We were pleased hold a second tour to Mesa Prieta on Saturday September 29th, 2012. We had a perfect day and wonderful docents to show us some of the wonderful petroglyphs on the Preserve. Below is a brief description of the site taken from the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project website http://mesaprietapetroglyphs.org

Mesa Prieta, meaning 'dark mesa', is a thirty-six square mile mesa extending twelve miles in a northeasterly direction. Over 40,000 examples of rock images are estimated to exist on the mesa in addition to other archaeological features. The east side of the mesa is closely adjacent to the Rio Grande and the western side has large habitable and agricultural areas between the base of the mesa and the nearest drainage.

Archaeologists note that there are numerous other archaeological features such as shrines, water control systems, check dams, lithic scatters, field houses and other structures, grid gardens and ancient and historic trails in addition to the rock images. The number and quality of the glyphs make the mesa similar in importance to other major sites in New Mexico such as Petroglyph National Monument in Albuquerque and the Three Rivers site near Tularosa. Approximately 80% of the glyphs and other features are on private land. Most of the remaining 20% are located on Bureau of Land Management land with The Archaeological Conservancy owning 156 acres and Ohkay Owingeh owning a small amount.