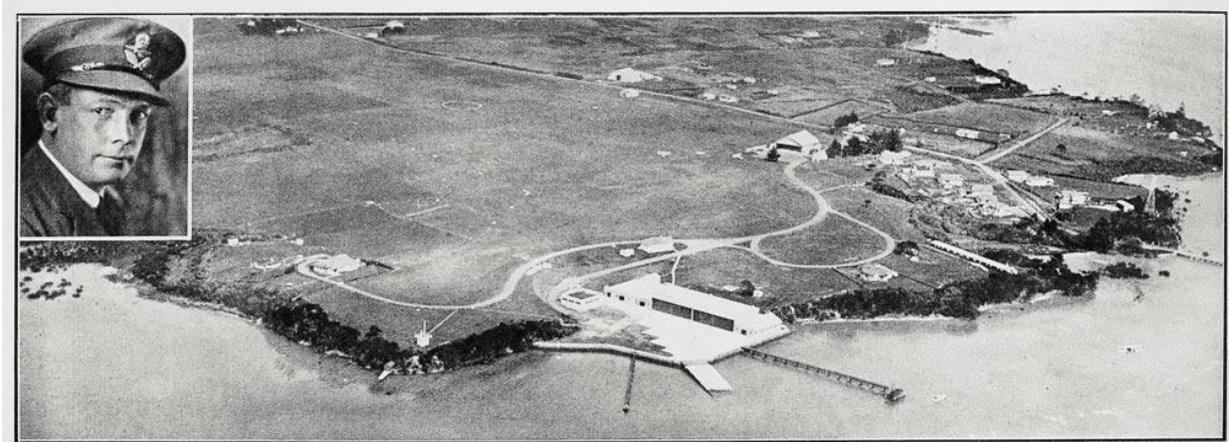


## Archaeological Survey and Assessment of Effects: 39 Launch Rd Hobsonville



HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE AT AUCKLAND: HOBSONVILLE AIR BASE VIEWED FROM ALOFT.  
An aerial photograph, showing the hangars, landing ground and staff residences. The skid-way used by seaplanes and flying-boats appears in the centre foreground. A three-day course of instruction for pilots of No. 1 Squadron was held at the base last week. Inset is a portrait of Squadron-Leader L. M. Isitt, officer commanding the base. —Torngvist.

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**Date: December 2021**

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## *1. Executive Summary*

The study area has been disturbed by building works since the 1920s when a building related to the Hobsonville air force station was constructed on the study area at 39 Launch Rd.

Since then a water reservoir, carpark, large water pipe works were undertaken there and part of the area is still today used for stock piling after the topsoil was stripped.

It is unlikely that any archaeological features would have survived these various works. The only area that still has archaeological potential is the coastal area between the study area and the 1940s coastal road. This is the coastal zone where an archaeological site is recorded and has recently been relocated.

No structures are shown on any of the historic maps.

It is therefore unlikely that any archaeological features are still present in the ground. The Accidental Discovery Protocol as described in the Auckland Unitary Plan (operative in parts) will be sufficient to mitigate the very small remaining risk.

This survey and report do not necessarily include the location of wāhi tapu and/or sites of cultural or spiritual significance to the local Māori community who may need to be consulted for any information or concerns they may have regarding the proposed works.

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Reference: ASL21\_21

Author(s): Dr Hans-Dieter Bader

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Revision1

Revision2

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Revision4

Cover photo: Hobsonville air force station early 1930s  
(AWNS\_19311021\_p048\_i003\_vx)

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## 2. *Introduction*

### 2.1. **Purpose and Scope**

Kāinga Ora - Homes and Communities are planning to extend the Hobsonville development into the Section '13'. Archaeology Solutions Ltd (ASL) have been commissioned to undertake an archaeological assessment for this project. The assessment was undertaken to identify the possibility of recorded and/or unrecorded archaeological remains in the vicinity of the proposed works of the project and to assess any impact the proposed works could have on any heritage values of the location.

This report outlines the results of the investigations.

This report has been prepared to identify any requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA).

This survey and report do not necessarily include the location of *wāhi tapu* and/or sites of cultural or spiritual significance to the local Māori community who may need to be consulted for any information or concerns they may have regarding the proposed works.

## 2.2. Project Description

Mixed residential housing is planned for the study area.

