Dam! What happened to the site? A 3000 year old archaeological site on the Beechwood Reservoir, New Brunswick

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Precariously located on the head pond of the Beechwood dam on the upper Saint John River, the Ultramar site is currently eroding away at an alarming rate. Fluctuating water

levels and ice scouring have significantly contributed to the erosion of more than 15 metres of this archaeological site since dam construction in 1958. Excavation and surface collecting have produced an assemblage of several hundred artifacts dated to approximately 3000 years ago, with lithic material originating from various Maine and Maritimes' sources and, significantly, one as distant as the northeast coast of Labrador. Current evidence suggests this site was first occupied by Susquehanna tradition peoples which may represent the most northerly site of this type in the northeast. Geoarchaeological examination, focussing on site formation processes, local and regional geology, fluvial geomorphology, lithic raw material and artifact analysis is helping archaeologists to chronicle the natural and cultural activities at this alluvial site.

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