



Bream Head Heritage Assessment



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Cover Image: Midden Q07/82 at Smugglers Bay.

Site Overview

The Bream Head reserves are located at the southern end of Whangarei Heads, approximately 45km south east of Whangarei. They consist of the 557ha Bream Head Scenic Reserve, the 21ha Busby Scenic Reserve, two small areas yet to be gazetted and currently managed as the Bream Head Conservation Area, and a narrow esplanade reserve along the southern and south east coastline. The reserves are made up of a number of individual land parcels.

Lot 1 Allotment 16 Parish of Manaia (37.5 ha)

Lot 1 Allotment 16 Parish of Manaia (11.7ha)

Allotment 71 Parish of Manaia (30.0ha)

Allotment 71A Parish of Manaia (21.4ha)

Allotment 72 Parish of Manaia (28.5ha)

Allotment 72A Parish of Manaia (22.9ha)

Allotment 73 Parish of Manaia (31.5ha)

Allotment 74 Parish of Manaia (28.3ha)

Allotment 74A Parish of Manaia (8.89ha)

Allotment 75 Parish of Manaia (22.9ha)

Allotment W 76W Parish of Manaia (19.0ha)

Allotment E76 Parish of Manaia (29.0ha)

Allotment 77 Parish of Manaia (52.0ha)

Allotment 77A Parish of Manaia (7.7ha)

Allotment 79A Parish of Manaia (50.1ha)

Allotment SE78 PSH of Manaia (9.3ha)

Crown Land (5.1ha south of Dead Horse Bay; no other property appellation)

Crown Land (1.6ha near Peach Cove carpark; no other property appellation)

Crown Land (0.5ha marginal strip on east coast)

Crown Land (53.0ha marginal strip on south coast)

Lot 1 DP 100562 (32.8ha)

Lot 1 DP 113828 (26.8ha)

Lot 3 DP 205629 (44.6ha)

Lot 1 DP 159032 (30.2ha)

Tarakanahi Island ML 14491 (0.9ha)

Moturaka Island ML 14491 (0.9ha)

Lot 1 DP 209772 (3.5ha)

Lot 1 DP 182032 (32.2ha)

Lot 4 DP 209772 (7.0ha)

The Bream Head landscape comprises the steep ridgeline and peaks of Te Whara/Bream Head up to 490m high, and Matariki/Mt Lion, and Home Point and Busby Head, between the Whangarei Harbour entrance and Ocean Beach. The major landform is the remnant of a Miocene andesitic volcano. The central and eastern portion of the reserve is characterised by the steep, razor backed and bush clad ridgeline running west to east with its many rocky promontories and bluffs, while the western end of the reserve is in a mix of rolling to steep grazed pasture and bush.

The reserves are managed by the Whangarei Area Office. At the western end of the reserve, the Urquharts Bay Carpark (managed by the Whangarei District Council) provides access to the Smugglers Bay Loop Track by which visitors can walk to Smugglers Bay, Home Point, Frenchman's Bay, Busby Head and the Bream Head gun emplacement. The Smugglers Loop track connects to the Bream Head Track which rises steeply to the west up Matariki and then traverses the main ridgeline before dropping down to Ocean Beach. Approximately midway along the ridgeline, the Peach Cove Track provides a route between the associated carpark on Ocean Beach Road, up and over the ridgeline to Peach Cove and the Peach Cove Hut.

A large number of archaeological sites are recorded on the reserves. The bulk of the recorded sites are on the low and rolling ground between Urquhart's Bay, Smugglers Bay and Frenchmans Bay, with a number of sites scattered along the Bream Head ridgeline, and several more around the flats at Peach Cove.

Maps of Bream Head and Busby Head Scenic Reserve archaeological sites have been produced by reference to the original site record forms and feature-level surveys undertaken between 2007 and 2008, and are more accurate than the locations provided in ArchSite at the time this assessment was completed. The approximate extent of observed archaeological features is indicated. Where sites have not been recently relocated and/or the original location information is poor, the approximate location is indicated by site number and type information only. (Figure 1-3).

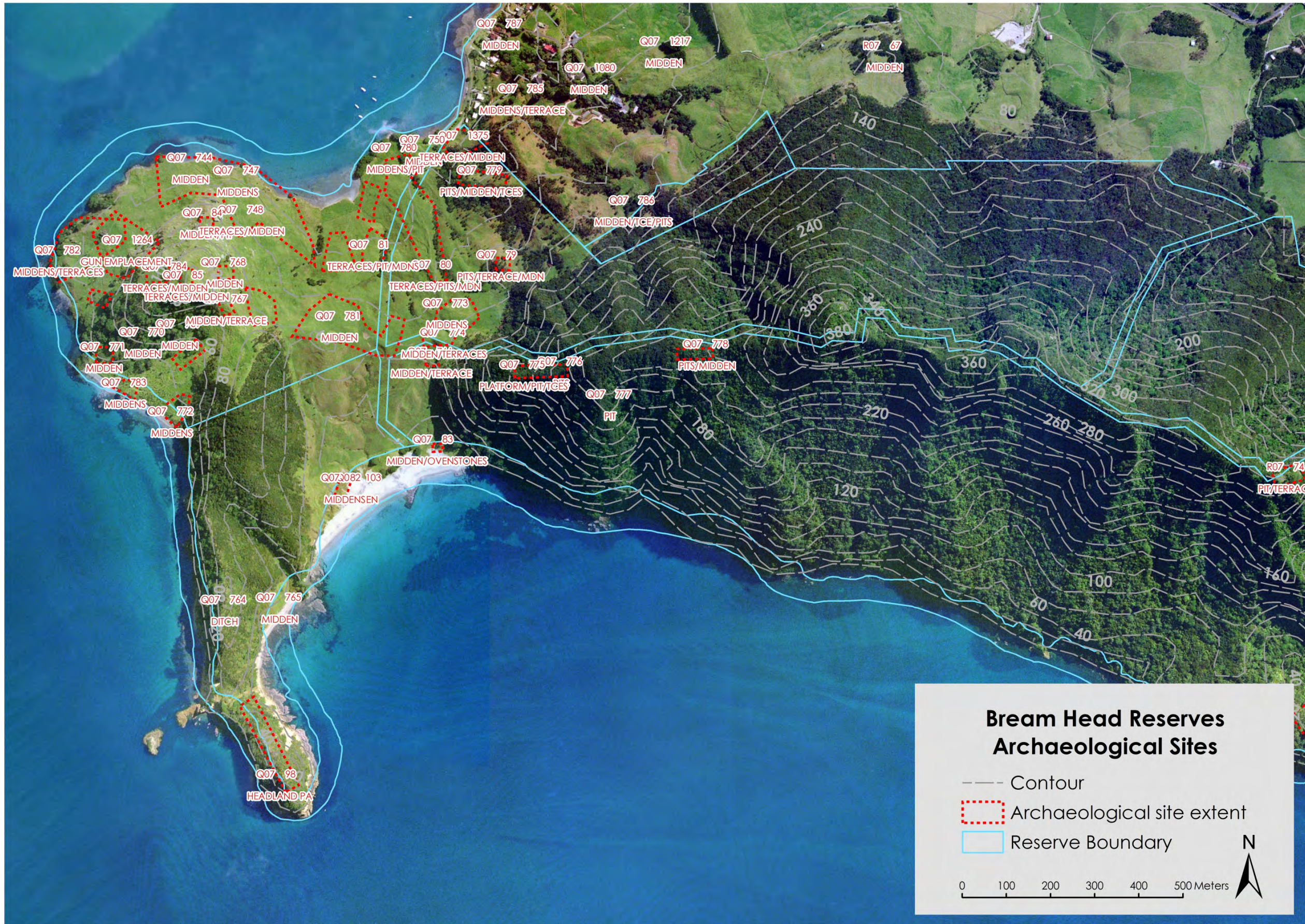


Figure 1: Bream Head archaeological sites (west).

