

Archaeology in Gros Morne National Park

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Gros Morne National Park Reserve was established in 1973, as part of a Federal-Provincial Agreement (Parks Canada 2009) and officially became a National Park on October 2000 (Bourdages and Craig 2000). With a cultural history stretching back more than 5000 years, known archaeological sites within the park show evidence of Paleoeskimo and historic oc-

cluded excavations related to the upgrading of bathroom facilities at Broom Point for both visitor and interpretation staff, as well as the installation of a fire circle and redevelopment of a garden plot at Lobster Cove Head. Taking into account existing archaeological data and the archaeological potential of each area, assessments included pedestrian survey, mapping, and test pitting to ensure that archaeological deposits



Figure 1. Lindsay Swinarton and Shirley Alyward test pitting at Broom Point (461A)

cupations, including numerous nineteenth century related sites containing building foundations, a shipwreck and a cemetery (Miller 2016: 1).

In October 2016, Parks Canada conducted three archaeological impact assessments (AIA) in Gros Morne National Park in support of park infrastructure and visitor experience activities. They in-

would not be disturbed by the development.

Broom Point Privy Installation AIA

Located 5.6 km southwest of Saint Pauls, Newfoundland, test pitting at for the Broom Point privy installation (Figure 1) revealed fragments of plastic, wood and nylon rope in the same context as flakes, chert core fragments (Figure 2) and a Paleoeskimo burin



Figure 2. Chert core fragments in situ (461A1D2-1).

spall (Figure 3). This is not surprising, given that five of the park's eight previously known archaeological sites are located within 500m of the proposed development. The most significant of these sites being Broom Point 1 (8A1-8A40, DIBI-01), a large Pre-Historic (Early and Late Paleoeskimo) and Historic site with date ranges between 685+/-110 and 2285+/-100 BP (Krol and Tuck 1985, Krol 1986, Miller 2016, Tuck 1972, Tuck 1982).

Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse Fire Circle Installation AIA

Located 1.3 km west of Rocky Harbour, this project involve the installation of fire circle and seating area to augment the visitor experience at the Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse (Higdon 2016). While no known archaeological sites have been documented near the lighthouse, according to the Newfoundland and Labrador's Provincial Archaeology Office, three archaeological sites have been documented within nearby Rocky Harbour, just outside Parks Canada jurisdiction.

Testing pitting of the fire circle area revealed shallow organic and clay deposits with recent refuse, including nails, cigarette filters, a caulking tube nozzle, glass fragments and coincidentally, an old fire pit. This mound of rock, ash and burnt wood appears to be related to the 20th century occupation of the near-

by lighthouse, as it contained charred green and brown bottle glass fragments, nails and the remains of a possible tin of Vienna Sausages. While we did not find any notable archaeological deposits, archaeological assessment of the area provided a good opportunity for volunteers from local Gros Morne Academy to learn what archaeology was all about (Figure 5).

Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse Garden Redevelopment

Located 150m northwest of the Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse, the Gros Morne NP Visitor Experience team proposed that a small section of former light keeper, George Young's vegetable garden be redeveloped as a garden for enhanced visitor interpretation programming. While the area has been tilled and gardened for generations, the area was nevertheless surveyed and test pitted to ensure that the proposed activities would not disturb intact cultural deposits (Figure 6). Not surprisingly, three test pits revealed 25-40cm of sterile sandy clay loam, while the other two revealed piles of rocks probably associated with the former clearing of the field. A single piece of recent bottle glass was found in association with the one of the rock piles.

In sum, test excavations revealed either artifacts in disturbed contexts, modern refuse and sterile units. Preliminary results indicate that the projects can proceed as planned with only minor adjustments to the project footprints.



Figure 3. Burin spall in situ (461A1D2-1).



Figure 4. Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse Fire Circle Assessment Area, facing south.

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Figure 5. Author and Lindsay Swinarton showing high school student volunteer, Ryha Oravec how to record the depth of a test pit (Cynthia Nicolle 2016).



Figure 6. Lindsay Swinarton and Gros Morne NP's Tina Vander Wielen surveying Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse Garden area, facing west.

1982 1982 Excavations at Broom Point, a Palaeo-Eskimo site in Gros Morne National Park. St. John's: Memorial University of Newfoundland.

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