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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

An interesting array of archaeological works have occurred over the last few months in Northland relating to forestry works, buildings archaeology, subdivision development and council upgrade works.

Don Prince, Michael Taylor and Leigh Johnson have been recently involved with pre and post-harvest forestry works around Northland. Don has recently completed onsite training works with Hancock Forest Ltd in Whangarei, which Brooke Jamieson from NZHPT also attended. Michael is continuing with works in and around Waipoua Forest and Leigh is continuing to work with Summit Northern Plantations in the Hokianga.

Wesley Maguire of Heritage Survey Consultants has just completed the onsite component of a buildings archaeology investigation of the Bedgood Cottage, Waimate North. The property is owned by NZHPT and is part of the wider Te Waimate Mission complex. The cottage itself was deconstructed due to its structural instability and increasing risk to public safety. The building was recorded to Level II of the NZHPT Building's Archaeology Guidelines, using a combination of methods including the use of a reflectorless total station and photogrammetry. Preliminary findings indicate that the building had been modified during its occupation. The most obvious indication of this modification was the addition of the cross-gable roof. Preliminary findings also suggest that the building may have been converted into a cottage from another earlier building associated with the Waimate Mission Station. The results of the investigation are to be used in the future interpretation and presentation of the property by NZHPT.

As part of a subdivision development in Pataua North, Don Prince has recently started investigation works of several coastal dune midden sites that will be destroyed. This work will provide significant information as to the settlement of the area, including occupation dates. CFG Heritage has just completed a small project for a private landowner in Pakanae, Hokianga to construct a new dwelling. The area had originally been identified as the possible location of a village identified by Captain Heard in 1827 and upon investigation it was found to contain evidence of two hangi pits and a modified soil suggesting an area of Maori cooking activities.

Jono Carpenter is still continuing with the Ruakaka South Sewerage Scheme upgrade works for Whangarei District Council, while Leigh Johnson

and Elisabeth Callaghan have recently been involved with the pathway upgrade of Brodie passage in Russell for the Far North District Council.

Brooke Jamieson

Auckland

Archaeological monitoring of works carried out by both the Well-Connected Alliance (SH20 Waterview Connection) and the Causeway Alliance (SH16 Causeway Upgrade) has been conducted over the past few months by a team from Clough & Associates, led by Glen Farley. Several of the previously recorded sites are particularly significant and have been set aside for protection within the Oakley Inlet Heritage Area. Close attention has been paid to those works around the margins of this area and a number of features relating to the 19th century utilisation of the land have been recorded, including the race of the flour mill/tannery, pits and a well relating to the housing of the workers' families on the site, and evidence relating to the management of the landscape with drainage, levelling, retaining, quarrying and reclamation events all identified.

Several new prehistoric midden deposits have also been uncovered during the course of works, and while generally small deposits, analysis and dating of these will help to illustrate the occupation of the inner harbour.

More detailed recording of early 20th century industrial features has also begun, with several boat ramps, tramlines, quarry drives and concrete berthing structures all being examined.

During field surveying by Clough & Associates for the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Wellsford Road of National Significance, a new pa site was recorded by Sarah Phear. The new road runs approximately 38km through the Rodney area north of Auckland on State Highway 1, extending from the Johnstone's Hill tunnels just south of Pūhoi to a point north of Wellsford. The pa is located across Okahu creek from Te Hemara's Pa, and while smaller, would also have had commanding views, including views to the north not afforded by Te Hemara's pa. The pa had a large terrace which would have been suitable for habitation and/or horticulture. Midden sites located nearby are considered to be linked to the same settlement. Identification of the pa led to re-alignment of the route in this area.

A team from Clough & Associates were involved in the recovery of modern grave materials at Waikumete Cemetery in Glen Eden following the destruction of graves by council contractors, whereby the grave materials were dumped into a large pit. The archaeologists helped with the recovery of many items of value to the families of the stillborn babies, an experience that was both emotionally challenging and rewarding for the archaeologists when items they had recovered were recognised and returned the families involved.

Sarah Phear

Waikato - Bay of Plenty

Opus International consultant archaeologists have been active in the Bay of Plenty over the last few months. In June Sian Keith and Peter Caldwell monitored works to upgrade parking on Monmouth and Brown Streets in Tauranga. Finds on Brown Street included two postholes and a portion of a v-shaped drain with a clay pipe bowl in its base. On Monmouth Street, small pits, postholes and a layer rich in 19th century artefacts were encountered, as well as a reasonably large ditch which may be a continuation of a formerly recorded military trench.

