

## **APPENDIX 12**

### **Archaeological Assessment**

# ***LOT 2 DP86496 FLAT POINT RD, WAIRARAPA: ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT***

Report prepared for J. & M. McGuinness/Guinea Trust

By

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# INTRODUCTION

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## **Project Background**

Stage 2 of a subdivision at Flat Point Station on the Wairarapa Coast to the east of Carterton (Figure 1) is currently being planned. The Stage 2 development is located just under 1km to the west of Flat Point, west of the Te Unu Unu Stream, set slightly back from the coast and accessed by Flat Point Road (Figure 2-Figure 4). The legal description of the property is Lots 1 and 2 DP 86496 and lot 47, DP312741 covering an area of 16.58ha. Lot 47, DP312741 is currently undergoing subdivision which will result in 6ha being removed from the subject land area leaving around 10.58ha available for Stage 2 subdivision. Forty-two residential allotments are planned in this stage of the development.

An archaeological assessment was commissioned by John McGuinness of Guinea Trust to establish whether the proposed Stage 2 subdivision is likely to impact on archaeological values. This report has been prepared as part of the required assessment of effects accompanying a resource consent application under the Resource Management Act 1991 and to identify any requirements under the Historic Places Act 1993. Recommendations are made in accordance with statutory requirements.

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## **Methodology**

Prior to the current archaeological survey the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) site record file was consulted to establish whether any sites had previously been recorded on or in the immediate vicinity of the property (see Figure 3). Relevant literature, aerial photographs and historic survey plans of the area held at Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) were also examined for archaeological and/or historical information.

An archaeological survey of the property was undertaken on 19 October 2007. The ground surface was examined for evidence of former occupation. Limited subsurface testing with a spade was carried out to determine whether buried archaeological deposits could be identified. Exposed and disturbed soils were examined where encountered for evidence of earlier settlement or construction, and an understanding of the local stratigraphy.

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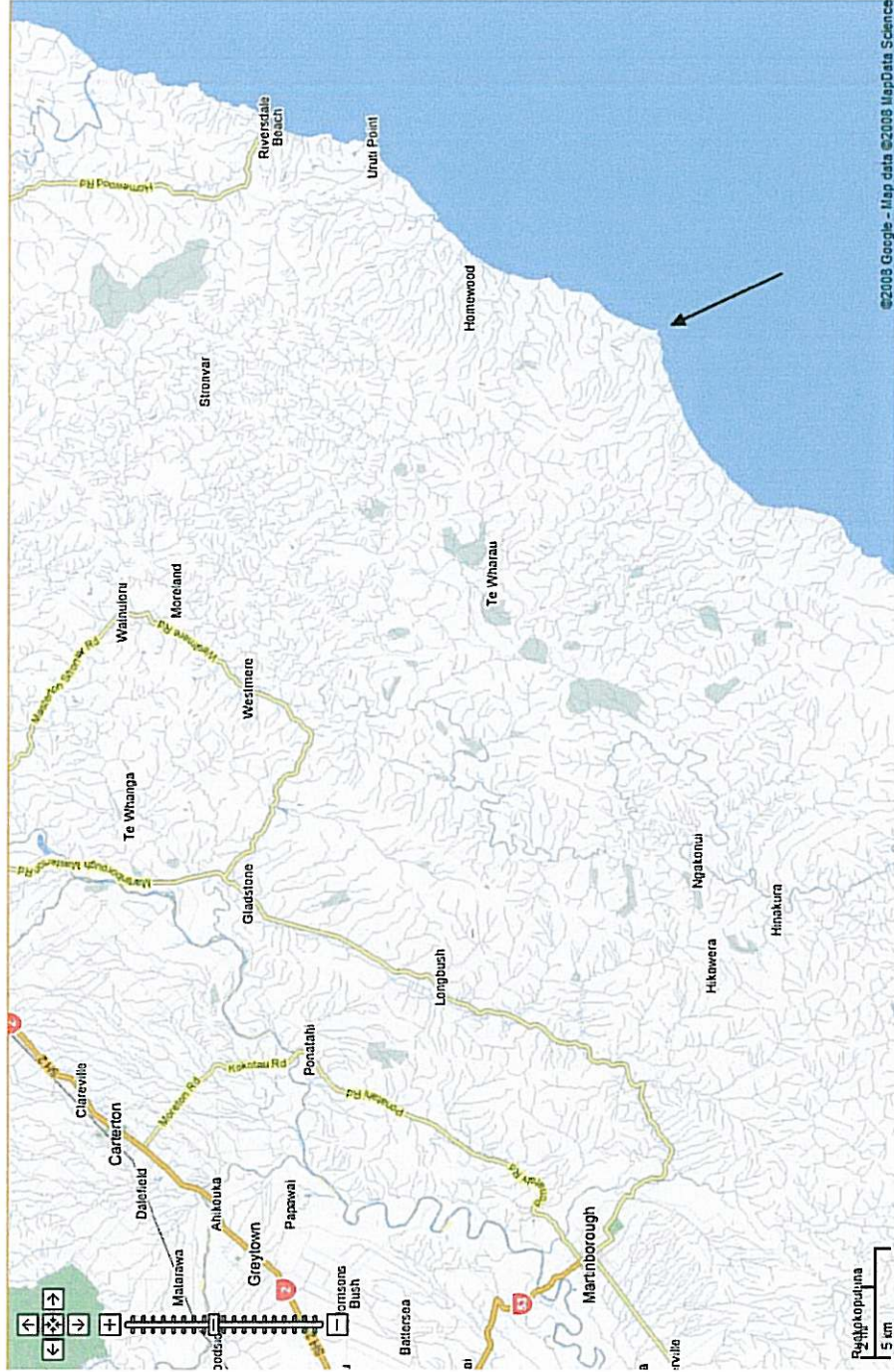


