

PLAN DE LA RIVIÈRE SHOOUKIANGA

(DE LA IKA-NIA-MAUWI, NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE.)

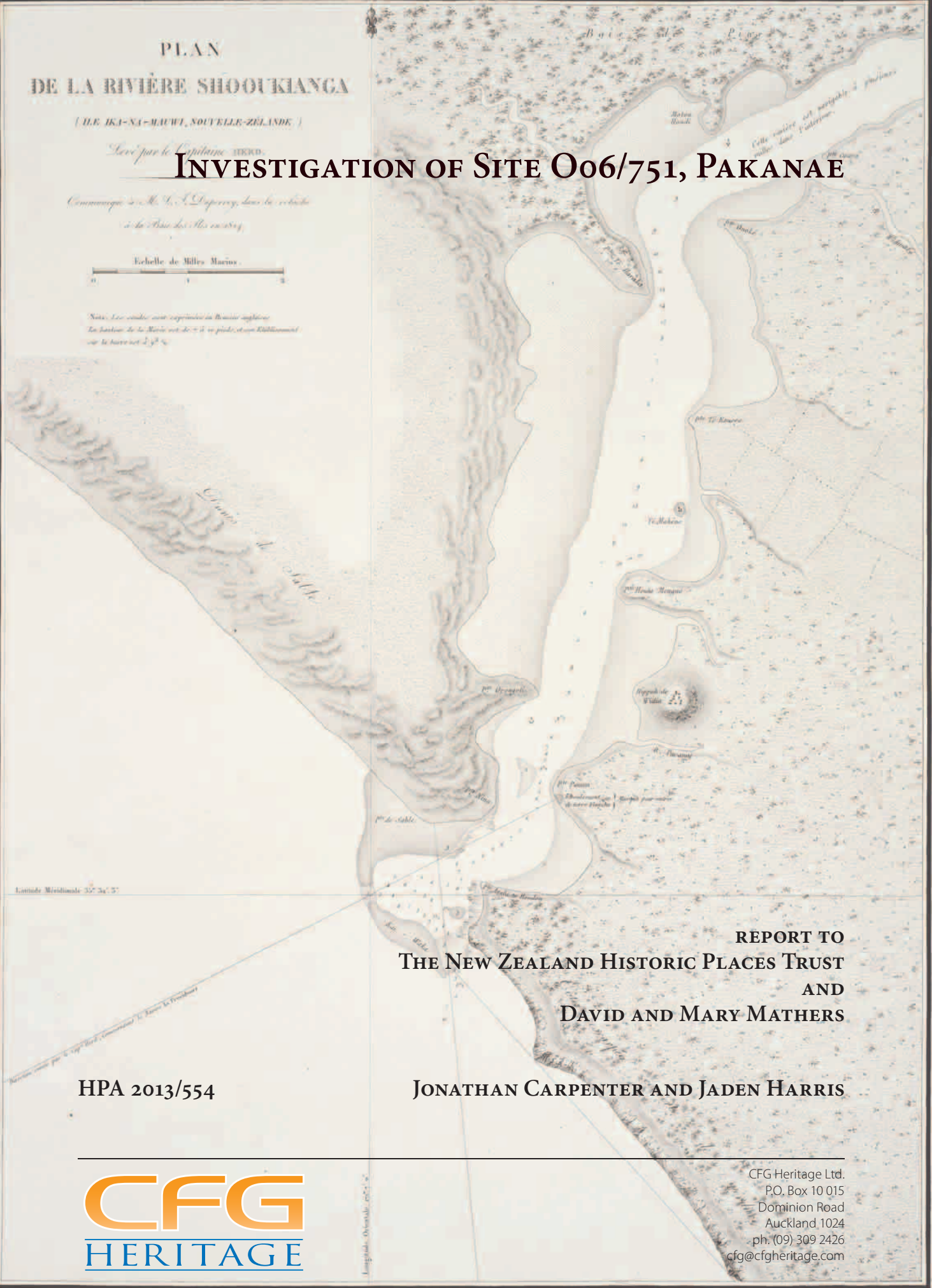
Levé par le Capitaine HEDDIN.

Commencé le 26 Mars 1840, dans la soirée
à la Baie des Moutons.