In Whakatane, Opus monitored the installation of two stormwater pits at the base of Hillcrest Road. No in situ deposits were found, but metal debris including horse shoes were scattered widely on the surface. These remains are likely related to a former blacksmith's workshop nearby, and may indicate past games of horseshoes.

Opus archaeologists have also been monitoring works at McLarens Falls Road and Te Puna Road, in the western Bay of Plenty.

Elsewhere in the Bay, Ken Phillips has been excavating the route of a new boardwalk at Pilot Bay, Mount Maunganui (Archaic material is rumoured) and CFG Heritage's Mat Campbell and Peter Holmes monitored house and access construction at Ohauti, finding three midden deposits and a fire scoop dated to between the 15th and 17th centuries. Peter Holmes has also completed a report on works at Koutunui Road, Athenree, where two shell middens were uncovered and radiocarbon dates indicated a 15th century occupation.

Brigid Gallagher (Mishmish Productions) is part way through investigations on the Grumpy Mole hotel site on Tauranga's historic foreshore. She reports an excellent level of preservation with good urban stratigraphy. Four phases of European occupation have been identified - a 1936 fire, 1881 fire, the 1876/79 hotel and the single storey first European buildings on a different alignment. Maori occupation is indicated by the base of a pit and two shell-filled fire scoops in a buried soil. Further investigations will take place in late August after the walls of the existing building come down.

Mishmish recently carried out a Section 18 investigation at Bethlehem (Peterehema), determining the extent and nature of Houhainga pa. A double ditch and bank were identified around part of the pa and the initial thought is that there were two phases of Maori land use. Trenching around the pa area revealed evidence suggestive of smaller scale settlement. Investigation of these areas will commence shortly.

On a small monitoring job at Tanners Point within a severely degraded coastal midden a small stone lined hearth was recorded with a lovely black ashy layer on top. Mishmish is also undertaking object condition assessment and treatment plans for a range of historic artefacts and sites.

In Whirinaki Forest Park, site record upgrades were carried out by Kevin Jones and Kohiti Kohiti (kaumatua, Ngati Whare) during a very cold May. They have uploaded the data, including six NZTM polygons, and 2009 PDF upgrades, to Archsite. Some work is still required on pa deep in the Mangawiri Stream but overall this work completes upgrades for the Forest Park.

Lynda Walter has undertaken some minor work for forestry companies, DoC and NZHPT in the Bay of Plenty, but much of her time now is taken up with her new role as Executive Officer to the Whakatane Kiwi Trust.

In the Waikato, Alexy Simmons monitored the installation of the Moko Mask Sculpture in the Octagon Reserve at Ngaruawahia. There was no impact on the site of Tawhiao's village and only minor un-dateable artefacts were found.

Brent Druskovich has submitted a final report on works at the Old Taupo Courthouse and site of Tapaeharuru Redoubt. A posthole and several pits, possibly rubbish holes, with mostly 20th century glass and china artefacts, were uncovered.

John Coster continues as secretary to the Tauranga Moana Museum Trust, which is planning a major fundraising programme to establish a museum in Tauranga. It is hoped that artefacts from the many excavations around Tauranga will be deposited with the Tauranga Heritage Collection (<http://www.taurangaheritagecollection.co.nz/>), which will form the basis of the future museum's exhibitions.

John Coster & Cathleen Hauman

Taranaki

Clough & Associates have recently undertaken an excavation of part of Matarikoriko pa/stockade site Q11/122, located on Matarikoriko Road, Brixton. The investigation focused on a proposed house platform and uncovered remains related to both the Matarikoriko gunfighter pa, constructed on the site in 1860, and the subsequent occupation of the site with the Matarikoriko redoubt (1861). Features included a section of the gunfighter trenches and a subterranean house related to Matarikoriko pa, as well as palisade, structural posthole alignments and a large storage pit related to the later use of the site as a stockade. The project was directed by Rod Clough with the excavation crew led by Charlotte Judge with assistance from Joss Piper-Jarrett and Bernie Larson.

