



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

THE SITE RECORDING SCHEME 1982-1986

Tony Walton
N.Z. Historic Places Trust
Wellington

The number of records held in the Central File at 31 March each year is the main indicator of the state of the Site Recording Scheme (Figure 1). Figures for the ten years 1971-1981 (Walton 1981) have been published, and the more recent figures have been reported each year in the Newsletter. This note brings together the corrected figures for the last five years 1982-1986 (Table 1). In addition, there are more accurate figures on how up-to-date the information in the files is (Table 2).

The rapid growth in the size of the Central File over the last ten years (1976-1986) means that much of the information in the files is of quite recent date. Some 76% of all records have been filed since 1 April 1976. What these figures do not reveal is the level of re-recording of previously reported sites. This information was sought from the NZHPT computerised Site Index by counting records on the basis of "date of last visit" (or more accurately: date of last visit resulting in information being filed). Unfortunately, such a count reveals a lower percentage of sites (72%) recorded or re-recorded in the the last ten years than that suggested by the census figures. One likely cause of this difference is the sometimes long delays between recorders visiting a site and their actually forwarding a Site Record Form for it. The census figures thus tend to over-estimate how up-to-date the information is. Unfortunately the level of re-recording of sites is at such a low level it is not showing up at all in the figures.

Some 11,000 sites visited prior to 1976, including some 3000 sites visited prior to 1966, have not been reported on for in excess of ten years.

The situation differs from region to region. The two extremes may be represented by East Coast and Taranaki. In the East Coast File 93% of Site Records Forms report a visit to the site in the last ten years. The corresponding figure for Taranaki is only 44% and this reflects the high level of site recording in the early 1960s, and lower levels subsequently.

Region	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	Change
Northland	4923	5583	5724	5920	6445	+1522
Auckland	7325	7629	7976	8995	9208	+1883
Waikato	1877	1902	1969	1974	2000	+ 123
Bay of Plenty	2643	2778	3148	4760	6059	+3416
Taupo				382	382	+ 382
East Coast	952	1332	1465	1590	2027	+1075
Taranaki	1182	1221	1220	1269	1324	+ 142
Inland Patea	261	261	261	186	188	- 73
Hawkes Bay	553	556	568	570	602	+ 49
Wanganui	348	383	388	457	434	+ 86
Wellington	750	753	751	757	834	+ 84
Nelson	932	979	1022	1061	1102	+ 170
Marlborough	322	329	329	329	407	+ 85
Canterbury	1139	1162	1164	1167	1168	+ 29
West Coast	254	282	350	385	410	+ 156
Otago	1980	1980	2039	2039	2349	+ 369
Central Otago	1810	1923	1955	1963	1969	+ 159
Southland	861	876	935	961	1003	+ 142
Offshore Islands	730	730	730	730	730	
	28842	30659	31994	35495	38641	+9799

Boundaries were being adjusted as new metric maps came into use. These counts were done with the boundaries as they stood on 31 March each year: some NZMS1, some metric, and some a mixture of the two.

TABLE 1. Size of central file 1982-1986.

<u>Before 1966</u>		<u>1966-1975</u>		<u>1976-1985</u>	
<1957	51	1966	534	1976	2790
1957	14	1967	400	1977	3436
1958	59	1968	488	1978	4404
1959	147	1969	366	1979	3285
1960	176	1970	859	1980	2362
1961	469	1971	778	1981	1745
1962	468	1972	541	1982	3274
1963	758	1973	949	1983	2366
1964	321	1974	1091	1984	2691
1965	482	1975	1891	1985	1161
	2945		7897		27514
	or 7.7%		or 20.6%		or 71.7%

TABLE 2. Central file: year of most recent site visit.

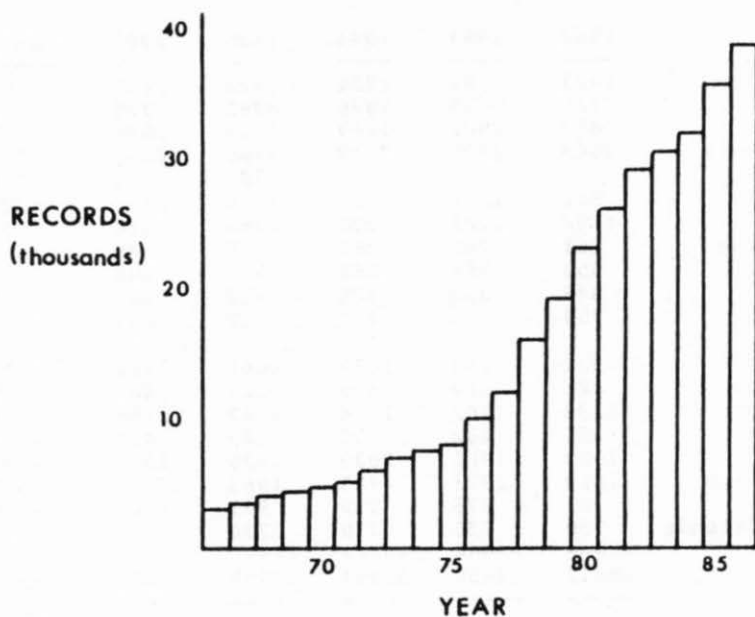


FIGURE 1. Size of central file.

Reference

Walton, A.

1981 The Site Recording Scheme 1971-1981.
N.Z.A.A. Newsletter 24:202-206.