



# Taumarumaru Heritage Assessment



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Cover Image: O04/14 Te Homumu Pa from Coopers Beach.

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Cover Image: O04/14 Te Homumu Pa from Coopers Beach.

### *Site Overview*

Taumarumaru is located on the Taumarumaru Scenic Reserve at the western end of Coopers Beach, between Mangonui and Cable Bay at the south eastern end of Doubtless Bay. The reserve is 22ha in size. It is managed by the Kaitaia Area Office. The reserve is served by a carpark and walking track accessible off State Highway 10 and although there is no firm visitor number information, anecdotally the area is highly visited.

Taumarumaru consists of Taumarumaru Pa itself, two smaller pa named Te Homumu and Otanenui and nine other associated sites including small, isolated complexes of pits and terraces, midden, gardening soils, and gardening plots delineated by a network of reticulated drains. Together this collection of sites represent a typical prehistoric or protohistoric archaeological landscape of a large, central pa or defended village, smaller headland pa, open or undefended sites or kainga and associated areas of food preparation and or consumption, and gardening plots. The reserve is currently in a mix of mown grass, remnant native bush on the steep southern slope and a regenerating coastal fringe with pockets of mature pohutakawa. There are also areas of thick gorse, tobacco weed and other weeds. The reserve is actively maintained as a visitor and historic site with mown walking tracks and an ongoing programme of weed clearance by a local residents group, supported by DOC.

A map of Taumarumaru Pa and the other sites in the reserve has been produced by georeferencing and overlaying archaeological site maps in a Geographic Information System along with recent aerial imagery and other geographic data; the location of features is approximate only but provides a picture of the archaeological features in the context of the surrounding landscape (Figure 1). The area covered by recorded archaeological features is approximately 2.5ha.

### *History Description*

Taumarumaru is said to have been originally built by Ngati Awa people before they left Northland and moved south to Taranaki, Tamaki and Tauranga around 1600 after having come under pressure from Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua; their main chiefs in the north were Kauri and Awanui-O-Te-Rangi . When Europeans arrived the pa was under mature kanuka, kahika, and pohutakawa, giving it the name Taumarumaru or 'shady' Pa.

Otanenui Pa was built by Tukiato the son of Moehuri, who was chieftain of the Ruakaramea Canoe and ancestor of Ngati Kahu; and Ohumumu by two grandsons of Moehuri, Korewha and Puneke. Moehuri is associated with Rangikapiti Pa (in Maori, Rangikapiti means "Gathered together"), the very large site between Coopers Beach and Mangonui. Local traditions suggest that Moehuri made landfall at Mangonui from the canoe Ruakaramea, along with his son Tukiato. Moehuri was guided to the area by a shark, after which he named the locality (*mango* meaning shark, *nui* meaning big or great). As thanks to his guide, Moehuri placed his protection over the shark. Some years later when his own son Tukiato killed the shark, he and his accomplices were banished from Rangikapiti and established their own pa at the western end of Coopers Beach, called Otanenui. Rangikapiti is also associated with another pa built by Moehuri,

Whakaangi on the eastern side of the harbour (Cloher 2002; Harvey 2009)<sup>1</sup>. Otanenui, 'The place of the old man Tamure' was named after the large old snapper found in abundance nearby. The slopes below the pa were gardened and produced good crops of kumara, hue (gourd), and the first potatoes, pumpkins, marrows and European fruit grown in the area.

Mangonui was the main port in the Far North until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with permanent settlement from the 1830s. Several ships had put in to the Coopers Beach area in the early 1800s and crews gathered firewood, and constructed boat ribs and barrels from the kahika; these workers of wood gave the name of their trade 'cooper' to the beach. Ships which visited the area and were remembered by local Maori included the John Goodwin (Hone Kuruwini) the Buccaneer (Pakanaia), Daniel (Raniera), Zacharaia (Hakaraia), Betsy (Petu) and the Merry Ann (Mereana). According to V. Gregory these ships were wrecked with the exception of the Merry Ann, and a number of the surviving sailors married into the local Maori families.

A large number of extensive land purchases were made in the months before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, one of which was disputed and led to the "Oruru War" of 1843 and the abandonment of that settlement. The HMS Osprey surveyed the harbour in the early 1840s from which time it was used with increasing frequency by whaling ships, with the establishment of trading to service their needs. By the 1880s large amounts of timber for construction and shipbuilding were being extracted from the area with a large mill established at Mill Bay.

