

The Fincastle (DIOx-5) Archaeological Project

2012 Field School

Archaeological Field School

- ▶ Excavation Overview
- ▶ Excavation Schedule
- ▶ Application Procedure
- ▶ Course Requirements
- ▶ Costs
- ▶ Risks, Safety and Responsibility
- ▶ Website: <http://people.uleth.ca/~bubest>

Schedule for the Field School

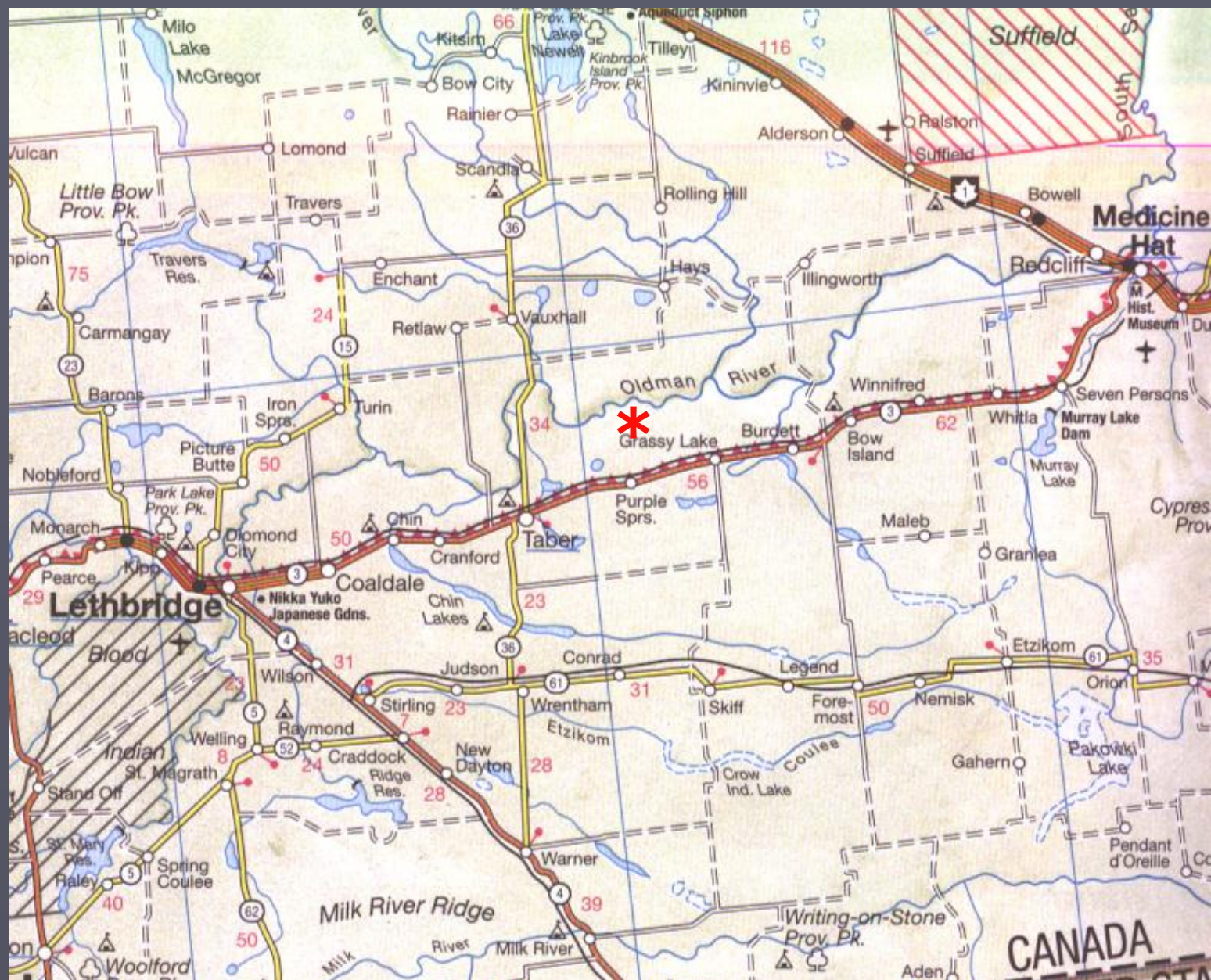
April 30 – June 1

- ▶ April 30 Orientation at the U
- ▶ May 1 On site excavations begin
- ▶ May 2-4 On site excavations
- ▶ May 5 Conference attendance at the U
- ▶ May 6 On site visitors day
- ▶ May 7-11 Normal field school week
- ▶ May 14-18 Normal field school week
- ▶ May 21 Stat holiday, no field school
- ▶ May 22-25 Short field school week
- ▶ May 28-30 Last week of the field school
- ▶ June 1 Last day of the field school

