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Nelson Archaeological Project: Results of the
Investigation of a Stratified Campsite, DiQi I,
Near Taghum, B.C.

Diana E. French



Feb. 1973



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY

SASKATOON, CANADA

~~Feb~~ March 6/73

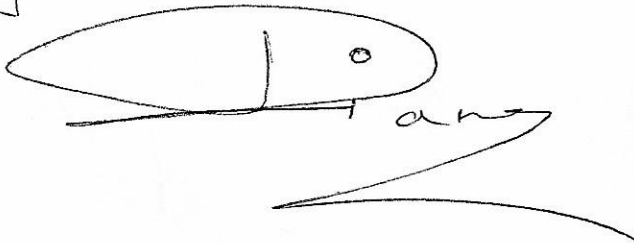
Dear Mr. & Mrs. Fetterley,

Here at last is the report - sorry for the delay, but managed to get myself good & sick for a while, and got behind in all my work.

There may be several things you do not agree with - but would appreciate you letting me know.

Am off to Victoria to-night, to do some research on Tlingit.

See you next month



Sorry, I couldn't get this off

Dave

Taghum Dig

May 1972

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological project, funded by a Local Initiative grant, in conjunction with the building of the new Nelson Museum, was undertaken in May, 1972. The project involved excavations of a stratified campsite, DiQi I, near Taghum, B.C. A pithouse site, DiQi 2, located approximately half a mile West of DiQi I, was also tested, by Mr. Robert Hall of the Nelson Museum.

Eight new sites were recorded along the Kootenay River, between Taghum and the Slocan Pool below Bonnington Falls, while three unrecorded sites were located between Taghum and Nelson. Two large campsites at Five and Seven Mile Points, were also surveyed on the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, East of Nelson.

All archaeological material recovered from the project, was returned to the Nelson Museum.

I would like to thank Mr. Maida and the Centennial Committee of Nelson for funding most of the project equipment; Mr. McFettridge of Canadian Pacific Railways, for permission to dig on C.P.R. property, and for the use of mapping equipment; West Kootenay Lumber and the Taghum Mill for donating lumber to the project; Archaeological Sites Advisory Board of British Columbia for providing lab equipment and film; the Science Department of Notre Dame University for use of laboratory facilities; Mr. and Mrs. W. Fetterley of the Nelson Museum, for their encouragement and interest; Mr. Ted Rutherglen and Mr. Milt Goddard of the Nelson Parks and Wildlife Branch for local information, and for keeping a watchful eye on the island site in our absence; Mr. Bob Hall as project coordinator, and participation in the dig; and special thanks to crew members Allison Bonney, Peter Arpin, Colin Henthorne, Barb Woods, Ian Gailbraith and Bill McDonald; and Linda Mitchum from Simon Fraser University for volunteering her assistance.

LOCATION OF DiQi I

DiQi I is located on a small island, approximately five miles West of Nelson, where the C.P.R. bridge crosses the Kootenay River. The area of excavation is on the upstream N.E. side of the island. (Fig. 3)

Although a large section of the site had already eroded away, it was chosen for salvage for several reasons. A large sample of artifacts has been recovered from the beach over a number of years, by local collectors, including a variety of projectile points, indicating possible cultural relationships with both the Interior Plateau of B.C. and with the Columbia Plateau. Also, a test pit had been previously excavated by Christopher Turnbull, of the New Brunswick Provincial Museum, during his survey of the area in 1969, indicating that the site was deeply stratified, and possibly representing a considerable time depth.

Several microblade cores had been found in the immediate vicinity, and it was possible that the excavation of DiQi I could provide more information concerning the distribution of microblades in S.E. British Columbia, in a good archaeological context.

A wide variety of lithic material, collected from surface sites between Taghum and Nelson, including basalt, obsidian and petrified wood, are not local to the area. Therefore, considerable movement or cultural contact must have occurred among the early occupants of the region, in order to explain their presence. Excavation of a stratified site could hopefully result in information regarding cultural affinities, in terms of material and artifact type association, in relation to developments in other areas.

One problem of special interest was to discover if any of the archaeological components of DiQi I could be related in any way to the occupation of pithouses in the vicinity.

SETTING

The Nelson area falls within the Upper Columbia region of the Plateau culture area. Ethnographically, this area of the West Kootenays has been part of the traditional summer hunting and fishing territory of the sn7aychst (charfish) Lakes Interior Salish people. When the Canada- U.S.A. border was first established, this group, who customarily wintered south of the present border in the Colville region, was gradually discouraged from returning to their northern territories for the greater part of the year. (pers. comm. Mr. Charles Quintasket, Lakes Colville Band) This has been a major factor, along with the breakout of various epidemics, accounting for the decline and final disappearance of the Lakes population in the West Kootenays.

The Lakes territory is bounded on the North by the Shuswap, on the West by the Okanagan Lakes, and to the East by the Lower Kutenai. (Fig. I) The Lakes eastern boundary was reported by Teit to be 7-8 miles East of Nelson, where they camped at a major berry patch. (Teit, 1930:210)

Lakes
boundary
to
east.

The Kutenai western boundary extends into Lakes territory, approximately 5-6 miles west of Nelson in the Taghum area. Trading relations existed between the two tribes, and Kutenai goods were exchanged for salmon, at a major campsite at Bonnington Falls. (Teit, 1930)

Considerable conflict involving numerous small fights and one greatwar, over the salmon resources in this area, have been recorded. (Teit, 1930:258) After a major attempt by the Kutenai, to drive the Lakes Indians away from the Lower Kootenay, and to take possession of the salmon fisheries at the mouth of the Slocan River, the latter retaliated with a large scale war on the Kutenai, living in the Creston area. With the help of neighbouring Shuswap warriors, many Kutenai were killed, and the two tribes have lived in relative peace, since the beginning of the last century.

