ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND

ArchSite Update

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I though time for another update, to let you know what I've been up to and what's happening with ArchSite.

Backlog

You'll be aware that when I took over the role of Central Filekeeper earlier this year the main priority was the "legacy backlog" – the list of a few thousand pending records comprised of both new sites and updates to old sites that had accumulated over a few years. I have chipped away at this legacy backlog, and it is just about complete – a few last stragglers that I'm harassing people about.

As I've previously noted, I'm prioritising new sites over updates, as absence of data about new sites in the system has a greater implication for site protection (some users can't see pending new sites, resulting in an apparent "absence" of sites). I am now working through recent new sites – these are sites that people have created this year. I am also chipping away at pending updates (these are generally much faster to process than new sites).

Future Projects

I plan to do a piece of work looking at the site types and site features fields – the relationship between them, whether we've covered all possibilities, how people are using and interpreting the categories. Do you have any pressing issues over types and features? Any notable absences? Please let me know.

Supporting data: The central file (paper records) is housed in a storage facility in Upper Hutt. There is also a huge amount of supporting data in these storage lockers too – maps, plans, reports etc. I want to catalogue all this, and then see what's missing from ArchSite that could usefully (and easily) be scanned and included. When the catalogue is complete I'll make this available somewhere.

I also want to talk to current and past regional filekeepers about what data they may still hold that isn't in ArchSite, and arrange to have this scanned. If you know of any plans, maps, pictures or other supporting data that's lurking

in the regions and isn't in ArchSite, please let me know. No problem for it to be held by the regional filekeeper, just to ensure its existence is known and catalogued, and that its included in ArchSite if appropriate.

And finally – a reminder about mandatory data when submitting a new record:
- Location aids
- Site description: the more the better
- Please include a photo of the site if you can!
- Supporting data: photos, plans, etc
  - o Please note that only image files and pdfs can be uploaded
  - o Text documents such as Microsoft Word are <u>not</u> compatible with the system
  - o Make sure your attachment is well labelled with the site number, and also preferably who took the photo & date. Also use a file name for the attachment that can also identify it e.g. U14 28 site plan.pdf
  - o A reference to photos or plans contained in a report isn't enough – we need an actual image attached to the site record
- Condition notes – and remembering to provide good justification if you choose " destroyed"

I'm very unlikely to approve a site without this mandatory data!!