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# PART ONE :

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## BACKGROUND

### Executive Summary

Between 1876 and 1881 a total of 288 acres of vacant land close to the Whau River was reserved by the Crown as a site for a public cemetery. In 1886 this piece of land became the public cemetery known as 'Waikomiti'. The new Cemetery was the result of a very pressing need to replace the Symonds Street Cemetery, which was considered too close to town and almost full after 36 years of interments. Waikomiti Cemetery was officially opened in 1886.

Waikumete Cemetery and Crematorium now encompasses an area of 107.7222 hectares. Since the closure of Symonds Street Cemetery in 1908 it has served as the main cemetery for the Auckland Region. Waikumete continues to operate as a cemetery and is the second largest cemetery in the Southern Hemisphere, being the final resting-place of over 70,000 people<sup>1</sup>.

Waikumete has considerable cultural heritage significance. The Cemetery contains the graves of many people who played a significant role, either locally or nationally. The surviving headstones, with their range of styles and inscriptions, are an invaluable source of genealogical and social history. In particular, the Cemetery is a tribute to the brick and pottery industry that thrived around New Lynn and the banks of the Whau River from the late 1860's until early this century.

In addition, the Cemetery provides for a wide range of denominational and cultural groups. It contains many memorials to significant world events and national tragedies. It is one of only two cemeteries in the northern half of the North Island where space is currently allocated to the Muslim community. It contains a significant number of Mausoleums. In recognition of the need to provide for traditional Maori burials, a Urupa was established in 1996.

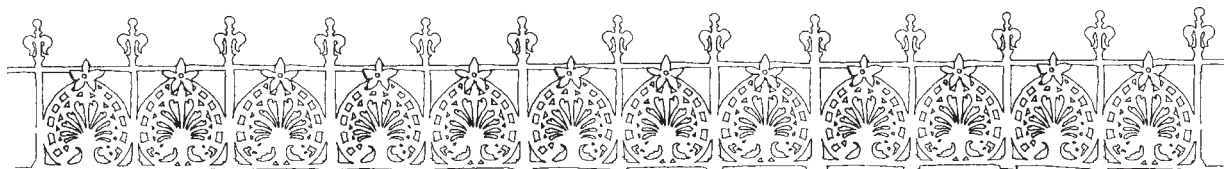
The Cemetery, together with its wider environs of bush, valleys and streams, represents the largest public Open Space within the urban part of Waitakere City. It is located in a part of the City that has seen significant deterioration of its natural landscape through the development of residential and commercial areas, which surround the Cemetery on all four sides.

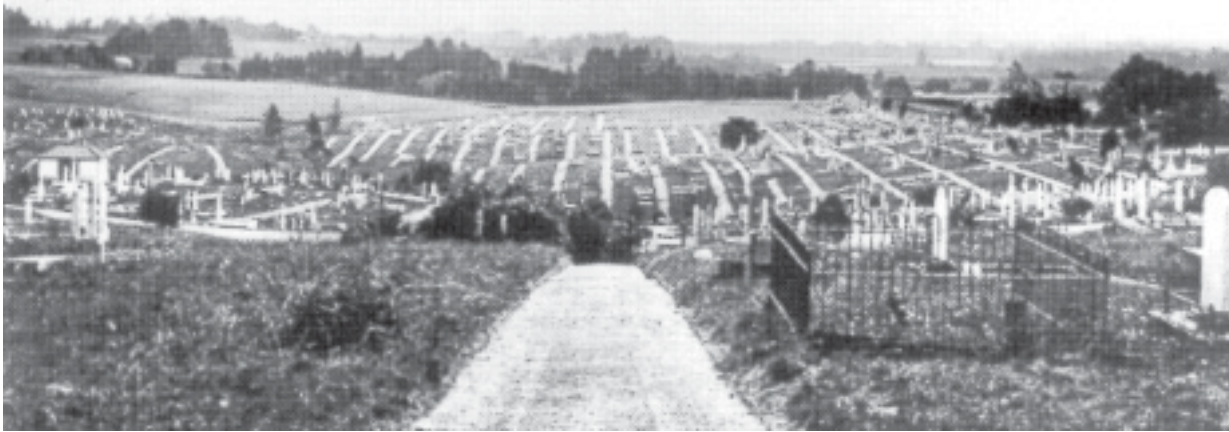
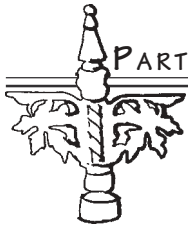
Waikumete Cemetery is highly ecologically significant as it contains the largest contiguous area of gumland vegetation remaining in the portion of Waitakere City<sup>2</sup> that falls within the Tamaki Ecological District<sup>3</sup>. It contains a large collection of uncommon and threatened gumland native plants, such as orchids and grasses, and is a critical habitat for these species. It is also a significant habitat for native fish species which inhabit streams within and adjacent to the Cemetery. Waikumete also contains a number of heritage trees and plantings, both exotic and native, planted in commemoration and as part of the early development of shelterbelts and amenity plantings throughout the Cemetery.

