Motutapu Archaeological and Historic Landscapes

Heritage Assessment

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MAY 2008

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
Motutapu Archaeological and Historic Landscapes
Heritage Assessment

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Eroded ash block of Rangitoto ash from Sunde site exhibiting human and dog footprints.

Photo A. Dodd

Sunde site today as viewed from the north-east with Rangitoto in background.

Photo A. Dodd

Artist’s impression of the Sunde site prior to the Rangitoto eruption with Auckland isthmus in the background. Source: Diorama in ‘Auckland Landscapes—Past and Future’, Auckland Institute and Museum. Reproduced in Davidson 1984:45
1. **SITE OVERVIEW**

Occupation of Motutapu began early. Ngati Tai is the principal iwi with features of Arawa and Tainui traditions. Archaeological sites predate the c.1400 Rangitoto eruption. Subsequently, Motutapu was used for gardening — over 300 sites are recorded. European activity from 1840 includes farming, picnic excursions, and a defence fortification 1936-1958. (50 words)

The archaeological sites include one of the most acclaimed sites in New Zealand — the ‘Sunde site’ from which ash footprints have been excavated. The landscape is significant as one of New Zealand’s first systematic, archaeological site recording projects. The WWII military landscape survives relatively complete and includes the coastal defence battery, US Navy ammunition bunks, and a artillery camp. (66 words)

» Motutapu Recreation Reserve
» Administered from Auckland Area Office.
» Access by causeway via Rangitoto wharf, or private boat
» A moderately significant visitor site with an estimated 15,000 visitors per year.¹
» Motutapu Archaeological and Historic Landscapes are actively managed historic sites.
» Island area 1510.37 hectares.

2. **HISTORY DESCRIPTION**

Motutapu has an occupation history that encompasses virtually the full span of New Zealand settlement. It was one of the earliest places inhabited both by Polynesians, and later by Europeans in the Auckland region. The earliest evidence for occupation of Motutapu dates to before the eruption of Rangitoto in c.1400.² The eruption smothered Motutapu in ash and caused widespread deforestation, but also produced friable soils suitable for gardening. Archaeological deposits bracketing the ash suggest the eruption prompted a shift from broad spectrum hunting of forest birds to intensive marine exploitation and horticulture.³

Following the eruption, Motutapu is reported to have been visited by both Arawa and Tainui canoes and was subsequently settled by Tainui ancestors of Ngai Tai. c Tai⁴ maintained rights of occupation from that time until its eventual sale with only minor incursions from other groups. Ngati Huarere of Arawa descent claimed bird snaring rights over kaka by right of conquest, and from the 18th century reciprocal fishing rights were negotiated with Ngati Paoa on Waiheke.

In the 1820s many of the islands in the Hauraki Gulf, including Motutapu, were evacuated in response to the threat of Hongi Hika and Ngapuhi armed with muskets. Many Hauraki tribes retreated south, and Ngati Tai are said to have taken refuge at Maungatautari.⁵ Occasional ventures were made back to former territories in the gulf, sometimes not without...
consequence, as with when a local fishing party was attacked at Motutapu by Ngapuhi with several casualties.\textsuperscript{6} From 1836 many of the evacuated territories were resettled, and the Ngati Tai remained on Motutapu until the northern part of the island was sold to Thomas Maxwell in 1840.

Maxwell had lived at Maraetai with Ngati Tai and was married to Ngeungeu the daughter of the principal chief, Tara Te Irirangi.\textsuperscript{7} From 1840-45 the northern end was leased out to James Moncur. The southern end was purchased by Williamson and Crummer in 1845, but subsequently granted to Robert Graham in 1857. The Reid brothers purchased the island in 1869-70 and retained ownership until 1943. A series of homesteads and outbuildings were built at Home Bay, the first between 1840-57, and the present Reid Homestead was built 1901-3. A homestead was built at Emu Bay c.1869-70, occupied by James Reid and demolished in 1976.

Work began on the Motutapu counter-bombardment battery in 1936.\textsuperscript{8} In May 1936 roads had been formed, and the battery and observation post were completed by June 1937. Guns were mounted by the end of August 1938, and a temporary camp established at Administration Bay in 1937. War broke out in September 1939 and the military population on the island went from 10 to 200, requiring the construction of additional buildings at Administration Bay and at the Observation Posts. Plotting rooms were constructed in 1941-2, and searchlights installed at Billy Goat point. The US Navy intended to use Auckland as a staging point into the Pacific and this led to the construction of deepwater wharfing facilities, and 50 ammunition magazines between 1942-3. The war ended in 1945, and within five years the entire complex had been abandoned.

3. **FABRIC DESCRIPTION**

Geologically Motutapu comprises Waipapa series greywackes, cherts and argillites, overlaid with Waitemata tertiary sediments, and blanketed in Rangitoto ash. The cultural landscape of archaeological sites includes pre-Rangitoto eruption archaic campsites and adze making sites, 13 pa, numerous open settlements, midden deposits, storage pits, and agricultural areas. In all 372 recorded sites and it is likely that many more subsurface deposits remain unrecorded.\textsuperscript{9} Some sites will have been damaged or destroyed by farming and military activity.

