

Motukorea/Browns Island Archaeological Landscape

Heritage Assessment

Andy Dodd, DOC, Auckland conservancy

24 MAY 2006



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Motukorea/Browns Island Archaeological Landscape
Heritage Assessment

Andy Dodd, DOC, Auckland Conservancy

24 MAY 2006

Peer-reviewed by Sarah Macready, Auckland Conservancy

Cover image: Browns Island/Motukorea, Kevin L. Jones, May 2005

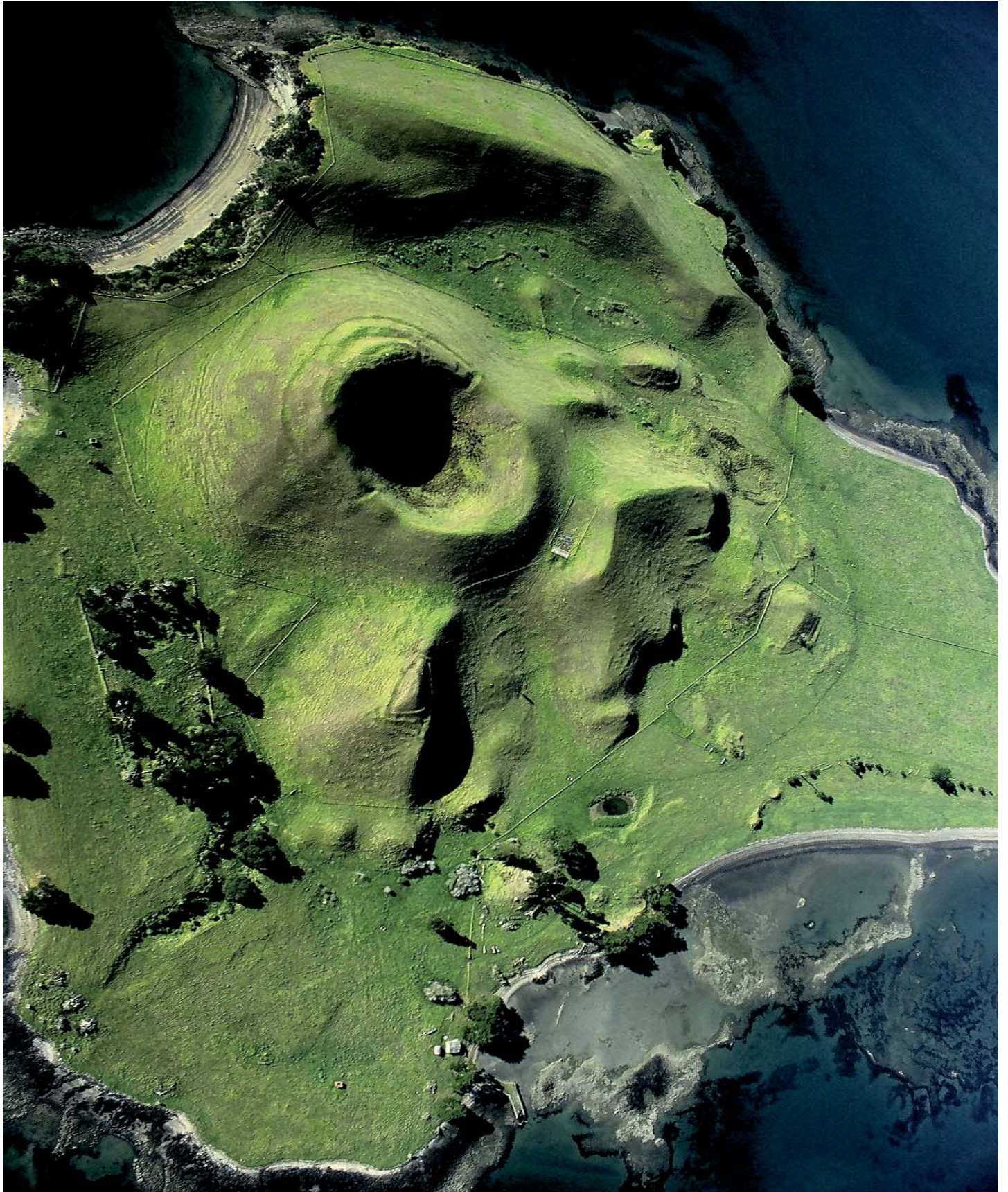
Publ.info.

