

Extra-Housepit Excavation 18—Summary of Excavation

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Extra-Housepit Excavation 18 is a circular depression approximately 170 cm east-west by 190 cm north-south (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). It is located on the upper terrace, on the base of a small hill at the edge of the site (east of HP 104). This feature was excavated to determine its function and, if possible, to date it (by artifact association).

The excavation consisted of a test trench being dug in the middle of the depression (**Fig. 1**). This test trench was 150 cm long, and was excavated in subsquares (each being 50 cm long and 50 cm wide).

Stratigraphy

Stratum I: Stratum I consisted mainly of windblown till and about 10% gravel (pebbles or larger). Also taken from this stratum was a small chert flake (less than 1 cm). This stratum appears primarily to be sterile material, which was taken out of the pit when it was being excavated originally.

Stratum II: This stratum was most pronounced in Subsquare 3 (the south portion of the trench), and appeared to surround the outside of the pit. This stratum consisted of sterile till and large boulders and cobbles.

Stratum III: This stratum was the final stratum to be encountered, and although excavation was not completed, Stratum III was five levels deep and showed no indication of changing into sterile till. The first level of Stratum III was indicated by a change in soil (finer, fewer pebbles) and by the appearance of artifacts. Finds in this stratum consisted of large pieces of bark (pine and birch, from Ssq.'s 8 and 3), animal bones (deer, salmon, mouse), flakes (as well as a possible chopper), and two dog coprolites. Items

were both charred and uncharred, with uncharred pieces of bark generally appearing directly above charred portions. Additionally, large pieces of bark appeared at different levels, possibly indicating that the feature was used on more than one occasion. There were possibly two pit bottoms found. The first is at approximately level 4. This pit bottom is indicated by a darker layer with a relatively high concentration of salmon bones and bark. What appears to be the second pit bottom lies at level 6 or 7, sloping downward from the outside of the pit inwards. Unfortunately, none of the finds allowed for an estimation of which would have indicated the age of this pit.

Based upon the evidence, EHPE 18 was a cache pit. Bones that were found were fragmentary, and included deer, salmon, bird, and mice. The presence of mice was most important, since it would appear that they had made their way into the pit after it was filled with food. The charcoal found may have been the result of fires set to exterminate these types of pests. The depth of the pit and the successive layers of bark (followed by charred bark) might show that the pit was used on several occasions.

Figures

Figure 1: Cross section of EHPE 18.

Figure 2: Floor plan of EHPE 18.

Figure 1. Cross section of EHPE 18.

Extra Housepit Excavation 18 East Wall Profile

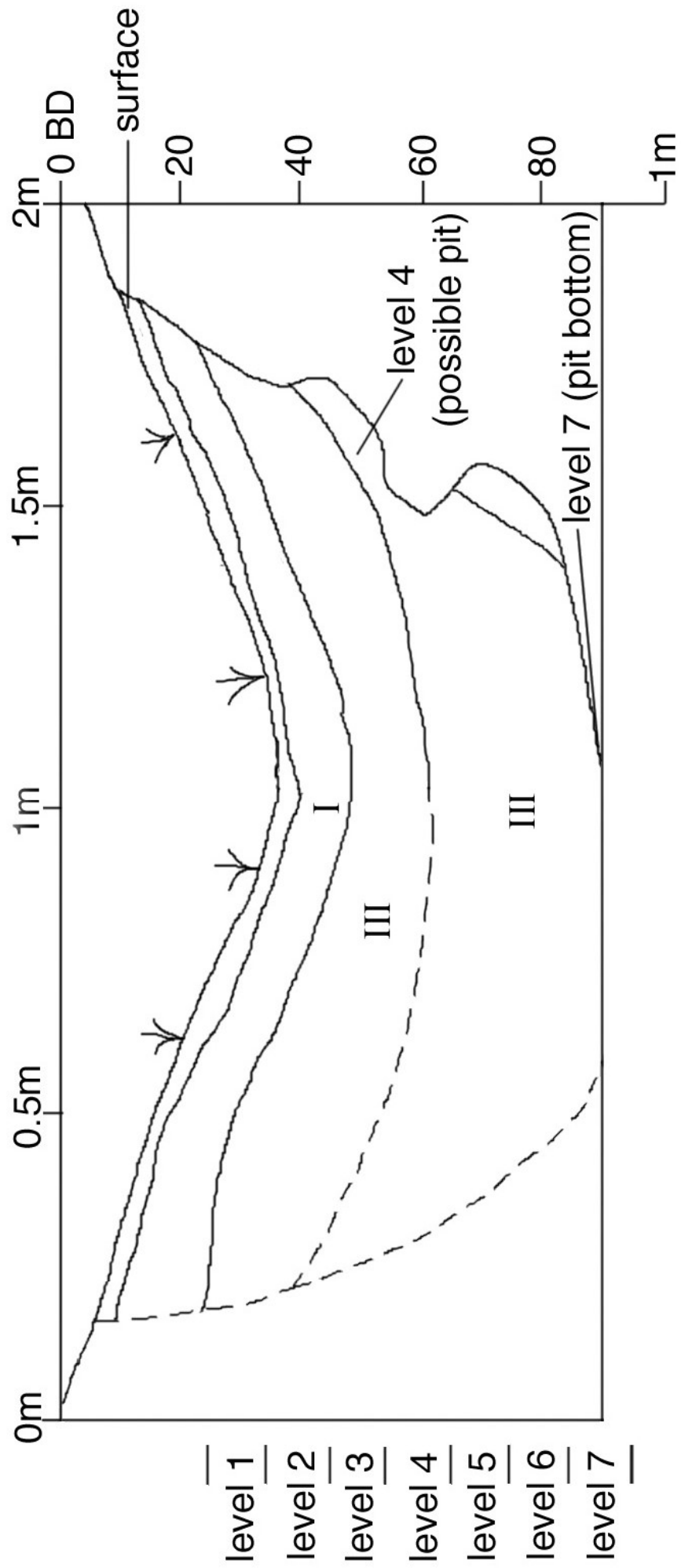


Figure 2. Floor plan of EHPE 18.

Extra Housepfit Excavation 18 Plan View

