THE 1991 FIELD SEASON,
PORT AU CHOIX NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK:
REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Prepared for:
Archaeology, Atlantic Region
Canadian Parks Service
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Prepared by:
M.A.P. Renouf
Archaeology Unit
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cover illustration: the Point Riche lighthouse, the house destroyed by fire in September 1991
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The 1991 field crew was a well oiled machine. The primary mechanic was Carol Krol, PhD candidate from the University of Calgary, who was assistant director. Michael Meadows, M.A. candidate from the University of Calgary, was crew chief at Phillip's Garden East and he did a meticulous job while at the same time keeping his crew happy and content. David Reader, Memorial University graduate in Archaeology and Physical Anthropology, did a first rate job as crew chief at the Spence site, and managed to keep his all-female crew in line, despite their constant harassment. Janet Kreda, imported from an archaeological project in New Mexico, was project photographer and crew chief at Point Riche. I very much appreciate the excellent job she did at both, and it was a great luxury to have the black and white film processed and printed while the fieldwork was in progress. Janet took and printed many of the artefact photographs in this report and I acknowledge the time and care that she took with them. As in 1990, Brent Wimmer was crew chief for Phillip's Garden West and he continued to work with an enthusiasm that was caught by his crew.

In the lab, Katherine Scott was responsible for the lithics and her catalogue numbering is both perfect and microscopic, and it re-opens the question of how many saints can fit on the head of a pin. On occasion Katherine spent time in the field, using her creative skills at drawing maps and profiles. Wade Greeley took care of the faunal and bone artefacts and did so with the care and attention that has made him indispensable. The 1991 crew worked carefully, efficiently and hard and I would like to thank them all: Paula Broaders, Tammy Dobbin, Trish Dunphy, Helen Evans, Todd Garlie, Barbara Gould, Rosemary Gould, Brendan Hughes, Rob Lackowicz, Donna LeShano, Chris Lewis, Deea Linehan, Jeannette Macey, Eric Phaneuf, and Jim Walsh.

As usual, the best restaurant on the west coast of Newfoundland is the Port au Choix Archaeology Project dining room. Juanita Aitkens was our cook again this year, and she was joined by Rita Offrey who cooked for us in 1984-86. Juanita's patience and common sense plus Rita's spicy fireworks were excellent ingredients in the recipes of many delicious meals.
Back at Memorial University, Elfi Boehm, Archaeology Secretary, made sure that everything went according to schedule. Elfi did wonders for getting last minute equipment purchased and sent to us, for keeping track of the pay cheques, and for doing any number of jobs that turned up at a moment's notice and had to be done the day before. Barb Cox of the Office of Research was wonderful in her role as the paper-work liaison between the project and the Canadian Parks Service, Chris Hammond and John Bourne of M.U.N. Photographic Services printed many of the photographs and took some of the artefact shots and additional artefact photographs were taken by Roy Ficken, photographer for the Department of Biology. Jeannette Macey drew most of the maps in this report and I expect that one day the originals will fetch a high price at auction.

To all of the above go appreciation and thanks.
INTRODUCTION

The 1991 field season at the Port au Choix National Historic Park was the fifth of the ongoing Port au Choix Archaeology Project. The Canadian Parks Service funded the major portion of the cost, but substantial amounts were also provided by: [1] the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, [2] the Dean of Arts Office, Memorial University of Newfoundland, [3] the Office of Research, Memorial University of Newfoundland, [4] Historic Resources Division, Historic Sites Branch, Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, [5] Department of Employment and Labour, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and [6] the Government of Canada's Challenge 91 Student Employment Program.

The research objectives and achievements of the first four years of the project have been summarized elsewhere (Renouf 1991:2). One of the points that emerged from that summary is the emphasis on Palaeoeskimo sites within the Park, which in effect has de-emphasized the potential prehistoric Indian material on the Port au Choix and Point Riche Peninsulas. The balance was redressed somewhat in the 1991 season by excavation of the Spence site, a prehistoric Indian site outside Park boundaries, within the town of Port au Choix.

A second imbalance was addressed in 1991. Whereas we had made the large and complex Dorset Palaeoeskimo site of Phillip's Garden a major focus of excavation since the project first began in 1984, we had only sporadically excavated the comparable site of Point Riche. Therefore in 1991 we did not undertake extensive excavations at Phillip's Garden, and instead concentrated on Point Riche.

The overall objectives of the 1991 field season were: [1] to continue excavation at the Groswater Palaeoeskimo site of Phillip's Garden East, finishing exposure of the house feature partially excavated in 1990, [2] to continue work at the other Groswater Palaeoeskimo site, Phillip's Garden West, looking for a dwelling feature and focussing on the hillside midden, [3] to fully excavate a house feature and associated external area at Point Riche, [4] to begin work at the prehistoric Indian Spence site, and [5] to investigate two caves in which cultural material had been found in the 1990 site survey.

1991 EXCAVATIONS AT PHILLIP'S GARDEN EAST (7A381-500; EeBi-1)

2.1 Summary Results of the 1990 Excavations

In the last field season at Phillip's Garden East the range of harpoon heads was expanded. Interestingly, although each harpoon head had some kind of open basal socket, which is an early harpoon head trait, every specimen was unique. The faunal collection was greatly increased and identification is in progress.

Part of a house structure was excavated, which at that time was thought to be a characteristically Palaeoeskimo axial featured dwelling. This was the second house feature found at the site and it differed from the semi-subterranean house that was excavated in 1986. The new house extended beyond the 1990 grid and precipitated a practical problem. On the one hand we wanted to see the entire house in plan, which meant waiting until the 1991 field season when the remainder of the house would be exposed. On the other hand, if we filled in our excavation without further excavating the house, so that it could be re-opened in 1991, this would be detrimental to the faunal material and bone artefacts which we would have to leave in situ in Level 3. Compromising, we left the central segment of the house at the top of Level
where we thought there was an axial paving (Renouf 1991:24-25).

2.2 Objectives of the 1991 Excavations
The primary objective of the 1991 field season was to open up the rest of the house feature in order to define its limits and to see the other half of what was originally thought to be an axial pavement.

2.3 Description of the 1991 Excavations

2.3.1 Introduction
Forty units were opened up contiguous to last year's excavations (7A384C-D + 7A385A-B; Fig. 1). When these units were brought down to the top of Level 3, the fifteen unfinished units from 1990 were re-opened (7A384C + 7A393D). Because we found in 1990 that the abundant faunal material in Level 3 was broken by the movements of the excavators as they worked in Level 2, we set up a system of planks so that the bone material would be protected from excavation (Plate 1).

2.3.2 Stratigraphy
The stratigraphy is the same as described for the 1990 excavations (Renouf 1991:20), with a straightforward Level 1 (peat) overlying the cultural Level 2, Level 3 (the contact zone between the peat and cultural layer and the beach), and the sterile beach, Level 4 (Fig. 2). We distinguished between and upper and lower Level 2, and whereas in 1990 the upper Level 2 was described as ranging from 0-3 cm thick, in 1991 it seemed to range from 0-0.5 cm, being merely a contact zone between the peat and the cultural material which was contained in lower Level 2. As before, when the fire-cracked rock in Level 3 was removed a layer at a time, each layer of rock was labelled Level 3 Rock 1, 2, or 3 (L3R1), so that it could be seen where there was a build-up of fire-cracked rock, which might be structural.

2.3.3 Feature 17
This was a set of seven large flakes from upper Level 2 in unit E235 S11 and at least one from the contiguous unit E236S11 (7A385B). The flakes were all lightly banded lustrous grey chert and probably came from the same reduction sequence. Each was given a separate lot number (883-884, 881, 891-195) and they could probably be refitted. It is possible that other flakes from the unit could also be part of the reduction sequence represented by these eight flakes.

2.3.4 Feature 27
This was a concentration of grey chert flakes (lot 961) in lower Level 2 of unit E235S12 (7A385B). It centred at E235.70 S11.42 and was 15 cm in diameter. Other flakes (lots 44-46, 56), a biface (lot 969), and a microblade (262) were possibly associated.

1Feature numbers 17 and 27 were originally used in 1990, but since these features were cancelled (Renouf 1991:30) they were re-circulated in the 1991 field season.
Fig. 1. 1991 Excavation areas at Phillip's Garden East
Plate 1. Phillip's Garden East, system of planks

Plate 2. Phillip's Garden East, limestone slabs (Feature 48) in background, emerging from north-south baulk. Photo looking south
2.3.5 Feature 44
This was a large amorphous concentration of various coloured chert flakes (lot 932) that occurred in lower Level 2 throughout unit E237S13 (7A385B), with a greater concentration in the northern half of the unit. Associated with this feature was a burin-like tool (lot 931), two endblade bases (lots 933, 944), five utilized flakes (lots 935-937, 939-940), a retouched flake (lot 941), a microblade fragment (lot 938) and two biface fragments (lots 943-945). This concentration is contiguous to what was defined in 1990 as the wall area of the house, Feature 12.

2.3.6 Feature 45
This was a tightly defined oval cluster of flakes (lots 929 and 1000) that occurred in lower Level 2 of an otherwise fairly sterile unit, E235S13 (7A385B). Centred on E235.54 S12.50, it measured 39 cm by 29 cm and was 2 cm thick; it probably represents a single flaking event. Possibly associated was a side-notched endblade (lot 993) and an endblade tip fragment (lot 930).

2.3.7 Feature 46
This was a small circular cluster of various colours of chert microdebitage (lot 1021) in lower Level 2 of unit E236S12 (7A785B). Centred at E236.59 S11.67, it was 8 cm in diameter and 2 cm thick. One scraper was associated (lot 1009).

2.3.8 Feature 47
This was a small, circular pit in unit E234S09 (7A384D) which appeared at the bottom of lower Level 2 and the top of Level 3. Possibly a post-hole, it was defined by a circle of Level 2-like soil contrasting with the surrounding Level 3, into which it extended for 6 cm. The pit measured 7 cm in diameter at the top, narrowing to 4 cm at the bottom, and it was angled downward in a NW/SE direction. This angle, which points away from the house, Feature 12, suggests that if the pit is indeed a post-hole, it might have been part of a drying rack or similar structure external to, but associated with, Feature 12. Another possibility it that it was part of another habitation structure which may or may not have been contemporaneous with Feature 12.

2.3.9 Feature 48
Feature 48 was a linear concentration of large flat limestone slabs (Fig. 3, Plate 2) extending east-west through units E234-236S11 (7A385A+B). Identified at the bottom of upper Level 2 and continuing through Level 3, the slabs measured 2.5 metres by one metre. It was first thought that they were an axial feature, or possibly a sleeping platform, but when they were removed in units E235S11 and E234S11, it was clear that they were the capstones for two storage pits, Features 53 and 55. Possibly there was a third storage pit, since one large slab was in the east-west baulk which was not removed. These pits, described below, lay just outside the house, Feature 12.

2.3.10 Feature 49
This was a small, irregular storage box in unit E235S10 (7A384C). It measured 43 cm by 28 cm and was 4-5 cm deep, with its base resting on the beach, Level 4, and the sides extending through Level 3 (L3R1-2). The sides of the box
LEGEND

- Bouk
- Limestone slab with slope direction indicated
- Limestone slab covering storage feature, 53; and feature 52, seal bone concentration
- Fire cracked rock

PHILLIP'S GARDEN EAST

TOP OF LEVEL 3;
DETAL OF FEATURE 53
consisted of limestone rocks, a quartzite cobble, and two pieces of fire-cracked rock, and the caprock was a 20 cm by 20 cm flat limestone slab (Fig. 4). Seal bones (lot 536), mostly mandible, maxilla and teeth, came from within the box, and a small charcoal sample was collected (lot 538).

2.3.11 Feature 50
Feature 50 was a localized concentration of seal bones (lot 531) which occurred deep in Level 3 (L3R3) of the northeast quadrant of unit E239S08 (7A384C). The concentration was oval in shape, measuring 30 cm by 20 cm, and consisted mostly of cranial and metapodial fragments. No charcoal was associated.

2.3.12 Feature 52
This was a concentration of seal bone (lot 597) recovered from the southern edge of unit E235S10 (7A395C) in L3R2. As the adjacent storage feature, Feature 53, was excavated it became clear that Feature 52 was an extension of it (Fig. 3).

2.3.13 Feature 53
This was a large storage feature located in Level 3 of unit E235S11 (7A383B), beneath the large limestone slabs of Feature 48 which were the capstones. Underneath the slabs were abundant seal bones (lot 1191), including cranial fragments, phalanges, metapodials, a humerus and a tibia. Slabs 2-5 (Fig. 3) covered the cranial remains, while slab 6 covered a concentration of flipper bones (phalanges and metapodials). The seal humerus and tibia, the latter from a young seal, were found in association with the feature, but not directly beneath a slab. Some bird and fish were found throughout. A good charcoal sample was collected (lot 1193) as well as some unburned wood fragments (lot 1200). Also associated were some flakes (lot 1192), a retouched flake (lot 1198), a scraper (lot 1199) and a piece of worked bone (lot 1197). The charcoal sample returned at date of 2260 +/- 70 B.P. (Table 12).

2.3.14 Feature 54
This was a small circular concentration of seal bone (lot 198) in unit E233S10 (7A384D). Measuring 15 cm in diameter, it occurred deep in Level 3 (L3R2) and continued into Level 4. The feature was distinguishable not only by the presence of bone, but by a distinctive and localized dark matrix. Two microblades (lots 196-197) were in association.

2.3.15 Feature 55
This was a storage pit similar to, but slightly smaller than, Feature 53. Feature 55 was located in Level 3 (L3R1-2) of unit E234S11 (7A385A), and bone (lot 171), charcoal (173), unburned limestone and fire-cracked rock were found beneath three large limestone capstones. The bone was mostly seal but there was some fish and bird as well. Also associated were flakes (lot 172) and a biface fragment (lot 174). The charcoal returned at date of 2500 +/- 60 B.P. (Table 12).

