

WHAT IS **ARCHAEOLOGY**?

Archaeology is all about the discovery, recovery and interpretation of the surviving evidence of past human activity in its context, in or above the ground. Archaeological sites are the relics and ruins of our past and may be on land, in water, or in the coastal marine area. **There are a variety of archaeological site types in New Zealand, including:**

- » **Māori pā sites** are fortified places with banks and ditches. They are often found on cliffs, headlands or ridges. In addition to natural landforms these sites often include artificially levelled terraces or built-up banks and ditches
- » Remains of **cultivation areas and gardens** can be seen in soils and in the form of lines or walls of loose stones or stone mounds. Other types of site associated with cultivation include **pits** for storing kumara
- » **Middens** are 'rubbish dumps' that may contain shells, bones, glass and ceramic artefacts, charcoal and sometimes oven stones. These can be Māori or European.
- » **Rock art sites** which may contain paintings, drawings, carvings or engravings
- » **Shipwrecks, buildings and structures**

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE LAW

- » In New Zealand archaeology is protected under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014*. This legislation is administered by Heritage New Zealand, an autonomous Crown Entity.
- » The *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* defines an archaeological site as a place associated with pre-1900 human activity, where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.
- » The *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* makes it unlawful for any person to modify or destroy, or cause to be modified or destroyed, the whole or any part of an archaeological site without the prior authority of Heritage New Zealand.

WELL DRILLING AND ARCHAEOLOGY

It is not usually possible to carry out standard archaeological monitoring during drilling activities, however, if archaeological material is found during drilling work then this can provide valuable information on the presence or absence of archaeological sites in the vicinity. The areas at highest risk for the discovery of archaeological material in Canterbury are indicated on Kā Huru Manu, Canterbury Maps and ArchSite, but these are not an exhaustive databases of all archaeological sites, but are useful management tools for understanding the distribution of archaeological sites and past land-use patterns.



RELEVANT CONTACT DETAILS

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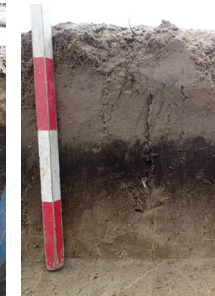
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL **PROTOCOLS**



ARCHAEOLOGICAL GUIDELINES FOR WELL DRILLERS

HOW TO RECOGNISE **ARCHAEOLOGY**



MIDDENS - A midden is essentially a Māori rubbish dump. This is likely to consist chiefly of shells, intermixed with animal bone (such as fish, sea mammal and/or bird bone) and charcoal.

OVENS - An oven is typically a circular bowl-shaped feature, filled with fire-cracked rocks and a high concentration of charcoal. There may also be bones in the oven. An oven is the remains of a hāngi from hundreds of years ago.

CULTURAL LAYERS - A cultural layer is a layer of stained or darkened sand or soil that usually contains fragments of charcoal, shell, bone and the occasional artefact. These layers can vary substantially in size.

EUROPEAN SITES - 19th century European archaeological sites are often the easiest to spot, as the artefacts in them are very similar to objects we use today. People in the 1800s dug pits to throw their rubbish into, and excavations throughout Christchurch often uncover these old pits, filled with glass bottles, broken china, leather shoes, metal, animal bones, and various other artefacts. It is also possible, to find 19th century tram tracks and timber sleepers, or 19th century brick and ceramic drainpipes.

