

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSESSMENT**

**PROPOSED  
SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT OF  
LOT 1 DP 307535**

**404 OMOKOROA ROAD  
OMOKOROA**

Prepared by

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For

**MOMENTUM**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by Momentum, on behalf of the land owners, in order to determine if archaeological sites are affected by the proposed subdivision development of a 7.9099-hectare block of land located at 404 Omokoroa Road (Lot 1 DP 307535).

The development will involve extensive topsoil removal and modification to the existing contour of the property. There are no recorded archaeological sites within the property, however, archaeological features were uncovered during the realignment of Omokoroa Road in 2018 immediately adjacent to the property and there is reasonable cause to suspect that archaeological features will be exposed during earthwork within land affected by the development.

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 location of 404 Omokoroa Road.

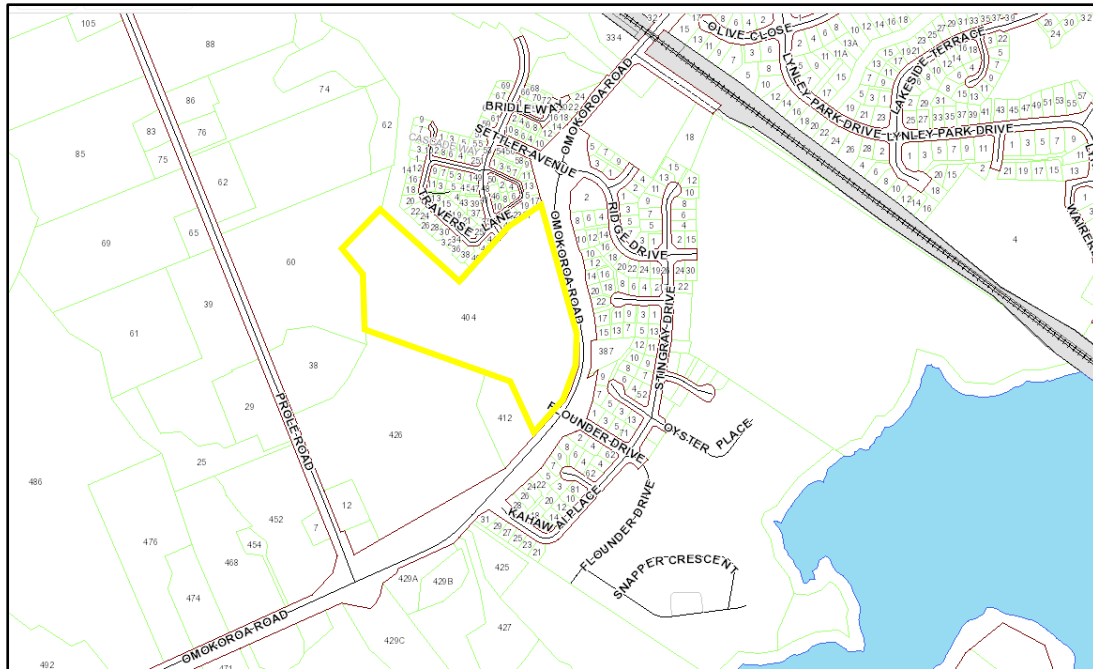


Figure 2. Map showing the location of 404 Omokoroa Road outlined in yellow.



Figure 3. Aerial photo showing the location, extent and current land use within 404 Omokoroa Road (outlined yellow).

## HISTORY

The Omokoroa Peninsula falls within the rohe of Pirirakau. The heartland of their rohe is Whakamarama but also encompasses large areas of the Tauranga Harbour margins including Te Puna and the Omokoroa Peninsula. Their relationship with this land dates back to the arrival of the Takitimu, the ancestral waka of Pirirakau. The subsequent settlement, cultivation and defence of these lands by Pirirakau during the pre European period presents a rich traditional history that is reflected in the extensive archaeological record.

The post European contact history of Pirirakau is equally fascinating from the significant early influences of Catholicism and French and English traders to their support of the Kingitanga (King Movement) in the 1850's-1860's which saw portions of their land confiscated by the colonial government. As a result Pirirakau became the principal antagonists during the Tauranga Bush Campaign in 1867 during which they disrupted Government efforts to survey the confiscated lands and suffered considerably as a result with many of their settlements and cultivations destroyed.

