

Archaeological assessment of effects

Proposed development: Yates Family Holdings
Ltd

3463 Ohaupo Road, Rukuhia

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	2
3	Statutory requirements	3
3.1	The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (HNZPTA) 2014.....	3
4	Methodology	4
4.1	Desktop study.....	4
4.2	Auger survey	4
5	Physical environment and setting	4
6	Historic survey plans	5
7	Historic aerial photographs	6
8	NZAA site recording database, Archsite	7
9	Results	8
10	Archaeological and other values	9
11	Assessments of effects	9
12	Conclusions and recommendations	10
13	References	11

1 Summary

Guy Rodger of McConnell Property on behalf of Yates Family Holdings (YFH) Ltd commissioned W. Gumbley Ltd to undertake an archaeological and historical assessment for an area of proposed development adjacent Hamilton Airport and the proposed Titanium Park.

A review of historic aerial photographs, historic maps and plans, and a summary of the archaeological data/knowledge including a review of the New Zealand Archaeological Associations (NZAA) database (Archsite) was undertaken. The purpose of this assessment is to determine the effects of the proposed development on archaeological and historical values.

Within the subject area there is no recorded or identified archaeology. The surrounding landscape is flat lowlands punctuated with two hills, a larger and a smaller. Soil testing within Yates Genetic did not identify any archaeological features or deposits.

As part of the process tangata whenua should be consulted early in the process to ascertain their traditional history of the area and their cultural values for the area.

2 Introduction

YFH are planning to submit an integrated plan change submission for their property at 3643 Ohaupo Road (Lot 8 DPS 13667, Lot 9 DPS 13667, Part Allot 153 Te Rapa PSH). They commissioned W. Gumbley Ltd to undertake an archaeological and historical assessment for the proposed land parcels to identify the presence/absence of archaeology. The following report is compiled by Matthew Gainsford (Figures 1–2).

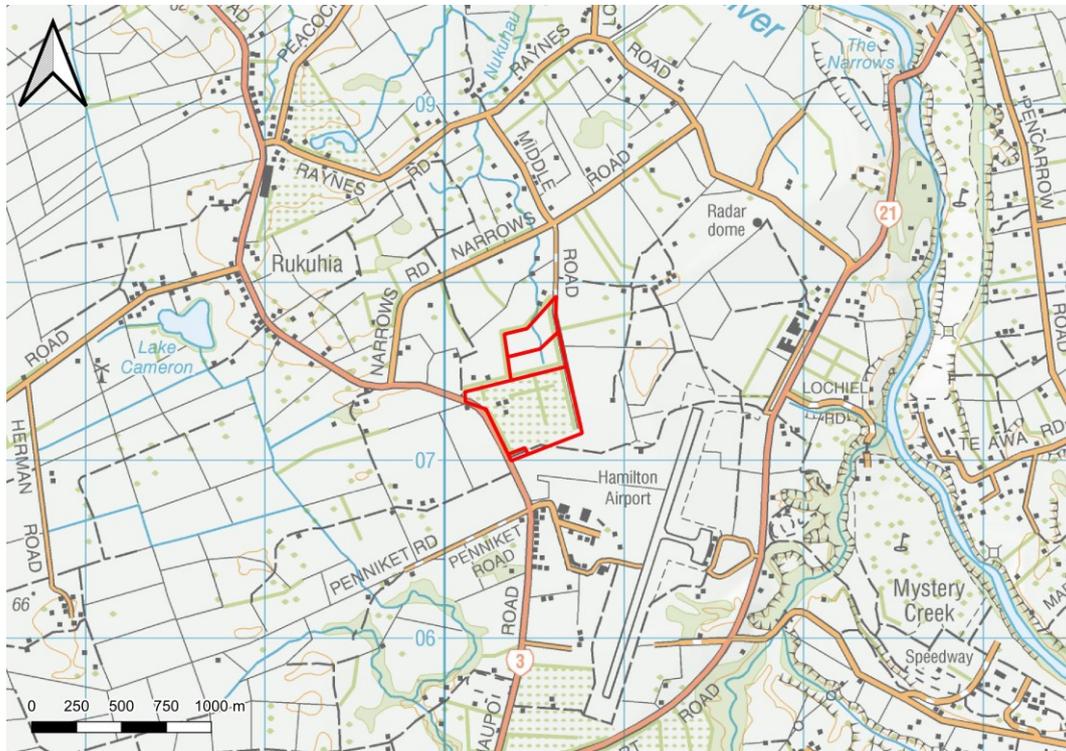


Figure 1. General location for Yates Genetic, 3643 Ohaupo Road (Source: LINZ).