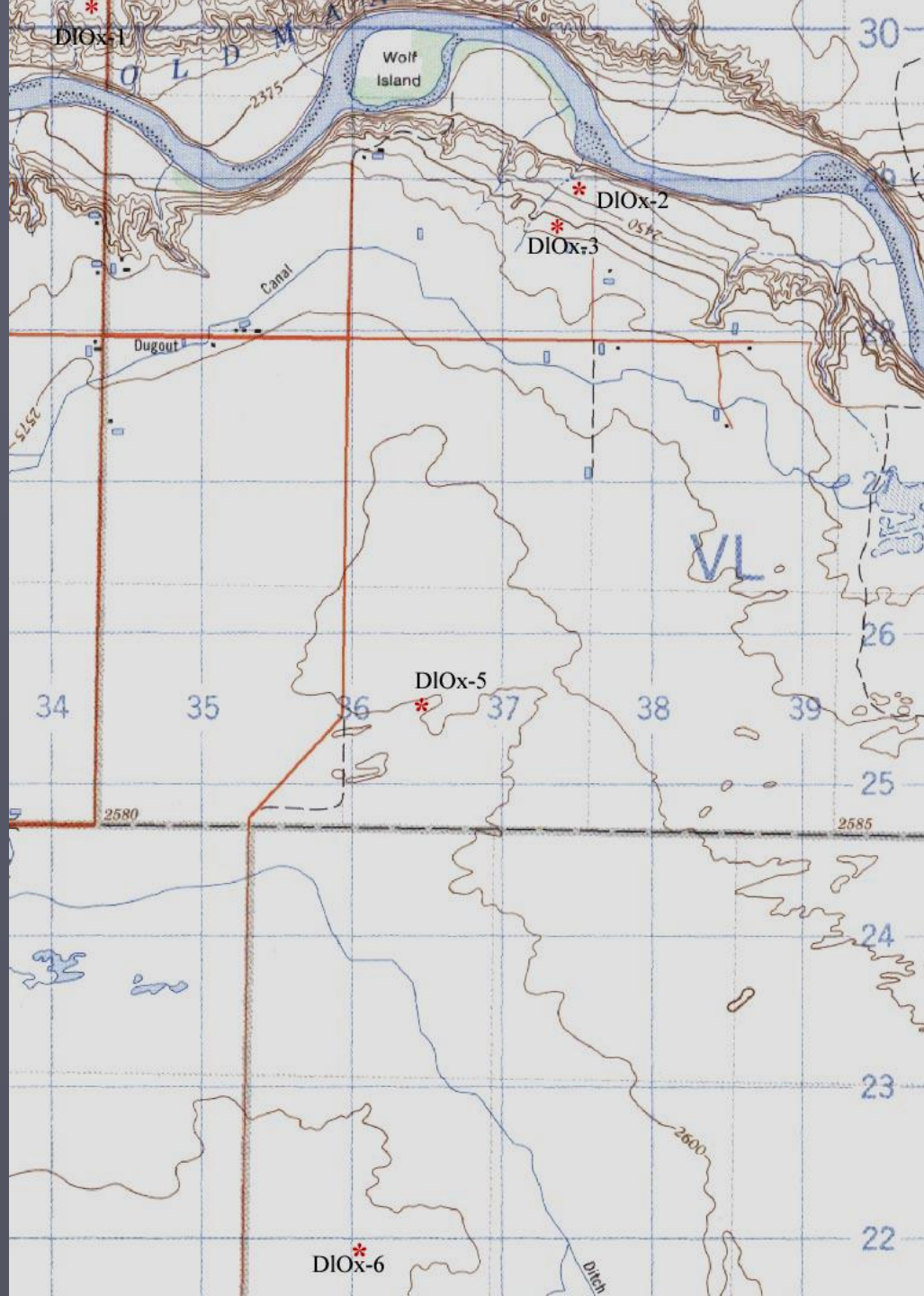
Daily Schedule for the Field School

► Typical Day – Subject to change!

- 7:30 am
- Meet at the university on the 4th level, load the vans
- 8:45 am
- Arrive at the site
- 5:30 pm
- Leave the site
- 6:30 pm
- Unload the vans and check the remains in the lab
- 7:30 pm
- Done for the day



Location of the Fincastle bison kill site (DIOx-5)



**Location of DIOx-5
and neighbouring
sites in the DIOx
Borden Block.**

Site Landscape and Environment



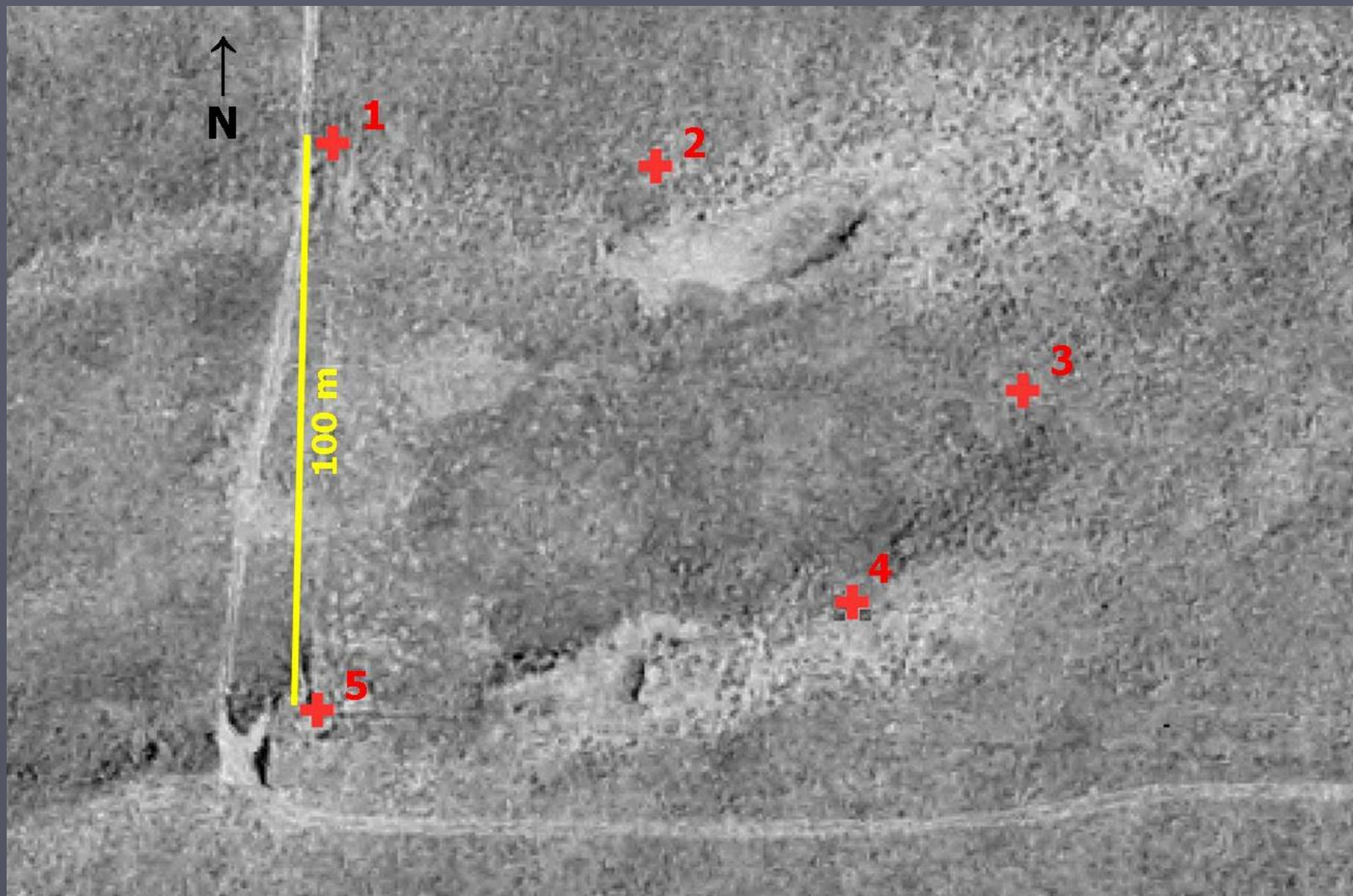
Inside the parabolic dune. View E.



