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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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SITE SURVEYING IN THE EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY

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Between February and May 1978 the authors spent four months site surveying in the eastern Bay of Plenty as part of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust's overall programme for the identification and preservation of archaeological sites. This article discusses some of the findings from the survey. The full report is filed with the N.Z.H.P.T., Archaeological Section, Wellington.

The area covered included the coastline from Hicks Bay, round Cape Runaway and down the coast to end at Tirohanga, just east of Opotiki. It extended for up to 5 km inland (Fig. 1).

The survey was based on the relevant sections of the N.Z. M.S. 1 maps, N62 Runaway, N61 and part 60 Te Kaha and N70 Omaio. Some sites were also recorded on the N63 East Cape, N69 Whakatane, N78 Ruatoki and N79 Motu maps. Altogether 627 sites (Table 1) were recorded or revisited (about 50).

For the purposes of the report this area can be divided into two main regions, the high rugged coastal ridge between Cape Runaway and Hicks Bay separated from the main Raukumara Range by the Whangaparaoa and the Wharekahika river valleys, and the sweeping rocky coastline of the Bay of Plenty from Waihou Bay to Opotiki. The Bay of Plenty portion consists of a narrow flat fertile coastal plain rising to steep foothills. This plain is intersected at regular intervals by fast flowing shingle rivers which rise in the Raukumara Ranges.

The main Maori tribes in the eastern Bay of Plenty and Cape Runaway regions are the Ngati Porou, Te Whanau-a-Apanui, Ngai Tai and Te Whakatohea. The approximate traditional boundary between the Ngati Porou and Whanau-a-Apanui occurs in the Cape Runaway-Lottin Point area. The Whanau-a-Apanui territory then extends south to Hawaii Bay. South of Hawaii Bay the narrow band of Ngai Tai territory separates the Whanau-a-Apanui from the Whakatohea people.

Pa

A total of 214 pa were recorded together with seven possible pa (Table 2). This represents over a third of all sites and is a significantly higher proportion than in most other surveys. Many of the pa are large and complex. For the purposes of the

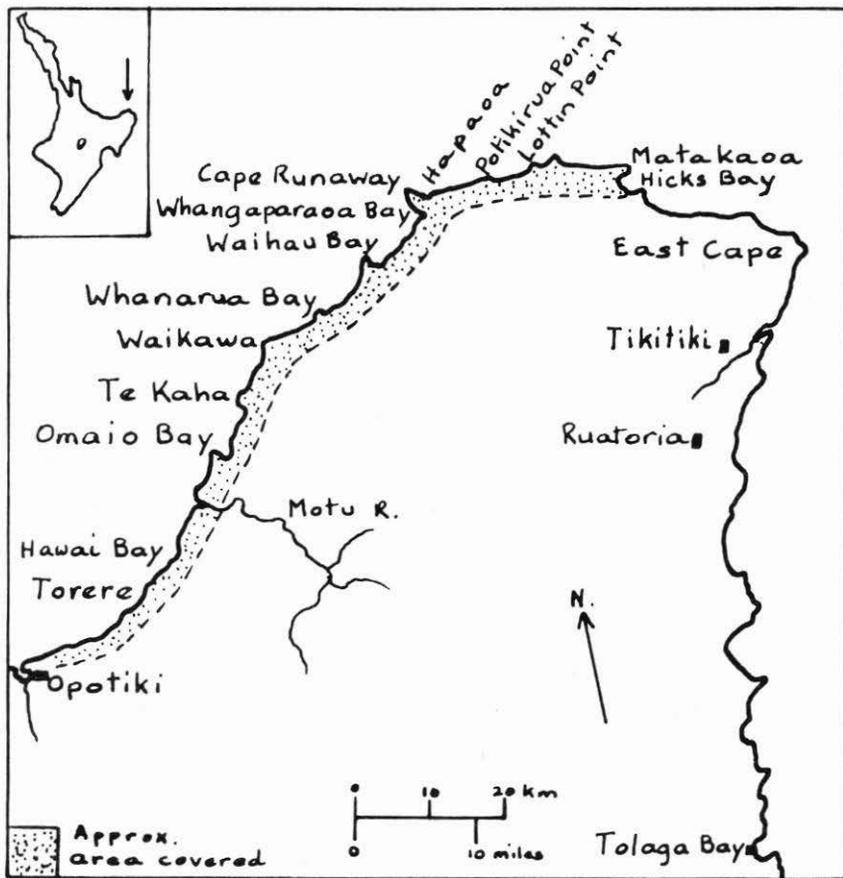


FIGURE 1. Eastern Bay of Plenty.

report pa are divided into classes based on Groube's classification (1970:142-153) and on Fox (1976:16) together with island and gun-fighters' pa.