PLATEAU

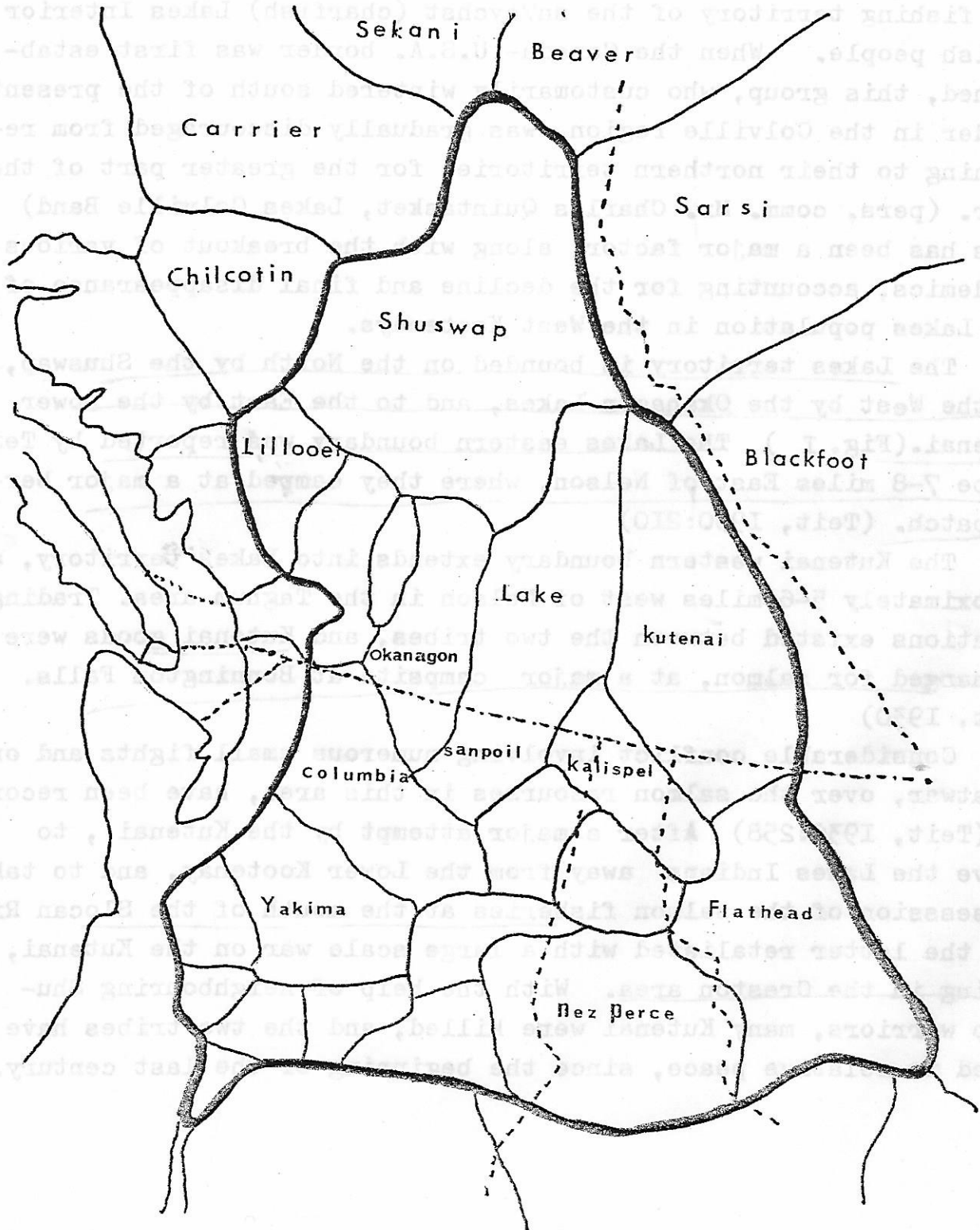


Fig. I Map showing Neighbouring Tribes of the Lakes Indians

(Verne Ray, 1939)

ENVIRONMENT

The West Kootenays form a section of the Columbia Mountain system, in part composed of the Selkirk and Monashee Ranges, located north of the Columbia Plateau, and east of the B.C. Interior Plateau. The series of interconnecting lakes and rivers within the region, has made for maximum social intercourse possible through circuitous canoe trips, demanding considerable cooperation among the early occupants of the Kootenays. (Ray, 1936: II5)

This region falls within the Interior Wet Belt climate area, with an annual rainfall of over 40", a mean Jan. temperature of 20-32 , and a mean July temperature of 65-70 . (Resource Atlas, 1958: 202)

Columbia Forest vegetation is found at low elevations, characterized by western paper birch, red cedar, hemlock, white pine, devils club, thimble berry, and sword fern. Subalpine and alpine arctic forests, composed of Engelmann spruce, alpine fir, white and lodge pole pine, aspen, blueberries and mountain azalea, dominate the higher elevation flora.

Lakes subsistence was based on fishing , hunting, root digging and berrying- the latter of particular economic importance to this tribe. (Teit, 1930:237) Deer, caribou, goat and bear are major game resources, although limited in their distribution, and accessibility. Rabbits, marmots and beaver , are of secondary importance.

Pacific salmon was another major economic base. The eastern limit of their occurrence, due to large waterfalls on the Kootenay River, is found west of Taghum. It seems highly probable that the distribution of the salmon is indeed significant in the marking of the ethnic boundary between the Salish and Kutenai, as suggested by Turnbull (Turnbull 1971:46)

Land locked Kokanee salmon are also found in the lakes of the Kootenays.

