

# The Archaeology of New Zealand Shore Whaling

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In a recent report for the Department of Conservation are listed 87 New Zealand shore whaling stations and sites for which there is good archaeological and/or historical evidence. There is also information on 25 unconfirmed stations. The following account draws on the report (Prickett 2002), which needs to be referred to for detailed information.

TABLE 1. Whaling stations according to regions (site details in Table 3).

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Sites</b>
Foveaux Strait and S.I. West Coast	10
Otago	7
Timaru	3
Banks Peninsula and Motunau	6
Kaikoura	5
Port Underwood	5
Tory Channel	5
Kapiti, Mana and Palliser Bay	10
North Island west coast	2
Hawke's Bay	14
East Coast and Bay of Plenty	9
Coromandel and Northland	6
Chathams and Campbell Island	5
<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>87</b>

The New Zealand shore whaling industry was based on the right whale, which yielded



Fig. 1 Cuttle Cove, Preservation Inlet, site of the 1829–1836 station

so-called 'black oil', and whale-bone (baleen). When right whales became scarce sperm whales and humpbacks were taken. The first shore whaling stations in New Zealand were at Preservation Inlet (Figure 1) – set up in 1829 – and Te Awaiti (Tory Channel), dating from the same year, or a bit earlier.

For ten years from the early 1830s whaling

was New Zealand's major commercial industry in terms of value generated and men employed. Production peaked in the late thirties. 1841 output was 1800 tuns of oil and 70 tons of whalebone, worth not less than £54,800 on the London market.

The inshore whaling industry soon destroyed its means of livelihood. Mostly cows and calves were taken, when females came inshore to calve. Production figures from the Weller brothers' station at Otago illustrate the industry's brief success and rapid decline. In 1833 the station took 128 tuns of oil. In the following years production was 310, 260, 210, 272 and 213 tuns, followed by 65 tuns in 1839, 14 tuns in 1840 and 10 tuns in 1841, after which the station closed.

Production figures for Wellington-based stations – including much of the South Island, Cook Strait and the lower North Island – show a marked downward trend in the period 1843 to 1847.

TABLE 2. Oil and whalebone production figures (including sperm and humpback oil) of stations based at Wellington (Wakefield 1848: 193).

Year	Tuns oil	Tons whalebone	Men	Boats
1843	1289	65	768	91
1844	1130	48	673	85
1845	970	37	774	91
1846	819	28	618	69
1847	468	15	408	51

By 1850 shore whaling for right whales was virtually at an end. At only a few places whaling continued as a part-time occupation of men engaged mostly in farming and other pursuits. Among these were Maori whalers of the East Coast and Bay of Plenty,

the best known of whom were at Te Kaha, where traditional boats and technologies were employed into the 20th century, taking mostly humpback whales.

Tory Channel and Whangamumu whalers worked on the last frontier of hunting for right whales in New Zealand waters, at sub-Antarctic Campbell Island, in the early 20th



Fig. 2 Remains of an early 20th century whaling factory – South Bay, Kaikoura.

century.

In 1927, Tory Channel whalers took the last two right whales captured by New Zealand shore whalers. From 1927 to 1963 there are no records even of sightings on the mainland New Zealand coast. The southern right whale was protected by international convention in 1936. The first recorded recent sighting in mainland waters was at Tory Channel, on 15 July 1963. Since then, whales have turned up rarely in winter on the New Zealand coast, following ancient migration routes.

At the end of the 19th century the shore whaling industry was revived at Whangamumu, near the Bay of Islands, and later at Tory Channel, Kaikoura (Figure 2) and Great Barrier Island. By this stage the quarry was mostly humpbacks. Motor chasers, harpoon guns and explosive heads were employed. Steam power and machinery took over from human muscle and tryputs.

Archaeological remains of shore whaling stations are important for several reasons.

