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Archaeological Management Plan
and Research Strategy
Tauriko West – Tupenga

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1 Introduction

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is applying for three Archaeological Authorities under Section 42(4)(i) and Schedule 8 of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) to construct the Tauriko West – Tupenga Project (the Project), an offline upgrade of State Highway 29 and State Highway 29A at Tauriko, Tauranga.

An archaeological and heritage assessment has been prepared by CFG Heritage Ltd in support of the application. Several archaeological sites are recorded in the Project designation footprint. Those not already investigated under other authorities are listed in Table 1). The Authorities will be administered by HNZPT under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, once granted.

Although the Authorities are applied for under the FTAA, Section 41(4)(i) states that this is "an archaeological authority described in section 44(a) or (b) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 that would otherwise be applied for under that Act", and any authorities are administered by HNZPT. HNZPT require that an Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) and Archaeological Research Strategy (included in this AMP, Section 9) be prepared and submitted to them for approval as part of the Authority application process.

This AMP provides appropriate protocols for mitigating the effects of any modification or destruction of archaeological sites during the Project works.

The Research Strategy outlines the general questions that any archaeological investigations conducted under the conditions of the Authorities will seek to address.

2 Definitions

Archaeological Authority or **Authority** means an approval gained for the project under either the HNZPTA or under section 42(4)(i) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

Archaeological Site (or Site) is as defined in the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA), being any place in New Zealand 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. is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

Contractor refers to the company or persons responsible for carrying out activities such as, but not limited to, earth moving or geotechnical investigations, which may result in effects to archaeological sites.

Hapū Representatives refers to the nominated representatives of Ngāi Tamarāwaho, Ngāti Hangarau and Ngāti Kahu

Project Archaeologist is the archaeologist approved by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) under section 45 of the HNZPTA. Some of the archaeological work may be undertaken by other qualified archaeologists under the direction of the Project Archaeologist. The general term 'Archaeologist' is used to denote either the Project Archaeologist or a qualified archaeologist working under their direction.

Project Manager means the person providing professional services to manage the project on behalf of the NZTA.

Site Supervisor refers to the person nominated by the Contractor to oversee and manage their operations.

3 Purpose of this AMP

This AMP outlines the procedures and protocols for the management of archaeological sites during Project works. Specifically, this Plan has been developed to:

1. provide operational guidelines for archaeological management;
2. meet best heritage practice;
3. meet legislative requirements for managing effects on the archaeological sites;
4. identify the potential impacts of Project works and document controls for management;
5. ensure that all parties are aware of their obligations under the relevant statutes, regulations, authorities and contracts;
6. ensure relevant persons are provided with sufficient training and support to effectively manage any effects on archaeology encountered during Project works; and
7. establish the roles and responsibilities that NZTA's Contractor has in implementing the protocols.

NZTA will be the Authority holder. The Authority holder has ultimate responsibility to ensure that the conditions of each Authority are met. In practice, the Authority holder devolves day-to-day responsibility for fulfilling the conditions of the Authority to the Section 45 Project Archaeologist and the Contractor, as set out in this AMP.

The Authority will apply to all Archaeological Sites in the designation footprint, whether recorded or not.

