

Field Report from Reamer  
disturbed site

XCL-108

After establishing our camp on the northeast side of Agiak Lake, one of our first tasks was to try to relocate sites 6 and 6a found during Alexander's survey of the lake. While examining the area where these sites are reported to be located, I discovered a large area, about 8 x 8 meters in size, which had been thoroughly disturbed. Within the disturbed area where the vegetation had been removed were large numbers of black chert flakes indicated an archeological site. Among these flakes were several tools, including end scrapers and flake knives. My first conclusion was that this was the result of Alexander's work. However, the site did not match the description given for Site 6, a large tent ring, or Site 6a, a line of stove cairns, and it was not in the right location for these sites. In addition, it seemed inconceivable to me that professional archeologists could have overlooked so many stone tools.

I subsequently re-examined the site on June 7, 1985, and found 2 bifaces, 2 end scrapers, a flake knife, and over 100 microblades. In addition, I found buried in the back dirt from the excavations a Wrigley's chewing gum wrapper with the uniform product code bar code printed on it, making it much too recent to have been the work of Alexander.

I decided to map the disturbed area, collect the exposed tools, and undertake a testing program to determine the limits of the site. In addition, two 1 x 1 meter test squares were excavated.

The site is located about 200 meters south-southeast of the shore of Agiak Lake, and about 100 meters east of the inlet stream (Figure 1). An elongated ridge, itself covered with disturbed, excavated pits, lies between the site and the stream. The site is centered on a flat gravelly surface that rises above the low sedge tundra to the north, and gives way to even higher ground to the south and east. The site is vegetated with a thin cover of sedges, mosses and lichens over the gravels. Fine grained soils are thin and discontinuous over the area. The site locale commands an excellent view north to the lake, and is near to the ridge which has a superb view of the surrounding terrain.

Our initial investigation consisted of closely examining the disturbed area for artifacts, and mapping its extent (Figure 2). The disturbed area encompasses an irregularly shaped plot of some 40 square meters, and numerous pot holes are formed outside the perimeter. Vegetation has been removed, and is sometimes found dumped in piles within the disturbed area; their locations and descriptions are given in Figure 3 relative to the site tag which serves as site datum. In addition to the mapped material, the site is literally covered with coarse black chert debitage.

We also undertook a testing program to determine the extent of the cultural material. Small test pits spaced 7 meters apart across the site in a square grid are mapped in Figure 2. Those test pits which yielded any cultural material are marked. The site extends well beyond the limits of the disturbed area; however it seems equally clear that the amateur collectors have disturbed the greater portion of the site.

We also excavated two 1 x 1 meter test squares on the southern boundary of the disturbed area, near where large numbers of microblades had been seen in the pot holes (Figure 4). The distribution of detritus is marked in Figure 4, showing the density and kinds of materials in the site. Additionally, 1 obsidian flake was recovered from square 1-2 W, 14-15 S. A total of 24 tools, mostly microblade fragments, were given point provenience in this square, and 26 were located in 0-1 W, 15-16 S.

Based on the above testing, I conclude that most of the important parts of the site have been disturbed, and little is to be gained by any additional work at this locality. The materials collected by this project will serve to characterize the site adequately. Unfortunately, no charcoal was recovered from the site, and the only chronometric determinations must come from obsidian hydration alone.

Several odd shaped transverse spalls were located during collection of surface exposed materials from the disturbed area (Item 8, Figure 3). They are similar to primary spalls from mitten-shaped burins, but differ in having steep, step fracture flaking that looks like platform preparation along one side. One is illustrated below. They are possibly platform rejuvenation flakes from microblade cores. It is noteworthy that nearly all of the microblades, and these spalls are of white or tan chert, but the flakes and end scrapers are of black chert. Possibly two unrelated occupations are superimposed at XCL-108.

