

**Phase III Archaeological Investigations
 Brian D. Jones Paleoindian Site
 Avon, Connecticut**



Archaeological surveys undertaken in advance of a major transportation improvement project in Avon, Connecticut, identified the earliest human presence to date in Southern New England. Radiocarbon dated to approximately 12,500 years ago, the site was occupied during the Early Paleoindian period. The site is named for the late State Archaeologist, Dr. Brian D. Jones, in recognition of his contribution to both the study of Paleoindians and advocacy for excavation of this site. The site was discovered during the course of archaeological investigation in advance of the construction of a new bridge for the Old Farms Road and State Route 10. The site

was more than five feet below the existing ground surface and adjacent to the Farmington River. With the support of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, 100% of the archaeological site within the project area was excavated, totaling 206 1x1-square meters. Excavations at this site occurred during the winter months, with significant logistical challenges to meet the project schedule, a period of 4 months. Over 15,000 artifacts were recovered during the excavations,



as well as 27 cultural

features; the latter are incredibly rare at Paleoindian sites. Excavations were paired with terrestrial vibracoring of the site, as well as detailed ground penetrating radar imaging, to innovatively capture geological and geomorphological aspects of the site, as well as archaeological data. Analyses of the site are ongoing and critical to archaeological understanding of the first

peoples of Southern New England, as well as predicting the locations of other possibly buried Paleoindian sites in the region. Additional information on the site can be found at: [https://www.academia.edu/41790349/The Brian D Jones Site 4 10B A Multi Component Paleoindian Site in Southern New England](https://www.academia.edu/41790349/The_Brian_D_Jones_Site_4_10B_A_Multi_Component_Paleoindian_Site_in_Southern_New_England)