

Archaeological assessment of effects

SL1 Greenhill
133 Greenhill Road, Puketaha

Report prepared for: MacDonald Farming Enterprises Ltd,
City Scape Projects Limited, Finlay Family
Partnership & Responsive Maintenance



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Summary

Macdonald Farming Enterprises Limited, City Scape Projects Limited, Finlay Family Partnership & Responsive Maintenance (Client) through B&A Urban & Environmental (BAUE) have commissioned Redox Cultural Heritage Services Ltd (RCHS) to compile this desktop based Archaeological Assessment of Effects for a proposed subdivision called SL1 Greenhill, at 133 Greenhill Road, Puketaha. It affects land parcels: Lot 1 DP 304594, Lot 1 DP 307097, Lot 1 DP 515771, Lot 1 DPS 15954, Lot 2 DP 515771, Lot 3 DP 456019 & Section 88 SO 572875. The area affected is referred collectively in this assessment as the Site; total area for the proposed development is 177.40 hectares.

The Site has been subject to background desktop study to identify the potential for archaeological sites, features or deposits whether they be recorded or unrecorded within the Site. This review includes any/relevant/available historic documents, aerial imagery, historic maps, archaeological reports and archaeological site data held in the New Zealand Archaeological Association database, ArchSite.

Results from the desktop research identified potential mid-1800s roads labelled on pre-1900 survey plans and a drainage ditch labelled on a 1904 plan running through the Site. A site visit was conducted to identify whether the roads were ever formed and if the field drainage ditch had been constructed. Results from the assessment and site visit identified that the only evidence for archaeology was the field drainage ditch within the Site. The drain has been recorded as archaeological site S14/508.

Mana Whenua has been consulted at an early stage regarding this assessment, the conclusions reached and the cultural effects of the proposed development which can differ from archaeological effects. A precis of the cultural background of Ngāti Wairere using information provided by Wayne Te Kerei Harris (Ngāti Wairere Taiao Trust) is provided in the historical background section of this document.

Introduction

The Client proposes to undertake a development called SL1 Greenhill at 133 Greenhill Road, Puketaha. The proposed development comprises a new industrial development for a range of industrial and compatible commercial activities and buildings. The desktop review/study identified that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites in ArchSite. However, survey plans noted closed pre-1900 roads and a historic drainage ditch within the Site.

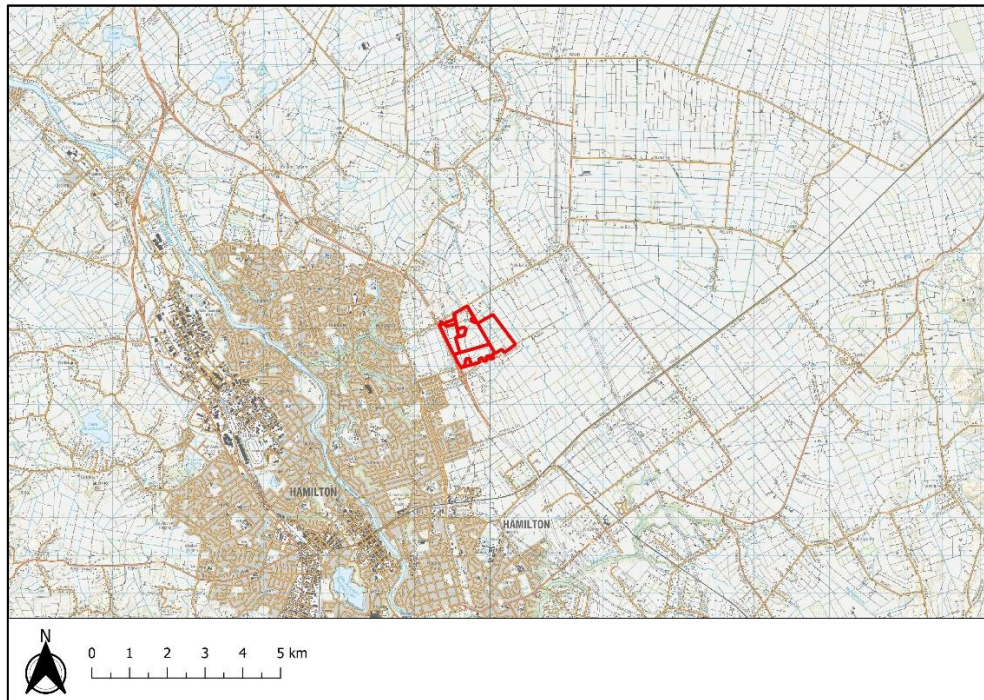


Figure 1. Location for the proposed SL1 Greenhill development, 133 Greenhill Road, Puketaha (Site) in the wider landscape (Source: LINZ).

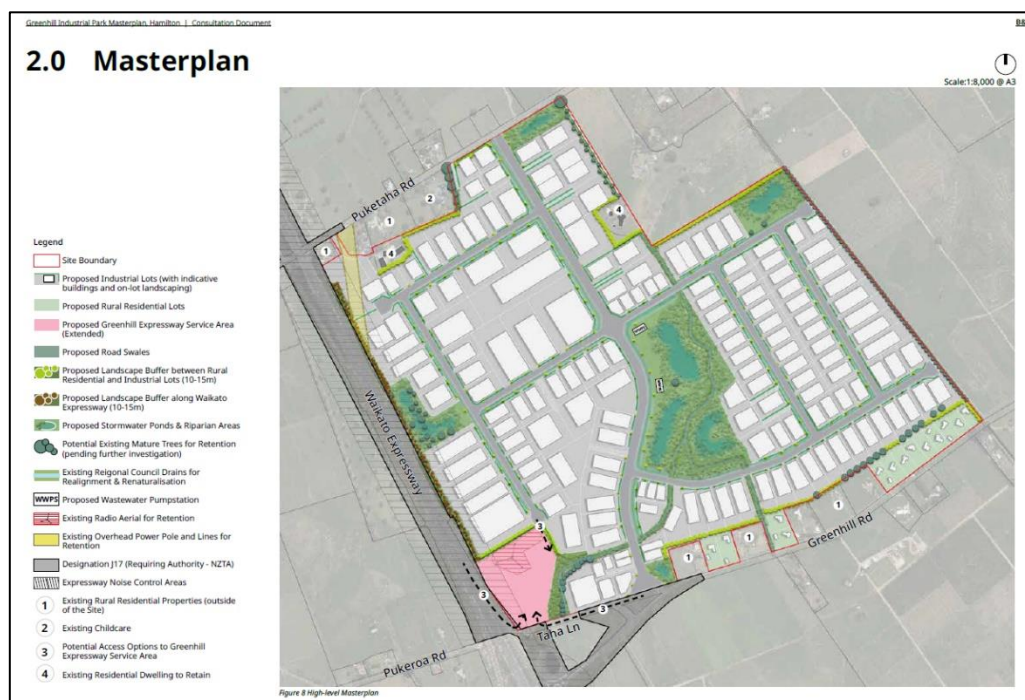


Figure 2. Proposed SL1 Greenhill Masterplan (Site) (B&A Urban & Environmental).