Ivan Bruce and a team of archaeologists including Micheal Taylor, Kate Lilley, Joss Piper-Jarret and Bernie Larson have undertaken archaeological investigations at the site of the first colonial homestead in Bell Block, North Taranaki. The earliest European occupation at this site is contemporary to the

earliest phase of nearby Te Oropuiriri. The property was originally settled by John George Cooke, later by Nathaniel Reed and several generations of the Sampson family. The recent excavations have centred on the area of the original homestead. The excavations have recovered the well, evidence of a domestic structure, colonial era storage pits and a cobbled courtyard, similar to others excavated in colonial contexts elsewhere in Taranaki (e.g. the White Hart Hotel). All artefacts recovered thus far appears to date to the later Sampson family occupation (circa 1868 on) and comprise ceramic, glass and slate in a highly fragmented state as a result of heavy ploughing. The investigation is being undertaken in stages; further work will commence as the subdivision development progresses. While this subdivision is situated on the homestead section of the original Cooke farm, the remainder of the Cooke farm is situated on the adjacent Links subdivision which has also been extensively investigated in a series of excavations directed by Clough & Associates and/ or Ivan Bruce. At the eventual completion of these works they look forward to being able to present an unusually comprehensive archaeological assemblage that combines the results of these two investigations into a narrative of the evolution of the colonial rural sections, that spans previous prehistoric Maori occupation, colonial establishment, intensification of farming and ultimately residential subdivision.

Caroline Phillips, assisted by a team of archaeologists and Otaraua hapu monitors, has worked on the investigation of a newly discovered site in the Mangahewa valley, south of Waitara. This project was the result of monitoring an oil pipeline route. The site was a simple Maori camp, with two hangi and a temporary shelter or windbreak. It was situated near a clearing known as Pukaikuri, in what was otherwise a forested landscape, and dated to the mid 16th or mid 17th centuries. This was earlier than expected, as it was generally assumed that inland Taranaki was not occupied until the 19th century when the Musket Wars and later Land Wars forced many people to hide in the hills.

Nicola Molloy, Kevin Jones and Paul Mahoney have been working on the long-term management of Te Koru and Pukerangiora.

Andy Dodd

Wellington

Kevin Jones has finished work on the former Whitcoulls site on Lambton Quay. The first Whitcoulls (1896) was destroyed in the great fire on Lambton Quay in 1906 and a distinct “burn layer” was found under the modern concrete of the ground floor. Kevin has also been working on plan changes in Christchurch and a heritage assessment for Perano’s whaling station, Tory Channel.

The second season of filming at the Hobbit film set on the site of the former Point Halswell Women's Reformatory on the Miramar Peninsula, Wellington has now been completed and Andy Dodd has been monitoring the works for the deconstruction of the set and felling of a number of pine trees along the 1880s military road. Andy has also undertaken an assessment for the former Hutt Club site in Lower Hutt which contained remains of stone foundations believed to be from the Tredenham homestead which was one of the earliest homesteads in the area, dating to 1854.

Mary O'Keeffe continues work on the Wellington Tunnels Duplication project for NZTA, which will impact on potential in ground urban archaeology in Mount Victoria. Earthworks have commenced for the MacKays to Peka Peka expressway. Mary has completed an assessment for St James Church and ground in Newtown, where the church is undergoing adaptive reuse to become residential apartments. Mary completed some test trenches on a site in Thorndon Quay for the Wellington Tenth's Trust, where historic artefacts were revealed, plus the original beach ridge from the pre 1855 earthquake shoreline.

Mary O'Keeffe

A team from Clough & Associates have been undertaking an investigation for the new Memorial Park on Buckle Street, with the current works over the last few months centred on the construction of an underpass and preparatory works to move the former Home of Compassion Crèche (1914), also on Buckle Street.

Rich Shakles led the team in excavating remains from the former Mt Cook Barracks that have been exposed as part of the underpass works, with some of the buildings a continuation of those first identified in the early stages of the investigation at the end of last year. Structural remains of the Drill Hall built in the late 19th century and associated buildings have been recovered, along with drains, ditches, postholes and artefacts dating to the early use of the site by the 65th (2nd Yorkshire North Riding) Regiment of Foot in the 1850s. Military artefacts include several regimental buttons from the 65th and 14th Buckinghamshire regiments, a shako plate, along with bullets and casings, and artefacts related to soldiers training in 1914, illustrating the longevity of use of the site by the military. A military well was also located. Of particular interest were the remains of a stone building, most likely the powderhouse, which would have been part of a much larger building.

