Mississippi Mound Trail, Northern Region:
Phase II Investigations

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Introduction

Phase I on the Northern Segment of the Mississippi Mound Trail Project was begun in July of 2013, shortly before we went to the field on Phase II, the testing phase. So, to a large extent, the two phases overlapped. Although preliminary research on the proposed mounds for the northern segment was mostly completed before students and staff from the Ole Miss field school started augering and digging slope trenches in the mounds, many of the maps had not been assembled. Fortunately, LiDAR data were available for the entire survey area and there was no need to supplement those data with field surveys.

Phase II began on June 28, the second day of the Ole Miss field school that summer when Erica and Stephan led a crew to the Dunn site. Bryan Haley joined the project late in July and worked through the month of August, directing the test excavations at Beaverdam, Mound A at Evansville, and Johnson Cemetery. Stephan and Erika directed the excavations at Dunn, Christmas, Edgefield, and Mound B at Evansville. The crew for these excavations was field school students in July and former field school students in August.

Excavation and Laboratory Techniques

We followed the protocol for mound excavation developed by the UNC crew on the southern segment project both in order to maintain consistency and because they provided such a good example. However, our strategy evolved a bit as the result of experimentation during the early test excavations.

We began by placing a series of auger holes around the perimeter of the mound using an 8.25cm bucket auger. The goal was to located sub-mound midden near the edge of the slope of the mound where we could reach the midden without a great deal of excavation. On many of the sites in our area, we failed to find clear indication of a preserved midden deposit preceding mound construction. In those cases, we chose the location which showed the best demarcation between mound and premoud deposit, usually levee sand.

All of the slope trenches were one by two meter in size with the long axis aligned with the slope. No effort was made to located the corners of the trench to specific UTM coordinates. The corners were later shot in using a total station tied to the permanent bench markers located on top the mounds that had been georeferenced using a Trimble GeoExplorer GPS unit.

Anyone who has dug Mississippian mounds in the northern Yazoo Basin knows that mound fill is generally made up of dense clay with few artifacts. Since we were dry screening and often had two or more meters of mound fill to dig through before reaching the sub-mound midden, we eventually settled on 30cm levels after John O'Hear pointed out that a vertical slice made with a standard round shovel was nearly 30cm deep. We therefore rough cut each level relatively rapidly, loaded the soil into five gallon buckets, and screened a one third sample of each level through ½ inch screen. When we reached the sub-mound deposits, we screen the entire deposit through ¼ screen. Of course, when artifacts were encountered during the excavation of the mound fill, they were bagged with by level regardless of whether they fell into

the 1/3 sample. Although the mound strata in slope trenches followed the slope, we dug horizontal levels using one of the corner stakes at the upper end of the unit as datum and a string and line level to measure depth. This was done so that when we encountered the sub-mound midden, which was likely to be horizontal, we would better be able to recover it in one or two levels.

Level forms were maintained and plan views drawings were made at the conclusion of each level. Once the slope trench was completed, the profiles were cleaned, strata were defined, and photographs were taken. The profiles were then drawn using a total station which was oriented using the X and Z coordinates of the two top corners of the profile as reference points. The total station was set to reflector-less mode and the X and Z coordinates of each point needed in drawing the profile were recorded and read out to the person drafting the profile. The field drawings of the profiles were scanned and used as a base layer in drawing the profile in ArcGIS. Because it is impossible to stand very far back from the profile in a one by two meter trench, multiple photographs which overlapped side to side and top and bottom were taken. These were processed using the Photomerge function in Photoshop. The resulting mosaic was input as a layer in the GIS and georeferenced using the four corners of the profile drawing. On a few of the excavation units we hadn't taken enough photographs with sufficient overlap and there were gaps in the mosaic but, generally, this proved to be a very good procedure.

Each level was assigned a field specimen number which followed the artifacts throughout the processing and analysis. Most of the artifacts were washed in the lab in Oxford. Stephen Harris did the initial analysis and generated Excel spread sheets. Other than daub, the vast majority of the prehistoric artifacts were ceramics. Bryan Haley did a more detailed analysis of the ceramics as a separate project funded by the Mound Trail project. Jay Johnson worked back through the ceramics while pulling rims and decorated sherds for illustration and, of course, had the last word.

Chronology

Cultural historical archaeology got off to an excellent start in the Yazoo Basin as a result of the monumental Lower Mississippi Survey. The resulting publication (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951) delineated cultural periods and ceramic types for the entire length of the Mound Trail. These types and periods were elaborated by Philip Phillips (1970) in a monograph that focused on the Lower Yazoo Basin. He considered the phases for the northern Yazoo Basin to be more like hypotheses than conclusions (Phillips 1970:861-64). Although some of these hypotheses have been testing during the following years (Connaway and McGahey 1971; Ford 1990; Ryan et al. 2004; Toth 1988; Weinstein 1991) much of the focus has been on the Woodland Period. Mississippian phases in the northern Yazoo Basin are clearly spatial and each spans the entire period. Early, Middle, and Late Mississippian phases are not delineated although we are beginning to develop an outline of the sequence (e.g. Nelson 2016). As a result, a neat table showing periods and phases with associated dates could be included but it would be more apparent than real. However, as a result of the mound slope trenches, the ceramic samples, and a suite of 12 radiocarbon dates (Table 1), we are beginning to see and outline of what that sequence might look like.

Table 1 Radiocarbon dates.

Site/Sample	Lvl/cmbd	Material	Context	2 SIGMA CALIBRATION
Beaver Dam 22TU513BD005	Level 5 (120-150)	wood charcoal	premound midden	Cal AD 1290 to 1410 (Cal BP 660 to 540)
Beaver Dam 22TU513BD007	Level 5 (180-210)	wood charcoal	Premound pit	Cal AD 1015 to 1050 (Cal BP 935 to 900) and Cal AD 1080 to 1150 (Cal BP 870 to 800)
Christmas 22Bo515CH107	Level 7 (120-210)	wood charcoal	premound A horizon	Cal AD 335 to 425 (Cal BP 1615 to 1525)
Dunn 22Co632DN208	Level 8 (80-90)	wood charcoal	mound fill	Cal AD 1160 to 1265 (Cal BP 790 to 685)
Dunn 22Co632DN214	Level 11 (110-120)	wood charcoal	Mound fill	Cal AD 1025 to 1190 (Cal BP 925 to 760)
Evansville 22TU502EV102	Level 2 (30-60)	wood charcoal	mound fill	Cal AD 1450 to 1640 (Cal BP 500 to 310)
Evansville 22TU502EV106	Level 6 (150-180)	wood charcoal	levee sand	Cal AD 1280 to 1320 (Cal BP 670 to 630) and Cal AD 1350 to 1390 (Cal BP 600 to 560)
Johnson Cemetery 22TU516JC208	Level 8 (210-240)	burned corn	premound midden	Cal AD 1295 to 1370 (Cal BP 655 to 580) and Cal AD 1380 to 1415 (Cal BP 570 to 535)
Johnson Cemetery 22TU516JC209	Level 9 (240-270)	burned corn	premound midden	Cal AD 1285 to 1400 (Cal BP 665 to 550)
Salomon 22Co504SA115	Level 14 (220-230)	wood charcoal	mound fill	Cal AD 1220 to 1285 (Cal BP 730 to 665)
Salomon 22Co504SA121	Level 18 (280-300)	wood charcoal	premound midden	Cal AD 715 to 745 (Cal BP 1235 to 1205) and Cal AD 765 to 890 (Cal BP 1185 to 1060)
Salomon 22Co504SA122	Level 17 (280-300)	wood charcoal	premound midden	Cal AD 690 to 750 (Cal BP 1260 to 1200) and Cal AD 760 to 885 (Cal BP 1190 to 1065)

DeSoto County

Figure 1 DeSoto and Tunica County Mound Trail Sites.

Edgefield Mounds (22 Ds 509)

Other Names: 13-P-02 (LMS)

Location: DeSoto County: Southwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 13, Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 14, Township 1 South, Range 10 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 754153E, 3875753N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad map: Lake Cormorant, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1982. Horn Lake, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1961.

Site Description: Edgefield Mounds consists of three large conical mounds strung out along an approximately 1km long northwest-southeast axis. Two of the mounds are between 24 and 30 meters in diameter and approximately 6m high. The farthest northwest mound is approximately 30m in diameter and 3m high. Levee construction created borrow pits partially or completely surrounding each mound. The removal of this material has dropped the surrounding landscape by as much as 2.5 meters, making the mounds appear taller than they actually are. Brown (1926:123) describes a platform projecting approximately 3m off the west side of Mound A, but this feature is not reported by Phillips (1970). Mound A is approximately 800m northwest of the Walls site. However, no connection between the two sites has been established and any evidence of an intervening settlement system was likely destroyed during levee construction.

History of Work: Brown visited the Edgefield Mounds in 1917 when he described and photographed the mound (Brown 1926:fig. 25).

Phillips surveyed the Edgefield Mounds in 1940 as part of the Lower Mississippi Survey. He produced a site description, sketch map, and five photographs.

Current Conditions: All three of the Edgefield Mounds are clearly visible and in good condition despite the destruction of their immediate surroundings by levee construction. That latter activity left an immense pit surrounding the mounds, which has the effect of making them appear taller than they actually are. The mounds and intervening landscape are wooded. The Edgefield church is located immediately to the west of Mound A. A Mississippi River levee lies approximately 150m northeast of the site. The landscape to the southwest of Edgefield Mounds is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Phillips' site reports, sketch map, and photos

Mound Trail Excavation: Excavations at Edgefield took place from 9 August through 20 August 2013. A total of six auger tests were placed around the mound (fig. 6). Two of

the auger holes on the north side of the mound turned up levee sand nearly immediately. Both of hese holes were near the base of the current mound slope. This area was borrowed from heavily for the construction of the levee and it is likely that the original land surface was removed right up to the base of the mound so that what today appears to be mound slope actually includes a portion of the borrow pit. Fortunately the mounds themselves were spared unlike the mounds at the Walls site only a few hundred meters away. One of the auger tesst located about halfway up the northeast side of the revealed a possible sub-mound midden above the levee sand. A large chunk of charcoal was recovered from a depth of 213cmbs and levee sand was reached at 315cmbs. We placed our 1x2 meter unit a close to this auger hole as possible. The unit was excavated to a depth of 331cmbs (figs. 9-12). The top of the stake at the southeast corner of the square was used as the datum which is actually 15cm above the surface of the mound at that point. Horizontal levels were maintained using this datum. Therefore it is necessary to subtract 15cm from the level boundaries in order to derive depth below ground surface. Because the slope was so steep, the first level was taken to 45cm below the datum and still only extended 60cm from the south end of the trench. By the time we finished the fifth level (150-180cmbd), it became difficult to measure down from the original datum so we established a secondary datum on the south profile, 130cm below the first datum. We used 30cm levels and screened a 33% sample of the soil from mound fill using a ½" screen.

The unit produced Mississippi Plain, Baytown Plain, Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, and Withers Fabric Impressed (Table 2; figs. 13-17). Feature 1, a concentration of poorly preserved bone was encountered in the southwest corner of the unit at 114 cm below surface. The bone was too badly decomposed to remove and may be human. It was left in place on a pedestal which was maintained throughout the remainder of the excavation. Several sherds from the same vessel were identified during the ceramic analysis and are found in levels 4 and 5. Two concentrations of sherds were noted in the field, assigned separate FS numbers, removed by hand, and differentiated from the general fill of the levels in which they were found. Feature 2, the first concentration, was found just to the north of the pedestal in the southwest corner of the unit in Level 5, 25 to 30cm below the probable burial. An area 25 to 30cm in diameter contained a dense concentration of 114 sherds from at least 3 different vessels. Feature 3, the second concentration, was found near the bottom of Level 6 which was terminated at that depth (187cm below datum) in order to plot the concentration. Thirteen sherds were found in an area 55cm by 45cm near the center of the floor of the level.

Vessel 1 includes all of the shell tempered sherds from Levels 4 and 5 (fig. 14). These 38 sherds make up a portion of a relatively thin, medium size, globular jar with an out flaring rim. Although the shell has been leached out, the thin flat voids which show on fresh breaks makes it clear that shell was the primary tempering material. The vessel has a reddish buff exterior.

Vessel 2 is one of the three vessels that were recovered in Feature 2 (fig. 15). The sherds can be divided in to two types on the basis of surface treatment, Withers Fabric Marked and Mulberry Creek Cord Marked. The paste on the Withers sherds is

considerably softer than the Mulberry Creek Cord Marked paste, soft enough that it can be easily marked with a thumb nail. The warp and weft of the fabric used in marking the Withers sherds were made up of cords of similar diameter in contrast to many examples of this type when one is considerably larger than the other, creating a regular corrugated surface. Therefore, in those cases where the surface treatment was smoothed over, it was sometimes difficult to distinguish between cord and fabric marking on the Feature 2 sherds. In those cases, the relative softness of the Withers sherds was used as a sorting criterion. There are two different Withers vessels in this feature which can only be distinguished on the basis of rims. Vessel 2 was a small Withers Fabric Impressed plate with an out flaring tapered rim. There is a row of broad, triangular punctuation on the interior of the vessel, just below the rim.

Vessel 3 was a medium sized Withers Fabric Marked jar with an out flaring rim (fig. 16). The rim is thickened and flattened. In some places the rim flattening resulted the paste extruding over the exterior fabric impressions.

Vessel 4 is represented by all of the cord marked sherds in Feature 2 (fig. 16). As indicated above, these sherds are appreciably harder than the fabric impressed sherds from the feature. It is difficult to mark the interior of the sherds with a thumbnail. This was a medium sized Mulberry Creek Cord Marked jar with an out flaring rim. There are no rim sherds but the vessel shape is represented by a single neck sherd.

Vessel 5 was a Mulberry Creek Cord Marked bowl (fig. 17). All of the sherds from Feature 3 belonged to this vessel. There are no rim sherds but it was apparently a medium size bowl.

The Mississippi Plain sherds recovered from the Edgefield Mound were restricted to Levels 3 through 5. Level 3 crosscut the last two zones in the mound, numbered 12 and 15 in figure 12. There is no evident basket loading in these zones and they may represent slope wash. All of the Mississippi plain sherds from Levels 4 and 5 were part of the same jar. The fact that they are from the same vessel suggests that they were likely recovered from near the bottom of Level 4. The north half this floor falls into Zones 12 and 15. It is likely, therefore that these last two zones date to the Mississippian Period. Feature 1, the probable human burial was located very close to the lower boundary of Zone 12 and may date to the Mississippian Period as well.

Features 2 and 3 were both located within Zone 9b and the four vessels they contained date clearly to the Woodland Period as do all of the sherds from the general mound fill excepting the seven Mississippi Plain sherds from Level 3 and those representing Vessel 1. Altogether, there is the suggestion that all of the mound zones below the top two zones date to the Woodland Period. There is, of course, the possibility that Vessel 1 came from Zone 9a but that raises the difficulty of explaining Feature 2 which appears to have been an intentional deposit of Woodland sherds in a zone that also contains Mississippian Period sherds.

The co-occurrence of the Withers Fabric Impressed and Mulberry Creek Cord Marked ceramics suggest an early Middle Woodland date for the majority of the construction of the Edgefield Mound (Phillips 1970:174).. The Adena projectile point from Level 11 supports this suggestion (fig. 13). If Vessel 1 came from Zone 12 as argued above, a relatively thin mantle was added to the mound sometime during the Mississippian Period. However, the profile shows no evidence that there was more than a single stage of mound construction. There was no premound midden and, unfortunately, no datable material was recovered from our excavations at Edgefield.

References: Brown (1926); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

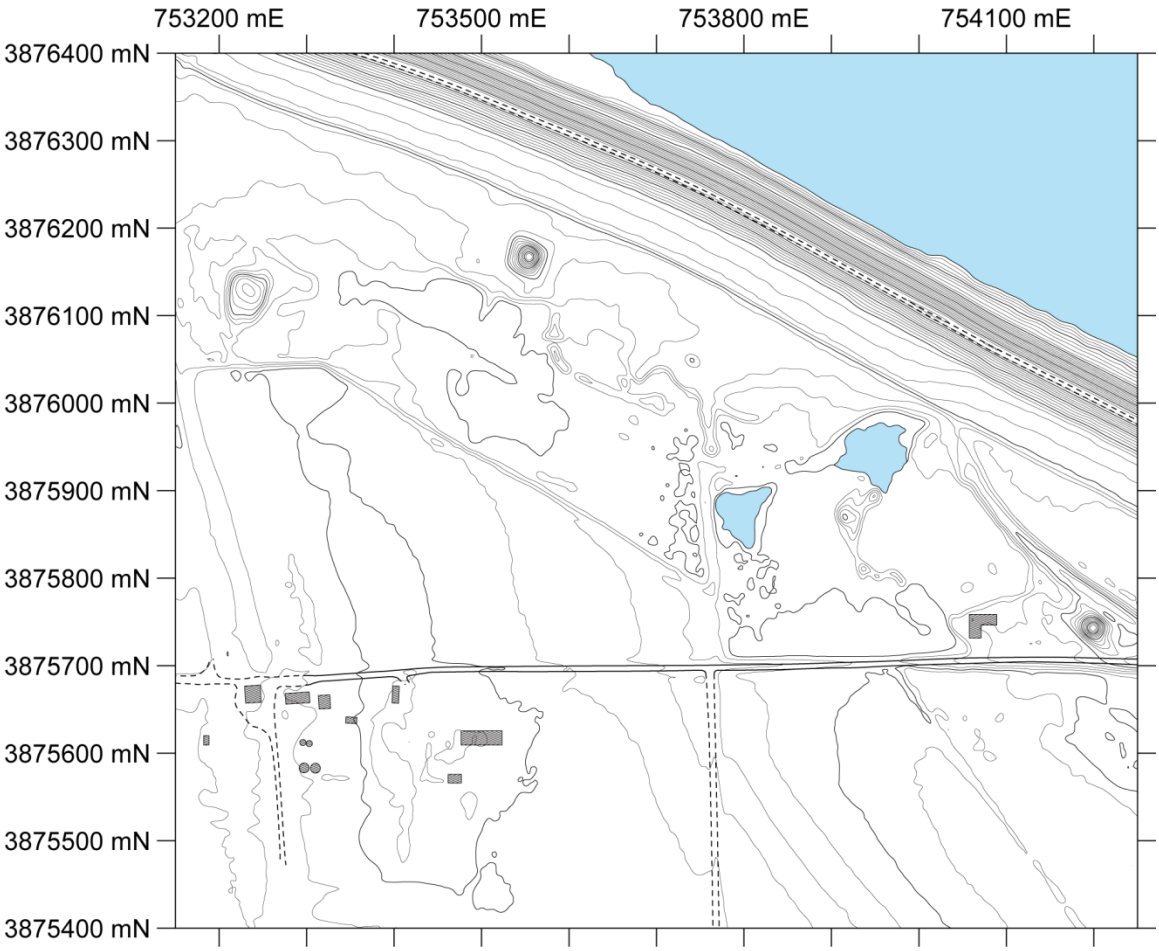

Figure 2 Edgefield, contour map with cultural features.

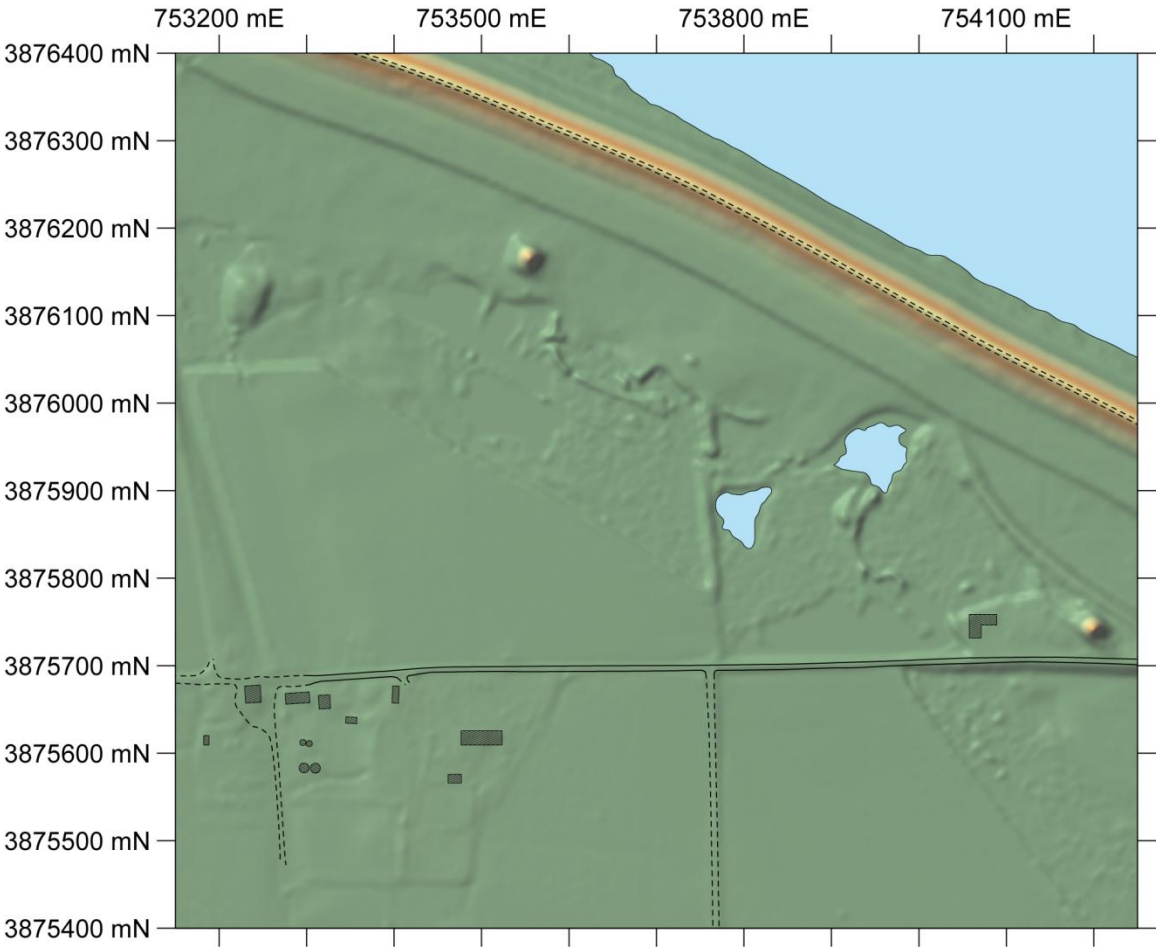

Figure 3 Edgefield, shaded relief map with cultural features.

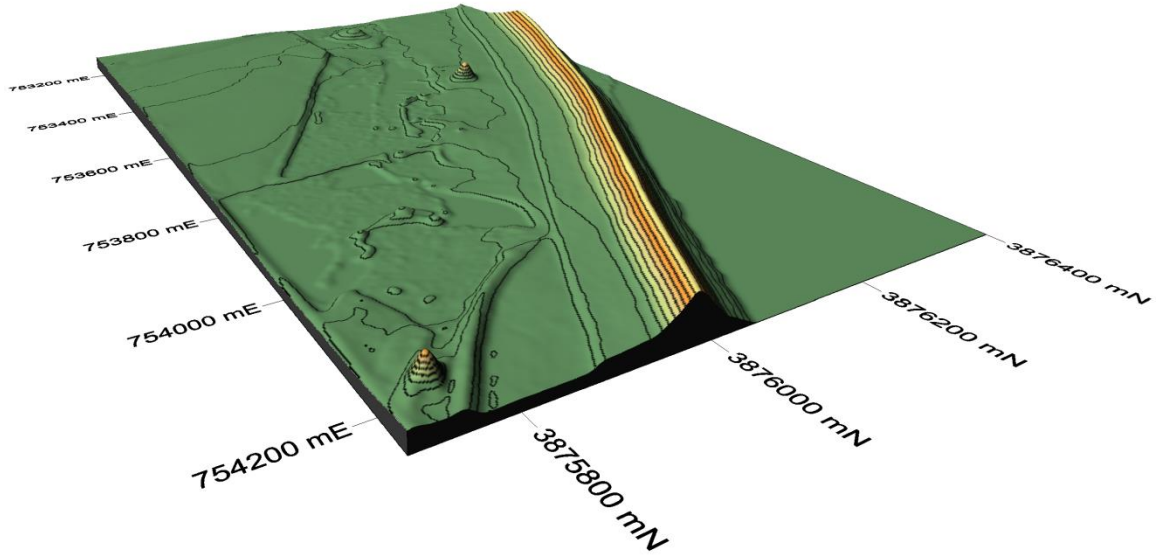

Figure 4 Edgefield, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

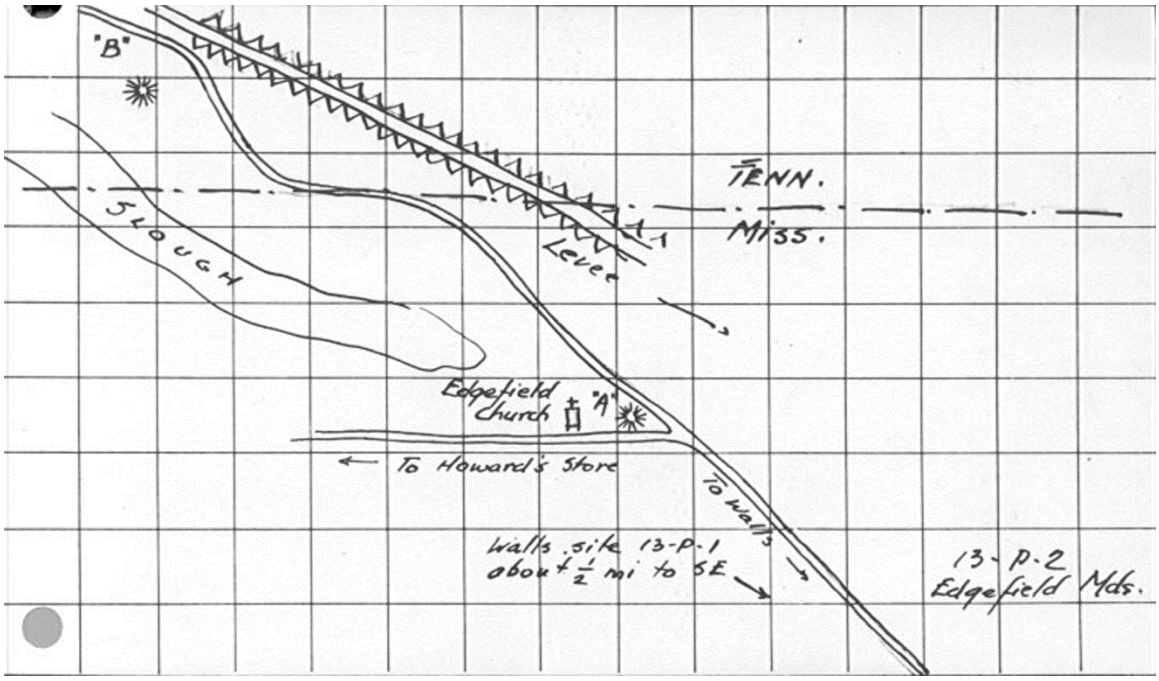

Figure 5 Edgefield, LMS (Phillips) sketch map 1940, LMS Archives Online.

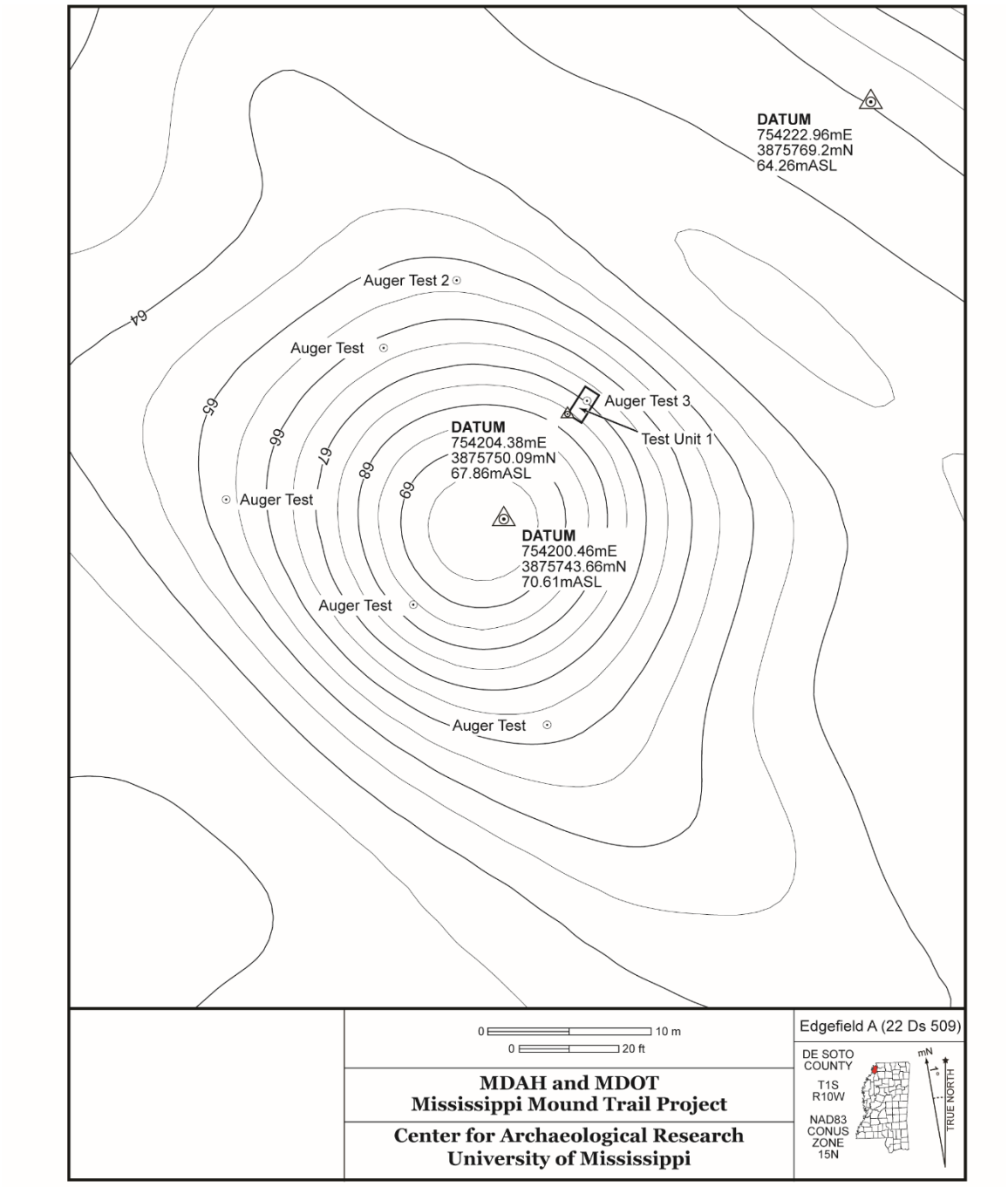

Figure 6 Edgefield Mound A, auger hole and test unit locations.

Figure 7 Edgefield Mounds, Mound A, view to the south.

Figure 8 Edgefield Mounds, Mound A, view to the northeast.

Figure 9 Edgefield slope trench, photomosaic of south profile.

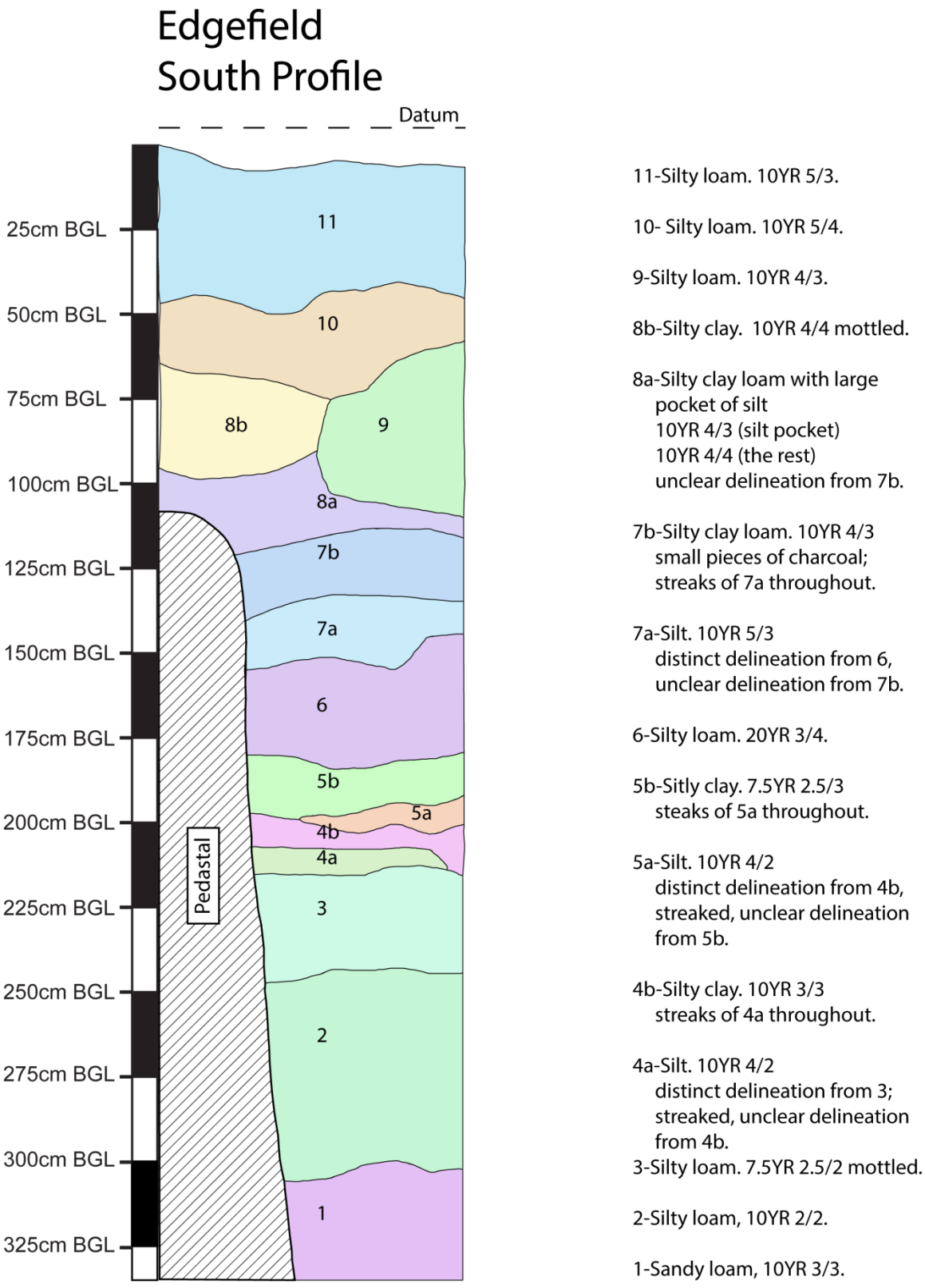

Figure 10 Edgefield mound strata, south profile.

Figure 11 Edgefield slope trench, photomosaic of west profile.

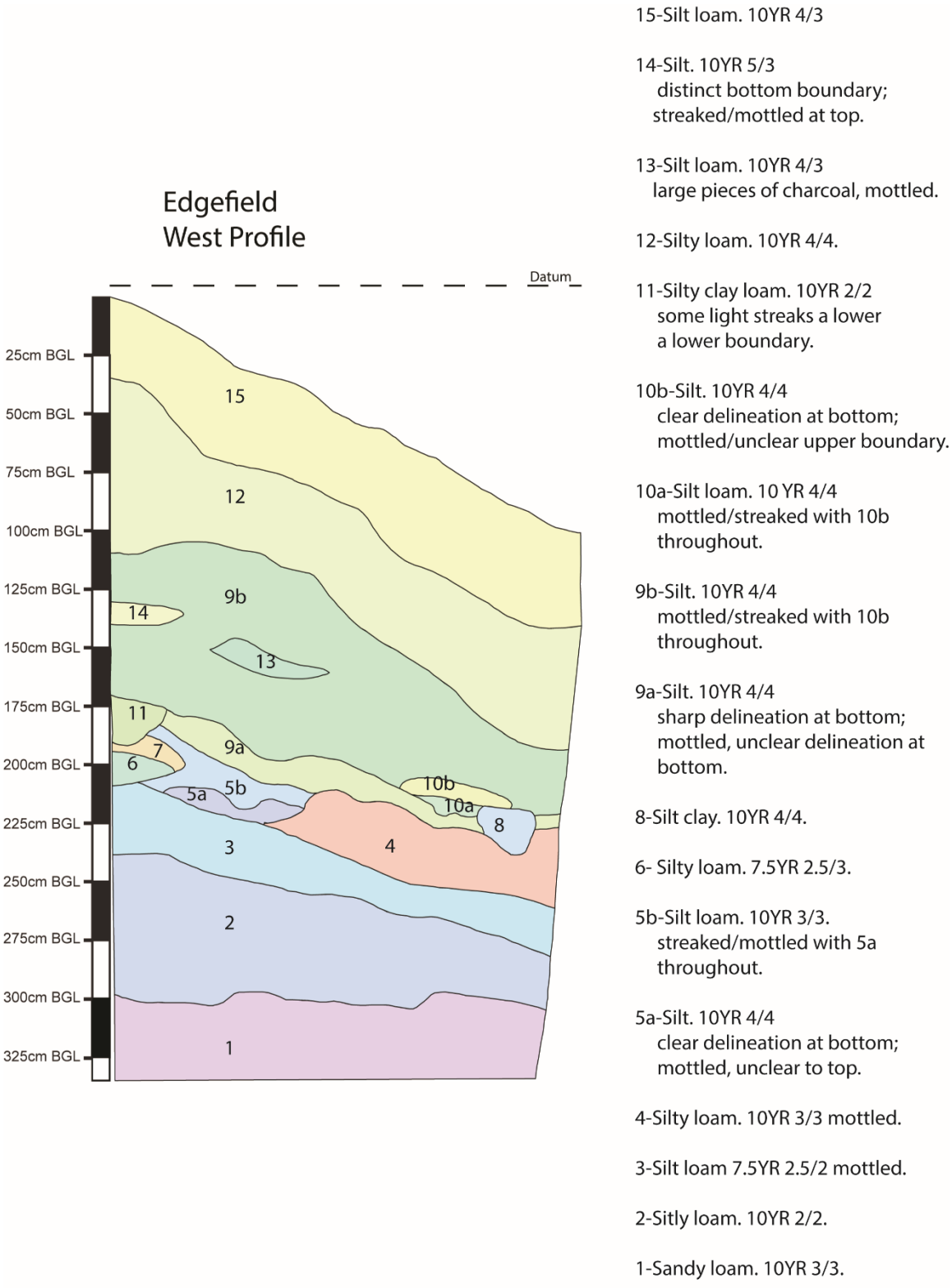

Figure 12 Edgefield mound strata, west profile.

