Appendix G – Archaeological Investigation

Matakana Country Club: archaeological assessment

report to
Sanderson Partners
and
BBO

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1 Introduction

Sanderson Partners propose developing the Matakana Country Club, a luxury retirement village, at 120 Tongue Farm Road, Matakana (Pt Lot 3 DP 13160 and Pt Lot 5 DP 13160) under the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA). An archaeological assessment of effects is required in support of referral to the Minister and a substantive application to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under the FTAA, and archaeological authority applications to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. Nathan Sanderson of Sanderson Partners commissioned this assessment from CFG Heritage.

1.1 Stautory 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 Māori, including wāhi 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.

2 Methodology

The following digital data sources were consulted:

- Site records from the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme (SRS) were obtained from ArchSite (https://nzarchaeology.org/archsite).
- Records of previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity were obtained from the HNZPT digital library (https://dl.heritage.org.nz/greenstone3/library/collection/pdf-reports/).

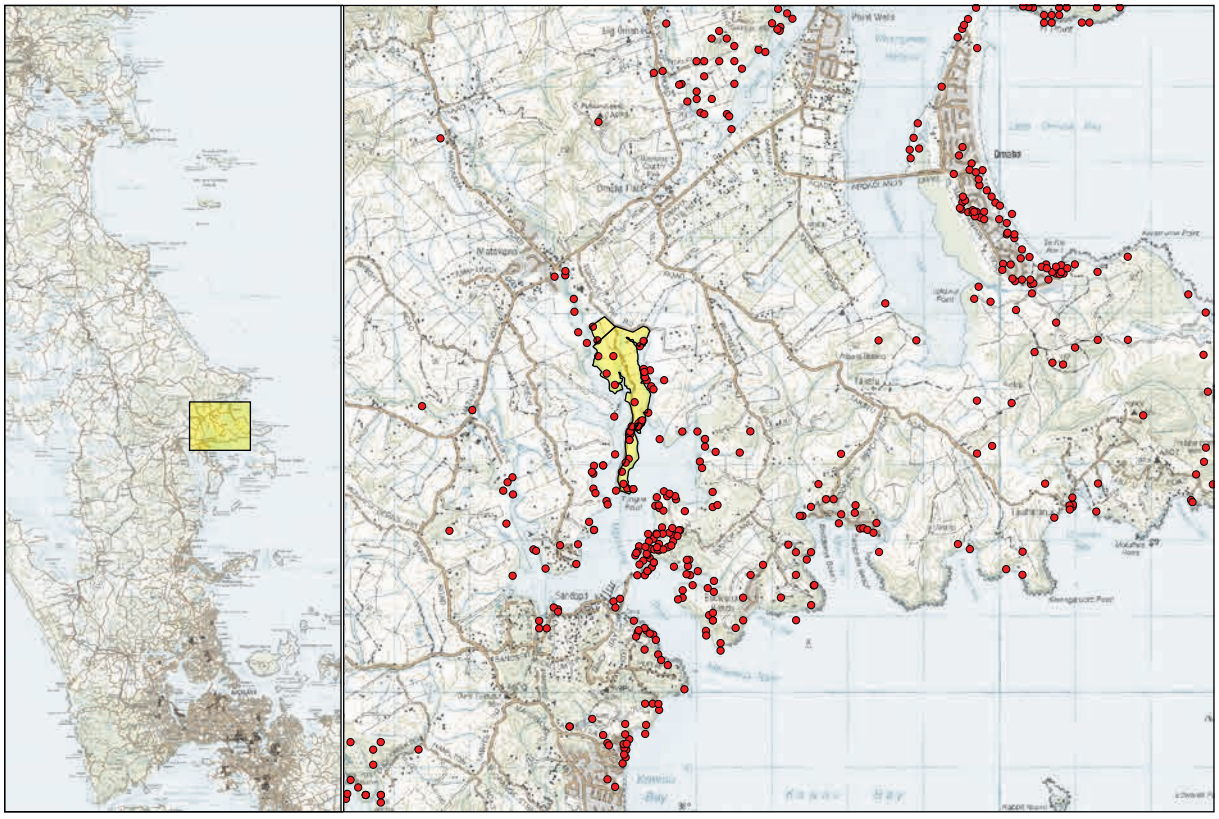

Figure 1. Location of the Matakana Country Club showing archaeological sites recorded in the wider area.

- The NZAA publications search engine was searched using keywords for research reports in the Archaeology in New Zealand newsletter (https://nzarchaeology.org/publications/archaeology-in-new-zealand-ainz).
- Historic aerial photos were obtained from Retrolens (https://retrolens.co.nz/).
- Modern aerial imagery (2016–2019) was obtained from Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) (https://data.linz.govt.nz/data/).
- Historic maps and plans were obtained from QuickMap software.

Map data was incorporated into the project GIS.

A site survey was undertaken by Matthew Campbell and Brendan Kneebone on 25 and 26 August 2025. This was a pedestrian survey, relocating previously recorded sites visually, with a probe and occasionally test pitting, as well as probing regularly to look for new sites. Sites were mapped with an RTK GPS where possible, although vegetation cover was in places too dense to for the GPS to work.

3 Background

Tongue farm is located on a peninsula or tongue of land between two branches of the Matakana River, 2.4 km long, 600 m wide in the north and 150 m wide in the south, with a maximum elevation of 9 m (Figure 1). The land is generally level with 2–5 m banks down to the river, often quite steep. Soils are Waipu clays, of medium to low fertility and poorly drained (DSIR 1954). They would not have been suitable for pre-European Māori kūmara horticulture.

3.1 Pre–European Māori history

Matakana is in the Mahurangi district, which has a history of significant traditional Māori occupation, and several iwi and hapū have affiliation with the land. Ngāti Whātua descend from the ances-

tor Tuputupuwhenua and are affiliated with the *Māhuhu* waka which landed between the Hokianga and Kaipara Harbour. By the mid-18th century, the southerly expansion of Ngāti Whātua had extended the boundaries of the confederation from the Hokianga to Tāmaki.

