

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

This colour and pattern identifies the Significant Archaeological Sites on the Planning Maps



An archaeological site is any place (including buildings, structures or shipwrecks) that was occupied prior to 1900. Archaeological sites are managed under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 by Heritage New Zealand. Sites that are recorded are entered into the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) database. Our district has a rich history, with 1166 recorded archaeological sites (September 2021), and new sites are added to the NZAA database all the time.

What happens if I have an archaeological site on my property?

- Maps on the Council website show where the recorded archaeological sites are located in the district - you can see the maps [here](#)
- The modification or destruction of an archaeological site requires an authority (permission) from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
- If you discover an archaeological site on your property you must immediately stop any work (such as earthworks or vegetation clearance) and contact Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

What is a significant archaeological site?

Five significant archaeological sites have been identified in the new district plan. All of the sites are located on public land (reserves or crown estate). They include pa, caves and the historic Waikawau tunnel. The rules are designed to protect the sites.

How are the draft rules different from the current rules?

- The current plan lists all archaeological sites on a schedule and identifies them on the planning maps
- In the current plan a resource consent is needed to undertake any activities that would result in the alteration, destruction, demolition, removal or relocation of any archaeological site. In addition, the landowner must obtain an authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
- The new plan does not have any rules for archaeological sites except:
 - In the Te Maika Precinct – you can see the factsheet [here](#)
 - As an assessment criteria for some types of subdivision
 - Where the site is identified as a significant archaeological site

Please note this factsheet is a summary and does not include the full set of rules on this topic. You can read the full set of rules [here](#)