THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF LONG AN PROVINCE IN
SOUTHERN VIETNAM

ORIGINAL RESEARCH SUBMITTED TO SELECTED GRADUATE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS FOR THE PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS
IN
APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGY
NOVEMBER 2012

By
Quy T. K. Tran
Graduate Committee:

Dr. Miriam Stark, Chairperson
Dr. Jane Allen
Dr. William Chapman
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**Project summary**

This overview and assessment is meant to serve as an element of archaeological resource research and management in Long An Province. The province is characterized by unusually abundant prehistoric and historic resources spanning c. 5,000 years ago to the Óc Eo period (the first to the seventh centuries Current Era[CE]) (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001: 167). These archaeological resources are remarkably important to enhancing the pursuit of knowledge of prehistory and history in the region. Archaeological research has been intensively carried out during the past forty years and, consequently, a large number of archaeological sites and assemblages have been discovered. However, in spite of those efforts, there has still been very little known about the archaeological significance of the province. Thus, the purpose of this archaeological overview and assessment is to summarize previous archaeological research in the province, assess the status of knowledge about prehistory and history generated through archaeological investigation, and recommend further development of the province’s archaeological resource management.

My research seeks to synthesize all available information about Long An archaeology. To achieve my goal, I will: 1) conduct library-based research to compile published and unpublished databases of archaeological projects (including site reports, maps, field notes, photographs, drawings, and other illustrations); 2) conduct a preliminary analysis of museum collections to provide typical categories of prehistoric and Óc Eo artifacts found during the projects; 3) conduct a site survey to evaluate the preservation condition of some major sites in the province. Like many other parts of Vietnam, Long An Province also faces serious issues of developmental pressures. The construction of industrial infrastructures and residential sectors happens rapidly,
with the result that many archaeological sites are being partially or completely destroyed without being recorded or excavated. Thus, it is important to recognize that with continued development, the province needs an effective plan for managing and preserving culture heritage.

This research will add to existing knowledge of environmental, culture, and archaeological history in Long An Province specifically and in southern Vietnam in general. It will support and encourage further research that can provide insights for archaeological inquiry in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Also, it will establish a model for archaeological overview and assessment of Long An Province and other provinces where archaeological materials have not been well-documented. It will contribute to developing future research and protection plans for these significant archaeological resources. In addition, this research is also a meaningful and useful instrument for public education since for the first time it will bring essential archaeological knowledge of Long An prehistoric and history to the communities.
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Research area

Long An Province is located in the Mekong River Delta of southern Vietnam (Figure 1), one of the largest deltas in the world (Tạ Thị Kim Oanh et al. 2001; Xue et al. 2009), formed by the Mekong and Bassac River systems (Nguyễn Văn Lập et al. 2000; Tạ Thị Kim Oanh et al. 2001, 2002). The climate is humid tropical and dominated by a monsoon with two distinct seasons: rainy season (from May to November) and dry season (Nguyễn Văn Lập et al. 2000). The delta has an area of about 62,520 square kilometers (km$^2$) of which 52,100 km$^2$ are in Vietnam and the remainder in Cambodia (Nguyễn Văn Lập et al. 2000; Ulrike Proske, Till J.J. Hanebuth, Hermann Behling, Van Lap Nguyen, Thi Kim Oanh Ta, and Bui Phat Diem 2010; Tạ Thị Kim Oanh et al. 2001). In Vietnam the delta is occupied by 11 provinces (Nguyễn Văn Lập et al. 2000). The marine regressions over the last 5000 years (YBP) have produced many distinct sets of relict beach ridges which provide good evidence for reconstructing the former coastlines and evolutionary history of the delta (Fontaine and Delibrias 1973; Nguyễn Văn Lập et al. 2000:427).
Geographic research has demonstrated that these coastlines were formed during four main periods: 6000 – 5000 YBP; 4500 YBP; 4000 – 3000 YBP; and 3000 – 2000 YBP (Nguyễn Văn Lập et al. 2000:438) (Figure 2). The detailed topography of the sub-aerial delta plain suggests that the delta consists of two parts: an upper (inner) delta plain dominated by fluvial processes and formed in a tide-influenced environment before 3000 YBP; and a lower (outer) delta plain characterized by a well-developed beach-ridge system and formed in a wave-influenced environment during the last 3000 YBP (Tạ Thị Kim Oanh et al. 2002:1808). These upper and lower plains are divided into five sub-areas: the Plain of Reeds in the north, Longxuyen Quadrangle in the west, Central Area, Eastern Coastal Area, and Camau Peninsula in the south (Figure 3) (Nguyễn Văn Lập et al. 2000).
Most of the Long An provincial area falls within the Plain of Reeds, which is located on the northern bank of the Mekong River and is one of the lowest depressions in the hinterland (Figure 3). The area is primarily occupied by swamp deposits with elevations of about 0.5 to 1.0 meter (m) high above present sea level (a.p.s.l.), Late Pleistocene terraces of 5.0 - 6.0 m a.p.s.l. to the north, bank deposits and relict beach ridges of 2.0 - 3.0 m a.p.s.l. to the south, and flood plain deposits of the Vầm Cỏ River system to the east (Nguyễn Văn Lập et al. 2000, 2010). This diverse landscape has created different zones that have allowed human settlement activities in the region for the past 5000 years (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001). Moreover, since the Mekong Delta is characterized by active and substantial alluvial deposition, earlier cultural periods may be covered by flood deposits and may be under-represented in the archaeological record.
Background to the study

Founded in the beginning of the 20th century by French researchers, archaeology in Vietnam can be divided into two periods: the French colonial period (CE 1887 – 1945) and the independent period (since 1945). Under the French, most of the archaeological investigations were organized and directed by the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), the French School of Asian Studies established in 1900 (EFEO 2012). Henri Parmentier, Jean-Yves Claeys, Madeleine Colani, Paul Lévy, and Louis Malleret and are some of the most well-known names for their archaeological work in Vietnam in the French colonial period. Achievements in this period include the discoveries and initial studies of cultures in Vietnam including Bắc Sơn, Hòa Binh, Đồng Sơn, Cham, and Óc Eo (Claeys 1933; Colani 1927, 1931; Lévy 1943; Malleret 1959-1963; Parmentier 1909).

Since 1945, the North of Vietnam became independent; a new area of Vietnamese archaeology began (Hà Văn Tấn 2004:15). First excavations at Phùng Nguyên and Đồng Sơn site were conducted by Vietnamese archaeologists, followed by a number of large-scale excavations at Làng Cả, Đồng Đấu, Làng Vạc, Thiệu Dương, and other sites. Since the first discoveries by Colani in the 1930s, so far over 120 Hoabinhian caves and shelters have been revealed in northern Vietnam (Hà Văn Tấn 1998; Nguyễn Khắc Sử 2004; Nguyễn Khắc Sử et al. 2004). Archaeological sites of the Early Neolithic as well as Middle and Late Neolithic cultures have been discovered in the Red River area as well as in the central highlands and southeastern Vietnam. In addition, the archaeology of the Metal Age in northern Vietnam has gained remarkable achievement since 1945. Hundreds of sites, associated with pre-Dōng Sơn cultures
and Đồng Sơn cultures, dated from c. 1500 Before Current Era (BCE) to 500 CE, have been studied and excavated (Higham 2004; Nguyễn Khắc Sữ et al. 2004).

Archaeology in southern Vietnam was sporadic prior to the country’s unification in 1975. However, the establishment of the Center for Archaeological Studies in 1975 and the History Museum of Vietnam in Hồ Chí Minh City in 1979 (its former foundations were Blanchard de la Brosse Museum, from 1929 to 1956, and National Museum of Vietnam in Saigon, from 1956 to 1975), and the formation of provincial museum systems have been essential for the development of archaeology in this southern part of the country. Important archaeological surveys and excavations were conducted in the South after unification. Old sites like Hàng Gòn and Sa Huỳnh were reexamined; new sites like Độc Chùa, Bình Đa, Cậu Sắt, Suối Linh, Cù Lao Rùa, Giòng Cả Vò, and others were located and excavated (Nguyễn Bá Khoách 1978, Đào Linh Cọn 2008). These efforts have brought new insights into the studies of archaeological cultures in Southern Vietnam, particularly concentrating on the Sa Huỳnh, Đồng Nai, and Óc Eo cultures (Đào Linh Cọn 2008).

Like archaeology in other regions of Vietnam, Long An archaeology was also founded by the French researchers of the E.F.E.O. In 1931 Henri Parmentier discovered Chôm Má site in Đức Hòa district. Also in 1931, Jean Yves Claeys excavated Tháp Lấp (Gò Sấu Huấn) and Cái Thập sites (Đức Hòa Hạ commune, Đức Hòa district), recovering structural and statuary remains of the Óc Eo culture. There were two investigations in Đức Hòa district in 1938, including Paul Lévy’s surface testing at Cái Thập (Đức Lập commune and Louis Malleret’s two test units at An Sơn site (An Ninh Tây commune). Additionally, more than ten Óc Eo sites were discovered in the late Pleistocene terraces of northern Long An (Đức Hòa and Đức Huệ districts) and the
eastern Coastal Area (Cần Giờ district) between 1930s and 1960s. These discoveries were reported in the Bulletin de l'Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (BEFEO) and Publications de l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (PEFEO) of the EFEO, especially in the L'archéologie du delta du Mékong series (Malleret 1959-1963). Since 1975, archaeological research in the province has been largely conducted by Vietnamese archaeologists. Additionally, in recent years archaeology in the province has included by the cooperative investigations conducted by Vietnamese archaeologists and foreign researchers. The first foreign researcher working at an archaeological site in the province after 1975 was a Japanese archaeologist, Masanari Nishimura (2002, 2003, 2005), with two copparative investagations at Cô Sơn Tự small excavation in 1996 and An Sơn excavation in 1997. Another foreign archaeologist who has conducted archaeological work in the province is Andreas Reinecke (2006), with three excavations at Gò Ô Chùa site in 2003, 2005, and 2006; several geological surveys have also taken place between 2003 and 2006 (Proske et al. 2009; Ulrike Proske, Till J.J. Hanebuth, Hermann Behling, Van Lap Nguyen, Thi Kim Oanh Ta, and Bui Phat Diem 2010; Ulrike Proske, Till J.J. Hanebuth, Jens Groger, and Bùi Phát Diệm 2010). Other foreign researchers interested in Long An Province’s archaeology include Peter Bellwood, Marc Oxenham, and students from the Australian National University. They have been involved in two cooperative excavations at An Sơn site (2009) and Rạch Núi site (2012). These indigenous and cooperative investigations have resulted in more than a hundred archaeological sites discovered and potential resources for studying the archaeological culture history of the province.

Some of these sites have been really well-documented. For example, at An Sơn site, a Neolithic site located on the Pleistocene terraces of Đức Hòa district, five excavations have been
carried out by both Vietnamese and foreign archaeologists (Bellwood [ed.] 2010; Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung 2002; Phạm Quang Sơn 1978, 2004, 2006; Văn Ngọc Bích 2008). The site is a mound rising 5 m above the natural alluvium on which it is founded. Excavation in 1997 revealed a prehistoric cultural deposit up to 4 m deep which consists of a series of horizontally compacted silt floor layers and posts set in holes up to 50 (centimeters) cm deep, suggesting evidence of early residential structures (Nishimura 2002). Thirty-five burials have been recovered. A large number of artifacts (stone, pottery, shell and bone artifacts) were found (Bellwood [ed.] 2010; Nishimura 2002). Thirty-three radiocarbon ages have been determined, ranging dates of An Sơn from 3011 BCE to 1054 BCE, one of the oldest and the most long-term occupied sites in the province (Bellwood 2010:11).

In addition, Gò Ô Chùa, an outstanding archaeological site in the north-eastern Mekong River Delta, has also been well-documented. The site has an area of 60,000 m². Five excavations have been conducted in 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2008 (Bùi Phát Điểm et al. 2004; Đặng Văn Thắng et al. 2009; Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Điểm 2001; Reinecke 2006). This Bronze to Iron Age site has been proposed as the largest salt production center during its active period of ca. 1000 BCE (Before Current Era) to 1st century CE (Proske et al. 2009:84). Additionally, many site surveys and excavations have been investigated at Óc Eo cultural sites (Đào Linh Cô et al. 1990; Lê Trung Khá and Bùi Phát Điểm 1988; Nguyễn Đức Lưu and Bùi Phát Điểm 1989, 1990; Nguyễn Đức Lưu et al. 1991; Quang Văn Cẩy et al. 1994; Trịnh Cao Tương 1993; Trần Anh Dũng et al. 1995; Võ Sỹ Khải 1988). Especially, the excavations at Gò Đôn, Gò Xoài, and Bình Tà in Đức Hòa district have revealed large scale structural remains and many special artifacts related to ritual activities at the sites (Bùi Phát Điểm et al. 2001).
Research problems and objectives

The purpose of this overview and assessment is to synthesize available information about known archaeological sites that have been investigated and projects conducted in Long An Province, southern Vietnam. Located in the transitional area between Southeastern and Southwestern Vietnam, the province has significant resources for archaeological studies of the Neolithic, pre-Óc Eo, and Óc Eo cultures (Vương Thu Hồng 2007). The highland area in the West is where most of the prehistoric archaeological sites have been found (Nishimura 2002); whereas more than a hundred sites dated to the Óc Eo period have been discovered in the lowlands of the Mekong Delta in the Southeast (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001).

Approximately thirty archaeological surveys and excavations have constructively investigated these sites, promising to bring significant information and knowledge about the archaeology of the province. However, the results of these studies have been published sporadically and mostly in Vietnamese, and very few publications include synthetic information concerning the sites as well as their assemblages. Thus, this project documents these archaeological sites and collections and synthesizes our archaeological knowledge of Long An Province using research undertaken largely during the past several decades.

As in other parts of Southern Vietnam where archaeology developed relatively late (in comparison to the North), archaeology in Long An has faced some long-standing problems. The first problem is that, although archaeologists have spent a lot of effort conducting archaeological research over the past thirty years, the chronological framework is still incomplete, and the transitional periods in southern archaeology are not yet well understood. The chronologies of the Neolithic and Metal Ages and the transition between these two periods have not been clarified.
According to Nishimura, the fact that some excavated sites which have only lithic tools are still listed as Metal Age sites is problematic (Nishimura 2002:26). Nishimura subsequently provided two in-depth studies, both of which utilize artifact typology, pottery, and associated artifacts to construct the chronology of the Neolithic and Metal Ages in southern Vietnam (Nishimura 2002, 2005). However, since then, this model has met with neither agreement nor rejection.

