

## 9. OTHER SITES

### LAM CHAU

The salvage archaeological project for Chek Lap Kok also included the small island of Lam Chau, 2300 m west of Fu Tei Wan. An initial survey indicated only one area of likely deposit, behind the only significant beach on the island (see Figures 9.1-9.3). Three days of testing revealed a very sparse historical and prehistoric deposit. In Squares E and EX a dark brown sand had were three cultural layers; the first with 19th/20th century material, the second with Sung pottery and the third with Tang pottery. The other squares had only a few sherds in the uppermost topsoil layer. The exception was Square G, which had a second layer of coarse sand and gravel with two stone flakes and seven neolithic sherds, two of them being soft geometric. Square K also had five neolithic sherds and two flakes. The soft geometric pieces enabled the neolithic occupation to be assigned to the Late Neolithic period. Unfortunately, preservation conditions do not appear to have been favourable during the Neolithic and occupation during the early historical period was rather limited.

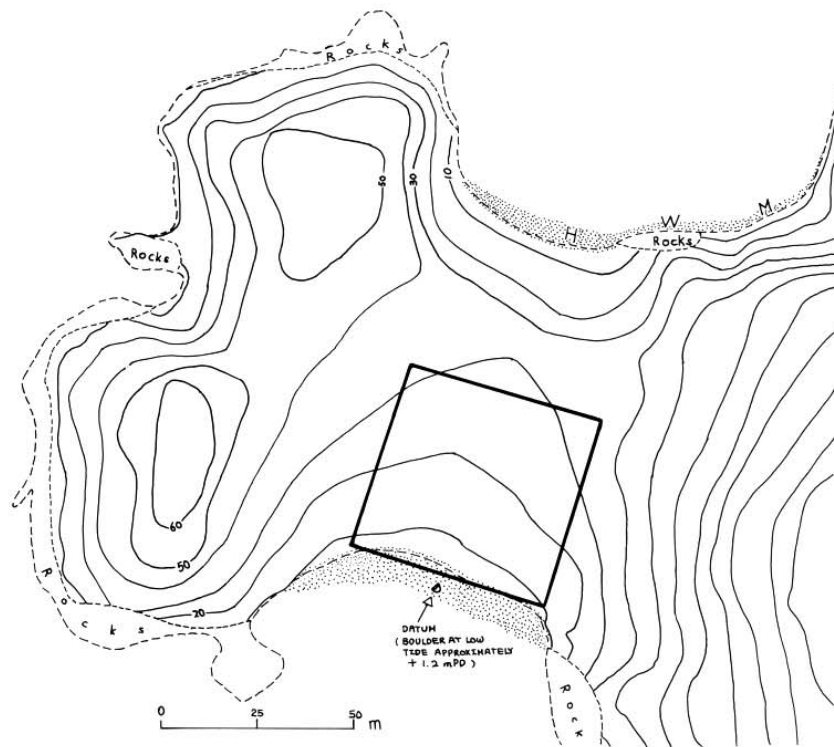


Figure 9.1 -- The northern end of Lam Chau showing the area of test excavation.



Figure 9.2 -- View of the main beach at Lam Chau facing west.

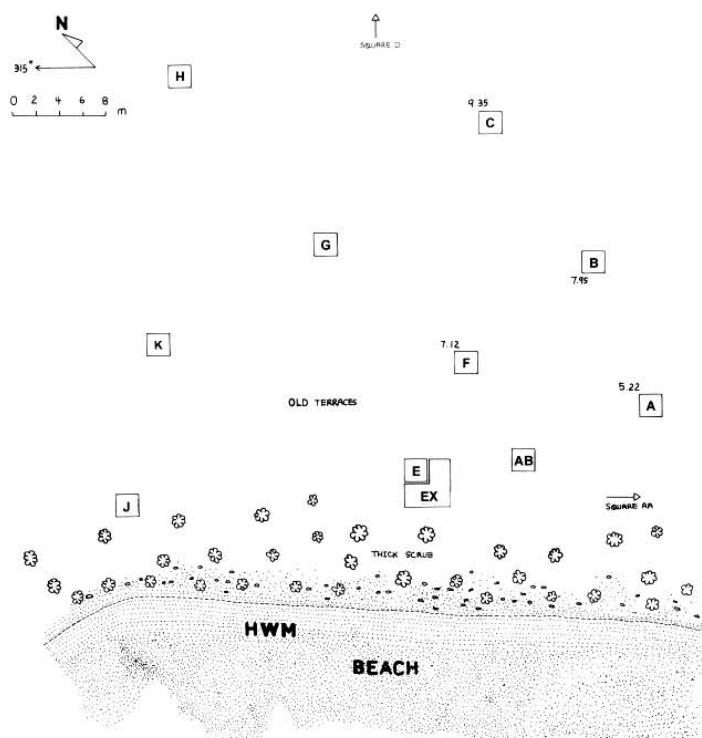


Figure 9.3 -- Excavation plan of the main beach at Lam Chau.

