



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Geology Department,
Victoria University of Wellington.
11 October 1973

Dear Sir,

There are two points which I would like to bring to the attention of N.Z.A.A. members. The first is a recent addition to the Survey Regulations which govern all surveys dealing with the subdivision, occupation, or ownership of land. The second is an offer which was made, by surveyors to archaeologists, at a recent meeting of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors, during a discussion relating to the recording and protection of archaeological sites.

Among the Survey Regulations 1972, which came into force on the 1st of January 1973, has been included one (Regulation 32) entitled Topographical Features which states, in part:

Main topographical features, including Maori sites or earthworks that could be of historical or archaeological significance, shall be shown on the survey plan where appropriate....

This regulation is an outcome of the Proposals for the Conservation of New Zealand's Prehistoric Sites on Public Land, submitted to the Minister of Lands in 1969 (see N.Z.A.A. Newsletter Vol. 13 (4): 160-172), and of the subsequent meeting between a deputation of N.Z.A.A. Council members and the Minister. At this meeting it was acknowledged that success of the proposed scheme depended on a prior knowledge of the existence of archaeological sites, and the adequate recording of those sites already known. However, it was pointed out that large areas of the country were not yet adequately covered by the N.Z.A.A. site recording scheme, and in many cases, where sites had been recorded, details of location and ownership were often not precise. It was to help rectify these deficiencies that survey regulation 32 was introduced. Under this regulation, Surveyors in all parts of New Zealand are expected to show, on survey plans, and where appropriate, significant archaeological sites in relation to land boundaries. It covers all surveys governed by the regulations whether on public or private land.

One major problem, however, is in the recognition, by Surveyors, of archaeological sites. At the meeting of the Wellington Branch of the N.Z.I.S. referred to above, this was one of the difficulties mentioned. One solution to this problem is the recent N.Z.A.A. publication: New Zealand Archaeology: A Site Recording Handbook, but personal contact by members of the N.Z.A.A. with local branches of the Surveyors Institute is also desirable and should be encouraged. Perhaps also, copies of the N.Z.A.A. Site Recording Handbook could be donated to each of the local branches of the N.Z. Institute of Surveyors.

During a discussion of site recording and site protection at a recent meeting of the Wellington Branch of the N.Z.I.S., it was suggested that surveyors may be interested in volunteering their services to assist archaeological research, for example by carrying out topographical surveys of archaeological sites. Requests for this service should be made through local branches of the Surveyors Institute. Addresses of Branch secretaries are listed in the New Zealand Surveyor, the Journal of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors.

Yours faithfully,
(B. G. McFADGEN, M.N.Z.I.S.)