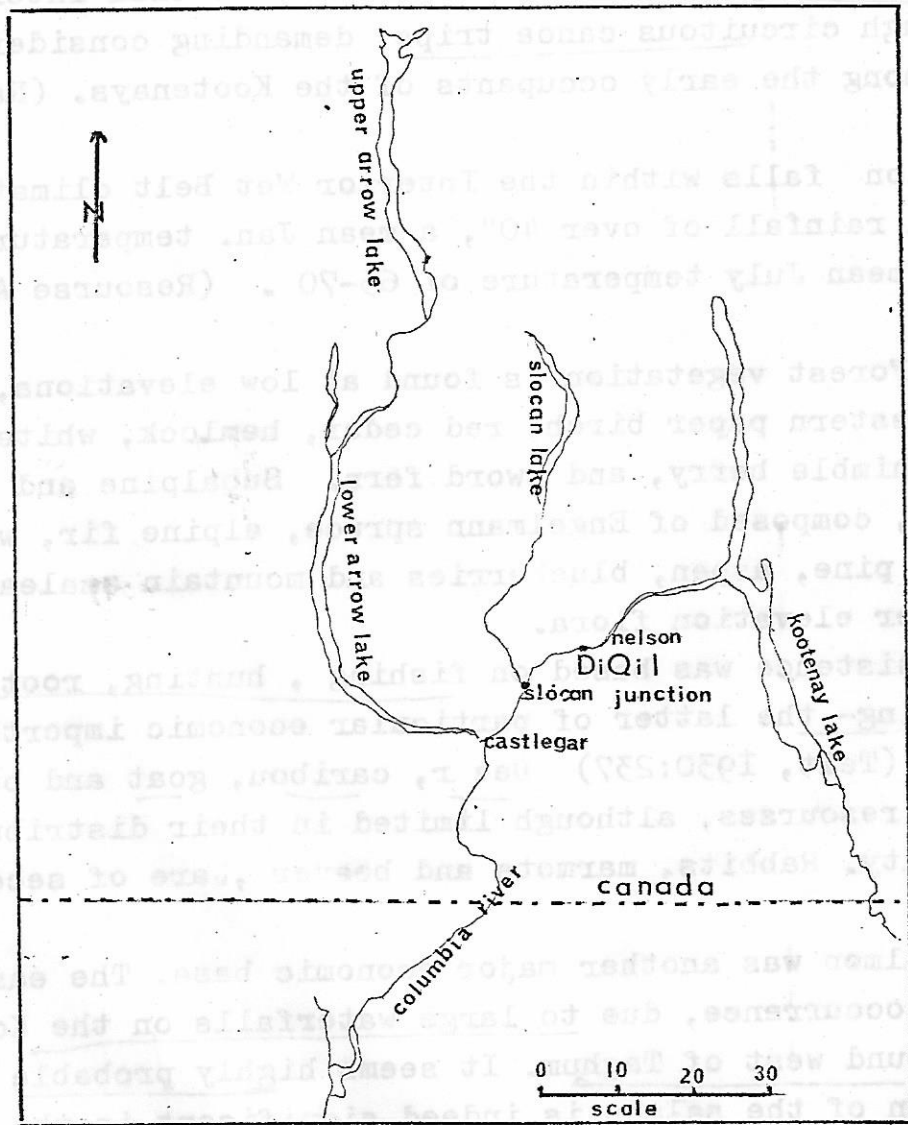


Fig. 2 Location of Site DiQi I

DESCRIPTION OF DiQi I

The area of archaeological investigation was confined to the north-east section of the island, closest to the left bank of the Kootenay River. It is transversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and represents approximately one fifth of the total area of the island. It is a relatively recent formation (pers. comm. Mr. W. Fetterley), greatly affected by the increased erosion along the north face, due to the construction of the Cora Lynn Dam development, down river. Therefore, the site remaining represents only a portion of the original archaeological site, which was part of the left bank.

The surface of the site is approximately 4-5' above the present beach level; at high water, the river reaches the top of the site, resulting in the continual washout of cultural material, which has been collected from the beach for years. dam

A dark cultural band, 10-15 cm. thick, is apparent along a short section of the bank, 30-40 cm. B.S.. It is distinguishable in the excavated square I0-I2 S., 2-3 E. (see Fig. 3) but is not found else where in the stratigraphy of the remaining excavated squares.

The island is characterized by large and small rock out cropping, mainly on the west side, and on the downstream area.

Surface vegetation consists of wild straw-berry, fireweed, oragen grape, kooch grass, and aspen.

Seven 2 by 1m. squares, and one 1m. by 1m. square, were excavated in 10cm. levels, until sterile soil was reached. This ranged from 180 cm. on the upstream side of the site, to 50 cm. on the downstream section. Trowels were used, and all artifacts were measured in from the N. W. corner stake of each square, which were surveyed in relation to Datum A, 0 N.-S., 0 E.-W. of an arbitrary base line, (see Map) which was tied in with C.P.R. B.M.49I-J

All material was screened in $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh screens. Excavation proceeded for 5 weeks, with a crew of between 5 and 8 people.

All squares were backfilled on completion of the project.

KOOTENAY RIVER

Beach

Test Pit 1969

Datum A
El. 1752.47'

Datum B

Canadian Pacific Railway

Elev. NW corner stakes	
1	1753.29'
2	52.31'
3	52.41'
4	52.27'
5	52.18'
6	51.17'
7	52.86'

Scale 1"=20'

DEF, LM

June 2, 1972

BM 491-J

El 1760.27'

15.8'

FAUNAL REMAINS

Deer skeletal remains, consisting of several long bones, vertebra, ribs and a section of the sternum, were found in the top 20 cm. of square I-2 S., 0-2 E., and appear to be relatively recent.