Control of the northern Kaipara and parts of the eastern inland region, including Wellsford, was claimed by Te Uri-o-Hau, led by Haumoewharangi, whose son Rongo and his descendants established Ngāti Rongo on the north-eastern Kaipara Harbour. Although conflict occurred with other groups, close relationships were largely maintained between the Ngāti Whātua hapū, with tracks and portage routes between the west and east coasts providing effective means of communication.

Māori in the Mahurangi district did not occupy permanent year-round settlement sites but moved between their kāinga in accordance with the seasons. The east and west coastal boundaries provided abundant marine resources, while the inland forest supplied Māori with hunting and resource gathering opportunities. Rivers such as Puhoi and Mahurangi supplied plentiful fresh water, and sandy soils near coastal areas were highly suited to kūmara cultivation (Murdoch 1992).

In the 17th century a battle was fought at Pukenihinihi Pā, southeast of Ōmaha Beach, between Ngāi Tāhuhu and Ngāti Awa, led by Maki. This battle was known as Huruhuru Waea or the 'parting of the hairs' (Murdoch 1998). Ngāi Tāhuhu were defeated and the descendants of Maki and Mataahu (who became known as Kawerau) came to occupy much of the area (Auckland Regional Council Parks 1992). After this conquest the land was divided between Kawerau, with Mangatāwhiri and Tāwharanui given to Maeaeariki, who became known as Ngāti Raupō (Bicker et al. 2003).

Competition for control of the shark fishery, one of the most highly prized resources of the Mahurangi, led to protracted conflict between Te Kawerau and Hauraki iwi in the 1700s. Known as the Marutūāhu confederation, the Hauraki iwi comprised Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Tamaterā. Battles continued intermittently throughout the 18th century, with Marutūāhu eventually gaining permanent control of the fishing grounds (Murdoch 1992).

Further warfare occurred in the 1820s when musket-armed Ngāpuhi from the north launched a series of attacks throughout the rohe of Ngāti Whātua. Māori of the Mahurangi, armed only with traditional hand combat weapons such as mere and taiaha, were swiftly defeated. In 1825 Ngāpuhi fought against a combined Ngāti Whātua force, including Kawerau, with battles taking place and Mangawhai and then at Te Ika a Ranganui (Murdoch 1998). Ngāpuhi were victorious despite major losses on both sides. Many of the Kawerau hapū were killed or fled south to the Waikato. The Ngāti Manuhiri survivors sought refuge with their relatives, Ngāti Wai, north of Whangārei (Murdoch 1998; Pritchard 1983 cited in Bickler et al. 2003). Hapū in Mahurangi sought refuge with Pomare of Ngā Manu in the Bay of Islands, based upon shared descent from Maki and Ngāwhetu. While Ngāti Raupō of Tāwharanui sheltered around Whangarei Harbour with Te Parawhau, both of them sharing ancestry from Tahuhunui and Maki (Murdoch 1998). This left the region virtually deserted for several years (Murdoch 1992). By the late 1830s small numbers of Ngāti Whātua began to return to their traditional occupation areas in the Mahurangi, eventually reestablishing themselves in the district.

3.2 Historic settlement

Missionaries and sawyers began appearing in the Mahurangi by the early 1830s and, with the arrival of Europeans, Ngāti Whātua hapū came under increasing pressure to relinquish land. Although several Ngāti Whātua chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, including Te Roha of Te Uri-o-Hau, large tracts of land were lost through Crown purchases, pre-1840 claims and Native Land Court proceedings (NZMCH 2006: 199).

Further pressure was placed on Māori land after the decision by Governor Hobson to relocate the colonial capital from the Bay of Islands to Auckland shortly after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Hobson ordered his Surveyor General, Felton Mathew, to investigate every inlet from the Bay of Islands to the Firth of Thames, including the Mahurangi River, which was surveyed in June 1840. In Mathew's report of the Mahurangi he noted that:

> ...it would be highly desirable that the Government should obtain possession of this harbour and a considerable portion of the surrounding country. A settlement once formed here, would I have no doubt, rapidly attain a very flourishing condition. Several Europeans lay claim, I believe, to this portion of the country, but their titles, I am informed, are of no value. And even among the native chiefs

> a dispute exists to the right of ownership. The government should therefore have no difficulty in taking possession of it. I did not see the slightest trace of native inhabitants during the time I was in the place (Locker 2001: 61).

When the Tāmaki isthmus was chosen as the site of the new capital, land in the Mahurangi became even more essential to the Crown, as it was now one of the main gateways to Auckland (Rigby 1998). On 13 April 1841 the Crown acquired its first large tract of land in the area, known as the Mahurangi Purchase. This included the Mahurangi and Ōmaha Blocks (Deed No. 192) comprising an estimated 220,000 acres, with boundaries stretching from the North Shore of the Waitematā in the south to Te Arai Point in the north (Turton 1877; Rigby 1998). However, complications arising from the purchase were soon apparent. The land was not obtained from resident iwi such as Ngāti Whātua, but from Hauraki tribes who claimed ancestral control of the area from the 18th century (Rigby 1998:20). The Mahurangi Purchase made Ngāti Rongo theoretically landless, and the sale was therefore disputed by their chief Te Hemara Tauhia before it was finalised. Te Hemara appealed for the return of Mahurangi to Ngāti Rongo, in particular Te Puhoi.

Negotiations were also ongoing with European settlers, many of whom held pre-treaty or pre-emption waiver claims over various tracts of the land (Grover 2013). A second wave of Mahurangi purchases was conducted by the Crown between 1853 and 1865, most notably the Parihoro Mahurangi Purchase (Deed No. 197), dated 1 November 1853, which outlined the boundaries of the Mahurangi Block and was signed by Parihoro and four other Kawerau chiefs. "Parihoro's portion" had included the area of Matakana and was purchased by the Crown for £150 (Turton 1877; Rigby 1998). Following the final settlement of claims against the original purchase surveying in the Mahurangi district continued, with allotments marked out for sale by both speculators and settlers.

