Archaeological Survey and Assessment of Significance and Effects: Kingfisher Lodge, Whangaroa Harbour

Public Access Path and Redevelopment of Kingfish Lodge

P04/582, 583

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1. Executive Summary

A new dinghy jetty and earthworks to establish a new path up a steep slope are proposed. The new path will link into an existing path just below the ridge line. Some building activities are also planned on public land inside the bay.

The development will take place on the southern side of a narrow headland. Originally this headland was occupied by a pā reaching from a bank and ditch across the headland all they way to the tip of this headland. In 1941 the construction of a gun emplacement with ancillary buildings and structures destroyed most of this earlier structure.

But it has been observed that elements of the pā like living floors (dark layers of soil) and back filled storage pits could have survived.

Within the bay no archaeological features have been observed and the earthworks since 1941 for the Army Camp have likely destroyed any features if they were there.

Despite the fact that in the area of the planned earthworks along the new part of the path no archaeological features were observed, it is a reasonable risk to encounter sub surface features.

It is therefore recommended to apply for a general authority for P04/583 with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

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Cover photo: View from the gun emplacement (photo: Hans-Dieter Bader)

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2. Glossary

Table 1: Archaeological terms.

C14	Dating method using the deterioration of Carbon 14 in living organisms
Firescoop	Fireplace used for various reasons (cooking, warming, etc.)
Hangi	Subterranean cooking oven using heated stones
Hapu	Maori sub tribe, part of a larger tribal federation
Kai moana	Seafood exploited by Maori including fish, shell fish and crustaceans.
Kainga	Maori undefended open settlement.
Kaumatua	Male elder(s) of a hapu (sub tribe)
Kuia	Female elder(s) of a hapu (sub tribe)
Mana Whenua	People of the land with mana or customary authority
Midden	Refuse from a settlement, mainly shell fish.
Pa	A site fortified with earthworks and palisade defences. Modern meaning differs from archaeological use of the word.
Pit	Rectangular excavated pit used to store crops by Maori
Posthole	Archaeological remains of a post used for various reasons
Prehistory	Period before European arrival
Rohe	Settlement area of a Maori sub tribe (hapu)
Terrace	A platform cut into the hill slope used for habitation or cultivation
Urupa	Burial ground
Wahi tapu	Sites of spiritual significance to Maori
Whare	Traditionally built Maori sleeping house

3. Introduction

The Kingfish Lodge is in the process of upgrading their facilities. Part of this will be some building activities within the bay and a new dinghy jetty with a connecting path to the already existing path south of the ridge line towards the gun emplacement. This path south of the ridge was establish with the gun emplacement in 1941.

3.1. Brief

Bay of Islands Planning Ltd instructed Archaeology Solutions Ltd (ASL) to undertake an archaeological assessment of the project.

The assessment was undertaken to identify any recorded and probability of unrecorded archaeological remains in the vicinity of the proposed earthworks and to assess how the proposed works will affect the heritage values of the structures.

This report outlines the results of the investigations.

This assessment of archaeological values has been prepared for an authority application with Heritage NZ under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

This survey and report do not necessarily include the location of *wahi tapu* and/or sites of cultural or spiritual significance to the local Maori community who may need to be consulted for any information or concerns they may have regarding the proposed works.

4. Statutory Requirements

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)

This assessment considers only archaeological sites as defined in the HNZPTA as outlined below.

4.1. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

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

> *"6(a) 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; and*
>
> *6(b) includes a site for which a declaration is made under section 43(1)"*

Any person who intends carrying out work that may damage, modify or destroy an archaeological site, or to investigate a site using invasive archaeological techniques, must first obtain an authority from HNZ. 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 sites that fit the HPA definition, regardless of whether:

- The site is recorded in the NZ Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme or registered by HNZ,
- The site only becomes known about as a result of ground disturbance, and/ or
- The activity is permitted under a district or regional plan, or a resource or building consent has been granted

HNZ also maintains the List of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wahi Tapu and Wahi Tapu Areas. The List can include archaeological sites. The purpose of the List is to inform members of the public about such places and to assist with their protection under the Resource Management Act (1991).

4.2. Resource Management Act 1991

Under Section 6 of the *Resource Management Act* 1991 (RMA) it is stated that the protection of historic heritage is a matter of national importance,

> *"In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:*
>
> *[…]*
>
> *(e)the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga*
> *(f) the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development."*

"*Historic heritage*" is defined in the RMA as being "those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures" and includes archaeological, architectural, cultural, historic, scientific and technological qualities.

