Appendix D: Extract from Druskovich (2009) – Section 4

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AND MANAGEMENT UNIT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section gives recommendations for either individual archaeological site and/or management unit as appropriate. In general the current policies of the Revegetation Programme need no comment as although archaeological sites are common along the length of Oakley Creek, there are many gaps between the archaeological sites where it is unlikely that unidentified archaeological sites would be found. However the lack of comment for some management units should not be taken to read that there should be no archaeological precautions, for all management units general recommendations are included at the end of this section.

Jones (2007) should be used as a guideline for suitability of retaining vegetation already present on archaeological sites and for any plantings that may occur on, adjacent to or in the vicinity of any archaeological sites in the future.

Recommendations are presented from the northern end of the walkway first.

Figure 3 Recorded archaeological sites at the northern end of the Oakley Creek Revegetation Programme Area.

4.1 R11/521 Midden

Midden from site R11/521 is readily visible spilling onto the path and on some of the slopes within this area, shell is found subsurface on the relatively flat banks above the slopes and is spread over a considerable area in the southern half of this management unit up to the Mason Clinic fenceline (refer Figure 3 – note limits shown on figure are approximate). It is also likely to be found within the clinic grounds as well, however this is not shown on the figure as the limits are unknown.

Some recent plantings have occurred over this midden, including Puriri, which have large root systems and are likely to cause long term damage to this site. The following recommendations do not apply to the mature trees already present.

a) Recent plantings over this site should be audited for suitability.
b) Unsuitable trees or plants with large root structure should be removed, this should not be done roots and all but involve removal at ground level. Species of plants that may regrow from the roots should be poisoned.
c) Active maintenance of the site should occur, removing any self sown seedlings (unless they are of a suitable species).
d) Should any planting, involving the digging of holes for their planting occur in the future it will be necessary to apply to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for Authority. This does not include the spreading of grass seed (or the like) over the surface of the site that is allowed to self sow.

4.2 R11/523 Midden and Management Unit 1b

This sparse midden is likely to be larger than shown on Figure 3. All indications so far suggest that the site is concentrated where it is shown, however the earlier archaeological records suggest it was spread over a somewhat wider area than it is currently visible over, though all at the top of the bank. Therefore subsurface archaeological evidence is likely to be spread over a wider area than illustrated.

e) No plantings should occur on the top of the bank through to 1.5m below it. Active maintenance of this area should occur, removing any self sown seedlings (unless they are of a suitable species).
f) Should the privets that surround this site be removed, making the assumption that vehicles are likely involved, it should only be done when the ground is hard to avoid pugging and or other damage to subsurface evidence.
g) Any trees to be removed should be cut off at ground level and their stumps and roots poisoned and allowed to rot in-situ.

h) Any removal plan should be reviewed by an archaeologist, it may be necessary to apply for an Authority to modify or damage an archaeological site with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

4.3 R11/2473 Dry Stone retaining wall

Currently this retaining wall is in good shape, however some trees are growing close to it. The area above it appears to still be used as an occasional vehicle track and is grassed.

Plate 9. R11/2473 illustrating close proximity of a tree.

i) Trees close to this wall should be assessed as to whether their roots are likely to compromise the site, and removed if necessary.

j) That the track above the wall is maintained as an occasional access route so that the wall is kept in its historical context.

k) That the area above the wall is kept in grass, and should any items be planted below the wall they are planted so as not to obscure the wall from the path and R11/2373. Any trees planted in this vicinity should be done so at sufficient distance so their root systems do not interfere with the wall stability.

Figure 4. Archaeological site locations, Oakley Creek, Waterview.

4.4 R11/2373 Dry Stone retaining wall, track and bridges.

This site is compromised by both recent and historic plantings, and/or self sown plants. Some of these plants should be removed to ensure that they don't further compromise structure stability.

l) That vegetation (other than grass) is removed from above or adjacent to the stone structures. This includes the toetoe on the western bank. Their removal could be mitigated by planting the creek bank (within 500mm where adjacent to the site) where stone and other works aren't present in the immediate vicinity.

m) That the willows and recently planted seedlings are removed from the track below the retaining wall so that the site historical context is retained. The area surrounding the site (on the eastern side of Oakley Creek) should be maintained as open space and in mown grass to assist in illustrating its past farming context. No more plantings should occur in this vicinity (creek banks excepted).

Plate 10. Toetoe above the stone bridge foundations, willows (background) over approach track to bridge, eastern side, these should be removed.

n) That the poplar on the western side of the creek is retained, it is of some age and is clearly part of the historical plantings related to the site, however new growth should be routinely trimmed so that it does not further damage the bridge foundations that it is already partially growing over.

