

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee about the programmes that have been initiated over the past three years to record archaeological sites in the city. A specific programme to do this was established within the Heritage Team of the then Environmental Policy and Planning Unit in 1999.

#### DISCUSSION

The first archaeological report was a thematic study to record the sites of all the hotels in the City built between 1851 and 1900. This programme was undertaken in partnership with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga (NZHPT) who suggested the topic. Historian Gareth Wright was commissioned to undertake the report which was peer reviewed by NZHPT staff, the CCC Heritage Team Staff and the then Canterbury Museum archaeologist Chris Jacomb.

The time-frame was selected to correspond with the Historic Places Act matters for archaeological sites as outlined in the Act which deems sites which show evidence of pre-1900 human contact to be of archaeological significance. Such sites cannot be disturbed/redeveloped without the approval of the Trust under the terms of the Act.

The reason for the choice of this topic was that during the first fifty years of formal European settlement in Christchurch a considerable number of hotels/pubs were built – undoubtedly the most popular building type in the colonial development of the city (other than domestic dwellings), of which it was said there was a “pub” on every street corner in the city. The survey recorded all the sites, the owners, hotel names and dates of construction or license holding and identified all the sites on a map.

Over the past two years two studies have been undertaken in tandem. These have been to assist the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) with the update of their register in this area which identifies archaeological and wahi tapu sites and to undertake a geographic study whereby the archaeology of a particular area was to be studied. The area chosen was the Heathcote Valley.

The NZAA maintains a national database of recorded sites, including the sites in the Christchurch region. However this database does not record sites in any particular systematic way by geography, theme or other structure. The present update has been undertaken by archaeologists Katherine Watson and Mary O’Keeffe in consultation with the CCC Heritage Team Staff and the NZHPT archaeologist Chris Jacomb. Council has also assisted by making available to the NZAA its study of sites initially undertaken in the early 1990s as part of the City Plan process by CCC Planner Diana Plesovs with assistance from Canterbury Museum archaeology staff.

The archaeological survey of the Heathcote Valley was undertaken as this area was a rich resource for early Maori and in the early formal European settlement by the Canterbury Association settlers. The study has been developed in three stages:

- (i) A literature study of the history of the Heathcote Valley, noting the major events and people and the geographic locations of these identifying themes;
- (ii) From these themes, people and events, identifying those which are likely to have archaeological locatable remains;
- (iii) Undertaking fieldwork in the valley to explore these locations and identify which places have extant remains or potential archaeological remains.

Such a report is not a history of the valley or a comprehensive archaeological survey. However, this type of methodology allows the archaeological features noted to be placed in an historical context.

Both projects are still in progress – the Heathcote Valley Study is at the final draft stage.

If any Committee member would like a full copy of the Hotel report I am happy to provide this. The Heathcote Valley report will be available in both hard copy and CD Rom when completed.

#### Chairman’s

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.