

## HERITAGE

### *Tangata Whenua*

The Nga Uri a Mahanga (NUAM) trust has mana whenua/ historical occupation and ancestral succession status regarding the proposed wind farm and its surrounding area. The Trust recommended that WEL adopt the name of *Te Hauhiko O Wharauroa* for the Wind Park.

The Trust team undertook historical and field research. The Trust's research identified Te Tihi o Tonganui as a waahi tapu / significant site, near proposed turbine 5. Te Tihi o Tonganui (the Citadel of Tonganui) is a pa site associated with a son of Mahanga.

Other objects of significance on the Wharauroa plateau include certain tapu trees, ana (caves) and puna (springs) used as repositories for human remains or artefacts held in high esteem by the owners. In the fowling seasons certain trees were for the express use of Ariki and Rangatira. Also certain springs were tapu to these aristocrats and their families and for their use only. On the whole the plateau area is regarded as a significant landmark within the greater Mahanga rohe.

The Trust has requested that the project adopt a Protocol for the accidental discovery of human remains or artefacts.

### *Archaeology*

An archaeology assessment was undertaken in parallel with, and to support the NUAM heritage assessment. Only two archaeological sites have been identified within the wind farm project footprint, and neither site will be directly affected by the development or maintenance of the wind farm. The locations of both Te Tihi o Tonganui Pa and the original Vanhoutte Homestead are adjacent to Plateau Road, which had earlier been a bridle track. It is likely that the track followed an older walking track route from the Aotea catchment to the Waitetuna Stream, and that this route and the siting of Te Tihi o Tonganui are closely associated. The pa was probably located with a strategic consideration to controlling the route.

Both of these sites, the Vanhoutte Homestead and Te Tihi o Tonganui, have significant heritage values. Pre-European era Maori sites, whether kainga or pa, are rarely found over 200 metres ASL. This fact alone conveys values relating to the uniqueness or rarity of Te Tihi o Tonganui, which places it outside the 'normal' range of such sites. Moreover, the site has clear and continuing association with Ngati Mahanga.

Neither of the sites will be directly affected by the infrastructure related to the wind farm, and management of these sites can be successfully carried out through a mixture of physical protection (e.g. fencing) and procedures developed in the management plans for the project.