

# FLAT BUSH

Stages 2A, 2B, & 3

## *INITIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW*

Report prepared for

Manukau City Council

By

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## Introduction

Manukau City Council plans to develop the Flat Bush district into a new, thriving Town to accommodate the expanding growth of the City. The development is to be released over six or more years with Stage 2A in 2010, Stage 2B in 2013, and Stage 3 in 2016 (Figure 1).

Part of the procedure in this planned development is to assess the archaeological heritage potential of the area. Following on from previous archaeological works carried out within this area of Manukau City, this review focuses on the specific areas of Stages 2A, 2B, and 3.

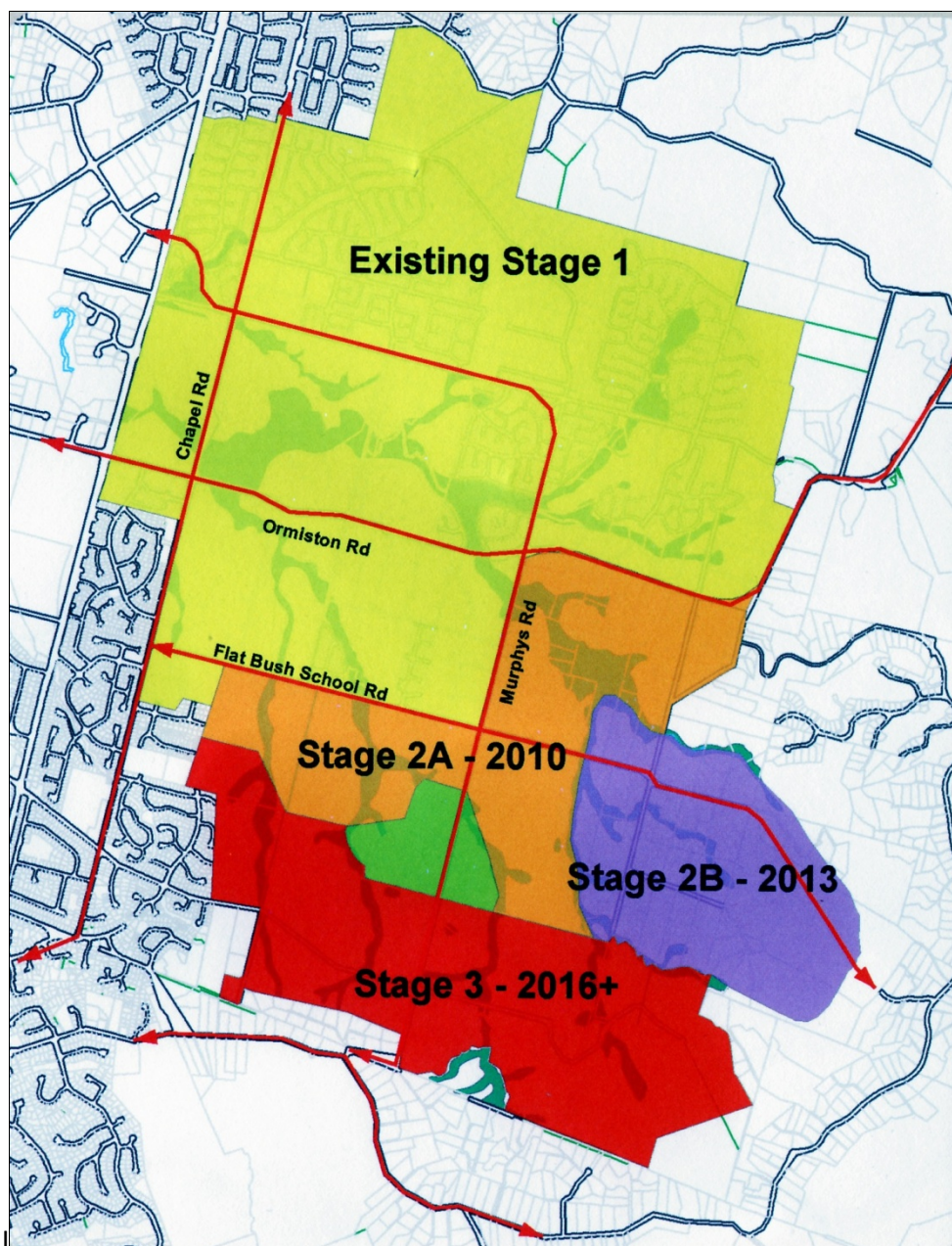


Figure 1 Progressive staging of Flat Bush Town (From Flat Bush: Stage Two Draft Masterplan)



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## **Methodology**

This initial archaeological review has focussed on surveys carried out within the specified staging areas and their findings. Resources at the Auckland Regional Council Cultural Heritage Inventory databases (ARC CHI) were accessed as well as information held by the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site File (NZAA) in Wellington. The Manukau Research Library was searched for early photographs and aerial photographs and any relevant literature pertaining to Flat Bush. Discussion about the project was also held with the principal archaeologist at the Historic Places Trust in Auckland.

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# Results

## Background

Early Maori settlement of the area including Flat Bush was centred on the major pa sites long the Tamaki River (Matanginui and Te Otara) and also on the defensive settlement at the end of Point View Road. Abundant resources including access to the marine stocks within the Manukau and Waitemata Harbours as well as forest and stream foods allowed tribal hapu groups an assured existence. The dominant Maori iwi in the Flat Bush area was Ngāi Tai.

The following extract illustrates only a part of the extensive Maori tribal connections within the East Tamaki area including Flat Bush:

