



81A Kennedy Road, Te Ranga, Tauranga: final report (HNZPTA authority 2019/104)

report to
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
Aurecon
and
Armadale Developments Ltd

Arden Cruickshank

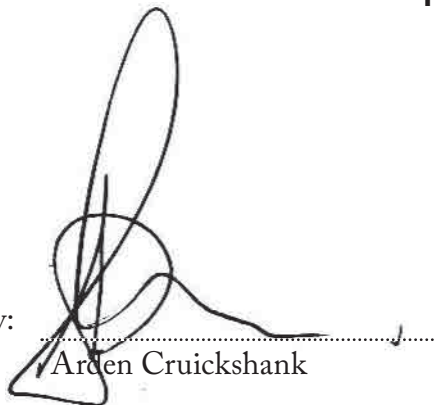


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Armadale Holdings Ltd have undertaken works to develop their property at 81A Kennedy Road (Lot 2 DPS 29141) for residential subdivision. No archaeological sites had been recorded in the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme (SRS) on the property prior to works taking place, but numerous archaeological sites were recorded nearby, including midden site U14/1943 which is located just beyond the property boundary of 81 Kennedy Road (Glover and Cruickshank in prep).

Aurecon, on behalf of Armadale Holdings Ltd, applied for an archaeological authority to modify or destroy any unrecorded archaeology under section 44 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. Authority 2019/104 was granted by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) on 10 September 2018. Works began 6 October 2021, with main earthworks completed June 2022.

Background

There are eight recorded archaeological sites within 1 km of the property. Of these, seven are of pre-European Māori origin: five are recorded as pit/terrace sites and two as

