

SCHEDULE 6.12. ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY PROTOCOL

6.12.1. INTRODUCTION

This protocol records those procedures that will be followed in the event that kōiwi takata, wāhi taoka, wāhi tapu, or archaeological sites, are unearthed or discovered within the Clutha District.

6.12.2. DEFINITIONS

In this Protocol the following terms are used:

‘ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES’ means any place in New Zealand that was either associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 or is the site of the wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand (Historic Places Act 1993). Archaeological Sites may be of Maori, European/Pakeha or Chinese origin.

‘KŌIWI TAKATA’ means human skeletal remains.

‘WĀHI TAOKA’ means cultural artefacts such as implements, weapons or decorations traditionally and historically utilised by tangata whenua and include parts or the remains thereof.

‘WĀHI TAPU’ means any site of religious, cultural or spiritual significance for Takata Whenua.

6.12.3. ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY PROTOCOL

The following procedure shall be adopted in the event that any archaeological site (Maori, European/Pakeha or Chinese), kōiwi takata, wāhi taoka or wāhi tapu are unearthed or discovered, or are reasonably suspected to have been unearthed or discovered within the Clutha District.

1. If any archaeological site (Maori, European/Pakeha or Chinese), kōiwi takata (human skeletal remains), wāhi taoka or a wāhi tapu site is uncovered all activity in the immediate vicinity of the site shall cease.
2. The Project Manager/Construction Supervisor shall take steps immediately to secure the area in a way that ensures that the discovery remains untouched so far as possible in the circumstances.
3. The Construction Supervisor shall, in all cases contact Heritage New Zealand (“HNZ”) in the first instance, and if kōiwi tangata, wai tapu or wahi taoka are suspected, also notify the Rūnanga. In the event of a kōiwi takata discovery, the New Zealand Police and the Regional Public Health Unit shall also be notified.
4. The Construction Supervisor shall ensure that assistance is made available to guide HNZ and the Rūnanga and if applicable, representatives of the New Zealand Police, and the Regional Public Health Unit, to the site, assisting with any requests that they may make.

5. The Construction Supervisor shall ensure that kaumatua are given the opportunity to undertake karakia and such other religious or cultural ceremonies and activities at the site as may be considered appropriate in accordance with tikanga Māori (Māori custom and protocol). This may be only undertaken after consultation with HNZ to ensure legal requirements relating to archaeological sites pursuant to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 are met.
6. Where the kōiwi takata, taoka or wāhi tapu are of Māori origin, any materials discovered will be handled and removed by the kaumatua who are responsible for the tikanga (custom) appropriate to their removal or preservation. This may be only undertaken after consultation with the HNZ to ensure legal requirements relating to archaeological sites pursuant to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 are met.

PRACTICE NOTE

An archaeological authority is required from the Heritage New Zealand/Pouhere Taonga to destroy, damage or modify the whole or any part of an archaeological site. This includes a kōiwi takata site.

Plan users should refer to the New Zealand Archaeological Association's (NZAA's) digital Site Record database, Archsite, which contains information regarding the presence, location and details of recorded archaeological sites.