



OIAD-773

28 April 2021

Liam White

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Tēnā koe Liam

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 05 April 2021 in which you asked for:

*“...the following documents from the North Head tunnels investigation 1992-1994:*

*North Head Excavation Proposal (undated, considered to be 1991) + North Head Investigation, Interim Research Report 1992 + North Head Tunnel Investigation Interim Report 1994 + North Head Tunnel Investigation Report, December 1998.”*

*“...any reports from the DOC Archaeology department on this subject from future years.”*

By way of context for my response, the investigation into the tunnels under Maungauika/North Head was undertaken at a time when there were claims being made of hidden tunnels, and public concerns were being expressed about the possibility that these might contain decaying ammunition. The reports you have requested track the progress of the investigation, the conclusion of which was that no hidden tunnels were located nor was any evidence of stored ammunition discovered.

At the time of the investigation the Department administered the North Head Historic Reserve, and the military still occupied the summit area. In 2014 Maungauika/North Head was transferred to the ownership of thirteen iwi under a collective Treaty settlement, and it is now managed by the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority (the Maunga Authority).

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *The following documents from the North Head tunnels investigation 1992-1994:*

*North Head Excavation Proposal (undated, considered to be 1991) + North Head Investigation, Interim Research Report 1992 + North Head Tunnel Investigation Interim Report 1994 + North Head Tunnel Investigation Report, December 1998.*



I attach copies of the four reports you requested. I have also provided a copy of an earlier report "North Head: the Development of a Fort" published in 1990 as it provides additional context for the subsequent investigation. The documents I have released are listed in Table 1 at the end of this letter.

2. *Any reports from the DOC Archaeology department on this subject from future years.*

The Department has not published any further reports on this subject since the release of the final report on the investigation in December 1998.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Neale'.

Helen Neale  
Acting Director Operations Auckland  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**Table 1 - Schedule of documents**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	August 1990	Report "North Head: the Development of a Fort"	Released in full.
2	April 1992	Report "North Head Excavation Proposal"	Released in full.
3	October 1992	Report "North Head Investigation, 1992 Interim Research Report"	Released in full.
4	May 1994	Report "North Head Project Interim Report"	Released in full.
5	December 1998	Report "North Head Tunnels Investigation Report"	Released in full.