



# L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
OF CANADA

## *Management Plan*



NOVEMBER 2003

# L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS

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OF CANADA

*Management Plan*

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## Foreword



Canada's national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas represent the soul of Canada. They are a central part of who we are and what we are. They are places of magic and wonder and heritage. Each tells its own story. Together, they connect Canadians to our roots, to our future and to each other.

What we cherish as part of our national identity, we also recognize as part of our national responsibility. All Canadians share the obligation to preserve and protect Canada's unique cultural and natural heritage. Together, we hold our national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas in trust for the benefit of this and future generations. To achieve this, practical action grounded in long-term thinking is needed.

These principles form the foundation of this new management plan for L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada. May I offer my deep appreciation to the vast range of thoughtful Canadians who helped forge this plan. I am especially grateful to our very dedicated team from Parks Canada and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated such good will, hard work, spirit of cooperation and extraordinary sense of stewardship. In that same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheila Copps".

**Sheila Copps**  
*Minister of Canadian Heritage*



## Recommendations

*This plan has been recommended for approval by:*



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## Acknowledgements

A management planning team made up largely of community representatives from the L'Anse aux Meadows area has worked with Parks Canada to set the direction and objectives for L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada management plan. Community team members include: Kettie Bartlett from L'Anse aux Meadows; Thelma Hedderson from Hay Cove; Shirley White from Noddy Bay; Sylvia Saunders from St. Lunaire-Griquet; Guy Hurley from Ship Cove; and Barry Budgell from St. Anthony. Two stakeholder groups, the Viking Trail Tourism Association and the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Sites Association, were also represented by local individuals, Cathy Cabot-Letto and Gwen Knudsen respectively. Glen Keough participated on the planning team as the representative from the provincial Department of Tourism Culture & Recreation.

The planning team was established in September 2000, at the onset of the planning program. The team assisted in identifying the issues, suggesting management objectives and strategies, preparing for and participating in broader consultations and reviewing the draft management plan. They are a strong and effective voice that ensured community and stakeholder interests and opportunities were considered at L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada in maintaining its commemorative integrity. Parks Canada wishes to acknowledge and thank the planning team for their valuable contributions.





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## 1.0 Introduction



Replica sod huts with the archaeological site in the foreground *Parks Canada – Rob Hingston, 2003*

Canada's national historic sites exemplify thousands of years of human history and hundreds of years of nation building. They are part of the inheritance of all Canadians. They are special places, recognised under an Act of Parliament as being of national importance to the history of our country.

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada (L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC) commemorates the first known site established by Vikings in North America, and the earliest evidence of Europeans in Canada. As the earliest known location in the New World of European structures, iron production and perhaps of encounters between Europeans and native Americans, L'Anse aux Meadows was recognized as one of the world's major archaeological properties. In 1978, L'Anse aux Meadows was designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in recognition of its outstanding cultural value. The site is also significant as an anchor attraction for both the provincial and local tourism industry.

Since its establishment in 1975, Parks Canada has attracted over 400 000 visitors to L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC and is now attracting

approximately 30 000 visitors annually. Increased visitation has made a significant positive impact on the local economy and has led the development of tourism in this remote area of the island of Newfoundland. Continued increases in visitation in recent years, suggest that Parks Canada is successfully promoting the site and providing visitors with a meaningful and enjoyable experience which in turn is maintaining the prospects for a long term tourism industry for the area.

Located on the tip of Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula (Figure 1), the site covers an area of 80 km<sup>2</sup> of which 60% or 49 km<sup>2</sup> is marine, 3% or 2 km<sup>2</sup> are offshore islands, and 37% or 29 km<sup>2</sup> is terrestrial. Eight communities (with a total population of 1200) lie adjacent to the site along the eastern and western boundary. St. Anthony, the regional service centre, lies 42 km to the southeast.

Under the *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998), Parks Canada has mandated responsibility for ensuring the commemorative integrity of all national historic sites. Parks Canada's *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies* (1994) provide further guidance to meet this mandated responsibility and the Act



Entrance area of the Visitor's Centre Parks Canada – Rob Hingston, 2003

requires that every national historic site under Parks Canada's administration prepare a management plan to be tabled in Parliament once every five years.

The site was established in 1975 with the signing of the Federal-Provincial Agreement. General development and management criteria for the site were established by a report produced in 1975 by H.J. Porter and Associates of Halifax. The development concept for this site, as outlined in this report, has been achieved with the construction of the Visitor Centre, sod huts, interpretive trail and day use facilities. Building on the success of the first 25 years, this first management plan for L'Anse aux Meadows NHS will continue to help ensure commemorative integrity and set the direction for this site as we start the 21st century.

A management plan is a strategic guide for future management of a national historic site. It is required by legislation, guided by public consultation, approved by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada and tabled in Parliament. The management plan directs the long-term development and operations of a national historic site. It constitutes the framework within which subsequent management, detailed planning and implementation will take place.

The goal of the management plan is to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites, including the application of

cultural resource management principles and practices. The management plan also guides the provision of appropriate opportunities for appreciation and enjoyment of the national historic site.

This plan is the result of a planning process that began in September 2000 with the establishment of a planning team. The team consisted of six representatives from local communities, one representative each from the provincial government, the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Sites Association, the Viking Trail Tourism Association and four Parks Canada staff.

Involving these groups has been a commitment by Parks Canada to continue to build positive relationships with all stakeholders and share with them that responsibility for our national historic sites with all Canadians.

The planning team helped to identify and examine the issues and prepare the management direction that is documented in this plan. Additional input was received through a series of public meetings held in the L'Anse aux Meadows area. Invitations to comment were extended to staff, local and provincial governments, tourism associations, special interest groups, etc. Comments from all Canadians were also encouraged through an open invitation made in provincial newspapers and on the Parks Canada website.





## 2.0 Importance of the national historic site to the national system

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada is part of a family of nearly 900 sites nation-wide, as well as one of over 700 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Each site has had a nationally significant impact on Canadian history, or illustrates a nationally important aspect of the history of Canada. Collectively, they represent thousands of years of human history and a rich variety of themes, spanning political, economic, intellectual, cultural and social life.

A major theme, *Peopling of the Land*, identified in the National Historic Sites System Plan celebrates the imprints and expressions of the many peoples who have shaped Canada. L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada is associated with this theme as it helps to illustrate the great variety of settlers and settlements within Canada.

The establishment of this settlement is also associated with the Viking discovery of North



Aerial view of archaeological site during excavation Parks Canada



Costumed interpreters outside replica sod huts Parks Canada – Dave Wilson, 2003

America, which is significant in the history of worldwide exploration and movement of peoples. The archaeological site of L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada authenticates this event, and justifies the site's World Heritage designation.

Our national historic sites are powerful symbols of our identity and make the nation's history a part of the living present.

Understanding our history is integral to understanding Canadian identity and the Canadian experience. By preserving tangible remains of our past, and telling our stories, national historic sites make history not just a thing of the past, but part of our living present that will help shape our future.





### 3.0 Commemorative integrity

Parks Canada's primary responsibility at L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada is to ensure its commemorative integrity. Commemorative integrity describes the health, or wholeness, of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

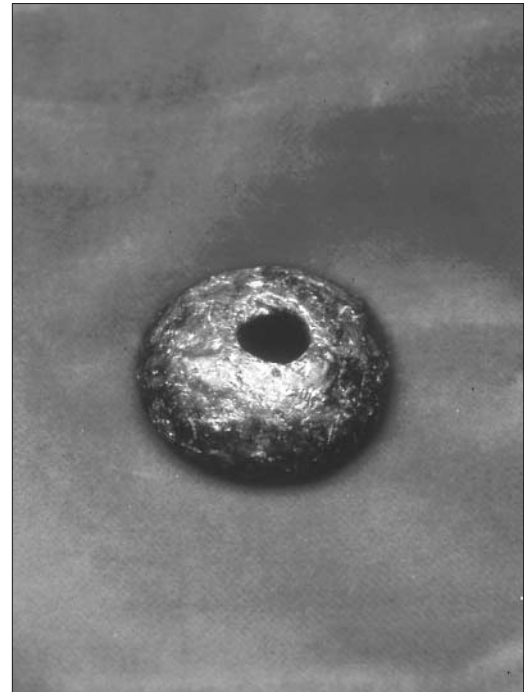
- the resources directly related to the reasons for the site's designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public; and
- the site's heritage values (including those not related to national significance) are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

In 1999, the Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) for L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC was approved. This document provides the basis for decision-making by site managers.

The CIS provides information about where value lies, and is used as a framework to assess the impact of proposed actions. It is fundamental to the decision-making process for any national historic site, and was consulted extensively during the preparation of this management plan.

#### STATEMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE INTENT

The "Statement of Commemorative Intent" for L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC is;  
*"L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site is commemorated because it is the first known site established by Vikings in North America, the earliest evidence of Europeans in Canada."*



Spindle whorl Parks Canada – Shane Kelly, 1998

#### DESIGNATED PLACE

The designated place refers to the place designated by the Minister of Canadian Heritage on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The designated place for L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC as defined in its CIS of 1999 predates the adoption of new CIS guidelines that call for specific and geographically definable boundaries for the designated place.

The current definition of designated place includes: the terrace on which eight Viking buildings were erected; the adjacent landscape whose features and resources led



Viewscape of L'Anse aux Meadows Parks Canada

the Vikings to establish their base camp at this location; and the viewscape over the Strait of Belle Isle, the offshore islands, and the Labrador coast. This definition cannot be simply translated to meet the new guidelines for designated place with specific and identifiable boundaries. It is clear from this definition that the designated place extends beyond the immediate archaeological site and includes a landscape reminiscent of the Viking areas in Greenland and Iceland and the landmarks that made the site easy to find for Viking navigators lacking maps and instruments.

The boundary of the site administered by Parks Canada (Figure 2) includes a substantial area to the west and north of the designated place. These coves, islands and waters were included in the site in order to safeguard them should they prove to contain additional evidence of Viking occupation. The excavated site indicates a base of exploration, which suggests a single site. Although a complete survey of all lands has yet to be done, there is at present no trace of any other Viking sites on land. Initial investigations at other likely sites in the area have also failed to find evidence of Viking sites. The results of these archaeological excavations have led to the conclusion that as the site was a base of exploration, finding other Viking sites in the area would not be likely. The marine component has yet to be evaluated.

To the east, the designated place extends beyond the boundary to include Beak Point and the shores of Medee Bay, where the present community of L'Anse aux Meadows is located.

Even if no Viking remains have been found in these areas, their geographic features are part of the landscape setting of the Viking site. It is for this reason that Beak Point was identified for inclusion within the national historic site but not included at the time of its establishment by Federal-Provincial Agreement in 1975. Instead this agreement identified Beak Point as Phase II lands with the intent to include these lands as part of the national historic site within five years of its establishment. This has not been done, and management direction on this issue is addressed in this plan.



