

Historical Survey of South Beach: Kaitoke Stream to Whanganui River Entrance.

Jonathan Welch (Department of Conservation, Wanganui)

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Introduction

This historical survey was conducted as part of a wider study to define and rank conservation values contained within the land administered by Wanganui District Council under the *Harbour Boards Dry Land Endowment Revesting Act* 1991 at South Beach, Wanganui.

As per Ogle, Campbell, La Cock and Wilson (2004:1) the aims of the study were to provide knowledge of the conservation values of the land which will assist the Council and the Department in formulating and assessing proposals for activities on the land or in deciding how to implement greater protection for conservation values on the land.

The drivers for the study, again as per Ogle *et al.* (2004:1), were:

- the proposed extraction of sand from land near the airport for the purpose of backfilling trenches for the Wanganui city wastewater separation project and the proposed location of the Wanganui wastewater treatment plant on a central part of the land.
- the implementation of legal protection of parts of the land which was agreed between the Crown and the Council during the preparation of the *Harbour Boards Dry Land Endowment Revesting Act* 1991 and was to be implemented under the provisions of this Act.

This historical survey consisted of consultation of historical literature, consultation of the Centralised Index of New Zealand Archaeological Sites (CINZAS) and New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Records and field surveys that occurred between 30 March and 6 April 2004.

The boundaries of this historical survey are as for Ogle *et al.* (2004), that is, that area of land known as 'South Beach' being bounded by the Whanganui River to the north, Kaitoke Stream to the south and extending some 1.75 kilometres inland (Appendix 1). As a landscape approach to the histories of that land is utilised here it was difficult to exclude the known histories of the Whanganui river terrace between Awarua Stream and Landguard Bluff from the original study boundaries. For the same reason, some comment on the histories and the archaeology of the land to the south and southeast of the lower reaches of the Kaitoke Stream has also been included. By their close association with the survey area, two Department of Conservation administrated areas, the Kaitoke Marginal Strip and the Landguard Marginal Strip, are also included.

Locations of archaeological sites contained within the survey area were obtained using a LOWRANCE GLOBALNAV 212 while the location of those sites outside of the study area, and on privately owned land, were calculated using NZMS 260 R22 Wanganui (1987, 1st Edition).

The survey results presented here are in a similar format as used in Ogle *et al.* (2004) and are intended to be read in conjunction with that same report. Within the localised landscape units used the recorded or 'known' histories of those land units are summarised followed by comment on the archaeology of that land unit. In addition, the significance of the historical values of those localities within the study area are addressed.

Management suggestions are contained at the conclusion of this report. These include suggestions regarding the management of the general historical values contained within study area as well as suggestions regarding those land units containing specific historical evidence and values. The reasoning for these specific management suggestions are given.

Tangata whenua were not consulted as part of this survey. If this has not already been done then the Council should consider this step as being of a high priority.

Wanganui's Historical Heritage

The present descendants of the tribes of the Whanganui River can trace their occupation of the land back to the *Aotea* canoe the arrival of which is conventionally determined as being sometime during the fourteenth century AD. Genealogy and tradition of these peoples, however, suggests that they may not have been the original inhabitants of these lands with traditional evidence of occupation going back to the early twelfth century AD (Smart 1968:152; Ombler + Ombler 1983:40; Bates 1986:2). This latter date ties in well with the current professionally accepted view of the initial Polynesian settlement of Aotearoa, that is, circa AD 1000 – AD 1300 (Prickett 2002a:288).

The geography of the Whanganui region meant that the navigable rivers and streams of the area were to play an important role in providing access to seasonal resources, settlement practices and communication and transport.

Fishing was an important source of food resource and Māori who resided well inland would travel each summer to their traditional fishing camps stationed along and near the coast (Walton 2000:11-13). The accounts of the first European travellers into the region testify to the importance of this sea resource and of the distances travelled down the Whanganui River by Māori to utilise that resource (for example, Wakefield 1845 cited in Smart + Bates 1973:27; Power 1849 cited in Walton 1994:156; Mason 1840 cited in Bates 2001a:1).

The many kahawai, dog-fish, flounder and shark caught off the mouth of the Whanganui River were dried and prepared for later consumption at a number of small, temporary villages established just inside the river mouth (Power 1849, Taylor 1853 and Wakefield 1845 all cited in Walton 1994:156). Edward J. Wakefield (1845) notes that the temporary nature of these villages would provide reason as to why they "... were so poorly built and badly fenced" (cited in Downes 1976:181). Such temporary construction would explain the general absence of physical evidence of these villages today even within the relatively undeveloped dune lands and river or stream bank areas.

The general absence of shell midden, in comparison to other areas of New Zealand, has been attributed to the unfavourable conditions for shellfish along the Whanganui coast (Walton 2000:18). Even so four shell middens were identified, in the course of this survey, as existing or previously existing in the general South Beach area.

As the Whanganui region is deficient in high quality stone suitable for working this resource was 'imported' from sources elsewhere in Aotearoa, for example Mayor Island, the Central North Island and the Tasman Bay regions (Walton 2000:40). Workable stone was an important resource to Māori as it permitted the fashioning of hard materials, such as wood and other stone, into implements, *waka* and structures. A limited number of examples of 'workshop floors' containing such stone material are to be found in the vicinity of Kaitoke Lake and along the banks of the stream of that same name.

Walton (2000) has identified the general lack of physical evidence of the utilisation of such important resources as fish, shellfish and stone, along with the resulting 'gap' in our knowledge of the Whanganui Māori subsistence economy of prehistoric and historic times, in his overview of the archaeology of the Taranaki-Whanganui region. Evidence from such sites should be protected for future study or, if destruction is necessary, investigated by an archaeologist. A survey by Bristow (1988) has suggested that such sites do exist in dune lands of the region, including Whanganui, however are generally hidden from view until movement of the dune complex occurs (cited in Walton 2000:39).

The arrival of the first Europeans resulted in great movement of Māori in Aotearoa. Epidemics such as the *Rewarewa* (probably smallpox) towards the close of the eighteenth century and *taua*, fuelled by the presence of guns, swept through Te Ika a Māui and the northern regions of Te Waipounamu. Being at the convergence of two major communication routes, the inland Whanganui-Taupo-Waikato route and the coastal route from Taranaki to Te Whanganui-a-Tara, the lower regions of the Whanganui River were not immune from these events.

Close on the heels of the sealers, whalers and traders came the missionaries of the Western faiths and representatives of the settler companies. The South Beach-Putiki area of Wanganui was to be the centre of such early European activity in Whanganui. The location of many historical events associated with this early European activity can be identified today even though no physical evidence remains.

With the establishment of the town of Petre (Wanganui) on the true right bank of the Whanganui River historical attention, on the whole, turned away from the South Beach area. Nevertheless, over the proceeding 150 or so years South Beach has remained an important adjunct to Wanganui and this relationship has continued to be recorded both in the historical records and upon the landscape.

Results of Historical Survey

1. Kaitoke Stream environs

1.1 Traditional and Recorded Histories

A general lack of traditional and recorded histories exist from the lower reaches of the Kaitoke Stream. This is in contrast with the traditional and published histories of the Wanganui Lake Districts, which includes Lake Kaitoke, source of the stream of the same name. White (1997:9) notes that from the 'Lakes District' a variety of Māori ornaments, implements, and moa bone have been found while farmers have encountered evidence of midden, pits and other structural features while ploughing fields.