Feature 51 was originally thought to be a storage feature in unit E238S10 of the house, Feature 12, but was subsequently judged to be a natural rock alignment. Consequently, Feature 51 was cancelled.
Fig. 4. Phillip's Garden East, close-up of Feature 49
2.3.16 Feature 56

This was a concentration of large and small grey and brown chert flakes that occurred in lower Level 2 of unit E237S12 (7A385B). The concentration measured about 20 cm by 10 cm, with the central point at E237.30 S12.10. Possibly associated were a microblade (lot 948), three biface fragments (lots 952, 954, 955), a utilized flake (lot 953), an endscraper (lot 956), an endblade (lot 957), and two endblade fragments (lots 958-959).

2.4 Discussion of House Feature 12

All the features described above bear upon the interpretation of the house feature recognized in 1990, Feature 12. Originally it was thought that the large limestone slabs with the two parallel, almost upright, stones were part of a roughly paved area typical of axial hearth features (Renouf 1991:24-25). These dwellings have central pavements within which there are one or more hearths outlined by upright slabs. Since they are characteristic of early Palaeoeskimo periods it makes sense that one would be found at a Groswater Palaeoeskimo site. In 1990 the walls of the dwellings were thought to be the fairly distinct low built-up area of fire-cracked rock and other debris (Fig. 5; Renouf 1991: Plate 9). Because the wall and the two parallel stones of the "paved" area ran into the western limit of the 1990 excavations, it was expected that the rest of the house would be revealed when that area was opened up in 1991. As can be seen from Fig. 6, that did not occur. The concentration of large limestone rocks ended in the baulk, and although the wall continued into the adjoining unit, it seemed to peter out after one metre. Clearly our assumption of an axial featured house was not correct, and I am indebted to the 1991 crew chief, Michael Meadows, for an alternative and sounder interpretation.

What we thought were the house walls were defined as such by a higher concentration of debris as compared to the surrounding area (Fig. 5). There was a great deal of fire-cracked rock, especially small pieces, as well as flakes, bones, broken tools, and charcoal flecks. In some areas there were flake concentrations. However, it doesn't make sense to use small debris for construction of a low wall for a house when there were larger limestone rocks easily obtainable in the immediate area. More likely, the low bank that outlines the house is the result of house cleaning. Although the larger debris within a tent would be carried and thrown out, the smaller debris would be swept up. If the tent walls were firmly tied down then the smallest debris would accumulate against it, to leave a discontinuous ring when the tent was removed. If the tent walls were not firmly fixed, the small debris could easily be swept out underneath, forming a discontinuous ring. If this was the case, then what was originally thought to be a low wall was in fact a discard perimeter outlining the dwelling. Thus, Feature 12 was smaller that originally perceived, and the concentration of rocks that was originally interpreted as an axial "pavement" (Plate 3) was in fact some kind of feature at the side of, rather than through the centre of, the dwelling. Probably it was a sleeping platform where the rocks, covered with skin or boughs, were used to raise the occupants above the damp ground and kept any debris from falling below. This is consistent with the fact that the area within and around the rocks was almost totally clear of artefacts, flakes and bones. According to this interpretation, the house, Feature 12, was a circular tent structure measuring approximately 5 metres in diameter. A charcoal based radiocarbon date from within the house returned a date of 2350 +/- 90 B.P. (Table 12).
Fig. 5. Phillip's Garden East, house (Feature 12), 1990 excavation
Fig. 6. Phillip's Garden East, top of Level 3
Plate 3. Phillip's Garden East, looking west over re-opened 1990 excavations
The discard perimeter that outlines the house, Feature 12, ends at E237S11-12. However, it picks up again one metre west, continuing from E236-E233 S11-12, and includes five flake concentrations that were defined even before the idea of a discard perimeter was conceived. This second perimeter is south of, and adjacent to, Feature 48, the large limestone slabs that covered two storage features, and may indicate a second house feature which the storage pits are within, or outside of. Alternatively, it might represent sweeping up of the general area upon re-occupation.

2.5 Results of 1991 Field Season at Phillip's Garden East

The house, Feature 12, was partially excavated in 1990 and was re-interpreted in 1991 when excavation was completed. A possible second dwelling was indicated which, if correct, underscores the occupation and re-occupation of this site that has been repeatedly stressed (Renouf 1991:40). Three storage features were excavated, each of which contained an abundance of seal cranial and flipper bones. These features may be associated with Feature 12 or possibly relate to another occupational episode of the site. Three bone concentrations were found, their occurrence forming no particular pattern. Six flake concentrations were defined, five of which occur within the discard perimeter.

As in the other excavation areas at Phillip's Garden East, most flakes are late rather than early stage flakes, reflecting more tool maintenance than manufacture. Ramah chert was present in small amounts, particularly in the form of large microblades reminiscent of those common at the Postville Pentecostal site in central Labrador (Loring and Cox 1986).

The range of stone and bone tools at the site was widened (Plates 4-8). Three very large scrapers were found (Plate 4:1-3) as well as two more axes, bringing the total number of axes from the site to 11. One axe is just a fragment of a ground bit, and the other is complete. Unlike the other axes, this is stemmed and does not have the ground bit; however, it is clearly bifacially retouched at the bit edge (Plate 5:14). All axes are singularly distinctive, and this example further broadens the range of forms (Plate 6). The range of endblades was also widened, with one stemmed example (Plate 5:5), a crude double side-notched, almost serrated, example, and an example with side-notches so broad that the specimen is close to contracting stemmed. Similarly distinctive are the harpoon heads; one more was found bringing the total number from the site to nine and it widens the range of forms to seven (Plate 7). Interesting was a haft which had a side slot clearly for a large but very thin circular or oval sideblade. Other organic tools include a large cut piece, probably a handle, a foreshaft, an ivory barbed point, an awl or needle fragment, three point tips and seven pieces of cut bone. Another netskinner was found, similar in size and shape to the one located in 1990 (Plate 8). Both may reflect seal hunting using nets. Alternatively, they could represent seal clubs along the lines of those historically used by Bering Sea Eskimos (Fig. 7). Except for the fragment of the large rectangular soapstone pot found in 1986, this is the first year that some Dorset-looking items were found: specifically three definite and a number of indefinite tip-flute spalls, one concave base tip-fluted endblade and a tip-fluted triangular endblade preform.
Plate 4. Phillip's Garden East, lithics from 1991 field season
1-13 scrapers (10, 12-13 from Point Riche)
14 microblade
15 sideblade
Plate 5. Phillip's Garden East, lithics from 1991 field season
1-10  endblades
11-13  burin-like tools
14  axe
15-18  bifaces
Plate 6. Phillip's Garden East, range of axes from all field seasons

Plate 7. Phillip's Garden East, range of harpoon heads from all years
Plate 8. Phillip's Garden East, netsinkers from 1990-91 excavations

Fig. 7. Alaskan Eskimo sealing hunting technique. Taken from Fitzhugh and Kaplan (1982:68).
3  1991 EXCAVATIONS AT PHILLIP'S GARDEN WEST (7A55;7A700-800;EeBi-11)

3.1 Summary Results of the 1990 Excavations

In 1990 we began excavation on the upper terrace at Phillip's Garden West. Cultural material was thinly scattered within one stratum and no definable house structures were found. A relatively high number of colourful endblades was found, all of which were extremely finely made, with tiny edge serration, a ground surface facet, and two or more basal notches. When this material was first found in 1990, it was thought to be the earliest Palaeoeskimo material from the island of Newfoundland, sharing traits with pre-Dorset elsewhere in the eastern Canadian arctic and Greenland. However, the single charcoal based radiocarbon date returned a surprisingly early date of 2200 +/- 110 B.P.

No organic material was recovered from the upper terrace. However, bone material was found in test pits in the steep slope of the terrace, indicating that the aboriginal inhabitants had tossed their refuse over the side of the embankment.

The relatively few artefacts and detritus indicates that this site was a short term encampment of a few people; seasonality has yet to be determined.

3.2 Objectives of the 1991 Excavations

The three objectives of the 1991 season were: [1] to investigate the hillside midden (Feature 5), [2] to open up more of the upper terrace with the intent of enlarging the artefact sample from this period, and in the hopes of finding a dwelling structure, and [3] to collect more charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating.

3.3 Description of Upper Terrace Excavations

3.3.1 Introduction

Two contiguous areas were excavated, 51m² on the upper terrace, and an area 4 x 9m extending down the slope, covering 7A701A-D, 7A702A, 7A710C+B, and 7A711A+D (Plate 9). This extended the 1990 excavations to the north, east and west. Because of the difficulties of measuring provenience on a steep slope, a laser transit was used to set the grid and measure all artefacts (Plate 10).

3.3.2 Stratigraphy

The soil profile for the upper terrace of Phillip's Garden West was as described in Renouf (1991:4), with a thick layer of peat (Level 1) overlying the dark cultural peaty level (Level 2), the thin brown layer of Level 3 (Plate 11), and the sterile boulder and pebble beach (Level 4). During the 1990 excavations several soil lenses were noted, amongst them a grey clay-like lens (lens A). However, in the 1991 upper terrace excavation areas, lens A seemed to be more of a thin patchy layer occurring at the top of Level 2, consisting of Level 2 with white flecks and patches of the grey clay. It was approximately 1-4 cm thick and all artefacts from the upper terrace were found in it. It is possible that the underlying darker Level 2 represents the terrace vegetation at the time of occupation.

Plate 10. Phillip's Garden West, setting up grid on slope
3.3.3 Feature 1

This was a widespread area of micro-debitage that occurred in units E06N04-05; E07N04-06; E08N04-05; E09N05-07. The area measured approximately 12 m$^2$ and surrounded an unusual circular arrangement of rocks, Feature 23, that lay just outside the temporary dwelling structure, Feature 25. Many flakes, most chert but a few ramah and quartz, and artefacts are associated (Table 1), indicating an activity area, probably a workshop station. Some of the flakes were so small that they were impossible to pick out in situ, and so the matrix was water-sifted.

Table 1. Summary of lots, Feature 1, Phillip’s Garden West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Flake lots</th>
<th>Artefact lots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7A701C</td>
<td>21, 9</td>
<td>22-33, 46-64, 10-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3.4 Feature 3

This was a probable hearth feature in Levels 2 and 3 of units E07N06-07 and E06N07 (7A701B). It consisted of an open oval defined by large and small unburned limestone rocks (Plate 12; Fig. 8). The feature was basin shaped in profile, and measured approximately 58 cm north-south, 38 cm east-west and 10.5 cm deep. It was located in the wall area of the dwelling, Feature 25, and therefore is likely to pre- or post-date it. Although there was charcoal present (lots 212, 458), it was found in Level 2 on top of, rather than in and around, the rocks. Similarly, all artefacts came from upper Level 2 (lots 242-243, 244-246, 360, 365, 368, 444, 446-448).

3.3.5 Feature 4

This was a charcoal and seal fat concentration in Level 2 of unit E06N06 (7A701B), which measured 15 cm in diameter and 10 cm deep (lots 1-2, 285, 286, 289). It lay to the side of, but was not necessarily associated with, a hearth, Feature 23. Both features lay within the dwelling, Feature 25 (Fig. 8).

3.3.6 Feature 8

This was an activity area limited to the western area of unit E08N09 (7A701B) and characterized by two charcoal concentrations (lots 142, 148), and a concentration of artefacts (lots 143-147, 149-152) and flakes (lot 141). No doubt this

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*Features numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10 were originally ascribed in 1990 but were subsequently cancelled; therefore these feature numbers were used in 1991.

*These artefact lots are taken from field notes and are tentative at this time. In particular, some of the flakes that were designated as retouched in the field were cancelled and returned to the unretouched flake category in the lab.
Plate 11. Phillip's Garden West, top of Level 3 on upper terrace, showing thick peat

Plate 12. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 3, possible hearth
area of concentrated cultural material extends into the adjacent western square, which is unexcavated.

3.3.7 Feature 10
This was a post-hole in unit E07N06 (7A701B) which first appeared in Level 2 and extended into Level 3. Round, with a 10 cm diameter, it was 10 cm deep in the middle of a line of three large rocks, one of which may have been a pole support (Plate 13). This is one of five post-holes (Features 10, 15, 17, 19, 22) which outline the dwelling and define it as a temporary structure (Fig. 8). A large number of Phillip’s Garden West box-based endblades was found in close proximity to the post-hole (lots 133-134, 136-138, 185, 195, 198). The box-base of a side-notched point (lot 195) was found in the post-hole itself, along with a scraper (lot 193), and a utilized flake (lot 197). A single charcoal sample was collected from the surrounding area, but not within the post-hole (lot 196).

3.3.8 Feature 14
This was a small, poorly defined, circular hearth in Levels 2-3 of units E07N08 (7A701B), which consisted of a few small fire-cracked rocks and measured 40cm in diameter (Plate 14). A charcoal sample (lot 302), flakes (lot 264), and a large number of artefacts were associated (lots 265-289, 301-307). This hearth lies just outside the dwelling, Feature 25, and may be associated. A charcoal sample returned a date of 2090 +/- 70 B.P. (Table 12).

3.3.9 Feature 15
This was a post-hole in Levels 2 and 3 of unit E05N05 (7A701B). It was circular, with a 13 cm diameter, and was 8 cm deep. The fill was dark peat and contained no artefacts. Unlike the other post-holes, Feature 15 had no support rocks (Plate 15, Fig. 8).

