

**THE STAGE 1-3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
OF THE BAYOU SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT,
BLOCK B AND PART OF BLOCK C,
REGISTERED PLAN 1233,
TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN, COUNTY OF SIMCOE**



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Submitted to

1522417 Ontario Ltd.

and

Ministry of Culture

Prepared by

Archaeological Assessments Ltd.

2227 Wuthering Heights Way, Oakville, Ontario L6M 0A3

Telephone - 905-469-8690 Facsimile - 905-469-8702

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PROJECT PERSONNEL

Project Director	Richard Sutton
Report Preparation	Richard Sutton, Glenn Kearsley
Field Director	Glenn Kearsley
Field Assistants	Ian Dutcher, Sean Henry

CLIENT CONTACT

Mr. Barry Peyton
Provista Group Inc.
Box 31, Green River Drive
RR1
Washago, ON
L0K 2B0
T: 705-689-0852
F: 705-689-0853

SUMMARY

This report details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 1-3 Archaeological Assessment of the Bayou Subdivision Development, Block B And Part Of Block C, Registered Plan 1233, Township Of Severn, County Of Simcoe. The assessment was conducted on behalf of 1522417 Ontario Ltd. It consisted of three sequential stages: Stage 1, background research; Stage 2, archaeological survey; and Stage 3, test excavations at one archaeological site.

The 5.8 hectare subject property consists of forested tablelands and low lying poorly drained lands associated with a creek. The physical assessment was conducted in November, 2006. All of the well drained sections of the property were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals.

One archaeological site was discovered as a result of the assessment and has been registered as the Bayou site (BeGu-22), a Late Iroquoian campsite (ca. 1400-1650 A.D.). Stage 3 test excavations were carried out at the site in November, 2006. The results of the Stage 3 assessment indicate that the Bayou site is a significant archaeological resource. The Bayou site (BeGu-22) is located on Lots 7 & 8 of the proposed development. This site will require either preservation through avoidance or Stage 4 excavation prior to the development of Lots 7 & 8.

It is recommended that partial clearance be granted for this subdivision development with the exception of Lots 7 & 8. No soil disturbance or development is to be allowed on Lots 7 & 8 prior to the Stage 4 excavation of the Bayou site (BeGu-22). The remaining sections of this proposed development do not contain any archaeological resources and should be cleared of any archeological conditions attached to their development.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 1-3 Archaeological Assessment of the Bayou Subdivision Development, Block B And Part Of Block C, Registered Plan 1233, Township Of Severn, County Of Simcoe. The assessment was conducted on behalf of 1522417 Ontario Ltd. It consisted of three sequential stages: Stage 1, background research; Stage 2, archaeological survey; and Stage 3, test excavations at one archaeological site. The assessment was conducted in order to support a subdivision draft plan application.

Permission for access to the property and to remove and curate artifacts was granted by the land owner. All fieldwork was conducted under archaeological consulting licence No. PO-13 issued to the firm of Archaeological Assessments Ltd. The assessment was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act (Government of Ontario 1980), and with the technical guidelines for archaeological assessments formulated by the Ministry of Culture (1993).

2.0 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The 5.8 hectare subject property is located just east of Highway 11, 7.5km north of the Town of Orillia (Figure 1).

