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RADIOCARBON DATES FROM THE FISHER ROAD (R11/887,888,899)
AND HAWKINS HILL SITES (R11/1394)

Russell Foster
 N.Z. Historic Places Trust
 Auckland

The following radiocarbon age estimates have been received from the Institute of Nuclear Science, D.S.I.R., Lower Hutt. The sites are geographically close together, lying within the lava field to the north-east of Te Apunga O Tainui (McLennan Hills). The Hawkins Hill site was on the western side of Fisher Road and the Fisher Road sites on the eastern side. Interim reports on the excavations at these sites are presented elsewhere in this volume (Coates 1986; Foster and Sewell 1986).

Sample No.	Lab No.	Site No.	Years B.P.	Years B.P.
			Old half life (5568)	New half life (5730)
283	NZ 7048	R11/899	405 ± 25	415 ± 25
299	NZ 7049	R11/888	380 ± 40	395 ± 40
307	NZ 7064	R11/887	390 ± 30	400 ± 30
329	NZ 7065	R11/899	380 ± 30	395 ± 30

TABLE 1. Fisher Road radiocarbon dates.

All dates were obtained from unburnt marine shell (Chione stutchburyi). They date a shell living surface (sample number 299) and deposition of shell midden. A single main occupation is present at each site.

Sample No.	Lab No.	Area	Years B.P.	Years B.P.
			Old half life (5568)	New half life (5730)
206	NZ 7011	C	380 ± 25	390 ± 25
227	NZ 7023	C	430 ± 30	440 ± 30
312	NZ 7008	B	MODERN	<250
314	NZ 6971	B	380 ± 52	390 ± 54
331	NZ 6972	C	410 ± 55	452 ± 80

TABLE 2. Hawkins Hill (R11/1394) radiocarbon dates.

Among Hawkins Hill samples, the date from Sample 331 was obtained from charcoal (no identifications available). All other dates were obtained from unburnt marine shell (Chione stutchburyi). The modern date for Sample 312 is anomalous. The sample was smaller than is usually required for dating and hence the result may be regarded as suspect. Two main

occupation levels are present at this site. The samples dated are from the earlier occupation. The second occupation may be close in time.

The age estimates indicate that the sites were occupied during the latter half of the sixteenth century, as was the nearby Westfield site (R11/898 = N42/941) excavated by Furey (1983) which is separated from R11/1394 by the Auckland - Hamilton Motorway.

A statistical analysis of the radiocarbon dates from all five sites (R11/887, 888, 899, 1394 and 898) using the Kruskal - Wallis Test for one-way analysis of variants by rank (Seigal 1956), produces an H-Statistic of $H = 1.96$ (corrected for tied scores $H = 2$). At a probability level of 0.05 and H-Statistic greater than 5.6 is required to be significant.

This result indicates that these five sites were essentially contemporary. It is possible that all formed part of a single community centred around the fortified cone of Te Apunga O Tainui.

References

- Coates, J. 1986 Excavations at R11/1394, Hawkin's Hill, South Auckland: an interim report. This volume.
- Foster, R. 1986 Interim report on the excavation of the
and B. Sewell Fisher Road sites (R11/887, 888 and 899), Mt Wellington, South Auckland. This volume.
- Furey, L. 1983 Radiocarbon dates from N42/941, Westfield, South Auckland. N.Z.A.A. Newsletter, 26:106.
- Seigal, S. 1956 Nonparametric Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences. McGraw-Hill, New York.