Figure 1. General location map (Flat Point Arrowed)





**Figure 2. Aerial view of Flat Point, area of subdivision and Flat Point homestead**

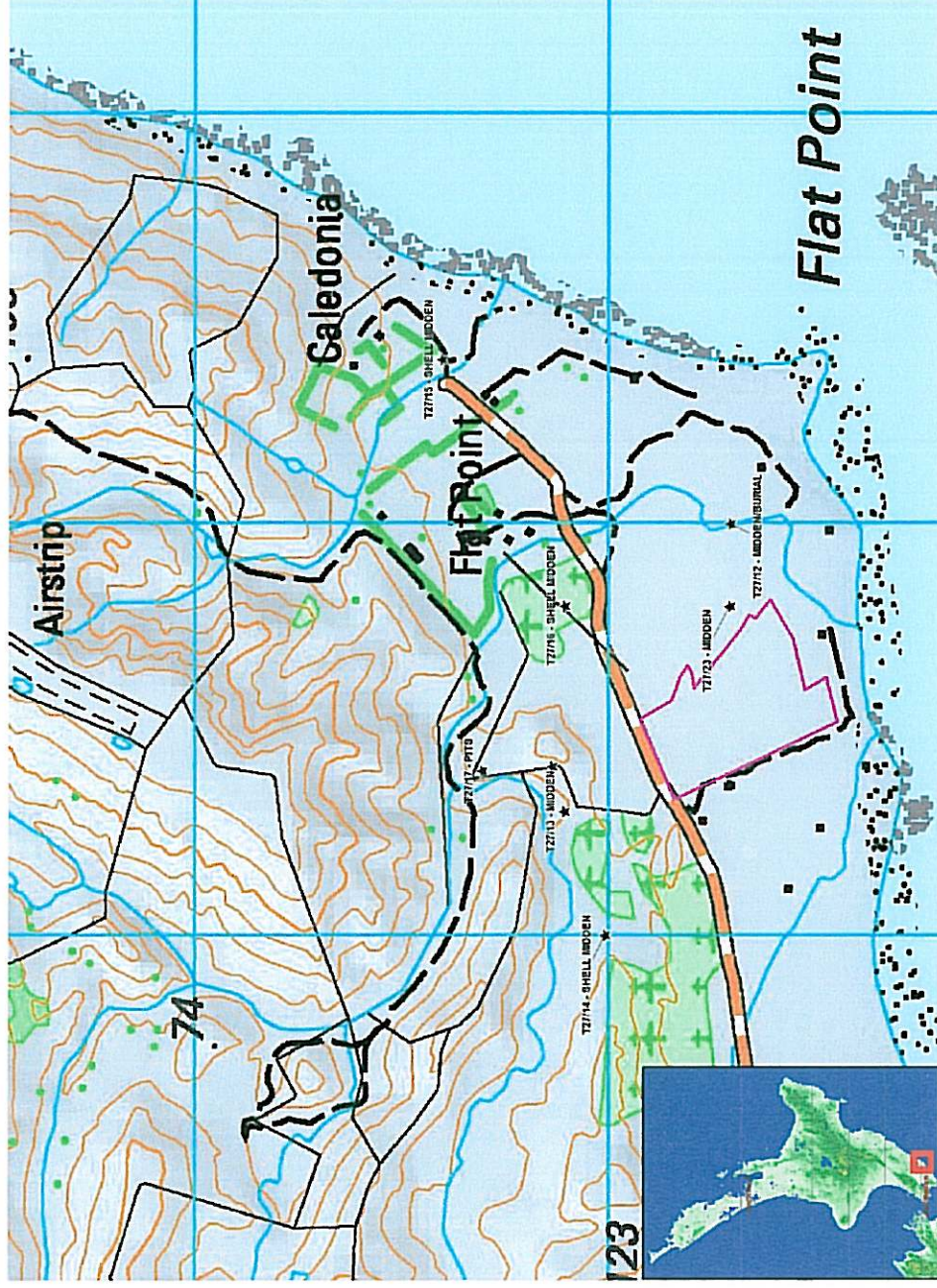


Figure 3. Stage 2 property boundary and previously recorded archaeological sites (indicated by stars). Note that site locations shown are only accurate to within c.100m (source: CINZAS)





Figure 4. Aerial view with approximate subdivision boundaries

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## RESULTS

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### **The Wairarapa Coast**

The Wairarapa Coast, particularly the southern Wairarapa, has been the subject of a considerable volume of archaeological research (Leach & Leach 1979 and Leach 1981) which revealed complex and continuous settlement spanning cultural periods dating from around AD1100 to the present. These studies have integrated a number of seasons of archaeological investigation and detailed analysis of archaeological evidence, and have examined all aspects of life in these historic settlements. Those studied include the size and health of the individuals (through examination of skeletal remains), horticulture, settlement patterns and the changing environment and climate. Artefact assemblages have provided considerable insights into the economy, technology and everyday life, and include adzes, fishing gear (floats, hooks, stone sinkers and harpoon points), stone pounders, grinders and tattooing chisels. The material culture also demonstrated wide ranging connections with other parts of the country and the importance of the exchange of goods and raw materials. Stone materials (including nephrite and obsidian) derived from areas over 800km away both to the north and to the south. Clearly the coastal communities along the Wairarapa were ideally situated to take advantage of the wide ranging trade linked to seasonal movements of communities around the coasts of New Zealand (Leach 1981).

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### **Previous Archaeological Assessment**

An archaeological assessment was carried out for Stage 1 of the Flat Point subdivision in 1999 by K. Greig. This involved a background search from documentary sources, a search of the NZAA database and a site visit. In particular, Greig noted that Maori communities had been present in the Wairarapa for over 800 years (citing Leach & Leach 1979), that Flat Point was named by Captain Cook during the 1770 voyage of the *Endeavour* (citing Beaglehole 1968: 251), and that following the initial activities of whalers and sealers, European settlement began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Six archaeological sites (T27/12-17) had been recorded around the general area of Flat Point at the time Greig carried out her survey (Table 1). Sites included midden sites, storage pits and cultural soils, indicating some permanence to the settlement in the area. Further to the south are complex garden systems (stone walls and mounds), although none were in close proximity to the Point. An urupa and an 1850s village site were also noted as part of the Flat Point landscape, although these were further inland to the north of the subdivision. The Flat Point homestead (Figure 2) is to the northeast.

Material from T27/12 was associated with depositional events around 650 years ago and is therefore consistent with other dates from the Wairarapa.

While no archaeological remains were recorded in the dune, some buried soils were observed along the banks of the Te Unu Unu stream.

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## **RESULTS,** *CONTINUED*

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### **Previous Archaeological Assessment, *continued***

Greig relocated some of the recorded sites such as the pits sites (T27/13, T27/17) and midden site T27/16, but was unable to relocate T27/12. None of the sites were located within the Stage 2 area.

In October 2000 (as Karen Greig was overseas at the time) I was commissioned to peer review her assessment and prepare evidence for the Environment Court. This review included a site inspection of the proposed subdivision which confirmed her assessment.

Although no sites had been observed within the area of the Stage 1 subdivision, Greig took a precautionary approach and recommended that an archaeologist monitor earthworks (drainage, roading and sanitation). These were subsequently monitored and no archaeological remains were exposed during the process except for a sparse shell midden of little significance exposed in a cable trench – T27/23 (O’Keefe 2001).

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### **Historical Plans**

Several historic plans (ML 1433 (1896), ML3218 (1917), ML3721 (1917) and ML3511 (1921) identified in a LINZ search carried out as part of the current assessment for Stage 2 were examined for indications of historic elements in the landscape. ML1433 identified the historic urupa inland of the proposed subdivision and showed that the area of the subdivision was in dune. No other features were identified but other plans described the area variously as ‘flax swamps and sandhills’ or ‘sandy hills mostly grassed’ (Figure 6-Figure 9).

