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*PRESERVING THE PAST FOR
THE FUTURE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH AT THE BURNS SITE*



(Photo by Thomas Penders)

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Climate research at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS_ has identified that potential destruction of several historic and prehistoric sites within the next few decades. Many of these sites, such as the Burns Site (8BR85), are at high risk of erosion and eventual inundation by encroaching sea levels. It is our resolve to assist in mitigating the loss of this vital Florida prehistoric and historic archaeological site. We will accomplish our goal through the systematically plotting of the Burns Site and producing a definitive map using GPS, land survey and GIS methodologies. In addition to mapping we will analyze artifacts from excavations at the site, including ceramics and shell materials. Ongoing ethnobotanical analyses will produce a picture of the past environments and plant use at the site. To create a context and lasting record of the mapping and scientific analyses of prehistoric and historic materials, we will research and present a history of the archaeology conducted over the years at the Burns Site. Once complete, all the data produced by this project will be made available to the public and future researchers through publication and submission to the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices of the three federally recognized tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office. Our goal of mitigation will be achieved through cost effective methods and this important, archaeological site will last beyond the acidic forces of climate change.

BACKGROUND

The site this information is about is the Burn's site (8BR85). In the past, this site was home to two temporal habitation periods. The first was the prehistoric period which included the Malabar period dating as far back as possibly 500 BC. The second was the historic period which started as early as 1842 (Penders 2014). Currently at the site, there are two cemeteries and at least two mounds. One of the mounds located on the site is the original mound that the people who used to live there utilized. The second mound was created in accordance to the repatriation

legislature. Both mounds are in a fenced in area. Another important fact to note is that in the past, Florida Power and Light (FP&L) had put up poles in the site. Some of the shovel test pits that were conducted happened in that area.

The mission this season at Cape Canaveral was to collect as much data as possible so that the past can be preserved for the future. The goal of this paper is to show the results that were found in the STPs on our site. With the information that was gathered there is hope that the future will be able to learn more about the people who used to live in this area of Florida in the past.

METHODOLOGY

This season we conducted a phase I archaeological survey surface reconnaissance as well as phase II. In this paper, we will focus on the results of the phase one testing. The surface collections took place walking along the transects. Some of those transects were marked and known and others were unmarked transects that have yet to be explored. The phase one testing took place in 50 square centimeter (50cm^2) or 0.0538196 Square feet (0.0538196 sq. ft.) excavation units which were excavated to a depth of one meter (1-m) or 3.3 ft. Soil from the STPs were screened using .7cm screens. The STPs were excavated in transects spaced approximately 20 to 25 m (65 to 82 ft) apart. All the cultural material was bagged and then later cleaned and cataloged. The artifacts were divided by type and/or species. All of the weights discussed about below are of those objects being weighed together. All the cultural material recovered from the STPs were weighed in grams (g).

RESULTS

The Phase 1 surveys conducted in 2017 and 2018 complete a total of 57 STPS and 10 transects. Upon completing these transects, the group had realized that the boundaries of the site are extend further north than the group had originally thought. Due to this, additional testing will be conducted in 2019 to identify the northern boundary. Figure one shows the site and indicates where STPs had been conducted. The map below shows points from season one. The data indicates transects one through five. Please note that transects seven through twelve were not included in figure one as this is an ongoing project and they had not been added to the data base. It should also be added that transects six and ten are not presented in this paper.

