

# **80 McLarin Road, proposed private plan change: archaeological assessment**

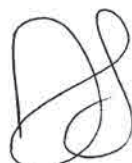
**report to  
Harrison Grierson**

**Danielle Trilford**

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Prepared by:



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# 80 McLarin Road, proposed private plan change: archaeological assessment

## 1 Introduction

HD Project 2 Limited are putting forward a request for a private plan change to the Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in Part (AUP). The plan change seeks to rezone 80 McLarin Road, Glenbrook (Lot 2 DP 204733) from Future Urban Zone (FUZ) to a mixture of residential – Single House and Residential and Mixed-Housing Suburban. The details of which will be confirmed as the project progresses. The land is approximately 8 hectares of greenspace (Figure 1). An archaeological and heritage assessment is required to identify constraints and inform the plan change process. Bryce Powell of Harrison Grierson commissioned this assessment from CFG Heritage.

### 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 Scope and limitations

This assessment has been undertaken to support the private plan change. It cannot be used for resource consent applications to Auckland Council or archaeological authority applications to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.



Figure 1. Location of the property and recorded archaeological sites recorded in the vicinity.

## 2 Method

Records of archaeological sites in the general vicinity were accessed from the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording scheme (SRS) through ArchSite ([www.archsite.org.nz](http://www.archsite.org.nz)). The HNZPT List / Rārangi Kōrero was checked. Retrolens.nz was accessed for old aerial photographs. Archaeological site reports were accessed from the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga digital library. Books on the local history guided some of the background to the area. The Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) data website was accessed for LiDAR and other spatial data. The Smap website was visited to examine the attributes of soils in the project area. Search engine Digital NZ was accessed to view old photographs and maps. The Auckland Council digital library was searched for texts and images relating to the history of the area, specifically Manukau's Journey - Ngā Tapuwae o Manukau. Early survey maps were searched on QuickMap for pre-1900 structures and land use. The site was visited by Danielle on 23 June 2021. The Auckland Museum Library was visited to search early texts.

### 3 Background

Glenbrook is a small village on the west of the Kahawai Peninsula. The peninsula extends in a north – south orientation off the mainland into the Manukau Harbour. The Waiuku Estuary runs west and the Taihiki River north and east (Figure 2). The village is around 30 km west of State Highway 1. The property is open greenspace. It is relatively flat in the north and east with some steep slopes toward the centre of the site and toward the southwest corner. There is an approximate 16 m elevation across the property from northwest to southwest. The property overlooks the Waiuku River and toward the east face of the Awhitū Peninsula. Smap data shows that the property is a mixture of four allophanic soils (Karakam\_1a, TeRaumoa\_2a, and Onewhere\_1b, and Levin\_18a). The first three of these are typically clays while the last is a loam. Allophanic soils contain minerals that coat the sand and silt grains and maintain a porous, low density structure with weak strength. The soils are identified by a distinctly greasy feel when moistened and rubbed firmly between the fingers. It is formed in fragmental material erupted from a volcano, from rhyolite parent material. Some of these soil types have attributes which are suitable for pre-European Māori gardening. Kūmara storage pits recorded further south support the likelihood gardening was probably occurring in the area. There are two unnamed overland flow paths on the property which, based on topography and old aerial photographs, were likely some type of waterbody during the pre-European Māori period (Auckland Council Geomaps, Figure 3). Waterways were often utilised by pre-European Māori as transport routes, boundaries, food gathering resources, and other daily activities.

#### 3.1 Pre-European Māori history

Pre-European Māori settlement in the area can be traced back to a focus around waterways, acting as transportation routes and areas of cultivation. Settlement in the Manukau lowlands was pri-



Figure 2. Aerial with Taihiki and Waiuku Rivers labelled, and 80 McLaren Road in yellow outline.



Figure 3. Aerial photo from 1942, with 80 McLarin Road outlined in yellow (SN192/276/13).

marily concentrated on the inlets of the Manukau Harbour and the Hunua Ranges. While a lot of the lowland areas were poorly drained and therefore would not have been attractive for settlement, they would have been exploited for their birds and other wetland resources (Tatton 2001: 45). Conversely, the fertile soils around the supported large area of māra kai of kūmara, taro, uwhi and other root crops.

