



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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stone - and large broken adze blades, yet we have not come across any complete Tikis or large Adzes. Together with this fact and the evidence of trading material present, i.e., adzes and gouges of iron, fashioned in Maori shape, trading beads, Jew's Harp, iron nails, and pieces of rum bottle; it seems certain that these better pieces have been traded away.

It is to be hoped that in years to come, after the completion of the excavation of this site, that a miniature scale model will be constructed and preserved for students of the future.

---ooOoo---

MOA HUNTERS at the WAIU ?

by G. G. Parry

It has been my belief for some years that "Moa hunters" will be found to have frequented the mouth of every large river on the east coast of the South Island. Major discoveries have been made at Pounaewa, Papatowai, Waitaki, Rakaia and Wairau: and indications (to put it no more strongly) found at the Hurunui, Ashley and Clarence. Others no doubt await investigation.

This belief moved me to make an investigation at the mouth of the Waiau in North Canterbury. So far as I know this area has never previously been surveyed from an archaeological point of view. There is no record of any discovery of artifacts, of Maori occupation at the time of European settlement, or of any native tradition or history connected with the area. The river mouth is remote and difficult of access.

Visits were made in January of each of the years 1958, 1960 and 1961. No systematic digging has yet been attempted but the discoveries made are of interest.

The Waiau river runs through a narrow valley in the seaward hills. Across the mouth of this valley is a large bank of shingle and on reaching the shingle bank the river takes a sharp turn to the left (north) and for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile runs in a northerly direction between the shingle bank and a river terrace 15 - 20 feet high before breaking out to sea. The position of the mouth changes from time to time. At present it is at the northern end of the shingle bank but in 1861 when the first survey was made it was at the southern end. The river terrace is roughly triangular in shape and has an area of about 50 acres. A perusal of early maps however shows that there has been considerable erosion, particularly at the point where the river makes its left turn. The terrace is backed to the west and north by steep hills, both hills and terrace being covered with tussock and fern. On the western slope of the hills however, and in the gullies there is a considerable area of bush which was once much larger. The supply of shellfish is poor and fishing in the area not good; but there are ducks and other water fowl in season. It would not offer very strong attractions as an area for permanent settlement.

The first visit in 1958 was to the south bank of the river.

Within 24 hours I had found lying on the shingle bank the hinder part of a large black argillite adze (with tang and small lugs) of typical moa hunter pattern! (?Duff Type 1 Variety A). This was an exciting discovery and extremely fortunate. The worn state of the broken portion indicated a long immersion in the river and I have assumed that the adze was washed out from the eroded point. No other indications were found on the south bank but a visit to the north bank (the terrace side) led to more discoveries. Where part of the terrace had fallen away one of the party found an oven containing substantial pieces of moa bone. The bone though fragmentary was identified by R. J. Scarlett as either *Etmeus Crassus* or *Euryapteryx gravis*. Subsequent visits have aimed mainly at determining the area and nature of the site and recovering from the crumbling terrace edge material which would otherwise be lost. Two principal occupation areas have been established, both are "kitchens". Where the "living room" may have been is a matter of conjecture (and of course further investigation) but I have noted several possible domestic hearths which need looking at. The first area is on the point of the river terrace. It extends about 100 yards along the terrace edge and is about 30 feet wide. The remnants of two ovens both containing moa bone have been exposed where the bank has fallen away. I think that there are other adjacent ovens but only excavation will confirm this. Secondary artifacts are present in large numbers but outside the ovens are all on or near the surface (about grass root depth). The greatest depth at which anything has been recovered is 10 inches. The following list will give an idea of the kind of material recovered.

Flakes and chips of the following material:

- Flint of many kinds (there is limestone within a few miles)
- Obsidian
- Argillite (one piece with a ground cutting edge)
- A red jasperoid rock
- Local river stones.
- Agate (one only)

Cores of flint, obsidian and the jasperoid rock

Drill points

Hammer stones

Sharpening stones.

Sufficient charcoal was recovered for a 14C test. The second area is about 300 yards to the north still on the terrace edge. Particles of bone were recovered here from what appears to be the fringe of an oven (I couldn't find the oven itself) and large quantities of flint chip-pings. Argillite and obsidian were noticeably absent. Two sharpening stones were found where they had fallen down the face of the terrace.

CONCLUSIONS An undisturbed site: occupied extensively but not intensively: the moa killed and eaten on at least two occasions: typical moa hunter material. There is ample scope for more investigations but I question whether large scale digging is justified.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS I record my gratitude to Messrs Smith and Parsons for the necessary permission to respectively occupy and cross their property. Also for many other kindnesses in the process. The Lands and Survey Department have been most helpful about maps and plans. D. Beggs and G. J. G. Parry have given help and company (most important in remote areas) and carried heavy loads for long distances. I am most grateful to them.

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REPORT on the SITE SURVEY

by Tony Fomison (local file keeper)

In Canterbury, most of the field work is being carried out by a loosely associated group of varsity students: Annette Jones; Owen Filkes; Russell Turner; Peter Johns (lecturer); and myself. Each of us has found it convenient to record in those districts which we know, and where we have connections - but we visit one another's areas to compare notes, and we will be combining for excavations.

At Banks Peninsula, Annette & Owen have concentrated on Port Levy - Pigeon Bay - Akaroa; Russell on the Outer Bays; and myself on Lyttelton - Lakes Forsyth & Ellesmere. To inaugurate our existence as a group, the four of us combined for a weekend's survey of Akaroa, in August 1960.

Further afield, Owen has been recording in the Karamea - Nelson area, and Peter in the Marlborough Sounds. I have been progressing with a survey of Kaikoura Coast and North Canterbury, and with regard to Kaikoura I have been able to provide the Trust (Marlborough Regional Committee) with information to assist in the pin-pointing and signposting of historic pa sites. Also, the Kaikoura County Council has been provided through its Consultant Engineer with locality maps of archaeological sites, for consideration in the County's town and country planning scheme - this should prevent the inadvertent destruction of sites by any Council work.

In South Canterbury, most of the field work was done in pre-war days by Messrs McCally, Irvine, Griffiths and Hornsey, and they have not hesitated to make their findings available for the files. The most distinctive archaeological remains in South Canterbury are the rock drawings, and I have recently concluded a 9 weeks' survey on them for the Trust (South Canterbury Regional Committee). This survey was in the nature of an exploration, preparatory to fencing and other protective measures, and 185 shelters with drawings were located.

In conclusion, mention must be made of some recent field recording by the Canterbury Museum Archaeological Society. A member, and son of the Museum's Director, Ian Duff, has been working with Russell and myself in the Outer Banks Peninsula bays, and now operates there with his own team comprising Dave Harrowfield (late of North Otago) and John Longbottom.