



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT  
TRANSPOWER POLES TKH-WAI-A0071  
AND A0138, OMAIO AND HOUPOTO  
(HNZPTA AUTHORITY 2018/249)**

**REPORT TO  
HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA  
AND  
TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LTD**

**DANIELLE TRILFORD**

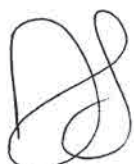


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Reviewed by:



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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT TRANSPower POLES TKH-WAI-A0071 AND A0138, OMAIO AND HOUPOTO (HNZPTA AUTHORITY 2018/249)

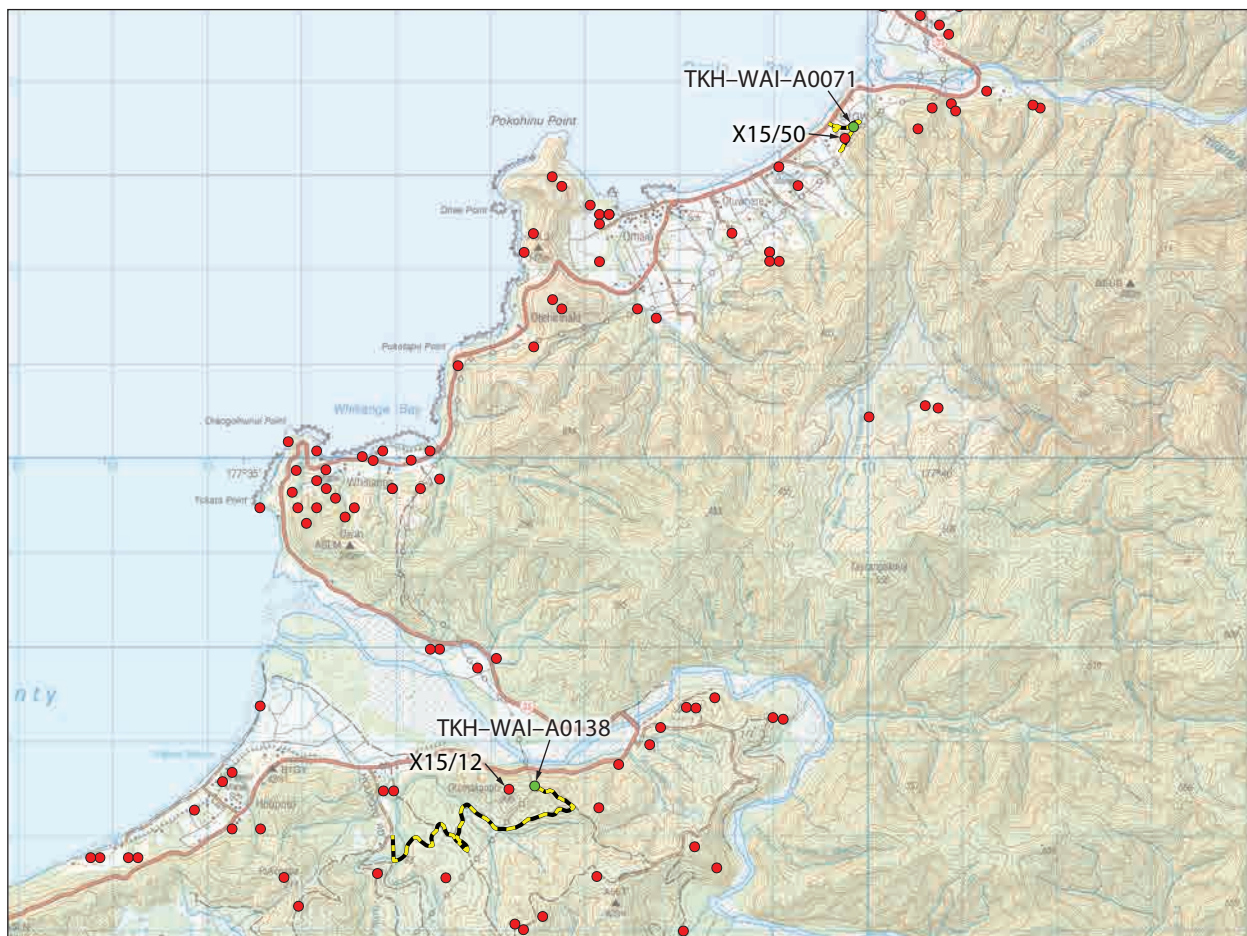
DANIELLE TRILFORD

Transpower have undertaken routine removal and replacement works on a series of the transmission towers and poles across the central and east North Island. Some of these towers and poles are on archaeological sites recorded in the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme (SRS). Two poles part of this project were:

