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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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SITE SURVEY OF THE SOUTH-WEST WHANGAREI DISTRICT

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Whangarei

An archaeological site survey was conducted south-west of Whangarei, covering approximately 96 km². The survey was initiated due to the proposed Maungatapere Irrigation Scheme. The area covered all the volcanic land, the surrounding and intervening gumlands, the clay lands and limestone soils that extend to the edge of the inner Whangarei Harbour (see Fig. 1).

The survey was completed by the author with the help of three other people. The six month Labour Department Project Employment Programme was carried out in the period March-September 1982. The Ministry of Works and Development, Whangarei, sponsored the project, providing necessary equipment and maintaining the work with essential services throughout its term.

The work was supervised by Stan Bartlett, N.Z.A.A. Northland filekeeper. Copies of the report have been distributed to relevant local bodies and government departments.

The environment

The surveyed region can be roughly divided into four geographic areas:

1. The volcanic surrounds of Whatitiri (Plate 1), Maungatapere (Plate 2), Maunu (Plate 3) and Maungakaramea Mountains. Whatitiri is a basalt lava cone, while the other three are scoria cones with surrounding flows. Originally carrying dense mixed broadleaf/podocarp forests, these light well-drained soils, presently zoned for general agricultural use, are being rapidly developed for intensive horticulture.
2. The podzolised gumlands, west and south of the volcanic area. Originally covered in kauri forest and swamps, these are now rolling pasture lands.
3. The clay area of the Otaika fault block extends to Whangarei and the port. The Lands and Survey Otaika Valley Scenic Reserve retains dense, regenerating mixed broadleaf/podocarp forest. The majority of the area is rolling farmland, the remainder planted in exotic forest.
4. The limestone area surrounding Portland, lies along much of the harbour edge including Limestone and Rabbit Islands (Plate 4). This poorly drained land is in rich pasture.

A good indication of the environment before and about the time of European settlement can be derived from Maori Land Court

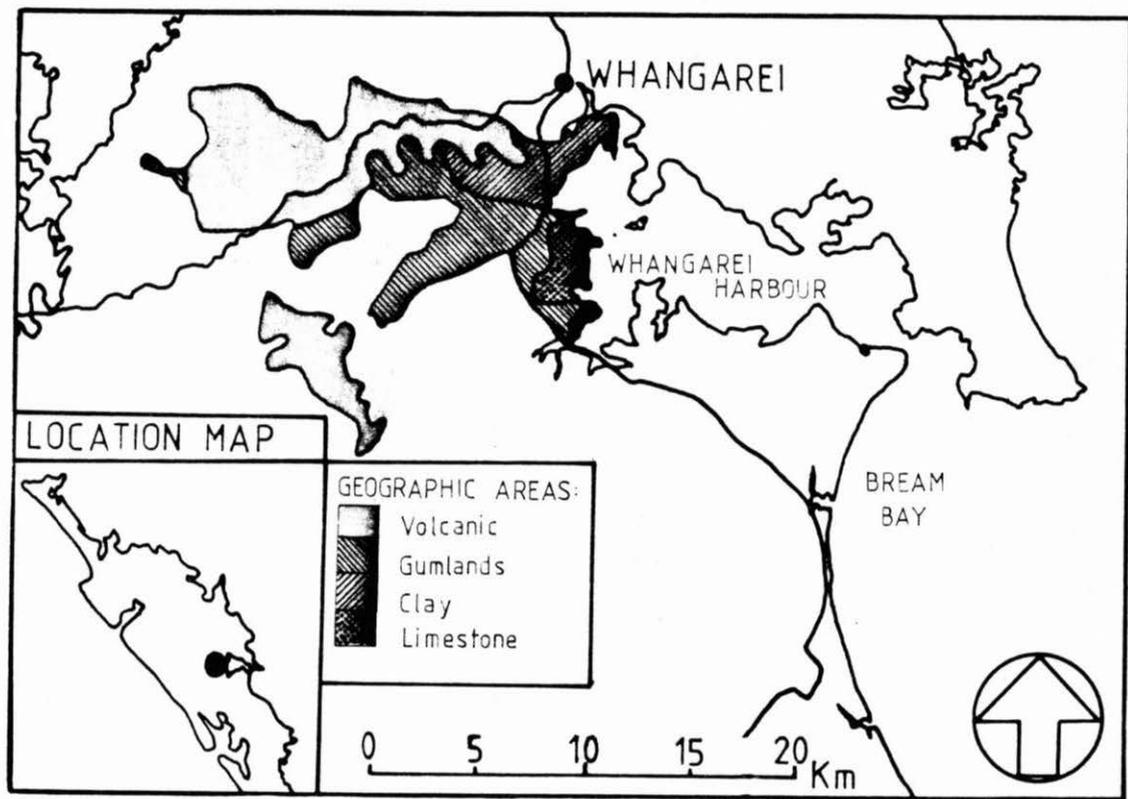


FIGURE 1. Survey area, showing soil types.

(MLC) Minute Books and early settlers accounts. The majority of the volcanic lands were thickly strewn with stones and boulders and covered in high forest. The Whatitiri block is described in MLC evidence as "a superior place to live, it abounded in birds and eels and other food used by the Maoris of that period." Timber trees noted by early Europeans include totara, puriri, taraire, kahikatea, matai, rimu, kauri as well as a thick understorey. At Maungatapere was a stone free area of at least 200 acres (80 hectares), "old Maori cultivations, covered with danthonia, flax, tussock and tupaki." An MLC account describes "forested hills before Otaika River" (today the Otaika Valley Scenic Reserve), but of the rest of the area, "a great deal was swamp and the balance was covered with flax, fern, cutty grass, tussock and tupaki. The poor land was a mass of teatree with odd patches of native bush." That description fits most of the gumland and clay soils. "There were extensive Maori cultivations on the fertile flats" at Otaika. Early Europeans also record swarms of bush rats, herds of wild pigs and depredation of stock by wild dogs. The upper harbour with its mangrove flats and tidal creeks offered a variety of fish including sharks, snapper and mullet, and great quantities of a limited variety of shellfish species.

