

FIELD NOTES 2002

BC ARCHAEOLOGY ON-SITE

Special thanks to Richard Garvin from Okanagan University Collage for collecting the 2002 Field Notes.

Antiquus Archaeological Consultants Ltd.

In January, 2002, Antiquus conducted a brief, detailed excavation program at a pre-contact period pithouse village site. EeRl 21 is located at the east end of Seton Lake near the town of Lillooet. The project objective was to recover a sample of intact cultural deposits from a small (10 m by 3 m) proposed subterranean water reservoir tank impact zone. This study was commissioned and overseen by the T'it Kit Administration in Lillooet.

Ten units were dug and our excavations recovered about 150 lithic artifacts, most of which were simple utilized and retouched flakes. The projectile points recovered are temporally diagnostic of the Plateau Horizon (2,400 to 1,200 BP) and Kamloops Horizon (1,200 to 200 BP). Surprisingly little debitage was recovered, and unused flakes were outnumbered by tools. Also encountered were three human burials and the northern edge of a large housepit feature buried by previous adjacent road construction. As a result of our investigations, it has since been decided to put the tank above ground to avoid any direct adverse impacts to the human remains. Charcoal samples have been submitted for dating and the results and final report (Permit No. 2002-8) will be available in the near future.

Mike Rousseau

Cariboo Heritage

In 2002, Cariboo Heritage (with assistance from Maven Archaeological Consulting and Terra Archaeology) completed 24 forestry-based archaeological impact assessments (AIAs) in the Chilcotin Forest District comprising roughly 6,500 ha and nearly 42 km of roads. These AIAs were completed on behalf of DWB Forestry Services Ltd., Lignum Ltd., Riverside Forest Products Ltd., and Tsi Del Del Enterprises Ltd. Four archaeological sites were found, all surface or subsurface lithic scatters ranging in size from two to 17 artifacts including one non-diagnostic projectile point. Seven culturally

modified trees and a possible "kindling tree" were also discovered during the AIAs. Nine representatives from Tl'etinqox-t'in, Tsi Del Del, and Yunesit'in First Nations were employed during the fieldwork.

Karen Brady

Ecofor Consulting

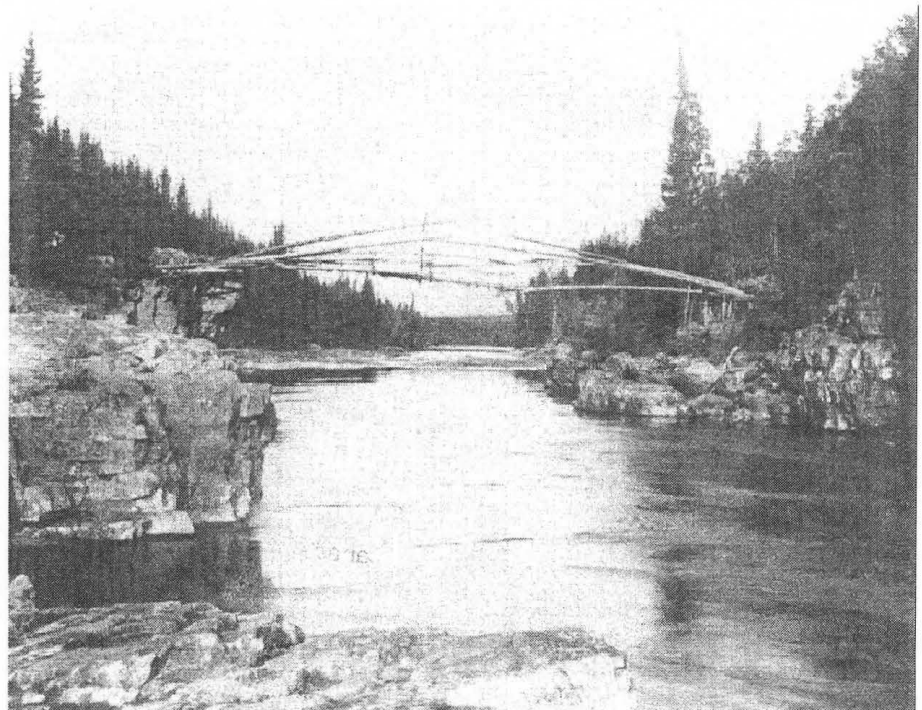
The archaeology crew of Ecofor Consulting, out of Fort St. James, BC enjoyed a busy 2002 field season. Under the five permits received, we provided cultural heritage consulting services to clients including forest licensees, the Ministry of Forests, First Nations, and private landowners. As presented at the last BC Archaeology Forum in Nanaimo, we continued our involvement with monitoring the construction of a permanent bridge over the Sustut River, within the traditional territories of the Gitksan and Takla Lake Band. Amanda Marshall, Project Archaeologist, recovered a number of lithic artifacts from the nearby vicinity of the historic bridge crossing. This is not

