

Context:

18th-century history, west coast of Canada

Citation:

Doe, N.A., Flea Village—5. Archaeological reports.

*SILT* 17-5, 2016. <[www.nickdoe.ca/pdfs/Webp565.pdf](http://www.nickdoe.ca/pdfs/Webp565.pdf)>. Accessed 2016 Nov. 06.

NOTE: *Adjust the accessed date as needed.*

Most of this paper was completed in April 2007 with the intention of publishing it in the journal *SHALE*. It was however never published at that time, and further research was done in September 2007, but practically none after that. It was prepared for publication here in November 2016, with very little added to the old manuscripts. It may therefore be out-of-date in some respects.

It is 5 of a series of 10 articles and is the final version, previously posted as Draft 1.2.

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Date posted:

November 9, 2016.

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# Flea Village — archaeological reports

by Nick Doe

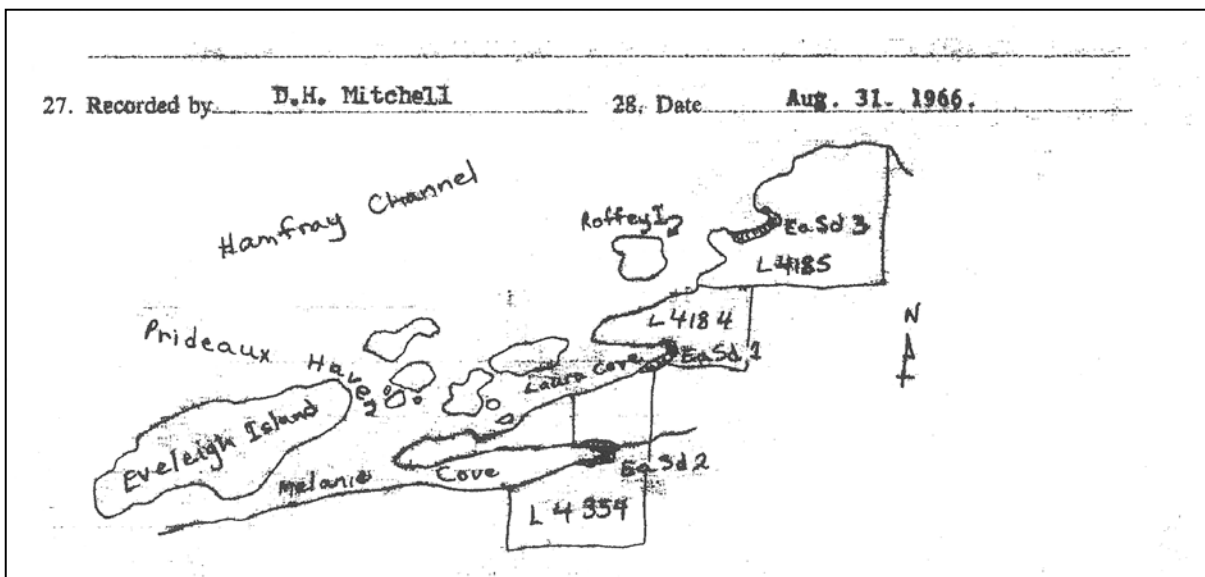
[...continued from [File FV-564](#)]

## Archaeological sources

If anybody, other than the Aboriginal people of the area, should know where Flea Village was, it would be I would have thought the Province's Archaeological Branch.<sup>1</sup>

The site EaSd-3 in the archaeological records of 1966 is shown in a sketch to be on the southeastern shore of the bay on the north side of the peninsula that is directly across from Roffey Island.

Unbeknownst to I think everyone outside the Archaeological Branch, this record is wrong



The only site that fits the description however is EaSd-3, which couldn't be found during an archaeological survey in 1998.<sup>2</sup>