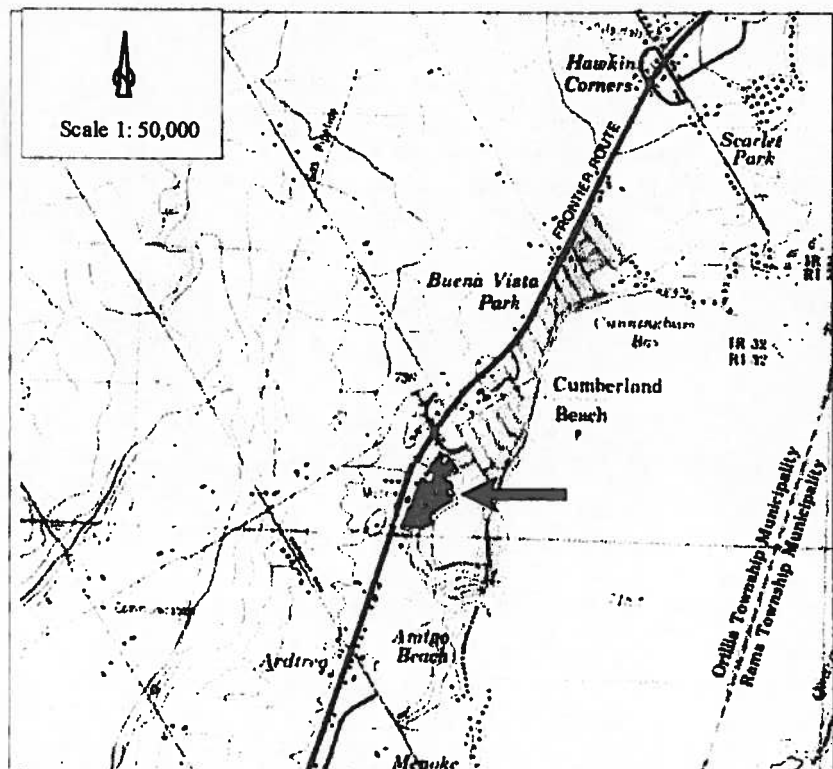


Figure 1. Location of the Subject Property

The subject property consists of an irregularly shaped area located on both sides of Shadow Creek, on the north and south sides of Grand Tamarack Crescent. The property occupies some forested tablelands as well as lower lying poorly drained lands associated with Shadow Creek. Shadow Creek drains into Lake Couchiching, which is located 350 metres east of the subject property

There are several areas of disturbance on the property. The subject lands located north of Grand Tamarack Crescent on both sides of Shadow Creek consist mainly of fill comprised of mottled soil with gravel and brick fragments, overlooking low lying poorly drained lands. South of Grand Tamarack Crescent and west of Shadow Creek there is another disturbed area consisting of a gravel road allowance (Street A) and a sewer line. The area east of the creek and south of Grand Tamarack Crescent consists largely of fill containing mottled soil, asphalt fragments and gravel.

The subject property is situated in the Simcoe Lowlands physiographic region which runs along the west side of Lake Couchiching in this area. The Simcoe Lowlands consist of a series of steep sided, flat-floored valleys which were flooded by glacial Lake Algonquin (Chapman and Putnam 1984:176).

3.0 STAGE 1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

METHODS

The first stage of the assessment consisted of background research. This was conducted in order to:

- gather together all of the readily available information on any previous archaeological surveys in the area;
- determine the locations of any registered and unregistered archaeological sites within and adjacent to the subject property; and
- identify areas of archaeological potential which represent concerns for Stage 2 field survey.

In order to provide context for evaluating archaeological planning concerns, a study area was established which included all lands within a 2 kilometre radius of the subject property. The Stage 1 background research included a variety of published and unpublished reports. Data on registered sites located within the study area was obtained from the Archaeological Sites Data Base (ASDB) of the Ontario Ministry of Culture in Toronto. The ASDB houses site record forms for registered sites, as well as published and unpublished reports on past surveys, assessments and excavations. Information on potential Euro-Canadian archaeological planning concerns was derived from an examination of the 1881 Illustrated Historical Atlas of Simcoe County (Beldon 1881).

RESULTS

The background research confirmed that no archaeological sites had been registered on the subject property prior to this assessment. The background research also determined that there is only one archaeological site located within a 2 kilometre radius of the property. The previously registered site is the Artrea Island North site (BcGw-47), a Contact Period Huron village (ca. A.D. 1600-1650) located 1km west of the subject property. The scarcity of previously registered sites in this area merely reflects the fact that very little intensive archaeological survey work has taken place in this region. The subject property is situated in an area which was very attractive to native groups who intensively occupied this region in the Middle to Late Iroquoian period (ca. A.D. 1275-1650).

Historic mapping (Beldon 1881: Figure 2) indicates that in the late nineteenth century the subject property was situated on Lot 5, Concession 9, in the Township of North Orillia. The owner of the lot at that time is not shown on the map. However, it should be noted that historical maps of this type were produced by subscription and only the homes of wealthier land owners tended to be illustrated along with the principal roads and villages. Also, homesteads dating to the early 19th century would often not be illustrated on these later maps.

