



St Mary's Cathedral Church, New Plymouth, is New Zealand's oldest stone church.

Historic heritage

Taranaki has a long history stretching back to early Polynesian settlement and the subsequent arrival of Europeans. Many of the buildings, structures and archaeological sites in the region reflect this history, adding to the richness and vibrancy of the Taranaki region.

Historic buildings, structures, places, wāhi tapu and other sites have historic, archaeological, architectural and cultural value. For example, many pre-European archaeological sites include middens, ovens, village or pā sites and urupā (burial grounds). Reminders of early European history include features associated with timber extraction, railway construction, land wars and dairying.

Under the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA), the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development is a matter of national importance. The culture and traditions of Māori, in relation to their ancestral lands, water, historic sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga, are also a matter of national importance that councils must recognise and provide for.

Heritage buildings and structures

Heritage buildings and structures include houses, churches, towers, memorials and commercial buildings. This also includes items that are identified as having historic heritage which may be architectural, cultural, historic, scientific or technological in nature.

Not all heritage buildings, structures or items are listed by Heritage New Zealand, which targets heritage at a national level and has only limited funds to purchase heritage buildings or structures. Therefore, identifying and protecting locally significant heritage is the domain of local councils. The three district councils in the region identify heritage buildings, structures and items within their area and protect them using controls and regulations in their district plans.

In total, 1,140 heritage buildings, structures and items have been identified in the Taranaki region. Although this is a decrease since 2009, the number protected in district plans has risen from 193 in 2009 to 212 in 2014—an increase of 19. The number of buildings, structures or items listed with Heritage New Zealand has also increased by 10, from 150 in 2009 to 160 in 2014.

District	Historic heritage buildings, structures or items		
	Number identified (1)	Listed in district plans	Listed on Heritage NZ List (2)
New Plymouth	795	102	89
Stratford	79	29	8
South Taranaki	266	81	63
Totals	1,140	212	160

The number of heritage buildings, structures or items protected in district plans has increased since 2009.

(1) By district councils (2) Includes historic places, historic areas, wāhi tapu and wāhi tapu areas

New Plymouth district

Heritage sites within the New Plymouth district include those from early European settlement, the 1860s land wars, and the dairy and energy industries. The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) has three heritage categories: A, B and C. Category A items are regulated in the *New Plymouth District Plan*.

What's the story?

The *New Plymouth District Plan* currently identifies 795 heritage items—a slight decrease since 2009. Of these, 102 are Category A items listed in the district plan. In addition, there are also 17 heritage character areas in the district.

Although the total number of heritage items has decreased since 2009, the number of Category A items afforded protection in the district plan has increased by 22. This increase is largely the result of a district plan change that added 18 public monuments and memorials to the category, mostly related to World War I and World War II.

Category A items in the New Plymouth district include early colonial houses and commercial buildings, including the White Hart Hotel and St Mary's Cathedral Church and grounds. They also include Bertrand Road suspension bridge, the Inglewood railway station and the town hall.

No Category A structures have been demolished in New Plymouth since 2009, although the Honeyfield drinking fountain on the Coastal Walkway suffered significant damage as a result of a car accident. The fountain has since been removed, repaired off site and reinstated. An investigation into earthquake strengthening of St Mary's Cathedral Church is currently underway.

Of the 17 heritage character areas in the New Plymouth district, seven are residential, five are commercial and five are baches—none are regulated in the *New Plymouth District Plan*. NPDC notes that the integrity of some has been compromised in areas such as Hine Street, where residential buildings interface with businesses.

Heritage New Zealand lists 89 buildings, structures or items in the New Plymouth district on its Heritage List—an increase of 14 since 2009. Sixteen of these have a Category 1 listing (including St Mary's Cathedral Church, the White Hart Hotel, the Gables Colonial Hospital building, the Te Hēnui Vicarage and Richmond Cottage). The majority of sites listed by Heritage New Zealand are included as Category A items in the *New Plymouth District Plan*.

Earthquake strengthening has become a significant issue for heritage buildings since the 2010 Christchurch earthquakes. As part of the current district plan review, NPDC will seek feedback from the community on options for earthquake strengthening of affected heritage buildings in the New Plymouth district.

