

Attachment 5: Motukiekie Island – Archaeology Summary

A. Introduction

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on Motukiekie Island in 1976 and 1984 (while the regeneration of vegetation cover on the Island was in its early stages).

There are four (4) recorded Archaeological sites on the Island – including two Pa sites and two terraced areas (as shown in Figures 1 & 2), which indicate that Motukiekie had a small resident pre-european population (alongside settlements on Urupukupuku and Moturoa Islands).

The four recorded sites are as follows:

- **Q05/125** (N12/88) – terraces
- **Q05/126** (N12/89) – Pa
- **Q05/127** (N12/90) – terraces
- **Q05/128** (N12/91) – Pa (flattened knoll with no earthwork defenses)

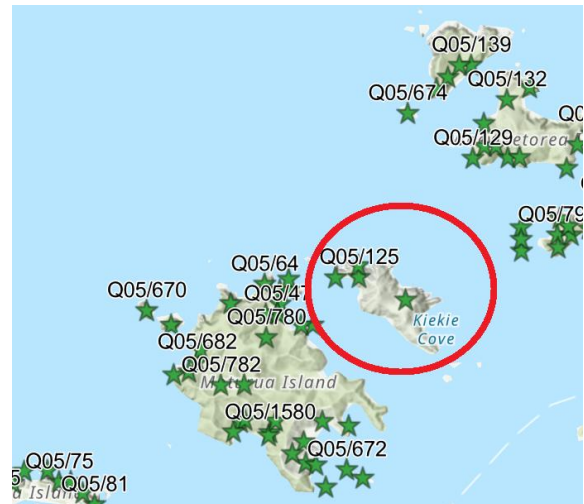


Figure 1: Excerpt from ArchSite – Public Maps



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph (with Archaeological Sites)

B. Archaeological Report – Northern Archaeological Research (2000)

Further details are available in the following Report by Northern Archaeological Research, which was prepared as part of an resource consent application by the former owners (the Phoenix Trust) for a dwelling, walkway and jetty structure.

The reports forms **Appendix 8** to Application by the Phoenix Trust by D.J.Scott Associates Ltd for new dwelling on Motukiekie Island, August 2000 and is held on the Council's property file records.

We note however that the Title Page to the report is missing from LIM Report), which starts on Page 2.

Page 2 of Report (onwards)

Survey method

Background research into the history and archaeology of the affected part of the island included an assessment of late 19th and early 20th century land plans held by Land Information New Zealand (Auckland) and geological survey maps of the area compiled by the Department of Mines in 1909. Also included was a review of regional archaeological publications. The New Zealand Archaeological Association site record files were also checked for previously recorded archaeological sites.

At the time of the archaeological survey, the walkway to the ridge above had been completed and preparatory earthworks had begun at the house site. As a consequence, the archaeological assessment of the proposed area of development of the island involved an examination of all affected surface areas and exposures in the area of the house site, examination of surface areas along the route of the jetty walkway and assessment of surface areas and exposures along the route of the existing walkway to

the ridge above to the north. The likelihood of archaeological sites occurring undetected sub-surface in these areas was also assessed.

Archaeological background

The original archaeological survey undertaken on Motukiekie Is. was that completed by A. Leahy and W. Walsh in 1976. This survey was undertaken as part of a wider reconnaissance archaeological assessment of the Kerikeri and Paihia areas of the Bay of Islands by the authors for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Leahy and Walsh recorded four sites on the island relating to pre or post contact Maori settlement. These consisted of two pa, Q05/126 (N12/89), and Q05/128 (N12/91) and two terrace sites, Q05/125 (N12/88) and Q05/127 (N12/90). Of these perhaps the most significant is the contact period pa, Q05/126, recorded on the steep headland a short distance above and to the north-west during the visit to the Bay of Islands by the French navigator Marion Du Fresne in 1772. The remaining pa, Q05/128, comprised a flattened knoll with no earthwork defences and appears to more closely resemble a ridge top open settlement. This site and the two remaining terrace settlements, Q05/125 and Q05/127, appear most likely to be ancillary settlements relating to the pa on the North-west headland.

The island was re-surveyed for archaeological sites by K. Rountree while working for the Lands and Survey Dept in 1984. Rountree found no further sites and re-recorded the four sites reported by Leahy and Walsh in 1976.

