

Chapter Five: HUU7II BACK TERRACE

Raised Terraces and Sea Level Changes

A relatively small, flat, elevated landform lies behind the east-central portion of the main site (Figs. 1-3, 3-1). Inland from the midden ridge behind the house platforms, the land drops off considerably before rising again to the back terrace. Although considered all part of the same site (and encompassed within the same archaeological site number), the two areas are spatially separated, lacking continuous midden deposits. The excavation units on the back terrace were located about 40 m inland from the top of the back midden ridge and about 100 m inland from the top of the modern beach. Directly behind this raised terrace, the land drops to a low area of freshwater bog. This low area extends eastward well beyond the site to the rocky shoreline along the northeastern edge of the island, indicating that at a time of higher sea levels this would have been a marine channel that could have provided canoe access for the early occupants of the site. As sea levels dropped, saltwater inundation of the area ceased and a freshwater bog formed. Analysis of a peat core taken from the bog directly behind the excavation units shows that the shift from marine channel to freshwater bog occurred sometime prior to 3800 cal BP (Pellatt, Appendix F).

Several studies cast light on sea level changes over time in Barkley Sound. Dallimore et al. (2008) have recently presented a sea level history based on a core from Effingham Inlet, at the top of Barkley Sound. From a lowstand of about 46 m below present at 13,500 cal BP, sea levels rose rapidly, intersecting modern levels just prior to about 6000 cal BP and stabilizing at “a few metres above present” around 5500 cal BP (Dallimore et al. 2008:1356–1357). Friile and Hutchinson (1993) present a similar sea level curve for central western Vancouver Island that is based primarily on Clayoquot Sound data. In their model, sea levels rose rapidly from early Holocene lows until reaching three to four metres above present between about 6000 to 4800 cal BP, a period they term the Ahous Bay Stillstand. Examination of Dallimore et al.’s sea level curve suggests that the highstand in Barkley Sound was closer to two metres above modern levels than four, which would better fit with the Huu7ii data. Subsequent gradual emer-

gence of the land relative to the sea throughout the late Holocene is attributed to tectonic uplift of the coastal crust (Clague et al. 1982; Dallimore et al. 2008; Friile and Hutchinson 1993).

Radiocarbon dates discussed below indicate that this portion of the site was occupied initially at the end of the Ahous Bay Stillstand and continued in use for almost two millennia. The upper surfaces of the back terrace excavation units are between 4 and 4.5 m above the uppermost part of the beach, where vegetation begins, and about 3 m above the House 1 platform. When the depth of cultural deposits is discounted, the original surface of the back terrace would have been only slightly above sea level, assuming a two-metre elevation above modern levels, at initial occupation. The front village area with the house platforms would have been an active inter-tidal zone at this time.

Raised terraces with mid-Holocene occupations located behind late period village sites are known at other locations in Barkley Sound. Excavated examples include Ts’ishaa in the central sound (McMillan and St. Claire 2005) and Ch’umat’aa at the sound’s western edge (McMillan 1998b; McMillan and St. Claire 1996). In Huu-ay-aht territory, the nearby village of Kiix7in reveals a similar pattern. Although it has not been excavated, a core taken from a raised landform at the late-period village provided a date from its base of 5320 to 5050 cal BP, equivalent to the early dates from Ts’ishaa and slightly earlier than the occupation of Huu7ii (Sumpter 2003; Sumpter et al. 2002).

Excavation Methods and Extent

As this portion of the Huu7ii site is a considerable distance from the House 1 excavation, a separate datum and grid were established. Large trees growing across the relatively flat terrace constrained choices for excavation locations. A 0–0 grid post was driven into the ground surface near the southern edge of the site, just above the drop-off to a low boggy area. The 2004 excavation unit was established on an open flat space four metres to the north, on a magnetic north line, with unit coordinates of N4-6 E0-2. In 2006, an additional unit, with coordinates of N2-4 W18-20, was laid out to the west. Both units are shown in Figure 3-1. A metal spike driven into the trunk of a large

tree immediately south of the initial unit served as the vertical datum for both. Secondary datum points consisted of wooden posts driven in beside each unit, with the top surveyed to a known depth below the primary datum. All unit depth measurements were taken using string and line levels from the tops of those posts.

