

TWO LATE WOODLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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ABSTRACT.—Two Late Woodland Sites in Lake County, Illinois are described. The Beake Site, consisting of burials and pits, was occupied by Late Woodland and Upper Mississippian peoples, but at different times. The Half Day Club Site, consisting of burials and pits, was occupied by Upper Mississippian peoples who were in contact with Late Woodland peoples.

Two Indian village sites, the Beake Site and the Half Day Club Site, in Lake County, Illinois had been known to Illinois archaeologists for several years. Both sites have been destroyed by gravel operators. This report brings together the earlier information and data salvaged during the destruction of the sites.

THE BEAKE SITE

The Beake Site (IAS No. L-3) was located in the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Township 45 North, Range 11 East, south of State Highway 20 (Belvidere Road) and north of the first intermittent stream on the west bank of the Des Plaines River, approximately five miles west of the City of Waukegan in Lake County in northeastern Illinois. The area excavated was on the floodplain of the river (Figure 1). Burials from the site were reported earlier by Young, Wenner and Bluhm (1961). The author is grateful to Mr. David J. Wenner, Jr. who furnished the notes for the following report.

The scant surface collection from the site indicates that it was not intensively occupied by the Indians. But, as the site was located in a gravel pit, it is possible that some materials were removed along with the gravel. The archaeological remains discussed here consisted of a series of twelve pits or features which were partly removed by the gravel operations. In some cases half or less of some of them remained.

All the features had soil which was hard and compact and were set in a matrix of soft and loose stratified river sand and gravel. Most were irregularly oval or round in shape with flat bottoms. Charcoal was found scattered near the bottoms of some pits and may have been the result of partly carbonized roots or human activity. Because of the scantness of the artifactual material, the main importance of the site lies in the size of the features.

Artifacts. The ceramic remains consisted of fourteen body sherds, which were divided into the following types: ten Lake Michigan Ware, and four Langford Plain (Bennett, 1945, p. 80-81 and Griffin, 1948, p. 19-20). The Lake Michigan sherds were found in features 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10. The Langford Plain sherds were found on the surface and in features 1, 6 and 9.

