



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

A HANGI SITE AT GLENBURN by K. Cairns.Illus. Plate 4.Map ref. Pahoa, N166 (313169)

Natural forces of winds and seas occasionally expose archaeological points of interest in a surprisingly exact manner. An example of this is to be found at Glenburn, where the sea has eaten away the land to expose an earth oven in perfect cross-section.

The umu, or hangi, is situated on the beach at Glenburn, some 35 miles from Masterton, on the Eastern coast. It is situated 10 yards from the high tide mark on a foreshore earth bank, which is 7' 6" high. Above the umu is a thick coating of topsoil and turf at the margin of a gently sloping paddock. The sea beating in on the coast at this point has gradually cut the earth bank back, and continuous action of this sort will destroy the site.

The umu appears to have had limited use, for the layer of charcoal is only 1" thick, and the layer of burnt stones, 9" thick is clearly defined in position. The highest part of the oven lies 10" below the grass topped bank, and the lowest part 20", making the oven 10" through. The visible length of the oven in the bank is 9' 3". The only shell visible in the oven is the paua (Haliotis iris)

PUTORINO by C. Scott-Maundrell.

Looking at a North Island map, about due south from Hunterville, can be seen a great bend in the Rangitikei River. Here the river hurls itself against high cliffs. It is said that in the early days of settlement in Lower Rangitikei a great landslide from these cliffs blocked the river for some days. When it burst the great volume of water scoured much of the bush from the banks, and started the huge shingle beds that are a feature of the lower river to-day.

The tongue of land that reaches into the bight is called Putorino. It was so named by the Maoris, who said that in certain winds the cliffs made music like that of the putorino, or wooden

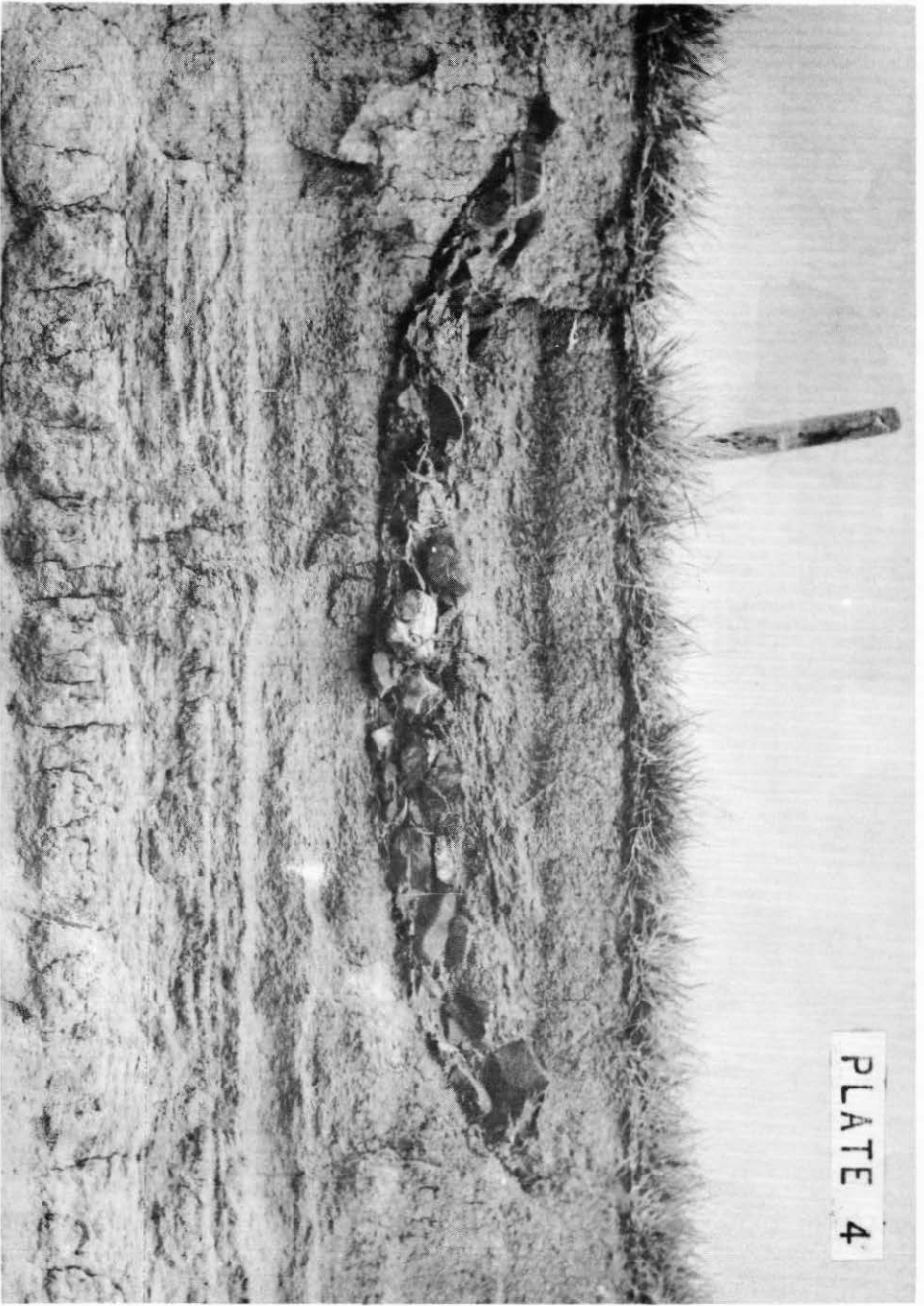


PLATE 4

CROSS-SECTION OF HANGI
GLENBURN

ART. K. CAIRNS