3.3 Matakana

Following the signing of the Mahurangi Purchase, Mathew's assistant Campbell was sent to assess the features of northern boundary, and he remarked on a "few thousand acres of good fern land" at Matakana which were considered suitable for European settlement (Rigby 1998). Small-scale shipbuilding and repairing were established in the Matakana area during the 1840s, and a burgeoning timber export trade throughout the Mahurangi was stimulated by the Californian gold rush of 1849 (Rigby 1998). In 1852 Mahurangi became an important source of sawn timber for the Auckland market and the predominance of "wooded land', including kauri, kahikatea and puriri, can be seen on Wayte and Batger's map (Figure 2, the map shows the Matakana River but not the Tongue). The map indicates the boundaries of the Parish of Matakana and identifies the areas of good soil, native forest and mixed bush. Surveyed sections within the Parish of Matakana were offered for sale by the Crown from the early 1850s and the passing of the Auckland Waste Lands Act 1858 and Amendment Act 1862 gave the provinces further control of sales and revenue.

By the late 19th century Matakana had attracted several farmers who utilised the cleared landscape (following the removal of timber resources) to establish pastoral and horticultural ventures. As well, the township was growing with an 1881 article in the *New Zealand Herald* (12 May 1881: 3) noting that:

> Matakana village is gradually becoming an important place. I should judge that things are looking up, and that business is on the increase. There are three stores, each doing a fair amount of trade. There is also a church, a public hall, a post-office, and an hotel. The country is level here-abouts, and the roads good… [The] settlers, on an average, have 200 acres each. And, from what I could learn, they are all getting along well… They keep sheep and cattle, and, if I am not mistaken, 50 to 60 bales of wool were sent away from here this last season.

The fertile alluvial soils along the banks of the Matakana River provided ideal conditions for fruit growing and it was remarked in the *New Zealand Herald* (13 May 1889: 6) that:

> Although Matakana has been famed for fruit for many years, particularly pears, yet it is only recently that attention has been given generally to fruit culture as a business, and it will, at no distant date, be the chief industry of the district. In fact, it was fruit that changed the old order of things from exporting firewood and

3.5 Archaeological background

Wayte and Batger's 1866 map of Marsden County shows open land and fern near Matakana, indicating that some land had been cleared by Māori for horticulture and reverted to fern. Other areas remain under kahikatea, mānuka and kauri (Figure 2).

A survey of Tongue Farm was undertaken in 1995 by Jeff Mosen and Matthew Felgate to identify archaeological features and mark their extents ahead of a proposed farm resort development. While never reported in full, a draft of the results of this survey is available (Mosen and Felgate 1995). During this survey 35 archaeological sites were recorded (Figure 5).

Thirty-four of these sites were shell middens, two of which include findspots, and one site was a find spot on its own. These sites are all situated along the banks of the Matakana River. They range in size from small surface scatters to larger areas of predominantly subsurface midden. Most of these are eroding out of the banks and have suffered damage from stock trampling. All the middens contained tuangi (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) while at least two sites contained pipi (*Paphies australis*) and whelks (*Cominella* sp.). Fire cracked rock, charcoal and red ochre was also visible in some sites. R09/822 is mentioned in the report as potentially being a small settlement or kāinga. Shell midden was found eroding down the banks and a raised elevated flat area was noted above along with numerous karaka trees.

Sites recorded at Tongue Point, R09/831 – R09/834 and R09/851, all have substantial exposed shell midden around the east, west and south banks leading down to the estuary. Subsurface archaeology, particularly midden, were also found inland of these exposures. The shell was found generally only 60–100 mm below the surface and in parts up to 200 mm thick. The distribution of these sites as well as the inland evidence points to the likelihood of a settlement here. A ditch measuring 20 x 1.5 m running in an east to west direction across the land was evident about 150 m north of Tongue Point. It contained clay fill indicating that at some point it had been backfilled. It was noted in the report that this could relate to Māori occupation of Tongue Point or be an old farm drain. The extents of the sites recorded during Felgate's survey were determined by the visible limits of surface archaeology. It is highly likely that subsurface archaeology extends outside of the currently recorded boundaries.

In the wider area, while there are a lot of recorded sites, only some have been investigated as part of other projects. At 179A Sharp Road in Matakana, Don Prince (2023) investigated midden site R09/2301 ahead of the land being developed. This investigation identified an extensive shell midden with fire hearths commonly associated with the consumption of marine resources, but states that its likely they represent a single event.

At 60 Bishop Lane, Matakana, Shakles et al (2016) monitored the renovations of an historic cottage (R09/2175) and the development of the surrounding area. This project exposed a shell midden, R09/2199, which provided evidence for the gathering, processing and consumption of shellfish by Māori in the first half of the 15th century. Shakles (2012) also monitored works for a new pressurised wastewater system in Matakana township. However, these works did not uncover any archaeology.

Ahead of the installation of a pest prevention fence, Lawlor and Tatton (2002) investigated possible modified terraces between R09/256 and R09/257 on the Tawharanui Regional Park using a series of spade test pits. Some of the test pits revealed hangi stones and a piece of obsidian, and it was deemed these terraces were not natural features. Given the proximity of the fence to several recorded archaeological sites, it was recommended that the project commence under archaeological monitoring.

As part of that same pest free fence project Judge et al (2005) investigated R09/251 and monitored earthworks around that area. Intact midden deposits were recovered from two test pit units and sampled. The analysis indicated Māori were gathering shellfish from rocky shore environments and catching fish such as Snapper, Kahawai and Barracoutta. The site was dated to between 1470 – 1640 AD, a similar occupation time to other sites in the general Ōmaha area.