As in the House 1 area, all cultural deposits were removed by trowelling in 5 cm levels, taking care to separate materials from differing natural layers. Levels were numbered while natural layers were given alphabetical designations; both were recorded on all bags and forms. Artifacts were recorded in three-dimensional provenience and faunal remains were placed in bags by level and layer. After removal by trowel, the deposits were screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) mesh to recover additional materials. Smaller faunal elements that would pass through that screen size were examined through analysis of the column samples (20 x 10 x 5 cm) taken from one wall of each unit. The column samples also provided data for shell and archaeobotanical analyses. Charcoal samples were collected

for possible radiocarbon dating. On completion, profile drawings were made of the stratigraphy on all four walls of each unit (Fig. 5-1). The units were backfilled at the end of the field season.

The 2004 unit reached an average depth of 2.3 m before encountering the sterile beach sands at the base of the deposit. This involved the removal of about 9.1 m³ of matrix. The 2006 excavation was halted at an average of about 2.35 m depth, without reaching the sterile beach sands. However, a 1.25 by 0.5 m block was excavated along one wall to the beach sands about 45 cm below. In all, about 9.7 m³ of deposit was excavated in this unit. Total excavation on the back terrace, therefore, encompassed about 18.8 m³.

Stratigraphy and Chronology

The stratigraphic profile of the 2004 unit is shown in Figure 5-2. A thick red-brown accumulation of forest debris, rotten wood, and roots marked the upper layer. Below was a thick layer of black silt with abundant rocks (Layer B), lacking any



Figure 5-1. Preparing the stratigraphic profile of the 2004 back terrace unit (N4-6 E0-2).