There are two recorded toānga waka (portages) near Glenbrook (Hooker 1997). One is the Waiuku, or Te Pai o Kaiwaka, portage, and the other is the Pokorua portage.

Hooker (1997) explains that the Waiuku portage was a significant path across the narrow stretch of land between the Waiuku River and the Awaroa Stream. The Waiuku River is that which flanks the property to the west in this assessment. The Awaroa Stream is a tributary of the Waikato River. People reaching the Manukau Harbour and heading south were able to enter the Waiuku River, the dragging their vessels over the portage on the Awaroa Stream and then gained access to the Waikato. Charles Terry's descriptions from 1842 referenced in Hooker (1997: 40) note that it was around 2260 yards, which is around 2 km. A.S Thomson, also referenced in Hooker (1997: 40), stated that in 1859 the Awaroa was damned by people to stop people from the north accessing the Waikato River.

The Pokorua portage allowed for direct access to the Tasman Sea from the Waiuku River via Lake Pokorua. The portage allowed waka to leave Manukau Harbour, visit the Toheroa beds at Murawai (Hooker 1997), then enter the harbour without passing through the harbour entrance.

### 3.2 19th century history

In the early 1820s Ngāpuhi from the Bay of Islands had obtained muskets from European traders and travelled south through the Franklin area. Hundreds of people were killed, and many others driven further into the Waikato. By 1835, Māori in the Franklin area had obtained muskets themselves

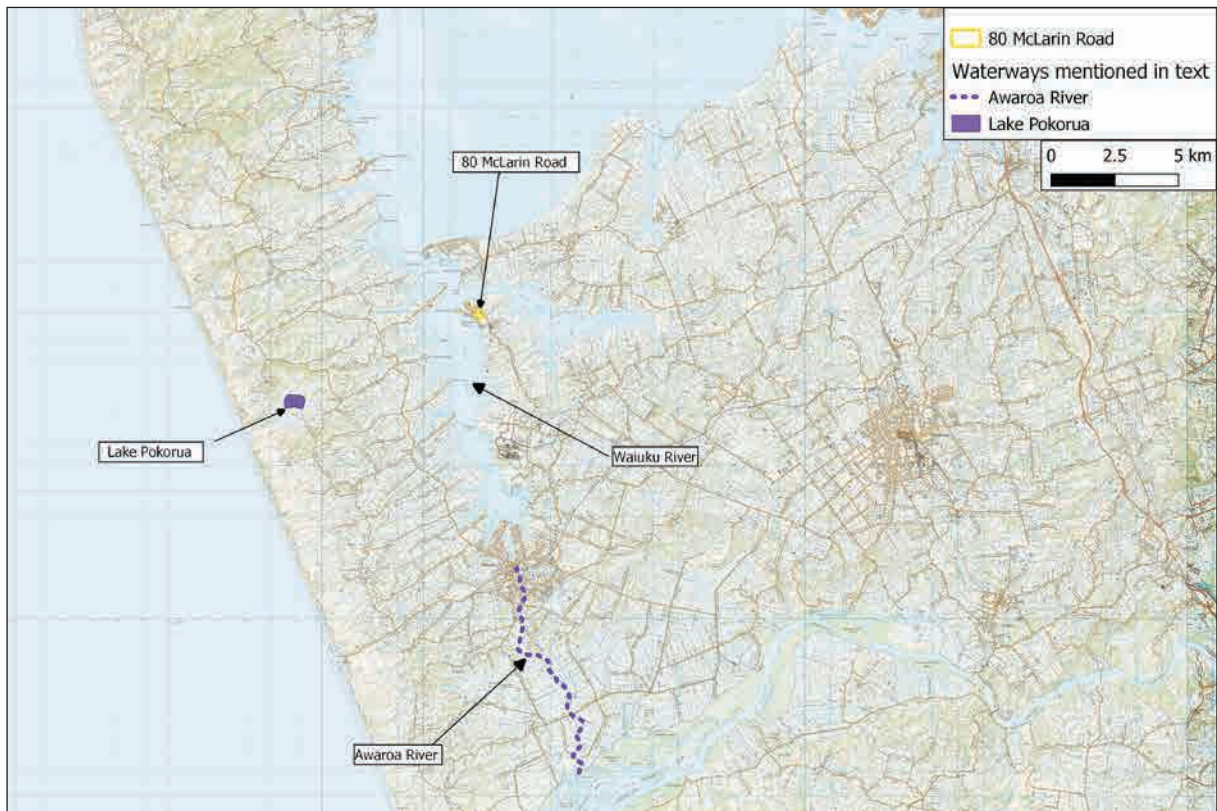


Figure 4. Map showing the Kahawai peninsula, Waiuku River, Awaroa River, and Lake Pokorua as mentioned in the waka toānga.

and were better prepared for any further invasions, so returned from the Waikato to their ancestral lands (Auckland Council Heritage Unit 2014).