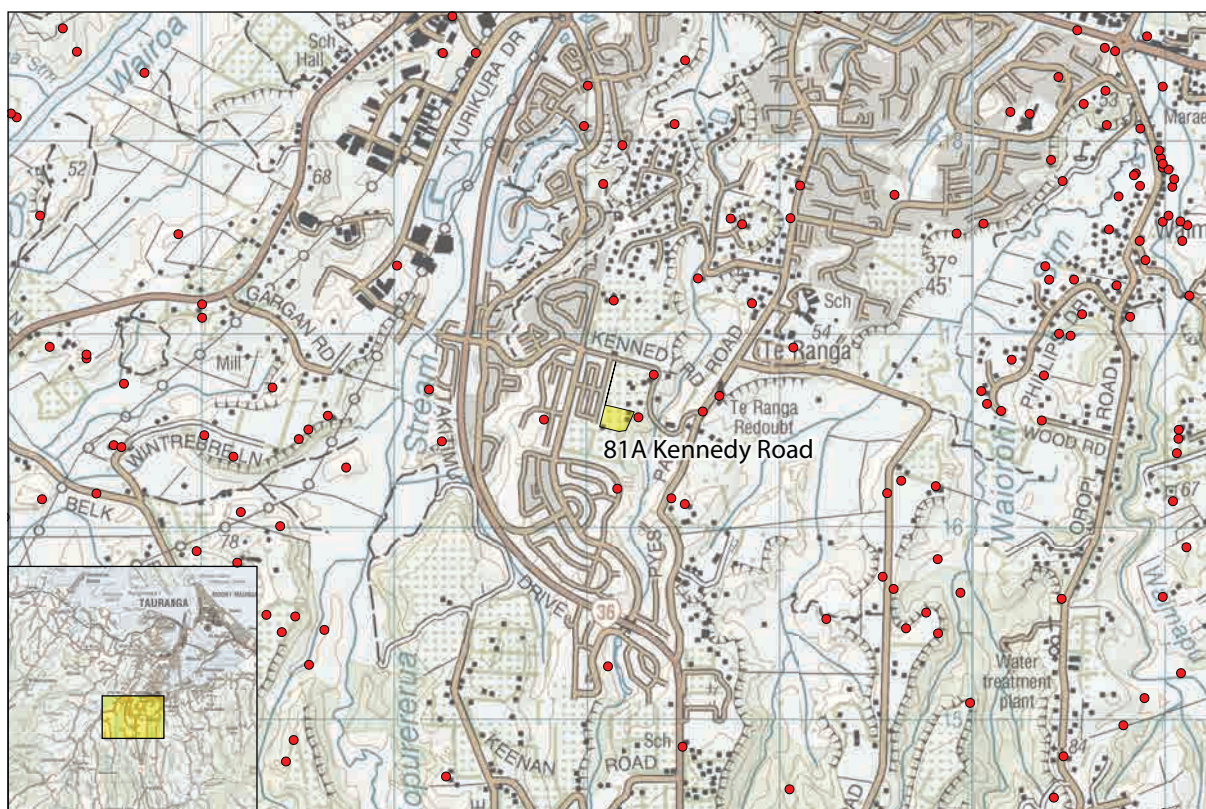


Figure 1. Location of 81A Kennedy Road and nearby sites.

midden/oven sites. The remaining site is U14/191, the Te Ranga battlefield, 450 m northeast of the property on Pyes Pa Road.

The closest sites to the property are U14/1915 and U14/1943. U14/1915 was recorded in 1984 as four large oval shaped depressions in a line. This site appears to have subsequently been destroyed as part of the Lakes development. U14/1943 was also recorded in 1984 as a shell scatter covering an area of 3 x 4 m below the ridgeline overlooking an unnamed tributary in the Waimapu Catchment (Nanako Stream). Recent archaeological investigations undertaken at 81 Kennedy Road identified several features which have been recorded as part of this site and will be reported separately.

Pre-European history

The Bay of Plenty is well known for its mild climate, fertile soils and abundant shellfish and fish populations which supported a large pre-European population, and the region has one of the highest densities of archaeological sites in the country (McFadgen 2007: 173).

Several waka are recorded as having visited Tauranga, including *Takitumu*, *Tainui* and *Te Arawa*. From the crews of these waka, particularly *Takitumu*, Waitaha a Hei and Ngāti Ranginui were descended. These hapū occupied Mt Manganui and Mauao until they were displaced by Ngāi Te Rangi in the 18th century (Stokes 1980).

At the time of European contact, Ngāi Te Rangi were in possession of the Tauranga area although Waitaha and Ranginui identities survived. Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Tamaterā attacked Otūmoetai, Te Papa and Maungatapu pā in 1828 killing many inhabitants and enslaving others (Phillips and Arabin 2004: 4).

19th century history

Although European traders and explorers had been interacting in the Bay of Plenty since the late 18th century, European settlement did not start in earnest until the arrival of Christian missionaries. The C.M.S schooner *Herald* was probably the first European vessel to enter Tauranga Harbour in 1826 (Stokes 1980: 45). The first mission was set up in the 1830s at Te Papa, with a permanent presence from 1838 onwards. The mission house is still standing on Mission Road.

The first organised trade in the region began in 1830 when Phillip Tapsell settled at Maketu as a flax agent for Sydney based firm Jones and Walker. This became a large operation, employing hundreds of local Māori in flax cultivation and preparation (Stokes 1980: 53).

The first industry to be developed in the area was timber milling, with rimu being the most important species. There were already three timber mills working in the hills behind Tauranga at the beginning of the 20th century when a fourth, the Tauranga Rimu Company set up in the area. They built a significant tramway to transport timber from their lease between Oropi and Omanawa to the Wairoa River, with two timber mills built, one at the upper end of the tramway, and another on the eastern bank of the Wairoa River (U14/3402). Due to the large impact the timber company had on the immediate area, it came to be known as 'Taurico', a contraction of the company name (*Bay of Plenty Times*, 25 August 1916: 2). The 'c' was replaced with a 'k' around 1917, which has been argued to have been done to make the name appear Māori. In later years, the hills around the Kopurererua Valley were transformed into agricultural and horticultural blocks, which are now being replaced by housing and industrial blocks.

Previous archaeological work

Many archaeological surveys and assessments have been undertaken in the lower catchments of the Kopurererua and Waimapu streams over the last three decades. In 1982 the New Zealand Historic Places Trust undertook a general survey of Tauranga County, now the Western Bay of Plenty District. Since then, numerous intensive surveys of smaller areas, mostly triggered by development, have taken place. In particular, ongoing developments in the Kopurererua Valley since the late 1980s, beginning with planning for the “Route J” redevelopment of SH2 and 2A, have been accompanied by an ongoing series of surveys and assessments of the valley’s archaeology.