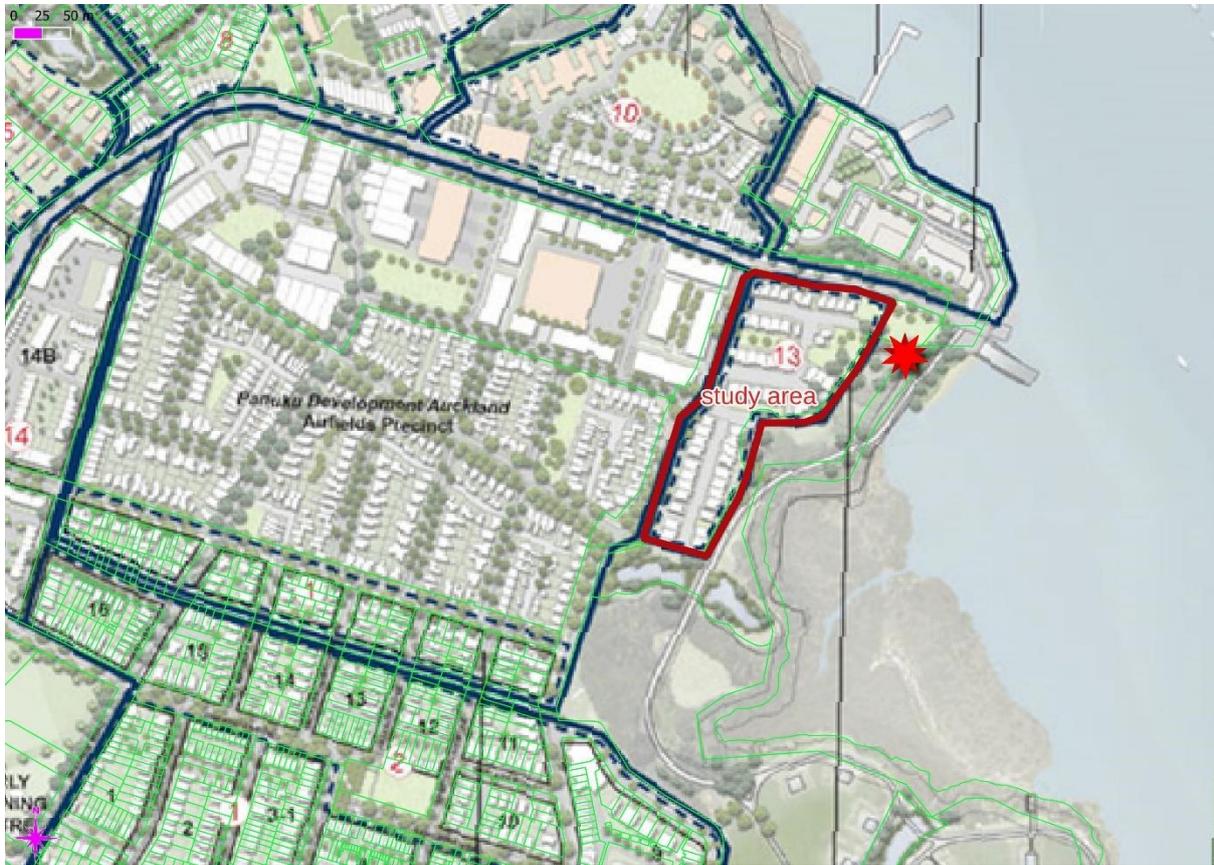


Figure 1: Study area in relation to the current masterplan for Hobsonville. Study area is numbered '13'. Red star indicates location of recorded archaeological site.

## 2.3. Legal description of land affected

The legal description of the study area is: part of LOT 3 DP 463057

## 2.4. Map of Location



Figure 2: Map of the study area (bordered in red), showing recent earthworks. The red star indicates the location of an archaeological shell midden site.

### 3. Statutory Requirements

There are two main pieces of legislation in New Zealand that control work affecting archaeological sites. These are the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* (HNZPTA) and the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA)

This assessment considers historic heritage sites as defined in the RMA and archaeological sites as defined in the HNZPTA as outlined below. Scheduled sites in the Auckland Unitary Plan, operative in parts, (AUP) are considered too.

#### 3.1. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZ) administers the HNZPTA. The HNZPTA contains a consent (authority) process for any work affecting archaeological sites, where an archaeological site is defined as:

- “6(a) any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure), that –*
- (i) was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 or is the site of the wreck of any vessel where the wreck occurred before 1900; and*
  - (ii) provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand; and*
- 6(b) includes a site for which a declaration is made under section 43(1)”*

Any person, who intends carrying out work that may damage, modify or destroy an archaeological site, or to investigate a site using invasive archaeological techniques, must first obtain an authority from HNZ. The process applies to sites on land of all tenure including public, private and designated land. The HNZPTA contains penalties for unauthorized site damage or destruction

The archaeological authority process applies to all sites that fit the HPA definition, regardless of whether:

- The site is recorded in the NZ Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme or registered by HNZ,
- The site only becomes known about as a result of ground disturbance, and/ or
- The activity is permitted under a district or regional plan, or a resource or building consent has been granted

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga also maintains The New Zealand Heritage List Rārangi Kōrero of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wāhi Tupuna/Tipuna, Wāhi Tapu and Wāhi Tapu Areas. The List Rārangi Kōrero includes some significant archaeological sites.