surprising as First Nations have used this location to cross the river for many generations. In August, we had fun teaching a Resource Inventory Committee (RIC) program and an introduction to archaeology course to a number of youth from the Tl'azt'en First Nation, and in May offered a culturally modified tree workshop in Fort St. James. This January, our proposal to receive Forest Investment Account funding to revise the Fort St. James Archaeological Predictive Model was approved. As part of this project, we will be working closely with First Nations to create a cultural heritage resource inventory and hope that further funding will support fieldwork this spring and summer.

Louise Foreman

Matrix Research Ltd.

Matrix Research Ltd. began operations in Quesnel, BC in 2002. During the 2002 field season Matrix surveyed approximately 200 proposed forestry developments in the Cariboo and Prince George forest regions in the central interior of the province. Primary field staff included Susan McNeney, Ty Heffner, Simon Kaltenrieder, Rachael Sydenham, Chris Burk, Joanne Hammond, Stuart Alec, and Nan-Neh Sah from the Nazko Band Government, and Geronimo Squinas and Stanley Peters from Lhtako Dene Nation. During these surveys 63



Historic Sustut Bridge - photo provided by Ecofor Consulting

archaeological sites were located and recorded, 6 previously recorded archaeological sites were revisited and updated, and 46 traditional use sites were located and recorded. The majority of archaeological sites recorded were small to medium-sized surface and subsurface lithic scatters. However, one site was a very large (>35 ha) lithic workshop site, seven sites contained small cultural depressions (cache pits), three sites had large cultural depressions (housepits), and one site consisted of a pre-contact cultural heritage trail.

A few sites are of particular note. At the large lithic workshop site mentioned above, distinctive nodules of chalcedony or agate were reduced over a wide area. The location of this site does not appear to be related to any hydrological or topographical features, or visible bedrock formations, and the lithic source could not be located. The surrounding area warrants further investigation as an important lithic procurement zone.

Numerous lithic procurement and primary reduction sites, represented predominantly by small lithic scatters, were also encountered along a major creek system. Basalt and dacite cobbles and pebbles were obtained from streambeds and then reduced at the sites. The distribution of sites and pattern of raw material use along this drainage system is interesting and warrants further research.

One of the three housepit sites contained three housepit depressions and a cache pit. It was located on the bank of an extinct river channel that is now occupied by a wet meadow. The site may have been occupied when the river channel was active and could be the subject of an interesting study. Unfortunately, one of the housepits had been looted prior to our survey.

Ty Heffner

Norcan Consulting Ltd.

In 2002, Norcan Consulting Ltd. conducted a number of forest industry related archaeological assessments within the Prince George, Lakes, Fort St. James, Morice, and Vanderhoof forest districts. Project supervisors, including Norm Canuel, Russell Brulotte, Veronica Cadden, and Shane Bond, were assisted by 34 part-time archaeologists and technicians. Archaeological assessments were

completed in association with the following First Nations bands: Nakazdli, Tl'azt'en, Yekooche, Dzitliainli, Lake Babine, Wet'suwet'en, Lhiedli-T'enneh, Nazko, Saik'uz, Red Bluff, McLeod Lake, and Nadleh Whut'en.

Of the 328 individual archaeological assessments conducted over the year, 41 archaeological sites and 88 traditional use sites were recorded. The following were among the most interesting.

FiRo 1 is located at Yardley Lake, near Hixon. Tests conducted at the site revealed both surface and subsurface lithics comprised of chalcedony and obsidian. A large quantity of fish scales and small mammal bone were present in some of the tests.

FhRs 83 is a multi-component site located on a high terrace above the Blackwater River. Features include multiple cache pits and a trail. The lithic assemblage consists of basalt reduction flakes and a core fragment.

GeSk 12 is a large quarry site (3 ha) on the shores of Big Loon Lake, near Babine Lake. Outcrops of concentrated cobbles, nodules, and lenses of fine-grained back chert, brick-red jasper, tan chalcedony, agate, and basalt occur along the lakeshore. Strewn along the beach and found in subsurface tests near the shore were numerous core remnants, primary reduction and thinning flakes, and bifacial preforms. A major workstation was identified on the shore and concentrations of lithic materials were also recovered from tests below the current lake level.

GfSh 2, located on the Middle River in the Fort St. James Forest District is composed of 30 round to oval cultural depressions and cache pits. Subsurface tests recovered some obsidian flakes.