## ROCK SHELTER

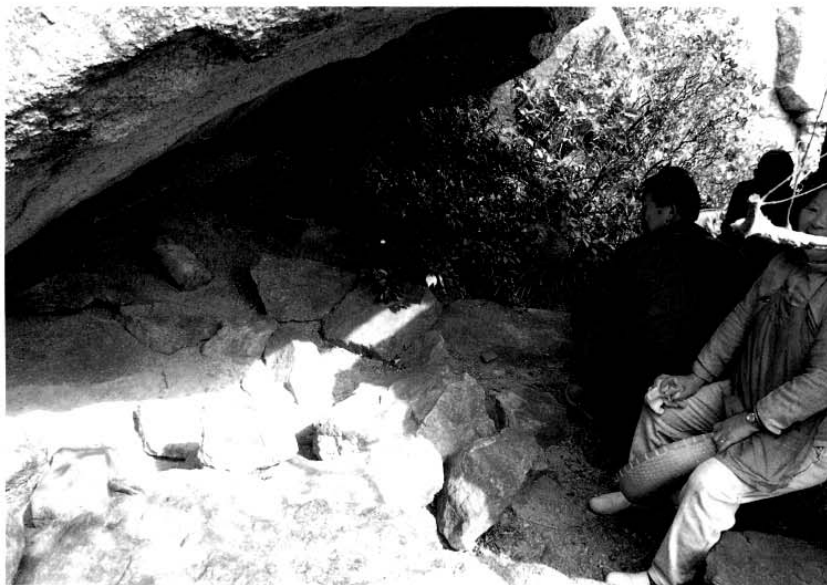
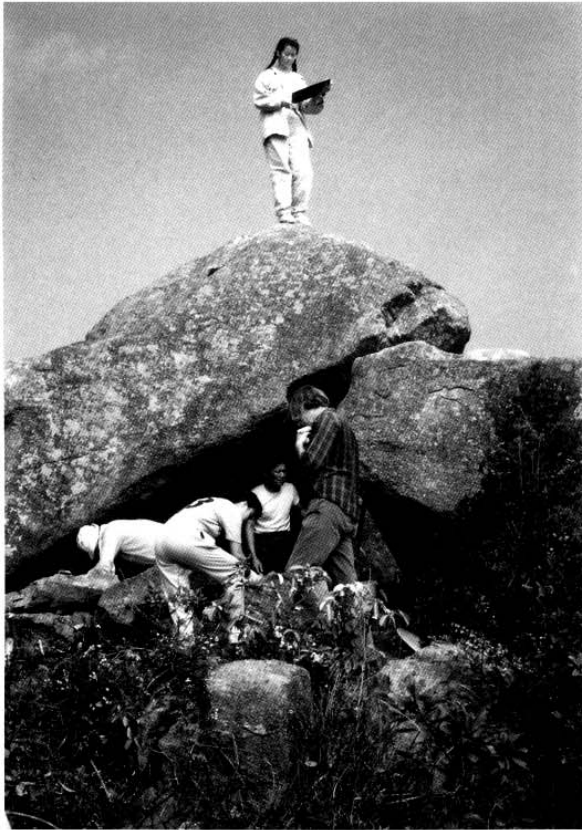
It was learned from villagers that on a high ridge top above Fu Tei Wan there was a large rock shelter "with a lot of room inside and a dry floor, well protected from rain." After considerable search, this rock shelter was located, and it did have an earth floor seemingly protected from erosion. An excavation inside showed that the soil deposit was very thin: a 10-15 cm layer of grey-black soil contained modern material and 15 small and very weathered Neolithic potsherds. The next layer was a hard, gritty yellow subsoil, also 10-15 cm thick, with no artifacts; below that was bedrock. The area outside the shelter was cleared and excavated to a depth of 15cm, with no artifacts discovered.

