

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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NGĀ KUPU MĀORI MO NGĀ WĀHI TŪPUNA, WĀHI TAPU ME NGĀ WĀHI TAONGA: MAORI TERMINOLOGY FOR PLACES OF SIGNIFICANCE

ANTOINE NELSON COFFIN NO NGAITERANGI, NGATI RANGINUI, NGATI RAUKAWA

Dedicated to my good friend Te Aue Davis.

Ka rere atu nga awa o Kaimai, ki te whakakotahi o te awa rongonui o Wairoa toku kainga, Wairoa toku turanga, Wairoa toku ukaipo, Wairoa toku moemoea. Ka tukuna atu nga mihi ki te runga rawa, ki te tokotoru tapu me nga anahera pono me te mangai. Kei roto i tera, te hunga wairua kua wheturangitia, haere, haere, haere atu ra. Ka hoki nga whakaaro te hunga ora, ka piki te ora, tena koutou katoa.

Ko te pepa nei, enei o nga rarangi kupu mo nga wahi tupuna, wahi tapu me nga wahi taonga o te Maori. Ko tenei mahi he whakaaro aroha ki nga tauira Maori i mahi ana i roto i nga take whenua, take moana. Kei te hiahiatanga o tenei kaupapa, hei whakamaori, hei whakamana i nga wahi.

Na ratou ma, nga kororua o nehera te tini o nga kupu, i korerotia nga whakatauki, nga pepeha me nga waiata ki a Elsdon Best, Pei Te Hurinui Jones, Apirana Ngata, Te Rangihiroa me a ratou rangatira.

No reira, e rau rangatira ma, korerotia, tuhituhia nga kupu Maori i nga wa katoa. Ko enei kupu, nga taonga o nga tupuna mo nga tamariki kei te haere mai.

During my travels around the North Island I have had the privilege of working with people who have dedicated their lives to the preservation of the history and traditions of our ancestors. In many cases the kupu that describe these places may have been lost but the eternal strand that binds us with our ancestors has not broken. To you I humbly offer this small collection of kupu as a koha in your work. This paper is a collection of nouns used to describe, categorise or define a range of sites and areas of traditional and historical

value to Maori. For those who work regularly in archaeology this list may assist or indeed make your job much harder. While there are many translations available there are equally terms that do not translate well in one or two words and also many different terms for one type of site. There are also dialectal and tribal variations to consider. Where noted I have added macrons to denote long vowel sounds. I have often been asked what the Maori word is for a particular type of place or feature. To answer this question one must understand the history of an area, the traditions of the people of the land, have a good grasp of Te Reo Maori and be aware of tribal dialects and variations. In that regard I am still a student, with the hope that I may one day have enough wisdom to advise others of this question with some authority. In the meantime here is an initial fragment of the vast body of Maori knowledge and understanding.

Naku iti nei, Antoine.

A

Āhau	temporary windbreak for crops	(Williams 1992:
21110111	temperary windeream for crops	(** IIII will 5 1) 2.

2), frail breakwind, screen, light fence used in

cultivation grounds (Best 1976: 39)

Ahi kāroa sites associated with claiming of title

Ahu sacred mound used in certain rites (Williams

1992: 3)

Ahu otaota midden (Ngata 1995: 309)

Ahurewa sacred place for the performance of mystic cer-

emonies (Williams 1992: 4), an elevated platform in a pā, occupied by a watchman (Best 1995:

435)

Ahuriri a low pig-proof fence (Best 1976: 39), a low bar-

rier across entrance to a pā, over which person stepped when passing through the gateway (Best

1995: 435)

Amonga waka portage (Ngata 1995: 387)

Ana cave (Williams 1992: 9), (Davis 1990: 38)

Aparua the two outer defences of a pā, comprising an up-

right stockade and an outer elevated screen, latter

sometimes oblique (Best 1995: 435)

Ara pathway

Ara kutoro a subterranean passage under a rampart (Best

1995: 435)

Ara piwai small minor entrances of a pā (Best 1995: 435)

Ara takahanga pathways connecting tribal areas and resource

sites

Ara purahourua sacred pathways for messengers

Ara whakatara a zigzag, lane-like entrance passage of a pā (Best

1995: 435)

Aukati boundary between iwi or hapu (Coffin 2006)

Awa River

Awaawa river valley (Coffin 2006)

Awaiti stream

Awakari = Awakerithe generic term for a trench or ditch of a pā (Best

1995: 52), ditch (Williams 1992: 23)

a fosse outside a line of defence (Best 1995: 52) Awamate Awarua ditch, central passage in a house; whakaawarua

- ditch inside the palisading of a pā

Awhikiri third palisade of a fortified pā (Ngata 1995: 358),

third or inner wooden palisade of a fort, synonym or variant form of kiritangata (Williams 1992: 25), innermost stockade of a pā (Best 1995: 435)

н

Hāngi earth oven, consisting of a circular hole in the

ground in which the food was cooked by heated

stones (Williams 1992: 34)

Нариа valley (Davis 1990: 41)

Hika = kaurimarimapointed rubbing stick for making fire (Reed 2002:

66)

Himu stockade posts

Hīnaki net for fishing (Coffin 2006)

hill, ridge (Coffin 2006), hill (Davis 1990: 41) Hiwi Hoanga sandstone, sandstone grinding stone (Coffin

1999)

Hoka = pahoka = a breakwind formed by sticking the butts of pahokahoka = tihokahoka branches in the earth used in cultivation grounds

(Best 1976: 39)

Huahua = huapae, terrace palisade (Ngata 1995: 358), rails of a

paehua, roau stockade (Best 1995: 435)

Hukahuka second palisade of a fortified pā (Ngata 1995:

358), the second palisading of a fort (Williams

1992: 67)

Huīnga moutere group of islands

K

Kahui maunga mountain peaks

Kahekoheko a stage projecting outward over a stockade, slant-

ing upward (Best 1995: 435)

Kahia human figure carved on stockade posts (Best

1995: 435)

Kāinga settlement

Kainga settlement (Coffin 2006), refuse of a meal, as

cockle shells, etc. (Williams 1992: 86)

Kātua main stockade of palisading (Reed 2002: 137)

Kaunoti flatboard for making fire (Reed 2002: 66)

Kawa reef

Kārapi fence, consisting of horizontal poles confined by

vertical stakes (Williams 1992: 99)

Kiri gravel

Kirikiri shingle (Ngata 1995: 474)

Kiritai sand spit, thin strip of beach between two bodies

of water (Coffin 2006)

Kēti gate (English transliteration)

Kiritangata inner palisade of a fortified pā (Ngata 1995: 358),

innermost row of palisades of a pā (Williams

1992: 120)

Kōiwi Human bone of the deceased, corpse

(Williams:1992:129)

Kokoru bay

 $K\bar{o}hatu = p\bar{o}hatu$ stone (Ngata 1995: 507)

Kōhatu whakamaumahara memorial, memorial stone (Coffin 2006)

red ochre and shark oil mixture used as a Kokowai

paint or dye (Coffin 2006), earth from which red ochre is procured by burning red ochre

(Williams:1992:131)

Koukou the citadel or highest part of a fortified village

(Best 1995: 436)

Kūrae promontory

 $K\bar{u}waha = k\bar{u}aha$ door, entrance (Coffin 2006)

М

Mahe stone sinker used in fishing, sinker or weight

along base of net (Coffin 1999)

opening up, disinterment (Williams 1992: 65), Mahi huakanga

archaeology

Mahinga kai food harvesting or gathering area (Coffin 1997:

38)

Maioro earthworks, wall and fosse for fortification, pit

for catching rats (Williams 1992: 167), embankment, fortifications (Ngata 1995: 137, 183), earthen rampart or wall, fosse or trench (Best 1995:

51)

Maioro maru lower wall of a rampart inside a pā Māori (Best

1995: 51)

Maioro pekerangi higher wall of a rampart inside a pā Māori (Best

1995: 51)

ditch, drain (of a field or paddock) (Ngata 1995: Manga

> 119,125), small stream or creek (Coffin 2007), river, stream, stretch of water or watercourse

(Davis 1990: 29)

 $M\bar{a}ra = m\bar{a}rakai$ garden, plot of ground under cultivation, farm

(Coffin 1998)

Marae ceremonial center of a Maori community, usu-

ally with a wharenui, wharekai and ancilliary

facilities.

 $Mata = mat\bar{a} = m\bar{a}tara$ obsidian (Coffin 2006), (Ngata 1995: 339) Matarae promontory or peninsula of land in water

Maunga mountain (Davis 1990: 28)

Maungatapusacred mountainMāra kaifood cultivation

Matāobsidian (Ngata 1995: 339)Mataitaiseafood gathering areas

Mātārae peninsula

Moana lake or sea (Davis 1990: 40), sea, ocean (Coffin

2006)

Moana ripo whirlpool in the ocean

MotuislandMotutereislandMoutereisland

Mutukākā carved perch for snaring kākā

Ν

Ngaere bog (Davis 1990: 43)
Ngahere forest, bush (Coffin 2006)
Ngawha hot spring, hot pool

Ngutu entrance, narrow entrance passage, often out-

side gateway and formed by erecting a stockade or rampart parallel with the outer defence of pā

(Best 1995: 439)

Ngutuawa headwaters of rivers

Ngutuihesmall minor entrances to pā (Best 1995: 439)Ngerengerestockaded flanking angle of pā, with sometimes

an elevated platform (Best 1995: 439)

Nohoanga = nohanga temporary settlement (Coffin 2006)

0

Oneone = one = oneroa sandy beach (Davis 1990: 39)

Onewa basalt

P

Pā stockade, fortified place, anything used to block

> an open space (Williams 1992: 243), a fortified village (Best:1974:xi), as a verb means to obstruct, to block up, as a noun fortified place,

stockade, barricade, screen (Best 1995: 18)

Pā huri a barricade of felled trees (Best 1995: 437)

 $P\bar{a} \ kokori = P\bar{a} \ korikori$ these terms were applied to any defences of an

> inferior nature, such as a few huts surrounded by an ordinary type of palisaded barrier. Such places were often constructed at cultivation grounds away from the fortified village, and at fishing

camps on the coast (Best 1995: 17)

Pae ritual altar (Coffin 1997:40), horizon, ridge or hill

(Davis 1990: 40)

Pae maunga mountain range (Coffin 2006)

wind screen for crops (Williams 1992: 247), frail Pāhauhau/pāhao

breakwind, screen, light fence used in cultivation

grounds (Best 1976: 39)

Pākoro small fenced enclosure, store

a fence formed by stacking rails between pairs of pākorokoro

upright posts (Williams 1992: 255)

native fort, any fortified hamlet is included in this Pā Māori

term (Best 1995: 17)

Pā maioro earthworks both rampart and fosse are termed

> maioro. Hence a pa maioro is a fortified place the defences of which are earthworks (stockades

being an additional defence) (Best 1995: 17)

flat ground (Davis 1990: 32) Papa Papakainga settlement, village (Coffin 2006) terrace palisade (Ngata 1995: 358) Paparua

 $Papawai = h\bar{a}roto$ rock pool (Ngata 1995: 447)

 $P\bar{a}$ punanga = punanga a term applied by some clans of Wairarapa, etc. to

retreats or places of refuge provided for non-combatants in war time. These places were often situated in the depths of the forest. It would appear

that many of these places were not fortified in any way (Best 1995: 18). Punanga used in Tauranga to

describe forest refuge (Coffin 2006)

Parekura battlefield, place where persons have fallen in

battle (Williams 1992: 266)

river bank (Ngata 1995: 446) Parenga Parengarenga = taha awa riverside (Ngata 1995: 446) $Paretao = mat\bar{a} paretao$ obsidian (Williams 1992: 267)

Pari = paringacliff (Coffin 2006), cliff or precipice (Davis 1990:

37)

Pā tahora applied to a pa tuwatawata or any inferior type of

defended position situated away from the main pa

of the clan (Best 1995: 17)

Pātaka storehouse raised upon posts, elevated stage for

storing food (Williams 1992: 270)

Pātaka pu kiore one built with a flat slab on the top of each post to

exclude rats (Williams 1992: 270)

Pātakitaki a screen or breakwind of brush (Williams 1992:

270), frail breakwind, screen, light fence used in

cultivation grounds (Best 1976: 39)

Pā taua a generic term for a fortified place (Best 1995:

17)

Pātua basket made from bark, usually totara

Pā tuna river dam for eel fishing

 $P\bar{a}$ tuwatwata = $P\bar{a}$

a fortified place having no earthworks, stockades being the form of defence employed (Best 1995: tiwatawata

17)

Pā ukiuki this expression denotes a permanently occupied

fort (Best 1995: 18)

 $P\bar{a}$ whakairo = $P\bar{a}$

these terms apply to a first class type of fortified whakanoho village, defended by earthworks and stockades.

