

5. Historical archaeology

5.1 THEMES

The landscape of Taranaki-Wanganui region has been completely transformed over the last 150 years, but this is little reflected in the work of historical archaeologists nor in inventories of sites. Batley (1971) briefly noted the range of historical archaeological sites found in the Upper Rangitikei Valley. This section is not a review of this topic and merely serves to both illustrate the range of sites involved and the limited scope of research that has been done to date. Many historical archaeological sites are well-known locally and some have been the focus of conservation or restoration efforts, but most are not recorded in New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme. Historical archaeological sites make up less than 10% of all recorded sites in the region.

Historical archaeological sites may be placed in a number of broad categories (Prickett 1999):

- Domestic
- Agricultural
- Industrial
- Commercial
- Transport
- Military

Interest is not confined to sites of the 19th century. Prickett (1990) has pointed out that economic change over recent decades has already closed the many small creameries that once dotted the countryside, and is continuing to change the local infrastructure of many rural areas. General stores, garages and schools have closed or are closing and district halls are falling into disrepair. This is only the latest set of changes to re-shape life in the Taranaki-Wanganui region.

Outside the category of military sites, little research with a focus on historical archaeology has been done. Domestic sites have attracted little attention. Agricultural sites have had some limited interest, but generally the archaeology of early farms and farming has been neglected, in spite of Smart's (1966) important early work on the ditch-and-bank fence. Cassels & Walton (1992) discuss historical agricultural features found in one field near Waverley.

Some work has been done on the early colonial settlements of Wanganui and New Plymouth, especially the former. There were two sets of excavations at R22/248 in a part of old Wanganui in 1995.

Major industries in some areas in the past remain little investigated. Arnold (1976) discusses the timber industry in 1870s and 1880s with particular reference to Rangitikei, but it is uncertain what, if anything, remains. Edson (1986) has recorded coal mines along the Mokau River, but remains associated with the mining industry are not a prominent feature of the archaeology of the region. Henson's brickworks near Wanganui operated from 1867 to 1877 and

the remains of a kiln survive and have been roofed (1981) for protection against the weather.

Oliver (1978, 1979) investigated the remains of mid 19th century flour mills in New Plymouth, and three Maori mills in the vicinity of Puniho and Pungarehu are briefly discussed by Day (1995). The re-built Kawana flour mill (1854) on the Whanganui River has been open as a heritage place since 1980.

Homesteads, roads, and landings have been recorded in the Whanganui River Valley (Hellen & Olsen 1984). The Mangapurua farm settlement was opened up to returned servicemen after World War I, but the area was difficult of access and was abandoned in 1942. A large concrete bridge (the Mangapurua bridge or Bridge to Nowhere) was completed in 1936 and has become a major attraction for tourists on the Whanganui River.

Up to 1975 over 100 shipwrecks had occurred in the Taranaki-Wanganui region (Ingram 1977). Some wrecks were salvaged or otherwise broken up and so have left no remains in situ, but only 13 shipwreck sites (about 12%) have been recorded in the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme. Shipwreck occurred most frequently around Wanganui (28), New Plymouth (25), and Patea (15) (Ingram 1977).

Military sites have long attracted attention from archaeologists (Smith 1990) and this has been the major area of historical archaeological research undertaken in Taranaki-Wanganui to date. Military sites make up nearly 45% of recorded historical archaeological sites in the region. An example of a common form of earthwork fortification is Woodall's redoubt near Kai Iwi (Fig. 12).

5.2 NEW ZEALAND WARS

A useful narrative of the New Zealand Wars is Cowan (1983, first published in 1922). Belich (1986) provides a more analytical narrative. In the early 1960s, Maxwell and Colin Smart compiled historical information about redoubts near Wanganui, took oblique aerial photographs and visited selected sites, and entered records in the New Zealand Archaeological Site Recording Scheme. Their analysis of 43 sites in the Wanganui-South Taranaki area showed that by 1963 only 40% of known sites still retained good surface form. Buist (1968) described the remains of Thacker's Redoubt (Q21/153) at the mouth of the Manawapou River in South Taranaki, and photographed sites from the air (Buist 1976: plate 6). Coverage of fortifications in the Rangitikei area in particular remains incomplete: only two of the ten redoubts recorded by Lundy (1995) in the Rangitikei area, for example, have been recorded in the Site Recording Scheme.

