

PROTECTING
AND MANAGING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SITES



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA



WHAT IS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE?

The *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* defines an archaeological site as a place associated with pre-1900 human activity, where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. Archaeological sites are irreplaceable parts of our heritage.

TYPES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Māori pā sites are fortified places with banks and ditches. They are often found on cliffs, headlands or ridges.

Remains of cultivation areas and gardens can be seen in soils and from lines or walls of loose stones or stone mounds. Other types of sites associated with cultivation and settlement include artificially levelled terraces, and pits for storing kūmara.

Middens are rubbish dumps that may contain shells, bones, artefacts, charcoal and sometimes oven stones.

Rock art sites may contain paintings, drawings, carvings or engravings.

Shipwrecks can contribute important information to New Zealand's maritime history.

Whaling, trading, gold mining, the remains of mission stations, military redoubts, buildings and structures are all archaeological sites.

IMAGES:

Cover image: Shell midden, Ōmaha Coast, Northland
(IMAGE: HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA)

- 1 Pā at Māngere Mountain/Te Pane ō Mataaho, Auckland (IMAGE: KEVIN JONES, DOC)
- 2 Archaeological excavation of Chinese gold mining settlement, Cromwell, Otago
(IMAGE: HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA)



HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ON MY PROPERTY?

Heritage New Zealand's archaeologists or your regional office can provide information about archaeological sites. The New Zealand Archaeological Association has a national database of recorded archaeological sites www.archsite.org.nz

You could also employ an archaeologist to do an archaeological survey of your property. They will be able to identify, record, and assess any archaeological sites that may be present.

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

If you own, occupy or are responsible for land, it may contain an archaeological site. These sites are protected in law. This leaflet explains

- what an archaeological site is
- how it is protected
- what you do when working with a site
- how you can look after an archaeological site
- who to contact for information and advice.

WHAT PROTECTION DOES THE LAW GIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES?

The *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* makes it unlawful for any person to modify or destroy the whole or any part of an archaeological site whether or not the land on which the site is located is designated, or a resource or building consent has been issued, without the prior authority of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

It also provides for substantial penalties for unauthorised modification or destruction.

WHAT IF I PLAN TO DO WORK THAT MAY MODIFY OR DESTROY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE?

If there is a chance you may modify or destroy a site you must apply to Heritage New Zealand for permission to do so. We can advise you of the most suitable course of action.

If you uncover a previously unknown site during earthworks you may also need permission to continue. You must stop any work that would affect the site and contact Heritage New Zealand for advice on how to proceed.

CAN ANYONE DISTURB AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN ORDER TO STUDY IT?

Any person wishing to carry out an investigation that might modify an archaeological site in any way must apply to Heritage New Zealand for permission to do so.

HOW CAN I LOOK AFTER AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE?

This will depend on the type of site, local environment conditions and the land use. If you are developing land that contains archaeological sites, try to avoid the sites if possible.

For most rural sites grass grazed by sheep is the best management option. Regular trampling by heavier animals such as horses and cattle can erode the site. Large plants, vines and trees cause damage when their roots grow through the site, and further damage can occur when they are removed, harvested, or blown over.

IMAGES:

- 1 Remains of defences at Rangiriri, site of a decisive battle in the Waikato War. (IMAGE: HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA)
- 2 Māori rock art, Te Manunui, Frenchman's Gully, South Canterbury (IMAGE: HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA)
- 3 View looking down Hawkestone Street, Wellington 1845(?) Samuel C. Brees (IMAGE: ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY, A-109-021)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ARE IRREPLACEABLE PARTS OF OUR HERITAGE





FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

For enquiries about archaeological sites and applications to modify or destroy sites contact the Regional Archaeologist in your nearest Heritage New Zealand office:

- Northland Area Office, Kerikeri
(Northland)
ph: 09 407 0470
- Northern Regional Office, Auckland
(Auckland, Hauraki, Thames / Coromandel)
ph: 09 307 9920
- Lower Northern Area Office, Tauranga
(Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Gisborne)
ph: 07 577 4530
- Central Regional Office, Wellington
(Lower North Island, Nelson / Tasman,
Marlborough)
ph: 04 494 8320
- Southern Regional Office, Christchurch
(West Coast, Canterbury)
ph: 03 357 9629
- Dunedin Area Office
(Otago, Southland)
ph: 03 477 9871

For further information about the New Zealand Archaeological Association database of archaeological sites and a list of consultant archaeologists, visit their website www.nzarchaeology.org