

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

**PROPOSED WHAKAPOUKORERO WETLAND
RESTORATION PROJECT
MAKETU**

Prepared by

KEN PHILLIPS (MA HONS)

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ARCHAEOLOGY B.O.P.

HERITAGE CONSULTANTS

P O BOX 68955

NEWTON

AUCKLAND

Mobile: 027 276 9919

Email: KJS.Phillips@xtra.co.nz

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This archaeological survey and report was commissioned by Bay of Plenty Regional Council in order to determine if archaeological sites are affected by the proposed restoration of the Whakapoukorero Wetlands located at Maketu.

The project will involve the removal of existing exotic vegetation and excavation of ponds using heavy machinery followed by replanting.

This report has been prepared as part of the required assessment of effects accompanying a resource consent application under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and to identify any requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA). Recommendations are made in accordance with statutory requirements.



Figure 1. Map showing the approximate location of the Whakapoukorero Wetland's (Highlighted red).

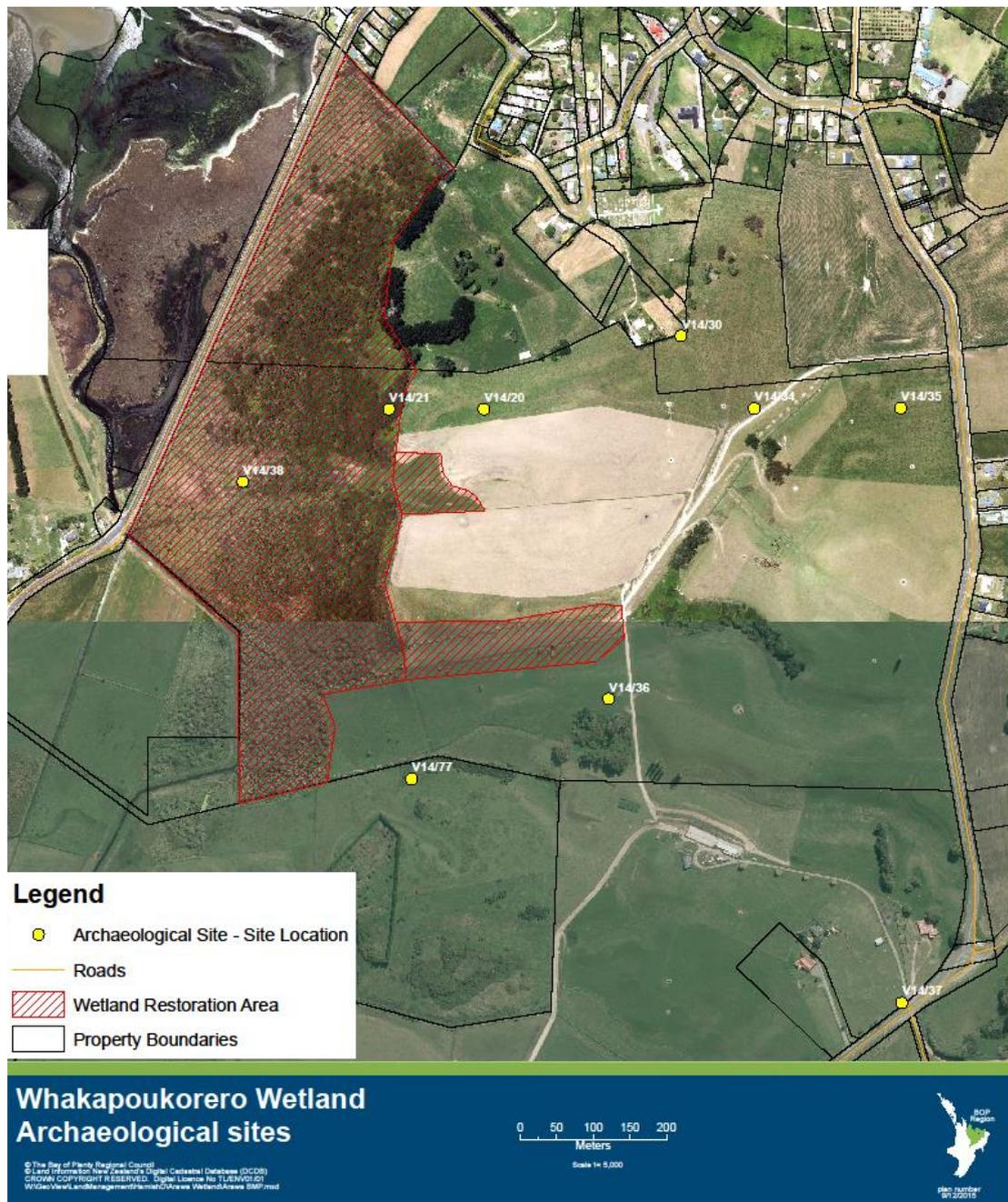


Figure 2. Plan showing the location and extent of the Whakapoukorero Wetlands and coordinates for recorded archaeological sites (yellow dots)