Figure 2. Affected land parcels (Source: LINZ).

3 Statutory requirements

The management of archaeological historical and cultural sites and landscapes are controlled by the Resource Management Act (RMA) and its associated District Plans and Regional Policy Statements. Archaeological sites are also explicitly protected through the archaeological provisions of the Heritage New Zealand/Pouhere Taonga Act (NZHPT). This Act prevents archaeological sites from being destroyed or modified without an authority from Heritage NZ.

3.1 *The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (HNZPTA) 2014*

The purpose of the HNZPTA is to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand (HNZPTA section 3). Emphasis is placed on avoiding effects on heritage.

The HNZPTA provides blanket protection to all archaeological sites meeting the definition in the Act, whether they are recorded or not. Protection and management of sites is managed by the archaeological authority process, administered by HNZPT. It is illegal to destroy, or modify archaeological sites without an authority to do so from HNZPT.

The HNZPTA 2014 (s6) defines an archaeological site as:

(a) Any place in New Zealand including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure) that:

(i) was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 or is the site of the wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and

(ii) provides, or may provide through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand; and

(b) Includes a site for which a declaration is made under Section 43(1) of the Act¹.

Any person who intends carrying out work that may modify or destroy an archaeological site, or to investigate an archaeological site using invasive archaeological techniques, must first obtain an authority from HNZPT. The process applies to sites on land of all tenure including private, public and designated land. The HNZPTA contains penalties for unauthorised site damage.

The archaeological authority process applies to all archaeological sites that fit the HNZPTA definition regardless of whether the site is recorded in the NZAA Site Recording Scheme or registered with HNZPT; or if the site only becomes known about as a result of ground disturbance; and/or the activity is permitted under a district or regional plan, or a resource or building consent has been granted, or the ground is subject to a designation.

The HNZPTA replaced the *Historic Places Act 1993* (HPA) in May 2014.

HNZPT also maintain the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangī Kōrero (The List). The List can include archaeological sites. The purpose of The List is to inform members of the public about such places, and to assist with their protection under the RMA.

It is possible that archaeological sites, as defined in the HNZPTA, may be discovered by this project. Any archaeological sites identified during the ground works at this site will be protected under the HNZPTA.

¹ Such declarations usually pertain to important post-1900 remains with archaeological values.

4 Methodology

4.1 Desktop study

For the assessment, a desktop study was undertaken to determine the historical and archaeological landscape, background and previous land uses for the proposed development area. A combination of historic survey plans and aerials were examined to determine former and current land use, owners and references to vegetation or other notations about the area. Heritage lists, Archsite and relevant archaeological reports were viewed to determine if any recorded sites exist within the area of works.

4.2 Auger survey

An auger survey was undertaken to identify any soil modification in the form of horticulture or other human activity. A 25 millimetre screw auger was used to penetrate through the upper soil layers into the underlying B-Horizon.

5 Physical environment and setting

The area affected is low lying flat land west of two hillocks. These hillocks were assessed in an assessment for a proposed development by Hamilton airport (Gainsford, 2021). Soils within the subject area are a mixture of Horotiu silt loam and Horotiu sandy loam on the upper elevations and Te Kowhai silt loam on the lower lying areas (Figure 3).