Over the past two decades the area has been used for cultivation of grain and greenfeed crops (pers. comm. John McGuinness)

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### **Field Survey**

The area proposed for the Stage 2 subdivision is currently in mixed pasture, sedge tussocks, pine forest and unstable dune (Figure 10-Figure 12).

Numerous spade tests were dug to inspect the nature of the subsoils. All revealed very sandy soils to a depth of 400mm-500mm+ but none had any indication of cultural horizons or material. Several areas of exposed dune were also examined but revealed only clean dune (Figure 13).

Overall, there were no indications of any remains relating to historic settlement of the area.

Several kilometres to the south along Flat Point and Cameron Roads was an area of stonefield systems with numerous stonewall alignments and stone mounds (Figure 14), typical of the extensive Maori gardening systems seen in many places along the Wairarapa coast (Leach & Leach 1979). However, these systems are not evident around Flat Point, perhaps indicating that the area was not as suitable for agriculture as elsewhere.

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## RESULTS, CONTINUED

**Table 1. Archaeological sites recorded in the vicinity (source: CINZAS and Greig 1999)**

NZAA No.	Easting	Northing	Description
T27/12	2758000	5991700	MIDDEN/BURIAL. Two well defined buried soils containing cultural material were exposed in the eastern bank of Te Unu Unu Stream where it crosses the cultural platform. Cultural remains include: midden, bones and a burial in the upper layer
T27/13	2757300	5992100	SHELL MIDDEN/PITS. Scattered shells, charcoal and some fishbone in and above a buried soil forming a layer c.50cm thick. Exposed in a low sand covered ridge. Five pits along the top of the ridge.
T27/14	2757000	5992000	SHELL MIDDEN forming a thin layer in eroding sand dune on tight bank of Te Unu Unu stream, about 2km from stream mouth
T27/15	2758400	5992400	SHELL MIDDEN in soil layer exposed in crest of beach ridge. Midden contents include rocky shore shell fish, fishbone and bird bone
T27/16	2757800	5992100	SHELL MIDDEN. Thin layer, less than 30cm thick, in the side of a small sand dune on the south bank of the Te Unu Unu stream immediately across from the Cameron homestead. Contents include dog bone, barracouta bone, charcoal and rocky shore shellfish (limpets, catseyes, paua, Cooks turban shells, <i>Protothaca</i> and <i>Cominella</i> sp.).
T27/17	2757400	5992300	PITS. Two raised rim pits surrounded by a ditch. South side of Te Unu Unu stream.
T27/23	2757800	5991700	SHELL MIDDEN. Sparse midden in east side of trench dug for electric cabling. Within and just on the buried topsoil, c.50cm below ground surface. Composed of fragmented paua and whole mudsnail. Lens extended sporadically over 3.7m in trench wall and up to 12cm deep in places. No other cultural material observed

