



PROVINCIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICE

Preliminary Survey of Southwest Arm, Trinity Bay

Early in 2015 the PAO was approached by members of the Southwest Arm Historical Society who were interested in learning more about the known archaeological sites in their area and perhaps, with the help of the PAO, recording more sites.

While there has never been a thorough search of the area, four sites are known to exist there. The first site recorded in the area was at Heart's Ease (DaAj-01) beach which was recorded by archaeologist Urve Linnamae in 1970. She opened a small test trench in the soil covering the beach and recovered several pieces of flaked lithic material including a biface, a retouched flake and a grooved pebble as well as European material.

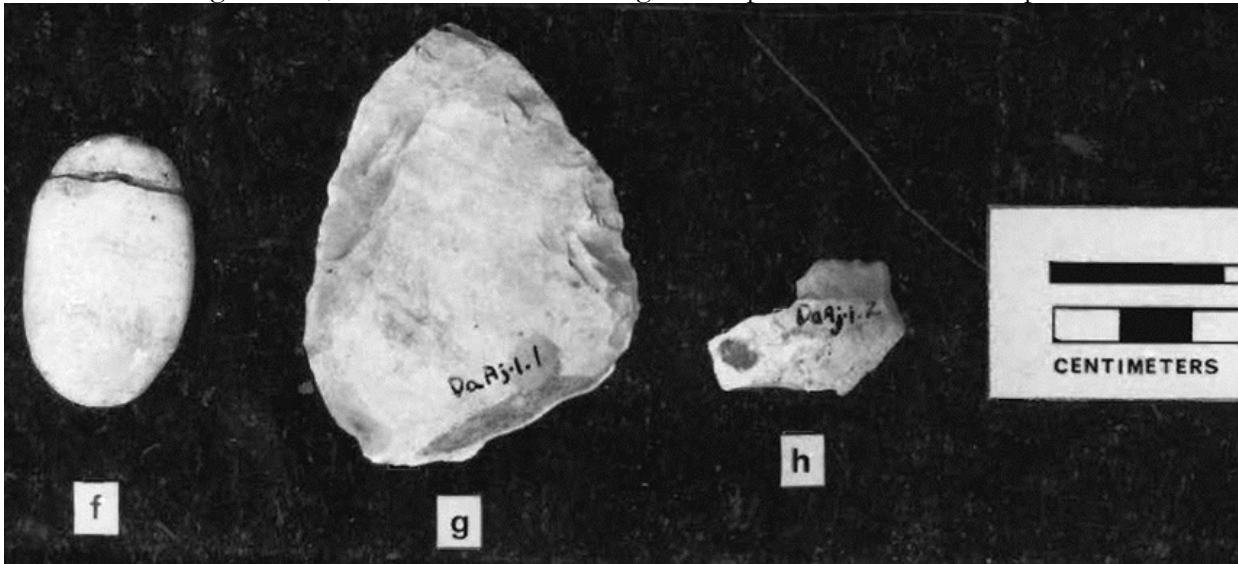


Figure 1 Grooved pebble, biface and retouched flake recovered by Linnamae at Heart's Ease (DaAj-01). None of these artifacts are culturally diagnostic but the biface does not appear to be Palaeoeskimo (Linnamae 1971).

The second site was found by archaeologist Gerald Penney in 1978. He named the site Claytids (DaAk-03) but the cove in which the site is located is called House Cove. The site consists of a precontact Amerindian occupation as evidenced by the chert flakes and biface preform collected by Penney. This precontact occupation had been disturbed by an historic European community in the cove in the 19th century. This now abandoned community is part of the archaeology site.