Butternut Parks Canada – Shane Kelly, 1998





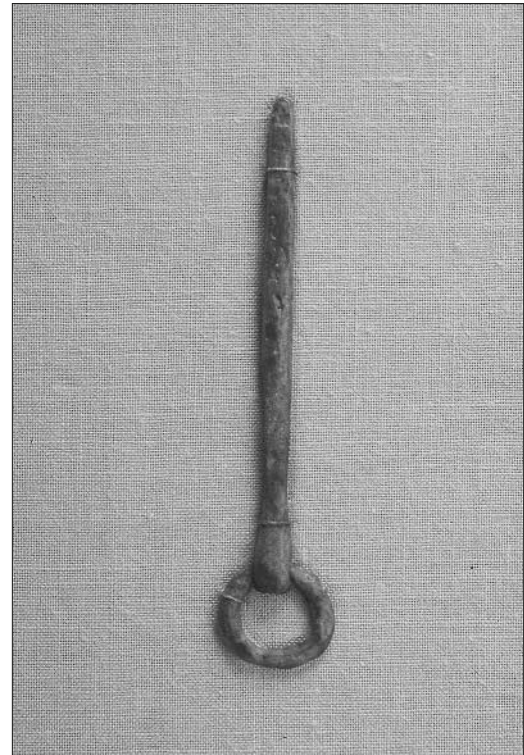
## 4.0 Current situational analysis

Visitor support for the site is very high and continues to draw interest from national and a significant number of international visitors. Increasing numbers of visitors, and positive visitor comments, suggest that the experience being offered by Parks Canada is worthwhile and meaningful. Both the province and the Viking Trail Tourism Association recognise L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC as a major visitor attraction, with great significance to their tourism strategies. Local residents are also supportive of the site, both with respect to its historical significance and the economic opportunities it provides. The site attracts many visitors to this relatively remote and sparsely populated region, which in turn supports a number of local tourism related businesses and makes a significant impact to the area's economy.

There have been changes that will challenge Parks Canada to continue to provide the high quality of protection and presentation expected of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The following identifies some of the challenges this management plan must address to position L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC for long-term success.

### RESOURCES OF NATIONAL HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Resources related to the site's national and international historic significance as an authenticated Viking site are identified as Level I cultural resources. At L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC this includes viewscape of a landscape reminiscent of the Viking areas in Greenland and Iceland and the geographical landmarks that made the site easy to find for Viking navigators, and the archaeological site containing the remains of eight Viking Period



Bronze cloak pin Parks Canada

buildings with their associated structures and middens.

Artifacts and other items such as animal bones recovered during excavations are also considered to be Level I resources by virtue of their association with Viking occupation of the site. The bulk of these artifacts are pieces of worked wood and are mainly of academic interest only. These are stored at the Atlantic Service Centre in Halifax. The provincial government holds a small number of artifacts excavated prior to Parks Canada taking over the site. The most significant artifacts, such as the bronze cloak pin that helped authenticate the site, or artifacts that illustrate the site's

focus on exploration and exploitation are included in the on-site exhibit.

According to the State of the Parks Report (1997) and the State of Protected Heritage Areas Report (1999), the condition of both the archaeological site and the artifacts recovered are 'good.' The archaeological records are listed as 'fair.' The potential for additional Viking archaeological sites does exist in the marine component.



Boardwalk André Cornélius, 1991

## RESOURCES OF NATIONAL HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Presenting the reasons for the site's national historic significance is fundamental to its commemorative integrity. Presentation provides an understanding of why a site is important and without understanding there can be no respect or value for the site. Ensuring understanding of this site's national historic significance has always been a prime objective of its operation.

The CIS has identified five Level I messages of national significance:

1. L'Anse aux Meadows was occupied in the early 11th century by Vikings, the first Europeans known to have established a site in North America.
2. The site was the base camp used by the Vikings to explore and exploit Vinland and other areas mentioned in the Vinland sagas.
3. The site is strategically located at the entrance to Vinland.
4. The site was the scene of the first iron production in North America.
5. The arrival of the Vikings in Vinland represents the first known contact between North American Aboriginal people and Europeans.

All of these messages need to be effectively communicated to Canadians and visitors so they can understand the reasons for the national historic significance of L'Anse aux Meadows. Currently, these messages are presented through a variety of onsite and outreach initiatives.

Onsite, messages are presented through a diverse heritage presentation program using both personal and nonpersonal media. At the Visitor Reception Centre (VRC), messages are delivered through permanent exhibits, the film *The Vinland Mystery*, and interaction with the interpreters. At the sod huts, costumed interpreters engage visitors and illustrate some of the skills and culture of the Vikings that enabled them to travel to North America.

Regular tours of the archaeological site are offered by Parks Canada interpreters to further enhance the visitor experience by providing a more in depth interpretation of the Viking site and show evidence that led archaeologists to identify the site as Viking.

The approach and methods of presenting the Level I messages onsite has met with a favourable response from visitors. In particular, costumed interpreters have become very popular since their introduction in 1997.

Current outreach initiatives include the site's website, a site brochure, development of an outreach program to local schools, a teacher institute during the summer of 2001, and the cross-country tour of the *Full Circle Exhibit*. Developing and delivering additional outreach initiatives for L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC has already begun and is part

of a broader initiative for the entire Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit.

Onsite and outreach communication approaches appear to be successful. However, the following challenges must be addressed to ensure visitors, as well as nearby residents and other Canadians, can continue to appreciate the important place of L'Anse aux Meadows in Canadian history:

- Increasing visitation will require new approaches to ensure all visitors still have access to quality heritage presentation programming.
- There are opportunities for local residents and regional tourism partners to play an increasingly valuable role in communicating messages on behalf of Parks Canada.
- The context of the current heritage presentation program can be improved by including the Aboriginal and greater Viking stories.
- Outreach opportunities should be actively pursued that will reach local communities, youth and other Canadians.
- Outreach opportunities will continue to attract new clientele from the cruise ship industry.

#### ADDITIONAL CULTURAL RESOURCES AND MESSAGES

The historical significance of the site is not exclusively Viking. Excavated and unexcavated evidence shows that this site has been occupied by various aboriginal cultural groups at different times over the last five thousand years. Archaeological evidence shows intermittent occupation of L'Anse aux Meadows by Maritime Archaic, Groswater, Middle Dorset, and Recent Indian populations. Evidence of these cultures although not designated as of national historic significance is considered to have historic value. These are listed as Level II resources and are also identified in the CRs. The Level II cultural resources include:

- Several excavated and unexcavated Aboriginal sites along the shores of Epaves Bay and other similar features excavated in between the Viking structures.

- A collection of 1700 Aboriginal artifacts collected during these excavations.
- A collection of 22 original Viking artifacts from Norway on permanent loan by the Oslo University Museum of National Antiquities.
- The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque is by definition considered to have historic value.
- Two contemporary cemeteries established and used by the present day community of L'Anse aux Meadows are located within the national historic site boundary and are classified as Level II cultural resources.

The challenge here is to determine what measure of protection and presentation should be availed to these resources in a climate of limited financial resources to protect and present the Level I resources.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC protects a relatively undisturbed natural landscape whose features and resources led the Vikings to establish their base camp here. The area



Sacred Bay looking west L'Anse aux Meadows, 2003

contains natural ecosystem features that are representative of the *Strait of Belle Isle Ecoregion* (Damman, 1983) and contains two features of special significance. Within the boundary of the site are 27 plant



species considered rare on the island of Newfoundland. The marine waters and islands are significant areas for many varieties of migratory waterfowl, and are one of the two major eider duck nesting colonies on the island of Newfoundland. Given the size and location of the site, L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC is a significant protected area and contributes to the system of protected natural areas in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

All these natural resources co-exist on a landscape that is used by local residents for traditional harvesting activities and commercial fishing. Harvesting activities that occur within the boundary of the national historic site include:

- migratory bird hunting
- rabbit snaring
- trapping
- hay cutting
- wood cutting
- commercial fishing, with the exception of otter trawls and aquaculture
- berry picking
- recreational fishing

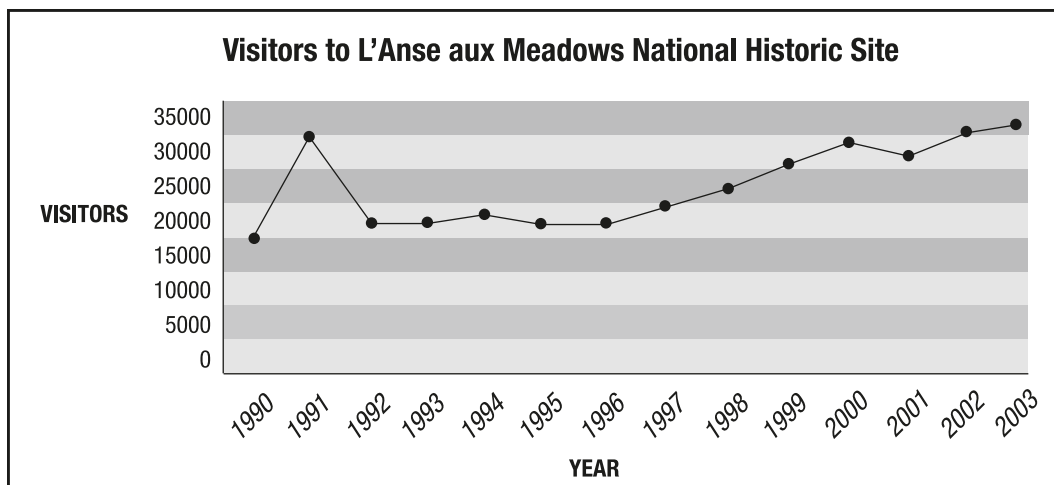
With the exception of commercial fishing, all of these activities are limited to residents of adjacent communities for domestic purposes only.

The management plan outlines strategies to manage these activities so that protection of the natural resources is ensured.

#### VISITOR USE AND OPERATIONS

Parks Canada has been successful in attracting visitors to this national historic site on a remote corner of the island of Newfoundland. Contributing to this success is the network of other heritage opportunities in this region of Newfoundland and Labrador (Figure 1) that are offered by Parks Canada and other agencies. These opportunities include Red Bay NHSC, Port au Choix NHSC, and Gros Morne National Park of Canada as well as the Grenfell Historic Properties in St. Anthony, Battle Harbour Historic District NHSC, archaeological sites at Bird Cove, the Point Amour Lighthouse and others.

At L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC, continuing efforts to improve the site's facilities, marketing, and the quality and diversity of the heritage presentation program has also supported significant increases in visitation over the last 25 years. As a result L'Anse aux Meadows is reaching more Canadians, has become a significant tourism destination and makes an important contribution to tourism on Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula.



**Figure 3:** Visitation rates to L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada; 1990-2003

*(High visitation in 1991 is a result of the "Vinland Revisited" event, which accounted for 15,000 visitors between August 2-4th)*