In several early old texts, plans and maps referring to the peninsula which Glenbrook beach is on is referred to as Kahawai (for example: Figure 5, Figure 6, Figure 7, Morris 1965, plan DP 7108). The name Glenbrook appears in maps plans and texts around the early-mid20th century.

A cultural impact assessment prepared by Ngati Te Ata in previous years for a nearby project stated that early activities and events at the Kahawai Block include those with Pōtatau Te Wherowhero (Ngati Te Ata 2015 report, cited in Baquié and Bicker 2019: 8). It is thought he lived briefly somewhere on the Block along with daughter Tīria and son-in-law John Kent. Written records of Te Wherowhero's occupation in the Manukau are scarce and lack detail. Te Wherowhero usually lived at Kaitotehe Pā on the Waikato River (Swarbrick 2015).

### 3.2.1 Tīria and John Kent at Kahawai in the 19th century

Tīria and her husband John Kent were buried at Kahawai, and appear to have spent parts of their life there (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections MJ\_0058). John Kent was likely buried in a currently unrecorded grave near the Tahiki River in Kahawai in 1837 (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections MJ\_0058):

The trader John Rodolphus Kent died at Kahawai on the Manukau Harbour (near present-day Glenbrook Beach). According to local tradition he is buried at Te Toro, on the opposite side of the Manukau Harbour - more likely he is buried at Kahawai itself, beside the Taihiki River, and the Te Toro grave is that of the trader John Bushell.

It appears that in 1888 John White misinterpreted the burial location of John Bushell in Te Toro (a neighbouring peninsula) with John Kent's (White 1888: 198). In MJ\_0058 states that, "...the story has been repeated and embellished by other hands since." The burial of John Kent at Kahawai is also recorded in other texts, including the journal entries of Kent's acquaintance, the missionary James Hamlin, stating that he died at Kahawai and was interred at Kahawai at a sacred place.

Charles Ligar, a British surveyor in the 1840s, was negotiating with a number of rangatira over the possible purchase of the Kahawai Block. In 5 May 1847, Ligar wrote to the Colonial Secretary (Turton, 1883: C280-1):

I understand that the principal reason that induces them to offer the land for sale, is, because it is tapued [sic] and useless to the natives, being sacred to them but not to Europeans. The children of Te Wherowhero are buried there, as well as the late Captain Kent, who lived with one of this Chief's daughters.

It had been speculated that the burial had been eroded into the sea. Brian Muir (1981) noted that there is no evidence of significant erosion occurring on the headland between the 1860s and 1960s, and without knowing where the original burial locations are it is not reasonable to determine that these have eroded.

James Hamlin, a missionary who arrived in New Zealand in 1826, kept a diary of his movements around the North Island. He frequented the Manukau Harbour. That diary documents an interaction he had with Pōtatau Te Wherowhero, which notes he was present in Kahawai area during the mid-1830s, with occasional references to Te Wherowhero appearing in 1836. This seems likely he was visiting or staying with his daughter Tīria and son-in-law John Kent at an unknown location on Kahawai.

On 28 November 1836 Hamlin wrote: "Monday went to Kahawai to see Werowero and other chiefs, who were talking of going to fight or rather murder a small party in Waikato which it was said maketued or bewitched his daughter that has just departed this life."

The diary does not elaborate on the circumstances or location of the daughter's death nor does it document where on Kahawai people were. It does however note the frequent use of the Awaroa tōanga (which is probably what is now named the Waiuku portage based on the locations described and the use of the Awaroa Stream) to access the Waikato River, meaning he would have utilised the Waiuku River to access the portage, passing Kahawai frequently (Hamlin n.d.:73, 74, 87, 88).