Plate 11. New growth from the poplar amongst stone bridge foundations, R11/2373.

4.5 R11/524 Midden, pits?

This site (refer Figure 4 – the area marked is an indication only, the limits shown should be viewed as a minimum extent of the site) is outside the management area, however related community planting has occurred on it and maybe ongoing. All community plantings should cease in this area. An Authority to modify an archaeological site should be sought if planting is to continue. Some of the plantings, if they are of trees with large root systems should be reviewed. I note that as it lies outside the area addressed by Habgood (2005) it maybe necessary to establish who has ownership of the land here and what body should take responsibility for its implementation.

4.6 R11/2205 Mill?/Pumping Station? R11/2383 Hole in bank

This site is complex and contains a number of elements (refer site record forms). Some parts of the site have been revegetated, others have been left to grow wild. The main recommendation for this site is that a site management plan is drawn up specifically to address the many issues that exist with it. Whilst I am personally in favour of opening up the site to public knowledge including signage, it maybe that parts of the site, to avoid damage and/or fossicking, are kept under a vegetative cover. These are issues for Auckland City officers, possibly in consultation with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, to resolve and give direction towards. This would be a separate project in itself and would require archival research to attempt to identify the age and purpose of the site. Therefore the following recommendations should be viewed as provisional, until such time as a site management plan is implemented.

o) That a site management plan be implemented for these sites (R11/2205, R11/2383).
p) Recent plantings over this site should be audited for suitability.
q) Unsuitable trees or plants with large root structure should be removed, this should not be done roots and all but involve removal at ground

level. Species of plants that may regrow from the roots should be poisoned.

r) Active maintenance of the site should occur, removing any self sown seedlings (unless they are of a suitable species).

s) Should any planting, involving the digging of holes for their planting occur in the future it will be necessary to apply to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for Authority. This does not include the spreading of grass seed (or the like) over the surface of the site and being allowed to self sow.

t) Those areas currently in grass should be maintained and mown to dissuade self seeding occurring (It appears that this has occurred until recently)

u) There is modern drainage through parts of the site. Metrowater (presuming that they are the owner of it) should be informed of the site significance so that no further damage to the site occurs due to the maintenance or expansion of their network.

4.7 R11/2500 Drystone Wall

Currently this wall is in very good condition with some recent plantings in its general vicinity.

v) Recent plantings near this site should be audited for suitability.

w) Unsuitable trees or plants with large root structure should be removed.

x) Consideration should be given to as whether Auckland City wish for this site to stay visible from the path, if yes then new plantings in the vicinity of the wall should be of low species only.

4.8 R11/2206 Drystone wall

The location (refer Figures 4 and 5) of this is the most approximate of the sites illustrated on the locational figures, as its location is not readily visible on

aerial photographs. Currently this wall is in very good condition with some recent plantings in its general vicinity.

y) Recent plantings near this site should be audited for suitability.

z) Unsuitable trees or plants with large root structure should be removed.

aa) Consideration should be given to as whether Auckland City wish for this site to stay visible from the path, if yes then new plantings in the vicinity of the wall should be of low species only.

Figure 5. Archaeological site locations, in the vicinity of the waterfall and walkway access between Unitec and Great South Road.

4.9 R11/2108 Drystone wall

This drystone wall is adjacent to, and has the walkway pass through it, and is generally in good condition. There are a number of trees growing adjacent to

and on/over it, these trees are of a vast variation in age and size and likely to have varying effects upon the structural integrity of the wall.

Plate 12. Large historic planting amongst the stones of R11/2108 near the southern end. This tree should not be removed as it is part of the history of the site, however other smaller trees that may also grow to such proportions should be removed if they threaten the integrity of the wall.

bb) Unsuitable trees or plants with large root structure should be removed from the near vicinity of the wall.

cc) Active maintenance of the site should occur, removing any self sown seedlings (unless they are of a suitable species).

dd) As it is an area (management unit 5) where active revegetation is taking place, all community groups working in this area should be made aware of the walls historical significance and any plantings near the wall should only be of species with small root systems.

4.10 R11/2209 Stone wall, Farm(?) Crossing and stone wall.

This is an area based around the top of the waterfall and the creek and environs immediately below it. These features have been lumped together as one site however they may be of disparate ages rather than contemporaneous.

