



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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by D.W. Robinson

A holiday to Cooper's beach in the New Year period of 1963, became an exhilarating experience for the writer and his family through the genuine interest of local residents, in the history and pre-history of their area. The Anthropology Department of the University of Auckland assisted materially by making maps available on loan for recording purposes. Prior reading of all available material (this proved difficult to locate) indicated that possible lines of inquiry might by:-

1. The locating and reporting of as many sites as possible. The only previous site recording had been done by J. McKinley and R.C. Green in the region some 50 miles to the south.
2. To seek out local enthusiasts and to examine local collections to assess the general content. Nephrite being scarce in the north it considered that collections might not be unduly weighted by collectors' selectivity.
3. To look for indications of man's primary association with the Moa, this bird having been known to exist in large numbers in the area in early times.

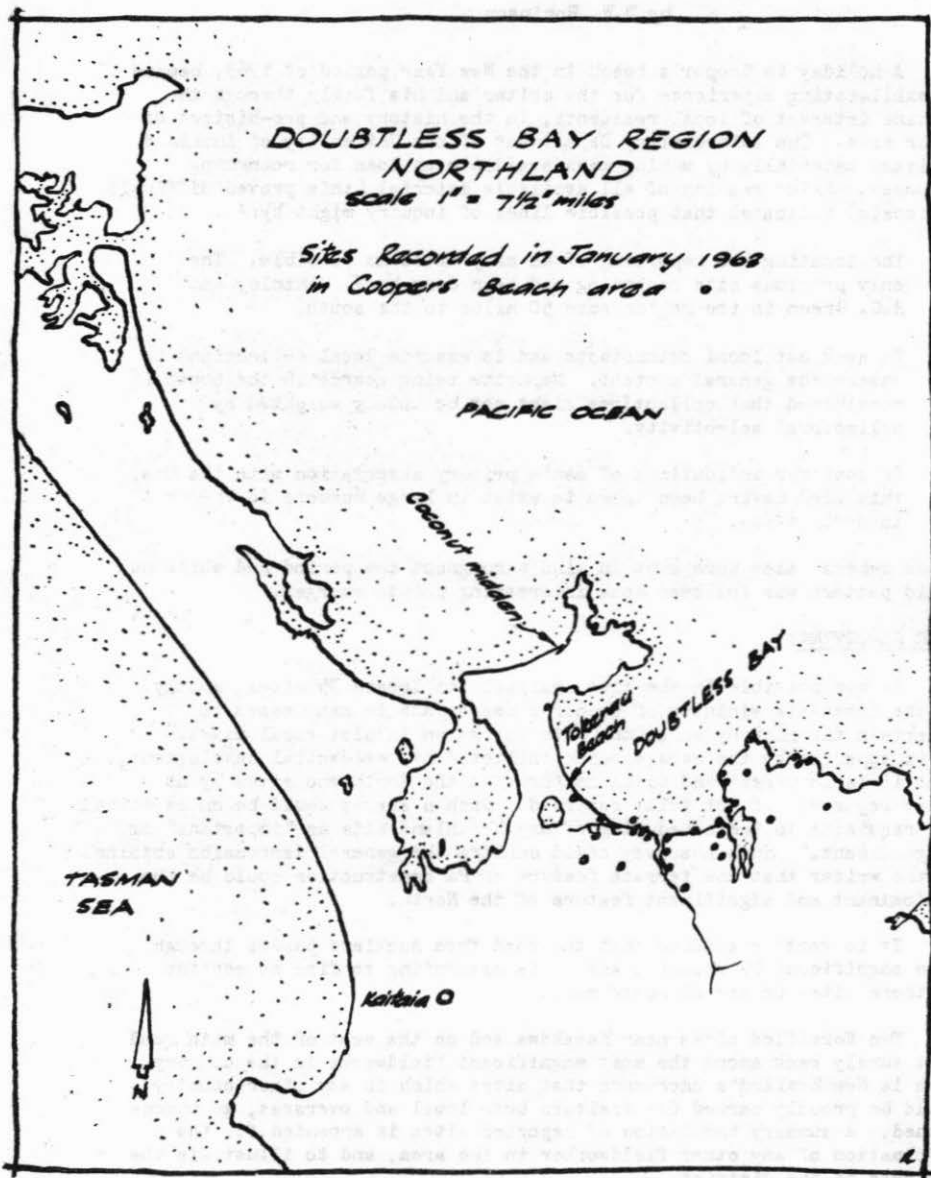
These general aims were kept in mind throughout the period and while no rigid pattern was followed some interesting points emerged.