3.3.10 Feature 16
This was a hearth feature in the centre of the dwelling structure, Feature 25. It was outlined by the five post-holes in units E04-05N06-07 (7A701A-B). The hearth consisted of a circular, arrangement of large and small limestone rocks, many of which were burned (Fig. 8); it measured 1.60 north-south and 1.35 east-west. A large number of artefacts and flakes, and some charcoal samples were associated (Table 2). Plate 16 shows the hearth before removal of the baulk which crossed it, and Plates 21-22 show the hearth fully exposed, after baulk removal. A charcoal sample was dated to 2350 +/- 80 B.P. (Table 12).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Artefacts</th>
<th>Flakes</th>
<th>Charcoal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7A701A</td>
<td>23-27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A701B</td>
<td>298-300, 321-325, 456, 460, 462, 463</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>326, 467, 468, 470</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Plate 13. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 10, possible post-hole

Plate 14. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 14, hearth
Plate 15. Phillip’s Garden West, Feature 15, post-hole
Plate 16. Phillip’s Garden West, Feature 16, hearth, before baulk removal
3.3.11 Feature 17
This was a post-hole in unit E07N07 (7A701B) which turned up at the base of Level 2 and top of Level 3, and intruded at a slight angle 14 cm into Level 3. The post-hole was oval, measuring 15 cm north-south and 9 cm east-west, and a small rock near the rim might have been for support (Plate 17; Fig. 8). No flakes or artefacts were found in the post-hole.

3.3.12 Feature 19
This was a substantial post-hole in unit E06N08 (7A701B) which appeared in the base of Level 2 and the top of Level 3 (Plate 18, Fig. 8). It measured 16 cm north-south and 14 cm east-west and was 10 cm deep. At its northern rim there was a large rock which could have been a support for a fairly large post. The soil within the post-hole was essentially Level 2 intruding into Level 3. In cross-section the post-hole came to a point. There were no artefacts or flakes in direct association.

3.3.13 Feature 22
This was a shallow, oval post-hole in unit E04N07 (7A701A). It first appeared in the base of Level 2 and the top of Level 3. Slightly angled, it measured 13 cm north-south, 9 cm east-west, and 6 cm deep. Like Feature 17, there was a small rock at the post-hole rim that was probably a support (Plate 19). There were no artefacts and flakes in the post-hole.

3.3.14 Feature 23
Feature 23 was an unusual circular, almost spiral shaped, arrangement of large unburned limestone rocks (Fig. 8, Plates 20-22), which measured 95 cm north-south and 70 cm east-west. The rocks rested on Level 3, intruding into Level 2, within units E06-07N05-06 (7A701B). Feature 4, a charcoal and seal fat concentration, and Feature 10, a post-hole, were contained within the structure, although they might have pre- or post-dated it. Similarly, Feature 1, an artefact and retouch flake concentration, subsumed Feature 23 within its area, but may not have been contemporaneous. This feature was similar in size and shape to the nearby hearth, Feature 16 and looked almost paired with it (Plate 20-22). However, given that Feature 16 was situated entirely within Level 2 and Feature 23 was on Level 3, it is unlikely that they were contemporaneous. This is confirmed by radiocarbon dates, although the expected chronological order is reversed. Feature 25 is dated by association with Feature 16 to 2350 ± 80 B.P., and charcoal in and around Feature 23 is dated to 2190 ± 100 B.P. (see Table 12 for corrected dates, the ranges of which do not overlap).

Feature 16 was burned, a direct reflection of its function, whereas Feature 23 was not, leaving its function open to question. A logical possibility is that Feature 23 was natural and the spiral arrangement of the rocks was fortuitous.

3.3.15 Feature 24
This feature consisted of one large quartzite and three flat limestone rocks in unit E03N04 (7A701D). The rocks appeared to be more cultural than natural (Plate 23) and could have been useful as a food processing or preparation area, although there was no evidence for either interpretation. No charcoal, flakes or artefacts were associated.
Plate 17. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 17, post-hole

Plate 18. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 19, post-hole
Plate 19. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 22, post-hole

Plate 20. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 23, stone spiral
Plate 21. Phillip's Garden West, Features 16 and 23

Plate 22. Phillip's Garden West, Features 16 and 23, showing pencils in post-holes
Plate 23. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 24
3.3.16 Features 25

Feature 25 was a temporary dwelling structure, such as a tent, which was associated with and defined by five post-holes, Features 10, 15, 17, 19, 22, and a hearth, Feature 26. The post-holes defined an area 3.48m north-south and 2.95m east-west (Plate 22) at the edge of the terrace. Two of the post-holes, Features 15 and 19, were probably for support posts, since they were larger than the other post-holes, and were deep, round, and straight up and down rather than slanted. There was one smaller circular post-hole, Feature 10, and the remaining two, Features 17 and 22, were oval and on a slant. The size and orientation of these three posts suggested that they were secondary structural elements. All posts were evenly spaced from the hearth, Feature 16, and each other, except between Features 22 and 15 where a sixth post-hole seemed to be missing. The absence of a sixth posthole to close the area in the southwest (Fig. 8) suggested that this may have been the opening. If so, the structure faced southwest, which would have given protection from the prevailing northwest winds. Probably the posts supported some kind of covering, such as skins, and the large rocks that outlined part of the structure probably held down the edges (Fig. 8, Plate 22). Centrally placed was a hearth structure, Feature 16, and behind the structure was a workshop area, Feature 1. Associated flakes, artefacts and charcoal samples (Table 3) include those from Feature 16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Artefacts</th>
<th>Flakes</th>
<th>Charcoal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7A701A</td>
<td>1-2, 4-11, 22-27, 63-67</td>
<td>21, 62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 Description of Hillside Midden (Feature 5) Excavations

3.4.1 1990 testing

During the 1990 field season we tested the steep hillside immediately below the upper terrace, looking for the organic material that was missing from the terrace. We dug two rows of test pits at 10 metre intervals just below where we had excavated two hearths on the terrace, in 7A702A. We found artefacts and well preserved faunal material in most of the test pits, and refuse was especially abundant near the base of the hill, reflecting erosion, discard pattern and gravity (Renouf 1991:12).

3.4.2 Objectives of the 1991 midden excavations

The objective of the 1991 midden excavations was to excavate an exploratory section of the midden. This would provide a large sample of faunal material so that site seasonality and resource use could be assessed. It would also
provide information on midden formation and potentially could provide organic artefacts. Given that Phillip's Garden West lithics are so unusual (Renouf 1991:14-15) it is important to obtain a sample of organic artefacts, in particular harpoon heads.

3.4.3 Excavation procedures

A four metre wide trench was run from the upper terrace, down the slope as far as a large boulder at the bottom, against which material thrown from the top came to a final rest (Plate 24). A baulk ran longitudinally through the centre of the excavation area, in effect making two trenches. Because of potential problems with downslope erosion, we forwent our usual area excavation and dug an east-west row of four units at a time (Plate 25). When one row was excavated down to sterile Level 4, east-west profiles were drawn, and the next row of four units was begun, removing the recorded east-west profile.

3.4.4 Stratigraphy

Because of the steep slope of the hill, erosion and gravity played a major part in the soil stratification. The soil layers were thicker and contained more cultural material lower down in the hill than near the top. The characteristics of the soil levels differed somewhat from the upper terrace. On the hillside, Level 1 was a poorly consolidated rooty, greasy, sod that was removed in clumps. Level 2 was a black and greasy cultural layer with various sizes of limestone rocks scattered throughout. There were two variations of Level 3, upper Level 3 at the units near the top of the hill (extending from the top as far down as the N14 units), and lower Level 3 on the lower slope. Upper Level 3 consisted of coarsely textured yellowish brown sand which occurred amongst loose limestone beach rocks and pebbles. It was generally thin, approximately 5 cm thick, and contained very little cultural material. Lower Level 3 was a major cultural layer (Fig. 9). The coarse yellowish-brown sand continued, but the soil was sandier, greasier, and the loose limestone rocks were smaller. The level was thick, from 15-25 cm, and contained a great deal of cultural material, especially bone. Generally the soil was loose, but where there was a substantial build-up of bone, it was compact. Level 3 overlay Level 4, sterile sand and gravel limestone beach.

3.4.5 Feature 18

The midden, Feature 5, consisted of a number of dumping episodes, one of which was identified as Feature 18 (Plate 26). This was a large, dense concentration of bones and flakes that was thrown from the upper terrace. It was an 18-25 cm thick deposit which was contained entirely within Level 3, and which extended over units E11N13-N16 and perhaps into part of E11N17 (7A711A+D). It extended into the eastern units which have not yet been excavated. This dump was defined on the basis of soil differences, the feature comprised of darker and finer sand than either upper Level 3 or lower Level 3, and containing fewer pebbles. There were soil differences within the dump as well, indicating that Feature 18 itself was composed of a number of depositional episodes (Fig. 9). For instance, a charcoal lens found in unit E11N14 was probably a separate dump. The bone from this was bagged separately (7A711D165) and a charcoal sample was collected (7A711D153). Another soil difference that may have indicated a separate dump was the darker brown soil of Level 3 in the units north of E11N16 (Fig. 9); possibly this was a dump
Plate 24. Phillip's Garden West, grid on Feature 5, hillside midden

Plate 25. Phillip's Garden West, excavating hillside midden
Plate 26. Phillip's Garden West, midden dump showing matrix with bone

Plate 27. Phillip's Garden West, Feature 21, midden dump
Fig. 9. Phillip's Garden West, midden profile showing Feature 18
from the lower terrace, in contrast to the rest of Feature 18 which tumbled down from the upper terrace. There were also vertical soil differences, with soil in the upper part of Level 3 being darker and greasier than the lighter brown soil lower down in Level 3. Bone preservation was much better in the lighter soil.

Throughout Feature 18, a great deal of faunal material was found in and around large limestone rocks and slabs that appeared to have fallen down the slope, often lying on edge. For instance, in one square metre, fifteen large bags of bone were collected.

Two charcoal samples from Feature 18 returned dates of 2460 +/- 120 B.P. and 2340 +/- 100 B.P. (Table 12).

Table 4. Summary of lots, Feature 18, Phillip’s Garden West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Faunal</th>
<th>Flakes</th>
<th>Artefacts</th>
<th>Charcoal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7A711D</td>
<td>77, 82, 117</td>
<td>76, 116</td>
<td>74-75, 78-81, 83-86, 111-115, 118-151, 153-165, 167-176, 178-181</td>
<td>152, 166, 177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4.6 Feature 20

This was a concentration of bone in Level 3, which was located in the northeast corner of unit E09N15 (7A710B). This was distinguished as a separate dump within Feature 5 by a slight soil difference, the Feature 20 soil browner and sandier than the yellow-brown sand that characterized the surrounding lower Level 3. Associated was faunal material (lot 52), flakes (lot 53), a piece of worked bone (lot 48) and a core fragment (lot 49).

3.4.7 Feature 21

Feature 21 was a small and well-defined concentration of bone, lithics and fire-cracked rock in Level 2 of units N16-17E09-11 (7A710B+7A711A). The dump was defined by differences in soil texture from the matrix, with the dump soil greasier, more compact, and less rooty than the surrounding soil. Feature 21 measured 2.20m east-west, 1.20m north-south, and ranged in thickness from 10 to 25 cm (Fig. 9, Plate 27). Feature 22 of unit E11N17 was consolidated with Feature 21.

It is possible that Feature 21 was a dumping episode initiated up from the lower terrace one metre away, rather than down from the upper terrace. The small and well-defined feature is close to the base of the hill and therefore the lower terrace. If the material was thrown from the top down, it possibly would have been more scattered by the time it reached the bottom eight metres away. More likely, butchering and processing activities took place either at the lower terrace or on the beach, and the smaller meat packages were taken up to the living area on the higher terrace. Limited testing has so far not revealed cultural activity on the lower terrace, but it is highly unlikely that an entire harp seal would be hauled up to a high terrace
when it could first be reduced to smaller packages below.

Since Feature 21 is in Level 2 it is likely that it was deposited over Feature 18 in level 3. Although this might be the correct sequence of depositions, radiocarbon samples from the two midden dumps are all within the same range. Charcoal from Feature 21 returned a date of 2540 +/- 160 B.P., and the two dates from Feature 18, given above, are 2460 +/- 120 B.P. and 2340 +/- 100 B.P. (Table 12).

Abundant faunal and artefactual material was retrieved from this feature (Table 5).

### Table 5. Summary of lots from Feature 21, Phillip's Garden West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Faunal</th>
<th>Flakes</th>
<th>Artefacts</th>
<th>Charcoal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7A710B</td>
<td>86, 91, 603</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>82, 83, 95, 144, 150, 152, 157, 159</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4.8 Discussion of the Hillside Midden (Feature 5)

The hillside provided an excellent area for the upper terrace inhabitants to throw garbage over the side, which accounts for the absence of organic material from the living area. When thrown from the top, the garbage rolled down the steep embankment, accumulating at the bottom; this sort of deposition is represented by Feature 18. At approximately the N15.5 line there is a steep drop in the slope, almost a ledge, over which refuse made the final fall. Although Feature 18 was singled out as a separate dump episode within Feature 5, the larger midden, it was itself composed of a number of dump episodes, as can be seen in profile (Fig. 9). Feature 18 was contained entirely within Level 3, in contrast to another dump episode, Feature 21, which was in Level 2. It appears that Feature 21 was deposited on top of Feature 18 and it is suggested that might have originated from below, at the lower terrace, rather than from above, the upper terrace.

