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

35,475 (+12%)
Howick Historical Village

3264 (+19%)
Mansion House, Kawau Island

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

10,823 (+89%)
Highwic House

2244 (-22%)
Couldrey House

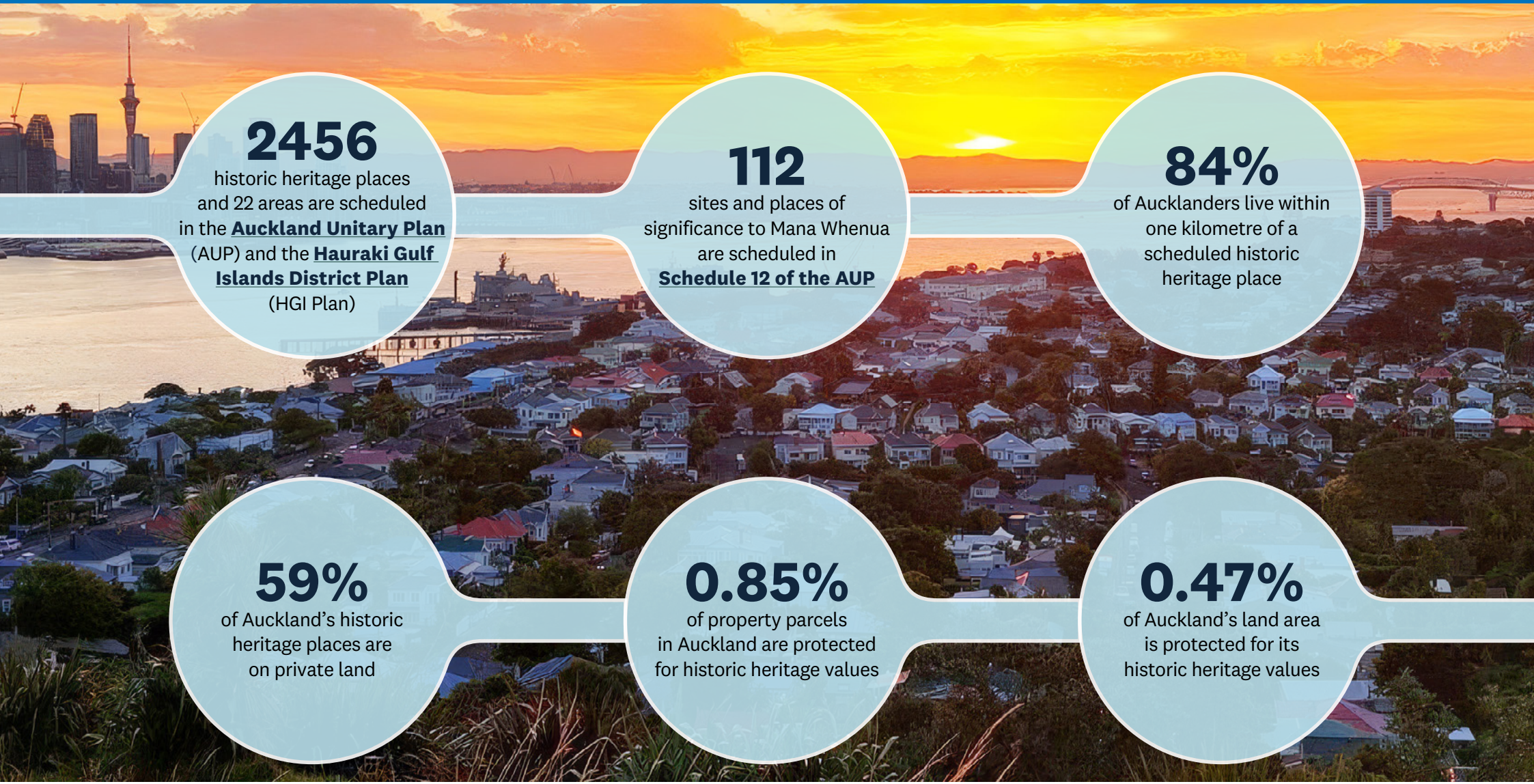
140,778 (-10%)
Pah Homestead Art House Trust

