

S. J. McKee Archives



Atkinson site - DiMe-27

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12080>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: 2.1

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 2003-2006

History /

Biographical:

The Atkinson site was named for the landowners Ken and Karen Atkinson who were very helpful to the archaeology and geoarchaeology crews that worked at the site. Their support made the project possible.

The Atkinson site story begins with the discovery of a charcoal lens eroding from the north bank of the Souris River in the summer of 2002. Study of Cultural Adaptations on the Prairie Ecozone (SCAPE) project geoarchaeologist Dr. Garry Running was exploring the stratigraphic layering in the bank when he noted the lens and reported it to Dr. Bev Nicholson. Upon closer examination, a tiny pressure flake was observed on the lens exposure and it was decided to collect a charcoal sample for radiocarbon dating.

The resulting date of 5250B.P. cal. 4225 B.C. placed the site in the early Archaic period. A second date on bone collagen of 5580B.P. cal. 4500 B.C. confirmed the earlier date and gave an averaged date of circa 4400 B.C or 6,500 years ago.

The Atkinson site is one of the oldest excavated sites in Manitoba. Based on the date of the site and the kind of lithics (stone tools) present it is considered a Gowen occupation. The Atkinson site is evidence that bison hunters were active on the northern plains at a very early date. Similar sites have also been found on the High Plains in the U.S. and are referred to as the Mummy Cave Complex.

The Atkinson Site is of great importance as it is the first undisturbed site of this type to be excavated in Manitoba and extends the range of these sites south and east from the type-sites in central Saskatchewan. Based on the date and sample evidence further excavations were conducted by Dr. Nicholson's team. in 2003, 2004 and 2006.

Scope and Content:

Sub series has been divided into three sub sub series including: (1) Atkinson 2003, (2) Atkinson 2004; (3) Atkinson 2006

Name Access: Atkinson site DiMe-27

Subject Access: Archaeology
North Lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27



Atkinson site DiMe-27 2003

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12081>

Part Of:	RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds
Description Level:	Sub sub series
Series Number:	2.1.1
Accession Number:	1-2010
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	2003
Material Details:	Field journals have been scanned in multi-page PDF files. Artifact catalogues are PDF files in spreadsheet format. Photographs are in jpeg format.

History /

Biographical:

Based on the results of the testing in 2002 and the radiocarbon date of 6,500 years before present, further excavation was warranted at the Atkinson site. In 2003 Field Chief Holly Alston and crew Shayne Kolesar and Andrea Richards opened a 42m test excavation (units 1 - 4) that included the hearth area.

The site area was covered with a huge sand dune that was slowly sliding into the river as the supporting bank eroded away. As the dune was removed a late woodland camp was found at the dune interface and a large chunk of charcoal dated this occupation to 440+/-60 B.P. cal.1440A.D. This indicated that the dune was a relatively late incursion over the site. This occupation is likely connected to subsequent testing to the east in 2005 that came to be known as Atkinson II.

Methodology:

The crew began shovel shaving the upper strata with the intention of establishing an arbitrary datum when artifacts were encountered or when a level 25cm above the hearth was reached. At 25cm above the hearth an arbitrary surface datum was established and excavation in 5cm levels began. The overbank deposited matrix was a dense, compacted silt clay and it was necessary to soak the excavated materials in buckets and then water screen the material with a high pressure pump over ¼ inch hardware cloth.

Lithic flakes were found at 10cm below datum, above the hearth level. In the next level, large bone, a broken projectile point and additional flakes were found. Increasing amounts of bone and lithic flakes were found as the excavation continued through levels 3 to 5. The top of the hearth was identified at 28cm below datum, below a 2cm layer of well-sorted sand. This sand layer was confined to a small area directly overlying the hearth. It was considered to be a deliberate quenching of the hearth.

After the conclusion of excavating level 6 the hearth was profiled and photographed. The charcoal and ash layer of the hearth was shown to be directly below the sand layer. Levels 6 and 7 revealed a bison bone bed that was consistent with primary and secondary butchering including elements from the vertebral column and appendicular skeleton. Two additional Gowen (Mummy Cave Series) projectile points were also recovered adjacent to the hearth. Level 8 continued to produce larger amounts of bone and many lithic flakes. Level 9 produced a few bone fragments and a small number of lithic flakes. At the conclusion of the excavations, the crew shoveled sand down from the dune to protect the site over winter and through any subsequent spring flooding.