The purpose of The List Rārangi Kōrero is to inform members of the public about such places and to assist with their protection under the Resource Management Act (1991).

### **3.2. Resource Management Act 1991**

The RMA requires City, District and Regional Councils to manage the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way that provides for the wellbeing of today's communities while safeguarding the options of future generations. The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development is identified as a matter of national importance (section 6f).

Historic heritage is defined as those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, derived from archaeological, architectural, cultural, historic, scientific, or technological qualities.

Historic heritage includes:

- historic sites, structures, places, and areas
- archaeological sites;
- sites of significance to Maori, including wāhi tapu;
- surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources (RMA section 2).

These categories are not mutually exclusive and some archaeological sites may include above ground structures or may also be places that are of significance to Maori.

Where resource consent is required for any activity the assessment of effects is required to address cultural and historic heritage matters (RMA 4th Schedule and the district plan assessment criteria).

In Auckland the Auckland Unitary Plan, Operative in part, has specific provisions for historic heritage and places of significance to mana whenua. Note that scheduled historic heritage places have a stronger protection than archaeological sites that are not scheduled in the Plan.

## **4. Methodology**

### **4.1. Investigation Methodology**

This assessment was carried out using both desktop research and a site visit that included a soil profile test using a slotted hand auger and probing for topsoil depth and possible areas of shell midden.

### **4.2. Desktop Research Methodology**

Sources for desktop research include:

- NZ Archaeological Association (NZAA) online site recording database Archsite and associated site records
- LINZ database of historic maps and survey plans via Quickmaps
- Heritage New Zealand Heritage List/ Rārangī Kōrero of historic places, historic areas and wāhi tapu areas
- Heritage New Zealand online reports database
- Auckland Council Geomaps GIS viewer
- Auckland Council Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI)
- Auckland Council Archives (online resources)
- Archives New Zealand (online resources)
- Local histories – published and unpublished
- Archaeological reports
- Aerial photographs
- National Library cartographic collection
- Alexander Turnbull Tiaki online collection
- Auckland Museum pictorial collections



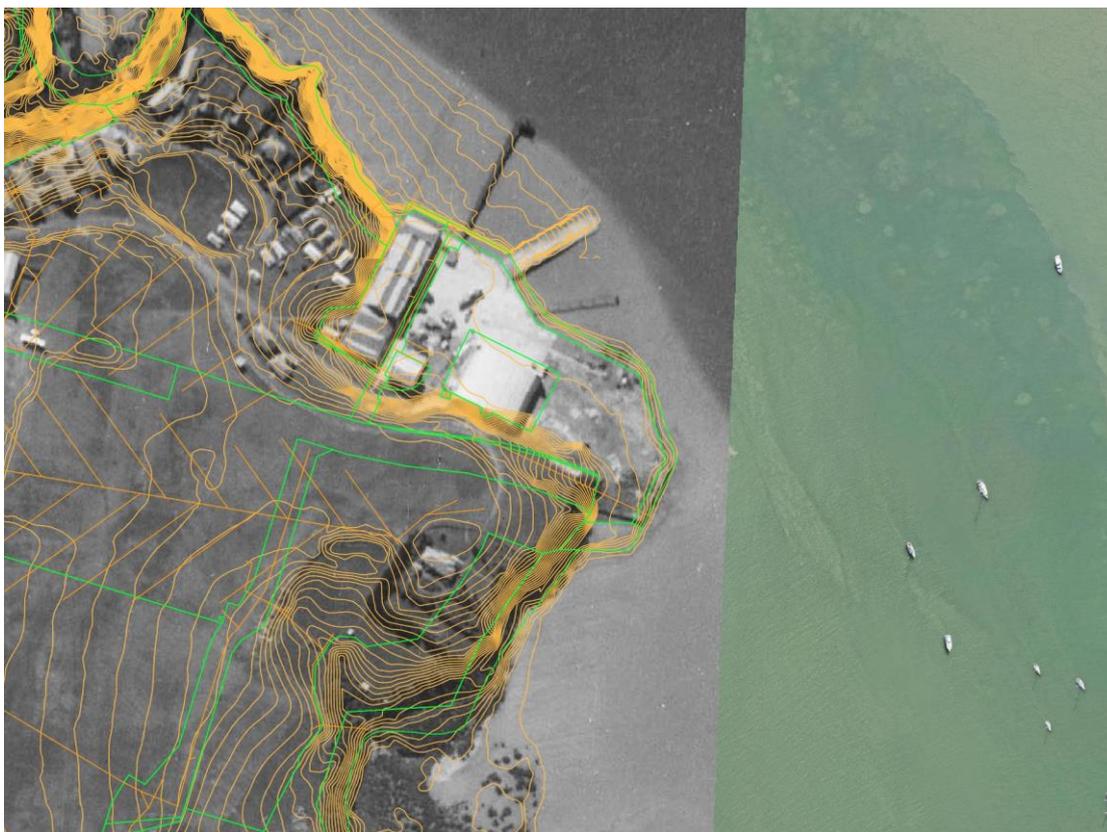
Despite the paucity of the soil for horticulture, some gardening can be expected. A large pā is recorded just across the harbour, roughly where the motorway bridges cross today.

