

June 2021

To: Planning Committee

Subject: Responsibilities regarding the implementation of the cultural heritage conditions of the RMZ and HNZPT Act on Aotea/Great Barrier Island

From: Izzy Fordham Chairperson Aotea/Great Barrier Island Local Board

Valmaine Toki Member Aotea/Great Barrier Island Local Board and Member Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Trust

Donald Prince Director of Time Depth Enterprises

Introduction

1. My full name is Donald Charles Prince
2. I am the Director of Time Depth Enterprises, Heritage Consultants. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology (1991) and a Master of Arts (Honours) in Anthropology majoring in archaeology from the University of Auckland (1994). I have 28 years' experience in field archaeology in New Zealand. This has involved survey and excavation throughout the upper North Island but primarily in Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Poverty Bay, Taranaki and Taupo regions.
3. My consultancy business involves a range of work relating to cultural heritage management – in particular, archaeological assessments and excavations relating to Resource Management Act and Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga Act requirements. I have provided evidence for environment court and council hearings.
4. I have had an association with Aotea since 1972, purchasing land in 1976. In 1979 I built a house in the upper Allom Bay valley (Okupe/Okupu) living there through the 1980s. Between 1990 and 2015 I lived off island but now reside fulltime on island.
5. I have undertaken a number of archaeological assessments on Aotea including fieldwork as part of the *Department of Conservations Coastal Upgrade of Archaeological Inventory* in 2006 and directed a major excavation of T09/240 (South Oruawharo/Medlands) in 2008-2009. Currently, I am contributing archaeologically to Auckland Council's initiated scheduling of landscapes of significance to the island's Mana Whenua and a small number of public & private developments on the island.

Outline of Concerns

Over the past 30 years Aotea has undergone extensive development at a number of locations with a recent emphasis on large, coastal constructions. A number of these are within landscapes known to contain remnants of pre-European Maori occupation. However, few if any applicants have been directed by Council to ensure that Sections 6 (e),

(f), (g), 7 (a) and 8 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) are satisfied, including the Treaty principle to consult with Mana Whenua or to provide an archaeological assessment of effects.

Due to time constraints, I shall confine myself to the island's two most affected landscapes and a recent house construction;

