



**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 351
*Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave and Setting
– 8A&B BALMORAL LANE, REDCLIFFS***



PHOTOGRAPH : CCC HERITAGE FILES, PRE 2011(LEFT); JENNY MAY, 9.4.2015 (RIGHT)

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Historical and social values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular person, group, organisation, institution, event, phase or activity; the continuity and/or change of a phase or activity; social, historical, traditional, economic, political or other patterns.

Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave has high historical and social significance because of its intermittent use by Māori as a shelter, place of food preparation, and manufactory from c700 years ago until historic times and for the cave being the scene of an early archaeological excavation in 1872.

Māori initially used the cave primarily for the preparation, cooking and eating of food, including moa, seals, rats and shellfish. Areas within the cave appear to have been used for manufacturing artefacts of stone, bone and shell. Occupation of the cave is associated with occupation of Redcliffs flat, now occupied by Redcliffs School and housing, and of Monck's Cave at the foot of Monck's Spur.

Early European settlers also occupied the cave and it was used as shelter by lime burners, fishermen and road parties. The cave was the site of one of the earliest scientific archaeological excavations in New Zealand, undertaken by Julius Von Haast in 1872. The history of excavations in the cave itself and on the nearby flat extends into the second half of the 20th century. The cave has a nationally important place in the ongoing story of the piecing together of the history of Māori occupation and settlement of the country. This and subsequent excavations by a number of noted archaeologists have provided important insights into the Māori settlement of New Zealand.

Te Ana o Hineraki is part of a group of sites that have provided the most important and substantial body of evidence about the 'archaic' or 'moa-hunter' period of Māori culture in the area. Significant names in the history of archaeology in Canterbury are associated with the

cave – Haast, Skinner, Meeson, Duff, Trotter and Jacomb. In the case of Haast, his work in the cave links to his work at Rakaia mouth and Weka Pass and in the case of Duff to his work at Wairau Bar in Marlborough. When the cave was originally excavated, fragments of moa eggshell and cooked moa bones were found on the floor.

The cave has been fenced off by containers since the Canterbury earthquakes as a safety measure due to the potential for rock falls from the cliff face above it.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural and spiritual values that demonstrate or are associated with the distinctive characteristics of a way of life, philosophy, tradition, religion, or other belief, including: the symbolic or commemorative value of the place; significance to Tangata Whenua; and/or associations with an identifiable group and esteemed by this group for its cultural values.

Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave has high cultural and spiritual significance for its importance to Tangata Whenua, for the manner in which it illustrates past ways of the life of Māori, for the period it was inhabited, and what this can demonstrate about early Maori society in the region. The site comes under the takiwā of Rāpaki Rūnanga. During early excavations, taonga were removed from the site.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural and aesthetic values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular style, period or designer, design values, form, scale, colour, texture and material of the place.

Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave has some aesthetic value for its form and appearance; however the extent of the cave has been much reduced from its original three chambers - one of which was over 30 metres long - as a result of road works.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Technological and craftsmanship values that demonstrate or are associated with: the nature and use of materials, finishes and/or technological or constructional methods which were innovative, or of notable quality for the period.

As a natural feature, Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave does not have significance under this criterion.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Contextual values that demonstrate or are associated with: a relationship to the environment (constructed and natural), a landscape, setting, group, precinct or streetscape; a degree of consistency in terms of type, scale, form, materials, texture, colour, style and/or detail; recognised landmarks and landscape which are recognised and contribute to the unique identity of the environment.

Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave is of high contextual significance in relation to the adjacent Redcliffs flat and nearby Monck's Cave and to other early sites of Maori habitation across Christchurch and Canterbury. The cave also has contextual significance as one of several caves and other rock formations that constitute major features of the Port Hills coast. The cave now abuts the footpath of Main Road. The setting includes the area of road reserve in front of the cave.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Archaeological or scientific values that demonstrate or are associated with: the potential to provide information through physical or scientific evidence an understanding about social historical, cultural, spiritual, technological or other values of past events, activities, structures or people.

Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave is of high scientific (geological) interest as a 'bubble' cave formed in lava and later enlarged by wave action. Te Ana o Hineraki has high archaeological significance as a relatively rare Māori archaeological site in the Christchurch area. Although already excavated, the cave still has potential to hold evidence of human occupation including that which pre dates 1900.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave and its setting are of overall high significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. The cave has high historical and social significance because of its intermittent use by Māori as a shelter, place of food preparation, and manufactory from c. 700 years ago until historic times and for the cave being the scene of early and pivotal archaeological excavations from 1872. Te Ana o Hineraki has high cultural and spiritual significance for its significance to Tangata Whenua, the manner in which it illustrates past ways of life of Māori, for the period it was inhabited and what this can demonstrate about early Maori society in the region. The cave has high contextual significance in relation to the adjacent Redcliffs flat and nearby Monck's Cave and to other early sites of Maori habitation across Christchurch and Canterbury. The cave also has contextual significance as one of several caves and other rock formations that constitute major features of the Port Hills coast. Te Ana o Hineraki has high archaeological and scientific significance as natural cave, and a relatively rare Māori archaeological site in the Christchurch area.

REFERENCES:

Christchurch City Council, *Heritage File, Moa Bone Cave, 8a & 8b Balmoral Lane*
Ohs, Amanda, *Heritage Assessment Listed Heritage Place, Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Cave/Moa Bone Point Cave, 8a and 8b Balmoral Lane*, 2010
<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/TiKoukaWhenua/Hineraki/>

REPORT DATED: 22/08/2014

PLEASE NOTE THIS ASSESSMENT IS BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF WRITING. DUE TO THE ONGOING NATURE OF HERITAGE RESEARCH, FUTURE REASSESSMENT OF THIS HERITAGE ITEM MAY BE NECESSARY TO REFLECT ANY CHANGES IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ITS HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE.

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