

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

**PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION
DEVELOPMENT
WITHIN
LOT 3 DP 514174**

**23 KAHIKATEA DRIVE
KINLOCH**

Prepared by

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INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This archaeological survey and report was commissioned by Cheal Consultants on behalf of the land owner () in order to determine if archaeological sites are affected by the proposed residential subdivision development of a 34 hectare property located at 23 Kahikatea Drive, Kinloch (Lot 3 DP 514174). The development will involve extensive earthwork affecting most parts of the property.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the property however there are numerous recorded sites around the shores of Whangamata Bay and there remains a possibility that unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites are present within the property.

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. Topographic map showing the approximate location of Lot 3 DP 514174.



Figure 2. Aerial photo showing the approximate location of the property (circled red). Aerial: Google earth

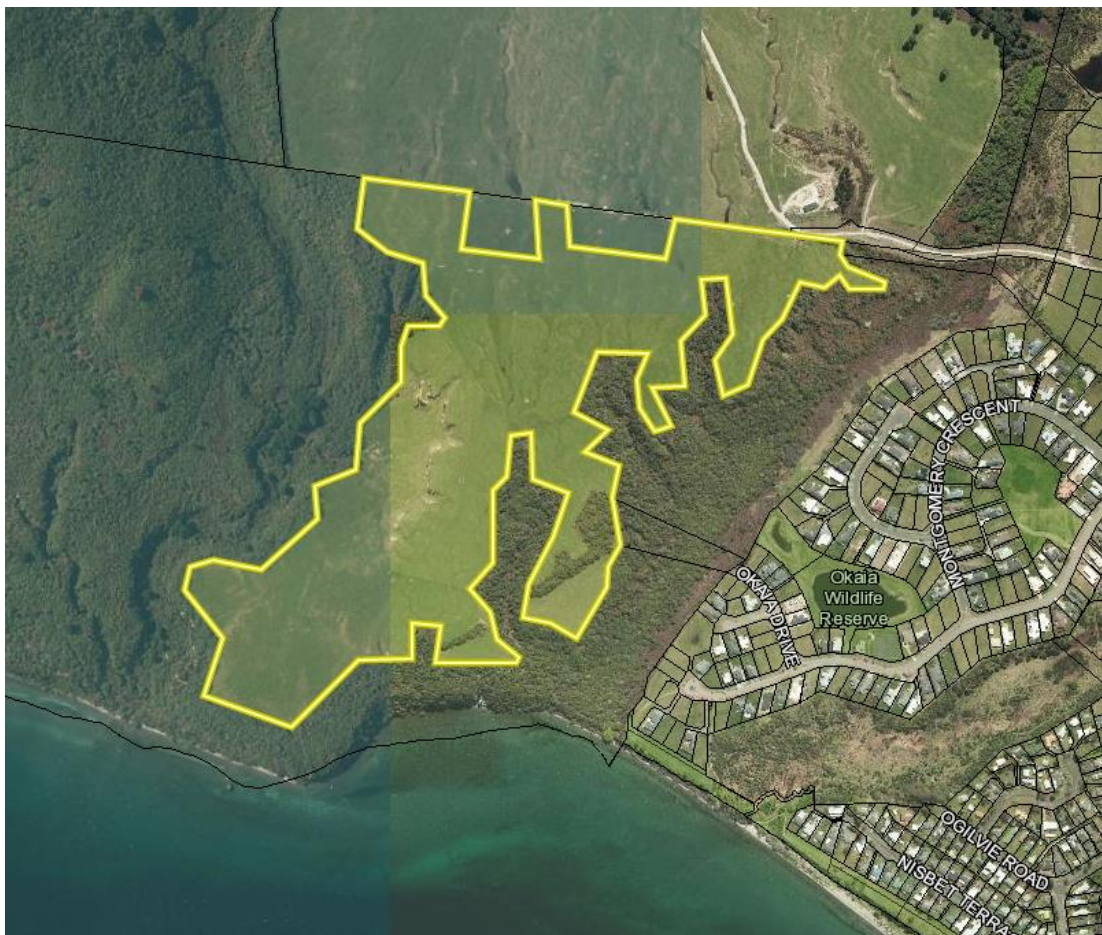


Figure 3. Concept plan for residential development within Lot 4 DP 8698. PLPL Drawing SK-A-001.

