



### Sites and areas of significance to Māori



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### What do we know?

Archaeological sites, and sites of significance to Māori have often not been well protected. This has resulted in them being destroyed or damaged by economic development, land use practices, erosion, and natural progression.

Many places remain as just a marker of association of a place that once formed a pattern of migration and settlement of pre-indigenous Māori. This is partly due to a lack of publicly available information about these sites, where what is not known cannot be protected. There is potential in how these resources are identified and managed.





### Known issues

Recognising and providing for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga, is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act. It is now considered appropriate to give recognition to the particular significance and meaning that taonga – including areas, places, landscapes and resources – can have to tangata whenua. The relationship of tangata whenua with their ancestral rohe should be maintained or enhanced through the protection, maintenance or enhancement of Māori cultural landscapes.

As referenced in the Historic and Cultural Values, Natural Character, Natural Features and Landscapes fact sheet, there are known issues around intellectual property rights, public use of information and identification of sites of cultural value for iwi/Māori, management of information, tikanga and kawa.

### How we are doing?

Chapter One of the RRMP includes a section on “the Māori Dimension”, while the RPS (objectives 34 – 37) works to recognise matters of significance to iwi/hapū, including tikanga Māori, consultation, protection of wāhi tapu (sacred places) and tauranga waka (landings for waka), protection of mahinga kai (food cultivation areas), mahinga mātaītai (sea-food gathering places), taonga raranga (plants used for weaving) and taonga rongoā (medicinal plants, herbs and resources). The Regional Coastal Environment Plan identifies 21 Significant Conservation Areas.

There is an opportunity to develop specific policy in the Kotahi Plan regarding how sites and areas of significance to Māori in Te Matau-a-Māui could be identified and protected, where appropriate and where tangata whenua wish to do so.

When reviewing other regions plans in relation to this topic it was found that the general approach taken was to include policies and objectives in the Regional Policy Statement requiring relevant city and district councils to identify where appropriate, sites and areas of significance to Māori and provide for their protection through rules in their own respective district plans. Should a similar approach be chosen for the Kotahi Plan it would require coordination with the city and district councils in Hawke’s Bay.

### Where to from here?

The city and district councils will continue to administer their District Plans and update the sections that address these sites, features and values through the plan change or full district plan review process.

The Regional Council will engage with tangata whenua and communities in each catchment. Any critical knowledge gaps will be identified and further work to identify and better manage these sites, features and values will be prioritised and programmed. The immediate priority will be to meet the requirements of freshwater legislation.

It is likely that these matters will be woven through the Kotahi plan.