In a series of publications, Prickett (1978a, 1978b, 1978c, 1981a, 1984, 1994a, 1994b, 1996) has provided a detailed examination of many aspects of the archaeology of the Taranaki Wars. Prickett's fieldwork included extensive excavations at Omata Stockade (P19/35) and Warea Redoubt (P20/17) in 1977 and 1978 respectively. Fyfe (1988a) has conducted exploratory investigations on part of Marsland Hill in New Plymouth. A military historian (Pugsley 1995a, 1995b, 1995c, 1996) has recently produced a series of articles on different



Figure 12. Woodall's redoubt (R22/147) at Kai Iwi, 1995. Photographer: K. Jones (Department of Conservation).

aspects of the campaign. Walton & Jones (1996) discuss the history and archaeology of Te Arei battlefield of the First and Second Taranaki Wars in their review of the history and archaeology of Pukerangiora.

Few Maori sites of this period have been investigated, but Jonas lists the type of artefacts ploughed up from a village of late the 1860s near Urenui and Walton (1987) has detailed the history of Maraekowhai on the upper Whanganui River.

6. Conclusions

6.1 SUMMARY

Knowledge of the prehistory of the Wanganui–Taranaki region is limited. Few sites have been investigated scientifically or systematically.

Evidence of ‘moa-hunter’ occupation has been investigated since last century but the information recovered has been limited by the techniques available at the time, and by the focus on particular aspects of the occupation. The concentration on the often-abundant faunal remains of ‘moa-hunter’ sites has been to the exclusion of other aspects of early subsistence and settlement patterns. The evidence from these sites suggests a relatively small population exploiting a wide range of wild foods in a relatively untouched environment. The presence of a horticultural component to the local economy at this time is probable, but not proven.

Remains identifiably belonging to the early period of prehistory are sparse and largely confined to the ‘moa-hunter’ site type. Unless moa bone is present, a site will not be recognised as early and so it is uncertain what other types of sites are characteristic of this early period.

Archaeological remains from the later period of prehistory are more easily observed. Pa are often highly visible features of the landscape and can be mapped and measured to provide some basic information but there are a number of issues relating to form, function, and chronology of pa which need to be explored. The promising work undertaken in Taranaki in the early 1960s with excavations at Kumara-kaiamo and Tarata has not been followed up. Most work on pa subsequently has been rescue work and has involved investigating relatively small areas, with valuable but correspondingly restricted gains in information. For the most part, only large-scale excavation of pa and other settlement sites will ensure progress. Large-scale excavation alone can provide the range and depth of evidence required.

To understand the significance of archaeological remains within Wanganui–Taranaki region requires the use of models developed from evidence across the country. Application of these models in a regional context must, of necessity, use a broad-brush approach. It is important to avoid over-rigid periodisation. The probable sustained population growth during the 15th and 16th centuries would have had as its concomitants:

- The widespread clearance of bush in lowland areas
- Increased reliance on local resources
- Increasing numbers of settlements more closely spaced across the landscape
- Expansion into less favourable areas
- Increased levels of warfare
- The emergence of a different social order

Even in this later period, however, the relatively small size of communities and the low population density meant that the landscape was still relatively empty and that 'wild places' were almost always close at hand.

6.2 TOWARDS A RESEARCH AGENDA

The first steps towards site protection were taken nearly 100 years ago with the passing of the Scenery Preservation Act of 1903 (Leach 1991). Numbers of Taranaki sites were recommended for reservation and numbers of sites were purchased. Overall, very few sites had any formal protection until the passing of the Historic Places Amendment Act of 1975. Since the late 1950s and early 1960s there had been growing concern at the rate of destruction and loss of sites, particularly pa. A Taranaki study used Best's work earlier in the century as a baseline to highlight deterioration in the condition of sites (Robinson 1961). A more systematic approach, using condition as shown on early aerial photographs as a baseline, is Prickett (1985). This study indicated that in a rural landscape 28 out of 95 pa sites were substantially damaged in the period from 1950 to 1981. Common causes of damage included bulldozing for access and fencing, exotic forest plantations, cultivation, stock trampling, roading, and quarrying. Pa sites in other settings have fared even less well. Many pa close to New Plymouth were swallowed up in the urban sprawl from the 1960s onwards. Examples include P19/154 that was destroyed in a subdivision in about 1970, P19/158 that was destroyed in a subdivision in 1976; and P19/1 that was destroyed in a subdivision in about 1978. Studies of the vegetation cover of historic reserves and management options (Jones & Simpson 1995) and the historical significance of cabbage trees on archaeological sites (Simpson 1994) have been published.

Other types of site have suffered as well. Many pit sites have been ploughed flat and are now only known from early aerial photographs. The redoubt on Sentry Hill, a historic reserve, has been entirely quarried away (Prickett 1977). A particularly notable loss amongst New Zealand Wars sites is the Bell Block Stockade (Q19/159) destroyed in 1970, without having been mapped or excavated.

