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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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 SITE RECORDING IN THE WHAKATANE DISTRICT

A.D. Mabon, W.A. Pullar, K.W. Moore

During the years 1958 - 63 about 170 sites have been recorded in the Matata, Kawerau, Te Teko, Ruatoki, Taneatua and Whakatane localities; (Fig. 1) and of these 37 samples are listed in the accompanying table.

Each of the 37 are fairly representative of its own particular locality. Approximately 120 sites have been examined, and of these, 88 have earthworks presumably for defence and the balance merely artificial terraces or platforms. Of the latter group some terraced sites are located close to earthworks, the need being obvious.

The conditions of the sites is summarised as follows:-

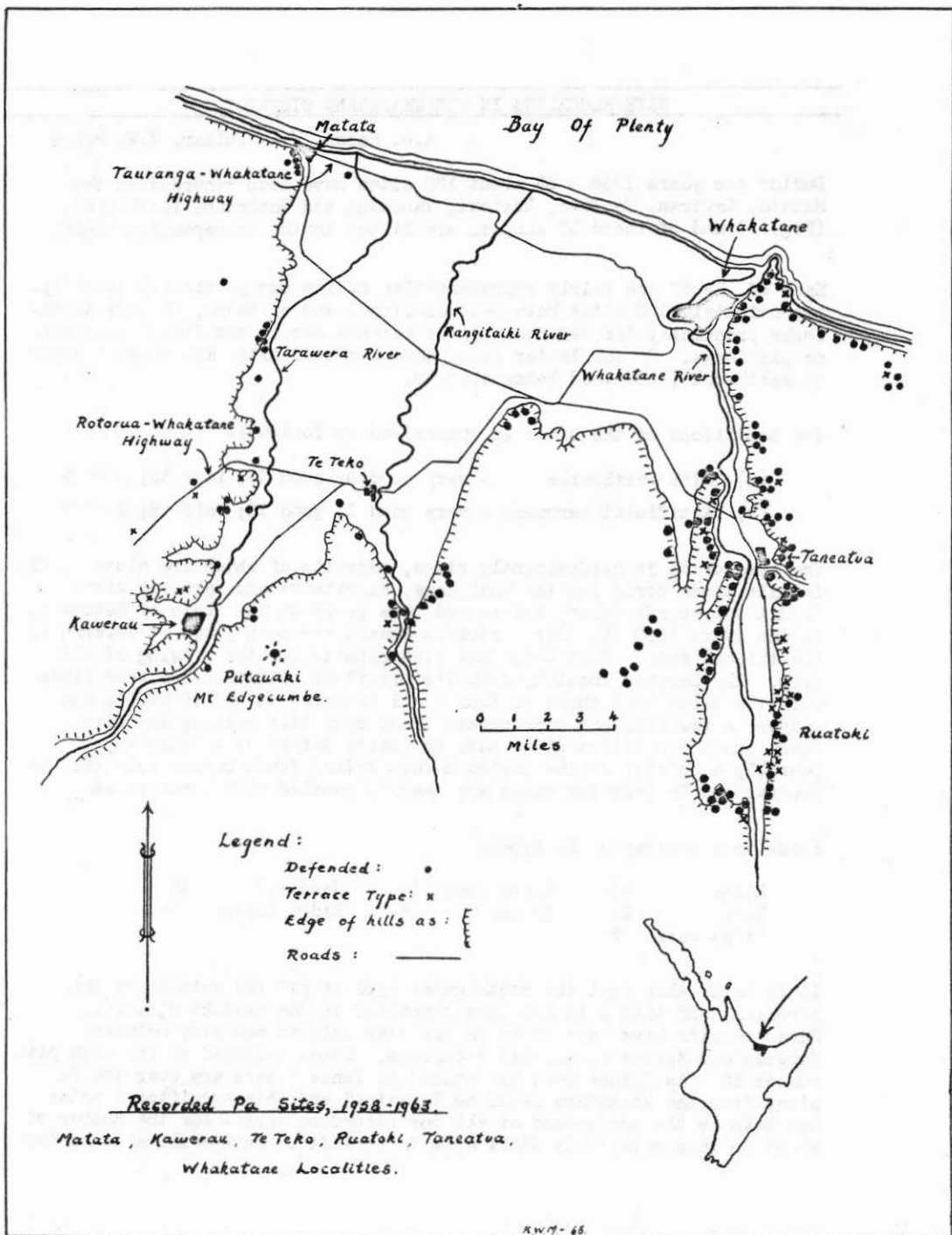
- (a) With earthworks - very good 9; good 35; fair 35; poor 9
- (b) Artificial terraces - very good 1; good 16; fair 8; poor 7

The type of Pa is predominantly ridge, majority of which are close to flat, fertile lands bordering the Whakatane, Rangitaiki and Tarawera rivers. Tradition records maize, kumara and tara grown on the flats of Matata up to the years 1860-70. For centuries kumara has been grown at Kawerau in the thermal area. East Choqe was also popular for the growing of this crop. The Kawerau locality with its pre-fleet tradition has some sites with the occasional three to four small terraces on top of knolls and ridges; a few terraces have sunken areas much like rectangular pits. These small occupation sites have no nearby defensive earthworks; possibly a pointer to the period before tribal feuds became intense. At Kawerau and Te Teko the sites are heavily mantled with Tarawera ash.

