

## InSitu Heritage Ltd.

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26 March 2018

Tauranga City Council  
Tauranga

Attention: § 7(2)(f)(ii)

By email

Tena koe

### **REVIEW OF PROPOSED MAUAO HISTORIC RESERVE BASE TRACK ALIGNMENT – PRELIMINARY ADVICE**

#### **Background**

I am writing in response to your request for advice regarding the proposed alignment of the base track at Mauao Historic Reserve, as illustrated by drawing no. 51-37691-SK001. The preliminary advice provided below is the result of recent archaeological survey carried out by Ken Phillips of Archaeology B.O.P.; and is provided to assist discussion of alignment and construction methodology options. A full archaeological assessment will be provided when the alignment for the base track has been finalized and confirmed design drawings have been provided.

Archaeology B.O.P undertook archaeological survey on the lower southern and western slopes of Mauao below the existing base track alignment, extending from the iron jetty west past the recent large slip and then north to the sandy bay where the proposed new alignment will rejoin the existing track. The purpose of the survey was to identify all visible surface archaeological features in the area to assist in the identification of a new base track alignment that minimises impact on archaeological values.

The archaeological survey result is illustrated on Figure 1 attached to this letter of advice. Shapefiles will be provided separately.



## **Terraces**

Terraces are the predominant visible surface archaeological feature within the survey area. The eighteen (18) identified terraces range from large occupation terraces (features 6, 12, 16 and 17 on figure 1) to small terraces of unknown function. Figure 1 illustrates the extent of the tread of the terraces and it should be noted that the risers (or scarps) above and below the treads are also component parts of each terrace feature.

## **Middens**

Midden deposits are extensive within the survey area; however, only discrete concentrations have been identified by polygons shown on Figure 1. The highly stratified middens within features 21 and 22 are characteristic of large shell mounds that previously occurred on the Pilot Bay dunes and are still found on the southern slopes of Mauao. The large midden mound directly above terrace 8 and just outside the survey area was probably quarried in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for use as road aggregate.

## **Iron jetty**

The location, history and significance of the iron jetty and surviving stone breast work (feature 23) has previously been described in detail elsewhere (Phillips 2003) and recorded as archaeological site U14/362 in the NZ Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme. It is thought to have been constructed in the 1880s and is recognized as a significant historic archaeological feature associated with pre-1900 maritime activity in Tauranga Harbour.

## **Previous modifications within the survey area**

The construction of the existing base track involved a degree of cut and fill earthwork, however this appears to have been negligible along the southern section of the track where it traverses the slump formation of the Waipatukakahu Stream. In this location the track passes over archaeological terraces. More significant cuts are evident within the closed off section of the track.

The narrow path extending from the base track down to the boulder field on the foreshore has caused some damage to one terrace (feature 15) and probable midden deposits. The path also contains an old water pipe that probably ran from the iron jetty reservoir down the path and west along the coastal bench, and beach. Remnants of the pipe are now visible in the intertidal zone. The track may have originally been constructed specifically to accommodate the pipe.

## **Erosion**

There is evidence of erosion within the survey area, however the degree to which that has caused loss of archaeological values, due to disruption, displacement or removal of deposits; cannot be assessed without subsurface investigation.

The coastal bench (recorded as feature 18) situated approximately 1 metre above high water mark is suffering on-going coastal erosion and may have originally covered some of the exposed boulders. This is supported by examination of historic aerial photography which shows the area as subject to sand accretion and erosion, with a relatively large sand beach extending 20 metres or more out from the low coastal bench (feature 18) in 1959 (NZAM 3005/28 flown 16-01-1959).

One pit/terrace feature (feature 7) within the survey area may have been caused by a tree throw, however subsurface investigation would be required in order to establish this.

Disruption of archaeological deposits due to rabbit burrowing activity is limited within the survey area.

## **Archaeological significance**

The archaeological features within the survey area are an important component of the extensive archaeological and cultural landscape on the southern and eastern slopes of Mauao. This heritage place has regional and national significance, which has been described and assessed previously (Phillips 2003, Mauao Historic Reserve Conservation Plan 2004).

The features within the survey area have been illustrated on Figure 1 as discrete polygons, however the intervening spaces form part of the archaeological landscape and are highly likely to contain buried archaeological features.

This area of archaeological features has previously been largely unrecognized due to its dislocation by the base track, and due to being obscured by vegetation. It does, however, have a direct relationship with the visible features above the base track and is contiguous with those features.

## **Summary and Recommendations**

The archaeological survey identified a total of twenty (20) archaeological features in the area below the existing base track and three (3) further features partially within the existing alignment (Figure 1). The existing base track has been constructed on at least three archaeological terraces, parts of which extent into the survey area. It should be noted that it is highly likely that additional subsurface archaeological features are

present in the survey area that were not able to be identified by the survey method used.

