | ecological | dynamic components |
| | Quaternary gravel deposited by Onekaka River. The northern/ north western side of the Estuary is formed by slightly weathered gravel and minor fan deposits forming intermediate aggradation terraces. the southern side is formed by weathered clay bound gravel & minor fan deposits forming high aggradation terraces. (Geological & Nuclear Sciences 1:250 000 Geological Map 9) | Onekaka Estuary is approximately 24 hectares in size and flanked by several terraces forming part of an extensive gravel sheet from the base of Parapara Peak and adjacent high country. Small sandspits located at the mouth of the estuary with low gravel ridges behind. Majority of inlet is fine sand/ mud but rounded pebbles and cobbles are present at the mouth. Wide band of saltmarsh vegetation towards head. | Presence of South Island Fern Bird (*Bowdleria punctata punctata)* , Caspian tern (*Hydroprogne caspa)* and white-fronted tern (*Sterna striata)* . Banded Rail *(Rallus philippensis assimilis)* present near the mouth of the estuary. Whitebait including rare short-jawed kokopu (*Galaxias postvectis* ) found in streams entering estuary.The Golden Bay ED (see Appendix 7) covers the alluvial valleys of Takaka and Aorere, as well as their adjoining older alluvial terraces. The Golden Bay ecological district was dominated by podocarp forest with totara dominant on drier alluviam. Occasional black beech and kahikatea swamp forest in wetter areas, associated with pukatea. Northern rater along coastal and lower limestone areas. coastal flax and cabbage tree swamp was common, wetter terraces held pakihi shrubland and rimu/silver pine forest. low on drier slopes was red, hard and black beech & rimu (see Appendix 7). | Dynamic components associated with the process of the water catchment area flowing from the mountains above down into the estuarine environment and mixing with the salt water before flowing out to sea. Sedimentation associated with this collecting within the estuary and at the Delta mouth. |
| (b) AESTHETIC VALUES | memorability | | naturalness | |
| | The most memorable aspect of the Onekaka estuary is the derelict wharf that leads down from the northern side of the estuary mouth out into Golden Bay. Also the gravel and stones differ from the sandy beaches found further south. Long views along the coast towards Separation Point and to the north towards Farewell Spit add sense of place. Distinctive coastline due to presence of cliffs from Onekaka towards Patons Rock. | | The Golden Bay ED has almost completely been cleared of its original vegetation. patches of alluvial forest remain (totara, black beech, kahikatea) and remnant rata on coastal limestone. Pakihi forest now replaced by manuka-dominant shrub. Extensive estuaries remain and sand dunes have been largely covered by marram grass. Kanuka replaced beech forest on drier hills. Farming, logging, mining all contributed to vegetation clearance. bracken fern, kanuka and manuka regenerating on abandoned farmland with some significant patches of totara. Gorse, barberry, hawthorn, buddleia and spanish heath are widespread weeds with banana passionfruit prominent around the coast. (see Appendix 7) | |
| (c) EXPRESSIVENESS (LEGIBILITY) | formative processes | | | |
| | the estuary has been modified through the Onekaka Ironworks, however the estuary has reverted to its natural state. Process of the catchment area associated with Mt Parapara down to the coast is still legible as is the process of sedimentation associated with this both within the estuary and at the mouth. | | | |
| (d) TRANSIENT VALUES | occasional presence of wildlife | | values at certain times of day/year | |
| | Onekaka Wharf roosting spot for shag, gulls, Caspian tern and white fronted tern. Waders along shoreline, gannets, seagulls, shags feeding off shore, whitebait in streams, crabs amongst the rocky shore. | | the ebb and flow of tide - with the derelict wharf exposed during low tide and partly submerged during high tide. Calm weather - especially in winter contributes to aesthetics through mirroring of sky. Low tide exposes rocky shoreline for exploring and high tides or stormy weather leaves debris on beach. | |
| (e) VALUES SHARED/RECOGNISED | | | | |
| | considered of national importance due to presence of the vulnerable banded rail and due to high degree of naturalness due to lack of extensive human development (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy.1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 40). Shellfish collected off rocky reefs in vicinity. Valued for its privacy and peacefulness, natural qualities associated with the Onekaka estuary and the rocky coastline and small cliffs. | | | |
| (f) VALUE TO TANGATAWHENUA | | | | |
| | Hematite found in this area used by Maori for making paint. Archaeological sites recorded along the coastline Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy.1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 59). Shellfish collected off rocky reefs in vicinity. Onekaka is translated to mean "red-hot or burning sand" ( pg 23 of Beautiful Golden Bay New Zealand - compiled by Golden Bay Promotion assn) | | | |
| (g) HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS | | | | |
| | Rich Iron Ore deposits resulted in the formation of the Onekaka Iron and Steel Company in 1920. Onekaka wharf relic of this era - built in 1923 or 24, the wharf was 230 feet long. The remains of a tramway can also be seen in connection to the wharf and ironworks activities. (the company went into receivership in 1931 Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy.1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 60) | | | |
| **CONCLUSION:** | **ESTUARY AND COASTLINE: OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE/FEATURES** | | | |