Over the years, large numbers of garden plants have been planted on and around the graves, many of which are now growing wild. A particular feature is the many species of African and Mediterranean species that thrive in the Cemetery's poor clay soils<sup>4</sup>. In spring and early summer the blossoming of these wildflowers is considered to be the finest display found anywhere in New Zealand. A one-hectare Wildflower Sanctuary (refer Map 4, Appendix 15) has been created in the south eastern corner of the Cemetery and is actively maintained by the Friends of Waikumete, a local volunteer organisation dedicated to maintaining the cultural and heritage values of the Cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> Western Leader Newspaper, 19 November 1998.  
<sup>2</sup> Whaley et al, 1999, p.6.  
<sup>3</sup> One of 8 districts within the Auckland Ecological Region.  
<sup>4</sup> Cameron et al, 1997, p.183.





Auckland City Public Library A5158: Early view of cemetery

Established in 1995, the Friends of Waikumete are an incorporated society. They continue to campaign for a planned programme of repair and maintenance and are actively researching the history of the site and many of its inhabitants.

The current practice of burials in the Cemetery favours burial in the lawn cemetery format. This allows graves to be marked by flat memorials laid out in lawns and berms. Provision is also made in berm areas for upright memorials. These newer areas of the Cemetery are laid out with maintenance in mind – neat grassed areas where plaques are preferred over headstones and a predominance of small cremation plots over burials<sup>5</sup>.

The integrated management of all these values presents a significant management challenge. Until now, Waikumete Cemetery has never had a management plan. The management of the Cemetery has tended to concentrate on the day-to-day operation of running the Cemetery as a going concern. The older “unused” areas of the Cemetery have had only minimal maintenance, concentrated around the mowing of accessways and limited weed control. As a result, many graves and monuments are overgrown and/or are in an advanced state of deterioration. Invasive weeds such as bulbil watsonia, erica, pampas and woody varieties such as phoenix palms and wattle are the major cause of the deterioration of these features.

The development of a conservation and reserve management plan was considered to be the best mechanism to address all of the values and uses of the Cemetery. The ‘Waikumete Cemetery Conservation and Reserve Manage-

ment Plan’ will act as the primary document providing management direction. A Landscape and Enhancement Plan will then be developed. This will act as the vehicle for the operational implementation of the policies and principles in the Conservation and Reserve Management Plan.

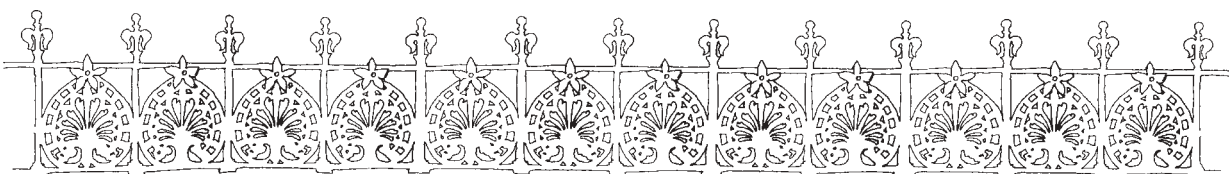
### Commission

Waitakere City Council commissioned the development of this Conservation and Reserve Management Plan in 1998 in recognition of the Cemetery’s significant cultural and natural heritage values. Prior to the commencement of the development of the Plan, a Scoping Report had been prepared by Melean Absolum Ltd in October 1997. This provided a framework for the development of the Plan.

The Plan was written in-house by Waitakere City Council staff, with the assistance of staff from the Project Management Business Unit. Background work for the Plan and some sections of work such as much of the history chapter, the cultural heritage assessment, the assessment of natural heritage values, and the assessment of landscape significance, were undertaken by Consultants on behalf of Council. In addition, a considerable body of historical information was provided by various members of the Friends of Waikumete.