Historic heritage includes:

- historic sites, structures, places, and areas
- archaeological sites;
- sites of significance to Maori, 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 Maori.

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).

Section 17 of the RMA states "*Every person has a duty to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effect on the environment arising from an activity carried on by or on behalf of the person"*, and this includes historic heritage.

5. Methodology

5.1. Investigation Procedure

For this report aerial photographs, historic maps, secondary literature dealing with the history of the Whangaroa Harbour and the New Zealand Archaeological Site Recording Scheme have been consulted. Information was recorded using handheld GPS and digital photography.

5.2. Site Investigation

Two sites were previously recorded within the area of the earthworks, P04/582 and P04/583, a pā site and a gun emplacement from 1941. A number of possible routes were surveyed together with a surveyor and staff from the Kingfish Lodge. The extent of the two sites were recorded but no new sites were observed.

6. Background

6.1. Location & Legal description of land affected

The location is inside the Whangaroa Harbour, accessible only by boat. The area of the proposed footpath is within Crown land administered by Department of Conservation. The archaeological sites are within Crown land and Section 2 Block III Whangaroa SD, DP 198828, SO 37903.

Figure 1: Location of Whangaroa Harour

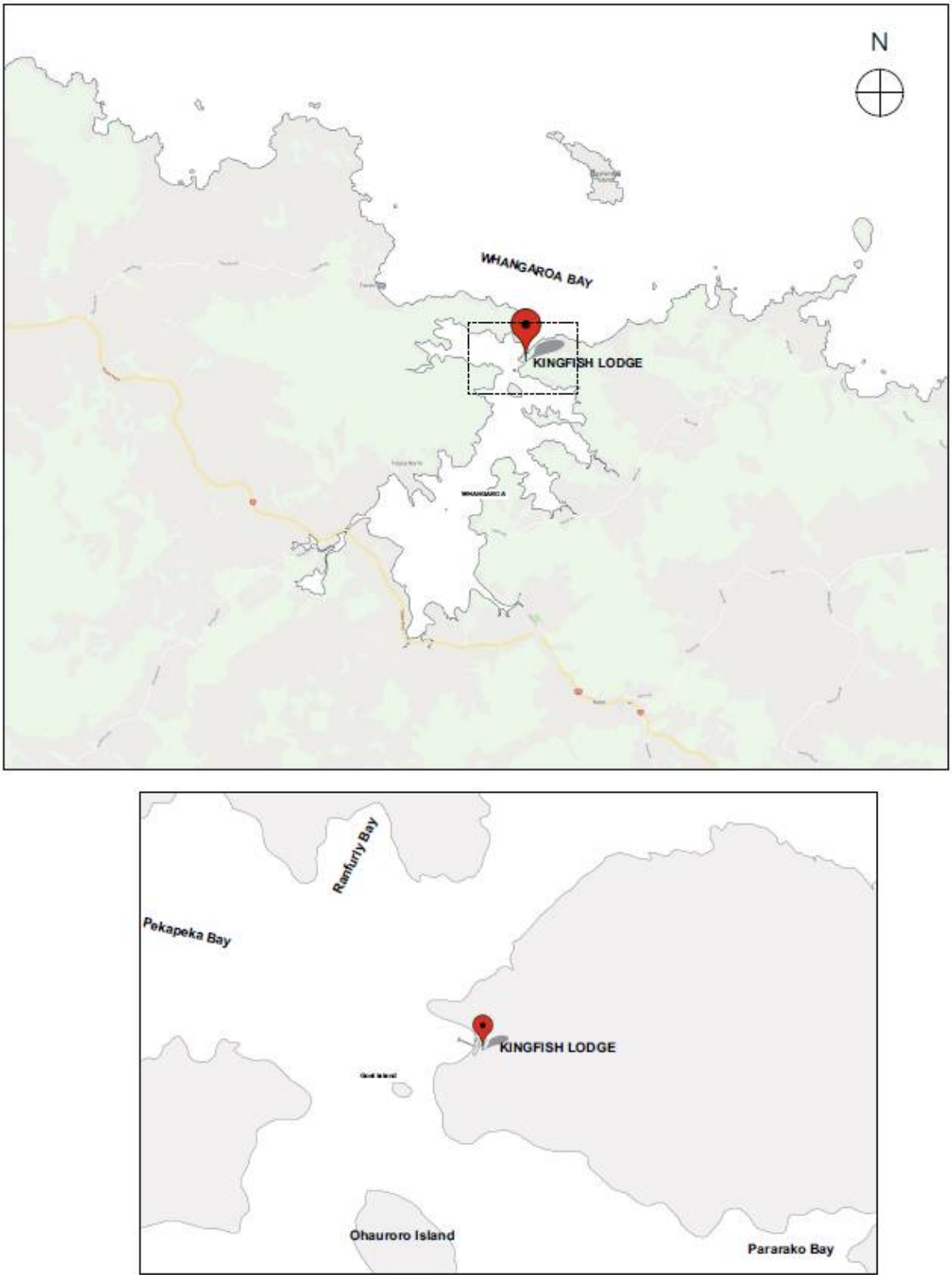

Figure 2: Location of Kingfish Lodge.

6.2. Physical Environment

The site is on an exposed headland right at the harbour entrance. This headland and the area of slopes to the east of it is compromised of volcanic soil, good for Māori horticulture (Institute for Geological and Nuclear Sciences, Geological Map 1:250,000, Whangarei). The protected bay below the headland is also well suited as a base for fishing.

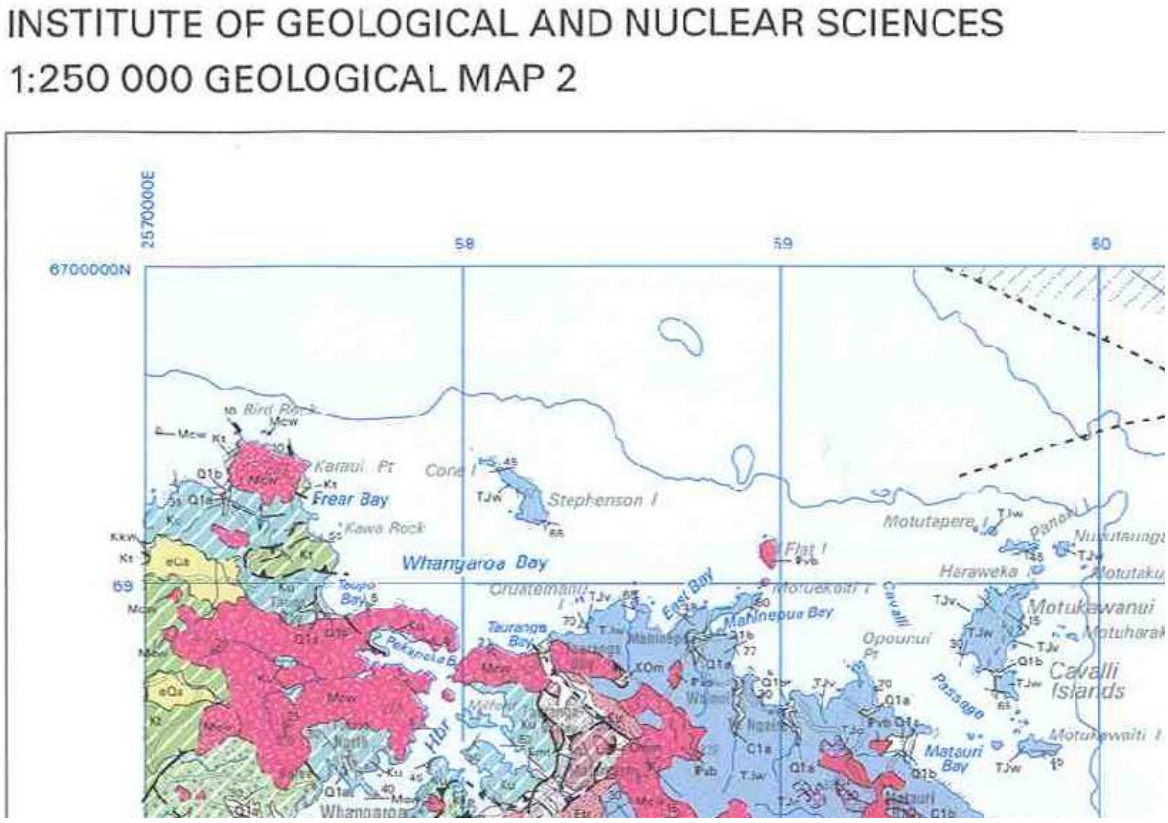

Figure 3: Detail of the geological map showing the extent of volcanic soil in the outer part of the Whangaroa Harbour (in red).