Figure 2. Detail of Wayte & Batger's County Maps No. 1 Marsden Southern Section*, dated 1866 (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections Map 120).*

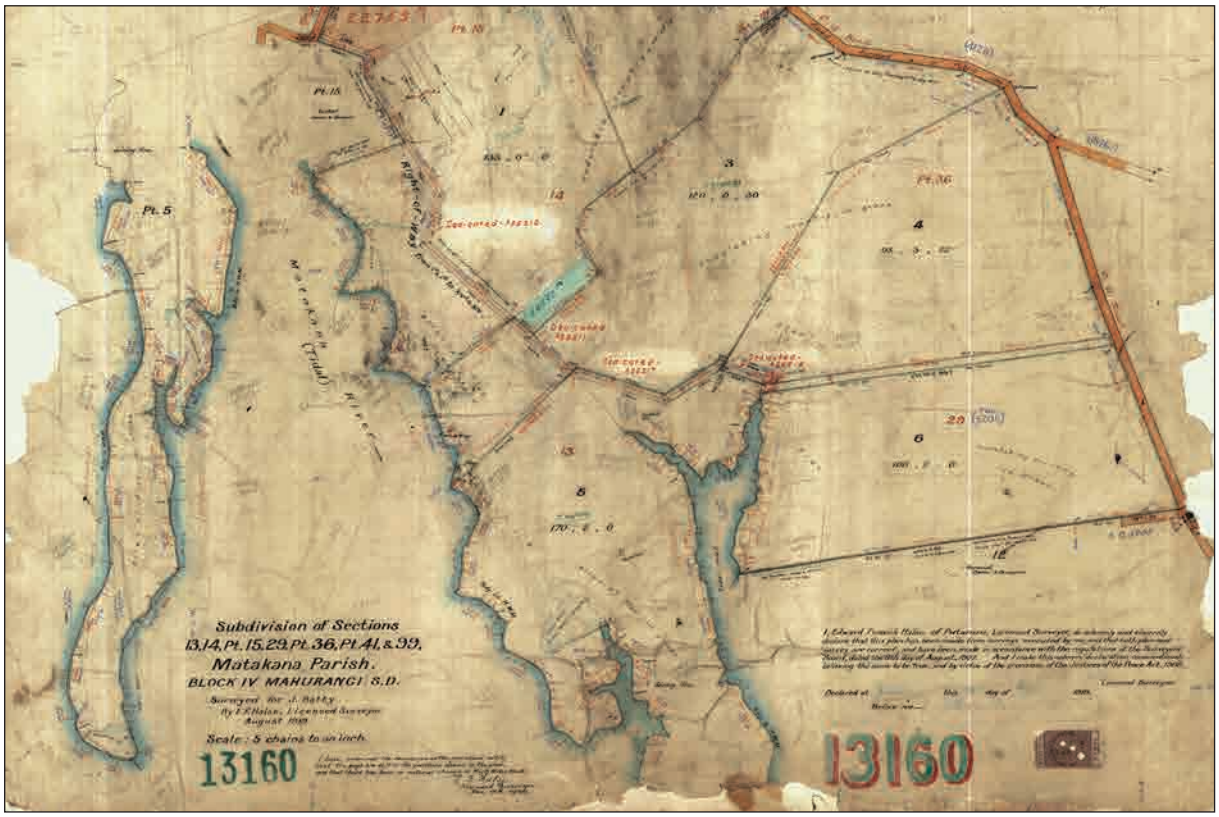

Figure 3. Detail of DP 13160, dated 1919.

Figure 4. Comparison of aerial photo SN187/5039/15, dated 1966 (left) and modern aerial imagery (right)

posts only to maintaining direct steam communication, which would not have been affected for some time but for orchard produce.

3.4 Historic maps and aerial photos

Survey plan DP 13160 drawn in 1919 (Figure 3) shows the property was already being farmed by the turn of the century, with most of the land "Alluvial flat, in grass." There are stands of native pūriri, kowhai and manuka about halfway down the Tongue, with "Tall manuka etc." on Tongue Point. This plan also notes some of the boundary fences in the neighbouring property to the east were over 20 years old at the time of survey. A homestead, woolshed and shed are shown, but no buildings are shown on the Tongue, indicating that it was not occupied by settlers other than being grazed prior to this. The earliest available aerial photos are from 1966 and show the Tongue much as it is today excluding the current houses (Figure 4). Mangroves are already growing on the mudflats of the Matakana River, though not as thickly as today.