Waitakere City Council has copyright on the entire Conservation and Reserve Management Plan. The overall Plan editor was Lois Easton, Service Manager: Landscape Development at Waitakere City Council. Final editing, collation and co-ordination was carried out by Renee Lambert of Waitakere City Council. Authorship of each chapter of the Plan is as follows:

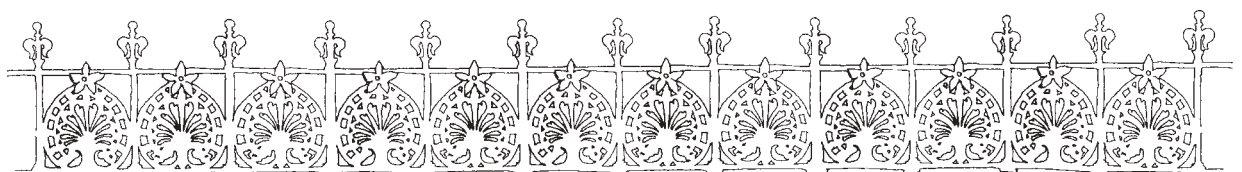
<sup>5</sup> Clough and Associates, 1999, p.1.

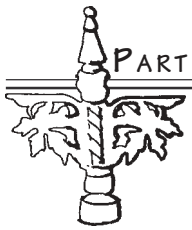




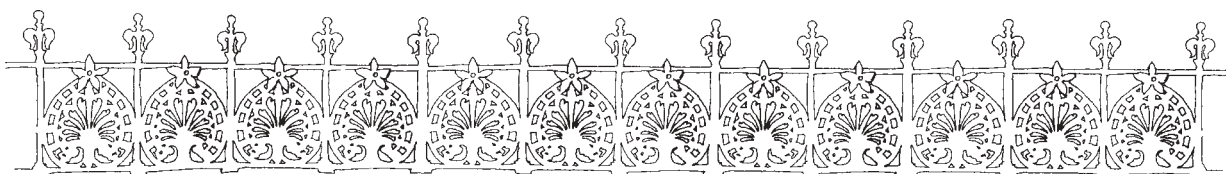
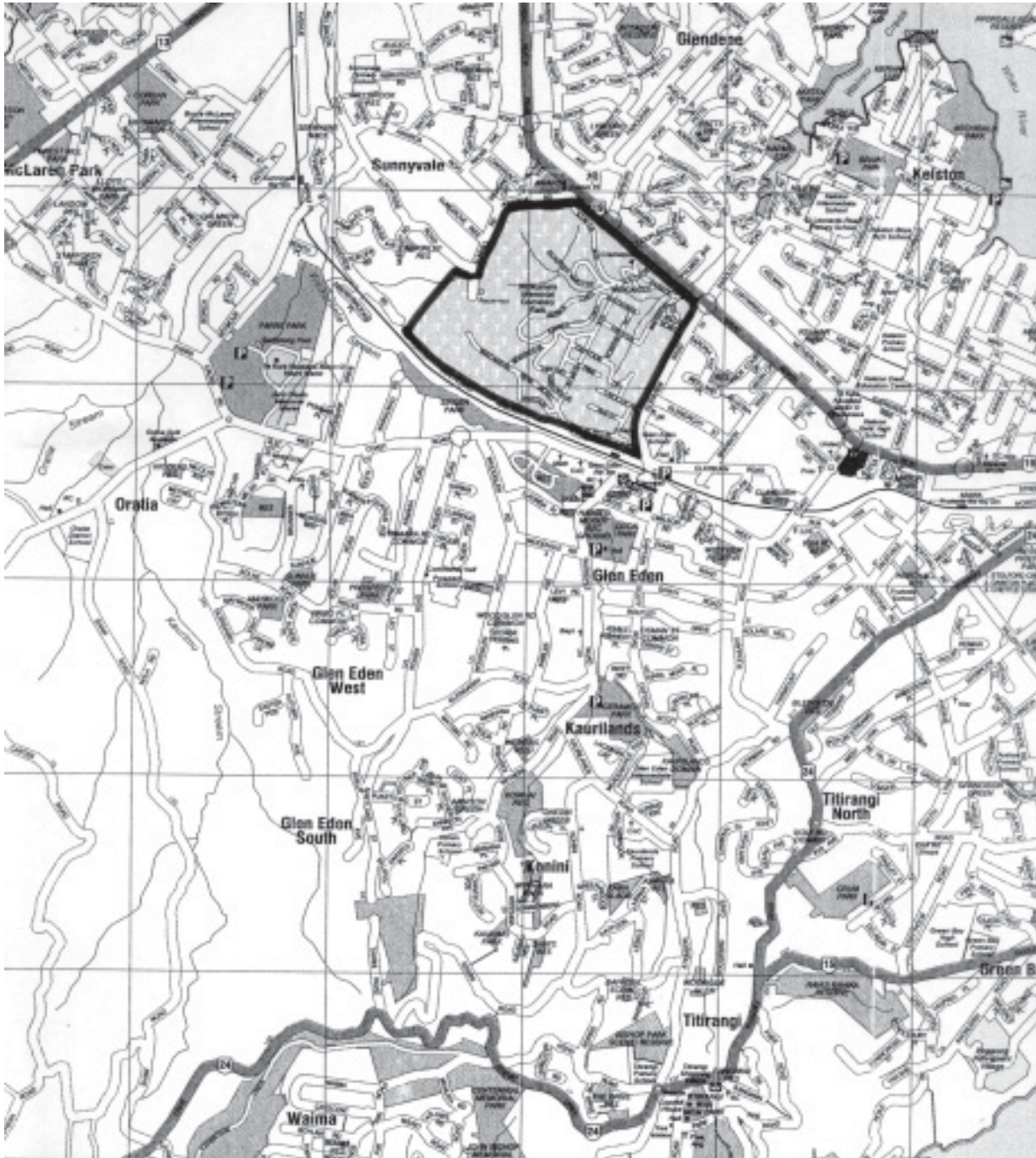
Part	Author	Title
Part One: Background	<b>Jo Ritchie</b> <b>Lois Easton</b>	Project Management, Waitakere City Council Service Manager Landscape Development, Waitakere City Council
Part Two: History	<b>Jo Ritchie</b> Contributions to parts of this section from: Renee Lambert (Landscape History) Bruce Petrie, John Salmond (Monuments and Graves sections) Rod Clough (Archaeological Features) Audrey Lange (Notable Graves) Ben Copedo (The Sexton's Houses)	Project Management, Waitakere City Council Reserve Management Planner, Waitakere City Council Salmond Architects Clough Associates Limited
Part Three: Cultural Heritage Significance	<b>Jo Ritchie</b> Contributions to this section from: Bruce Petrie, John Salmond Lois Easton (Significance of different parts of the Cemetery)	Project Management, Waitakere City Council Salmond Architects Service Manager: Landscape Development, Waitakere City Council
Part Four: Landscape Heritage Significance	<b>Renee Lambert</b>	Reserve Management Planner, Waitakere City Council
Part Five: Natural Heritage Significance	<b>Jo Ritchie</b> Contributions to this section from: Kathryn Whaley (Statement of Natural Heritage Significance)	Project Management, Waitakere City Council Landcare Research