Table 2 Edgefield Ceramics

	0-45	45-75	75-105	105-135	135-165	Fea 1	165-187	Fea 2	187-215	215-245	245-275	275-315
Ceramics												
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry			7	25	13							
Baytown Plain, Unspecified	1	1	3	1	14		1		1		1	11
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards				1		45	1	13	1			
Withers Fabric Marked, Withers						69	1					
Lithics												
Adena Point											1	
Flakes	1			3	7	3	4		2	1	2	
Angular Shatter	1	1			2	1						
Thermal Fracture					1	1	1					

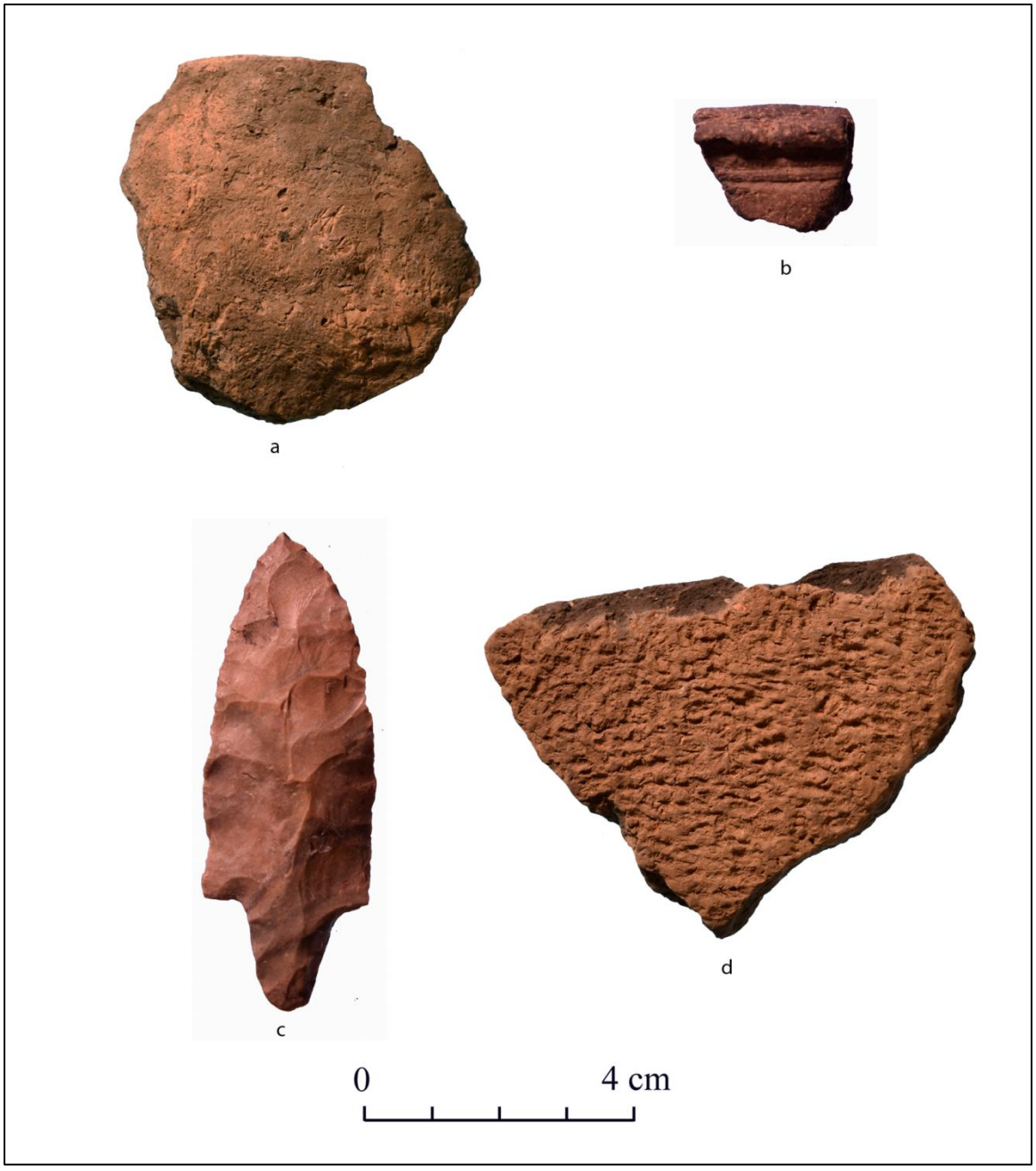

Figure 13 Edgefield artifacts; Mississippian Plain, *var. Neeley's Ferry*, a; Baytown Plain, *var. Unspecified*, b; Adena point, c; Withers Fabric Impressed, *var. Withers*, d.

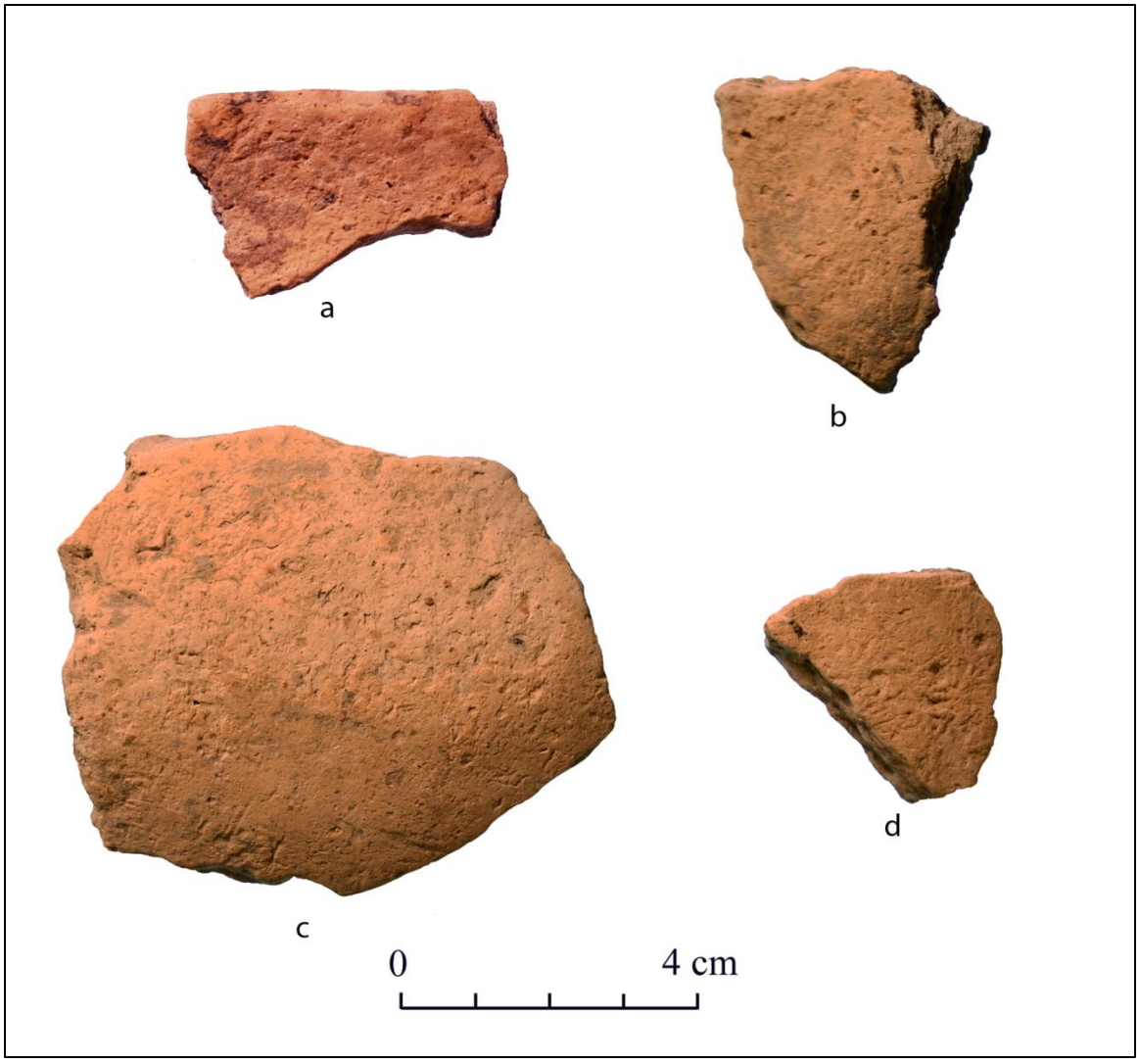

Figure 14 Edgefield ceramics; Vessel 1, Mississippi Plain, *var. Neeley's Ferry*, a-d.

Figure 15 Edgefield ceramics; Vessel 2, Withers Fabric Impressed, *var. Withers*, interiors, a. c, e, exteriors, b, d, f.

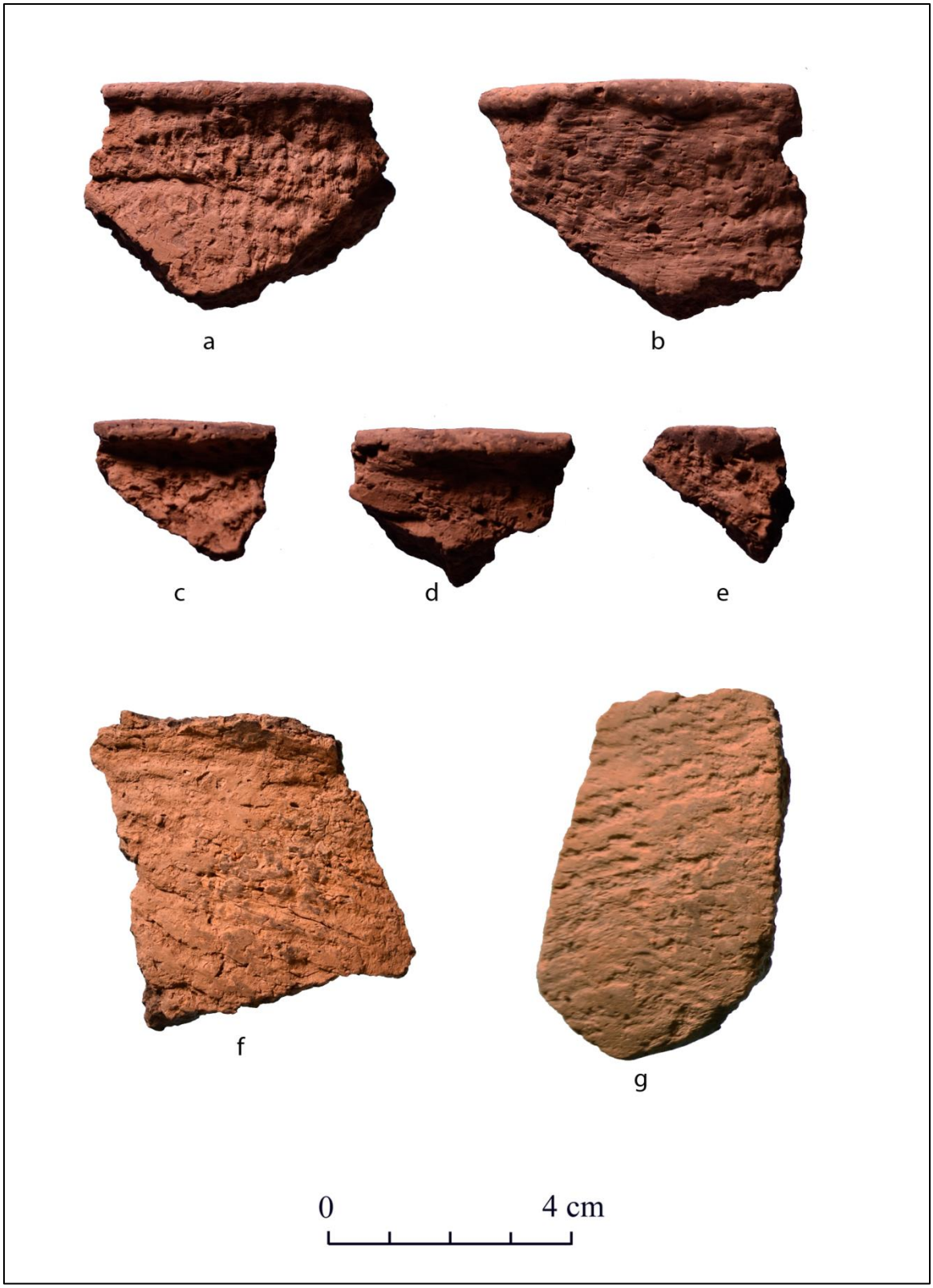

Figure 16 Edgefield ceramics; Vessel 3, Withers Fabric Impressed, *var. Withers*, a-e; Vessel 4, Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, *var. Edwards*, f, g.

Figure 17 Edgefield ceramics; Vessel 5, Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, *var*. *Edwards*, a-c.

Tunica County

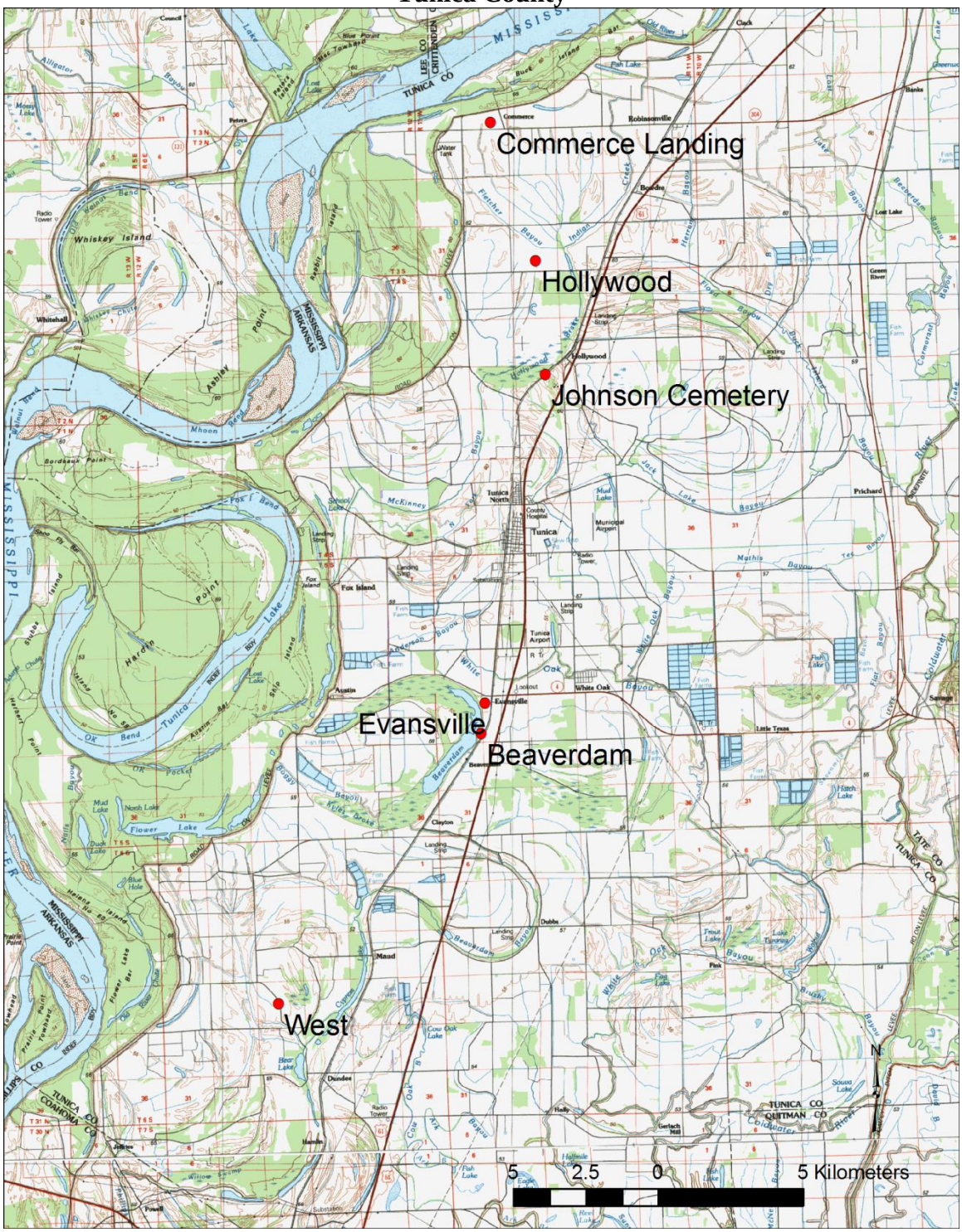

Figure 18 Tunica County Mounds Trial Sites.

Johnson Cemetery (22 Tu 516)

Other Names: 14-O-06 (LMS)

Location: Tunica County: Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 16, Township 4 South, Range 11 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 741138E, 3847453N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Hollywood, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1982. Clayton, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1955.

Site Description: The Johnson Cemetery site consists of a large mound measuring approximately 37m in diameter and 3.7m high and an associated village site. The original shape of the mound is difficult to discern due to erosion, but it appears to have been a platform mound. The "Johnson Cemetery" occupies the summit of the mound. Old U.S. Highway 61 runs to the northwest of the mound and an abandoned railroad bed passes just to the southeast of the mound.

History of Work: In 1911, Moore described the site as being approximately two miles northeast of Mhoon Landing, with the mound measuring approximately 37m long, 46m wide and 4m tall. He also described evidence of a village site, human bone fragments, lithic debitage and tools, and sherds pulled up during plowing. In addition to these observations he excavated four human burials.

In 1926, Brown described the Johnson Cemetery site as being "just south of Hollywood, Tunica County, at the railway mile-post marked N.O. 420" (Brown 1926:117). He estimated the mound approximately 4.25m in height and noted the presence of a "negro burying-ground" at its summit. Brown also noted copious amounts of burnt daub and some ceramic and lithic material scattered around the mound.

In 1927, Barton described the Johnson Cemetery site as having two mounds. He reckoned the height of the first mound at approximately 3.7m tall and the other smaller. The smaller mound hosted a house at its summit while the larger hosted a cemetery (Barton 1927:85).

In 1940 Phillips surveyed the Johnson Cemetery site. He made a surface collection and described the mound as square-based and approximately 3.7m tall. Phillips confirmed Brown's earlier observations concerning types and quantities of artifacts around the mound, noting a large amount of daub and few other artifacts. Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951) dated the site to the Late Mississippian period.

Current Conditions: The mound at the Johnson Cemetery site is clearly visible and in good shape despite the presence of a cemetery, damage from railroad activity, and cultivation. The mound is wooded while the surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
The location of material excavated by Moore in 1911 is currently unknown

Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Site description, Photograph, 1947 sherd count: 80 sherds

Mound Trail Excavations: The Johnson Cemetery mound was excavated in August of 2013 after the conclusion of the field school. Most of the Ole Miss field school students were hired to continue the Mound Trail excavations. The field house was moved to an old commissary east of Tunica and Bryan Haley was added to direct one of the two field crews that worked on completing the project. Haley dug the slope trench at Johnson Cemetery. The project began by doing auger tests in search of a premound midden (fig. 23). What appeared to be a substantial midden deposit was encountered at about 2m below surface low on the southern slope of the mound. A one by two meter slope trench was dug nearby with the long axis aligning with the slope of the mound.

The mound was dug in 30cm, horizontal levels. The stratigraphy exposed by this trench is unusually complex (figs. 24, 25). Although there were no apparent mound stages as evidenced by weathered surfaces, there was evidence for pits and possible post holes in the mound fill, crosscutting one another in confusing fashion. The apparent base of the mound was marked by a distinct break in the stratigraphy around 200cmbs. The next 30cm or so are characterized by thin layers of ash, burned soil, and charcoal. There is a substantial increase in artifacts in this zone (fig. 8). This deposit rests directly upon the levee sand.

Although this deposit is definitely premound and has many of the characteristics of a midden, it did not accumulate slowly over several years as part of the development of an anthropic A horizon similar to that exposed at Salomon. There is no evidence of bioturbation. All of the very thin strata are distinct. Also, it was buried immediately. There is no weathering of the upper surface. There is no natural submound A horizon. The deposit rests directly on the levee sand. It may be that the original A horizon was removed from the location where the mound was to be built and series of rituals which included the production of ash, burned soils, and artifact debris were carried out with the debris speed in thin layers over the projected mound site. Then the mound was constructed immediately following this event. At any rate, this layer produced one of the largest assemblages of artifacts recovered from any premound deposit as well as two radiocarbon dates, both on corn cupules (figs. 24, 25; Tables 3, 4). These dates are relatively consistent, suggesting a 14th century date for the premound activity that took place at the Johnson's cemetery site.

The ceramics from levels seven and eight came primarily from the premound activity and include the largest sample of Bell Plain sherds recovered during the project as well as two slipped types, Carson Red on Buff and Old Town Red (figs. 26, 27). These types are generally more common late in the Mississippian Period in the northern Yazoo Basin. The majority decorated type is Barton Incised which is emerging as a good

middle Mississippian Period marker. The ceramics are in accordance with the radiocarbon dates. The Scallorn point (fig. 27) recovered from the bottom level of the excavation is found in late Woodland and early Mississippian sites in the Delta. The sherd assemblage from the mound fill, although smaller, is similar to the sherd assemblage from the mound base deposit. This is reasonable given that there is every indication that mound construction began immediately following the deposition of the burned strata. There are a few Baytown Plain and fewer Mulberry Creek Cord Marked sherds are scattered throughout the levels.

References: Barton (1927); Brown (1926); Moore (1911); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

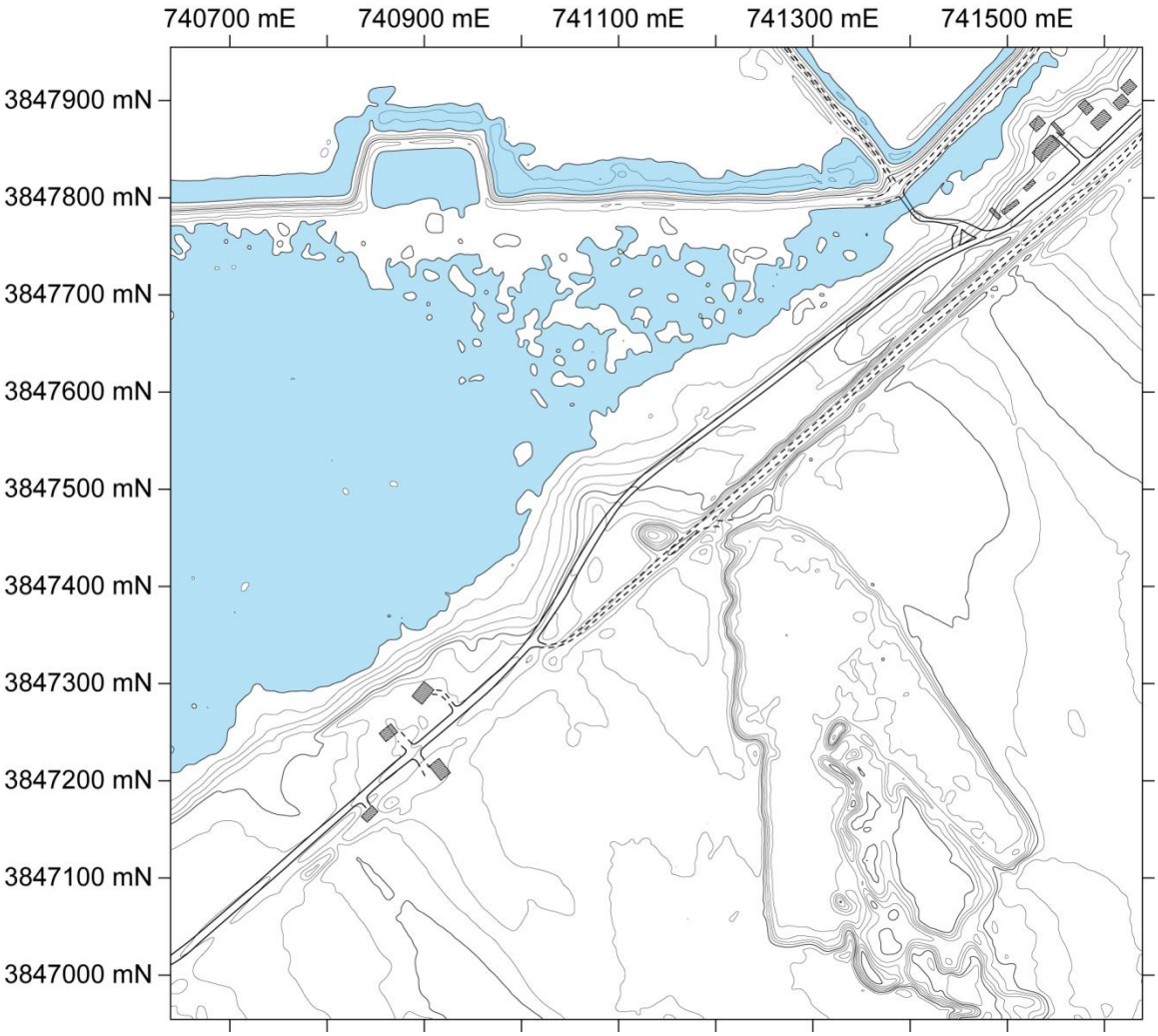

Figure 19 Johnson Cemetery, contour map with cultural features.

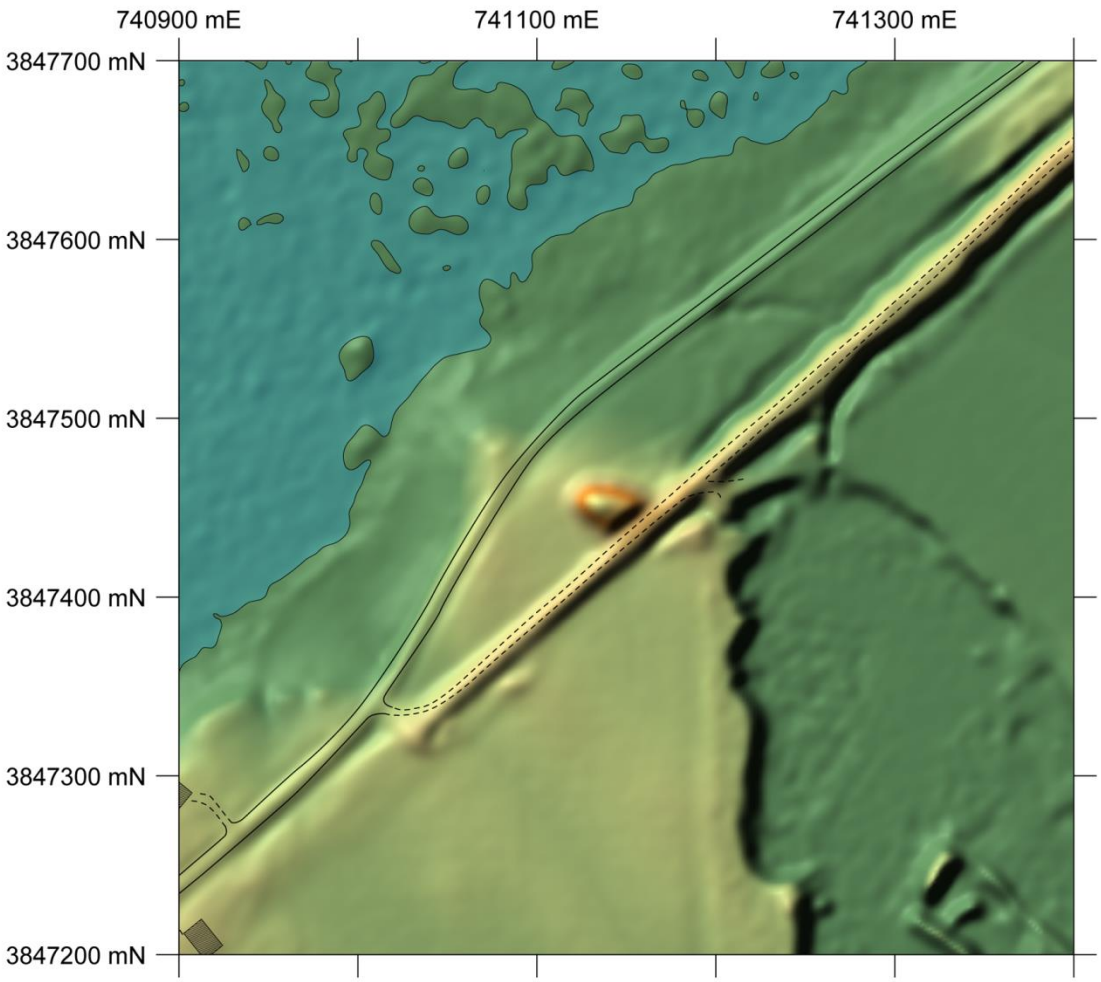

Figure 20 Johnson Cemetery, shaded relief map with cultural features.

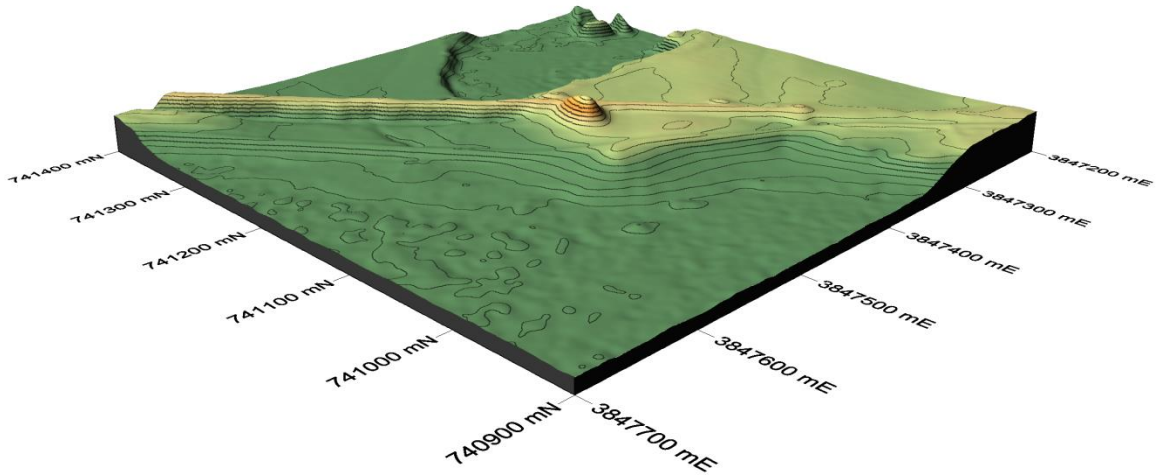

Figure 21 Johnson Cemetery, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.


Figure 22 Johnson Cemetery Mound, view to the north.

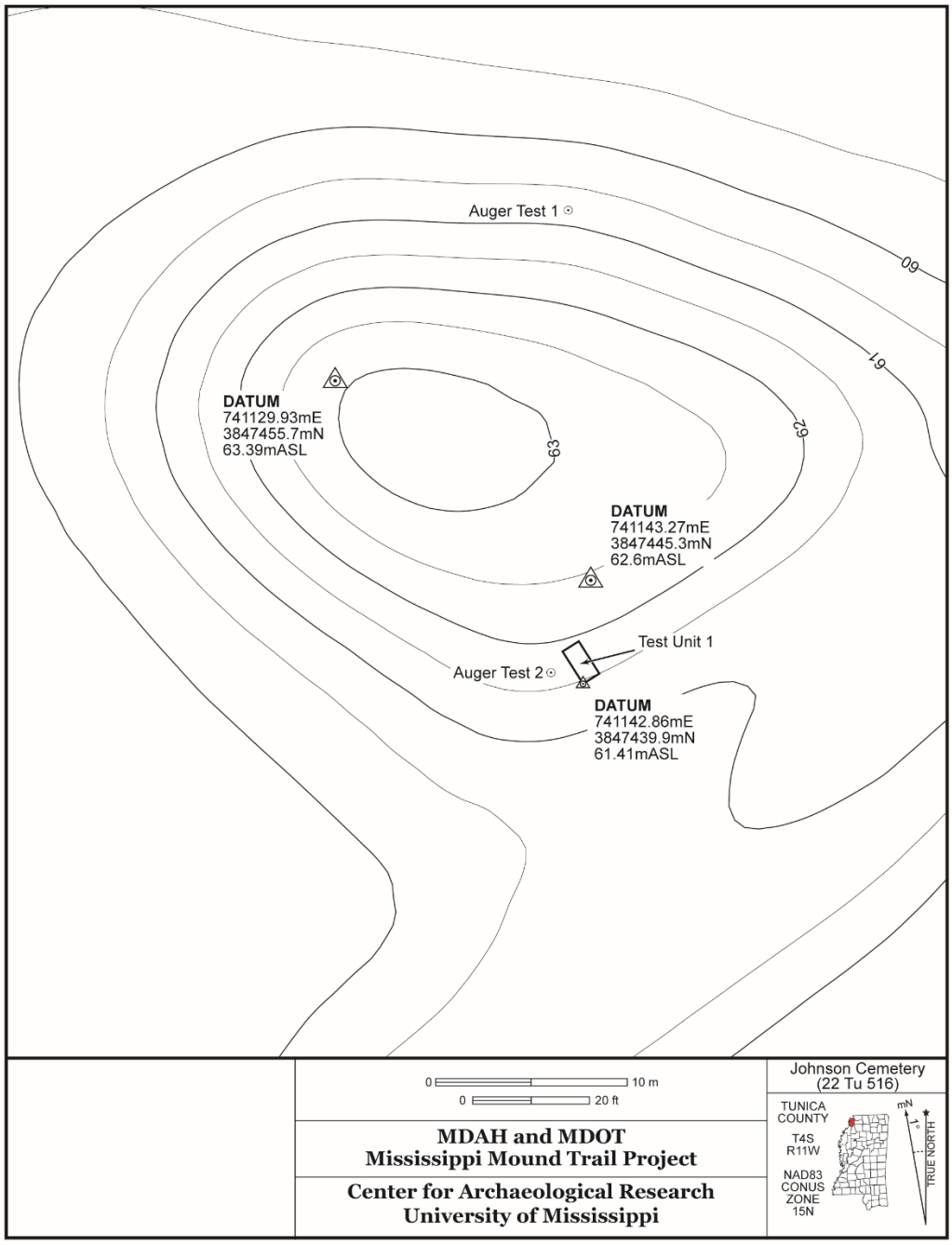

Figure 23 Johnson Cemetery, auger hole and test pit locations.

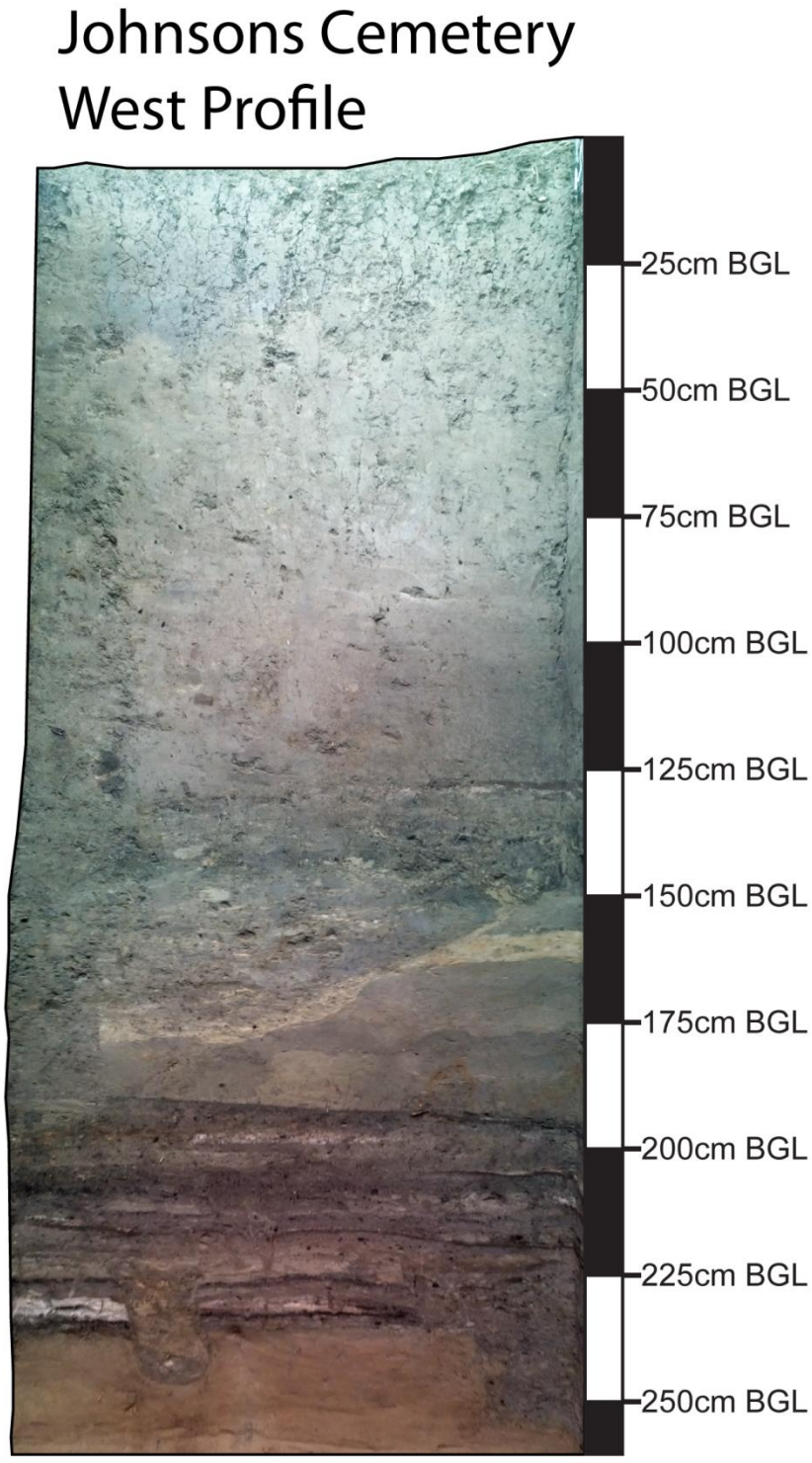

Figure 24 Johnson Cemetery slope trench, photomosaic of west profile.

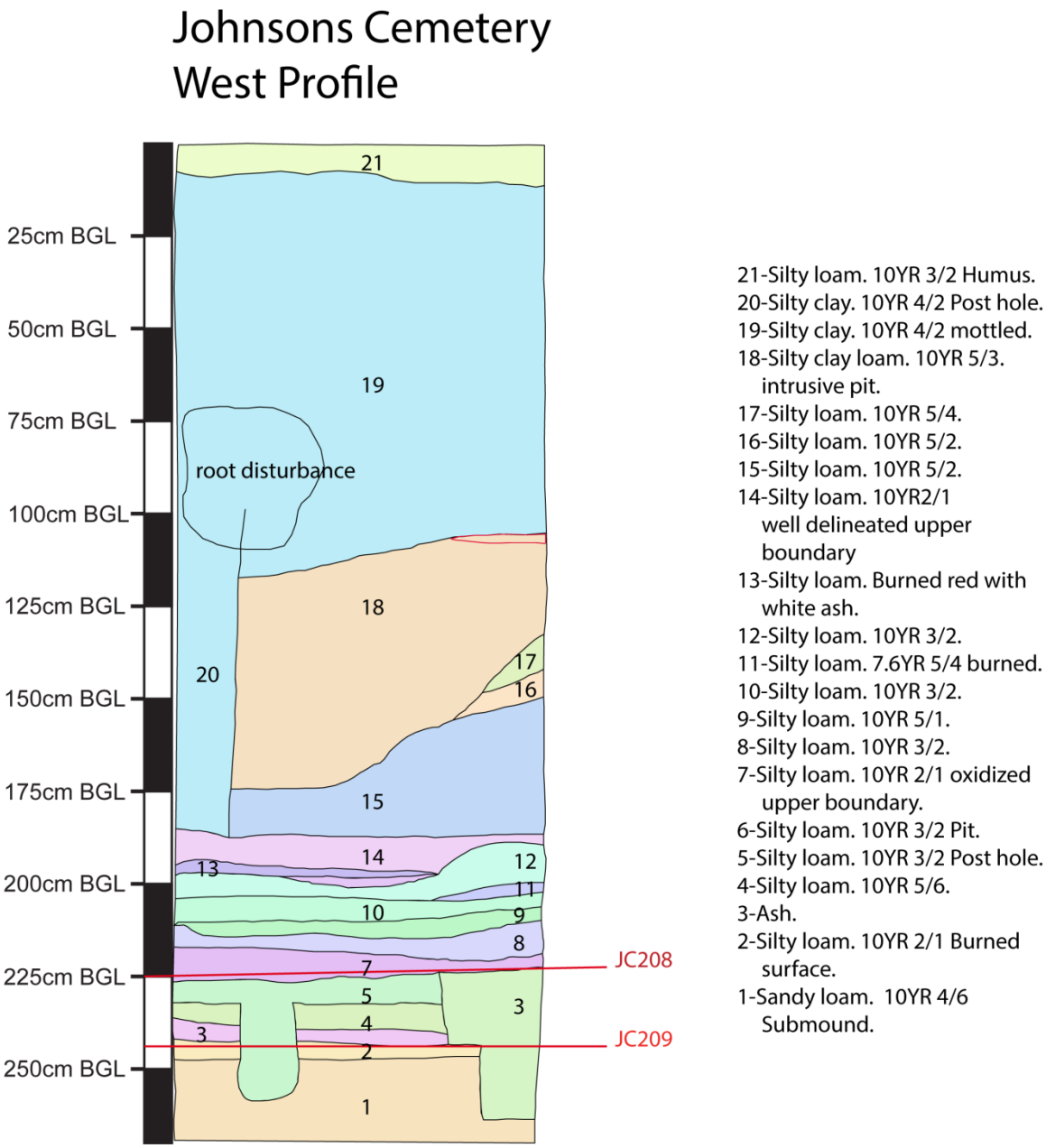

Figure 25 Johnson Cemetery, mound strata and radiocarbon sample locations.