A grand old lady comes **back to life**

She's known the destitute, the desperate and the drunk over the past 150-plus years. Now she's being reborn as a decorous, debonair and distinguished addition to the New Plymouth cityscape.



Sitting majestically on the corner of Devon Street West and Queen Street, the iconic White Hart Hotel is a good example of how a seriously decaying heritage building can be restored to its former glory.

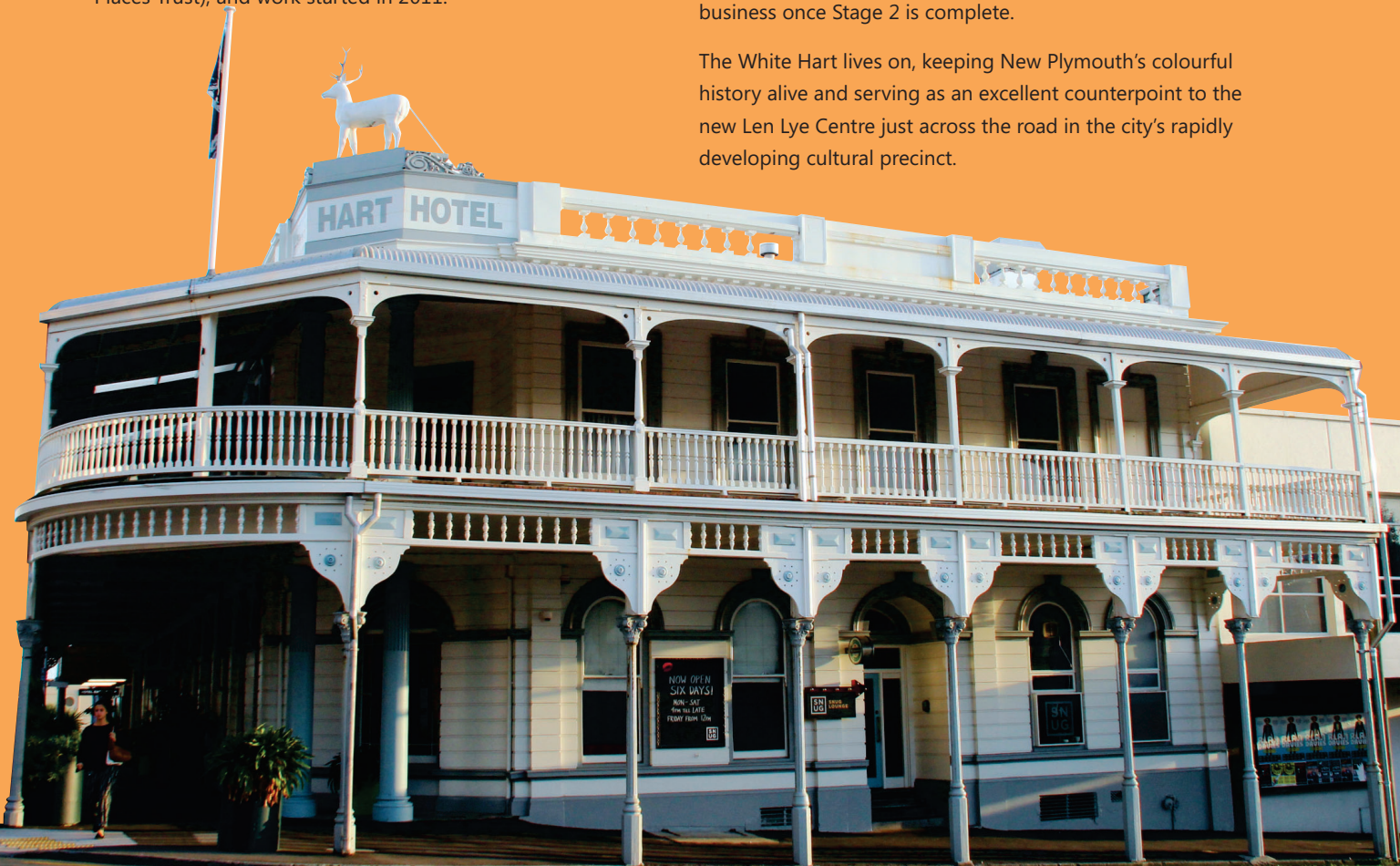
Built in 1886, the traditional Victorian building declined into serious deterioration in the second half of last century, and at one stage it looked likely that parts of it would be demolished. Although listed as a Heritage New Zealand Category 1 building, restoration costs seemed prohibitive.

