9. North Taranaki

This section deals with fortifications in north Taranaki between Parininihi (White Cliffs) and Opunake. Fortifications in South Taranaki are listed below in Section 10.

The first Taranaki fighting included here is 1850s Puketapu Feud fought between Māori tribes (Sinclair 1961: 110–135; Cowan 1983 I: 148–149; Keenan 2009: 160–174). The underlying issue of the Puketapu Feud was land sales to Pākehā. Hence, the episode is part of the New Zealand Wars, just as later fighting among Māori on the East Coast and in the central North Island has always been included. Pā of the episode are listed (9.20) from an historical source; most sites have no archaeological record. British troops first came to New Plymouth in 1855 to ensure the safety of Pākehā settlers in the Puketapu Feud.

On 17 March 1860, the first shots of the Taranaki wars between Pākehā and Māori were fired in an attack on Te Kohia pā (9.59), near Waitara. The First Taranaki War, lasting 12 months, was largely fought around fixed positions, each side putting up more than 30 fortified works. Throughout the wars Māori depended on pā to give a tactical advantage that was otherwise lacking with few of the modern rifles with which British soldiers were now equipped, and no artillery. Most Pākehā works were strategic in purpose, that is, they were concerned with taking and holding land. Fighting near Waitara early in 1861 saw the outstanding tactical use of fieldworks by the British Army in New Zealand (9.44–51).

In winter 1860, a continuous earthwork and palisade was put up around New Plymouth, with a ring of blockhouses outside (Fig. 70). From west to east these were: Fort Murray (9.7), No.2 Blockhouse (9.17), No 3 Blockhouse (section 9.18), Carrington Road Blockhouse (9.2), Fort Herbert (9.6), Fort Cameron (9.5), Fort Niger (9.8), Henui Blockhouse (9.10) and Fort Stapp (9.9).

Fighting resumed in autumn 1863, leading to the development of a fortified frontier for the security of military settlers taking Māori land. In 1869 a Māori attack on Pukearuhe (9.66) prompted further military activity throughout the region, with a network of new forts put up north of Waitara to secure the northern frontier of Pākehā Taranaki.

In the 1880–81 Parihaka Campaign, Pākehā forces in north and south Taranaki at last met to extend colonial authority to the only part of the province still under Māori control. Again, Pākehā used forts for strategic purposes to protect the advance and secure the land. There were no Māori works.

Fortifications in north Taranaki are presented as follows:

- New Plymouth and Bell Block
- Waitara and district
- North of Waitara
- Omata and Oakura districts (New Plymouth to Timaru River)
- Tataiarmaka and Okato districts (Timaru River to Hangatahua/ Stoney River)
- South of Hangatahua (Stoney River)
NEW PLYMOUTH AND BELL BLOCK

9.1 Bell Block Stockade

P19/159 (2608700E 6240400N); N109/107; recorded 1975; also Bell Blockhouse, Hua Blockhouse; Fig. 71.

Bell Block; Maida Vale Retirement Village, 917 Devon Road, on a low hill near the Bell Block shops.

The blockhouse was built in early 1860 by local militia (see also Omata Stockade (9.83)); a stockade was added when British troops joined the garrison later that year. This was the main post on Devon Road to Waitara in the 1860–61 war and only Pākehā post north of New Plymouth from the May 1863 withdrawal from Waitara until April 1864. The post was abandoned in winter 1865 after the European advance beyond Bell Block (Prickett 1994a: 10–13).

The blockhouse measured 19 × 6.7 m in plan with towers at two opposite corners and an external ditch; the attached stockade also had an external ditch; outside the defences huts were dug into the hill slope below.

This was an historically important and intact archaeological site until c. 1969 when it was mostly or completely destroyed for a hotel development, which is now a retirement home.
9.2 Carrington Road Blockhouse

P19/175 (2603300E 6237200N); N109/145; recorded 1977; also Fort Carrington; Fig. 72.

New Plymouth; Pukekura Park, next to Victoria Road, formerly Carrington Road.

One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in winter 1860 in the First Taranaki War (Fig. 70); Carrington Road Blockhouse was maintained until 1869 (Prickett 1994a: 40). See also: Fort Murray (9.7), No 2 Blockhouse (9.17), No 3 Blockhouse (9.18), Fort Herbert (9.6), Fort Cameron (9.5), Fort Niger (9.8), Henui Blockhouse (9.10) and Fort Stapp (9.9).

An L-shaped, loopholed blockhouse with accommodation for 50 men, enclosed by an earth parapet around a platform on a prominent ridge end site.

A scatter of earthenware and bottle glass recorded north of the Pukekura Park house in 1977.

9.3 Dingle’s Blockhouse

P19/155 (2601700E 6233700N); N108/52; recorded 1975, update 2005.

Frankley Road, New Plymouth; 100 m south of the Patterson Road corner, on a knoll east of the road.

Built in 1864 to give security for Pākehā returning to their farms in the district, which were abandoned in 1860 (Prickett 1996: 28–29). See also Puketotara Blockhouse (9.22) and Ratanui Blockhouse (9.23).
Two-storey blockhouse on c. 17 × 20 m platform.

Under pasture in 2005; probably intact but for widening of Frankley Road which has removed the external ditch and west side of the knoll.

9.4 Egmont Village Blockhouse

P19 (c. 2609000E 6228000N); no site record, not located.

Egmont Village; probably within the school grounds, east of Egmont Road, c. 100 m south of the Junction Road corner.

Built after Titokowaru’s 1868 defeat of colonial forces at Te Ngutu o Te Manu (10.23) and Moturoa (11.26), at the south side of the same bush which extended north to Egmont Village (Prickett 1999: 38).

Single-storey blockhouse; destroyed early 20th century.

9.5 Fort Cameron

P19 (2603800E 6237550N); no site record, not located.

New Plymouth; top of Ridge Lane, at or near the Rogan Street corner.

One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in winter 1860 in the First Taranaki War (Fig. 70). Named later after General Cameron, commanding military forces in New Zealand from March 1861 (Prickett 1994a: 39).

Probably a single-storey blockhouse within a stockade, as were other winter 1860 New Plymouth blockhouses (see Fig. 72).

Under houses, gardens and adjacent roads; possible subsurface remains.
9.6 Fort Herbert

P19/174 (2603500E 6237400N); N109/144; recorded 1977, update 2005.

New Plymouth, Pukekura Park; under bush, near seaward end of ridge above east side of the
cricket ground.

One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in winter 1860 in the First Taranaki War
(Fig. 70). Named after Major Charles Herbert, in command of the Taranaki Militia and Volunteers
to February 1862; burnt down in July 1860 soon after it was first built; rebuilt and held by local

Probably a single-storey blockhouse within a stockade, as other winter 1860 New Plymouth
blockhouses.

Under regenerating bush; the exact position is not certain, but the ridge appears to be largely
intact and probably the site also.

9.7 Fort Murray

P19 (2602150E 6237850N); no site record.

New Plymouth; 1–3 Duke Place off Young Street, left bank of the Mangaotuku Stream; site of
pre-European Rungapiko pā.

One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in winter 1860 in the First Taranaki War
(Fig. 70). Named after Lieutenant Colonel G.F. Murray, 65th Regiment, who was in command at
New Plymouth from 1856 until the arrival of Colonel Gold in March 1860. Occupied by British
Army and local forces, including the Military Train, which made use of the associated stables;
sold October 1867 (Prickett 1994a: 41).

Blockhouse for 50 men, on a platform with defensive ditch around.

Platform demolished; subsurface remains may survive.

9.8 Fort Niger

P19/152 (2604200E 6237900N); N109/17; recorded 1977.

New Plymouth District Council recreation reserve and historic site, access from Pendarves or
Hobson Street; site of pre-European Wharepapa pā.

One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in winter 1860 in the First Taranaki War
(Fig. 70). Established by the Naval Brigade from HMS Niger at a key corner location of the

T-shaped building within earth breastwork.

Now under grass on 75 × 35 m hill-top platform fringed by trees.

9.9 Fort Stapp

P19 (2603800E 6238800N); no site record, not located.

New Plymouth; top of low sea cliff in Mt Bryan Domain, off Octavius Place.

One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in winter 1860 in the First Taranaki War
(Fig. 70). Named after Captain Charles Stapp, adjutant to militia and volunteers in the First
Taranaki War, and later commanding officer of various corps in Taranaki to the 1880s. Sited to
command the beach approach to New Plymouth from the north (Prickett 1994a: 38).

Probably a single-storey building within an earthwork.

No known surface evidence.
9.10 Henui Blockhouse
P19 (2604000E 6238500N); no site record.
New Plymouth; on high ground northwest of the Gill and Hobson Street corner.
One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in winter 1860 in the First Taranaki War (Fig. 70). Sited to command the lower Henui Stream valley (Prickett 1994a: 38).
Probably a single-storey building within an earthwork.
Elevated blockhouse site cut away c. early 1980s for current commercial building.

9.11 Katere
P19/242 (2607000E 6239500N); recorded 1992.
Bell Block; on a terrace inland of Devon Road at Waiwakaiho Hill.
Listed among Puketapu Feud pā (9.20); destroyed by troops from Bell Block Stockade in 1860 early in the First Taranaki War, when the palisades were pulled down and ditches filled.
Earthwork and stockade pā.
Largely or wholly destroyed.

9.12 Mahoetahi
Q19/114 (2613500E 6242000N); N109/56; recorded 1963, update 2002; Heritage New Zealand Category II registration No 6038.
Devon Road (SH3), seaward of the Mountain Road (SH3A) junction.
Pā possibly built or refurbished for the 1850s Puketapu Feud (9.20; Chambers 1982: 232). In the First Taranaki War it was reoccupied and under reconstruction by 80 Ngāti Haua and c. 60 men from other Waikato tribes, just arrived in Taranaki under Wetini Taiporutu, when it was attacked and taken by European troops on 6 November 1860. Three hundred Pākehā troops then entrenched the position as a temporary camp while they built Mahoetahi Stockade (9.13) near Ngapuketurua, to the southwest across Devon Road. Mahoetahi pā was abandoned and levelled on 28 November 1860 (Prickett 1994a: 53–55).
Historic reserve in good order under grass: memorial over the grave of 29 defenders (Prickett 2005: 97–106). Stock and cultivation damage to part of the site on private land outside the reserve.

9.13 Mahoetahi Stockade
Q19/118 (2614050E 6241950N); N109/61; recorded 1963.
Mahoetahi, Waitara; two lahar mounds and adjacent lower ground, 140–200 m south of Devon Road, between Mountain Road (SH3A) and the Waiongana River.
After the 6 November 1860 Battle of Mahoetahi, British troops erected a stockade on a lahar (small hill of volcanic debris) near the Waiongana River. The post was abandoned in May 1863 when Governor George Grey gave up Waitara, but then occupied by a section of Te Atiawa under the chief Mahau. Pākehā forces returned in February 1864 and an earthwork c. 24 × 17 m was put up near to the older stockade (Prickett 1994a: 54–57), on the site of the historically significant pre-European Ngapuketurua pā (Smith 1910: 120, 359).
The small November 1860 stockade had two buildings inside; the February 1864 earthwork was 90 m north on a lower lahar with an extensive camp on adjacent lower ground. Now under pasture; the archaeology of stockade and earthwork is mostly intact on the two uncultivated lahar mounds.

9.14 Marsland Hill Stockade
P19/9 (2602900E 6237550N); N108/10; recorded 1962, update 2001; Fig. 72.
New Plymouth District Council historic reserve, above St Mary’s Church, Vivian Street; access from Vivian, Robe and Brougham Streets.
Stockade and barracks erected in 1855 on a platform prepared by cutting down the pre-European Pukaka pā by 40 ft (12 m). Headquarters of British Army and colonial forces in north Taranaki until c. 1870.
The stockade was situated on the elevated north end of Marsland Hill, with an associated parade ground to the south; married quarters, garrison offices and stores were on lower flanks of the hill. Marsland Hill was the major strong point of a continuous earthwork and stockade defence around New Plymouth in the First Taranaki War (Fig. 70; 9.16). St Mary’s Church below on Vivian Street has military graves from the 1860–61 war and the grave of six Māori from the Battle of Mahoetahi (9.12) at the Robe and Vivian Street corner. Hatchments of British regiments and corps serving in the district (Alington 1988; Prickett 1994a: 8–10) were moved in 2013 from the church nave to the transept and vestry.
Considerable archaeology will survive on the hill-top and below.