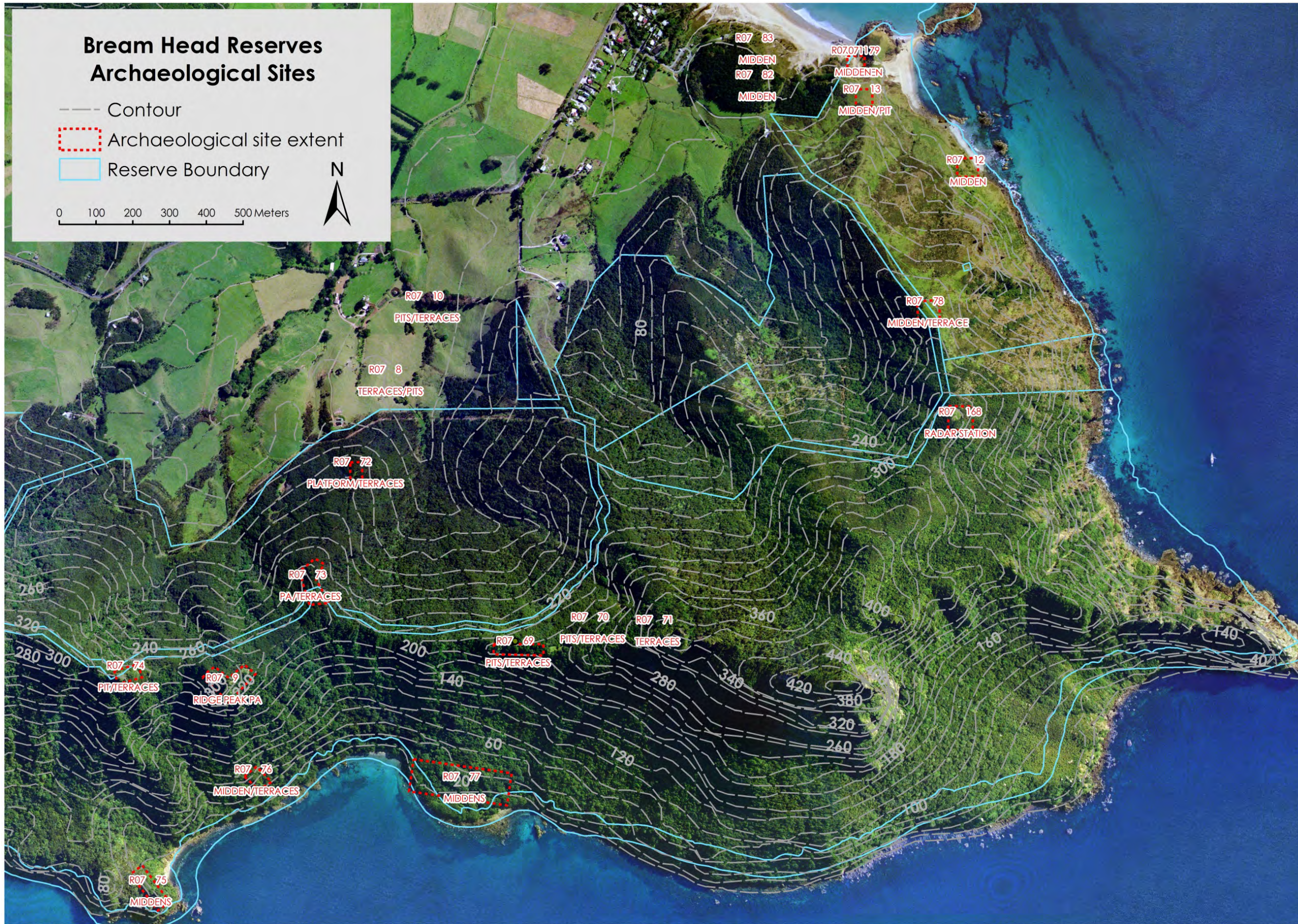


Figure 2: Bream Head sites (east).



Figure 3: Home Point/Busby Head sites detail.

History Description

Bream Head/Te Whara is located at one end of an important series of landmarks for Maori, stretching from Te Whara on the east coast and across the Taurikura Ridge, Manaia and Mt Aubrey, to Ripiro Beach on the west coast. The Maori presence in the vicinity of Whangarei Heads goes back to the time of first settlement of New Zealand approximately 800 years ago and numerous midden sites contain moa bone and egg remains as well as seal bone (both species were heavily exploited in the first phase of settlement), and archaic-style artefacts made from stone and bone.

The Te Whara/Bream Head area is significant to Ngatiwai, Ngati Kahu, Te Waiariki and Parawhau and other local and more distant iwi/hapu, particularly those descended from the Ngaitahuhu Tribe, who used to occupy the Whangarei area, and the ancestor Manaia who settled at Whangarei Heads. Ngati Kahu know the area as Kaione, referring to the *paraoa* (foam) drifting on to the *onepu* (sand), which was collected along the seashore and used for medicinal purposes.

In November 1769 James Cook sailed along this coastline and named several landmarks including Bream Bay and Bream Head (after a successful fishing expedition where the crew of the Endeavour caught a large number of snapper, which Cook considered to be similar to the European bream), the Hen and Chickens and Poor Knights Islands.

At the time of the earliest European exploration of the North Island's east coast, the Whangarei Harbour and surrounds was noted by Samuel Marsden among others for its large population, supported by the local marine resources and extensive garden areas. Marsden met the chief of the Whangarei Heads hapu of Te Parawhau, Wehi Wehi, while the latter was living at Taurikura, north of Bream Head. Other notable visitors include George Clark and the Rev. Henry Williams, and the former's 1825 journal provides the first reference to the area being known as Wara.

By the late 1820's however the area had been depopulated by inter-tribal warfare and introduced disease. In the 1830's the first European settlement of the Whangarei Heads area began. Gilbert Mair purchased 10,000 acres at Whangarei Heads from a chief called Te Tao in October of 1839, although the paramount chief Te Tirarau also had a claim on the block. He paid £150 pounds in goods for the so-called Taurikura Block of 414 acres at the southern end of Whangarei Heads. Ultimately the Crown reduced Mair's claim following the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, and the Taurikura Block was subsequently sold to John Logan Campbell and William Brown. The original deed is relatively brief, with no clear description of the boundaries:

“We have received, we whose names are signed below the payment we received for this place called Te Whara. These are the boundaries: falls into the river of Whangarei. These are the payments: one hundred and fifty pounds in goods.

Witahi

Ware.

Ko

Tipene.

Topa.

Wiremu

Pohe.

Hine

Waru.

Tauururangi.

Epenaha.

This is the year in which we received the payment 1839, October, for the place called the Manaia. The boundaries are Wakamaru, from thence to Pukehangarere, there it ends, from one side to the other.

Ko Pohe.

Ko Ware x.

No tenei ra 1839, Oketopa.”

The claim was investigated in 1844 by Land Commissioner Edward Godfrey. Mair appeared before the Land Claims Commission with the usual evidence for the transaction including the testimony of Pohe and Ware. Mair noted that Tirarau had a claim to the land which Mair intended to settle, and that a settler named Mitchell had buildings on the land. At this time, the Crown refused to grant a claim to Mair as Tirarau and several others had a strong claim in the land which hadn't been addressed, and because Mair had already sold his claim to another, J. J. Bernard, for £650.