But in 2005 the building's owner Renaissance Limited and Wellington firm Atelierworkshop began planning to restore the facade. Their aim was to retain as much of the building's character as possible, while replacing derelict parts with modern additions. They won financial support from the New Plymouth District Council (with a contribution of \$124,668) and Heritage New Zealand (formerly known as the Historic Places Trust), and work started in 2011.

This first stage of the White Hart's restoration is now complete and the ground floor is open for business. The anchor tenant is the Snug Lounge, which retains "the feel of its former existence as the Red Lounge; it's a bit rock 'n' roll, maintaining intimacy and with the faint air of debauchery that one might hope for in a place like the White Hart" (Architecture Now – Issue 5, September 2012). The external facade adorned by the original white stag captures the grandeur of the hotel as it was.

In 2015, the developers announced Stage 2, a six-month project that will include strengthening the building, glazing the upstairs verandas, and incorporating part of the upstairs veranda into the building to create a new floor. Five new business spaces, already leased to tenants, will be created. Plans also include expanding the King and Queen Hotel suites above the former public bar. Two ground-floor retail spaces created during Stage 1 will house a kitchen and fashion retail business once Stage 2 is complete.

The White Hart lives on, keeping New Plymouth's colourful history alive and serving as an excellent counterpoint to the new Len Lye Centre just across the road in the city's rapidly developing cultural precinct.



The newly restored White Hart Hotel.

Stratford district

Key features of historic heritage values in the Stratford district relate to early attempts at coal mining and farming, war memorials and community or commercial buildings. These sites include the Douglas brickworks downdraught kiln, the Municipal Chambers (including the Hall of Remembrance), the Kings Theatre in Stratford, and the memorial gates at Victoria and King Edward parks.

What's the story?

The Stratford district has an inventory of approximately 260 historic heritage sites (including archaeological sites). Seventy-nine historic heritage items have been identified, 29 of which are listed in the *Stratford District Plan*. These items (including bridges and other structures) are protected by a range of rules, standards and assessment criteria from all activities, whether the activity is permitted or not.

In 2014, the inventory was re-examined with the intention of identifying items that may be considered for inclusion in future district plan reviews.

Heritage New Zealand lists eight historic places in the Stratford district, including the Douglas brickworks downdraught kiln, which has a Category 1 listing. All eight are included in the district plan.



The memorial gates in the Fenton Street entrance to King Edward Park in Stratford.



The Ngāere dairy factory, founded in 1814, became well known for its 'Triumph' brand cheese.

South Taranaki district

South Taranaki has a range of heritage sites, many dating from early European settlement. They include private dwellings, banks, town halls, churches, courthouses, the Cape Egmont Lighthouse, the World War I Memorial Band Rotunda in Manaia and the old library in Kaponga.



Built in London, shipped to New Zealand, and first erected on Mana Island, the Cape Egmont Lighthouse was relocated in 1881. A target of the passive resistance of the people of Parihaka in response to land disputes, the lighthouse was constructed under armed guard. Still operational, it marks the westernmost point of the Taranaki coast.

What's the story?

At 266, the number of heritage items identified by the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) has increased slightly, up from 256 in 2009. Of these, 81 are listed in the *South Taranaki District Plan*. Heritage New Zealand lists 63 buildings, structures or items from within the South Taranaki district. Three have a Category 1 listing—the Hāwera Water Tower, St George's Anglican Church in Pātea and the Waverley Railway Station.

