

ies used for sleeping and activities involving sitting, presumably by all members of the pithouse. Plant processing and plant consumption in these structures was conducted in discrete areas—presumably either conducted communally by group members, and/or all pithouse inhabitants had access to the processed plant products. The lack of plant remains in the floor centres also argues for communal activities within the structures. By contrast, only a limited amount and kind of plant processing was conducted in the small structure, and we can only hypothesize that such activities were conducted communally.

Thus, based on the paleoethnobotanical analysis, the three structures reflect distinct socioeconomic patterns. The results indicate that the large housepit, followed by the medium housepit, may have been used more intensively and involved far more diverse

activities that the small structure. Whether these differences can ultimately be related to status differences, to a larger work force having access to a more diverse resource base, or to differences in the length of time of use of the floor cannot be definitively answered with the present study.

It is important to remember that the three housepits analyzed represent less than 3% of the village of Keatley Creek. A much larger sample size including more housepits of all sizes is needed before we can draw more definitive conclusions about the prehistoric socioeconomy at Keatley Creek. This study, however, clearly demonstrates the potential of paleoethnobotanical analyses in studies of prehistoric social and economic organization.

Mystery Artifact

DkSf-2:62

Chelsea Gogal



Artifact DkSf-2:62 (bone tool) resembles a projectile point, but has a squared dull edge and a distinctive notched base (Photo 4). This artifact, found by Baseline Archaeological Services in Courtenay could not be conclusively identified, however other archaeologists familiar with the culture area consider that it may be a skeuomorph or a knitting/weaving lucet-like tool (Al Mackie, Eric Forgeng and Quentin Mackie, personal communication, September 23, 2012).

Please send thoughts and comments to asbc.midden@gmail.com