His comments on the purchase were provided to the Governor in a letter dating to 10 September 1844:

“Claim No. 457.

Claimant's Name—Gilbert Mair.

The Commissioner has the honour to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that, from the accompanying evidence taken in Claim No. 457, he is of opinion respecting a purchase from the Native Chiefs Pohe and others of a tract of land thus described:—A neck of land on the harbour of Wangarei called Tauri Kura, formed by a line drawn from Pukahangarere on the North straight to Wakaramu on the South. The supposed contents unknown.

The payment made to the Natives for this land appears to have been in October, 1839—Goods £50 13s., multiplied by 3=£151 19s., at 7/4 per acre=414 acres.

A receipt executed by the above-named chiefs and others in 1844 has been exhibited, and they have admitted the payment they received and the alienation of the land, but acknowledge that the Chief Tirarau has a very considerable right in the said land.

No Grant is recommended, for the following reasons, viz.:—

That, by the admission of the claimant, Tirarau's claim has not been satisfied, nor is his demand of three horses even consented to.

That it is the belief of the Commissioner that other Natives of Tirarau's party have claims upon the land.

That the claimant has deposed that he sold this claim to J. J. Bernard in 1840, and still holds the bills of the said Bernard for £650 stig., the price he stipulated for.

That the claimant or others deriving, from him have already had the maximum Grant awarded.

*Edward
Commissioner.*

L.

Godfrey,

Auckland, 10 Sept., 1844.”

Later that year the recommendation was revised by Commissioner Fitzgerald, following the settling of Tirarau’s claim on the land and dismissing Bernard’s claim:

“Revised Recommendation.—The protest by Tirarau having been removed, and it being satisfactorily explained that J. J. Bernard has no bonâ fide right to this land, and moreover as the claimant has paid enough to entitle him to much more land than has been awarded to him, I respectfully recommend that he be allowed a Grant for 414 [414 acres.] acres on this claim.

Robt. A. FitzGerald,

Commissioner.

Auckland, Dec. 21st, 1844.”

Governor Fitzroy confirmed the recommendation on 24 December and Mair was issued a grant of 414 acres on 15 February 1845. This claim then had a complex history recorded in the Old Land Claim file. By the time of the Bell Commission, John Logan Campbell was the claimant and on 23 April 1861, he was awarded grants for 1,762 acres and 823 acres. The Taurikura Block purchased by Campbell and Brown is illustrated on Old Land Claim 108 (1860), showing a 900 acre grant including 84 acres or roads.

The neighbouring Manaia Block which stretched from Munro Bay to Taurikura and across to Ocean Beach to the north of the Taurikura Block was purchased by the Crown for £200 in 1855. The area was soon settled by Scots by way of Nova Scotia, followers of the Non-conformist Rev. Norman McLeod. The subject property was part of the original purchase by the Nova Scotian Scots and the area was progressively cleared and broken in for farming.

In 1870, 50 acres at Busby Head was reserved as a lighthouse reserve and land on the northern slope of Matariki was also reserved. In 1905, the south eastern slopes of Bream Head were reserved, with the reservation extended westwards in 1932, 1937 and 1938 under the Scenery Preservation Act of 1908.

By 1861, the plan of the roads (SO 854A) marked the subdivision of the former Old Land Claim, and a ‘Village Reserve’ was marked on Lot 82 at the north end of Urquharts Bay. Lot 82 was then purchased by Kenneth Urquhart (SO 998) in 1873, from whom the bay and settlement acquired its current name. In the 1870s, land at the south end of Urquharts Bay was reserved as a school endowment and Busby Head was reserved for a pilot station.

In 1915 the property was divided up into 61 separate lots and known as the ‘Town of Urquhart’s Bay’ in DP 10674. In this proposal, the land immediately south of the stream at the northern end of the Bay was kept in pasture and was otherwise undeveloped except for farming activities; Ferrar’s 1922 geological survey map of the area shows a number of homesteads in the area, tracks, including one along the length of the main ridgeline between Uquharts and Ocean Beach, and down to Peach Cove, and a quarry on the north side of Te Whara but little other development.

Over the following decades, houses and baches were gradually built on part of the village reserve subdivision along the coast and south-west of Ocean Beach Road. The land to the south was purchased by the Golden Bay Cement Company and was progressively subdivided in the 1970s and early 1980s. Local opposition to the subdivision of the southernmost portion between Urquhart’s and Smugglers Bay saw this land ultimately purchased by the Crown and gazetted as a recreation reserve.

Management of the reserve first fell to the Lands and Survey Department and from 1987, the Department of Conservation. The existing network of farm tracks and informal walking tracks were improved by DOC and volunteers in the early 1990s, and the Bream Head Gun Emplacement mural was conserved in the late 1990s. In the early 21st century, DOC, with the support of the local community has focussed on biodiversity restoration work including plantings on the coastal fringe, pest eradication and monitoring of the local kiwi population, with planning for a proposed predator-proof fence. In 2008 the Smugglers Loop Track was upgraded, with associated investigations of archaeological features impacted by the work.

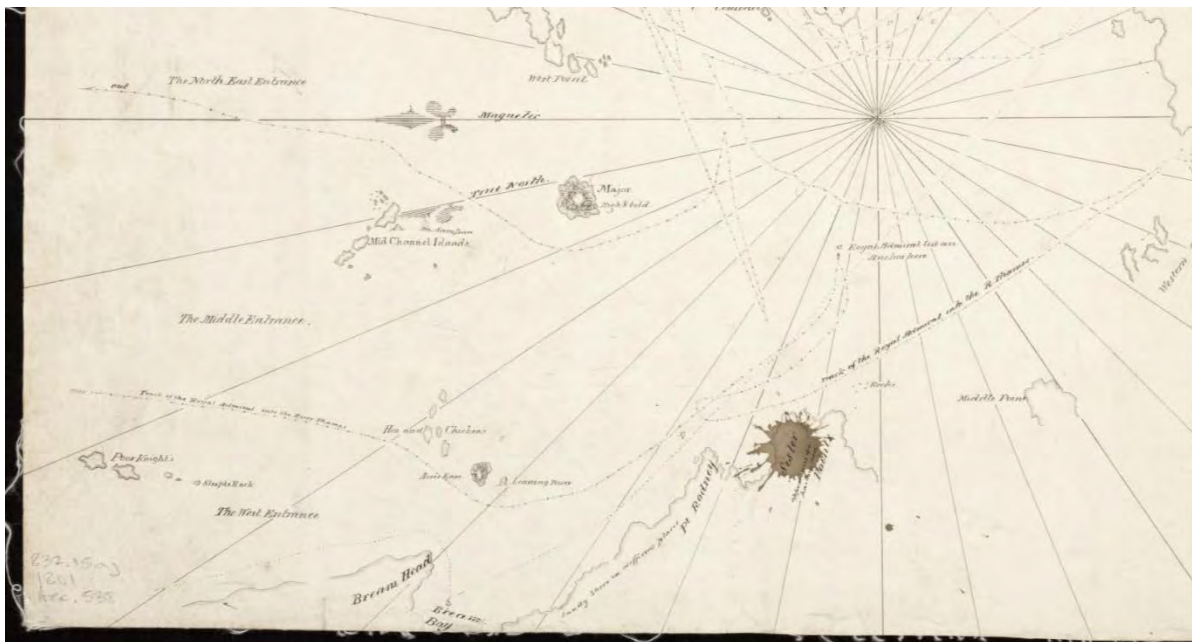


Figure 4: Detail from Chart of the River Thames in New Zealand prepared by William Wilson in 1801, showing Bream Head and the northern Hauraki Gulf (ATL MapColl-832.15aj/1801/Acc.538).