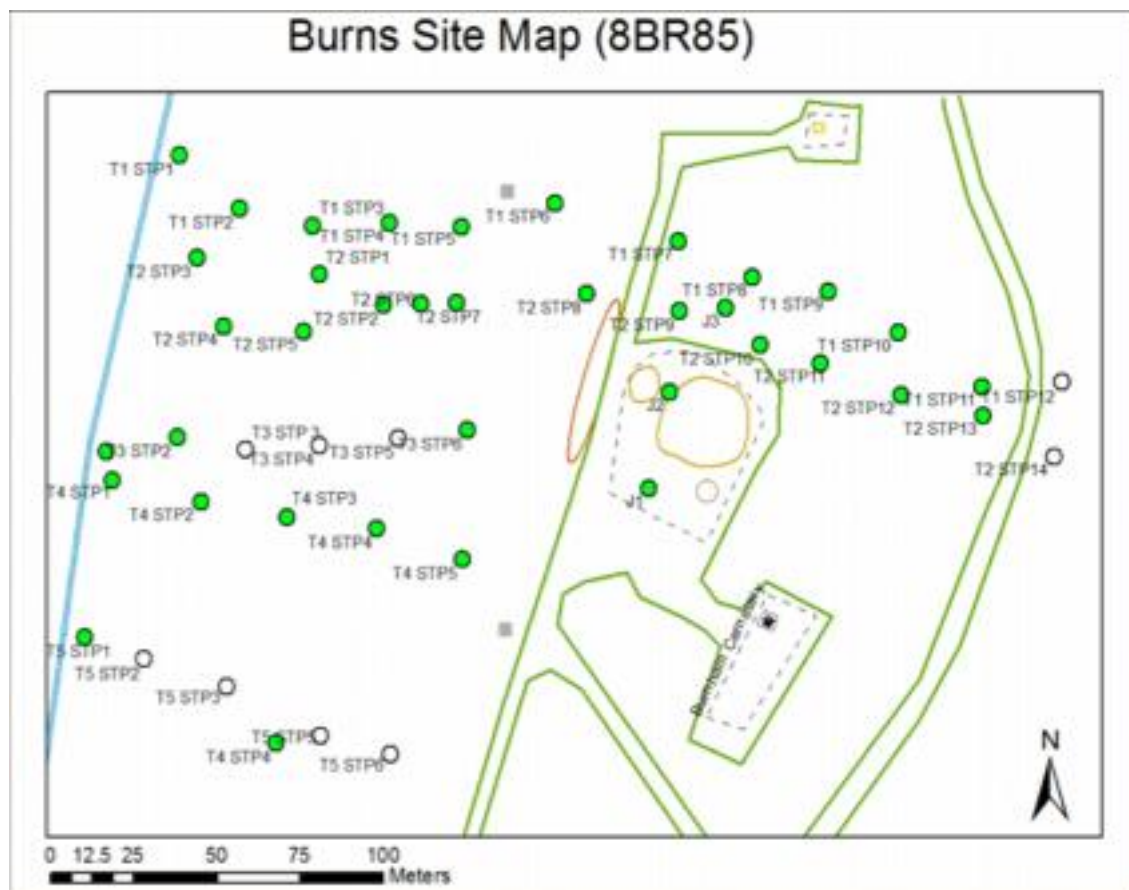


Figure 1 GPS locations of Shovel Test Pits at the burns site (8BR85).

If an STP was positive, that meant there at least one artifact inside the 100 cm(3.2 ft)-deep hole. Artifacts were discovered both on the surface and buried varying distances underground. As seen in figure one, there are white dots and green dots. The green indicate that at least one artifact inside of their STP. A white dot indicates the STP did not produce any artifacts. It is important to delineate the negative and the positive STPs as it will help identify where the inhabitants lived during the time. When we analyze the findings from the test pits, we can also learn more about their lifestyles and diets they had when they lived in this area.

A total of seven STPs were excavated on Transect 1. The majority of the material in each of the STPs was fauna bones. Fauna bones come from the remains of animals. The remains included skeletal material from a variety of species, as well as, marine shell. As seen in table 2 below, the majority of the faunal remains were different types of *Osteichthyes*. *Osteichthyes* are bony fish. The *Osteichthyes* weighed in at 180g (6.3oz) all together. The second most common artifact found in the fauna category were the *gastropods*. Bunje (1999) calls *Gastropods* the largest group of molluscs. These *gastropods* weighed in at 170g (5.9oz). Another animal found in transect one was a fauna bone of an alligator (*A. Mississippensis*). The chart below illustrates the species of animals found. The first transect of the STPs revealed a variety of species. In almost every single STP ceramics were found. The ceramics assemblage consisted of body and rim sherds representing almost all of the St. Johns types found in this region (e.g. St. Johns plain, Sandy St. Johns, St Johns check stamped, etc.). In almost all of transect number one, we find that the ceramics are prehistoric. The most common type of prehistoric ceramics recovered on Transect 1 were St. John Plain body sherds (70g or 2.4oz). Also found in some of the STPs were Sandy St. John's ceramics. In STP-1, an olive jar sherd weighing 8.8 g or .31oz. In STPs 5 and 9 no ceramics were recovered but fauna shell and bone were present. In STP 11, only one object

was found and that was a prehistoric ceramic. This ceramic was a St. John's plain and weighed 8.9 g.(0.31oz). In STP 3, the cultural layer was recorded from 8 centimeters below surface (cmbs) to 80 cmbs. In this STP the finds were mostly prehistoric ceramics with only one faunal remain.