The regional distribution and design features of some pa are most distinctive and they would seem to have been influenced by other factors as well as topographical determinants such as

Site types	N 63 Fast Cape	N 62 Runaway	N 61 Te Kaha	N 70 Omaio	N 69 Whaka- tane	N 78 Rua- toki	N 79
Pa	8	84	36	84	3	1	5
(7 doubtful)							
Pit & terrace	3	62	6	27	-	1	1
Terrace complex	4	110	35	58	-	-	-
Pit complex	5	29	4	11	-	-	-
Terraced knoll	-	13	1	5	-	-	2
Field systems	-	-	5	2	-	-	-
Stone walls & heaps	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Middens	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Misc.	-	8	3	4	-	-	-
	20	312	90	191	3	2	9

TABLE 1. Numbers and types of sites recorded.

defensive position and canoe access. This is particularly noticeable in the case of Class III, or ring-ditch, pa where these "... show a disregard for the dominance of topography over form, suggesting a deliberately preconceived style of fort building" (Groube, 1970:153).

Many of the Class III pa have a block-like appearance. This is most obvious between Te Kaha and Maraenui. These pa consist of a rectangular piece of flat land cut off from the surrounding plateau by deep ditches and high inner banks, usually on three sides, and a coastal cliff or stream gully on the fourth. Few internal features are evident. Some pa are composed of two or more adjoining 'blocks' sharing common ditches. At Omaio Bay, for example, there is a large site (N70/91) composed of three sections named Tuahiwi, Tiwai and Pahauonuku respectively. Another extensive and complex 'block' pa is N70/50, Matuahua, near Te Kaha (Fig. 2 and Plate 1). A large number of these Class III 'block' pa are well-preserved and are concentrated in areas of very fertile land and dense population where the major centres of power probably once were.

By contrast, between Cape Runaway and Lottin Point (Plate 2) almost all pa are Class I and II. Although this area is high and rugged, there are numerous positions where Class III 'block' pa could have been built. This lack is interesting considering

