



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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ion of diet to mark an 'occasion'. It is possible to increase the proportion of the constants, and so reduce the significance of the variables, only by a larger excavation. The dangers of drawing too firm conclusions from too small a sample area may be greater than is generally appreciated.

However, the present sample excavation does give an interesting glimpse into the diet of the moa-hunting Maori, and into the range of birds he had to entertain him.

Postscript : All the shells from each layer were analysed by Miss Janet Davidson of Auckland University. On the small number present in each layer, her findings suggest 'a general picture of exploitation of a medium range of rockyshore shell fish with occasional beach shells.' The small amount of shell found suggests that this site was primarily a moa cooking site and, as at Ohawe, shell fish were not greatly exploited at the same time.

KAUPOKONUI MIDDEN, SOUTH TARANAKI
N128/3
The Artifacts

D.W. Robinson

In evaluating the assemblages of artifactual material recovered from the various occupation layers, it is well to keep in mind the relative smallness of the area so far excavated, and the obvious limitations this places even on a pro-tem hypothesis as to function.

It is however significant, that all the artifacts were in secure positions, embedded in occupation floors etc., unlike some of the bones, which by their size alone, were likely to be encountered and disturbed by later occupations.

A fully itemized description of all the artifacts will appear in the excavation Report, and this preliminary report is restricted to a schedule which provides ready comparison of occupation assemblages to date, and to brief references to the more significant items from each assemblage.

ARTIFACTS	Layer	Layer	Layer	Layer	Layer	Layer	Layer
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Obsidian Tools		3		8		3	
Obsidian Cores		1		5			
Hammer Stones	D R Y		S T E R I L E	1	S T E R I L E	1	S T E R I L E
Stone Flake Knives	D U N E			3		2	
Chert Flake Knives				1			
Stone Cores	S A N D		S A N D	1	S A N D		S A N D
Pumice Files		4				6	
Bone Needles						2	
Bone Awls	M O D E R N		W I N D	2	W I N D	3	W A T E R
Bone Chisels				1		4	
Worked Bone	E U R O P E A N		D E P O S I T E D	1	D E P O S I T E D	1	D E P O S I T E D
Bone Rings				1			
Adzes						1	
Adze Fragments						4	
Fishing Sinkers		1					
Hook Points							

Analysis of Artifacts by layers
N128/3

Layer 2.

Lying immediately below the modern dune overburden, much of which is disturbed and very dry, this assemblage must be regarded as suspect in that percolation of later and European material has reached the occupation level in some cases.

Obsidian flake knives are typically small (in the 20/30 mm. range) and of a simple primary flaked type for cutting or scraping.

An interesting perforated pumice article (Fig.1) provides a puzzle for solution, the possible function ranging from fish float to file.

A recognisable activity cannot be assigned on the few artifacts recovered, and the general description of kitchen midden based on the faunal and oven remains is the best interim interpretation.

Layer 4.

This layer is without doubt a kitchen midden, and the artifact assemblage fits in with this function.

Obsidian knives are somewhat larger than those found in Layer 2 (30/40 mm. range) and also except one exhibit the simple flake form. The exception (Fig.2) is a somewhat thicker flake with secondary working along two edges suggesting a sawing function.

A moa bone femur exhibiting signs of cutting, two bird bone awls (Figs 3 and 4) and a moa bone chisel (Fig.5) indicate an activity which may or may not be associated with eating. These artifacts are however, similar to those found in Layer 6, and a kainga function in the vicinity of the kitchen area cannot be discounted.

Layer 6.