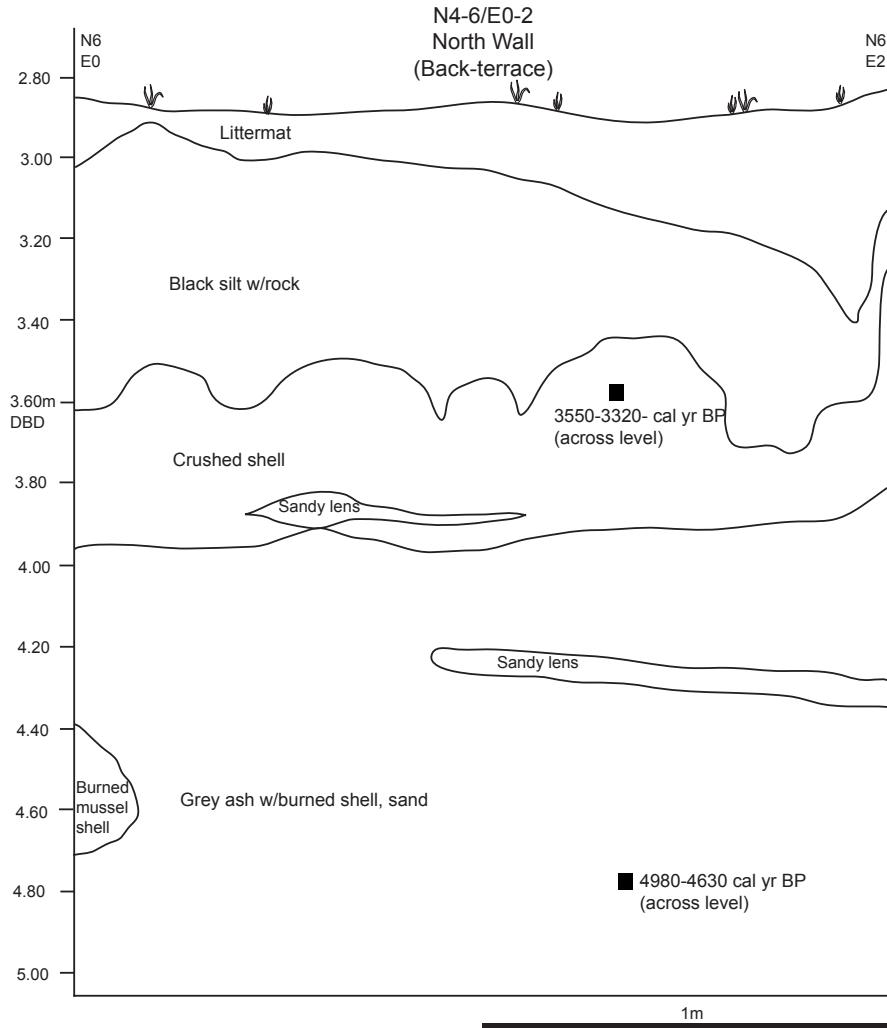


Figure 5-2. Stratigraphic profile of 2004 back terrace unit (N4-6 E2-4), showing locations of radiocarbon dates.

definite evidence of human occupation. Below that was the first obviously cultural layer, characterized primarily by finely crushed shell (Layer C). This very finely crushed shell with grey silt was unlike the shell strata from the House 1 area, more closely resembling the mid-Holocene deposits from the similar back terrace at Ts’ishaa (McMillan and St. Claire 2005). The lowest cultural stratum (Layer D), comprising almost half the total depth of the unit, was a thick layer of burned shell, grey ash, and sand. The light brown sand of the original beach marked the bottom of this unit. A core taken from the unit floor to a depth of over 1.5 m revealed no further cultural deposits. Below the light brown sand, compacted yellow-brown sand (Munsell 10YR 6/8) extended to bedrock.

The 2006 unit showed a similar stratigraphic sequence (Fig. 5-3). The thick upper matrix was

again composed of red-brown rotted wood, roots, and forest debris. Below was a thick layer of black sandy silt (Layer B). Small numbers of faunal elements and bits of charcoal showed that this layer was cultural. Layer C consisted of black sandy silt with crushed shell and relatively abundant faunal remains. The lowest cultural layer (D), comprising almost half the unit depth, contained very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with trace or low amounts of shell and small quantities of faunal elements. Again, the cultural deposits were underlain by sterile beach sand.

Six radiocarbon dates are available for the back terrace units, spanning a period from about 3,000 to almost 5,000 years ago (Table 5-1). The most recent age estimate (3090 to 2780 cal BP) came from near the top of Layer B in the 2006 unit. A slightly older age estimate (3550 to 3320 cal BP) came

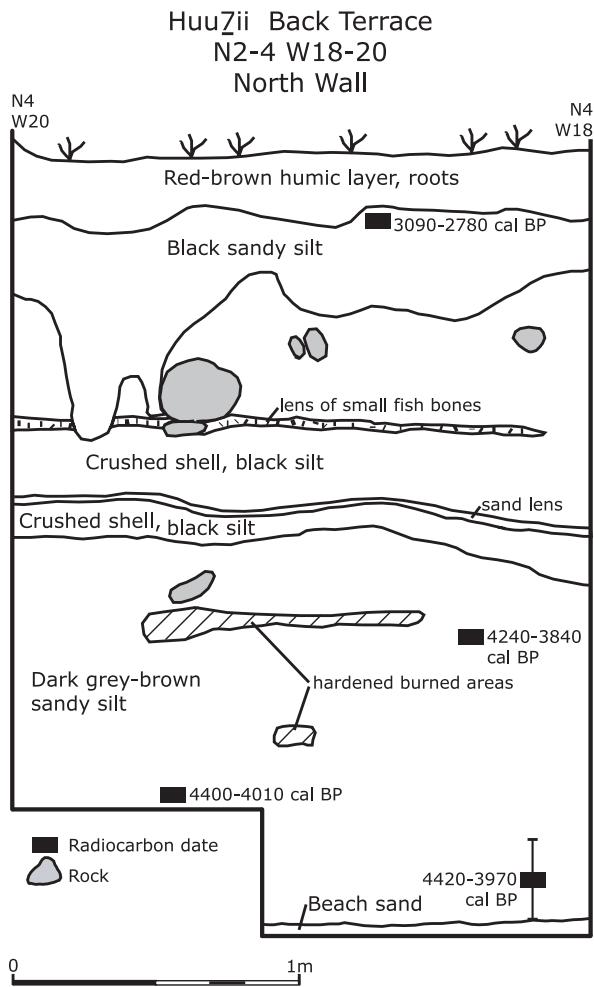


Figure 5-3. Stratigraphic profile of 2006 back terrace unit (N2-4 W18-20), showing locations of radiocarbon dates.

