

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there is a wide, flat, light-colored area, possibly a beach or a salt flat. To the left, a large, irregularly shaped lagoon or bay is filled with water, showing some sediment patterns. A narrow, vegetated isthmus connects the lagoon to the open ocean on the right. The ocean water is a clear, light blue color. In the far distance, a low-lying landmass or island is visible under a clear sky.

Section F
**OUTSTANDING COASTAL
NATURAL CHARACTER**

Introduction to Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas within Marlborough

As outlined within Section B, under Policy 13 (1) (c) of the NZCPS 2010 there is a requirement that an evaluation is made as to whether the natural character in the existing coastal environment is at least high.

Following on from the evaluative work undertaken within Sections D and E of this report, a further level of assessment was undertaken to determine which parts of the Marlborough Coastal Environment rated at least high natural character would reach the threshold of Outstanding Natural Character as per Policy 13 (1) (a).

It was determined by the study team that outstanding natural character should be assessed separately and should combine both terrestrial and marine components (where appropriate). By combining both terrestrial and marine areas means that where sequences of ecological naturalness are considered important (such as from the top of a ridge above ground to the bottom of the adjacent sea), these aspects are captured by one overlay. Also, Outstanding Natural Character, by its very term, determines the highest rated area, including systems that interconnect with each other.

Areas of high and very high natural character at both the Level 4 and 5 scales (i.e. the more detailed evaluation) areas were reconsidered for this assessment. Under the methodology an area of outstanding natural character involves:

'those areas that exhibit a combination of natural elements, patterns and processes that are exceptional in their extent and relative intactness, integrity and lack of built structures (the 'clutter' factor) and other modifications compared to other areas in the Marlborough Region' (Boffa Miskell, 2011).

The following pages outline the result of this separate assessment. In total, 16 areas of outstanding natural character (ONC) were identified and mapped. These 16 areas are outlined within the table opposite. All areas hold very high or high natural character abiotic/biotic or experiential attributes. A list of the values of each area

Previous page: Wairau Lagoons, Bar and Boulder Bank.

are also included. The areas were mapped at a scale of 1:50,000 and therefore represent the more detailed level of assessment (i.e. Levels 4 & 5), as opposed to the larger units of Coastal Terrestrial & Marine Areas (Levels 2 & 3).

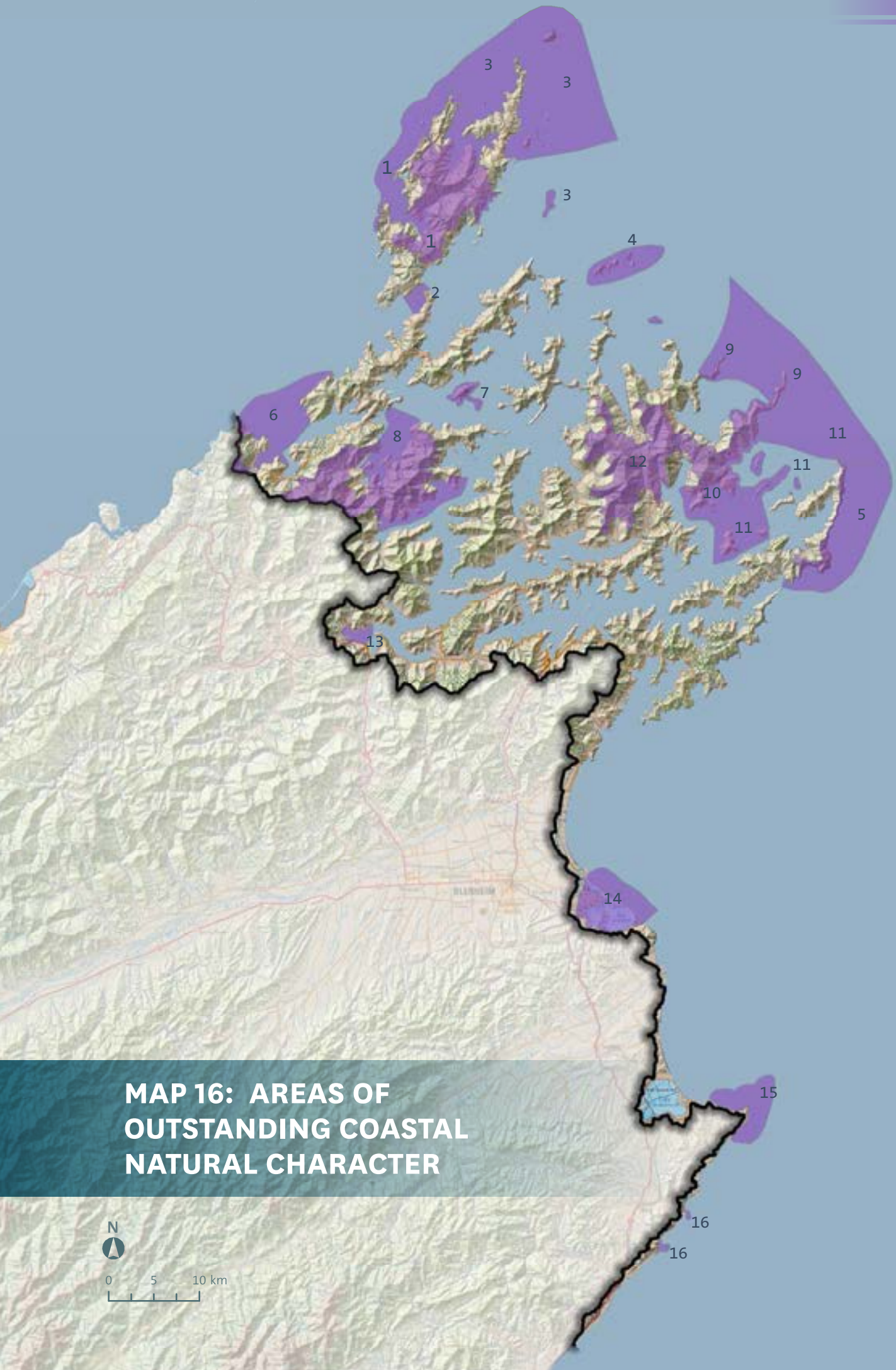
Whilst some areas stood out (such as parts of Tennyson Inlet) other areas required more consideration. An appropriate threshold was then determined which was aligned with the definition of outstanding natural character developed by Boffa Miskell.

Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas

1	D'Urville Island
2	French Pass
3	D'Urville Islands
4	Chetwode & Titi Islands
5	Eastern Arapawa & The Brothers
6	Croisilles Harbour
7	Maud Island
8	Tennyson Inlet & Inner Pelorus Sound
9	The Capes
10	Ship Cove & Resolution Bay
11	Islands of Queen Charlotte Sound
12	Mt Stokes
13	Pelorus Estuary
14	Wairau Lagoons
15	Cape Campbell
16	Chancet Rocks & The Needles



*Above: The presence of tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*) on Stephens Island north of D'Urville Island contributes to the overall outstanding natural character rating of the island*



**MAP 16: AREAS OF
OUTSTANDING COASTAL
NATURAL CHARACTER**

1 : D'Urville Island

Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

The vegetated elevated slopes of central D'Urville Island illustrate one of the most extensive and exceptional tracts of lowland forest in the district, coupled with a largely unmodified marine environment.

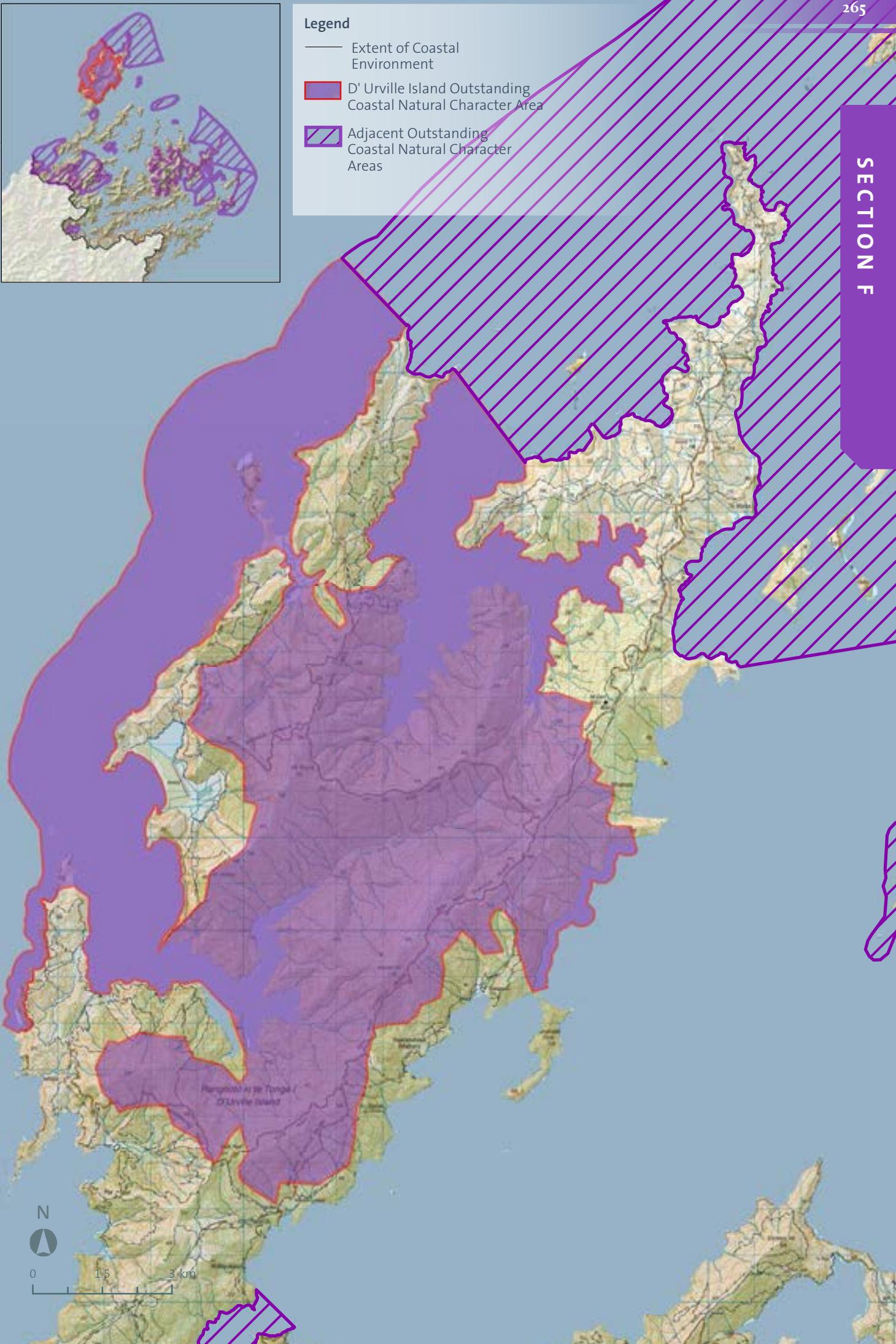
D'Urville Island Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	D'Urville (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Tasman Bay – South Western D'Urville Island (Very High); D'Urville Island- Northern Cook Strait (High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally important geological features including Greville Harbour boulder spit and serpentinitic breccias along parts of western coast. The island has a unique mineral belt geology including many heavily mineralised ultramafic areas. Complex and varied marine environment with a range of aspects and exposures.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous vegetation on the upland parts of D'Urville Island is largely intact and includes possum-free tracts of kohekohe, titoki and southern rata. Island communities here are nationally important. Nationally important, unique ultramafic vegetation is extensive and includes species that are endemic to the island due to their adaptation to the high levels of trace elements found in the soil. Other communities include dune, spit, beach, lagoon, freshwater wetland, estuarine and alluvial communities, which are all very distinctive and rare in the Sounds. Waters of inner Greville Harbour and southern Port Hardy are flanked by extensive tracts of indigenous forest. D'Urville Island contains one of the more extensive tracts of lowland forest remaining in Marlborough. Largely unmodified and highly diverse near-shore coastal marine environment ranging from exposed to very sheltered shores. Abundant populations of native freshwater fish. Healthy stands of sea sedge at the head of Greville Harbour
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal land and marine development with a highly natural coastline. D'Urville Island holds extremely high experiential values, partially due to its semi-remoteness, but equally due to its perceived lack of modification.
D'Urville Island Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	



Above: The ultramafic 'mineral belt' on D'Urville Island. Remnant forest is evident in the gullies and low-stature regenerating vegetation is found on the higher slopes. This pattern is the result of clearance of the forest in the past with fire. [Photograph Courtesy of MDC]

Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- D'Urville Island Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



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2 : French Pass

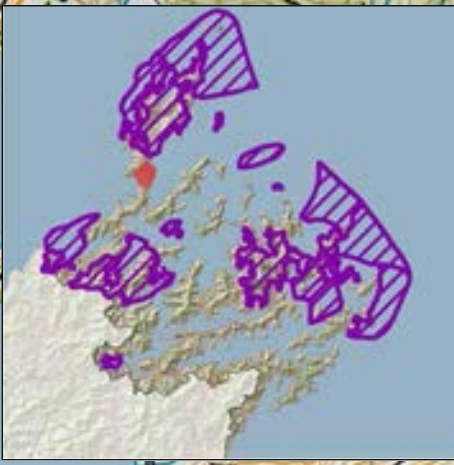
Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

Very strong currents occur in the vicinity of French Pass creating strong eddies and undercurrents which is nationally significant.




