



**1 Selfs Road, Papatoetoe:  
archaeological assessment**

**report to  
Myland Partners**

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# 1 Selfs Road, Papatoetoe: archaeological assessment

## 1 Introduction

Myland Partners are undertaking due diligence prior to the potential purchase of 1 Selfs Road, Papatoetoe (Lot 1 DP 503731). A midden is recorded on the property as archaeological site R11/654 in the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme (SRS). 1 Selfs Road is the eastern extent of Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill, a low tuff ring volcano, that was extensively occupied by pre-European Māori, and R11/654 is a component of the wider Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill archaeological landscape. An archaeological assessment is required to inform the due diligence process and inform discussion between Myland Partners and mana whenua. This assessment was commissioned from CFG Heritage by Andrew Fawcett of Myland Partners.

### 1.1 Statutory requirements

All archaeological sites, whether recorded or not, are protected by the provisions of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 and may not be destroyed, damaged or modified without an authority issued by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT).

An archaeological site is defined in the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act as:

- (a) any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure), that—
  - (i) 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
  - (ii) provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand; and
- (b) includes a site for which a declaration is made under section 43(1).

The Resource Management Act 1991 (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:

- historic sites, structures, places, and areas
- archaeological sites;
- sites of significance to Maori, including wahi tapu;
- 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.

### 1.2 Limitations

This report is prepared to inform the due diligence and mana whenua engagement processes only. It is an assessment of the values and significance of the property and makes no assessment of effects. It cannot be used to support resource consent applications to Auckland Council or archaeological authority applications to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT).



