

TE HOUHOU

Te Houhou was a major papakāinga of Waitaha that stretched east along the Pāpāmoa coastal dune plains near Wairakei. It was registered as a wāhi tapu in 2004.

Te Houhou was situated within the Horoipia swamp adjacent to Wairākei. The track that ran from the Pāpāmoa Hills to Wairākei intersected with the track from Tauranga to Te Houhou. The main roadways today were built to follow these old tracks.

Horoipia swamp itself was a natural defensive area, making it difficult for enemies to reach a defensive line of pā (Te Kio, Kiore and Paraoa) located on the high ground rising above the swamp.

Taramainuku, a grandson of Te Arawa's captain, Tamatekapua, stayed in the area before making his way to Moehau in Hauraki. A site at Te Houhou where Taramainuku grew gardens of food was named after him, *Te Tohihi a Taramainuku* (*tohihi*, the end of the stalk of a kamokamo plant),

Some 1,480 individual archaeological features have been recorded in the Papamoia area including terraces, pits, middens and defensive earthworks. The number in such a small area is very unusual for New Zealand.¹

*The dune plain behind the coast was intersected by a complex wetland sequence that provided a wide variety of resources, as well as easy access to the coast. The forested hills rising behind the plain provided another range of resources, and were easily defensible. Control over the area was therefore contested, and it was the site of several battles... Clearly, the dune plain was a place of significant occupation and use.*²

Waitaha Tame McCausland told the Environment Court that:

“This was the last remaining area there that has not been built upon. Standing there, looking across at Te Kio and along the ridge at Paraoa, we could get a sense of how things were. When we go there we can still feel the wairua.”

However the Environment Court allowed some parts of the site to be destroyed because complete protection would unreasonably interfere with use of a site zoned for commercial use. This was due to the Tauranga City Council listing the swamp pā complex as a ‘significant site’, allowing development such as subdivision to occur as a limited discretionary activity.

Waitaha and Ngā Pōtiki share ownership of the present day 40-hectare Te Houhou block in Pāpāmoa.

Te Kio

Te Kio is an ancient ‘swamp’ pā, and recorded as the oldest of its kind in the Bay of Plenty. The first settler of Wairakei or *Te Ōkuroa o Wairākei* was Rongomaitāne, a son of Waitaha. His grandson Whitikiore occupied this pā. Whitikiore then moved to Tuhua Island following

¹ Papamoia Hills Regional Park Management Plan, Environment Bay of Plenty

² Warren Gumbley, ‘Papamoia: A General Summary of the Situation as it Affects Archaeological Sites’, 13 July 1995

a volcanic eruption that spread ash over the coast. In later times, Te Kio was a seasonal encampment used in times of food gathering.

Paraoa

Paraoa was a Waitaha pā that protruded out of the swamp. When Waitaha tūpuna first explored the site, they found the remains of a whale (*paraoa*), hence its name. This pā was near Te Kio and further along the ridge from Kiore. Part of Paraoa is still visible today. Paraoa was also the name of a son of Takakōpiri (nine generations down from Hei).

Kiore

Kiore was a swamp pā named after Whitikiore. When Whitikiore left Pāpāmoa, other hapū later claimed this Waitaha tūpuna through whakapapa, and these affiliations created the people of Ngāti Whitikiore who remained on the island for some time.