

Archaeological Assessment of Effects: Solar Farms Limited

31 December 2021



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Quality Information

Document: Archaeological Assessment of Effects: Solar Farms Limited
Date: December 2021
Prepared by: Russell Gibb

Revision History

Revision	Date	Details	Authorised Name
Final	31/12/2021	Issued	Gibb

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Executive Summary

Geometria was engaged Thomas Keogh of Reyburn and Bryant on behalf of their client Energy Farms Limited to assess the archaeological potential of four properties proposed for solar farm development, as per the requirements of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. The four properties are located at Wellsford, South Taranaki (2) and Marton.

No archaeological sites have previously been recorded on any of the farms and background research the subsequent site inspections of the properties and their localities did not reveal any hitherto unknown archaeological features. One property, 575 Kina Road, has a small area where some archaeological potential was identified, although testing failed to reveal any archaeological material in the identified area.

Therefore, no archaeological authority under Section 44(a) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 is required for the proposed solar farm developments at Pictor Road, Wellsford, 574 Kina Road, South Taranaki and Wellington Road, Marton.

However, it is recommended that Solar Farms Limited apply for an under Section 44(a) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 authority for 575 Kina Road as a precaution to allow works to proceed in the unforeseen event of hitherto unknown archaeological features or material being discovered during development works.

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1. Introduction

Geometria was engaged by Thomas Keogh of Reyburn and Bryant, on behalf of their client Energy Farms Limited, to assess the archaeological potential of four properties proposed for solar farm development, as per the requirements of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. The four properties are located at Wellsford, South Taranaki (2) and Marton. Under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA 2014; previously the Historic Places Act 1993, HPA 1993), all archaeological sites are protected from any modification, damage or destruction except by the authority of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT).

This report does not seek to locate or identify wahi tapu or other places of cultural or spiritual significance to Maori. 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 Location

The four properties assessed are located throughout the North Island at Wellsford, South Taranaki (2) and Marton (Figure 1). All are currently farms of varying sizes and (Figures 2-5):

- RT 88289, Prictor Road Wellsford
- 575 Upper Kina Rd, South Taranaki
- 574 Kina Rd, South Taranaki
- Lot 4 and 5 DP 10517, 1618 Wellington Road, Marton



Figure 1: General location of the four properties covered in this assessment.



Figure 2: Location and extent of RT 88289, Pictor Road Wellsford. Source: Google Earth 2021.



Figure 3: Location and extent of 574 Upper Kina Rd, South Taranaki. Source: Google Earth 2021.



Figure 4: Location and extent of 575 Kina Rd, South Taranaki. Source: Google Earth 2021.



Figure 5: Location and extent of Lot 4 and 5 DP 10517, 1618 Wellington Road, Marton. Source: Google Earth 2021

1.2 Proposed Works

Energy Farms Limited propose to develop solar farms on the four properties. This will require some grading of the properties, development of laydown areas, car parks and significant piling to establish arrays and trenching to connect panels back to inverters and to substations. Detailed plans for each farm are in development and not included in this assessment.

2.0 Statutory Requirements

There are two main pieces of legislation in New Zealand that control work affecting archaeological sites. These are the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA) and the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

2.1 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

Heritage New Zealand administers the HNZPTA. It contains a consent (authority) process for any work affecting archaeological sites, where an archaeological site is defined as:

- a) Any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure), that -
- b) 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
- c) Provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand; and
- d) Includes a site for which a declaration is made under section 43(1)

Any person who intends carrying out work that may modify or destroy an archaeological site, must first obtain an authority from Heritage New Zealand. The process applies to sites on land of all tenure including public, private, and designated land. The HNZPTA contains penalties for unauthorised site damage or destruction.

The archaeological authority process applies to all archaeological sites, regardless of whether:

- a) The site is recorded in the NZ Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme or included in the Heritage New Zealand List,
- b) The site only becomes known about as a result of ground disturbance, and/ or
- c) The activity is permitted under a district or regional plan, or a resource or building consent has been granted

Heritage New Zealand also maintains the New Zealand Heritage List/ Rarangi Korero of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wahi Tupuna, Wahi Tapu and Wahi Tapu Areas. The List can include archaeological sites. Its purpose is to inform members of the public about such places.

2.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The RMA requires City, District and Regional Councils to manage the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way that provides for the wellbeing of today's communities while safeguarding the options of future generations. The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development is identified as a matter of national importance (section 6f).

Historic heritage is defined as those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, derived from archaeological, architectural, cultural, historic, scientific, or technological qualities.

Historic heritage includes:

- a) historic sites, structures, places, and areas
- b) archaeological sites;
- c) sites of significance to Maori, including wahi tapu;
- d) surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources (RMA section 2).

These categories are not mutually exclusive, and some archaeological sites may include above ground structures or may also be places that are of significance to Maori.

Where resource consent is required for any activity the assessment of effects is required to address cultural and historic heritage matters (RMA 4th Schedule and the district plan assessment criteria).

3.0 Methodology

The methods used to assess the presence and state of archaeological remains within the proposed subdivision included both a desktop review and site surveys. The desktop survey involved an investigation of written records relating to the history of the specific areas including the following sources:

- Regional archaeological publications and unpublished reports
- NZAA ArchSite database
- Modern aerial photography (c.2000 – 2017) and Historic aerial photography back to c.1940s
- Historic survey plans from c.1840 to c.1940
- DigitalNZ.org historic imagery

Russell Gibb of Geometria Ltd. conducted a site survey of the properties in November/December 2021.

4.0 Prictor Road, Wellsford

4.1 Background

Traditionally the Wellsford area was the where the tribal boundaries of Te Uri o Hau and the Ngāti Whātua hapū of Ngāti Mauku and Ngāti Tahu met (Figure 6).¹ Te Uri O Hau, whose rohe's southern boundary extends from Mangawhai and westwards to the Kaipara are of Ngati Whatua descent and trace their ancestry and name to Haumoewharangi of Ngati Whatua. S. Percy Smith² suggested Hau had lived some eight generations previous, or around 1650 AD. Ngati Whatua consists of a confederation of hapu, some who lived around the Kaipara and its tributaries and others who lived further south, as far south as Tamaki.

The traditional history of the area, its abandonment following the decisive battle of Te Ika a Ranganui near Kaiwaka in 1825, and its subsequent purchase by the Crown in 1854 are comprehensively outlined in the Kaipara Report of the Waitangi Tribunal.³

The battle of Te Ika a Ranganui led to major changes in land tenure in the area. In 1825, a Ngapuhi taua set off on a final reckoning as utu for their defeat at the hands of Ngati Whatua in 1807 at the battle of Moremorenui at Maunganui Bluff. The stopped to gather their forces at Mangawhai, decimating the local

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellsford>

² Smith 1896

³ Wai 674:206

Ngati Whatua people then at their inland horticultural settlement on the rich volcanic soils at the Tara, before meeting the main Ngati Whatua force just east of Kaiwaka.⁴



Figure 6: Traditional sites within the Kaipara District. (Source: WAI 674).

