

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED
AWAITI PLACE
STORMWATER REMEDIATION PROPOSAL.

OHAUTI
TAURANGA

Prepared by

KEN PHILLIPS (MA HONS)

For

TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 2020

ARCHAEOLOGY B.O.P.

HERITAGE CONSULTANTS

P O Box 13228

TAURANGA CENTRAL

TAURANGA 3141

Mobile: 027 276 9919

Email: KJS.Phillips@xtra.co.nz

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This archaeological survey and report were commissioned by Tauranga City Council in order to determine if archaeological sites are affected by the proposed storm water remediation work within the lower Waipapa Stream catchment in the vicinity of Awaiti Place and McFettridge Lane Ohauti, Tauranga. The project will involve the upgrade of the Awaiti Place storm water pond and installation of a new stormwater pipeline along Awaiti Place (Area A) and the construction of a dam, pond and spillway on the southern side of the McFettridge Lane causeway (Area B). Earthwork will be extensive within the project footprint.

There are no known archaeological sites within land affected by the project, however, there are numerous recorded sites in the general vicinity of the project and there is possibility that unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites may be encountered during earthwork associated with the project.

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. Part topographic Map U14 showing the general location of project area within the Waipapa Stream catchment.

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 affected land was carried out by Ken Phillips in March 2020. 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 based on spade test pitting was carried out to determine whether buried archaeological deposits could be identified. Particular attention was given to the elevated land above the stream valleys where visible archaeological features were most likely to be found. Disturbed soils and soil profiles exposed in cuttings were examined where encountered for evidence of earlier settlement, and an understanding of the local soil stratigraphy.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Waimapu area provided an excellent environment for early Maori settlement and cultivations. The few radiocarbon dates established for archaeological sites in the area indicate settlement occurred as early as the late 15th Century. The recorded archaeological site inventory indicates extensive land use along the principal ridges with associated pa on prominent high points. Archaeological investigations in the area have uncovered many small short term settlement sites focused on fallow cycle cultivations but investigations in the Rowsdale subdivision 1km south of the Awaiti Stormwater remediation project have also uncovered several unique defended settlements on more subdued topography.

Survey plans of the Poike and Pukemapu Blocks produced in the mid-1860s illustrate several cultural features in the general vicinity of the proposed Stormwater remediation works including a trail from the Pukemapu River Landing to Hairini passing across the Hollister lane ridge to the west¹ as well as the location of an old Maori cultivation and settlement area in the general vicinity of the Hollister Lane Poike Road junction². Neither of these features have been recorded as archaeological sites.

In 1876 the Tangaparoa Block encompassing the Waipapa Stream catchment was granted to Maori owners and its boundaries surveyed.³ Survey plan ML 6007 labels land within the Waipapa Stream catchment as Punepoto which later became Lot 2, Ohauti No.2 block.

The first European to farm the area was Captain George Morris who began farming what was later known as the Ohauti Estate in the mid-1870s. Morris cleared large tracts of bush and scrub and farmed sheep and cattle on the c.8000 acre property. Controlled stock grazing was afforded by ditch bank and hedge barriers, many of which remained in operation into the 20th century. His farm house was located in the vicinity of the Waimapu River Landing near the modern Pukemapu Road Bridge.

Further bush clearance occurred within Ohauti Blocks 1 & 2 in the early 1890s and in the early 20th Century local residents petitioned the Government to purchase the Ohauti estate and subdivide the area into small dairy farms. The first subdivision plan for part of the Ohauti No. 2 block produced in 1907 included a Creamery site at the junction of Awaiti Place and Poike Road. This subdivision also included a 118 acre block in grass (Lot 2) immediately south of the Creamery site that included all land within the lower Waipapa Stream catchment between Poike Road and the northern boundary of the Rowsdale subdivision. The proposed storm water remediation works are located within what was Lot 2. The original early 20th century homestead and farm buildings were located 100m to the north west of the proposed dam and pond on the southern side of McFetridge Lane. They were removed or demolished in 2016.

¹ ML 591 produced in 1868

² ML 812 produced in 1867

³ ML 6007. Tangaparoa Block granted to Pomare Wirikaki, Hiria Timoti, Parite Tawewae, Malene Ngakoru & others.

Figure 3. Part survey plan DP 5137 produced in 1907 showing the Waipapa Stream catchment extending through the former 118 acre Dairy farm known as Lot 2 Ohauiti Block 2. The approximate location of old cultivations illustrated on an 1867 survey plan and the designated 1907 Creamery site are shown. The approximate areas (A&B) affected by the current storm water remediation works are also marked.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

The two areas affected by the proposed storm water remediation proposal are located within the small Waipapa Stream catchment which feeds into the Waimapu Estuary.

