



PARK PROPOSAL  
FOR  
THE VALLICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

By  
Ritchie Rath  
Wildland Recreation

April 4, 1983

Submitted to  
Len Dunsford and Jim Howard  
in partial fulfillment of  
the requirements for  
Wildland Recreation 271

LOCAL  
CC  
76  
R38  
1983

SELKIRK COLLEGE LIBRARY  
CASTLEGAR, B. C.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Len Dunsford, Jim Howard

DATE: April 4, 1983

FROM: Ritchie Rath

RE: Term Report

---

The report entitled "Park Proposal for the Vallican Archaeological Site" is submitted to you upon request for the final report for Wildland Recreation Term Report.

It discusses various aspects of the Vallican Archaeological Site. It also includes a biophysical and present land use of the site and a park proposal.

I believe that this report will meet your standards and requirements.

Enclosure

Ritchie Rath

*Ritchie H. Rath*

*Ritchie L. Rath*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
The Vallican Archeological Site	
Location of the Vallican Community .....	2
Location of the Archaeological Site .....	2
Vallican Indian Village	
Bridge Proposal and Discovery of Village .....	5
Archaeological Dig and Remains .....	5
Biophysical of Site	
Landforms and Vegetation .....	9
Present Land Use .....	12
Park Proposal	
Park Rationale .....	14
Boundaries .....	15
Facilities .....	15
Trails and Trail Exhibit .....	15
Administration	
Management .....	19
Cost .....	19
Conclusions .....	21
References .....	22

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.	Regional Map and Study Area .....	3
Figure 2.	Vallican Site Key Plan .....	4
Figure 3.	Vallican Heritage Site .....	7
Figure 4.	Excavation of an Earth Oven at One of the Major Pithouse Depressions .....	6
Figure 5.	Gordon Mohs Pointing to the Layer of Cultural Midden in an Earth Oven on a Pithouse Depression .....	8
Figure 6.	Biophysical of Site .....	10
Figure 7.	Biophysical of Site .....	11
Figure 8.	Present Land Use Map of Site .....	13
Figure 9.	Map of Proposed Park .....	17
Figure 10.	Map of District Lot and Parcels .....	18

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Costs of This Project .....	19
----------	-----------------------------	----



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to propose an interpretation plan and a park for the Vallican Archaeological Site. This proposal will also include a visitor services centre for the park.

The British Columbia Heritage Conservation Branch has expressed an interest in setting aside the Vallican Site for an interpretative archaeological park. This interest for a park was expressed after the archaeological site was discovered in the summer of 1981. This site was found to have artifacts and remains dating as far back as three thousand years ago.

This report deals largely with the proposal and development of an interpretative park. Some aspects of the Salishian Indians are pointed out, however, this report does not intend to be an archaeological and chronological description of the Salishian Indians and their villages.

The Vallican Archaeological Site was brought to my attention by Mr. Bill Sloan. Bill Sloan is a history instructor and an authority in the field of native studies. Other information was obtained from the British Columbia Heritage Conservation Branch and various field trips to the Vallican Archaeological Site.

## THE VALLICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

### Location of the Vallican Community

The community of Vallican is located off Highway #6 approximately 30 km north of the Slocan junction on Highway #3. Vallican is situated on the west side of the Slocan River where it meets the Little Slocan River (Figure 1).

### Location of the Archaeological Site

The Vallican Archaeological Site is located on the land immediately north of the junction of the Little Slocan and Slocan Rivers. The site is in District Lot 6897 on Parcels 7, 8, 9 and 10. It is accessible by taking the Vallican turnoff on Highway #6 and then going left at the following junction. From there the road going to the site is approximately 1.6 km, turning left at the next junction and going another 1.6 km (Figure 2).