Part Six: Development of Conservation Policy	<b>Jo Ritchie</b> Contributions to this section from: Renee Lambert (Constraints of Landscape Significance) Lois Easton (Constraints of Cultural and Natural Heritage Significance)	Project Management, Waitakere City Council Reserve Management Planner, Waitakere City Council Service Manager: Landscape Development, Waitakere City Council
Part Seven: Conservation Policies	<b>Jo Ritchie</b> Contributions to this section from: Bruce Petrie, John Salmond (Built and Archaeological Heritage Policy) Renee Lambert (Landscape Policy)	Project Management, Waitakere City Council Salmond Architects Reserve Management Planner, Waitakere City Council
Part Eight: Management Policies	<b>Jo Ritchie</b> Contributions to this section from: Renee Lambert (Landscape Policy)	Project Management, Waitakere City Council Reserve Management Planner, Waitakere City Council
Appendices	<b>Jo Ritchie</b> Contributions to this section from: Bruce Petrie, John Salmond (Symbolism on Memorials) Renee Lambert (Suitable Species for Planting) Friends of Waikumete (Wildflowers) Mike Wilcox (Eucalypts) Harley Dibble (Chronological Summary of Significant Events)	Project Management, Waitakere City Council Salmond Architects Reserve Management Planner, Waitakere City Council Friends of Waikumete Archivist, Waitakere City Council

Table One: Contributors to Waikumete Cemetery Conservation Plan





## Location of Waikumete Cemetery - West Auckland





The Plan identifies all the significant features of the Cemetery and establishes guidelines for their conservation, maintenance and management in order to effect more sustainable management of the area and preserve its character in perpetuity. It recognises the need to plan practically and within the confines of limited resources. To this end it also recognises the valuable role that volunteer and community groups play in providing additional resources to upkeep and maintain the Cemetery and its environs.