The stone wall acts as a retaining wall, back from the eastern bank of Oakley Creek, it is of drystone construction and has recent and semi-distant past plantings in its general vicinity. Many of these appear to be of large specie trees, Plane and Puriri, and may not be suitable, for the continued structural integrity of the wall to be situated here.

ee) Trees growing near the wall should be audited for suitability. Trees that are, or are likely to damage the structural integrity of the wall should be removed and their root systems allowed to rot in place. Species of plants that may regrow from the roots should be poisoned.

ff) Active maintenance of the site should occur, removing any self sown seedlings (unless they are of a suitable species). Replacement trees could be planted within the vicinity as long as they are unlikely to cause future structural damage to the wall.

Plate 13. Young saplings growing in close proximity to the drystone retaining wall.

On both sides of the creek the remains of a structure, presumably a rudimentary crossing are present (another possibility is that it was a dam – refer view in Plate 14). Those remains on the western side are in a better state of preservation than those on the east. This structure is unlikely to pre-date 1900, and therefore would not qualify as an archaeological site under the Historic Places Act legislation. It is not so clear whether it could be defined as an archaeological site under the Resource Management Act, which legislates to protect archaeological sites but does not define them. Nevertheless I believe it should be retained as it is a rare historic artefact in the urban setting that illustrates the make do, no 8 wire mentality that New Zealand farmers have been credited with.

Plate 14. Remains of the crossing (dam?), showing relatively intact western side, the eastern side is discernibly collapsed on the right.

gg) Creekside plantings should be kept away from the crossing feature.

The other evidence of R11/2209 are the cuts in the bedrock above and below the falls. These include steps above and below the falls, posthole cuts across the top of the falls and a channel cut into the western side of the top of the falls to divert water around the side of the dam.

Plate 15. Steps on western bank below the waterfall.

Plate 16. Western bank of waterfall with cut channel in bedrock visible with fern growing within it.

hh) Earth and vegetation should be removed from the cut channel and the channel maintained to keep it clear of debris.

ii) Vegetation should be trimmed or kept clear of the step features so that they remain visible (this does not include the informal steps cut into the earth, as opposed to the bedrock created below the fall by people using the “mudslide”).

Plate 17. Top of waterfall with cut channel in bedrock visible with fern growing within it (blue arrow), cuts for posts across top of falls (red arrows) and steps cut into bedrock (orange arrow).

4.11 R11/2210 Pit and terraces (?)

The pit is well defined, however the terraces are more difficult to define as vegetation, including fallen trees obscure the ground surface in this vicinity. Whereas the terrace that the pit is located upon is almost definitely real, it cannot be certain that the other is. It may be a result of slumping, part of an old track (as it appears to slope towards the old tracks south of the waterfall or possibly caused by past tree falls). Planting has occurred in this vicinity, though none are close to the pit. The area marked on Figure 5 should be looked upon as indicative only, it maybe slightly further west than shown.

jj) No plantings of vegetation should occur on, in or around the pit and selective maintenance of self sown species should be maintained so that unsuitable species do not grown within or adjacent to the pit.

kk) If in the future the area is cleared of vegetation an archaeologist should be given the opportunity to better investigate and define the site and questionable terraces.

4.12 Management Unit 7

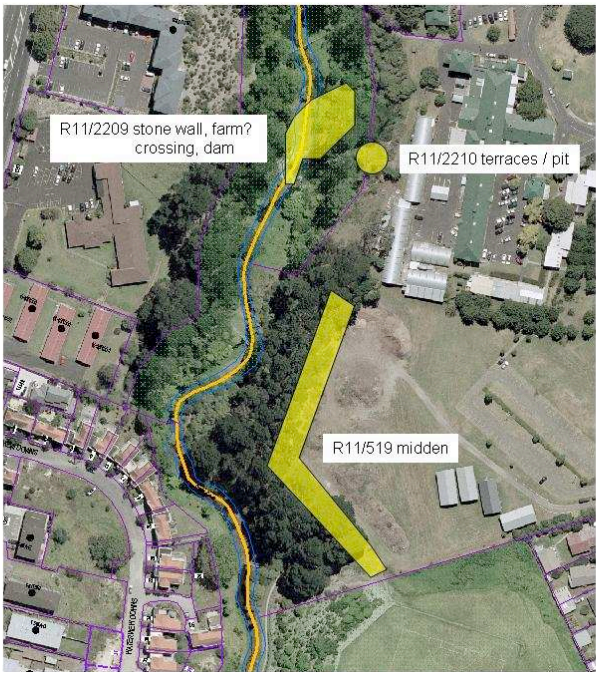

Figure 6. Archaeological site locations adjacent to Management Unit 7.