from the top of Layer C, the first obviously cultural layer in the 2004 unit. The remaining four dates all came from the thick basal stratum of the two units. An age range of 4240 to 3840 cal BP was obtained from charcoal collected about mid-depth in the stratum, while two near-identical dates of around 4400 to 4000 cal BP came from near its base (Fig. 5-3). The oldest age estimate, at 4980 to 4630 cal BP, came from charcoal collected across a level near the base of the deposit in the 2004 unit (Fig. 5-2). These dates confirm a mid-Holocene occupation of this portion of the site, corresponding to a time of higher relative sea levels.

Artifacts Recovered

A total of 61 artifacts came from the two units excavated on the HuuZii back terrace (Table 5-2). This low figure gives an artifact density of only 3.2 artifacts per m³ excavated, only slightly over one-third of the artifact density within House 1 deposits. Bone artifacts dominate this small assemblage, comprising 60.7% of the total. As in the considerably later House 1 deposits, small bone points of a variety of forms are the most common artifacts. Stone tools make up 32.8% of the total, with abrasive stones being the most abundant stone artifact type. Unlike the much larger assemblage from the early component at Ts'ishaa, chipped stone artifacts are relatively rare, making up only 13.1% of the artifact total. Artifacts of shell and antler each comprise 3.3% of the total.

In both units, artifact abundance was substantially greater in the thick lowest stratum (Layer D). In distribution by layer, three (4.9%) came from

Table 5-1. Radiocarbon dates—HuuZii back terrace.

Lab. No.	¹⁴ C age (Convent.)	Calibrated age range (2 sigma - 95% probability)	¹³ C/ ¹² C ratio (‰)	Unit	Depth (cm)	Comments
Beta-221953	2830±60	3090 to 2780 BP	-26.6	N2-4 W18-20	20	Layer B, near top of cultural
Beta-195637	3190±60	3550 to 3320 BP	-25.9	N4-6 E0-2	105	Near top of shell (Layer C)
Beta-221960	3690±70	4240 to 3840 BP	-23.4	N2-4 W18-20	107	Layer D
Beta-221962	3810±50	4400 to 4080 and 4030 to 4010 BP	-22.1	N2-4 W18-20	225	Deep in Layer D
Beta-221963	3810±80	4420 to 3970 BP	-24.9	N2-4 W18-20	2.35–2.8	Base of Layer D, in hole dug to sand
Beta-195641	4280±70	4980 to 4800 and 4770 to 4630 BP	-26.6	N4-6 E0-2	200	Layer D, near basal sand

Table 5-2. Artifacts from Huu7ii back terrace.

Bone	
Barbed bone points	2
Bone points	16
Abrupt tip (3)	
Large, gradual taper (2)	
Small, slender (3)	
Tip fragments (8)	
Bone splinter awl	1
Bird bone perforator	1
Spatulate bone tools	2
Worked whalebone	4
Misc. worked bone	11
	total bone 37
Antler	
Harpoon valve	1
Worked tine tip	1
	total antler 2
Shell	
Disk bead	1
Ground mussel shell	1
	total shell 2
Stone	
Celt	1
Ground schist tool	1
Abrasive stones	8
Hammerstone/anvil stones	2
Plane/ scrappers	2
Chert core/scrapers	1
Flake-core	1
Flakes/ flake tools	4
	total stone 20
	total artifacts 61

Layer B, 16 (26.2%) from Layer C, and 42 (68.9%) from Layer D.

Artifacts of Bone

Barbed bone points (2)

One small barbed point appears to be nearly complete. Two closely spaced, low, enclosed barbs are near the tip (Fig. 5-4). The base appears to be split for attachment to a shaft or shank. It is roughly round in cross-section and is 5.3 cm in length. The second artifact is a mid-section fragment with one low barb.

