2013 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING REPORT

Introduction

Archaeologist Robyn Fleming with a field assistant spent 7 days (September 16-22, 2013) on the Lower Coast conducting an archaeological assessment of the stone walls and features located there (see Figure 1, an aerial view showing the structures). In all 92 test pits were dug, 82 on the east site (now designated CeAi-03 by the Provincial Archaeology Office); 6 on the west side (CeAi-04), and 4 at Valna Fad.

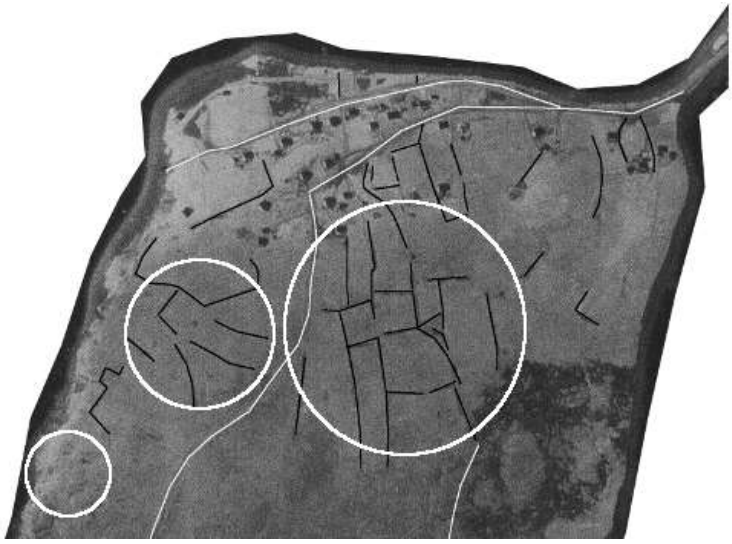


Figure 1: Aerial view (north up) of Lower Coast; the subject areas inside the white circles; the stone walls and structures are enhanced in black.

Methodology

A test pit, sometimes called shovel archaeology, is a preliminary method of determining the presence of historic resources in a study area. First the sod is removed, and the soil is removed, usually by trowel, and sifted or otherwise gone through for artifacts which can include metal, ceramic, glass, bone, wood, worked stone, and other man-made or man-modified materials. Usually about 50cm square, test pits can be extended if something interesting is discovered or if boulders are encountered. Test pits are dug to an undisturbed (also called sterile) soil layer, but rarely go deeper than about 50cm; in the Lower Coast most test pits were about 30cm deep.

Test pit reports show the thickness of the sod and humus layer, then the thickness of the strata (layers) of soils below and the depth of the top of the sterile layer. In the Lower Coast study area sod thicknesses ranged from 3cm to 10cm. Stratum 1 thickness ranged from 5cm to 36cm; stratum 2 (not always present) from <1cm to 44cm; stratum 3 from <1cm to 28cm. A few had stratum 4, usually not completely covering the surface area of the pit.

Thickness of various strata are not always even, so some are reported as a range of thicknesses from one side to the other; in some cases a stratum may be just a thin layer of color between two other strata.

Artifacts are reported as found at a certain depth below surface (top of the sod) and in a particular stratum or sometimes between two strata. Generally artifacts that fell on the surface of the ground are older the deeper they are uncovered in the pit.

The various strata are analyzed to create cross-sections of the study area strata and assist future efforts by indicating higher priority areas, based on soil strata thickness and, of course, artifact discovery. In the Lower Coast study area the oldest artifacts (pipe stems) were discovered near the north end, closest to the existing houses. It is anticipated this area will become the focus of season two testing, as well as along Curries Lane which runs south from the beach to the stone fences.