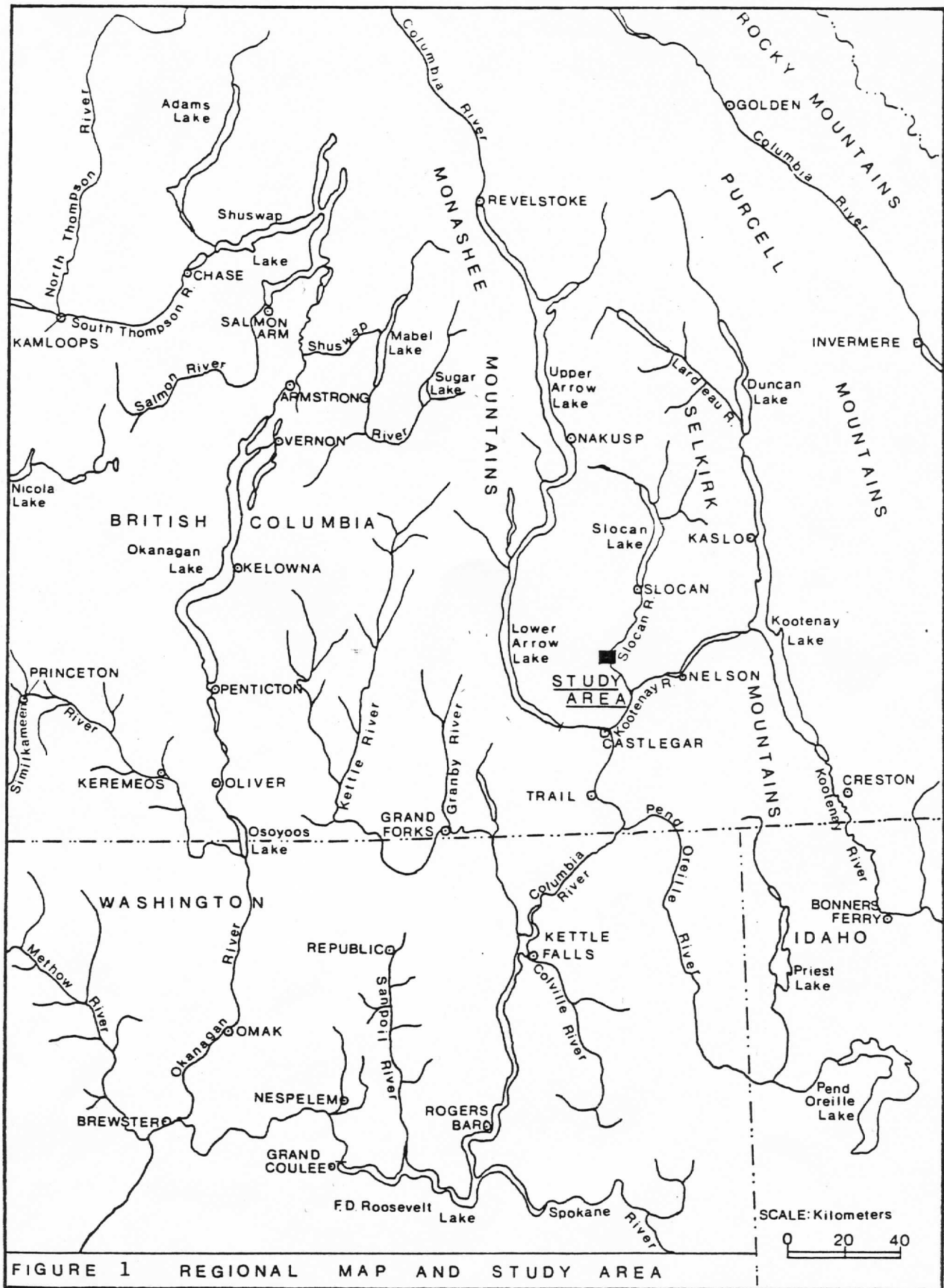
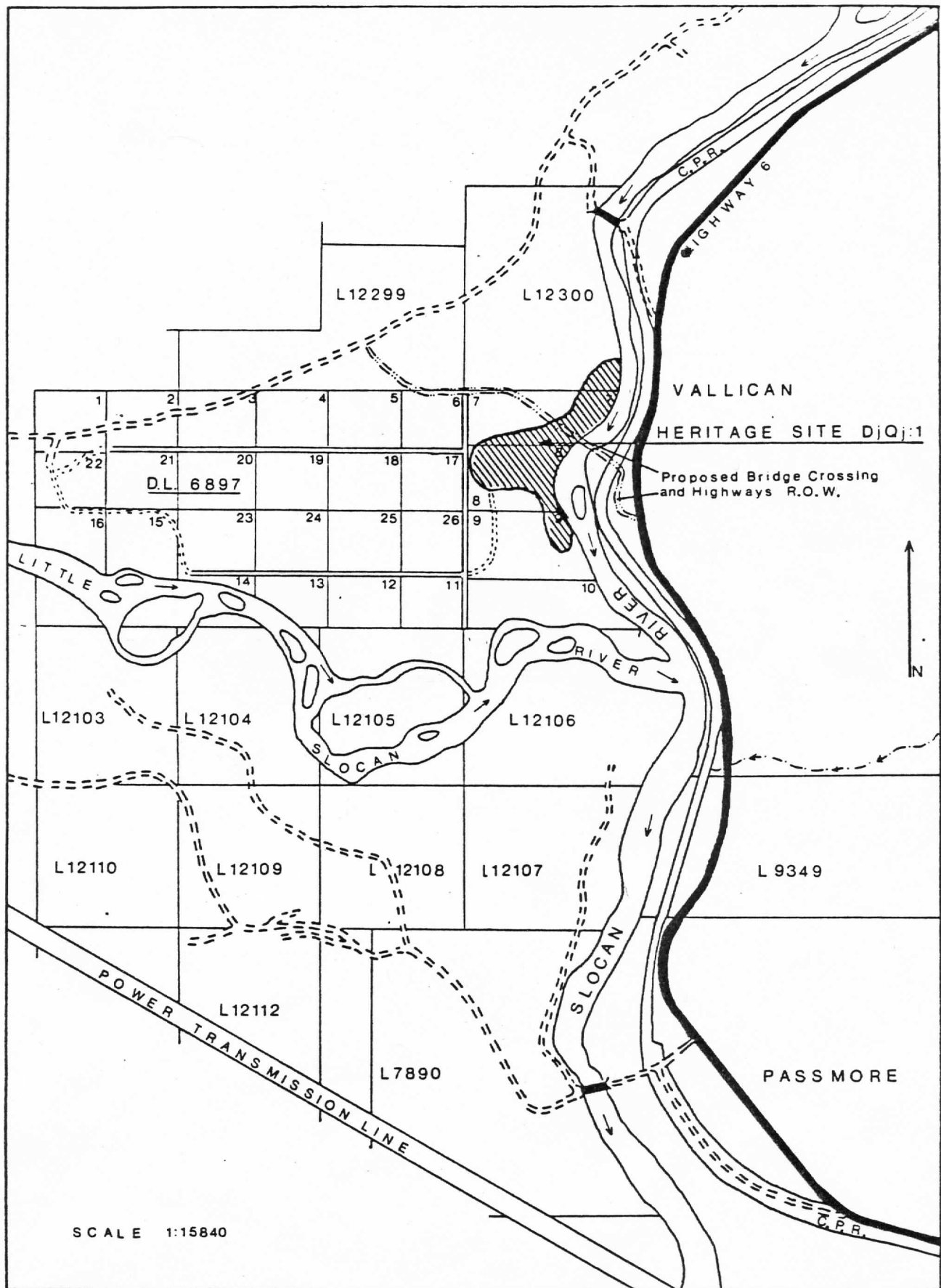


FIGURE 1 REGIONAL MAP AND STUDY AREA

FIGURE 2 VALLICAN SITE. KEY PLAN



## VALLICAN INDIAN VILLAGE

### Bridge Proposal and Discovery of Village

In late 1979 and early 1980 the Ministry of Highways proposed to replace the existing bridge at Vallican because of its poor condition. The new bridge was to be constructed over the Slocan River. The roadway connecting this bridge was to pass over the land that the archaeological site is on.

When the area was surveyed and basic construction was started, a number of artifacts and remains were discovered. At this point construction was halted and the authorities were brought in to investigate. It was then recognized that this area had great archaeological value and it was once a major settlement of the Interior Salishian Indians, the Lakes.

When this was discovered, consultation between the Ministry of Highways and the Heritage Conservation Branch took place. As a result of the consultation, the archaeological site was obtained by the Heritage Conservation Branch and designated as a Heritage Site. The proposed site of the bridge was then moved south of the original site.

### Archaeological Dig and Remains

In the summer of 1980 and 1981 archaeological excavation work was done by Gordon Mohs and one assistant. The area was archaeologically mapped and surveyed.

Presently on the site are the remains of 76 pithouse depressions from 1 m to 10 m in diameter, 5 burial sites, and a number of excavation units. Within the pithouse depressions, excavation of earth

ovens was conducted. These earth ovens were found to be three thousand years old. In the layers of the earth ovens, a layer was found containing cultural midden, the decomposition of mussels, shellfish and other organic matter.

Some of the artifacts found on this site are fishing hooks manufactured from bone and wood, stone sinkers for fishing nets, arrowheads, barbed spear heads, a number of tools used for constructing canoes, and cooking utensils. The complete collection of artifacts found on this site has been catalogued and stored at the British Columbia Provincial Museum in Victoria, B.C. (Figure 3).



