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## Archaeological Discovery Continues at Charles Towne Landing

**CHARLESON** – The dust has just settled after the grand re-opening of Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site but the digging goes on.

S.C. State Park Service archaeologists have uncovered what they believe are the post holes of corners of a structure inside the reconstructed defensive palisade walls, making it the second such discovery so far at the 665-acre park on a marshy creek off the Ashley River that preserves the first permanent English settlement site in South Carolina.

The new palisade itself is based on archaeological evidence of the fence and ditch that protected the English newcomers, their servants and slaves after their arrival from Barbados in 1670.

The site now being carefully excavated may have been a house, but that has yet to be determined, SPS archaeologists say. Among the intriguing pieces of evidence: the remains of a tobacco pipe bearing the inscription “Wil. Evans.”

Evans and his father, of the same name, were well-known English pipemakers. It’s not known whether Evans himself was ever at Charles Towne but his pipes have turned up there and at other early English settlement sites on the East Coast.

Archaeological work that began after the state acquired the property and opened it as a park in 1970 already had determined the existence of one building within the palisade walls. The second building was discovered using a combination of new technology and long-established techniques.

The traditional shovel test, digging a sample hole very 20 feet, revealed three concentrations of artifacts that warranted further investigation. That was done using computer-assisted radio tomography (CART), which corroborated the initial findings.

Visitors to the park can talk to the researchers while they’re on the job and also learn more about archaeology and the history of Charles Towne Landing on the park’s self-guided and guided walking tours.

The story also is told in the new archaeology shed, which covers one end of the reconstructed palisade wall and demonstrates how researchers determined its existence and design. The new Visitors Center, meanwhile, has extensive exhibits that also use archaeology to help explain how settlers, slaves, traders and Native Americans came together to forge the beginnings of what would become one of the major cities of Colonial America and the birthplace of the plantation system of the American South.

Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site ([www.SouthCarolinaParks.com](http://www.SouthCarolinaParks.com)) underwent a \$19 million renovation project that culminated with its re-opening in August. Inside the palisade walls are an experimental crop garden and small farm shed built using construction techniques of the time. Nearby, the trading ship Adventure, a full-size functional replica of ships used at the time, is under construction. The park also includes an Animal Forest, home to animals the settlers would have encountered, including bears, otters, pumas and bison.

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