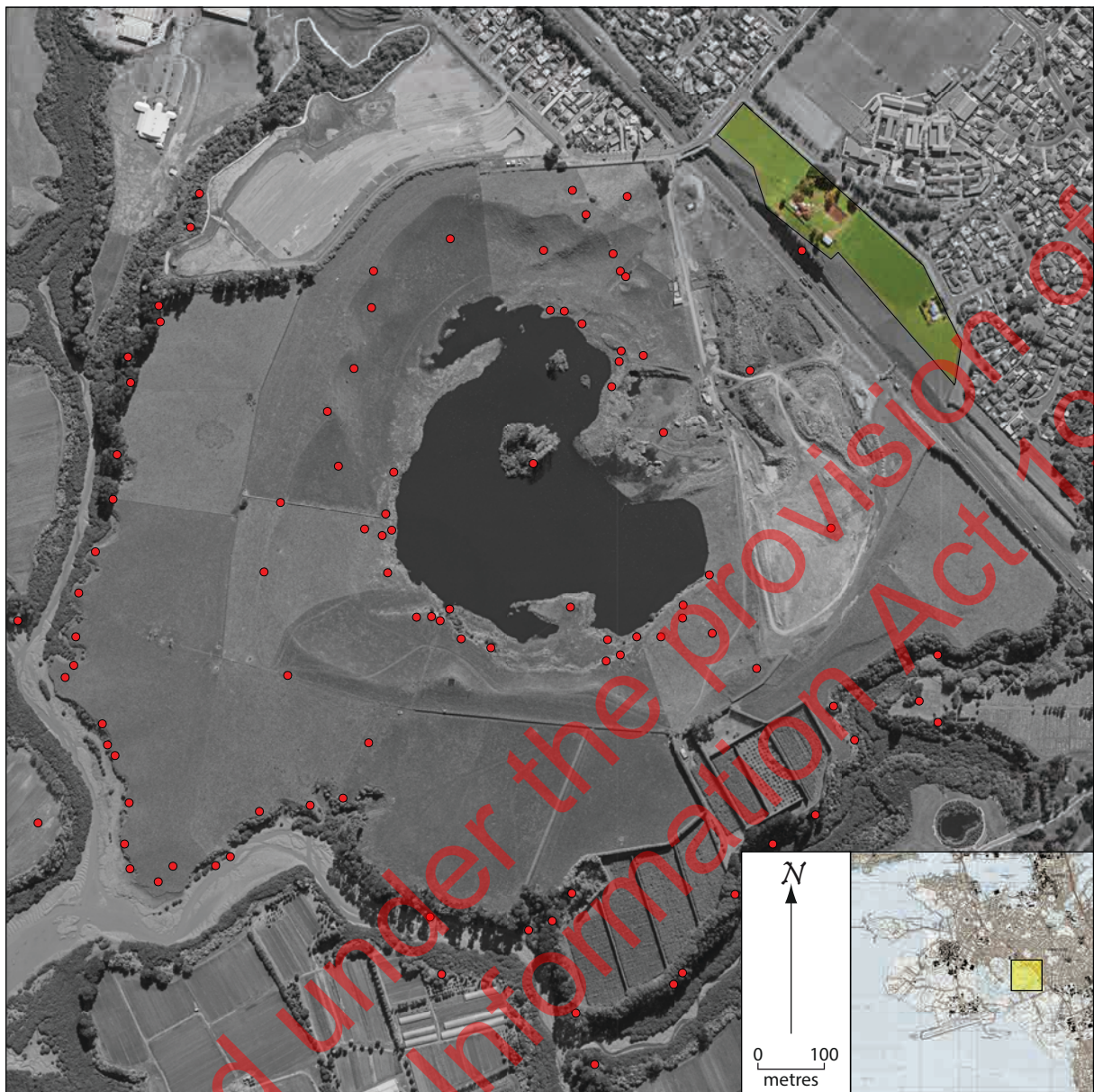


Figure 1. 1 Selfs Road and Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill, showing recorded archaeological sites.

## 2 Methodology

Historic background research was summarised from Campbell et al. (2013) and updated where relevant. Some new aerial photographs were accessed from the Alexander Turnbull Library. Aerial photographs were searched at Archives New Zealand but no relevant images were found.

Matthew Campbell of CFG Heritage visited the site on 20 April 2021 accompanied by Andrew Fawcett and Callum MacFarlane of Myland Partners, Lance Hessel of Civix, Rachel de Lambert of Boffa Miskell, Jeff Lee of Te Ākitai Waiohū, Zac Rutherford of Ngāti Tamaoho, David Fraser of Ngāti Te Ata and Mako Hikitaapua of Ngāti Whanaunga. The site was assessed in more detail on 10 May 2021 by Matthew Campbell accompanied by Andrew Fawcett and Callum MacFarlane, and Nigel Denny of Te Ākitai Waiohū. The property was probed with a 1.1 m gum spear and one test pit was dug.

### 3 Background

Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill erupted around 32,000 years ago. The first eruptions formed a low scoria mound but this has been almost entirely quarried away. Later eruptions were of a wet, explosive style that built up a 10–15 m high, 800 m wide tuff ring that and a small 50 m wide explosion crater erupted on the north east rim of the tuff ring (Hayward et al. 2011: 212). The construction of the southwestern motorway in the 1980s cut through the eastern side of Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill, destroying most of the secondary explosion crater, and cutting 1 Selfs Road off from the rest of the maunga.

The tuff soils of Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill, including 1 Selfs Road, are moderately well drained and fertile, and would have been highly suitable for pre-European Māori horticulture.

#### 3.1 Archaeological background

The wider Māngere /Manukau area contains some highly significant archaeological sites and landscapes, including the nationally significant stonefields sites at Otuataua, Matukutureia McLaughlin's Mountain, Puketutu Island and Ambury Farm Park, all on or near the Manukau Harbour. The surviving stone fields have all been described and mapped to greater or lesser degrees and some archaeological excavations have been carried out: at Ambury Farm Park, for instance (Lilburn 1982; Brassey and Adds 1983); the Wiri Oil Terminal site and the Wiri Railway site (Bulmer 1983; Foster and Sewell 1995: 4; Dave Veart pers. comm. 1 July 2010); at the Puhinui site (Lawlor 1981).

Excavations were also carried out at Maungataketake / Elletts Mountain in 1973 and 1975 prior to quarrying (McKinlay 1974, 1975); at R11/1930 on the Pukaki Creek (Foster 2000); and the NRD site (Northern Runway Development, R11/859), excavated ahead of runway construction (Campbell 2011a; Hudson and Campbell 2011); at Timberly Road (Farley et al. 2015); and Landing Drive (Farley and Clough 2013, 2014).

Some of the early investigations of stonefields showed that the sites were difficult to read from the surface, with presumed stone features often shown to be natural, while middens and stone working floors were found during excavation that were not detected on the surface. More recent excavations, particularly on Auckland Airport land have shown that the occupation of Māngere was more complex than just gardening.