Mauao contains a significant archaeological landscape. Individual features, and clusters of features, within that landscape have been subject to modification in the past, and many continue to be subject to on-going degradation and loss. The features within the survey area are relatively intact, although subject to coastal erosion processes. Much of the past loss of archaeological features at Mauao has resulted from reserve management actions. Further loss should be avoided if at all possible, and it is recommended that the proposed realignment of the base track be designed to avoid impact on identified archaeological features.

I understand this advice will be subject to discussion at our meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018. However, if you require any further information or assistance in the meantime, please get in touch.

Naku noa na



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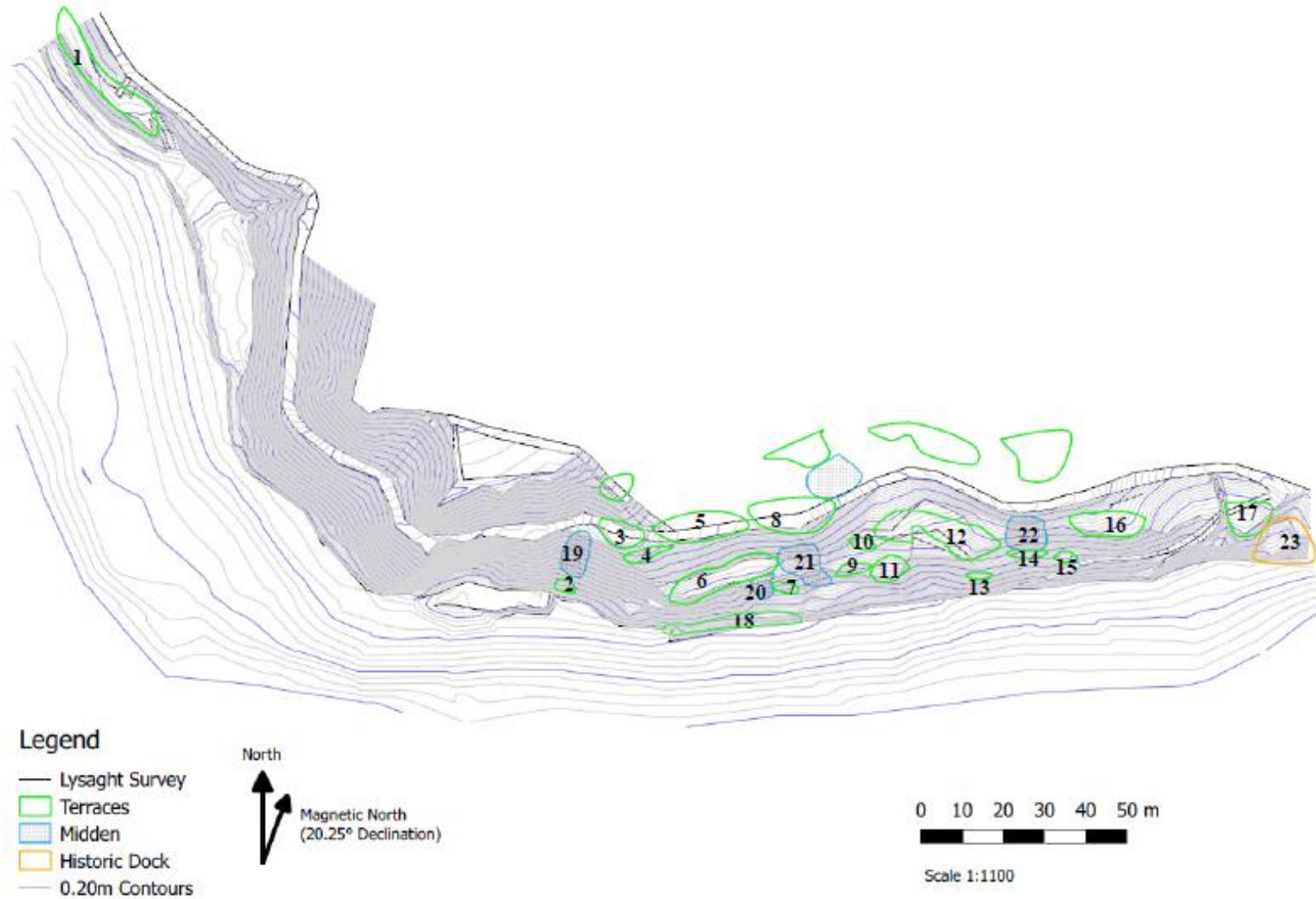


Figure 1: Archaeological features, Mauao Historic Reserve overlaid on recent survey data provided by Tauranga City Council