1. Pole TKH-WAI-A0071 and access tracks lie on Block Wharawhara 17, Omaio Bay, near archaeological site X15/50, Punatere pa (Figure 1).
2. Pole TKH-WAI-A0138 and access tracks lie on Houputo Te Pua 2 Block, in Houputo. This pole and access tracks are near X15/12, Otamakanohi pa (Figure 1), and near a newly recorded pre-European Maori terrace (SRS Number: X15/347).

An archaeological assessment of effects was completed in support of an application to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) for an archaeologi-

*1. Location map showing area of works and nearby archaeological sites.*





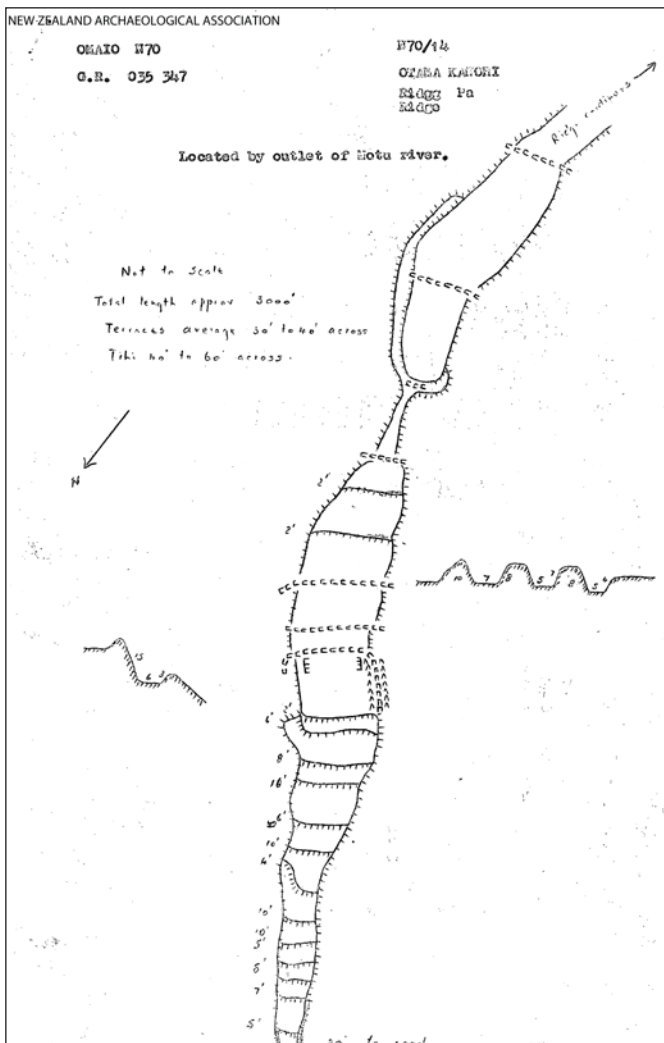
cal authority to undertake the works under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. Archaeological authority 2018/249 was granted on 11 October 2017. Archaeological monitoring of the works at the two poles was undertaken by Danielle Trilford between 14 and 19 November 2017, accompanied by Te Whanau a Apanui monitors Hirere Ngamoki and Hori Barsdell. A terrace was found adjacent to pole TKH-WAI-A0138 and has been recorded in the SRS as site X15/347.

## Background

### TKH-WAI-A0138

There are 12 recorded archaeological sites within 1 km of the works, 6 of which are pa, and the rest are pit and terrace systems. The closest recorded site to the works is Otamakanohi pa, X15/12. The pa was first recorded by David White in 1973 as a ridge pa. The site was visited again by Leahy and White in the 1978 Bay of Plenty survey and the record updated, and then again, a brief road-side visit from Lynda Bowers in 1999. The pa runs up a ridgeline, and according to the annotated sketch map drawn by David White spans over 3000 feet (over 920 m) in length as a system of dozens of terraces (Figure 2). Although probably larger than the surrounding sites, the site is otherwise typical of pa in the area, utilising the natural defences provided by the gullies on either side of the ridgeline and the natural escarpment sloping north toward State Highway 35. Survey maps from 1884 and 1909 show Otamakanohi pa as part of a complex of fortifications across the eastern end of the Omaio hill ranges (Figure 3 and Figure 4).

