

An archaeological assessment of the construction of a boat ramp at Waterfront Park, Mapua, Tasman District



For
Tasman District Council

April 2022

Deb Foster
55 High Street, Motueka 7120
Ph: 03 528 6445
Mobile: 027 241 7837
E-mail: mamakunelson@xtra.co.nz

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Location	4
3.0	Proposed work	4
4.0	The archaeological landscape	5
5.0	Statutory requirements	8
5.1	Scope and limitations of this report.....	9
6.0	The evidence.....	10
7.0	Conclusion	11
8.0	References.....	11
9.0	APPENDIX A - Accidental Discovery Protocol.....	12

Cover image: *Montage of boat ramp, supplied by TDC*

Executive Summary

This assessment was requested to determine the archaeological risk associated with the construction of a new boat ramp along the southern boundary of Waterfront Park in Mapua. The level of risk determines if an Authority is required under the provisions of the *HNZPTA (2014)*, or if the works can be carried out under an Accidental Discovery Protocol (ADP). The Waterfront Park was formed over the site of the Tasman Fruitgrowers Association's chemical factory, where a wide range of pesticides were manufactured for industry use last century. The parcel of land was subject to intensive soil remediation in 2005-2006 to prevent the leaching of toxic waste into the Mapua Channel. This assessment focused on whether the footprint of the proposed boat ramp is wholly within the remediated area, or whether there was potential for some overlap onto undisturbed ground along the southern boundary of the park. The adjacent private property at 13 Tahī Street has a recorded archaeological site, N27/88, and the assessment had to determine if there was any risk to disturbing this site. With no detailed plans of the remediated area readily available, the owner of 13 Tahī Street was approached for comment. They were able to confirm that the remediation of soils extended onto their property by several metres. Since the boat ramp will be built 3m north of the boundary, there is minimal risk of disturbing any in situ soils containing archaeological deposits. It is therefore recommended that the work proceed under an Accidental Discovery Protocol.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Tasman District Council has been exploring options for building a new boat ramp to service local public demand for a suitable facility. The boat ramp at Mapua Wharf, which was formerly used by the public, is no longer accessible, with amenities now developed to favour pedestrian traffic visiting the local bars, eateries, and retail outlets.

This assessment was requested to determine the archaeological risk of building a boat ramp along the southern boundary of Waterfront Park. The setting is within an archaeological precinct where there are high number of recorded sites, reflecting the favourable location and abundance of aquatic resources available for exploitation by Māori throughout the occupation sequence. All archaeological sites are protected under the provisions of the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014)*. The outcome of the risk assessment determines if an Authority is required for the project, or if the work can proceed under an Accidental Discovery Protocol.

This is a desk-based assessment which used the information contained on the ArchSite database and reports of previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity.

2.0 LOCATION



Figure 1 The shaded area is Waterfront Park, where the remediation took place. The boat ramp is proposed to go along the southern boundary of the park (retrieved from topofthesouthmaps.co.nz)

The physical addresses of the affected land are Nos 1 and 3 Tahi Street. The legal descriptions of both parcels are Lot 6 DP 11502.

3.0 PROPOSED WORK

The project involves the installation of a new concrete boat ramp. The design has yet to be finalised, but it is understood that excavations, if there are to be any, are planned so that they will not penetrate the clay cap that has been placed to seal the remediated soils. The cap is believed to be 1m thick across the site. Any excavation required will be confined to this layer to prevent the release of any harmful residual contaminants.

The ramp structure will be sited 3m north of the boundary shared with 13 Tahi Street. It will protrude into the sea by about 20m.