Another problem has revolved around the formation, maintenance, and collapse of the Óc Eo culture in approximately the 12th century CE. The questions include: whether or not the Óc Eo culture developed locally from prehistoric cultures in the Mekong Delta? If it did, what would be the archaeological signs of the connections or transformations between the various cultures? When and how did the changes happen - was there a sudden change in cultural, social, and political systems or did the progress just happen gradually? And what were the factors causing the collapse of this culture?

Additionally, one of the biggest problems that archaeology in southern Vietnam and Long An Province share is the lack of physical anthropology and environmental studies. Although archaeological projects have been conducted almost every year during the past four decades in the province, there has been very little information about the ancient environment, human osteology, plant remains, and faunal remains in the region. So far there are only very few reports on the faunal remains, including Lê Trung Khả’s (1978a) studies of the Rạch Nủi 1978 and An Sơn 1978 assemblages, Vũ Thế Long’s (1997) study of the Cô Sơn Tự 1996 assemblage, and the study of Philip Piper et al. (2010) on the An Sơn 2009 assemblage. Studies of human remains include Lê Trung Khả’s (1978b) study of the An Sơn 1978 human remains, Nguyễn Quang Quyền’s (1990) studies of the human remains found at Rạch Rûm 1990 and An Sơn
1978, and Nguyễn Lân Cương’s (1994, 2006) studies of the human remains discovered from the Lộc Giang 1993 and An Sơn 2004 excavations. There has been no study focused on botanical remains. By synthesizing the archaeological project results with the available osteological results, this research will not only provide researchers useful information about the archaeological work that has been done but also help them recognize the work that needs to be completed in the future.

**Methods**

The methods used for this overview and assessment include library-based research, museum collection analysis, and site survey. This project relies primarily on databases available for archaeological projects. They consist of published and unpublished records, which vary considerably in quality and quantity. There are gaps in information about individual projects. Some projects are very well documented in reports, field records, and publications, but some projects, especially projects conducted before 1975, have very little information. Published records available through the collections at University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (Hamilton Library, Asian Collection) include publications like *Khảo Cổ Học* (Archaeology) and *Những Phát hiện mới về Khảo cổ học năm* (New discoveries of Vietnamese archaeology in the year). Additional published materials and all unpublished databases were obtained from the Long An Provincial Museum in Long An Province, southern Vietnam.

Museum collection analyses are based on the archaeological collections preserved at Long An Provincial Museum, including assemblages from the prehistoric and Óc Eo periods. The prehistoric collection consists mostly of pottery, stone tools, bone tools and ornaments, human remains, and faunal remains. Artifacts from Óc Eo culture include pottery, gemstone
ornaments, and religious artifacts such as statues and decorative golden artifacts. Generally, these assemblages are recorded and monitored well by researchers and museum staff.

This paper synthesizes the results of artifact classification done by previous researchers. Photographing is also a main focus of the collection analysis. In addition, a survey to determine the preservation condition of some major sites is carried out. However, due to the limitation in time and effort, this research also needs to be combined with the results of recent surveys conducted by Long An Provincial Museum’s staff and researchers from other institutions.

This overview and assessment covers two categories of archaeological resources in Long An Province: prehistoric (including the late Neolithic and Metal Age), and Óc Eo sites. Of these two categories, prehistoric sites, although present in smaller numbers than Óc Eo sites, have received by far the most attention. Óc Eo sites, in contrast, have seen comparatively little attention, although they are more numerous. Given the much greater attention devoted to prehistoric sites, as well as the much larger volume of information concerning them, they are naturally are given more attention in this overview and assessment.

An overview of Long An Province's archaeological culture history is presented in the next chapter, followed by Chapter 3, which reviews archaeological projects conducted within the province over the last four decades. Following this, Chapter 4 synthesizes and assesses the result of previous research, with a number of different kinds of archaeological evidence summarized by topic and site zone. The final chapter includes recommendations for future research based on the archaeological resource management issues, and a conclusion.
CHAPTER 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CULTURE HISTORY OF LONG AN PROVINCE

This chapter discusses the archaeological evidence available for sites in Long An chronologically. The Late Neolithic is summarized first, followed by the Metal Age, and the Ốc Eo periods.

Archaeological evidence of the Late Neolithic period

In current archaeological practice in Vietnam, the term “Neolithic” indicates a stage of human development when pottery and stone-grinding techniques occurred. Also, it is referred to as an original agricultural period; although no specific evidence for food production has been found here. Vietnamese archaeologists divide the Neolithic in Vietnam into three phases – Early, Middle, and Late Neolithic, and each phase includes one or more archaeological cultures. According to this division, the Early Neolithic comprises Typical Hoabinhian, Bắc Sơn culture, and the Soi Nhụ group, with approximately two hundred sites found in northern Vietnam, dating to 10000 – 7500 YBP (Hà Văn Tần 1998:180; Nguyên Khắc Sỹ 2004:30). The Middle Neolithic cultures are composed of the Đa Bút, Quỳnh Vần, and Cái Bèo cultures, with more than twenty sites discovered in northern Vietnam and north-central Vietnam. It is believed that this period lasted from the early part of the fifth millennium BCE to the end of the third millennium BCE (ca. 5000 – 2000 BCE) (Hà Văn Tấn 1998: 185). The Late Neolithic phase has various cultures, including Hà Giang, Mai Pha, Hạ Long, Bầu Trò in the North, Biên Hồ, Lung Leng, Buôn Triết in plateau regions, and Late Neolithic sites not yet assigned to cultures in southern Vietnam. Vietnamese archaeologists suggest that this period took place from 5000 to 4000 YBP (Nguyễn Khắc Sỹ 2004: 34-36).
In southern Vietnam, a large number of Neolithic sites have been investigated in the Vàm Cò, Đồng Nai, and Sài Gòn drainage systems. Especially, the Vàm Cò River Valley has a concentration of tested Neolithic sites dating from the late third to the second millennium BCE, including An Sơn, Lộc Giang, and Đồng Canh Nông in Long An Province (Bellwood [ed.] 2010: 2) (Figure 4). The oldest accepted dates from archaeological sites in the province come from these sites (Table 1).

Figure 4. Neolithic sites in Long An Province (●) and in other provinces (○) of southern Vietnam, (— — boundary between Cambodia and Vietnam) (modified after Nishimura 2002: Figure 1).
Table 1. The chronology of archaeological sites in Long An Province and co-existing cultures in Vietnam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Typical sites in Long An Province</th>
<th>Co-existing cultures in Vietnam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neolithic (5000 – 1500 BCE)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Neolithic</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Hồabinhian Bác Sơn Soi Nhụ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Neolithic</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Da Bút Quynh Vân Cái Béo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Neolithic</td>
<td>An Sơn, Lộc Giang, Đồng Cạnh Nông, Rạch Núi</td>
<td>Mai Pha Hạ Long Bầu Trớ Đồng Nai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Age (1500 – 500 BCE)</td>
<td>Rach Heo, Giòng Cây Tröm, lower Rach Rùng</td>
<td>Phượng Nguyên Đồng Đâu Gò Mùn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Age/Pre- ENTRY PERIOD (500 BCE – 100 CE)</td>
<td>Gò Cao Su, Gò Ô Chùa, upper Rach Rùng, Cô Sơn Tự, Gò Xoài (Hữu Thành), Lò Gạch, Gò Dựôi</td>
<td>Đồng Sơn Sa Huỳnh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTRY PERIOD (100 – 700 CE)</td>
<td>Gò Hàng Gò Dung Gò Tháp Gò Đón Gò Xoài&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Chinese colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post ENTRY PERIOD (700 – 1100 CE)</td>
<td>Gò Trầm Quy Gò Rộc Chanh Gò Sao Gò Chăm</td>
<td>Vietnamese dynasties Cham culture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> See appendix 1 for a complete site list.
However, the chronology of the Neolithic in Long An Province is still under discussion, especially the transition between the Late Neolithic and the Bronze Age. Several different chronological schemes have been proposed over the last several decades. The most recent has been frequently cited: Nishimura's (2002) scheme, which is based on changes in the forms of pottery (Figure 5) and on radiocarbon dates associated with the assemblage from An Son, one of the best documented sites, and where the earliest occupation in Long An Province can be found. This mound site (located about 300 m from the left bank of Vằm Cò River) has been excavated five times, in 1978, 1997, 2004, 2007, and 2009. The 1978 and 1997 excavations, on the top of the mound, revealed a prehistoric cultural deposit up to 4 m deep, including a series of horizontally compacted silt floors with post molds up to 50 cm deep. This finding suggests evidence of house floors, which might be constantly renewed by layers of imported riverine silt (Nishimura 2002). Thirty-five burials have been recovered at the eastern area of the mound, mostly including grave goods (stone tools, shell beads, and vessels). Thirty-three radiocarbon samples have been dated, producing calibrated ages of An Son from 3011 BCE to 1054 BCE (Table 2).
Table 2. Radiocarbon dates for An Son, all excavation (Bellwood [ed.] 2010: Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>AMS ANU#</th>
<th>δ^13C</th>
<th>% Modern Carbon</th>
<th>±</th>
<th>^14C age</th>
<th>±</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>OxCal 4.1, 95.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09 AS TS 23G-240</td>
<td>AMS ANU 9709</td>
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<td>3690 ± 80</td>
<td>2962-2234 BC</td>
<td>residue on shard</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 AS H3 L 12 B5</td>
<td>AMS ANU 9711</td>
<td>-35.68</td>
<td>61.72</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>3680 ± 80</td>
<td>2471-2209 BC</td>
<td>residue on shard</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 AS H2 A1 paleosol</td>
<td>AMS ANU 10105</td>
<td>-19.45</td>
<td>62.14</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>3625 ± 40</td>
<td>2459-2144 BC</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 AS H2 O4 paleosol</td>
<td>AMS ANU 9712</td>
<td>-33.13</td>
<td>64.08</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>3640 ± 20</td>
<td>2326-1785 BC</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 AS H2 Q4 paleosol</td>
<td>AMS ANU 13912</td>
<td>-28.50</td>
<td>65.12</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>3460 ± 30</td>
<td>1580-1689 BC</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 AS H2 Q4 50-60</td>
<td>AMS ANU 9710</td>
<td>-18.15</td>
<td>65.76</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>3370 ± 40</td>
<td>1750-1531 BC</td>
<td>freshwater shell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An Son 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>Tka</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>3690 ± 190</th>
<th>charcoal</th>
<th>3011-1984 BC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Tka 11541</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>3640 ± 40</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>2461-2155 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Tka 11526</td>
<td>3620 ± 70</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>2471-2041 BC</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Tka 11517</td>
<td>3760 ± 120</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>2568-1692 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Tka 11516</td>
<td>3590 ± 40</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>2341-1983 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>Tka 118227</td>
<td>3390 ± 80</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1860-1501 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-B</td>
<td>Tka 11819</td>
<td>3370 ± 80</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1864-1499 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-3</td>
<td>Tka 11823</td>
<td>3320 ± 130</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1894-1316 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>Tka 11824</td>
<td>3310 ± 110</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1890-1337 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-7</td>
<td>Tka 11820</td>
<td>3310 ± 90</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1874-1414 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-14</td>
<td>Tka 11822</td>
<td>3200 ± 90</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1874-1414 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>Tka 11819</td>
<td>3160 ± 110</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1741-1133 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the 2009 excavation report, Bellwood (ed.) (2010:12-13) indicated that there is essential evidence of initial activity at the site before 2000 BCE (ca. 4000 YBP), followed by the formation of an eastern subsidiary mound at approximately 1600 BCE and the occurrence of the burials between 1500 and 1250 BCE.

To explain his emphasis on the An Son data while establishing the chronological scheme for the Neolithic in southern Vietnam, Nishimura proposed that, in comparison to other Neolithic sites in southern Vietnam, “the An Son data covered the longest occupation period and it indicates distinctive changes in the artifacts period by period” (Nishimura 2002:50). In the 2009 excavation report, Bellwood (ed.) (2010:12-13) indicated that there is essential evidence of initial activity at the site before 2000 BCE (ca. 4000 YBP), followed by the formation of an eastern subsidiary mound at approximately 1600 BCE and the occurrence of the burials between 1500 and 1250 BCE.
Figure 5. Typological changes of the major pottery types at An Sơn, and associated dates (based on Nishimura’s four cultural periods (Nishimura 2002: Figure 6) and radiocarbon dates).

Lộc Giang is another mound site located on the left bank of the Vâm Cồ River, about 400 m northwest of An Sơn (Vương Thu Hồng 2007: 46). The site has cultural deposits up to 3.10 m thick (Lê Trung Khá 1988: 2). One charcoal sample from the lowest layer produced a radiocarbon date of 3950 ± 75 YBP (Vương Thu Hồng 1994:199). The stone and pottery assemblages are very similar to the assemblages found at An Sơn site (Nishimura 2002:26). One isolated skull was found in the 1993 excavation (Quang Văn Cây et al. 1994). These similarities suggest that these two sites must have been spatially and temporally related.
Dông Canh Nông is also a mound site, about 1km northwest of Lộc Giang site. The site was excavated in 2007. Artifacts include tempered pottery and stone tools, which are very similar to the assemblages found at An Sơn and Lộc Giang. No radiocarbon date is available for the site; yet, according to artifact typological analysis, this site might be contemporaneous with An Sơn and Lộc Giang (Vương Thu Hồng 1990:32).

Located near the salt-marsh land in the lower reaches of the Vàm Cỏ River is Rạch Núi site. The lower layers of this mound site have been dated to the late Neolithic. Excavations in 1978 and 2003 revealed a 5-m-deep cultural deposit and a large number of stone tools and vessel fragments (Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al. 2005; Phạm Quang Sơn 1978). The stone tools include mainly un-shouldered axes and chisels. The vessels are tempered with fiber with a lot of shell inclusions, and are largely decorated with cord-making. One charcoal sample was submitted by the French before 1975 for radiocarbon dating, giving an age of 2400 ± 100 YBP (Phạm Quang Sơn 1978:3); but the sampling context is not clear (Nishimura 2002:26). The 2003 excavation produced three radiocarbon ages: 2420 ± 50 YBP, 3200 ± 100 YBP, and 3545 ± 85 YBP, suggesting that the site was occupied during both the late Neolithic Age and the Bronze Age (Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al. 2005:34).