Sizes of recorded sites vary as might be expected over time, with fluctuations in demographics and blurring boundaries of a mobile population. Settlement sites are spread across the whole island, with some apparent clustering on the western leeward side of the island around the mountain and causeway stream catchments, and early archaic settlements at open stream mouths and adjacent spurs. Davidson notes that a clustering around stream mouths and the high number of distinct sites might suggest a rotational garden system.\textsuperscript{10}

Pa sites are present on most of the easily defendable coastal headlands. However, the relatively small amount of habitable land enclosed within defensive earthworks compared to the area of occupied open settlements
leads Davidson to conclude some open settlements may have been pallisaded without earthwork defences, and that settlement on Motutapu was most likely a “peace-time horticultural based occupation, with periodic episodes of stress leading to fort construction and use”.

Stone sources exploited for tool manufacture were largely local greywacke found on Motutapu and nearby Motuihe, but included obsidians from Great Barrier and Northland, as well as Nelson argillites and basalts from Tahanga. Other locally sourced rock used in tool production included jaspers for hammerstones and sandstone grinders.

There are three main areas associated with 19th century farming, and these include associated remnant plantings. Home Bay retains homestead, plantings, seawall and graves. Emu Bay has foundations for four separate groups of buildings, remnant plantings and isolated Norfolk pines on high points of the island. No archaeological remains have yet been located at Station Bay where the remaining farm settlement is known to have been located.

The military structures on Motutapu comprise a largely intact WWII landscape including: the main 6” gun emplacement with three gun pits, underground magazines, shelters and stores; the battery observation post, engine and radar rooms; the Emu observation post and engine room for the anti-submarine defences; the ground level plotting complex with miniature range, plotting and generator rooms; the underground plotting complex with command exchange, radio, plotting generator, battery and fuel rooms, as well as access tunnels and corridors; the search light
emplacements and directing station; personnel camps at Administration Bay and the battery; the US Navy magazines north of the causeway and store at Home Bay; and numerous pillboxes to protect the battery from a commando assault. The landscape also includes a number of roads, wharves and quarries.

4. **CULTURAL CONNECTIONS**

Motutapu features prominently in both Tainui and Arawa traditions. According to Kawerau tradition, a mystical race known locally as Maewao occupied Motutapu, Motuihe and the adjacent mainland. Maruiwi came to settle the islands, and the Maewao were captured and destroyed when they persisted in raiding the Maruiwi cultivations.

When the Arawa canoe came to Waitemata, Kahumatamomoe, the son of Tamatekapua and commander of the canoe, took possession of Rangitoto and Motutapu. He placed two guardian lizards, one at Orawaho (Islington Bay) on Rangitoto, and one at Home Bay on Motutapu. While the
Arawa was still moored at Orawaho, Tainui arrived under the command of Hoturoa. A fight started between the two chiefs allegedly over Tamatekapua’s inappropriate attentions to Hoturoa’s senior wife. The pair were separated after Hoturoa gained the upper hand, and the adjoining volcano was declared tapu and became known as Rangi-i-totongoia-o-Tamatekapua — the day of bleeding of Tamatekapua.\(^{15}\) Although most Tainui continued eastwards following the duel, one tohunga, Taikehu, remained on the island and named it Motutapu after a peninsula on Rangiatea (Hawiiki?). The island became known as Te Motu Tapu a Taikehu or the sacred island of Taikehu to his descendants.\(^{16}\)

Kawerau know the island as Te Motutapu a Tinirau, the sacred island of Tinirau, the son of the sea god Tangaroa. This name was said to have been bestowed on the island by Ihenga, a tohunga on the *Arawa* canoe. Tinirau presides over Te Puna i Rangiriri from where all fish life is said to originate. Accordingly Te Motutapu a Tinirau is said to be the source of fish in the harbour.\(^{17}\)

Tamatekapua’s descendants, Ngati Huarere, returned from Moehau, (Cape Collville in later years) to avenge his humiliation, and in doing so claimed many of the gulf islands including Motutapu.\(^{18}\) Rangitoto remained tapu and was used as an urupa. Later a Tainui chief living on Motutapu, Manawatere was drowned at Islington Bay, and his body dragged out to sea and washed up at Home Bay, which became known as Te Pehi-o-Manawatere — the bruising of Manawatere. When word of this reached Ngati Tai who were Tainui descendants, they came to claim possession of Motutapu and Rangitoto.\(^{19}\) The Ngati Huarere allowed the Ngati Tai to take up their claim to Motutapu and Rangitoto but they retained their right to the trees which were frequented by the kaka and continued to snare this bird in season.\(^{20}\) From this time until the musket wars of the 1820s, peace was maintained as the Ngati Tai were surrounded by Tainui iwi, and were part of the larger Te Waiohua confederation.\(^{21}\)