No further archaeological work is understood to have been undertaken on the island in the interim.

The island is small steep and, with few accessible landing places, is unlikely to have featured prominently in the prehistory of the Bay of Islands. However, with both early and reasonably substantial pre-contact populations on adjacent islands of Urupukapuka and Moturua (Johnson 1997) the island was settled and possibly cultivated (see Leahy and Walsh 1976: 8) at the close of prehistory. While it is unlikely that further major structural remains will be identified on the island, the possibility exists that smaller sites such as middens may occur unrecorded in bays on the coastal fringe.

The post contact history of the island is not known in detail though appears to have passed from Maori to private ownership, probably in the mid to late 19th century and appears to have been partially or completely cleared of vegetation. A more recent owner has established a small bach above a bay at the southern end of the island.

A general outline of the present proposal was sent to Northern Archaeological Research in August 2000 by Richardson Stevens Consultants Ltd on behalf of the owners for comment. The location was considered in relation to the known archaeological landscape and an archaeological survey and assessment was recommended (Johnson 2000).

Survey Results

A single archaeological site, Q05/125 was re-recorded in the area of the proposed works. A brief description of the site is provided below and a New Zealand

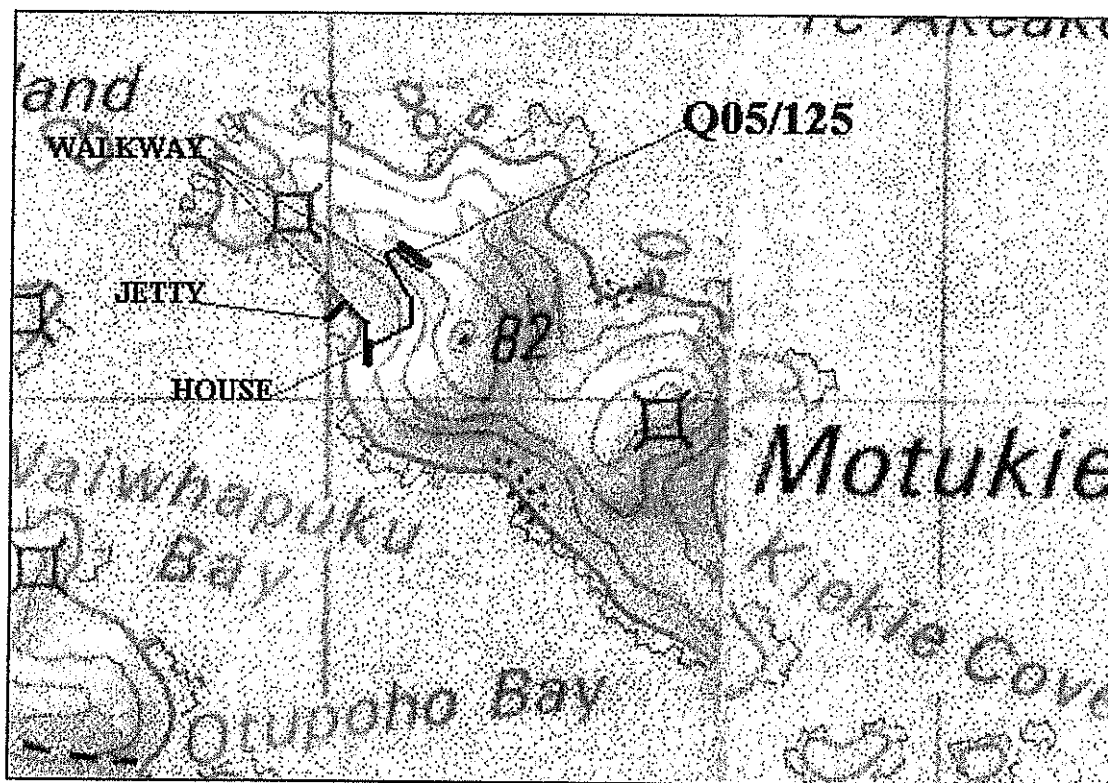


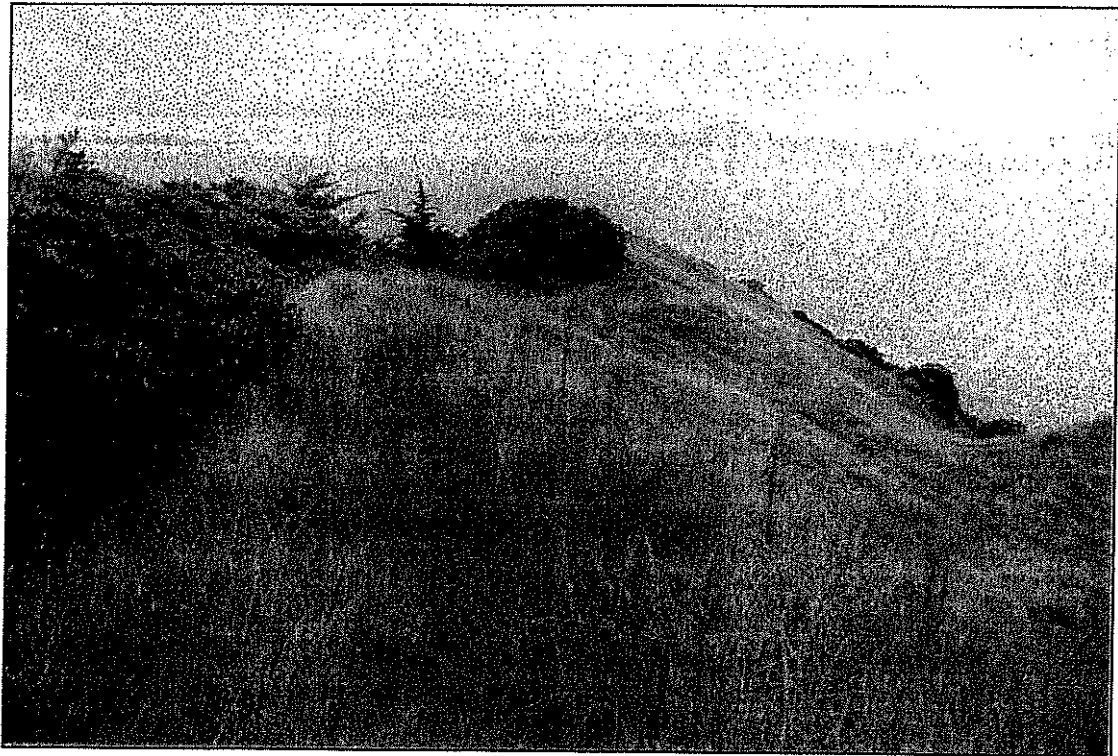
FIGURE 3. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND LOCATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, Q05/125.

Archaeological Association additional information form has been completed for the site and is appendicised in the report.

Q05/125. Terraces. 200.8 642.5

The site is located on the main ridge toward the north west end of Motukiekie Island in the Bay of Islands. The site occurs on the ridge above and to the north of Sunset Bay, is some 150m north-west of the highest summit on the ridge and is 70m south-east of the end of the ridge where it drops away toward the stack with pa Q05/126 (Plate 1). The site is situated on the ridge immediately below the top end of the recently built wooden walkway. The walkway is cut down below the south-west side of the ridge. The site is approximately 55m above sea level.