Notes. Les côtes sont exprimées en Toises anglaises.
Les hauteurs de la Merie sont de 7 à 10 pieds, et sont indiquées
sur la barre au 2, 3^e &c.

INVESTIGATION OF SITE Oo6/751, PAKANAE



**REPORT TO
THE NEW ZEALAND HISTORIC PLACES TRUST
AND
DAVID AND MARY MATHERS**

JONATHAN CARPENTER AND JADEN HARRIS

HPA 2013/554



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Reference: 2012/38



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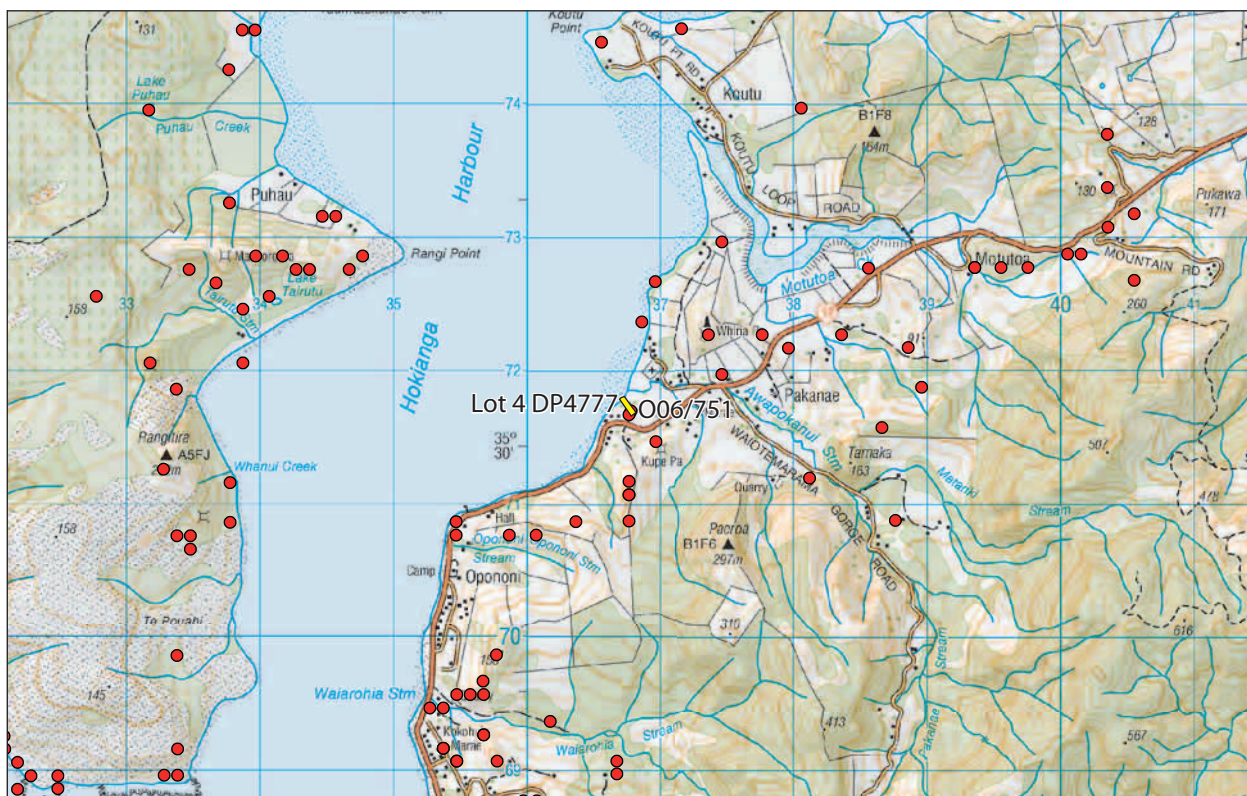
New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Kerikeri
David and Mary Mathers
New Zealand Archaeological Association central file
CFG Heritage Ltd (file copy)
Ngati Korokoro
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INVESTIGATION OF SITE O06/751, PAKANAE

