



PREFACE

This is a draft reserve management plan for Rangitoto Reserve to guide management and use of the reserve. The draft plan is being advertised for written suggestions and objections in accordance with Section 41(6) of the Reserves Act. These comments will inform changes to the reserve management plan, and submitters will have the opportunity to speak to their submission at a hearing prior to approval of a final plan by Te Hiku Community Board.

Rangitoto Reserve is classified as a Historic Reserve under the Reserves Act.

Underlined text will be amended or removed in the final reserve management plan.

HE KUPU TAKAMUA / FOREWORD

Ngāti Ruaiti and Te Matarahurahu as kaitiaki to provide foreword for final plan.

1.0 HEI WHAKATAKI KŌRERO / INTRODUCTION

This draft reserve management plan provides direction for management and use of Rangitoto Reserve. The draft reserve management plan describes the general intentions for the use, management and development of Rangitoto Reserve by a series of objectives and policies and includes a plan that identifies areas of the reserve and how these areas will be managed. These tools will ensure decisions are consistent with the vision agreed by Council, hapū and the community.

Relevant council strategies, policies and bylaws will also inform reserve management, and this plan is consistent with guidance from these documents.

Archaeological features of Rangitoto Pa extend across Rangitoto Reserve, and the entire reserve is an archaeological site. The reserve is classified under the Reserves Act 1977 as a 'historic reserve', which supports the protection and preservation of the cultural values, history and archaeology of Rangitoto Pā.

2.0 TE HOROPAKI / CONTEXT

Rangitoto reserve and Pā

Rangitoto Reserve and pā are within the rohe of Ngāti Ruaiti and Te Matarahurahu Hapū.

Rangitoto Reserve covers a headland that overlooks and forms the north-east corner of the entrance to the Mangōnui Harbour. Rangitoto Pā was established before 1769 and later abandoned. The pā is centred on the hilltop from where the land slopes down to the sea and harbour in three directions with steep rocky cliffs in places.

The traditional histories of hapū specifically recount a series of battles that occurred on Rangitoto Pā and the surrounding area, which culminated in a major war in the late 18th or early 19th century, making this site an important wāhi tapu.

Rangitoto Pā is delineated from the mainland by a large ditch (maioro) and bank that runs across the ridge to the southeast (refer Appendix 6.2 below). The upper platform is surrounded by broad terraces which extend down the slope to the south, and also by terraces extending seaward down several spurs to the north-northwest. A second smaller ditch protects the northernmost promontory.

The presence of a large area of midden on the pā and on the seaward edge of the headland indicate that people were living on the site and it was not only a defensive position. Investigations show that all the land here that is not very steep was once part of the pā. Features include terraces of varying sizes, pits, midden, and the ditch and bank features present on the northeast seaward side and the eastern landward side of the pā and additional features to the east of the eastern ditch and bank.

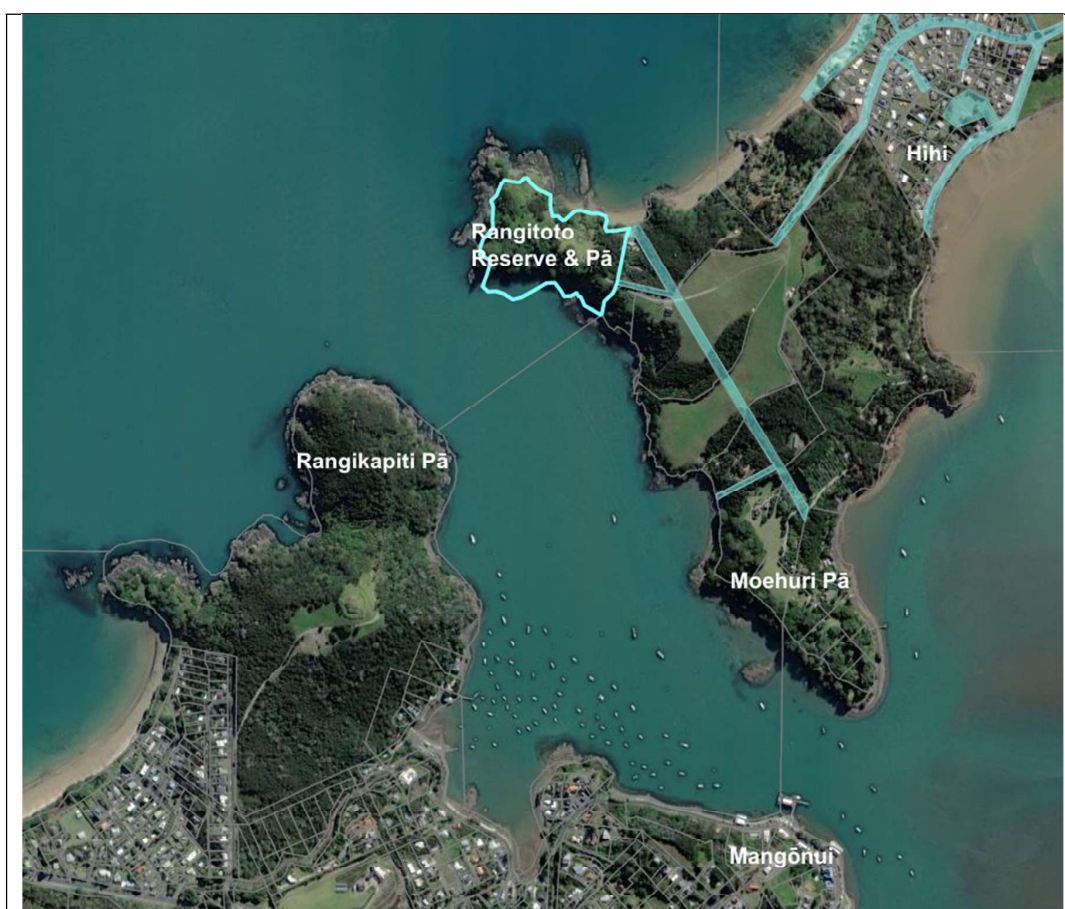
The heritage value of Rangitoto Pā was assessed as being of high significance at a regional as well as a local level.