French Pass Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	D'Urville (Very High); Bulwer (High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Tasman Bay & Southwestern D'Urville Island (Very High); D'Urville Island - Northern Cook Strait (High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very strong currents occur in the vicinity of French Pass • Dangerous eddies and undercurrents • Strong tidal mixing • Submerged ridge at French Pass
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely unmodified near-shore coastal marine environment; very sheltered shores. • High flow habitats and communities associated with Current Basin and French Pass.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually dramatic current movement. Submerged ridge forming a distinctive reef across the narrows of French Pass.
French Pass Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

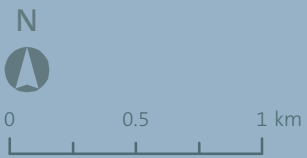
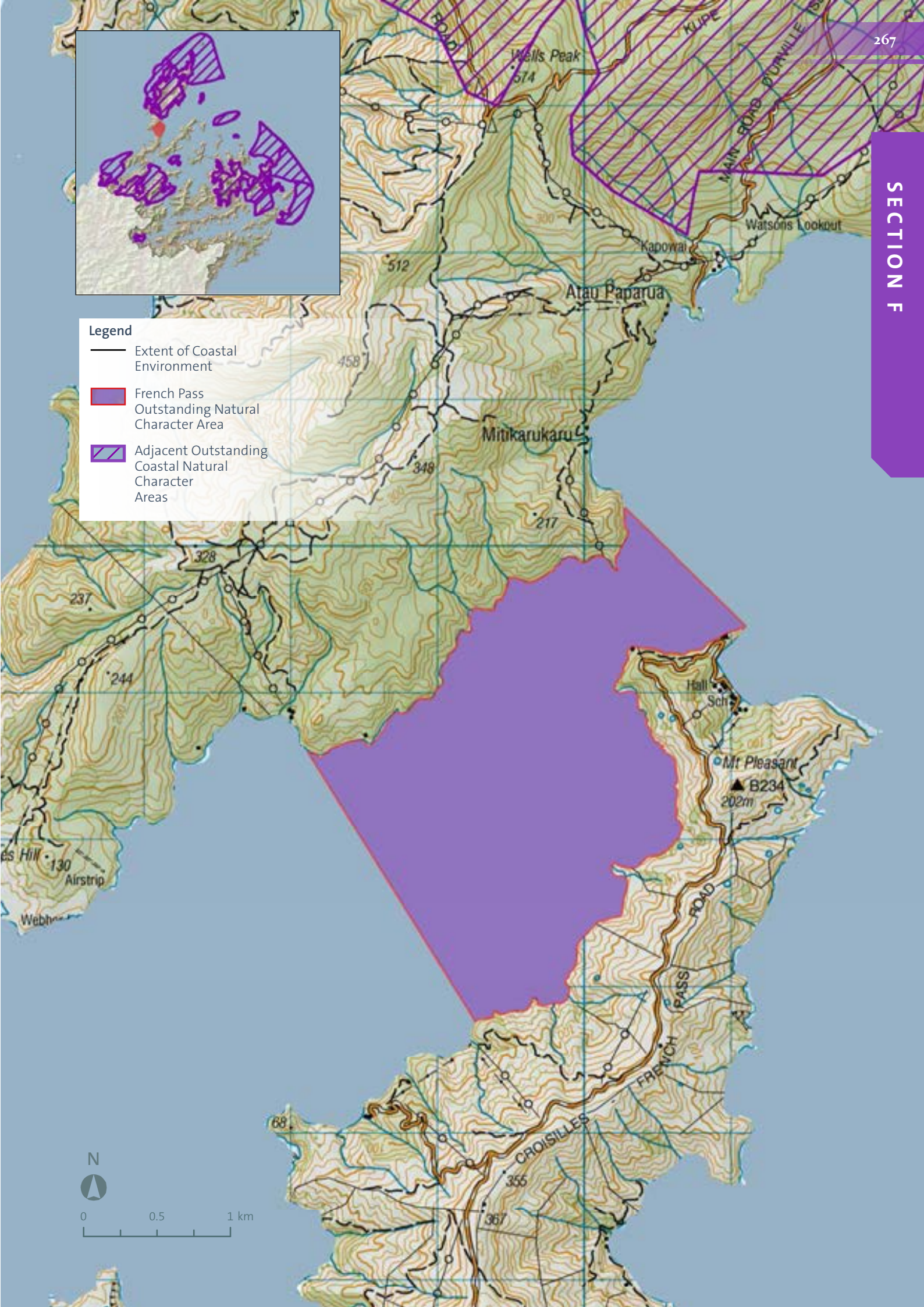


Above: French Pass from Croisilles French Pass Road



Legend

-  Extent of Coastal Environment
-  French Pass Outstanding Natural Character Area
-  Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



3: D'Urville Islands

Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

Spectacular set of exposed and rugged islands with many that harbour unique species and support no or very low levels of modification.

D'Urville Islands Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	D'Urville (Very High); Cook Strait (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	D'Urville Island – Northern Cook Strait (High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly exposed islands and headlands which display steep and exposed rocky sea cliffs and windswept coastlines. Strong currents sweep around the top of D'Urville Island and through Stephen's passage. The islands are above water remnants of ancient ridges and spurs directly associated with the drowned valley system which formed the Marlborough Sounds. Outer Islands are largely made up of sedimentary strata and schist.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated Islands contain unique species including tuatara and king shag. Very low levels of modification to all islands which contain endemic shrublands, herbfields and tussockland communities. Largely unmodified and highly diverse near-shore coastal marine environment ranging from very exposed to very sheltered shores. Complex rock reef and high current habitats distinguish the marine area. Extensive bryozoan coral beds, notably between Rangitoto Islands and D'Urville Island. Trio and Stephens Islands are predator free. Spectacular coastal cliffs on Rangitoto and Stephens Islands.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional characteristics that are clearly linked with the area's exposure to the sea, and its rugged and exposed appearance. Limited or no levels of modification.
D'Urville Islands Coastal Natural Character Area	
Rating	Outstanding

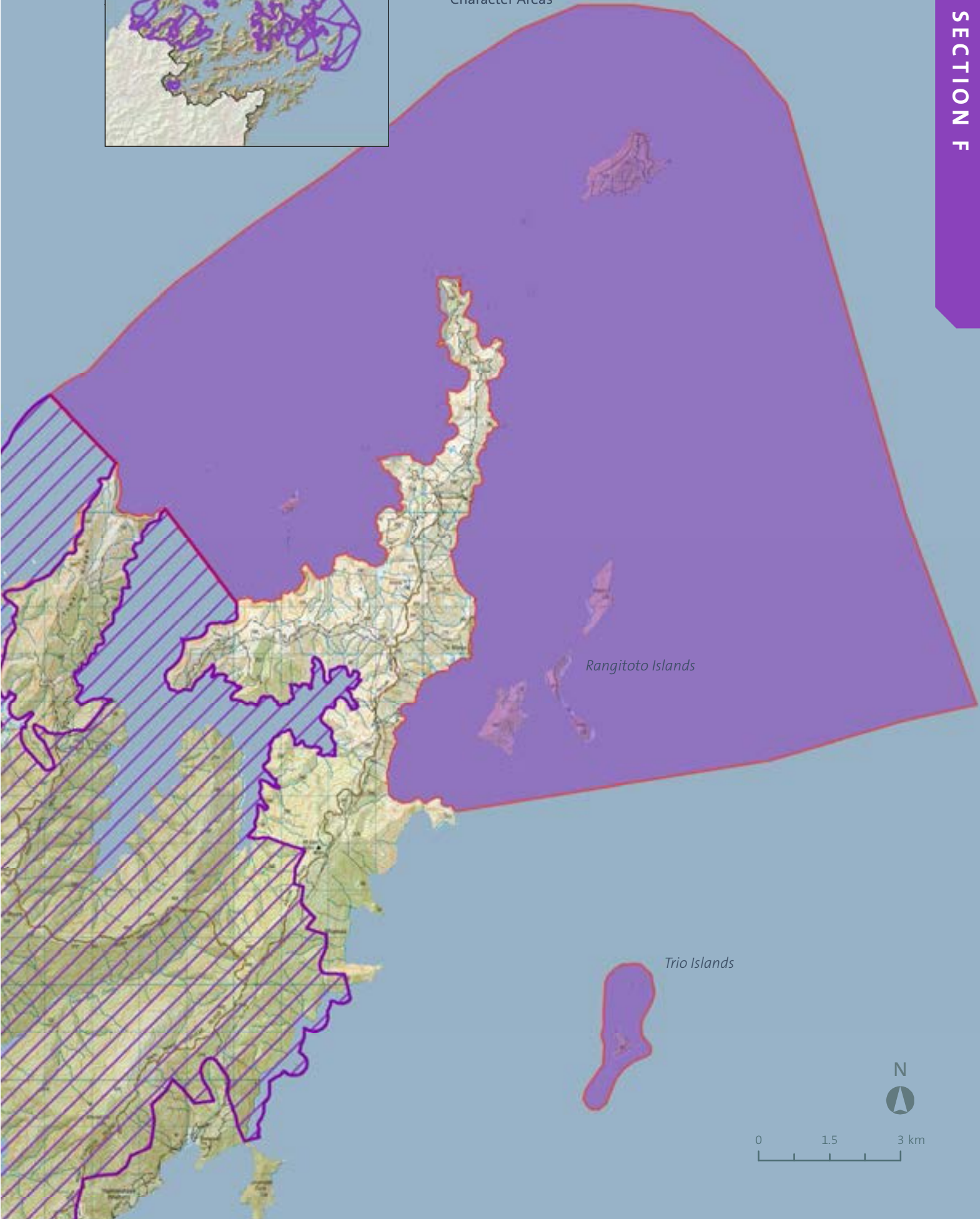


Above: The Trio Islands (above) are predator free wildlife sanctuaries and provide habitats for endangered species such as the tuatara and king shag



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- D'Urville Islands Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



Rangitoto Islands

Trio Islands



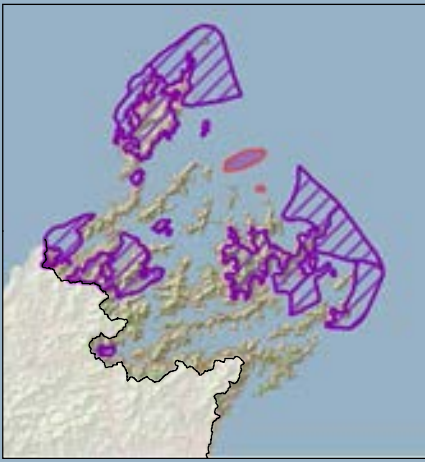
4: Chetwode & Titi Islands Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

