

1 MacKays to Peka Peka Expressway

Cultural heritage

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The Kāpiti Coast has always been a highly desirable place to live. Radiocarbon dates suggest people were present there around the 14th century.

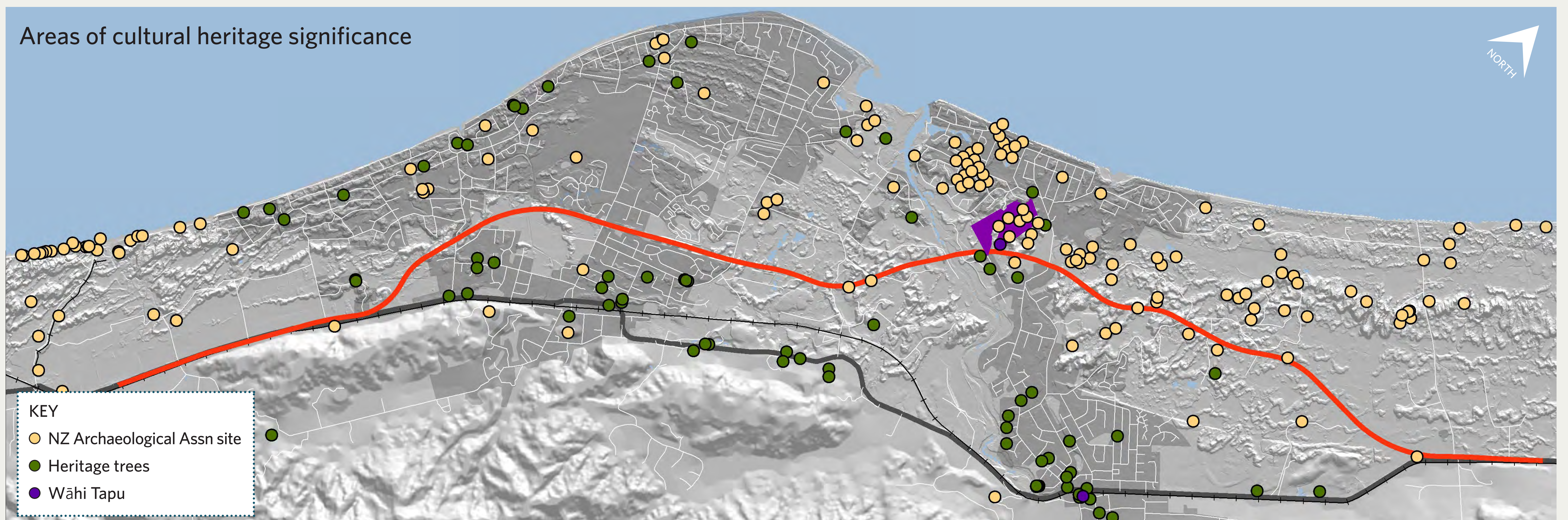
During the earliest phases of Polynesian settlement in New Zealand, Maori would have been attracted to the Kāpiti Coast for its environment rich in natural resources and opportunities.

The first Europeans to settle in the region were missionaries and whalers, and their industries included flax milling, whaling and farming. Maori also took up the opportunities from access to new horticultural tools and techniques, which increased the range of available food.

Construction of the main trunk rail line in the 1880s enabled development for commerce and farming along the line on the Kāpiti Coast. It also facilitated urban development. The area of the coast which relates to the expressway is now a combination of urban and rural contexts.



Left: Greenaway Homestead is an example of early European occupation and sits within a landscape of mature vegetation. Right: At Waikanae the urupa (burial ground) on the dune above Puriri Road is a significant cultural heritage place for Maori.



To recognise and provide for cultural heritage values the expressway design will use the following approaches.

- Engage iwi, hapu, whanau and community groups to achieve design solutions that seek to restore cultural heritage values through best practice methodologies integrating ecological, cultural heritage planning, urban design and engineering solutions.
- Work with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and communities of interest to share knowledge and approaches to managing heritage and appropriate consent processes.
- Identify the areas where sites exist that cannot be avoided and plan for pre-construction studies to document, extract and preserve material so that it can be used to improve knowledge of the history of the place.
- Establish the protocols and basis for situations when construction works uncover archaeological material so that the material can be studied, documented, extracted and preserved in an appropriate manner.

Cultural heritage on the coast can be divided into three broad areas:

Pre European Maori occupation

Maori use of the sea, coast and land is evidenced by the large number of archaeological sites along the Kāpiti Coast. Successive generations of Maori settlers in this environment utilised the resources of the numerous wetlands which included flax, eels, birds and an abundance of other material critical to the tribal economy. Areas of stable soils were gardened.