5. **Context**

The island has four known archaic period archaeological sites, and the ash block footprints excavated at the Sunde site at Northwest Bay have aroused international interest and have no known equivalent anywhere else in New Zealand. One of the largest, most diverse and easily accessible archaeological landscapes in the Auckland Region, Motutapu has been the focus of some of the earliest systematic archaeological survey and investigation in New Zealand. The archaeology on Motutapu has contributed to important syntheses of prehistory both at a national and regional level.\(^{22}\)

Motutapu, Browns, and Motuihe are some of the earliest European land purchases and farm settlements. Motutapu’s counter-bombardment battery played an important role in the defence preparations for New Zealand’s largest city during WWII, and the island was selected to be the fall-back location for the ammunition store for the US invasion of the Pacific.
6. **HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hauraki Gulf Islands including Motutapu are believed to have been some of the earliest places occupied by Polynesian settlers in the Auckland region, and were extensively occupied during subsequent centuries. The island is important in the traditions of both Arawa and Tainui iwi, and it is home to prominent ancestors of several iwi and hapu associated with these wider tribal groupings.

The 1840 purchase of the northern part of Motutapu was one of the earliest European purchases in the Auckland area, and the island was at one time home to Robert Graham, who became Superintendent of the Auckland Province (1862-1865) while in residence there. Graham held popular ‘Premier picnics’ on the island at Home Bay, which made Motutapu possibly the most popular day visitor destination in the Hauraki Gulf, with visitor numbers of up to 10,000.

Motutapu’s counter-bombardment battery was an essential component in the defence of Auckland during WWII, one of the key defining events in New Zealand history. Over £500,000 was spent on construction during the period 1936-44, and the island accommodated up to 1000 personnel. Further, Auckland was selected to be the fall-back launch point of a US invasion of the Pacific, and Motutapu was selected as the location for the ammunition store.

The island has also been significant in the development of archaeology as a discipline, providing a location for one of the earliest systematic survey and investigation projects in the Auckland region.
7. **Fabric Significance**

The significance of the archaeological landscape on Motutapu is outlined in the Auckland Conservancy Actively Managed Historic Places Register:

*The Maori sites are part of a substantially intact and publicly accessible landscape of historic places dating from initial human settlement to WWII. Motutapu and Motukorea were settled much more intensively than other Gulf islands, because of the ash modified soils. Some of the most significant sites have been partially excavated, but the majority remain intact. No comparable archaeological landscapes remain on the mainland in the Conservancy. The earliest sites are unique because they are separated by a chronostratigraphic horizon (Rangitoto ash) from later occupation. The island [Motutapu] was visited by humans between ash showers and dog and human footprints have been preserved in the ash. Foreshore greywacke deposits were a regionally significant source of raw material for adzes.*

The farm settlement and homestead sites have been assessed separately:

*The Home and Emu Bay sites, with the remnant plantings & Reid homestead provide a tangible link with the island's European past and the opportunity to present this period to the visiting public... as part of a well preserved landscape of historic places associated with Maori and subsequently European occupation. Home Bay was probably once the most popular visitor destination in the Hauraki Gulf, with picnic parties of up to 10,000 people on occasions.*

As have the military structures, described as:

*A major complex of structures & ruins which is well documented, accessible to the public, & presents a valuable interpretation/education opportunity. Part of network of coastal defences which included North Head & Stony Batter. More than £500,000 was spent constructing the military facilities, which once accommodated nearly 1000 personnel.*

The significance of the Sunde site is reflected in its scheduling in the Regional Plan:

*Coastal as a cultural heritage site for preservation (Schedule 1/134). The site and its environs are also scheduled as an Area of Significant Conservation Value (Schedule 3/64 and 3/124). There are 10 archaeological sites scheduled in the Auckland City Council Gulf Islands District plan, and trees and graves are also scheduled. Military structures on Motutapu and Rangitoto are listed in the Regional Plan Coastal as 798, and have been proposed for Registration as a Category I Historic Place.*
Plan of Station Bay pa site. Source Davidson 1972:3
Motutapu Archaeological and Historic Landscapes

Plan of features from excavation. Source Leahy 1972:25

Artist's impression of pit and terrace site R10/31. Source Leahy 1972:25
8. **NATIONAL CONTEXT**

Cultural significance of Maori sites should be determined by iwi, but Motutapu is clearly significant to Ngai Tai who maintain an active involvement with the island and its management. This is recognised in the 2005 Auckland Conservancy CMS which states one of the key objectives for Motutapu as to:

*Actively protect and provide for the interests of Ngai Tai, in particular by facilitating their links with the island and its taonga and wahi tapu.*
9. **SIGNIFICANT THEMES & SITE TYPES**

DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz) historic site topics:

- Maori
- Farming
- Defending New Zealand

10. **MANAGEMENT HISTORY**

1840: Northern part of island purchased by William Brown and leased to James Moncur

