



Te Whanganui a Tara

When you stop on the horseshoe bend in the road above the wharf, you are standing on an old pa site—Te Moana a Kura (The Learning Place of the Ocean). It went right up to the hill almost to where the Field Centre is today.

Below you, to the north, are five terraces on which outward-leaning stockades once stood. The surrounding harbour (alive with orca, right whales, dolphins, etc) was a main supplier of food for people living here.

? ***Why do you think this site was chosen for a pa?***

Consider defence

👁️ **Imagine life on this pa with the wharenuī, whare kai, gardens, and areas for children to play.**

? ***How do you think Maori would have used the natural resources on and around the island?***

Consider food, crafts, tools needed to catch/collect seafood, canoe-building, trading.

Related site

The bank behind the Field Centre is an old midden (rubbish dump).

👁️ **Look at the many different types of shells and smooth hangi stones in the middens.**

? ***What does this tell you about the people who lived here?***

Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

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