

7.2 Sites of Archaeological, Historic and Cultural Significance

Introduction and Issues

Hamilton City has a rich history and contains a substantial number of sites of archaeological, historic and cultural significance. Some of these are associated with European settlement, however many of these sites are especially significant to Waikato iwi and local hapu. Sites may also be located in Hamilton City which are associated with other cultures and their settlement, but as yet, none have been identified.

While many of these sites have been destroyed or damaged by urban development and are not easily recognisable, this does not diminish their historical or cultural importance. Sites of archaeological, historic and cultural significance form an important part of the cultural history of the city and should be protected, where practicable, for the benefit of the whole community.

Tangata Whenua Historical and Cultural Sites

The recognition and protection of tangata whenua historical and cultural sites is a matter of national importance under Section 6 of the RMA. Examples of sites of significance to Waikato Iwi and local hapu are listed below, this list however is not exhaustive and does not directly reflect the sites protected by regulatory methods in this District Plan, but does however reflect knowledge shared by tangata whenua with the community.

Historical Sites and Natural Features

Historical sites and natural features include settlements, sites used for food resources or ceremonial rituals, and a variety of landscape features of importance. They include:

- Pa tuwhatawhata (pallisaded pa without defense ditches and only a singular defense stockade)
- Kainga (isolated villages, generally undefended)
- Mahinga kai (traditional food gathering sites, including selected cultivation areas)
- Taunga waka (canoe landing sites)
- Hiwi (hills or ridgelines)
- Awa (rivers/waterways)
- Repo (swamps and wetlands)
- Mara (gardens)
- Mission station, churches, flour mills, flax mills, redoubts (before 1865)

(NB – These terms date from the 1840's and before and may not be in current usage).

Waahi Tapu

Waahi tapu is defined in the Historic Places Act as “place sacred to Maori in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual, or mythological sense”.

In the Waikato context, Waahi tapu are “sacred sites” which have had a tapu placed on them. Waikato Iwi and local hapu state that the tapu associated with these sites has been removed. The removal of tapu does not mean that the site is less significant to tangata whenua, but it does remove the sacredness associated with the site. The degree of “tapu” or significance of these sites will be determined by the local hapu and Waikato Iwi, in conjunction with archaeological research and survey. Examples of these sites include:

- Anuanu (umu or ovens used for kumara planting ceremonies)
- Whaangai hau (place associated with human sacrifice and ritual)
- Nga Pou Niu (religious poles used for ceremonial and religious rituals)
- Tuuahu (shrines or altars for religious ceremonies)
- Urupa (burial grounds)

Archaeological Sites Associated with European Settlement

Archaeological Site is defined by the Historic Places Act 1993 as “any place in New Zealand that-

- (a) Either-
 - (i) Was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900; or
 - (ii) Is the site of the wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and
- (b) Is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand”...

Archaeological sites that are associated with the European settlement of the city include military redoubts, objects and locations associated with industry (eg. flour mills and a lime kiln) as well as locations of early settlement.

The principal issues regarding sites of archaeological, historical and cultural significance in Hamilton are:

- **Many archaeological, historic and cultural sites in Hamilton have been modified or destroyed as development has occurred, while others (especially in greenfields areas) may be under threat.** The original features of many sites can be lost through earthworks, vegetation clearance and stormwater discharges. Sites can be affected by inappropriate use and some have been covered with buildings or impermeable surfaces like roads. Changes to the setting and planting of vegetation can also have effects on the heritage and cultural values of a site. Sites in the new growth areas of the city are especially at risk of damage or destruction because of the rate of development.

The destruction and loss of sites has also been contributed to by a lack of information on the extent, condition and location of sites. Many sites in the city have not been examined since the early 1980's and their current condition is unknown. There are also inaccuracies with information, especially regarding the location and definition of the extent of sites.