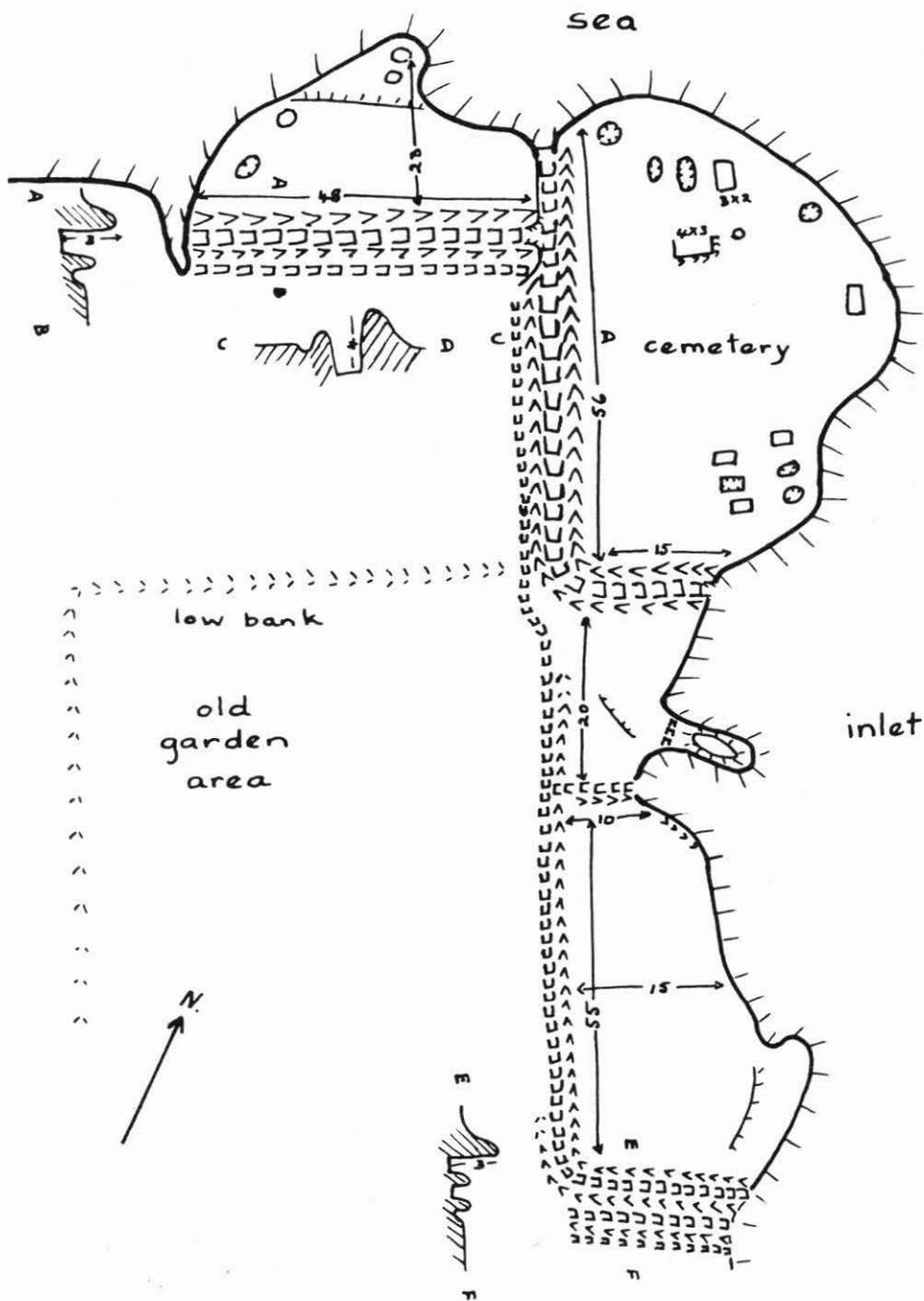


FIGURE 2. Matuahu, N70/50, sketch map.