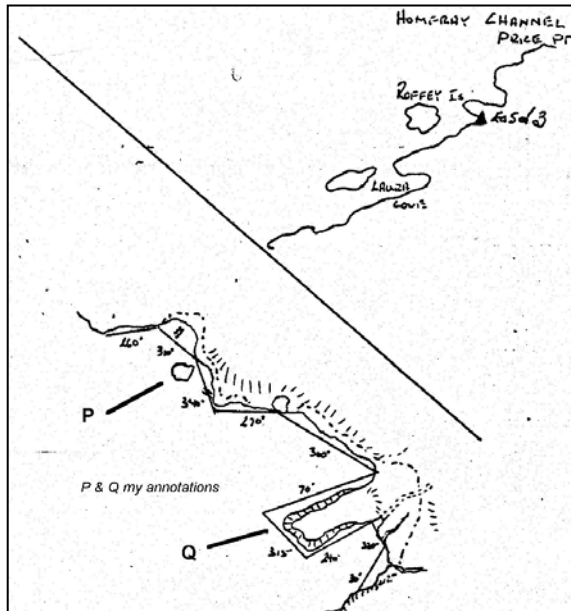
<sup>1</sup> Several of the archaeological sites in this area are burial sites and site information is sensitive. Since their exact locations are irrelevant to this story, I won't discuss them.

<sup>2</sup> Millennium Research Ltd., *Desolation Sound and Copeland Islands Provincial Marine Parks: Archaeological Inventory and Impact Assessment*, p.10, Report Prepared Under Permit 1998-52 for BC Parks etc.; Sliammon Native Council; Klahoose Indian Band; Holmalco Indian Band; and the Archaeological Branch. One CMT (culturally modified tree) was found, "but no other cultural materials were encountered". Two other sites, EaSd-1 and EaSd-2 are not mentioned in the survey report.

and was corrected in 1977.

The 1966 site certainly doesn't look like a promising site in real life. We briefly pulled into land there on our first trip, but saw nothing. The shore is moderately to very steep and the small creek that emerges at the northeast corner was dry. The beach in the corner (by the "E" of EaSd-3), such as it was, was full of boulders.

The 1977 revised sketch map of the 120-metre long site at EaSd-3 shows it to be directly east of Roffey Island in the rocky and shallow bay on the south-west-facing side of the Roffey Peninsula—I'll give it a name. The site as a whole definitely isn't an island or anything close to being one.



The enigmatic EaSd-3 archaeological site, on the mainland directly across from Roffey Island shown here in the 1977 revision. Described only as a “defensive site” in the records, but not obviously so to subsequent visitors.

The small boat at anchor in the corner is at site EaSd-9, described as a shell midden.



Some more digging in the Archaeological Branch’s records, with the friendly help of its very over-worked staff, revealed that a later archaeological visit to EaSd-3 had found not much more than a midden on the north side of the point I’ve marked Q (just left of Q in the photograph) and another midden on the south side (where the small boat is in the photograph), recorded in the inventory as EaSd-9.

PLEASE CONSULT ACCOMPANYING GUIDE BEFORE COMPLETING

1. Site No. EaSd 9

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARCHÆOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

2. Previous designation(s) EaSd T 442 3. Site name(s) NA

4. Location (a) Sec. NA Lot 4185 Plan NA

(b) Desolation Sound/Homfray Channel (Desolation Sound Marine Park) on small point of land opposite Roffey Island - 500 m east of the entrance to Laura Cove