Table 3 Radiocarbon dates from Johnson Cemetery.

Site/Sample	Lvl/cmbd	Material	Context	2 SIGMA CALIBRATION
Johnson Cemetery 22TU516JC208	Level 8 (210-240)	burned corn	premound midden	Cal AD 1295 to 1370 (Cal BP 655 to 580) and Cal AD 1380 to 1415 (Cal BP 570 to 535)
Johnson Cemetery 22TU516JC209	Level 9 (240-270)	burned corn	premound midden	Cal AD 1285 to 1400 (Cal BP 665 to 550)

Table 4 Johnson Cemetery artifacts.

Ceramics	0-30	30-60	60-90	90-120	120-150	150-180	180-210	210-240	240-270
Barton Incised, Barton					3	2	1	1	7
Barton Incised, Kent								3	
Barton Incised, Unspecified								5	2
Bell Plain, Bell		1	6		2	9	2	82	53
Carson Red on Buff, Carson				2		1		2	
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry	4	14	14	10	23	17	15	245	220
Old Town Red, Beaverdam									1
Parkin Punctated, Unspecified			1						
Baytown Plain, Unspecified		4	2	6	8	3	4	1	
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards					1	1			
Unspecified Incised			1		1			5	4
Unspecified Punctated					1				
Lithics									
Scallorn Point									1
Flakes				1			4	13	4
Angular Shatter					1			6	1
Thermal Fracture								7	2
Hammerstone	1								

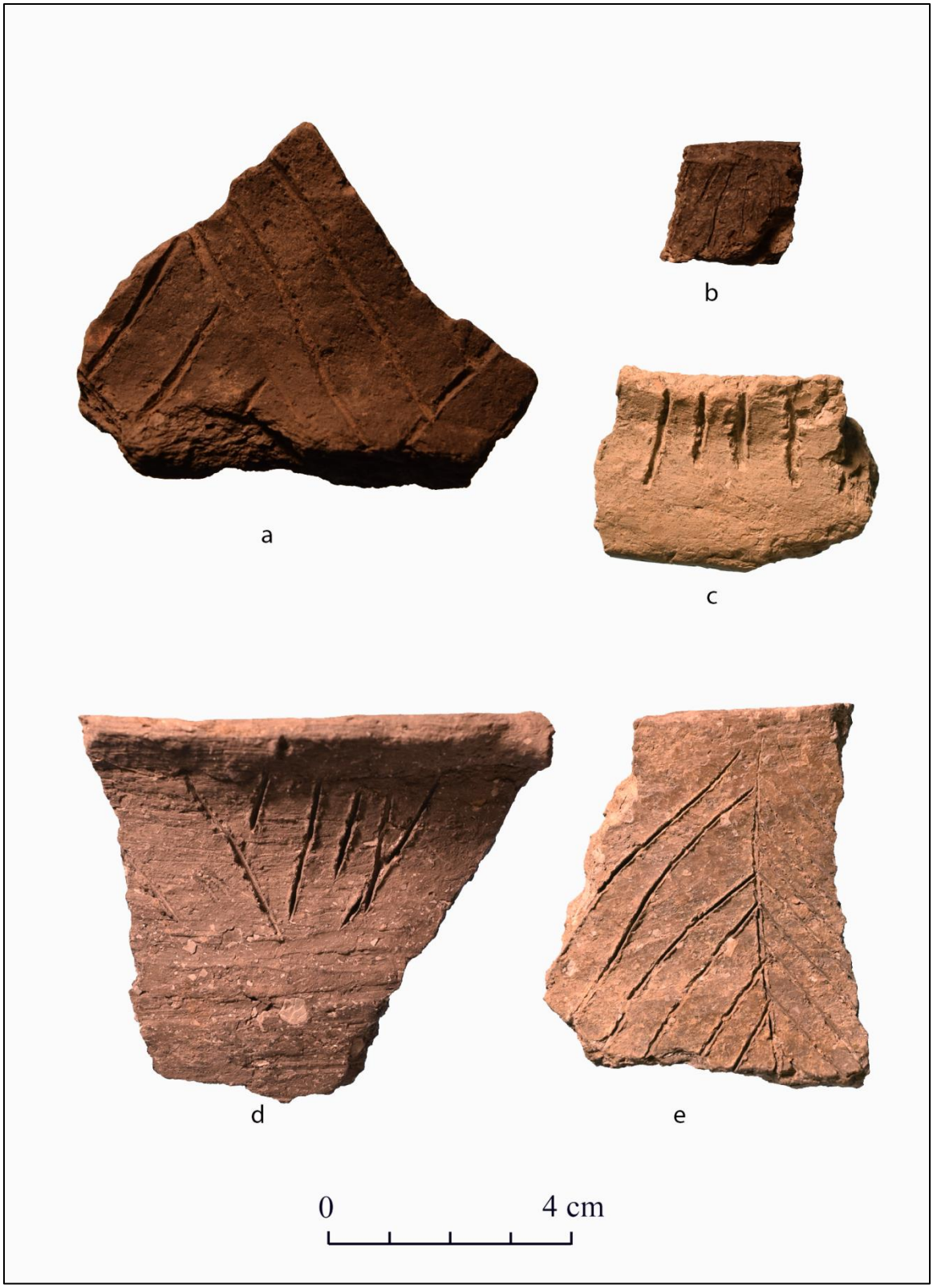

Figure 26 Johnson Cemetery ceramics; Barton Incised, *var. Barton*, a; *var. Kent*, b, c; *var. Unspecified*, d, e.

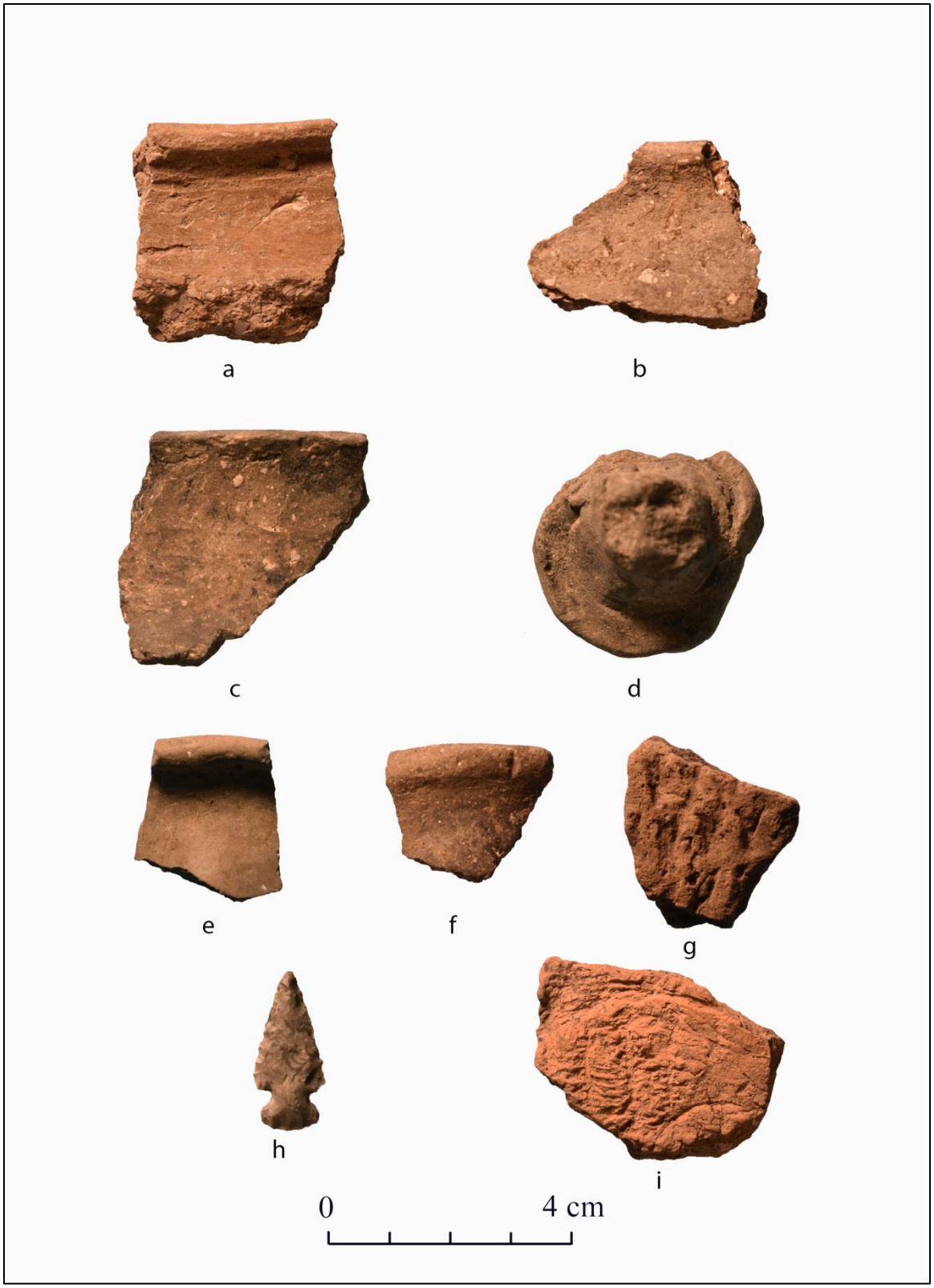

Figure 27 Johnson Cemetery artifacts; Mississippi Plain, *var. Neeley's Ferry* rims, a-c and lug, d; Bell Plain, *var. Bell* rims, e, f; Parkin Punctated, *var. Parkin*, g; Scallorn projectile point, h, fabric impressed daub, i.

Evansville (22 Tu 502)

Other Names: 14-O-1 (LMS)

Location: Tunica County: Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 20, Township 5 South, Range 11 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 739014E, 3836080N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Tunica, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1981.
Clayton, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1955.

Site Description: Evansville is a village site consisting of a large, rectangular platform mound and a village site. Mound A, is approx. 60 feet North-South, 100 feet East-West, and 12 feet high, with the east end being 10 feet. The overall appearance is of steep sides and a two level platform top. Mound B is a circular mound 100 feet in diameter and 3 feet high and eroded. It held a schoolhouse when Phillips, Ford, and Griffin surveyed the site in 1940. House sites extend along the edge of Beaverdam Lake from the Evansville site to the Beaverdam site, suggesting that the lake was a channel of the Mississippi river at the time that these sites were occupied.

History of Work: In 1926, Brown describes four or more mounds being at Evansville, with Mound A being located at the west end of the main street of the town, heavily damaged by erosion and cultivation. It measured approx. 95 ft East-West, 55 ft North-South at its base, 14 ft high on the east end, and 18 ft high on the west end. Brown also described Mound B as being located northwest of A with a schoolhouse at its top, and a "small mound in cultivation" being located approx. 225 ft southwest of Mound A. Brown found daub approx. 400 ft north of the small cultivated mound, and borrow pits to the north and east of the two largest mounds.

Survey, surface collection, and sketch map of site by Phillips, Ford, and Griffin in 1940. It is noted here that the large mounds at Owens (14-O-2) and Beaverdam (14-O-3) likely were similar to Mound A of Evansville before cultivation damage. At this time, the site consists of a large, rectangular platform mound with a two level summit measuring 12 ft at its highest end, and three smaller mounds. The site is determined to be a small ceremonial center, the same as Brown's site at Evansville, and to contain Middle and Late Baytown occupations (E-C).

The site was determined to have Helena, Coahoma, Walnut Bend, and Kent phase occupations by Phillips in his 1970 report.

Current Conditions: Mound A of the Evansville site is still visible, but has suffered much degradation from erosion and cultivation. Mound B is not readily apparent to the casual observer and the historic period schoolhouse still occupies its summit, although it is in state of disrepair. Brown's "small mound in cultivation" is detectable southwest of Mound B and is much reduced. All of the mounds are wooded and the surrounding

landscape is under cultivation. There is a farm headquarters to the east of Mound A consisting of residences, outbuildings, an abandoned commissary, and roads.

Archival Materials:

Peabody Museum, Harvard University:

Lower Mississippi Valley Archaeological Survey:

- Brown 1926 site report
- Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1940 site report, sketch map, and photo

Central Mississippi Valley Archaeological Survey

- 1947 sherd count: 765 total collected

Mound Trail Excavations:

Mound A Explorations at Mound A were conducted by Bryan Haley and a crew of field school students from Ole Miss. Auger tests (fig. 34) began on August 9, 2013 and the excavations concluded on August 20, 2013. Following the auger tests, a portion of the west slope of the mound was cleared and a 1x2m trench was laid out relatively low on the mound slope. Horizontal levels 30 cm thick were maintained. All of the first two levels and a portion of the third cut through zones of silt loam with heavy concentrations of daub. These zones followed the slope of the mound. The next few levels exposed a zone of clear basket loading which ended at a depth of around 150 cmbs. There followed a transition zone which lead into the natural, submound deposits. However, there was no clear buried A horizon or submound midden (figs 35, 36).

Ceramics are about evenly split between shell and grog tempered sherds (Table 6, fig. 37). Grog tempered sherds predominate in level 6. In spite of the fact that the sample is small, there is some diversity in the shell tempered types which, in general, resembles the Johnson Cemetery assemblage. That is, there is a large majority of Mississippi Plain accompanied by Bell Plain, Barton Incised, and a few slipped types. The mound fill radiocarbon sample from Evansville (Table 5) yielded the latest date in the Northern Mound Trail survey, falling into the late 15th to the early 17th century, relatively late for mound construction activity in the area. The sub-mound sample is roughly contemporaneous with the initial construction activity at Johnson Cemetery.

Mound B On August 20, 2013 Stephen Harris and Erika Carpenter augured Mound B at the Evansville site. This mound is quite small, less than a meter of mound fill was exposed. There is a historic early 20th century schoolhouse on top. The fields immediately surrounding Mound B did not produce any prehistoric surface artifacts. A 2x1 meter unit was placed directly in the center of the small mound (fig. 38). The final depth of this unit was 180cmbd (figs. 39, 40). The actual mound however was much shallower and ended about 90cmbd. Below this were alternating bands of lighter sandy loam and darker silty loam. The boundary between the lighter and darker soils was clean when a sandy soil was on top of a silty soil and mottled when the silt was on top of the sand. These soils are almost certainly regular flooding episodes which apparently occurred before the area was occupied. The lighter sand is quickly deposited on top of a developed silty soil.

This small mound showed a great deal of disturbance. Historic artifacts and coal was found to a depth of 60cmbd. At 60-90cmbd prehistoric artifacts began to increase and historic artifacts disappeared suggesting that this strata was largely undisturbed. A modern dog burial was found at a depth of about 30cmbd. It was determined to be a modern dog after finding a plastic dog collar. The small ceramic assemblage consists of a mix of shell and grog tempered types. No radiocarbon samples were run.

References: Brown (1926); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

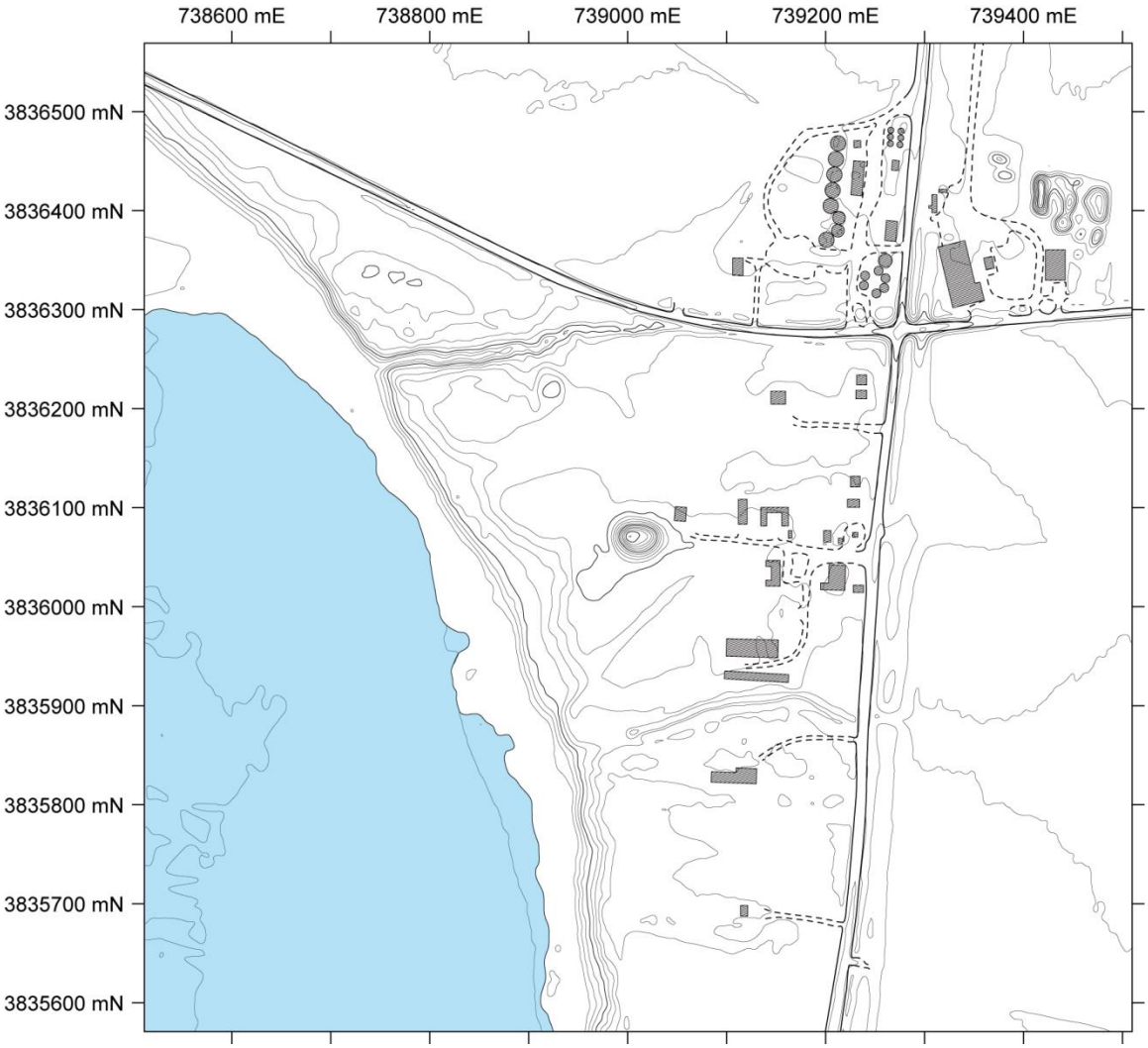

Figure 28 Evansville, contour map with cultural features.

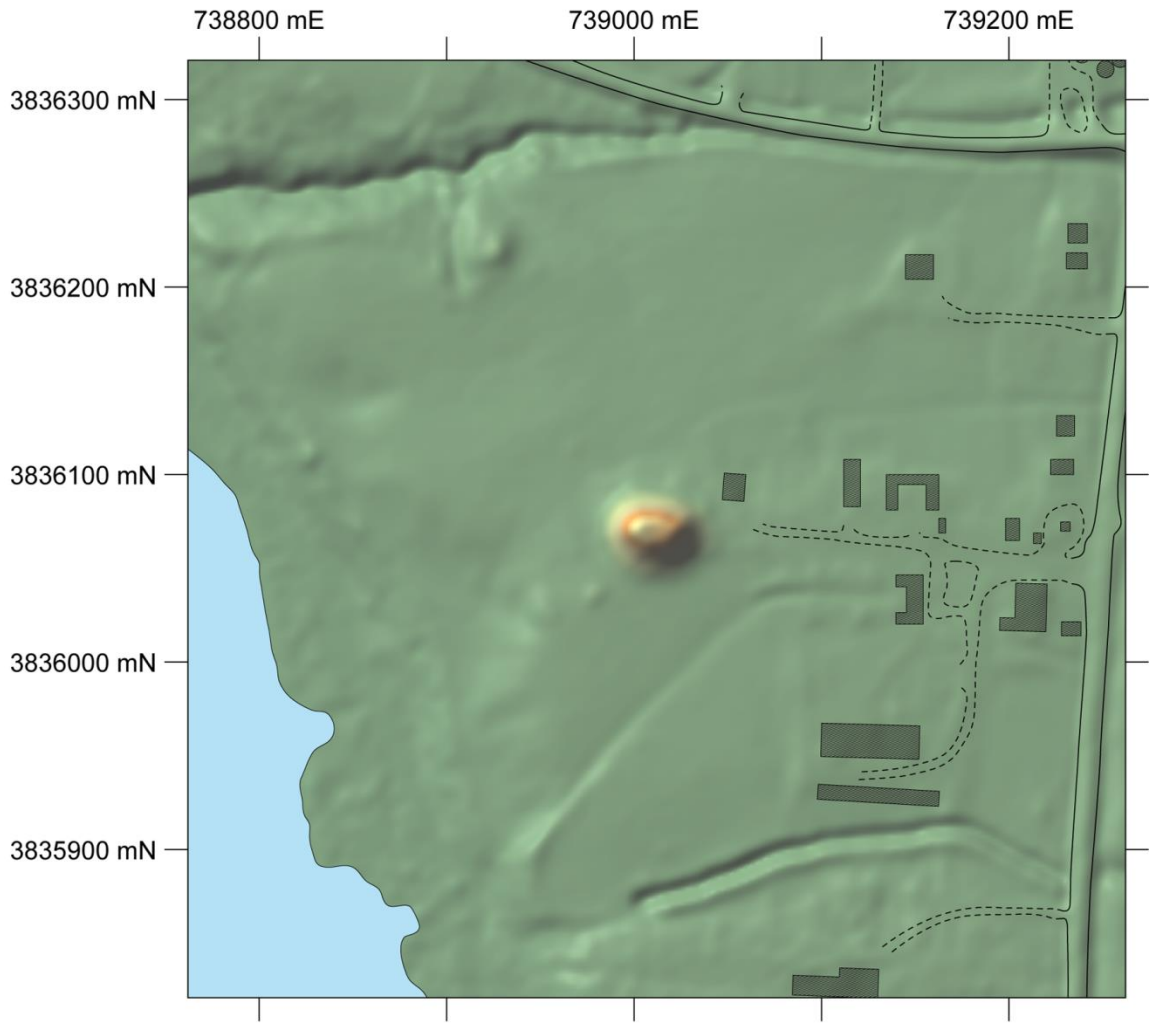

Figure 29 Evansville, shaded relief map with cultural features.

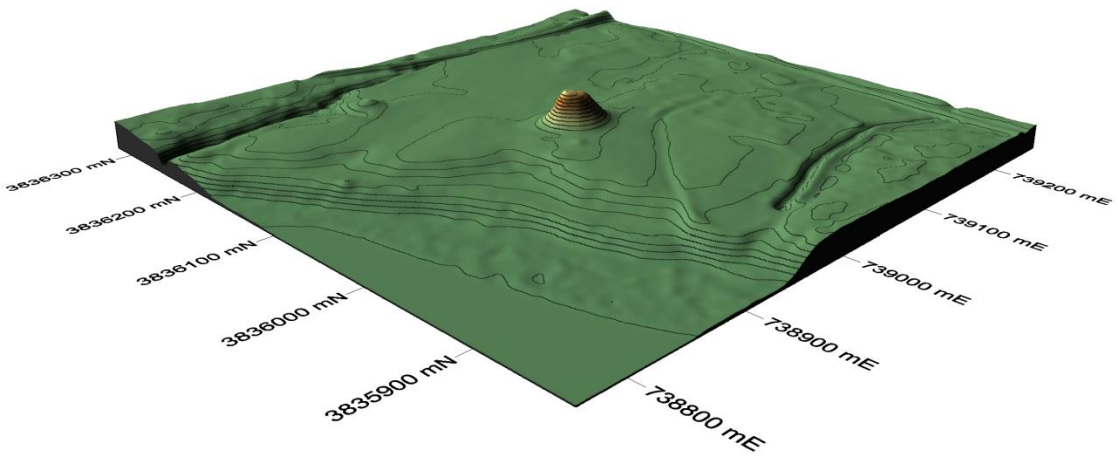

Figure 30 Evansville, oblique relief with 50cm contours.

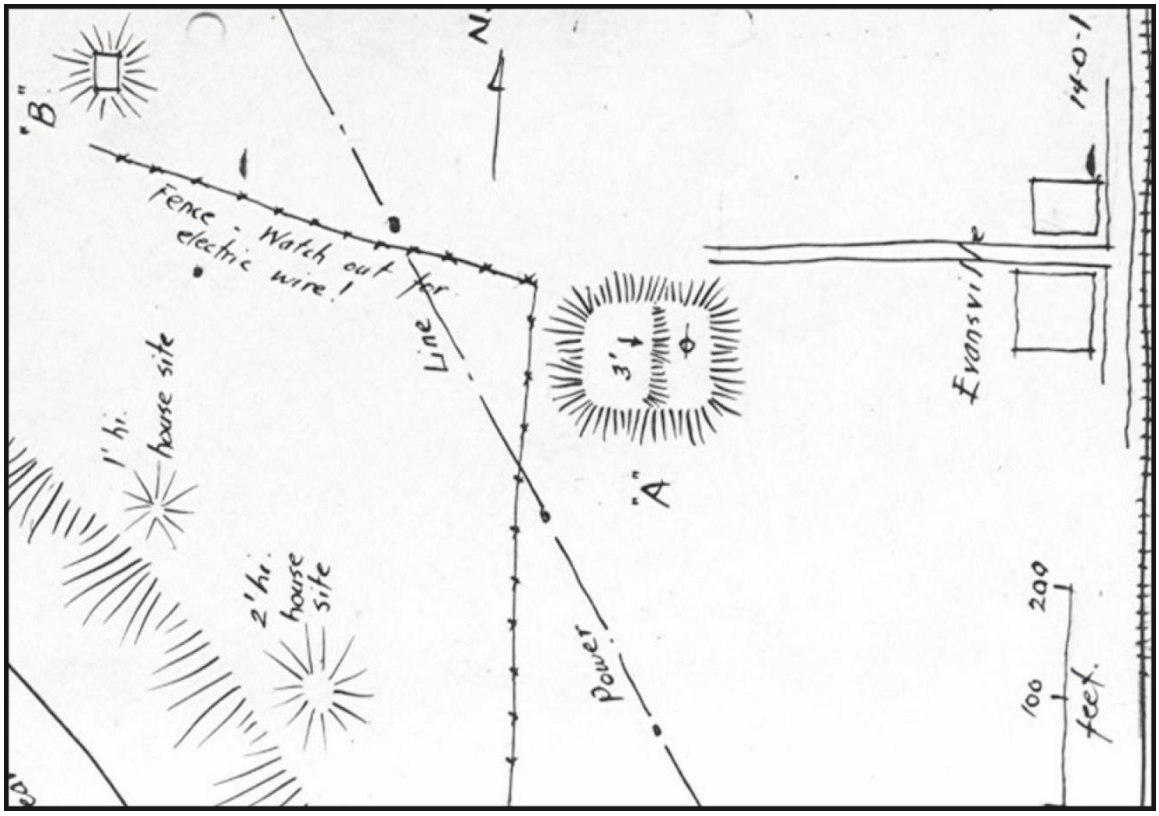

Figure 31 Evansville, LMS (Griffin, Phillips) sketch map 1940.

Figure 32 Evansville, Mound A, view to the west.

Figure 33 Evansville, Mound B, view to the west.

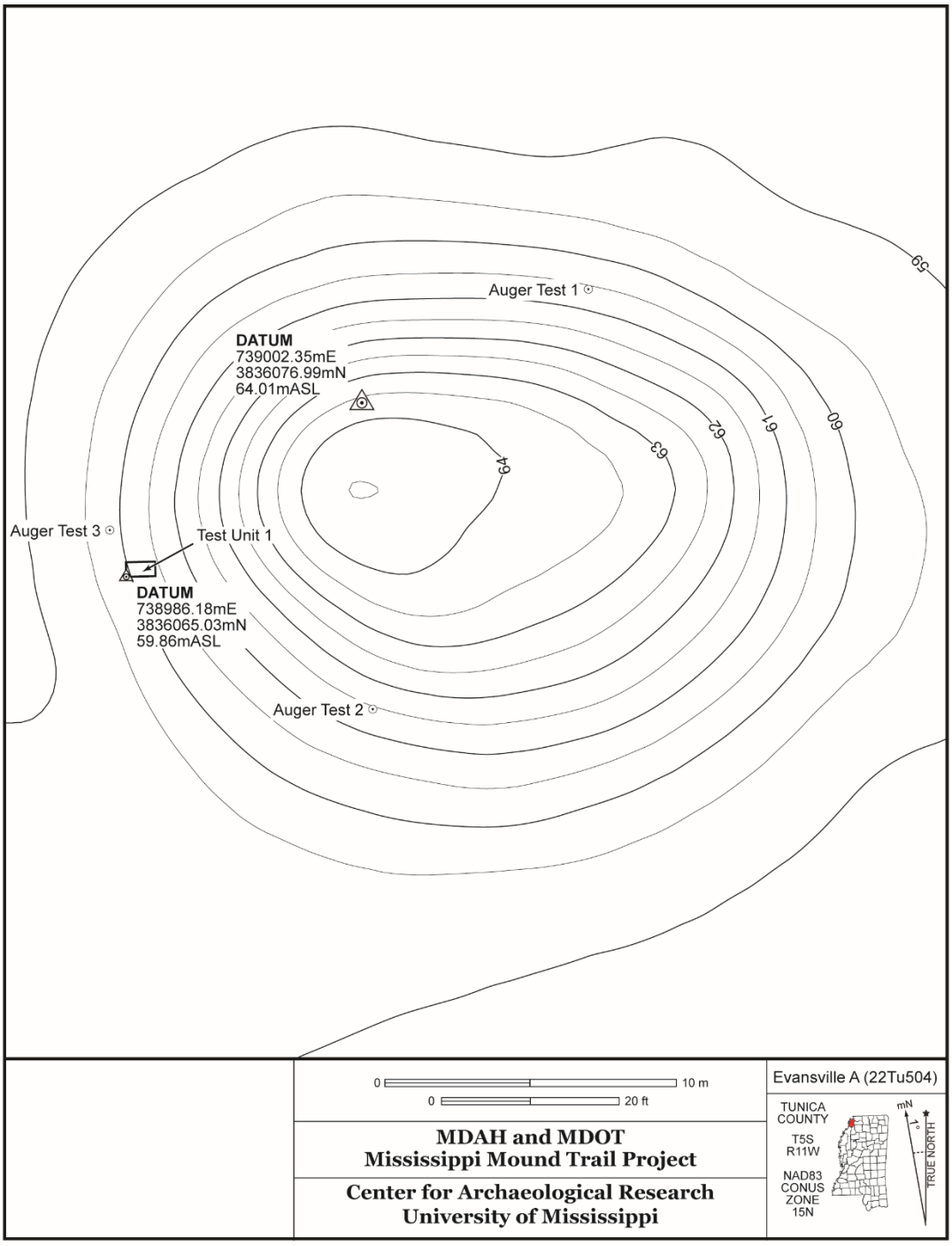

Figure 34 Evansville, Mound A auger hole and slope trench locations.

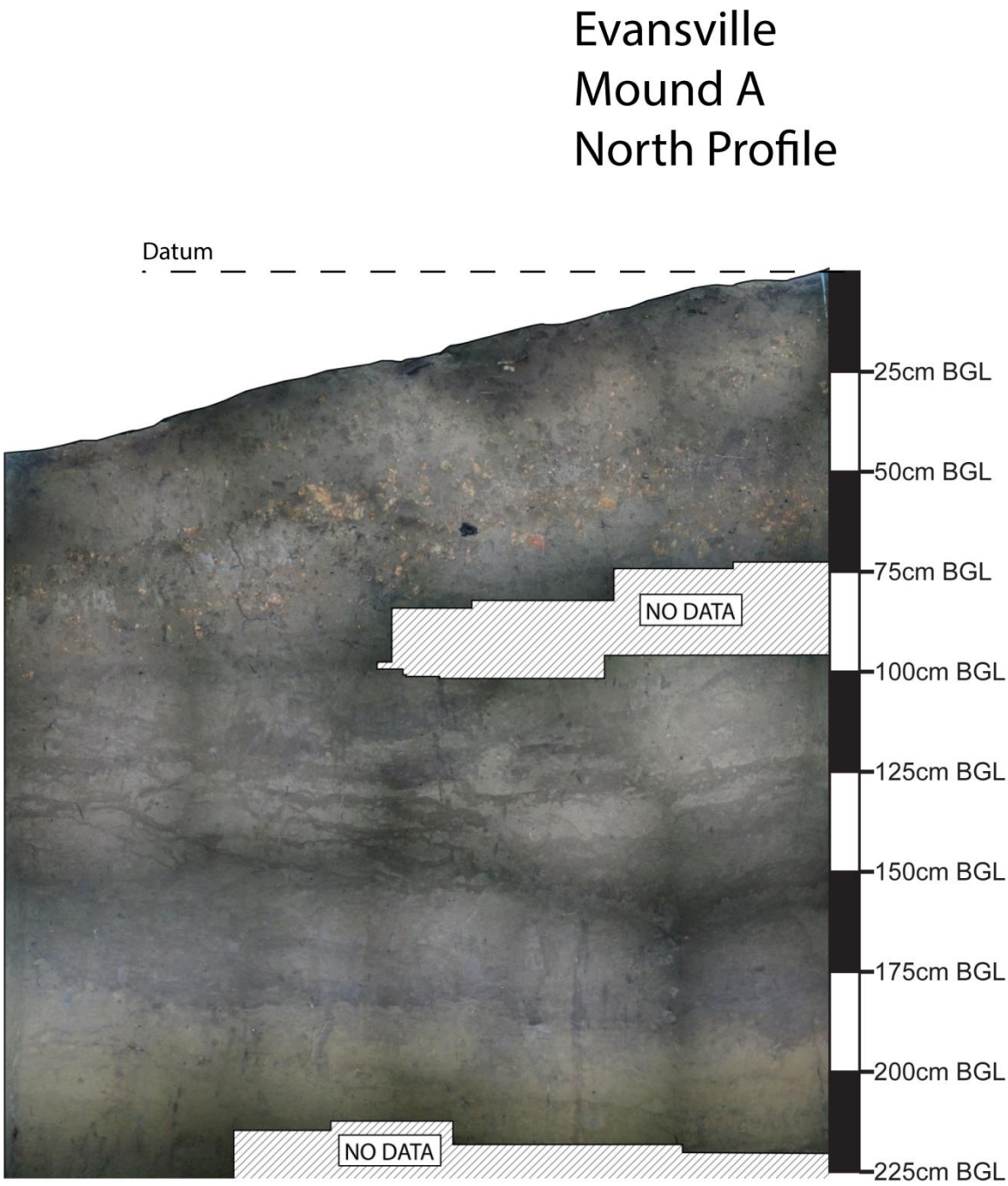

Figure 35 Evansville, Mound A slope trench, photomosaic of north profile.

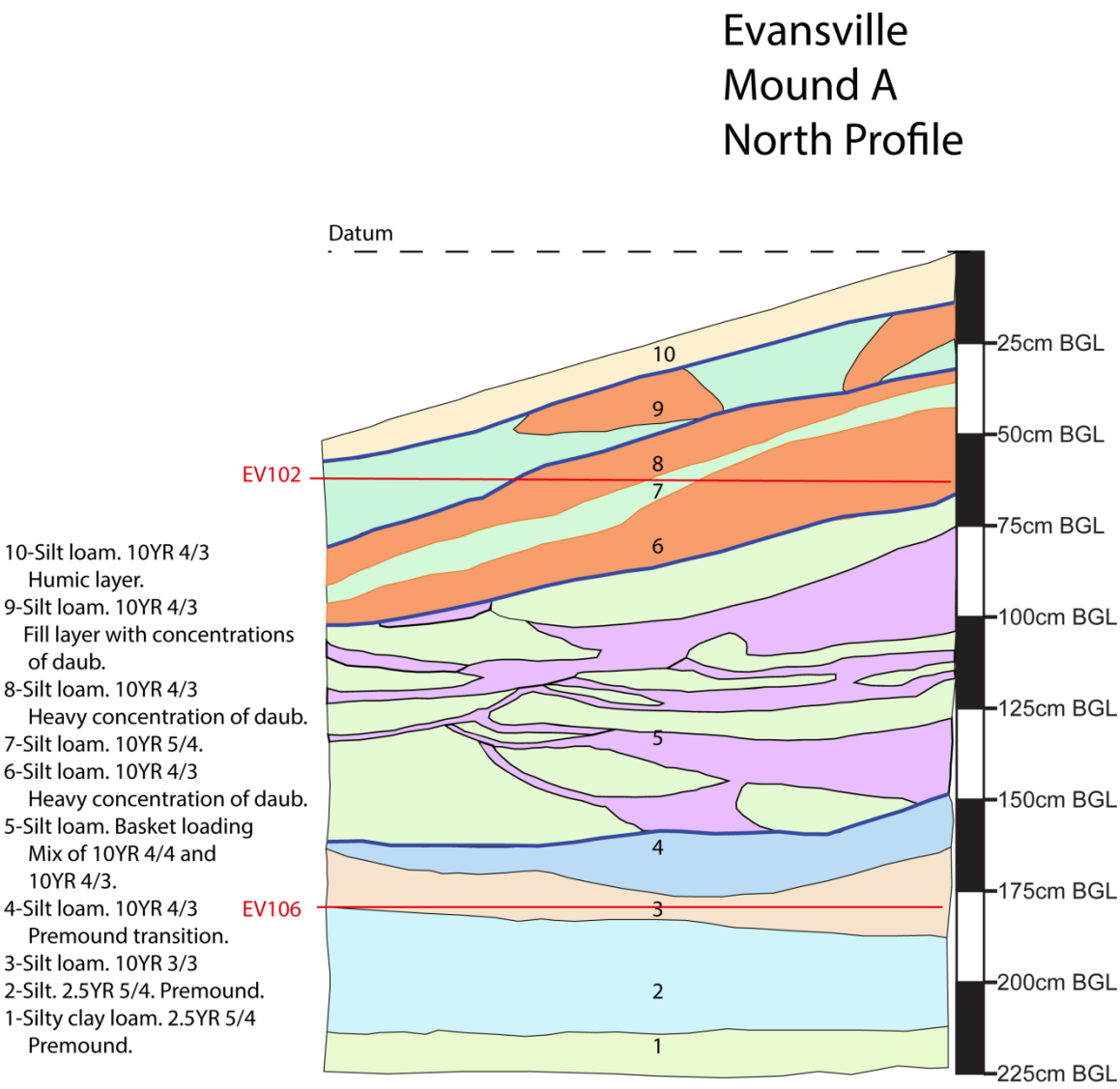

Figure 36 Evansville Mound A mound strata and radiocarbon sample locations.

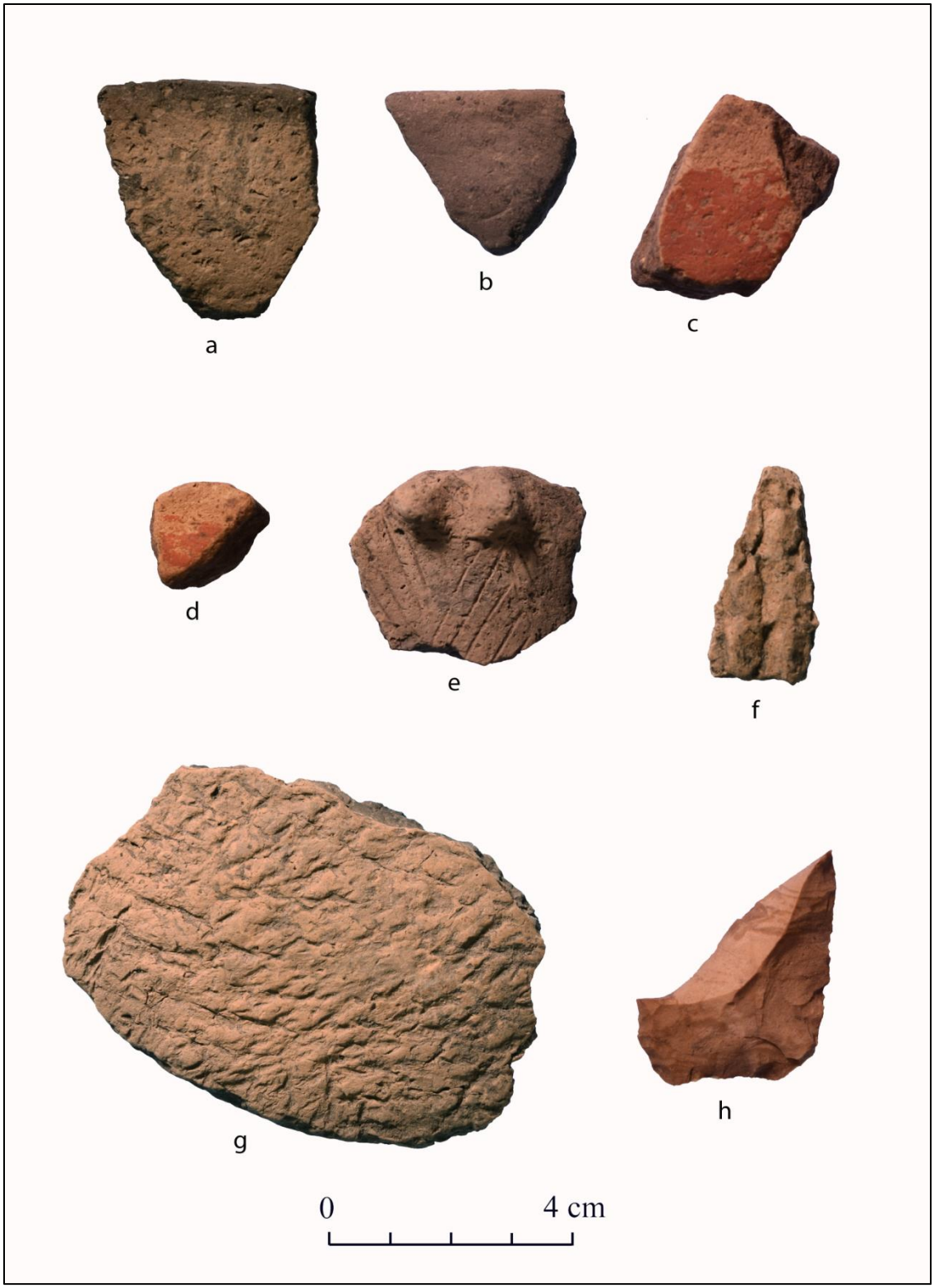

Figure 37 Evansville, Mound A artifacts; Mississippi Plain, *var. Neeley's Ferry*, a; Bell Plain, *var. Bell*, b; Carson Red on Buff, *var. Carson*, c, d; Barton Incised, *var. Arcola*, e; Hollyknowe Ridge Pinched, *var Hollyknowe*, f; Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, *var. Edwards*; biface fragment, h.

Table 5 Radiocarbon dates from Evansville Mound A.

Site/Sample	Lvl/cmbd	Material	Context	2 SIGMA CALIBRATION
Evansville 22TU502EV102	Level 2 (30-60)	wood charcoal	mound fill	Cal AD 1450 to 1640 (Cal BP 500 to 310)
Evansville 22TU502EV106	Level 6 (150-180)	wood charcoal	levee sand	Cal AD 1280 to 1320 (Cal BP 670 to 630) and Cal AD 1350 to 1390 (Cal BP 600 to 560)

Table 6 Evansville, Mound A artifacts.

Ceramics	0-30	30-60	60-90	90-120	120-150	150-180	180-210
Barton Incised, Arcola						3	
Barton Incised, Barton					1		
Barton Incised, Unspecified			1			1	
Bell Plain, Bell				3	4	1	
Carson Red on Buff, Carson	1	1					
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry	1	5	12	13	21	15	3
Old Town Red, Old Town						1	
Baytown Plain, Unspecified	3	11	19	21	29	42	47
Hollyknowe Ridge Pinched, Hollyknowe							2
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards	3	5	2	3	12	7	18
Withers Fabric Marked, Withers						1	
Unspecified Incised			1	1			
Lithics							
Flakes		2		1	2		
Amgular Shatter					1		
Thermal Fracture		1					
Historic Artifacts							
Brick	1						
Metal	2	1					

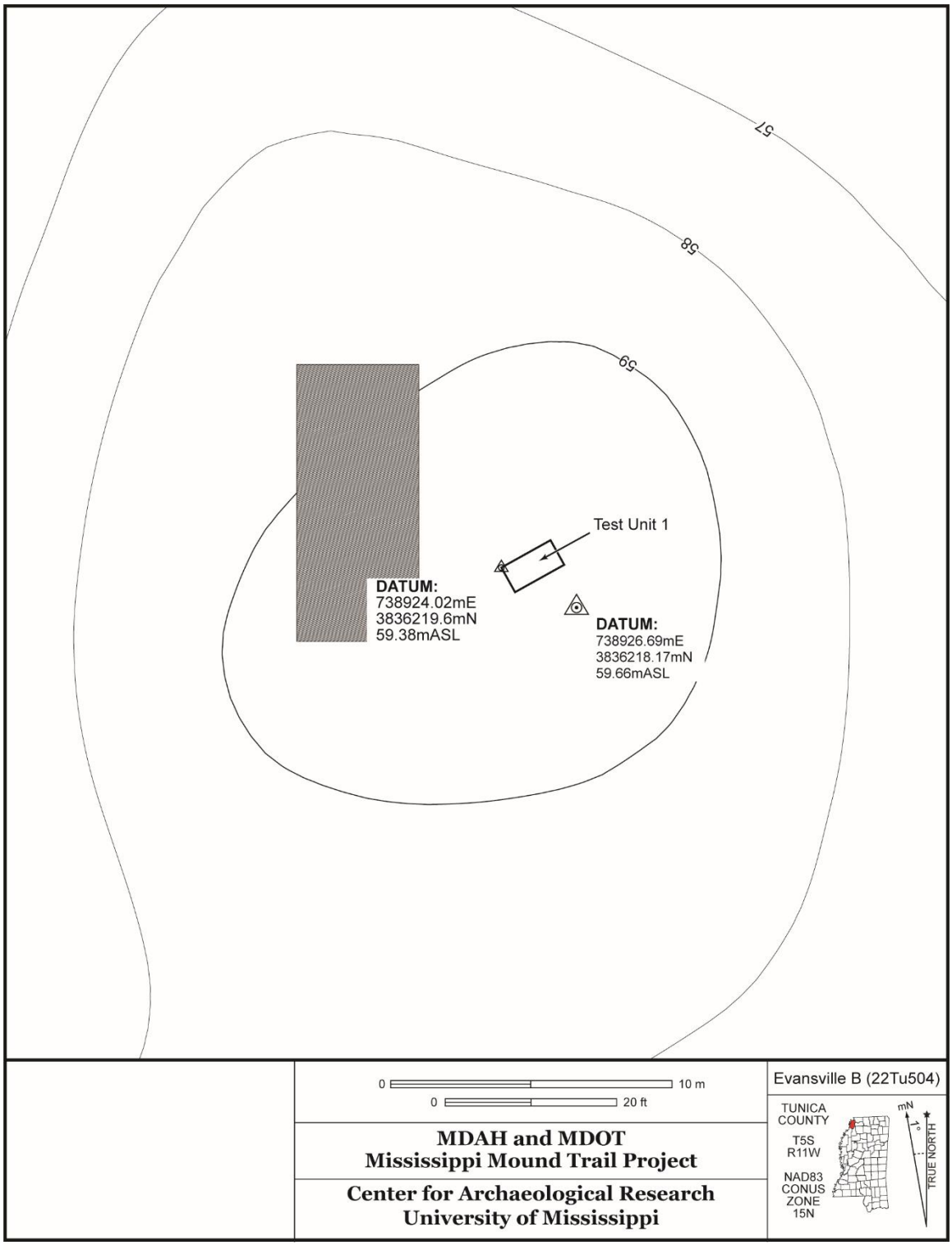

Figure 38 Evansville, Mound B test pit location.

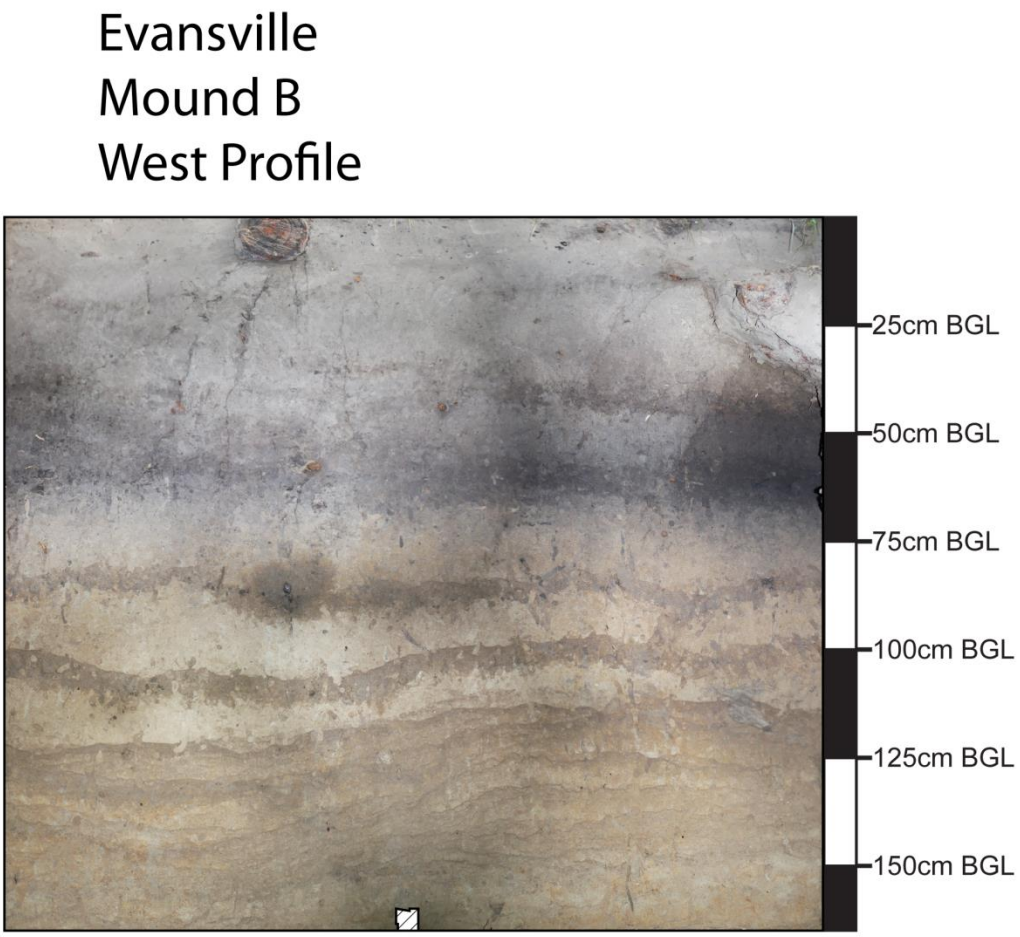

Figure 39 Evansville, Mound B test pit, photomosaic of west profile.

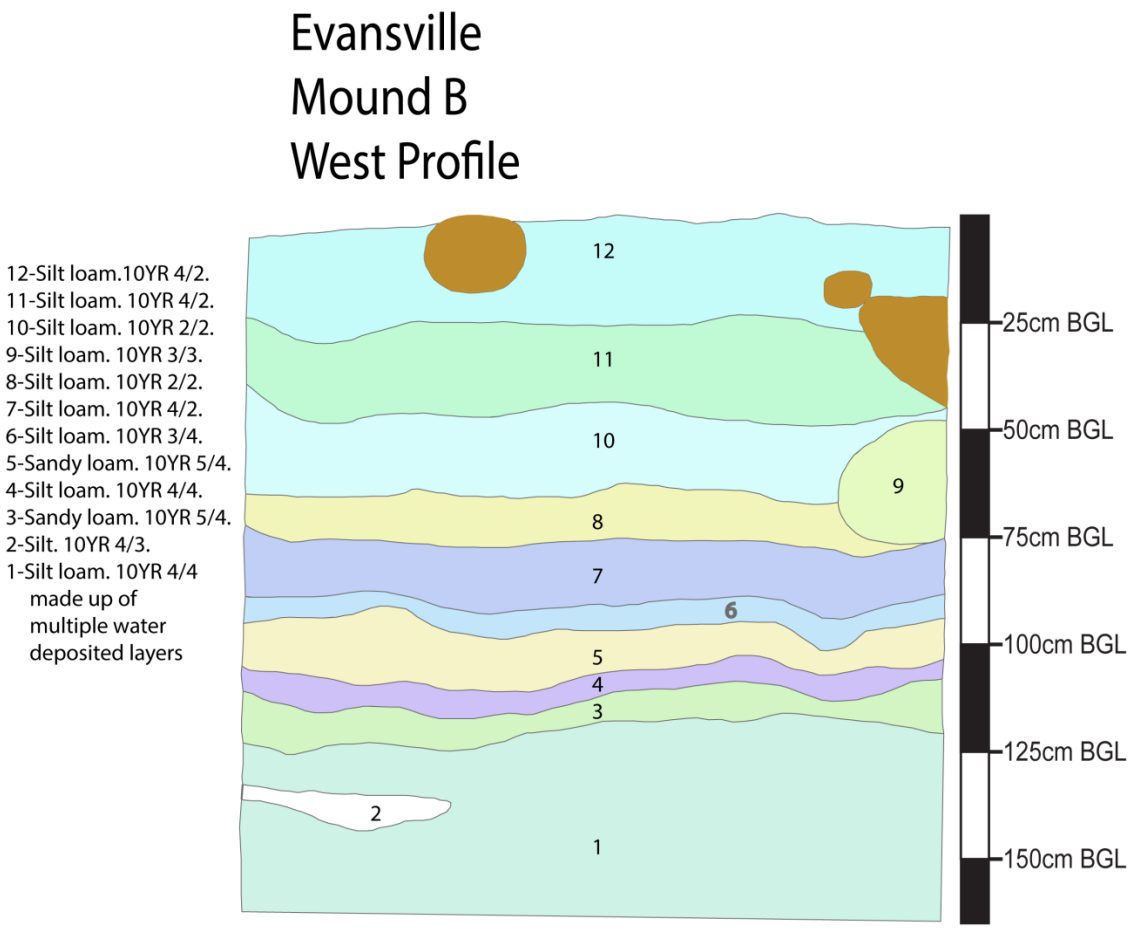

Figure 40 Evansville, Mound B, western profile.

Table 7 Evansville, Mound B artifacts.

Ceramics	0-30	30-60	60-90
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry			14
Baytown Plain, Unspecified	4	11	27
Evansvillle Punctated, Unspecified	2		
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards	1	5	9
Withers Fabric Marked, Withers		2	
Lithics			
Angular Shatter		2	
Historic Artifacts			
Brick	8		
Glass	18	2	
Ceramics	4		
Metal		1	
Coal	293	92	1

Beaverdam (22 Tu 513)

Other Names: 14-O-3 (LMS)

Location: Tunica County: Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 11 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 738860E, 3834987N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Tunica, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1981.
Clayton, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1955.

Site Description: The Beaverdam site is a large village which include two mounds. The site is situated on the east bank of Beaverdam Lake. Early observations of Mound A (Brown 1926) suggest it was a two-level rectangular mound. However, it appears rounded today and is approximately 37m in diameter and 3.4m high. A historic period cemetery occupies the summit of Mound A. Mound B is located approximately 42m southwest of Mound A, is .6m high, and exhibits small quantities of daub. Several more features similar to Mound B are present along Beaverdam Lake for approximately 180m to the south of Mound A. Brown (1926:117) also noted depressions to the east and north of the large mound which may have been borrow pits from which earth was mined during mound construction.

History of Work: A Dr. Southworth collected pottery from the Beaverdam site in ca. 1880 (Brown 1926:117).

In 1926, Brown described the "Mound on Beaver Lake" as being a large two-level, rectangular mound, a half mile south of Evansville, Mississippi. At the time of Browns observations, the mound showed signs of cultivation and a Historic period cemetery was present at its summit. Brown noted that plowing was turning-up pottery fragments between Evansville and the mounds, with the first ¼ mile south of Evansville exhibiting a particularly dense artifact scatter.

In 1940 Griffin and Ford conducted a survey of the Beaverdam. They described the site as a large village site with large and small mounds (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951:50). They determined the site to be the one described by Brown (1926:117) and assigned it to the Early Mississippian period. Their survey activity also included making a surface collection around the site. The collection included a skull plowed out of Mound A and wattle from Mound B. The density of domestic refuse at the site were described as, "scanty" (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951:321).

In 1970 Phillips assigned the Beaverdam site to the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period (Phillips 1970:904, Figure 445) and the Kent phase of the Mississippian period (Phillips 1970:928, Figure 448)

Current Conditions: Mound A of the Beaverdam site is clearly visible despite damage done to the site as a whole from erosion and agricultural activity. Mound B is much reduced and not readily apparent to the casual observer. Mound A is grown up in grass and the surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Ford and Griffin survey and surface collection
- Sketch map of site
- Photograph of site taken from the east
- Sherd Count in 1947: 109 sherds

Mound Trail Test Excavations: Mound A at the Beaverdam site was dug in August of 2013 under the direction of Bryan Haley with help of a field crew recruited from the Ole Miss field school. The project began by doing auger tests in search of a premound midden (fig. 45). What appeared to be a midden deposit was found about a meter below the surface on the southeast side of the mound. A one by two meter slope trench was dug nearby with the long axis aligning with the slope of the mound (fig. 45).

The trench was dug in 30cm, horizontal levels. The first three levels are typical mound fill made up of clays and silty clay loams. An abrupt break is evident at about 90 cmbs on the north profile (figs. 46-49). Below this, the strata, such as they are, are horizontal, there is and in situ burned surface with the typical thermally produced red oxidation underlain by black reduction, and the sherd count picks up dramatically in Level 4 (90-120cmbs; fig. 46, 48). The north end of the trench is located about 90cm above the first closed contour marking the mound location (fig. 45). Altogether, it appears that this is the premound surface and Levels 4 and 5 represent a premound midden, albeit one which is relatively thick (ca 70cm) with a relatively low artifact density. There are a small number of Woodland sherds (Table 9, figs. 50, 51) which become relatively more common the deeper you go in this possible midden. The shell temper/grog temper ratio for Level 4 is 243/21. That same ratio drops to 73/105 in Level 5. Although the counts are small, this may be an example of stratigraphy, a rare event in the Yazoo Basin. The buried burned surface and the depth of the deposit suggest that this living surface may have been expanded by the overbank flood deposits of the adjacent oxbow. Beaverdam Lake is a relatively late, Stage 14 channel in the Fisk chronology.

The shell tempered assemblage differs somewhat from the Johnson Cemetery and Evansville assemblages in that it lacks any slipped types and contains the only examples of Winterville Incised and Walls Engraved to be recovered during this project. Like most Mississippian sites in the Yazoo Basin, Beaverdam has a Late Woodland component. And the two radiocarbon dates we got for the site reflect this situation (Table 8). One falls within the range of dates for Late Woodland and the other Mississippian. The Mississippian Period date comes from Level 5 of the premound midden. The Woodland Period date came from a pit that may have originated from the premound midden.

References: Brown (1926); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

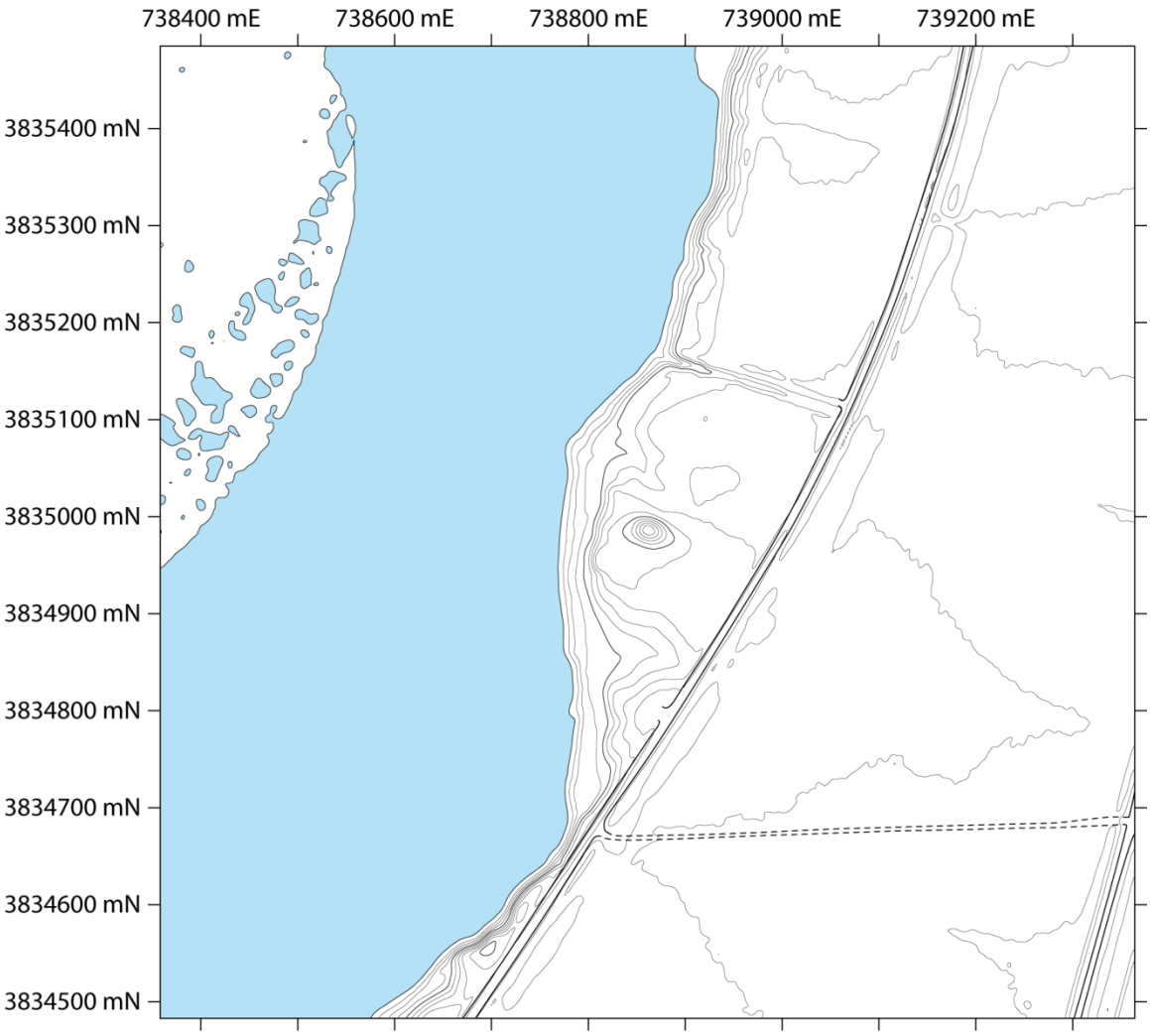

Figure 41 Beaverdam, contour map with cultural features.

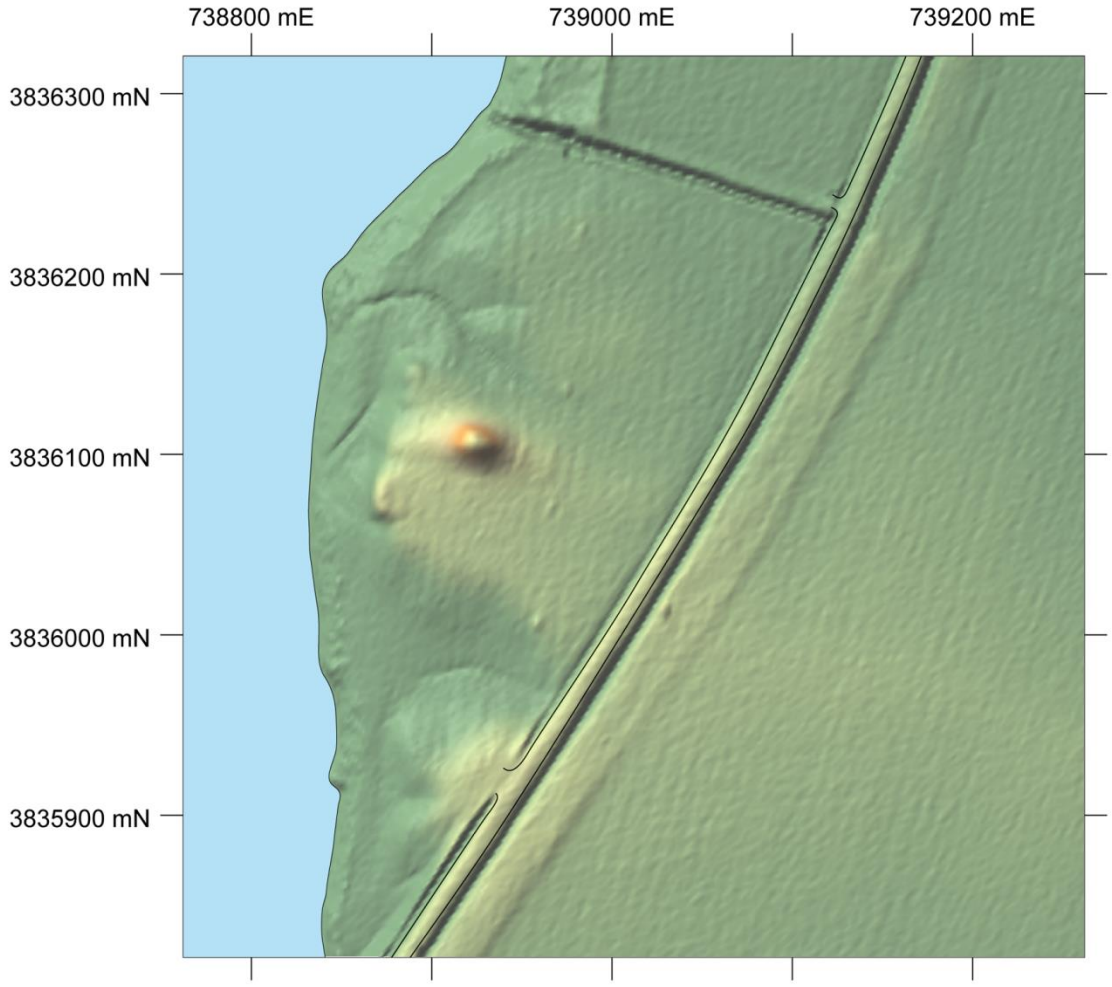

Figure 42 Beaverdam, shaded relief map with cultural features.

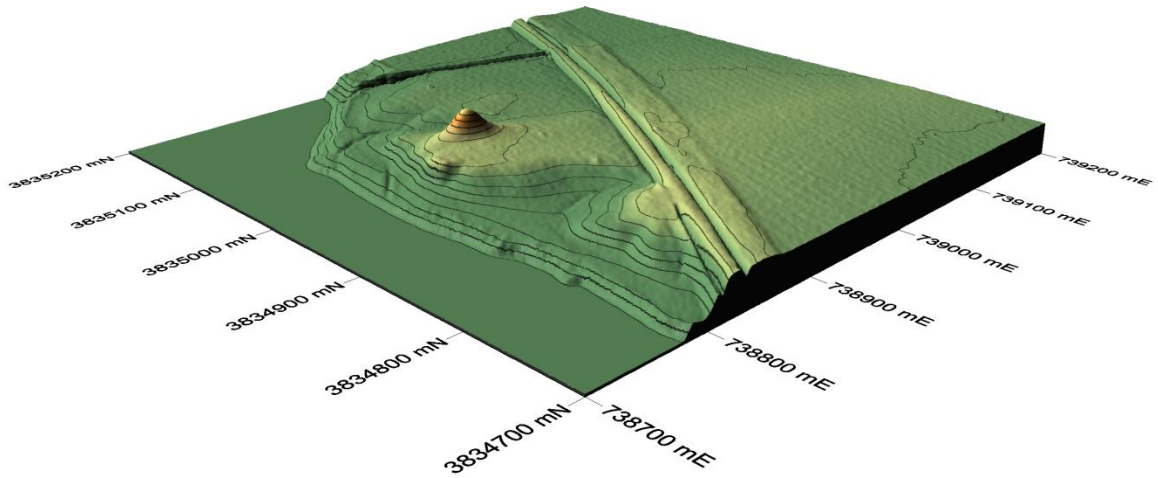

Figure 43 Beaverdam, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.


Figure 44 Beaverdam, Mound A, view to the northwest.

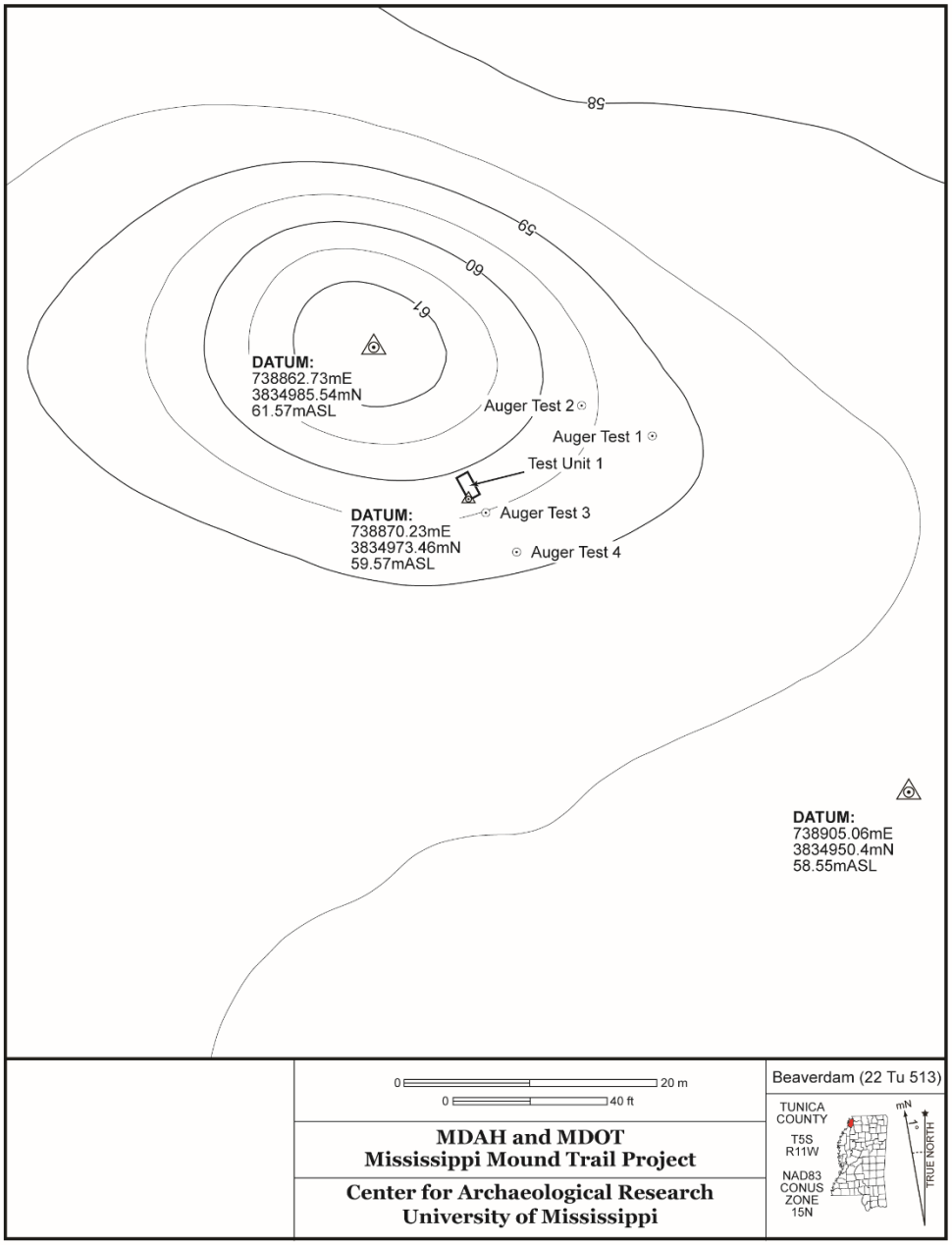

Figure 45 Beaverdam, auger hole and slope trench locations.

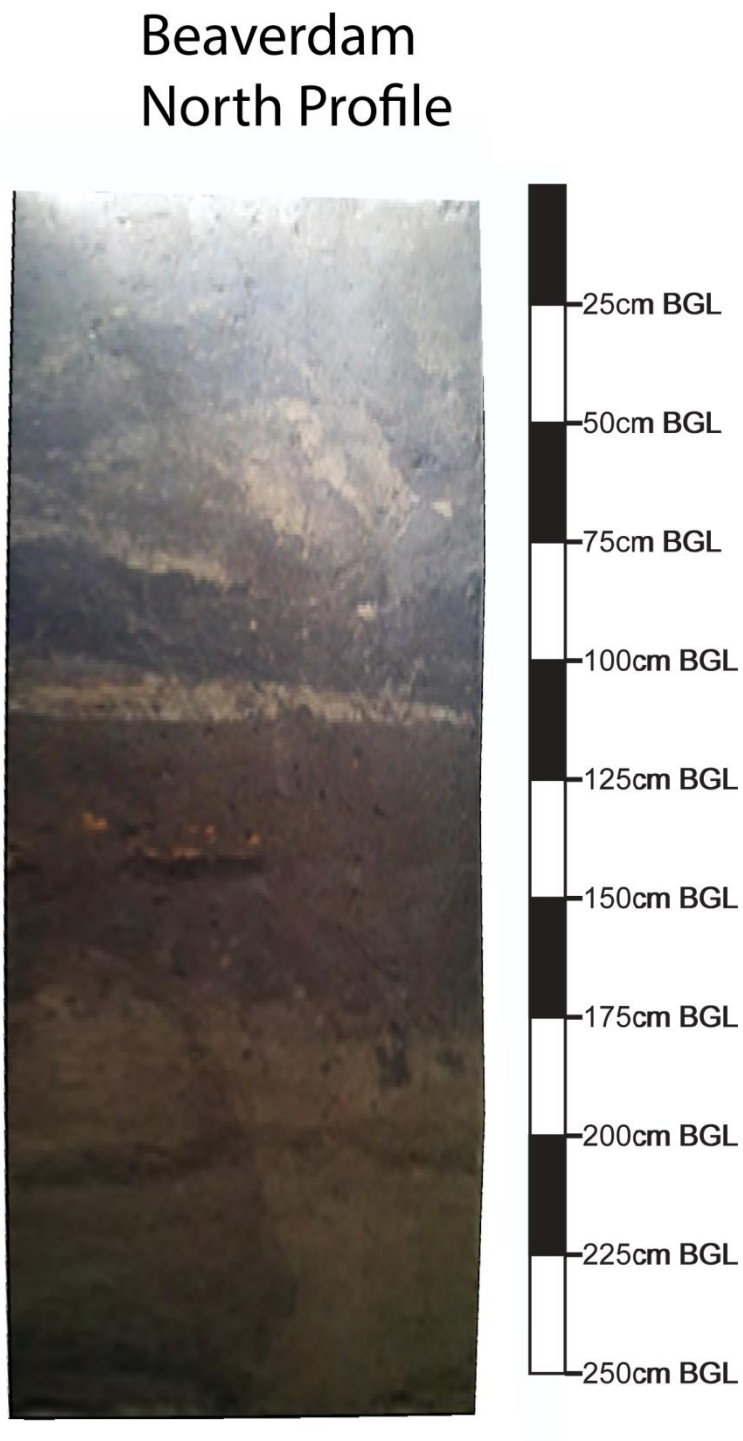

Figure 46 Beaverdam slope trench, photomosaic of north profile.

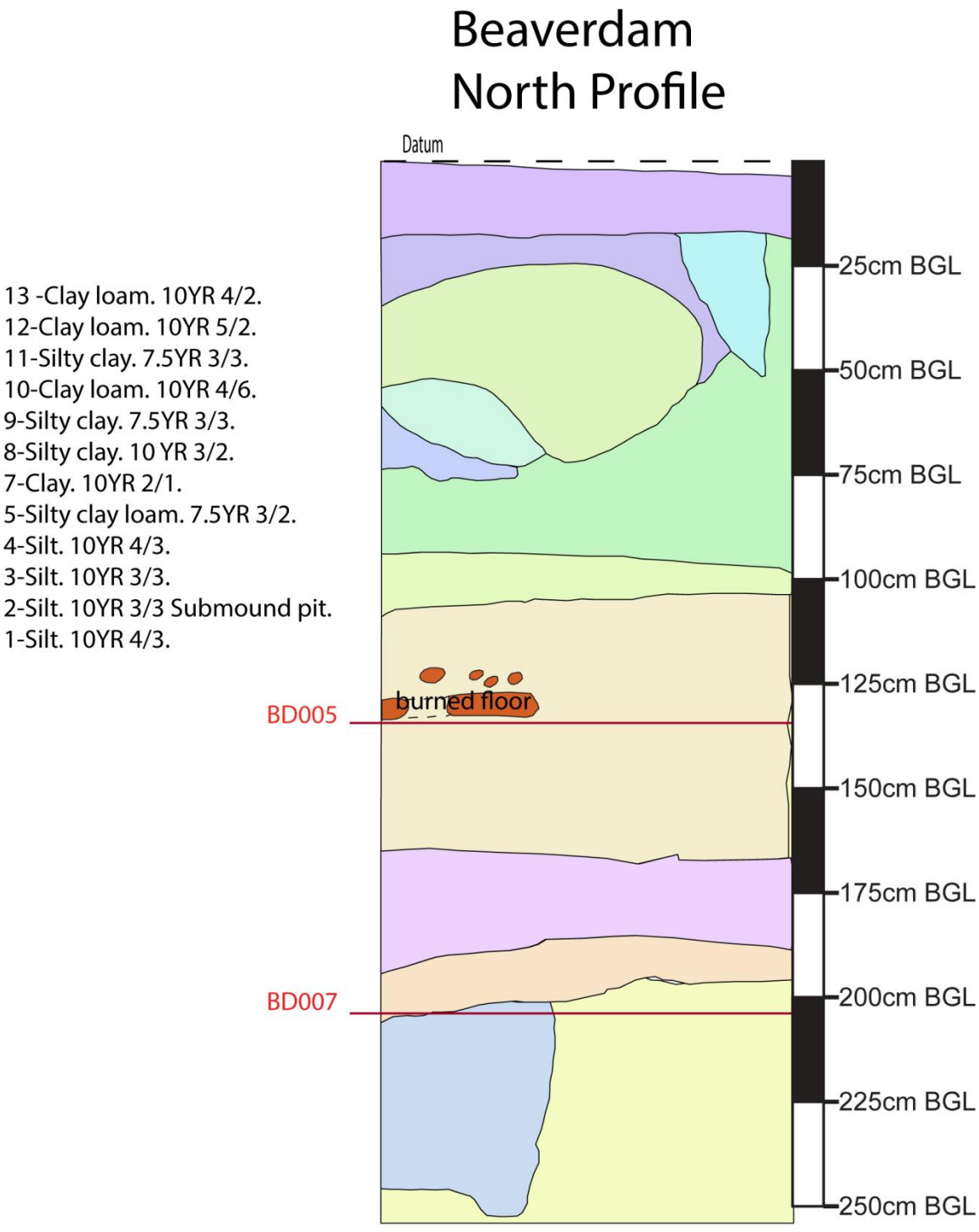

Figure 47 Beaverdam, north profile, mound strata and radiocarbon sample locations.