## 6.2. Post Contact accounts

The 'musket wars' left most of this area lightly occupied by Maori and it was sold to the Crown in the 1850s with 'pre-emptive waiver claims' to be resolved.

The clay industry took hold of the Hobsonville area especially in Limeburner's Bay though clay was quarried at other sites of the peninsula too (Eaves 1990).

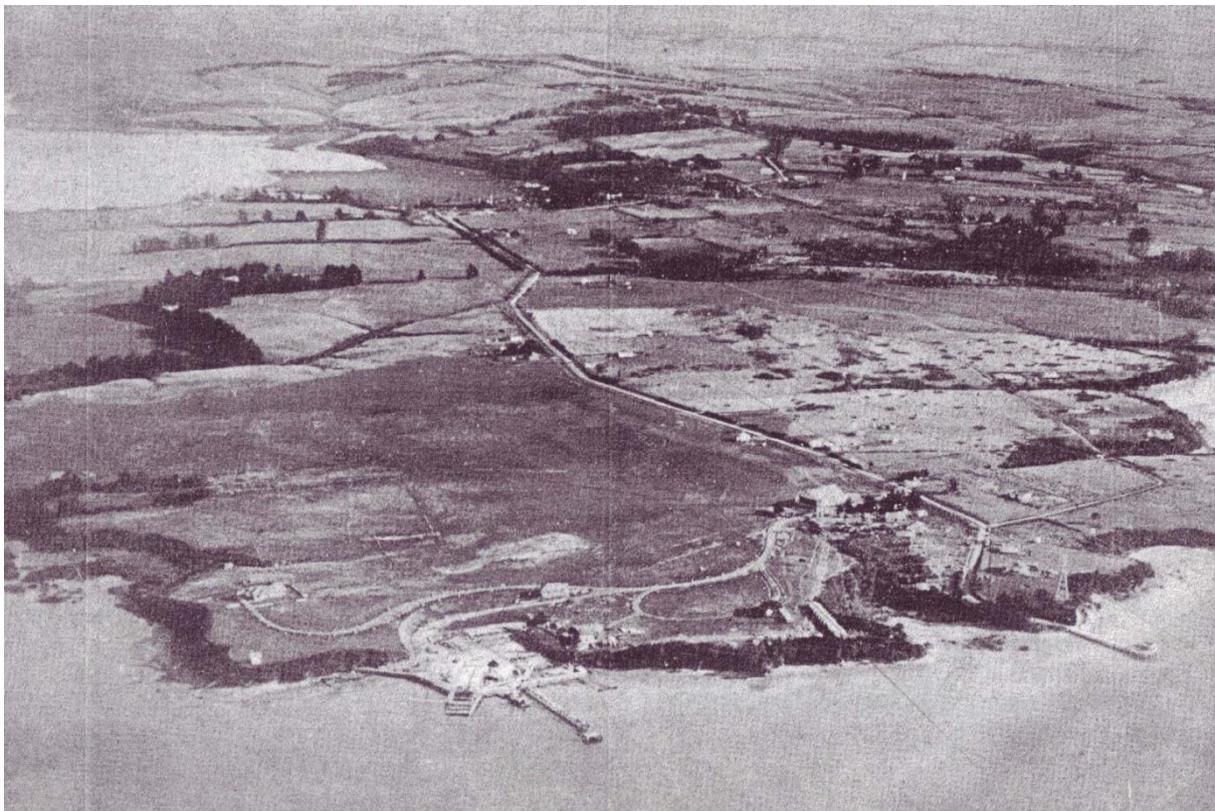
The subsequent history of the Hobsonville Air base has been detailed elsewhere (Dawson 2007). Important for this report is the development of the sea plane station and Boundary Road.