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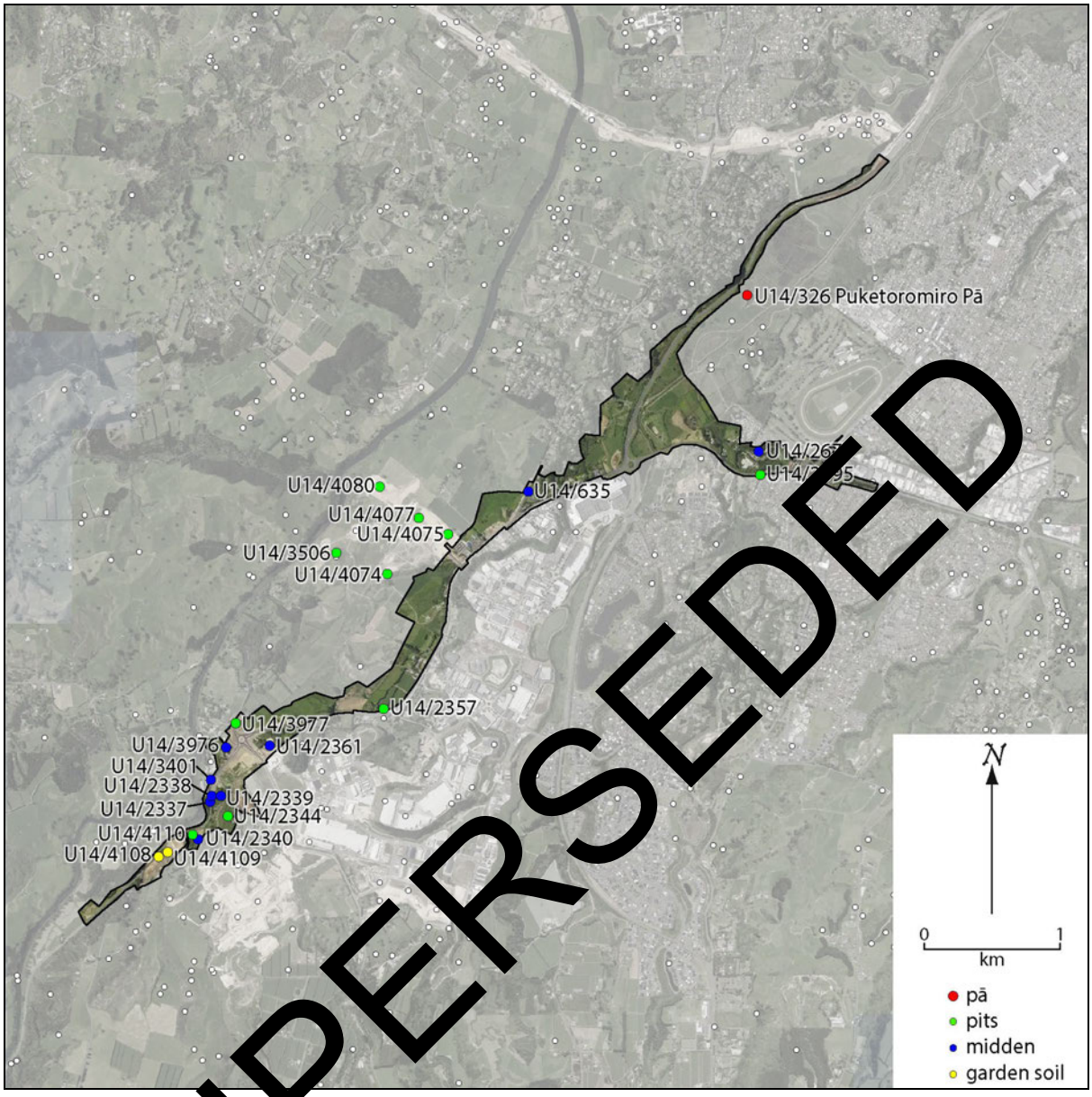

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Figure 1. Archaeological sites recorded in the Tauriko West – Tupenga designation footprint (including sites previously investigated under separate authorities).

Table 1. Archaeological sites recorded in the Tauriko West – Tupenga designation footprint.

Site	Type	Description
Investigated during SH29 Enabling works, presumed destroyed		
U14/635	midden	Recorded 1983, not relocated 2025, presumed destroyed by Cambridge Road enabling works, no report
U14/3976	midden	Two areas of fire features and middens (Keith and Sutherland 2025)
U14/3977	pits	14 rectangular kūmara storage pits and associated internal features (Keith and Sutherland 2025)
U14/3401	midden	Recorded 2015 when it was eroding, not reported by Keith and Sutherland (2025)
U14/2339	midden	Recorded 1985, updated 2015 when it was eroding, not reported by Keith and Sutherland (2025). Probably same site as U14/2336, U14/2337 and U14/2338
U14/2337	midden	Recorded 2015, not reported by Keith and Sutherland (2025). Probably same site as U14/2336, U14/2338 and U14/2339
U14/4110	pits	Cluster of pits and bin pits (Phillips and McCaffery 2026)
U14/4109	garden soils	Soil profiles observed during trenching (Phillips and McCaffery 2026)
U14/4108	garden soils	Soil profiles observed during trenching (Phillips and McCaffery 2026)
U14/2340	midden	Not relocated (Phillips and McCaffery 2026)
Investigated under other authorities, presumed destroyed		
U14/2995	pit/terrace	Recorded 1996, prior to development that destroyed the site.
U14/2361	midden	Disturbed middens and small pits (Arrell and Campbell 2025)
Not investigated		
U14/2675	midden	Recorded 1985. Midden scatter in poor condition. Not relocated in 2002.
U14/2336	midden	Recorded 1985 in poor condition, not relocated in 2015. Probably same site as U14/2337, U14/2338 and U14/2339
U14/2338	midden	Recorded as redeposited 1985, not relocated in 2015. Probably same site as U14/2336, U14/2337 and U14/2339
U14/2357	pit/terrace	Recorded 1984. Circular depression in rough pasture.
U14/2344	pit/terrace	Recorded 1984. Terrace on hillslope.

