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NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES BRANCH

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A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 1974
EXCAVATIONS OF NORSE BUILDINGS
D AND E AT L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS

by
CHARLES S. LINDSAY

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PARKS CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

Artifacts

At the time of writing conservation and analysis of the artifacts is not complete. The following artifacts were found on the site. With one exception the artifacts from the areas outside the east and west walls of the house have not been included since a report of these areas awaits the availability of C14 dates currently being determined.

Only one artifact of demonstrably Norse origin was found in 1974 - a glass bead from beneath the turves collapsed from the east wall. The other artifacts from the site fall into two categories - those from the backfill of the earlier excavations, nearly all of which were tiny fragments of bone too small for species or skeletal identification, and material from previously unexcavated areas consisting of small scraps of bone, flint, soapstone, slag, bog-ore and charcoal.

From these materials the only generalisation that can be made is that there was a concentration of charcoal along and outside the south wall, an area undisturbed by previous excavations which indicated that the house was covered with large quantities of charcoal.

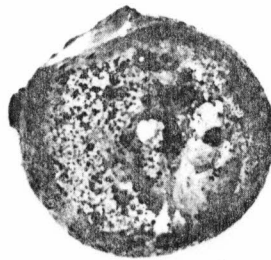
List of Artifacts

- 1 4A55A1-1 Several small fragments of bovid bone. Found in backfill of earlier excavations.

- 2 4A55B1-1 Piece of white flint. Unworked. Found in east wall room III.
- 3 4A55B2-1 Piece of shell. Found 16 cm. below surface at junction of peat bog and old wall.
- 4 4A55F1-2 Six fragments of bone from earlier excavations.
- 5 4A55F1-3 Three fragments of bone from earlier excavations.
- 6 4A55F1-4 One fragment of bone from earlier excavations.
- 7 4A55F2-1 Piece of bone. Found during sifting of wall material.
- 8 4A55F2-2 Piece of chert. Found during sifting.
- 9 4A55F2-4 Piece of possibly organic material similar to charcoal (being analysed).
- 10 4A55K1-1 Piece of bone. From backfill of earlier excavations.
- 11 4A55P2-1 Perforated clear-glass bead. 1 cm. diameter (Fig. 18). Perforation ca. 15 mm. diameter. This bead is of a type common throughout the Viking period. Similar examples are known from Viking period graves in Scandinavia, e.g., Birka burial 854 (Arbman 1940, Plate 118). This bead was found beneath the collapsed material of the east wall of room III_(HOUSE D) and therefore has a terminus ante quem of some time shortly after the abandonment of the turf house which would have collapsed after a few years of neglect.
- 12 4A55V1-1 A small semispherical stone that may be a fossil

17 Part of the lowest layers of turf from the east wall of room III, house D, showing the edges of the turves laid at an angle to the wall alignment. Facing north. 1 m. scale. (4A-469X.)

18 Perforated glass bead found beneath fallen turves east of room III, house D. (RA-2024B.)



CM.
IN.