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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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RADIOCARBON DATES FROM CASTLEPOINT

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Radiocarbon dates have been received from the Institute of Nuclear Sciences, D.S.I.R., Lower Hutt, for samples collected from a stratified midden site at Castlepoint, N159/23. The site is an extensive occupation area with samples taken from a deposit of midden material situated in the present day Castlepoint settlement.

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Dating material</u>	<u>Age Old T$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	<u>Age New T$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
NZ4723	<u>Paphies subtriangulata</u> <u>Protothaca crassica</u>	298 \pm 31	307 \pm 32
NZ4724	<u>Paphies subtriangulata</u>	413 \pm 29	425 \pm 30

The two samples submitted for dating were collected by the authors from a three layer stratified deposit of midden material on 6 April 1970, and held awaiting further opportunity for excavation on this site.

Sample NZ4723 was collected from top layer of midden at 15cm below turf layer. Layer contained shells and charcoal stained sand. Sample consisted of mixed shells of Paphies subtriangulata and Protothaca crassica and dates last use of this section of midden.

Sample NZ4724 was collected from lowest occupation layer of same stratified face at 90cm below turf layer. Layer contained burned stone, charcoal stained sand and shells. Sample dates bottom layer of three layer stratified midden