A review and summary of all archaeological surveys in the Bay of Plenty was done in 2002 by Law Associates Ltd (Law 2002). This was the first attempt at collating data in the area, which was already subject to significant impacts from construction, horticulture and forestry. At the same time that this summary was produced, the New Zealand Archaeological Association undertook a site record upgrade project, checking the condition of already recorded sites to get a better understanding of the location, condition and threats of the recorded archaeological sites of the region.

These two projects have resulted in a relatively complete picture of the surviving archaeology of the Kopurererua Valley from the Waikareao Estuary as far south as Belk Road. Sites of pre-European Māori settlement have been recorded on the higher ground fringing the valley to the east and west and also on hillocks and ridges in the valley itself. No sites have been recorded on the previously swampy, though now largely drained, valley floor.

There have been a number of archaeological investigations undertaken in relation to the Battle of Te Ranga which took place approximately 450 m northeast of the property on 21 June 1864. There had been speculation about the location of the rifle pits and their design, which contain kōiwi of the 97 Māori who fell on the battlefield.

There have been several attempts by archaeologists to relocate the rifle pits (McFadgen 1977; Phillips and McCaffrey 2015), made more difficult due to discrepancies between survey maps, diary descriptions and hand drawn maps of the battle. Because of the sensitivity of the battleground and likelihood of uncovering human remains, typical exploratory methods were not feasible. Bruce McFadgen (1977) undertook a magnetometer survey where he suggests the rifle pits are located in a 5 m wide strip behind the concrete cairn. This result was far from conclusive, and advances in remote sensing equipment in the past 40 years made this study obsolete.

Another attempt to relocate the rifle pits was the monitoring of a water main trench by Archaeology B.O.P (Phillips and McCaffrey 2015) which ran down Pyes Pa Road. This trench should have intersected the trench and rifle pits, but nothing was noted in the profile. An attempt to geo-reference a hand drawn map from the battle proved somewhat limited but indicated that the rifle pits could lie further south than the current marker, near the intersection of Kennedy Road and Pyes Pa Road.

Recent investigations by CFG Heritage Ltd and Archaeology Solutions Ltd were successful in locating the rifle pits utilising magnetometry (Cruickshank 2019). This showed that the rifle pits are in a semi-circular pattern and were not joined up by a trench. This would account for the lack of evidence found by Phillips and McCaffrey (2015), indicating that their water main trench has passed between two pits. The rifle pits are located on the slightly raised ground in front of the stone cairn.

MishMish Heritage Ltd monitored topsoil stripping on the property at 219 Pyes Pa Road in March 2016, due to its proximity to Te Ranga. It was thought that the 6 Pound Armstrong Gun and the 43rd and 68th regiments drawn on Cowan’s sketch map may have been stationed on the property and that some evidence might remain. No evidence of the