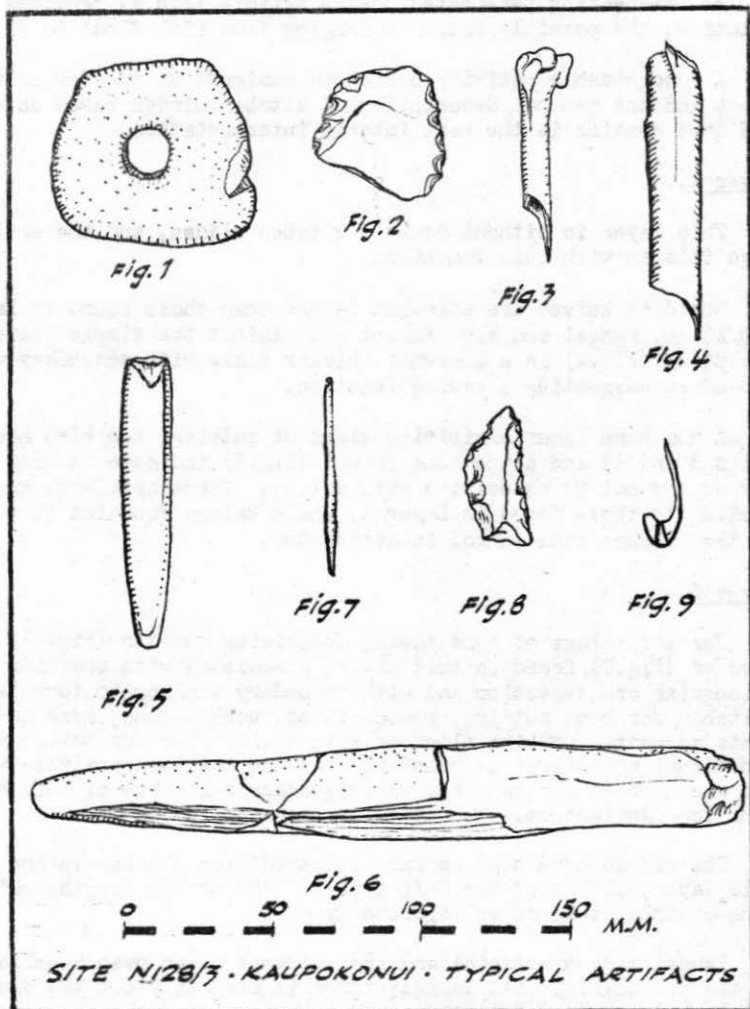
The assemblage of bone tools, comprising chisels (Fig.6), awls and needles (Fig.7) found in this layer, associated with obsidian "saws" of triangular cross-section and with secondary working to form teeth (Fig.8) suitable for bone cutting, pumice files, worked bone, adze and adze fragments suggest a working floor or kainga character for this layer. This functional assessment is reinforced by the moa bone analysis which exhibits one hundred per cent femurs suggesting selection of this heavy-walled bone for manufacture.

The single adze head so far recovered from the excavation occurred in this layer, and is of the Duff type 2C, 100 mm. in length, made from black fine-grained stone of an imported type.

Faunal midden material and the evidence of an oven seem to add weight to the probability of a kainga; there is certainly not the unmistakable kitchen atmosphere of Layer 4.

An artifact (fig.9) reminiscent of the point limb of a fish hook and

provisionally classified as such, provides the second puzzle to be solved. It is beautifully fabricated from a cross-section of seal tooth and derives its shape from the natural curve of the tooth. In the writer's opinion the point is too fine to provide sufficient strength for fishing, being only 2 mm. in diameter. An awl function would be in keeping with the other artifacts in association, but definition must await further digging.



GENERAL:

Although found in layers separated by sterile, or near sterile sand deposits, there is a similarity between the artifacts of all layers which tends to indicate a similar social pattern. Photograph no.7 illustrates the common design theme which runs through the range of bone chisels. The adze, of a type which is uncommon in the North Island, is also illustrated in photograph no.8. The bevel shows no sign of usage, and it is likely that the bevel grinding was completed either in the vicinity, or the head brought there for further processing.