**Archaeological evidence of the Metal Age**

Vietnamese archaeologists usually use the term “Metal Age” instead of “Bronze Age” and “Iron Age” to describe archaeological cultures which existed between the second half of the second millennium BCE and the 1st – 2nd centuries CE (Table 1). In Northern Vietnam the Metal Age includes the pre-Dông Sơn cultures (Phùng Nguyên, Động Đậu, Gò Mun, etc.) and the Đòng Sơn culture. In central Vietnam, the Metal Age is associated with the Sa Huỳnh culture (Nguyễn
In southern Vietnam, Metal Age sites include nine found in the Đồng Nai River Valley: Gò Me, Suối Chồn, Đâu Giây, Hạng Gòn, Phú Hòa (Đồng Nai Province), Phú Mỹ (Lâm Đồng Province), Long Bí (Hồ Chí Minh City), and Đức Chưa and Cù Lao Rứa (Bình Dương Province) (Nguyễn Giang Hải 2004, 2005). Metal Age sites also have been discovered in the coastal area of Đồng Nai Province (Cái Văn, Cái Lạng, Rạch Lá), Bà Rịa (coastal) Province (Bưng Bạc, Bưng Thom, Gò Cá Sởi), and Hồ Chí Minh City (Giòng Phết, Giòng Am, Giòng Cà Vò). Among these, Đâu Giây, Hạng Gòn, and Phú Hòa in the Đồng Nai Valley, and Giòng Phết and Giòng Cà Vò in Hồ Chí Minh City are sites associated with Sa Huỳnh culture (Ha Văn Tấn ed. 1999: 339; 359-360).

In addition to the Đồng Nai Valley and the southeastern coastal areas, sites associated with bronze and iron production also have been found throughout the Vàm Cò River basin in Long An Province (Nishimura 2005). Sites in the Vàm Cò Đồng River basin include: Bến Cây Xoài, Giòng Cây Tröm, Rạch Nhum, Rạch Heo, Gò Cao Su, Gò Cây Da, Gò Nội, and Gò Xoài. In the Vàm Cò Tây basin, there are Gò Ô Chùa, Lò Gạch, Cổ Sơn Tự, and Rạch Rừng sites (Major sites in Long An and a few other are included in Figure 6; however, the map does not include all the sites in other provinces. See Appendix 1 for more detailed site map and a complete list of the archaeological sites in Long An province). Among these sites, Rạch Heo and Giòng Cây Tröm are proposed Bronze Age sites based on their pottery types, which are comparable to those from other Bronze Age sites in southeastern Vietnam such as Phú Mỹ in Lâm Đồng Province (Trịnh Sinh 2001), and Bưng Thom and Bưng Bạc in Bà Rịa Province (Phạm Đức Mạnh 1996; Bùi Chí Hoàng et al. 1997; Nishimura 2005). However, bronze artifacts
have not been found at these sites yet; and no radiocarbon dates have been established for these sites.

Figure 6. Metal Age sites in Long An Province (●) and in other provinces (○) of southern Vietnam (modified after Nishimura 2005: Figure 1).

In addition to Rach Heo and Giòng Cây Trôm, the lower layers of Rach Rùng site are also identified as Bronze Age. The site is located on the right bank of the Vàm Cỏ Tây River. It was discovered by local people in 1990, when the owners of the property built their fishpond. The discovery was reported to Long An Provincial Museum and the site was officially
investigated by the museum’s staff. The investigation identified cultural deposits more than 1 m thick and uncovered 8 sets of human remains, 7 stone bracelets, 3 stone axes, 1 bronze axe, a large number of pottery fragments, and some animal remains. Two samples were radiocarbon dated, yielding ages of 2780±40 YBP and 2800±45 YBP (Vương Thu Hồng 1997).

Also located on the right bank of Văm Cổ Tây River is CỔ Sơn Tự site (about 20 km from Rạch Rừng). This is a mound site, which has maximum diameter at about 100 m and rises more than 3.30 m above the surrounding flat area (Nishimura 2003). It was first excavated in 1996 by Long An Provincial Museum and Japanese archaeologists. Although no iron remains were found, the site is identified as an Early Iron Age site based on its pottery assemblage. One large piece of charcoal was selected for radiocarbon dating, divided into two samples and sent to two different laboratories (Center for Atomic Research in Hồ Chí Minh City and the Radiocarbon dating laboratory, University of Tokyo, Japan) for cross-checking. Three radiocarbon dates were yielded from the two laboratories, showing a difference in results. The sample processed by the Center for Atomic Research in Hồ Chí Minh City give an age of 4100 ± 70 YBP whereas the sample tested by the Radiocarbon dating laboratory of University of Tokyo yielded two ages of 2470 ± 90 YBP and 2380 ± 80 YBP. Nishimura stated in his paper in 2005 that the dates from the University of Tokyo agree better with the pottery-based chronology (Nishimura 2005:108).

Other Iron Age sites in the Vam Co Tay River basin include Gò Ô Chùa, Lò Gạch, and Rạch Rừng (upper layers). Of these sites, Gò Ô Chùa is most well-documented and has clear evidence of iron materials. The site is composed of a northeast-southwest-aligned row of three linked hilly structures with an overall length of about 420 m and up to 4 m high (Nishimura 2005:108; Proske et al. 2009:84). The current excavations at the sites have uncovered a cultural
deposit up to 2.5 m thick. Seventy-five burials (including 7 jar burials) have been discovered.

Artifacts related to metallurgy include 12 casting molds, 3 bronze axes, 6 bronze bracelets, and 61 iron tools, which were mostly found as grave goods. Radiocarbon dates processed on charcoal, wood, and bone samples collected during four excavation seasons show that the lower layers of the site belong to the early Iron Age and the upper layers, which include the burials, belong to the pre-Óc Eo period (Vương Thu Hòng 2007, 2008) (Table 3).


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Lab ID#</th>
<th>Provenience (cm)</th>
<th>¹⁴C Age</th>
<th>±</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Calibrated Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>OCH97H1L11</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1900</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1900</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>GOC03L16</td>
<td>Erl-6337</td>
<td>230-240</td>
<td>2610</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>bone</td>
<td>900 – 750 cal BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOC03L14</td>
<td>Erl-6335</td>
<td>200-215</td>
<td>2435</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>770 – 400 cal BCE</td>
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<td>GOC03L13</td>
<td>Erl-6336</td>
<td>190-200</td>
<td>2357</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>800 – 350 cal BCE</td>
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<td>GOC03 (burial)</td>
<td>Erl-6334</td>
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<td>1197</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>bone</td>
<td>690 – 970 cal CE</td>
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<td>Erl-8283</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>800 – 480 cal BCE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2495</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>800 – 485 cal BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOC05L5/6F28</td>
<td>Erl-8276</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2241</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>bone</td>
<td>550 cal BCE – 0 cal CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOC05H1L5</td>
<td>Erl-8275</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2211</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>tooth</td>
<td>400 – 90 cal BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOC2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GOC06N-L9</td>
<td>Erl-9403</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>2781</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1080 – 800 cal BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOC06N-L10</td>
<td>Erl-9404</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>2692</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>wood</td>
<td>1110 – 760 cal BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOC06N-L14</td>
<td>Erl-9407</td>
<td>210</td>
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<td>charcoal</td>
<td>830 – 540 cal BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOC06H7L9</td>
<td>Erl-9402</td>
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<td>2576</td>
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<td>charcoal</td>
<td>830 – 540 cal BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOC06N-L11F16a</td>
<td>Erl-9405</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>2561</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>830 – 510 cal BCE</td>
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<td>GOC06N-L15</td>
<td>Erl-9408</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>2538</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>810 – 510 cal BCE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Lò Gạch, which lies right next to the west bank of Vầm Cò Tây River, was also occupied from the Iron Age to the pre-Ốc Eo period (Bùi Văn Liêm 2008:42; Vương Thu Hồng 2007:51). The site was first excavated in 2006 by the Vietnam Institute of Archaeology and Long An Provincial Museum. The revealed cultural deposit is from 90 cm to 120 cm thick, including fire pits, middens, and piles of burned materials possibly related to pottery production (Bùi Văn Liêm 2008:20). Artifacts include stone axes, stone and clay molds, iron axes and nails, bone tools and jewelry, animal remains, and a large number of pottery fragments. Bùi Văn Liêm states in his article in 2008 that "Through the excavation data and the comparison to other synchronic sites in the area, it is possible to affirm that the Lò Gạch site was the settlement of the late Metal Age inhabitants, dating from 2,200 BP to 2,500 BP" and it "was one of the routes developed from the late Metal Age to Ốc Eo culture" (Bùi Văn Liêm 2008:44).

**Archaeological evidence of the Ốc Eo Culture period**

Ốc Eo culture was named after the Ốc Eo site, an archaeological site located in Thọai Sơn district of An Giang Province, in the Mekong River Delta, southern Vietnam. The culture was formed and developed in the Mekong Delta from the first to the sixth century CE (Võ Sỹ Khải 1990: 1). It is known through L. Malleret’s first excavation at Ốc Eo in 1944 and as the result of many excavations conducted by Vietnamese archaeologists at different localities around the delta since 1975. The culture is defined by foundations of brick monuments, statuary, and thousands
of artifacts locally crafted in various materials: gold, silver, bronze, tin, glass, precious and semiprecious stones, sandstone, clay, and so on (Võ Sỹ Khải 1990, Lê Xuân Diểm 2008).

The Óc Eo sites are found distributed throughout the Mekong Delta. Many of them are located in the flood-plain from 1.5 m to 2.5 m above the sea level (Võ Sỹ Khải 1990:1). In Long An Province Óc Eo sites are distributed across three different ecological regions: alluvial terraces, Đồng Tháp Mười (Mekong Delta) low land, and southern coastal plains (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001:24). Forty-five site groups affiliated to Oc Eo culture have been found within these regions (see Appendix 1 for map and site list). Some of them incorporate many sites, including sites which have residential-workshop evidence and sites which have religious structures. Among these groups, Bình Tà, in Đức Hòa district, is the largest site complex that has been known throughout the province with seventeen individual sites. Four excavations carried on at Gò Tháp, Gò Đơn, Gò Xoài, and Gò Năm Tước site in 1987 and 1988 revealed large-scale structures constructed of brick, laterite, and sandstone. Artifacts included Óc Eo pottery, gold and precious stone jewelry, gold sheets carved with sacred Buddhist and Hindu images and Sanskrit, and stone statues (Bùi Phát Diệm et al 2001).

The Óc Eo culture remained active until the 9th to the 10th centuries CE (Lê Xuân Diệm 2008: 336, Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001: 27), and possibly until the 12th century CE (Vò Sĩ Khải 2008: 377). About twenty sites assigned to this period have been found in Long An Province, including residential and religious architectural sites. There is a decrease through time in the occurrence of the typical Óc Eo pottery type, the kendi, and an increase in glass artifacts and religious artifacts (worship statues and sacred objects) (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001: 29).
Radiocarbon dating has been conducted, giving un-calibrated ages for the Óc Eo and post-Óc Eo sites from the first to the twelfth centuries CE (Table 4).

Table 4. Radiocarbon dates for Óc Eo and post-Óc Eo sites in Long An Province.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Provenience (cm)</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>¹⁴C Age</th>
<th>±</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gò Hằng</td>
<td>GH85-01</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>wood</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gò Chùa</td>
<td>GC90-01</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>wood</td>
<td>1690</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gò Bây Liệp</td>
<td>GBL86-G-01</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>wood</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gò Sâu Huấn</td>
<td>BT88-T-01</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>wood</td>
<td>1588</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gò Châm</td>
<td>GC90-T-01</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gò Sao I</td>
<td>GS87-T-01</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>charcoal</td>
<td>1246</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>Gò Sao II</td>
<td>GS90-G-01</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>wood</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>40</td>
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</table>

CHAPTER 3. OVERVIEW

The following overview summarizes the findings of archaeological projects conducted in Long An Province since 1975 (Table 5; Appendix 2). The project headings – for example, Project AS78: An Sơn 1978 Excavation – usually refer to different archaeological projects that were conducted in different stages and were reported in various text sources.

Scope of overview

In this chapter the archaeological projects conducted in Long An are referred to by citations to some or all of the reports associated with the project. For a complete list of projects see Appendix 2. A detailed project summary along with information on personnel, dates of fieldwork, number of sites, periods presented, maps and photographs, collections, nominations, and a list of published and unpublished material are listed in summary form by project heading in Appendix 2. Sites discussed in the text are listed in Table 5. The following information is a general summary of the history of archaeological research in the province since 1975.
Illustrations of the excavations and artifacts found from these excavations are presented in Appendix 3.

