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REVIEW OF SITES EXCAVATED IN
THE NORTHERN NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

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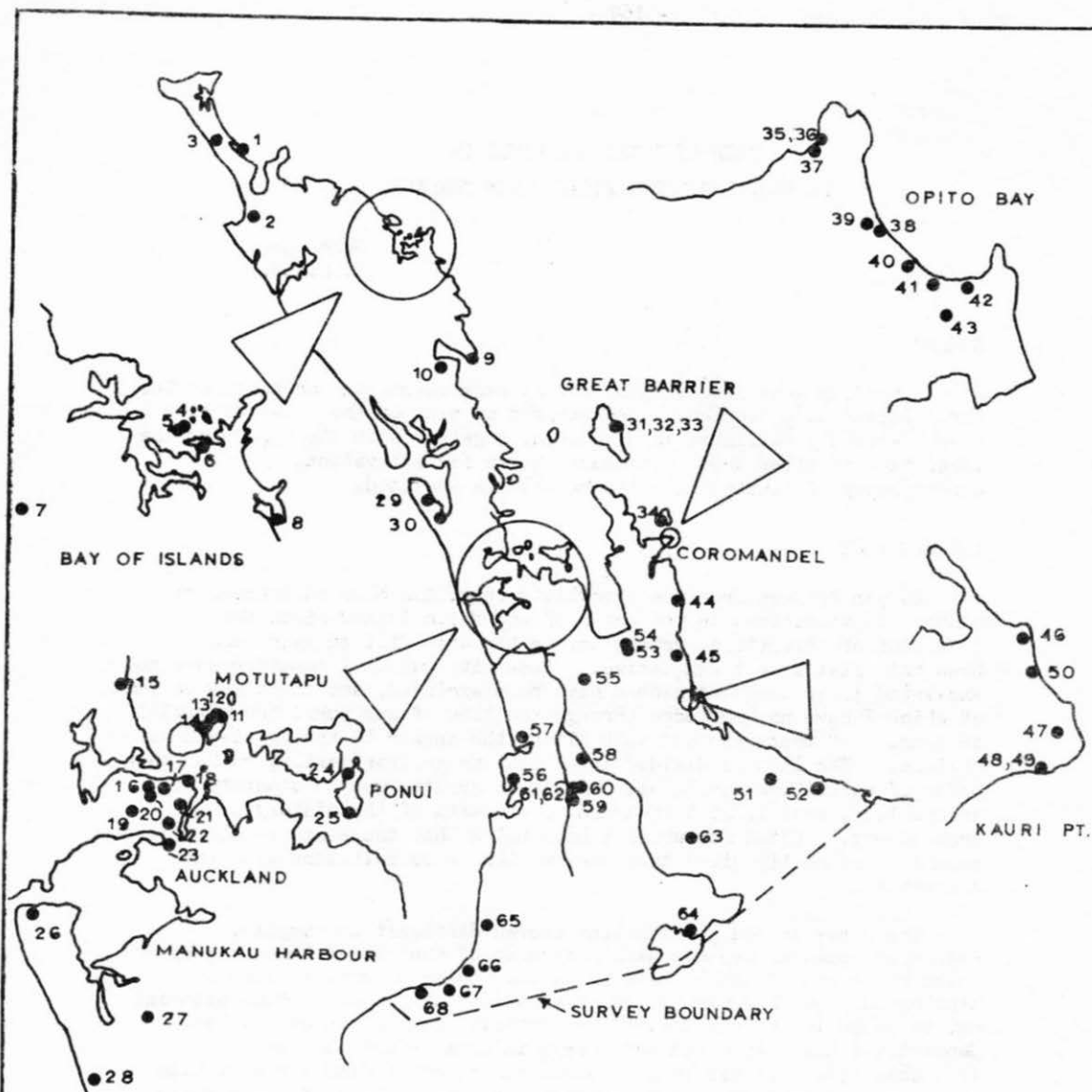
SUMMARY

A briefly annotated list of recent excavations in the north of the North Island is presented. The failure of many of the sites to have been adequately published is discussed, together with the types and the localities of sites which have been chosen for excavation. A bibliography of substantial site reports is included.