9.15 Mount Eliot
P19 (2602750E 6238100N); no site record.
New Plymouth; on a former spur and site of Puke Ariki pā above the beach on the left bank of the Huatoki Stream mouth, at or near the site of Puke Ariki museum and visitor centre.
In August 1855, 250 troops of 58th Regiment under Major Charles Nugent were sent to New Plymouth for settler security during fighting among Māori in the Puketapu Feud. The old pa, Puketapu or ‘Mount Eliot’, was already the site of local colonial government and a signal station for the landing place on the beach below. The first European fortification in Taranaki made use of earthworks from the pā. Later in 1855 Mount Eliot was replaced as Taranaki military headquarters by Marsland Hill (9.14), but maintained as a military post, especially in the 1860–61 war when it was a key fortification at one end of the stockade and earthwork around the town (Fig. 70; 9.16).
Puke Ariki pā earthworks were modified for a platform enclosed by an earth parapet and stockade.
Puke Ariki/ Mount Eliot was cut away in the late 19th century to provide landfill for the adjacent railway reclamation.

9.16 New Plymouth entrenchment and palisade
P19; no site record; Fig. 70.
New Plymouth; around the 1860 town.
As a result of the 27 June 1860 defeat of British troops at Puketakauere and Māori control of districts outside New Plymouth, Pākehā military authorities decided in early July to enclose the
town within a fortified line. When General Pratt arrived from Melbourne on 3 August the work was rapidly pushed ahead. Outside the entrenchment and palisade, a line of nine blockhouses made up a second defensive line.

A continuous work of trenches with earth breastwork or palisades extended from Mt Eliot (9.15) along Queen and Robe Streets to Marsland Hill (9.14), across Huatoki Stream to the Liardet-Courtenay Street corner and down Liardet Street to the beach. There were six gates through the defences. Earthworks also enclosed the Marsland Hill ridge south of the stockade and barracks. It is unlikely there are any surviving remains.

9.17  **No 2 Blockhouse**

P19 (2602300E 6237300N); no site record, not located.

New Plymouth; under Barrett Street hospital building.

One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in winter 1860, in the First Taranaki War (Fig. 70). There was still accommodation for 20 men at the blockhouse in 1869 (Prickett 1994a: 41). Probably a single-storey building within an earthwork.

Doubtful if anything survives.

9.18  **No 3 Blockhouse**

P19/121 (2602600E 6237000N); N108/155; recorded 1977.

New Plymouth, 3 Wallace Place, other sections and adjacent road.

One of nine blockhouses put up around New Plymouth in the winter of 1860, during the First Taranaki War (Fig. 70; Prickett 1994a: 40–41).

Probably a single-storey building in an earthwork.

Destroyed except for possible subsurface remains; artefact finds include military buttons.

9.19  **Northcroft Stockade**

Q19; no site record, not located.

Bell Block; Paraite Road.

In early May 1860, a 40th Regiment company put up a stockade for signal communication with Waitara, in a ploughed field on Pākehā land beyond Bell Block Stockade, named after the landowner. After a few days the troops left and the stockade was destroyed (Prickett 1994a: 25).

Stockade described as being ‘... after the Māori fashion’ (Prickett 1994a: 25).

No known archaeological evidence.

9.20  **Puketapu Feud pā**

Nineteen pā of the 1850s Puketapu Feud are named by the Rev. John Whiteley in his 1856 ‘New Plymouth Native Circuit Report’ (Chambers 1982: 232). Pā are from New Plymouth northward to the Bell Block and Waitara districts. Katere (9.11), Te Oropuriri (9.25) and Huirangi (9.27) have NZAA site records and are given separate entries in this report. ‘Mahoetohi’ may be Mahoetahi (9.12), although its location on the Waitara River does not match. So that they are not counted twice, these four pā are omitted from the 9.20 total in Appendix 1. Te Tima has a NZAA
site record (Q19/244) but not a separate entry in this catalogue. Fig. 73 locates some of the pā on Whiteley’s list, as follows.

- ‘Te Kawau a pa in the town of New Plymouth…
- Moturoa a small village about two miles further…
- Te Raeomiti the pa of Hone Ropiha, 1 mile distant.
- Katere another mile further on. [section 9.11]
- Upokotauaki is inland from the above one mile.
- Te Horopuriri another mile further along the Devon Line. [section 9.25]
- Te Paraiti inland 1 mile.
- Hawho Taone on the Devon Line 1½ miles.
- Te Ninia the pa of Arama Karaka ½ a mile further. [see Fig. 73]
- Te Tima is inland half a mile. [Q19/244 (2612200E 6240100N); recorded 1992; Fig. 73]
- Kaipakopako the pa of Katatore half a mile further inland. [see Fig. 73]
- Te Ikamoana a new pa near the Ninia on the Devon Line.
- Mahoeotoki is 1½ miles further inland on the River Waitara. [see section 9.12]
- Huirangi is 3 miles inland on the River Waitara. [see section 9.27]
- Te Korihi 2 miles nearer the coast on the same river.
- Te Karumowhiti another mile distant inland.
- Te Mamaku 2 miles lower down the Waitara River.
- Te Taniwha 3 miles from Waitara along the Coast.
- Turangi 2 miles further along the Coast.

9.21 Puketotara

P19/183 (2606100E 6235900N); N109/167; recorded 1975; Fig. 74.

New Plymouth; behind 357 Mangorei Road, opposite Karina Road, on the terrace edge above Waiwhakaiho River.

Occupied by south Taranaki Māori or Waikato Māori or both, before being abandoned, then destroyed by European troops on 1 September 1860; reported capable of holding 100 men (Prickett 1994a: 44–45).

Pā was 52 m across the front, 6–32 m deep, with the rear open to an 80–100 ft (24–30 m) cliff to the river. Defences had the usual traversed firing trench, 4 ft 6 inches (1.35 m) deep, behind a double line of 10 ft (3 m) high palisades with loopholes at the bottom covered in timber and earth; interior covered in huts.

Now under pasture; possibly in better order than is apparent from surface evidence.

Figure 74. ‘Sketch of Puke-Totara Pah, Destroyed on 1 September 1860’. Captain Frederick Mould, Royal Engineers, from War Office 0270 II: 29.
9.22  **Puketotara Blockhouse**

P19/160 (2606100E 6235800N); N109/108; recorded 1975; Fig. 9.

New Plymouth, 309 Mangorei Road, opposite Karina Road, on terrace edge above Waiwhakaiho River; possible ditch in the 1950 NZ Aerial Mapping photograph 1786/10.

Built in 1864 to give security to Pākehā returning to farms abandoned in 1860 (Prickett 1996: 31–32). See also Dingle’s Blockhouse (9.3) and Ratanui Blockhouse (9.23).

Two-storey blockhouse.

No surface evidence, any remains probably under house.

9.23  **Ratanui Blockhouse**


New Plymouth, 489 Carrington Road: 100 m east of the road, overlooking Te Henui Stream.

Built in 1864 to give security to Pākehā returning to farms abandoned in 1860 (Prickett 1996: 29–31). See also Dingle’s Blockhouse (9.3) and Puketotara Blockhouse (9.22).

Two-storey blockhouse, as Puketotara Blockhouse (see Fig. 9), in c. 20 × 20 m earthwork.

Under pasture; good condition in 2005; the well is covered by a concrete platform and stock trough; later buildings on the site.

9.24  **Sentry Hill Redoubt**

Q19/119 (2613700E 6239900N); N109/106; recorded 1975, update 2002; Fig. 75.

Sentry Hill; west of Mountain Road (SH3A), north of railway; previously ‘Te Morere’ pā. The English name is from Māori lookouts (sentries) on the hill in the 1860–61 war.

Put up in February 1864 in preparation for further Pākehā military advance in the district. On 30 April 1864, the redoubt was subject to one of only three attacks on Pākehā fortifications in the New Zealand Wars (see also No. 3 Redoubt (9.46) and Turuturumokai, section 10.25).

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Figure 75.  ‘Sentry Hill Redoubt’. S. Percy Smith, Field Book W1, Land Information New Zealand, held at Archives New Zealand, Wellington, ABWN 24473/9.
Strategically located near the intersection of Devon Road from New Plymouth to Waitara and the road inland to Manutahi and Mataitawa and the inland route south. The last garrison was struck off pay in November 1869 (Prickett 1996: 18–21).

The hill has been quarried away and site completely destroyed.

9.25 Te Oropuriri
P19/262 (2608650E 6240300N); also Te Horopuriri.

Bell Block; south of Devon Road, now cut by the Bell Block bypass.

One of c. 20 kāinga (unfortified settlements) north of New Plymouth, fortified in the course of the Puketapu Feud (9.20). Reverted to a kāinga after the fighting of the 1860s.

Excavations by Auckland UniServices Limited in 2002 and 2004, showed changing defensive arrangements from single stockade lines to double stockades backed by a traversed rifle trench and rear stockade, with bastions at the corners for enfilading fire along the front under attack (Holdaway & Gibb 2006: 185, 266–267, 273). Māori fortifications of the Puketapu Feud were good experience for the greater conflict soon to come.

Now largely destroyed by Bell Block bypass, but for the south part of the site, including an elevated platform area.

WAITARA AND DISTRICT

9.26 Camp Waitara
Q19/90 (26166000E 6244100N); N109/30; recorded 1962; also Gore-Browne Redoubt; Fig. 76.

Waitara; high ground at the south end of Pukekohe Domain (former Camp Reserve); tennis courts and bowling green on the site.

Established in March 1860, when British troops occupied the Pekapeka (Waitara) Block and so began the First Taranaki War; on the site of pre-European Pukekohe pā. The redoubt for several hundred men was headquarters of the British Army in New Zealand during fighting in the district.
in early 1861. It was abandoned in March 1861, after the war, leaving Waitara Blockhouse (9.61) the only Pākehā post on the disputed land (Prickett 1994a: 19–21).

The initial irregular earthwork redoubt was enlarged in winter 1860 to c. 8500 m² (2.1 acres) internal area (Prickett 1994a: 21), and so was one of the largest New Zealand earthwork redoubts, alongside Queen’s Redoubt (3.26) at Pokeno, South Auckland.

Completely destroyed, some small finds in disturbed ground.

9.27 **Huirangi**

Q19 (c. 2617900E 6238450N); no site record, not located; Fig. 73.

Huirangi, Waitara; corner of Te Arei and Bertrand Roads with rifle trenches extending east and west.

There are three stages in the history and development of Māori fortifications at Huirangi in the New Zealand Wars:

1. Pā built or refurbished for the 1850s Puketapu Feud (9.20).

2. Pā destroyed by General Pratt’s troops on 11 September 1860, along with nearby Kairau (9.30), Kotewaiamaha (9.32) and Ngataiparirua (9.43).

3. In early 1861 Huirangi pā was the strong point in a line of rifle-pits that extended along c. 1.5 km of bush edge to the east near the present Bertrand Road, and west of Te Arei Road at the terrace edge above Mangaonaia Stream (Prickett 1994a: 64, 68–71). This barrier fortification (the ‘Huirangi Line’) was the objective of General Pratt’s first sap (9.53). The sap reached the Māori works on 2 February, when No 6 Redoubt (9.49) was established at the centre of the defensive line where Huirangi pā had been. Māori forces then withdrew to Te Arei (9.56).

No known archaeological evidence; rifle-pits are likely to survive in places on the terrace edge above Mangaonaia Stream.

9.28 **Huirangi Blockhouse**

Q19; no site record, not located.

Huirangi, Waitara; at the corner of Waitara and Bertrand Roads.

Blockhouse built in November 1865 within or near the earlier No 6 (Huirangi) Redoubt (9.49) site, at the military settlers’ town site on confiscated land (Prickett 1996: 38). The remaining garrison was withdrawn in September 1866, but the blockhouse was maintained and last occupied for a few weeks in response to the February 1869 Māori raid on Pukearuhe (9.66).

An 1869 report describes the blockhouse with an officer’s room and accommodation for 25 men, in good order (Prickett 1996: 38).

9.29 **Hurirapa**

Q19/88 (2616400E 6245100N); N109/28; recorded 1962, update 2005; Figs 10, 77.

Waitara; on elevated ground immediately south of Mangaiti Stream, at 2 Norman Street and 112 Centennial Avenue and the adjacent riverbank reserve.