1.2 Archaeological Record

Whereas the lands around Lake Kaitoke have a number of recorded archaeological sites of both Māori and Colonial origin the lower reaches of the Kaitoke Stream and its surrounds contain only two previously identified archaeological sites, a 'workshop' (R22/131) and oven remains (R22/219) (CINZAS 2004). Both of these sites are considered to be of Māori origin and are located to the southeast side of the stream (Appendix 2).

During field surveys undertaken in associated with this report two additional archaeological sites were identified and recorded within the vicinity of the lower reaches of the Kaitoke Stream. The first of these was a Māori stone flaking area, or 'workshop' floor, and is located on private land near GR R22-850352. A brief inspection of this site showed evidence of the working of obsidian and argillite.

The second newly recorded site (R22/469) was the World War II concrete pillbox identified by Cook (2000) as WFRB No. 28. The location of this pillbox is GR R22-837353 and is in the advanced stages of being obscured by drifting sands and scrub. An interesting feature of WFRB No. 28 was that the observation/gun placement was of a much smaller area than observed in other pillboxes visited during the survey. The general history and background of the World War II defences of the South Beach area, of which WFRB No. 28 forms one aspect, is discussed in section 8.1 Wanganui Airport.

1.3 Historical Significance

- The presence of at least two stone working areas, or 'workshops', suggests that the Kaitoke Stream was a localised centre for communication and trading activities for the Māori. Such sites provide important archaeological evidence of prehistoric communication and trading patterns for archaeologists and historians.
- Kaitoke Stream is associated, both geographically and ecologically, to the Wanganui Lakes District and, in particular, Lake Kaitoke. As such, it is likely that prehistoric activities in both areas are culturally related.
- Due to the dune land nature of the soils in the area of the lower reaches of the Kaitoke Stream it is unlikely that any large-scale formed archaeological features, both Māori and otherwise, remain. The exception to this statement would be large structures constructed from durable materials. Pillbox WFRB No. 28 is an example of such a feature.
- Pillbox WFRB No. 28 is part of a larger World War II defence system and, as such, has significance on a local, national, and international scale.

1.4 Specific Management Suggestions

See page 18.

2. Dune hollows just northwest of Kaitoke Stream

Historic survey of this part of the survey area was included as part of sections 1. Kaitoke Stream Environs and 7. Inland Dunelands. No traditional or recorded histories are known of this area of South Beach and no archaeological sites are recorded or were observed during the course of this survey. Future dune erosion has the potential to uncover evidence of prehistoric activity.

3. Dunes between airstrip and the sea

3.1 Traditional and Recorded Histories

Numerous authors, past and present, note the use of the beach in both prehistoric and colonial times as part of a wider transport network (for example, Buick 1975:67, Holcroft 1977:17, Springer 1993). During the early colonial era a horse track connected this beach route with Putiki and road to Wanganui (Springer 1993:20, Bates 2001a:3).

A small shore whaling station operated at South Beach in the years 1844-45 and possibly 1846. This operation had a fleet of two boats and employed Europeans and local Māori (Prickett 2002b:101). Little else is known of this operation or location along South Beach.

The presence of four concrete World War II pillboxes, WFRB No's 21 – 24, are noted by Cook (2000) within the area of dune lands between the airstrip and sea. Two of these pillboxes were re-located during this survey (see below).

3.2 Archaeological Record

No evidence of Māori occupation or use of the dune lands between the airstrip and the sea were observed during the survey. New Zealand Archaeological Association records also have an absence of sites along this part of South Beach.

A concrete World War II pillbox (R22/470) was located between the low and high tide marks some 100 metres to the north of the mouth of the Kaitoke Stream (GR R22-832351). This pillbox is most likely Cook's WFRB No. 24 and has been moved from its' original position by foreshore erosion activity. This particular pillbox is usually only visible at low tide.

Another pillbox, probably Cook's WFRB No. 23, was identified by an informant as being located in dune lands close to the airport. This pillbox was not re-located during the survey. The location of this pillbox, according to information supplied, would be GR R22-832356.

Cook also notes pillboxes WFRB No's 21 and 22 as being within that area of South Beach lying between the sea and the airport. These pill boxes were not re-located during this survey and may have eroded out to sea or be obscured by shifting sands and/or dense scrub. The approximate original locations for these two pillboxes are GR R22-825360 and GR R22-820365.

3.3 Historical Significance

- the concrete pill boxes located along this part of the South Beach form part of a larger World War II defence system and, as such, have significance on a local, national, and international scale.
- while it is likely that the dune lands between the sea and the airport were utilised by Māori it is unlikely, given the unstable and shifting nature of the dunes, that much archaeological evidence of this such activity remains *in situ*. On occasion dune disturbance by natural and/or human activity may uncover archaeological material such as midden, isolated 'find spots', moa remains, and isolated burials.

3.4 Specific Management Suggestions

No specific management suggestions.

4. South Spit (beach car park to South Mole).

4.1 Traditional and Recorded Histories

South Spit is the traditional location of a Māori kainga called Patapu. This kainga was located three-quarters of the way along the spit towards the present mole (see Appendix 3) and is considered to have been the traditional fishing village of Nga Patokotoko chief Patapu (Smart 1960:29, Smart and Bates 1973:36).

South Spit is also the location of a quarantine camp established in response to a smallpox outbreak during 1869. The sole 'client' of this camp failed to survive treatment and was buried in the sand dunes of the spit (Smart and Bates 1973:206-207). The location of this quarantine camp and its related burial is unknown.

Numerous attempts have been made over the past 140 years to restrict the erosion on both the seaward side and river side of South Spit and to 'train' the channel of the Whanganui River. These attempts include;

- pre-1877 – sand bags and planting of scrub
- 1880 – rubble training wall
- 1911 – timber training wall
- 1911 – shingle bank beside above training wall
- 1920's – scrub fences, stone and netting groynes, and plantings
- 1947 – random concrete block walls
- 1948 – concrete capping on block walls
- late 1940's – extension of walls and construction of groynes
- 1960's – scrub fencing and wall construction or repair
- 1966 – rail lines with timber lashing
- 1919 onwards – dredging of the river channel (intermittent).

(Bates 2001a:4–5, Bates 2001b:1, Anon 2003:8–10)

Despite these river 'training' and erosion protection measures the South Spit has an on-going history of breaching by the Whanganui River. At least three recorded breaches have occurred since 1870 - one sometime just prior to 1877, another in late 1919 or early 1920, and the most recent in October 1946 (Smart and Bates 1973:288, Anon 2003:8-9). This latter breach was some 300 metres wide and two and a half metres deep and remained unsealed until 1948 (Anon 2003:9). The general location of this breach is indicated by a series of groynes and deflector barriers along the bank of the Whanganui (Bates 2001a:5).

In 1909 work started on the South Mole at the end of South Spit. Construction of this mole was undertaken in conjunction with the construction of the North Mole on the opposite bank of the Whanganui River and was part of the development of port facilities at Castlecliff. By 1911 the length of this mole was 3200 ft with a further 120 ft being added by the end of 1921. During this period both moles were raised from their original half-tide level to their present above high tide height (King 1968:66–67, Smart and Bates 1973:287–288, Bates 2001b:1).