Bone points (16)

Three small bone points are classified as “abrupt tip,” with greatest width near the tip (Fig. 5-4,



Figure 5-4. Bone points from the Huu7ii back terrace (left and upper: two gradually tapering points, two barbed points, three abrupt tip points; lower: two small tapering points).

upper right). Two are complete, measuring 3.7 x 0.6 x 0.5 cm and 2.2 x 0.5 x 0.4 cm. Both come to a constricted flattened base. The third example is a tip fragment. Abrupt tip points are common in Nuu-chah-nulth sites, including the later component at Huu7ii, and are generally considered to be arming points in composite harpoon heads. The wider tip of such points helps to withstand impact damage from such use. Complete harpoon heads, with abrupt tip points still intact in their valves, are reported from a number of West Coast sites, including the later component at Huu7ii (see Chapter 3).

Two much larger fragmentary points are gradually tapering (Fig. 5-4, left). Both are missing their bases, but have remaining lengths of 8.7 and 6.2 cm. In both cases, considerable polish is evident over the entire surface. Such points could serve a variety of functions, including as arming points on various fishing gear.

Three very small points are complete, with lengths of 2.4, 2.9, and 3.9 cm. Two are very slender, although the shortest is somewhat stouter.

Eight other examples are fragments. One long, very slender object, missing its base, is sharply pointed and almost round in cross-section. Seven others are tip fragments.

Bone splinter awl (1)

One stout splinter of land mammal bone has been

worked to a polished point, while the rest of the artifact has been left rough. Its measurements are 4.1 x 0.6 x 0.6 cm. Bone splinter awls are commonly found in Nuu-chah-nulth sites, including the later component at Huu7ii (see Chapter 3).

Bird bone perforator (1)

A section of hollow bird limb bone has split lengthwise. A rough rounded projection at one side of one end shows polish, as if it had been used as a perforator. It is 7.3 cm in length.

Spatulate bone tools (2)

The largest is a burned section of sea mammal bone with parallel sides and a rounded blunt end. The other end is missing. The remaining portion is 18.0 cm long and 3.0 cm wide.

The second object is a section of land mammal bone that has split lengthwise. The sides near the bevelled rounded tip have been ground and polished, whereas those at the broken base have been left rough. What remains is 9.0 cm long and 1.5 cm wide. It would serve as a blunt piercing or slicing implement.

Worked whalebone (4)

Two linear fragments, 16.2 and 14.1 cm in length, appear to have been roughly sectioned to shape. Both exhibit further shaping by grinding at one end. Two fairly deep parallel saw marks run diagonally across the width of the longest example. An additional small segment has a straight polished edge nearly at right angles to the flat face.

The fourth artifact is a large fragment in many pieces. It is irregular in shape, with an open oval “haft-like” area showing polish around its outer edges. It is too incomplete to determine function.

Miscellaneous worked bone (11)

The most distinctive artifact in this category is the modified vertebra of a harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*). The sides of this thick oval disc have been ground flat around its circumference. Measurements are 4.0 x 3.1 x 2.7 cm. Although no function is evident, it could have served as a gaming piece.

A small land mammal limb bone has been split lengthwise and cut or ground over two long surfaces. As it still retains much of the rough articular end of the bone, this may be the discarded waste product of tool manufacture. The remaining nine objects are fragmentary. All show evidence of grinding to shape and some have fairly extensive polish through use, but they are too incomplete to further classify.

Artifacts of Antler

Harpoon valve (1)

A small antler valve fragment is incomplete at the distal end but retains the distinctive pointed shape of the proximal end. It appears to be unfinished, with no channels or slot evident.

Worked tine tip (1)

A small segment of antler tine, 6.8 cm in length, shows polish and a small amount of damage at its rather blunt tip. It may have served as a flaker or a piercing implement.

Artifacts of Shell

Disk bead (1)

A tiny complete shell disk bead, 0.3 cm in diameter and 0.15 cm thick, was found during fine-screen sorting of the column samples. It is white in colour and appears to be clamshell.