The long midden site R11/519 is located beneath and adjacent to the pines on the Unitec grounds to the east of MU 7 (Figure 6.) Probing and visual survey indicates that this midden is confined to the top of the bank and the first 3m below it (occasional slopewash individual shells excepted). No archaeological evidence was found within the Management Unit. It is understood however that outside the boundaries of the MU, volunteers are planting higher on the banks and should they continue planting towards the top of the bank they may encounter archaeological evidence.

ll) That the volunteer group(s) planting in this area be informed of the middens at the top of the bank and that they should not carry out planting within 3m of the top of the bank without New Zealand Historic Places Trust approval.

Further along the walkway, beneath the Albie Turner Fields (refer figure 7), R11/2109 has been recorded. This site may have been a continuation of R11/519, however it has been destroyed by past quarrying, landfill and other earthworks activities. It is extremely unlikely that any intact deposits relating to this site have survived. It should not be viewed as an archaeological constraint.

mm) Unless a distinct deposit of midden including shell and ash, as opposed to a few displaced shells, is found during revegetation or other works it can be ignored as it is likely to have been displaced by past works. If a distinct deposit is found in Management Unit 7 an archaeologist should be called on site to assess whether it is likely to be in-situ or not.

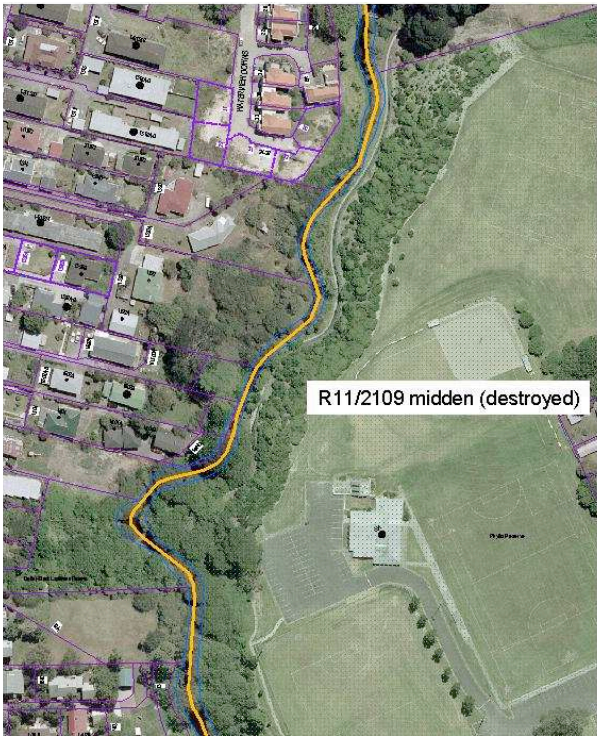

Figure 7. Locations of destroyed site R11/2109 adjacent to Management Unit 7.

4.13 Management Units 8 and 9

No archaeological sites have been recorded within these management units, however evidence of both Maori occupation (R11/2109 and R11/2248) and historic farming practices (R11/2208) have been recorded nearby (Figures 7 and 8). No archaeological evidence has been found on or immediately adjacent to the walkways and grassed areas, or Oakley Creek itself. All of the vegetated banks in these management units are steep, and in places impossible to adequately survey. It would appear unlikely, but possible that archaeological evidence maybe found on these slopes, the most likely being midden deposits thrown down the slopes. It is therefore recommended that;

nn) If in the future the banks are cleared of vegetation an archaeologist should be given the opportunity to resurvey these areas.

Figure 8. Archaeological sites recorded in the vicinity of Management Units 8 and 9.

4.14 General Recommendations

The following recommendation are made for all management units and for any volunteer plantings that may occur outside the management units, and recognises that it is possible that other undiscovered archaeological sites may exist within any of the management units. These recommendations should be passed onto all stakeholders who are involved in the revegetation of Oakley Creek and maintenance of the infrastructure that runs along and across it.

oo) That if any areas of shell, drystone walling, or other evidence that may be archaeological evidence is discovered during planting, vegetation removal or other works, all works in that vicinity should cease and an archaeologist called in to assess and give further advice.

pp) That the Te Ngahere report (Habgood 2005) is revised to reflect the findings and recommendations of this report and reissued. It is important that the unique heritage landscape that surrounds the Oakley Creek walkway is protected within the revegetation programme. By being incorporated into one document the likelihood of accidental damage to archaeological sites would be significantly lessened than if the environmental and archaeological reports are kept as separate stand alone documents.

qq) Copies of the revised report should be distributed to the stakeholder groups identified within the environmental report (ibid 2005: section 3) so that they are aware of both the archaeological and environmental issues.