

## THE 2011 FIELD SEASON AT PHILLIP'S GARDEN (EeBi-1), PORT AU CHOIX NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

P.J. Wells, M.A.P. Renouf, C. Tudor, and D. Lavers  
Department of Archaeology, Memorial University

### **I**ntroduction

The Port au Choix Archaeology Project returned to Phillip's Garden this season with two primary research aims. The first was to conduct a high resolution geophysical survey of excavated and unexcavated house features. The second was to continue investigating House 10, a middle phase (1550-1350 cal BP) dwelling previously excavated by Elmer Harp (1976, field notes 1962), and later tested by Renouf (2006).

The 2011 excavations follow up on preliminary results generated by Renouf et al. (2005). In 2004 the Port au Choix Archaeology Project excavated a 1.5 m by 14.5 m east-west trench through the centre of House 10, establishing the presence of an eastern platform, western berm, and two central pits.

The geophysical survey builds on magnetometry conducted at Phillip's Garden in 2001 by Eastaugh and Taylor (2011) in which they identified the presence of four dwellings hidden beneath midden deposits within a 2600 m<sup>2</sup> area of the site.

The 2011 survey focused specifically on recording, at high resolution, seven dwellings using both magnetometry and ground penetrating radar (Fig. 1). The results of data collected by the geophysical survey will form the basis of Tudor's MA thesis.

The excavation of House 10 allowed a detailed understanding of the dwelling size, shape, orientation, and internal layout. In addition, features uncovered by Harp (field notes 1962) were reinvestigated to reveal their structural design and function, and new features were exposed, expanding our appreciation of architectural details and activities within the house.

### **Geophysical Methods**

Two types of non-invasive geophysical survey techniques, magnetometry and ground

penetrating radar were used. These methods complement each other as they test different properties and yield results at different spatial resolutions. While magnetometry can provide information at the scale of house outline, ground penetrating radar can record data at the scale of house layout.

Our survey focused on four previously excavated or partially excavated middle phase dwellings including: House 4, House 6, House 10, and House 11 (Harp field notes 1961-63). In addition, three unexcavated depressions that we presume to be dwellings (F368, F381 and F382) were surveyed to determine

*Figure 1 Surveying with the ground penetrating radar at Phillip's Garden.*



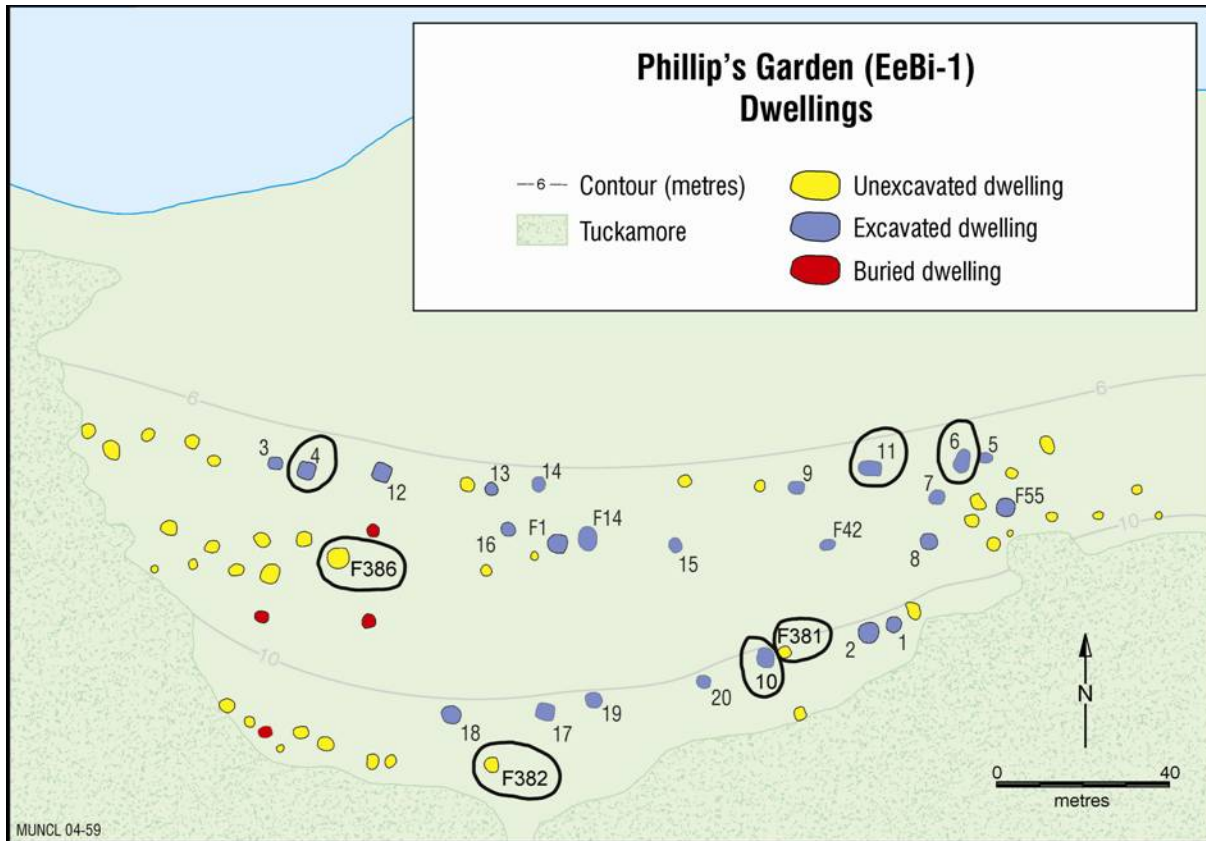


Figure 2 Location of dwelling features at Phillip's Garden. The dwellings and depressions investigated through geophysical methods are circled in black. House 10 was also fully excavated.

whether they would render different results than excavated dwellings (Fig. 2). For the geophysical survey, we employed a Sensors and Software Ground Penetrating Radar with a 500 MHz antenna and a GEM Systems Overhauser Magnetometer. A 20 x 20 m grid was established over and beyond each dwelling. We surveyed along continuous east-west transects, spaced at intervals of both 10 cm and 25 cm.

#### **House 10 Excavation Results**

A total of 103 m<sup>2</sup> was excavated exposing the front, eastern platform, western platform and much of the rear (southern) platform of the dwelling (Fig. 3). In addition, 34 features were identified including several pits, post-holes, middens and flake concentrations. Like other dwellings dated to this period, House 10 is large, measuring 13.5 m north to south and 10 m east to west. It has a well-

defined interior depression and a central axial feature including at least one post-hole. The entrance to the house was marked by a cluster of large stone slabs, and excavations along the outside of the house front revealed a narrow berm of heavy boulders reinforcing the natural sandy matrix. Just outside the house to the northwest was a large midden. It included a number of articulated seal vertebral columns and skulls in addition to the bones of other species, charcoal, and some artefacts. A number of charcoal samples from various areas associated with the dwelling was collected for dating.

#### **Conclusion**

The 2011 excavations of House 10 at Phillip's Garden identified dwelling architecture and internal features. Analysis of the geophysical data for House 10 and the other six dwellings in the sample is in progress and will

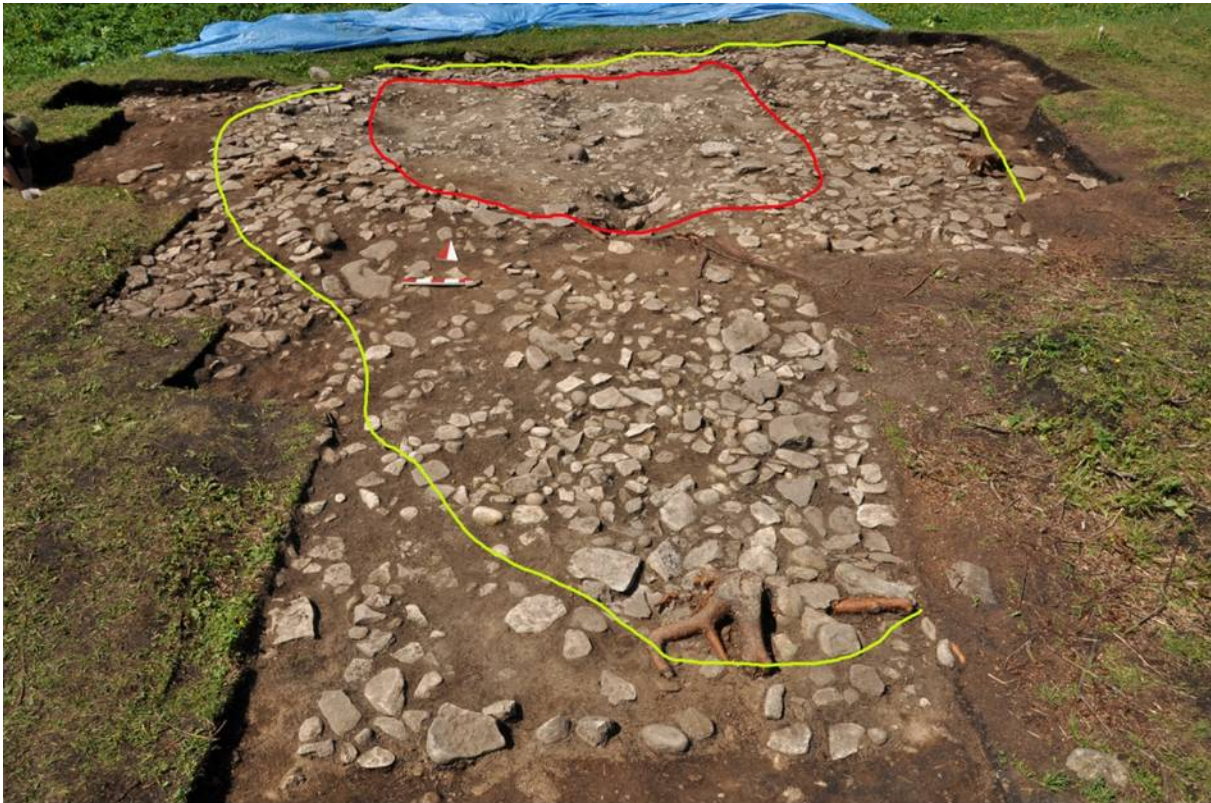


Figure 3 House 10 looking north. The exterior perimeter is outlined in yellow and the interior depression in red. Note the axial feature in the center and two pit features at the rear of the depression.

provide an assessment of the utility of these methods for non-invasive identification of dwelling architecture at the site.

#### **References**

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