Table 5. Archaeological sites and projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Site(s)</th>
<th>Investigation time</th>
<th>Project type</th>
<th>Source (Long An Museum ID#)</th>
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<td>AS78</td>
<td>An Sơn</td>
<td>02/14/1978-03/14/1978</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>TLKC12; TLKC13; TLKC34</td>
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<td>Rạch Núi</td>
<td>04/1978</td>
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<td>TLKC85; TLKC103</td>
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<tr>
<td>BT 87</td>
<td>Gò Sao II, Gò Tháp, Gò Xoài, Gò Ông Năm Tuốc, Gò Đơn</td>
<td>01/1987-10/1987</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>TLKC01; TLKC08/1; TLKC09; TLKC22; TLKC23; TLKC25; TLKC27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TQ88</td>
<td>Gò Trăm Quy</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>TLKC17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG88</td>
<td>Lộc Giang</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>TLKC50; TLKC51</td>
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<tr>
<td>DH88</td>
<td>Gò Đơn, Gò Xoài, Gò Sao II, Bầu Công, Lộc Giang</td>
<td>01/07/1988</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>TLKC07</td>
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<tr>
<td>DTM89</td>
<td>Gò Hàng, Gò Búng (Gò Ba Lùng), Gò Dưng(Gò Bắc Bung)</td>
<td>04/1989</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>TLKC64</td>
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<td>RR90</td>
<td>Rạch Rừng</td>
<td>08/1990</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>TLKC34; TLKC64; TLKC68</td>
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<tr>
<td>DTM90</td>
<td>Gò Gòn, Gò Nớ, Gò Hai Gòn, Gò Ông Hai, Gò Búng, Gò Pháo, Bầu Xà Keo, Gò Châu, Lán Biên, Gò Đuôi, Gò Ba Cánh, Gò Ông Tà, Gò Hằng, Gò Miếu, Gò Châu, Tho Mo</td>
<td>07/1990</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>TLKC36</td>
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<tr>
<td>RR90</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>TLKC63; TLKC68</td>
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<tr>
<td>DH93</td>
<td>Gò Đền, Gò Tháp, Rạch Heo, Gò Chằm, Gò Bầu</td>
<td>12/1993</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>TLKC02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Project Type</td>
<td>Codes</td>
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<tr>
<td>LG93</td>
<td>Lộc Giang</td>
<td>12/16/1993 – 12/30/1993</td>
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<td>TLKC19; TLKC51; TLKC52; TLKC53; TLKC60; TLKC62</td>
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<td>GCS93</td>
<td>Gò Cao Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>KS93-94</td>
<td>Gò Tháp (Voi Đình, Gò Xoài (Hựu Thành), Gò Chỗi Tiến (Thời Mới), Gò Lớn (Gò Sấu Xẻ), Gò Bầu Lương Chúa Nội</td>
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<td>KS95-96</td>
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<td>1995 and 1996</td>
<td>Survey</td>
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<td>KS96</td>
<td>Lộc Giang, An Sơn, Gò Cao Su, Bình Tà, Gò Nội, Giống Cây Trớm, Rạch Heo, Rạch Rừng, Cố Sơn Tự</td>
<td>01/1996-02/1996</td>
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<td>CST96</td>
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<td>GOC97</td>
<td>Gò Ô Chúa</td>
<td>04/1997 – 05/1997</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>TLKC149</td>
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<tr>
<td>KS03</td>
<td>Gò Cao Su, Bầu Tháp, Gò Lương, Gò Chỗi Tiến, Gò Cây Xoài, Gò Trầm Quỷ, Gò Đình, Lợ Gạch, Chúa Nội, Rạch Rừng</td>
<td>03/2003</td>
<td>Survey and surface testing (Lợ Gạch)</td>
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<td>02/2003 – 03/2003</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOC03</td>
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<td>05/03/2003 – 05/14/2003</td>
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<td>TLKC175</td>
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<td>AS04</td>
<td>An Sơn</td>
<td>12/06/2003 – 01/22/2004</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
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<td>Gò Ô Chúa</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Excavation</td>
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</table>
Archaeology in Long An Province – a brief history

Archaeology of the province before 1975 was mostly conducted by the French scholars from the EFEO, of whom P. Lévy, L. Malleret, and H. Parmentier played the main roles. Some small excavations were undertaken at Óc Eo sites (Gò Tháp 1931; Cái Tháp 1938) and prehistoric site (An Sơn 1938) (Bửi Phát Diệm et al. 2001:33). Many Óc Eo-period architectural remains (Cái Tháp, Cái Gò, Ao Đôi, Ao Thành, Giòng Lớn, Bâu Sen, Lộc Chánh, etc.) were discovered in the highland areas of Đức Hòa and Đức Huệ districts. Some religious artifacts such as linga, yoni, and parts of statues of Buddha or Hindu gods were also collected (Bửi Phát Diệm et al. 2001:34-35).

After 1975 archaeology in southern Vietnam entered a new phase. Many archaeological surveys and excavations had been conducted throughout the region by indigenous archaeologists. Particularly, in Long An Province three years after the country united (1978), two excavations were carried out at An Sơn and Rạch Núi. However, as the whole country had to struggle to overcome the difficulty of recovering after the war, no archaeological projects were conducted in Long An Province between 1979 and 1986. Since 1987, archaeological research again has
received great attention. In an three-year-period between 1987 and 1989, an impressive number of archaeological projects conducted throughout the province were reported, including six excavations at Ông Cổ sites (Gò Sao II 1987, Gò Tháp 1987, Gò Đờn 1987, Gò Xoài 1987, Gò Năm Trời 1987, and Trầm Quy 1988), and a series of field surveys, resulting in the discovery of a number of prehistoric sites (Rạch Heo, Gò Xoài, and Cô Sơn Tự) and Ông Cổ sites (Gò Trầm Quy, Bậu Cống, Gò Hạng, Gò Bến, Gò Dung, Gò Gór, Gò Pháo, Gò Chà, Gò Đề, Gò Miếu, etc.) (Nguyễn Đức Lưu and Bùi Phát Điểm 1989, 1990; Nguyễn Đức Lưu et al. 1991; Quang Văn Cây et al. 1994; Trần Anh Dũng et al. 1995; Trịnh Cao Tương 1993; Võ Sỹ Khải 1988).

There has been a remarkable increase in number of archaeological projects carried out in the province since 1990, with a special focus on prehistoric sites (Table 6). Six excavations were conducted between 1990 and 1997 at Rạch Rừng (1990), Lộc Giang (1993), Gò Cao Su (1993), Cô Sơn Tự (1996), An Sơn (1997), and Gò Ô Chùa (1997) sites, bringing new insights into the archaeology of the province and contributing a large number of artifacts to the History Museum of Vietnam in Hà Nội and Long An Provincial Museum’s collections (Nishimura et al. 1996b; Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Điểm 1997; Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung 2002). Seven prehistoric sites (An Sơn, Lộc Giang, Động Canh Nông, Rạch Núi, Gò Xoài, Gò Đình, Lò Gạch and Gò Ô Chùa) were investigated through 13 excavations between 2003 and 2012. Among these, An Sơn (Figure 7) and Gò Ô Chùa received the most attention with four excavations each. These investigations, again, have brought a great number of archaeological artifacts in different materials to the Long An Provincial Museum and provided valuable answers to archaeological

Figure 7. Map showing all excavated locations at An Sơn site from 1978 to 2009 (Bellwood [ed.] 2010: Figure 5).
Table 6. Sites investigated in Long An Province from 1975 through 2012, organized chronologically

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
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<td>Rạch Núi (1978)</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rạch Núi (2003, 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gò Xoài (HT)</td>
<td>Gò Cao Su</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Gò Nội</td>
<td>Rạch Rừng</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Giòng Cây Trôm</td>
<td>Cố Sơn Tự</td>
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<td>Rạch Heo</td>
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<td>Oc Eo – Post Oc Eo sites</td>
<td>Gò Sao II (1987)</td>
<td>Gò Đèn, Gò Tháp, Gò Chằm, Gò Bầu Luron,</td>
<td>Gò Châu Mai</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gò Tháp (1987)</td>
<td>Gò Duổi</td>
<td>Gò Lớn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gò Xoài (1987)</td>
<td>Gò Ông Cộm</td>
<td>Gò Nhỏ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gò Đón (1987)</td>
<td>Gò Lang</td>
<td>Gò Trâm Quy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Gò Năm Tuốc (1987)</td>
<td>Bình Tà</td>
<td>Gò Cây Xoài</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gò Trâm Quy (1988)</td>
<td>Bầu Tháp</td>
<td>Gò Chối Tiền</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gò Dàng, Gò Bünk (Gò Ba Lương), Gò Dưng (Gò Bắc Bưng) (1989)</td>
<td>Gò Luron</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 4. ASSESSMENT

In the following chapter the report synthesizes and assesses previous research. The temporal and spatial settlement patterns are discussed first, and then the economy and resources are presented.

Settlement patterns

Past research in the province suggests that although archaeological settlements are continuously distributed over the landscape, it may be useful to consider these sites in terms of two cultural periods: prehistoric and Oc Eo periods; and three geographic zones: the alluvial zone (in Đức Hòa and Đức Huệ districts), the delta low land (Đồng Tháp Mười), and the coastal plain (Cần Đước and Cần Giuộc districts). Among these, the settlement pattern was dominated by prehistoric residential villages and Oc Eo religious architecture in both the alluvial zone and the delta lowland, and lesser known residents and structures in the coastal plain (see Appendix 1 for site distributions).

Prehistoric settlements

Prehistoric sites have been found in three main environments. The research results are summarized here first for the alluvial zone, then the delta, and last the coastal plain.
The alluvial zone

This zone dominates in terms of number of settlements within the province, with 10 sites dated to the prehistoric period and 69 sites dated to the Óc Eo and the Post Óc Eo periods (see Appendix 1 for a complete site list). Among the prehistoric sites, several sites are identified as long-term habitation sites dating from the prehistoric era to the early historic era, like An Sơn and Lộc Giang. The lower layers of these sites contain cultural material which is dated to the early third millennium BCE (Bellwood [ed.] 2010; Vượng Thư Hồng 1997), whereas the upper layers include architectural materials from Óc Eo culture (Bùi Phát Diệm and Văn Ngọc Bích 1996; Lê Trung Khả 1988; Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung 2002; Quang Văn Cậy et al. 1994) (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Óc Eo architectural remains, photographed during the 1988 and 2007 excavations at Lộc Giang.

The prehistoric settlements in this zone, usually big mound sites, are located alongside the Vàm Cỏ Đòng River; An Sơn and Lộc Giang are typical sites. These Neolithic settlements are characterized by very thick cultural deposits which contain distinctive evidence of residential and mortuary activities. The distribution of archaeological materials at these sites suggest that,
although the residential settlements might well have been focused on the main mounds, subsidiary areas beyond the outer limits were used for cooking, apparently other industrial activities, and human cemeteries (Bellwood [ed.] 2010:10).

The stratigraphy at both Lộc Giang and An Sơn shows many alternating hard compacted layers of riverine silt and clay that contain very little cultural material, in between black and many soft loose layers, which contain large numbers of sherds, bones, shells, stone tools, baked clay, and charcoal. The compacted layers are usually clayey and are reddish brown, yellow, or white. Sometimes they are composed of several thinner sub-layers that can be peeled off one by one. Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung (2002:103) proposed that “Although the site is located on a natural river levée of sand we did not identify much sand in unit 3 so it is reasonable to conclude that soil was brought on to the site and either rammed or trampled flat.” In addition to these compacted layers, excavation at An Sơn and Lộc Giang also uncovered many post molds, which are usually 6 – 15 cm in diameter and 7 – 50 cm in depth (Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung 2002; Quang Văn Cây et al. 1994). Most of these molds originated in the surfaces of the hard layers. The pit fills inside and surrounding these post molds are very hard, suggesting the effects of high temperatures. Some of them are double molds, showing evidence of reuse. The plans of these post molds are unclear but they are usually placed around hearths (Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung 2002:104) (Figure 9). The hard clay surfaces and post molds may represent...
some forms of initial shelters or shed roofs for the kitchens where families can cook and eat together.

Thirty-five burials have been recovered at An Sơn, in the eastern area of the main mound. Most of burials have grave goods, including stone tools, shell beads, and vessels (Figure 10). The age at death of the skeletons ranges from 42 weeks to 55 years old. Ten sub-adult individuals are between 42 weeks and 15 years old, and twenty five adults between 19 and 55 years old. The chronology of the burials falls within the range 1534 BCE-1054 BCE, with two major phases, an earlier phase ca. 1400 BCE, and a later one about 1200 BCE (Bellwood [ed.] 2010).

Artifact assemblages at An Sơn and Lộc Giang, especially stone tools and pottery, share the same tradition. Stone artifacts consist of shouldered and unshouldered axe-adzes, chisels, knives, spears, and grinding stones. Pottery includes of sand-tempered and fiber-tempered classes, including different types of vessels such as pots, dishes, pedestaled bowls, and wavy rimmed bowls (Figure 11). Surface decoration of the pottery includes paddle decoration with cord-making, non-corded parallel impression, simple smoothing, burnishing with red slip, and an organic resin application. Besides those, punctate stamping, incision, appliqué, and lime infill are also identified (Bellwood [ed.] 2010; Nishimura 2002; Quang Văn Cây et al. 1994).
The Metal Age settlements in this alluvial zone include six sites, which are also located along the Vàm Cỏ Đồng River’s banks. These include Giòng Trôm and Rạch Heo in Đức Huệ and Rạch Nhum, Gò Cao Su, Gò Nói, and Gò Xoài in Đúc Hòa district. Among these sites, only Gò Cao Su and Gò Xoài have been investigated, with a large-scale excavation and a minor excavation, respectively.

Gò Cao Su is a mound site which has an area of 4,000 m² and rises about 1.2 – 1.4 m above the surrounding surface. Excavation at the site in 1994 revealed cultural deposits 1.15 m deep, which include many hearths containing charcoal and burned animal remains. Although no metal tools were found, the site has clear evidence of metallurgy, with the appearance of bronze verdigris, iron rust, and some alloy pieces found throughout the stratigraphy (Trần Anh Dũng et al. 1995:30). Additionally, 22 axe-casting mold fragments made of clay were found between 10 and 75 cm deep in the cultural deposits. The remaining parts of these molds show that they were used to cast socketed axes (similar to those found at Đức Chúa site in the Đồng Nai River basin) (Trần Anh Dũng et al. 1995:15). The ceramic artifacts recovered include of thousands of sherds, “carang” fragments, baked clay spindle whorls, clay pellets, ceramic roundels, bowls, one clay
potter’s anvil, and a crown-shaped vessel cover with very special decoration (Trần Anh Dủng et al. 1995:17) (Figure 12). The most common techniques used in surface decoration include cord-making, stamping/punctuate, combing, and incising with “S” motif and other geometric motifs. The stone artifacts include one broken linga, 1 stone scale, 26 stone grinders, 1 pestle, and several stone tool fragments. The investigators at the site propose that findings at Gò Cao Su suggest strong hints of residential activities, with the combination of pottery-making and a metallurgy workshop at the site from the first millennium BCE to CE first centuries (Trần Anh Dủng et al.1995:32-33). One charcoal sample collected at 1.15m deep produced a radiocarbon date 3370 ± 80 YBP; another sample collected 0.5 m below the surface gives an age of 2650 ± 70 YBP (Vương Thu Hồng 1997).

Gò Xoài is a small mound site located on the left bank of the Vàm Cộ Đông River. The site has been heavily disturbed by local modern agricultural activities. A small excavation at the site in 2008 revealed cultural deposits about 60 cm thick, including red hard-burned clay layers with very few artifacts found between black loose layers with charcoal, pottery, and animal remains. The pottery recovery includes sand-tempered (60%) and fiber-tempered (40%) pieces decorated by incising, stamping, and red painting techniques. Other artifacts include one stone grinder, two shouldered axes (collected on the surface by villagers), 2 broken bone tools, and a large number of baked clay rods which contain a lot of plant fiber (Trần Thị Kim Quy 2009:197-
Absolute dates have not been established for the site, but comparison based on artifact typology shows that the Gò Xoài’s assemblages share the same tradition with other early Iron Age sites in the Vàm Cỏ and Đồng Nai rivers (Nishimura 2005).