Exposed predator free islands harbouring no or very low levels of modification. The Chetwodes are the most ecologically significant islands in the Marlborough Sounds

Chetwode and Titi Islands Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Cook Strait (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	D'Urville Island – Northern Cook Strait (High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chetwode and Titi Islands are generally characterised by steep rock scarps and exposed cliffs. Many spectacular rock stacks are present at the southern end of the Chetwode Islands.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Titi and Chetwode Islands are predator free. Very low levels of modification to all islands which contain endemic shrublands, herbfields and tussockland communities. Steep rock scarps contain tough native shrubs and species endemic to the region such as the Cook Strait Kowhai. The Chetwodes are the most ecologically significant islands in the Marlborough Sounds harbouring the yellow crowned parakeet, mohua, robin, kaka and rare indigenous vegetation and plant species. Near-shore areas retain high marine natural values, including high current habitats supporting bryozoan corals, sponges, hydroids, ascidians, horse mussels and associated species (e.g. fish).
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics clearly linked with the area's exposure to the sea, rugged and exposed in appearance.
Chetwode and Titi Islands Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	



Above: The Chetwodes are the most ecologically significant islands in the Marlborough Sounds harbouring the yellow crowned parakeet, robin, kaka and rare vegetation



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Chetwode & Titi Islands Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



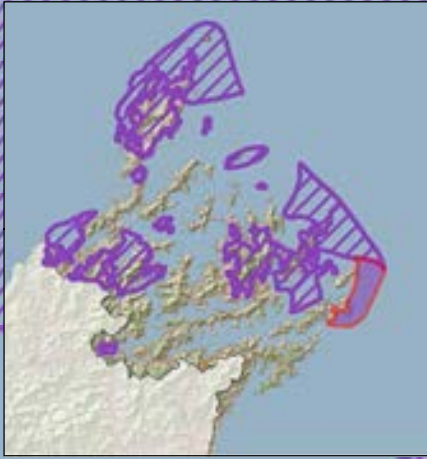
5: Eastern Arapawa Island & The Brothers Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

The visually dramatic, highly legible steep coastal cliffs support some of the best remaining Cook Strait mixed broadleaved forests with The Brothers holding some of the strongest tidal currents in the Region

Eastern Arapawa Island & The Brothers Islands Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Cook Strait (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Eastern Cook Strait and Outer Queen Charlotte Sound (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic features and processes are largely driven by southerly winds and swells which impact upon the exposed eastern shores, creating a very high energy coastline. Strong tidal currents are a feature especially around The Brothers Islands, near Tory Channel and off major headlands.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The eastern flanks of Arapawa Island support some of the best remaining examples of Cook Strait mixed broad-leaved forests and are nationally important, especially as possum-free environments The Brothers Islands harbour nationally important reptiles (tuatara, duvaucels gecko). South Brothers Island is one of the most pristine seabird islands in New Zealand. Largely unmodified exposed rocky coastal marine environment extending over many tens of kilometres. Diverse and productive reef communities with high macroalgae diversity.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dramatic coastal processes are highly legible along the length of these steep coastal cliffs and rocky reefs, with minimal modification. The Brothers Islands are a clearly legible group of islands representing some of the most exposed islands in the Region. The eastern entrance to Tory Channel is the gateway to the Marlborough Sounds for passengers on the Cook Strait ferries.
Eastern Arapawa Island & The Brothers Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

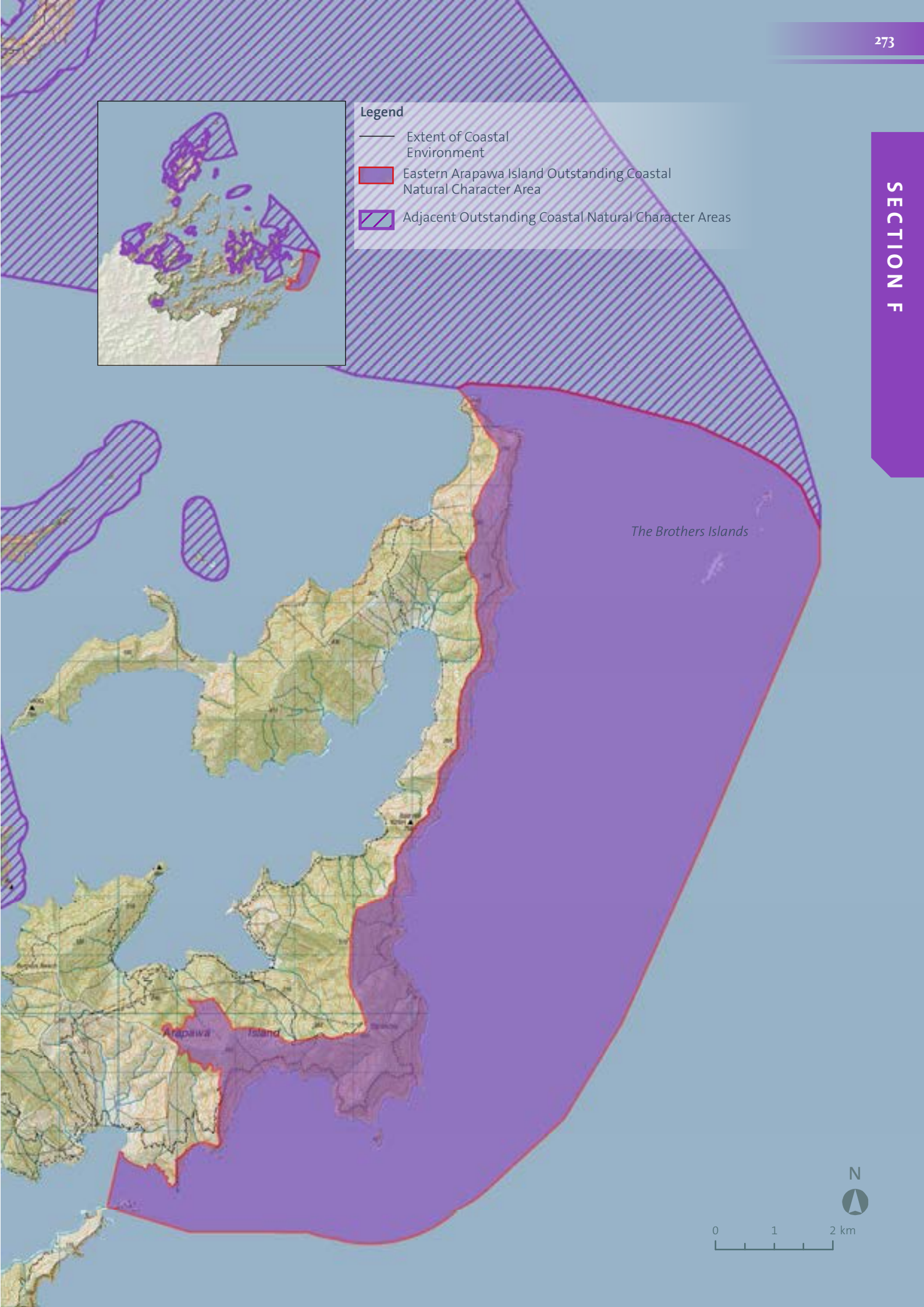


Above: Dramatic coastal processes are highly legible along the length of Eastern Arapawa Island's steep coastal cliffs



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Eastern Arapawa Island Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



The Brothers Islands

Arapawa Island



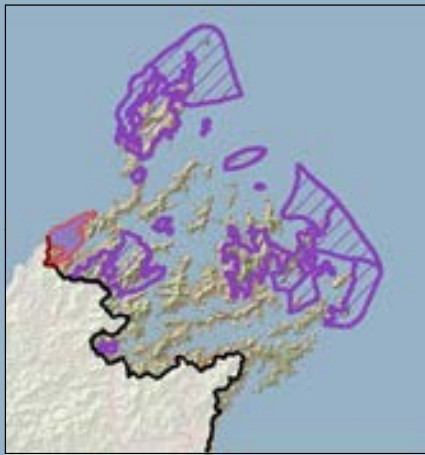
6: Croisilles Harbour Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

The high levels of naturalness of this marine environment coupled with the exceptional Whangarae Estuary are outstanding in this regional context

Croisilles Harbour Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	D'Urville (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Tasman Bay - South Western D'Urville Island (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whangarae Estuary, the only spit-formed estuary in the Marlborough Sounds. Pakiaka Point barrier island and lagoon are regionally significant features. Exposed, prominent rugged headland of Cape Soucis forms the regions western extent Islands to north of harbour
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croisilles Harbour marine environment supports a unique shallow sand community notable for the presence of the New Zealand lancelet (the southern-most population of this patchily distributed species). Largely unmodified near-shore coastal marine environment ranging from semi-sheltered to very sheltered shores. Whangarae Estuary is an excellent example of a relatively unmodified estuary in Marlborough Subtidal sand flat and boulder bank habitats/communities at the mouth of Croisilles Harbour. Island communities here are nationally important (Motuanauru Island and Otuhaereroa Island) . They are distinct and rare biotic assemblages, which are highly productive. Upland altitudinal forest tracks.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High levels of naturalness due to limited modification to the waterbody. Islands to north of harbour and Cape Soucis headland create a visual entrance and are unmodified.
Croisilles Harbour Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

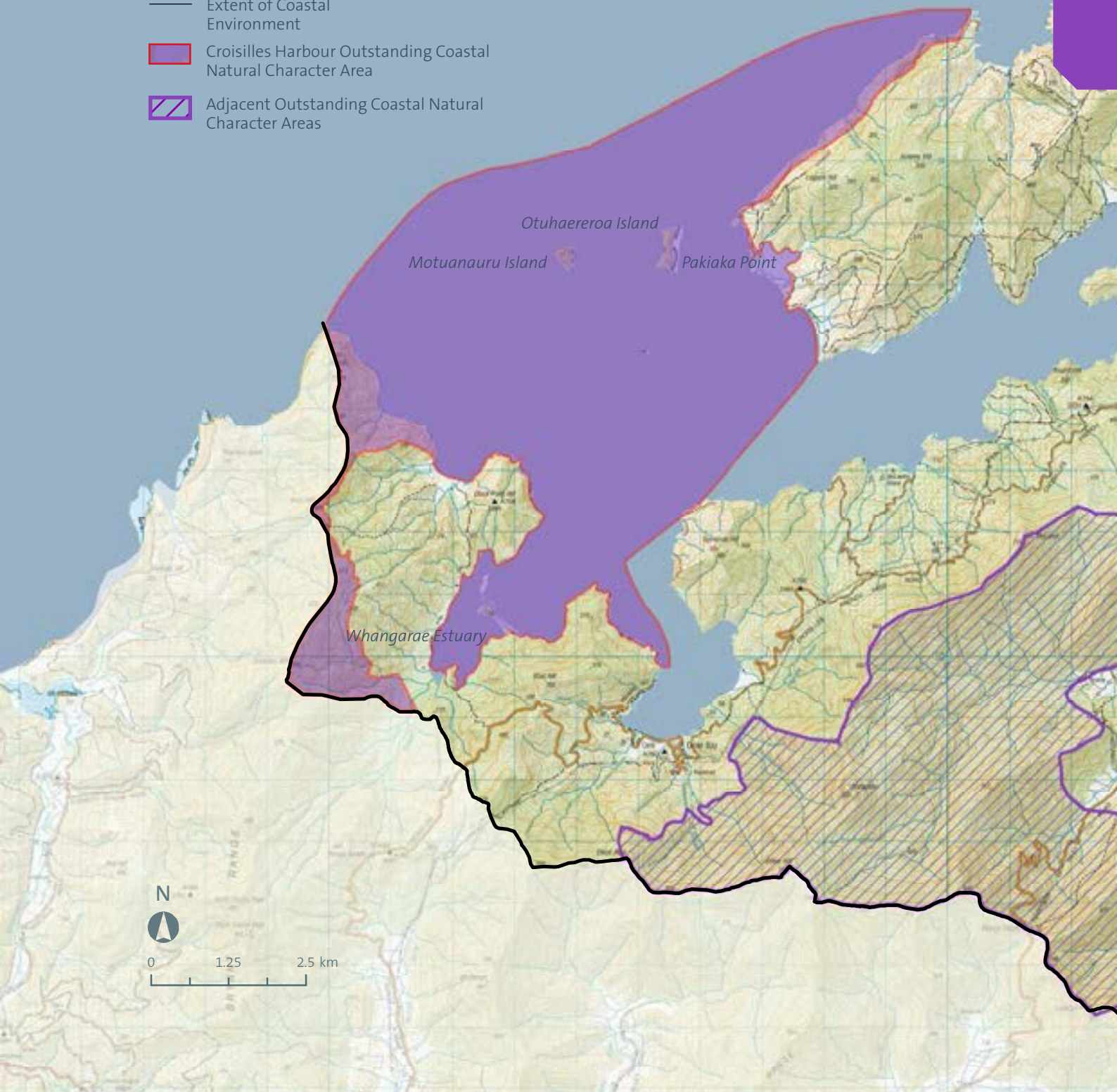


Above: Whangarae Estuary, Pakiaka Point barrier Island and Lagoon. Croisilles Harbour. Moukirkiri Island and Otuhaereroa Islands are located at the far left