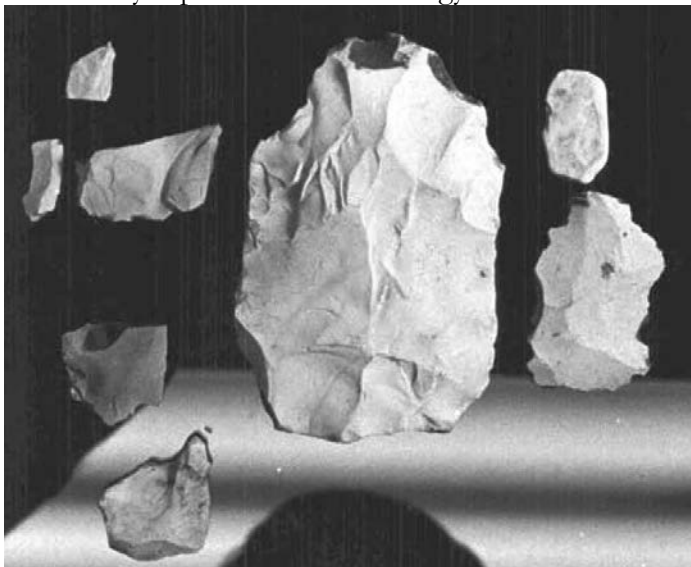


Figure 2 Flakes and large biface recovered by Penney at Claytids (DaAk-03) (Penney 1978).

The third site in the area was found by a local individual near where Linnamae found Heart's Ease (DaAj-01). This third site is recorded as Heart's Ease 3 (DaAj-03) and is attributed to a Maritime Archaic occupation based on the style of artifacts recovered. It is very likely that DaAj-01 & DaAj-03 are related sites, possibly the same site. Therefore given the Maritime Archaic cultural attribution assigned to DaAj-03, DaAj-01 is also likely a Maritime Archaic occupation.

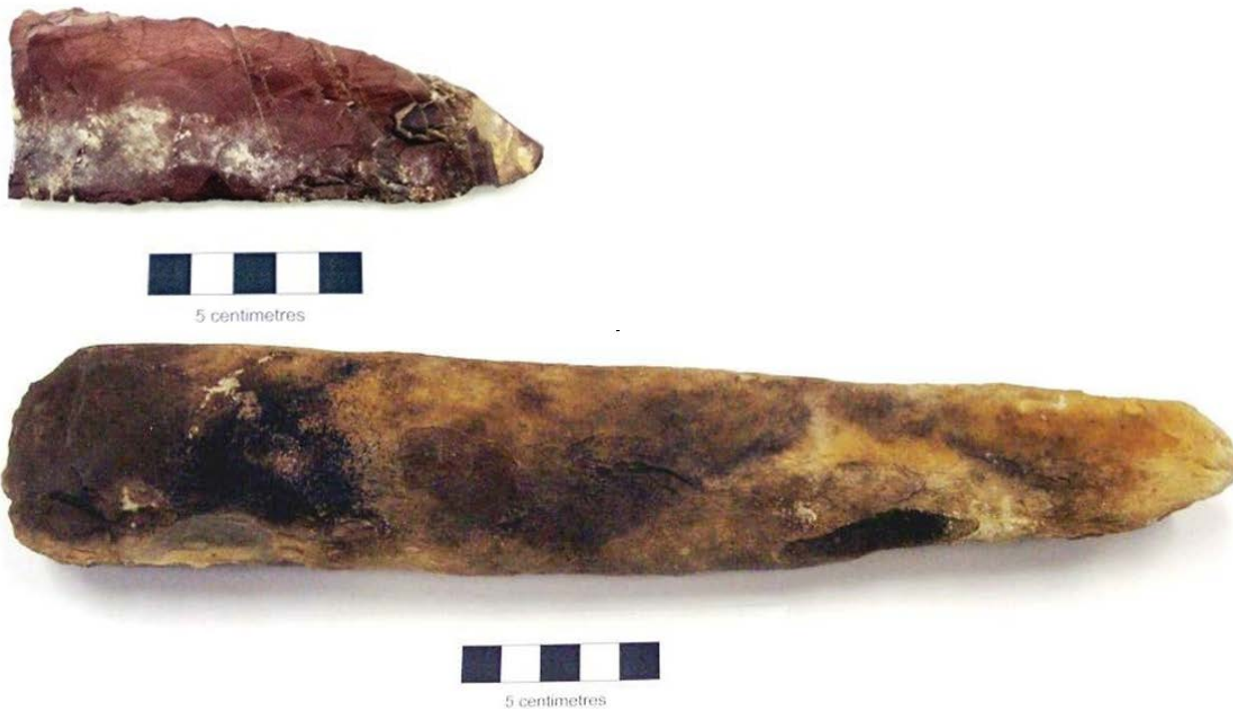


Figure 3 Maritime Archaic biface (top) and possible adze or gouge preform (bottom) from Heart's Ease 3 (DaAj-03).

