

APPENDIX F Archaeological Memorandum

Transport Rebuild East Coast



Historic Heritage Management Advice

To: Nick Beattie
From: Andy Brown
Cc: Rebecca Benham
Date: 25/09/2025
Project Area: BR217 River Berm Works
Fault ID: BR217

Purpose

This assessment is focused on the physical remains of human activity and historic heritage values; assessment of Māori cultural values should be sought from iwi/hapu via the TREC Pou Arahi. This advice should be read in conjunction with the works overview document.

Project Description

During Cyclone Gabrielle significant damage occurred to Kiwirail Bridge 217 on the PNGL, south of Napier. Emergency works were carried out to re-instate a bridge at this location with the intention that a more permanent solution would be established later. It is proposed to carry out works that will extend the life of the temporary bridge. This works include abrasive blasting of the bridge, span replacement and pier removal and River berm works. The latter will involve the removal of accumulated silt and gravel laydown pads established in aid of the emergency works. It will also remove remaining slash and other obstructions with the intention of increasing resilience for future flooding. A range of options are being considered for the management of spoil, including stockpiling in the Crown Land east of State Highway 51; the stockpile will be placed on the existing ground surface and will not result in disturbance. (Figure 1). Access to the work areas will be via existing tracks, the works area to the north of the backwater and east of SH51 will be accessed via an informal track at the rear of the beach. This track may also be utilised to access the stockpile area; two other options are being considered to the north (Figure 1).

Works area viewed

Site Visit

Photographs

Documented historic heritage places within 50m of the works area

Yes No HNZ List – Rārangī kōrero

- Yes No Listed/scheduled places or areas
Yes No Memorials
Yes No Recorded archaeological sites

Evidence of potential historic heritage places within 50m of the works area

- Yes No Historical aerial photographs
Yes No Historical survey plans/maps
Yes No LiDAR
Yes No Modern aerial photographs
Yes No Other

Discussion of findings

No recorded historic heritage places or memorials are recorded within 50m of silt/slash removal works. However, the eastern access track and potential stockpile area are located within 50m of V21/258 (Figure 1, 2), a buried pill box associated with WWII coastal defence. Due to its post-1900 date the structure is not protected by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014) but has considerable heritage value, particularly in the context of the wider network of coastal defence sites. Therefore, every effort should be made to ensure the site is not adversely affected by works.

Two archaeological sites are recorded, both north and south of the project area, which relate to William Colenso's Waitangi Mission Station. This is also memorialised approximately 300m south of the proposed works. The Mission's precise location is unknown, but it is highly unlikely to be in the river margins where ground disturbance is planned.

A review of historical aerial photographs, general historical photographs and maps is clear that zones of the project area where ground disturbance is proposed are in a dynamic riverine environment, which has been greatly modified by natural process and construction of bridges and flood defences. It is also notable that since this arm of the river has developed into a backwater there has been considerable silting. It is this recent silt and additional material deposited during cyclone Gabrielle that will be removed.

The proposed eastern access route will make use of informal beach tracks, which are approximately 10m removed from the recorded pillbox site (Figure 1 and 4). The possible laydown area is proposed to the north and west of the cycle/walkway running just to the west of the pillbox. This ensures a minimum 10m offset from the site.

Assessment of effects

The works will take place in a dynamic riverine environment where natural processes are likely to have removed any unrecorded archaeological deposits / features (if ever present). The area has also been heavily modified by bridge construction, including the recent emergency works. It is highly unlikely that this work will result in effects to historic heritage values.

Desk-based review and field survey identified a WWII pillbox as the only historic heritage feature in the vicinity of the access tracks and potential stockpile area. The stockpile area and associated access tracks are removed from features associated with the pillbox and no ground disturbance is planned in these areas. As such, it is highly unlikely that this work will result in effects to historic heritage values.

Although works are not planned in the extent of the pillbox (V21/258), machine movements and activity in the area has the potential to affect the site if not properly managed.

Recommendations

All archaeological sites whether recorded or not are subject to the provisions of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. As such, the TREC Project Archaeological Site Discovery Protocol should be in place during works on sites and any finds should be reported to the TREC archaeologist, who will inform Heritage New Zealand.