JONATHAN CARPENTER AND JADEN HARRIS

David and Mary Mathers have recently demolished an old house on land owned by them at 137 State Highway 12, Pakanae (Lot 4 DP4777), about 2 km northeast of Opononi. The property is accessed by a right-of-way with a formed driveway off SH 12 and is bounded to the east, south and west by a larger property currently operated as a bull farm, and to the north by the Hokianga Harbour. The Mathers' intend to construct a new building as a holiday house. The footprint of the new building is planned to be in the same location as the old house, but will extend slightly further to the east. The building foundations will consist of driven wooden piles, involving minimal earthworks. Due to the low lying nature of the site, the new septic system will be installed on a bench partly cut into the bank at the back of the house and supported by a retaining wall, rather than being buried.

Following an archaeological assessment which recorded the presence of a midden on the property (Harris 2012), the Mathers applied to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) for an archaeological authority under Section 14 of the Historic Places Act 1993 to modify the site. Authority 2013/554 was subsequently granted by NZHPT. The authority did not require a management plan, research strategy or site instruction, but Condition 3 required that works be monitored by an archaeologist and Condition 4 required that "any archaeological evidence encountered during the exercise of this authority must be recorded and analysed in accordance with current archaeological practice."



1. Location of Lot 4 DP 4777, Pakanae, and site O06/751, showing other recorded archaeological sites in the area.

Archaeological monitoring of site works and the investigation of features took place on 27 March 2013 and was undertaken by Jonathan Carpenter on behalf of CFG Heritage

Monitoring occurred over the course of half a day, revealing a thin cultural layer and two fire scoop features in a bank re-shaped by mechanical excavator in advance of the construction of a new retaining wall. Following the reshaping of the bank, excavation of a pit for a septic tank, and the investigation of the archaeological features, D. Mathers was advised that he could continue work as necessary.

Cultural and Historic Context

There are two important Pa near the Mathers' property, Whiria Pa and Kupe Pa. Whiria Pa is located north east of the subject property and was the birthplace of Rahiri, a 17th century ancestor of Ngapuhi. Whiria Pa was also attacked unsuccessfully by Hongi Hika in the early 19th century, probably around 1812–14. At the time Whiria was defended by Te Hukeumu of Te Roroa, who had connections with Ngati Pou, Ngati Korokoro and Te Hikutu (the pa falling in the rohe of the latter two iwi). Te Hukeumu was placed in command by the eminent local chief Moetara (Smith 1910: 54–56), who would later encourage European settlement in the Pakanae area.

Kupe Pa is located to the south of the property and is associated with the Polynesian navigator Kupe who spent some time in Hokianga a Kupe (to give the full name), and who named many local places before his return to Hawaiki. There are also numerous recorded pit and terrace complexes and middens in the area recorded as archaeological sites, in addition to the various Pa. This suggests that the area was favoured by Maori in the late prehistoric and protohistoric era, and early European accounts, such as those of Augustus Earle in 1827, point to the horticultural vitality of the area.

The Hokianga was opened up to European trade following Captain John Kent's crossing of the Hokianga Bar in 1820 in the *Prince Regent*, and a visit by the Reverend Samuel Marsden. Captain Kent married the sister of Moetara, maintaining a shore base at Koutou through the 1820s, and helping establish the kauri spar trade between the Hokianga and Australia. The charting of the harbour and its dangerous bar in 1822 by Captain Herd of the *Providence* and Australian investment in the spar trade further helped open up the area. The *Sydney Gazette* reported in 1827 that "...about 50 Englishmen from this port are at Hokianga sawing deals and instructing the natives in shipbuilding..." (Lee 1987: 48).

The earliest survey of the area including the Mathers' property is that of the *Providence* under Captain Herd, conducted in 1822. At this time the summit of Whiria Pa is shown as occupied, but no village is shown around the base of the Pa, nor is the coastal village of Pakanae shown (Figure 2).

It is likely that Moetara's village at Pakanae developed rapidly after the visit of the *Providence*, in response to the identification by Herd of the adjacent deep anchorage (as indicated by the anchor symbol on the chart), which had full-tide access to the point to the south of the "Pacanae" (Pakanae) River (Felgate 2009: 6) and where large numbers of Maori were subsequently engaged in spar, flax and produce trade. Moetara actively campaigned to secure this trade to the Pakanae area, until his death in 1838 at the age of 40.

