

WILL BANKS

BORDER CREE

March 3, 2016 - Note taking is beginning on last late-day & of this season's excavations. Sunday involved site set-up. Monday (Feb 29)

Saw the clearing of shingle/slope for the new sun 'ys of N109/E120.

Grass Mat #1 (Plan 3) exposed same

day. Large portion of mat #1 was cast in plaster and removed as an

block, although the eastern 7-10 cm of this peninsula, along w/ the northern margin were not included in the cast.

(~~The cast of mat #1 was removed on March 1~~)

N109
E120

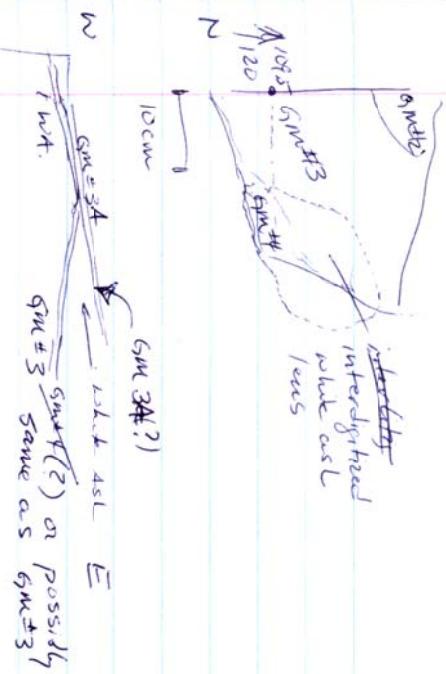
The removal of the mat #1 cast made following/identifying grass mat #2 difficult. In fact some of it may have been incorporated in the bottom of the removed cast.

March 1 and 2 saw

100' NW

The exposure of grass mat #2 as well as mat #3. However the it was noticed today that what had been identified as grass mat #3 in fact included a portion of mat #2 that had remained undisturbed, as unexcavated in the extreme NW^{1/4} of this peninsular excavation block.

Upon cleaning and examination of the N108/E119 North and East profiles, it was observed that this unit is quite complex stratigraphically. This was also prompted by the uncovering of a white ash lens that interdigitates w/ or in between 2 mat events, w/ the lower of these grass mats sitting upon the surface of 1 WA (grass mat #4 - which likely corresponds to grass mat #3 in the adjacent unit and excavated in 2015).



Difficult to tell if Grn #3 continues under the white ash lens, or if the mat under the lens is a different, older grass mat. It is also difficult, if not impossible, to determine if the diffuse mat above the white lens is the same mat as mat #3 in the western portion of profile or if it represents a younger mat that intersects w/ Grass Mat #3 at an unknown portion of the profile.

In the extreme NW portion of

the excavable area in N109

E120 a small pocket of dark

greyish brown sediment was

excavated separately and designated

Plan 6b. This pocket, ca. 10 cm

E-W, and ca. 12 cm N-S ~~sits~~ sits

directly above Grass Mat #3

and appears to be a disturbed!

area so that the sediment is

looser, more aerated, and flows

differ from the more brown

Plan 6 sediment that sits above

the SW 1/4 across the rest of the

unit

March 4, 2016

Finished excavating the SW 1/4
little pocket of sediment in the
NW 1/4 of the ground to expose the

Grass matting.

- Then began Plan 7 which
focused on removing the grass
mat from the extensive white ash

lens in order to find the ash

lens' limits to the western portion

of the unit. Impossible to

distinguish between what I am

calling Mat 3A and what is the

underlying Mat 3. Found that the

ash lens turns more grey in

color but is still present across

the midline of the unit.

The grass mat is especially thick

in the SW 1/4 of unit, so a

block of matting was rotated/cut,

removed, and the bridged in plaster.

(EDM #2032)

March 5

N109 E120

We thought this unit removed might help us establish a temporary W-E profile on the N109.5 mid-line. This will hopefully allow us ~~to~~ to better determine the horizontal extent of the ash lens and observe how it thins across the unit.

- This casted and removed did not allow for a tracking of the western limit of the intrusive white lens.

Began excavating the intrusive lens of white ash that is situated between grass mat 3A and 3 in the eastern portion of the excavated area. This was designated 1 WA Plan 1. It terminates w/ contact w/ a carbonized grass mat that itself sits upon a white ~~ash~~ layer. ~~It~~ Also Grass Mat 3A, which was identified above the intrusive white ash lens (Plan 1), extends west across the western part of the unit and seems to be less compact than a layer of grass matting just underneath that is the unburned part of the grass mat carbonized under the intrusive white ash lens.
(see drawing schematic over)

