



# Mimiwhangata Heritage Assessment



Jonathan Carpenter

Geometria Ltd

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Cover Image: Rukupo Pa and Waikahoa Bay.

## *Site Overview*

Mimiwhangata Coastal Park Scenic Reserve is located at the southern end of the Whangaruru Harbour, 48 km northeast of Whangarei. The reserve is administered by the Whangarei Area Office in Whangarei. The reserve is accessed via Mimiwhangata Road from Helena Bay/Teal Bay or via Pigs Head Road and Kaikanui Road at Opuawhanga. The reserve is a mix of remnant and regenerating native bush and grazed farmland fronted by 10km of coastline with a mix of sandy beaches and rocky shore.

The bulk of the reserve is made up of:

Lot 1 DP 66586 (189.9 ha)

Lot 2 DP 66586 (2.8ha)

Lot 3 DP 66586 (9.7ha),

Lot 1 DP 42213 (323.5ha)

Lot 2 DP 42213 (18.5 ha)

Section 3 SO 54295 (0.6ha)

Pt Section 1 Blk II Opuawhanga SD (27.2ha)

Section 2 Blk II Opuawhanga SD (29.1ha)

Pt Section 2A Blk II Opuawhanga SD (32.9ha)

Pt Section 3 Blk II Opuawhanga SD (63.8ha)

Te Ruatahi 2A (111.0ha)

Section 4 SO 54295 (0.3ha)

Non-contiguous parts of the reserve as an administrative unit include the Rimariki (Limerick) Islands and several unnamed islets off shore, and the 29ha Paparahi Point Recreation Reserve between Teal Bay and Ngahau Bay, to the west of Mimiwhangata:

Rimariki Island ML 384 (17.2 ha)

Lot 1 DP 88899 (20.7 ha)

Lot 1 DP 89739 (9.1)

Maps of the Mimiwhangata Coastal Park Scenic Reserve and Paparahi Point Recreation Reserve have been produced by geo-referencing and overlaying A. Calder's 1972 archaeological site location map with site location information from the original site record forms in a Geographic Information System, along with recent aerial imagery and other geographic data (Figure 1-Figure 6). The archaeological site locations are more accurate than those provided in ArchSite or by the DOC historic sites GIS shapefile prepared by DOC historic and GIS staff in the 1990s.

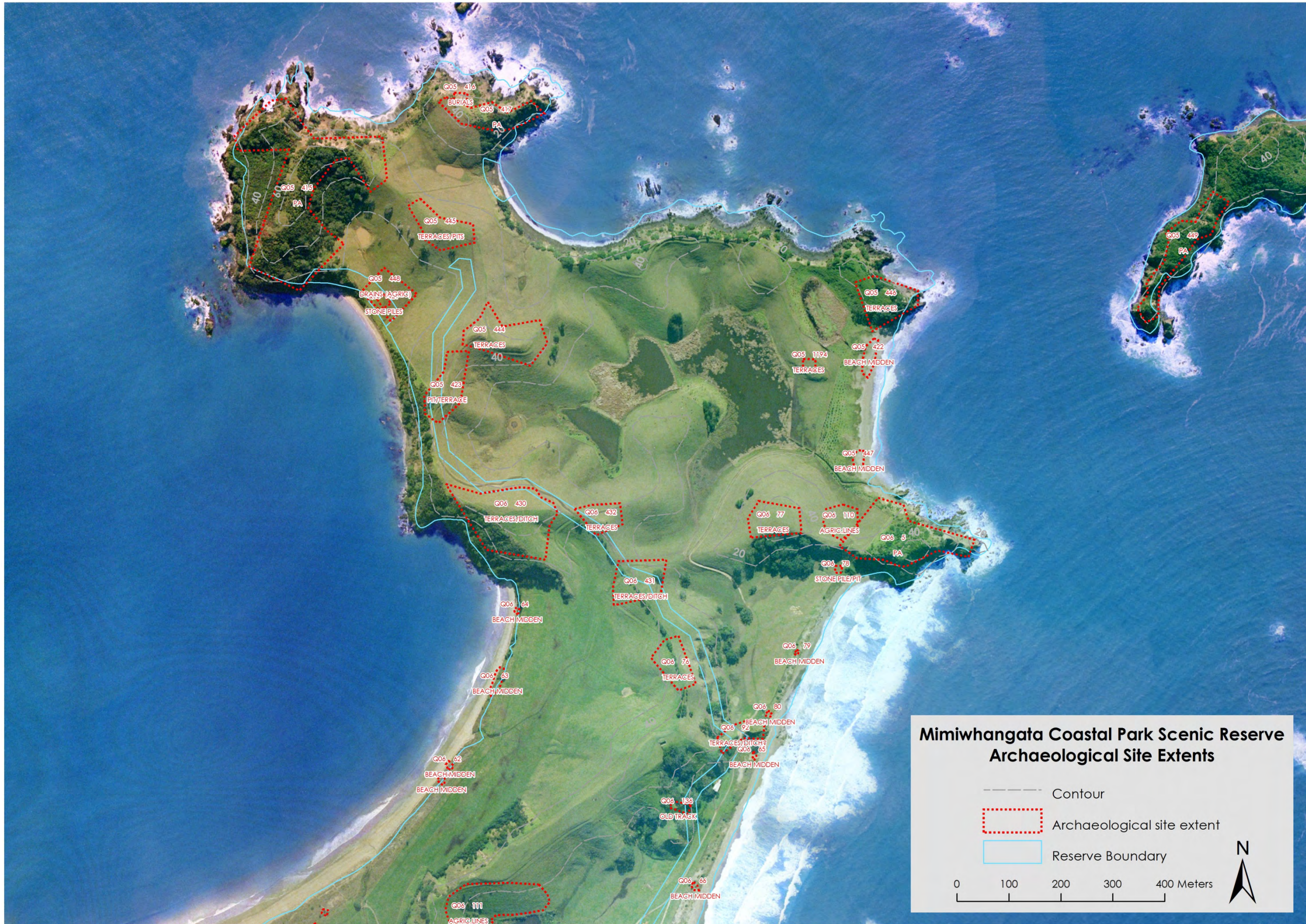


Figure 1: Mimiwhangata northern sites.



Figure 2: Mimiwhangata central sites.