4.2 Archaeological Record

Considerable evidence relating to the prevention of erosion, repair of breaches and river 'training' remains particularly along the true left bank of the Whanganui. Due to the nature of the materials used much of this evidence dates from those projects undertaken during the twentieth century. Perhaps the most interesting of these are the many concrete blocks adorned with personal graffiti prior to the setting of the cement.

Other evidence of repair or training work includes the South Mole itself (not inspected due to safety concerns) and what is assumed to be the hulk of the *S S Eunice* (R22/467). The *Eunice* was one of the original lighters used by the NZ Refrigerated Company to ferry frozen meat from Imlay Works to overseas cargo boats waiting offshore (Bates 2001b:1). Following its' retirement from service the *Eunice* was beached as part of the riverbank protection scheme (GR R22-809374).

Bates (2001a:4) notes that the hulk of the *Te Anau* was purchased in 1911 and incorporated into the protection walls of the South Mole.

No evidence of Patapu kainga was observed during the survey although the author did note, some three years ago, an eroding midden on the Whanganui River side of the spit in the general vicinity of that kainga's location.

4.3 Historical Significance

- while it is known that South Spit was utilised by Māori it is unlikely, given their unstable and shifting nature of the dunes, that much archaeological evidence of this such activity remains *in situ*. On occasion natural and/or human induced erosion may reveal archaeological evidence in the northern part of the spit. Such material may include midden, isolated 'find spots', moa remains, and isolated burials.
- the significance of the attempts at stabilisation of the spit and river training should not be overlooked. In particular, evidence of early attempts at such activity, personalised graffiti on concrete blocks and the remains of hulks should be recognised for their own historical merits.

4.4 Specific Management Suggestions

See page 18.

5. Landguard Bluff

5.1 Traditional and Recorded Histories

That area of South Beach known as Landguard Bluff is the subject of considerable tradition and recorded histories. This not only reflects the dominance that this particular geological landform has over the South Beach area but also that location's place in the history of the lower Whanganui River Valley and the City of Wanganui.

Three villages, Kaiwharawhara, Ngongoahau and Te Wahi Puna, were located near Landguard Bluff. Kaiwharawhara Pa was located at the seaward end of the bluff and, being associated with Wiremu te Tauri of Ngati Tuwharetoa, is considered to be of nineteenth century origin (Smart 1960:31, Smart and Bates 1973:36). Smart (1960) goes on to note that evidence of Kaiwharawhara could be traced "some years ago" but that sand erosion had obliterated any signs of earthworks. The site of Kaiwharawhara was near the location of the present military camp.

Kaiwharawhara is the traditional location of a bloody battle between an Nga Apa led alliance and Whanganui tribes during the first decade of the nineteenth century (Downes 1976:110-116, Downes 1993:53-56). Moving from Whangaehu by night the Nga Apa led alliance surprised the Whanganui forces during the dawn. Boosted by the element of surprise and confusion amongst the Whanganui Nga Apa completely defeated the Whanganui force in short time.

Downes informant states that the victors

... made a pile of the dead [Whanganui] men four high laying them crossways ... "How long the row was ... I don't know – perhaps a mile – perhaps less" ... [the allies then] presented the whole pile to Ngati Apa for a feast.

(Downes 1993:53-56)

The Nga Apa alliance then proceeded to advance upriver taking slaves and killing defenders until sated. In a footnote, Downes (1976:116) comments that, during a visit to the site of the battle of Kaiwharawhara in 1909, he and his companion found a stone axe and many human bones in an oven. Today the precise location of this battle is unknown and Wiremu te Tauri is most unlikely to have constructed his pa on the site of the battle ground or feasting area due to *tapu*.

Ngongoahau was the fishing village of Topia and Tahana Turoa and was located opposite the seaward end of Corliss Island on a small flat some 20 metres from the true left riverbank of the Whanganui. Inhabited during the first half of the nineteenth century Ngongoahau was the site of a large *whare nui* or meeting house (Smart 1960:29). Smart and Bates (1973:28) place this kainga next to the Ngatarua Stream, that is, much closer to the location of the present Cobham Bridge.

Te Wahi Puna was a small fishing kainga located on the Whanganui riverbank at the base of Landguard Bluff Cliff (Smart 1960:31, Smart and Bates 1973:28). Considered to be of some antiquity (Smart 1960:29) Te Wahi Puna was to feature highly in the early European visitations to the Whanganui River Valley. Although the precise location of Te Wahi Puna is now lost due to quarrying activity reconstruction of the landscape features observed at that location during the nineteenth century strongly suggests that the kainga was at the foot of one of two small streams that now flow off Landguard Bluff and into the Whanganui River.

Te Wahi Puna was the landing site of the first known non-Polynesian visit to the Whanganui River when, in early 1831, Joseph Rowe and a small team of four other individuals organised a trading expedition to the river valley. Invited ashore at Te Wahi Puna by camping Taupo Māori an incident arose whereby Rowe and two others were killed. The remaining two members of the expedition were taken captive. One of these captives, Andrew Power, later returned to the new township of Wanganui to settle (Anon 1902:7, Smart 1968:153, Smart and Bates 1973:45–46, Downes 1976:167-170, Downes 1993:13–16).

Edward Jeringham Wakefield also made Te Wahi Puna his camp when he arrived in March 1840 to survey the suitability of the land and initiated purchase of land by the New Zealand Company. It was from his base at Te Wahi Puna that Wakefield, in the company of local Māori, ascended the nearby bluff and, at the top, carved the name of his *matua* or father, William Wakefield, on a partially burnt post to signify good faith in the upcoming land purchase. It is from this action that Landguard Bluff obtained its present name (Smart 1968:156, Smart and Bates 1973:49-50, Downes 1976:175-176, Anon 2003:8). During the early twentieth century, George Marriner, then curator of the Whanganui Museum, excavated the site of this historical event however could find no trace of the *matua* post (Downes 1993:53).

A further early historical event associated with Landguard Bluff is the first Christian sermon preached in Wanganui by a European when, on December 14, 1839, the Rev. Henry Williams preached to some 300 locals (Smart and Bates 1973:58). Previous local Māori contact with Christianity had been through visits by Māori missionaries. The location of this sermon is identified as being “at the foot of Landguard Bluff”.

The riverbank between Landguard Bluff and South Spit is the location of the ‘Dump Wharf’ and was originally constructed for the use of the sand dredge *Kaione* in the 1920’s (Bates 2001b:1). That the dredged sand was pumped across the spit to the beach suggests that this wharf was located close to South Spit itself and Bates (2001a:2) states that the wharf was opposite the present airport. During the 1930’s Hatrick’s Wanganui River Services utilised the ‘Dump Wharf’ for their popular day and evening trips to South Beach (Campbell 1990:225, Bates 2001a:2, Anon 2003:9).

Landguard Bluff was also the centre of the World War II defences of Wanganui. The general background and history of these defences is discussed in section 8. Today Landguard Bluff is viewed as part of the greater recreational facility of South Beach with speedway and motor-x facilities being provided for the entertainment and enjoyment of people from both within and outside of the Whanganui region.

