

Artifacts from archaeological surveys in the Johnstone Strait region

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A small collection of material recovered during site-location surveys in the Johnstone Strait region is described. Artifacts and sites are clustered in three locales—the Templar Channel—Drury Inlet area, the mouth of Knight Inlet, and in the Quadra—Sonora—Cortes Island group. There are no major differences in the distribution of artifact classes among the groups with the exception of chipped-stone items which are prominent only in the southern cluster and a portion of the large Knight Inlet grouping. Age estimates for sites in this latter group suggest also that chipped stone is more common in early than late sites.

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Introduction

This paper is a companion-piece to a symposium contribution (Mitchell, 1969) that reported briefly the distribution of different classes of sites located by recent surveys in the Johnstone Strait region. The present article describes the small collection of artifacts made during the surveys.

The area examined stretches from the islands at the north end of the Gulf of Georgia to the southeastern part of Queen Charlotte Strait. It includes all or much of the historical territories of three Salish groups—Comox, Klahuse, and Homalco—and such Southern Kwakiutl groups as Lekwiltok, Wewikay, Matilpi, Tlawitsis, Mamalilikulla, Nimkish, Tsawataineuk, Kwaw-waineuk, Hahuamis, Kwicksitaneuk, Tenakteuk, and Awaitela.

Survey Procedures and the Artifact Sample

Artifacts reported here were recovered almost exclusively from beaches in front of sites that were discovered during three fairly short periods of survey activity in 1966 (three weeks), 1967 (one month), and 1968 (six weeks). As the primary objective of the survey was not that of collecting artifacts, this has undoubtedly resulted in the accumulation of a smaller sample than might otherwise have been the case. However, the proportion of time spent collecting was about the same each season and it is felt that the several regions were examined with equal intensity.

The surveys were undertaken by the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board in order to

locate sites which come under its jurisdiction and to determine what action might be necessary to ensure their protection. As a result, the survey parties were most concerned with the discovery of sites and assessment of their condition. Excepting the first season, when for a one-week period we used a three-person crew, the field parties consisted of two men.

For the majority of sites the investigation procedure was as follows. Once a site had been discovered we went to opposite ends of the beach and returned through the woods to determine the extent of the midden. One person would then record the site dimensions, vegetation, features, disturbance, etc., and would draw a rough sketch-map to show the site location, form, and the position of such features as house depressions and canoe runs. This recording process took on the average about 10 minutes to half an hour, depending upon the size and complexity of the site. During this time the other man examined the beach for artifacts. If the beach were long, or if some artifacts were discovered during this search, after he had completed the recording task, the second person joined in to ensure that all parts of the beach were thoroughly covered.

Among sites, then, there was probably relatively little difference in the intensity of the search. But there were definitely differences in the opportunities for surface-collecting, depending largely upon the state of the tide at the time of visit. Unfortunately, this piece of information was not recorded and I am unable to assess the bias it will have introduced. It seems likely that this "opportunity factor" will have