6.3. Historical Context & Archaeological Context

The headland is marked as the pā Oheia in the map of Whangaroa (Sale 1986). The area is part of the Kahikatoa Block (Nevin 1997). Te Ūkaipō are the mana whenua of the area today.

In 1941 under the threat of a Japanese invasion the deep water harbour of Whangaroa was fortified with two guns at the entrance. One of them is on the headland next to the Kingfish Lodge. The area around the Lodge was used as the camp.

A map shows the initial development that was later enlarged with a further gun platform, possibly for air defense (Kemp & Guthrie 2019).

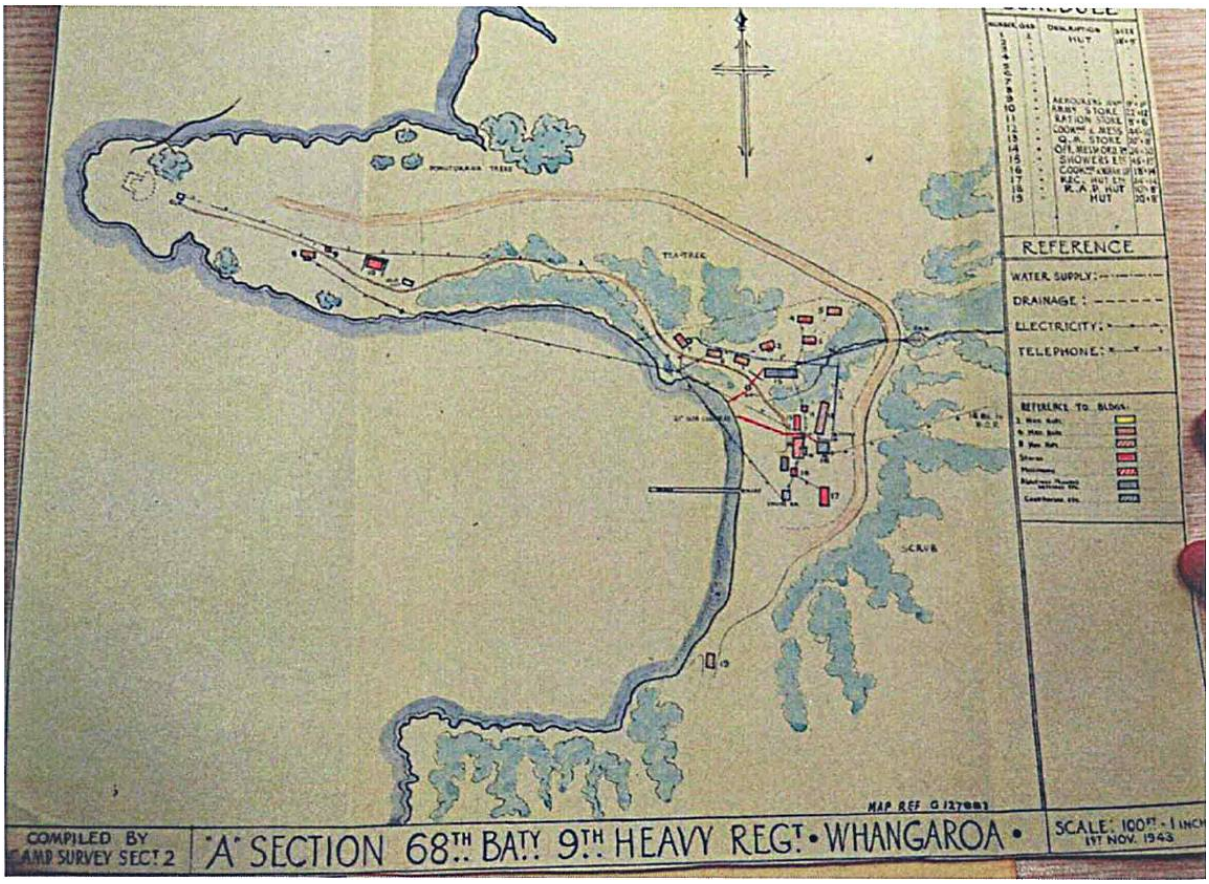

Figure 4: Gun Emplacement and Camp (after Kemp & Guthrie 2019).