Morris (1965: 89) records that the Kahawai Block was sold by Maunganga (a branch of Ngāti Tamaoho) on 5 April 1853. Wetera and Epiha Putini of Maunganga signed a deed and received payment of £100, and land was offered for sale to Europeans in 1854. Morris (1965: 89) also notes that "most of the purchasers were absentee owners and many were prominent citizens of Auckland."

In 1853 Lieutenant Colonel Wynyard (acting Governor of New Zealand 1853–1855) owned land along the foreshore of Kahawai, and his immediate neighbours were Major Hume, Captain Balneavis and Dr Mahon (Figure 5) (Morris 1965:71). An 1860s map of Parish's and lots includes these names, and Major Hume's neighbour to the north, "D. Thomson", is plotted. The land north of Thomson's parcel, where 80 McLarin Road stands, does not have any owners recorded in 1860s maps (Figure 5). Survey Plan SO 639 drawn in 1855 has a track and house plotted on the east side of the Kahawai Peninsula, this was added to the SRS during this assessment as R12/1187 (Figure 8). The scanned map resolution is not clear enough to read the annotation near the house.

### 3.3 *Archaeological background*

There are 34 archaeological sites recorded in the SRS within two km of 80 McLarin Road. Seventeen of those sites are on the peninsula on which the property lies, while the others are on neighbouring peninsulas separated by the Waiuku and Taihiki waterways. Sixteen of the recorded sites on the peninsula are pre-European Māori middens, however one of these also documents a 2B adze being found (R12/873) and another a potential kūmara storage pit (R12/868). One was record of a historic house and access route from an 1855 plan during this assessment (R12/1187). The recorded sites are all exclusively coastal but this does not rule out the likelihood of potential previously unrecorded subsurface deposits being present inland.





Figure 5. Detail of Map of Lots in the Parishes of Puni, Waiuku East, Waiuku and Kahawai, 1860s (George Church Map Collection, 995.113, Map 5712, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections).