Following the subdivision of the Tawhitinui Block in 1868, which saw the Omokoroa Peninsula divided up into 50-acre allotments Pirirakau adopted a strategy of passive resistance when land set aside as Native Reserve was leased by the government to the prominent European settler Joseph Tice Gellibrand. Gellibrand gradually increased his land holdings on the peninsula buying up some of the 50 acre lots in the 1870s. Lots from the original 1868 subdivision affected by the current subdivision proposal include part of Lots 61 and 62.

Lots 61 and 62 were acquired by Ensign J. R. Horne<sup>1</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Waikato militia in the late 1860s. In October 29<sup>th</sup> 1879 Gellibrand purchased Lots 91, 60 and 61 from Horne for £500. Lot 61 and 62 were up for sale in 1892<sup>2</sup> by an unspecified vendor and again in 1897 by Arthur Crapp at which time they were described as good fern and tutu land.<sup>3</sup> The lots remained undeveloped until after WW1 when Omokoroa Road was realigned cutting off northern portions of the two lots and the two smaller lots were amalgamated into one lot. The resultant property was fenced and put into pasture for stock grazing.<sup>4</sup> A dwelling was constructed near the Omokoroa Road frontage of Lot 62 in the late 1950s and a milking shed in the centre of Lot 62 in the 1960s (Figure 5). Both Lots 61 & 62 remained as pastoral blocks until they were converted into a kiwifruit orchard in the early 1980s. Lot 1 DP 307535 (404 Omokoroa Road) was formed in 1977 as a result of the subdivision of Lot 2 DPS 4524.