Area A: Awaite Place Road pipeline and storm water pond.

Ground disturbance associated with proposed works within Awaite Road Reserve and storm water pond are located within an area that was extensively modified by the construction of Awaite Place in the mid 1990s and the subsequent formation of the storm water pond in the early 2000's. The formation of Awaite Place in 1992 involved major earthwork including topsoil removal and levelling of the natural topography. The construction of the dam and storm water pond in 2005 also involved extensive earthwork.



Figure 4. 1992. Aerial photo taken in 1992 showing the construction of Awaite Place underway.

Area B: McFetridge Lane dam & pond

Land affected by the proposed dam and storm water pond on the southern side of the McFetridge Lane causeway survives largely unmodified. The gully and surrounding slopes were used for stock grazing up until the 1980s when the surrounding area was planted in avocado and kiwi fruit orchard. Many of the orchard trees remain in the affected area which is now encompassed within the Ohauiti Reserve accessed by public walking tracks.



Figure 5. Aerial photo taken in 1943 showing unmodified landscape in the vicinity of the proposed McFetridge Lane Dam (circled red)



Figure 6. Aerial photo taken in 1992 showing the location of the proposed McFetridge Lane dam in a combination of pasture in the valley floor and orchard on the surrounding high ground.

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 storm water remediation works. The records indicate that there are numerous recorded sites in the wider Waimapu area, many of which were recorded during the 1984 New Zealand Historic Places Trust survey of the Tauranga District while an increasing number of sites have been identified during more recent residential subdivision development.

Three archaeological sites U14/3461, 3462 & 3463 recorded within the property immediately west of the proposed McFetridge Lane dam & pond following archaeological investigations carried out by Gallagher in 2016 and a further two sites (U14/3708 & 3709) on the broad slopes ascending south of the Awaiti pond (Phillips 2018). Final reports for these investigations were not available at the time of writing this assessment, however, information for the sites held by the New Zealand Archaeological Association indicate they comprised crop storage pits, garden soils and associated living areas identified by features such as hearths.

