

## Housepit 101 Excavation Results

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### **Housepit Location and Description**

Housepit 101 is located on the western edge of the main site area at the base of a terrace slope about 40 m south of HP 1 (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). It measures ca. 8.0 m north-south by 7.5 m east-west, and its surficial rim to basin depth is about 1.25 m. Surficially, the house depression is circular in plan and has a bowl-shaped cross-section with fairly steep walls. The rim is fairly well defined, particularly along its northern and southern sections where it is shared with the rims of HP's 98 and 100. Pot hunting activity has been fairly extensive on the eastern edge of the house floor where a large cavity measuring about 1.5 m north-south by 1.0 m east-west by 0.5 m below surface has been dug. Some minor pot hunting disturbance is also evident along the southern edge of the house floor.

### **Test Trench Excavation Results**

Two test excavation units measuring 2.0 m long by 0.5 m wide were dug into the southwestern section of the house floor (**Fig. 1**). The northern unit was designated Square A, the southern one Square B. Together they formed a test trench measuring 4.0 m north-south by 0.5 m wide extending from the central floor area of the house to its southern rim. Cultural deposits were encountered to a depth of about 1.0 m below surface, and at least three occupation episodes were identified. A total of eleven discrete stratigraphic units were observed and defined in the test trench. In general, the stratigraphic structure of HP 101 is considered to be fairly complex, and it was difficult to accurately interpret on the basis of the test trench

excavations alone. Therefore, excavations were extended somewhat to reveal the Kamloops horizon house floor occupation.

### **Stratum I**

Stratum I was encountered primarily in the southern half of the test trench (Sq. B) between about 0 and 20 cm below surface (BS). It is a moderately compact, medium brown (10 YR 4/2) sandy silt with about 5% granules, 5% pebbles, and the occasional cobble. Cultural materials in this stratum consisted primarily of small scattered bits of charcoal, a moderate amount of fire cracked rock (FCR), several lithic waste flakes, and a few small bone fragments. It represents post-abandonment deposits comprised of a mix of fluvial slopewash sediments derived from the slope to the west and eroded upper roof deposits relating the last occupation of the house.

### **Stratum II**

Stratum II was encountered in all of Square A and the northern end of Square B between about 0 and 30 cm BS. It is comprised of a moderately compact, very well sorted, light brown (10 YR 5/3) sandy silt with about 2% granules, 2% pebbles, and 1% cobbles. Stratum II lies beneath Stratum I near the juncture of Square A and Square B, indicating that its initial deposition predates that of Stratum I. However, an apparent mixing of these two stratigraphic units is evident between about 0 and 10 cm BS in the southern end of Square A, which suggests that deposition of Stratum I and the upper portions of Stratum II were probably concurrent. Only a few small flakes were recovered from Stratum II, indicating that it represents post-abandonment fluvially deposited sands and silts derived from the terrace slope to the northwest.

### **Stratum III**

Stratum III was encountered only within Square B between about 12 and 35 cm. BS. It consists of a moderately compact, medium gray brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy silt with about 15% granules, 10% pebbles, and 5% cobbles. It contained a moderate amount of FCR, several complete and fragmented mammal bones, a few salmon bones, numerous lithic waste flakes, a white chalcedony graver, and some scattered pieces of burnt wood and charcoal. The positioning and content of the stratum suggest that it is a mixture of roof and rim deposits associated with the southern edge of the house. Strata IIIa and IIIb are comprised primarily of typical Stratum III deposits, however, they contain greater concentrations of charcoal and burnt soil at the very edge of the house roof.

### **Stratum IV**

Stratum IV was encountered in the central aspect of Square B between about 30 and 50 cm BS. It consists of a fairly compact, medium gray brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy silt with 15% granules, 5% pebbles, and 5% cobbles. Cultural materials included a moderate amount of complete and fragmented mammal and fish remains, scattered chunks and bits of charcoal, several flakes, and a complete Kamloops side-notched projectile point at 160 cm north; 48 cm east; and 40 cm BS. The nature and positioning of Stratum IV suggests that it represents fairly thick roof deposits at the southern edge of the most recent house occupation. The projectile point suggests affiliation with the Kamloops horizon (ca. 1,200–200 BP).