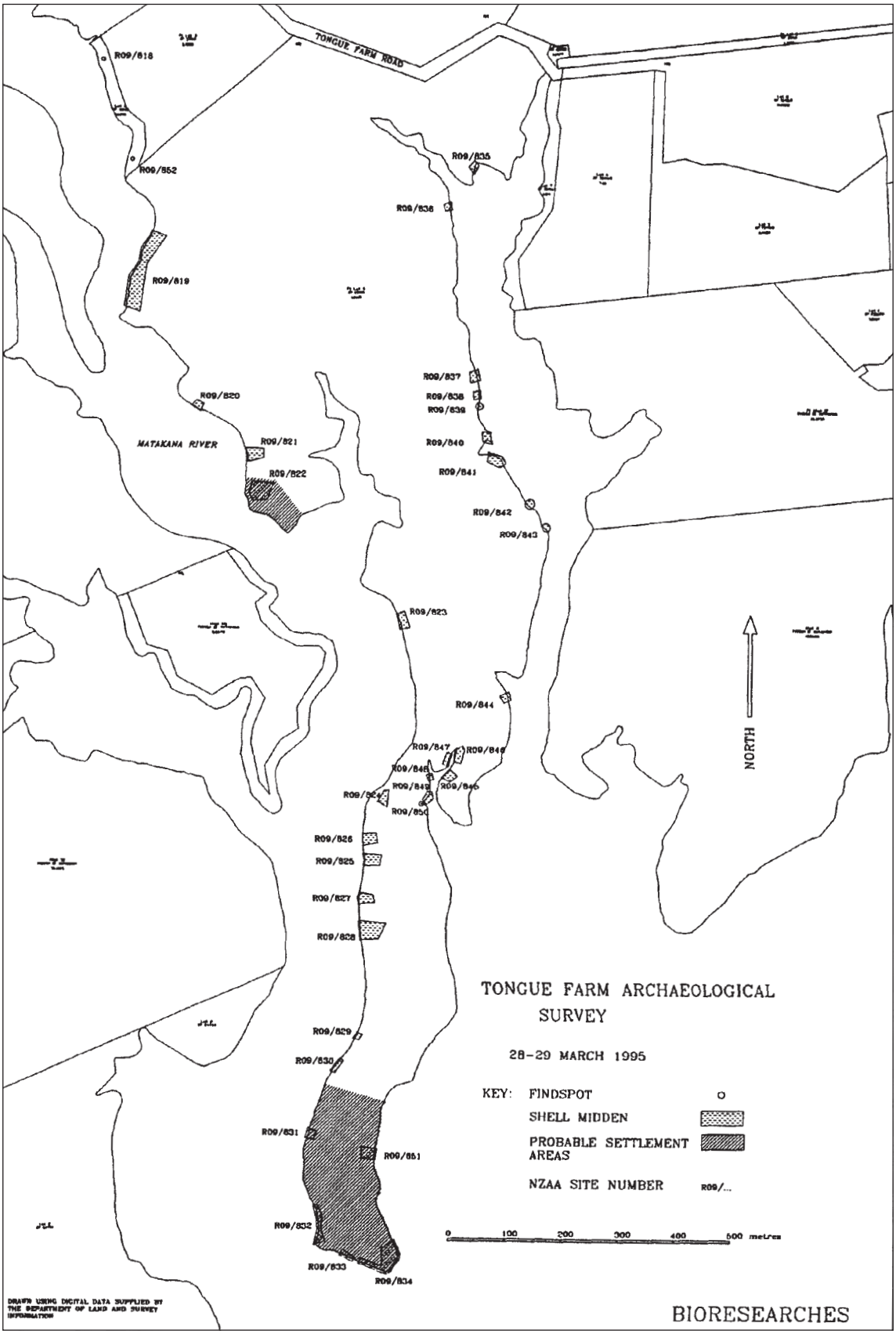

Figure 5. Mosen and Felgate's (1995) plan of archaeological sites on Tongue Farm.

Figure 6. Looking south along the Tongue from near the farm shed.

Figure 7. Looking north along the Tongue from near the farm shed.

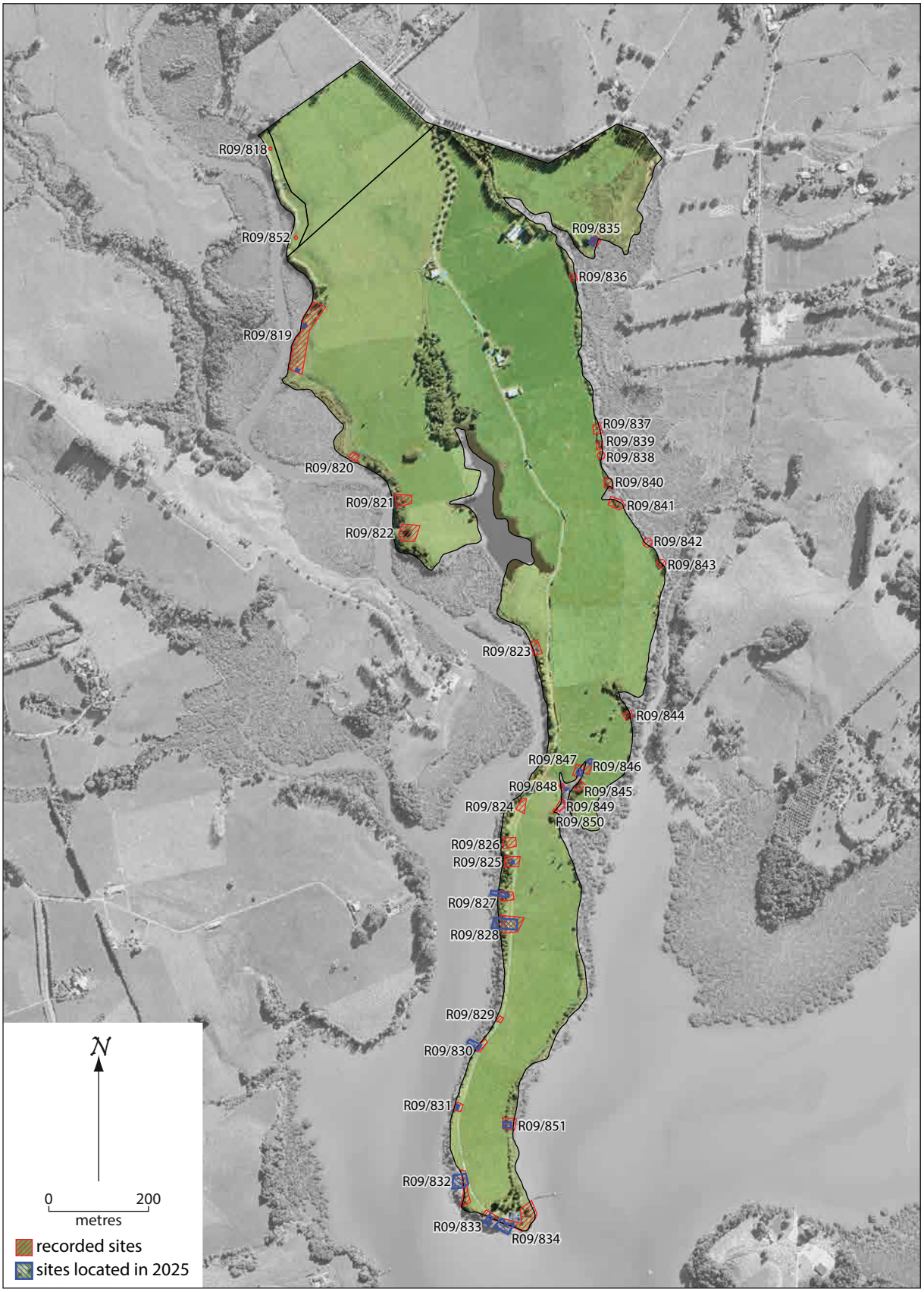

Figure 8. Map of Mosen and Felgate's sites and sites relocated in 2025.