W

GMC #3A

white ash lens

white
ash
lens

E

GMC
#3

W

March 8

March 7
Home 11
Home 10

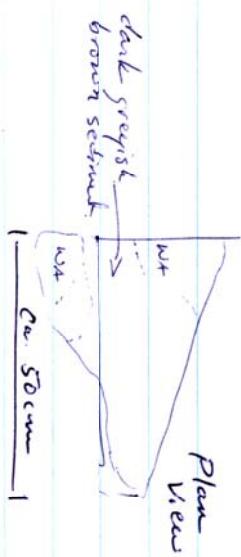
March 9

Resumed work and began excavating the unburned and burned grass mat in W109.5-E120. This mat is designated Mat 3 and corresponds to the gray mat that was situated directly on top of the thin white ash layer that represents the stratigraphic unit 1 mat in 2015's W109-E119 excavated grid. To this season this mat has been designated as being in 7BS Layer C in this 2016 unit - meaning for reasons of consistency and clarity where data are analyzed and interpreted in the lab. →

Began ~~removal of the topsoil~~
and finished excavating the
intrinsic white lens and exposing
the buried air unburned mat
that sits atop the burnt
white ash unit termed "7
White Ash". Began preparing
the unit for excavation but
was forced to return home
just prior to lunch because I
was feeling ill and weak.

In the eastern portion of the NW 1/4 of N109 E120, the green mat is highly carbonized but individual vegetal fibres are still discernible and it is completely black in color. At one approaches the western portion of the ground, the black carbonized mat sits atop an portion of the same mat that is unburned and this gradually transitions into a completely unburned mat ~~soot~~ to the west. The mat is removed if it is seen to be sitting on a ~~sooty~~ very thin and very slightly cemented layer of white ash, which seems to correspond to the thin layer of white ash that was observed at the top of TWT in N109 E119 in 2015. There is a sort of "sooty" channel

that cuts through this thin white ash band, running E-W, and that is dark greyish brown in color.



This dark greyish brown sediment is stratigraphically lower than the white ash, so it is not clear why the white ash is missing from this middle portion of the western limit of this ground. As to Mat 3, almost all of it was collected in several plastic vials or small Lyptenene containers so that it can be screened and analyzed properly in the lab. It is burned and carbonized mud containing numerous flakes, some partially

burned bone, or shell fragment, and numerous charred chunks that are quite various in size.

It appears that in the stratigraphic sequence from top to bottom, and ~~at~~ viewed viewed at a time when multiple strata could be viewed across the unit, we have the grass mat 3, then a lumpy white ash lens, then a dark greyish brown sediment, then a camel brown layer. The white ash lens seems to likely only be present in the eastern half of the ground, whereas the dark brown may likely be directly underneath the grass mat in the western portion. There are also two clearly evident grasshopper burrows (that are related to those encountered in 2015 in N09E119), and finally, a small area of

lumpy white ash in the extreme SW corner of the excavated area. However, it is impossible to know if it is related to the white ash lens in the western portion. These have been post-dep., or even formation processes, that ~~we~~ we may never be able to know who the they are linked.

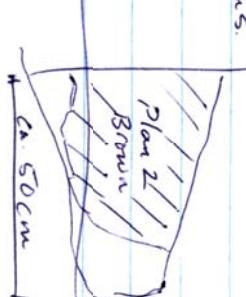
March 10, 2016

Finished removing Grass Mat 3
in the morning. After mapping
and removing the few exposed
artifacts remaining from yesterday.

The next excavation level will
be designated as belonging to
1 White Ash since it sits
below the last substantial
grass mat that sits atop
1 WT in 2015's adjacent
unit of N109 E119 NE 1/4.

This ~~old~~ plan ~~site~~ (decayed)
is named 1 N14 Plan 2 Brown
and is present across much of
the excavated area of the
exception of the extreme eastern
and also extreme southwestern
portions.

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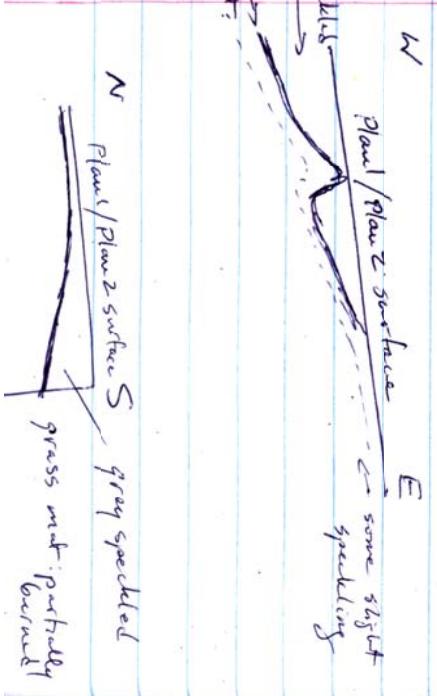
Plan View
Sketch

The two small areas of white
ash were removed and named
1 WT lens 2 - this sediment was
only approx. 200 ml in volume
and was virtually sterile. These
two areas of white ash lens
appear to be situated directly
on a layer that is termed
1 WT grey speckled. Work
began on removing the
grey speckled sediment. It is
also possible that the
extreme eastern part of the
excavation unit may be a
different speckled unit that
belongs to a lower portion
of the 1 WT sedimentary unit
since the deposits are clearly
sloping down to the west.

