



Photo: Vaughan Homestead, Long Bay Regional Park, Auckland. (Source: ARC).

5.2

Hazards and heritage – Historic heritage

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Historic heritage

Introduction

The Auckland region has a rich and diverse land-based historic heritage. This encompasses all of the historic places and areas that are significant to us because they are associated with our ancestors, our cultures and our past, such as:

- archaeological sites
- historic buildings, places, objects and structures
- places of significance to Māori, including waahi tapu, urupā, and places of traditional importance
- trees or other plants with historical or cultural associations
- cemeteries and burial places
- shipwrecks and other maritime heritage
- landscapes and areas of historic or cultural significance
- places where significant events have occurred.

The ARC promotes the preservation and protection of historic heritage, which is under increasing pressure from development and cannot be replicated or replaced because it is a product of past human activity. The protection of historic heritage is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act (RMA).

Historic heritage is a non-renewable resource of limited supply. It is susceptible to physical changes that may reduce or negate the particular qualities that contribute to its value. For example, urban infill and redevelopment can result in more intensive use of built heritage (buildings and structures) and the loss of their surroundings, including botanical features such as trees. Retaining the heritage value of a building may be undervalued when compared to redevelopment of a site for maximum economic gain.

Population growth in the Auckland region (see Population growth and change in Part 2) has resulted in rural land being developed for residential and commercial use. As housing and related infrastructure (such as stormwater and sewerage systems) is developed, it places pressure on fragile and already diminished archaeological and Māori heritage areas. Coastal land is particularly popular for subdivision and development but often contains a high concentration of archaeological sites that are related to early Māori occupation and use, and to later European activities.

However, not all threats to heritage sites are from urban expansion. Natural processes such as coastal erosion are becoming an increasing threat (see Coastal erosion in Chapter 5.1). Heritage sites along the coastal margins are also at risk of damage or destruction due to storm events and sea level rise as a result of climate change.

Historic heritage monitoring programmes

The ARC currently runs a number of monitoring initiatives (such as the annual coastal survey and the archaeological site monitoring programme in regional parks) which identify and assess previously recorded and unrecorded heritage sites.

Data relating to the presence and nature of historic heritage sites in the Auckland region have been collected since 1997 and stored in the Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI). It was developed by the ARC, and is currently maintained and supported by local councils and some government agencies such as the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) and the Department of Conservation (DOC), as well as heritage consultants.

The CHI holds data on:

- places that are formally recognised by the NZHPT Rarangi Taonga: the Register of Historic Places, historic areas, waahi tapu and waahi tapu areas.
- places that are scheduled for protection in the Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal and district plans that have been prepared under the RMA.
- archaeological sites recorded in the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Record File.
- historic sites managed by DoC.

The location of known heritage items across the Auckland region is mapped. Many other heritage places and sites from various sources (including botanical items) have been added to the CHI database because of their heritage values and interest.

The CHI became web-based in mid-2009, giving councils full access to the data as well as the ability to download reports directly. In addition, the public have limited access to the CHI website, enabling anyone to easily contact our Cultural Heritage team for specialist advice and interpretation. Prior to this, information was sent annually to the councils of the region, iwi, DoC and the NZHPT, and was provided upon request.

Although the CHI is an important information source on known heritage items in the Auckland region it does have two limitations:

- the data are not based on a comprehensive survey of the Auckland region. At the end of 2008, it was estimated that only 29 per cent of the land within the Auckland region had been surveyed and assessed for heritage values.
- there is a lack of systematic monitoring of known, inventoried items. Although some territorial authorities have undertaken specific monitoring from time to time, there is no overall regional monitoring programme that provides information on the changing state of heritage items, or on the effectiveness of our responses.

Historic heritage

Although this lack of systematic monitoring limits our ability to report on the state of historic heritage in the Auckland region using the DPSIR framework (driving forces, pressures, state, impact responses), we have used the best information that is available from the CHI, and other sources, to provide an overview of our knowledge in the following sections.

The state of historic heritage

Heritage items recorded in the Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI)

This indicator describes the overall number and types of heritage items recorded in the Auckland region. It is not a comprehensive stocktake because our knowledge is incomplete. The CHI does, however, provide the most comprehensive register of heritage items that is available. This information is a useful measure of our awareness of historic heritage across the Auckland region and whether or not this awareness is getting better, worse or not changing over time.

Indicator 1: Number and type of heritage items

At the end of 2008, approximately 15,745 heritage sites within the Auckland region were recorded in the CHI database. These consisted of:

- 10,416 archaeological sites
- 2,983 historic buildings and structures
- 963 sites with historic maritime associations
- 922 botanical heritage sites (trees and plants with historical or cultural associations)
- 28 Māori heritage areas
- 433 reported historic sites (places that are referred to in books or marked on maps).

The number of items recorded in the CHI has been increasing steadily over the past decade (Figure 1), driven predominantly by an increase in the number of archaeological sites.