5.2 Archaeological Record

Of all of the environs of the South Beach area Landguard Bluff provides the most archaeological evidence. Such evidence ranges from remains of midden through to World War II features.

Two previously unrecorded midden were observed to be eroding out of the true left bank of the Whanganui River just to the seaward side of Landguard Bluff (i.e. between the river shore and the motor-x track). Although near to the probable location of Kaiwharawhara pa there is no evidence to suggest that these midden are related to the occupation of that particular site nor can they be considered as being an indicator to the pa location. Both midden are likely to erode into the Whanganui River in the near future.

The first of these midden (R22/461) was observed at GR R22-827368. Located some 1000mm beneath the current land surface the visible dimensions of this midden were 4000mm width x 200-300 mm height. A brief inspection of six valves eroded from the midden revealed that they were pipi (*Paphies australis*) with maximum dimensions of between 21 and 38 mm. Pipi are a traditional favourite food of the Māori and inhabit muddy and sandy shores (Crowe 1999:49).

The second of these midden (R22/462) was observed at GR R22-826368. The upper part of this midden is situated just beneath the current land surface and, in profile, slopes downward towards Landguard Bluff

possibly reflecting the profile of that land's surface at the time of deposition of the midden material. The visible dimensions of this midden were 500mm width x 50-80mm height.

A brief inspection of eroded shell valves from this second midden revealed nine pipi and a single large trough shell/whāngai karoro (*Maetra discors*). The maximum dimensions of the pipi were between 37mm and 47mm while the large trough shell had a maximum dimension of 51mm. Large trough shellfish were gathered as a source food and their shells used for decorative purposes. These shellfish inhabit sandy shores (Crowe 199:46).

An anonymous member of the public was able to provide information as to the location of two now destroyed midden at the eastern end of Landguard Bluff near the intersection of Airport and Landguard Roads. As the sites of these midden were on private land and outside of the study area they were not inspected. The first of these midden (R22/463) was located at GR R22-842367 (now the site of a dwelling) and the second (R22/464) at GR R22-844368 (currently a construction site with levelled land surface).

As with the two eroding midden near the location of Kaiwharawhara pa, these latter two midden should not be directly associated, without additional evidence, with Ngongohau.

Five early, that is pre-AD1700, styled stone trolling lures were recovered from the vicinity of Landguard Bluff and donated to the Whanganui Regional Museum in 1929. No additional information regarding the providence of these lures is available (Horwood, Whanganui Regional Museum, *pers. comm.*).

Evidence of the World War II airport defences in the vicinity of Landguard Bluff include the battery and observation post at GR R22-827366, Cook's pillbox WFRB No. 25 at GR R22-823367 and a possible rifle trench at GR R22-829365. The battery and observation post and pillbox WFRB No. 25 were the only two World War II defence features entered on the NZAA site record files prior to this survey (NZAA Site No's R22/437 and R22/443). WFRB No. 25 (NZAA Site No. R22/443) had been incorrectly located at GR R22-822366.

The battery and observation post are, due to the nature of their purposes, located near the westernmost summit of Landguard Bluff. Pillbox WFRB No. 25 is situated between the northern end of Wanganui Airport and the true left bank of the Whanganui River. Cook (2000:501) considers that WFRB No. 25 has been slightly relocated from its original position. Due to their concrete construction the battery and observation post are in a good state of preservation as is WFRB No. 25.

The rifle trench-like feature (R22/466) is a previously unknown site. It is situated a top that part of Landguard Bluff that immediately overlooks the airport control tower and foyer and has a good line of sight over the runways and dunes between the airport and sea. The approximate dimensions of this trench are length 4000mm x width 750 mm x depth 1000mm.

5.3 Historical Significance

- Landguard Bluff and the surrounding landscape has very high local historical significance and high national historical significance. This bluff may be associated with;
 - Māori occupation and utilisation of land and sea resources,
 - Inter-tribal warfare,
 - First known European visit to the Whanganui River Valley,
 - First Christian sermon to local Māori by an European,
 - History of the purchase of the Wanganui Block by the New Zealand Company
 - World War II defences of Wanganui (discussed at more length below),
 - Hatrick Riverboat Company excursions.
- Archaeological evidence exists, in the form of shell midden, of Māori utilisation of sea resources. Such archaeological evidence is rare in the Whanganui region and, consequently, knowledge on local diet and seasonality is poor when compared with other regions of New Zealand (Walton 2000:18).
- The battery and fire control structures were the centrepiece in the defences of Wanganui during World War II. As part of the defence system of New Zealand these structures have significance on a local, national and international scale. Should the trench-like feature be of World War II origin then this would represent a rare example of such a feature in a good state of preservation.

5.4 Specific Management Suggestions

See page 19.

6. River terrace between Landguard Road and Awarua Stream

Many of the comments here relate to historical events or sites outside of the study area. It was not possible to historically separate those lands between Wanganui District Council administered/managed lands immediately to the north of Landguard Bluff and those privately owned lands on the seaward side of Awarua Stream. This landscape should be viewed as a continuous historic landscape and any subsequent management plan dealing with the historic issues of Wanganui District Council administered/managed lands in the South Beach area should reflect this overlap of place. Those lands outside the study area and in private ownership were not inspected as part of this survey.

6.1 Traditional and Recorded Histories

That part of the Whanganui River terrace located between Landguard Road and Awarua Stream has shared histories related to both Landguard Bluff and Putiki Wharanui and considerable overlap in these histories is to be expected.

Two kainga, or undefended villages, are associated with this area of South Beach. Both were situated on the banks of the Awarua Stream.

The first of these, and one situated nearest the Whanganui River, was Otāwe (sometimes spelt Otāue or Otāne). Otāwe was situated on the southern bank of the Awarua Stream near the confluence of that stream and the Whanganui River (Smart and Bates 1973:36, Smart 1960:30). Another village associated with fishing activity, Otāwe was attacked by Te Ahuru's forces in the first decade of the nineteenth century and its inhabitants carried away as slaves (Downes 1993:53-56). Today what remains of the village lies beneath river silt and flood protection works (Smart 1960:29-30, Welch *pers. knowledge*).

Awarua is the second village on the banks of the stream of the same name. It was located on the north, or Putiki Wharanui side, of the Awarua Stream in the general vicinity of where the Wikitoria Road crosses that stream. Although a number of histories can be associated with Awarua the kainga is probably most notable for the fact that Sir George Grey stayed there during his 1846 visit to the Whanganui region (Smart 1960:29-30, Smart and Bates 1973:36). Smart (1960) considers Awarua to be a fishing village although its location and associated histories suggest a more substantive settlement than otherwise associated with other Whanganui River mouth fishing kainga.

The Battle of Waipuna, which occurred sometime at the close of the eighteenth century, has a strong relationship with Awarua as it was here that a Waikato(?) *taua* (note: the true origin of this *taua* is not known), or war party, camped after travelling down the Whanganui River. The *taua* then split with some members remaining at Awarua and others proceeding to Whangaehu. The next day a large force of combined Whanganui tribes mounted a successful dawn attack against those *taua* members remaining at Awarua before pressing on and defeating the remainder of the *taua* party at Waipuna near the Whangaehu River (Downes 1976:90-91, Downes 1993:67-69).

