

## **PC9 Archaeology Hearing**

### **9 November 2023**

My name is Lynette Joyce Williams. I am representing as a lay submitter for the Waikato Heritage Group and the Waikato Historical Society. I am a member of both organisations.

I graduated MA (2nd Class 1<sup>st</sup> Division) in Anthropology (Archaeology) from University of Auckland in 1980 and while I am not a practising archaeologist I believe I have the knowledge and experience to speak to archaeological matters. I have been involved in several archaeological investigations in Hamilton as a field assistant and assisting with reports. I have written the background history for major projects namely the Hamilton Club, Hamilton Hotel/Theatre and Te Ara riverside path and these histories have served to inform the Project Archaeologist.

I have a strong interest in Hamilton's history, both pre- and post-1864 settlement by the colonial government. I have researched, written and supplied to Hamilton City Council a thematic history of Hamilton, presented as a technical report, and a substantial draft of this is available on-line.

Both the Waikato Historical Society and the Waikato Heritage Group have interests in the appropriate management of historic and cultural heritage greater than those of the general public.

Submissions were presented by both the Waikato Historical Society and Waikato Heritage Group regarding archaeological sites. The main points of these submissions were:

- support of inclusion of NZAA sites as listed on ArchSite
- inclusion of known sites that are not listed by NZAA
- to impose an alert layer to identify areas of potential archaeological interest.

The Waikato Heritage Group also requested that the policy regarding scheduling of archaeological sites be extended to incorporate 20th century sites such as industrial sites. As Mr Ryan points out in his Supplementary Evidence dated 6 October 2023, 20th century sites can be classed as archaeological sites if declared as such under s43 of the HNZPT Act, therefore we disagree with his rejection of this point in our submission. Sites that are unique and highly significant to the history and development of Hamilton need to be protected even though they relate to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An example would be the railway house factory complex and infrastructure.

The council consultants have stated that they are happy to include current NZAA sites, and have added the Frankton Railway site S14/498, which we support. However, I note that the HCC Archaeological Site Inventory Form has omitted the Frankton drain that is within the NZAA record and is an essential part of the wider site's history; the name of the site does not include the Frankton Drain and this is an omission that needs to be corrected. In addition, please ensure that the archaeological site S14/159 at 11 Beale Street, the site of Beale Cottage, is also included in Schedule 8C and that this includes the well and land around the cottage. Please ensure that site S14/223, 102 Lake Crescent, the site of Lake House, is included on the Schedule.

However, Council was advised of other sites in October 2022, which while they are not recorded as NZAA sites these particular sites are well-known historically within HCC resources but do not appear to have been considered for scheduling. I refer to sites which

include but are not limited to the 1864 saw mill site with associated tramway operated by Ebenezer Gibbons (see SO 201); and the three pre-1900 rifle ranges (Dinsdale, Frankton and Hamilton East). These need to be assessed by a consultant engaged by council, listed on ArchSite and added to the Schedule. Relying on NZAA site records is insufficient in terms of protecting Hamilton's heritage.

I find it inexplicable that sites which have been identified and recorded by NZAA are not automatically included in the Schedule, i.e. that the schedule does not allow for this continual updating process. We request that consideration be given as to how this can be achieved. It is recommended that Council investigate the feasibility of this matter further with a view to updating the DP outside of the PC9 process. There needs to be an on-going collection of information relating to the NZAA recorded sites so that staff can be better informed.

With regard to an alert layer:

I agree in part with Mr Cable that an alert layer is need, as per his evidence, however I feel that delaying the development of an alert layer until the next Plan Change will give poor protection for the history and archaeology of the central commercial districts. An alert layer for each can sit beside the District Plan and be utilised by staff in the meantime. Two of the reports provided by Council recognise the value of alert layers.

Many people think that the central city land is already so modified with the degree of construction and ground clearance that has occurred since 1864, that there will be no remaining evidence of previous occupations. However, archaeological excavations relating to the development of the Hamilton Club site in Grantham St and the Hamilton Theatre/former Hamilton Hotel site in Victoria St have revealed late 19<sup>th</sup> century shops, houses, wells and rubbish pits, Maori gardening sites, storage pits and burials. Some of these results were expected but some were not. The burials at the theatre site were beside the footpath, in front of previous historic shops, and not within the designated NZAA site of a urupa. It is highly likely that other such material and remains of past activities might be found anywhere along these central streets. Kirikiriroa Pa was in the area north of Bryce Street, but its rohe, especially gardens, extended right along the river terraces. Similarly in Hamilton East, the pa sites and cultivation areas extended for some distance along the river terraces, as known through oral tradition and as recorded on survey plan SO 201.

There needs to be some mechanism in the resource consent process that will alert council staff to the possible existence of pre-1900 sites, particularly along the central city streets of Victoria, Knox, Hood, Collingwood, Bryce, Ward and London Streets; Hamilton East along Grey St, Cook, Clyde and Wellington Streets; and central Frankton along Commerce, High, King, Norton, Kent and Empire Streets. This would require better understanding of the history of the central areas of each and potential protection of archaeological sites.

**Lynette Williams on behalf of Waikato Historical Society and Waikato Heritage Group  
8 November 2023**