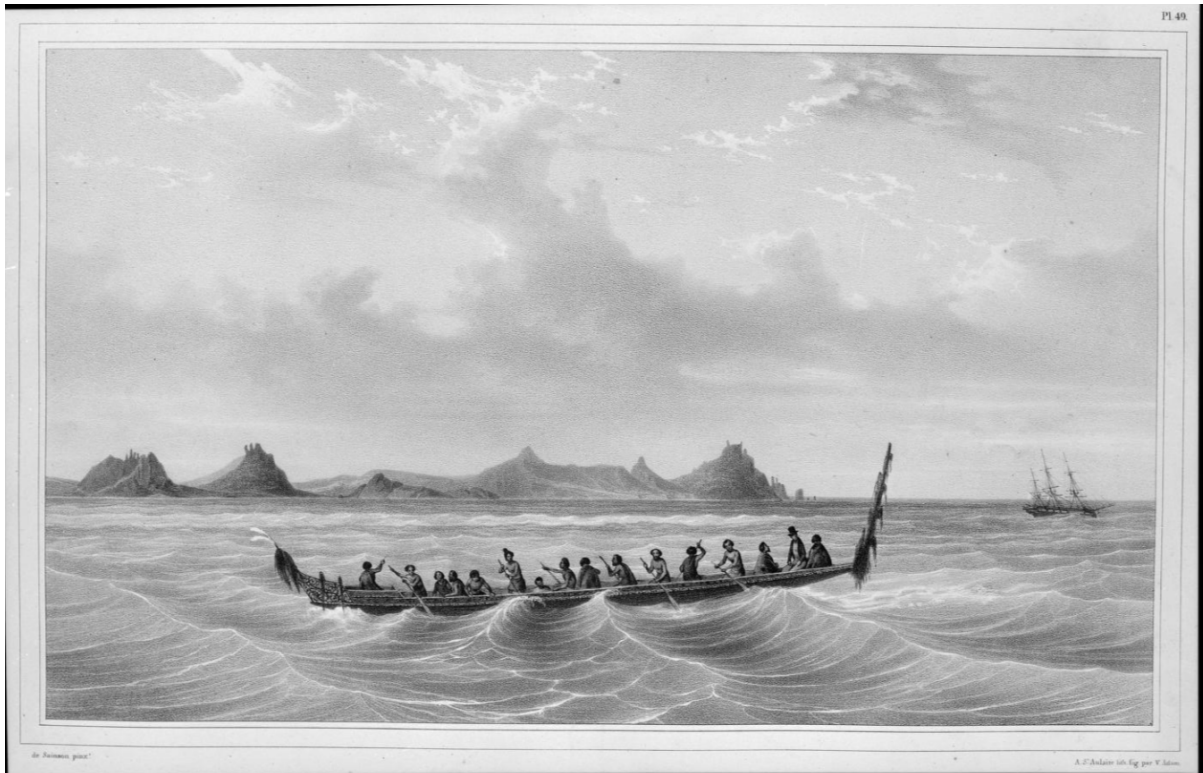


Figure 5: Vue du cap Wangari (Nouvelle Zelande) by Louis Auguste De Sainson in 1827, lithograph by Felix Achille in 1831 (ATL PUBL-0038-1-049).

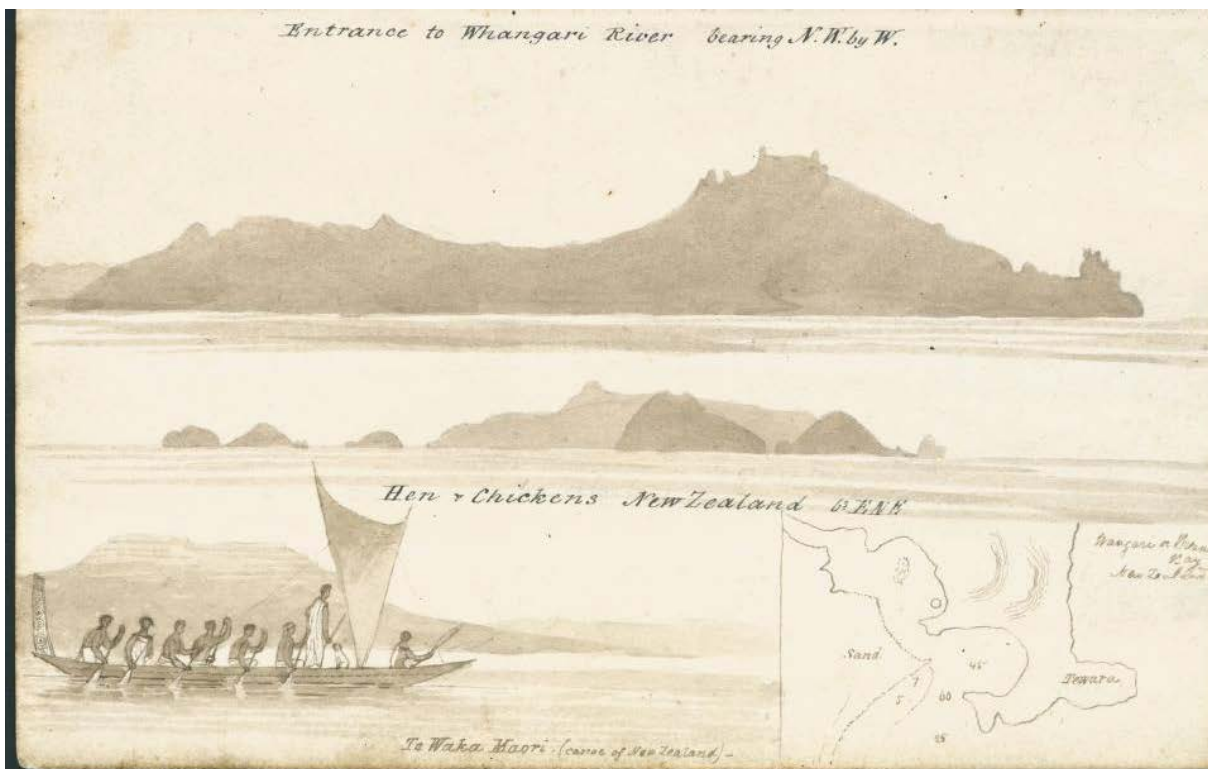


Figure 6: Entrance to Whangari River, bearing NW by W; Hen and Chickens, New Zealand..., Te Waka Maori (canoe of New Zealand); Wangari or Bream Bay, New Zealand. Sketches from the journal of Edward Ashworth in 1844 (ATL MS-0104-071).



Figure 7: Bream Head Near Whangarei, by Godfrey Charles Mundy in 1847 or 1848 (A-162-012).



Figure 8: Bream Head, Whangarei by Charles Heaphy, 1847 (ATL C-025-012).



Figure 9: Pa OLC 108 (1860).



Figure 10: SO 847 (n.d.).



Figure 11: SO 854 (1861).



Figure 12: SO 787 (n.d.)

