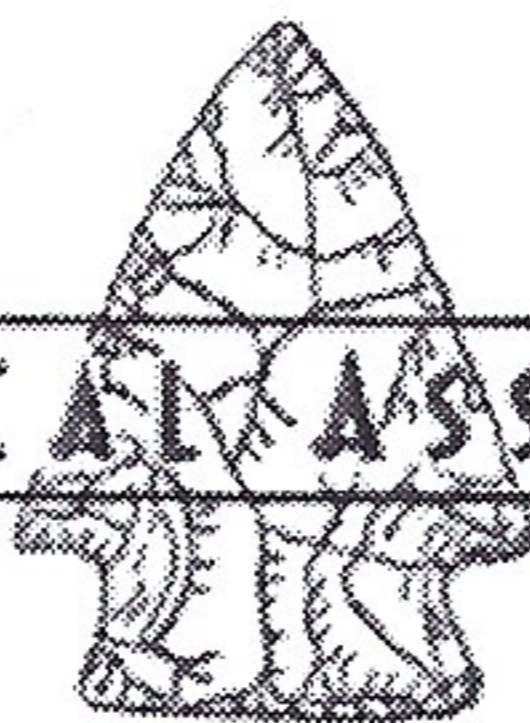


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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE STAGE 4
EXCAVATION OF THE BAYOU SITE (BeGu-22),
BAYOU SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT,
BLOCK B AND PART OF BLOCK C,
REGISTERED PLAN 1233,
TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN, COUNTY OF SIMCOE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS LTD.



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Submitted to

Bayou Developments

and

Ministry of Tourism and Culture

Prepared by

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SUMMARY

This report briefly details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 4 Excavation of the Bayou Site (BeGu-22), Bayou Subdivision Development, Block B and Part of Block C, Registered Plan 1233, Township of Severn, County of Simcoe. The excavation was undertaken on behalf of Bayou Developments. This preliminary report has been prepared in order to facilitate the clearance of the outstanding archaeological conditions that are attached to this proposed subdivision development.

A Stage 1-3 assessment of the 5.8 hectare subject property was conducted by our firm in 2006 (AAL 2006). One archaeological site was discovered as a result of the assessment and was registered as the Bayou site (BeGu-22). The Bayou site is a Late Iroquoian cabin site occupied ca. A.D. 1400-1650 A.D. It was recommended that the Bayou site was a significant archaeological resource that would require Stage 4 mitigation.

The Stage 4 excavation of the Bayou site was conducted between late June and early August, 2010 and has now been completed. Extensive Stage 4 block excavations were conducted at the site, along with some topsoil stripping. Several features and some post moulds were found, recorded and excavated. The results of the excavation indicate that the Bayou site was a Late Iroquoian cabin site.

The completion of the Stage 4 mitigation of the Bayou site is considered to have mitigated the remaining archaeological planning concerns associated with the subject property. Accordingly, it is recommended that the archaeological conditions attached to this proposed subdivision development should be cleared.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report briefly details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 4 Excavation of the Bayou Site (BeGu-22), Bayou Subdivision Development, Block B and Part of Block C, Registered Plan 1233, Township of Severn, County of Simcoe. The excavation was undertaken on behalf of Bayou Developments. This preliminary report has been prepared in order to facilitate the clearance of the outstanding archaeological conditions that are attached to this proposed subdivision development. A more detailed formal Stage 4 report will be produced within the next 12 months.

A Stage 1-3 assessment of the 5.8 hectare subject property was conducted by our firm in 2006 (AAL 2006). One archaeological site was discovered as a result of the assessment and was been registered as the Bayou site (BeGu-22). The Bayou site is a Late Iroquoian cabin site occupied ca. A.D. 1400-1650 A.D. It was recommended that the Bayou site was a significant archaeological resource that would require Stage 4 excavation if it could not be avoided and preserved.

Permission for access to the property and to remove and curate artifacts was granted by the land owner. All fieldwork was conducted under archaeological consulting licence No. P123 issued to Glenn Kearsley. The assessment was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act (Government of Ontario 1980), and with the technical guidelines for archaeological assessments formulated by the Ministry of Culture (1993, 2006). Archaeological Assessments Ltd. accepts responsibility for the long term curation of any artifacts recovered or documents produced as a result of the assessment.

