In early 1974, Bob Gibson directed the excavation of 60 cubic meters at the Kirk Creek site, CA-MNT-238, funded by the California Division of Highways. Thirty years later, Far Western finalized analysis, interpretation, and documentation of site data, with assistance from Valerie Levulett and Caltrans. The site represents the only intact, well-documented archaeological assemblage from the Middle Period on the Big Sur coast. Evidence of a short-term, Early Period hunting camp is also represented. Regional analyses include chronological data from coastal sites, obsidian hydration, Olivella shell, subsistence patterns, and a Late Period shift to the interior. Thirty-year-old pictures, component identification, and presentation of data from complex, multi-component sites are the focal points of this display.
EXCAVATIONS AT CA-MNT-238, AT KIRK CREEK ON THE BIG SUR COAST

30 YEARS AGO
THE PLACE - Kirk Creek, Big Sur Coast

...One can sit up on the hill above the Kirk Creek terrace, looking at the whales migrating by on a calm clear evening, and imagine the scene as it once might have been. The general feel of the place has not changed too dramatically; it is still the same quiet, isolated sanctuary where people stop to sleep, cook over a fire, eat, hike, and enjoy the sea...
THE CREW

From Left to Right:
Bill Sawyer
Bob Gibson
Kevin Monroe
Gregory Henton
Katie Tanner (Moosberg, partially hidden)
Leslie Steidt (Back)

Bruce Steidt (Back)
Georgia Hayden
Suzanne Baker
Joe Morris
Daphne Hodgeson (Camp Cook)
Allan Lönberg

Not Shown:
Dennis Gallegos
THE EXCAVATIONS - 1974
ANALYSIS AND WRITE-UP - 30 YEARS LATER

Component Identification

Stratigraphy

LEGEND

Projectile Points

Contracting-stemmed (n=40)

Large Side-notched (n=9)

Rossi Square-stemmed (n=24)

Concave Base (n=3)

Lanceolate (n=4)
COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION

Radiocarbon Data

Olivella Beads

Ring Beads (n=1)  Normal Saucer (n=3)  Irregular Saucer (n=8)

Frequency Distribution of Obsidian Hydration Measurements
PRESENTATION OF DATA FROM COMPLEX, MULTI-COMPONENT SITES
Plan View - Units E,F/23,24, 0-110 cm

LEGEND
Shell - Features 3, 4, 16, 23
Ash - Features 6, 16, 22
Rock Concentration - Features 2, 17, 19
Bone Concentration - Features 20, 21
Charcoal Lens and Burned Wood/Reptile - Feature 7
Rock
PRESENTATION OF DATA FROM COMPLEX, MULTI-COMPONENT SITES
Component Designations

East Side Units

Middle Component
Early Component
Contracting-stemmed
Lanceolate
Rossi Square-stemmed

West Side Units

Middle Component
Early Component
Contracting-stemmed
Lanceolate
Rossi Square-stemmed
Concave Base
PRESENTATION OF DATA FROM COMPLEX, MULTI-COMPONENT SITES

CA-MNT-238 Middle Period Z-score Data by Sub-area Artifacts

CA-MNT-238 Middle Period Z-score Data by Sub-area Faunal Remains

Z-score:
- To compare data that vary in absolute frequency
- Standardizes intra-site differences in the ratios of one artifact class against another
  single graph, single comparable scale

Calculate:
1 - Mean ratio of one tool type to another in identified areas of the site (e.g., 1:0.30)

2 - Calculate the absolute difference between the two values and divide by the standard deviation
   to determine relative distance of area-specific ratio from the mean (the z-score)

3 - The higher the z-score, the greater the difference between the measured elements

Example - Northeast area

Flaked Stone - n=41
Ground Stone - n=26
Ratio - 1:0.37

Z-score = +0.67