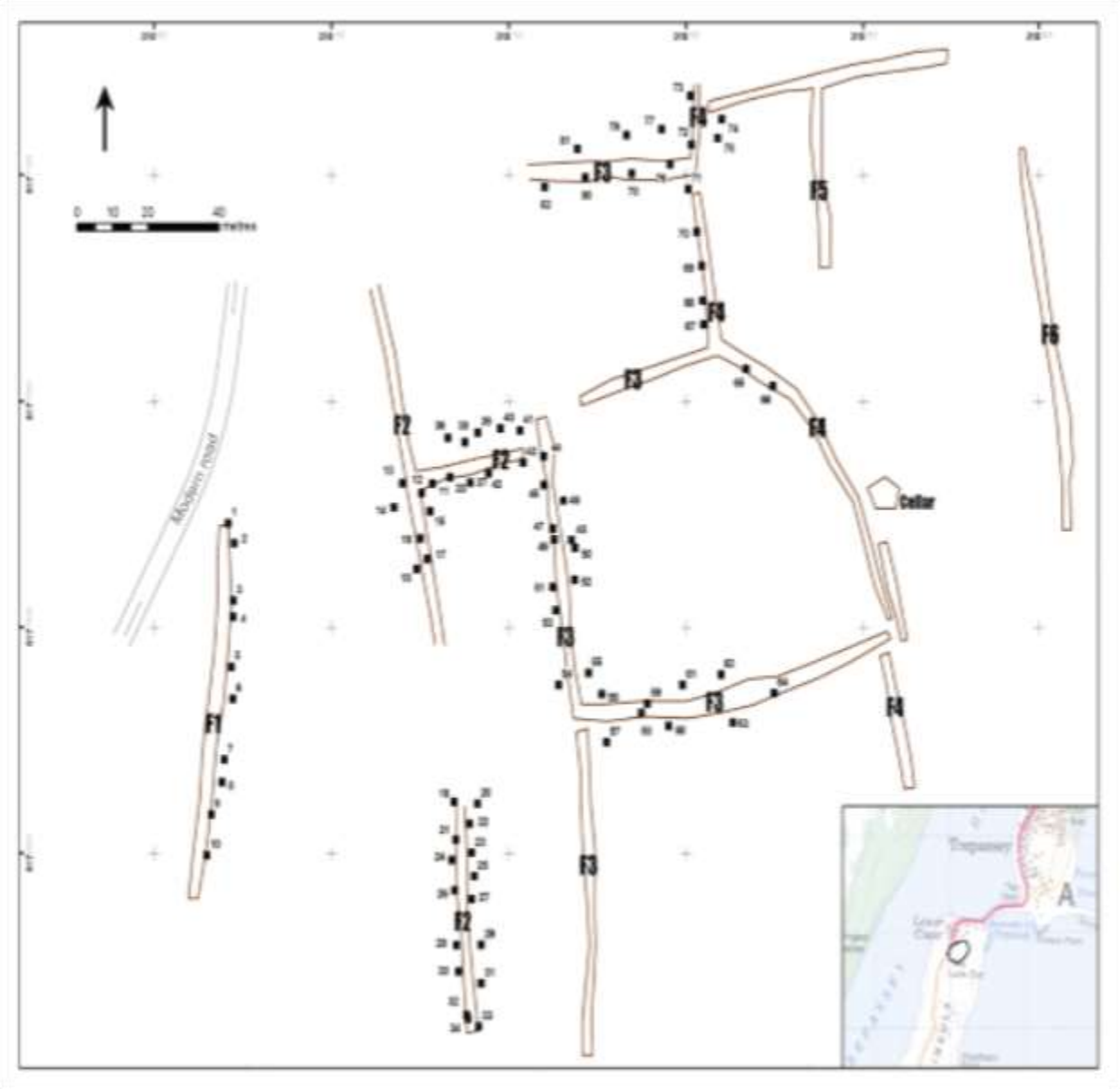


Figure 2: Map of the study are showing structure labels and test pit locations. Section labels are repeated in the tables below where results for each test pit are shown, including sod thickness, strata thickness, total depth of the test pit and any artifacts found or other notes.

Artifacts

Artifacts were found in 17 test pits.