Scope and Content:

Sub-sub-sub series contains: Summary information of field methodology, number and co-ordinates of excavations, personnel and their staff position; Field journals are daily records of recoveries, features and activities at the site; Site records include excavation level and unit summaries, feature sheets, profiles; sample records and maps; Artifact catalogues are lists and identifications of all artifacts recovered; Photographs are of excavation units, features, the landscape and personnel.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2003
Subject Access: Archaeology
North Lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2003



Atkinson site DiMe-27 2004

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12190>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds
Description Level: Sub sub series
Series Number: 2.1.2
Accession Number: 1-2010
GMD: multiple media
Date Range: 2004
Material Details: Field journals have been scanned in multi-page PDF files. Artifact catalogues are PDF files in spreadsheet format. Photographs are in jpeg format.

In 2004 Tomasin Playford and her crew of Andrea Richards, Sarah Graham and Shane Kolesar cleared sand cover from over the 2003 excavations and extended sand clearing back from the north edge of the 2003 units to permit implementation of four additional units. During this sand clearing a hearth was identified together with small numbers of lithics and pottery body sherds. This occupation had been noted during sand clearing in 2003 and a charcoal sample was collected and radiocarbon dated to 1440 A.D. This hearth was assigned to Atkinson II, a later occupation.

Four units (5, 6, 7, & 8) were surveyed in adjacent to the 2003 units. Excavation proceeded by means of shovel shaving until the datum pegs from the previous year were located. The new units were then given datum pegs and string boundaries and the high pressure pump was set up for water screening of silt/clay matrix.

Continued to shovel shave levels 1 - 4 and recovered small burned and unburned bone fragments. Level 5 produced a projectile point, an end scraper and a large heat-treated Swan River Chert (SRC) flake. Other SRC flakes were also recovered. Levels 6 and 7 yielded large numbers of flake debitage. The matrix in levels 5-7 contained a scatter of small, bright red ochre particles. The river began to rise on the ninth of June and the site was sandbagged on June 11th, temporarily bringing an end to excavation for Atkinson 1. Tomasin and her crew were relocated to the Crepeelee site, west of Lauder.

On July 20th, Tomasin and her crew returned to the Atkinson site and commenced cleaning up the earlier excavation following the flooding. Following the clean up, excavations were resumed on the units that had been opened. An additional Gowen point was recovered from level 8 as well as some poorly preserved bison bone. A lot flakes and small amounts of bone were recovered on west side of block and larger bone and flakes in bone bed along the east side in levels 8 - 10. Two bifaces were recovered in level 11 and a third in level 13. The excavations were terminated at level 18 when water started coming up through the unit floors.

Scope and Content:

Sub-sub-sub series contains: Summary information of field methodology, number and co-ordinates of excavations, personnel and their staff position; Field journals are daily records of recoveries, features and activities at the site; Site records include excavation level and unit summaries, feature sheets, profiles; sample records and maps; Artifact catalogues are lists and identifications of all artifacts recovered; Photographs are of excavation units, features, the landscape and personnel.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2004
Subject Access: Archaeology
North Lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2004



Atkinson II site DiMe-27 2004

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12223>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds
Description Level: Sub sub series
Series Number: 2.1.3

Accession Number: 1-2010
GMD: multiple media
Date Range: 2004
Material Details: Field journals have been scanned in multi-page PDF files. Artifact catalogues are PDF files in spreadsheet format. Photographs are in jpeg format.

History /

Biographical:

After the flooding of the Souris River in 2004 receded, Tomasin Playford and her crew of Andrea Richards, Sarah Graham and Shane Kolesar returned to the Atkinson site and commenced cleaning up the earlier excavation of Atkinson.

An area east of the Atkinson excavations was also opened for testing in 2004. This area was designated as Atkinson II. In some of the field notes it is referred to as Atkinson East. A test block was opened and fenced off from the cattle with snow fence. A 4m2 block was surveyed in (units 13 - 16) and two partial units that were truncated by the riverbank (units 11 & 12) were also placed to the south of the 4m2 block.

Three of the students who had completed the recent field school were hired as crew. Jessica McKenzie, Evie Fevez and Emily Ansell joined the crew at the Atkinson II site.

