

Miggs

Block A, Summary. (June 9th to July 7th) July 7/87

Soil - The soil was divided into 3 ~~levels~~<sup>horizons</sup>. The soil, a shallow (4-6 cm thick) layer contained the litter mat. A dark organic layer of friable loam, high in silt content (20 cm. thick) contained the cultural horizon. This level of soil was disturbed by tree and grass roots and rodent burrows. The third layer, which appeared between levels 3a and 3b, was high in clay content, gummy and blocky in texture, yellow in colour. Natural limestone pebbles appeared in all the horizons. Various sizes of gravel appeared between 30 and 40 cm. B.S.

Bone level - Bone was generally recovered between levels 2b and 3a (15-25 cm). Units 32, 33, 40, recovered bone between levels 1b to 2b. (10 to ~~20~~). The largest identifiable bones were found in unit 31 (distal 1/4 of tibia) and unit 33 (proximal ulna, radius) in level 2a. Units 33, 32 also contained a mandible and 3rd molar (levels 2b, 3a). Unit 39 contained a horn core (level 3a). All the units contained tiny bone fragments, some burnt, and some calcine. The condition of the bone was usually soft, friable, and chewed either by rodents or through root and water erosion.

Features - No articulated butchering units were recovered. From Unit 35, soil matrix was collected. A colour and texture change - perhaps containing ash - was noted in the west wall of the unit.

Artifacts. - Debitage was recovered in all the units but never in a concentration worthy of note. Knife river flint flakes were found a long with Swan River chert material. A blade of Knife river flint <sup>was</sup> found in unit 33 level 1b. A Swan river chert tool scraper was found in unit 32 level 2b.  
- Body sherd were found in most units, small, unidentifiable pieces, some with fabric imprints. One neck sherd, a thick large fragment (3 cm wide) was found in unit 30, level .

Summary Summary. The bone material seems to have been heavily butchered based on the small pieces and lack of identifiable pieces. There is no evidence for pit features or boiling of bones. The F.C.R. count is low and dubious in its identification.

## Block C - Summary. - Dlx-1

Block C was a 3x3 meter excavation. The units were placed around test unit 66 (315°N 10°E). Seven units were excavated. They were assigned numbers 71, 72, 73, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81. These units were excavated in 10 cm. levels (arbitrary), subdivided into 5 cm levels labeled a and b. Each level was troweled until the cultural material was removed. The final level was shovel shined.

Block C was noted for its concentrations of articulated bone. Most noteworthy were the columns of vertebrae and the articulated sacrum, pelvis, and lumbar vertebrae. There were more vertebrae and ribs recovered in the units in proportion to other bones.

The artifact recovery was minimal. There was less than 15 pieces of pottery, all body sherds, found in level 1. One K.R.F. point base (late plains?), one K.R.F. point tip, and one end scraper, were recovered from the entire block. No bifaces or retouched flakes were found. There was a sparse collection of debitage, many of which are dubious cultural material. There are pebble chert debitage but very few pieces of Swan River chert or quartzite. Less than 10 flakes were identified as Knife River Flint material. This small collection of debitage does not indicate that any flint knapping activities such as core

reduction, tool manufacture, or tool recharging were occurring in this area.

The lack of tools as well as the low counts of F.C.R. lead us to speculate on how the animals were slaughtered and butchered.

Some rocks which may be unaltered material were collected. They might be hammer stones or choppers. One, from unit 71, found in level 3, looks like it has a bashed edge. This edge might not have resulted from use wear but may be the normal appearance of the stone.

One bone was collected from unit 50 which may be an awl or a scraper.

The lack of cultural material, especially butchering tools such as bifaces and the low counts of F.C.R., supports the idea that the block area does not represent a bone processing station, or a habitation site. The articulated vertebrae, ribs, and the pelvis found in units 71, 78, and 79, give the impression that this bone was not processed at all. Perhaps the limbs were severed from these portions and taken to be processed elsewhere.

A great percentage of the material found in the surrounding units 72, 76, 80, and 81 were vertebrae, rib shaft fragments, and phalanges. There were also mandible, teeth, and skull fragments. (especially unit 80). Unit 77 (Test Unit 66) also contained mandibles. The bone in unit 77 was very

dense. The actual bones recovered in this test unit are not included in this summary.

The bone was most concentrated in units 71, 77, 78, 79, and 80. Bone preservation was poor. The bone was in smaller broken pieces in unit 71. It looked splintered and bashed on the articular surfaces. This worn look might be due to erosion from water or wind, especially in units 78, and 79. Small pieces of bone which were burnt looked chewed and gnawed from units 73, and 81.

## Soil

The soil was characterized by two major divisions. Beneath a shallow sod and litter mat there was a rich organic loam layer. This loam was black in colour and soft and loose, breaking up easily with the hand or trowel. When wet this soil was still soft and easy to dig. There was a lot of root disturbance in this level. (Especially in unit 80 under the mandible). Rodent disturbance was minor. The faunal material were concentrated in this soil horizon. (level 2a and 2b).

Into level 3a (approx 23 cm B.S.) the soil contained more clay. It was gummy and yellow when wet and hard white concrete when dry. In units where bone was still appearing in level 3b. the silt horizon was thicker.

This thick horizon in the profiles looks like depressions. I do not think they are pit features. Most units were through the bone layer in level 3a.

Deeper into the clay, level 3b, limestone, and granular rocks were uncovered. These basal gravels did not appear to be culturally altered, or fire heated.

Soil which appeared rusty brown and hard <sup>and</sup> may contain a higher level of clay than the surrounding matrix, was found in patches with the softer silty loam in level one. (units 71, 76, 79, 80). <sup>(or Unit 77)</sup> Test unit 66 possessed a stain in the west wall profile which appeared to be a depression. No pit outline or fill was observed in unit 76. A soil sample from unit 76, level 2a, for flotation was taken (5 lb). and sent to Dr. T. Shea.

### Articulated Bone Units:

Unit	Level	Bone Unit
71	2a	Ulna/Radius
71/78	2	Cervical Vert.
72	2a	Cervical or Thoracic Vert. - Possibly articulated
76	2a	Naculum Cuboid/Metatarsal
78	2a	Cervical/Thoracic Vert
78/79	2	Lumbar Vert.
	2	Thoracic Vert.
79	2a	Thoracic Vert
	2a	Sacrum, innominate, lumbar
	3a	Carpal/metacarpal - immature
81	2a	Cervical Vert.

- Samples:
- Unit 80 Rusty Brown Soil - Baby Bottle bag.
  - Back Dirt (a) levels 1b-2b - fine debris 1 lb.  
(b) levels 2a-3a
  - T. Shea. - 5 lb. of soil - flotation.