THE RIVERBEND PRISON SITE (40DV83)

A Late Archaic and Early Woodland Camp along the Cumberland River in Davidson County, Tennessee

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 1987 excavations at the Riverbend Prison site were conducted under the direction of Carl Kuttruff. Division of Archaeology personnel that participated in the project included Paul Neil Allen, John Broster, Michael Moore, Steve Spears, Don Spires, Parris Stripling, and Mary Beth (Dowd) Trubitt.

Michael Moore (Division of Archaeology) examined the lithic and ceramic artifacts. Division archaeologist Emanuel Breitburg conducted the faunal analysis. Lacey Fleming (Middle Tennessee State University) later examined the dog burial in greater detail as part of a more comprehensive study on dog burials. Andrea (Shea) Bishop with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation evaluated the botanical remains. Aaron Deter-Wolf (Division of Archaeology) performed a final collections reassessment and prepared the report on the investigations. All project records and excavated materials were accessioned into the Tennessee Division of Archaeology permanent collections.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Suzanne Hoyal and Ben Nance (Division of Archaeology), and Tanya Peres (Florida State University) for their assistance in completing this Report of Investigations.

I. INTRODUCTION

Site 40DV83 was initially recorded with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology (TDOA) in 1977 during a reconnaissance survey of state-owned property on Cockrill Bend west of downtown Nashville in Davidson County, Tennessee (Butler 1977). At the time of the survey, the site area was part of the Cockrill Bend Prison Farm system (Figure 1). The site area continued to be actively farmed until 1987 when it was included within the boundaries of the proposed Riverbend Maximum Security Institution.

The TDOA was afforded an opportunity to conduct an archaeological exploration at the site during the late summer and early fall of 1987, prior to the start of construction of prison facilities. The excavation effort at 40DV83 included a controlled surface collection of the plowed site area followed by mechanical removal of topsoil from three areas. Although no intact midden deposits were identified at the site, mechanical excavations resulted in the recovery of more than 8,000 prehistoric artifacts and identification of 41 cultural features, including five human graves and one dog burial. Subsequent development of the Special Needs Prison in 1991 on an adjacent tract of land resulted in additional archaeological investigations of this portion of Cockrill Bend (Norton and Broster 2004; Norton and Smith 2015).

Figure 1. View of 40DV83 site area in August 1987, looking south.

II. SITE SETTING

Site 40DV83 is situated on the western side of Cockrill Bend, an approximately 2,900-acre northward meander in the Cumberland River west of downtown Nashville. The site itself is located on a gently sloping upland ridge at approximately 455 feet AMSL, overlooking the Cumberland River floodplain to the west (Figure 2). Dissected uplands form much of the interior of Cockrill Bend, and reach their maximum elevation at approximately 560 feet AMSL to the northeast of the site. A deeply incised slough to the south of the site channels groundwater southeast towards the Cumberland River.

Soils within the site boundaries and surrounding uplands consist of moderately to highly acidic silt loam underlain by Ordovician-aged Bigby-Cannon and Hermitage Formation Limestones (North 1981). Although the acidic nature of these soils contributed to poor archaeological bone preservation at the site, they exhibit high fertility and are well-suited to both crops and pasture. Consequently, this portion of Cockrill Bend has been free of tree canopy or significant underbrush since at least the early 19th century (Figure 3).

Cockrill Bend was a portion of a large land grant given to early Nashville settler James Robertson, and subsequently deeded to his son Jonathan. By 1801, Jonathan Robertson maintained a 2,400-acre slave-based farming operation on the Bend, and built a home called Westover (site 40DV80) approximately 700 meters to the northeast of 40DV83 (Figure 4; Smith 2011). Beginning in the 1830s the land including 40DV83 was purchased from descendants of Jonathan Robertson by Mark R. Cockrill, who in 1867 deeded 2,000 acres to his son James R. Cockrill. James sold the property in 1887 to Dr. William Morrow, who ran a cattle company on the farm. Initial construction of the Tennessee State Prison on Cockrill Bend was complete by 1898, with at least 275 inmates working on Morrow Farm in the 1890s. In 1902, Morrow sold 2,312 acres to Nathanial Baxter, Jr. who used the property as a horse farm. By the 1930s, the Tennessee State Penitentiary controlled the majority of Cockrill Bend. The 40DV83 site area was destroyed by construction of prison facilities and a parking lot, which were completed around 1989.

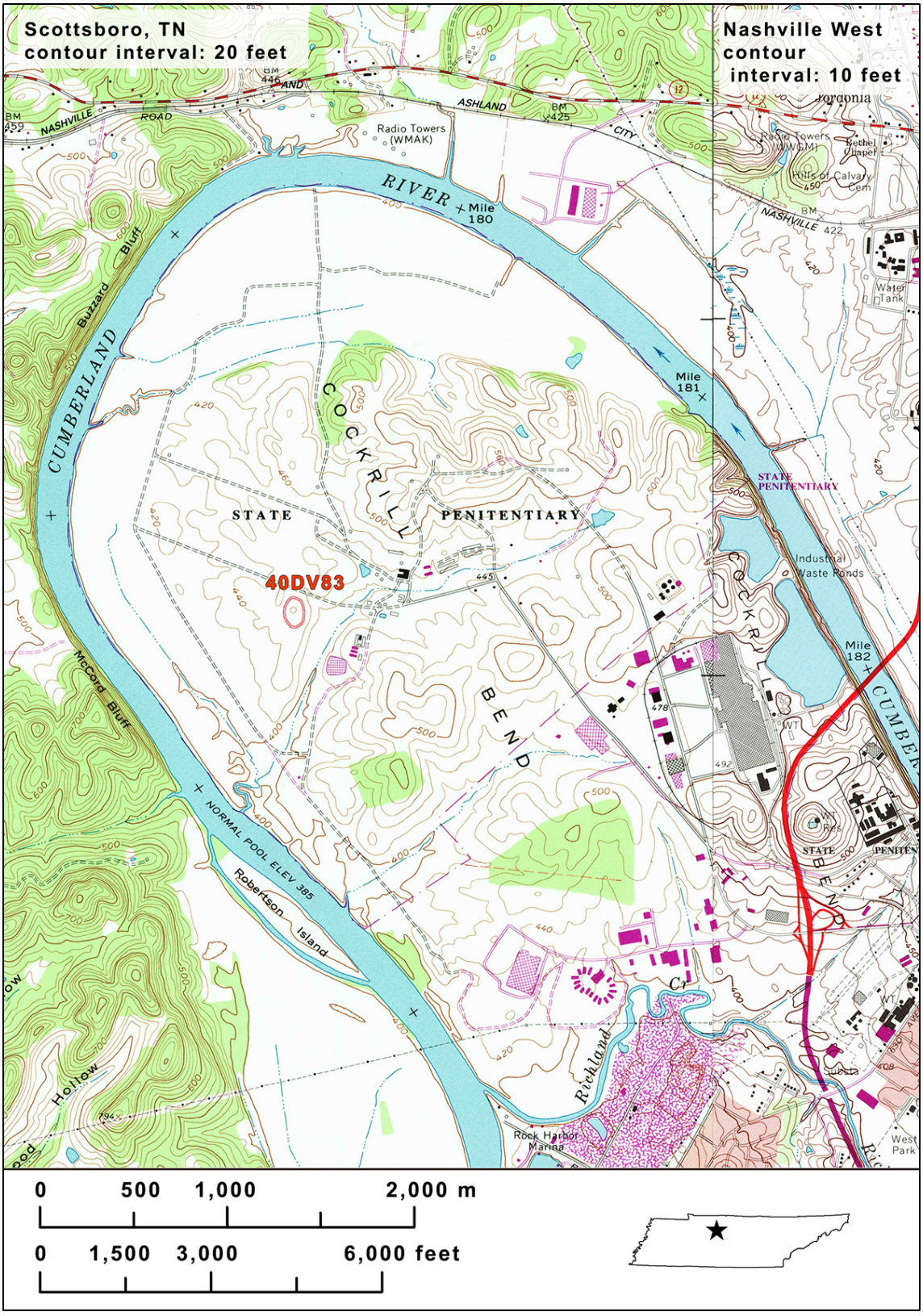

Figure 2. Excerpt of 1984 Scottsboro and Nashville West, TN 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangles showing the 40DV83 site location prior to widespread development of Cockrill Bend.