The upper terrace, at approximately 13.5 metres above sea level (m.a.s.l.), would have been a high exposed terrace even at the time of occupation. The lower terrace, at 6 m.a.s.l., would probably have been fairly near the active shore and therefore would have been an appropriate place for butchering seals into smaller meat packages which could then be carried up to the high terrace. This was brought home to us by Darlene Balkwill of the Zooarchaeological Identification Centre, who found the carcass of a recently killed adult harp seal on the beach. In order to process the bones for her comparative collection she and two others moved the seal a short distance to a more convenient location for butchering. She noted the size of the animal and the effort involved and observed that it would have made no sense
for the inhabitants of the upper terrace to haul a large adult carcass up the steep slope at Phillip’s Garden West when it could first be reduced into smaller packages near the active beach. If the butchering did occur on the lower terrace, then some evidence should be found there. If, however, the carcasses were butchered right at what was then the current shoreline, all evidence would have been washed away.

3.5 Discussion of Phillip’s Garden West

The Phillip’s Garden West tool inventory is so far unique to the island of Newfoundland. However, now that the material is recognized, it may well turn up elsewhere. For example a Phillip’s Garden West biface stands out amongst the Palaeoeskimo lithics from the Frenchman’s Island site (Evans 1982). Aside from this, and some roughly comparable material from Cow Head (Tuck 1978), Port au Choix is the only place on the island from which the material is found. As noted in the 1990 field season report (Renouf 1991:14) Harp found some beautiful examples of Phillip’s Garden West points from Houses 3 and 4 in the northwest corner of Phillip’s Garden. Like all Phillip’s Garden West lithics, these are recognizable for their exquisite workmanship, which is highlighted by the tiny and precise serration of the endblades, the ground and occasionally polished facets, the fine surface flaking and the choice of distinctive colours and mottlings of the raw material. Also characteristic are the small, very finely made, almost serrated, crescent shaped sideblades (Plate 28), which were abundant in this year’s excavations (n=68, including fragments). Surprisingly, we have not yet found any bone harpoon heads or lances to which they would have fitted. Also characteristic is the crescent shape of any of the artefacts, specifically, concave side scrapers, bifaces, and unifaces. Aside from these distinctive attributes, there are others which are firmly connected to Groswater, such as the box-base of the endblades, the eared scrapers, the asymmetrical bifaces, axes ground at the bit, and the chipped and ground burin-like tools (Plate 29).

Organic artefacts were found in the midden, Feature 5, the most notable of which were three fragments of a sled runner (7A711D28-29, 37), a foreshaft (7A710C20), a needle fragment (7A711A394-2) and an unusual harpoon head made out of a seal third phalanx (7A710C134; Plate 30). The sled runner is similar to those from Phillip’s Garden and Point Riche, and it raises the possibility of an otherwise unrecognized Dorset component at Phillip’s Garden West. Extremely interesting were over five hundred pieces of cut bone, most of which came out of the faunal bags; since faunal identification is on-going there will be many others to add to the inventory. Many of these appear to be expedient points since they are cut to a strong point, and in cases the point is further modified to shape the piercing end (Plate 31). Most of the cut bone appears to be debitage, and the regularities in the patterns of points and v-shaped indentations indicate tool making rather than breakage in butchery.

It has been speculated (Renouf 1991:14) that Phillip’s Garden West represents a short term occupation, possibly in the summer months, a proposition that has yet to be evaluated. Certainly, finding the tent-like structure on the upper terrace supports this suggestion. Conclusions regarding seasonality ultimately will rest with the faunal collection, identification of which is in process. Some identification was done in the field lab by Darlene Balkwill of the Zooarchaeological Identification Centre, Canadian Museum of Nature. Her impression in the field was that there
Plate 28. Phillip's Garden West, lithics from 1991 field season

1-8   endblades
9-16  sideblades
17-21 bifaces
22    uniface
Plate 29. Phillip’s Garden West, lithics from 1991 field season
1-5    scrapers
6-7    crescent shaped unifaces
8-11   microblades
12-16  burin-like tools
17     axe
Plate 30. Phillip's Garden West, harpoon head in situ in hillside midden
Plate 31. Phillip's Garden West, expedient points, 1991 field season
were at least a few species at Phillip's Garden West that were not represented in the faunal assemblages from the other sites.

4 1991 EXCAVATIONS AT POINT RICHE (7A58-59; 500-561; EeBi-11)

4.1 1984-86 Testing and Excavation of the Site

Point Riche is a Dorset Palaeoeskimo site which is similar to, but smaller than, Phillip's Garden. Surface mapping shows 33 surface depressions and testing has shown cultural material in 19 of them. In 1984 we located the site, noting that many flakes and artefacts were being churned up in a truck track that crossed what is a grassy meadow immediately east of the lighthouse. We dug small test pits at 10 metre intervals across the site and could delimit its boundaries quite clearly. Interestingly, the distribution of cultural material mirrored the distribution of a low growing waxy plant. In 1984 we tested two house depressions at the southern end of the site (Renouf 1985:18-21).

In 1985 we excavated one house, Feature 1, at 7A547, which is in the central area of the site. We found that house construction was based on the same principle as at Phillip's Garden, but that since the beach on which the houses were built was very different, so were the archaeological remains. In the same year we excavated one unit in a midden in the central area of the site, at 7A525B, and found that although bones were few, flakes and artefacts were very abundant (Renouf 1986:21-35).

In 1986 we excavated a one metre wide trench through a distinctive house depression, Feature 8, near the north end of the site (Renouf 1987:30-33). This confirmed our interpretation of house construction at Point Riche where a natural depression was used as a house basement and, where necessary, a gravel wall was built up.

4.2 Objectives of the 1991 Excavations

Since Point Riche had not been a major focus of excavation since 1986, in the 1991 field season it was decided to forego work at Phillip's Garden and explore more of the smaller site. The overall objective was to ensure that the excavation areas at both sites would be comparable for analyses. Since at Phillip's Garden we had excavated two houses and areas external to them, it was decided to excavate a second house at Point Riche, including an area external to it, and to excavate trenches outside the house, Feature 1, that we had investigated in 1985. Feature 8 was chosen as the second Point Riche house to be excavated, since 1986 testing had shown it to have interesting structural details.

Because at Phillip's Garden we had excavated a large part of one midden and a small part of a second, another objective of the 1991 field season at Point Riche was to look for a bone midden and, if one was found, to excavate at least one unit. Since 7A525, which we tested in 1985, appeared to be a refuse dump of some kind, and since it was just a few metres west of the house, Feature 8, we decided to open up a few units in it.
4.3 Description of the 1991 Excavations

4.3.1 Introduction
A total of 105m² was excavated at Point Riche in 1991. Ninety-one m² were opened up around the house, Feature 8, and two metres were opened up at the midden at 7A525, three metres to the west. Two short trenches were opened up outside the house, Feature 1, one at the southern perimeter of the 7A547 operation, the other at the northern perimeter (Fig. 10); two additional metres were excavated in this area.

4.3.2 Stratigraphy
The stratigraphy is similar to, but an expansion of, that described for Point Riche in 1985 (Renouf 1986:24). Most notably it is quite shallow, from 10-20 cm in total depth, and the cultural levels are considerably lighter in colour, less greasy, and drier than at the other sites (Fig. 12-13). Level 1 was a thin sod layer 3-5 cm in depth which consisted of peaty, crumbly and very rooty soil. In some areas it was less crumbly, and more greasy and gritty. It ranged in colour from a medium brown to a brown-black in stained areas. Flakes were commonly found in the transition zone to Level 2. Level 2, the cultural level, was 5-10 cm thick and consisted of a rooty, peaty, clayey soil that was slightly more compacted than Level 1. This level was very thin on the house walls and was quite thick in the house interior. It ranged in colour from a medium/dark brown to a brown/black in stained areas. In the excavation area covering the house a 0.5-8 cm thick sterile Level 2 sporadically occurred. In the trenches, Level 2 was darker and peatier than it was in and around the house. Level 2A refers to patches of greasy, blackish, stained soil that had a sandy yet greasy texture, like flour and shortening. Level 2WA was restricted to the wall area of the house, Feature 8 (Fig. 12). It was a cultural layer 1-15 cm thick which consisted of small limestone pebbles in a matrix of soil. Although at first glance this level looked like the Level 4 beach, it was looser and formed one layer of the house wall. Beneath Level 2WA was Level 2WB, a soil level 0.5-9 cm thick within which a small amount of cultural material was found. The upper soil was the dark brown of Level 2 and the lower soil was the lighter clayey soil which is typical of the reaction between basic limestone beach and acidic soil and which is usually called Level 3. Levels 2WA-B were found only on the house walls. Level 2WC was restricted to the inside slope of the house depression, and appears to have been Level 2WA which had washed down from the wall into the house. This level was 8-20 cm thick and contained cultural material. There was no apparent Level 3 and Level 4 was the sterile gravel beach or bedrock.

The midden stratigraphy was slightly different. Level 2 was a black, greasy, charcoal-rich soil 4-8 cm thick, underneath which was 1-7 cm of sterile light brown clayey soil, then Level 4 beach.

4.4 Excavation of 7A543C and 7A544D

4.4.1 Feature 8
Feature 8 was the house depression which was tested in 1986 and fully excavated during the 1991 field season; it lay within operations 7A543C-D and 7A544A-B. It formed a distinct, almost square, depression on the surface of the ground (Fig. 12, Plate 32) which was 42 cm deep in the centre and measured 4.25 metres by 4 metres (Renouf 1987:31). After excavation through Levels 1-4 (Plate 33-
Fig. 10. Point Riche, 1984-86, 1991 excavation areas
Plate 32. Point Riche, house (Feature 8) visible on surface of ground

Plate 33. Point Riche, house (Feature 8), top of Level 2
Plate 34. Point Riche, house (Feature 8), top of Level 4

Plate 35. Point Riche, wall of house, Feature 8
Plate 36. Point Riche, profile of house wall (Feature 8)

Plate 37. Point Riche, limestone beach
34), the interior dimensions of the depression were five metres north-south and 3.4 metres east-west, and the exterior dimensions, including the wall area, were 5.5 metres east-west and 7 metres north-south (Fig. 11). About two-thirds of this depression is surrounded by a clearly observable built-up gravel wall (Plate 33-35), which was not present on the northwest side of the house. As described in section 4.3.2, the wall profile (Figs. 13-14; Plate 36) showed it to be built-up gravel (Level 2WA) on top of a soil layer (Layer 2WB) on top of basal shattered beach (Level 4). The fact that there was cultural material in Level 2WA and, to a lesser extent, Level 2WB indicates that the walls were built up from surrounding gravel at least more than once. Level 2WC represents the inward eroding of this wall down the interior slope of the house. The east side of the wall is two metres wide, and the north and south sides are one metre wide. This difference in width may represent a slumping of the east side; certainly there was a distinct Level 2WC in that area.

When this house was trenched in 1986, the east wall was cross-sectioned. It was argued that the house's central depression was a natural feature of the limestone beach, similar to the depressions that can be seen at the active beach today (Plate 37). If the perimeter of the depression was not level, then it would make sense to build up those lower areas to form a level perimeter on which some kind of superstructure could be erected. Thus the house could be fully enclosed, although the wall would only provide part of the foundation. This remains a viable interpretation of the wall area, but there are also two alternatives.

One is that the house was fully enclosed, and that the wide eastern wall area was in fact a rear platform. At two metres wide, it is certainly of sufficient depth, and this interpretation would bring this house more in line in size and layout with those from Phillip's Garden. However, there was no separation discernable between this and the other wall areas and it did not seem level enough.

Another possibility is that the west area of the house, where there is a marked absence of a wall and a full view of the ocean, and which is broad and flat, is a living and working area which would have been in front of, and partly or fully outside, the house. This pre-supposes that the house was occupied during the summer months, which might make sense in view of the relatively small interior size compared with Phillip's Garden houses. No comparison can be made with other house features at Point Riche since the only other fully excavated house, Feature 1, was not well enough defined to allow internal dimensions to be inferred. If this interpretation is correct, Feature 8 would be open at the west end, although there must have been some way of closing it off in bad weather.

Supporting the interpretation of Feature 8 as a summer house is the outside activity area, Feature 12, which is described in section 4.4.6 below. This was a linear area of relatively flat rocks around which many artefacts were clustered, in contrast to the house interior which was relatively bare. The feature is analogous to the paved axial features which are often found within Palaeoeskimo houses and which function as the focus of cooking and other activities. If Feature 8 was a summer house, it makes sense that this focus should be transferred to a similar structure outside.

Interestingly, in comparison with artefact assemblages from Phillip's Garden and from the other Point Riche house, Feature 1, there are relatively few fragments of soapstone vessels (Table 8), and three of the four fragments come from Feature 12.

A number of features was found within the house (Feature 20-22) or were
Fig. 11. Point Riche, Feature 8, top of Level 3

POINT RICHE
HOUSE, FEATURE 8
TOP OF LEVEL 3

LEGEND
- depression
- outline of wall
- gravel heap
- baulk
- east-west profile
- north-south profile
- view direction of profile
- rocks
- F-12 feature number
Fig. 12. Point Riche, profile of Feature 8

LEGEND

 noktas
 sod removed
 XXXX Level 2
 XXXXX Level 4: beach gravel

 surface contour in profile, showing house depression

 rock (limestone)

POINT RICHE
EAST-WEST PROFILE
THROUGH HOUSE, FEATURE 8
LOOKING NORTH
Fig. 14. Point Riche, close-up of north-south profile of wall area, Feature 8

POINT RICHE
NORTH-SOUTH PROFILE
THROUGH HOUSE WALL
OF FEATURE 8
LOOKING WEST

Legend:
- Sod
- Level 2
- Level 2WA: built-up gravel
- Level 2WB: soil layer
- Level 2WC: washed down 2WA
- Level 4: beach gravel
associated with it (Features 10, 12, 20-25). An interesting find in the 1986 test trench was a piece of cut whalebone approximately 1.20 metres long and 20 cm wide (Renouf 1987:Fig. 6) which was probably structural. Two radiocarbon dates come from Feature 8: 1830 +/ - 90 B.P. from charcoal scattered throughout the interior, and 1760 +/ - 150 B.P. from the wall, in Level 2WC (Table 12).

