

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND  
ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS**

**PROPOSED  
RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT  
PT LOTS 1 & 2 DPS 79072  
ARAWA ROAD  
PONGAKAWA**

**Prepared by**

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**For**

**MOMENTUM PLANNING**

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## INTRODUCTION

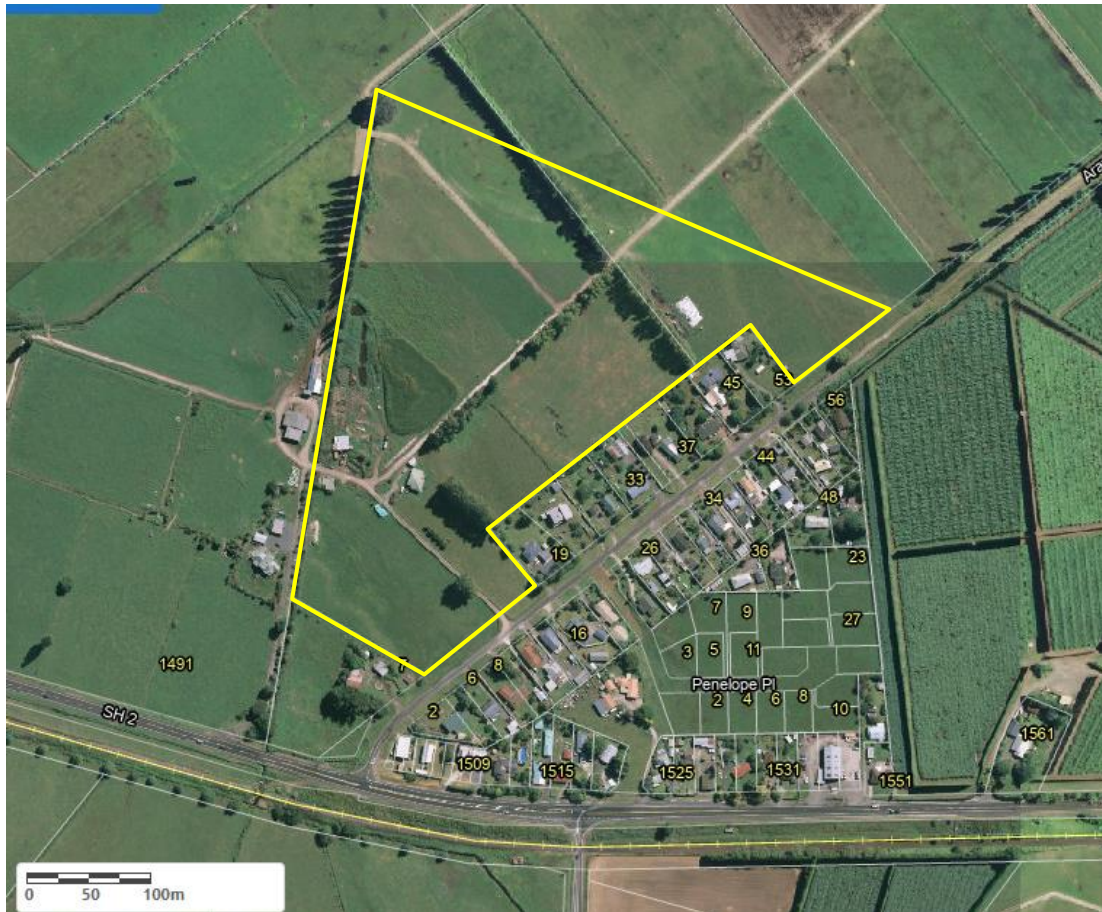
This report was commissioned by Momentum, on behalf of the landowner, in order to determine if archaeological sites are affected by a proposed Plan Change Boundary followed by a proposed residential subdivision development within Pt Lots 1 & 2 DPS 79072 located on the north western side of Arawa Road Pongakawa. The proposed development will be situated on raised land within the two land parcels referred to as ‘The property’ in this report. Ground disturbance associated with the residential subdivision development proposal would be extensive and affect significant areas of the property.