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4 Construction Management Procedures

4.1 Pre-Start Requirements:

1. Prior to the start of the Project works, the Project Archaeologist will provide an archaeological and heritage induction / site briefing to earthworks Contractors working on the Project. This will include, but not be limited to, the archaeological landscape, the possibility encountering archaeological evidence, how to identify possible Archaeological Sites, the archaeological work required, and protocols and responsibilities of contractors in terms of notification and management of archaeological sites.

2. The Project Archaeologist may appoint a person to carry out the archaeological and heritage induction/site briefing on their behalf, provided that person has been appropriately briefed by the Project Archaeologist.

3. Archaeological and heritage inductions will be provided as new earthworks Contractors come on site.
4. The Project Archaeologist will ensure that the Contractors have access to a copy of the Authority and AMP.
5. The Contractor must give the Project Archaeologist at least 10 working days' notice that Project works that may affect Archaeological Sites as outlined in this AMP will commence.

4.2 Earthworks Phase:

Archaeological Investigation and Monitoring

1. Recorded Archaeological Sites will be subject to investigation and recording consistent with accepted archaeological practice.
2. Monitoring by the Project Archaeologist to record pre-1900 archaeological deposits and features will continue until natural subsoil has been reached, or until it becomes clear that the area has been modified to the point where no archaeology would be expected, or until sufficient sampling has been carried out.
3. Any pre-1900 archaeological deposits or features exposed during monitoring will be recorded and sampled by the Archaeologist consistent with the Archaeological Research Strategy (Section 9) and in accordance with the requirements of the Authority. At a minimum:
    a. detailed notes of each feature and deposit will be made;
    b. all subsurface features located will be mapped on the site plan;
    c. all, or a suitable sample, of subsurface features will be excavated following archaeological best practice;
    d. stratigraphic drawings and photographs of features and deposits will be prepared as determined by the Project Archaeologist;
    d. middens and similar deposits will be sampled for analysis, including faunal analysis and radiocarbon dating;
    e. a sample of artefacts will be retained for analysis and their positions marked on the site plan.
4. Additional Archaeologists will be brought to site as required to assist in the monitoring, and for the subsequent archaeological recording and sampling.
5. The Contractor will allow sufficient time and opportunity for the Archaeologist to record and sample archaeological features or deposits encountered. The Archaeologist will record the archaeological features or deposits as quickly as possible so that earthworks may resume without undue delay.
6. Works will not recommence in the immediate vicinity of the archaeological site until advised by the Project Archaeologist.
7. Areas considered to have low archaeological potential will be managed by the Project Archaeologist using spot-monitoring or an on-call procedure.

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4.3 On Call Procedure

If the Project Archaeologist is temporarily absent or works are taking place outside the areas identified for monitoring, and suspected archaeological features, deposits or artefacts are exposed by earthworks, the Site Supervisor will immediately halt works within 10 m of the find, and will contact the Project Archaeologist to advise whether the remains are archaeological, and if so, to record them.

1. The Site Supervisor will secure the area so that the finds are not interfered with.
2. The Project Archaeologist will advise HNZPT if any significant archaeological features or deposits are exposed that were not anticipated.
3. If archaeological deposits or features relating to Māori occupation are exposed, the Project Archaeologist will inform the appropriate Hapū Representatives and HNZPT.
4. If human bone (kōiwi tangata) or taonga (Māori artefacts) are encountered, the protocols set out below will be followed.
5. Works will not recommence in the immediate vicinity of the archaeological site until advised by the Project Archaeologist.

