
Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Subdivision of

Lot 2 DP 39472

Lake Ngātu, Waipapakauri

4 December 2025

Prepared for:

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Glossary

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Classic | The later period of New Zealand settlement |
| Midden | The remains of food refuse usually consisting of shells, and bone, but can also contain artefacts |
| Pā | A site fortified with earthworks and palisade defences |
| Pit | Rectangular excavated pit used to store crops by Māori |
| Terrace | A platform cut into the hill slope used for habitation |
| Wāhi tapu | Sites of spiritual significance to Māori |

1.0 Introduction

A. McPhee of Bay of Islands Planning Ltd commissioned Geometria Ltd on behalf of their client L. and S. Frieling to undertake an archaeological assessment of a proposed subdivision of Lot 2 DP 394720 at Lake Ngātu, west of Waipapakauri in the Far North. Consultation over the subdivision with Tangata Whenua had raised the issue of a pā or urupa being present on the property and which might be affected or has been affected.

Far North District Council has requested more information about the application under Section 92 (1) of the Resource Management Act 1991. Council has asked for confirmation from a suitably qualified experienced person that any adverse effects on PukeNgātu Pa were avoided and no destruction was caused. HNZPT have requested an archaeological assessment for the site, based on a site walk over and prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist, and addressing suitable access and building areas (FNDC to S. Frieling and L. Frieling C/- Bay Of Island Planning, 22 September 2025, ref. Application No: 2260100-RMASUB).

Under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA, previously the Historic Places Act 1993), all archaeological sites are protected from any modification, damage or destruction except by the authority of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

This report uses archaeological techniques to assess archaeological values and does not seek to locate or identify wāhitapu or other places of cultural or spiritual significance to Māori. Such assessments may only be made by Tangata Whenua, who may be approached independently of this report for advice.

Likewise, such an assessment by Tangata Whenua does not constitute an archaeological assessment and permission to undertake ground disturbing activity on and around archaeological sites and features may only be provided by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, and may only be monitored or investigated by a qualified archaeologist approved through the archaeological authority process.

1.1 The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

Under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA; previously the Historic Places Act 1993) all archaeological sites are protected from any modification, damage or destruction except by the authority of the Historic Places Trust. Section 6 of the HNZPTA defines an archaeological site as:

" 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

(b) includes a site for which a declaration is made under section 43(1)"

To be protected under the HNZPTA an archaeological site must have physical remains that pre-date 1900 and that can be investigated by scientific archaeological techniques. Sites from 1900 or post-1900 can be declared archaeological under section 43(1) of the Act.

If a development is likely to impact on an archaeological site, an authority to modify or destroy this site can be sought from the local Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga office under section 44 of the Act. Where damage or destruction of archaeological sites is to occur Heritage New Zealand usually requires mitigation. Penalties for modifying a site without an authority include fines of up to \$300,000 for destruction of a site.

Most archaeological evidence consists of sub-surface remains and is often not visible on the ground. Indications of an archaeological site are often very subtle and hard to distinguish on the ground surface. Sub-surface excavations on a suspected archaeological site can only take place with an authority issued under Section 56 of the HNZPTA issued by the Heritage New Zealand.

1.2 The Resource Management Act 1991.

Archaeological sites and other historic heritage may also be considered under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The RMA establishes (under Part 2) in the Act's purpose (Section 5) the matters of national importance (Section 6), and other matters (Section 7) and all decisions by a Council are subject to these provisions. Sections 6e and 6f identify historic heritage (which includes archaeological sites) and Māori heritage as matters of national importance.

Councils have a responsibility to recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhitapu, and other taonga (Section 6e). Councils also have the statutory responsibility to recognise and provide for the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development within the context of sustainable management (Section 6f). Responsibilities for managing adverse effects on heritage arise as part of policy and plan preparation and the resource consent processes.

2.0 Location and Environment

The Frieling property is located at 52 Rotokawau Road between Lake Ngātu and Rotokawau and comprises 41.46ha of flat to rolling to steep country. The property is currently under a mix of regenerating native forest, weeds and grazed pastures, with approximately 20ha under pasture and the balance under regenerative native forest, weeds and wetland. The property was under pines until the early 2000s when a previous owner harvested the trees, and established the roading across the property as part of an earlier, more intensive subdivision proposal.

The underlying landform is a series of southwest-northeast trending parallel, consolidated Pleistocene dune ridges with wetlands or standing water in the swales on the central and northern part of the property. In the centre of the property is the high point named Ngātu at 90m above sea level and to the southwest the main ridge splits into with a central valley dropping down to West Coast Road at 38m above sea level. At the northern end the property drops to Rotokawau at 42m above sea level.

For approximately the last fifteen years a header tank supplying water to Paparore School has been located on the eastern side of the southern ridge on the property, above West Coast Road.

L. and S. Frieling have recently built three houses with onsite water and wastewater services, and accessed using tracks that were already present on the property.

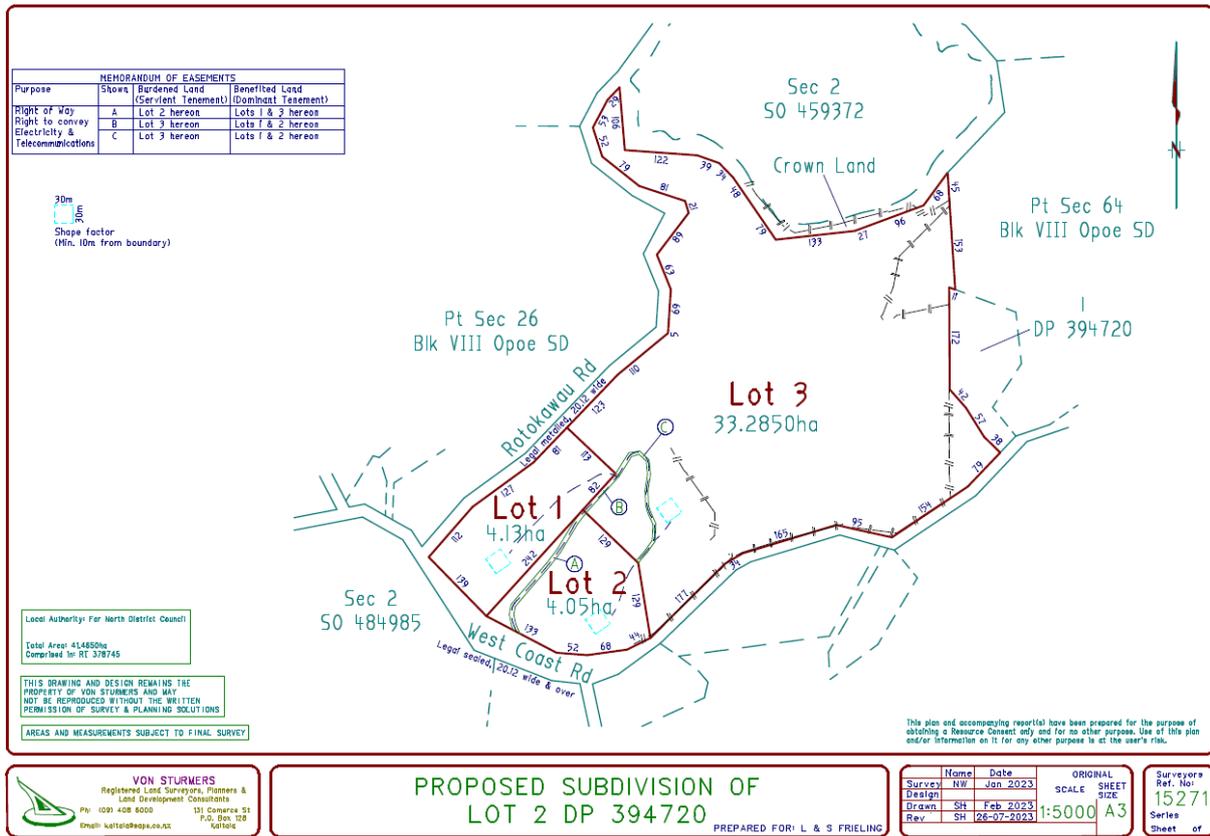


Figure 1: Subdivision scheme plan.

To the southwest of the property is the ecologically and culturally significant 55ha Lake Ngātu. Ngāi Takato has been given ownership of Lake Ngātu, along with lakes Ngakapua North and South and Rotokawau (Sweetwater) by way of cultural redress as part of their treaty settlement. The lake is largely managed by Ngāi Takato.

