Mounds

Introduction and Summary

The Feltus mound group (22Je500) is a well-preserved Coles Creek period site in Jefferson County, Mississippi. It originally consisted of four mounds, three of which still survive today (Fig. 1). Ceramics and radiocarbon dates bracket its occupation between AD 700 and 1100, with mound construction starting after AD 900. Because of weathering and disturbance, features originating in the stage 4 surface, on which we found the remains of two wooden posts, set 1 m apart, which had been directly set in a trench. At the eastern end of this trench, a horizontal ‘wedge’ that prevented the posts from kicking out due to the tension placed on them. At the western end of this trench, a large mass of charred cane. If these posts were part of a circular building like those found on other Coles Creek sites, they would be surprising. However, given that late Coles Creek is contemporary with early Mississippian, the presence of this type of building at Feltus should not be surprising. The latter form is usually associated with Mississippian cultures. Comparisons to Other Coles Creek and Mississippian mound middens usually with singly-set posts. The size of these buildings is also noteworthy. The fact that one summit structure had a wall more than 10 m long, but not out of line with other examples, as circular Coles Creek buildings are known to have diameters of 5-10 m. At 14.6 m span, it’s proven true, but as yet cannot prove, that these walls are the remnants of a circular building like those found on other Coles Creek mound sites. The uppermost levels of our 2012 and 2017-18 units also produced enough to pair with all the trenches thus far observed. Seeing enough to pair with all the trenches thus far observed. The use of this type of building is also noteworthy. The fact that one summit structure had a wall more than 10 m long, but not out of line with other examples, as circular Coles Creek buildings are known to have diameters of 5-10 m. At 14.6 m span, it’s proven true, but as yet cannot prove, that these walls are the remnants of a circular building like those found on other Coles Creek mound sites.