



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/>.

Zealand even though the occupation has been transient."

Much earlier on it was realised that a group numerically small and widely scattered, as ours is, could not hope to record all sites small or large, throughout the country. To this end, then, we must try and foster the interest of people such as farmers, surveyors, rangers - people who are likely to be familiar with less accessible parts of the country.

The scheme has been designed with this in view, hence the use of two types of record form: The site record form which is to be used for noting in general terms only the existence, location and nature of a site; the site survey form which is to be used to describe the results of a more intensive investigation - but note, investigation only.

Here I should like to record the Association's indebtedness to Mr. J.D.H. Buchanan for his efforts in promoting the scheme, to Roger Green and Jack Golson who were largely responsible for the Handbook to Field Recording, and to National Historic Places Trust who provided the financial backing so necessary for the implementation of this scheme.

MAORI SITES IN QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND by J.B. Palmer.

Queen Charlotte Sound, or Totaranui as it is called by the Maori, is a region that is of considerable interest to the field archaeologist based in Wellington. Similarities of coastline, problems of cultivation - indeed of land utilisation in general, and climate make it a visible, moated extension of conditions met with so often around Wellington. It is natural then, that one should look south to compare and contrast field evidence left there with that found on the northern shores of Cook Strait, particularly when tradition records movements of the same peoples across the twenty mile wide water barrier.

The great need in field work in the Marlborough Sounds is some sort of survey of types of site and their distribution over the region so that a tentative picture of occupation can emerge. From this it will be possible to study specific field monuments such as

fortified pa sites, village patterns and pits. It was with this aim that a party of students from Wellington Teachers' College spent a week in Queen Charlotte Sound last November.

Most of those in the party did not have very much preliminary training but by the end of the week they were capable of undertaking searches with a fair degree of accuracy in observation. This was most marked amongst the Maori students who made up half the party's strength. They showed a feeling for landscape and their enthusiasm for seek-and-find activity was greater than the rest of the party. Part of the week's work was to introduce Maori students to their historical past and to meet the local Maori people in order to obtain their approval for any field work.

An evening meeting was held at Waikawa Pa where speeches in Maori were made by both sides. The purpose of the visit was explained to a mixed audience of Maori and pakeha, amongst whom were representatives of the Picton Historical Society. Transcripts of all information gained during this visit and subsequent ones were promised and permission was given to the party to operate provided respect was shown in the case of tribal burial grounds.

For the NEWSLETTER it is not intended to give a detailed summary of findings within the framework of any classificatory system but preliminary notes on some of the sites are included here.

Pickersgill Island - S.16/1 (546406). This was reported as a 'Maori lookout'. It proved to be a raised rim pit of modest size on a ridge overlooking a small flat littered with argillite flakes and midden material with a compacted and stratified oven area beyond. The latter is disturbed as a ruined European cottage is superimposed over part of it.

Moioio Pa. - S.16/2 (490309) W.J. Elvy records Ngati Kuri occupation of this island pa which he dates at 1650 by traditional means. No landing was made here but the site is now heavily bushed with one broad terrace able to be seen.

Kaihinu Pa - S.16/3 (492307) This is a promontory pa opposite the previous site, and W.J. Elvy reports it as containing a mixed Ngaitara and Ngati Mamoe population. It is marked by

tranverse terraces at the end with some narrow lateral terraces on which are found water-worn stones. There is no trace of either ditch or bank but higher up the ridge on a little knoll, there are two deep, well defined pits. Both have raised rims and the larger measured 30' by 12'.

Hitaua Pa - S22/1 (433297) This was one of the pa visited by Cook. A search revealed an almost isolated promontory pa which was low-lying with a steep fall on the Tory Channel side. On the inner, sheltered side were two series of terraces, one lateral and the other transverse each made up of four terraces. Cores and flakes of argillite were noted on the upper terraces. This small pa is situated in one of the most sheltered places in the area. Traces of occupation in the form of flakes and midden material of thin, scattered nature were seen on the tiny, bay-head flats adjacent to the pa. The site is partly covered with light scrub, mainly manuka and tauhinu.

Te Awaiti - S16/4 (554351) A brief inspection of this site revealed a ridge and pa made up of broad terraces containing two series of regularly arranged pits. There are traces of rims or embankments between each pit in one row. At the base of the pa there are platforms cut out of the hill which were stated to be the sites of early Whaling cottages.

Motukina Pt. - S16/5 (527308) An inspection was made of a promising-looking peninsula which showed a promontory pa. The first sign was a raised rim pit cut into the outer flank of the ridge outside any protective works. The main defence was a cross-ridge ditch with an inner bank. Terminal terraces were cut into the end of the peninsula as at Kaihinu.

Bay of Many Coves - S16/6 (434381) There are several traces of occupation in this area. Above an eroding midden area washed by the sea there are some broad terraces with pits, one of which has a pronounced raised rim. Beyond this to the south is a ridge with a descending series of terraces with pits, partly overgrown with thick scrub. Close by is a small cove with thick deposit of midden material and some small terraces.

Maraetai Bay - S22/2 (413294) This is a bay-head flat with an extensive but not deep oven and midden deposit. As with many other sites of a similar nature, inspected briefly by the party, it has been subjected to much disturbance by building and farming

operations.

This brief outline stresses the inadequate nature of the party's work but a return visit in November, 1959 will enable further and more detailed work to be done. It is hoped to locate further sites and make a re-examination of all these listed here.

A SUMMARY OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE DOMINION MUSEUM GROUP
BY S. DAVIS.

Illus. Plates 2 and 3.

Work on the recording of sites in the Wellington District has been going on regularly since the beginning of 1959. All work has been done in the week-ends, and on nearly every Saturday or Sunday a small party has been slowly working its way around part of the bleak Wellington coastline, having recorded by September some 35 sites. The Group numbers about a dozen people, who have worked with great enthusiasm, concentrating its recording on the area around the Porirua Harbour.

Fortunately many of the sites in this district have been described in various periodicals. Much of Wellington and the neighbouring coastline has been well documented by Elsdon Best in a series of papers and maps, and we have located many of our sites through consultation with his literature. One notable paper, "Porirua and They Who Settled It", gives a yard by yard account of one side of the Porirua Harbour, and has been of inestimable value in locating sites, from the ubiquitous midden to the pa.

Sites recorded this year include pa sites, terraced hill sites, middens, isolated pits, and a burial area.

PA SITES. Pa sites are not numerous in the Porirua district, and today there is little evidence of fortified areas. Best has suggested that the natives took refuge in the bush when attacked, and this may be a possible explanation of the few pa, together with the difficulty of cutting fortifications in the hard Wellington rock.