2.0 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The 5.8 hectare subject property which contains the Bayou site (BeGu-22) is located just east of Highway 11, 7.5km north of the Town of Orillia (Figure 1). The property occupies some forested tablelands as well as lower lying poorly drained lands associated with Shadow Creek. Shadow Creek drains into Lake Couchiching, which is located 350 metres east of the subject property

The subject property is situated in the Simcoe Lowlands physiographic region which runs along the west side of Lake Couchiching in this area. The Simcoe Lowlands consist of a series of steep sided, flat-floored valleys which were flooded by glacial Lake Algonquin (Chapman and Putnam 1984:176).

The site area itself appears to not have been disturbed by any previous cultivation activities. However, the presence of an abandoned dirt laneway across the site associated with a secondary growth forest indicates that some portions of the site have been partially disturbed by some previous development activities.

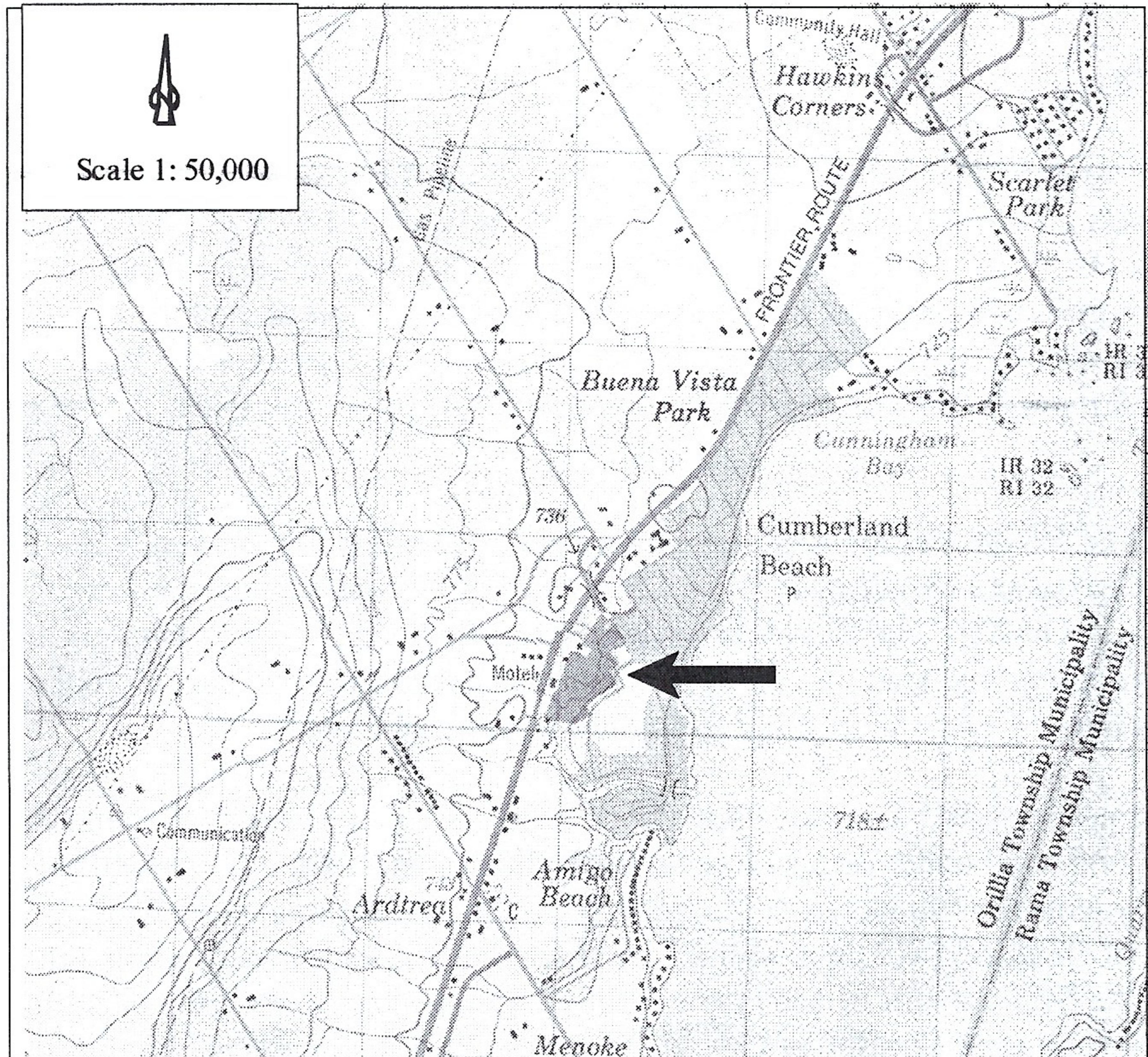


Figure 1. Location of the Subject Property

3.0 RESULTS OF THE 2006 STAGE 1-3 ASSESSMENT

A Stage 1-3 assessment of the 5.8 hectare subject property was conducted by our firm in November, 2006 (AAL 2006). All of the well drained sections of the property were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals (Figure 2). One archaeological site was discovered as a result of the assessment and was registered as the Bayou site (BeGu-22). Stage 3 test excavations were carried out at the site in November, 2006 (AAL 2006). The results of the Stage 3 assessment indicated that the Bayou site was a significant archaeological resource. It was recommended that the Bayou site was a significant archaeological resource that would require Stage 4 excavation if it could not be avoided and preserved (AAL 2006).

The background research confirmed that no archaeological sites had been registered on the subject property prior to the 2006 assessment. The background research also determined that there is only one archaeological site located within a 2 kilometre radius of the property. The previously registered site is the Artrea Island North site (BcGw-47), a Contact Period Huron village (ca. A.D. 1600-1650) located 1km west of the subject property.