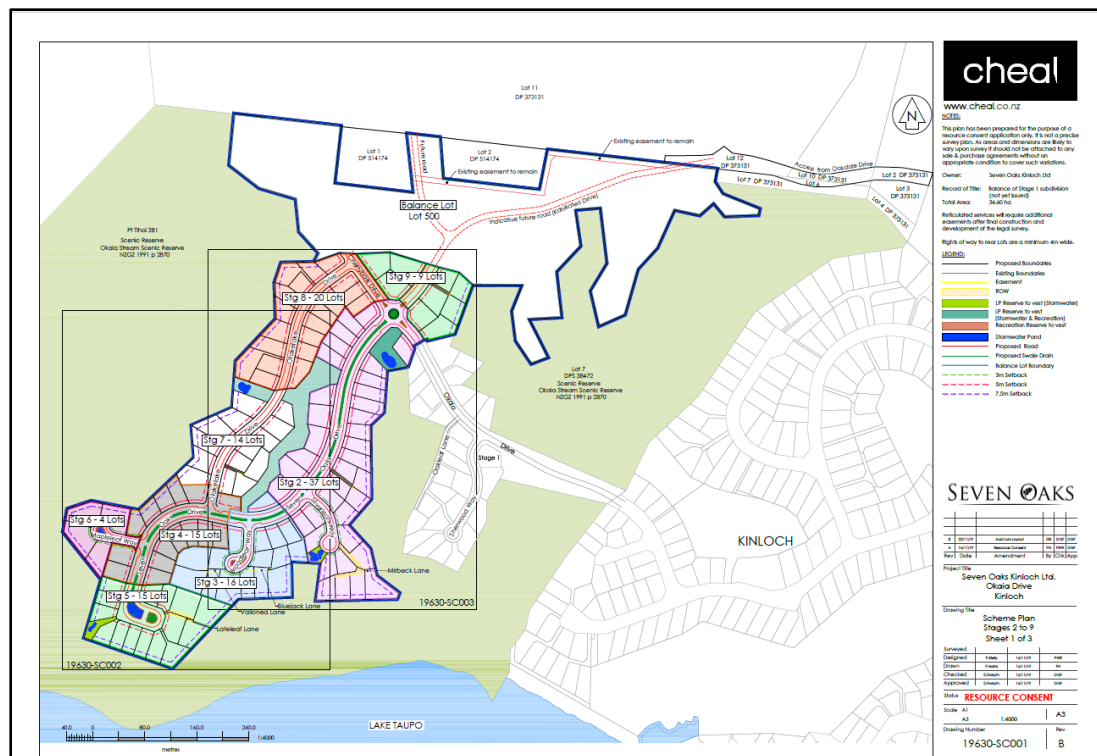


Figure 4. Subdivision scheme plan – Cheal Drawing No. 19630-SC001

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 December 2019. 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.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

The property is situated on pyroclastic deposits that characterise the northern western shore of Whangamata Bay, Lake Taupo. Topography of the property comprises gentle terrain incised by numerous surface water channels and rills between the Otaketake and Okaia Streams. The property remained in scrub until the early 1970s when it was cleared for pastoral use however gully’s and steeper terrain remain in bush.

The survey plan produce around 1900 (figure 5) provides the place name Ngutuwera on the foreshore between the Otaketake and Okaia Stream mouths. A later survey plan produced in 1936 shows a track extending from the west side of the mouth of the Okaia Stream north to Marotiri point.

