



Two species of native skink are also present within the reserve, the copper skink and ornate skink. Please be mindful of these precious and vulnerable creatures while walking.

South Island pied oyster catcher, godwits and knots. It is also home to a variety of sea bird species such as the tauhou (silveryeye). The coastline adjacent to the reserve pīwakawaka (fantail), tui, kereru (New Zealand pigeon) and vegetation, today native birds are fairly scarce in the As there are only two small pockets of remnant native

## INDIGENOUS BIRDLIFE AND OTHER FAUNA

Stonefields contain some of the few remaining pockets of original native rock forest in the Auckland region. Some of the species you can see here include karaka, mahoe, porokaiwhiri, whau, titoki, puriri, ngāio and various ferns. The reserve is also home to a rare and highly endangered plant called mawhai or the native cucumber. This plant has not been recorded growing elsewhere on the New Zealand mainland since 1866.



of the reserve was gardened. The European walls and old farmstead sites are also evidenced by exotic trees and plants. Please respect all these protected historic features when visiting.

## BOTANY

In the 1920s and 1930s there were also a number of holiday beaches built on the shores of the stonefields and used by many Auckland families. At this time the Manukau Harbour was a popular holiday destination, with good fishing and swimming. However these activities finished with the construction of the Mangere Wastewater Treatment plant in 1960. The recent decommissioning of the treatment ponds by WaterCare Services Ltd has once again opened the stonefields coastline to the harbour. Today, archaeological evidence of the early Maori occupation is clearly evident within the reserve. Numerous stonework and earthwork structures were built across the rocky landscape. Whare (houses) were built on earth and rock retained terraces and rua (food pits) were dug and covered over to store kumara (sweet potato). Most

From the late-1840s onwards European farmers settled and introduced Scottish and English land management practices with their sheep and cattle. They started to clear scoria rock and build the many dry stone boundary walls to contain their stock.

The first Europeans settled in the mid-1840s and established the Wesleyan (Methodist) Mission at Ihumatao on the shores of the Manukau Harbour; this site is located by the now quarried remnant of the Maungatāketake volcanic cone, to the south of the Otutataua Stonefields. From the late-1840s onwards European farmers settled and introduced Scottish and English land management practices with their sheep and cattle. They started to clear scoria rock and build the many dry stone boundary walls to contain their stock.

According to traditions and history Nga Oho people were the earliest inhabitants of this area. Te Wai O Hua iwi (tribe), the descendants of these people, controlled the Tamaki isthmus during the 16th and 17th centuries, being briefly displaced by the northern tribe Nga Puhi during the early 1800s musket wars.

The Otutataua Stonefields and the surrounding areas have been occupied and cultivated since the earliest days of settlement in the region. A recent radiocarbon age estimate for shell midden from an archaeological site on nearby Puketutu Island dates to the 12th century; this is currently one of the earliest dates for human occupation in Aotearoa (New Zealand).

## HISTORY

The Otutataua Stonefields and the surrounding areas have been occupied and cultivated since the earliest days of settlement in the region. A recent radiocarbon age estimate for shell midden from an archaeological site on nearby Puketutu Island dates to the 12th century; this is currently one of the earliest dates for human occupation in Aotearoa (New Zealand).

## RESERVE BYLAWS

Dogs may be controlled either on a leash or off a leash in the reserve, but please be considerate of other people and farm animals. Motorbikes are prohibited from the reserve at all times.

It is an offence to remove or disturb any vegetation or rocks within the reserve. Please respect this very special historic place.



This brochure highlights Otutataua Stonefields Historic Reserve, one of the many parks for you to enjoy in Manukau City

56 Ihumatao Quarry Road, Mangere, Manukau City



Te Kaitiaki o  
MANUKAU  
City Council

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Manukau City Council Customer Services Centre  
Kotuku House, Manukau Square  
Phone: +64-9-262 5104, or visit  
[www.manukau.govt.nz](http://www.manukau.govt.nz) or  
[www.welcome2manukau.com](http://www.welcome2manukau.com)

Two of Auckland's smaller volcanic cones dominate the landscape and geology of the reserve. They are Otutataua and Puketāpapa (also known as Pukeiti). Another volcano, Maungatāketake, or Ellitt's Mountain, was located 2km to the southwest of the reserve. However, this cone has been completely quarried away for scoria. All three volcanoes erupted about 20,000 years ago and today scoria rock and lava bombs from these eruptions are still evident throughout the reserve.

The name 'Otutataua' has been used for this historic reserve because it is the most dominant landscape feature and a significant historic place.

An internationally significant heritage landscape and an important natural, archaeological and historic area. The Otutataua Stonefields Historic Reserve is one of Manukau City's 14 premier parks. For Te Wai O Hua, tangata whenua (indigenous people of the land), it is a taonga (treasure), and for the people of Manukau City and for all New Zealanders alike, it is an important historic place.

This 100 hectare area has been established to protect and preserve the archaeological remains of the communities which thrived on this land for hundreds of years. It is one of the last volcanic areas of Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) where you can see the large scale stonework and earthwork remains that show how people once lived and worked.

The reserve is wahi tapu (a sacred place) to descendants of Te Wai O Hua and Waikato iwi of the Tainui waka (canoe). Please be respectful while visiting. Tangata whenua have especially requested that food is not consumed on the reserve (water bottles are welcome) and that visitors refrain from walking on the top of Puketāpapa volcano, a site of particular traditional significance (follow the walk marker posts around the northern side).

## Discover Otutataua Stonefields Historic Reserve



Te Kaitiaki o  
MANUKAU  
City Council

# Manukau Parks



## Otutataua Stonefields Historic Reserve

## MANGERE



## OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The Otutataua Stonefields Historic Reserve was officially opened to the public in 2001. Manukau City Council, Auckland Regional Council and the Department of Conservation have signed a Memorandum of Agreement which outlines agency obligations towards managing the reserve. A Parks management plan has been produced and a consultative committee organised to promote good conservation management with members comprising the three agencies, working in partnership with Makaurau Marae, lessees and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

A visitor centre is planned for construction on the reserve. Manukau City Council is working closely with Makaurau Marae and the other members of the consultative committee to develop a range of educational programmes and visitor experiences for local and international visitors.

## RESERVE ACCESS AND WALKWAYS

The main reserve entrance and car parking area is located at the end of Ihumatao Quarry Road, Ihumatao, Mangere, Manukau City. Coming from the Auckland Airport - along State Highway 20A - take a left turn at Ihumatao Road, a right at Oruarangi Road, and then a left at Ihumatao Quarry Road.

The reserve is managed by Manukau Parks as a farm park. Walking access is provided through gates (leave closed gates closed), and although the main trails are marked, the reserve is open and there are great links with Manukau Harbour coastal walks and Te Araroa walkway.

There are three self-guided walks you can take each with a focus on geology, botany and history (use the inside map to navigate). All three walks start at the 'welcome map' located on the stone plinth by the second gate 150 metres from the main entrance. Each walk takes up to an hour to complete, but you can also walk all three in approximately two-and-a-half hours. To help you find your way, each walk has wood marker posts and coloured markers along the trail (geology - blue, botany - green and history- white).

Please note: There are no toilets on the reserve. The nearest toilets are located on Oruarangi Road at the Oruarangi Creek mouth and landing 1km north of the main entrance gates.