- As early European settlement sites in New Zealand, they contain information on the first European settlement of this country.
- They contribute to description of the material culture of the period, often in contexts securely dated to the few years of a station's life.
- They tell of the whaling operation itself and the arrangement of shore works and accommodation.
- As places where Maori and Pakeha first came together for a common end, many stations can throw light on the process of early contact between European and Maori. The period and its outcomes were important in our history.

The whaling season was from late autumn to October. Right whales arrived on the coast as early as April in the south, or May in Cook Strait, having summered in the southern ocean. A large part of the migration would turn into Cook Strait, where Port Underwood (Figure 3) provided an ideal calving area of warm, shallow water. More whales passed through the strait and between Kapiti Island and the mainland to another major calving area in the South Taranaki Bight. Whales also travelled up the east coast of the North Island to Hawke Bay and beyond.



Fig. 3 Tryput - Kakapo Bay, Port Underwood. Jacky Guard established the first Port Underwood station at Kakapo Bay in 1830.

Major whaling regions were Foveaux Strait and Otago, Banks Peninsula, Kaikoura, Port Underwood, Tory Channel, Kapiti and Hawke's Bay. Other stations were scattered about the coasts of both islands, and the Chatham Islands and Campbell Island.

A distinction is made between 'bay whaling' – that is, whaling from ships anchored in bays - and land-based 'shore whaling'. In 1836 there were 18 vessels bay-whaling in Port Underwood, most of them American, in addition to four or five shore stations. As many as 70 boats might set off after a single whale.

## Economics

In the 1830s New Zealand shore whaling operations were financed by Sydney merchants. When Wellington was founded in 1840, it rapidly took over the servicing of local stations. Edward Jerningham Wakefield describes the fitting out:

*'The parties enrolled in Sydney received an advance and spent it there; a brig or schooner then carried the whole "mob," as the party was sometimes called, to their station in New Zealand, with new boats, tackle, provisions, spirits, goods with which to barter for firewood and fresh food from the natives, clothing, tobacco, and various other necessaries, which were placed under the care of the chief headsman, and charged to him at an immense profit by the owner of the party in Sydney, as an advance on the produce of the season.'* (Wakefield 1845 Vol. I: 319)

Typical shares were as follows: chief headsman 1/18th, other headsman 1/24th, boatsteerers 1/60th, coopers and carpenters 1/70th or wages, boatmen 1/100th. The rest went to the financier who took the oil and whalebone at his own valuation and the profit in selling on the London market.

The account book for Alexander Fraser's Long Point station, Kapiti Island, 1840–42, in the Turnbull Library, provides detail on the costs and returns of running a whaling station. For the 1840 season there are advances in Sydney, slop bills, and final payments for 36 men including 11 Maori, five headsman, a cooper, carpenter, clerk and 'tonguer'. The latter acted as an interpreter, and was responsible for 'cutting-in' the whale, receiving the tongue oil in payment.

Five new whaleboats were purchased at £27 each, and shipped from Sydney for £5 apiece. Provisions are listed as pork (£394-0-11), flour (£436-3-4), sugar (£39-10-0), tea (£76-18-0) and spirits (£152-10-0). For putting up the buildings, local Maori received 25 pairs of blankets at 30 shillings, two kegs of tobacco totalling 200 lb at three shillings a pound, and a 52-gallon hogshead of spirits at 8/- a gallon, to a total value of £88-6-0.

## The whalers

Edward Jerningham Wakefield, whose contemporary account of New Zealand shore whaling is the best available, was a 20-year old agent of the New Zealand Company when he visited Kapiti in June and July 1840 during the whaling season.