The Awarua Stream itself is associated with Tamatea's, who is traditionally the first person to travel up the Whanganui, voyage of exploration. Prior to investigating signs of fire observed near the present site of Putiki Wharanui, Tamatea's son, Kahungunu, sent his slave ashore at Awarua Stream to collect flax leaves so as to bind his hair should he met people at the source of the fire (Downes 1976:6).

It was also near the Awarua Stream, possibly close to the site of Otāwe, that a cannon procured by Whanganui Māori from Rangihaeata (Te Rauparaha's nephew) was mounted. This cannon is named 'Punui' and was fired only once with injury in the form of burns and blackening to the operator (Downes 1976:183). The cannon and associated cannon balls are now held at the Whanganui Regional Museum (Downes 1976:83, confirmed by Michelle Horwood, Curator, Whanganui Museum 19 May 2004 [cat TF240]).

What is considered to be the first flour mill to operate in the Whanganui River Valley was located on the Putiki Wharanui side of the Awarua Stream (Downes 1993:129). This flour mill was constructed in 1845 under the direction of Rev. Richard Taylor although day-to-day management, including receipt of income from later leases, of the mill appears to have been undertaken by local Māori (Smart and Bates 1973:148-149). Numerous references are made to the mill operations in the diaries of Laura Taylor, second daughter of Rev. Richard Taylor, and Downes notes that the earth-bank remains of the mill were still visible during the 1930's (Downes 1993:129, Springer 1993). This mill was most probably situated near the kainga of Awarua.

6.2 Archaeological Record

No pre-1900 archaeological evidence, either Māori or otherwise, has been recorded in that area of river terrace between Landguard Road and Awarua Stream. As much of this land falls outside of the study area and is in private ownership only a small section of the river terrace in Wanganui District Council ownership was surveyed for this report. Despite the on-going effects of flood inundation, farming and property development it is likely that there may be some remaining evidence of post-1840 utilisation of the land by both Māori and non-Māori, particularly along and near the Awarua Stream.

The author did observe, two years ago, a brick ford connecting the true left bank of the Whanganui River with Corliss Island just to the seaward side of Awarua Stream. This ford is exposed at low tide. The bricks were manufactured by Okoia Brickworks and appear not to have been obtained from a secondary source. The period during which the Okoia Brickworks operated has not been confirmed however the general form and shape of the bricks suggest that some degree of antiquity can be assigned to them.

6.3 Historical Significance

- strategically positioned between the present village of Putiki Wharanui and Landguard Bluff that area of river terrace located between Landguard Road and the Awarua Stream can be said to be of some significance. This particular landscape may be associated with
 - 'First Peoples' exploration of the Whanganui River Valley,
 - Māori occupation and utilisation of land and sea resources,
 - Inter-tribal warfare,
 - Early industry in the lower river valley,
 - Colonial government of New Zealand
- there is likely to be some archaeological evidence relating to the colonial industries of Wanganui, for example cattle farming and milling. However river silting, flood protection and twentieth century development of the land is likely to have destroyed or obscured evidence of Māori occupation sites.

6.4 Specific Management Suggestions

See page 19.

7. Inland Dune lands (dunes east of Airport Road and northeast of airport runways)

This dune land area contains the proposed location for sewage treatment ponds. A smaller area of dunes is also proposed for extraction to supply sand fill for the city's waste-water separation and to improve landing access at Wanganui Airport. This survey has considered both areas as one landscape unit. A brief historic survey has been previously prepared for the proposed area of sand extraction by The Department of Conservation (Appendix 4).

Representatives of Archaeology North recently surveyed the much of these dune lands. Those parts of the dune lands surveyed by Archaeology North were not re-inspected as part of this survey. The general findings of the Archaeology North conducted survey have been incorporated into this survey.

7.1 Traditional and Recorded Histories

There is little available public traditional or recorded histories of that area of dune lands to the east of Airport Road and northeast of Wanganui Airport.

The large stable dune complex immediately to the east of the study area, that is the Marybank dune complex, contains a traditional Māori burial ground and, as such, is wahi tapu. The name of this burial ground is Pihāia and it is considered to be of some antiquity.

7.2 Archaeological Record

No evidence of archaeological features or material, either prehistoric or otherwise, was observed during the previous survey by representatives of Archaeology North (Michael Taylor, Archaeology North, *pers. comm.*) or during as a result of the current survey. New Zealand Archaeological Association records also have an absence of sites in this particular area of South Beach. The general vicinity of Pihāia was not investigated as part of this survey.

The dune land nature of this area makes it unlike that any former substantial cultural features, such as dwellings, pits and terraces, would survive today. The types of archaeological evidence that may be exposed due to movement of the dunes include, but are not limited to, midden, spot-finds and human remains.

7.3 Historical Significance

- to date, no archaeological features or material, Māori or otherwise, have been recorded in this area.
- given the presence of archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the dune lands associated with the Kaitoke waterways and Landguard Bluff, there may be some potential for the existence of as yet unknown/unrecorded archaeological evidence, most likely of a Māori origin, which would be exposed due to the movement, whether natural or otherwise, of the dunes.
- the inland dunes are in the general vicinity of Pihāia, a traditional burial ground and wahi tapu.

7.4 Specific Management Suggestions

See page 19.

8. Wanganui Airport (including World War II defences)

8.1 Traditional and Recorded Histories

A historical study of the South Beach area would not be complete without some consideration of the significance of two major twentieth century developments in the area, that is, Wanganui Airport and the World War II defences in and around airport lands.

The Wanganui Aero Club first developed what is now Wanganui Airport for aviation purposes in 1931 when an area of land, equivalent to approximately one-sixth of the current aerodrome, was levelled and a hanger constructed (Smart and Bates 1973:290-291). Aside from a short-lived air service to Palmerston North, Napier and Gisborne, which operated during the early months of 1938, regular air services were not provided out of Wanganui until 1954 when the city was incorporated into the National Airways Corporation network. This coincided with extensions to the aerodrome area, a paved all-weather runway and improved access from Wanganui (Ross 1968:171, Anon 2003:10). Since 1954 additional lands have been acquired for airport purposes, a new terminal building constructed in 1961, and communication sites erected (Anon 2003:10)

In response to a feared sea-borne invasion by Japanese forces during World War II it was deemed that the Port of Wanganui required fixed defences. As part of these defences construction of a battery, observation post, various pillboxes and a camp was begun in 1942 (Cook 2000:501). These defences were positioned to not only protect the entrance to the Whanganui River mouth but also to help prevent a military force landing on South Beach and securing the airport.

Cook (2000:501) provides the following details of the battery armament, observation equipment and personal;

Name: Wanganui Battery	Where: Landguard Bluff
Built: 1942	Cost to Build: £3,950
In Service: 1942 – 1944	
Armament (1942): one 5-inch BL MkVIII gun on MkXV mount, US Navy type, 101 ft ASL, 319-139° arc	
Observation: Barr & Stroud 3 metres Type FT29	
Garrison: Originally B Section 78 Hy Bty under Area VI, Wanganui battery was separated off in November 1942 as 140 Hy Bty and in April 1943 regimented under 10 HY Regt, RNZA ...	
manning was by 25% RNZA regulars, 75% Home Guard	

In addition to the battery, fire control/observation post and camp, nine concrete pillboxes were constructed in strategic positions around South Beach and Wanganui Airport (Cook 2000:501). Two pillboxes relating to the World War II defences of the area are on airport land and are discussed below. Aspects of the other individual World War II defensive features of the area, for example the battery and fire control centre on Landguard Bluff, are discussed in the relevant sections of this report.

