

Archaeological Investigations at the Salmon Beds

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Lithic Material Types

Stone tool material types can be an important indicator of the utilization of specific areas and trade patterns. Different stone material types have characteristics that determine their desirability for stone tool production. Characteristics that were desirable include easy of flaking, durability of cutting edges, availability and appearance. Obsidian, volcanic glass, was widely utilized in the area of British Columbia because of its highly suitable characteristics. At the Salmon Beds, only three pieces of obsidian were recovered indicating only limited availability. The most common stone material utilized at the Salmon Beds was Top of the World chert (Table 2). Top of the World chert varies in colour from light to dark grey, usually with a bluish tinge. It was obtained from the Top of the World Plateau, approximately 80 km to the southeast. Other material types include black chert, brown chalcedony and a limited variety of other materials.

Table 2: Debitage Material Types

Level	Top of the World Chert	Black chert	Brown Chalcedony	Other	Totals
1	27		1	1-brown chert 1-white chert 1-obsidian	31
2	143	4		2-obsidian 1-siltstone 1-white chert	151
3	56			1-petrified wood 6-grey quartzite	63
4	91	13	20	2-grey quartzite 1-black quartzite	127
5	54	4		3-grey quartzite 1-white chert	62
6				4-grey quartzite	4
7	15	1		1-grey chert 7-siltstone	24
8	1	2		4-grey quartzite	7
9					
10					
11	4	1			5
12	1	1			2

13	1				1
Totals	393	26	22	37	477
Percent	82.4	5.5	4.6	7.5	

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