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## RESULTS, CONTINUED

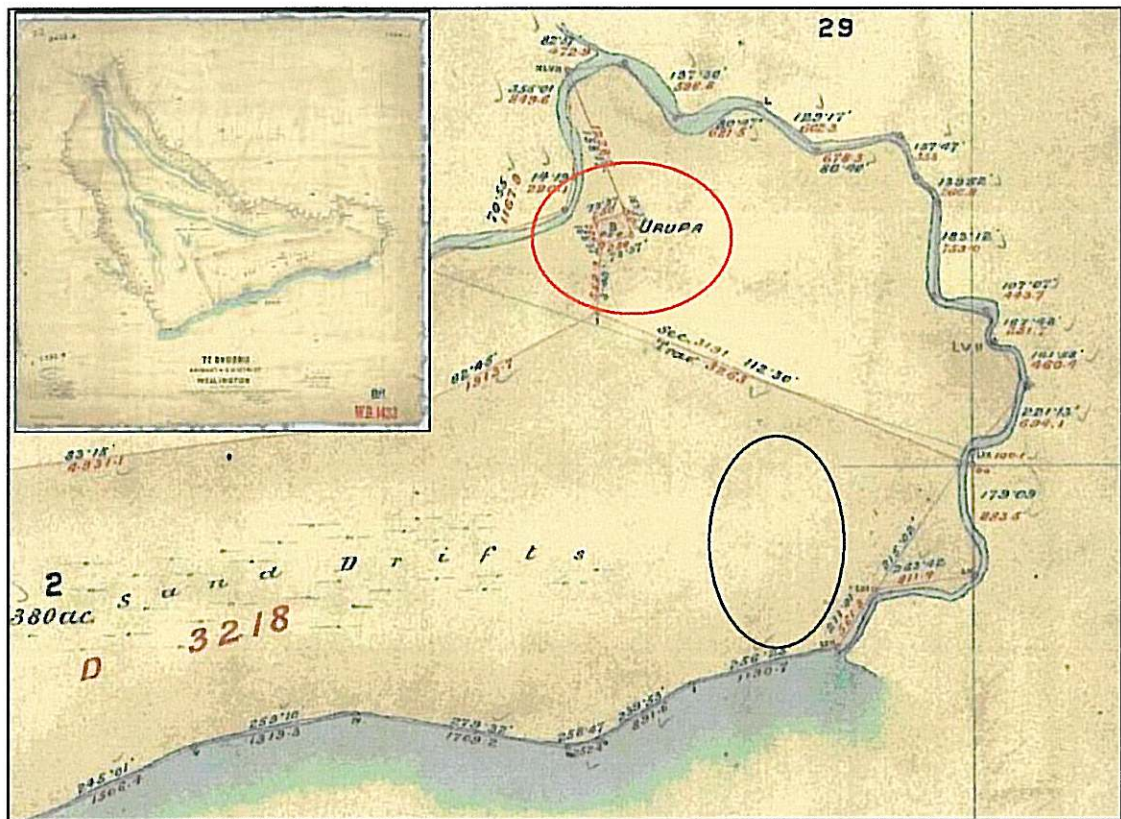


Figure 6. Wellington District ML1433 (LINZ) dated 1896, showing urupa to the north (circled in red), and approximate area of subdivision to (circled in black) located in area of 'Sand Drifts' to west of stream

