



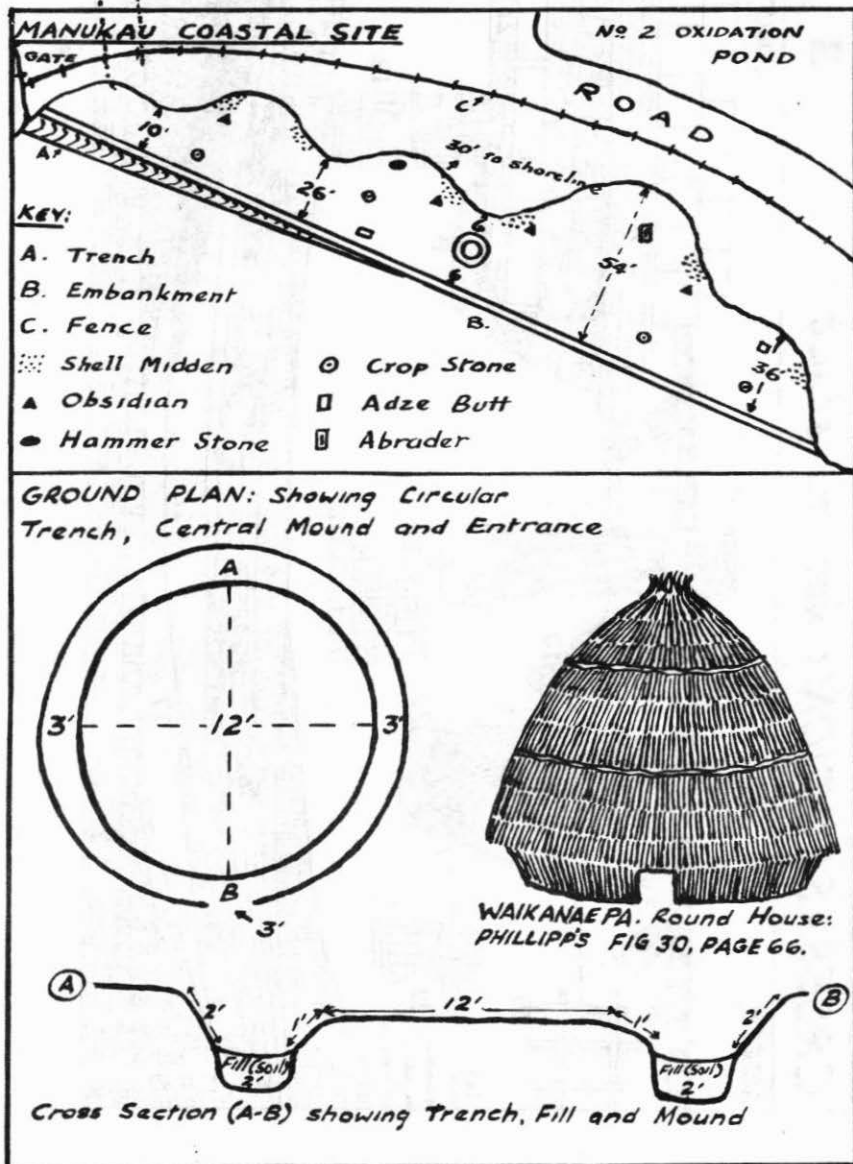
NEW ZEALAND  
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**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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A MANUKAU COASTAL SITE

Alar Taylor

Situated almost at the mouth of the Oruarangi Creek (NZMS N42 Auck. 284-454) is a circular house or storage site within a bank and ditch enclosure. Measuring 18 ft in diameter, the 'house' is associated with several shell middens and sunken pathways leading down to the original Manukau Harbour shoreline, which is now incorporated in the Manukau Drainage Scheme.

Two feet wide and approximately 18 in. high, the bank has an overall length of 324 ft, of which 126 ft is parallel with a 2 ft deep trench. A continuous bank (no evidence of breaching), the bank may have been a boundary line rather than part of a defensive scheme.

Other than the bank and 'house' site there are only the shell middens within the enclosure. These contain, principally, the rock oyster (Saxostria glomerata) and pipi (Amphidesma australis).

Artefactual material recovered from within the enclosure (bank and 30 ft cliff) included an abraded, hammer stone, flakes of Mayor Island obsidian, an adze butt (2B: Duff) and a number of Moa crop stones - all surface finds.

NOTES

The superstructure of the round 'house' was possibly identical to that of the round house featured in W. J. Phillipps' 'Maori Houses and Food Stores', Wellington 1963 and illustrated in the accompanying drawings by W. A. Taylor.

An almost identical circular 'house' site was recorded at Waitomokia (NZMS N42 Auck. 289-456) which was also in association with a bank and ditch: approximately 200 ft long; the bank (3 ft high) being constructed of scoria blocks and soil, the ditch 18 in. deep and 3 ft wide.

Possibly part of the outer defences of Waitomokia pa, the trench and bank was breached; the cuttings being 10 ft, 5 ft and 4 ft wide respectively, thus suggesting entrance-ways.

Within the immediate vicinity of the round 'house', ditch and bank were shell middens and pits, 3 ft in diameter. Artefacts recovered from the surface of the site, and recorded, included chisel blades, adzes, hammer stones, drill points, net sinkers, sharpening stones, flakes of Mayor Island obsidian, shell discs and an anchor stone.

Recent quarrying has completely obliterated the site.