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Croisilles Harbour Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



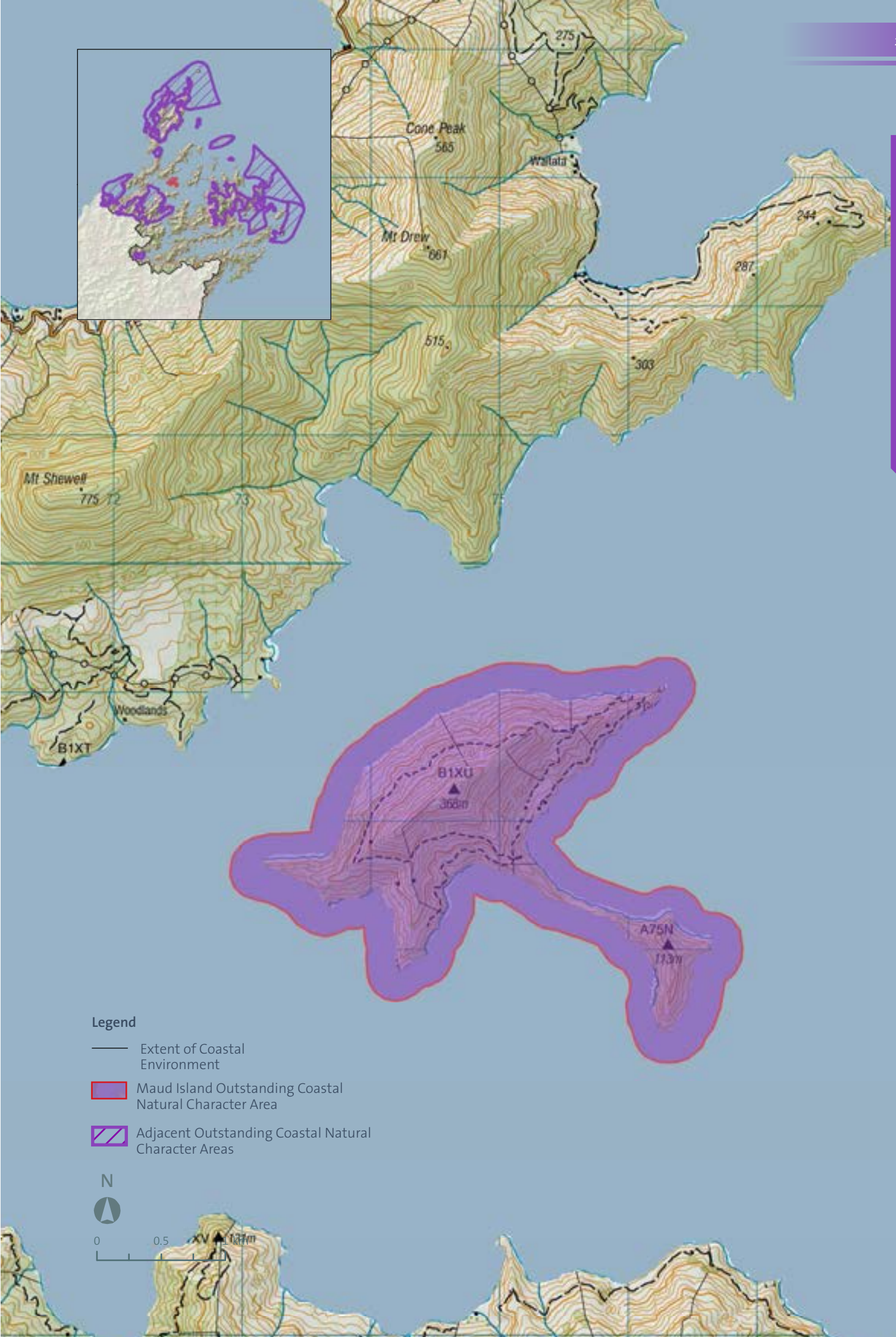
7: Maud Island Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

A visually striking internationally significant, predator free island sanctuary.




Maud Island Outstanding Natural Character Attributes			
<i>Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)</i>	Bulwer (High)		
<i>Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)</i>	Pelorus Sound (including Forsyth Island) (Moderate- High)		
Values			
<i>Abiotic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Island landform of steep to moderately steep coastal hills with inlets and bays retains a high maritime influence. The Island forms a distinct pyramidal form with a slender landform connecting Maud Island to Harter Point. 		
<i>Biotic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally significant, predator free Island sanctuary Harbours nationally threatened species of invertebrates, birdlife and the entire population of the Maud Island Frog. Home Bay contains 15 hectares of remnant bush including kohekohe, tawa, nikau, pukatea and mahoe. Most of the Island is cloaked in regenerating shrubland and forest. Several species of plants uncommon in Marlborough Sounds occur on Maud Island including the large-leaved milk tree, <i>Sonchus kirkii</i> and renga renga lily. Sheltered coastline with multiple aspects. Near-shore marine areas retain high natural values. 		
<i>Experiential</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinct island landform, pyramidal skyline and slender neck of Harter Point is very evident. Vegetation predominates views of the island which straddles the inner and outer Marlborough Sounds. 		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; padding: 5px;">Maud Island Coastal Natural Character Area Rating</td> <td style="width: 40%; padding: 5px;">Outstanding</td> </tr> </table>		Maud Island Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	Outstanding
Maud Island Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	Outstanding		

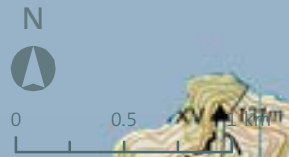


Above: Maud Island creates a distinctive pyramidal skyline linking to the slender neck of Harter Point. The island is an important wildlife sanctuary that straddles the Inner and Outer Sounds



Legend

-  Extent of Coastal Environment
-  Maud Island Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
-  Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



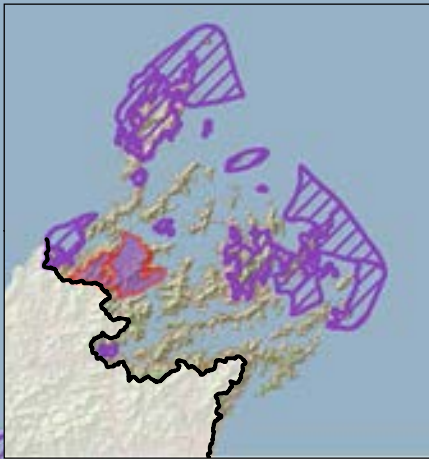
8: Tennyson Inlet & Inner Pelorus Sound Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

This exceptional tract of inland indigenous forest, displaying a sequence of vegetation types from mountain top to shore is rare nationally.

Tennyson Inlet & Inner Pelorus Sound Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Nydia (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Pelorus Sound (including Forsyth Island) (Moderately - High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The coastline is moderately dissected with numerous large, deeply indented inlets and smaller bays. Very sheltered with limited wave fetch Three islands are strategically located at the entrance of Tennyson Inlet.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much of the area is backed by native forest clad hillslopes. Intact coastal forest extends to the waters edge, some of the largest tracts of lowland forest in Marlborough. Largely intact and nationally significant altitudinal sequences of primary forest, extending from ridgetops to seafloor. Vegetation comprises coastal podocarp/broadleaved forest at lower altitudes and mature beech forest that stretches to the summits of the hills. These sequences extend north into Tennyson Inlet and south into Nydia Bay. Some plant communities are possum free. Tennyson Inlet is the largest marine area in Marlborough surrounded by protected native forest. Much of the coast extending from the head of Nydia Bay along the western side of Pelorus Sound to Jacobs Bay is also clad in native bush. Marine habitats and communities are mostly unmodified and retain high natural values.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This area retains an overwhelming sense of naturalness, from shore to ridge. Access is limited to this area by one road: Tennyson Inlet Road. The Nydia Track connects Tennyson Inlet and Nydia Bay with Kaiuma Bay, north of Havelock through mainly forested slopes. The area includes rare examples of sheltered inland inlets with limited modification to the water and the shores.
Tennyson Inlet & Inner Pelorus Sound Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

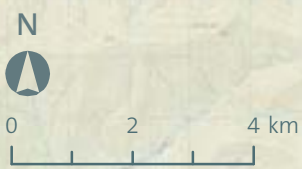
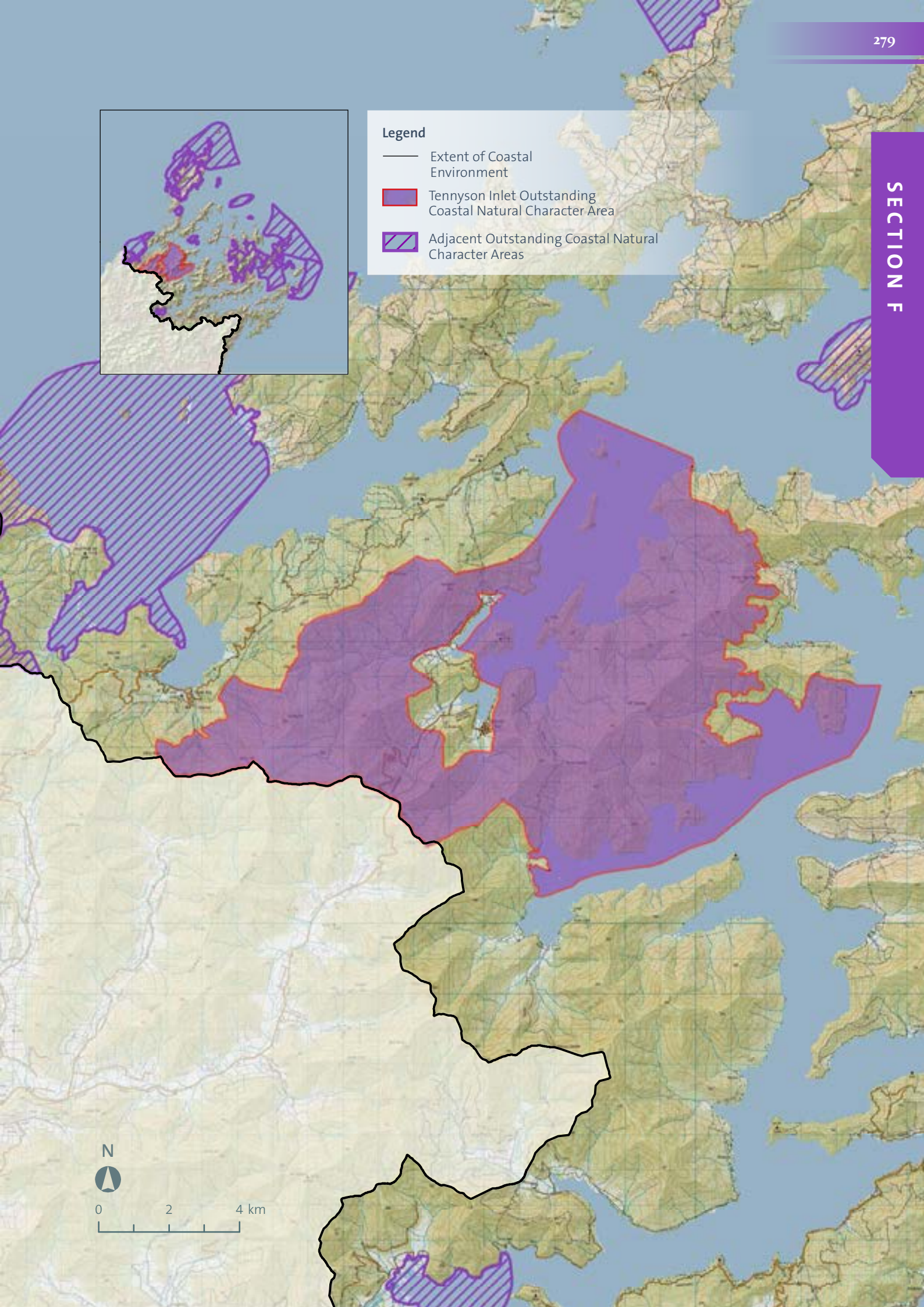


