



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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/>.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Alastair Buist in his article in the June issue on South Taranaki quarry sites objects to the term "borrow" for holes where sand and gravel was mined, though he does admit it has some standing as a traditional term. Alastair objected that the material taken was not borrowed because it was not taken to be returned.

The term in fact comes from Civil Engineering:

McGraw Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms (1974), "Borrow pit, An excavation dug to provide material (borrow) for fill elsewhere".

J.S. Scott, A Dictionary of Civil Engineering, (Penguin 1958), "Borrow pit, An excavation dug to provide fill".

This British and American usage is followed by New Zealand Civil Engineers. I think I can speak for engineers in saying the borrowing* of our term is quite appropriate and we don't expect it back,

Garry Law
Auckland

* Collins: "to adopt (ideas, words, etc.) from another source".