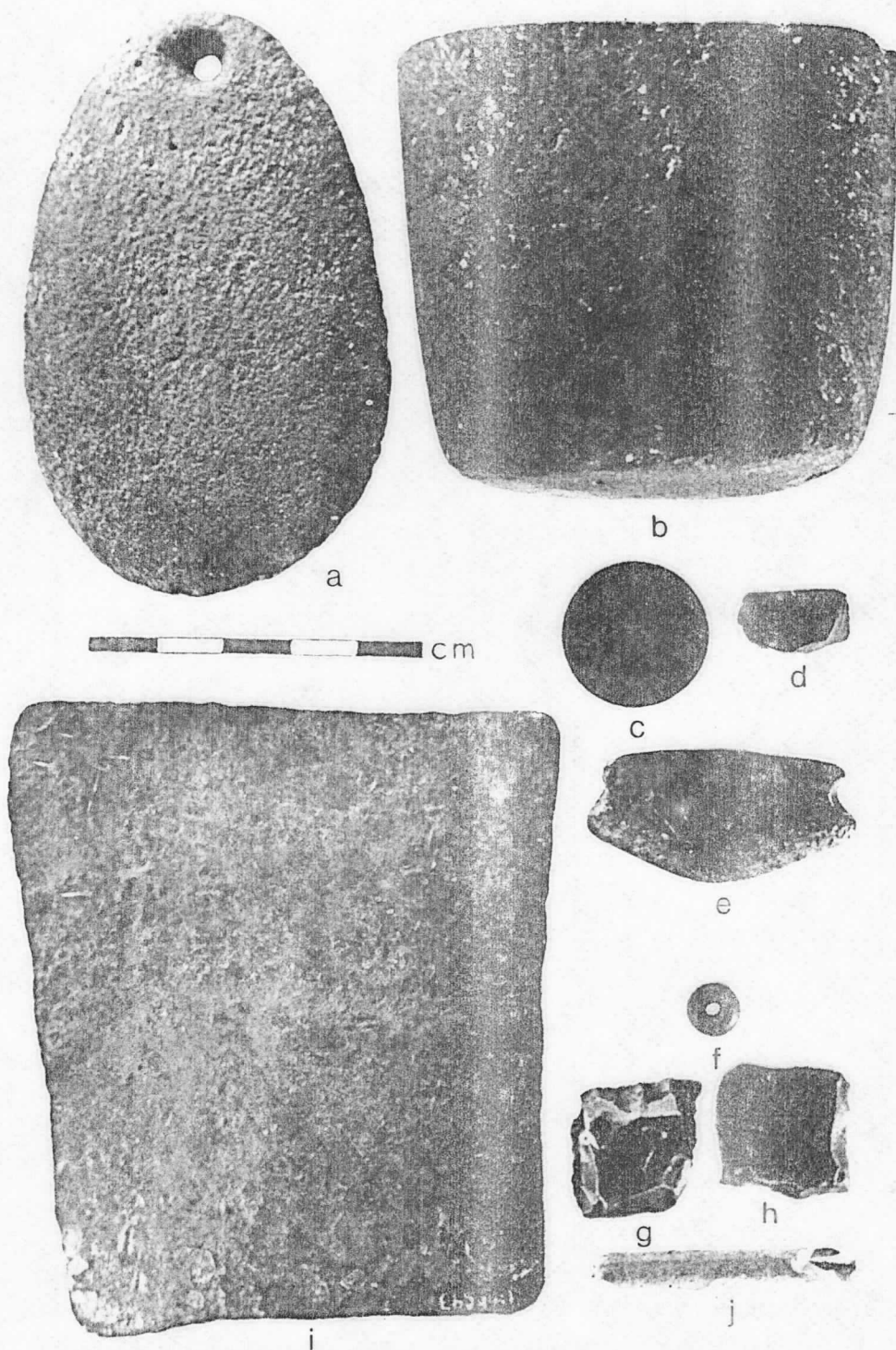


FIGURE 13. Pecked and ground stone artifacts, ground stone artifacts, and contact goods; *a*, perforated stone (*EfSr* 39); *b*, miscellaneous pecked and ground (*EdSo* 16); *c*, miscellaneous ground stone, basalt disc (*EdSo* 14); *d*, microcore (*EbSh* 13); *e*, miscellaneous ground stone (*EbSh* 13); *f*, blue glass bead (*EbSh* 13); *g*, *h*, gunflints (*EdSo* 34); *i*, sheet copper (*EbSg* 4); *j*, clay pipe stem (*EdSq* 1).

BONE-SPLINTER AWL: One; $(7.5) \times 1.4 \times 0.8$ cm. A sturdy splinter of mammal long bone has been shaped to a fairly blunt point. As there is no sign of wear on the irregular break of the proximal end, it has been assumed that the artifact was once longer. However, the absence of wear might be accounted for by use in some kind of haft.

Sandwich Midden, Courtenay (Capes, 1964, p. 36-37); Courtenay River Midden (Capes, 1964, p. 51); Comox and vicinity (Smith, 1907, p. 317); Rebecca Spit, Quadra Island (Mitchell, 1968, p. 38); Fort Rupert Site (Capes, 1964, p. 74); Schooner Passage, Rivers Inlet (Drucker, 1943, table 7); Kilkitei Village, Spiller Channel (Drucker, 1943, table 6); Roscoe Inlet 1 and 1A (Drucker, 1943, tables 4, 5).