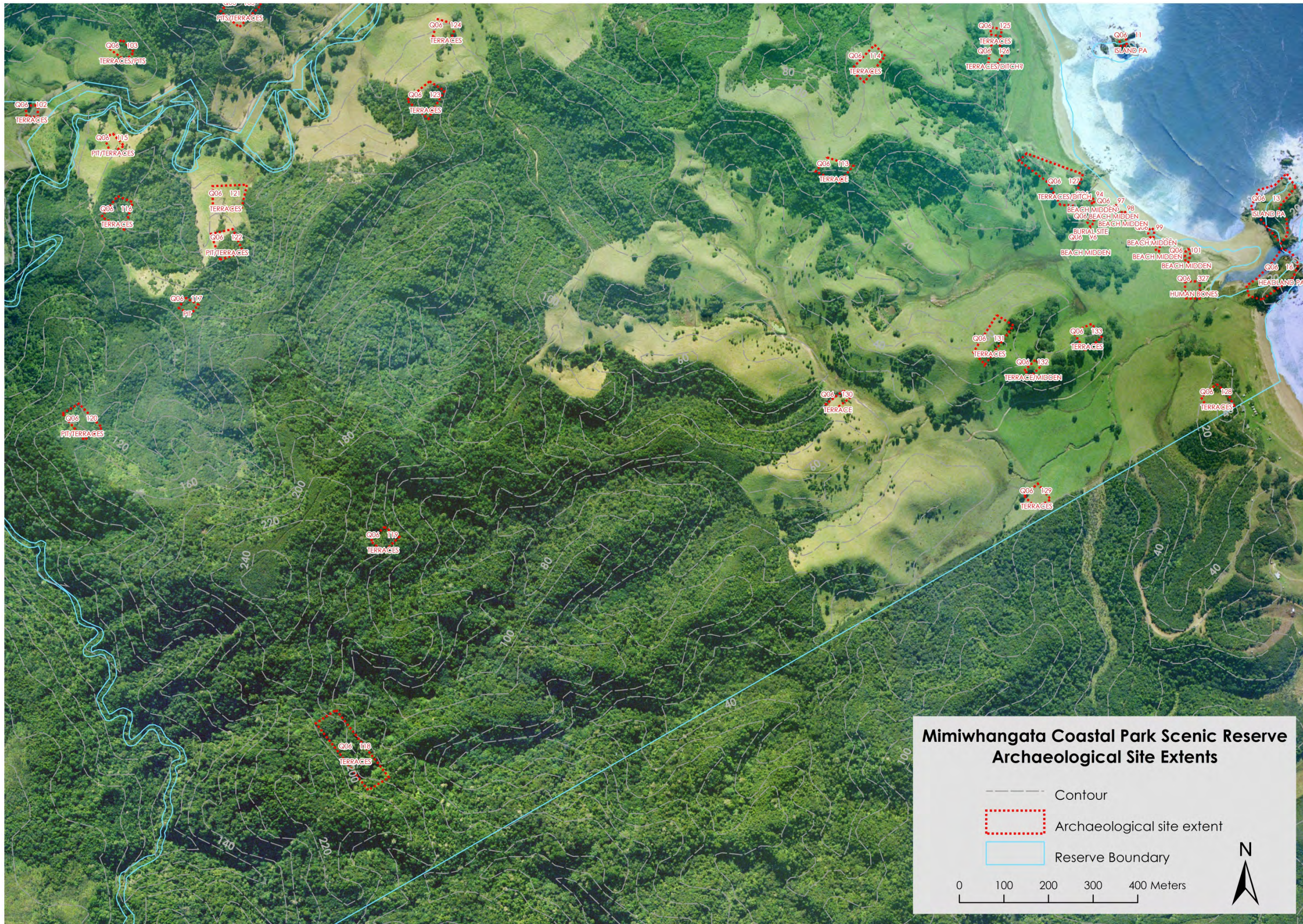


Figure 3: Mimiwhangata southern sites.



Figure 4: Okupe Beach dune lands sites details.



Figure 5: Southern dune lands sites detail.





Figure 6: Paparahi Point Recreation Reserve archaeological sites.

## *History Description*

According to the traditional histories, Mimiwhangata was originally settled by Ngati Manaia who arrived in Tai Tokerau on the waka Mahuhu ki-te-Rangi and who are the ancestors of Ngatiwai. The iwi of Ngatiwai and Ngapuhi have hereditary ties through the union of the Ngapuhi chieftain Rahiri with Ahuaiti and Whakaruru, descendants of Manaia. In the early 1800s, a feud between Ngati Manaia and elements of Ngapuhi developed, owing to the murder of Te Waero of Ngapuhi, who had married into Ngati Manaia. Te Waero had destroyed Ngati Manaia fishing nets at Helena Bay and was given the ultimate punishment. This resulted in a raid by Ngapuhi under Te Rangi-ta-maua on Te Rearea, Kaituna and Tarapata Pa. A massacre ensued and the area was depopulated (Clarke 1978: 7-8). The scene of the massacre centred at Kaituna is considered tapu by the Tangata Whenua. The survivors of Ngati-Manaia fled to Whangarei, Omaha and Pakiri, Tamaki and Aotea/Great Barrier Island.

Florence Keene's account from *Tai Tokerau* (1975) states:

*"At Mimiwhangata, on its southern side, were three pa, Te Rearea, Taraputa and Kaituna, that belonged to this tribe, and it was here that the famous Battle of Mimiwhangata was fought. The reason for this conflict was the murder of Te Waero, a Ngapuhi man who was married to Waimoko and Tenako, two well-connected women of the Ngati Manaia. Te Waero had committed the unforgivable sin of willfully destroying a fishing net belonging to the Ngati Manaia at Helena Bay near Mimiwhangata.*

*Furious at this violation, the Ngati Manaia killed Te Waero - an act that in turn incensed the Ngapuhi, who sent a message to them saying, "Beware, o murderers, Soon your women will be wailing, for we are coming to claim utu for the murder of Te Waero. Be warned, for we are already stealing through the fern towards you." The Ngati Manaia replied, "Ka whiti mai ra koe i to wai o Te Rearea, ka nui tena. " (if you cross the water of Te Rearea, that will be enough).*

*With great care the Ngapuhi worked out their plan of attack. The leading chief, Te Rangi-ta-maua, was to attack Te Rearea pa, while two other chiefs with their taua were going to storm Taraputa and Kaituna. Te Rangi-ta-maua coached his taua of seventy men carefully, saying, "In the dark of night when the enemy lies sleeping and their fires burn low, we will creep along the ridge and scale the palisades of Te Rearea. Then he turned to a group of his men.*

*"When you get inside, hammer on the calabashes. Shout and make a noise like a hokowhitu. When the people on the pa hear the hammering on the calabashes and the great commotion caused by your shouting, they will think a mighty army is in their midst and take fright. We will then fall upon them and kill them." Everything went according to plan, and those who were not killed fled into the night. Meanwhile, the other Ngapuhi taua had stormed the Taraputa and Kaituna pa in the same way, and had made a devastating attack on the sleeping inmates.*

*The chief, and those of the Ngati Manaia who managed to escape, fled to other parts of the east coast. Some went to Whananaki, some to Whangarei Heads and others to*

*Omaha and Great Barrier Island. Thus ended the Battle of Mimiwhangata with a decisive victory for the Ngapuhi.”*

Paparahi (in Maori, a kumara drying rack or stage) was a pa of the chief, Paparahi Wehihi. Foote (1980: 5-10) records that at least one raid by Ngapuhi hapu on the pa around 1800 was unsuccessful, as lookouts posted by Wehiwehi on the high ground at the rear of the pa saw the canoes of the raiding party coming and the pa was secured and prepared for a siege. The raiders made do with looting the gardens of the pa and retreated. The next night they raided Okurakura Pa at Okurekureia Beach, east of Ngawai/Teal Bay. Under cover of darkness the raiders waited until the gates were opened in the morning and the tapu was lifted, allowing the inhabitants to go out and work in the gardens. A runner from the pa was sent to Mokau for help, but when their allies arrived, the pa had been sacked, the inhabitants including the chief slaughtered, and the raiders were already out to sea.