The team also excavated the rear garden of the Creche where good preservation and a lack of modern disturbance had led to the survival of many features such as a well, a brick lined drain, and numerous postholes related to an earlier 19th century building located on the site. There was also evidence of large scale 19th century filling and ground levelling. Many artefacts were

recovered, including a range of coins, a wedding band, and children's toys related to use of the crèche.

Sarah Phear

Canterbury / West Coast

Dan Witter Archaeology continues with excavation in the dunes for a subdivision north of Kaiapoi. This is on a dune area that was in a strategic position when a southward branch of the Ashley River made an estuary there between 1500 and 1550 AD. Analyses of the middens continue to show considerable variability in composition and a complex pattern of activities.

During recent earthquake repairs on the Colombo Street bridge over the Avon River, the abutments of the earlier 1875 bridge were uncovered and recorded by Emma Clifford. All four abutments were still intact below the ground and were exposed by a crew from Downer, who were carrying out work to stabilise the bridge. The brick abutments were formed using bricks marked 'W N' and unmarked bricks. The 'W N' mark was used by William Neighbours, with this particular mark in use from 1868 to 1883. The 1875 bridge was a brick and timber structure that replaced the 1858 bridge following flood damage. A wider bridge replaced the 1875 bridge in 1902. The mainly British crew from Downer were a pleasure to work with and their enthusiasm for archaeology was highlighted by some great Time Team impersonations.

Back in May, Kirsa Webb, Luke Tremlett and Charlotte Staniforth had the privilege of recording 'Chadwell', a brick house in Kaiapoi built in 1865 by George Haskell and purportedly the oldest standing house in the town (the house has since been demolished). The two storey dwelling was built in the form of a crucifix, with the main axis running from north to south. The walls were brick cavity walls. Chadwell was the earliest known building, in both Australia and New Zealand, to use this type of construction method. Details such as quoins, keystones and fascia adorned the house and were made from plastered brick to simulate stonework.

Other post-earthquake demolition and rebuild work continues, with Emma Clifford, Kirsa Webb, Luke Tremlett, Matt Hennessey and Julia Hughes all busy monitoring the demolition of houses and the removal of the foundations. Rebuild work is slowly gathering pace. Jessie Garland and Kim Bone are being kept busy analysing the artefacts from these sites.

Katharine Watson

West Coast

Emma Clifford and Katharine Watson recently visited the West Coast for a week's fieldwork. During this work, they recorded the remains of an 19th century railway bridge, a 20th century tram near Kaniere and gold workings up

the Moonlight (inland from Greymouth) and at Callaghans (part of the Waimea gold field).

Katharine Watson

Otago and Southland

Things have been very quiet over the winter in Otago and Southland on the fieldwork front. Matthew Sole has been working on forestry assessments in the Ladysmith gold workings at Roxburgh and in the extensive goldfields in the Naseby Forest and Emma Brooks has surveyed a forestry block containing nineteenth century drystone walls on the western slopes of Mt Cargill, Dunedin.

Downer Contracting have been reporting areas of cobbles under Dunedin streets to Jill Hamel over the past two years. The cobbles have appeared in trenches dug for cables and for kerb-and-channel foundations, placed at street junctions, a driveway for the old Roslyn fire station and beside the 1905 Dunedin Railway Station. The cobbles have been trimmed from the very hard Dunedin basalts, usually into neat blocks around 250 x 120 mm in plan view and roughly 170 mm deep, firmly set in aggregate. Mostly it was obvious why a bit of street had been cobbled, but the cobbles along Castle Street near the railway station were different (Figure 1). The site was just beyond the edge of the reclaimed tidal flat where the first railway line from Dunedin to Port Chalmers was built in 1872. The cobbles uncovered formed a long narrow strip, 4 cobbles and only 480 mm wide, with a band of concrete, 230 mm wide, forming a shallow gutter on each side. A total of 51 metres was uncovered, but the path could have run further north along Castle St. After sorting out the stratigraphy of landfill below and asphalt above, plus the history of nearby sections, it appeared that the strip was used as a narrow footpath in the 1880-1903 period. A restaurant was established on the Stuart/Castle Street corner in the 1890s right at the neatly finished south end of the strip. Presumably the narrow but solid path of cobbles provided men from the local coal yards, foundry, timber yard and soap factory with dry footing to get their lunch time sandwiches and pies.

Emma Brooks



Figure 1: Castle Street Cobbles