

Unknown Area Exhibition Guide

By Emily Cook and Andy Slater

Welcome Area

Pod Shaped Object

In front of you is an object that was found in mud. We have a few working theories about what it was. The holes seem purposeful and made so we aren't sure if it was a boat that had another material that has worn away with time or if it was some kind of net for catching fruit, or some kind of sleigh for carrying goods long distance. Touch the object and feel its sturdy material. Feel the model that we made of it. What do you think it was?

To the left of the artifact there is a small model to give a sense of the overall shape. It is not an exact model, but it is there to give those who are experiencing the object through touch a sense of the proportions.

Left of the model and on the other side of the wall text about four feet up is a QR code. Scan the QR code to experience a possible recreation of this object in augmented reality. We have placed a bump dot to help you find the QR code

Artifact Gallery

Mushroom and Lichen textile, possibly wearable

Hanging in front of the wall that divides the space from the suspended pod-like object, there is a large, folded textile with papery mushrooms and lichen growing on it. The base is a netting-like cloth, perhaps a bark cloth like tapa or amate but a more open weave. Feel this textile. Feel the growth on it. There is a large central hole that allows this textile to be worn but it is not clear if it is clothing or if the hole formed later.

Five Tools, Possibly Maps

On the long wall to the left of the hanging textile are five tools, possibly maps: they are made of similar materials to the textile but more dense and rigid. They have an under structure of reeds or twigs that form a loosely woven grid. They appear to be modular and can be woven together or used separately. We think they may have been used as navigation tools as there is evidence that the lines correspond to ancient long-dry waterways and possibly even roads that were discovered through sonar readings near the outpost.

Seven Bronze Objects, Possibly Relics

On the plinths in the centre of the room are seven bronze objects, possibly relics. They are of varying height, from 7 inches to 2 inches. They all fit comfortably in your hand. Feel free to pick them up. Feel the temperature and the shape. We do not have any running theories as to their use.

These seven bronze-coloured statues were found on the other side of the river. After the storm, a tree uprooted and revealed a sort of cave structure. We went down slowly—the incline wasn't very steep, more like a ramp. The ceiling was just a foot taller than my head. With one hand on my cane and the other holding my hat in front of my face, I swept away cobwebs and loose clouds of dirt, keeping my face safe from stray roots or worse.

About twenty feet down, the ground became firmer and level. The ceiling rose higher. We clicked and clapped to measure the space ahead. Unlike the deadened sound of

the incline, this chamber echoed sharply, larger, emptier. When I turned my head left, I heard our clicks reflecting off something that seemed like a glass pillar.

I moved toward it, clicking until I was sure it stood in front of me. We stopped and listened—only our breathing. Extending my cane, I traced up from the dirt floor to a smooth glass rectangle, about three feet tall. We tapped gently around its edges: glass top, glass walls, sharp corners. I rubbed the brim of my hat over it—smooth, cold. We stood in silence. Nothing.

A photo confirmed it: a transparent glass structure, three feet by three feet. Inside stood a white pedestal holding seven bronze-colored objects arranged from tallest to shortest.

We took more photos and ran analysis. The system reported only: bronze-coloured statues. No detail on size, shape or material. Nothing matched our databases.

We checked for light sources—there were none. The chamber was lit only by the flash of our photos. Without tools or containers, we couldn't carry the objects, so we left them undisturbed. We marked a breadcrumb trail every five feet back to the bridge corridor and ran more diagnostics on the photos. Even the faster computers and alternate

intelligence models offered no new insights.

We decided to return in the morning with proper tools and containers—if we determined it was safe to remove them from the glass.

Field Report: Discovery of Bronze Relics

Location:

Cave structure revealed after storm, opposite side of river from outpost.

Conditions:

- Entry through ramp-like incline, ~20 ft descent.
- Ceiling height: ~1 ft taller than surveyor.
- Environment contained cobwebs, loose soil, exposed roots.
- No artificial light sources detected; chamber illuminated only by camera flash.

Initial Observations:

- Acoustic survey (clicks/claps) indicated transition from narrow incline to larger chamber.
- Strong reflections from object left of entry path, later identified as a transparent structure.

Object Description:

- Transparent glass-like rectangular container.
- Dimensions: approx. 3 ft (height) x 3 ft (length).
- Smooth surfaces, sharp edges, fully enclosed.
- Contained a white pedestal with seven bronze-colored objects arranged tallest-to-shortest in a line.

Analysis Conducted:

- Tactile confirmation of glass structure using cane and manual inspection.
- Photographic scans analyzed with recognition software: results inconclusive beyond classification as 'bronze-colored statues.'
- No details obtained on size, material composition, or form beyond color/arrangement.
- Comparative database queries yielded no known matches.

Diagnostics:

- Light detection confirmed no natural or artificial sources in chamber.
- Photo analysis repeated across multiple intelligence models; results consistent but inconclusive.

Limitations:

- No proper containment tools or carrying packs on hand.
- Inability to confirm authenticity of bronze material.
- Unknown structural stability of glass container.

Actions Taken:

- Established breadcrumb trail every 5 ft from chamber to bridge corridor.
- Photographic documentation completed.
- Deferred object removal pending further analysis and tool acquisition.

Next Steps:

- Return with appropriate containers, protective equipment, and improved analysis tools.

- Reassess feasibility and risk of extracting objects from glass enclosure.

Relocated Interior Wall

We relocated and reinstalled an interior wall that has raised schematic-like patterns on it. The wall seems to invite touch. We don't understand the shapes on this wall. But we feel certain these shapes are connected to objects we are showcasing in the Dr. Jonathan Sterne Memorial Listening Centre.

**Dr. Jonathan Sterne
Memorial Listening Centre**

DOBION flight Pattern and Other Sounds

The audio that is emitting from the speakers was recovered from three hard drives housed in metal casings. Each casing featured intricate etchings of undetermined schematic-like patterns. There is evidence that the interior wall featured in our Artifact Gallery came first. The acrylic cuts presented on the shelf are enhanced renditions of the hard drive designs. The original hard drive casings have been recently archived due to their frail condition.

These recordings were not accompanied by any other data except for the audio file name.

The file names might offer a bit of context but nothing more.

File Names:

“Inside Server Room”

“Survey 111.0.15A Sub-basement”

“Vent 6”

“Control_Room_Repair”

“DOBION Flight Pattern”

“Lift Safety Test”

Sound Survey 1 and 2: Headphone Installation

According to journal entries these recordings were made to survey different areas around the outpost. Some of the audio was collected to run diagnostics of equipment and gather other data and augment other collection techniques. They are examples of sonic mapping and audio wayfinding.

It is unclear how the data from these field recordings were processed and what parameters were prioritized but each clip offers a detailed look into the size of spaces, the sounds of standard equipment, how spaces were navigated and the amount of sound pollution and volume output that these environments endured.

Please be mindful of your headphone volume. Adjust using the inline control located on the headphone cable.

Seating is provided to the side of each mounted headphone in the form of a white cube.

The cube accompanying Sound Survey 1 features a transducer speaker mounted inside. This transducer provides haptic feedback for a tactile experience. You will feel this when you sit on it.

Sound Survey 1:

Location

Bridge Corridor

Tactile Traits

Measurement - 30ft x 6ft x 6.5ft

Material - glass, fiberglass, coated plywood, copper conduit

Sonic Traits:

Initial survey recording features strong wind from NW. It veers through leaks in molding and through conduit. Rumble and whistle are standard qualities.

Phys. presence artifacts include palms and fingers on surfaces. Light traces from smooth hands and minimal shuffle of boots. Any rattling is result of wind and not phys. movement.

Playback findings show that latch for hatch 3Beta5 needs maintenance.

Other:

The sound of the wind was intense like if my head was in a typhoon bowl at Gopher's Hollow. Waves of thick growling ribbons, imagining brown particles and gray dust spinning inside. The latch was easily activated. Light and hard thwacks/jangles at each activation. I assume the hook needs tightening.

Lost my footing at times due to condensation post morning rainfall. Noticed inconsistencies in fiberglass at entry and exit points - Low priority.

Live scene description says the windows need cleaning so probably the dust I envisioned.

At 20 ft aboveground it is my opinion that structure is sound however wind gusts from below seemed stronger and louder than last week's survey.

Cross ref with geophone shows expected trend: D.25.4.01. I am not qualified to calibrate any of this but I will anyway.

More playback notes:

Kind of frightening and I am not sure how I wasn't scared on that bridge.

Sound Survey 2

Location

Southeastern Stairwell

Tactile Traits

Measurements - 3 flights of stairs (final dimensions TVD)

Materials - concrete floor and steps, metal railing, grid-textured landing, glass windows

Sonic Traits:

The graphite cane (55inch model with ball tip) slides between railing posts to gain width of stairs. It is used to run up the walls and the ceiling. The posts ding and the walls/ceilings glide with rough aftertouch. Very basic and as expected, mundane, even.

Other playback notes:

While retracing the steps of the third measurement survey I've noticed that earlier reports were incorrect re: the height of the top landing.

In this recording it appears that the ceiling is 9 ft high, not 8.6 ft as recorded previously.

It doesn't matter in the least, but we are shocked to know that I was repeatedly inaccurate.

I can no longer listen to the first 3 recordings without being disappointed in myself. At least this audio shows off my progress adapting to a shorter cane. The way it slides over the handrail is sonically satisfying.

I edited a segment for inclusion in the highlights of the quarter. (Timestamp 6.25.33 to 7.05).

Sound quality comparison to L.N. Ratio Survey 5A: A++

Cassette Interpretations of Tactile Spectrographs

Cassette Interpretations

(Assorted cassettes for C1 playback and headphones)

These cassettes contain computer-generated audio translated from spectrograph recovered on unlabeled diskettes. This process of reverse-engineering is imperfect, and much about the sonic imaging remains speculative. Were they cataloged to serve as mapping data, field recordings of native wildlife, communication between collaborators, or machine diagnostics?

Each spectrograph corresponds to one cassette side, with bump dots on the diagram matching those on the cassette. Additionally, each spectrograph diagram is embossed, allowing interpretation through touch. Playback on the C1 Library of Congress player allows coarse and fine adjustments for pitch and time manipulation, offering multiple perspectives while providing an accessible interface for blind users and for those who stim as part of their listening practice.

For those who cannot, or choose not to, listen to the audio, descriptive texts are provided—printed on the reverse side of each diagram. These interpretations note timbre, movement, and environment, and should be read as part of the ongoing discovery process.

Discovery Room

Discovery Room

The Discovery Room is a working space where we are processing and examining objects and fragments from the site. We welcome you to contribute to this exploration by studying the available artifacts. Artifacts have been presented on the tables, and stored in the drawers, on the shelving units and in filing boxes. We invite you to inspect each object. Magnifiers, gloves, safety goggles and other tools have also been provided. Some of these objects are light sensitive, so we have provided black boxes for their examination via touch, stored them in light sensitive bags or wrapped them in dark cloth. Please ensure these objects are not exposed to direct light. In the spirit of science and accessibility, please put objects back where you found them.