Statutory requirements

The management of archaeological historical and cultural sites and landscapes are controlled by the Resource Management Act (RMA) and its associated District Plans and Regional Policy Statements. Archaeological sites are also explicitly protected through the archaeological provisions of the Heritage New Zealand/Pouhere Taonga Act (NZHPTA 2014). This Act prevents archaeological sites from being modified or destroyed without an Authority from Heritage New Zealand (HNZ). The Waikato-Tainui Treaty Settlement Legislation and Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan also trigger discovery protocols (provided by Wayne Harris).

Waikato District Plan

The Waikato District Plan (fully operative April 2013) outlines operative objectives and policies relating to Historic heritage and archaeology in Part 1, Section 12. Historic heritage items and archaeological sites are listed in Part 3 Appendices, in C: Historic Heritage.

Policy clause 12.2.7 states that *'archaeological sites and areas, sites of significance to Māori (including wahi tapu sites and wahi tapu areas), and places of historic significance should be protected from adverse effects of development or activities on those sites.'* Clause 12.3.6 clarifies that any work that may modify, damage or destroy an archaeological site associated with pre-1900 human activity will require an authority from the Historic Places Trust (now HNZPT).

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (HNZPTA) 2014

The HNZPTA provides blanket protection to all archaeological sites meeting the definition in the Act, whether they are recorded or not. Protection and management of sites is managed by the archaeological authority process, administered by HNZPT. It is illegal to destroy, or modify archaeological sites without an authority to do so from HNZPT.

The HNZPTA 2014 (s6) defines an archaeological site 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 that 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) of the Act¹.

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

¹ Such declarations usually pertain to important post-1900 remains with archaeological values.

The Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991

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 sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources for 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 Māori, 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 Māori.

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

Waikato-Tainui Treaty Settlement Legislation

Ngāti Wairere are a recognised hapū of Waikato-Tainui under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995 and the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010. These settlement instruments confirm the mana whenua status Ngāti Wairere and ongoing responsibilities within the Puketaha area.

Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan (Taiao Plan)

The Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan identifies clear expectations for the protection of cultural heritage, including precautionary approaches to earthworks, discovery protocols, and the involvement of mana whenua in monitoring and decision-making where cultural material may be encountered. These expectations are relevant to the project area and will be addressed through subsequent management planning and cultural assessment processes.

Background

Greenhill Industrial Park is of irregular shape and approximately 174.4 hectares. It is situated within the Waikato District, adjacent to the eastern side of the Waikato Expressway.

Greenhill Industrial Park is located adjacent to the eastern side of the Waikato Expressway. The site can be accessed from Puketaha Road to the north and Greenhill Road to the south. The Waikato District and Hamilton City jurisdiction boundary is defined by Gordonton Road, which is located approximately 1 kilometre to the west of the Waikato Expressway. The urban area of Rototuna in Hamilton City is located on the other side of Gordonton Road (BAUE).

Landform and soils

The Site area is located within the Hamilton Basin. This landscape has been dominated by the meandering Waikato River, which now entrenched in its current alignment, flows approximately 3.5 kilometres west of the Site. Landform, for the majority, comprises flat lowland areas with smaller paleochannels and levees. To the north is a small antecedent hill remnant. Soil classifications/orders within the Site are identified in soil maps from ‘S-map online’ as: on flatter lower elevations – Allophanic (porous with a low density structure), and Gley (strongly affected by waterlogging), and on the higher elevations – Granular (clayey soils from weathering of volcanic rocks or ash) and Brown (moderately free draining soils with clay) on the lower rolling hills. Drainage classes are identified as Te Rapa (2 – poorly drained), Horotiu-Te Kowhai complex (3 – imperfectly drained) and Hamilton (4 – moderately well drained). None of these soils are defined as free draining soils and as such have a lower potential for Māori horticultural sites (Figure 3).

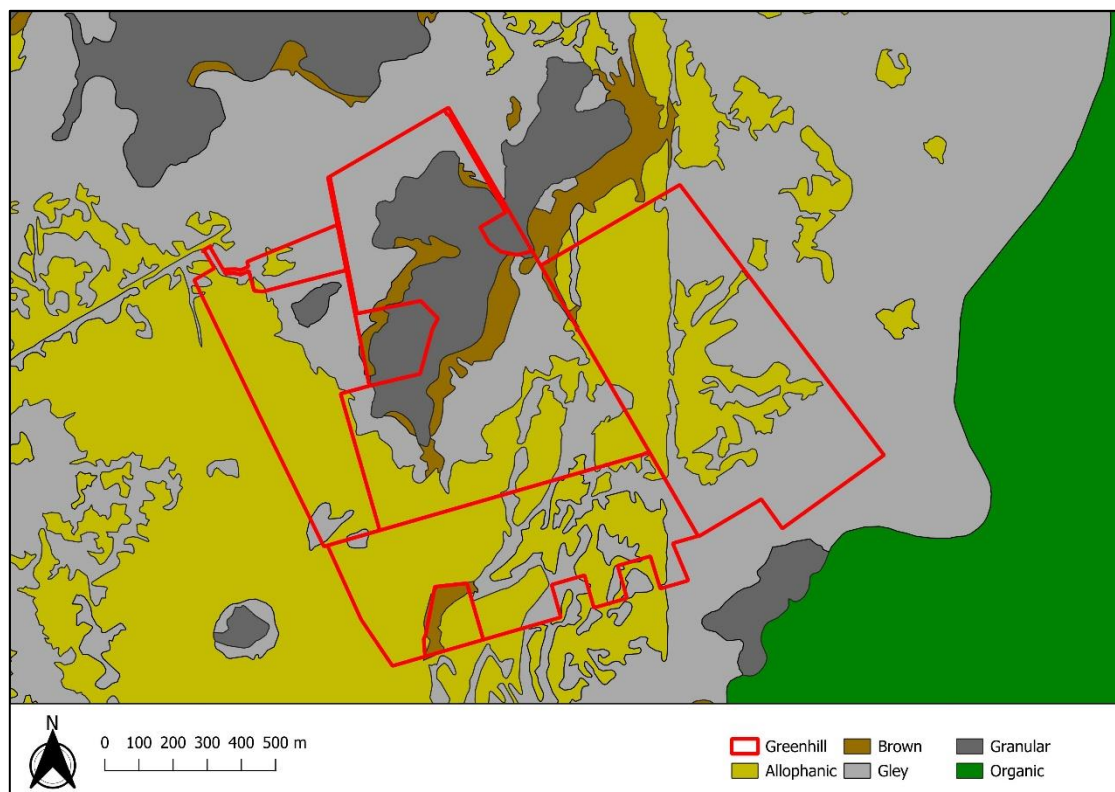


Figure 3. Soil classification (LRIS, S-Map online).

