



WHAT IS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE?

The *Historic Places Act 1993* defines an archaeological site as a place associated with pre-1900 human activity, where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

TYPES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Māori pā sites are fortified places with banks and ditches. They are often found on cliffs, headlands or ridges.

Remains of **cultivation areas** and **gardens** can be seen in soils and from lines or walls of loose stones or stone mounds. Other types of sites associated with cultivation and settlement include artificially levelled **terraces**, and **pits** for storing kumara.

Middens are rubbish dumps that may contain shells, bones, artefacts, charcoal and sometimes oven stones.

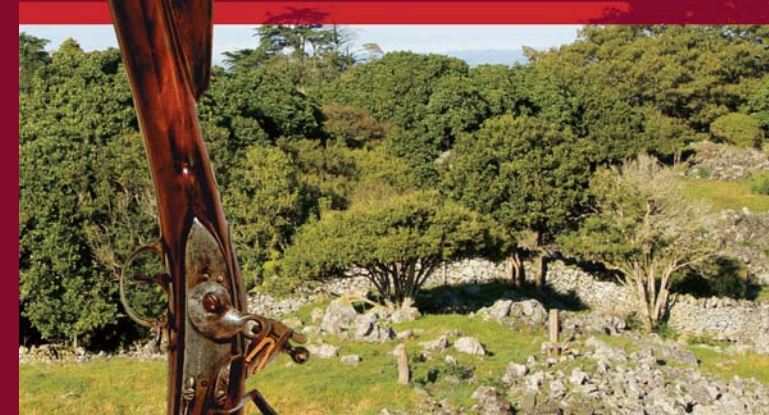
Rock art sites may contain paintings, drawings, carvings or engravings.

Shipwrecks are also a type of archaeological site.

Other **historic sites** contain evidence of whaling, trading, and gold mining, or the remains of mission stations, military redoubts, buildings and structures.



PROTECTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

For enquiries about archaeological sites and applications to damage, destroy or investigate sites contact the Regional Archaeologist in your nearest New Zealand Historic Places Trust office:

- ▶ **Northland Area Office, Kerikeri** (Northland) PH: 09 407 4443
- ▶ **Northern Regional Office, Auckland** (Auckland, Hauraki, Thames/Coromandel) PH: 09 307 8896
- ▶ **Lower Northern Area Office, Tauranga** (Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Gisborne) PH: 07 578 1219
- ▶ **Central Regional Office, Wellington** (Lower North Island, Nelson/Tasman, Marlborough) PH: 04 801 5088
- ▶ **Southern Regional Office, Christchurch** (West Coast, Canterbury) PH: 03 365 2897
- ▶ **Dunedin Area Office** (Otago, Southland) PH: 03 477 9871

www.historic.org.nz

For further information about the New Zealand Archaeological Association database of archaeological sites and a list of consultant archaeologists, visit their website; www.nzarchaeology.org



IMAGES

Inside spread, clockwise from left: Remains of Brunner Industrial Complex, West Coast (NZHPT); View looking down Hawkestone Street, Wellington 1845(?) Samuel C. Brees (ATL, A-109-021); Shell midden, Ōmaha Coast, Northland (NZHPT); Māori rock art, Frenchman's Gully, South Canterbury (NZHPT)

Front cover: Otuaataua Stonefields (DOC); Flintlock musket (TE PAPA, GH008078); Kotiate/hand club, (TE PAPA, ME014173) | Inside cover: Pā at Māngere Mountain/Te Pane ō Mataaho, Auckland Kevin Jones (DOC) | Back cover: Archaeological excavation of Chinese gold-mining settlement, Cromwell, Otago (NZHPT)

Archaeological sites are irreplaceable parts of our heritage. They are protected by the Historic Places Act 1993. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust wants to work with you to identify, protect, preserve and conserve our archaeological sites. It matters to us all.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ON MY PROPERTY?

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust's archaeologists or your regional Trust Office can provide information about archaeological sites. The New Zealand Archaeological Association has a national database of recorded archaeological sites.

You could also employ an archaeologist to do an archaeological survey of your property. They will be able to identify, record, and assess any archaeological sites that may be present.

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

If you own, occupy or are responsible for land, it may contain an archaeological site. These sites are protected in law. This leaflet explains

- ▶ What an archaeological site is
- ▶ How it is protected
- ▶ What you do when working with a site
- ▶ How you can look after an archaeological site
- ▶ Who to contact for information and advice.

WHAT PROTECTION DOES THE LAW GIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES?

The *Historic Places Act 1993* makes it unlawful for any person to destroy, damage or modify the whole or any part of an archaeological site, whether or not the land on which the site is located is designated, or a resource or building consent has been issued, without the prior authority of the Trust.

It also provides for substantial penalties for unauthorised destruction, damage or modification.

WHAT IF I PLAN TO DO WORK THAT MAY DAMAGE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE?

If there is a chance you may damage a site, you must apply to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for permission to do so. The Trust can advise you of the most suitable course of action.

If you uncover a previously unknown site during earthworks, you may also need permission to continue. You must stop any work that would affect the site and contact the Trust for advice on how to proceed.

CAN ANYONE DISTURB AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN ORDER TO STUDY IT?

Any person wishing to carry out an investigation that might disturb an archaeological site in any way must apply to the Trust for permission to do so.

HOW CAN I LOOK AFTER AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE?

This will depend on the type of site, local environment conditions and the land use. If you are developing land that contains archaeological sites, try to avoid the sites if possible.

For most rural sites, grass grazed by sheep gives the best protection. Regular trampling by heavier animals such as horses and cattle can erode the site. Large plants, vines and trees cause damage when their roots grow through the site, and further damage can occur when they are removed, harvested, or blow over.

You might also wish to place a covenant over the site, register the site with the Trust, or create a reserve to ensure its future protection. If you would like advice on the best management and protection for your particular site(s), please contact the Trust.