120 metres long, 35 metres wide and covering an area of approximately 2000m², the Bulford Kiwi lies on a slope above the Southern English town of Bulford. Cut out of the chalk hillside almost 100 years ago, the Kiwi has had a chequered history. Why was this hill figure built so far from New Zealand shores? How did the surveyor – a young soldier from Dunedin – set out the figure, using only a theodolite and tape?

In 2016 a field survey was carried out at Bulford to map the Kiwi and determine the existing layout. Working with the authors of a new book on the history of the site, Richard Hemi of the School of Surveying has been carrying out an analysis of the current figure with its original design layout. Only recently brought to light in national media by WW1 commemoration interest, the bird has had an interesting history. But an essential question remains - is the bird still a kiwi?