Following the battle, much of the land between Whangarei and south to Auckland was essentially abandoned with the former inhabitants seeking refuge in both the north and south. Ngai Tahu, alongside their Tainui whanaunga Te Tahianga from the southern side of the Oruawhoro River and Ngati Kura whanaunga from the Hukatere Peninsula, fled to the Waikato to stay with their Ngati Tahianga whanaunga.⁵ Others took refuge in the north, often among the very people who had just defeated them in battle.⁶ The area remained largely unoccupied for another 10 years when people began to re-enter the area, particularly the coastal areas around the Kaipara Harbour.

The first Europeans to pass through the area were the early missionaries in the 1830s, followed by settlers involved in kauri timber extraction and gum digging. The most significant early influx of settlers came with the arrival of the Albertlanders, the last organised British settlement in New Zealand. The Albertland Special Settlement Association was founded by William Rawson Brame, a Birmingham Baptist minister in 1861, who organised non-conformist immigrants to come to New Zealand with the first ship the Matilda Wattenbach arriving in Auckland on September 8, 1862. From Auckland the new settlers made their way to the settlement of Albertland (Port Albert) on the Kaipara Harbour about 10 kilometres west of Wellsford.⁷

⁴ Carpenter 2015

⁵ S. Worthington to J. Carpenter 13 March 2015, cited in Carpenter 2015

⁶ Wai 674:18

⁷ <https://albertlandmuseum.co.nz/our-story/>

However, not many of the settlers arrived at Port Albert and the ones who did found it difficult to make a living. The majority of the Albertlanders moved inland, to more fertile areas in the region. As a result, Wellsford was founded.⁸

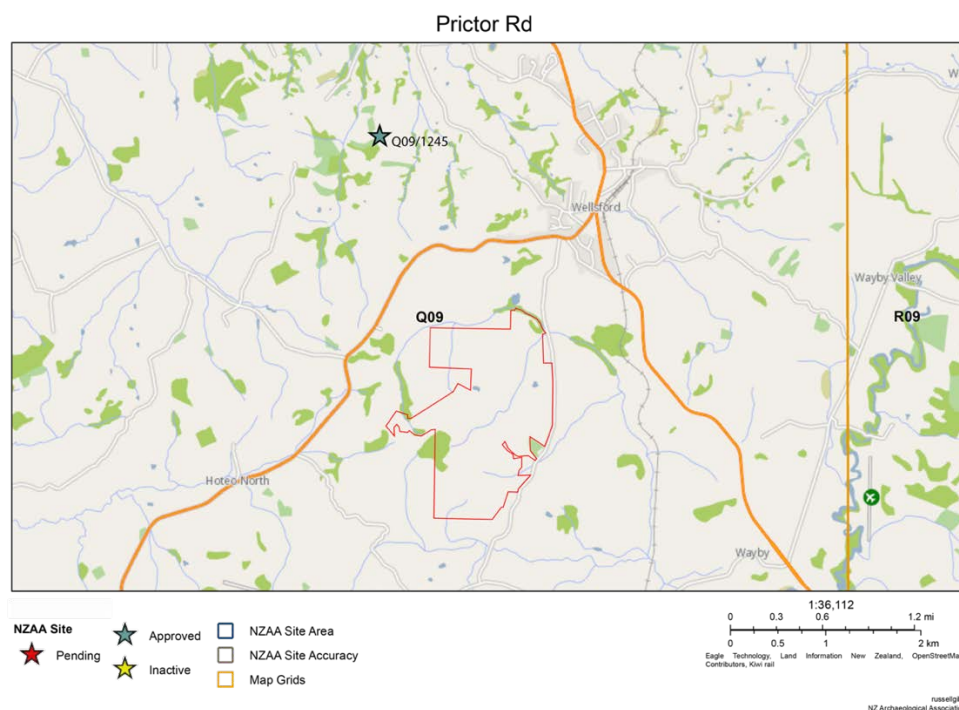
According to local tradition, the name Wellsford is an acronym based on the surnames of the first families who settled in the region. The names were Watson, Edger, Lester, Levet, Simpson, Foster, Oldfield, Ramsbottom and Dibble.⁹ The establishment of Wellsford occurred over two stages, known as 'Old Wellsford' and 'New Wellsford'. Old Wellsford developed in the west around the Whakapirau Stream and the eastern boundary line of the Oruawharo Block. New Wellsford formed in 1885 when the Old Pakiri Block was sold to the Crown and settlement spread further inland.¹⁰

Industry in early Wellsford was driven by the timber and gum trade with the present site of Wellsford known at that time as 'the gum ridge'. By the turn of the 20th century the timber and gum trades began to wane which led to the emergence of farming as the primary industry.¹¹

4.2 Archaeological Context

No archaeological sites are recorded on the property. The closest site proximate to the subject property is an unnamed pa - site Q091245, located approximately 2.5km away (Figure 7). This site was recorded from the Otamatea section of the 1928 New Zealand Geological Survey (Ferrar 1934), which annotates the site as 'pa' (Figure 8). This map also shows no other sites that could be interpreted as archaeological on the Pictor Road property, nor proximate to it.

It appears that site Q09/1245 has never been formerly visited as part of the New Zealand Archaeological Association site record update project as it is described as having not been visited by an archaeologist to determine the condition. The extent is described as probably spanning over several neighbouring properties.



⁸ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellsford>

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Mabbett 1977: 372. Clough and Associates 2019:72

¹¹ Mabbett 1968: 177. Clough and Associates 2019:72

Figure 7: Recorded archaeological sites proximate to the Pricor Rd property (Source: NZAA ArchSite 2021). The location of the Pricor Rd property is outlined in red.