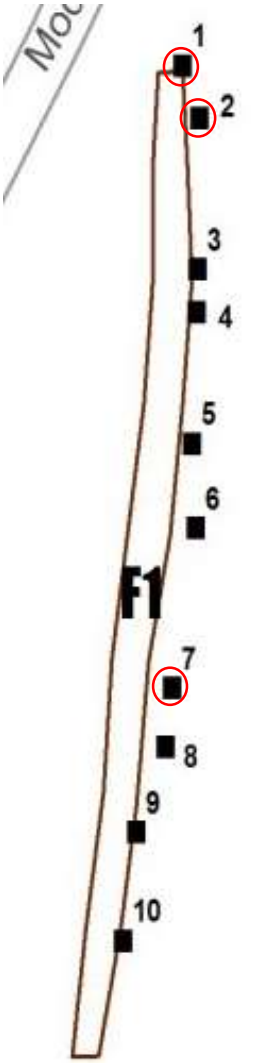
Pit #	Sod cm	Strata 1	Strata 2	Strata 3	Strata 4	Total Depth	Artifact descriptions
1	3	15	4	6		30	1 glass fragment in 1
2	3	28				30	1 nail in 2
7	5	19-25	12	2-3		33-39	1 ceramic sherd in 1
13	3	33-36					7 ceramic sherds in 1
17	4	12-18	3-4				1 nail in 1
25	9	19				28	1 nail below sod
36	5-8	17	14			39	1 glass fragment in 1
40	5	5-6	15	6-9	<1	38	1 ceramic sherd in 1; clay piece in 2
41	7	9	10	<1		35	2 ceramic sherds in 1
49	5	3-8				30	1 wooden peg in 1; 1 post end in 2
66	7-9					24	1 nail fragment in 1
72	6-8	15-19	10-12	5		42	1 nail fragment in 1
74	7	8	15			31	3 ceramic sherds in 1
79	5	7-9	21			39	2 pipe stems in 1; nail fragment in 2
83	5	5-8				35-38	1 glass bottle fragment in 2
86	6-9						2 nails, 1 glass fragment and 6 ceramic sherds in 1
87	9					32	modern glass and plastic

Conclusions

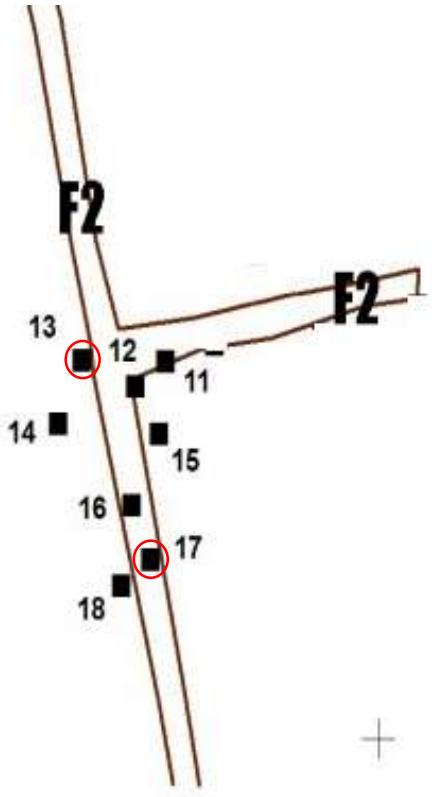
A primary objective of the survey was to add to the knowledge of Trepassey's cultural history, specifically as it relates to early settlement and land use. Evidence from CeAi-03 and CeAi-04 indicate the Lower Coast was used by the resident population, many of whom were Irish or had Irish ancestry, as early as 1720, but more likely post-1830. Construction of the fences by a former Irish population would not be surprising as double stone walls are present on the Irish landscape (McAfee 1997). Both CeAi-03 and CeAi-04 contain dry stone fence works which due to the absence of cultivated land were undoubtedly used to shelter and restrict the movement of livestock.

No artifacts were recovered from the 19th century settlement site, known locally as Valna Fad. If local residents' information is accurate, it is possible the people who resided there were involved in the construction and use of the west fences. A detailed examination may support this supposition.

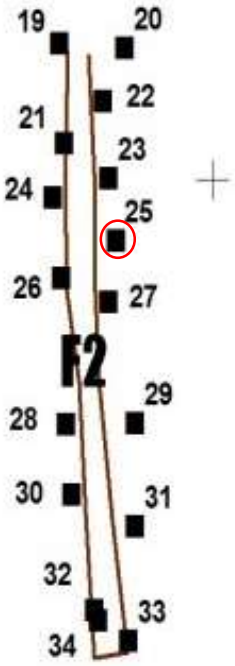
Other features of the Lower Coast include the beach and barrisway-like isthmus that would have provided ample room for drying fish. Archaeological testing closer to the beach might return evidence of an earlier occupation. Due to current settlement, disturbance may be a factor however it was just south of the settlement where two pipe stems suggesting an early date were recovered. In addition, an overgrown path known locally as Curries Lane runs along Fence 4 and extends north to the beach. Testing along the lane would add to the knowledge of use of the Lower Coast.