Teira and Ihaia’s pā was the only Māori settlement to survive the arrival of British troops at Waitara in March 1860. Kuikui, Wherohia (Q19/89) and Te Whanga were occupied by supporters of Wiremu Kingi Te Rangitake and were destroyed (see Cowan 1983 I: 156; Prickett 1994a: 17).

Different sources refer to kāinga or pā; fortifications were probably strengthened early in the war; a September 1860 drawing shows a traversed rifle trench behind a timber stockade (Fig. 10).

Largely or wholly destroyed by stop-bank construction, housing development, roading, etc.
9.30  **Kairau**

Q19/151 (2616850E 6239800N); N109/90; recorded 1963; not located; Fig. 73.

Huirangi, Waitara; on or near Waitara Road, halfway between Matarikoriko and Te Arei Roads.

Hapurona’s pā, abandoned, and then destroyed by General Pratt’s troops on 11 September 1860 (see Prickett 1994a: 46–47), along with Huirangi (9.27), Ngataiparirua (9.43) and Kotewaiamaha (9.32). No 1 Redoubt (9.44) was established on the site of Kairau pā on 29 December 1860.

Strong pā enclosed in a stockade and rifle trench with covered passages (Prickett 1994a: 47).

No known archaeological evidence.

9.31  **Kirikiriraumate**

Q19; no site record, not located; Fig. 73.

Huirangi, Waitara; on the edge of the terrace scarp near Bertrand Road.

Described as a small pā near the bush edge.

No known archaeological evidence.

9.32  **Kotewaiamaha**

Q19; no site record, not located; Fig. 73.

Huirangi, Waitara; west of Huirangi pā towards Mangaonaia Stream.
Te Atiawa pā, abandoned before being destroyed by General Pratt’s troops on 11 September 1860 (see Prickett 1994a: 46–47), along with Kairau (9.30), Huirangi (9.27) and Ngataiparirua (9.43).

No known archaeological evidence.

9.33 Manganui Blockhouse
Q19 (c. 2621000E 6236000N); no site record, not located.

Huirangi; northeast of end of Manganui Road, on the left bank of the confluence of Waitara and Manganui Rivers.

Built in March–June 1866 at the Taranaki Military Settlers’ surveyed Manganui town site, which was never occupied. The blockhouse was abandoned in early 1867, and shifted for use as Te Arei Blockhouse (9.57) after the attack on Pukearuhe Redoubt (9.66) in February 1869 (Prickett 1999: 39).

No known archaeological evidence.

9.34 Manutahi
Q19 (2614700E 6237300N); no site record, not located; Figs 73, 78.

Lepperton; from northwest of the Richmond Road and Old Road corner west to the Waiongana River (see survey map Township of Lepperton 1906, Paritutu Survey District).

Pā situated on the east (right) bank of Waiongana River in the 1860–61 war, and subsequently until Colonel Warre’s advance in the area in October 1864 in the second war (Cowan 1983 II: 523–527).

Two plans and descriptions of the pā date from 1861 and 1864. In 1861 the pā is shown extending into bush each side at the rear of a clearing, 100–120 ft (30–37 m) across, with a 12–14 ft (3.5–4 m) high stockade at the front, then ditch 10 ft (3 m) across and 8 ft (2.5 m) deep, then a second stockade backed by rifle trenches with covered escape passages to the rear. The pā was fully enclosed but the sides and rear had an inner palisade only and no firing trench (Cowan 1983 II: 523–527). The November 1864 plan (Fig. 78), shows the pā to be 210 paces (c. 200 m) in length from the Waiongana River bank at the left flank. A strong point at the right flank had a double stockade outside a traversed rifle trench and a bank behind.

No known archaeological evidence.

9.35 Manutahi Blockhouse
Q19 (2614700E 6237300N); no site record, not located.

Lepperton; town section 117, at corner west of Richmond Road and north of Old Road (see survey map Township of Lepperton 1906, Paritutu Survey District).

Early in 1865 a blockhouse was built c. 100 m south of Manutahi Redoubt (9.36), at the location of the earlier Manutahi pā (9.34), to be a military post at Manutahi town site (now Lepperton after Colonel Maxwell Lepper, commander of local forces in Taranaki). The muster station for military settlers was occupied for the last time after the attack on Pukearuhe, February 1869 (Prickett 1999: 37).

Probably a blockhouse within stockade.

No known archaeological evidence.
9.36 **Manutahi Redoubt**

Q19 (2614750E 6237450N); no site record, not located.

Lepperton; town section 95, west of Richmond Road south of Whitcombe Street (see survey map Township of Lepperton 1906, Paritutu Survey District).

Established 17 October 1864, along with Matakara Redoubt (9.40) and Mataitawa Redoubt (9.39), as part of a European advance to control the bush edge in the district and close off the north end of Whakaahurangi Track from the south. Built and held by two companies of Taranaki Military Settlers. In early 1865, Manutahi Blockhouse (9.35) c. 100 m south of the redoubt took over as the local military post (Prickett 1996: 39, 41).

No known archaeological evidence.

9.37 **Mataitawa**

Q19 (2615450E 6235400N); no site record; Figs 73, 79.

Lepperton; Elsham Road, on commanding spur right (west) of road at top of hill.

Bush pā for Bell Block and Waitara Māori during the 1860–61 war and later until Colonel Warre’s October 1864 advance in the area; at the exit of Whakaahurangi Track from the bush.
Terraced earthworks of pā on spur c. 100 m north of Mataitawa Redoubt (section 9.39).
Under pasture, Elsham Road and the later Mataitawa Redoubt; significant remains on spur north of the road.

9.38 Mataitawa Blockhouse
Q19/155 (2616200E 6235500N); N109/94; recorded 1963, update 2003.
Lepperton; 30 m east of Richmond Road, on top of a hill c. 250 m south of the Cross Road corner.
Two buildings with a narrow yard between were within a 15.5 × 14.9 m rectangular stockade; two 2 × 3 m bastions at two opposite corners covered all four sides (Prickett 1996: 43).
A low mound in paddock until destroyed by the present house some time between 1975 and 2003.

9.39 Mataitawa Redoubt
Q19/162 (2615550E 6235350N); N109/102; recorded 1975, update 2003; Fig. 79.
Lepperton; Elsham Road, in paddock at top of the hill east of the road.
Established on 17 October 1864, with Manutahi Redoubt (9.36) and Matakara Redoubt (9.40), in the European advance to close off the north end of the Whakaahurangi Track from the south; at the location of Mataitawa pā (9.37). Built by 200 men of the 70th Regiment, who were replaced in early 1865 by 150 Military Settlers. In early 1866 the redoubt was occupied by a detachment of the 68th Regiment in support of General Chute’s march north by the inland track; probably abandoned in September 1866.

Figure 79. Mataitawa Redoubt, of common New Zealand form with bastion defences at all angles, each covering one side; at right are the terraces of earlier Mataitawa pā. Photo: N. Prickett, 1975.
Square redoubt 43 x 43 m with 6 x 6 m bastions at all corners; dug-out soldiers’ huts on the slope below Elsham Road.

Ploughed out; under pasture in fair order (2010).

9.40  Matakara Redoubt

Q19/161 (2615300E 6236200N); N109/101; recorded 1975, update 2003.

Lepperton; 1 km south of Lepperton, 100 m west of Richmond Road, 200 m north of the Elsham Road corner.

Established on 17 October 1864, with Manutahi Redoubt (9.36) and Mataitawa Redoubt (9.39), in the European advance to close off the north end of the Whakaahurangi Track from the south; located to secure the route forward to Mataitawa Redoubt, and as a base for bush-felling parties. Initially held by 120 Bushrangers under Major Atkinson, who were replaced in January 1865 by Military Settlers. Orders to abandon the post were given on 15 July 1865 (Prickett 1996: 41).

At first an earthwork redoubt; in December 1864 a stockade for 30 men was ordered. A shallow ditch shows an irregular five-sided work, c. 35 x 35 m; small stockade bastions are at the acute north and south angles; entrance on the southwest side; c. five soldiers’ huts are dug into the hillside below (Prickett 1996: 40-42).

Under pasture; fair order despite cultivation.

9.41  Matarikoriko

Q19/122 (2617600E 6240500N); N109/65; recorded 1963.

Huirangi, Waitara; pā strong point at top of Matarikoriko Road, with associated rifle-pits and trenches on forward north and west slopes, and to the rear above the scarp to Waitara River valley.

The pā, built in November–December 1860 at the centre of a complex of rifle trenches and pits, was General Pratt’s first objective in the 29 December 1860 advance from Waitara on Māori positions in Huirangi district. Abandoned in the night of 30 December and taken over the next day by British troops (Prickett 1994a: 60–61).

Rifle trenches 32, 74, 104, 73 and 178 paces long (Alexander 1863a: 236–237) in successive lines (Carey 1863: 155) are forward of the hill-top strong point, as at Onukukaitara (9.52).

The pā has been much altered by a later European stockade on the site (9.42), and by the present urupā; rifle-pits may be visible in NZ Aerial Mapping photograph 1784/13 (1950).

9.42  Matarikoriko Stockade

Q19/122 (2617600E 6240500N); N109/65; recorded 1963; Fig. 80.

Huirangi, Waitara; adjacent to Matarikoriko Road at top of hill; most of the stockade platform is now urupā.

After Māori abandoned Matarikoriko pā (9.41), British troops took over the position on 31 December 1860 and by mid-January had completed a stockade to house a signal station for communication with Waitara during the fighting of early 1861. In May 1861, the stockade was given over to the Te Atiawa chief Hapurona, who was still there two years later at the start of the second Taranaki war (Prickett 1994a: 60–63).

A small square stockade for 60 men with blockhouses at two angles. At the other corners small sentry boxes or lookout were elevated above the stockade wall.

The blockhouse platform and ditch have been greatly damaged since the 1963 site record.
9.43 **Ngataiparirua**

Q19; no site record, not located; Fig. 73.

Huirangi, Waitara; west of Waitara Road near Kairau Road.

Te Atiawa pā abandoned then destroyed by General Pratt’s troops on 11 September 1860 (see Prickett 1994a: 46–47), along with Kairau (9.30), Huirangi (9.27) and Kotewaiamaha (9.32).

Stockade pā.

No known field evidence.

9.44 **No 1 (Kairau) Redoubt**

Q19/142 (2616850E 6239800N); N109/81; recorded 1963, update 2003; Figs 81, 82.

Huirangi, Waitara; Waitara Road cuts through the redoubt halfway between Matarikoriko and Te Arei Roads.

Built under fire on 29 December 1860 and occupied by 480 men that night; it then housed a large garrison throughout the advance on Huirangi and Te Arei, until the ceasefire on 19 March 1861; abandoned 11 April 1861 (Prickett 1994a: 57–60).

Large work for a large garrison; irregular plan, near square, c. 85 × 80 yards (77 × 73 m); unusual angled bastions, two with gaps in the parapet for artillery, transverse bank inside entry (Fig. 82).

Under pasture and road; the earthworks are largely destroyed but the line of defensive ditch is visible north of the road; significant subsurface remains are likely for an important site.

9.45 **No 2 Redoubt**

Q19/143 (2617100E 6239300N); N109/82; recorded 1963; Fig. 81.

Huirangi, Waitara; c. 100 m east of Waitara Road, 100 m south of the Te Arei Road intersection, marked by a visible dip in the fence line.
Figure 81. Fortifications of British Army advance on Huirangi and Te Arei barrier pā, Waitara, early 1861. From Prickett 2002: 67.

Figure 82. ‘Sketches of redoubts on the Kairau Plains’, showing plans of Numbers 1, 3, 6 and 7 Redoubts near Waitara, early 1861. From Mould 1863.
Established 14 January 1861, 570 yards (520 m) in advance of No 1 Redoubt; held by c. 150 men including eight Royal Artillery with a 9-pounder gun. Closed up and abandoned on 30 January; destroyed 11 February (Prickett 1994a: 62–64).

Simple 26 × 26 m square work.

Under pasture; earthworks levelled, subsurface remains likely.

**9.46 No 3 Redoubt**

Q19/144 (2617550E 6239050N); N109/83; recorded 1963; Figs 81, 82.

Huirangi, Waitara; c. 100 m east of Waitara Road, halfway between the Te Arei and Bertrand Road corners.