FIGURE 4      EXCAVATION OF AN EARTH OVEN AT ONE OF THE MAJOR PITHOUSE DEPRESSIONS

FIGURE 3 VALLICAN HERITAGE SITE DIQJ:1

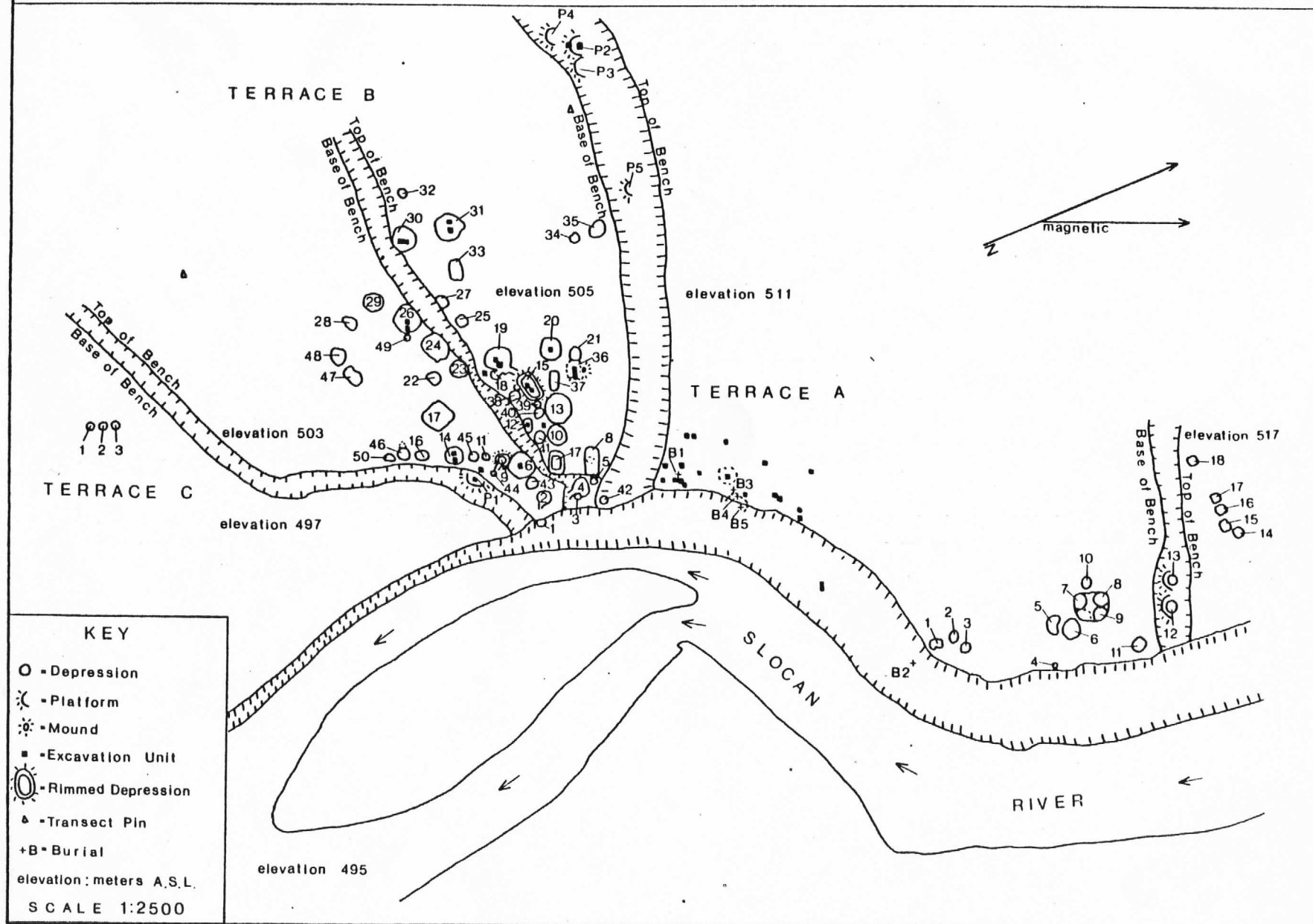






FIGURE 5      GORDON MOHS POINTING TO THE LAYER OF CULTURAL MIDDEN IN AN  
EARTH OVEN ON A PITHOUSE DEPRESSION



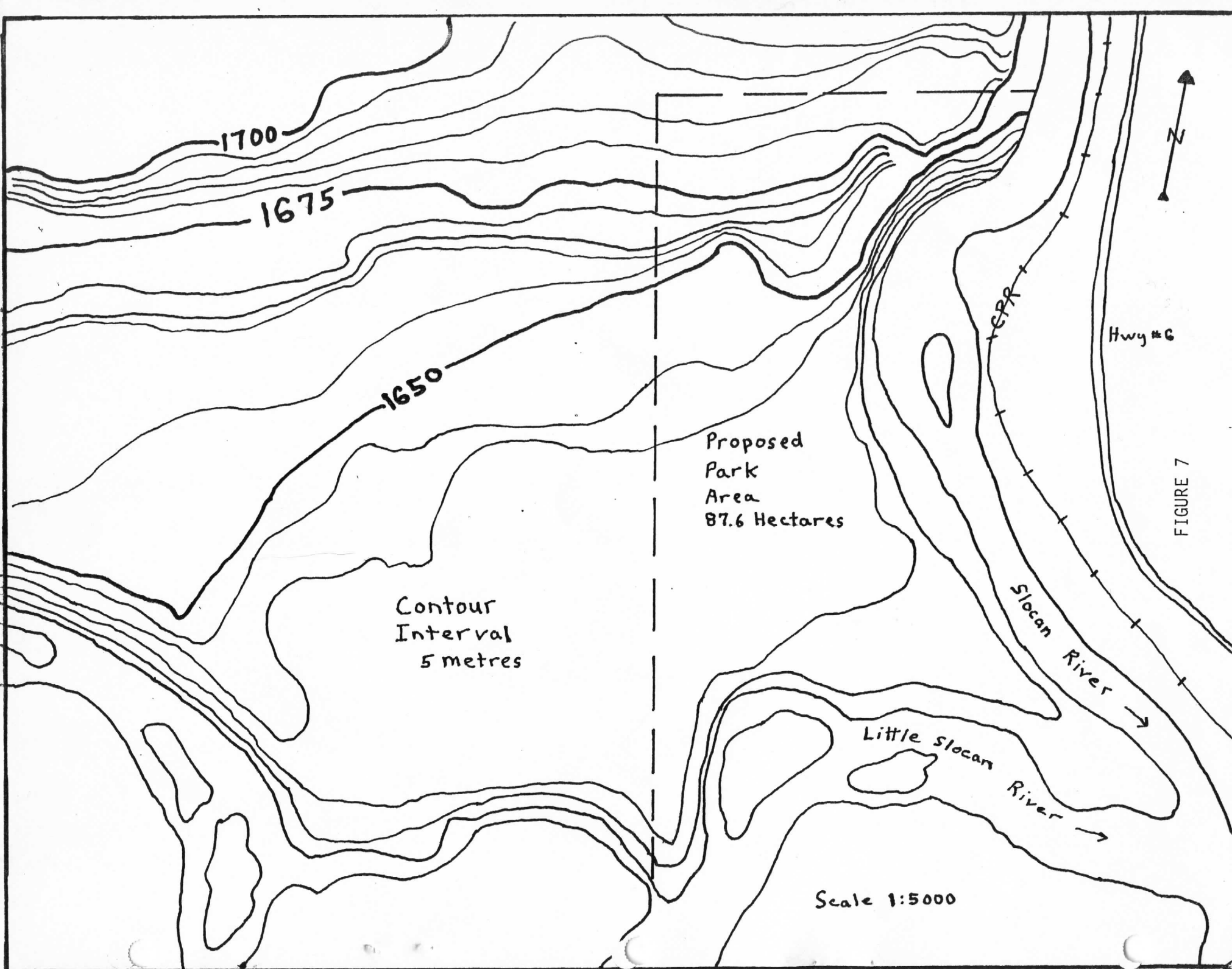
## BIOPHYSICAL OF SITE

Landforms and Vegetation

The elevation of the archaeological site ranges between 500 m to 525 m. The topography is mainly flat, with a terrace-like glaciofluvial deposit which has three terraces, with steep and short slopes. The soils have developed in loose, well-sorted, sandy glaciofluvial deposits which are capped by aeolin material. Textures at the surface are moderately coarse and become very coarse with depth. This soil is rapidly drained and is classified as Orthic Dystric Brunisol.

Vegetation is very abundant and covers the entire site. In the southern area of the site, along the two rivers, the vegetation is very wet with cedar and hemlock being the dominant species. In the northern area of the site, where the main archaeological site is located, the vegetation is drier with Douglas fir being the dominant species. The site lies within the Interior Cedar Hemlock-wet biogeoclimatic zone (Figures 6 and 7).

