

Figure 12. Plan of previously unrecorded pā V24/95 on an old river bend in the Porangahau River. Mapped from purpose-flown aerial photographs PORE 16 June 1998.

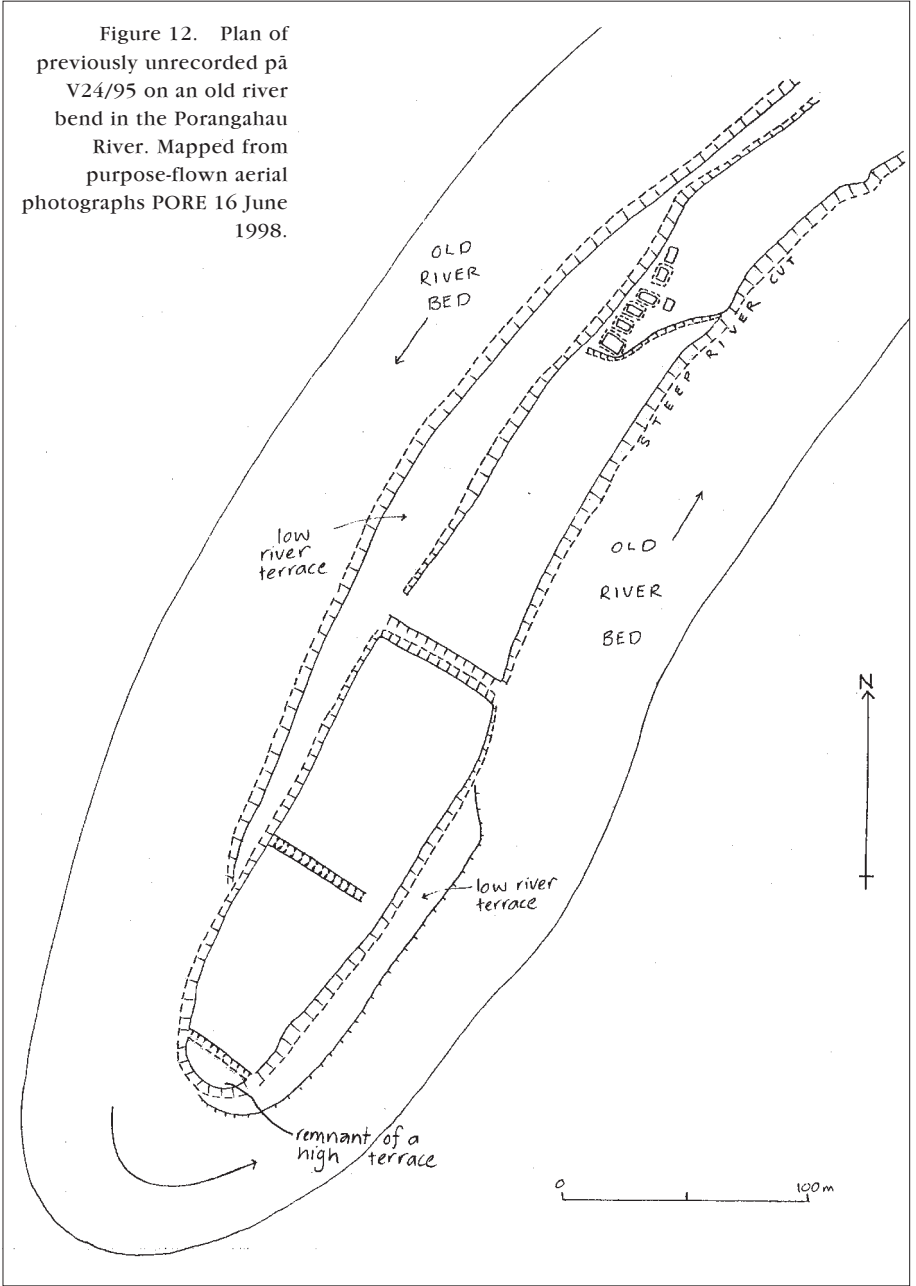
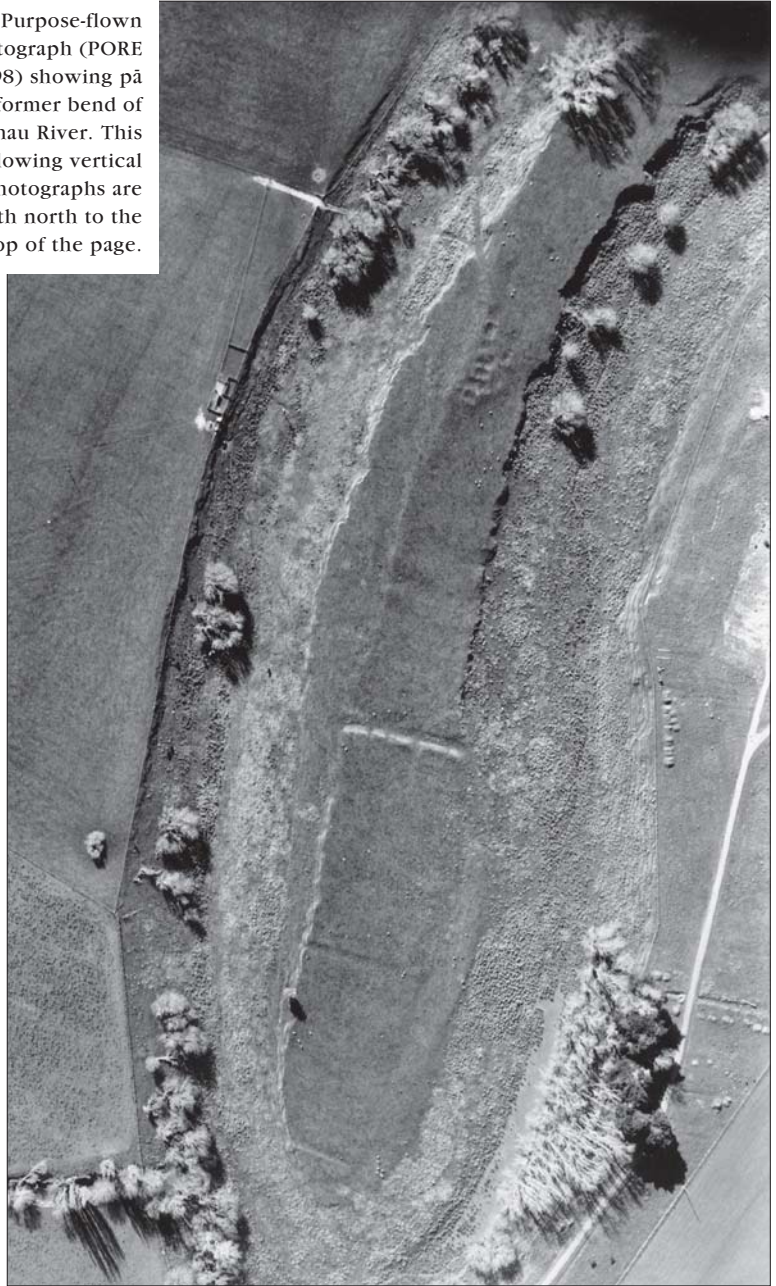