Shell disk beads are relatively rare in Nuu-chah-nulth sites. One was also found in the later House 1 deposits at Huu7ii. Similarly, single examples of shell disk beads came from both the main village and the earlier back terrace at Ts’ishaa (McMillan and St. Claire 2005a).

Ground mussel shell (1)

A roughly rectangular piece of mussel shell shows possible polish over one flat face and a straight rounded edge. Its dimensions are 4.6 x 1.9 x 0.7 cm.

Artifacts of Stone

Celt (1)

A small celt of fine-grained serpentinized metamorphic rock is complete except that the bit end has been largely battered away (Fig. 5-5, upper left). Several long flakes have also been driven off from the poll through use. All remaining surfaces are highly polished. Faces and sides have been ground flat, with polished facets where they join. The poll is slightly rounded and the straight sides expand to the bit. Artifact dimensions are 6.0 x 3.6 x 2.1 cm, but the length would be slightly greater if the bit was fully intact.

Ground schist tool (1)

This small flat artifact, oval in shape, appears to be almost complete, missing only a small portion at each end. Its measurements are 4.7 x 3.1 x 0.4 cm. The edges appear to have been ground flat all around this implement. No function is obvious.



Figure 5-5. Stone artifacts from the Huu7ii back terrace (upper left: celt; upper right and lower row: abrasive stones).

Schist does not occur in the immediate site vicinity. One possible source is the Leech River Schist, found along the outer shore of Vancouver Island to the southeast of Barkley Sound (Wilson 2005:122). Schist also occurs in the Ucluth Formation to the northwest of the sound.

Abrasive stones (8)

Six sandstone abraders appear to have been carefully shaped, with at least one intact straight edge ground perpendicular to the flat faces (Fig. 5-5). Three are complete (at 13.2 x 7.3 x 2.0 cm, 8.3 x 6.2 x 1.5 cm, and 7.9 x 5.5 x 1.9 cm). All three are four-sided, but irregular rather than rectangular. One has one edge that has clearly been sawn to shape, then polished flat. Four of the six shaped abraders show equal wear on both faces, while two show wear on one face only. The remaining two objects are small fragments of irregular shape, with part of a bevelled edge intact. They may possibly be fragments of other artifact classes, such as sandstone saws.

Hammerstones/anvil stones (2)

Two large rounded beach cobbles were found in direct association with each other (Fig. 5-6). Both show evidence of battering in several locations. One has extensive evidence of battering on both ends, both sides, and one face. The other shows somewhat less pronounced battering on one end, both sides, and one face. The deep pitting on the faces of these cobbles suggests use as anvil stones. Such objects were used in the bipolar reduction of



Figure 5-6. Two hammerstones-anvil stones found together in the Huu7ii back terrace.

pebbles in tool manufacture, although evidence of such technology was not abundant in the excavated materials from the back terrace. A similar anvil stone came from the back terrace at Ts'ishaa, where small stone cores and debitage were relatively common (McMillan and St. Claire 2005:88–89).

Plane/scrapers (2)

Two split cobbles, both similar fine-grained metamorphic rocks, show wear on the ventral faces (Fig. 5-7, left and centre). On the larger example, the high points of the ventral face have been worn flat and are polished. The second, more elongated, object has unifacial retouch along one side, creating a rough cutting or scraping edge. Several high points at the centre of the ventral face show polish through use, although this is not as marked as on the larger example. Measurements are 8.4 x 8.2 x 3.9 cm and 8.2 x 5.0 x 2.6 cm.

Both objects may have served as woodworking tools, with the polish occurring as a result of using the rough ventral face as a plane or rasp. The retouched edge on one example gives an additional scraping edge. Dewhirst (1980:135) reports a similar “cobble plane” from a late period context at Yuquot.

Chert core/scrapper (1)

A blocky flake of red chert has been bifacially retouched along one edge (Fig. 5-7, right). Its measurements are 5.2 x 4.3 x 2.5 cm; the length of the retouched edge is 4.0 cm. This red-brown chert is unique in the excavated Barkley Sound assemblages and its source is unknown. However, chert commonly occurs among the rocks that make up the islands of Barkley Sound and on the Ucluelet side of the sound (Wilson 2005:118, 123).