ULNA TOOLS: Three (Fig. 14j-l); lengths 15.2 cm, 12.3 cm, and 7.3 cm. All are made from deer ulnae modified only at the distal end. The largest and smallest specimens (Fig. 14j and l) have pointed tips; the other (Fig. 14k) has a 0.6-cm-wide wedge end.

Sandwich Midden, Courtenay (Capes, 1964, p. 37); Comox and vicinity (Smith, 1907, p. 317); Rebecca Spit, Quadra Island (Mitchell, 1968, p. 38); Fort Rupert Site (1964, p. 74); Schooner Passage, Rivers Inlet (Drucker, 1943, table 7); Roscoe Inlet 1 and 1A (Drucker, 1943, tables 4, 5).

SPLIT METATARSAL AWL: One (Fig. 14m); length 15.0 cm. This metatarsal from an adult deer has been split between the condyles and along the vascular groove. The tip is ground to form a sturdy point.

Sandwich Midden, Courtenay (Capes, 1964, p. 37); Schooner Passage, Rivers Inlet (Drucker, 1943, table 7); Roscoe Inlet 1 (Drucker, 1943, table 4).

MISCELLANEOUS WORKED BONE: Six fragments or unidentifiable objects ranging from $(3.3) \times (1.2) \times (1.0)$ cm to $11.3 \times 2.6 \times 0.9$ cm. Three are pieces of sea mammal bone; the others, land mammal bone. All exhibit some grinding or carving.

Antler Artifacts

COMPOSITE TOGGLING HARPOON VALVE: One (Fig. 14b); $(4.3) \times 1.2 \times 0.6$ cm. This frag-

ment of the upper portion of a harpoon valve has been broken near what was probably the lower portion of the lashing groove. The groove is sharply set off from the tip, and the portion remaining is about (1.4) cm long. Opposite the lashing groove, on the ventral surface, is the flat bed where the two halves of the harpoon-head would have been in contact. This measures 1.2 cm from the top of the foreshaft socket to a stepped point bed. The socket indicates that the tip of the foreshaft was about 0.6 cm in diameter. At its base, the arming point cannot have measured more than 2 mm in thickness.

Sandwich Midden, Courtenay (Capes, 1964, p. 34); Courtenay River Midden (Capes, 1964, p. 47); Comox and vicinity (Smith, 1907, p. 310); Rebecca Spit, Quadra Island (Mitchell, 1968, p. 39); Schooner Passage, Rivers Inlet (Drucker, 1943, table 7); Kwatna Bay, Bella Coola area (Hobler, 1970, p. 89); Roscoe Inlet 1 (Drucker, 1943, table 4).

ANTLER SLEEVE HAFT: One (Fig. 14n); $14.1 \times 7.6 \times (4.5)$ cm. The artifact has split longitudinally but it appears to have been originally of an oval cross-section. The proximal end of the beam portion of a cast wapiti antler has been used as the raw material, with the burr and all sculpturing being removed by chopping and grinding. Only a portion of the dimpled undersurface of the burr remains to indicate the antler had been cast. The two sockets exposed by the split are of unequal size but similar form. Both seem to have been rectangular in section and both taper toward the back. The larger is 4.7 cm deep, measures 5.0 cm at the mouth, and 3.6 cm at the back. The smaller is 3.8 cm deep, and the front and back widths are 4.3 cm and 1.9 cm respectively.

Comox and vicinity (Smith, 1907, p. 314).

Contact Goods

Contact goods recovered during the surveys include nine pieces of sheet copper (e.g., Fig. 13i); two gun flints (Fig. 13g, h); a stem fragment from a clay pipe (Fig. 13j); and an opaque blue glass bead. The pipe stem is about 0.6 cm in diameter and has a 2-mm-diameter hole. The bead is 0.8 cm in diameter.