Two prehistoric trails were also recorded. GeSk 11, associated with GeSk 12 noted above, is also referred to as the "Wright Bay to Trembleur Lake Trail." Up until the 1820s, this trail connected two Native villages. GiRs 11 is located in the Prince George Forest District and was the main transportation route connecting the Chilaco and Fraser rivers.

Norcan also completed the development of a predictive model for the Morice Forest District. This model, which includes field applications for the collection of ecological, geographical, and archaeological information, identifies and measures archaeological site potential using 10 predictive variables. The model has web-

based applications and should be compatible for use in other interior regions.

Russell Brulotte

Okanagan University College

Over the summer of 2002, Richard Garvin (Department of Anthropology) continued his SSHRC funded research work on early contact Aboriginal cemeteries on the northwest coast of BC. Working in conjunction with the Nisga'a and Haisla First Nations, eight historic cemeteries containing over 1,500 interments have been recorded to date. The past summer's investigations included recording and mapping projects in Gitwinksihlkw, Gitlakdamix, Kitamaat Village, and at the mouth of the Kemano River. Cemeteries can be an important source of information for the interpretation of society, culture, and ethnic identity. The North Coast Native Cemeteries Project has provided a unique opportunity for research into specific questions regarding Native history, the influence of missionaries on traditional Native culture, and the nature and processes of culture contact in general. Great appreciation and thanks to all associated with the project for their interest and hard work. Additional recognition, for their patience and fortitude, are extended to Nelson Clayton and Chester Moore (Gingolx), Harry Nyce Jr., Gerald Nyce and Nick Azak (Gitwinksihlkw), Joe Gosnell Jr., Richard Gosnell, and Peter Clayton (Gitlakdamix), and Steve Wilson, Crystal Ross, Kevin Stewart, and Lee Wilson (Kitamaat Village).

Richard Garvin

Parks Canada Haida Gwaii Investigations 2002

In 2002, Parks Canada and Haida archaeologists worked at four projects in Haida Gwaii. This included work at Richardson Island, directed by Quentin Mackie of the University of Victoria (UVic); an environmental archaeology project led by Trevor Orchard, PhD candidate at the University of Toronto; and further investigations at Kilgii Gwaay and K1 Cave. This summary will focus on Kilgii Gwaay and K1 Cave.

This past spring, Fedje led a Parks Canada funded excavation project at the Kilgii Gwaay site in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve/Haida Heritage Site. This was a continuation

of work carried out in 2000 and 2001 (Fedje et al. 2001). The investigative team included Parks Canada, UVic, and Haida archaeologists, and paleobiologist Rolf Mathewes from Simon Fraser University. Work focussed on the shell-rich deposits identified in 2001 and on adjacent waterlogged sediments. A number of wooden artifacts, two of which were directly dated to 9,400 BP, were recovered in addition to a rich lithic and faunal assemblage. The stone tool assemblage is being analyzed by UVic MA student Cynthia Lake, and the wooden artifact analysis is being conducted by a team led by Al Mackie of the BC Archaeology Branch.

Fedje co-directed investigations at K1 Cave on the west coast of Haida Gwaii (under BC Archaeology Branch and Council of Haida Nation permit), with karst resource expert Paul Griffiths. The research team included both archaeologists and cavers. Previous work recovered bear remains dating from 9,500 to 14,500 14CyrBP and a dog skeleton dating to 2,500 14CyrBP (Ramsey et al. n.d.). In 2002, a larger paleontological sample, including extirpated species, was recovered and a deeply buried layer containing charcoal and bone was identified. Primary funding for the 2002 project was through a SSHRC grant to Quentin Mackie at UVic.

Daryl Fedje

Simon Fraser University- Secwepemc Education Institute Field School

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Simon Fraser University-Secwepemc Education Institute Field School, with 26 students enrolled from the Kamloops and Burnaby campuses, and from Okanagan University College, University of Northern British Columbia, Langara College, and the University of Victoria. In addition to the 14 credit hours, RIC certification was included. Our work continued a study of long-term land use patterns in the Interior Plateau that has been underway since 1991. Excavations this year were not on the glaciolacustrine terraces on the Kamloops Indian Reserve, where most of our work has been conducted, but rather in the nearby Secwepemc Heritage Park. The park is situated on a large archaeological site, EeRb 77, the most visible portion of which is the cluster of housepit depressions that mark a late prehistoric