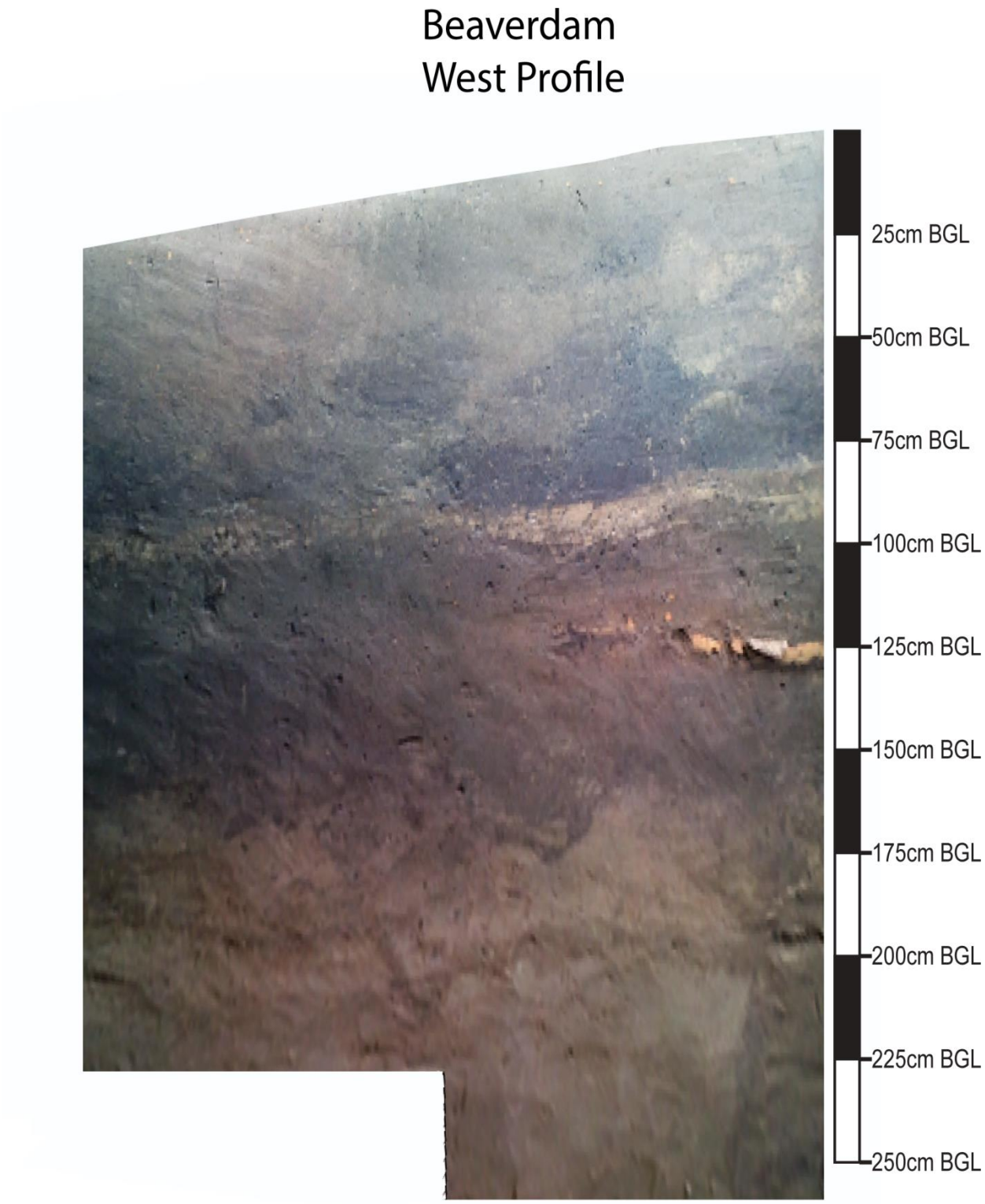

Figure 48 Beaverdam slope trench, photomosaic of west profile.

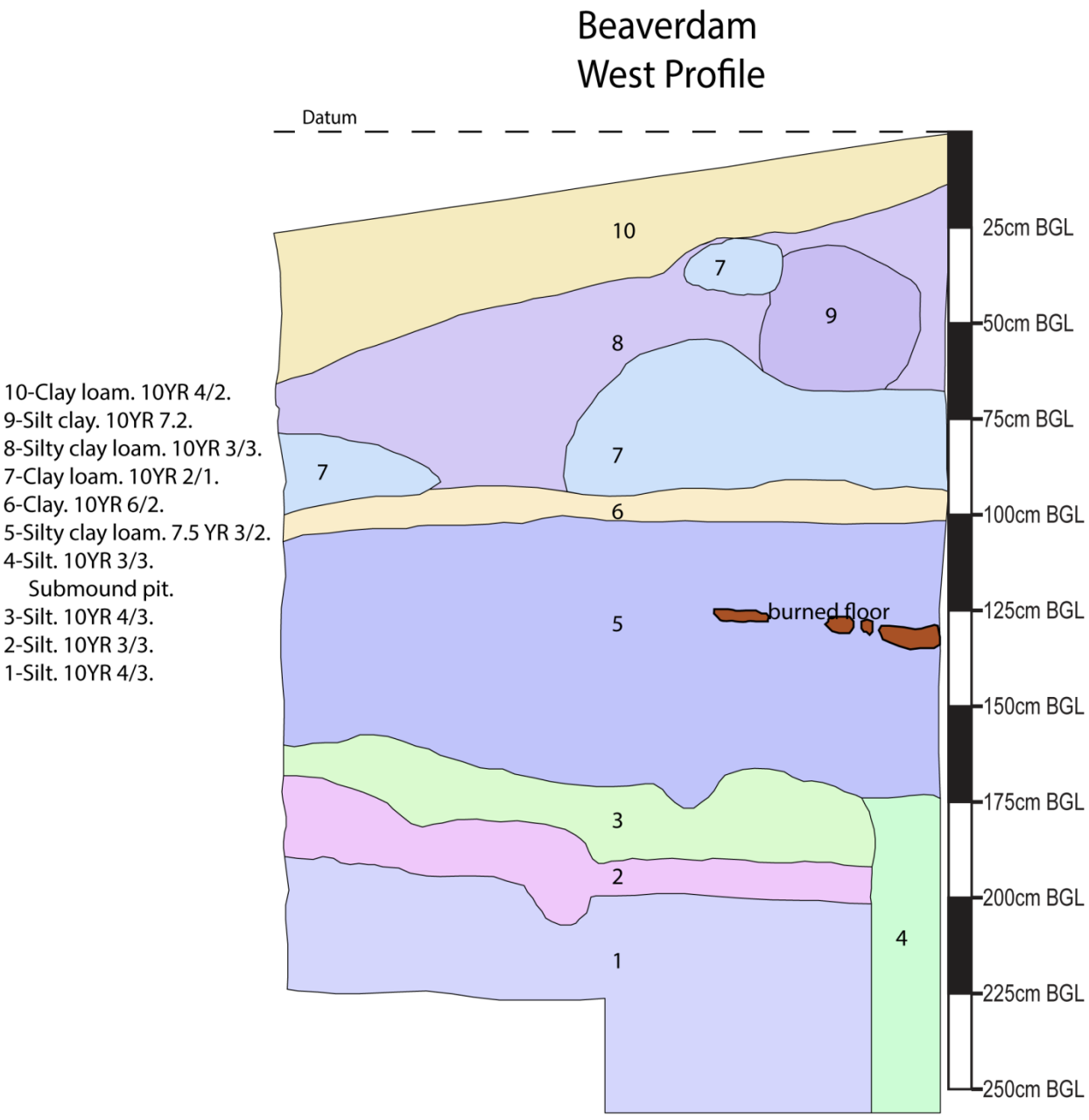

Figure 49 Beaverdam, west profile showing mound strata.

Table 8 Radiocarbon dates from Beaverdam.

Site/Sample	Lvl/cmbd	Material	Context	2 SIGMA CALIBRATION
Beaver Dam 22TU513BD005	Level 5 (120-150)	wood charcoal	premound midden	Cal AD 1290 to 1410 (Cal BP 660 to 540)
Beaver Dam 22TU513BD007	Level 7 (180-210)	wood charcoal	premound pit	Cal AD 1015 to 1050 (Cal BP 935 to 900) and Cal AD 1080 to 1150 (Cal BP 870 to 800)

Table 9 Beaverdam artifacts.

	0-30	30-60	60-90	90-120	120-150	150-180	180-210
Ceramics							
Barton Incised, Barton				6	1		
Barton Incised, Kent				1			
Barton Incised, Unspecified				2	4		
Bell Plain, Bell			2	9	5	1	
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry	2	4	10	217	65	14	3
Parkin Punctated, Parkin				4	1		
Parkin Punctated, Unspecified				3			
Walls Engraved, Walls				1			
Winterville Incised, Winterville					2		
Baytown Plain, Unspecified	4	5	8	15	104	8	
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards		1	4	6		2	
Withers Fabric Marked, Withers	1		1		1		
Unspecified Incised				5	2		
Lithics							
Angular Shatter	1				4		
Thermal Fracture					1		

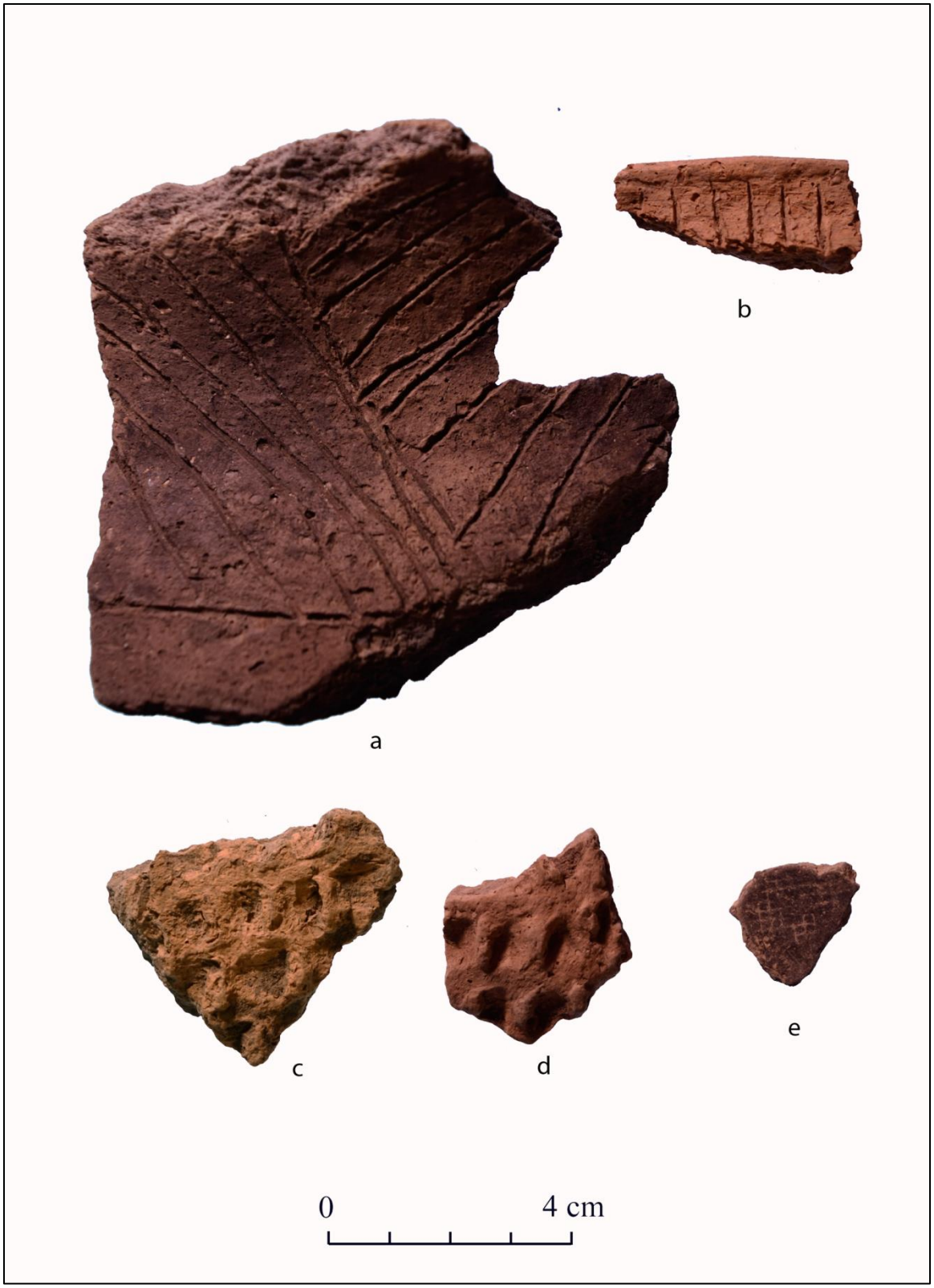

Figure 50 Beaverdam ceramics; Barton Incised, *var Barton*, a; *var. Arcola*, b; Hollyknowe Ridge Pinched, *var. Hollyknowe*, c, d; Walls Engraved, *var. Walls*, e.

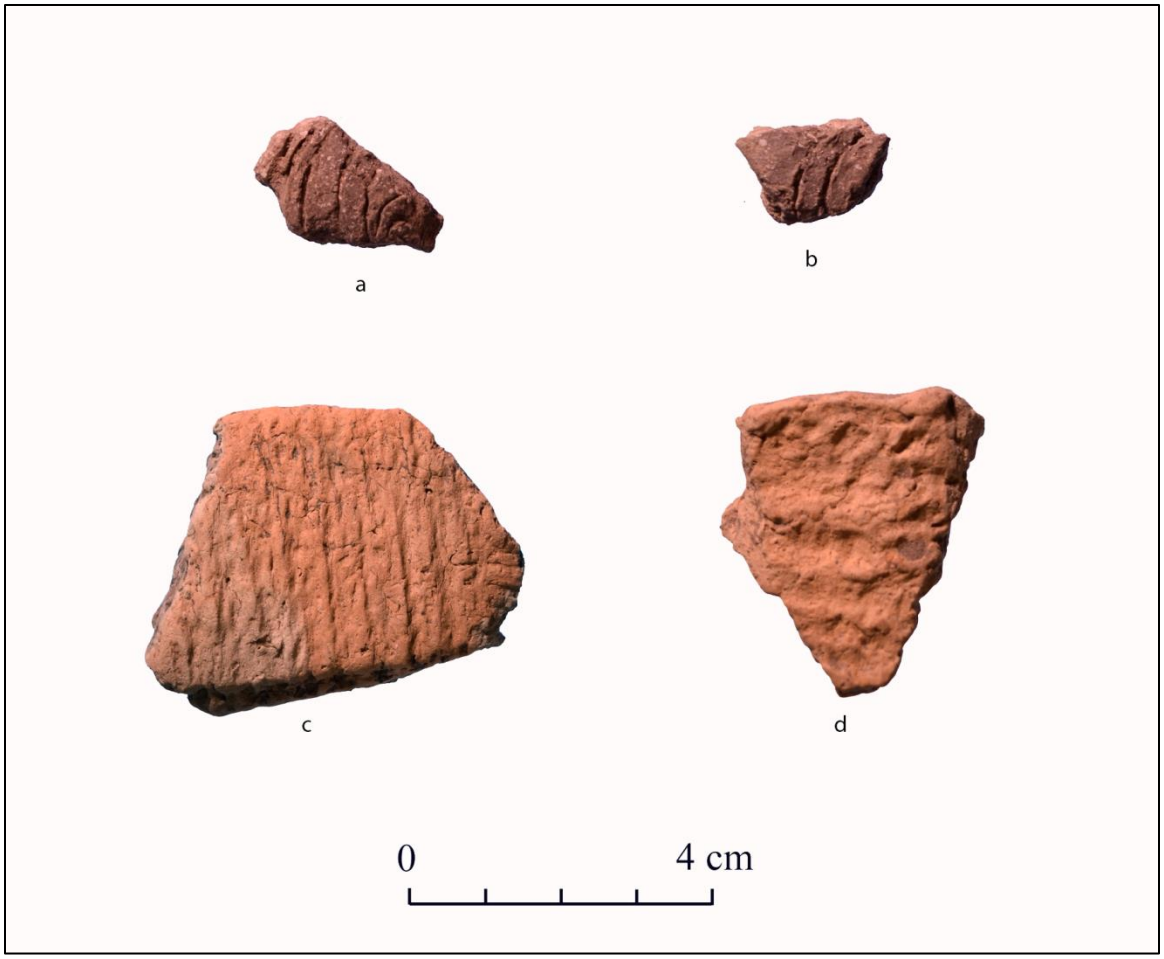

Figure 51 Beaverdam ceramics; Winterville Incised, *var. Winterville*, a, b; Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, *var. Edwards*, c; Withers Fabric Impressed, *var. Withers*, d.

Coahoma County

Figure 52 Tunica and Coahoma County Mound Trail Sites.

Salomon (22 Co 504)

Other Names: 15-O-1 (LMS); Salomon Mound; Salmon; Coahoma Mounds; Hull Place; Hull Cemetery

Location: Coahoma County: Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 22, Township 29 North, Range 3 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 730782E, 3806851N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Lula, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1969.
Marks, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1970.

Site Description: Today the Salomon site consists of two closely positioned platform mounds, an associated village site, and two historic period cemeteries situated atop the two of the mounds. The site is situated on the southern bank of Hull Brake. As late as the 1940s the site included three large mounds and as many as eight smaller mounds arranged around a central plaza. However, the smaller mounds were destroyed by agricultural activity and a large mound was destroyed to provide road fill for a Coahoma County road project.

Mound A is a large platform mound with a probable ramp on its southeast side. It measures approximately 71m long (southwest to northeast), 44m wide (southeast to northwest), and 8m tall. Mound A's position on the edge of Hull Brake gives it the appearance of being nearly twice its actual height when viewed from the northwest. There is a mid to late 19th century cemetery on top of Mound A with several impressive monuments. Immediately to the southwest of Mound A is another platform mound measuring approximately 35m in diameter and 2m tall. There is a smaller historic cemetery on this mound as well. The two mounds are joined. The Coahoma County Road Department destroyed Mound B in 1958 when they used it for road fill. However, Lower Mississippi Survey archives note Mound B was 4.6m tall. Its basal dimensions were not recorded. Mound B was positioned opposite Mound A, across a plaza measuring 122m across (cf. Starr 1984:172 for alternate plaza dimension of 69m).

History of Work:
Brown (1926:106) described the Salomon site as "a group of mounds consisting of two large mounds and several small ones… [with] recent burials on the tallest."

In 1940 Ford and Griffin surveyed the Salomon site. They produced a sketch map, four photographs and made a surface collection of artifacts. At the time two mounds sat on each side of Mound A. The one on the northeast (now destroyed) showed damage from cultivation, and the one to the southwest (still extant) held a cemetery. A fourth mound (Mound B, now destroyed) was located across the road and covered in

trees. They also noted the presence of house sites in a nearby plowed field. Ford and Griffin estimated the plaza area between the large mounds as measuring approximately 122m long, with four rectangular and six square mounds surrounding it on either side. They noted little surface material within the plaza area. Phillips, Ford, Griffin (1951) placed the Salomon site in the Middle Baytown through Early Mississippian periods.

In 1968 Sam McGahay of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History visited the Salomon site. He noted that most of the mounds noted by Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951) had been plowed away, with the exception of Mounds A, C, and D. Interviews with local collectors indicated that burials and associated artifacts were uncovered during the destruction of Mound B in 1958. Among the artifacts reported were a drilled sherd, large chunkey stones, a large polished celt, a fragment of an effigy bottle, several projectile points, and other formal stone tools (Starr 1984:171).

Phillips (1970, Figures 444-447) placed the Salomon site in the Dorr phase of the Marksville period, the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period, the Peabody phase of the Coles Creek period, and the Parchman phase of the Mississippian period.

In 1977 Ian Brown surveyed the Salomon site. He included Mound A as the only remaining mound, apparently considering the Mound A's companion mound immediately to the southwest as a ramp. In 1979 Ian Brown revisited the Salomon site and revised his earlier assessment of the southwest mound, considering it a part of a double mound including Mound A.

In 1983 John Connaway visited the Salomon site as part of his effort to nominate it to the National Register for Historic Places, a goal he achieved in 1984. He noted the presence of aprons on the northeast and southwest sides of Mound A as well as a ramp on the southeast side of Mound A. The plaza was recorded as 69m across, circled by large concentrations of daub, which he considered marking the locations of habitation features. Later Starr (1984:172) argued the ceramics recovered from the site fit well with a Parchman phase occupation.

In 1987, Connaway returned to the Salomon site to conduct a shovel testing survey. He mapped a prehistoric midden associated with the site. A sample of the midden contained 48 sherds, 5 lithics, and 3 potential human long bone fragments (Connaway 1987:6-7).

Current Conditions: Mound A and its companion mound to the southwest at the Salomon site are in good condition while all other mounds previously noted at the site have been destroyed. The remaining mounds are wooded and the landscape to the southeast is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University: Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Griffin and Ford survey, plane table map
- Photos

- Sherd count done in 1947: 1491 sherds
- List of ceramic and vessel types found, general surface collection findings
- Brown's Survey
- Brown's 1978 Collections (C43)

Mississippi Department of Archives and History:
- Connaway's 1987 shovel testing material

Mound Trail Excavations: Our excavations in Mound A at the Salomon site began on July 16, 2013 and concluded on July 31, 2013. The excavations were directed by Stephen Harris and Erika Carpenter who were assisted by a crew of two field school students rotated in and out from work at the Carson site. Investigations of the site began with a series of five auger holes dug on the lower slope of the mound (fig. 38). As always, the goal was to discover a premound midden deposit. Each auger hole was continued until premound deposits were encountered; usually levee sand. Holes ranged in depth from 172cm to 270cm. Premound midden was discovered in only one of the auger holes, Auger Test 4 where it began at 247cmbs and continued to 260cmbs where it was replaced by levee sand.

Test Unit 1 was located a near as possible to Auger Test 4 taking into account several large trees (fig. 38). The trench was a one by two meter excavation oriented perpendicular to the mound slope. We began digging 10cm levels using a ½ inch screen. After Level 9 (90-100cmbd) we decided to dig 30cm levels in order to expedite the excavation since we still had more than a meter and a half of mound fill before were reached the premound midden. After Level 10 (100-130cmbd) we began screening only a 1/3 sample of the mound fill. The midden was uncovered at 280cmbd and extended for approximately 20cm (figs. 59-62). It was removed in one level, all of which was screened through ¼ inch screen. Obvious levee sand was exposed in the following level which was continued to 315cmbd.

There is a sizeable Late Woodland component at Salomon, as expressed in the previous surface collections at the site. It should come as no surprise that the ceramic assemblage from the premound midden is composed exclusively of Woodland types including Baytown Plain, Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, and Withers Fabric Marked along with a single sherd of Marksville Stamped and cross hatched rim (Tables 10, 11; figs. 63-64). Interestingly, the other Woodland Period type from Mound A, Salomon Brushed, occurs only in the mound fill, along with a few other Woodland period types and relatively few shell tempered sherds.

We submitted three wood charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating (Table 12). The results are interesting. The two samples from the premound midden, particularly the younger intercepts for each, are completely acceptable dates for the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period. However, the mix of Mulberry Creek Cord Marked in combination with Withers Fabric Marked and Marksville Stamped found in the premound midden suggests an earlier, early Middle Woodland date for the deposit.

The presence of Mississippian sherds throughout the mound fill clearly indicates that the mound was constructed during the Mississippian occupation of the site. The one radiocarbon date from the mound fill was recovered fairly low in the fill (fig. 60). This date falls comfortably within the Mississippian period in the northern Yazoo Basin although it is much earlier that we thought going into this project. Outside of the Carson site, there are relatively few 13th century radiocarbon dates for Mississippian sites in the northern Basin. The date does indicate that the Mississippian occupation of the site began at least by this time. It suggests that Salomon predates rather than being contemporaneous with the occupation and mounds at the Parchman site located just 5.6km to the southwest. The fact that Salomon is located on the natural levee made by a Stage 9 meander using Fisk's (1944) chronology while Parchman was built on the Stage 11 meander tends to support the likelihood of an earlier occupation at Salomon (fig. 65).

References: Brown (1926); Brown (1978); Connaway (1987); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951); Starr (1984)

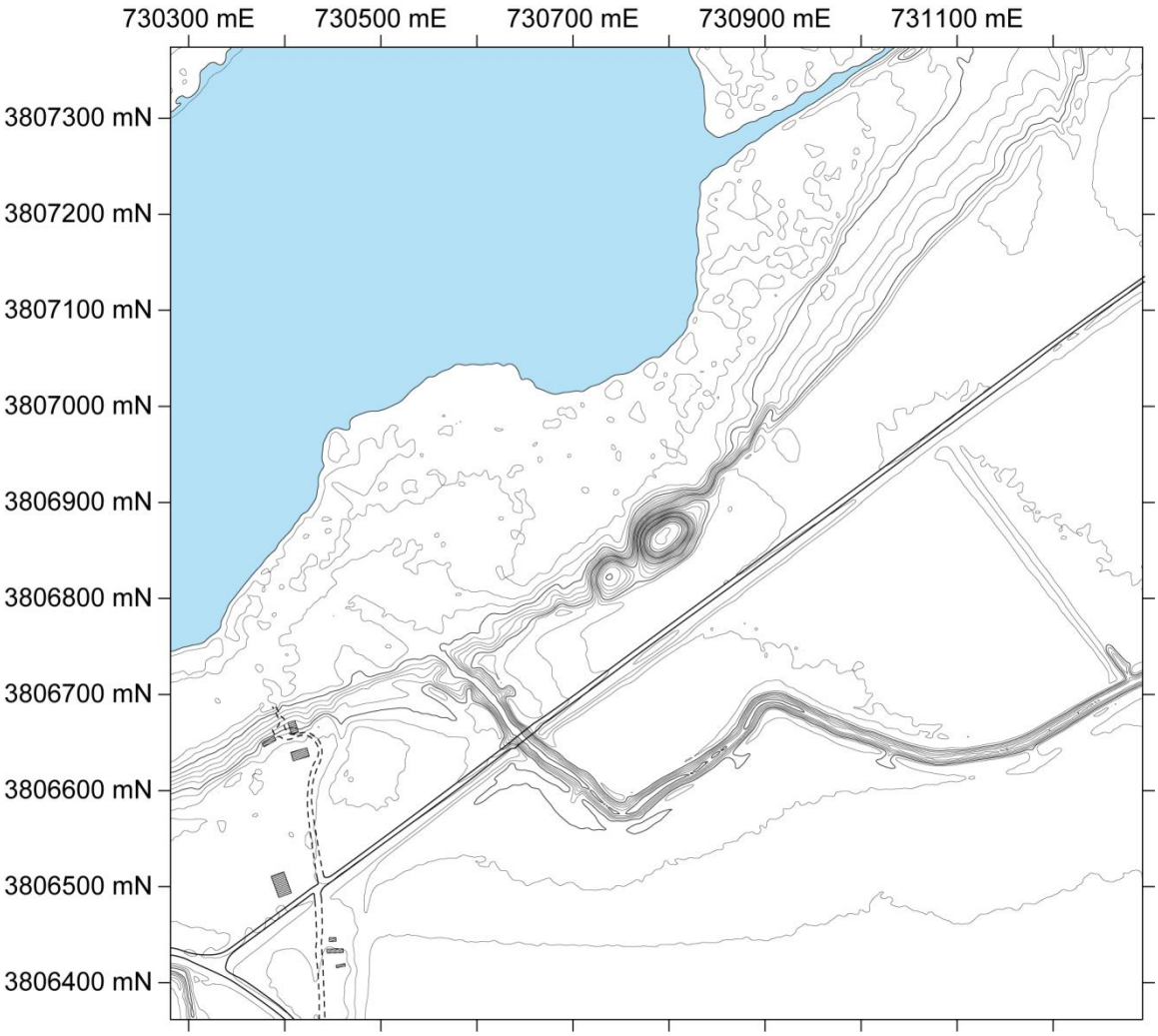

Figure 53 Salomon, contour map with cultural features.

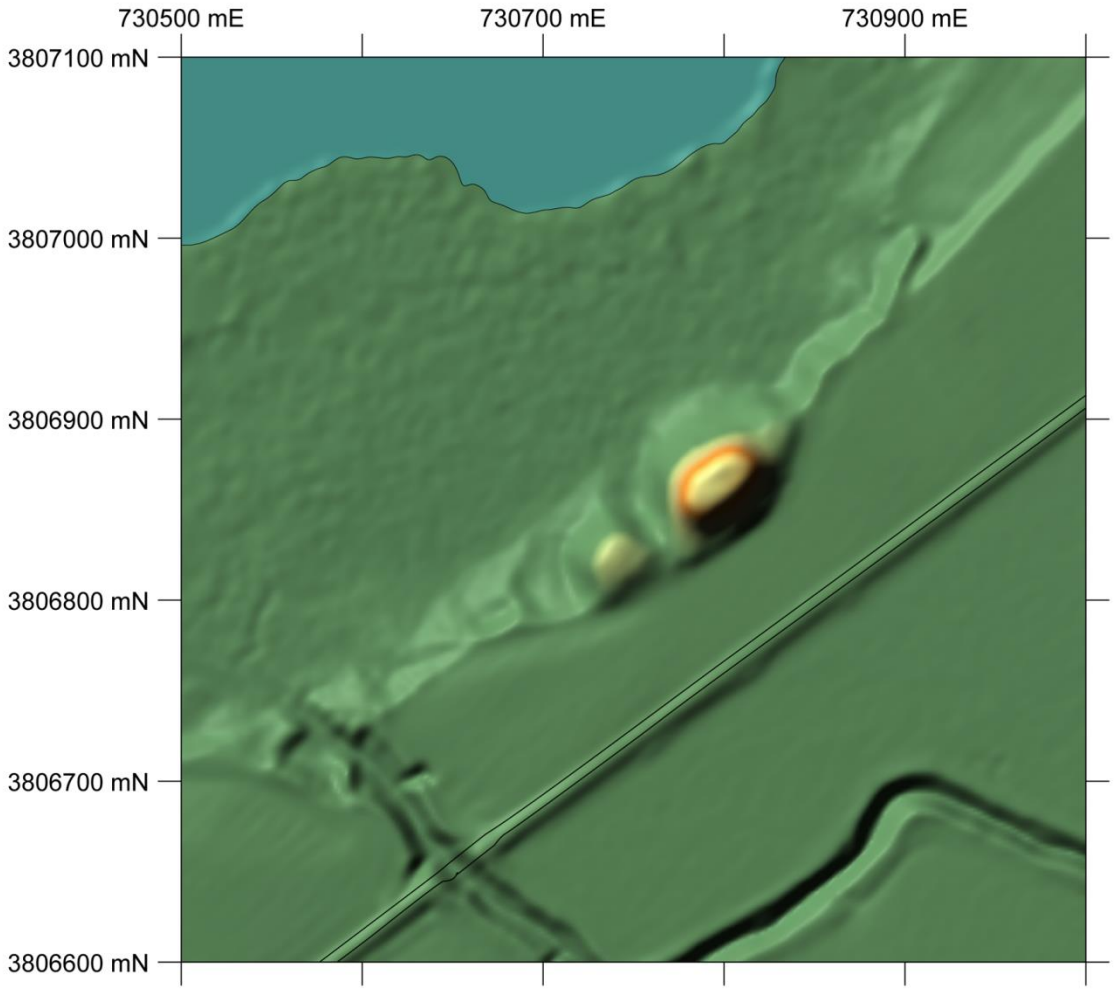

Figure 54 Salomon, shaded relief map with cultural features.

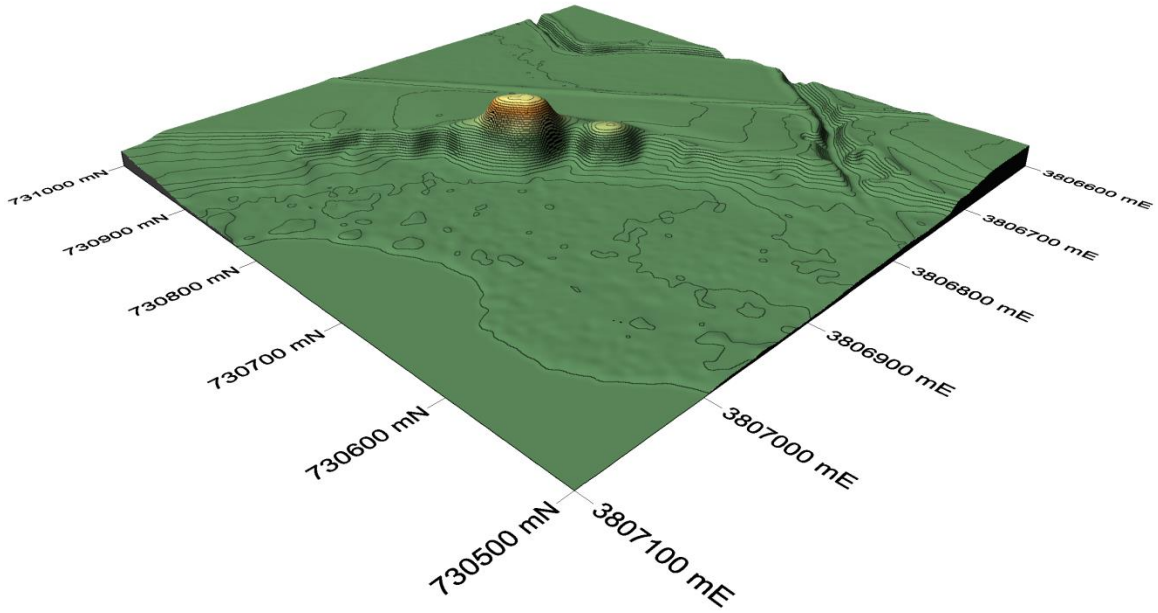

Figure 55 Salomon, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

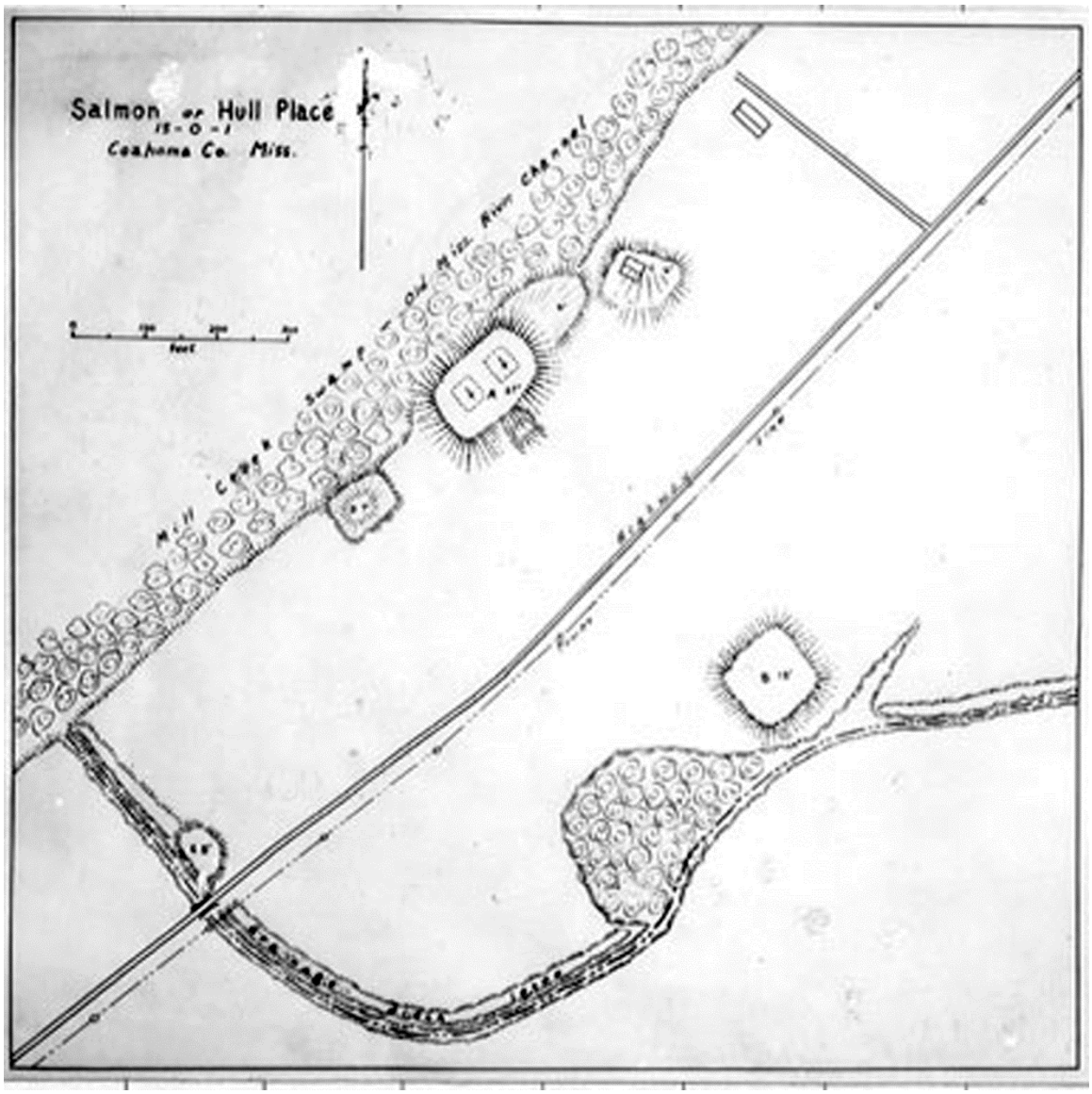

Figure 56 Salomon, LMS (Griffin, Ford) sketch map 1940, LMS Archives Online.

Figure 57 Salomon, Mound A, view to the northwest.

Radiocarbon dates from Evansville Mound A. Radiocarbon dates from Evansville Mound A.

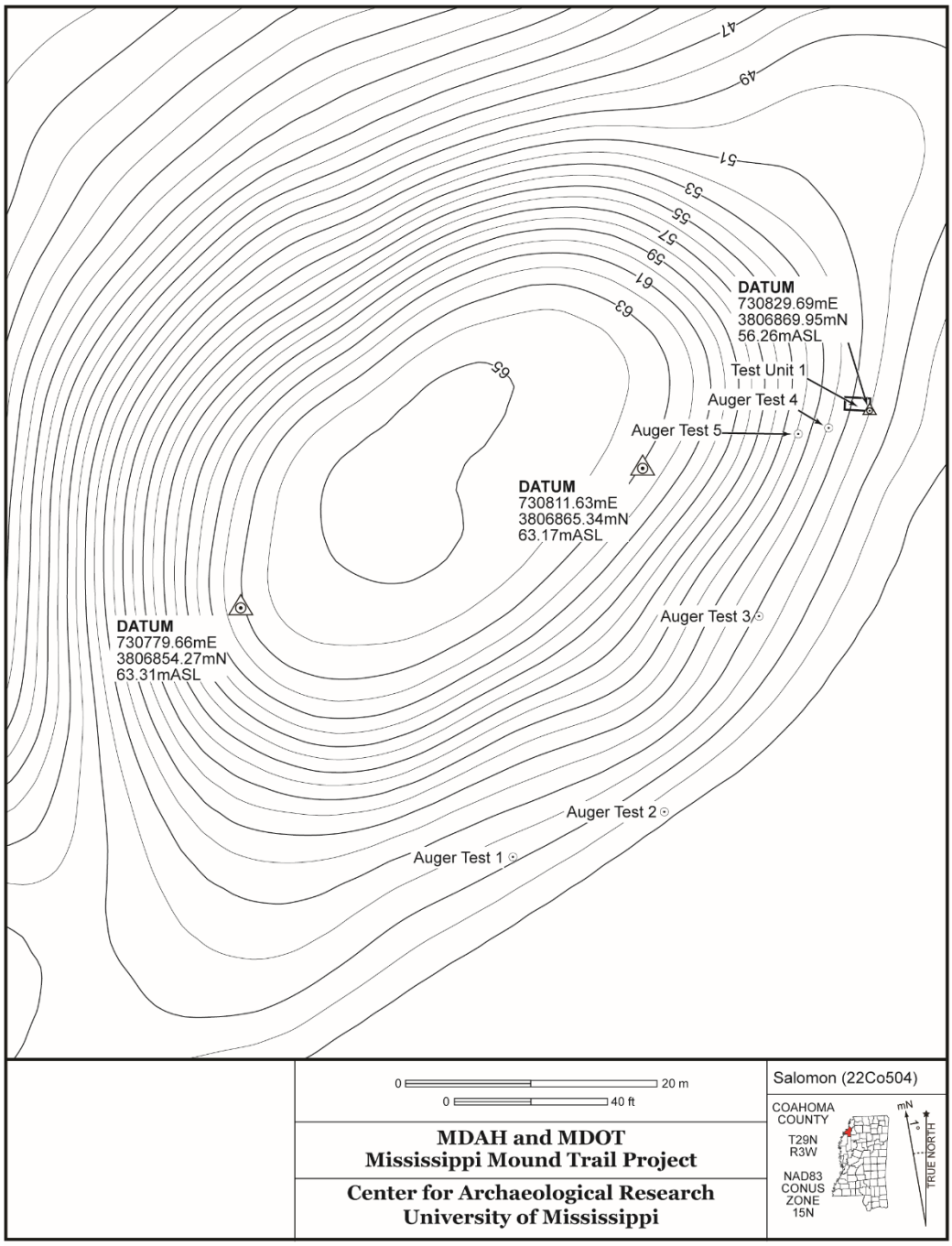

Figure 58 Salomon, auger hole and slope trench locations.