2. Sketch map of X15/12, Otamakanohi Pa, from the 1973 site record form, recorded by David White.

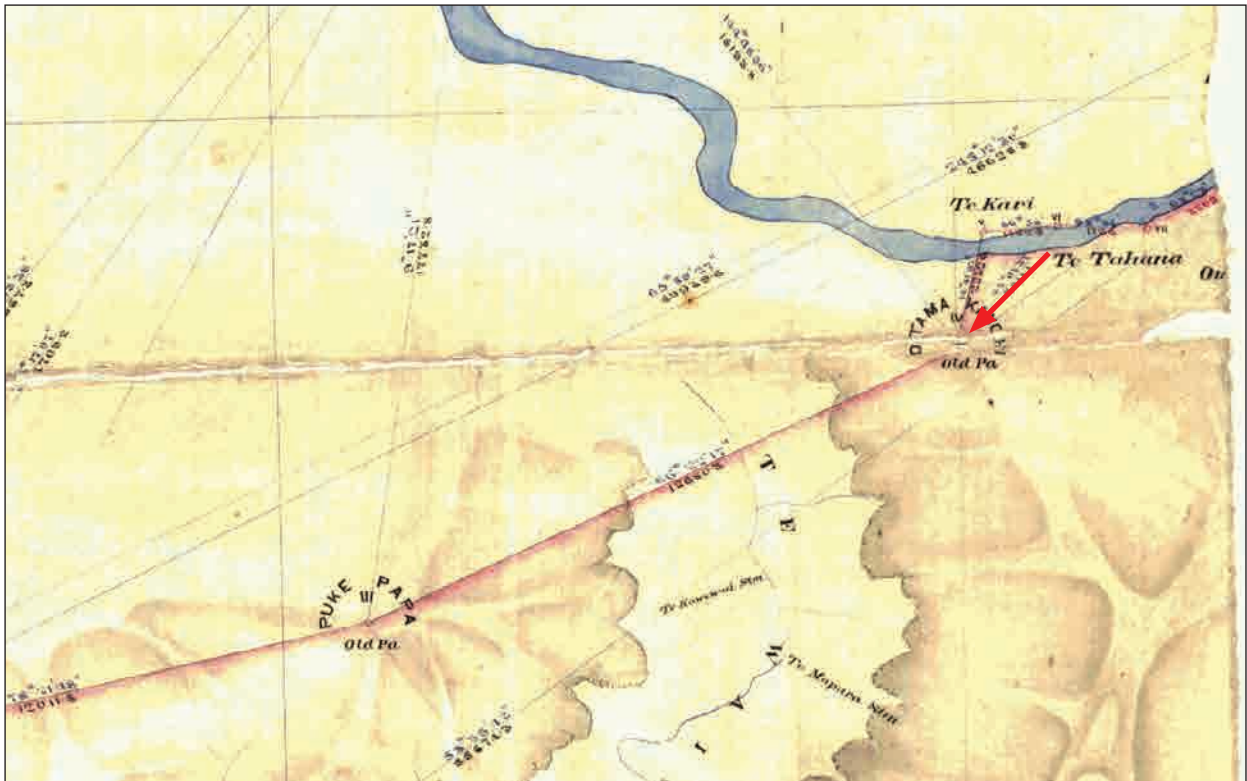


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To the west in Omaio Bay is pa X15/46 at the southern tip of the Omaio Coastline. The investigation showed that there were three phases of occupation at the site, starting with open settlement, defended period, and then a horticultural period. Occupation was probably between 1650 and 1830 AD, and most likely in the latter half of this time period. The results show the influence of the coastal landscape on the development of regionally specific settlement patterns across the isolated pockets of the Eastern Bay of Plenty (Walter et al. 2009).

