

ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & HERITAGE

HERITAGE

Archaeological sites feature around the coastal margins and waterways further inland. Some pā and possible pā sites are located in more elevated areas to the east and west of the existing SH1. There are also some pā sites around the Brynderwyn Hills. There are also a small percentage of sites relating to 19th century European occupation.



CULTURE

A number of identified sites of cultural value exist within the wider project area, including mahinga kai and mahinga mataitai sites around the coastal area and river margins, pā, significant battle sites, urupā and waka landing and launching areas. The Brynderwyn Hills hold significant value for iwi, both in terms of historical cultural values associated with passage, habitation and resource gathering, and for the special ecological value and significant native flora and fauna still present today. Other important areas to iwi include the Ruakaka River, Otaika Valley Bush, Pukekaroro, the Kaipara Harbour, Waipu Gorge Forest and Piroa Falls.



ENVIRONMENT

The Whāngārei Harbour and coastal/estuarine areas provide high value habitats that supports significant species, including fish, wading and migratory birds, coastal flora, and marine mammals. The more inland areas include streams that are home to a number of at risk fish species, and terrestrial habitat that is likely to support native lizards and birds. There are large areas of native vegetation at Pukekaroro, the Brynderwyn Hills, Waipu Gorge Forest, and Mareretu Forest. These areas are likely to support a number of important native species, including Hochstetter's frogs, native lizards and long-tailed bats.

The Kaipara Harbour is a unique environment that is home to a diverse range of species, including shellfish, native seagrass, fish and shark nurseries, and Māui dolphin.

Freshwater streams within the area provide high ecological value and support a range of native species, including at risk species such as redfin bully, inanga (native fish), and freshwater mussel.