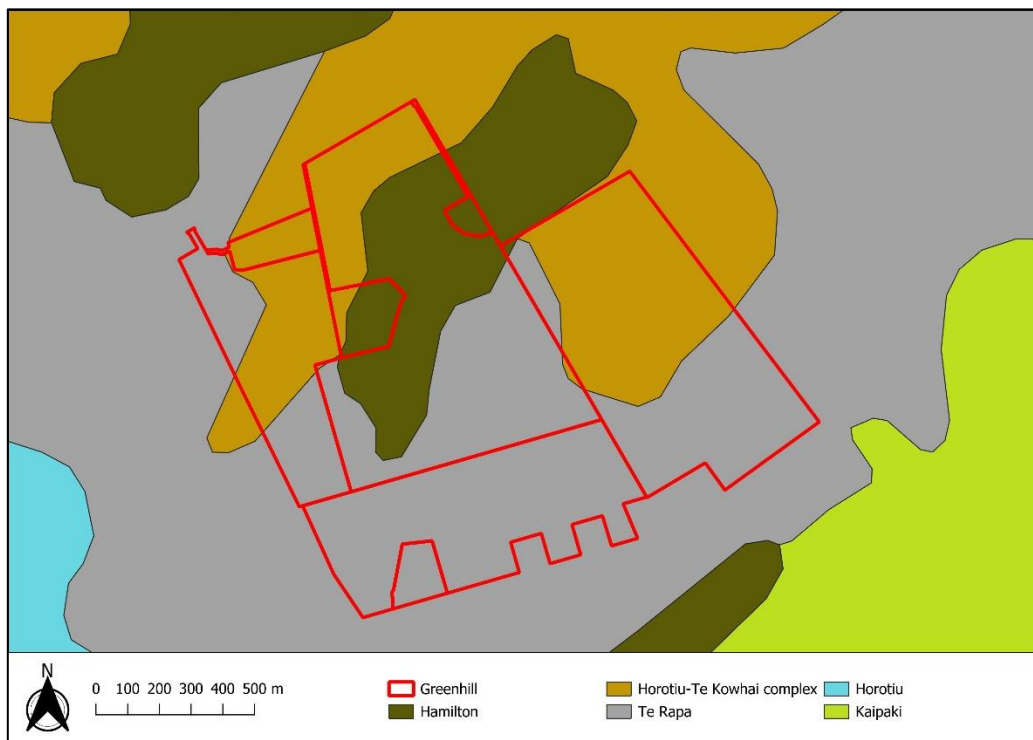


Figure 4. Soil drainage (LRIS, S-Map Online).

Geology of the Middle Waikato Basin

The Hamilton Basin features diverse landscapes and soils shaped by geological and climatic processes over thousands of years. It is characterized by four main landscape units: low rolling hills, alluvial plains, low terraces, and gullies; evolving over more than a million years, with significant geological deposits from volcanic activity.



Figure 5. Map from Lowe (2010) showing the Hamilton Basin.

The Hinuera Formation, consisting of volcanogenic alluvium, is a key feature of this landscape with material forming it through deposition over the last 20,000 years. A key factor in the formation of this landscape is the Waikato River which has changed the landscape through sediment deposition and river migration before its more recent entrenchment.

Both the Waikato River, Oranui eruption and Taupo pumice alluvium (Hatepe Eruption) have caused significant changes to the landscape of the middle Waikato basin, shaping the modern environment (Figure 4). During the last one hundred millennia a meandering braided Waikato River has both eroded and deposited sediment across the landscape. This has transformed the landscape into a rolling somewhat flattened environment made up of gently rolling hills composed of raised levees and depressed swales and lower swamps and lakes. After the Oranui eruption the Waikato was forced to change course being redirected away from the Firth of Thames into the Waikato basin, and finally through to its current outlet at Port Waikato (deposition occurred between 23,500–17,000 years BP, with the river beginning to entrench in its modern channel around 17,500 BP) (Lowe 2010). The Waikato's high energy braided river system distributed sediment across the Hamilton Basin in various thicknesses and consistencies. This landscape, represented as a braided fan, has now been classified as the Hinuera surface, an accumulation/sequence of deposited tephras since the rivers' entrenchment (Lowe 2010: 5; McLeod 1984:2).

After the rivers final course had settled into the current alignment an eruption at Hatepe (c. 1800 BP) directed a lahar flow down the river (Taupo pumice alluvium-TPA). This created, through erosion and deposition, a series of new river terraces along the banks of the river, which are still visible today (Lowe 2010). Aside from natural modification humans have also significantly modified this landscape.

Within the Hamilton Basin soil types reflect a diverse landscape and soil parent materials, have varying and distinct drainage characteristics. These soil classification units can be divided into differing qualities from volcanic ash, weathering, and soils that have been modified by humans. Well-drained soils usually lie on raised deposits and less freely draining to poorly drained soils in lower down in swales. For the Hamilton Basin key soil series include Horotiu (well-drained), Bruntwood (moderately well-drained), and Te Kowhai (poorly drained). These soil types have direct importance/correlation to archaeology, especially horticulture, and the likelihood for sites. Solis are primarily formed from volcanic ash and alluvium, with varying clay types. Tamahere soils (man made) have also been identified in soil maps. These are anthropogenic and are modified soils used for agriculture, particularly the growing of tubers, such as, kumara (Lowe 2010).

From the effects of climate changes and the recent influx of humans the Basin has undergone significant changes from climatic shifts and human activity. Studies indicate that the original shrubland-grassland changed successively to a broadleaf-podocarp forest circa 17,500 years ago. During the influx of Māori into inner New Zealand deforestation and agricultural practices impacted the environment significantly in a relatively short period of time; this was exacerbated with the later influx of Europeans. As a result of deforestation and climate changes, sedimentation led to the additional formation of lakes and peat bogs (Lowe 2010).

Main soil types within the Hamilton Basin include a variety of parent materials and how they are situated in the landscape. Low rolling hills include Hamilton, Kainui, and Ohaupo series, characterized by weathered tephra and clay-rich profiles. Plains soils such as Horotiu, Bruntwood, and Te Kowhai series exhibit varying drainage and clay types, influenced by

alluvial deposits. Low terrace soils, primarily Waikato series, are weakly developed due to their young age from recent flood deposits. Gully soils include Tamahana and Kirikiriroa series, formed from recent sediment and colluvium. Horotiu soil is classified as Typic Orthic Allophanic Soils, indicating its tephric and mixed rhyolitic composition. Te Kowhai soil profile presents a contrasting structure and composition compared to Horotiu soil. It is classified as Acidic Orthic Gley Soils, reflecting its tephric and rhyolitic nature. As mentioned above there are also large areas of organic soils from former peat swamps which have now been drained in the modern era (Lowe 2010).