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## RESULTS, CONTINUED

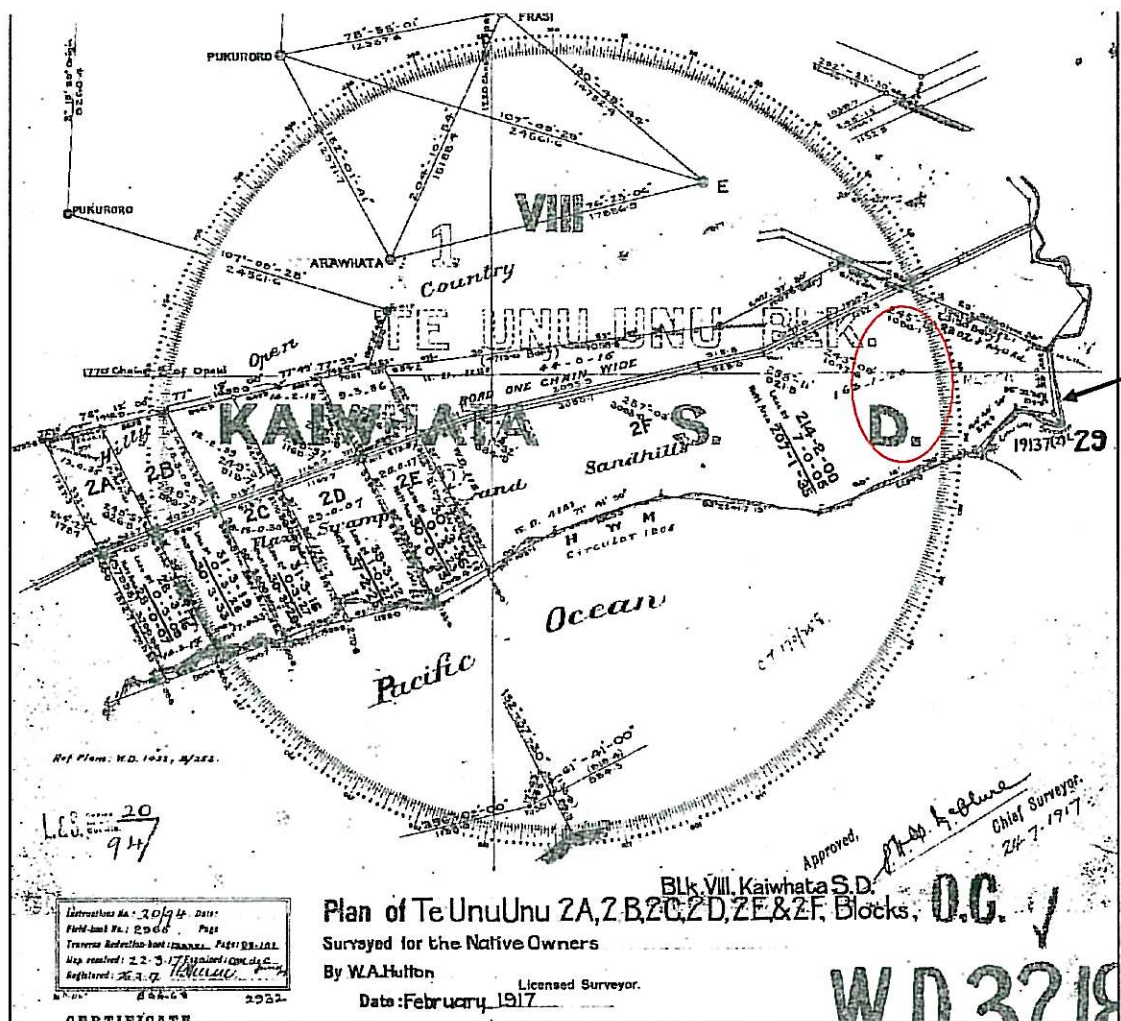


Figure 7. Wellington ML 3218 (LINZ) dated 1917, identifying Flax Swamp and Sandhills' along coast. Te Unu Unu Stream arrowed, approximate area of subdivision circled

