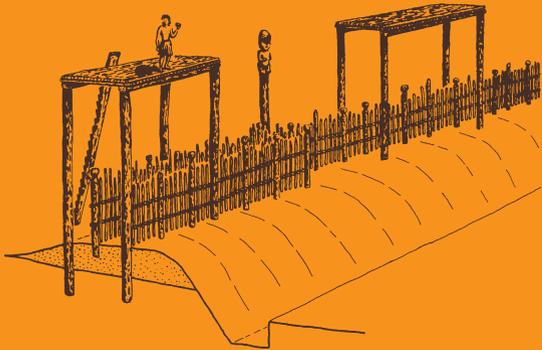




HOW WERE PĀ DEFENDED?

Māori defended pā in three main ways. They could steepen natural slopes around the pā by scarping (removing earth). They could dig a deep ditch and use the earth to make an internal bank. Features constructed with soil are known as “earthworks”. They could build timber palisades (high fences). In the Bay of Islands and Taranaki stone was sometimes also used to strengthen banks and make walls, but this was uncommon elsewhere.



Fortifications were built to suit the needs of the defenders. If there was an easy approach along a ridge line, the way could be blocked with earthworks such as ditches and banks. Pā built for gun fighting had loop holes in the base of palisades to enable gun fire and angled earthworks for flanking fire. The entrance to a pā can be difficult to find. It is usually an easily defended narrow gap in the earthworks, sometimes between the end of defences and the edge of a steep escarpment.

PĀ TO VISIT

Bay of Islands	Kororipo, Kerikeri
Whangarei	Parahaki
Auckland	Maungakiekie, One Tree Hill Maungawhau, Mt Eden Te Pane A Mataaho, Mangere
Coromandel	Opito Point, Whitianga
Bay of Plenty	Kapu te Rangī, Whakatane
Hawkes Bay	Otatara, Taradale
Taranaki	Te Koru, Oakura Okoki (Sir Peter Buck Memorial)
Marlborough	Karaka Point, Picton
Canterbury	Kaiapoi Pā, Woodend
Otago	Huriawa, Karitane Katiki, south of Moeraki Mapoutahi, Purakauuni

These places are in public ownership and can be freely visited. They are important Māori heritage places and should be treated with care and respect. Pā on private land require the owners’ consent to visit.

FURTHER READING

Davidson, J. 1987 2nd Edition. *The Prehistory of New Zealand*. Longman Paul, Auckland.

Sutton, D, Furey, L and Marshall, Y. 2003. *The Archaeology of Pouerua*. Auckland University Press, Auckland.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

For information about archaeological sites, applying for an archaeological authority or the *Historic Places Act 1993* contact:

New Zealand Historic Places Trust
www.nzhtarchaeology.org.nz
 Email: archaeology@historic.org.nz
 NZ Historic Places Trust, PO Box 2629, Wellington

New Zealand Archaeological Association’s website
www.nzarchaeology.org

www.historic.org.nz



ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF PĀ





IMAGES

Inside spread, clockwise from top left: Motupoi Pah with Tongariro, 1844. George F. Angas (ATL, A-196-022); Pa at Otautu, South Taranaki, Kevin Jones (DOC); From the Pah Pipitea, Port Nicholson, 1840. William Mein Smith (ATL, C-011-005); Present day Rangiriri Pā, Waikato (NZHPT); Earthworks at Rangiriri Pā, 1863. Charles Heaphy



(ATL A-145-005) | Front cover: Pā at One Tree Hill/Maungakiekie, Kevin Jones (DOC); Palisade carving/Tekoteko (Te Papa) | Inside cover: Tane-nui-a-Rangi Pā, Hawkes Bay, 1859. Henry S. Bates (ATL, NON-ATL-0008); Fighting stages and palisade. Otakanini Pā, South Kaipara, 1971. P. Bellwood

WHAT IS A PĀ?

A pā is a fortified place built by Māori. Pā are associated with a group of related people and vary in size from those built for whanau (a large family) to hapu or iwi (tribe) of several hundred people. In the past, they were built as refuge from attack during times of war, but also had many other uses. They were secure places to live and store food, they were residences for important people and centres for learning, crafts and horticulture. Pā were not lived in all the time; according to the season, people may have been away fishing or collecting birds, or looking after gardens. People may have lived in open settlements most of the time, only going to the pā in times of trouble.

WHERE ARE PĀ FOUND?

The archaeological remains of pā can be very obvious in the landscape. They are often located on naturally defensible high points, such as the end of a steep-sided ridge, a coastal headland or an isolated hill. Pā were also built at the edge of swamps and sometimes on flat land. In many cases pā can be recognised from a distance by their profile on the skyline, such as a flat platform, the 'v' shaped notch of a defensive ditch or a series of steps (terraces) cut into the hillside to make level areas.

WHAT IS INSIDE A PĀ?

There is no set plan for the inside of pā, the layout depends on the nature of each site and its purpose. Archaeological remains of places that were commonly found inside may still be seen. The *tīhi* (platform) is a large flat area at the top, often associated with important people. Terraces are artificially levelled areas that provided flat areas for activities and buildings. Rectangular or circular depressions are often the remains of pits for storing kumara. Archaeological excavation has shown that these pits were originally up to a metre deep and were covered by a pitched roof.

WHEN WERE PĀ BUILT?

The earliest date for defended sites, obtained by archaeologists using radiocarbon dating techniques, is the 16th century. Many pā continued to be built and lived in until the early 19th century. Pā were seen and described by Captain James Cook in 1770 and by European missionaries and travellers in the early 1800s. After the arrival of the musket, traditional styles of pā construction were modified to suit fighting with guns and artillery. In some places, pā remain in use today.

PROTECTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Pā are an irreplaceable part of our heritage. They are archaeological sites and are protected by the *Historic Places Act 1993*. If you wish to do any work that may affect an archaeological site you must obtain an authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust before you begin. It is an offence to modify, damage or destroy an archaeological site without the written authority of the Trust.

