

Tse'K'Wa Spreadsheet Guide

Roxanne Pendleton's 2017 MA thesis is an analysis of the animal remains from the archaeological site known as Tse'K'wa (formerly Charlie Lake Cave, HbRf 39). The thesis reports data from the earlier layers, specifically stratigraphic Zones I, IIa, IIb, IIc, IId, and IIIa. Specimens from these zones have been studied by three analysts. Jonathan Driver studied specimens excavated in 1983. Randall Preston recorded some of the specimens excavated in 1991. Roxanne Pendleton recorded the remainder of the 1991 specimens, and used data from all three analyses in her thesis.

Each of the analyses is presented as a separate tab in an Excel spreadsheet. Because three different analysts studied the animal bones, there were differences in the coding systems used to describe specimens. Therefore, a second spreadsheet includes two tabs that define the codes used in each analysis. The codes used by Driver are presented separately. Pendleton modified the codes developed by Preston, and converted Preston's data to conform to those codes. As a result, there is a common set of codes used for the materials excavated in 1991 and analyzed by Preston and Pendleton.

Descriptions of specimens

The spreadsheet of identified materials includes seven different datasets, each presented in a separate tab, as follows.

“2017 ID” Pendleton's analysis of specimens from 1991 excavations that could be identified to class and skeletal element. The following descriptors were used: Catalogue Number; Unit; Layer; Level; Year of Excavation; Zone; Taxa; Element; Part; Breakage; Side; Length; Burns; Weathering; Carnivore

“2017 UnID” Pendleton's analysis of specimens from 1991 excavations that could not be identified to class and element. The following descriptors were used: Catalogue Number; Unit; Layer; Level; Year of Excavation; Zone; Taxa; Part; Thickness; Length; Burning

“1983 ID” Driver's analysis of specimens from the 1983 excavations that could be identified to class and skeletal element. The following descriptors were used: Catalogue Number; Unit; Layer; Level; Material; Side; Length; Taxa; Element; Part; Breakage; Modification

“1991 ID” Preston's analysis of specimens from the 1991 excavations that could be identified to class and element. The following descriptors were used: Catalogue Number; Unit; Layer; Level; Zone; Taxa; Element; Part; Side; Length

“FISH” Pendleton's counts of fish bones from the 1991 excavations. Fish elements were identified either as “vertebrae” or “other”, and summarized by unit, layer, level, year of excavation, and zone.

“Raven” Two largely complete raven skeletons were excavated from Tse’K’wa. One of these, in Zone IIb is incorporated in analyses by Pendleton and Preston. The other, from zone IIIa, was recorded using Preston’s codes but was not included in his main data set because it came from an excavation unit that he was not studying. The following descriptors were used: Catalogue Number; Unit; Layer; Level; Zone; Taxa; Element; Part; Side; Length; Box Number (refers to storage)

“Bone clusters” During the 1991 excavations some clusters of small mammal bones were noted during excavation and were removed as a block and stored as separate items, so as to preserve the integrity of the association of the specimens. As described in Pendleton’s thesis, in order to maintain comparability of data, only those specimens from the bone clusters that would have been captured in a 1/8” inch mesh were included in her analysis. These specimens have been reported separately, but data were incorporated into Pendleton’s overall analysis.

Descriptions of codes

Most codes are self-explanatory and the reader should refer to the details on the code descriptions. Excavation units and stratigraphy are discussed in the thesis. Codes for taxon, skeletal element, part of element, side and epiphyseal fusion follow normal zooarchaeological procedures. Breakage refers to the state of the end of the bone, using either proximal/distal for limb bones and anterior/posterior for others.

Note that taxonomic codes are presented in two ways. First, the identified taxa are organized in standard sequences used in zoological nomenclature. Second, in order to assist users of the spreadsheets, the taxa are sorted by numeric codes.