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014)

An archaeological site, as defined by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 6(a), is any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure), that (i) was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 or is the site of the wreck of any vessel where the wreck occurred before 1900 and (ii) provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

Archaeological sites cannot be modified or destroyed unless an authority is granted under section 48, 56(1)(b), or 62 in respect of an archaeological site, no person may modify or destroy, or cause to be modified or destroyed, the whole or any part of that site if that person knows, or ought reasonably to have suspected, that the site is an archaeological site.

Resource Management Act (1991)

The RMA 1991 recognizes as matters of national importance: ‘the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu, and other taonga’ (S6(e); and ‘the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development’ (S6(f).

Territorial authorities are required under Section 6 of the RMA to recognise and provide for these matters of national importance when ‘managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources’.

Historic heritage is defined as ‘those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand’s history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities: (i) archaeological; (ii) architectural; (iii) cultural; (iv) historic; (v) scientific; (vi) technological’. Historic heritage includes: ‘(i) historic sites, structures, places, and areas; (ii) archaeological sites; (iii) sites of significance to Maori, including wahi tapu; (iv) surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources’.

Constraints and Limitations

This is an assessment of archaeological values and does not include an assessment of Maori values. Consultation with tangata whenua is being carried out independently of this report. An assessment of the cultural significance of an area can only be competently made by the affected tangata whenua. It should be noted that an assessment of cultural significance might not necessarily correlate with an assessment of archaeological significance.

Methodology

Prior to the archaeological survey the records of the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) were consulted in order to determine whether any archaeological sites had previously been recorded on or in the immediate vicinity of land affected by the project. Early survey plans, aerial photos and archaeological reports relating to the area were also reviewed.

A visual inspection of the property was carried out by Ken Phillips in the company of representatives of local iwi in February 2016. The ground surface was examined for evidence of former occupation (in the form of shell midden, depressions, terracing or other unusual formations within the landscape, or indications of 19th century European settlement remains). Subsurface testing was limited to examination of existing exposed soil profiles.

RESULTS

Physical Landscape

The Whakapoukorero Wetlands are located on the south eastern margins of the southern extent of the Maketu estuary. The area is low lying and while attempts appear to have been made to drain the area for pastoral farming in the first half of the 20th century it has remained in various states of wetland vegetation cover. A survey plan produced in 1915 describes the area as a Wiwi and Flax swamp (ML 9875). Land within the study area would not have been suitable for human occupation but would likely have been used for the procurement of resources such as flax and eels by local populations.

Archaeological Landscape

The records of the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) were consulted in order to determine the location of recorded archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. The records indicate that there are two sites with coordinates that fall within the property (V14/21 & 38) and three recorded archaeological sites within 100m of the property (V14/20, 36 & 77).

V14/20 Pit terrace, V14/36 Pa, V14/77 Midden oven

These three sites are located on elevated land to the east of the Whakapoukorero Wetlands. Sites V14/20 and V14/36 were recorded by Ken Moore in 1977 and their exact location verified during the 1984 HPT survey. V14/77 was identified during the 1984 HPT survey. In summary the coordinates for these sites illustrated on the regional council archaeological site overlay are correct and they will not be affected by the current restoration proposal.

V14/21 Wharekahu Mission Station

This is a well-known site noted on early survey plans and discussed in a number of publications. The coordinates provided for the site by Moore in 1977 are unfortunately some 600 meters out and have not been corrected by subsequent archaeological inspections. This site will not be affected by the proposed Whakapoukorero Wetland restoration project.

V14/38 Domestic House

This site is said to be the location of a dwelling built for Edward Shortland in the 1840s. Its existence is known from archival sources and its exact location is unclear although it is said to have been located a short distance to the west of the Mission Station. A map accompanying the NZAA site record form produced for the site by Ken Moore in 1977 places it on elevated ground within Lot 3 DPS 39793. This site will not be affected by the proposed Whakapoukorero Wetland restoration project.