Augustus Earle visited Whiria Pa in 1827, at which time Whiria and Pakanae had become the major Ngati Korokoro settlement in the area. At that time Whiria consisted of a village around the base of the conical hill, with fortifications on the summit. Earle described the scene from the summit of Whiria as follows:

To the right of this swamp is a beautiful valley, in a very high state of cultivation. At the time I stood viewing it from the summit of the

hill, I was charmed with the scene of industry and bustle it presented; all the inhabitants of the village having gone forth to plant their potatoes, kumeras, and Indian corn. In the rear, and forming a fine bold background, is an immense chain of high and rugged hills, covered to their summits with thick forests, and forming, as it were, a natural barrier and protection to this smiling and fruitful valley, while from their wooded sides issue innumerable small streams of clear water, which, meeting at the base, form beautiful rivulets, and after meandering through the valley, and serving all the purposes of irrigation, they empty themselves into the E. O. Ke Anga river (Earle 1832: 17).

Over the next two decades, as the need for defended pa decreased and trade increased, Whiria was abandoned in favour of Pakanae, as illustrated in the chart prepared by Captain Drury of the *Pandora* in 1851 (Figure 3).

The Mather's property at Pakanae was originally part of one of the earliest European land purchases in the area. The 69¾ acre Taikapati block was sold to Henry Richard Oakes in 1836 by Moetara and several others. The block is illustrated on the undated Old Land Claim plan 270 (Figure 4) and described in Old Land Claim file 12; the plan shows the boundaries of the block, the bush line and, in the approximate centre of the property, a building enclosed by a fence.

Berghan (2006: 1–2) has summarised the contents of Old Land Claim file 12 in a research report sponsored by the Crown Forest Rental Trust for Waitangi Tribunal claims by beneficiaries of the Trust:

On 3 May 1836, Henry Richard Oakes entered into a land transaction with Moetara, Rangatira, Te Puna and others for approximately 300 acres called “Pakunui” situated at Hokianga. Oakes gave a mare as payment which was later calculated to have a value of £50. 1 On 23 October 1840, Oakes forwarded his claim to the Colonial Secretary.



2. Detail from Herd chart showing the occupation of Whiria Pa but no settlement at Pakanae in 1822.



3. Detail from the Drury chart of 1851, showing the village of Pakanae and along both sides of the river.

On 3 February 1843, Frederick Edward Manning testified before the Old Land Claims Commission acting as agent on behalf of Henry Oakes providing the usual details associated with claims.³ George Nimmo testified to his signature to the deed as witness to the transaction with Oakes.⁴ On the same day, Rangatira appeared and testified to the transaction with Oakes.⁵ Te Puna also testified to the transaction with Oakes.⁶ On 8 February 1842, William Popplewell appeared and testified to frequently seeing the mare given as payment by Major Oates to Moetara for the land.

On 18 April 1843, Commissioner Richmond recommended an award of 200 acres be issued to Henry Oakes. ⁸ The award was confirmed on 28 April 1843 by Shortland and later gazetted. ⁹ However, notification in August 1843 of the disallowance of the 1842 New Zealand Land Claims Ordinance meant that this award had to be recalculated under a formula for valuing pre-1840 payments that had been originally contained in the 1841 New Zealand Land Claims Ordinance. As a result, the claimant's award was amended and a new award was gazetted on 6 September 1843¹⁰ which appears to have been for an increase to 300 acres.

Oakes was later allowed to exchange his claim for a credit.¹² Therefore, scrip worth £300 was granted by Governor FitzRoy on 3 May 1844.¹³ There is no evidence on file of any consideration of this claim by the Bell Commission.