1. Oruawharo/Medlands Beach

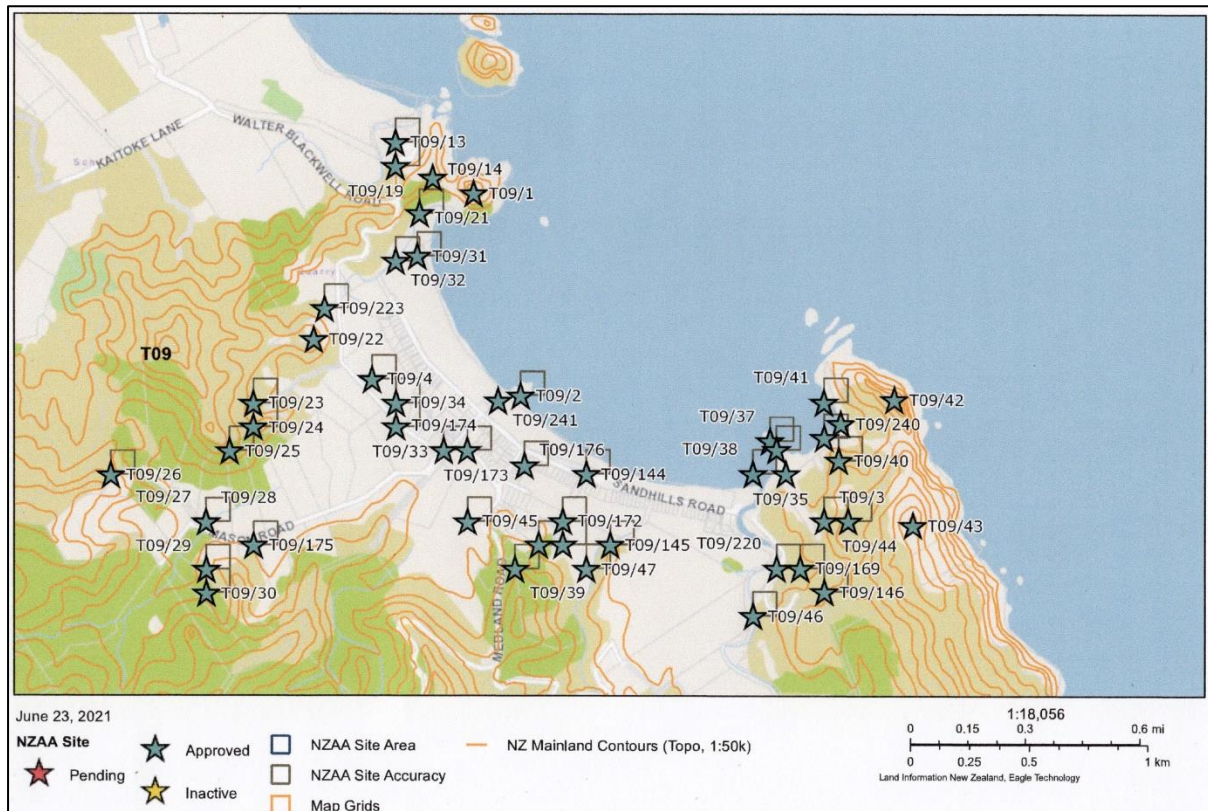


Figure 1: Spatial representation of currently identified archaeological sites, Oruawharo (ArchSite June 2021).

An extensive and significant archaeological landscape has been identified on Oruawharo Beach including major settlement on headlands at either end related to major pa (fortified site). Site types also include shell midden (shell midden - deposits of refuse, predominantly shell, generated by food processing and consumption), occupation terraces, crop storage pits and urupa (human burials). These site types are indicative of mid to long term settlement focused on marine, forest and swamp resources along with fresh water and arable alluvial soils.

There are approximately 180 dwellings along Sandhills Rd and associated lanes. All but a small number were constructed in past 30 years with new and re-builds currently being undertaken. Only two archaeological assessments (both for 101 Greenside Rd) and a paucity of, if any, CVA's carried out.



Figure 2: Oruawhoro with indicative site extents outlined in black (Prince 2021).

2. North Kaitokei/Palmers Beach

Stretching north from Kaitokei River the type of settlement on this section of the island's coastline is reflective of a new form not seen until recently. Although subdivided into six titles the land between Aotea Rd and the foreshore is currently held by four owners with the southern four (320, 340, 342 & 344 Grey Rd) extending north from the river to where the beach bends east. The area surveyed in 1978 as part of block surveys by students implemented by the then Historic Places Trust, this survey recorded 13 sites within the landscape including extensive gardening areas (rock walls and stone heaps) and crop storage units along with associated shell midden, occupation terraces and pa. This inventory increased by Harlow with a further 6 sites in 1997 when undertaking an archaeological assessment of effects for Aotea Ltd's proposed development of 340 & 342 Grey Rd. That development did not progress.

420 Grey Rd was developed in past 20 years with two dwellings and associated buildings along with utilities and extensive gardens – no archaeological assessment or CVA. Currently development is being carried out for 320, 340, 342, 344 & 348 Grey Rd with the author carrying out an archaeological assessment of

proposals for 348 Grey Rd but no assessments for the others despite the number and extent of identified sites – Harlow’s 2000 assessment although covering two of the properties was for an entirely different proposal with different landscape affects. In addition, no CVA’s for any of this work.