Traditional history

The following brief notes are derived from the MLC Minute Books from hearings of 1865-94. The Whangarei district originally belonged to the Ngaitahu. A Ngapuhi, Te Pouaharakeke, and other related chiefs attacked and drove them out, in the mid-1700s. The newcomers secured all the land from Whangarei to Waipu and Waihonga to Tangihua.

During the late 1700s Tawhiro, one of the chiefs who took part in the conquest was killed at Tapu Point by the Ngati Maru (Hauraki) in the battle known as Otaika-timu. Te Wha and Hautakere, other chiefs who took part in the affair were killed by the Ngati Whatua. Tokatawhio was killed at Maungataniwha. Te Pouaharakeke, Te Waikare and Te Tirarau were killed by Ngatiwai. After the death of Te Tirarau, his people were called Te Parawhau. The descendants of Te Waikare and Te Kahore are the Uriroroi people. Both hapu lived peacefully until the early 1800s.

Kukupu, grandson of Tawhiro and son of Te Tokatawhio became a great chief. He had many wives, three of whom were granddaughters of Hautakere; and numerous children. Kukupu was a contemporary and relative of Ngapuhi chief, Hongi Hika.

Soon after 1814, the Ngapuhi tribes of the Bay of Islands, armed with muskets, made many assaults on their traditional

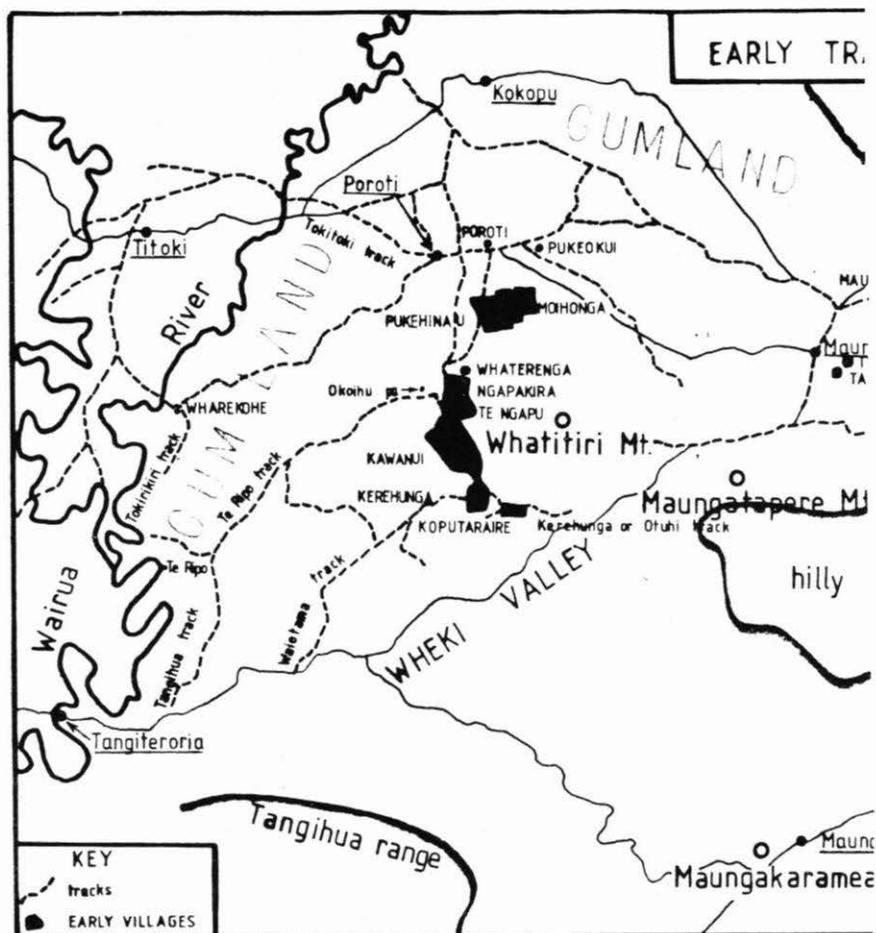
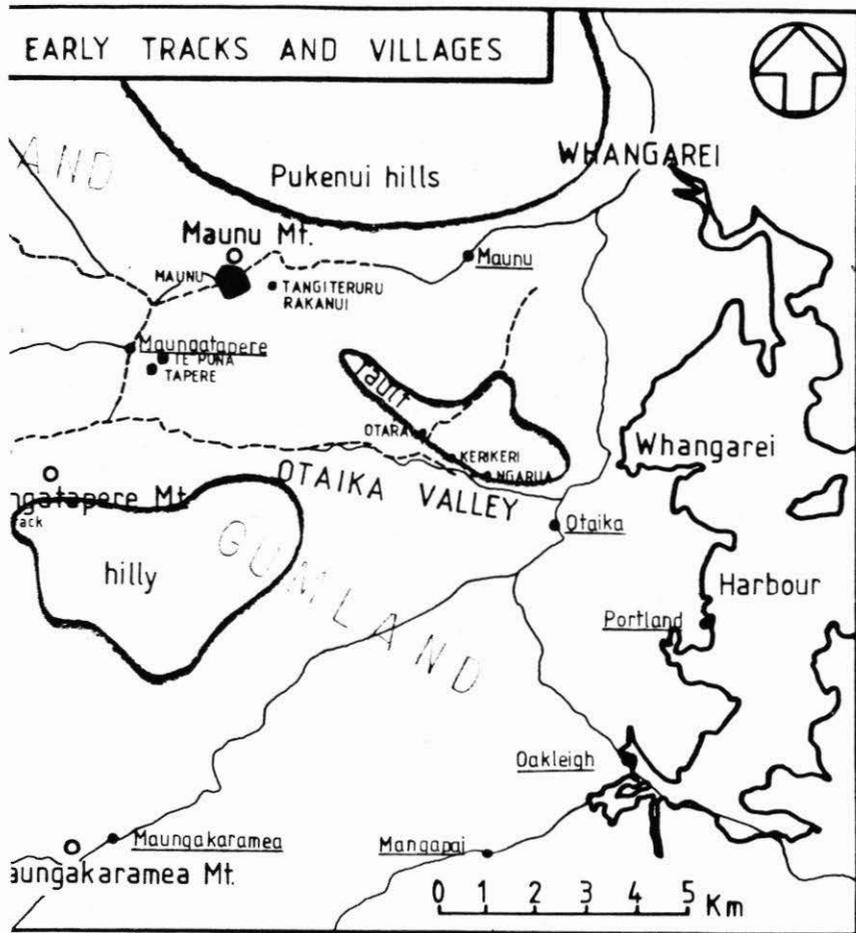


FIGURE 2. The survey area showing early tracks and villages.



enemies the Ngati Whatua. On their way south of Whangarei, to Mangapai, from Maungakaramea to the Wairau River, they laid waste the villages of the Parawhau.