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## RESULTS, CONTINUED

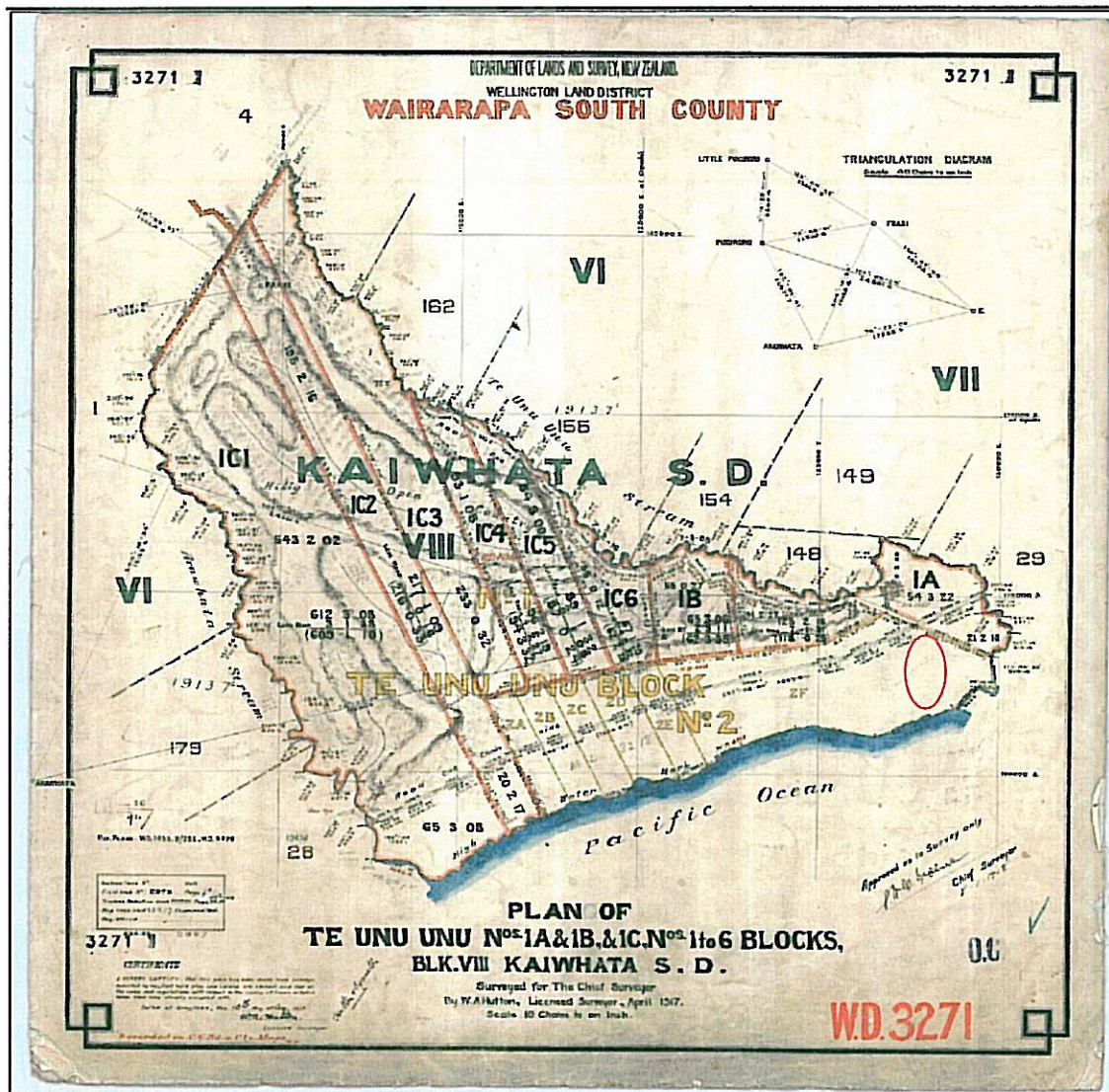


Figure 8. Wellington ML 3271 dated 1917, approximate area of subdivision circled