The stone artifacts consisted of two random flake scrapers of cream-

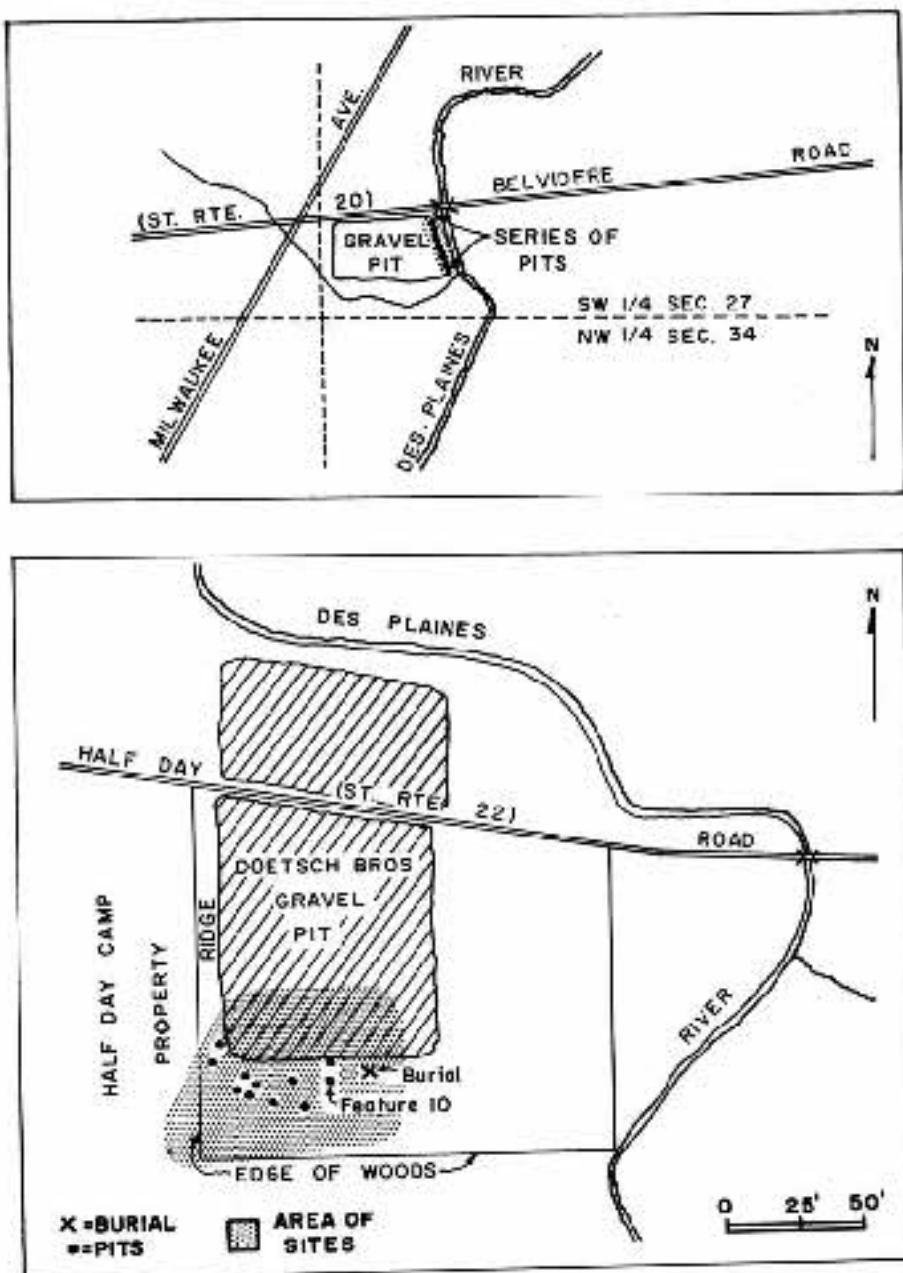


Fig. 1. Map of site IAS L-3, the Des'aire Site (above), and site IAS L-2, the Half Day Club Site (below) in Lake County, Illinois.

colored chert and three projectile points. The scrapers were found in features 1 and 3. The projectile points were surface finds. One point is a triangular Mississippian type, 2.4 cm long and 1.8 cm wide with a straight base and sides. Another is similar to Late Woodland types, being corner-notched with a convex base, 2.4 cm long and 1.4 cm wide. The last point is archaic-like, lanceolate, stemless, straight based, 9.0 cm long 3.2 cm wide, and is probably associated with the earlier occupation of the site (Young, Wenner and Bluhm, 1961, p. 21).

Non-artifactual Remains. The non-artifact remains consisted of the following items: unidentifiable bone in features 1, 3, 4, 9 and 10; shell fragments from features 2 and 4; snails were present in pits 1 and 3; chert chips in features 1 (1), 2 (6), 3 (6), 4 (9), and 9 (1). Nine chert chips

were found eight inches below the surface of feature 2.

Features. All the features, except number 5, were cache pits and all were flat bottomed, except numbers 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, which were globular in form. Charcoal was heavily concentrated in features 1 and 7, present in small quantities in 2, 4, 8, 9 and 11, but absent from pits 3, 5, 6, 10 and 12. The pits were located about one foot below the surface, except number 5, which was just below the two inch humus line (Figure 2). The range of size of the pits is as follows: .65 to 7.5 feet wide (average 3.3) and .6 to 3.4 feet deep (average 2.2). The actual shape of the pits horizontally cannot be determined as the majority of the pits had been partially removed before salvage, but it is assumed they were round or oval from the semi-circular shape which was noted when the fea-

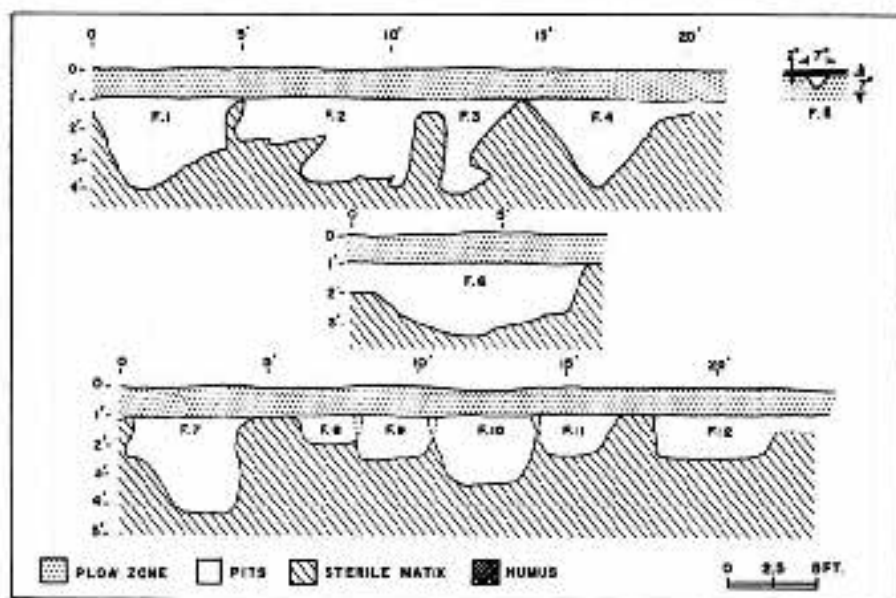


Fig. 2.—Profiles of pits at the Beske Site.

tures were uncovered horizontally. The features were large and in certain cases, namely 3, 9, 10 and 11, intruded into each other.

Analysis. The site has only two traits which can be used in deciding its cultural affinities, the pottery and the pits. The faunal materials were too scant to be of use. The identified lithic remains are not useful, because they were surface finds. The pottery consisted of two types, Late Woodland Lake Michigan Ware in pits 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10, and Upper Mississippian Langford Plain in pits 1, 6 and 9.

Two alternate hypotheses can be suggested from the evidence found at this site; (1) the site was occupied by Late Woodland people who were in contact with Upper Mississippian people, or vice versa, or (2) the site was occupied by both groups of people, but at different times. The first hypothesis is based on the fact that the two types of pottery occur together in feature 1. The alternate hypothesis is based on the fact that some of the pits intrude into each other. This intrusion is best illustrated by features 8, 9 and 10, where the profile of the site shows the physical intrusion of pit 9 into pits 8 and 10. This intrusion is shown in the pottery distribution: Lake Michigan pottery in features 8 and 10, with Langford Plain in pit 9. Therefore, it seems to me that the evidence strongly indicates two occupations, an earlier Late Woodland one, which is later intruded into by one of Upper Mississippian peoples.

THE HALF DAY CLUB SITE

The Half Day Club Site (IAS No. L-2) is located south of State High-

way 22 (Half Day Road) and west of the Des Plaines River, on the center of the east boundary of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15, Township 43 North, Range 11 East, about a half a mile east of Chicago's O'Hare Airport in Lake County (Figure 1).

The site was surveyed in 1919 by A. F. Scharf and recorded in the Chicago Historical Society 1919 Map #124, Volume 2; it was again surveyed in 1955 by the Illinois Archaeological Survey. In 1919 a village area and two mounds were reported. At that time the site was believed to cover an area of about 75 yards north and south and 50 yards east and west. One mound was 18 feet high by 50 in diameter and the other was 14 feet high by 40 feet in diameter. Unfortunately in 1952 the bulk of the site with the mounds was destroyed through gravel and sand pit operations. Thus, all the materials to be discussed here are those which could be salvaged when the destruction of the site came to the attention of the Illinois Archaeological Survey. The notes and artifacts for this part of the report were collected by Mr. Henry J. Rodemaker and Mr. James R. Getz to whom the author is most grateful.

That part of the site which was salvaged consisted of a burial and a group of eleven large pits which were located south of State Highway 22 on the south ridge of the site. Because the complete field notes and other information was not available (provenience is known for only one feature, number 10) this report will mainly be a description of the materials found.

Burial. The burial was that of a

female in her late twenties, who was about five feet two inches tall. The bones were fragmented and two of the fragments were charred. Apparently it was a bundle burial, inasmuch its orientation was not recognizable.

Artifacts. There were five artifacts of bone. One was a bone splinter awl 7.6 cm long and 0.9 cm wide. There were two incomplete bone beamers, 8.8 cm and 12.9 cm in length. Both were made of deer long bones. Two broken wheel-shaped pendants of gill bone, approximately 3.3 cm in diameter, were similar to those found at Plum Island (Penner, 1963) and the Zimmerman Site (Brown, 1961).

Eighteen stone artifacts were found. Three were very thin and finely made small, triangular projectile points similar to those found in Upper and Middle Mississippian sites. Two of the points were broken, but the complete one was 2.0 cm long, 1.5 cm wide and 0.3 cm thick. All were of whitish chert. Another projectile point was a large broken corner-notched point of dark grey chert,

broader than long, and similar to Hopewellian points (McGregor, 1958, p. 111-112). Another projectile point made of whitish chert, was 3.4 cm long, 1.7 cm wide and 0.7 cm thick. This point had convex sides, was corner-notched, and had a broken stem.

One rectangular based drill had a head 1.5 cm long and a total length of 4.25 cm; the base was 1.4 cm wide and the head or bit of the drill was 0.6 cm wide at the base junction. This drill was similar to those found at the Zimmerman Site. One flake knife, 2.2 cm long and 1.2 cm wide, was pressure flaked on one edge only.

Besides two random flake scrapers and four bi-convex core scrapers, there was one rectangular shaped flake scraper worked on all four sides, 2.8 cm long, 1.9 cm wide and 0.5 cm thick, and one rectangular shaped side scraper, triangular in cross-section, 3.5 cm long, 2.6 cm wide and 1.3 cm thick. A micro-scraper or punch, worked on one edge and almond-shaped was 2.3 cm long, 0.9 cm wide and 0.6 cm thick. Some of the scrapers were similar to

TABLE 1.—Percentages of Occurrence, Location, and Classification of Ceramic Materials From the Half Day Club Site.