There are no recorded archaeological sites located within the property and no previously unrecorded archaeological sites were identified during the archaeological survey. However, there is reasonable cause to suspect that there are unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites within the property that may be affected by the proposed residential subdivision development. It is therefore recommended that a Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga authority is obtained before the commencement of earthwork associated with any subdivision development proposal.

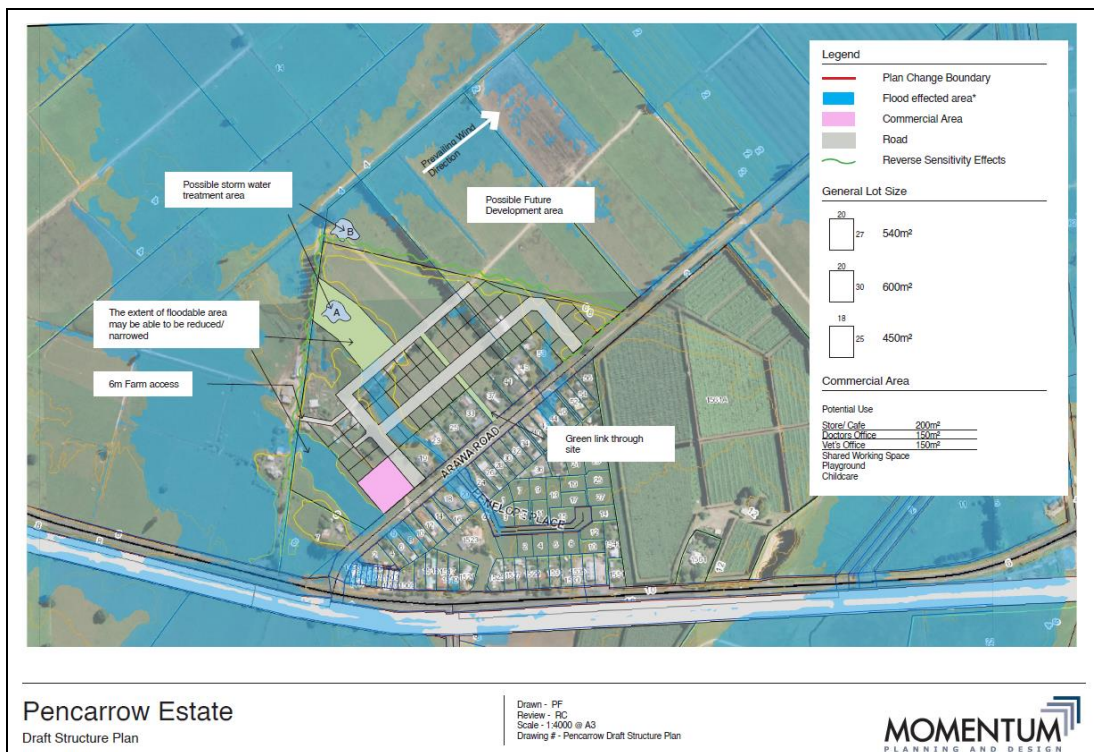
This report has been prepared as part of the required assessment of effects accompanying a resource consent application under the Resource Management Act 1991 and to identify any requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. Recommendations are made in accordance with statutory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



Figure 1. Topographic map showing the approximate location of properties (circled red).



**Figure 2. Aerial photo showing the location, extent and current land use within land included in a proposed Plan Change (yellow). Land affected by a proposed residential development is outlined white.**



**Figure 3. Plan produced by Momentum showing proposed subdivision within the Plan Change boundary.**

## **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.

## PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

The property is situated on the distal end of a low fluvial terrace extending into the Pongakawa wetlands. Soils of the properties are allophanic soils designated Paengaroa Loamy Sand. While low in nutrients the deep friable volcanic ash derived soils are ideal for deep rooting plants including traditional Maori crops such as kumara. Cropping typically involved shifting and or fallow cycle strategies.