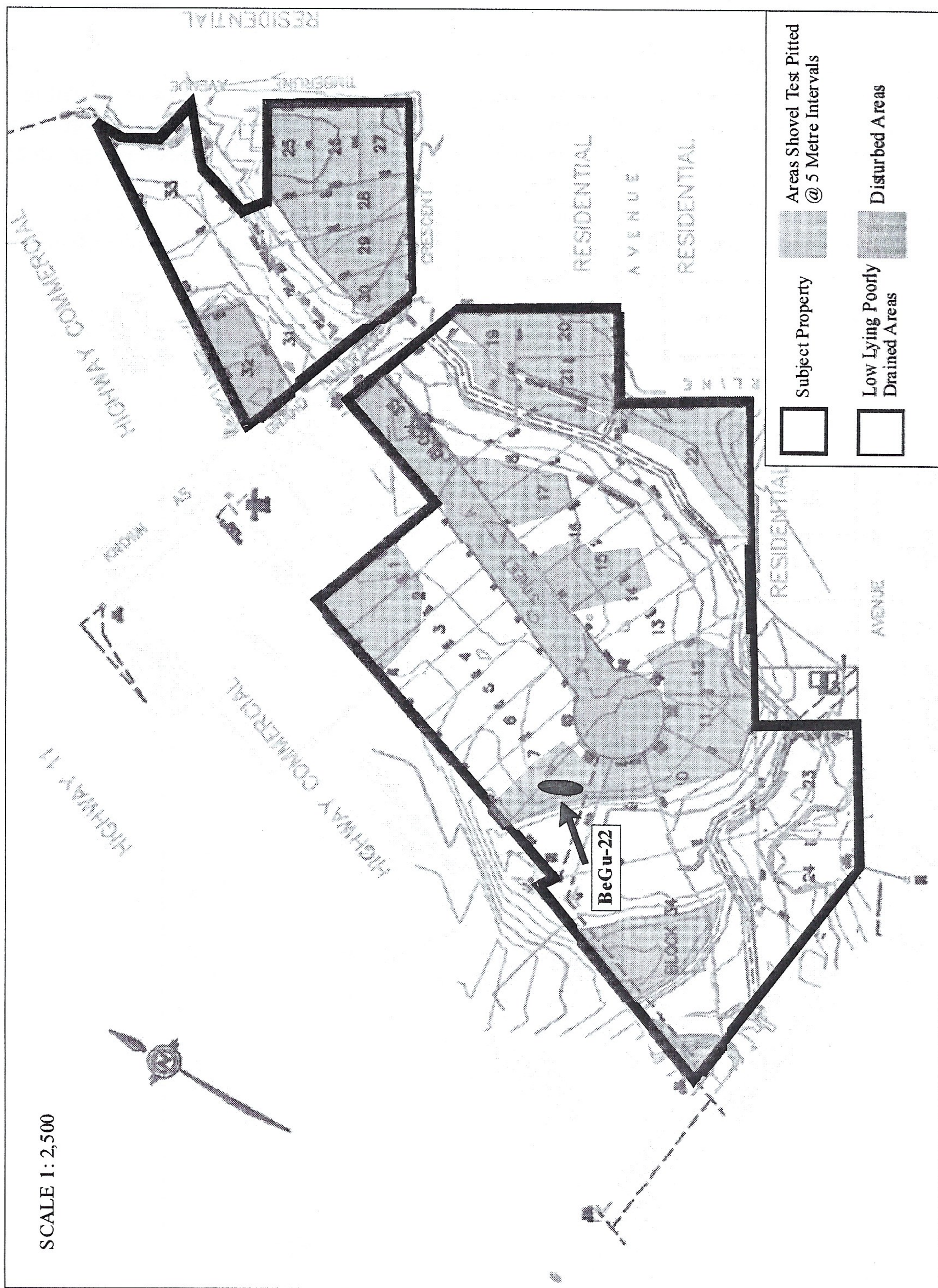


Figure 2. 2006 Archaeological Survey Coverage, Techniques and Site Location

4.0 THE BAYOU SITE (BeGu-22)

Location and Description

The Bayou site is a Late Iroquoian cabin site occupied ca. A.D. 1400-1650. The site is located in the southwestern section of the subject property on a small forested peninsula surrounded on three sides by low lying poorly drained lands (Figure 2). Site dimensions are 25 metres north-south by 15 metres east-west. The site area itself appears to not have been disturbed by any previous cultivation activities. However, the presence of an abandoned dirt laneway associated with a secondary growth forest indicates that some portions of the site have been partially disturbed by previous activities.

