

ARTIFACT OVERVIEW AND PRESERVATION INSTRUCTIONS

This exercise requires students to look at different materials found in a controlled surface collection, make inferences about these remains, and select areas for further excavation depending on specific research questions.

We discussed regional survey methods in the previous lab, but now we have identified a site and need to decide how to focus our efforts. Explain the following techniques for exploring a site and the pros and cons of each:

- Shovel testing
- Controlled surface collection
- Heavy equipment

Since this site has been plowed, we will conduct a surface collection.

Show them the map of the site with collection squares drawn on it. Explain the grid system and the size of the collection squares (10 x 10 m).

Give them the handouts for their inventory. The students will have about 15-20 minutes to go through the material for each square. Make sure that each group gets to each tray. When they are finished, get them to tell you what sort of things they found. What activities may have been occurring in these spots? They may need some prompting about debitage.

Discuss the following:

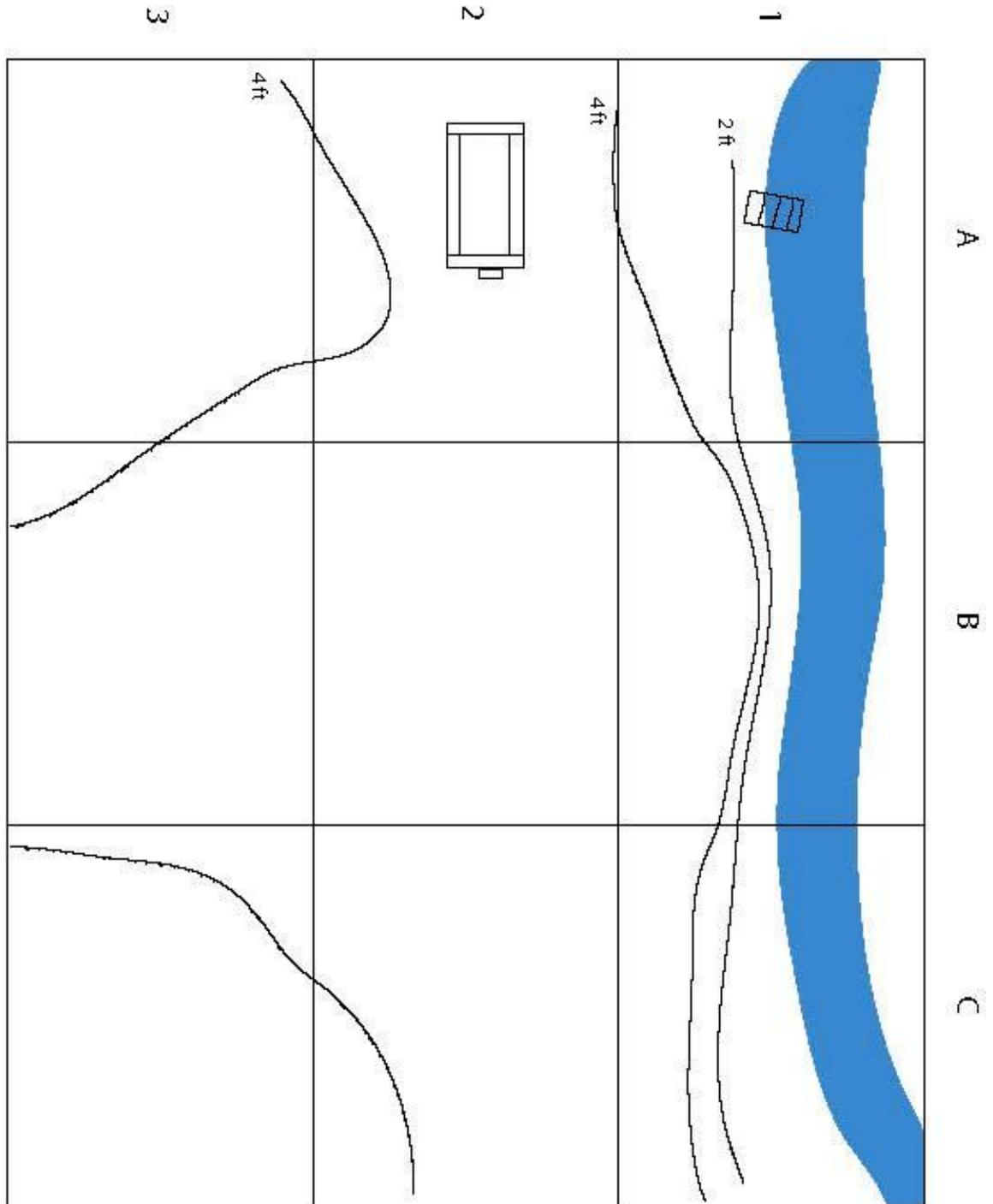
- What are some research questions that we could address given this collection?
- What areas seem to be the most promising for excavation?
- Based upon the research question, what would be the most promising excavation strategy (e.g., open up a large area to find a house, careful digging for burials, etc.)?