Figure 13. Purpose-flown aerial photograph (PORE 16 June 1998) showing pā V24/95 in a former bend of the Porangahau River. This and any following vertical aerial photographs are oriented with north to the top of the page.



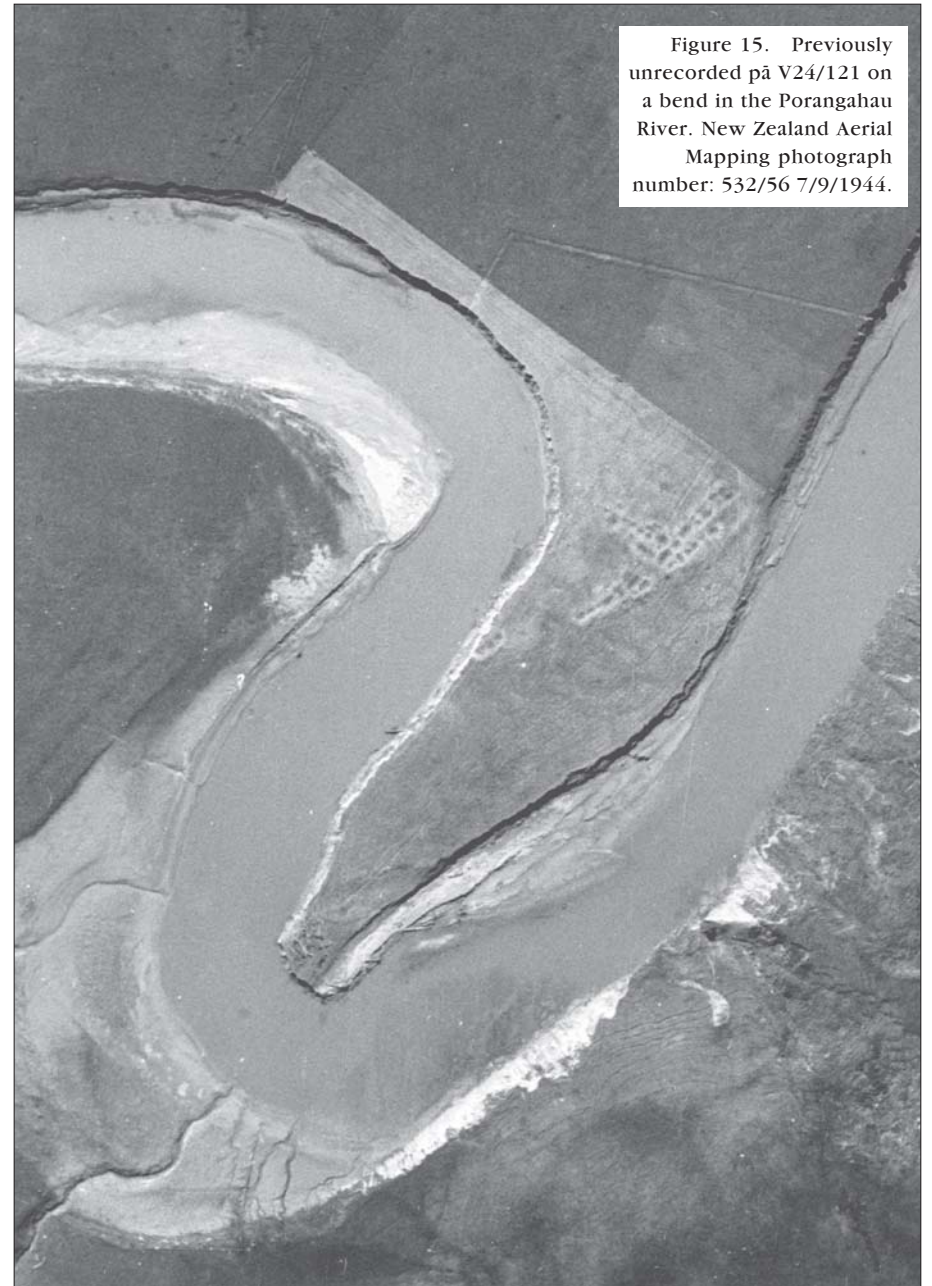
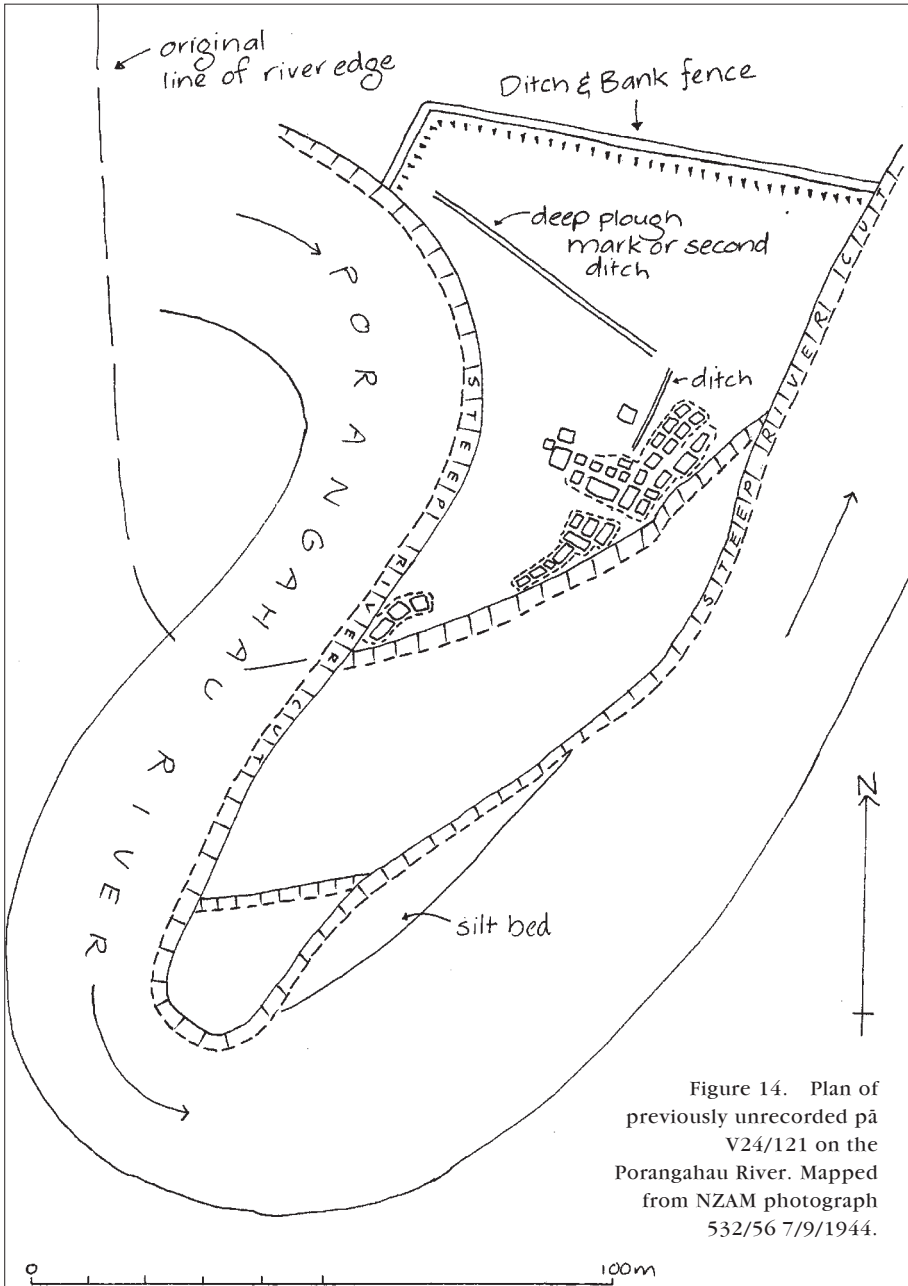




