



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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In conclusion, the following points may be made about the Dashing Rocks site.

- (a) Artifacts for which stylistic generalisations are possible show Archaic characteristics.
- (b) Midden remains show that the moa played at least a small part in the site economy.
- (c) Greenstone was utilized to some extent.
- (d) Greywacke spalls, are present in large numbers, and are probably characteristic of South Canterbury Archaic sites.
- (e) Occupation was probably initiated on a relatively bare loess surface, was of no great duration and (if the lack of postholes etc., is anything to go by) was non-permanent, and terminated when exposure to rough seas became too great.

Further excavation to confirm these points is contemplated.

References:

- Griffiths, G.D. 1941 An old Maori Camp Near Timaru. J.Poly.Soc.50 p.211
 Haast, Sir Julius von 1872 Moas and Moahunters. Trans. N.Z.Inst. 4 p.66

Postscript:

A very similar assemblage of flaked material from Milford Lagoon, at the mouth of the Opihi River about 12 miles North on the Canterbury Plains Coast, is also being subjected to petrographic study.

TUMBLEDOWN BAY - A BANKS PENINSULA MOA-HUNTER SITE S94/30

G.M. Mason and Owen Wilkes

INTRODUCTION:

Tumbledown Bay was first visited in 1961 by one of the Authors (Mason) for geological reasons and a collection was incidentally made from an area of deflated sand dunes of a number of flakes some of which were polished. This prompted a search through unpublished literature which revealed that in the past many collectors had found it worth their while to visit the Bay. Almost none of their material is now available. Early 1963 saw a visit by the Authors to describe the locality and collect surface material for petrographic purposes. This is part of a co-ordinated attempt to determine the petrography of rock materials from Canterbury sites.

Site Description:

Tumbledown is a small bay on the South coast of Banks Peninsula distinguished from other bays by its being sheltered from all winds - a result of its topography - in contrast to other bays in the southern quadrant of Banks Peninsula there is a marked bend in the length of the bay. The site occupies the sand dunes in the valley at the landward end of the bay. The occupation layer varies in thickness from 12 ins. of mussel shell to 3 ft. of lightly melanised sand with sparse fine grained dark igneous ovenstones and bone. The layer is now laterally discontinuous due to erosion and earlier investigators. No occupation layer changes such as postholes or oven pits were observed in the natural sections visible in windscoops etc., and no trace was found of the burials mentioned by previous investigators.

Midden:

The bone material determined by Ron Scarlett included occasional moa, probably Euryapteryx and Anomalopteryx, seal, crested and little blue penguin, abundant spotted shag, some gull, petrel, parrakeet and kokako (native crow).

There were also a femur of tuatara, some dog and much fish. Small lumps of subfossil moa bone were present and were probably collected from the nearby loess.

Artifactual Materials:

Surface collecting yielded the following rock types:-

- (1) Greenstone
- (2) Sillites - 5 varieties can be distinguished in hand specimen
- (3) Leucocratic granitic material
- (4) Rock crystal
- (5) Obsidian
- (6) White "porcellanite"
- (7) Black flint
- (8) Translucent white chalcedony
- (9) Argillite - 4 varieties
- (10) High grade crushed schist pebble
- (11) Tan-brown "chert"
- (12) Red-brown "jasperoid".
- (13) Salmon pink opaline silica
- (14) Vitreous rhyolite (pitchstone)

Local volcanic rocks, which in the hand specimen have a basaltic or andesitic appearance, have been used for the manufacture of adzes. Greywacke spalls with well worn and polished edges suggest the local working of greenstone. The presence of rock working industry is further indicated by coarse and fine grain sandstone polishing blocks. Blocks of the local dark basaltic material have been used to supply cutting flakes, as have beach pebbles of sillite ("quartzite") and chalcedony, the latter derived from the local volcanic rocks.

The Canterbury Museum holds an adze collection of predominantly Archaic affinities. The relevant items, in terms of Duff's (1956) classification, are:-

- 1A Black aphanitic rock. Igneous? Length 8 cm.
- 1A? Fragment. Dark green aphanitic material. Polished.
- 2A Weathered nephrite. Length 7.5 cm.
- 3A Rough-cut. Grey fine grained igneous rock - local c.f. andesite Length 8 cm.
- 3A Tendency to poll lugs. Polished. Epidiorite? Length 28 cm.
- 4A Rough-cut. Parallel edged - prism form. Broken.
- 4A Rough-cut.

EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTH BAY KAIKOURA - SITE S49/43

Tony Fomison

A brief outline of the field archaeology of Kaikoura Peninsula has appeared in a previous issue of the Newsletter (Fomison, 1959). Since then further sites have been recorded, mostly in South Bay: two more pa sites (S49/19 and 40) two cave sites (S49/20 and 21) and the site with which this interim report is concerned (S49/43).

In 1849 this area was surveyed for a Native Reserve by James McKay, as having been part of a former Ngai Tahu site of occupation, an implication of its archaeological nature (Elvy 1950). Its name, Te Hiku o te Waeroa, "The tail of the Sandfly" is possibly an allusion to its position, as a point projecting from the end of a flat which extends westward along the seashore for over one mile, all of which has yielded signs of occupation at various points. No traditional data has been published about the site, although the late Harry Jacobs of Mangamauna Pa believed that at the time of Te Rauparaha's raid on Kaikoura Peninsula, 1829, the Upoko-ariki was not Rerewaka of Nihomanga Pa (Site S49/14) but another chief who lived at South Bay, and whose settlements were likewise sacked. (For this information I am indebted to Mr. J. Sherrard who is currently engaged in a County History of the Kaikoura Coast). This would certainly accord with the presence in South Bay of the largest pa, by surviving surface evidence, in the South Island. (Site S49/39 - Described, Fomison, 1959).

The opportunity for excavation at Te Hiku o te Waeroa was provided by the passing of the reserve into private hands and the likelihood of subdivision. In November, 1962, excavations were carried out at two points on the site: the rising, central area, and a marginal area on an old beach edge.