The area around the subject property was originally part of the Oruru Block, purchased from Chief Nopera Panakareao before the Treaty by Church Missionary Society Surgeon Samuel Ford and consisting of 20,000 acres including the Oruru Valley, east to Kohumarū on the Mangonui Harbour. The contentious sale was not finally settled for several decades as Te Rarawa and Ngāpuhi both claimed the area in question.

At Taipa, James Berghan allegedly purchased 400 acres from the chief "Ewarri" for merchandise to the value of 17 pounds in 1839. The land, also referred to as "Typah" is described in Deed 47 (Turton 1879):

*Deeds—No. 47.*

***Taipa Block, River Oruru, Mangonui District.***

*1839. 5 November. Mangonui District. Know all Men by these presents that I Ewari of Oruru, Doubtless Bay New Zealand this 5th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine do sell and make over unto James Berghan and Thomas Ryan of Mongonui Doubtless Bay New Zealand their heirs executors and assigns for ever all that piece of Land called Taipa with all timber mines and minerals pertaining there unto and bounded as follows, East by a small*

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<sup>1</sup> The main source of this history is the account of V. Gregory provided to Lands and Survey when they first established the reserve and included in the original management notes. This material is also quoted by Cloher (2002). Ngāti Awa material from the Te Ara online encyclopaedia, Layne Harvey. 'Ngāti Awa - Early history', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 4-Mar-09 URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/ngati-awa/2>

*creek, North by Doubtless Bay, West by Orura River, South by land marks laid down by both parties. I acknowledge to have received from the aforesaid James Berghan and Thomas Ryan for and in consideration, of the above Receipt. named land timber mines and minerals belonging thereunto 1 piece of print 28 yards, 1 piece of calico 28 yards, 4 regatta shirts, 1 Guernsey frock, 1 cask or 127 lb. of tobacco, to be held by the aforesaid James Berghan and Thomas Ryan their heirs executors and assigns for ever without let or hindrance from me or my heirs for ever. In Witness whereof I set my hand and seal this 5th day of November 1839.*

*Ewari my x mark.*

*Witness—*

*George Thomas.*

The purchase was considered by Crown Land Commissions in 1847 and again in 1859, at which time Commissioner Bell awarded 146 acres to Berghan at Taipa and Mangonui. OLC 129 shows the Crown Grant No. 259f to James Berghan consisting of 41 acres adjacent to the Taipa River, and a separate block to the east between Cable Bay and Coopers Beach of 145 acres including what would become the Taumarumaru Reserve.

The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand describes Coopers Beach in 1902 as being farmed by Thomas Berghan. Berghan was born in Mangonui in 1859, the son of James. He grew up farming and subsequently took up 240 acres at Coopers Beach, upon which he ran Lincoln sheep and established a homestead. He also ran the Settlers Hotel at Mangonui. At the time the Cyclopaedia was compiled he was married to Alive Evans and had two sons and three daughters.

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Berghan farm was successively subdivided. SO 13368 shows the survey of the Mangonui-Taipa Road through the area in 1905 and the land was owned by M. J. Berghan, possibly a son or grandson of James. The coastal strip being divided into small lots either side of the highway and Taumarumaru ultimately past into the hands of Hunter Properties which, in 1955, subdivided that part of Berghan's original grant, separating the north-east part of the property at the west end of Coopers Beach from the balance, with the new boundary running along the main ridgeline. In the same period, a holiday camp was established east of the stream, at the west end of Coopers Beach and the western part of Taumarumaru was further subdivided in 1968.

The increasing pressure of development in the area was timed with an increasing awareness of archaeological values. Te Homumu Pa was recorded by D. Robinson in the 1963 who noted the threat of development posed by the adjacent holiday park and increasing visitor numbers. His records were updated by C. Phillips in 1978 prior to the land being purchased from the Hunters by the Crown for use as a reserve. J. Coster revisited the sites in 1984 following acquisition by the Crown and made a number of management recommendations at that time for the Lands and Survey Department.

Since that time, subdivision and development has exploded and the sleepy seaside community of Coopers Beach with its old-fashioned holiday camp is now part of a sprawling coastal conurbation running from Mangonui to Taipa.

### *Fabric Description*

Taumarumaru Pa is recorded as archaeological site O04/119. It was first recorded by C. Phillips in 1978, who undertook a pace and compass survey of the site. A second visit was made by the Far North Archaeological Surveyors in 1981, who state that the whole site used to be covered in large pohutakawa which were subsequently chopped down by settlers and whalers, and that the site was the primary village in the area.