3.0 Proposed Development

L. and S. Frieling propose subdividing the property into three new lots. Lot 1 of 4.13ha and Lot 2 of 4.05ha are at the southwestern end of the existing property, and the balance Lot 3 of 33.2850ha covers the central and northeastern portion. Houses have already been built on the indicated building envelopes shown on the scheme plan, as has the access/driveway from West Coast Road.

Heavy vehicle/plant access tracks were present across the property by 2004, from the timber harvest. Formed and metalled tracks were present by 2012, providing access to the extant building platforms, with those platforms present by 2022. These areas had all been modified by heavy vehicle movements during logging operations, visible as exposed ground along the ridgelines in aerial imagery dating back to 2004.

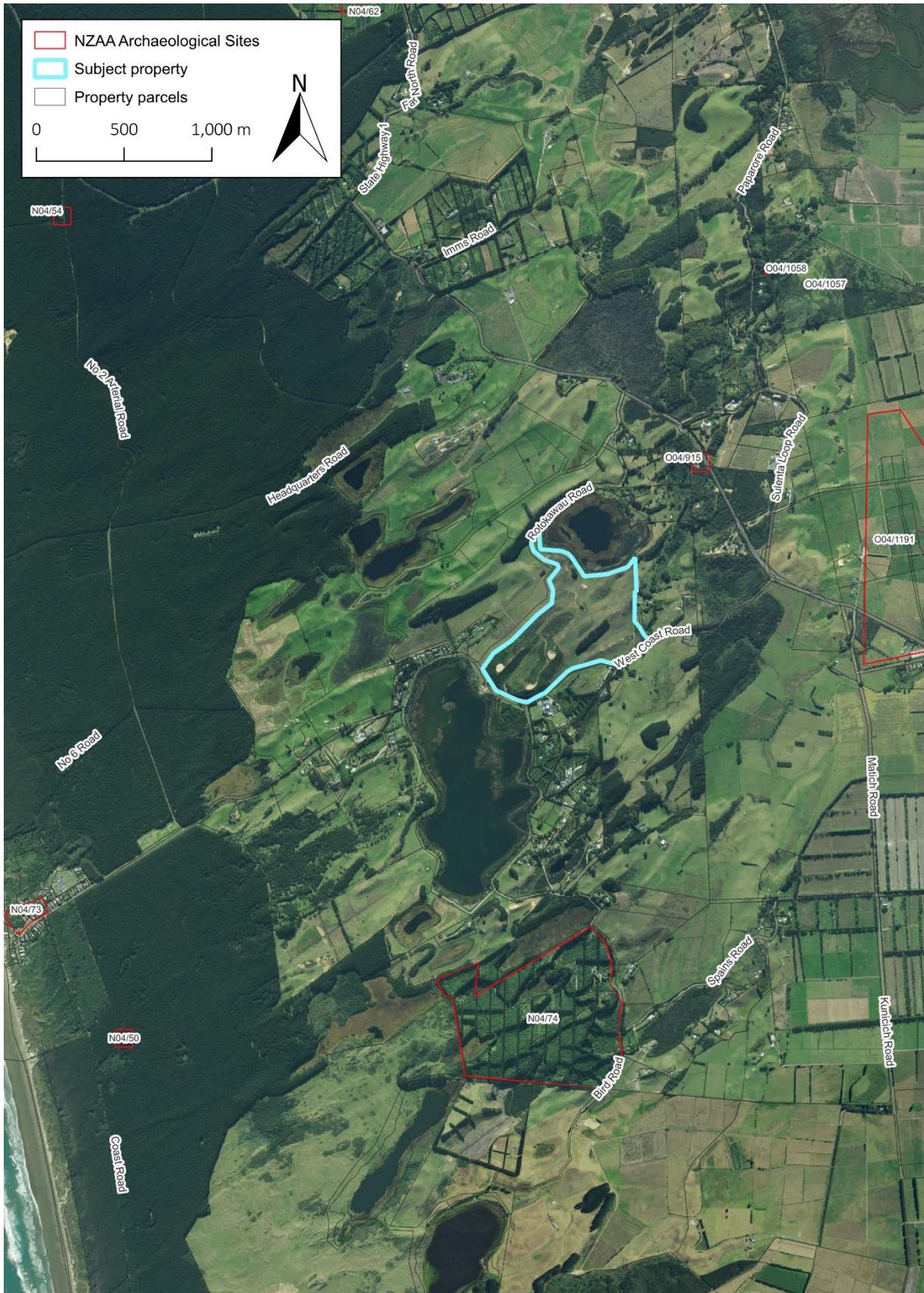


Figure 2: Lot 2 DP 394720 and recorded archaeological site sin the vicinity.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Desktop and Field Assessment

The methods used to assess the presence and state of archaeological remains in the project area included both a desktop review and field survey. The desktop survey involved an investigation of written records relating to the history of the property. These included regional archaeological publications and unpublished reports, New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Record Files (NZAA SRF - ArchSite - www.archsite.org.nz - is the online repository of the NZAA SRF), land plans held at Land Information New Zealand, and maps and plans held by other public institutions and repositories, and modern and historic aerial imagery.

The field assessment involved walking over southern and central part of the property including the vicinity of the topographic high point known as Ngātu and the three house sites. The ridges to the northeast and southwest valley were also inspected. No spade testing or probing was undertaken as there were extensive areas of exposed soil and subsoil around the existing driveways, building platforms, wastewater irrigation fields, and pasture.

4.2 Significance Assessment

Where archaeological sites, features and/or values are present in the vicinity of the proposed track improvements, two sets of criteria are used to assess their significance:

The first set of criteria assess the potential of the site to provide a better understanding of New Zealand's past using scientific archaeological methods. These categories are focussed on the intra-site level.

How complete is the site? Are parts of it already damaged or destroyed?
A complete, undisturbed site has a high value in this section, a partly destroyed or damaged site has moderate value and a site of which all parts are damaged is of low value.

How diverse are the features to be expected during an archaeological excavation on the site? A site with only one or two known or expected feature types is of low value. A site with some variety in the known or expected features is of moderate value and a site like a defended kāinga which can be expected to contain a complete feature set for a given historic/prehistoric period is of high value in this category.

How rare is the site? Rarity can be described in a local, regional and national context. If the site is not rare at all, it has no significance in this category. If the site is rare in a local context only it is of low significance, if the site is rare in a regional context, it has moderate significance and it is of high significance if the site is rare nationwide.

The second set of criteria puts the site into its broader context: inter-site, archaeological landscape and historic/oral traditions.

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 which sits amongst similar surrounding sites without any specific features is of low value. A site which occupies a central position within the surrounding sites is of high value.

What is the context of the site within the landscape? This question is linked to the one above, but focuses onto the position of the site in the landscape. If it is a dominant site with many features still visible it has high value, but if the position in the landscape is ephemeral with little or no

features visible it has a low value. This question is also concerned with the amenity value of a site and its potential for on-site education.

What is the context of the site within known historic events or people? This is the question of known cultural association either by tangata whenua or other descendant groups. The closer the site is linked with important historic events or people the higher the significance of the site. This question is also concerned with possible commemorative values of the site.

An overall significance value derives from weighing up the different significance values of each of the six categories. In most cases the significance values across the different categories are similar.

5.0 Archaeology and History

5.1 Archaeological Context

The archaeology of the Te Aupouri peninsula, few a few exceptions, has largely been driven by forestry operations, since the 1970s. Extensive research investigations or intensive surveys for site management have occurred at Houhora, Te Rerenga Wairua and Kaimaumu, and more recently at Mapua-Pukenui. However most site recording has been in the various compartments of the Aupouri State Forests. Most of the recorded sites across the peninsula are shell midden resulting from the processing and/or consumption of shellfish collected from the coasts and harbours. There are also large numbers of gum-digging features.

Coster (1986, 1976) suggested the midden fell into two broad categories, beach midden lying within 350m of the high-water mark, and inland midden, lying between 1.5-5km from the sea. There were relatively few sites found in the coastal flats between these two zones. Differences noted in the contents of the sites included the presence of artefacts on inland sites and a relative absence on the coast, as well as differences in substrate-coastal sites were formed on shifting, un-weathered sands while inland sites were underlain by consolidated “sandstone” (actually outcrops of weathered and podsolised soils formed on older sands, known as Pinak soils. Harbour shellfish from the east coast were often noted in inland midden, but not in the coastal midden.