## **Stratum V**

Stratum V was divided into four sub-strata on the basis of differences in color, texture, and content. All four strata are present within Square A, and represent deposits associated with the most recent Kamloops horizon occupation of the house.

### **Sub-stratum Va**

Sub-stratum Va is a moderately compact, medium gray (10 YR 4/2) sandy silt with 5% granules, 5% pebbles, and 2% cobbles lying between about 30 and 35 cm BS. Cultural materials are relatively sparse in this sub-stratum, consisting primarily of lithic waste flakes. It represents a mixture of slopewash deposits (Stratum II) and upper roof deposits (Sub-stratum Vb) related to the last occupation of the house.

### **Sub-stratum Vb**

Sub-stratum Vb is a very loose, light orange brown (5 YR 5/8) sandy ashy silt with 2% granules and 2% pebbles lying between about 35 and 40 cm BS. It contains scattered charcoal and was associated with several large burnt and partially charred beams and branches, a mammal bone fragment, a few flakes, and a sandstone abrader. It represents part of the upper portion of the roof deposits relating to the last house occupation. The color of this sub-stratum indicates that burning occurred, but the nature of this burning is not entirely clear. Perhaps it relates to organic materials being trapped between this sub-stratum and sub-stratum Va above it.

### **Sub-stratum Vc**

Sub-stratum Vc is a moderately loose, medium gray brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy silt with 10% granules, 5% pebbles and 5% cobbles lying between

about 40 and 50 cm BS. It contained scattered bits and chunks of charcoal, burnt beams and twigs (particularly in the northern end of the square), and the occasional flake. It represents mid-roof fill associated with the last occupation of the house.

### **Sub-stratum Vd**

Sub-stratum Vd is a very loose thin black (10 YR 2/1) burned and charred organic layer lying between about 50 and 53 cm BS. It contains a very high incidence of carbonized bark (birch and pine), wood, twigs, and pine needles. It represents the bottom of the roof lying directly above the floor of the last occupation of the house.

### **Stratum VI**

Stratum VI is a fairly compact, light gray (10 YR 5/2) sandy silt with 10% granules, 10% pebbles and 2% cobbles. It is represented in all of Square A, and in the northern part of Square B between about 53 and 63 cm BS. It contained a high incidence of articulated and disarticulated fish remains, a moderate amount of mammal bone fragments, many lithic waste flakes, some scattered charcoal, and an artifact made from the distal tip of a deer antler tine. Stratum VI represents the floor deposits associated with the most recent Kamloops horizon occupation of the house.

Two post-holes were identified associated with this stratum. One measuring approximately 17 cm. in diameter was identified at the northern end of Square A that contained rotted wood (sample taken) that extended into Stratum VII deposits about 20 cm. The second post hole measuring about 15 cm diameter was intersected by the west wall of Square A at about

75 cm north (**Fig. 1**), and it extended into Stratum VII and Stratum VIII about 20 cm.

### **Stratum VII**

Stratum VII is a moderately loose, medium gray brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy silt with 10% granules, 5% pebbles, 5% cobbles, and 2% small boulders. It occupies all of Square A and the northern half of Square B. It contained a moderate amount of fish and animal bone, a few flakes, and some scattered charcoal. A small U-shaped pit lined with cobbles (Feature 2) measuring about 22 cm in diameter was associated with the bottom of this stratum at about 55 cm BS. It extended into underlying Strata VIII and IX deposits about 30 cm. The exact function of the feature could not be determined, but it may be a large post-hole. The large cobbles and small boulders may have been used to steady a vertical post in place.

Although it is not certain, it appears that Stratum VII may be a floor deposit lying directly beneath the uppermost occupation floor represented by Stratum VI. There is no clear indication of a roof deposit between these two strata. The relative age of Stratum VII is not known, although a small corner-notched point recovered from the interface between Stratum VI and Stratum VII (see below) suggests a possible late Plateau horizon or early Kamloops horizon age.