A number of activities account for this growth in recorded heritage items over time. New sites have been identified by district and city councils that have undertaken heritage assessments as part of their district plan changes or reviews, for example, Auckland City Council initiated a number of plan changes to introduce new items to their district plan heritage schedules.

New sites are also identified through assessment processes, such as developing structure plans for new subdivisions, or while preparing resource consent applications.

The ARC is also notified of other sites by personal accounts, and these are recorded in the CHI if credible and reliable.

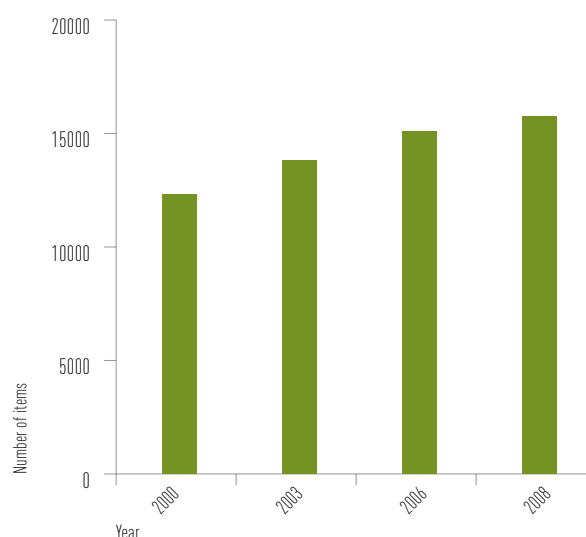


FIGURE 1 Number of items recorded in the Cultural Heritage Inventory 2000-08. (Source: ARC).

Historic heritage

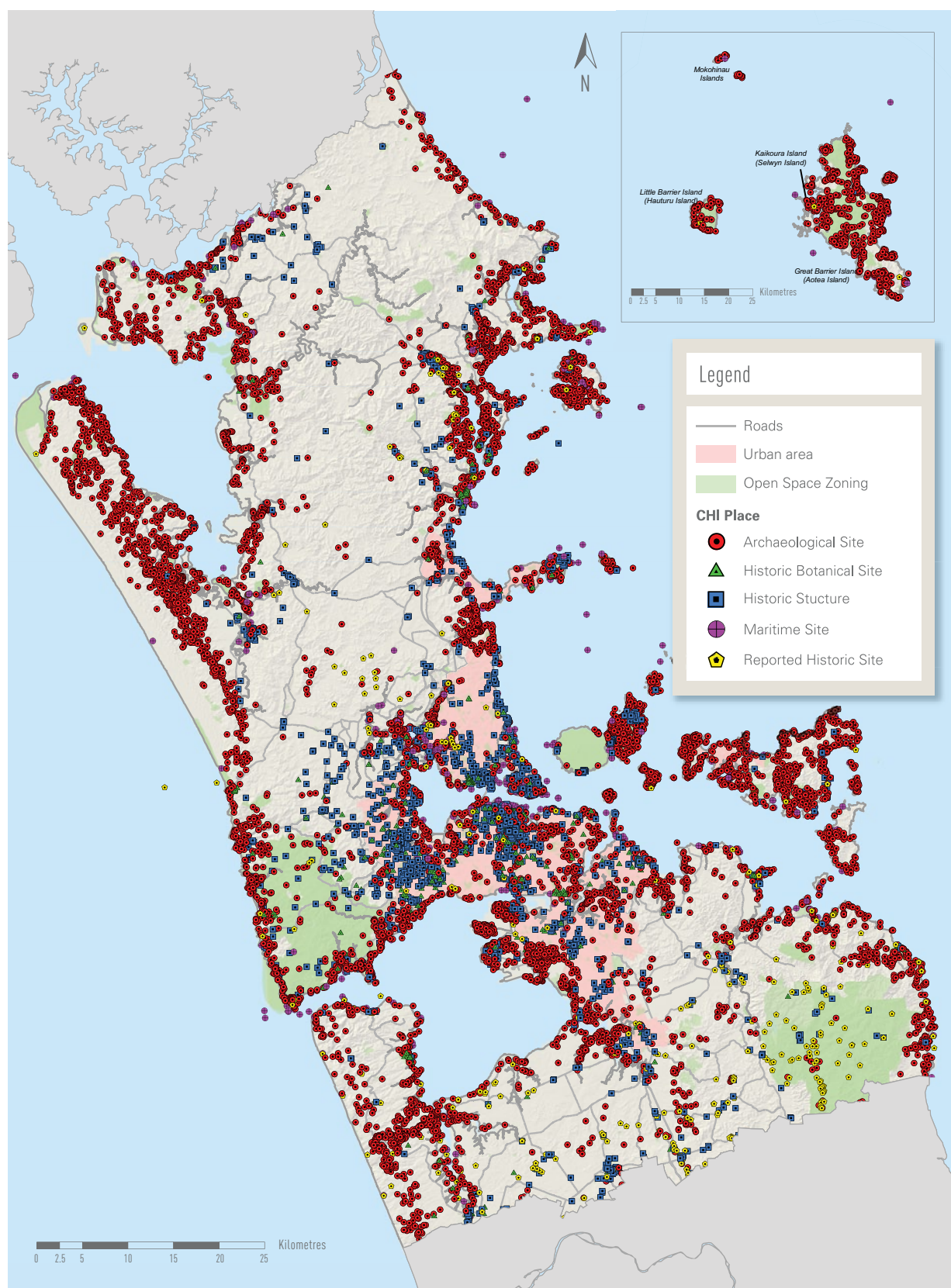


FIGURE 2 Distribution of heritage sites recorded in the Cultural Heritage Inventory. (Source: ARC CHI).