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# RESULTS, CONTINUED

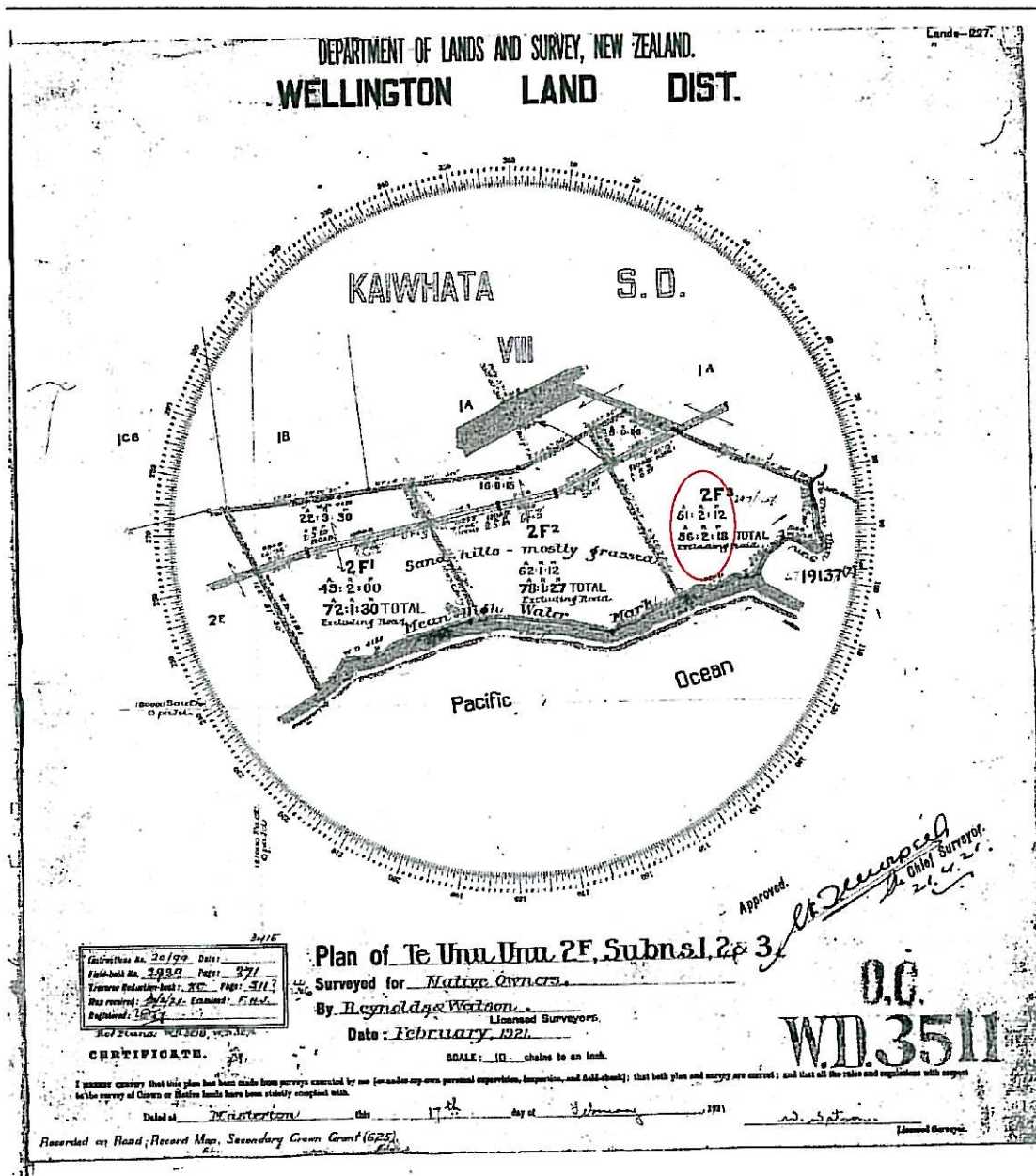


Figure 9. Wellington ML 3511 dated 1921, 'Sand hills – mostly grassed' along shoreline, approximate area of subdivision circled