*'I was much interested in observing the life of these rough men, and in finding that many generous and noble qualities redeemed their general inclination to vice and lawlessness.'* (Wakefield 1845 Vol. I: 310)

Wakefield identified New Zealand shore whalers as ex-seamen, runaway convicts from New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, or their descendants who he knew as 'currency lads':

*'The frankness and manly courage of the sailor mingle with the cunning and reckless daring of the convict, or "lag," in no common manner. Though prone to drunkenness and its attendant evils, the whaler is hospitable in the*

*extreme, and his rough-built house is a model of cleanliness and order.'*  
(Wakefield 1845 Vol. I: 311–312)

He describes the roles of headsmen, boatsteerers, tonguers, tub oarsmen and pulling hands. Wakefield relishes whalers' slang, and the names by which men are known, "like the heroes of the Iliad": Long Bob, Geordie Bolts, Flash Bill, Butcher Knott, Gypsy Smith, Fat Jackson, French Jim, Black Peter. Maori chiefs with whom the whalers had to deal were known as: Satan, The Old Serpent, Bloody Jack, The Bully, The Sneak, The Badger, The Greybeard, and The Wild Fellow.

*Bringing together men from the waterfront taverns of Sydney and the bays and Maori settlements of the New Zealand coast was not easy. Wakefield tells of a whaleboat making the passage from Wellington to Kaikoura in a gale...*

*'because Black Murray, the chief headsmen, thought his men had enjoyed drinking enough on their advances, and because he thought it easier to get them away to the station while they were intoxicated.'* (Wakefield 1845 Vol. I: 333)

*'The preliminary orgies are nearly over; the clerk stops the advances until something has been earned; the headsmen administer a severe personal castigation to some few notorious characters who grumble at this curtailment of their ease; the boats are practised every day in pulling and sailing; when at length, one morning early in May, a whale is signalled from a hill near the bay, where a look-out is constantly kept.'* (Wakefield 1845 Vol. I: 325)

In many districts shore whalers were the first European community, depending on Maori for food, wives, boat crews and protection from other Maori. For their part, Maori gained access to goods from the outside world, and to new commercial opportunities relating to northern hemis-pere industrial economies.

In the early years at the Otago station there was an equal number of Maori and European workers. Wakefield states that at some stations all the 'common men' were Maori. Hawke's Bay stations were heavily dependent on Maori labour. Many Maori went on to become boatsteerers and headsmen, and some set up their own operations.

## 20<sup>th</sup>-century factory whaling

With the loss of the right whale modern whaling stations, making use of motorised



Fig. 4. Site of the Tipi Bay station, operated by members of the Perano family from 1912 to 1928. From 1924 it competed with Joe Perano's Fishing Bay operation on the other side of Tory Channel.

whale chasers, harpoon and bomb guns, power winches and steam digesters, turned to humpback and sperm whales. Foremost were the Perano family operations at Tory Channel, from 1911 to 1964 (Figure 4). The average annual catch for ten years prior to 1956 was 115 whales. 248 sperm whales were taken from April 1963 to December 1964. But by then sperm whales too were in rapid decline, due in part to the activities of a Russian whaling fleet off the South Island east coast.

In the north, the Cook family at Whangamumu near the Bay of Islands, used steel nets to hold humpbacks for killing with harpoons and lances. The station operated from 1890 to 1931, averaging 70 whales a season. At Kaikoura, old methods were employed on a part time basis for many years, before harpoon and bomb guns were acquired in 1908 and modern chasers soon after. The last season was 1922.

New Zealand humpback catches declined from 361 in 1960, 80 in 1961, and 32 in 1962, to nine in 1963. The last whale captured by a New Zealand station was a bull sperm whale, taken by a Perano chaser off Kaikoura on 21 December 1964.



Fig. 5 Stone fireplace at the end of a whalers' hut, under coastal bush at Te Kahuoterangi, Kapiti Island.



Fig. 6. Stone fireplace of a whaler's hut - Oashore, Banks Peninsula.

### The archaeological evidence

Archaeological remains of a whaling station may include domestic or industrial elements or both. The most important evidence consists of the above ground or sub-surface remains of built structures. Evidence described here relates to sites of the 1830s and 1840s, not the later industrial stations.