© New Zealand Department of Conservation

ISBN 978-0-478-14303-4 (web PDF)

CONTENTS

1. Site Overview	5
2. History description	5
3. Fabric description	6
4. Cultural connections	6
5. National context	7
6. Historic significance	7
7. Fabric significance	8
8. Cultural significance	8
9. Significant themes & site types	8
10. Management recommendations	9
11. Management history	10
12. Work vision statement	10
13. Sources & reports	11
14. Evaluation of sources	13
15. Location & site maps	13
16. Definitive photos	13
Endnotes	14
Map key	15
17. Chronology of events	19



Browns Island / Motukorea, Kevin L. Jones, May 2005

1. SITE OVERVIEW

Motukorea / Browns Island has a long history of Polynesian occupation, with Ngati Tama Te Ra as iwi. For at least six centuries the island was a base for Maori gardening and fishing. Subsequent activity includes farming from 1840 and a destination for picnic excursions, both continuing to the present day

The archaeological landscape of the island is outstanding because of its completeness and intactness. The island has a wide range of site types including some that are rare in the Auckland region: archaic middens, fish traps and stone structures. Archaeological sites play a key role in preserving a record of the past, comparable in value to museums and archives.

- Browns Island Recreation Reserve
- Administered from Auckland Area Office
- Owned by Auckland City Council
- Access by boat from landing block at high tide, otherwise via Memorial or Crater Bay
- A moderately significant visitor site with an estimated 5000 visitors per year
- An actively managed historic asset
- Site area 59.89 hectares

2. HISTORY DESCRIPTION

Motukorea has a rich history including elements of early settlement both Maori and European. The island was intensively occupied in pre-European times, with people engaged in stone working industry, marine exploitation, gardening of the fertile volcanic soils, and establishing open and defended settlements. Early European visitors included Richard Cruise, and later Samuel Marsden and John Butler in 1820, who both traded with Maori for produce. Dumont D'Urville visited the island in 1827 and reported it abandoned, probably on account of the musket wars.¹

The island was later purchased, on 22 May 1840, from the Ngati Tama Te Ra tribe by William Brown and John Logan Campbell, who settled on the western side of the island just under 3 months later on 13 August.² Brown and Campbell built a raupo whare and stocked the island with pigs to supply the future European settlement of Auckland.³ A flagpole was almost erected on the summit and the island claimed for the Crown in 1840 after it was gifted by Ngati Whatua chief Apiha Te Kawau to entice Captain Hobson to select Auckland as the new capital for the colony.⁴ After it was seen that the island had already been purchased by Brown and Campbell, this idea was abandoned, although the Crown grant was not officially made until 1844.⁵ Campbell left the island in December 1840 to set up a trading business in the newly establish settlement of Auckland.⁶ William Brown remained on the island until February the following year.

In 1856, both men left the colony appointing a resident manager in charge of their affairs.⁷ Campbell eventually bought out Brown's share, including Motukorea, in May 1873 for £40,000 when Brown refused to return from Britain to resume control of their affairs. Campbell eventually sold to the Featherstone family in 1879, who built a larger house on the north-eastern side of the island, which burnt down in 1915.⁸

In 1906 the island was sold to the Alison family who operated the Devonport Steam Ferry Company, and during their ownership the hulks of several paddle steamers were abandoned on the island.⁹ The Auckland Metropolitan Drainage Board purchased the island in 1946 proposing to build a sewerage treatment plant, but controversy surrounding this forced the plan to be abandoned and the island was eventually purchased by Sir Ernest Davis¹⁰ who presented it as a gift to the people of Auckland in July 1955.¹¹ The Auckland City Council administered the island until 1983 when it became part of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park. The island is now administered by the Department of Conservation, although ownership remains with the Auckland City Council.

3. FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Browns Island could accurately be described as one of the most complex and intact historic landscapes in the Auckland Region. It is described in the Auckland CMS as “An outstanding and near-intact historical landscape.”¹² While there are 68 recorded archaeological sites, many of these overlap to form an extensive landscape of early Polynesian settlement culminating in intensive Maori occupation, overlaid with historic period features dating from 1840.¹³ Recorded archaeological sites are generally well preserved and include archaic middens, stone tool manufacturing sites, fish traps, complex garden systems, rock shelters, as well as defended and open settlement sites including a cone pa on the upper reaches of the volcanic rim. Historic period archaeological sites include stone walled pens, house sites, tracks, plough marks, shipwrecks and ferry hulks, wharves and landing remnants and water catchment facilities. Unrecorded features of heritage significance include relict plantings, memorials, and unrecorded burials. While the sites are generally well preserved and easily visible on the ground surface, a certain amount of attrition has occurred from cattle trampling and rabbit burrowing.

4. CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Iwi maintain an ongoing association with the island. Mana whenua status for Browns Island has yet to be formally established through the Waitangi Tribunal, but iwi who have indicated a tangata whenua interest in Browns Island with the Department include Ngai Tai, Hauraki, and Ngati Paoa. The island is one of Auckland's icon landmarks with un-vegetated slopes that allow archaeological and geological features to be clearly seen from a considerable distance. The present form and appearance of the island

is clearly valued by many Aucklanders, and this was evidenced by letters of protest with regard to earlier hints of revegetation proposals.¹⁴ The island does not have a regular ferry service, but is easily accessible to small boat users. The island receives significant numbers of visitors in summer, and guided archaeological tours by Department of Conservation, Auckland Institute and Museum and Auckland University have been well attended in the past.¹⁵ The Auckland Maritime Society have undertaken fieldwork to the island to identify the numerous hulks and shipwrecks around the coast.

5. NATIONAL CONTEXT

The Hauraki Gulf Islands including Browns are believed to have been some of the earliest places occupied in the Auckland region by Polynesian settlers, and extensively occupied during the subsequent centuries. Browns Island is considered to be the least modified of the Auckland volcanic cones, which comprise a larger landscape of national cultural and historic significance. Vacated during the musket wars of the 1820s, Browns Island became the location of one of the first European settlements in the Auckland region. Brown and Campbell settled there in 1840, and used it as a base from which they aspired to establish Auckland as a European settlement, and future capital of New Zealand (between 1840-1865).

6. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Browns Island is identified in the Auckland CMS as a 'historic site of outstanding importance'.¹⁶ The island comprises an area intensively occupied in pre-European times, and includes several pa, and in particular the prominent cone pa which bears the same name as the island itself.¹⁷ Motukorea was also the location of one of the first European land purchases in the Auckland region, and subsequently became the island home of John Logan Campbell and William Brown who were to become the founding fathers of Auckland, New Zealand's capital from 1840 to 1865. While Campbell soon resettled in the newly established capital Brown remained on the island to run the pig farm, joining Campbell a few months later. Another significant historical event at this time was the attempt by the government to raise the colonial flag on the summit of the island in September 1840 after the island had been 'gifted' to Captain Hobson by Apiwha Te Kawau to encourage him to select Auckland as the future capital of New Zealand, although this idea was abandoned after Brown and Campbell returned to their island and protested their right to occupy the island after purchasing it from Ngati Tama Te Ra four months previously. Browns Island is also significant more recently in aviation history, with the Barnard brothers of Auckland carrying out what appears to have been New Zealand's first glider flights from the upper slopes of the cone in June 1909.¹⁸

7. FABRIC SIGNIFICANCE

Browns Island comprises a largely intact archaeological landscape containing evidence from both Maori and European early settlement. While presently overgrown, the island contains well preserved stone field garden systems, and the central cone is likewise one of the least modified volcanic cones anywhere in New Zealand. A wide range of remnant features relating to both Maori and European settlement are present, both visible above the ground surface and contained in subsurface archaeological deposits. There are several site types present on Browns Island which are rare in the Auckland region, including archaic middens, fish traps, and stone structures both of Maori and European origin. The ferry hulk skeletons are also of considerable significance as being particularly well preserved examples, due to their deposition in the soft sediment adjacent to the landing block. Browns Island has four historic sites identified in the Auckland City Council District Plan for the Hauraki Gulf Islands,¹⁹ and two sites on the Auckland Regional Council's schedule of Cultural Heritage Sites for Preservation.²⁰

8. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

While it was one of the first land sales in the region, Browns Island remains culturally significant to iwi, who maintain an ongoing association with the island. Today Browns Island is a significant visitor attraction for kayakers and small boat users in the Hauraki Gulf. While visitor numbers are comparatively small against other key visitor sites in the Auckland region, for many this is one of the many facets that make Browns Island a special place. As one of Auckland's remaining volcanic cones, Browns Island has also been included in recent joint proposals for UNESCO World Heritage status.

9. SIGNIFICANT THEMES & SITE TYPES

DOC Historic Heritage web pages topics:

Maori sites

10. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The island has been the subject of numerous surveys, plans, proposals and recommendations for management since its transfer to the Auckland City Council in 1955.²¹ While many of these reports contain useful recommendations, they are sometimes contradictory, or include recommendations contrary to historic best practice. It is therefore recommended that a comprehensive and detailed conservation plan be prepared for the island to ensure that its future management is consistent with best practice principles for management of the historic landscape.

Since it was set aside as a reserve, the island has been managed under a grazing concession, although this has lapsed in recent years. It is important that when grazing concessions are being negotiated historic and archaeological considerations are not overlooked. A conservation plan will assist in this process, but in the present absence of a plan a new concessionaire should be actively sought to maintain the appearance of the island. Conditions laid out in previous concessions dictating maximum numbers and types of stock units, as well as excluding certain areas during winter months need to be maintained in future arrangements. The concession should also limit fencing to areas where this is already in place to avoid further modification of historic features.