Visitors at the replica sod huts Parks Canada – Shane Kelly, 1996

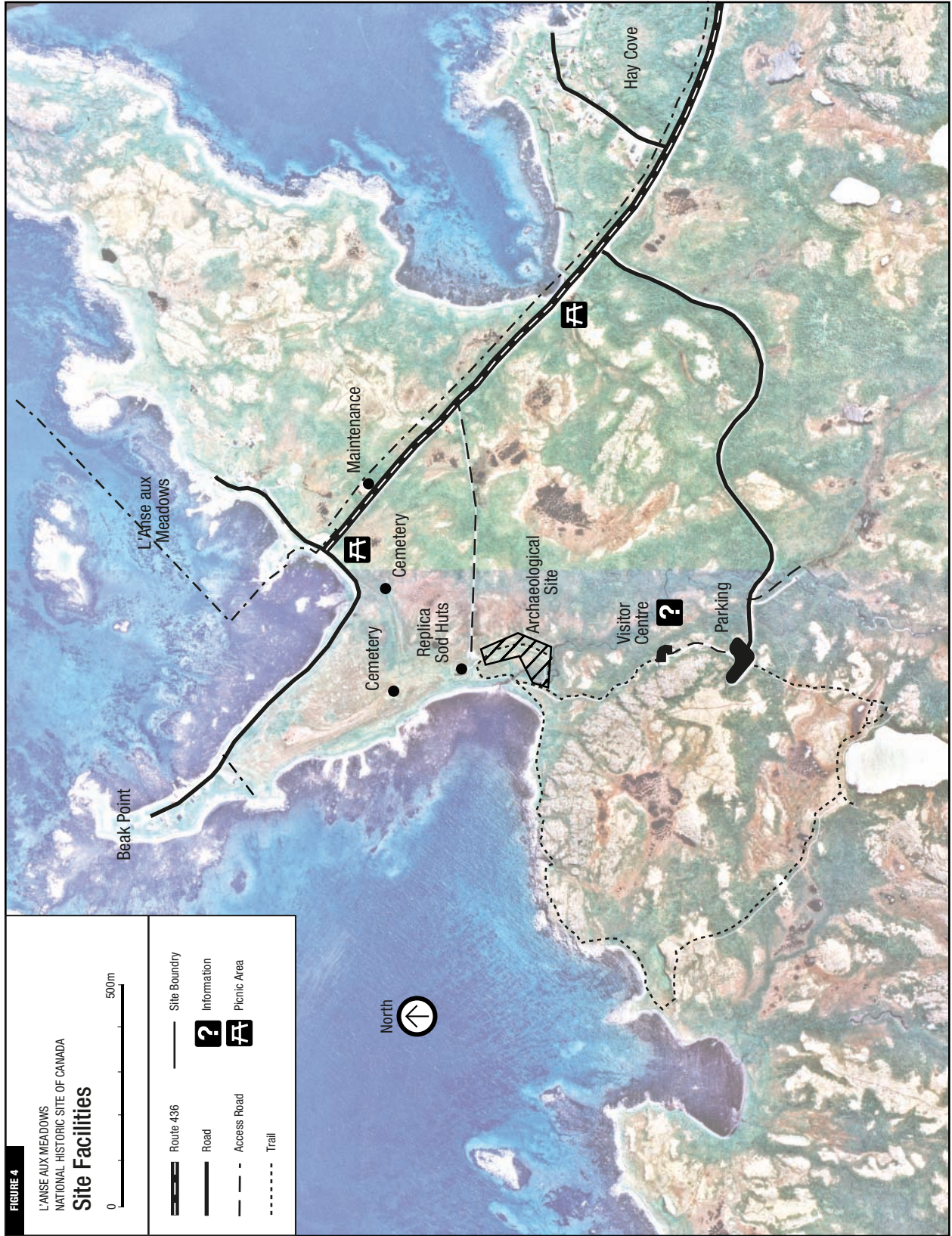
Since the addition of costumed interpreters in 1997, and increased marketing efforts, visitation has increased by 13.5% annually, from a relatively stable visitation level prior to that time (Figure 3). The year 2000 was an anomaly, as the site attracted over 32,000 during the *Viking! 1000 Years* celebration. However, visitation during 2001 is similar to 1999 levels. Increased visitation has created circulation problems within the site and if growth continues at the present rate, capacity of some site facilities may be exceeded in the near future. At present, the visitation by bus tours and cruise ships often leads to times when visitors exceed the capacity of some of the site's facilities such as the theatre. In addition, these groups contribute to the site's overall circulation problems and the drop off/pick up of passengers by buses are impacting on the quality of the site presentation and visitor experience as well as generating some public safety concerns.

The site operates from early June through early October, with peak visitation occurring in July and August. In 1999, these two months accounted for 75% of the site's visitation. There are no scheduled services outside the season of operation, however visitors still have the opportunity to view the site and make use of the walking trails. The VRC is opened by request for visitors when possible.

Visitor use is centred around the archaeological site and the adjacent VRC and replica sod huts with the focus on messages that highlight the site's historical significance. Facilities and services (Figure 4) that support the presentation of heritage messages include the VRC exhibits and theatre presentation, the replica sod huts staffed by costumed interpreters during the summer, and guided tours to the archaeological site. The VRC provides information on other services and attractions in the area, and is also home to a small gift shop operated by the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Facilities for recreational opportunities include a 3 km walking trail, and two small picnic sites, one at Muddy Cove and the other near the community of L'Anse aux Meadows.

Use of the historic site beyond these facilities and programs is very low, and is mostly limited to local residents engaging in sport fishing, berry picking, or other traditional activities.



## 5.0 Vision

The primary focus of the site will be on ensuring commemorative integrity where all Canadians and visitors recognise, cherish, promote and share the unique historical past of L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada. Management of the site will reflect Parks Canada's *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*.

Achieving commemorative integrity at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC will be accomplished in a manner that is relevant to Canadians. At this historic site, Parks Canada will seek to raise awareness of our nation's diverse historic past, promote understanding and enjoyment of our past in meaningful ways, and seek to develop a sense of



Interpreter with visitors outside replica furnace building  
Parks Canada – André Cormellier, 1991



Bread making demonstration inside sod huts Parks Canada – Rob Hingston, 2003

ownership among Canadians by involving them in the management of this nationally and internationally significant site.

The site will have progressive working relationships with local communities, agencies, interest groups and the private sector in order to develop a common understanding of and support for each other's needs and goals.

This will help all visitors and site managers understand the role the site plays to support traditional rural life activities of local residents while ensuring that the activity does not disturb the natural habitat and cultural landscape.



## 6.0 Management objectives and actions

### 6.1 PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Parks Canada is committed to providing high quality, authentic experiences which help visitors appreciate Canada's heritage. An important element in achieving this is giving visitors the opportunity to experience the historical resources firsthand, to see the real thing. As a result, Parks Canada places a high priority on ensuring the protection of the cultural resources that visitors can experience. Protection ensures that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy our common legacy.

#### A. Level I Cultural Resources

At L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC the evidence of the Viking occupation is restricted to the remains of eight sod buildings, and the bogs near these buildings. The bogs served as a source of building material and as a refuse disposal area for the Vikings. The designated place, although not specifically defined, clearly indicates the viewscape over the Strait of Belle Isle be included as well as areas beyond the boundaries of the site to include Beak Point, and the shores of Medee Bay where the present village of L'Anse aux Meadows is located.

#### *Archaeological Site:*

The archaeological site has been extensively excavated, however significant components of all the structures and some of the middens remain in situ. Remains of the buildings have been protected by inert material and sodded over. This allows visitors to view the outline of the original building while providing adequate protection from current and foreseeable visitor use.

In the past, the area has been subject to flooding of Black Duck Brook. However, this



Workshop, archaeological site Parks Canada – Trudy Taylor-Walsh, 2003

has been remedied by removing the bushes that previously choked the stream and caused ice and snow to dam up during the spring thaw. There has been no significant flooding of the archaeological site in the last 20 years. At present levels of visitor use, and under current environmental conditions, there is no foreseeable threat to the archaeological site.

#### *Viewscape:*

The designated place clearly defines the viewscape as a significant feature that both represents and symbolises the national historic significance of the site. When viewing the site from the visitor centre or sod huts, visitors can begin to feel the same sense of place that the Vikings



Beak Point, L'Anse aux Meadows Parks Canada – André Cornélius

would have experienced 1000 years ago – a windswept subarctic heath reminiscent of the Viking areas in Greenland and Iceland. This viewscape experience, key to visitor understanding, must be retained into the future.

The viewscape includes areas outside the site boundary that can only be managed through co-operation and partnership with the provincial government and other landowners. Section 12 of the Federal-Provincial Agreement states that “Newfoundland and Canada ... consult together to ensure that the future development of the adjacent communities and areas will be planned jointly so that such development is in keeping with their proximity to a National Historic Park.” The two main areas would be Beak Point, identified as Phase II lands for eventual inclusion within the site, and the provincial crown lands adjacent to the east boundary towards Cape Ardoise (Figure 5).

The Phase II lands have been designated as a Public Works Development Area by the Provincial Government. This provides regulations that will help protect the viewscape in that area by limiting any further development. The provincial crown lands and private lands adjacent to the east boundary, however, have no such designation for planning and development.

#### **Archaeological Collections:**

During the course of the archaeological investigations, 800 artifacts and 300 animal bones associated with the Viking occupation of the site were collected. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador owns artifacts located during early excavations of the site. The items most significant to presenting the Viking story are on display at the VRC with a smaller number on loan to other museums. The rest of the Parks Canada collection is stored at the Atlantic Service Centre in Halifax under strict collection management standard.

#### **Records:**

Records of the archaeological excavations are stored at the Atlantic Service Centre in Halifax. In the 1997 *State of the Parks Report* these records are listed as being in ‘fair’ condition, as the paper does not meet archival standards and is subject to natural degradation over time. The Cultural Resource Management Section at the Atlantic Service Centre is in the process of transferring these records to archival quality paper.

A final report on the archaeological investigations conducted from 1973-76 remains to be completed. Although considerable time has lapsed since the investigation, the report will provide the opportunity to reinterpret findings at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC based on our increased

understanding of Vikings over the last 25 years. This report represents a significant contribution to our understanding of the Vikings in North America, and the role that L'Anse aux Meadows played in the overall Viking expansion.

**Objective:**

- To ensure protection of the cultural resources which symbolise the national and international significance of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC.
- To manage the site so that intrusive development or activities, and natural processes, do not impair the appearance and structural integrity of the archaeological site.

**Key Actions:**

- Monitor the archaeological site, and identify potential threats from human activity or natural processes, so that corrective action can be taken and degradation of the site can be avoided.
- Update the current Commemorative Integrity Statement so it clearly defines the designated place according to current guidelines for CIS.
- Protect the viewscape, which are so important to the commemorative integrity of the site, through co-operative planning with the provincial government, local communities and adjacent landowners.
- Continue to manage and store the archaeological collection at the Atlantic Service Centre so that it continues to meet Parks Canada collection management standards.
- Conduct regular assessments, by qualified staff, of all artifacts on display at the site to ensure that they remain unimpaired.
- Complete the transfer of all records of the archaeological excavation to meet archival standards.
- Complete the final report of the archaeological investigations within two years and share these findings with target audiences.

**B. Level II Cultural Resources**

Additional cultural resources occur within the site boundary, which are not considered to be of national significance or associated with Viking occupation, but are considered to be of historic value. They are identified as Level II cultural resources, which also require protection.

**Aboriginal Sites and Collections:**

Aboriginal sites were excavated in between the Viking structures. In addition, there are both excavated and unexcavated Aboriginal sites on the southern shore of Epaves Bay. These sites reflect periodic use of the area by various Aboriginal peoples over a period of 5000 years. No human remains or gravesites were found. The 1700 artifacts collected during the excavation are stored with the rest of the L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC collection at the Atlantic Service Centre.

In the interest of understanding these aboriginal groups, the importance of this site, and determining any possible association with the Vikings, further archaeological investigation may be required.

**Norwegian Collection (Viking Artifacts):**

This collection contains 22 original Viking artifacts from Norway on permanent loan from the Oslo University Museum of National Antiquities in 1985. These artifacts date from the commemorated period, and are associated with Viking culture. They are currently on display at the L'Anse aux Meadows VRC.

**Cemeteries:**

Two cemeteries associated with the present day communities are located within the national historic site, several hundred metres from the location of the Viking buildings. These cemeteries are identified in the CIS as Level II resources and "are valued for both their traditional and contemporary active roles in community affairs."

These cemeteries are associated with the local United Church Parish of Raleigh-Griquet Pastoral Charge, and the Cook's Harbour-L'Anse aux Meadows Anglican





Cemetery at L'Anse aux Meadows Parks Canada – Rob Hingston, 2003

Church Parish. Residents of L'Anse aux Meadows and Hay Cove actively use one of the cemeteries. There have been requests in the past to establish an access road to the active cemetery. There are presently no agreements between the Parks Canada and interested organizations with respect to these two cemeteries.