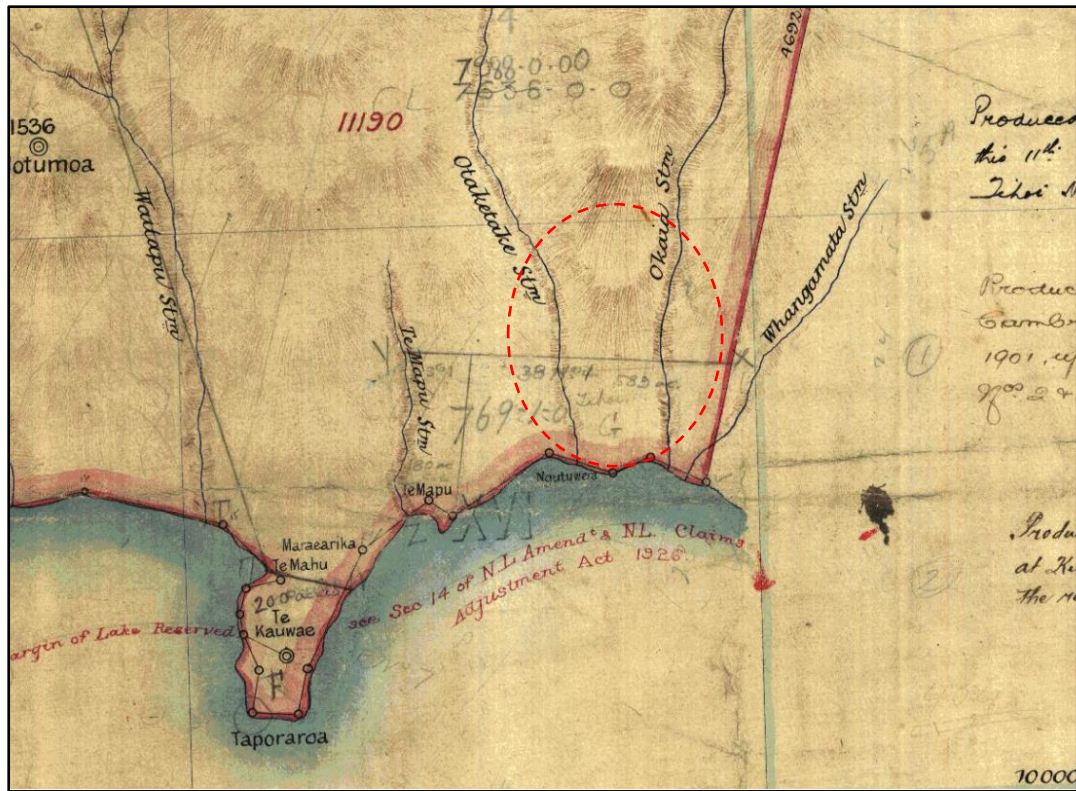


Figure 5. Part survey plan ML 6076 produced about 1900. General location Lot 3 DP 514174 within area outlined by red broken line.