Where it is not possible to physically protect remains in situ, preservation by record is an appropriate response. This involves recording and excavation those archaeological sites that can not be preserved.

The following are some suggestions for research directions arising from this review. They only deal with prehistoric archaeology and are not exhaustive. Specific programmes of site recording are required that are focused on historical and industrial sites.

- Priority should be given to re-assessing the present condition of known early sites and their potential to provide further, and better information, on the more remote past of some 600 years ago.
- Systematic field surveys need to continue, including survey of selected, less well researched, areas in the interior.

- Models need to be developed of environment which will predict the nature of the archaeological sites which are likely to be encountered in any particular area.
- Representative sites need to be excavated to develop a better understanding of the range of activities undertaken at them. Sites should be selected across a range of different environments and locations.
- A programme of excavation of fortified sites is required, including excavation of a ring ditch pa and large scale excavation of interiors of pa to establish the date and character of the occupation and the defences.
- A tighter control of chronology is required and more radiocarbon, or other, dates need to be obtained.
- Faunal assemblages from all periods need to be located, excavated, and analysed to provide a more secure knowledge of subsistence patterns.
- Basic descriptive studies of the various types of artefacts held in museum collections are needed.

Current arrangements for managing archaeological resources are a maze of different interests and responsibilities and it is not suggested that any one agency can independently pursue these research objectives. Overseas, the development of research agendas has been intended to help the various agencies involved to work co-operatively to assign priorities and so avoid piecemeal responses to development threats (Newman 1996). In an area plagued by a lack of resources, there is little doubt of the pressing need for a co-operative approach by the various players: public and private, professional and amateur, government and iwi. The suggestions above offer a starting point for developing an agenda.

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8. References

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Appendix 1

SITE SURVEYS

SURVEYOR	DATE	LOCALITY	REFERENCES
Adds	1983	Mimi R. Mouth (Q19)	Adds 1984
Best	c.1914	Urenui (Q19)	Best 1975
Bristow	1988	Waverley-Whenuakura (Q21-22, R22)	Bristow 1988b
Buist	1961-3	Urenui (Q18-19)	Buist 1964
Butts	1979	Upper Retaruke R. (S19)	Butts 1981
Colless et al.	1984/85	Lower Rangitikei R. (S23)	Colless et al. 1985
Day	1982	Petroglyph sites, Taranaki	Day 1982b
Day	1984	Upper Waitotara R. (R21)	Day 1985
Day & Stevenson	1980/81	Waitara East(Q19)	Day & Stevenson 1981
Day	1998	Motumahanga, Sugar Loaf Islands	Day 1998
Donovan	1975/76	Mangaweka (T22)	Donovan 1976
Forbes	1997	Manawatu R. (S24, T24)	Forbes 1997
Gorbey	1968	Pipeline Survey (various)	Gorbey 1969, McFadgen 1970b
Fyfe	1980	Waipapa-Karaka Roads, Waitara (Q19)	Fyfe 1980
Fyfe	1981	Waitara by-pass (Q19)	Fyfe 1981
Hellen & Olsen	1983/84	Wanganui R. (various)	Hellen & Olsen 1984
Hooker	1968-70	Makahu/Mangaehu valleys (Q20, R19-20)	Hooker 1971
Nevin & Nevin	1979	Te Wera State Forest (Q20, R20)	Nevin & Nevin 1979
Prickett, K	1974	Pipeline Survey (P19)	Prickett, K 1974
Prickett, K	1975	Pipeline Survey (Q18-19)	Prickett, K 1975
Prickett, N	1979	Omata & Oakura (P19)	Prickett, N 1980
Prickett, N	1980	Tataraimaka (P19)	Prickett, N 1982
Prickett, N	1981	Okato (P19)	Prickett, N 1983a
Smart	1960-63	Waverley-Whangaehu (R22, S22-23)	Smart 1962, Smart & Smart 1963
Wallace & others	1981	New Plymouth to Waitara (P19, Q19)	Wallace et al. 1981
Walton	1978	Wanganui River (various)	Walton 1979
Walton	1980	Matarikoriko, Waitara River (Q19)	Walton 1984
Walton	1981	Lower Whangaehu River (R23, S22-23)	Walton 1982a, 1985, 1986a
Walton	1980	Motunui	Walton 1988
Walton	1986	Tikorangi	Walton 1986b