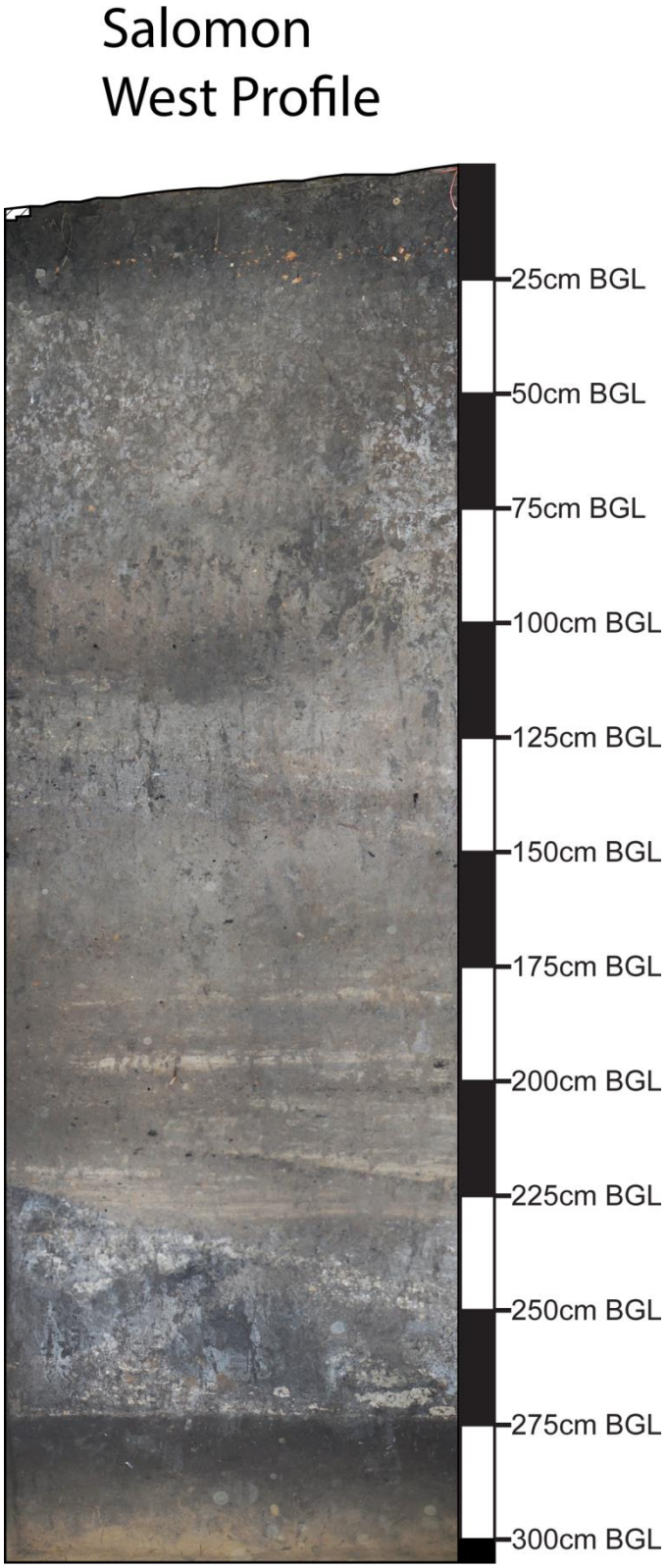

Figure 59 Salomon slope trench, photomosaic of west profile.

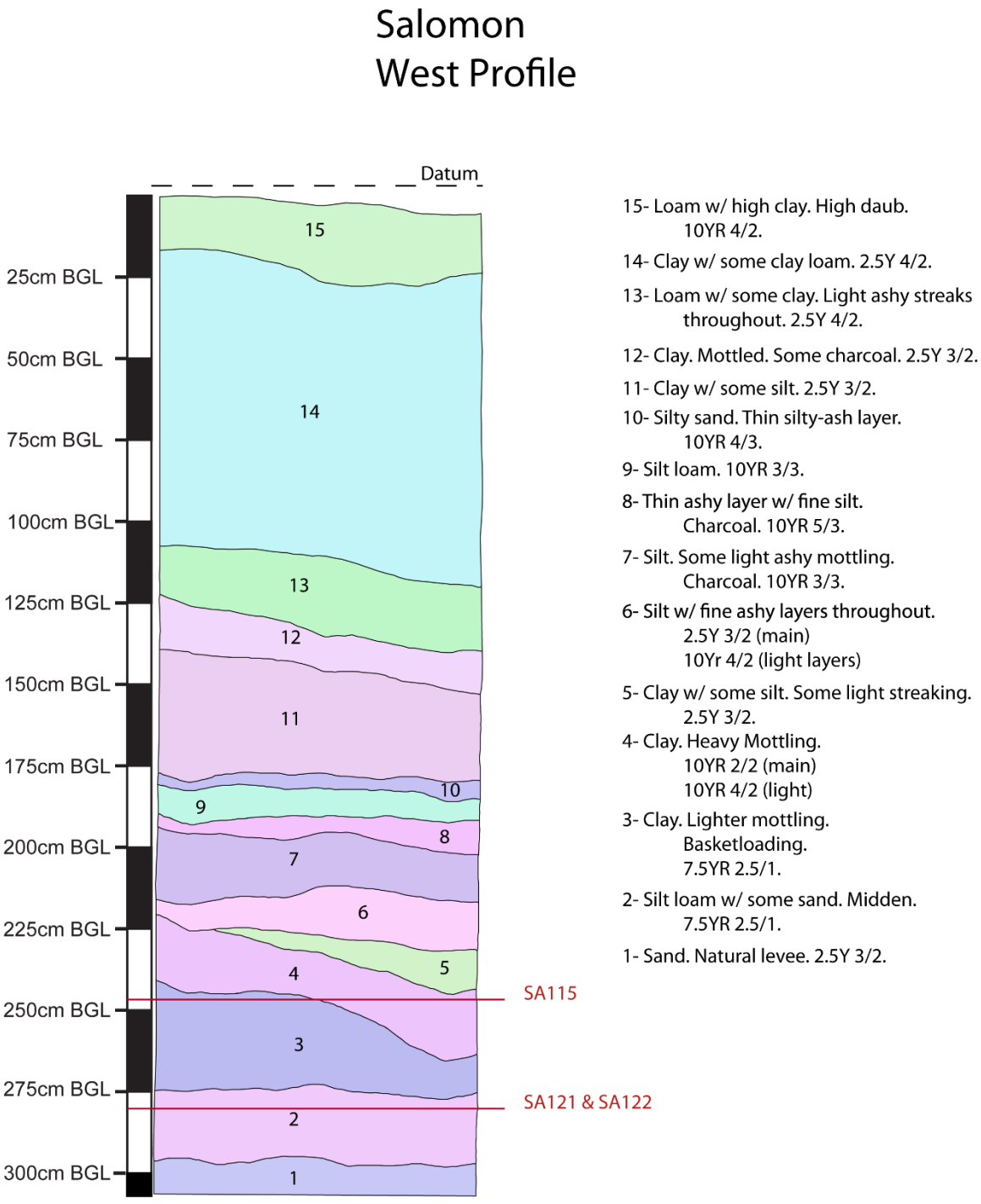

Figure 60 Salomon, west profile showing mound strata and radiocarbon sample locations.

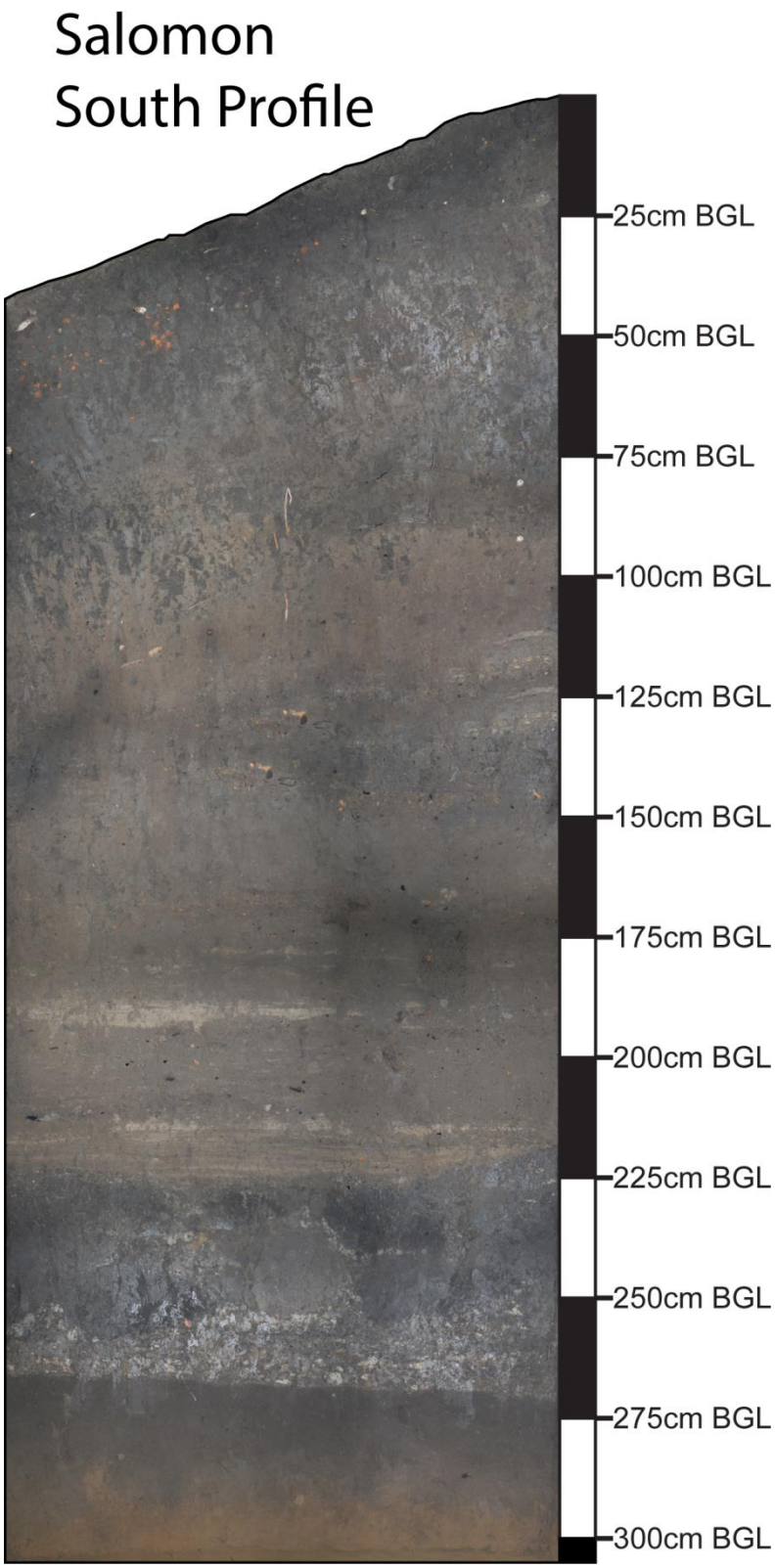

Figure 61 Salomon slope trench, photomosaic of south profile.

Salomon
South Profile

12- High clay loam, High daub. 10YR 4/2.

11- Clay w/ clay loam. Similar to 10 w/o steaking. 2.5Y4/2.

10- Clay w/ some silt. Mottled Streaking. Charcoal. 2.5Y 3/2.

9- Clay silt. 2.5Y 3/2.

8- Silty sand. 10YR 3/3.

7- Silt loam. 10YR 3/3.

6- Silt. Chracoal and ash. 10YR 5/3.

5- Silt. Mottled. Charcoal. 10YR 3/3.

4- Multiple layers of fine ashy silt.
2.5Y 3/2 (main)
10YR 4/2 (lighter streaks)

3- Clay. Heavy mottling. Basketloads.
10YR 4/2 (main)
5Y 2.5/2 (basketloads)

2- Silt loam w/ some sand. Midden.
7.5YR 2.5/1.

1- Sand. Natural levee. 2.5Y 3/2.

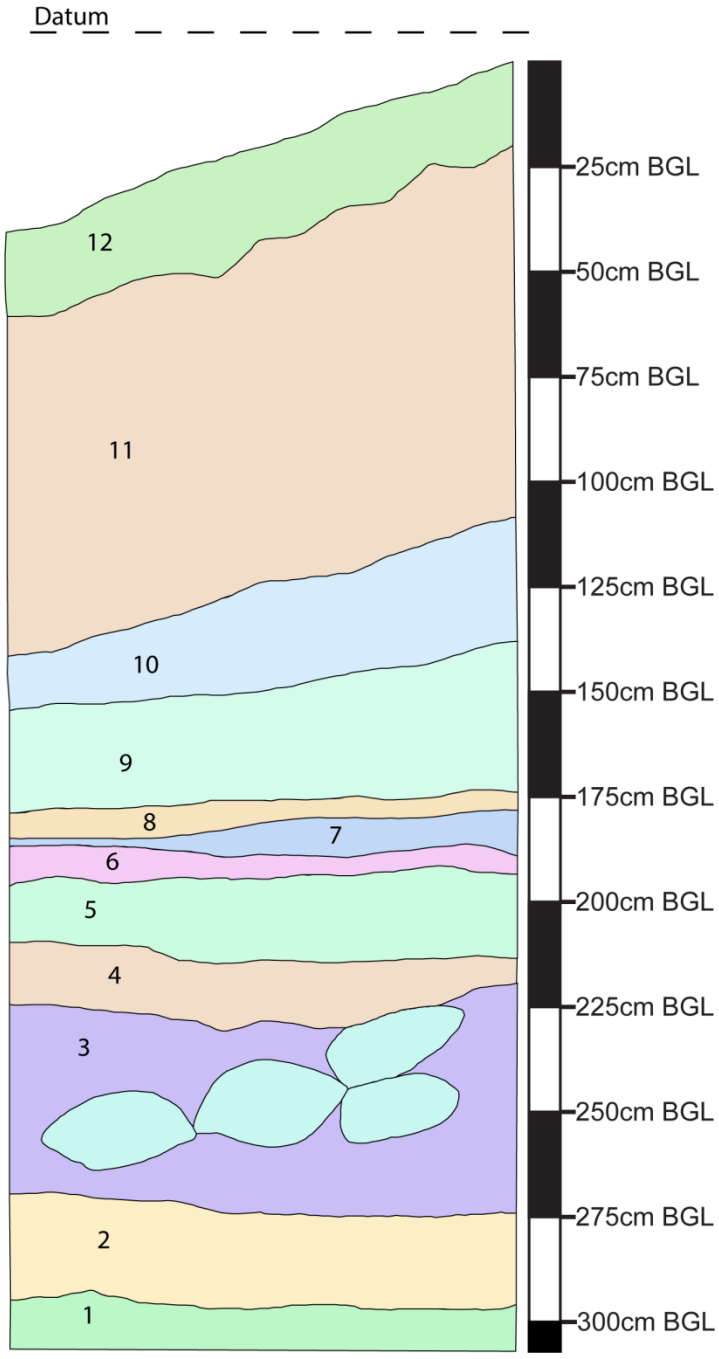

Figure 62 Salomon, south profile showing mound strata.

Table 10 Salomon artifacts, upper levels.

Ceramics	0-10	10-20	20-42	42-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100	100-130
Barton Incised, Unspecified									1	
Bell Plain, Bell										
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry			2	1		3	3	1	1	22
Alligator Incised, Alligator										
Baytown Plain, Unspecified	1	1	1	1	0	4	5	3		10
Larto Red, Larto										
Marksville Stamped, Marksville										
Marksville Stamped, Mabin										
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards										1
Salomon Brushed, Salomon										
Withers Fabric Marked, Withers										
Cross Hatched Rim										
Unspecified Incised								1		
Lithics										
Flakes			1	1						
Angular Fracture						1		1	1	
Thermal Shatter										
Quartz Crystal										
Historic Artifacts										
Brick					1					
Glass					1		1			

Table 11 Salomon artifacts, lower levels.

Ceramics	130-160	160-190	190-220	220-230	230-240	240-250	250-280	280-300	300-315
Barton Incised, Unspecified									
Bell Plain, Bell			5						
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry	8	5	10		1				
Alligator Incised, Alligator									
Baytown Plain, Unspecified	6	25	23	12	10	5	5	21	6
Larto Red, Larto					2				
Marksville Stamped, Marksville		1							
Marksville Stamped, Mabin									1
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards	1	9	22	5	4	2	3	21	
Salomon Brushed, Salomon		1	1	1	1	2			
Withers Fabric Marked, Withers			1					4	
Cross Hatched Rim								1	
Unspecified Incised									
Lithics									
Flakes			1	3				12	
Angular Fracture			2						
Thermal Shatter								1	
Quartz Crystal			1						
Historic Artifacts									
Brick									
Glass			1						

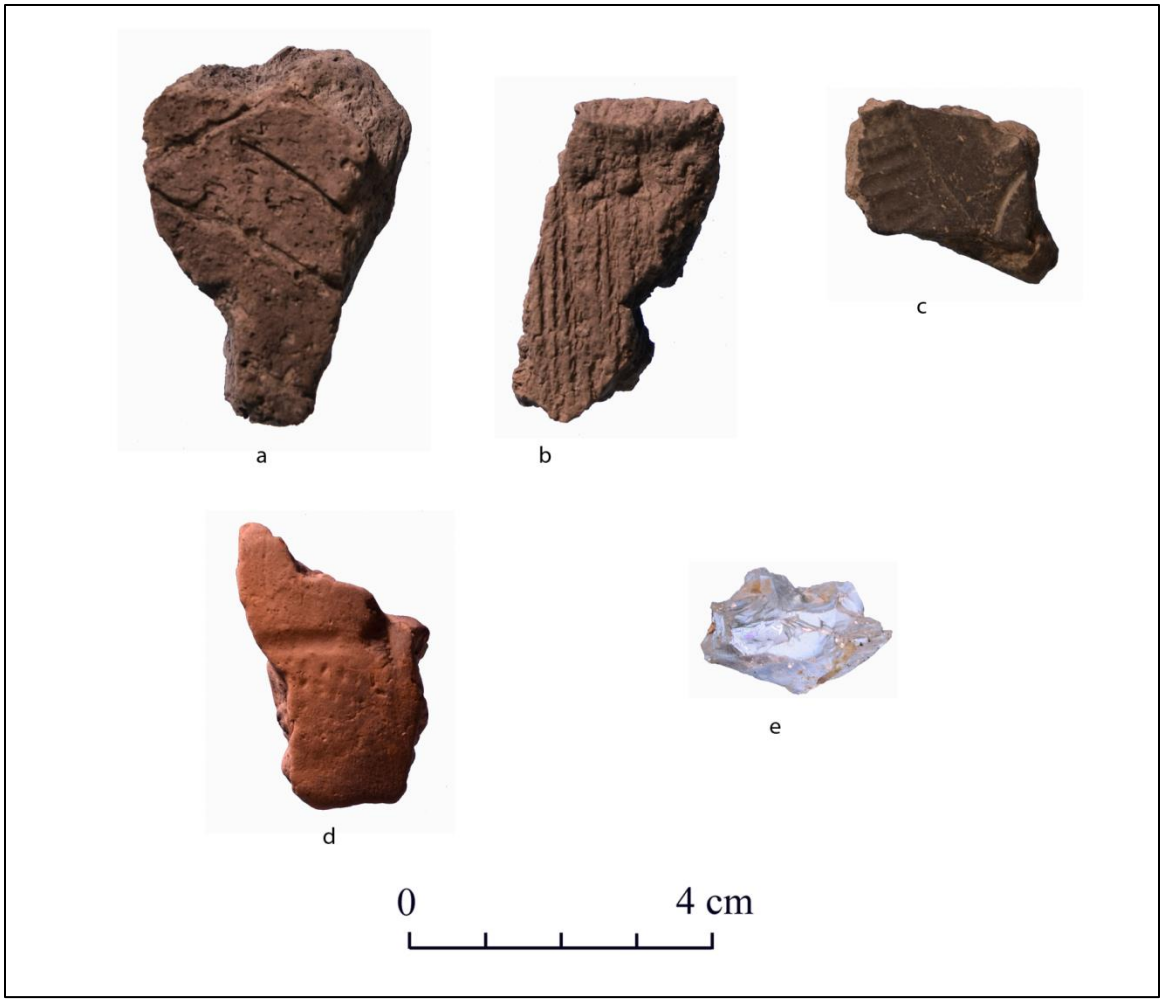

Figure 63 Salomon artifacts; Barton Incised, *var. Barton*, a; Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, *var. Edwards*, b; Marksville Stamped, *var. Marksville*, c; Marksville Stamped, *var. Mabin*, d; quartz crystal fragment, e.

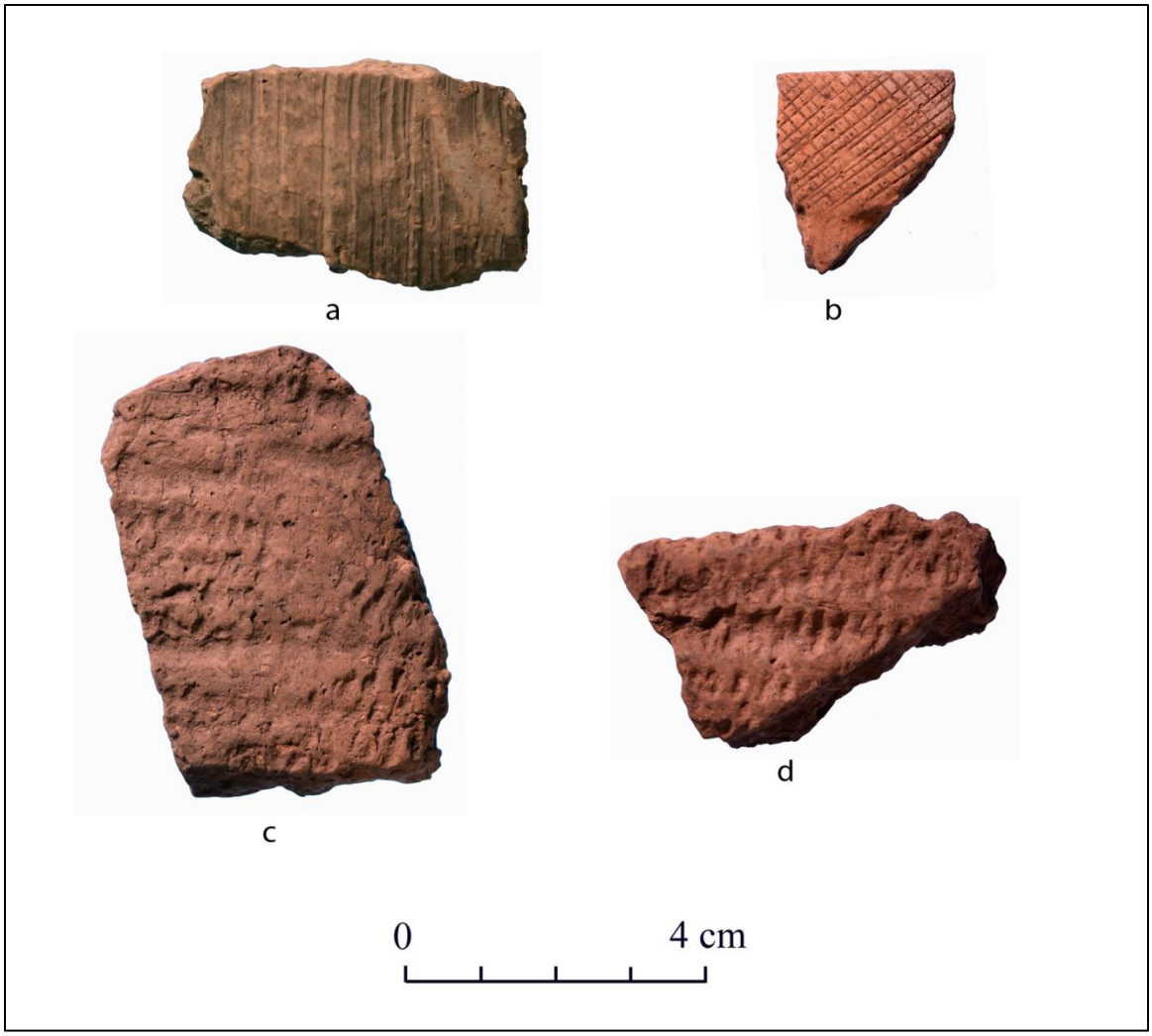

Figure 64 Salomon ceramics; Salomon Brushed, *var. Salomon*, a; crosshatched rim, b; Withers Fabric Marked, *var. Withers*, c, d.

Table 12 Radiocarbon dates from Salomon.

Site/Sample	Lvl/cmbd	Material	Context	2 SIGMA CALIBRATION
Salomon 22Co504SA115	Level 14 (220-230)	wood charcoal	mound fill	Cal AD 1220 to 1285 (Cal BP 730 to 665)
Salomon 22Co504SA121	Level 18 (280-300)	wood charcoal	premound midden	Cal AD 715 to 745 (Cal BP 1235 to 1205) and Cal AD 765 to 890 (Cal BP 1185 to 1060)
Salomon 22Co504SA122	Level 18 (280-300)	wood charcoal	premound midden	Cal AD 690 to 750 (Cal BP 1260 to 1200) and Cal AD 760 to 885 (Cal BP 1190 to 1065)

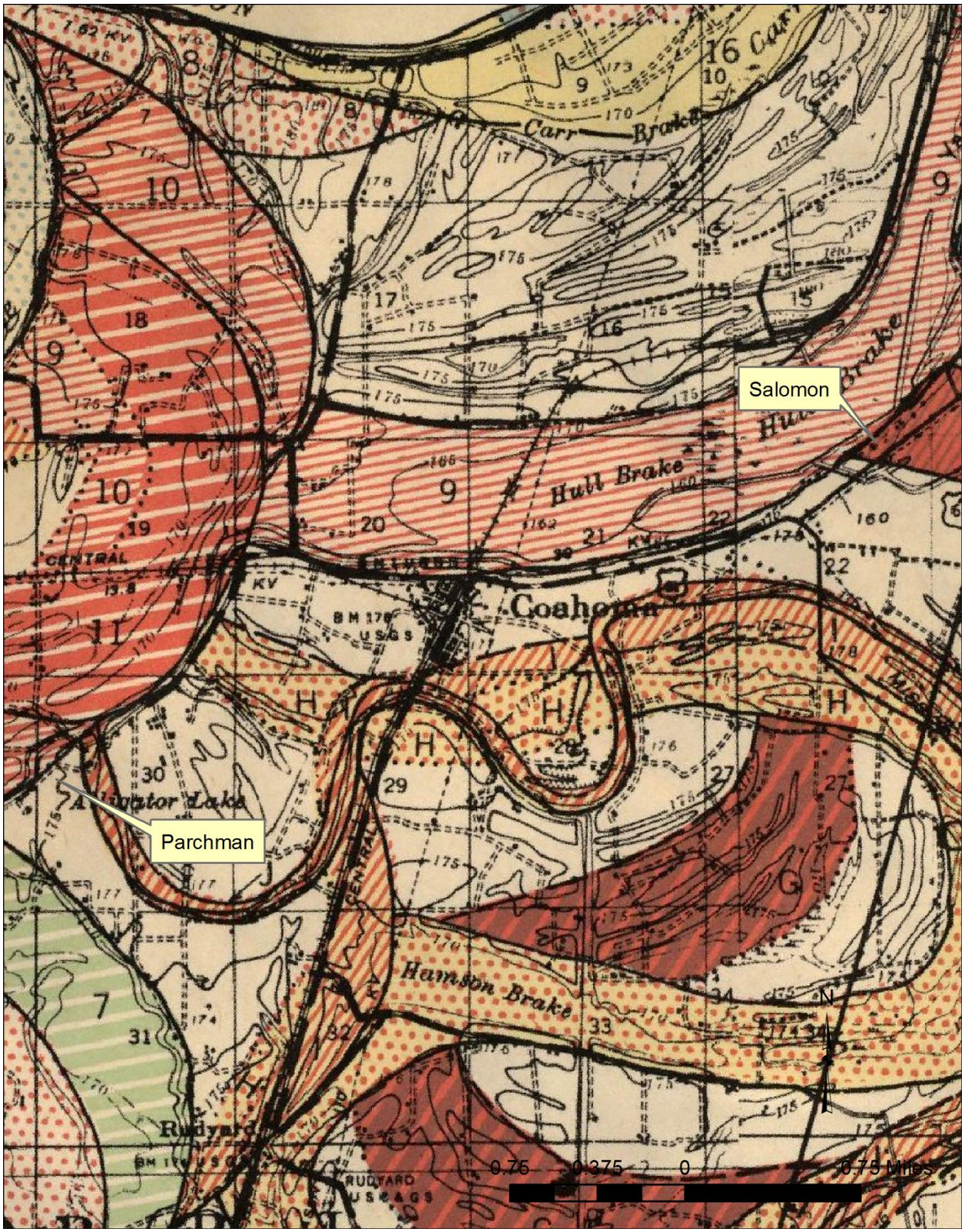

Figure 65 Salomon and Parchman site locations, Fisk Channel Stages (1944:Plate 22, Sheet 6).

Dunn (22 Co 632)

Other Names: 16-O-1 (LMS); 22-Qu-680

Location: Coahoma County (Quitman in LMS): Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 14, Township 27 North, Range 3 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 732633E, 3789043N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Sabino, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1967. Tutwiler, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1969.

Site Description: The Dunn site consists of three mounds. Mound A is large oval-shaped mound measuring approximately 91m long by 30m wide and 5m tall. Mounds B and C appear as short rises less than 1m high. Modern houses and farm buildings are located among the mounds with one residence sitting on top the low rise which was Mound B.

History of Work: Phillips surveyed the Dunn site in 1940, noting prehistoric material around Mound C only. Phillips encountered abundant amounts of daub but few ceramic sherds in a cotton field east of Mound C.

Phillips (1970:904, Figure 445) assigned the Dunn Site to the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period.

Current Conditions: Mound A at the Dunn site is clearly visible despite apparent erosion damage to its south and east sides. Mounds B and C are much diminished, appearing as low rises. All of the mounds are wooded, while the surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Survey by Phillips in 1940
- Sherd count in 1947: 94 sherds
- Site photos: Mound A from southwest (probably from northwest instead), North end of Mound A, Mound A from the southwest
- Sketch map

Mound Trail Excavations: Excavations at the Dunn site began on 28 June and were completed on 15 July 2013. Two 2x1 meter units were placed on the north side of Mound A, and were situated north/south. Unit 1 was lower on the slope (fig. 71). These units were both dug in 10cm levels and a ¼" screen was used when possible. A ½" screen was used when the high clay content made screening too difficult. Unit 1 went down to a depth of 160cmbs (figs72-75). Soils were predominantly clay and likely came from the backswamp across the highway to the north. Moderate amounts of daub came out of this

unit. The highest concentrations of daub came from three different strata; the uppermost around 20-30cmbd, a second at a depth of around 60-70cmbd, and a third at around 110cmbd. If daub represents structure burning at the mound summit with the refuse being pushed off the side of the mound, then this suggests that there were at least three distinct construction stages. This unit also revealed a thick (25cm) zone of mound wash. There were sporadic historic artifacts, mainly glass and iron, from the surface to a depth of 120cmbd, suggesting a good deal of historic disturbance.

Unit 2 at was located to the south and east of Unit 1 in order to provide a better view of mound stratigraphy. This unit showed some of the clearest examples of basket loading found in the 2013 excavations. This unit went down to a depth of 250cmbd (figs. 76-79). Again we dug in 10cm levels and screened with the ¼" screen when possible and the ½" screen when we had to. A large amount of daub was found as well. The daub was fairly evenly distributed from the surface to about 100cm, after that very little was found. The levels above 100cm appears to be mound wash. These upper strata may have been prehistorically eroded, or may be more modern disturbances. A large number of historic artifacts came from the upper 80cm, suggesting a modern disturbance.

The ceramic assemblages from the two test pits show a mix of Woodland and Mississippian types (Tables 14, 15; fig. 80). Since all of the ceramics are from mound fill this could easily be interpreted as a Mississippian mound built using soil borrowed from a Late Woodland and Mississippian village area. However, only 6 of 73 grog tempered sherds are Mulberry Creek Cord Marked. This, taken in combination with the two 12th century radiocarbon dates, raises the possibility that the ceramic assemblage from the mound dates to the beginning of the Mississippian period, a time when both shell and grog were used to temper ceramics and cord marking was dropping out.

References: Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

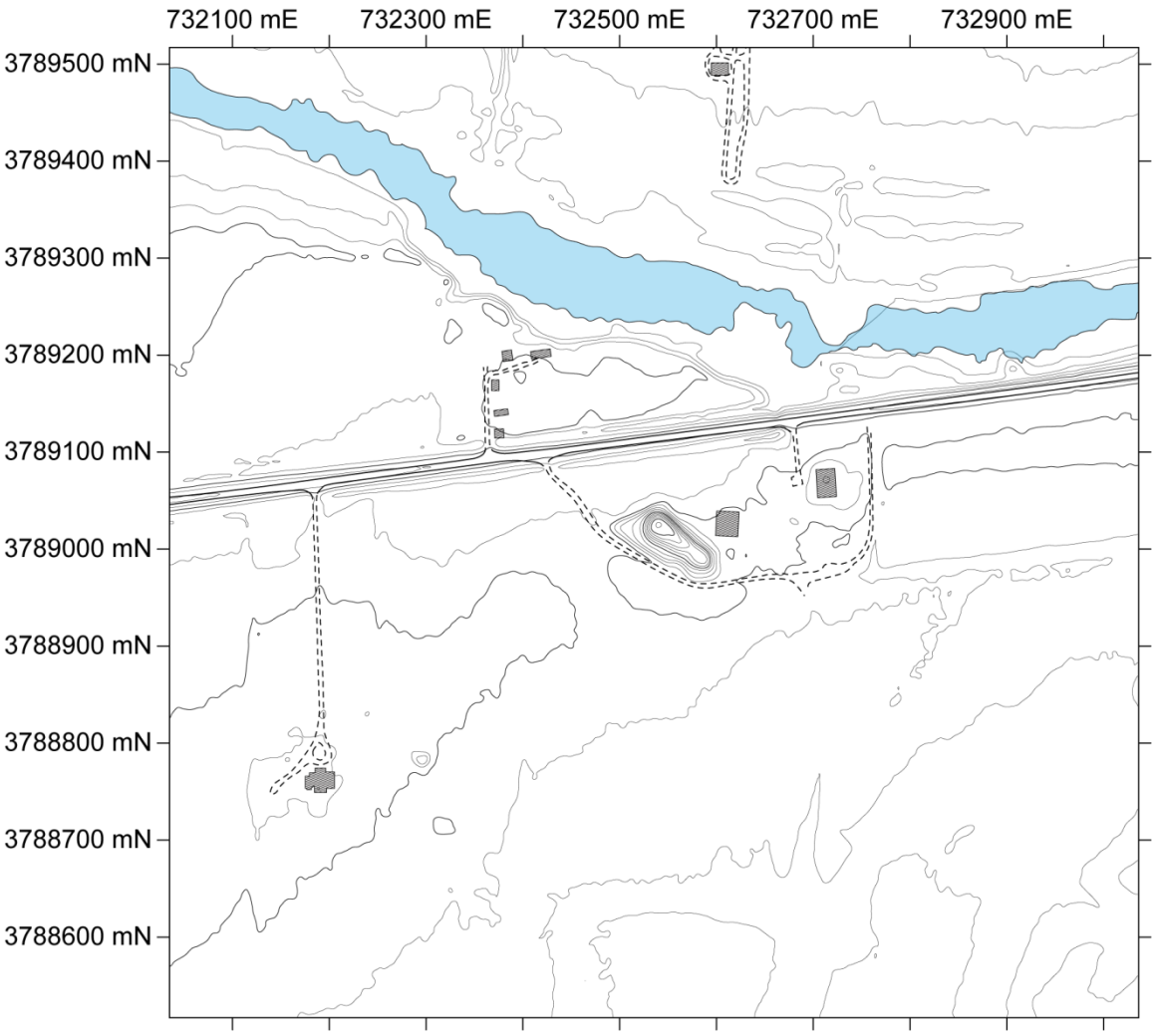

Figure 66 Dunn, contour map with cultural features.

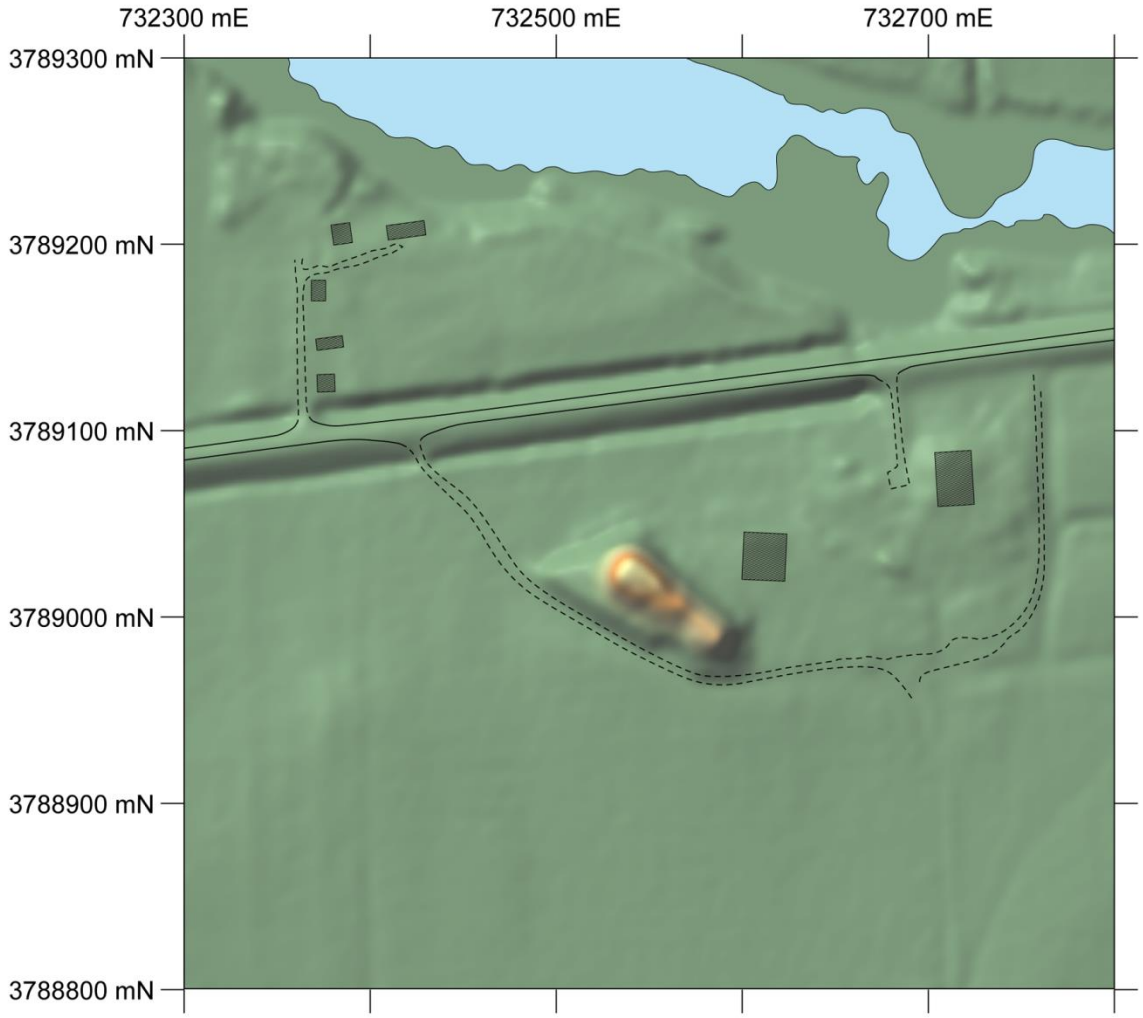

Figure 67 Dunn, shaded relief with cultural features.