Above: The striking blue waters of Tennyson Inlet. Virtually all of the deep bay is enclosed by native forest-clad hillslopes



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Tennyson Inlet Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



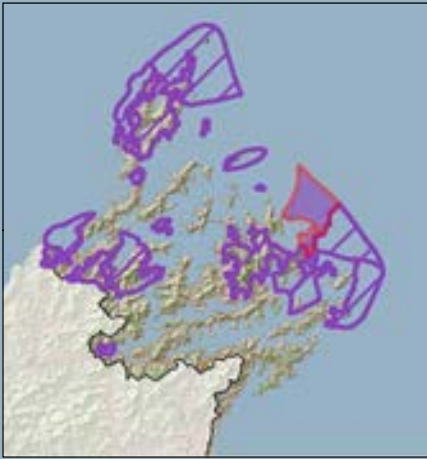
9: The Capes Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

Dramatic examples of a sunken landscape with stretches of nationally significant broadleaved forest and exceptional visual qualities.

The Capes Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Cook Strait (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	D'Urville Island -Northern Cook Strait (High); Eastern Cook Strait and Outer Queen Charlotte Sound (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Jackson is a superb example of a drowned ridge crest. • Cliffs and very steep slopes flank the sea and are being continually eroded by high energy waves. • Strong tidal currents off headlands. • Reefs fringe the shore and extend into deeper water, especially off the headlands.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brutal exposure to the elements has shaped unique Cook Strait vegetation on the headlands of Capes Lambert and Jackson. • Largely unmodified section of coast with exposed rocky bluffs and headlands and reef communities extending into deep water. • Cape Lambert Scenic Reserve. • High current communities in the vicinity of The Capes.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Capes and the waters they enclose are remote and retain a wild and exposed nature due to their narrow and rugged form. • They act as the outer 'arms' of Port Gore, where rocky outcrops and partially submerged platforms extend into the sea and offer opportunities for fishing. • Cape Jackson forms the western entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound where biotic patterns extend from Mt. Stokes and Mt. Furneaux further inland.
The Capes Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

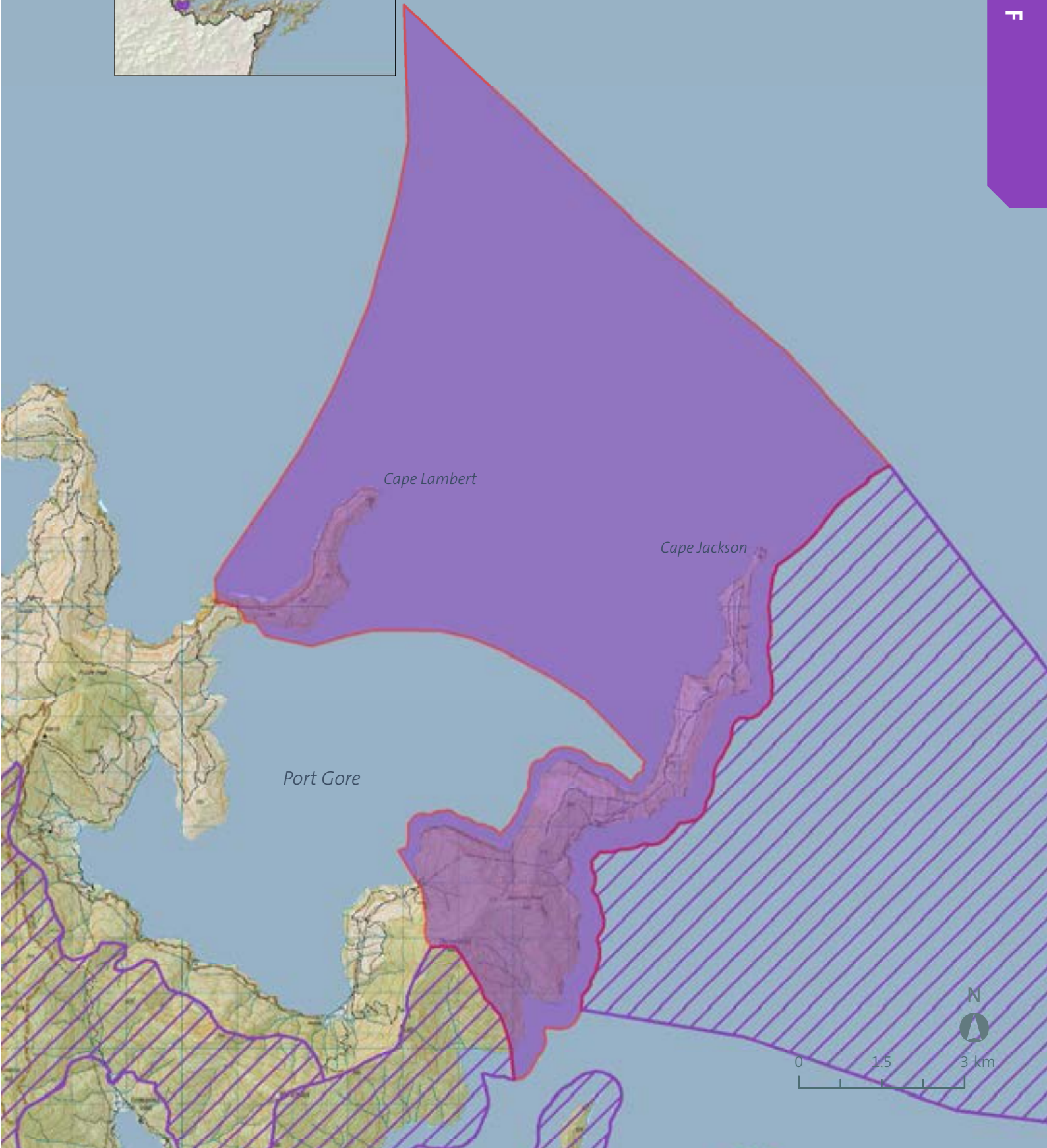


Above: The Cape Jackson peninsula



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- The Capes Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



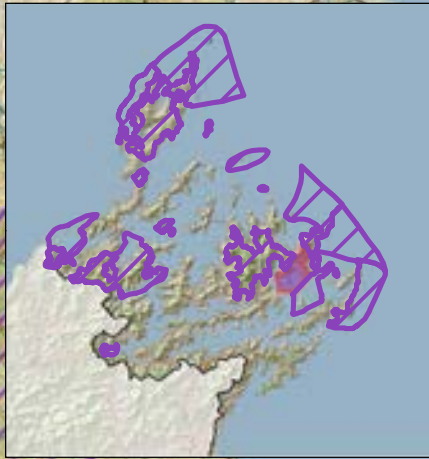
10: Ship Cove and Resolution Bay Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

This stretch of primary coastal and lowland indigenous bush is exceptional in its intactness.

Ship Cove and Resolution Bay Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Stokes (Very High); Portage (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Eastern Cook Strait and Outer Queen Charlotte Sound (Very High); Queen Charlotte Sound (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very steep sided faces clothed in indigenous vegetation. • Highly indented coastline comprising several sheltered small bays.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt Furneaux features nationally significant podocarp/ broadleaved forest. Forest between Ship Cove and Resolution Bay is distinctive and regionally outstanding, displaying intact natural sequences from sea to ridge top. • Largely unmodified sheltered near-shore and in places offshore marine environment backed by bush clad hills.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mostly sheltered coastline with its clear waters and forested backdrop is particularly memorable. • Ship Cove is generally the start of the Queen Charlotte Track. • The area retains a reasonably high level of remoteness, due to its location between the inner and outer Sounds.
Ship Cove and Resolution Bay Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

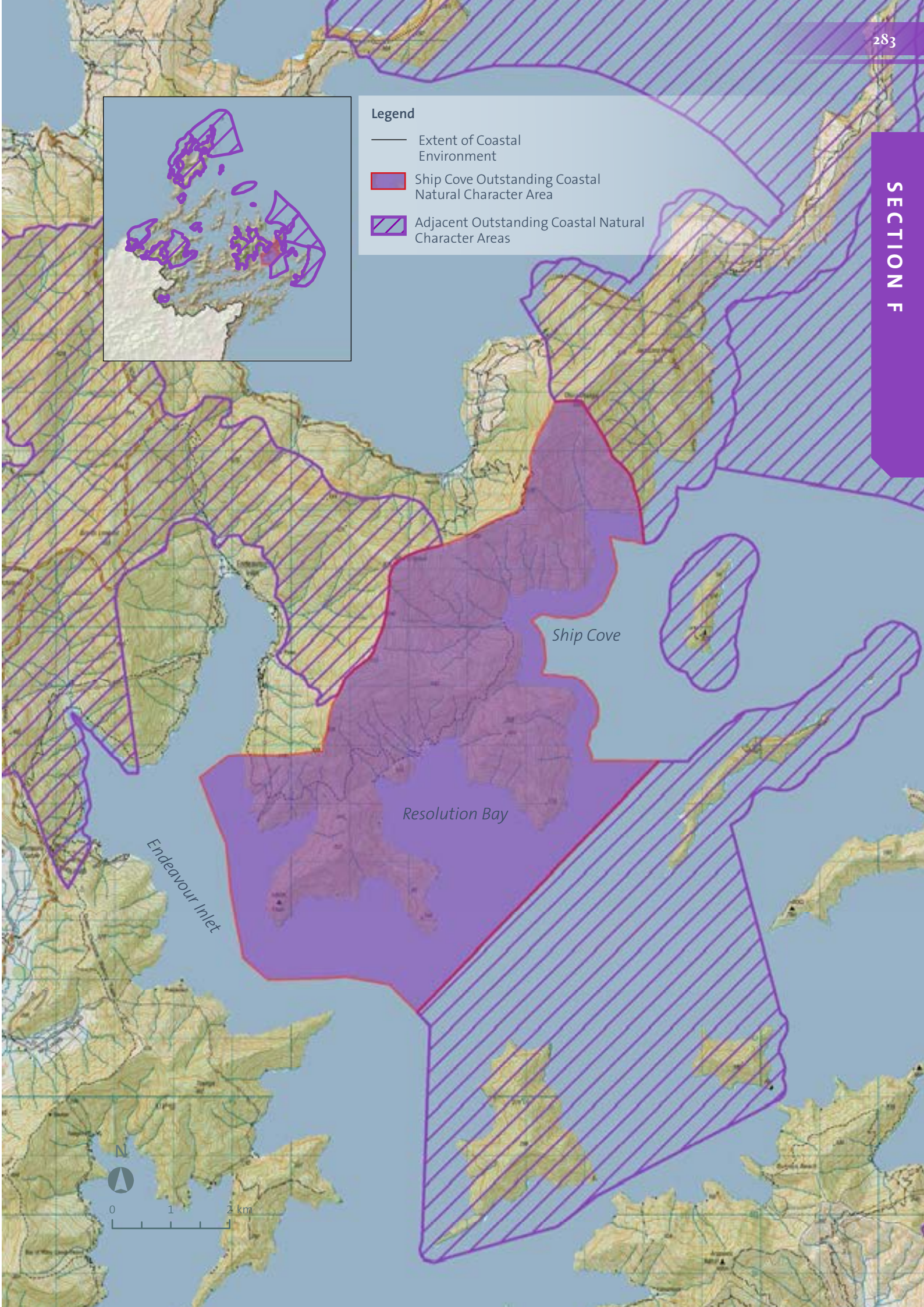


Above: A few large, nationally important primary coastal and lowland forest tracts remain; they contribute to intact altitudinal sequences from ridgetop to seafloor, (eg. Black Head, Big Bay, Ship Cove)



