



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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From the sketch map one can see that the pa is situated on a former island in the swamp and that the outer bank and palisade have been placed out in the swamp in such a way that up to twenty feet of either swamp or water lay between the inhabited part of the pa and the outer fortifications.

The portable artifacts were unevenly distributed within the pa as is indicated on the sketch map. In an area where the shell deposits were few and thin a great many artifacts were found including both the shank and point legs of a complete two-piece simple hook (a), and a large number of point legs. Some of these belong to the Oruarangi point type (b), some to the dog tooth form (c) and some are of the crescent moon barb form (d). One of the hooks was perforated at the base (e). I find the use of the canine teeth and lower jaw of the kuri, to make barbed hook points, very interesting.

The lack of local stones on the Hauraki Plains for the manufacture of the adzes seems obvious because all of the many adzes found appear to have been resharpened in the course of their use. Few greenstone pieces were found and those that were are small adzes or chisels with holes at the butt end so that they could be threaded on string and used as ornaments (f). The rarity of greenstone is also indicated by the small number of greenstone pendants that were found. However, one shell breast pendant was found that has a very interesting form (g) and a breast pendant fashioned from a human jaw was recovered, associated with a number of perforated dog's teeth (i). The most interesting thing is a baked clay object shaped like a top but with a flange on the flat end (h). It may have been a calabash stopper. It raises the question of whether the object was baked accidentally or on purpose.

Many wooden clubs were also encountered but these were in bad condition and difficult to preserve.

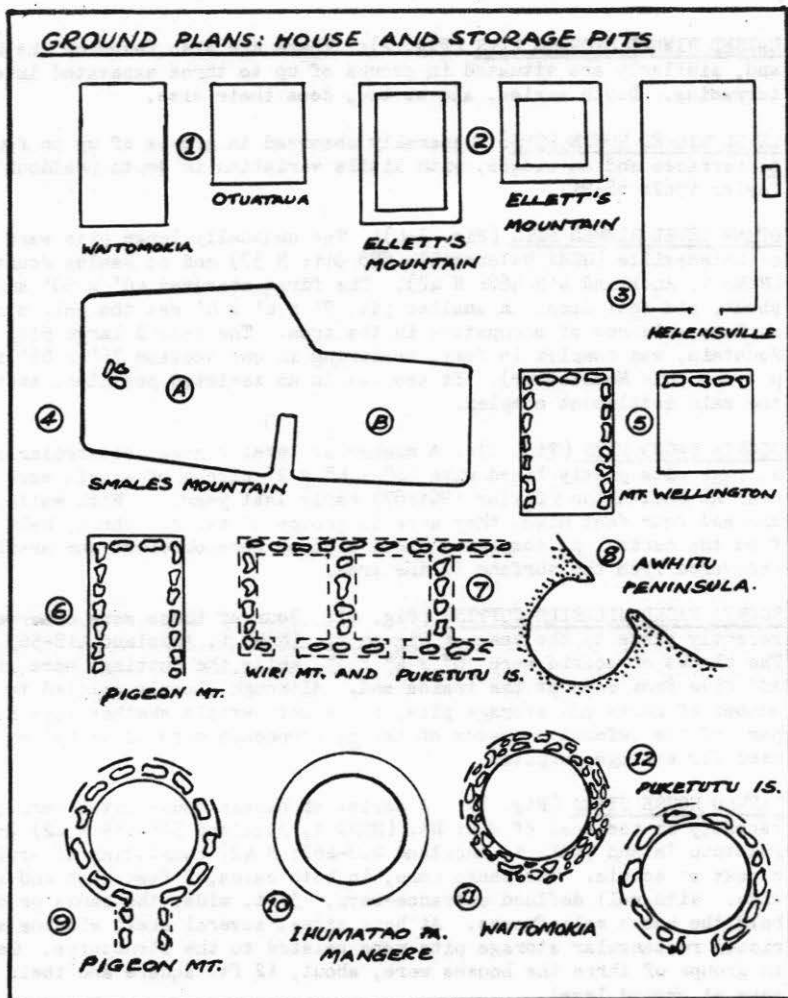
I have drawn a few of the objects mentioned above and the letters after them refer to the drawings in Figure 2.

HOUSE AND STORAGE PITS IN AUCKLAND PROVINCE

by Alan Taylor

Among the problems of Polynesian prehistory that still await solution, claims Suggs (Suggs 1960:228-9), are those arising out of the lacunae in the archaeological record within Polynesia; particularly in regard, for example, to settlement patterns, house structures and architectural sequence.

Consequently, in the course of surveying a number of pa sites in the Auckland Province, I drew up plans of the following twelve types of structure observed in the field.