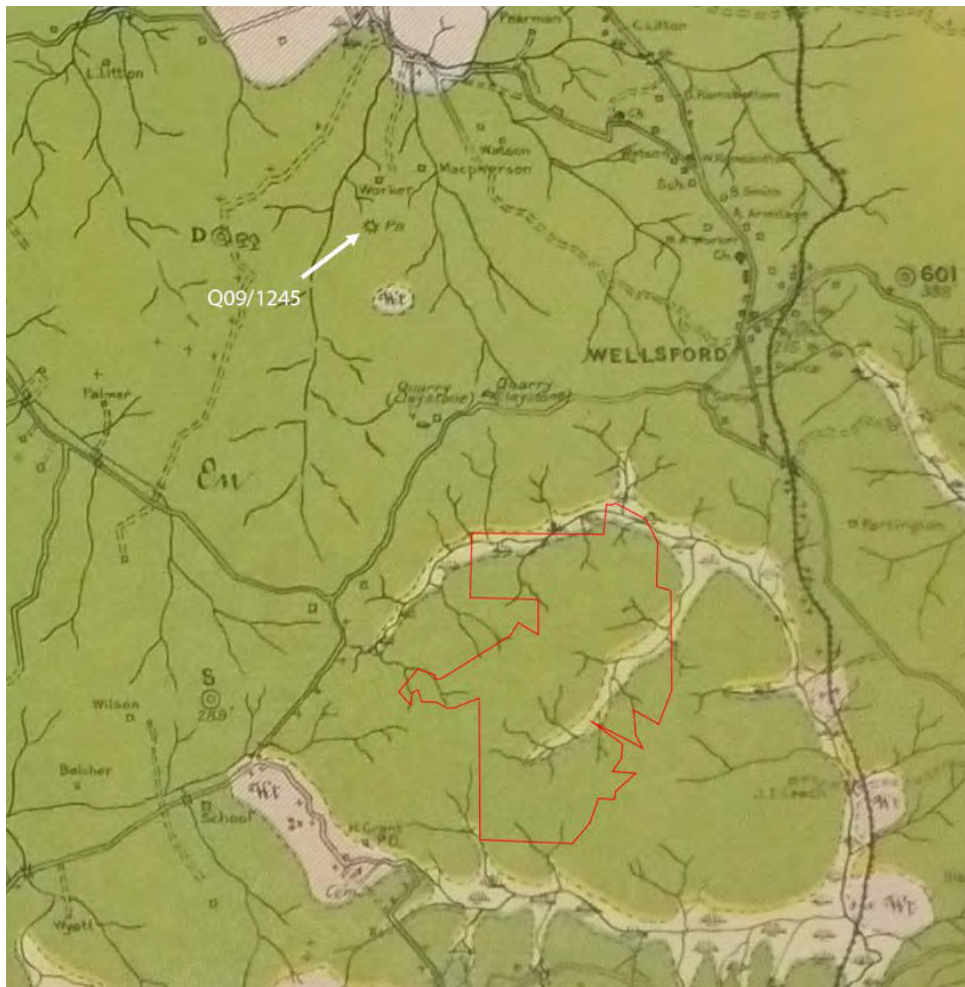


Figure 8: Section of Ferrar's 1928 New Zealand Geological Survey (Otago) showing pa (Q09/1245) with the location of the Pricor Rd property outlined in red..

In general there are very few archaeological sites recorded around Wellsford with the majority of sites in the region generally concentrated along the coastal margins of the Kaipara Harbour and its tributaries. Site density in these areas is particularly high, suggesting intensive use of these areas by Maori in prehistoric and protohistoric times. Sites away from the coast tend to be isolated pa or historic era sites.

4.3 Pricor Road Site Visit

An inspection of the property was undertaken on 6 December 2021 by the author. Topographically the property is a gently rolling remnant valley system comprising numerous paddocks, several patches of remnant bush, an old quarry and a number of farm and ancillary buildings. All paddocks, exposed surfaces and eroded scarps were inspected for signs of archaeological material, with probing and test pitting undertaken in areas with archaeological potential. No archaeological material was encountered and no surface features that may represent past anthropogenic activity were observed on the property. General site photos are shown below in Figures 9-14.



Figure 9: Looking west across the western end of the property.



Figure 10: Looking across the northern end of the property.



Figure 11: Looking north from the southern high point.



Figure 12: Exposed scarp showing local geology.



Figure 13: Looking west along farm race towards patch of remnant native bush.



Figure 14: Old farm quarry repurposed as a car storage site.

5.0 Wellington Road, Marton

5.1 Background

Ngāti Apa are the people of the Rangitīkei region whose rohe is delineated by the Whanganui River to the north, and the Manawātū River to the south. Their traditional lands lie between the Mangawhero, Whangaehu, Turakina and Rangitīkei rivers.¹² In the early nineteenth century Ngāti Apa suffered greatly at the hands of Te Rauparaha who greatly lessened their power and influence.

In the early 1900s Ngāti Apa were also at the forefront of an emerging spiritual leadership movement. Firstly with Mere Rikiriki, who established a spiritual centre Te Hāhi o te Wairua Tapu (the Church of the Holy Spirit) at Parewanui, which was based on Christian scripture and emphasised the unity of Māori under God and the Treaty of Waitangi. Mere Rikiriki mentored and taught several people, the most famous of these was her nephew, Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana. Although raised in Rangitīkei, Rātana founded his religious movement at Ngā Wairiki. In the early 1920s Rātana travelled throughout the country spreading his teachings. The movement gained momentum, resulting in the establishment of the Rātana Church in 1925. It gradually took on a political dimension, based on upholding the Treaty of Waitangi.¹³

Early contact between Maori and Europeans was mainly between the whalers that operated out of safe anchorages around Kapiti Island. The influence of the whalers upon Maori living in the Manawatu and Rangitīkei districts was small due to the requirement for safe anchorage which the exposed coast did not afford.¹⁴

In 1949 Ngāti Apa sold approximately 100,000 hectares of land between the Rangitīkei and Turakina rivers to the Crown, known as the Rangitīkei–Turakina transaction (the Rangitīkei Block – Figure 15), which led to an influx of European settlers and led to the establishment of a farming industry in the area, but also destroyed many mahinga kai (food gathering places) that Ngāti Apa had traditionally used. Despite being guaranteed ongoing rights to snare birds and catch eels across the entire Rangitīkei block, Ngāti Apa were powerless to stop settlers from felling the bush and draining the land, forever transforming their former traditional cultivation and foraging lands.¹⁵

When the first settlers arrived in the Rangitīkei district the majority of the area was a gigantic stand of native bush. By 1858 the district was well-settled but the area was still fairly isolated due to rough roads and numerous bridges and fords throughout the area.

The first place to be designated a town in the area was Crofton where a general store post office was built and the land divided into half acre sections. These were offered free to any person who built on them within two years. Land was purchased and laid out for the town of Marton to be established. In 1885 Marton became the junction of the main trunk and New Plymouth rail lines and through most of the 20th century the town serviced the railway and the rich farming district that had developed.

The early subdivision of land around the subject property is shown on undated Deeds Plan 92A (Figure 16). Further subdivision of the original sections into smaller allotments is shown on 1933 plan SO 10517 (Figure 17).