### **Stratum VIII**

Stratum VIII is a compact, light gray (10 YR 5/2) sandy loamy silt with 20% granules, 20 % pebbles, and 10% cobbles. It was encountered in both Squares A and B, but was thickest in Square B. A moderate density of cultural materials were secured from this stratum, and the nature of its

deposits (i.e., fairly coarse) suggest that it is roof fill associated with the initial occupation of the house. Stratum VIIIa is a thin, dark, organic rich, discontinuous stratum between Strata VIII and IX which is interpreted to be the lower organic component of the roof fill.

### **Stratum IX**

Stratum IX is a very compact, light gray (10 YR 5/2) sandy loamy silt with 20% granules, 20% pebbles, and 10% cobbles. It extends throughout Square A and the northern half of Square B between about 75 and 95 cm BS. This stratum yielded a substantial quantity of cultural materials, including: a horn core from a mountain sheep at the northern end of Square A at a depth of about 85 cm BS; a stemmed lanceolate pink chalcedony biface at 125 cm north, 0 cm east, 76 cm BS; a light pink chalcedony multidirectional core at 125 cm north, 43 cm east, 80 cm BS; hundreds of pink chalcedony flakes associated with a shallow pit feature (Feature 1 [see below]) lying beneath the biface and core; several utilized and retouched flake tools made of pink chalcedony and chert; a basalt biface fragment; a sandstone abrader; an antler wedge from 18 cm north, 20 cm east, 78 cm BS; a flat mammal longbone shaft artifact with a perforation in one end from Feature 4; an elk canine pendant also from Feature 4; scattered fish and mammal bone remains throughout the stratum; a piece of freshwater mussel shell; many flakes; scattered charcoal, and; a few pieces of FCR. Bone artifacts are illustrated in Chapter 2 of this volume.

Three features and two post-holes were identified in the test trench in association with Stratum IX (Feature 2 is part of Stratum VII). Feature 1 is a shallow bowl-shaped pit identified at the southern edge of the initial house

floor (**Fig. 2**). It measures about 55 cm in diameter, and it extends about 15 cm into sterile below the average floor level. This pit contained hundreds of pink chalcedony and chert flakes (Fountain Valley source) such as were found throughout Stratum IX. It appears that this pit was intended as a disposal area or cache for these flakes, and it is part of Stratum VII.

Feature 3 is a U-shaped pit feature identified in the northern end of Square A. The remainder of this feature was intersected by the test trench. It appears to be about 30 cm in diameter, and extends down to a depth of 120 cm BS. Its bottom was filled with a dark gray brown sandy silt and several very large cobbles and small boulders. A sheep horn core (see Stratum IX) was recovered from the upper aspect of this pit. The function of this pit is not clear, although it may have been a small storage pit. It appears to have been dug into hearth dump Feature 4, which is in the same location, but is larger.

Feature 4 is interpreted to be a large hearth area or possibly a hearth refuse dump located in the northern quarter of Square A between about 100 and 120 cm BS. Pit Feature 3 was dug through it, suggesting that Feature 4 was constructed first. Feature 4 is evident by a thick, somewhat basin-shaped lens of dark gray brown sandy ashy silt capped with a light orange brown sandy ashy silt. This feature contained assorted flake tools, an elk canine pendant, a flat mammal longbone artifact with a perforation in one end, some poorly preserved and partially charred mammal bone fragments, a piece of burnt bark, and several pieces of FCR.

Two post-holes were identified in Stratum IX of Square A. The first measures about 15 cm in diameter, and was intersected in half at about 145 cm north along the west wall. It extended about 30 cm into sterile till

deposits. The second post-hole was encountered at about 130 cm north and 25 cm east. It is about 10 cm in diameter and extends only about 5 cm into the sterile till.

In summary, Stratum IX clearly represents the initial or basal occupation of the housepit. Its relative age is unknown, however, the nature of its lithic assemblage and considerable depth below surface suggests possible affiliation with the Plateau horizon (ca. 2,400–1,200 BP), but this remains to be confirmed.

### **Stratum X**

Stratum X is a moderately loose, light gray brown (10 YR 5/4) sandy silt with 15% granules, 10% pebbles, and 5% cobbles. It contained a moderate amount of lithic waste flakes, several mammal bone fragments and fish bones, a basalt uniface, and some scattered charcoal. It represents typical rim deposits composed of refuse, roof material, and redeposited till associated with the uppermost occupation of the house.