The pa consists of a large central platform defended on the western side by a ditch and bank and on the eastern side by a ditch. The central area is relatively level and at least eight pits have been recorded on the surface, with a ninth pit recorded west of the ditch and bank on another level area. From Taumarumaru Pa, three ridges run west, north and east; the other sites on the reserve are located on these ridges. Thirty metres to the north of the northern end of the western ditch are two large terraces recorded by J. Coster in 1984.

To the northeast of Taumarumaru Pa is a headland pa named Te Homumu or Ohumumu recorded as O04/114. It was originally recorded in 1963 by D. W. Robinson, at which time it was under severe pressure from natural erosion and visitor activity associated with the nearby Coopers Beach holiday resort<sup>2</sup>. C. Phillips revisited the site in 1978 and recorded its name as Te Humumu and stated it was in good condition, albeit damaged by a cattle/walking track and some erosion on the eastern scarps. Far North Archaeological Surveyors revisited the site and noted recent damage caused by visitors cutting steps into the site by spade in their update of 1981. Phillips made the most comprehensive record of the site, including a detailed map. She recorded five defensive ditches, four transverse ditches running across the main ridgeline leading to Taumarumaru and a fifth on the north eastern spur above Coopers Beach. Five terraces and a platform were also recorded, along with a number of midden exposures of cockle and tuatua. At the time she recorded the site, the Crown was considering purchasing the pa.

O04/286 is an area of anthropogenic or 'made' soil approximately 20m upslope/south west of Te Homumu Pa, exposed in the upper edge of a farm track cutting. The feature consists of a three metre long exposure of water-rolled beach shell mixed into the topsoil to a depth of 30cm. The site was recorded by J. Coster who noted that gardening may have occurred on the slopes above.

To the west of Taumarumaru on the headland overlooking Chucks Cove is Otanenui Pa, recorded as O04/118. The site was originally recorded by C. Phillips in 1978 and again by Far North Archaeological Surveyors in 1981. C. Phillips and three others recorded the site using pace and compass. They recorded an L-shaped ditch cutting off the headland from the ridge behind and enclosing two terraces and an associated scatter of cockle and tuatua midden. The ditch was 35m long, 1.5m wide and up to 3m deep on the eastern side, and included an inner bank 2m wide. The southern ditch was in relatively poorer condition and was 23m long, 1m wide and up to 2.7m deep, and had been disturbed by stock and erosion. Two rocks, one of which appeared to be a grinding stone were observed in the centre of the pa. To the west of Otanenui Pa on a high point at the westernmost point of the reserve are two pits recorded by J. Coster as O04/283.

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<sup>2</sup> D. Robinson reported his observations in the New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter that same year.

To the east of Taumarumaru on a spur running downslope towards the carpark is O04/120, a series of four terraces recorded by C. Phillips in 1978. Immediately north of O04/120 are two sites consisting of scattered midden and poorly defined terraces recorded as O04/288 and 289 in 1984 by J. Coster. The sites are on either side of a cluster of pohutakawa trees. The former includes cockle, tuatua and fishbone, and the latter oven stones and cockle shell midden.

O04/284 is an area of shallow drains located on the eastern side of the flats at the stream mouth that empties out to the bay on the south west side of the reserve. The drains are in the form of a reticulated network forming square or rectangular plots of 10 x 10m to 15 x 10m in size, over an area of 100 x 50m. The ditches were interpreted by J. Coster who recorded them in 1984 as being garden plot boundaries, although Coster noted they could be from historic-period gardening as fig trees and lilies grow in the area. At the eastern end of O04/284 Coster also recorded a midden exposure down a steep clay bank above a stand of fig trees. He recorded no other details for this site.

O04/289 lies at the north eastern edge of the reserve on a spur above the boundary fences on the north and east side of the reserve, adjacent to the stream flowing out to Coopers Beach. The site consists of shell midden around the roots of pohutakawa trees and some possible terraces, and was recorded by J. Coster in 1984.

Given the number of sites recorded in areas where the vegetation has allowed good surface visibility there is a strong likelihood that other archaeological features are present, particularly in the areas under gorse and tobacco weed between the main ridgeline and the coast.





Figure 1: Taumarumaru Scenic Reserve and archaeological sites.

