



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/>.

1?), period B with period 3. This would assign the bulk of the occupation within the area of the pa to a period before the building of the visible defences and associate with the defensive phase only the late cooking and posthole digging activity. On this interpretation the pa would not appear to be a site of full or permanent settlement.

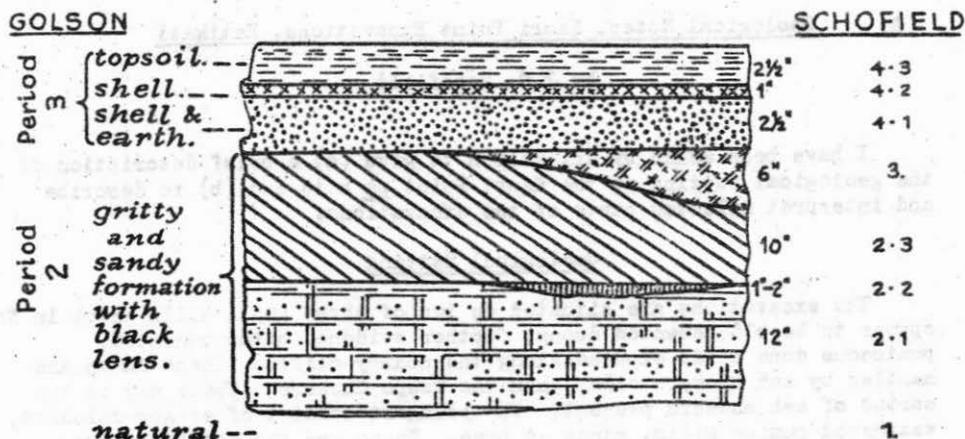
This is a large conclusion to draw, however, from the available evidence. Excavations within the pa have been very limited in extent and no certainty can at present be entertained as to what constitutes the pre- and post-defensive phases there. A major aim of future excavation must be to investigate the nature of the habitation that went on at the site after the ditch and bank were built.

(4) Technical Contributions

The two contributions which follow stem from questions asked of and observations made by Mr. Schofield, as geologist, and Mr. Pullar as pedologist, at the Kauri Point site. In these contributions they have been joined by Mr. Melvin who, as a local historian, has contributed relevant information about the probable history of the site after the Vesey Stewart's Ulster settlement of the Katikati area (including Kauri Point) in the '70's of last century. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to all three for the time they gave to the work at Kauri Point itself and the trouble they have gone to since to elucidate its problems here.

To illustrate the nature and importance of geological and pedological considerations in the interpretation of the formations which go to make up an archaeological site, we have selected for particularly detailed discussion the sequence in square L26, in the dip between the two hills. A diagrammatic section of the south wall of this square is given below.

DIAGRAMMATIC CROSS SECTION OF SQUARE L26



In terms of the archaeology of the site:

- (a) layer 1 is the "natural", the base of man's occupation of the site;
- (b) layer 2 is the composite sandy and gritty formation, which seals in the structures of period 1 and on which the structure of period 2 are built;
- (c) layer 4 represents the activity of period 3; since in its eastward extension it overlies the outer bank of the pa;
- (d) the status of layer 3 is uncertain, because of its discontinuity: it could belong, with layer 2, to the interval between periods 1 and 2, or alternatively to that between periods 2 and 3.

As archaeologists we wanted to know:

- (a) the nature of layer 2 and its formation.
- (b) the relationship of the various elements described by Mr. Schofield as layer 2 to each other and to the underlying strata.

The views expressed by our contributors below are not always in agreement, but in agreement or not, nothing they say conflicts with the major conclusions about the history of the site reached on archaeological grounds. What their contributions have done is to illuminate some of the processes of strata building at work between and after the major periods of structural activity with whose investigation the archaeologist has in the main been concerned.

A. Geological Notes, Kauri Point Excavations, Katikati

by J.C. Schofield

I have been asked by Mr. Golson to give (a) a brief description of the geological setting at the Kauri Point pa site and (b) to describe and interpret selected parts of the excavations.

Geological Setting

The excavations are situated on two of three small hills which in form appear to be old cemented dunes, further evidence being cemented, pumiceous dune sands exposed along the nearby cliffs. These dunes are mantled by ash showers older than the Taupo Showers. There may be two series of ash showers present. The youngest consist of creamy-coloured, weathered pumice silts, sandy at base. These are thought to be the