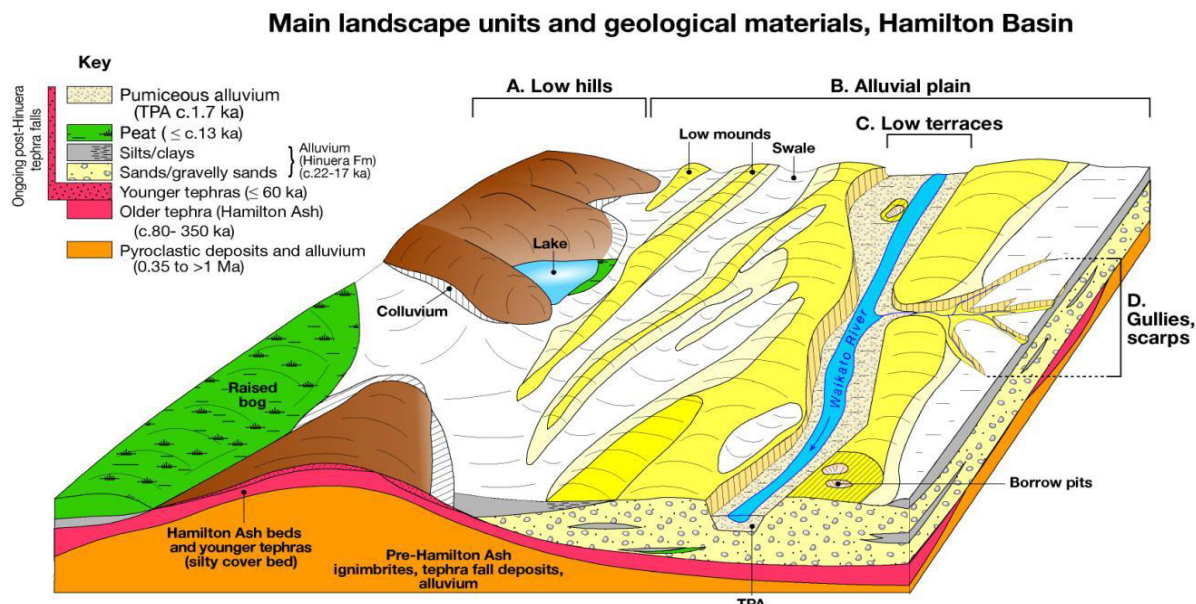


Figure 6. Block diagram showing the principal landform units of the Hamilton Basin (Lowe 2010:4).

Previously recorded archaeology

Prior to the assessment the closest recorded archaeological site to the Site is S14/92 (1300m), a linear feature of unclear function (destroyed during the construction of Wairere Drive) (Mallows 2008) and S14/334 (1600m) a field drain of European origin from the c. 1870–1880s, noted on the 1906 plan DP3643 (Keith 2022). Further afield, following the Waikato River is an extensive pre-European Māori horticultural landscape. Along the river corridor soil maps from the late 1930s onwards (Grange 1939) combined with more modern research by Gumbley and Hutchinson in 2012–3 have identified multiple archaeological sites in the landscape. These were recorded from aerial images from the late 1930s and early 1940s and were identified due to the presence of borrow pits (Gumbley & Hutchinson 2013). Neither the soil maps nor work by Gumbley and Hutchinson have identified any horticultural soils or archaeological sites relating to this landscape within the Site.

The New Zealand Heritage List/Rāangi Kōrero

No heritage sites are identified on the list within or in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

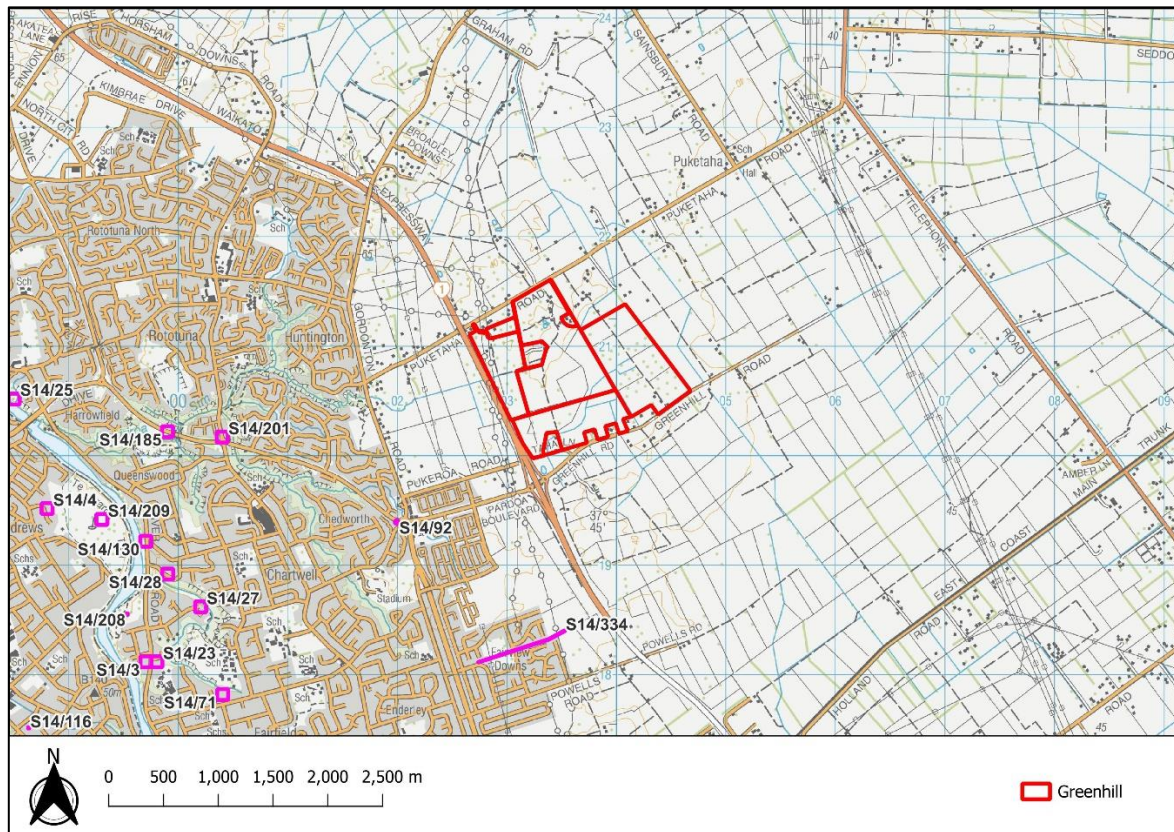


Figure 7. Previously recorded archaeological sites in the general vicinity of the Site, taken from the NZAA database ArchSite in October 2025 (ArchSite).

S14/92: Results of archaeological monitoring during the construction of Wairere drive close to S14/201 (Auth:2007/283). Results from the monitoring showed no conclusive evidence for Māori horticulture, but a linear feature of undetermined function was found (Mallows 2008).

S14/334: Archaeological monitoring of a field drain by Keith during earthworks for a development by Chedworth properties (Auth:2015/1135). Site visits were conducted at various stages in areas identified as holding most archaeological risk. The drain was shown to have been maintained through silt clearance and as such there was no remaining evidence for the original cut, deposits or any pre-1900 artefacts (Keith 2022).

Historical Background

Māori

Today the Waikato is a much-altered landscape from what it once was. Its swamps have been drained and vegetation cleared to create pasture and exotic forests. However, features of the landscape, especially those used by Māori for identity remain, for example the sentinel mountains – Taupiri, Karioi, Pirongia, Kakepuku, Maungatautari, Maungakawa, Te Tāpui and Te Aroha, and the Waikato River. Major rivers in the Waikato were initially used for transport and the inland diaspora of Māori as well as European trade and transport. These rivers and their tributaries flow through some of the most productive land in New Zealand.