- **Many natural features which hold great historical, spiritual and cultural significance to local hapu have been destroyed by development.** Natural features, like awa (river/waterways), repo (wetlands) and hiwi (mountains/hills) identify tribal boundaries and indicate where important resources were located. For example, gullies provided rich food resources like tuna (eels), koura (freshwater crayfish), inanga (whitebait), and kaeo (freshwater mussels). Many of these natural features have been destroyed or changed when hills have been levelled, gullies filled, and lakes and wetlands drained.
- **Many historical sites in the city, where there is no above-ground evidence, may have underground features and artefacts which could be disturbed or damaged through earthworks.** Many sites in the city now have houses, buildings, and impermeable surfaces covering them. Activities like digging foundations and other earthworks can damage historical sites, especially if people are unaware of their existence. Important features of the site (like filled-in trenches of a pa or kumara pits) may still exist under the ground. A particular concern to Waikato Iwi is that earthworks have led to the recovery and removal of artefacts and human remains without their involvement.
- **The relationship of Maori with their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, waahi tapu and other taonga may be destroyed or compromised through inappropriate development.** Kaitiakitanga or guardianship and protection by tangata whenua of the land, water, waahi tapu and other taonga is an important issue for Waikato Iwi and local hapu. The RMA requires that regard is had to the exercise of Kaitiakitanga to protect the physical and spiritual health of the whole environment, including air, water, land and its Mauri or life-force. Activities such as removing indigenous vegetation, draining wetlands and contaminating water bodies not only affect the air, water, land and cultural sites physically, but can also affect the spiritual significance associated with these elements.

Objective 7.2.1 Protection of Significant Sites

To protect significant European archaeological sites and tangata whenua historical and cultural sites from damage, destruction and desecration.

Policies

- a) Ensure that the protection and management of sites of archaeological, historic and cultural significance reflects their significance and overall heritage values.
- b) Ensure that major development within the new growth areas of the city are examined for sites of archaeological, historic and cultural significance before substantial changes take place.
- c) Notify and consult with tangata whenua and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust where developments occur on scheduled sites.
- d) Ensure that activities or development, including planting, the removal of vegetation where it effects the stability of the site and the removal, addition, excavation or compaction of any soil,

rock or other materials do not adversely effect the physical structure and integrity of scheduled sites.

- e) Ensure that activities, including subdivision and placement of structures, avoid adverse effects on the cultural and spiritual values of any tangata whenua historical and cultural site.
- f) Encourage the permanent protection of sites where they are an outstanding example of a particular type of site or are highly significant to the community.
- g) Encourage the recognition and on-site marking of scheduled sites where features have been destroyed or damaged.
- h) Encourage tangata whenua, Council, developers, property owners, other agencies and the community to work towards the increased awareness and recognition of scheduled sites.

Reasons

The identification of sites allows appropriate provision to be made for their protection. It also assists developers and other agencies by providing a level of certainty regarding the use of the resources. If the general location of sites can be signalled then developers and landowners will be able to plan development that minimises or avoids disturbance to sites. Identification of sites before development occurs will be particularly important, especially in the new growth areas of the city (eg. Rototuna, Rotokauri, and Peacocke).

An important concern for tangata whenua is the need to protect sites from accidental or intentional interference. The District Plan will only record and protect sites which Iwi are happy to make known. The location of other sites are known only to Waikato Iwi and local hapu. The policies also recognise the importance of these sites to Maori. The policies ensure that consultation takes place with Waikato Iwi and local hapu to help determine what methods could be used to ensure that proposed activities or structures do not damage or destroy tangata whenua historical and cultural sites.

The policies also require that the New Zealand Historic Places Trust is notified when there are developments affecting scheduled sites. The Historic Places Trust has the primary responsibility for the regulation of activities relating to archaeological sites under the Historic Places Act 1993 and is also required to be notified under the RMA.

The policies recognise that activities that disturb the ground pose a significant threat to sites and aims to control these activities. In some cases, the original features of a site may be lost or damaged through exposure to weather, earthworks, damage from tree roots and coverage of a site by buildings or impermeable surfaces. However sub-surface features may still survive. The aim of the policies is to protect the physical integrity and features of the site.