The property has primarily been used for stock grazing with a brief episode of orchard development in the 1980s in paddocks directly behind the line of residential properties along the northern side of Arawa Road. The greater part of the property retains its natural contour however ploughing, horticulture and general farming activity has likely affected the A horizon soil profile.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

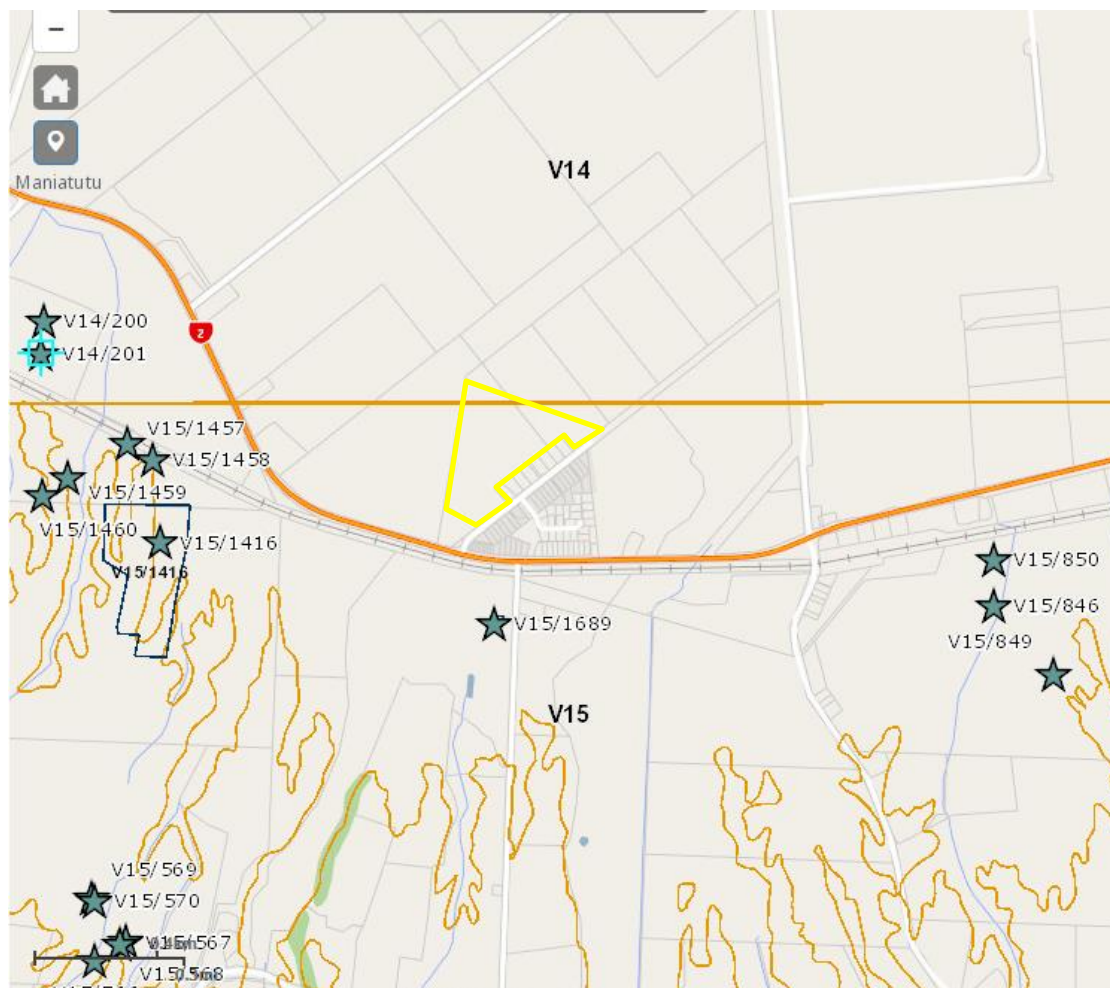
The New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme was consulted in order to determine if archaeological sites have been recorded within or in the immediate vicinity of the properties. There are no known sites within the property however there are approximately 16 recorded archaeological sites within a 5km radius and this number will increase significantly as earthwork associated with surrounding orchard developments expose more subsurface archaeological sites<sup>1</sup>.

