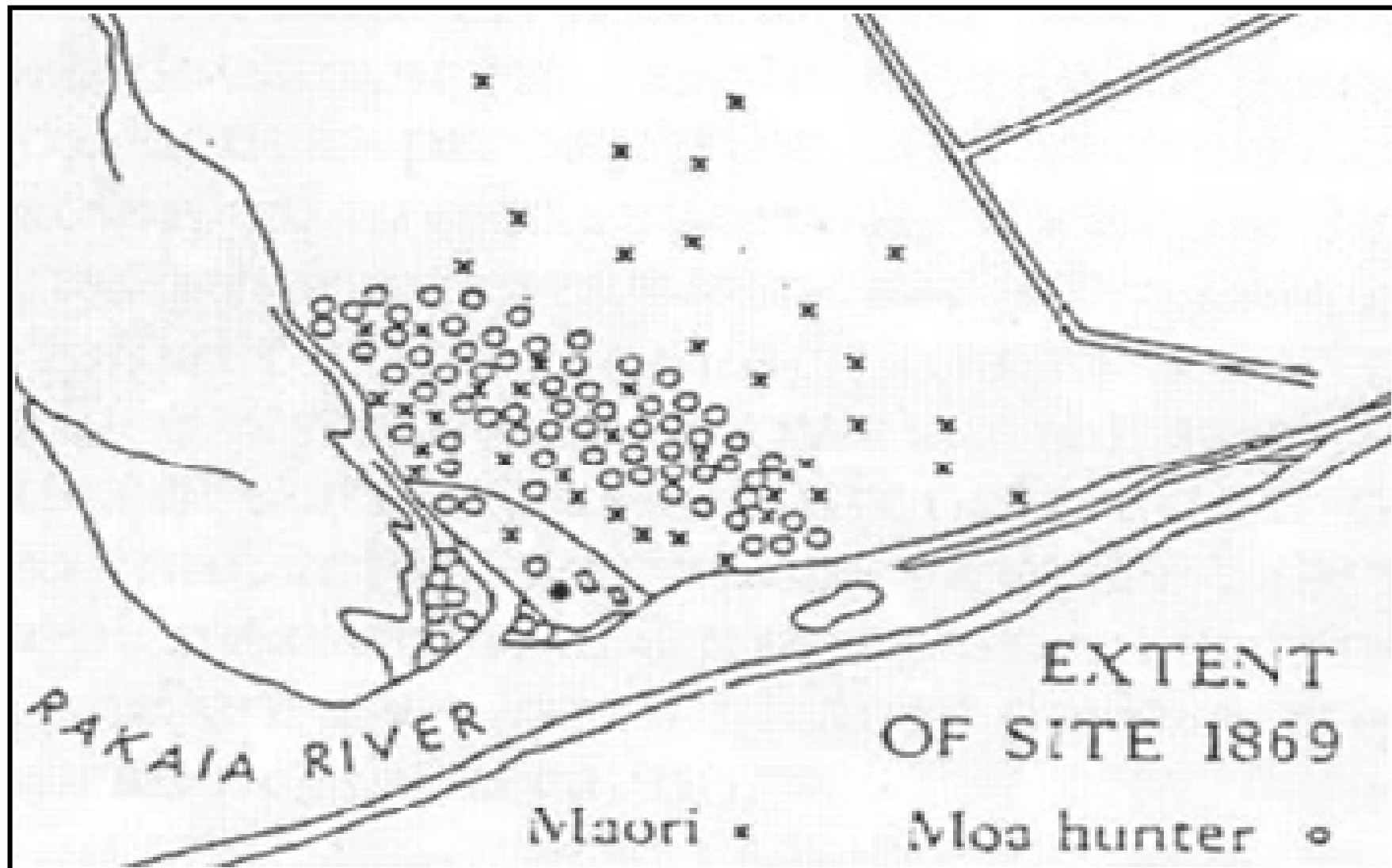


# Rakaia Huts Conservation Management Plan



Rakaia River Mouth showing extent of archaeological site in 1869 (From Trotter 1972)

The area in and around the Rakaia Huts settlement is of considerable cultural and archaeological significance, with the area recognised as one of the most important complexes of archaeological sites in the South Island.