The island is well suited to historic and geological interpretation, and there are numerous stories of historic and special interest waiting to be told. It is recommended that the Department work with Auckland City Council to provide high quality visitor interpretation for historic sites. In addition to grazing it is recommended that herbicide spraying of stone features such as walls and alignments be carried out periodically, so that these are more visible to the visiting public and able to be easily interpreted.

The Auckland Conservancy CMS recommends that Browns Island be reclassified from its existing Recreation Reserve classification to that of a Historic Reserve. This recommendation is supported as this will improve statutory protection for the historic and archaeological features on the island, and ensure that historic values are given their appropriate weight in any future management decisions and administration of the reserve.

It is also recommended in the CMS that the existing landing block be repaired and maintained for continued future use. Additional facilities, however, such as wharves to improve accessibility may not be advisable as significant increases in visitor numbers are likely to have an adverse impact on the preservation of the historic landscape. It is, however, recommended that the basic toilet facilities already present on the island are maintained and made available to the visiting public, as there is no other alternative on the island. In some areas on the north western flat trees planted on archaeological features are causing damage as some of these are now beginning to fall. Where necessary these trees should be felled to prevent further damage. Revegetation poses a significant potential threat to historic landscapes and on no account should this be considered for Browns Island.

11. MANAGEMENT HISTORY

- 1840: Purchased by William Brown
- 1873: Transfer to W. Baker
- 1873: Transfer to John Logan Campbell
- 1879: Purchased by W.P. Featherstone
- 1906: Purchased by Alison Family (Devonport Steam Ferry Company)
- 1946: Purchased by Auckland Metropolitan Drainage Board
- 1955: Gifted to Auckland City Council by Sir Ernest Davis
- 1983: Becomes part of Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park
- 1977: Gazetted as a Recreation Reserve
- 1986: Archaeological survey carried out by Department of Lands and Survey
- 1987: Archaeological survey carried out by Auckland University
- 1994: Rabbits eradicated from Browns Island
- 2004: Archaeological site records updated by DOC/ARC for coastal monitoring programme
- 2006: Historic Inventory completed
- 2006: Auckland City Council Inner Gulf Island Archaeological Assessment completed

12. WORK VISION STATEMENT

- Prepare a detailed conservation plan for the Browns Island archaeological landscape
- Prepare and implement an interpretation plan for historic features on the island
- Reclassify reserve status from Recreation to Historic

Subject to conservation policy and guidelines contained in the conservation plan:

- Periodically clear vegetation from historic features to improve appearance and accessibility
- Continue passive management of archaeological sites under grazing concession
- Make existing toilet facilities available to visiting public and maintain

13. SOURCES & REPORTS

Departmental files and archival sources

NP 28 vols.1-2

NP/36/2

DOC 014-40

HHA-02-01-05

Newspapers and periodicals

NZ Herald

20/08/1954

30/07/1954

13/01/1995 p.18

04/03/1995 letter to editor

North Shore Times Advertiser

29/11/1994

Gulf News

27/05/1994 p.3

Photographic Collections

Department of Conservation, photographic collection

Auckland Maritime Society photographic collection

Auckland Institute and Museum photographic collection

Publications (including Background Reading)

ALISON, E. 1937. *A New Zealander Sees the World*. Unity Press, Auckland

BALDERSTON, D. 1986. *The Harbour Ferries of Auckland*. Grantham House, Wellington

BUSH, G. 1980. *The Brown's Island Drainage Controversy*. Dunmore Press, Palmerston North

CAMPBELL, J.L. 1881. *Poenamo: Sketches of the Early Days of New Zealand, Romance and Reality of Antipodean Life in the Infancy of a New Colony*. Williams and Norgate, London. Pp.229-253, 300-308

CAMPBELL, J.L. n.d. Reminiscences. Manuscript in Auckland Institute and Museum

CRUISE, R.A. 1823. *Journal of a Ten Month's Residence in New Zealand*. Longmans, London

DOC. 1995 Browns Island (Motukorea) Working Plan. Department of Conservation, Auckland

ELDER, J.R. (ed) *The Letters and Journals of Samuel Marsden 1765-1830*. Otago University Council, Dunedin

SEARLE, E.J. 1981. *City of Volcanoes: A Geology of Auckland*. Longman Paul,

SEARLE, E.J. and DAVIDSON, J. 1973. *The Volcanic Cones of Auckland*. Auckland Institute and Museum

SMITH, S.P. 1909 'Captain Dumont D'Urville's visit to Whangarei, Waitemata and the Thames in 1827.' *Transactions of the NZ Institute* 42:412-433