Figure 3. View of mechanical plowzone removal in strip block A, looking west.

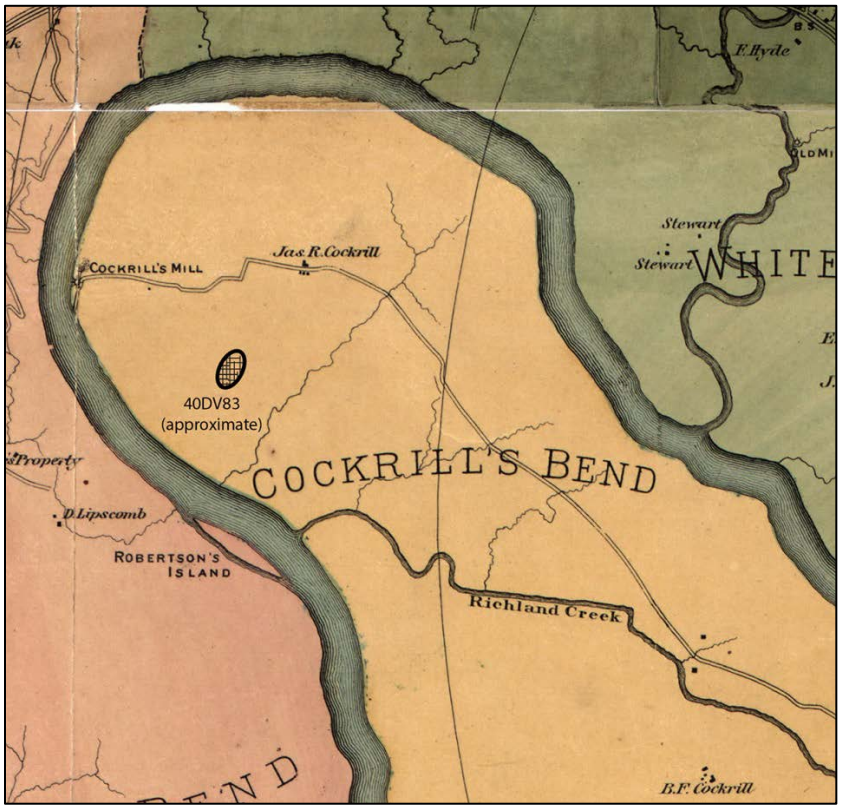

Figure 4. Excerpt of 1871 Davidson County map by Wilbur F. Foster with approximate location of 40DV83.

III. EXCAVATIONS

The 1987 investigation at 40DV83 began with establishment of a 10 x 10 meter north/south grid across the landform. A controlled surface collection of the plowed site area was then performed (Figure 5), and the results used to delineate two trenches and three blocks (A, B, and C) for mechanical soil removal (Figures 6 and 7). A gradall with a smooth-edged bucket was used to remove the plowzone from these areas, for a total exposure of 1,903 square meters. Soil profiles within the site consisted of up to 35 cm of silt loam plowzone immediately overlaying silty clay subsoil. No intact midden deposits were encountered in any of the mechanically-stripped areas. A total of 46 possible features were exposed beneath the plow zone in Strip Blocks A and B, of which 41 ultimately proved to be cultural in origin (Figure 7). These included five human burials, one dog burial, and 35 refuse-filled pits (Table 1). Feature fill was removed by hand and generally screened through 1/4-inch wire mesh on site. Waterscreen and flotation samples were extracted from all but two features (32 and 39) and returned to the Division laboratory for processing. Strip Block C, located 62 meters north of Strip Block B, failed to yield any intact cultural deposits.

Figure 5. Division of Archaeology staff monitor plowzone removal, August 1987.

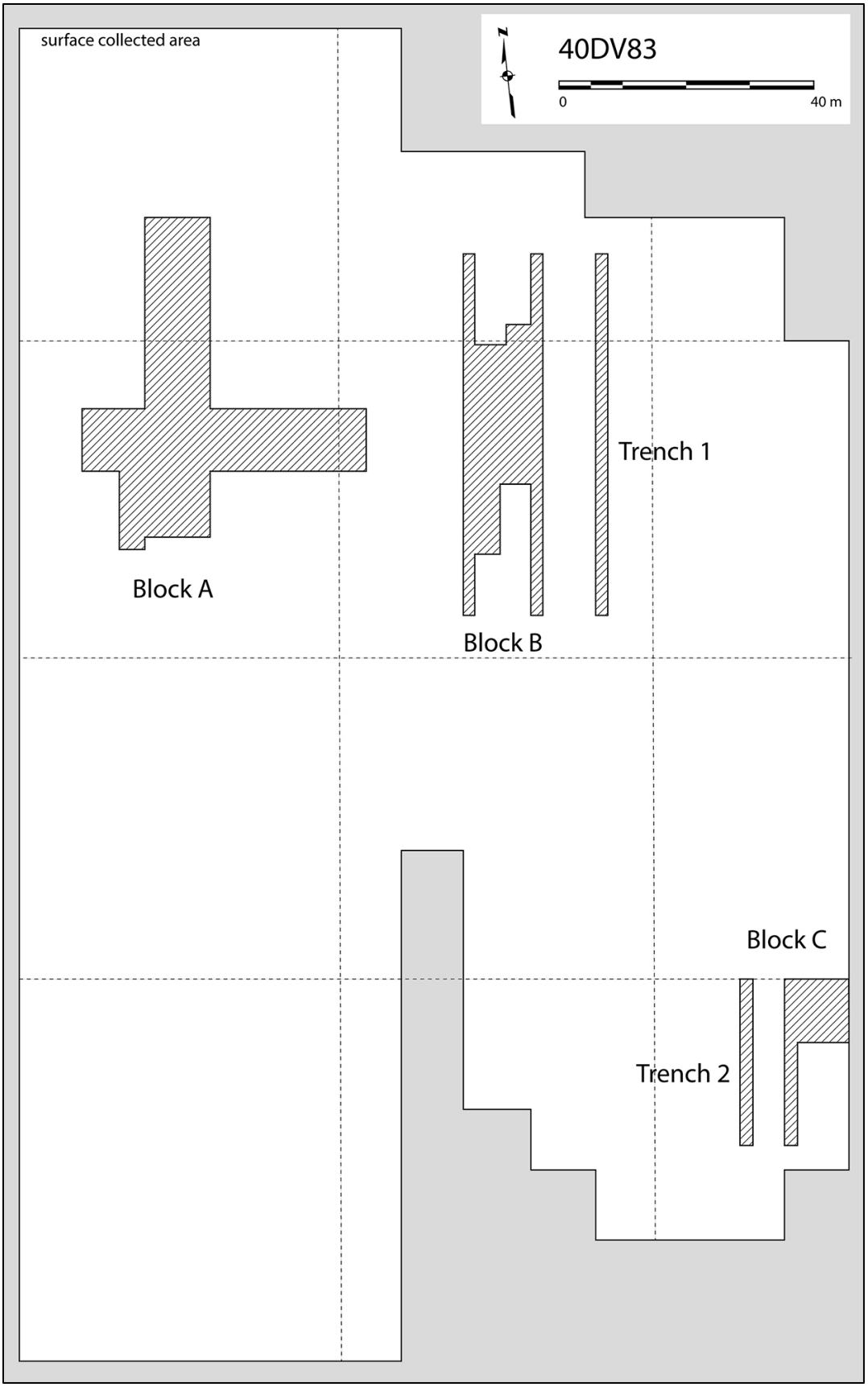

Figure 6. Plan map of mechanical strip blocks A-C.