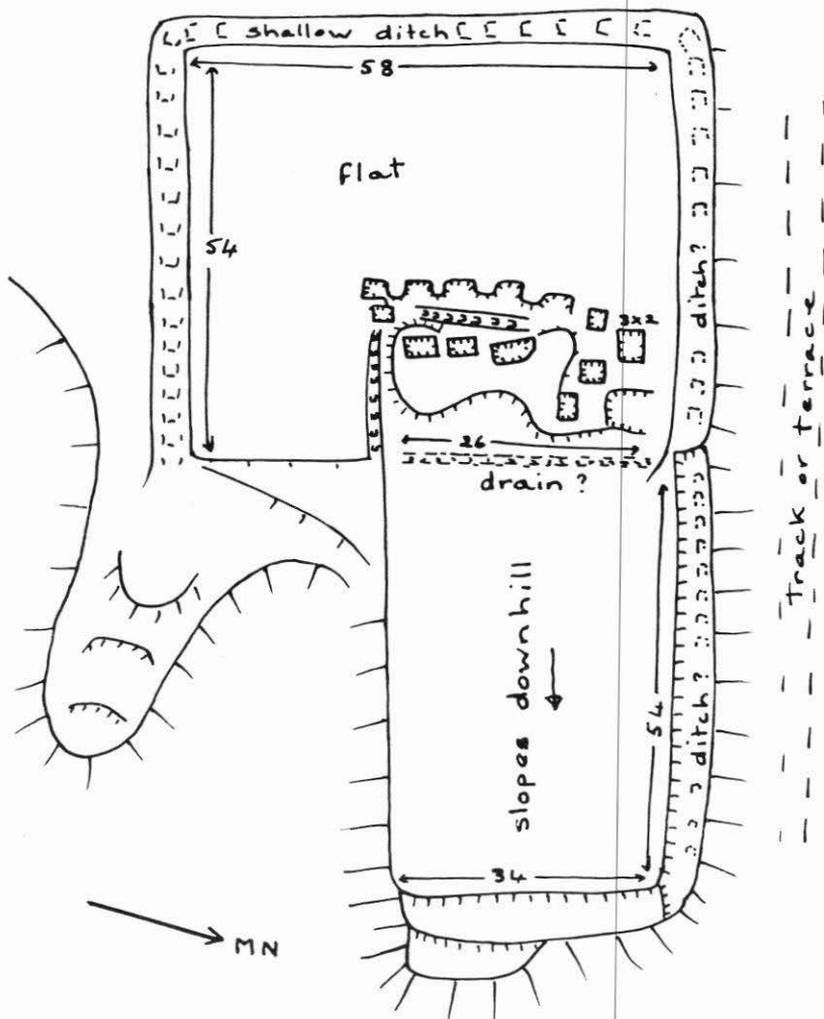


FIGURE 3. Pa N70/9, with possible gunfighters' outpost.

its proximity to similar pa further down the coast and the fact that it is partly traditional Te Whanau-a-Apanui territory.

It could be postulated that the Class III 'block' pa were a local response to the Ngapuhi and other tribal raids down the Bay of Plenty coast from 1818 onwards, when the first muskets were used, and the subsequent intertribal fighting which followed.

Some form of defence against muskets must have developed. These 'block' pa are all coastal, they are not overlooked by higher ground and the high internal banks may have been a protective measure against bullets by a people who, to begin with, had few muskets of their own. The Cape Runaway-Lottin Point area, with its inhospitable coastline, may have been bypassed by war parties going to the East Coast and therefore may not have been under threat.

From Hawaii Bay to Opotiki Class III pa, although numerous, appear to change in form. They are found further from the coast and on more sloping ground. Some are situated on low, isolated hillocks and the high internal bank system is not as apparent.

Some Class II pa, defended only by transverse ditches and banks, have multivallate defences. One good example is the small headland pa N61/56. This has five transverse ditches and banks, the innermost being the major one. Parallel double ditches are very common.

Concentrations of pa were noted in several areas, for example, around the indented Whanarua and Maraehako Bay coast. The pa are mainly Class II headland types. This density is probably due to the sheltered nature of the two bays in an exposed coastline. Another group occurs about 1 km inland from the shore at Torere where several small pa cluster round the base of the large Paripaopoa pa.

At the south end of Hawaii Bay is a group of seven Class III pa within an half kilometre area along both sides of the small Tarawera Stream valley. How many, if any, are contemporaneous is difficult to say. They are all fairly similar in style and not as 'block-like' as those further east. It is interesting to note that the tribal boundary between the Te Whanau-a-Apanui and the Ngai Tai occurs in this area. Pa N70/9 (Fig. 3) and

	N 63	N 62	N 61	N 70	N 69	N 78	N 79
	East Cape	Runa- way	Te Kaha	Omaio	Whaka- tane	Rua- toki	Motu
Class I: terraced	1	15	5	7	-	-	2
Class II: transverse	4	49	15	31	2	1	-
Class III: 2 sides	1	6	3	11	-	-	2
Class III: 3-4 sides	1	9	10	28	1	-	1
Class IV: swamp	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Island	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Redoubt or Gun-fighter	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
?		3	1	3	-	-	-
	8	84	36	84	3	1	5

TABLE 2. Pa.

N70/156 have features indicative of adaptations to musket warfare, namely indented parapets and associated trenches. It is possible that N70/9 is an older Class III pa, part of which has been modified to form a small command post overlooking N70/156 which is a few hundred metres north at the beach edge. Site N70/156 has traditional evidence for an early gun battle (D. White, pers. comm.).

An excellent example of a late Maori redoubt is N63/10, Manawa-hikitia, on the west side of Hicks Bay. This was built in 1865 during the Hauhau wars and consists of a hectare of sloping land enclosed by an irregular earth bank with flanked angles. There are zig-zag entrance ways and, facing inland, the remains of a command post at the highest point. Associated with N63/10 is Makaronia (Macedonia) pa, N63/4, a Class III 'block-like' site reputed to have been built at the same time as Manawa-hikitia (Mackay, 1973:220) although, from field evidence, it may be an older Class III pa re-used in a later period.