- STONE, R.C.J. 'Brown, William 1809/1810?-1898'. *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, updated 7 April 2006
- STONE, R.C.J. 'Campbell, John Logan 1817-1912'. *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, updated 7 April 2006
- STONE, R.C.J. 1982. *Young Logan Campbell*. Auckland University Press, Auckland
- WRIGHT, O. 1950. *New Zealand 1826-27*. Wellington

Unpublished sources

- ANON. 1981. Brown's Island - Motukorea. Unpublished report to Auckland City Council
- ARC. 1995. Motukorea (Browns) Island Maritime Historic Places and Areas. Unpublished report from the Environmental Division, Auckland Regional Council, 7 April 1995
- DOC. 1991 Motukorea (Browns Island): Notes to accompany Summer Programme Trips, January 1991. Unpublished brochure by Department of Conservation.
- BRASSEY, R. 1991a. A Proposal for the Future Management of Archaeological Sites on Motukorea. February 1991. Report on file DOC 014-40
- BRASSEY, R. 1991b. Excavation Report Site R11/1563, Motukorea (Permit 1991/4)
- BRASSEY, R. 1996. Motukorea (Browns Island) unpublished manuscript held on file at Department of Conservation DOC 014-40
- BUSH, G.W.A. 2006. 'Davis, Ernest Hyam 1872-1962' *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, updated 7 April 2006
- COOK, S. and IBALL, S. 1986. Motukorea: An Assessment - With Suggestions for Future Management. Unpublished report submitted as part requirement for Applied Ecology, University of Auckland
- DOC. 1995. Conservation Management Strategy. Browns Island (Motukorea) Key Area 20.
- HGMPB. n.d. Browns Island: Motukorea. Unpublished brochure by Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board
- HGMPB. 1986 Motukorea (Browns Island), A unique natural area for Auckland, is threatened by a rapidly increasing rabbit population, Unpublished Report
- COATES, J. and MAINGAY, J. 1983. 'Report on Tree Planting on Motukorea'. In RICKARD, V. 1985. Motukorea Archaeological Survey. Unpublished report to the Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland. Archaeological and Historical Reports No.11
- COSTER, J. 1986. Motukorea (Browns Island) - Barge Ramp. File Note NP 28 21/04/1986. Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland
- COSTER, J. and de Lambert, R. 1987. Notes on Aspects of Landscape and Archaeology on Motukorea (Browns Island). File note NP 28 24/11/1987
- COSTER, J. 1990. Auckland institute and Museum members' trip 29 April 1990. Unpublished brochure by the Auckland Institute and Museum
- FREDERICKSON, C. 1984. Analysis of Lithic Material from Motukorea. Unpublished essay, Anthropology Department Auckland University
- MAFFEY, N.A. 1972. Auckland Maritime Society Excursion to Brown's Island - 2 December 1972. Manuscript in Auckland Public Library
- RICKARD, V. 1985. Motukorea Archaeological Survey. Unpublished report to the Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland. Archaeological and Historical Reports No.11
- SIMMONS, D.R. n.d. Motukorea (unpublished manuscript)
- SMITH, I.W.G. 1987. Archaeological Inspection: Motukorea April 1987. Unpublished report University of Auckland
- TUCKER, D. 1985. Browns Island Landscape Study. Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland
- New Zealand Archaeological Association site records ²²

14. EVALUATION OF SOURCES

Visits by early European travellers and settlers are well recorded, and their diaries have been reproduced in whole or re-published and are easily accessible.²³ While most of these contain only brief references to visits and activities that took place on the island, *Poenamo* contains numerous references and detailed descriptions of the island and the early structures that were built there.

Secondary historical accounts such as those by Stone (1982, 2006a, 2006b), Bush (1980, 2006), Brassey (1996), Rickard (1985), and Wright (1950) also contain a lot of useful background information. Archaeological surveys of relevance to Browns Island include sporadic early recording from 1961. Eight sites were recorded in 1967 by the Auckland University Archaeological Society, and a further nine by Sullivan in 1978. Eleven more sites were recorded by the Auckland University Anthropology Department in 1981. Seven further sites were identified by Rickard who produced the first comprehensive report on the history and archaeology for the Department of Lands and Survey in 1985.²⁴ Shortly after this an additional 29 sites were recorded by Smith who carried out a detailed survey of the island in 1987 response to re-vegetation proposals for the island.²⁵

Since that time records have been updated in response to limited excavations by Brassey 1991, and Auckland Regional Council monitoring in 2003 and 2004. A complete upgrade of archaeological information was carried out between 2003 and 2006 by DOC, ARC, and consultant archaeologists, and an assessment of significance carried out by the Auckland City Council as part of the Inner Gulf Islands Archaeological Assessment in 2006. In addition to the history contained in archaeological survey reports, there are numerous good secondary historical accounts dealing with Browns Island both published and as reports.²⁶ Photographs held in the Auckland Conservancy also provide a valuable source of historical information.

