NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND

FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

Simon Best reports two pits were examined on the Steven's property, Te Pahi, as part of the requirements for Authority 2011/16. The pits were sectioned (half the contents taken out by machine and then cleaned down to sides and base by hand), photographed and sections drawn. Each pit contained a substantial layer of shell midden in the lower fill (after a period of abandonment) which was sampled for both species identification and dating. In one of the pits the infill layer of shell was level, however no evidence for activities on or within this was identified. Samples of dark soil on the base of both pits, which might contain relevant microfossils, were collected.

The high point on the hill, adjacent to the most northerly pit, was taken down to the clay, and examined for features. None were found. The high ground to the north of the site was examined for features, to check whether the site was part of a larger settlement. No evidence for this was found.

To our friends and colleagues in Christchurch Arohanui.

Bill Edwards

From 10–24 January the University of Auckland Field School was run at Urupukapuka Bay, Urupukapuka Island, in the Bay of Islands under the directorship of Thegn Ladefoged, Rebecca Phillips, Rod Wallace and Alex Jorgensen of the University of Auckland, and Mark McCoy of the University of Otago. It was incorporated into a larger regional project supported by the Marsden Fund (Principle Investigator Mark McCoy, Associate Investigator Thegn Ladefoged), the University of Auckland Faculty Research Development Fund, the University of Otago, and gratefully received support and assistance from Ngati Kuta and Patukeha hapu (Te Rawhiti Marae) and the Department of Conservation (Andrew Blanshard). Thirteen University of Auckland undergraduate students plus Auckland and Otago graduate students surveyed, excavated, sampled, recorded and undertook geomorphological test pitting on garden features and terraces around Urupukapuka Bay. As an added bonus they were also lucky enough to experience "extreme backfilling" as tropical cyclones Zelia and Vania dumped heavy rain and high winds on Northland at the end of the dig.

A variety of burning events, postholes, board slots and bin pits were recorded on two terraces, although the minimal artefactual material (other than a few flakes of obsidian and chert) and the structural evidence of the features suggested the terraces were unlikely to have been occupied on a long-term permanent basis. Excavation across slope garden alignments together with the excavation of a lower terrace provided evidence of a long period of relatively low-intensity gardening across the entire valley. Geomorphological investigation of the flat area below the gardens and behind the beach revealed previously unrecorded areas of archaeology; midden and possible garden soils, together with a large piece of waterlogged and preserved kauri (no longer growing on the island) in one test-pit.

In the second week the field school was fortunate to receive input and on the spot analysis from visiting ecologist Peter Vitousek (Stanford University) and soil scientist Oliver Chadwick (UC Santa Barbara). Bill Edwards and Sheila Naughton kindly spoke to the students about heritage management as part of the school's evening lecture series. All in all a highly successful dig, despite the soggy end; the research team hope to return to the island to investigate other features as part of the on-going research project later in the year.

Alex Jorgensen, Rebecca Phillips, Mark McCoy, Thegn Ladefoged and Rod Wallace

Auckland

CFG Heritage excavated two rural sites formerly some distance from Auckland City but now succumbed to urban sprawl: the Butler–Stoney House on the North Shore and the Stancombe Road Cottage, also called Baverstock Cottage, in East Auckland in January/February 2011.

The Butler–Stoney House was first occupied by members of the Stoney Family, one of the earliest families in the Silverdale/Orewa area. Another house connected with the family, Stoney House also in Silverdale, has recently been in the news as under threat from development, though it is now apparently safe. The Butler–Stoney house was probably built by Henry Butler Stoney (this branch of the family is distinguished by this middle name) some time (probably) after 1874, so it is not one of the earliest in the area – these would date to the 1860s. Three phases of construction were evident in the foundation plan, and the Phase 3 lean-to was still standing though quite decrepit prior to excavation.

The Stancombe Road cottage dates to 1877 when it was built as a three room cottage by John Edmunds Stancombe. It is scheduled in the Manukau City District Plan. In 1893 two rooms from the Baverstock School were moved to the house and attached to it. The school was built in 1875. A kitchen and

bathroom were added to the house at about this time. The cottage was still standing in the grounds of the International Buddhist Trust Temple and has now been moved to nearby Murphy's Road where it is being refurbished as a community centre.