¹² <https://teara.govt.nz/en/ngati-apa>

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Buick 1903:116

¹⁵ <https://teara.govt.nz/en/ngati-apa>

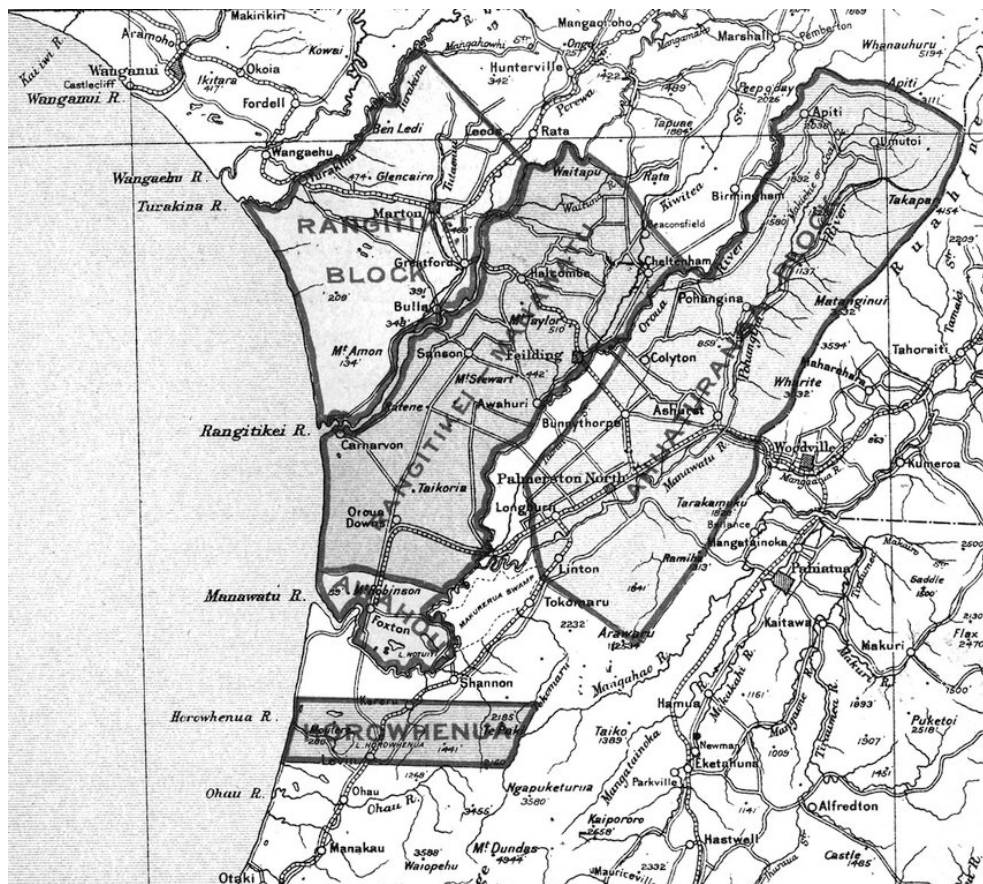


Figure 15: Plan showing the Native land blocks in the Rangitikei-Manawatu area.

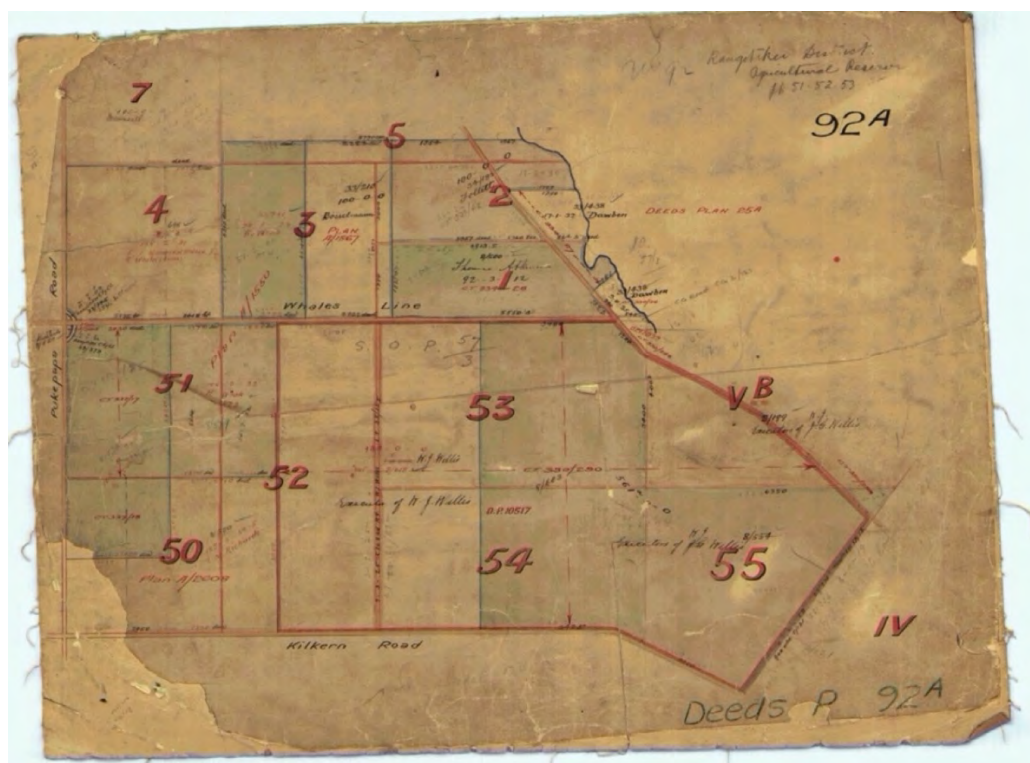


Figure 16: Deeds Plan 92A (n.d) showing subdivision of Rangitikei District Agricultural Reserve.