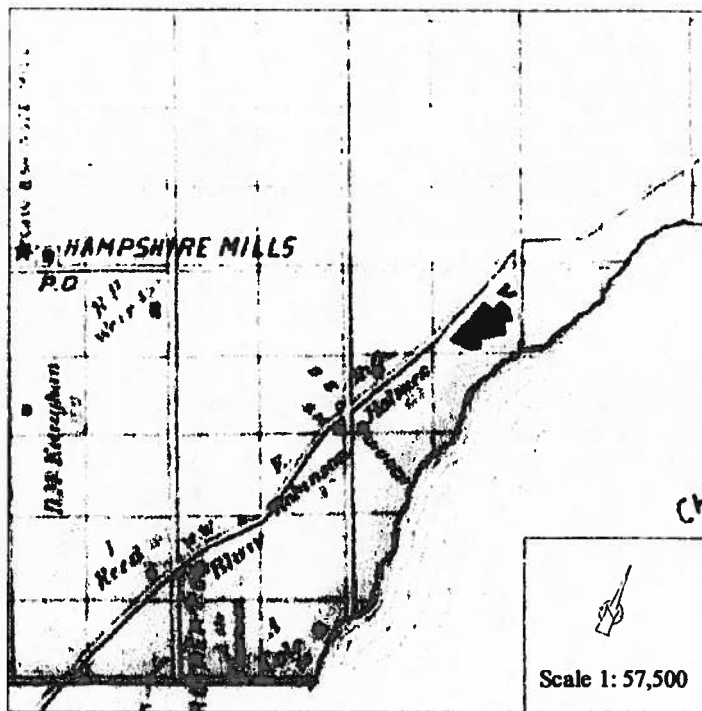


Figure 2. 1881 Historical Atlas Map of North Orillia Township Showing the Approximate Location of the Subject Property

4.0 RESULTS OF THE STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

SURVEY METHODS AND COVERAGE

The Stage 2 field assessment was conducted between November 12-13, 2006, under overcast and mild conditions. All of the well drained tableland areas on the property were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals (Figure 2). Each test pit measured about 30 cm (one foot) in diameter and was excavated to subsoil. The soil from each test pit was screened through 6mm mesh in order to look for artifacts. Each test pit was then backfilled. The test pit profiles revealed a sandy loam topsoil that was only 10-20cm deep, suggesting that these lands are relatively undisturbed and have never been cultivated. The low lying poorly drained lands which dominate this property have no archaeological potential and were not test pitted. Disturbed lands associated with the gravel road on the property, along with areas covered in fill and building debris, also have no archaeological potential and were therefore not test pitted.

RESULTS

One archaeological site was discovered as a result of the assessment and has been registered as the Bayou site (BeGu-22), a Late Iroquoian campsite. The Bayou site is described in more detail in the following section of this report.

5.0 THE BAYOU SITE (BeGu-22)

Location and Description

The Bayou site is a small Late Iroquoian campsite occupied ca.1400-1650 A.D. The site is located in the southwestern section of the subject property on Lot 8 of the proposed development (Figure 3). When a 10 metre wide buffer area is included around the site, the area to be protected from development also extends north into Lot 7. The site is located on a small forested peninsula surrounded on three sides by low lying poorly drained lands. Site dimensions are 30 metres north-south by 15 metres east-west.

History of Investigations

This site was discovered in November, 2006 while shovel test pitting this property at 5 metre intervals. Three positive test pits containing between 1-13 native ceramic artifacts each, were found in this location. Our Stage 3 test excavations were then carried out at the site from November 13-14, 2006. A temporary datum (200N 100E) was established beside the location of one of the positive test pits. A five metre grid system was then set up and a total of 13 one metre square test units were then excavated at 1-5 metre intervals across the site (Figure 4). All of the soils from each square were screened through 6mm mesh to facilitate the recovery of artifacts. Five of the 13 test units were positive and had artifact densities ranging from 2-88 ceramic and chipped stone artifacts per one metre unit. All of the test units revealed relatively undisturbed soil profiles ranging in depth from 15-21 centimeters, suggesting that this area has never been cultivated. One possible hearth feature was observed in the subsoil of Unit 200N 100E.



Figure 3. Archaeological Survey Coverage, Techniques and Site Location

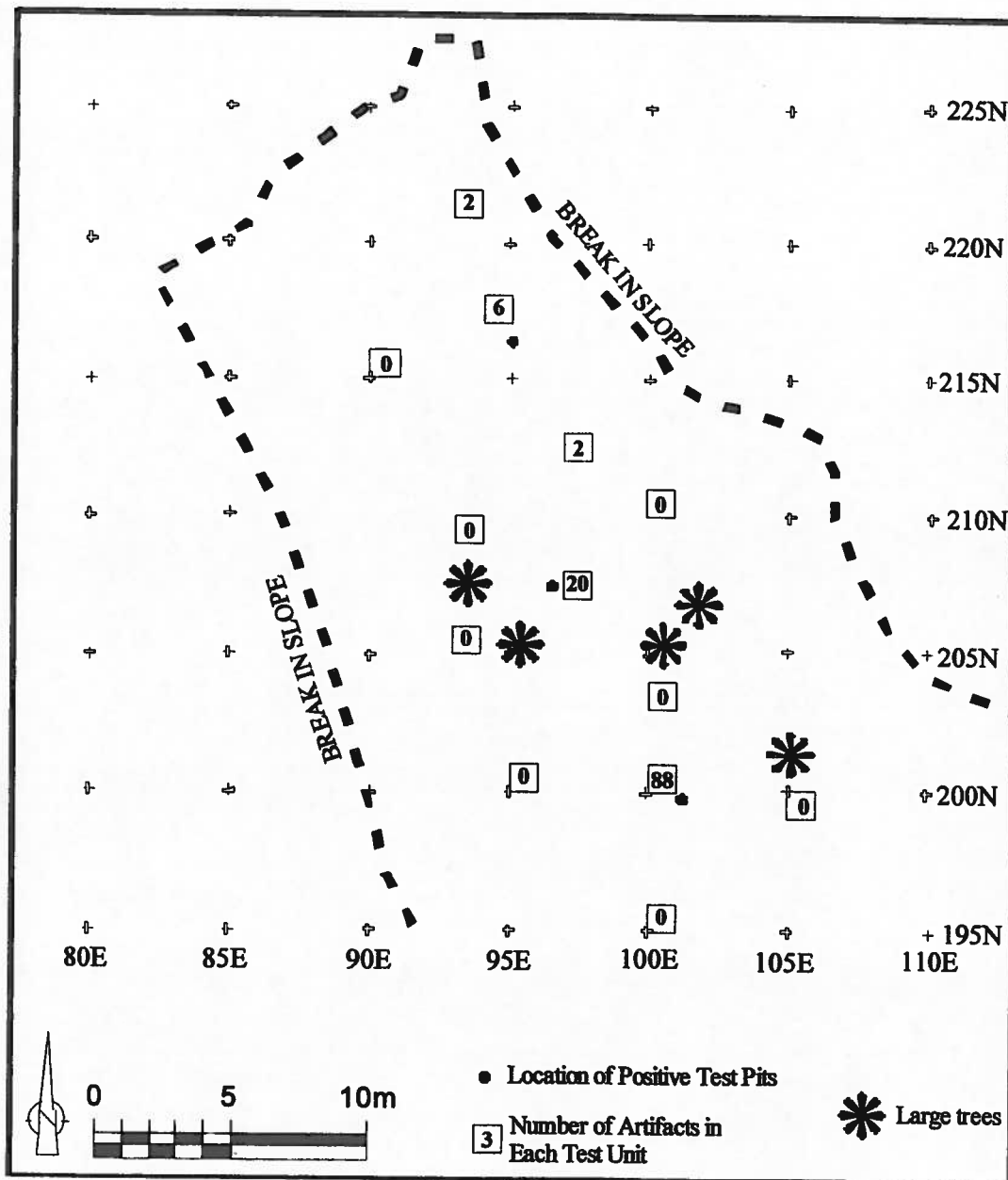


Figure 4. Results of the Stage 3 Assessment of the Bayou Site (BeGu-22)

Artifact Description

A total of 134 artifacts were recovered from the site as a result of the Stage 2-3 investigations including 105 fractured ceramic sherds, 13 body sherds, 5 rim sherd fragments, one shoulder sherd, nine chipped lithics and one faunal fragment.

All five of the rim sherd fragments were fragmented and could not be identified to type. Two of the rim fragments were missing their upper collar, lip and interior. The lower collar of one of these vessels was decorated with an incised opposed motif, while the other had incised obliques. Both neck areas were decorated with stamped punctates or short obliques.

The third rim sherd fragment consisted of the lip and upper collar area, and was missing its base and neck. The lip was plain and the upper collar was decorated with incised obliques. The plain interior of the collar appeared to be convex in shape. The fourth rim sherd fragment consisted of the lip and upper collar area, and was missing its interior, base and neck. The lip was plain and the upper collar was decorated with an incised opposed motif. The fifth rim sherd fragment also consisted of the lip and upper collar area, and was missing its interior, base and neck. The lip was decorated with short stamped obliques and the upper collar was decorated with incised obliques. Although none of the rim sherd fragments could be identified to type, the presence of simple incised motifs indicates that the site dates to the Late Iroquoian period, when this type of decoration was the norm.

Most of the body sherds were plain (n=11). Two body sherds had a smoothed over ribbed paddle surface treatment. The shoulder sherd was plain and carinated in shape.

The chipped stone assemblage included 6 flake fragments (5 quartzite, 1 huronian chert), one biface thinning flake (onondaga chert), one primary flake (quartzite) and one piece of shatter (balsam lake chert). The wide variety of local till cherts and imported cherts that were recovered from the site is typical for this region where there was a scarcity of high quality local chert sources.

Evaluation of Significance

The contents and size of the Bayou site suggests that it is a Late Iroquoian campsite which was occupied for a relatively short period of time. The site probably represents a temporary campsite which was used for hunting and/or gathering activities. The Bayou site is considered to be a significant archaeological resource and a planning concern. Iroquoian campsites are relatively rare because they are often difficult to identify due to their small size and low density of artifacts. Consequently, the examination of this type of site can make a significant contribution to our understanding of Iroquoian settlement- subsistence patterns. It is recommended that if the site can not be preserved and avoided by future development, that it be subjected to Stage 4 excavation. This would involve the block excavation of a series of one metre units in the richest artifact bearing areas of the site. This would be followed by shovel shining and trowelling the surface of the subsoil in an attempt to identify any potential subsurface settlement patterns, such as post moulds and features. Any potential subsurface features and post moulds must then be recorded and excavated.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

As detailed in this report, one archaeological site was discovered as a result of the assessment and has been registered as the Bayou site (BeGu-22), a Late Iroquoian campsite (ca. 1400-1650 A.D.). The results of the Stage 3 assessment indicate that the Bayou site is a significant archaeological resource. The Bayou site (BeGu-22) is located on Lots 7 & 8 of the proposed development, including a 10 metre buffer around the site. It is recommended that partial clearance be granted for this subdivision development with the exception of Lots 7 & 8.

No soil disturbance or development is to be allowed on Lots 7 & 8 prior to the Stage 4 excavation of the Bayou site (BeGu-22). The remaining sections of this proposed development do not contain any archaeological resources and should be cleared of any archeological conditions attached to their development.

Notwithstanding the above, no archaeological survey can be considered to totally negate the potential for deeply buried cultural remains, including human burials. In consequence, it is recommended that the archaeological staff of the Ontario Ministry of Culture (416-314-7143) should be contacted immediately if any deeply buried archaeological remains are discovered during construction. MCL, as well as the Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, should also be notified immediately if any human remains are discovered.

7.0 REFERENCES CITED

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1993 **Archaeological Assessment Technical Guidelines. (Stage 1-3 and Reporting Format).** Heritage & Libraries Branch, Ministry of Culture, Toronto.