The final site known in the area is Heart's Ease 2 (DaAj-02), a Dorset Palaeoeskimo occupation discovered by PAO archaeologist Ken Reynolds in 2002. Reynolds collected a Dorset Palaeoeskimo ground biface tip and a flake. He also noted the presence of fire cracked rock and charcoal.

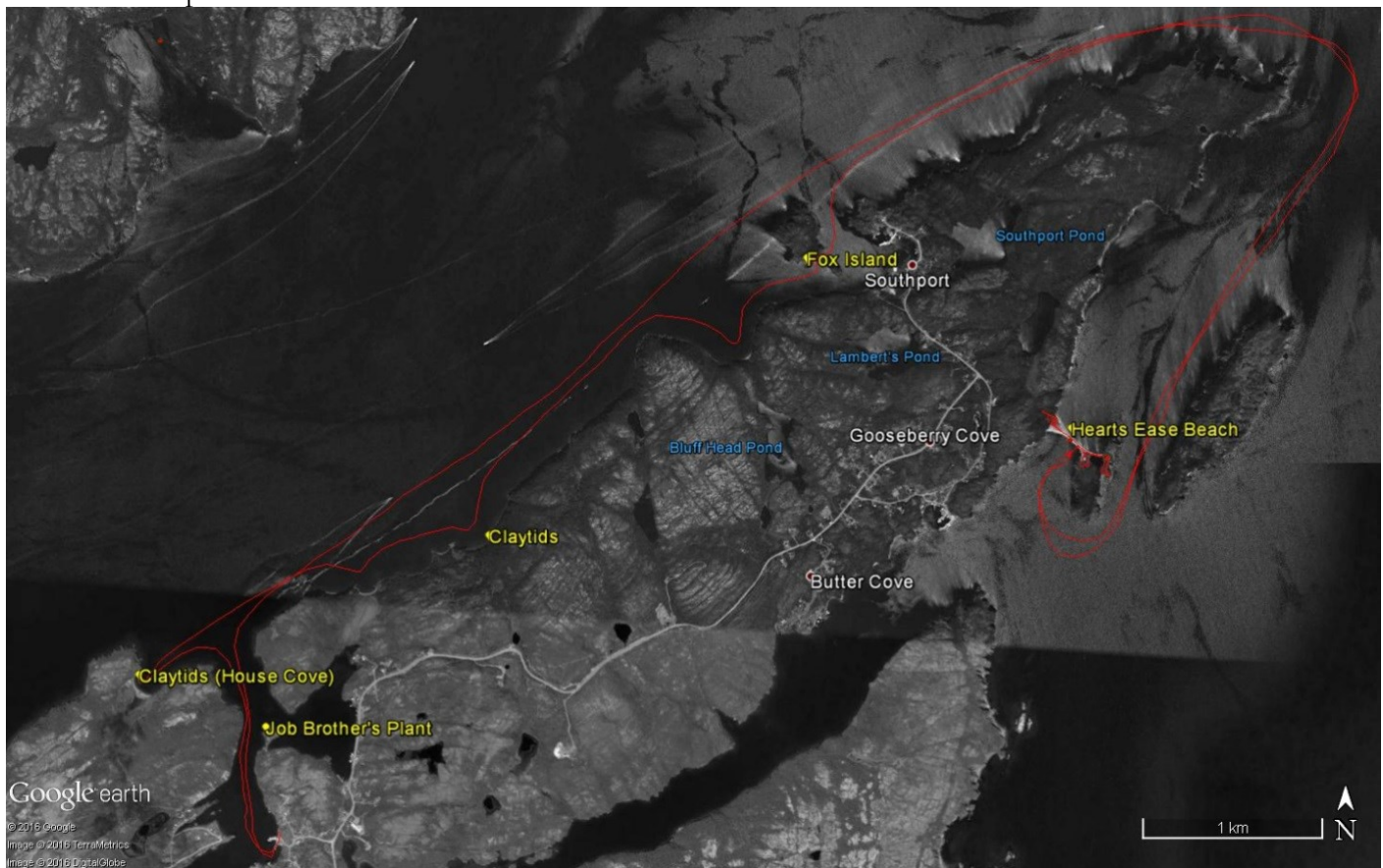


Figure 4 Map of the area surveyed. Red line is the GPS trackline. Places with a yellow label were visited or are recorded sites.