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<sup>1</sup> SO 423

<sup>2</sup> B O P Times 26 August 1892

<sup>3</sup> B O P Times 7 May 1897

<sup>4</sup> DP 12835

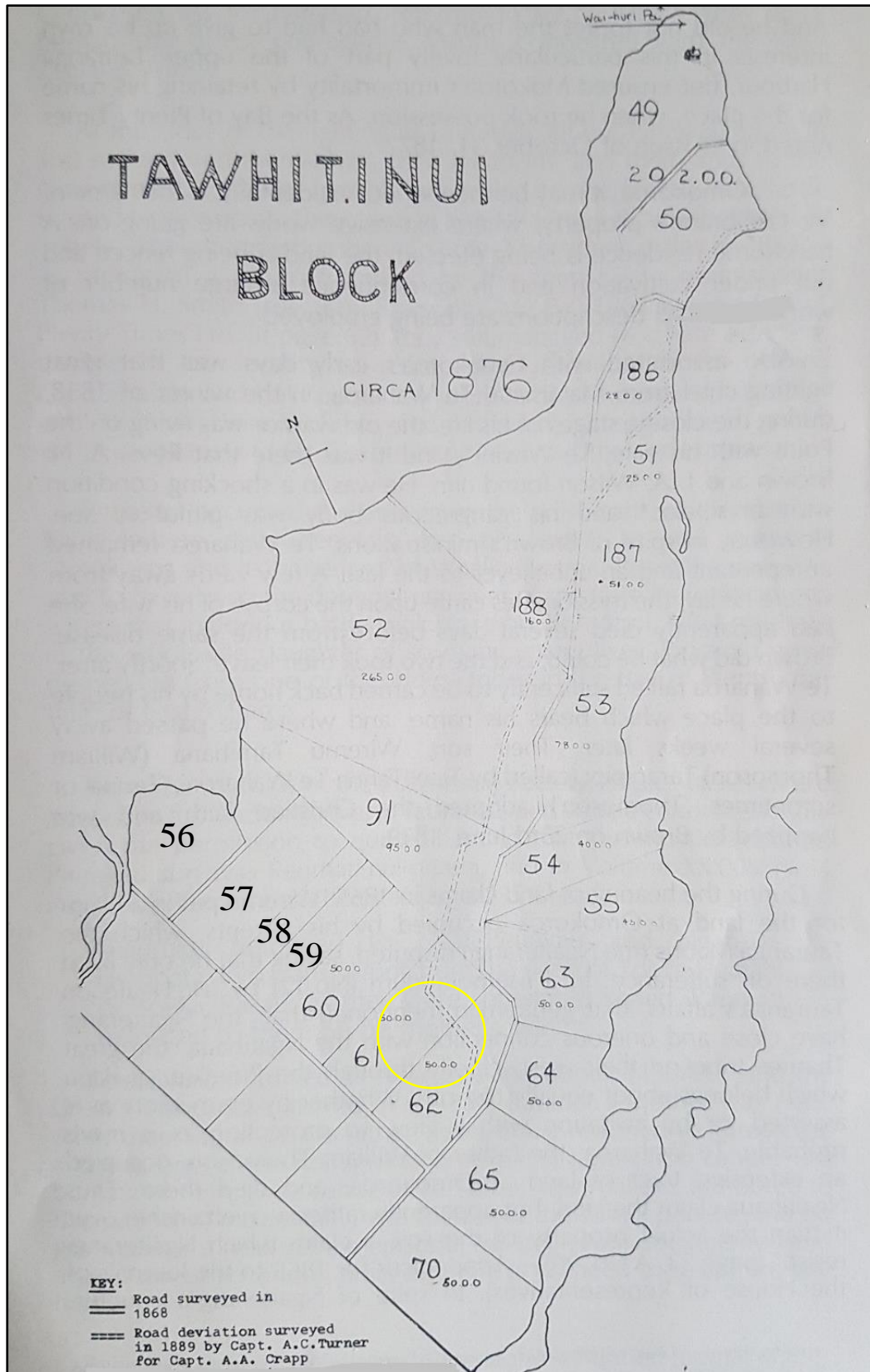


Figure 4. Plan produced by J. Wood showing the location of the Tawhitinui Block based on Survey plan SO 423 produced in 1868. Approximate location of 404 Omokoroa Road circled yellow. (J. Wood 1980:61)