6.4. Previous archaeological work within the area affected

The only archaeological survey was conducted by Nevin in 1997 and the gun emplacement, the pā, a storage pit and a small shell midden were recorded.

Archaeological sites have been recorded in the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Record Scheme (NZAA SRS).

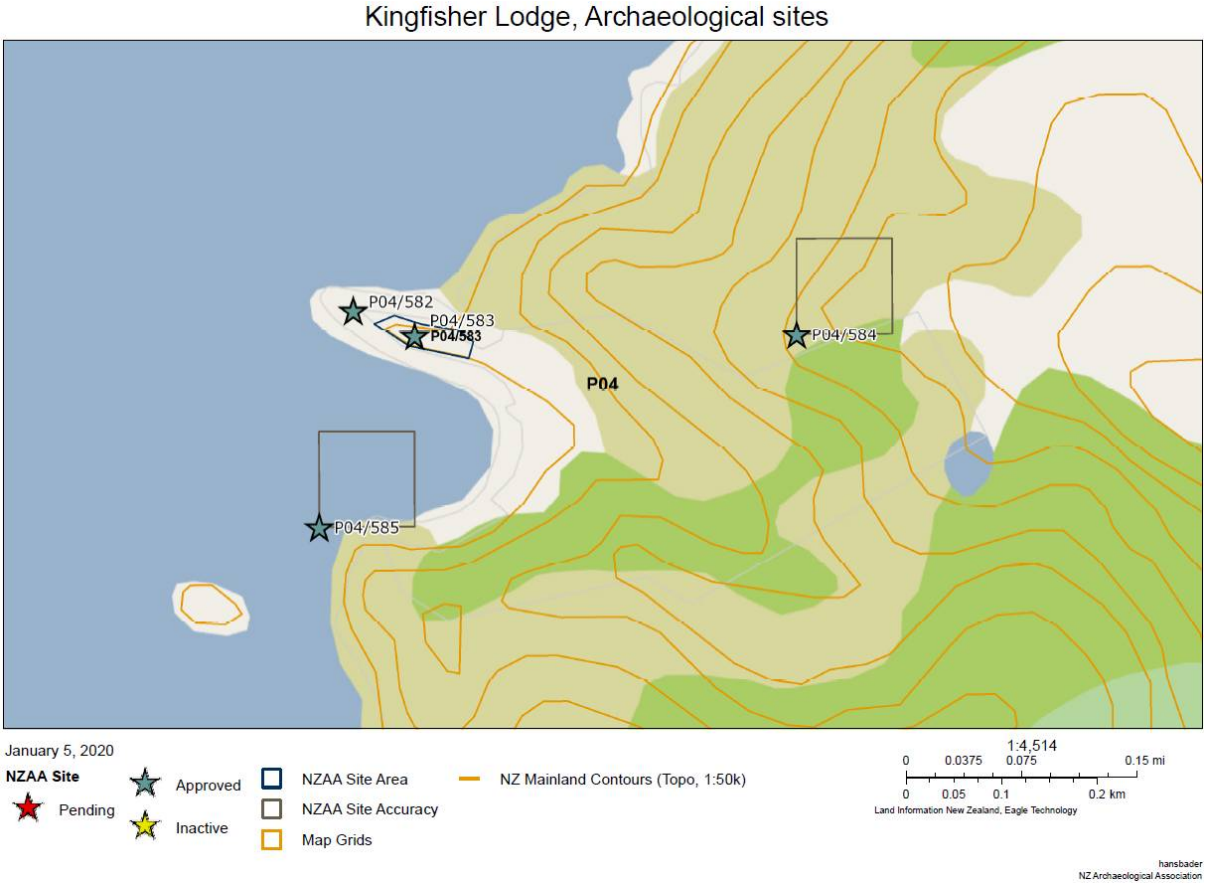

Figure 5: Recorded Archaeological sites in the vicinity.

7. Results

The planned pathway is running up a steep slope and then joining the existing pathway. This pathway is already indicated in the historic map and links the storage building to the gun emplacement and observation bunker.

The pā extent is indicated by a bank and ditch across the headland, which has been modified by a road leading to the gun, probably to transport ammunition and facilitate the construction of the gun emplacement.