#### 3.2 Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill

Crater Hill is one of Ngā Tapuwae o Mataaho, the footprints of Mataaho, which include Pukaki Crater, Māngere Lagoon, Kohuora, Sturges Park and Waitomokia / Mt Gabriel. It shares the name Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora with Kohuora, just to the east.

Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill was first recorded as a single site by Bob Brown in 1961 who recorded a pā where the quarry is now situated – Brown said that 5% was destroyed at the time, but 1950s aerial photographs show that it was almost all destroyed 10 years prior to recording. Sullivan (1975) subsequently surveyed the wider area and initially recorded all the sites within the crater and down to the Waokauri Creek as part of the same site (R11/141). While Sullivan clearly conceived of this wider landscape as a single site, she subsequently recorded clusters of features as 75 individual sites (there is an ongoing and essentially unresolvable debate in New Zealand archaeology regarding how to differentiate where one site ends and another begins, but this debate is not relevant here). Despite this recording history, for the purposes of this discussion Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill is treated as a single archaeological site extending from Selfs Road to the Waokauri. 1 Selfs Road is one component of this wider site.

In 1984 test excavations were undertaken at site R11/665 at Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill ahead of motorway construction (Foster et al. 1985). A possible house was found next to an extensive cobble-paved platform of unknown function. Nearby a pit with an internal drain was found, overlain by later evidence of cooking which was itself overlain by a garden wall, indicating repeated occupa-



tion. Despite the excavators' recommendations, no further excavation was undertaken and a significant portion of the Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill landscape was destroyed without mitigation.

The Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill landscape was assessed by CFG Heritage on 14–16 May 2013 for the Puhinui Master Planning process. Most of the sites recorded by Sullivan, except where they had been destroyed by quarrying or motorway construction, were re-identified and new sites were recorded, particularly the 19th century stone walls.

Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill is an extensive site consisting of pits, terraces and garden features around the crater rim and on the inner and outer slopes, modified natural terraces at the base of the inner slopes, midden and burial caves. It is not certain that the main scoria mound was formed into a pā, and it has since been destroyed by quarrying, but if it was a pā it would have originally been the central focus of this archaeological landscape. At the base of the outer slopes to east and south, on the banks of the Waokauri Creek, are numerous middens, although these have been modified in recent years by market gardening. These are an integral part of the archaeological landscape. Other than a midden recorded on Waka Kotahi land immediately west of 1 Selfs Road (site R11/654, discussed below), and the features destroyed by SH20 construction, the recorded features are all west of SH20.

The archaeological landscape at Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill is evident in changes in vegetation brought about by human exploitation of the rich garden soils. It is also evident in the use of local stone by 19th century European farmers to build drystone walls – and even in ongoing quarrying. In each of these cases humans have exploited the natural resources to change the landscape. The layering of 19th century farming evidence over pre-European occupation is a significant aspect of the Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill landscape. This landscape tells the story of human occupation at Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill and is readily interpreted.

While the tuff ring of Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill is the most obvious physical landscape feature and contains the most obviously visible archaeological features, such as pits, terraces and middens, this is part of a wider archaeological landscape for which several connections are clearly visible. The first of these is the Waokauri Creek, along the banks of which numerous middens have been recorded. There are also middens in and on the tuff ring, indicating the intimate link between Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill and the creek from which shellfish would have been gathered.

Another link to wider landscapes is evident in the views between Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill and pā at Te Pane of Mataaho / Māngere Mountain and Matukutureia McLaughlins Mountain (although damaged by quarrying), and the wider hinterland of Māngere / Manukau.

The 2013 Puhinui Master Plan assessment (Campbell et al. 2013) assessed that the “Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill is an archaeological landscape of exceptional significance.”

### 3.3 *Historic maps*

SO 5210, *Block X Otahuhu*, dated 1889, shows six stone walls radiating out from the edge of the lake at Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill which relate to the division of the land into paddocks for farming, rather than earlier Maori gardening systems. Two of these are recorded as sites R11/2842 And R11/2845. The beginnings of quarrying on the main scoria cone are apparent. This cone appears to be terraced and so may have been fortified as a pā, but this may be just how it was drawn to indicate it was a hill. The secondary crater, now largely destroyed, is shown and a stone wall runs to the east of this, probably in the vicinity the current 1 Selfs Road house. This wall is no longer visible. On the west side of the lake a cave is labelled as ‘cave containing human bones’ which would appear to relate to the recorded archaeological site R11/648. The site record makes no mention of burials or human remains in the cave, which were probably removed in the intervening period.