Parks Canada's management directive *Human Remains, Cemeteries, and Burial Grounds* (2000), provides direction for the care, maintenance and documentation of cemeteries and burial grounds in national historic sites. As a general principle, it states that all human remains, grave goods, cemeteries and gravesites will be treated with reverence, respect and dignity. The directive also states that management of cemeteries will address the preservation of grave markers, and the identification of cemeteries and grave sites. Further, it allows for the development of agreements between Parks Canada and interested organizations for the maintenance for those cemeteries and grave sites. New burials, however, will not be permitted except as provided under existing agreements.

**Objectives:**

- To ensure the protection and presentation of these cultural resources.
- To enable continued use of the present cemetery for burials by local residents.

**Key Actions:**

- Monitor the archaeological sites, and identify potential threats from human activity or natural processes of erosion, so corrective action can be taken to avoid degradation of the site.
- Ensure that intrusive development or activities do not impair the appearance and structural integrity of the archaeological site.
- Continue to manage and store the archaeological collection at the Atlantic Service Centre, Cultural Resource Management Section, so that Parks Canada collection management standards are maintained.
- Conduct regular assessments, by qualified staff, of all artifacts on display at the site to ensure that they remain unimpaired.
- Develop a formal cemetery agreement between Parks Canada and the appropriate organizations which will address the concerns of the residents and meet the conditions of Parks Canada's management directive *Human Remains, Cemeteries, and Burial Grounds*, 2000. The agreement should consider:
  - Continuing access to the burials site from Beak Point Road;
  - Eligibility for burial (e.g. residents of Hay Cove and L'Anse aux Meadows, and those individuals who have immediate family buried in the cemeteries);
  - Expansion of the present cemetery, if such an expansion is in accordance with protection of the commemorative integrity and natural ecosystem features of the site.
  - Maintenance of the cemetery fences will be the responsibility of Parks Canada
  - Maintenance of all burial records will be the responsibility of Parks Canada;
  - Permitting grave markers and other symbols in accordance with protection of the commemorative integrity of the site.

### C. Other Resources

#### *Replica Viking Buildings:*

The replica sod huts were built to reflect, most accurately, the techniques and architectural details that the Vikings would have used, in keeping with Parks Canada's strong commitment to providing authentic experiences. They were built following comprehensive research into Viking hut construction. Although the huts themselves are not a cultural resource, they are important to the site's commemorative integrity since they support accurate presentation of nationally significant messages.

The replica Viking buildings consist of a group of four structures, adjacent to the original site, that replicate the appearance of three of the excavated buildings, as well as a furnace building constructed in 2000-01. The buildings are as accurate as current evidence permits, and are used effectively to deliver Level I messages concerning the kind of site the Vikings established at L'Anse aux Meadows. Maintaining the interpretive integrity of the replica buildings requires that their appearance remain unchanged, except as the result of applying new evidence.

#### *Reproduction Viking Artifacts:*

Reproduction Viking artifacts are used in the exhibit, and by costumed interpreters, as an effective way to deliver Level I messages concerning the type of settlement the Vikings established at L'Anse aux Meadows. Artifacts used by the interpreters are restricted to those likely to have been used at L'Anse aux Meadows, as determined by archaeological evidence.

#### *Objective:*

- To maintain historical accuracy of replica sod huts, reproduction artifacts, and costumes so they effectively contribute to the presentation of Level I messages.

#### *Key Actions:*

- Ensure that the appearance and size of replica buildings remains unchanged, except as the result of applying new evidence.
- No new replica buildings will be constructed.
- Restrict the use of reproduction artifacts by costumed interpreters, to include only those artifacts that would likely have been used at L'Anse aux Meadows as determined by archaeological evidence.



*Meeting of Two Worlds* sculpture Parks Canada – Trudy Taylor-Walsh, 2003

## 6.2 HERITAGE PRESENTATION

### A. Creating the Visitor Experience

Through a positive and enjoyable experience, visitors can better appreciate the national and international significance of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC. In planning for the visitor experience, the main goal is that people will leave the site with a clear understanding of the site's significant place in Canada's history. Visitors will have a sense of the Viking occupation of the site, through a memorable experience with the cultural resources in their historical setting.

The expanse of open space at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC is also a valuable part of the heritage presentation program. The viewscape provides an opportunity for visitors to appreciate the vast landscape that led the Vikings to establish their base camp at this location.

The current visitor experience is created through an audio-visual program and exhibits in the VRC, followed by a guided tour to the archaeological site, and then on to the four replica buildings where interpreters in Viking costumes are stationed. Upon returning to the VRC, visitors have the opportunity to purchase theme-related souvenirs in the gift shop. By undertaking the actions in this management plan, Parks Canada will build on the current program

and ensure that heritage programming at the site will meet future challenges.

#### *Objective:*

- People will leave the site with a clear understanding of the site's significant place in Canada's history.

#### *Key Actions:*

- Improve reception by creating a site entrance that truly invites people to enter L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC. Visitors should have a strong sense of having arrived at a Viking site, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They should experience L'Anse aux Meadows as the gateway to the North American continent for the Vikings, and not the end of a long journey for the present traveller.
- Actively market the site so that visitors are prepared for an educational, entertaining and enjoyable experience, including a variety of opportunities to learn about the history of the site and its significant place in Canadian history.
- Create an onsite heritage presentation program that goes beyond the furnished buildings and guided tours to include the sensory experience of scanning the viewscape, walking through the archaeological site, and discovering the landscape that also welcomed the Vikings to this site.



Entrance to the replica sod huts Parks Canada

- Position the costumed heritage program, and the replica huts, as a dynamic means of bringing to life the authentic story contained in the archaeological evidence.

#### **B. Conveying the Messages**

Presentation of national historic sites is a major objective of Parks Canada's national commemorative program. Presentation provides an understanding of why a site is important to our history and, hence, to all Canadians. The importance of conveying these to key Canadian audiences is clearly identified in the *Engaging Canadians* strategy. Direction in this management plan will work towards achieving the goals of the *Engaging Canadians* strategy of informing, influencing and involving Canadians by raising awareness, fostering understanding and enjoyment, and strengthening Canadians' sense of ownership of our heritage places.

The heritage presentation program at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC has been based on the theme of *Peopling the Land*. It is the first known site established by Vikings in North America and the earliest documented evidence of Europeans in Canada. These messages are identified in the Commemorative Integrity Statement as being of national significance, and they provide guidance for the heritage presentation program offered at the site.

In addressing the future heritage presentation program however, Parks Canada must consider several changes that have occurred over the last 10 years, as well as future trends.

- Visitor attendance has increased significantly, resulting in long waits to view the audio-visual program and consequent changes in circulation patterns.
- Increases in visitation by commercial tour groups (bus tour and cruise ship).
- Heritage presentation programming has increased at the sod huts with the addition of costumed interpreters.
- Nationally significant messages and desired learning outcomes have been identified in the Commemorative Integrity Statement.

- Parks Canada's understanding of visitor needs and expectations has improved.
- Parks Canada has committed to reaching more Canadians through enhanced outreach programming.
- The *Engaging Canadians* document has identified communications strategies and goals to raise awareness, foster understanding and enjoyment, and strengthen Canadians' sense of ownership of our heritage places.
- Surveys during the 2001 season show that approximately 14,000 visitors took a guided tour of the archaeological site. However, this accounts for less than half of all visitors. As visitation increases, fewer visitors overall will be able to participate in the heritage program due to limits on program expansion and the staff available to present the program.
- The visitor population is ageing, and there is a higher proportion of visitors with disabilities.

Future presentation of the messages will assume a visitor circulation pattern similar to the present, however, the medium by which the messages are presented may be redefined. Presentation of the messages begins in the vrc. The vrc should:

- Provide orientation to the site, including the archaeological area, the replica sod huts, the viewscape, and the vrc itself.
- Highlight the different learning opportunities available at the site.
- Present the national and international significance of the site in the context of the broader Viking story.
- Provide meaningful opportunities to view the artifacts.

From the vrc, visitors have a commanding view of the viewscape surrounding the site, including the sea. Appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the significance of this viewscape are important steps in understanding many of the site's heritage presentation messages.

A visit to the archaeological site is an essential part of a visitor's experience at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC. It gives the visitor a sense

of the site's authenticity, and provides the opportunity to develop a sense of place, and an understanding of the role of the Viking settlement within the context of its natural setting. Onsite interpretation will enhance the visitor's understanding of the settlement's layout, its focus on boat repair, and evidence of more southerly explorations, which collectively illustrate that the settlement was the "Gateway to Vinland."

Visitors may then proceed to the replica sod huts, where interpreters in Viking costumes re-enact Viking life at the site, as it is understood. Through an accurate portrayal of activities known to have occurred here, visitors will appreciate the skills and technologies that enabled the Vikings to establish the remote settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows. Visitors will understand the Viking's focus on exploration and exploitation of resources, and the challenges they faced as strangers in an already inhabited land.

#### *Audiences:*

For heritage presentation to be effective, it is important that Parks Canada understand the different audiences that visit the site, and the audiences that should be reached in the future. Significant audiences for L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC include:

#### *Local Residents*

Local residents are those that live in the communities near the site. These are the people that visitors are most likely to encounter, and interact with, during their visit to the L'Anse aux Meadows area.

Many of these residents have been involved with the excavation and development of the site. For example, George Decker is acknowledged for assisting the Ingstads in the discovery of the Viking site. It is important that local residents continue to take ownership through involvement in the site, understand its national and international importance, and appreciate Parks Canada's responsibility for protecting and presenting the site. The actions and attitudes of residents towards the site have the potential to

communicate a strong, positive message to visitors.

#### *Independent Travellers*

Independent travellers are visitors from outside the local area who are not travelling as a group. They account for approximately 80% of visitation to the site. In a 1991 visitor study, over 75% of these individuals identified their reason for visiting as "historical interest." The current heritage presentation program generally meets the needs of this audience, but may require some refinements.

#### *Commercial Tour Groups*

Commercial tour groups account for 20% of the site's visitors. These groups are typically motor coach tours, but in recent years significant numbers have been arriving by cruise ships that stop at the regional port of St. Anthony, or at L'Anse aux Meadows, and ferry people to the site. Although this group accounts for a minority of visitors, they contribute significantly to the site's circulation problems. The size of these groups often overwhelms the capacity of the lobby, theatre, sod huts, and the staff's ability to accommodate both the commercial tour and the independent travellers during peak hours of the peak summer season.

#### *School Groups*

There is no formal school program offered at the site, although a number of school groups visit the site in the spring and fall. During these visits, staff provide tours and try to accommodate the teacher's learning objectives and expectations. During the management planning process, the planning team emphasised that an outreach program designed specifically for school groups would be of tremendous value to local schools.

#### *Offsite Visitors*

Many people are either unable to visit the site or choose not to visit, but may still wish to learn about the national and international significance of the site. Also, as the site commemorates the first arrival of Europeans to North America, it has relevance to every

school-age child in the country at some point in their education.

Reaching these audiences with messages regarding the significance of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC is accomplished through the Parks Canada website, and by partnering with other organizations. For example, Parks Canada was a partner in the development of the Newfoundland Museum's Full Circle exhibit currently on a Canadian tour. Access to the website is of particular value to school children as every school in Canada currently has access to the Internet. It is also important for other audiences as availability and usage of the Internet continues to increase throughout society.

**Evaluation:**

The success of the heritage presentation program is reflected by growing visitation rates and comments that indicate the program is both sustaining visitor interest, and enhancing understanding and appreciation of the site. Additional feedback will be obtained during regular visitor satisfaction surveys. Success of outreach initiatives will be evaluated by the number of people reached in each of the target audiences.

**Objectives:**

To ensure that Canadians and others, both visitors and the general public, will have the

opportunity to understand the following key messages:

- L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC was the site of the first known presence of Europeans on this continent.
- The role of the site in the exploration of Vinland and its resources.
- The first known iron production in North America took place at this site.
- The arrival of Vikings on this site led to the first known contacts between North American Aboriginal peoples and Europeans.
- Our knowledge of the Viking presence at this site is derived from a variety of sources both physical (building remains, artifacts etc.) and documentary (maps, sagas, etc).
- The expanse of human history at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC that precedes, and follows, the Viking settlement period.
- The role of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC in the overall Viking expansion.
- The international significance of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC.
- The nature and purpose of the family of national historic sites.

**Key Actions:**

- Evaluate the current heritage presentation program and restructure where necessary. The program must:
  - Clearly communicate the site's place in the history of Canada.
  - Make a clear connection between the different aspects of the site's presentation, and the messages that are presented.
  - Present messages of national significance related to the Aboriginal Story and greater Viking story.
  - Focus on the site's authenticity, and evidence that indicates the role of the Viking site as the "Gateway to Vinland."
  - Demonstrate the skills and technologies the Vikings used to establish a remote settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, and illustrate the site's focus on exploration and exploitation.
  - Include self-guided, educational, and special event guided tours.



Interpreters inside replica sod huts Dale Wilson, 2003

- Ensure the heritage presentation program reaches a broader audience with messages of site significance as identified by the *Engaging Canadians Strategy*:
  - Encouraging involvement of local residents.
  - Working with local educators to provide specialised programming for school groups.
  - Recognizing that tourism operators play a key role in the delivery of nationally significant messages to visitors. Assist operators to ensure these messages are conveyed accurately.
  - Continuing to seek partnership opportunities with offsite and diverse audiences.
- Ensure that visitors with hearing, visual, and mobility impairments have access to all messages of national significance.
- Work with tour groups to develop a specialised heritage presentation program of the site that would better suit their needs, creates a positive visitor experience, ensures accurate delivery of nationally significant messages, alleviates site congestion, and is cost effective.
- Enhance the site's international profile by developing linkages with related sites in Greenland and Iceland.

### 6.3 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Natural resources and ecosystem features form an integral part of the history and landscape of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC. In addition to the importance of these natural features to the site's commemorative integrity, the site supports a significant natural landscape which is characteristic of the area. It contains habitat for a number of rare plants, nesting and staging areas for birds, and supports a number of traditional harvesting activities that are typical of rural Newfoundland (Figure 6).

#### Goal:

- The natural ecosystem features of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC will be valued and managed in a manner that reflects the role of Parks Canada as an important

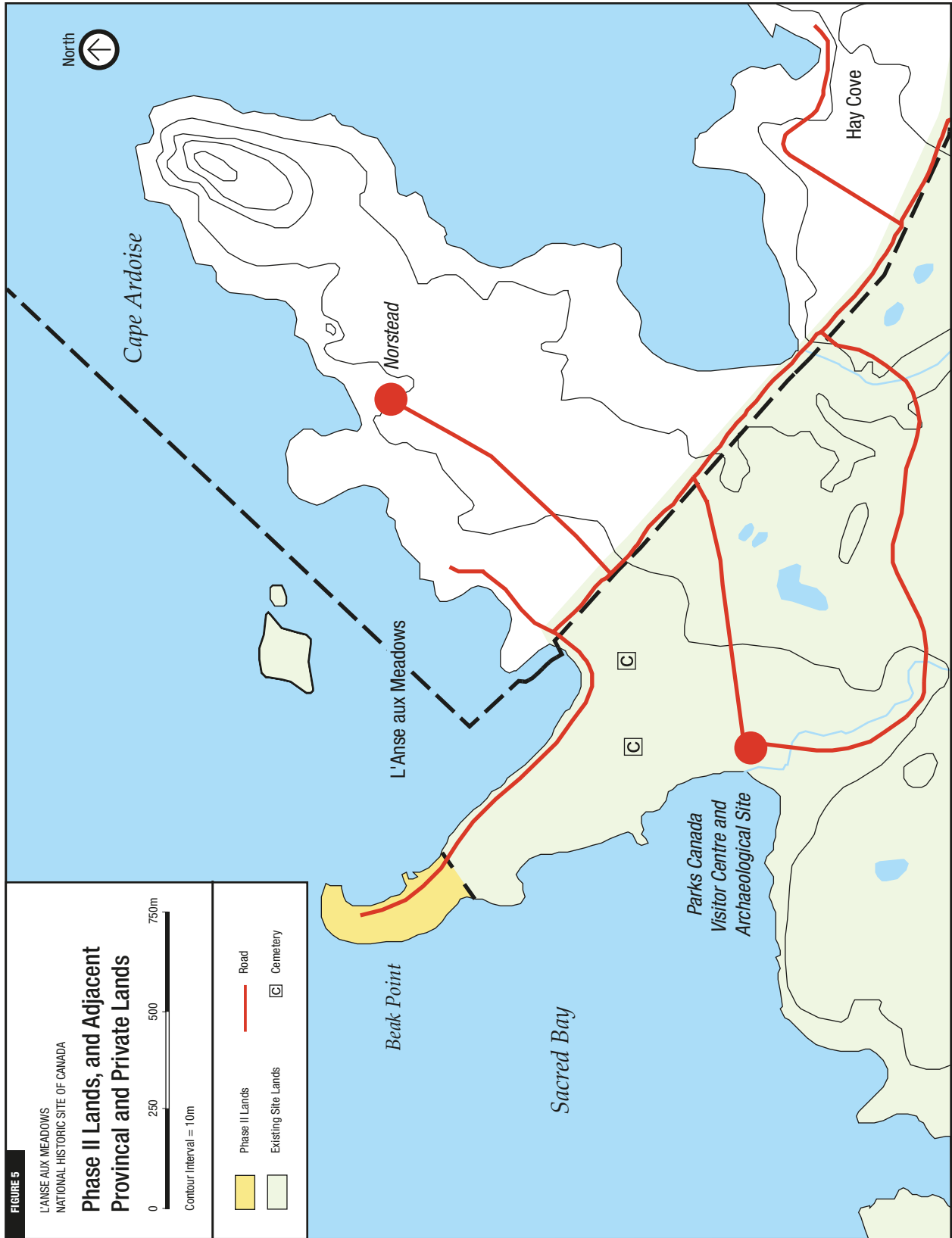
environmental steward, is consistent with section 1.1.7 of Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy (CRM) and respects the traditional rural life activities of local residents.

#### A. Site Boundary

The site boundary at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC encompasses an area of 80km<sup>2</sup>. The lands acquired by the province and transferred to the federal crown in 1975 with the signing of the Federal-Provincial Agreement to establish the site are referred to as Phase One lands. The size of the site was based on the need to exclude as many buildings as possible, and allow for the possible future discovery and protection of additional artifacts in areas away from the known archaeological dig site.

Also in the 1975 agreement, the area of land in L'Anse aux Meadows known as Beak Point was given the status of Phase II lands and was identified for eventual inclusion within the site. The province retains control and administration of Beak Point as a Public Works Development Area. This designation, given under the authority of the Consolidated Newfoundland Regulation 1030/96, ensures that any development on Beak Point is in keeping with its proximity to, and eventual inclusion in, the site's land base. The current site boundary at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC is recognised by Order in Council P.C. 1985-463, and is registered as Plan 48438 with National Legal Surveys.

During the management planning process, some concerns were expressed about the size of the site. The known archaeological site occupies only about 10% of the landbase and not all the area within the boundaries of the site is required to maintain the viewscape from the visitor centre, replica sod huts, and archaeological site. Section 10 (1) of the federal-provincial agreement states that if any lands are no longer required for the purposes of a National Historic Park then the control and administration of those lands would be transferred back to the province. Also, in many cases it is difficult to tell where the boundary actually is. The concerns expressed





also relate to the large marine portion of the site. There has not been an underwater survey at L'Anse aux Meadows NHS to determine if any cultural resources are located there.

**Objective:**

- To ensure the site boundary allows for the protection of natural and cultural resources in accordance with the principles of value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity.

**Key Actions:**

- Maintain the current site boundary until a comprehensive evaluation is completed. The evaluation must:
  - Include a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of cultural resources and landscapes throughout the site, both terrestrial and marine.
  - Include a biophysical inventory to identify resources of special significance and their contribution to the integrity of the broader ecosystem, both terrestrial and marine.
  - Give precedence to cultural resources and their protection and presentation in any management consideration including boundary considerations.
  - Occur within the next five years
  - Include consultation with the public and the provincial government.
- Once the assessment is complete, Parks Canada will clearly identify the boundary, particularly at popular entry points.

**B. Phase II Lands**

Beak Point is located immediately north of the archaeological site. Four households that form a part of the community of L'Anse aux Meadows occupy the area. The land on which these houses stand was described as Phase II lands in the 1975 Federal-Provincial Agreement. Section (3) and (14) state, respectively:

- "Newfoundland will, subject to Section 14 ... within five (5) years from the date of the signing of this agreement, acquire clear title to the Phase II lands ... and transfer to Canada the administration and control of those lands."

- "Newfoundland and Canada agree that until the present owners of owner-occupied lands within the Phase II lands are willing to sell their lands, those owners and their children may continue to hold those lands in freehold."

This land has been zoned a Public Works Development Area under the Provincial Department of Works, Services and Transportation Act (o.c. 96-192). This zoning was established to ensure that any development would be regulated with the consideration that the land would, in the future, be included within the boundary of the national historic site (Figure 5).

**Objective:**

- To maintain the intent of the 1975 Federal-Provincial Agreement to acquire Phase II lands for inclusion into the site boundary when present owners of owner-occupied lands are willing to sell their lands.

**Key Actions:**

- Work with the provincial government to ensure that development on Phase II lands is in keeping with its proximity to, and eventual inclusion in the national historic site boundary by providing for: single dwelling homes and associated out-buildings, and non-commercial facilities (with the exception of commercial fishing activities and associated structures).
- Until such time as the owners of owner-occupied land are willing to sell their land to the Crown, they and their children may continue to hold that land in freehold.

**C. Saddle Hill Pond Water Supply**

Subsection 11 (1) of the *National Historic Parks General Regulations* states "The Minister may enter into an agreement with a municipality or water district adjacent to a Park for the supply of water from the Park." In 1980, the community of Straitsview requested, and was granted, permission to take water from Saddle Hill Pond as a community water supply. With the exception of the exchange of letters in 1980, there is no formal agreement between the community of Straitsview and



the Minister for the use of the water resource at Saddle Hill Pond.

**Objective:**

- To protect the Saddle Hill Pond watershed area and continue its availability as a water supply.

**Key Action:**

- Enter into an agreement with the Straitsview Water Committee for the continued use of Saddle Hill Pond as a water supply for the community of Straitsview.

**D. Rare Vascular Plants**

Twenty-seven out of approximately 270 vascular plants designated as rare for the island of Newfoundland are known to occur within the boundary of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC. The records for the site are based on the work of M.L. Fernald's work in 1925, and on a 1992 survey conducted for Parks Canada.

Of the 27 rare plant species, none is listed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Three of these plants, however, are thought to be the only known occurrences on the island of Newfoundland. Although these plants have no association with the commemorative intent of the site, under Section 1.1.7 of the CRM policy, Parks Canada has a responsibility to protect them as a significant part of the biodiversity of Newfoundland and its natural heritage.

**Objective:**

- To protect rare plants from development and human activities.

**Key Actions:**

- Identify all rare plant locations and record them in a GIS database.
- Prepare plant identification aids and manual for use by Parks Canada staff and local residents.
- Identify strategies for the protection of rare plants where threats may exist, in consultation with area residents.