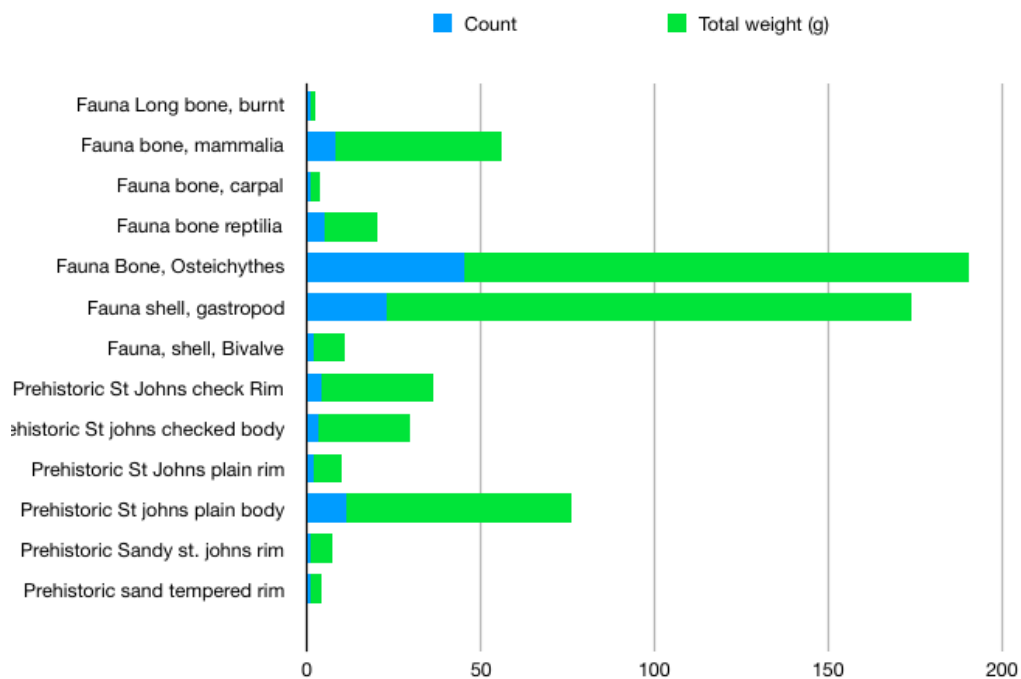


Table 1 Cultural Material Recovered from Transect 1

The second transect was located approximately 20 m south of T-1 and consisted of 13 STPs. As seen in figure 3 below, the majority of items found were the *Osteichthyes*. The *Osteichthyes* weighed about 120 g (4.2 oz) and took up about a half of the finds. The *Gastropod* was second in prevalence and weighed over 300g (10.6oz). Of the ceramics, the bodies of the St. Johns checked ceramics were found the most and ended up having the highest weight of over 300g (10.6 oz).

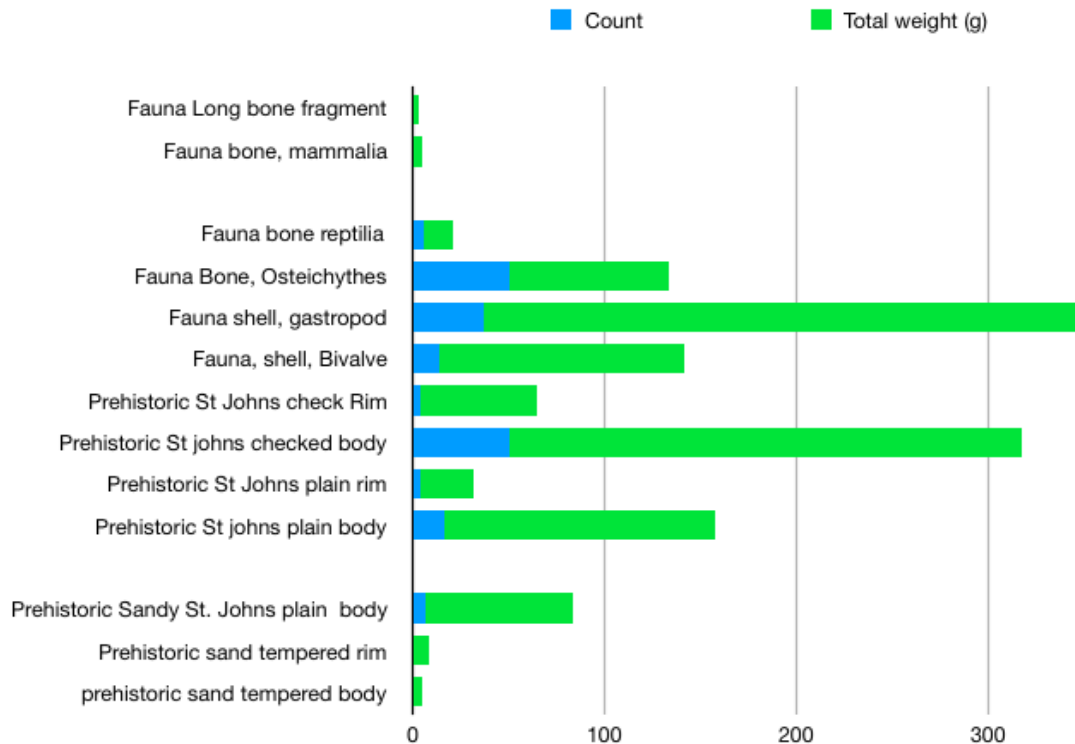


Table 2. Cultural Material Recovered from Transect 2.