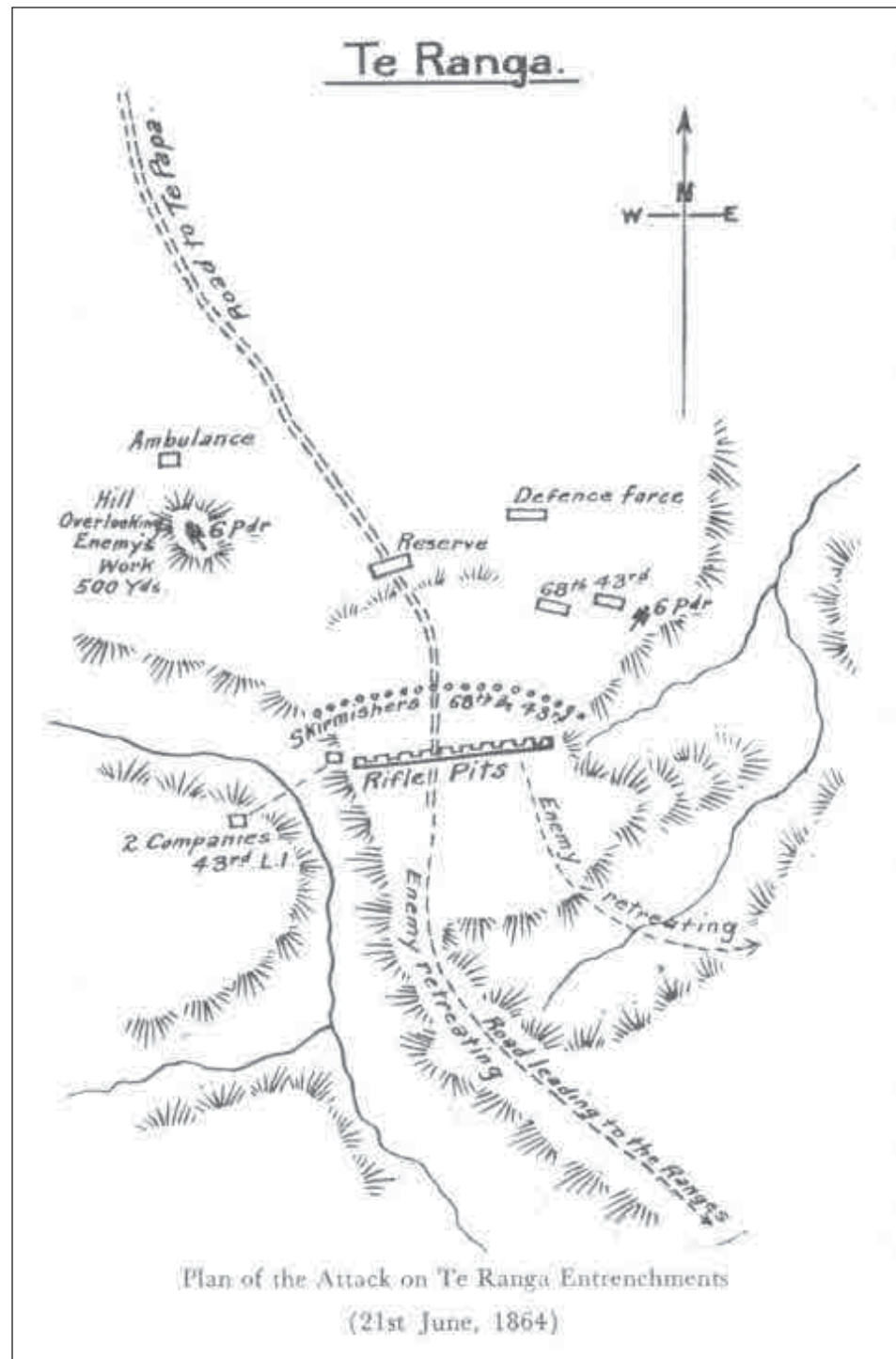


Figure 2. Cowan's (1955) sketch map of the battle of Te Ranga.

battle was uncovered, but pre-European features were identified and were recorded as site U14/3464 (Gallagher and Sturrock 2015).

CFG Heritage Ltd monitored topsoil stripping of 35 Joyce Road, which was also a possible location of the Armstrong gun. No evidence of the battle, or of pre-European occupation was identified during topsoil stripping (Cruikshank 2017).

Archaeological investigations were undertaken by CFG Heritage Ltd in 2015 at 89–97a Kennedy Road in 2015 as part of the larger housing developments which are being



Figure 3. Results of 2019 magnetometer survey showing the Te Ranga rifle pits (Cruickshank 2019).

undertaken in the area. Site U14/2165, originally recorded in 1984 as a badly eroded and fragmented shell midden in an area covering 45 x 25 m was recorded on this property. Archaeological investigation did not turn up any archaeological material, and it appears the site was completely destroyed by contouring.

Earthworks at 81 and 81B Kennedy Road were recently monitored by CFG Heritage Ltd and several features associated with U14/1945 were identified at 81 Kennedy Road (Glover and Cruickshank in prep).

81A Kennedy Road

This property was originally part of PT Allots 1 and 55, Parish of Te Papa, which were allocated to soldiers and officers of the Waikato Regiment who were to settle in the area. There is no name entered on the plans for these two lots in 1865(SO 435), but by 1885 they appeared to be owned by C.R. Merrick (SO 2691). It is assumed that at this time it was converted to pasture, with wild gorse across the properties noted by 1907 (DP 4156).