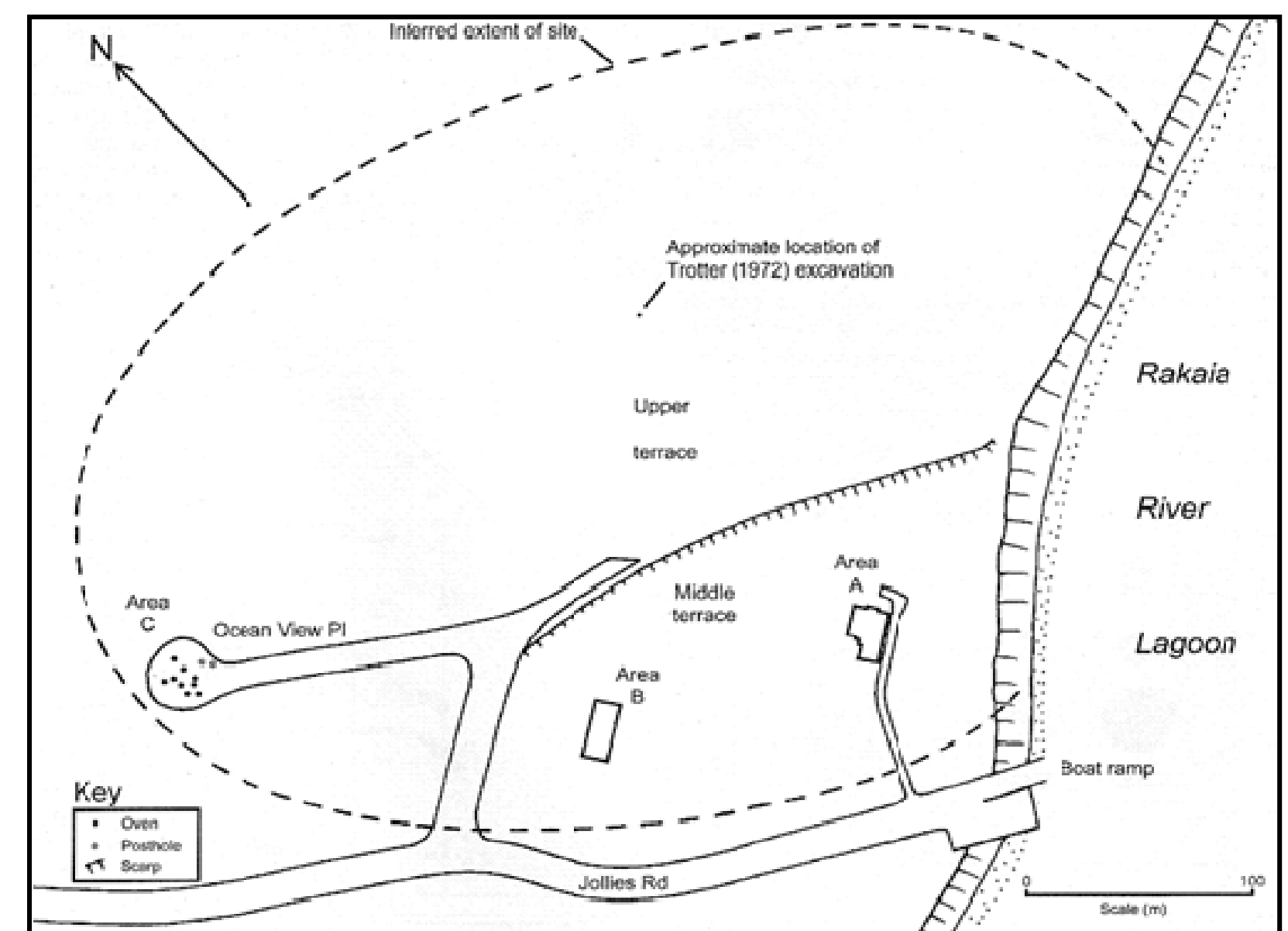
The Rakaia Huts Moa Hunter Site was first identified in the late 1860s, and was investigated by Julius von Haast between 1869 and 1871. His findings from the site were later used to identify and define a Moa Hunter culture in New Zealand. Subsequent work by other archaeologists has further identified the extent of the archaeological site and material associated with it.



Photo: Canterbury Museum

Due to a number of accidental archaeological site disturbances in the Rakaia Huts area, the Selwyn District Council agreed that a Management Plan was required to protect the remaining cultural integrity and archaeological heritage of the area. Development of the Management Plan included the following steps:

- Preparation of an Archaeological Report by Dr Dan Witter (completed in March 2008);
- Workshops with the Management Plan 'Working Party' (comprising staff from the NZ HPT, representatives from Te Taumutu Runanga, and staff and councilors from the Selwyn District Council. Representatives from the Rakaia Huts Residents Association also provided input into the development of the Management Plan);
- Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 – Community Workshop (attended by 20 residents);
- 15<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December 2008 - 'Draft' Management Plan notified for public comments. Submission on the 'Draft' Management Plan were received from:
  - Rakaia Huts Residents Assn (raised issues relating to the cost of further restrictions if the plan was implemented);
  - Little Rakaia Huts Residents Assn and Advisory Committee (supported proposed management plan and the preservation of archaeological features); and
  - P. Dellaca (raised concerns regarding road access to the lagoon)
- 21 July 2009 – Hearing to Consider Submission
- October 2009 – Selwyn District Council Adopts Rakaia Huts Conservation Management Plan