### 3.4 *Aerial photography*

An oblique aerial photograph by White's Aviation, taken on 14 May 1958, shows Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill from the west shows 1 Selfs Road on the far side of the image. The stone wall shown on SO 5210 (Figure 2) is no longer visible and there is no trace of it, although there seems to

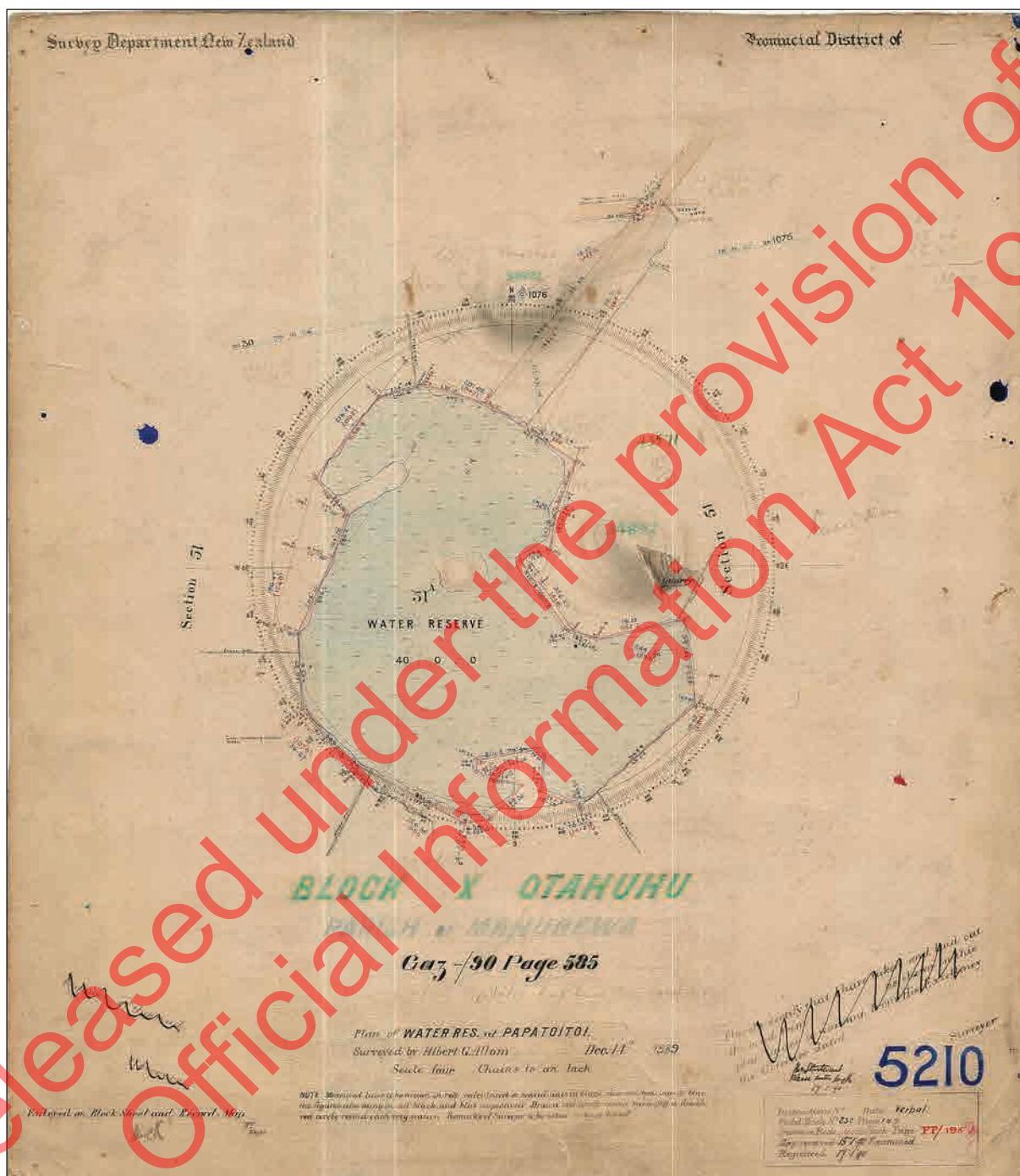


Figure 2. SO 5210, Block X Otahuhu, dated 1889.

