

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE HALL PROPERTY, 854 CLEVEDON-KAWAKAWA ROAD, CLEVEDON



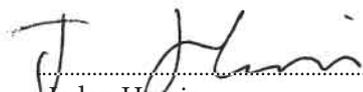
REPORT TO  
MARK AND RACHAEL HALL  
AND  
NEW ZEALAND HISTORIC PLACES TRUST

JADEN HARRIS

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE HALL PROPERTY, 854 CLEVEDON– KAWAKAWA ROAD, CLEVEDON

JADEN HARRIS

In January 2002 Amanda Young undertook an archaeological investigation of the Hall property at 854 Clevedon–Kawakawa Road, Clevedon, Lot 2 DP 164517 under authority 2002/13 issued by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust under section 14 of the Historic Places Act 1993, prior to the construction of a dwelling on the property. The property is situated on a flat ridgetop with steep slopes down to the Wairoa River on the west and less steep slopes leading down to Kauri Bay on the east. Immediately south of the property is pa S11/108 (Pakia), and middens and other occupation evidence extending across the Hall property are recorded as part of this site and are presumed to relate to it though they lie outside the defended area. The recently completed report gives the historical and archaeological background of the Clevedon–Wairoa area, summarises an earlier 1992 investigation and reports the 2002 investigation in full (Young 1992, 2010).

The Hall's did not complete their house as designed in 2002 and the investigation only extended as far as they intended to build at that time. In 2011–2012 they planned to complete house construction, extending the current building 16.5 m toward the south west as well as construct a standalone one-room sleepout on the steeper slope to the south. An archaeological assessment of the extension and sleepout was carried out by Matthew Campbell on 10 August 2010. The present archaeological investigation was carried out under authority 2011/359 issued by



1. Location of the Hall property and sites recorded in the general vicinity.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust under Section 14 of the Historic Places Act 1993.

The site is located on a ridge that runs north east–south west for about 2 km with the Wairoa River mouth to the west and drained swamps, now farmland, to the south and east. At the south end of the ridge is an extensive undefended settlement site, S11/111 (Campbell 2011), then, running north, three pa: S11/109, S11/108 (Pakia pa) and S11/107 on Poutu Point (Figure 1). This density of archaeological evidence indicates intensive occupation on the ridge and its location next to extensive swamps and wetlands where taro could be grown and with resources of flax, birds and fish; marine resources; and fertile garden soils would have made this a prime spot for pre-European Maori. Soils on the ridge are clays but topsoil formation appears to be good.

A 1911 plan (ML 7868, *Sketch Plan of Mataitai No 1A Blk Wairoa S.D.*) describes this ridge as covered in “fern tea-tree and rough feed” indicating that it had remained undisturbed for some time (Figure 2). This is the plan that names S11/108 as Pakia. ML 8251, *Subdn of Mataitai No 1A Manukau County Bks IV. V. VIII & IX. Wairoa S.D.*, dated 1912, describes it as “Grass with patches of Manuka”, indicating that it had been improved in that year.

ML 7868 was “Produced before the N.L. [Native Land] Court at Auckland upon partition 20th February 1911.” There was no information given by the claimants in

2. ML 7868, Sketch Plan of Mataitai No 1A Blk Wairoa S.D., dated 1911 with the modern cadastre and recorded sites overlain.



this particular case (Auckland MB 10: 152–158, 161–165, 167) but the earliest case for this block, heard on 14 December 1866, is more informative (Hauraki MB 1: 41–57). The evidence of Hori Te Whetuhi shows that the occupation has not been continuous, but was interrupted by the Ngapuhi invasion in 1825, when the peoples of Tamaki fled and did not return for around 10 years. This date for abandonment fits with the vegetation described along the ridge some 85 years later. The current (1866) occupants were different from those occupying prior to 1825, though they were clearly related. However, the case does not mention Pakia or any other pa, and the change and break in occupation may well have resulted in any knowledge of Pakia and other occupation along the ridgeline being lost.