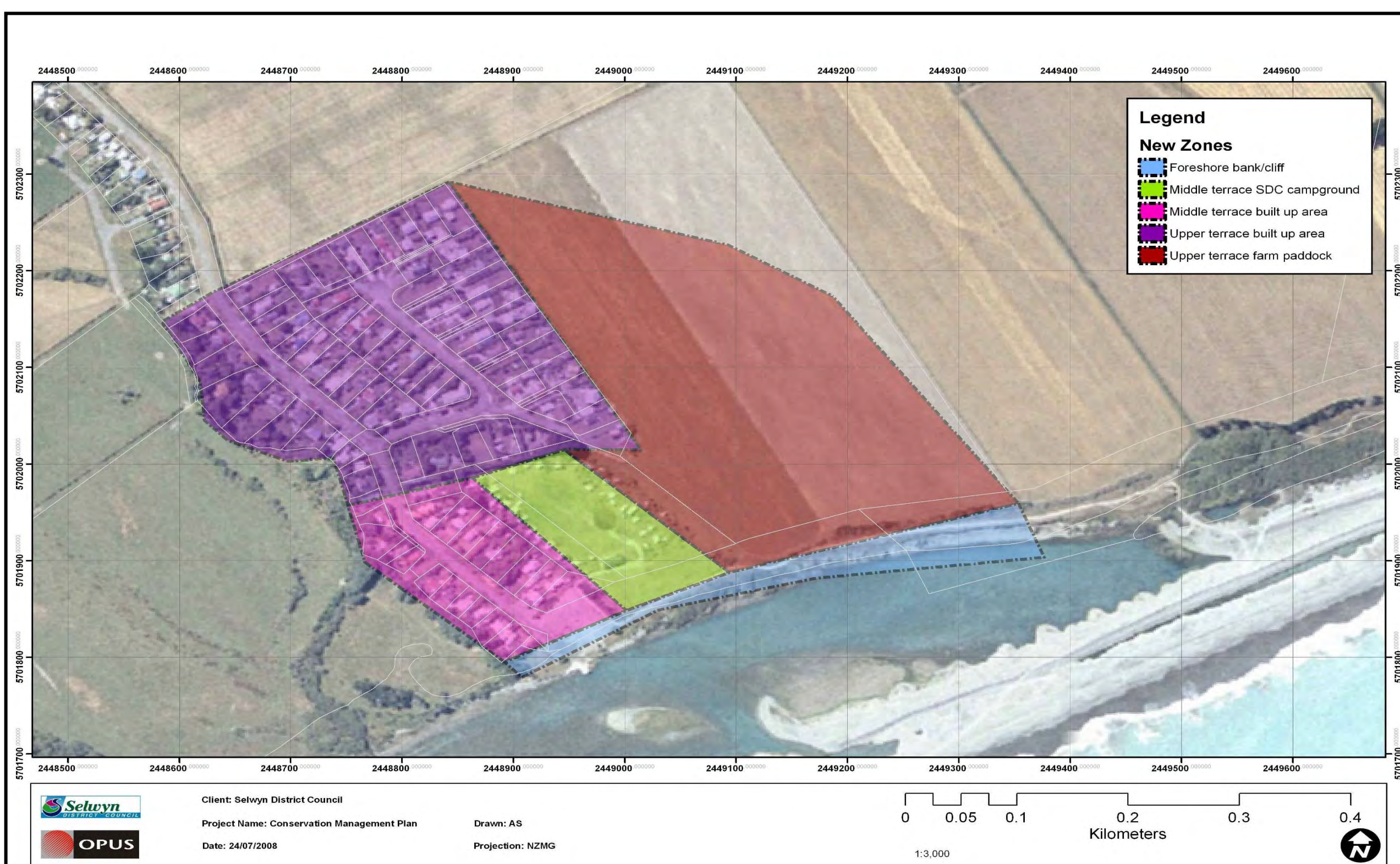
Rakaia River Mouth Site — Jacomb 2005



Greywacke Toki (adze blades). Photo: Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa

The purpose of the Management Plan is to assist in the care and management of the Rakaia Huts archaeological area and to ensure the meaning and importance of the site is acknowledged and able to be conserved and interpreted for present and future generations

The focus of the Management Plan is **not** on "preservation" (do not touch the land), but rather on conservation, so that the land can be used and the history of the area is recorded.



Rakaia Huts Management Areas — Rakaia Huts Conservation Management Plan