An immature deer tooth was recovered from 55 cm. B.S., in square 8-9 S., 0-2 E., representing the only other example of faunal material recovered from the site, that can be identified. *deer*

FEATURES

The corner of a hearth was uncovered in square 8-9 S., 0-2 E, in the N.E. section, between 20- 40 cm. B.S.. Fire cracked rock was scattered, and a small quantity of calcined bone was removed from the exposed floor.

Another possible hearth area was recorded at 60- 80 cm. B.S., in square I-2 S., 0-2 E., and has been associated with Component 2 . Both unburnt and calcined bone fragments were noted. The only bone artifact in the site was found immediately above this area.

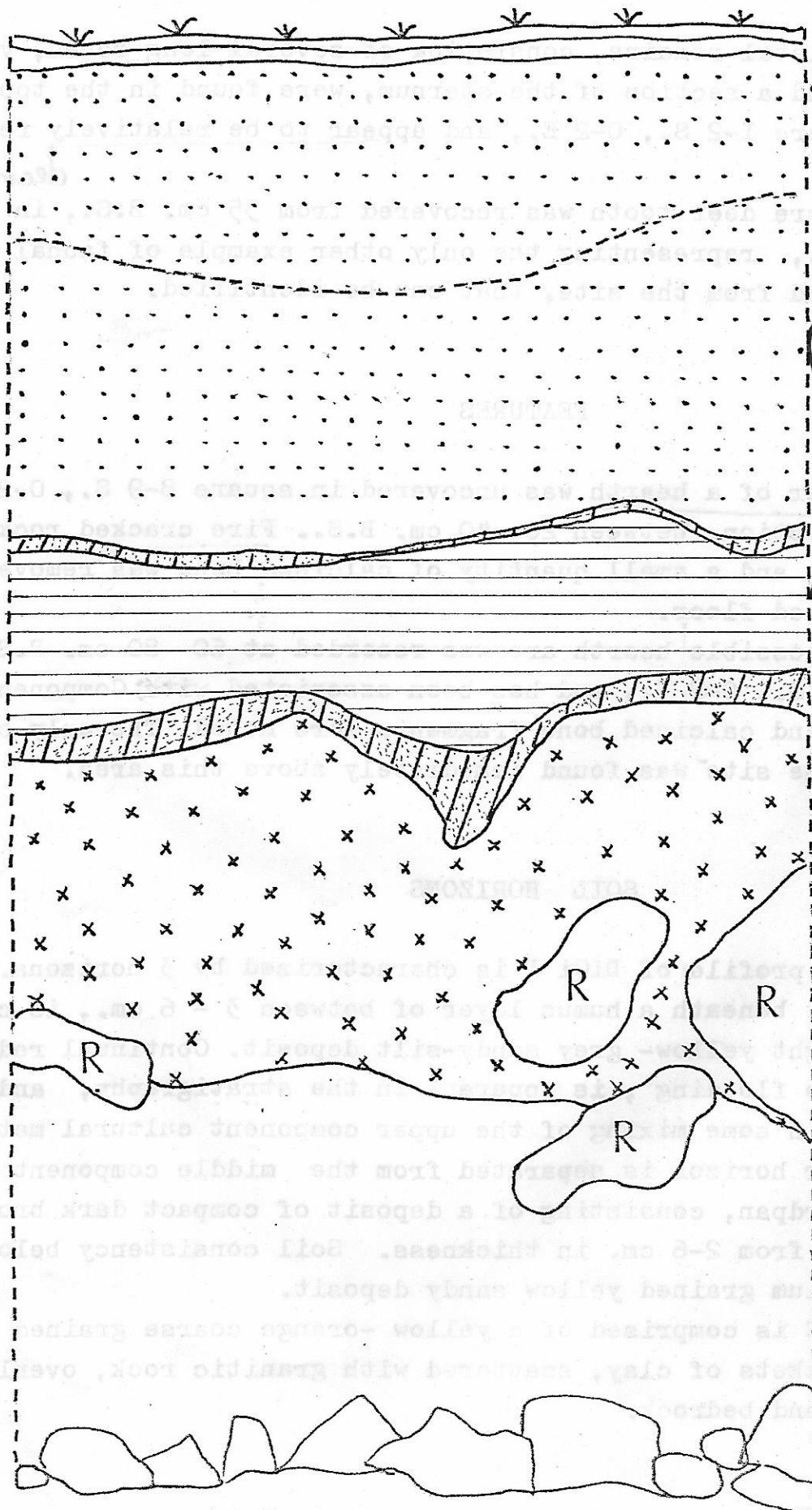
SOIL HORIZONS

The soil profile of DiQi I is characterized by 3 horizons. The upper horizon, beneath a humus layer of between 3 - 6 cm., is comprised of a light yellow- grey sandy-silt deposit. Continual redeposition, due to flooding , is apparent in the stratigraphy, and has resulted in some mixing of the upper component cultural material.

The upper horizon is separated from the middle component by a layer of hardpan, consisting of a deposit of compact dark brown silt, ranging from 2-6 cm. in thickness. Soil consistency below this is a medium grained yellow sandy deposit.

Horizon C is comprised of a yellow -orange coarse grained sand, with small pockets of clay, scattered with granitic rock, overlying river gravel and bedrock.

FIG. 4
STRATIGRAPHY_D1Q1 I







stemmed and
notched points
scrapers

argyllite
more frequent

High density of
artifacts
micro blades
Dominant
argyllite

Scale 20 cm. = 1^m

-  Component 1
-  Component 2
-  Component 3
-  Rock

CULTURAL COMPONENTS

On the basis of soil stratification and distribution of cultural material, four components have been defined.

