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Heritage



A number of archaeological sites were found on land along the Cambridge section. Evidence was found which shows that the land has been occupied since 1300's.

As far back as 1500 there were many settlements and paa stretching along the Waikato River from Cambridge to Karapiro.

The area was rich in bird life, water fowl and eels. There were fertile soils for growing kumara, kahikatea forests, ti kouka, tawhara and berries abounded.

The archaeological dig and finds

This well was discovered at the old Amber Nursery on Thornton Road and is believed to be from the early 1900s.



Prehistoric mauri stone: found in a prehistoric gardening site near Swayne Road. These stones were placed in areas by Maori for protection and to encourage prosperity and growth.



Prehistoric adze or toki: found near Appleby Road, this adze or toki, is a prehistoric tool with a sharpened edge that was used by Maori to carve wood.

Borrow pits were found along the route. A borrow pit was where Maori removed topsoil, sand or gravels for mixing with soil elsewhere to create a good growing medium for crops.



Archaeological landfill: Pre-1900 bottles were found at an old rubbish dump site on Thornton Road. Pictured are two larger bottles, most likely used for home-brewing, and two smaller bottles, most likely used for holding medicine.

A number of storage pits were found in the gully area. The pits were used by early Maori to safely store seeds and food over winter.