Historic heritage

Indicator 2: Distribution of heritage sites

Figure 2 (over the page) shows the distribution of all the heritage sites throughout the Auckland region that are recorded in the CHI database.

Three patterns are evident:

- A large number of sites are located along or adjacent to the coastline. Typically, these are archaeological sites associated with Māori occupation and/or use before European settlement. In addition, the coastal environment has been assessed as a high priority area for heritage surveys because it is known to have been a popular area for settlement by both Māori and early Europeans, and is currently in demand for coastal subdivision and development. Therefore, more effort has been spent on surveying, resulting in more comprehensive data for the coastline area compared to other locations.
- There is a greater concentration of heritage sites in the more urbanised areas of Auckland City, Manukau City and North Shore City because these are high density urban areas with many buildings that are recognised for their heritage value. In addition, strong development pressure in these urban areas has led to the identification of new sites through the development control process. For example the requirement for resource consent applications to include a heritage assessment identifying the heritage values associated with a site that is earmarked for development).
- There are large areas within the Auckland region that have no recorded heritage sites (e.g some rural areas in the north and south of the region). This does not necessarily signify an absence of heritage sites but rather a lack of systematic surveys to identify such sites.

Indicator 3: Amount of land surveyed for heritage sites

Over the past eight years there has been a slow but steady increase in the area of land that has been systematically surveyed and assessed for the presence of heritage sites. The CHI contains an extensive bibliography of published and unpublished reports and other documentation that provides detail about surveys and the land areas that they covered. This survey information relates almost exclusively to archaeological surveys, and is plotted using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to mark the locations and boundaries of the surveyed land areas.

By 2000, only about 17 per cent (84,019 hectares) of the land in the Auckland region had been surveyed and assessed. However, at the end of 2008, this had increased to an estimated 29 per cent (148,100 hectares) of land (Figure 3 on page 280).

The purple zones indicate entire properties or areas that underwent a systematic heritage survey, with the results recorded in a detailed report. The lilac zones indicate areas that were subject to less systematic reports, meaning that the quality and extent of the information gathered is variable. Lilac zones represent older datasets and surveys that, in many instances, cover only limited parts of a property or area.

Resurveying in response to new developments or resource consent applications means that consultants, local council and/or ARC staff are revisiting many of these lilac zones to more accurately survey and assess the historic heritage located there.

Heritage items registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT).

Since 1980, the NZHPT has had a statutory role under the Historic Places Act (HPA) 1993 to identify important items of heritage value and include them on the NZHPT register. Consequently, places and areas that satisfy the registration criteria have been added to the NZHPT Rangiri Taonga: the Register of Historic Places, Historic Areas, waahi tapu and waahi tapu areas.

This register is an important source of information about the national historic heritage and is used by local authorities when preparing schedules for their district and regional plans (although not all registered items are added to the heritage schedules in the district or city plans).

Since 2004, the NZHPT register review process has been improving the quality of information held on earlier registrations, thereby improving overall knowledge of heritage items in the Auckland region. However, registration is an identification mechanism only. It does not offer any protection to heritage items, as the NZHPT relies on local authorities to include the registered items in their heritage schedules.

Indicator 4: Number and type of NZHPT registered items

Over the past four years, there has been a steady upwards trend in the number of NZHPT registered items in the Auckland region (Figure 4).

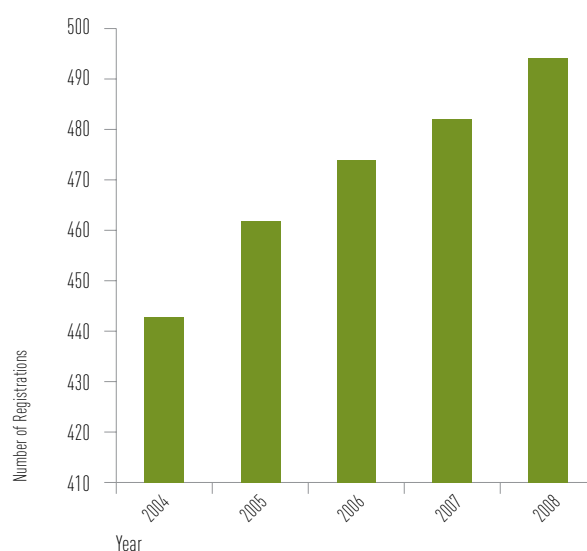


FIGURE 4 Number of NZHPT registrations for the Auckland region 2004-08. (Source: NZHPT register).