1845: Southern part of island purchased by Williamson and Crummer

1857: Robert Graham awarded title to northern part and later acquires Williamson and Crummer title

1857: Public Reserve gazetted at Administration Bay

1869: Reid brothers purchase the island

1870s: Reids fence and clear much of the island of scrub, eventually allowing for 5000 sheep, 3-4000 cattle and 50-60 horses; Reids continue to stock the island with deer and wallabies, emus, buffaloes, and waterfowl also present

1890s: John Craig farm manager for Reid brothers

1936: Work begins on infrastructure for Motutapu counter bombardment battery

1938: Six inch guns mounted on Motutapu for counter bombardment battery

1939: NZ enters WWII. Motutapu managed by the Land Development Branch of Lands and Survey Department, Auckland.

1943: Reid brothers sell island

1943: 4252 sheep stocked on Motutapu

1949: Quarantine Station opened

1956: School started at Home Bay

1958: Army leaves Administration Bay

1959: Farm stocked with 10100 sheep; 1200 cattle on island (approximately 11,500 stock units)

1959: Auckland University excavations at Pig Bay archaic site - Goldson

1960: Auckland University excavations at the Sunde site — Scott and Green

1963: University site recording begins — Davidson, Leahy and Nicholls record 72 sites

1966: Farm stocked with 11726 sheep; 1416 cattle (approximately 13,000 stock units)

1967-8: Auckland Museum excavations at Station Bay — Davidson, Leahy and Sullivan

1967: Administration of island transferred to the Superintendent of Land Development, Whangarei
1967: Motutapu becomes part of Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park
1970: Farm stocked with 12235 sheep; 1194 cattle (14,000 stock units)³⁰
1970-1: Second season of excavation at Station Bay
1972-3: Systematic re-survey of Motutapu—Davidson records an additional 324 sites
1972-3: Excavation of N38/1+0 — Leahy³¹
1974: New school erected in Islington Bay
1975: Farm stocked with 6422 sheep; 2000 cattle (change in cattle/sheep ratio to combat eczema)³²
1977: Davidson and Leahy complete re-survey, and identify an additional 98 potential sites
1980: Responsibility for farm operations transferred to Commissioner of Crown Lands, Auckland
1981-2: Stock units at 15795 (40:60 ratio of sheep to cattle)³³
1982: Power cable laid between Waiheke and Motutapu
1987: Ownership transferred to Department of Conservation
1987: Law carries out check survey
1990: Brush-tail possums eradicated from Motutapu-Rangitoto confirmed 1996³⁴
1990: Brush-tail rock wallaby eradicated from Motutapu-Rangitoto confirmed 2000³⁵
1992: Draft working plan for Motutapu Island
1993: Public workshop for developing a strategy for Motutapu
1994: Restoration Plan developed for Motutapu
1994-5: Auckland University geophysical investigation and test excavation³⁶
1994-5: Auckland University archaeological survey in northern and southern quarters of island³⁷
1995-6: Auckland University geophysical investigations and test excavation³⁸
1996: Auckland University archaeological survey in central southern part of island³⁹
1997: Conservation Plan completed for military structures — Pearson
1997: Conservation plan completed for Reid Homestead — Sharley
1997: Identification and arboreal assessment completed for heritage vegetation — Arborlab
2001: Remedial and Maintenance specifications prepared for military structures - Salmond Reed
2003: Heritage Assessment completed for Administration Bay camp — Pearson
2003: Auckland City Council Inner Gulf Islands archaeological survey and significance assessment⁴⁰
2007: Heritage Assessment for archaeological landscape completed
11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE ARCH AEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

The significance of the archaeological landscape on Motutapu has long been recognised, but often the driving focus for management has been on other competing values. A loosely defined farming concession has resulted in management decisions being made in response to the needs of the farm, rather than the farming concession used as tool to manage the island’s intrinsic resources. The 1992 working plan provoked serious concern for the cultural and historic landscape, and the resulting restoration plan achieved a much greater balance. Since that time there has been considerable heritage work carried out relating to both built heritage and archaeological sites. The work of the Auckland University in the mid-1990s, and the upgrade and significance assessment funded by the Auckland City Council in 2003 have both sought to provide GIS quality data for site management, but the complexity of the archaeological landscape and problems with consistency of data have meant that management still remains largely reactionary in response to pressures of restoration planting and farm management.

Areas that have no sites or low density of features should be selected for revegetation rather than attempting to exclude large areas from planting, as this creates later problems with weed colonisation, and naturalising vegetation after they are closed off from grazing. Some re-fencing of the island will likely be required to demarcate areas for planting while leaving practical areas for grazing and access. Planting also requires areas to be left to grow to rank pasture to provide a suitable environment for planting. Prompt action will provide the greatest benefit.

Future farming concessions will need to be explicit in terms of their objectives, as well as clearly stipulate responsibilities for both the concessionaire and the Department, and constraints relating to stocking density need to be provided in detail to allow improved management of the archaeological resource and better transparency for the concessionaire. The concession is due for renewal in 2010.