4.4.2 Feature 20
This was a concentration of about 80 cores and core fragments (Plate 38) in units E03S78 and E03S79 (7A543D). Most of the cores (lots 422, 430, 442-444, 447, 453, 460) were heavily reduced. There was also a large number of flakes from both units (lot 421, 429, 459) as well as some bone (lot 428, 456), microblades (lot 437, 440, 457) and some retouched/utilized flakes (lot 423-427, 429, 431-436, 439, 441, 446, 454, 458). This core concentration occurred in the flat area where there was no wall, although some lay on the inward slope of the interior house depression, as if they had eroded downslope.

4.4.3 Feature 21
Feature 21 was a pair of holes, 21.5 cm deep and 9 cm deep, respectively. They were located within the house depression, in unit E04S81 (7A544A) and together the two holes formed a shallow oblong depression, or pit, measuring 60 cm by 30 cm (Fig. 11). An endblade (lot 394), a bone needle (lot 395), and a fish vertebra were found in the pit, but could easily have been washed down. It is probable that these are merely natural features, similar to small waterwora sinkholes that can be seen in the modern limestone beach (Plate 39). In the house feature, Feature 1, that was excavated at Point Riche in 1985, we found that these features were used as storage or garbage pits. Those were heavily stained, had one or more capstones, and contained faunal and lithic material. By comparison, it seems unlikely that Feature 20 was culturally used.

4.4.4 Feature 22
This was a second pit near the first, Feature 21, and was also probably non-cultural (Fig. 11). Found in units E03-04S78 (7A543D) it measured 63 cm east-west, 40 cm north-south, and was approximately 40 cm deep. Several core fragments similar to those from Feature 20 (lots 507-512, 525), a number of other artefacts (513, 514, 515), and many flakes (522) were found in the pit, although this material could have eroded in. A piece of worked whalebone (lot 521) was found under a rock on the southern edge of the pit.

4.4.5 Feature 10
This was an alignment of over thirty fire-burned rocks that lay entirely within Level 2 of units E03S76-77 (7A543D), on the west "platform" area, near Feature 20 (Fig. 15, Plate 40). Many of the rocks were thin and flat, others were large cobbles, the only ones found anywhere, and most rocks were fire-burned on one side. It is likely that this feature was in secondary position, and that originally it formed some kind of a heating platform, similar to the north Norwegian Younger Stone Age "stone-piles" that are often found associated with hearths and function as a kind of stove top (Fig. 16). A semi-circle, 70 cm in diameter, was clearly visible, and it is likely that originally there had been a full circle. There was just a little charcoal flecking, and no artefacts were in direct association.
Plate 38. Point Riche, Feature 20, core concentration

Plate 39. Point Riche, limestone sinkholes in current beach
Fig. 15. Point Riche, close-up of Feature 10, "stone pile"
Fig. 16. "Stone pile" from north Norwegian Younger Stone Age site. Taken from Renouf (1989:73)
4.4.6 Feature 12

This was an unusual linear concentration of large limestone and sandstone slabs that covered units E02S82, E02-03S83, and E02S84 (7A544A), extending at a right angle out from the southwestern part of the house wall (Fig. 11, Plate 41). The arrangement measured 2.5 metres in length and one metre wide. Found in artefact-rich Level 2 and resting on sterile Level 2, the rocks extended into the wall, under Level 2WA. Approximately fifty artefacts were found directly associated, with an additional thirty or so in close proximity. Directly associated were flakes, several quartz microblades, scrapers, core/core fragments, preforms, polished slate tool fragments, endblades, and bifaces. Three soapstone fragments and some schist fragments were found nearby, and two charcoal samples were collected. Feature 12 appears to be the functional, and possibly social, equivalent of the axial pavement often found inside Palaeoeskimo houses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flakes</th>
<th>Artefacts</th>
<th>Faunal</th>
<th>Charcoal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

4.4.7 Feature 23

This was a concentration of about 100 flakes (lots 63, 70) within Level 2 of units E08S81-82 (7A544B). The concentration measured 50 cm in diameter and occurred just outside the house wall. The flakes ranged from small retouch to large secondary flakes, and they were mainly green-grey chert.

4.4.8 Feature 24

This was an external hearth (Plate 42) immediately east of the house, Feature 8, in units E09-10S78 (7A543C + 7A557D). The hearth formed a shallow, circular pit, dug down through Level 2 into Level 4. It measured 70 cm in diameter and was 13 cm deep. The pit contained some charcoal (lots 7A543C249-250 + 7A445D5, 7-11) and was charcoal-stained. Some flakes (7A543C247, 7A557D4), bone (7A557D6, 7A543C248) and a single artefact (7A557D4) were found in and around the hearth. There might be more material associated, since the surrounding squares were not opened up. A charcoal sample returned a date of 1800 +/- 70 B.P., indicating possible contemporaneity of Feature 24 with the house, Feature 8 (Table 12).

Feature 11 was originally a lens of greasy soil that was noted in the profile of unit E02S76; it was subsequently cancelled.
Plate 40. Point Riche, Feature 10, "stone pile"

Plate 41. Point Riche, Feature 12, external axial feature
4.4.9 Feature 25

This is a natural limestone sinkhole in unit E07S84 (7A544B), which may or may not have been culturally used. The pit lay about one metre outside the house wall, and was roughly 45 cm in diameter at the base of Level 2, narrowing to 23 cm in Level 4; it was 45 cm deep. Dark, organically-stained, greasy, sticky soil filled the pit and a sample was taken (lot 155). There were no stones or artefacts in association.

4.4.10 Discussion of excavations at 7A543C and 7A544D

House, Feature 8, contrasts with the other house, Feature 1, which was excavated in 1986 (Renouf 1987). Although Feature 1 was a distinct depression on the surface of the ground, after excavation the depression was barely discernable. There were no built-up walls and no platform area. What supported the interpretation of Feature 1 as a house was the two bone-filled pit features which were so similar to those found inside the houses at Phillip’s Garden. In addition, one possible hearth was found.

In contrast to Feature 1, Feature 8 was a well defined depression. This was a result not only of the deeper natural depression that was used as the dwelling’s foundation, but the built-up gravel walls. However, Feature 8 had no pit features, had an external version of an axial pavement, and had a possibly associated external hearth. Feature 8 dates are 1830 +/- 90 B.P. and 1760 +/- 150 B.P. and the external hearth is dated to 1800 +/- 70 B.P. (Table 12). All of these overlap with Feature 1 dates of 1750 +/- 80 B.P. and 1750 +/- 90 B.P. (Renouf 1991: 70) and allow for the possibility that the differences between the houses are chronological. An alternative possibility is that the differences are functional and/or seasonal.

4.5 Excavations of Midden, Feature 14, at 7A525C-D

4.5.1 Description

This feature was located eight metres west of the house, Feature 8, on the other side of a slight ridge. Based on shovel testing, its dimensions were approximately four metres north-south and five metres east-west, with an estimated maximum depth of only 9-10 cm (Plate 43). Three metres were opened up as a short trench in the centre of the midden, W4S77, W5S77 (7A525C) and W6S77 (7A525D). Because of the huge volume of lithics that we collected we decided not to proceed with the W6S77. Two units produced at least three hundred artefacts, along with numerous flakes. Some of the artefacts are shown in Plate 48.

6Features 26 and 27 were cancelled. Originally, Feature 26 was a group of four small rocks in unit E09S82, which did not appear to be part of the beach. Feature 27 was a large limestone rock in unit E06S84.
Plate 42. Point Riche, Feature 24, external hearth

Plate 43. Point Riche, profile of midden, Feature 14
Table 7. Summary of lots at Feature 14, Point Riche

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Flakes</th>
<th>Artefacts</th>
<th>Faunal</th>
<th>Charcoal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

4.5.2 Discussion of midden, Feature 14

The designation of Feature 14 as a midden was based on the extremely high charcoal content of the soil, rendering it near-black, the very high number of flakes and artefacts that was found. There was also a high burned oil content, attested to by the presence of a black deposit on broken and unbroken surfaces of several slate artefacts (for example Plate 48:1, 4-5, 7). However, bone was not plentiful, which could be a result of poor preservation; certainly most of the bone that was found was very soft, with the exception of the denser bones such as phalanges. If bone preservation is poor, then Feature 14 could be a faunal dump. An alternative possibility is that the dearth of bone is genuine, and that this feature is some kind of activity area rather than a midden. However, the density of flakes and artefacts suggests secondary context. A third possibility is that this is a lithic rather than a faunal dump.

4.6 Excavations at 7A547A and 7A547C

4.6.1 Introduction

Two short trenches were excavated outside the house, Feature 1, that had been excavated in 1985. Together with the 1985 excavation area, this completed excavation of the full perimeter of the operation 7A547 and the house, Feature 1.

4.6.2 North trench

4.6.2.1 Description

This five metre trench was placed to the north of house Feature 1 (Fig. 16, Plate 44), covering units E00-05S110 (7A547A). Two additional units were added on, at E00S112 and E00S110 (7A546D).

4.6.2.2 Feature 28

Feature 28 was probably a discarded hearth that occurred within a narrow trench between two sinkholes in unit E00S111. It was a small dump of charcoal (423), large and small fire-cracked rock, bone (422, 292, 295), flakes (421, 296), and a few artefacts (265, 270, 291, 294, 297), including some soapstone (268, 421-422).
4.6.3 South trench

4.6.3.1 Introduction
This was a five metre trench (Fig. 16, Plate 45) south of the house, Feature 1, covering units E05-E10 S120 (7A547C; a sixth unit was opened up at E05S21 and a seventh at E05S19, which was in 7A548B). Features 15, 15a, 17, and 19 were located in it.

4.6.3.2 Features 15 and 15a
Features 15 and 15a were small localized bone dumps located in unit E05S120 and the northern part of unit E05S121. Feature 15a occurred beneath a flat limestone rock. Associated with these features are three bifaces (304-306), an endblade (307) and a harpoon head (7A548B12).

4.6.3.3 Feature 17
Feature 17 (Plate 46) was a limestone sinkhole which possibly functioned as a storage pit. Located in E06S120 the hole measured 51 x 53 cm at Level 4; depth was approximately 49 cm. No artefacts were associated, but the soil was darkly stained.

4.6.4 Discussion of trench excavations
Both trenches contained a number of limestone sinkholes, some of which may have been culturally used. Compared to the units associated with the house, Feature 8, described above, considerably more bone was found throughout the trench on top of Level 4 beach. Additionally, and perhaps connected to this, the cultural level was much darker and more organic looking. These factors, along with the fairly high numbers of artefacts found in the trench suggest that it might have been an external activity area.

4.7 Testing Program at Point Riche

4.7.1 Introduction
We decided to test Point Riche in order to get some idea of the potential of intra-site variability, in particular to see if there were any substantial middens, and to confirm or alter the site boundaries. Four areas were tested: the grassy meadow that defines the Point Riche site, a boggy area within the site, the heath just beyond the site's southern limit, and a grassy area north of the current site limits.

4.7.2 Within the site
A series of 30 cm by 30 cm test pits was excavated throughout the site in a three day testing programme. Approximately three pits were excavated in each operation, the pits randomly placed, with the exception that all obvious depressions and current excavation areas were avoided. The contents and characteristics of each test pit were recorded onto a site map, and the results can be summarized as follows:

---
7Four sinkholes were designated as features, but these were subsequently cancelled when there was no evidence of associated cultural activity. Feature 16 was a small hole in unit E07S120, Features 18a and 18b were small holes in unit E08S120, and Feature 19 was a larger hole in unit E09S120.

65
Plate 44. Point Riche, north trench at S110
Plate 45. Point Riche, south trench at S120
Plate 46. Point Riche, Features 15 and 17, sinkholes
[1] No areas of bone concentrations, i.e. middens, were located, although thin deposits of bone were encountered in the areas surrounding the 1991 and the 1985 excavations.

[2] Very little cultural material was found in the northern third of the site, most material found in the central and southern portion of the site, around the 1984, 1986 and 1991 excavations. However, this must be tempered by the fact that, in general, cultural material at Point Riche is sparse compared with Phillip's Garden, and therefore a sterile test pit does not necessarily mean that there is no cultural activity in that area. For instance, 1984 and 1986 testing of Feature 8 revealed no cultural material, just a light brown soil that, in comparison with the cultural level from Phillip's Garden, looked deceivingly sterile.

4.7.3  Boggy area
A boggy area surrounds the small stream that runs through the site. This was tested at the spot where the stream runs to the east of Feature 8. It was thought that if the stream were larger when the house was in use, it could have been used as a midden. Twelve deep and soggy test pits yielded little beyond a few flakes and what appeared to be non-culturally altered wood.

4.7.4  South of site
The boundaries of the site are defined on the basis of the extent of cultural material and also the extent of lush grassy vegetation that appears to correspond to the distribution of cultural material. At what is normally considered to be the southern extreme of the site, the grassy vegetation becomes tundra mosses overlying a 30 cm layer of peat. We excavated two test pits in this area, near the E00S188 datum, and it revealed a thin, black, cultural level underneath the peat. A few microblades were found indicating either that the site extends further south than we thought, or that there is a separate Palaeoeskimo occupation.

4.7.5  North of site
We tested a grassy area north of the site, on the other side of the lighthouse road, which measured approximately 60 metres by 30 metres and which appeared to be a continuation of the grassy terrace upon which the Point Riche site is located. The results of thirty-one test pits, systematically placed in transects five metres apart, indicated that the area was sterile.