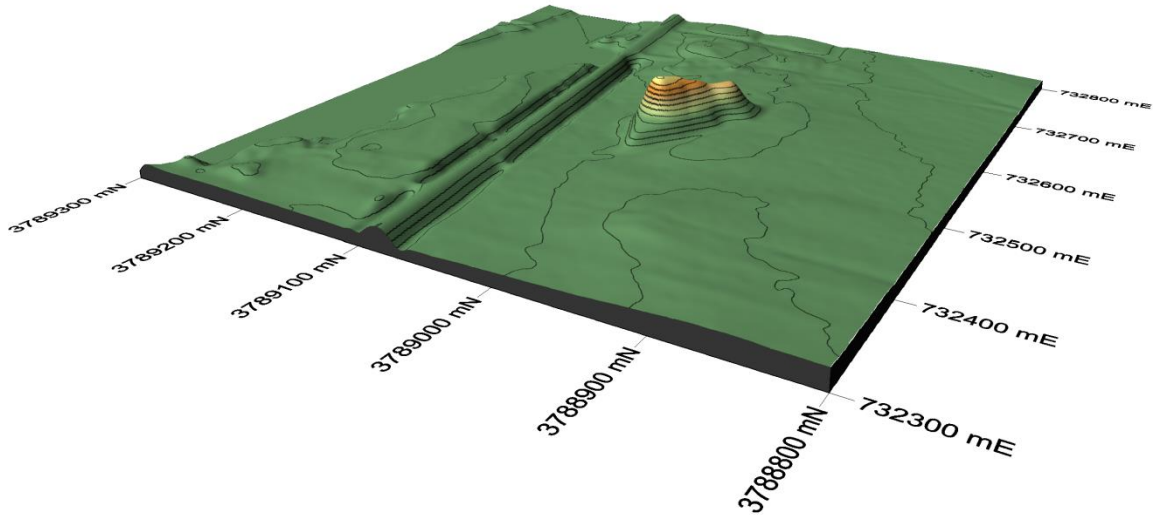

Figure 68 Dunn, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

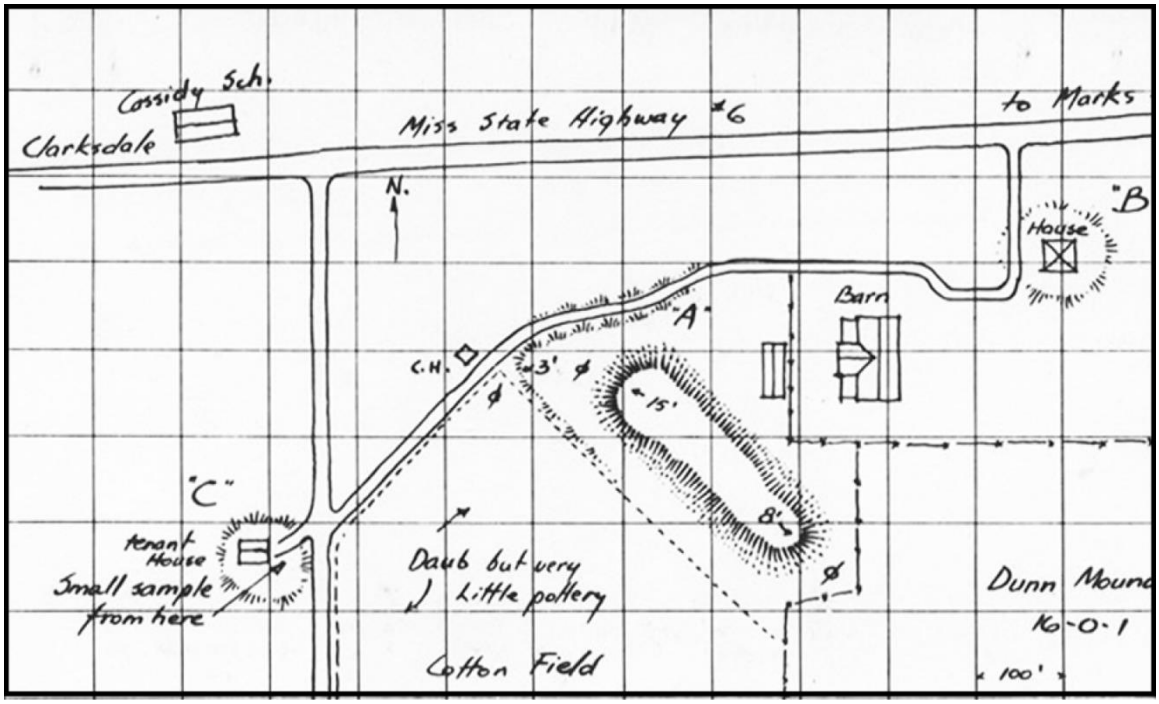

Figure 69 LMS (Phillips) sketch map 1940, LMS Archives Online.

Figure 70 Dunn, Mound A, view to the southeast.

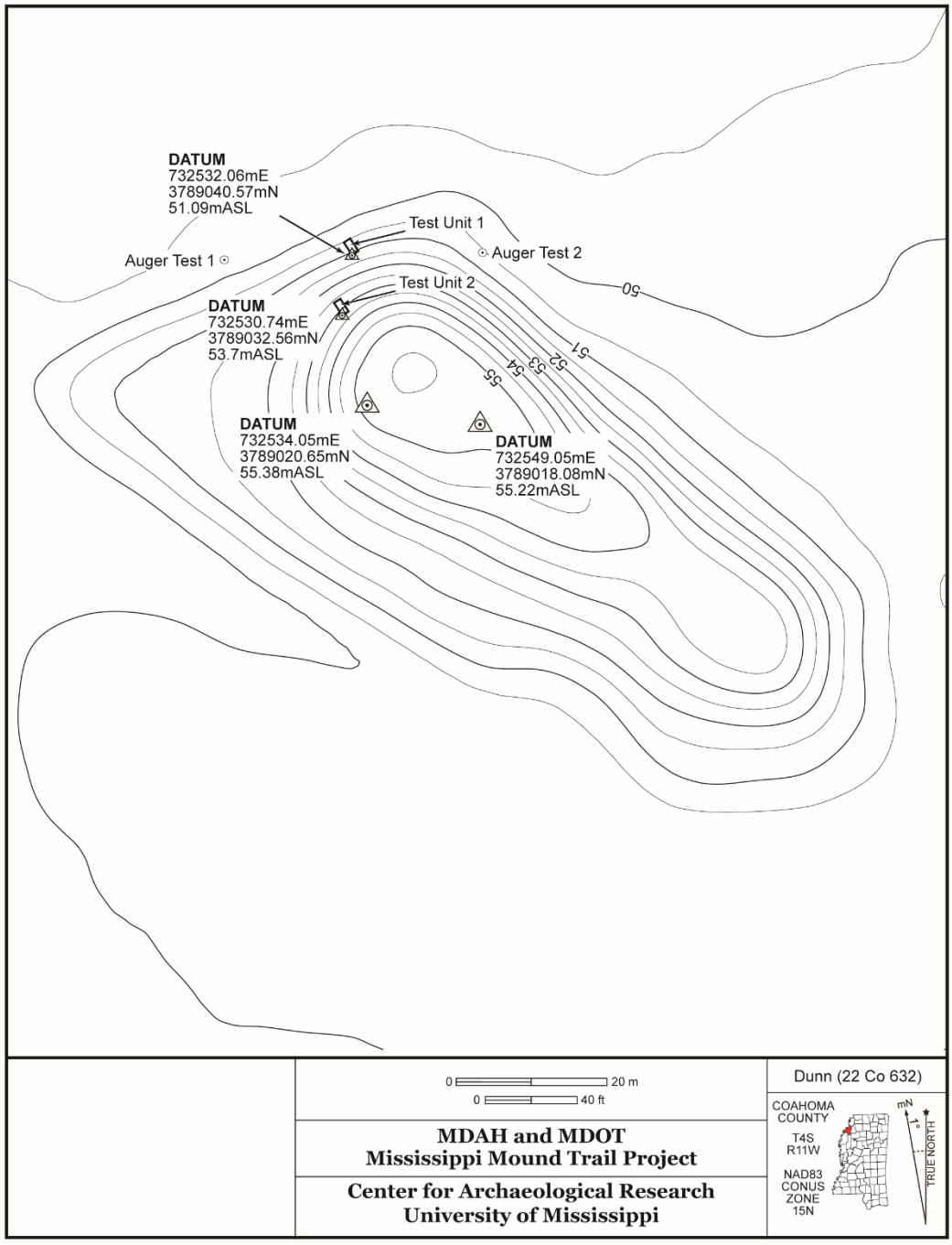

Figure 71 Dunn Mound A, auger hole and slope trench locations.

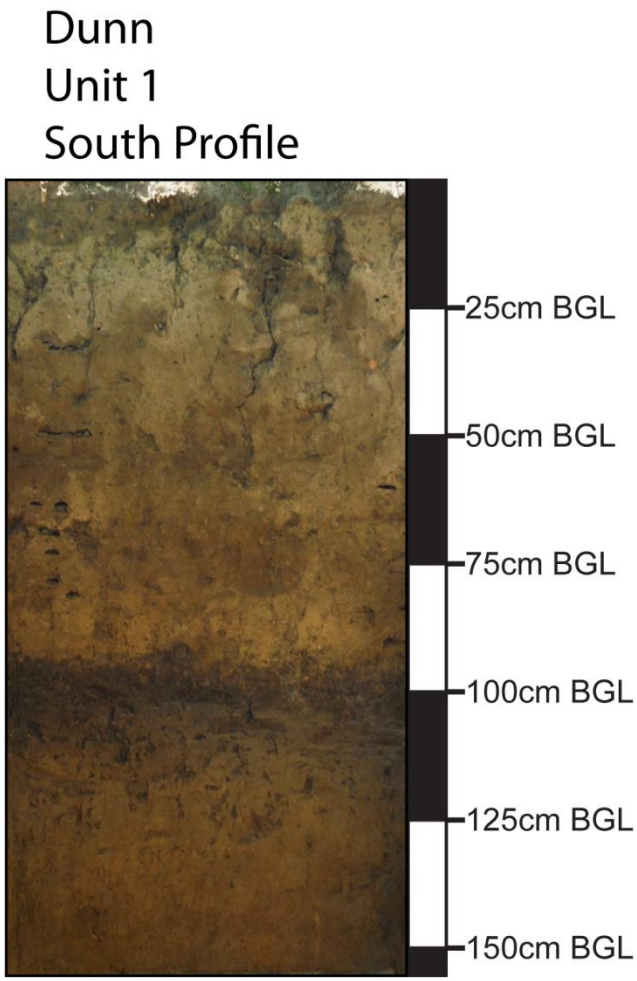

Figure 72 Dunn, Unit 1, south profile photomosaic.

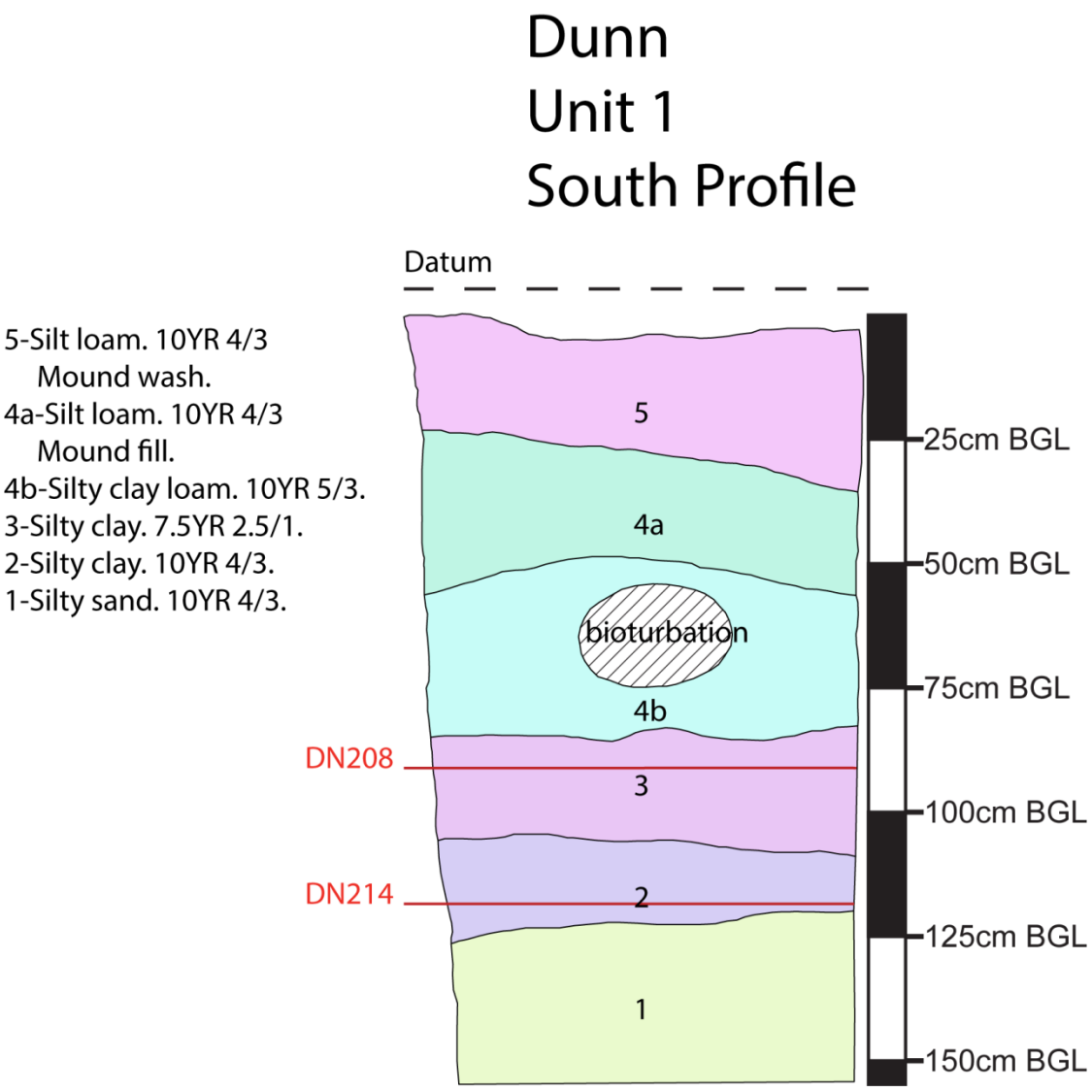

Figure 73 Dunn, Unit 1, south profile showing mound strata and radiocarbon sample locations.

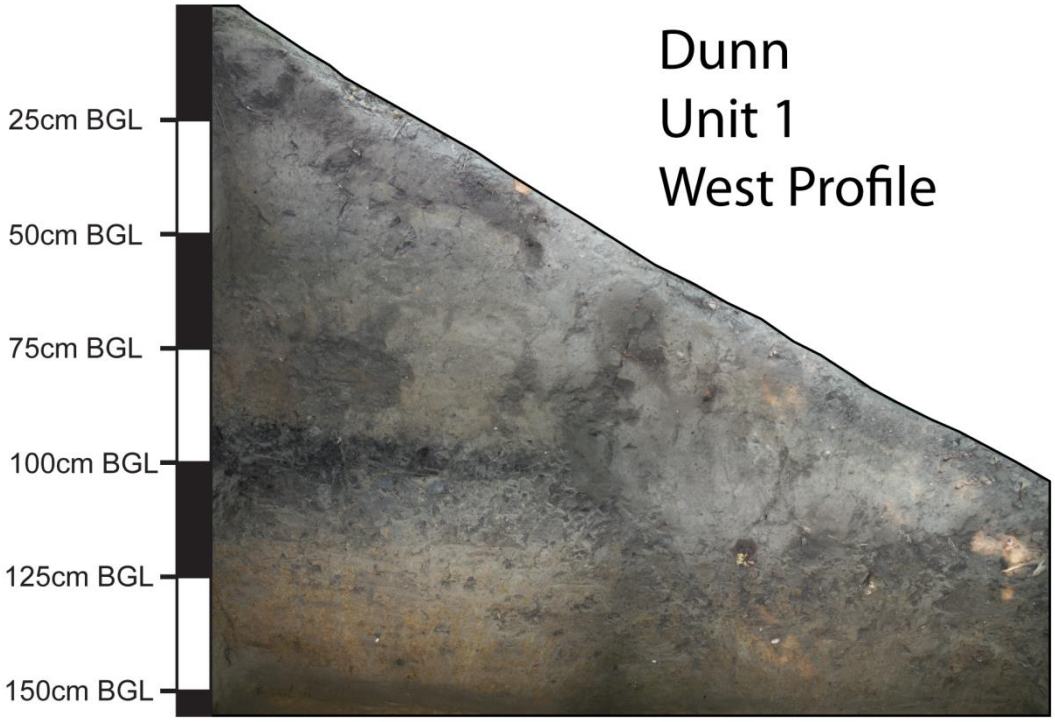

Figure 74 Dunn, Unit 1, west profile photomosaic.

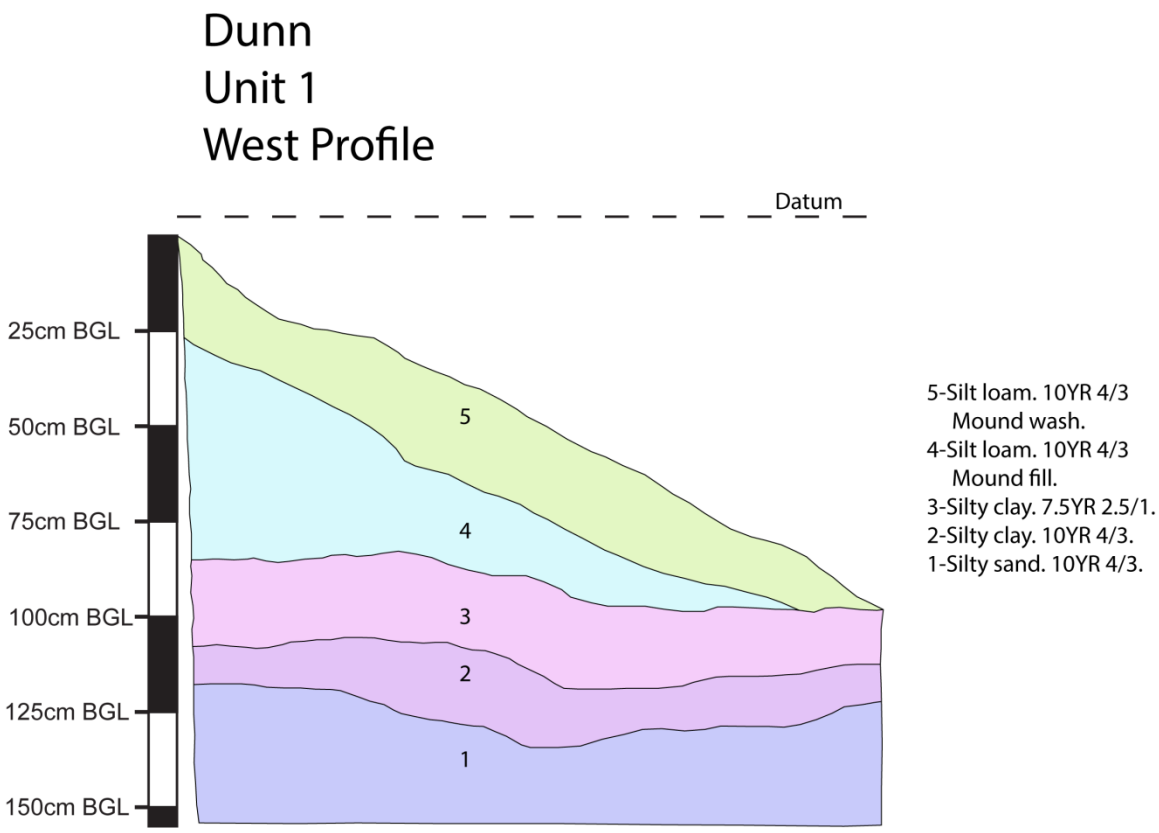

Figure 75 Dunn, Unit 1, west profile showing mound strata.

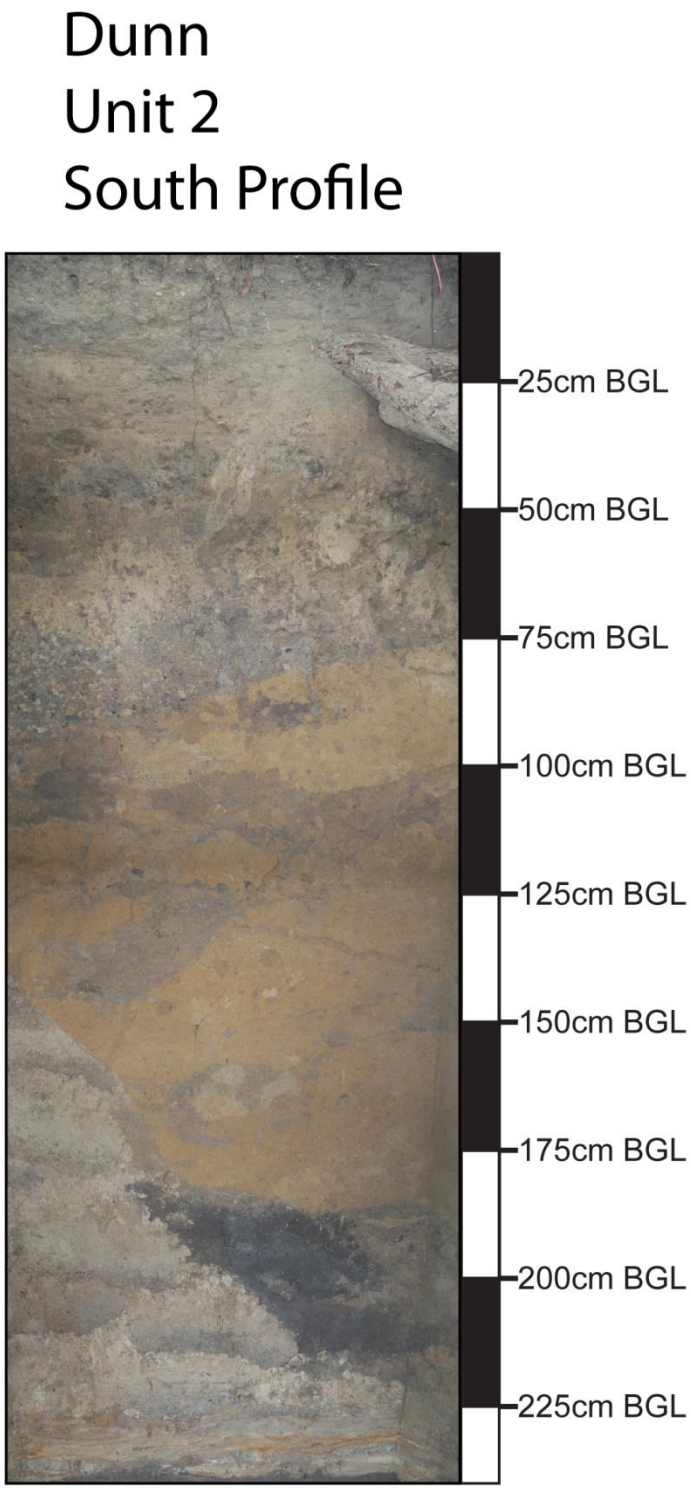

Figure 76 Dunn, Unit 2, south profile photomosaic.

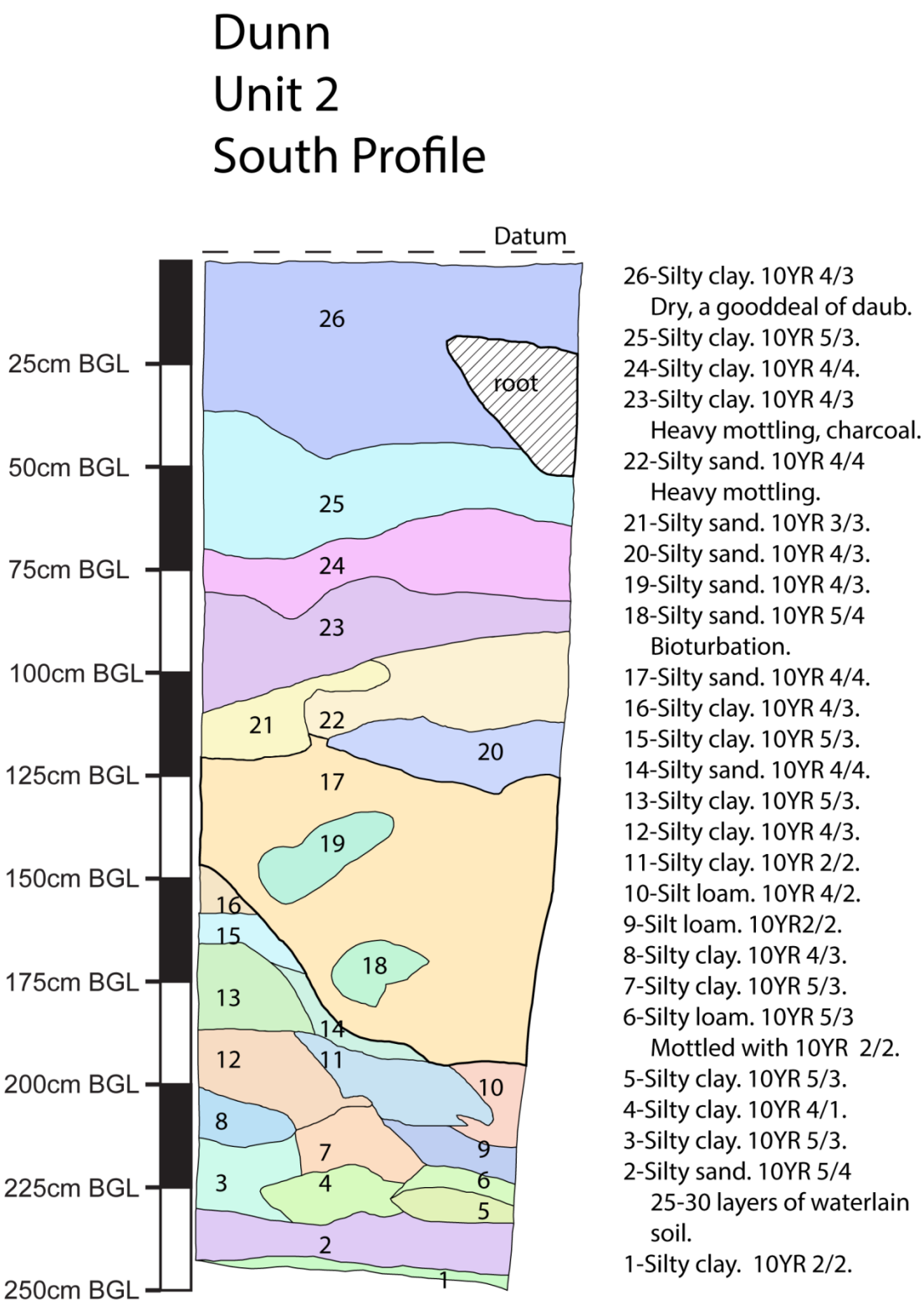

Figure 77 Dunn, Unit 2, south profile showing mound strata.

Figure 78 Dunn, Unit 2, west profile photomosaic.

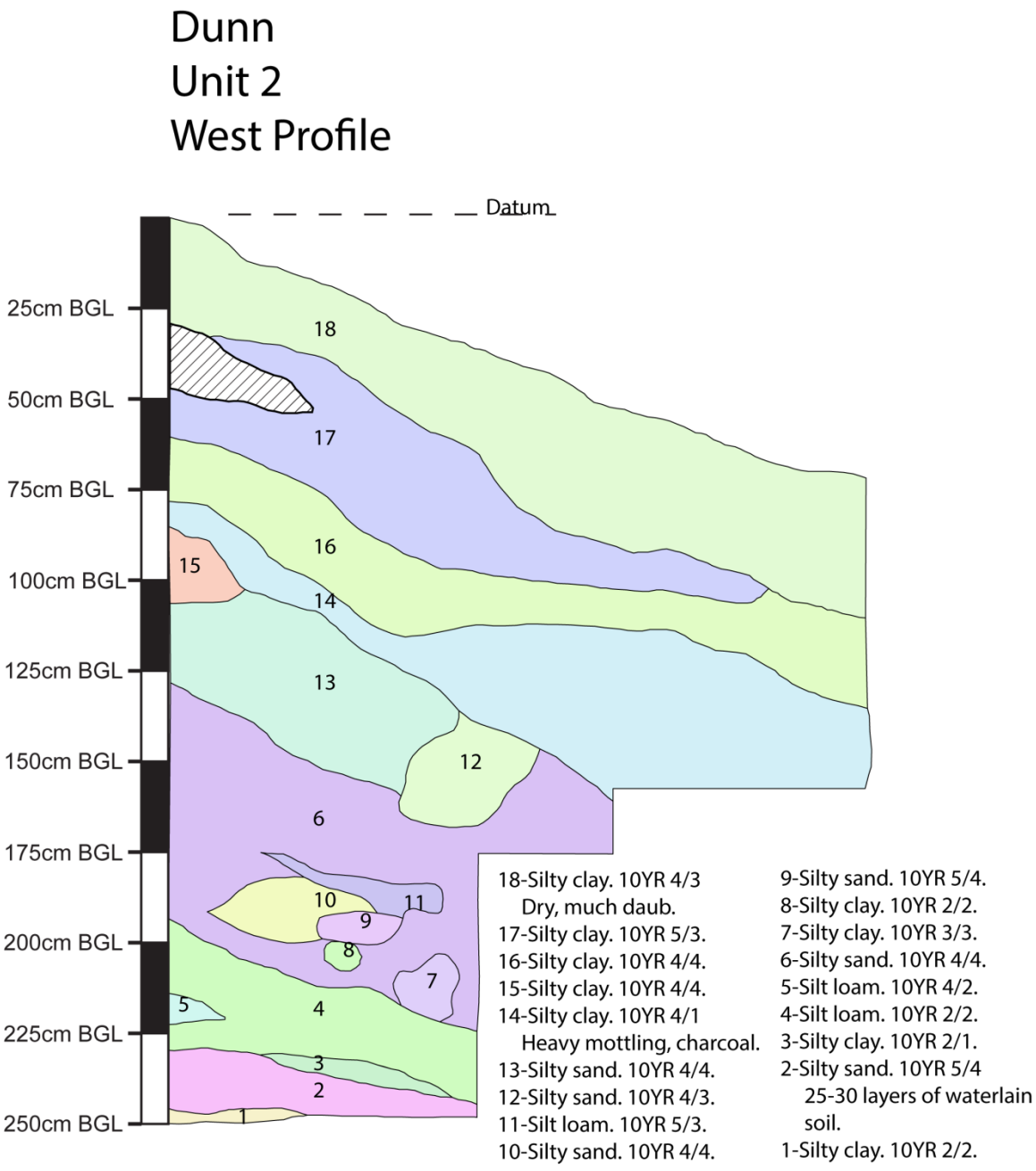

Figure 79 Dunn, Unit 2, west profile showing mound strata.

Table 13 Radiocarbon dates from Dunn.

Site/Sample	Lvl/cmbd	Material	Context	2 SIGMA CALIBRATION
Dunn 22Co632DN208	Level 8 (80-90)	wood charcoal	mound fill	Cal AD 1160 to 1265 (Cal BP 790 to 685)
Dunn 22Co632DN214	Level 11 (110-120)	wood charcoal	premound A horizon	Cal AD 1025 to 1190 (Cal BP 925 to 760)

Table 14 Dunn Unit 1 artifacts.

	0-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100	100-110
Ceramics										
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry		5	1	2		4	1			
Baytown Plain, Unspecified			2		3	5	1	2	2	2
Larto Red, Larto								1		
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards				1						
Lithics										
Flakes		1		1						
Historic Artifacts										
Glass						1				
Metal							1		1	

Table 15 Dunn Unit 2 artifacts.

	0-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100
Ceramics									
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry			2	1	2			1	1
Baytown Plain, Unspecified				1	4	1	3	4	3
Larto Red, Larto							1		
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards					2				
Unspecified Incised					1				
Lithics									
Flakes			2		2	1			2
Historic Artifacts									
Brick		3	6	1	5	1	4	4	
Glass			9	3	17	11	10		
Ceramics		1	3	2	8	3	3		
Metal			1		2		2	1	
	100-110	110-120	120-130	130-140	140-150	150-160	160-170	170-180	190-200
Ceramics									
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry	6	1	4	4	3	7	1		
Baytown Plain, Unspecified	4		3			3	2	1	2
Larto Red, Larto									
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards									2
Unspecified Incised									
Lithics									
Flakes	1		1						
Historic Artifacts									
Brick									
Glass									
Ceramics									
Metal									

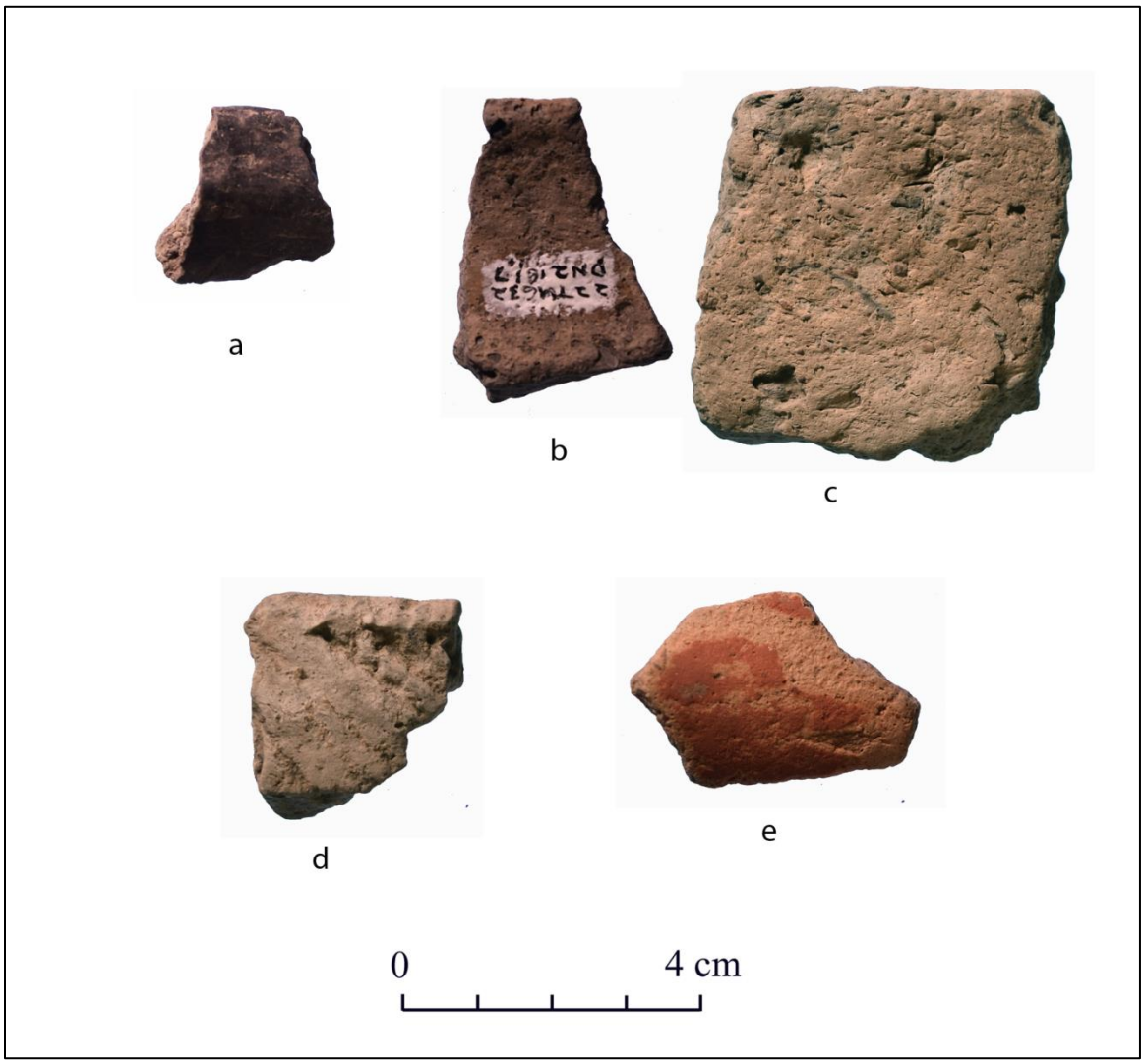

Figure 80 Dunn ceramics; Bell Plain, *var. Bell*, a; Mississippi Plain, *var. Neeley's Ferry*, b,c; Mulberry Creek Cordmarked, *var. Mulberry Creek*, d; Larto Red Filmed, *var. Larto*, e.

Bolivar County

Figure 81 Bolivar County Mound Trail Sites.

Christmas (22 Bo 515)

Other Names: 17-M-4 (LMS)

Location: Bolivar County: Northwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 35 Township 22 North, Range 8 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 687161E, 3738444N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Beulah, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1969.
Pace, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1970.

Site Description: The Christmas site consists of a small conical mound measuring approximately 25m in diameter and 3m in height. A historic period cemetery occupies the summit of the mound, which might help to explain its flattened appearance. The mound's immediate surroundings are completely devoid of prehistoric material.

History of Work: Phillips and Davis surveyed the Christmas site in 1941 and provided a brief description of the mound and its surroundings. The field around the mound was mostly in pasture and surface conditions were unfavorable for surface collecting but the field to the south of the mound was in cultivation and nothing was found there.

Current Conditions: The Christmas site mound clearly visible and in good shape despite the presence of a historic period cemetery at its summit. The mound is wooded and the fields around the site were land planed for rice during the winter of 2013-14.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Survey by Phillips and Davis

Mound Trial Excavations: Very little cultural material has ever been recovered from this mound. PFG mentions that there is almost no material in the surrounding fields.The field was planted in soy beans in 2013 with fair to excellent ground visibility. We found no prehistoric artifacts. Four auger test holes were dug at Christmas (fig. 87). One produced some chunks of charcoal at a depth of 21cmbs, followed by a darker clay soil at 174cmbs. This was the most likely of the holes to have a sub-mound midden so a 2x1 meter unit was placed in the vicinity. Our unit was oriented north/ south at the base of the mound. There was a 19th century marble gravestone near our unit, but it appears to have been pushed down the side of the mound and was oriented roughly north/ south, which is atypical of Christian burials as well as the rest of the graves at the summit of the mound.

We dug this mound in 30cm levels and used a ½" screen. We screened 33% of the soil. The final depth was 240cmbd (figs. 87-90). The soils were mostly clay and silt loam. There was some evidence of basket loading. This mound appears to have been built in a

single construction episode. There is no evidence of developed soils between stratas or even any water lain silts. Several charcoal samples were taken from a depth of 210cmbd.

The excavations produced small number of prehistoric artifacts (Table 17). Only three ceramic types were found, Mississippi Plain, Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, and Baytown Plain. However, these types showed apparent stratigraphic patterning within the mound. A mix of Mississippian and Woodland types were found in the first three levels while only Woodland types were found below that. This accords well the Woodland period radiocarbon date from the premound stratum. Keep in mind that we a talking about a total of only 29 sherds. Still, it is clear that Christmas is a Mississippian period mound built at a location with a small, earlier Woodland occupation.