Just east of these works is Taurangakoau Pa (X14/40) in Te Kaha, was also investigated to show a defended terrace with a three-sided ditch and bank complex complemented by a scarp on the fourth side, containing evidence of maize cultivation in the upper soil horizon (Bowers and Phillips 1998).

Further from the project area there have been several archaeological investigations, mainly driven by forestry works (e.g., Coster 2014, 2010). Forestry works at X15/183 found 23 features which were mainly storage pits – the site was thought to



3. Detail of Survey Plan ML 2581 drawn in 1884, showing Otamakanohi Pa (arrowed).



4. Detail of Survey Plan ML 2582 drawn in 1909, showing Otamakanohi Pa (arrowed).

be destroyed until these were exposed. No chronological information was obtained from the site (Ngamoki 2014).

#### *TKH-WAI-A0071*

There are 5 recorded archaeological sites within 1 km of the works, 4 of which are pa, and the other a pit and terrace system. The closest recorded site to the works is X15/50, a ridge pa. The pa was first recorded by Anne Leahy and Wendy Walsh during their Bay of Plenty survey in 1978. The pa was described as a “narrow right-angled ridge defended by 3 transverse ditches at even intervals. Several pits but old scrub on ground and new growth made. Identification of features is difficult.” The pa seems typical of this part of the Eastern Bay of Plenty, where people utilised ridgelines, gullies, and scarps as natural defences.

Survey plan ML 2732 drawn in 1917 shows several pa in the area. The survey map was georeferenced into the project GIS to show X15/50 is labelled as Punatere Pa (Figure 5). Several other pa identified on the drawing were not previously recorded have been added to SRS (X15/343, X15/344 and X15/345). Survey plan ML 2731 drawn in 1913 was also georeferenced, the drawing identifies many “cultivations” at the lowlands on the Bay (Figure 6). These may be maize cultivations which has been identified by Walter et. al. 2009 and Bowers and Phillips 1998 as a common post-1900s practice, or it could be earlier cultivations. The type of gardening that occurred can only be confirmed by archaeological investigation.

#### **Summary of assessment**

The assessment determined that the works would have a low impact on the recorded archaeology, and an unknown impact on unrecorded archaeology (Trilford 2017). The two pa recorded nearby, X15/50 and X15/12, were not visited or formally assessed, but are probably of high if not considerable significance. The monitoring at pole 0138 has shown that the archaeology along this coastline is poorly understood and heavily under-recorded, and that during archaeological monitoring at earthworks new sites can be recorded.

#### **Results**

##### *TKH-WAI-A0071*

The area for machinery benching, access tracks and pole auguring were monitored, no archaeological features were uncovered (Figure 7). The digger operator recalls excavating the access track for this pole “around 9 or 10 years ago” so any potential archaeological features associated with the pa along the track may have already been damaged or destroyed.