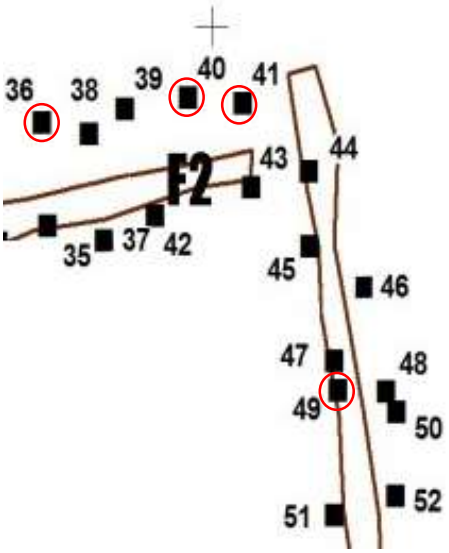
		Strata					
Pit	**Sod**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**TD**	**Artifacts and notes**
1	3	15	4	6		30	glass fragment in 1
2	3	28				30	nail in 2; stopped in wall slump
3	3	23-33	20-30			30-37	
4	6	12-22	2			27-33	
5	3	15	4-8	2-3		28	
6	2	18-27				20-29	stopped in wall slump
7	5	19-25	12	2-3		33-39	ceramic sherd in 1
8	4	11-12	13-17			29-32	
9	6-9	6-8	10-13			35	
10	4	6				10	boulder



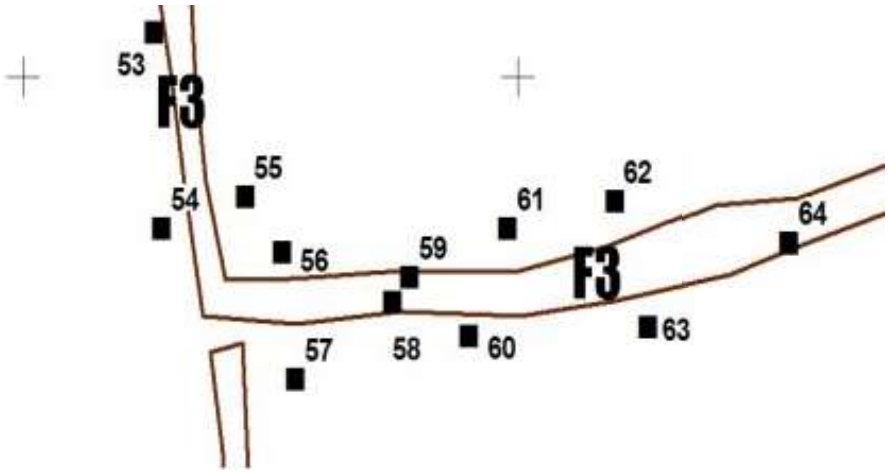
		Strata					
Pit	**Sod**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**TD**	**Artifacts and notes**
11	3	14	5			32	
12	4	6-14	1-19			10-19	fence base
13	3	33-36				40	7 ceramic sherds in 1
14	9	18-25	20	2-5		35	
15	10	20	2-5			31-35	water
16	8	20	3-8	5		35	
17	4	12-18	3-4			22	stopped by boulder; 1 nail in 1
18	3	7-9				10	bedrock



