

# MATAKOHE BRIDGES ENVIRONMENT

## HISTORY

Matakohe was part of the flax and kauri industry focused around the Kaipara Harbour and western coast of Northland during the 19th and 20th centuries. The area was once covered in kauri forest which was felled, milled and transported out of Matakohe into Kaipara. While evidence shows that land in Matakohe has been predominantly farmed since the 1860's, remnants of the kauri gum industry may exist in the area.

Heritage Listed Sites within the wider Matakohe area include the Church Hall, Post Office, the Matakohe School and Totara House. These sites are not affected by the proposed works.

## ECOLOGY

Within 10km of the indicative alignment a total of 52 species of birds have been identified, including 25 native species. Two of these bird species are listed as *Threatened (Nationally Critical)* - the Grey Duck and the White Heron.

There are multiple lizard species within the area including Ornate Gecko and Elegant Skink. No records of endangered species of fish are recorded within the Matakohe River catchment, though the presence of inanga, redfin bully and longfin eel cannot be excluded.

## CULTURAL VALUES

There are no known archaeological sites within the project area, though there are five recorded pa sites within 3km of the indicative alignment. These pa are all located on prominent ridgelines and it is likely that the numerous waterways and valleys nearby also contain evidence of Maori settlement activities.

The Kaipara Harbour Coastal Area is an area of significance to Te Uri o Hau. Matakohe Creek (Te Mateetetau) is located within the project area and is also a Department of Conservation Reserve. To ensure areas of cultural significance are protected, the NZ Transport Agency has enlisted representatives of Te Uri o Hau to monitor all geotechnical investigations and provide cultural input into the proposed design.