Waikato is the ancestral region of tribes descended from people who came to New Zealand on the *Tainui* waka. The waka, commanded by Hoturoa, explored both coasts of the central North Island before making its final landfall at Kāwhia Harbour, settling there first there first,

before spreading to the north, east and south. In later generations, Tainui ancestors founded tribes which spread throughout and beyond the Waikato region. For the Tainui tribes, the harbours, rivers and swamps of Waikato provided food and other resources, and its mountains and ranges were strongholds. Settlements sprang up throughout the region, usually on hilltops or beside lakes. Harbours were traditional centres of population, as were mountains such as Maungatautari. As waka traffic increased along the rivers during the 1800s, settlements in these areas increased (Swarbrick 2025).

After the initial occupation of coastal New Zealand, the Māori diaspora led inland towards the Middle Waikato Basin. To access the Waikato, navigable waterways and accessible land were used to locate suitable areas for horticulture and occupation; evidenced by the plethora of recorded archaeological sites along the Waikato River, its tributaries and gully systems. Recorded archaeological sites within this landscape are a combination of defensive structures; established at higher elevations to provide a watershed of the area. Pā are also closely linked with surrounding settlements and gardens, utilising the fertile soils adjacent to the river for the cultivation of kumara and other plant species (Gainsford 2025, O'Hagan 2025).

Following the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, there was increased pressure on Māori by Europeans to sell their land. As a reaction to increasing European pressure some chiefs decided to unite and stave off the threat to both land, customs and mana. The Government responded by planning an invasion into the Waikato, leading to the wars of the 1860s. Governor George Grey had accused the Waikato chiefs of disloyalty. And following this he announced his intention to send troops into Waikato on 11 July 1863. A result of the Waikato Wars was that most Māori owned land was confiscated under the NZ Settlements Act (NZSA) 1863 (Swarbrick 2025).

Below is contextual cultural background provided by Wayne Te Kerei Harris, Ngaati Wairere Taiao Trust:

Ngāti Wairere are the recognised mana whenua of the Puketaha area and the project area. This landscape forms part of the ancestral heartland of Ngāti Wairere and was utilised over generations for a range of cultural, economic, and subsistence activities. These included horticulture, seasonal and permanent settlement, food storage, resource harvesting, travel and movement, and the use of elevated landforms as dry living platforms and vantage points within a wider wetland-dominated environment (Wayne Harris pers. comm. February 2026).

The project area sits within the ancestral area of Ngāti Wairere and forms part of a wider cultural landscape that was occupied and utilised over generations for settlement, horticulture, resource harvesting, movement, and seasonal activities. Ngāti Wairere maintain that the absence of recorded archaeological sites within the project footprint does not indicate an absence of occupation or use, but reflects the effects of historical land confiscation, wetland drainage, farming, and landscape modification that have altered or obscured physical evidence. The hill and surrounding former wetland environment are understood by Ngāti Wairere to have been integral components of this cultural landscape, and this enduring relationship with the whenua must be recognised and provided for through future archaeological management, cultural monitoring, and the development of a Ngāti Wairere Cultural Values Assessment. Ngāti Wairere maintain that this area formed part of a wider occupied

and utilised cultural landscape, notwithstanding limited archaeological visibility due to historic land modification (Wayne Te Kerei Harris pers. comm. February 2026).

European

Following the first Europeans settlers of traders and missionaries, permanent Europeans were often soldiers guarding militia townships, for example, Cambridge. Settlers earmarked for these areas formed the Waikato militia, consisting of four regiments that were recruited from Otago and Australia (1863) with the promise of land grants post-service. Following the wars and disestablishment of the militia (1865–66) and formation of the armed constabulary (1867) to guard the confiscation line, many men were released from service. They were granted land in the region confiscated from Māori under the NZSA 1863. This land was usually allotted into 50-acre blocks drawn up on survey plans and mostly turned out to be less ideal for agriculture being inaccessible and swampy. Lots of these allotments were either left, on sold or they were cleared, drained for use. Following the close of the war around circa mid-1864 new towns were surveyed at Alexandra (now Pirongia), Cambridge and the former Māori villages of Kihikihi and Kirikiriroa (renamed Hamilton). Also, former military outposts were also settled at Te Awamutu, Ōhaupō, Whatawhata, Huntly and Ngāruawāhia.

During the early influx of European settlers Māori continued as they had since their arrival into the Waikato. Initially the Waikato was not considered favourable by Europeans for farming or cultivation as it was deemed difficult, too swampy and quite inaccessible. Little land changed hands during this period due to its ‘unfavourable’ nature. However, Māori with newly acquired agricultural skills, tools and modern farming techniques and crop species (introduced often by Missionaries) changed European perceptions. Māori farming and exports became very successful (Phillips 2014). Most likely this success prompted, to a degree, the British invasion of the Waikato (1863) by the Crown. Land acquired was used for European settlers and allotted to militiamen. Following the land wars large tracts of Māori owned land were confiscated and allocated to militiamen. Later this land was often sold by the men since they too thought it too difficult to clear and cultivate. This is the case for the site whereby land was confiscated and allotted to militiamen men following service (Gainsford 2025, O’Hagan 2025).

Historic plans and aerials

Historic plans

A review of historic survey plans in Quickmap identified three plans of direct relevance to the Site: SO 144 (1865), SO 634 (undated but likely late 1800s) and DP 3801 (1904). Results of the review identify Militia Allotments (‘Farms’) on SO144 and closed roads around their periphery. The latter two plans also show allotments and their division/amalgamation into more modern lots as well as the closed roads and a field drain. In the DP 3801 plan an area of Blue Gum is identified on the grassed covered hills and on the lower elevations most of the remaining Site is shown as covered in swamp/scrub as well as a drain (for the swamp) along the southern boundary.

Potential roads shown running through the Site (1865), are distinctly labelled closed on May 13th, 1880 on both the SO144 and SO 3801 plans. It is unlikely that these paper roads were ever formalised since there are no current road parcels assigned to them. It is also not entirely

known if the drain was constructed pre- or post-1900, although its construction should be considered pre-1900 based on other plans of a similar age and context (Keith 2022) (Figures 8–10).