**E. Eider Duck Nesting Sites**

On the island of Newfoundland, eider ducks breed only on the Northern Peninsula. The islands within L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC and a site at Hare Bay are the two most significant breeding colonies. In 1993, more than 30 nests were found on the islands investigated by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). In 1995, Parks Canada and Ducks Unlimited released 1000 eider ducks, installed nest boxes, and initiated a conservation education program with an annual *Green Wing Day* event. The CWS and Parks Canada continue to monitor these nesting colonies. During the summer of 2001, approximately 400 nests were identified on islands within the site.

**Objective:**

- Ensure that eider ducks have an opportunity to breed and nest undisturbed by direct and indirect human activity.

**Key Actions:**

- Restrict access to the islands during breeding and nesting season.
- Co-operate with the CWS in the long term monitoring of the nesting sites.
- Continue to promote local conservation through the annual *Green Wing Day* event.

**F. Traditional Activities**

There are a number of traditional activities occurring within the boundary of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC (Figure 6). The site boundary takes in a land and water area that residents of the adjacent coastal communities have traditionally used for domestic purposes such as domestic wood harvesting, berry picking and snaring. The size of the site, combined with its location adjacent to communities, provides for unique land use patterns.

Traditional land and sea activities have continued with the acknowledgement of site staff since the establishment of the site in 1975. This management plan provides guidelines which permit continued access to traditional activities that do not threaten or impair commemorative integrity, and are in accordance with the protection of natural ecosystem features as outlined in the CRM policy.

**Objectives:**

- To ensure the management of traditional activities respects the commemorative integrity of the site and the management of natural ecosystem features as outlined in Section 1.1.7 of the CRM policy.
- To recognise the area's importance in helping to maintain a traditional rural life for residents of the area.

*Berry Picking*

Jams and spreads made from local berries have always been part of the traditional diet of people throughout the province, and the area around the site is no different. Two kinds of berries are picked within the site boundary, bakeapple (*Rubus chamaemorus*) which are found on the flat bog areas, and partridge berry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) which are found on the rock barrens. These areas are spread throughout the site, including the islands. Both visitors and residents pick the berries, however picking is limited to the mainland portion of the site.



Bakeapple Parks Canada – Michael Burzynski

**Key Actions:**

- Continue to permit berry picking for domestic purposes only.
- Manage berry picking activities to ensure habitat protection of the bog and barren areas and protection of cultural resources.
- Ensure that adequate provisions are put in place to regulate this activity under permit, as part of the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites.

*Hay Cutting*

Hay, which is cut within the site boundary, is used as feed for domestic livestock. In the past, many residents maintained a small herd of livestock as a supplement to their diet. This practice has decreased significantly over the past 20 years. Two residents of adjacent communities currently cut hay by scythe at a number of locations, including the area between Hay Cove and Straitsview, and at the intersection to Beak Point in L'Anse aux Meadows (Figure 6).

**Key Actions:**

- Continue to permit residents to cut hay for domestic purposes within the site boundary.
- Require approvals of location and cutting method, prior to the activity, to ensure protection of rare plants and of cultural resources.
- Ensure that adequate provisions are put in place to regulate this activity under permit, as part of the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites.

*Vegetable Gardens*

Many residents in the area of the site grow their own root vegetables in small, private garden plots. This is a normal activity throughout most of the province. However, on the Northern Peninsula, residents have established many of their gardens along the sides of the road rather than next to their homes.

This land use pattern started with the building of the roads in the late 1970's. Much of the land surrounding the communities



Wood harvesting is a traditional activity in the L'Anse aux Meadows area  
Parks Canada – Trudy Taylor-Walsh, 2003

is either rocky gravelly or bog. The rocky-gravelly soil is difficult to work, and the bog is not appropriate for garden use. During the road construction, fertile soil was tilled up along the road corridor. Residents identified it as good growing soil and proceeded to establish their gardens. Although the number of residents growing their own vegetables has decreased in recent years, there are presently two gardens along the road corridor of the site.

**Key Actions:**

- Permit existing vegetable gardens to remain. New gardens may be permitted in approved areas within the highway corridor.
- Ensure that adequate provisions are put in place to regulate this activity under permit, as part of the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites.

**Trapping**

There is one trapper operating within the boundary of the site. Like many other

activities, trapping occurred in the area prior to the site's establishment. The trapping season is from October to April, and occurs in the eastern portion of the site away from the vrc and archaeological site. The animals most commonly trapped include mink, weasel, otter, beaver, muskrat and fox. Permission has been granted on an annual basis by the site supervisor or superintendent.

**Key Actions:**

- Allow the present trapper to continue trapping animals within the site boundary.
- The current license will be non-transferable and no other license will be issued.
- Require that the present trapper report the species type and number trapped as a condition of his license.
- Manage trapping activities to ensure that all species populations are maintained.
- Manage and control trapping activities according to *Provincial Wildlife Regulations*.
- Ensure that adequate provisions are put in place to regulate this activity under permit, as part of the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites.

**Snaring**

A number of people in adjacent communities snare rabbits, or snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) within the site boundary. These activities occur from mid-October to mid-February throughout the site, except in the immediate area of the archaeological site. The animals, first introduced to the island between 1864-1876, now form a part of the traditional diet of the residents.

**Key Actions:**

- Continue to permit residents to snare snowshoe hare within the site for domestic purposes only.
- A provincial permit will be required for snaring.
- Manage snaring activities to ensure that snowshoe hare populations are adequately maintained.
- Manage and control snaring activities according to *Provincial Wildlife Regulations*.

- Ensure that adequate provisions are put in place to regulate this activity under permit, as part of the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites.

#### *Domestic Wood Harvest*

In 1980, there was an agreement between Parks Canada and the local residents of L'Anse aux Meadows, Hay Cove, Straitsview, and Noddy Bay that individuals from these communities could continue to harvest wood within the site for a period of 25 years, concluding in 2005.

Like other traditional activities, dependency on wood fuel has decreased during the past 20 years. Most residents who continue to use wood for fuel cut it on provincial lands along Route 430, and only travel through the site to transport the wood. There are currently three individuals who continue to harvest wood within the site boundary. They each cut approximately two cords of wood annually in the areas of Crooked Lead Pond, Watch Pond and Otter Pond (Figure 6).

#### *Key Actions:*

- Continue to permit wood cutting by individuals who currently cut wood in the site, under license, as per the conditions of the 1980 agreement. The agreement would not end in 2005.
- Licenses will be non-transferable and no other license will be issued.
- Require the current harvesters to report the amount of wood they cut, and the location of the cutting, as a condition of their license.
- Effectively manage domestic wood harvesting activities to ensure the protection of natural ecosystem features.
- Manage and control wood cutting activities according to the *Provincial Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods Regulations*.
- Ensure that adequate provisions are put in place to regulate this activity under permit, as part of the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites.

#### *Migratory Bird Hunting*

Hunting has been prohibited on the mainland area of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC since the site was established in 1975. However, hunting of migratory birds was permitted on the water and island areas of the site. The ducks (mergansers, black duck, and eiders) and geese are consumed as part of the traditional diet of residents. The Canadian Wildlife Service studies the bird populations in the Sacred Bay area as a part of their monitoring program for insular Newfoundland.

#### *Key Actions:*

- Continue to permit hunting of mergansers, black duck, eiders and geese on the water and islands, with the exception of Warrens Island.
- Issue permits to allow migratory bird hunting within the site boundary.
- Require hunters to report the species and number of birds hunted as a condition of their permit.
- No hunting will occur until after the site has officially closed for the season.
- Manage and control this activity under the regulations of the Migratory Birds Convention Act.
- Ensure that adequate provisions are put in place to regulate this activity under permit, as part of the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites.

#### *Recreational Fishing*

There are no licensed salmon rivers or major rivers of any type within L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC. However, there are 79 permanent small ponds and lakes. Seven of these lakes account for over 50% of the total water area in the site including Long Pond, Skokingleg Pond, Axe Pond, Komatic Pond, Grub Pond, Otter Pond and Squires Pond. Residents use these areas for trout fishing in the summer and in the winter. Sea and mud trout are fished in the ponds. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans set the season and bag limits for recreational fishing in the province.

**Key Actions:**

- Continue to permit recreational fishing.
- Manage this activity with *Newfoundland Fisheries Regulations* (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and subject to resource conservation measures.
- Ensure that adequate provisions are put in place to regulate this activity under permit, as part of the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites.

**Snowmobiling**

Snowmobiling has been a popular winter activity in the L'Anse aux Meadows area for many years. Snowmobiles are used for hauling wood, checking rabbit snares and as a form of transportation and recreation. Most households in the area of the site have at least one snowmobile.

Each of the communities of L'Anse aux Meadows, Hay Cove, Straitsview and Noddy Bay have a community trail (Figure 6) which is used by residents to travel to areas on the south side of the park boundary. These trails are well known to the residents and were used prior to the establishment of the site. There is also a groomed trail (Figure 6) that cuts through the southeastern portion of the site for a distance of approximately two kilometres. The trail enters the site boundary at the bottom of Northwest Bay and exits in the community of Straitsview.

Within the past five years, there have been a number of requests by commercial tours for permission to drive their snowmobiles to the sod huts. These requests have been denied to ensure the commemorative integrity of the site. Parks Canada does recognise the importance of this emerging winter industry, and will work co-operatively with commercial operators to provide access by snowmobiles to the vrc.

**Key Actions:**

- Snowmobiling will not be permitted within the vicinity of the archaeological site and sod huts.
- Restrict snowmobiling in specific locations if it is determined that this activity is

impairing natural ecosystem features or commemorative integrity. Parks Canada will consult with the public prior to any restrictions.

- Continue to permit local residents to snowmobile within the site boundary.
- Work together with local residents on a strategy to ensure snowmobiling does not threaten rare plants.
- Permit commercial snowmobile tours to access the site vrc via the access road when it is closed to vehicular traffic, and into the community of L'Anse aux Meadows from the community of Hay Cove along the highway corridor. Commercial snowmobilers will also be permitted to use the groomed trail. Manage snowmobiling as a designated activity under subsection 13 of the *National Historic Park General Regulations*.

**G. Management of the Marine Component**

L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC includes a marine component that encompasses much of Sacred Bay. Approximately 60% or 49 km<sup>2</sup> of the total site area is marine. This includes offshore islands, which range in size from numerous small rock outcrops, to several larger islands. The length of the site's coastline is 34 km, and its classification includes rock slope (35%), gravelly and rocky beaches (27%), and some tidal areas (12%). The water depth is generally shallow and the mean tidal range is less than one metre.

**Commercial Fishery**

The Federal-Provincial Agreement states that "the traditional rights of fishermen to land their catches shall not be disturbed whether such fishermen live within the boundary of the proposed national historic park or not." Up until the 1992 moratorium on the ground fishery, Sacred Bay was an active fishing ground. Since that time, the level of fishing activity has dramatically decreased. Present activities include a limited groundfishery, seal fishery, and emerging whelk, lobster and toad crab fisheries. There is also an undetermined amount of recreational scallop-diving taking place.

The site boundary within Sacred Bay is a part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans 4R management area. This area extends from Cape Ray in the south, to Cape Bauld in the north on the island portion of the province, and includes the area from the Quebec-Labrador border to Double Island on the Labrador side of the Strait of Belle Isle.

All fish harvesters with a license to fish in 4R are qualified to fish within the site boundary. However, the number of harvesters who actually choose to fish within the site boundary is comparatively small. There are two licensed fish harvesters in L'Anse aux Meadows, 10 in Hay Cove, and 16 in Ship Cove that actively participate in a commercial fishery within the site.

Over the past couple of years, interest has been expressed in using areas within South Road as an aquaculture site for mussel-spat collection and possible grow-out. While Parks Canada respects traditional land uses that support the local economy, any new activity, such as aquaculture, must be addressed in consideration of policy implications for Parks Canada across the country.