4 Field survey

At the time of survey, the properties were grazed by sheep and young cattle. Grass was short and ground visibility was good. The land was level, with very little change in elevation (Figure 6, Figure 7, see also cover photo). After a wet winter the soils were waterlogged, and the cattle had pugged low lying areas around gates and in races. High fences on the riverbanks around the north of the property, dating to the late 1990s, made access difficult and meant the banks had not been grazed for some time. They were often overgrown with gorse and blackberry, and inaccessible, while in other places they were covered in waist high grass and weeds. In general, the riverbanks were not visible and the riverbed was difficult to access, but in some places mature trees meant the understorey was more open.

Sites are described below starting at the northwestern most site and proceeding anticlockwise around the Tongue.

4.1 R09/818

This small midden was not relocated.

4.2 R09/852

This site was an isolated findspot of a Hall's Wine Tonic bottle in the river. It isn't clear if there would be other similar finds nearby.

Figure 9. General location of R09/818. 8426

4.3 R09/819

This site appears to be smaller than the site record indicated. While the site record shows a site 150 x 30 m in extent, the site record says it only extends 4 m inland from the riverbank, and only two patches of shell each 6 x 6 m were relocated. The northern patch was on the riverbank and shell could be seen eroding onto the riverbed. A circle of fire cracked rocks was visible in the riverbed that probably indicated a former fire feature that had fallen into the river as the bank eroded. That is retained its circular formation indicates that erosion is a slow, low energy process. No shell was visible in the bank although it could be probed for 3 or 4 m back from the bank. The shell in the riverbed was almost all tuangi (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) no more than 25 mm in length, with very occasional pipi (*Paphies australis*). Fallen tree trunks in the riverbed indicate that erosion has been going on for some time, but it is not feasible to say how long the trees have been there or how much erosion has occurred since the Mosen and Felgate 1995 survey.

4.4 R09/820

This site was not relocated

4.5 R09/821

This site was not relocated

Figure 10. Shell in the riverbed at R09/819.

Figure 11. Fire cracked rock in the riverbed, indicating an eroded fire feature, R09/819.

4.6 R09/822

This site was relocated on the slope of the riverbank and by probe. It is up to 300 mm thick, and consists of sparse crushed and whole tuangi over approximately 40 x 30 m, as described in the site record. The site was beneath tree cover and could not be mapped by GPS.

4.7 R09/823

A small patch of fragmented tuangi was visible in the riverbank about 250 mm wide and sparse midden was probed for 1.5 x 1.5 m.

4.8 R09/824

A sparse midden 100 mm deep was detected by probe in the slope of the riverbank over 2 x 2 m.

4.9 R09/825

Occasional flecks of shell were visible on the surface of the slope of the riverbank beneath trees but not detected by probing. At the top of the bank, shell was detected by probe over 4 x 4 m. A spade-width test pit was dug that showed 20 mm of fragmented tuangi beneath 25 mm of topsoil.

Figure 12. R09/822 exposed on the surface of the riverbank.

Figure 13. General location shot of R09/822.

Figure 14. R09/823 visible in the riverbank.

Figure 15. General location shot of R09/823.

Figure 16. General location shot of R09/824.

Figure 17. General location shot of the slope of the riverbank, R09/825.

Figure 18. Test pit dug at R09/825. Photo scale = 0.5 m.

4.10 R09/826

This site was not relocated.

4.11 R09/827

At the top of the riverbank shell was detected by probe over 6 x 6 m and some sparse, fragmented tuangi was visible. A spade width test pit was dug that showed 50 mm of fragmented tuangi beneath 50 mm of topsoil.

4.12 R09/828

At the top of the riverbank and extending across the gravelled driveway and into the adjoining paddock, shell was detected by probe. A spade width test pit was dug above the riverbank that showed 200 mm of fragmented tuangi beneath 150 mm of topsoil. Shell was visible in patches eroding down the slope of the riverbank as far as the river.

4.13 R09/829

This site was not relocated. Probing detected gravel beneath the surface.

Figure 19. General location shot of the slope of the riverbank, R09/827.

Figure 20. Test pit dug at R09/827. Photo scale = 0.5 m.

Figure 21. General location shot above the riverbank, R09/828.

Figure 22. Shell on the surface of the slope of the riverbank, mostly tuangi with a single pipi.

4.14 R09/830

The slope of the riverbank was steep and overgrown but occasional flecks of shell were visible on the surface. A spade width test pit was dug above the riverbank that showed 400 mm of sparse, fragmented tuangi, and one small fire cracked rock, below 50 mm of topsoil.

4.15 R09/831

Sparse shell 150 mm thick beneath 150 mm of topsoil was detected by probe over 5 x 2 m above the riverbank.

4.16 R09/832

Shell 150 mm thick beneath 150 mm of topsoil was detected by probe over 25 x 12 m above the riverbank and the site is assumed to extend to the riverbank but this was inaccessible.

4.17 R09/833

Dense shell 150 mm thick beneath 50 mm of topsoil was probed over 8 x 4 m above the riverbank and the site is assumed to extend to the riverbank but this was inaccessible. This site is in Mrs Charmichael's garden and no test pit was dug.

