



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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only three terraces had pits dug into them. Other features common to the Waitakere and Coromandel sites are as follows. Practically all terraces were dug back into a ridge and had three sides, pits were like trenches, the width being one third or less of the length; and heavy bush covers the hills behind the beach. Again, pa sites defended by ditches, banks and scarps, which are not found in the Waitakere Ranges south of Bethell's beach, are not found in the area surveyed on the Coromandel Peninsula, or, in fact, for many miles on either side of it.

The type of pa I have described is certainly not so distinctive or as interesting as the type commonly recorded. So many features one has come to look for in a typical pa site are lacking and therefore I would think that for this reason they are being overlooked. I was once guilty of doing just this, but since carrying out a survey of the Waitakere area and finding so many sites conforming to this pattern, I feel that more attention should be paid to them. Are they common throughout New Zealand? Are they an older type of pa from which the pa defended with earthworks has evolved? Are they a type constructed to suit local conditions or a certain tribe? These and many other questions arise from a study of pa sites constructed to this simple pattern, but unless many more are recorded no conclusive evidence can be deduced.

References.

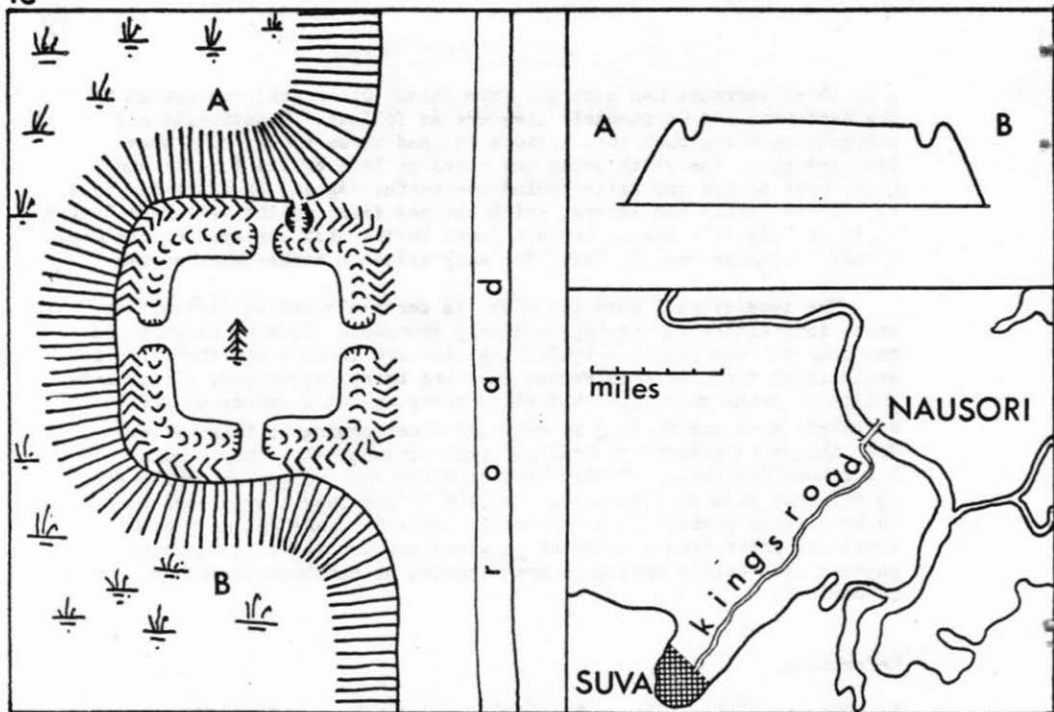
1. Diamond, J.T. 1961 "Fortified and Settlement Sites, Waitakere Area". N.Z. Arch. Assn. Newsletter, vol. 4 no. 2, p.54-55.
2. Diamond, J.T. 1962 "Field Survey of Western Side of the Coromandel Peninsula near Port Jackson". N.Z. Arch. Assn. Newsletter, vol. 5, no. 1, p.38-41.

AN EARTHWORK IN FIJI

ANNE LEAHY

During a recent holiday to Fiji I visited an agricultural experimental station at Koronivia. This station is situated on the King's Road about ten miles from Suva and about two miles from Nausori, a town on Fiji's largest river, the Rewa.

The station farms a very irregularly shaped plateau which rises from an extensive area of swamp. The flat top is gradually being cleared of trees and scrub and in the course of clearing part of the plateau two unusual features, that appeared to be earth works, were discovered.



One of these areas has been filled in and levelled recently because of the danger to cattle and therefore has been totally destroyed, though its outline may still be seen. The other site consists of a short rounded spur about 30 yards in length. The central area of this spur has been formed into a square with rounded corners surrounded by a ditch, now about six feet deep. Exterior to the ditch is a bank which surrounds the whole site. The top of the bank is only about two feet higher than the central square but the steep drop to the swamp on three sides gives the effect of height. The bank on the plateau side is present only as a longitudinal two feet high mound, dropping sharply down to the deep ditch behind. The inner square is connected on each of the four sides with centrally placed causeways extending out to the top of the bank. One of the banks has been breached to drain a portion of the ditch.

A third possible site shows up in an aerial photograph but it is still covered in trees at present.

As my visit to the area was short, about fifteen minutes, I was unable to do more than quickly walk over the site and could obtain no information as to its history or whether any artifacts had been recovered in the area. These sites may have already received attention from someone in Fiji.