4.4 Protocols relating to human remains (kōiwi tangata)

If bone material is identified that could potentially be human, the following protocol will be adopted:

1. Earthworks/investigation should cease within 20 metres of the discovery while the Project Archaeologist or relevant osteological specialist establishes whether the bone is human.
2. If bone is confirmed to be human (kōiwi tangata), the Project Manager will immediately contact the relevant Hapū Representatives, HNZPT and the New Zealand Police.
3. The site will be secured in a way that protects the kōiwi as far as possible from further damage.
4. Consultation will be undertaken with the relevant Hapū Representatives, HNZPT, the New Zealand Police and the Authority holder to determine and advise the appropriate course of action. No further action will be taken until responses have been received from all parties, and the kōiwi will not be removed until HNZPT have been advised.
5. The Hapū Representatives will advise on appropriate tikanga and be given the opportunity to conduct any cultural ceremonies that are appropriate.
6. If the Hapū Representatives agree, the bones may be disinterred and further analysed by an osteological specialist prior to reburial, in line with the HNZPT guidelines *Kōiwi Tangata Human Remains* (2014).
7. The Archaeologist will continue to update and advise Hapū Representatives, HNZPT, the New Zealand Police and the Authority holder as work proceeds.
8. Project works in the area of the discovery can recommence as soon as the bones have been removed, and HNZPT have been advised.

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5 Post Earthworks Phase

5.1 Archaeological Analysis and Reporting

1. Artefacts and samples retained from the site will be analysed and recorded by a specialist with the appropriate training and skills for that class of find.
2. Any significant wooden or metal artefacts recovered will be analysed and considered for conservation by appropriate specialists.
3. Within 20 working days of the completion of the archaeological investigation under each authority, or where the Project is undertaken in Stages under separate authorities, within 20 working days of the completion of all on-site archaeological work associated with each completed authority, a no-finds report or an interim report will be provided to HNZPT as appropriate. Report contents will be informed by the HNZPT Guidelines 12 Archaeological Report Guideline.
4. The Project Archaeologist will ensure the New Zealand Archaeological Association site record form is updated to the site recording database within 20 working days of the archaeological works being completed, or where the Project is undertaken in Stages under separate authorities, within 20 working days of the completion of all on-site archaeological work associated with each completed authority.
5. A single final report, or a number of combined final authority reports as appropriate, detailing archaeological works, analysis and interpretation will be completed within the timeframes identified in the Authority and will be provided to the parties identified in the Authority.

6 Authority Holders responsibilities

The authority holder (NZTA) has the following responsibilities:

1. To ensure that the conditions and protocols outlined in the Authority and this AMP are complied with by earthworks Contractors.
2. To advise HNZPT of the start and finish dates of any required archaeological investigations.
3. To ensure that sufficient time is provided to carry out any archaeological investigations required.
4. To provide sufficient site security to ensure that archaeological material on site is protected from unlawful excavation or removal.
5. To ensure that a copy of the Archaeological Authority is accessible on site and its contents are made known to all earthworks Contractors and subcontractors.

7 Contractor's responsibilities

1. To meet the Project Archaeologist on site prior to the start of works for a briefing on the archaeological requirements.
2. To provide the Project Archaeologist with 10 working days' notice that project earthworks will commence, and to ensure that an Archaeologist is present when earthworks begin in the areas requiring monitoring.
3. To comply with the Authority conditions and the requirements of this AMP.

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4. To ensure that a copy of this AMP is accessible on-site and its contents are made known to all Contractors and Subcontractors.
5. To ensure a safe working environment for the Archaeologists, including but not limited to removing all heavy machinery from the immediate vicinity of the investigation, unless the machinery is working under archaeological supervision.
6. To allow the Archaeologists sufficient time to investigate and record any archaeological remains before resuming works in the immediate vicinity.

8 Project Archaeologist's responsibilities

1. To provide onsite briefings to contractors about the work required and how to identify possible archaeological sites during works.
2. To ensure that the methodology set out above is implemented.
3. To maintain communication with the Contractor, Hapū Representatives and HNZPT.
4. The Project Archaeologist will be responsible for deciding if potential archaeological features pre-date 1900.

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9 Archaeological Research Strategy

9.1 Purpose

This Strategy outlines the general questions that any archaeological investigations conducted under the conditions of the Authorities will seek to address. These questions relate to the history of Aotearoa at a national level and more particularly at a regional (Bay of Plenty) and local (Tauriko) level.

9.2 Research focus

In the past two decades numerous archaeological investigations have been conducted in the general Tauriko area, particularly along the Kopurererua Valley. Most sites have been dominated by storage pits, with midden and other features also present. Work so far provides an overview of Tauriko archaeology, but several specific questions remain to be addressed:

1. What is the timing of settlement in Tauriko – was it a gradual process of spreading up the Wairoa and Kopurererua, or was the area all initially occupied at once?
2. How long did settlement persist in Tauriko?
3. How does the settlement of Tauriko relate to settlement on the coast?
4. How does the Wairoa River function in the Tauriko settlement system? Was it a focus of settlement? Was it an important transport route? Or was it a barrier between Tauriko and Te Puna?

