

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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depressions in the middle of each. Another of these curious structures was evident near the pits on the ridge. Rabbit holes in these structures gave no sign of any hangi stones, midden or other evidence as to what these structures might have been.

In comparison with the other "drainage" systems in the same area, the "drains" at Tupou Bay were remarkable for their clearly defined nature, the variety of structures that they consisted of, and the extent to which they occurred on hill-slopes as well as on flatter areas.

D. Yen (pers. comm.) has pointed out that these "drains" as they have been described, need not necessarily have been for actual drainage purposes, but could have served a variety of functions, including drainage, irrigation, or boundary markers, among other things. It would appear that no interpretation as to the function of these structures is warranted until a further and more detailed investigation is made.

Reference:

Golson, J. and Green R.C.

A Handbook to Field Recording in New Zealand. New Zealand Archaeological Assn. Handbook No. 1, 1958, p. 67.

REPORT ON WHIRITOA BEACH SITE, COROMANDEL PENINSULA

J.M. Foreman & R.G.W. Jolly

Whiritoa Beach is on the eastern Coromandel coast, seven miles from Waihi. The beach is one mile long with a lagoon at each end. Along the main dune of the beach there are numerous middens with chert and other flakes exposed by the wind. The southern end which was the subject of investigation by Green (1959: 21) and was alloted the site number N53/1, has been entirely altered by sand quarrying.

At the northern end of the beach is the site investigated by Crosby (1963: 46) N53/4, and the present site lies some 20 yards south-east of this. On 28.12.64 two nine foot squares were marked out and excavation of one was commenced. A 2 ft overburden of sand and lupin was removed and this was designated layer 1. Layer 2, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, comprised dark brown sand, compacted shell and charcoal with occasional pieces of obsidian and other stone flakes, numerous broken oven stones and two well-defined fire-places. Layer 3 of light brown sand was 6 ins. deep over most of the square but deepened to 12 ins in the south-eastern corner. Within this layer were found the following bones:-

3 pieces of polynesian dog 6 " "fur seal 1 piece of kaka 2 pieces of Pachyornis mappini 1 piece of Dinornis naovaezealandiae Owen 1 " porcupine fish

As well as the bones there was evidence of a working floor, namely:-

2 adzes - Duff type 4A and 3B 4 broken adze rough-outs 4 abraders, 1 piece of worked bone 2 sandstone files 3 obsidian blades

l broken quartzite drillpoint

At the bottom of layer 3 is a probable soil horizon as suggested by Mr D. Kear of the Soil Bureau, D.S.I.R., and into this horizon of the consolidated original dune were found two postholes, some shallow pits and some kokowai.

From subsequent excavations of two further squares were recovered:-

5 pieces of polynesian dog 8 pieces of fur seal 1 piece of mollyhawk 1 " " kaka 4 pieces of Pachyornis mappini 1 piece of Euryapteryx exilis Hutton 1 "Dinornis struthoides Owen

In addition to the working floor material similar to that listed in Sq. 1, were:-

2 adzes - Duff types 1,3B, & 6 2 argillite flakes 5 moa bone tabs 1 quartzite core 43 chert flakes 8 pumice rubbers 102 pieces of bone 1 small ball of clay

Shell Sample taken from Square 1 - Layer 2

subtriangulatum	75 gms	19.89%
australe	18 gms	4.77%
frags.	62 gms	16.44%
prob D.anus.	5 gms	1.32%
papulosa	146 gms	38.72%
stutchburyi	68 gms	18.03%
scalaris	3 gms	0.79%
	377 gms	
	australe frags. prob D.anus. papulosa stutchburyi	australe 18 gms frags. 62 gms prob D.anus. 5 gms papulosa 146 gms stutchburyi 68 gms scalaris 3 gms

Shell Sample taken from Square 1 - Layer 3

Amphidesma	australe	268 gms	41.94%
11	subtriangulatium	83 gms	12.09%
Dosinia sp.	prob. D. anus	7 gms	1.09%
Chione	stutchburyi	35 gms	5.47%
Neothais	scarlaris	30 gms	4.69%
	cats eye	75 gms	11.73%
Strutholaria	papulosa	127 gms	19.87%

Shell Samples (contd)

Commiinella	adspersa	12 gms	1.08%
Cookia	sulcata	2 gms	0.31%
Unidentified frag	gments	1 gm	0.15%
		640 gms	

Although no Classic Maori artifacts have been recovered from this area, the large quantities of shell and charcoal suggest that the area was used in Classic times by large numbers of people who exploited the local sea-food. This would, perhaps, account for the scarcity of flakes and bone in the surface layers. Our thanks go to Mr B. Bjerring, owner of the land, for permission to excavate. To Mr R. Scarlett for identifying the bones, and to Miss E. Crosby for the shell analysis.

References:

Green, R.C.

0.00., 1., 0.	-,-,	N.Z. Arch. Assn. Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 2
Crosby, E.	1963	"Preliminary Report on Whiritoa", Newsletter, Vol. 6 No.

(Editor's Note: The full copy of the notes on this site are deposited in the local files

of the Auckland region, Anthropology Dept., University of Auckland).

"A Survey of Sites along the Coromandel Coast".

The Anthropology Department of the Otago University advise that the booklet "Archaeology in the Bay of Islands" (history, drawings, photographs) has been reprinted and is available from the Department (Box 56, Dunedin) at 5/- each.