4.8  Discussion of 1991 Field Season at Point Riche
An obvious question about Point Riche is its relationship to Phillip's Garden, a forty-five minute walk away, eastward along the Point Riche Peninsula. Presuming that the two sites differ in some way, the three main possibilities are function, chronology, or seasonality. Function seems to be similar in both cases. The large number of house depressions on each site suggest that they are both residential bases, although Point Riche is on a much smaller scale than Phillip's Garden. At both sites there is a wide range of tool categories, suggesting generalized rather than specialized function. Chronologically the sites are the same, with the range of radiocarbon dates snugly overlapping (Table 12; Renouf 1991:70). As for seasonal differences between the sites, there is one major micro-environmental difference between the two localities. Whereas Phillip's Garden is relatively sheltered and fly-
ridden in the summer, Point Riche is always much windier and colder and it is fly-
free for most summer days. Thus, it was suggested back in 1985 (Renouf 1986) that
Point Riche was the summer location of those who spent the colder periods at
Phillip's Garden. This suggestion is supported by the interpretation of house,
Feature 8, as a summer dwelling. It is also supported by the apparent absence of any
substantial middens at the site which indicates less structured and shorter term
occupation than at Phillip's Garden. An additional difference between site location
relating to seasonality comes out of interviews with local inhabitants of Port au Choix
who tell us that Phillip's Garden was the spot from which modern and early sealers
left to go out to the ice for the spring harp seal hunt.

However, the picture may not be as simple as this. A second major
excavation season at Point Riche has taught us the lesson already learned at Phillip's
Garden, namely, that a small sample of a site yields misleadingly homogeneous
information about the whole site, and that as the sample size increases with
subsequent excavations, the range of intra-site variability increases, making
generalization more difficult.

For instance, the two houses fully excavated at Point Riche, Features 1 and
8, are very different, as already pointed out in section 4.4.10. Feature 8 has well-
defined built-up walls on three sides, and a possibly open area on the fourth. It has
a possibly associated external hearth, several areas of external activity, including a
variation on an axial feature, and no internal pit features. By contrast, Feature 1 does
not have built-up walls or any external hearth, and does have internal pit features.
Comparison of artefact distributions within and outside both houses will help to
establish if these difference are seasonal. A comparative lithic artefact list (Table 8)
indicates that there are some significant differences in tool type frequencies. Feature
8 has almost half as many end-blades, almost two thirds as many microblades and far
fewer fragments of soapstone than Feature 1. It has almost double the number of
retouched and utilized flakes and close to three times the number of core and core
fragments. This variation no doubt relates to differences in activities that were
carried out at both houses. It remains to be seen if these relate to differences in
seasonality. Differences in lithic frequencies, house structure and associated features
reflects intra-site variability that may well be as great as that established for Phillip's
Garden.

In addition to site location, there are other difference between Point Riche
and Phillip's Garden. Large modified and unmodified quartz crystals are common at
Point Riche and uncommon at Phillip's Garden. Both sites use Cow Head cherts, but
whereas at Phillip's Garden the blacks and greens predominate, at Point Riche there
is a higher frequency of light green-blue, especially in the endblade category. If a
difference in raw material is confirmed by quantification across artefact categories,
then the case for use of this site by inhabitants of Phillip's Garden is seriously
undermined.

Groswater material is present at both sites. However, whereas at our Phillip's
Garden excavations it is a very minor presence, it is more significant at Point Riche,
in particular in the Feature 8 lithic assemblage. Groswater artefacts found associated
with the house include at least two bifaces, eight scrapers, five chipped and ground
burin-like tools, five endblades, and one axe identical to one in the Phillip's Garden
East assemblage. The Groswater presence is not restricted to Feature 8. Two
scrapers came from the midden Feature 14, one box-based endblade from a test pit,
and from the trenches outside house, Feature 1, come one stemmed endblade and
Plate 47. Point Riche, lithics from 1991 field season
1-6  endblades
7-11 scrapers (8 is from Phillip's Garden East)
12  burin-like tool
13  microblade
14  quartz crystal cores
Plate 48. Point Riche, lithics from 1991 field season.

Note: 1, 4, 5, 7 have residue from midden matrix (Feature 14)
1  ground slate pendant
2-3  bifaces
4-5  ground slate burin-like tools
6-7  ground slate knives
Plate 49. Point Riche, lithics from 1991 field season
1  endblade
2  burin-like tool
3  microblade
4  biface
5-7 scrapers
a fragment of a chipped and ground burin-like tool. In Feature 8 these artefacts did not horizontally or vertically separate out from the Dorset artefacts and the radiocarbon dates do not reflect the Groswater time period. However, the definite presence of a Groswater component at the site indicates the possibility that there may be a Groswater area within the site boundaries, and/or a Groswater site nearby. Some of the Groswater artefacts from Point Riche are shown in Plate 47:1-2,6,7,12). Other artefacts are shown in Plates 48-49.

Table 8. Comparison of lithic frequencies at two house features, Point Riche.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End-blades</td>
<td>51 (5.41%)</td>
<td>93 (10.30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bifaces</td>
<td>70 (7.42%)</td>
<td>66 (7.31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burin-like tools</td>
<td>8 (0.85)</td>
<td>5 (0.55%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burin spalls</td>
<td>1 (0.11%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapers</td>
<td>72 (7.64)</td>
<td>88 (9.75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microblades</td>
<td>192 (20.36%)</td>
<td>312 (34.55%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retouched + utilized flakes</td>
<td>183 (19.41%)</td>
<td>98 (10.85%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground slate</td>
<td>73 (7.74%)</td>
<td>52 (5.76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soapstone</td>
<td>4 (0.42%)</td>
<td>58 (6.42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cores</td>
<td>280 (29.69%)</td>
<td>100 (11.07%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraders</td>
<td>10 (1.06%)</td>
<td>30 (3.32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>943 (100.00%)</td>
<td>903 (99.99%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All categories include both complete specimens and fragments

5 1991 TESTING AT PHILLIP'S GARDEN (7A200-280; EeBi-1)

5.1 Introduction

Although Phillip's Garden was not one of the excavation areas this year, a day and a half testing program was undertaken. The program's objectives were: [1] to test the well defined square house depression at 7A368C to make sure that it was not disturbed and therefore could be excavated in the 1992 field season, [2] to test around Harp's Houses 3-4 where he found Phillip's Garden West points, and [3] to randomly test for other middens, in particular looking for evidence of caribou and other land mammals which are so far very poorly represented at the site. All test pits were located on the site map.
5.2 Results
A single test pit was excavated within the house depression in 7A368C. The depression’s unusual squareness suggested that this might be the result of a small excavation grid rather than the shape of the house itself. An old un-filled test pit was visible in the centre of the depression, but otherwise there was no evidence of disturbance. The test pit showed an undisturbed soil horizon.

A few test pits were dug around the perimeter of Harp’s Houses 3-4, in the northwest corner of the site. Although the area was very disturbed, an intact bone pit was found at the eastern edge of House 4, and a second undisturbed deposit was found immediately north of the houses, on the lowest beach ridge where no cultural material had been recovered up until now.

Twelve test pits were excavated in the western area of the site where on the site map there are no visible house depressions, which suggests midden infilling. Two well-defined midden deposits were found in 7A258C, as well as one in the southwestern most corner of the site, near the tucamore, where no operation has yet been assigned. A bone concentration or possible midden feature was found in 7A253 and two bone pit features were found, one in 7A222 and a second in 7A300. In all cases, the faunal material was predominantly seal.

6 1991 EXCAVATIONS AT DOBBIN CAVE (7A63; EeBi-34), EASTERN POINT 1 (7A68; EeBi-35) AND EASTERN POINT 2 (7A69; EeBi-38)

6.1 1990 Testing at the Caves
In 1990 a number of caves was tested along the coast of the Port au Choix Peninsula. In the Dobbin Cave (7A63), just within the Park boundaries, a biface and a burin-like tool were found, and at Eastern Point 1 (7A68), just outside the Park boundaries, a human vertebra was found (Renouf 1991:67-69).

Dobbin Cave was located at the back of the active beach, and had been noted in 1984 (Renouf 1985:21-24). It was tested in 1986 (Brown 1988), but with no results. However, in 1990 frost heave or bioturbation brought some cultural material to the surface.

Eastern Point 1 was a horizontal slit underneath a rock overhang that occurred slightly back from the active beach, at the edge of a grassy meadow where a small number of houses had existed at the turn of the century. The bone was found lying on the surface of the limestone rubble within the crevice, which was part of a series of such overhangs and slits, similar to the complex system at Crow Head. Mr. Albert Dobbin showed us a magnificent antler carving of a ptarmigan which he had been given as a boy by someone who claimed to have picked it up at Eastern Point.

It was possible that either or both of these two "caves" was an undisturbed Dorset burial. However, since Howley (1915) had reported a burial from this area, there was the likelihood that either Dobbin Cave or Eastern Point was disturbed.

6.2 Objectives of the 1991 Excavations
In 1991 we intended to excavate both caves to determine their function and degree of disturbance. Two physical anthropologists were present in case a human burial was encountered, Dr. Sonja Jerkic of Memorial University of Newfoundland, and Dr. Jerry Melbye from Erindale College, University of Toronto.
6.3 Description of the 1991 Excavations

6.3.1 Dobbin Cave

Dobbin Cave was a vertical slice out of the bedrock (Plate 50), measuring 70 cm wide and 3.5 metres deep; height was not measured since the cave rubble represented rockfall, and also rubble that had been thrown in after the 1990 investigation. An above-ground baseline was established which longitudinally bisected the cave and from which elevations could be taken. Five triangulation points were established inside the cave at the same elevation as the baseline. One metre units, each a suboperation (A-E), were marked off along the baseline (Fig. 17). The mouth of the cave was at 4.11 metres above the high tide mark.

The rubble, Level 1, was largely disturbed, with plastic and metal throughout. The large rubble on top overlaid smaller rubble mixed with a small amount of brown earth. A burin-like tool, two endblades (Plate 54), some flakes and some small pieces of animal bone were mixed in with the rubble; no human bone was found. The rubble was removed from the cave to the point at which the floor became too narrow for a burial to be possible. A small area directly outside the cave was also excavated. It, too, was disturbed, and no prehistoric cultural material was found. Once excavated, the cave measured 10 metres in depth, 52 cm wide at the front and 9 cm wide at the back, and 120 cm high (Fig. 17).

The location of the cave suggests that it functioned as a bird blind. There are modern and historic bird blinds all around this particular point (Plate 51), which indicates that this locale was and still is a good duck hunting area. Possibly, local currents keep the water open just at this spot, in much the same way as at Gargamelle Point, another area where modern, historic and prehistoric duck hunting activity took place (Renouf 1991:63). There was a high number of burin-like tools at Gargamelle Point, suggesting that whittling or carving might have gone on while the hunter waited. If correct, the two burin-like tools from Dobbin Cave might also reflect this sort of activity.

6.3.2 Eastern Point 1

Located just outside the Park boundaries, at approximately 6.5 m.a.s.l., Eastern Point 1 was a horizontal slit in the rock face, low to the ground, and underneath a large overhang (Plate 52). There are several horizontal and vertical openings in the bedrock in this area, and Eastern Point 1 is the largest and most well-defined.

A north-south baseline was set up outside and parallel to the crevice mouth, three metres away. From this, the area within and immediately outside the crevice was divided into a 2m² grid (Fig. 18, Plate 53), and each unit was given a suboperation number (A-E). The rubble was cleared out and two levels, both disturbed, were established. Level 1 was rubble mixed with dark, organic soil, beneath which was Level 2, a grey sandy soil. All soil and rubble was screened.

As excavation proceeded, several human teeth and small skeletal elements were found, making it clear that the crevice was indeed a burial site. However, it was also obvious that it had been disturbed, since metal was mixed in with the rubble and since no large bones were found. The disturbance was not as recent as that the Dobbin Cave, and it was concluded that this was the burial cave mentioned in Howley (1915). Probably it found by those who had lived only a few metres away in the meadow at the turn of the century. The houses are no longer there and, judging from the thick overgrowth, were abandoned several decades ago.
Plate 50. Dobbin Cave

Plate 51. Modern bird blind near Dobbin Cave
Fig. 17. Dobbin Cave, plan and grid

EASTERN POINT 1 CAVE: PLAN VIEW, LIMESTONE OVERHANG AND EXCAVATION GRID 7A68
Plate 52. Eastern Point 1

Plate 53. Eastern Point 1, excavation in progress
Fig. 18. Eastern Point 1, floor plan and grid
Most of the skeletal remains (n = 94, including teeth) were clustered in suboperation C, immediately outside the crevice (Fig. 18). Lesser frequencies of skeletal material were found throughout the other suboperations. All that had escaped previous disturbance were small artefacts, teeth, fragments of larger bones, and small skeletal elements such as phalanges, carpals, tarsals, and the hyoid. Although not found in anatomical order, there was a distinct patterning, with a predominance of vertebrae and teeth in the southern suboperations A and C compared to a predominance of hand and foot bones in the more northern suboperations, B and D. Analysis by Dr. Melbye is in progress; however, at present it can be said that there were at least two individuals, since there was at least one adult and one juvenile represented. Given what we know about other burials in the area (Brown 1988) it is likely that more than two individuals were buried at Eastern Point 1.

Twenty-four bone, ivory and lithic artefacts were recovered (Plate 54), thirteen of which came from suboperation C. Included are a polar bear effigy (Plate 54:2), in the flat, plaque, style characteristic of Newfoundland Dorset (Harp 1969/70; Harp and Hughes 1968) and a toy harpoon (Plate 54:3). A small amount of faunal material was also recovered from all suboperations.

6.3.3 Eastern Point 2

Approximately five metres south of Eastern Point 1, a second crevice, Eastern Point 2, was noted. A seal tooth pendant (Plate 54:4) was found on the surface of the rubble, but further investigations showed the crevice to be sterile.