This is the first instance in Hong Kong of any archaeological material found in a cave or rock shelter site. Unfortunately, the potsherds are not of any distinctive type, and no charcoal was found, so the date of the early use of this shelter cannot be established. It is tempting to imagine that it might be the first evidence of Early Neolithic inhabitation of this area. The potsherds are the usual coarse paste, and one small piece had traces of cord-marking. These sherds could belong to any phase of the Neolithic or Bronze Age in Hong Kong, but the type is also found at Early Neolithic sites in Guangdong province.

Another possibility, albeit rather remote, is that the sherds were transported to the rock shelter long after the Neolithic. This could have happened if, for example, sand for construction was brought to the site from one of the beaches. There are however no constructions anywhere near the rock shelter. The origin and dating of these sherds will probably remain unknown.



*Figure 9.4 -- View of the rock shelter area; the shelter is near the top of the second rise (from right).*



*Figure 9.5 -- Excavation of the rock shelter (above), and view inside.*

## SHU LEUNG WAN

Several small 1x1m. test pits were excavated in the back beach formation at this site, but only one area of any sand deposit with cultural remains was found. There, at an elevation of +4.5 mPD and 7m from the High Water Mark, a 3m square was opened. The first 75cm consisted of dark grey sandy soil with recent material; from 75 to 105 cm a light brown loose sand yielded sparse neolithic material: coarse corded and grey chalky sherds. Although no diagnostic pieces were found, the grey chalky ware is probably Late Neolithic soft geometric pottery. At 105 cm, a hard reddish brown compact sand or DG was encountered. The deposit appeared to be confined to a very small area, and the amount of cultural material recovered was very sparse.

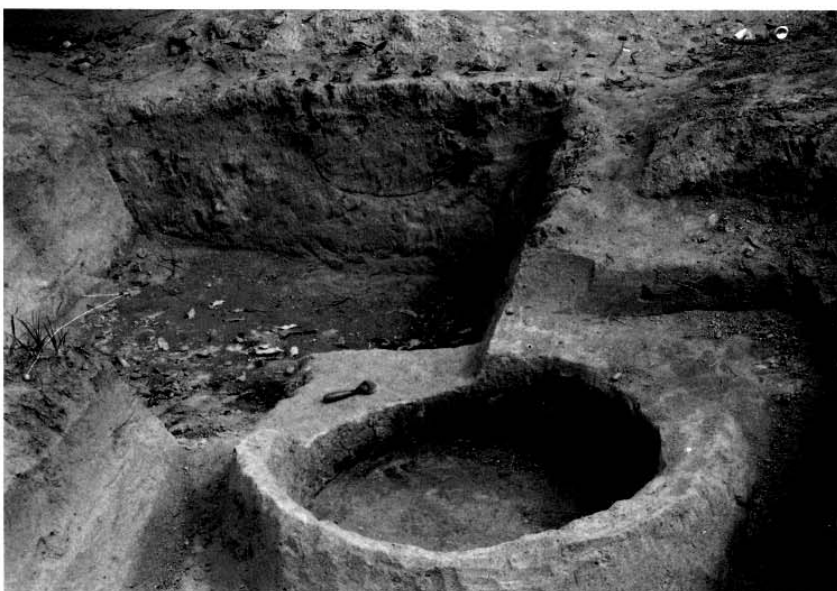
## CHEUNG SHA LAN

This site has a low hillslope merging into the back beach formation(see Figure 9.6), and it was thought to be likely to have cultural remains. However, in spite of several hours of careful surface search, including many terrace cuts and open erosion gullies, no prehistoric or early historical material was found. Two test pits of 2.5m were opened on the edge of the back beach formation. Below the topsoil, a hard light brown sandy soil was encountered, with sparse Tang/Sung and neolithic material. The latter was generally too weathered and too fragmentary to be identified as to cultural phase; only two chalky pieces were found, each plain and yellowish white, thus possibly Middle Neolithic. A pitted pebble was also found.

Two small ovens (see Figure 9.7) similar to those found at Kwo Lo Wan upper were discovered in one of the squares. They had been cut into the hard grey soil layer from the topsoil layer -- a fact which supports the C-14 dating of 20th century obtained from charcoal on the floor of one of the ovens at Kwo Lo Wan.



*Figure 9.6 -- View of Cheung Sha Lan from offshore, facing east.*



*Figure 9.7 -- One of the "ovens" at Cheung Sha Lan.*