The two sites have much in common archaeologically. Both are rural sites, originally quite some distance from Auckland in a period of relatively poor roads and slow communications (each site is now a 30 minute trip away from downtown on the motorway). At neither site was there a great deal of material culture or faunal remains – in other words, there was not much rubbish to speak of under the buildings or in the immediate curtilage. This contrasts to urban sites, where rubbish pits are somewhat more common, or to rural sites in Mangere, South Auckland where the underfloor space contains large amounts of rubbish. At the risk of pre-empting the analysis, which has not yet begun for either site, it seems that in rural settings rubbish was buried at some distance from the house, or disposed of in ditches or water holes – space was not a premium as it was on a small urban block. In the Mangere sites the houses were piled with local columnar basalt – in the two recently excavated sites they were piled with wood. In Mangere the underfloor was accessible from outside, in Silverdale and East Tamaki a skirt could be attached to ground level and the underfloor was not accessible.

The archaeology of rural cottages and homesteads is fairly new in New Zealand, or at least has received little attention, but there seems to have been a flurry of recent excavation in Auckland and also in Taranaki. There has been little in the way of a high level review of these site to date, but it seems that clear contrast with urban archaeology are apparent and that regional patterns of house building may structure the archaeology.

Matthew Campbell

Bay of Plenty

Sadly, the main news from the Bay of Plenty is of Ray Hooker's recent death. Ray was one of the early Forest Service archaeologists and had been a consultant archaeologist in the region for several years. Neville Ritchie, Phil Moore, Rachel Darmody, Meri Low, John Coster, Gabrielle Johnston and representatives from some of the forestry companies attended his funeral, appropriately on the site of Gate Pa, on February 9th. An obituary is published elsewhere in this issue.

In Tauranga, heavy rain in January caused a number of large slips on Mauao (Mount Maunganui), threatening archaeological features on this major site. A full assessment of damage and remediation options will be undertaken.

Also in Tauranga, Don Prince began excavations of U14/517, Te Rengarenga Pa, in February, prior to redevelopment. Preliminary results include finding the original defensive ditch and bank, as well as over 500 individual features, including rectangular storage pits, bin pits, collapsed rua, depressions, terraces and hut floors, stake and post holes, hearths, fire scoops and, of course, oven rake-out and shell midden. A small range of artefacts included obsidian flakes, an adze and grindstones. European artefacts dating from the mid to late 19th century through to the mid to late 20th century were also recovered.

Ken Phillips is also rumoured to have been working in Tauranga, in particular at Mangatawa, the major pa at the eastern end of the Tauranga Harbour. Chris Mallows was excavating kumara pits at Maramatanga Park, Te Puna, before Christmas. John Coster has been engaged in various small-scale forestry and monitoring work at Omokoroa, Papamoa, Whakatane and Hawai (no, not Hawaii). Karen Greig and Alexy Simmons are pursuing doctoral studies in Dunedin.

John Coster

In February the University of Otago ran its annual archaeological field school in Omaio Bay, in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The excavation was carried out on a small pa site (X15/44) on the Hoani Waititi Reserve under the direction of Richard Walter and Chris Jacomb. The pa site is one of four small pa on the reserve that are all of similar form – they are quadrangular, approximately 50 m long and are defended on three sides by a ditch and bank and on the forth side by a steep cliff falling into the sea. In 2007 one of the other sites was excavated by the Otago team as part of a joint project with the local runanga, Te Whanau a Nuku. The results of that excavation showed that the site (X15/46) was probably a defended storage area with small scale occupation limited to one area within the defended zone. The results of that excavation were published in a monograph of the Whakatane and District Historical Society in 2010. The recent field school excavation was designed to test whether the other defended sites may have fulfilled a similar function, or whether they had different internal components. Preliminary results suggests that the two sites are sufficiently different in internal organisation and material culture to imply that they comprise separate components of a single, larger settlement complex. Radiocarbon results are pending and laboratory analyses are currently being undertaken by the field school students.

