SAVANNAH RIVER DISCOVERING the PAST



The SRARP is a division of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at the University of South Carolina (USC). The SRARP is an on-site presence at the Savannah River Site (SRS and manages the archaeological and other historic resources for the United States Department of Energy (DOE).

What is Archaeology?

What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the scientific study of people from the past through the things they made and used.

As a result of the Federal and State laws and regulations, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology/ Savannah River **Archaeological Research Program** (SCIAA/SRARP) began in 1973 a phased approach to archaeological compliance involving reconnaissance surveys, general intensive watershed surveys, specific intensive surveys, data recovery and coordination with major land users on and around the Savannah River Site.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 (Section 3) and subsequent cultural resource laws and regulations state that the intent of Congress in the undertaking of cultural resource protection and investigation is to benefit recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing public knowledge (particularly the proposed new 36CFR800 Section 106, 110 regulations). Archaeological, historical and geo-archaeological research must be conducted within the Savannah River Basin in order to adequately investigate and properly manage cultural resources of the SRS for the future.

SRARP's three-fold mission:

CulturalResourceManagement





The primary mission of the SRARP is to insure that the Department of Energy remains *in compliance* with the federal laws regarding archaeological and other cultural resources. To that end, the SRARP conducts regular archaeological surveys of the Savannah River Site as a part of the SRS Site-use process.

In addition to the Site-use process, the SRARP works closely with the United States Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR) to insure compliance in areas that have been slated for logging activities. From first thinning to complete regeneration, SRARP staff look for, and protect archaeological sites in areas of potential impact.

Because of the SRARP on-site presence we are able to insure that all undertakings comply with existing historic preservation laws, and do so with little or no impact to the planed project.

Fulfilling the Mission: SRARP at Work







Daily field work might involve pedestrian or shovel-test surveys to identify archaeological sites. It could also involve large-scale excavations. The archaeological process involves careful excavation techniques.









Detailed mapping and measuring is a vital part of the excavation process.



GPR Ground Penetrating Radar







Light Detection and Ranging

After a day in the field, artifacts are prepared for analysis.





One aspect of analysis is identifying artifacts by type and function.





Hammond, Turner & Bates Factory was in Birmingham, offices in Manchester – England Produced many high quality buttons for the Confederacy



clay marbles, left is only half





Archaeological interpretation brings together many forms of data and analysis to draw conclusions about life in the past.



The archaeological process ends with the publication of reports and papers describing site excavation, contents and interpretations.

The **Savannah River Archaeological Research Program** is dedicated to ensuring the protection of our cultural heritage through Cultural Resource **Management, Research and** Education.



The SRARP field investigation team regularly responds to Site Use applications. These land altering proposals could potentially destroy archaeological resources.

Timber Compartment Surveys



Each year SRARP surveys timber compartments to ensure cultural resources are not impacted by harvesting or planting activities.



Curation

SRARP staff analyzes artifacts and identifies them according to type and function. To date, nearly 2 million artifacts have been analyzed and curated. **Beyond our compliance responsibilities**, SRARP staff members engage in archaeology research both on the SRS and throughout the Central Savannah **River Area. Because historic occupants** did not stop at the modern day boundaries of the SRS, this research furthers our compliance efforts by helping to develop the regional context for historical sites on the SRS.



Carolina Bay Research

A joint project with the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory investigates the creation and human land use of Carolina bays.



Studies of **Carolina bays** by SRARP and SREL provide context for:

sediment collection

prehistoric distribution
of humans dating to as early as
10,000-8000 years before present

The Mississippian Project

People of the Mississippian period (AD 1000-1600) were farmers, hunters and collectors. They lived in settled villages along river floodplains and in small family farms scattered throughout the uplands.



Four chiefdoms, each with its own mound site capital, once inhabited the area surrounding the SRS. Research focuses on the relationship between the mound capitals and smaller Mississippian sites on the SRS.

The Bartley Site, Beech Island, SC

Archaeological excavations revealed an eighteenth-century farmstead belonging to three Swiss brothers who emigrated to New Windsor Township in 1737.



Lead-Glazed Slipware



Tobacco Pipe fragments

Most of the artifacts recovered came from pits dug by the settlers. These and other artifacts provide information about everyday life.

Catherine Brown's Cowpen

Excavations at a cattle ranch showing domestic life on the South Carolina frontier of the mideighteenth century.





Eating utensils and ceramics found during excavation reveal the Browns to have been moderately wealthy. Investigation at the 19th-century Bush Hill Plantation



Aerial View of the Excavated Site



Planter George Bush amassed considerable wealth and influence. His home was probably a symbol of prosperity and social status.



Community History Project

SRARP has written and edited several volumes on the former communities of the SRS. Nearly twelve-thousand copies have been presented to interested individuals.

Cinematic Outreach

The SRARP has produced eight (10) documentaries on SRS and local history.

These films have screened both locally and around the country.



More information can be found about the films on our Facebook page: Savannah River Archaeological Research Program

Over 20 short video discussing artifacts in our collection.

Volunteering





Volunteers contribute valuable time and effort to research projects both in the lab and in the field.





Annual Summer Archaeology Camps





Public Tours of Excavations

Public Dig Opportunities

Outreach Programs for Schools



Classroom Dig is a simulated excavation offered to CSRA schools, complete with teacher activity book to enhance learning.

The Savannah River Archaeological Research Program celebrated 40 years of Cultural Resource Management for the Department of Energy and The Savannah River Site In 2018.

www.SRARP.org

Links to: SRARP's Facebook page Youtube videos SRARP publications and annual reports Posters of current SRARP research Web exhibit on the former towns And more