



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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GENERAL:

Although found in layers separated by sterile, or near sterile sand deposits, there is a similarity between the artifacts of all layers which tends to indicate a similar social pattern. Photograph no.7 illustrates the common design theme which runs through the range of bone chisels. The adze, of a type which is uncommon in the North Island, is also illustrated in photograph no.8. The bevel shows no sign of usage, and it is likely that the bevel grinding was completed either in the vicinity, or the head brought there for further processing.

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 A REPORT OF FURTHER FIELDWORK IN THE WANGANUI DISTRICT
 

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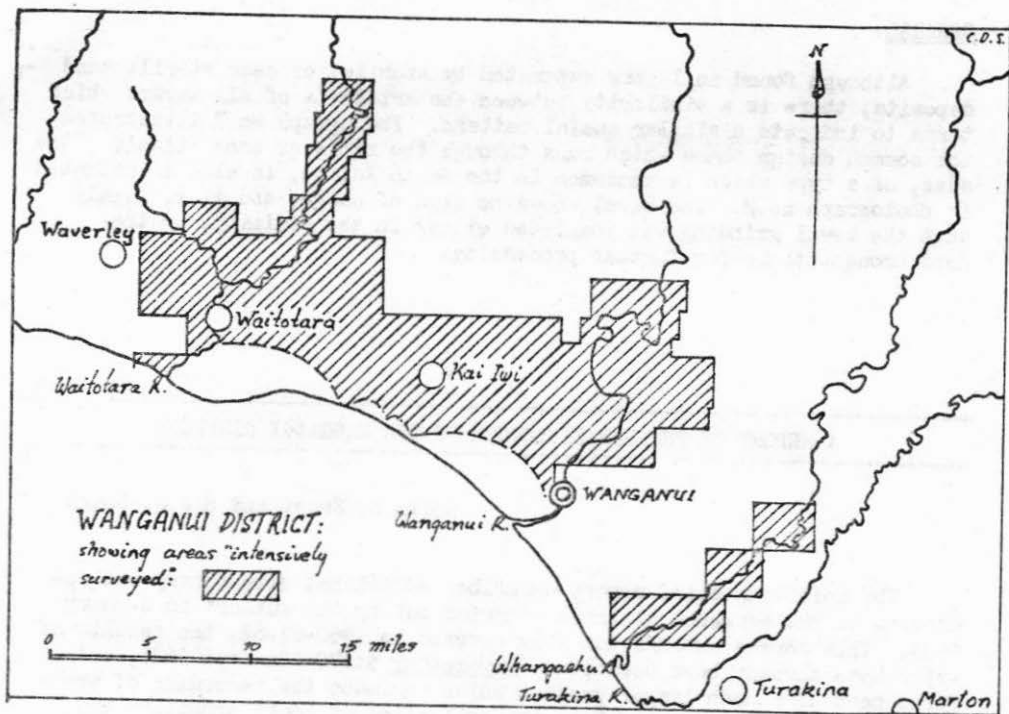
Colin D. Smart and M.J.G. Smart

The following brief report describes additional site survey and re-recording in the Wanganui district, carried out by the authors in January 1963. This survey extends the area covered in 1960-61-62, the results of which have already been described (Newsletter 5:170-184 Sept '62), and forms part of a much larger project which includes the recording of archaeological and historical sites, the collection of local tradition and historical records, excavation at selected sites and the analysis of the archaeological evidence in specific sample areas.

In addition to the usual techniques of field recording, a grant from the National Historic Places Trust made possible the aerial reconnaissance of a large part of the recording area as well as the aerial photography of a large number of sites. We are extremely grateful to the Trust for the new perspective this grant made possible. To Mr Foster, Ministry of Works, Wanganui, we are indebted for the use of the standard aerial photographs, and to the three pilots of the Wanganui Aero Club who flew us over some extremely rough country to obtain records of inaccessible sites, we are most grateful.

The area in which recording has been concentrated so far is shown in the accompanying map. It extends along the Wanganui coast from Waverly to Turakina, a distance of about 35 miles, and is limited to the coastal lowlands for the most part, although surveys in the Waitotara, Wanganui and Wangaehu river valleys carry the recorded area further inland - up to 15 miles.

Site surveys during January 1963 were concentrated in the area from Kai Iwi to Wanganui, in the lower Wanganui river valley, and in the valley of the Wangaehu River. Aerial reconnaissance and photography, however, covered much of the larger area from Waverly to Wangaehu and some distance inland.



#### RECORDING THE SITES:

The site survey proceeded in three stages - location of sites, recording and description of sites, and the collection of additional traditional and historical evidence connected with the sites.

