

Memo

To: Eryn Shields, Team Leader, Plans and Places Department
From: Mica Plowman, Principal Advisor: Cultural Heritage Implementation, Heritage Unit, Plans and Places Department
Date: 17/07/2018

Subject: Update on Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Heritage upgrade and monitoring work funded by the Waitakere Ranges Local Board

1. Background

This memo briefly outlines the research and analysis undertaken by Auckland Council between 2013-2018 to address the issues and opportunities identified in the 2013 Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area State Of The Environment Monitoring Report (2103 SOE Report) in relation to historic heritage.

The heritage topic of the 2013 SOE Report was formulated around a number of key indicators¹ intended to establish the condition, management, and threats to historic heritage of the WRHA. However, due to the lack of consistent, evidence based data and current field survey it was not possible to quantify the heritage resources, significantly limiting the suitability of these indicators. The report concluded that this absence of quantitative data was the greatest impediment to achieving the objectives of the WRHAA.

To rectify this, the 2013 SOE Report recommended a data collation and rationalisation study in conjunction with staged site survey and monitoring as the best method to establish a baseline from which to assess and conserve the condition of historic heritage in the Heritage Area.²

2. Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Data Upgrade And Research

The **2014/2015** financial year saw the completion of the Stage 1A Data Rationalisation Report (2015³), designated to collate, rationalise, and organise the available data relating to the historic heritage resources of the Heritage Area⁴. This report (Tatton 2015) identified a preliminary total number of Heritage Area heritage sites (1323) and nominated 653 priority sites for survey upgrade and monitoring. These included 90 Maori and European heritage sites scheduled in the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) [AUP (OiP)], as well as 563 sites located primarily on Council land and/or within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) that were at risk from recreational activities, amenity development and coastal erosion.

In **2015/2016** the Council Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI) Team developed a field survey and monitoring programme for the priority sites, to establish a comprehensive baseline dataset and

¹ 2013 heritage indicators: 1.Known sites and their extent, 2.Protected sites, 3. Changes to site protection, 4. Management of sites, 5. Public interpretation of sites, 6. Consents granted to sites to aid change, 7. Damage and destruction of sites and 8. Site condition.

² Plowman, M. October 2013. *WRHA 2018 State of the Environment Historic Heritage Monitoring Report – Phase 1*. Auckland Council.

³ Tatton, K. July 2015. *Stage 1A – Historic Heritage Data Collation, Review and Rationalisation: Survey and Monitoring Program Report*. Prepared for Auckland Council.

⁴ Auckland Council Oct 2013:4

identify management priorities and opportunities for research and public education. This baseline dataset includes:

1. Establishing accurate site numbers, site locations and site type descriptions
2. Establishing GIS site extents (i.e. the visible extent of archaeological surface remains)
3. Assessment of site condition, integrity, primary threats/pressures identification; rate of deterioration
4. Assessment for scheduling and/or schedule upgrade (research as required)
5. A range of management recommendations and monitoring timeframes
6. An update of Council CHI and New Zealand Archaeological Association "ArchSite" database records.

To this end, the priority of the survey and upgrade has been to establish original and extant historic heritage site extents. This data is intended to replace the current single point locations in Council reserves, to mitigate risk and inform management practices going forward. Ideally, this GIS data should be incorporated into Reserve-specific heritage management/maintenance plans that provide clear operational guidelines. These guidelines would protect or remediate individual heritage sites in public spaces that may be detrimentally affected by high recreational use.

Field work commenced in January 2016, with a survey of 300 archaeological sites located on the southern coast from Green Bay to Whatipu and 90 built heritage sites across the Heritage Area. The archaeological field survey is being completed in-house by the Heritage Unit, CHI team archaeologists. This work is ongoing with 164 site visits completed to date (55%).

Dave Pearson Architects (DPA) completed the built heritage field survey of the 90 priority sites in 2017⁵. Unlike the archaeological survey that was restricted to public land, the built survey incorporated heritage buildings in private as well as public ownership. The amount of access available to the 90 sites varied considerably, ranging from full access to the site including the interior (best case) to no access to the site including no view from the public domain of the feature (worst case).