Other artifacts present would be: the body of the prehistoric glades plain ceramic. This was found in STP three, four, and seven with a total weight of 18.5g. Also present in STP seven were two rims of Deptford check stamp ceramics weighing in at 19g. The Deptford ceramics come from the Deptford culture. According to Gibbon and Ames (1998), the Deptford culture existed during the early woodland periods (500 B.C ~ A.D 300) on the south east coast. Gibbon and Ames (1998) explain that the southeastern part of Alabama, all of the northern and west-central parts of Florida and the eastern part of Georgia are a part of this cultural area. These specific ceramics may be local copies and are undergoing further analysis. Along with the rim pieces in STP seven there were three body pieces found. Another interesting piece of ceramic found in STP-7 were Belle Glade ceramic and Glades ceramic. The Glades ceramic weighed

12.7 g(.45oz) and the Belle Glade ceramic with a hole drilled into it that weighed 67.5 g (2.4oz). Two other ceramics that were not found in transect one but appeared in transect two were the body of a St. Johns Bold Check ceramic that weighed 9.3 g (0.32 oz) and the body of a St Johns net impressed ceramic that weighed 11.8 g (0.42 oz). Some modified faunal remains were also found. An example of one of the faunal remains would be the faunal bone tool. This was a shaft that was had burned weighing in at 1.1g (0.04 oz) and found in STP-9. Another burned bone that had been found in STP-8 was the large *Mammalia metatarsal*. This bone weighed 4 g. (0.14oz). Lastly for this transect, a fauna invertebrate from an Atlantic horseshoe crab (*Limulus Polyphemus*) was found.

Transect three had a total of eight STPs. As seen in figure 4 below, the *Osteichthyes* had appeared the most and weighed the most out of all of the faunal remains as well as the ceramics. An important fact to note about the *Osteichthyes* in this transect is the presence of three shark or ray centrums as well as six spines and seven vertebrae. Within this transect historical material was recovered from STP-9 and consisted of masonry brick weighing 13.2 g (0.47oz), black glass that weighed 0.4g (0.01oz), and two metal square nails that weighed 8.3g. According to Chervenka, the dates of the nails can be determined by the heads. A square head can be dated from pre-1800 where as a round is more modern (Chervenka). With this information on the heads of the nail, we can use that as well as other dating techniques such as carbon 14 dating to see how old the nail actually is. Three more ceramics that were found a body of a prehistoric fabric impressed ceramic that weighed 17.0g (0.6 oz), a tempered shell rim that weighed 3.0g (0.11oz), and again the body of a Deptford ceramic was found. Like the previous samples found, this Ceramic is also check stamped. Three particular faunal remains were also found as well. Two of these remains were butchered. One was a modified mammal bone tool that weighed

0.9g(0.03oz). The other two faunal remains were both white tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). However, one was a long bone and the other was just called utilized. The long bone weighed 14.8g (0.52oz) and the other weighed 30.0g (1.05 oz).