Built progressively over 18–22 January 1861, 400 yards (365 m) in advance of No 2 Redoubt. General Pratt’s sap (9.53) to the centre of the Huirangi defensive line (9.27) started from No 3 Redoubt on 22 January. At dawn on 23 January the redoubt was attacked by a Māori force which was driven off with c. 50 killed (Prickett 2005: 109–115) in one of three assaults on European redoubts in the New Zealand Wars. Abandoned and thrown down on 11 February (Prickett 1994a: 64–67)

Three c. 25 × 25 m earthwork squares en echelon (Fig. 82)—i.e. in a line at an angle to the line of the front being attacked.

Under pasture and trees; earthworks destroyed, significant subsurface remains likely.

**9.47 No 4 Redoubt**

Q19/145 (2617750E 6238850N); N109/84; recorded 1963; Fig. 81.

Huirangi, Waitara; 100 m east of Waitara Road.

Built 27–28 January 1861 on the line of sap 310 yards (283 m) forward of No 3 Redoubt; held by a small garrison of 50 men; abandoned on 10 February and thrown down the next day (Prickett 1994a: 71).

Small redoubt 13½ × 13½ yards (12.3 × 12.3 m) square inside.

Under pasture; not visible, subsurface remains likely.

**9.48 No 5 Redoubt**

Q19/146 (2617800E 6238700N); N109/85; recorded 1963; Fig. 81.

Huirangi, Waitara; 50 m east of Waitara Road, near the north fence of the paddock at the Bertrand Road corner.

Constructed 30–31 January 1861, c. 530 yards (485 m) in advance of No 3 Redoubt and 260 yards (238 m) from the Māori defensive line at Huirangi (9.27); garrison of 100 men and a 24-pounder howitzer. Abandoned on 10 February and thrown down the next day (Prickett 1994a: 71–72).

Located at the left side of the sap; 24 yards (22 m) square inside.

Under pasture; marked by slight change in sap direction, which is visible in suitable conditions; subsurface remains likely.
9.49 **No 6 (Huirangi) Redoubt**

Q19/147 (2617900E 6238500N); N109/86; recorded 1963, update 2003; Figs 81, 82.

Huirangi, Waitara; both sides of Bertrand Road at the Waitara Road corner.

Constructed 2–5 February 1861, in front of Māori rifle trenches (9.27) at the bush edge. On 10 February, when troops advanced to put up No 7 Redoubt, Nos 1, 6 and 7 were the only occupied redoubts, all with strong garrisons, No 6 with 432 men; abandoned 11 April 1861 (Prickett 1994a: 72–73). Reoccupied in October 1864 by troops, but replaced late 1865 by Huirangi Blockhouse (9.28) at the adjacent Military Settlers' town site (Prickett 1996: 38).

Square work with unusually large bastions at three corners covering all sides.

Earthworks visible both sides of Bertrand Road despite cultivation; subsurface remains likely.

9.50 **No 7 Redoubt**

Q19/148 (2618800E 6237700N); N109/87; recorded 1963, update 2003; Figs 81–83.

Huirangi, Waitara; in the paddock north of the Waitara and Spargo Road junction.

On 10 February 1861, c. 1000 men marched 1300 yards (1200 m) forward of No 6 Redoubt to a point where they came under fire from Māori positions at Te Arei (9.56) where work began on a redoubt. On 16 February the second sap (9.53) was begun from No 7 Redoubt for Te Arei; after the 19 March ceasefire the redoubt was abandoned on 11 April (Prickett 1994a: 74–77).

At first there was a near-square redoubt with two large bastions covering all sides. Two successive additions then made a rectangular work, c. 100 × 30 m, with a c. 20 × 20 m bastion at the right front angle and a square bastion from the rear face covering two entries.

Under pasture; defensive ditches easily seen despite cultivation; subsurface remains likely.

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Figure 83. No 7 Redoubt. Photo: N. Prickett, 1975.
9.51 No 8 Redoubt
Q19/149 (2619200E 6237300N); N109/88; recorded 1963, update 2003; Fig. 81.

Huirangi, Waitara; at a high point in the paddock over fence from Waitara Road.

Put up 452 yards (413 m) in advance No 7 Redoubt on 28 February 1861, to protect the forward part of the sap to Te Arei; held by 50 men (Prickett 1994a: 76–77).

Small guard redoubt 16 yards (14.5 m) square.

Under pasture; not visible in cultivated paddock, subsurface remains likely.

9.52 Onukukaitara
Q19/130 (2616300E 6242300N); N109/73; recorded 1963; Figs 84, 85.

Waitara; low mound on the commanding ridge between Tuturererua and Mataiaua Streams, and between Devon, Waitara and Pennington Roads.

One of two pā (see also Puketakauere, (9.54)) built in June 1860, inland of Waitara, attacked on 27 June by 40th Regiment troops who were beaten off with c. 30 men killed (Prickett 1984, 1994a: 29–33). This was one of three major successes of Māori fortifications over British troops in the New Zealand Wars, the others being Ohaeawai (2.3) in 1845, and Gate Pā (5.11) in 1864. The site was later occupied by Puketakauere Stockade (9.55).

Elevated strong point within a single and double stockade backed by rifle-pits, enclosing an area of c. 2100 m²; rifle-pits hidden in fern forward of the pā caused most damage to the attack.

Under pasture; modified for construction of Puketakauere Stockade and partly quarried in recent years.

Figure 84. Puketakauere (upper left) and Onukukaitara (later occupied by Puketakauere Stockade). Photo: N. Prickett, 1975.
9.53 Pratt’s Sap

Q19/70; N109/7; recorded 1964, update 2001; Heritage New Zealand Category II registration 6036; Figs 86, 87.

Huirangi, Waitara.

Two lengths of attacking sap dug by troops under General Pratt, from 22 January 1861 to the 19 March ceasefire (Pritchett 1994a: 66–70). The saps were defended by eight redoubts and traversed the whole length against enfilading fire—traverses were banks part-way across the width of the sap for protection against enemy fire along its length.

1. The first length of sap was directed to the Māori defensive line at the Huirangi bush edge (9.27), made up of 768 yards (702 m) of double sap dug from No 3 to No 6 Redoubt, plus 90 yards (82 m) of single sap forward of No 6 Redoubt. Single saps were protected on one side only by raised gabions (earth-filled wicker baskets); double saps had gabions on both sides.

2. The second sap was directed to Māori defences at Te Arei (9.66), including 452 yards (413 m) of single sap from No 7 to No 8 Redoubt and 316 yards (289 m) of double sap beyond No 8 Redoubt.

Most of Pratt’s Sap is under pasture on private land; the section from No 3 to No 6 Redoubt is visible in favourable conditions, but the section from No 7 Redoubt is not visible, except in the Pukerangiora Pa historic reserve where there is intact length of sap and demi-parallel (trench at right angles to main sap, and so parallel or near parallel to the face being attacked). For vegetation cover see Jones & Simpson (1995: 68–73).
Figure 86. ‘The Limit of the Sap at Te Arei’, 1861. Picture immediately after the March 1861 ceasefire shows the use of traverses and wicker gabions to prevent an enfilading fire. At left are two demi-parallels extending to the cliff to the river; beyond is Te Arei pā. Francis Hamar Arden, watercolour, collection of Puke Anki, New Plymouth, (A75.439).

Figure 87. Section of Pratt’s Sap preserved in the Pukerangiora Reserve. Photo: N. Prickett, 1997.
9.54  **Puketakauere**

Q19/120 (2616550E 6242400N); N109/63; recorded 1963, update 2001; Heritage New Zealand Category II registration No 6039; Figs 84, 88.

Waitara; on the ridge between Tuturererua and Mataiaua Streams, and between Devon, Waitara and Pennington Roads.

See Onukukaitara (9.52) for history; referred to as ‘Waikato pā’ from being understood by the Pākehā enemy to be occupied by Waikato in the Puketakauere engagement of 27 June 1860. Occupied in September 1860, by British troops while building ‘Puketakauere Stockade’ (9.55) on the nearby Onukukaitara pā site.

Elevated platform 30 × 18–21 m, partly enclosed by a single stockade, surrounded by a double ditch and bank, one of the ditches c. 6 m deep (Prickett 1984, 1994a: 30–31).

Under pasture; good order in Department of Conservation historic reserve.

9.55  **Puketakauere Stockade**

Q19/130 (2616300E 6242300N); N109/73; recorded 1963; Fig. 84.

Waitara; low mound on the ridge between Tuturererua and Mataiaua Streams, and between Devon, Waitara and Pennington Roads.

Figure 88. ‘Plan of Mound & Intrenchment 200 yds N.E. of the Waikato pah, (Puketakauere)’. Onukukaitara was thought to be held largely by Waikato. Lieutenant F.T. Warburton, Royal Engineers, from War Office 0270 II: opp. p. 25.
The site of Onukukaitara pā (9.52) was occupied by British troops in October 1860 and a small stockade for 50 men put up in two days, with work on internal buildings, etc. taking another four weeks. The stockade served as a signal station between New Plymouth and Waitara. Abandoned after the March 1861 ceasefire and destroyed by Māori in 1863, early in the second war (Prickett 1994a: 33–35).

The surviving platform suggests a stockade c. 19 × 13 m (Prickett 1994a: 33–35).

**9.56 Te Arei**

Q19 (2619300E 6238950N); no site record.

Pukerangiora; at the edge of high ground between cliff to Waitara River and gully of the Kokopomomi Stream to the west; partly within Pukerangiora historic reserve

Pā which was main position of a Māori defensive line, said to include Te Arei, Pukerangiora and Te Tutu (9.60) strong points, which was the focus of attack by Pratt’s Sap (9.53) 10 February – 19 March 1861, bringing an end to the First Taranaki War (see Prickett 1994a: 73–74). In the Second War the pā was taken on 11 October 1864 without a shot being fired.

In June 1864 the pā comprised a 200–250 yard (180–225 m) stockade from the Waitara River cliff across the terrace to the adjacent gully. Two stockades at right angles to the main line protected access to the deep rear ditches of the 1861 pā; in front was a 100–150 yard (90–135 m) fence (War Office 0270 I: 118–119).

The only known remains are rifle-pits at the cliff edge in Pukerangiora historic reserve, near the surviving length of sap, and Te Tutu on the high ground now cut by York Road, which may be part of the 1861 defensive line. Te Arei Redoubt (9.58), on the site of the 1861 and 1864 pā, made use of some of the Māori earthworks and destroyed the remainder.

**9.57 Te Arei Blockhouse**

Q19/154 (2619250E 6236950N); N109/93; recorded 1963, updates 1975, 2003; Fig. 89.

Pukerangiora; high end of spur over Waitara Road from Pukerangiora historic reserve.

Manganui Blockhouse (9.33) was moved to the site and re-erected in March–April 1869, following the Māori raid on Pukearuhe; abandoned late 1870 or 1871 (Prickett 1999: 39–41).

Platform c. 12 × 7.5–10 m where the narrow terrace falls steeply to the north and west; shallow ditch up the spur behind.

Under pasture; defensive ditches largely filled, otherwise in good order.

**9.58 Te Arei Redoubt**

Q19/163 (2619250E 6237000N); N109/103; recorded 1975; Fig. 89.

Pukerangiora; Pukerangiora historic reserve, Waitara Road.

Te Arei pā was taken without a shot being fired on 11 October 1864, as part of the Pākehā military push into the Manutahi and Mataitawa districts to secure the bush edge and the inland route from the south (see also Manutahi Redoubt, (9.36) and Mataitawa Redoubt, (9.39).) Te Arei redoubt probably made some use of older Māori defensive works of Te Arei pā (9.56). First held by 150 men of the 70th Regiment. In February 1867 occupied by Military Settlers, but probably abandoned soon after (Prickett 1996: 35–37).
Ditch and bank earthwork 66–53 × 35–30 m, with flanking bastions covering three sides, the cliff to Waitara River makes up the east side.

Pine trees covering the site when recorded in 1975 have since been removed. Earthworks at the west end are largely destroyed, probably in 1869 when Te Arei Blockhouse (9.57) was built nearby. There is some damage to the earth walls, otherwise stable (Jones & Simpson 1995: 68–73).

9.59 Te Kohia

Q19/129 (2615800E 6242800N); N109/72; recorded 1963; also ‘L-pā’ from its shape; Fig. 90.

Waitara; between Tate Road, Raleigh Street and Devon Road; located on Map 189, LINZ, New Plymouth.

