

Parks Canada conducted several small archaeological projects in Terra Nova National Park this past summer, resulting in the identification of four new sites and the collection of additional information about three known sites.

Bank Site (DdAk-5)

Salvage excavation continued at the Bank Site, a multi-component site that is eroding along the shoreline. The current excavations began in 2008, but due to the thick, artifact rich layers that we encountered, the bottom of the cultural deposit was not reached. In 2009 we completed the excavation of three units along the eroding bank. This area included a thick midden deposit that was associated with a Dorset Palaeoeskimo semi-subterranean house structure (Curtis 2009). This midden appeared as a band of dark brown soil in profile and reached more than 20 cm thick in places (Figure 1). A charcoal sample recovered from the lower portion of this midden in 2008 returned a radiocarbon date of 1493 ± 38 BP (X12863A). This date is consistent with the midden artifact assemblage that is characterized by tip-fluted endblades, preforms and tip-fluting flakes (Figure 2).

Archaeological Assessments

Archaeological Assessments were conducted in several areas in support of park activities. Methods of assessment included pedestrian survey and survey by canoe along the shorelines of interior ponds and brooks. Along one of the brooks we identified the remains of cribwork constructed for the damming of the brook during the early 20th century when forestry was a primary industry in what is now the park area (Figure 3). This feature is likely associated with the previously identified Park Harbour Sawmill Site (DdAk-9) (Tuck 1980:41) located on the

Figure 1 View of midden profile at the Bank Site. The unit in the rear has been excavated to the top of the midden and the unit in the front to the bottom of the midden (Curtis)





Figure 2 Endblades (left) and an endblade preform in the midden (right) at the Bank Site (Curtis)

coast nearby.

Additional sites relating to the historic period were identified along the Buckley Cove Trail: sawmilling is evident in the form of cut log ends and planks while small clearings represent former cabin sites. Finally, a brief survey among the park's outer islands allowed us to monitor known sites and to identify a new Aboriginal site where a bifacial core and preform were found near the beach (Figure 4).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Starlen Thistle and Barbara Linehan for their help with the fieldwork and to Terra Nova Na-

tional Park staff for their interest and support with logistics for these projects.

References

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Figure 3 Remains of historic cribwork along a brook in Terra Nova NP (Curtis)



Figure 4 Rhyolite preform as found in Terra Nova National Park (Curtis)