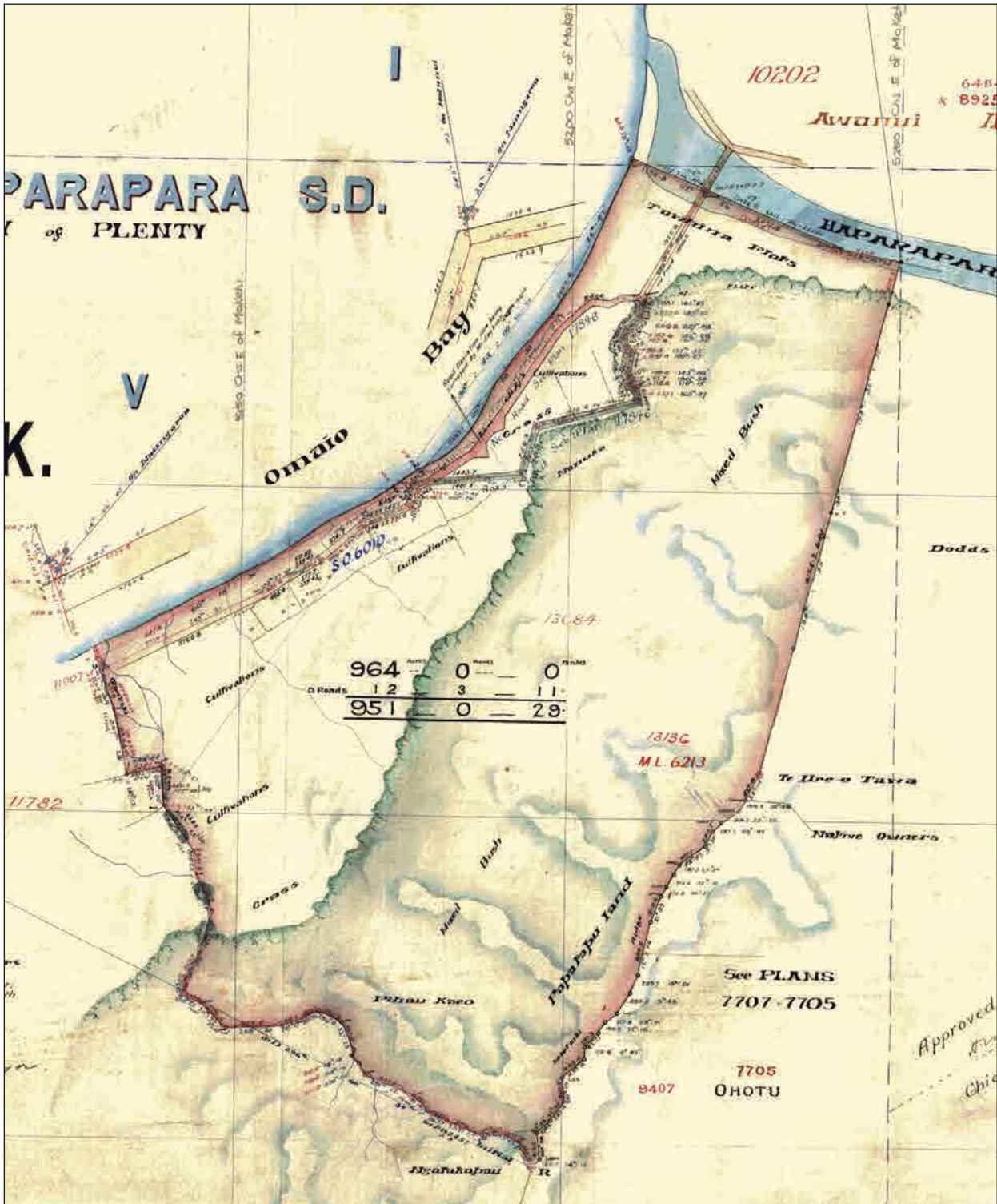
##### *TKH-WAI-A0138*

Earthworks for the pole replacement included benching, track widening works, and vegetation clearance. The vegetation clearance between pole TKH-WAI-A0139 and A0138 revealed a 14 x 6 m, north west facing terrace (Figure 8). Excavation showed the topsoil was thicker than the surrounding area, undisturbed, with no modern inclusions, indicating the terrace is not modern. Below the topsoil was the yellow clay natural sediment (Figure 9). No archaeological features such as pits or post holes were exposed, however the depression from a rotten tree was investi-





5. Survey Plan ML 2732 drawn in 1917, showing several pa in the bay.  
Punatere Pa (X15/50 near Pole 0071) is arrowed.



6. Detail of Survey Plan ML 2731 drawn in 1913, showing "Cultivations" across the flats of the Omaio Bay. These cultivations are near the proposed works





7 (left). Benching works at pole TKH-WAI-A0071 facing east.

8 (below). Location of earthworks and new terrace site X15/347.





9. Terrace at X15/347  
after topsoil stripping,  
facing north west.

gated. The terrace appears to be shortened at the northern end by previous unmonitored earthworks, probably from when the poles were first installed. The terrace has been recorded in the SRS as site X15/347. No samples were taken for analysis or radiocarbon dating. The site is likely to be associated to Otamakanohi Pa X15/12.

The site is in a fair condition however pole TKH-WAI-A0139 has been installed at the top of the terrace and may have disturbed subsurface archaeology within the terrace and several anchor lock poles have been mechanically driven into the terrace with associated posts.

### Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at the pole works have uncovered an unrecorded terrace that is probably associated to Otamakanohi Pa. The terrace has been recorded as new site X15/347 in the SRS. The work has shown some transmission poles and access tracks lie on or near unrecorded archaeology. The results also support the need for more archaeological monitoring for earthworks at areas where archaeological sites are likely but unrecorded in Eastern Bay of Plenty.



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