



Heritage

The TEL travels through land which is rich with archaeological sites. There is evidence which shows that the land has been occupied since the arrival of the voyaging canoes from Hawaiiki in the 12th century.

The Western Bay of Plenty has witnessed many waves of migration, from the Eastern Polynesian Māori, to the internal movement of people around Aotearoa. Each wave of migrants that has settled in the area has contributed to the dynamic and diverse whakapapa, folklore and traditional knowledge that survives today amongst the tangata whenua.

The wetlands of the coast and the hills above the Western Bay of Plenty have a number of important archaeological sites and wāhi tapu. The Pāpāmoa Hills is an area of particular note for strategic pā sites. The Hikutawatawa pā complex allowed the occupants to command the hills and the surrounding area when under threat. Individual local Iwi know every feature of the landscape intimately and can recall the history of the land back through the generations.

Stories can be heard about the accounts of the earliest Māori inhabitants to the area (Te Tini-o-Toi) who are recorded and remembered in tribal korero and waiata, expanding the tangata whenua occupation of the area over a thousand years.

The TEL is within the rohe (territory) of Nga Potiki a Tamapahore and Te Arawa tribes including Ngati Whakaue ki Maketu, Tapuika Iwi and Waitaha Iwi. Other tribes such as Ngai Te Rangī, Ngati Pukenga and Ngati He have an historical association within the TEL and each of these tribes are represented on the Tauranga Eastern Link Tangata Whenua Advisory Group.



Midden samples found between Parton Road and Bell Road



A Patu Muka found around the Kaituna river (for pounding flax)



Argillite Toki/adze found at Hungahungatoroa Pa alongside SH2 near Domain Road interchange (est 600 years old)



A chamber pot found between Parton Road and Bell Road



Pungapunga found at Otaimatua Pa SH2

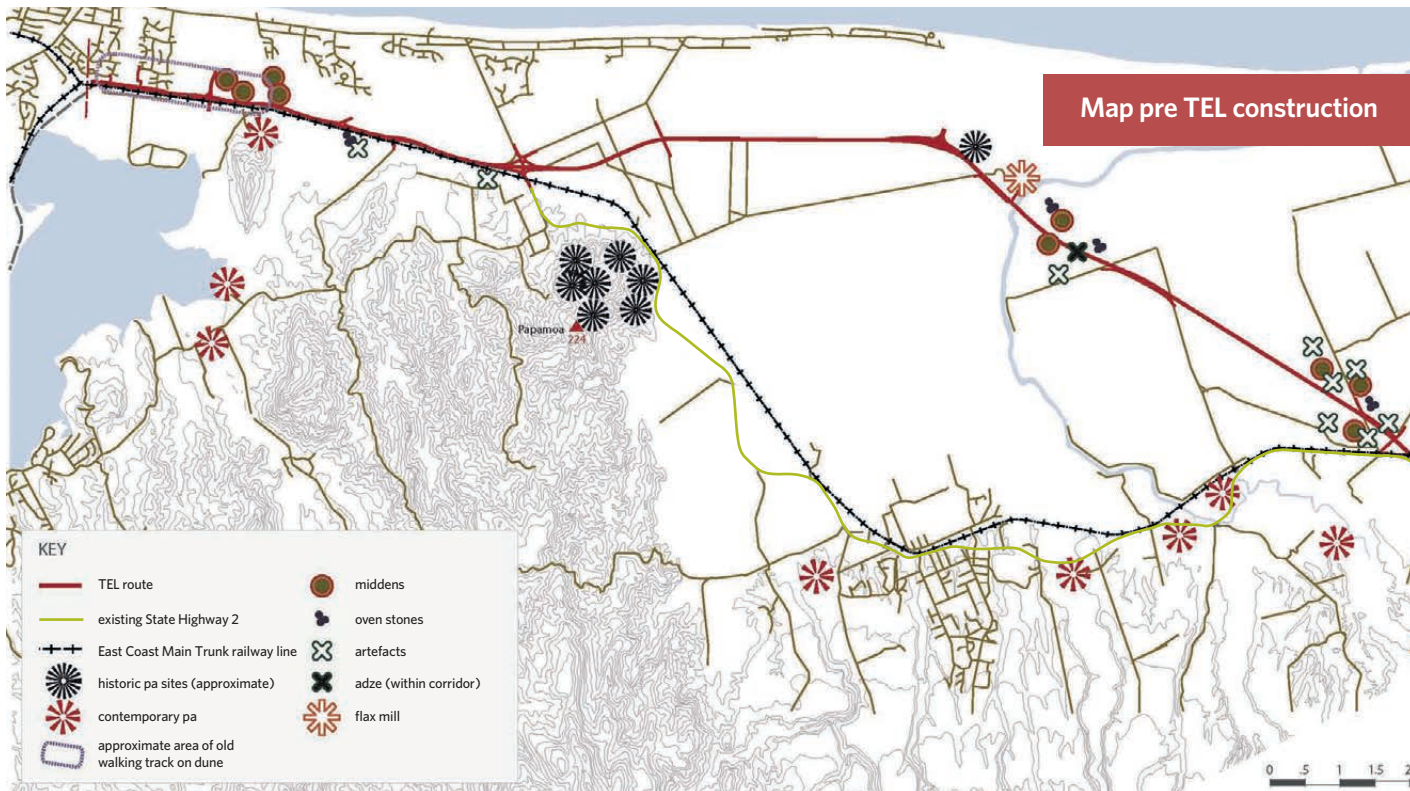


Image courtesy of the Ford collection