Paparahi was sold to James Hamlyn Greenaway around 1873-1878 by Hori Wehiwehi, and was then on-sold to J. S. G. Foote shortly thereafter.

Henry Charles Holman bought Mimiwhangata in approximately 1838 from a Mr Blanchard (Malcolm 1982:55) who had not been able to settle the property due to ill-feeling between him and local Maori, as he was a Catholic. Holman repurchased the property from Blanchard and Chief “Pee” or Wiremu Puanaki and built a house somewhere on the property. It was subsequently burned down leaving only two chimneys standing while Holman was fetching his bride from Australia. They subsequently lived in a crude whare while building another house, only to depart in 1843 due to isolation, some eight months after arriving. Holman’s purchase may have been that considered as Old Land Claim 233 by the Land Claims Commission after the Treaty of Waitangi. Little is known about the claim except that it was for land in the Whangaruru area purchased in 1839 and was disallowed, and unfortunately the file itself is empty (Berghan 2006: 157).

The Mimiwhangata Peninsula from the eastern end of Waikahoa Bay was purchased by the District Commissioner William Searanche in 1863 for £57 from Hori Wehihei and seven others, as a result of the original purchase being re-evaluated by the Native Land Court. The bay itself lay in the Opuawhanga No. 1 block, sold by Mokau, Hone Tiaki, Wiremu Kingi and Henare Kaupeka.

The translated deed of purchase (Turton 1877) states:

*This Deed written on this First day of September in the Year of our Lord 1863 is a full and final sale conveyance and surrender by us the Chiefs and People of the Tribe Ngatiwai whose names are hereunto subscribed And Witnesseth that on behalf of ourselves our relatives and descendants we have by signing this deed under the shining sun of this day parted with and for ever transferred unto Victoria Queen of England Her Mimiwhangata. Heirs the Kings and Queens who may succeed Her and Her and Their Assigns for ever in consideration of the Sum of Fifty seven pounds ten shillings (£57 . 10 . 0) to us paid by Mr. Searanche on behalf of the Queen Victoria (and we hereby acknowledge the receipt of the said monies) all that piece of our Land situated at Whangaruru and named Mimiwhangata the boundaries whereof are set forth at the foot of this Deed and a plan of which Land is annexed thereto with its trees*

*minerals waters rivers lakes streams and all appertaining to the said Land or beneath the surface of the said Land and all our right title claim and interest whatsoever thereon To Hold to Queen Victoria Her Heirs and Assigns as a lasting possession absolutely for ever and ever. And in testimony of our consent to all the conditions of this Deed we have hereunto subscribed our names and marks. And in testimony of the consent of the Queen of England on her part to all the conditions of this Deed the name of Mr. Searanche District Commissioner is hereunto subscribed. These are the boundaries of the Land commencing at Rukupo, thence inland along the line bearing 101°. 25 '625 links 340°. 40 '872 links 286°. 45 '787 links until it reach the swamp, running through the swamp to the Rewa stream and following the stream to the sea coast, thence along the coast to Kaituna, Tarapata, Pongaheka, and thence to Rukupo to where it commenced.*

*(Sd.) William N. Searanche.*

*Haehae.*

*He Mitea.*

*Wiki Rihi.*

*Te Rauanganga.*

*(Sd.) Na Hori Whehiwhehi.*

*Henare Motatau.*

*Henare te Moananui kau te awaha.*

*haki kopa.*

*Witnesses to the payment and signatures—*

*(Sd.) Thomas Stewart.*

*Parata.*

The receipt for the purchase states:

*Received this first day of September in the Year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty three (1863) the Sum of Fifty seven pounds ten shillings sterling (£57 . 10 . 0) being the final consideration money expressed in the above written Deed to be paid by Mr. Searanche on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen to us.*

*(Sd.) Ko Hori Whehiwhehi.*

*Ko Henare Motatau.*

*Witnesses—*

*(Sd.) Thomas Stewart.*

*Parata.*

Although no acreage was contained within the deed, subsequent survey of the property indicated it was 460 acres in size.

In 1870 3000 acres of the Mimiwhangata and Opuawhanga Blocks were claimed by James Hamlyn G Greenaway (Daily Southern Cross, 19 December 1870). In 1874, 400 acres of land at Mimiwhangata was sold under the Waste Lands Act 1867 to George Lewis, William Cockfield, Charles Strong, Thomas Thomas, James Osbourne and Arthur Smith of Auckland, settlers as tenants in common. This purchase is shown on SO 1049 (1874) with the south western boundary being the headland on which Waikahoa/Rukupo Pa is located and the south eastern boundary at Terearea Pa on the opposite side of the peninsula. The remainder of Waikahoa Bay is shown as part of Opuawhanga Block II (The southern/inland parts of what is now Mimiwhangata was included in the 9440 acre Opuawhanga Block 1 purchase of 1867).

James Greenway bought Mimiwhangata in 1875, having purchased the nearby Paparahi Block in 1873, and he also owned land elsewhere at Helena Bay and Whangaruru. On 2 March 1876, a 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment veteran by the name of James Golway committed suicide at Mimiwhangata. The panel of inquest as reported on 11 March 1876 in the Auckland Star was composed largely of local Maori as few Europeans were yet living in the area. The inquest heard that Golway had been a heavy drinker but had recently been sober, but was suffering from some kind of severe pain. While waiting in his dwelling for the next scow to take him to the hospital in Auckland he had apparently cut his own throat to escape the pain he was suffering. James Greenaway who was up the harbour at the time testified that the deceased was about 60, was originally from Northern Ireland, and had worked for Greenaway at Mimiwhangata as a gardener and odd job man and had built a hut for himself on the property. He had been sober for a year but suffered from "stricture".

A notice in the Northern Advocate of 24 October 1891 states that Greenaway, who had served as the Clerk of the Court at Russell and Tauranga, had retired with his pension and was thinking about living at Mimiwhangata, suggesting that prior to this time he didn't permanently reside there.