A series of small and eroding terraces occur on the narrow section of the main ridge immediately below the top end of the walkway. At the top is a narrow, level, though eroded section of the ridge some 12m long that may comprise two or three small terraces, all less than 3m in width. At the end of this section is a more readily identifiable terrace, 6m x 4m. A further slump terrace, 6m x 3m, occurs on the ridge some 8m below though has slumped to the north-west. Below this again, under stunted manuka, though more easily viewed from the walkway, are a further two terraces on the west side of the ridge. The lower terrace, above the sharp corner in the walkway, is 8m x 4m and the upper terrace some 12m above is of similar dimensions. No further archaeological remains were identified on this section of the ridge though subsurface features are probable on the broader lower section.



PLARE 1. LOOKING DOWN THE MAIN RIDGE (NW) ON MOTUKIEKIE ISLAND TOWARD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE Q05/125.

Archaeological significance

The archaeological terrace remains identified during the assessment were those reported initially by Leahy and Walsh (1976) and subsequently visited by Rountree in 1984. At this time the site was under grass and is now under a mix of grass and low manuka. The sites while subject to some erosion at the upper end still remain in reasonable condition. The site appears to represent a small short to medium term settlement of a small group (one or two families) who established small huts or buildings for various purposes on the levelled terraces. The settlement itself is likely to have coexisted with the open settlement on the knoll above, Q05/127, and the pa, Q05/126, to the north-west and all sites are likely to have been occupied by the same community at the close of prehistory. This type of site itself is well represented in archaeological landscapes in northern New Zealand.