8.2 Archaeological Record

As the area now occupied by the airport was, in part, lagoon-lands (Bates 2001a:3) it is probable that there was some utilisation of that resource by Māori. Construction of the airport facilities would have destroyed any archaeological evidence that may have related to exploitation of these waterways and other nearby resources or covered such evidence under deep sand and packed soil deposits.

Two further concrete pillboxes, relating to the World War II defences of South Beach, are immediately adjacent to the grounds of Wanganui aerodrome. Cook's pillbox WRFB No. 26 (R22/465) is located at GR R22-827365 and is three-quarters obscured by shifting sands. Airport staff commented that the pillbox will be shortly covered by wood chip so as to prevent the shifting sands from encroaching on the main runway. This should have little or no effect on the structure itself.

The second pillbox (R22/468), Cook's WRFB No. 27, is located near the south-eastern end of the all weather runway at GR R22-834358. This pillbox has been incorporated as part of the fire-training exercise area for Wanganui Airport staff. No physical alterations have been made to the pillbox and, so long as no robust exercises are undertaken, the current fire-training regime should not seriously affect the fabric of that structure.

Being in active use today many of the buildings and other structures associated with the airport remain in good condition. While the scope of this survey did not include such buildings, structures and other features that may be associated with airport operations it is noted that there is some degree of public interest in the eventual status and fate of the control tower.

8.3 Historical Significance

- the precinct of Wanganui Airport has historical significance to the local community although, at this time, the active use of those buildings, structures and facilities as a communication, transport and recreation hub over-shadows recognition of the historical significances associated with this public amenity.
- as indicated previously, the World War II defences of South Beach have significance on a local, national and international level. As a collective unit the historical significance of these structures range from having 'high significance' in the local context through to having some 'some significance' on an international level.

8.4. Specific Management Suggestions

See page 19.

9. Discussion

9.1 Traditions and Recorded Histories

Table 1 highlights that traditions and recorded histories (particularly those dating from after *circa* AD 1800, that is, following the advent of recorded histories in this country) are, on the whole, available for those areas of South Beach where resources were plentiful or along communication routes, that is, where people lived. The exception being the Kaitoke Stream environs which although being a likely communication route to the Wanganui Lakes District and having a high degree of resource availability, during both the prehistoric and Colonial eras, has a scarcity of available traditional and recorded histories.

It should be noted that Māori culture contains a considerable amount of traditional knowledge not freely available to the public and that these traditions generally pre-date the written record.

Table 1 – Summary of Traditional and Recorded Histories for South Beach

Locality	Availability of Traditional or Recorded Histories	Settlement, Resource or Communication Assets
Kaitoke Stream Environs	No	resource, communication
Dune Hollows	No	few
Dunes between Sea and Airstrip	No	few (primarily processing of shore resources)
South Spit	Yes	resource, communication, settlement
Landguard Bluff	Yes	resource, communication, settlement
River Terrace	Yes	resource, communication, settlement
Inland Dune Lands	No	few
Wanganui Airport Environs	Yes	communication

9.2. Archaeological Record

9.2.1 Status of the Archaeological Record

The status of the archaeological record, along with some influencing factors on that record, is summarised in Table 2. It is suggested that the Kaitoke Stream environs should contain more archaeological evidence than is currently recorded/known. This absence of recorded/known archaeological sites has been discussed earlier. It is also likely that archaeological evidence exists for the 'river terrace' area of South Beach although, due to land modification and flooding events, the occurrence of such evidence is likely to be isolated.

Given the extent of land modification activities and shifting nature of some dune areas it is probable that little evidence of pre-1900 human activity exists in those areas of South Beach comprising the dune lands between the coast and the airport, South Spit and the environs of Wanganui Airport. These areas, however, do contain evidence of a historic nature relating to the twentieth century.

Table 2 – Status of the Archaeological Record for South Beach

Locality	Archaeological Evidence	Availability of Traditional or Recorded Histories	Settlement, Resource or Communication Assets	Landforms
Kaitioke Stream Environs	Little	No	resource, communication	dune-lands, waterways
Dune Hollows	None	No	few	eroding dune-lands
Dunes between Sea and Airstrip	Post-1900 only	No	few (primarily processing of shore resources)	shifting dune-lands, foreshore
South Spit	Post-1900 only*	Yes	resource, communication, settlement	shifting dune-lands, recent dune-lands, river and foreshore, some cultural modification
Landguard Bluff	Yes	Yes	resource, communication, settlement	dune-lands atop geological stable soils, some cultural modification
River Terrace	None	Yes	resource, communication, settlement	floodplain, waterways, culturally modified
Inland Dune Lands	None	No	few	dune-lands, some erosion
Wanganui Airport Environs	Post-1900 Only	Yes	communication	culturally modified (large scale)

* = excluded unrecorded midden observed two years ago (not re-located)

Table 3 – Site Type and Origin as per NZAA Site Records

Locality	NZAA Site No.	NZMS 260 Grid References	Māori			Historic Era	
			Midden	Oven	Workshop	WWII	Hulks
Kaitioke Stream Environs	R22/131	GR R22-849358			***		
	R22/219	GR R22-839345		***			
	R22/???	GR R22-850352			***		
	R22/469	GR R22-837353				***	
Dune Hollows							
Dunes between Sea and Airstrip	R22/470	GR R22-832351				***	
	not recorded	GR R22-832356				***	
South Spit	R22/467	GR R22-809374					***
Landguard Bluff	R22/437	GR R22-827366				***	
	R22/443	GR R22-823367				***	
	R22/461	GR R22-827368	***				
	R22/462	GR R22-826368	***				
	R22/463	GR R22-842367	***				
	R22/464	GR R22-844368	***				
	R22/466	GR R22-829365					***
River Terrace							
Inland Dune Lands							
Wanganui Airport Environs	R22/465	GR R22-827365				***	
	R22/468	GR R22-834358				***	
Number of Sites =			4	1	2	8	1

Note: R22/??? indicates archaeological site identified as part of this survey but yet to be allocated NZAA Site Number.

9.2.2 Type and Origin of Archaeological Sites

The type and origin of sites recorded in NZAA site recording system, including those sites identified as part of this survey, for the South Beach area are summarised in Table 3.

There are a total of sixteen recorded archaeological sites in the South Beach area and these are split fairly evenly between sites of Māori origin and sites from the historic, that is post-1900, era. Of notable absence are pre-1900 archaeological sites related to the Colonial era. Available traditional and historical records, along with archaeological evidence from other nearby locations suggest that remnants of that latter era should exist on and near Landguard Bluff, the river terrace west of Awarua Stream and the Kaitoke Stream.

Seven sites of Māori origin were identified during the course of this survey. They comprised four midden, two 'workshop' or 'flaking' floors and one oven area. Of these seven sites only two (R22/131 and 219) had been previously recorded on NZAA Site Record Forms and listed in the CINZAS Database.