Henry Oakes was one of the prominent early settlers in the Hokianga. Several anecdotes concerning Oakes are provided in Lee 1987. Oakes was in Kohukohu in 1834, taking a six month lease on a house and land formerly owned by Captain David Clarke (purchased from the chief Wharepapa), the latter having drowned in 1831 and the land having passed over to his partner Fishwicke (Lee 1987: 54). He subsequently attempted to purchase the property outright but couldn't get finance and lost out to two other settlers, Frederick Manning (Native Land Court judge and author) and one Kelly (Lee 1987: 62). Oakes' subsequent purchase at Pakanae was facilitated by Moetara who wanted to encourage European trade in his lands, in competition to the settlements of Kohukohu and Horeke in the upper Hokianga. The horse which Oakes used as tender subsequently became something of a celebrated sight, being the first in the area. Moetara allowed anyone brave enough to attempt to ride the beast but most did not last long on its back before being thrown off (Lee 1987: 65). In 1835 a group of settlers, including Oakes, and Maori, influenced by the Wesleyan missionaries in the harbour, met and resolved to ban the import of liquor into the area and established inspections of incoming ships. Liquor was not only causing problems on land, but was also blamed for a number of drowning deaths in the harbour. Oakes and Moetara were two of the inspectors named at the meeting and those involved subsequently took to seizing liquor off ships in the harbour and discharging it into the sea. Oakes was also involved in the resolution of the mutiny on the schooner *Industry*, and was charged with delivering the mutineers to Hobart for trial (Lee 1987: 79).

Oakes increasingly became caught up in local feuds, becoming an enemy of the Wesleyan Missionary White and ultimately, of Moetara himself. Feelings came to a head following the wreck of the *Industry* in one of its later voyages in 1836, after which it was plundered and destroyed by Moetara's people. Lee (1987: 111) following Gitto's biography of White suggests that Oakes and the *Industry* were sly-grogging, to which Moetara was implacably opposed. Oakes left for Australia the next year but retained possession of his house and a flock of goats for a time, receiving reports from friends or agents.

After 1841, under Governor Hobson's "scrip" land voucher policy, many holders of early land claims on which timber had been cut to completion acquired scrip for other Crown Land and left the Hokianga (often redeeming their scrip in suburban Auckland for example) rather than settle permanently on the Hokianga (Lee 1987: 69). Over 15,000 acres of land in the Hokianga area was acquired by the Crown from these Old Land Claims by means of issuing scrip in the 1840s and resuming "surplus", when old land claims were surveyed in 1858. Oakes' Taikapati block is shown as "Government Land" on survey plan ML 889, dated to 1868 (Figure 5), following its exchange for scrip.

Around 1874 the Taikapati block was purchased from the Crown by John Webster. Webster had been instrumental in the establishment of Kohkohu as a well-regulated and prosperous community in the years after the Treaty of Waitangi. By the 1870s he had decided to remove himself to a more peaceful location and selected Opononi for his retirement. He had originally purchased land from Captain Young and subsequently received a Crown Grant for 41 acres there in 1862. He then extended his holdings along the harbour and added another 600 acres, had including the Wheororo block between Opononi and Pakanae, and the Taikapati block itself Lee 1987: 199). Webster did for Opononi and the lower Hokianga what he had done for Kohukohu, the area being until his arrival still largely controlled by Maori interests. As well as his extensive two storey homestead with four saluting canon, 700 acre farm including 100 acres of subtropical gardens and fruit trees, fish curing and mercantile interests at Opononi, he established an extensive fruit growing operation on his land at Pakanae (Lee 1987: 229).

In 1907, what would become the Mathers property was surveyed off the larger block for A. L. Webster (Harris 2012: 3),



4. Old Land Claim plan 270 (n.d.) (note: north runs down the page).



5. ML 889 (1868), showing Taikapati block as being "Government Land", and John Webster's adjacent holdings.

Investigation methodology

Monitoring and investigation of the Mathers’ development was straightforward, by observation of a 13 tonne excavator equipped with a 1.8 m wide weed bucket as it undertook minor re-shaping of the bank at the rear of the building site in advance of construction of the retaining wall (approximately 600 mm cut measured from the toe of the bank, inwards).

The pit for the septic tank was then excavated, with limestone rubble from the lower part of the pit spread over the house site as clean fill. The location of works and features recorded is shown on Figure 6.