Component 1 is characterized by stemmed and notched points, abrading stones, large micaceous schist scrapers, and the use of a wide variety of raw material, including a large percentage of agate, chert, and chalcedony, although Kootenay argyllite is still common.

Component 2 lacks the abrading stones and schist scrapers of the upper horizon, while large argyllite and quartzite unifacially and bifacially flaked scrapers were recovered. The use of agate is rare, while chert, quartzite, rhyolite and argyllite are most frequently found.

The third component is restricted to Units 1 and 2, in the North section of the site. It represents the only occupation of this area, and is characterized by a high density of both artifact and debitage content. Three of the four microblades from the site, are included in this component. The use of argyllite is predominant, although agate and other materials are found; the presence of jasper is also definitive.

Component 4 is poorly defined, but marked in the total absence of agate, chalcedony and chert. Two artifacts and a number of flakes of banded rhyolite are peculiar to this component, in association with quartzite and argyllite cultural material.

Distribution of artifact material type appears in Fig. 5

A total of 189 stone and 1 bone artifact were recovered from the site. Artifact classes have been established, according to the definitions used by Sanger in his description of artifact types from the Lochnore- Nesikep area of the Interior Plateau. (Sanger, 1970) These will be summarized briefly. Fig. 8 shows the artifact type distribution of DiQ1 I.

Projectile Points

A projectile point may be defined as almost any bifacially

Fig. 5 Distribution of Lithic Material of Artifacts from DiQi I

Material	Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Comp. 4
Agate	22	I	2	
Chalcedony	4		I	
Chert	8	2	I	
Schist	4			
Phyllite	I			
Basalt	I			
* Argyllite	37	19	48	7
Quartzite	13	2	2	3
Rhyolite	4	2	2	
Jasper			4	
Galena			I	
Banded Rhyolite				2

* The term Kootenay Argyllite, defined as a recrystallized siliceous argyllite, usually green in colour, has been adopted in archaeological investigations in the East Kootenays. Since known quarries of this material have been recorded on Kootenay Lake, some sources have been shared by the early inhabitants of both the East and West Kootenays. The term has been used for the purpose of this report, to facilitate any future cross cultural comparisons, and to indicate this material is local to the S.E. area of B.C.

flaked pointed object , having a prepared base. They generally functioned as spear or arrow tips, or served as hafted knife blades.

II points were recovered from the site. (Fig. 6) The projectile points of Component I are indicative of Late Plateau cultural affinities. Type a is also found in the Middle and Late Periods of the Lochnore- Nesikep cultural sequence. It should be noted that points closely related in form, have been found in excavated components in the East Kootenays.

Component 3 demonstrates a possible relationship with point forms recovered from a pithouse excavation at Deer Park, on the Lower Arrow Lake. (Turnbull 1970) A number of points collected from the beach, by Mr. Fetterley of the Nelson Museum, also appear to be related to this time period. However, a larger sample of archaeologically associated material , is necessary, before more definite cultural relationships may be established.

FORMED BIFACES

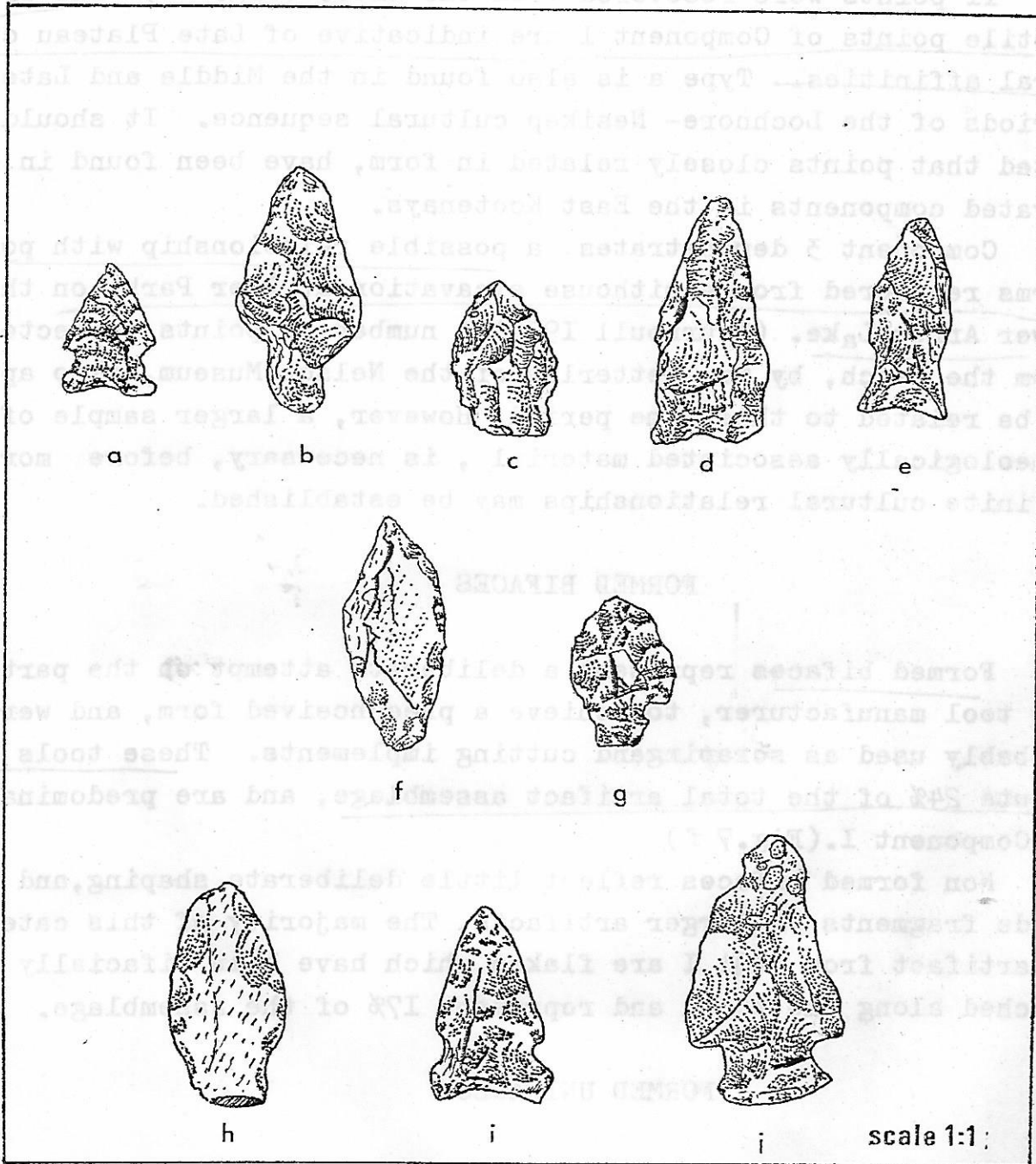
Formed bifaces represent a deliberate attempt on the part of the tool manufacturer, to achieve a preconceived form, and were probably used as scraping and cutting implements. These tools constitute 24% of the total artifact assemblage, and are predominant in Component I. (Fig. 7 f)