Assessment of effects

No archaeological remains were identified in the area of the proposed house site or raised wooden walkway to the pontoon jetty. Despite the comparatively close proximity to pa Q05/126, the steep nature of the slopes involved and the complete absence of any beach flat outline that it is unlikely that any of the affected area was used during prehistory. As a consequence the construction of these facilities can proceed without further regard to archaeological remains in this area. In the unlikely event that subsurface archaeological remains are uncovered during earthworks in this area all work affecting such remains should cease and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and Northern Archaeological Research be notified so that appropriate action can be taken.

No remains were identified along the route of the recently established walkway up to the ridge above. However, the two lower terraces of site Q05/125 were only narrowly avoided by a matter of two metres during construction of the walkway and the site could easily have been damaged without the authority of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust as required under the archaeological provisions of the Historic Places Act 1993. Further archaeological remains occur along the ridge to the south-east beyond the end of the present section of the walkway that do not appear to have been fully recorded. It is understood from discussion with the owner, P. Clark of The Phoenix Trust, that there is the intention to continue the raised wooden walkway further to the south-east toward the southern end of the island. We would advise that the route of the proposed further section of this walkway be assessed against the surviving archaeological remains on the ridge and where possible be re-routed to avoid archaeological remains.

Conclusion

Northern Archaeological Research were commissioned by The Phoenix Trust to undertake an archaeological survey of an area of Motukiekie Island in the Bay of Islands proposed for residential development. A single archaeological site was recorded during the survey. A New Zealand Archaeological Association Additional Information Form has been completed for the site and its location is shown in the report. Recommendations are made should archaeological remains be uncovered during development and in respect of the proposed new section of the ridge top walkway.

References

- Johnson, L. 1997 Archaeological Investigations of Sites N12/8 (Q05/46) and N12/35 (Q05/73), Opunga Bay, Moturua Island, Bay of Islands. Unpublished Client Report. Northern Archaeological Research, Auckland
- _____. 2000 Letter to Grant Stevens re: Motukiekie Island, 4th August.
- Leahy, A. and W. Walsh 1976 Archaeological Survey Report Bay of Islands and Kerikeri/Paihia Area Unpublished Report. NZHPT, Wellington
- Rountree, K. 1984 Motukiekie Archaeological Survey Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland
- Sutherland, C.F.; Cox J.E.; Taylor, N.H.; Wright, A.C.S. 1980 Soil Map of the Bay of Islands area (Sheets Q04/05) North Island, New Zealand. Scale 1: 100 000. *N.Z. Soil Bureau Map 184*.

Recommendations

1. In the unlikely event that subsurface archaeological remains are uncovered during earthworks in this area, all work affecting such remains should cease and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and Northern Archaeological Research be notified so that appropriate action can be taken.
2. That the route of the proposed further section of this walkway be assessed against the surviving archaeological remains on the ridge.

APPENDIX

New Zealand Archaeological Association Additional Information Form.

NZAA SITE RECORD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FORM MAP NO: Q05 MAP NAME: BAY OF ISLANDS MAP EDITION: 1st 1983 GRID REFERENCE: 200.8 642.5.	SITE NO: Q05/125 (N12/88)
	SITE NAME: -
	SITE TYPE: Terraces.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <p>Site revisited on the 21st of February 2001.</p> <p>The site is located on the main ridge toward the north west end of Motukiekie Island in the Bay of Islands. The site occurs on the ridge above and to the north of Sunset Bay, is some 150m north-west of the highest summit on the ridge and is 70m south-east of the end of the ridge where it drops away toward the stack with pa Q05/126. The site is situated on the ridge immediately below the top end of the recently built wooden walkway. The walkway is cut down below the south-west side of the ridge. The site is approximately 55m above sea level.</p> <p>A series of small and eroding terraces occur on the narrow section of the main ridge immediately below the top end of the walkway. At the top is a narrow, level, though eroded section of the ridge some 12m long that may comprise two or three small terraces, all less than 3m in width. At the end of this section is a more readily identifiable terrace, 6m x 4m. A further slump terrace, 6m x 3m, occurs on the ridge some 8m below though has slumped to the north-west. Below this again, under stunted manuka, though more easily viewed from the walkway are a further two terraces on the west side of the ridge. The lower terrace, above the sharp corner in the walkway, is 8m x 4m and the upper terrace some 12m above is of similar dimensions. No further archaeological remains were identified on this section of the ridge though subsurface features are probable on the broader lower section.</p> <p>Reported by: Leigh Johnson Northern Archaeological Research 67 Church St, Devonport Auckland</p> <p>Owner: The Phoenix Trust PO Box 31-520 Milford Auckland</p>	