The lack of investigations in the vicinity of the subject property is underlined by the paucity of radiocarbon dates, with the nearest dates from archaeological investigations being from Sandhills Road at Ahipara and at Mapua near Pukenui, 12-20 kilometres distant.

5.2 Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of the Subject Property

There are no recorded archaeological sites on the subject property, which lies in the zone where sites are few and far between. The nearest recorded archaeological sites are a midden located 600m northeast of Rotokawau and another midden and World War II camp two kilometres west and southwest of Lake Ngātu near the coast. The World War II Waipapakauri airbase is one kilometre to the east, and the site of an associated military base is 1.5 kilometre to the south, south of Lake Ngātu, and the 90 Mile Camp at Waipapakauri Beach.

O04/915 is the midden beyond Rotokawau, on the edge of State Highway 1. It was recorded V. Hensley in the course of an archaeological assessment of the realignment of that section of the highway. The assessment covered an area of approximately 950 x 750m. The midden was the only site recorded as a result of the assessment, and had already been modified by vegetation

clearance. It was twenty metres long and ten metres wide, consists of green bottle glass, Toheroa (*Amphidesma ventricosum*) and Mud snail (*Amphibola crenata* shells). There is also evidence of charcoal and the site gave the impression of being historic, possibly related to the adjacent peat swamp and the activities of the gumdiggers at the turn of last century.

N04/50 is a site in the forestry near the coast west of the subject property. Other sites are recorded to the north and south along this stretch of Te-Oneroa-a-Tōhe. N04/50 was located in compartment 1000 of the Aupouri State Forest. It was recorded by B. Mosely in 2000 and comprised a 3 x 1m surface scatter of tuatua. The feature was deflated and modified by water erosion and no further/intact midden was identified by probing.

N04/73 90 Mile Camp and the other World War II sites are not discussed further, and no other sites have been recorded in the vicinity of the subject property or Lake Ngātu.

5.3 Other Heritage Listings

There are no scheduled places or areas in the Far North District Plan on the subject property. There are no Listed historic places or areas or wāhi tapu on the Heritage New Zealand List on the subject property.

The nearest such places are the Te Oneroa a Tohe Management Area two kilometres to the west and the Waipapakauri airbase command bunker and Waipaperkauri Hotel 1.5-2kms to the east at State Highway 1.

5.4 Historic Background

Lake Ngātu, formerly known as Wai Parara, lies within what was the Southee-Maxwell Old Land Claim block known originally as Awanui, then Otaki. The following account is a compilation of accounts of the sale and subsequent transactions, disagreements and final Crown Grants from a number of sources including Rigby and Koning (1989), Rigby and Swears (2025), Rother (2023) and the Muriwhenua Report of the Waitangi Tribunal. The Appendix to the Journal of the House of Representatives also contains the Gum Industry Commission reports of 1893, 1898 and 1914 which established the kauri gum reserves around and including the subject property.

Henry Southee married Eliza Ati, the daughter of Awanui rangatira of Te Rarawa Ruanui Kauri, in 1838, having established a trading post at Awanui in the mid-1830s. By using transfers of land rights to seal alliances with Pakeha, they sought to establish small European communities within their respective tribal territories as a means of acquiring prestige and gaining access to European trade, technology, and agricultural skills (44).

Te Rarawa chiefs granted Eliza the Otaki block for Southee to farm. The deed of gift implied that Eliza was to own, but Southee to control, the land. 37 On her death, the land was to be inherited by any male children of the marriage. The land passed to her husband only if there were no live male children. As with the Oruru, Kaitaia and Muriwhenua deeds, the Otaki deed explicitly protected existing Māori rights of occupation and cultivation. It stated "this place is to remain as a settlement for us the natives those persons who live on the place and we are to work on those spots where we wish if it does not interfere with the plantations of the European"

By late 1839 when it was clear that the British annexation of New Zealand was only a matter of time, Southee renegotiated his wife's original deed of gift to change it to a deed of sale. Panakareao, Puhipi Te Ripi, and other Te Rarawa chiefs, though not Ruanui who gifted the land 18 months earlier, conveyed 10,000 acres to Southee for cash 50 pounds and goods to the value of 438.18.0 pounds. Evidently, Southee wanted to formalise his ownership of the land so as to be

sure of obtaining legal title after annexation. Nevertheless, the agreed joint occupancy of the good agricultural land along both banks of the Awanui River was to remain.

The farm Southee established on his 10,000 acres along the Awanui River was, in many ways, a bicultural enterprise. About three hundred Māori lived beside Southee's farm and helped him cultivate some 275 acres of cropping land. They also learned from him how to raise cattle and other livestock, as well as helping him run his trading establishment.

When the land went through the Bell Land Claims Commission, Southee was awarded his 10,000 acre farm and £3200 in scrip, the 200 acre Wainoni Reserve on the Awanui was granted to Māori, and the balance of 8,000 acres was taken as Crown surplus land. The tiny Māori reserves at Pukepoto, Waimanoni, and Okokori were all that remained from the joint occupancy agreements of the 1830s and the settlers only received 7% of their putative purchases, with the Crown taking the rest.

However, perhaps to pay significant debts, Southee had already sold part of his holdings to William Maxwell in 1843, and mortgaged part to William Powditch. Southee died in 1854 before any survey of his award was made, and the sale to Maxwell actually occurred in 1839, with the final award not made until twenty years later.

Maxwell's 4,198-acre Awanui-Otaki Crown grant showed the 200-acre Waimanoni Native reserve shaded pink on his grant plan. This was poor consolation for the loss of a substantial sandhills reserve that local hapū fought for over several years. Following the Bell Commission investigations, the combined 13,827-acre western Okiore and Otaki sandhills surplus connected the 100,440-acre 1858 Muriwhenua South-Wharemaru Crown purchases in the north with the 9,470-acre 1859 Ahipara Crown purchase in the south.

The subject property lies within an area of somewhat indifferent economic potential, and was ultimately gazetted into the Rotoroa Kauri Gum Reserve Extension. The area was described as "Skirting the west coast is a sandy waste varying in width from one to three miles, and further inland are low sandy ridges with a scant covering of vegetation, and between the hills are the large swamp areas which contain the gum-deposits included in the kauri-gum reserves of Hohoura, Opoe, and Rotoroa, comprising an area of over 80,000 acres. It is on these particular fields that the majority of the workers now engaged in the gum-digging industry live and carry on their operations."

These gumlands were generally regarded as poorer quality than the area around Parengarenga. The original Rotoroa KGR was only 700 acres, but the extension was over an area of more than 15,000 acres and was gazetted in 1899.

The Kauri Gum Industry Act of 1898 allowed for the kauri gum reserves on suitable Crown land. These gum reserve areas covered around 100,000 hectares and were exclusively for the use of British subjects (including Māori). A licensing system was also introduced and the regulations were partly aimed at restricting "Austrian" diggers, largely Croatians from the Dalmatian coast which at the time was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a result, Dalmatians shifted their focus, and many made arrangements with private landowners, paying a rental for the right to dig gum.

A government Royal Commission of Inquiry in 1893 and 1898 was the precursor to the Act, the Kauri Gum Industry Report (Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1898 Session I, H-12). The Inquiry visited 30 places, held 40 meetings and heard from 193 witnesses across the gumfields and in local centres. The Inquiry noted that by in large and similar to the state of the goldfields, the easiest gum had long been worked out in most places, leading to

intense competition for smaller and smaller pieces that required more and more work to find. The price of gum was subsequently as high as it had ever been, and despite the ever-decreasing availability the annual output had more or less been the same for 20 years. Until the Act came into force, a licence fee of 5s a pound had been payable to the Crown for digging on Crown land, to be collected by the local Councils. But almost no Council was doing so, due to the costs of administration (AJHR 1898 Session I, H-12: 1-2).

In order to manage the concerns of the British settlers, which were echoes across the gumland of the upper North Island, and in order to maximise the value of the gum in the ground on Crown land, the Act was passed later in the year. Plans of Kauri Gum Reserves from the Kauri Gum Industry inquiry of 1914 and the Department of Lands and Survey 1928 show the subject property as part of the Rotoroa Extension KGR, with the original Rotoroa KGR's northern boundary at the south end of Lake Ngātu.