Non formed bifaces reflect little deliberate shaping, and include fragments of larger artifacts. The majority of this category of artifact from DiQi I are flakes which have been bifacially re-touched along one edge, and represent 17% of the assemblage.

FORMED UNIFACES

Formed unifaces are similar to formed bifaces in that they exhibit a well-defined outline, but have been worked on only one face. They were probably hafted , or held in the hand, and used for cutting and scraping operations. Formed unifaces represent 9% of all artifacts. Outlines of several forms of this artifact type are found in Fig. 7 .

Fig. 6 PROJECTILE POINTS - Di Qi I



a - e ; component 1 f - g ; component 2 h - j ; component 3

Non formed unifaces, commonly called "flake scrapers", include pieces which indicate little or no shaping. The majority of flakes from DiQi I have been retouched along a single lateral edge, or single transverse edge, and are based mainly on amorphous flakes of Kootenay argyllite. 46 of the 190 artifacts recovered, fall within this category.

GRAVERS

Gravers are defined as artifacts exhibiting pronounced projection(s), in the form of a point or spur, usually created by unifacial retouch. They were probably used for cutting and sectioning in the manufacture of bone and antler tools. 10 of the total 16 gravers recovered, were found in the upper component. (Fig. 7c)

DRILLS AND PERFORATORS

Drills and perforators are characterized by elongated points, which have been bifacially chipped. The former are marked by a wear-polish pattern, suggesting a rotary action, while the latter are better described as stone awls. Only 6 artifacts included in this category have been found in the site. One example, which may possibly be better described as a point, has been basally thinned for hafting. (Fig. 7)

MICROBLADES

All four microblades found in the site, plus an additional specimen recovered from the beach, adhere to the criteria used by Sanger, in defining this artifact type in the Interior Plateau.

- a) They have been detached from the core in one specific direction
- b) The edges are straight and parallel
- c) The microblades are relatively thin, and thickness/ width index is relatively constant
- d) The angle formed by the striking platform and the blade surface is approximately 90 .

As a further check, specimens from DiQi I were compared with a sample of microblades from the North West Microblade component, from JcRx 2, Pointed Mountain Site, N,W.T., and were found to be identical in form.

Three of the four excavated microblades are Kootenay argyllite, while the single example from Component 2 is of agate, and may be described as a graver on a complete microblade. (Fig. 7 d)

Unfortunately, no microblade cores were recovered, but several specimens have been found on nearby beaches.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTIFACTS

Three abrasive stones, showing extensive wear on two or more faces, were found in the upper component, and were used for polishing and grinding of artifacts.

Large unifacially and bifacially flaked micaceous schist scrapers have been identified as hide scrapers, (Mr. Charles Quintasket, Colville Lakes Band) and are similar in form to the Athabaskan chitos, still in use in some northern areas of Canada.