When Kukupa was living at Onemama, and his son Te Ihi was at Matakoho, Limestone Island, he was defeated by the Ngati Paoa (Auckland).

As a result of systematic attacks upon the Parawhau, they retreated inland, leaving the coastal areas deserted. In 1820 Rev. Samuel Marsden noted recently burnt and abandoned villages. At Maungakaramea he saw the remains of a war between the Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua. Later in 1820, the Wairua area was completely deserted, due to Hongi Hika's raids. In 1823 Rev. Samuel Leigh found complete desolation. Mangapai village was in ruins and other villages recently burnt out. In 1827 D'Urville found remains of deserted and destroyed villages. The remnant of the Ngaitahuhu, known as Maungaunga, had lived at Tangihua since the conquest of Whangarei. Kukupa in retaliation, virtually destroyed them as a tribe. The few survivors went to the Kaipara. The final conquest of the Tangihua occurred in 1835. The influence of the missionaries, during the 1820-30s saw warfare reduced. By the mid-30s some of the Parawhau had returned to the shore of Whangarei Harbour.

In 1836-42 the Rev. William Colenso visited the region five times. In 1839 James Busby, accompanied by Colenso, bought the Ruakaka area (40,000 acres) from the Parawhau chiefs. This took place at the village of Tiakiriri (son of Kukupa) at Otaika. The transaction was supervised by Te Tirarau (3rd), the paramount chief, and Karekare. In 1839 Thomas Elmsley, and Henry and Charles Walton, bought 60,000 acres from Te Tirarau. It extended south from Maungatapere Mountain to Omana and Waikiekie. In 1840 the Walton brothers settled at "Maungatapere Park". The presence of this establishment, encouraged other settlers onto the surrounding land.

In 1845 after rumoured threats of attack by Hone Heke's allies the settlers abandoned Whangarei. The local people then raided the area, leaving it desolated. Some settlers returned later and the tribes settled down. Maungakaramea was settled in 1860, under the John Williamson 40 acre scheme.

In 1862 war broke out at Waitomotomo. For thirty years quarrels had simmered over the disputed lands between the Mangakahia and Wairua Rivers. The battle was between the Ngapuhi from the Bay of Islands claiming land against the combined Parawhau and Uriroroi. In 1888 the last inter-tribal war to occur in New Zealand, took place on the Te Wiroa gumfields of the Wharekohe area.

A dispute arose over the royalties paid for gumdigging rights on leased land. This incident, known as the "Poroti War", occurred on land of disputed ownership, between Matiu, a Ngapuhi chief, and Taurau (son of Kukupa) for the combined Parawhau and Uriroroi tribes.

Historical topography

The map of early tracks and villages (Fig. 2) has been compiled from various Maori Land Court sources. Many block boundaries were not finally resolved until the court sorted out ownership and awarded certain surveyed areas of land to particular people. People claimed their right to land through ancestry, gift or conquest, or by occupation. When a block was claimed and not disputed by others the survey plan was produced at the hearing, but no additional evidence was given. As evidence of occupation (ahika) was given, in blocks of disputed claim, the following information was gleaned about the ownership and location of early Maori villages.

Wharekohe is situated 300 m east of the Wairua River, near the junction of the Karukaru Stream. It lies at the junction of the Tokirikiri track, the track that leads eastwards to Poroti, and the track west of the Wairua River that crosses the ford at the head of the tidal water. An Uriroroi claimant stated in 1894, "Wharekohe was the big kianga of my people. Te Taka died there Hori Kingi and others lived there", "Wharekohe is a kainga of Tito and Huiruas, their cultivations extend to Te Rere and Motutere whence there are cultivations." Parawhau claimants stated that Wharekohe formerly belonged to them. "It was Puku gave Wharekohe to Pito and the gift was conferred to Huirua when the Uriroroi were fighting among themselves and we went to assist Taurau... The name Wharekohe is derived from the fact that a whare at that place was built by Kohe only... I never saw the Uriroroi at Wharekohe."

Kerehunga is a village at the base of Whatitiri Mountain, at the junction of the Waiotama and Otuhi tracks, to the south west. "Kerehunga belonged to Tei and to his descendants Himi Honiana" (Maungaunga people). "Manuera had whares at Te Kerehunga when he lived there." Te Rata Rimi states "Tarawa Kerehunga is a kainga of ours on Block No.1" (Whatitiri); "Kerehunga was the kainga of some of the children of Te Kahore." When dying Te Kahore distributed his lands. Kerehunga he gave to Te Rangiaumariri his son. A Land Court map, ML 6550BA8, shows two fenced areas containing two dwellings and a whata.