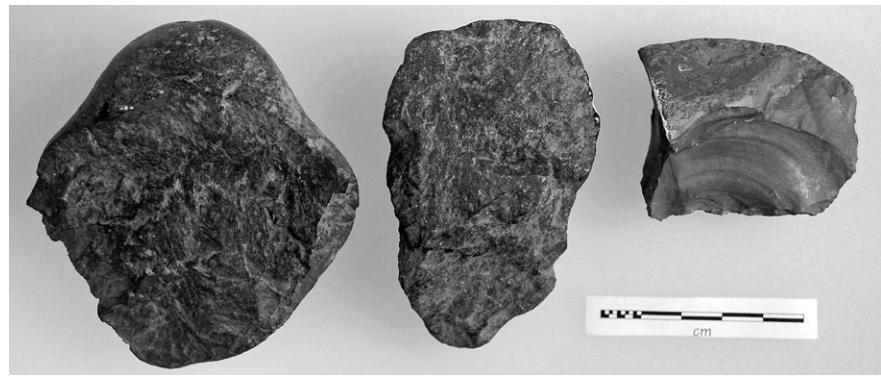


Figure 5-7. Chipped stone from the Huu7ii back terrace (left and centre: plane/scrapers; right: red chert scraper).

Although generally green or grey in colour, reddish brown chert has been noted (Wilson 2005:123).

Flake-core (1)

This small, elongated block of porphyritic andesite has a small remnant platform at its upper surface and flake scars visible on its lower faces. It may have been detached as a flake from a larger artifact from which flakes had been struck. Its measurements are 5.3 x 3.6 x 2.7 cm.

Flakes/flake tools (4)

Although heavily water-rolled, a relatively large flake of greenish stone, possibly andesite, retains evidence of a platform and bulb of percussion. The shape and the rounded nature of the curved edge opposite the bulb of percussion suggest use as a cutting tool, although the rounded edge may be entirely a result of water-rolling. It was found on the beach sand at the base of the cultural deposit. Its measurements are 6.2 x 5.9 x 1.8 cm.

A smaller flake of green chert, snapped in length, has possible retouch along one broken edge. A small, elongated spall is also of green chert. Chert sources, characteristically yielding a light green stone, occur at various locations around Barkley Sound and the Ucluelet area (Wilson 2005:123). Flakes of green chert, occasionally retouched as tools, are also recorded from the early components at Ch'uumat'a (McMillan 1998:11–12; 1999:115) and Ts'ishaa (McMillan and St. Claire 2005:89). Another small flake is from a fine-grained, but poor quality, metamorphic rock.

Features

Distinct features were not common in the back terrace units. Only one was recorded in the 2004

excavation. This consisted of a large patch, extending across much of one quadrant, of black sandy silt that was clearly distinct from the crushed shell matrix elsewhere in Layer C. Large angular rocks were found throughout this matrix, along with a number of large chunks of sea mammal bone. This feature was recorded near the top of Layer C, at the same level as a charcoal sample that provided a radiocarbon date of 3190 ± 60 BP (3550 to 3320 cal BP).

The uppermost of two features recorded in the 2006 unit was a concentration of postholes, stake holes, and pit-shaped intrusions of dark matrix extending from Layer B into the shell of Layer C. A round post mould near the unit's southwest corner was 25 cm in diameter. The other elements of this feature were visible in the profiles, particularly along the south wall. Several apparent stake holes were about 10 cm in diameter. A pit-like depression in the southeast corner extends about 80 cm into the underlying layer. Only part of this feature was exposed within the unit.

A rock feature was recorded deeper in this unit, in Layer D. A cluster of four large rocks extended into the west wall, possibly indicating that only part of this feature had been exposed. The rocks were surrounded by a concentration of porpoise elements (vertebrae and ribs). This feature occurred a short distance below a radiocarbon date of 3690 ± 70 BP (4240 to 3840 cal BP).

