

**BEFORE THE NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMISSIONERS**

IN THE MATTER the Resource Management Act

AND

IN THE MATTER of a request for Private Plan Change NPDC PLC18/00048
by Oakura Farm Park Limited to rezone land at Oakura
within the New Plymouth District

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF IVAN DAVID BRUCE ON BEHALF OF OAKURA
FARM PARK LIMITED**

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Instructing Solicitor: Ellice Tanner Hart

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Ivan David Bruce.
2. I am a consultant archaeologist. I have worked as a consultant archaeologist since 2000 on a variety of archaeological projects throughout the North Island but have specialised in the archaeology of the Taranaki region since 2006.
3. My qualifications include B.A. Honours from the University of Otago, and M.A. Honours from the University of Auckland, majoring in Anthropology.
4. I have provided archaeological services for the adjacent Paddocks Subdivision between 2010 - 2017.
5. I confirm that I have read the Environment Court's Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses (Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note 2006) and I agree to comply with that Code. This evidence I am presenting is within my area of expertise, except where I state that I am relying on the evidence of another person. To the best of my knowledge I have not omitted to consider any material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions I express.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

6. It was in my capacity as an archaeological consultant that I completed an archaeological survey and assessment of Lot 29 DP 497629 (62.5880ha) ("the application site"), located at Oakura on behalf of Oakura Farm Park Limited ("the applicant").
7. The archaeological assessment involved background research and field survey. Background research entailed the examination of the New Zealand

Archaeological Association (NZAA) site recording scheme (Archsite); an inspection of land plans, maps, photographs and images held at Pukeariki and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ); a review of regional archaeological publications pertaining to the area was also undertaken; and archaeological sites in the vicinity were also inspected to provide context to this assessment. No remote sensing or subsurface testing has been undertaken to date.

8. My assessment was undertaken in March 2017. I confirm the findings of my assessment. The following statement summarises the findings of this research.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

9. No indications of unrecorded archaeological sites were noted during the archaeological survey of the entirety of the proposed Wairau Estate.
10. There is no unambiguous historic record pertaining to unrecorded kainga, pa, or Maori cultivations within the area of the proposed Wairau Estate of which I am aware. Furthermore, no redoubts or blockhouses were constructed on the property during 19th Century British and Colonial military occupation.
11. The property has been used for pastoral farming since European occupation of the Oakura District circa 1865.

ANALYSIS

12. There are no archaeological sites currently recorded on this property on either Archsite, the operative New Plymouth District Plan or the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) list. A number of archaeological sites have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of this subdivision and

the extent of one of these sites (P19/340) has been recorded on the western boundary of the proposed development.

13. This site comprises a large prehistoric era pa, consisting of double unit ring ditch containing open storage pits and house platforms. The pa is contained within "The Paddocks" Subdivision on Wairau road and managed under an Archaeological Site Management Plan within a QE11 Covenant. The site will not be directly affected by the development of the Wairau Estate.
14. Archaeological excavations were undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the Wairau estate during the development of "The Paddocks" subdivision that are relevant to considerations of archaeological potential of the potential Wairau Estate.
15. Prior to the development of "The Paddocks" subdivision, test excavations were undertaken under authority 2010/443 to determine whether archaeological evidence may exist subsurface within the subdivision. These investigations resulted in the recovery of storage pits below the plough zone on level paddocks adjacent to the pa site P19/340; these were recorded as site P19/379. A radiocarbon date derived from midden contained within a pit feature dates the abandonment of the pits feature to sometime during the mid 16th to mid 17th C (Bruce 2010).
16. The excavations also uncovered an isolated umu/ oven was recorded as site P19/380.
17. As a result of these finds, "The Paddocks" subdivision was completed under an archaeological authority, requiring archaeological monitoring of road and amenity installation and the archaeological investigation of house sites footprints prior to the development of each site.

18. No new archaeological site has been recovered as a result of these archaeological investigations to date.
19. The site of the Oakura Co-operative dairy factory predates 1900 and any surviving elements of the original structure would constitute an archaeological site under the definition of an archaeological site HNZPTA (2014). However, at this time it is unclear whether any part of the original structure survives, and I have resisted lodging a site record for this location until archaeological evidence can be clearly demonstrated.
20. A key issue for the identification of archaeological sites in the Taranaki Region is the effect of ploughing, or work undertaken in preparation for ploughing. Whereby archaeological features, such as defensive earthworks, storage pits, middens etc are levelled into flat paddocks with relatively featureless surfaces. This observation is relevant to the Wairau Estate property.
21. As a result there remains the possibility that unrecorded archaeological features may exist subsurface within the project area, despite not being visible in the earliest land plans and aerial images or encountered during this field survey.
22. However, it can be expected that archaeological evidence will be most likely be limited in scale and distribution, comparable to those sites (P19/379 and P19/380) recorded on "The Paddocks " subdivision to date.
23. Archaeological evidence such as that presented by sites P19/379 and P19/380, while of local interest, are relatively common in the New Zealand archaeological record and would not constitute nationally significant sites, or normally attract pleas for permanent protection. The modification or destruction of these sites as a result of development is typically managed under an archaeological authority granted by HNZPT.

24. Only archaeological excavation will recover such features should they exist within the development area.

CONCLUSIONS

25. As a result of my assessment I consider that it is appropriate that all earthworks involved with the development of the Wairau Estate should be undertaken under a general archaeological authority granted by HNZPT.
26. At this time no archaeological sites are recorded within the area of the proposed Wairau Estate and an application for a general archaeological authority would be made on a precautionary basis.
27. Any application for such an authority will require finalised plans outlining the nature and extent of earthworks prior to making the application. For this reason the authority application cannot be made prior to the outcome of this hearing.
28. It is my considered opinion that should this recommendation be followed, the applicant will have fully recognised and provided for the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development as outlined in section 6(f) of the RMA.

Dated 17 June 2019

Ivan David Bruce

REFERENCES

Bruce, I. 2010. Archaeological Excavations at Wairau Road, Oakura. NZHPT Authority 2010/443. Preliminary Report. Archaeological Resource Management

Bruce, I. 2017 Proposed Wairau Estate. Unpublished Archaeological Assessment commissioned by Oakura Farm Park Ltd.