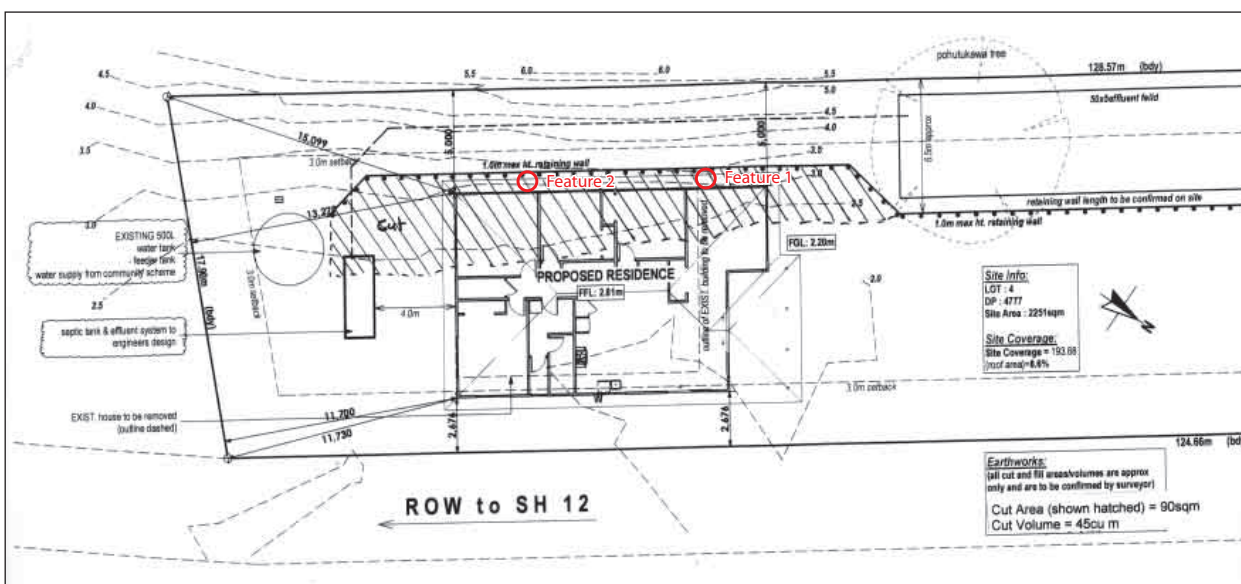
The shaping of the bank and excavation of the pit was followed by the cleaning up of the bank and features using small hand tools, and recording and sampling using standard methods.

Results

The stratigraphy of the bank and flats below consisted of a thin layer of topsoil over mixed clay and limestone rubble fill. Between this layer and an underlying deposit of shell and sand was a thin cultural layer of black, charcoal stained and flecked clayey sand with fire scoops excavated into the beach deposit, with lenses of naturally deposited shell below. Weathered limestone rubble and consolidated limestone bedrock lay below the sandy beach deposit (Table 1).

Monitoring the shaping of the bank revealed the presence of two archaeological features and a relatively thin and intermittent cultural layer (Table 2).

Feature 1 consisted of a possible fire scoop observed in the bank prior to works. It had shallow, convex sides and was 800 mm wide with the remaining portion in the bank up to 200 mm deep. It was located 3 m south east of the proposed south-west corner of the new house. The feature was cleaned and excavated by hand. The fill consisted of a very small amount of shell in black, charcoal-stained sandy clay with chunks of charcoal, fire-cracked oven stones and limestone rubble. A sample was taken from the feature.



6. Works and features investigated.

Feature 2 was a fire scoop which had the appearance of a rua or bell-shaped pit in-section, at least in part due to the angle of the truncation caused by shaping the bank. It was 800 mm long and at least 550 mm wide, and 350 mm deep. The feature appeared to be cut into old beach sand surface from the cultural layer. It was 4.5 m north west of the south east corner of the proposed house. The fill was the same as for Feature 1. A 10 litre sample was taken from the base of the feature.

Both of the features appeared to have been previously eroded or cut away and in-filled to some extent with limestone rubble and clay fill pushed down from above.

No archaeological material was visible in the excavation for the septic tank, apart from the remains of the previous septic system.