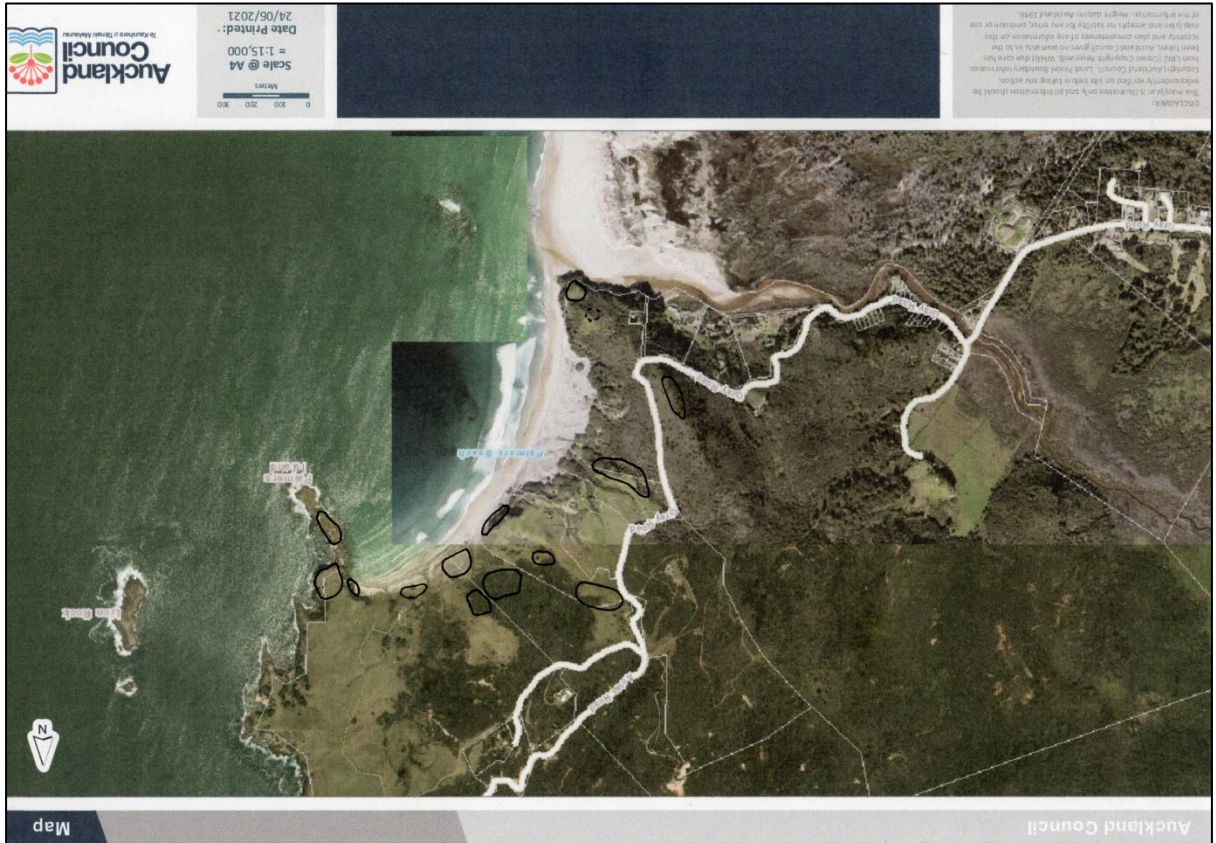


Figure 3: North Kaitokei with indicative extents of identified sites (Prince 2021).