It is said that the Norfolk pine on the western side of the Pā marks the grave of an early European settler. Norfolk pines were planted by early European settlers for their striking appearance and utility as landmarks for maritime navigation.

Surrounding area

Pā in the surrounding area include the small Moehuri Pā which overlooks the inner harbour entrance and Rangikapiti Pā across the harbour. All three pā are intervisible and form a network of sites that would have observed access to the harbour and waterways beyond. There are 24 recorded archaeological sites within the vicinity of Rangitoto Pā, including four pā, terraces, shell midden, earth ovens, and several historic (nineteenth century) sites including an urupā.

Rangitoto Reserve does not have road frontage and access to the reserve by vehicle is only with the permission of the adjoining landowner near the end of Peninsula Parade. There are public space connections into the surrounding from the sea but not to the formed road network, (refer Location and Open Space Plan below).



Location and Open Space Plan showing Rangitoto Reserve outlined, and its relationship to nearby public spaces including roads and unformed roads shown shaded in light blue

Vegetation and Biodiversity

The reserve was previously grazed, however in recent decades stock were removed, and the reserve became overgrown with exotic plants and weeds, with coastal forest remaining on the steeper slopes and cliffs. The reserve provides breeding habitat for kororā / little blue penguins that are considered to be at risk because of declining numbers.

Conservation activities in the surrounding area include private native forest plantings including on adjoining and nearby properties, volunteer conservation activities on Crown land at Rangikapiti Pā and the Whakaangi Landcare Group over the Whakāangi peninsula.

4.0 VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

4.1 Te Whakakitenga / Vision

To **protect, restore, and enhance** the **cultural heritage** and **ecological values** of Rangitoto Reserve, while recognising the **mana whenua, kaitiakitanga**, and **mātauranga Māori** of local hapū.

4.2. Ngā Uara / Values

- **Partnership** – All planning and management for works and activities on Rangitoto Reserve will be undertaken in collaboration with **Ngāti Ruaiti** and **Te Matarahurahu**.
- **Kaitiakitanga** – Upholding the cultural, spiritual, and environmental responsibilities of hapū towards the whenua and moana.
- **Whanaungatanga** – Strengthening relationships between hapū, Council, and the wider community through trust, respect, and transparency.
- **Mauri / Sustainability** – Ensuring all actions safeguard ecological health for future generations.

4.3 Ngā Whāinga / Objectives

O1 Protect and enhance the Cultural Heritage of Rangitoto Reserve

- Maintain and enhance the cultural heritage and integrity of Rangitoto Reserve.
- Prevent inappropriate use and development that may damage te taiao or wāhi tapu.
- On-going involvement of an Archaeologist for key planning and any physical works.

O2: Restore Biodiversity & Ecological Values

- Planting programmes to restore native plant and animal biodiversity
- Pest plant and animal control in partnership with hapū and community groups.