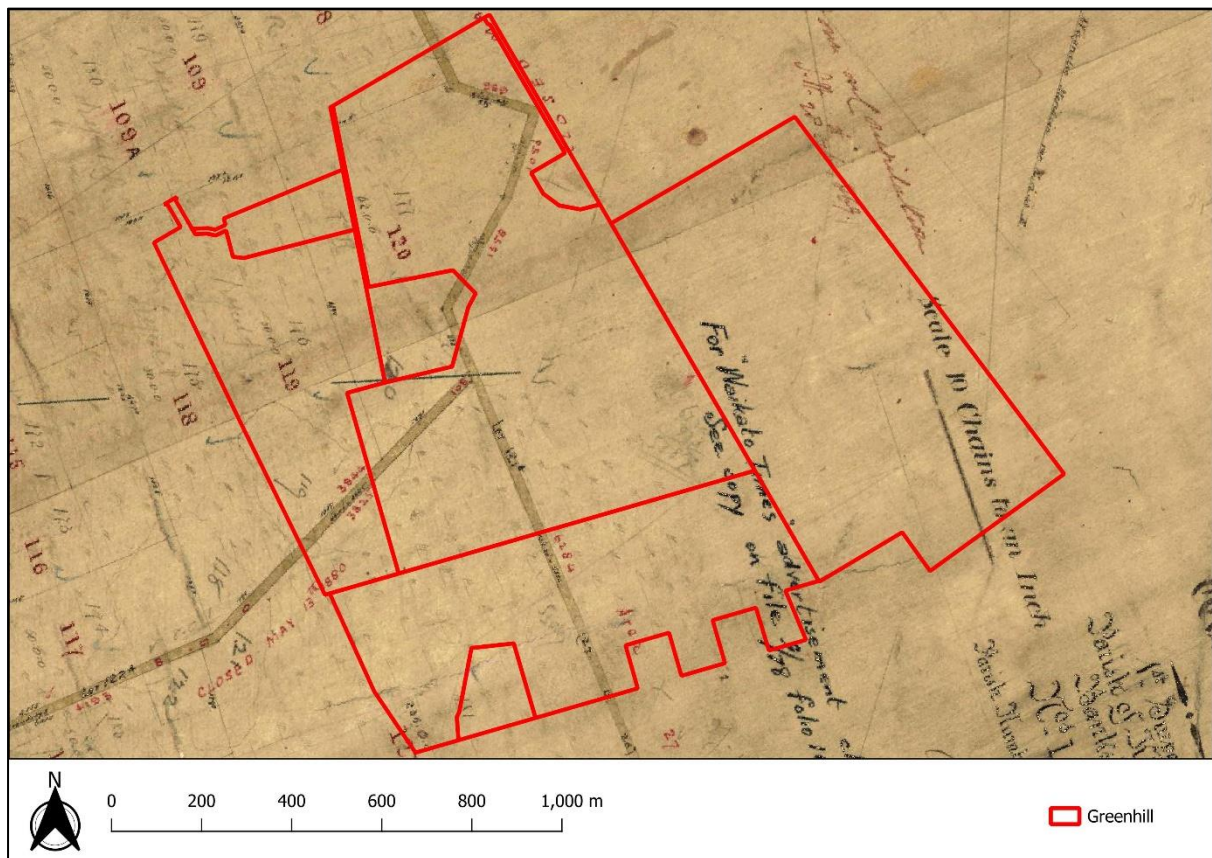


Figure 8. Excerpt from survey plan SO144 (1865) (Quickmap).

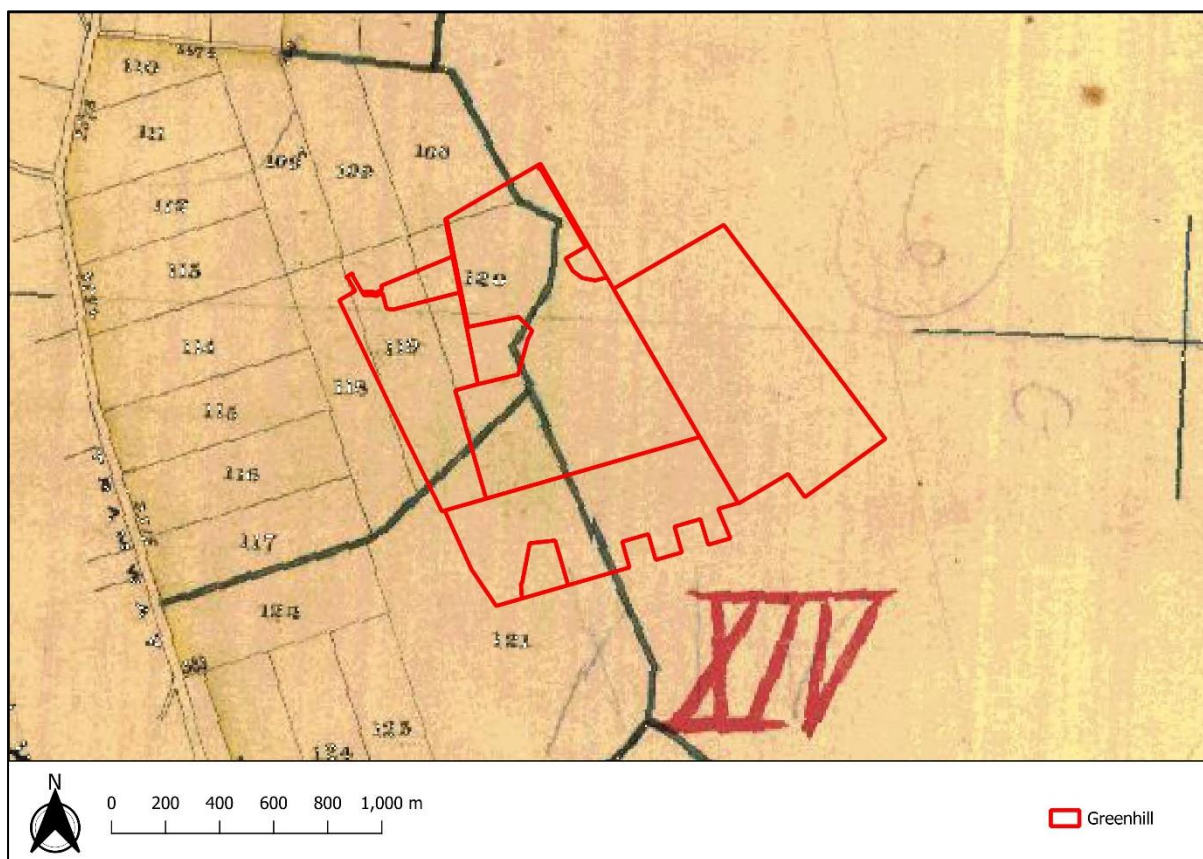


Figure 9. Excerpt from SO 634, likely to originate from the late 1800s (Quickmap).