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Ship Cove Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



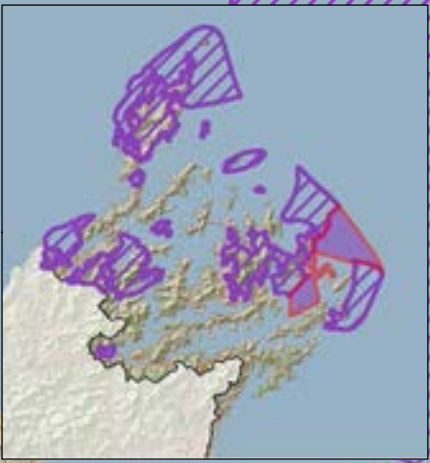
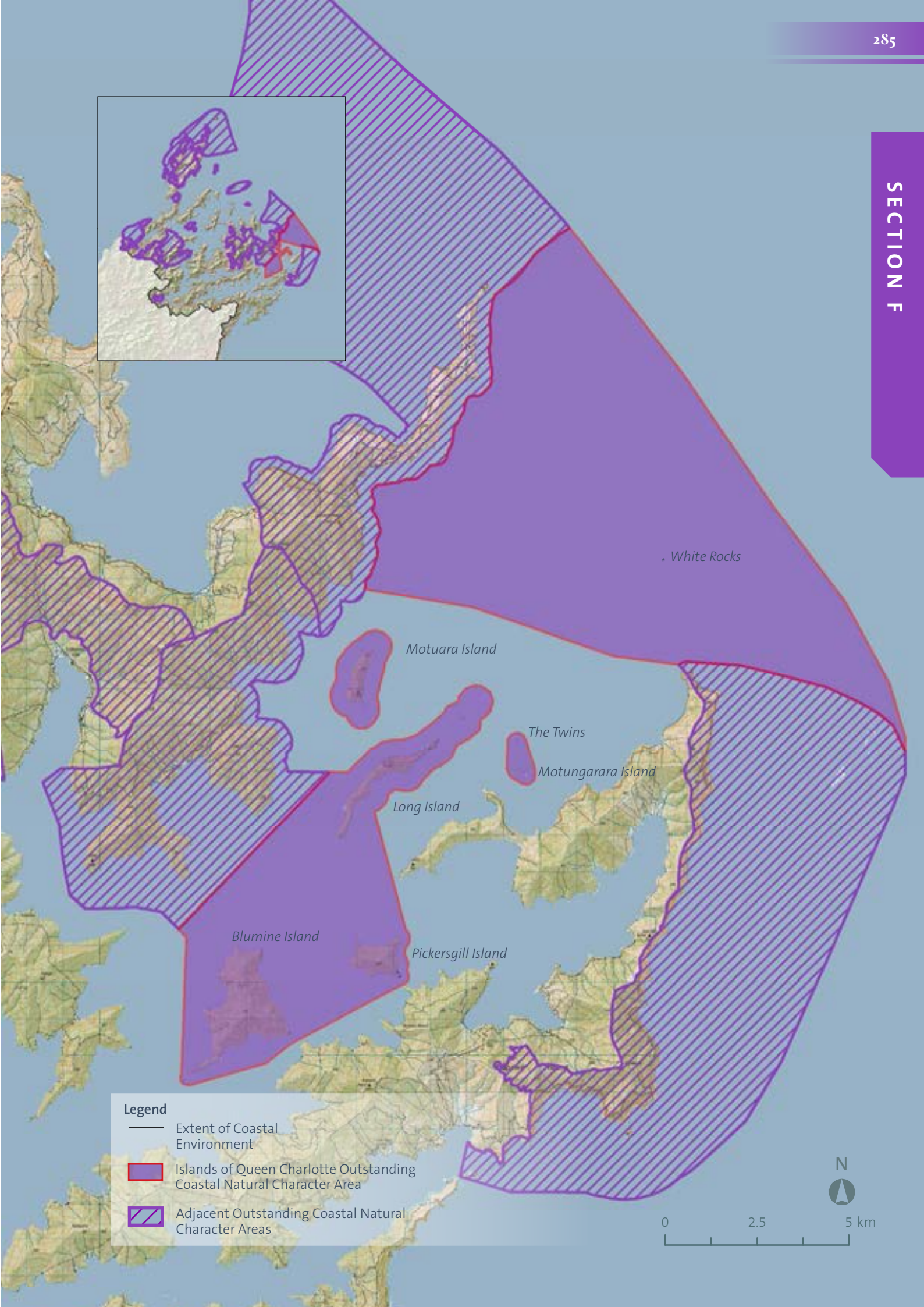
11: Islands of Queen Charlotte Sound & White Rocks Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

These islands at the entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound are exceptional in their strategic positions harbouring many endangered bird species.

Islands of Queen Charlotte Sound & White Rocks Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Arapawa (High); Portage (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Queen Charlotte Sound (Very High); Eastern Cook Strait and Outer Queen Charlotte Sound (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine submergence has created Blumine, Pickersgill, Long, The Twins, Motungarara and Motuara Islands which are separated from the mainland and the larger Arapawa Island by narrow passages. Long Island cusped foreland is a regionally important geological feature. The islands have a exposed, steep and rocky character to the north and more sheltered southern tips. White Rocks are a good example of a very small, exposed, sparsely-soiled rock stack system.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Islands within this ONC area are predator free. Long Island harbours the endangered little spotted kiwi. Pickersgill Island is regionally significant for its flora and fauna. Motuara Island features regenerating bush and many species of native bird endangered on mainland New Zealand. Blumine Island is home to the world's most endangered Kiwi, the rowi and other endangered New Zealand birds. Features regenerating bush. A marine reserve of national significance surrounds Long Island and Kokomohua Island. Largely unmodified near-shore and in places off-shore marine environment. Unmodified White Rocks holds a unique ecosystem with limited flora and is a breeding colony for the nationally endangered king shag.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The steep and often rugged bush clad slopes are highly natural. This network of islands and rocks combine to create a memorable experience for visitors to the outer Queen Charlotte Sound.
Islands of Queen Charlotte Sound & White Rocks Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	



A number of predator-free island sanctuaries are located in the Outer Sounds such as Motuara Island (right), Blumine Island (left background) and Pickersgill Island (not pictured). Long Island (left foreground) is located at the entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound. These reserves contain a range of rare or threatened species such as kiwi, tuatara, hectors dolphins and king shags



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Islands of Queen Charlotte Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



12: Mt. Stokes

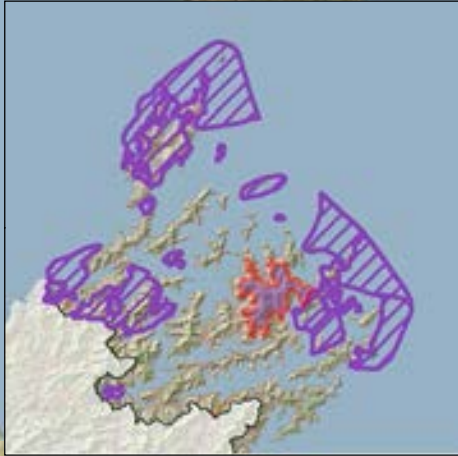
Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

The green corridor of bush that connects Mt Stokes to the sea at Endeavour Inlet, is part of the larger Mt Stokes area managed by Department of Conservation and is identified as having internationally significant ecological values.

Mt Stokes Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Stokes (Very High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Pelorus Sound (including Forsyth Bay) (Moderate -High); Queen Charlotte Sound (Very High); Eastern Cook Strait and outer Queen Charlotte Sound (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt. Stokes is one of the most dominant landforms in the Marlborough Sounds, with its upland ridge crests and summits reaching 1,203m above sea level. • A number of watercourses extend from this central massif, and have long, high gradients with the water quality being amongst the highest in the Sounds.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original forest covers most of the upper slopes of Stokes massif and its summit supports the only occurrence of subalpine vegetation in the Sounds. • Natural biodiversity is high due to the range of altitude, landform and habitat types; especially enhanced by subalpine communities
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area straddles the inner and outer Sounds, where extreme weather can also play an important aspect into the areas experiential values. • The mountain top and associated ridges define and frame the associated bays and due to their lack of modification, retain very high remote and experiential values.
Mt Stokes Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

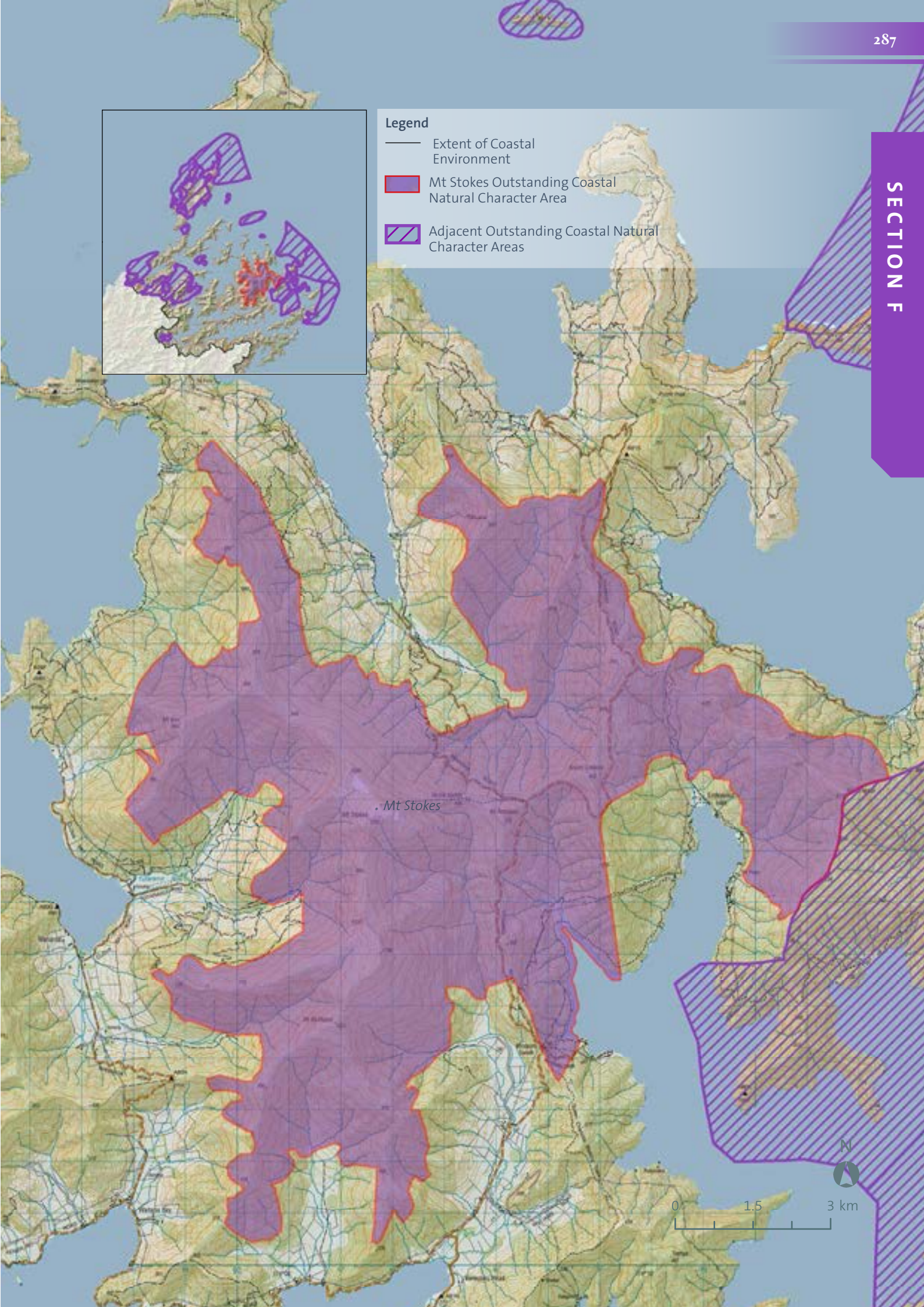


Furneaux Lodge at Resolution Bay, Endeavour Inlet. The indigenous forest of the southwestern slopes of Mt Furneaux can be seen at the background