O3 Embed Te Ao Māori in Reserve Management

- Integration of tikanga and kawa (karakia, waiata, tikanga-based protocols) in planning and decision-making related to activities on the reserve.

O4 Community Engagement & Education

- Develop co-designed education programmes on ecology and mātauranga Māori related to management activities on the reserve including planting and weed removal.
- Provide opportunities for rangatahi to engage in kaitiaki roles.

O5 Governance & Decision-Making

- Establish a Rangitoto Reserve Governance Group with representation from:
Ngāti Ruaiti
Te Matarahurahu
Far North District Council
- The group will meet at least once a year and will provide oversight, guidance, and direction for all projects and policies relating to the reserve.
- Governance and key project communications will be maintained with **Ngāti Kahu ki Whaingaroa**.

4.4 Ngā Whakaarotau / Policies

Development

- P1 Any physical work on Rangitoto Reserve including planting will be under the supervision of an archaeologist and will comply with the ***Archaeological Management Plan for Rangitoto Pā 2025***¹
- P2 Management and development will be consistent with the following management areas identified in the plan below:
- Management area 1: Tihi and large upper terrace and access tracks maintained as grass.
 - Management Area 2: Areas to be revegetated by seeding, except where planting has been approved by a Heritage NZ Authority to Modify and is done under close supervision of a Project Archaeologist.
 - Management Area 3: Slopes suitable for planting of native forest species, under supervision of a Project Archaeologist.
 - Management Area 4: Existing forest – weed removal using non-invasive methods only, including cut and poison. Any other methods of physical weed removal must be approved by a Heritage NZ Authority to Modify and done under close supervision of a Project Archaeologist.
- P6 Within the low planting height overlay area, planting will be of lower height species to retain intervisibility of pā with the ocean and other pā in the surrounding area.
- P8 Trees within a historic reserve (native or exotic) cannot be cut without written approval from Council under Section 42(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 and 2013 delegations; this does not apply to removal of trees that are weeds under relevant strategies.

Vegetation

- P9 Management of area 1 will only be done by a contractor or volunteer after an initial on-site briefing from the Project Archaeologist, will follow the protocol for all site activities (Appendix 6.1) and will be done in a way that does not expose or damage the soil.
- P10 Vegetation establishment will be carried out according to the concept plan, planting list and 'Protocol for all site Activities' (Appendix 6.1) and planting other than pasture grass will consist entirely of native species contained within Appendix 6.3.
- P11 Plants and seeds for the establishment of planting will be sourced from local plants where this is possible.
- P12 Planting will generally be staged so that 90% of initial plantings are of species identified for early planting to improve survival rates.

Weed and pest control

- P13 Except where approved by the Project Archaeologist, all weed removal activities will be by herbicide including cutting above ground and applying herbicide. Weed seeds may be bagged and removed from the site.
- P14 Pest plant and animal control will be in partnership with hapū and local community groups including schools and aligned with Council, regional and national strategies.

Visitors / Use

- P15 All visitor activities on the site need to be consistent with the protection of the cultural and heritage importance of this site.

¹ Sunrise Archaeology (2025) (*Archaeological Management Plan for Rangitoto Pā (O04/16) and Reserve, Hihī Peninsula, Far North*) prepared for Far North District Council, Sunrise Archaeology Report No.2025-29



Rangitoto Reserve Management Areas / Planting Plan

Approx 1:2500 @ A4

May 2026

5.0 TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Parcel description (& title)	Title	Classification	Area
Allot 71 Psh of Mangonui East (without easements)	Without title	Historic reserve	5.2609 hectares

Reserve history

1840	Rangitoto Reserve was included in land sold by Pana-kareao, a Te Pātū Rangatira, to Governor Hobson
1852	The Crown subdivided land to create Allotments including Allotment 71 which had an area of 13 acres and was shown as being a defence reserve
1878	Allotment 71 was permanently reserved for public defence
1962	The purpose of the reserve was changed to a reserve for recreation purposes, and the land was vested in the Mangonui County Council in trust.
2024	Reserve classification changed to Historic Reserve NZG 2024-In5390
2025	Lidar survey completed – data available FNDC website

Rangitoto NZAA records

NZAA ID	O04/16
Name	Rangitoto
Site type	Pa
Site period	Indigenous pre-1769
Description	Headland pā with ditch and bank, broad terraces

