



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

The quartzite is found on the tops of these hills, in association with the basalt, in a discontinuous line from north-east to south-west. I traversed the line from one end to the other and found that the quality of the stone fell off quite rapidly from the south-western end. The range of samples collected shows this deterioration in quality rather well. At the south-western end, the quartzite is a rough, resistant stone, with the typically conchoidal fracture and breaking to produce a razor-like edge. The stone is free of flaws, of even texture and unaffected to any visible degree by weathering on exposed surfaces. At the north-eastern end the sample was poorly fused and individual tiny quartz grains, some almost of pebble size were visible in the specimen. The edge was prone to crumble under moderate pressure, and the outcrops themselves were considerably weathered.

It is obvious that this locality is capable of supplying quartzite flakes of very high quality. But, the question still remains unanswered, as to whether it did or not. This needs further examination. In one place, I discovered a small pile of conchoidal flakes, plainly taken from a larger block. These could hardly have occurred naturally, but whether they were produced by the Maori could not be shown. And there, I thought, is where the matter ends.

But one student reported finding an adze-shaped piece of basalt, and by good fortune had brought it in. It had been picked up close to an outcrop of quartzite. In my opinion, this is an adze in the process of being made. Traces of polishing are clearly discernible, and the characteristic sub-parallel scratches associated with rough initial polishing are quite unmistakable. Along the edges are the scars made by flaking, and along the cutting edge, the basalt has been partly ground. Admittedly, it is not a complete adze but I would submit that it is evidence of Maori work. In this one locality, then, are two kinds of stone important to the Maori. It seems to me that finds like these are every bit as important as finding the finished product produced from these raw materials in some other place where occupation can be shown to have occurred.

Out of these finds then arose the question as to whether quartzite flakes could be accurately associated with outcrops in different parts of the country. This is certainly rather more difficult. But an examination of flakes collected by von Haast from a site at the Rakaia River mouth in 1870 shows that this should be possible. The quartzite in these flakes seems different in colour and texture from the Oxford quartzite, and suggests a different source. It remains now to find flakes that closely resemble, or better still, exactly resemble the original Oxford stone in an occupied site to allow a reasonably safe assumption that this area has indeed been a source area for quartzite.

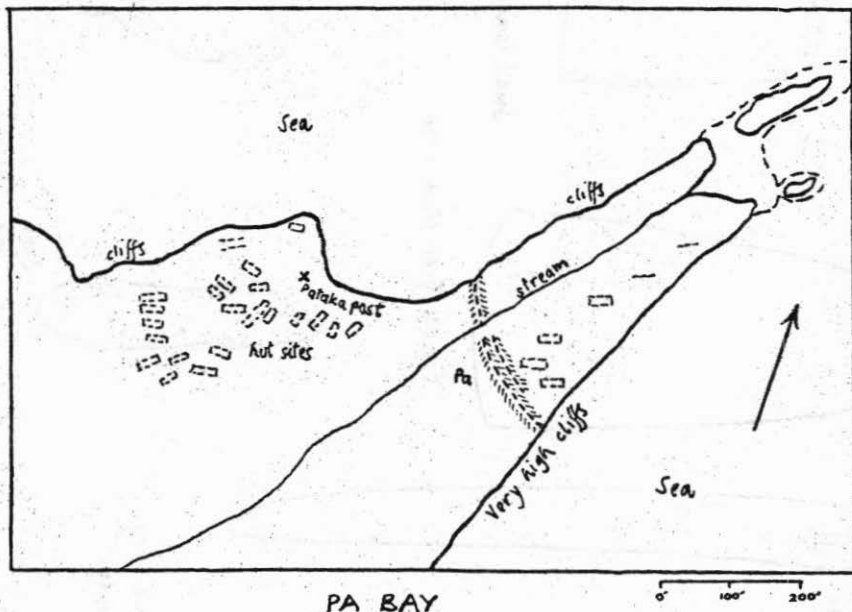
EXCAVATIONS at PA BAY, BANKS PENINSULA

By M. Thacker

Firstly, I would like to make known my desire to some day form a Public Museum here at Okain's Bay: and excavations at Pa Bay are carried on with this in mind.