SO 3308 and 3651a (1883) shows the compass survey and scheduling of a road through Greenaway's property along the line of the access road; the former shows Te Rearea stream as Te Wai o te Rehareha with extensive raupo swamp, and the Crown land at the north end of Mimiwhangata Beach as a landing Reserve. The latter plan indicates but does not name Waikahoa Pa. SO 3651 (1883) show the deferred payment sections on the Opuawhanga II Block including Section 1, the parcel comprising Waikahoa Bay and running inland to the Mimiwhangata Road. A dashed line from the road on the inland boundary to the coast at Waikahoa Pa, overlying the name Greenaway, suggests the presence of a track.

Around this time there was a short-lived shore whaling venture at Whale Bay, at the north east end of Mimiwhangata Beach and in August 1877 the Auckland Weekly News reported that Johnson and party at Mimiwhangata had caught another whale (Malcolm 1982:59).

On 10 January 1892, Captain Joseph Glenney of Devonport died “of apoplexy” at the home of his brother in law Charles Cowan, at Mimiwhangata (Auckland Star, 16 January 1892), and was buried on top of Te Rearea Pa.

Greenaway sold the property to Roger Corbett in 1897 at which time his holding at Mimiwhangata was 2300 acres in size. Corbett spent half the year in England and Wales and the other part at Mimiwhangata, enjoying the year-long “summer” and employing a succession of managers and staff to run the farm (Clarke 1978:8-10, Malcolm 1982:57-59). Roger was apparently a remittance man, according to the book *Colonial Outcasts* (N. Hartley 1992).

The 1902 *Cylopaedia of New Zealand* (Auckland Provincial District) contains an entry for Mimiwhangata Station which notes:

*“the extensive freehold property of Mr. R. J. Corbett, borders the east coast for five miles and faces the bay from which it takes its name. The area is 1692 acres, and, with the exception of 400 acres, is fenced throughout and subdivided into ten paddocks. Full half the property is of an undulating character, is cleared and rich in grass and grazes over 1000 healthy sheep and about 150 head of cattle. Mr. Corbett forwards his produce to Auckland, there being monthly communication with that city, and obtains the best market prices. The homestead is a very complete one with numerous outbuildings, etc., giving an air of solid prosperity to Mimi-whangata. Puriri and pohutukawa timber abounds and is of considerable commercial value.*

*Mr. Roger John Corbett, the owner of Mimiwhangata, took over the property from Mr. Greenway in January, 1897. He is a son of Mr. John Corbett, of Black Horse salt fame, was born in Worcestershire in 1863 and completed his education at Christ Church College, Oxford. For some two or three years he assisted his father at the salt mines and in 1886 came out to the Colonies. Mr. Corbett has paid several visits to the Old Country, the last occasion being 1896, on returning from which he stayed in Auckland for a time before settling down at Mimiwhangata.”*

John Corbett was the so-called “Salt King”, responsible for industrialising the old English midlands cottage industry of salt making into a large scale commercial enterprise in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Corbett was an associate of the Whangarei branch of the Acclimatisation Society. In 1914 Corbett imported Mongolian pheasants from his English estate and gifted them to Whangarei, where 177 birds were released in the Whau Valley (Northern Advocate 10 January 1914).

As well as the Station homestead buildings and the various huts of farm hands, a cottage was built at Waikahoa Bay by William George (Bill) Todd (1860-1931) shortly before the end of World War I. He was a disgraced medical student, a remittance man with a £1000 annuity and a whiskey addiction, and apparently from a titled family. The cottage was fitted out with homemade furniture reminiscent of a ship’s cabin, with floor to ceiling bookshelves for his library and a garden of roses. Todd had been expelled from the School of Medicine at Edinburgh and arrived in New Zealand, drifting north and working as a gum digger and then a builder of small boats. He also built the dairy at the back of the farm manager’s house and apparently left a time capsule in “the right-hand wall” containing captioned photographs and a newspaper. A keen

golfer who had played at St Andrews, he established a nine-hole course in front of the manager's house. He died in 1931 at Dr Walker's private hospital in Maunu, and for five years from 1934 the cottage was rented by Stabley Welch (or Walsh according to Clarke 1978), but at some point after this was burnt down. A photograph of the cottage with Rukupo Pa in the background is reproduced in Keene (1978) and geophysical survey of Waikahoa Bay for the DOC camps planning project (Carpenter 2010) pinpointed the exact location of subsurface features associated with the house.

Roger Corbett died in 1942. Mimiwhangata passed into the hands of Irene Elizabeth Powdrill, who subsequently died in 1961. Interestingly an A. Powdrill formally recorded the first archaeological sites on the property in 1965.

In 1963 New Zealand Breweries Ltd (later to be known as Lion Nathan) purchased the farm and undertook small scale development of the property as a corporate retreat, with Queen Elizabeth visiting the property in 1970 and picnicking at the western end of Mimiwhangata Beach. In the late 1960s and early 1970s the Brewery planned to build a Surfer's Paradise-style strip of motels and hotels at Mimiwhangata and a town of 9000 to service the resort.

In 1954, 1962 and 1966 Whites Aviation produced a number of oblique aerial photographs of the reserve, showing some of the changes that occurred in this period as mechanised earthmoving equipment became widely available to the New Zealand farming community. In particular these images show the extent dunelands behind Kaituna, Okupe Beach and the beaches to the south, prior to bulldozing and reclamation for pasture; the bulldozing of tracks over Te Rearea Pa and Q09/92 at the north end of Okupe Beach; and the landscape prior to vegetation succession in paddocks later retired from grazing (e.g. around Tarapata and Kaituna Pa).

A series of environmental impact studies were commissioned for the proposed resort in the early 1970s, including an archaeological survey (Calder 1972). Consequently, when the natural, historical and archaeological values of Mimiwhangata were put down on paper for all to see, the Brewery reconsidered its plans and in 1975 a charitable trust was formed and the public were allowed to visit to Mimiwhangata as a farm park.

Key sources for the history of Mimiwhangata are Florence Keene's "Mimiwhangata Station" (1978). This work is based on oral history provided by Doris Clarke focussing on the years Clarke spent there between 1917 and 1933, when her father managed the farm for Roger Corbett. Malcolm (1982) provides a more general history of the Mimiwhangata to Whangaruru area, with scattered references to Mimiwhangata and the families that settled and farmed there, while Slocombe (1994) summarises the major historic events at Mimiwhangata and along with Calder (1972) provides an overview of the archaeological values on the property, including sketches and maps of the major sites. Phillips (et al) covers the archaeology from Mimiwhangata west to Mokau, including Paparahi Point.