DOC Natural Areas of Maungataniwha Ecological District

NZAA ID	O04/207
Name	Butler Point
Relevant ecological unit (southern edge of reserve)	Pohutukawa treeland on coastal cliff ... Approximately 60% of the coastline is pohutukawa dominant with frequent kanuka. Also present is puriri, kohekohe, cabbage tree, mamaku, Japanese cedar and other exotic species. The canopy is open and discontinuous.
Significance	Coastal vegetation uncommon in this Ecological District, includes mature Pohutukawa trees

Reserve management plans

Council parks that are classified as a recreation, scenic or historic reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 are required to have a reserve management plan that ensures that management and use of the reserve is consistent with the purpose for which the land is classified. When approved, a reserve management plan provides Council with a clear framework for management and decision making. The reserve management plan is prepared after (usually) 2 rounds of public consultation and provides the community with an understanding of the values of the reserve and how they can use the reserve. Reserve management plans are ideally reviewed every 5 years so that changes can be taken into account. Funding for any works identified in a reserve management plan needs to be allocated separately.

This draft reserve management plan provides for management consistent with the classification of Rangitoto reserve as a historic reserve in accordance with section 41(3) and 18(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. The reserve management plan is being prepared in accordance with sections 41 and 119 of the Reserves Act 1977. The intent to prepare a reserve management plan was advertised May to June 2025 and the draft plan is currently being advertised for public comment.

6.0 APPENDICES

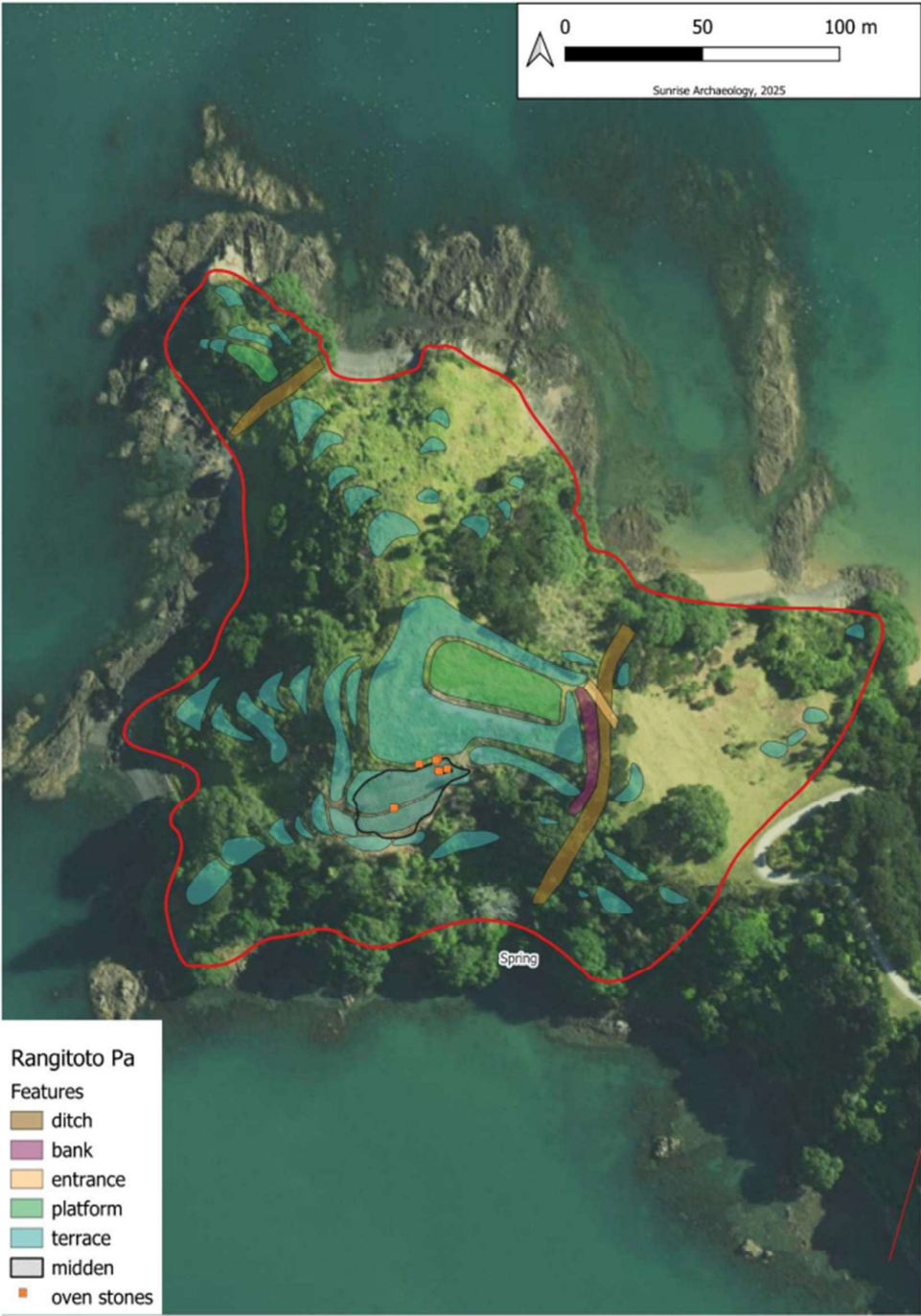
6.1 Protocol for all site activities including volunteer activities