6.4 Discussion of Port au Choix Cave Salvage Excavations

In 1986 a small crew under the direction of Dr. S.C. Brown salvaged two looted Palaeoeskimo caves, Crow Head Cave, and Gargamelle Rockshelter (Brown 1988). Similar to the situation at Eastern Point 1, many small human bones, small fragments of larger bones, some artefacts, and some faunal bone had been overlooked by the looters. The skeletal material from Crow Head Cave had been given to Dr. James A. Tuck, who published an analysis of it (Tuck and Andersen 1974), and the human bones from Gargamelle Rock Shelter had been given to Dr. Elmer Harp, Jr. (Harp and Hughes 1968). On the basis of the published material, in addition to the new data from the salvage excavations, Brown was able to conclude with confidence that both burials had been multiple. Crow Head contained a minimum of five, and possibly six, individuals and Gargamelle Rockshelter had a minimum of eight, and possibly nine, skeletons. Further, the absence of certain skeletal elements from both collections led to the tentative conclusion that at both sites burial had been secondary. On the basis of the spatial distribution of the newly excavated cultural and skeletal material Brown argued that at Crow Head burials had been sequential, whereas at Gargamelle Rockshelter burial had been a single event. Since the age distribution of the human material from Gargamelle Rockshelter was one elderly adult, one adult male, two (possibly female) adults, two adolescents, an approximate six year old, an approximate two year old and a neonate, Brown (1988) suggested that this might represent an extended family who had suffered a common fate. This analysis illustrates the new information on Palaeoeskimo mortuary practices that can been inferred from salvage excavations.
Plate 54. Artefacts from Eastern Point 1 and 2
1  bone flaker
2  polar bear effigy
3  harpoon head effigy
4  tooth pendant
5-6  burin-like tool haft pieces
7-9  endblades
10-12  microblades
13-15  scrapers
Howley sent the bone and artefactual material from Eastern Point 1 to the Peabody Museum, and hopefully the skeletal material will be recovered. If so, the Eastern Point 1 material will add to the continuing analysis of Dorset mortuary remains from Port au Choix.

7 1991 EXCAVATIONS AT THE SPENCE SITE (EeBi-36; 7A76-85)

7.1 1990 Testing of the Site
In 1990, at the suggestion of a Port au Choix resident, we tested the property of Mrs. Olga Spence, discovering a prehistoric Indian site of unspecified age. Non-Palaeoeskimo artefacts, namely relatively coarse grained chert flakes, two large biface fragments and a large retouched Ramah chert flake, resulted from limited testing near the Spence house. In retrospect, this was not particularly surprising because the location fulfilled a number of criteria we had set for a Maritime Archaic Indian living site: it was on the mainland rather than what in prehistoric times was the island portion of the Port au Choix and Point Riche Peninsulas, it was near a fresh water source, it would have been a good place to haul up a boat and it had a view of the cemetery (Renouf 1991:69). However, the Spence site is at 2-3 m.a.s.l, which is considerably lower than the 6 m.a.s.l. of the Maritime Archaic cemetery and therefore we thought that the Spence site was possibly younger.

7.2 Objectives of the 1991 Excavations
The main purpose of the 1991 excavations was to establish the age and extent of the prehistoric Indian site. Since the garden had clearly been bulldozed in the recent past, it was not certain how much of the site remained.

7.3 Description of the 1991 Excavations

7.3.1 Introduction
The disturbance of the Spence site came from three sources. The area around and including Mrs. Spence's backyard had been bulldozed in order to level it, the contiguous main road (Plate 55) had been widened and paved, and a shallow tidal inlet that had once existed immediately south of the garden had been filled in by the Port au Choix town council in the 1970s. Therefore the entire area was test pitted to identify and delimit any undisturbed areas. One such area was found not far from the road, between Mrs. Rita Offrey's house to the south and the Sea Echo Motel cabin to the north (Fig. 19). A second area was found alongside a small shed closer to the Spence house, where part of the bank of the old inlet could still be seen. Landowner permission was obtained to excavate in the first, but not the second, location.

A grid was set up, discontinuously covering 20 m² (Plate 56). Since the Spence site lies outside the Park boundaries the Borden provenience system prevailed. However, we used the Parks provenience system as well, with the 1991 excavation area designated 7A77A and D. At the end of the excavation season, a 50 cm wide north-south and a 50 cm wide east-west trench were extended from the main area, to encompass 7A78D and 7A80B (Fig. 20).
Fig. 19. Spence site, excavation area and test pits.
Fig. 20. Spence site, operation map
Plate 55. Location of Spence excavations in relation to main road

Plate 56. Spence site grid with Offrey house in foreground and Spence house in background
7.3.2 Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of the Spence site was straightforward, with a single cultural level, Level 3 (Fig. 21). Level 1 was the disturbed uppermost layer that had been created by the bulldozer. It consisted of large rocks and beach soil (angular limestone pebbles, waterworn pebbles, and shell fragments of various mollusc species) and contained a few flakes. The thickness of this level varied from 25 cm in the western part of the excavation area to 0-10 cm in the east.

Level 2 was a layer of undisturbed peat which extended over most of the excavation area. The peat varied in thickness from 25-30 cm in the least disturbed areas, to approximately 10 cm in the more disturbed areas, in particular in the easternmost area where the peat appeared to have been ploughed off. In the more disturbed eastern areas, a few centimetres of beach gravel was mixed into the top of the peat level. Throughout the excavation area a small amount of lithic material occurred in the basal 5 cm of the peat, probably as a result of frost action.

Level 3 was the cultural level and was characterized by a black/brown organic and often slightly greasy soil. It varied in thickness from 2-7 cm and fire-cracked and small limestone rocks were scattered throughout, although clustering in places (Plate 57). At the base of Level 3 a thin medium grey layer of clay-like soil occurred. As at the other Port au Choix sites, this was a result of a reaction between the basic limestone beach/bedrock and the overlying and more acidic layers. Both Indian and Palaeoeskimo cultural material was found within Level 3, with no clear horizontal or vertical distinction between them. Within Level 3, the fire-cracked rocks and associated soil were designated Level 3R1 (Plate 57). Cultural material occurred beneath the rocks, and organic preservation was best in this sub-level.

Level 4 was the ancient beach terrace, its matrix consisting of limestone and waterworn pebbles and various shell fragments, similar to the disturbed Level 1. Several squares excavated into the beach proved to be sterile.

7.3.3 Feature 2

Feature 2 was a hearth which occurred in Level 3 of four units, E00-01 N06-07 (Plate 58), and reflected faunal and lithic processing activities. It was defined by an area of fire-cracked rocks which partially surrounded a roughly oval concentration of burned bone (lots 157, 182, 191, 333) within a shallow depression. The depression measured 55 cm by 30 cm and was 7 cm deep, and the span of rocks measured 40 cm by 85 cm. As with most hearth features from this site, its irregular shape may be a result of either occupational/post-occupational disturbance or expedient use. A large number of lithics was associated, including numerous flakes (lots 156, 181, 184, 190, 269, 332), eleven cores (lots 457-58, 460, 481, 484-85, 489, 494-95, 497, 775), three biface fragments (lots 459, 482-483), a biface preform (lot 496), a utilized flake (lot 488) and a tabular piece of ground slate (lot 776). Many of the flakes and some cores had a grey-black vitreous patina, similar to the finish on lustre-ware, that indicated heat treatment. A single charcoal sample was taken (lot 183) that yielded a date of 1360 +/- 80 B.P. (Table 12) and soil samples were taken for flotation (lots 158, 160, 185).

*Feature 1 was originally thought to be a hearth in Test Pit #28 but was subsequently cancelled.

*Lot numbers are equivalent to Borden system catalogue numbers (eg. lot 157 is catalogued as EeBi-36:157)
Fig. 21. Spence site, profiles

LEGEND
- Built with grid coordinates
- Sod level
- Level 1, disturbed gravel
- Level 2, peat
- Level 3, diaphragm, cultural level
- Level 4, cobble beach
- Limestone
- Fire-cracked rock

SPENCE SITE EeBi-36

SOIL PROFILE
Plate 57. Spence site, bottom of Level 3 (3R1)

Plate 58. Spence site, Features 4, 5 and 9
7.3.4 Feature 3
This was an isolated concentration of large flakes (lot 89) that occurred in the western portion of E03N09. Found within Level 3, the concentration measured 10 x 15 cm and was 4 cm deep. All were secondary flakes of the same relatively coarse grained chert, indicating a single flaking episode. Although many artefacts were found in this unit, none were associated with Feature 3.

7.3.5 Feature 4
This was a shallow, irregularly defined, hearth in Level 3 of E00N09. It was defined on the basis of a concentration of burned bone (lots 141, 143, 147-48) which was surrounded on three sides by fire-cracked rock and non-fired limestone rocks (Plate 58). The area of burned bone measured 20 cm in diameter, and the entire feature measured 48 x 41 cm. A large number of flakes (lots 40, 142-43, 147, 149), some core fragments (lots 152, 261-63), a retouched flake (lot 155) and a blade (lot 64) were in association. A charcoal sample (lot 39) and a soil sample (lot 145) were collected.

7.3.6 Feature 5
This was a small pit that occurred in the northwest corner of unit E00N08, continuing into the northeast corner of W01N08. The pit began in Level 3, measuring 30 cm by 22 cm, and it tapered to 15 cm diameter in Level 4; depth was 10-16 cm. Two limestone and a quartzite rock lined the pit’s east rim and a large limestone slab defined the western rim. Plate 58 shows Feature 8 as a shallow pit in the background, against the western baulk. The line of rocks belongs to Feature 9, described below. A moderate number of flakes was found (lot 505), along with a small amount of burned and unburned faunal (lot 503), a retouched flake (lot 1163), a side-notched projectile point (lot 1164), and a bone haft (lot 1168).

7.3.7 Feature 6
This was an oval hearth-like feature defined by a shallow depression in the centre of unit E00N08. The depression was lined by small limestone rocks, a couple of which were fire-cracked and within which there was a concentration of burned bone (lot 109). Flecks of charcoal (lots 112, 165, 247) were found underneath this concentration. The feature measured 40 cm by 50 cm and was 1-3 cm deep. A large number of flakes (lot 108) and several cores (lots 524-525, 527-528) were associated.

7.3.8 Feature 7
Feature 7 was a concentration of burned bone (lot 187) outlined by fire-cracked rock that occurred in Level 3 of unit E01N06. It measured 40 cm by 60 cm and the soil matrix containing the cultural material was 4 cm thick. No artefacts and few flakes (lot 188) were associated.

7.3.9 Feature 8
This was a tightly clustered flake concentration that occurred in the southeast corner of unit E03N06. Circular, it measured 20 cm in diameter at the top level, widening out to 30 cm at the base; depth was 4.5 cm. In addition to numerous flakes (lots 204, 206), at least one of which was utilized (lot 526), were a number of core and core fragments (lots 524-525, 527-528). The fact that most of the flakes and
all the cores were of the same coarse grained chert indicates a single toolmaking episode.

7.3.10 Feature 9

Feature 9 was a hearth-like feature which occurred in units E00N08-09 (Plate 58). It consisted of a linear depression that curved through the western one third of the two units, and it was lined on either side by rocks, a few of which were fire-cracked. Feature 5, the shallow circular depression, was adjacent and may or may not be associated. The linear depression and associated rocks of Feature 9 measured 100 cm by 60 cm, and the cultural matrix was 13.5 cm deep. Since the feature ran under a baulk to the west, its complete dimensions are not known. A concentration of charcoal (lot 177) occurred within the pit, beneath which was burned bone (lot 179). Associated material includes flakes (lot 176) a biface (lot 604), and a piece of worked bone (lot 606). The charcoal returned a date of 1420 +/- 70 B.P. (Table 12).

7.3.11 Feature 10

This was a neatly defined hearth which occurred in Level 3 of the north test trench (Plate 59) in units E01N12-13. The feature consisted of a 46 cm wide circular arrangement of fire-cracked rocks; although it could be measured north-south, its western limit was obscured by the west baulk. Highly fragmented and powdery burned bone (lot 468) was found in a one cm thick lens within the area bounded by the fire-cracked rock. Few flakes (lot 467) were associated and the only artefact was a piece of possibly cut bone (lot 1040). A single charcoal sample was collected (lot 469). Notable was the fact that the area surrounding the hearth was relatively free of fire-cracked rock and other debris, in contrast to the rock-strewn main excavation area immediately to the south.

7.3.12 Feature 11

This was a concentration of cores, core fragments (lots 1013-1017) and flakes (lot 392) in unit E01N10, in the north-south test trench. The material occurred in a tight cluster 15 cm in diameter and 5 cm thick, and the material was the uniform light-medium grey chert found throughout the site, suggesting a single flaking event.

7.3.13 Feature 12

This was a pit within unit W02N08 of the east-west test trench. The pit measured 67 cm east-west and was 18 cm deep; north-south it measured 19 cm but ran into the south baulk. The soil in the depression was not as black and organic as the surrounding matrix, and instead was more grey and clay-like, possibly as part of the natural transition zone between beach and peat. A flake concentration (lots 379, 380) occurred at the pit's northern rim, extending into the northern baulk of the trench. A single fire-cracked rock was in the bottom of the depression, and no other rocks were associated. In the pit, some unburned bone was found (lot 469), along with a retouched flake (lot 1036), a utilized flake (lot 1123), a microblade (lot 1122), three cores (lots 1121, 1124, 1127) and a biface (lot 1128). A charcoal sample (lot 375) was taken and backdirt was collected for flotation (lot 469).
Plate 59. Spence site, Feature 10, hearth
7.3.14 Feature 13
This was a flake (lot 573) and burned bone (lot 574) concentration found within a small shallow pit in Level 3R1 of unit E01N09. The pit was 10 cm in diameter at the top and 6 cm at the base; depth was 11 cm. Some unburned bone was found (lot 574), and the flakes were all small retouched flakes of a dark grey chert. Only charcoal flecks were present; a soil sample was collected for flotation (lot 571).

