



Ka Whai Take Ngā Taonga
Tuku Iho o Tāmaki Makaurau 2026

Auckland's Heritage Counts 2026



Launched in 2018, Auckland's Heritage Counts was the first initiative in New Zealand to systematically gather data and research on the public value of heritage. Since then, a new report has been published each year.

Auckland's Heritage Counts showcases the extent and variety of heritage across Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland and highlights the social, economic and environmental benefits heritage provides to Aucklanders.

This year's edition adopts a shorter format, focusing on key statistics and four themes: how heritage connects people with places and identity, attracts investment and visitors, forms part of Auckland's everyday environment, and protects the places that make Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland unique.

Thank you to all who have contributed data for this edition.

Dr David Bade, Specialist – Heritage

Heritage Unit, Auckland Council.



Heritage connects Aucklanders with places, history and our identity

Aucklanders engage with heritage through the Auckland Heritage Festival, exhibitions, heritage trails, historical societies and online resources that bring the stories of Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland to life.



2.7 million

visits to the Auckland Libraries
KURA Heritage Collections online
website in 2025-26



23,909 attendees

in 2025 at the annual
Auckland Heritage Festival

139 events

including tours, workshops,
exhibitions and seminars



17,935 visits

to the **Auckland Heritage** website
in 2025-26. This has nearly doubled
since 2017-18



805

people attended events hosted by
**Auckland Libraries Research
and Heritage**

10,449 visits to its exhibitions



50+ heritage trails

in Auckland showcasing our heritage



95+ historical societies
in Auckland, playing an important
role in researching, conserving and
promoting the region's heritage

**Thousands of Aucklanders
are members of national
heritage organisations.**

These organisations support
research, conservation and
advocacy, and share
knowledge across
Aotearoa/New Zealand.

4030

Auckland members of
**Heritage New Zealand
Pouhere Taonga**



99

Auckland members of
**New Zealand
Archaeological Association**



53

Auckland members of
ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand



44

Auckland members of the
**Professional Historians'
Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa**



32

Auckland members of the
**National Oral History
Association of New Zealand**



Heritage attracts investment and visitors

Heritage places attract significant investment and welcome thousands of visitors each year, supporting their conservation and ongoing use.

Nearly **\$23 million** was invested in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland heritage projects between 2015-16 and 2025-26.

Funding source	Number of projects	Funding awarded
Lotteries Grants	58	\$13.1m
Foundation North Grants	80	\$3.8m
Auckland Council Regional Heritage Grants	202	\$2.3m
Heritage EQUIP Grants (ceased in 2021)	6	\$2.2m
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Grants	21	\$0.8m
Auckland Council Local Board Grants	184	\$0.7m

More than **\$5.3 billion** of consented building work was associated with Auckland's historic heritage places between 2016 and 2025.

Heritage projects appear to involve larger investments than average. They account for **2%** of the value of all consented building work while representing only **1.1%** of building consent applications.

The number of visits to selected heritage attractions in 2025-26, showing percentage change since last year.



810,233 (+5%)
Tāmaki Paenga
Hira Auckland War
Memorial Museum



268,774 (-4%)
Museum of Transport
and Technology



140,778 (-10%)
Pah Homestead
Art House Trust



35,45 (+12%)
Howick Historical Village



10,823 (+89%)
Highwic House



6933 (-1%)
Alberton House



3264 (+19%)
Mansion House,
Kawau Island



2244 (-22%)
Couldrey House



487 (-21%)
Ewelme Cottage

Heritage is an important part of our everyday environment

Heritage is woven through the neighbourhoods and landscapes of Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, with most Aucklanders living close to places that reflect the region's history and cultural identity.

2456

historic heritage places and 22 areas are scheduled in the **Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP)** and the **Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan (HGI Plan)**

112

sites and places of significance to Mana Whenua are scheduled in **Schedule 12 of the AUP**

84%

of Aucklanders live within one kilometre of a scheduled historic heritage place

59%

of Auckland's historic heritage places are on private land

0.85%

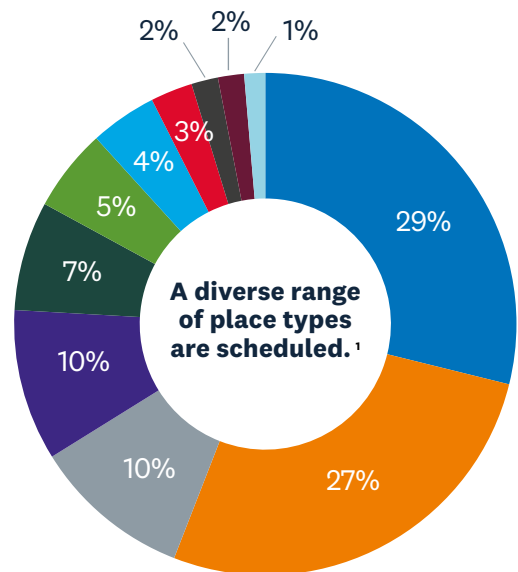
of property parcels in Auckland are protected for historic heritage values

