

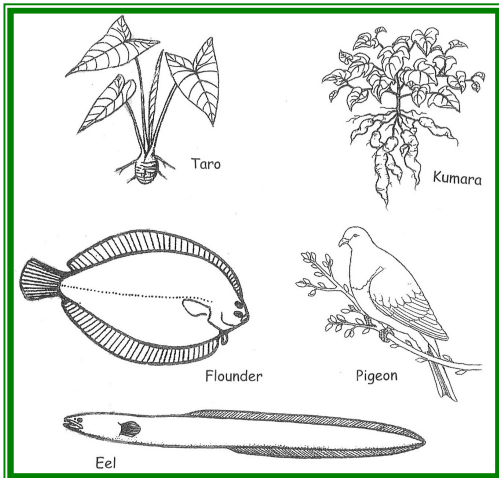


An exposed midden on the Pa.

Middens provide some insight into the types of food eaten when the Pa was inhabited. The shell remains of oysters, cockles and other shellfish are visible in the above photo.

Other foods likely to have been stored and eaten include kumara, taro, eel, flounder and other fish, plus a variety of other native birds.

### Foods likely to have been stored on the Pa.



As the walk begins by crossing private land, please stay on the defined track and do not disturb farm animals which may be grazing in the area.

The walkway, which starts beside SH.12 in the Paparoa township, has a very easy first stage across private land which leads to the foot of the Pa site (20 minutes).

From here the walk crosses a second bridge entering the main bush area. The track climbs at a moderate grade up to the Pa site (another 20 minutes).

There is a loop track, or you can venture further to the boardwalk through the mangroves onto Pahi Road (15 minutes) and return along Pahi Road before joining SH.12 to the carpark (30 minutes).

In 1989 the Pow and Roach families formally protected the bush areas by covenanting with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust.

## Walk into History and mystery at Paparoa Pa Site



Mystery surrounds the dozens of Maori food pits dug on a Paparoa hill top well before Captain Cook first circumnavigated New Zealand in 1769.

The excavations, now shrouded by native bush at least 250 years old, are well preserved and easily accessible.

Historians, both Maori and Pakeha, have been unable to identify the people who inhabited this particular pa site, nor do any local Maori have any whakapapa (genealogical links) to it.

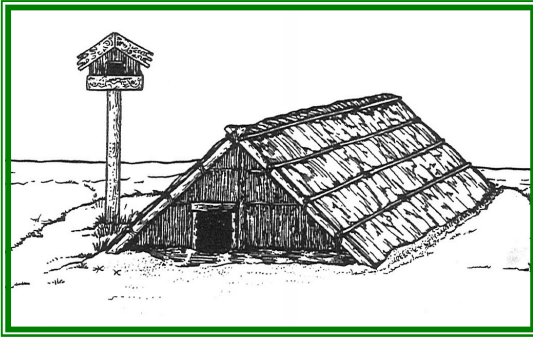
An easy walk along the trail pioneered by the Paparoa Lions Club will let your imagination range back through the years as you ponder these fascinating and clearly visible remains.

The Lions Club of Paparoa gratefully acknowledge the assistance of PPI and generosity of many in their endeavour to establish the walkway and this information.

