

file:  
Geology

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
HALIFAX, N. S.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

14 September 1976

Mr. D'Arcy O'Connor  
P. O. Box 321  
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

I have just returned to Halifax after a period of field work abroad and found your letter of August 20, 1976. Although I have visited Oak Island several times, mainly during 1970 at the invitation of the Oak Island exploration group under Triton Alliance Limited, I am afraid that I cannot help you very much. My dealings were mainly with Mr. Kerry Ellard. I did see the wooden "slipway" and I had no doubt whatsoever that it was an artificial structure, probably a coffer dam, with a well built wall. I also saw a piece of wood removed from this structure and it was taken for radio carbon dating. I do not recall the exact result, but am sure Mr. Ellard could inform you.

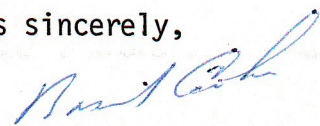
Shortly after my initial investigations I broke my leg very badly and was unable to continue. Mr. Ellard then engaged one of my senior students, Mr. (now Dr.) Martin Pickford to pay periodic visits to the site and Mr. Pickford submitted reports to Mr. Ellard. Perhaps Mr. Ellard would make his reports available to you. Apart from the undoubted artificial structure of the slipway, I do not think that he was any more impressed than I was with the evidence for other artificial constructions. There has not, as far as I know, been any detailed study of the particular drumlin and so it is difficult to make direct comparisons between natural and artificial gravel fills. One point that might be of some interest to you is that there is evidence from the fortress at Louisbourg that sea level there has risen by about one meter in the part three to four centuries. The authority for this information is Dr. D. R. Grant of the Geological Survey in Ottawa. If the sea level rise is general, it would clearly have some relevance to the Oak Island problem.

If you are able to get approval from Mr. Ellard, or some other authoritative member of the syndicate, I shall be happy to give you the present address of Dr. Martin Pickford. However, as he was employed by the syndicate, his reports are presumably confidential and could not be disclosed without their permission.

I am very interested to hear that you are writing a book on the topic and I look forward to hearing more about it in due course.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,



H. B. S. Cooke

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