![Figure 13. Artifacts found at Gò Xoài (Hữu Thành) 2008.](image)

*The delta lowland*

Six prehistoric sites have been found in the Vàm Cỏ Tây River basin, including Rạch Rùng, Cổ Sơn Tự, Lò Gạch, Gò Duội, Gò Đình, and Gò Ô Chùa. None of these is dated to the Neolithic; Gò Đình and Rạch Rùng contain lower layers dated to the Bronze Age (Bùi Văn Liêm et al. 2008; Nishimura 2005); and the rest are dated to the Iron Age (Nishimura 2005). Among these sites Rạch Rùng and Gò Đình have been seriously disturbed by modern residential and constructional activities. However, the remaining cultural material suggests strong evidence for residential and mortuary activities at the sites from early in the first millennium BCE (Bùi Văn Liêm et al. 2008; Nguyễn Đức Lưu et al. 1991).
Early Iron Age occupations in the delta lowland are usually found at mound sites, which have relatively thick cultural deposits, suggesting distinctive long-term habitation settlements. Cô Sơn Tự, for example, is a large mound with a maximum diameter up to 100 m and that rises more than 3.3 m above the surrounding surface. The 1996 investigation uncovered cultural deposits about 3.2 m thick, including materials dated from the Iron Age to the Óc Eo period. Like other prehistoric sites, Cô Sơn Tự also has stratigraphy that shows a number of hard clay layers with different colors in between soft loose dark layers with charcoal. Nishimura (2003) proposes that these hard layers, together with large amounts of ash, charcoal, and burned clay, might have resulted from pottery production. The majority of the pottery is fiber-tempered; however, sand-tempered pottery was also found in early occupation layers (Figure 14). Evidence
for metal use was also seen, through the presence of a small piece of a bronze artifact of unclear function and a clay casting-mold fragment. Other artifacts include bone tools, clay pellets, tile fragments, and a stone statue fragment from the Óc Eo period.

Among Metal Age sites in the delta lowland, Gò Ô Chúa is perhaps the richest site for the studies of settlement pattern and other archaeological research questions. The site is composed of three linked hilly structures. Past excavations at the site have recovered cultural deposits approximately 2.5 m thick, which contain thousands of artifacts of different materials and many archaeological features like pottery concentrations, hearths, middens, and human burials. Gò Ô Chúa also has many hard layers of burned clay in different colors in its stratigraphy. Lower layers are usually found surrounded by a number of post molds (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Post molds found dug through the hard burned surface at Gò Ô Chúa
Seventy-five human burials have been found at Gò Ô Chùa. Grave goods include complete pottery vessels, metal tools, and jewelry made of bronze, gemstones, bone, ivory, and glass (Figure 16, 17). The pottery is dominated by sand temper in the lower layers and by fiber temper in the upper layers. The decorations on pottery are very diverse, including black painting, stamping, combing, and incising with many different motifs and designs. Types of vessels include pot, bowl, dish, angular and rounded shouldered jar, basin, and high-stem cup.

Beside the remarkable habitation and cemetery evidence, Gò Ô Chùa also contains cultural materials that suggest metallurgy and pottery production at the site. These activities can be seen through very high densities of pottery fragments, the hard burned clay layers, and a number of tools (clay potter’s anvil and clay casting molds) used during the process of production (Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Điểm 1997; Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh et al. 2005, 2006). Because of the discovery of a very large number of baked clay tripods found at the site (Figure 18), Poske et al. (2009) suggested that Gò Ô Chùa might have been a place where ancient people produced salt.

Figure 16. Pottery vessels and jewelry (made of semi-precious stone, bone, ivory, bronze, and glass) found as grave goods at Gò Ô Chùa.
Figure 17. Metal tools, casting molds and bone tools at Gò Ô Chúa.

Figure 18. The concentration of pottery tripod fragments at Gò Ô Chúa.
The coastal plain

Rạch Núi (see Figure 4) is the only prehistoric site found in this zone so far. This Neolithic mound site has a maximum diameter of about 100 m and rises 6 m above the surrounding salt-mash land, which is only about 1 m above modern sea level (Phạm Quang Sơn 1978:1). The average thickness of the cultural deposit recorded during past excavations is about 5 m, but in one excavated trench from the 2003 excavation, the cultural layers reached 5.7 m below surface (Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al. 2005:5).

The cultural materials recovered include stone tools, pottery sherds, bone tools and jewelry, and animal remains. Stone artifacts consist of axe-adzes, chisels, and stone grinders. It is noticeable that the un-shouldered axe-adzes are dominant, with more than 90 percent of the axe-adzes un-shouldered (Figure 19). However, the bone axe-adze collection is the opposite – only 1 axe out of 25 bone axe-adzes found at Rạch Núi is un-shouldered; the rest are shouldered (Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al. 2005; Phạm Quang Sơn 1978) (Figure 20). Other bone artifacts include needles, bracelets, and a disc-shaped bracelet core. Ninety percent of the pottery sherds are fiber-tempered (and also include many shell particles) and are decorated with cord-marking. Sand-tempered pottery is only 10 percent of the total number of sherds; however, decorations on this type of pottery are much more diverse than those on fiber-tempered ones.
Like other Neolithic sites in the alluvial highland, Rach Núi’s stratigraphy includes the hard clay layers of different colors in between the soft loose layers which contain concentrations of pottery, animal bones, shells, ash and charcoal. The layers are found harder and more compacted near the surface than those at greater depths. The investigators who conducted the most recent excavation at the site in 2012 propose that these hard layers might have been resulted from the process of house-floor renewal by Rach Núi’s residents through time. Post molds were
also recovered around these floors for the first time in the 2012 excavation (Nguyễn Khánh Trung Kiên and Đặng Ngọc Kinh 2012) (Figure 21).

Figure 21. Hard floors and excavated post molds found in the 2012 excavation at Rạch Núi. (Photo credit: Bùi Chí Hoàng)

**The Óc Eo and Post-Óc Eo settlements**

Óc Eo and Post-Óc Eo sites have been found in three main environments. The research results are summarized here first for the alluvial zone, then the delta, and last the coastal plain.

**The alluvial zone**

This zone has the most concentrated distribution of Óc Eo sites, with 69 individual sites included in 18 site groups. They include residential and religious structures, located mostly on the alluvial terraces in the highlands of Đức Hoà and Đức Huệ districts. The areas of these sites range between 1,000 m$^2$ and 6,000 m$^2$. Excavations at Gò Sao II, Gò Tháp, Gò Đồn, Gò Xoài, Gò Năm Tuộc, and Trâm Quy in 1987 and 1988 revealed the remains of brick structures of
different sizes. Especially, the excavation of a large site complex at Bình T'à in 1987 uncovered three temple remnants, including a brick structure at Gò Xoài (15.20 m x 15.15 m), another brick structure at Gò Năm Tường (17.20 m x 11.10 m), and a brick-laterite structure at Gò Đôn (central structure 11.60 m x 11.20 m, outer brick alley over 80 m long eastward) (Bùi Phát Điểm et al. 2001). Artifacts found at these sites include architectural materials (bricks, laterite, schist), stone and metal worship objects (linga, yoni-linga, Vishnu and Ganesa statues), and metal and semi-precious stone ornaments. Especially, in the 1987 excavation at Gò Xoài, 26 gold artifacts (together with an Óc Eo potsherd and some other metal objects) were found in situ in the central structure of the site. These artifacts include semi-precious stone-stuffed gold pendant and rings, flower-shaped gold leaves, gold sheets carved with woman and animal images (turtle, snake, and elephant), and a gold sheet impressed with Sanskrit script (Bùi Phát Điểm et al. 2001:91) (Figure 22).
Figure 22. Gold artifacts found from the 1987 excavation at Gò Xoài.

In addition to temples, Óc Eo and the Post-Óc Eo sites in this region also include temple-pond-combined sites (Gò Sao II, Ao Vuông), a wharf site (Bến Cây Xoài), and more than 20 residential sites where the fine typical Óc Eo ceramics were found (Gò Bầu Tháp, Gò Trầm Bâu, Gò Chấm, Gò Chơi Tiên, Tho Mo, etc.) (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001:172-173).

*The delta lowlands*

Thirty-three Óc Eo sites have been discovered in this area, including residential sites (Gò Hẳng, Gò Dưng, Gáo Mữ, etc.), ancient water ponds (Láng Biên, Gò Thấp Lớn A), temple-pond-combined site (Gò Bgün), temple-moat-combined sites (Gò Pháo, Gò Gái, Gò Nộ, etc.), and temples (Bến Phố, Gò Chúa, Gò Rộc Chanh, Gò Bẩy Liếp, etc.) (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001:174-175).
Two residential sites (Gò Hàng and Gò Dung 1989) and two temple remnants (Gò Rộc Chanh 1986 and Gò Bùn 1989) have been excavated. Particularly, the excavations at Gò Hàng in 1989 recovered 1.60-m-thick cultural deposits, which contain a number of artifacts including typical Óc Eo pottery vessels (high-stem cups, jars, lamp-stand), semi-precious stone beads (in many different colors – Figure 23), metal and glass earrings and bracelets, coins, and animal remains (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001:98-99). Also, the excavation at Gò Dung discovered 60-cm-thick cultural deposits and a number of artifacts, including burned clay tripods, clay potter’s anvils, stove (carang) fragments, Óc Eo ceramic vessels (bowls and jars), semi-precious stone beads, gold and glass jewelry, and wooden and animal remains (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001:100). The excavations at Gò Bùn and Gò Rộc Chanh revealed the remains of two brick foundations at each site. The artifacts associated with these structures include religious objects (*linga, yoni-linga*), some small pieces of gold, and pottery fragments (Bùi Phát Diệm et al. 2001:111).

![Figure 23. Quartz *yoni-linga* (top right) at Gò Trấm Quỹ and Gò Phật; semi-precious stone beads, and glass beads at Gò Hàng and Gò Dung.](image-url)
The coastal plain

Only five recorded sites in this area contain Óc Eo cultural materials, including Tân Tấp, Cần Giuộc, Phước Lý, Mỹ Lộc, and Rạch Tràm. A small test unit at Phước Lý in 1987 revealed a disturbed brick foundation remnant. A sandstone Ekamukhalinga and a sandstone yoni were also collected from local residents. Another surface-testing in the same year at Rạch Tràm also revealed a brick foundation and some sandstone linga and yoni fragments, as well as some architectural stone fragments that may represent (Bùi Phát Điểm et al. 2001:112).

Economy and resources

The following sections discuss previous research about the economy and resources in the province from the prehistoric period to the Óc Eo period. Agriculture is discussed first, followed by the discussions of domesticated and wild animals, lithic and metal resources, and trade and exchange.

Agriculture

There is currently very little known concerned with agriculture in the province for the historic period. In other words, no botanical research has been officially conducted for the archaeological sites from this period. However, some indirect evidence might suggest prehistoric rice agriculture. For example, many sherds at An Son site are heavily tempered with rice husks (Bellwood [ed.] 2011; Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung 2002). These are present from the lowest layers of the site. However, it is not clear yet whether such rice-tempered pottery was utilized from the beginning of site occupation, and also there is no evidence to confirm whether the rice was domesticated. Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung (2002:104) suggest that rice might
have been used as food at An Sơn. Such rice-tempered pottery sherds are also found at later prehistoric sites in the Mekong delta lowland such as Cô Sơn Tự and Gò Ô Chúa (Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Điểm 2001, Nishimura 2003) and at an Óc Eo site (Gò Đồn) (Nguyễn Xuân Hiển 1990).

*Domesticated and wild animals*

Animal remains have been found at all of the prehistoric sites; however, only three faunal analyses have been undertaken so far, at An Sơn, Rạch Núi, and Cô Sơn Tự. Wild animals found at these sites include Civet cat (Viverridae), monkey (Cercopithecidae), rat (Rattus), mouse deer (Tragalus napu), deer, muntjac (Muntiacus sp.), Monitor lizard (Varanus), crocodile (Crocodylus), Soft-shelled turtle (Trionychidae), Asian leaf turtle (Cyclemys dentata), Yellow-headed temple turtle (*cf.* Hieremys annadalei), Box turtle (Cuora), marine shells (*Cerithidea obtusa* and *Polymesodea erosa*), and sixteen different species of brackish and freshwater fish (snakehead (*Channidae*), climbing perch (*Anabas testudineus*), swamp eel (*Synbranchidae*), river catfish (*Clariidae*), White sheet fish (*Wallago attu*), and Asian river catfish (*Bagridae*), etc. (Lê Trung Khá 1978a; Piper et al. 2010; Vũ Thế Long 1997).

Dog (*Canis familiaris dingo*) and pig (*Sus scrofa*) are the only two domesticated species known so far at the above sites. Especially, they are the most common terrestrial mammals found at An Sơn site by far. The remains of these species are present from the very earliest settlement phases, but it is only the 1600 cal. BCE midden deposits at the site that have enough evidence to identify the populations as domestic. Piper et al. state in the faunal analysis report in 2010 that “From the earliest phases of settlement occupation it appears the inhabitants had a
mixed economy revolving around fishing, hunting and the maintenance of domestic dog populations” (Piper et al. 2010:24). The hook-line fishing technique might have been applied at the site since a number of bone fishhooks have been recovered throughout cultural deposits (Bellwood [ed.] 2010; Lê Xuân Diệm 1978a; Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung 2002; Phạm Quang Sơn 2004; ) (Figure 24).

Figure 24. Bone fishhooks and faunal remains at An Sơn.

**Lithic and metal resources**

As mentioned by Nishimura (2002), Long An seriously lacks stone and metal resources for tool production. The closest accessible stone resource is located in the upper reaches of the Vàm Cỏ and Đồng Nai rivers, about 70 km from the province center. However, it seems that the
prehistoric and early historic habitants in the province did not rely on these resources; instead, they took full advantage of other natural resources available in the region such as clay, animal bones and shells, and perhaps bamboo and other wood. The abundant pottery sherds and many bone and shell artifacts recovered at the archaeological sites are remarkably clear evidence.

Trade and exchange

The evidence of trade in the prehistoric period of the province is not clear yet, but certain factors might suggest some level of exchange during this period. For example, Nishimura and Nguyễn Kim Dung (2002:16) point out that “resharpening flakes and an absence of any unworked raw material or blanks suggest that all the stone axe-adzes were imported in finished form.” In addition, when compared to artifact assemblages from sites in Northeastern Thailand, the assemblages at An Sơn show a very similar tradition, especially the shell disc beads and pottery vessels (Figure 25). This suggests ideological and traditional exchange may have taken place between these two regions of mainland Southeast Asia at some levels.
CHAPTER 5. FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

This last chapter starts with some future recommendations for archaeological research and cultural resources management in the province and ends with a concluding summary.

Future recommendations

The following recommendations are presented in terms of suggested directions for future research and improvements for cultural resource management. They include research design, cooperative research, database development, survey, and paleoenvironmental research.

