**KENNETH PHILLIPS (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

My name is Ken Phillips I am an archaeologist and have worked as a consultant archaeologist primarily in the bay of plenty for 30 years. I was commissioned by Te Puna Industrial ltd to carry out an archaeological assessment of 297 Te Puna Station Road which I completed in June 2024. Prior to my site visit no archaeological sites had been recorded within the property however there were numerous recorded archaeological sites included several significant pa in the general vicinity.

During my site visit I identified one archaeological site on the small spur descending north from the house site. The site comprises one or more terrace with associated shell midden eroding from the eastern side of the terrace.

I also inspected the flood plain which makes up the greater part of the property. I did note the natural topography of that part of the flood plain within the property had been extensively modified. I did not identify any archaeological sites on the flood plain. I have stated in my evidence and archaeological assessment report for the property that identifying subsurface archaeological sites in such landscapes is difficult without extensive topsoil removal and that archaeological finds often comprise artifacts either lost or secreted in anaerobic environment or evidence of cultivation that may include modified soils and artifacts associated with cultivations.

The terrace midden site identified on the spur has legal protection under the provisions of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act and an authority from HNZ will be required if this site is affected by any development proposal. As no archaeological sites have been identified on the flood plain an HNZ authority is not strictly required for the proposed work to proceed however if archaeological site was uncovered an HNZ authority would need to be obtained if the site was affected by the development. Obtaining a general authority for the flood plain prior to the commencement of earthworks would allow for the appropriate investigation and recording of such finds. Tangata whenua would need to be consulted regarding HNZ authority applications.