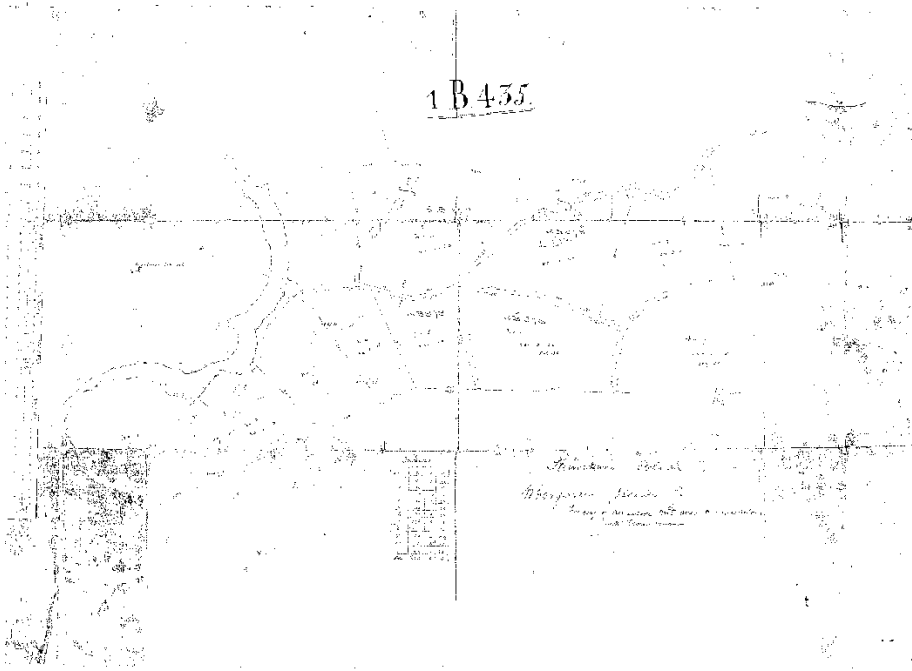


Figure 13: Deed 3348C (n.d.).

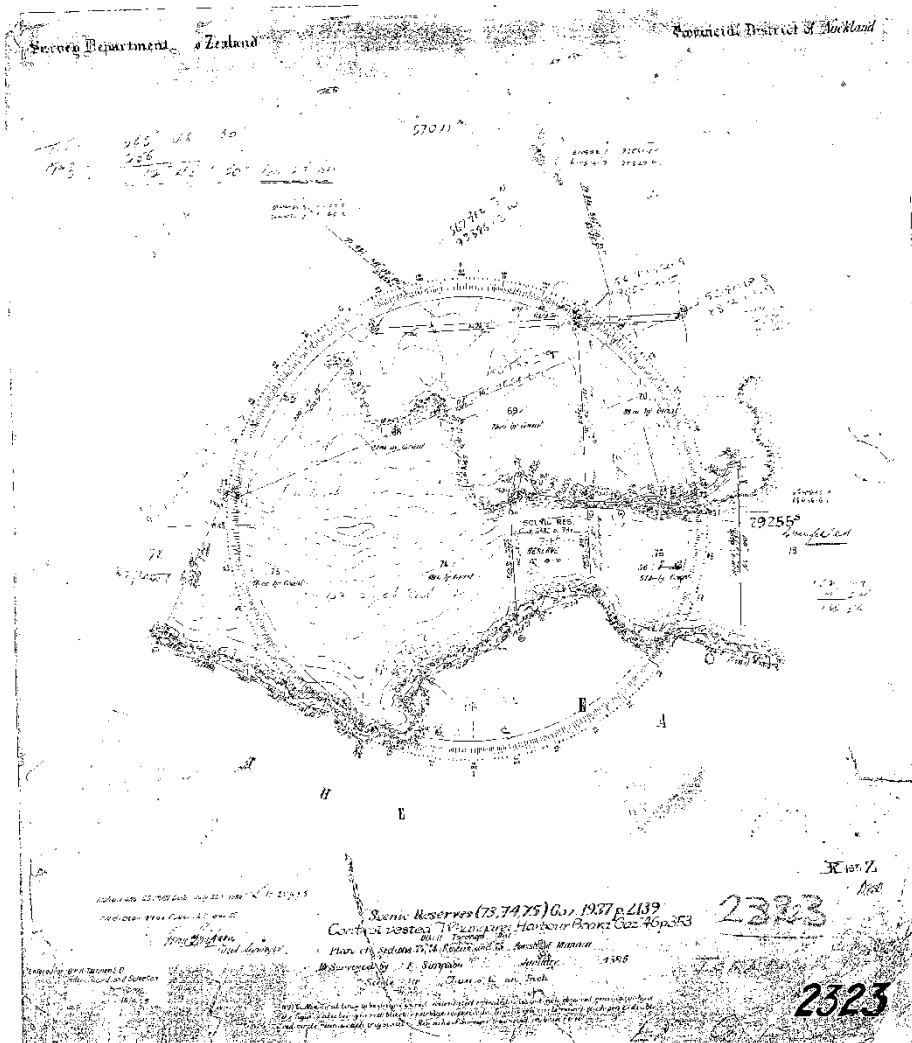


Figure 14: SO 2323 (1885).



Figure 15: Detail from Ferrar's 1922 geological survey showing houses, tracks and place names.

Fabric Description

Overview

The Whangarei Harbour and environs was a focus of intense prehistoric settlement by Maori and a large number of archaeological sites are recorded along the coast and inland. Coastal flats and nearby spurs and ridges were intensively occupied in prehistoric times, and this is reflected in the presence of numerous shell midden or refuse dumps, defended pa sites and undefended kainga as indicated by ditches, banks, terraces and storage pits. Most of these probably date from the 'Classic' or mid-to late prehistoric period. The Urquhart's Bay area is one of the most densely settled areas in the Whangarei District, if not the country.

There are approximately fifty archaeological sites recorded in the Bream Head and Busby Head Scenic Reserves. Three sites are recorded as pa, 23 sites are single examples or complexes of terraces and/or pits (both with and without associated midden), 20 sites are midden alone, and a single ditch is also recorded. The Bream Head gun emplacement and radar station are recorded as two distinct sites and are dealt with in a separate report. The majority of the sites are recorded on the western end of the reserves between Urquhart's Bay and Smugglers Bay.

Thirteen sites are recorded along the Te Whara/Bream Head and Matariki/Mt Lion ridgeline. Twelve of these are complexes of storage pits and terraces and although they lack formal defensive earthworks, given their elevation and the steepness of surrounding terrain they may be considered to be refuge pa. The thirteenth site on the ridgeline is the radar station. Three sites are recorded at the southern end of Ocean Beach, including midden at the southern end of Ocean Beach and Dead Horse Bay, and midden and a possible terrace on the spur between the two beaches. Another three sites are recorded at Peach Cove on the south side of the reserve, with midden recorded above either end of the beach and midden and terraces noted on a spur above the middle of the beach.

Thirty one sites are recorded on the western side of the reserve, between Urquhart's Bay and Busby Head (although several of these are double ups). There are three pa, identified on the basis of defensive works or the defensive qualities afforded by local topography. These are the headland pa on Busby Head and the two sites with terraces and midden recorded on the summit

and upper slopes of Home Point. Fifteen sites are complexes of terraces, pits and/or midden representing kainga or undefended hamlets or villages. The remaining sites are midden, typically consisting of pipi or cockle, although the two midden in the dunes at Smugglers Bay contain moa and seal bone, bird bone, and stone tools of obsidian and chert.

These undefended sites and refuse dumps are concentrated around the coastline; between Urquharts Bay and Frenchman's Bay and on the slopes above, and up to the saddle between Urquharts and Smugglers Bay. In contrast there are few sites recorded on the slopes above Smugglers Bay or on the ridgeline north between Busby Head and Home Point.