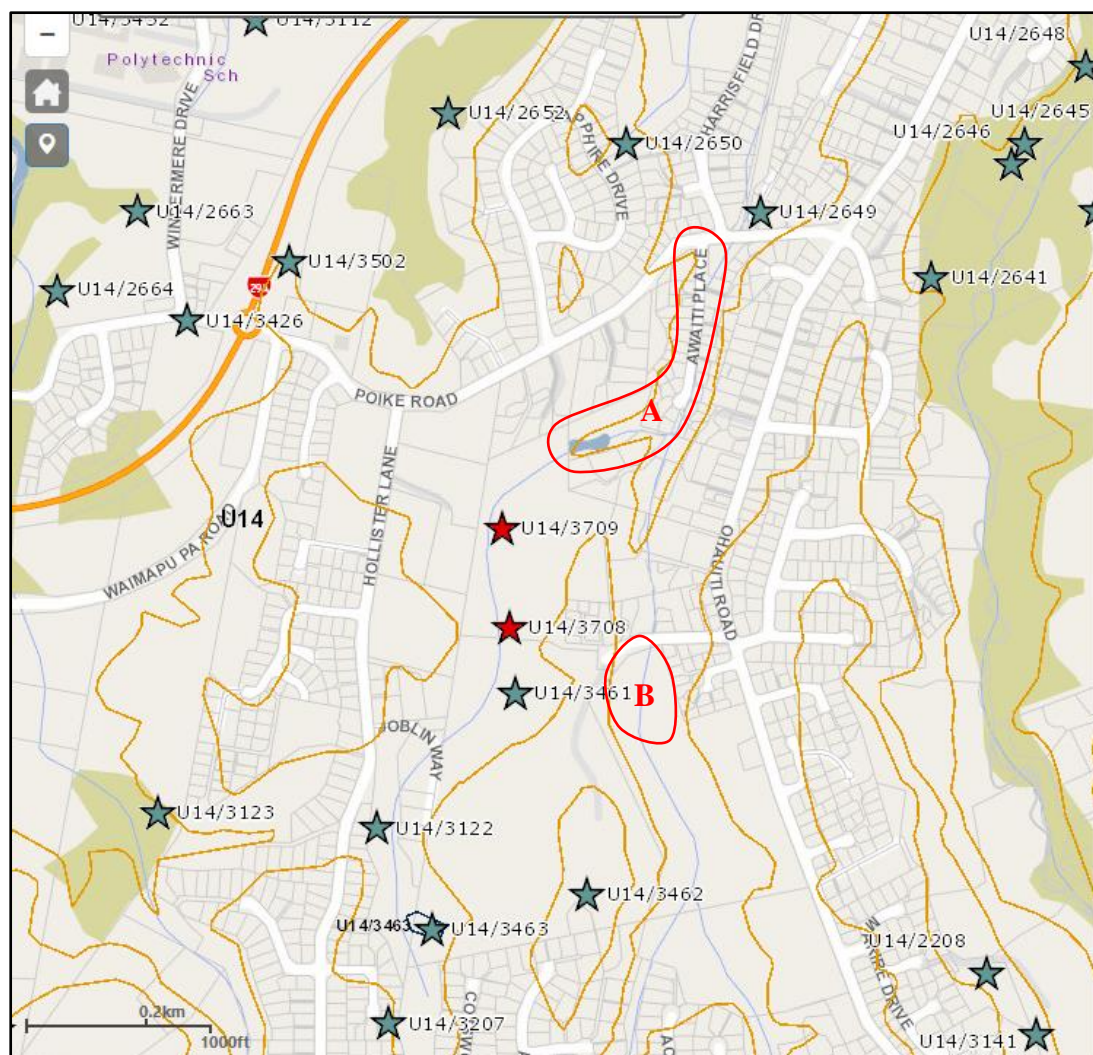


Figure 7. Plan showing recorded archaeological sites located in the general vicinity of land affected by the proposed Awaiti Place storm water remediation project (Areas labelled A & B).

Table 1. Recorded archaeological sites within 500m of the two project areas.

Site Number	Site Type
U14/2641	Midden
U14/2649	Midden
U14/2650	Midden
U14/2652	Obsidian find spot
U14/3122	Midden
U14/3461	Pits, hearths
U14/3462	Pit, terrace
U14/3463	Pits
U14/3708	Pits, Garden soils
U14/3709	Pits, Garden soils

SURVEY RESULTS

The two affected areas were inspected by Archaeology B.O.P. in March 2020. Surface visibility was limited by vegetation cover south of McFetridge land and surface treatments within the Awaiti road reserve.

Test pits generally revealed a natural soil profile on elevated land south of McFetridge Lane or a modern modified soil profile near the Awaiti storm water pond. No cultural soils or archaeological features or deposits were identified in the spade test pits and no surface archaeological features were identified within the two affected areas.

This negative result is not surprising given that site types comprising small pit clusters and occupation features typical of the area generally have no surface expression and tend to have a small subsurface footprint in relation to the size of the land being surveyed. Furthermore, garden soils associated with these crop storage areas are often shallow and difficult to identify in limited spade test pitting. These site types are often only revealed following extensive topsoil removal.

Land within Area A comprising the Awaiti Place road reserve and land surrounding the storm water pond have been modified to such an extent that it is considered unlikely that significant subsurface archaeological features survive in this area.

Land affected by the McFetridge Lane storm water dam and pond is relatively unmodified and there is a possibility that intact subsurface archaeological features survey within the affected area particularly on the elevated level ground flanking the stream valley.

There is also a possibility albeit remote that archaeological sites relating to pre 1900 European farming activity may be present on the southern side of McFetridge Lane. Subdivision of the area for small scale dairy farming did not occur until 1907 however farming of the wider Ohauiti Block commenced in the 1870s,

SUMMARY & ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

There are no recorded archaeological sites within land affected by the project, however, sites in the general area are typically only found during extensive topsoil removal. While archaeological sites found within the neighboring property appear to have been typical of sites found elsewhere on the fluvial terrace formations surrounding the Tauranga harbor appropriate archaeological investigation of such sites may potentially add to our understanding of the functional, temporal and spatial nature of the prehistoric landscape of the area.

Due to the relatively extensive nature of earthwork associated with the project and the possibility that unrecorded subsurface archaeological features may be encountered during ground disturbance it is recommended that an HNZ authority is obtained prior to the commencement of earthwork associated with the project. In the event that unrecorded subsurface archaeological features are encountered, conditions of an HNZ authority will allow for the immediate investigation of such sites and prevent delays during the earthwork program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for avoidance or mitigation are provided below.

1. That a Heritage New Zealand (HNZ) authority to modify damage or destroy possible unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites encountered during earthwork associated with the Awaite Place stormwater remediation works is obtained prior to the commencement of earthwork.
2. That conditions of an authority should include archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping with land affected by the McFetridge Lane dam and pond construction.
3. That in the event that intact archaeological sites are encountered during ground disturbance associated with the project all work must stop in the immediate area until the project archaeologist has carried out appropriate investigation, sampling and recording in accordance with conditions of an HNZ authority.
4. That if kōiwi 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.
5. Archaeological survey cannot always detect sites of traditional value to Māori, such as wahi tapu. Tangata whenua should be consulted regarding the possible existence of such sites and informed of the recommendations of this report.