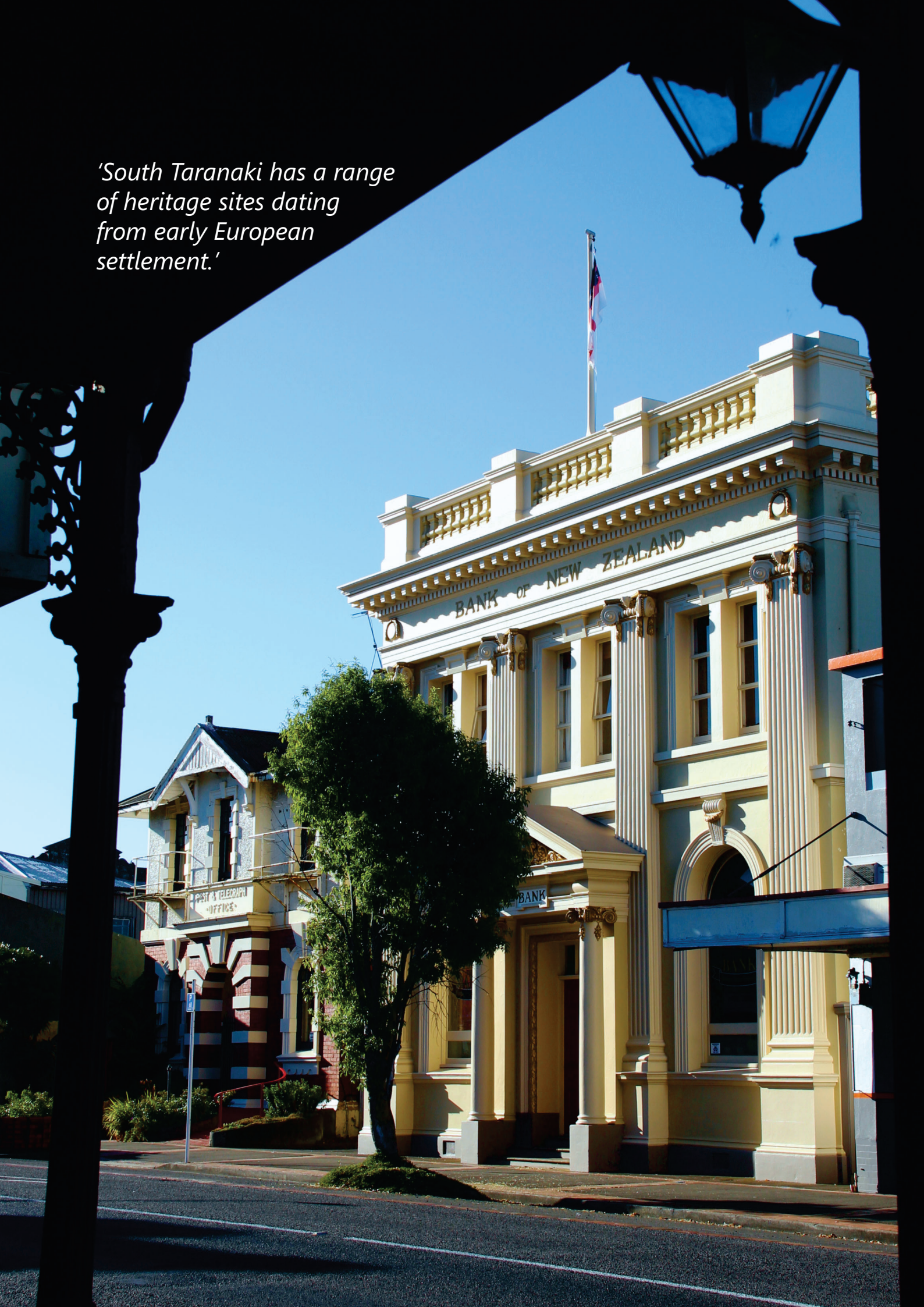
STDC has identified that awareness of earthquake-prone buildings as a result of the Christchurch earthquakes is impacting on heritage buildings in South Taranaki. For example, potential tenants are increasingly aware of health and safety obligations and are choosing not to rent older buildings unless they are satisfied that the building has been earthquake strengthened. Additionally, many banks and insurance companies are reluctant to lend money or to insure buildings unless they are proven earthquake safe. Earthquake strengthening can incur great costs for a landlord, and is not always a viable option.