1. Prior to any ground disturbance, all contractors and volunteers shall be briefed on the archaeological values of the site by the Project Archaeologist.
2. All earthworks shall be monitored by an archaeologist. The procedures shall reference the document: **Archaeological Management Plan for Rangitoto Pā 2025²** and all requirements in this document should be followed, even if an area has been modified in the past.
3. It is possible there are unrecorded subsurface features at this location. A list of expected features appears below. If archaeological features are encountered, work must stop and the discovery protocol outlined below is to be followed.
4. All earthworks that are to be excavated within substrates which could include cultural materials shall be carried out with a smooth-bladed bucket, or by hand.
5. Any deposits which are located and cannot be avoided shall be recorded following standard archaeological techniques.
6. Any alterations to the proposed works which have not been assessed or addressed in the assessment need to be reviewed for comment and/or assessment by an archaeologist.
7. Access for iwi representatives shall be supported.
8. No fossicking (rummaging) of the site or removal of any accidentally discovered artifacts shall be allowed at any time. Any exposed artifacts or archaeology should be reported to Council.

² Sunrise Archaeology (2025) (*Archaeological*) *Management Plan for Rangitoto Pā (O04/16) and Reserve, Hīhi Peninsula, Far North* prepared for Far North District Council, Sunrise Archaeology Report No.2025-29

6.2 Archaeological features of Rangitoto Pā (O4/16)

Pā features shown below including artefacts and midden and oven stones exposed on surface. Red line indicates extent of archaeological site. Base figure: Northland 0.3m Rural Aerial Photos (2023-2025). Image from Sunrise Archaeology report No. 2025-28



6.3 Rangitoto Reserve planting list

Plant list for planting areas – refer Management Areas / Planting Plan above

Name	Other names / notes	Species name
Pohutukawa	Suitable early planting	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>
Karamū	Suitable early planting	<i>Coprosma robusta</i> , also
Houpara		<i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i>
Kawakawa		<i>Piper excelsum</i>
Karaka		<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>
Kowhai		<i>Sophora</i> - local species
Puriri		<i>Vitex lucens</i>
Kaiwhiri	Pigeonwood	<i>Hedycarea arborea</i>
Mingimingi		<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>
Mahoe	Whiteywood - early planting	<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>
Koromiko	Hebe	<i>Veronica</i> – local species
Mānuka	Suitable early planting	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>
Kānuka	Suitable early planting	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>
Makomako	Wineberry	<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>
Mapou	Red Matipo	<i>Myrsine australis</i>
Kōuka	Cabbage tree – early planting	<i>Cordyline australis</i>
Mamaku	Black tree fern	<i>Sphaeropteris medullaris</i>
Whau		<i>Entelea arborescens</i>
Tawapou		<i>Planchonella costata</i>
Miro		<i>Pectinopitys ferruginea</i>
Kohekohe		<i>Didymocheton spectabilis</i>
Harakeke	Flax – suitable early planting	<i>Phormium tenax</i>

Plant list for low planting areas

Koromiko	Hebe – early planting	<i>Veronica</i> – local species
Coprosma	Suitable early planting, ht 1.5m	<i>C.rhamnoides</i> & <i>C. parviflora</i>
Carex	Suitable early planting	Sedge – local species
Rengarenga	Suitable early planting	<i>Arthropodium cirratum</i>
Turutu	Inkberry	<i>Dianella nigra</i>
Pohuehue	Suitable early planting	<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>
Wharawhara	Coastal astelia – early planting	<i>Astelia banksii</i>
Tauhinu	Suitable early planting	<i>Ozothamnus leptophyllus</i>

Plant list for seeding areas

Karamū		<i>Coprosma robusta</i>
Mānuka		<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>
Harakeke	Flax	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
Mingimingi		<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>
Other seeds from lists above as available		