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Mt Stokes Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



13: Pelorus Estuary

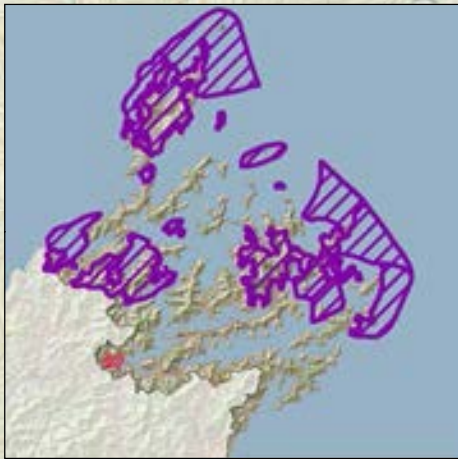
Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

The mouth of the Pelorus River holds distinctive remnant alluvial communities that are impressive in their extent and lack of modification

Pelorus Estuary Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Pelorus (High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Pelorus Sound, including Forsyth Bay (Moderate - High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive and uniform intertidal flats at the mouth of the Pelorus River. • Largely intact estuarine hydrological processes.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biotic patterns and sequences, dynamics and process functioning are largely intact. • Distinctive remnant alluvial communities are largely intact in the estuary and also for the upper hillslopes, although now reduced to scattered treelands, and include fertile podocarp and mixed broadleaved treeland, and semi-deciduous kowhai-ribbonwood-lacebark treelands. • Estuarine and adjoining freshwater wetland communities are extensive, very distinctive, regionally outstanding, and provide important habitats.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intertidal river delta, with its network of small waterways and extensive saltmarsh beds is extremely memorable. • Despite modifications around parts of its perimeter, this large estuary holds high levels of perceived naturalness.
Pelorus Estuary Coastal Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

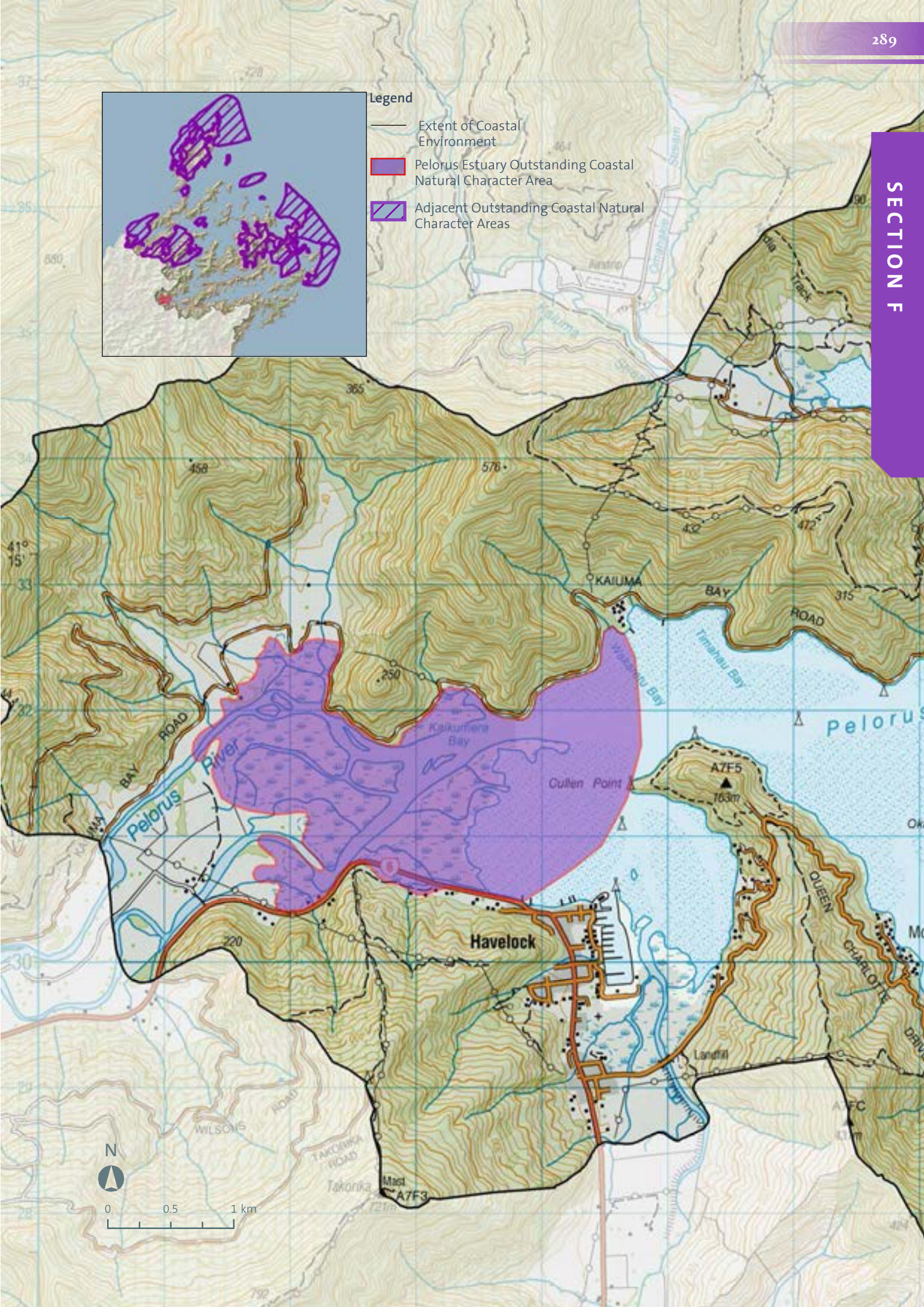


Above: Estuarine and adjoining freshwater wetland communities are extensive, very distinctive, regionally outstanding, and provide important habitats



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Pelorus Estuary Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



0 0.5 1 km

14: Wairau Lagoons

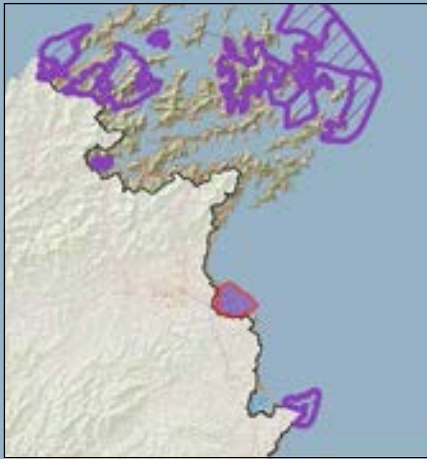
Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

The Wairau Lagoons represent an exceptional system of interlinked channels and lagoons harbouring a diverse avifauna community.

Wairau Lagoons Outstanding Natural Character Attributes			
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Wairau (Moderate- High)		
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Cloudy to Clifford Bays (Very High)		
Values			
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wairau/Vernon Lagoons estuary is a distinctive feature of this coastline – a 2,300ha system of interlinked channels, broad shallow lagoons, small islands and expansive intertidal flats, forming a unique and nationally significant coastal lagoon-estuarine system. The Wairau Lagoons and Bar have been identified as nationally significant intact landforms. Geopreservation site includes: Wairau boulder barrier, lagoon and delta. 		
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive glasswort herbfields are a distinctive feature. Other species such as rushes, sedges, estuarine herbs and grasses feature around the fringes. Nationally significant for wading birds (including migratory species), waterfowl and other wetland birds with almost 90 recorded species – the majority being native and more than a quarter endangered, vulnerable or rare. 		
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aesthetically interesting and broadly unmodified landforms of the estuarine landscape and boulder bank. Expansive sea views out to Cloudy Bay, backdropped by the White Bluffs <i>Te Parinui o Whiti</i> which are visually impressive. 		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #4a7c9c; color: white; padding: 5px;">Wairau Lagoons Natural Character Area Rating</td> <td style="background-color: #6a3d9a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Outstanding</td> </tr> </table>		Wairau Lagoons Natural Character Area Rating	Outstanding
Wairau Lagoons Natural Character Area Rating	Outstanding		

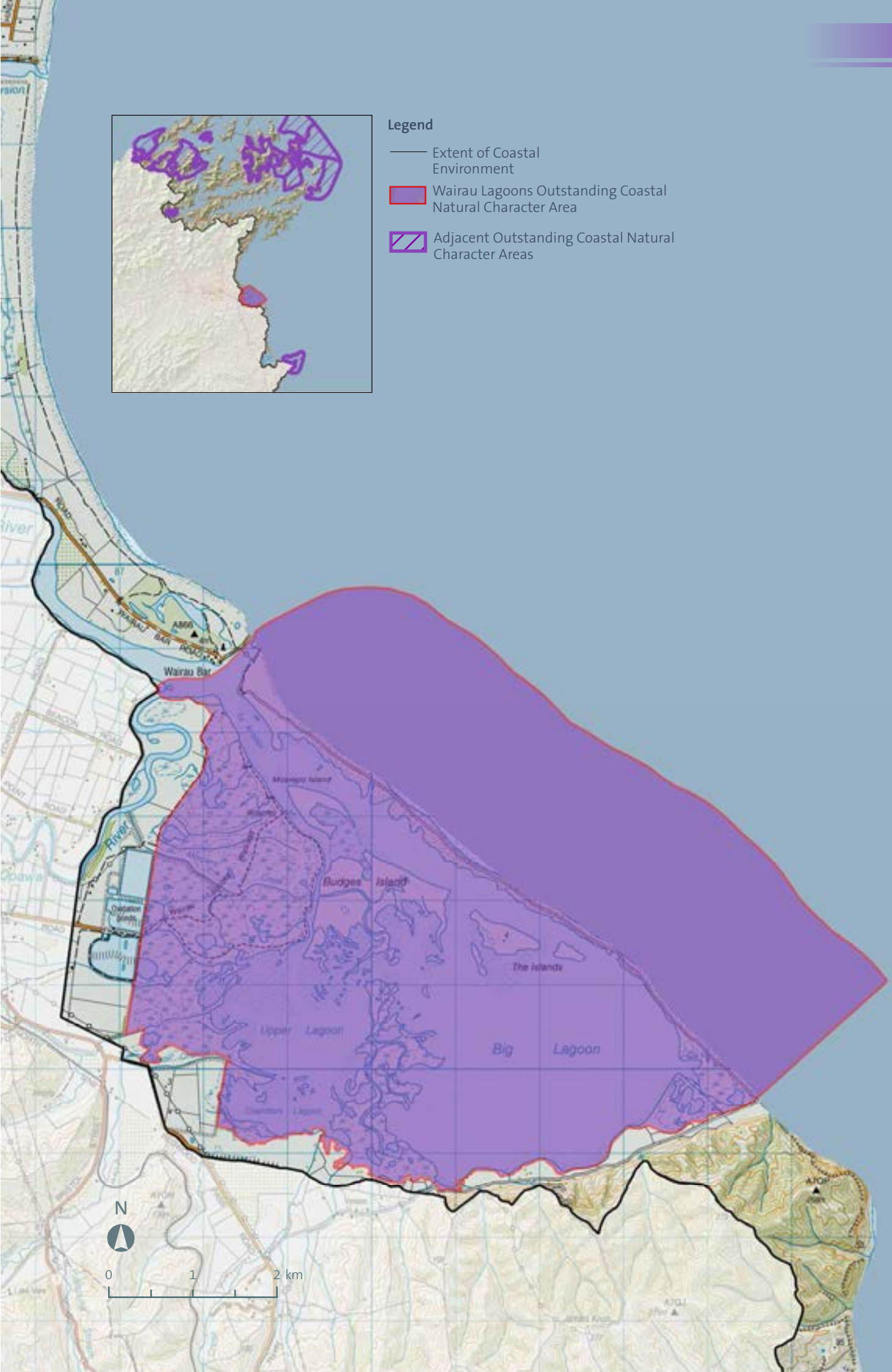


Above: The Wairau Lagoons and salt marshes are closely associated with the coastal environment. Estuarine grasses and shrubs occupy sand islands and act as a haven for wildlife