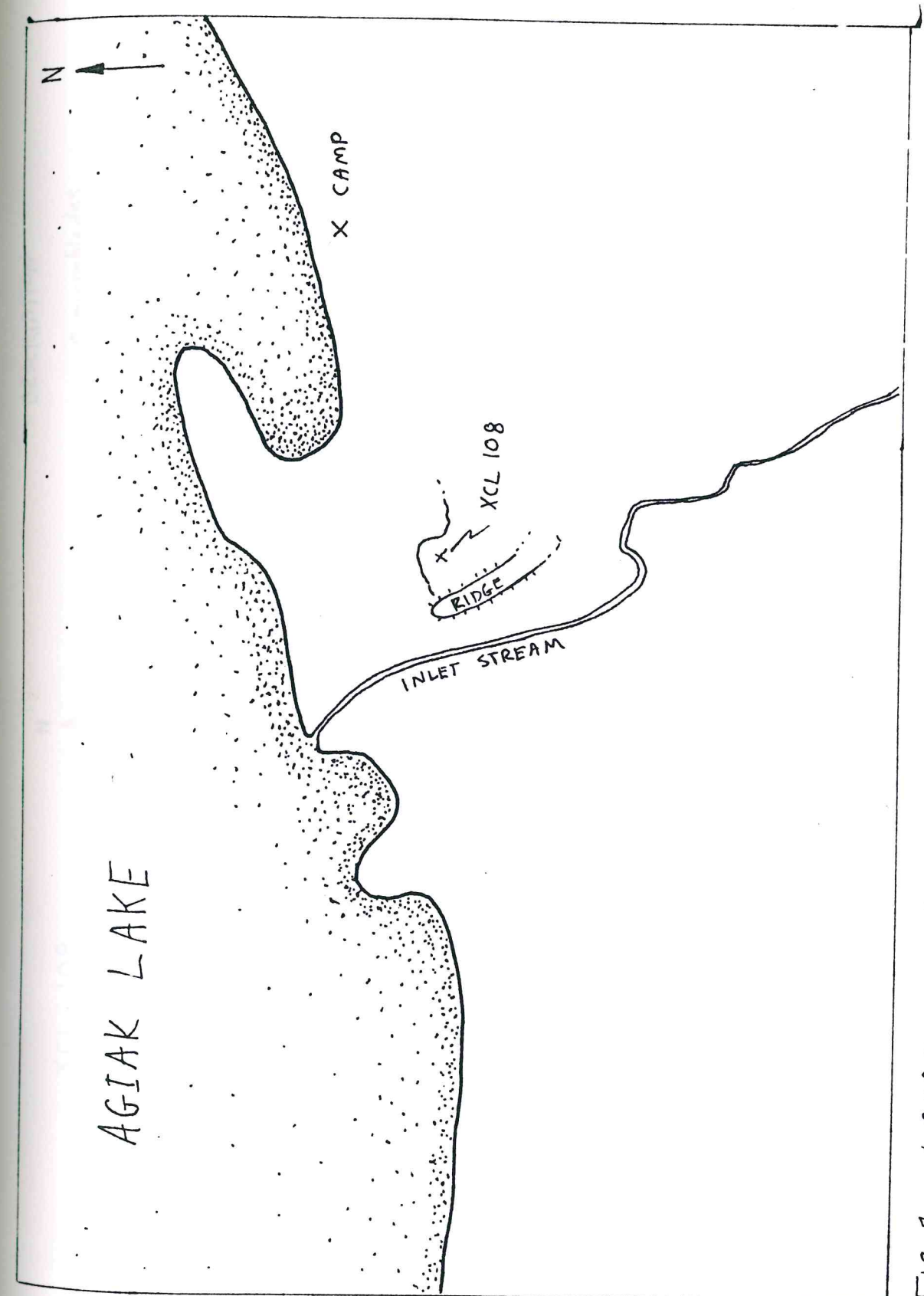
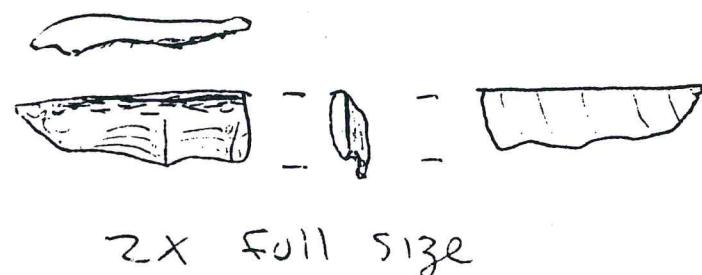
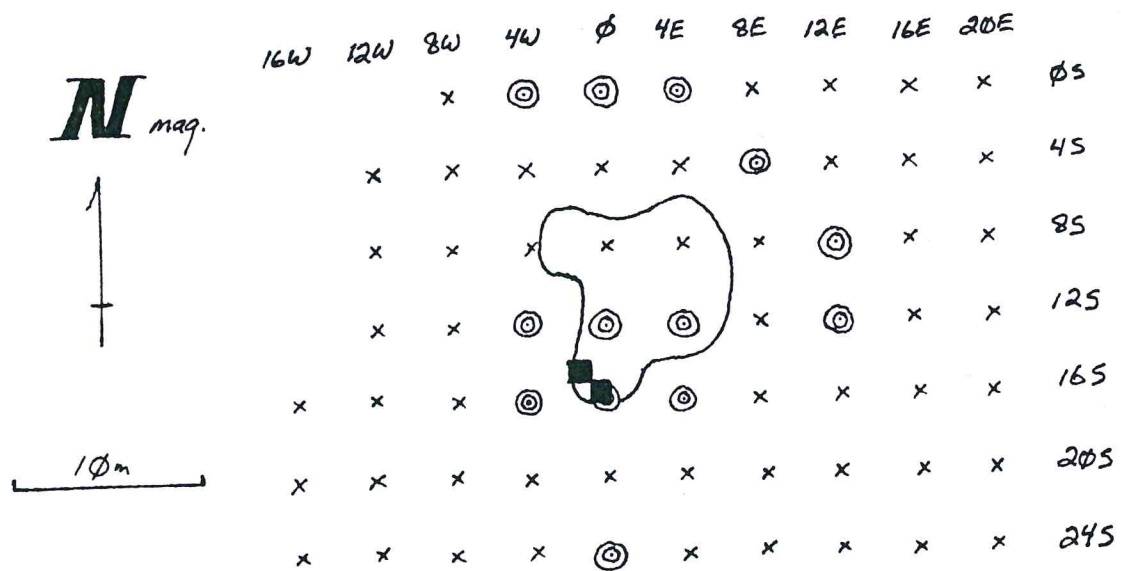