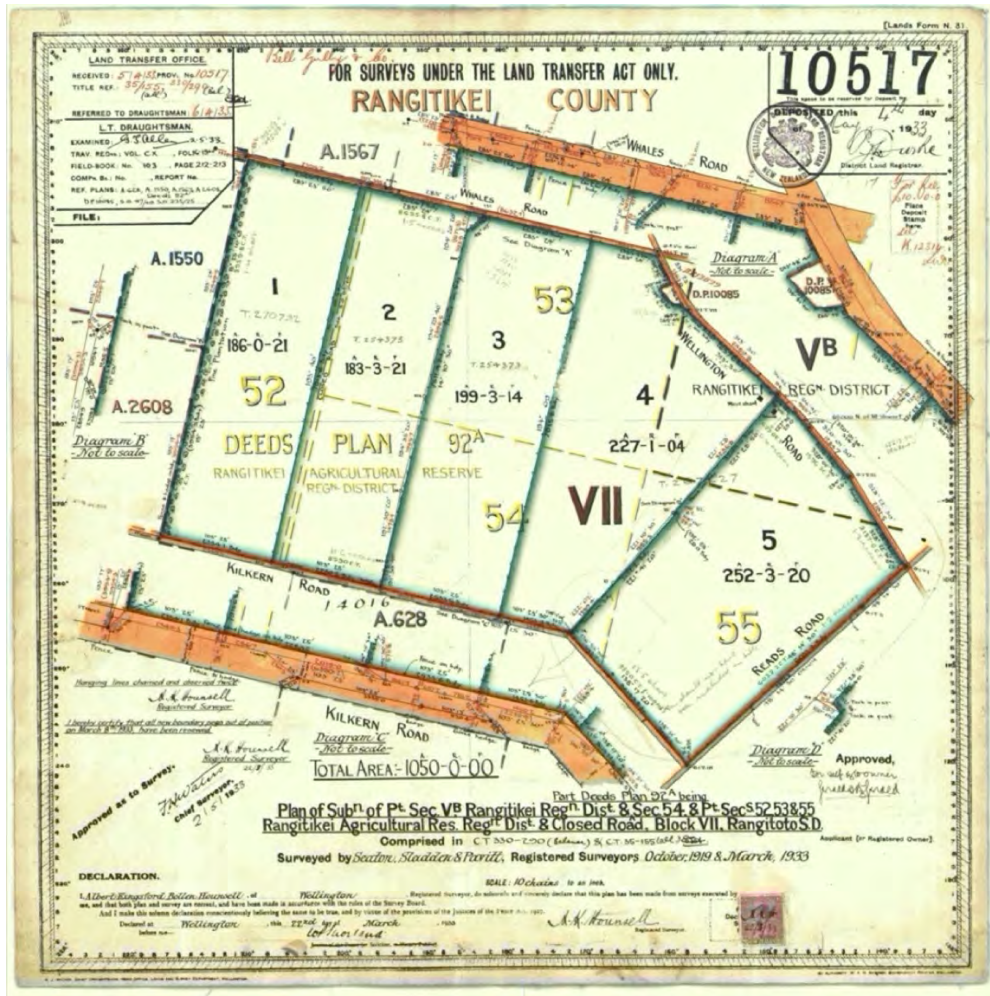


Figure 17: DP 10517 (1933) showing further subdivision of Sections 52-55, Rangitikei Agricultural Reserve.

5.2 Archaeological Context

No archaeological sites are located on the Wellington Road property or in close proximity. A number of sites are recorded further afield (in excess of 8km away), and these are predominantly redoubts erected by Rangitikei militia and volunteers in November-December 1868, during the latter Land Wars period (Figure 18). These sites are listed below in Table 1.

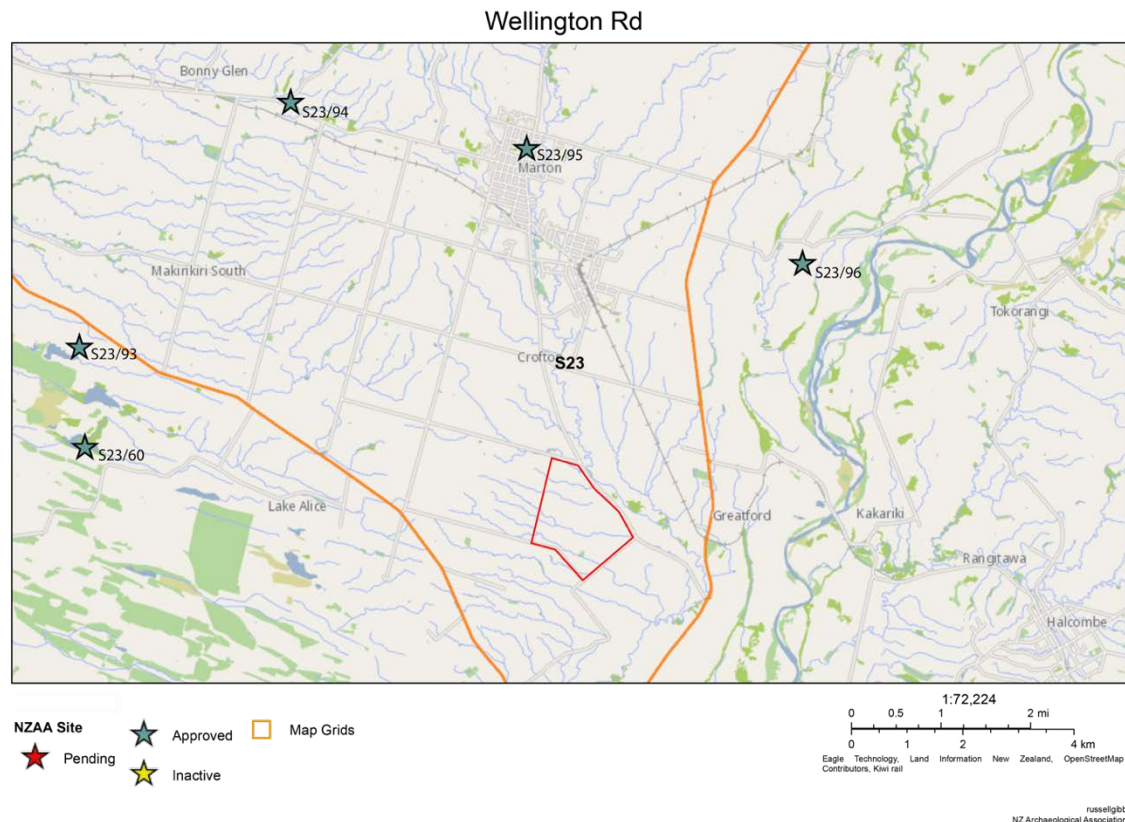


Figure 18: Recorded archaeological sites proximate to the Wellington Rd property (Source: NZAA ArchSite 2021). The location of the subject property is outlined in red.

Table 1: NZAA sites proximate to the subject property.

NZAA Site No.	TYPE	Name	Details
S23/60	Pa	Otukapo/Otakapo	Island pa recorded in 1983, located on the northeast shore of Lake Bernard.
S23/93	Redoubt	Hoggs Redoubt	Located near Lake Dudding, on a ridge between the highway and the lake.
S23/94	Redoubt	Hassards's Redoubt	Site reportedly levelled in 1913.
S23/95	Redoubt	Matthew's Redoubt	Located on the site of St. Stephens Church, Marton
S23/96	Redoubt	Roberts's Redoubt	Located on a cliff overlooking the river at Onepuhi.

