

COASTAL PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER WILSON

Photos of oyster shells in concentric patterns around rocks shown in the *Journal of Coastal Research* 2001, 17(3) prompted me to submit the following photos showing clusters of on-edge, disc-shaped clasts on a gravel beach at Rapid Point, Falkland Islands, South Atlantic. The clasts are of the local Fox Bay Formation (fine sandstones, siltstones and mudstones) and have their a-b planes inclined at $> 20^\circ$, many clasts are vertical or nearly so. They occur in the inter-tidal zone and are uncommon on the upper part of the beach (Photo 1). In many of the clusters, clasts are arranged concentric to the margin of the cluster (Photo

2). Some clusters have developed adjacent to the landward margin of a low-angle bedrock platform and fill embayments within that margin, and are packed against or, if the platform edge is undercut, partly under the landward margin (Photo 3). These arrangements strongly suggest that the clusters are products of backwash and/or undertow during which the clasts are lifted and stacked against the platform margin. (Peter Wilson, School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Cromore Road, Coleraine Co. Londonderry BT52 1SA, Northern Ireland, UK.)



Photo 1. General view of the Rapid Point beach showing lower beach area dominated by on-edge clast clusters and the upper beach (top of photo) characterised by flat-lying clasts. A 1 m long survey pole is shown in each photo.

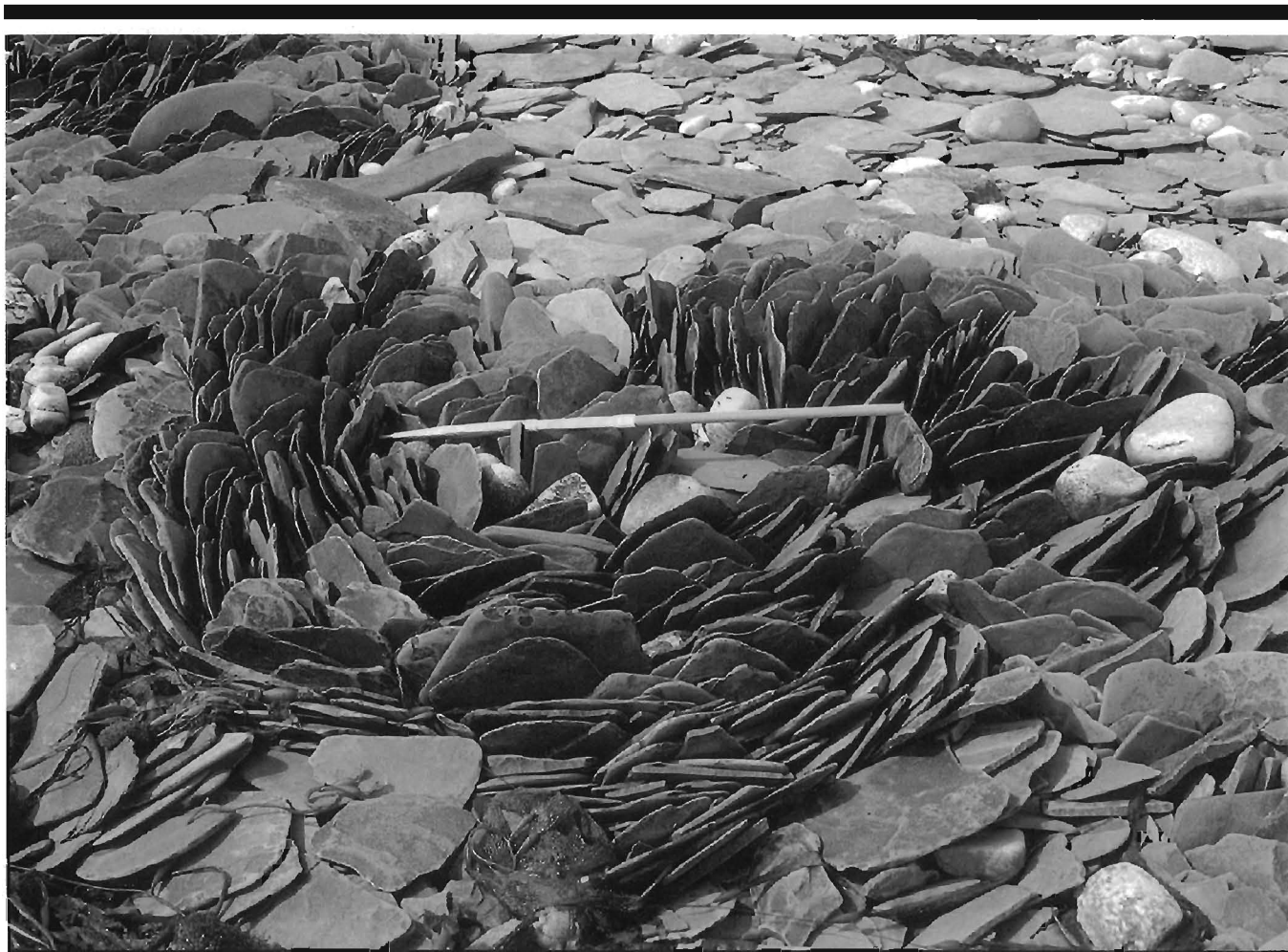


Photo 2. Concentric arrangement of clasts within a roughly circular cluster.



Photo 3. A dissected and low-angle bedrock platform (left) with on-edge clasts filling embayment and occupying a narrow zone to landward. Notice packing of clasts in the undercut margin of the bedrock.