SITE REPORTING:

It was possible in the time available to locate 35 sites, mostly in the immediate vicinity of Cooper's Beach, and in many cases to ascertain the name by which the site was known in historical times. It is apparent by the damage being inflicted by residential development, that it is an urgent and vital matter that the Northland sites by at least reported, if not fully recorded. Such a survey would be an essential pre-requisite to the scheduling of any Northland site as "important" or "significant." Such a survey could confirm the general impression obtained by the writer that the terrace feature of Pa construction could be the predominant and significant feature of the North.

It is worth recording that the road from Auckland passes through some magnificent Pa country, and it is astounding to find no mention of these sites on the AA route maps.

Two fortified sites near Kawakawa and on the west of the main road must surely rank among the most magnificent fieldworks in the country. Such is New Zealand's unconcern that sites which in any other country would be proudly marked for visitors both local and overseas, go unmentioned. A summary tabulation of reported sites is appended for the information of any other fieldworker in the area, and to illustrate the richness of the district.



LOCAL COLLECTIONS:

A number of local collections were viewed, and where possible recorded by photography. Time precluded any attempt at proper recording by measurement, etc. This will have to be done if for no other reason than that, in almost every case, collections contained up to 50% of artifacts which have occurred elsewhere, archaeologically in archaic contexts. Adzes of the Duff types 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A predominate with one piece barbless bone hooks frequent.

LOCAL INFORMATION:

It has been said that the abundant Moa remains, both bone and egg shell, which occur in quantity among the sand dunes, particularly on Tokerau beach, are naturally deposited, and that they lie beneath the dunes on the basal material. Observations over a four mile length of dune showed that these remains occur at various levels and relationships with sea shell middens, in eroding dunes. It is apparent that the true relationships of these remains cannot be assessed from surface examination, because in every wind-blow the diligent fossicker can accumulate a collection of bones, shell, eggshell, obsidian etc. Only a systematic excavation of some of the stabilised dunes will reveal the true stratigraphic picture. Items of interest which were discovered during discussions with local people included the fact that within a short time of a complete Moa egg being eroded from a sand dune in 1900, human skeleton remains were eroded from the same sand dune. The remains were reinterred elsewhere by the writer's informant. The dune still exists almost intact and is stabilised by a growth of flax. Could this have been a Moa Hunter Burial?

Many local people, particularly Mr and Mrs G. Adamson, and Mr and Mrs C. Mathews were extremely helpful in filling out the Doubtless Bay story with their detailed knowledge.

A REPOSITORY FOR NORTHLAND COLLECTIONS:

Many collectors visited expressed opinions which made it apparent that it is their wish that their collections remain in Northland. In the absence of an official repository these collections will remain in private hands and there is every possibility of dispersal on the death of the owners. It is categorically stated by many that they are not prepared to donate material to the Metropolitan Museums, as they are too remote from the source of material. This feeling is strong and understandable when one is apprised of the activities of some of the outside collectors of the past. Desecration of burials of historical date has been commonplace and a legacy of resistance to scientific investigation remains to be overcome. It would appear that something in the nature of a satellite repository administered by the Auckland Museum, but situated in Kaitia or Whangarei where a local Museum has recently opened, would provide at least an interim answer to the problem, and would add materially to the Tourist attractions in the area. The greatest danger seems to lie in the evolution of small "displays" in schools etc. which provide no real safety or guarantee of permanence, however well intentioned the originators may be.

MAN'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE MOA

One may infer from the artifacts alone that the archaic people of New Zealand lived in this area. As recently as 1962 a surface find of a Duff type 1A adze was made. This adze head is 16" long, made from grey argillite with decorative notches along all corners. Moa bone is used for fish hooks of a style found elsewhere in archaic contexts. With its abundance of foods on both land and sea, excellent climate and other attributes it would be surprising to find that there had been no early occupation. Readers are referred to G. Fairfield's observations, TANE, Vol. 8, p.65-68, 1957-60.