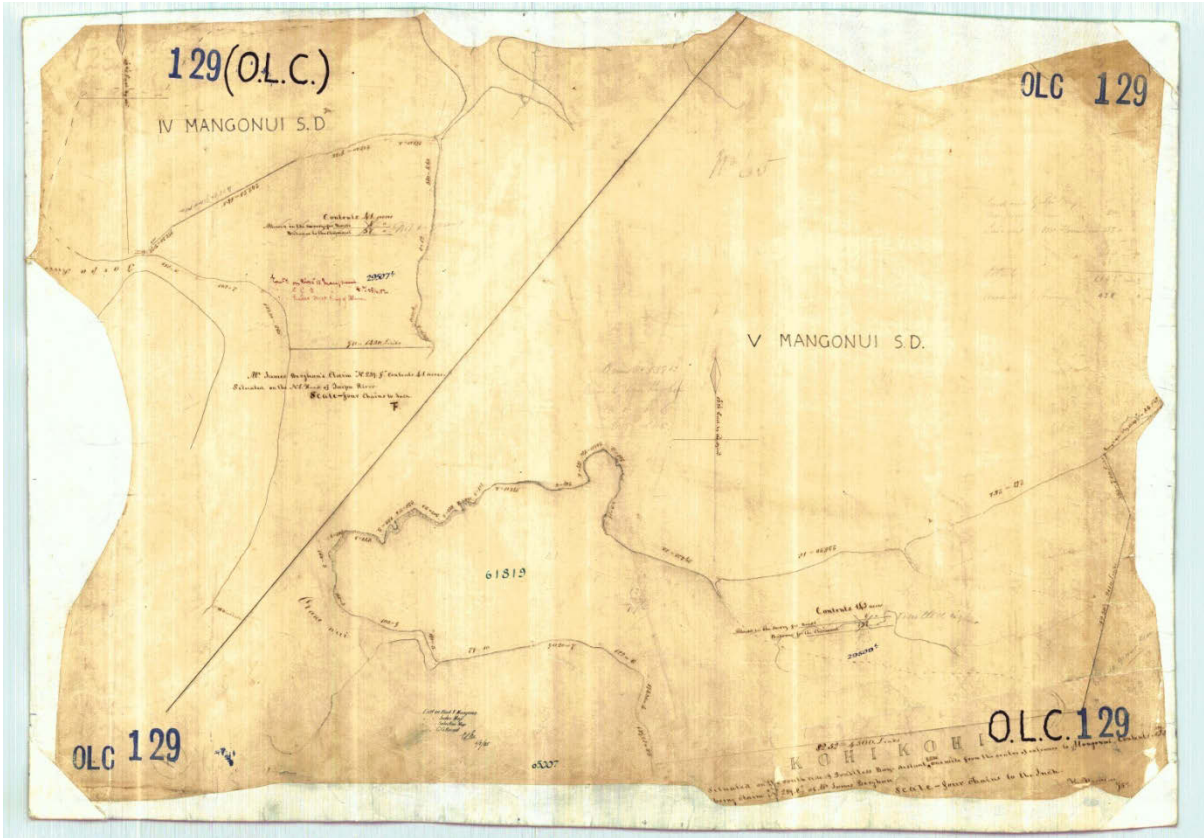


Figure 2: OLC 129 (1859) showing Berghan's claim including Taumarumaru.



Figure 3: Taumarumaru ca.1910 (Detail from ATL 1/1-006260-G).



Figure 4: Ohomumu Pa from Coopers Beach c1910-1930 (ATL 1/1-010949-G).



Figure 5: Oblique aerial of reserve from 1962 (Detail of ATL WA-57231-G).



Figure 6: Oblique aerial of reserve from 1962. Note tree line outlining the defensive ditch on Otanenui Pa (left of frame) and faint traces of gardening system (left of frame; Detail from ATL WA-57228-G).



Figure 7: Looking south towards Taumarumaru Pa (on ridgeline) from Te Homumu Pa.



Figure 8: Pits on Taumarumaru Pa.



Figure 9: Western defensive ditch, Taumarumaru Pa.