Width of the parabolic dune +/- 100m. View N.



Length of the parabolic dune (+/- 130m from fence to crest). View W.



**Satellite image of the site showing the parabolic dune.
The base points are in red.**



Oldman River about 4 km north of DIOx 5. View N.

Site Assessment Prior to the 2004 excavations



Mapping the disturbed area. View SE.



Surveying the disturbed area. View NE.



Disturbed faunal remains in looted area.



Disturbed faunal remain in looted area.



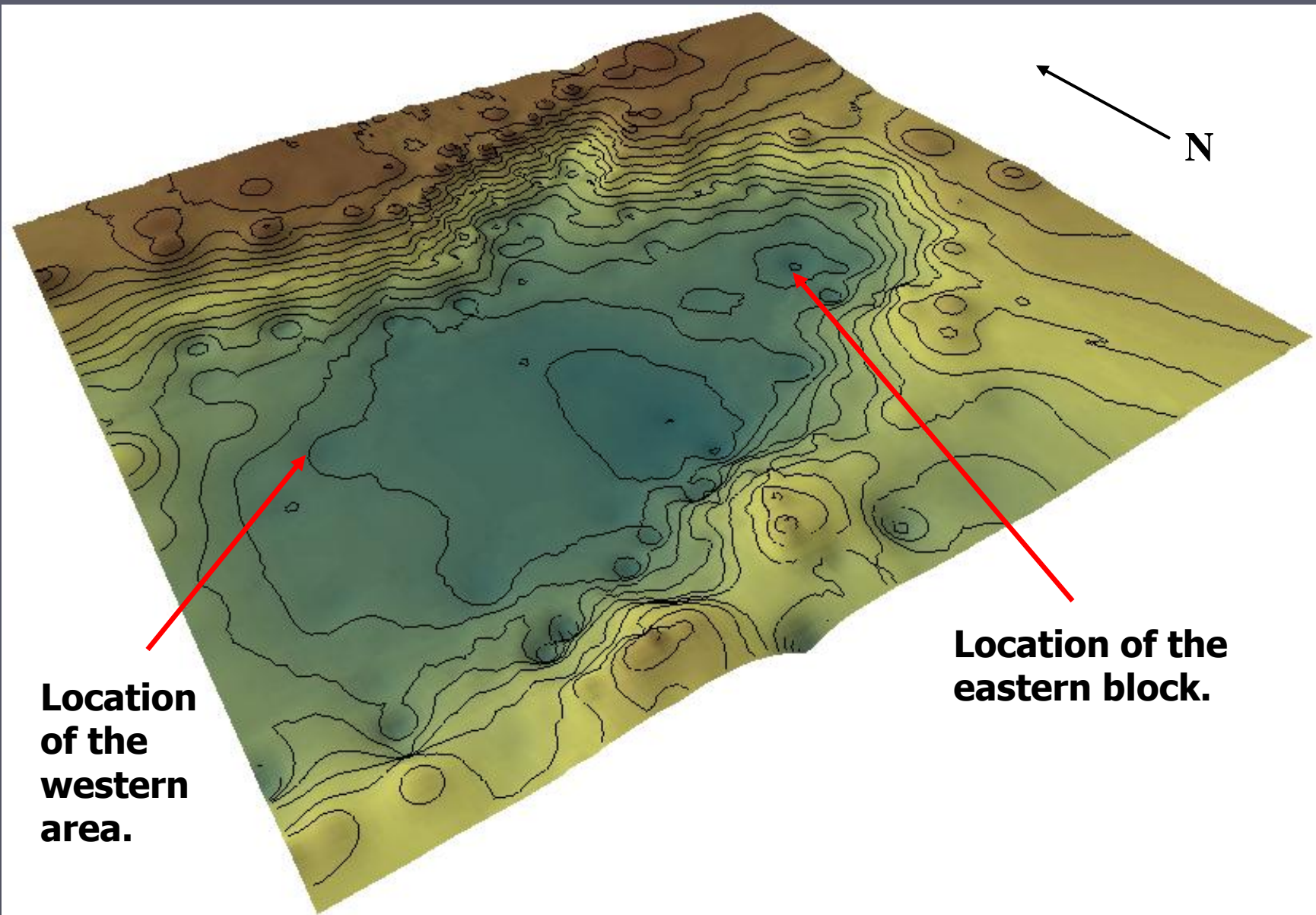
Disturbed projectile in looted area.



Artifacts recovered from the looted area by the ASA Lethbridge Centre.



Private collection from the site.



**Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the site.
The main areas of the excavation are indicated.**



**Excavation areas. West area in the background;
East block in the foreground. View W.**



West area of the site. View E.

Fincastle Bison Kill Site (DIOx-5)

Legend

- 2004 West Area
- 2004 East Area
- 2006 East Area
- 2006/2007 TP Area
- 2007 East Area



Excavated units in the West Area, Test Pit transects, and Eastern Block of the site. 101 units have been excavated between 2004 and 2007.