Appendix 2

EXCAVATIONS

SITE	NAME	DATE	REFERENCES
P19/35	Ngaturi	1977	Prickett 1978a, 1994b
P19/151	Bell Block midden	1988	site record form (Buist)
P20/112	Mt Egmont oven site	1971	Topping 1974
P20/120	Hingaimotu	1982	Smith 1985:492
P21/3	Kaupokonui moa hunter site	1962/3, 1974	Buist 1962b, 1963; Robinson 1963; Cassels n.d.; Foley 1980
P21/5	Waimate pa	1962	Buist 1962
Q18/16	Pukearuhe pa	1968	Lawrence & Prickett 1984
Q19/68	Waitara swamp site	1960	Duff 1961
Q19/71	Kumara-kaiamo pa	1961/2	Parker & Buist 1961; Parker 1962; Buist 1964: 91-101; Groube 1964
Q19/79	Houses/rua	1963	site record form (Jonas)
Q21/44	Puketarata pa	1982	Walton 1982
Q21/75	Waingongoro (Ohawe) moa hunter site	1960	Buist & Yaldwyn 1960; Buist 1960a, 1960b
Q21/76	Te Rangatapu moa hunter site	1960	Canavan 1960, 1962
Q21/99	Lake Whitianga moa hunter site	1961	Robinson 1961
Q21/234	Dickie borrow pit	1974	Walton & Cassels 1992
Q22/11		1988	Jacomb pers. comm.
Q22/15	Waitore swamp site	1974	Cassels 1979
Q22/21	Wilson (Kokako) site	1974	Cassels & Walton 1991
Q22/36	Wilson-Train borrow pits	1974	Walton & Cassels 1992
Q22/77	Johnston site	1989	Jacomb pers. comm.
R18/3	pa at Mokau	1968-9	Gorbey 1968; McFadgen 1970a
R22/27	Tarata pa	1960-2	Smart 1962; Groube 1964
R22/42		1988	Jacomb pers. comm.
S23/17	Whangaehu River pit site	1983	Walton 1985
S23/66	Parewanui channels	1986	Cassels et al. 1988
S23/71	Parewanui midden site	1986	Cassels et al. 1988
S24/3	Foxton site	1963-72	McFadgen 1972, 1978
S24/20	Himatangi midden site	1972	Butts 1982
S24/26	Himatangi midden site	1972	Butts 1982
T20/1	Moawhango Dam Cliff Shelter	1971	Newman 1988
T21/	Six Hundred Sheep Cave	1960	Batley 1961
T21/	Te Manukairakau pit site	1961	Batley 1961

Appendix 3

RADIOCARBON DATES

There are 54 radiocarbon dates for archaeological sites in the Wanganui Conservancy. Ten of these dates are from Foxton (S24/3) and these are listed but are not discussed further here (see McFadgen 1997).

SITE	LAB NO.	CRA	COMMENTS
P19/24 Te Awahahae Pa, Oakura	NZ6181	640±41	Shell, mostly <i>Protothaca crassicosta</i> , from midden on ring-ditch pa
P19/26 Pa, Oakura	NZ6563	263±28	Identified charcoal from infilling of ditch on pa
P19/56 Pukiekie Pa, Omata	NZ6184	95±60	Shell, <i>Protothaca crassicosta</i> , from midden on pa
P19/79 Pa, Okato	NZ6185	851±55	Shell, <i>Haliotis iris</i> , from midden on pa
P19/131 Pa, Tataraimaka	NZ6187	796±55	Shell, <i>Haliotis iris</i> , from midden palisade footing on pa
P19/191 Manawapo Pa, Tataraimaka	NZ6182	593±52	Shell, <i>Protothaca crassicosta</i> , from midden on pa
P19/194 Pukewaranga Pa, Tataraimaka	NZ6183	731±66	Shell, <i>Melagraphia aethiops</i> , from midden from palisade footing on pa
P19/195 Pa, Tataraimaka	NZ6555	203±32	Identified charcoal from charcoal layer on pa
P19/197 Pa, Tataraimaka	NZ6186	546±54	Shell, <i>Turbo smaragdus</i> , from midden on pa
P19/221 Pa, Tataraimaka	NZ6552	480±33	Identified charcoal from charcoal layer on pa
P20/111 Mt Egmont	NZ0063	431±64	Unidentified charcoal, oven underlying Burrell Ash
P20/111 Mt Egmont	NZ0064	378±64	Unidentified charcoal, oven underlying Burrell Ash
P20/112 Mt Egmont	NZ1561	457±58	Unidentified charcoal, oven underlying Newell Ash (Topping 1974)
P21/3 Kaupokonui	NZ0722	1463±52	Unidentified charcoal from layer above moa bone midden
P21/3 Kaupokonui	NZ3931	568±49	Moa bone, from L4 the moa-hunting occupation
P21/3 Kaupokonui	NZ3932	512±28	Shell, <i>Haliotis iris</i> , L2 oven, minimum age for moa-hunting
P21/3 Kaupokonui	NZ3933	525±32	Shell, <i>Perna canaliculus</i> , L2 oven, minimum age for moa-hunting
P21/3 Kaupokonui	NZ3934	618±57	Moa bone, L4, the moa-hunter level
P21/3 Kaupokonui	NZ3935	325±83	Dog coprolite from immediately above moa-hunting level
Q18/6 Pukearuhe Pa	NZ2645	88±57	Unidentified charcoal, oven on pa (Lawrence & Prickett 1984)
Q18/6 Pukearuhe Pa	NZ2646	253±57	Unidentified charcoal, oven on pa (Lawrence & Prickett 1984)

