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24 February 2012

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**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AUTHORITY No. 2012/486:
ORUAHINE TRACK REPAIRS, MAUAO HISTORIC RESERVE,
MT MAUNGANUI**

Introduction

I am writing to report on the outcome of the archaeological work required in compliance with the conditions of Authority No. 2012/486. The authority was granted to permit restoration and repair works necessary as a result of two landslips on the Oruahine Track within the Mauao Historic Reserve.

The authority conditions required that all ground disturbances relating to the construction of the crib retaining wall and its associated earthworks must be monitored by an archaeologist approved by the NZHPT. A pre-work briefing of personnel involved in the repair work, by the approved archaeologist, was also required.

Monitoring of repair work

On 7 February 2012 prior to any ground disturbance being undertaken, I visited the site and briefed the contractors that were engaged by Tauranga City Council to complete the work. It was immediately apparent that it was highly unlikely that intact archaeological deposits would be encountered during the proposed work. The work area was entirely confined to either previously disturbed ground, consisting of land slip debris and the existing walking track bed, or the natural rock substrata.



The only material that could possibly be interpreted as being of archaeological origin were occasional fragments of marine shell present in the track fill material under the existing track bed. However, as marine shell has previously been extensively used to surface walking tracks within the reserve it was impossible to determine the source of the shell.

On the basis of my inspection I concluded that continuous on-site archaeological monitoring was not appropriate. I briefed the contractors as required by condition 6 of the HPA authority. I informed you of my course of action by email on 8 February 2012.

On 9 February 2012 I carried out a second site visit as the track fill and slip debris material had been removed and the contractors were at the stage of excavating the rock substrata using a mechanical cutting saw and a rock drill. No further ground disturbance within any area likely to contain any archaeological material was proposed. No archaeological material was encountered during the removal of the track fill material and slip debris. I have attached photography illustrating the work area.

Conclusion

- 1) No archaeological features were encountered during ground disturbance associated with the repair work on the Oruahine Track including the construction of the crib retaining wall.
- 2) As no site was affected by the work, no records or updates have been submitted to the NZAA Site Recording Scheme ArchSite.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Naku noa na

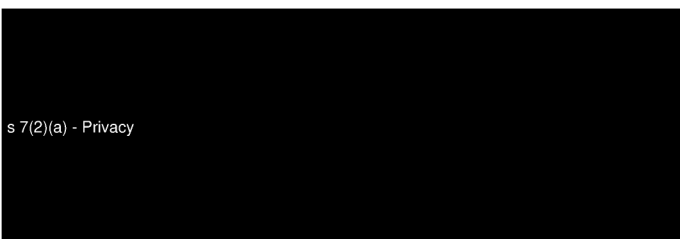




Photo 1 Oruahine Track repair work site prior to removal of existing track bed and slip debris.



Photo 2 Oruahine Track repair work site after removal of existing track bed and slip debris. Rock substrata in process of being excavated.