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**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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RADIOCARBON DATES FROM N42/941, WESTFIELD, SOUTH AUCKLAND

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Radiocarbon age estimates for occupation of N42/941 have been received from the Institute of Nuclear Science, D.S.I.R., Lower Hutt. The samples were of Chione stutchburyi (cockle) shell.

The site, an undefended open settlement site on the route of the Maui Gas Pipeline, was excavated in 1981 (Furey, 1982 and 1983). The samples provide estimates for the deposition of the shell midden and initial occupation of this part of the site. A second occupation is undated but from the evidence recovered it may be close in time.

Sample No.	N.Z. No.	Layer	Area	Years B.P. Old $t_{1/2}$ (5568±40yrs)	Years B.P. New $t_{1/2}$ (5730±40yrs)
423-26					
482,483	6163	II	1	323±57	332±59
497	6164	II d	2	409±58	421±59
596	6165	II b	2/west	300±57	309±59

TABLE 1. Westfield radiocarbon dates.

A pooled date of 344±33 (old  $t_{1/2}$ ) is obtained (Law, pers. comm.). The estimates are statistically not significantly different and may be regarded as contemporary. The age estimates indicate the site was probably occupied in the late sixteenth century.

References

- Furey, L. 1982 Interim report on excavations at N42/941, Westfield, South Auckland. N.Z.A.A. News-letter, 25:138-143.
- 1983 N42/941 Westfield South Auckland Excavation Report. Unpublished report to N.Z. Historic Places Trust.