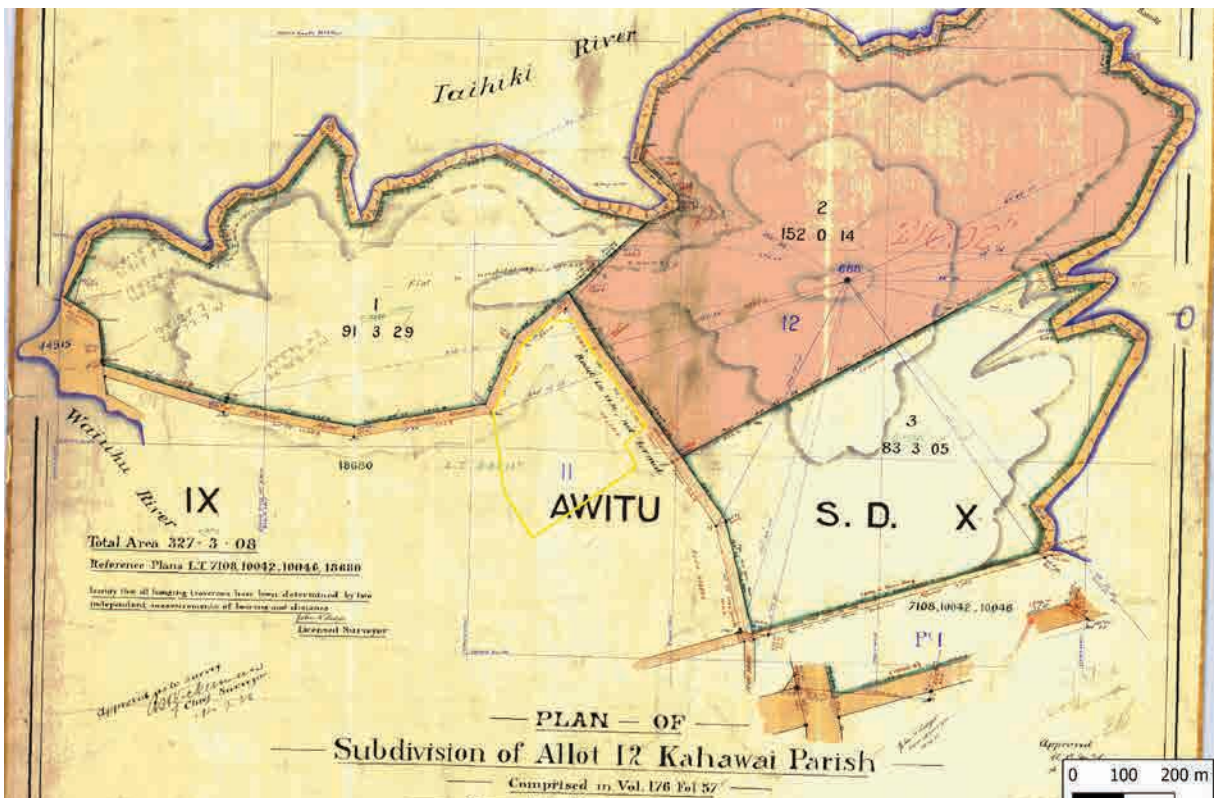


Figure 6. Detail of Survey Plan DP 19268 drawn in 1925, 80 McLarin Road is outlined in yellow.

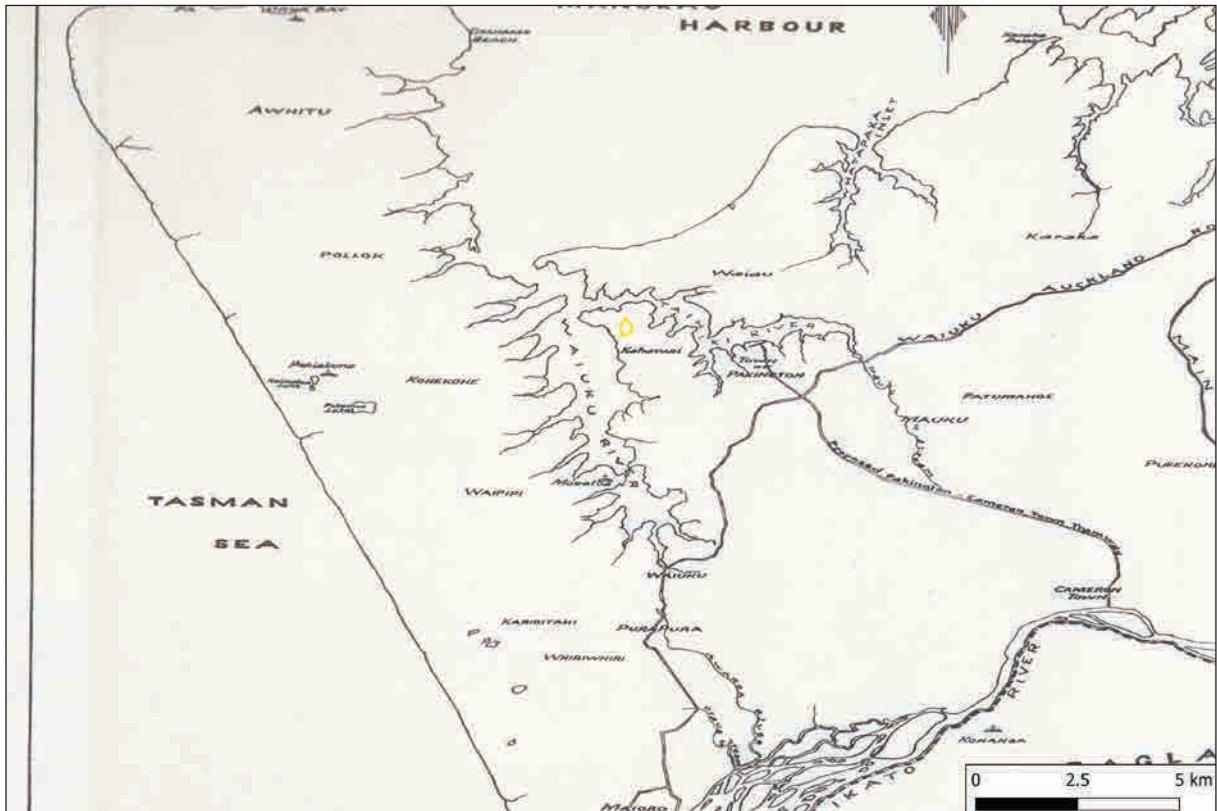


Figure 7. Detail of inside cover of Morris 1965. 80 McLaren Road is outlined in yellow.