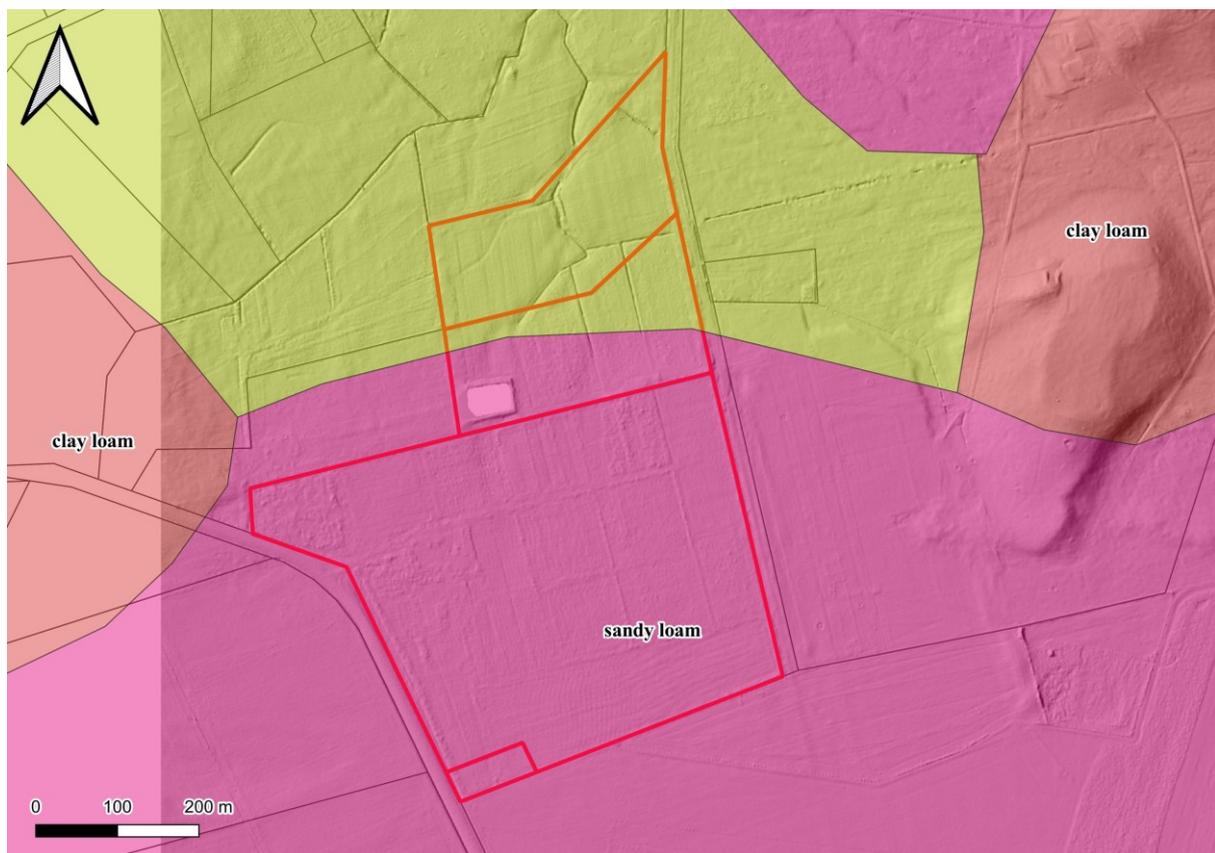


Figure 3. Soil map over the subject area and surrounding landscape (Source: LINZ).

6 Historic survey plans

There are very few historic survey plans relevant to the subject area. Two plans: a historic SO map and a modern depiction of historic research were identified. Raynes (1981) depiction of historic homesteads below shows that the subject area was formerly part of homesteads owned by Gribble and Haslington.

On a survey plan from 1885 land is shown in Robert Hagg's and James Sle..? ownership (Lots 48-49). Adjacent the subject area, land that Hamilton Airport currently owns is shown as partially in Bell's ownership (Lots 14 & 16-18). Other lots (Lots 12, 13 & 19) in the area were owned by Joseph ? (12), H?'s Mosot?? (13) and ?? (19) before being bought by Bell (SO 1885) (Figures 5 & 6).

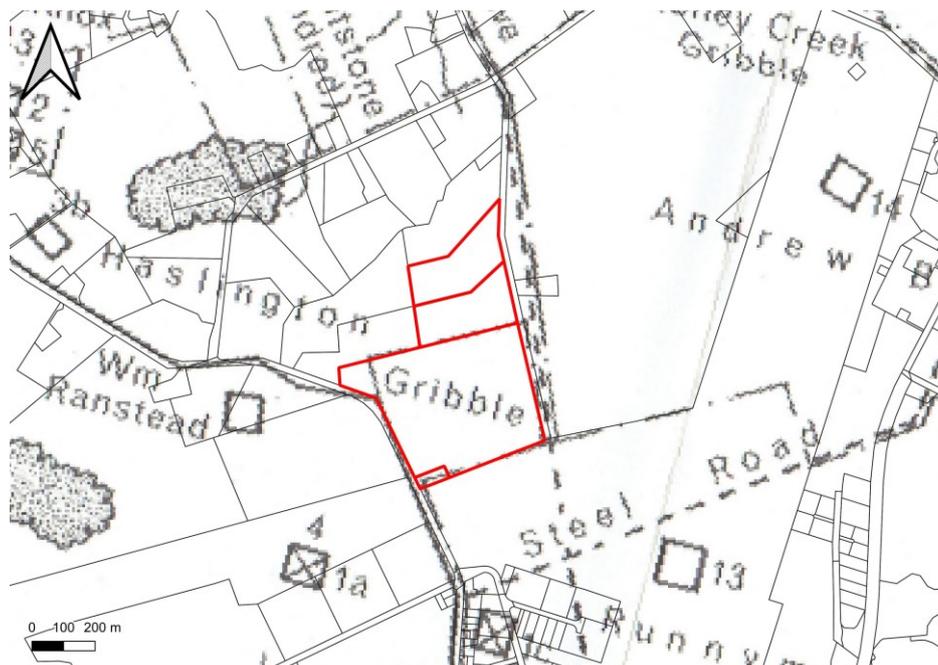


Figure 4. Excerpt from Raynes map showing historic homesteads of south west Hamilton (Raynes 1981).

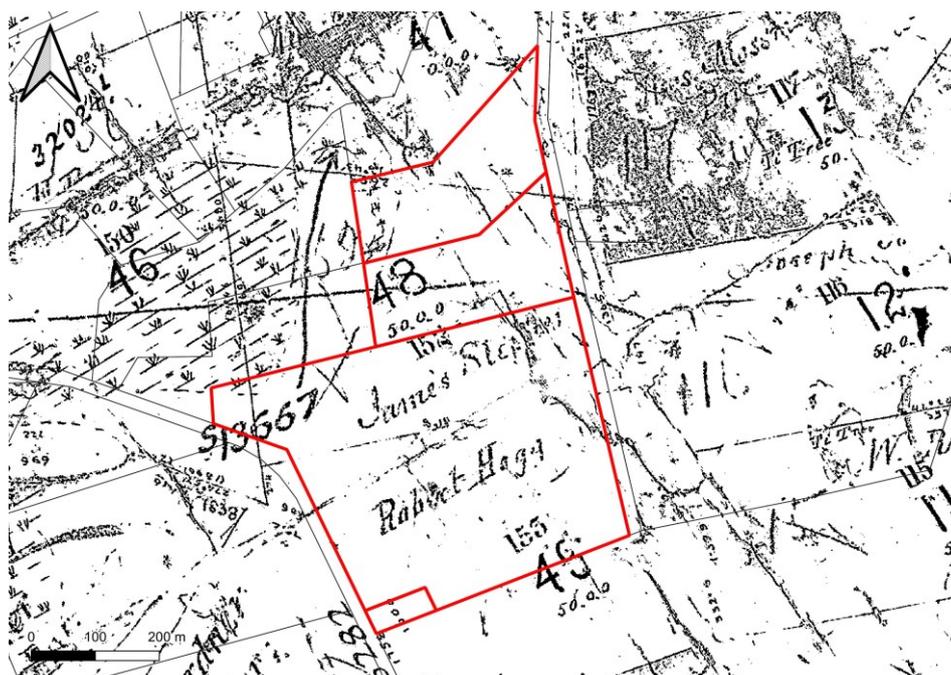


Figure 5. Survey plan from 1885 depicting land parcels and ownership (HN_SO_1385_C_1_1) (Source: Quickmap).

The subject area is located within historic lots 47–49. Towards the northeast a significant swampland is identified. This was evident during survey through soil auger samples and landscape. To the east lots 12 and 13 are labelled Ti Tree. A significant amount of the landscape has been cleared and used for other purposes.

7 Historic aerial photographs

Aerial photographs below were sourced from Retrolens and depict the subject area and surrounding landscape. It is apparent in the 1940s aerials (below) that the land is likely in use for pastoral grazing (Figure 7).



Figure 6. Excerpt from aerial photographs from 1943 series (SN1943_833-48 & 50) (Source: Retrolens).

As shown in the 1967 aerial imagery (below) nothing much has changed within the proposed area since the 1940s. The major change is that the airport has been established southeast of the area. Land use appears to be consistent with earlier imagery. Current land use is for Yates Genetic.



Figure 7. Excerpt from aerial an aerial photograph from the 1967 series (SN1889_5057-12) (Source: Retrolens).

8 NZAA site recording database, Archsite

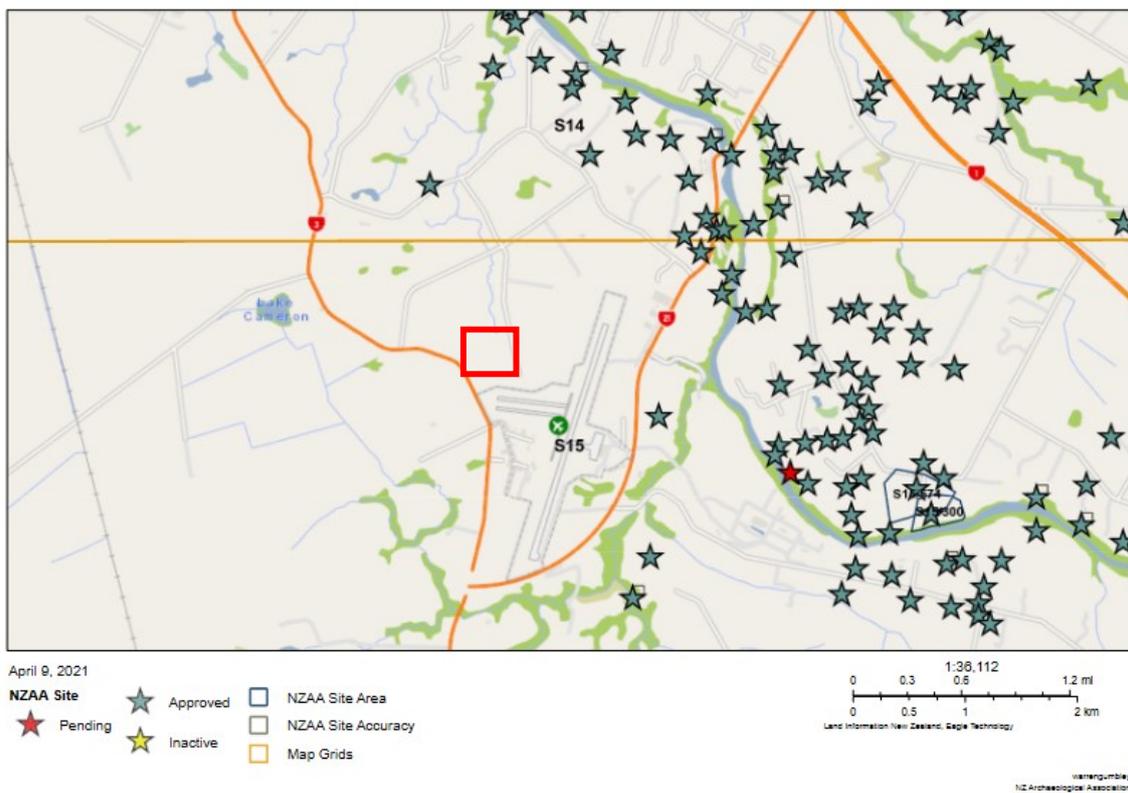


Figure 8. Excerpt from Archsite showing archaeological sites in proximity to subject area shown approximately by red rectangle (Source: Archsite).

As seen in the above excerpt from Archsite there are no recorded archaeological sites indicating occupation within two kilometres of the proposed development area.

9 Results

The walk over/auger survey did not identify any potential archaeological features or deposits within the subject area. The landscape is relatively flat and slopes slowly down towards the north to less free draining soils (a change in elevation of a few metres). Soils of the upper elevations were more free draining and sometimes naturally sandy but the soil profiles across the area were natural and did not show any signs of modification.



Figure 9. View over subject area towards the two hills that are the dominant landscape feature.



Figure 10. Auger test locations (Source: LINZ, WRAPS).



Figure 11. More freely draining silt loams from upper elevations.



Figure 12. Denser silt loam identified across the lower elevations.

10 Archaeological and other values

Since there are no archaeological sites within or adjacent the proposed development area there are no values.

11 Assessments of effects

There are no effects on archaeology since there are no identified sites within the proposed development area.

12 Conclusions and recommendations

No evidence for archaeological features or deposits was found during a site visit and soil auger survey within the subject area. Even if some soils within the subject area are suitable for Māori horticulture there was no evidence to suggest that this has taken place. The northern end of the subject area is low lying and would have been part of the former swamp identified of early survey plans.

The property has also been used as a test site for Yates Genetic. Jason Morris who works on-site said that the lots have been rigorously ploughed over the years (Jason Morris per. comm. 29 July 2021).

Since there is no evidence for any archaeology W. Gumbley Ltd does not recommend that the client apply for an archaeological authority.

13 References

Databases

Gainsford, M. 2021. *Archaeological assessment of effects. Proposed development: Titanium Park. Hamilton Airport*. Unpublished report. W. Gumbley Ltd. Hamilton.

Waikato Regional Council. WRAPS 2012–2016.

Quickmap. 2021.

Websites

Retrolens. 2021. Historical image resource. <retrolens.nz>.

ArchSite. 2021. New Zealand archaeological associations site recording database. <<http://www.archsite.org.nz/>>.