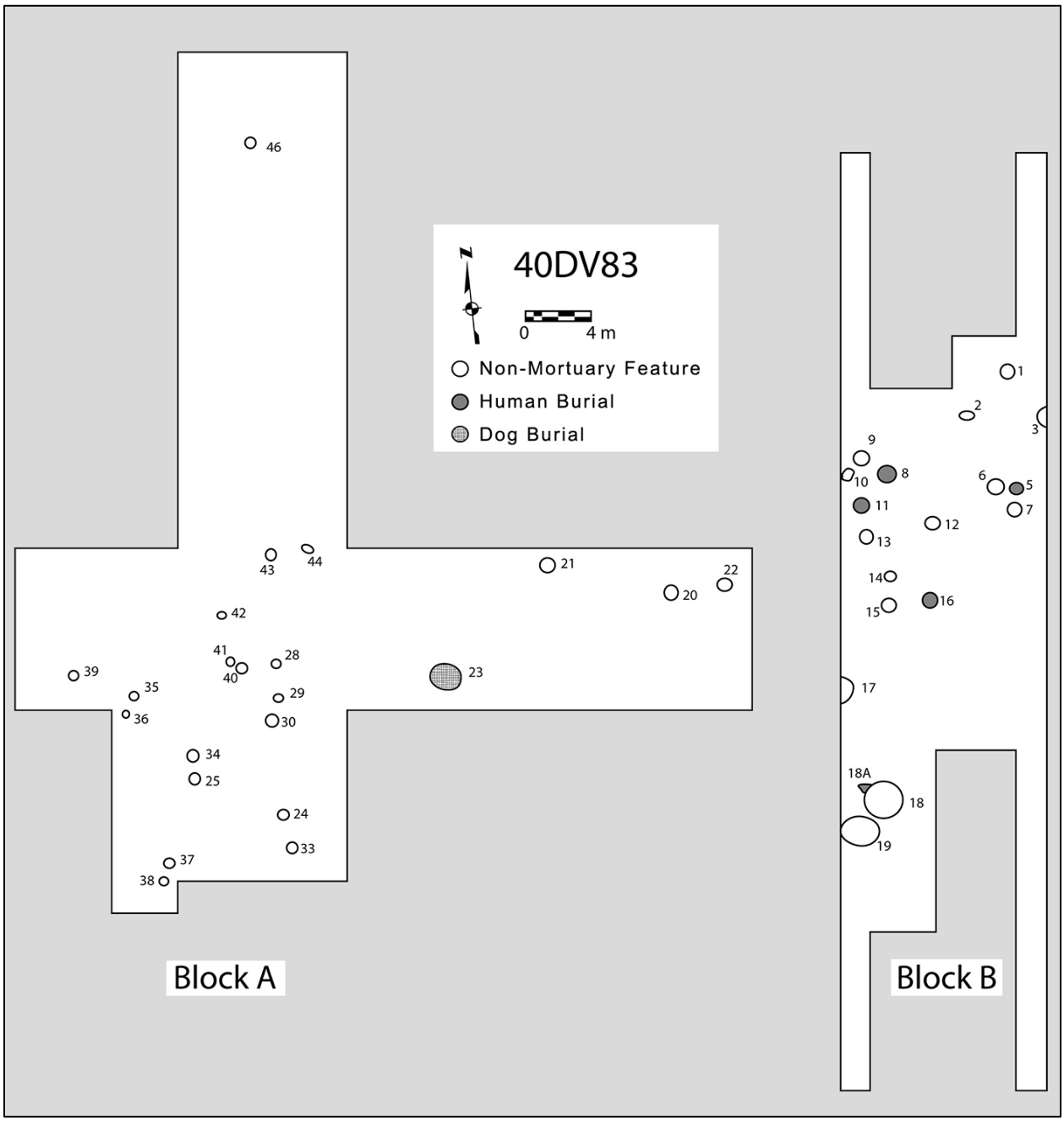

Figure 7. Plan map of cultural features within strip blocks A and B.

Table 1. Summary of Feature Data from 40DV83.

Number	Type	Plan View	Diameter*	Length*	Width*	Depth*	Profile
1	Refuse-filled pit	Roughly circular	-	80	78	11	Basin-shaped.
2	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	130	114	11	Irregular base.
3	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	120	110	11	Basin-shaped.
5	Pit burial (human)	Circular to oval	-	67	63	15	Basin-shaped.
6	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	70	67	15	Basin-shaped.
7	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	73	67	23	Basin-shaped.
8	Pit burial (human)	Circular to oval	-	70	65	?	Unknown.
9	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	96	86	40	Straight to slightly convex walls; base is flat.
10	Refuse-filled pit	Oval	-	93	74	17	Basin-shaped.
11	Pit burial (human)	Circular to oval	-	79	69	23	Basin-shaped.
12	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	66	-	-	11	Basin-shaped.
13	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	85	79	13	Basin-shaped.
14	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	80	72	11	Basin-shaped.
15	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	95	87	45	Straight to slightly convex walls; base is generally flat.
16	Pit burial (human)	Circular to oval	-	88	81	43	West wall convex, east wall straight to slightly convex; base slightly rounded.
17	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	91	-	-	53	South wall straight then convex toward flat base, north wall gently sloping.
18	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	196	-	-	115	Straight to gently sloping sides; base is slightly rounded.
18A	Pit burial (human)	Oval	-	75	60	20	Burial pit is intrusive on northwest portion of pit 23.
19	Refuse-filled pit	Oval	-	255	177	53	Basin-shaped.
20	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	71	-	-	12	Somewhat basin-shaped.
21	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	90	82	14	Basin-shaped.
22	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	96	84	15	Somewhat conoidal.
23	Pit burial (dog)	Oval	-	186	145	54	Somewhat conoidal.
24	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	58	45	10	Basin-shaped.
25	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	70	61	26	Straight walls, flat base.
28	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	55	-	-	10	Conoidal.
29	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	62	57	35	steep walls, rounded base.
30	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	97	-	-	66	Straight to gently sloping walls; base is flat.
33	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	50	-	-	9	Somewhat conoidal.
34	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	68	63	51	Steep wall, rounded base.
35	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	65	-	-	24	Basin-shaped.
36	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	57	53	5	Basin-shaped(?).
37	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	61	58	37	West wall slightly convex, east wall straight to gently sloping; base is flat.
38	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	55	52	15	Rounded base.
39	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	46	-	-	2	Unknown.
40	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	88	85	48	Straight to gently sloping walls; base is flat.
41	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	52	40	3	Conoidal base(?).
42	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	51	44	15	Basin-shaped.
43	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	65	61	41	Walls slightly convex; base is generally flat.
44	Refuse-filled pit	Circular to oval	-	65	53	7	Basin-shaped.
46	Refuse-filled pit	Circular	37	-	-	11	Unknown.

* cm

HUMAN BURIALS

Five human burials were exposed and removed from Strip Block B (Table 2; see Figure 7). Four individuals had been placed in circular to oval purpose-dug pits (Features 5, 8, 11, and 16) that ranged from 67 to 88 cm long and 63 to 81 cm wide (see Table 1). The remains of a fifth individual (Feature 18A) were defined inside an oval pit that encroached upon a very large, previously existing refuse-filled pit. Sparse amounts of chipped stone debris, animal bones, and charred botanical remains were recovered from the fill of these burial pits. No grave goods or burial offerings were present.

Table 2. Summary of Human Burials from 40DV83.

Feature	Condition	Position	Orientation	Sex	Age
5	Poor / rib fragments	Flexed	-	Indet.	Indet. / adult
8	Poor / long bones and partial pelvis	Flexed	-	Indet.	Indet. / adult
11	Poor / tibia, partial pelvis, partial cranium	Flexed on left side	east	Indet.	Indet. / adult
16	Poor / long bone fragments	Flexed	-	Indet.	Indet. / adult
18A	Poor / long bone fragments, partial cranium	Flexed on back	southeast	Indet.	Indet. / adult

All five burials were defined mainly by the presence of fragmented long bones, and assessed as being interred in flexed positions. Cranial remains were visible in two cases (Features 11 and 18A), but the overall bone preservation was extremely poor (Figure 8). The individual in Feature 11 was interred resting on their left side, with head oriented to the east. The individual in Feature 18A appeared to have been interred on their back, with head oriented to the southeast. The specific positioning of the remaining burials could not be determined. All of the buried individuals appear to have been adults, although no detailed analysis of the skeletal remains was possible due to their condition. Because of preservation issues and the small skeletal sample from 40DV83 it is not possible to discuss the health, pathologies, or mortality of the population.

DOG BURIAL

The articulated skeleton of a young dog was exposed and removed from Feature 23 (Figure 9). This large, circular to oval pit contained stratified deposits to a depth of 95 cm below surface. The skeletal remains were situated within a soil layer approximately 60 cm below surface, suggesting the animal was interred within an already existing pit.

> *[The] single articulated dog burial...was a young dog weighing approximately 9.6 kilograms (21.2 pounds). An epiphyseal plate was visible on the distal of the right ulna. No load-bearing pathologies were noted on the dorsal spinous processes of the lumbar vertebrae, but there was slight evidence of warping on a single thoracic vertebrae...I determined that this was not a positive indication of the load-bearing phenomenon. No baculum was identified among the elements present, so no determination of sex was made.* (Fleming 2006:9).

Figure 8. *In situ* view of human burial in Feature 8.

OTHER FEATURES

The remaining features from the site area were circular to oval refuse-filled pits containing variable amounts of cultural material (see Table 1). Most of these features were less than one meter in diameter or maximum length. Features 17, 18, 23, 83, and 40 revealed evidence of multiple fill episodes.

Feature 18 was considerably wider and deeper than the other pits at the site, measuring nearly two meters in diameter and extending 48 cm below the plowzone (Figure 10). Four separate fill episodes were delineated within Feature 18, including one episode in which the central portion of the feature (approximately 130 cm in diameter) was redug and backfilled with charcoal, burned animal bone, and burned limestone. There was no oxidization of the surrounding matrix or evidence that the burning occurred in situ. Following deposition of these materials the feature was apparently left open and naturally filled in through accumulation of artifact-free brown loam. One burial (Feature 18A) was intrusive into the northwest portion of Feature 18.

Figure 9. Excavation of Feature 23 with dog burial (designated Burial 2) at bottom of pit.

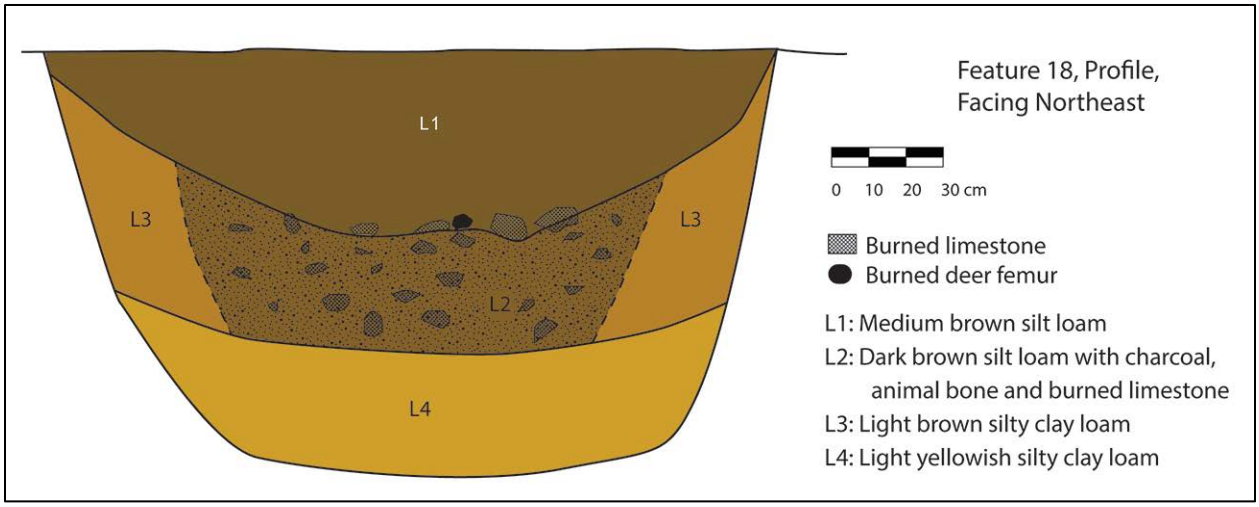

Figure 10. Profile view of Feature 18.

IV. ARTIFACT DESCRIPTIONS

LITHIC ARTIFACTS

A total of 8,414 lithic artifacts were recovered during the Riverbend Prison site investigations (Table 3). Nearly all of the chipped stone artifacts were made from locally available Ft. Payne and St. Louis cherts. However, four items (two core fragments, one knife fragment, and one blank flake) appear macroscopically to be fashioned from Dover chert. This non-lustrous, gray to brown colored material is sometimes mottled with black and gray and inclusions of crystalline calcite (Parish 2009). Dover chert has been traditionally associated with prehistoric quarry sites in Stewart County some 80 km northwest of 40DV83, although other sources of macroscopically similar chert have been reported from Houston, Hickman, Humphreys, and Benton Counties (Smith and Broster 1993).

Nearly one-fourth (*n=32*) of the 132 recovered projectile points could be assigned to a previously established type (Figure 11; Table 4). These types span the Late Archaic through Early Woodland periods of regional prehistory, including Ledbetter, Little Bear Creek, Motley, Bakers Creek, Turkey-tail, Wade, Adena, and Adena Narrow Stemmed (Cambron and Hulse 1983; Justice 1987).

Other chipped stone tools from the site include one modified flake cutting tool, two utilized flake cutting tools, three crude side scraper fragments, five knife fragments, and one multi-task tool. The multi-task tool exhibits a somewhat rectangular plan-view, and measures 38.6 mm long, 24.2 mm wide, and 6.9 mm thick. This well-crafted implement is bifacially worked, but displays one steeply retouched lateral edge. The opposing lateral edge has fine bifacial microflaking. Based upon its formal characteristics, this tool was made for both scraping and cutting actions. The tool was recovered from the plowed surface.

A probable limestone hoe section was recovered from Feature 19 (Figure 12). This digging implement was manufactured from a relatively thin slab and bifacially flaked into a rectangular shape with a rounded end. The recovered section measures 132.0 mm long, 104.4 mm wide, and 24.6 mm thick.

The pecked and ground stone tool assemblage at 40DV83 consisted of four hammerstones and eight mano fragments. Three of the four hammerstones were moderate size, ovoid chert cobbles with numerous crushed surfaces. The other hammerstone was a small, rounded tabular chert cobble with extensive battering along one bifacially worked lateral edge. All but one of the mano fragments were made of sandstone. The specimen from Feature 22 was made of quartzite. Sandstone and quartzite, although not common to the study area, were likely obtained from local remnant hilltops or stream beds.

Table 3. Lithic Artifacts Recovered from 40DV83.

Provenience	Tested Cobble	Core	Primary Biface	Secondary Biface	Tertiary Biface	Primary Flake	Secondary Flake	Tertiary Flake	Flake Fragment	Shatter	Modified flake	Multi task tool	Scraper	Projectile Point	Bifacial Knife	Hammerstone	Mano	Hoe	TOTAL
Surface	6	276	-	56	35	88	441	2013	2560	845	-	1	1	110	3	4	1	-	6440
Feature 1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Feature 3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Feature 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
Feature 6	-	2	-	-	-	2	10	15	32	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	68
Feature 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Feature 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	24
Feature 9	-	1	-	-	1	1	8	6	13	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	34
Feature 10	-	-	-	1	-	6	7	26	29	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74
Feature 11	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	23	6	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	34
Feature 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Feature 13	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	17	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Feature 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Feature 15	-	-	-	1	-	3	7	24	21	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Feature 16	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	22	26	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	60
Feature 17	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	11	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	30
Feature 18	-	8	-	1	1	18	88	204	129	73	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	524
Feature 19	-	5	1	2	-	2	36	99	72	32	1	-	-	6	-	-	1	1	258
Feature 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Feature 21	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	65	63	5	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	140
Feature 22	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
Feature 23	-	4	-	-	-	5	44	199	115	14	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	388
Feature 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Feature 29	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Feature 30	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	26	17	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Feature 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4		3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	9
Feature 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	11
Feature 37	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	9	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Feature 38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Feature 40	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	24	12	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	49
Feature 43	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	18	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
TOTAL	7	299	1	65	37	132	691	2840	3165	1020	3	2	3	132	4	4	8	1	8414

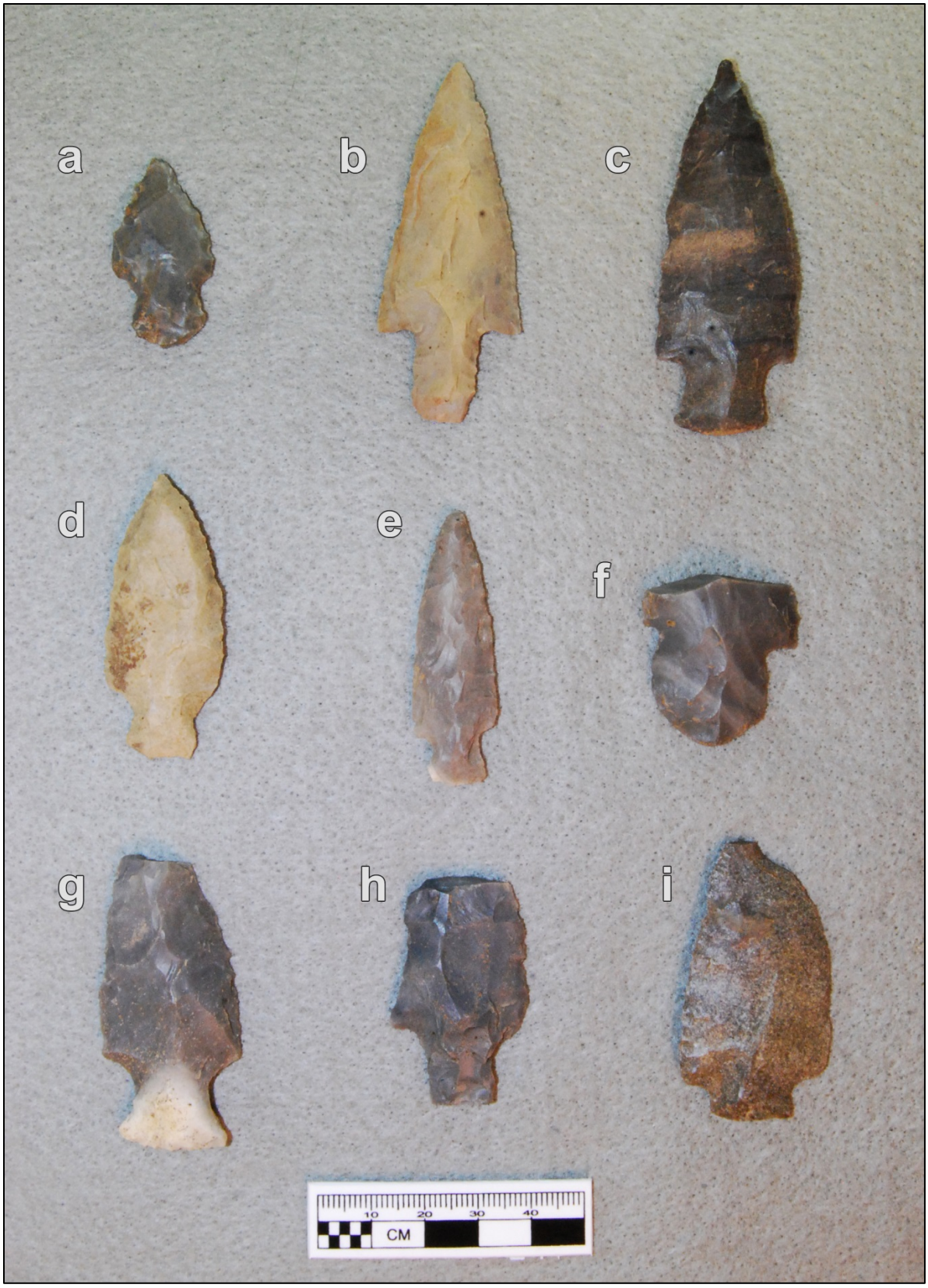

Figure 11. Selected projectile points from 40DV83 (a and d-Feature 19; b-Feature 21; c and f-ground surface; e-Feature 34; g-Feature 6; h-Feature 11; i-Feature 35).

Table 4. Projectile Points Recovered from 40DV83.

Point Type	Provenience	Total Length	Max Width	Max Thickness	Proximal Haft Width	Distal Haft Width	Blade Base Width	Haft Length
Adena	Surface	27.0*	22.5*	8.2	21.2	16.3	22.5*	20.7
Adena	Surface	32.2*	30.4	10	20.7	18	30.4	20.9
Adena	Surface	37.4*	30.1	10.7	19	11.0*	30.1	16.5
Adena	Surface	64.2*	29.9	9.7	20.9	15.6	30.1	12.7*
Adena	Surface	29.4*	28	7.2	18.4	-	28	10.7*
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	15.5*	-	5.2	12.5*	9.4	-	15.5*
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	19.7*	-	5.2	13.4	9.4	-	19.7*
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	26.7*	15.4*	11.8	12.5	9.4	15.4*	21.2
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	24.4*	-	4.7	13.5	9.3	-	24.4*
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	20.8*	-	5.4*	13	8.2	-	20.8*
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	34.1*	19.8*	4.3	11.9	11.5	19.8*	15
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	35.7*	29.5	6.7	14.7	13.7	29.5	19.2*
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	41.6*	25.4	6.8	11.6	13.2	25.2	15.2
Adena Narrow Stemmed	Surface	32.3*	23.6	7	13.6	6.5	23.6	13.2
Bakers Creek	Surface	24.9*	24.2*	7.6	12.1	14.3	24.2*	12.7
Bakers Creek	Surface	34.3*	19.8	5.7	12.6	14.8	18.7	11.4
Bakers Creek	Surface	23.9*	17.4*	6.4	14.2	17.9	17.4*	14.6
Bakers Creek	Surface	34.2*	21.2	8.8	14.1	20	21.2	14.1
Cotaco Creek?	Surface	43.9	26.6	5.1	9.7	8.6	26.6	7.6
Gary?	Surface	57.8*	28.6*	9.7	18.9	12.3	28.6*	11.8*
Ledbetter	Surface	71.7	26.7	9.2	15.1	17.6	25.7	13.8
Little Bear Creek	Feature 11	42.7*	26.3*	9	12.5	-	26.3*	13.0*
Little Bear Creek	Feature 21	69.6	27.6	6.6	12.3	12	27.6	17.3
Little Bear Creek	Surface	51.7*	22.3	7.3	10.3	-	22.3	9.8*
Little Bear Creek	Feature 34	52.2	16.3	7.1	9.1	11.1	16.3	10.5
Motley	Feature 19	40.9*	26.2	8.3	12.9	16.7	23.2	12.2
Motley	Feature 19	53.6	23.1	8.5	11.8	13.4*	21.2	13.1
Motley	Surface	51.6	22.7	9.6	13.4	16.2	22.7	14.1
Motley	Surface	24.4*	27.6	8.7	13.5	15.0*	27.6	11.6
Motley	Feature 6	55.7*	26.1	10	15.1	20.8	26.1	17.5
Motley?	Feature 23	34.4*	16.3	8.3	10.7	13.1*	16.3	9.8*
Turkey-tail	Surface	34.8*	23	7.4	15.5	18	21.6	16.9
Wade	Surface	23.5*	25.5*	7.1	13.4	14.3	25.5*	9.5

* = broken

Figure 12. Limestone hoe fragment from Feature 19.

CERAMIC ARTIFACT

The 40DV83 ceramic assemblage consists of one small, limestone-tempered body sherd recovered from the bottom level of Feature 18 (Figure 13). This specimen displays a moderately compact paste, and plain exterior and interior surfaces. Numerous blocky holes (ranging from less than 1.0 mm up to 3.0 mm in size) are visible on these surfaces where the temper has leached out. This sherd has a maximum thickness of 3.4 mm. These characteristics support a favorable comparison with the Mulberry Creek Plain type (Haag 1939, 1942; Heimlich 1952).

Figure 13. Ceramic sherd recovered from Feature 18.

FAUNAL REMAINS

Faunal materials consisting of 280 specimens were recovered from 14 features at 40DV83 (Table 5). These remains represent 22 taxa, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

The faunal assemblage included minimal evidence of taphonomic processes, limited to three examples of macroscopically-visible cutting or scraping and 54 instances of heat alteration. Cutting and scraping was present on a single right deer tibia which also showed evidence of burning and polish, as well as on a calcined raccoon tarsal fragment from Feature 19. A carapace fragment from a box turtle recovered from Feature 18 exhibited a single cut mark on the peripheral.

Fifty-four of the recovered faunal remains exhibited heat alteration, including both calcined and burned examples. These materials were present in 10 of the 14 features (excluding Features 5, 8, 11, and 34), and included examples from deer, turkey, opossum, frog, mole, cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, softshell and box turtle, raptor, and raccoon.

Feature 19 is the largest pit feature from the site, and accounts for 68 percent (*n=193*) of the total faunal assemblage. This feature also includes the highest single-feature count for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes. Interestingly, no botanical remains were recovered from Feature 19.

Table 5. Faunal Remains Recovered from 40DV83.

Feature	5	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	19	23	34	TOTAL	MNI	Burned	Cut	Modified
MAMMALS																			
Odocoileus virginianus, White-tailed deer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	30	1	-	42	1	12	1	1
Procyon lotor, Raccoon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	1	2	1	-
Sciurus carolinensis, Gray squirrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	-	-	12	2	2	-	-
Sciurus spp., Squirrel species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sylvilagus floridanus, Cottontail rabbit	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	3	67	-	-	77	6	10	-	-
Scalopus aquaticus, Common mole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
Didelphis marsupialis, Opossum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Small mammal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	1
BIRDS																			
Passerine spp.,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Meleagris gallopavo, Wild turkey	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	13	6	1	-	26	2	12	-	-
Unidentified raptor	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Hawk spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Duck spp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-
Bird fragment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
REPTILES																			
Trionyx spiniferus, Softshell turtle	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	5	2	4	-	-
Chrysemys/Graptemys spp., Painted/map turtle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Terrapene carolina, Box turtle	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	7	1	1	1	-
Sternotherus odoratus, Stinkpot turtle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Turtle fragment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Colubridae, Non-poisonous snake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	2	-	-
AMPHIBIANS																			
Rana/Bufo spp., Frog/Toad spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
FISHES																			
Aplodinotus grunniens, Freshwater drum	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	5	11	-	-	20	5	-	-	-
Ictalurus sp., Catfish	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	1	1	-	-
Catostomid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	-	-	14	1	1	-	-
Sunfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Fish fragments	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	33	-	-	36	-	-	-	-
UNIDENTIFIED FRAGMENTS	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	3
TOTAL	**1**	**2**	**1**	**6**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**9**	**51**	**193**	**2**	**1**	**280**	**33**	**54**	**3**	**6**

BOTANICAL REMAINS

Botanical remains from the >2.0 mm water screen sample at 40DV83 included charred nutshell, wood, and seeds (Table 6). Nutshell was identified in 43 features, and was by far the most abundant floral material recovered from flotation samples. Most feature nutshell samples weighed less than five grams. The greatest concentrations of nutshell were present in the flotation samples from Features 21 and 34, both of which contained mostly hickory (*Carya* sp.) and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) shell. Acorn (*Quercus* sp.) was present in relatively small amounts in eight samples.

Table 6. Botanical Remains recovered from 40DV83.

	Charred Nutshell					Charred Wood					Seeds			
Feature	Quercus sp. (acorn)	Carya sp. (hickory)	Juglans nigra (black walnut)	other	Total	Quercus sp. (oak)	Carya sp. (hickory)	Gleditsia triacanthos (honey locust)	other	Total	Gleditsia triacanthos (honey locust)	vitis sp.(grape)	other	Total
1	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-
6	-	1.1	-	<1.0	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1F	<1.0
7	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	<1.0	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	2.3	3.1	1.6	-	7.0	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	<1.0	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	-	<1.0	-	-	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-
15	-	5.1	-	4.3	9.4	5.1	10.8	-	4.0	17.9	-	-	1F	<1.0
16	-	5.2	-	<1.0	5.3	-	11.1	4.1	<1.0	15.3	-	-	1F	<1.0
17	-	3.6	<1.0	2.7	7.1	6.2	4.8	-	5.3	16.3	-	-	-	-
18	2.1	12.3	-	1.7	16.1	3.5	16.1	-	7.6	27.2	-	-	3F	<1.0
20	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	-	1.7	-	4.2	5.9	-	5.4	1.8	<1.0	7.3	-	-	-	-
22	-	<1.0	-	<1.0	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	6.7	60.8	101.6	19.3	188.4	<1.0	<1.0	-	<1.0	1.9	3W	1F	1F	<1.0
24	-	4.4	-	1.2	5.6	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	1.1	<1.0	1.4	1.2	-	-	<1.0	1.4	-	-	-	-
29	-	<1.0	-	5.4	6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	2.2	11.8	-	7.3	21.3	15.2	24.7	-	17.4	57.3	1F	-	-	<1.0
33	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	9.3	217.4	166.2	25.7	418.6	-	<1.0	-	<1.0	1.3	-	-	7F	<1.0
35	<1.0	1.9	-	3.6	5.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	-	2.9	-	1.2	4.1	1.3	14.8	-	2.7	18.8	-	-	-	-
38	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	-	2.1	1.4	5.5	9.0	9.7	6.1	-	2.6	18.4	-	-	2F	<1.0
41	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	-	1.3	-	<1.0	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43	3.7	10.5	-	3.6	17.6	-	-	-	-	67.4	-	-	2F	<1.0
44	-	-	-	<1.0	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Charred wood comprised a very small percentage of the botanical assemblage. Of the sixteen samples containing charred wood, nearly half (*n=7*) included amounts totaling less than 2.0 g. The largest wood sample of 57.3 grams came from Feature 30. Although black walnut represented a significant portion of the charred nutshell remains (271.9 g), no walnut was identified among the charred wood. Wood species represented in the overall collection included oak, hickory, and honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*).

