

Several small archaeological projects were conducted by the author at national parks and national historic sites across the province. Each project is briefly summarized below.

L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC

New developments at L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada this year provided the opportunity to conduct a small excavation that uncovered an intriguing hearth feature. This feature was located on a raised beach terrace overlooking Épaves Bay and consisted of an oval concentration of dense fire-cracked-rock measuring 1 m by 0.5 m in size (Figure 1). In addition to fire-cracked-rock and charcoal this hearth contained four iron artifacts, likely nail fragments. No other artifacts were found in or around

the hearth, thus further analysis is needed in order to determine the age and cultural affiliation of this feature. Several Aboriginal hearths have been excavated at the foot of this terrace, just to the northwest (Kristensen et al. 2009; Wallace 2003) and the Norse smithy is located to the northeast on top of the same terrace (Wallace 2006).

Torngat Mountains National Park

Torngat Mountains National Park includes hundreds of archaeological sites representing more than 5000 years of human history. Park activities are thus likely to encounter traces of past human use and have the potential to impact the condition of these cultural resources. Archaeological sites also provide opportunities for visitors to experience

the park, connecting with Inuit culture and the stories of these special places. In 2010 Parks Canada conducted archaeological assessments in conjunction with the clean-up of debris and contaminated sites and with the development of visitor experience offers. In the field, the extent of each site based on surface indications was documented along with the types of cultural features that we observed and the clean-up of debris and excavation of contaminated soils were monitored to ensure that cultural features



Figure 1 Hearth Feature at L'Anse aux Meadows NHS.

were preserved.

We conducted an initial assessment of visitor activity areas in the North Arm of Saglek Fjord. North Arm 1 (IdCu-2), an extensive, multi-component site, is located here and was first recorded by Thomson (1986) in 1985. The site includes at least two campsites areas that likely date to the Early Palaeoeskimo period. These are represented by lithic scatters and at least one tent ring with a central axial feature. Numerous tent rings, boulder structures, caches and graves indicate repeated use of the site by Inuit as a campsite and resource gathering area. As an excellent location to harvest Arctic char this place has likely been an attractive campsite for thousands of years.

We also assessed clean-up activities on Big Island in Saglek Fjord. Here we revisited the Inuit sod house site at Big Island

Eastern Harbour 5 (IdCq-5) (Schledermann 1970; Thomson 1983:6) and recorded two additional sites: an Inuit tent camp and an American camp, with footprints of a variety of structures, that was likely associated with the Saglek radar base.

At the Ramah Bay Mission site (IfCt-3) we assessed and assisted with clean-up activities and documented a variety of cultural features. The Moravian mission was established at Ramah Bay in 1871. The cultural features include the foundations of mission buildings, a row of Inuit sod houses and a cemetery (Figure 2). Several tent rings incorporating stones and bricks indicate the continued use of this location as a campsite after the

mission ended in 1907.

Terra Nova National Park

Ten archaeological sites in Terra Nova National Park were revisited in 2010 as part of a monitoring program to document changes in their condition over time and to identify potential threats. The sites visited represent both Aboriginal and historic period occupations. The condition of most sites appeared to be



Figure 2 View across Ramah Bay Mission site, with cemetery on the left.

similar to that observed during our last visits in 2007 (Curtis 2008). The main threat to the sites continues to be coastal erosion. More localized impacts were also noted in a few cases. At the Chandler Reach 1 site (DdAk-10), for example, abundant quantities of rhyolite and chert flakes were observed in two tree fall areas (Figure 3). We also had the opportunity to explore historic sites in Newman Sound, recording potential cabin foundations and other features for further investigation in the future.

Hawthorne Cottage National Historic Site

Archaeological monitoring was also conducted at Hawthorne Cottage National Historic Site. Hawthorne Cottage is located in



Figure 3 Examining artifacts in a treefall at the Chandler Reach 1 site.

the community of Brigus on Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. It was designated as a national historic site for both its historic and architectural significance. Architecturally the cottage represents the Picturesque mode and is an example of gentleman's residence of the 1830s (Parks Canada 2004). The property is also historically significant as the home of arctic explorer Captain Bob Bartlett. Archaeological testing and monitoring were conducted in 1994 by Lynne Schwarz, along with the development of the national historic site, to assess the remains of several structures that had been associated with the cottage. This work identified archaeological features relating to a store, barn, well, icehouse and privy based on test excavations in combination with historic records (Schwarz 1994). The results of our monitoring visit indicate that the archaeological resources at Hawthorne Cottage are in

good condition.

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