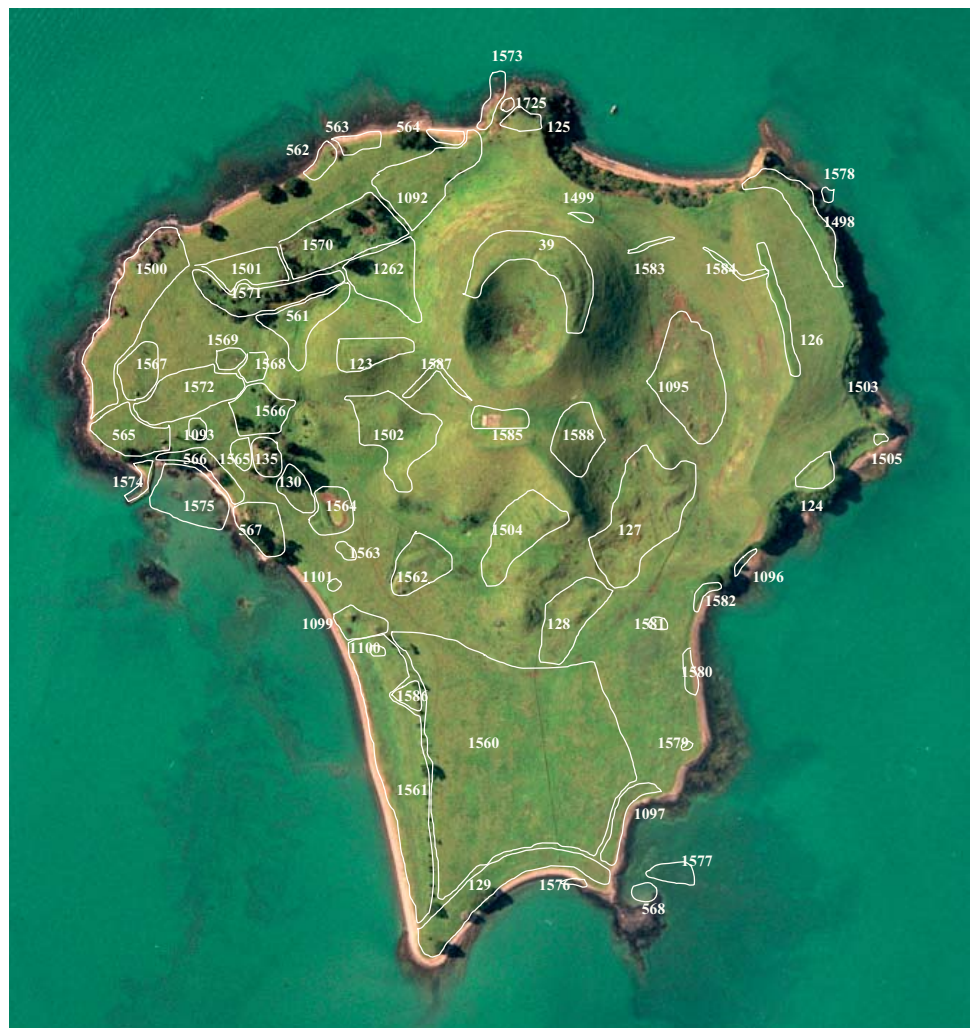
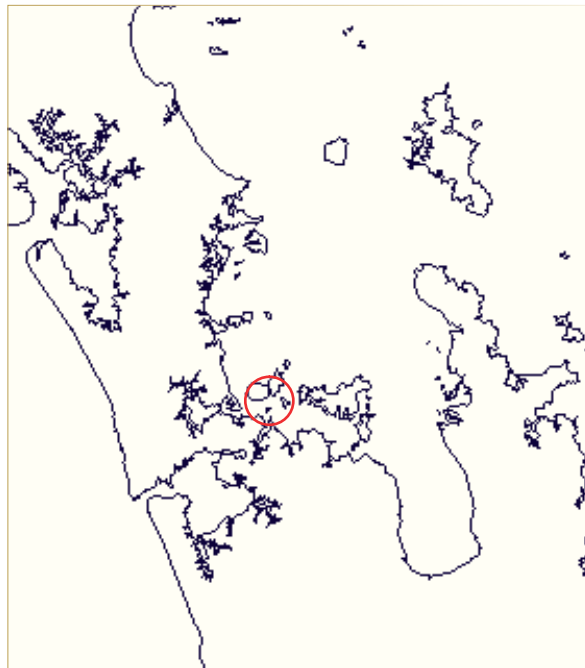
Endnotes