Research design

Figure 25. The similarity in artifact tradition between An Son and other sites in Northeast Thailand.
Although archaeological research has been continuously conducted in the province, there are still important archaeological questions that need to be answered (e.g. chronological framework, sociopolitical changes between prehistoric societies and Óc Eo societies, and physical anthropology). However, to answer those questions archaeologists have to figure out where to survey, how to survey, where to excavate, and how to excavate; and all of these need to follow research designs with clear and practical research questions and goals. A clear and specific research design will outline how to proceed with future projects and also will give managers an explicit plan for future work on the cultural resources of the province.

Cooperative research

The goal of this project is to support joint archaeological research. Many archaeological cooperative projects have been carried out by Long An Provincial Museum and other archaeological institutes in Vietnam and other countries. This has been really helpful for archaeological research development in the province. Archaeologists from outside the province should continue to be encouraged to propose and conduct research with in-kind support from archaeological and cultural organizations of the province. This kind of cooperative research can lead to greater understanding of cultural resources.

Database development

Long An Provincial Museum is keeping all databases of past archaeological projects (maps, site notes, site reports, photographs, etc.) in the form of hard copies. However, it will be safer and more relevant for planning and management purposes to build a digital archaeological database of spatial, temporal, and formal site data with an archaeological base map of the
province. This project is a real possibility and will be highly beneficial for research management at relatively low cost.

**Survey**

A large-scale site survey needs to be carried out in order to update data on the total number of archaeological sites and their state of preservation. This is really necessary because some sites have been discovered recently and others may have been completely or partly destroyed since the last museum report (in 2001).

**Paleoenvironmental research**

One goal of this project is to identify changes in the landscapes and environment of the province in the past. This project requires more professionals who can conduct fieldwork and laboratory analysis on faunal and botanical remains from archaeological sites. A large number of animal remains were collected during past projects, but most of them have not been studied yet. Research on these remains (and botanical remains) can benefit not only resource management but also the natural and social sciences, through developing an understanding of long-term ecological trends.

**Conclusion**

To sum up, this archaeological research has compiled and synthesized information about archaeological research conducted in Long An Province over the past four decades. The archaeological culture history of the province is presented through three different periods: the Late Neolithic, the Metal Age, and the Óc Eo periods. Each period produced sites that have archaeological resources representing technological and cultural changes within the province.
These resources have been recorded during a number of archaeological projects conducted by Vietnamese archaeologists at Long An Provincial Museum and other institutes in Vietnam and from other countries (Japan, Germany, and Australia). These projects have obtained essential resources for archaeological studies of the province, providing crucial evidence to address various archaeological research questions concerning settlement patterns, natural resources, economies of past human societies, and other issues.

In short, many archaeological projects have been completed in Long An Province in the past forty years. However, the information from these projects has not been gathered together in order to provide a fuller understanding about the archaeology of the province. Thus, this overview and assessment is very important, both in providing a vital contribution to the literature on Long An’s prehistorically and historically rich material cultures, and in supporting the cultural management programs of the province. This research establishes a model for archaeological overviews and assessments not only for the province but also for other provinces and regions in Vietnam, where archaeological studies have not been synthesized. This overview and assessment will be especially helpful for cultural heritage managers in evaluating archaeological sites as well as recognizing major issues related to researching and preserving sites. Additionally, the research introduces for the first time essential information about Long An archaeology to the public, especially to local communities. This will help them have a better knowledge of the history of their homeland, so that they can understand, respect, and protect their own cultural resources.

Also, this research expands our knowledge about the archaeology of Long An Province specifically and of southern Vietnam in general. The inventories of the archaeological projects
that have researched each archaeological site in Long An during the past decades are an invaluable reference in determining the location and nature of past archaeological research; the list of locations of the repositories containing the collections and records associated with this research are also very useful. This project for the first time introduces those precious materials to the research world, providing researchers interested in investigating the province’s prehistory and history (especially those who have not previously conducted research in the region) fundamental background information about the environmental and archaeological history of the province. With this information, archaeologists and other researchers can step further toward answering archaeological questions of Long An Province, as well as toward developing studies that compare Long An archaeology with the archaeology of other historical and prehistoric cultures in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

As an archeologist working at a museum, it is hard for me to see archaeological and cultural heritage being forgotten; thus, by doing this research, I hope to bring the stories of this treasure to the public and the community of which I am a part. To do that, however, I need to think about making my research broadly available. A copy of my research first will be added to Long An Provincial Museum Library as a public database for everyone to search. I will also be willing to share a digital copy of my research with anyone who is interested in archaeology or the cultural heritage of the province. Finally, since my research is written in English, which is not familiar for most of the Vietnamese, I will try to translate my research into Vietnamese as soon as possible, so that it can be more accessible to the community.
Appendix 1

Figure 26. Archaeological sites in Long An Province (●) prehistoric sites (●) Oc Eo sites
Table 7. Archaeological sites in Long An Province.

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<th>Period</th>
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Appendix 2

Project summaries

Project title (or basic description): Excavation at An Sơn in 1978
Dates of fieldwork: 02/14/1978 – 03/14/1978
Author(s): Lê Xuân Diệm
Personnel: Lê Xuân Diệm, Phạm Quang Sơn, Trần Trọng Nghĩa, and field crew
Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The excavation was conducted by archaeologists from the Institute of Social Science in Hồ Chí Minh City and the Department of Culture and Information of Long An Province’s staff. The total excavated area was 144 m² divided into 3 trenches: ASH2 (9 m x 6 m) on top of the mound; ASH1 (10 m x 5 m) and ASH3 (8 m x 5 m) at the northeast subdivision. One publication summarizing fieldwork and analysis (Lê Xuân Diệm 1978), one preliminary report (Nguyễn Quang Quyen 1990) and one publication (Lê Trung Khá 1978b) on human remains, and one publication on faunal analysis (Lê Trung Khá 1978a) resulted from this excavation. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum; unfortunately, there was an incidence that caused a mixing of these artifacts with ones found from the Rạch Núi excavation happening in the same year.

Time period(s): Neolithic

Number of sites: 1 site
Types of sites: Habitation and mortuary site
Maps and photographs: Unknown
Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum
Radiocarbon dates: See Bellwood [ed.] 2010

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Listed as National Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Lê Xuân Diệm (1978); Lê Trung Khá (1978a, 1978b)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC12, TLKC13, TLKC34

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Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Rạch Núi in 1978
Dates of fieldwork: 04/1978
Author(s): Phạm Quang Sơn
Personnel: Phạm Quang Sơn, Bùi Xuân Long, Trần Trọng Nghĩa, and field crew
Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: This project was collaboration between the Institute of Social Science in Hồ Chí Minh City and the Department of Culture and Information in Long An Province. One excavated trench, which had an area of 60 m² (10 m x 6 m), was placed at the northwest portion of the site. One publication summarizing fieldwork and analysis (Phạm Quang Sơn 1978) and one publication on faunal analysis (Lê Trung Khá 1978a) resulted from this excavation. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum; unfortunately, there was an incidence that caused a mixing of these artifacts with ones found from the An Sơn excavation happening in the same year.

Time period(s): Neolithic

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: Habitation mound site

Maps and photographs: 9 photographs (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Listed as National Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Lê Trung Khá (1978a); Phạm Quang Sơn (1978)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC85; TLKC103

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Project title (or basic description): Excavation at the Binh Tà site group in 1987

Dates of fieldwork: 1987

Author(s): Lê Trung Khá, Bùi Phát Diệm

Personnel: Lê Trung Khá, Nguyễn Đúc Lưu, Bùi Phát Điểm, and field crew

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The excavation was conducted at the Binh Tà site group, including 5 sites: Gò Sao II (01/06/1987 – 01/20/1987), Gò Tháp (02/28/1987 – 03/03/1987 and 06/03/1987 – 06/10/1987), Gò Đôn (09/01/1987 – 10/30/1987), Gò Xoài (03/03/1987 – 08/30/1987), and Gò Năm Trúc (05/11/1987 – 06/18/1987). Structural remains and religious artifacts dated to the Óc Eo period were revealed. A preliminary report on the fieldwork (Lê Trung Khá and Bùi Phát Điểm 1988), two publications on the Sanskrit scripts carved on the golden sheet at Gò Xoài (Hà Văn Tấn 1993, 1997), and one publication on radiocarbon of Gò Sao (Vương Thu Hồng 1990) resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Óc Eo

Number of sites: 5 sites
Types of sites: architectural remains

Maps and photographs: 1 location map (1:1000), 5 structural site maps (1:100), 113 photographs (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: Vương Thu Hồòng (1990)

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Listed as National Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Lê Trung Khá and Bùi Phát Diệm (1988); Hà Văn Tấn (1993, 1997); Vương Thu Hồòng (1990)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC01; TLKC08/1; TLKC09; TLKC22; TLKC23; TLKC25; TLKC27

Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Trâm Quỳ in 1988

Dates of fieldwork: 1988

Author(s): Nguyễn Đức Lưu and Bùi Phát Diệm

Personnel: Nguyễn Đức Lưu, Bùi Phát Diệm, and field crew

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The excavation was conducted by the Archaeology Team of Long An Province and Long An Provincial Museum’s staff in 1988, discovering Ôc Eo cultural artifacts and architectural remains. One publication on fieldwork and findings resulted from this project (Nguyễn Đức Lưu and Bùi Phát Diệm 1990). All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Post-Ôc Eo

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: Architectural remain

Maps and photographs: 1 structural site map, 23 photographs (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is not assessed for register significance by the authors, but is now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Nguyễn Đức Lưu and Bùi Phát Diệm (1990)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC17
Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Lộc Giang in 1988

Dates of fieldwork: 1988

Author(s): Lê Trung Khái

Personnel: Lê Trung Khái, Nguyễn Đức Lưu, and field crew

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The site was investigated by a small excavation (20 m²) in 1988, which revealed cultural material from prehistoric and the Óc Eo periods. A preliminary report on fieldwork resulted from this project (Lê Trung Khái 1988). All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Prehistoric and Óc Eo periods

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: prehistoric habitation and Óc Eo architectural remain

Maps and photographs: 16 photographs (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is not assessed for register significance by the authors, but is now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Lê Xuân Diệm (1978); Lê Trung Khái (1988)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC50; TLKC51

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Project title (or basic description): Survey in Đức Hòa district in 1988

Dates of fieldwork: 01/07/1988

Author(s): Võ Sỹ Khải

Personnel: Nguyễn Đức Lưu, Võ Sỹ Khải

Methods: Site visit

Descriptive summary: The survey took place on January 7th, 1988 at Gò Đồn, Gò Xoài, Gò Sao II, Bầu Công, and Lộc Giang sites in Đức Hòa district. A short report on site conditions (Võ Sỹ Khải 1988) and a publication on radiocarbon of Bầu Công (Vương Thu Hồng 1990) resulted from this project.

Time period(s): Prehistoric, Óc Eo and Post-Óc Eo

Number of sites: 5 sites

Types of sites: prehistoric habitation (Lộc Giang) and Óc Eo architectural remains

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Maps and photographs: 9 photographs on the survey at Bầu Cống (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: N/A

Radiocarbon dates: Vương Thu Hồng (1990)

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Gò Đòn and Gò Xoài sites belong to the Bình Tà site group which is listed as National Register of Historic Places. The other sites are not assessed for register significance by the author, but are now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places.

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Võ Sỹ Khải (1988); Vương Thu Hồng (1990)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC07

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Project title (or basic description): Survey in the Mekong Delta in 1989

Dates of fieldwork: April 1989

Author(s): Bùi Phát Điểm

Personnel: Bùi Phát Điểm and possibly others

Methods: Test excavation

Descriptive summary: In April 1989 Long An Provincial Museum Staff conducted three test excavations at Gò Hàng, Gò Dung, and Gò Bún. The total excavated area was not reported; however, the depth of stratigraphy for each site was recorded. A preliminary report on the fieldwork (Bùi Phát Điểm 1989), one publication on the fieldwork and findings (Nguyễn Đức Lữ and Bùi Phát Điểm 1989), and one publication on radiocarbon date at Gò Hàng (Vương Thu Hồng 1992) resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Óc Êo

Number of sites: 3 sites

Types of sites: Habitation (Gò Hàng, Gò Dung) and architectural remain (Gò Bún)

Maps and photographs: 18 photographs on the excavation at Gò Hàng (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: Vương Thu Hồng (1992)

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Sites are not assessed for register significance by the authors, but are now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Bùi Phát Điểm (1989); Nguyễn Đức Lữ and Bùi Phát Điểm (1989); Vương Thu Hồng (1992)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC64
Project title (or basic description): Survey in the Mekong Delta in 1990

Dates of fieldwork: August 1990

Author(s): Đào Linh Còn, Võ Sỹ Khải, and Bùi Phát Diệm

Personnel: Đào Linh Còn, Võ Sỹ Khải, Bùi Phát Diệm, and possibly others

Methods: site relocation

Descriptive summary: The survey was conducted in Vĩnh Hưng and Đức Huệ districts by archaeologists from the Institute of Social Science in Hồ Chí Minh City and the Archaeology Team in Long An Province. Sites in Vĩnh Hưng district include Gò Gòn, Gò Nổ, Gò Hai Gòn, Gò Ông Hai, Gò Bùn, Gò Pháo, Bầu Xã Keo, Gò Chúa, Lán Biên, Gò Đuối, Gò Ba Cảnh, Gò...
Ông Tà, and Gò Hàng. Sites in Đức Huệ district include Gò Миев, Gò Chùa, and Tho Mo. Site locations and findings from the survey were recorded in a preliminary report (Đào Linh Còn, Võ Sỹ Khài, and Bùi Phát Điểm 1989) on file at the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** Oc Eo and Post-Oc Eo

**Number of sites:** 16 sites

**Types of sites:** Oc Eo architectural remains and habitations

**Maps and photographs:** N/A

**Collections:** N/A

**Radiocarbon dates:** N/A

**National Register of Historic Places significance of sites:** Sites are not assessed for register significance by the authors, but are now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

**Published and unpublished source material referenced:** Đào Linh Còn, Võ Sỹ Khài, and Bùi Phát Điểm (1989)

**Long An Provincial Museum file number:** TLKC34

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**Project title (or basic description):** Excavation at Lộc Giang in 1993

**Dates of fieldwork:** 12/16/1993 – 12/30/1993

**Author(s):** Quang Văn Cây et al.

**Personnel:** Quang Văn Cây, Ngô Thế Phong, Vũ Quốc Hiền, Trịnh Căn, Nguyễn Văn Thành, Vương Thu Hồng, Văn Ngọc Bích, and field crew