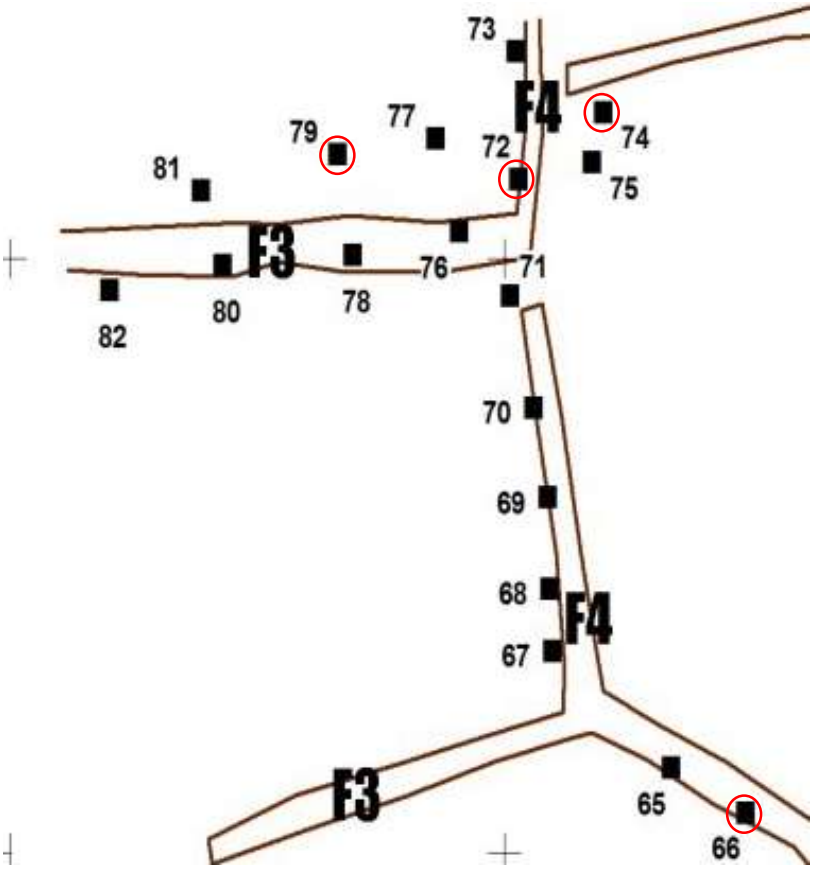
			Strata				
Pit	**Sod**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**TD**	**Artifacts and notes**
19	5-6	8	7-9	2-3	1	29	
20	5	14-18	3	<1		27-30	
21	7	13	3-9	3		30	
22	9	15	1			23-25	
23	5	11	9			25	
24	4	22-26	4	4-8	2-5	42	
25	9	19				28	1 nail below sod
26	6	19-23	2	<1		34	
27	6-8	24-26	2-3	<1		40	
28	4-5	13-17	<1	6-9	<1	36	
29	5	13	<1			30	
30	4	13-17	<1			30	
31	4	9-11	4	3-5	<1	30	
32	8	13	5	<1		34	
33	5-7	15				30	
34	7-9	11	5	4-6		32	



		Strata					
Pit	**Sod**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**TD**	**Artifacts and notes**
35	6-9	11-20	2	<1		35	
36	5-8	17	14			39	glass fragment in 1
37	5-8	15				31	
38	7	18	16			31	
39	7-9	6-9			<1	31	
40	5	5-6	15	6-9	<1	38	ceramic sherd in 1; clay piece in 2
41	7	9	10	<1		35	2 ceramic sherd in 1
42	5	10	3	3-8		27	
43	5		17	<1		32	
44	7	14	9			34	
45	4					25	large rocks
46	4	17				32	
47	4	10	10			24	
48	4	8-12				20	water
49	5	3-8				30	wooden peg in 1; post end in 2
50	4-7	10				26	
51	5	11				18	
52	5	7-11	10-17	4-10		36	



			Strata				
Pit	**Sod**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**TD**	**Artifacts and notes**
53	5	10	5	5		25	
54	7-10	15-20				25	boulder
55	5	14-20				22	
56	5-7	8-13				18	collapsed wall stones
57	5					18	
58	5	8-10	10	4		28	
59	5	8	5			28	
60	6	13	17			35	
61	8	20	5-7	6		41	
62	7	12	4-8			38	
63	5	10	8-11			35	
64	7	16-19				35	water



		Strata					
Pit	**Sod**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**TD**	**Artifacts and notes**
65	9	15	10-14			35	
66	7-9					24	nail fragment in 1
67	6	12-17	8-11	5		35	
68	5	10-12				30	
69	6	11	10-12			31	
70	5	11	6-10			26	
71	5	14	12-15			38	
72	6-8	15-19	10-12	5		42	1 nail fragment in 1
73	6-9	8-11	10-14			35	
74	7	8	15			31	3 ceramic sherds in 1
75	5-7	7	22			35	
76	6	3	15			33	
77	6	9	13-15			33	
78	5	8				33	
79	5	7-9	21			39	2 pipe stems in 1; nail fragment in 2
80	6	10-14	11-15			34	
81	5	8-10	22-28			43	
82	5	9	10-13			28	

The west area was not of prime importance for the study and the test pits were dug for information purposes; they were not mapped for this report but the locations are recorded for future testing.

West fence area

			Strata				
Pit	**Sod**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**TD**	**Artifacts and notes**
83	5	5-8				35-38	glass bottle fragment in 2
84	6	19				29	
85	6	7-12				40	boulder
86	6-9					20	2 nails, 1 glass fragment and 6 ceramic sherds in 1
87	9					32	modern glass and plastic
88	6	16-19				28	

Valna Fad

			Strata				
Pit	**Sod**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**TD**	**Artifacts and notes**
89	6-8	12-14				38	large rocks
90	6	38-44				44-50	large rocks
91	8					45	
92	9-12					25	

White stoneware with leaf and flower relief mold recovered from test pit 2.