In 1914, another Crown Commission of Inquiry was initiated in order to inspect and classify the reserves and identify which still had sufficient gum remaining to be retained as reserves, and which should have their designation uplifted and be used for settlement purposes. By that time, more than a quarter of a million acres of Crown land had been set aside as gum reserve. This was reported in the subsequent Kauri-Gum Reserves in The Auckland Land District report (Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1914 Session I, C-12). Along with classifying the reserves, the inquiry noted the damage to the land that gum digging had caused, particularly on the poorly regulated Crown lands which were left full of holes and other diggings, burned over continuously, and thus subject to erosion of soil and costly remediation in order to break the land in for farming.

In 1914 the Kauri Gum Reserve Commission opted to retain the Rotoroa extension as gum reserve. Reserve status was lifted after World War II.

In the early 20th century, trout were released into the lake, which became a major recreational amenity in the interwar period. It is not clear when trout were removed from the lake. Five thousand yearling trout were released into the lake by the Mangonui and Whangaroa Acclimatisation Society in 1910, with Mr F. Russell of Waipapakauri was appointed as ranger and the article notes that Lake Ngātu was officially known as Waiparara (Northern Advocate, 3 December 1910). By 1914 the trout population was large enough to allow for fishing to be opened on the lake, least it be overstocked. There were high hopes that Waipapakauri would become a centre of sport fishing, with easy access to the west coast, east coast, and lake fisheries (Northern Advocate, 20 April 1914).

Unfortunately the northern dune lakes and slow-flowing rivers were not supportive environments for trout to become established. By 1933, Lake Ngātu reportedly had no fish, except for a trial population of *Gambusia* imported to control mosquito larvae. The lake was the first colony stocked from by the Ministry of Fisheries-managed pond in the Auckland Domain, which received the first of the fish in 1930. The lake was reportedly chosen by the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, A. E. Hefford (Evening Post, 15 July 1933). By the late 1950s, the lake contained only *Gambusia* and locals were attempting to prevent the reintroduction of trout in order to maintain the other population.

In 1921, a six acre camp ground was surveyed out at the north end of the lake (Northland Age, 15 December 1921) and the area became a popular picnic and recreation area from that time. In this report, the lake is referred to as Waiharara.. After World War II, the lake became a centre for local powerboat racing, with an active association in the 1950s. It was known in this period as Lake Russell, after the old ranger, and then Lake Heather into the 1980s.

A toheroa cannery was established on the flats northwest of the subject property, between the two lakes, in the early 20th century. Thomas Henry Walker agent for Heather, Robertson & Company of Manukau, Auckland initially established a mullet canning operation at Uanahi on the Rangaunu harbour in 1905. Walker was responsible for the construction of the building and the installation for the mullet canning factory which operated until 1915, when the First World War saw the price of tin become prohibitive, and the company was forced to sell. McLean and Company of Auckland bought the venture and named it Northland Canneries Ltd and moved the operation to Lake Ngātu after World War 1.

Camps were erected all along Oneroa-a-Tōhe where they would be harvested then moved to the cannery for processing. \ Nearly all the work staff were Māori families, both men and women did the digging and extended family worked in the factory. Each receiving ten shillings for a four-gallon tin of opened toheroa. Soon after World War Two the toheroa began to move further north as a result of diminishing food supplies but gradually disappeared from the beach altogether and operations ceased for almost two decades.

In 1946 the Northern Canneries Ltd factory came close to being burned over in a peat and scrub fire (Northern Advocate, 9 February 1946). The Toheroa fishery was closed for 18 years from the time of World War II but was opened again in the early 1960s. A labour disputes in 1962 required the un-canned shellfish to be picked up by amphibious aeroplane and flown to another cannery in the Coromandel, with 400lb of opened shellfish transported on the second day. Local Māori openers declared the cannery black as soon as new licensee C. G. Macindoe Proprietary Ltd began operations (The Press, 11 July 1962). Later in the year, at the end of the season, 450,000 tongues from a quota of 500,000 had been taken from Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe and opened at the cannery, before being flown to Coromandel for canning. At that time, canning was due to start locally after the labour dispute was resolved (The Press, 10 September 1962).

5.5 Traditional History

A cultural impact assessment of the proposed subdivision has been prepared by K. Hooper on behalf of Ngāitakato. The CIA indicates the presence of Pukengātu Pā on the property, and provides a map showing a generalised location of the pā centred on the approximate centre of the southeastern valley, midway between all three existing house sites. The CIA goes on to state that at the time of writing, Ngāitakato were in the process of Registering (i.e. Listing) the site on the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga List (formerly the Historic Places Trust Register, pre-2014) (Hooper 2025: 5-6).

The CIA states:

“PukeNgātu Pa holds cultural significance to the iwi of Ngaitakoto because it was once a Māori settlement which provided access to food sources (Lake Rotokawau, Lake Ngakapua and Te Oneroa a Tōhe), access to kuta (Lake Ngātu) to create clothing and mats and most importantly, **PukeNgātu Pa was where deceased bodies (tupapaku) lay after being washed in Lake Ngātu before burial.**

The deceased bodies were of Ngaitakoto tōpuna and also the tōpapaku of relatives such as Te Aupouri after the Battle of Whiti at Te Rangi Aniwaniwa as they made their way north through Ngapae to bury their deceased in Tawhitirahi (Te Kao). Lake Ngātu was not a food source, but was used to bathe the tupapaku and then PukeNgātu Pa was used to rest these tupapaku before burial.

PukeNgātu Pa and Lake Ngātu share a name for a reason. It has directional reference. As i.n "Ngapae ki tae, Ngapae ki uta" (Hon. Shane Jones of Ngaitakoto and Te Aupouri

iwi), which references 'Ngapae' to 'Lake Ngātu', however, Lake Ngātu more specifically shares the name with PukeNgātu Pa because of their relationship when it came to bathing deceased bodies. PukeNgātu Pa was the resting place for the deceased after being bathed in Lake Nga tu and food was never collected from Lake Ngātu because of the tapu associated with this activity within Lake Ngātu.

Lake Rotokawau Settlement was occupied by the Henare whanau of Ngaitakoto (as descendents of Hauri, Hetaraka, Ruta Puai and Rawiri Awarau) long before Crown granted this large parcel of "surplus land" to returned servicemen and deemed the remainder as 'Crown land' to be used for recreational hunting (Gazette 7th Aug 1902).

Hauii Hena(e then became a tenant on his own tupuna whenua. eventually being asked to leave the land that he had known for generations before Crown had confiscated it. Crown asked him to pay a licence to occupy fee which he could not-upkeep. After all, he worked this,land alongside his many kaumatua and kOia for many generations before European Settlers introduced an unfamiliar colonial system.

From this point onward, parcels of land, that were once Māori owned, were fragmented into pdvately owned land then on-sold.

Lake Rotokawau Settlement was alienated by Crown in the 1837 & 1839 (Otaki transactions) deeming Ngaitakoto land as "Surplus" land. Crown granted parts of this land to returned servicemen, missionaries and their families with the rest converted into unoccupied Crown Reserve land.”

This account of the history and use of Lake Ngātu is somewhat different to the agreed statements in the Ngāitakoto Treaty Settlement with regard to Crown lands which reports a broader use of the lake. The Statements of Association in the Deed of Recognition states:

“Ngātu is one of three lakes in the same area, the others being Rotokawau and Waiparera, which are located at the northern end of Te Make. Ngātu provided fresh water and food gathering opportunities and other resources as the iwi travelled throughout its rohe, especially as Ngātu is on the main route for iwi travelling to and from Te-Oneroa-a-Tohe.

The lake derives its name from the hill situated at its northern end which was called Puke Ngātu. After a nearby battle, another iwi retreated towards the beach assisted by their NgaiTakoto relatives, stopping at the lake on the way to wash the bodies of the dead killed during that battle. The wounded also washed there. The name of the maunga has over time been applied to the lake.

Various papakainga were sustained by the lake’s resources. Other NgaiTakoto lakes were a food resource as eel, various fish species and birds were collected there but Ngātu was also renowned for the kuta (like many other NgaiTakoto lakes) which grew in the lake and was used to make cloaks. The association with clothes and the body also made it an appropriate place to wash and bathe.”