Recoveries from XU 13 - 16:

Large bison bone was recovered from units 11 and 12 and a metal tobacco box seal was recovered from unit 12. More small pieces of metal found in levels 2 and three together with small bone fragments. A bone fragment with butchering marks from a metal tool was recovered from level 6 and pottery was found in level 9. A few lithic flakes were found in level 13 and in a trench at the bottom of unit 13 above a calcite cemented layer. Recoveries from these tests were sparse and diminished as the excavation series became more distant from the river. It is likely that the remains that were recovered represent the northern edge of these occupations.

The upper occupation at Atkinson II appears to be an early historic occupation with a sparse scatter of bone and a few pieces of metal. The lower layers, below level 7 are likely precontact. Units 9 and 10 were dug as test pits and produced very little in the way of cultural materials.

Scope and Content:

Sub-sub-sub series contains: Summary information of field methodology, number and co-ordinates of excavations, personnel and their staff position; Field journals are daily records of recoveries, features and activities at the site; Site records include excavation level and unit summaries, feature sheets, profiles; sample records and maps; Artifact catalogues are lists and identifications of all artifacts recovered; Photographs are of excavation units, features, the landscape and personnel.

Name Access: Atkinson II site DiMe-27 2004

Subject Access: Archaeology
North Lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson II site 2004



Atkinson site 2006 - crew at site

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12266>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.1

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 2048 x1536 (1380)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Tomasin Playford, Michelle Drysdale and Jessica McKenzie at the site.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - crew at site

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - Crew at the site

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12273>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.8

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 1024 x 768 (609)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Tomasin Playford removing charcoal from the hearth and Michelle Drysdale screening at the site.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - Crew at the site

Subject Access: Archaeology

North lauder locale

Atkinson site DiMe-27

Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - site on the Souris river

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12280>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.15

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 2560 x 1920(1054)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

View of the site on the Souris river.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - site on the Souris river

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - XU 18

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12267>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.2

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 2048 x1536 (1025)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Photograph of unit 18 before excavation.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - XU 18

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - closeup of hearth 3

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12270>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.4

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 1024 x768 (958)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Closeup of hearth 3, unit 19.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - closeup of hearth 3

Subject Access: Archaeology

North lauder locale

Atkinson site DiMe-27

Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - Gowen projectile point

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12271>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.5

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 1024 x768 (920)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Gowen projectile point.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - Gowen projectile point

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - Closeup of hearth 4

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12274>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.7

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 1024 x 768 (796)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Closeup of hearth 4.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - Closeup of hearth 4

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - experimental hearth stain

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12276>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.14

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 1024 x 768(641)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Red soil stain in sand from a 2003 experimental hearth near the site.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - experimental hearth stain

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - Michelle Drysdale at XU18

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12281>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.13

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 1024 x 768(625)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Michelle Drysdale at XU18.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - Michelle Drysdale at XU18

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - hearth 3 north profile

<http://archives.bradonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12269>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.3

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 1024 x768 (769)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Photograph of hearth 3, unit 19 north profile.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - hearth 3 north profile

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - XU 19 level 5

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12272>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.6

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 808 x757 (364)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Excavation unit 19 level 5.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - XU 19 level 5

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - XU 18 level 5

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12275>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.9

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 1024 x 768 (704)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Excavation unit 18 level 5.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - XU 18 level 5

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - north wall of hearth 5

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12278>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.12

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 2560 x 1920 (1067)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

North wall of hearth 5.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - north wall of hearth 5

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - hearth 5 before excavation

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12279>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.11

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 2560 x 1920 (1051)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

Hearth 5 before excavation.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - hearth 5 before excavation

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images





Atkinson site 2006 - north wall profile of XU18

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12282>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 2.1.4.5

Item Number: 2.1.4.5.10

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 2006

Physical Description: 768 x 1024(395)

Material Details: JPEG

History /

Biographical:

Photograph taken during 2006 Brandon University Archaeology excavations at Atkinson site.

Scope and Content:

North wall profile of excavation unit 18

Name Access: Atkinson site 2006 - north wall profile of XU18

Subject Access: Archaeology
North lauder locale
Atkinson site DiMe-27
Atkinson site 2006 photographs

Images