*On the Tāmaki River’s east bank Ngāi Tai’s traditional homelands extend inland from Te Naupata to the waka portage at Ōtāhuhu, before turning southward to take in Ōtara, Flat Bush, Takaanini, Papakura, Te Puke-ō-Koiwiriki (Red Hill), and up until the very late 18<sup>th</sup> Century extended as far south as Tirikōhua (between Ramarama and Pukekohe), Paparātā and Paparimu. On the fringes lying between Ōtāhuhu and Tirikōhua, Ngāi Tai & Ngāti Kōhua’s interests were shared with Te Uri ō Pou, and between Papakura, Pukekohe and Paparimu with later Waiōhua descent groups including Te Akitai, Ngāti Tamaoho and Ngāti Te Ata. (Nat Green)<sup>1</sup>*

The archaeological remains of Maori habitation in the district have for the most part been localised along the fringes of the Tamaki River, as this was a significant tidal waterway and marine highway for access between the Waitemata and Manukau Harbours and ultimately the Waikato River and west coast of New Zealand.

As the original East Tamaki area was reformed from traditional Maori landscape into European farming blocks, much of the character of the land was changed. The forest cover provided bush foods, birds, and eels, as well as building timbers for construction purposes for Maori subsistence. Only few indications of earlier Maori habitation have been recovered in the altered farming landscape.

Archaeological interest in the area focussed on recording the obvious pa sites and any easily observable shell midden sites. These were noticed usually during archaeological surveys carried when large scale developments were happening. The initial groundworks for Stage 1 of the Flat Bush project showed that there were only three shell midden sites located during the monitoring process. One of these was significant enough to be excavated (R11/2324), the others being relatively small and indicative of very temporary camp sites at those locations. This area is well removed from the pa where people would have lived.

## Archaeological Survey

Archaeological surveys in the Flat Bush area have resulted from the steady sub dividing of farm land into urban living blocks (Figure 2). Most of the surveys have been conducted outside the study area, although several have touched the border fringing areas of Stage 2<sup>2</sup>. In all cases no archaeological indicators were located although spade and probe testing was carried out. Sites have been recognised and recorded within the Barry Curtis Park reserve. viz., R11/1934 a terrace/pit site, and a doubtful urupa (R11/1933).