In this recounting of the lake’s significance it was a significant food source, both wounded and the dead were washed there, and Ngātu is referred to only as a nearby hill which came to give its name to the lake. There is no mention of a pā or settlement there, or of bodies being taken to that area to dry temporarily after washing, on their way north to Te Kao. Rother (2023) also states “...in 1911, the [Whangaroa Mangonui Acclimatisation] Society had closed the Ōruru and its

tributaries, Victoria and Toatoa Rivers as well as Lake Ngatu to all fishing, except for eel.” This suggests the lake was still used for subsistence into the 20th century.

The CIA also makes reference to the Henare whanau’s occupation at Rotokawau in the early 20th century, along with documentation noting this was on Section 21 Block VIII Opoe Survey District. The CIA notes the past occupation of the lands by the whanau, who then became tenants on their own land “alienated by Crown in the 1837 & 1839 (Otaki Transactions) deeming Ngāi Takato land as “surplus” Crown Land.

As noted in the preceding section, the Awanui (Otaki) Block was sold to Henry Southee by his Te Rarawa rangatira in-laws before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Subsequent land sales by Southee, followed by the various Crown Land Commissions, resulted in Southee’s (by that time William Maxwell’s) claim being reduced in size and the Crown taking the rest as surplus, apart from the Wainoni Native Reserve on the Awanui River. The Henare occupation of Section 21 is discussed briefly in the following section, and was located to the northwest of the subject property and separated from it by Section 26 which contained the Toheroa cannery.

5.6 Historic Maps, Plans and Aerials Review

Historic maps and plans of the area were reviewed, including the original Old Land Claim plan, subsequent survey plans, and Kauri Gum Reserve plans published in the Appendix to the Journal of the House of Representatives.

OLC 6 (1866) is the plan of the Awanui Block (also known as Otaki) granted to William Maxwell following investigation of his pre-Treaty land purchases. It shows the two lakes as Wai Parara (Lake Ngātu) and Roto Kawau, with no detail between the two bodies of water in the vicinity of the subject property. The area is shown as Crown surplus land, on this plan and the subsequent Roll 6 map, with Maxwell’s and other grants to the east and south.

SO 1934 (1879) is a resurvey of part of “Mr Reade’s run”. It shows the lakes at Wai Paraka (Ngātu) and Roto Kawau. The high point, Ngātu, is marked. A track more or less follows the line of what is now West Coast Road, with another track running from the coast inland to the Awanui further to the south. The land is described as soft sandstone hills sparsely covered with stunted Tea-Tree and fern, and wiwi swamps and an old kauri forest is mapped. There is nothing else shown in the vicinity of the subject property.

SO 18574/3 (1915) is the survey of the Crown Kauri Gum Reserves in Section VIII of the Opoe Survey District. Wai Parara (Lake Ngātu) is shown along with Roto Kawau. The high point Ngātu is marked. Small wiwi wetlands are shown immediately northwest and southeast of the subject property but no other detail is shown in that area.

Eight structures, presumably whare or outbuildings, and a gum store along with fenced areas are shown north of Rotokawau. Another five structures and enclosures are shown southeast of Rotokawau. Several more structures, enclosures, and marked drains are shown to the west of the subject property, with many more to the south of Lake Ngātu.

SO 25389 (1929) shows the survey of the subject property, Section 25 Block VIII Opoe Survey District. It shows the high point Ngātu, and notes that the block is covered in manuka scrub. Hauri Henare is shown as leasing Section 21 to the northwest of the subject property. Between Henare’s Section 21 and the subject property Section 25 is a small square with the annotation “Factory” on the grassy flats north of Rotokawau Road, the Toheroa cannery on the intervening Section 26.

Historic aerial imagery from Retrolens was reviewed and there was no indication of archaeological features typical of pre- and proto-European Contact Māori occupation (occupation terraces, platforms, storage pits, ditch and bank defences) on the property.

The earliest imagery from 1944 shows the subject property under light vegetation, with a number of tracks converging on the high point, Ngātu, from various directions. The steeper slopes and wetlands are more heavily vegetated than the ridges which have numerous bare areas. The cannery to the northwest and school to the southeast are visible. By 1950 the heavier vegetation is restricted to the steep slopes at the southwestern end, and eastern side of the property. There is a track paralleling West-Coast Road, which then ascends to the high point. An approximately rectangular area in the southwestern valley has been cleared.

By 1960 it appears the subject property has partially revegetated but the track from West Coast Road to Rotokawau Road via the high point Ngātu looks well-used. By 1977 the timber plantation is well established, with a clear network of tracks along the ridges and through the southwest valley, and down to the roads either side. It is not clear if the trig has been established on Ngātu by the 1960 image but it appears to be present by 1977. By 1981 the trees are well established across the property.

Recent aerial imagery available on Google Earth from 2004 was reviewed and there was no indication of archaeological features from that source either. The trees were harvested in the early 2000s and are gone by 2004, with a network of tracks and skids apparent across the property. In 2011 a small collection of transportable buildings was present on the central ridge at the northeast end of the property, and was gone by

One metre resolution LIDAR for the area commissioned by the Northland Regional Council and sourced from LINZ was downloaded and Digital Elevation Models including hillshade and hillslope were generated in a Geographic Information System. There was no indication of indications of archaeological features.

This review of historic and modern maps, plans, aerials and LIDAR data has not identified any potential archaeological features on the subject property. However it is clear that there was an extensive Māori and European occupation associated with gum-digging in the decades either side of 1900. This occupation was to the north and south of the subject property and focussed on the margins of the lakes and wetlands, and flat ground, rather than the hills where gum was less prevalent.



Figure 4: OLC 6 (1866), with approximate location of subject property outlined.

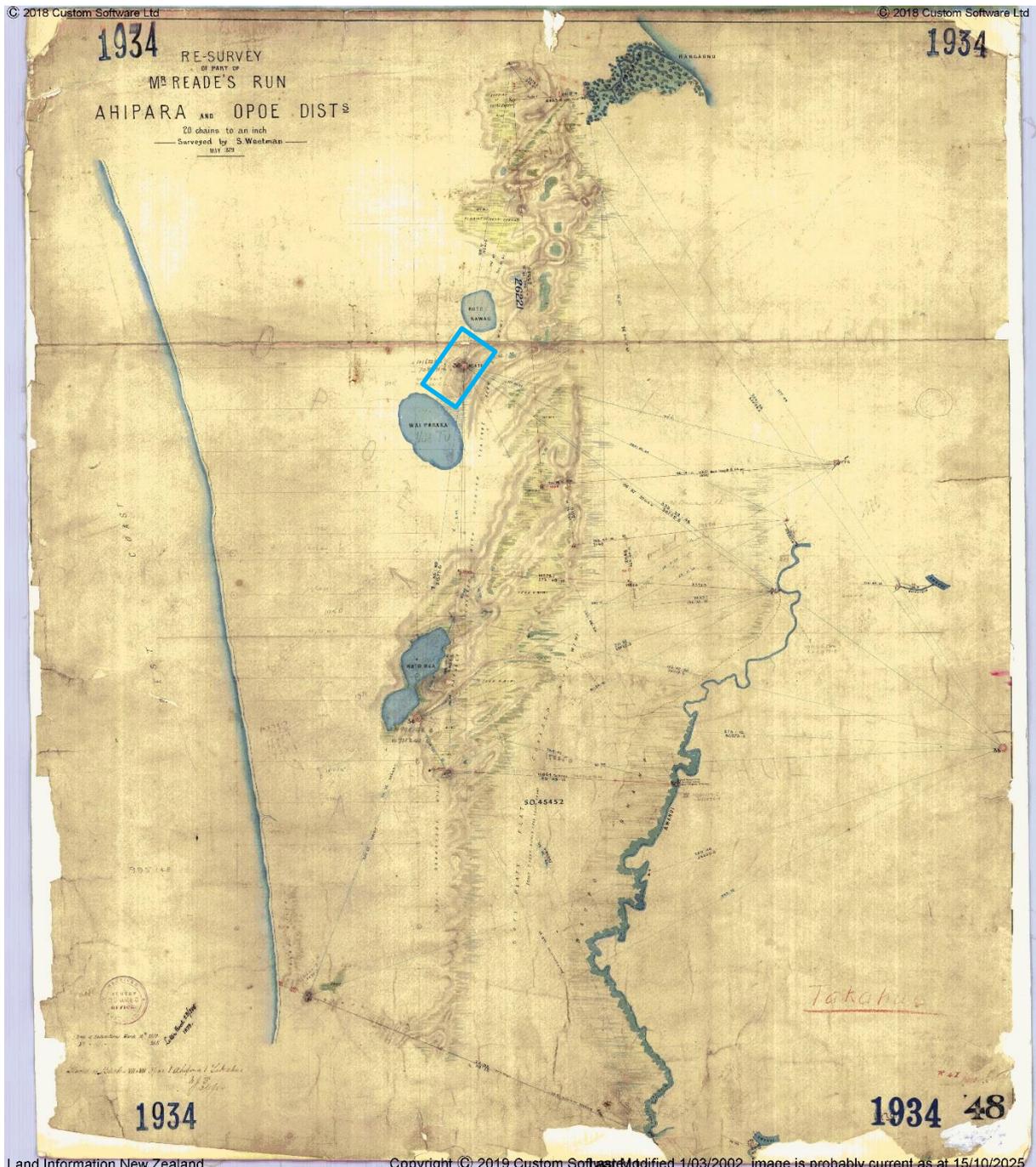


Figure 6: SO 1934 (1879).