Wildlife is also abundant on the site. White-tail deer are very abundant with lots of tracks and droppings observed on every trip to the site. Beaver activity is also very evident along the shores of the Little Slocan River.



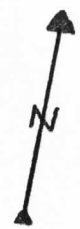
1700

1675

1650

Proposed  
Park  
Area  
87.6 Hectares

Contour  
Interval  
5 metres



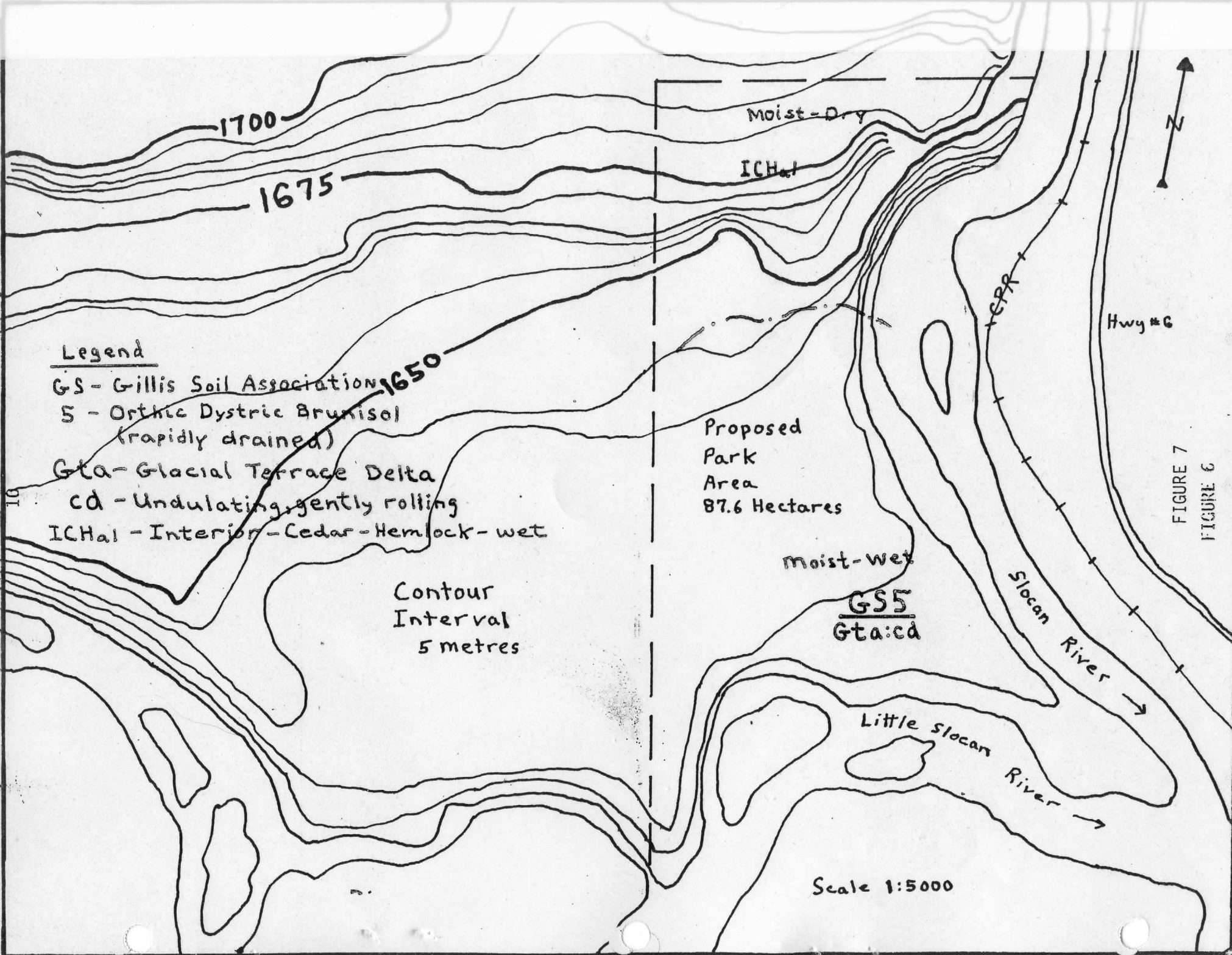
Hwy #6

FIGURE 7

Slocan River →

Little Slocan River →

Scale 1:5000



Legend

- GS - Gillis Soil Association
- S - Orthic Dystric Brunisol (rapidly drained)
- Gta - Glacial Terrace Delta
- cd - Undulating, gently rolling
- ICHal - Interior - Cedar - Hemlock - wet