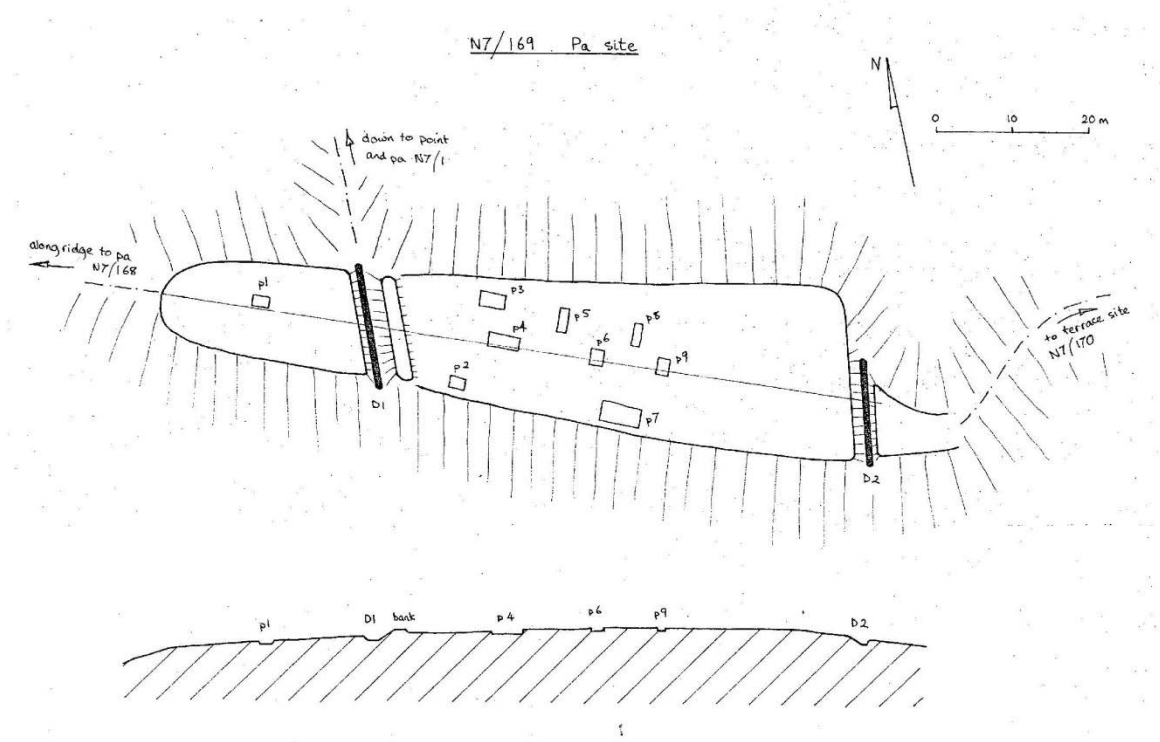


Figure 10: Taumarumaru Pa, OO4/119 (C.Phillips).



Figure 11: Te Homumu Pa.



Figure 12: Defensive ditches on Te Homumu Pa.

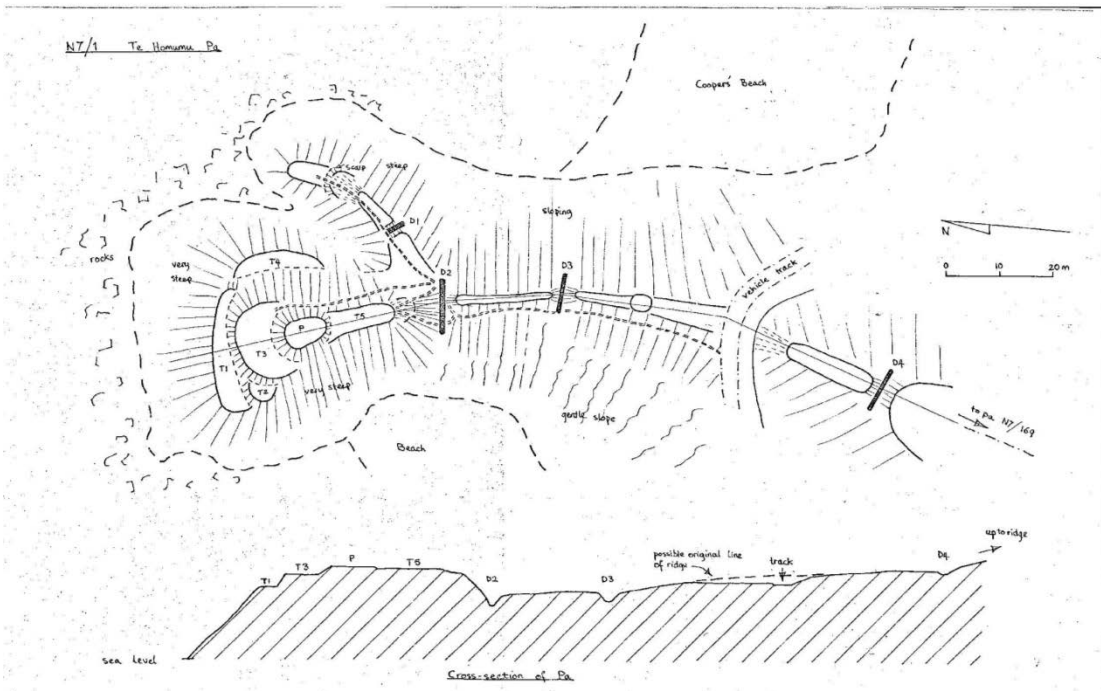


Figure 13: Te Homumu/Ohumumu Pa, O04/114 (C. Phillips).