Whalers' houses were mostly small rectangular buildings of one room. Archaeological evidence is almost invariably in the form of a stone-built fireplace, sometimes standing to a metre or more (Figs 5 and 6), but more often marked by a low mound of stones and soil which may be covered in grass or other vegetation. Fireplaces may be at the end of a

terrace or slight depression to indicate the related structure.

There may also be the remains of stone houses, stone revetting, ditches, and garden walls or stone rows. Whalers' graves may be marked by headstones (Figure 7), an arrangement of stones, or walled enclosure.

The most important industrial evidence re-lates to tryworks (Figure 8). This may be the stone remains of the trypot support, including firebox and flue, and sometimes also a hard black deposit made up of partly burnt fuel and whale oil. Where all that remains is a low mound, it can be distinguished from a domestic chimney by its larger size, its location immediately behind the beach and by black tryworks deposit. Cooper's workshops may be signalled by rusted remains of hoop iron. Slipways for hauling up whaleboats are sometimes seen at the back of the beach.

Whaling stations had a lookout on a nearby high point, commanding a good view of the ocean. This is sometimes marked by a terrace or small pit, which provided shelter from the elements during the winter whaling season when a watch was constantly maintained. In the 1950s and 60s a shed at the Perano's West Head, Tory Channel, lookout provided shelter in any weather (Figure 9).

## Summary

The actual number of whaling stations is greater than the 87 listed in the report. Several localities had more than one station, for part of their history at least. Johnny Jones claimed to be operating three stations at Bluff in 1839, and at Otago there are accounts of three 'fisheries' set up on the harbour – two

may have been shore works for bay whalers. At Ocean Bay, Port Underwood (Figure 10), and at Te Awaiti there were two operations in the late thirties, and at Ngamotu (New Plymouth), there were also two competing stations.



Fig. 7. Jimmy Jackson's grave, Jackson's Bay, Tory Channel. Jackson was one of the first whalers with Jacky Guard at Te Awaiti in the late 1820s. He later had his own station in the bay that now bears his name



Fig. 8 Stone tryworks foundation – Te Hoe, Mahia Peninsula.

All Otago, Banks Peninsula and Kaikoura stations have site records, as have most Southland, Port Underwood, Tory Channel and northern North Island stations. Site



Fig. 9 Remains of the Perano's West Head lookout, Tory Channel.

records have been made out for several Southland and Otago sites without any site inspection or proper location on the ground. Few Hawke's Bay sites and only one on the East Coast are recorded. Except for Kapiti and Banks Peninsula sites there are few site plans.

Fifty-two sites (60% of the total) I am confident have been accurately located, either through archaeological observation or from specific historic information. The location of another 14 sites needs confirmation, although geographic constraints and/or historical data make their location fairly certain. For the remaining 21 stations we have general locality information only – they are somewhere in a bay or on a stretch of coast. Some sites may never be located, having been destroyed by natural or human agencies, and all records and memory of their exact location being lost.



Fig. 10. There were two whaling stations at Ocean Bay, Port Underwood, in the late 1830s.

Assessment of the value of archaeological remains (outstanding, good, poor, destroyed, unknown) depends on the physical integrity of the site and the variety of evidence.