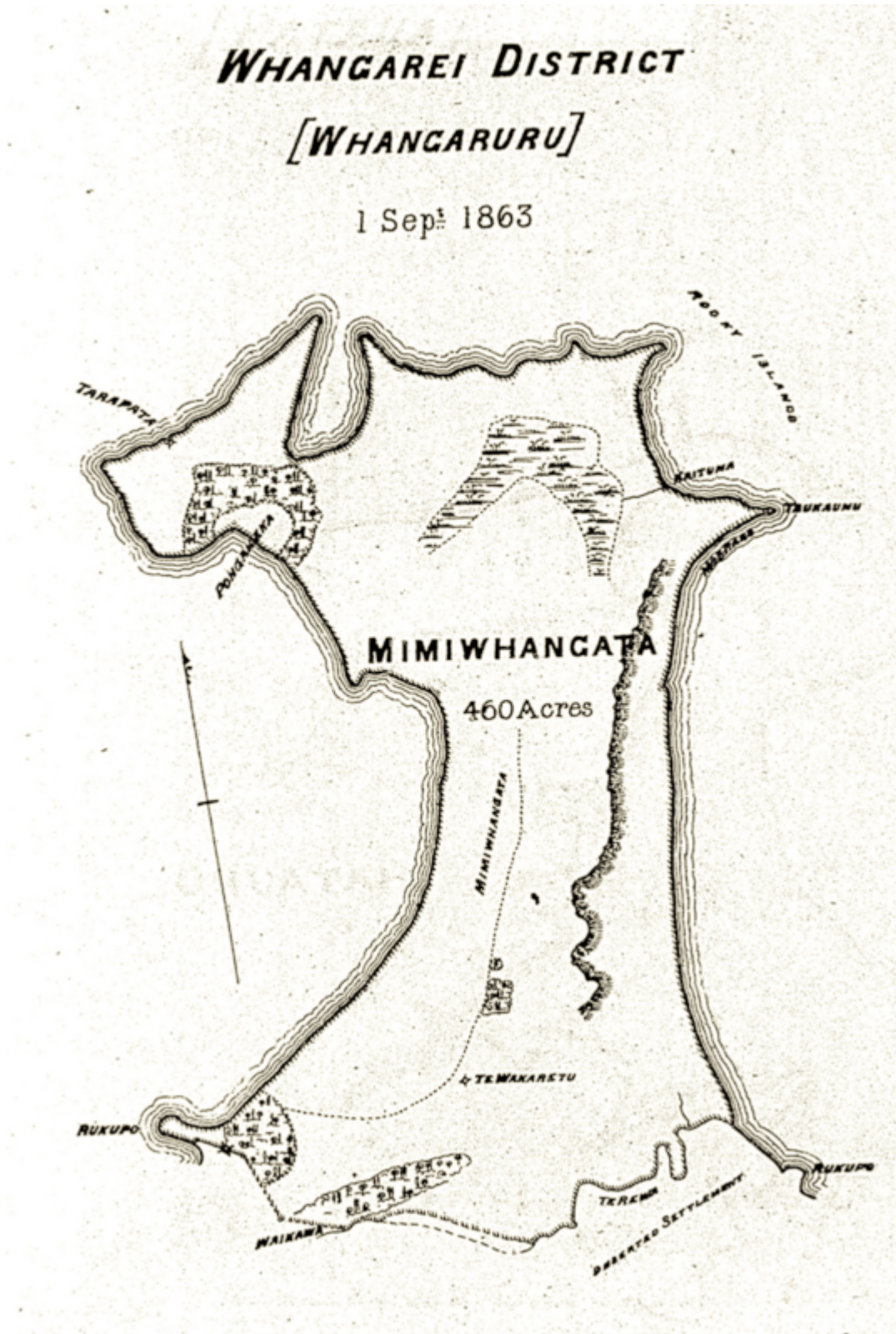


Figure 7: Mimiwhangata Block (Turton 1877).



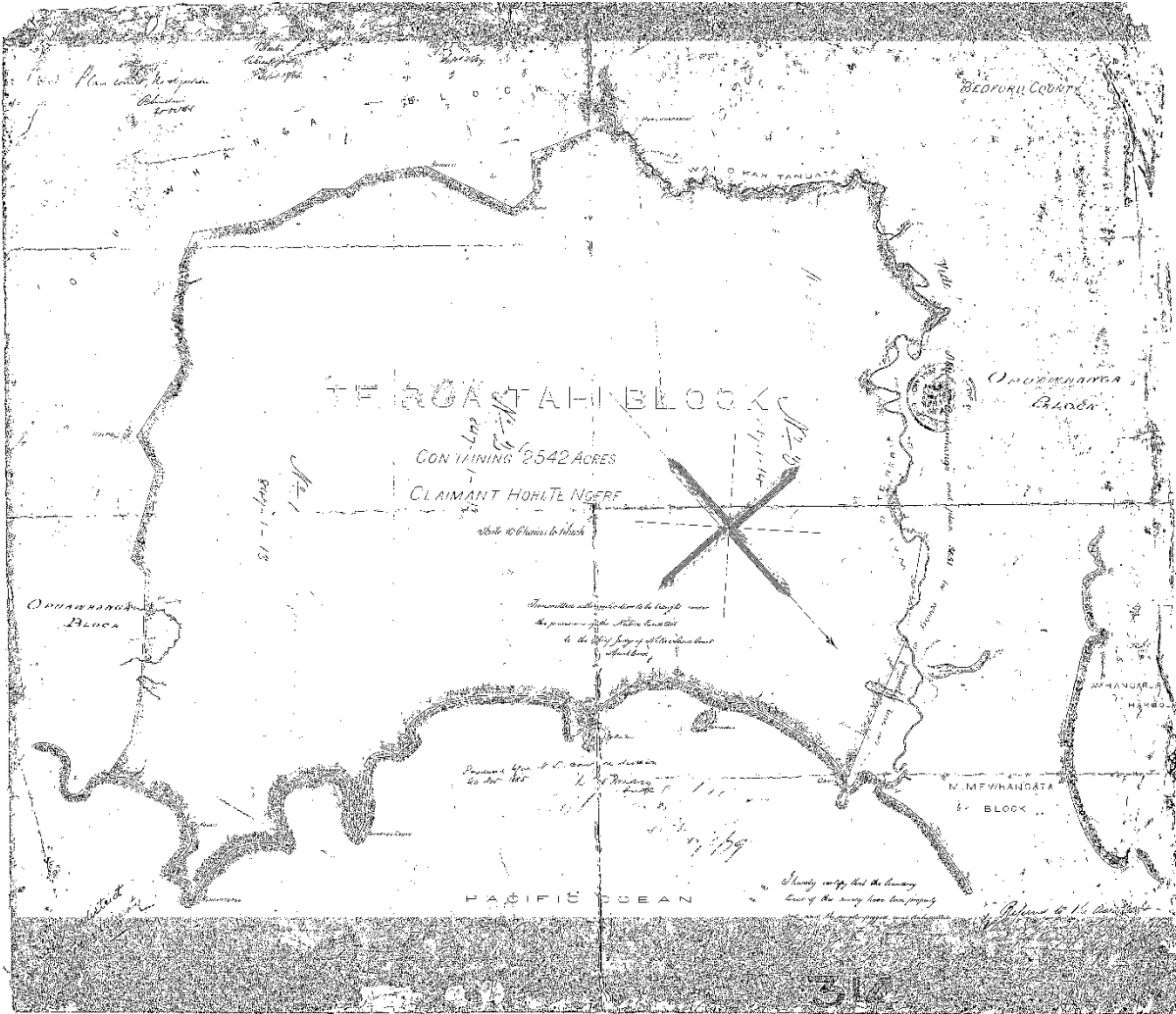


Figure 8: ML 314 Te Ruatahi Block (1866).