References: Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

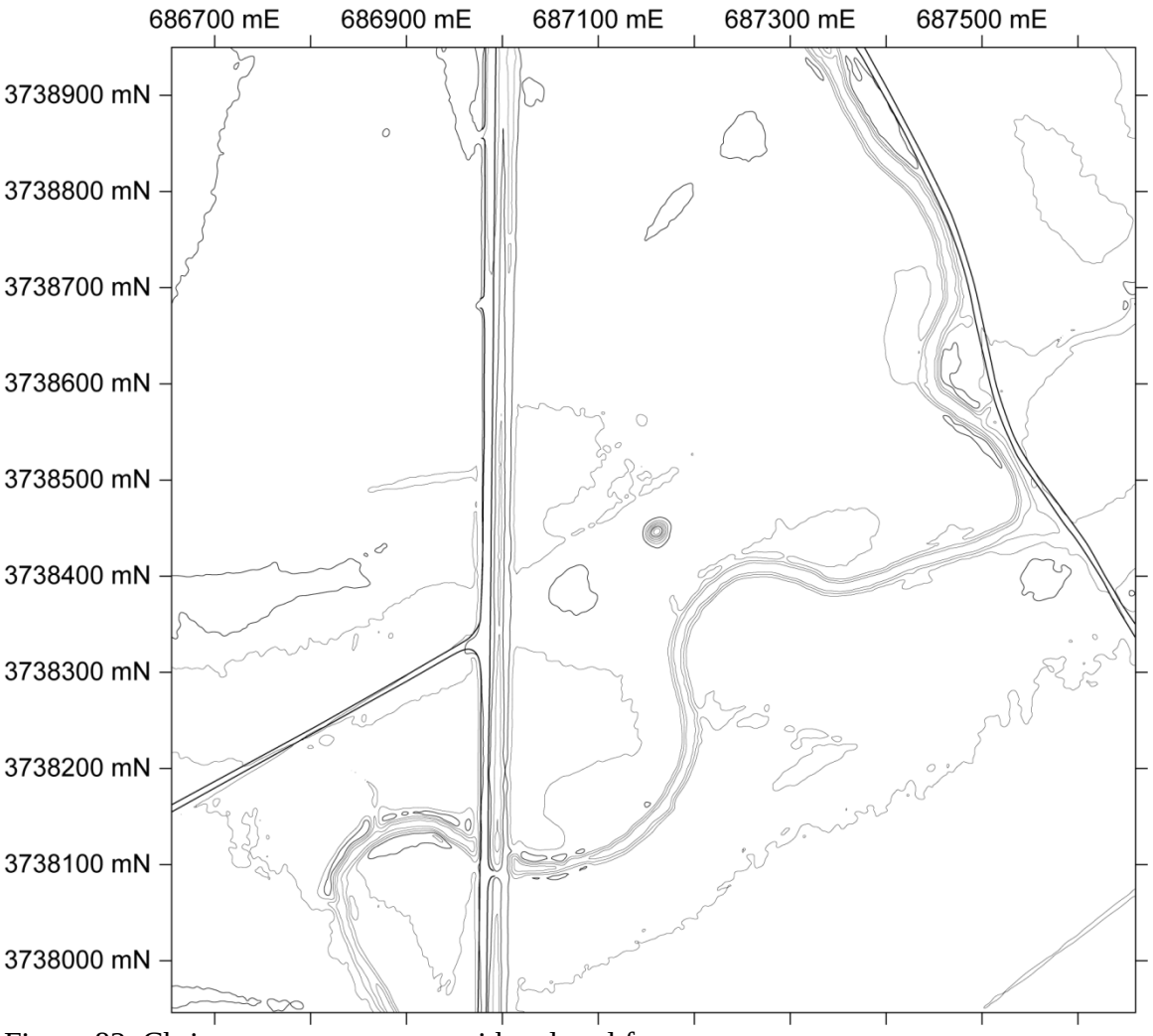

Figure 82 Christmas, contour map with cultural features.

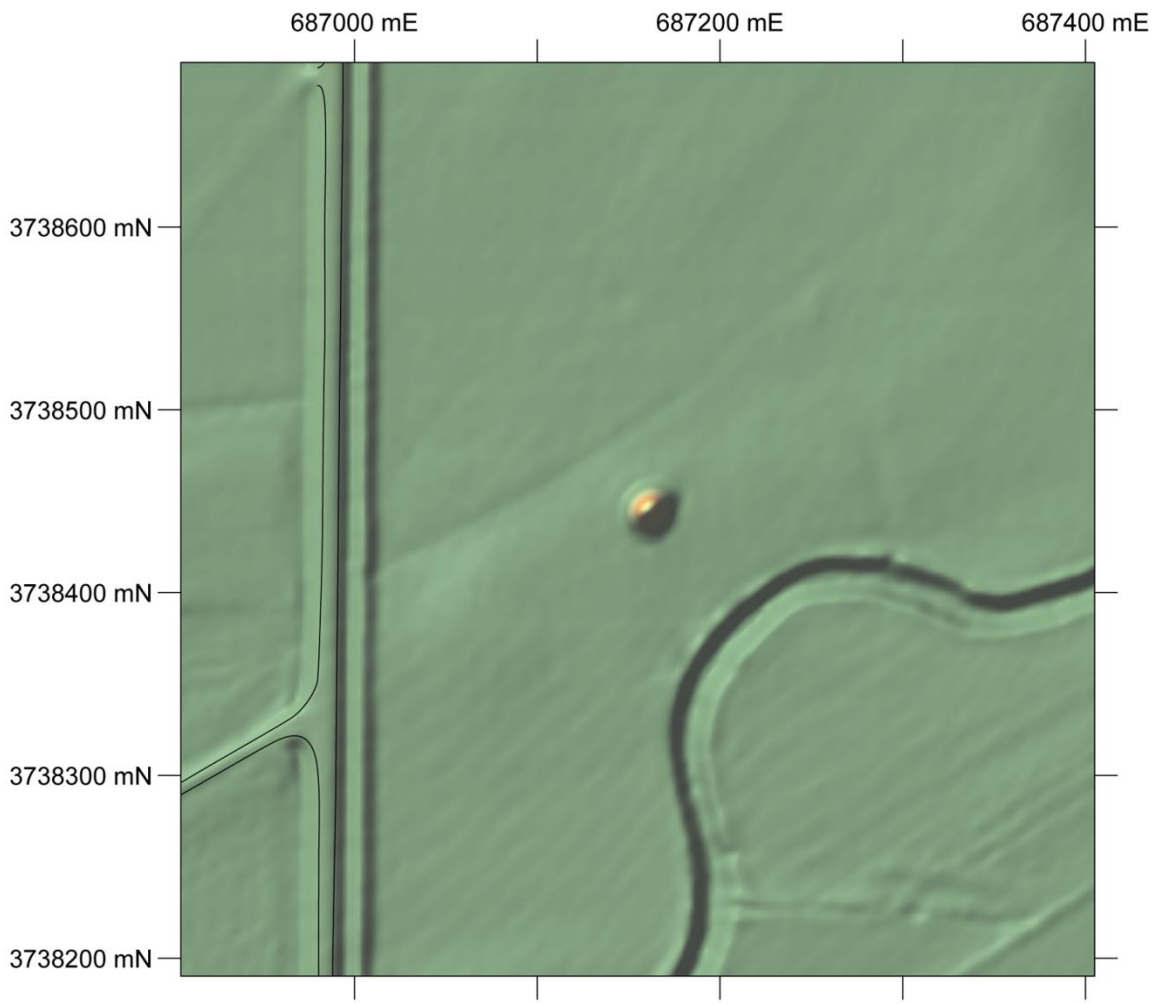

Figure 83 Christmas, shaded relief map with cultural features.

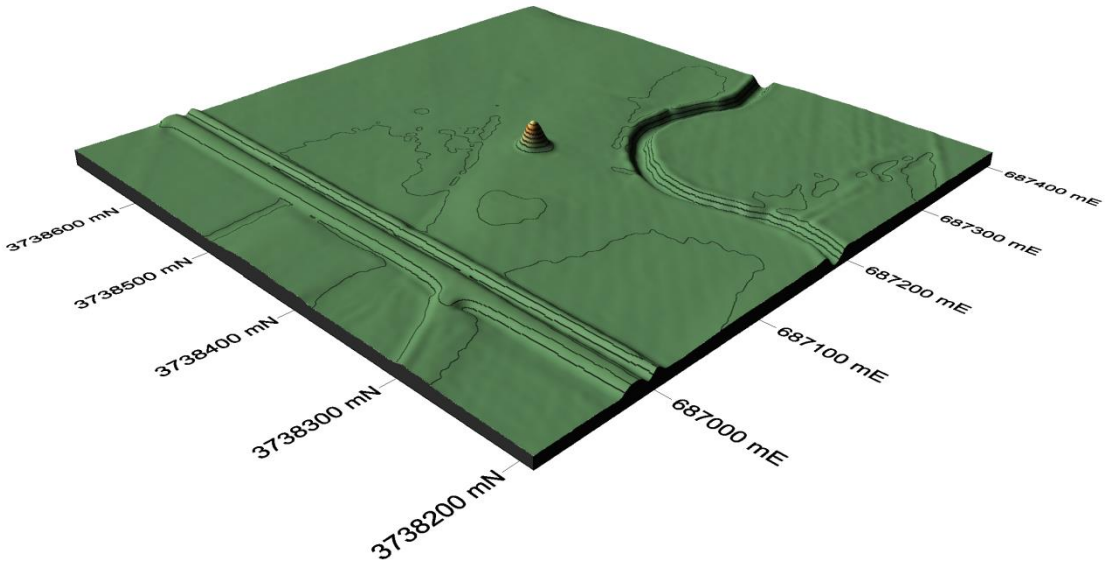

Figure 84 Christmas, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.


Figure 85 Christmas Mound, view to the northeast.

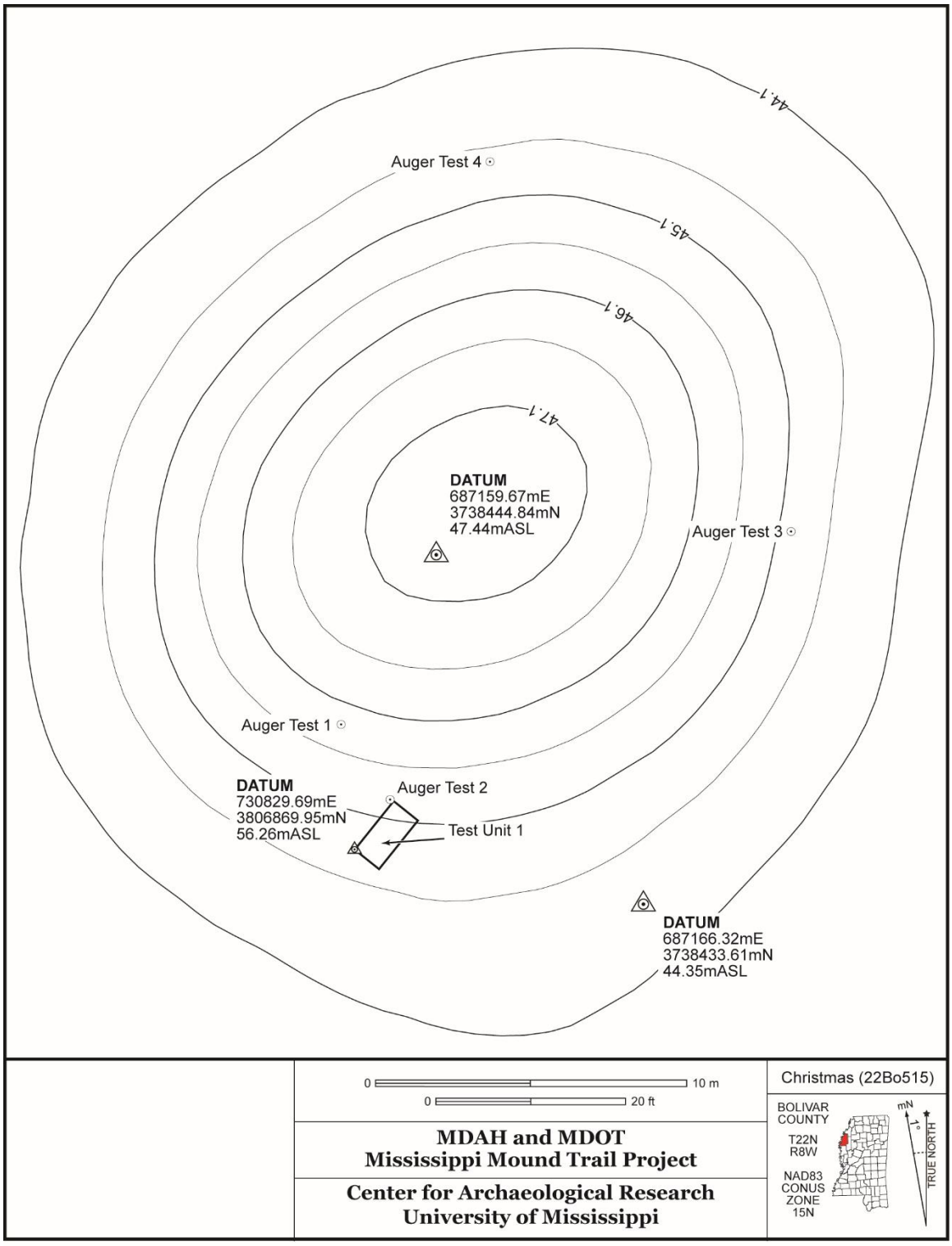

Figure 86 Christmas, auger holes and slope trench locations.

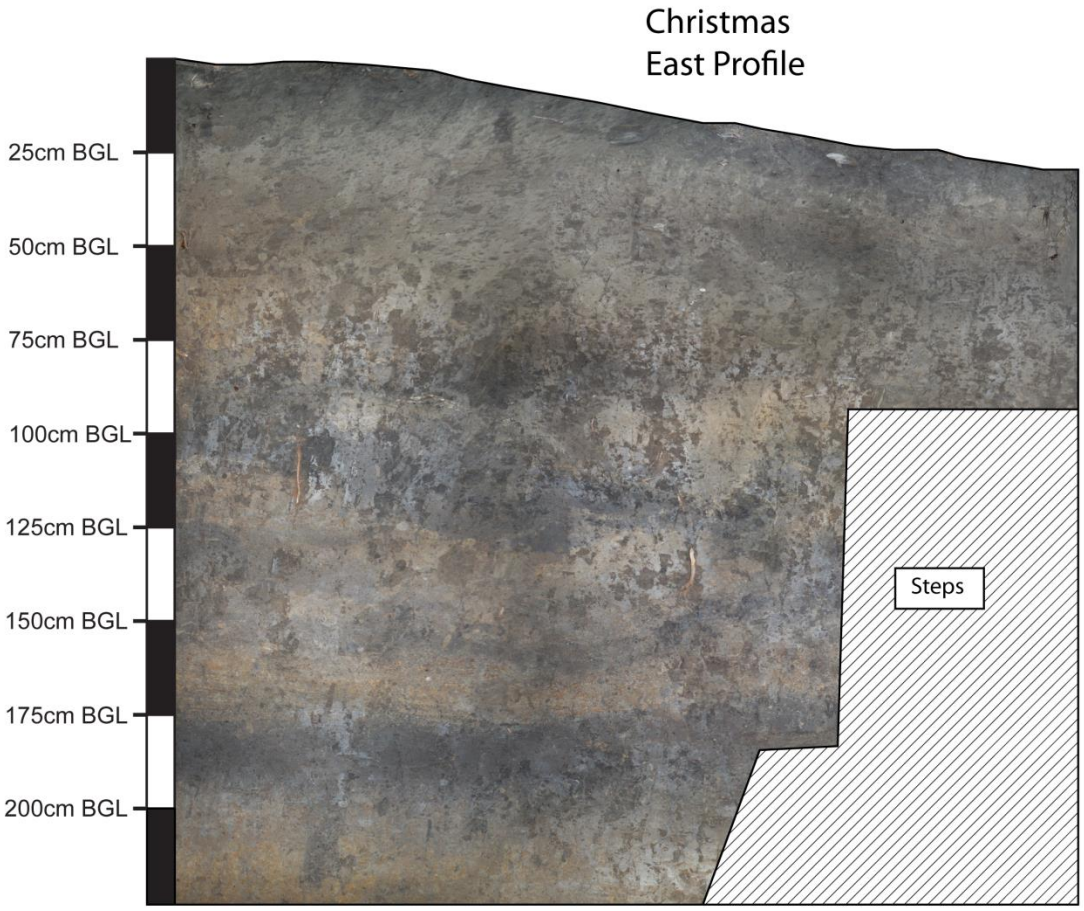

Figure 87 Christmas slope trench, photomosaic of east profile.

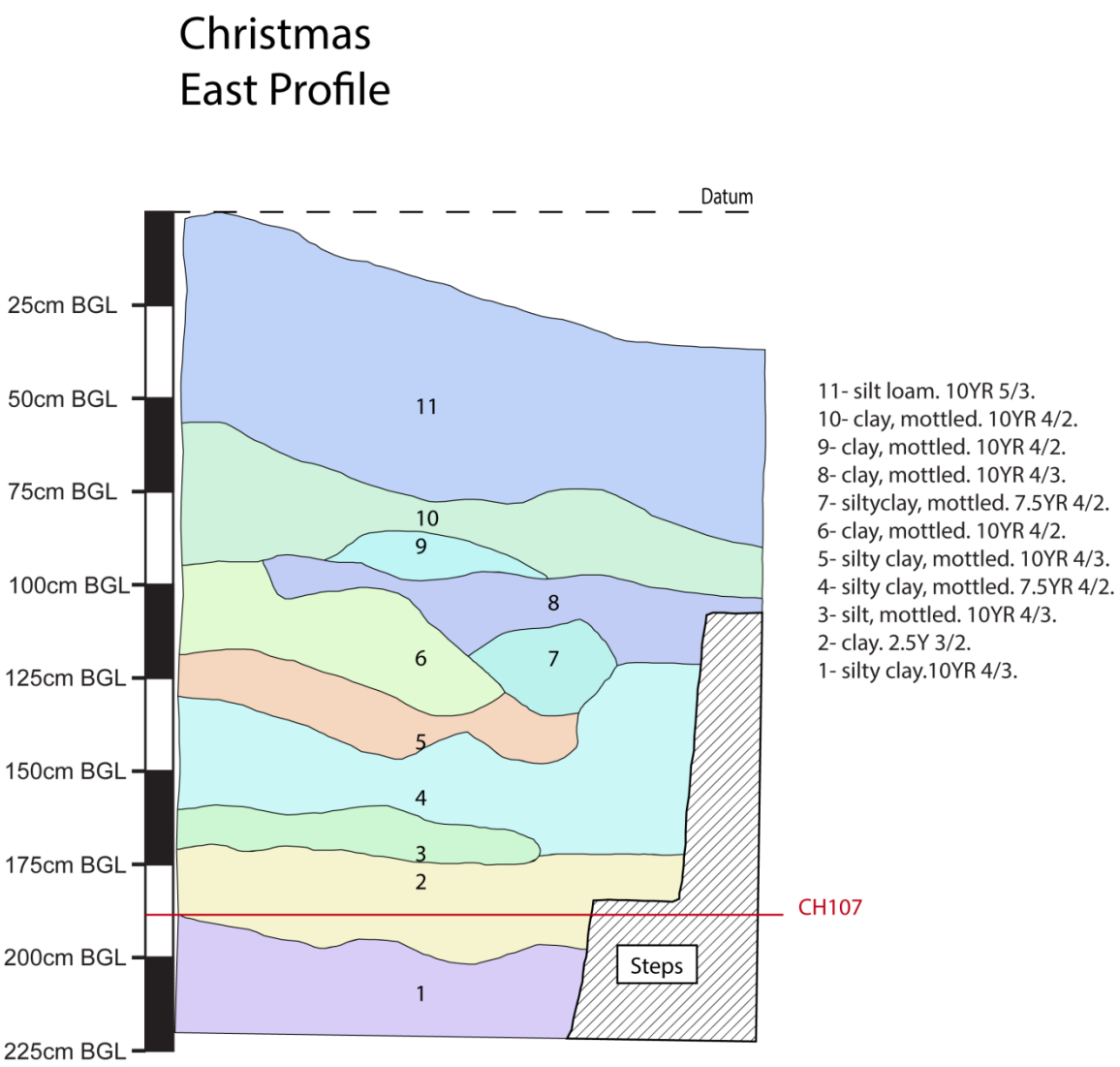

Figure 88 Christmas, east profile showing mound strata and radiocarbon sample location.

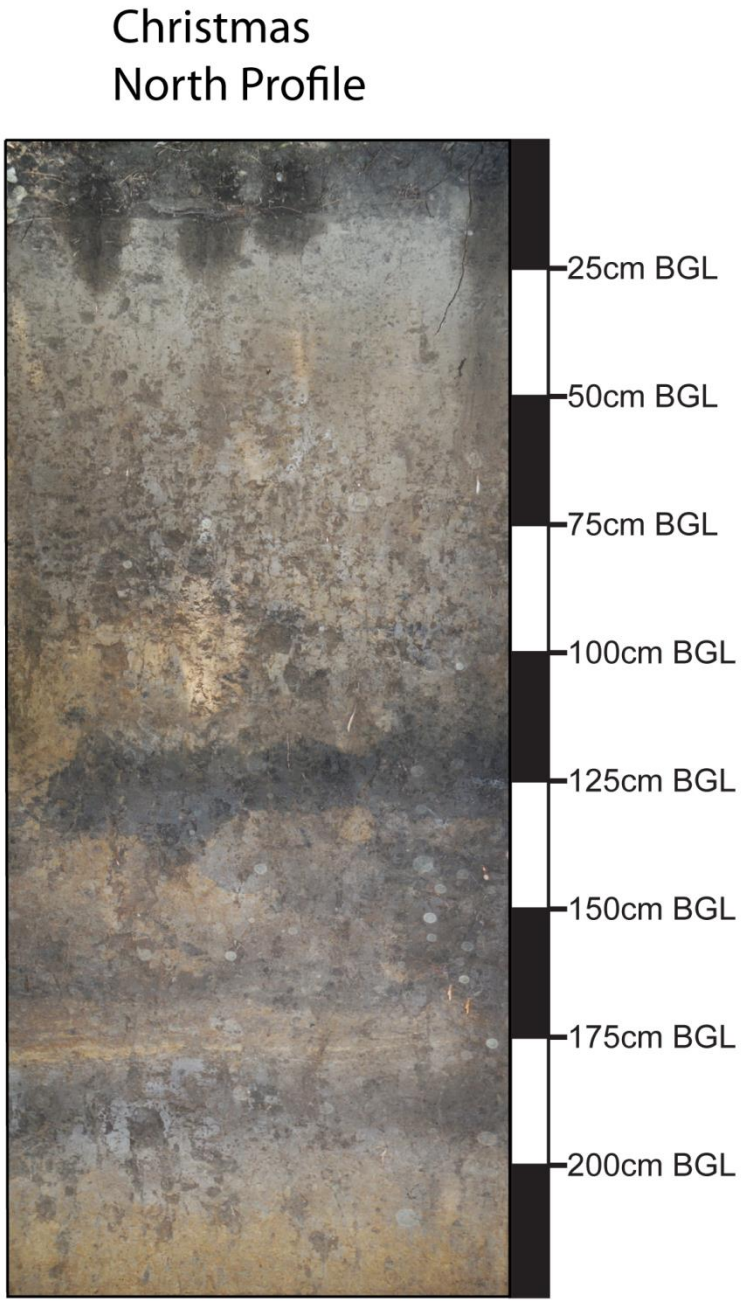

Figure 89 Christmas slope trench, photomosaic of north profile.

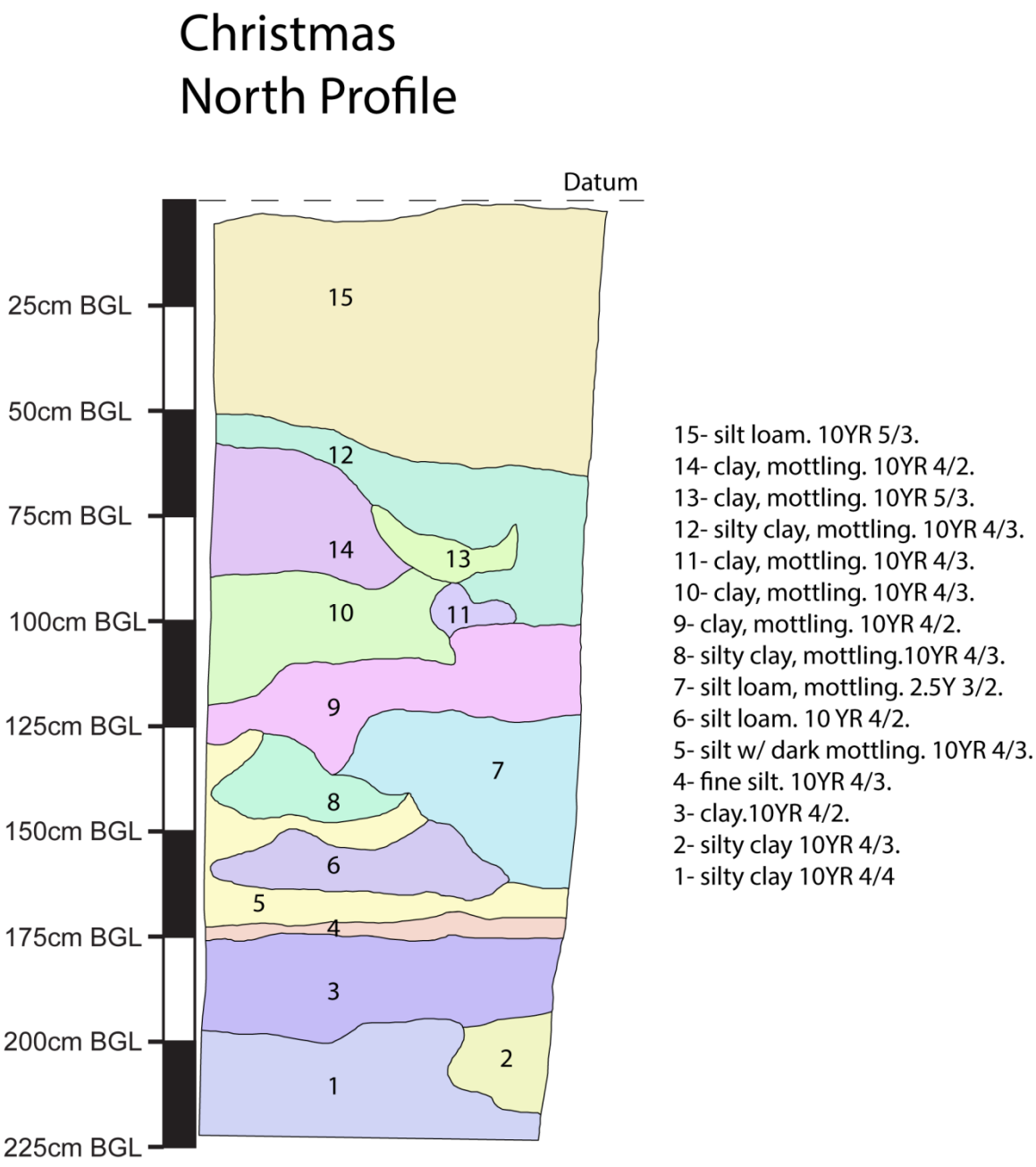

Figure 90 Christmas, north profile showing mound strata.

Table 16 Radiocarbon date from Christmas.

Site/Sample	Lvl/cmbd	Material	Context	2 SIGMA CALIBRATION
Christmas 22Bo515CH107	Level 7 (180-210)	wood charcoal	premound A horizon	Cal AD 335 to 425 (Cal BP 1615 to 1525)

Table 17 Christmas artifacts.

	0-30	30-60	60-90	90-120	120-150	150-180	180-210
Ceramics							
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry		6	7				
Baytown Plain, Unspecified		1	4	3	4		3
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards					1		
Historic Artifacts							
Brick Fragments		1	2				
Metal		5					

Summary and Conclusions

When the date ranges are calibrated and displayed using OxCal, four clusters are suggested (fig. 91). Discounting the premound date from Christmas which is an outlier for which we have few artifacts, the two premound midden dates from Salomon correspond and indicate a Late Woodland occupation of the area prior to the construction of the mound. The next two dates are a premound pit at Beaverdam and one of the lower levels at Dunn. Unfortunately, the Beaverdam pit was only recognized in the profile and the pit contents were not isolated. For this reason, and because the premound midden at Beaverdam yielded a second much later date, this earlier date must be discounted. Actually, the two sigma date ranges from Dunn overlap with one another, overlap with a mound fill date from Salomon, and span the transition from Woodland to Mississippian in the Northern Yazoo Basin. These are followed by four dates whose ranges overlap substantially. These premound dates from Evansville, Johnson Cemetery and Beaverdam fall solidly within the Mississippian Period in the northern Yazoo Basin and, given the allowances for sample size, suggest some sort of florescence in mound construction in the region. The Evansville mound fill date finishes out the sequence. Most of these dates are associated with modest ceramic samples providing the opportunity to examine trends in ceramic assemblages through time, keeping in mind that most of the ceramics are from mound fill.

The premound midden at Salomon yielded the only exclusively Woodland ceramic assemblage from the project (Table 18). The mix of Mulberry Creek Cord Marked and Withers Fabric Marked along with Marksville Stamped and a single cross hatched rim suggest a time of occupation dating to the transition from Tchula to Marksville when Withers was being replaced by Mulberry Creek. The only other site to yield Withers Fabric Marked sherds was Edgefield where Withers was the predominant type (Table 18). Recalling that the Mississippi Plain sherds from Edgefield appear to be from the same vessel and occur high in the profile, it appears that the Edgefield mound is the earliest of those we sampled and dates to the Early Woodland. Unfortunately, we recovered no datable carbon samples from that mound. The Early Woodland Tchula Period is generally considered to end around 100 BC in the Yazoo Basin (Connaway and McGahey 1971; Mainfort 1986; Phillips 1970; Weinstein 1991). Therefore, our two dates from the submound midden at Salomon are considerably too late for the early Middle Woodland time period the ceramics suggest. On the other hand, Mounds A and B at the Batesville Mounds yielded similar but slightly earlier ceramics and provided central intercepts ranging from 200 BC to AD 660 (Johnson et al. 2001: Table 3.3). As always, there is also the possibility that the submound midden at Salomon represents ceramics from more than one phase.

Disregarding once again the early date from Beaverdam, the next three dates are from mound fill at Dunn and Salomon and show a similar combination of shell tempered and grog tempered ceramics (Table 18). The two sigma dates rang from AD 1025 to AD 1285. This exactly brackets the transition from Woodland to Mississippian in the northern Yazoo Basin as we now understand it (Johnson and Connaway n.d.). So, the mix of grog and shell tempered sherds could be the result of mound fill deriving from a village area which was occupied during this transition. However, recent excavations at

the Hurricane Landing site, a small, single platform mound site in the North Central Hills (Shiers 2016), presents an alternative explanation, particularly for the Dunn Mound ceramic assemblage. Several midden filled pits at Hurricane Landing appear to represent single filling episodes and produced radiocarbon dates which span the same time period as the mound fill dates from Dunn and Salomon. The majority of the ceramics are Mississippian Plain, *var. Neeley's Ferry*. However, the second most common ceramic type recovered from the Hurricane Landing pits was Baytown Plain, *var. Unspecified*. It is clear that during the transition from Woodland to Mississippian at Hurricane Landing potters were making both shell and grog tempered ceramics. Significantly, none of the grog tempered sherds are cord marked. Only five of the fifty five grog tempered sherds from Dunn are cord marked. Very few of the shell tempered sherds from Hurricane Landing are decorated. Likewise, only one of the shell tempered sherds from Salomon and none of the shell tempered sherds from Dunn are decorated. It may be that we are finally beginning to recognize the hallmarks of initial Mississippian ceramics in the region.

Although the preceding characterization of Early Mississippian ceramic assemblages is tentative, the premound ceramics from Mound A at Evansville, Johnson Cemetery and Beaverdam provide an unequivocal picture of what Middle Mississippian ceramics look like. The two sigma dates for submound sample from these three sites range from AD 1280 to AD 1410. There is a remarkable similarity in the ceramic assemblages with an increase in the number of Bell Plain and Barton Incised sherds and other incised and punctated types. Slipped types show up for the first time albeit in small numbers (Table 18). There are no surprises here (see Edwards 2003; Nelson 2016; Stevens 2006) but it is satisfying to be able to document the trends so nicely.

The latest of our radiocarbon dates comes from Level 2 in the mound fill at Evansville with the two sigma range running from AD 1450 to AD 1640, a relatively late date for mound construction in the northern Yazoo Basin. On the basis of that date, we would expect a ceramic assemblage in which Bell Plain, Walls Engraved, and various polychrome types become common. In fact, there is nothing to distinguish the mound fill ceramics in Mound A at Evansville from the premound ceramics from that same mound as well as Beaverdam and Johnson Cemetery. What we have is what appears to be a terminal Mississippian mound with Middle Mississippian mound fill.

Summarizing, it should have come as no surprise that Edgefield is a Woodland Period burial mound given its size and shape. What is interesting is the apparent caches of partial vessels in the fill of the mound. They could have been incidental to mound construction but, given the compaction of the Feature 1 sherd deposit, there was almost no soil separating the sherds, it seems unlikely.

While it is difficult to say much about the mound at Christmas other than it dates to the Mississippian period, the remainder of the Mississippian mounds that we tested provide new insight into our emerging understanding of that period in the northern Yazoo Basin. The big mound a Dunn has always appeared unusual as a Mississippian Period mound. It is long and narrow with relatively little room on top for structures. There is,

however, a great deal of daub in the mound fill and our auger holes for the down hole susceptibility survey encountered a good deal of daub and recorded reading that we interpret to reflect daub concentration at several locations and varying depths. The ceramic assemblage recovered from our test pits and the associated dates suggest an initial Mississippian occupation. A similar ceramic assemblage and a similar mound fill radiocarbon date suggests Salomon was built at about the same time. Mound A at Salomon is, however, a classic and impressive Mississippian period platform mound. Both of these mound date to the very beginning of the Mississippian transition in the northern Yazoo Basin which does not occur until around AD 1200 in this region. The ceramic assemblages from both sites suggest that during this period of transition some of the older traditions continue.

Beaverdam and Johnson Cemetery fall squarely within the 14th century fluorescence of the Mississippian Period in the northern Yazoo Basin in terms of ceramics and site structure. Like many of the sites dating to this period, they have just one small mound and appear to have been occupied for a relatively short time. The ceramic assemblage from Mound A at Evansville and the premound radiocarbon date are similar to those from Beaverdam and Johnson Cemetery. However, Evansville is a multi-mound site and the late radiocarbon date from high in the mound fill indicates that the site was occupied into the late 15th or early 16th century. By this time, mound building in the northern Yazoo Basin had diminished. There are only a few recorded dates that fall into the 16th century (e.g. Buckner 1996; Dye and Buchner 1988).

The Mississippian Period in the northern Yazoo Basin started relatively late and built upon the longer and more ubiquitous Late Woodland, Baytown Phase. Baytown components outnumber Mississippian components 775 to 316 in the northern six counties of the Delta and 72% of the Mississippian components are located on sites which had been occupied during the preceding period (Johnson et al. 2016). It lasted little more than 300 years and, excepting some dramatic and very specific contact with the American Bottoms at the very beginning of the period (Johnson and Connaway n.d.), remained relatively isolated. Very few artifacts showing Southern Cult motifs made on exotic raw materials have been recovered from the region.

Although we sampled a small portion of only seven sites and, with a few exceptions, most of the artifacts were small sherds recovered from mound fill, the spatial scope of the project, more than 100 miles separate Edgefield and Christmas, provided a unique opportunity to consider the late prehistory of a region that has been relatively under studied. While the field strategy clearly emphasized chronology, as illustrated above, refining our understanding of the basic chronology of the Northern Yazoo Basin will allow us to address other questions of broader interest.

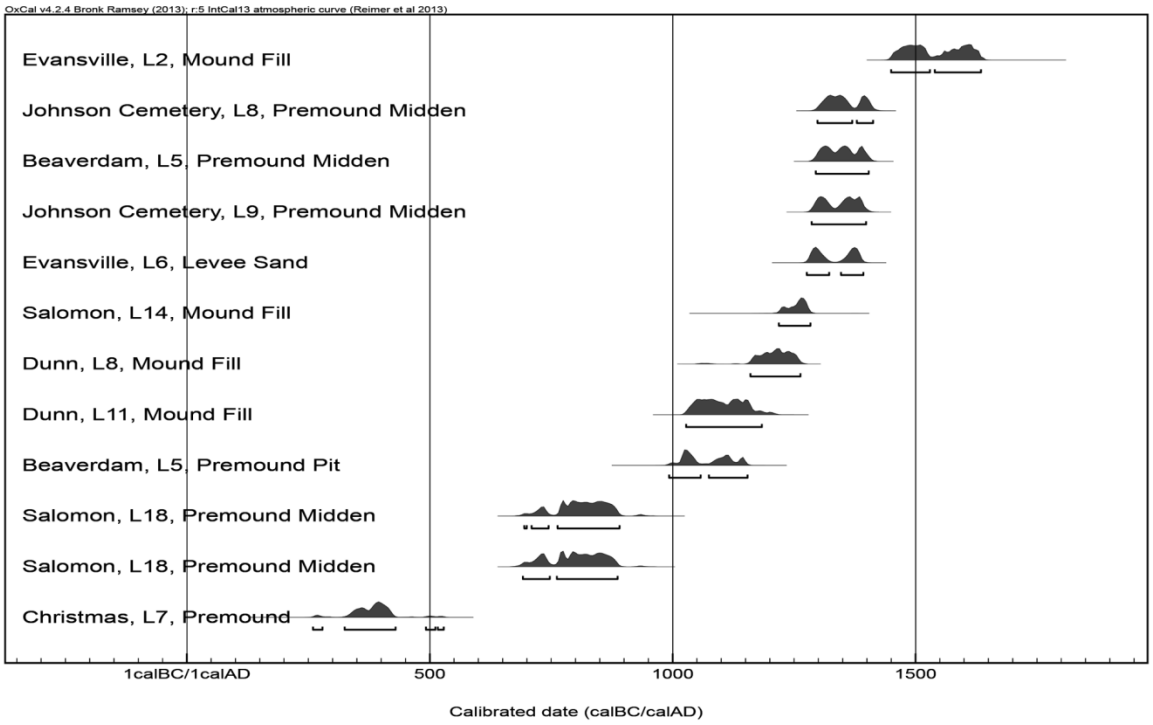

Figure 91 Calibrated date ranges for northern Mound Trail radiocarbon samples.

Table 18 Ceramic assemblages from selected contexts.

	EDGE	SASub	DNMnd	SAMnd	EVSub	JCSub	BDSub	EVMnd
Barton Incised, Arcola					3			
Barton Incised, Barton						8	7	1
Barton Incised, Kent						3	1	
Barton Incised, Unspecified				1	1	7	6	1
Bell Plain, Bell				5	1	135	15	7
Carson Red on Buff, Carson						2		2
Mississippi Plain, Neeley's Ferry	45		46	57	18	465	299	52
Old Town Red, Old Town					1	1		
Parkin Punctated, Parkin							5	
Parkin Punctated, Unspecified							3	
Walls Engraved, Walls							1	
Winterville Incised, Winterville							2	
Baytown Plain, Unspecified	38	27	48	112	89	1	127	83
Hollyknowe Ridge Pinched, Hollyknowe					2			
Larto Red, Larto			2	2				
Marksville Stamped, Marksville				1				
Marksville Stamped, Mabin		1						
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, Edwards	62	21	5	47	25		8	25
Salomon Brushed, Salomon				6	1		1	
Withers Fabric Marked, Withers	70	4		1				

EDGE, Edgefield; SASub, Salomon submound; DNMnd, Dunn mound fill; SaMnd, Salomon mound fill; EVSub, Evansville submound; JCSub,Johnson Cemetery submound; BDSub, Beaverdam submound; EVMnd, Evansville mound fill

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