



General:

Te Pane o Mataoho and the whenua (land) surrounding it have supported large and prosperous communities for the past 800 years. The first to settle this area were the people of Te Waiohua, there were 3000 - 4000 of them scattered across the mountain.

Extensive māra kai (food gardens) were created on the surrounding fertile volcanic soils. Some of the traditional crops that came in the waka (canoes) from Hawaiki were Taro, Kuumara, Uwhi and Hue.

The Manukau Harbour and puna (freshwater springs) awa (streams) and ngāhere (forests) enabled hunting, fishing, and food gathering for Te Waiohua whilst living on the mountain.

The steep sides of Te Pane o Mataoho and the addition of awakari (ditches) and paatuuwatawata (fence-like palisades) as well as ara angaanga (shell pathways) made entering the pā (defended village) undetected and attacking it difficult.

The view from the summit was not only spectacular but also strategic – hoariri (enemies) could be seen coming from any direction which is a critical feature for a pā.

Almost everywhere you look on Te Pane o Mataoho, there are humps, hollows, and terraces – all signs of those who have lived here before. These signs include; tāpapa (garden mounds) used to grow staple foods such as kuumara (sweet potato), rua kuumara (covered storage pits) for storing foods that were cultivated, hunted, fished, and gathered, tuuaapapa (terraced housing sites) which were fenced and included a whare moe (sleeping house) racks for drying fish and a haangi (earth oven) pit for cooking.

Vocabulary:

Whenua - land

Maara kai - food garden

Puna - freshwater spring

Awa - stream

Ngāahere - forest

Awakeri - ditch

Paatuuwatawata - fence-like palisade

Ara - pathways

Paa - defended village, fortification

Hoariri - enemies

Taapapa - garden mound

Kuumara - sweet potato

Rua kuumara - covered storage pit

Tuuaapapa - terraced housing site

Whare moe - sleeping house

Haangii - earth oven

Tuupuna - - ancestors