The Waverley Railway Station is a good example of a modified Vogel Class Four Railway Station.

In Hāwera, where many buildings have heritage value, there is increased interest in redeveloping the town centre which could result in loss to some heritage values (see case study on *page 211*). In other town centres in the district where populations are declining, there is less interest in redevelopment and many heritage buildings are likely to sit unoccupied without being maintained until they become dangerous.

*'South Taranaki has a range
of heritage sites dating
from early European
settlement.'*



Archaeological sites

Archaeological sites are historic sites that pre-date 1900. They include sites from early Māori settlement, such as middens, pits, ovens, horticultural sites, defensive pa sites and burial grounds as well as sites from early European settlement such as flour milling, historic settlements and shipwrecks. The New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme was established in 1957 and is an important database of information for planning and legal decision-making.

What's the story?

The New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme database includes 1,899 archaeological sites in Taranaki—an increase of 125 since 2009. However, this can never claim to be a complete list of archaeological sites within the region as sites continue to be discovered during road works or other excavations and added to the database. The most common archaeological sites in Taranaki are pā sites (746 sites), pits or terraces (518 sites) and middens or ovens (178 sites).

- ▷ Of the 1,899 total, 815 archaeological sites are in the New Plymouth district, 717 of which are listed in the *New Plymouth District Plan*.
- ▷ Of the 108 sites in the Stratford district, all are protected in the *Stratford District Plan*. Most archaeological sites in the Stratford district are in rural areas in the eastern part of the district on land used for grazing or forestry or within areas of regenerating native bush. As previously mentioned, SDC has a further inventory of historic heritage, which includes archaeological sites. Investigation of the items in this inventory may mean more archaeological sites are considered in future district plan reviews.
- ▷ The greatest number of archaeological sites identified is in South Taranaki. These 976 sites are shown individually on STDC district planning maps but no specific information about the sites is included in the *South Taranaki District Plan*.

The majority of archaeological sites in Taranaki are on private land and the condition of sites varies. A number of sites (particularly pā sites) have robust features. However, many others have suffered some degree of damage from activities such as bulldozing of farm tracks or quarrying for gravel. Some sites have been levelled to make way for more productive grazing areas, or infilled or smoothed to varying degrees by repeated cultivation. Coastal erosion poses a significant threat to archaeological sites in the New Plymouth and South Taranaki districts.

All three district councils are currently renewing their archaeological site records as part of a review or change to their district plans.



The Turuturu Mōkai reserve is situated on Turuturu Road, Hāwera. Originally the site of three pā grouped together, the area had a population of about 400 people.

Archaeological Site	New Plymouth district	Stratford district	South Taranaki district	Total
Pā	406	12	328	746
Pit/terrace	121	7	390	518
Midden/oven	66	50	62	178
Military (non-Māori)	57	0	31	88
Māori horticulture	13	0	61	74
Artefact find	10	14	19	43
Unclassified	38	0	0	38
Historic–domestic	29	1	6	36
Burial/cemetery	12	1	11	24
Working area	1	17	3	21
Flour milling	7	0	11	18
Transport/communication	11	1	3	15
Health care	4	0	8	12
Shipwreck	9	0	3	12
Art	3	0	7	10
Agricultural/pastoral	5	0	2	7
Industrial	4	2	0	6
Religious	4	0	2	6
Source site	4	1	1	6
Traditional site	1	0	5	6
Flax milling	0	0	5	5
Pā–island/swamp	0	0	5	5
Botanical evidence	1	2	1	4
Marae	1	0	3	4
Commercial	0	0	3	3
Administrative	1	0	1	2
Cave/rock shelter	1	0	1	2
Fishing	0	0	2	2
Pā–gunfighter	1	0	1	2
Educational	1	0	0	1
Historic–land parcel	1	0	0	1
Mining–gold	1	0	0	1
Mission station	0	0	1	1
Timber milling	1	0	0	1
Whaling station	1	0	0	1
Total	815	108	976	1,899

The types of archaeological site in each district. The most common archaeological sites in Taranaki are pā sites, and pits or terraces.