Site Recording

The first site recording on the reserves occurred in 1963 when M. Nicholls, J. C. and R. Booth and R. Leslie recorded sites in the area. On the basis of the original imperial site numbers and the likely route of survey, the first site recorded may have been Q07/78, the midden and large pit at the intersection of the Smugglers and gun emplacement tracks, just inside the reserve at Urquharts Bay. This was recorded by R. Booth, who then recorded a number of other sites on the main tracks around the area. The Booths recorded the midden, Q07/82, in the centre of Smugglers Bay and M. Nicholls recorded the midden, Q07/83, on the eastern side. These sites would go on to receive more attention than most in the area due to the presence of archaic material including moa bone from the earliest period of New Zealand's settlement. At the conclusion of their visit, Nicholls recorded the entire Home Point area as a single site, Q07/87, noting:

"On whole of peninsular of Home Point.

There is midden scatter over nearly this entire area, wherever the soil has been disturbed - a few inches to 3-6 feet thick - mainly pipi shell. (Kainga and pa sites, and unusual middens recorded separately). This area gives indications of very heavy settlement - many ridges look artificially flattened as well as sites recorded"

M. Nicholls and J. Davidson visited the area again in 1964 and recorded the pa site on Busby Head, Q07/35, possibly at the same time as the test excavation of Q07/83, the midden at the eastern end of Smugglers Bay.

Further recording was undertaken at Ocean Beach and on the main Te Whara/Bream Head ridgeline by S. Bartlett in the mid-1960s and early 1970s. Bartlett recorded the large pa in the centre of the main ridgeline in 1964, Q07/9. That site consisted of terraces with stone-facings, pits and midden on a high point with extensive views of the coast, harbour and offshore islands and is the largest site on the ridgeline.

Several more sites were recorded in 1981 by P. Deverall and H. Te Wake in 1981 as part of an archaeological reconnaissance survey covering the land between the Ngunguru River, Pataua River and Whangarei Heads. This survey was undertaken as a Project Employment Programme (i.e. "PEP scheme") project for the Whangarei County Council and was funded by the Ministry of Works and approved by the Historic Places Trust. The survey excluded land at Home Point/Busby Head which at the time was still owned by Golden Bay Cement. The survey report (Deverall and Te Wake 1981) notes that although this area was excluded, forty sites were

recorded at Urquharts Bay and that the aim of surveying that area was in order to use the information as part of an objection to Golden Bay Cement's subdivision proposal. They did record sites on the northern and eastern side of Home Point, the saddle between Urquhart's and Smugglers Bays, and at Smugglers Bay, including two pa and several midden. They also mapped and made a surface collection of bones from the Smugglers Bay midden Q07/82, which they re-recorded as Q07/103. They noted that it contained moa and tuatara bone, kaka, an extinct coot, wood pigeon, kaka, paradise duck and Caspian tern, as well as unidentifiable fish bone (Deverall and Te Wake 1981: Appendix 4).

A large number of sites were recorded by G. Nevin (Nevin 1983) as part of the Whangarei Harbour archaeological survey commissioned by the then Northland Harbour Board and undertaken as a PEP scheme project in the early 1980s. As well as recording many of the smaller and less obvious or impressive midden and terrace/pit complexes she re-recorded and mapped some previously recorded sites but also accidentally duplicated some sites previously recorded by those noted above. Nevin was the first to record the pit and terrace sites on Matariki/Mt Lion.

Updates for some sites were provided by DOC staff intermittently throughout the 1990s for various fencing and planting projects. A major feature-level survey of archaeological sites using differential GPS was undertaken in 2007-8 as part of the planning and archaeological mitigation for the upgrade of walking tracks on the reserves. The initial recording was undertaken by archaeologists from CFG Heritage Ltd (Campbell and Hill 2008) with further features added by Carpenter for DOC and later, Geometria Ltd. While several sites were relocated on the main ridgeline in the course of this work, the focus was on sites at the western end of the reserve where archaeological impacts from the upgrading of the Smugglers Loop track were considered to be the most pressing concern.

Investigations

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the reserve but have yet to be reported in full. In 1964 R. Green of the University of Auckland, assisted by J. Davidson undertook a small test excavation of Q07/83, the archaic midden at the eastern end of Smugglers Bay, as part of an adult education course. They spent several days excavating the midden, and recording sites at Oceans Beach and Pataua. This investigation has never been written up although the mammal material recovered was analysed by I. Smith for his PhD research (Smith 1985).¹

In 2008 the author of this assessment assisted by A. Mckenzie and D. Rudd, monitored the Smugglers Loop Track upgrade and undertook test excavations on a number of sites and features affected by the project (Carpenter 2009 and Carpenter *in prep.*). Seven radiocarbon dates from six sites across the area were undertaken, suggesting intensive occupation of the area in the 1500s focussing on the large-scale consumption of pipi from the nearby harbour sand banks. Obsidian flakes recovered from a number of sites appear to have been sourced from Mayor

¹ There is some confusion as to which feature at the northern end of Smugglers Bays was investigated. J. Maingay (pers. comm. to J. Carpenter) states that J. Davidson showed Maingay the location of the excavated feature in the 1980s and indicated it was west of the small watercourse at the northern end of the beach, and was completely destroyed by that time. However the sketch plan drawn at the time of the 1964 excavation, along with subsequent notes and plans by other site recorders places it east of the stream where eroded shell midden is still visible at the time this report was written.

Island, Te Ahumata from Great Barrier, and Huruiki, as well as an as-yet unidentified source (Dr. Mark McCoy, personal communication). In 2010 several days were spent by the author assisted by M. Butcher of the Department of Conservation, along with several volunteers, recording and sampling Q07/82, the midden in the centre of Smugglers Bay. This work was also by way of mitigation for the track project and in response to damage from Cyclone Tracey in 2007.

In early 2012, M. Butcher investigated and sampled a substantial deposit of midden at the Urquharts Bay carpark associated with Q07/1375. The midden was exposed by earthworks for a new Whangarei District Council toilet block. The sampled midden is currently under analysis at the Department of Anthropology, University of Otago, with a radiocarbon sample being assessed by the Radiocarbon Laboratory of the University of Waikato.

Despite the large number of archaeological sites around Whangarei Harbour and the amount of coastal development over the last 10-20 years, very few archaeological sites have been investigated and of those which have, most have yet to be reported on. In summarising the findings at the Vinson subdivision where the features investigated are typical of those common in the Whangarei Heads area, Bickler et al (2008: 36) state:

“The two knolls investigated as potential habitation sites (Q07/800g and Q07/797) did not provide any evidence of house or other structures, but it is possible that intensive farming of the property in the past has destroyed features that may once have been present; two obsidian flakes and a core found at Q07/800g suggest use of the knoll in the past.

The investigated middens have provided useful information on the pre-European settlement of this area of the Whangarei Heads. It is possible that the area was used as a temporary shellfish and fish processing area, where cooking and smoking were carried out away from the main living area at the neighbouring pa and other sites on the ridge to the southwest. The fires used to cook the shellfish were probably also used for cooking staples such as kumara as part of meals, as longer cooking times are suggested by the presence of hangi stones and oven features along the coast. The radiocarbon date suggests that the bay was occupied during the mid-late 15th century through to the early 16th century AD, but dates from other sites would probably take this occupation through to the 18th century at least.”

Phillips (2009) also reported a 16th century date for her investigation at Urquharts Bay and noted:

“The findings at 2567 Whangarei Heads Road, Urquharts Bay, show that the former Maori inhabitants gathered predominantly pipi, probably from the Mair Bank, just offshore. They probably also fished and fish scales were found associated with the shells. Like the McGregors Bay middens, no fish bones were found. However, this was not just a fishing encampment. The garden soils and the food storage pits, the number and range of obsidian and chert artefacts show that the inhabitants lived here on a more permanent basis. This was unlike the findings from McGregors Bay, although the evidence there may also have been lost by later ground modification.”