Of the 16 sites known in the general vicinity of the property 8 were recorded in the early 1980s during the Historic Places Trust survey of the wider Tauranga District. These sites were identified by either visible surface expression such as shell midden, pit and or terrace features or reported from landowner information. The remaining 8 sites have been recorded in the past five years during earthwork associated with orchard developments. There is only one site within 500m of the property V15/1689 comprising a cluster of pre European Māori cooking hearths and associated features including an assemblage of obsidian flake tools.

**Table 1. Recorded archaeological sites within 5km of the property**

Site No.	Site Type
V14/200	Pit
V14/201	Pit
V15/566	Pit
V15/567	Terraces
V15/568	Terraces
V15/569	Pit
V15/570	Pit
V15/846	Midden
V15/849	Obsidian flake findspot
V15/ 850	Adze findspot
V15/1416	Pits, Postholes, gardens
V15/1457	Obsidian findspot
V15/1458	Pits
V15/1459	Hangi stone find spot
V15/1460	Pits
V15/1689	Hearths, obsidian fakes

<sup>1</sup> See C. Phillips 2020



**Figure 4. Plan showing the location of recorded archaeological sites (green stars) in the general vicinity of the Property (outlined yellow).**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS**

A visual inspection of the properties was carried out by Ken Phillips in November 2021. The property was in pasture with one complex of farm sheds and effluent ponds. 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. 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.

During the course of the survey no visible archaeological surface features were identified. No archaeological features, layers or pre 1900 culturally modified soils were detected within spade test pits, however, the limitations of subsurface testing should be recognised.

## **SUMMARY**

There are no recorded archaeological sites within or in the immediate vicinity of the property, however, there remains a possibility that unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites not identifiable by field survey methods may be present within the property.

The extensive fluvial terrace formations between Te Puke and Otamarakau offered ideal conditions for the cultivation of traditional subtropical crops and consequently the area was extensively settled and cultivated by Maori in pre-European times. The scale of this activity is becoming increasingly apparent during recontouring of land for orchard developments with many previously unrecorded settlements and associated gardens being discovered.

Archaeological sites on the fluvial terrace formations throughout the western Bay of Plenty District typically lack distinct visible surface archaeological features such as crop storage pit depressions and terracing of favourable slopes. Crop storage pits were typically backfilled when cultivation sites were abandoned and are often only discovered during significant ground disturbance during residential and orchard developments. Such features are difficult to identify during archaeological field survey unless extensive subsurface testing is carried out.

## **ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS**

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the property, however, there is reasonable cause to suspect that previously unrecorded archaeological sites may be encountered during earthwork associated with the proposed residential development within the property. It is therefore recommended that an authority is obtained from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga before the commencement of any earthwork associated with residential subdivision development proposals.

## **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This report is an assessment of impact on archaeological values and does not include an assessment of Maori values. Such an assessment can only be made by the tangata whenua. It should be noted that archaeological survey techniques based on visual inspection and minor subsurface testing cannot necessarily detect all possible subsurface archaeological features, nor identify wahi tapu and other sites of traditional significance to Maori, especially where these have no physical remains.

## **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 archaeological sites within Pt Lots 1 & 2 DPS 79072 located on the north western side of Arawa Road Pongakawa is obtained prior to the commencement of earthwork associated with the proposed residential subdivision development.
2. That archaeological monitoring is carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during topsoil removal within the property.
3. That in the event that unrecorded archaeological sites are encountered during ground disturbance associated with the development 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 koiwi tangata (human remains) are encountered, no further modification of the site concerned shall occur until tangata whenua and HNZ have been advised and their responses received.
5. Archaeological survey cannot always detect sites of traditional value to Maori, such as wahi tapu. Tangata whenua should be informed of the results and recommendations of this report.

## **References**

Phillips, C. 2020 Final report of excavations at 71 Maniatutu Road, Bay of Plenty: HNZPT authority 2019/190. Unpublished report prepared for Tane-Mahuta Orchard Developments Ltd.