6933 (-1%)
Alberton 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

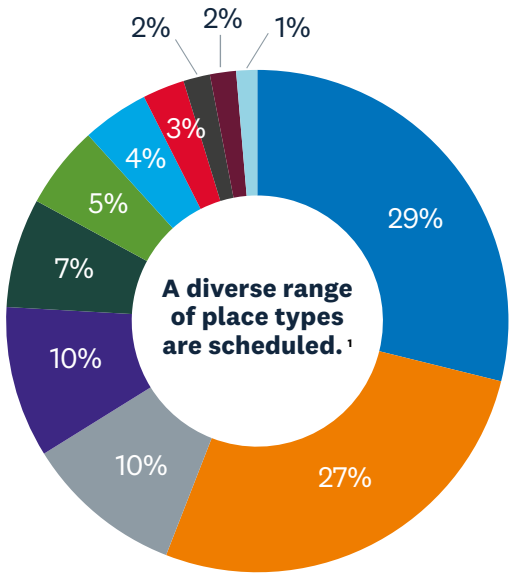
59%
of Auckland's historic heritage places are on private land

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

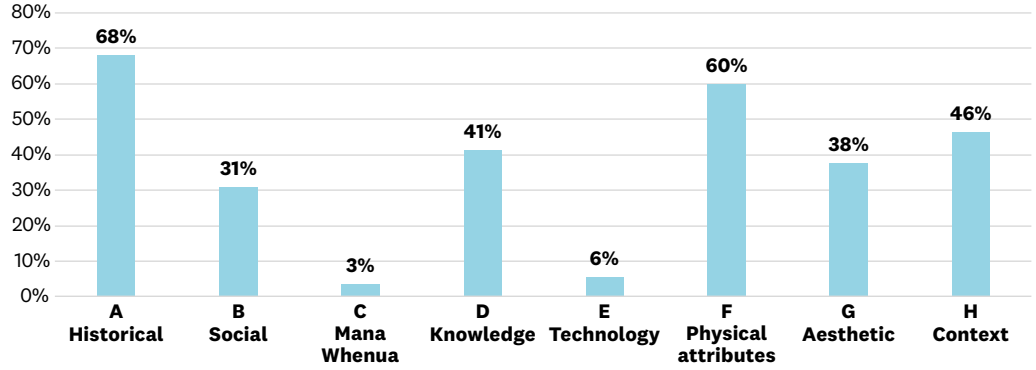
A diverse range of places, values and histories are protected in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland while enabling appropriate change and development.



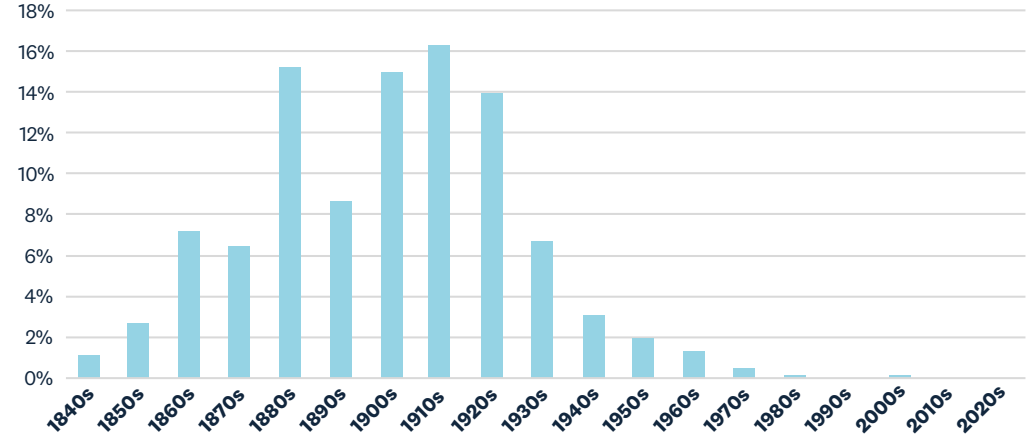
- Cemetery
- Churches and other religious buildings
- Civic/institutional
- Commercial
- European-origin archaeology
- Industrial
- Māori-origin archaeology
- Maritime
- Military
- Other structures e.g. memorials, dams, walls, etc.
- Residential

[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

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