### **Stratum XI**

Stratum XI is a compact, light gray brown (10 YR 5/4) sandy clayey silt with 10% granules, 5% pebbles, and 5% cobbles. It contained very little cultural material and represents a mixture of Stratum X rim spoil deposits and sterile glacial till initially dug from the center of the housepit.

### **Square A Excavation Results**

The test trench excavations at HP 101 were expanded in Square A in order to secure a larger sample of the uppermost Kamloops horizon occupation represented in Stratum VI. The test trench encompassed

subsquares 1, 5, 9, and 13. Subsquares 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 15 were excavated following typical detailed subsquare excavation methodology procedures, however, only Strata I to VI were removed. The previous recovery of a Kamloops horizon projectile point from Square B at 40 cm BS suggested that the floor zone represented in Stratum VI should relate to the same relative time (ca. 1,200-200 BP). The descriptions for the strata represented in the subsquares of Square A are the same as provided for those indicated for the test trench profile (see above).

Stratum II contained only a few small lithic waste flakes that had become incorporated in post-occupational slopewash sediments from the northwest. They have no cultural significance with respect to housepit occupation.

In Subsquares 2, 6, 10, and 14, Stratum V was excavated by removing each of the four sub-strata identified within it. For Subsquares 3, 7, 11, and 15 they were far less distinct, and these roof deposits were excavated according to standard subsquare excavation procedures (i.e., upper 5 cm, mid-roof, lower 5 cm). Several interesting and important artifacts and features were encountered in the Stratum V roof zone deposits. These include:

- (1) a vertical roof support post measuring 18 cm in diameter found in Subsquare 2 that was charred on top and whose rotted lower portion extended 27 cm below the roof into underlying Strata VI and VII;
- (2) a smaller post from Subsquare 6 measuring about 10 cm in diameter with one charred end displaying probable adze cut-marks;

- (3) a large spall tool from the interface of Strata Vb and Vc from Subsquare 6;
- (4) a brown chert drill bit from Stratum Va of Subsquare 10, and;
- (5) a triangular biface fragment from Subsquare 11 at 32 cm BS.

In addition, several utilized and retouched flakes, many lithic waste flakes, a moderate amount of mammal bone fragments, and the occasional fish bone was also recovered throughout Stratum V. Fire cracked rock was most commonly encountered in the upper roof deposits, particularly with Stratum Va. Charred, partially charred, and decaying wood and bark were encountered throughout all the roof deposits, however, the greatest density of charred organics were associated with Stratum Vd.

Stratum VI, representing the Kamloops horizon floor deposits also contained several noteworthy artifacts and features. The most salient aspect of the floor is that it contained a very high incidence of fish (salmon) remains scattered throughout the floor area, many of which were partially articulated. Complete and fragmented mammal bones were also found throughout the floor in variable densities. A Kamloops side-notched projectile point was recovered from the upper aspect of the stratum in Subsquare 6, indicating temporal affiliation with the Kamloops horizon. A small red chalcedony corner-notched point was found in the same subsquare at the interface between Strata VI and VII. It is not clear which of these floor zones the point originated from. If it was associated with Stratum VI, it is probable that the uppermost occupation relates temporally to the early Kamloops horizon (ca. 1,200–1,000 BP). A human tooth (1st or 2nd molar) was recovered from Subsquare 14. A post-hole measuring about 18 cm diameter was also observed in Subsquare 3 which was immediately beside

the partially preserved charred post encountered in the roof deposits (Stratum V) discussed above. In addition, two articulated valves of a freshwater mussel were found in Subsquare 15.

### **Excavation Summary and Conclusions**

Trench excavations and detailed excavations within HP 101 revealed that this small housepit contained at least three major occupation episodes. The initial occupation of the house (Stratum IX) is very strongly represented artifactually, however, it lacks clear stratigraphic definition throughout most of the excavated areas. The temporal affiliation of this floor could not be determined, however, it may belong to the Plateau horizon (ca. 2,400-1,200 BP) on the basis of the high preponderance of exotic lithics and depth of cultural deposits.