Contour  
Interval  
5 metres

Proposed  
Park  
Area  
87.6 Hectares

moist-wet  
GS5  
Gta:cd

Moist-Dry  
ICHal

Scale 1:5000

Hwy #6

Slocan River →

Little Slocan River →

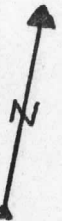


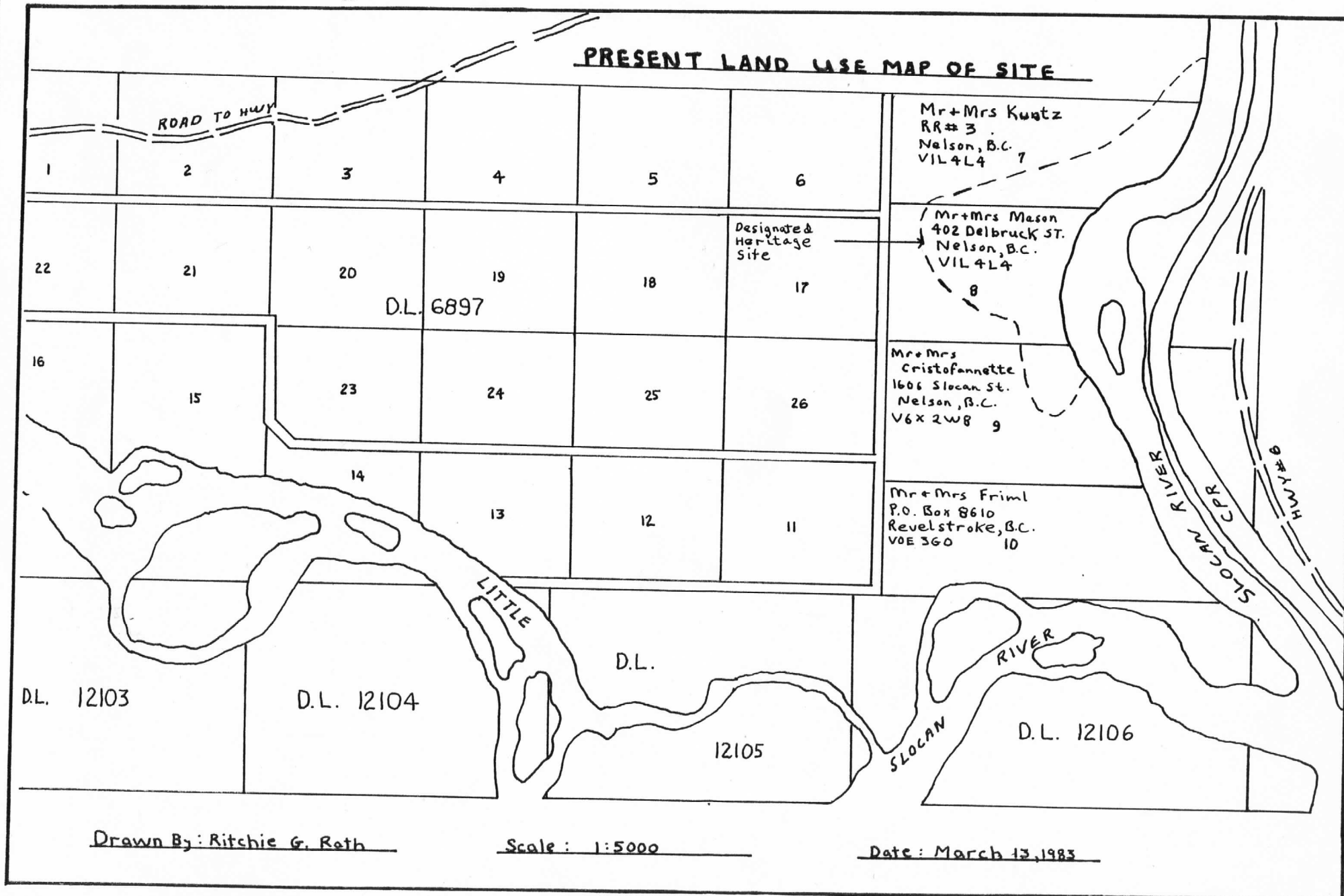
FIGURE 7  
FIGURE 6

## PRESENT LAND USE

Presently, the land the Vallican Archeological Site is on is undeveloped. Only portions of District Lot 6897, Parcels 7, 8, 9 and 10 are designated as a Heritage Site where the site is located. The other portions are privately owned, but no human alterations have taken place.

The surrounding land adjacent to the site has been sub-divided. A few parcels that have been sub-divided on District Lot 6897 have been utilized for housing. The owners of Parcels 7, 8, 9 and 10 on District Lot 6897 are listed on Figure 8 as well as the designated Heritage Site.

# PRESENT LAND USE MAP OF SITE



Drawn By: Ritchie G. Rath

Scale: 1:5000

Date: March 13, 1983

## PARK PROPOSAL

Park Rationale

The Vallican Archaeological Site has been designated as a Heritage Site by the Heritage Conservation Branch of the Province of British Columbia. With this status, it has the potential and capability of becoming a major historical and archaeological park under the Heritage Conservation Act of British Columbia.

The site could be developed as a day-use park for several reasons. Archaeologically, it is very significant. Authorities believe it is over three thousand years old and that it was once inhabited by the Interior Salishian Indians, the Lakes. With the exception of the Provincial Museum in Victoria, no other area in British Columbia has had any representation and interpretation of native history and culture. Furthermore, the site is basically undisturbed and has a beautiful setting.

The location of this site makes it ideal for a park. In the past five to ten years, the Slocan Valley has experienced a substantial increase in tourism. In late February of 1983, the Valhalla Mountain Range to the northwest of Vallican was made a Class A Provincial Park. Vallican is located in the south of the Slocan Valley, which is the only entrance for people going up the Slocan Valley and to the Valhalla Provincial Park. It is very evident that the Vallican site would receive high numbers of visitors and use.

### Boundaries

Presently, the site is located throughout portions of District Lot 6897 on Parcels 7, 8, 9 and 10. To facilitate the site becoming a park and to allow for various facilities, the boundaries should be expanded to include all of Parcels 7, 8, 9 and 10 on District Lot 6897. However, to do this, land would have to be expropriated and owners would have to be paid a fair market value for their land (Figures 9 and 10).

### Facilities

To avoid a disturbance and damage to the site, facilities will have to be provided to allow for visitor use and interpretation. To do this, an interpretation centre could be constructed at the entrance. The centre would be used to greet the visitor, give information on the park, inform the visitor where and where not to go so archaeological remains would not be disturbed. Most of all, the centre would be used for interpretation shows, to display exhibits and house an administration office.

Along with an interpretation centre, several other facilities will have to be added in the same vicinity as the centre. This would include a parking lot for fifty to one hundred cars, a small picnic area and washroom facilities. These facilities could be located at the southern end of the park (Figures 9 and 10).

### Trails and Trail Exhibit

From the interpretation centre, an interpretation trail could be constructed going from the south end to the north end where the



archaeological remains are located. This trail would be approximately one to one and a half kilometres in length and two metres wide, with very minimal slope grades.

Once the trail reaches the archaeological site, a number of small loops could be installed to take visitors to various points of interest around the site. Signs could be posted to describe some of the various points of interest to the visitor. These trails would either be guided or self-guided trails, but guided trails would be more practical to ensure that no damage was done to the archaeological site and remains.

The main attraction to the interpretation trails would be the pithouse depressions on the archaeological site. One or two of the pithouses could be reconstructed to become a replica of one that was inhabited years ago by the Interior Salishian Indians, the Lakes. The pithouses could be reconstructed by one of the curators at the Provincial Museum in Victoria or other archaeological consultants. Once reconstructed, a plexiglass dome could be placed over the entire pithouse for protection from vandalism and weather hazards.

The other pithouse depressions and remains should be protected by a small fence or guardrail to ensure against disturbance. Special care and protection will have to be given to ensure the preservation of the archaeological site and remains.