Of those sites of Māori origin, all but two were located *outside* of the study area. The two sites (R22/461 and 462), both shell midden, that are located *within* the study area were, prior to this study, unrecorded. Two further midden sites (R22/463 and 464), both located just outside of the study area, are now partially or completely destroyed.

Archaeological sites of a Māori origin show a high degree of diversity considering the small sample size. This possibly is a reflection of South Beach's importance to Māori in terms of food gathering, communication and trade. Those parts of South Beach found to contain such archaeological evidence are likely to contain further evidence of such activities.

Evidence of early colonial presence in the South Beach area is unlikely to exist today. This absence is primarily due to that evidence's structurally temporal nature (if any), short period of use and the nature of soils. Despite the absence of physical evidence sufficient written evidence exists to identify the general vicinity of events relating to this period of Wanganui's history.

Aside from the hulk of the *Eunice*, all recorded historical, that is post-1900, features relate to the World War II defences of South Beach. Seven such sites were previously known to exist however NZAA Site Records had only been completed for two of these structures (R22/437 and 443). An eighth site, a observation trench-like feature (R22/466), is a previously unknown feature potentially relating to that period of the history of South Beach. Other twentieth century archaeological sites exist in the area and some of these, in particular the remains of erosion and river training schemes, may have cultural significance or be of interest to the public.

9.3 Historical Significance of South Beach

The South Beach region contains significant archaeological evidence of both the late prehistoric/early Colonial era Māori life-ways and twentieth century human activity. There exist supporting traditions and recorded histories attesting to these activities as well as for those histories for which little or no archaeological evidence presently exists. The extent of significant historical evidence and significant histories for the South Beach are summarised in Table 4.

An important point to note is that to date no historical evidence, either physical or recorded, of human activity for the area of inland dunes (and associated dune hollows) within the survey area exists. This absence of evidence does not exclude the possibility that future development of that area will uncover such evidence and consideration should be made within the management plans of any development for such occurrences. The presence of *wahi tapu* immediately to the east of the area of the proposed sewerage plant should also be acknowledged in these management plans.

In summary, the cultural heritage landscape of the South Beach area can be considered as being of 'high significance' locally and of 'significance' nationally. The South Beach area is considered as having a cultural heritage significance equal to, if not greater, than many of the other historical landscapes or precincts within the boundaries of the Wanganui District Council.

Table 4 – Extent of Available Traditional Knowledge or Recorded Histories for South Beach

Locality	Significant Historical Evidence	Significant Histories (Traditional or Recorded)	Notes
Kaitioke Stream Environs	Yes	No *	see comment 9.1 + 9.2
Dune Hollows	No	No	
Dunes between Sea and Airstrip	Yes	No	
South Spit	Yes	Yes	
Landguard Bluff	Yes	Yes	
River Terrace	No *	Yes	see comment 9.2
Inland Dune Lands	No	No	
Wanganui Airport Environs	Yes	Yes	

Management Suggestions

General Management Suggestions

The following management suggestions recognise the historical significance of the South Beach landscape within the histories of Wanganui, the Whanganui region and New Zealand/Aotearoa. They will assist in the recognition, management and preservation of the cultural heritage aspects, both known and potential, contained within that landscape.

- A Cultural Heritage Management Plan be prepared for the South Beach area. This management plan should;
 - address those lands administered by the Wanganui District Council, independent management boards, lands managed by other local, regional or central government agencies, and privately owned land.
 - acknowledge the significance of the South Beach area to Māori, the colonial era of New Zealand's history and to the City of Wanganui.
 - acknowledge the *tangata whenua* of the land and record those sites regarded as *wahi tapu* to Māori. Such *wahi tapu* may be recorded on a 'closed' section of the management plan.
 - acknowledge and record the presence NZAA registered sites. It should also be acknowledged that absence of recorded archaeological sites does not infer absence of archaeological evidence or histories associated with that landscape.
 - acknowledge that parts of South Beach have both local and national significance.
 - acknowledge that multiple histories exist and that multiple interpretations of those histories may also exist.
 - acknowledge that the South Beach landscape is a part of a wider cultural landscape and that the histories associated with that area may not be able to be separated from the histories of other localities both within and outside of the Whanganui District.
 - include a statement of intent regarding the future management of both recorded and, as yet, unrecorded archaeological/historic sites and consider how these heritage sites may be affected by proposed developments or future land use.
 - establish a procedure for the process of development of those lands upon which significant heritage sites are, or maybe, located and the addressing of any issues raised.
- To assist in preventing further damage or destruction of heritage sites by off-road vehicles a 'no vehicle' zone needs to be clearly defined with educational materials as to why those zones exist. Where such zones exist;
 - restrictions, as detailed in the *Proposed Wanganui District Plan (2004)*, against the use of off-road vehicles on reserve land need to be enforced, and
 - where use of off-road vehicles by council staff and other approved organisations is permitted, this use be monitored and restricted to established tracks.
- Periodic review of the condition of known historical sites or evidence. Such reviews would;
 - alert interested parties to actual or potential damage or destruction of heritage sites.
 - highlight the need to divert resources to the protection of those heritage sites under threat.
 - identify unrecorded/unknown cultural evidence.
- Development of a public education programme on the histories and significance of South Beach. This education programme could include;
 - incorporation of the South Beach area into the Wanganui Heritage Trail.
 - the use of a limited number of information panels to summarise the histories of particular parts of the South Beach area. Potential locations for such information panels could include;
 - the vicinity of the eastern intersection of Airport and Landguard Roads,
 - the vicinity of the metal car park near the base of the Moto-X circuit,
 - near the entrance to the Wanganui Airport terminal building.
- Council to form a partnership with heritage agencies and interested parties as to decide how best to manage this significant historic landscape.
- Other specific management suggestions as identified below.

Specific Management Suggestions

In addition to the general management suggestions above, the following management suggestions relating to specific locales within the South Beach area were also identified as part of this survey;

Vicinity of Kaitoke Stream -

It is likely that other unrecorded archaeological sites, particularly those of a Māori origin, exist in the general vicinity of the lower reaches of Kaitoke Stream. The nearby availability of natural food resources, suitability for the location of kainga for the exploitation of those resources and situation along a natural communication route between the coast and the Lakes District support this view. The three known sites of Māori origin have, over time, been observed as a result of erosion activities and further movement of the dunes in this general area is likely to uncover additional evidence of Māori activity and occupation (see also comments by Walton 2000:23).

Specific management suggestions for the general vicinity of the lower reaches of the Kaitoke Stream are;

Specific Management Suggestion	Benefit
A council sponsored archaeological survey of that land bounded by the Kaitoke Stream to the north and north-west, the 'Wanganui Lakes District' to the north and road from Pauri Village to the coastal natural gas pump station to the south and southeast.	Identification, recording, and protection of important archaeological evidence relating to prehistoric communication and trading activities.
Support or undertaking of recording of traditions, both Māori and otherwise, of the Kaitoke Stream environs – see section 9.1.	Contributes to a more complete understanding of the histories of this area.

Dune Hollows -

Specific management suggestions are contained within those of the Kaitoke Stream Environs and Inland Dunes.

Dunes between Beach and Airport -

No specific management suggestions.