In September 2015 PAO staff returned to the Southwest Arm area for a day. We met up with two members of the Southwest Arm Historical Society, Lester Green and Peggy Hogan. Departing from Little Heart's Ease on

Mr. Green's boat we spent the day exploring several small areas around Southwest Arm visiting known sites and looking for new sites as well.

Shortly after boarding the boat and departing the dock, Mr. Green pointed out a small point of land on the eastern shore of Little Heart's Ease Harbour. This point once contained either a Job Brother's smoking plant built in 1905 or a canning factory operated by the Clouston family. We didn't stop to test the location.



Figure 5 Job Brother's smoking plant (DaAk-05) under construction in 1905 which may have been built on the point of land just outside Little Heart's Ease Harbour. (Maritime History Archive).

Our plan for the day was to head out to Heart's Ease Beach, check on the sites there and then make our way back to Little Heart's Ease Harbour. The tombolo beach that forms Heart's Ease Beach is about 350 m long. As stated above DaAj-01, DaAj-02 and DaAj-03 are spread across the beach. The eastern end of the beach is the likely location of DaAj-01 & 03. During our visit to the area we noted that this end of the beach also contained a European occupation as evidenced by the building foundation remains which appear as small mounds in the fields. We also noted the presence of old garden drills. Unfortunately this area has also suffered from looting. There were several small irregularly placed looting holes in the area and we found part of an iron pot sitting on a rock. This European occupation will be added to the DaAj-01 site.



Figure 6 Heart's Ease Beach, DaAj-01 & DaAj-02 are in the foreground, DaAj-03 is at the far end of the beach. Our European occupation is in the fields of the foreground.

We explored the rest of the beach area, including the location of DaAj-03 and found no historic cultural material. We also explored the hill above DaAj-03 for the foundation of a mid-19th century school house/church which Mr. Green told us about. There were also other buildings on this hill as well as a graveyard. We were unable to find any trace of any of these structures in the dense forest on the hill.

We went back to the boat and headed to the community of Southport with the intention of visiting Fox Island. In his 1876 article *On the Stone Implements of Newfoundland* T. G. B. Lloyd gives a list of places where stone artifacts have been collected by locals. He lists Fox Island, Randra Sound as the first place; Randra is a typo for Random. Unfortunately, Lloyd does not specify what was collected at Fox Island, just that stone artifacts were recovered.

Fox Island is a tree covered little island just ~300 m long by ~300m wide and most of the coastline rises steeply from the ocean. Just about the only place that could be used by people now has a wharf. We tied up the boat and briefly explored the area around the wharf turning up several pieces of ceramic, brick, white chert flakes and a Dorset endblade preform. Unfortunately, the site is heavily eroded and may be mostly destroyed.



Figure 7 Fox Island, Southport DaAj-05.



Figure 8 Nineteenth century ceramics and lithics from Fox Island, Southport DaAj-05. The Dorset preform is the second last artifact on the right.

With the presence of the site confirmed we returned to the boat and made our way back to Little Heart's Ease. While we didn't get out of the boat again until the end of the day, we did stop the boat at the cove that is locally known as Claytids. Mr. Green told us about how this area had a mid-19th century historic European occupation and how the local cabin owner has found historic artifacts on his property. This may be an area we will return to this summer, with the land owner's permission.



Figure 9 Claytids, the cleared terrace with the cabin can be seen in the centre of the photo.

We briefly stopped in House Cove where the Claytids (DaAk-03) site is located, but did not go on shore. We then returned to Little Heart's Ease Harbour, all the while discussing the possibility of another survey this coming summer.

References

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