

Archaeology and heritage work at your property

Do heritage factors (including archaeology) affect any work at my property?

If it is identified that your property is at archaeological risk, approval will need to be granted from Heritage New Zealand before site work commences. If your property is a heritage listed property (in accordance with the District Plan), resource consent may also need to be granted under the *Resource Management Act 1991* before work begins. Your builder will be aware of the legal requirements for your property, however if you have any queries do contact your Arrow Project Manager.

Property that is associated with pre-1900 human activity, where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand, is considered an archaeological site. Under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* it is considered a criminal offence to modify or destroy any part of an archaeological site without an archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand.

How do I find out if there are heritage (including archaeology) risks at my property?

As part of the pre-design phase all properties are screened for heritage risk. Arrow seeks professional advice on whether your site is subject to archaeological or other heritage provisions. Information from screening is passed onto Arrow and your builder, to inform them if statutory approvals are needed.

If my property is identified as being 'at risk' how will the process be managed?

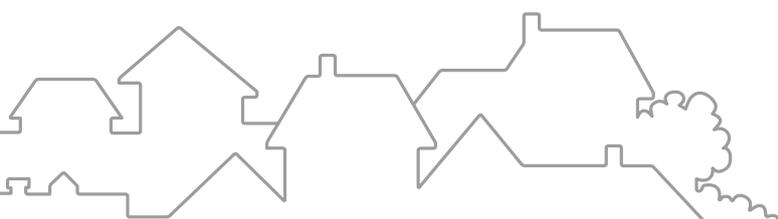
The builder will advise if resource consent is needed, and is responsible for ensuring that an archaeological authority is obtained from Heritage New Zealand. There may also be need to consult with respective tangata whenua as part of the archaeological authority application process. Your builder will advise you and undertake consultation on your behalf if this is applicable for your property.

What archaeological material might be found?

Material found can vary depending on the site location, for example early Māori settlements are typically coastal or along rivers. Archaeologists may also find evidence of pre-European Māori remains or post-European settlement material.

Material that can be found is often midden (old rubbish pits) with shell, and bone. This can give us clues on how people lived, what they ate, and what species of plants or animals were at this location. Other items can include gardening soils, kumara storage pits, charcoal, stone flakes, fish hooks and tools. On rare occasions there are significant finds of cultural, national or international significance. These may include kōiwi (human remains), waka (canoes), greenstone tools and artefacts.

Common material found from European settlement includes glass, pottery, bricks, concrete foundations, buttons, wooden structures, metal items and so on.



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Can I expect delays if my site is deemed to be a heritage property?

In most cases, an at-risk site does not experience delays. Archaeological authority applications in Christchurch associated with earthquake remediation work are processed as emergency authorities, and only take up to 5 days to process. Work can commence immediately, providing the conditions of the authority are complied with (however, a 10 working day appeal period applies to sites of interest to Māori).

If an archaeological authority is required work normally requires the supervision of an archaeologist, which will usually involve observing site work and dealing with any material as it is found. Any remains found will be cleaned, photographed, recorded and sampled by the archaeologist. Once work is completed, the archaeologist will analyse any samples and prepare a site report, which is then lodged with Heritage New Zealand.

In a small number of cases, significant archaeological remains may be discovered which require more specialist treatment (e.g. human remains or wooden artefacts). Because of the care required, there may be minimal delay while the property is investigated. In these cases, Arrow works closely with the archaeologist and contractor to ensure there is minimal disruption.

If your home is pre-1900, photos and measured drawings may be required. This may require an archaeologist to be at your property for recording prior to and during site works, and produce a separate report.

What happens to any material found at my property?

Ownership of material depends on the artefact found. If artefacts meet the definition of taonga tūturu under the *Protected Objects Act 1975*, they are legally the property of the Crown. All other artefacts found belong to the homeowner.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

What does an archaeologist do?

Archaeologists specialise in the scientific study of prehistoric and historic human activity through the analysis of artefacts and other material left behind by the people of the past.

Archaeologists in New Zealand work under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014*, and assist their clients to obtain and fulfil the conditions of the archaeological authorities. They produce written assessments to support authority applications, undertake research, site surveys and identification, and provide advice to those wishing to conduct site works on a known or suspected archaeological site.

Current archaeological practice includes the production of maps, plans and measured drawings of the property location. When required, an archaeologist will conduct excavation(s), section and artefact drawings, identification and sampling of remains found, as well as the management of taonga tūturu and archaeological material. The archaeologist will write interim reports while the job takes place. Once the job is complete, they will compile final reports, including detailed analysis and findings as well as updating site records to submit to the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme.

Why is archaeology important?

Through the work of archaeologists, we are able to extend our knowledge of human history beyond the limits of written records, as well as supplementing and clarifying written documents which do not often tell the full story. Artefacts found can give us access to a spectrum of human experience spanning up to 800 years in New Zealand. When an archaeological site is destroyed, we lose all potential information from that site forever.

Find out more

For any further information you can refer to the Heritage New Zealand website: <http://www.heritage.org.nz/>

For any other information visit: www.southernresponse.co.nz

Disclaimer: The information and related material is intended as a guide only, and does not constitute legal advice, nor should it be used for actual investigation. The content does not represent complete information, and is intended as supplementary information only.

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