East Block. View E.



The excavation in full swing.



Excavating the East Block of the site. View N.



Three dimensional recording of the archaeological remains.



Three dimensional recording of the archaeological remains.



Field Recording: Level Sheets, notebooks, graphs and bags.



Screening all excavated sediment through 1/8 inch mesh.



Working in all sorts of weather: -10 C to +30 C; snow, rain and sun.



Artifact processing at the lab.

Excavation Results: The Archaeological Remains



The Bone bed. East Block.



Bone bed. East Block.



Bone bed. East Block.



Bone bed. East Block.



Bone bed. East Block.



Bone bed. East Block.



Bone bed. East Block. Note the articulations.



Pit Feature? Carnivore cranium and upright mandible and scapula.



**Upright mandible and scapula.
West Area.**



**Upright metapodials.
East Block.**



Upright scapulae (3). East Block.



Bone Upright features. East Block.



***In situ* projectile. East Block.**



***In situ* projectile. East Block.**



In situ projectile. East Block.



Knife River Flint projectile points recovered during the excavations.



Non Knife River Flint projectile points recovered during the excavations.



Top of bone bed in the Northern Extension of the Eastern Block.



Depth of bone bed in the Northern Extension of the Eastern Block.



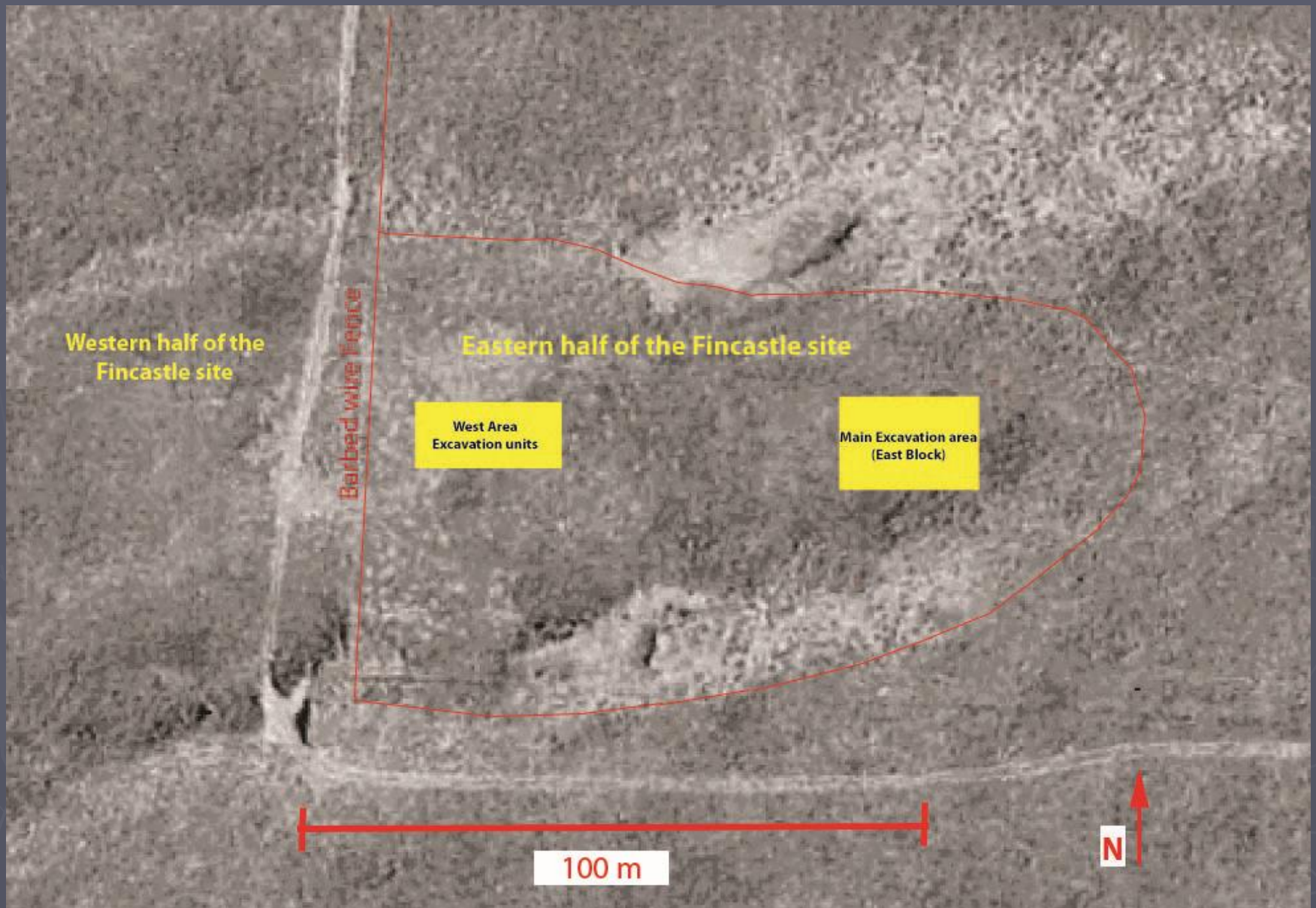
Excavation of the Northern Extension of the Eastern Block.



