

land area: MOUTERE INLET				
PIGEON BAY CRITERIA				
(a) THE NATURAL SCIENCE FACTORS:	geological	topographical	ecological	dynamic components
	<p>The northern seaward side of the Moutere inlet consists of beech deposits of gravel and sand, mud and boulder banks with a small area of sand/ beach ridges at Port Motueka. The Moutere river washes down well sorted gravel forming modern flood plains, and young fan gravels. Jackett Island consists of Beech deposits of gravel and sand, mud and boulder banks. The Kina Peninsula and the western (landward side of the Inlet) introduces the first area of Moutere Gravel (poorly to moderately well sorted clay-bound gravel dominated by Quartsfeldspathic sandstone clasts) with minor floodplains from the tributary streams. (Geological & Nuclear Sciences 1:250 000 Geological Map 9)</p>	<p>The Moutere inlet is approximately 750 hectares in size, with a 24 km intertidal coastline. Enclosed by low rolling hills that splay down into the inlet, with Jacket Island and the Kina Beach forming a barrier to the open coastline of the Tasman Sea. The estuary is fed by many small streams which run through orchard areas. Pine forests area located along Old Coach Road.</p>	<p>Part of the Motueka Ecological District (see Appendix 7). Originally the ecological district (apart from the waterways) was almost entirely covered in forest, with a podocarp forest of totara, matai and kahikatea. On lower hills a mixed forest of black beech, hard beech, rimu, totara, kamahi, tiki and tawa. Along coastal bluffs and fringing the estuaries was ngaio, cabbage tree, kowhai and totara. Estuaries were full of wetland birds, fish and invertebrates. Freshwater wetlands included lowland kahikatea, harakeke, cabbage tree, tussock sedge and raupo swamps. Riparian ecosystems included flax and toetoe. Most of the original ecosystems have been lost. there are fragments of forest and freshwater wetland areas, however the estuaries are surprisingly intact although the "fringing vegetation sequences" are largely gone. (see Appendix 7)</p>	<p>ebb and flow of tide, deposition of sedimentation within the inlet brought down the rivers and along the coastline - creation of sandbanks by currents, changes to coastline through waves/wind/current.</p>
(b) AESTHETIC VALUES	memorability		naturalness	
	<p>The drive along the Moutere highway is memorable due to the soft rounded forms of the small hills and their many folds splaying out into the Moutere Inlet. The countryside is overwhelmingly green with orchard plantations interspersed with artists and potters studios and vineyards. Restaurants are also tucked in to the mix - especially at Mapua. there is a high visual aesthetic associated with this working landscape and the calmness and serenity of the when the tide is in due to reflective qualities of the water. Small embayments on the south western side of the highway create interesting enclaves to view.</p>		<p>Eel grass (<i>Zostera novaezelandica</i>) present along with sea weeds (<i>Ulva</i> sp.) Gracilaria sp. and Enteromorpha sp. Estuary tussock (<i>Stipa stipoides</i>) present. White heron (<i>Egretta alba modesta</i>) and Royal Spoonbills (<i>Platalea leucorodia regiro</i>). Banded rail (<i>Rallus philippensis assimilis</i>) present and marsh crake (<i>Porzana pusilla affinis</i>) observed. Cocksles (<i>Austrovenus stutchburyi</i>) present. areas of rushland in bays, tiny beech forest on Kina Peninsula (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, 1993; Occasional Publication No. 14 pg 104). Coastal highway runs along western side of estuary, which has reduced naturalness through altered tidal circulation and with small embayments of estuary on the western side of the road (ibid 105). Wharf Road cuts across northern area of Inlet adjacent to the port where there is a marina and a fish processing plant. Kina Peninsula is modified through orchards, homes and holiday houses. Overall landscape still exhibits natural character as dominant feature.</p>	
(c) EXPRESSIVENESS (LEGIBILITY)	formative processes			
				<p>the large inter-tidal area is expressive of the ending journey for fresh water as it ponds and mixes with the salt water before being dragged out through tidal activity into the sea. The Moutere Hills are legible as the catchment area for the fresh water that runs down in to the Inlet, although the streams have been ponded in some areas for irrigation purposes.</p>
(d) TRANSIENT VALUES	occasional presence of wildlife		values at certain times of day/year	
	<p>White heron occasionally seen in intertidal area in the Lower Moutere, reef and white faced heron, wading birds seen feeding at low tide, gulls.</p>		<p>ebb and flow of the tide, sunsets on mudflats/water; calm reflective quality of the water - especially in winter when weather is calm, strong tides similar to a river on an outgoing tide; sandbars shifting in location from tidal movements/storm activity.</p>	
(e) VALUES SHARED/RECOGNISED				
	<p>Inlet considered to be of national significance due to presence of white heron, banded rail and royal spoonbill (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, 1993; Occasional Publication No. 14 pg 104). Messages and informal art in the mudflats adjacent to the State Highway made with rocks are a feature along this highway. Area often painted by artists and home to many artisans. values shared and recognised relate to the working orchard/vineyard and farmed landscape of the folded hills and the flat natural ecosystem of the Inlet. Deep channels provided access for canoes for gathering kai moana. (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, 1993; Occasional Publication No. 14 pg 103). Valued as a working landscape that has rural amenity associated with a scattering of houses and artists studios and vineyards. Area visited for a day trip from Nelson for recreational purposes based around wine/crafts/arts/cafes. Landscape often painted (i.e Toss Wollaston, Colin McCahon as well as current artists). Small scattering of baches on Jackett Island, with a greater number of residences and baches on Kina Peninsula.</p>			
(f) VALUE TO TANGATAWHENUA				
	<p>densely populated area and important for shell fishing. Moutere pa sites battled against invading Ngati Toa and Ngati Tama, Ngati Rarua, Te Atiawa and Ngati Koata. Concentration of archaeological sites on the inside of Kina Peninsula and Jackett Island (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, 1993; Occasional Publication No. 14 pg 104). Dissention amongst Maori that land they occupied was included within the land survey and ballot process during European colonization of the Moutere (overseen by Arthur Wakefield) (Te Tau Ihu O Te Waka; Hilary and John Mitchell, 2004; page 305).</p>			
(g) HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS				
	<p>Apples an important industry in the region since the 1920's</p>			
CONCLUSION:	INLET AND COASTLINE: OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE; MOUTERE HILLS UP TO DOMINANT RIDGELINE: LPA (SECTION 7 LANDSCAPE)			