4.18 R09/834

Dense shell 150 mm thick beneath 150–250 mm of topsoil was probed over 30 x 10 m above the riverbank and the site is assumed to extend to the riverbank but this was inaccessible. This site is in Mrs Charmichael's garden and no test pit was dug.

4.19 R09/851

Shell was exposed on the surface in stock trample and detected by probe over 10 x 3 m at the top of the riverbank. A spade width test pit was dug that showed 200 mm of dense shell beneath 150 mm of topsoil.

4.20 R09/850

This site was not relocated.

4.21 R09/849

This site was not relocated.

4.22 R09/848

A dense, 150 mm thick layer of shell, mostly tuangi, was visible in the riverbank and eroding into the river, beneath 800 mm of topsoil that has presumably eroded over the midden. It did not extend far back from the bank although it may be buried deeper than the probe could reach.

Figure 23. Test pit dug at R09/830. Photo scale = 0.5 m.

Figure 24. General location shot, R09/831.

Figure 25. General location shot, R09/833.

Figure 26. General location shot, R09/835.

Figure 27. Test pit dug at R09/851. Photo scale = 0.5 m.

Figure 28. Shell in riverbank and eroding into the river at R09/848.

4.23 R09/847

Sparse, fragmented shell was visible in the cut of a farm pit over 4 m but could not be detected by probe behind the pit.

4.24 R09/846

This site was not relocated.

4.25 R09/845

This site was not relocated.

4.26 R09/844

This site was not relocated.

4.27 R09/843

This site is one of a series of seven sites on the east side of the Tongue that was not relocated.

4.28 R09/842

This site is one of a series of seven sites on the east side of the Tongue that was not relocated.

4.29 R09/841

This site is one of a series of seven sites on the east side of the Tongue that was not relocated.

4.30 R09/840

This site is one of a series of seven sites on the east side of the Tongue that was not relocated.

4.31 R09/839

This site is one of a series of seven sites on the east side of the Tongue that was not relocated.

4.32 R09/838

This site is one of a series of seven sites on the east side of the Tongue that was not relocated.

4.33 R09/837

This site is one of a series of seven sites on the east side of the Tongue that was not relocated.

4.34 R09/836

This site was not relocated

Figure 29. Shell in farm pit at R09/847. Photo scale = 0.5 m.

Figure 30. General location of R09/843.

Figure 31. General location of R09/842.

Figure 32 General location of R09/841.

Figure 33. General location of R09/840.

Figure 34. General location of R09/839.

Figure 35. General location of R09/838.

Figure 36. General location of R09/837.

Figure 37. General location of R09/836. 8483

4.35 R09/835

Sparse midden 100 mm thick beneath 200 mm of soft wet topsoil was probed over 15 x 10 m but was not visible on the surface.

4.36 Summary

The plan of sites recorded in 1995 (Mosen and Felgate 1995) appeared to be accurate. Where sites could be relocated, they were where they had originally been recorded. Many sites, however, could not be relocated. There are several possible reasons for this: sites are often small and access is restricted by vegetation; sites may have eroded in the intervening 30 years; probing may be less effective in the very wet conditions. For instance, R09/847 was visible in the cut of a farm pit but was sparse and could not be detected by probe; R09/848 was a dense midden but is eroding into the river at the same time as material is eroding over and burying it, so its extent could not be probed. Additionally, the sites were probably not as extensive as shown by Mosen and Felgate in their report, giving a false impression of the density of midden across the landscape.

The property is not generally suitable for pre-European Māori occupation. The low lying flat lands were waterlogged at the time of field assessment and would not have been useful for kūmara storage pits and the Waipu clay soils would not have been suitable for kūmara horticulture. Mosen and Felgate (1995: 9) proposed that "Areas where dense concentrations of sites occur are likely to contain further associated subsurface features" and that the southern extremity of the Tongue may have been an occupation site. The land here is slightly (~1 m) higher than the land immediately north and was somewhat less wet, but any subsurface kūmara storage pits would still have been dug down to the water table. They describe a ditch 20 m long and 1.5. m wide running across the Tongue, which may have been a defensive feature but is more likely to be an "old farm drain." The ditch is no longer visible and the low lying land is not easily defended – there is unlikely to have been any intensive

Figure 38. General location of R09/835.

occupation of the Tongue but occasional subsurface middens and associated fire features may be present in places on the property.

In addition to relocating the sites recorded by Mosen and Felgate, the property was probed at semi-regular intervals, particularly along the coastal edge above the riverbank. No new sites were found, but given the difficulty in relocating previously recorded sites, this does not mean that sparse middens may not be present.

Figure 39. The southern end of the Tongue, looking north, where Mosen and Felgate (1995) proposed an occupation site may be present.

Figure 40. Northern end of Mosen and Felgate's proposed occupation site, showing land sloping away to the north (right to left).

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 site.

5.1 Assessment of values

The following assessment of archaeological values is based on the criteria set out in the HNZPT (2019). All middens are assessed together as they share the same values and are part of the same archaeological landscape of the Tongue.

Condition	The middens are in variable condition, with some remaining much as Mosen and Felgate described them in 1995, others slowly eroding while others were not relocated. Some of the middens are quite small – smaller than the 1995 map indicated – but others have some depth and density. Overall the middens and the archaeological landscape are in fair condition.
Rarity	Middens are the most common site type locally, regionally and nationally.
Context	The middens are part of a wider archaeological landscape that, at a local scale, extended across the Tongue but also relates to several other similar coastal areas around Kawau Bay and Ōmaha (Figure 1).
Information	The middens have the potential to provide information about the occupation of the wider Warkworth area. This can provide with the better known midden landscape at Ōmaha, resource use in Kawau Bay and the wider occupation of the area, date of settlement and relationships to other site types such as gardens and pā. Given the density of recorded sites, few have been closely investigated and any information that might be gained has the potential to make a useful contribution.
Amenity	The sites are on private land and are not particularly visible or accessible. However, they could be interpreted to the public as a component of the Matakana Country Clubb development.
Cultural	The middens are pre-European Māori features and values can only be determined by mana whenua.