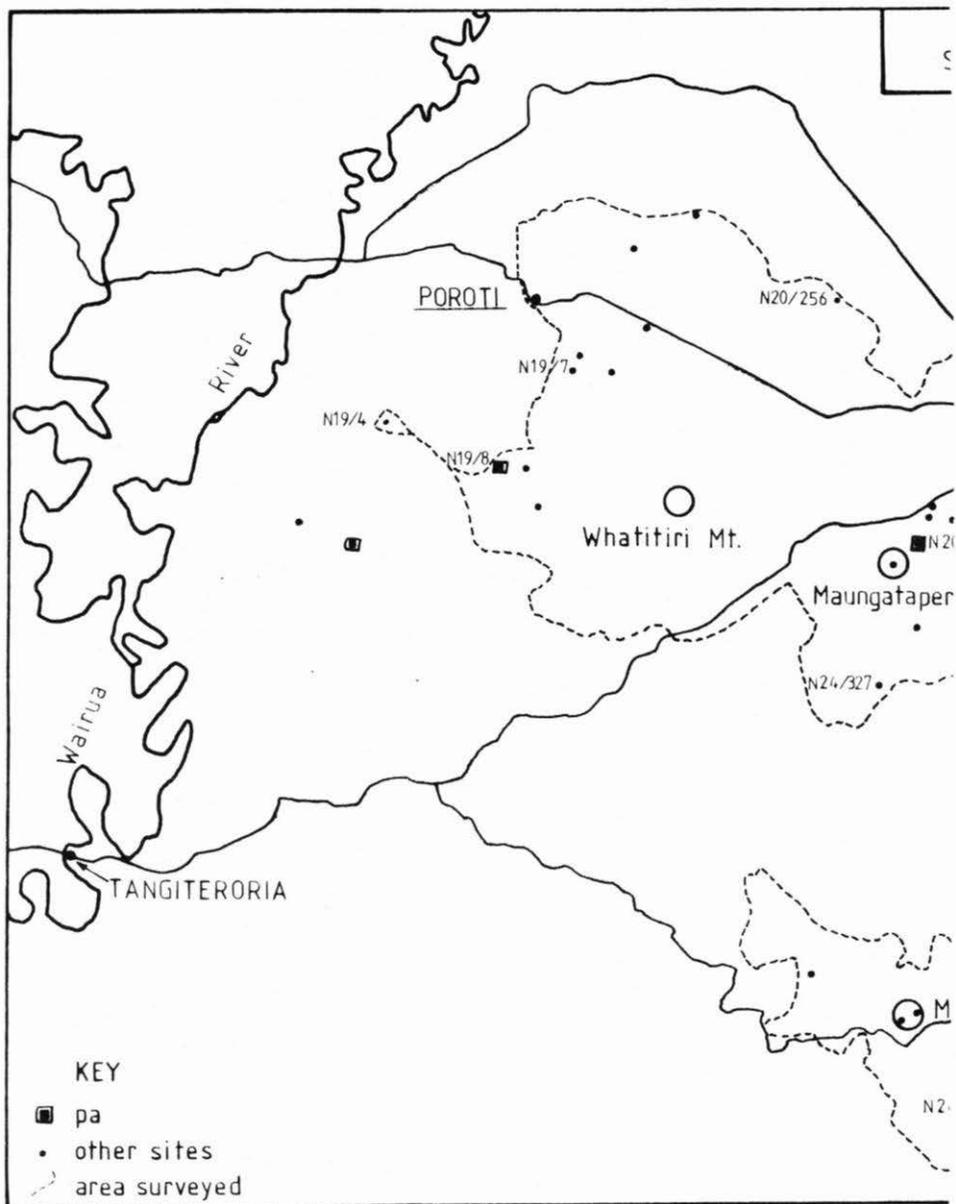
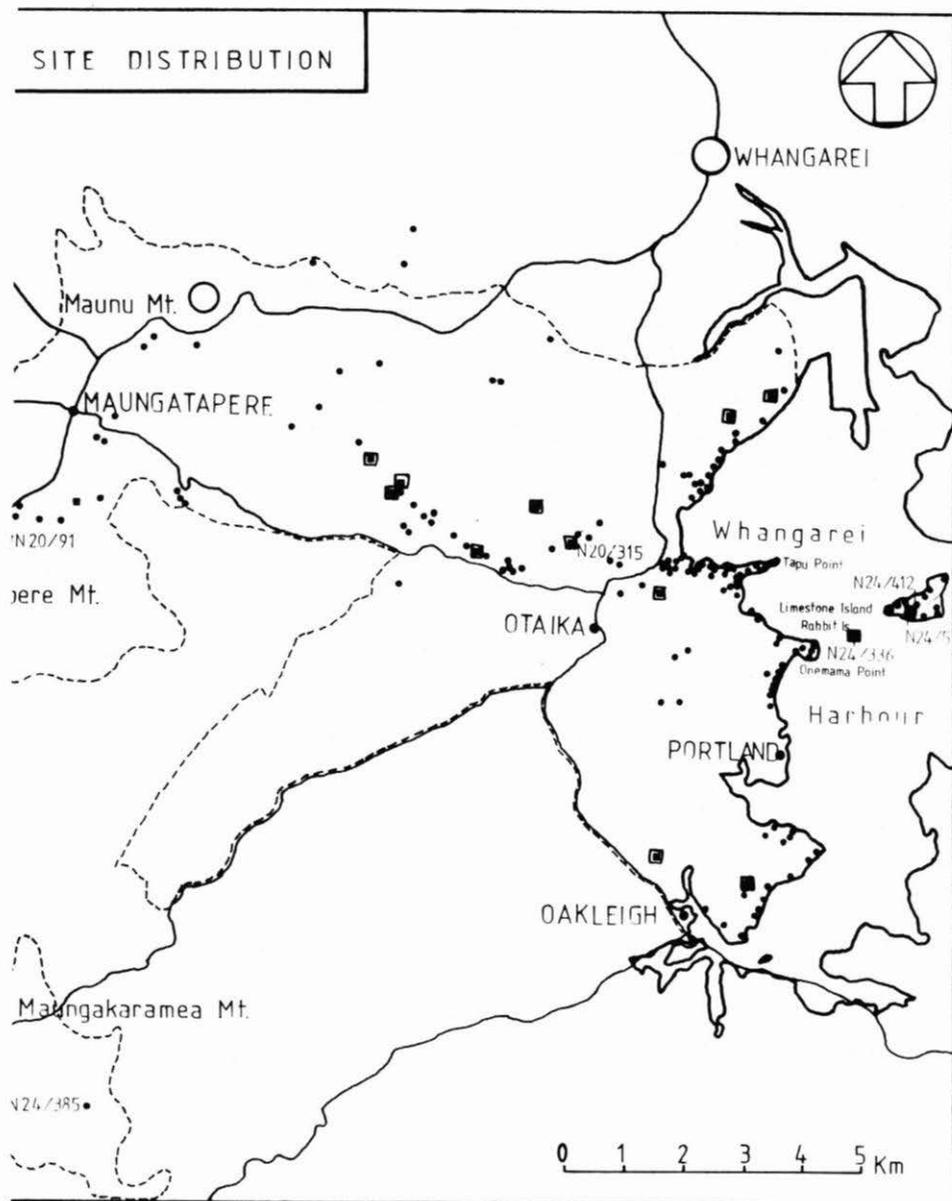


FIGURE 3. Survey area.