0.47%

of Auckland's land area is protected for its historic heritage values

Historic heritage places make Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland unique

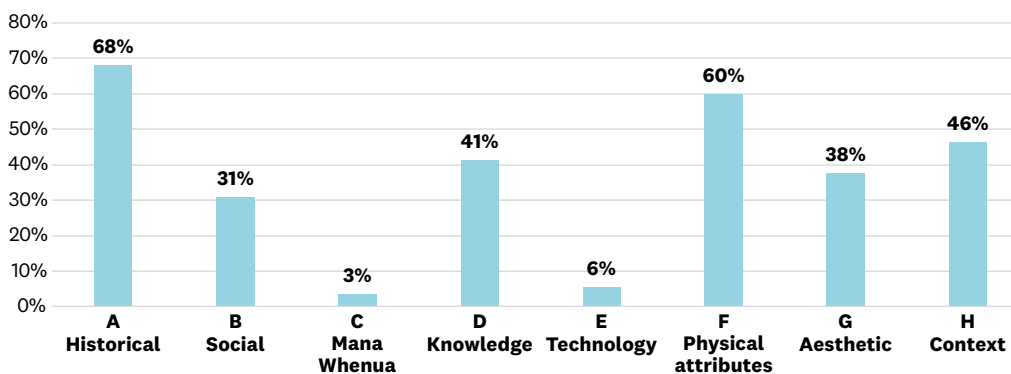
A diverse range of places, values and histories are protected in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland while enabling appropriate change and development.



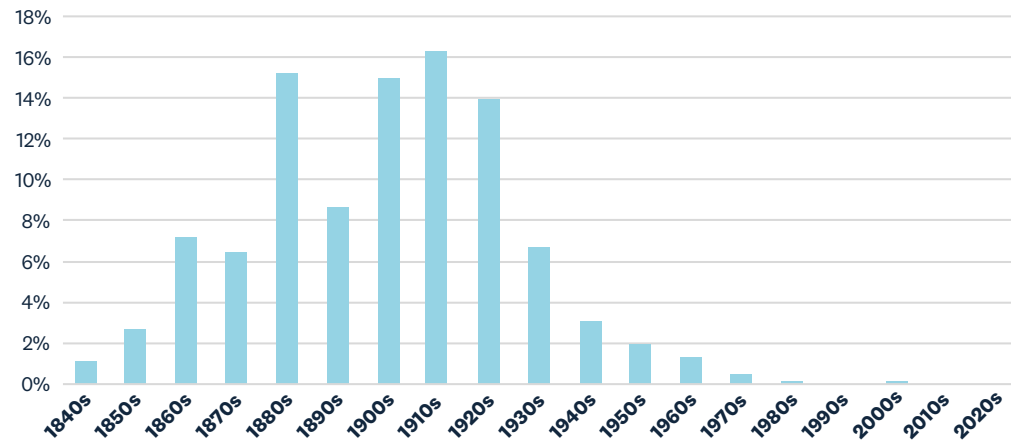
- Cemetery
- Churches and other religious buildings
- Civic/institutional
- Commercial
- European-origin archaeology
- Industrial
- Māori-origin archaeology
- Maritime
- Military
- Other structures e.g. memorials, dams, walls, etc.
- Residential

¹ This includes historic heritage places in both the Auckland Unitary Plan and the Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan.

Scheduled historic heritage places reflect a wide range of heritage values



Nearly 70% of Auckland's scheduled historic heritage buildings were constructed between the 1880s and 1920s



Scheduling enables change while safeguarding important places

99.7% of historic heritage resource consents between 2016 and 2025 were granted. Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from the Auckland Council Heritage Unit early in the process. Proposals are often refined during the consenting process to ensure positive heritage outcomes.



Auckland's Heritage Counts 2026

© 2026 Heritage Unit, Planning and Resource Consents Department, Auckland Council, New Zealand

Dr David Bade, Specialist – Heritage

October 2026

ISSN 2744-709X

Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document for any error, deficiency, flaw or omission contained in it.

This document is licensed for re-use under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0.**

In summary, you are free to copy, distribute and adapt the material, as long as you attribute it to Auckland Council and abide by the **other licence terms.**

Images:

Cover: Pah Homestead, built 1877-9 (Category A) © Auckland Council.

Page 2: Korekore Pa, Woodhill (Category B) © Rachel Ford, Auckland Council.

Page 5: View towards central Auckland from Takarunga/Mount Victoria
© Rebecca Freeman, Auckland Council.