Some of these questions can be partly addressed through a close analysis of existing investigations, where these have been reported. Investigation will bear these questions in mind and seek to complement and build on existing understandings and current data.

Thousands of storage pits have been excavated in the Bay of Plenty and in Aotearoa generally. Despite this, or perhaps because of the overwhelming amount and variable quality of data, there is no overview analysis of pits. It is expected that any archaeological sites investigated will be dominated by pits. Some of the questions regarding pits that might contribute to a wider understanding of these important features include:

1. What is the variation in pit form within and between sites? Do pits differ from locality to locality (e.g., between Ohauiti, Oropi, Tauriko, Bethlehem and Te Puna) and, if they do, is this due to environmental variables (soils, landform, etc.) or local practice? If so, then, does pit form differ between regions (e.g., between the Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Auckland).
2. Pits often contain internal features such as postholes that indicate roof structures, steps, postholes indicating internal divisions, drains and sumps to control water, and internal bin pits in the floor and cave pits in the walls. How do these internal features function?
3. Large pits are often associated with a small bin pit and, where the upper layers have not been damaged by ploughing or other earthworks, with external postholes. How do these larger groups of features function?

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9.3 Methodology

The investigation methodology for addressing these questions is outlined in the above AMP. In general, this methodology follows best archaeological practice and is expanded on here. A methodology for analysing any finds from the Project investigations is also outlined here.

9.3.1 Excavation methodology

Topsoil stripping will be monitored by an archaeologist, paying particular attention to areas where there is an identified high risk of archaeological features being present. When features are exposed, topsoil stripping will continue under archaeological supervision until the site or cluster of features is exposed. A small hydraulic excavator (e.g., ~5–8 tonne) may be used to help empty pits.

Once the site or cluster of features is exposed, the investigation area will be isolated and heavy machinery removed.

Excavation will proceed by hand. All archaeological features will be recorded on a standard recording sheet.

All archaeological features will be recorded using an electronic theodolite (total station), RTK GPS and/or RTK drone.

All archaeological features will be photographed and drawn to scale as appropriate.

Samples will be taken from middens and other deposits for faunal and palaeoenvironmental analysis. Multiple samples may be taken from middens depending on their extent and internal complexity. Midden samples will be 10 litres each.

A relational database will be used to record features, samples, photographs and drawings, as well as the results of post-excavation analyses.

All analyses will be conducted by a specialist trained and experienced in the analysis of that class of find. Analysis will seek to understand the relationships between people and their environments, and how different materials were moved around the landscape.

9.3.2 Shell midden and faunal analysis

Midden samples will be air dried, weighed, floated for charcoal and then wet sieved through nested 6 mm and 3 mm screens. Each fraction will be airdried and then sorted to its constituent classes, generally taonga, stone, charcoal, bone and shell, which will be sent to the appropriate specialist for analysis.

Faunal classes (bone and shell) will be analysed following standard methodologies, identified to low taxonomic level (species if possible) and counted. Appropriate environmental and statistical analyses will be conducted.

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9.3.3 Artefact analysis

Taonga tūturu, or formal artefacts such as adzes, fishhooks, etc., will be photographed, measured and described.

Other artefacts, principally flaked stone, will be measured and described. Photographs will be taken of a representative sample.

Sourcing analyses will be carried out for stone artefacts, both taonga tūturu and flaked stone.

If fragile organic artefacts are found a trained conservator will provide appropriate advice and will assist in conserving these.

9.3.4 Palaeoenvironmental analysis

The most frequently analysed palaeoenvironmental material is charcoal, often from midden samples but charcoal can also occur as discrete deposits or scattered through fill layers. This will be identified to species level and samples suitable for radiocarbon dating will be separated out.

Starches and pollens can also be sampled from suitable deposits.

9.3.5 Radiocarbon dating

Radiocarbon dating will have two aims: to date individual sites and cluster of features; and to place the sites in the wider landscape, looking at the chronology of settlement and how the settlement of Tauriko relates to the Bay of Plenty. Dating samples will be selected with both these aims in mind. Multiple samples may be adapted from a single context to undertake Bayesian analysis.

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Director
CFG Heritage

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