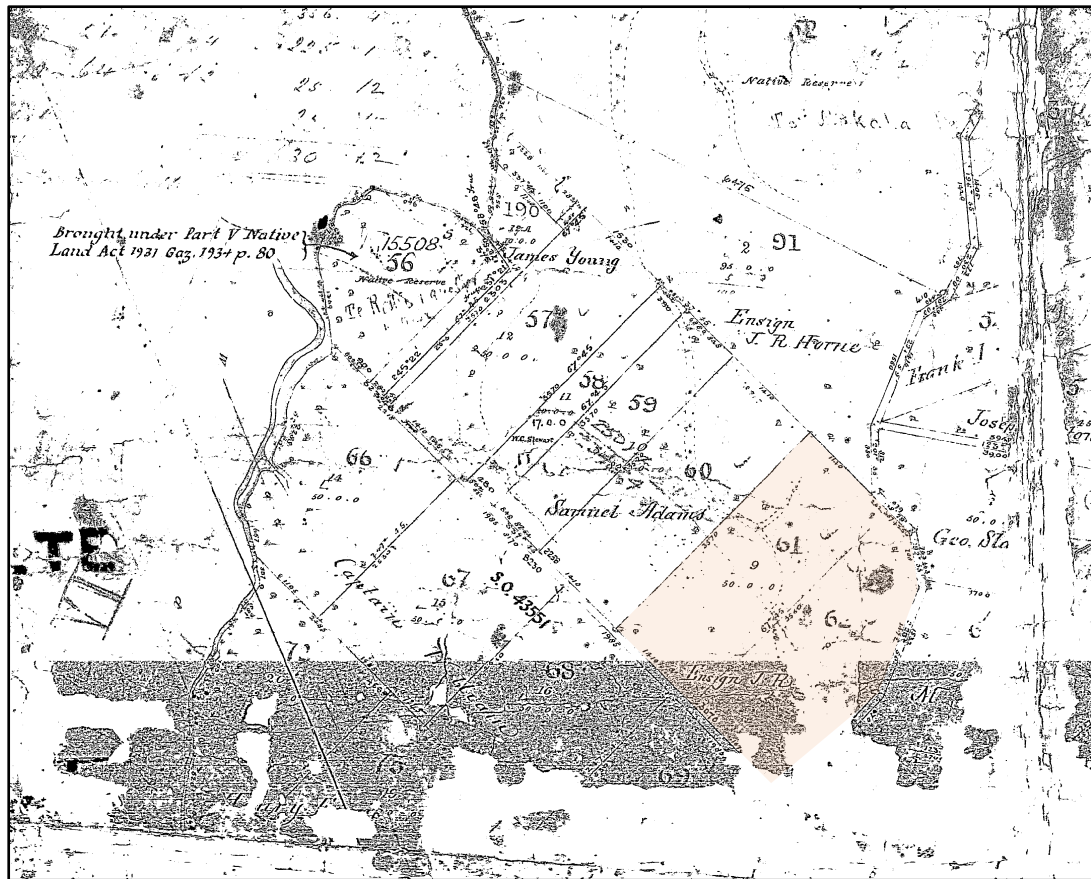


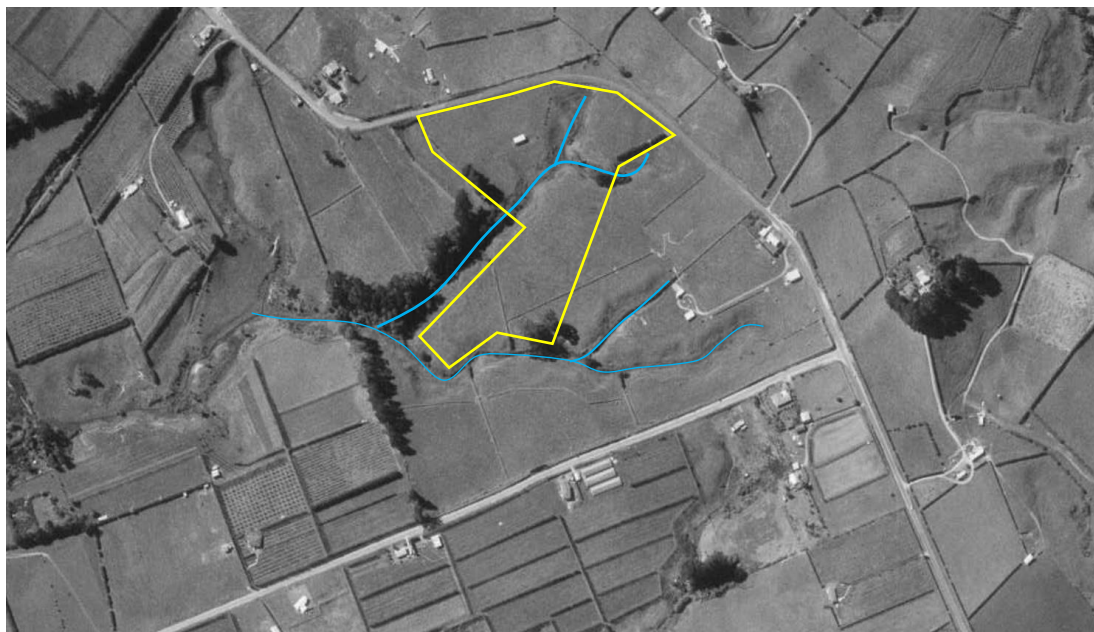
Figure 5. Part subdivision plan of the Tawhitunui Block (SO 423) produced in 1868 showing land owners and Native Reserves. Allotments are 61 & 62 highlighted brown.

## PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

Land affected by the proposed subdivision development is located on gentle west facing slopes within the catchment of the Kakaramea Stream. The property was used for stock grazing until the 1980s during which time little modification occurred to the property with the exception of fencing, farm tracks and the construction of farm shed and sundry structures. Early aerial photos show gullies at the head of the Kakaramea Stream catchment extending into the property. During the establishment of the kiwifruit orchard within the property in the early 1980s the gullies were largely infilled presumably by quarrying the upper edges of the gullies. This earthwork has likely damaged, destroyed or buried archaeological features that may have been present within or surrounding the gullies.

Soils within the property are of the Katikati series of yellow brown pumice loams (Allophanic Soils) derived from Rhyolitic tephra.<sup>5</sup> Allophanic soils are friable to a great depth with excellent physical properties and are ideal for cultivating subtropical crops including traditional Maori cultigens such as kumara.

<sup>5</sup> Rijkse & Cotching 1995



**Figure 6. Aerial photo taken in 1974 showing the approximate extent of 404 Omokoroa Road (yellow) and gullies forming the eastern extent of the Kakaramea Stream catchment.**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE**

Archaeological site recording began at Omokoroa in 1968 when David Borell of the Tauranga Historical Society recorded Waihuri Pa (U14/159) at the northern tip of the peninsula. In 1982 the New Zealand Historic Places Trust undertook an archaeological survey of the greater Tauranga Harbour. During this survey 23 archaeological sites were identified on the Omokoroa Peninsula north of State Highway 2 and were entered into the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme. Subsequent archaeological surveys and investigations of land affected by residential subdivisions and infrastructure projects have resulted in archaeological excavation of known sites and the identification of many previously unrecorded sites.

There are only four recorded pa on the Omokoroa peninsula north of State highway 2. Waihuri Pa (U14/159), located at the northern distal end of the peninsula is perhaps the most well known as it survives in relatively good condition. Rauhuia Pa (U14/520 & 704) is located on the eastern side of the peninsula with commanding views of the Esplanade Beach to the north and estuarine embayment to the south. A house was constructed on the pa sometime in the 1950s, however, impact on subsurface archaeology features of the pa is likely to have been minimal.