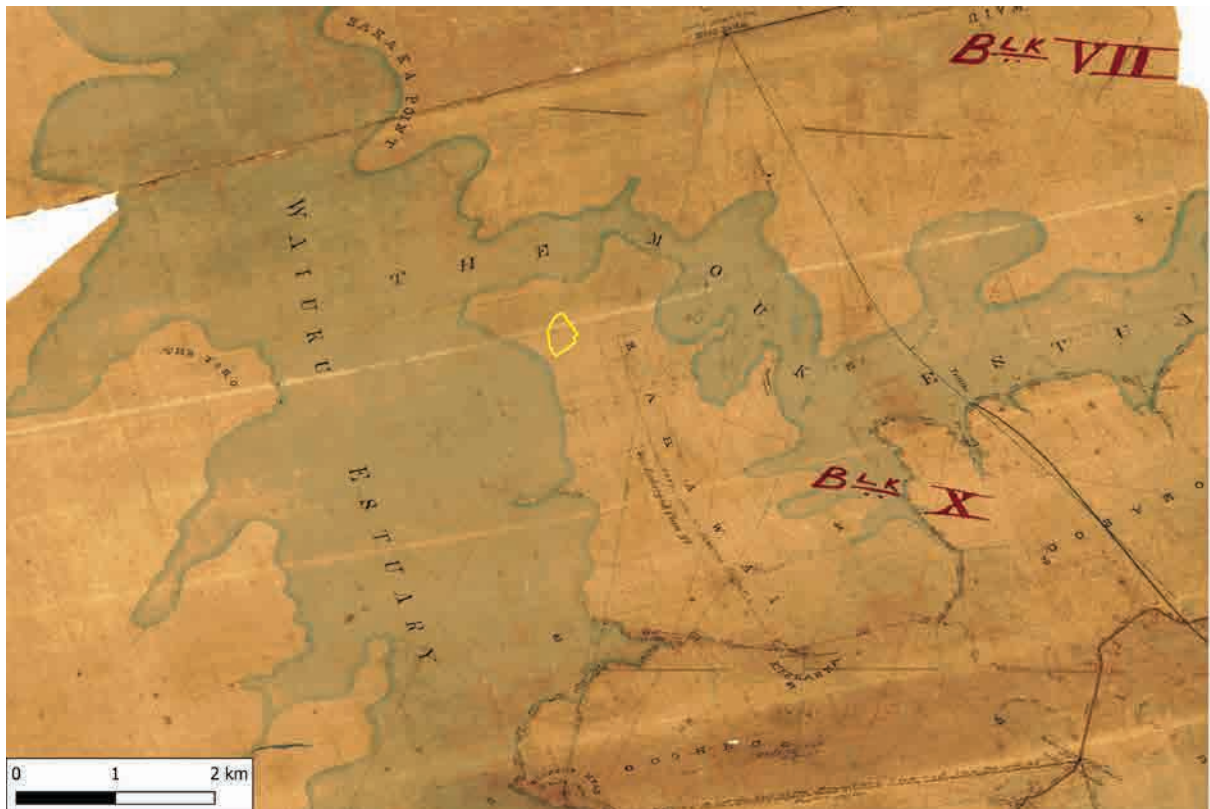


Figure 8. Survey plan SO 639\_3 drawn in 1855, 80 McLaren Road is outlined in yellow.

In her assessment of priority areas for survey for Auckland Regional Council, Kim Tatton (2001: 29-30) stated that: "The Waiuku River or inlet is an area that must have held a great attraction to Maori for settlement. It has good soils for horticulture, and an indented coastline along the inlet that accesses the Manukau Harbour and its vast marine resources... the predicted density of archaeological sites in the area and the low coverage of survey makes it a priority for survey in Franklin District." Tatton (2001: 30) recommend that: "That the shoreline and adjoining land areas along the eastern side of the Waiuku River and either side of the Taihiki River be surveyed and assessed for cultural heritage sites."

The Manukau lowlands is often seen as an area of limited pre-European Māori occupation. However, the *tōanga waka* and rich shark fishing grounds provided by the Waiuku River and fishing in the Manukau indicates this is not always the case. The Manukau provided good fishing grounds for sharks, many recorded archaeological sites were probably seasonally occupied and supported shark fishing activities.