Te Kohia was put up on the night of 16 February 1860 at the southwest corner of the Pekapeka Block at Waitara, and attacked next afternoon in the first engagement of the First Taranaki War. It was abandoned that night and destroyed by troops the next day (Cowan 1922–23 I: 159–160; Prickett 1994a: 23–24).

Pā c. 33 m long and 8.5 m wide throughout, with covered rifle trenches behind a double stockade.

No surface evidence found in 1975 when its location in an orchard was pointed out to the writer by the landowner who had found cannon balls and other items there.

9.60 Te Tutu

Q19/150 (2618600E 6237000N); N109/89; recorded 1963, update 2005.

Pukenaingiora, Waitara; near where York Road cuts through the ridge, 1 km from the Waitara Road corner; access via 82 York Road.

Recorded site consists of rifle-pits, likely to have been part of Te Tutu pā, at the west end of the early 1861 Te Arei (9.56) defensive line (Prickett 1994a: 73–74).

Under pasture; visible depressions indicate pits; longer trenches reported along ridge crest and slopes.
Figure 90. Te Kohia, plan, section through the pā and sketches. Lieutenant F. Mould, Royal Engineers, from GBPP 1861 (2758) opp. p. 16.
9.61 **Waitara Blockhouse**
Q19/45 (2616300E 6245200N); N99/87; recorded 1975; Fig. 91.

Waitara; south bank near river mouth, at the rear of a small tidal creek between Te Waiai and Mangaiti Streams, the blockhouse site mostly at 116–126 Centennial Avenue.

Built April–July 1860 on the site of Kuikui, a kāinga of Wiremu Kingi Te Rangitake supporters that was destroyed when troops arrived at Waitara in early March. The location was a landing place for ships servicing troops at Waitara in the 1860–61 war. When Governor Grey ordered a European withdrawal from Waitara in May 1863, at the start of the second war, the blockhouse was handed over to Teira and Ihaia. In 1865 it was reoccupied by Pākehā soldiers and a river ferry was operated from it for some years (Prickett 1994a: 16–23).

Cross-shaped blockhouse with other buildings and gun platforms in an irregular bastioned earthwork.
No surface evidence.

**NORTH OF WAITARA**

9.62 **Kaipikari**
Q19 (2631400E 6242300N); no site record.

Urenui; 2 km up Kaipikari Road at the top of hill; ‘Kaipikari’ trig, 161 m a.s.l. at the site.

Pā attacked in December 1864, but abandoned as the troops arrived. In 1870 a Māori ‘scout’ was struck off militia pay at Kaipikari (Prickett 1999: 26).

Described in 1864 as ‘… a formidable stockade, and half a mile of rifle-pits recently constructed’ (Taranaki Herald 3 Dec 1864).

Under pasture; present condition not known.

Figure 91. ‘Hurirapa Pa’, 1860. Part of the pa is at the left; in the centre, Waitara Blockhouse is shown as a loopholed building of cross plan within an earthwork defence. Justin E.D. McCarthy, watercolour, collection of Puke Ariki, New Plymouth, A65.626.
9.63 **Mimi Stockade**

Q19/60 (2635000E 6248200N); N99/104; recorded 1978, update 1993.

Mimi; near the spur end c. 100 m north of Mimi River, near mouth.

Built by Armed Constabulary in 1869, after the February 1869 Māori attack on Pukearuhe, to protect the ferry crossing and house parties working on a Mimi River bridge; abandoned in 1877 (Prickett 1999: 48–49).

Single-storey blockhouse in stockade.

Under pasture; c. 6 × 8 m platform surrounded by 4 m wide ditch.

9.64 **No 2 Company redoubt**

Q19/165 (2625850E 6241200N); N109/105; recorded 1975, update 2005.

Onaero; 600 m south of the Inland North Road, 150 m west of Waiau Road; an urupā is now on the site.

Established illegally in December 1865 by No 2 Company Militia Volunteers when Tikorangi was found to have insufficient land for the men of two companies as had been promised. On 8 December, the militia were ordered to level the earthworks and return to Tikorangi; they were later given land at Patea (Prickett 1999: 22–23).

Rectangular redoubt c. 22 × 24 m, bastions at two corners cover all sides.

Under pasture and a small fenced urupā; earthworks damaged but visible in 1975, not seen in 2005.

9.65 **Papatiki Redoubt**

Q18/40 (2639400E 6252300N); N99/78; recorded 1962, update 2003; Fig. 92.

Pukearuhe; east of Waiti Road, 200 m past the Rowe Road corner, on a low ridge above Papatiki Stream.

Figure 92. Waiti Redoubt, with Papatiki Redoubt at left rear. Untitled, 1871, Francis Hamar Arden, watercolour, collection of Puke Ariki, New Plymouth, A58.489.
After Pukearuhe Redoubt (section 9.66) was abandoned following the Māori attack of 13 February 1869, there were reports of 600 Ngāti Maniapoto at Mokau advancing on north Taranaki. Papatiki and Waiti Redoubt (9.73) were then established on 6 April 1869, the two posts forming the ‘Papatiki Line’ at the northern frontier of Pākehā Taranaki. Papatiki was held by Taranaki Bushrangers until abandoned at the end of 1871 (Prickett 1999: 44–46).

The redoubt was 22.5 × 16 m with bastion defence at the north-west side only, and a 4 m wide ditch outside except at the rear where the bank drops down the scarp to the valley; dug-out soldiers’ huts are on the slope outside.

Under pasture; fair to good order.

### 9.66 Pukearuhe Redoubt

Q18/80 (2641400E 6255600N); N99/49; recorded 1993; also White Cliffs and Clifton; New Zealand Heritage Category II registration No 6030.

Pukearuhe; at the north end of Pukearuhe Road, on the cliff top south of Parininihi (White Cliffs).

On 24 April 1865, c. 110 Pākehā troops established a strategic post to prevent Māori access to Taranaki from the north. The redoubt was completed by mid-May and a large blockhouse built inside by the end of September. The garrison was run down over the following years and on 13 February 1869 the few remaining occupants were killed by a party of Ngāti Maniapoto. The northern frontier of Pākehā Taranaki was then pulled back to Waiti (9.73) and Papatiki Redoubt (9.65). Pukearuhe was reoccupied on 11 September 1872 by Armed Constabulary, and held until 1885 when agreement between the Pākehā government and Māori King led to opening up of the King Country and the end of the threat to Pākehā Taranaki’s northern frontier (Prickett 1999: 12–18).

Under grass in historic reserve; formerly the important Ngāti Tama pā, Pukearuhe. The 1865 redoubt was reshaped in 1872, and reduced in size in 1879. Pā terraces were used for Armed Constabulary housing; a concrete chimney foundation survives of the commanding officer’s house; archaeological excavations were carried out in 1968 (Lawrence & Prickett 1984); vegetation on the site is discussed by Jones & Simpson (1995: 82–86).

### 9.67 Takapu Redoubt

Q19/164 (2622100E 6240700N); N109/104; recorded 1975, update 2003.

Tikorangi; in the paddock southeast of the Inland North Road and Otaraoa Road corner.

Established 2 March 1869 after the Māori raid on Pukearuhe (9.66); constructed and mostly occupied by Taranaki Bushrangers; abandoned 1 November 1870 (Prickett 1999: 38–39).

Earthwork redoubt and building inside.

Under pasture; no surface evidence.

### 9.68 Tikorangi Redoubt

Q19/153 (2620800E 6238100N); N109/92; recorded 1963, update 2005; Fig. 93.

Tikorangi; on the hill-top at the south end of Ngatimaru Road, west of the road line; on site is the trig ‘Tikorangi VII’, 133 m a.s.l.

Two companies of Taranaki Militia Volunteers, promised land at Tikorangi, arrived on 19 June 1865 and built a stockade (see also 9.64); later references are to a redoubt and blockhouse. The last garrison was struck off pay in 1872 and the redoubt was then used as a militia muster post until 1882 (Prickett 1999: 19–21).
Fortifications of the New Zealand Wars

Figure 93. Tikorangi Redoubt. Photo: N. Prickett, 1975.

Rectangular redoubt 22 × 16 m, with bastions at two angles covering all sides; 40 m east of the redoubt is a 10 × 10 m earthwork around a 3 m diameter depression which may mark the well. In good order under pasture.

9.69 Tupari
Q19/16 (2635650E 6245550N); N99/18; recorded 1961, update 2005.
Waitoetoe, Urenui; north of Urenui River on a steep ridge overlooking the main road and terrace to coast; above the line of the former Tupari Road.
Pā occupied by Māori in the 1860s; a Māori scout at Tupari was struck off militia pay 1870 (Prickett 1999: 26).
Headland pā; scarp fortification only (Buist 1964: 55).
Under pasture; damage from stock erosion and farm road reported in 2005.

9.70 Urenui Redoubt
Q19/27 (2630200E 6245000N); N99/34; recorded 1961, update 2005.
Urenui; high on the left bank of Urenui River, 300 m from the mouth.
Put up in winter 1865 by a Māori force under Captain Good to secure overland communication with the recently established Pukearuhe Redoubt (9.66); on the site of former ‘Pihanga’ pā. Held for 20 years by different Māori and Pākehā forces; in 1869–1870 it was one of the strongest posts in Taranaki after the Māori raid on Pukearuhe. The last Armed Constabulary were withdrawn in 1884–85 (Prickett 1999: 23–26).
Elevated redoubt 24–21 × 21 m, originally without flanking defence but a bastion added later at the north angle.
Now within a domestic garden, the redoubt interior formerly a vegetable garden.
9.71 **Urenui north redoubt**

Q19/224 (2631200E 6245000N); N99/113; recorded 1975, update 2003; Fig. 94.

Urenui; at the high point of a broad spur, c. 100 m north of Beach Road where it cuts down the hill.

Established by 50 Armed Constabulary on 7 June 1869, as part of the Pākehā response to the attack on Pukearuhe; abandoned 10 August 1869 (Prickett 1999: 46–48).

Off-square earthwork c. 20 × 18 m, without flanking defence.

Visible under pasture, despite cultivation.

9.72 **Urenui earthwork**

Q19 (2628900E 6244800N); no site record.

Urenui; 1 km west of Urenui Redoubt, overlooking Onaero River mouth; trig ‘10922’, 42 m a.s.l., on site.

History not known.

Off-square platform 21–17.5 × 14–12.5 m, earth parapet and glass fragments indicate a New Zealand War date, oven-stones suggest Māori occupation while the form indicates Pākehā input.

Under pasture, good condition in 1975.

9.73 **Waiti Redoubt**

Q18/41 (2639000E 6252900N); N99/79; recorded 1962, update 2003; Fig. 92.

Pukearuhe; east of Pukearuhe Road, on the terrace edge south of Papatiki Stream.

Established on 6 April 1869 in response to reports of 600 Ngāti Maniapoto at Mokau advancing on north Taranaki, following the February Māori raid on Pukearuhe Redoubt (9.66). Built and held by Armed Constabulary, with Bushrangers at the nearby Papatiki Redoubt (9.65). Waiti lost
its importance when Pukearuhe was reoccupied in September 1872 and was abandoned in 1874 (Prickett 1999: 41–43).

Rectangular redoubt 40 × 32 m with flanking angles at two corners; in 1873–74 was reduced to an off-square work 25 × 14.5–11.5 m.

Formerly distinct earthworks under pasture have been deteriorating under pine trees since the 1990s.

**OMATA AND OAKURA DISTRICTS**

**9.74 Ahuahu**

P19/109 (2591100E 6227800N); N108/143; recorded 1979; also Te Ahuahu.

Ahuahu, Oakura; on summit of ridge above South Road at the Ahuahu Road corner, exact location yet to be confirmed.

Pā taken by European forces on 24 March 1864, along with Te Tutu (9.108) on 22 March and Kaitake (9.79) on 25 March, these three pā being the last Māori positions north of Hangatahua (Stoney) River.

Possibly destroyed by World War II radar station on hill-top.

**9.75 Ahuahu Blockhouse**

P19 (c. 2590800E 6228500N); no site record, not located.

Ahuahu, Oakura; corner of Ahuahu and South Roads; at the Ahuahu military settlers’ town site, shown on Block Sheet Cape III (14/5).

On 9 August 1864, the Lower Kaitake Blockhouse (9.81) was ordered removed to Ahuahu, where it was re-erected by early September and the surrounding stockade completed by 17 October. In September 1866 the last man left and thereafter the post was used only for militia musters; sold 1872 (Prickett 1999: 37).

