

## **2009 and 2010 Field Seasons at the Cluny Fortified Village (EePf-1)**

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The Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary, has conducted a field school at the Cluny Fortified Village site (EePf-1) since 2007 under a program established with Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park (BCHP), Siksika Nation (see Figure 1 for an overview of the area). Current research focuses on the One Gun Phase component to which the earthworks (pits and ditch) are attributed. Results from the 2009 and 2010 field seasons have added to what we know about the site and continue to reinforce its uniqueness. A public archaeology component of the field school has been expanded and integrated with the Park's interpretive program. Field school students interested in participating provided a brief tour of the excavations in progress to communicate what they had learned to visitors from the public and media. Groups as disparate as young children and adult English language students made visits in numbers ranging from 2 to 150. In all, an estimated 500 visitors to BCHP were given tours of the archaeological site while it was active in the 2010 field season.

During the 2009 field season 37 1m<sup>2</sup> excavation units were initiated. These were separated into two contiguous blocks of units, with one near the ditch feature (North Block) and another more towards the interior (South Block). Features included hearths, concentrations of ash, bone pegs, and several posts. Artifacts recovered included bone tools and decorative items, points, and decorated pottery sherds.

In 2008, Leonard Bearshirt guided a survey team to a site consisting of a series of pits located not far from EePf-1. Field school students returned to this site, now designated as BCHP-09-01, in 2009 to conduct topographic survey of the area as well as a series of test excavations in some of the pits (Figure 2). This effort was led by Eileen Kose, a visiting PhD candidate from the University of Cologne. The artifacts collected from excavations in and around these pits included a metal point, bottle glass, machine-stamped nails, bone fragments exhibiting signs of being chopped with metal implements, and the cranium and several cervical vertebra of a dog. These artifacts indicate that the pits likely date to the early reserve period (1870s or 1880s). Two of the pits have what appear to be entrance ramps, but there are no indications that the pits were used for habitation and their exact function remains unclear. Future exploration of this area may provide new details regarding how the occupants of the area were living during an important time of transition.



Figure 1. Aerial View of EePf-1 and Surrounding Area(photo: Harrison Boss).

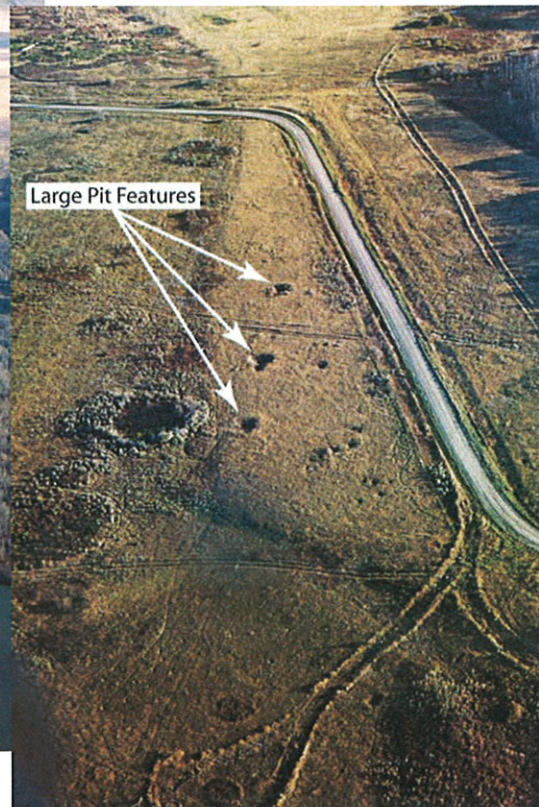


Figure 2. BCHP-09-01 (Photo: Harrison Boss).