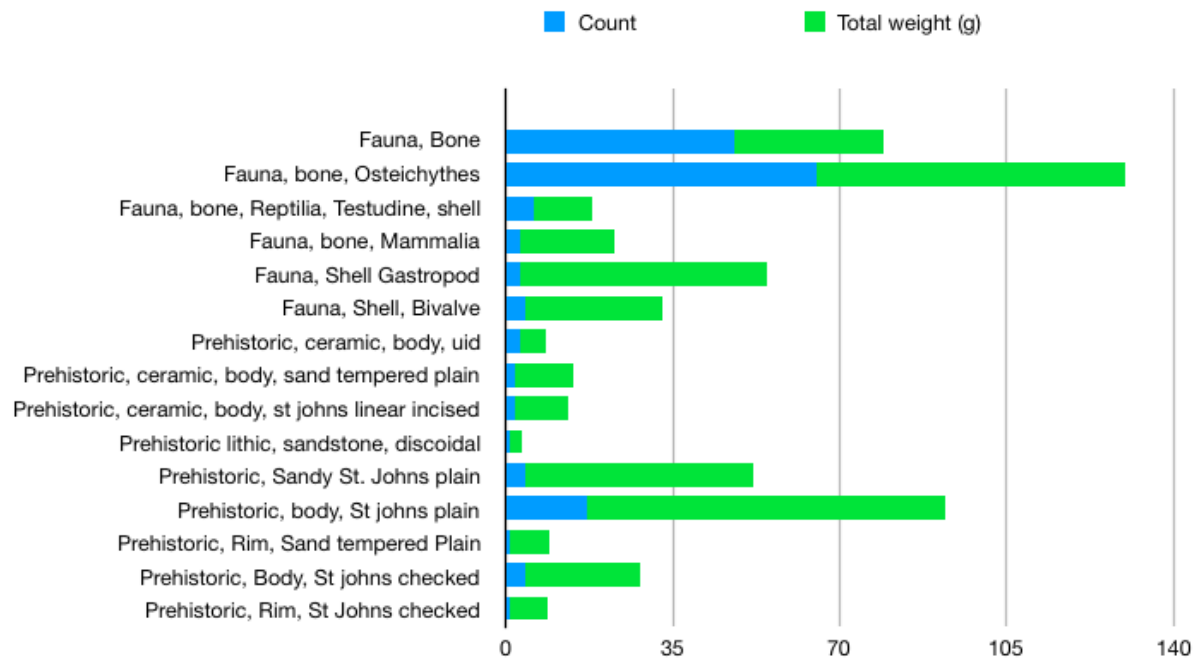


Table 3 Cultural Material Recovered from Transect 3.

Transect four had nine STPS conducted. More unidentified ceramic sherds were found this time around than anything else. The amount of *Gastropods* had also dropped drastically as well as can be seen in figure 5 below. However, this time around, more historical objects were present in this transect than in any of the previous that had been discussed. In STP five, an unidentified metal piece was found. This weighed in at 33.7g (1.2oz). Also on this transect in STP 8, were six pieces of black glass. All together that ended up weighing 0.8g (0.03oz). Also found in STP eight was a St. Johns net impressed rim sherd. In this transect, another square nail was found weighing in at 1.1g (0.04oz). Some more interesting items that were would be a nut

that had been burned. The nut would fall under the flora category and can give archaeologists an idea of the peoples diet. Found in both STP nine and eleven, 2.8g (0.09oz) in total of coal was found. The last two items found in transect 4 were both historic. One was a clay pipe stem that weighed 0.9g (0.03 oz) and the other was a historic piece of white ware that weighed 2.0 g (0.07 oz).

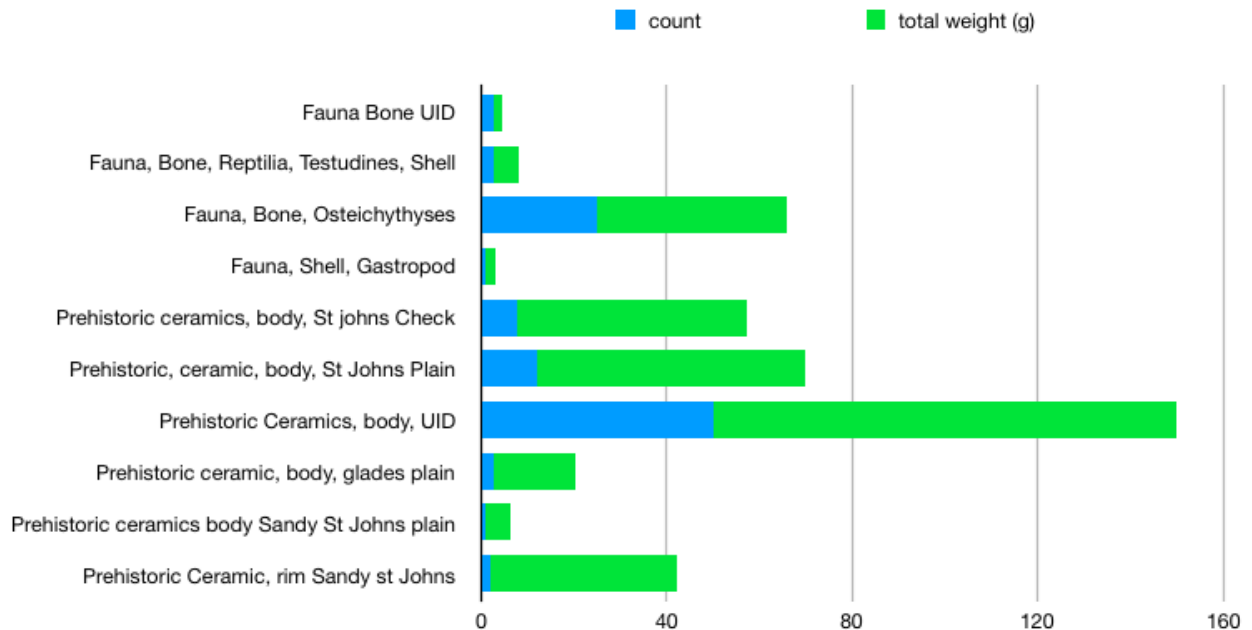


Table 4 Cultural Material Recovered from Transect 4.