The initial results from the Bream Head Reserves suggest a slightly earlier but much more intensive occupation than that described further up the harbour at McGregors, or more distant sites around the Whangarei coastline. It may be that the Bream Head area was first visited on a short term basis to hunt moa and seals as reflected in the Smugglers Bay midden, with a later and more intensive occupation in the 16th century focussed on nearby shell fish banks. Over time, settlement spread up the harbour and along the coastlines north and south.

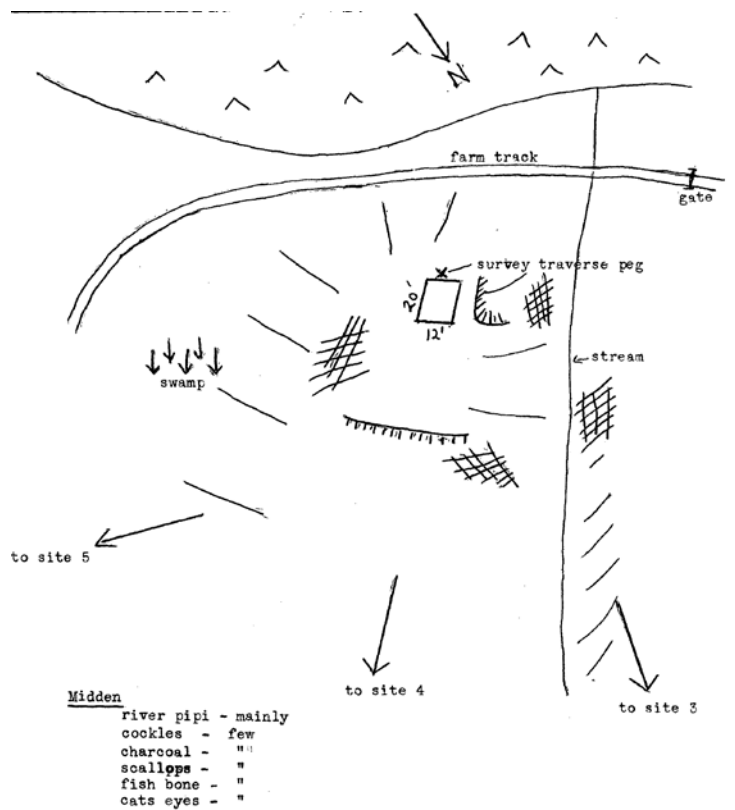


Figure 16: Q07/78, the first site recorded on the reserves, by R. Booth in 1963, including the large pit.

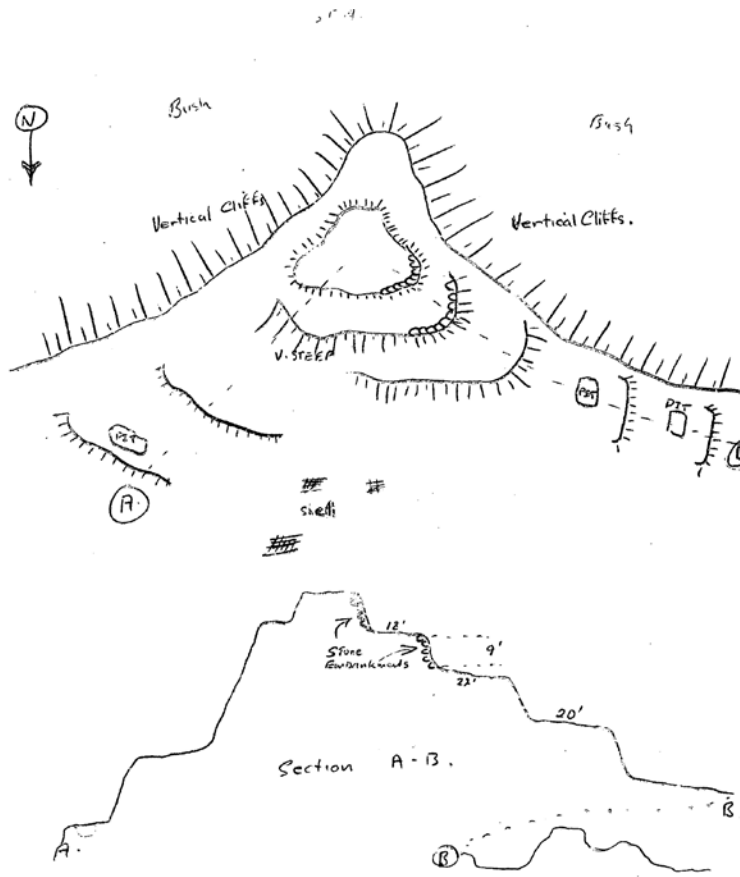


Figure 17: Q07/9, recorded by S. Bartlett in 1964.



Figure 18: Survey route and sites recorded by Deverall and Te Wake (1981:)

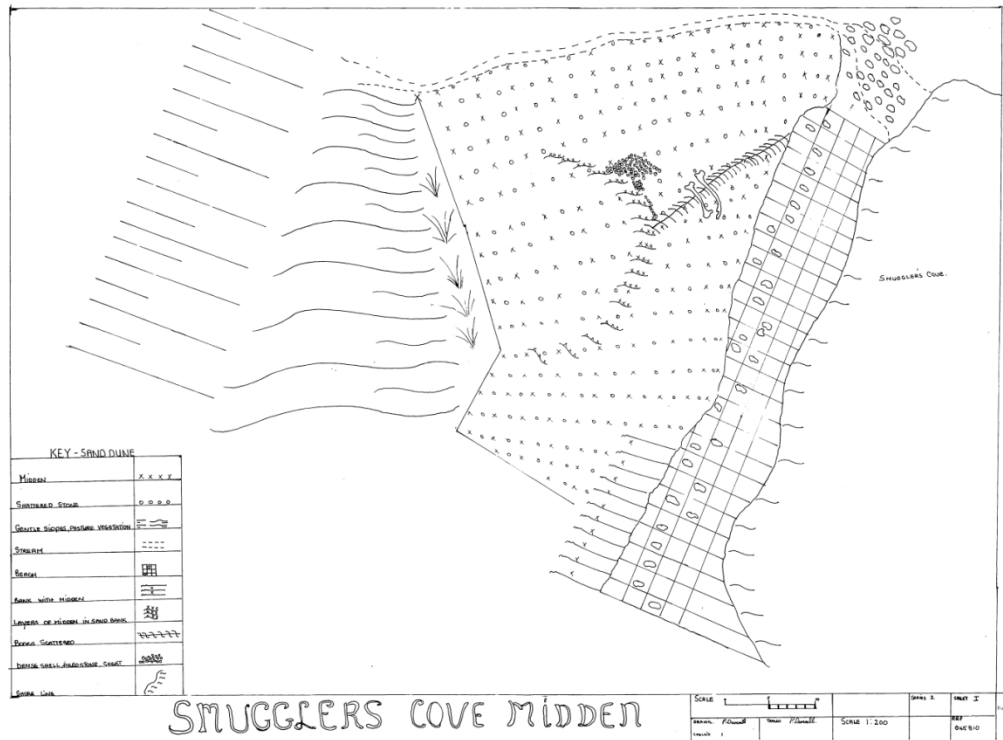


Figure 19: Q07/82 (Q07/103), central Smugglers Bay midden mapped by Deverall and Te Wake.

