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Tena koe Mike

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT MOTU CYCLE TRAILS –
COASTAL DUNE SECTION**

As requested, I carried out a field inspection of the proposed route of the coastal dune section of the Motu Cycle Trails on 21 July 2010. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether archaeological sites are likely to be affected by the construction of this portion of the cycle trail.

I have also undertaken some brief documentary research to inform and support the findings of the field inspection. As part of this research, I consulted the NZ Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme, which is the national inventory of archaeological sites in New Zealand.

In addition, my findings make reference to the requirements of the *Historic Places Act 1993*.

Previous archaeological survey

The Opotiki Domain Recreation Reserve and the Hukuwai Beach Reserve portions of the proposed coastal dune route were included in an archaeological survey carried out by me in 2004 as part of the preparation of reserve management plans. At that time one archaeological site was identified in the Opotiki Domain Recreation Reserve. That site was recorded in the NZ Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme as W15/912 (historic midden/rubbish dump).

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The site is located in the swale of the back dunes to the west of the cell phone tower at the end of Snells Road. This site will not be affected by the construction of the proposed cycle trail.

In 1997 I carried out archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance associated with the construction of the cell phone tower at the end of Snells Road. The proposed cycle trail passes close to the cell phone tower site. No archaeological material was exposed during the monitoring of the cell phone tower construction, and the subsurface material consisted almost entirely of clean windblown sand.

There are no other recorded archaeological sites on the coastal dune section of the proposed cycle trail. The trail passes by Tirohanga Pa (X15/172), but there will be no construction activity at this point because the trail will be on the ocean beach. The trail also avoids the significant battle site of Waiwhero because this portion will be constructed as a cycle lane immediately adjacent to the existing state highway 35.

Field inspection

The archaeological field inspection carried out on 21 July 2010 followed the cycle trail route from the vicinity of the proposed bridge crossing the Otara River, along the existing stop bank to the western extension of Snells Road, and then east along the coastal dunes and/or the ocean beach, until the cycle trail joins State Highway 35 east of Tirohanga, to approximately 1 km up the Motu Road at the point where the cycle trail joins the Motu Road. The field inspection included the cycle trail route passing through council administered road reserve and the Department of Conservation administered coastal reserve.

Vegetation on the coastal dunes forms a dense ground cover in most places which restricted the ground surface visibility at the time of the inspection. Exposed ground sections were examined where-ever possible. The portions of the proposed cycle trail that are located on either existing stop banks, grazed pasture, or immediately adjacent to the highway were in short grass and ground surface visibility was unrestricted.

Legal requirements - Historic Places Act 1993

The Historic Places Act (HPA) provides for the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. The HPA defines an archaeological site as:

Any place in New Zealand that

(a) either –

(i) was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900; or



- (ii) is the site of the wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and
- (b) is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

The HPA contains a consent (authority) process for any work affecting an archaeological site. Any person who intends carrying out work that may damage, modify or destroy an archaeological site, or investigating a site by excavation, must first obtain an authority from the NZ Historic Places Trust ('NZHPT'). The archaeological authority process applies to all sites that fit the HPA definition, whether previously recorded or not. The process applies to sites on land of all tenure including public, private and designated land. The HPA contains penalties for unauthorised site damage or destruction.

To date no archaeological sites have been identified on the route of the cycle trail, therefore it is not necessary to obtain an archaeological authority. However, if sites are encountered during work, compliance with the archaeological provisions of the HPA is required.

Findings and recommendations

- No visible archaeological sites or material indicating the presence of buried archaeological deposits was identified during the site inspection. The recorded archaeological site in the dunes at the Opotiki Domain Recreation Reserve will not be affected by the cycle trail. Other known archaeological sites or places of Maori cultural significance near the cycle trail will not be affected by the construction. No archaeological authority under the provisions of the HPA is required at this time.
- As a precaution, it is recommended that a brief archaeological field inspection is carried out along the cycle trail route, within the Opotiki Domain Recreation Reserve, after the surface vegetation has been removed and before any construction activity begins. This is recommended to address the possibility that the historic rubbish dump recorded to the west may extend into the eastern portion of the reserve. If this is the case, and the site cannot be avoided during construction of the cycle trail, the NZHPT should be contacted for advice on the requirements for compliance with the HPA.
- Ground surface visibility was restricted in the coastal dunes during the field inspection and it is not possible to definitively state that no archaeological deposits are present in the dunes. However, it is considered that due to the limited ground disturbance required for the construction of the cycle trail and the depth of the windblown sand deposit on the dunes, it is unlikely that buried archaeological sites will be encountered.



- It is recommended that an accidental discovery protocol is put in place during the construction of the cycle trail to allow for any possibility that unknown sites with no surface evidence may be encountered. An electronic template for such a protocol has already been supplied to you.
- All contractors engaged to carry out the construction of the cycle trail should be made aware of the requirements of the accidental discovery protocol.
- In the event that archaeological sites are encountered during construction activity it will be necessary to cease work in the vicinity until the requirements of the accidental discovery protocol and the HPA have been fulfilled.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about my findings.

Naku noa na

Lynda Walter
Director



EXAMPLE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, KOIWI (HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS) AND TAONGA (ARTEFACTS) ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY PROTOCOL

If archaeological sites, koiwi or taonga are uncovered or suspected during any ground disturbance or routine management works the following process will be followed by all persons.

If in doubt, stop and ask.

Procedure:

1. All work shall cease immediately at the site of discovery.
2. Secure the area to prevent further damage. **DO NOT** remove any material from the site. Advise (insert appropriate staff member) (insert phone number).
3. The(insert appropriate staff member) will notify (appropriate archaeologist (currently..... phone.....). Depending on the archaeologist's advice, the(staff member) will notify the NZ Historic Places Trust.

Contact: NZ Historic Places Trust Regional Archaeologist (07).

4. If the site is of Maori origin the (Appropriate staff member) shall notify *<insert appropriate iwi representative>* to determine what further actions are appropriate to safeguard the site or its contents.

Contact: *<insert appropriate iwi contacts>*.

5. If clearly identifiable human skeletal remains are uncovered the (Appropriate staff member) shall immediately advise the NZ Police (this is a legal requirement following the discovery of any human skeletal material).
6. Works affecting the site shall not resume until the NZ Historic Places Trust, the Police (if skeletal remains are involved) and *<insert iwi groups>* have each given approval for work to continue.
7. If advised by the NZ Historic Places Trust that an authority is required, no further work that will affect the site shall be undertaken until the authority is granted and any conditions are met.