**TABLE 3. New Zealand shore whaling stations by region.**

<b>Station name</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Site record number(s)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Archaeological remains</b>
<u>Foveaux Strait and West Coast</u>				
Bluff	1838–46	E47/149	Confirmed	Destroyed
Jackson Bay	1840s		Locality only	Unknown
Mussel Beach	1845–46		Confirmed	Destroyed
Omaui	1830s	E47/73	Locality only	Unknown
Oue	1830s	E47/147	Locality only	Poor
Preservation	1829–36	B45/26	Confirmed	Poor
Riverton	1839–40s	D46/172	Confirmed	Destroyed
Toe-Toes	1835–36	F47-58	Not confirmed	Unknown
Tokanui	1840s?	F47/59	Locality only	Unknown
Waikawa	1838–40	G47/16	Confirmed	Good
<u>Otago</u>				
Moeraki	1837–46?	J42/136	Confirmed	Destroyed
Molyneux	1838	H46/53	Not confirmed	Unknown
Otago	1833–40s	J44/5 J44/64 J44/72	Confirmed	Poor
Purakanui	1837–38	I44/216	Not confirmed	Destroyed
Taieri	1839–40s	I45/62	Confirmed	Good
Tautuku	1839–46	G47/86	Confirmed	Poor
Waikouaiti	1837–47?	I43/52 I43/66	Confirmed	Poor
<u>Timaru</u>				
Mutumutu	1840s		Locality only	Unknown
Patiti	1860s		Not confirmed	Destroyed
Timaru	1839–40s		Confirmed	Destroyed
<u>Banks Peninsula and Motunau</u>				
Ikoraki	1840–70s	M37/163	Confirmed	Outstanding
Island Bay	1842–70?	N37/16	Confirmed	Outstanding
Little Port Cooper	1836–45?	N36/25	Confirmed	Poor
Motunau	1842–44		Locality only	Unknown
Oashore	1840–50s?	M37/162	Confirmed	Outstanding
Peraki	1837–47?	N36/25	Confirmed	Good
<u>Kaikoura</u>				
Amuri Bluff	1844–55?	O32/49	Confirmed	Poor
Rangi-inu-wai	1846–72	O31/76	Confirmed	Poor
South Bay	1844–1922	O31/67	Confirmed	Good
Waiopuka	1843–78	O31/77	Confirmed	Good
Waipapa	1844–51?	O31/27	Confirmed	Good

Port Underwood

Cutters Bay	1836?-47?	P27/101	Confirmed	Outstanding
Kakapo Bay	1829?-40s?	P27/77	Confirmed	Good
Ocean Bay	1830s-40s	P27/143	Confirmed	Poor
The Neck	1830s-40s	P27/142	Confirmed	Good
Tom Cane's Bay	1830s-40s		Confirmed	Destroyed

Tory Channel

Fishing Bay	1924-1964	Q27/116	Confirmed	Outstanding
Jackson's Bay	1830s-40s		Confirmed	Destroyed
Te Awaiti	1829-1916	Q27/111	Confirmed	Outstanding
Tipi Bay	1912-1928	Q27/115	Confirmed	Good
Yellerton	1911	Q27/151	Confirmed	Poor

Kapiti and Palliser Bay

Korohiwa	1840s	R27/147	Confirmed	Poor
Long Point	1840-42		Not confirmed	Unknown
Mana	1830s-40s		Not confirmed	Unknown
Motungarara	1830s-40s	R26/27	Confirmed	Good
Paremata	1840s		Confirmed	Destroyed
Tahoramaurea	1830s-40s	R26/29	Confirmed	Outstanding
		R26/185		
Te Kahuoterangi	1830s-43	R26/6	Confirmed	Outstanding
Te Kopi	1843		Not confirmed	Destroyed
Tokomapuna	1830s-40	R26/236	Confirmed	Outstanding
Waiorua	1842-?	R26/4	Confirmed	Poor

Kapiti and Palliser Bay

Korohiwa	1840s	R27/147	Confirmed	Poor
Long Point	1840-42		Not confirmed	Unknown
Mana	1830s-40s		Not confirmed	Unknown
Motungarara	1830s-40s	R26/27	Confirmed	Good
Paremata	1840s		Confirmed	Destroyed
Tahoramaurea	1830s-40s	R26/29	Confirmed	Outstanding
		R26/185		
Te Kahuoterangi	1830s-43	R26/6	Confirmed	Outstanding
Te Kopi	1843		Not confirmed	Destroyed
Tokomapuna	1830s-40	R26/236	Confirmed	Outstanding
Waiorua	1842-?	R26/4	Confirmed	Poor