Single-storey blockhouse in stockade, accommodation for 35 men, one officer’s room and one storeroom.

No known archaeological evidence.

**9.76 Allen’s Hill Blockhouse**

P19/32 (2597450E 6233200N); N108/36; recorded 1975.

Omata; top of prominent hill over South Road from the Hurford Road corner.

One of four blockhouses built in 1864 to give security for Pākehā returning to farms abandoned in 1860 (Prickett 1996: 32). Manned by local militia. See also Dingle’s Blockhouse (9.3), Puketotara Blockhouse (9.22) and Ratanui Blockhouse (9.23).

Likely to have been a two-storey blockhouse like the other three.

House and garden now on the site; probably nothing left.
9.77 Fort Robert


Omata; on high ridge seaward of SH45, opposite Plymouth Road; ‘Poutoko A’ trig, 97 m a.s.l., on site.

Put up after the 2 October 1863 fight at Allen’s Hill; name from Ropata Ngarongomate of nearby Poutoko kāinga. Fort Robert is significant as the first post held by Taranaki Military Settlers on land that, although not yet legally confiscated, was marked for their settlement; Fort Robert probably abandoned July 1864 (Prickett 1996: 14–17).

Part earthwork and part stockade, c. 23 × 35 m, with defensive angles at two corners covering the two longer sides only; soldiers’ huts dug into the hill slope below.

Under pasture; the fort and hut sites have lost definition since 1950 NZ Aerial Mapping photograph 1787/5.

9.78 Kaipopo

P19/120 (2597200E 6234200N); N108/154; recorded 1976.

Omata; seaward of Waireka Road, above the old Omata Cemetery; at hill-top location ‘Ratanui’.

Kaipopo pā was the main Māori position in the Battle of Waireka, 28 March 1860, when it was taken by the Naval Brigade under Captain Cracroft, with more than 16 Māori killed (Prickett 2005: 83–91). Leading Seaman William Odgers was awarded the first Victoria Cross of the New Zealand Wars for being first into the pā.

Built in two days by 330 Taranaki and some Ngāti Ruanui (Prickett 2005: 84). Fence made of posts and rails from Pākehā farms, tied with flax and wire, and trenches and rifle-pits covered with timber and soil (Prickett 1994a: 25–26). An innovative form of pā with no stockade of any kind. This style was followed by historically significant pā at Porou (9.102), Orakau (4.69) and Gate Pā (5.11).

Under pasture; slight surface indications only, important subsurface remains include some defenders buried where they were killed.

9.79 Kaitake

P19/98 (2593650E 6229450N); N108/41; recorded 1979.

Oakura; northern spur of Kaitake Range and adjacent Wairau Stream valley.

Pā complex occupied by Māori in the First Taranaki War. In the second war, Kaitake was attacked and taken by Pākehā troops on 25 March 1864, along with Te Tutu (9.108) on 22 March and Ahuahu (9.74) on 24 March; the three pā being the last Māori positions held north of Hangatahua (Stoney) River.

A map dated to the day of the attack shows ‘upper pā’ at trig ‘10863’ (site of later Kaitake Redoubt; (9.80)), ‘lower pā’ c. 150 m down the spur, and rifle-pits at the edge of the spur above the valley of the Wairau Stream. The fortified complex also included a stockade and a rifle trench across the Wairau Stream valley, and a pā in the valley (reported in June 1863 but no longer there in March 1864). A traversed rifle trench and palisade line were found in the course of 2006 archaeological excavations by Ivan Bruce on the east side of the upper Wairau Road (Bruce 2006).

Under pasture; no known surface evidence.
9.80 **Kaitake Redoubt**

P19/37 (2593850E 6229450N); N108/41; recorded 1975, update 2005; also Fort Warre; Fig. 95.

Oakura; northern spur of Kaitake Range, at trig ‘10863’, 211 m a.s.l.; access from Wairau Road.

Established at the end of March 1864 after Māori forces were driven from Kaitake, Ahuahu (9.74) and Te Tutu (9.108) pā, north of the Kaitake Range. Held by British troops and Military Settlers until 1866, then maintained as needed; last garrisoned after the February 1869 raid on Pukearuhe (9.66; Prickett 1996: 23–27).

A restricted site on a narrow ridge gave rise to an unusual redoubt form, c. 40 × 17–13 m, with flanking defence for the forward (south) end of two long sides only; entrance at the north end; depressions on the slope down to north mark soldiers’ huts.

Under pasture, some stock damage.

9.81 **Lower Kaitake Blockhouse**

P19/45 (2593450E 6229750N); N108/49; recorded 1975, update 2005.

Oakura; Wairau Road, on knoll east side of the road end.

Established for support and communication with Kaitake Redoubt on the ridge above; first occupied in October 1864. The garrison was withdrawn in February 1865 and blockhouse removed to the nearby Ahuahu (9.75) town site in August 1865 (Prickett 1996: 26–28).

Probably a single-storey blockhouse in stockade.

Under pasture; no surface evidence, west side cut by Wairau Road. Not found in 2006 excavations on the knoll (Bruce 2006).

9.82 **Oakura A.C. Redoubt**

P19/34 (2592850E 6231500N); N108/38; recorded 1975; Fig. 101.

Oakura; Hussey Street goes directly through the site.
Armed Constabulary and other Pākehā military forces for the advance on Parikaka were first assembled at Oakura in early winter 1879, the redoubt dating from August or early September. It was abandoned before the crossing of Hangatahua (Stoney) River on 6 March 1880, which signalled the start of the campaign (Prickett 1981: 240–242).

Large redoubt c. 50 × 50 m with unusual angled bastions.

Shows well in 1950 NZ Aerial Mapping photograph 1788/7; part of the earthwork was present at the edge of tennis courts in 1975; now largely or completely destroyed under the 1980s extension of Hussey Street and associated houses.

9.83 Omata Stockade

P19/35 (2598800E 6235050N); N108/39; recorded 1975, updates 2001, 2002; Heritage New Zealand Category II registration No 5965; Fig. 6.

Omata; small hill inland of South Road (SH45), south of Herekawe Stream; Department of Conservation historic reserve.

Built in early 1860 by local settlers enrolled as militia, on the site of pre-European Ngaturi pā (Alexander 1863). Except for Waireka Camp (9.90), which was occupied briefly in late winter 1860, this was the only Pākehā post south of New Plymouth before Second Taranaki War commenced in March 1863; demolished in 1867 (Prickett 1994a: 13–16).

The old pā platform was modified for a rectangular timber stockade, 19.3 × 12.8 m, with bastions at two opposite corners covering all sides; an open yard was enclosed by lean-to building for guard room, magazine, hospital, store and accommodation; outside the stockade was a steep scarp to a V-shaped ditch.

Under pasture; good condition, some stock damage on steeper slopes; excavated 1977 (Prickett 1994b).

9.84 Pahitere Redoubt

P19/23 (2593950E 6232300N); N108/24; recorded 1974.

Oakura; highly visible on a small hill 400 m south of the SH45 and Koru Road corner.

Established in March 1864 by Military Settlers when nearby St Andrew’s Redoubt (9.86) was reoccupied by troops. Taken over by the local chief Ropata Ngarongomate, in November 1866 (Prickett 1996: 22–23).

The former Pahitere pā (Prickett 1980: 30–31) was reshaped to accommodate a blockhouse on a 25 × 11 m rectangular platform, surrounded by an earth bank, ditch, and short lengths of a second bank and ditch. Soldiers’ huts were dug into the eastern slope.

Good order under pasture. The original blockhouse is now a farm cottage nearby, and a rare surviving example of such buildings, which were prefabricated in kauri at Auckland and shipped to Pākehā troops in the North Island throughout the 1860s.

9.85 Poutoko Blockhouse

P19 (2596900E 6233600N); no site record, not located.

Omata; north of South Road (SH45), c. 250 m southeast of the Waireka Road corner.

Put up in spring 1864, replacing St Patrick’s Redoubt (9.87) as a fortified post in the locality, to secure Pākehā farmland as campaigning troops moved further from New Plymouth. Garrisoned until March 1866 or later (Prickett 1996: 33).
Blockhouse for 35 men within stockade or earthwork.
No known archaeological evidence.

9.86 St Andrew’s Redoubt
P19/38 (2593000E 6232400N); N108/42; recorded 1975; also Oakura Redoubt; Fig. 96.
Oakura; north of Oakura River, on the coastal terrace above Corbett Park; ‘Oakura’ trig, 43 m a.s.l., at the northwest corner of the earthwork.
Established on 5 May 1863, a day after the ambush of a party of 57th Regiment soldiers on Oakura Beach; abandoned on 11 August 1863 when troops were transferred to Waikato. Reoccupied 1 March 1864 by 100 men of the 57th Regiment and 150 Military Settlers. The redoubt was a central forward Pākehā post in campaigning south of New Plymouth in the summer of 1864–65; finally abandoned on 6 December 1866 (Prickett 1966: 10–14).
Off-square redoubt, c. 45 × 30 m, with bastions at each corner covering one side only; a parapet extends along the adjacent scarp edge. Depressions of dug-out soldiers’ huts mark the adjacent camp; cart tracks cross the terrace to the top of the old road to the beach (see Fig. 96).
Under pasture and gorse; considerable deterioration of earthworks since 1975, but remains an important site for its history and significant archaeological evidence.

9.87 St Patrick’s Redoubt
P19/19 (2596300E 6233750N); N108/20; recorded 1975, update 2003; also Poutoko Redoubt.
Omata; high seaward end of Tapuae Ridge, mostly under the house inland of the major bend of South Road.
The 12 March 1863 move to Poutoko by 300 of the 57th Regiment, accompanied by Sir George Grey and General Cameron, marked the start of the Second Taranaki War. St Patrick’s Redoubt
was completed by 20 March, the work planned and supervised by Lieutenant Charles Ferguson, Royal Engineers, who was later responsible for many Taranaki redoubts. When fighting moved south in early 1864, local militia took over from British troops at the redoubt. It was abandoned in spring 1864 when Poutoko Blockhouse (9.85) was established nearby (Prickett 1996: 2–7).

NZ Aerial Mapping photograph 1787/5 (1950), shows an off-square work, c. 50 × 42 m, with flanking defence at all corners each covering one side; the entrance was through the north (rear) side and dug-out soldiers’ huts were on a nearby slope.

The redoubt was largely destroyed when the present house was built on the site in late 1950s; some external evidence of huts, etc., will have survived. In 2003 there were archaeological excavations during road-widening took place in the vicinity of the redoubt entrance (Taylor & Sutton 2003)

### 9.88 Timaru Redoubt

P19/43 (2589000E 6230700N); N108/47; recorded 1975, update 2003.

Oakura; cut by Weld Road at a bend c. 500 m from coast.

Established by Taranaki Military Settlers in November 1864 to protect communication with the newly reoccupied Tataraimaka district which had been abandoned in June 1863 (see 9.104).

Timaru Redoubt was abandoned in April 1865 (Prickett 1996: 44–45).

Classic form, 24 × 24 m with two opposite 8 × 5 m bastions covering all sides.

Largely destroyed by road, house and garden; some of the southwest corner survives in the paddock west of the road; southeast bastion barely visible east of road in 2003.

### 9.89 Tuahukino Blockhouse

P19 (2596000E 6230000N); no site record, not located.

Koru, Oakura; 3 km up Koru Road from SH45.

Built May–July 1865 at the military settlers’ Tuahukino town site and held by a small garrison until September 1866; maintained by local militia until January 1872 (Prickett 1999: 36).

Probably one-storey building within a stockade, with accommodation for 25 men, one officer’s room and one storeroom.

No known archaeological evidence.

### 9.90 Waireka Camp

P19/36 (2597000E 6234200N); N108/40; recorded 1975, updates 2004, 2005; Fig. 3.

Omata; corner of Sutton and Waireka Roads; in paddock behind Heritage New Zealand plaque.

Put up on 27 July 1860 by 250 of 12th and 40th Regiments under Major W.J. Hutchins, while under fire from Māori dug in on high ground (9.91) near the present main South Road (then Hurford Road). All tents were pitched within the earthwork that night. From 11 to 23 August, every wood and water party exchanged shots with Māori. Abandoned 7 September 1860 after Māori returned south (Prickett 1994a: 41–43).

Redoubt earthwork c. 50 × 50 m with c. 15 m square bastions at two opposite corners; c. 8 m wide ditch around the work.