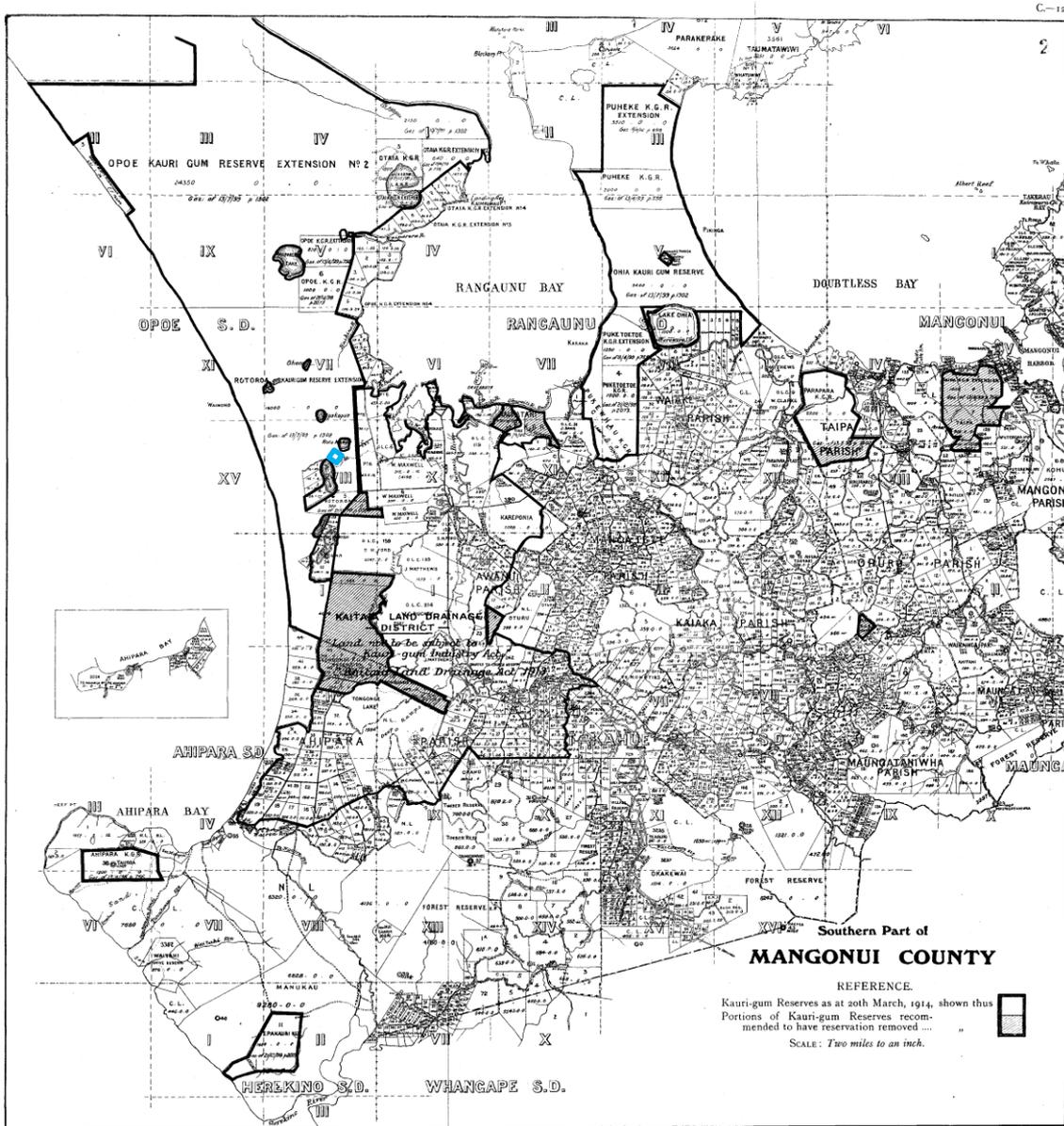


Figure 7: Appendix to the Journal of the House of Representatives.

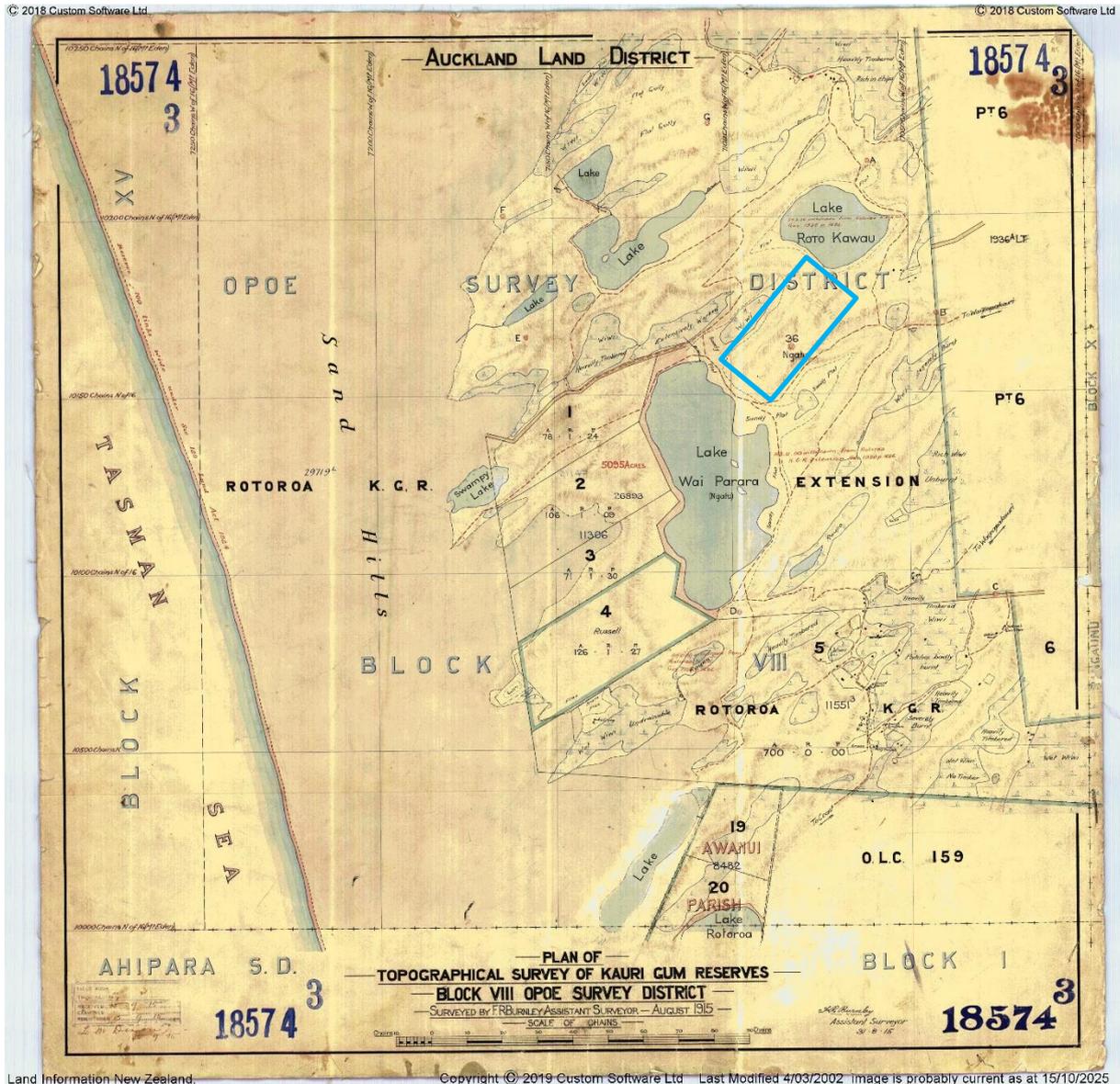


Figure 8: SO 18754/3 (1915).