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## ***RESULTS, CONTINUED***

**Figure 10. View from the end of Beach Road looking west (L), and view south towards coast**



**Figure 11. Area of unstable dunes in pine**



**Figure 12. Pasture looking north to road (L.), and stock tracks revealing compacted dune beneath**



**Figure 13. Test pitting reveals considerable depth of consolidated dune**



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## ***RESULTS, CONTINUED***

**Figure 14.**  
**Stonefield**  
**agricultural**  
**systems to the**  
**south of Flat**  
**Point (mounds**  
**and walls)**





## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

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### Summary of Results

The Wairarapa Coast has considerable evidence of approximately 800 years of Maori occupation including extensive agricultural settlements based on stonefield systems. The area around Flat Point has some evidence of settlement, with seven archaeological sites (mainly shell midden, with two pit sites) recorded in the vicinity, and a historic urupa and 1850s village about half a kilometre to the north. Monitoring the earthworks of previous stages failed to detect any archaeological remains except for a sparse area of shell midden exposed in a service trench. No sites had previously been recorded within the Stage 2 subdivision area, and none was located during the current survey. The depth of topsoil is consistent with cultivation of crops as reported by John McGuinness.

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### Archaeological Values

The project area has no known archaeological values. The archaeological sites in the wider vicinity are not densely distributed and this area does not appear to have been a focus of intensive settlement in pre-European times, based on archaeological evidence. However, a historic urupa is located about half a kilometre to the north near a recorded 19<sup>th</sup> century village.

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### General Considerations

This is an assessment of archaeological values and does not include an assessment of Maori values. It should be noted that archaeological survey techniques (based on visual inspection and minor sub-surface testing) cannot necessarily identify all sub-surface archaeological features, or detect wahi tapu and other sites of traditional significance to Maori, especially where these have no physical remains.

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### Effects

In general this is a low impact subdivision in a dune/pasture environment. The proposed subdivision will not have any effects on known archaeological sites as none was identified within the Stage 2 area, and it is considered unlikely that any unidentified sites will be present in view of the general paucity of sites in the immediate vicinity.

However, in any area where sites have been recorded in the general vicinity it is possible that unrecorded subsurface remains may be exposed during development, and this possibility is slightly increased by the discovery of a thin layer of shell midden in the adjacent area of the development.

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## ***DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS, CONTINUED***

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### **Effects (continued)**

This possibility can be provided for by putting procedures in place ensuring that the project archaeologist and/or the New Zealand Historic Places Trust is contacted should this occur. If remains are exposed they are most likely to be in the form of shell midden.

Alternatively, to avoid possible delays once earthworks are underway, an Authority could be applied for as a precaution prior to development.

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### **Historic Places Trust**

In addition to any requirements under the RMA 1991, the HPA 1993 protects all archaeological sites whether recorded or not, and they may not be damaged or destroyed unless an Authority to modify an archaeological site has been issued by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

An archaeological site is defined by the HPA 2(a)(i) and 2(b) as: 'any place in New Zealand that was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900, and is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand'.

Authorities to modify archaeological sites can be applied for either under Section 11, in respect to a particular site or sites, or under Section 12, for all sites that may be present within a specified area. Applications made under S12 require approval by the Maori Heritage Council of the Historic Places Trust. The tangata whenua should be consulted regarding applications to modify or destroy archaeological sites which have Maori cultural associations.

**Note that about 4 months should be allowed for the processing of authorities, which includes a statutory stand down period of 15 working days before an authority can be exercised.**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

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**It is  
Recommended:**

- That there should be no constraints on the proposed Stage 2 subdivision work on archaeological grounds, since no archaeological sites are known to be present and it is considered unlikely that any will be exposed during development work.
  - That if sub-surface archaeological evidence should be unearthed during development (e.g. intact shell midden, hangi, storage pits relating to Maori occupation), work should cease in the immediate vicinity of the remains and the project archaeologist and/or NZ Historic Places Trust should be contacted.
  - That alternatively, to avoid possible delays if a site is found once earthworks are under way, an Authority could be applied for in advance of development as a precaution.
  - That if modification of an archaeological site does become necessary, an Authority to modify an archaeological site must be applied for under Section 11 of the Historic Places Act 1993 and granted prior to any further work being carried out that will affect the site. (*Note that this is a legal requirement*).
  - That in the event of koiwi (human remains) being uncovered, work should cease in the immediate vicinity and the tangata whenua, Historic Places Trust and NZ Police should be contacted so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
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