Such pa had some of the stockade posts embellished with carvings. Hence the term whakairo. They were also protected by a mauri, a material symbol that served as a shrine for certain atua or spirit gods who were placated in order that they might act as guardians of the place (Best 1995:

17)

Pā whawhai pa, to obstruct, a fighting pa (Best 1995: 17) Pekerangi outer stockade, palisading (Reed 2002: 137)

 $P\bar{o}hatu = k\bar{o}hatu$ stone (Ngata 1995: 507)

Pōito float for a net (Williams 1992: 288), net float made

of purupuru or whau

Pokahole, pit, well (Williams 1992: 288), pit (Ngata

1995: 309)

Pounamu greenstone, nephrite

an elevated platform attached to the stockade of Pourewa = pourangi

the pā (Ngata 1995: 381)

blow hole of the seacoast (Coffin 2006) Риариа

Puia hot spring or geyser Puihi active volcano

Puke peak, hill (Coffin 2006), small hill (Davis 1990:

34)

Pukoro palisade (Ngata 1995: 358), a form of defensive

work to cover entrance to a pā (Williams 1992:

308)

Puna water spring (Coffin 1997:38)

Punawai water spring

Punga anchor stone, usually associated with waka

(Coffin 1996)

Purupuru pumice (Coffin 1999)

Pūtahui screen in a kūmara plantation (Williams 1992:

316), frail breakwind, screen, light fence used in

cultivation grounds (Best 1976: 39)

Puwaha = Puahamouth of a river (Coffin 1998)

R

Rae promontory or headland (Davis:1992:36)

Rākau tree, stick

Rauwiri fence interlaced with twigs (Williams 1992: 331),

a wattled brush fence (Best 1976: 41)

Repo wetland, swamp (Coffin 1998)

Rerenga waterfall (Coffin 2006)

Ripo whirlpool Rohe tribal district

Roto lake (Davis 1990: 40)

Rua pit, hole, store for provisions (Williams 1992:

349), trench (Ngata 1995: 557)

Ruaahuri urupā (Williams 1992: 349)

Rua kōauau store for kūmara (Williams 1992: 349)

Rua koiwi burial cave or hole

Rua patu pit for storing provisions (Williams 1992: 349)
Rua tāhuhu roofed store for potatoes (Williams 1992: 349)
Rua tōrino/rua iti pits in connection with the tūahu, the terms being

sometimes used as synonymous with witchcraft

(Williams 1992: 349)

Rua haeroa a similar pit in connection with rites for the de-

struction of enemies (Williams 1992: 349)

Т

Tahuna sand dune (Davis 1990: 42), water body such as

inlet, harbour, enclosed bay (Coffin 2006),

Tāhanga basalt from Tāhanga, Coromandel

Taiepa/taiapa/tāepa fence, wall (Williams 1992: 363), a sturdy ring

fence of stakes, split timber or sapling poles, in the earth in an upright position, lashed to a horizontal rail 3-4 feet from the ground (Best 1976:

39-40)

Tai = takutai = tide, coast, foreshore

takutaimoana

Taiaroa palisade of a fortified pā (Ngata 1995: 358)

Taka mountain, heap

Takitaki palisade (Ngata 1995: 358), fence, palisading,

screen (Williams 1992: 372)

Takiwa district
Tangiwai bowenite

Tara pointed peak

Tātākaitaua. outer palisade of a fortified pā (Ngata 1995: 358),

outer palisading of a pā (Williams 1992: 394)

Tatau pounamu greenstone door, a place designated as a symbol

of peace between tribes usually sanctified by marriage and exchange of gifts or placement of taonga in the whenua, a boundary between iwi or

hapu (Coffin 2006)

Taumata summit

Taunga ika fishing grounds

Tauranga waka = Taungaresting place, anchorage or landing place for

waka canoes

Tihi raised fortification or citadel within a pā (Williams

1992: 416), summit (Ngata 1995: 516)

screen, breakwind (Williams 1992: 426), frail $T\bar{\imath}topa$

breakwind, screen, light fence used in cultivation

grounds (Best 1976: 39)

Tīwata/tīwatawata palisade (Ngata 1995: 358), fence, palisade,

paling, upright pickets of a fence (Williams 1992:

427)

Toka rock

Tomotomokanga

Toka tu moana rocky outcrops (sea)

Tomo natural sink hole, often in limestone or entrance

to a cave or hole in the ground

Tomokanga = area and structure at entrance to marae (Coffin:

2006), entrance, gateway (Willaims 1992: 435)

Torere underground burial chamber

 $T\bar{u}ahu = T\bar{u}\bar{a}hu$ a sacred place, consisting of an enclosure con-

taining a mound and marked by erection of rods or poles, which was used for the purposes of divination and other mystic rites. It differed from the ahurewa in being out of doors, sometimes apart from the kāinga (Williams 1992: 444), I roto o Kaawhia, ka hangā e ia he tuuāhu ki Maketuu, ka tapā te ingoa ko Ahurei - At Kawhia harbour, at Maketu, he built an alter called Ahurei

(Jones:1995:49), ritual altar (Coffin 1998:40)

Tūāpapa terrace (Ngata 1995: 532) Tuhituhi nehera rock art, cave drawings

Tuhua obsidian (matā) from Tuhua Island

Tūwatawata palisading (Reed 2002: 137)

U

Umu fire pit, ground oven
Umu kai tangata oven for cannibal feast

Umu Pātaka a ceremonial oven in connection with the hahu

ceremony (Williams 1992: 270)

Uku clay

Ūnga waka canoe shelter, waka portage

Upanepane terraces of a scarped hill (Best 1995: 439) Ūrunga canoe landing place (Davis 1990: 42)

Ūrunga waka canoe shelter

Urupā fence round a grave, burying place (Williams

1992: 470)

W

Waharoa entrance to a fortified pā; or, more strictly, the

main walk or roadway in the pā (Williams 1992:

473)

Waiora sources of healing water

Wairere waterfall

Waha ngutu narrow entrance into the waharoa, a long interior

passage of a pā Māori (Best 1995: 46)

Wāhi place, locality

Wāhi hahunga burial preparation area associated with the scrap-

ing of flesh from bones of deceased

Wāhi tapu a sacred place to Māori (in the Historic Places Act

1993), a place vested with tapu that can be either permanent or temporary, a place sanctioned by

the tapu of ritual (Coffin 2006)

Wai stream, creek (Coffin 1998:38)
Waipara = para sediment (Ngata 1995: 465)

Waka canoe

Waka haumi memorial waka, placed upright in the ground

Waonui large forest (Coffin 2006)

Waro abode of the dead (Williams 1992: 480), quick-

sand or soft mud used as a place for burial

Whakahua terrace (Williams 1992: 65)

a fosse inside a line of defence (Best 1995: 52) Whakaawarua bay, harbour (Coffin 2006), bay, bight or a large Whanga

river mouth (Davis 1990: 37)

Whare house, shed, hut, habitation (Williams 1992: 489)

Wharekura the building in which the tohunga imparted eso-

> teric lore to his pupils. Applied sometimes to the common meeting house of the kāinga (Williams

1992: 490)

Wharemaire a building for purposes similar to those of the

> wharekura, though the terms may not be quite synonymous; generally a house where sorcery

was taught (Williams 1992: 490)

Wharemoe house for sleeping

Wharepuni a closely built house with three layers of raupo in

> the walls, such as those generally used for sleeping in. Sometimes the term is applied to the prin-

cipal house of the kainga

storehouse raised upon posts (Williams 1992: Wharerangi

490)

Whare $t\bar{u}puna = whare$

ancestral house

tīpuna

Whareumu cooking shed (Williams 1992: 490)

Whata elevated stage for storing food or other purposes

(Williams 1992: 490)

 $What\bar{a}rangi = wh\bar{a}rangi$ stage or platform elevated on posts (Williams

1992: 491)

land, placenta Whenua

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- Where no reference has been given they are provided by the author, however the informant is unclear or unrecorded. A number of references refer to Coffin 2006; these kupu were the result of a brainstorm as part of the development of this paper.