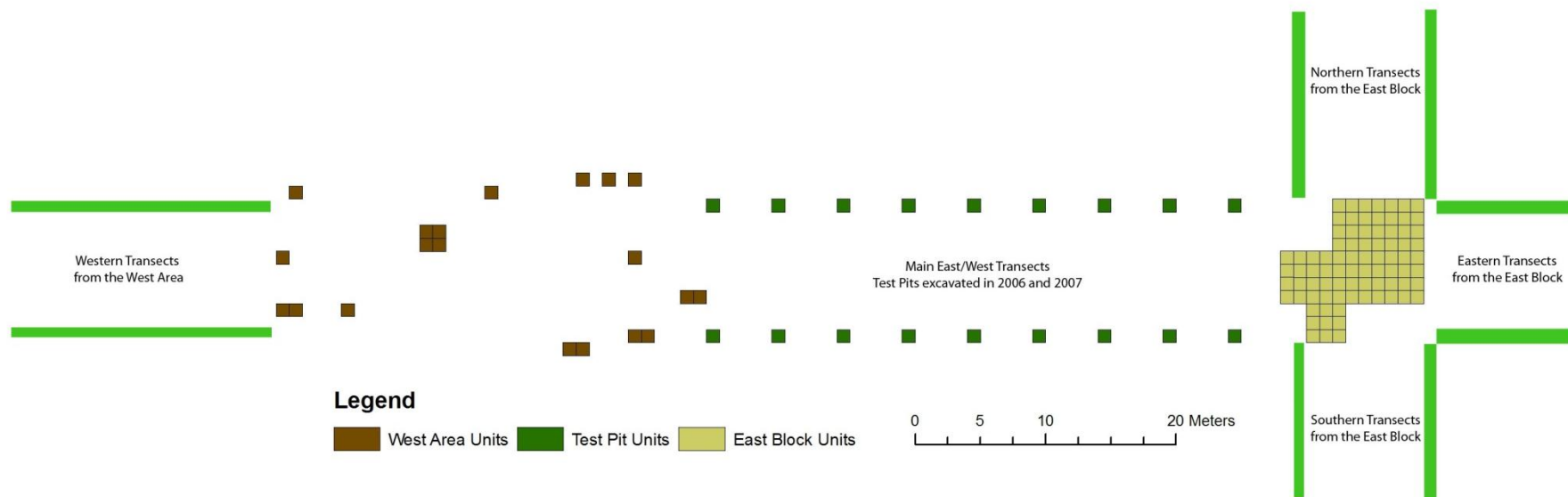
Top of bone bed in the Southern Extension of the Eastern Block.



Test Pit. Depth of and density of the bone bed just west of the Eastern Block.



Field objectives for the 2012 season.



Field objectives for the 2012 season.

Current Research Components of the Project

- Controlled excavation and survey of the site.
- Cleaning, cataloguing and analysis of archaeological remains.

Debitage

Projectiles and other tools

Faunal remains

Fire broken rock

- Geoarchaeological assessment of the site.
- GIS mapping of site and all artifacts recovered to analyze spatial relationships.
- Analysis of the projectile points anddebitage, and comparison with other archaeological sites.
- Analysis of the faunal remains to understand cultural activities relating to animal hunting and butchering techniques.

Dating

- Radiocarbon dating of faunal remains.

Results: 2540 +/- 50 BP (Beta 201910) Vertebra

2490 +/- 60 BP (Beta 201910) Metacarpal

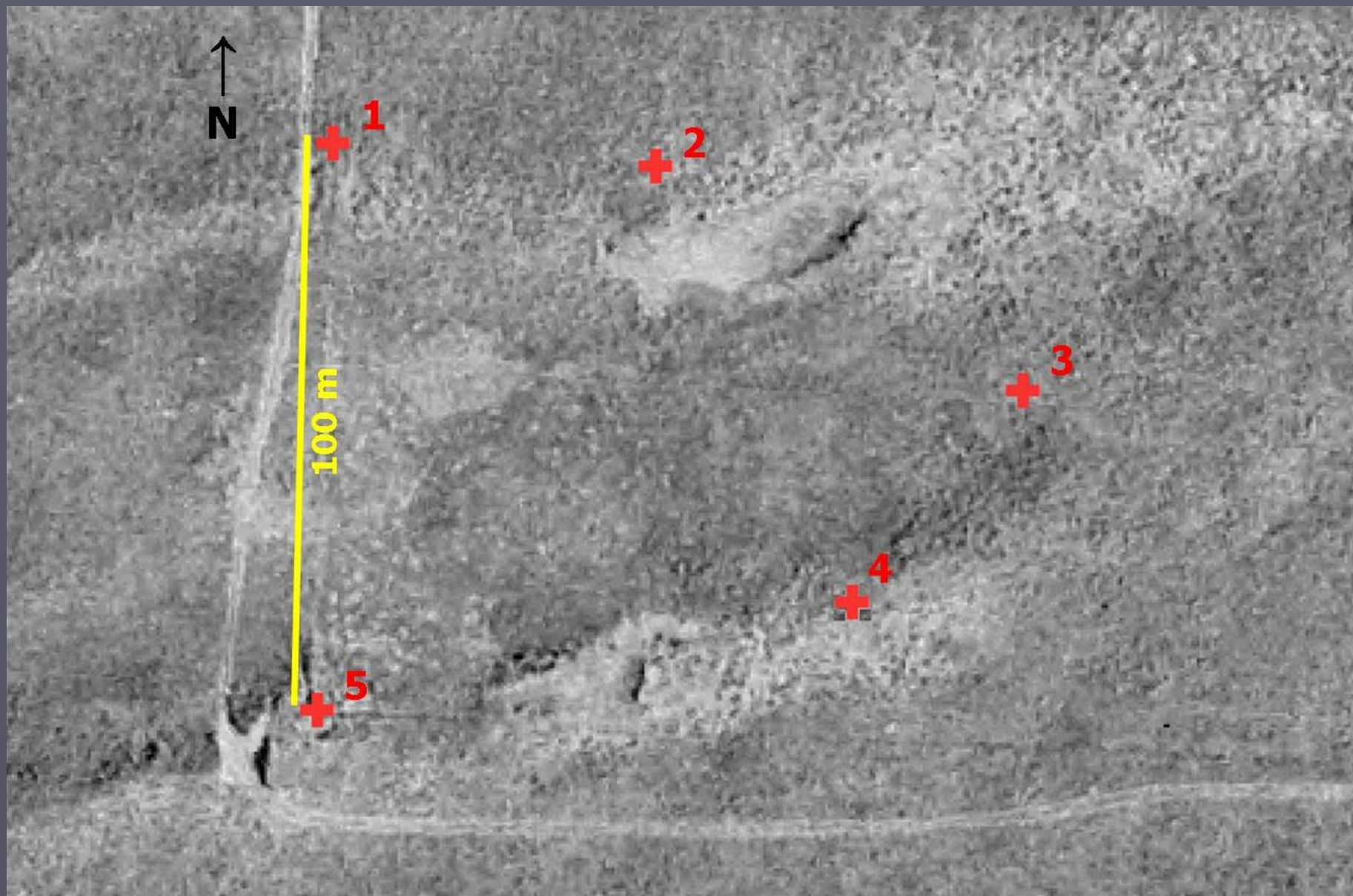
- Places the site in the Late Middle Prehistoric Period.

Archaeological Cultural Connection

- Outlook?
- Pelican Lake?
- Besant?
- Sonota?

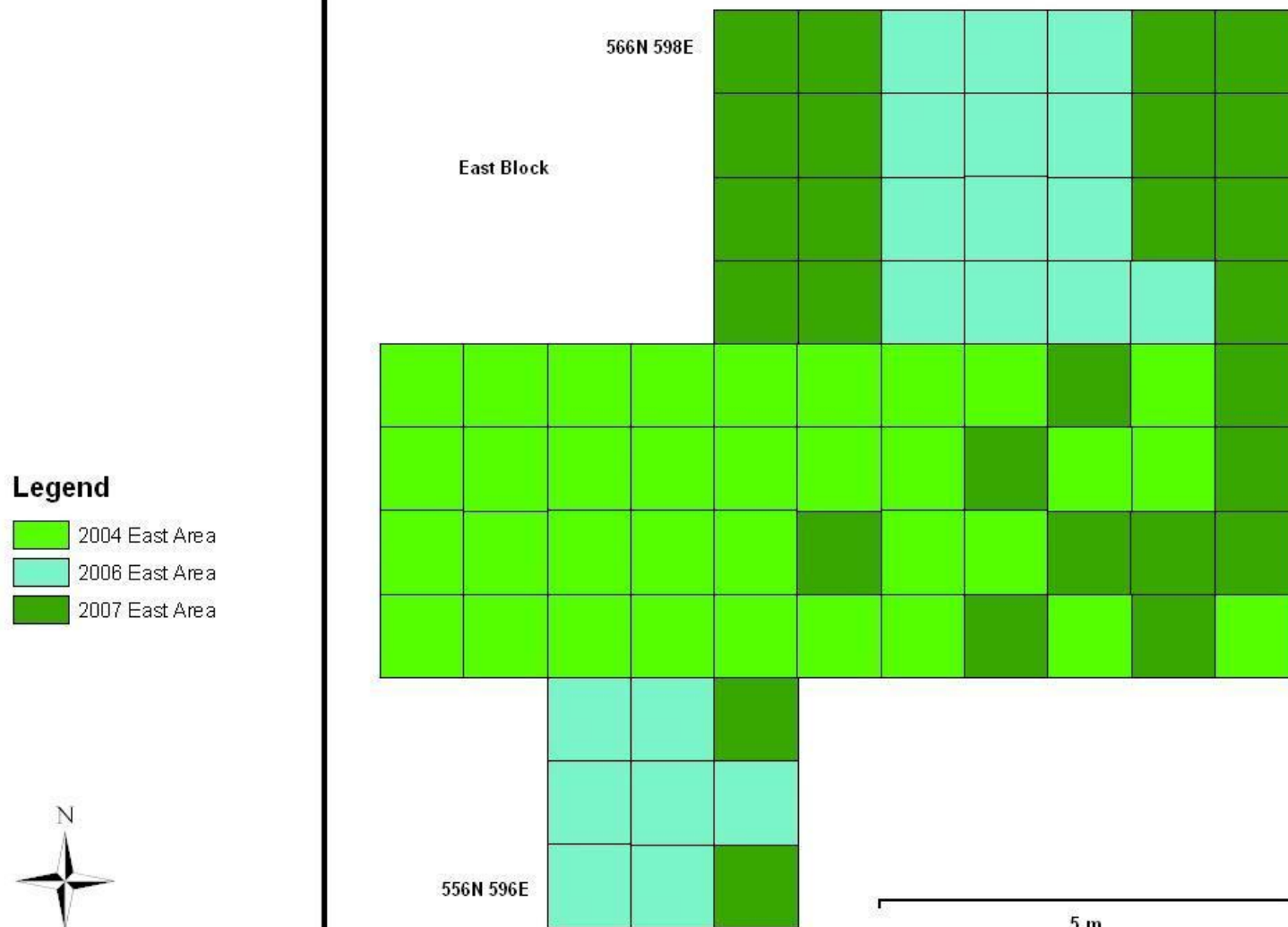
GIS and Spatial Analysis



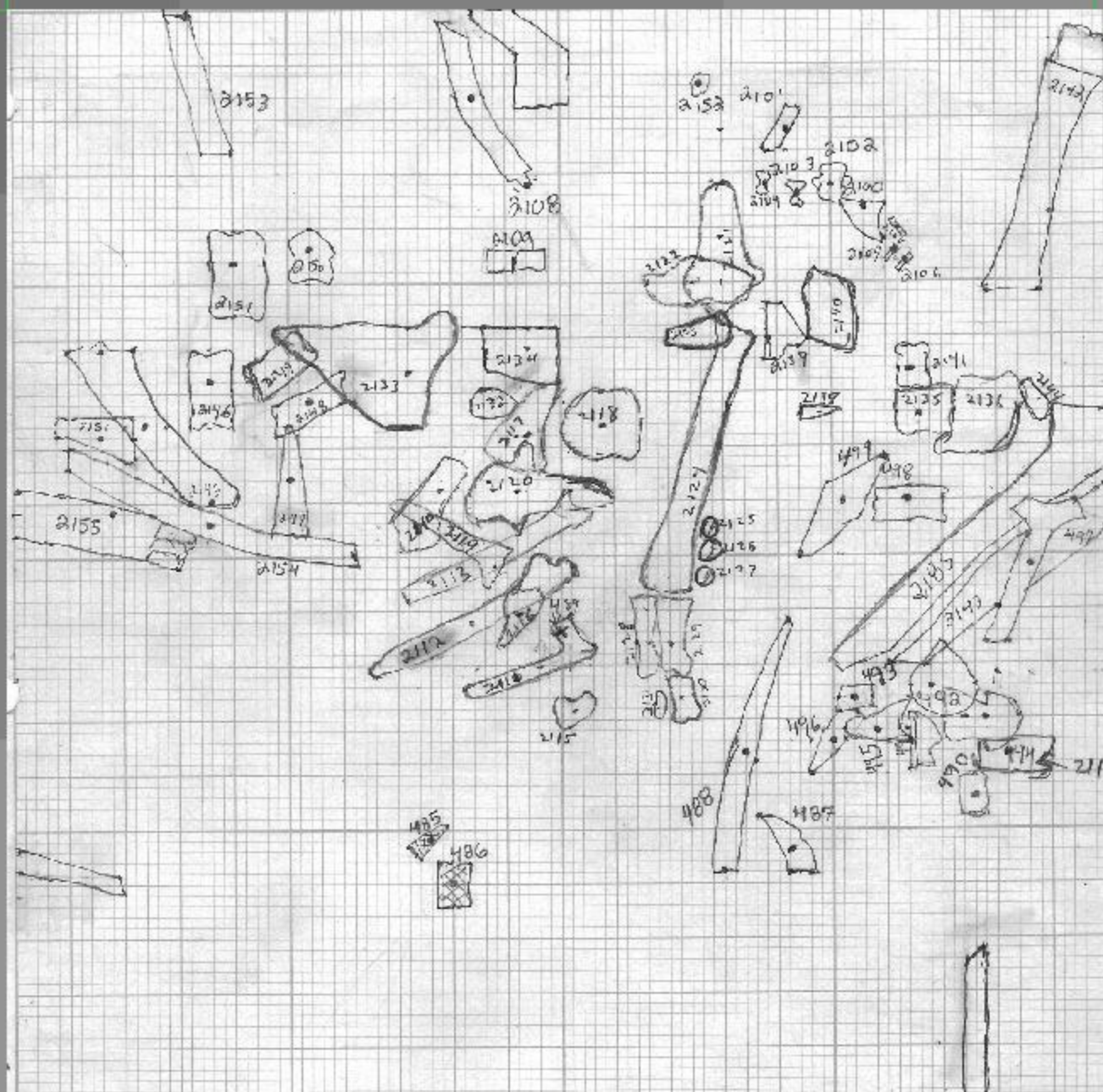