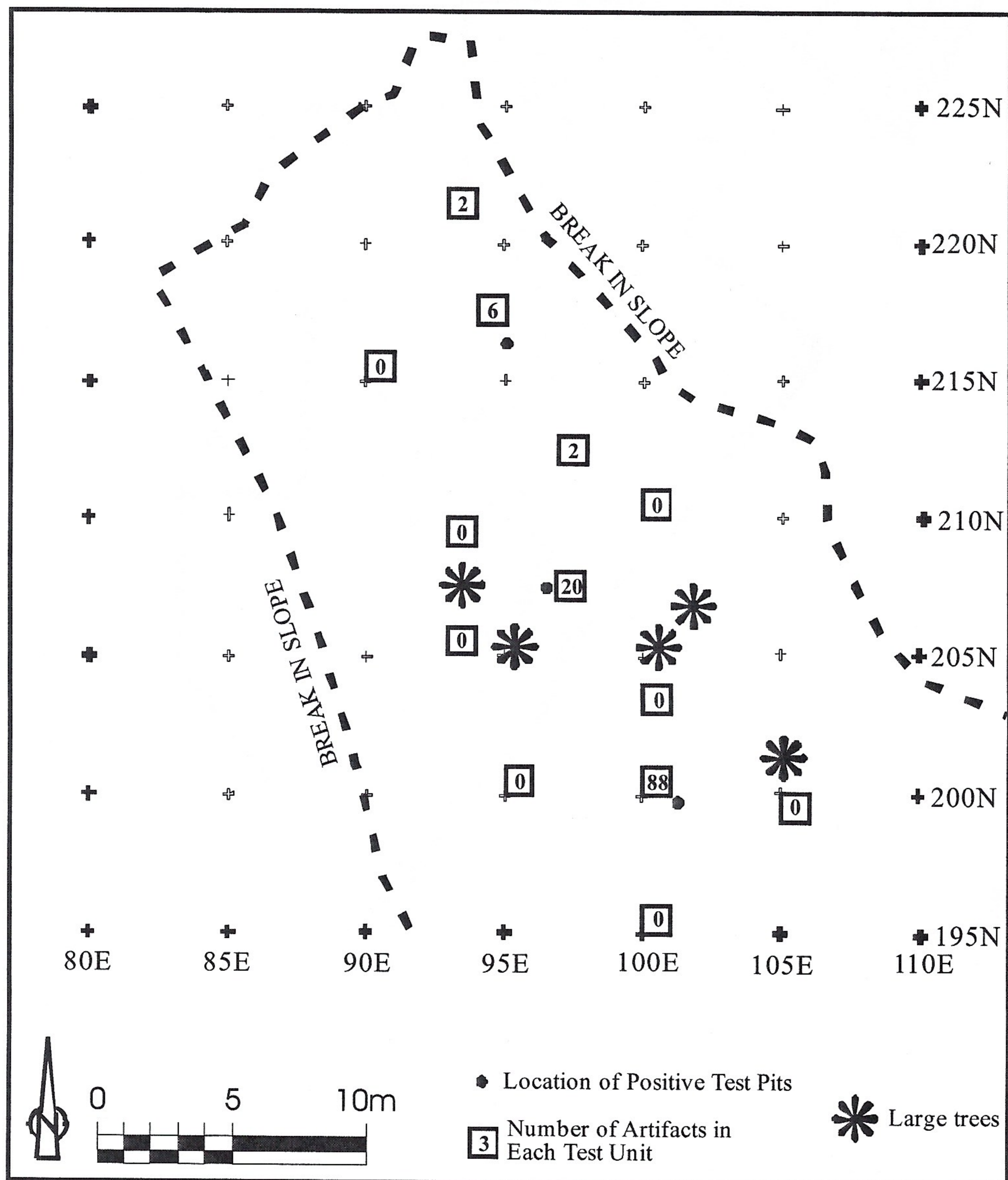


Figure 3. Results of the Stage 3 Assessment of the Bayou Site (BeGu-22)

History of Investigations

This site was discovered in November, 2006 while shovel test pitting this property at 5 metre intervals (AAL 2006). Three positive test pits containing between 1-13 native ceramic artifacts each, were found in this location. Our Stage 3 test excavations were then carried out at the site from November 13-14, 2006 (AAL 2006). A total of 13 one metre square test units were then excavated at 1-5 metre intervals across the site (Figure 3). All of the soils from each square were screened through 6mm mesh to facilitate the recovery of artifacts. Five of the 13 test units were positive and had artifact densities ranging from 2-88 ceramic and chipped stone artifacts per one metre unit. Most of the test units revealed relatively undisturbed soil profiles ranging in depth from 15-21 centimeters.

Artifact Description

A total of 134 artifacts were recovered from the site as a result of the Stage 2-3 investigations including 105 fractured ceramic sherds, 13 body sherds, 5 rim sherd fragments, one shoulder sherd, nine chipped lithics and one faunal fragment. The artifacts recovered during the Stage 4 excavations are currently being processed and analyzed.

Stage 4 Excavation

The Stage 4 excavation of the site was conducted from June 28 to August 4, 2010 under hot and sunny weather conditions. The first phase of the excavation involved the excavation of additional one metre square test units across the site area in an attempt to identify areas containing high artifact densities. This was followed by the block excavation of one metre units in the three areas of the site which contained relatively high artifact densities in the topsoil. All of the one metre units were excavated in 50cm sub-units (Quads A, B, C and D) in order to gain further insights into the spatial distribution of artifacts across the site. The topsoil at the site was a sandy loam and relatively shallow with depths ranging from 11 to 30cm.

A total of 98 one metre squares were excavated during the Stage 4 excavations (Figure 4). Of these, 78 were positive with artifact densities ranging from 1-183 per one metre unit. The block excavations were ended when the one metre unit artifact densities dropped into the single digits. All of the peripheral units contained a small number of unanalyzable ceramic micro sherds. The vast majority of the artifacts collected during the Stage 4 excavation consisted of very small unanalyzable ceramic micro sherds, along with a small number of rim sherds, pipe fragments and chipped lithics.