- ¹ Cruise 1824:200-204; Elder 1932:312-313; Wright 1950:156-7
- ² Campbell 1881:229-253
- ³ Campbell 1881:239ff
- ⁴ Campbell 1881:300ff
- ⁵ Deeds CT 364/284
- ⁶ Campbell 1881:330; Stone 1982:88
- ⁷ This transaction was carried out via William Baker who appears to have acted as an intermediary, receiving Brown's share for 2 days while the transaction was being carried out
- ⁸ Rickard 1985:11
- ⁹ Maffey 1972
- ¹⁰ Ernest Davis had also been the chairperson of the Devonport Steam Ferry Company for 20 years which may further explain some of his affinity with Browns Island. Bush 2006:2
- ¹¹ Bush 1980
- ¹² DOC. 1995. Conservation Management Strategy: Auckland 1995-2005: Key Area 20, Browns Island (Motukorea). pp.180-184
- ¹³ DOC. 1998. Auckland Conservancy Historic Resources Protection Plan: Browns Island Recreation Reserve DOC014
- ¹⁴ eg. *New Zealand Herald* 04/03/1995 Letters to editor
- ¹⁵ DOC. 1995. Conservation Management Strategy: Auckland 1995-2005: p.182
- ¹⁶ DOC. 1995. Conservation Management Strategy: Auckland 1995-2005: p.181
- ¹⁷ NZAA site record R11/39 1968 update by Janet Davidson. The name [Motu]korea also refers to the oyster catcher common on the island.
- ¹⁸ Brassey 1991:3
- ¹⁹ (R11/39; R11/123; R11/565; and R11/128) Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal
- ²⁰ (R11/565; and R11/568) Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal
- ²¹ Rickard 1985; Tucker 1985; Smith 1987; Coster 1987; HGMPB 1986; Cook and Iball 1986; Brassey 1991; DOC 1995
- ²² Numbers pertaining to Browns Island are (all R11/): 39; 123-130; 135; 561-569; 1092-1102; 1262; 1499-1505; 1560-1588; 1725
- ²³ Cruise 1824:200-204; Campbell 1881:229ff. In addition diaries of early European visits have been reproduced in Smith 1909:412-433; Elder 1932:312-313; and Wright 1950:156-157
- ²⁴ Rickard 1985
- ²⁵ Smith 1987
- ²⁶ eg. Bush 1980; Stone 1982; Brassey 1991a

15. LOCATION & SITE MAPS

Map key

R11/39	Pa
R11/123	Pa
R11/124	Pa
R11/125	Pa
R11/126	Pit/Terrace
R11/127	Stone Structure
R11/128	Stone Structure/ Agricultural
R11/129	Pit/Midden
R11/130	Domestic
R11/135	Terrace
R11/561	Stone Structure
R11/562	Midden
R11/563	Midden
R11/564	Terrace/Midden
R11/565	Archaic Midden/Working Area
R11/566	Midden
R11/567	Stone Structure/Midden
R11/568	Fishtrap
R11/569	Findspot
R11/1092	Stone Structure
R11/1093	Working Area
R11/1094	Findspot
R11/1095	Stone Structure
R11/1096	Midden
R11/1097	Midden
R11/1098	Pit
R11/1099	Stone Structure/Pit/ Midden
R11/1100	Midden
R11/1101	Pit/Midden
R11/1102	Not a site
R11/1262	Stone Structure
R11/1498	Terrace
R11/1499	Terrace
R11/1500	Terrace/Midden/Maritime
R11/1501	Stone Structure
R11/1502	Terrace
R11/1503	Spring
R11/1504	Pit/Terrace
R11/1505	Midden
R11/1560	Agricultural
R11/1561	Agricultural
R11/1562	Mound/Terrace
R11/1563	Platform
R11/1564	Agricultural
R11/1565	Domestic
R11/1566	Domestic
R11/1567	Domestic
R11/1568	Domestic
R11/1569	Agricultural
R11/1570	Agricultural
R11/1571	Midden
R11/1572	Agricultural
R11/1573	Maritime
R11/1574	Maritime
R11/1575	Maritime
R11/1576	Maritime
R11/1577	Maritime
R11/1578	Maritime
R11/1579	Midden
R11/1580	Midden
R11/1581	Midden
R11/1582	Midden
R11/1583	Stone Structure
R11/1584	Stone Structure
R11/1585	Agricultural
R11/1586	Pit/Midden
R11/1587	Agricultural
R11/1588	Stone Structure
R11/1725	Rock Shelter