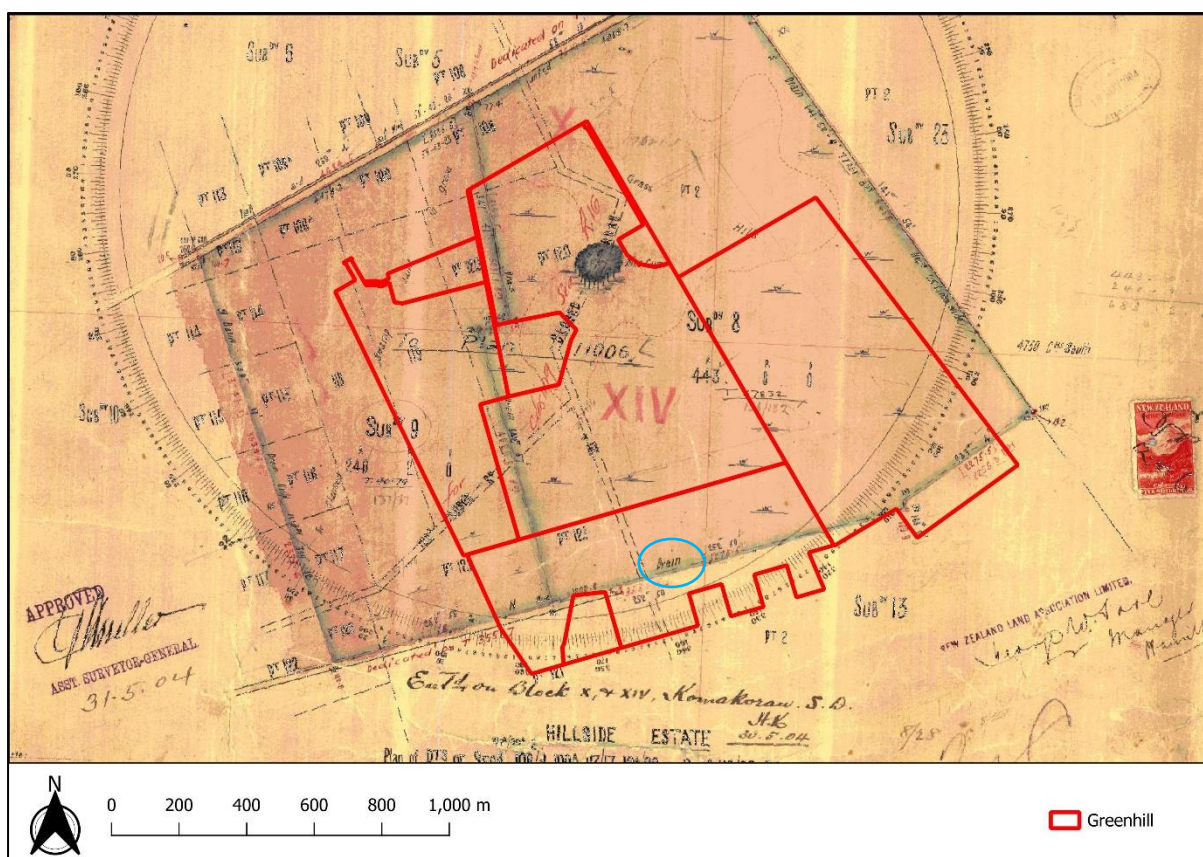


Figure 10. Excerpt from DP 3801 (1904) (Quickmap).

Historic aerals

Aerial photographs were reviewed from Retrolens with the earliest available images originating from 1952. They visualise historic land use for the Site, which has primarily been pastoral grazing and crop production. Aerials show a similar landscape and images from 1991 do not show any significant changes. It is not until more recently that there has been additional subdivision and construction/development within the Site including dwellings, construction of outhouses, tree planting, race maintenance, changing drainage ditches and their alignments and fences etc. Only the image from 1991 identifies any potential for archaeological features, that is, possibly part of the field drain in SO3801 (Figures 11–12).



Figure 11. Excerpt from earliest available aerial photography from 1952 (SN525_157/11 & 12) (Source: Retrolens).



Figure 12. Excerpt from aerial photography from 1991 (SN9124_L/3) (Source: Retrolens).

LiDAR imagery

Height data shown below provides an elevation model for the landscape and subject area in 2008 and 2023. LiDAR data uses laser points taken from aircraft to create a height elevation model for the landscape and can remove extraneous object such as houses and trees. Most of the Site is low lying former swamp, however, there is a low ridge/hill on the northern part of the site, where several structures/dwellings have been built. A potential section of the original drainage ditch alignment from the 1904 SO plan is visible within the Site. No further evidence for any other archaeology was visible (Figure 13).

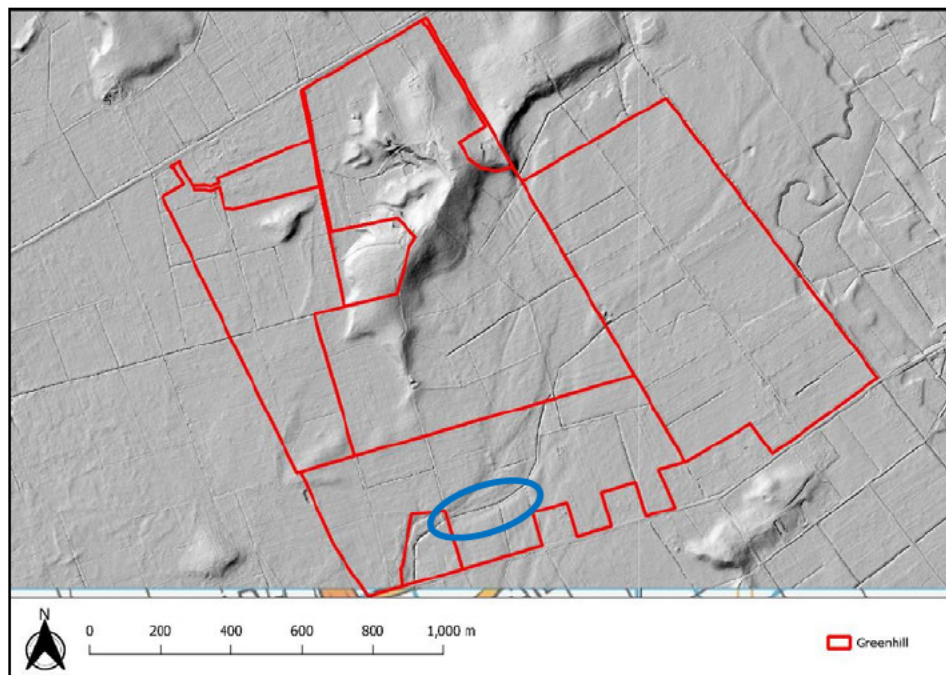


Figure 13. LiDAR excerpt from 2008.

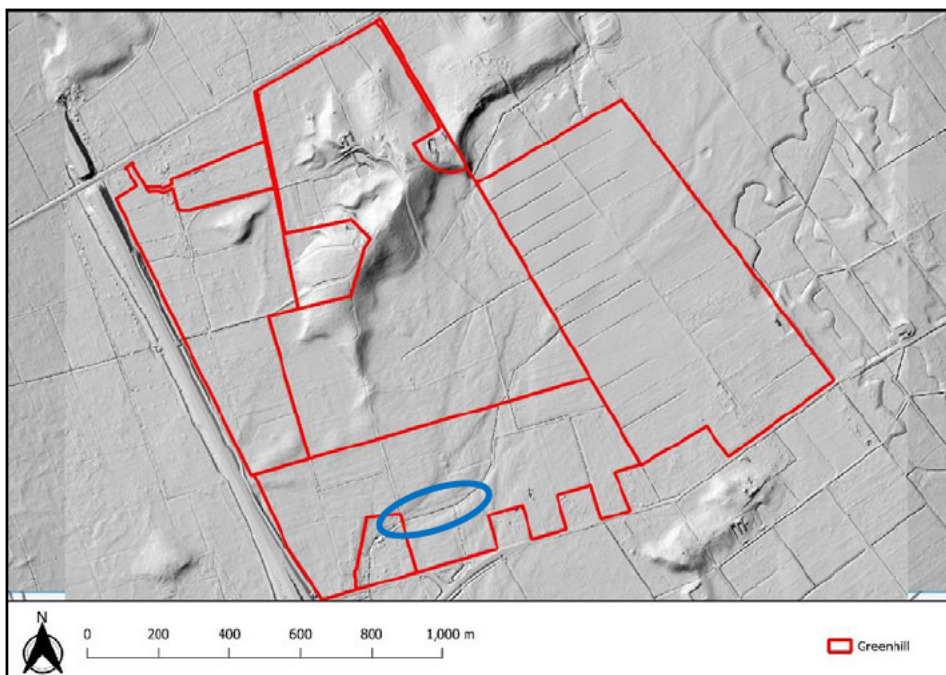


Figure 14. Lidar derived hillshade model from DEM data taken in 2023 that shows the Site as mostly flat with some lower hills to the north (Source: LINZ).