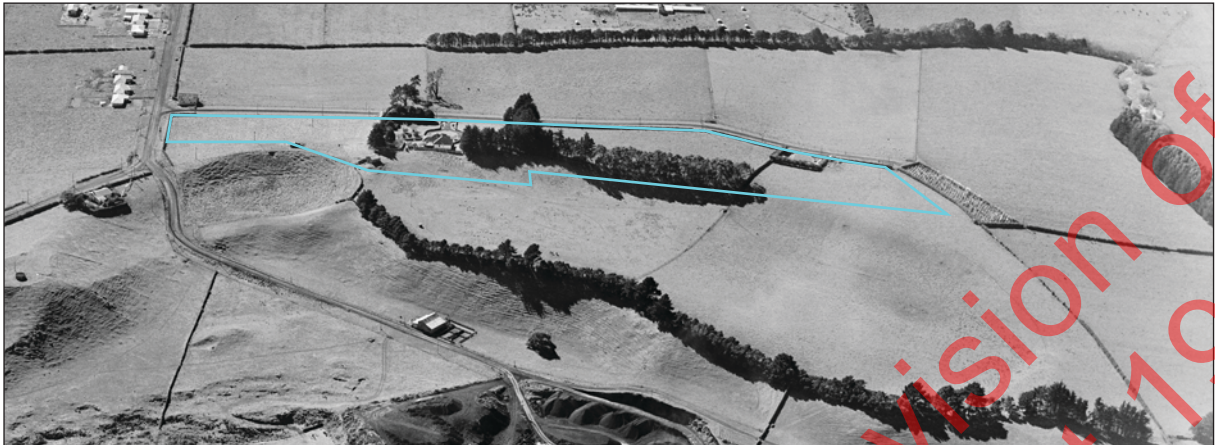


Figure 3. Detail of White's aviation oblique aerial photo dated 14 May 1958, with 1 Selfs Road approximately outlined (see cover of report for full image) (Alexander Turnbull Library WA-46114).