Fig. 16. Purpose-flown vertical aerial photograph (PORB5 16 June 1998) showing banked defensive enclosure and enclosed housefloor (V24/80) at far right, immediately above the road.

dogleg that encloses the river bend. One leg is 150 m long and the other is currently 35 m long. Both are about 2 m across from outer ditch edge to inner bank edge and the bank is on the inner side (i.e. too narrow and the bank on the wrong side for a defence). Dogleg enclosures like this one are fairly typical on points (Jones 1990). In this particular case it is not unlike a defensive arrangement, but it better interpreted as a ditch-and-bank fence and will therefore be from the nineteenth century. Given that it clearly encloses a settlement, that settlement will have had people living there perhaps as late as 1870. The settlement may have commenced in the late pre-European period, when the point would have stabilised in the form recognisable in the aerial photograph.

Nineteenth century sites are numerous at Porangahau, particularly on the alluvial flats and on the truncated dunes to the north of the lower course of the river (see Fig. 4 detail). The old coach road (V24/79) (comprising a foundation course and lateral drains) does not for the most part follow the course of the modern Hunter Road but runs from the northern dunelands across stream fans and joins the modern road north-west of the lower (beach) bridge. On the south

bank of the river about 700 m south-west of the same bridge there is a ditch-and-bank enclosure with interior plough marks (V24/81 and 82) encompassing a large area of the alluvial flats. The ditches and banks extend at right angles from the river terrace edge across to the banks of a small stream, thereby forming a large field. These sites are similar to those described by Smart (1966: 23–24) at Pahaoa on the Wairarapa coast and it is likely that they date to the period before 1880.

On the southern side of the Porangahau River, by the beach road, there was a bank enclosing a rectangular area of 40 × 15 m on a dry stream margin (V24/80) (Fig. 4, detail, Fig. 16). Within the main bank is a rectangular depression (for a house floor), with its own exterior bank 13 m long and 7 m wide. The site overall appears to have been a house with an enclosing ditch and bank. If so, it is not of the typical forms known from elsewhere in New Zealand (Smart 1966). It seems more likely to have been a defensive camp for militia during the New Zealand Wars period (1865–1870). It is similar to the rectangular banked enclosure by the Whakakī Lagoon near Wairoa (see Jones 1994: 165). In October 1866, a number of Pai Mārire forces converged on the northern and south-western approaches to Napier, and were defeated at Petane and Omarunui. This left their plans to attack the southern Hawke’s Bay settlements, such as Porangahau, unfinished (Cowan, 1983: 137–142). Following the battle at Omarunui, Resident Magistrate George Cooper had found the Māori at Porangahau to be ‘in hourly expectation’ of an attack (Battersby 2000: 114–115).