Layer	Depth (mm)	Description	Comment/interpretation
1	0–100	Dark brown silty topsoil	Topsoil
2	100–800	Grey brown mixed clay and limestone rubble with limestone disappearing from approximately 550 mm below the surface	Fill from limestone quarrying above
3	800–850	Intermittent layer of dark grey sandy clay with charcoal and shell, and fire scoop features	Prehistoric back beach/bank with lenses of archaeological material
4	850–1100	light brown sand and shell with intermittent lenses of dense shell	Beach deposit
5	1100–1300	Dense shell	Visible in septic pit
6	1600+	Limestone (weathered limestone rubble grading into limestone bedrock)	Visible in septic pit

Table 1. Stratigraphy (generalised description of the section immediately north of Feature 2).

Feature	Type	Layer	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Depth (mm)
1	Fire scoop	4	600	100+	200
2	Fire scoop	4	800	550+	350

Table 2: Archaeological features of O06/751 recorded on Lot 4 DP 4777.

Discussion

The archaeological features appear to have been created on the edge of the bank which was originally the margin between the dry ground and the sandy salt marsh or otherwise estuarine environment on the south side of the main Pakanae River outlet.

Subsequently the area was drained and the bank and the area immediately below it was modified by the construction of a cottage around the start of the 20th century. The bank was further modified by stock trampling along the boundary



7 (top). Building site, looking south.

8 (centre). Feature 1 following cleaning.

9 (bottom). Feature 2 following excavation, with oven stone left in-situ.

10 (right). Re-shaped and cleaned bank and stratigraphy.

fence behind the cottage leading to slumping, and the quarrying activities on the limestone bluffs above. No postholes representing structures such as whare or cooking shelters were noted in the section of bank although the features are likely to be associated with nearby living areas. These may have been destroyed by farming and/or quarrying.

The features were all located immediately below the recent and shallow topsoil formation on the ridge associated with pastoral farming over the last 130 years, between 200 and 300 mm below the ground surface.

Midden analysis

The 10 litre sample of fill from Feature 2 was analysed. The sample was wet sieved through a 6 mm screen, dried, and then sorted following standard archaeological procedures. The sample was not dried prior to sieving but weighed 10.45 kg. The diagnostic portions of each shell type present were separated out, identified to species level and counted to give a MNI (Minimum Number of Specimens) for each species. For bivalves this was achieved by counting the number of hinges and whole valves and dividing the total by two. For gastropods the greater number of shells and columellas, or operculums was taken as the MNI. All diagnostic shell for each species and the remaining shell residue made up of non-diagnostic fragments was weighed. Charcoal and stone was separated out and weighed but not counted. No fish or other faunal bone was observed.

Feature 2 contained only a very small proportion of shell, with the two main species being pipi (*Paphies australis*) and cockle (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) (Table 3). Both of these species would have been available along the margins of Hokianga Harbour. A small number of gastropod species and a single mussel also indicate that the rocky harbour edges were also being exploited. The stone portion of the sample contained a small number of fire cracked spalls from volcanic rocks used as oven stones but the greater bulk consisted of fragments of local limestone. Both the pipi and cockle shell was quite burnt and highly fragmented and so were not considered suitable for radiocarbon dating. The charcoal was not identified to species but consisted of chunks of charcoal from larger pieces of wood which are also not suitable for dating.

	MNI	Weight (g)
Pipi (<i>Paphies australis</i>)	102	48
Cockle (<i>Austrovenus stutchburyi</i>)	31	17
Mud snail (<i>Amphibola crenata</i>)	1	1
Green-lipped mussel (<i>Perna canaliculus</i>)	1	1
Miscellaneous gastropods	7	10
Charcoal	–	63
Stone	–	1680
Residue	–	410
Totals	142	2230

Table 3. Counts and weight data for the Feature 2 sample.

Conclusions

Site O06/751 consists of the remnants of a prehistoric Maori cooking area as shown by the fire scoops and an intermittent occupation layer. The features are likely to date to the late pre-European or early contact period of Maori history, but no suitable dating material was recovered to test this. The features had been previously modified by cutting into the bank, stock trampling behind the bank leading to slumping, and the deposition of clay and limestone fill from the quarry on the property upslope and to the rear of the building site.

It is unlikely that any further investigation of the remaining material would yield any more or new information. Other features associated with O0/751 may be located along the Mathers' on the south west boundary and on the flats immediately in front of the bank.

References

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