

Historic heritage on farms

Historic and archaeological sites are an important part of Southland's history and identity. They connect us to the land by telling us who we were, and who we have become. Sites are spread along our coastlines and waterways, across our plains and hill country and through the mountain passes.

If you discover a historic heritage object on your farm, take steps to ensure that the information it holds is not lost forever. It is a great addition to the ongoing story of your farm and Southland.

What is 'historic heritage'?

Historic heritage is a wide-ranging term that includes archaeological sites, wāhi tapu, heritage buildings, objects and trees as well as cultural material (taonga tūturu) or human remains (kōiwi tangata).

Pre-contact Māori archaeological sites often include:

Charcoal patches, bones, shells, hangi stones, adzes.

Artifacts of Pākehā /Chinese archaeological sites may include:

Bottle glass, crockery, nails, as well as any evidence of gold mining, quarrying, saw milling, old foundations, wells or drains.

Definitions

Archaeological Site: An archaeological site is any place associated with human activity that occurred before 1900. Sites may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. This includes Māori, Pākehā and Chinese sites.

Wāhi tapu: A place sacred to Māori in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual or mythological sense.



What to do if you...

... uncover an archaeological site

If you uncover a previously unknown site during earthworks, you must stop any work that could affect the site and contact Heritage New Zealand.

... find cultural material (taonga tūturu)

Cultural material such as stone and bone tools can be found on their own. If you find something, contact Heritage New Zealand, the Southland Museum or Te Ao Marama for help. All taonga tūturu are important for their cultural, historical and technical value and are property of the Crown until ownership is sorted.

... find human remains (kōiwi tangata)

If human remains are found, Heritage New Zealand need to be called in the first instance as well as iwi and the Police. Kōiwi tangata are of great significance to all Southlanders and Ngāi Tahu, and need to be treated with care and respect.

Good management practice

Managing archaeological sites on farms is a balancing act and takes some consideration. Finding a site does not mean farming cannot commence or continue, but because disturbances of the ground can put an archaeological site at risk, it is important to manage stock movements, fencing, farm tracks and the effects of erosion.

One of the easiest and most effective management tools is knowing and identifying archaeological sites. By knowing where archaeological sites are, you can put measures in place to ensure their protection. Sites with surviving surface earthworks – such as pa or storage pits – are often on high points or on ridge lines. Many hidden underground sites are in areas of continual use such as flat land.

Recorded archaeological sites are useful indicators that there might be more unknown sites in the area. This is particularly common for pa complexes or traditional camping grounds or pathways where only one part of the site has been recorded.

Did you know...?

Not all archaeological sites have been recorded, and some have been forgotten overtime. Te Ao Mārama and Heritage New Zealand are always keen to talk to you about managing recorded archaeological sites, and can provide guidance if you suspect you have uncovered an archaeological site.

Current Requirements

Archaeological sites are protected by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, which requires landowners to talk to Heritage New Zealand (previously known as the New Zealand Historic Places Trust) before undertaking any work that might affect any sites.

Some archaeological sites in Southland also have additional rules in the regional or district plans relating to what you can do near or on the site. Contact Environment Southland or your district council to find out more about these rules.

If you wish to do any work that may affect an archaeological site you must obtain an authority from Heritage New Zealand before you begin. Read more about the Archaeological Authority process on www.heritage.org.nz/protecting-heritage/archaeology

Further Assistance

For more information about what has been recorded or listed, visit these websites:

www.heritage.org.nz/the-list The Heritage New Zealand website has a list of known built heritage items that can be searched by location.

www.archsite.org.nz Archsite has locations of known archaeological sites, including a record detailing each site, what was found and when.

Heritage New Zealand – Otago/Southland Office

Heritage New Zealand can help with archaeological authorities, site management, and identifying archaeological areas.

Area Manager: Jonathan Howard

Ph: (03) 477 9871 **Email:** infodeepsouth@heritage.org.nz

Te Ao Mārama

Te Ao Mārama can help with the tikanga/protocols for the site, cultural advice and historical knowledge, and contacting the appropriate rūnanga.

Contact: Dean Whaanga

Ph: (03) 931 1242 **Email:** dean@tami.maori.nz

New Zealand Archaeological Association

The New Zealand Archaeological Association can help with technical advice, site records and holds a list of consultant archaeologists.

District File Keeper – Southland: Rachael Egerton

Phone: (03) 211 2458 **Email:** regerton@doc.govt.nz