Kawanui was a large village 1-2 km north of Kerehunga, south-west of Whatitiri Mountain. Evidence was given for Parawhau occupation: Tawhiro's son, Tokatawhio lived at Kawanui. His grandsons Kono and Hihi (sons of Kukupa) owned whare at Kawanui. "Kukupa's children had a whare at Kawanui built by them when they were driven away from Whangarei." Hori Rewi said that Taurau's people had a kainga at Kawanui; he continued "When Kukupa died his children mustered at Kawanui and the old people said that all of them and the Parawhau should live together and grow food for the Hahunga of Kukupa... The descendants of Kukupa did not return to that land from that time to the present day." "Re Rere a pero was a whare and with a carved box standing at Tapitokai near Kawanui. Whatitiri is a whare near Kawanui and belonged to Tokatutahi." Te Kahore, whose descendants are Uriroroi, lived at Kawanui. ML 6550 and part 6550BA8 shows a church, whata, dwellings, fenced cultivations, barn and paddocks of grass and crops.

Te Ngapu, 500 m north of Kawanui, opposite Okoihu, is situated at the junction of the Te Ripo, Kerehunga or Otuhi track and the track leading north to Poroti. MLC records include the statement "the land given to Pahi was at Te Ngapu. Te Kahore retained part of it", and "Te Ngapu is an old kainga that is owned by Hautakere's people." ML 6550 shows two buildings and fenced paddocks of potatoes and crops. Ngapakira was a kainga 500 m north of Te Ngapu, at the base of Whatitiri Mountain, to the west. ML 6550 shows two whare and a whata, enclosed by fenced paddocks of grass and crops. Whaterenga, 500 m north of Ngapakira, was a kainga of Uriroroi and of Te Ngaua (son of Tataia). The name Tangaroa is half way between here and Pukehinau. Tangaroa was a kainga of the Uriroroi.

Pukehinau, 1 km north of Whaterenga, is on the track to Poroti. Pukehinau, at the swampy head of Waiopukehinau Stream, lies across the volcanic edge and onto the broad spur to the west. "Pukehinau belonged to Huiputea (after the time to Te Kahore's death) it was taken from Te Ngaua, a son of Taitaia and the pa (Okoihu) was built because Ngapuhi came to support Te Ngaua." ML 6550 shows three buildings and large fenced paddocks of grass and crops. Moihonga, a block of 44 acres, adjoins Pukehinau to the east.

Poroti village, is about the junction of all the tracks, south and west of Whatitiri Mountain, that lead east towards Maunu and Maungatapere, via Pukeokui. MLC evidence given for Uriroroi occupation includes Tataia (sister of Te Kahore) and her cousin Ngo (son of Te Waikere) and their descendants, having lived at Te Poroti together under Te Tirarau Kukupa. "It was

part of the land given to Te Taka by Te Kahore." "Manuera lived at Te Poroti." In 1820 Marsden visited a small deserted village, Poroti on the edge of the Whatitiri bush. Pukeokui is at the junction of tracks from the west to Maunu and Maungatapere. The village area on this block was not located. Te Puna is on the edge of the volcanic flow, east of Maungatapere township. "Aug 27, 1820 Marsden came across another village Te Puna. Te Puna had been lately burnt out... The village was isolated on the edge of a wood." A description of Te Puna in the 1890s states, "It was a settlement of about thirty whares and a large meeting house... These Maoris had a large cultivation." Tapere is immediately south of Te Puna, also at the head of the Whakapai Stream. The location of this destroyed village was given by the landowner. No documentary information can be found.

Maunu was immediately south-east, at the base of Maunu Mountain. Haumia lived here after the Ngapuhi conquest. Manihera's ancestors "lived on Maunu till a war between themselves and Waikato - when peace was made they ceased to live there. It was in 1823... We have never lived on the land since, because all wars about this district had then ceased... Later... descendants of Te Whata lived on this land. Ngatirua did not live on the west side of the Maunu hill. Ngatihau's cultivations were on the western side of Ruapekapeka Stream." A Ngapuhi settlement here consisted of a large meeting house, six weatherboard houses and dozens of nikau whare. The only sign of that settlement today is a large cemetery where two headstones read Hilda Wiremu 1892 and Kitohi Moraki 1897.

Tangiteruru is 750 m east of Maunu. It is situated at the top of Tangiteruru Creek, the head of Mokupara Stream. ML 3743A shows a building and old cultivations. Tokonui is mentioned as a village. Perhaps a former village associated with Tokanui Reserve and cemetery; it has not been located. Otara was near the junction of tracks, from the west along Otaika Stream, and the track that leads north-east past Ruarangi to Raumanga. Kerikeri and Ngarua, villages named on the northern side of Otaika Stream, are not further documented.

Three important villages that Colenso visited between Whangarei and Otaika, have not been located exactly for lack of adequate information. Te Waiiti, the village of Tokatutahi, inland of Toetoe; Ratu the village belonging to Karekare; and Otaika, the village of Tiakiriri (son of Kukupa), on the banks of the Otaika River.