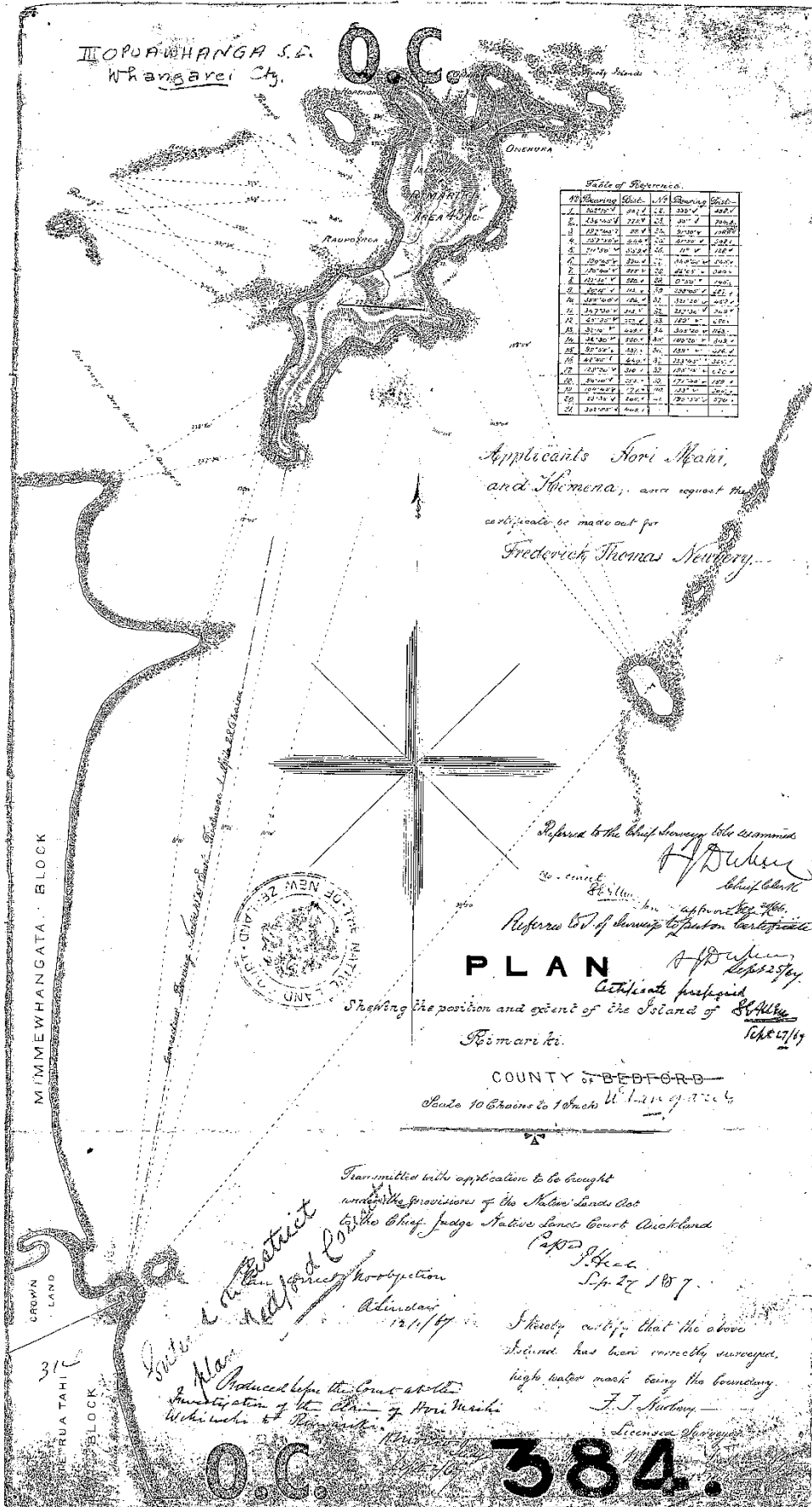


Figure 9: ML 384 (1867) showing Rimariki Islands.