5.2 Assessment of effects

A draft scheme plan has been prepared which shows area of development to the north and west, and planting along the western edge of the Tongue. A draft cut and fill pan shows cut of up to 1.5 m but generally less than 0.5 m and fill of up to 1 m across the development area. Only two recorded sites, R09/821 and R09/822, neither of which was relocated during the current assessment, are likely to be affected by these earthworks, although this may change as full earthworks plans are developed (Figure 42. Draft earthworks plan with recorded archaeological sites overlaid.). Development in particular is likely to damage or destroy any archaeological evidence in these areas, while planting may also impact archaeological sites and features. Until earthworks plans are prepared that show depths of cut and fill, a full assessment of effects cannot be made.

Figure 41. Matakana Country Club draft scheme plan.

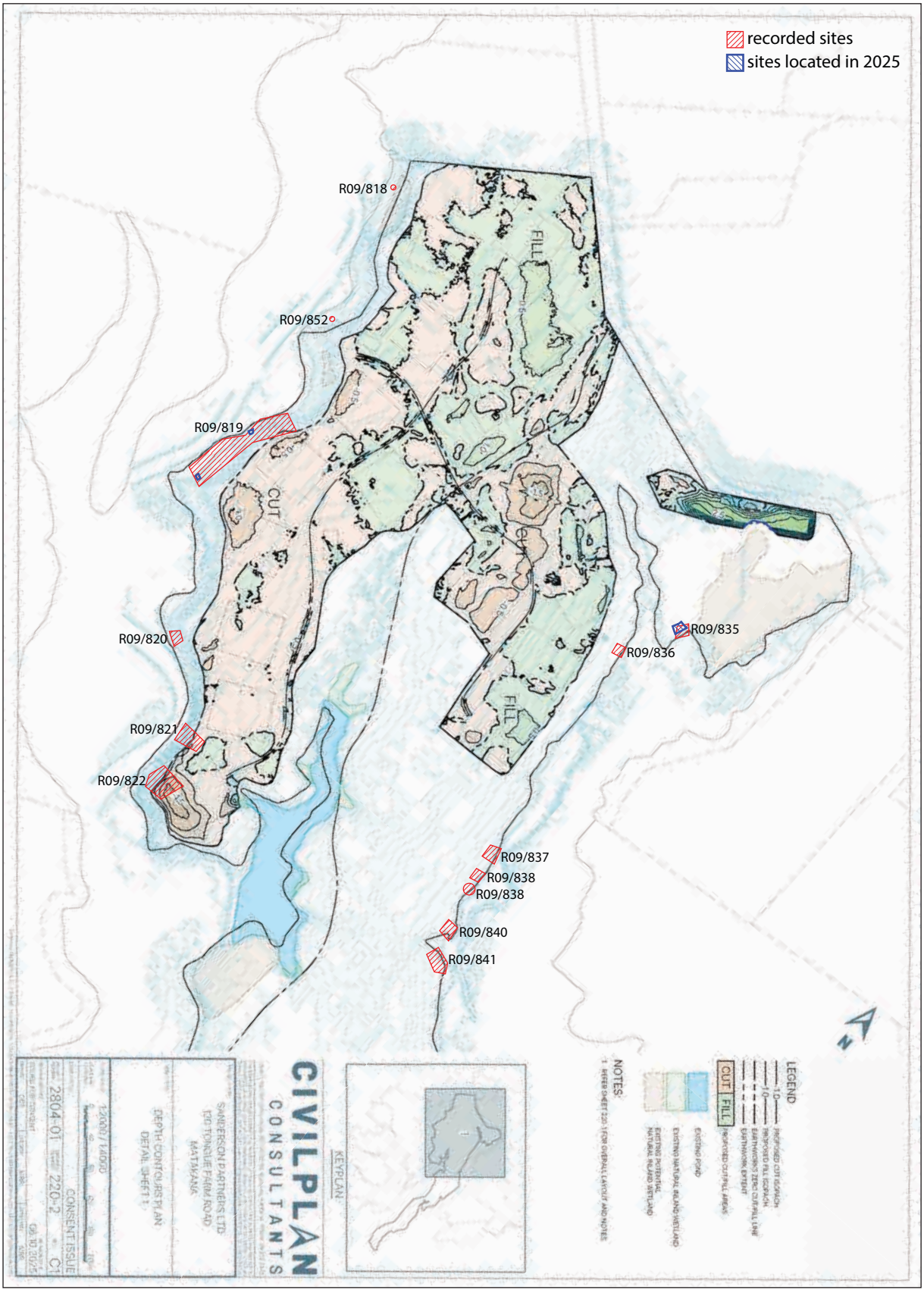

Figure 42. Draft earthworks plan with recorded archaeological sites overlaid.

6 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 tangata whenua, can only be determined by them. It is recommended that:

- once earthworks plans become available a full assessment of effects is prepared;
- an authority to modify or destroy an archaeological sites and features on Pt Lot 3 DP 13160 and Pt Lot 5 DP 13160 be applied for from The Environmental Protection Authority under Section 42(4)(i) and Schedule 8 of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 during the Substantive Application;
    - a Historic Heritage Management Plan be prepared to accompany the authority application, which sets out appropriate methods for managing any effects on the sites during construction;
    - no authority should be applied for without consultation with the appropriate tangata whenua authorities;
- appropriate tikanga (protocols) should be followed during works – mana whenua may make recommendations outlining these;
- in the event of kōiwi (human remains) being uncovered during any future construction, work should cease immediately and mana whenua should be contacted so that suitable arrangements can be made;
- 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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