Type	Totals	Percentages	Feature 10	Questionable
Madison Cord-impressed.....	1	.3	1	..
Madison Plain.....	5	1.5	..	5
Lake Michigan Ware.....	57	20.1	67	..
Fisher Cordmarked.....	1	.3	..	..
Langford Cordmarked red slip.....	1	.3	..	..
Langford Trilled.....	1	.3	..	..
Langford Cordmarked.....	135	40.6	16	15
Langford Plain.....	113	35.1	3	20
Miniature.....	1	.3	..	1
Miscellaneous.....	4	1.2	..	4
Totals.....	329	100.0	87	45

those found at the Zimmerman Site, but the last two were unique.

Two stone pendants of ovoid shape, 3.1 and 2.0 cm long, 3.1 and 2.3 cm wide and 1.4 and 1.5 cm thick were found, which were similar to those found at the Zimmerman Site. The remainder of the stone material consisted of 102 unworked chert chips and nine pieces of rough rock.

Ceramics. A list of the pottery found at the site is presented in Table 1. The sherds listed as questionable are those obtained from the family of the man who originally dug them. It is the family's opinion that they came from one of the

mounds before it was removed by gravel operations.

Approximately 98.5% of the sherds could be classified into existing types. Only four miscellaneous sherds occurred, one grit-tempered and three granite-tempered, and all were grey in color. The Fisher and Langford types (Griffin, 1946, p. 13-21) are Upper Mississippian and constitute 76.6% of the total. The Madison and Lake Michigan sherds are Late Woodland (Wittry, 1959, p. 200-203 and Bennett, 1945, p. 80-81) and constitute 21.9% of the total.

TABLE 2.—Total Numbers, and Percentage of Occurrences of Fragments of the Kinds of Animals Found in the Half Day Club Site.

	Number of Fragments	Percentage Identified	Percentage of Ident. to Unident.	Percentage of Total
<i>Mammals</i>				
Deer.....	74	97.3	18.0	49.4
Beaver.....	2	2.7	.6	
Unidentified.....	322	....	80.5	
<i>Fish</i>				
Bass.....	5	38.5	1.3	36.9
Drum.....	4	30.8	1.0	
Catfish.....	2	15.4	.6	
Gar.....	1	7.5	.3	
Buffalo fish.....	1	7.5	.3	
Unidentified.....	285	....	96.5	
<i>Bird</i>				
Turkey.....	1	100.0	2.0	6.0
Unidentified.....	47	....	98.0	
<i>Shell</i>				
<i>Strophotis rugosus</i>	2	50.0	3.8	6.5
<i>Ambloea variegata</i>	1	25.0	1.9	
<i>Ambloea costata</i>	1	25.0	1.9	
Unidentified.....	49	....	32.4	
<i>Snail</i>				
<i>Stagnicola exilata</i>	1	50.0	25.0	.4
<i>Pleurocera acuta</i>	1	50.0	25.0	
Unidentified.....	2	....	50.0	
<i>Turtle</i>				
(<i>Pseudemys scripta</i>).....	7	100.0	100.0	.8
TOTALS.....	808	12.7	87.3	100.0

Faunal Remains. Table 2 is a list of the faunal remains from the site which were identified by Harald P. Jensen, Jr. a student at the University of Illinois.

Judging from the types of faunal remains present and the fact that there was no evidence of agriculture, it would seem that the economy of the people was basically one of hunting and fishing.

Analysis. The pottery from the site consisted of two types, Late Woodland 21.9% and Upper Mississippian 76.6% both of which were found in feature 10 and the mound. The lithic materials consisted of Mississippian projectile points, a Hopewellian point which was probably intrusive, and some points of unknown cultural affiliation. The drill and bi-convex scrapers have affinities to both Late Woodland and Upper Mississippian cultures. There were also some unique lithic materials. The bone remains have affinities to both cultural groups mentioned above, except the gill wheel pendants which have Upper Mississippian affinities. The economy which is suggested from the archaeological evidence would be indicative of Late Woodland culture, but it would also be possible for it to be a seasonal Upper Mississippian hunting and fishing camp. Because of the lack of detailed information, traits like the mounds and pits could be classified in both Late Woodland and Upper Mississippian cultures.

There are two hypotheses which can be inferred from the evidence; (1) the site was occupied by Late Woodland and Upper Mississippian peoples, but at different times, or

(2) the site was occupied by Upper Mississippian peoples who were in contact with Late Woodland peoples. It seems to me that the idea of separate occupations is unlikely, because the pottery of both cultural groups was found together in relatively large quantities, which would rule out accidental intrusion. The presence of Late Woodland pottery indicates that the two groups had some type of contact with each other, probably through trade. The site was probably a seasonal Upper Mississippian hunting and fishing camp, since we have no good evidence of the practice of agriculture at this site. Although it is possible that the evidence of agriculture and permanent settlement was lost through the removal of the bulk of the site by the quarry operations.

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