5.3 Wellington Rd Site Visit

The Wellington Road property was visited on the 27th November 2021. The property consists of well maintained paddocks with flat to gentle rolling topography with one small area of remnant bush and with several small streams and drains crossing the property. All paddocks, exposed surfaces and eroded scarps were inspected for signs of archaeological material. No probing or test pitting was deemed necessary due to the presence of a number of exposed surfaces, scarps and creek/stream banks. No archaeological material was encountered and no surface features that may represent past anthropogenic activity were observed on the property. General site photos are shown below in Figures 19-21.



Figure 19: General view across the farm showing exposed soil.



Figure 20: View looking northwest.



Figure 21: View looking southeast

6.0 Kina Road

6.1 Background

The Kina Road site sits within the Taranaki Iwi rohe. Taranaki is comprised of the hapū of Ngāti Haupoto, Ngāti Tara and Ngāti Tuhekerangi. Early accounts associated with Taranaki iwi ancestors precede the coming of Taranaki to the western seaboard. They were known as the Kāhui Ao, Kāhui Rangī, Kāhui Pō and Kāhui Atua, collectively called Te Kāhui Maunga. Their principle village was Karakatonga, situated high up in the heart of the Waiwhakaiho river valley.¹⁶

Repeated incursions during the 1820's and 1830's caused major upheaval throughout the whole Taranaki and led to a mass exodus of people away from the area with many joining other Taranaki iwi on the Kapiti Coast, Wellington district and the top of the South Island. Over a period of decades from the 1820s numerous heke (migrations) took place with many travelling back and forth from these areas to Taranaki.¹⁷ In 1842, a large group returned from Te Whanganui a Tara and Waikanae under the leadership of Minarapa Taapu Te Rangihatuake, and later in 1848, another group under Wiremu Kiingi Te Rangitaake returned. They immediately set about re-establishing communities, trade and agriculture to protect their traditional lands from increased European expansion.¹⁸

Following attempts to resist the surveying of the disputed land, the Crown proclaimed martial law throughout Taranaki in February 1860 and war eventually broke out in March. Then, the New Zealand Settlements Act of 1863 was enabled, which allowed for the confiscation of Maori land when the Crown determined an iwi, or a significant number of members of an iwi, had been in rebellion against the Queen.

Fighting in South Taranaki began when General Cameron's invasion army marched north from Whanganui on 24 January 1865. On 31 January 1865 "Middle Taranaki" was declared a confiscation district. In September of that year Ngatiruanui was also declared a confiscation district. The Ngati Ruanui and Middle Taranaki districts included the entire Taranaki Iwi rohe and the Crown assumed ownership of all the land within that district. A second campaign began on 30 December 1865 when General Chute marched north from Whanganui and by the time his combined British Army, colonial and Whanganui Māori force returned on 9 February 1866, seven fortified pā and 21 kāinga had been attacked and taken. From 1868-69 Titokowaru fought a campaign throughout South Taranaki, defeating Colonial troops at Te Ngutu o te Manu and Moturoa. In the years that followed, pākehā settlers on Māori land were protected by Armed Constabulary and militia posts. The last military activity in the region was the Parihaka Campaign, consisting of the Pākehā invasion of coastal Taranaki districts between the Hangatahua (Stoney) and Waingongoro Rivers in 1881, the only substantial part of Taranaki still in Māori hands after the wars of the sixties.¹⁹

By the 1880s settlers were making inroads into the area around Kina Road and by the end of the 1886–87 season, factory dairying was firmly established throughout South Taranaki.²⁰ Early subdivision and leasing of sections of land at Kina Road is shown on survey plan ML 79 (1887) (Figure 22). This plan shows that part of Kina Road has been formed and many sections formed and leased at the western end of the Ngatitara Block. The 575 Kina Rd section has been formed but the southern side of Kina Rd has yet to be subdivided into smaller sections.

Further subdivision of land at Kina Road is shown on 1894 survey plan DP 682 titled 'Plan of part of the Ngatitara Native Reserve' (Figure 23). On this plan Section 15 is the 574 Upper Kina Road property and Section 3 is 575 Upper Kina Road. Of note is the annotation 'Old Clearing' at the northern end of Section 3.

¹⁶ <https://taranaki.iwi.nz/our-history/>

¹⁷ <https://taranaki.iwi.nz/our-history/migration/>

¹⁸ <https://taranaki.iwi.nz/our-history/pakeha-wars-and-the-loss-of-taranaki-iwi-lands/>

¹⁹ https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/sap261_10_s_taranaki.pdf

²⁰ <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-ArnNewZ-c17-5.html>

The use of 'Old clearing' on early survey plans often refers to land cleared by Maori for gardening or settlement. This plan also records the forest species growing in the area, namely Towai, Rimu, Hinau, Tawa and Rata, indicating existing forest cover. By 1928 a dairy factory and school have been established at the eastern end of Kina Road (Figure 24).

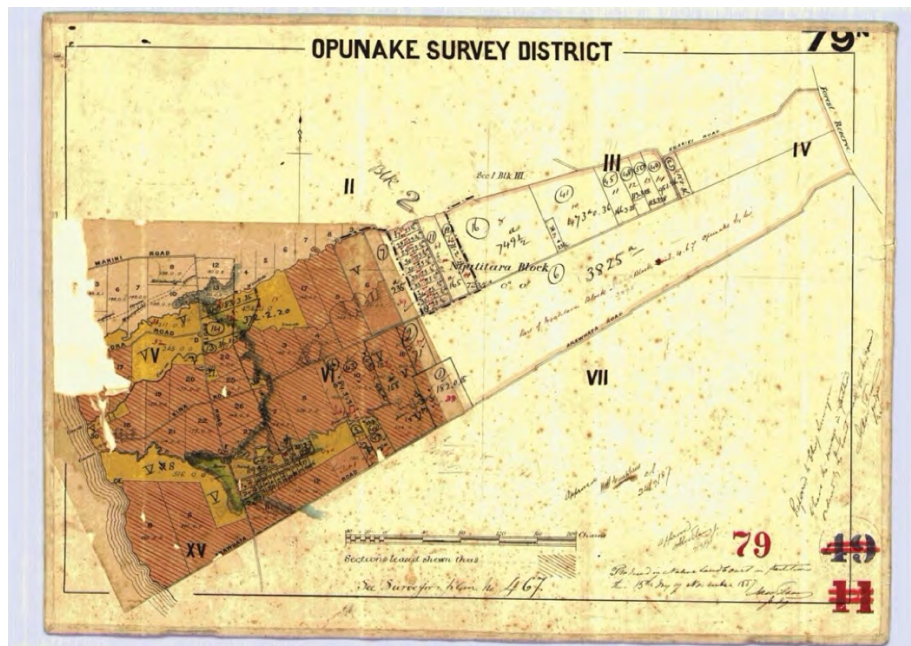


Figure 22: Plan ML 79 (1887) Opunake Survey District showing subdivided and leased properties in the Ngatitara Block.