4.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

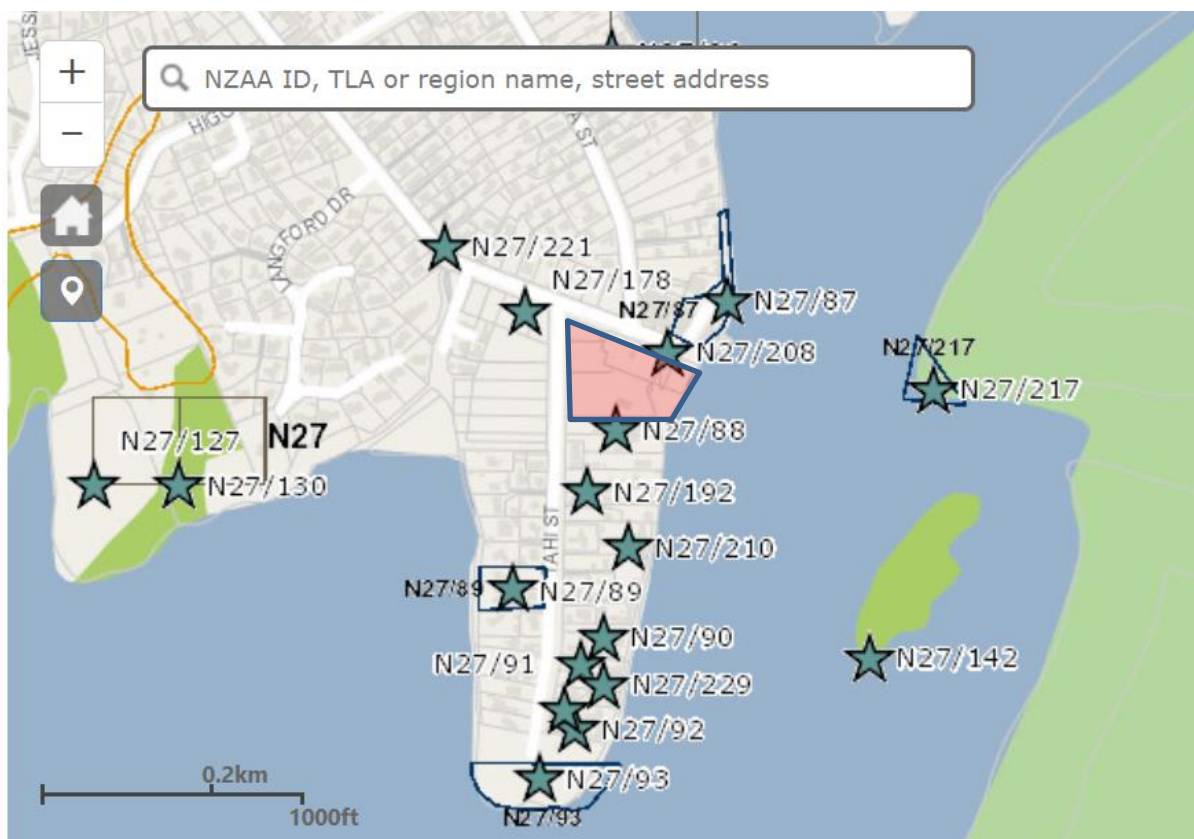


Figure 2 Overview of recorded sites on Mapua Peninsula, with Waterfront Park highlighted (retrieved from Archsite.org.nz)

The two sites closest to Waterfront Park are N27/88 and N27/208, which are highlighted on the table below. In addition to these sites, there were multiple finds of archaeological and cultural significance uncovered by the remediation process on the footprint of Waterfront Park which are not separately recorded. Finds included koiwi tangata, midden, ovens, and near the former waterway on land that was historically reclaimed, the remains of a wooden fish trap. These finds were made under Authority 2005/91, with Reg Nichol as the Project Archaeologist. There has never been a final report written to show where the finds were made or describing them in any detail. There may have been monthly progress reports filed with the Ministry for the Environment, but enquiry to date of both MFE and TDC, as well as Reg Nichol personally, has failed to locate any such reports.

A survey map of the township of Mapua dated 1914 shows the land parcel now named Waterfront Park was surveyed as Sections 99 and 102 (DP 657). There used to be a stream channel along Iwa Street which formed a small embayment at the point where it drained into Mapua Channel, just to the south of the wharf. That embayment was filled in as part of the development of the Fruitgrowers business premises. The overlay below (Figure 3) shows the embayment and area of reclaimed land. This illustrates the extent of formerly habitable land, which in turn informs the archaeological potential in that area.