In addition to the three areas which were exposed by block excavations, a large area of topsoil was stripped by hand in order to search for subsurface features and post moulds. A backhoe was utilized along the edges of the site in order to move back dirt and to backfill the site.

A number of potential features and postmoulds were identified and were sectioned. Most of the features and post moulds turned out not to be cultural and were created by roots, root burns, tree falls and rodent burrows. All of the potential post moulds were cross-sectioned in order to confirm their identity. An attempt was made to further identify posts by vertical 'trenching' the subsoil in 5cm intervals in areas where posts could be expected (around features and 3 to 5 metres from hearths where longhouse walls may have been). One of the post moulds was identified using this technique.

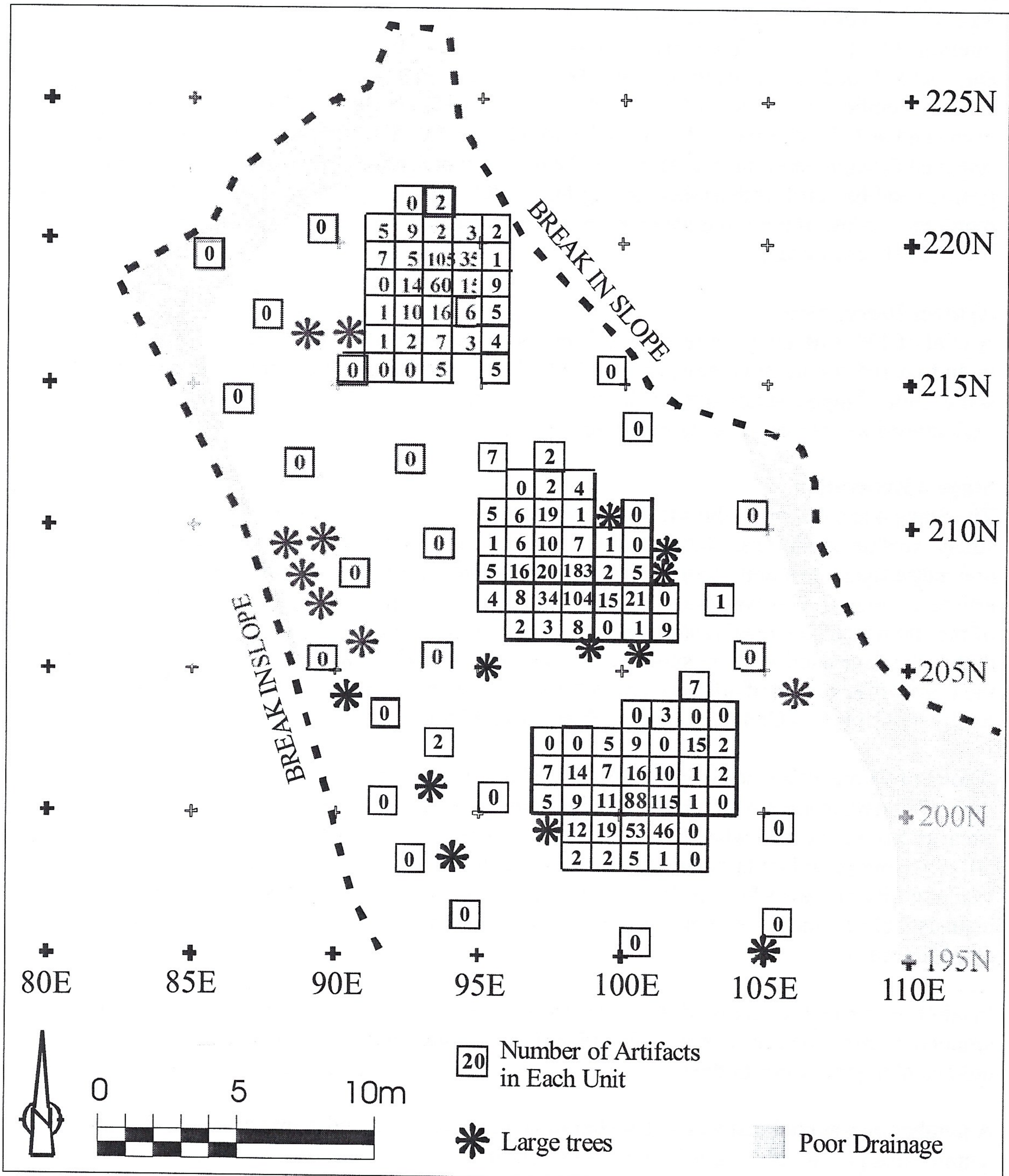


Figure 4. Results of the Stage 4 Block Excavations of the Bayou Site (BeGu-22)

