

EHPE 23—Summary of Excavation

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Extra-Housepit Excavation (EHPE) 23 was tested in 1997 in order to determine its function, the reason behind its isolated location, and the dates it was in use. The small pit was not clearly associated with a pithouse and was some distance from the main part of the village (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). EHPE 20, located approximately 20 m downslope east of EHPE 23, was also tested and found to be a roasting pit. EHPE 23 was approximately 90 m east of HP 106 and Terrace 2, and was on a small platform itself, situated on a long, steep, south-facing slope above Keatley Creek, approximately 60 m to the southeast. The slope remaining below and to the south of the pit feature consisted of darker soil than the upper slope and the surface was littered with FCR and charcoal debris, presumably from roasting activities on the terrace. EHPE 23 was approximately 2 m in diameter and the center was about 23 cm below the outer rim level before excavation (**Fig. 1**). The area today is forested with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), although it is burned over from the recent fire, and plenty of rocks are available, as is water from Keatley Creek.

Three 50 cm x 50 cm pits were excavated in a 50 cm x 150 cm trench running north-south. The two units including the center of the pit were excavated until sterile glacial till was encountered, while the rim pit fill unit appeared to continue into the slope. At the time this became apparent, excavation was stopped due to time restrictions. Arbitrary 10 cm levels were excavated following surface deposits until new strata became apparent. Subsquare 9 of Square A included the center of the depression.

Stratigraphy

Stratum I: This stratum contained less than 5% charcoal mixed with brown silty sand with approximately 50% of the fill being cobbles ranging in size from 4-10 cm in maximum length.

Stratum II: This stratum was encountered about 18 cm below the surface and contained 20 to 30% charcoal, which consisted of generally fine fragments of wood and bark with several well preserved complete sections of wood with the bark intact, averaging 10 cm in length and 2 cm in diameter. One of these sections was put aside for dating and identification purposes. The soil was blackened silty sand with approximately 50% FCR. Cobbles ranged in size from 6-36 cm in maximum length. The largest of these were found near the bottom of the stratum. Stratum II appeared to include the remains a roasting area and a 1 liter flotation sample was taken for identification of the charred remains, which appeared to be floral and generally woody. Glacial till was encountered at 64 cm below the surface. The rocks that appeared to line the pit continue into Subsquare 5.

Subsquare 5 of Square A appeared to also include part of the roasting area and its rock lining. The surface of Subsquare 5 included a small depression whose function did not become apparent in the excavation, and some unassociated charred wood and bark that was likely from the recent fire and appeared to be ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*).

Subsquare 1 of Square A included the rim of the roasting pit, and possibly the remains of an earlier roasting pit event below the pit outlined in Subsquares 5 and 9. A mammal first phalange was recovered at a depth of 4 cm below the surface. There was evidence of fire reddening in a lens along

the boundary of the rock lining in Subsquare 5, which continued for approximately 25 cm horizontally at 4 cm in depth.

Stratum III: This stratum was only observed in Subsquare 1 and was encountered at 32 cm below the surface, which is lower than the glacial till of Subsquares 5 and 9. Glacial till was encountered in Subsquare 1 sloping from north to south in line with the slope below the terrace. Stratum III contained less than 5% charcoal but the soil was darker and appeared to contain a high percentage of carbon. Two small waste flakes (1 chert, 1 trachydacite) were recovered during the screening of the fill from about 105 cm BS. Stratum III appeared to continue deeper than the 116 cm level where excavation was halted (due to time restrictions). This stratum may have contained material from previous roasting events and a carbon sample was taken for dating purposes. If this is true, the material may extend into the slope of the hill.

EHPE 23 does not appear to have been a meat roasting pit, is not clearly associated with a pithouse, and may or may not contain vegetable matter other than wood charcoal. This pit depression on the surface of the small platform may represent the latest roasting event, which may have occurred more recently than the main occupation of the site, as the wood charcoal is well preserved and appears relatively undisturbed. The more recent pit may overlie earlier roasting events which have left debris eroding downslope from the terrace where the events likely took place.

EHPE 23 was dated to approximately 30 BP and flotation samples identified root tissues including *Allium* sp and *Lomatium* sp.

Figures

Figure 1: EHPE 23 stratigraphy profile.

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Extra Housepit Excavation 23 East Wall Profile