The large pa discovered within Lynley Park (U14/712) was destroyed during earthwork associated with the establishment of that subdivision. A further small yet prominent Pa noted on early survey plans survives in relatively good condition on the eastern coast of Mangawhai Bay (U14/3106).<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> This pa is located in Allotment 64 and illustrated on Survey Plan SO 423 produced in 1868.



**Table 1. Recorded archaeological sites within 500m of the property.**

<b>SITE NUMBER</b>	<b>SITE TYPE</b>
U14/3105	PIT
U14/3444	MIDDEN
U14/3454	PITS
U14/3455	PITS
U14/3561	PITS
U14/3562	PITS
<b>U14/3563</b>	<b>PITS</b>
<b>U14/3564</b>	<b>PITS</b>

The nearest recorded sites to the property include U14/3561 and U14/3562 both of which were identified during the recent realignment of Omokoroa Road (HNZ Authority 2017/104). Both sites comprised clusters of rectangular semi-subterranean crop storage pits and possible cultivated soils being components of larger sites that likely extend into the adjacent land parcels affected by the proposed subdivision development. A final report including plan of archaeological features identified within these two sites is being prepared by WSP Opus.

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

A visual inspection of the property was carried out by Ken Phillips in March 2020. The greater part of the property was in kiwifruit orchard with an area of lawn and exotic trees surrounding the existing dwelling fronting Omokoroa Road.

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 based on spade test pitting was carried out to determine whether buried archaeological deposits could be identified. Disturbed soils and soil profiles exposed in cuttings were examined where encountered for evidence of earlier settlement, and an understanding of the local soil stratigraphy. There is little surface evidence of the cut and fill earthwork carried out during establishment of the orchard however the probable location of two infilled gullies are still evidence as shallow swales descending to the north west.

During the course of the survey no visible surface archaeological features were identified. Test pitting revealed natural, and heavily modified soil profiles however the extent of the 1980s earthwork could not be established by limited spade test pitting. No archaeological features, layers or pre 1900 culturally modified soils were detected however the limitation of spade test pitting should be recognised.

Surface evidence of archaeological sites associated with pre European Maori open settlement and cultivation sites on the Omokoroa Peninsula are often absent or poorly defined and even more substantial settlement features such as crop storage pits rarely have surface expression. They are also difficult to detected by limited spade test pitting however all recent subdivision and road developments have uncovered such archaeological sites.

## **SUMMARY**

There are no recorded archaeological sites within 404 Omokoroa Road however, there are several recorded archaeological sites (U14/3561 & 3562) located within 100m of and components of these sites may extent into the property. Furthermore, there is reasonable cause to suspect that further unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites not identifiable by archaeological survey are present within the property that would be affected by the proposed development.

### **Archaeological significance**

Recorded archaeological sites surrounding the property form part of a wider archaeological landscape representing elevated defended pa and undefended settlement and cultivation on the Omokoroa Peninsula. Further research is required to determine the antiquity and contemporaneity of these sites and the identification and extent of associated cultivations. This type of archaeological landscape is repeated on many of the inner harbour peninsula's and represents the rapid and extensive early adoption of subsistence fallow cycle agriculture on the free draining soils and micro climates unique to the Tauranga Harbour lowlands.

## **ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS**

Earthwork associated with the proposed subdivision development of 404 Omokoroa Road will affect most of the property. Given the close proximity of recorded archaeological sites to the property and the frequent discovery of previously unrecorded archaeological sites during developments on adjacent properties there is reasonable cause to suspect that unrecorded archaeological sites will be encountered during earthwork associated with the proposed subdivision development.

Therefore, a program for the mitigation of effects on possible intact archaeological features during the residential development of the property should be established before the commencement of ground disturbance. This mitigation program will require an authority from Heritage New Zealand to damage or destroy possible unrecorded archaeological sites within the affected properties during earthwork associated with the development.

## **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 below.

1. That a Heritage New Zealand (HNZ) authority to modify damage or destroy possible unrecorded archaeological sites within land affected by the proposed school development at 404 Omokoroa Road (Lot 1 DP 307535) is obtained prior to the commencement of earthwork associated with the development.
2. That prior to the commencement of earthwork associated with the development test stripping of areas selected by the project archaeologist should be carried out in order to determine the likelihood and location of possible unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites within the property.
3. That archaeological monitoring is carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during all topsoil removal within the property.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.