The Plan also recognises that the Cemetery operates as a Council-owned business unit and incorporates the management of that business. This includes the operation of the Crematorium and Chapels as well as the continuing use of areas of the Cemetery for burials and cremations.

The Plan sets out appropriate policies to enable those elements of significance to be retained in the Cemetery's future use and development.

## Brief

The Conservation Plan has been developed by Waitakere City Council using standard practices for the development of conservation plans adopted by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. This has included an extensive review of available literature on both the development of plans of this nature, the management of historic resources, and the management of cemeteries.

Conservation policies and management practices identified in the Plan are compatible with the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value. Accordingly, the Plan has been guided by the principles in:

- *The Conservation Plan: A Guide to the Preparation of Conservation Plans for Places of European Cultural Significance*, J.S. Kerr for National Trust of Australia, 1996.
- *Guidelines for Preparing Conservation Plans*, NZ Historic Places Trust, 1994.

## Location

Waikumete Cemetery is located in the Glen Eden area of Waitakere City and is situated along Great North Road where it intersects with Glenview Road (eastern boundary) and Awaroa Road (western boundary). Waikumete Road forms the southern boundary and Great North Road, on the northern side of the Cemetery, is the main access point in and out (refer Map 1).

A grid network of internal roads provides access to the various sections of the Cemetery. The Cemetery is laid out on sloping, undulating land between several gullies that bisect the site. The surrounding land is predominantly residential and light commercial, with some industrial businesses located at the south-western end along West Coast Road.

## Status of the Place

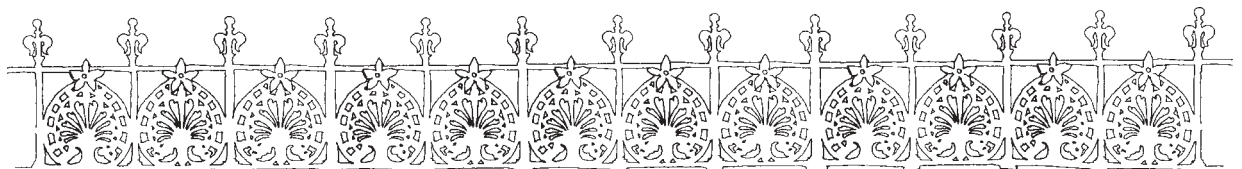
### Status under the Waitakere City Proposed District Plan

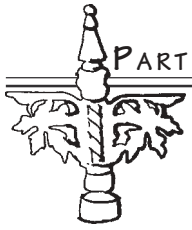
The whole area of the Cemetery is listed in the 1995 Waitakere City Proposed District Plan as a Category 1 Heritage Item. The significance of the Cemetery is attributed to its regional, cultural, historic, community, visual, pattern, and sense of place values<sup>6</sup>.

This identification of the entire Cemetery as a Category 1 Heritage Item was intended to signal the historic nature of the site, in anticipation that further refinement of the identification would be enabled through a Conservation Plan process. It has been recognised through the submissions process that it may be more appropriate for only the historic part of the Cemetery (approximately that area developed prior to 1950) to be identified as a Heritage Item and a Variation to the District Plan is proposed. Such a Variation would also identify additional specific heritage items, particularly trees, which are not currently listed in the District Plan but have been identified in the cultural heritage, landscape and arboricultural research as being of specific heritage significance. Examples of this are the gum trees along the Glenview Road boundary and the site of the old Crematorium.

The Plan also lists a number of buildings and trees associated with the Cemetery, as follows:

<sup>6</sup> WCC (Waitakere City Council) District Plan Heritage Appendix 1995, p.23.





## PART ONE: BACKGROUND

Item	Description	Current District Plan Heritage Category	Legal Description
Faith in the Oaks Chapel	Finely detailed small masonry Chapel building with plaster walls and pitched slate roof, built in 1886. Significance attributed to historic, architectural, community, visual, and sense of place values.	I  Cat. 2 HPT <sup>7</sup> Listing	Pt Allot 248 DP 11643
Mausoleums	Masonry mausoleums, significance attributed to historical values.	I	Pt Allot 248 DP 11643
Sexton's House	Triple gabled weatherboard bay villa, built 1886. Significance attributed to architectural, historical, visual, and sense of place values.	II	Pt Allot 248 Parish of Waikomiti
English Oak (Quercus robur)	3 x 60-100 year old trees sited by the Chapel of Faith in the Oaks.	Heritage Tree	
Norfolk Pine (Araucaria heterophylla)	60-100 year old tree located at South Corner Ixia St and Old Chapel Way.	Heritage Tree	
Sydney Blue Gum (Eucalyptus saligna)	Probably actually a Eucalyptus pilularis - Blackbutt. Planted around 1918. Part of a large group of gums planted along the Glenview Road boundary.	Heritage Tree	
Entire Cemetery Area	Significance attributed to its regional, cultural, historic, community, visual, pattern and sense of place values.	I	Pt Allot 248 DP 11643

Table Two: Waitakere City District Plan Listed Heritage Items in Waikumete Cemetery

In the cases of the individually listed heritage items, Resource Consents are required for any work on the buildings or trees and also work within the dripline of any of the heritage trees.