FIGURE 10

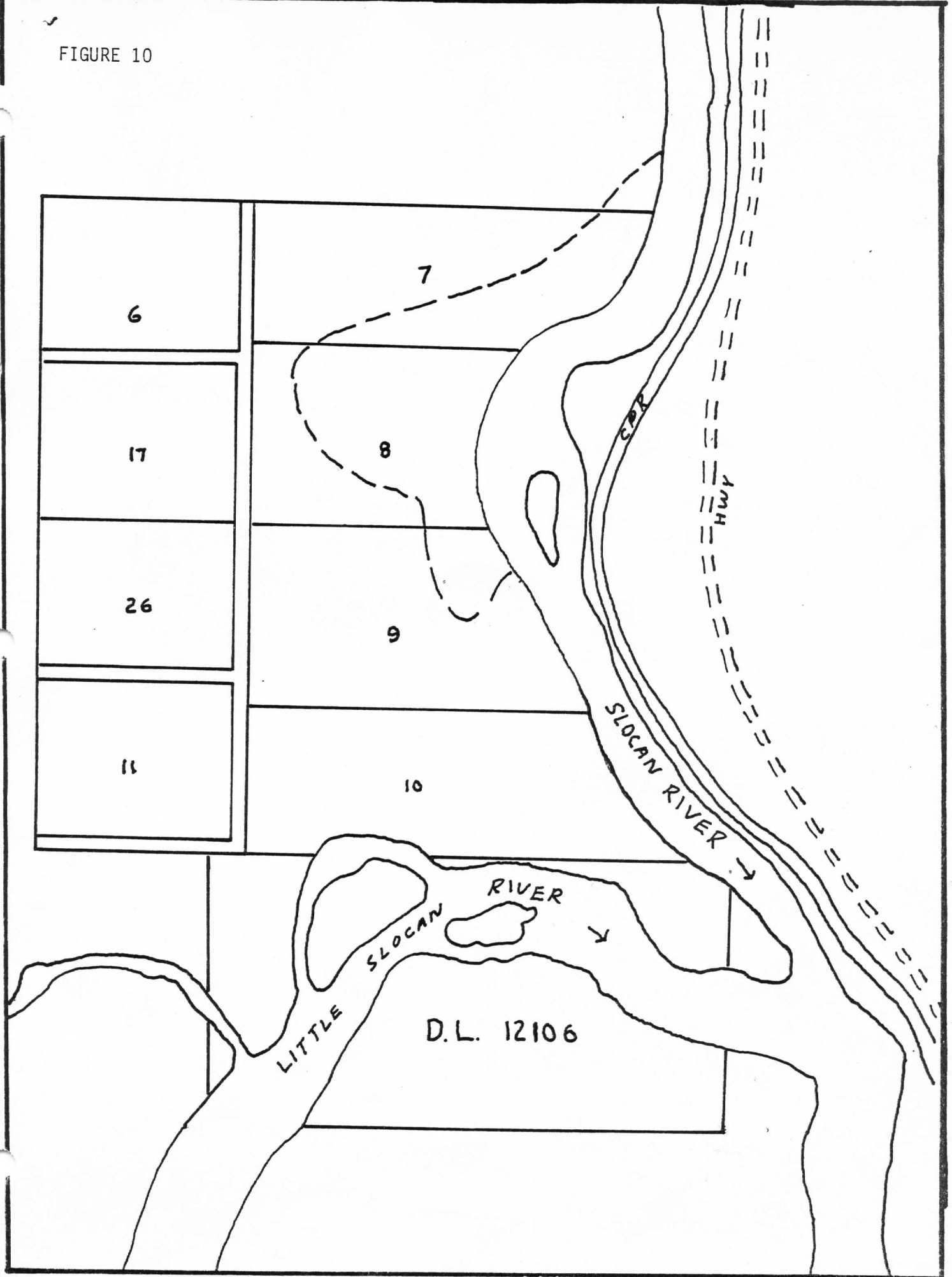
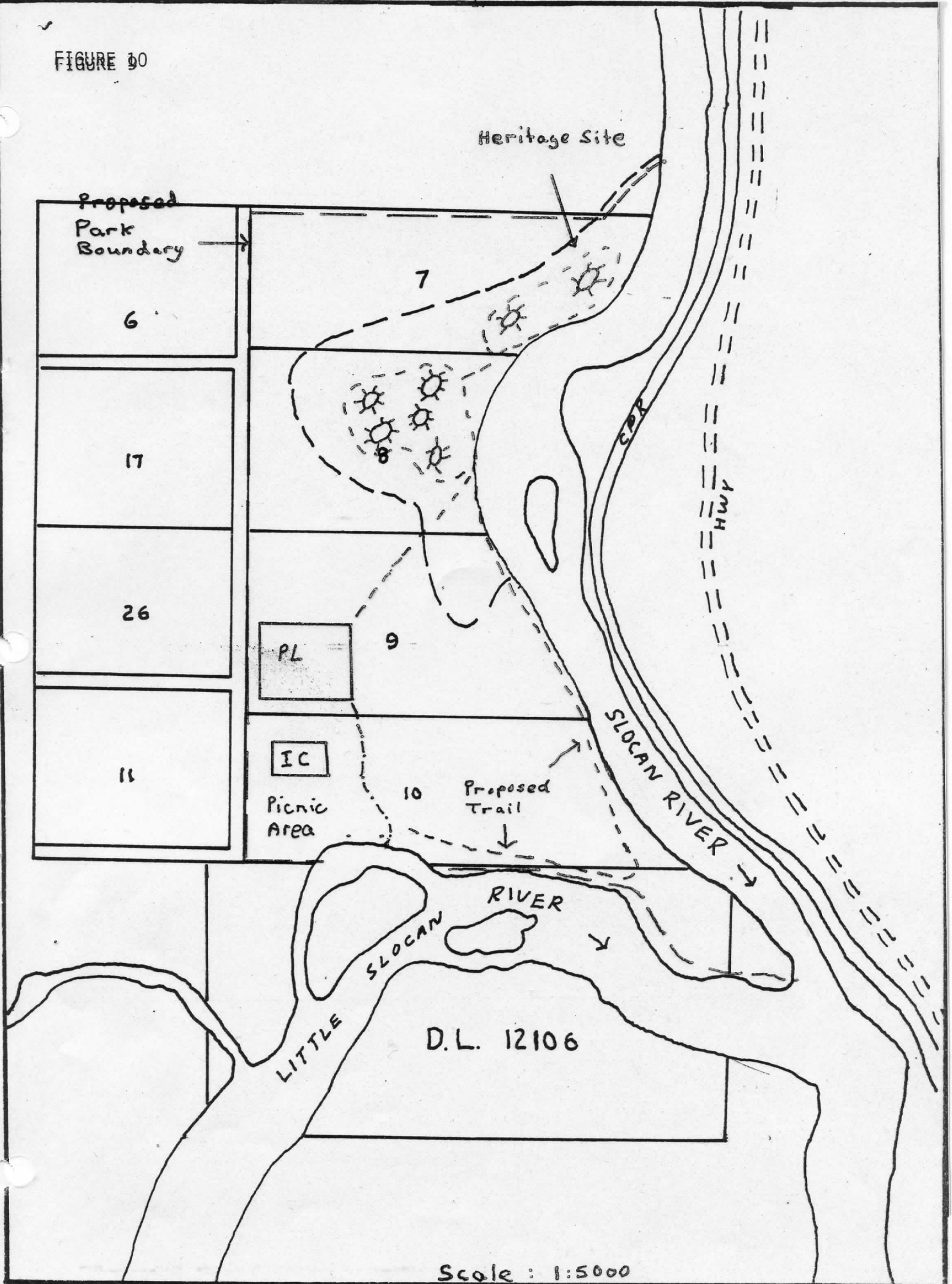


FIGURE 30



## ADMINISTRATION

Management

Since the site has been designated a Heritage Site by the British Columbia Heritage Conservation Branch, it would be the agency responsible for constructing and managing the park. However, there could be input from other agencies and organizations, such as the Regional District or the Provincial Parks Branch. Other work could be done by the NEED or EBAP programs. Further consultation with these agencies should be done if this proposal is implemented.

To operate a park of this nature properly, a crew of three or four personnel would be needed. To operate the interpretation program, a head interpreter would be needed, along with a part-time interpreter-security person. A full-time security person and a grounds-maintenance person would also be needed.

The park would be open from mid-May to mid-October. During the winter months, the park could be opened on the weekends and on special occasions for school groups and other organizations.

Cost

The costs of this project are approximate and could vary. These costs are listed in Table 1 on the following page and were obtained from the Provincial Parks Branch in Nelson, B.C. The land expropriation price is an estimate from the Regional District Office in Nelson, B.C.