North Island west coast

Ngamotu	1841-47		Locality only	Destroyed
Wanganui	1840s		Locality only	Unknown

### Hawke's Bay

Long Point	1840s		Not confirmed	Unknown
Mahia	1837–40s	Y19/81	Confirmed	Good
Moeangiangi	1840s?		Confirmed	Destroyed
Moemotu	1840s?		Locality only	Unknown
Mohaka	1840s–60s		Locality only	Unknown
Portland Island	1840s		Not confirmed	Unknown
Pourerere	1849?–?		Confirmed	Destroyed
Putotaranui	1845?–46?		Locality only	Destroyed
Rangaiika	1845–51?	W21/164	Confirmed	Outstanding
Te Hoe	1840s?	Y19/82	Confirmed	Outstanding
Waikokopu	1837–50s?		Not confirmed	Destroyed
Wairoa	1844?–50s?		Locality only	Unknown
Whakaari	1840s–45	V20/27	Confirmed	Outstanding
Whangawehi	1840s?		Locality only	Unknown

### East Coast

Cape Runaway	1840s		Not confirmed	Unknown
Kawakawa	1840s		Locality only	Unknown
Mawhai	1838?–?	Z16/141	Confirmed	Unknown
Open Bay	1840s		Locality only	Unknown
Papawhariki	1839–40s		Locality only	Unknown
Port Awanui	1840s–50s		Locality only	Unknown
Tokomaru	1840s		Locality only	Unknown
Turanganui	1837		Locality only	Destroyed
Waikuha	1838–40s		Not confirmed	Destroyed

### Coromandel and Northland

Great Mercury Island	19th C	T10/390	Confirmed	Good
Kennedy Bay	mid-19th C	T10/509	Not confirmed	Unknown
Outu	c. 1890		Locality only	Unknown
Whangamumu	1893–1932		Confirmed	Good
Whangaparapara	1956–1962	S09/117 S09/150 S09/1	Confirmed	Good
Whangarino	Unknown	O04/451	Not confirmed	Poor

### Chathams and Campbell Island

Owenga	1840–61		Confirmed	Destroyed
Waikeri	1840–43?	CH737	Confirmed	Outstanding
Whalers' Bay	19th C		Locality only	Unknown
Northeast Harbour	1911–14		Confirmed	Good
Northwest Bay	1909–17?		Confirmed	Poor



Fig. 11 Island Bay, Banks Peninsula - an 'outstanding' whaling



Fig. 12 The Rangaiika station, south of Cape Kidnappers, is one of 13 in New Zealand rated in 'outstanding' archaeological condition.

Thirteen 'outstanding' sites include three on Banks Peninsula (Figure 11), two in Tory Channel (including the only modern whaling site in the group), Kapiti (3), Hawke's Bay (3) (Figure 12), Port Underwood (1), and the Chatham Islands (1). These are important sites, which deserve careful protection for their potential to throw light on the whaling era.

The 15 sites described as being in 'good' condition are also an important resource. Among them will be sites with sub-surface archaeological remains that are more important than indicated by the surface evidence. At 14 'poor' sites the full range of station elements has not survived, but there may be some valuable archaeological data.

Nineteen sites are listed as 'destroyed'. Many of 26 sites of 'unknown' archaeological significance will also prove to have been destroyed. In the Foveaux Strait and Otago districts in particular, losses have been considerable, since whaling stations are often followed on the same site by small towns or seaside crib settlements. Remaining sites in regions that have already lost many of their whaling stations deserve special protection for the regional character of their evidence.

Districts where fieldwork needs to be carried out are identified by high proportions of 'unknown' sites and sites without an adequate record. But there is no district where useful work could not be done. In the south a careful search may yet reveal remains of the stations at Jackson Bay, Omaui, Oue, Toe-Toes and Molyneux. Long Point on Kapiti Island, several Hawke's Bay and most East Coast stations all require further work for location and confirmation of what can be difficult archaeological evidence. Field remains may yet be found of the station on Southeast Island, Chatham Islands.