The current classification is Recreation Reserve which is effectively the least restrictive and most enabling available classification. Consideration should be given to reclassify the island as Historic Reserve to reflect its primary values.

While this assessment goes some way towards addressing the need for a formal conservation plan, this should be given serious consideration. The complexity of the archaeological landscape, numerous and diverse management pressures, and reactionary nature of present advice are all good reasons for having a conservation plan in place. The preparation of a formal conservation plan would also provide opportunity for input from Ngai Tai and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. This assessment compiles most of the existing sources of information and site data, but there is still a need for additional field work to ensure its accuracy, and to update information on site condition. Data consistency remains particularly important.

It is noted that interpretation of the island’s features is already planned by refitting the Reid homestead as a Visitor Centre; the existing concept plan; and production of a DVD focusing on it’s history.
12. WORK VISION SUMMARY

» Complete the resurvey and assessment of pre-European archaeological sites (CMS 19.5.2).
» Prepare a detailed conservation plan for the Motutapu archaeological landscape (CMS 27.1.6).
» Prepare and implement an interpretation plan for historic features on the island.
» Maintain sites under pasture or shallow rooting vegetation (CMS 19.5.3).
» Control stock levels to minimise deterioration (CMS 19.5.3).
» Manage weed growth on sites that are excluded from planting.
» Minimise impact of fencing on sites (CMS 19.5.7).
» Consult with Ngai Tai to identify, protect and manage significant sites (CMS 19.4.1-2).
» Conserve vegetation survivals (CMS 19.5.4).
» Transfer existing site data into GIS.
» Proactively identify areas for planting that have minimal impact on archaeological sites.

13. SOURCES & REPORTS

Publications (including background reading)


Corbett, P. 2003. A First Class Defended Port: The History of the Coast Defences of Auckland its Harbour and Approaches, Auckland Conservancy Historic Series no.17, Department of Conservation, Auckland


Kelly, L.G. 1949. Taimu—The story of Hoturoa and his descendants. Polynesian Society, Wellington


Murdoch, G.J. Dec 1991. He Korero Tawhito Mo Rangitoto: A Brief Outline of the Maori Historical Association with Rangitoto Island, Department of Conservation, Auckland


Stokes, Captain J.L. 1855. New Zealand Defences Auckland Harbour Site for Submarine Mining. Department.


**Unpublished sources**


Clark, C.; Duff L. 1979. ‘Midden remains collected from an eroded block of Rangitoto ash, Sunde site, N38/24 Motutapu.’ In Sullivan (ed.) Unpublished Class Projects. Anthropology Department, Auckland University


Downie, J. Captain Of The HMSS Coromandel 1821. A Sketch of the River Thames in New Zealand Showing the Coast Explored in HMSS Coromandel.


Reid Associates 1999. Adaptive re-use strategy Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre (Administration Bay buildings), Reid Associates.


Departmental files and archival sources

Department of Lands and Survey files
4/850, 40/1

Department of Conservation files
DOC 010-40
HHA-02-01-02-01

Plans
OLC 164 (06/11/1857)
OLC 293 (29/08/1876)
OLC file 332
SO 17788 (25/06/1914)
SO 28037
SO 35227 (1948)

Auckland Deeds
6D Folios 456-7 (20/11/1857)
10G Folios 191-2 (29/08/1870)
7A/365, 17A/719, CT 64/110, CT 136/48, CT 702/281, CT 708/165, 166

Maori Land Court Records
Auckland Minute Book I – Otata Islands
Orakei Minute Book I — Orakei

National Archives files
D4/123 Vols I, II
D4/1360
Auckland City Council GIS
Auckland Regional Council CHI
New Zealand Archaeological Association site records

Newspapers and periodicals

Auckland Weekly News
09/03/1901
18/02/1902:3
27/02/1902:3 (or 18th?)
07/01/1904:7

The New Zealander
23/08/1845:1(2)
The New Zealand Gazette
1871:220
01/10/1936

NZ Graphic
Vol.20 1898:245

New Zealand Herald
12/02/1927 Supplement - Some Maori Folk Lore
19/02/1927 Supplement - Legends of the Maori Era
22/04/1958
30/04/1958
21/07/1973:11
20/05/1995 s.1:24
06/05/1998 s.A:11
06/05/1983 s.2:1
19/06/1996
11/01/1997
02/11/1005 s.1:1

The Southern Cross
23/09/1843
10/08/1857
11/08/1857
30/10/1860:2

The Weekly News
30/01/1908

Friends of the Hauraki Gulf
Issue No. 8 March 1992

Finn scrapbook
Scrapbook No.23 pp.7; 65

North Shore Times
24/10/1995

Photographic Collections
Department of Conservation, photographic collection
Auckland Institute and Museum photographic collection42
14. Evaluation of Sources

A considerable amount has been written on the history and archaeology of Motutapu. Several Maori traditions cited in this assessment were originally derived from the Auckland and Orakei minute books of the Maori Land Court. Much of this information was made more publicly accessible with the addition of further oral traditions by Graham, Kelly, Simmons, Murdoch and Monin. Early European accounts contain a considerable amount of information, but few focus specifically on Motutapu, and for the early historical period information is largely derived from survey plans, newspapers and early photographs. Unpublished local histories and extensive bibliographies compiled for Motutapu and Rangitoto are available in Department of Lands and Survey reports.