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<sup>1</sup> Nat Green      From a document on *The Rohe of Nga Tai*

<sup>2</sup> Foster R      Oct 2003; Nov 2004; May 2007; May 2005; Oct 2007



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## Discussion & Conclusion

A review of the archaeological literature has shown that archaeological survey and site recording has been very low key with no archaeological sites being recorded within the Stages 2A, 2B, and C areas, although most of the surveys have been carried out on the fringes of the study area. The potential for there being archaeological sites within the project area is also very low considering that the recorded sites are far removed from the centres of traditional Maori population in the vicinity of the Tamaki River where a plethora of settlement areas have been recorded; and the study area is even more distant.

On site archaeological survey within the study area may reveal pre-European sites, and if this were to occur, the focus would need to be on places and locations similar to where sites were noted previously as in Barry Curtis Park. In this situation, sites were only revealed after the topsoil had been removed during the cut and fill earthwork operations.

The recognised amount of reforming and remodelling of the landscape to achieve the proposed new town will require substantial earthworks, and it would be in the interests of sound archaeological practise to monitor these activities particularly in pre-determined locations with similar physical attributes as those in Barry Curtis Park. These would be on the areas along the banks of creeks and streams, knolls, and towards the ends of spurs dropping between streams.

In the event of the discovery of archaeological artefacts (taonga), or koiwi (human remains) procedures and protocols need to be in place.

### Protocols:

#### General:

- Monitoring earthworks will be carried out by a qualified archaeologist, and if any archaeological features are located works will cease in that area and the foreman will be notified
- Works may continue in areas outside the affected location if monitored by another archaeologist
- Sufficient time needs to be required to record and sample any feature or deposit
- Works are to resume without undue delay after recordings have taken place, and not to exceed a specified stand sown period unless permission is received from the site foreman

#### Human remains:

- Earthworks to cease in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and bone identification made to establish if it is human. This may require a specialist.
- If human the NZ police, the NZ Historic Places Trust and iwi to be contacted immediately
- Protection of the site from any or further damage
- Iwi protocols including karakia and other Maori tikanga requirements to be addressed and koiwi removal
- Works to resume after removal of koiwi

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### Archaeological features or deposits

- Works to cease until feature/deposit confirmed as archaeological (Historic Places Act 1993)
- The NZHPT, consenting authority, and tangata whenua if appropriate to be notified
- The archaeologist to record or further investigate using sound archaeological techniques according to any conditions of an Authority granted for the project by the NZHPT

### Taonga (as defined under the Protected Objects Act 1975; eg greenstone etc)

- If taonga be discovered the site is to be secured to avoid any possible damage
- The NZHPT and local tangata whenua to be advised
- Works to resume on advice from NZHPT or the archaeologist
- The Ministry for Culture & Heritage to be notified within 28 days
- The Ministry to decide custodianship of the taonga which may require conservation treatment

### Stand down period:

Stand down periods usually occur when earthworks have halted for recording archaeological features/deposits or if koiwi have been discovered. Works may continue in other areas away from the affected location. A typical stand down protocol follows:

Trigger	Stand down period	Requirements	Release
Archaeological feature deposit or artefact requiring detailed investigation	Up to 3 days for a response from the NZHPT (A standard Authority condition)	The likely requirement is a mitigation investigation and/or recording by standard archaeological techniques, but this will be advised by the NZHPT	Work resumes when the archaeologist advises the foreman that work is completed
Human bone found	Up to 3 days or a period agreed to between the project manager and iwi	NZHPT and NZ Police to be satisfied that identification is correct. Tangata whenua representative to organise removal of bones from the site and appropriate cultural ceremonies. Bones can temporarily be stored in a mortuary	Work resumes following removal of bones from site
Taonga or archaeological remains of Maori origin found	Up to 3 days	NZHPT and iwi representatives to be consulted on appropriate action. Archaeological recordings as required	Work resumes when the HPT or archaeologist advises the site foreman that work is completed

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