

3.0 Other Cultural Heritage sites considered

The Cultural Heritage Advisory Group considered all cultural heritage sites submitted through the public discussion process. None of the following was considered suitable for the short list at this stage. In some cases the Group did not consider that the sites had the necessary qualities for World Heritage status. In others it felt that the sites could qualify, but that either a more developed case was needed, or that further community and stakeholder involvement was required. Comment on these individual cases follows.

3.1 CENTRAL OTAGO GOLDFIELDS

A well-developed case was presented, but this was from only two joint submitters. The Group recognised the significance of the Otago goldfields in the context of 19th century mineral exploitation, and the technological innovation involved. However, community consultation and local authority involvement would be needed to progress a case.

3.2 CHRISTCHURCH CULTURAL PRECINCT

The Group felt that the case might have some elements of World Heritage status, but that these had not been sufficiently developed in relation to the criteria. Here again, much more community consultation and local authority involvement would be needed to progress a case.

3.3 DENNISTON

The Group did not consider that Denniston on its own would meet World Heritage standards, but that it should be considered as part of a West Coast proposal (see Sec. 3.9).

3.4 FIRST CHURCH OF OTAGO, DUNEDIN

The Group recognised the outstanding merits of First Church among New Zealand churches. Of all the proposals received, it possibly came closest to meeting criterion (i). First Church also represents a 19th century aspiration to create a new ideal society in New Zealand. However, the case was not made convincingly in relation to World Heritage criteria. This would involve evaluating First Church along with other significant churches of the period. More community consultation would also be required.

3.5 HISTORIC OAMARU

This area came close to being included in the recommended tentative list, but the Group decided, with some reluctance, that the Oamaru proposal should not be included on this occasion. The submissions demonstrated wide community support and the principal submitters had made effective and enthusiastic cases. However, these did not always prove international significance, nor did they sufficiently relate the area to World Heritage criteria. The exact role and significance of the port in the development of the frozen meat trade and other exports needs more clarification.

There have been some losses of buildings over time, and some unfortunate modern intrusions. Neglect and deterioration of buildings has not been fully remedied, although the fine efforts of the Whitestone Civic Trust, Waitaki District Council and property owners are acknowledged. Overall, the area still has sufficient wholeness and intactness to merit World Heritage consideration.

The significance of the waterfront land between Humber Street and the sea (Area 4 in the Discussion Document plan) needs to be clarified. This area is very neglected and its historical role is unclear. In particular, the historical significance of the derelict freezing works building should be clarified.

A nomination proposal linking the town area with Totara Estate and possibly other sites as a serial site should be considered further.

3.6 KAIKOURA

The case for Kaikoura rests mainly on natural grounds. The Group did not consider that the cultural factors on their own had sufficient significance to merit World Heritage status.

3.7 PAPAMOA PA COMPLEX

This is a most impressive series of earthwork pa whose significance has been recognised by public acquisition and grant of Regional Park status. The complex may be seen as a highly developed expression of the Classic Maori phase, i.e. large fortified settlements and warfare. However, there is uncertainty of the period of occupation, and its place in the regional cultural sequence.

The relationship between the complex and other major sites such as Mount Maunganui and Kura a Maia needs to be clarified; a wider perspective is needed.

There is a problem with the boundary of the protected area. This boundary is arbitrary and does not take in some of the major pa sites. This issue needs resolution before World Heritage Site nomination could be further considered.

The Papamoia pa complex would also need to be evaluated against other major site complexes.

3.8 TOTARANUI / OUTER QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND

This site, while having undoubted historical significance, would probably not merit World Heritage status in its own right. The Group recommends that consideration be given to exploration and landing sites in a wider context, in particular those of Kupe and Captain Cook.

3.9 WEST COAST MINING LANDSCAPE AND REMNANTS

An interesting case was presented by one submitter. The Group recognises the significance of the West Coast goldfields in the context of 19th century mineral exploitation. The case would benefit from extension to cover other aspects of resource extraction, particularly pounamu (greenstone) and coal mining. The close historical links with North American and Australian goldfields should be noted. These raise possibilities of international serial World Heritage Sites.

This is another case where much greater community consultation and local authority involvement would be needed to progress a case.