The site, lying as it is, about four miles from any habitation, makes it an ideal long term project site. The Pa is a good example of headland fortification, situated at the end of a well-watered gully and accessible only up a steep bank from the sea, or from the once heavily wooded hills behind. At one time there has been a palisade across the sea end, and another, four hundred feet up the gully stretching from cliff top to cliff top. This top palisading has had a trench along its outer side, perhaps three feet deep. Half way down one side appears to be double palisaded for about a chain. This probably contained the gateway.

Inside the fortified area are about nine hut sites, some not readily discernible.

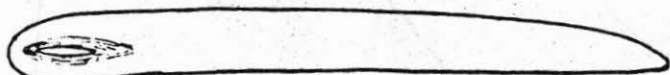


For perhaps two hundred yards along the sunny side of the gully, above the Pa, are numerous parallel ridges, thirty to forty feet apart, running from thirty yards above the creek to the ridge top. No doubt Kumara Gardens. On the opposite side and continuing for about the same distance is the Kaika, or Village.

Over the last five years, I, with help from my cousins and three others, have slowly been excavating some of the village site, which contains thirty odd visible hut sites. The culture material recovered has proved it to be a Classic Maori Site, with a sprinkling of trading material. This is especially in evidence in the sites furthest from the Marae, which seems to indicate that the younger families - less wealthy in greenstone - lived on the outskirts of the Village. The occupation layer is from 6" to 8" deep over most of the area, with deeper portions around the ovens. This is composed mainly of shell and ash, with a liberal scattering of firestones.

Greenstone Pendants

grooved hole



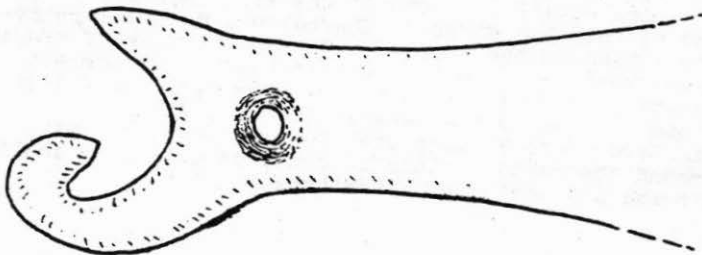
drilled hole



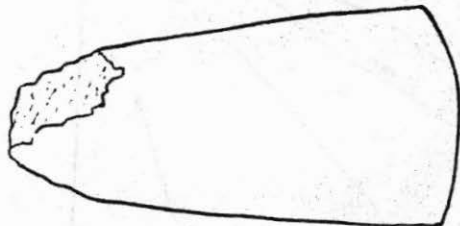
Whale ivory pendant



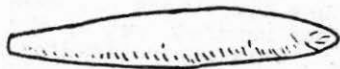
Whale bone Palu butt



Small tanged adze



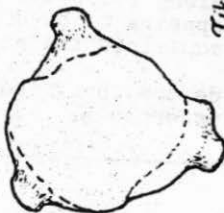
Typical Greenstone adze



Greenstone gauge



Bone Composite hook barb



Tiki eye grinder of sandstone

To date, we have excavated nine hut sites, including the Meeting House. Adjacent to one of these sites, a Kumara Pit, 8' 6" x 5' 6" and 10" depth, has been excavated. Leading from the centre of this pit, and extending for 10 feet was a drain 4" deep, similar to rectangular pits with drains at Sarah's Gully, Mercury Bay. I have not heard of any others recorded in the South Island as yet, but no doubt many could be found round other selected sites.

None of the hut sites are of the sunken type, and generally average nineteen feet by eleven feet in size. The wood for construction was Totara. I estimate that these habitation areas were occupied about 1800, because firstly, the people to live there used only classic greenstone artifacts, and secondly, none of these artifacts have been burnt, which means that they were covered with debris when the site was eventually burnt.

