



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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MAPS AND NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGISTS

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Maps, especially manuscript topographic survey plans and resulting manuscript maps drawn from them, manuscript fair copies of hydrographic charts and resulting printed charts, may be valuable sources of information on the location of former Maori occupational sites. Topographic survey plans can be supplemented by surveyors' field books which may record information and sketches other than official survey data. Thus maps, field books and hydrographic charts can supplement other records: painting and sketches, photographic, manuscript and printed records and also the field evidence itself. The earlier the date of the map, field book or hydrographic chart the more valuable it may be as a source of information.

The N.Z.A.A. Site Recording Scheme is a record largely based on field evidence. Where field evidence is not apparent on the ground a site record can only be made if reliable evidence of former Maori occupation comes from some other source/s. Manuscript and printed records may not give a precise location. Paintings, sketches and photographs may give a more precise location but topographic survey plans, topographic maps and hydrographic charts are intended to give a precise position of 'place'. Surveyors are trained to do this whereas the generators of other records seldom are. Therefore plans, maps and charts can be important and accurate sources for the location of former Maori occupation sites. If all the relevant cartographic records in New Zealand and in Britain were thoroughly examined much hitherto unknown information on former Maori occupational sites might be located. The task is a sizeable one and probably personnel resources presently do not permit this project to be carried out but it should be considered as a long term aim.

The major institutions in New Zealand and Britain where relevant records can be located are listed below. Only in certain cases do institutions cover specific areas. Archaeologists wanting information on a specific place may have to try several institutions.

New Zealand

Department of Lands and Survey. This department is composed of the head office and twelve land district offices as follows (with the location of the office in parentheses where applicable): North Auckland including Great and Little Barrier Islands (Auckland); South Auckland



FIGURE 1. New Zealand land districts.

(Hamilton); Gisborne; Taranaki (New Plymouth); Hawke's Bay (Napier); Wellington including the Chatham Islands; Nelson; Marlborough (Blenheim); Westland (Hokitika); Canterbury (Christchurch); Otago (Dunedin); Southland including Stewart Island and Ruapuke (Invercargill). The areas covered by the land districts are delineated on Figure 1. Each land district has a plan room in which are stored survey plans and field books for the area covered by that district. Land district office plans and field books can be located through the use of various registers and indexes.

The Statutory Branch, Head Office has a valuable collection of manuscript maps mainly generated during the provincial period, also material generated before and after this period. This material is listed in a register.

National Archives of New Zealand, Wellington. This office holds a large collection of manuscript and printed maps of New Zealand which have been generated in the course of government activities. The collection is likely to contain maps of potential value to archaeologists. It is in the slow process of being organised. There are often maps attached to official papers which will be of value if they can be located. Archives holds the files dealing with the Old Land Claims (OLC) which often have maps which are of potential value.

Archives also has arrangements with certain institutions/societies which are designated regional repositories and to which Dept. of Lands and Survey land districts may deposit plans and maps. They are (with land districts in parentheses): Auckland Institute & Museum (North Auckland); Te Awamutu Historical Society (South Auckland) (note however that some plans and maps are held in the Map Collection, Library, University of Waikato, Hamilton); Marlborough Historical Society, Blenheim (Marlborough and possibly Nelson); Canterbury Museum, Christchurch (Canterbury and possibly Westland); Hocken Library, University of Otago, Dunedin (Otago, Southland and Stewart Island).

There is no printed card catalogue of the holdings of Archives or the other repositories. The map holdings can be approached through inventories, registers, indexes and letter books.

Department of Maori Affairs. The Native Lands Act of 1865 established the Native (now Maori) Land Court. Cases which have been heard by the Court may have supporting evidence in the form of maps. Clearly here there may be evidence of former Maori settlement on such maps. The maps prior to 1876 would have been prepared by the office of the Inspectorate of Surveys, Auckland, or by the appropriate provincial

survey office. After 1876 the Department of Lands and Survey assumed this responsibility. It is also possible that private surveyors have prepared maps as evidence.

The North Island is divided into six Maori Land Court Districts (Fig.2). They are (with the district offices where the Court records are in parentheses): Tokerau (Whangarei); Waikato-Maniopototo (Hamilton); Waiariki (Rotorua); Tairawhiti (Gisborne); Aotea (Wanganui); Ikaroa (Palmerston North). Maps may be consulted at the district offices. It is possible that there may also be some duplicate maps in the appropriate Lands and Survey Department district offices.

The South Island Court District (which will possibly be called Tewaipounamu in the future) includes the Chatham Islands and the records are in the Christchurch office.

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. The Map Room has an extensive collection of manuscript and printed maps and charts of New Zealand and the offshore islands. Some of these show information on Maori occupation. Plate 1 is an example. There is a card catalogue for the collection.

Hocken Library, University of Otago, Dunedin. The library's map collection specialises in Otago and Southland and is likely to contain manuscript and printed maps with relevant information. There is a card catalogue for the map collection.

Other institutions. There are a number of institutions with small map collections. Some are listed below but archaeologists should check institutions such as libraries and museums near to their areas of interest. City, borough and county survey offices often have useful map and plan collections. The older cities such as Wellington have extensive collections.

Auckland Institute and Museum  
 Auckland Public Library  
 Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum, Napier  
 Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth  
 Wanganui Museum  
 New Zealand Geological Survey, Lower Hutt  
 Map Collection, Beaglehole Room, Library, Victoria University of Wellington  
 Nelson Provincial Museum, Stoke, Nelson  
 Marlborough Historical Society, Blenheim  
 Canterbury Museum, Christchurch  
 Otago Early Settlers Museum, Dunedin  
 Southland Museum, Invercargill



FIGURE 2. North Island: Maori Land Court Districts.

Universities. All of the universities have map collections as part of either the geography/geology departments or the library. The collections are geared for teaching though one university collection (Waikato) has a good deal of historical material. In spite of the teaching aspect it may be worthwhile to check university map collections.

### Britain

Hydrographer of the Navy, Ministry of Defence, Taunton, Somerset. This office holds an extensive collection of manuscript and printed hydrographic charts of the New Zealand coastline surveyed between 1769-1943. The manuscript charts contain important information on Maori coastal settlement and are often supplemented by coastal profiles which may show the exact spot of settlement. Not all the information on the manuscript charts was transferred to the printed charts. Only copies of a few of the charts are in collections in New Zealand. The Map Room, Alexander Turnbull Library holds a catalogue in manuscript book form of the holdings at Taunton.

Public Record Office, London. This office holds an extensive collection of manuscript maps and plans made from New Zealand Company surveys. When the Company became defunct in 1851 the maps were passed to the Colonial Office thence to the Public Record Office (P.R.O.). This collection contains valuable information on Maori occupation sites particularly for the New Plymouth, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington, Nelson, Lyttelton-Christchurch and Dunedin areas. Copies of a few of the maps are held in New Zealand. The Map Room, Alexander Turbull Library holds a printed catalogue in book form of the holdings of the P.R.O.

British Library, London. The Department of Manuscripts holds the original manuscript charts drawn by James Cook and the crews of his vessels during and after the surveys of the New Zealand coastline made during the three voyages.

### Conclusion

This outline it is hoped will guide the archaeologist to likely institutions holding relevant material. It is only possible to give a brief guide to sources. The archaeologist may often find that it is necessary to search through masses of plans, maps or charts for only in a few libraries do card catalogues exist. Cartographic chaos, regrettably, is rife in New Zealand! But at least the maps exist and are slowly being organised.