The 1960-70s archaeological survey and investigation on Motutapu have been well published in the records of the Auckland Institute and Museum and the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Newsletter. The publications include accounts of excavations, dating, analysis of faunal remains, lithic assemblages, human remains, and site recording surveys, as well as prompting initial attempts at erosion control. They have been summarised on a local scale specific to the island and incorporated into both regional and national context. The discovery of the Rangitoto ash footprints during a 1980s excavation of the Sunde site rekindled and furthered discussions on dating and prompted assessments of significance, and renewed attempts at site management and stabilisation. In the 1990s it was the prospect of re-forestation proposed in the 1992 draft working plan that sparked renewed academic interest. Numerous submissions were received requesting that cultural values be given higher priority. A public workshop was held in 1993, and a restoration plan developed in the following year. University of Auckland field survey, geophysical prospecting and excavations were undertaken between 1994-6 to assist in the management of the archaeological landscape, and the island was included in case studies for archaeological site stabilisation and vegetation management. More recently the Auckland City Council’s Inner Gulf Island project for the revised district plan, and the NZAA upgrade project have provided the stimulus for updated information. Field assessments undertaken by Departmental archaeologists for routine farm management and restoration planting include a significant amount of information on individual sites and their location, but as these have been of a frequent and ongoing nature individual references have not been included here.

Historic research, and archaeological survey and assessment of the 19th century farming was undertaken and followed by identification and proposed arboreal treatment for significant vegetation at Home Bay and Emu Bay. The Reid Homestead and associated plantings are subject to a Conservation plan. The military history of Motutapu is part of a wider system of Auckland’s coastal defence and publications have typically dealt with Motutapu in this wider context. The structures are subject to a Conservation Plan which also includes a detailed history and bibliography, and to remedial specifications and maintenance specifications.
Location of recorded archaeological and military sites. Accurate as of October 2007
Battery observation post and radar room. D. Pearson, 1997
ENDNOTES

1. Not confirmed, DOC Visitor Asset Management System estimate is based on Home Bay campsite and MOEC numbers, with the expectation that many other people will be accessing the island on day trips via Rangitoto or on private boats.

2. The dating of the Rangitoto eruption has been subject to review since it was originally published. Davidson’s review of the dates from the Sunde site in 1974 and Law’s in 1975 suggested a late 14th century date on the basis of two charcoal dates NZ1898 and NZ1899. However since that time the problems with in-built age in wood samples have become apparent. Nichol reviewed the dates in 1992, and included evidence from thermoluminescence (AD1400-20) and paleomagnetic (1420) dating. These together with NZ1167 and NZ6954 which suggested AD1400 was the earliest possible date, led him to conclude a date of c.AD1400. This was also supported by McFadgen (1996), and the additional average dates from 6 obsidian hydration samples published in 2000 by Lowe et al. Elliot’s pollen dates from swamp deposits on Motutapu putting the eruption pre-Kaharoa at c.1200 BP are inconsistent with the greater body of evidence (Elliot 1995).

3. Davidson 1978; 1984:42. Another significant component of the local diet appears to have been fibrous plant food such as bracken root, as evidenced by severe tooth wear in burials dating from the 15th-18th centuries (Davidson 1984:51, 55-6).

4. Ngai Tai is the modern version of Ngati Tai.

5. Auckland Minute Book 1, Folio 26, Maori Land Court Records as cited in Coster and Spring-Rice 1984:8; Murdoch 191:12


9. Register of Actively Managed Historic Places Auckland Conservancy

10. Davidson 1978


12. Davidson 1982:31

13. According to the tradition, the Ngati Kui were the first to occupy Te Ika-a-Maui including Motutapu. They were driven beneath the earth by the Tutumaio who were in turn supplanted by the Turehu. The Turehu or Patupaiarehe who occupied Motutapu, Motuihe and the adjacent mainland were known locally as Maewao (Murdoch 1991:5 citing Graham 1927 citing Ngati Kahu elder Wiripo Potene).