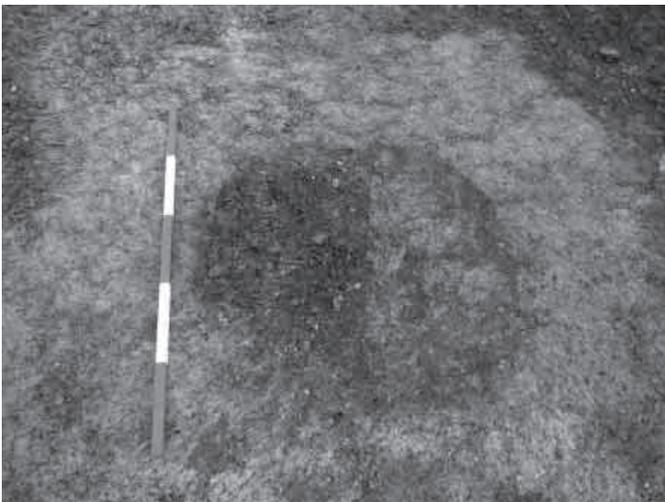
### Results

On 18 April 2011 topsoil stripping for the house extension and access was monitored by archaeologist Jaden Harris, accompanied by Ngai Tai ti Tamaki representative Dave Beamish. Topsoil was stripped with the aid of a small hydraulic excavator under direction of the archaeologist beginning at the top side of the building platform, where a deck will abut against the house extension along the cliff top. From Young's 2010 report on the 2002 excavation it was not clear exactly how far past the present building footprint that the archaeology had been cleared. Monitoring revealed that most of the area of the extension footprint had been recently disturbed, indicating that this area had been cleared in the 2002 investigation. The last couple of metres along the south side of the new extension appeared to be undisturbed ground, but no archaeological features were present.

In addition to the building footprint itself, an accessway had to be constructed off the driveway on the south side of the existing underground water tanks. This was required so that trucks could access the site during construction. This was



3. Excavation plan showing extent of 2002 investigation and areas investigated in 1992 (from Young 2010).



4 (top). View looking east showing the exposed midden (scale 1 m). The area where the tree is later had to be cleared to ease the corner to allow truck access to the site.

5 (bottom). Oven feature exposed under the Area 1 midden excavated in half-section, scale = 1 m.

in the vicinity of Young's 'Area 1', where a large area of midden had been previously investigated by a test square in 1992 and by a trench across the driveway in 2002 (Figure 3). Part of this midden was exposed when topsoil was stripped in this area. This is the corner of the midden just above the driveway on the west side of the house as marked in Figure 3. During the 2002 investigation this midden lay outside the main area of the house footprint, but was cut through to develop a driveway access to the house. Intact midden still remains in situ both above and below the driveway and will not be further affected by the development, although topsoil has been spread over it up to the level of the retaining wall above the driveway. This material includes redeposited midden, which was for preference left on site rather than carted to landfill.

The midden was up to 300 mm deep and although partly disturbed on top, probably from historic ploughing, consisted of dense cockle midden below this. As the midden had been previously sampled and only a small area was to be affected the midden was carefully scraped off to reveal any features cut into it or below it. No features were found in the midden and there was no evidence of any associated living surface, such as a terrace.

Just off the driveway and only one metre from the edge of the underground water tanks an earth oven was recorded under the midden, measuring 800 x 750 mm x 50 mm deep. It was cleaned down and photographed and then excavated in half-section and photographed again (Figure 5). A bulk sample of the fill was retained and the charcoal was removed for analysis. The charcoal was analysed by Rod Wallace, Auckland University, who identified ten pieces of charcoal from coprosma species and fifteen pieces of ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*). The sample would therefore seem to indicate that the vegetation in the vicinity of the site at the time comprised shrubs and small trees. Coprosma and ngaio are also common species growing in the coastal zone.