INTRODUCTION

As can be seen from the checklist, there has been an impressive number of excavations in the north of the North Island since the inception of scientific archaeology in the area fifteen years ago. Even this list is not exhaustive. Some sites which I consider were not excavated in an adequate manner have been excluded, and there may be some of which I have no knowledge through the lack of any published material on them. If there are any such sites, the answer to the aggrieved is obvious. The list is divided into sections geographically, rather than order of excavation, as I feel this is of greater use to students of archaeology, even if it is awkward to students of the history of archaeology. Sites for which I have noted that there are no significant results were mostly given that designation in consultation with the excavators.

The notes on the publications proved difficult to compile. Published notes or reports exist for most of the sites; however many of these notes are of little lasting value, and my attempt to form a bibliography of them was obviously an unrewarding task. Much material may be found in or from Green's Prehistoric Sequence (Green 1963a). Generally I have separated notes from interim reports on their illustrations. It may be a personal quirk, but I find a report with some plans or sections far more comprehensible. My lists of reports in active preparation or in press may well be short. In the following list, the first number refers to the site location on the map. The terms "archaic" and "classic" are used occasionally in the notes. I believe a



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full study of these excavations would reveal a continuum of cultural and economic change between these two defined extremes rather than a rigid division into two periods.

CHECKLIST OF SITES EXCAVATED IN THE NORTH OF THE NORTH ISLAND

NORTHLAND

1. Houhora, N6/4, F. W. Shawcross, 65-66. A littoral midden site with extinct birds and abundant fishing gear. Partial report, Roe, 1968.
2. Kaitaia Pit Site. (Not filed) R. H. Parker, 60's.
3. Tauratauwhanu, N3-4/1, E. Shaw and K. M. Peters, 69. Three squares were opened on parts of this pa uncovering defences, a rectangular pit, and a possible house floor. Wooden artefacts were found in the adjoining swamp.
4. Paeroa Village, N12/1, L. M. Groube, 64-65. A pa on a promontory, sacked by French in 1772. Pits, rua, defences and partial house floors were encountered. Interim report, Groube, 1965, p. 5.
5. Moturua Garden. (Not filed) L. M. Groube, 64-65; K. Peters, 68. Stratified agricultural soils and drains. The lower soil has produced an early radiocarbon date, but a second sample was contradictory.
6. Te Kuri's Village. (Not filed) L. M. Groube, 64-65. Rectangular pits excavated on narrow ridge.
7. Poor Hill, N15/43, K. C. Gorbey, T. Hansen, 67. An extensive terrace site, partly defended. Surface houses were found on terraces. Rescue excavation.
8. Whangaruru. (Not filed) A. Batley, 60's. A littoral midden site.
9. Smugglers Cove, N24/13, R. C. Green, J. Davidson, 64. A littoral midden site. No significant results.
10. Ruarangi, N20/41, M. Nicholls, 63-64. A pa site with laid stone floors and pits. A burial cave was also cleared prior to the destruction by mining of the two sites.

MOTUTAPU ISLAND

11. Motutapu I, N38/37, J. Davidson, 67-68. A post-Rangitoto ash pit and terrace site. A sequence of rectangular pits and a burial were encountered. Report in active preparation.
12. Motutapu II, N38/30, A. Leahy, 67-68. Pit and terrace site. Post-Rangitoto ash in same bay as N38/37. A rectangular pit, a burial, a flaking floor and a good and unusual adze assemblage were recovered. Report in active preparation.
13. Pig Bay, N38/21, J. Golson, 58, 59. Littoral midden with long dated occupation sequence. Archaic artefacts.
14. Sunde Site, N38/24, S. Scott, 63. A littoral midden site, the lower part of which is pre-Rangitoto ash. Some archaic artefacts. Report in active preparation.

AUCKLAND ISTHMUS

15. Castor Bay, N38/20, R. C. Green, 64. Coastal pa with rectangular pits. Rescue excavation. Final report, Green, 1969, in press.
16. Alberon Park, N42/114, R. G. Law, J. Davidson, 68. A pit site with little other evidence. Rescue excavation. Final report, Law, 1969, in press.
17. Orakei Pa, N42/201, L. M. Groube, 67. Part of a very large, partially destroyed coastal pa. Produced house floors, rectangular pits and middens.
18. St Heliers, N42/87, T. L. and H. Birks, 58. Rescue excavation on some rectangular pits.
19. Mt Roskill, N42/11, L. M. Groube and F. W. Shawcross, 61. A sequence of rectangular pits and a surface, four-sided stone fireplace were discovered. Rescue excavation. Interim report, Shawcross, 1962, p. 81.
20. Auckland Hospital, N42/205, R. Rowley, 67. Small inland midden. Rescue excavation. No significant results.
21. Taylor's Hill, N42/89, J. Golson, 55. Rescue excavation on a pa site.