Under pasture, in good order and highly visible; outstanding example of a classic redoubt form.
**9.91  Waireka pā**  
P19 (2596600E 6233500N); no site record, not located.

Omata; extensive works along high ground south of present intersection of SH45 and Waireka Road.

After the success of Te Atiawa and Waikato at Puketakauere (9.52, 9.54) on 27 June 1860, Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui and other southern tribes advanced on New Plymouth at the end of July, fortifying the crest of Tapuae Ridge, which had the security of bushed gullies behind. British troops met the Māori advance with Waireka Camp (9.90). When Māori left their positions early in September, the troops withdrew to New Plymouth (Prickett 1994a: 434).

The Māori works included three stockades, each capable of holding 80–100 men, connected by rifle-pits, with underground huts at or below the crest of the scarp into the rear gully. More rifle-pits extended for 900 yards (820 m) around to the south of the Pakeha position at Waireka Camp (Prickett 1994a: 43–44).

No known archaeological evidence.

**9.92  Waireka rifle-pits**  
P19/292 (2597300E 6234100N); recorded 2002.

Omata; across Waireka Road from the old Omata Cemetery.

At the end of 1860, southern Māori returned to Tapuae Ridge, digging rifle-pits by the road through remains of Mrs Jury’s house that was destroyed earlier in the war (Adamson 2008). A skirmish at Waireka on 23 February 1861 may have involved these rifle-pits (Prickett 2005: 116).

Rifle-pits revealed in January 2008 archaeological excavations by Janice Adamson include a line of square pits connected by a trench, with escape trenches to the rear (Adamson 2008; Prickett 2010: 89).

Under pasture; more will exist than has so far been uncovered.

**TATARAIMAKA AND OKATO DISTRICTS**

**9.93  Bayly’s Farm A.C. Camp**  
P19/41 (2587350E 6229600N); N108/45; recorded 1975, update 2005; Fig. 97.

Tataraimaka; 150 m from Greenwood Road and coast, on the terrace between Pitone and Waiaua Streams.

Armed Constabulary base established in the spring 1879 build-up to the Parihaka Campaign. In early 1880 it was the main European base north of Hangatahua (Stoney) River, with 260 men; on 8 March 1880 the post was abandoned when the garrison crossed Stoney River to Māori land to begin the advance on Parihaka (Prickett 1981: 242–246).

A rectangular earthwork 43 × 30 m enclosed a low mound on an otherwise level terrace. Defences included an external ditch 8–5 m wide and unusual flanking defence at the middle of the two long sides. Entry was by way of a causeway at the north end. A contemporary picture shows an extensive camp outside the earthwork (Prickett 1981: 245).

Mostly destroyed for a farm race in August 1978, only a small part of the west side remains under pasture.
9.94 Camp Parawaha

P19/39 (2583700E 6227500N); N108/43; recorded 1975; Fig. 98.

Okato; seaward end of Hampton Road, over a small stream from pre-European Parawaha pā (P19/204).


Ditch and bank earthworks at the coastal terrace edge defended a large central area and two small areas on the other side of gullies at each side; the rear was undefended but for a natural scarp.

Under pasture; only the long central earthwork was visible in 1975, and since then has been further erased by cultivation.

9.95 Crow’s Nest

P19/218 (2586950E 6229800N); N108/100; recorded 1962, update 2002.

Tataraimaka; top platform of pre-European Tataraimaka pā, bottom end of Lower Pitone Road; Department of Conservation historic reserve.

The pā top platform (the ‘Crow’s Nest’) was used as a signal station in April–June 1863 for nearby St George’s Redoubt (9.104; Prickett 1996: 9–10).

An earth parapet protected a small work for 30 men. The signal mast allowed communication with St Patrick’s Redoubt (9.87) and so to New Plymouth.

Under planted trees and coastal bush; parapet remains are visible on inland side.
9.96 Fort Strange

P19/44 (2586850E 6229650N); N108/48; recorded 1975; Fig. 99.

Tataraimaka; at terrace edge above the scarp to shore platform and beach, 100 m west of Lower Pitone Road.

British Army redoubt, established in April 1860 to secure European farms at Tataraimaka (see also Fort Turner, (9.97)); 65th Regiment garrison under Captain T.G. Strange; abandoned on 29 June 1860 after defeat of the 40th Regiment at Puketakauere (sections 9.52, 9.54; Prickett 1994a: 26–29).

Small square redoubt with flanking defence at four corners covering all sides.

Under pasture; the earthworks of Fort Strange were revealed within the 1863 St George’s Redoubt (9.104) by a geophysical survey carried out by Hans Bader in 2008.
9.97 Fort Turner

P19/42 (2589100E 6229800N); N108/46; recorded 1975.

Tataraimaka; on a low hill, 100 m east of Lower Timaru Road, c. 1.5 km from the Greenwood Road corner.

British Army redoubt established in April 1860 to secure European farms at Tataraimaka (see also Fort Strange; (9.96)); 65th Regiment garrison under Captain H.F. Turner; abandoned on 29 June 1860 after the defeat of the 40th Regiment at Puketakauere (9.52, 9.54; Prickett 1994a: 26–29). The site subsequently occupied and modified by Māori (9.107).

Unusual defensive earthworks may relate in part to later Māori works at the site.

The hill and part of the site was cut down for a house, which has now gone; remaining earthworks are stable under pasture.

9.98 Kaihihi River sap

P19 (2583400E 6227000N); no site record; Fig. 98.

Okato; on the terrace north of Kaihihi River, c. 800 m from the mouth.

Pākehā sap (attacking trench) dug on 11 October 1860 towards Orongomaihangai (9.101), which was the central of three pā on both sides of the Kaihihi River (see also Mataiaio, (9.99) and Pukekakariki, (9.103)). The three pā and Pākehā sap were abandoned the next day.

Not visible on cultivated ground, but trenches will survive subsurface.

9.99 Mataiaio

P19/105 (2583500E 6226600N); N108/138; recorded 1979; Fig. 98.

Okato; on terrace south of Kaihihi River, c. 1 km from mouth.
Mataiaio was one of three pā attacked by General Pratt in October 1860, along with Orongomaihangai (section 9.101) and Pukekakariki (9.103). All were abandoned on 12 October, then destroyed by troops (Prickett 1994a: 48, 52–53).

A rectangular work c. 50 × 30 m, with escape ditch from the southeast corner to the outer ditch of nearby pre-European Pukearuhe pā (P19/104).

Under pasture; now ploughed out, but visible in 1950 NZ Aerial Mapping photograph 1790/3.

9.100 Okato Blockhouse

P19/47 (2586500E 6222800N); N108/51; recorded 1975.

Okato; summit of isolated hill east of Oxford Road behind Okato township; ‘Okato’ trig 133 m a.s.l. on the site.

Taranaki Military Settlers completed the earthwork defences in September 1865 and the blockhouse by 17 October, on an old pā site. The blockhouse was locked up in late 1866, then maintained and occasionally used by local militia. In the 1870s there was a small Armed Constabulary garrison at the blockhouse in the period up to the Parihaka Campaign, when Okato was at the southern boundary of Pākehā Taranaki. The blockhouse was finally abandoned only after troops occupied Parihaka in late 1881 (Prickett 1999: 34–36).

First described in historical sources as a redoubt with blockhouse, but later as a T-shaped blockhouse for 30 men, plus officer’s, store and guard rooms, within a small, unflanked stockade. In 1975 archaeological remains showed a 15 × 11 m work with massive earth walls and circular bastion at the northeast corner (Prickett 1999: 36).

Now in a private garden; earthwork in good condition in 1975, but considerably deteriorated and damaged when viewed in 1997.

9.101 Orongomaihangai

P19/40 (2583500E 6226800N); N108/44; recorded 1975, update 2003; Figs 98, 100.

Okato; Kaihihi River right bank, 1 km from sea.

The central of three pā (see also Mataiaio (9.99) and Pukekakariki (9.103)) attacked in October 1860 by General Pratt, employing a sap (9.98) to approach Orongomaihangai. This was a precursor of the well-known early 1861 sap at Waitara (9.53). Māori abandoned Orongomaihangai on 12 October and it was then destroyed by troops (Prickett 1994a: 48, 52–53).

The pā is c. 52 m across and 40 m maximum depth from a central forward bastion. At the front was a flax screen and stockade, backed by traversed rifle trench, with huts behind. At the rear was a cliff to Kaihihi River.

A fence now divides the pā front, which is under pasture with the defensive line still visible despite cultivation, from the interior which remains largely under trees, gorse, etc.

9.102 Porou

P19/223 (2586300E 6228700N); N108/105; recorded 1978, updates 2002, 2004; also Katikara.

Okato; on a low but commanding mound on the terrace west of Katikara River, 1 km from sea.

This pā was the main object of attack in the Katikara engagement on 4 June 1863, when 28 Whanganui defenders were killed, most of them buried at St George’s Redoubt (9.104; Prickett 2008).
Porou was an earthwork pā without a stockade or even a fence. Two or three huts were inside the parapet of a small inner work, and two external rifle trenches and pits faced the direction of the expected attack only, the rear (south) side being largely undefended.

Under pasture; visible in NZ Aerial Mapping 1950 aerial photograph 1789/3. When the grass is short, it is possible to see slight surface evidence over an area c. 50 × 50 m.

9.103 Pukekakariki

P19/205 (2583800E 6226700N); N108/189; recorded 1981; Fig. 98.

Okato; west of the bottom of Hampton Road, on low hill behind the present homestead.

One of three pā on both sides of Kaihihi River, attacked by General Pratt in October 1860 (see also Mataiaio (9.99) and Orongomaihangi (9.101)). All were abandoned on 12 October and destroyed by the troops (Prickett 1994a: 48, 52–53).

An historical plan shows a 25 × 25 m pā, with usual flax screen and stockade defences and a traversed rifle trench behind, four huts inside.

The site is now largely destroyed by a house on the north side of hill; a significant and rare section of traversed rifle trench survives in the paddock behind.
9.104 **St George’s Redoubt**
P19/4 (2586850E 6229650N); N108/48; recorded 1975; also Tataraimaka Redoubt.
Tataraimaka; terrace edge above the beach, 100 m west of Lower Pitone Road; see also Fort Strange (9.96).
Established in April 1863 when British troops returned to the Tataraimaka district which had been held by Māori since winter 1860 in the First Taranaki War. The redoubt was the forward base for an attack on Māori positions south of Katikara River (9.102) on 4 June 1863 (Prickett 2008), then abandoned on 30 June 1863 when troops were sent north to the Waikato War. On 24 November 1864 it was reoccupied by British troops; finally abandoned on 18 April 1866 (Prickett 1996: 4–11).
A large earthwork redoubt, c. 60 × 60 m, has bastion defence at all corners each covering one side. An 1863 painting shows the redoubt in campaigning mode with the interior filled with tents; later there would have been huts inside (Prickett 2008: 14).
Under grass, in reserve; defensive works visible in 1975 have since been largely obscured by further cultivation.

9.105 **Stoney River Redoubt**
P19/33 (2583300E 6225100N); N108/37; recorded 1975; also Ngana or Te Ngana Redoubt.
Okato; Kaihīhi Road, on a lahar mound immediately south of the Brophy Road corner.
Established in January 1865 by 200 of the 43rd Regiment, to occupy Māori land south as far as Hangatahua (Stoney) River for military settlement. Held by the 50th Regiment until abandoned in May 1867 (Prickett 1999: 8–9). The Hangatahua River was the frontier of Pākehā settlement for 15 years until crossed by troops in the Parihaka Campaign, March 1880.
Site destroyed by construction of present house in the early 1970s.

9.106 **Tataraimaka Blockhouse**
P19/46 (2588400E 6225500N); N108/50; recorded 1975.
Tataraimaka; on a mound behind the house southwest of the SH45 and Upper Pitone Road intersection; location given on Block Sheet Cape II (14/4).
Established in February 1865 by Military Settlers, to give security to Pākehā returning to farms in the district which were abandoned in 1860. Locked up in late 1866 but maintained as militia post, then occupied briefly in February 1869 after the raid on Pukearuhe in north Taranaki (Prickett 1999: 7–8).
Blockhouse for 25 men, with barrack room, an officer’s room and one storeroom, probably of two-storey form (Prickett 1999: 8).
Now under pasture, but probably destroyed by a former house on the site (now gone), which was behind the present house.