**Figure 4: Aerial survey 1940. Boundary road not yet constructed.**



**Figure 5: Aerial survey 1950. Launch Road and Boundary road in place.**



**Figure 6: First stage of seaplane base in 1929 under construction.**

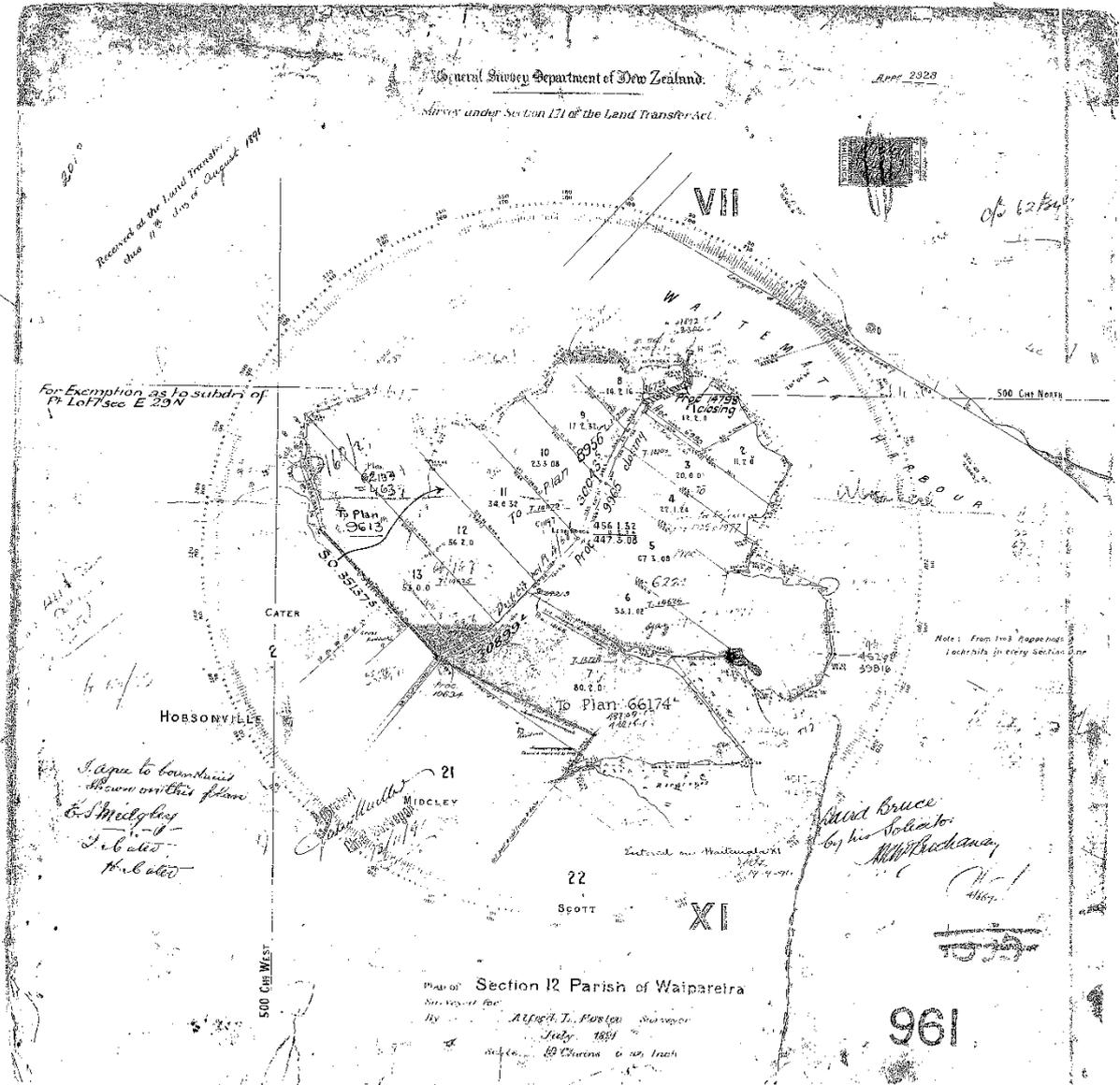


Figure 7: DP 961 dated 1891.

