

*Pakanui Structure Plan Area:
Archaeological Assessment*

Prepared for Cato Bolam Consultants

by

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Introduction

The Pakanui Structure Plan Area (Pakanui SPA) is part of the Swanson Catchment, located in Swanson, West Auckland. It has been part of Auckland's orchard district for most of this century. Until the last few decades orchards and dairy farms nestled in at the foot of the Waitakere Ranges, but recently the land has been gradually divided and developed to meet the expanding residential requirements of Waitakere City. The Pakanui SPA is an area of some 180 hectares bounded by Sunnyvale Road, McEntee Road and Amreins Road in Swanson and is proposed for eventual subdivision. It is north and east of the Swanson Structure Plan Area (see Figure 1). This assessment has been carried out at the request of Cato Consultants (on behalf of the landowners) to identify any historic or archaeological constraints on development of the area.

Methodology

The New Zealand Archaeological Association's Site Record File was searched for archaeological sites in the vicinity of the survey area. The Auckland Regional Council provided a list of recorded archaeological and historical sites in Swanson from their Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI). Early plans (DPs and SOs), were consulted at Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). The relevant literature was researched. Cato Bolam Consultants provided location maps and aerial photographs of the survey area and a cadastral basemap of the area. The SPA boundaries have been overlaid on the cadastral (Figure 1). An archaeological survey of the study area was carried out by means of visual inspection with some probe and spade testing.

Archaeological Background

No archaeological sites relating to Pre-European Maori occupation have been recorded in the Swanson area. While the forests that originally covered much of Swanson in these early times would have been a highly valued resource for gathering food and materials, little, if any, evidence would have been preserved given the non-durable nature of these activities and the disturbance wrought by the tree felling, gum digging, farming and other activities that followed after European arrival. Maori

settlement preference seems to have centred on the coastlines and harbour estuaries, inlets and creeks (Lawrence 1989:217).

The European history of the area is rich, however. The kauri forests saw the development of a thriving timber milling industry that began in the early 1850s, with a corresponding enterprise in gum digging. The land thereafter proved suitable for horticulture, viticulture and farming (see Clough and Turner 2000 for a more detailed description of Swanson's historic background).

Despite this history only five archaeological sites have been recorded in Swanson and these relate to the timber milling industry. Additionally a number of historic buildings are listed in the CHI (Tables 1 and 2).

However, no archaeological sites or historic buildings had been recorded within the Pakanui SPA. The SPA and land immediately adjacent to the area was considered of low archaeological potential (Clough and Turner 2000:15,16).

Table 1. Recorded Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of Swanson (after Clough & Turner 2000)

NZAA Site No.	WCC Computer No.	CHI No	Description
Q11/350	G28	6478	Historic two storey concrete house on the Scenic Drive near the tearooms on the eastern slopes of Pukematekeo – bulldozed, no longer any remains
Q11/374	J1	1412	Tramline – part of Gibbon’s Tramline built and used in the 1880s. Cuttings and other remnants still visible particularly in the upper reaches of Tram Valley Rd. Built to haul kauri to the Swanson Mill, now used in part as a walkway.
Q11/375	G12	1302	Thomas Gibbon’s Mill. A steam powered mill dating to the 1880s but largely destroyed and no remains visible today.
Q11/489	H8	1324	Timber Rafter Dam and camp? A cill and cuts in the stream bed are remnants of the kauri timber industry on Gin Bottle Stream.
Q11/490	H7	1323	Remains of kauri rafter dam on Cassels Stream, Swanson. Remains include 5 intact timber cills bedded into the rock base of the stream and two stringers with iron spikes (good state of preservation).

Table 2. Historic Buildings Recorded in the ARC's CHI in the Swanson Area (after Clough & Turner 2000)

CHI Computer No.	Description	Address / Location	WCC Computer No.	Listing Status
1428	Tramline, North Trunk Line 1930s	Between Tram Valley Rd and Waitakere Tunnel	J18	Inventory only, not protected in the District Plan
3373	Single storey L-shaped wooden building	735 Swanson Rd	219	
3375	Historic dwelling, Don Buck House and Store?	17 Glen Rd, Ranui		
3376	Art Deco single storey plastered exterior	710 Swanson Rd	225	Management Strategy Category III
3377	M.B. Yozin concrete Industrial building (wine / fruit) 1948	686 Swanson Rd	226	Management Strategy Category III
3378	Flat roof, weatherboard, covered verandah, leadlights	4 Church St, Swanson	228	
3380	1870s single storey, weatherboard extensively modified.	729a Swanson Rd	230	
3381	1900s Bay Villa, hipped roof, gabled bay – excellent condition	757 Swanson Rd	234	
3391	Weather board bay villa, hip roof and gable over bay window – some modification but good condition	12 Pooks Rd, Ranui	246	
3425	1860s single storey weatherboard, steep gable. Appears to have been demolished.	Tram Valley Rd	284	Management Strategy Category III
3426	Calverts Butchery, brick with plaster façade above verandah. Est 1924.	707 Swanson Rd	285	Management Strategy Category III
3766	1870s weatherboard with materials typical of period, verandah, lean to at back	731 Swanson Rd	232	Management Strategy Category II
3767	Late 19 th century bay villa, unique style to Swanson. Verandah, lean to at back, fancy fretwork.	749 Swanson Rd	233	Management Strategy Category III
3790	St Marks Anglican Church – villa style early 20 th , largely unaltered. Gable roof, weatherboard with front porch.	705 Swanson Rd	258	Management Strategy Category II

Results of Archaeological Assessment

The area under assessment is of varied topography, vegetation and land modification. The topography ranges from steep to rolling land with swampy areas and small creeks at the foot of the hills. Vegetation includes pasture, dense bush and urban gardens. Modification includes domestic dwellings, farm buildings, a landfill station and commercial buildings (e.g., The Bromley Park Hatcheries). These features affected visibility on the ground. Some areas, for example, the Lucan's block, could not be surveyed due to dense vegetation.

No archaeological sites were recorded during the archaeological survey. The results of this survey support the findings of Clough and Turner (2000) that the area has low archaeological potential.

Discussion

While no archaeological evidence was identified during the investigation, it should be noted that visual inspection (with probe and spade testing) cannot necessarily identify all subsurface archaeological remains. It should also be noted that archaeological survey cannot necessarily identify wahi tapu and other sites of traditional significance to iwi.

All archaeological sites are protected under the Historic Places Act (1993) from damage and destruction unless an Authority has been issued by the Historic Places Trust.

Recommendations

- That there are no archaeological constraints on the development of the area as no archaeological sites have been recorded and the probability of any unrecorded sites being present is low.
- That if any archaeological evidence or koiwi (human remains) are encountered during development, work should cease in the immediate vicinity and the Historic Places Trust and tangata whenua should be contacted.
- It should be noted that archaeological survey techniques (visual inspection and minor spade testing) cannot necessarily identify all sub-surface archaeological features or detect wahi tapu and other sites of traditional significance to Maori.

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FIGURE 1. PAKANUI STRUCTURE PLAN AREA
(dashed red outline, Swanson SPA - blue)