South Spit -

Much, if not all, of the remaining evidence relating to cultural activity associated with South Spit post dates 1900 and is, therefore, not subject to the provisions of the *Historic Places Act* 1993. Nevertheless there exists significant evidence associated with the development of the Port of Wanganui during the early-mid twentieth century and unique insights into the private and social lives of individuals of that time. The establishment of appropriate management procedures will ensure that such evidence is identified, preserved and, in the future, becomes an important part of the heritage of Wanganui.

Specific management suggestions for South Spit are;

Specific Management Suggestion	Benefit
A council sponsored heritage survey of previous stabilisation and river 'training' schemes in the vicinity of South Spit. This survey should include a comprehensive photographic record.	Identification, recording, and protection of archaeological evidence relating to the development of the Port of Wanganui.
Future spit stabilisation and river 'training' projects should, as far as practicable, not involve the removal or destruction of existing structures. Where possible any structures under threat of removal or destruction should be incorporated into future stabilisation or river 'training' projects without detracting from the heritage values of the existing structures	Retention of historic fabric.

Landguard Bluff -

The probability of there being further *in situ* evidence of Māori occupation and utilisation of the land and other nearby resources at Landguard Bluff and its' surrounds is high. There is, however, little probability that there remains archaeological evidence of initial European visitation and contact. This absence of evidence does not negate the importance of the place to that latter history.

Specific management suggestions for Landguard Bluff and its' surrounds are;

Specific Management Suggestion	Benefit
Consideration should be made to registering Landguard Bluff and its surrounds as a Historic Area with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. This Historic Area would include the Landguard Marginal Strip administered by the Department of Conservation.	Protection of significant archaeological evidence. Recognition of the historic significance of the area.
Future District Plans should be updated to reflect the high heritage significance of Landguard Bluff and its surrounds.	Recognition of the historic significance of the area.

Whanganui River Terrace -

Although dramatically altered over the past one hundred or so years the landscape of the river terrace between Landguard Bluff and the Awarua Stream is likely to contain isolated evidence of Māori occupation and utilisation of resources and Colonial – early twentieth century industry of the lower Whanganui River Valley.

Specific management suggestions for that area of land lying between Landguard Bluff and the Awarua Stream are;

Specific Management Suggestion	Benefit
A council sponsored archaeological survey of that land bounded by Landguard Bluff to the west, the Whanganui River to the north, Awarua Stream to the east and Wikitoria Road to the south (including Corliss Island).	Identification, recording, and protection of important archaeological evidence relating to Māori occupation and utilisation of resources and Colonial/early twentieth century industry.

Inland Dunes -

A survey by Bristow (1988) found that recorded/known archaeological sites in dune lands are generally restricted to those dunes containing blow-outs. Walton (2000:23) considers that this suggests that archaeological sites are present in dune lands but are not visible. This trend is evident in dune lands of nearby Kaitoke Stream and on the western and eastern flanks of Landguard Bluff.

Specific management suggestions for the inland dune lands of South Beach are;

Specific Management Suggestion	Benefit
If not already prepared, the development of an Archaeological Management Plan for use and reference to during the proposed development and construction of the Wanganui wastewater treatment plant.	Establishment of procedures should cultural remains be encountered. Fewer delays due to predetermination of correct procedure should cultural remains be encountered.

Wanganui Airport -

Specific management suggestions for Wanganui Airport are;

Specific Management Suggestion	Benefit
Cultural heritage assessment of the histories, structures and place of Wanganui Airport.	Identification and management of potentially significant historical evidence. Development of the knowledge base of the histories of the Wanganui.

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Maps

NZMS 260 R22 Wanganui (1987, 1st edition) 1:50,000

Appendix 1 – Survey Area

Appendix 2 – Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of South Beach

Source: Centralised Index of New Zealand Archaeological Sites
Jonathan Welch (*pers. know.*)

Appendix 3 – Traditional Location of Māori Kainga

Source: Smart, M. 1960:29
Smart, M. and A. Bates. 1973:28

Appendix 4

Historical Survey of Proposed Area of Sand Extraction near Wanganui Airport, South Beach

Jonathan Welch
Wanganui Conservancy
Department of Conservation

21 April 2004

Introduction

As part of a greater study of the historical significance of the South Beach area the dune areas from which proposed sand extraction for waste water separation purposes was assessed. A site visit of the proposed extraction area, in the presence of Bryon Hill, was undertaken on 5 April 2004. It is understood that tangata whenua/iwi have been consulted over the sand extraction plans and that there is no objection to the sand extraction proposal.

Summary of Historical Significance

Traditional and Recorded Histories

No publically available traditional knowledge or recorded histories exists for that dune area proposed for sand extraction.

Archaeological Evidence

No archaeological evidence was observed during the site visit of 5 April 2004. The area inland of the area of the proposed sand extraction was subject to a separate archaeological assessment at an earlier date. No evidence of archaeological features or material was observed during that assessment (Michael Taylor, Archaeology North, *pers. comm.*).

A survey by Bristow (1988) found that recorded/known archaeological sites in dune lands are generally restricted to those dunes containing blow-outs. Walton (2000: 23) considers that this suggests that archaeological sites are present in dune lands but are not visible. This trend is evident in dune lands to the south-east of nearby Kaitoke Stream (Welch *in prep.*).

Recommendation

If not already established, the Wanganui District Council should have an established procedure should archaeological features and/or material (including human remains) be encountered during the proposed sand extraction process.

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Appendix 5 – NZAA Site Record Forms

Pre-existing:	R22/131	Workshop Floor
	R22/219	Oven/Hangi
	R22/437	WWII Gun Emplacement
	R22/443	WWII Pillbox (location corrected as a result of historical survey)
Newly Added*:	R22/461	Midden
	R22/462	Midden
	R22/463	Midden (destroyed)
	R22/464	Midden (destroyed)
	R22/465	WWII Pillbox
	R22/468	WWII Pillbox
	R22/469	WWII Pillbox
	R22/470	WWII Pillbox
	R22/466	WWII[?] Trench
	R22/467	Hulk
	R22/XXX*	Workshop Floor [copy of site record form not attached – to be filed by Archaeology North]

* = Site record number yet to be allocated by New Zealand Archaeological Association

R22/131 – Workshop

2684900

6135800

recorded 29/10/61

cont.

R22/219 – Oven/Hangi

2683900

6134500

recorded 8/12/88

R22/437 – WWII Gun Emplacement

2682700

6136600

recorded 23/01/01

R22/443 – WWII Pillbox

2682300

6136700

recorded 29/10/61

cont.

R22/461 – Midden

2682600

6136800

recorded 5/04/04

R22/462 – Midden

2682700

6136800

recorded 5/04/04

R22/463 – Midden (destroyed)

2684400

6136800

recorded 5/04/04

R22/464 – Midden (destroyed)

2684200

6136700

recorded 5/04/04

R22/465 – WWII Pillbox

2682700

6136500

recorded 5/04/04

R22/468 – WWII Pillbox

2683400

6135800

recorded 5/04/04

R22/469 – WWII Pillbox

2683700

6135300

recorded 5/04/04

R22/470 – WWII Pillbox

2683300

6135000

recorded 5/04/04

R22/466 – WWII[?] Trench

2682900

6136400

recorded 5/04/04

R22/467 – Hulk

2680800

6137300

recorded 31/03/04