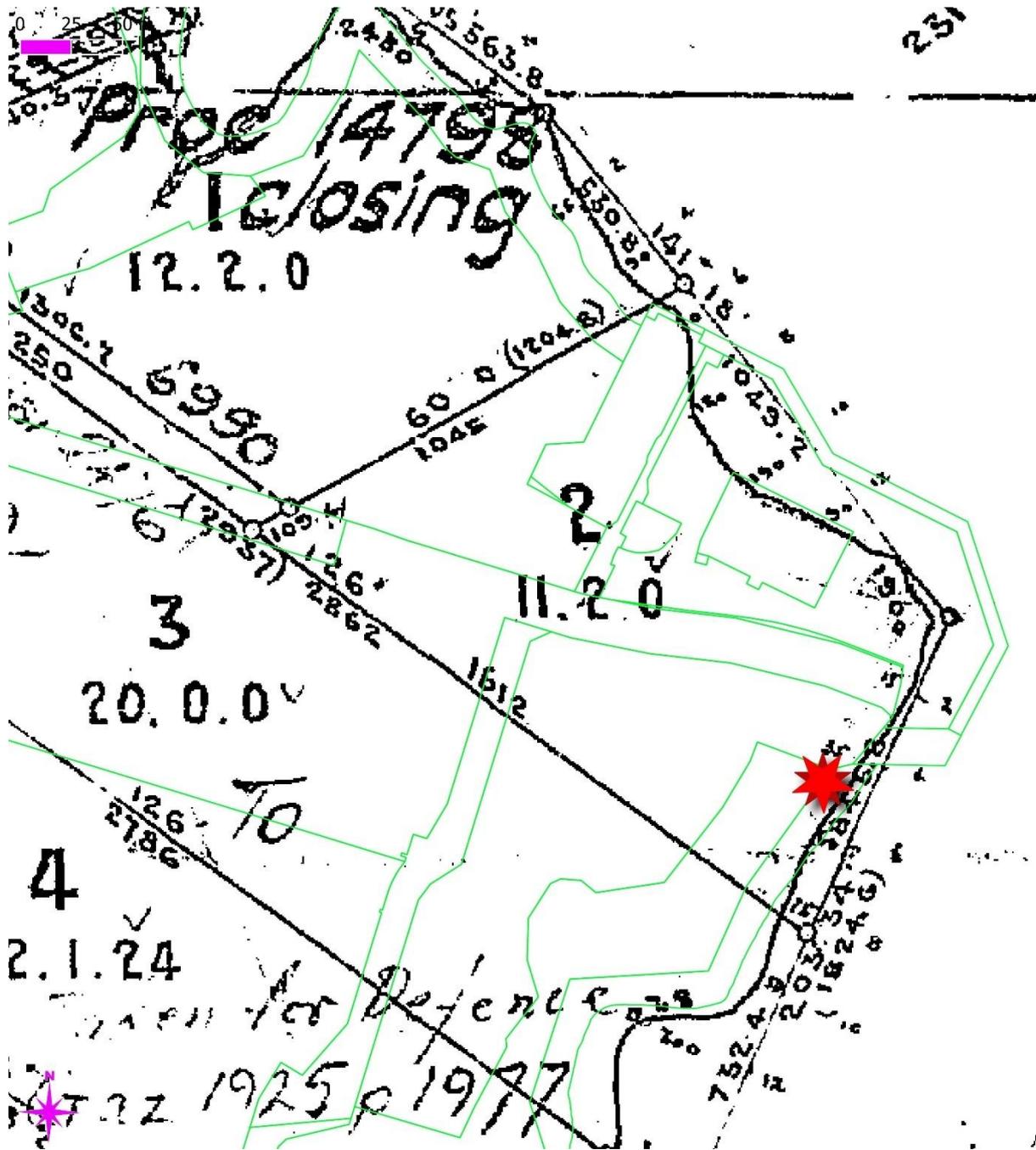


Figure 8: Detail of SO 961 showing no structures within the study area, taken for Defence Purposes in 1925.

## 7. *Previous Archaeological Work in the Project Area*

A number of wide range surveys have been undertaken in the Hobsonville area (the last one in 2019: (Bader and Adamson 2019)), though we don't know if the study area were incorporated in any earlier survey.

One authority was issued for vegetation removal and replanting and the construction of a coastal walkway around 'Sunderland/Hudson Precinct Hobsonville Point'. It included the site R11/492 (Shakles et.al. 2019).

Figure 4.1 of the report (Shakles et.al. 2019) shows the quite dense distribution of coastal shell midden along this part of Upper Waitemata Harbour. This report has a comprehensive list of unpublished heritage assessments for the Hobsonville and wider West Auckland areas.

**Table 1 Previous archaeological investigations in the surrounding area.**

NZAA Site #	Location	HNZ Authority	Description	Reference
R11/492, 493, 494, 2140 and unrecorded sites	Sunderland/Hudson Precinct Hobsonville Poin	2013/648		CHI bibliography

## 8. *Archaeological Context*

No historic buildings or heritage trees are recorded in the Cultural Heritage Inventory of the Auckland Council within the development.

No archaeological sites were previously recorded within the development.

Several coastal midden are recorded along Hobsonville peninsula, but only one, R11/492, is close to the proposed development.

It was recorded in 1977 and could not be relocated during two surveys in 2001 and 2009. It has been relocated during the fieldwork for the report on the Hobsonville Recreation Centre by the authors.

Multiple heritage buildings are recorded in the Cultural Heritage Inventory at Catalina Bay and a heritage precinct is to the west of the development. All service installations/replacements and replacement base and tarseal of some of the roads have no impact onto these heritage values.

**Table 2 Details of previously recorded heritage and archaeological sites in the vicinity.**

NZAA Site #	CHI #	Site Type/Name	Potential effects	Description
R11/492	5952	Shell midden	none	Shell midden recorded in 1977.
-	multiple	Buildings and installations of the sea plane station	none	The Catalina Bay has multiple heritage buildings and a heritage precinct is close by to the west of the bay.