Attachment 1:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

BAY OF ISLANDS AND KERIKERI/PAIHIA AREA

1976

ANNE L. LEAHY and WENDY DeC. WALSH

Excerpt – Section relating to Motukiekie Island

MOTUKIEKIE ISLAND

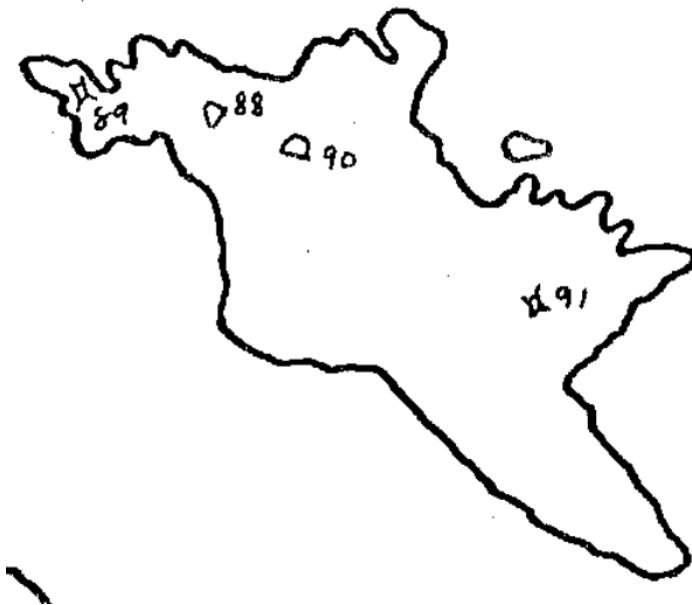
This is a narrow island, partly in grass and scrub and partly in pine forest. It consists of a central high ridge with steep short subsidiary ridges radiating from it. There appear to be no permanent streams although it is possible that a few small springs may exist. There is no area readily suitable for cultivation.

Site N 12/89 is a narrow headland pa (Fig.3) on a very eroded point, defended by a deep ditch and scarp. The point is separated from Moturua Island and the three pa sites, N 12/26, 27 and 29, by a narrow channel. Together these pa form an interesting cluster controlling access through the sea passage. It is possible that this headland pa (N 12/89) is the pa shown in an original French chart of 1772 (Kelly 1951, illustration between pp. 56 and 57). This map shows an occupied site in the approximate area and no other site found on the island corresponds to it.

Site N 12/91 has been classed as a ridge pa because of its clearly defined scarped tihi and its commanding position on the highest part of the island. However, there is no evidence for defensive earthworks at the most vulnerable area, the sloping south ridge below. A heap of loose stones indicates that gardening was probably carried out on the lower terraces at some stage and the site may have been a defended living area.

The other two sites are terrace sites. N 12/90 consists of an ill-defined series of partly natural, partly artificial terraces descending down from a small artificially flattened knoll; N 12/88 extends on down the northern razor-back ridge to the cliffs as a series of small eroded terraces.

MOTUKIEKIE IS.



MOTUKIEKIE ISLAND

- N12/89 703583 Headland pa, cut off from main part of island by a steep cliff. May represent a pa shown on the 1772 Marion De Fresne map (Kelly 1951, p.56). Area fairly exposed and shows considerable erosion on the seaward sides. Condition fair.
- N12/91 710580 Ridge pa or defended knoll site on highest part of island with a scarped tihi and several terraces. Heaped stones suggest some gardening activities may have been carried out nearby. Condition good.
- N12/90 705584-5 Terraced knoll (?) ill defined scarped tihi with several terraces below it. Kikuyu grass cover and tree planting prevented adequate recording. Condition good.
- N12/88 704584-5 Terraces along the steep N.W. portion of the central ridge. Condition fair. Windswept and rather eroded.