Many other names of kainga and streams mentioned in claims, have not been located, and many names indicated on early maps

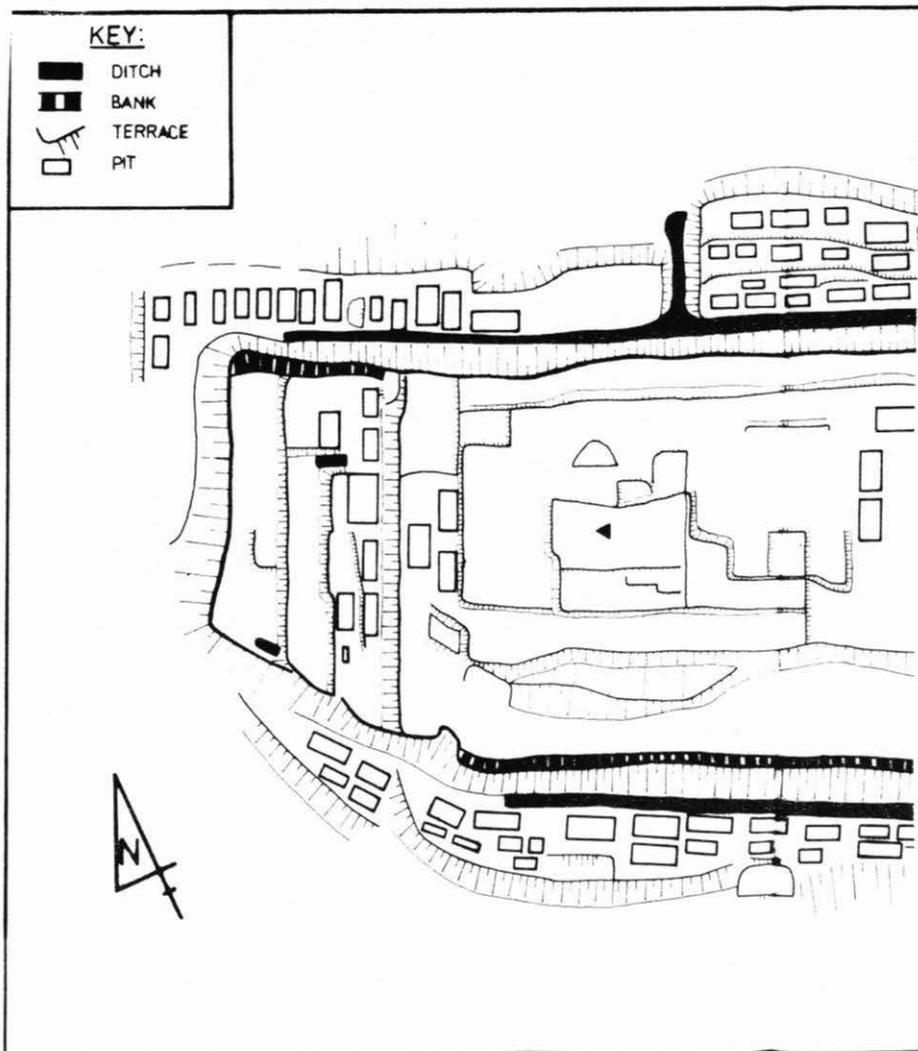
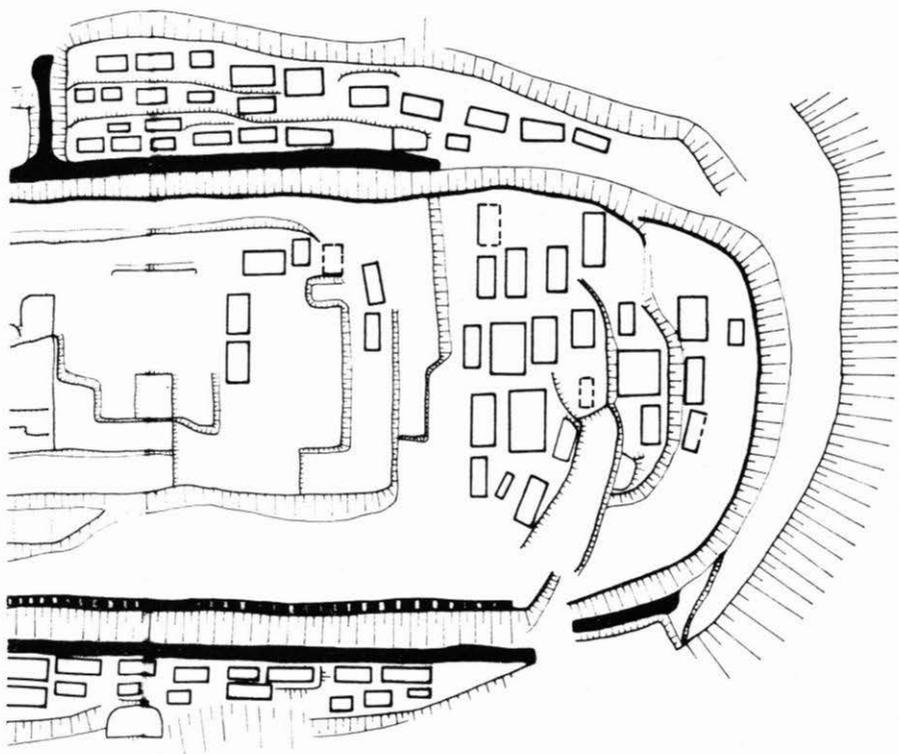


FIGURE 4. Pukeatua (N20/91).

PUKEATUA PA N20/91



0 10 20 30 40 50 m

scale

have not been identified. "Raumanga, Maunu, Kara, Poroti and Titoki were Maori settlements, and had no Pakeha settlers until 1870" (Stevens, n.d.:26).

The archaeological survey (Fig. 3).

| Site type | No. found | Site type | No. found |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Pa | 17 | Findspots | 3 |
| Pits | 34 | Hangi stones | 1 |
| Pit/terrace | 18 | Sod wall defence | 1 |
| Terrace | 3 | Stone wall enclosure | 2 |
| Middens | 88 | Village | 2 |
| Agricultural areas | 18 | Church | 1 |
| Ditch | 2 | House site | 1 |
| Track | 1 | Historic trees | 1 |
| Burials | 4 | Historic rock shelter | 1 |
| | | | 198 |

TABLE 1. Sites recorded.