**Figure 9: ArchSite archaeological sites in the vicinity.**

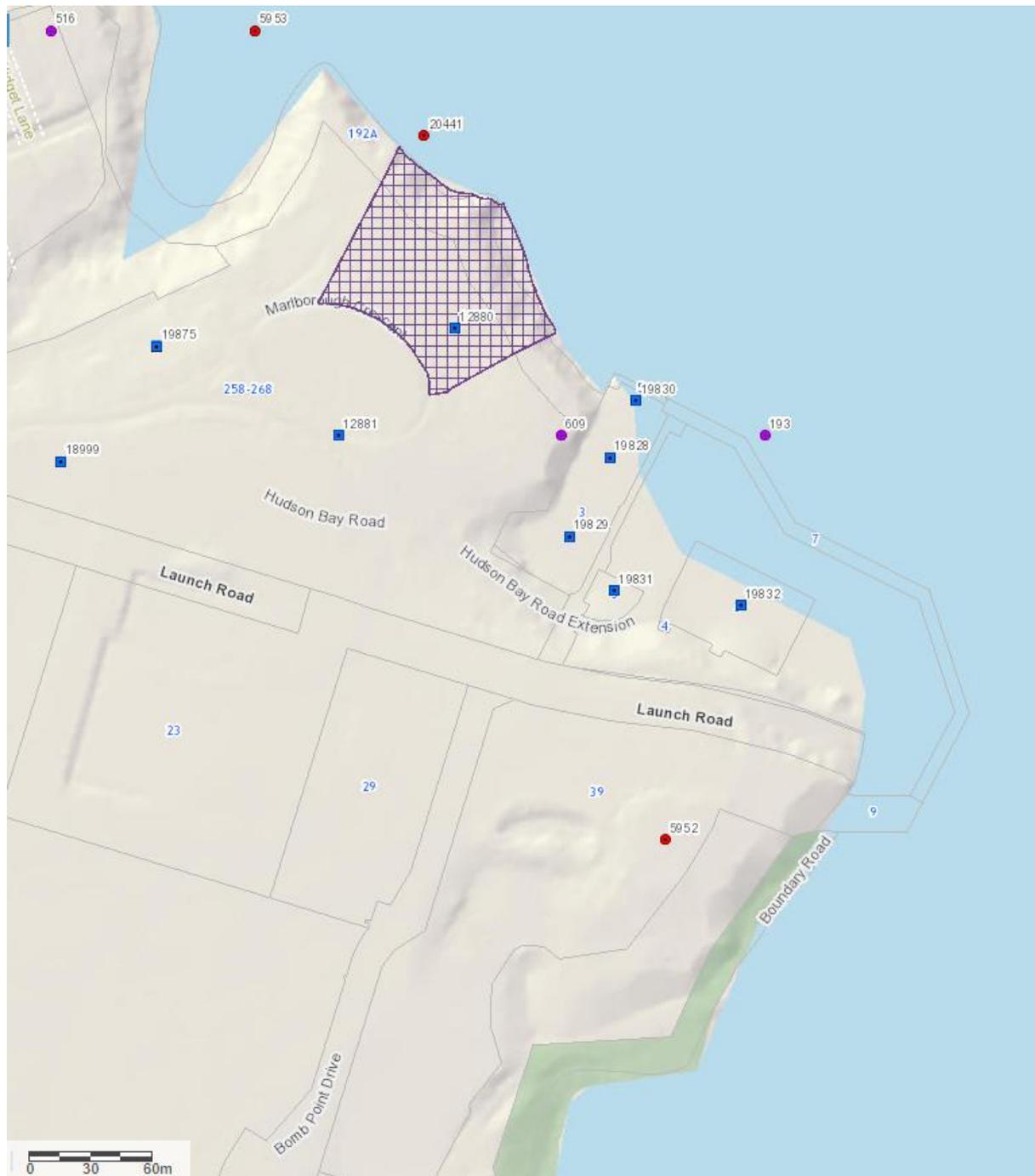


Figure 10: CHI heritage sites in the vicinity, including heritage precinct.

## 9. Results of Fieldwork and Research

No archaeological features were observed during the field survey. The probing showed mostly disturbed shallow topsoil. Only one soil profile was lifted using the auger. It is close to the edge of the coastal bench and probably just outside the property of the study area. It showed a layer of burnt material. This indicates that the only area with archaeological potential is just outside the study area, between the study area and the coastal boundary road.



Soil profile, showing a burnt layer.



Location of auger test, probably outside the study area in the coastal zone.



**Figure 11: Topsoil stripped area. Carpark behind the trees.**



**Figure 12: Artificial drainage.**



**Figure 13: Stock piles.**

#### Discussion

The study area has been topsoil stripped, is artificially drained and one part is used as a car park and another part is used for stockpiles. It seems unlikely that any archaeological features are still present.