village site. Our investigations were directed to the earlier occupations there in 1991, deep testing by the first Simon Fraser University-Secwepemc Education Institute Archaeology Field School revealed very deeply buried occupations to the northeast. That testing demonstrated a cultural record extending to at least three meters below the ground surface. Charcoal from the 2.5 meter deep occupation level produced a radiocarbon date of 6,000 years BP, with earlier but undated material below that. The primary goal of this year's excavations in the Heritage Park was to excavate this deep and very old portion of the site. To accomplish this, an area of 6 x 16 m was taken down to 70 cm by backhoe and shovel, and individual 2 x 2 m units were then excavated to a depth of three meters. A large, freshwater shellfish midden was uncovered in one portion of the site, which appears to date to within the last 3,000 years. A wide variety of Late and Middle Period stone and bone artifacts were recovered from the site, as well as thousands of tool production flakes, tens of thousands of mussel shells, and numerous faunal remains. Human remains were also found, and were excavated at the request of the Kamloops Band.

This excavation will hopefully reveal new data and insights on middle and early Holocene archaeology in the area, and provide insights into the development of later Secwepemc land-use patterns. In particular, this year's work also allows us to compare directly the archaeological records of the 6,000 year (and older) terrace site occupations, which we have excavated in previous years, with those of comparable age from the riverside site.

George Nicholas

Terra Archaeology Limited

Terra Archaeology began its' first field season with modest expectations. As it turned out, we were relatively busy in 2002 with numerous projects scattered throughout the interior regions of BC. In fact, the "field season" was extended into December and January, taking advantage of the mild conditions this winter.

In terms of archaeological findings, identified sites include cache pits, house depressions, and lithic scatters. Our most noteworthy finds this season were three Early Nesikep (5,500-7,200 BP) projectile points and microblades recovered from a site

just north of Lillooet.

Though most of our work has focused on the Cariboo and Lillooet areas field studies were also undertaken in the Chilcotin, Kamloops, Merritt, Kelowna, and Ft. Ware (MacKenzie) areas. While the majority of work undertaken in 2002 was related to archaeological inventory and impact assessments for forestry companies, we also worked in conjunction with a number of other smaller firms on a variety of projects including forestry surveys, trail studies, inventory studies, micro-hydro developments, and subdivisions.

Our clients have included First Nations as well as the private sector and provincial government. In an ever-increasing number of instances, First Nation communities or groups have been the lead in archaeology contracts for both private and public sector developments as well as their own archaeological research.

Kevin Towhig

University of British Columbia

The months of May and June 2002 saw the return of archaeological field research to the Dionisio Point site in Dionisio Point Provincial Park on the north end of Galiano Island, SW British Columbia. This last year's fieldwork at the site included the archaeological field school offered by the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver.

Dr. Colin Grier, who has directed research at the Dionisio Point site since 1996, led the research team and taught the field school. Bill Angelbeck, a UBC PhD student in Northwest Coast archaeology, acted as teaching assistant. Ten students were enrolled, nine from UBC and one from the University of Victoria. Two members of the Penelakut Tribe, Robert Laing and Pecolliket George, joined the project, assisting in the archaeology and passing on their knowledge of traditional culture, ecology, and food resources.

Previous years of excavation intensively targeted the remains of one of five large plank houses that existed at the site roughly 1,500 years ago. Fieldwork in 2002 broadened the scope of investigations to include the organization of the village as a whole. Midden areas around all five of the known house remains were sampled in order to obtain a preliminary sense of

what resources each household was obtaining and consuming.

In total, eight 1 x 1 m excavation units were dug. Students were paired and shared digging, screening, paperwork, and photography duties over the course of the project. Students also were taught mapping techniques through use of a total station. In addition to excavation and mapping, Bill Angelbeck introduced students to site survey and subsurface testing methods.

Visits by Penelakut Tribe elders added intriguing information to supplement our analysis and reconstruction of the site. Thanks go out to the Penelakut Tribe for the continued support and involvement in the project.

Colin Grier

University of Northern British Columbia / Cariboo Tribal Council Archaeology Field School

The 2002 University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)/Cariboo Tribal Council (CTC) archaeology field school took place this past summer at Ts'peten (Gustafsen Lake) under the co-instruction of Rudy Reimer of First Heritage Consulting and Dave Hall of Arrowstone Archaeological Research and Consulting. The UNBC field school is unique in that university students and First Nations community members work side by side and receive university course credits at different levels, depending on experience. This is the second joint project undertaken with the CTC. Twelve students took part in this field school, including seven students from the four local First Nations communities comprising the CTC (the Canoe Creek, Canim Lake, Williams Lake, and Soda Creek bands), and five students from UNBC. The field school training included survey, mapping, and site recording exercises, several field trips, as well as a full-scale excavation.