Waitete Pā (R12/308) is around 1 km north of 80 McLarin Road and appears to have been such a seasonal site used as a base for fishing and gardening (Bulmer 1983). Susan Bulmer led an archaeological investigation of Waitete Pā before the construction of a boat ramp. These excavations were at the west end of the outer defensive ditch. There was no archaeological evidence of occupation of this part of the pā before construction in 1835-6, however it did indicate some Māori occupation after defences were abandoned (Bulmer 1983: 49). During construction of the road for the boat ramp an outer defence system of a double row of palisading was outside the outer defensive ditch.

Bulmer's excavation exposed evidence of the latest defences of the pa. Around three years after that excavation, Wynne Spring-Rice (1986: 63) suggested that the depth and size of recorded shell midden deposits on the inner portions of the pā site (recorded up to 300 mm deep) that it indicated that the headland would have been occupied before pā construction.

Another substantial piece of archaeological research in the area focused on the nearby Glenbrook Steel Mill, south of the current project area. More intensive survey of the Mill property itself was undertaken by Simon Best and Jan Coates (1985). That survey recorded on the SRS five pā, a number of smaller settlement sites and middens.

Around the same time Keren Lilburn and Elizabeth McGrath undertook an archaeological survey of a proposed pipeline route (Lilburn and McGrath 1980). Several new sites were added to the SRS, mostly pre-European Māori period middens, and one pre-1900 building. Several Duff-type 2B adzes were observed during their interactions with landowners and documented. The survey did not run up the peninsula toward McLarin Road.

In 1998 Russell Foster undertook two archaeological assessments of the proposed Glenbrook Sewerage Scheme, which recorded 4 previously unrecorded middens in the survey area (Foster 1988a, b). The survey area did not go near 80 McLarin Road, but a southern extent of the pipeline route ran slightly west of it. Recommendations to change the pipeline route were made to protect known archaeological deposits.

Over 2017-2018 earthworks were monitored at 35 McLarin Road by Barry Baquié and Simon Bickler as part of HNZPT archaeological authority 2016/674 (Baquié and Bickler 2019). The works were part of ground preparation works for house construction. The work included checks on forestry removal near archaeological sites, and monitoring earthworks behind R12/670 and R12/671. Investigation of shell midden deposits in the development area did not show any intact deposits, and material was heavily modified by 20th century ploughing. Limited sampling was undertaken around R12/670. A single radiocarbon date from R12/670 indicated the site dated to around mid to late 18th century AD (Baquié and Bickler 2019).

## 4 Field survey

The property was visually inspected and walked over. Areas where the soil was exposed were visually inspected, such as those fence lines and water troughs. The grass was ungrazed in some paddocks making it difficult to identify subtle surface features, such as possible infilled pre-European Māori pits or terraces (Figure 9, Figure 10).

No archaeological deposits were identified. The topography is gently rolling, and some areas show no sign of large-scale modification, such as discing or other disruptive farming practices (Figure 11). This suggests that potential previously unrecorded archaeological subsurface deposits, if present, may not be destroyed. The land commands views to the Waiuku River and there are some highpoints which would be useful for viewing points (Figure 10).

## 5 Assessment

The following assessment of values and significance relate only to archaeological values. Other interested parties, in particular mana whenua, may hold different values regarding the plan change.

Final earthworks plans have not yet been prepared and it is not possible to assess effects on archaeology and heritage as the full extent of these remains' unknown. It is probable that any archaeology and heritage within the earthworked area will be destroyed.

While there are not any previously recorded archaeological or historic heritage sites at risk, there remains a risk to potential previously unrecorded deposits. These may include pre-European Māori middens, fire-features, possible storage pits, and structural features such as post-holes or house floors.

Any effects on archaeology can be appropriately mitigated through the conditions of resource consents and an archaeological authority obtained from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

## 6 Conclusions

No archaeological and heritage constraints on the proposed plan change have been identified. As a precautionary measure, any earthworks and ground disturbance undertaken should be under a HNZPT archaeological authority, and further research into the locations of John Kent and Te Wherowhero's children's graves should be undertaken as part of the HNZPT application.



*Figure 9. View of the property facing west.*



*Figure 10. View of the property facing west, looking out to Waiuku River.*



*Figure 11. View of the property facing south.*

## 7 Recommendations

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

- Further research into the locations of the graves of John Kent and Te Wherowhero's children should be undertaken as part of an assessment of effects for an application to HNZPT for an archaeological authority;
- since archaeological survey cannot always detect sites of traditional significance to Māori, or wāhi 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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