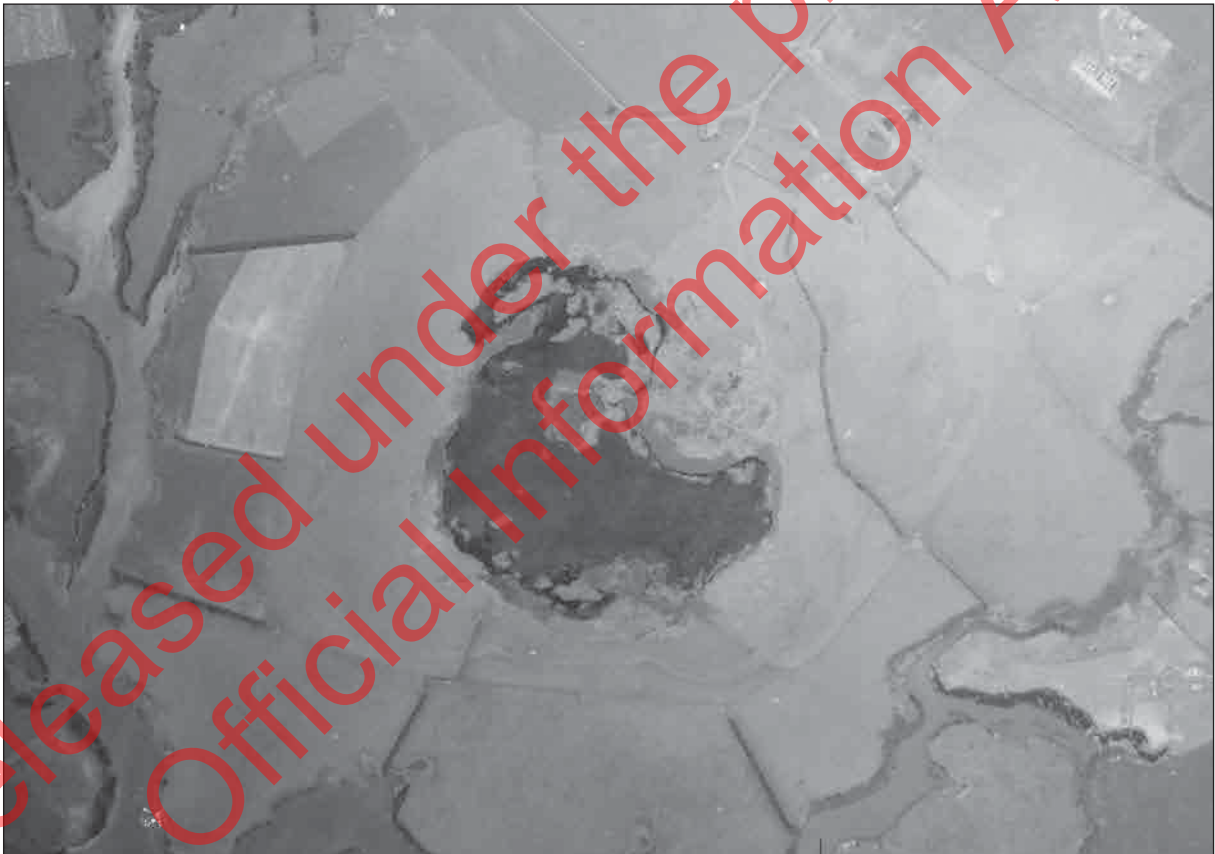


Figure 4. Detail of SN139/32/9, dated 29 December 1939, showing Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill.





Figure 5. Detail of SN1052/O/8, dated 14 May 1958, showing Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill.

be another leading directly to the secondary crater. A shelter belt runs along most of the crater rim where features such as kūmara storage pits would most probably be located, as they are on the west and south sides of the crater rim (see cover image). Two of these trees are still standing (Figure 8).

Overhead aerial photographs from 1939 and 1958 show very little detail – the 1958 photo was taken at 12.23 pm on 14 May 1958 (the same date as the Whites Aviation oblique). The light is very flat and little surface detail shows up. The 1939 aerial is not time stamped but is equally flat.

#### 4 Field assessment

1 Sels Road is located on the northeast slopes of Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill, cut off from the bulk of the site by the Southwestern Motorway (SH 20). It is approximately 500 m long and 90 m wide, bounded by Portage Road to the north, Sels Road to the east and south (at the south Sels Road acts as a Council Reserve) and Waka Kotahi land bordering SH20 to the west. The western boundary skirts the remnant of the secondary explosion crater and tuff ring – very little of the high point of the crater rim is located within the property. The property provides an excellent view of Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill across the motorway.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed. Recorded site R11/654 is probably in the vicinity of the current shed. When recorded in 1979 it was described as two exposures of shell, neither in situ. One was a thin scatter of tuangi (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) in the shelter belt and the other was a slumped midden in the inner slope of the crater around 40 m below the first scatter. Both were assumed to originate in a more substantial deposit under the shelter belt, but this deposit was not observed at the time and was not observed during the current field assessment. Neither were the two deposits recorded as R11/654, which, from the description in the site record, will be on Waka Kotahi land.

Probing around the secondary explosion crater was inconclusive due to the presence of scoria gravels beneath the surface – it is generally difficult to distinguish between scoria and shell but a test pit showed that scoria was present and was being detected by the probe. To the south of the house a transect about 5 m east of the boundary, which is below and outside the crater rim, was probed roughly every 5 m but no archaeological deposits or features were detected.

## 5 Assessment

The following assessments of significance relate only to archaeological values. Other interested parties, in particular mana whenua, may hold different values regarding the proposed development.

While no archaeological deposits or features were found on 1 Sells Road it is still considered highly likely that they will be present. Features, particularly kūmara storage pits, will be more common along the crater rim, which lies on Waka Kotahi land to the west of 1 Sells Road. Numerous pits remain on the western crater rim and these high points are most suited to kūmara storage. If any were originally on 1 Sells Road they will have been damaged by the former shelter belt and may have been infilled by cultivation. Middens may be encountered on the outer slope of the crater and these slopes contained fertile, well-drained soils that are likely to have been gardened.

While there is no direct evidence of these activities visible on the surface, these slopes remain part of the wider Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill archaeological landscape. The significance of the component of this landscape at 1 Sells Road has been compromised by being cut off from the main crater by SH20, but it is still a highly significant area.