MIDDEN REMAINS

Shellfish middens are so widespread around the bay that one gains the impression of a huge coastal kainga with Pa strongpoints built on every available hill or headland. One midden, ranging from 12" to 20" in thickness is virtually continuous for a distance of 4 to 5 miles along Tokerau beach. It contains all the species still found in abundance on the beach. Aggradation of the shoreline on this beach has given rise to the phenomenon which occurs at Horowhenua, but on a smaller scale. A dune series has been formed of which the seaward line contains heavy seashell midden but no Moa remains, while those further inland contain both shellfish midden and Moa bones and shell. This clear subdivision only occurs where shoreline growth is taking place. Although the site was not visited by the writer, samples of cleft, mature coconut shells recovered from a midden at Grid. Ref. NZMS/N7/Square N09/887035 were among a collector's possessions. He said that the midden contained quantities of these shells, together with the usual sea shells. This could be an uncommon midden and worth urgent investigation.

CONCLUSIONS:

The beaches around Doubtless Bay are being rapidly opened up by subdivision and sale, and it is certain that within a few years one of New Zealand's richer archaeological sources will be destroyed. It would seem to be necessary to promote the establishment of a working group in Kaitia, with a Tutorial Expedition organised from Auckland, to teach the elements of site recording. Excavating expeditions with local staffing would follow naturally, but cannot long be delayed, if some information is to be salvaged.

SITES REPORTED ON NZMS I MAP NUMBER N7 (DOUBTLESS BAY)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SITE NO.</u>	<u>GRID REF.</u>	<u>SITE TYPE</u>	<u>FEATURES</u>	<u>STATE</u>
TE HOMUHU	N7/4	007848	HEADLAND PA	DITCHES & TERRACES	50% DESTROYED
RANGI KAPITI	N7/2	028854	HILLTOP PA	TERRACES	50% DESTROYED
RANGITOTO	N7/3	033863	HEADLAND PA	DITCHES & TERRACES	GOOD

Name.	Site No.	Grid Ref.	Site Type.	Features.	State.
	N7/4	964843	KAIINGA	MIDDEN	
	N7/5	037864	CLIFF PA	DITCHES	POOR
	N7/6	038867	KAIINGA	MIDDEN	
	N7/7	024856	HEADLAND PA	DITCHES & TERRACES	POOR
	N7/8	032896	HEADLAND PA	DITCHES	GOOD
TIRITIRI	N7/9	978845	HILLTOP PA		DESTROYED
	N7/10	977837	RIDGE PA		DESTROYED
	N7/11	982818	HILLTOP PA	DITCHES & BANKS	GOOD
PUKETU	N7/12	942857	ISLAND PA		GOOD
	N7/13	936820	RIDGE PA	DOUBLE RING DITCH	GOOD
	N7/14	071863	HILLTOP PA	TERRACES	GOOD
	N7/15	123897	HEADLAND PA	DITCH & TERRACES	GOOD
	N7/16	123892	HILLTOP PA	DITCHES	GOOD
	N7/17	128896	HILLTOP PA	TERRACE	GOOD
	N7/18	134873	RIDGE PA	TERRACES	GOOD
TE RUAPARAORE	N7/19	951852	HEADLAND PA	DITCH	FAIR
HAUTUREROA	N7/20	932851	HILLTOP PA	TERRACETTES	VERY POOR
TE AURERE	N7/21	931852	KAIINGA	MIDDEN	
PAKERETU	N7/22	916849	KAIINGA		
PARARAKE	N7/23	913826	HILLTOP PA & TAPU GROUND		POOR
TE RARAMATA	N7/24	946855	HILLTOP PA		DESTROYED
PA RAKERAKE	N7/25	876982	FLATLAND PA	PALISADED IN 1910	DESTROYED
MAITAI	N7/26	913042	HEADLAND PA	DITCHES & TERRACES	GOOD
OTAMAWHAKARURU	N7/27	859887	TAPU GROUND	BURIALS	
TE RAI O TE WHATU	N7/28	061940	RIDGE PA	TERRACES	GOOD
	N7/29	026846	KAIINGA		
TE PUKE KARARO	N7/30	028838	KAIINGA		
	N7/31	928854	SITE OF FIND OF WHOLE MOA BGG IN 1900		
	N7/32	897884	"		
	N7/33	955849	KAIINGA	PITS MIDDEN	
	N7/34	958850	HEADLAND PA	TERRACES	POOR
WHAKARANGI	N7/35	058897	HILLTOP PA	WATER PIT VERY LARGE	GOOD