22. Mt Wellington, N42/4, J. Golson, F. W. Shawcross, 60, 65.
Rescue excavations on a large pa site. Rectangular pits were encountered.
23. Hamlin's Hill, N42/137, J. Davidson, 69. Rescue excavations on a large undefended coastal pit site - produced rectangular pits, possible houses and surface midden.

PONUI ISLAND

24. Galatea Bay, N43/33, F. W. Shawcross, J. Terrell, 65. A littoral midden. Some important analyses have been performed on this midden. Final reports, Shawcross, 1967, p. 107; Terrell, 1967, p. 31.
25. Ponui Midden, N43/1, R. Bell, V. Fisher, M. Nicholls, 56-58, 62.
Littoral midden with some fishing gear and hook manufacturing material. Final report, Nicholls, 1964, p. 23.

SOUTH MANUKAU

26. Wattle Bay, N46/17, J. Golson, 60. A littoral midden with a little archaic material.
27. Bald Hill, N46/22, J. McKinley, J. Allo, 68. Two rectangular pits of a large group of an inland site, excavated prior to quarrying on the hill.
28. Maioro, N51/5, R. C. Green, 65-66. Rectangular pits and non-earthwork defences excavated on an apparently undefended site a small distance inland.

SOUTH KAIPARA

29. Waioneke, N37/25, L. M. Groube, J. McKinley, 68-69. Rectangular pits, burials, probable house floors, midden, an unusually large classic artefact assemblage were recovered on this coastal pa. Report to be included in Mr McKinley's M.A. thesis.
30. Otakanini, N37/37, P. Bellwood, L. M. Groube, 68. Defences, rectangular pits, rua, burials, midden, probable house floors and a small assemblage of classic artefacts were recovered from this coastal pa. Preliminary report, Bellwood, 1969, p. 38. Final report in active preparation.

GREAT BARRIER, COROMANDEL

31. Haratoanga Bay, N30/3, R. C. Green, 1962. Defences and a rectangular pit were excavated on a small coastal pa. Interim report, Spring-Rice, 1963, p. 25.
32. Haratoanga Bay, N30/4, R. C. Green, 1962. A littoral midden with some structural evidence.
33. Haratoanga Bay, N30/5, R. C. Green, 1962. An archaic littoral midden with a reasonably large assemblage excavated.
- 34-43. For most of the following sites not notes are included. Readers are referred to an excellent set of notes on these sites prepared by Dr Green (1963, 69).
34. Sting Ray Point Pa, N40/11, J. Golson, 1955.
35. Sarah's Gully Pa, N40/10, J. Golson, T. L. and H. Birks, 58-59, 59-60.
36. Sarah's Midden, N40,13, T. L. and H. Birks, 1959.
37. Sarah's Gully, N40/9, J. Golson, 56-57, 57-58.
38. Opito, N40/3, J. Golson, 57-58, 58-59.
39. Skipper's Ridge, N40/7, R. H. Parker, P. Bellwood, 58-59, 59-60, 67. Mr Bellwood's excavation in 1967 was on the upper part of this ridge. An apparently post-European potato store was discovered. Partial final report, Bellwood, 69, in press.
40. Curry and Moore Gate Site, N40/1, R. G. W. Jolly, D. Trower, 60's.
41. First Pohutukawa Midden, N40/12, R. G. W. Jolly, E. Shaw, 1962.
42. Pohutukawa Flaking Floor, N40/2, R. G. W. Jolly, 60's. Preliminary report, Murdock and Jolly, 1967, p. 157.
43. Tahanga Quarry, N40/8, R. G. W. Jolly, E. Shaw, R. C. Green, 62, 63, 67.
44. Tairua, N44/2, R. C. Green, 58-59, 60's. A littoral midden site with archaic artefacts and extinct fauna. Final report, Smart and Green, 1962, p. 234.

45. Whiritoa, N53/54-4, R. G. W. Jolly, E. Crosby, 60's. This littoral midden has produced archaic artefacts and extinct fauna. Interim report, Crosby, 1963: 46. Foreman and Jolly, 1965, p. 149.

