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**PROPOSED WHAREROA VILLAGE
NORTH SUBDIVISION (PART
HAUHUNGAROA 6A BLOCK),
WHAREROA, LAKE TAUPO**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT OF
EFFECTS**

Prepared for

Proprietors Hauhungaroa No 6

by

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PROPOSED WHAREROA VILLAGE NORTH SUBDIVISION (PART HAUHUNGAROA 6A BLOCK), WHAREROA, LAKE TAUPO

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

Introduction

An archaeological assessment was carried out over 18.98 hectares of land at Whareroa, Lake Taupo at the request of Ian Blance of Blance and Associates. The property is located toward the southwest corner of Lake Taupo bounded by rural land to the west and north, a reserve adjacent to Lake Taupo to the east and Whareroa Stream to the south (Figure 1). It is proposed to subdivide the land into residential lots with road access and associated utilities (Figure 2). This survey is part of the required assessment of effects in support of a resource consent application for the work.

Iwi consultation is being carried out separate to this report.

Methodology

The New Zealand Archaeological Association's (NZAA) Central File Computer Index was searched for archaeological sites recorded on or in the general vicinity of the property. Blance and Associates provided a draft subdivision plan and aerial photographs detailing the property's location. Literature relevant to the area was examined for archaeological and/or historical information. A visual inspection with some subsurface testing was carried out in order to determine if buried archaeological deposits could be identified. Soil profiles were examined for evidence of earlier modification such as modified soils, pits or the presence of shell midden and hangi. It should be recognized that test pitting can not provide evidence for the absence of

archaeological features or deposits. Existing exposed cuttings and disturbed soils were examined where encountered.

At the time of the field inspection ground surface visibility ranged from good (pasture block) to restrictive (bush block).

Results

Cultural Setting

An assessment of the cultural significance can only competently be made by the effected tangata whenua. It should be noted that an assessment of cultural significance might not necessarily correspond with an assessment of archaeological significance.

Physical Setting

The survey property lies in the Taupo Volcanic Zone and its soils are derived from light coloured and lightweight pumice and ignimbrite rock thrown out during the major Taupo eruptions. More than 25,000 km² of the central North Island are covered with ignimbrite mainly from the Taupo and Rotorua complexes (Forsyth and Aitken 1995:23).

The survey property is essentially a broad plateau gently falling toward the lake, truncated by steep scarps to the south (above Whareroa Stream) and east. Currently, the land consists of 2 distinct blocks, regenerating native bush adjacent to and on the foreshore scarp, while inland is grazing pasture (Figure 1). Throughout the bush block recent pig activity has caused significant disturbance to the topsoil and created an uneven surface.

Background

European Settlement

Pre-European references to Whareroa are limited, predominantly restricted to general references to a pre-European pa and/or settlement on the banks adjacent to the Whareroa Stream mouth (Grace 2002:147 and 259).

The earliest recorded European visitors to the Taupo area appear to have been missionaries and travelers in the 1830s, but, it was not until 1842, and the establishment of the Pukawa mission station that European settlement commenced.

Previous Archaeological Research

Little or no archaeological survey has been undertaken in the vicinity of the northwest shores of Lake Taupo.

A search of the NZAA Site Record File identified one archaeological site recorded on the property (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Site Number	Site Type	Metric Grid Co-ordinates
T18/9	Pa	E2751400/N6256900

Table 1. Archaeological Site Recorded on the survey property.

No further archaeological sites have been recorded within 2.5km of the survey property.

T18/9 Whareroa Pa

Ken Moore on the basis of references to pre-European Maori occupation at Whareroa contained in Grace (2002:147 and 259) recorded the survey property as the location of Whareroa pa “on the cliff face above the shoreline at southwest end of Lake Taupo and between Poukura and Te Hape Bay” (Moore 1977: archaeological site form T18/9).

Having not visited the area, Moore appears to have arbitrarily located the pa to the north of Whareroa Stream within the survey property’s bush block, whereas Grace is not specific as to location. Grace, in his recount of a visit to Whareroa by the Raukawa chief Te Whatanui, describes how “a large Nagti Tuwharetoa party formed up to rush the canoe [Te Whatanui’s] as it landed” (Grace 2002:259). The topography on the northern foreshore of the Whareroa Stream is confined to a narrow swampy strip at the base of a steep escarpment where it would be difficult to assemble a “large party” of warriors. Whereas, the southern shore is far more favourable with a flight of extensive natural terraces on which the Whareroa South subdivision has been constructed.

In conclusion, it is the opinion of the author that the naturally terraced slopes to the south of the Whareroa River appeal as a more favourable location for major pre-European settlement than on the river's northern banks.

Field inspection

Don Prince accompanied by Ian Blance inspected the site on June 16, 2005. No visible archaeological features or evidence for the presence of buried archaeological deposits were identified during the current inspection.

Inspection of the bush block was largely restricted to the present survey tracks, dense vegetation preventing access and accurate survey, and failed to identify any archaeological features or deposits (earthwork defences, terraces, pits and house floors) commonly associated with pre-European pa. However, as access is improved on the bush block it is recommended that an archaeologist re-inspect to determine whether any evidence of pre-European settlement exists. It was also noted that the majority of the topsoil within the bush block has been (and continues to be) churned over by pig, an additional difficulty for archaeological site identification.

Identification and Assessment of Effects

Traditional Maori accounts regarding Whareroa indicate it was the location of significant pre-European settlement.

However, no archaeological features or deposits were identified during the current inspection. But, the density of vegetation adjacent to the lake scarp significantly restricted inspection of the bush block. Therefore, it is recommended that the bush block be re-inspected by an archaeologist following removal of vegetation to determine whether archaeological features/deposits exist.

It should be noted that archaeological survey techniques (visual inspection and minor sub-surface testing) cannot always detect all sub-surface features or detect wahi tapu and other sites of traditional significance to Maori, especially where these have no physical evidence. The tangata whenua should therefore be consulted regarding the possible existence of such sites.

It should also be noted that the Historic Places Act (1993) provides initial protection for all archaeological sites whether recorded or not, and they cannot be damaged, modified or destroyed unless an Authority has been issued by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Recommendations

- That there are no constraints on archaeological grounds as no archaeological sites are located on or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed works.
- That following vegetation clearance within the bush block and prior to the commencement of earthworks an archaeologist inspects the area so as to determine whether archaeological features/deposits exist.
- That if sub-surface archaeological evidence (shell midden, hangi, storage pits, etc) should be unearthed during construction, work should cease in the immediate vicinity of the remains and the Historic Places Trust should be contacted.
- That if modification of an archaeological site is necessary, an Authority to modify be applied for under Section 11 of the Historic Places Act 1993 (Note that this is a legal requirement).
- That if koiwi (human remains) should be exposed during development, work should cease in the immediate vicinity and the tangata whenua and Historic Places Trust should be contacted so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
- That since archaeological survey cannot always detect wahi tapu and sites of traditional significance to Maori, the tangata whenua should be consulted regarding the Maori values of this area and the recommendations in this report.

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CT SA40B/679 2005

DPS 46631 1987

ML 13440 1923

ML 13722 1925

ML 18766 1961

ML 19711 1967

ML 20774 1972

ML 21003 1975

SO 61289 1999



Figure 1: Aerial photograph (September 1999) showing location and extent of proposed subdivision (outlined in red).