Small elements, like charcoal rich topsoil and possible pit depressions, of the pā have survived the construction of the gun emplacement. The extent of the pā covered the entire headland, further than the extent drawn on ArchSite.

Within the bay no signs of any archaeological features were found.

Figure 6: View onto the heavily modified bay.

Figure 7: 1941 features in yellow, possible pits in blue, bank and ditch in green and brown. Path in red.

Figure 8: Headland, gun bunker clearly visible.

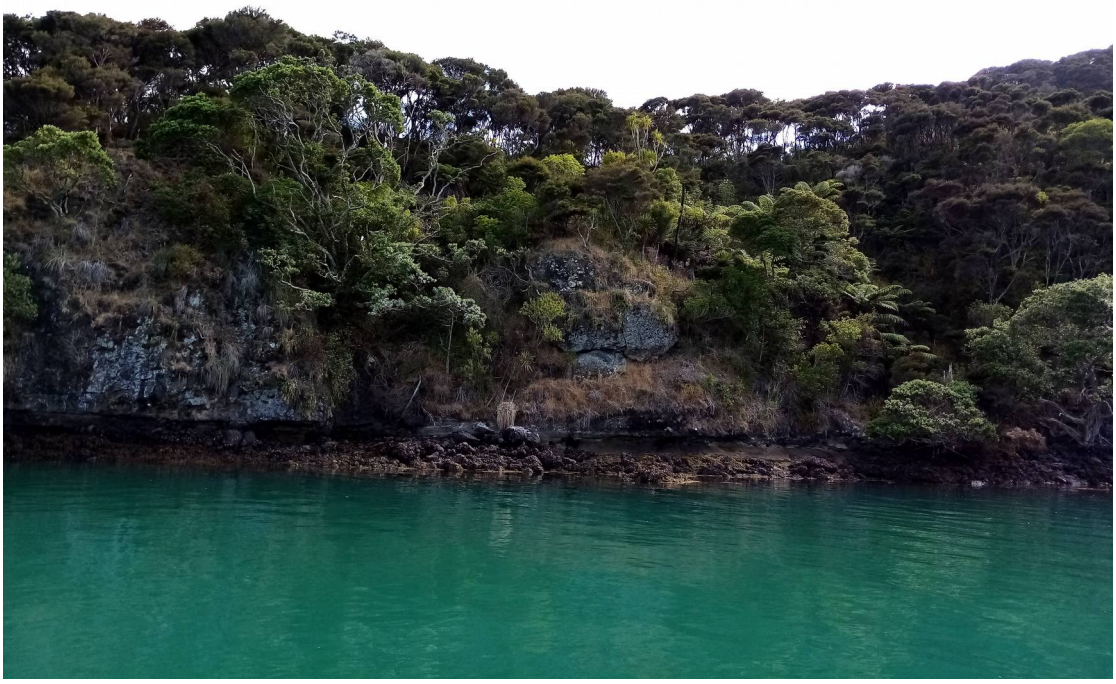

Figure 9: Planned dinghy jetty and start of the path uphill, linking into existing one.

Figure 10: Area of possible pits.

Figure 11: Existing path

Figure 12: Gun emplacement structures.

Figure 13: View from main gun shelter.

Figure 14: Main gun shelter.

Figure 15: Bank and Ditch of paa

8. Discussion

The development of the gun emplacement with ancillary buildings (P04/582) along the ridge line has destroyed or heavily modified most features of the pā site P04/583.

Nonetheless small elements like pit depression and some places of charcoal rich topsoil are still visible and it seems that further features can be expected sub surface.

Any earthworks along the existing path or on any of the flatter areas on top of the ridge line have a high risk to exposing archaeological features of this site.

The gun emplacement is not archaeological as per definition of the HNZPT Act 2014 but they are a Heritage Site of national importance.

It is therefore recommended to apply for a general authority for the path on parts of P04/583, Oheia, with HNZPT under the HNZPT Act 2014.

9. Constraints and Limitations

Damage of pā features is extensive and it is not easy to distinguish between them and later 20th century features.

10. *Archaeological Values*

10.1. Assessment Criteria

> *"Archaeological values relate to the potential of a place to provide evidence of the history of New Zealand. This potential is framed within the existing body of archaeological knowledge, and current research questions and hypotheses about New Zealand's past. An understanding of the overall archaeological resource is therefore required" (NZHPT 2006).*

The following value assessment is based on Gumbley 1995, Walton 1999 & 2002.