The location and plan view of all of the features were triangulated and recorded. All of the features were sectioned, drawn, photographed and completely excavated. Large flotation samples were taken from all of the confirmed features in order to recover small artifacts, as well as floral and faunal material. The remainder of the feature fill was screened through 3mm mesh.

The results of Stage 4 block excavations and topsoil stripping indicated that subsurface cultural remains were concentrated down the central section of the site area. A total of 4 cultural features and 6 post moulds were identified. The features included three hearths (F# 1, 3 and 5) and one refuse filled depression (F#2).

Feature 1 represents a hearth in the southern section of the site. In plan view it was an irregular shape and measured 110cm by 82cm and had a depth of 11cm. It consisted of fire reddened soil, ash and dark brown soil with flecks of calcined bone found throughout and several pieces of fire cracked rock. The eastern edge of the feature was root disturbed.

Feature 2 was a refuse filled depression immediately adjacent to Feature 1. In plan view it was an irregular shape with a length of 80cm a width of 62cm and consisted of dark brown soil mottled with fire reddened soil and ash. In profile it was irregular shaped with a depth of only 9cm. This feature contained a high number of ceramics with some calcined bone and several pieces of fire cracked rock.

Feature 3 represents a hearth in the central section of the site. In plan view it was roughly circular in shape and measured 110cm by 82cm and had a depth of 10cm. It consisted of fire reddened soil, ash and dark brown soil with several pieces of fire cracked rock. This feature produced a high number of ceramics.

Feature 5 represents a root disturbed hearth attached to a shallow basin pit in the northern section of the site. In plan view it was an irregular shape and measured 220cm by 190cm and had a depth of 34cm. It consisted of fire reddened soil, ash, dark brown and subsoil in the southwest section with dark brown and black soil with flecks of calcined bone and several pieces of fire cracked rock in the north and eastern section of the feature. A root burn disturbance distorted the eastern section of the feature. In profile the hearth itself was shallow basin shaped with a depth of 8cm. The profile also indicated that a shallow basin pit was immediately east of the hearth and had a depth of 13cm. This pit contained a large amount of ceramics.

A total of 6 post moulds were identified at the Bayou site. All of these were located around Feature 1 in the southern section of the site. All of the posts were cross-sectioned and ranged in depth from 3 to 5cm. They did not form any recognizable pattern.