Richard Walter

Taranaki

Thanks to funding from the Lysaght-Watt Trust Puke Ariki has been able to digitise Alastair Buist's archaeological photos. These include his aerial photographs of pa along with images of the Kumara–Kaiamo pa, Kaupokonui and Ohawe excavations. The photograph collection of former Taranaki Museum director, Rigby Allan, is also being digitised and included in this collection are images of Roger Duff's 1960 Waitara Swamp excavation and Colin Smart's excavation of Tarata pa in the Waitotara Valley. These images can be accessed at www.pukeariki.com. Ivan Bruce has been providing advice on avoiding archaeological sites during seismic testing for oil and gas exploration in South Taranaki and has recently carried out an assessment for a new Greymouth Petroleum well site near Urenui, North Taranaki for which an authority has been granted. Ivan has also carried out assessments for subdivision at Whalers Gate, New Plymouth which has involved the protection of part of the Kororako pa within the reserve contribution, and for the partial redevelopment of the 1886 White Hart Hotel in New Plymouth which occupies the site of the original 1844 hotel. Ben Shaw and Cathy Barr have been working with New Plymouth District Council looking at options for the expansion of the Waireka cemetery east of New Plymouth. The Waireka hill on which the cemetery is located is known to have a number of unmarked graves and was the site of an engagement during the 1860 Taranaki Land War which focused around the Jury farmstead and Kaipopo pa.

Andy Dodd

Wellington

Bruce McFadgen visited Baring Head in early November with Andy Dodd (HPT), Morrie Love (Wellington Tenths Trust), and Wellington Regional Council Ranger, to record the coastal archaeological sites with DGPS. The land has just become a regional reserve and the opportunity was taken to accurately record the site locations for the Regional Council and NZAA records. It was a beautiful sunny day!

The Wellington Archaeological Group (what WAG's!) celebrated Christmas in style with a luncheon at the BackBencher, n historic pub opposite parliament.

Pat Stodart reports: "With a date of 1847 Taylor–Stace Cottage is one of the oldest wooden structures in the Wellington region, but has been subject to several floods in recent years. As part of a protection plan by the land owners, Porirua City Council and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust the cottage was lifted from its site, and a week long archaeological investigation

carried out. The cottage was then placed back on a new earth mound high out of the danger zone of floods".

Kevin Jones has been busy monitoring the restoration of the totara flume below the old Karori dam, lowering of the beds of the Paekakariki tunnels (built 1886), excavating a farmstead at Awatea (south of Christchurch) and a number of urban assessments and monitoring in Paraparaumu, the Dominion Observatory, lower Taranaki Street near Te Aro Pa, in lower Willis Street (a building demolition), Courtenay Place and Tory Street.

Mary O'Keeffe has been working on Transmission Gully road with Victoria Grouden, and on the MacKays to Peka Peka expressway, and the Wellington Tunnels duplications project. She has assessed a proposed eco power project on Matiu/Somes Island in Wellington Harbour, and is completing work on the refurbishment and conservation of Government House, Wellington.

Mary O'Keeffe

Malborough

Deb Foster has carried out three assessments ahead of subdivision and building plans in Kenepuru Sound, none of which are expected to impact on the recorded sites on those properties. A barge loading platform is required to be built to facilitate tree harvesting in Crail Bay. This area was investigated and subsequently recommendations were made to monitor the foreshore area during earthworks. Most recently an assessment was carried out ahead of a road realignment project at the Dashwood Pass for Opus Consultants. This involved extensive research of old maps and aerials to work out whether the three recorded pit sites had survived the series of road and rail modifications since they were recorded in the early 1970's. One site was successfully relocated (3 of the 5 pits originally recorded), and the general location of the other two pits was finally established. A fourth possible pit was discovered which will require further investigation, and this will allow the opportunity to check to see if the other two pit sites remain intact .