Any archaeological potential will be most likely between the study area and Boundary Road along the coastal zone.

## ***10. Archaeological and Other Values***

### **10.1. Assessment Criteria**

*“Archaeological values relate to the potential of a place to provide evidence of the history of New Zealand. This potential is framed within the existing body of archaeological knowledge, and current research questions and hypotheses about New Zealand’s past. An understanding of the overall archaeological resource is therefore required”* (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga 2019:9).

The assessment criteria are split into two sections: Main Archaeological values and Additional values:

The first archaeological values look at an *intra (within the) site context*.

- **Condition:**  
How complete is the site? Are parts of it already damaged or destroyed?  
Condition varies from undisturbed to destroyed and every variation in between. It is also possible that the condition of various parts of the site varies.
- **Rarity/Uniqueness:**  
Rarity can be described in a local, regional and national context. Rarity can be rare as a site, or rarely examined or today a rare occurrence in the records.
- **Information Potential:**  
How diverse are the features to be expected during an archaeological excavation on the site?  
How complete is the set of features for the type of site?  
Can the site inform about a specific period or specific function?

The second set of archaeological values are *inter site (between sites) context* criteria:

- **Archaeological landscape / contextual value:**  
What is the context of the site within the surrounding archaeological sites?  
The question here is the part the site plays within the surrounding known archaeological sites. A site might sit amongst similar surrounding sites without any specific features. Or a site might occupy a central position within the surrounding sites. Though a site can be part of a complete or near complete landscape, whereby the value of each individual site is governed by the value of the completeness of the archaeological landscape.
- **Amenity value:**  
What is the context of the site within the physical landscape?  
This question is linked to the one above, but focuses onto the position of the site in the landscape. Is it a dominant site with many features still visible or is the position in the landscape ephemeral with little or no features visible? This question is also concerned with the amenity value of a site today and its potential for onsite education.
- **Cultural Association:**  
What is the context of the site within known historic events or to people?  
This is the question of known cultural association either by tangata whenua or other descendant groups. This question is also concerned with possible commemorative values of the site.

Other values could include (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga 2019:9):

- 1 Architectural
- 2 Historic
- 3 Scientific
- 4 Technological
- 5 Cultural

The last value, cultural, acknowledges if there is an impact onto Māori cultural values. This assessment will not evaluate these, but rather state their relevance in relation to the other values. The HNZPT Act requires an assessment of Maori values as part of archaeological authority applications. Generally, HNZPT prefers that such an assessment be provided by tangata whenua (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga 2019:10).

In addition, the Auckland Unitary Plan (Part 1, Chapter B: 5.2.2) outlines a place as having historic heritage value if it has one or more of the following values:

Identify and evaluate a place with historic heritage value considering the following factors:

- (a) historical: the place reflects important or representative aspects of national, regional or local history, or is associated with an important event, person, group of people, or with an idea or early period of settlement within New Zealand, the region or locality;
- (b) social: the place has a strong or special association with, or is held in high esteem by, a particular community or cultural group for its symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value;
- (c) Mana Whenua: the place has a strong or special association with, or is held in high esteem by, Mana Whenua for its symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value;
- (d) knowledge: the place has potential to provide knowledge through archaeological or other scientific or scholarly study, or to contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of New Zealand, the region, or locality;
- (e) technology: the place demonstrates technical accomplishment, innovation or achievement in its structure, construction, components or use of materials;
- (f) physical attributes: the place is a notable or representative example of:
  - (i) a type, design or style;
  - (ii) a method of construction, craftsmanship or use of materials; or
  - (iii) the work of a notable architect, designer, engineer or builder;
- (g) aesthetic: the place is notable or distinctive for its aesthetic, visual, or landmark qualities;
- (h) context: the place contributes to or is associated with a wider historical or cultural context, streetscape, townscape, landscape or setting.

## **10.2. Archaeological Values Assessment**

As there are no archaeological features observed, no values can be assessed.

## ***11. Assessment of Effects***

### **11.1. Effects**

There are no effects to be considered.

### **11.2. Site Management & Mitigation**

Possible methods to protect sites, and avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects will be discussed.

The following mitigation process for the very small risk of uncovering unrecorded archaeological features is proposed for all stages:

- **Archaeological induction** of all contractors.
- Follow the process of the **Accidental Discovery Protocol** of the AUP if necessary.

## ***12. Conclusions & Recommendations***

It is recommended to discuss with mana whenua tikanga for the works, cultural finds (taonga tuturu) and koiwi. This is best done via an agreed Cultural Management Plan that details the above but also cultural inductions, cultural monitoring, etc. and that is available to the earth working and construction crews on site.

It is recommended that all subcontractors undertaking earthworks are inducted and shown examples for archaeological sub surface features.

It is recommended to follow the process of the ADP of the AUP in case of any discovery.

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