SITE	LAB NO.	CRA	COMMENTS
Q18/6 Pukearuhe Pa	NZ2647	273±57	Unidentified charcoal, base of terrace fill on pa (Lawrence & Prickett 1984)
Q21/75 Waingongoro	NZ0543	1018±49	Unidentified charcoal, oven associated with moa bones
Q21/75 Waingongoro	NZ0544	752±60	Unidentified charcoal, oven associated with moa bones
Q21/75 Waingongoro	NZ0717	552±45	Unidentified charcoal, oven associated with moa bones
Q21/75 Waingongoro	NZ0718	699±61	Unidentified charcoal, oven associated with moa bones
Q21/76 Te Rangatapu	NZ0545	741±48	Unidentified charcoal, oven associated with moa bones
Q21/76 Te Rangatapu	NZ0723	542±61	Unidentified charcoal, oven associated with moa bones
Q22/15 Waitore	NZ4035	524±40	Peat and soil associated with wooden artefacts (Cassels 1979)
Q22/15 Waitore	NZ4036	508±33	Peat and soil associated with wooden artefacts (Cassels 1979)
Q22/15 Waitore	NZ4037	423±57	Peat and soil associated with wooden artefacts (Cassels 1979)
Q22/77 Johnston	NZ7778	475±46	Charcoal (punga) from fill of pit
Q22/77 Johnston	NZ7779	126±46	Charcoal (bracken fern) from fire scoop in pit fill
Q22/77 Johnston	NZ7780	481±46	Charcoal from fire-scoop
Q22/77 Johnston	NZ7781	154±46	Charcoal from banded ash in pit fill
Q22/77 Johnston	NZ7810	602±130	Charcoal/wood from firescoop
Q22/77 Johnston	NZ7811	299±29	Charcoal from scoop in fill of bin pit
Q22/77 Johnston	NZ7812	1297±33	bracken fern from layer of wood, charcoal, and oven stones
Q22/77 Johnston	NZ7813	538±34	Identified wood from lake edge layer
S23/7 Parewanui	NZ7354	781±55	Shell, <i>Paphies subtriangulata</i> , from midden (Cassels et al. 1988)
S24/3 Foxton	NZ0682	736±48	Unidentified charcoal from G10 layer F
S24/3 Foxton	NZ0683	1095±60	Unidentified shell from G10 layer F
S24/3 Foxton	NZ0684	523±63	Unidentified charcoal from oven, occupation layer 2
S24/3 Foxton	NZ0685	177±113	Unidentified charcoal from above oven, occupation layer 2
S24/3 Foxton	NZ1250	671±68	Shell, <i>Paphies subtriangulata</i> , from shell lens 2, occupation layer 2
S24/3 Foxton	NZ1251	1147±84	Shell, <i>Cbione stutchburyi</i> , from shell lens 4, occupation layer 2
S24/3 Foxton	NZ1347	1139±47	Shell, <i>Cbione stutchburyi</i> , from shell lens 4, occupation layer 2

SITE	LAB NO.	CRA	COMMENTS
S24/3 Foxton	NZ1349	1075±45	Shell, <i>Chione stutchburyi</i> , from shell lens 1, occupation layer 1
S24/3 Foxton	NZ1479	965±58	Shell, <i>Chione stutchburyi</i> , from shell lens 3, occupation layer 1
S24/3 Foxton	NZ1480	936±58	Shell, <i>Paphies subtriangulata</i> , from shell lens 1, occupation layer 1
S24/20 Himatangi	NZ5266	2055±105	Identified charcoal from midden
S24/26 Himatangi	NZ5279	814±33	Shell, <i>Paphies subtriangulata</i> , from midden
S24/26 Himatangi	NZ5280	841±32	Shell, <i>Paphies subtriangulata</i> , from midden
S24/26 Himatangi	NZ6267	456±55	Identified charcoal from midden