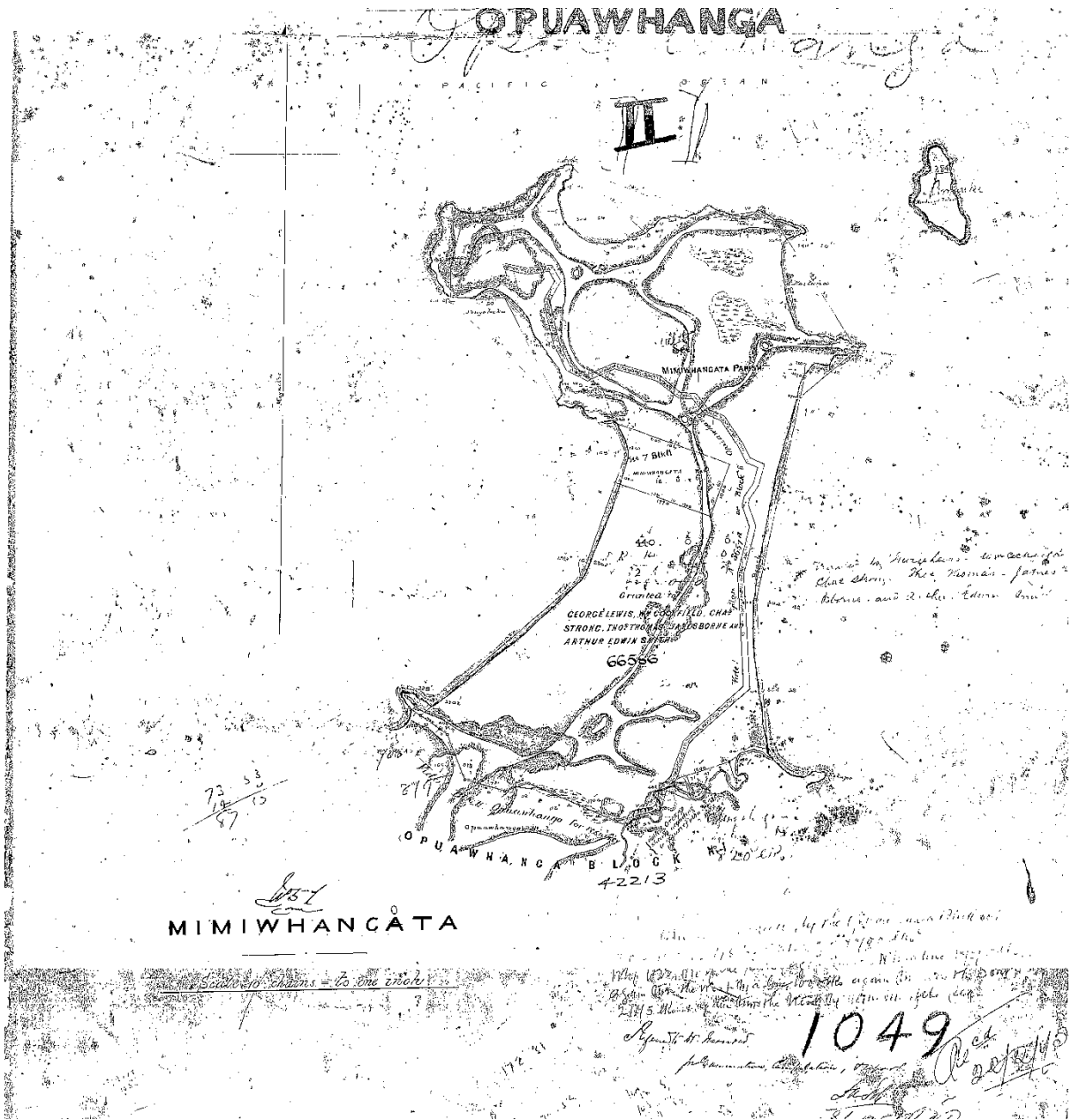


Figure 10: SO 1049 (1874) showing purchase of Crown waste land.





Figure 12: British Alkali Company saltworks, part of the Stoke Prior saltworks of John Corbett (ca. late 19<sup>th</sup> century).

**EXHIBITION AWARDS.**

London, 1862, 1873; Paris, 1867, 1875, 1878; Philadelphia, 1876; Sydney, 1879; Melbourne, 1880; Belgium, 1881; Gold Medal, New Zealand, 1882; Amsterdam, 1883; Medal and Diploma of Honour, Fisheries Exhibition, London, 1883; Gold Medal, Calcutta, 1884; London International Exhibition, Diploma of Honour, 1884; Health Exhibition, London, 1884; 2 Gold Medals, Antwerp International Exhibition, 1885; First Order of Merit, Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition, 1887, over all Home and Foreign Salt Exhibits; Gold Medal, Brussels International Exhibition, 1888; First Order of Merit, with Special Mention, Melbourne Centennial Exhibition, 1888-9; Gold Medal, Paris Universal Exhibition, 1889.  
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Figure 13: Advertisement for Corbett's "Black Horse" salt of Worcestershire (1890).



Figure 14: The Todd cottage at Waikahoa Bay (from Clarke 1978).



Figure 15: Geophysical assessment at Waikahoa Bay identifying Todd house and other features (Carpenter 2010).



Figure 16: Mimiwhangata, 17 December 1954, prior to bulldozing pa sites (ATL WA-36638-F).



Figure 17: Mimiwhangata, 8 February 1966 (ATL WA-65581-F); note the extent of dunelands, pasture on Kaituna Pa, and tracks over/through pa sites, and track being cut through pa at north end of Okupe.



Figure 18: Memorial plaque from the Queen's visit.



## *Fabric Description*

There are more than one hundred archaeological sites recorded at Mimiwhangata, ranging from large pa sites and smaller headland pa, terrace and pit complexes, dune midden, agricultural lines, stone heaps, and burials. These sites relate to the pre and protohistoric occupation of Mimiwhangata. The permanent occupation of the area presumably ceased at the time of the battle or massacre described above, but potentially continued into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

There are 12 pa including smaller headland pa and larger settlements like Tarapata/Taraputa, more than forty sites with terraces, pits or a combination thereof, almost thirty midden, four sets of stone piles, three areas showing agricultural lines, two areas of known burials and a historic or prehistoric track. Of these sites, Te Rearea Pa at the southern end of Okupe Beach and Rukupo Pa between Mimiwhangata Beach and Waikahoa Bay are perhaps the most obvious and best-visited due to their proximity to carparks and campground and prominence in the landscape, although Tarapata Pa at the northern end of the peninsula is the largest pa on the reserve, and the sites around Kaituna and between Komokoraia and Te Ruatahi are the most significant and sensitive for Tangata Whenua due to their associations with the battles noted above and the presence of koiwi tangata or human remains.

No European archaeological sites are recorded as such but pre-1900 sites associated with the early land owners may exist, and certainly fabric relating to the tenure of Roger Corbett is present including the homestead and associated curtilage, the woolshed, and elements of the pastoral landscape such as fence and drain alignments. The development of the property as a corporate getaway and the subsequent plans for development of the property as a tourist resort are an important part of Mimiwhangata's more recent history.

Archaeological site recording at Mimiwhangata occurred in three distinct phases. Informal site recording at Mimiwhangata began in early 1965 when A. Powdrill recorded a number of sites around 20 February of that year. These included Q06/3, a midden on the beach where midden, along with fishhooks and sinkers was noted in the Okupe Beach dunes in front of the woolshed, and noted that the area was under threat from sand dune reclamation for farming/land development. Powdrill also recorded a number of pa sites, beginning with Rukupo Pa, Q06/4, between Waikahoa Bay and Mimiwhangata Beach, the pa, Q06/5, and wahi tapu between Okupe Beach and Kaituna Beach to the north, Te Rearea P, a Q06/6, and Captain Glenny's grave at the southern end of Okupe.

A few days later and unbeknownst to either person, G. Law undertook more site recording on the property while holidaying in the area. He recorded twelve sites at Mimiwhangata including pa, terrace and pit complexes, and midden between 28 February and 1 March. The sites recorded by Powdrill and Law were revisited and records expanded upon by A. Calder in 1971 when she was commissioned to produce one of the earliest development-related archaeological assessments in New Zealand (and which itself is of historic significance and exemplary quality).

In 1993 and 1994 following the acquisition of the property by the Crown, A. Slocombe assisted by J. Robinson and J. Maingay for the Department of Conservation revisited a number of sites and undertook plane-table and alidade mapping of a number of the more impressive archaeological sites. A. Slocombe subsequently developed a conservation proposal for the property (Slocombe 1994).

Sites at Paparahi Point were recorded by S. Phillips, M. Horwood and V. Dwyer during a Project Employment Programme (“PEP Scheme”) survey of the coast and immediate hinterland in 1982-83 (Phillips et. al. 1983). They recorded two large pa sites with well-preserved features along with three terrace complexes and a pit site within what would become the reserve, and a number of sites near the boundary.

### *Cultural Connections*

Hapu of Ngatiwai and in particular Mokau Marae have strong associations with Mimiwhangata.