**Objective:**

- To manage the marine component of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC in a manner that ensures the protection of the commemorative integrity of the site and any natural ecosystem features that may be located therein.

**Key Actions:**

- Continue to allow commercial fishing under regulation of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), that includes consultation with Parks Canada.
- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding between Parks Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans which clearly outline roles and responsibilities such as:
  - Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulations will be used to manage fishing activity.
  - Parks Canada will have assurance that any resources of national significance will be protected.
- Conduct an underwater archaeological survey as part of the boundary assessment.
- Aquaculture will not be permitted within the site.



Shoreline Parks Canada – Trudy Taylor-Walsh, 2003



#### 6.4 ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

There are a number of concerns related to access and circulation of visitors at the site, and while driving to the site. A number of site areas, particularly the vrc and the sod huts, experience crowding at peak visitation times. This causes circulation problems throughout the site, and may also affect the visitor's experience.

- Some visitors have difficulty locating the site off Route 430 and 436, and have mistakenly travelled instead to St. Anthony, the community of L'Anse aux Meadows, or Norstead, a privately operated Viking tourist attraction.
- The site boundary encompasses land on the east side of Route 436 (distance varies from 50'-100') from Straitsview to L'Anse aux Meadows. The purpose of including this parcel of land within the boundary was to ensure that unregulated development that could interrupt the viewscape would be controlled on adjacent provincial and private lands (Figure 5). An access road has been built across this right-of-way, next to the community of L'Anse aux Meadows, and now provides access to all the land towards Cape Ardoise.
- The small entrance area to the vrc contains a large number of uses (walkway to the reception desk, a gift shop and rest area, display racks for regional attractions, etc.) which often causes visitor congestion.
- Insufficient theatre capacity, and an inability to present programs in the two official languages simultaneously, also creates circulation concerns.
- Increasing visitation rates often create long waits to use the vrc washroom facilities, and are putting high demand on the sewage system, which has a capacity of 50,000 visitors per year.
- The three replica sod huts are used as the stage for four costumed interpreters. These programs are increasingly popular with visitors, and crowding in the huts may require that we limit use in order to maintain a quality visitor experience.

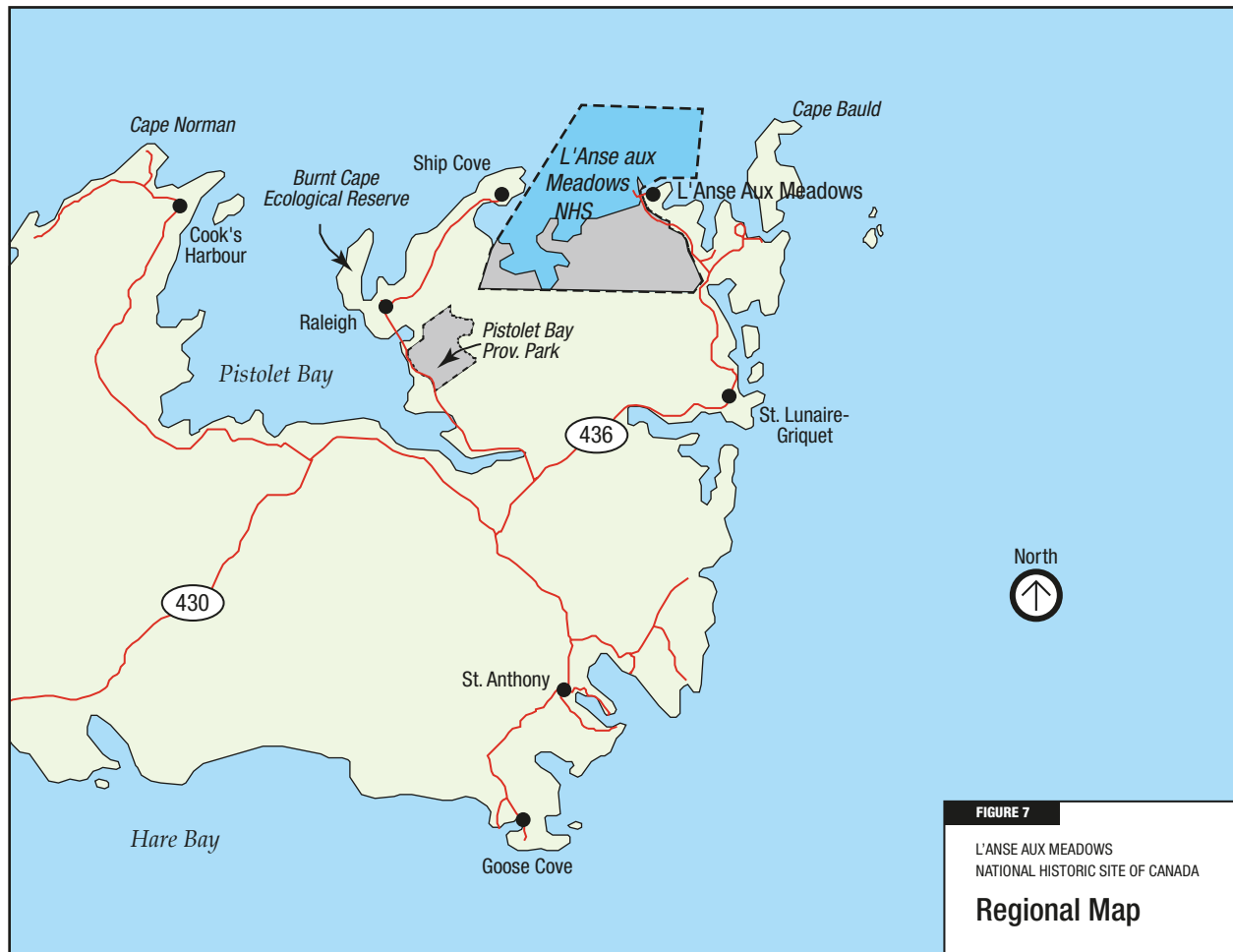
- Tour buses regularly use the gated service access road to the sod huts from Route 436 and the pedestrian access between the parking lot and the vrc to drop off and pick up their passengers. This activity at the vrc interferes with access by other visitors and emergency vehicles as well as being a serious safety concern, as buses must back up through crowds of people. At the sod huts buses use the access road to get as close to the site as possible. This effectively blocks portions of the viewscape and interferes with the presentation of the site and experience of visitors. Also, the sound of bus engines often competes with the soundscape of wind, waves, seabirds and human voices.
- The archaeological site and sod huts have limited accessibility, and the boardwalk between the vrc and the sod huts is not fully accessible to visitors using wheelchairs due to stairs and sections of gravel walkway. In addition, the long distance from the vrc to the sod huts presents a barrier for visitors with mobility impairments.

##### *Objectives:*

- To ensure easy and clear routing into the site from Routes 430 and 436.
- To provide circulation through the site that will prevent congestion, follows the intended route of the heritage presentation experiences, and maintains commemorative integrity.
- To provide meaningful opportunities for persons with disabilities to experience the site and appreciate its national and international significance.

##### *Key Actions:*

- Install effective directional road signs to the site along Routes 430 and 436 in accordance with the Parks Canada signage program.
- Undertake a study to assess whether current site facilities can reach our audiences with significant messages, meet functional requirements, and ensure appropriate accessibility standards.
- Prevent buses and other vehicles from blocking the viewscape and disturbing the



**FIGURE 7**  
 L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS  
 NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA  
**Regional Map**

soundscape by creating more suitable bus drop off and parking areas.

- Prevent buses and other vehicles from interfering with pedestrian access between the vrc and parking lot. Establish a moratorium on additional right-of-way accesses until the establishment of a joint planning exercise between Parks Canada, the province and local interests concerning development of provincial lands adjacent to the site.

### 6.5 ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC will continue to operate in accordance with the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*, and the applicable regulatory regime. It will also adhere

to the values and objectives of the site's Commemorative Integrity Statement and Parks Canada's *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies* and CRM policy.

#### *Employment*

The Federal-Provincial Agreement states that "Canada will give preference to local residents for employment so far as is consistent with the practice of the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration." L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC plays an important role in employment within the region.

#### *Objective:*

- To continue to meet employment obligations under the Federal-Provincial Agreement.

**Key Action:**

- Ensure all job postings are advertised through the regional Human Resources Development Canada office.

**Public Safety**

There have been a number of small fires at the sod huts that have caused minor damage to the replica sod huts. A major fire in 1986, however, caused the complete destruction of Building B, one of the two smaller huts.

To alleviate some of the risk of fires in the huts, propane fireplaces have replaced wood fires. The practices of some tour bus operators as noted previously also presents public safety concerns.

A *Public Safety Plan*, complete with contingency and operational guidelines, is in place for the Field Unit of which L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC is a part. The plan's objectives are to provide premium visitor experiences by reducing undue fear, pain or personal loss by applying the principles of Visitor Risk Management.

**Objective:**

- To provide safe, well-maintained, accessible facilities with minimal impact on the environment.

**Key Actions:**

- Maintain and develop public safety programs, including training, signs and other forms of safety information so visitors are aware of, and informed about, risks. The focus will be on accident prevention, programming and emergency and environmental planning.
- Continue to monitor the effectiveness of fire protection and suppression measures at the sod huts to ensure risks are minimised.
- Resolve safety concerns associated with buses and other vehicles using the pedestrian access from the parking lot to the VRC as a passenger drop off/ pick up zone.

**Resource Protection**

A number of enforcement issues naturally arise in the management and operation of a site with such wide ranging cultural and natural resources, visitor and local use activities. This management plan provides guidance for the continuation of several traditional use activities such as snaring for snowshoe hare and commercial fishing in Sacred Bay.

Existing *National Historic Parks Regulations*, however, are not comprehensive enough to address all activities occurring within L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC. The regulatory needs of the site will be addressed as part of



Navigational interpretation near the faering Dale Wilson, 2003

the regulatory review currently underway for national historic sites. Notwithstanding the results of this review, the conditions of the activity will be regulated using existing provincial and federal regulations under the appropriate government department.

**Objective:**

- To ensure the protection and management of natural resources supported by an appropriate regulatory regime.

**Key Actions:**

- Ensure that the regulatory review process currently underway for national historic sites includes appropriate provisions to permit specific traditional activities within the site boundary.
- Develop agreements between Parks Canada and appropriate Federal and Provincial departments to formalise the roles and responsibilities of each agency's legislation and regulations in the management of specific traditional activities at the site.



## 7.0 Ongoing partnerships and public involvement



Public consultation Parks Canada – Jeff Anderson, 2001

L'Anse aux Meadows NHS belongs to the people of Canada, and all citizens should feel confident they have an opportunity to participate in key decisions concerning their site. Areas that appear to be of greatest interest to the public are commemorative integrity, appropriate use, traditional land uses, partnering, and effective public involvement. This section highlights key strategic changes to ensure decisions are made in a consistent, fair, open and responsive environment.

The following values and principles will guide governance and decision making at L'Anse aux Meadows NHS:

### Values:

- Principles and practices of cultural resource management will be paramount in all decisions.
- Open, participatory decision making.

- Predictable, consistent and fair regulation.
- Competent, accountable management.
- Respect for others.

### Principles:

All actions, initiatives and programs undertaken to realise the vision are implemented in full accordance with the spirit and requirements of the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*, *Parks Canada Agency Act*, *Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*, *National Historic Parks Regulations*, and the *L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan*.

- Standards are defined, enforced and reviewed to ensure the maintenance of commemorative integrity and protection of natural ecosystem features.
- Regulation and decision making are responsive, open, participatory, consistent and equitable.