9.107 **Tataraimaka pā**
P19; no site record, not located.
Tataraimaka; Greenwood Road area.
In September 1860, five pā with trenches and double stockades were reported extending inland from the coast south of the Timaru River. They included one on the site of Fort Turner.
All were destroyed by troops. The fortified line was presumably aimed at contesting a Pākehā return to Tataraimaka (Prickett 1994a: 28–29).

Nothing is known of these pā except for brief contemporary mentions.

At Fort Turner, the archaeological evidence may represent both Pākehā and Māori defensive works, and so the rare circumstance of a Māori position on the site of an earlier Pākehā work, rather than the other way around. The other four pā are unlocated under pasture, but not beyond discovery.

9.108 **Te Tutu**

P19 (2588700E 624500N); no site record.

Tataraimaka; end of Albion Road, at ‘Tutu A’ trig, 152 m a.s.l.

Pā on a high hill inland of Tataraimaka Block; among several Taranaki and allied southern iwi bases, inland or south of Tataraimaka in autumn and winter 1863, at the start of the Second Taranaki War. Later, Pākehā forces found Te Tutu abandoned on 22 March 1864. This was followed up by advances on Ahuahu (9.74) on 24 March and Kaitake (9.79) on 25 March, to drive Māori from their last three positions north of Hangatahua (Stoney) River.

Stockaded pā.

No visible archaeological evidence.

9.109 **Tukitukipapa**


Okato; coast road joining Leith and Perth Roads.

At or near the kāinga of the same name which was attacked in the 4 June 1863 Katikara engagement (Prickett 2008). On 22 January 1865 an agreement was made between the Ngamahanga hapū of the Taranaki iwi and Pākehā military authorities at Tukitukipapa pā, ‘...formed of earthworks exactly after the models of English redoubts, with flanking angles and ditch complete’ (Taranaki Herald 28 Jan 1865).

An earth bank c. 80 m long cuts off the end on a terrace c. 45 m from the sea cliff, but needs confirmation as the January 1865 work referred to here.

The location is mostly under pasture, but also badly damaged by the road and by recent construction of a house on the site.

**SOUTH OF HANGATAHUA (STONEY RIVER)**

9.110 **Cape Egmont Camp**

P20/107 (2575000E 6214000N); N118/98; recorded 1978; Fig. 101.

Cape Egmont; stockade by Kapoaiaia Stream 200 m from lighthouse, and small stone redoubt 100 m seaward of the lighthouse (Prickett 1981: 264).

Armed Constabulary provided security for the construction of Cape Egmont Lighthouse 1880–1881 during the Parihaka Campaign.

Stockaded camp and a small stone-built guard redoubt.

A low mound is partly encircled by a derelict wall of dressed stone; no remains of the stockade found.
Figure 101. Pākehā fortifications and other historic sites of the Parihaka Campaign 1879–1881. Drawing by K.M. Peters.
9.111  Fort Rolleston
P20/110 (2582200E 6212600N); N118/101; recorded 1978, update 2005; Fig. 101.

Parihaka; 150 m from Parihaka Road, on the high east end of a dominating hill west of the kāinga.

Parihaka was occupied on 5 November 1881 by 1500 Volunteers and Armed Constabulary, with Fort Rolleston (after Native Minister William Rolleston) then put up, comprising an earth breastwork and Nelson Artillery Volunteers Armstrong gun. The last Armed Constabulary garrison at Parihaka departed in March 1885 (Prickett 1981: 264–266).

Oval breastwork c. 7 × 9 m intact under scrub in 2005. Remains have not been found of a second stockade overlooking the village from another hill.

9.112  Kaikahu Redoubt
P20/109 (2579500E 6204500N); N118/100; recorded 1976, update 2004; Fig. 101.

Oaonui, Rahotu; 100 m west of SH45, 350 m south of Manihi Road.

The second Armed Constabulary post north of Opunake in the Parihaka Campaign (see also Opua Camp (9.116), established in May 1880 for the security of road-builders; abandoned on 25 June (Prickett 1981: 258–260).

Defensive earthworks on a small lahar mound measure 31–36.5 × 20 × 17 m, with a magazine pit inside and 7 m diameter bastion extension from northwest corner. The associated camp was on level ground between the redoubt and Maungahoki Stream to the south.

Good order under pasture.

9.113  Kekeua
P20/40 (2582100E 6214500N); recorded 1978.

Pungarehu; c. 3.2 km from SH45 up Wataroa Road; trig 'B' 152 m a.s.l. on the site.

Kekeua was originally a pre-European pā, which was reworked in 1864 (Taranaki Herald 18 June 1864), before being attacked and destroyed on 13 June 1865 by troops from Warea Redoubt (9.123).

Described as ‘... old fortified position with a deep trench around it’ (Cowan 1983 II: 57).

In pasture and still in good condition, despite having a fence line up part of the pā and trig on the summit.

9.114  Ngakumikumi Camp
P20/24 (2580400E 6217700N); N118/13; recorded 1976; Fig. 101.

Warea; east side of SH45, opposite Burgess Road and Warea School, south of Teikaparua (Warea) River.

Established by Armed Constabulary in the Parihaka Campaign on 3 May 1880, for the road workers' camp south of Stoney River; occupied discontinuously to 1882. Ngakumikumi kāinga at the same location was destroyed by troops from Warea Redoubt on 13 June 1865 (Prickett 1981: 249–251).

Small round guard redoubt on top of a lahar, immediately south of a farm race; extensive camp north to Teikaparua River.

Redoubt bulldozed c. 1970; some of the associated camp may survive.
9.115  **Okeanui**

P20/99 (2581500E 6213900N); N118/90; recorded 1978.

Pungarehu; 200 m south of Wataroa Road, 2 km from SH45, south bank of Kapoaiaia River.

Pā attacked and destroyed on 13 June 1865 by troops from Warea Redoubt.

Hill pā, with a ditch around a near rectangular 30 × 20 m platform, on a lahar above a steep slope west to Kapoaiaia River.

Good condition.

9.116  **Opua Camp**

P20 (2561100E 6197300N); no site record, not located; Fig. 101.

Opua; 3 km north of Opunake, close to SH45 bridge over Okeweu Stream.

The first Armed Constabulary post north of Opunake in the Parihaka Campaign; established for the security of road-builders, probably in March 1880; abandoned May 1880 (Prickett 1981: 257).

Nothing known of camp fortifications.

Present condition not known.

9.117  **Opunake Redoubt**

P20/18 (2583950E 6193800N); N118/7; recorded 1975; Figs 101, 102.

Opunake; terrace edge above the south end of Opunake Beach, in a reserve adjacent to the Layard Street and Bowen Crescent corner.

Established on 29 April 1865 by 400 troops, mostly 43rd Regiment. In May 1867 the redoubt was abandoned by the 50th Regiment and taken over by local chief Wiremu Matakatea (Prickett 1999: 29–34). In 1875, Pākehā troops returned to Opunake when 25 Armed Constabulary set up camp at Te Namu 1.5 km west of the 1865 redoubt. In April 1879 the Armed Constabulary rebuilt and significantly altered the earlier redoubt as a major base for the forthcoming Parihaka Campaign. Opunake was well situated for this purpose, being behind a sheltered bay and mid-way between...
the Hangatahua and Waingongoro River frontiers of Māori land at the time. Opunake Redoubt was finally abandoned in early 1887 (Prickett 1981: 187–195).

The 1865 work made use of the cliff for one side, with defensive angles flanking the other three sides. Rebuilt in 1879 to be fully enclosed, 120 × 130 ft (37 × 40 m); flanking defence at two corners covered three sides, the inland side being slightly angled to the centre (Prickett 1999: 29–34).

The defensive ditch is now barely visible under grass; significant subsurface remains likely.

9.118 Pungarehu Camp

P20/108 (2579650E 6213750N); N118/99; recorded 1978, update 2006; Heritage New Zealand Category II registration No 818 (blockhouse only); Fig. 101.

Pungarehu; both sides of SH45, north of Pungarehu Road.

Camp established on 21 June 1880 for a large garrison, and the the main forward base for the 5 November 1881 move on Parihaka, 2.5 km inland. Given over to civilian police in 1885 (Prickett 1981: 251–256).

Fortifications comprised a large single-storey blockhouse within an earth breastwork on a prominent lahar hill east of SH45, immediately north of Pungarehu Road, and a small round guard redoubt on the seaward side of the main road.

The blockhouse survives as a private residence with an adjacent two cell lock-up used as a garden shed; guard redoubt earthworks are good order under pasture west of SH45. Terraces used for buildings and tents, etc. and other remains, make up an important archaeological complex.

9.119 Rahotu Stockade

P20/63 (2578600E 6207500N); N118/54; recorded 1978, update 2005; Figs 101, 103.

Rahotu; north of Rahotu Road, southwest corner of sports ground in Rahotu Domain.

Camp established in January 1881 by Armed Constabulary and road builders; the stockade was still under construction in July. Most of the garrison left on 5 November 1881 to the occupation of Parihaka; Rahotu was abandoned in December 1881 (Prickett 1981: 260–264).

The main work was a well-built rectangular stockade 77 × 56 ft (23.5 × 18 m) of 10 inch (250 mm) × 12 ft (3.5 m) high timbers on the levelled top of a lahar mound north of the road. South of the road an earth breastwork enclosed the top of a smaller lahar. Next to the two fortified lahars was an extensive associated camp on lower ground. There had been older pā on both mounds.

The stockade site is in good order, now mostly under grass, having been cleared of large trees in recent years. The earthwork south of the road has been gutted by a quarry, a remaining ditch and bank on the south side may relate to the 1881 occupation.

9.120 Waikoukou

P20; no site record, not located; also Waikoko.

Opunake; 6 miles (10 km) inland of Tipoka.

Pā attacked in General Chute’s campaign inland of Tipoka and Opunake on 1 February 1866 (Cowan 1983 II: 70).

No description.

Present condition not known.
9.121 **Waitaha Camp**

P20 (2578500E 6210000N); no site record, not located; also Pukehinau Camp; Fig. 101.

Rahotu; south bank of Waitaha Stream, 600 m seaward of South Road.


‘Temporary defensive work’ as at Ngakumikumi (9.114), Opua (9.116) and Kaikahu (9.112; AJHR 1881 H18: 3).

Present condition not known.

9.122 **Warea**

P20/92 (2577000E 6218500N); N118/83; recorded 1979.

Warea; on the coast, south side of Teikaparua (Warea) River.

Warea pā was bombarded by HMS Niger on 30 March 1860, two days after the Battle of Waireka; later burned by troops in Colonel Gold’s southern reconnaissance, 27 April 1860 (Prickett 1994a: 26–27).

Stockade pā, on level ground without natural defence.

Under pasture; only in-filled pits were visible in 1979; cannonball find recorded.
9.123  **Warea Redoubt**

P20/17 (2577000E 6218700N); N118/6; recorded 1975.

Warea; on the coast, 400 m south of the coast end of Stent Road; between the beach and paper road.

Established on 28 April 1865 by two companies of the 43rd Regiment under Colonel F.H. Synge; followed by the 50th Regiment in March 1866. On 3 May 1867 British troops were replaced by 25 militia; the post was abandoned in early 1868 (Prickett 1999: 26–29).

Field evidence shows the early redoubt (40 × 30 m), which housed a substantial garrison of regimental troops, was replaced by a 10 × 10 m work in the southeast corner of the first work along with the original 7 × 7 m bastion at that corner; 1978 excavations showed the smaller work to be built around an existing blockhouse within the earlier work (Prickett 1994b). Hut dug-outs and fireplaces mark an external camp north of the redoubt.

Under pasture, in good order.

9.124  **Werekino Camp**

P19/116 (2581900E 6222850N); N108/150; recorded 1976, updates 2004, 2005; Fig. 101.

Puniho; 100 m seaward of SH45, left bank of Werekino Stream.

The first camp south of Hangatahua (Stoney) River in the Parihaka Campaign was established on 8 March 1880 by 260 Armed Constabulary, soon joined by 63 road-builders; subsequently occupied by up to 600 men. Werekino was abandoned on 3 May 1880 when the whole force moved on to Ngakumikumi as the road work moved south (Prickett 1981: 246–250).

Extensive camp between two small guard redoubts on top of lahar mounds.

Under pasture; one redoubt in good condition, 8 m in diameter with a low earth parapet; the other earthwork in poor condition.