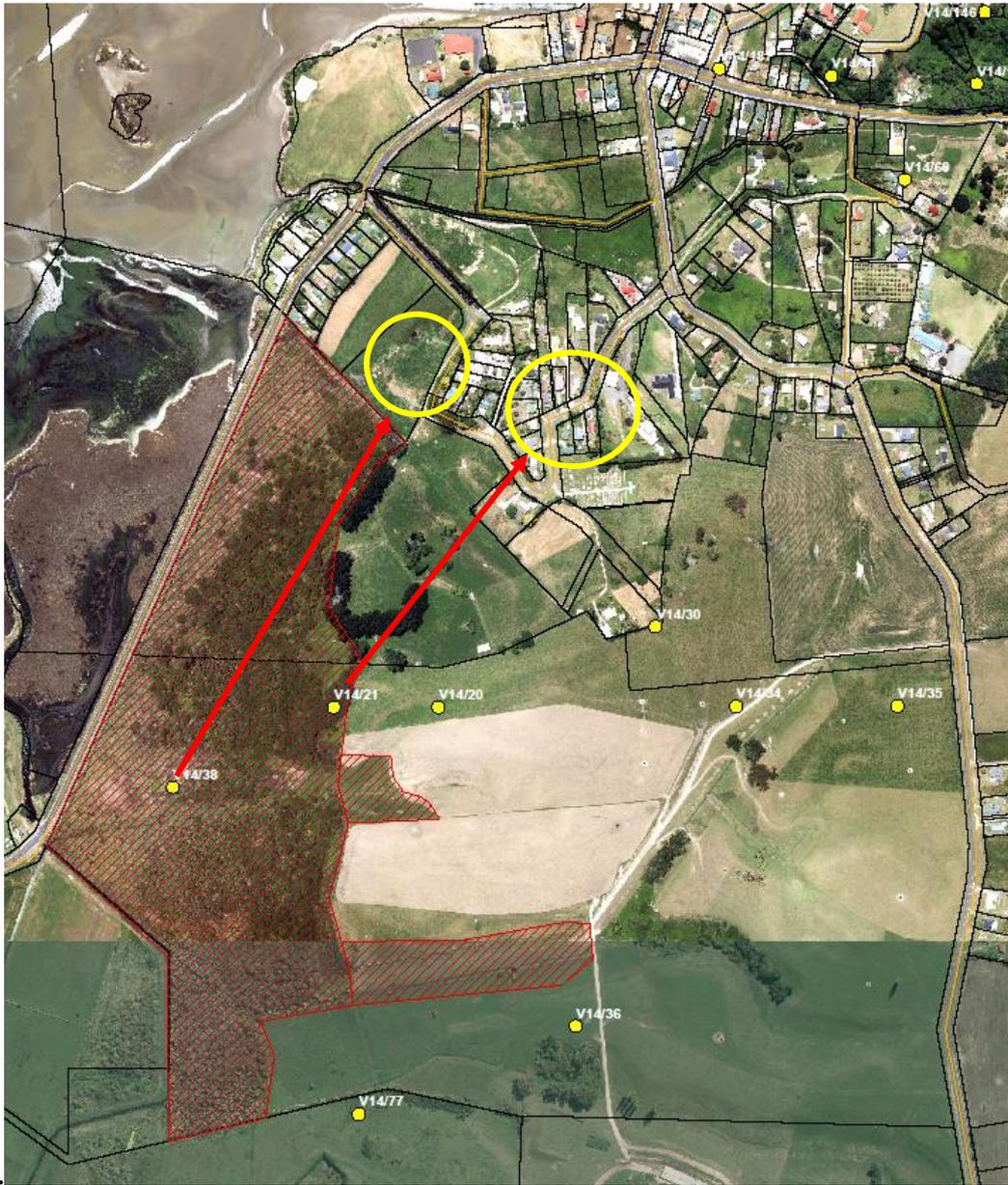


Figure 3. Aerial photo showing Whakapoukorero and the correct location of V14/21 & V14/38.

SURVEY RESULTS

There are no known recorded archaeological sites within the property and no unrecorded archaeological sites were identified during archival research and field survey within the property carried out for this assessment. It should be recognized that it is not possible to provide absolute assurance that unrecorded archaeological sites are not present within the study area however it is consider unlikely given the wetland nature of the property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for avoidance or mitigation are provided as points of discussion between the applicant, statutory agencies and tangata whenua.

1. That a Heritage New Zealand (HNZ) authority to modify damage or destroy an archaeological site is not required in order to carry out earthworks and ground disturbance associated with the proposed restoration of the Whakapoukorero Wetlands.
2. That in the unlikely event that archaeological sites are encountered during ground disturbance associated with the proposed restoration all work must stop in the immediate area until HNZ are informed and appropriate measures for the mitigation of effects can be established.
3. That if koiwi tangata (human remains) are encountered, no further modification of the site concerned shall occur until tangata whenua and the HNZ have been advised and their responses received.
4. Archaeological survey cannot always detect sites of traditional value to Maori, such as wahi tapu. Tangata whenua should be consulted regarding the possible existence of such sites and informed of the recommendations of this report.