- There is individual and shared responsibility to provide for protection and preservation of heritage resources.
- Decisions are made with integrity and common sense.
- Planning and decisions are co-ordinated on a regional basis.
- Partnerships are encouraged when founded on the principles of commemorative integrity.
- There is a shared responsibility to achieve commemorative, social, cultural and economic sustainability.
- Public participation in decision making will be guided by the following fundamental practices:
  - Access to clear, timely, relevant, objective and accurate information.
  - Adequate notice and time for public review.
  - Careful consideration of public input.
  - Feedback on the nature of comments received and Parks Canada's response to participants.
  - Respect for all interested parties and individual viewpoints.

## 7.1 PARTNERSHIPS

### *Regional Relationships and Partnerships*

The importance of the tourism industry to the local economy on the tip of the Northern Peninsula has been increasing in recent years. L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC is a major contributor to that economy. Parks Canada recognises that the site is the major destination in the region, and therefore has a role to play in partnering with other attractions and businesses (Figure 7).

One such business is Norstead, a Viking-themed tourist attraction located just 2 km from the national historic site. Norstead celebrates the Viking era and represents how Viking settlements had evolved in Iceland and Greenland around 1000 years ago. During the planning process, Norstead and many other local businesses and attractions stated they would like better opportunities to both co-operate with L'Anse aux Meadows

NHSC and to make visitors aware of their own attractions. This management plan recognises that an informed, involved community will be a major part of successful site management. Similarly, informed and involved site management will help create a successful community life.

Involving the local Aboriginal community of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is also important to presenting the site's historical significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. As identified earlier in this management plan, the heritage presentation program needs to improve the presentation of the site's significance with respect to both evidence of Aboriginal occupation and the arrival of Vikings at L'Anse aux Meadows resulting in the first known contact between Europeans and North American Aboriginal people. Currently, presentation of the Aboriginal people is mainly from the point of view determined from the Viking Sagas. Parks Canada is currently consulting with the provincial aboriginal community to determine how these stories can be presented.

### *National and International Relationships and Partnerships*

L'Anse aux Meadows is recognized as both a national historic site of Canada and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Parks Canada actively seeks partnerships that will present the site's significance to Canadians and the rest of the world. In 1991, the site participated in the "Vinland Revisited" events that focussed world attention on L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC with the arrival of replica Viking ships from Europe. The site was also involved with the development of the *Full Circle Exhibit* produced by the Newfoundland Museum for the *Vikings! 1000 Years* celebrations held in 2000. This exhibit is now on a national tour. The site has co-operated with the production of the *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga* exhibit organized by the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and the White House Millennium Council. This exhibit was on display at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in the spring of 2002 where staff from L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC

helped to present the significance of the site. Efforts are also being made to work with the Government of Iceland to develop future strategies for the presentation of Viking sites in Greenland and Iceland that would also present L'Anse aux Meadows' role with respect to the Viking expansion in the North Atlantic.

**Objectives:**

- To seek partnerships that will ensure accurate presentation of reasons for the site's national and international significance to Canadian and international audiences.
- To support partnerships that improve the experience of visitors coming to L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC and encourage visitors to participate in other heritage experiences offered in the area.

**Key Actions:**

- Explore ways of working with Norstead to achieve mutual goals such as providing visitors with useful information on the respective roles of the two sites, and accurate presentation of messages.
- Work with representatives of the Aboriginal community to develop strategies to present the Aboriginal stories from their perspective.
- Continue to seek partnership opportunities to present reasons for the national and international significance of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC to broader Canadian and international audiences.
- Actively seek a partnership with the Government of Iceland so L'Anse aux Meadows' role in the Viking expansion can be presented at Viking sites in Greenland and Iceland that are also associated with this event.
- Work with local operators and organizations to provide visitors with orientation to other local attractions and businesses in the region.

- Contribute to building a strong and viable regional economy by working co-operatively with the local tourism industry.
- Provide a location for orientating visitors to other attractions and businesses in the region.

**7.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Parks Canada is committed to ongoing, meaningful public involvement. The type of participation will vary depending on the nature of the decision being made. Various groups and individuals will be asked to provide their feedback as we begin implementing the directions of this management plan.

**Objective:**

- To ensure key policy, land-use and planning decisions are timely, fair and consistent, and are arrived at in an open and participatory manner.

**Key Actions:**

- Provide the public with annual opportunities to review and discuss the implementation of the management plan.
- Report regularly to the public on the implementation of the management plan, and how it relates to the *State of the Protected Heritage Areas Report*.
- Set up appropriate processes to consult with the public on future issues. Ensure that local stakeholders are involved as early as possible.
- Nurture a good working relationship between L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC and local communities.



### 7.3 APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA

Each year the site receives a number of requests from groups and organizations interested in providing visitor services at the site. These requests range from presenting a concert, to hosting a dinner theatre. In deciding what services and events can be permitted at the site, Parks Canada must be consistent and fair, while ensuring the commemorative integrity of the site. The following *New Initiative Criteria* will guide decision making at the site. New initiatives at L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC may be given consideration if they:

- Enhance visitor understanding of the significance of the site.
- Ensure the commemorative integrity of the site.
- Respect community activities.
- Ensure the protection of cultural resources, natural ecosystem features and site facilities.
- Do not interfere with access of other visitors.
- Consult with local operators during proposal development.

## 8.0 Implementation

The management plan provides long-term strategic direction for site managers. It is a framework for more detailed planning and decision-making, and an important reference for capital expenditure forecasts and future management and operations. Implementation of the plan is the responsibility of the site supervisor and Field Unit staff, and is dependent on the availability of financial resources.

All necessary central agency and program approvals will be sought as implementation proceeds. Priorities may be reconsidered in response to new circumstances or information, or changing national priorities and decisions. The priorities will be linked directly to the site's business plan and to the Field Unit's business plan. The priorities will lead to results that will support the site supervisor's three primary accountabilities:

1. Ensuring commemorative integrity and protecting significant ecosystem features.
2. Providing service to clients.
3. Making wise and efficient use of public funds.

Progress will be determined through annual reporting on business plan performance, and through the *State of the Parks* report, which is updated every two years.

The majority of the statements within this management plan provide direction for the ongoing management and operations of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC. Implementation of this plan will begin immediately. Specific action items that are a priority for the first three-year business planning cycle are outlined as follows:



Interpreter at entrance of replica furnace building Dale Wilson, 2003

### 8.1 PRIORITIES FOR THE FIRST THREE-YEAR BUSINESS PLANNING CYCLE

#### *Protection of Cultural Resources:*

- Take measures to ensure the protection of the viewscape, which are so important to the commemorative integrity of the site.
- Complete the final report of the archaeological investigations within two years.
- Develop a formal cemetery agreement between Parks Canada and interested organizations for the maintenance of existing cemeteries and gravesites.

**Heritage Presentation:**

- Improve reception by creating a site entrance that truly invites people to enter L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC and provides a strong sense of having arrived at a Viking site, at the gateway to North America for the Vikings and at a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Actively market the site so that visitors are prepared for an educational, entertaining and enjoyable experience, including a variety of opportunities to learn about the history of L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC and its significant place in Canadian history.
- Create an onsite heritage presentation program that goes beyond the furnished buildings and guided tours, to include the sensory experience of scanning the viewscape, walking through the archaeological site and discovering the landscape that also welcomed the Vikings at this site.
- Position the costumed heritage program and the replica huts, as a dynamic means of bringing life to the authentic story contained in the archaeological evidence.
- Evaluate the present heritage presentation program and restructure where necessary to:
  - Ensure visitors leave L'Anse aux Meadows NHSC with a clear understanding of the site's place in the history of Canada.
  - Ensure visitors understand the connection between the different aspects of the site's presentation, and the messages that are being presented.
  - Present messages of national significance related to the Aboriginal Story and greater Viking story.
  - Broaden the heritage presentation program to provide self-guided, educational and event guided tours.
- Ensure the heritage presentation program reflects audience needs and expectations by:
  - Encouraging involvement of local residents.
  - Working with local educators to provide specialised programming for school groups.
  - Working with tourism operators to assist them in the accurate delivery of all messages of national significance.
  - Continuing to seek partnership opportunities with offsite and diverse audiences.



Visitor's Centre Parks Canada – Trudy Taylor-Walsh, 2003

- Ensure that visitors with hearing, visual, and mobility impairments have access to all messages of national significance.
- Work with tour groups to develop a specialised heritage presentation program of the site which is mutually beneficial.
- Enhance the site's international profile by developing linkages with related sites in Greenland and Iceland.

**Natural Resource Management:**

- Complete a comprehensive boundary evaluation, including terrestrial and marine components, within the next five years.
- Clearly identify the site boundary, particularly at popular entry points.
- Enter into an agreement with the Straitsview Water Committee for the continued use of Saddle Hill Pond as a water supply for the community of Straitsview.
- Identify all rare plant locations and record in a GIS database.

**Access and Circulation:**

- Undertake a study to assess whether site facilities can reach our audiences with significant messages, meet functional requirements, and ensure appropriate accessibility standards.
- Prevent buses and other vehicles from blocking the viewscape and disturbing the soundscapes by creating more suitable bus drop off and parking areas.
- Prevent buses and other vehicles from interfering with pedestrian access between the VRC and parking lot.
- Establish a moratorium on additional right-of-way accesses until the establishment of a joint planning exercise between Parks Canada, the province and local interests concerning development of provincial lands adjacent to the site.

**Resource Protection:**

- Address regulatory needs of the site as part of the regulatory review of national historic sites.
- Develop agreements between Parks Canada and appropriate federal and provincial departments to formalize our respective roles and responsibilities in the management of specific traditional activities at the site.

**Partnerships and Ongoing Public Involvement:**

- Provide visitors with opportunities to find out about other attractions and businesses in the region.
- Work with representatives of the aboriginal community to develop strategies to present the Aboriginal stories from their perspective.
- Explore ways of working with Norstead to achieve mutual goals such as providing visitors with useful information on the respective roles of the two sites, and accurate presentation of messages.
- Implement *New Initiative Criteria* for screening new proposals by outside interests at the site.



## 9.0 Environmental assessment

As L'Anse aux Meadows is a national historic site and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, great care must be taken to ensure the commemorative integrity of the site. This is mandated as part of the Parks Canada Agency Act (1998). The CRM policy also provides for the protection of natural resources under Section 1.1.7. Hence, Parks Canada has a responsibility at its national historic sites to protect significant ecosystem features, especially if they form an important part of the region's biodiversity and natural heritage.

In August 2001, the Ecosystem Science Branch prepared an environmental assessment of the proposed management plan objectives and actions. The assessment was undertaken to ensure that the cumulative effects of the plan actions are clearly understood, and do not contradict the mandate of the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, or the guiding principles and operational policies of Parks Canada.

The assessment considers the combined or cumulative impact of past, current and future projects and activities. Although an environment may be resilient to small changes in the environment, the combined changes of years of human influence can result in ecosystem degradation and viewscape impairment. As such, the environmental assessment report considered the management plan objectives and actions in light of past human impacts at the site.

*The Environmental Assessment – L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan, 2001 concludes that:*

- The management plan is consistent with Parks Canada legislation and operational policy.



Replica sod huts at L'Anse aux Meadows Dale Wilson, 2003

- Proposed objectives and actions are in line with cultural and natural resource protection requirements.
- Resource protection is properly identified as a key component to the administration and operations of the site.
- The plan will not cause significant negative environmental impact.
- The cumulative effect of the plan will be an improvement in the protection of natural resources.
- The management guidelines will ensure the maintenance of the site's significant natural resources while permitting important traditional activities.
- By virtue of having been developed in full consultation with local communities, the plan is in a better position to achieve both long-term protection of natural resources and maintenance of the site's natural and authentic setting.



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