For some sites in the city, it may be appropriate to provide protect them permanently as a community asset. Identified sites could be acquired as part of a reserve contribution when subdivision occurs, especially in the new growth areas of the city or along the riverbank. This would be appropriate where sites are highly significant or are an outstanding example of a particular type of site. For other sites where development has already taken place and the site's features have been destroyed or damaged,

recognition of the site's existence is desirable through signage, planting or some other method. Even where these sites no longer exist physically they still hold cultural significance particularly to Waikato Iwi and local hapu.

The effective protection of sites of archaeological, historical and cultural significance is dependent on the mutual goodwill of tangata whenua, landowners, developers, Council, other agencies and the wider community. Partnerships and increased public awareness will be an important way of preserving sites in the city.

Methods

The Sites of Archaeological, Historic and Cultural Significance objectives and policies will be implemented through the following methods:

District Plan

- **Significant Archaeological, Historic and Cultural Sites Overlay** - will identify significant sites and will control activities which have the potential to damage or destroy them. Where new sites are identified they will be ranked and added to the schedule. The rankings of known sites may also alter as more information is uncovered about them.

SCHEDULE A - Tangata Whenua Historical and Cultural Sites

In consultation with Waikato iwi and hapu, sites have been identified and classified into three groups reflecting their historical significance and potential management techniques as follows:

1. Outstanding Tangata Whenua Historical and Cultural Sites
2. Significant Tangata Whenua Historical and Cultural Sites
3. Noteworthy Tangata Whenua Historical and Cultural Sites

SCHEDULE B - Archaeological Sites Associated with European Settlement

These sites are sites are associated with European settlement of the city.

- **Environmental Protection Overlay** - will identify and protect areas of environmental significance and natural features.
- **Subdivision and Development Rules** - will ensure that when major developments occur in new growth areas they are examined to identify the presence of any significant archaeological, historic or cultural sites before development begins.
- **Reserve Contributions** - may include securing identified significant archaeological, historic or cultural sites to ensure their protection and on-going security for the benefit of the community as historic reserves.

Other Methods

- **Appointed Iwi Representatives** - will be identified in consultation with Waikato Iwi to facilitate consultation between tangata whenua, landowners, developers, the Council and the wider community.

- **Protocols** - could be developed in consultation with tangata whenua to provide processes for landowners, developers and the wider community when artefacts or human remains are uncovered.
- **Practise of Traditional Waikato Iwi Customary Values** - could be encouraged by tangata whenua eg. Rahui or embargos on selected areas and waterways.
- **Reserve Act Management Plans** - will be developed for significant archaeological, historic or cultural sites which are held as Council reserves. The management plans could detail preservation works, landscape treatments, signage and maintenance.
- **Land Information Memoranda (LIM)** - will be used to alert property owners and developers that a significant archaeological, historic or cultural site is present on their land.
- **On-going Heritage Assessments** - could be carried out to assist in increasing the knowledge base about sites, their significance and their extent and location.
- **Known Archaeological, Historic and Cultural Sites Inventory** – could be developed in conjunction with a range of heritage agencies and held by the Council to provide a source of information and a guide to the city's cultural heritage values.
- **Public Acquisition of Sites by Council and Other Agencies** - will be considered as a means of protecting archaeological, historic or cultural sites.
- **Council Guidelines and other Educational Material** - could be developed including design guidelines, historical information and planting advice to provide information to property owners, developers and to the wider community.
- **Financial Incentives** – may be developed subject to funding being available and may include grants, free advice and archaeological and cultural assessments, and waiving of resource consent fees.
- **Archaeological Consent under the Historic Places Act 1993** - will be required from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust before any damage or modification is made to any archaeological site.

Anticipated Environmental Results

The following environmental results are anticipated:

- Archaeological sites will be identified prior to development taking place.
- The protection of identified sites of significance to tangata whenua.
- Participation of tangata whenua in processes set up to protect significant sites.
- Increased awareness and recognition of sites which contribute to the city's heritage values.

