

Extra-Housepit Excavations 14 and 15—Summary of Excavation

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Extra-Housepit Excavation 15 is a slight depression on the north facing slopes of the till ridge forming the southern boundary of terrace 2 (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 2**). From surface indications it appeared likely to be a roasting pit. The excavation trench revealed what was likely a food preparing and cooking area for several generations (**Fig. 1**). The roasting pit at the upper levels represents deer cooking, along with other fauna.

Stratum IV: Subsquares 12 and 16 of (levels 2 and 4 to 6) appeared to show evidence of a hearth (level 2) or base wall of a roasting pit, and a wall or bench of boulders and cobbles (levels 4 to 6) about one half meter from the extent of fire-cracked rock in *Stratum III*. The inner side of the wall was probably dug out, and the wall acted as a retainer where flaking/knapping and butchering preceded cooking. Wind blown loess and eroded till appeared to have filled gaps between the rock walls, and flakes were found throughout. Some of these flakes may have reached depths by trampling, yet chert flakes were found only a few centimeters under the large boulders, indicating that they would have been deposited before the boulders were put into place. Subsquare 16 was a bit darker and higher in gravel content. There was no evidence of carbonate deposits on the under-sides of either pebbles or boulders. They were either placed where they have been found by past residents, rolled to their positions by gravity, or more likely by a combination of both.

Extra-Housepit Excavation 14 was a test of a pattern/depression that appeared to be a natural depression. No further description was obtained or necessary.

Figures

Figure 1: Cross-section profile of Extra-Housepit Excavation 15.

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