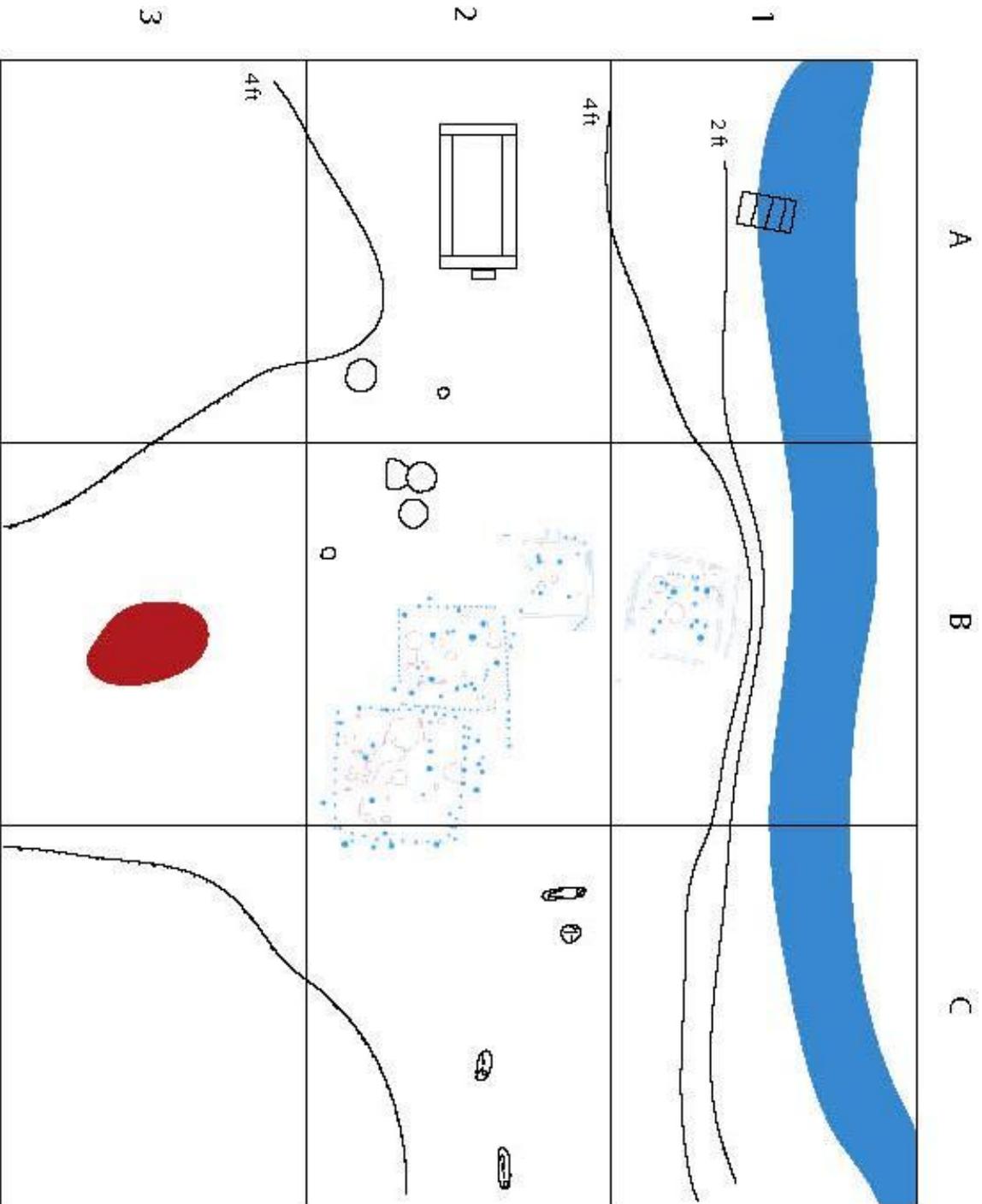
Show them an overhead showing the features, houses, etc. found after excavation. Did these match what they expected to find? Why or why not? How does the material found address their research questions? Now that they can see what is under the plowzone, what might they have done differently?

What factors might have affected the relative preservation of the materials found (especially for the animal bone in C3)? How might this affect their interpretations?

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In the spaces below, list the contents of each survey square. We will be compiling an inventory of the artifacts.





Artifact Overview and Preservation Survey Square Inventory

Square	Items
A1:	soda and beer cans 1 sherd
A2:	2 sherds, 1 point, 7 debitage 3 glass, 2 brick fragments, 2 buttons hinge, 3 nails, 3 whiteware, 1 stoneware
A3:	recent deer bones, horse tibia, cow/horse vertebra
B1:	2 groundstone, 3 points, 11 sherds, 10 debitage, 3 turtle shell
B2:	4 groundstone, 5 points, 14 sherds, 11 debitage, biface, deer scapula
B3:	49 fine biface thinning flakes, 7 crude biface thinning flakes, 1 sherd, 1 point, 1 biface
C1:	4 sherds, 2 points, 3 debitage
C2:	3 rim sherds, 2 body sherds, 4 points, human os coxae fragment, mandible, and vertebra
C3:	10 burned bone, 6 rodent gnawed bone, 3 sherds, 5 deer/turtle bone, 5 debitage