TABLE 1

Land Expropriation	\$100,000.00
Interpretation Centre: 1500 ft <sup>2</sup> @ \$100.00/ft <sup>2</sup>	150,000.00
Two Washrooms: 2 x \$1000.00	2,000.00
25 Picnic Tables: 25 x \$200.00	5,000.00
Trail Construction	1,500.00
Pithouse Reconstruction	10,000.00
Miscellaneous	<u>5,000.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$273,500.00</u>

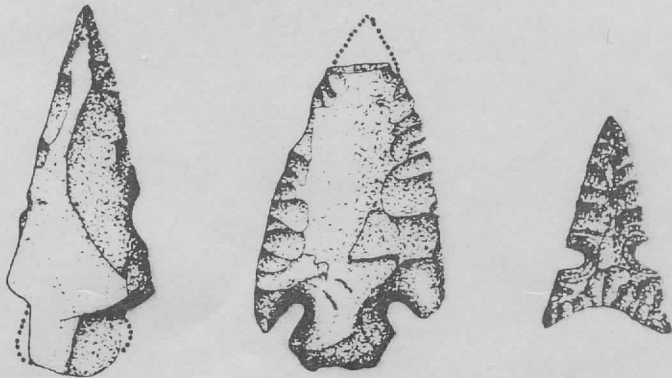
## CONCLUSIONS

1. Archaeologically, the Vallican Site is very significant. Authorities believe it is over three thousand years old and that it was once inhabited by the Interior Salishian Indians, the Lakes.
2. With the exception of the Provincial Museum in Victoria, no other area in British Columbia has any representation and interpretation of native history and culture.
3. The Vallican Site will receive high numbers of visitors and use.
4. The portions of land that are not designated as a Heritage Site on District Lot 6897 on Parcels 7, 8, 9 and 10 should be expropriated. Boundaries should be expanded to include all of Parcels 7, 8, 9 and 10 on District Lot 6897. Owners will be paid a fair market value for their land.
5. An interpretation centre should be constructed for interpretation shows, for displaying exhibits, for housing an administration office, and to give information to visitors.
6. A parking lot, small picnic area and washroom facilities will also be added in the same vicinity as the interpretation centre to accommodate visitors.
7. A trail system will be constructed throughout the site to take visitors to various points of interest. These trails will be guided ones.
8. One or two of the pithouse depressions will be reconstructed and then fitted with a plexiglass dome for protection.
9. The site will be managed by the Heritage Conservation Branch of British Columbia with some input from the Regional District and the Provincial Parks Branch.
10. A total of four personnel should be employed from mid-May to mid-October to operate the park.
11. Total construction of the park should cost \$273,500.00.

## REFERENCES

- Chamberlain, A. F. Report on the Kootenay Indians of Southeastern British Columbia. British Association for the Advancement of Science. 1892, 549-615.
- Collier, A. E. Archaeology of the Upper Columbia Region. Seattle: University of Washington Publication, September 1942. No. 1, Vol. 9, 1-178.
- Province of British Columbia. Archaeological Investigations along the Pend d'Oreille River of South-Central British Columbia. Vol. 7. Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1981.
- Province of British Columbia. Heritage Conservation Act. Chapter 37. Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1977.
- British Columbia Department of Education, Division of Curriculum. Interior Salish. British Columbia Heritage Series, Series 1, Vol. 3. Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1952.
- British Columbia Department of Education, Division of Curriculum. Kootenay. British Columbia Heritage Series, Series 1, Vol. 8. Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1952.
- Ray, Verne F. Native Villages and Groupings of the Columbia Basin. University of Washington.
- Sloan, Bill. October 27, 1982. Interview.
- Turnbull, Christopher J. Archaeology and Ethnohistory in the Arrow Lakes. Ottawa: National Museums of Canada, 1977.
- Turnbull, Christopher J. Recent Archaeological Fieldwork in the Arrow Lakes. Report. 1969.

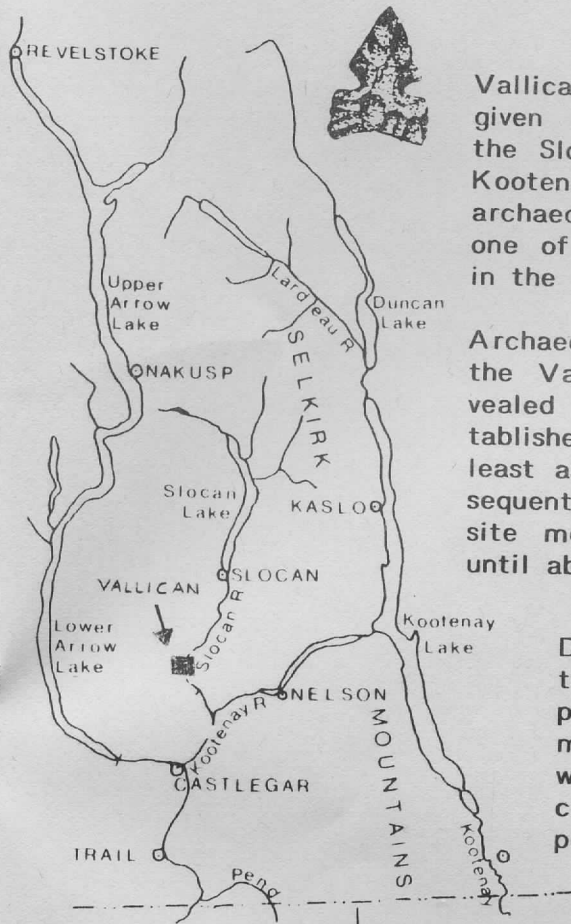
THE  
VALLICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SITE



IT'S OUR COMMON  
HERITAGE

Help preserve it.





Vallican is the name presently given a small community in the Slocan Valley in the West Kootenays. It is also the name archaeologists have chosen for one of the oldest village sites in the region.

Archaeological investigations at the Vallican site in 1981 revealed that Indian groups established a settlement here at least as early as 500 B.C. Subsequent groups re-occupied the site more or less continuously until about 1825 A.D.

Dwellings were constructed at Vallican, food was processed, garbage accumulated, and the dead were either buried or cremated throughout this period of time. Following

the epidemics of smallpox and the measles in the early 1800's, the site was abandoned and by the early 1900's surviving members of the local Indian population migrated to the Colville reservation in Washington.

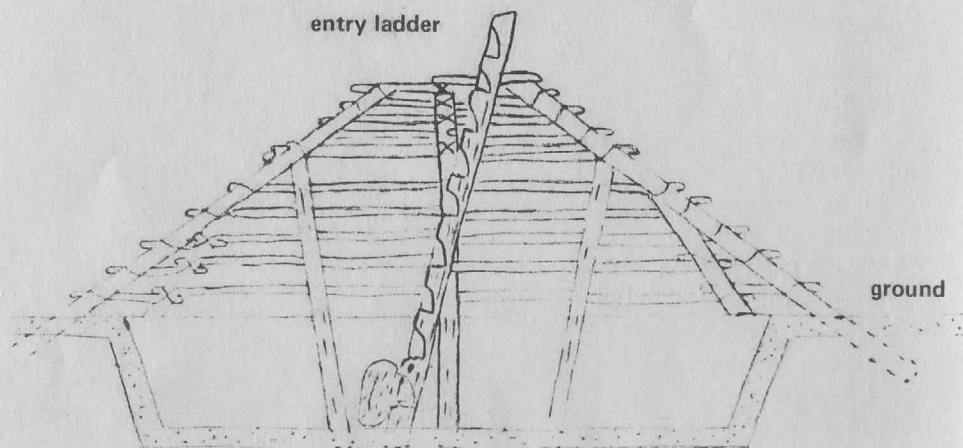


Today, the casual visitor can observe the remains of dwellings utilized by the Indian groups who occupied the village, the heaps of freshwater mussel shells that were eaten by the inhabitants, and the remains of their storage pits and food processing areas.





Many of the Indian people who occupied this village lived in semi-underground houses covered with a roof of poles and sod. Others lived in pole framed long houses covered with mats woven from bull rushes. The remains of more than 60 of these dwellings can still be seen at Vallican today.