Reg Nichol has been monitoring excavations at two construction sites in Blenheim. Work at the iSite building produced items that appear to be traces of the second and third Blenheim Railway Station buildings, as well as pieces of vintage hardware from track laying and part of a brake shoe from an unidentified piece of rolling stock. Excavations at the Parking Building site produced considerable quantities of both domestic and industrial material. Reg also carried out a small site survey at Rangitane Bay. The only notable result there was that it is the only area in Port Underwood that has failed to produce sites of any kind!

Reg Nichol

West Coast

Mamaku Archaeological Consultancy has been involved in three projects in the Reefton area. Reg Nichol carried out a small survey of the access for the proposed re-opening of the Blackwater mine. An interesting aspect of the scheme is the plan to re-use an old water-race as an aid in de-watering the site. An attempted survey of the site of the late 19th–early 20th settlement of Progress Junction by Les Wright and Reg Nichol was made very difficult by the present vegetation, which was mixed up with debris from harvesting of an exotic forest that had been planted across most of the site. Reg and Les had more luck surveying along the Oriental Creek Road, once the main access route to Globe Hill, where they were able to fill in details of several known dwelling sites as well as locating some additional examples.

Reg Nichol

Canterbury

With large parts of Canterbury suffering damage in last year's major earthquake (the aftershocks of which continue well into 2011), archaeologists have been asked by the Earthquake Commission to carry out archaeological assessments of those areas where land remediation has become necessary.

In many cases houses and other buildings have to be demolished and the ground strengthened before replacement buildings may be erected. And a lot of these damaged buildings date to before 1900, so coming under the archaeological provisions of the Historic Places Act. As well, there are older subsurface archaeological sites that could be damaged by the ground strengthening and stabilizing processes.

Michael Trotter has been working in four urban areas in North Canterbury – The Pines, Kairaki Beach, Kaiapoi and Brooklands – where liquefaction of the sandy ground has been a major cause of trouble. While a number of sites in these areas are already in the Site Recording Scheme, no systematic surveys have been made for them. It has not been possible to find some sites that were recorded in the 1960s and 70s, but other records have now been updated and new discoveries made.

Many of the historic buildings in the affected areas had been registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust – mostly Category II – or noted in the District Plan, but others have not been registered or recorded in any way. And there are some for which the date of construction is unclear.

A depressing aspect of this Earthquake Commission work is seeing so many homes – historic and modern – that have been badly damaged, often beyond repair. And portable toilets on each side of some streets, along

with a pervasive smell, attest to sewers still not repaired six months after the September quake.

Further inland and close to the epicentre of the main earthquake, one historic homestead that was very badly damaged and had to be demolished was that of Homebush, owned by the Deans family. (The house featured in many of the media items on the earthquake.) Michael was intrigued to find that the piles on which the house had been built were barrels of cement that had set hard during shipping or storage. He would be interested to know of similar usage elsewhere in New Zealand.

Michael Trotter

The main ongoing work for Witter Archaeology has been further salvage excavation and midden analysis for a subdivision near Kaiapoi. None of the middens appear to be associated with habitations, and there is very little in the way of animal bone or artefacts. Estuarine habitat change however appears to be identifiable by MNI percentages. Shell size curves seem to indicate whether the shellfish were hand selected or represent mass gathered natural populations. The middens further vary as to whether they are associated with cooking features, deposited on top of a soil profile or dumped down a blowout slope, their method of disposal (in food baskets or poured out of containers), as well as whether they are stratified and the size of the deposit. Criteria are also being examined to identify whether for the deposit is from a meal or the residue of shellfish drying.

Dan Witter

Otago

Shar Briden reports that a Historic Tenure Review survey and report was completed for the Mt Dasher pastoral lease in January 2011. Stabilisation works are currently being undertaken at the Young Australian Water Wheel. Wonderful video clips can now be seen on the DOC web page http://www.doc.govt.nz/. See the Golden Point clip of the running battery (Golden Point Battery is the only complete stamper battery in New Zealand to survive on site in working order)and the Bullendale hydro power generation video (the first industrial use of electricity).