The second occupation (Stratum VII) is not very strongly represented, and appears to have been brief. Its relative age is uncertain. The recovery of two Kamloops side-notched projectile points from the uppermost occupation, represented by Stratum VI, indicates an affiliation with the Kamloops horizon (ca. 1,200–200 BP). Detailed excavations of this occupation indicated that fish (salmon) and mammals (probably deer) were consumed in relative abundance. Charred and rotted roof elements, one of which bears evidence of probable adze modification suggest a substantial roof structure such as that observed during the ethnographic period.

### **Figure Captions**

Figure 1: Housepit 101 test trench west wall profile.

Figure 2: Housepit 101, Square A, Stratum VI floor and profile



Figure 1. Housepit 101 test trench west wall profile.

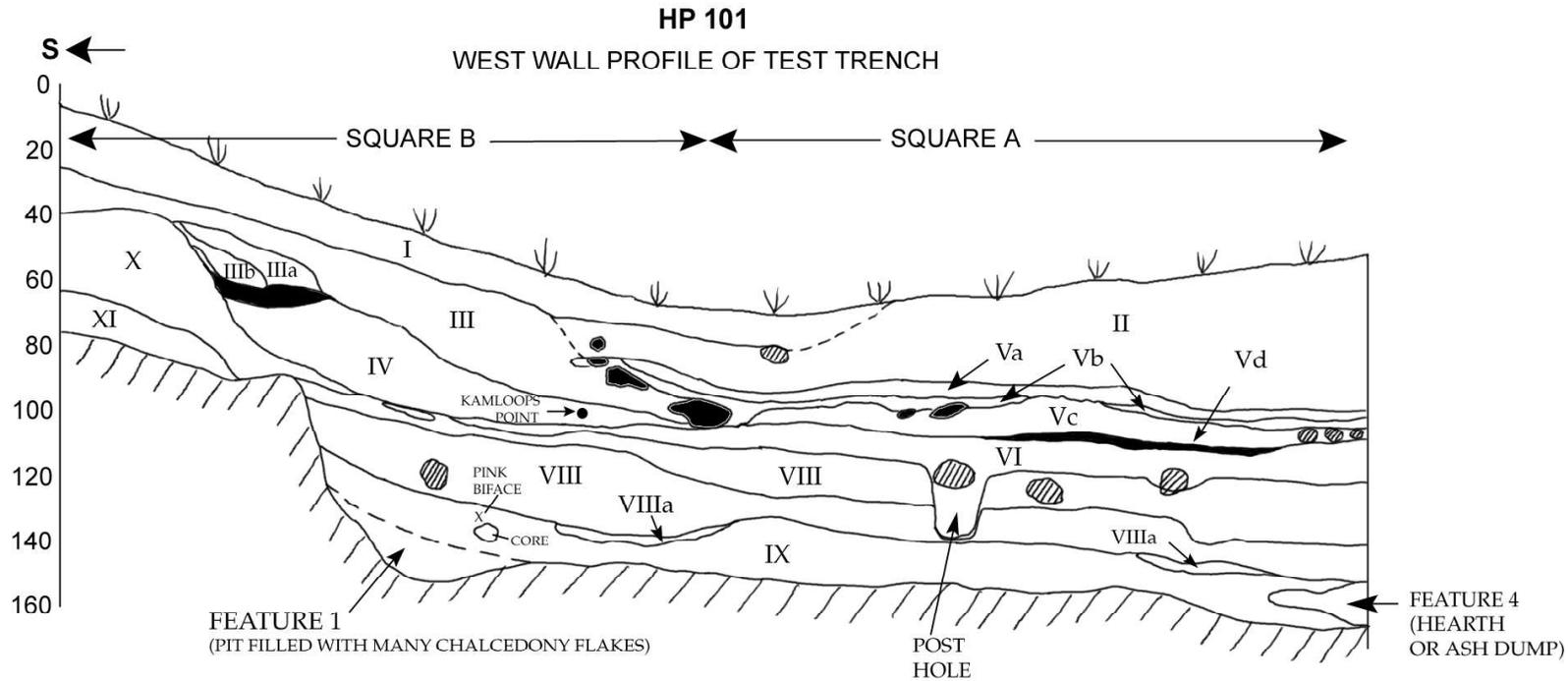
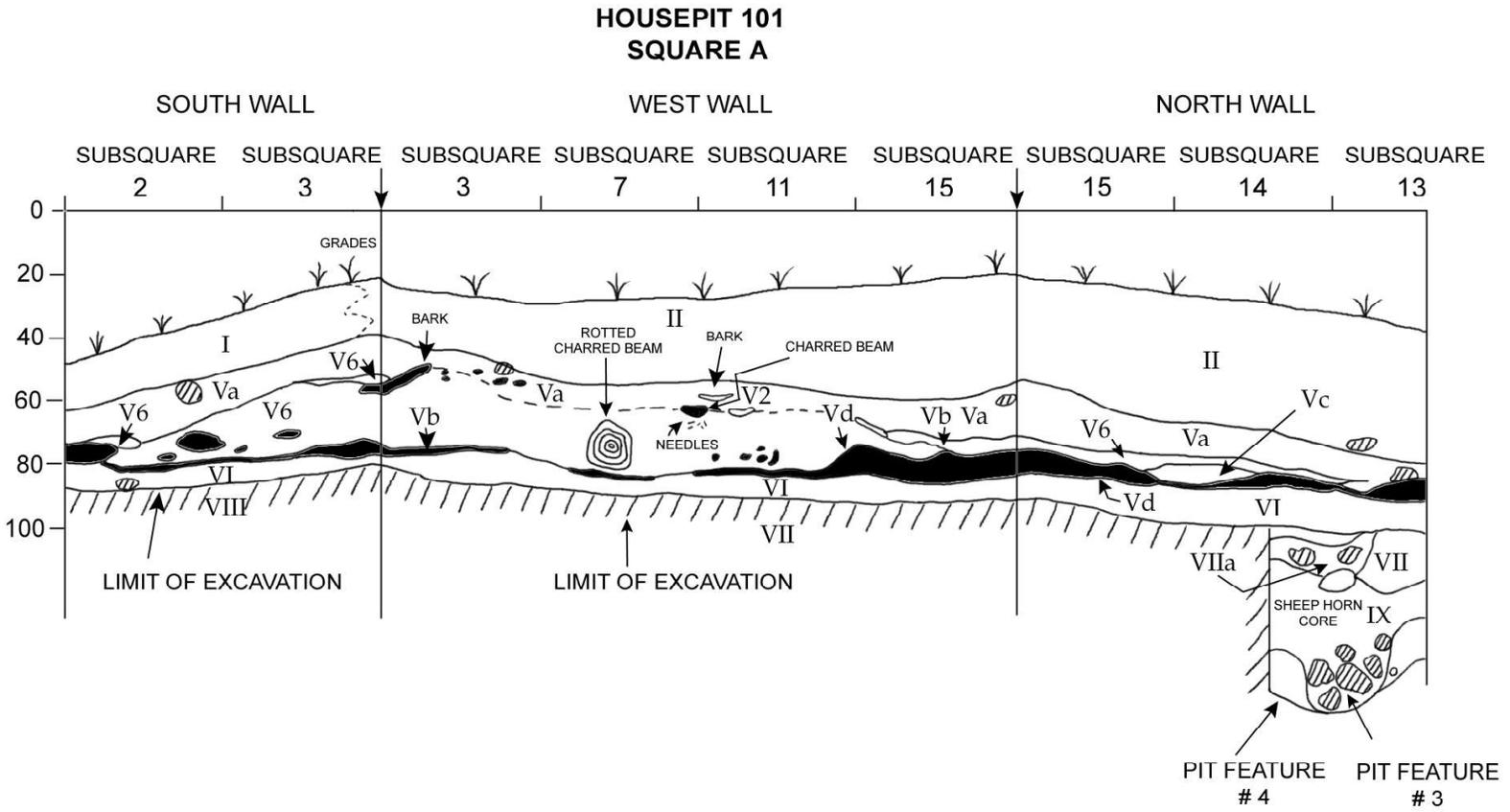


Figure 2. Housepit 101, Square A, Stratum VI floor and profile.

## House Pit 101

### LEGEND

- b Fish bone fragments
- f Lithic flake
- ⊗ Fire-cracked rock
- Unmodified rock
- ≡ Carbon

20 cm