Figure 23: 1894 survey plan DP 682 titled 'Plan of part of the Ngatitara Native Reserve' showing subdivision of land around Kina Road.



There are no other sites that could be interpreted as archaeological on this map on either Kina Rd properties, or proximate to them.

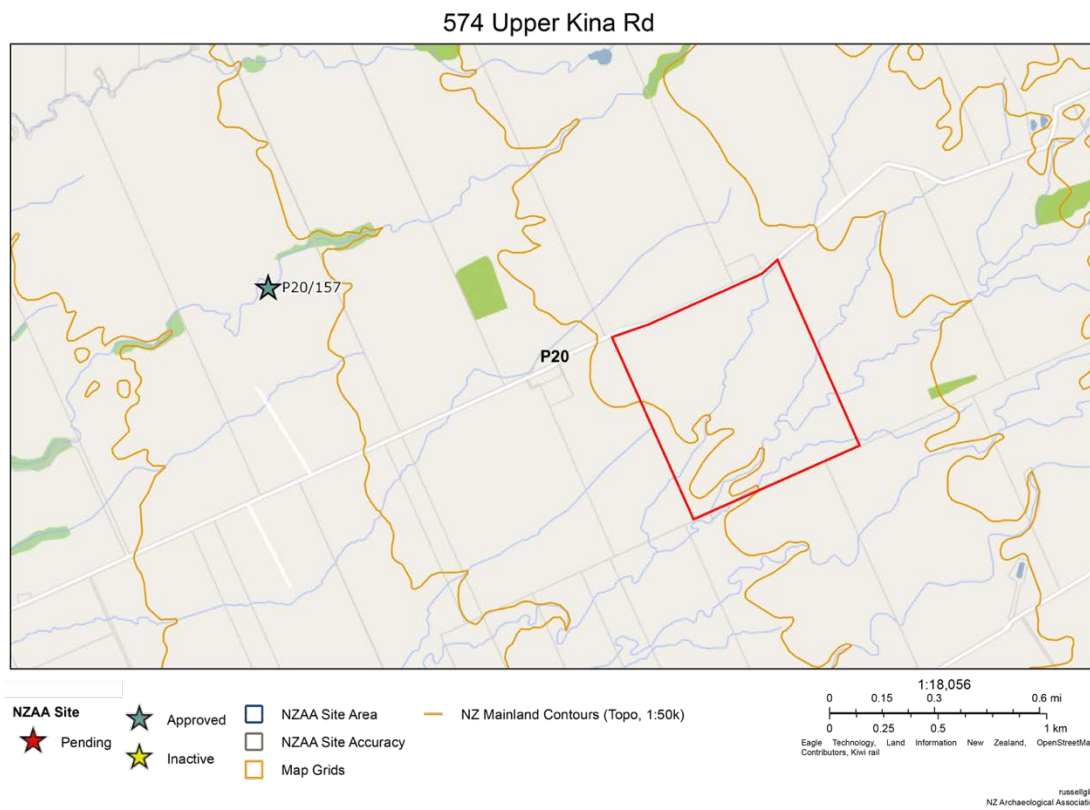


Figure 25: Recorded archaeological sites proximate to 574 Upper Kina Rd (Source: NZAA ArchSite 2021). The location of the subject property is outlined in red.

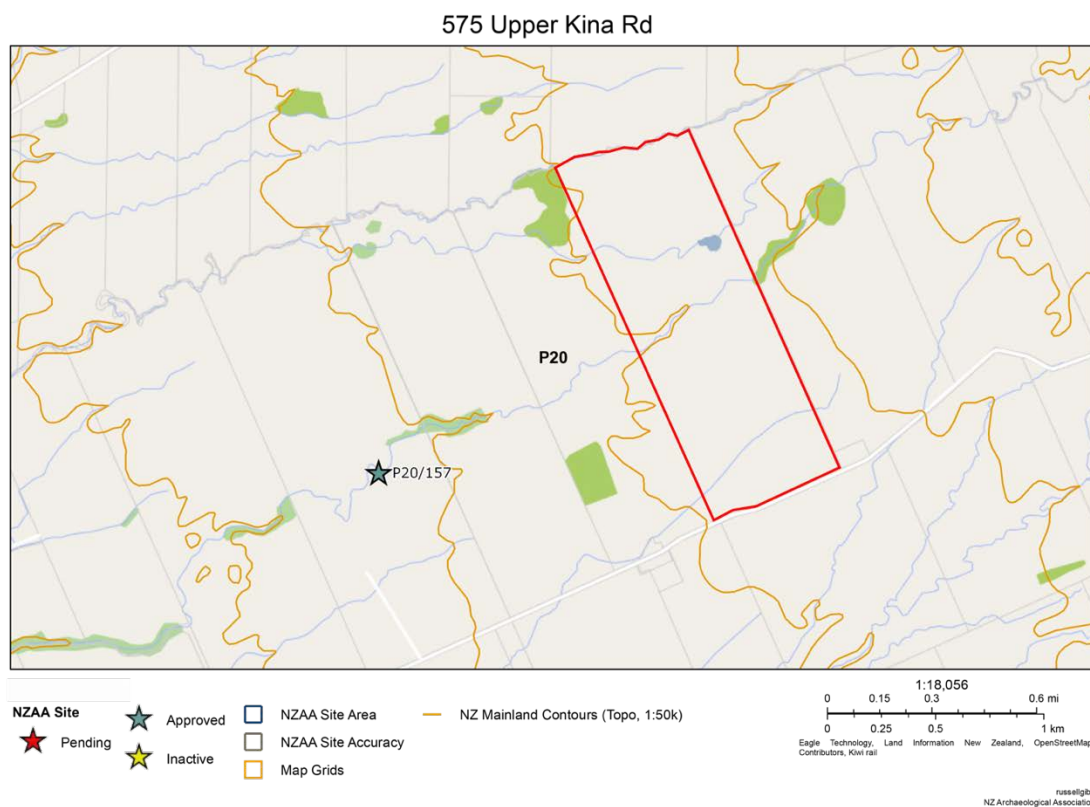


Figure 26: Recorded archaeological sites proximate to 575 Upper Kina Rd (Source: NZAA ArchSite 2021). The location of the subject property is outlined in red.