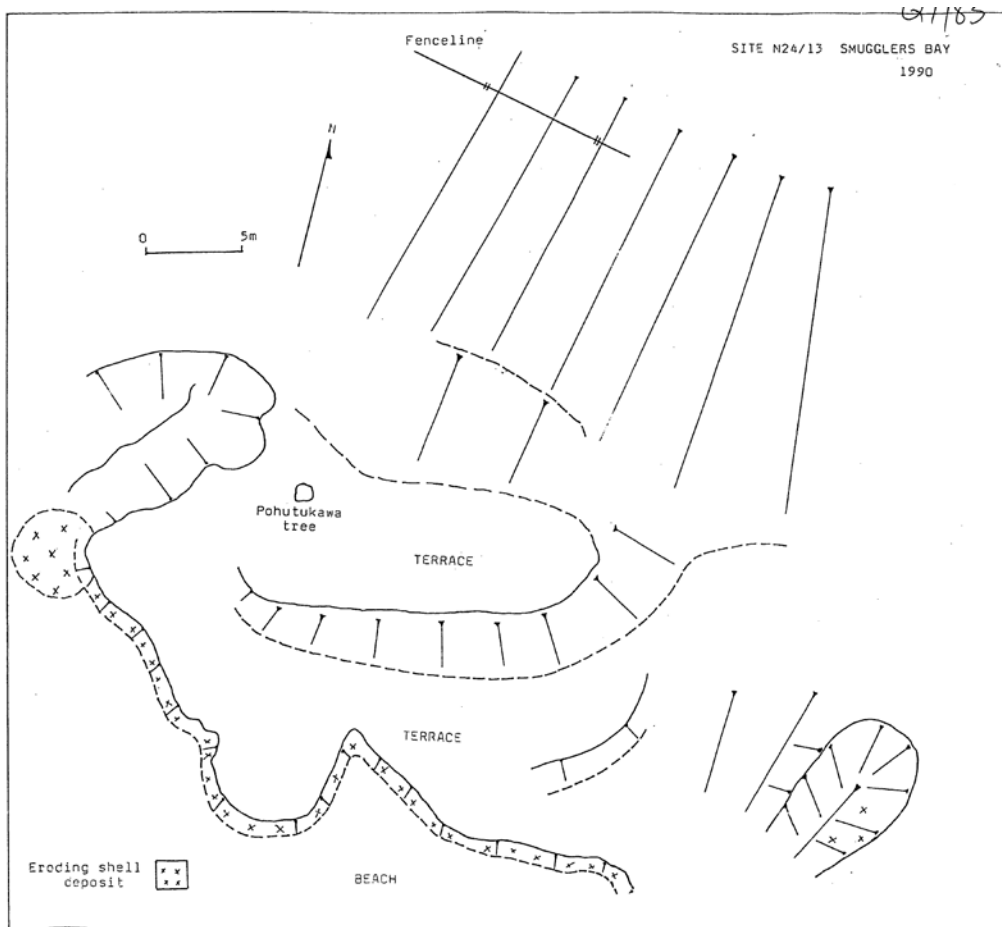


Figure 20: Q07/83 as recorded in 1990 (J. Robinson?).



Figure 21: Q07/82 following 2007 storms.



Figure 22: Q07/98 Busby Head Pa.



Figure 23: Fire scoops being excavated at Q07/81 at Urquharts Bay.

Cultural Connections

A number of iwi and hapu in particular Ngati Wai, Ngati Kahu, Te Waiariki and Parawhau have strong associations with the area.

National Context Sources

There is no national context source available in order to provide a comprehensive basis for assessing the national (representative) significance of Bream Head as a pre or proto-historic Maori archaeological landscape. However general references for pa and kainga include reports by Davidson (1982, 1984) and area studies of pa in the upper North Island including those of Irwin (1985) and Sutton (1991, 1993) 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

Bream Head is significant as an intensively settled pre-European Maori archaeological landscape, and for the early Maori/European observations and interactions by early explorers, missionaries and settlers. There are a large number of sites recorded across the reserves

suggesting the location and the resources it had to offer were highly valued by Maori in the prehistoric period.

Fabric Significance

A large number of archaeological sites are recorded on the reserves, with the largest proportion of them at the western end, between Urquharts, Frenchman's and Smugglers Bay. Archaeological interest in the area goes back to the early 1960s and the infancy of professional archaeology owing to the area's dense and significant prehistoric occupation, including the evidence for archaic-period occupation at Smugglers Bay. None of the sites are particularly impressive in terms of scale, extent, preservation or content (excepting the Smugglers Bay midden) but cumulatively they represent an intensive occupation focussed on large-scale consumption of shellfish from nearby shell banks around the mouth of the Whangarei Harbour.

The sites on the western side of the reserve are unstable due to the effects of erosion, stock trampling, storm events and possibly visitor impacts. Sites on the main Bream Head ridgeline are relatively stable, being under bush and receive comparatively few visitors, who generally stay on the existing tracks. Along with Mimiwhangata it is one of the best preserved and protected Maori archaeological landscapes in the Whangarei District.

Cultural Significance

Te Whara is of the highest cultural significance to Ngatiwai, Ngati Kahu, Te Waiariki and Parawhau along with other iwi of the Whangarei area, and further afield. The landscape has strong associations with the ancestor Manaia, and 19th century Whangarei chiefs Pohe and Tirarau.

Management Recommendations

Vegetation and Stock Management

The effects of biodiversity restoration plantings should continue to be considered and assessed well before planting is scheduled. A useful way to do this would be via an archaeological authority for a ten year period, with the condition for an archaeological management plan to govern work in a similar manner to commercial timber operations.

Consideration should be given towards temporary fencing of significant archaeological sites and features under stress from stock activity, and/or the permanent retirement of those areas by fencing them off, in concert with biodiversity restoration plantings to control grass growth and fire risk.

Interpretation

The existing interpretation signage covering the archaeology/Maori history of the reserves is in poor condition or otherwise out of date. This signage should be replaced following the final reporting of excavation results and mapping of remaining archaeological features.

At a minimum this Heritage Assessment and other public documents should be made available on the DOC website.

Archaeological Sites

Monitoring the effects of stock and the condition of key archaeological sites should occur on a regular basis.

Several areas have yet to be mapped at the feature level, notably around the top and upper slopes of Home Point, and the Urquharts Bay boundary of the reserve. This would largely complete the detailed mapping of the most intensively settled part of the reserve, and the area under most threat from the elements, stock and visitors.

It would also be useful to undertake an archaeological survey of Busby Head between the pa and Home Point and the slopes above Smugglers Bay to confirm or deny the presence of sites in this area. In addition, a survey of Peach Cove and Cabbage Tree flats could be productive as these are likely locations where other unrecorded sites may be present.

Management Chronology

- 1769 Cook sails past Whangarei Heads, naming it Bream Head after the abundance of Bream (snapper).
- 1820 Samuel Marsden visits and notes large Maori population.
- 1839 Mair's purchase of Taurikura Block.
- 1844 Land Claims Commission investigation of Mair's claim.
- 1861 Bell Commission investigation of Mair's claim.
- 1870 Allotment 71A and 72 reserved as an educational endowment.
- 1878 Allotment 71A reserved for a pilot station.
- 1905 Allotment E76 and 77 reserved.
- 1932 Allotment 71, 72, 74A and 79A reserved.
- 1937 Allotment 73, 74 and 75 reserved.
- 1938 Allotment W76 reserved.
- 1963 Smugglers Bay midden recorded.
- 1964 Smugglers Bay midden excavated by R. Green and J. Davidson.
- 1965 Ocean Beach sites first recorded by S. Bartlett.
- 1981 Deverall and Te Wake survey.
- 1983 Nevin Survey.

2007-8 DGPS survey of sites and features by CFG and J. Carpenter.

2008 Monitoring and investigation of sites on Smugglers Loop Track.

2010 Investigation of Q07/82.

Management Documentation

The key document is the HAMS costed specification (2000).

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