LEVEL RIMMED STORAGE PITS (Fig. 1): These, both rectangular and square, are common; particularly along the terracing of Otuatua (NZMS 1, Auckland 274-443: N 42), Maungataketake (NZMS 1, Auckland 268-432: N 42) and Waitomakia (NZMS 1, Auckland 292-453: N 42). Usually in groups of three, they vary greatly in size and depth: some being as much as 6 ft. deep, while others are less than a foot in depth.

RAISED RIMMED STORAGE PITS (Fig. 2): These are also found on the Manukau and, similarly are situated in groups of up to three excavated into pa terracing. Depth varies, and so too, does their size.

LEVEL RIMMED HOUSE PITS: Generally observed in groups of up to four along pa terraces and on ridges, with little variation in depth (Maddock and Taylor 1962: 88-91).

OTHER LEVEL RIMMED PITS (Fig. 3-4): Two unusually large pits were recorded at Helensville (NZMS Helensville 898-811: N 37) and at Smales Mountain (NZMS 1, Auckland 412-488: N 42). The first measured 40' x 90' and was, about, six feet deep. A smaller pit, 9' x 6' x 4' was the only other surface evidence of occupation in the area. The second large pit, Smales Mountain, was complex in form, measuring in one section 75' x 66' x 4' (see p.4 of this Newsletter). It too was in an isolated position, away from the main settlement complex.

SCORIA FACED PITS (Fig. 5): A number of level rimmed rectangular and square storage pits partly lined with 6" x 4" x 2" blocks of scoria were surveyed near Mt Wellington (Taylor 1961:87) early last year. With walls between one and four feet high, they were in groups of two and three, half a mile from the central pa complex. Shell middens were observed and artifacts recovered from the surface in the area.

SCORIA FACED HILLSIDE CUTTING (Fig. 6): Four of these were observed recently close to the base of Pigeon Mt. (NZMS 1, Auckland 418-563 N 42). The blocks of scoria were 8" x 4" x 3", while the cuttings were 14" x 8" and five feet deep at the inside end. Although closely related to a number of house and storage pits, it is not certain whether they formed part of the defensive system of the pa (trenches were close by) or were used for storage purposes.

BANKED HOUSE SITES (Fig. 7): A series of banked house sites were recorded recently at the base of Wiri Mt. (NZMS 1, Auckland 376-419 N 42) and on Puketutu Island (MZXS 1, Auckland 268-467: N 42) consisting of soil and blocks of scoria. The banks were, in both cases, 2 feet high and a foot wide. With well defined entrance-ways, 3 ft. wide, the banks probably held the house wall frames. At both sites, several shell middens and level rimmed rectangular storage pits were related to the structures. Generally in groups of three the houses were, about, 12 ft. square and their floors were at ground level.

BELL-SHAPED PIT (Fig. 8): An example of this typical storage pit ('cave variety': Golson 1958:60) was observed within the main pa complex at Awihitu (Taylor 1962:88). Twelve feet deep with 4 ft. wide entrance, it was associated with level rimmed rectangular house and storage pits excavated into the pa terracing. The site was particularly well fortified.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EITHER HOUSE OR STORAGE STRUCTURES:

Pigeon Mt. (Fig. 9): This structure is situated in an isolated position and is possibly the first to be recorded in the Tamaki area (NZMS 1, Auckland 419-566: N 42). It is 12 feet in diameter with an entrance 4 feet wide in the form of an extension.

Ihumatao pa (Fig. 10): This structure is related to an embankment and ditch and several shell middens. The complex was, perhaps, a small settlement, although there is only slight surface evidence of other structures on the site. A number of artefacts have been recovered from the area (NZMS 1, Auckland 284-454: N 42). It is 18 feet in diameter.

Waitomokia (Fig. 11): Like the other two structures, this site is also in a relatively isolated position (NZMS 1, Auckland 289-456: N 42). There are shell middens, an embankment and ditch close by, but no surface evidence of other structures. It is 12 feet in diameter with floor paved with light blocks of scoria and with a centre mound of soil and light scoria.

Puketutu Island (Fig. 12): Several earth and rock rimmed pits have been found on this pa site, all of which are some distance from other surface evidence of occupation. Usually 8-12 feet in diameter, they have clearly marked entranceways (3 feet wide) and are about 18 inches in depth (NZMS 1, Auckland 268-467: N 42).

CONCLUSION:

Practically all of the house and storage pits described and illustrated here have been observed and recorded by other field workers elsewhere. (Daniels: 1961:27).

Finally, thanks are due to W.A. Taylor, who assisted in the surveying of the sites dealt with in this paper, and who also prepared the line drawings illustrating it.

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