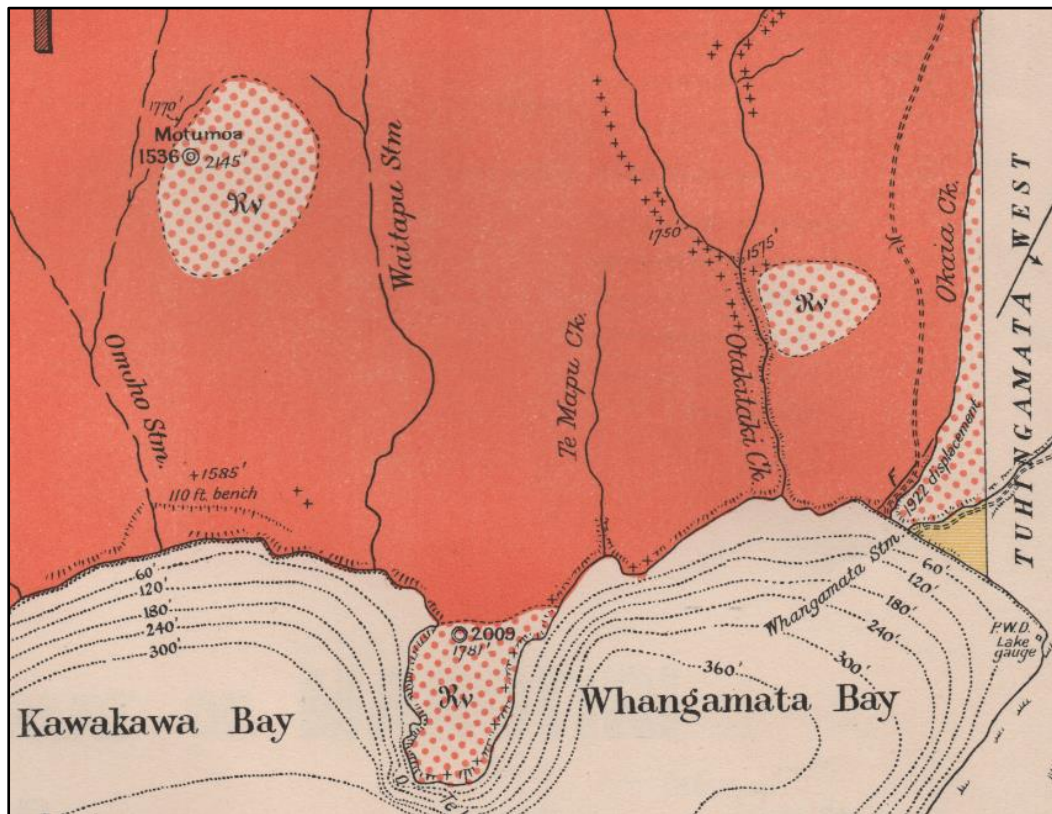


Figure 6. Geological Plan produced in 1936 showing a track extending north from the Okaia Stream mouth.

RESULTS

Archaeological Landscape

Many of the recorded archaeological sites in the Taupo District were recorded by Perry Fletcher over the past 40 years. Fletcher surveyed the foreshore of Whangamata Bay in the late 1970s during which all known sites in the area were recorded including numerous rock shelters exhibiting artwork produced by the application of ochre to the walls of the shelters. Three pa sites are also located within the bay along with a significant obsidian source within the Whangamata Fault.¹ The Whangamata fault obsidian, (Taupo Obsidian Source) was a significant lithic resource for local Maori populations and has been identified in archaeological sites as far way as the eastern Bay of Plenty.²

The coordinates for sites recorded by Fletcher have not been updated since they were visited in the 1970s consequently, they retain a potential inbuilt error margin of 100m until more accurate GPS coordinates have been established. Fletcher's survey also appears to have focused on the coastal margins of the bay and does not appear to have inspected inland areas including Lot 3 DP 514174. Consequently, much of the Kinloch area must be considered unsurveyed.



Figure 7. Plan showing the location of recorded archaeological sites within Whangamata Bay.

¹ P.R. Moore 2011

² V15/80 Kohika

There have been few archaeological excavations in the general area to determine the prevalence of unrecorded subsurface archaeology. To date investigations have focused on known sites such as rock shelters (Whakamoenga U18/4) and settlements (Acacia Bay U18/21) while no archaeological data has been recovered from larger subdivision developments.

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 no recorded sites within the property. The nearest site to the property is located 200metres to the west where Fletcher recorded a rock shelter.

