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## **BESANT: NORTHERN PLAINS PROJECTILE POINT STYLES AT THE MANN SITE**

The Besant projectile point type has been identified at the Mann sites. This site is a large Middle Woodland trade and ceremonial center located in southwestern Indiana. Although Besant points are typically corner notched or expanded stemmed ; form, they are pressure flaked and made from Knife River flint. The Besant type is diagnostic of a Plains bison hunting culture. Besant kill sites and hunting camps are distributed across the northern Plains, from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, including the southern prairie provinces of Canada. Besant is contemporary with Hopewell occupations in the Midwest. Besant peoples constructed mounds, buried their dead in bundles, and commonly placed bison offerings within mounds (e.g. Sonota). Besant cultures have been thought responsible for the trade of Knife River flint, possibly obsidian, and other items that are found on sites of the Hopewell cultures. The occurrence of actual Besant type projectile points at Mann site ([Figure 8](#)) is the first direct evidence that Besant peoples did provide exotic materials of western origin, and actual Besant traders probably traveled to Hopewell sites in the Midwest.