### *National Context Sources*

There is no national context source available in order to provide a comprehensive basis for assessing the national (representative) significance of the Mimiwhangata archaeological sites as part of a pre or protohistoric archaeological landscape. However general references for pa and kainga include Davidson (1982, 1984), and area studies of pa in the upper North Island including Irwin (1985) and Sutton (1993, 1994) and Sutton, Furey and Marshall (2003). Furey (n.d.) has also produced a Northland Archaeological Resource Statement which summarises the archaeology of the region, its values, and the threats that it faces, for the Department of Conservation. This document remains in draft form and limited circulation.

### *Historic Significance*

Mimiwhangata is significant as an exemplar of a Maori archaeological landscape overlaid by the development of pastoral farming in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The property was the site of a key event in the evolution of Ngatiwai, namely the battle/massacre at Kaituna and the abandonment and subsequent sale of the land

### *Fabric Significance*

There were approximately 120 archaeological sites recorded at Mimiwhangata in 1992 and a number of other significant sites present at Paparahi. These are by and large pre or protohistoric Maori sites. By the time Slocombe (1994: 66) completed her assessment of Mimiwhangata, 19 of the previously recorded sites had been destroyed and many more had been damaged by modification and erosion due to farming practices. It could be expected that further sites have been damaged, destroyed or otherwise been lost since.

Despite the damage that has occurred, sites at Mimiwhangata, along with Bream Head/Busby Head are the largest, best preserved and protected Maori archaeological landscapes in the Whangarei District.

While the European history of the area is relatively well known, physical features from that period of occupation including the farm stead, farm curtilage and landscape features, heritage trees and so on are not protected by law and are not managed for their historic values.

## *Cultural Significance*

Mimiwhangata is of high cultural significance to the hapu of Ngatiwai as an important ancestral landscape and because of the battle/massacre that took place there. The area around Kaituna and other noted burial locations are particularly significant and sensitive and need careful attention and management. Mimiwhangata is also significant to a large number of regular visitors whose association goes back decades or more.

## *Management Recommendations*

There is little scope for further active management of archaeological sites at Mimiwhangata. Key sites have been reserved from grazing or otherwise fenced and retired based on the recommendations in Slocombe (1994). Short of a wholesale reorganisation of existing management and farming priorities there is not much more that can be done to arrest the effects of erosion, both natural and from stock and other farming or recreation activities.

### Interpretation

There is no detailed information about historic values at Mimiwhangata available on the internet or as signage at Mimiwhangata. DOC signage at the public carpark and at Waikahoa Bay was upgraded in 2005-6 with essentially no historic information, which could be considered a major oversight, (although in part this was due to reticence on the part of Tangata Whenua to share information about the sites and controversy over a marine reserve proposal). Over the last few years this reticence has begun to change and an initial approach to develop a cultural and historic heritage-themed recreation project at Mimiwhangata was supported at meetings on a number of local marae in 2006.

Almost twenty years ago, Slocombe (1994) proposed a heritage trail linking sites at the western end of the reserve, from Rukupō Pa at Waikahoa Bay to the high point with stone features at Tohumoana. In the absence of any desire to install historic-themed interpretation on site, a self-guided historic heritage trail pamphlet making use of the existing marked tracks could be produced if local hapu of Ngatiwai were supportive.

At a minimum this Heritage Assessment and other public documents should be made available on the DOC website, albeit without sensitive information such as the location of burial sites etc.

There are gaps in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century history of the property. There is almost fifty years of interest in the reserve from a Crown/Conservation point of view and almost 50 files in Archives New Zealand relating to the Crown acquisition and management of Mimiwhangata. It would be useful to develop a more detailed and nuanced narrative history of farm management from the 1950s or 1960s.

### Archaeology

It is almost 20 years since the last systematic re-recording of archaeological sites at Mimiwhangata, and approaching 30 years for sites at Paparahi Point. That work happened in the absence of GPS-based recording of archaeological sites at the feature level, which is now a staple of archaeological site recording and management. Such detailed recording has proved beneficial as a management, advocacy and interpretation tool.

Similarly, DOC has committed to participating in the NZAA Site Record Upgrade Project. The NZAA's part of this project is now concluded for sites off the DOC estate and while a number of DOC Conservancies have also completed the work, Northland has not.

With that in mind, the DOC Whangarei Area Office should consider re-recording sites at Mimiwhangata using modern techniques, in particular for sites which have not been revisited/re-recorded in the last ten years and/or are not under active management or obvious in the landscape. As part of this work, attention should also be paid to recording European historic features associated with the occupation and development of the reserve.

In the past numerous artefacts have been found by DOC staff and visitors to Mimiwhangata. Likewise human remains are occasionally uncovered and are reburied. Only an informal record exists of these finds and cataloguing and management of finds and recording locations of burials/reburials should be formalised.

## *Management Chronology*

Early 1800s Tribal conflict between Ngati Manaia and Ngapuhi leads to attacks on Te Rearea, Kaituna and Tarapata Pa.

1838 Henry Holman purchases Mimiwhangata from Mr Blanchard.

1843 Henry Holman and his wife abandon the property due to isolation.

1863 Crown Purchase of the Mimiwhangata Block

1874 Land sold to George Lewis, William Cockfield, Charles Strong, Thomas Thomas, James Osbourne and Arthur Smith under the Waste Lands Act.

1875 Henry Greenway purchases the land, having also purchased the Paparahi Block in 1873.

1883 Road surveyed through the property; Opuawhanga deferred payment sections surveyed.

1892 Captain Glenny dies and is buried on Te Rearea Pa.

1897 Roger Corbett purchases Mimiwhangata.

1917 Clarke family moves to Mimiwhangata to manage the farm for Corbett.

1918 Bill Todd builds a house at Waikahoa Bay.

1922 Farmhouse burns down and new farm house built.

1931 William Todd dies.

1942 Roger Corbett dies.

1963 Mimiwhangata acquired by NZ Breweries (later, Lion Nathan).

Early 1970s Planning for tourist resort

- 1972 Angela Calder undertakes first archaeological survey of the area, although Garry Law had recorded the first sites at Mimiwhangata in the late 1960s.
- 1975 Mimiwhangata Charitable Trust established to administer the property and develop Mimiwhangata as a coastal farm park.
- 1980 Farm Park opens to the public.
- 1984 Mimiwhangata Marine Park established.
- 1986 Lion Nathan and the Crown begin negotiations to exchange Mimiwhangata for prime commercial land in Wellington.
- 1993 Final transfer of Mimiwhangata to the Crown.
- 1996 Track through pa to Waikahoa Bay repaired.
- 2005-7 Scoping for Mimiwhangata heritage-focussed visitor development.
- 2009 Geophysical survey and testing at Waikahoa in advance of camps upgrade.

### ***Management Documentation***

The key document is the HAMS costed specification (2000), Calder 1972 and Slocombe 1994, the latter containing more detailed recommendations.

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