

**STUDIES IN
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Chapter 4

**THE NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE,
WEST PATRICIA**

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INTRODUCTION

One of the objectives of the Project's first field season was to initiate a brief inventory of the Severn River system in order to make decisions about the approaches to full-scale inventory in a future field season. This was considered necessary because: (1) 1/500,000 scale maps were not available for most of the Severn, and larger scale ones were not detailed enough to show all rapids and portages; (2) even with stereo viewing, air photographs did not always show all of the rapids and falls; and (3) the river is a considerable distance from the Red Lake air base and a reconnaissance was considered essential for future logistical and safety planning. The subsequent experiences of the survey team completely validated this decision.

A second overall objective of the data gathering phase of the West Patricia Land Use Plan during this field season was to have the various inventory teams (archaeologists, earth and life scientists, fish and wildlife biologists, etc.) provide input to each other's programmes, especially in areas that were not being examined by all the involved Branches, Agencies, and Divisions in one particular field season. To this end, seminars on recognition and recording were held for all survey teams, and the results for the archaeological programme included five new sites in the northern portion of West Patricia.

The study area, with recorded sites, is shown in Figure 14.

THE SEVERN RIVER SITES

One survey team spent ten days on this system, beginning at the eastern end of Sandy Lake and surveying approximately 128 kilometres downstream to Asipoquoba Lake. Unexpected rapids and falls (because of lack of detailed maps) made this inventory a hazardous one, and atmospheric conditions often precluded radio contact with the Red Lake base. It is intended that future surveys will employ local native guides and boats larger than 17 foot (5.1816 m) canoes. Four archaeological sites were found.

FhKa-1

This site is located in a rocky outcrop area on the north shore of the Severn River. The only artefacts, three large blue glass beads (Figure 15a), were found by shovel testing. The beads have been classified according to Kidd's system as 11a44 (Kidd & Kidd 1970). These are tubular beads which have been rounded off and their metric measurements are given in Table 8 below. The beads, manufactured in opaque glass of Cerulean Blue, are illustrated in Figure 15a. Site cultural affiliation is Historic.

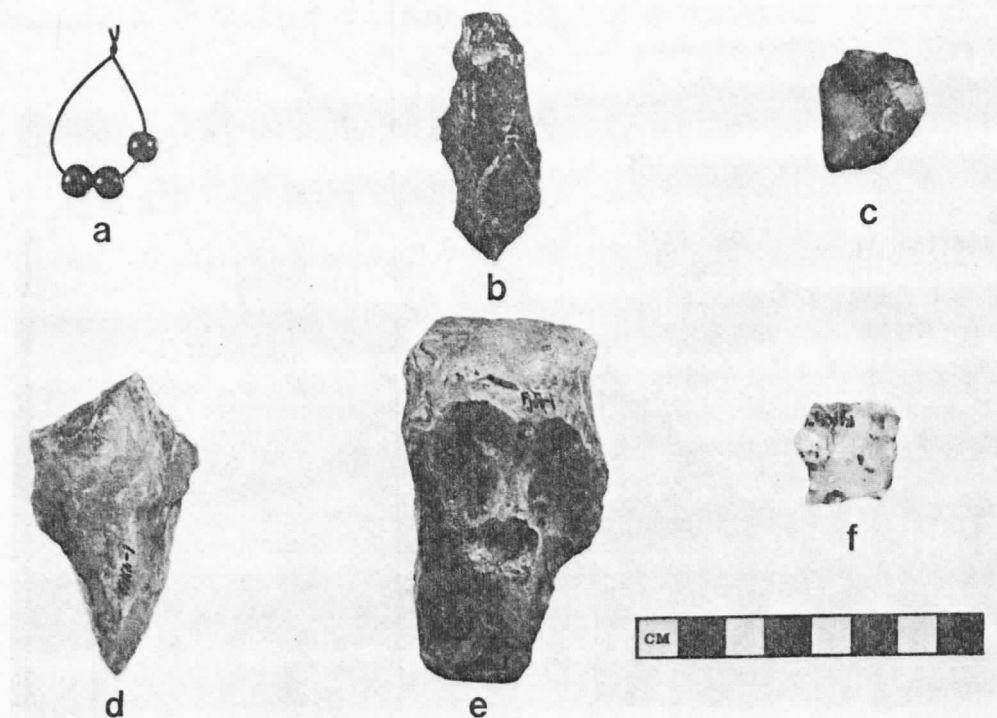


FIGURE 15: ARTEFACTS FROM THE SEVERN RIVER AND NORTHERN RECONNAISSANCE SITES: (a) *FhKa-1*, trade beads, blue glass; (b) *FhKb-2*, side scraper, local rhyolite; (c) *FhKb-2*, core, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; (d) *FiKh-1*, core, quartz; (e) *FjJn-1*, core, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; (f) *FjKh-1*, end scraper, quartz.

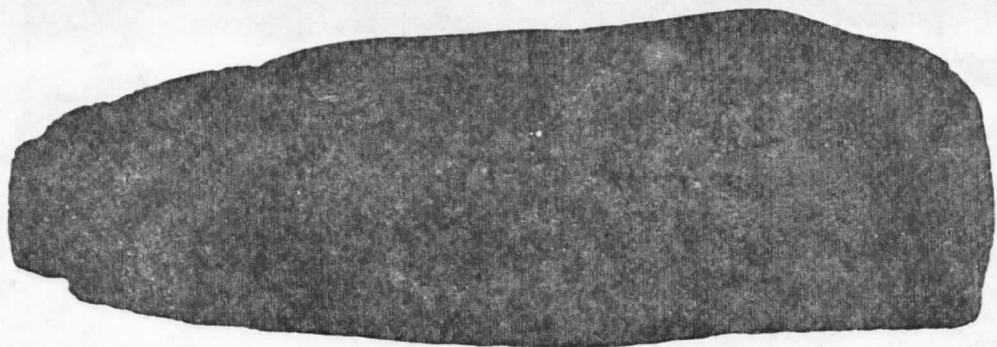


FIGURE 16: GROUND STONE AXE FROM *FaIs-1*