Transect 5 had 3 STPS. STP1 and 2 were both negative but STP3 was positive. In STP 3, a single fragment of turtle shell weighing 1.9 g (0.07oz) was collected. A modern glass contained was discarded.

Transect 7 had only five STPs done. In these STPs, the turtle shells were mostly found and weighed 18g (0.6oz) The amount of Osteichthyfyes found were more than half as less than the turtle shell and weighed 8g (0.3 oz). In STP-4 One faunal remain that was found was a long *Aves* faunal remain. *Aves* is a category for birds. This bone weighed 1.3g (0.05 oz). A majority of the ceramics found were unknown. These unknown¹ ceramics also had the most weight combined. Table 5 below shows the results of the items found.

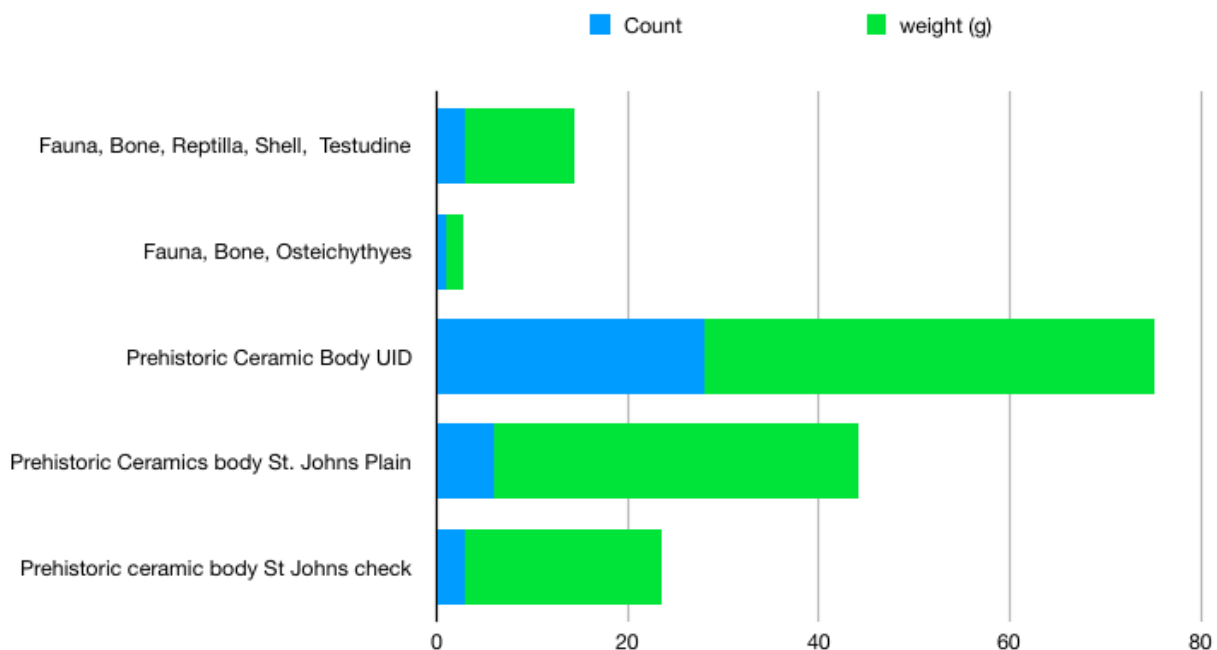


Table 5 Cultural Material Recovered from Transect 7.

Other material found includes Some of those items includes five historic square head nails that weighed 27.4g (0.96oz) all together that was found in STP1. STP 4 had a historical metal lamp fixture that weighed 34.2 g(1.2oz). Also found in STP 4 was a historic ceramic white ware. This white ware had a transfer print of blue on white and weighed 9.0g(0.31oz) as well as a *busycon sp.* This is a species of whelk. The people eat the animal that is inside and use the shell as a tool. In STP 5, an ironstone ceramic that weighed 3.1g (0.12oz) was found. Figure A at the

end of the paper shows an example of what Ironstone looks like. The last item found in this transect was a historical metal firearm cartridge base. This was a *Winchester* Blue Rival No. 12 and weighed 4.3g (0.15oz) and was found in STP-5.