BAY OF PLENTY

46. Ongari Point, N53/54-10, W. F. Shawcross, 63-64, 64-65. Rectangular pits, defences, burials, middens and probable houses were excavated on this coastal pa. This is probably the best documented pa excavation to date. Interim reports, Shawcross, 1964, p. 79; Shawcross, 1966, p. 53.
47. Kauri Point undefended Site, N53/54-6, R. C. Green, 62. A sequence mostly of rectangular pits was encountered on this site. This is the only pit site fully published to date. Final report, Green, 1963, p. 143.
48. Kauri Point, N53/54-5, W. R. Ambrose, J. Golson, 60-61, 62-63. Defences, rectangular pits, rua, midden, and agricultural soils were investigated on this pa. Interim reports, Ambrose, 1962, p. 56; Golson, 1961, p. 13. Final report in active preparation.
49. Kauri Point Swamp, N53/54-5, W. F. Shawcross, 61-62. A large assemblage of preserved combs and flaked obsidian, together with gourds, wooden implements, figures and woven material were found in some sort of structure in this swamp. Interim report, Shawcross, 1963, p. 50. Partial final reports, Shawcross, 1964a, p. 14; Shawcross, 1964b, p. 382.
50. Ongari Point Shelter, N53/54-2, J. L. Schofield, 61-62. Excavations on the floor of an artificial shelter associated with petroglyphs.
51. Matapara, N67/2, J. Golson, 59. This site apparently was misnamed at the time of the excavation. Rectangular pits investigated on an inland pa.
52. Thornton Swamp, N68/7, W. F. Shawcross, 63. A coastal swamp behind sand-dunes. No significant results. Final report, Shawcross, 1965, p. 186.

HAURAKI

53. Oruarangi, N49/28, J. Golson, 58. Pits and midden were excavated in this largely destroyed swamp pa.
54. Paterangi, N49/17, R. G. W. Jolly, F. W. Shawcross, J. Terrell, 65. A small excavation on this site produced some artefacts. This site is also a swamp pa and adjacent to N49/28. Final report, Shawcross and Terrell, 1966, p. 404.

WAIKATO

55. Taniwha Pa, N52/1, R. C. Green, 63. Rectangular pits, rua, defences and terraces were excavated on this inland pa.
56. Hunt's Cave, N64/4, G. H. Hunt, 60's. No details known.
57. Kotari Hill, N55/8, H. G. Pos, 60's. Some rectangular pits were cleared on this inland pa. Interim report, Pos, 1964, p. 109.
58. Te Rapa, N65/2, G. H. Hunt, 60's. Defences and rua were encountered on excavating part of this inland pa. Rescue excavation.
59. Pirongia Terrace Site, N65/36, K. C. Gorbey, 68. Terrace excavated. No significant results. Destroyed by Kapuni pipeline.
60. Ngaroto, N65/18, W. F. Shawcross, 66-67, 67. This swamp pa proved to have a deep build-up of house floors and midden with some artefacts. Excavation is continuing. Interim report, Shawcross, 1968, p. 2.
61. Mangakaware II, N65/35, P. Bellwood, 68, 69. A smaller and shallower swamp pa with intact palisade and house posts. Interim report, Bellwood, 69, p. 45. Final report in active preparation.
62. Mangakaware I, N65/28, K. Peters, 69. A site similar in several ways to the above. As can be seen from the excavation dates, these were excavated in reverse order to the numbering. This is a naming which has come into use among Waikato workers following Pick's description of N65/28 as the Mangakaware site (Pick, 1968, p. 30).

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

63. Tokoroa Moa-Hunter Site. (Not filed) R. Cook, R. C. Green, 61. As its name implies, an inland site used for hunting extinct fauna.
64. Whakamoenga Cave. (Not filed) T. Hosking, 61-62. This cave provided a dated stratified sequence from very early moa hunting to post-European material. Interim report, Hosking, 1962, p. 22.

NORTH TARANAKI

65. Poole's Knob, N91/3, K. C. Gorbey, B. G. McFadgen, 68, 69. Excavation of a coastal pa. Destroyed by the Kapuni gas pipeline.
66. Pukearuhe, N99/49, K. C. Gorbey, 68. Rectangular pits, rua and floors overlaid with post-European material were discovered on this coastal pa. Partially destroyed by the Kapuni gas pipeline. A site report will form part of Mr Gorbey's M.A. thesis.
67. Kumara Kaiamo, N109/9, R. H. Parker, 61-62. Rectangular pits, underground pits, house floors and defences were encountered on excavation of this pa. Interim report, Buist, 1964, p. 91.
68. Waitara Swamp, N109/2, R. Duff, 60. Ko, a door lintel and other evidence of woodworking were found on excavating part of an extensive and productive swamp. Final report, Duff, 1961, p. 303.