The assessment criteria are split into two sections: Main Archaeological values and Additional values:

The first archaeological values look at an ***intra (within the) site*** *context.*

- **Condition**:
  How complete is the site? Are parts of it already damaged or destroyed?
  Condition varies from undisturbed to destroyed and every variation in between. It is also possible that the condition of various parts of the site varies.

- **Rarity/Uniqueness:**
  Rarity can be described in a local, regional and national context. Rarity can be rare as a site, or rarely examined or today a rare occurrence in the records.

- **Information Potential:**
  How diverse are the features to be expected during an archaeological excavation on the site?
  How complete is the set of features for the type of site?
  Can the site inform about a specific period or specific function?

The second set of archaeological values are ***inter site*** *(between sites) context* criteria:

- **Archaeological landscape / contextual value:**
  What is the context of the site within the surrounding archaeological sites?
  The question here is the part the site plays within the surrounding known archaeological sites. A site might sit amongst similar surrounding sites without any specific features. Or a site might occupy a central position within the surrounding sites. Though a site can be part of a complete or near complete landscape, whereby the value of each individual site is governed by the value of the completeness of the archaeological landscape.

- **Amenity value**:
  What is the context of the site within the physical landscape?
  This question is linked to the one above, but focuses onto the position of the site in the landscape. Is it a dominant site with many features still visible or is the position in the landscape ephemeral with little or no features visible? This question is also concerned with the amenity value of a site today and its potential for onsite education.

- **Cultural Association:**
  What is the context of the site within known historic events or to people?
  This is the question of known cultural association either by tangata whenua or other

descendant groups. This question is also concerned with possible commemorative values of the site.

Additional values can include (NZHPT 2004):

1 Architectural

2 Historic

3 Scientific

4 Technological

5 Aesthetic/Visual impact

6 Cultural

The last value, cultural, acknowledges if there is an impact onto Maori cultural values. This assessment will not evaluate these, but rather state their relevance in relation to the other values.

10.2. Archaeological Values Assessment

For the assessment pre contact sites are separated from post contact, historic sites. The historic site has high heritage values under the RMA but no archaeological values as it is post 1900.

Table 2: Summary of archaeological values. Pre contact sites.

Sites	Value	Assessment
P04/583	Condition	Severely damaged.
	Rarity/ Uniqueness	Small pā are a common feature in Northland
	Contextual Value	Protection of the harbour draw pre Contact Māori to this location
	Information Potential	The information potential of the site is reasonable high as unusual features might be possible.
	Amenity Value	The 1941 development left little of amenity value bar the bank and ditch feature of the pā
	Cultural Associations	Connection to mana whenua are still strong including wahi tapuu sites in the vicinity.

10.3. Additional values assessment

There are no additional values to be considered on the pre contact sites.

The possibility of a burial site is excluded from the value assessment as separate procedures would come into effect on the event of discovering a burial.

11. Assessment of Effects

The assessment of effects follow the basic guidelines for preparing assessment of environmental effects that includes a discussion on the nature of environmental effects (MfE 1999). It should be remembered that an archaeological excavation of a site mitigates only the loss of archaeological information but not the loss of the site and its contextual, cultural and educational values (NZHPT 2006).

Effects must be considered,

of how much of the site will be affected

if the future risk of damage is increased

whether a design change may avoid adverse effects on the site(s)

The main earthworks are planned on a small coastal platform for the dinghy jetty and a steep pathway to link into the existing path just below the ridge line. In these earthworks areas no surface features were observed.

Any earthworks along the existing footpath can expect to come across small elements of the pā site.

11.1. Site Management & Mitigation

Possible methods to protect sites, and avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects will be discussed.

The following mitigation process is proposed:

- Archaeological induction of all contractors.
- Monitoring of all earthworks
- Sample, record, analyse and date any archaeological features using standard archaeological methods.
- If substantial remains are found, interpret the results and display them using modern dissemination methods in a publicly accessible space along the final constructed development

To allow for this suggested mitigation process a general Authority to Modify for the site P04/583. Oheia is to be sought from HNZPT under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

12. Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the caretaker for their active contribution to the survey and discussions to help understand the cultural landscape.

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14. Appendices

- Site Record Forms