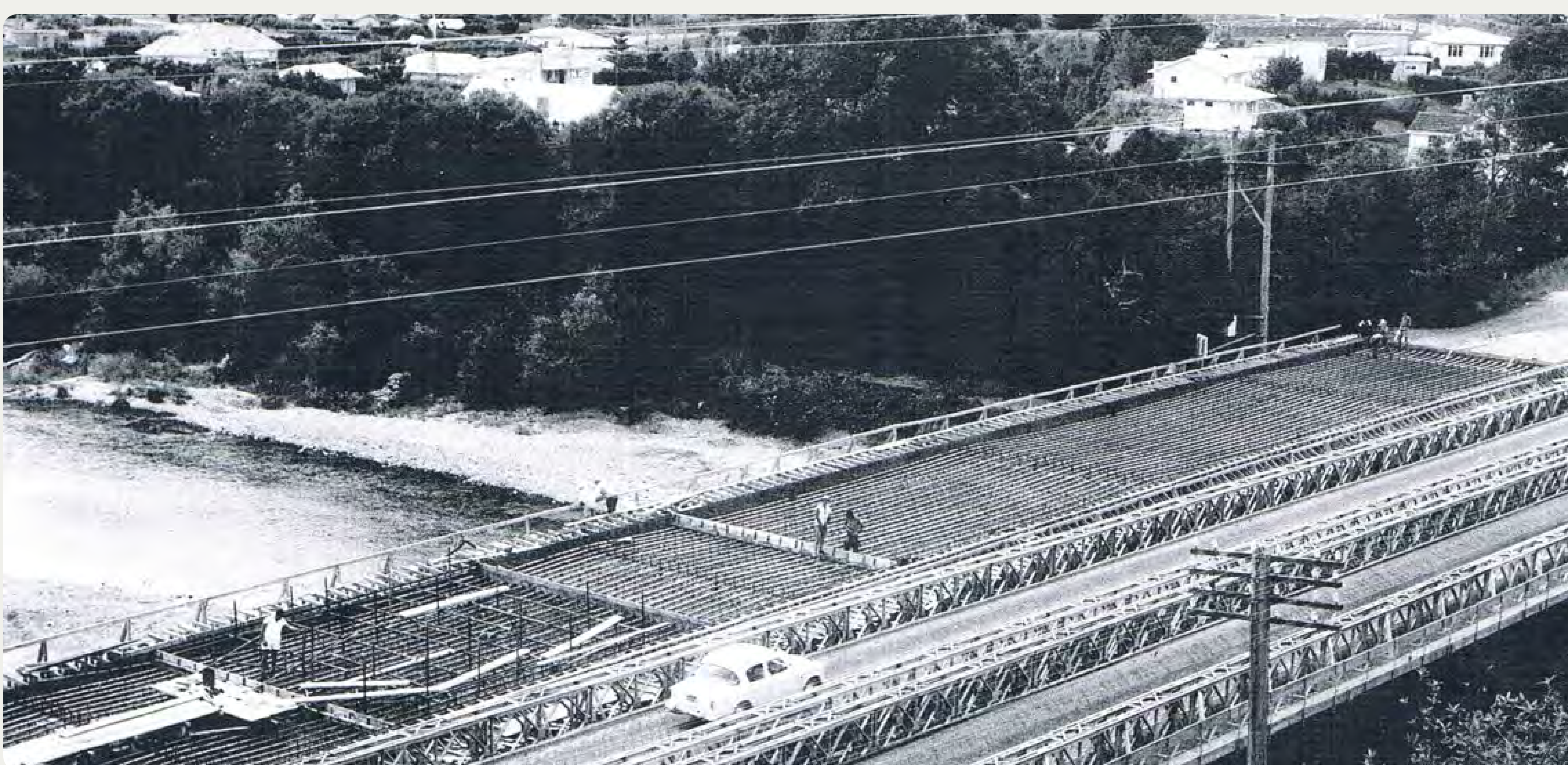
The predominant archaeological site types on the coast are middens and ovens, with the shell middens reflecting the high reliance on the sea for subsistence. Burials also occur in the shifting sands.

Post contact European-Maori occupation

Post contact European-Maori occupation is marked by the continuation of existing subsistence activities and the adoption of new ones. Grown crops included wheat and white potatoes, and steel fishhooks were utilised. Maori worked on the whaling stations that sprung up along the coast, and in new industries including flax and wheat milling.

Early European occupation

Early European heritage includes both commercial and residential sites. Houses, farms and other buildings survive on the coast, as do their archaeological remains. The Greenaway Homestead in Puriri Road is one example of an early homestead.



Constructing the existing State Highway 1 Waikanae River bridge in 1963.