**lands, Central Section of Property
(north)**



**Plate 2. Shadow Creek, Southern Section of Property
(view south)**



**bed Lands Associated With Street A,
al Section of Property (view south)**



**Plate 4. Low Lying Poorly Drained Lands. Central Section
of Property (view west)**



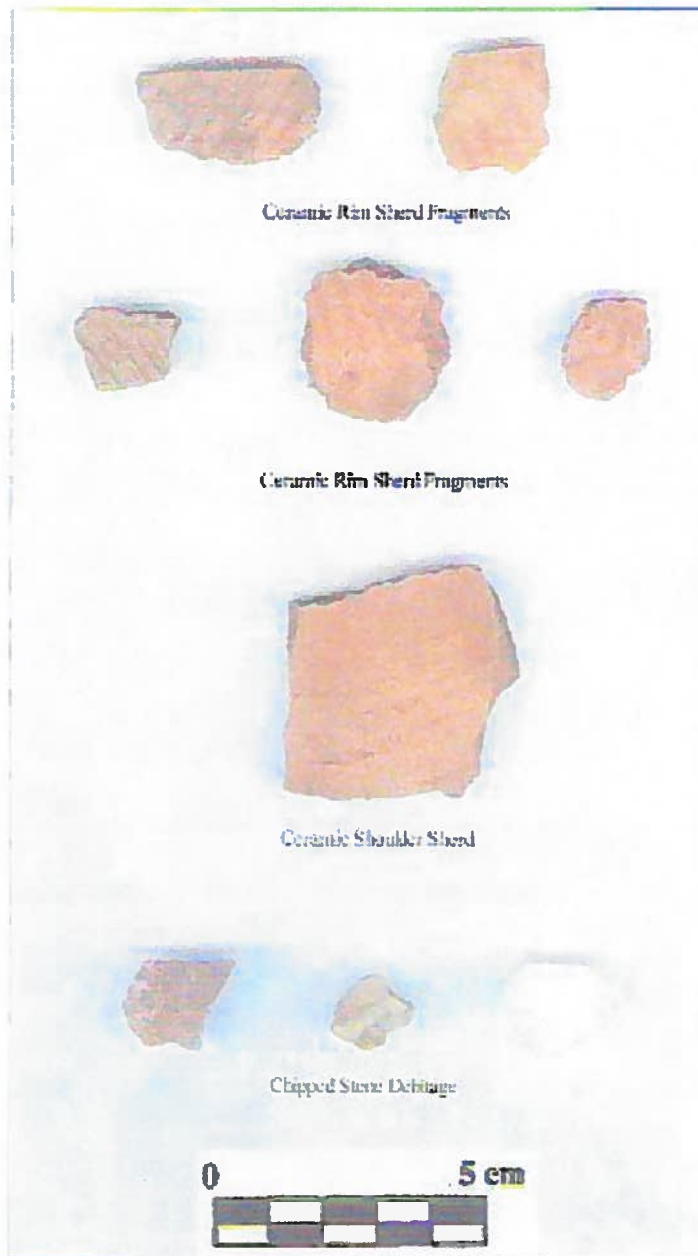


Plate 7. Bayou Site (BeGu-22) Artifacts

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE

PRECONTACT SITE ARTIFACT CATALOGUE LEGEND

FSH - Fractured Sherd	BSH - Body Sherd
RSH - Rim Sherd	SSH - Shoulder Sherd
NSH - Neck Sherd	PIP - Pipes
FRA - Flake Fragments	BTF - Biface Thinning Flakes
SHA - Shatter	PRI - Primary Flakes
PDE - Primary Decortication Flakes	SDE - Secondary Decortication Flakes
BIF - Bifaces	PRO - Projectile Points
COR - Core	SCR - Scrapers
UTI - Utilized Flakes	GRA - Gravers
DRI - Drills	GRO - Groundstone
ROU - Roughstone	

BAYOU SITE (BeGu-22) ARTIFACT CATALOGUE

UNIT	FSH	BSH	RSH	SSH	BTF	FRA	PRI	SHA	FAU	TOTALS
Test Pits	13	3								16
200N 100E	76	9	1	1				1		88
208N 97E	13	1	4			2				20
212N 97E						2				2
217N 94E	3					1	1		1	6
221N 93E					1	1				2
TOTALS	105	13	5	1	1	6	1	1	1	134