 A REPORT OF FURTHER FIELDWORK IN THE WANGANUI DISTRICT

Colin D. Smart and M.J.G. Smart

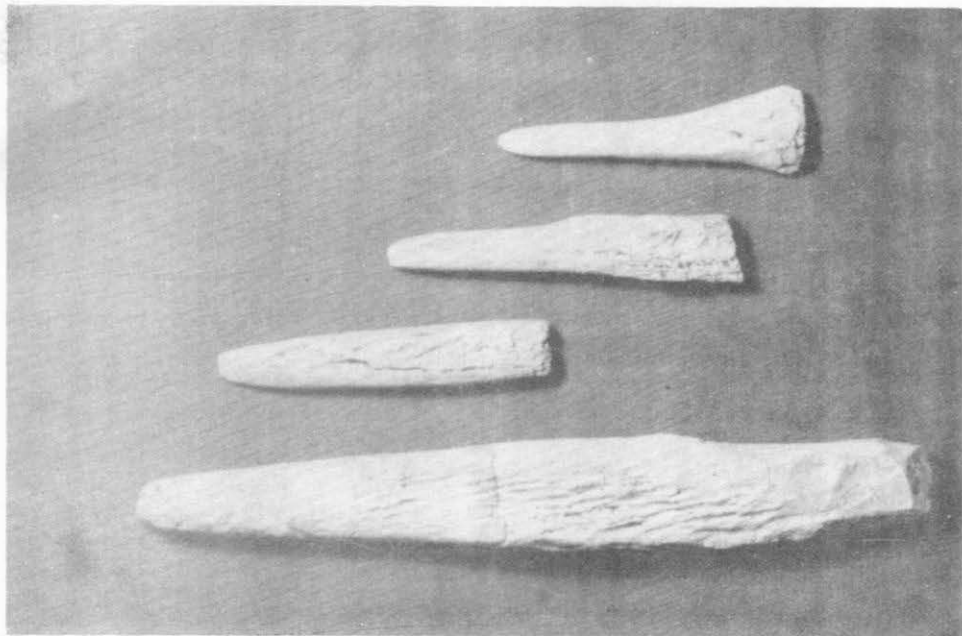
The following brief report describes additional site survey and recording in the Wanganui district, carried out by the authors in January 1963. This survey extends the area covered in 1960-61-62, the results of which have already been described (Newsletter 5:170-184 Sept '62), and forms part of a much larger project which includes the recording of archaeological and historical sites, the collection of local tradition and historical records, excavation at selected sites and the analysis of the archaeological evidence in specific sample areas.

In addition to the usual techniques of field recording, a grant from the National Historic Places Trust made possible the aerial reconnaissance of a large part of the recording area as well as the aerial photography of a large number of sites. We are extremely grateful to the Trust for the new perspective this grant made possible. To Mr Foster, Ministry of Works, Wanganui, we are indebted for the use of the standard aerial photographs, and to the three pilots of the Wanganui Aero Club who flew us over some extremely rough country to obtain records of inaccessible sites, we are most grateful.

The area in which recording has been concentrated so far is shown in the accompanying map. It extends along the Wanganui coast from Waverly to Turakina, a distance of about 35 miles, and is limited to the coastal lowlands for the most part, although surveys in the Waitotara, Wanganui and Wangaehu river valleys carry the recorded area further inland - up to 15 miles.

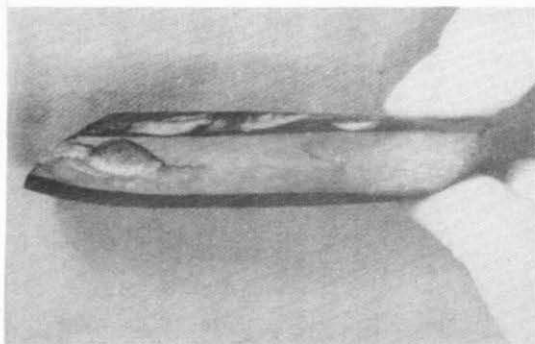
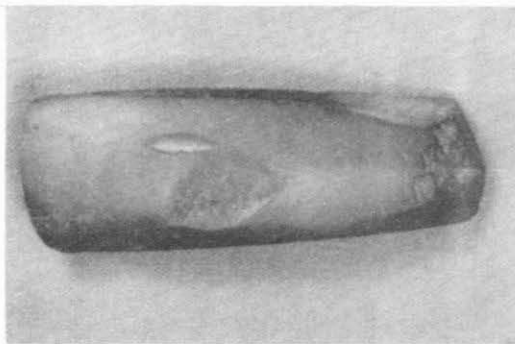
Site surveys during January 1963 were concentrated in the area from Kai Iwi to Wanganui, in the lower Wanganui river valley, and in the valley of the Wangaehu River. Aerial reconnaissance and photography, however, covered much of the larger area from Waverly to Wangaehu and some distance inland.

KAUPOKONUI



MOA BONE "CHISELS".

7.



ADZE FROM LAYER 6.

8.