

# Introduction History

## Of Okura

In itself the Okura Bush Reserve has a wide range of features of archaeological interest. Taken as an integral part of an area of occupation and *including* the features recorded "on" the Weiti Block inland, it is an *outstanding* archaeological landscape of a type unique so close to Auckland City.

Being so accessible to Auckland it is probable that it will become a well-known and well-visited walkway. This fact *in* itself creates problems both for the botanical and archaeological features close to the walkway. The *midden* sites near the walkway within the bush are quite stable. Natural *erosion* is more a threat to the shoreline *middens* than human traffic. However the two stone groynes recorded on the Okura River are fragile and could be *easily* damaged. They should not be identified to the public.

This reserve provides an excellent opportunity to take advantage of a fascinating archaeological resource. It lends itself very well to interpretation of the pre-European and European histories which complement each other very well. Both cultures have used the land for agriculture and have made use of the natural resources. The Maori people used both the Okura and Weiti (Wade) rivers as transport.

The area was the centre of a timber industry in historic times and barges plied both *rivers*. The Wade Tavern sits at the point to which barges came for loading and unloading.

It is strongly recommended that a leaflet be produced by the Department outlining both cultures' historical associations with the region and pointing out features of interest along the walkway route. Further background history will need to be researched but a considerable amount of work has already been carried out by Mrs Jo Bowler of Okura. ...