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Wairau Lagoons Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



15: Cape Campbell

Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

Impressive Cape retaining a number of offshore reefs, platforms and rocks that harbour a variety of species

Cape Campbell Outstanding Natural Character Attributes

Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Campbell (High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Cape Campbell to Willawa Point (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This area is influenced by the cold Southland Current, and is frequently exposed to high energy swells and storms from the south and east. Broad and deeply incised shore platforms and offshore reefs characterise the marine environment in the vicinity of Cape Campbell. Mussel Point forms another prominent reef structure marking the western boundary of this area. High limestone cliffs extend between Mussel Point and Cape Campbell.
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reefs support moderate numbers and diversity of plants and animals with the greatest diversity located subtidally within channels, pools and partially sheltered areas of the reefs. Large offshore beds of giant kelp (<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>). Largely unmodified coastal marine environment.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to this remote and rugged coastline is limited. The coast is largely unmodified with no aquaculture or jetties/wharves. The area, once visited, is extremely memorable.
Cape Campbell Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	

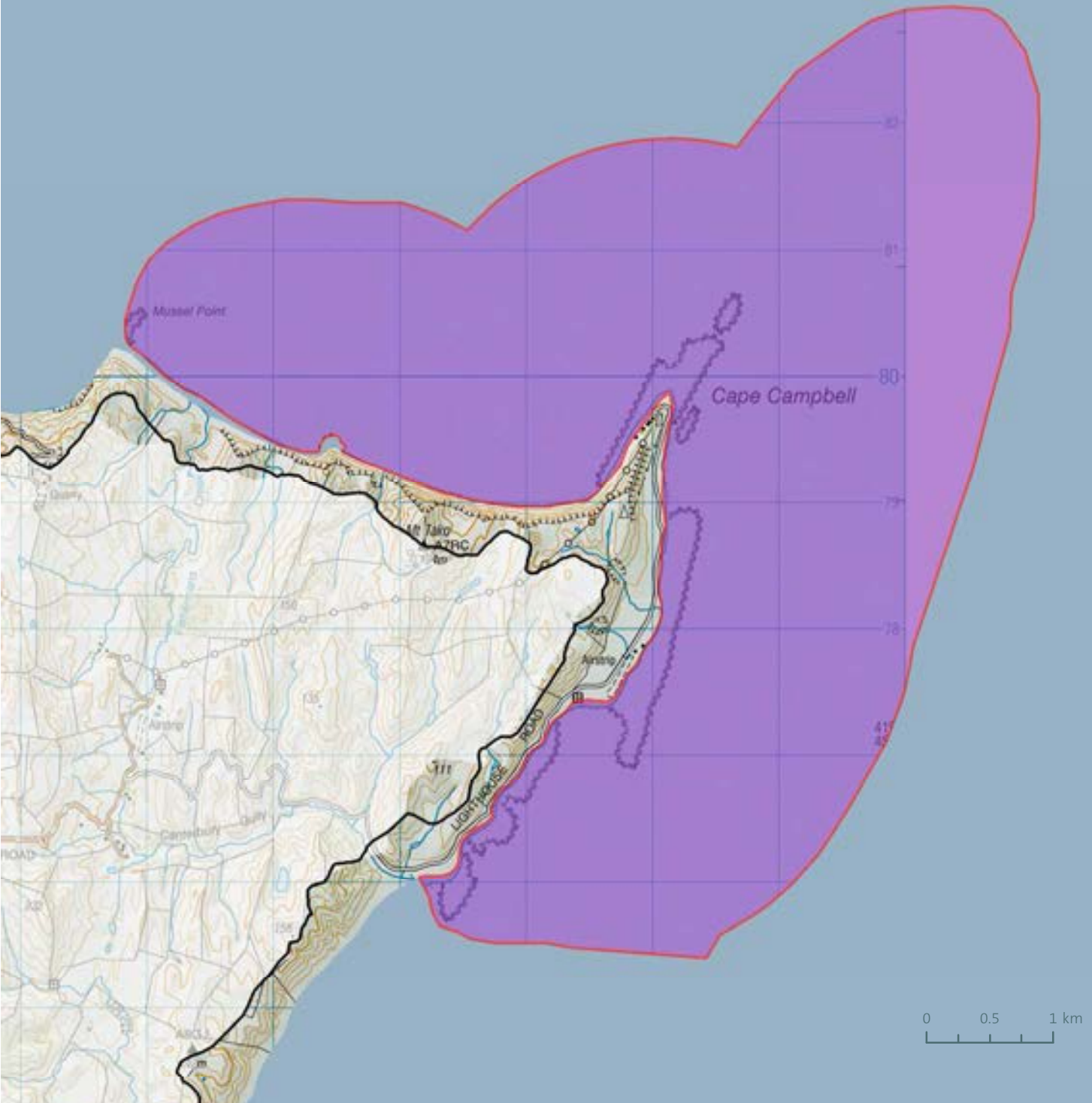


Above: The offshore reefs and part submerged platforms are clearly evident off the Cape



Legend

- Extent of Coastal Environment
- Cape Campbell Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
- ▨ Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas



16: Chancet Rocks & The Needles

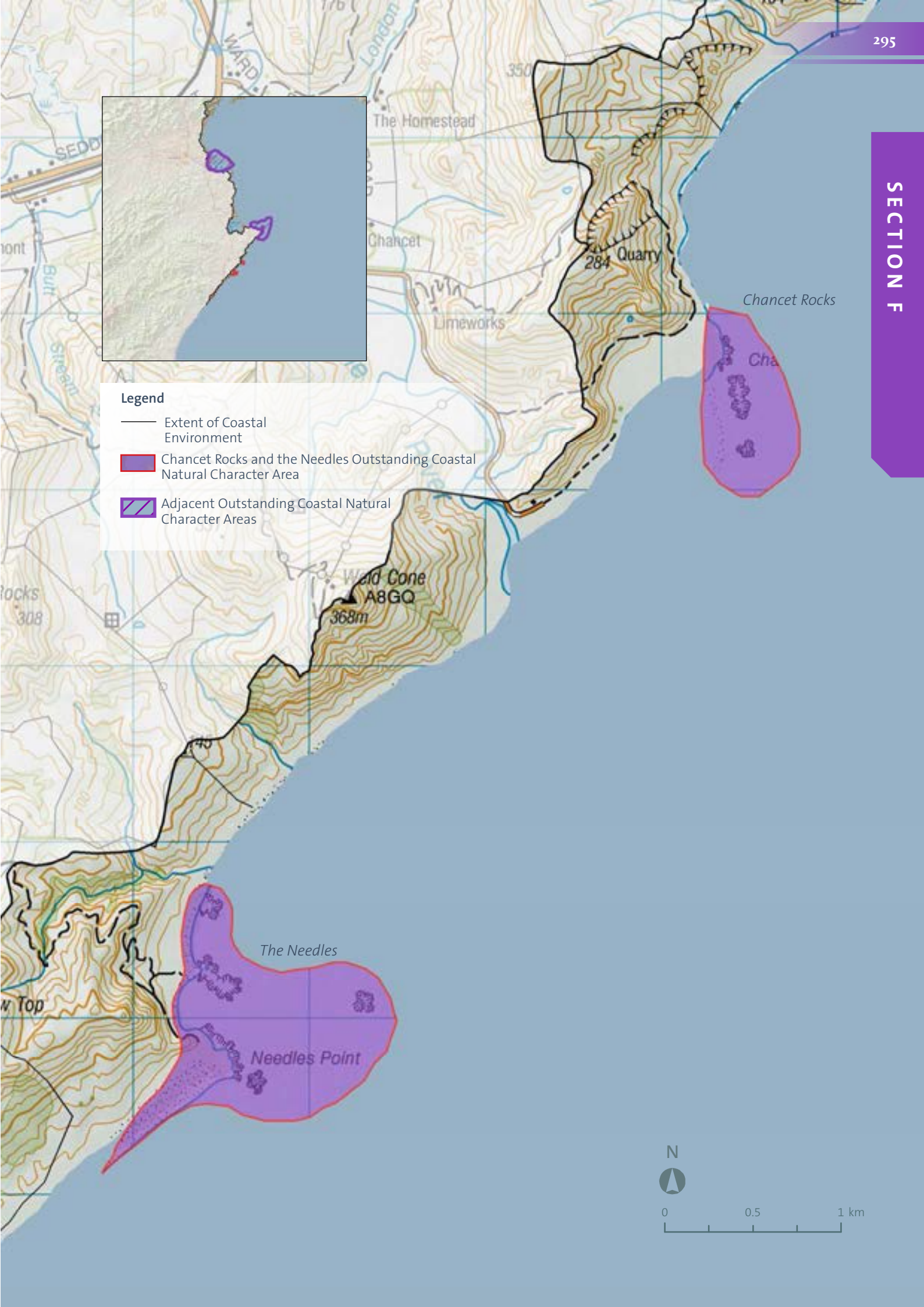
Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area

Impressive coastal erosional features of The Needles and Chancet Rocks hold outstanding abiotic, biotic and experiential values due to their location on this high energy coastline




Chancet Rocks & The Needles Outstanding Natural Character Attributes	
Coastal Terrestrial Area and Rating (Level 3)	Wharanui (High)
Coastal Marine Area and Rating (Level 3)	Cape Campbell to Willawa Point (Very High)
Values	
Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This area is influenced by the cold Southland Current, and is frequently exposed to high energy swells and storms from the south and east. Inshore coastal waters are cloudy due to sedimentation from the Flaxbourne, Clarence and Waima (Ure) Rivers and erosion of the soft cretaceous rocks of this coast by wave action. The limestone features and wave cut platforms of the Needles and Chancet Rocks are unique to this coastline and have been identified as individual geopreservation sites due to their unique geological makeup
Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are colonies of NZ fur seals at Chancet Rocks and The Needles. Limestone reef communities.
Experiential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wave cut platforms and reefs of Chancet Rock and the Needles are prominent features displaying limited modification This coast is characterised by rocky reefs and stacks interspersed with sand or gravel beaches. Access is limited to only a few locations.
Chancet Rocks & The Needles Natural Character Area Rating	
Outstanding	



Above: Chancet Rocks



Legend

-  Extent of Coastal Environment
-  Chancet Rocks and the Needles Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area
-  Adjacent Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas

