



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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- d. Dating: The upper level apparently belongs to the Early European Maori Phase, but the lower layer can not be assigned to any definite phase or aspect on the evidence available.

Sting Ray Point Pa (Matakawau Point) (N 40/11)

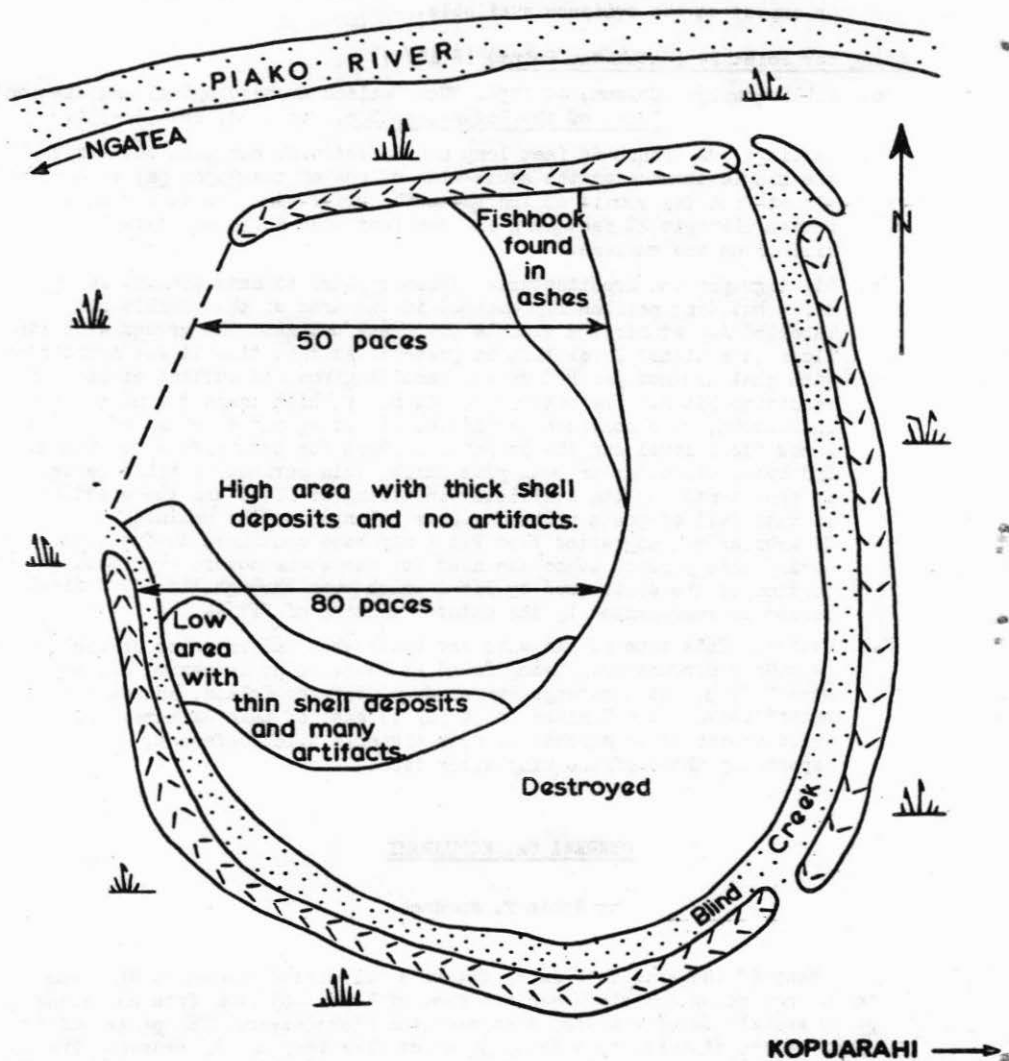
- a. Bibliography: Golson, J. 1955. "New Zealand Archaeological Association", Jour. of the Polynesian Soc., vol. 64, pp. 349-351.
- b. Setting: "A trench 64 feet long and 6 feet wide was laid out across the single terrace on the south side of one of the major pa, stretching almost from the summit of the pa to the cliff edge and taking in a rectangular pit 20 feet long and ten feet wide which was clearly visible on the surface."
- c. Stratigraphy and architecture: There appears to have been at least three building periods represented in the area of the visible pit, labelled A. At first a visible pit A was cut into the ground with its floor at a higher level than at present. At this time it was associated with what are now perched drains resulting from the cutting of Pit B and recutting Pit A. The cutting of Pit B, of which there was no surface indication, made obsolete the drains of Pit A, and this pit was cut to a new floor level and the drainage systems for both pits were linked. End buttresses occur in both pits during this period. A third period is represented by the artificial infilling of Pit B and the erection in that fill of posts which may have belonged to the palisade. W. Ambrose has suggested that Pit A may have continued to function during this period, hence the need for the stone covers over that portion of the drain used by Pit A which runs through Pit B. A final period is represented by the natural silting of Pit A.
- d. Dating: This type of pit with end buttresses and interior drains is widely encountered, being found at Kauri Point in period II, on Site N 30/3 at Haratonga Bay on Great Barrier Island, and on the recently-excavated Taniwha Pa (N 52/1) east of Lake Waikare. It would appear to be associated with a single ditch defences, especially those of the ring ditch type.