Pits and terraces

These sites vary from a single pit or terrace, through most combinations, to large clusters of both (Table 3) and

	N 63	N 62	N 61	N 70	N 69	N 78	N 79
	East Cape	Runa- way	Te Kaha	Omaio	Whaka- tane	Rua- toki	Motu
<u>PITS AND TERRACES</u>							
Raised-rim pits and terraces	1	19	2	4	-	-	-
Ordinary pits and terraces	1	33	4	19	-	-	1
Both pit forms and terraces	1	10	-	4	-	1	-
	3	62	6	27	-	1	1
<u>PITS</u>							
Single raised-rim	-	2	-	3	-	-	-
Grouped raised-rim	-	3	2	3	-	-	-
Single not raised-rim	-	6	-	1	-	-	-
Grouped not raised-rim	5	12	1	3	-	-	-
Mixed groups	-	6	1	-	-	-	-
?	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	5	29	4	11	-	-	-
<u>TERRACES</u>							
Single	1	24	10	18	-	-	-
Groups	3	87	25	40	-	-	-
	4	111	35	58	-	-	-

TABLE 3. Pits and terraces.

represent nearly half of all sites recorded. In particular it is worth noting the large number of terrace complexes, which form more than a third of all sites (see Plate 3). This proportion is very different from the survey results from Ruatoria-Waiapu river area, East Coast, where only 15% of sites fall into the terrace complex category (Leahy and Walsh, 1980).

Two major types of pits were observed, the rectangular semi-subterranean pit without a rim and similar ones with a rim on three or four sides. The reason for the difference has not yet been fully established but raised rim pits are more common in the eastern and southern parts of the North Island than in the northern portion. Pits vary greatly in size. One, in a well-preserved collection at Matakaoa, measures approximately 14 x 8 metres. Groups of largish pits (average 5 x 2 m) are common. Many are situated on transverse terraces stepped down long narrow ridges, forming open settlement sites. One of these, Ngariwai (N62/164), inland from Raukokore, is traditionally described as being a refuge place during the time of the Ngapuhi raids (P. Walker, pers. comm.).

Pits and terraces are found associated with Class I and II pa but less often with Class III ones.

Agricultural field systems

Two types of agricultural field systems occur in the eastern Bay of Plenty, those associated with low earth banks and 'drains', and those which utilise local stone for walls. On the coastal plain between Waihau and Omaio Bays the most common form consists of drain-like lines down slopes and rectangular gardens on the flatter land. However this coastline has been extensively cultivated in the last hundred years so that many of the early gardens have been modified. Traditionally the Te Kaha area is one of the original homelands for the growing of kumara.

The other field system type which occurs is that of using local stone to form long walls and plots. These are most common from Waihau Bay to Lottin Point and are of special interest in the Runaway area between Hapaoa and Lottin Point. There has been little modification to the archaeological sites there and the coastal slopes appear to have been under cultivation for a long period.

Some of these stone-walled field systems along the Runaway coastal slopes cover areas of 1-2 hectares e.g. N62/23 and N62/328. There are often transverse terraces associated with these field systems and they sometimes cut through the stone rows to form platforms from 1-2 metres wide across the slope. Occasionally these long terraces will form the upper or lower boundary to a series of stone walls. Small terraces also occur within the gardens e.g. N62/372 (Plate 4).

Midden

Only one separate midden was recorded. The rocky nature of most of the coastline and the impermanent nature of rocky shore shellfish remains in soil is not conducive to the building up of extensive and well-preserved middens. A number of sites have midden associated with them but these are only noted where the ground is disturbed by tracks or erosion. A recent road cutting down the side of a complex pa south of Waihou Bay (N62/158), for example, exposed a layered face containing numerous large shells including limpets, paua and trumpet shells although there was no surface indication for midden on the site.

This site survey recorded the majority of coastal archaeological sites from Hicks Bay to the outskirts of Opotiki and covered an area where very few sites had previously been recorded. More detailed follow-up work now needs to be done to study the rich archaeological, traditional and historical background in the region.

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BAY OF PLENTY Plate 1. Matuahu (N70/50), Te Kaha, showing the massive ditch (A-B looking east).



BAY OF PLENTY Plate 2. Lottin Point and Potikirua Road.



BAY OF PLENTY Plate 3. Multiple terrace site (N62/22) and pa (N62/73) above, Cape Runaway district.



BAY OF PLENTY Plate 4. Stone wall garden system (N62/372), Potikirua.