SIDE VIEW OF NATIVE SEMI-SUBTERRANEAN HOUSE



The remains of dwellings at the Vallican site vary considerably in size, shape and depth. One of the larger pithouse depressions is over 13 metres across (40'), 3 metres deep (10') and circular in shape. Others are square, some are kidney shaped and a few houses also appear to have been connected to one another by underground passageways.

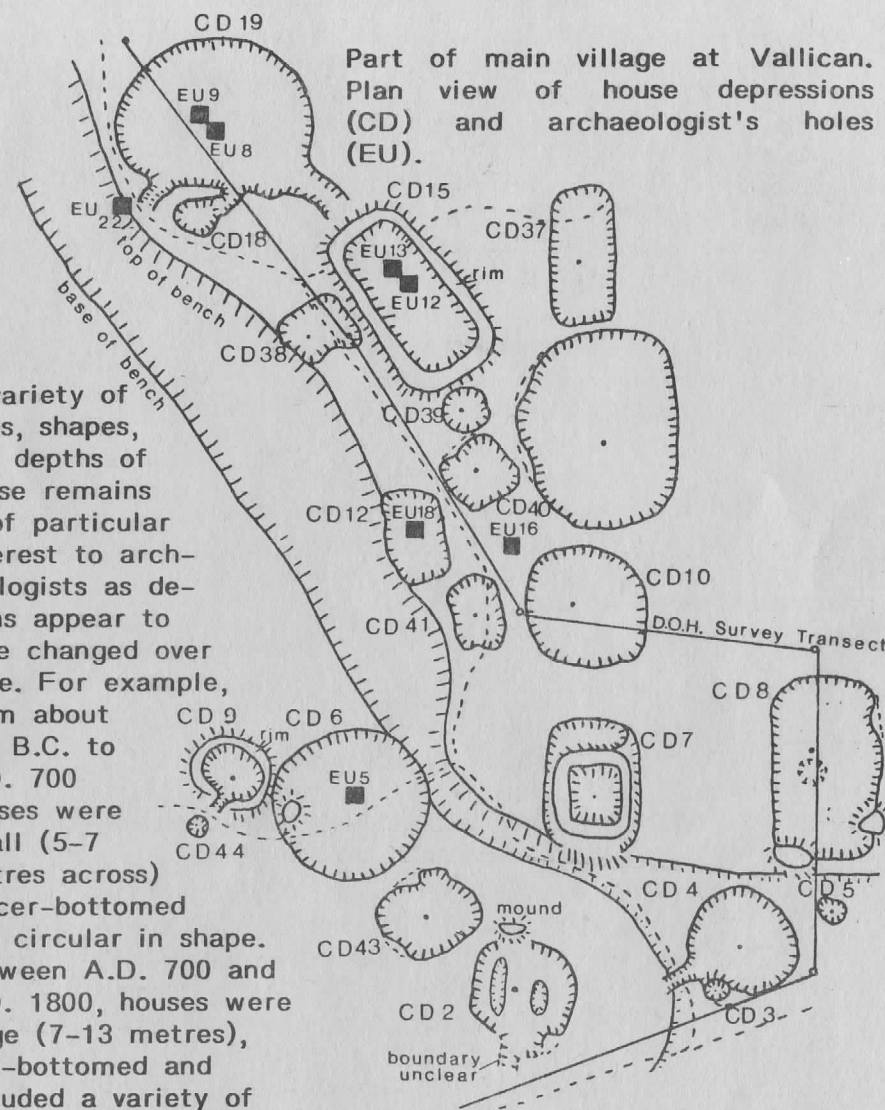
In many cases, dwellings were refurbished and reused by subsequent groups inhabiting the site. One house tested by archaeologists in 1981 revealed 3 hearths vertically superimposed on one another. The earliest dated about A.D. 1; the most recent to A.D. 1250.



Glass Trade Beads

Part of main village at Vallican. Plan view of house depressions (CD) and archaeologist's holes (EU).

A variety of sizes, shapes, and depths of house remains is of particular interest to archaeologists as designs appear to have changed over time. For example, from about 500 B.C. to A.D. 700 houses were small (5-7 metres across) saucer-bottomed and circular in shape. Between A.D. 700 and A.D. 1800, houses were large (7-13 metres), flat-bottomed and included a variety of shapes.



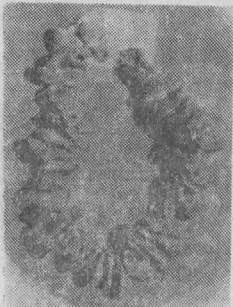
Similarly, tool sizes and shapes changed over time as did eating habits. Arrowheads, for example, became progressively smaller over time (see front cover) while shellfish were extensively consumed starting about A.D. 750.

In the 1700's, trade beads and perforated elk tooth pendants are prevalent at the site.

Archaeological excavation at the Vallican site in 1981 was very limited (estimated at 7/100's of 1% of the site area). Although the amount of excavation was small, the information recovered was extensive including over 3,000 artifacts.

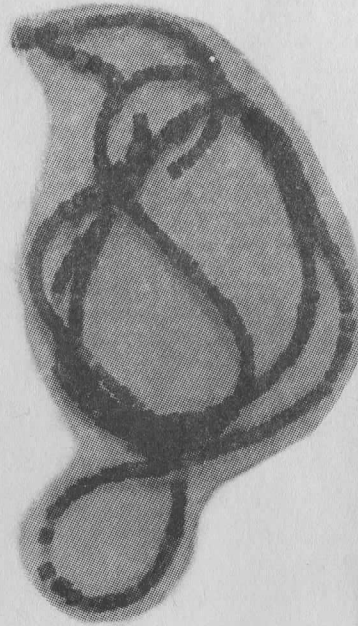
Based on archaeological findings, the B.C. Department of Highways agreed to relocate a proposed highway right-of-way that would have destroyed much of the site.

Today, the problem is of a different nature. The Vallican site is now part of a subdivision development. This was known about in 1981 and it was recommended by archaeologists that the government purchase those properties on which the Vallican site is located in order that preservation would be guaranteed. Purchase of the site would also guarantee future public access enabling our generation and future generations to benefit from the heritage value it offers. Unless public pressure can be brought to bear on the government, this unique archaeological village will be destroyed from private development.



Drilled Elk Tooth Pendants

The Vallican site is unique. There is no other archaeological site in southeastern British Columbia or northeastern Washington that contains the archaeological features and variety of deposits that are represented at this site. These include: a major burial ground, shell middens, 70 cultural depressions



(representing the remains of semi-subterranean houses, mat lodge depressions, storage pits, earth ovens and underground trenches or tunnels), and 5 hillside platforms (representing the remains of earth ovens and habitation areas).



At one time archaeological sites with similar attributes undoubtedly did exist. However, hydro-electric projects in recent years and land alteration projects from commercial, agricultural, industrial and residential developments have rendered these sites extinct.

Vallican is one of a kind. Situated in park-like surroundings on the beautiful banks of the Slocan River, Vallican has the potential of being one of the most pleasurable outdoor educational park sites in British Columbia. With your help this can become a reality.

Imagine stepping 2,000 years into the past right here in British Columbia.



How can you help?

Express your concern by writing to:

- (1) Premier Bill Bennett
- (2) Hon. James Chabot, Minister Provincial Secretary and Government Services
- (3) Mr. Russell Irvine, Director Heritage Conservation Branch

Co. Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8V 1X4

For further information contact:

Gordon Mohs  
33088 Cascade Place  
Mission, B.C.  
V2V 5S4

(Tel. 826-9333)