Figure 14: Looking west to Otanenui Pa from previously unrecorded (and partly in-filled) defensive ditch.



Figure 15: Defensive ditch and bank (centre and left of frame) and terraces (right of frame) on Otanenui Pa.



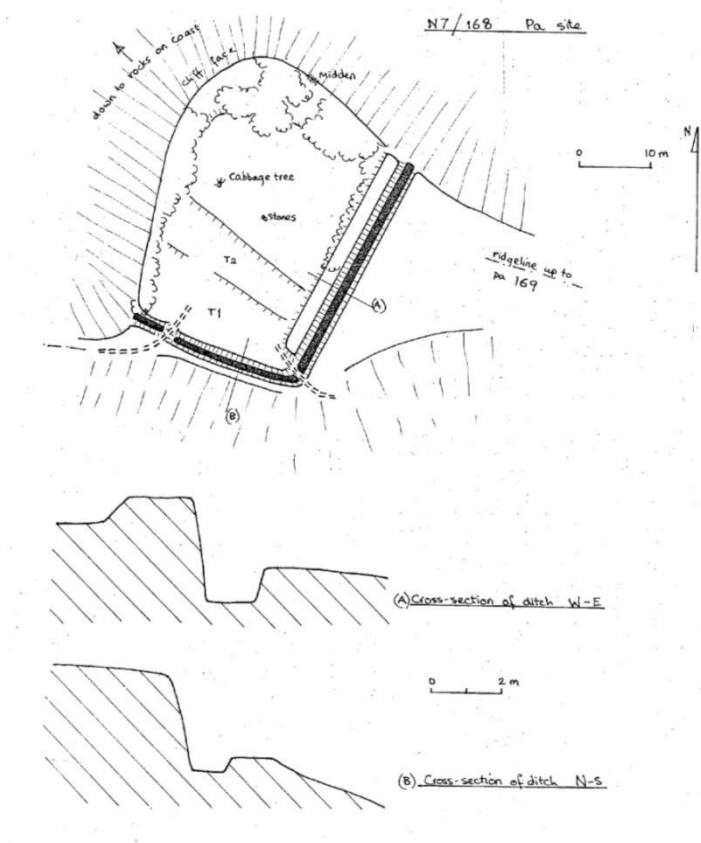


Figure 16: Otanenui Pa, O04/118 (C. Phillips).



Figure 17: Large storage pits west of Otanenui Pa, with Cable Bay in the distance.



Figure 18: Terraces under kikiyu.

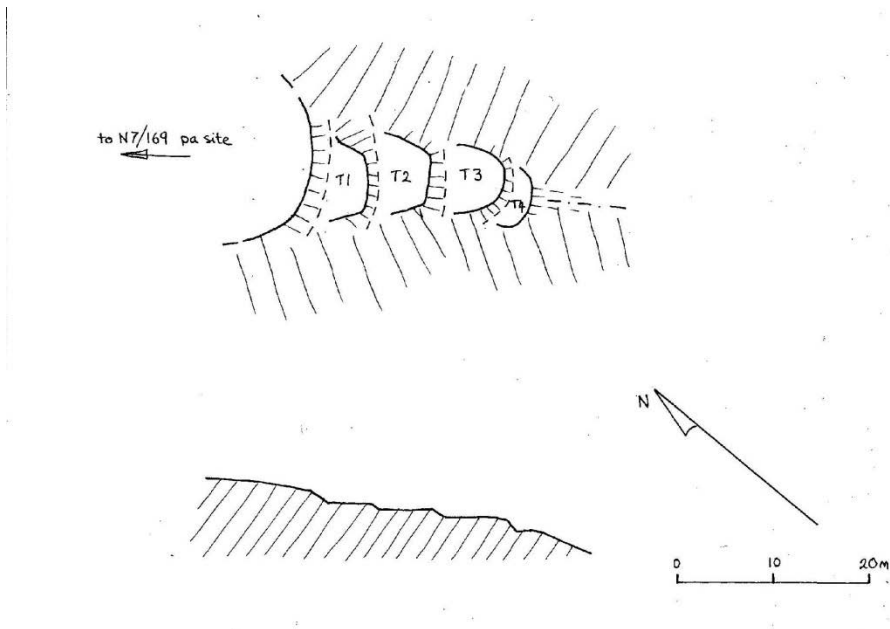


Figure 19: Oo4/120 Terraces (C. Phillips).