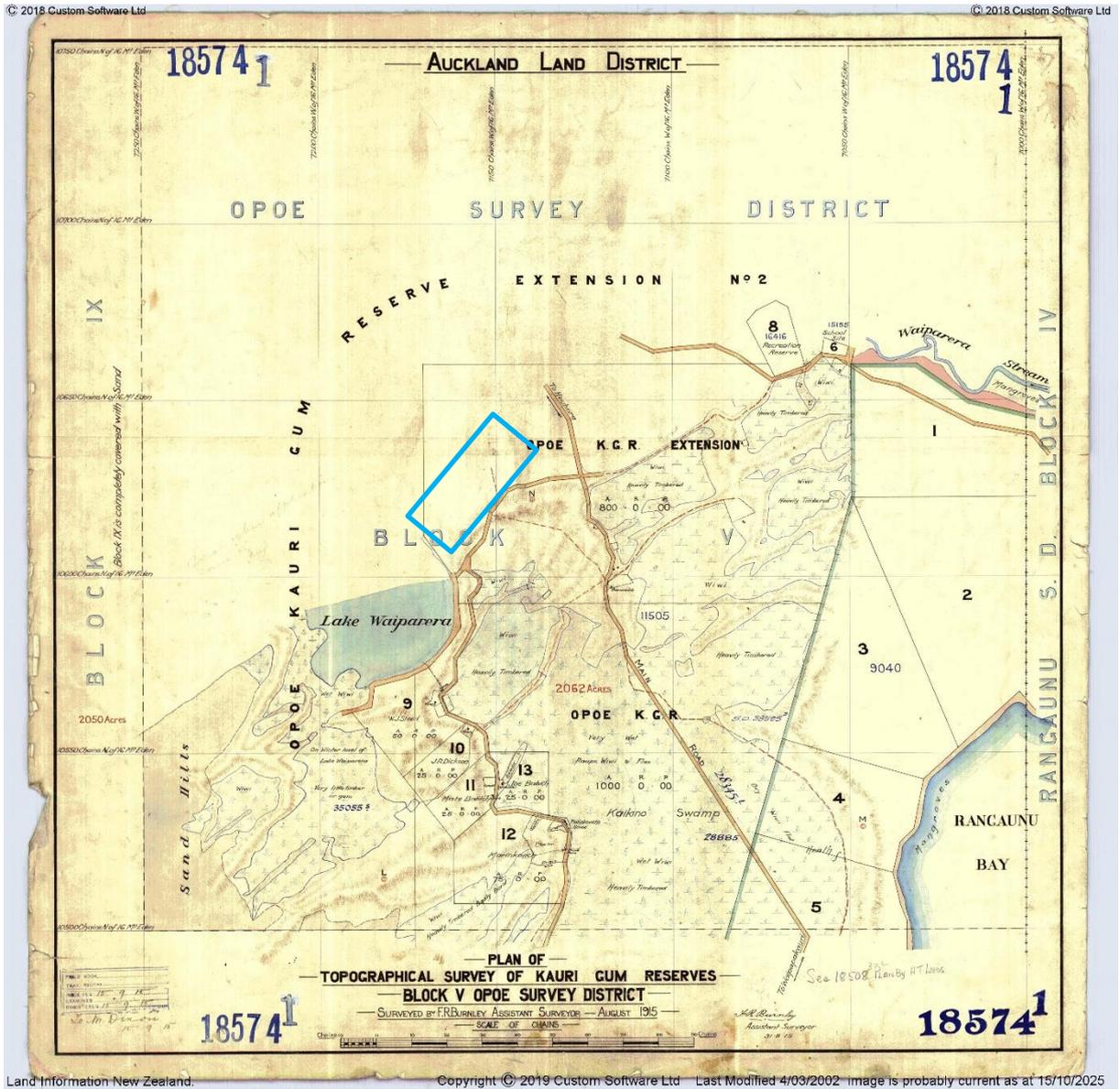


Figure 9: SO 18471/1 (1915).



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Figure 12: Detail from aerial photograph SN (1944).



Figure 13: Detail from aerial photograph SN (1950).



Figure 14: Detail from aerial photograph SN (1965).



Figure 15: Detail from aerial photograph SN (1977).

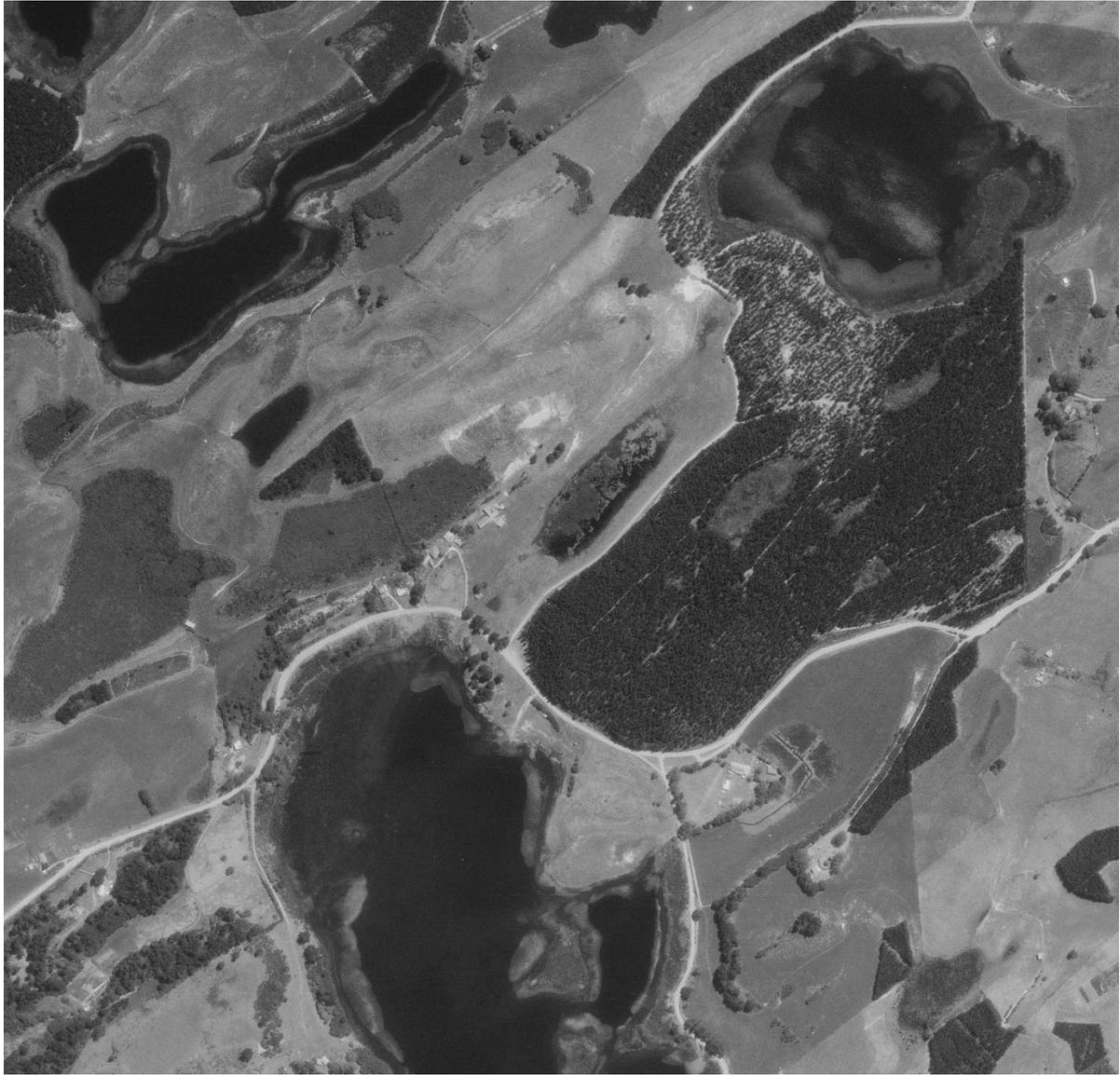


Figure 16: Detail from aerial photograph SN (1981).

