



NEW ZEALAND
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Radiocarbon Dates for Southland

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The following are details of radiocarbon dates from three archaeological sites in Southland close to the large outcrops of Riverton argillite, which were extensively used throughout the prehistoric period. The first two series of samples derive from excavations at the Wakapatu site by C. F. W. Higham in 1967, details of which have been previously reported in the Newsletter (Higham 1968). The last series is from a site at the eastern end of Colac Bay excavated by L. M. Groube in 1964. This site, known as the 'Riverton site,' contained quantities of waste flakes and discarded adze blanks, together with food remains indicating exploitation of local marine resources. The site, which is immediately adjacent to argillite outcrops, can be regarded as an adze manufactory visited over a period of several hundred years, and also used as a base for fishing and shell-fish gathering by the groups engaged in tool manufacture. Technologically, the waste flakes and blanks from Riverton can be paralleled by those produced at Wakapatu; at the same time, significant changes can be noted through time. Moreover, at the Wakapatu site, there is more evidence of secondary processes of adze manufacture such as pecking and grinding. Further aspects of the stone technology illustrated at these sites are discussed elsewhere (Leach 1969). An excavation report for the Riverton site is in preparation.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Run No:</u>	<u>Age</u>
<u>Series A - Wakapatu</u>		
Site S176/4 WA-A-aII(i) Charcoal from layer 2	R2247/1	1471 A.D. \pm 50
Site S176/4 WA-A-a-5(ii) Charcoal from layer 2	R2247/2	1254 A.D. \pm 40
Site S176/4 WA-A-aI(iii) Charcoal from Pit No.1	R2247/3	1288 A.D. \pm 40
<u>Series B - Tihaka</u>		
Site S176/5 Ti-A-a Charcoal from oven fill	R2247/4	1270 A.D. \pm 40
<u>Series C - Riverton</u>		
Site S176/1 Area A Square D2 Charcoal from oven in layer 6	R2234/4	1254 A.D. \pm 49
Site S176/1 Area A Square D3 Charcoal from oven in SW face	R2234/5	1269 A.D. \pm 36

Series C - Riverton (contd.)

Site 176/1 Area A Square B2 Charcoal from oven in layer 3B	R2234/3	1402 A.D. ± 39
Site 176/1 Area A Square C10 Charcoal from body of layer 4	R2234/2	1500 A.D. ± 54
Site 176/1 Area A Square C4 Charcoal from dark gravel layer beneath 2nd turf zone	R2234/1	1730 A.D. ± 40

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