The Ts'peten site is located along the northern shoreline of Ts'peten (Gustafsen Lake) in south-central British Columbia, approximately 30 km southwest of 100 Mile House. Twenty-five 1 x 1 m units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels to depths of 40-100 cm below the surface. In total, an estimated 5,000 pieces of fauna and 2,000 pieces of lithic materials were recovered from the site, some concentrates of which surrounded a single hearth feature. Analyses of these materials are currently underway.

Sediment, floral, and radiocarbon samples (two charcoal and four bone) were collected from the site and have also been submitted for analysis. Diagnostic materials recovered both in situ and as surface finds include: a Pebble Tool Tradition bipooint/bifacial knife (10,000-5,000 BP); an Early Nesikep Tradition projectile point (7,500-6,000 BP); three Lochnore Phase (5,500-3,500 BP) projectile points; two Shuswap Horizon (3,500-2,400 BP) projectile points; a Plateau Horizon (2,400-1,200 BP) projectile point; and 12 microblades (est. 8,000-2,000 BP). In addition, evidence for more recent traditional use of the site and surrounding area was also identified. This evidence strongly suggests a long-term continuity (10,000-100 BP) in First Nations' usage of the area. Radiocarbon dates will confirm if the occupation of the Ts'peten site is within its estimated age range of 6,000-2,000 BP. Initial assessment of the site and its deposits suggest long-term usage of the site as a spring to late-summer resource gathering camp. We would like to thank: Farid Rahemtulla and UNBC for organizing this project with CTC and inviting us to lead it; Tamara Archie, Scott and Sara Cousins, Cheryl Chapman, and the CTC and its member communities for their moral and financial support, and for allowing us to explore their history.

Rudy Reimer and Dave Hall

University of Victoria

In July and August, University of Victoria (UVIC), Parks Canada, and Haida archaeologists and students spent eight weeks at the Richardson Island site. This site was also excavated in 1995, 1997 by Daryl Fedje (Parks Canada), and in 2001 by Quentin Mackie and team. This is a highly stratified "raised beach site" which is over four metres in depth and contains >50 separable layers. Recent excavations have concentrated on the pre-9,000 BP deposits. The 2002 field season was marked by a large number of hearth features, rich in charcoal and calcine bone. In some cases these features could be separated vertically by thin (ca. 1 mm thick) smears of silt and clay, suggesting that annual re-occupation events could be tracked. Other notable finds this past summer included possible habitation features, increased certainty about which of the many layers contains the first microblade addition to the bifacial technologies, and a new radiocarbon date

of 5,050 BP from deposits to the south, on the same stranded shoreline as the main deposits. This suggests the site may have been occupied from 9,300 BP to the mid-Holocene, although only the pre-8,000 BP layers appear to be highly stratified. Nicole Smith of UVIC is working on an MA thesis using mass spectrometry to determine raw material types, and comparing them to the tool typology from this site.

Our Tanu Island field camp also served as a staging point for other fieldwork in Haida Gwaii. Trevor Orchard, PhD candidate at the University of Toronto continued his environmental archaeology work based from our camp, and other members split off to continue paleontological field work at K1 Cave on the west side of Moresby Island. Earlier in the Spring, UVIC students were lucky to be able to continue their involvement with Parks Canada at the Kilgii Gwaay site in southernmost Haida Gwaii.

In other UVIC news, MA candidate Glen MacKay directed work at the Nii ii site, a probable Archaic occupation in the Scottie Creek drainage of the Southwestern Yukon. Two MA theses in archaeology were defended in February: Duncan McLaren on the long term histories of the Stave Watershed near Vancouver, and Bret Guisto on land use patterns in the Owyhee Valley uplands, Idaho. Duncan has started an Interdisciplinary PhD here, with research to focus on post-glacial coastline modelling and archaeological site survey in eastern Hecate Strait. SFU graduate student Iain McKechnie continues to be a friendly presence in the bone lab as he works on his Barkley Sound material. Dr April Nowell continued her research with field projects in Jordan and in the Ukraine. Becky Wigen (UVIC), and Susan Crockford (Pacific ID) continue to work on various research and consulting projects of archaeological and biological interest. The Department of History in Art has newly hired Dr. Marcus Milwright, an archaeologist specializing in mediaeval Islamic ceramics. Professor John Oleson of Greek and Roman studies continues his busy research program in Jordan.

The biggest change at UVIC this year is the complete remodelling and expansion of the archaeology labs, which now includes a much larger room to grow our faunal collection in. Strangely, these rooms already seem full!

Quentin Mackie