14. O-moko-nui-o-Kahu ‘the great lizard of Kahu’ was placed on Rangitoto in Islington Bay and Moko-nui-o-Hei ‘the great lizard of Hei’ was placed at Home Bay. Coster and Spring-Rice 1984:7

15. Murdoch citing Graham 1951:82

16. Murdoch citing Kelly 1949:2


18. Graham in New Zealand Herald 19/02/1927


20. Ibid


22. Prickett 1982

23. A more detailed assessment of significance for the military landscape is contained in Pearson 1997:70-2


25. Schedule B1 1.52-3; B2 2.26

26. Figures from Annual review: Motutapu Farm Park’s farming operations 1981-2 Department of Lands & Survey file 40/1

27. Ibid

28. Ibid


30. Ibid
Heritage Assessment

Leahy 1986:160-66

Figures from Annual review: Motutapu Farm Park’s farming operations 1981-2 Department of Lands & Survey file 40/1

Ibid

Invasive species specialist group database held at Auckland University

Irwin, Ladefoged and Wallace 1996:254-8

Carried out by Clough and Associates data available from Auckland City Council GIS

Numbers pertaining to Motutapu are (R10/): 22-48; 50-59; 78-79; 89-90; 99; 108; 111-27; 137-38; 194-98; 213-14; 231; 337-49; 400-12; 416-19; 422; 435-78; 480-574; 703; 722-25; 738; 761-62; 774; 833-43; 914-15; 934; 947-48; 1028 and (R11/): 115; 144-17; 161-64; 202; 218-19; 670-73; 961; 1203-80; 1396; 1479-92; 1663; 1743-48;

B2590, 2593, 2595, 2598, 2607 (1903); DU436.1185 (1904); C6430 (1920)

Graham 1920; 1921; 1922; 1951

Kelly 1949

Monin 1996

eg. Campbell 1881:254; Terry 1840

Cottrell 1984; Coster and Spring-Rice 1984


Davidson 1974a; 1978c; Law 1975; Moore and Tiller 1975

Allo 1970; Clark and Duff 1979 (unpublished); Grange 1974; Smith 1981

Davidson 1974b; Ward 1974

Byrne 1973; Houghton 1977

Davidson 1970a; 1987; Law 1987

Law 1973

Davidson 1978a

Davidson 1975; 1978b; 1982; Bulmer and McDonald 1981 (unpublished)