I also estimate that the site was sacked and burnt about 1820, because of the shallowness of occupation layer, the possession by the people of trading articles, dating from about 1810, and the fact that there are no references to the Pa in any books or local Maori memories. Also, it was not occupied when Te Rauparaha sacked Cnawe, the leading fortification on the Peninsula in 1832. It can be seen therefore, that this is a truly Classic site of the Ngai Tahu Tribe.

At the Pa Bay site, there are few adze types, and these with the exception of one, are all of greenstone. Several broken chisels, and three complete gouges have been found. A large number of flake knives of chert or flint are also present, especially so near oven sites.

Owing to the hard base of clay this site has, there is very little evidence of bone work, but to date we have been able to excavate one barbed composite hook bar, and two Barracuda hook barbs. Only one sinker of the grooved type has been found. Amulets of greenstone including straight ear drops, one of the curved variety, one with lug for suspension and several unfinished pendants have been excavated. Most of the unfinished ones are rare types similar to the Armytage specimens from Murdering Beach. One 2½" whale ivory pendant as well as a section of a Hei Matau, and Hei Tiki have been found. As for the musical side of the community, only one broken Koauau flute has been found. A small section of a carved Waka Huia lid and one Paua shell eye have been excavated from different sites.

Whalebone Patu have at one time been numerous, as three broken butts and one poor full specimen (sandstone cut one side, and steel cut the other), have been found. Two of the butts are fluted types, but the other has a hook on one side and a straight projection on the other, similar to Southern types.

A wide variety of cutters and grinders have come to light, sandstone being the most commonly used, but stone grinders for use with sand and water have also been excavated. Three limestone specimens for final polishing have been found, and yet perhaps the most remarkable grinders of all are two with small circular knobs on them for fashioning Tiki eyes; also in evidence are drill points.

Although we have excavated several toggles - one being of green-

stone - and large broken adze blades, yet we have not come across any complete Tikis or large Adzes. Together with this fact and the evidence of trading material present, i.e., adzes and gouges of iron, fashioned in Maori shape, trading beads, Jew's Harp, iron nails, and pieces of rum bottle; it seems certain that these better pieces have been traded away.

It is to be hoped that in years to come, after the completion of the excavation of this site, that a miniature scale model will be constructed and preserved for students of the future.

---ooOoo---

MOA HUNTERS at the WAIAU ?

by G. G. Parry

It has been my belief for some years that "Moa hunters" will be found to have frequented the mouth of every large river on the east coast of the South Island. Major discoveries have been made at Founaweia, Papatowai, Waitaki, Rakaia and Wairau: and indications (to put it no more strongly) found at the Hurunui, Ashley and Clarence. Others no doubt await investigation.

This belief moved me to make an investigation at the mouth of the Waiiau in North Canterbury. So far as I know this area has never previously been surveyed from an archaeological point of view. There is no record of any discovery of artifacts, of Maori occupation at the time of European settlement, or of any native tradition or history connected with the area. The river mouth is remote and difficult of access.

Visits were made in January of each of the years 1958, 1960 and 1961. No systematic digging has yet been attempted but the discoveries made are of interest.

The Waiiau river runs through a narrow valley in the seaward hills. Across the mouth of this valley is a large bank of shingle and on reaching the shingle bank the river takes a sharp turn to the left (north) and for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile runs in a northerly direction between the shingle bank and a river terrace 15 - 20 feet high before breaking out to sea. The position of the mouth changes from time to time. At present it is at the northern end of the shingle bank but in 1861 when the first survey was made it was at the southern end. The river terrace is roughly triangular in shape and has an area of about 50 acres. A perusal of early maps however shows that there has been considerable erosion, particularly at the point where the river makes its left turn. The terrace is backed to the west and north by steep hills, both hills and terrace being covered with tussock and fern. On the western slope of the hills however, and in the gullies there is a considerable area of bush which was once much larger. The supply of shellfish is poor and fishing in the area not good; but there are ducks and other water fowl in season. It would not offer very strong attractions as an area for permanent settlement.

The first visit in 1958 was to the south bank of the river.