5. Access By boat 27 km north from Lund Harbour

6. Province and districts B.C. (a) Regional District Powell River

(b) Forest and Grazing District Vancouver (c) Highways District 1-12

(d) Provincial Park 7-2 (e) Resource Management Region Lower Mainland

7. Lat. 50° 04' 04" N. 8. Long. 124° 39' 31" W. 9. UTM NA

10. Air photo NA 11. Map (a) 92K/2E

(b) Hydrographic map 3594

12. Drainage (a) minor NA (b) major 14

13. Elevation (a) SL (b) NA

14. Cultural affiliation (a) Coast Salish-Klahuse/Sliammon (b) NA

15. Site type general activity - shell midden - resource utilization - fish tra

16. Dimensions (a) exact 11m x 10 m (b) estimated NA

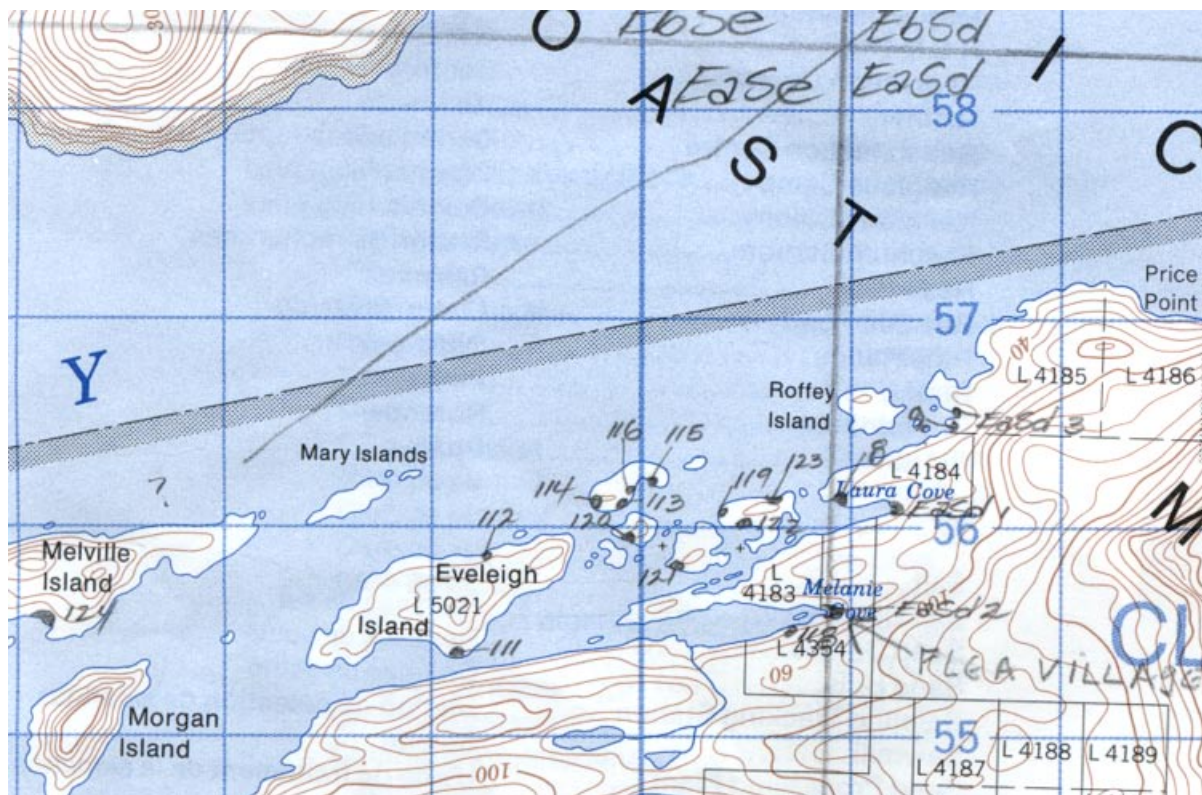
(c) original NA

17. Condition (a) present fair 45% (b) future recreational activity

weathering

18. Priority

3



Map in the Archaeological Branch files, date unknown but possibly 1977. It records EaSd-3 and a new entry 9 (EaSd-9) across from Roffey Island. Both are beach middens.

The field note records "Flea Village" as being EaSd-2 at the head of Melanie Cove, which is incorrect. It also fails to note the site between EaSd-3 and Price Point.

An old archaeological map shows EaSd-3 more precisely again as in the bay on the south side of Roffey Peninsula abutting the north of the rocky outcrop marked Q with EaSd-9 on the south side of the rocky outcrop marked Q.

EaSd-2 is shown at the head of Melanie Cove (Mike's place). Probably a small midden. EaSd-1 is at the head of Laura Cove (Phil Lavigne's place), also likely, a small midden. Digging at archaeological sites or suspected sites without a permit is illegal in BC, so not more could be done than check out the lie of the land, roots of uprooted trees, and naturally eroded banks.

These notes are as recorded more than a decade ago now. I do not know if there

have been changes since then. Certainly in 2002, there was a lamentable lack of interest in the archaeology of BC by politicians and the people who elect them, and the Archaeological Branch was under-funded and its professional staff demoralized. It was pretty clear at the time, that the archaeologists did not know where Flea Village was, and had not been able to carry out any investigations of its site.

With heartfelt thanks for all the interest and help in difficult circumstances to Jim Pike, Grant Keddie, and Romi Casper.

[...continued in [File FV-566](#)]

Articles:

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[FV-562 Vancouver expedition accounts](#)

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[FV-564 Historical accounts](#)

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[FV-566 Initial remarks on Cardero's drawing](#)

[FV-567 Field trip #1, September 2003](#)

[FV-568 Field trip #2, September 2005](#)

[FV-569 Field trip #3, September 2007](#)

[FV-570 A second look at Cardero's drawing](#) .