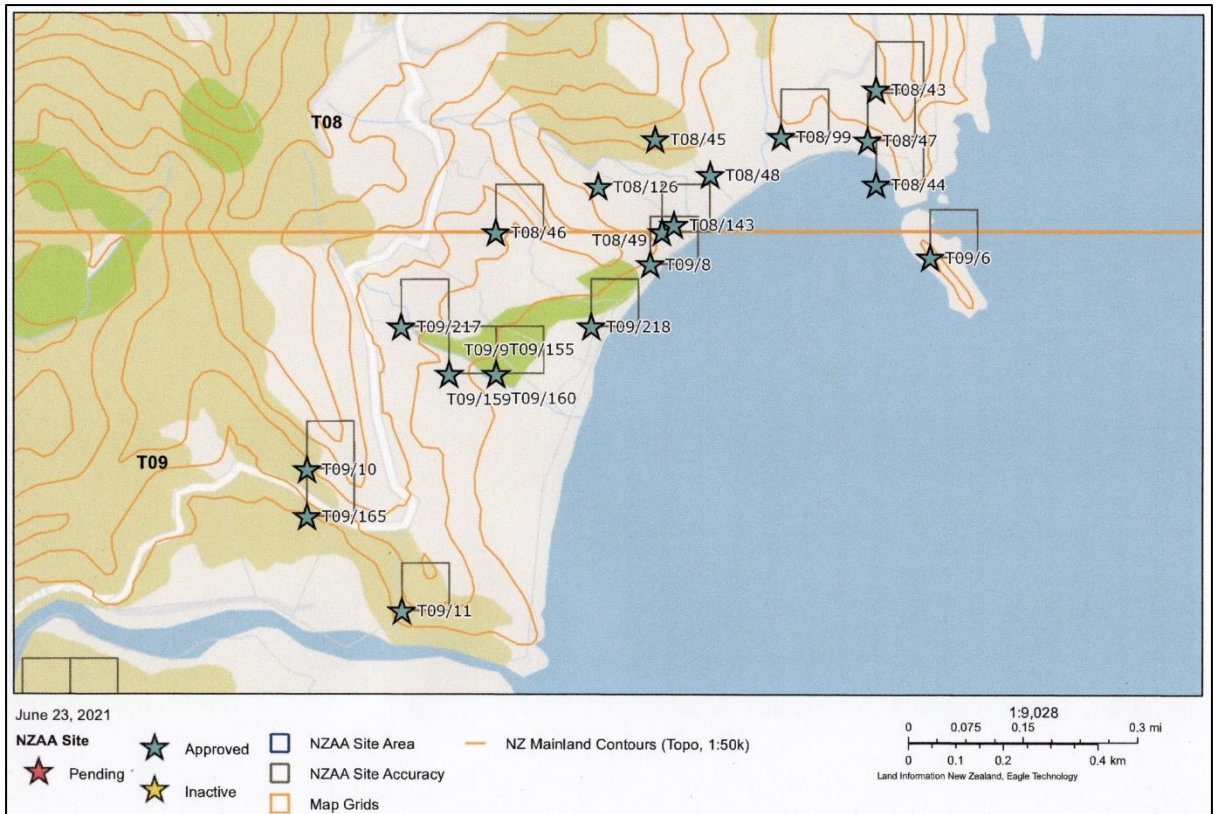


Figure 4: Current spatial representation of recorded archaeological sites, North Kaitokei (ArchSite June 2021).



Figure 5: Aerial showing 362 Shoal Bay Rd (arrowed) and known extent of pa T09/130 (Prince 2021).