FIG-1. LOCATION OF XCL-108

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# Figure 2 Subsurface Testing - Site Limits & Boundary of Disturbed Area.

6/9/85



⊙ Lithic material found in 20cm x 20cm subsurface test  
OR lithics on surface.

x No lithic material.

■ Excavated squares 1m x 1m (6/16/85)

Boundary of disturbed area.  
N.B. - Other potholes exist outside this line.

## DESCRIPTION

1. 9 microblades  
13 microblade fragments  
7 flakes

2. 19 microblades  
2 blade-like flakes (1 retouched)  
20 flakes

3. 2 black chert flake knives

4. 1 black chert endscraper

5. 1 large tan biface  
2 large retouched blades  
2 core thinning flakes  
2 microblade fragments  
2 blocky chert flakes

6. 1 crude flake knife, black chert  
3 flakes, unifacially retouched

7. 1 large biface/scrapper, black chert

8. 32 microblades and fragments  
5 unifacially retouched transverse spalls  
13 flakes

9. 1 black chert endscraper

10. 1 black chert endscraper

11. 1 biface fragment, dark gray chert.

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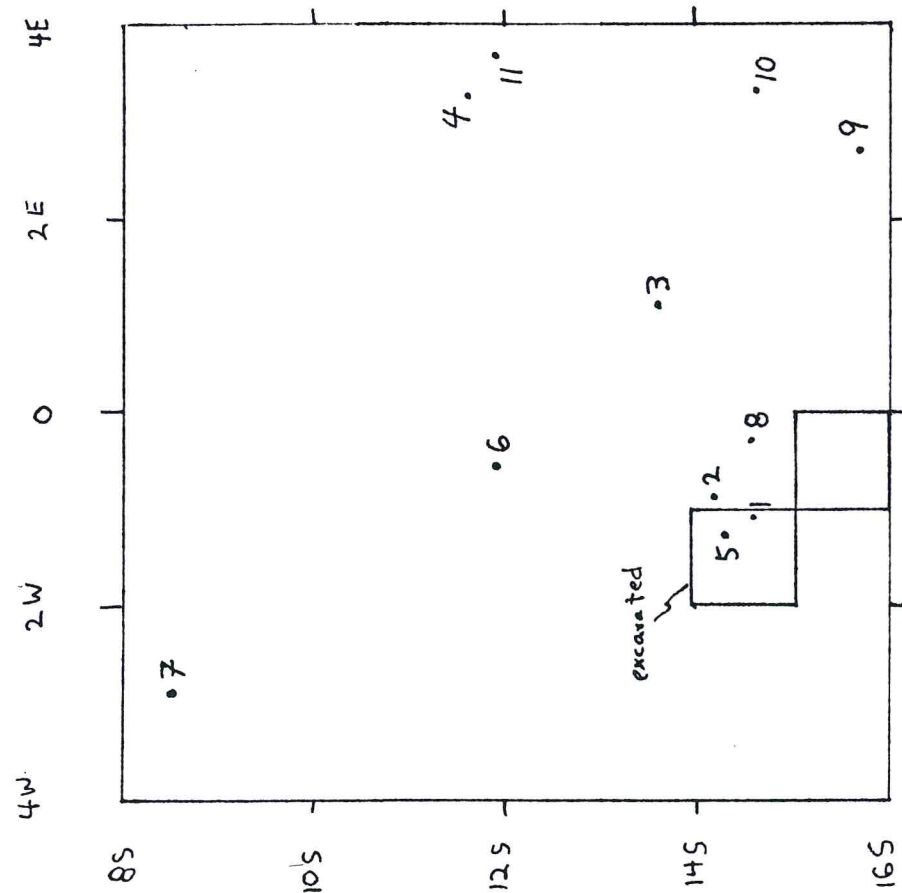


Fig 3. Location and Description of Materials Salvaged from Disturbed Area.

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# Excavated Squares - Contents by Quad - Flakes

14-15S 1-2W.....24 tools & 1 obsidian flake w/point proveniences.  
15-16S 0-1W.....26 tools w/point proveniences.