OTERAWA PA, KOPUARAHI

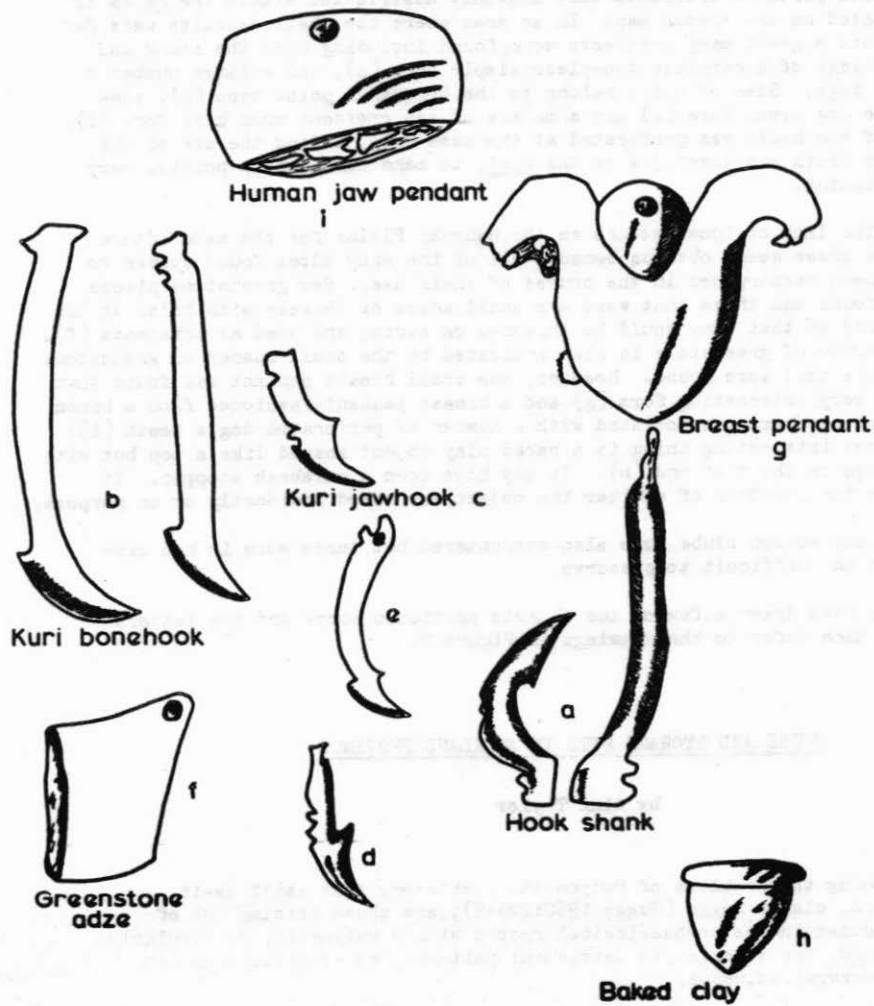
by Robin T. Murdock

Many of the artifacts in my father's collection listed by Mr. Green in a preceding article under the name of Kopuarahi come from an island pa in the middle of a swampy area near the Piako River. The pa is built up of layers of shell to a depth of about five feet in the center. Unfortunately most of the pa has been destroyed and the artifacts found are limited because of this. The accompanying sketch map gives a general impression of the layout of the pa which is thought to have been named Oterewa.

SKETCH MAP OF OTEREWA·PA, KOPUARAHI



ARTIFACTS FROM OTEREUA PA.
KOPUARAHĪ



From the sketch map one can see that the pa is situated on a former island in the swamp and that the outer bank and palisade have been placed out in the swamp in such a way that up to twenty feet of either swamp or water lay between the inhabited part of the pa and the outer fortifications.

The portable artifacts were unevenly distributed within the pa as is indicated on the sketch map. In an area where the shell deposits were few and thin a great many artifacts were found including both the shank and point legs of a complete two-piece simple hook (a), and a large number of point legs. Some of these belong to the Oruarangi point type (b), some to the dog tooth form (c) and some are of the crescent moon barb form (d). One of the hooks was perforated at the base (e). I find the use of the canine teeth and lower jaw of the kuri, to make barbed hook points, very interesting.

The lack of local stones on the Hauraki Plains for the manufacture of the adzes seems obvious because all of the many adzes found appear to have been resharpened in the course of their use. Few greenstone pieces were found and those that were are small adzes or chisels with holes at the butt end so that they could be threaded on string and used as ornaments (f). The rarity of greenstone is also indicated by the small number of greenstone pendants that were found. However, one shell breast pendant was found that has a very interesting form (g) and a breast pendant fashioned from a human jaw was recovered, associated with a number of perforated dog's teeth (i). The most interesting thing is a baked clay object shaped like a top but with a flange on the flat end (h). It may have been a calabash stopper. It raises the question of whether the object was baked accidentally or on purpose.

Many wooden clubs were also encountered but these were in bad condition and difficult to preserve.

I have drawn a few of the objects mentioned above and the letters after them refer to the drawings in Figure 2.

HOUSE AND STORAGE PITS IN AUCKLAND PROVINCE

by Alan Taylor

Among the problems of Polynesian prehistory that still await solution, claims Suggs (Suggs 1960:228-9), are those arising out of the lacunae in the archaeological record within Polynesia; particularly in regard, for example, to settlement patterns, house structures and architectural sequence.

Consequently, in the course of surveying a number of pa sites in the Auckland Province, I drew up plans of the following twelve types of structure observed in the field.