Thirty sites were recorded in the volcanic area. N20/91 Pukeatua Pa (Fig. 4), a large and complex pa containing 109 storage pits lies on a low spur north-east of Maungatapere Mountain. Several nearby sites relate to the establishment of the Walton brothers who settled here in 1840. An historic rock shelter relating to the early settlement of Maungakaramea has an inscription dated 1860. Two sizeable areas of pre-European agriculture were found in excellent condition. N24/385 partially destroyed, at Maungakaramea, covers 1.45 ha containing 30 stone heaps and rows. N24/327 on old basalt lava flow in regenerating bush, immediately south of Maungatapere Mountain covers 3.75 ha containing 154 stone heaps and rows. Fifteen sites were found in the gumlands. The pa, Okoihu (Fig. 5) is situated on an isolated clay hill at the edge of the volcanic soils. Two intact stone hearths remain. N19/7, a single (1x17 m) pit, filled with fire-blackened volcanic stones appears to best fit the description of an umu-ti (Best, 1976:86-89). A small test excavation would clarify the function of this unusual feature.

The location of the destroyed redoubt constructed for the "Poroti War" in 1888 was found on the old Te Wiroa gumfields (N19/4). N20/256 is the destroyed site of the Mangere Gum Camp of 1870s on the Kokopu gumfields. On the clay country, 60 sites were recorded. The eight pa found include Class I, II and III. The majority were found along the Otaika Fault Line, deeply dug

into the steeply dissected, bush covered scenic reserve. Twenty pit sites recorded, ranged from single pits to groups of up to 39 large, deep, open rectangular pits. Some of the ten pit/terrace sites found, could well be test excavated, as several are recorded as pa (Ferrar, 1925) and others are named on the MLC plans.

Ninety three sites were recorded in the limestone area. Two islands in Whangarei Harbour were visited, by helicopter and tug boat Matakoho. The pa (N24/5) on Limestone Island and Motuotawa (N24/336) the Rabbit Island pa, were mapped. Several of the pit/terrace sites recorded appear to represent old settlements, some previously marked as pa (Ferrar, 1925). These have shallow, though well defined, features on the surface of a hard limestone base.

Nine areas of agricultural lines were recorded. They fall into two distinct categories. Those grouped as pre-European, are roughly parallel, irregular, shallow grooves often avoiding surface limestone outcrops. These are found only on rendzina soils and lie on relatively steep slopes. One such covers 14 ha of the north-west face of Limestone Island. MLC Minute Books note occupation and cultivation here, by Maketu a Takahiwai chief, in 1843.

The other type of agricultural system is that which were ploughed in the lands system (Walton, 1982). These areas are several hectares of shallow parallel grooves, on both rendzina and the podzolised and estuarine soils of the flat lands behind the sheltered mangrove inlets.

The archaeological evidence and Maori history as recorded, provides a broad insight into the prehistoric occupation of the land, between the tidal limits of the upper Wairoa River and the Whangarei Harbour. These tidal waterways were frequently used for travel by canoe, thus providing easy access to the east coast and within the Whangarei and Kaipara Harbours. The tracks between these harbours link the many Maori villages of the Parawhau and Uriroroi hapu of the Ngapuhi tribe. As the Ngapuhi established themselves across the area, often intermarrying with the Ngaitahuhu, they sometimes occupied the pa and villages of the former people. Particular areas favoured for their varying food resources were exploited on a seasonal basis throughout the region. People moved between their villages, as they made use of these. The sheltered harbour provided quantities of shellfish, fish and birds. The fertile limestone soils beside the harbour were used to grow kumaras and perhaps, taro. These were stored in deep pits on the steep ridges nearby. The rich vol-