Key findings include⁶:

- Overall the built heritage sites are generally well maintained, occupied, and/or used regularly.
- The condition assessment results ranged from 'poor' through to 'excellent' with the majority at the higher end of the scale.

In addition to the survey, the Stage 1A Data Rationalisation Report (2015⁷) identified a number of priority research topics, five of which have been progressed to date. These topics include significant archaeological and built heritage sites that represent broad historic Maori and European settlement and industrial activities and land use in the Heritage Area. These studies are ongoing and will contribute detailed historical research and significance assessments to support scheduling in the AUP (OiP). The status of these research projects is provided in Table 1 below.

⁵ The built heritage monitoring had three main elements of recording. The first was photographically and this involved a site visit, the second was an update of the existing Cultural Heritage Inventory, and the third, the completion of a comprehensive monitoring form.

⁶ Dave Pearson Architects. June 2017. *Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Monitoring Report*. Prepared for Auckland Council.

⁷ Tatton, K. July 2015.

These research topics include:

1. The settlement history and associated built heritage of Oratia
2. The Piha Tramline and associated archaeological sites
3. Historic Maori settlement at Waiti Village and Parawai Pa
4. The Gibbons family timber milling industries at Huia
5. Modernist architecture in Titirangi

Table 1. Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Work Completed To Date

Date	Local Board Funded Research	Consultant	Status
2014-2015	WRHA data rationalisation	Kim Tatton	Completed
2014	Oratia built heritage study	Zarah Burnett	Completed
2015	Bethells – Waiti Village and Parawai Pa	Kim Tatton	Completed
2015	Piha Tramline and associated archaeological sites	Kim Tatton	Completed
2016	Built Heritage Assessment – Priority Survey and Data Upgrade	DPA Architects	Completed
2016	Huia Mill scoping report	Dr Simon Best	Completed
2016	Huia Mill study	Dr Simon Best	Survey work has been hindered by rāhui. Ongoing – Due 30 September 2018
2017	Titirangi study of Modernist architecture	Anthony Barnes	Due 15 August 2018
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule assessment of Parawai Pa and Waiti Village • Titirangi War Memorial Hall schedule assessment? Or Liebergreen Cottage and Barr’s cottage schedule assessment 	Kim Tatton Anthony Barnes	To be confirmed by Waitakere ranges Local Board
	Heritage Unit Funded Research		
2016 -Present	Field Survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of priority sites on the northern Manukau coast survey (Green Bay to Whatipu) • Completion of priority sites on the western coast (Whatipu to Anawhata) • Completion of the coastal areas of Whatipu 	Rebecca Ramsay and Mica Plowman	On hold due to rāhui In preparation for September 2018
2017- Present	Expansion of Piha Tramline report to include associated sites in the wider landscape and defined schedule extent.	Mica Plowman	Ongoing
2016 - Present	Site record form upgrade and selected monitoring forms for completed survey areas	Rebecca Ramsay and Mica Plowman in consultation with Heritage Information Management Team	

The Waitakere Ranges Local Board has funded the 2015 Data Rationalisation Report, the 2016 built heritage survey and the all of the research topics completed to date (2014-2017). The primary additional cost for establishing the baseline data required to monitor the heritage of the Heritage Area has been the archaeological site survey, associated monitoring assessments and data upgrade.

To date this work has been subsidised by the Council (Heritage Unit). However, time restrictions to undertake the survey has limited the Unit's progress, with only 38% of the priority sites on public land completed to date. The process of digitising upgraded site information and GIS site extents from Stage 1 fieldwork is ongoing and will also be completed by the Heritage Unit⁸. The upgraded information will be updated on the national⁹ and regional¹⁰ heritage databases, to ensure appropriate dissemination of heritage information for archaeologists and Council staff.

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⁸ Undertaking survey of the low priority sites, primarily located on private land is not a priority due to the associated consultation required.

⁹ New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) ArchSite <http://www.archsite.org.nz/>

¹⁰ Auckland Council Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI) <https://chi.net.nz/>