Davidson 1984; Prickett 1982

Nichol 1981; 1982; 1988

Nichol 1992; McFadgen 1996; Lowe 2000

Black, Nowell and Hayward 1991; McKay J 1982; Nichol 1983

Coster and Spring-Rice 1984; Collen 1983; 1984

ICOMOS NZ 1992

Proceedings held on file in Auckland Conservancy office

Hawley 1993


Jones, and Simpson 1995

Copies of material held on file in Auckland Conservancy office

Dodd 2006

HHA-02-01-02-01; DOC010-40

Brassey 1992

Cooke 2000; Corbett 2003

Dave Pearson Architects 1997

Salmond Reed Architects 2001
17. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. 14TH CENTURY</th>
<th>Probable date of initial Maori settlement, occupation of Sunde site Sandy Bay and Pig Bay</th>
<th>Davidson 1978</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. 16TH CENTURY</td>
<td>Likely date of pa construction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Source(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Samuel Marsden visits Motutapu on the <em>Coromandel</em>, and sloop is dragged through the channel between Motutapu and Rangitoto with the assistance of local Maori as there is not sufficient water to get through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td></td>
<td>Arrival of Ngapuhi armed with muskets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td></td>
<td>Local fishing party attacked by Ngapuhi at Motutapu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td></td>
<td>Motutapu inhabitants flee to Maungatautari to seek refuge with Tainui relatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dumont D'Urville reports seeing no inhabitants between Whangarei and the Tamaki River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Ngati Paoa and Ngati Tipa defeat Ngapuhi war party on Motutapu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trader John Cowell visits Motutapu and reports it to be deserted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td>27 Nov</td>
<td>George Weller attempts to purchase Rangitoto and Motutapu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833</td>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Williams camps on Motutapu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td></td>
<td>Waikato chief Te Wherowhero leads Manukau, Tamaki and Kaipara people back to their lands. Ngati Tai return to Motutapu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>11 Jan</td>
<td>Sale of 2560 acres comprising the northern part of Motutapu sold to Thomas Maxwell by Tara-te-Irirangi, Te Haua, and Te Waru of Ngati Tai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>04 Mar</td>
<td>Treaty of Waitangi signed at Karaka Bay, Tamaki River Mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>21 Jul</td>
<td>Maxwell’s Motutapu claim advertised for hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Maxwell presumed lost on route to Port Nicholas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1843</td>
<td>22 Mar</td>
<td>Maxwell’s Motutapu claim re-advertised for hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1843</td>
<td>01 July</td>
<td>Maxwell’s claim investigated and disallowed for failure to appear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>28 June</td>
<td>Governor Fitzroy demands a court hearing in favour of Maxwell’s children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>Hearing takes place, Te Irirangi claims he never received payment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>21 Aug</td>
<td>Commissioner Fitzgerald authorises a grant to Maxwell’s children upon payment of £20 to Te Irirangi, but grant was never issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>22 Apr</td>
<td>Williamson and Crummer apply for a waiver of the crown’s right of pre-emption for the northern part of Motutapu comprising 1448 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>23 Apr</td>
<td>Deed of sale to Williamson and Crummer for “unsold” portion of island (north of line between Pehimatawha Te Ruina and Raopoiti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>21 Nov</td>
<td>Williamson and Crummer begin to stock island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>Governor informs Williamson and Crummer that an injustice has been done to Maxwell orphans and that their earlier claim would be approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>14 Jul</td>
<td>Commissioner Matson reports Maxwell’s original claim upheld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>23 June</td>
<td>Williamson and Crummer refuse a government grant of 86 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>21 Nov</td>
<td>Williamson and Crummer application for permission to buy the 2700 acres in their claim, but is disallowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>17 July</td>
<td>Maxwell children’s claim upheld, and Williamson and Crummer’s disallowed (except 86 acres).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>1 Mar</td>
<td>Ngatai give evidence that Maxwell had not paid in full, and sale had not been for whole island, and supported boundary from Pehimatawha to Raopoiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>6 Nov</td>
<td>Survey plan shows a Homestead at Home Bay, a cottage above Islington Bay, and stables and a hut at Emu Bay (Homestead presumed built by Williamson and Crummer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>20 Nov</td>
<td>Commissioner Bell orders that 2200 acres to be awarded to Williamson and Crummer, and 1448 to Robert Graham, with a 80 acre public reserve set aside in the Administration Bay area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>Graham acquires Williamson and Crummer’s 2200 acres, while owner Graham establishes considerable areas in pasture, and imports pedigree sheep and cattle, and introduces game including deer, rabbits, quail and pheasants</td>
<td>Cottrell 1984:14 citing Wilson 1930:52; Cruickshank 1940:48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Platts 1971223-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>27 Oct 40 gentlemen and 15 ladies from the General Assembly attend a lunch on Motutapu at the invitation of Graham arriving via the steamer Emu. At the end of the day after picking up some of the party from Kai Moriria Bay the vessel strikes a submerged rock and sinks. Kai Moriria renamed Emu Bay, and the previously uncharted rock becomes Emu rock</td>
<td>Platts 1971223-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Graham superintendent of the Auckland province (1862-1865)</td>
<td>Coster and Spring-Rice 1984:11 citing Platts 1971:64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Sept Graham sells Motutapu to brothers William, John and James Reid. John lives at Home Bay and James at Emu Bay</td>
<td>Deeds index 7A/365; Brassey MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Reids acquire northern part of island from Maxwell’s descendants</td>
<td>Brassey MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Late Second homestead in Home Bay</td>
<td>Brassey MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>William Reid dies</td>
<td>Cottrell 1984:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>John Reid dies</td>
<td>Cottrell 1984:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>James Reid marries Eliza Craig, daughter of John Craig the farm manager.</td>
<td>Cottrell 1984:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Present Reid homestead built</td>
<td>Cottrell 1984:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>First homestead replaced by another dwelling; second homestead also removed</td>
<td>Auckland Weekly News 18/02/1902:3; 07/01/1904:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>22 Jan James Reid dies aged 71 and is buried at Home Bay</td>
<td>Weekly News 30/01/1908; headstone epitaph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Feb Third Infantry regiment has Territorial camp on Motutapu</td>
<td>Cottrell 1984:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>20 Feb Reids sign agreement with the Crown to use island for defence purposes and to build a fort, roads, a quarry, yard and wharf</td>
<td>CT 708/165, 166; 20/02/1935; SO28037 (09/1955)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Reserve at Administration Bay reclassified for defence purposes</td>
<td>NZ Gazette 01/10/1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Guns mounted at battery site</td>
<td>Coster and Spring-Rice citing Major George Salt pers. com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>NZ enters WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction of US Navy magazines begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Eliza Reid (nee Craig) dies aged 62 and is buried at Home Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td></td>
<td>Additional 3212 acres of land acquired under proclamation for Defence purposes. Purchase is for £50000 and excludes homestead block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>Island farmed by the Land Settlement Board on an agency basis for the Defence Department. Farm managers: R. C. Bull (1944-8); N. Brunker (1957); L.G. Bedford (1957-9); S. Voyce (1959); N. Burrell (1959-63); M.R. Bennett (1963-65); M.W. Robertson (1965-69); A.J. McLean (1970-6); I.H. Wilson (1976-80); R. McCabe (1980)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td></td>
<td>Homestead block acquired by Crown for defence purposes for £10200; excludes half acre private cemetery at Home Bay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quarantine station opened, former Andrew Craig cottage used for accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prefabricated classroom transported to Home Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td></td>
<td>Army vacate Administration Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td></td>
<td>Motutapu becomes part of Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td></td>
<td>Relocateable school room erected at Islington Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td></td>
<td>Emu Bay cottage demolished by Lands and Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Farming operations transferred to management of Commissioner for Crown Lands, Auckland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td></td>
<td>Administration of Motutapu transferred to Department of Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td></td>
<td>Motutapu Restoration Trust begins island restoration and revegetation programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>