**Methods:** Excavation

**Descriptive summary:** This project was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum and the Vietnam National Museum of History in Hà Nội. The total excavated area was 49.5 m², including H1 (5 m x 3 m), H2 (6 m x 5 m), TS1 (1.5 m x 1.5 m), and TS2 (1.5 m x 1.5 m). Site notes, a preliminary report on the fieldwork (Quang Văn Cây et al. 1994), a preliminary report on human remains (Nguyễn Lân Cương 1994), one publication on major findings (Quang Văn Cây, Nguyễn Văn Thành, and Ngô Thế Phong 1994), and one publication on radiocarbon date (Vương Thu Hồng 1994) resulted from this project. Artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Vietnam National Museum of History in Hà Nội and the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** Neolithic

**Number of sites:** 1 site

**Types of sites:** Habitation

**Maps and photographs:** 11 profile maps (surface and cross sections); 30 drawings of artifacts; 19 stamping sheets on pottery decorations, and photographs (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Gò Cao Su in 1993

Dates of fieldwork: December 1993 - January 1994

Author(s): Trần Anh Dũng, Bùi Văn Liêm, and Nguyễn Đăng Cường

Personnel: Trần Anh Dũng, Bùi Văn Liêm, Nguyễn Đăng Cường, Vương Thu Hồng, Nguyễn Văn Hiếu, and field crew

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: This cooperative excavation between the Vietnam Institute of Archaeology and the Long An Provincial Museum was conducted from December 1993 to January 1994. A thirty four square meter trench was placed at the center of this mound site. Detailed stratigraphic structures and major findings were presented in a preliminary report (Trần Anh Dũng, Bùi Văn Liêm, and Nguyễn Đăng Cường 1994). Notes on fieldwork and artifact analysis, photographs, maps, drawings, and a publication on radiocarbon dates (Vương Thu Hồng 1995) resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Metal Age

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: Habitation

Maps and photographs: 3 profile maps of the excavated trench, 12 drawings of the artifacts, 8 stamping sheets of the pottery decorations, 29 photographs of the excavation

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum


National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is not assessed for register significance by the authors, but is now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Trần Anh Dũng, Bùi Văn Liêm, and Nguyễn Đăng Cường (1994); Vương Thu Hồng (1995)
Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC18; TLKC21; TLKC115

Project title (or basic description): Archaeological Survey in 1993 – 1994
Author(s): Nguyễn Văn Thành and Vương Thu Hồng
Personnel: Nguyễn Văn Thành, Vương Thu Hồng, and possibly others
Methods: Survey

Descriptive summary: This site survey was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum Staff in Đức Hòa, Đức Huệ, and Vĩnh Hưng districts, including Gò Tháp (Đức Huệ), Gò Xoài (Hựu Thành), Gò Chơi Tiền, Gò Lớn, Gò Bầu Lương (Đức Hòa), and Cô Sơn Tự (Vĩnh Hưng). A publication on site conditions (Nguyễn Văn Thành and Vương Thu Hồng 1994) resulted from this project.

Time period(s): Iron Age and Óc Eo period

Number of sites: 6 sites

Types of sites: prehistoric habitation (Gò Xoài, Cô Sơn Tự), Óc Eo architectural remain (Gò Tháp), and Óc Eo habitation (Gò Chơi Tiền, Gò Lớn, Gò Bầu Lương)

Maps and photographs: N/A
Collections: N/A
Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is not assessed for register significance by the authors, but is now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Nguyễn Văn Thành and Vương Thu Hồng (1994)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC30

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Project title (or basic description): Archaeological Survey in 1995-1996
Dates of fieldwork: 1995 and 1996
Author(s): Nguyễn Duy Tý, Văn Ngọc Bích and Vương Thu Hồng
Personnel: Nguyễn Duy Tý, Văn Ngọc Bích and Vương Thu Hồng
Methods: Survey

Descriptive summary: This survey was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum and the Institute of Social Science in Hồ Chí Minh City. Four Óc Eo cultural sites were discovered in Vĩnh Hưng district, including Gò Duối, Gò Lang, Gò Ông Côm, and Gò Lang II. One publication on these findings resulted from this project (Nguyễn Duy Tý, Văn Ngọc Bích and Vương Thu Hồng 1996)
Time period(s): 1. 1st millennium BC

Number of sites: 9

Types of sites: Prehistoric habitations (Vinh Trang, An Son, Go Cao, Go Nhau, Giang Cai Trong, Rach Heo, Rach Rung, Co Son Tu) and Oc Eo architectural remains (Binh Ta)

Maps and photographs: N/A

Collections: N/A

Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Not assessed for register significance by the authors, but are now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Note: The project title and basic description are not provided in the text.
Published and unpublished source material referenced: Nishimura et al. (1996a); Nishimura (1997)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC96

Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Cô Sơn Tự in 1996

Dates of fieldwork: 04/22/1996 – 05/01/1996

Author(s): Nishimura Masanari

Personnel: Nishimura Masanari, Nguyễn Duy Tự, Bùi Phật Diệm, and Vương Thu Hòng

Methods: Test excavation

Descriptive summary: This small excavation was conducted by Nishimura Masanari (a Japanese archaeologist), Nguyễn Duy Tự (Institute of Social Science in Hồ Chí Minh City), Bùi Phật Diệm and Vương Thu Hòng (Long An Provincial Museum). Total excavated area was 13 m², including H1 (3 m x 3 m) and H2 (2 m x 2 m). A preliminary report in Vietnamese (Nishimura et al. 1996b) and in English (Nishimura 1996) on fieldwork and major findings, one publication on bone tool (Vương Thu Hòng 1996), one publication on radiocarbon dates (Vương Thu Hòng 1997), and one publication on fieldwork and analysis (Nishimura 2003) resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Iron Age

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: Habitation

Maps and photographs: 1 typographical map, 9 drawings of the artifacts, 21 photographs (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: Vương Thu Hòng (1997)

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is not assessed for register significance by the author, but is now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Nishimura et al. (1996b); Nishimura (1996, 2003); Vương Thu Hòng (1996, 1997)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC71; TLKC96

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Project title (or basic description): Excavation at An Sơn site in 1997

Dates of fieldwork: 02/16/1997-03/29/1997

Author(s): Nishimura Masanari and Nguyễn Kim Dung

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: This cooperative excavation was conducted by Nishimura Masanari (Center for Vietnamese and Inter-cultural Studies, Hanoi National University), Yamagata M. (University Museum of Tokyo University), Yoshida H. (Oita Prefecture Board of Education), Nguyễn Kim Dung (Vietnam Institute of Archaeology), Lê Xuân Diệm, Nguyễn Thị Hà, Nguyễn Thị Hoài Hương (Center for Archaeology, Institute of Social Science in Ho Chi Minh City), Bùi Phát Diệm, Đỗ Thị Lan, Nguyễn Phương Thảo, and Nguyễn Như Uyên (Long An Provincial Museum). Total excavated area was 36 m², including Pit 1 (8 m x 4 m), TS1 (1 m x 1 m), TS2 (1 m x 1 m), and TS3 (2 m x 2 m). Two publications on fieldwork and analysis (Nishimura Masanari and Nguyễn Kim Dung 1998, 2002) and one publication on radiocarbon dates (Vương Thu Hồng 2001) resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Neolithic

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: Habitation

Maps and photographs: 1 typographical map, 27 drawings of the artifacts, and 53 photographs (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: Vương Thu Hồng (2001)

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: The site is listed as National Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Nishimura Masanari and Nguyễn Kim Dung (1998, 2002); Vương Thu Hồng (2001)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC15; TLKC110

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Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Gò Ô Chúa in 1997

Dates of fieldwork: April 1997 – May 1997

Author(s): Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Diệm

Personnel: Ngô Thế Phong, Vũ Quốc Hiền, Chu Văn Vệ, Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng, Bùi Phát Diệm, Vương Thu Hồng, Nguyễn Đức Diệp, and field crew

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The excavation was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum and the Vietnam National Museum of History in Hà Nội. The excavated area was 74.5 m², including H1 (8 m x 5 m), H2 (9 m x 3 m), TS1 (1.5 m x 1.5 m), and TS2 (1.5 m x 1.5 m), placed at the center mound of the three linked mounds of the site. The fieldwork and major
findings from the excavation were presented in a preliminary report (Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Diệm 1997). Two publications on fieldwork and analysis (Ngô Thế Phong et al. 1998; Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Diệm 2001), three publications on special artifacts (Nguyễn Đức Diệp, Chu Văn Vệ, and Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng 1998; Vường Thu Hồng and Nguyễn Đức Diệp 1998; Ngô Thế Phong 2000), and one publication on radiocarbon dates (Vường Thu Hồng 2001) resulted from this project. Artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Vietnam National Museum of History in Hà Nội and the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** Iron Age/Pre-Óc Eo

**Number of sites:** 1 site

**Types of sites:** habitation and mortuary

**Maps and photographs:** 1 typographical map, 61 photos of the excavation (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum), see Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Diệm (1997, 2001) for stratigraphic profiles and artifact illustrations

**Collections:** Artifacts in collections of the Vietnam National Museum of History in Hà Nội and the Long An Provincial Museum

**Radiocarbon dates:** Vường Thu Hồng (2001)

**National Register of Historic Places significance of sites:** Site is listed as National Register of Historic Places

**Published and unpublished source material referenced:** Ngô Thế Phong and Bùi Phát Diệm (1997, 2001); Nguyễn Đức Diệp, Chu Văn Vệ, and Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng (1998); Vường Thu Hồng and Nguyễn Đức Diệp (1998); Ngô Thế Phong (2000); Vường Thu Hồng (2001)

**Long An Provincial Museum file number:** TLKC149; TLKC228

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**Project title (or basic description):** Archaeological Survey in 2003

**Dates of fieldwork:** March 2003

**Author(s):** Bùi Văn Liêm and Phạm Minh Huyễn

**Personnel:** Bùi Văn Liêm, Phạm Minh Huyễn, Văn Ngọc Bích

**Methods:** Survey and surface testing (Lò Gạch and Gò Đinh)

**Descriptive summary:** The survey was collaboration between the Vietnam Institute of Archaeology and the Long An Provincial Museum. Sites in Đức Hòa district (Gò Cao Su, Bầu Tháp, Gò Lớn, Gò Chợ Tiền, Gò Cây Xoài, Gò Trầm Quy) and Vĩnh Hưng district (Rạch Rừng, Cỏ Sơn Tứ, Lò Gạch, Gò Đính) were surveyed. Surface testing was conducted at Lò Gạch (2 m x 2 m) and Gò Đính (2 m x 1.5 m). The results were presented in a preliminary report (Bùi Văn Liêm and Phạm Minh Huyễn 2004). Also, a publication on the results of the surface testing at Gò Đính site was introduced in 2006 (Bùi Văn Liêm, Phạm Minh Huyễn, and Văn Ngọc Bích). All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** prehistoric and Óc Eo periods
Number of sites: 10 sites
Types of sites: prehistoric habitations; Óc Eo habitations and architectural remains
Maps and photographs: N/A
Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum
Radiocarbon dates: N/A
National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Sites are not assessed for register significance by the authors, but are now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places
Published and unpublished source material referenced: Bùi Văn Liêm and Phạm Minh Huyễn (2004); Bùi Văn Liêm, Phạm Minh Huyễn, and Văn Ngọc Bích (2006)
Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC172

Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Rạch Núi in 2003
Dates of fieldwork: February 2003 – March 2003
Author(s): Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al.
Personnel: Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng, Vũ Quốc Hiền, Nguyễn Quốc Hữu, Hà Thị Hương Giang, Vượng Thu Hồng, Đỗ Thị Lan, Nguyễn Tấn Quốc, Văn Ngọc Bích
Methods: Excavation
Descriptive summary: This cooperative excavation between the Vietnam Institute of Archaeology and the Long An Provincial Museum was conducted from February 2003 to March 2003. Total excavated area was 76 m², including H1 (8 m x 5.5 m) in the east portion and H2 (8 m x 4 m) in the west portion of the site. A preliminary report (Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al. 2005) and a publication (Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al. 2004) on fieldwork and analysis resulted from this project. Artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Vietnam National Museum of History in Hà Nội and the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Neolithic
Number of sites: 1 site
Types of sites: habitation
Maps and photographs: see Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al. (2005)
National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: The site is listed as National Register of Historic Places
Published and unpublished source material referenced: Vượng Thu Hồng (2004); Nguyễn Mạnh Thắng et al. (2004, 2005)
Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC222

Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Gò Ô Chùa in 2003
Dates of fieldwork: 05/03/2003 – 05/14/2003
Author(s): Bùi Phát Điểm et al.
Personnel: Andreas Reinecke, Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh, Văn Ngọc Bích, and field crew
Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: This project was conducted by Andreas Reinecke (the German Archaeological Institute), Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh (Hanoi University of Social Sciences and Humanities), and Văn Ngọc Bích (Long An Province Museum). The excavated unit was 9 m², placed in the center mound of the site. A preliminary report (Bùi Phát Điểm et al. 2004) and one publication (Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh et al. 2004) on fieldwork and analysis resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Iron Age/Pre-Ōc Eo period
Number of sites: 1 site
Types of sites: Habitation and Cemetery
Maps and photographs: 24 photos of the excavation (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum
Radiocarbon dates: Vương Thu Hồng (2008)

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites:
Published and unpublished source material referenced: Bùi Phát Điểm et al. (2004); Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh et al. (2004), Vương Thu Hồng (2008)
Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC175

Project title (or basic description): Excavation at An Sơn in 2004
Dates of fieldwork: December 2003 – January 2004
Author(s): Phạm Quang Sơn
Personnel: Phạm Quang Sơn, Nguyễn Quốc Mạnh, Nguyễn Thị Tuyết Trinh, Nguyễn Tấn Quốc, Văn Ngọc Bích, Trần Thị Kim Quy, students from University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Hồ Chí Minh City, and field crew
Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The excavation was collaboration between Center for Archaeology, Institute of Social Sciences in Hồ Chí Minh City and Long An Provincial Museum. Total excavated was 323 m², including 3 big trenches, H1 (24 m²), H2 (96 m²), H3 (193 m²), and 5
small test units (2 m² each). All of them were in the east portion of the mound site. A preliminary report (Phạm Quang Sơn 2006) and one publication (Phạm Quang Sơn 2008) on fieldwork and analysis, one publication on pottery (Nguyễn Quốc Mạnh 2005), two publications on bone and shell artifacts (Trần Thị Kim Quy and Nguyễn Thị Tuyết Trinh 2005; Nguyễn Thị Tuyết Trinh and Trần Thị Kim Quy 2005), one unpublished report (Nguyễn Lân Cương 2005) and one publication (Nguyễn Lân Cương 2006) resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** Neolithic