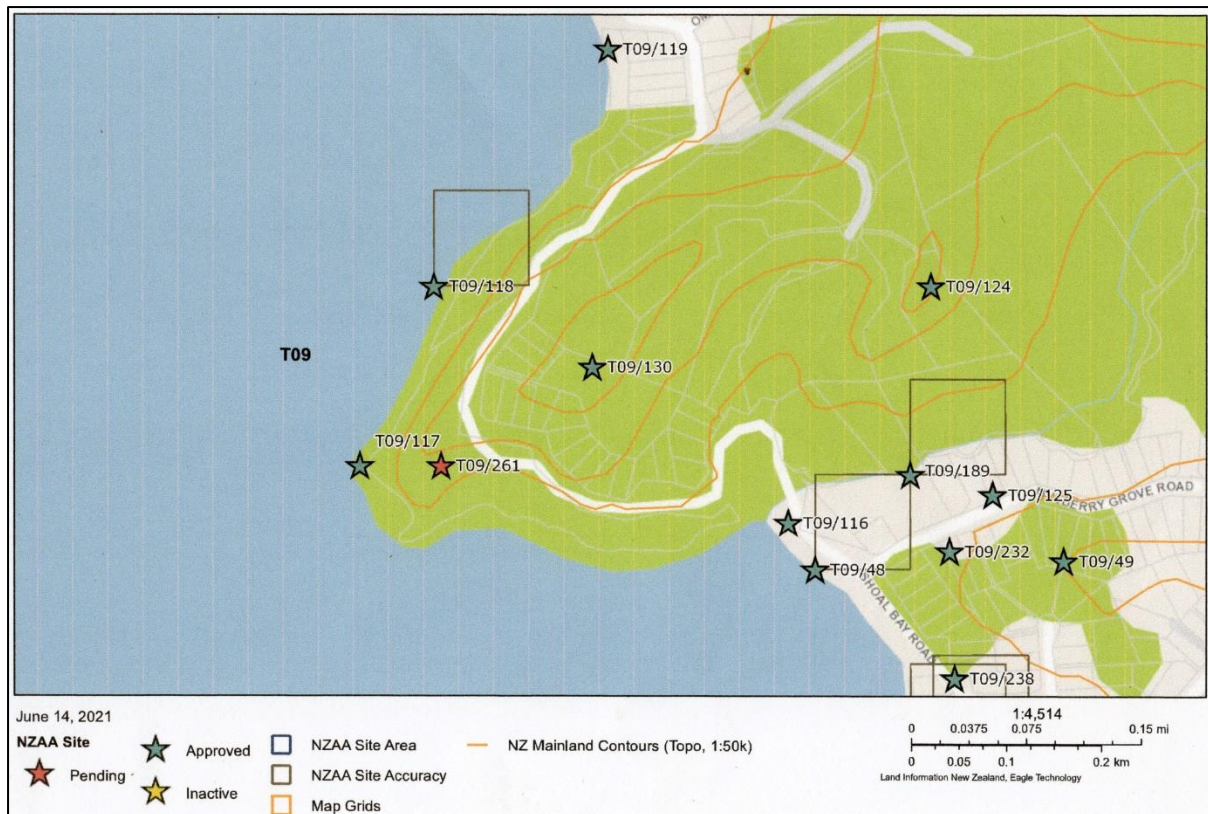


Figure 5: Spatial representation of identified archaeological sites in vicinity of 362 Shoal Bay Rd (ArchSite 2021).

362 Shoal Bay Rd

Construction currently underway at 362 Shoal Bay Rd (Figure 5), no archaeological assessment or CVA despite proximity to major pa T09/130 and pit, platform and terrace site T09/261 (Figure 6). Located between Gooseberry Flat to the north and Mulberry Grove to south the headland pa has been partially modified (yet to be fully defined) by dwellings and associated structures of 358, 360, 364, 366 & 370 Shoal Bay Rd.

Conclusion

- That as a mandatory step of the consent process the applicant is referenced against the Council’s Cultural Heritage Inventory AND, as that database often lags behind recent work, the NZ Archaeological Association’s digital online database ArchSite to check if previously identified archaeological sites have been recorded on or in the vicinity of the subject property.
- All consent applications for Aotea to be sent to Mana Whenua for comment and CVA consideration.
- If the property has archaeological sites identified on it or lies within an archaeological landscape, it should be referred to the Council’s Heritage Unit and/or Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga (there is an Auckland Office) and a consent condition included that

the Mana Whenua be consulted and a CVA process undertaken, and an archaeological assessment of effects be prepared.

- As the databases indicate, in the main, only a point for sites this often underrepresents the extent and significance of the site so the consent processer(s) should refer to a qualified archaeologist (such Council Heritage Unit or Heritage NZ) for interpretation of the record.