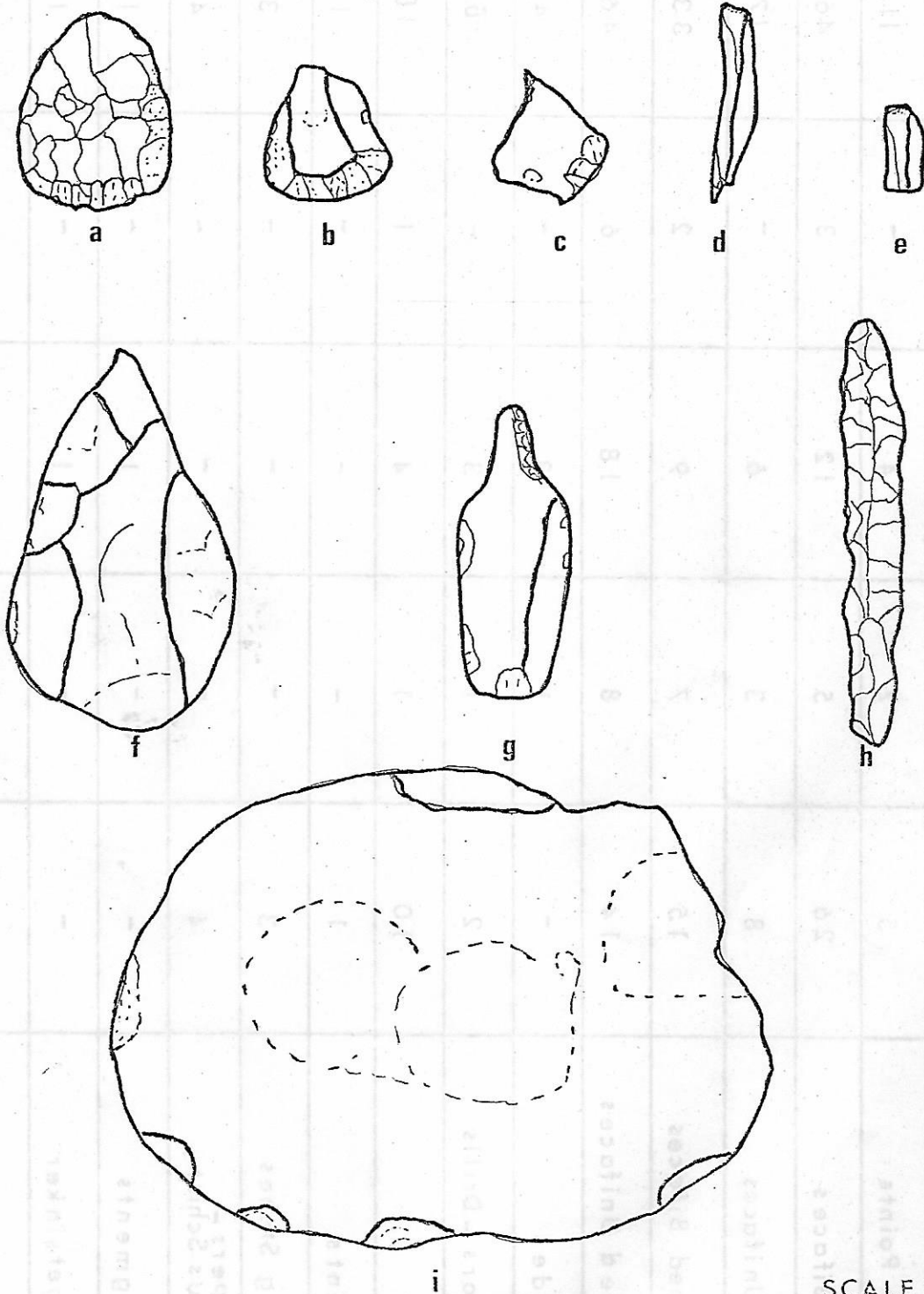
A grooved galena net sinker and several mica flakes, reported to have been used for decorative purposes (Teit), are included in component 3.

The only bone artifact recovered from the site, consists of a tip and several fragments of a point, which have been water rolled, and cannot be fitted together.

Artifacts collected from the beach, which were not represented in the excavated assemblage, include notched stone net sinkers, and large hand mauls.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Although the sample of cultural material recovered from DiQiI is relatively small, and conclusions drawn may be considered somewhat



SCALE 1:1

Fig. 7 Some Artifact Types From DiQi I

a-b: Former Unifaces c: Graver d: Graver on Microblade
 e: Microblade f: Formed Biface g: Perforator
 h: Drill-like Point i: Micaceous Schist Scraper

Artifact Type	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Total
Projectile Points	5	2	4	-	11
Formed Bifaces	26	5	12	3	46
Formed Unifaces	8	3	6	-	17
Non-formed Bifaces	15	7	9	2	33
Non-formed Unifaces	14	8	18	6	46
Microblades	-	1	3	-	4
Perforators - Drills	2	1	3	-	6
Gravers	10	1	4	1	16
Bone Points	1	-	-	-	1
Abrading Stones	3	-	-	-	3
Scrapers - Micaceous Schist	4	-	-	-	4
Core fragments	-	-	1	-	1
Galena netsinker	-	-	1	-	1
Miscellaneous	-	1	-	-	1
Total	88	29	61	12	190

Fig. 8 Distribution of Artifact Types

tentative, in terms of future interpretation of West Kootenay pre-history, a number of general observations concerning possible cultural affinities of excavated components in this site, may be presented.

Several projectile points of possible considerable age, have been recorded in private collections from the West Kootenays. (Turnbull, 1971:46) Other examples of points reflecting similar time depth, have been noted in Mr. Fetterleys collection. Unfortunately, comparable material has yet to be recovered in an archaeological context, but future research in the area may hopefully be productive.

However, Component I of DiQi I, although lacking in diagnostic artifact types, would seem to indicate an earlier occupation of the area, than has been previously suggested.

The variety of tooltypes and materials found in pithouse components in the Arrow Lakes, which have been dated from 3150 B.P. to 2530 B.P. (Turnbull 1971:47) are markedly absent from the lower horizon of DiQi I. In comparison to the workmanship of material from later components, both artifacts and flakes are generally larger and cruder in form. Of special note is a crude chopping tool of banded rhyolite.

Several components in the Okanagan valley, consisting of large quartzitic tools, chopping implements and large stemmed points, have also been recorded, and predate 5000 B.P. (Grabert 1967:69)

Although a larger sample may have provided more information, on the evidence available, it appears safe to state that this component definitely predates the pithouse occupation of the Arrow Lakes and may possibly be considered contemporaneous with developments in the Okanagan, as early as 4-5,000 B.C.. It is likely that this phase represents a seasonal occupation of the area by small hunting and gathering groups, who had no permanent dwellings.