Transect eight only had one STP. STP-1 contained four UIDed prehistoric sherds of weighing 7.0g (0.24oz). A subadult tibia fragment and two skeletal elements of white-tailed deer (*odocoileus Virginanus*) weighing 84.9 g (2.99oz) were recovered. Historic material recovered from the STP include three historic glass window panes found that weighed 5.7g (0.2oz), a glass milk glass that weighed 4.9g (0.17oz), and an ironstone sherd weighing 4.1 g (0.14oz). Materials not collected from the STP was masonry mortar, 15 unidentified historic metals, and 26 modern round nails.

Like transect 8, transect 9 only had one STP. The finds in this STP were not as broad as the previous one. All of the items found were all bodies of prehistoric ceramics. The ceramics were different from one another. For example, three sherds of Sandy St. Johns plain ceramics were found weighing in at 18.3g (0.65 oz). Additional ceramics that were identified include a sand tempered that weighed 5.6g (0.19oz) and a St. Johns plain and incised.

Transect 11 had 5 STPs. STP1, 65g (2.2oz) of *Osteichthyes* and unidentified fauna bones were found in the STPs. Found in STP2 were square metal nails that weighed 5.8g (0.20oz). In STP 2 and 3, 5 fauna *Aves* bone were found. One of these bones were the pelvis which weighed 4.1g (0.14oz) and the other four being long bones weighing 2.1g(0.07oz). A majority of the fauna bone found in this transect besides the *Osteichthyes* and the Unidentified bones were 24 ray mouth plates weighing 16.9g (0.59oz). One fauna shell was located and it was the *busycon Sp* columnella. This was a modified tool that weighed 51.6g (1.82oz). Two bases of a St. Johns

Plain ceramic that weighed 17.9 g (0.63oz) as well as two ceramic ironstones that weighed 30.4g (1.07oz) were found as well.

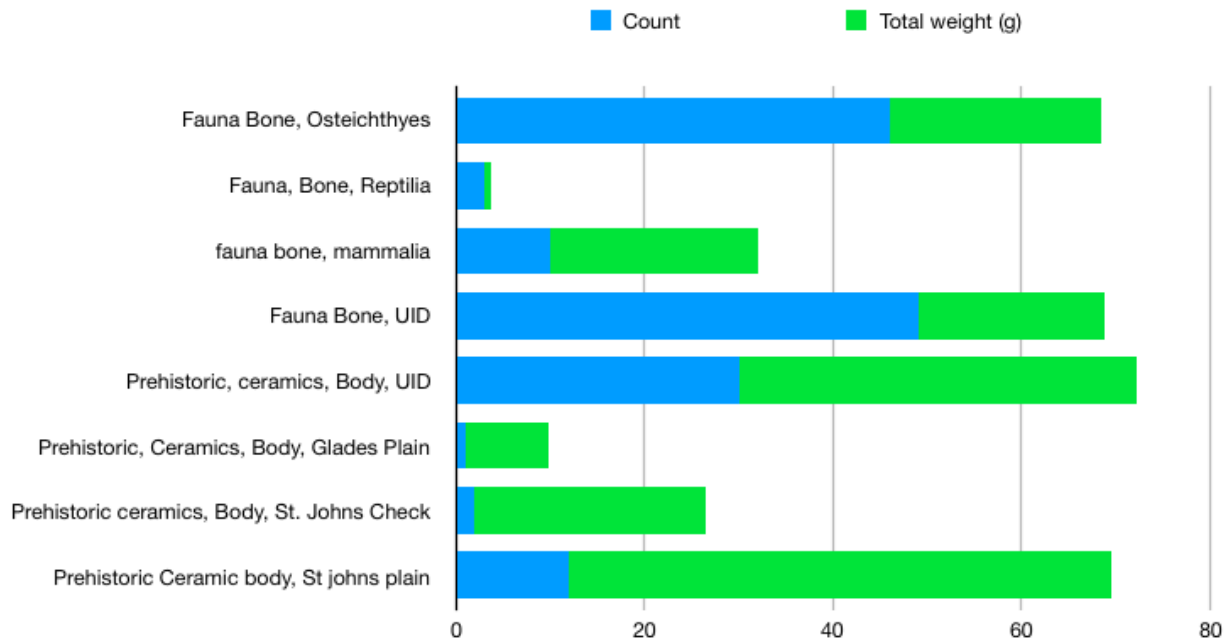


Table 6 Cultural Material Recovered from Transect 11.

In Transect 12, there were two STPs. In these STPS, three square metal nails that weighed 12.8g (0.45oz) were found as well as two bodies of the St. Johns plain sherds that weighed 32.9g (1.16oz) and one body of a sandy St. Johns plain ceramic that weighed 10.2g (0.36oz). 6 unidentified fauna bones as well as one fauna bone that was drilled had been found in this last transect. This bone was a *Osteichthyes* centrum and it weighed 0.7g(0.02oz) . Other bones that were found were two undrilled *Osteichthyes* centrum and one *Osteichthyes* vertebra.

