

PROJECT: RANGIHOUA/PILOT HILL COASTAL WALKWAY EXTENSION
& RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN, WAIROA



CLIENT: PETER FREEMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATUS: RMP adopted by Council. Working drawings under preparation.

SITE PHOTO:



PROJECT PROCESS:

The decision, in 2008, to create a 5km heritage walkway from the Wairoa town centre along the length of the Wairoa River banks to its mouth led to the engagement of EELA over this period. Stage 1 involved the integration of the walkway into the riparian and coastal environment by providing advice to the Council regarding plantings that could be established and the appropriateness of a sculpture/art walk proposed by members of the public for its margins. Following construction of the walkway, a Stage 2 project involved the drafting of reserve management plans for the reserves through which the walkway passes.

EELA was then recruited for Stage 3 – involving an extension of the walkway into the historic pa site at the mouth of the river: Rangaihoua pa also known as Pilot Hill. When it came to the potential to enhance the amenity provisions on Rangaihoua (providing a shelter, historic interpretation, seating), EELA sought the involvement of a representative of the local hapu and an archaeologist. Following thorough site investigations, a heritage landscape management plan was produced which included development concepts for the site. Ideas in these concepts drew on cultural stories related by hapu representatives and provide openings for the carving of six pou for the site. The challenge to keep motorised bikes out of the proposed new walkway within the pa site is an ongoing point of discussion in the design process.

The Reserves hearing has been held and the management plan and development concepts adopted by Council. However this is a seriously eroding site so caution is being taken as regards the speed with which decisions are made regarding its future.

PROJECT GRAPHICS:

AREA D: THE ENTRANCE.
The curved walls that mark the entrance are built of stone from near Whakapunake. Two pou flank the sides and represent contemporary sculptural interpretations of 2 of the 6 pilot hill flagstaff encoded messages. Timber, copper and rope will form materials for the pou (to be designed by local Maori), which form a link with maritime themes associated with the site.

AREA A: GARDEN OF LOST BOTANY
To celebrate the former garden that was known to have been present on the top flat terrace in the early Rangihoua pa site, it is proposed to plant the area surrounding this clearing with native plants that are now rare in this area and would have once been abundant. At each end of this northern of the two clearings, there is a raised platform area with seating for people to enjoy the stunning views. The clearings will be surrounded by round smooth limestone boulders.

LEGEND

- Council walkway
- Location of current pathway
- Proposed pathway
- Picnic clearing
- Entrance with pou
- Lookout with seating
- Area of Cabbage tree planting
- Area of Kahikatea planting
- Areas to be maintained
- Slumped edge
- Cadastral boundary
- Viewpoints
- WW & PE box in mudflats

SITE PLAN OF RANGI-HOUA
DONOT SCALE.

AREA A: GARDEN OF LOST BOTANY

AREA A: LOOKOUT & SHELTER

AREA A: LOOKOUT & SHELTER
This area lies to the south of Rangihoua and enjoys outstanding views over the mouth of the Wairoa River and the ocean. A small curved shelter nestles next to a young pohutukawa and provides seating and shade for walkers. Interpretive panels regarding the history of the site flank the walls at the back. Another of the 6 pou arises through the centre of the shelter.

RANGI-HOUA/PILOT HILL
LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT
prepared for the WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL
by EASTERN EARTH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS march 2010

eastern.earth & la

Landscape Master Plan & Sketches