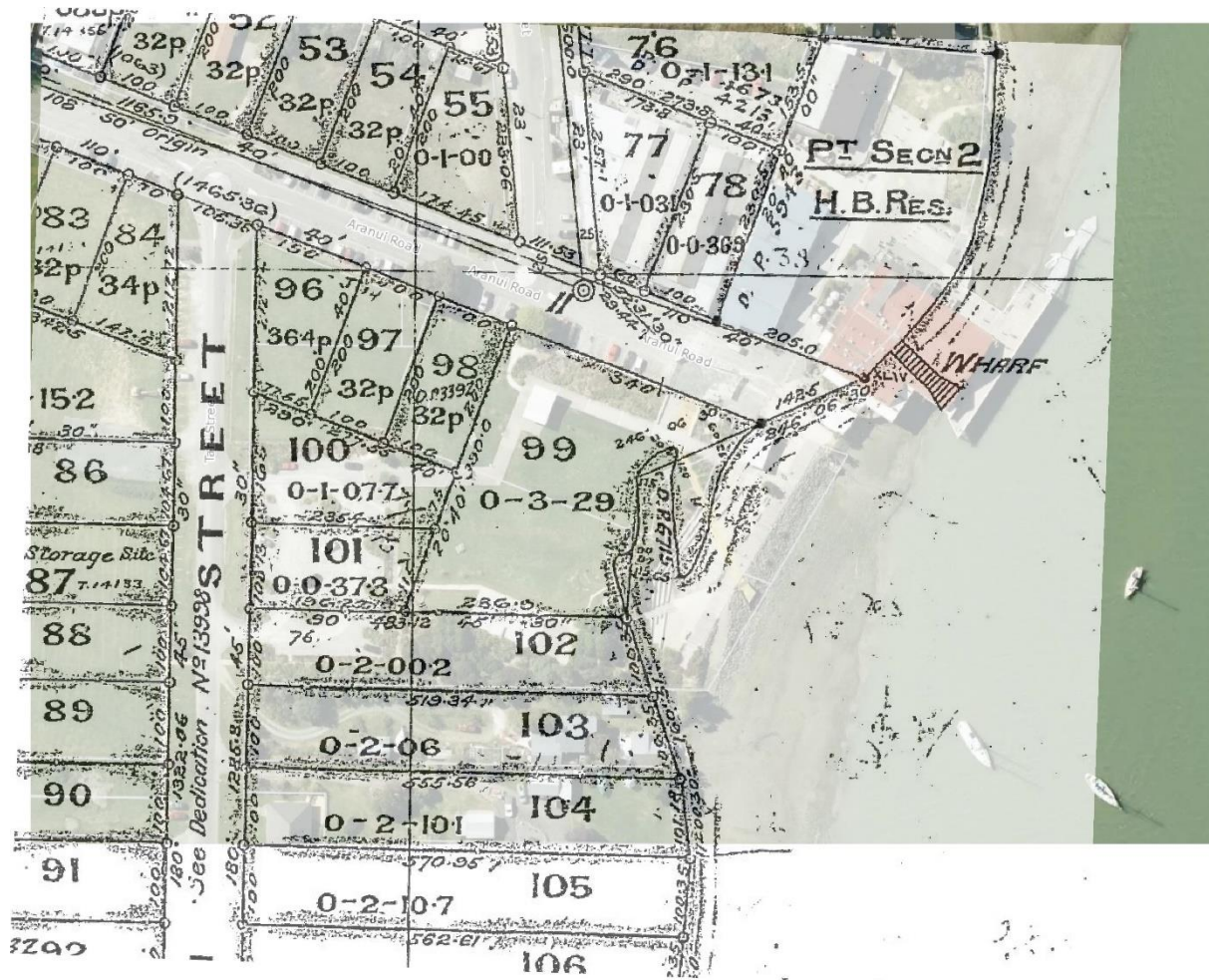


Figure 3 Overlay of DP 657 onto modern aerial showing area of reclamation (overlay by Hamish Williams)

Table 1 Summary of recorded sites in vicinity of Mapua Peninsula, in numerical order (Figure 2 map view)