T18/26 Rock Shelter

This site was recorded by Perry Fletcher in 1978. It is described as a rock shelter with ochre work on the walls of the shelter and is located approximately 200 meters to the west of the property and within the Otaketake Stream gully. The site is unaffected by the proposed residential subdivision development of Lot 3 DP 514174

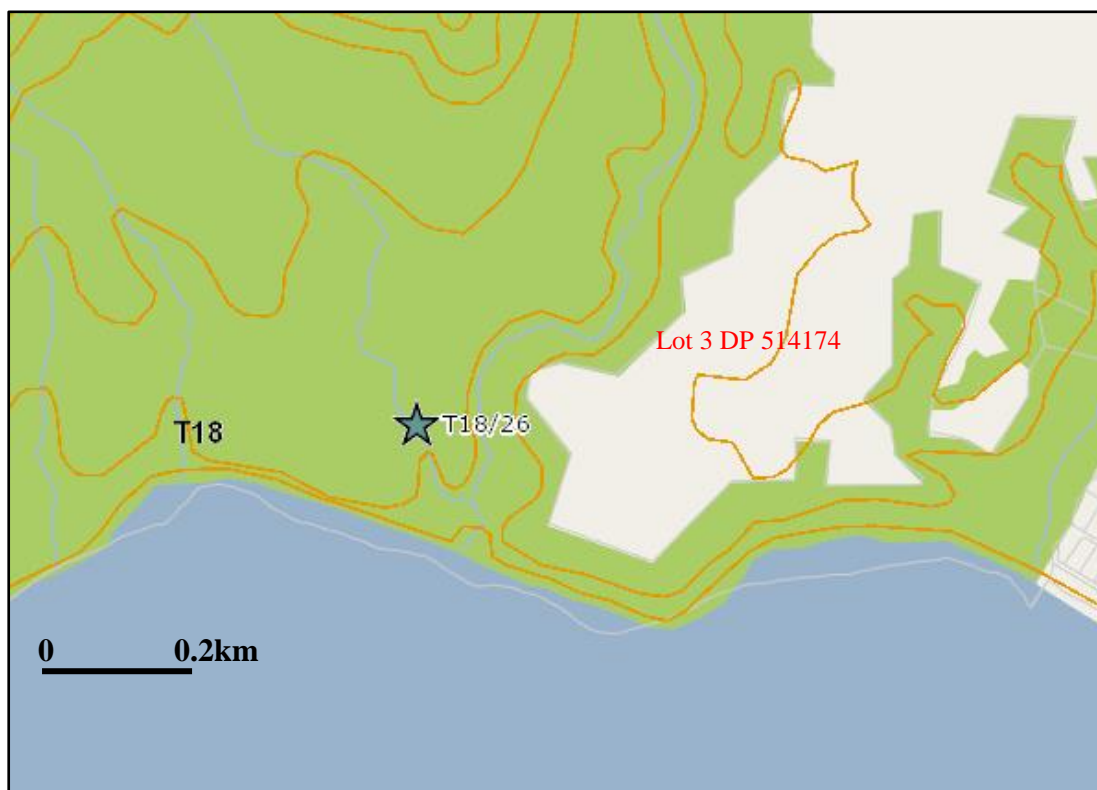


Figure 8. Plan showing location of coordinates for T18/26 in relation to Lot 3 DP 514174.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

There are no recorded archaeological sites within Lot 3 DP 514174 and no evidence of unrecorded archaeological sites were identified during the inspection of the property. Given the extent of earthworks associated with the proposed development there is a possibility that unrecorded subsurface archaeological features may be encountered during the development. It is therefore recommended that a general authority is obtained from Heritage New Zealand so that any unrecorded sites encountered can be investigated and recorded expediently and in accordance with the legal requirements of the New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

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 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 possible unrecorded archaeological sites within land affected by the proposed residential subdivision development of 23 Kahikatea Drive (Lot 3 DP 514174) is obtained prior to the commencement of earthwork associated with the development.
2. 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.
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.

References

Moore, P. R.

- 2011 The Taupo obsidian source, central North Island, New Zealand. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*. Vol. 41, No. 2, pp 205-215.