**Number of sites:** 1 site

**Types of sites:** Habitation and cemetery

**Maps and photographs:** 73 photos of the excavation (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum), see Phạm Quang Sơn (2006) for stratigraphic profiles and artifact illustrations

**Collections:** Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

**Radiocarbon dates:** Bellwood [ed.] (2010)

**National Register of Historic Places significance of sites:** Site is listed as National Register of Historic Places

**Published and unpublished source material referenced:** Trần Thị Kim Quy and Nguyễn Thị Tuyết Trinh (2005); Nguyễn Quốc Mạnh (2005); Nguyễn Thị Tuyết Trinh and Trần Thị Kim Quy (2005); Nguyễn Lân Cương (2005, 2006); Phạm Quang Sơn (2006, 2008); Bellwood [ed.] (2010)

**Long An Provincial Museum file number:** TLKC148

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**Project title (or basic description):** Excavation at Gò Ô Chúa in 2005

**Dates of fieldwork:** 02/23/2005 – 04/04/2005

**Author(s):** Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh and Andreas Reinecke

**Personnel:** Andreas Reinecke, Knut Rassmann, Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh, Đặng Hồng Sơn, Lê Duy Sơn, Văn Ngọc Bích, Trần Thị Kim Quy, Họ Phan Mông Tuyên, and field crew

**Methods:** Excavation

**Descriptive summary:** The project was collaboration between the German Archaeological Institute, the Hanoi University of Social Sciences and Humanities, and the Long An Province Museum. Excavated area was 81.95 m², including 8 connected trenches placed in the southern mound of the site. A preliminary report (Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh and Andreas Reinecke 2005) and two publications (Vương Thu Hồng 2005; Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh, Đặng Hồng Sơn, and Andreas Reinecke 2007) on fieldwork and major findings, and one publication on jewelry collection (Vương Thu Hồng 2006) resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** Iron Age/Pre-Óc Eo period

**Number of sites:** 1 site
Types of sites: Habitation and cemetery

Maps and photographs: 60 drawings of artifacts and burials, 915 photos of the excavation and artifacts (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: Vường Thu Hồng (2008)

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is listed as National Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh and Andreas Reinecke (2005); Vường Thu Hồng (2005, 2006, 2008); Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh, Đặng Hồng Sơn, and Andreas Reinecke (2007)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC169

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Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Lò Gạch in 2005

Dates of fieldwork: 2005

Author(s): Bùi Văn Liêm et al.

Personnel: Bùi Văn Liêm, Trịnh Sinh, Phan Thanh Toàn, Bùi Phất Điểm, Vường Thu Hồng, Văn Ngọc Bích, and field crew

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The project was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum and the Vietnam Institute of Archaeology. Excavated area was 24 m². A preliminary report (Bùi Văn Liêm et al. 2006a) and two publications on fieldwork and major findings (Bùi Văn Liêm et al. 2006b; Bùi Văn Liêm 2008) resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Iron Age/Pre-Óc Eo period

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: Habitation

Maps and photographs: 527 photos of the excavation and artifacts (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum); see Bùi Văn Liêm et al. (2006a) and Bùi Văn Liêm (2008) for other stratigraphic profile and artifact illustrations

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is not assessed for register significance by the authors, but is now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced:

Long An Provincial Museum file number:
**Project title (or basic description):** Excavation at Gò Đinh in 2007


**Author(s):** Bùi Văn Liêm, Nguyên Ngọc Quý, and Văn Ngọc Bích

**Personnel:** Same, and field crew

**Methods:** Excavation

**Descriptive summary:** The project was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum, the German Archaeological Institute, and the Hanoi University of Social Sciences and Humanities. Excavated area was 66.68 m², including 1 trench (22.68 m²) in the northern mound and 4 connected trenches in the southern mound of the site. A preliminary report (Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh and Andreas Reinecke 2006), and two publications (Vương Thu Hồng 2005; Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh, Đặng Hồng Sơn, and Andreas Reinecke 2007) on fieldwork and major findings resulted from this project. All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** Iron Age/Pre-Óc Eo period

**Number of sites:** 1 site

**Types of sites:** Habitation and cemetery

**Maps and photographs:** 1634 photos of the excavation and artifacts; 115 artifact drawings (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

**Collections:** Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

**Radiocarbon dates:** Vương Thu Hồng (2008)

**National Register of Historic Places significance of sites:** Site is listed as National Register of Historic Places

**Published and unpublished source material referenced:** Nguyên Xuân Mạnh and Andreas Reinecke (2006); Vương Thu Hồng (2005, 2008); Nguyễn Xuân Mạnh, Đặng Hồng Sơn, and Andreas Reinecke (2007)

**Long An Provincial Museum file number:** TLKC168; TLKC 171
Descriptive summary: The project was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum and the Vietnam Institute of Archaeology. Total excavated area was 70 m². The results were presented in a preliminary report (Bùi Văn Liêm, Nguyễn Ngọc Quý, and Văn Ngọc Bích 2008). All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Metal Age

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: Habitation

Maps and photographs: 53 photos of the excavation (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum); see Bùi Văn Liêm, Nguyễn Ngọc Quý, and Văn Ngọc Bích (2008) for other stratigraphic profiles and artifact illustrations

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is not assessed for register significance by the authors, but is now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Bùi Văn Liêm, Nguyễn Ngọc Quý, and Văn Ngọc Bích (2008)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC212

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Project title (or basic description): Excavations at An Sơn, Lộc Giang, and Đồng Canh Nông in 2007


Author(s): Đặng Văn Thắng et al.

Personnel: Đặng Văn Thắng, Bùi Phát Diêm, Vượng Thu Hằng, Văn Ngọc Bích, Đỗ Thị Lan, Nguyễn Phương Thảo, Trần Thị Kim Quý, and field crew

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The project was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Hồ Chí Minh City. Total excavated area was 47 m², including 1 trench (3 m x 3 m) at An Sơn, 1 trench (4 m x 3 m) at Lộc Giang, and 2 trenches (3 m x 4 m; 4 m x 4 m) at Đồng Canh Nông. The results were presented in a premilinary report (Đặng Văn Thắng et al. 2008). All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Neolithic

Number of sites: 3 sites

Types of sites: Habitation and cemetery
Maps and photographs: 111 photos on the excavations (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum); see Đặng Văn Thắng et al. (2008) for other stratigraphic profiles and artifact illustrations

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: An Sơn site is listed as National Register of Historic Places. Other sites are not assessed for register significance by the authors, but are now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Đặng Văn Thắng et al. (2008)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC225

Project title (or basic description): Excavation at Gò Xoài (Hữu Thành) in 2008

Dates of fieldwork:

Author(s):
Personnel: Bùi Phát Diệm, Vượng Thu Hồng, Văn Ngọc Bích, Nguyễn Phương Thảo, Trần Thị Kim Quý, and field crew

Methods: Excavation

Descriptive summary: The project was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Hồ Chí Minh City. Total excavated area was 15 m², including H1 (3 m x 3m) and H2 (3 m x 2 m). Fieldwork and analysis were presented in a preliminary report (Văn Ngọc Bích et al. 2008) and one publication (Trần Thị Kim Quý 2009). All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

Time period(s): Metal Age

Number of sites: 1 site

Types of sites: Habitation

Maps and photographs: 19 photos of the excavation (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum); see Văn Ngọc Bích et al. (2008) for other stratigraphic profiles and artifact illustrations

Collections: Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

Radiocarbon dates: N/A

National Register of Historic Places significance of sites: Site is not assessed for register significance by the authors, but is now on the Long An Province Register of Historic Places

Published and unpublished source material referenced: Văn Ngọc Bích et al. (2008); Trần Thị Kim Quý (2009)

Long An Provincial Museum file number: TLKC221; TLKC225
**Project title (or basic description):** Excavation at Gò Ổ Chùa in 2008

**Dates of fieldwork:** January 2008

**Author(s):** Đặng Văn Thắng, Võ Thị Ánh Tuyết, and Văn Ngọc Bích

**Personnel:** Đặng Văn Thắng, Võ Thị Ánh Tuyết, Nguyễn Thị Hà, Văn Ngọc Bích, Trần Thị Kim Quy, students from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Hồ Chí Minh City, and field crew

**Methods:** Excavation

**Descriptive summary:** The project was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Hồ Chí Minh City. Total excavated area was 50.71 m², including 4 trenches (1 trench at the northern mound and 3 trenches at the central mound). Results were presented in a preliminary report (Đặng Văn Thắng, Võ Thị Ánh Tuyết, and Văn Ngọc Bích 2009). All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** Iron Age/Pre-Óc Eo period

**Number of sites:** 1 site

**Types of sites:** Habitation and cemetery

**Maps and photographs:** (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

**Collections:** Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

**Radiocarbon dates:** N/A

**National Register of Historic Places significance of sites:** Site is listed as National Register of Historic Places

**Published and unpublished source material referenced:** Đặng Văn Thắng, Võ Thị Ánh Tuyết, and Văn Ngọc Bích (2009)

**Long An Provincial Museum file number:** TLKC226

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**Project title (or basic description):** Excavation at An Sơn in 2009

**Dates of fieldwork:** April 2009 – May 2009

**Author(s):** Bellwood [ed.]

**Personnel:** Peter Bellwood, Marc Oxenham, Carmen Sarjeant, Anna Willis, Nguyễn Thị Kim Dung, Võ Thanh Hương, Bùi Chí Hoàng, Đặng Ngọc Kính, Lê Hoằng Phong, Nguyễn Khải Quỳnh, Nguyễn Khánh Trung Kiên, Nguyễn Quốc mạnh, Nguyễn Phương Thảo, Trần Thị Kim Quý, Văn Ngọc Bích, and field crew

**Methods:** Excavation
**Descriptive summary:** The project was collaboration between the Long An Provincial Museum, Center for Archaeology in Hồ Chí Minh City, Institute of Archaeology in Hà Nội, and the School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University. Total excavated area was 83 m², including H1 (12 m x 3 m), H2 (5 m x 5 m), H3 (10 m x 2 m), TS1 (2 m x 1m). Fieldwork, analysis, and major findings were presented in a preliminary report (Bellwood [ed.] 2010) and a detailed report (Bellwood [ed.] 2011). All artifacts are reported to be in the collections of the Long An Provincial Museum.

**Time period(s):** Neolithic

**Number of sites:** 1 site

**Types of sites:** Habitation

**Maps and photographs:** (on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)

**Collections:** Artifacts in collections of the Long An Provincial Museum

**Radiocarbon dates:** Bellwood [ed.] (2010)

**National Register of Historic Places significance of sites:** Site is listed as National Register of Historic Places

**Published and unpublished source material referenced:** Bellwood [ed.] (2010, 2011)

**Long An Provincial Museum file number:** TLKC223; TLKC227
Figure 27. The excavation at Rạch Núi in 1978.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 28. Brick and stone remains found at Gò Đòn in the 1987 excavation.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 29. The 1987 excavation at Gò Xoài.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 30. The stratigraphy of the Lộc Giang 1988 excavation.

Figure 31. Survey at the Lộc Giang site area in 1988.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 32. The 1993 excavation at Lộc Giang.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 33. The excavation at Cổ Sơn Tự in 1996.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 34. The 1994 excavation at Gò Cao Su

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 35. The stratigraphy of the An Sơn 1997 excavation.

Figure 36. The field crew and visitors of the An Sơn 1997 excavation.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 37. Pottery concentrations and human burials found from the An Sơn 2004 excavation.

(Photo credit: Nguyễn Quốc Mạnh)
Figure 38. The stratigraphy of the An Sơn 2004 excavation.

(Photos on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 39. Burials with grave goods found at the An Sơn 2004 excavation.

(Photo credit: Nguyễn Quốc Mạnh)
Figure 40. Pottery vessels found from the An Son 2004 excavation.

(Photo: Trần Thị Kim Quý, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 41. An Sơn 2004 field crew.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 42. An Sơn 2009 field crew.

Figure 43. An Sơn 2009 excavation.

(Photo on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 44. Burials with grave goods found in the An Sơn 2009 excavation (Bellwood [ed.] 2010: Figure 24 and Figure 27).
Figure 45. Unshouldered-axes found in the An Son 2009 excavation (Bellwood [ed.] 2011:114).
Figure 46. Shouldered-axes found in the An Son 2009 excavation (Bellwood [ed.] 2011:117).
Figure 47. A stone spear head found in the An Son 2009 excavation (Bellwood [ed.] 2011:119).
Figure 48. Decorations on pottery found in the An Son 2009 excavation (Bellwood [ed.] 2011:151-152, 156-157).
Figure 49. Pottery vessel types found in the An Sơn 2009 excavation (Bellwood [ed.] 2011:184-187).
Figure 50. The stratigraphy of the Gò Ô Chùa 2003 excavation.

Figure 51. Gò Ô Chùa 2003 field crew.
Figure 52. The 2005 excavation at Gò Ô Chúa.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 53. Excavated trenches at the Gò Ô Chùa 2005 excavation.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 54. The stratigraphy of the Gò Ô Chùa 2005 excavation.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).

Figure 55. A burial at the Gò Ô Chùa 2005 excavation.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 56. Pottery vessels found in the Gò Ở Chúa 2005 excavation.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).

Figure 57. Clay pindle whorls found in the Gò Ở Chúa 2005 excavation.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 58. Ornaments found in the Gò Ô Chùa 2005 excavation.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).

Figure 59. Animal remains found in the Gò Ô Chùa 2005 excavation.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 60. The 2006 excavation at Gò Ô Chúa.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 61. An excavated trench at the Gò Ô Chúa 2006.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).

Figure 62. Gò Ô Chúa 2006 field crew.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 63. Pottery vessels found in the 2006 excavation at Gò Ô Chúa.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 64. Clay pellets and spindle whorls found in the 2006 excavation at Gò Ô Chùa.

(Photo contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 65. Pottery vessels found from the 2006 excavation at Gò Ô Chúa

(Drawings: Tô Trần Bình Thuỷ, contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 66. Pottery vessels found from the 2006 excavation at Gò Ô Chùa.

(Drawings: Tô Trần Bích Thuý, contributed by Andreas Reinecke, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum).
Figure 67. The excavation at Lò Gách in 2005.

(Photo contributed by Bùi Văn Liêm, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 68. The stratigraphy of the 2005 excavation at Lò Gạch.

(Photo contributed by Bùi Văn Liêm, on file at the Long An Provincial Museum)
Figure 69. A bone artifact found in the 2005 excavation at Lò Gạch.
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