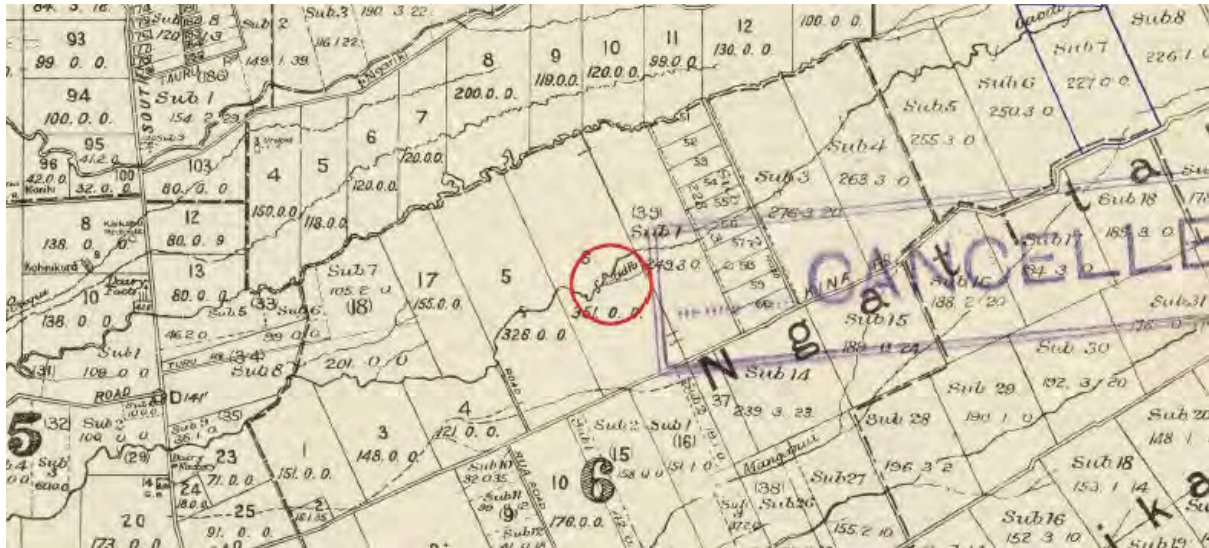


Figure 27: Section of Opunake Survey District (Gordon 1896) showing pa (P20/157) proximate to Kina Rd properties.

6.3 Site Visit - 574 Kina Road

This site was visited on 28 November 2021. In general the property consists of flat paddocks intersected by old drained networks and streams. All paddocks, exposed surfaces and eroded scarps were inspected for signs of archaeological material. No probing or test pitting was deemed necessary due to the presence of a number of exposed surfaces, scarps and creek/stream banks. No archaeological material was encountered and no surface features that may represent past anthropogenic activity were observed on the property. General site photos are shown below in Figures 28-31.



Figure 28: General view across the property.



Figure 29: General view looking south across the property.



Figure 30: Bush area currently used as farm rubbish dump.



Figure 31: Looking southwest across the rear of the property.

6.4 Site Visit 575 Kina Road

This property was visited immediately after the visit to 574 Kina Rd on the 28th November 2021. The farm is generally flat with a well established drainage network which generally delineates paddock boundaries. The Oaoiti Stream passes west-east through the middle of the property with the Moutoti Stream forming the northern boundary. All paddocks, exposed surfaces, drains, eroded scarps and the quarry were inspected for signs of archaeological material. Probing and test pitting were undertaken in the area shown as an “Old Clearing” on DP 682 (1894) and no archaeological material was detected or observed here, or across the rest of the property (Figures 32-35).



Figure 32: Example of a farm drain. There are numerous drains dug throughout the property which generally delineate paddocks.



Figure 33: Looking west across the Oao-iti Stream.



Figure 34: Looking southeast across the property with a small quarry in the background (centre left).



Figure 35: Looking south west towards the farm manager's house.

6.5 Other Heritage Site and Features

There are no scheduled historic heritage sites or features, nor Maori Sites of Significance on any of the subject properties listed in the relevant District Plans. Nor are there any registered Historic Places, Historic Areas, or Wahi Tapu or Wahi Tapu Areas in the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga register.

7.0 Archaeological Values

HNZPT has provided guidelines setting out criteria that are specific to archaeological sites (HNZPT, 2019, pp. 9–10). The archaeological values of sites relate mainly to their information potential, that is, the extent to which they can provide evidence relating to local, regional and national history through the use of archaeological investigation techniques, and the research questions to which the site could contribute. The surviving extent, complexity and condition of sites are the main factors in their ability to provide information through archaeological investigation.

No archaeological sites are recorded on and new sites have been identified on any of the subject properties. Therefore there are no archaeological values to assess.

8.0. Discussion

An inspection of all four properties did not identify any archaeological sites or any observable material or landforms that could be interpreted as archaeological in nature. Historic research undertaken for each site also indicates that there are no known historic events or hitherto unrecorded sites on any of the properties, with the possible exception of a small area at the northern end of 575 Kina Road that was identified as an 'old clearing' on the 1894 map DP 682. However, test pitting and probing did not identify any archaeological deposits in this area. Although the annotation 'old clearing' was often used in early surveys to indicate areas of previous Maori activity, without any definitive evidence of past activity it cannot be interpreted as an archaeological site.

Excepting the area on 575 Kina Road, there are no archaeological implications for the four assessed properties. With regards to the 'old clearing' area on 575 Kina Road, the archaeological potential is assessed as low and development on-site work could either proceed under an accidental discovery protocol or with a precautionary archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga in place prior to the commencement of works.

9.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

This report has assessed four properties located in Wellsford, South Taranaki, and Marton that are proposed to be developed into solar farms. Background research and site inspections have revealed no significant archaeological issues with the properties and therefore no archaeological effects on any of the properties. A small area identified on a pre-1900 survey plan as an old clearing on the northern end of the 575 Kina Road property has some (low) archaeological potential but with no observable archaeological features or material, and therefore no evidence to record it as an archaeological site. Any future work in this area could proceed with an accidental discovery protocol in place in the event that archaeological material is uncovered during development earthworks. However, it is recommended that an archaeological authority be sought from Heritage New Zealand for this property prior to the commencement of work on the property. This is not a legal requirement, but if archaeological material is discovered during the earthworks stage of development, work will be required to stop on the property until an application is made to Heritage New Zealand and an authority granted. The timeframe from application to granting an authority and seeing out the appeal period before work could recommence is approximately 2 months.

Therefore, the following recommendations are made to the client with respect to the proposed development.

1. No archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is required for the Priclor Road, Wellsford, 574 Kina Road, South Taranaki or Wellington Road, Marton properties.
2. It is recommended that Energy Farms Limited apply for an authority for the property at 575 Kina Road and that this is undertaken at least two months prior to when works are scheduled to begin. This will also require iwi consultation.

10.0 References

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