On 5 May the site was visited by the archaeologist to inspect midden material that had been exposed during earthworks to install the foundations for the sleepout building. A small patch of midden had been uncovered at the western end of the foundation trench. The midden was located on a steep slope and was interpreted as being material that had been dumped down the slope from the top of the bank. The section of the trench containing the midden was cleaned down and photographed. The midden was up to 200 mm thick and started 2.5 m from the western end of the trench and continued towards the pa site. The midden consisted mainly of cockle shell in a dark black ashy matrix, with fragments of oven stone and charcoal visible, but few other inclusions. A 10 litre bulk sample was taken of the midden from the end of the trench.

On 25 August 2011 the site was visited by the archaeologist to monitor trenches for utilities such as sewer, storm water and electricity. The trenches were largely confined to the driveway or immediately adjacent and monitoring revealed that this area had been previously developed and cleared by the 2002 investigation. A footing trench for a stone retaining wall around the midden and grassed area on the top side of the drive was also monitored. The footing trench is approximately 500 mm wide and a small portion of midden was removed to accommodate the trench. No features or archaeological evidence other than cockle, pipi and scallop shell was revealed. The locations for pillars at the entrance to the driveway and at the entrance to the sleepout were also inspected. Both of these areas have been previously developed and the footings for the pillars are unlikely to disturb any archaeology.

A final site visit was made by archaeologist Matthew Campbell on 26 September to monitor minor earthworks to contour material that had previously been removed during the initial stage of works around the midden. No further archaeological deposits were disturbed.

#### *Midden analysis*

The sample was wet sieved through a 6 mm screen and then dried before being analysed. Analysis revealed that the sample was predominantly cockle (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) with few other species present (see Table 1). The only other inclusions were 100 g of oven stone fragments, 3 g of charcoal and 14 small pieces of fishbone, only one of which, a mackerel (*Trachurus* sp.) scute, could be identified. Most of the remaining bones were small vertebrae, which were probably also mackerel. The composition of the midden is very similar to what was observed in the area above the driveway cleared for the house extension. Cockles were clearly the targeted species and the few other shells were probably collected incidentally. For example of the 15 miscellaneous whelks/gastropods, most are very small and could not be considered as a food source. The size range of cockle shells indicates bulk collection of shellfish rather than individual selection. A random sample of 200 whole valves were measured with sizes ranging from 18–37 mm, with a mean size of 27.5 mm.

Species	MNI
cockle ( <i>Austrovenus stutchburyi</i> )	1088
pipi ( <i>Paphies australis</i> )	2
scallop ( <i>Pecten novaezelandiae</i> )	1
whelk/gastropod	15

*Table 1. Minimum numbers of shellfish species identified from the midden sample from the sleepout foundation trench.*

#### **Previous investigations**

Two radiocarbon samples obtained from the Area 1 midden in the 1992 excavation gave ages of cal AD 1450–1650 and 1460–1680. The 1992 Area 1 consisted of a 5 x 1.5 m square excavated in the centre of the midden. In the 2002 investigation a trench was dug across the line of the driveway and a sample of midden retained for analysis. The sample showed a predominance of cockle with some pipi and a few

whelks. Fire cracked rocks were present throughout the sample. No artefacts were reported from either the 1992 or 2002 investigations.

### **Discussion and conclusion**

Although it is difficult to relate the 2002 site plan exactly to the present investigation it would appear that the midden exposed to access the building extension would be the corner of the Area 1 midden as indicated by Young. Shell midden is still visible along the west side of the driveway and the majority of this midden is in mown grass and will not be further affected by the development. The recorded kumara storage pit immediately to the south of the building area was marked off with pegs and tape, to avoid any damage during construction works. Other archaeological evidence is likely to remain on the undeveloped areas of the Hall property, as the whole of the ridge between undefended settlement S11/111 and the pa on Poutu Point S11/107, would have been utilised during prehistory and the later historic period.

Although only a very small area of the midden was investigated and just one feature found (an earth oven), the depth and extent of the midden indicates intensive prehistoric occupation on this part of the ridge. People are likely to have been living around the pa but no evidence of terraces or house sites was uncovered in the area investigated.

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