#### Site Location:

The primary method of site location was that of stereo-inspection of the standard runs of vertical aerial photographs. This method had been used in the previous survey of the Waitotara-Mukumaruru area, and had proved to be rapid, thorough and capable of providing detailed descriptive information. (Newsletter 5:173 Sept '62). The areas covered by this technique are considered as "intensively surveyed" and likely to provide only a few additional sites if inspected thoroughly in the field. The open grassland characteristic of this area provides the maximum exposure of field evidence and must be considered a factor of vital importance in the success of this method of site location and recording. The aerial photographs used in this survey were taken during 1942 and 1943 and provide records of many sites which are no longer so well preserved or have since been destroyed entirely.

Sites on the aerial photographs were easily located on the aerial

Mosaic sheets (N.Z.M.S.3) and from these grid references can be obtained. The set of aerial mosaics used in this survey (13 sheets) remain as a permanent record in the care of M.J.G. Smart as local representative of the National Historic Places Trust to provide an overall base map for the larger project of site recording.

In addition to the location of sites by aerial photograph inspection, all available manuscript and published records were searched for references to site locations. This provided a number of new sites, especially outside the areas covered by the aerial photographs available. Other sites were located through local informants, by field inspection and from the air.

#### Site Recording and Description:

As already noted, details of description and sketch maps of the sites and their surroundings, could be obtained from the aerial photographs. To these were added the information obtained from field visits to the sites by the authors or by informants. Nearly all sites possessed some descriptive information and many have been described in detail.

With the grant made available by the Trust it was possible to undertake the aerial photography of a selected range of sites. Selection was based on several factors including geographical distribution, varieties of evidence, degree of preservation and traditional or historical importance. Five separate flights made in the evening or early morning, to a total of six hours, provided black and white, and some colour, records of sites from Waverly to Wangaehu.

#### Traditional and Historical Information:

To the descriptive information it has been possible to add a number of site names and related traditional or historical evidence, much of which had been collected by M.J.G. Smart over a period of several years. With this information the emphasis has been placed on evidence which can provide some form of relative or absolute dating of the sites, or which indicates the relationships between sites or their original function, so that analysis and interpretation of the field evidence is more possible.

#### THE SITE RECORDS:

All records are compiled within the system of the N.Z.A.A. Site Recording Scheme, and will be filed accordingly. Each site recorded possesses the reference information required by the scheme and nearly all have descriptive information including sketch plans and photographs. The master plan on which all site locations are recorded is maintained by M.J.G. Smart in Wanganui. A complete set of records is at present being checked prior to being entered into the Recording Scheme files in Wanganui and Wellington, while additional material in the form of photographs, field notes, traditional and historical notes etc. which are too specialised or too expensive to duplicate are held by the authors.

RESULTS OF THE SITE SURVEY:

A total of 93 new sites were added to the records already compiled for the Nukumarū-Waitotara area, bringing the overall number of sites recorded in the Wangamui district so far, to over 400. Within the areas intensively examined (covered by aerial photograph inspection as well as in the field), a full range of field evidences have been recorded. In an effort to answer specific problems of distribution, variations of form interrelationships, etc., several aspects of the survey received special attention:

Sites of the Maori Wars:

Nearly all the sites connected with the Maori Wars in the Wangamui district have now been traced and examined. A number of these have been destroyed or badly damaged, but the remaining sites, almost exclusively redoubts of European construction show considerable variety in design and construction and will provide an interesting study of this local, historical period. Little surface evidence remains of the several interesting sites built by the Maoris during this same period.

Pa Sites:

Site records from the Nukumarū-Waitotara area have already demonstrated the inadequacy of the conventional system of classifying pa sites. In constructing a more realistic system for pa site description and analysis, a considerable number of new examples have been examined in detail. The wider coverage of the recent survey has shown regional differences in pa construction which can now be added to those changes through time revealed in earlier surveys. The range of topographical situations in which pa sites have now been recorded is large enough to allow for the study of its effects upon pa construction in some detail.

Distribution of Sites:

Both wide range and detailed distribution studies are now possible. Conclusions discussed in the earlier report (Newsletter 5:183 Sept '62), have been confirmed and extended with the additional material. More detailed and accurate distribution patterns are now recognisable, and inter-relationships more easily seen.

Although several areas within the Wangamui district remain largely uninvestigated, and the existing coverage is not uniformly thorough, the wealth of available evidence will provide much of value. The later prehistory of the district is becoming increasingly clear, while several aspects of the methodology of field work and interpretation have been studied and clarified. So much detailed information is available at the present time that it will not be possible to prepare it all for publication in the immediate future. Rather, it is hoped that by examining various aspects of the work in detail, now it will be possible to prepare the larger study with less effort at a later date.