March 11, 2016

Day began by continuing excavation of the land / NWT grey speckled. Plan 1 of this stratigraphic unit is slightly darker and appears to have a small area of isolated grass matting and is limited to the extreme SW corner of the excavated area.

Therefore this plan 1 will focus on this area and later plans will incorporate the grey speckled sediment, a bit lower, that covers the western ~~part~~ of the excavation unit.



1 WT Grey Speckled Plan 2 covers or incorporates the speckled sediments that cover the ~~western~~ half of the excavation unit.

This unit terminated along a layer of grass matting that was relatively thin and somewhat diffuse along its ~~south~~ eastern and northern margins, may in fact get progressively thicker as it slopes down to the west and south. This mat was called 1 WT Coconel mat plan 1. The

extreme western margin of this mat was burned ~~in~~ in the middle layer, ~~mat~~ with unburned matting above and below this carbonized mat. This would seem to indicate at least 2 mat events in a palimpsest - an original matting that's smoldered and burned,

which was then recovered w/ a
fresh level/layer of grass/vegetation.
Multiple samples of this mat,
both leached and unburned, were
collected for detailed analysis in
the lab.

Once removed, this matting was
sitting upon 2 BS UP. A
remaining lens of speckled sediment
existed along the northern and
eastern margins of the excavated
unit. It is unclear whether
this speckled sediment is
contemporaneous w/ or stratigraphically
below the Grass matting that
was adjacent to it. It was
named 1 W4 Speckled layer.
Once removed, this
matting unit was down on
2 BS up across its white
surface.

Note: 1 NT Caramel Mat
sloped to w/ an orientation of
 250° w/ a slope of 14°
and a ~~strike~~ to the ~~NNE~~ NWP 10° .

March 12, 2016

Francesco photo-documented
a possible ~~heep~~ print in the
NW 1/4 of N109 E119 excavated by
C. Sievers in the upper portion
of 1st AT. This activity delayed
me beginning work on my
unit and scenario 2 BS up.

Excavated 7 levels (plans or
decrapages) of 2 BS upper. The
entire excavated area (partially
SW grade and NW grade) of N109
E120 was rodent burrow fill
until the end of Plan 7.

Plan 7 terminated w/ a contact
in the western edge of the
gravel with a layer of grass
mattng and charcoal streak staining.
The transition between this
grass mattng and the burrow,
meaning in plain view, is
some what diffuse, i.e., not

marked by a sharp or distinct
transition. It would appear
that this matting went as
stratigraphically below what
was named ~~BS~~^(ICE) ~~BS~~^{Grass Bed}
in 2015's N109 E119. A re
respect to the latter, in the
slope/slope profile to
the West, it can be seen
above another matting
event and this is the
one that I think I have
encountered in N109 E120 NW.

Since the rodent burrow is
so large and also was encountered
in N109 E119 NE, I imagine that
the eastern extension of 2 BS upper
Grass Bed / was destroyed and
not preserved in this area to
the East.

March 13

Began excavating 2 BS upper Grass ~~Unit 2~~, I have named it Grass ~~Unit 2~~ ~~BS~~ due to the reasons I have outlined in my notes of March 12.

The rodent burrow fill and Grass Mat 2, will obviously be excavated separately and bucketed separately. In fact, the statement above was premature. The grass mat #2 was visible along its margins, but was still covered w/ sediment. So, the level was named 2 BS upper Plan 8. This plan 8 was terminated by the uncovering of a combustion feature that sits upon the grass matting.

So, the next plan will be called 2 BS upper Combustion Feature 1. It will be divided into CF1 (burnt) white ash and CF1 black since the feature is composed of an ash lens atop a black carbonized area of charcoal and burned matting. Also the southern half of combustion feature will be excavated, thus leaving the northern portion intact so that it can be removed as a block for micrograph and vegetal analyses later in jobberg. In the southern portion of the combustion feature excavated down to the unburned matting, it is clear that this combustion feature sits on a situated within a depression that is 5-7 cm deep. It would

March 14

Spent early part of morning finishing off my paperwork from yesterday since I had had 3 different level forms open to the combustion feature.

Spent rest of morning drawing plan files for NIOG E120 and taking photographs of said artifacts. Vanessa, who died here in 1982 by P. Beaumont, arrived last night and is on site today. At morning tea, she told us the details of the excavations she took part in.

Apparently, while Geographic names were and took a lot of photos, so we need to contact them and ask to access. Also, need to contact Larry Todd and ask for copies of his field notes, if he still has them.

seen that the matting was already in the depression before the earth feature was made, such that the earth feature is contained within this basin-like hollow, w/ very thin remnants of grass bedding (spilling up over the sides) white cottony black (carbonized mat) white cottony and organics white cottony grass bedding

