

**BEFORE THE NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMISSIONERS**

IN THE MATTER OF The Resource Management Act 1991

AND

**IN THE MATTER OF Request for Private Plan Change NPDC PLC18/00048 by Oakura
Farm Park Limited to rezone land at Oakura within the New
Plymouth District**

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF IVAN BRUCE

1. It was in my capacity as an archaeological consultant that I completed an archaeological survey and assessment of the application site, the proposed Wairau Estate.
2. I have produced an archaeological assessment in report form and a statement of evidence, which I presume I can take as read. The key points of my evidence are as follows.
3. There are no archaeological sites currently recorded on the Wairau Estate on either the New Zealand Archaeological Association site recording scheme (Archsite), the operative New Plymouth District Plan or the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga list. A number of archaeological sites have been recorded in the vicinity of this subdivision and of one of these sites, a pa site (P19/340) has been recorded on the eastern boundary of the Wairau Estate.
4. No surface indications of unrecorded archaeological sites were noted during the archaeological survey of the Wairau Estate.
5. There are no archival records that specifically identify archaeological sites of prehistoric or historic Maori origin within Wairau Estate, of which I am aware. No military redoubts or blockhouses were constructed on the property during 19th Century British and Colonial military occupation. The property has been used for pastoral farming since European occupation of the Oakura District circa 1865.
6. There remains the possibility that unrecorded archaeological features may exist subsurface within the Wairau Estate, despite not being recorded in the earliest land plans or aerial images, or encountered during my field survey. However, it can be expected that archaeological evidence will be most likely be limited in scale and distribution, an example being the small storage pit features a excavated during the development of "The Paddocks " subdivision.
7. Minor archaeological sites such as these, while of local interest, are relatively common in the New Zealand archaeological record and would not constitute nationally significant sites, or normally require permanent protection.
8. The modification of such sites as a result of development is typically managed under an archaeological authority granted by Heritage New Zealand.
9. I have recommended that all earthworks involved with the development of the Wairau Estate should be undertaken under a general archaeological authority granted by Heritage New Zealand, on a precautionary basis.
10. Any application for such an authority will require finalised development plans outlining the nature and extent of earthworks prior to making the application. For this reason the authority application cannot be made prior to the outcome of this hearing.
11. It is my considered opinion that should this recommendation be followed, the applicant will have fully recognised and provided for the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development as outlined in section 6(f) of the RMA.

12. I note that the NPDC officers report (Section 13. 135) agrees with the applicant's suggestions that any earthworks be subject to archaeological supervision (pursuant to an NZHPT archaeological authority) with Hapu participation.