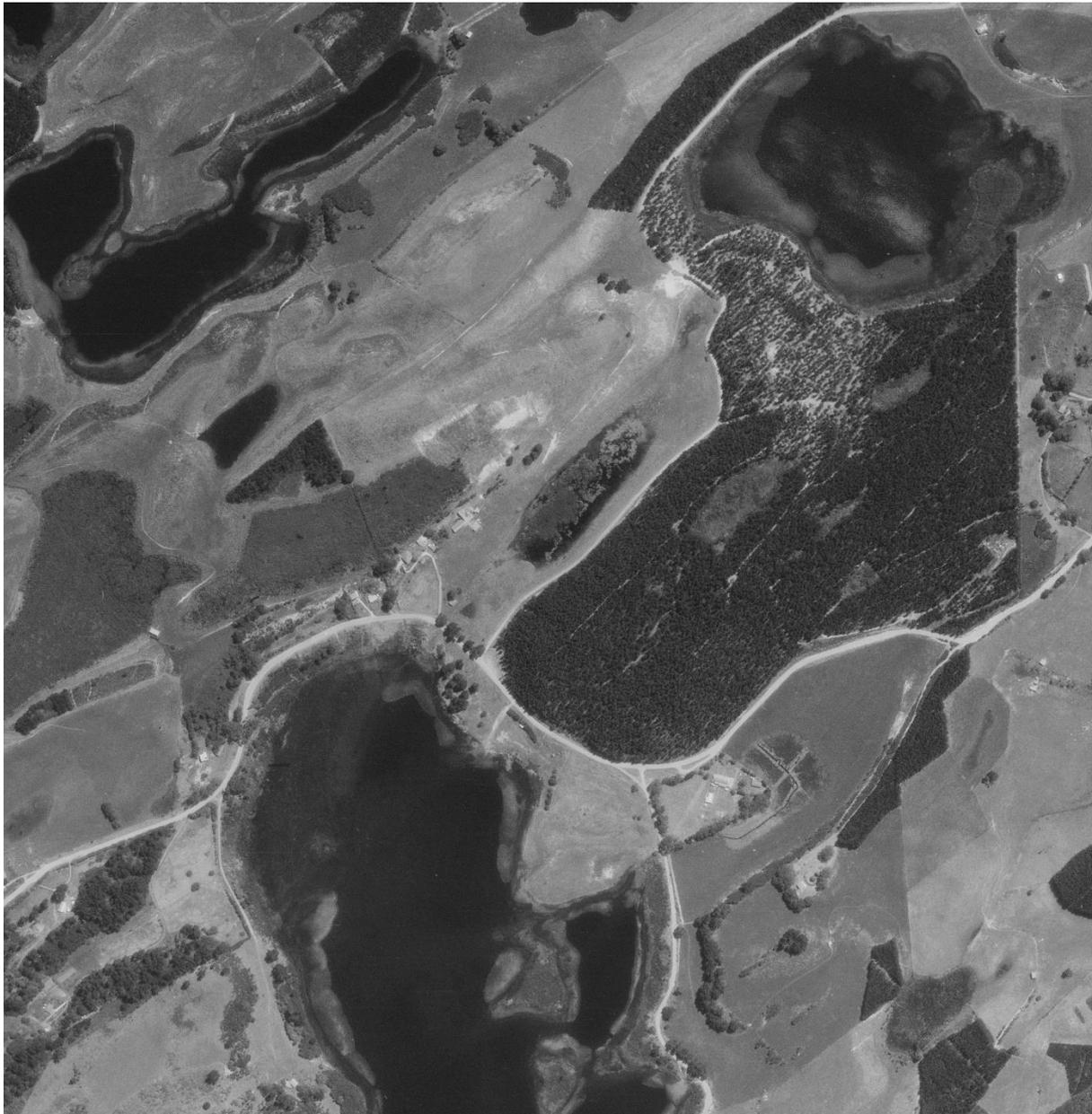


Figure 17: Detail from aerial photograph SN (1985).

6.0 Field Assessment

The subject property was visited over two hours with L. Frieling attending for the first 1.5 hours. The vicinity of each house site was assessed, along with the driveways. The main ridges on the northern and central part of the property were walked over, followed by the southeast valley. Particular attention was paid to batters, eroded or exposed areas in an attempt to identify archaeological features and deposits.

Surface visibility on the level and rolling country was good, with a light cover of grass over the sandy soil/subsoil exposed by logging. The steeper slopes on the sides of the southern ridges were in dense regenerating natives and weeds with some open areas. There was no sign of any archaeological features or sites in the areas inspected. There was no sign of any disturbed shell, oven stones, charcoal, or charcoal-stained soil around any of the house platforms, benches for tanks, driveways or exposed areas free from weedy scrub.



Figure 18: House on proposed Lot 2, looking southwest to Lake Ngātu.



Figure 19: Bench for water tanks.



Figure 20: Wastewater irrigation field below house on descending spur to road and lake.



Figure 21: Looking east from driveway to house on Lot 2.



Figure 22: Looking northeast to house on Lot 3, with steep slope to West Coast Road on the left of frame.



Figure 23: Looking southwest to Lake Ngātu over water tank bench.



Figure 24: Battered slope and plantings behind Lot 3 House, looking east.



Figure 25: Ngātu high point/trig, looking southwest to Lot 3 house and Lake Ngātu.



Figure 26: Looking south across slope below north side of Ngātu/trig.



Figure 27: Looking east across slope below Ngātu/trig.



Figure 28: Looking northeast along ridgeline below Ngātu/trig.



Figure 29: Looking east from ridge northeast of Ngātu/trig.



Figure 30: Looking southwest to house on Lot 1.



Figure 31: Water tank bench on Lot 1.



Figure 32: Looking northeast towards house on Lot 1 from descending spur to West Coast Road.



Figure 33: Looking northeast from eastern side of house on Lot 1, over steep slope to main driveway.

7.0 Assessment of Archaeological Values

No archaeological sites or features were observed, and none appear to have been present and/or affected by prior development activities including pine lot establishment, harvesting, road and track construction, and earthworks for building platforms and associated services.

There is no indication that there was ever a pā in the archaeological sense of a temporary or permanent defended settlement or refuge, characterised by an occupation in a defensible topographic position and or defended by ditch and bank earthworks, artificial scarps, and palisades, in the immediate vicinity of the high point known as Ngātu.

It is possible that smaller, more ephemeral and/or subsurface archaeological features are present somewhere on the property. If present they will have been modified to some extent by the timber harvest twenty years ago, and the possibility of encountering them in the future is more or less the same on the subject property as any other similar area across the old dunes and dune lakes between the coasts.

As such there are no archaeological values to assess on Lot 2 DP 394720.

8.0 Assessment of Archaeological Effects

There do not appear to have been any archaeological effects from the prior development and ground disturbing activity noted above.

There are unlikely to be archaeological effects from the proposed subdivision. The proposed new boundaries between Lots 1, 2 and 3 do not cross any archaeological sites or features. The high point known as Ngātu is encompassed wholly within Lot 3.

9.0 Findings and Recommendations

There are no archaeological effects from the proposed subdivision of Lot 2 DP 39472.

There have been no archaeological effects from prior development activity on the property, and in particular the recent construction of three houses and associated services.

There is no evidence that a pā was located in the vicinity of the Ngātu high point or elsewhere on the subject property, either from field observation, examination of aerial imagery, or LIDAR data collected in 2018, prior to the development of the building platforms.

This assessment makes no finding on the matters of traditional history and land-use raised by the CIA, except that the drying of bodies somewhere on the property is unlikely to have left a physical trace that might be identified, avoided or otherwise addressed through archaeological methods. The Henare whanau occupation in the historic period appears to have been on another section to the northeast of the subject property.

1. An archaeological Authority is not required for the subdivision, or any other ground disturbing activity which might occur there.
2. A standard archaeological accidental discovery protocol should be in place for all future ground disturbing activity on the lots to manage any accidental discoveries in the course

of e.g. landscaping, planting, vegetation management, fencing, and other ground disturbing or day to day activities. If archaeological remains or buried cultural deposits are encountered on the property, such as layers of shell midden, oven stones, artefacts or bones etc., the Frielings or their staff, agents and contractors, and future landowners should cease work in the immediate vicinity, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and Geometria Ltd should be contacted for advice on how to proceed.

10.0 References

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