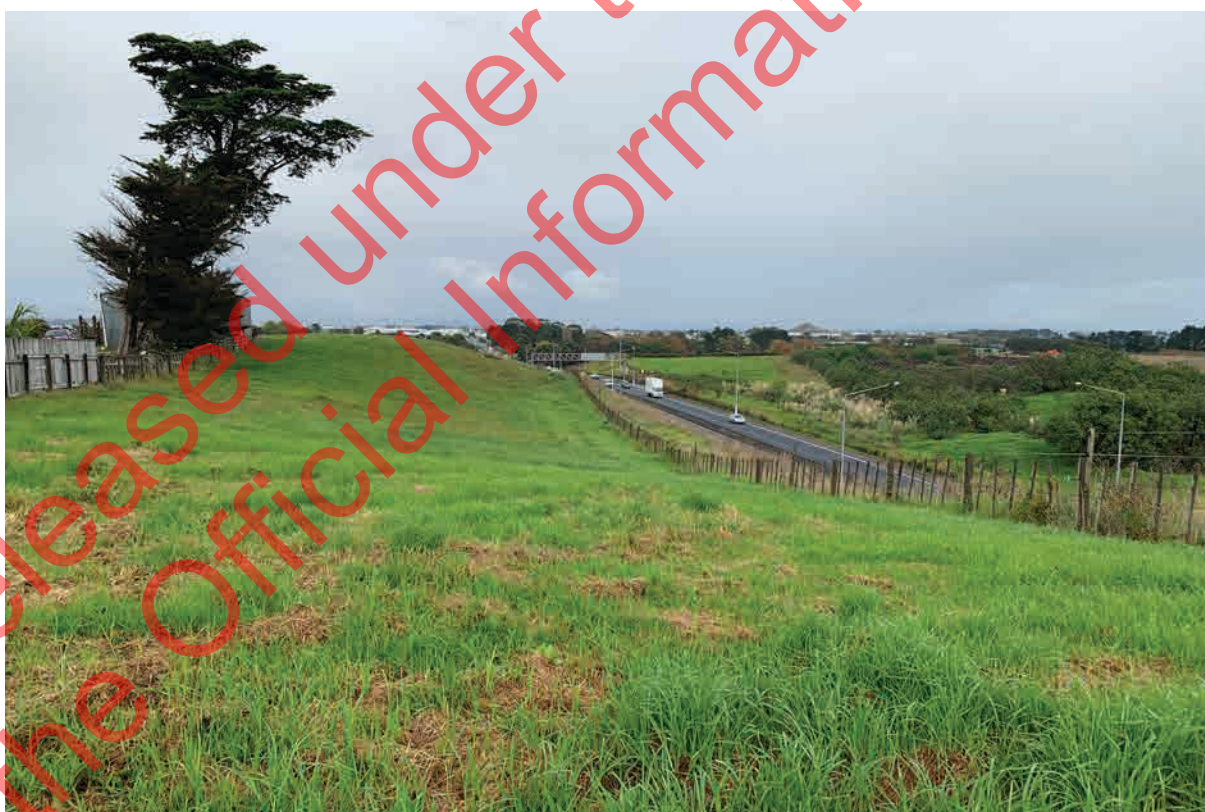


*Figure 6. View of the bulk of Ngā Kapua Kohu Ora / Crater Hill across SH20.*





*Figure 7. The remnant of the secondary explosion crater, looking north.*



*Figure 8. View north along the crater rim, mostly on Waka Kotahi land.*





*Figure 9. General alignment of the probe transect, looking south. The fence marks the boundary.*

## **6 Recommendations**

These recommendations are only made on the basis of the archaeological values that have been outlined above. Any other values associated with special interest groups, including tangata whenua, can only be determined by them. It is recommended that:

- when earthworks plans become available, a full assessment of effects be carried out;
- an authority to damage or destroy site R11/654 and any other archaeological deposit or features at 1 Selfs Road (Lot 1 DP 503731) be applied for from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (Heritage NZ) under Section 44 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014;
- since archaeological survey cannot always detect sites of traditional significance to Maori, or wahi tapu, the appropriate tangata whenua authorities should be consulted regarding the possible existence of such sites, and the recommendations in this report.

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