16. DEFINITIVE PHOTOS



Homestead at northwest flat belonging to Alison family (date unknown)



Painting of Waitemata harbour showing Motukorea and Rangitoto, 1855

Browns Island in 1928. Photo: Whites Aviation





Right: Looking across from Browns Island to Rangitoto Island.
Alistair Jamieson, Auckland Regional Council 2000

Centre: Browns Island Devonport Steam Ferry company hulks c.1909

Bottom caption reads: This photograph of the steam ferry graveyard at Browns Island is undated. Here lie the skeletons of *Takapuna*, *Birkenhead*, *Tainui* and *Alexandra*. *Devonport School Album*



This photograph of the steam ferry graveyard at Brown's Island is undated. Here lie the skeletons of *Victoria*, *Takapuna*, *Birkenhead*, *Tainui* and *Alexandra*. *Devonport School Album*

17. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS



Remains of ships, c. 1990. DOC

c. 12th Century		Probable date of initial Maori settlement	
c. 16th Century		Likely date of pa construction	
1820	21 Aug	First recorded European visitor to the island Richard Cruise visits island, shoots birds and trades with Maori for pigs and potatoes	Cruise 1823
	4 Nov	Samuel Marsden and John Butler visit the island. Samuel Marsden climbs to the top of the island but does not mention the pa suggesting it may not have been in use at the time, a small number of Maori reported to be living there at this time tending cultivations	Elder 1932: 312-131; Stone 1982
1827		French explorer Dumont d'Urville visits island to obtain wood. Island is uninhabited	Wright 1950:156-7
1840	22 May	William Brown purchases island from Ngati Tamatera chiefs	Deed of Sale 22 May 1840
	Aug	Brown and Campbell arrive on island and construct a 10 x 8 m timber and raupo house on the western flat	Campbell n.d. 197
	Aug-Sept	Apiha Te Kawau of Ngati Whatua meets with Captain Hobson in the Bay of Islands to advocate for Auckland to be the new capital of NZ and offer Motukorea as a gift to the crown	Rickard 1985:10
	Sept	Campbell returns to Motukorea with 60 pigs purchased from Ngati Whatua chief Te Kawau	Campbell 1881:299
	Sept	Colonial government attempts to erect a flagpole on the cone. The idea was abandoned after protests by Brown and Campbell, but not before a 2 m deep hole had been dug near the summit.	Campbell 1881:302-308
	21 Dec	Campbell leaves the island to set up a business in Auckland	Stone 1982:88
	22 Dec	Brown returns to island, Campbell remains in Auckland as trader	Stone 1982:88
1841	Late Feb	Brown leaves the island to join Campbell in Auckland	Stone 2006a:1
1844	22 Oct	Crown grants title to William Brown	CT 364/284
1855	7 Feb	William Brown and his family leave Auckland to return to Britain	Stone 2006a:2
1856	20 Nov	Campbell leaves Auckland and the firm Brown and Campbell is entrusted to a salaried manager	Stone 2006b:1
1871		Campbell returns to Auckland to resume direct control of affairs the firm	Stone 2006a:2
1872		Campbell proposes the dissolution of partnership	Stone 2006a:2

1873	10 May	Campbell buys out Brown's share of company including Browns Island for £40,000. Transfer of title to William Baker	Rickard 1985:11; Stone 2006b:2
	12 May	Transfer of title to John Logan Campbell	Rickard 1985:11
1879	17 Sept	Transfer of title to William Featherstone, of Devonport	Rickard 1985:11
		Featherstones build ornate house on northwest side of island (probably in the vicinity of remnant fig trees)	Rickard 1985:11
1903	07 Dec	Transfer of title to Henry Bloomfield	Rickard 1985:11
1906	02 Feb	Transfer of title to Devonport Steam Ferry Company (Alison family of Devonport)	Rickard 1985:11
1908		Ferries abandoned on the island between 1908-1914	Maffey 1972
1909	June	Banard brothers of Auckland carry out what appears to have been the first glider flights in NZ from the upper slopes of the cone	Brassey:3
1915		Featherstone house burns down	Rickard 1985:11
1924		Brigantine <i>Defiance</i> abandoned near the barge landing	Brassey 1996
1946	19 Feb	Transfer of title to Auckland Metropolitan Drainage Board	Bush 1980
1954		Transfer of title to Ernest Davis	
1955		Browns Island gifted to the mayor, councillors and citizens of Auckland	<i>NZ Gazette</i> notice A 298561
1983		Administration of Browns Island transferred from Auckland City Council to Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park	Rickard 1985:11
1987		Administration of Browns Island transferred to Department of Conservation	

Motukorea / Browns Island, c. 1990. DOC



Motukorea / Browns Island from the water c. 1990. DOC