Figure 17. Rangitoto (pā V23/4), purpose-flown aerial photograph RAN 16 June 1998.

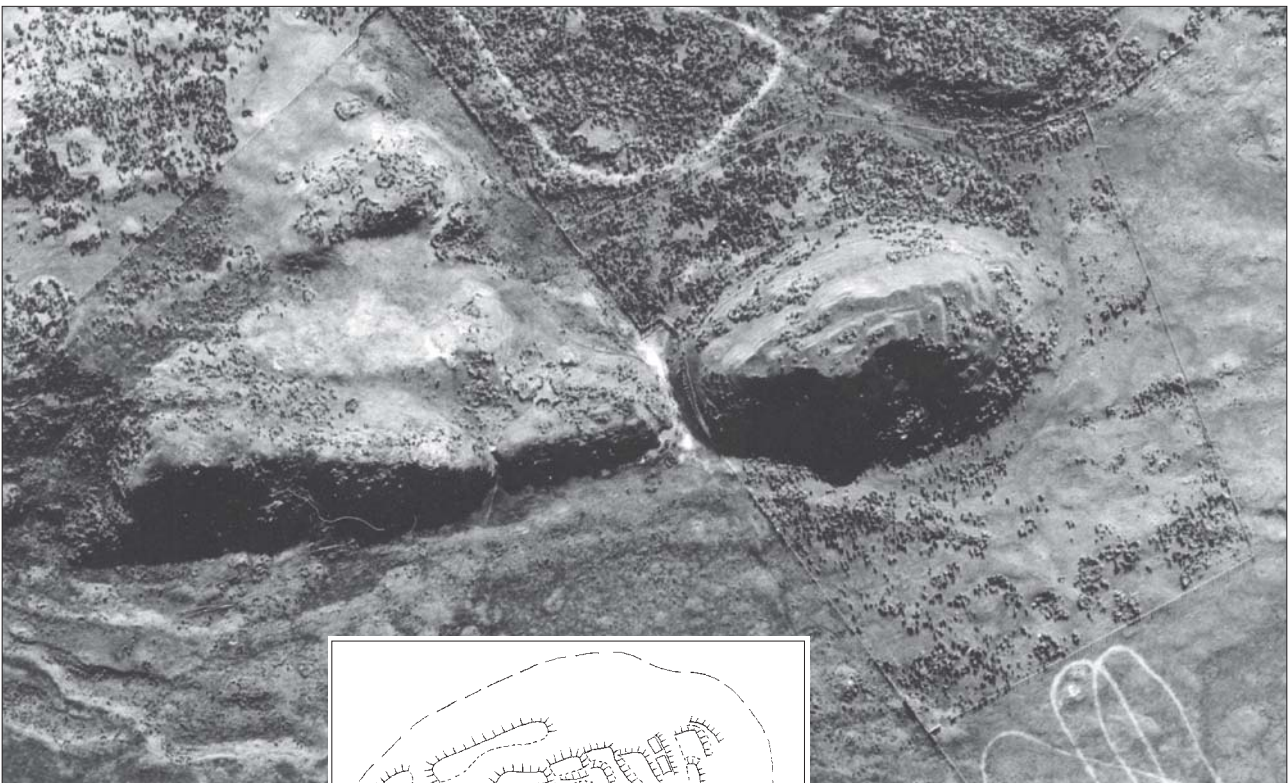
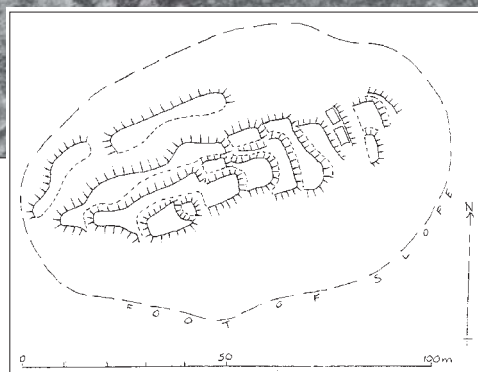


Figure 18. Rangitoto (pā V23/4). Mapped from purpose-flown aerial photographs RAN 16 June 1998.



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