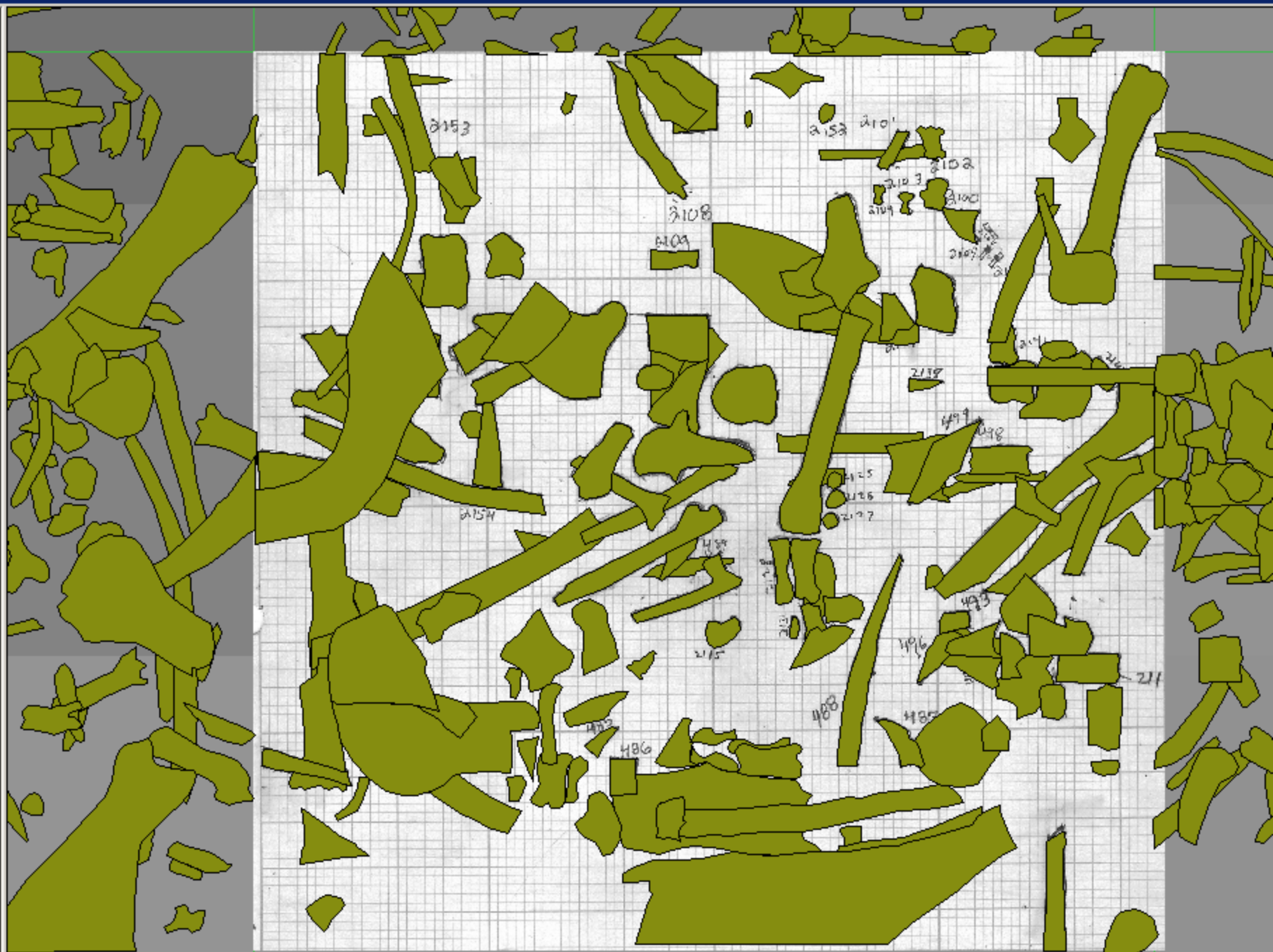
Three-dimensional recording of the site. The Base Points are used to reference every archaeological remain excavated.

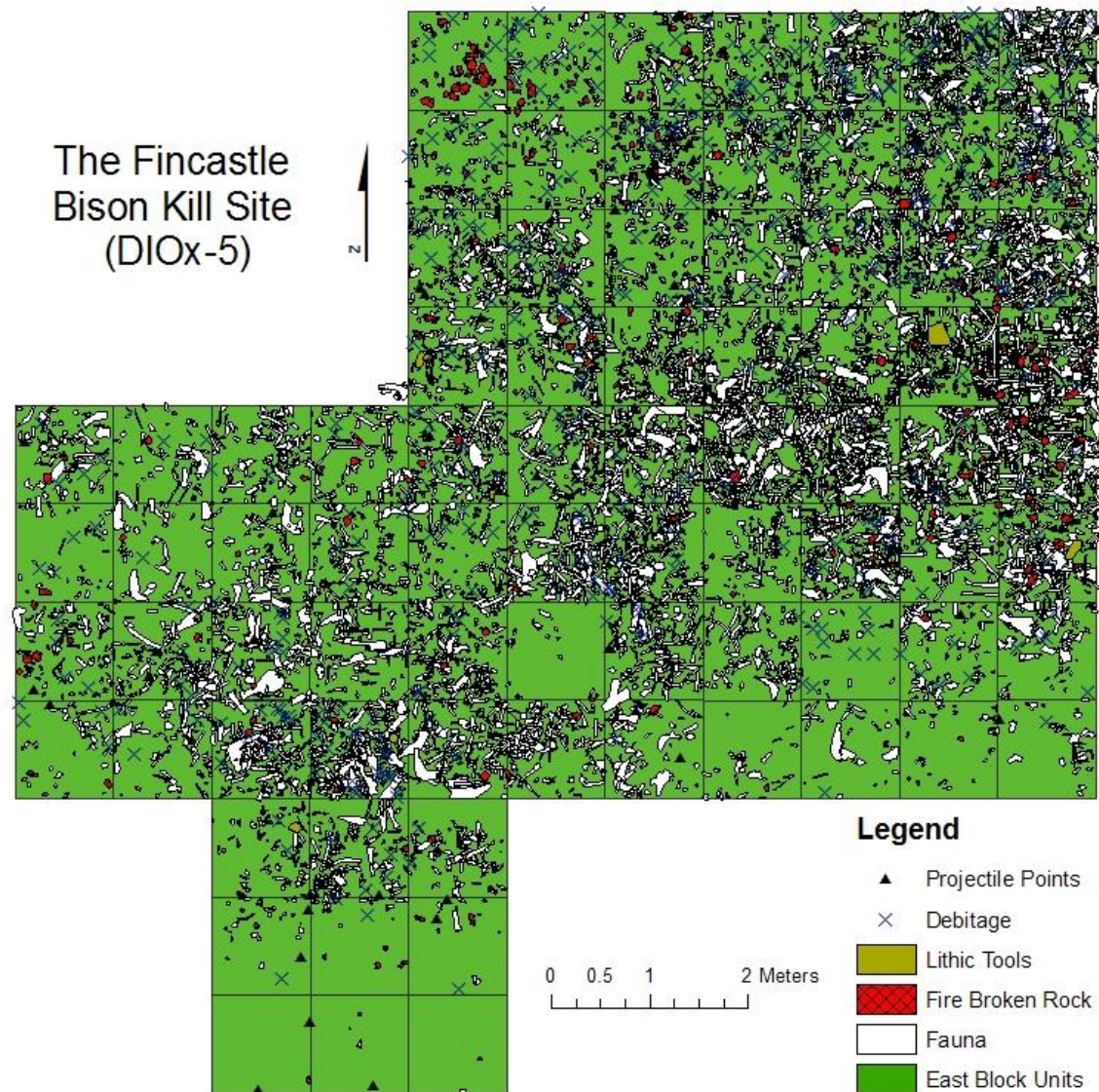
Fincastle Bison Kill Site (DIOx-5)



East Block Excavation units







Cultural Remains from the East Block

Laboratory Analysis



Students get the chance to work on the cultural remains in the laboratory

Lithic Analysis



**Students
working on the
lithic artifacts**



Faunal Analysis



Students working on the faunal remains

Supporting the Project

- SSHRC
- University of Lethbridge
- Alberta Community Development
- Archaeological Society of Alberta
- LeRon Litchfield & family
- You!



Costs

► Tuition

- Two summer session courses (Alberta field school)= +/- \$1021

► Course fees

- \$400

Risks, Safety and Responsibility

► Excavation risks

- Hot and dry
- Ticks, spiders, snakes
- Sharp equipment
- General risks

► Students are responsible for their own personal safety

Application Package

- ▶ Application Package (Due April 11, 2012)
 - Application form
 - Medical Form
 - Letter of reference
 - Essay
- ▶ Deposit (\$50)
- ▶ A maximum of 16 students will be selected to participate in the Fincastle Field School

Fun and Adventure

- ▶ Working at an archaeological site is a lot of work but it is also a lot of fun
 - Learning how to excavate, survey and process the archaeological remains
 - Discovering the past
 - Working outside and being active
 - Working as part of a team

If you are a hard working student that is interested in learning how to excavate at an archaeological site and about Alberta's cultural past, this field school is for you.

It is a fantastic educational experience!

2007 Field School Team



2012 Field School Team?