Subsistence Remains

Over 3,000 vertebrate faunal elements from the back terrace unit samples were identified to species, genus, or family (Appendix A). As in the later House 1 deposits, the identified elements from these samples are heavily dominated by fish (87.8%), followed distantly by sea mammals

(7.8%), land (including commensal) mammals (3.2%), and birds (1.2%). Birds are particularly rare compared to the House 1 floor deposits. Analysis of the fine-screened column samples provides over 17,000 additional identified elements, among which fish comprise 99.9% of the total, even more strongly demonstrating the reliance on fish by the early occupants of Huu7ii (Appendix B).

In the unit samples, the most common fish species are rockfish and greenling, rather distantly followed by salmon, dogfish, and perch (Appendix A). Herring and anchovy were also recovered, but in relatively small numbers. When the faunal elements from the fine-screened column samples are considered, however, herring leap to the dominant species, comprising 94.9% of the total identified fish assemblage (Appendix B). This huge dominance of herring is even greater than in the later House 1 samples, demonstrating the importance of this vital food source over the 5,000-year history of the site. Anchovy also greatly increases in importance, ranking a very distant second to herring. Also important, although in considerably lesser numbers, were greenling, salmon, perch, rockfish, and dogfish (Appendix B). The latter five taxa are consistent with the unit sample results, but the dominance of small fish in the assemblage is evident only in the fine-screened samples.

Marine mammals also played a major role in the diet. Whales, fur seals, and several species of porpoise and dolphin are particularly abundant (Appendix A). As most whale elements are fragmentary and no aDNA analysis was carried out for this portion of the site, the particular whale species present could not be determined. However, it is highly likely that humpbacks would predominate, as in the later Huu7ii deposits and at other Barkley Sound sites.

Despite a clear maritime emphasis in the faunal remains, land animals were well represented. Although the numbers are relatively small, land mammals appear to be more abundant than in the later House 1 deposits. Dog remains were abundant throughout. As in the later deposits, very young animals were common, indicating a “natural” population kept as pets, and a high proportion of the dogs appear to be from a distinct small breed (Appendix A). Of the other land mammals, mink are the most abundant, in contrast to their relatively low occurrence in the later deposits. Deer were also important, although perhaps less so than in later times.

Shell analysis was based on a 2.2 m column sample taken from the north wall of the 2004 unit (Appendix D). As in House 1, shell from throughout this column was overwhelmingly mussel (*Mytilis californianus*). At 96.5% of the shell total by weight, this preponderance of mussel is even greater than in the House 1 sample. Barnacles are a very distant second at 2.1% by weight. Species diversity is even lower than in House 1, with only 10 taxa identified. Clams are very rare, reflecting the lack of sediment beaches in the vicinity, which might have been even more pronounced during the period of higher sea levels when this portion of the site was occupied.

As was the case for the House 1 deposits, the search for plant remains through flotation analysis was unsuccessful (Appendix E). Matrix samples were collected from burnt contexts such as hearths in the expectation that charred seeds or other evidence of edible plant use might be preserved. Column samples were also examined for archaeobotanical remains. However, conditions of poor preservation in the alkaline deposits seem to have removed all evidence of food plants (Appendix E). Although Huu7ii’s island location provided relatively limited access to edible plant resources, analysis of pollen in a core taken from the bog directly behind this early occupation area demonstrates that a number of potential plant foods grew in the general vicinity of the site (Appendix F; see discussion in Chapter 3). However, these tend to be more abundant in later time periods.

In general, even at this early period the people of Huu7ii were clearly focused on maritime resources, as is demonstrated by the dominance of fish and sea mammal remains. Abundant fish species such as herring, rockfish, greenling, perch, and dogfish could all have been obtained from the near-shore waters, while the large mussels that dominate the shell remains could have been taken from the intertidal rocks in the site vicinity. However, the relatively abundant porpoise, dolphin, and whale remains, along with a few albatross and bluefin tuna elements, clearly show that the food quest also took people well offshore. From the earliest occupation of Huu7ii, people were venturing out to sea to pursue large prey such as whales and fast, difficult-to-hunt animals such as porpoise and fur seals, requiring specialized gear and strategies. Seasonal indicators cover much of the year, suggesting that this portion of the site was occupied year-round (Appendices A and B).