Figure 20: Gardened flats at stream mouth, with historic fig tree at the rear.

### *Cultural Connections*

The sites on Taumarumaru Recreation Reserve are significant to Ngati Awa and Ngati Kahu. At the behest of Ngati Kahu the reserve was named after the oldest pa on the reserve at the time of its acquisition by the Crown.

### *National Context Sources*

There is no national context source available in order to provide a comprehensive basis for assessing the national (representative) significance of Taumarumaru as a pre or protohistoric Maori 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*

Taumarumaru Pa and associated sites are significant in part due to their association with named ancestors and key events in the development of the current and former Mana Whenua, namely Ngati Awa and Ngati Kahu. These developments occurred prior to the arrival of Europeans and

may date to the 15<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. The story of the arrival of Moehuri, his dispute with Tukiato and the latter's banishment from Rangikapita and subsequent establishment of Otanenui Pa are an exemplary account of pre-European Maori social dynamics, as families came under stress and split apart (with the dispute over the shark possibly being a metaphor for resource competition/depletion), reflected 'on the ground' by population movement and the creation of new settlements across the landscape.

### ***Fabric Significance***

Taumarumarū and its associated sites are significant as a largely intact examples of a pre-or protohistoric archaeological landscape that is typical of the east coast of the northern part of the North Island; a large central pa and dispersed undefended kainga represented by terrace and pit complexes, headlands protected occupied by smaller outlying pa, and gardening areas on the flats with individual or family plots divided by shallow drains. The midden scattered across the reserve represents the coastal subsistence strategies available to the inhabitants with the collection of cockles from nearby muddy shore and estuarine environments and tuatua from the open sandy beaches. The individual sites are in good condition although features have been modified by vegetation growth, stock trampling, visitor activity and natural erosion and pits and defensive ditches have been in-filled and the edges of terraces and other earthworks worn down.

### ***Cultural Significance***

The sites are significant due to their associations with named ancestors of Ngāti Kahu and associations with Ngāti Awa. Pa sites are generally considered wahi tapu.

### ***Management Recommendations***

The Taumarumarū Scenic Reserve is now the last major coastal open space between Manganui and Taipa. It is a key visitor destination and a major local amenity. Community interest in the reserve is strong, both from the traditional owners and current residents who have been engaged in supporting visitors amenities and natural values.

The last assessment of the needs of the reserve were developed by Conservancy-based historic staff and Kaitiāia Area staff in 2000-2001. The main issues then were the increasing number of visitors due to the increasing coastal development and the lack of interpretive signage and a suitable entrance/parking facility, completing the coastal fenceline and promoting a coastal walkway between Rangikapiti and Taumarumarū, managing erosion and developing a management plan.

Since that time, Departmental practice has been to move away from producing monolithic management plans in favour of a suite of interrelated and evolving management documents and practices. The Kaitiāia Area Office has also successfully completed the new carpark and associated landscaping and interpretive signage, received geotechnical advice and undertaken stabilisation plantings on erosion prone slopes, removed gorse and woody weeds from Taumarumarū and Te Homuhomu Pa.

Stock have been removed from the reserve and the Department undertakes a general programme of vegetation management including mowing tracks and Taumarumaru Pa, and local community group the Friends of Taumarumaru (FoT) have an ongoing, ad-hoc programme of weed removal. The Department and Friends also undertaken regular new plantings of native plants across the reserve.

With the exception of areas of high erosion above the western end of Coopers Beach, between Taumarumaru and Te Homumu Pa the reserve and its archaeological sites are in a stable/improving situation.

Key concerns at the present time include:

#### Vegetation Management

The existing regime of vegetation management by a local community group assisted by DOC staff and involving removal of encroaching woody weed species should be maintained. The exotic fruit trees and garden plants in the south east corner of the reserve (e.g. figs, lillies) should not be removed as they are of historic interest and probably relate to the early European settlement of the area. The FoT and DOC staff should be made aware of their value.