Jill Hamel spent a lot of time at the end of year doing the application for a resource consent for the widening of the roads around the Otago harbour and the rebuilding of the sea walls. Further research on the 40 kilometres of hand-built, stone sea walls around Otago Harbour shows that there are no other sea walls in New Zealand comparable in size, and which are still being repaired and rebuilt by hand. This may also be true on a world-wide scale. The crucial point is the presence close to Dunedin of columnar basalt that breaks natural-

ly to suitable walling rock, which can be economically laid honeycomb style with the long axis of each rock running into the wall. The rocks are mostly hexagonal, so that they lock naturally and strongly together, and it is easy to avoid building long runs of joints which create weakness. The harbour is also reasonably sheltered and by laying geotextile cloth and a layer of base rocks of about 150 mm diameter it is also easy to prevent wash-out of fines from behind the face rocks. The importance of the walls as a heritage site encouraged Dunedin City to develop this method. The first cohort of walls was built in the 1870s, the second in the 1920-40 period when the roads were widened for motorised transport, and if the recent application for resource consent is gained, Dunedin City will widen the roads again for cycle and pedestrian paths, rebuilding the walls for the third time with a much better grade of rock. This third cohort is likely to last even longer than the other two, with much less need of constant repairs from storm damage. The rocks of the first cohort were re-used to build the second cohort, with very poor results in places. The second cohort is mostly being buried, and the new columnar basalt is being brought in to create a strong, evenly-tensioned wall. Long sections of the first cohort still survive on the Port Chalmers highway, and it is hoped that some good sections of the second cohort, with some interpretation, will be retained on the Portobello Road. The public thoroughly approve of the rebuilt walls, and the long-term economics seem to be acceptable to the City. Can the walls as a whole over time be considered to be a sustainable archaeological site? A rather curious concept.

Chris Jacomb writes that the SCHIP (Southland Coastal Heritage Inventory Project) partners (Environment Southland, Department of Conservation, Te AoMarama, The New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the NZAA) commissioned a University of Otago SPAR team to spend nine days investigating several eroding sites at the Tokanui River Mouth in January. The Tokanui River Mouth is located about 15 km from Slope Pt, the southernmost point on the South Island, but the site itself is in a relatively sheltered west facing part of the bay. The main site investigated (F47/53) is a stratified beach midden with two prehistoric layers and an upper layer that contains numerous fragments of whale bone, along with glass and metal items. The two prehistoric layers are dominated by shellfish but also contain significant amounts of fish, bird, sea mammal and whale, with sparse moa, including some eggshell at the base of the lowest cultural layer.

Museum collections in southern New Zealand contain large numbers of artefacts that are provenance to “Tokanui River Mouth”, and it is likely that at least some of these were collected from this site. There are at least three other places in the bay where exposures of intact cultural layers can be

seen, however, and all of these contain evidence (argillite flakes, moa bone, etc.) that suggests early occupation, possibly contemporary with the lower layer of the stratified site. The Tokanui sites are among a number of important archaeological sites along the Southland Coast that are being progressively destroyed by wind and sea erosion, in places accelerated by inappropriate stocking by farmers, and other activities. The stratified site is one of nine sites along the coast that have been identified for salvage excavations as a result of the Southland Coastal Heritage Inventory Project (SCHIP) that was completed in 2008 (see Egerton and Jacomb 2009 AINZ 52(4): 250-259) and prioritised in a 2010 report to the Project partners by SPAR. In this case part of the project is to compile a catalogue of artefacts and other material from the Tokanui River Mouth that are held in the various museums.

They excavated four 2 x 2 m areas, two of them in F47/53 and two in F47/11, a site on the banks of the Tokanui River. As well as approximately 0.5 m^3 of wet-sieved (3.2 mm) midden that was returned to the University for analysis, we found a cache of two adzes (a Duff type 1A and a small 2A), a large adze of Duff type 4A and a large type 1A that was found on the terrace above the site. The adzes were all of Southland argillites (Bluff and Riverton sources). Also of interest was a cache of 4 worked "blanks" of moa and whale bone found in the lowest layer.

This work was paid for by the SCHIP partners with funding from Environment Southland, Department of Conservation, Te AoMarama, and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Tiffany James-Lee