SITE #	SITE TYPE	RECORDED	RECORDER	COMMENT
N27/53	Find spot, 2 argillite adzes	1965, 1974	Eyles, Challis	Found when digging tree and under house
N27/81	Midden	1976	Challis	Oyster and "clinker-like material"
N27/82	Ovens	1975	Challis	Heavily burnt stones
N27/86	Midden/ ovens	1975	Challis	
N27/87	Midden/ ovens	1976, 2015	Challis, Foster	Midden containing moa, scattered oven stones/ stone artefacts and flaking floor/ koiwi
N27/88	Midden/ ovens/ artefact	1976	Challis	Intact oven, shell, and fish midden, worked chert
N27/89	Māori horticulture	1976, 2010	Challis, Young	Made soils, midden, and argillite chisel.
N27/90	Midden/ oven	1976, 2010	Challis, Young	Shell midden, oven stones, meta-argillite adzes and flakes
N27/91	Find spot, stone fish hook shank, oven stones	1976, 2010	Challis, Young	Shank found when ground disturbed by tractor
N27/92	Burials	1976, 2010	Challis, Foster	Two koiwi disturbed when digging pit, then reburied. Two fire cracked rocks and possibly worked glass fragment later found.
N27/93	Midden/ oven	1976, 2010, 2004	Challis, Young, Molloy	Midden scatters and ovenstones, flakes
N27/101	Findspot, midden, flakes, oven stones	1977, 1984, 2004	Hurst, Young, Bagley	Findspot stone minnow lure shank, flakes, oven stones, pipi midden
N27/127	Findspot chert core	1981	Huffadine & Watson	Findspot for grey chert core, flaked all over, on ridge that runs from Higgs Rd to estuary
N27/130	Midden/ oven	1981	Huffadine & Watson	Cockle, mudsnail, oyster, oven stones
N27/142	Midden/ oven	1984, 2015	Bagley, Foster	Bullivants Island, south end, eroding out of shoreline
N27/177	Findspot	2002	Bagley	Isolated findspot of patu onewa, intertidal zone
N27/178	Midden/ oven	2004, 2016	Young, Foster	Was to be destroyed to remedy chemical contamination
N27/192	Midden/ oven, made soil	2010	Young	21 Tahi St
N27/197	Midden/oven	2011	Young	Destroyed
N27/208	Midden/ oven	2012	Foster	Most destroyed during remediation work and building development. Pockets remain.
N27/210	Māori horticulture	2013	Young	Midden and made soils. Widespread disturbance but some intact.
N27/217	Midden, oven	2015, 2019	Foster, Young	Midden, oven stones in dune section
N27/221	Oven	2017	Foster/Jenkins	Stone lined hangi pit outside 34 Aranui Rd found during UFB installation
N27/229	Shell midden	2020	Young	47 Tahi Street Authority 2020/723

There are two main pieces of legislation in New Zealand that control work affecting archaeological sites. These are the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* (HNZPTA) and the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA)

Heritage New Zealand administers the HNZPTA. It contains a consent (authority) process for any work affecting archaeological sites, where an archaeological site is defined as:

Any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure), that -

- a. 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
- b. Provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand; and
- c. Includes a site for which a declaration is made under section 43(1)

Any person who intends carrying out work that may modify or destroy an archaeological site, must first obtain an authority from Heritage New Zealand. The process applies to sites on land of all tenure including public, private, and designated land. The HNZPTA contains penalties for unauthorised site damage or destruction.

The archaeological authority process applies to all archaeological sites, regardless of whether:

- The site is recorded in the NZ Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme or included in the Heritage New Zealand List,
- The site only becomes known about because of ground disturbance, and/ or
- The activity is permitted under a district or regional plan, or a resource or building consent has been granted

Heritage New Zealand also maintains the New Zealand Heritage List/ Rarangi Korero of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wahi Tupuna, Wahi Tapu and Wahi Tapu Areas. The List can include archaeological sites. Its purpose is to inform members of the public about such places.

The RMA requires City, District and Regional Councils to manage the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way that provides for the wellbeing of today's communities while safeguarding the options of future generations. The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development is identified as a matter of national importance (section 6f).

Historic heritage is defined as those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, derived from archaeological, architectural, cultural, historic, scientific, or technological qualities.

Historic heritage includes:

- historic sites, structures, places, and areas
- archaeological sites
- sites of significance to Māori, including wahi tapu
- surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources (RMA section 2).

These categories are not mutually exclusive, and some archaeological sites may include above ground structures or may also be places that are of significance to Māori.

Where resource consent is required for any activity the assessment of effects is required to address cultural and historic heritage matters (RMA 4th Schedule and the district plan assessment criteria).

5.1 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS REPORT

This report presents an archaeological assessment of the proposed area of work, but it is only that. The land and wider vicinity may also be of significance to the iwi through tradition or association; this report does not constitute an assessment of Māori values.