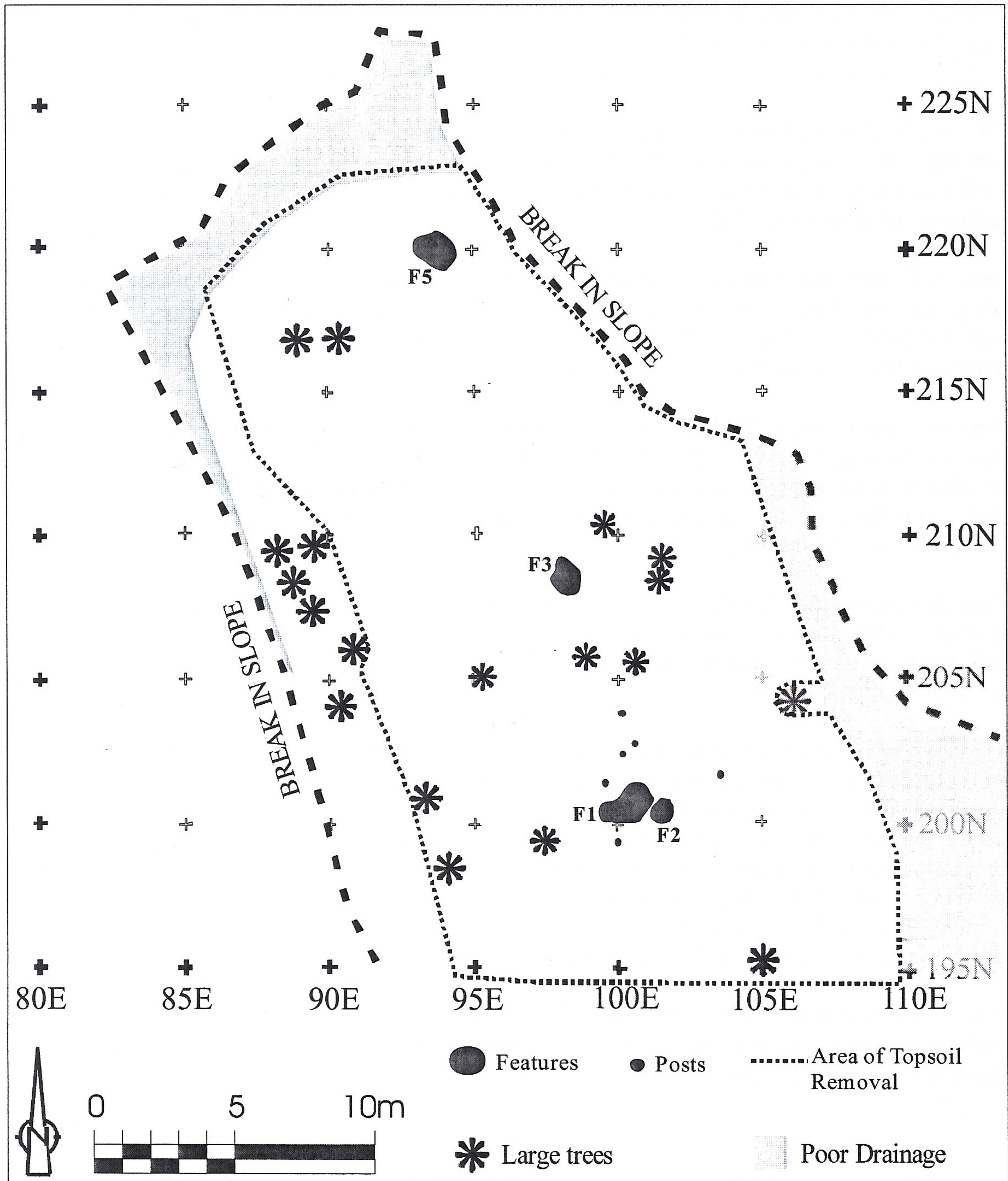


Figure 5. Bayou Site (BeGu-22) Settlement Patterns

Discussion

The low number and low density of features and post moulds at the Bayou site indicates that the site represents the location of a relatively short term Late Iroquoian cabin site. The linear alignment of the three hearths suggests that there may have been a small temporary longhouse at this location. The term cabin site is used in Iroquoian archaeology as a catch-all phrase for small Iroquoian sites which may have contained only one or two temporary structures. These sites served one or more purposes including seasonally occupied sites utilized for the tending of agricultural fields, sites occupied for hunting, fishing and/or wild plant gathering, and sites used for ceremonial purposes. Some cabin sites could have served several different functions at different times of the year, while others were special purposes sites occupied periodically on a seasonal basis.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

This preliminary report has briefly detailed the results of the Stage 4 Excavation of the Bayou Site (BeGu-22), Bayou Subdivision Development, Block B and Part of Block C, Registered Plan 1233, Township of Severn, County of Simcoe. The completion of the Stage 4 mitigation of the Bayou site is considered to have mitigated the remaining archaeological planning concerns associated with the subject property. Accordingly, it is recommended that the archaeological conditions attached to this proposed subdivision development should be cleared.

Notwithstanding the above, no archaeological survey can be considered to totally negate the potential for deeply buried cultural remains, including human burials. In consequence, it is recommended that the archaeological staff of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture (416-314-7132) should be contacted immediately if any deeply buried archaeological remains are discovered during construction. MTC, as well as the Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, should also be notified immediately if any human remains are discovered.

6.0 REFERENCES CITED

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