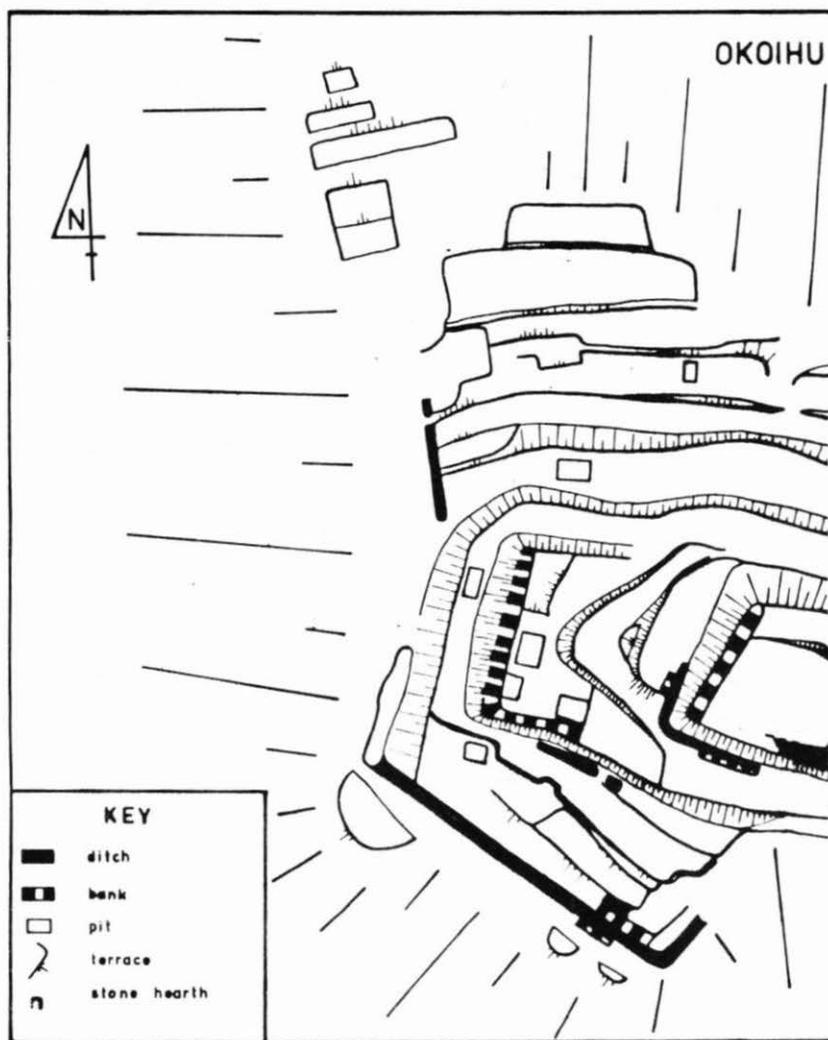
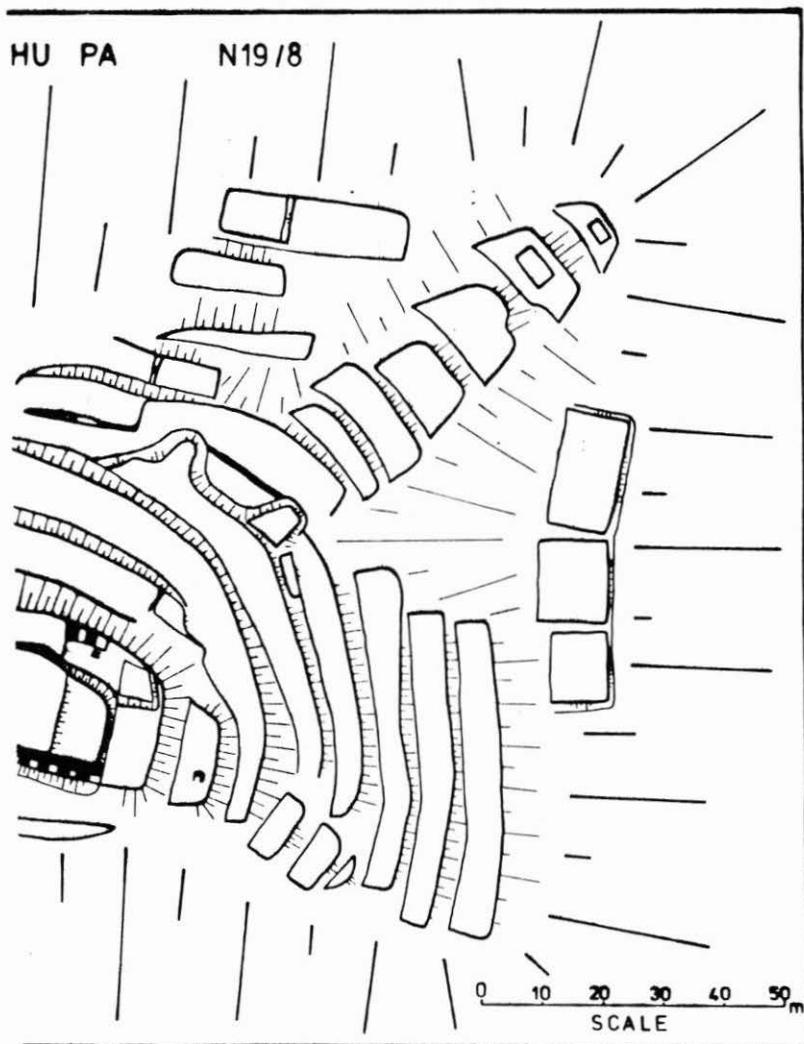


FIGURE 5. Okoihu (N19/8).



canic lands further inland, provided good fernroot digging areas. Kumara and taro were cultivated in small, relatively stone free areas. Further west where no storage pits were found, large quantities of fernroot, eels and birds were taken. The more recent people of that area, used elevated food storage houses.

They lived peacefully among themselves for a generation or two, in apparent continual occupation of their lands. Later when other tribes encroached upon their lands and threatened war, they moved from the settlements to their fortified pa nearby. The people of this area lived between two rival tribes, the Ngapuhi of the Bay of Islands and the Ngati Whatua of Kaipara.

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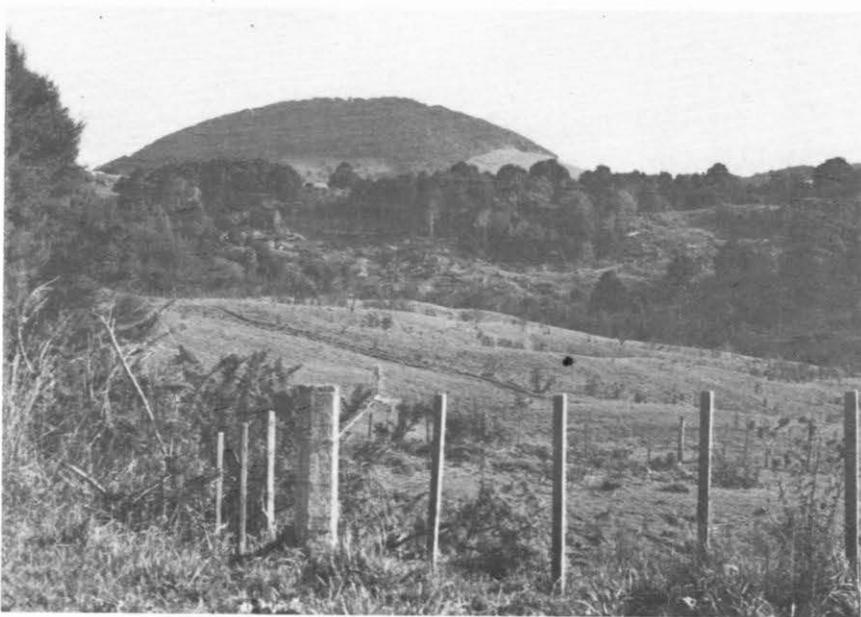
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WHANGAREI SITE SURVEY Plate 1. Whatitiri Mountain.



WHANGAREI SITE SURVEY Plate 2. Maungatapere Mountain—Tangihua Range behind.



WHANGAREI SITE SURVEY Plate 3. Maunu Mountain.



WHANGAREI SITE SURVEY Plate 4. Whangarei Harbour: Otaika Creek in foreground with Tapu Point pa and Limestone Island behind.