Throughout each transects there has been a repeat of some of the items found. In Figure 8, the image shows the ceramics that were found throughout the ten transects. The blue lines indicate the the number of transects that have the corresponding ceramics present. Much like Figure 8, Figure 9 below shows the faunal remains found in each transect and where they repeat.

The blue lines indicate the number of transects that have the corresponding faunal remains present. Both charts are out of ten since there were ten transects that had been documented. From looking at the material found, we can see that the prehistoric material was found mostly near the southern boundaries of the site. The historic materials start to be present more towards the current northern boundaries. Starting from Transect 4 onwards, we can see historic material showing up in the STPs. Throughout the whole site, the presence of prehistoric materials is found and in great quantities. In Transect 1 and 2 we can spot the most amount of prehistoric artifacts that were discovered. From the Southern boundaries, more materials were present in the STPs. In T-5,8,9 there is a significant decline of materials being found. In the transects 11 and 12, there were more artifacts being found but not as much as T-1 and 2. With this information and further research conducted on this site, archaeologists will be able to learn more about the culture of the past at site 8BR85.

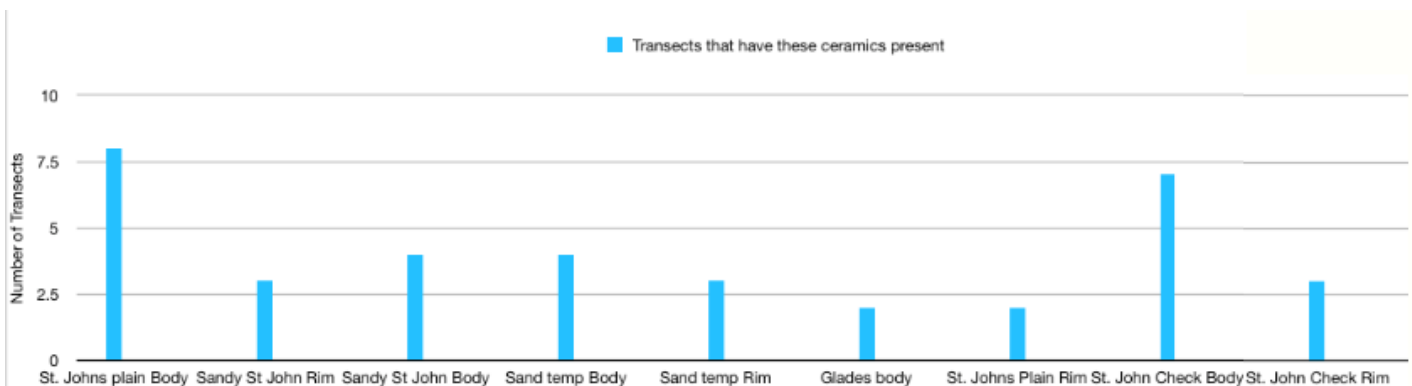


Table 7 Graph of the ceramics present in each of the transects.

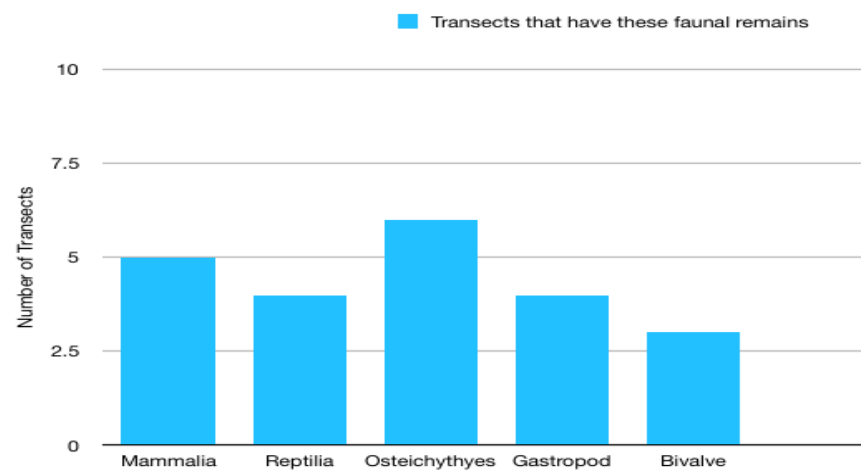


Table 8 Graph of Faunal remains found in each transect



Figure 2 Ironstone found in 8Br85 season 2

(photo by Thomas Penders)

¹All ceramics equal to or less than 2 cm (in) in size were classified as UID ceramics. Their diminutive size makes an accurate identification impossible.

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