Site visit

On the 17th of November, 2025 a site visit was undertaken to identify whether there was any evidence of the paper roads being formed and identify any potential remains of the field drain identified in SO3801, and if so, record the features as archaeological sites.

Three trenches were excavated with a small 1.5 tonne excavator across the potential roads shown on SO plans. To complete this a transect of auger holes was conducted either end of the trenches. If any traces of archaeology were encountered trenching was to immediately halt and it be recorded. However, neither the trenches nor auger samples identified any archaeological evidence. The soil profile was a homogenous natural transition from topsoil to either a clayey loam or more sandy silt. Evident also in the trenches were multiple plough lines. Visual inspection of the Site identified that a potential section of the field drain identified in survey plans was visible in the section area of the Site.

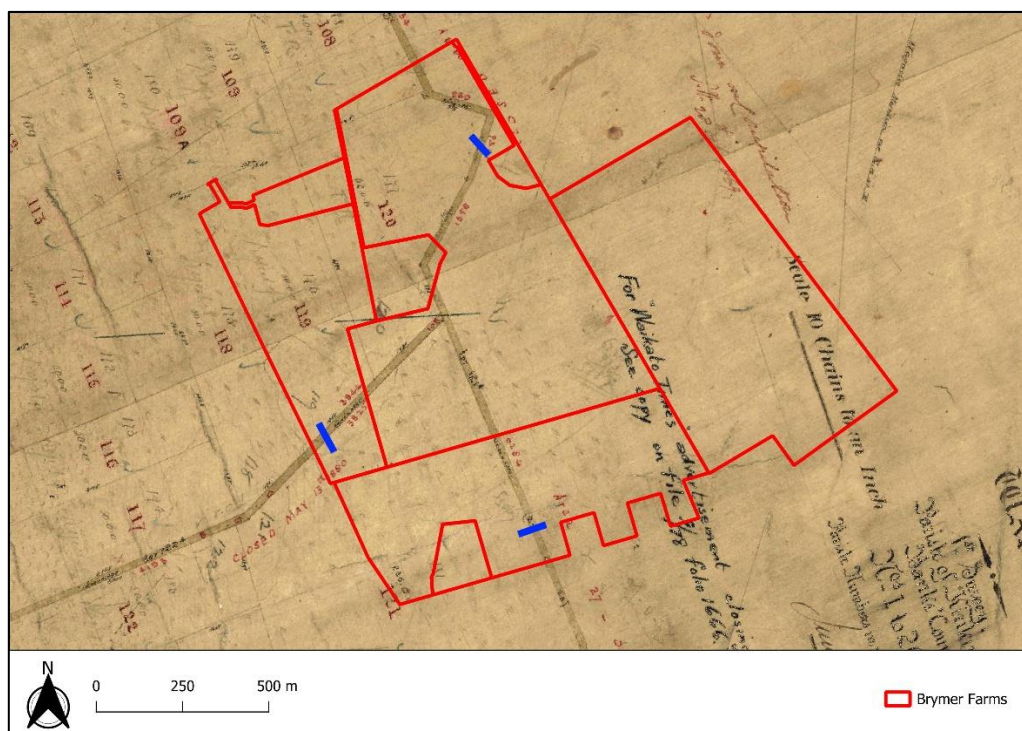


Figure 15. Location of the three trenches, shown by the blue lines (SO144).



Figure 16. Trench 3 showing the soil and ploughing.



Figure 17. Location of a open field drain that coincides with georectified historic survey plans. Taken facing east with drone.

Assessment of Archaeological Values

The Site encompasses land originally confiscated from Māori and allotted to the Waikato Militia as farms following its disestablishment in 1865–66. Currently it is used for pastoral grazing (dairy) and crop production. It has been modified through the construction of farming structures and maintenance such as fences, races, changing alignments for field drains and ploughing for crop production. Several buildings occupy the hill at the northern end of the Site, including dwellings and milking facilities.

In the SO144 plan from 1865 the Site is shown with two potential paper roads running adjacent and through it. Desktop research and a site visit determined that there is no evidence for these roads having ever been formed. Within the Site however, there is evidence for a historic field drain that crosses the southern part of the Site in an approximately east-west alignment (S14/508). Since most of this drain appears to have been filled in there is potential that it can provide evidence of early European land use in the area.

Mana Whenua, during the site visit, also recounted that the area to the north of the Site (antecedent hill) was potentially used as a stop off point whilst traversing the landscape during travelling.

Assessments of effects on archaeological values

Due to the nature of the proposed development/works within the Site, any remains of recorded (S15/408) or unrecorded archaeology will be destroyed by the development.

Conclusions and recommendations

Within the immediate landscape land use prior to the establishment of the current farm (Site) has been by Māori traversing the landscape to reach locations of importance, and early European settlement beginning with the allocating of confiscated land to Militiamen following the Waikato conflict.

The Site has a single recorded archaeological site within it, S14/508 – drain. It is first identified on survey plans and is associated with the early European settlement of Hamilton and the Waikato. Such historic drain sites, identified in the general area, can have been over time, modified and maintained such as S14/334 (Keith 2022). However, since it appears that S14/508 is mostly infilled it may provide further information about the early European settlement of Hamilton. Since there is a recorded archaeological site within the Site it is recommended that an archaeological authority be applied to modify/destroy recorded archaeology.

While recorded archaeological evidence within the project area may be limited, Ngāti Wairere maintain that this reflects the impacts of historic land modification, drainage, and agricultural use, rather than an absence of occupation or use (Wayne Te Kerei Harris pers. comm. February 2026).

Recommendations:

1. An application be made to Heritage New Zealand for an Archaeological Authority to modify/destroy archaeology.
 - a. That modification/destruction of any archaeology be mitigated through archaeological fieldwork, sampling, recording and reporting. Mitigation should be controlled by an Archaeological Site Management Plan (ASMP). This document identifies the appropriate controls, protocols and procedures as well as how any archaeological monitoring/investigation, discovery procedures, communication and involvement with mana whenua will take place. This will be developed by the archaeologist in collaboration with Ngāti Wairere Taiao Trust.

2. Continued consultation be undertaken with Mana Whenua throughout the process. The results of this assessment have been discussed and they are aware of this report and its results. They have had opportunity to provide cultural input, comment on the findings, and discuss any Authority application.
3. That Ngāti Wairere compile a Cultural Values Assessment (CVA) during the substantive application phase to provide further detail on cultural values, landscape use, and tikanga-based protocols. To inform and refine archaeological planning, earthworks, and monitoring procedures as appropriate. Further cultural input from Ngāti Wairere will enhance understanding of the broader cultural landscape and inform appropriate management measures through subsequent stages of the project.

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