In addition to the Heritage classification of the Cemetery, the entire Cemetery is identified as Open Space Environment in the District Plan and a range of natural areas apply to the different parts of the Cemetery. There is, however, an overlying Designation on the Cemetery for Cemetery Purposes. This means that while the importance of the area as Open Space, and its heritage and natural values are recognised, the primary purpose of Waikumete is as an operational cemetery. Where work is undertaken to meet operational requirements (e.g. grave digging, road resealing) no Resource Consent is currently required as the designation overrides the Natural Area and Human Environment Rules. The District Plan does, however, require that an Outline Plan

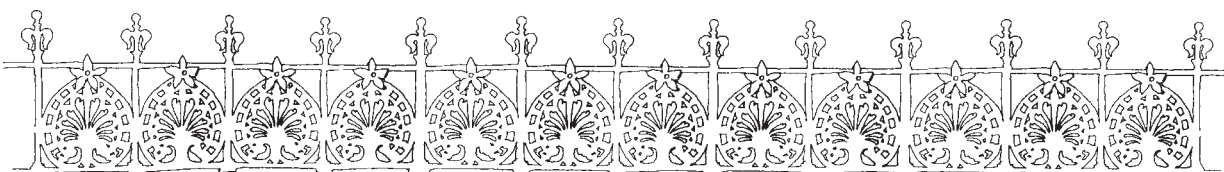
of Works be supplied to the District Plan Administration area and recommends that Natural Area Rules and Heritage Rules are adhered to in relation to sites with Designations.

### Status under the Historic Places Act 1993

The Chapel of Faith in the Oaks is also listed as a Category 2 Heritage Item under Section 22.3 (a)(ii) of the Historic Places Act 1993 (reg. no. 2605). This means that the New Zealand Historic Places Trust must be advised of all proposed development and conservation measures for the building.

Areas of the graves which were constructed prior to 1900 also fall under the status of an archaeological site in terms of the Historic Places Act 1993. Archaeological sites cannot be modified, damaged or destroyed without authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

<sup>7</sup> Historic Places Trust.





### Status Under the Reserves Act

Waikumete Cemetery is a Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve. This means that the Reserves Act 1977 applies to the area. Section 23 (2)(a) states that where "scenic, historic, archaeological, biological or natural features are present on the reserve, these features shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve." The underlying ownership of the land is the Crown, with the land being vested in Trust with the Waitakere City Council. This means that while Waitakere City Council is responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of the land, should any land be divested, or the reserve status proposed to be changed, then this is subject to the approval of the Minister of Conservation. In addition, the provisions of the Reserves Act, in relation to for example consultation over the Conservation and Reserve Management Plan, apply and these have been followed in the preparation of this Plan.

### Acknowledgements

Identification of the historic, landscape cultural and ecological significance of the area has been undertaken by heritage, landscape and ecological consultants who have also provided advice and recommendations as to how to manage these values in line with the principles of best practice.

Consultants involved with the preparation of material for this Plan:

*Cultural Heritage Assessment*

Clough Associates Ltd, Salmond Architects

*Ecological Assessment*

Landcare Research NZ Ltd, Field Studies

*Aquatic Habitat Survey*

Mike McGlynn

*Landscape History and Assessment*

Boffa Miskell Ltd, Waitakere City Council

*Rare and Uncommon Plant Survey*

Natural Resource Assessors

*Arboricultural Survey*

Tree Care Services

In addition, the Council project team has sought and obtained advice and comment throughout the development of the Plan from a wide range of individuals and stakeholders who have an interest in the Cemetery. Members of the Waikumete Cemetery Conservation Plan Advisory Group who contributed to the drafting of the Plan are listed in Appendix Eleven. Particular input in the form of provision of historical information came from Mary Gilligan, Audrey Lange, Colin Bradshaw and other members of the Friends of Waikumete.