7.3.15 Feature 14
This was a semi-circular shallow pit in Level 3R1, situated in the northeast part of unit E00N09 and running into the northern baulk of the excavation area. The pit measured 40 cm east-west and 25 cm north-south and was 10 cm deep; a portion of the feature lay under unit E00N09. Three fire-cracked rocks were within the depression, protruding from the northern baulk. Three cores (lots 1195-97), a Palaeoeskimo scraper (lots 1198), two flake concentrations (lots 499, 592) and a few fragments of burned bone were in association. There was no charcoal.

7.3.16 Feature 15
Feature 15 was a sharply defined oval pit in Level 3R1 of unit E01N08. It measured 29 cm by 22 cm and was 11.5 cm deep. Soil within the pit was black, organic and greasy, with flecks of charcoal throughout. At the base a single fire-cracked rock and four cores (lots 1241-43) were found. Also associated were a unifacial knife (lot 1244), a piece of cut bone (lot 1245), a few small retouch and larger secondary flakes (lot 546), and fragmented burned bones (lot 547). A soil sample was taken for flotation (lot 548).

7.4 Discussion of 1991 Excavations at the Spence Site
The Spence site is located on the north bank of what was once a shallow inlet, or tidal pool, off Back Arm, at approximately 2.7 m.a.s.l. (Fig. 22). In this century the pool was so shallow that it became an unsightly health hazard and approximately twenty years ago the town of Port au Choix filled it in, its outline only barely discernable today. However, one and a half thousand years ago the inlet was at a lower elevation and was deeper, and would have been an ideal place to pull up a boat. It is likely that other sites roughly contemporaneous with Spence can be found elsewhere along the inlet banks where houses and gardens can be found today.

The Spence site has both a Palaeoeskimo and an Indian component, although the Palaeoeskimo material is minimal. There is no horizontal or vertical separation of Indian and Palaeoeskimo material, both found in Level 3; however, the material sorts itself out on the basis of diagnostic artefacts, raw material and size of flakes. An estimated 99% of the material from the site is of a coarse chert that is not suitable for the characteristically small Palaeoeskimo tools which are made instead on the fine grained Cow Head cherts. The flakes at Spence are large and relatively crude and are clearly not from the Palaeoeskimo tradition of tool making. The small number of diagnostic Indian projectile points found at the site were manufactured from this material (Plate 60).

Tool manufacturing clearly took place at the Spence site with more than twice as many cores and core fragments as finished tools. Debitage is abundant and all stages of manufacture are well represented. This, together with the relatively few
Fig. 22. Location of Spence site in town of Port au Choix
preforms, indicates that the tools were brought to final form at the site. Although a logical alternative interpretation of the preform scarcity is that the initial stages of reduction took place here, with the incompletely finished items taken elsewhere, the high proportion of tertiary, or retouch, flakes does not support this.

The source of the coarse grained chert is presumably nearby. In fact it is probably right at the inlet and is now buried. If so, this is one of the few sources of acceptable quality chert known at Port au Choix aside from occasional beach cobbles or boulders. Other than that, the only chert available locally is poor quality white chert, which has too many fracture planes for it to be controllable while flaking. The Spence site is either entirely a workshop site, or a workshop activity area on a larger site, yet to be defined.

Table 9. Lithic frequencies, Spence site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finished Tools</th>
<th>Preforms</th>
<th>Cores and Core Fragments</th>
<th>Primary Flakes</th>
<th>Secondary Flakes</th>
<th>Retouch Flakes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>3,640</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>16,524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary = those flakes with some cortex remaining
Secondary = those flakes neither primary or tertiary
Tertiary = small retouch flakes

Many of the flakes, cores and core fragments (Plate 61) occurred in and around areas of fire-cracked rock, or else were associated with a particular hearth feature. Of these, many appeared to be heat treated resulting in a vitreous surface. Heat treating could have been intentional, meant to anneal the chert and enhance its flaking characteristics, or it could have been a by-product of flaking activities taking place around a fire.

The abundance of material from Spence suggests that it was heavily used, and the large and generally amorphous nature of the fire-cracked rock suggests that use was frequent (Fig. 23). In contrast, the thin Palaeoeskimo material probably represents a brief occupation. All fourteen features relate to the Indian occupation and ten of them are clustered in a 16m² area (Fig. 24), with evidence of workshop activity tailing off to the north and west. This area must have been the focus of the workshop activities. Of the features, seven were hearths, comprising fire-cracked rock, charcoal flecks and, in most cases, a shallow pit. All contained greater or lesser amounts of burned bone, reflecting food processing, and four of the seven features contained core fragments and abundant flakes, suggesting tool manufacturing and, possibly, heat treating activities.

95
Fig. 23. Spence site, top of Level 3
LEGEN

LEVEL 1 - BED BANK
LEVEL 1 - BURIED BEACH GRAVEL, OVERFLOW
LEVEL 2 - SUGAR SPT
LEVEL 3 - LOOSE VARIATION, LOOSE BEACH GRAVEL
LIMESTONE AND/OR BOLOMITE, CALCHE
SANDSTONE, NUDSTONE
GRANITE ROCK, FIRE HEATED AND/OR CRACKED
HEAT DECOMPOSED GRANITE
QUARTZITE, CUPOLA FORMATION, FIRE HEATED, AND/OR CRACKED
HEAT DECOMPOSED QUARTZITE
QUARTZITE, SANDSTONE, FIRE HEATED, AND/OR CRACKED
DISTURBED AREA, ABSENCE OF NATURAL SOIL LEVELS AND
CULTURAL LEVEL

GRID NORTH APPROX. 12° EAST
(OF MAGNETIC NORTH)

PORT AU CHOIX-OLGA SPENCE SITE; EER 36

TOP OF LEVEL 4 SITE MAP

SCALE
DATE 4.23.91
MAPPED BY J. MACEY
Fig. 24. Spence site, feature summary
Plate 60. Palaeoeskimo and Recent Indian lithics from Spence

1-9  Recent Indian projectile points
10, 12-13 microblades, could be Dorset or Recent Indian
11 concave side scraper, probably Recent Indian
14 Recent Indian flake scraper, of Ramah chert
15 nephrite axe, probably Dorset
16 Recent Indian retouched flake, of Ramah chert
Plate 61. Recent Indian lithics from Spence
1-2 core fragments
3 biface
4 core
Table 10. Feature clusters at the Spence site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food processing activities</th>
<th>Food processing and lithic manufacturing activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Features 9, 10, 7</td>
<td>Features 2, 4, 6, 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faunal material occurred in two distinct levels in the area of fire-cracked rock. Level 3 bone was generally burned and fragmented, whereas larger unburned fragments were found in Level 3R1. Another difference was that Level 3R1 bone was less widely scattered than Level 3 bone, restricted to units E00N07-09, E01N08-09, and W01N08. These separate levels were probably a result of two patterns of deposition whereby unburned bone was deposited on the beach surface (Level 4) in contrast to burned bone which was either left in a hearth or cleaned out and thrown to the side. Either way, this burned bone would have been kicked around the surface as hearths were re-used and re-arranged during episodes of occupation. In this way, calcined bone and fire-cracked rock would have been spread beyond the original hearth boundaries covering the unburned faunal that was deposited in a more restricted area.

The dates from the Spence site (Table 12) place it in the Recent Indian period of the island’s prehistory, which dates from 2000-300 B.P. (Table 11). This chronological period can be traced to historic Beothuck, but cannot yet be connected to earlier Maritime Archaic because of the current lack of material from the island of Newfoundland dating to the Intermediate Indian period (3200-2000 B.P.), although material from this period has been found in southern Labrador (Tuck 1982).

Table 11. Chronological/cultural periods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chronological/Cultural Periods, Newfoundland and Labrador</th>
<th>Years Before Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Archaic</td>
<td>4500-3200 B.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Indian</td>
<td>3200-2000 B.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent Indian</td>
<td>2000-300 B.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beothuck</td>
<td>300-130 B.P.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dates are meant as approximations since not all periods are well represented by radiocarbon dates.

The Recent Indian category can be subdivided into an earlier (2000-800 B.P.) and a younger period (800-300 B.P.) on the basis of projectile point style, the younger period characterised by very small corner-notched points which may be arrowheads. There is little Recent Indian material found on the northern Peninsula from the earlier period and, so far, only a single artefact from Eddies Cove pertaining to the later. Of the earlier period, most material on the island comes from a number of sites in Bonavista Bay (Carignan 1975, 1977; Austin 1984), as well as from Cow Head.
(Tuck 1978) and L'anse aux Meadows. Most of these early Recent Indian sites are workshop sites, similar to Spence, giving a skewed picture of activities and material culture. Recent Indian material from the last millennium has been found at Bonavista Bay (Carignan 1975; 1977), Notre Dame Bay (Pastore 1982; 1983; 1984; 1985; 1986), Trinity Bay (Evans 1982; Robbins 1982), and the Port au Port Peninsula (Simpson 1984) and is characterized by the small corner notched points mentioned above. This material is part of the Little Passage Complex (Penney 1985) in Newfoundland and it is generally accepted as Beothuk.

In this context, the Spence site is an important addition to what is known about the second millennium before present on the island of Newfoundland. The closest comparison is the undated Band 2 of the Cow Head site which is also a workshop site with large numbers of cores, core fragments and flakes and only a few finished tools, including side-notched points similar to those from Spence (Tuck pers. comm.).

8. SUMMARY OF 1991 FIELD SEASON AT PORT AU CHOIX

This was the largest and most complex field season at Port au Choix. Major excavations took place at four sites, minor excavations at two sites, and two sites were extensively tested. The results were, as always, interesting. New information was gained on one Dorset and two Groswater house structures, increasing the range of dwelling variability known for those time periods. New data were collected on small special purpose Dorset sites and on Dorset burials. Finally, excavations at the Recent Indian Spence site provided information on a period of aboriginal occupation not previously known for the area.

This represents an important shift in emphasis for the Port au Choix Archaeology Project which has until now focussed exclusively on Palaeoeskimo sites. Not surprisingly, the shift of cultural emphasis also involves a shift in geographical emphasis, away from the exposed coastal area within the National Historic Park to include the more protected and centralized coastal areas of the town of Port au Choix. This is no doubt a direct reflection of the differences between the subsistence practices of the Palaeoeskimo groups as compared to the Indian groups, whereby the latter is less exclusively marine focussed.

The finding of the Recent Indian Spence site has reinforced an intuitive assessment made at the beginning of the Port au Choix Archaeology Project in 1984, namely that there might well be a more or less continuous sequence of human occupation at Port au Choix. As field seasons accumulate some of the gaps begin to fill in.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab No.</th>
<th>Site Name and Parks Provenience</th>
<th>Descriptive Provenience</th>
<th>C14 Years B.P. Uncalibrated</th>
<th>C14 Years B.P. Calibrated, Intercept Method, 1 sigma (Stuiver and Becker 1986)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beta 49759</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A711A650</td>
<td>Feature 21, a dump within the hillside midden (Feature 5), in Level 2, probably thrown up from the lower terrace</td>
<td>2540 +/-160</td>
<td>2837-2359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 50021</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden E. 7A385A173</td>
<td>Feature 55, storage pit in Level 3, east of house Feature 14</td>
<td>2500 +/- 60</td>
<td>2740-2384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 49761</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A711D177</td>
<td>Feature 18, a dumping episode within the hillside midden (Feature 5), in Level 3, thrown down from the upper terrace.</td>
<td>2460 +/-120</td>
<td>1739-2349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 49758</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A701B386</td>
<td>Feature 16, a hearth in the centre of proposed tent structure (Feature 25), on upper terrace</td>
<td>2350 +/- 80</td>
<td>2465-2335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 50023</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden E. 7A393D384</td>
<td>House Feature 12, Level 3</td>
<td>2350 +/- 90</td>
<td>2693-2331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 49760</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A711D166</td>
<td>Feature 18, a dump episode in the midden (Feature 5), in Level 3, probably thrown down from the upper terrace</td>
<td>2340 +/-100</td>
<td>2693-2212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 50022</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden E. 7A385B119 3</td>
<td>Feature 53, storage pit west of house, Feature 12</td>
<td>2260 +/-70</td>
<td>2348-2159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 49756</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A701B236</td>
<td>Feature 23, &quot;spiral&quot; on upper terrace</td>
<td>2190 +/-100</td>
<td>2339-2061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 49757</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A701B302</td>
<td>Feature 14, poorly defined hearth on upper terrace</td>
<td>2090 +/-70</td>
<td>2291-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 50024</td>
<td>Point Riche 7A543C466-471</td>
<td>Scattered from within house, Feature 8</td>
<td>1830 +/- 90</td>
<td>1882-1625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 50026</td>
<td>Point Riche 7A557D511</td>
<td>Feature 24, hearth outside house, Feature 8</td>
<td>1800 +/- 70</td>
<td>1882-1617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta 50025</td>
<td>Point Riche 7A543C511</td>
<td>Inside slope of house (Feature 8) wall (2WC)</td>
<td>1760 +/- 150</td>
<td>2042-1350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beta 49754  Spence Site 7A77A383  Feature 9, hearth  1420 +/- 70  1388-1288
Beta 49753  Spence Site 7A77183  Feature 2, hearth  1360 +/- 80  1345-1185

All dates are on charcoal and based on a half-life of 5568 radiocarbon years.

REFERENCES