On the Canadian Interior Plateau, microblades and cores have been found, dating to ca. 5,000 B.C. (Sanger, 1970) Much later dates for the appearance of this trait on the Columbia Plateau, suggest a southward diffusion, with the Okanagan Valley as the most likely

route of movement. (Grabert, 1967: 70)

Microblades and cores from components from that area, have been tentatively dated up to the beginning of the Christian era. (Ibid:67) The disappearance of microblade technology shortly after this, has been attributed to either the arrival of a new people in the region, or the adoption of a new subsistence technique, which did not require the use of this tool type. (Grabert, 1971: 162)

A few microblade-like flakes have been excavated from several pithouse sites in the Arrow Lakes (Turnbull, 1971:46), while a number of cores have been found on beaches between Taghum and Nelson. Microblades have also been recovered from DiQi I and represent the eastern limit of their distribution, to date, in S.E. British Columbia.

It is unlikely that the use of microblade technology would persist much longer in the Kootenays, than on the Plateau, or in the Okanagan Valley, since some general parallel developments occur in this regions. Therefore, the microblade component at Taghum may be tentatively dated to between 1,000 B.C. and the first century B.C. It is possible that further excavations of pithouse constructions in the vicinity, may result in the discovery of other microblade components, and that the DiQi I component represents a seasonal campsite occupation, associated with the use of semi-permanent winter dwellings.

2-3,000
years
ago

A subsistence based on both hunting and fishing is reflected in the tool assemblage of this horizon. The predominant use of Kootenay argyllite, rather than agates and cherts of the later component, might indicate a period of less social intercourse and trade with groups to the south and west, or simply a preference for the local material. A more common utilization of argyllite sources is also noted at an earlier time period, in archaeological components in the East Kootenays. (pers. com. Wayne Choquette, Provincial Museum)

Different forms of housepit depressions have been recorded mainly along the lower terraces of the Kootenay River, West of Taghum, and in the Lower Arrow Lakes. The earliest forms are 7- 10 metres in diameter, and leave deep circular depressions in the ground.

Several sites near Taghum, are characterized by shallower saucer-shaped depressions. In the Okanagan Valley, this house pit form is definitive of the Cassimar Bar Phase, of the Lower Okanagan chronological sequence, dating to ca. 500 years. Small stemmed and corner notched points, similar to those of the Kamloops phase of the Interior Plateau, are also diagnostic. (Grabert, 1971: 157)

A component at Slocan Junction (Fig.) has also been tentatively assigned to this phase. (Turnbull 1971: 48)

Lithic materials common to upper Columbia

Although the evidence is slight, it is possible that the upper component of DiQi I may be associated with the diffusion of saucer shaped pithouse structures into the area. The Plateau-like points and variety of lithic materials common to the Upper Columbia, give some weight to the argument. However, the possibility exists, that these traits may have diffused independently at an earlier or later time period.

Shallow square and rectangular shaped depressions have also been recorded. One site, consisting of half a dozen square mat lodge depressions, approximately 3 metres wide, has been surveyed on the upper terraces of the Rosemont area of Nelson. Similar sites have been located on the lower river terrace.

Season

The introduction of this house type is relatively recent, and has diffused North from the Plateau in the late 18th. Century. (Haines, 1938, in Grabert, 1971) According to a local informant, the abandonment of this dwelling form has been quite late.

The variety and frequency of sites around Nelson, indicate that the resources of the area have supported a fairly large population, for a considerable length of time. To what degree cultural change and innovation in the region has been due to climatic change, fluctuation in available food resources and subsequent technological adaptations, diffusion, or the arrival of new cultural groups into the West Kootenays, remains to be discovered.

The permanent settlement of the Lower Kutenai in the Kootenay Lake area has reportedly been late, but it is possible that cultural contact between pithouse dwellers and inhabitants of the Kootenay River, and the former tribe, has existed for a longer period of time. The influence of the Kutenai, or of the predeceasing occupants of their territory, on the neighbouring salmon fishing groups, can only be answered with future archaeological investigation.

To what extent the cultural remains recovered so far, in the Nelson area, may be attributed to the Lakes Interior Salish and their ancestors, is a question of major importance. Pending results of the Arrow Lakes Archaeological project, may possibly provide some answers, and consequently the prehistoric developments manifested in the archaeological components of DiQI I, may become more meaningful, in this context.

Although the evidence is slight, it is possible that the upper component of DiQI I may be associated with the diffusion of saucer-shaped pit-house structures into the area. The Flathead-like points and variety of lithic materials common to the Upper Columbia, give weight to the argument. However, the possibility exists that these traits may have diffused independently at an earlier or later time period.

Shallow saucer and saucer-shaped depressions have also been recorded. One site, consisting of half a dozen saucer-shaped depressions, approximately 5 meters wide, has been surveyed on the upper terraces of the Kootenay area of Nelson. Similar sites have been located on the lower river terrace.

The introduction of this house type is relatively recent, and has diffused north from the Flathead in the late 18th Century. (Hain, ca. 1958, in Gressitt, 1971) According to a local informant, the abandonment of this dwelling form has been quite late.

The variety and frequency of sites around Nelson, indicate that the resources of the area have supported a fairly large population for a considerable length of time. To what degree cultural change and innovation in the region has been due to climatic change, fluctuation in available food resources and subsequent technological adaptation, diffusion, or the arrival of new cultural groups into the West Kootenays, remains to be discovered.

The permanent settlement of the lower Kootenay in the Kootenay Lake area has reportedly been late, but it is possible that contact between pit-house dwellers and the Kootenay River, and the former tribe, has existed for a longer period of time. The influence of the Kootenay, and the prehistoric occupants of their territory, on the neighboring saucer-shaped groups, can only be answered with future archaeological investigation.

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