



Pa Site Will Be Sacrificed For Land

One of the best preserved Maori ridge pas in New Plymouth will soon become fodder for the bulldozer's blade.

The increasing need for residential land in the city has made it necessary for the Pukeori pa, with its earthworks clearly visible in the picture, to be replaced by a modern terraced housing block.

The pa is situated at the junction of Blagdon and Omata Rds in the western part of the city.

It has no recorded history, but is often described by authorities as being in a good state of preservation with particularly well-defined defensive works.

It was originally one of four pas within about 200 yards of each other in that area of the city, but the hunger for residential land has now claimed three of them.

The only remaining pa in the group has been declared

a reserved area and is not likely to be lost to progress.

'SO MANY'

As one authority described the situation yesterday: "We can't keep them all. As much as we would like to, there are so many of them that some have to go."

Earthworks at Pukeori are expected to begin within the next week, but an earlier start could be made if the weather is suitable.

Mr G. C. Christiansen, a surveyor who is in charge of the design of the whole subdivision, said yesterday that if the weather was right, earthworks could even begin today.

Mr Christiansen has been engaged by the building contractors, Pepper Con-

struction Ltd, to remove anything up to 40ft from the top of the old pa.

He estimated that something in the region of 4000 yards of earth would be shifted to provide 23 sections in the subdivision.

Mr Christiansen expected that the contractors would have completed their earthmoving with two weeks of commencement.

He said special efforts would be made to collect any artifacts that may be unearthed by the contractors.