The property remained in pasture until at least 1974, with aerial photography showing that it had been converted to orchards by 1986. Presumably contouring took place between these two dates. These orchards appear to have been removed by 1997 when it was converted back to pasture.

An archaeological assessment of the subdivision was undertaken by Arden Cruickshank of CFG Heritage Ltd on 20 July 2018. The survey was undertaken on foot, and the ground was probed intermittently with a 1 m gum spear to see if any subsurface archaeological deposits were present. No archaeological material was noted at the time, but due to the possibility

of sub-surface archaeological features being present an authority under section 44 of the HNZPTA was applied for and granted (Cruickshank 2018).

Results

Initial topsoil stripping was monitored by Arden Cruickshank of CFG Heritage Ltd on 6 and 12 October 2021. Later monitoring was undertaken in April 2022 for additional storm-water works to connect the development to the Nanako Stream stormwater pond. The earth-works for the project have now been completed.

Feature 1

Two obsidian flakes were exposed during initial topsoil stripping, and the location was scraped down to expose a roughly circular depression. This depression was initially half sectioned, but as the shape became more amorphous it was decided to completely excavate the feature. It contained a dark organic matrix with sparse gravel and plastic, along with an additional 21 pieces of obsidian. There was a small square depression in the centre interpreted as a spade cut.

No additional features were found within the property, with the closest archaeological features in the neighbouring property of 81 Kennedy Road (U14/1945), approximately 120 m northeast of Feature 1. The feature is clearly modern due to the inclusion of plastic but was recorded in the NZAA SRS as findspot U14/3827. The origin of the obsidian flakes is unknown but it can be assumed that they were disturbed and redeposited during contouring in the 1970s–80s.



Figure 4. Feature 1, where obsidian assemblage was found, after excavation. Scales = 1 and 0.5 m.



Figure 5. 81A Kennedy Road showing the location of Feature 1.

Lithics

Of the 23 obsidian artefacts recovered, 21 had a maximum dimension greater than 10 mm and were analysed in depth. The remaining two were classified as shatter and no further analysis was undertaken. Analysis was based on methods outlined in Beyin (2010), Holdaway and Stern (2004), Turner (2005), Phillipps and Holdaway (2016) and Cruickshank (2011). Results are shown in Table 1.

The obsidian flakes were all green in transmitted light and have been visually sourced to Tuhua/Mayor Island. Tuhua is the closest obsidian source to Tauranga and is the dominant obsidian type found in sites in the region. Usewear was noted on four of the pieces, with three of these attributed to scraping and one to cutting. There were seven pieces that had evidence of snapping. No refitting was observed.

Table 1. results of obsidian analysis.

Measure	Type	Snapping	Usewear	Quadrant 1	Quadrant 2	Quadrant 3	Quadrant 4	Cutting	Scraping
4	Complete		Yes		11.56				Yes
4	Core frag								
4	Distal	Yes							
4	Complete		Yes			19.17		Yes	
5	Complete		Yes		22.13				
4	Distal	Yes							
4	Distal	Yes	Yes			11.55			Yes
2	Core frag								
2	Proximal	Yes							
2	Complete								
2	Core frag								
2	Long Right	Yes							
4	Complete		Yes		11.11				Yes
4	Long Right	Yes							
3	Complete								
4	Core frag								
4	Core frag								
3	Complete								
3	Complete								
4	Distal	Yes							
3	Complete								
1	Shatter								
1	Shatter								



Figure 6. Selection of obsidian flakes and cores.

Conclusion

During topsoil stripping of this property, a small obsidian assemblage was found in a modern feature. This modern feature was filled with a rich topsoil, plastic and the obsidian flakes. This feature was likely dug for planting, and imported topsoil was used to aid in growth. This topsoil has likely come from another property, where an archaeological site has been disturbed. No further evidence of archaeological features or artefacts were found within the property. This report has been produced to satisfy conditions 5 and 6 of HNZPTA authority 2019/104.

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