DISCUSSION

It is of interest to archaeologists to see the amount of activity which is occurring in their field. However, making any sort of activity graph for the last fifteen years is compounded with difficulties. In terms of man hours, the largest summer excavations have had at least one hundred times the effort which went into the small one or two-man efforts. In addition, leaving out laboratory analysis and field recording activities, will bias the graph. However, it is my impression that activity built up to a peak about 1961, subsided slightly with the advent of American grants for Pacific research, and since 1966 recovered to a new peak with the

steady expansion of students, anthropology department staff, the appointment of professional archaeologists to the museum staff, and the curtailment of American research grants.

The publication record is far from inspiring. Of the 68 sites covered, 12 are at least partially covered by final reports, published or in press. Interim reports exist for 14 more, and of the balance of 42 only half are covered by published notes. Field notes held in the Anthropology Department can add some details, but the site recording scheme has been used (if at all) as a repository of site locations for most of the sites covered, rather than as a research tool. It is noticeable that the sites excavated in the first five years of the period covered are the poorest documented, while for the last ten years, reports appear with increased frequency. While this is partly due to an earlier shortage of publication outlets, there can be little doubt that this situation is in part due to the different aptitudes of the various excavators. It is noticeable that the excavations conspicuously absent in the bibliography were by people who have published rather more in the theoretical field and syntheses. However, it is equally noticeable that the person who appears so frequently (and creditably) in the bibliography is certainly not a non-starter in the theoretical field. Although the question is not relevant at the time of writing, the situation could arise where the archaeological societies active in the area would have to consider if their labour and equipment should continue to subsidise research, the results of which (admittedly often unintentionally) are unlikely to ever appear in print.

The sites selected by archaeologists are, of course, never a representative sample of the sites in the area. The concentration of work on the Auckland Isthmus reflects mostly the high frequency of rescue excavation necessary in this area because of the population density, although the volcanic cones do pose interesting problems for an archaeologist. The concentration of work on Motutapu reflects the usefulness of the Rangitoto ash shower as a dating tool, while the concentration at Opito reflects the well-known archaic evidence at this locality. Good early historical data created the interest in the Bay of Islands, while the unique stratigraphic characteristics and artefact-preserving qualities of the Waikato Swamp pa attracted attention there. The concentration on Kauri Point was partly in an attempt to cross-check between local sites. With all these factors influencing the choice of sites excavated, it is not very surprising that the distribution does not reflect the general distribution of sites in the area at all accurately.

On the choice of types of site for excavation, comparative data of total numbers of sites is hard to acquire. In the following table, the

total numbers in the area is of necessity very approximate. The number of pit and terrace sites and middens was calculated by correcting the estimated number of pa, by an average of some proportions of defended to undefended sites, from some detailed site surveys. Most figures are probably conservative.

Site Type	Number Excavated	Number in the area (Very approximate)	Percentage Excavated
Upland Pa	23	2,000	1.1
Swamp Pa	5	20	25
Pit and terrace sites	12	4,000	0.3
Midden	21	3,000	0.7
Swamps	3	50	6
Caves	3	20	15
Gardens	1	200	0.5
Total	68		

There can be little doubt that the number of caves, swamp pa, and swamps investigated is out of proportion to the number of such sites known, but any bias built into accounts of New Zealand prehistory by such excavations is more than compensated by the exceptional material which they can produce. However, as middens and undefended sites are both considerably more common than pa, there would seem to be a considerable danger that the sites which have been excavated are not a very good sample of the prehistoric sites available. There is a danger that the prehistory of pa may not be a very accurate record of the prehistory of New Zealand. The high number of rescue excavations on the list (15 in total) may in part be the cause of some of the delay in publication. Some other excavations have occurred at a stage where site deterioration was rapid, or on sites which have been subsequently destroyed or threatened, but cannot really be considered to be rescue excavation. This large total reflects creditably on archaeologists in the area. Only a few of the excavations have been subsidised.

This list was prepared partly in the hope that similar lists might be elicited for the remainder of New Zealand, and in particular Canterbury and those parts of Otago which were not covered by Trotter's survey (Trotter, 1968, p. 93).

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