The post-1900 pillbox (V21/258) is not subject to the provisions of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act¹ and planned works will not affect the site. However, machine movements and activity in the area have the potential to affect the site if not properly managed. Therefore, it is recommended that fencing systems are used to exclude vehicles from the pillbox area. It is proposed that a small length of fence be placed south of the pillbox on the beach. It is also proposed that a length of fence be placed along the outside of the cycle path (including small lengths to cut off the headland area) and on the inside of the path. This arrangement would result in a clear barrier and the establishment of a minimum 10m buffer from the pillbox.

It is recommended that the recorded location of the pillbox is included in pre-work briefings and toolboxes to ensure operators are aware of the site and maintain a safe working distance during machine movements.



Figure 1 – Location of proposed access (black dotted lines) near V21/258 (LINZ, ArchSite).

¹ Note that the site does have significant historical values.



Figure 2 – The top of the pillbox.



Figure 3 – West-facing image looking inland toward the pillbox (buried). The seat on the top of the pillbox is visible at the top of the mound.



Figure 4 – The proposed access track (black line) and the location of the pillbox (red arrow).

What is archaeology?

An **archaeological site** is any place associated with pre-1900 human activity, where there is material evidence relating to the history of New Zealand, including pre-1900 buildings and other structures.

What is heritage?

Heritage items are “those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand’s history and cultures”.

Why does it matter?

Archaeological sites are important because they provide a unique window to the past. They are an important aspect of our social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing. Archaeological sites provide information vital to understanding our national identity. Many archaeological sites also have significance cultural values for Māori.

Damage or loss of archaeological sites needs to be avoided if possible. We are legally obliged to investigate and record all archaeological sites that our work may affect, under the terms of an archaeological authority issued by Heritage NZ under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. Breaches of the Act can lead to fines of up to \$300,000.



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
 POUHERE TAONGA

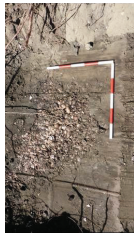
Māori Archaeology

The East Coast region has a long and rich history of Māori settlement. Many significant Māori archaeological sites are present within the project area, and by

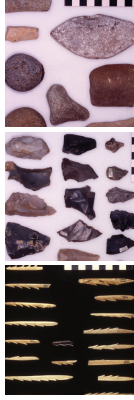
studying these objects and features we can learn about what life was like in this area hundreds of years ago. You can help us to do this!

What did you find?

Concentrated areas or layers of shell



Bones or stone tools



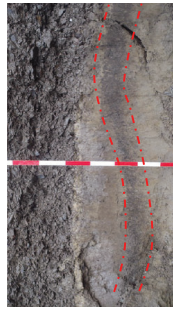
Middens (rubbish heaps), characterized by large amounts of shell, bone, and charcoal.

Carved bone fish hooks and spear points, flaked stone tools used for hunting and carving, and ground stone tools, used to grind, shape, and polish adze heads

Charcoal or charcoal-stained soil

What is a cultural layer?

Cultural layers are vital archaeological evidence of past human lives and activities. The pictures below show what cultural layers can look like. Indicated in red, these layers are made up of charcoal stained soil, intermixed or modified soils, shells, and occasionally fragments of bone.



Thin band of charcoal stained sand (difficult to spot), a Māori oven (basically a centuries old hangi!), and soil colour changes which may indicate you are digging into a cultural layer.

European Archaeology

Settlers from Europe began to arrive in the East Coast region in the 1830s and left behind evidence of their lives. It is possible that project works could expose

objects and structures that people made and used almost 200 years ago. This could also include features relating to the early transport network.

What did you find?

Bottles or pottery (even broken ones!)



Leather or cloth (shoes & clothes)



A clay pipe in the shape of a skull, a cache of 19th century black beer bottles, a fragment of ceramic bowl, and a ceramic ginger beer bottle.

A handmade leather shoe, an iron horseshoe, and a 19th century rubbish pit.

Structures (i.e brick, metal, timber)



A 19th century drain made out of bricks (brick-barrel) and a timber box drain, used to keep the streets clear of water in the 19th century.

Look out for construction materials like bricks, blocks or timber, which may indicate a structure used to stand on the site.

Evidence of old buildings

Archaeological Site Discovery Protocol

In the event of any discovery of a possible archaeological site:

- 1 Cease all works immediately within a 20m radius.
- 2 Immediately advise your site supervisor of the find.
- 3 The site supervisor will immediately contact the Environmental Advisor, who will contact the archaeologist.
- 4 Works are not to recommence without archaeologist approval.

Project Archaeologist:

Environmental Advisor: