

Appendix 26: Significant Sites

1. Introduction

The degradation of significant and historic sites within the Waikato River catchment was raised during the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study as an issue, particularly for the five river iwi (tribes). These sites are of special cultural significance to Maaori and their loss or degradation has a negative effect on spiritual and cultural relationships iwi have with the Waikato River. Historic sites also contribute to the wider Waikato community's cultural landscape and sense of local and regional cultural identity.

Many sites of significance to the five river iwi have been damaged or destroyed over the last 100 years in a variety of ways. These sites include waahi tapu (sacred place), urupaa (burial place), historic access points and river crossings, kaainga (homes), paa (traditional settlements), gardens and named river features. The extent of the degradation described by iwi at the consultation hui (meeting) ranged from total destruction and physical loss (e.g., paa, kaainga, marae and waahi tapu inundated all along the Waikato River), to irreversible damage (e.g., ngaawhaa (geothermal hot pools) and geysers being filled with concrete), restricted or denial of access (e.g., waahi tapu located on private land) and lack of respect (both knowingly and unknowingly) (e.g., <http://www.ew.govt.nz>; O'Sullivan and Te Hiko, 2010; Waitangi Tribunal, 1985 and 1993).

Te Ture Whaimana – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

Te Ture Whaimana outlines the importance of initiating and promoting the protection, restoration and enhancement of significant sites throughout the Waikato River catchment, including those of the five river iwi (where they so decide). Strategies 6 and 7 set out to:

- Recognise and protect waahi tapu and sites of significance to Waikato-Tainui and other river iwi (where they so decide) to promote their cultural, spiritual and historic relationship with the Waikato River.
- Recognise and protect appropriate sites associated with the Waikato River that are of significance to the Waikato regional community.

The methods listed in Te Ture Whaimana to implement Strategies 6 and 7 include (but are not limited to):

- Surveys of waahi tapu and other significant sites (where appropriate) within the Waikato region to protect and recognise their cultural and historic significance and importance.

Hydro-power generation (both the construction of hydro dams and their continued operation) is viewed by iwi as the most dominant and pronounced cause and/or perceived cause of degraded or destroyed significant and historic sites in the Waikato River catchment (e.g., O’Sullivan and Te Hiko, 2010; Waitangi Tribunal, 1993). Land confiscation, development (including housing, roading, telecommunication and railway infrastructure), geothermal power generation, quarries, poor management and private land ownership were also raised as pressures impacting significant sites by the river iwi. Although these pressures have resulted in many significant sites being lost, knowledge of these sites and the spiritual connection iwi have with them remains although the physical connection has been damaged or destroyed.

The Maaori Heritage Council’s vision statement *Tapuwae* is intended to guide the work of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in its activities in relation to Maaori heritage (New Zealand Historic Places Trust, 2009). This vision outlines the importance of Maaori heritage places and knowledge to New Zealand’s cultural and social wellbeing and envisages a future in which Maaori heritage is recognised as an integral component of our national and cultural identity and a foundation of New Zealand’s economic and environmental sustainability. Maaori heritage includes the knowledge, stories and experiences that people have when engaging with these places and therefore encompasses the experiences and consciousness that is created and maintained through people’s interactions with these significant sites. The vision statement recognises:

1. That too often, Maaori heritage is undervalued at a national level and by non-Maaori communities.
2. That iwi and Maaori communities need assistance with understanding and protecting their heritage and how it can contribute to their health and wellbeing.
3. That many property owners and developers have a poor understanding of heritage generally, and of Maaori heritage specifically (Maaori Heritage Council 2009).

Within the Waikato catchment a number of significant and historic sites are currently recognised and protected under the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (see Table 1). Further information regarding these sites can be accessed through the Historic Places Trust Register (<http://www.historic.org.nz/TheRegister/>). Waahi tapu are registered but this information is not available online.

Local authorities also have databases of sites in the Waikato region that are recognised as having archaeological significance. Local authorities may use this data for resource management purposes to carry out its functions for archaeological site management and protection under the Resource Management Act 1991. Environment Waikato is currently investigating this possibility of developing GIS

(geographical information system) capability and portals for iwi to accurately record their own site data and stories and use in their input to consent applications.

Table 1: Number of historic sites that are currently recognised and protected under the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (excluding registered waahi tapu and waahi tapu areas).

Local authority	Total number of registered historic sites	Estimated number of registered historic sites in the Study area	Examples include
Taupo District Council	3	0	–
Rotorua District Council	14	0	–
South Waikato District Council	25	19 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arapuni Dam • Arapuni suspension bridge
Otorohanga District Council	15	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middens and Paa
Waitomo District Council	16	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paa
Waipa District Council	66	66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paa • Victoria Street Bridge (Leamington)
Hamilton City Council	40	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairfield Bridge
Waikato District Council	44	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paa • Middens, pits and terraces • Tuurangawaewae House • Rotowaro Carbonisation Works
Franklin District Council	12	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Pioneer' gun turret and war memorial

^a, This number includes sites registered in Lichfield and Puutaaruru, places that are on the boundary of the Study area.

2. A description of the prioritised action(s)

All river iwi, to various extents and in various documentation, have identified, catalogued and mapped sites of significance to them. In many cases this information has been submitted to and held in confidential files by local authorities and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, e.g., waahi tapu and archaeological sites. Local authorities use this data for resource management purposes to carry out functions for site management and protection under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust (2009) outlines four key elements to be addressed in promoting the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of Maaori heritage, including:

- The identification and protection of existing Maaori heritage places. An awareness of these places amongst those who seek to develop land and/or

make decisions about them is vital to prevent the further damage and destruction of significant sites.

- Maintenance, reconstruction and creation of appropriate knowledge about Maaori heritage.
- Creation of sustainable and meaningful experiences involving Maaori heritage.
- Creation of new interpretations and understanding of the significance of Maaori heritage to communities.

The five river iwi want to see expanding awareness within the wider Waikato region of the importance of significant sites by developing and improving the understanding, appreciation and recognition of these places. In order to maintain the integrity of significant sites it is vital that each river iwi (with input from whaanau (family) and hapuu (sub-tribes)) or wider community organisations retain control over how their significant sites are identified, addressed and managed.

ACTION A:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of significant site management plans by each river iwi covering, for example, identification, priorities for restoration, signage, publicity and education.

Knowledge about the physical environment was often committed by Maori to memory using place names as a way to record and transfer information about local, social, cultural and environmental history from one generation to the next (Reed 2002, Orbell 1985, King et al., 2007 & 2008). Associated with the physical loss of some sites, there has also been a dislocation of many place names. This has heightened concerns that there has been a loss of knowledge pertaining to the original place names, locations and histories of some significant sites particularly amongst rangatahi (youths). The New Zealand Historic Places Trust acknowledges that *“through the actions of the ancestors, such places embody their mana [authority], mauri [life force] and wairua [spirit], irrespective of the physical evidence which survives”*. Therefore, it is important that the strategic plans developed by iwi are supported so that *“knowledge of the whakapapa [genealogy], koorero [story], and maatauranga Maaori [Maaori knowledge] surrounding such places sits alongside scientific assessments when heritage management decisions are being made”* (New Zealand Historic Places Trust 2009). The river iwi note that significant sites are not currently given enough recognition and protection, and said the use and integrity of Maaori place names should be better enabled and supported throughout the catchment.

ACTION B: Following completion of Action A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of signage. • Encourage support for site restoration actions. • Update significant sites management plan with place names to be appropriately documented and confirmed through New Zealand Geographic Board.

3. Action Report Card – significant and historic sites

Action Report Cards summarise monitoring information that measures the success of a single action or a number of closely related actions. To enable stakeholders to track progress towards development and implementation of actions to restore significant and historic sites in the Waikato River catchmen, the following targets, indicators and scores are recommended.

Significant and historic sites				
Action	Measure or indicator	Target	Current state	Score
A	Significant site management plans have been developed by each river iwi.	5	2	C
B	Appropriate signage and support of site restoration actions and update significant sites management plan is established, with place names to be appropriately documented and confirmed through New Zealand Geographic Board.	To be determined	–	D
Outcome				
	Knowledge of historic and significant sites is incorporated into general and restoration planning and consent processes.	–	–	C
	Knowledge on key historic and significant sites is passed on to rangitahi and the wider community in an appropriate form.	–	–	D

3.1 Current state

In the table above the ‘current state’ of these actions have been preliminarily scored based on the information gathered as part of this Study:

- **Action A:** The current state of this action has been preliminarily scored by the Study team as a C (i.e., fair). This score reflects that all river iwi, to various extents, within various documents, have identified, catalogued and mapped

many of their sites of significance. In many cases this information has been submitted to and held in confidential files by local authorities and the Historic Places Trust, e.g., waahi tapu and archaeological sites. Local authorities use this data for resource management purposes to carry out functions for site management and protection under the Resource Management Act 1991.

- **Action B:** The state of this action has been preliminarily scored by the Study team as a *D* (i.e., poor). This score reflects that some significant and historic sites are currently recognised and protected within the catchment, although not always to the level of satisfaction expressed by the river iwi during the consultation hui. For example, some significant sites have been destroyed and will never be able to be restored. The targets to measure restoration success and the satisfaction of the river iwi with the levels of recognition and protection of significant sites will need to be decided by iwi upon the completion of their strategic plans. The Study team considered it inappropriate to assign such targets on behalf of the iwi. This is their right.

4. How will the action(s) be accomplished?

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust's Maaori Heritage Council recognises the complexities faced by iwi, hapuu and whaanau when identifying and establishing measures of protection, restoration and/or enhancement of significant sites. Thus, the Council is willing to support and assist tangata whenua in negotiating (where appropriate) the various measures and legislative channels necessary to undertake the actions listed above. That legislation includes (but is not limited to); the Historic Places Act 1993, Resource Management Act 1991 and Te Ture Whenua Maaori Act 1993.

5. Where in the Waikato River catchment should the actions occur?

Significant and historic sites are located throughout the Waikato River catchment. However, it is envisaged that each of the five river iwi will determine where future restorative activities are focussed through their respective waahi tapu and significant site management plans. Some signage will be linked to river walkway and cycleway developments. The proposed visitor centres and Waikato Museum will be key sources to impart information to the public on significant and historic sites.

6. What is the cost of the action(s)?

The estimated costs of the proposed significant and historic site actions include:

Action	Description	Costs (\$M)
A	Development of waahi tapu and significant site management plans by each river iwi.	\$0.5
B	Appropriate development of signage and support of site restoration actions, and update significant sites management plan with place names to be appropriately documented and confirmed through NZ geographic board.	\$1-2

7. Who could do it and how long would it take?

The targets listed in Te Ture Whaimana in regards to the timeframe for completion of this initiative is:

- Within three years: waahi tapu and significant sites management plans have been completed.

8. What are the interactions with other activities (co-benefits, drawbacks)?

The actions proposed here will increase the involvement and participation of river iwi and the wider Waikato community in restoring the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. These outcomes will contribute to the restoration of Aspiration 4 – Significant and historic sites *“That significant and historic sites along the Waikato River and its lakes, wetlands and tributaries are restored and protected”*, Aspiration 1 – Holism *“That the management of the Waikato River and its lakes, wetlands and tributaries to protect their health and wellbeing is conducted in a holistic, integrated way”* and Aspiration 2 – Engagement *“That people feel engaged with the Waikato River and its lakes, wetlands and tributaries, and processes, initiatives or actions to restore and protect their health and wellbeing”*.

9. An analysis of uncertainties and information gaps

The Study team considered it inappropriate to assign restoration targets in relation to **Action B**: *“Appropriate development of signage and support of site restoration actions and update significant sites management plan with place names to be appropriately documented and confirmed through the New Zealand Geographic Board”* as this can only be appropriately completed by each individual river iwi. Although the Study team has tentatively scored this action as a *D* (i.e., poor) this is merely a preliminary score and will need to be revised once the river iwi determine their own target.

10. References

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