Although seeds and seed fragments were observed in eight features, these were generally poorly preserved and could not be identified. Features 23 and 30 contained honey locust and grape (*Vitis* sp.) seeds.

RADIOCARBON SAMPLES

Three samples of charred nutshell from pit feature fill were submitted to Beta Analytic for radiocarbon analysis (Table 7). A sample from Feature 18 yielded a measured radiocarbon age of 3490 ± 50 BP, while one from Feature 23 yielded a measured radiocarbon age of 3450 ± 50 BP. A sample of charred material from Feature 1 returned a much older date of 6110 ± 40 BP.

Table 7. Radiocarbon Dates from 40DV83.

Sample #	Provenience	Material	Measured 14C Age	δ13C/12C Ratio	Calibrated Age (oxCal 4.2.4/INTcal13; Reimer et al. 2013)
Beta-122731	Feature 1	charred material	6110 ± 40 BP	-25.3	5208 to 4942 cal BC
Beta-122732	Feature 18	charred material	3490 ± 50 BP	-25	1939 to 1689 cal BC
Beta-122733	Feature 23	charred material	3450 ± 50 BP	-25	1891 to 1638 cal BC

V. DISCUSSION

Site 40DV83 presents an excellent example of temporary reuse of a resource-rich location over several millennia. Radiocarbon dates suggest initial occupation took place around the Middle-Late Archaic transition, while diagnostic projectile points show periodic site use continued until at least the Early Woodland. Although Woodland occupations are defined by point types including examples of Adena, Adena Stemmed, and Bakers Creek, the ceramic assemblage from the site is limited to a single limestone-tempered sherd. The absence of ceramics from Woodland period occupations at 40DV83 may be the result of preservation issues caused by plowing and acidic soils. However, a similar paucity of ceramics has been noted at other Late Archaic through Early Woodland sites in the western Central Basin (e.g. Deter-Wolf 2004, 2013; Wampler and McKee 2012), suggesting regional Late Archaic cultural continuity and late adoption of some traditionally-identified Woodland technologies (Deter-Wolf 2013).

There are 24 recorded sites on Cockrill Bend that include known Archaic components in addition to 40DV83, as well as 12 additional Archaic sites along the right (descending) bank of the Cumberland (Figure 14). The density of Archaic occupations in this area of Davidson County reflects the ready availability of natural resources during the Middle to Late Holocene. For Archaic inhabitants of Cockrill Bend, the Cumberland River and its tributaries provided access to numerous aquatic species, transportation, and raw materials including chert from gravel bars and shoals. In addition, the riparian zone along the riverbank, wide meander bend floodplain, river terraces to the north and east of the bend, and rolling upland areas to the south provided a variety of plant and animal habitats within a relatively small geographic area.

This environmental and habitat diversity is reflected in the faunal assemblage from 40DV83. Mammals represent 36 percent (*n=12*) of the total site MNI, although this may be the result of sampling error due to their larger size and better bone preservation. Rabbits present the highest MNI for mammals (*n=6*), followed by squirrel (*n=2*). Deer are represented by an MNI of one.

Despite the site location away from the river bank, fish are very well represented in the assemblage at 24 percent (*n=8*) of the total MNI. The Catostomidae family, which includes suckers, inhabit medium to large rivers but migrate up smaller waterways such as the bluewater stream south of 40DV83 to spawn in the early spring through early summer (Etnier and Starnes 1993). Freshwater drum, catfish, and sunfish (including several species belonging to the family Centrarchidae) would have been available in the main channel of the Cumberland River and adjacent slackwater areas.

Birds remains are also interesting in that woodland species (turkey, MNI=2) and waterbirds (ducks, MNI=1) are both represented, as are raptors (MNI=2), and perching birds (MNI=1). The four species of turtle present in the assemblage include both aquatic and terrestrial species. The identified faunal material also includes one snake, and one frog/toad.

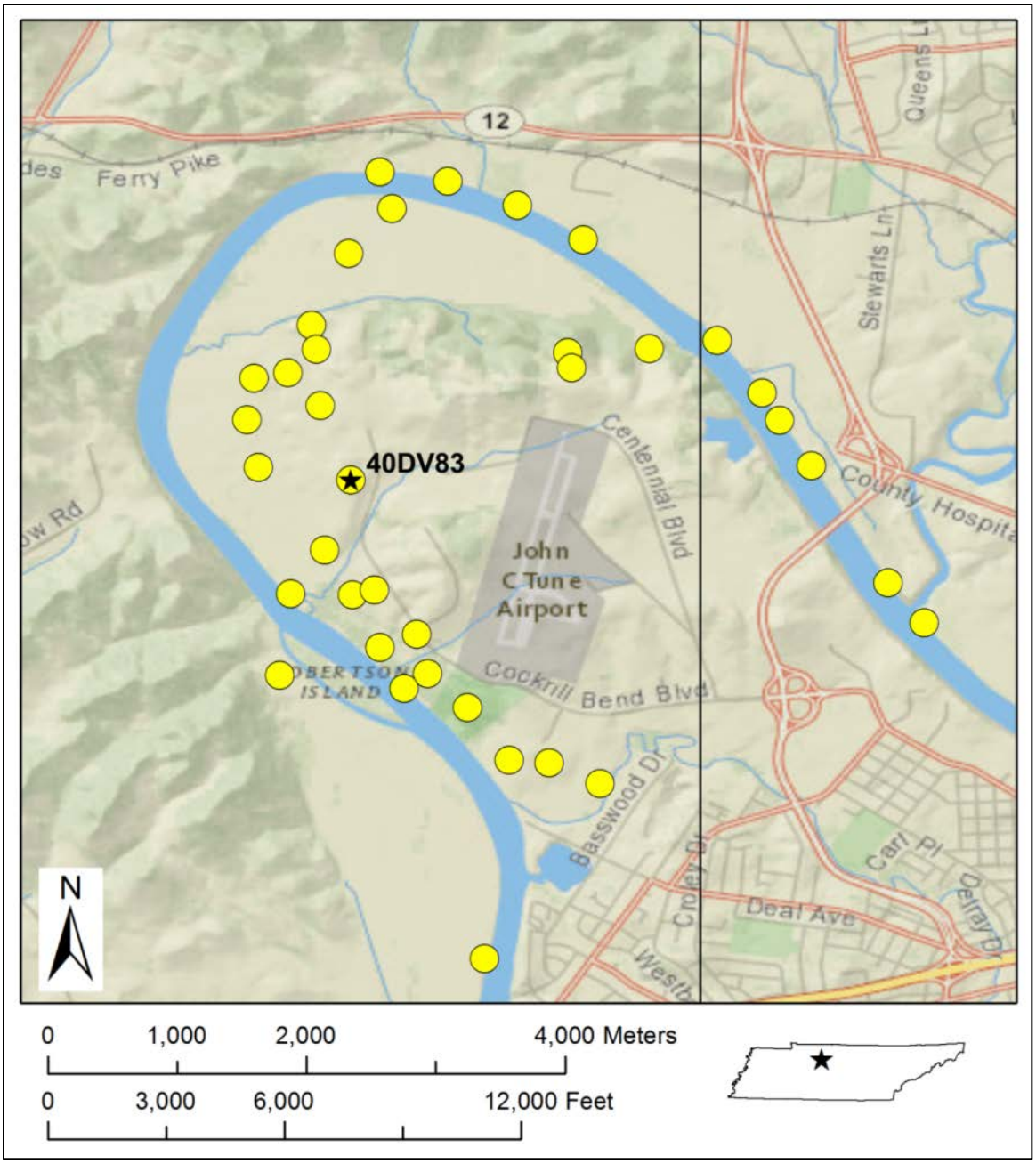

Figure 14. Sites with Archaic components on and around Cockrill Bend.

The site inhabitants also incorporated nuts, and to a lesser extent seeds, as part of their subsistence strategy. Burned acorn, hickory, and black walnut shell were present in 43 of the 46 excavated features, suggesting late summer through fall occupations. Hickory nuts ripen in September through December, while black walnuts mature in September and October. These various nutmeats provide an excellent source of food energy and protein, and could also be processed to extract oils for both cooking and food preservation (Hudson 1976; Shea et al. 1987; Swanton 1979). Honey locust seeds also ripen in the early fall, and are held in pods that contain an edible pulp used historically as a sweetener and thickener (Fernald and Kinsey 1996; Hudson 1976; Nesom 2003).

Taken together, the faunal and botanical assemblages reflect an opportunistic seasonal foraging strategy based on extracting plant and animal resources from mixed habitats. This suggests 40DV83 served as a temporary campsite which was periodically reused over several thousand years. The absence of long-term or permanent occupation at 40DV83 is emphasized by the lithic assemblage, feature classes, and human skeletal sample. Archaeological markers of intensive settlement such as high lithic density, wide diversity of stone tool forms, and architectural elements including post features and prepared clay surfaces are entirely absent from the site. Although instances of burning were present in the faunal and botanical assemblages, there was no indication of formal hearths. In addition, the five graves at the site belong entirely to adults. While the absence of subadults in the sample may result in part from site disturbance and poor bone preservation, it is also possible that this accurately reflects the demographics of a predominately adult population utilizing the site area during short-term hunting or resource procurement activities. Alternatively, subadult remains may have been transported elsewhere for interment. The absence of grave goods in burials at 40DV83 also may reflect expedient mortuary activity, further reiterating the temporary nature of site occupation.

Although the specifics of Archaic settlement patterning in the western Nashville Basin remain far from clear, the available data along with comparative studies from other regions of the interior Southeast (e.g., Bowen 1977; Futato 1975; Mickelson 2002; Peacock 1988) allow for some preliminary hypotheses. During the Late Archaic in the western Central Basin, occupation seems to have focused on large base camps situated along river levees and first or second terraces overlooking higher order streams. These sites include sizable mortuary components, dense midden deposits, foreign or exotic materials, and features including hearths and prepared surfaces. This site type includes the larger Archaic shell-bearing deposits situated along the Cumberland and Harpeth Rivers, where gastropod density and site stratigraphy suggest aquatic resources may have supported permanent year-round habitation (Peres and Deter-Wolf 2013, 2015). The large mortuary component at these sites further suggests long-term intensive occupation, and may also have served to associate the site and surrounding territory with a particular group or lineage (e.g., Claassen 1996, 2010). While no large Archaic base camps have been conclusively identified on Cockrill Bend, dense shell midden deposits at 40DV7, 40DV13, 40DV14, 40DV86, and 40DV88, all situated on the right (descending) bank of the Cumberland River immediately opposite or just downstream from Cockrill Bend, have returned radiocarbon dates overlapping with occupations at 40DV83 (Miller et al. 2012; Peres and Deter-Wolf 2015).

In addition to the major base camps, Late Archaic occupations of the western Central Basin incorporated a variety of other site types. Secondary base camps were similar in composition to the large base camps, but smaller in both horizontal extent and midden depth. Secondary base camps may appear both along the higher order streams, as well as on smaller tributaries within the Cumberland River drainage. The only Archaic shell-bearing site identified on Cockrill Bend to date is 40DV85, located approximately 1,700 m south of 40DV83. This particular site has suffered from extensive erosion and looting and has not been intensively tested. Nevertheless, based on its horizontal extent as reported in the TDOA site files, 40DV85 likely represents a

smaller, secondary base camp. The site has not been radiocarbon dated, and its chronology relative to 40DV83 is not known.

Finally, Late Archaic settlement incorporated both temporary campsites and special purpose/resource extraction sites, which were situated across the landscape to address specific resource acquisition and perhaps social needs. These sites include seasonal occupations such as 40DV83, lithic quarries, and processing sites (see Wampler and McKee 2012). They may exhibit lower artifact densities, slight or absent midden formation, general purpose pit features (Figure 15), and expedient burials lacking exotic or high-value grave goods.

The resource-rich natural environment along the meander bends of the Cumberland River in Tennessee's western Central Basin has supported regular human occupation since the late Pleistocene. According to the TDOA site files, as of July 2015 there are 299 prehistoric sites recorded within one km of the Cumberland River channel in Davidson County. Seven percent of these sites (*n=21*) include Paleoindian components, 21.7 percent (*n=65*) include Woodland components, and 14.7 percent (*n=44*) represent Mississippian occupations. A total of 39.4 percent of the recorded sites (*n=118*) along the Cumberland in Davidson County include Archaic components. However, despite the concentration of Archaic period sites in both Davidson County and the western Middle Cumberland River Valley, our overall understanding of Archaic period chronology and occupations in the region remains incomplete.

This gap in our understanding of the Archaic period in the western Central Basin results mainly from a lack of formal excavations and research. Substantial antiquarian interest and modern archaeological investigations have focused on late prehistoric Mississippian occupations along the Cumberland River near Nashville, and the conspicuous earthen mounds, shallowly buried stone-box graves, and high quality, aesthetically pleasing artifacts which many of these sites contain (e.g., Clark 1878; Cobb et al 2015; Ferguson 1972; Jones 1876; Moore 2004, 2005; Moore and Smith 2009; Moore et al. 2006; Myer 1928; Putnam 1883; Smith and Miller 2009; Smith and Moore 1994, 2012; Thruston 1890). Conversely, of the 118 Archaic sites recorded along the Cumberland River in Davidson County, roughly 16% (*n*=19) have been subject to archaeological investigations beyond surface collection and/or shovel testing.

Most of the reports and publications resulting from Archaic site investigations in Davidson County have been concerned with topics either unrelated or only tangentially tied to Archaic occupations. These include the results of Cultural Resource Management (CRM) investigations and burial removals (e.g., Allen 2006; Anderson 1997; Bentz 2012; Deter-Wolf 2007; Garrow 2011), examinations of multicomponent sites and radiocarbon chronologies (Miller et. al 2012; Moore, Breitburg, Dowd, Stripling, Broster 1992; Moore, Norton, Smith 1992), and investigations focused on Mississippian occupations (e.g., Dowd 1970; Dowd and Broster 2012; Spears et al. 2008). To date there exist only a small number of studies specifically examining Archaic occupations in the western Central Basin (e.g., Deter-Wolf and Peres 2015; Peres et. al 2012) or in the broader Middle Cumberland River Valley (e.g. Cridlebaugh 1986; Deter-Wolf 2004, 2013; Dowd 1989; Moore et al. 1990; Morse 1967; Peres and Deter-Wolf 2015), and consequently much additional research remains to be done.

The analysis and interpretation of materials recovered in 1987 from the Riverbend Prison site is somewhat hindered by the limited artifact assemblage and poor bone preservation. Nevertheless, the site data is sufficient to understand 40DV83 as being a temporary seasonal campsite that was periodically occupied from the Late Archaic through Early Woodland periods. As such, the site contributes important knowledge towards our emerging understanding of regional chronologies, settlement patterning, and the Archaic/Woodland transition in the western Central Basin of Tennessee.

Figure 15. Paul Neil Allen (left) and Carl Kuttruff (right) excavate Feature 19.

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