6.0 THE EVIDENCE

A supplied plan of the remediated area was overlaid onto a modern aerial to check the extent of works along the boundary with 13 Tahi Street (Figure 4). An area at the western end of this property was evidently excavated for remediation, as well as a strip along the boundary. This was backed up in conversation with the property owner, Annette Walker, who confirmed that a strip of land on her property was excavated as part of the work package. Depths of excavation varied across the site, but it is understood they were up to 3 m deep. The plan shows that remediation extended well into the foreshore beach gravels.

At this depth and extent, it is highly unlikely that any excavation involved in constructing the boat ramp will affect any intact archaeological deposits.



Figure 4 Overlay of remediation plan onto modern aerial (overlay by Hamish Williams)

7.0 CONCLUSION

All archaeological sites are protected under the provisions of the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014*. It is an offence under that act to modify or destroy an archaeological site(s) where avoidance of effect cannot be practised.

For an Authority to be issued, there must be reasonable cause to suspect that a site will be affected by the proposed development. The boat ramp will be built wholly within the area which was excavated to a depth of up to 3 m, then backfilled with the treated material and sealed with a clay cap up to 1 m deep. The chance of archaeological discovery during construction of the boat ramp in the proposed location proposed is therefore very low. The remediated soils probably still contain inclusions of cultural material, but there is no plan to disturb that material.

In this case it is not necessary to apply for an Authority in advance of works because the archaeological deposits that were no doubt present within that land parcel have been destroyed. The usual Accidental Discovery Protocol should be followed (see Appendix A).

The only possible scenario which could lead to archaeological discovery would be elements of work involving ground disturbance which might take place beyond the prescribed area. Any variation to the plans that involves disturbance of ground that has not been subject to remediation must be further assessed by an archaeologist before proceeding.

Pre-European deposits typically include shell midden, fire-cracked rock or ovenstones, garden soils (sometimes identifiable by added sand or gravel and charcoal content), pit or posthole features (identifiable by areas of darker soil cut into surrounding substrate), stone flake material, stone artefacts such as adzes, fish, bird or mammal bone, charcoal deposits, and possibly burials. A briefing document which describes typical finds and the process to follow in the event of discovery should be given to all parties involved with the earthworks.

Any contractors working on the site and involved with excavation should be alerted to the possibility that archaeological remains might be present. If any cultural material is found, all work within that area must cease to avoid damage to the remains, and an archaeologist notified. They will assess the significance of any finds and advise any further action required.

Iwi may request the presence of a cultural monitor, as allowed for under the provisions of the RMA.

8.0 REFERENCES

Archsite.org.nz

Quickmaps

topofthesouthmaps.co.nz



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Archaeological Discovery Protocol

In the event that an unidentified archaeological site is located during works, the following applies;

1. Work shall cease immediately at that place and within 20m around the site.
2. The contractor must shut down all machinery, secure the area, and advise the Site Manager.
3. The Site Manager shall secure the site and notify the Heritage New Zealand Regional Archaeologist. Further assessment by an archaeologist may be required.
4. If the site is of Maori origin, the Site Manager shall notify the Heritage New Zealand Regional Archaeologist and the appropriate iwi groups or kaitiaki representative of the discovery and ensure site access to enable appropriate cultural procedures and tikanga to be undertaken, as long as all statutory requirements under legislation are met (*Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act, Protected Objects Act*).
5. If human remains (koiwi tangata) are uncovered the Site Manager shall advise the Heritage New Zealand Regional Archaeologist, NZ Police and the appropriate iwi groups or kaitiaki representative and the above process under 4 shall apply. Remains are not to be moved until such time as iwi and Heritage New Zealand have responded.
6. Works affecting the archaeological site and any human remains (koiwi tangata) shall not resume until Heritage New Zealand gives written approval for work to continue. Further assessment by an archaeologist may be required.
7. Where iwi so request, any information recorded as the result of the find such as a description of location and content, is to be provided for their records.
8. Heritage New Zealand will determine if an archaeological authority under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* is required for works to continue.

It is an offence under S87 of the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* to modify or destroy an archaeological site without an authority from Heritage New Zealand irrespective of whether the works are permitted or a consent has been issued under the Resource Management Act.