Below is a summary of Pa types:-

Ridge	94	Ridge Spur	19	Headland	13
Hill	20	Island	3	Ridge Island	1
Ridge Peak	2				

It is noticeable that the rectangular type of pit far outnumbers the circular; and that pits are more plentiful in the Ruatoki district. Human remains have been found in circular pits on one site between Kawerau and Matata an unusual occurrence. Sites recorded so far with pits number 30. As Elsdon Best has stated in Tuhoe "there are over 100 Pa sites from the Whakatane heads to Taneatua" and this significant point has been in the background of all our recording work - for the number of sites in this relatively small area is prolific. Much remains to be done.



N.Z.A.A. SITE NO.	GRID REFERENCE	NAME	TYPE OF SITE	FEATURES	STATE
N68/4	209331	Moki-Ngarara	ridge	Not investigated	
N68/2	192261	Te Umuhika	hill	Not investigated once a populous pa	
N77/39	121151		hill	Terraces single and grouped on tops of hills	fair
N77/17	188104	Te Tahuna	ridge	Ditch south end, scarp east	fair
N77/13	173153	Otangi	head- land (flat- land)	Internal terraces, one enormous transverse ditch	good
N77/4	238142	Rakei- Hopukia	ridge peak	Ring ditch/bank Maori cemetery	Very good
N77/3	248128	Fuketapu	hill	Not investigated Maori Cemetery	Very good
N77/35	259089	Tuki- tareke	head- land (flat- land)	Complex site natural defences ring ditch/bank	good
N77/25	282132		ridge	2 habitation areas ditch/bank on south side	fair
N77/18	349148	Kiwinui	hill	Not investigated	
N78/20	415143		ridge	Obvious terraces few artificial defences	
N78/21	418171		ridge spur	terraces down nearby spur	good
N78/22	415124		ridge	Ring ditch/bank	fair
N78/23	433111		ridge	Ring ditch/bank internal terraces Circ. pits	good

N.Z.A.A. SITE NO.	GRID REFERENCE	NAME	TYPE OF SITE	FEATURES	STATE
N78/24	424080	Te Poroa	ridge	Multiple earth-works	good
N78/25	398073	Turangiahua	hill	Not investigated	
N78/26	375055		ridge	Not investigated	good
N78/27	368039	Te Mauku	ridge	Not investigated	
N78/28	409996	Uru-Karaka	hill	Not investigated	good
N78/29	433954	Te Puehe	ridge spur	Series of Terraces	good
N78/30	442965	Puketapu	ridge spur	Series of 18 terraces	good
N78/31	447991	Ohae	ridge spur		
N78/32	447018	Otenuku	hill	Several distinct terraces	good
N78/33	459052		ridge	15 distinct terraces no defensive earth- works	good
N78/34	462047		ridge	Ring ditch bank, small pits	good
N78/35	463102		ridge	Ring ditch bank, internal terraces	very good
N78/36	447112	Puketi	head- land flat- land	Fart double ditch/bank and single ditch bank	fair
N78/8	459113	Taua-nui	head- land flat- land	Terraces, scarp ditch, terrace pits.	good
N78/13	449145		ridge	Terraces with transverse ditch/ banks. Pits.	good

N.Z.A.A. SITE NO.	GRID REFERENCE	NAME	TYPE OF SITE	FEATURES	STATE
N78/16	440179		ridge	Terraces. 2 lateral ditches at interior end	good
N78/17	442174 439174		ridge	Extensive terraces in 2 parts	good
N78/37	418171		ridge spur	terraces on adjacent spurs	good
N69/21	435232		headland	Little earthwork evidence	fair
N69/22	456223		ridge	Terraces with ditch/bank	fair
N69/2	440257	Tirotiro	ridge	Terraces with scarp	poor
N69/11	441261	Puketapu	headland	small look out area left road to Chope	poor
N69/23	449258	Kapu-te-rangi	ridge	Terraces double ditch/bank	good
N69/10	439260	Papaka	ridge	Site built on	poor
N69/24	463268		headland	Terraces, two transverse ditches	good
N69/8	495224		ridge	Ditch/bank two terraces	good
N69/6	491238	Ruakawarua	ridge	Ditches/bank terraces.	good
N69/7	482241	Mangaoteone	ridge	ditch/bank terrace.	good