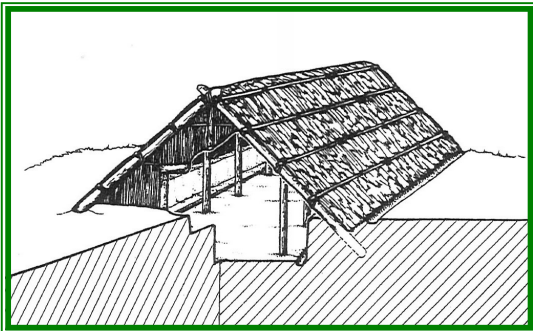


We Serve





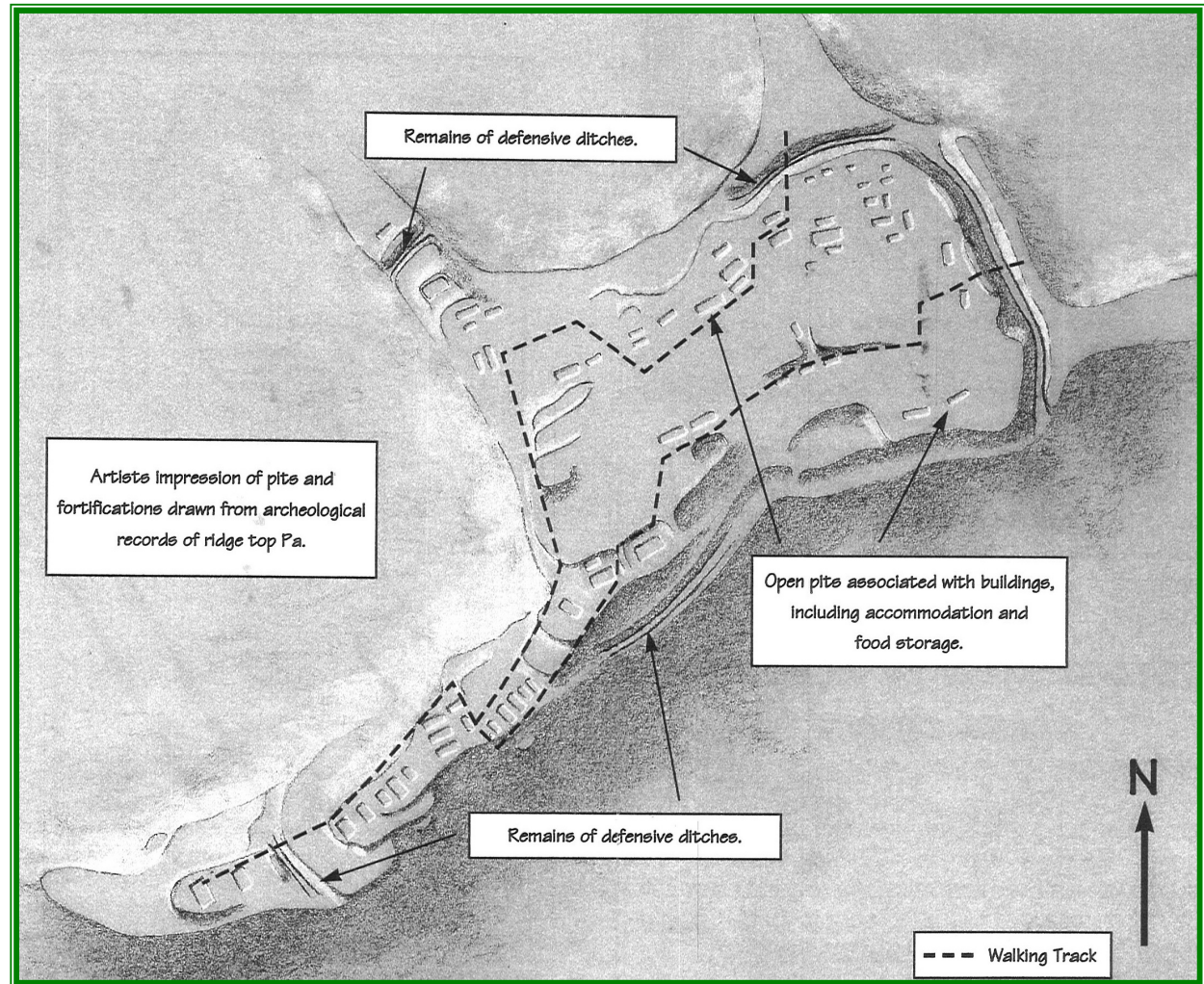
The kumara storage pit was developed by Maori partly to ensure the survival of seed kumara until the next spring planting. A rectangular pit is shown in the cross-section below and also as it might have looked with a thatched roof. The small structure on a pole (pataka) was designed to keep special foods safe from rats and vermin.



## What we know about the Pa

The Pa is an extensive well preserved site on a bush covered hill adjacent to Paparoa Creek. The steep hill slopes provide natural defenses and these are further augmented by ditch and bank fortifications across each of the spurs that run down from the flat summit.

Living terraces and storage pits cover an area of approximately 100m x 40 m on the hilltop and continue along two of the spurs.



This suggests that more than 300 people could have found refuge here during threat of warfare, although in times of peace many would have lived in dispersed hamlets below the Pa.

An outstanding feature of the site is the number of clearly defined storage pits. The presence of at least 60 pits indicates that large gardens were situated nearby producing kumara, taro, yams and gourds and that this

fortification served to protect both people and their provisions. In addition, close proximity to the headwaters of the Kaipara would have provided easy access to the rich seafood resources of the harbour.

A date for the earliest occupation of the Pa cannot be determined without excavation, but a count of tree rings from a large totara growing in one of the pits has shown that it is over 250 years old.