Likewise the recording of a previously unknown and partially in-filled section of defensive ditch east of Otanenui Pa, in an area recently cleared of weeds, is a useful reminder that unrecorded archaeological features will exist within the reserve under weeds, rank grass and remnant and regenerating bush. Care should be taken when removing woody weed species, particularly when mechanical means or grubbing by hand is undertaken and FoT and DOC staff should be encouraged to report any finds to historic staff.

The four or more terraces to the south east of Taumarumaru and recorded as O04/120 and immediately adjacent to the existing mown walking track, should be cleared of kikuyu and added to the regular mowing plan.

Recent pohutakawa plantings observed in August 2011 have been established on the edge of features recorded as part of Te Homuhomu Pa; these should be carefully removed and replanted further downslope so as not to impact on the archaeological site. DOC staff and FoT should be reminded to avoid planting in the immediate vicinity of features, particularly on and around the less obvious/well known archaeological sites.

#### Erosion

There are ongoing issues with erosion on the reserve, particularly from the springs on the northern slopes. These are particularly evident on the eastern side of Te Homuhomu Pa and the northern side of Taumarumaru Pa. Stabilisation plantings over the last ten years do not appear to have worked and the most recent large slip in early 2011 is now less than three metres from the northernmost pits on Taumaruru.

This erosion is likely to continue without the expensive drainage works indicated in the 2002-3 geotechnical reports, costed at \$20-30,000 at that time. Without these works the continuing loss of archaeological fabric on Taumarumaru is inevitable. While there are many eroding coastal pa in Northland, Taumarumaru stands out in contrast to the typical small, non-descript headland pa

suffering from wave and wind erosion without a known history. Instead, Taumarumaru is a large named settlement associated with prominent events and ancestors, and probably started life as an undefended kainga before becoming a defended food store.

Over the short to mid-term DOC should investigate the possibility of a rescue excavation along the eroding margin of the pa, perhaps by way of a university archaeological field school. As well as the useful recovery of archaeological information, given the location of the pa in a highly visited, visible location with an engaged local group, a large summer population and tourists, it presents an excellent education advocacy opportunity.

Localised erosion due to visitor tracking across the earthworks of Te Homuhomu and Otanenui Pa could be stabilised by the erection of low-archaeological impact pinned wooden steps.

#### Information/Education/Advocacy

There is no detailed information about Taumarumaru available on the internet, apart from visitor information and the traditional history of the site. This Heritage Assessment and other public documents should be made available on the DOC website. When the existing interpretational signage is due for replacement it should be updated with a new map identifying archaeological and historical features.

Taumarumaru was reserved largely due to the recognition of the archaeological landscape and a desire to protect it. The most recent attempt to re-gazette the reserve failed due to a misunderstanding by Ngati Kahu about what this would mean for its Treaty claim over the area. A new approach should be made to Ngati Kahu emphasising that gazetting Taumarumaru as a Historic Reserve would have no effect on its claim but rather enhance protection for the archaeological sites/wahi tapu by prioritising these over other concerns.



Figure 21: Recent slip on north side of Taumarumaru Pa, and adjacent pits.



Figure 22: Erosion, originally from stock and now from visitor traffic across south eastern corner of defensive ditch and bank of Otanenui Pa.

### ***Management Chronology***

- 1963 D. Simmons records Te Homuhomu Pa and notes threats posed by increasing visitors and tourist developments.
- 1978 The major archaeological sites are recorded and mapped by C. Phillips.
- 1984 The land is purchased by the Crown from Hunter Properties for \$385,000. Initial archaeological management recommendations are made by J. Coster.
- 1987 Management passed to the newly established Department of Conservation.
- 1990s DOC receives regular public comment about vegetation management on the reserve.
- 2000 DOC HAMS exercise produces a costed remedial and maintenance plan for the reserve.
- 2002 Geotechnical assessment of slip prone land. Stock removed from reserve.
- 2003 Second geotechnical inspection of new slip.
- 2004 Woody weeds and other vegetation cleared off the central platform of Taumarumaru Pa and Te Homumu Pa.
- 2005 A new carpark and interpretive signage established at the south eastern corner of the reserve adjacent to State Highway 10.
- 2011 New slip below Taumarumaru Pa following heavy rains.

### ***Management Documentation***

Key documents for management are Coster (1984) and the HAMS costed specification (2000), and the geotechnical reports produced by Mark Mitchell (2002, 2003).

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O04-032. Department of Conservation. Kaitaia Area Office or Northland Conservancy?

O04-032-02. Department of Conservation. Kaitaia Area Office or Northland Conservancy?

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