## Recommendations

The report has recommendations:

- regarding further development of knowledge whaling sites;
  - regarding sites on DOC land;
  - and regarding other particular sites or groups of sites.
- A. Further survey work is needed to locate whaling sites in most districts.
  - B. Many recorded sites need further fieldwork to upgrade site records. Mapping is a priority.
  - C. Sites assessed as 'outstanding' or 'good', should be added to the Historic Places Trust Register of historic places. For this to be effective, however, I believe the Trust has a major task in first clearing the Register of many hundreds of archaeological sites, which now render its value in protecting historic places doubtful at least.
  - D. Excavation is needed on a site – or sites – of outstanding or good archaeological values, to create a body of comparative data for whaling station sites as a whole. This should serve also to improve the quality of observations in the records of unexcavated sites.
  - E. The history and archaeology of whaling stations needs to be made available through popular publication.
  - F. Sites on DOC estate include Preservation Inlet, Taieri Island, Waipapa, Long Point and Te Kahuoterangi on Kapiti Island, Mana, and Whangaparapara and Whangamumu in the north. Port Underwood and Tory Channel sites are partly on Department land in the area covered by Sounds Foreshore Reserve.
  - G. Shore whaling sites on Department of Conservation land should be managed for their historical values, ahead of other considerations.
  - H. Sites should be monitored regularly. Even passively managed sites need careful monitoring for any ill-effects of natural or human-induced change.
  - I. The active management of Te Kahuoterangi, Kapiti Island, should continue, with the aim of maintaining the historic stone structures of this outstanding site.

### Other sites:

- J. Landowner cooperation is needed for the long-term survival of many sites. Sites may survive well under present land use, except for destruction by farming activities, for which there are usually non-destructive alternatives. But land-use changes threaten sites. Contact needs to be maintained with landowners of significant sites as part of a programme of monitoring site condition.
- K. A watch needs to be kept on whaling sites in areas of urban or seaside development to help protect surviving remains. Development earthworks should be monitored to learn more about the sites from sub-surface remains. Such sites include Bluff, Riverton, Moeraki, Otago, Tautuku, Molyneux, Waikouaiti, Patiti, Timaru, Waiopuka, South Bay, Tom Cane's Bay and Mahia.
- L. Cutters Bay, Port Underwood, is in danger of destruction when the current crop of pine trees is felled on steep surrounding slopes (Figure 13). An approach needs to be made to the landowner as a matter of urgency to protect the site. Because of the threat, and an outstanding range of archaeological evidence, Cutters Bay is an ideal candidate for excavation.

M. The historically important site of Mahia has suffered in recent years through



Fig. 13. The well-preserved Cutter's Bay, Port Underwood, station is at the bottom of a narrow gully now surrounded by pine forest. Harvesting the trees without damage or destruction of the site will not be easy.



Fig. 14. The Mahia station at Taylor's Bay, Mahia Peninsula, has been badly damaged by sub-division development in recent years.

site.

housing development undertaken without any archaeological assessment or monitoring (Fig 14). It is recommended that a thorough survey be carried out, including sub-surface work, to locate surviving parts of the site for informed decisions regarding future housing development.

N. Discussions should be held regarding site management with the owners of Tokomapuna, Tahoramaurea, Motungarara, and Waio-rua, on Kapiti Island and its offshore islets, where there are whaling sites of outstanding or good archaeological value. The survival of standing stone structures is especially important.

O. A management plan for the Te Awaiti site (Figure 15) should be developed including the whole of the site (Sounds Foreshore Reserve and private ownership). Excavation would help interpret the whaling and occupation history of this important



Fig. 15 Trypots at Te Awaiti, Tory Channel.

Note: All illustrations taken by the author.

## References

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