

Raquette River Boat Launch

**Environment Division
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Akwesasne
July 22, 2026**

Prepared by: Francis (Francesco) Scardera
V. 5.0 – revised: July 22, 2026

Solomon (Sol) Cook Site



ST. REGIS BOY, WHO HIKED 13 MILES TO SCHOOL, FIRST INDIAN TO GET — CORNELL — DOCTORATE DEGREE

Born and raised on the St. Regis Mohawk reservation in Northern New York, and a graduate of Massena high school, Solomon Cook will be the first American Indian to receive an advanced degree from Cornell university. He has completed requirements for and will receive in June, a doctor's degree in vegetable crops at Cornell.

He has been appointed an assistant professor at the South Dakota State College of Agriculture.

His degree comes some 15 years and one war after he first became interested in Cornell when he attended a New York state 4-H club congress here in 1935. Cook enrolled in 4-H work in 1931, and walked 13 miles to and from school at Massena high, so he could pursue it under the watchful eye of Bert Rogers, St. Lawrence county club agent.

Cook gives a lot of credit for his eventual attainment of a doctor's degree to Rogers, Hen-

ry White, his vocational agriculture instructor at Massena high, and Prof. A.J. Pratt of Cornell's vegetable crops department, and Donald Kerr, counselor for foreign students at Cornell, and one of Sol's staunchest supporters.

Graduating from Massena high school, Cook embarked on what intended to be a two-year course in agriculture at Cornell. Becoming vitally interested in continuing his educational career, he washed dishes, waited on tables and worked as a general handy man hereabouts to go on to win a bachelor's degree, then a master's and now, a doctor's.

After graduating from Cornell, Sol returned to his father's

dairy farm, but then the war came along and he enlisted in the navy and saw service at Okinawa, the Philippines and Japan. While in service he married Mary, a Mohawk girl, whose brother is the only Indian Jesuit priest and who is at their home parish in St. Regis.

Completing his naval service, Cook decided to return to Cornell. He was offered an assistantship in vegetable crops and drove on from there to complete requirements for the doctor's degree by writing a thesis on weed control in potatoes using flame, cultivation and chemical methods, a project far removed from crops familiar to his forebears 300 years ago.

The above article first appeared in the (Syracuse, N.Y.) Post-Standard of April 29, 1950. Reprinted with the gracious permission of the Editors.

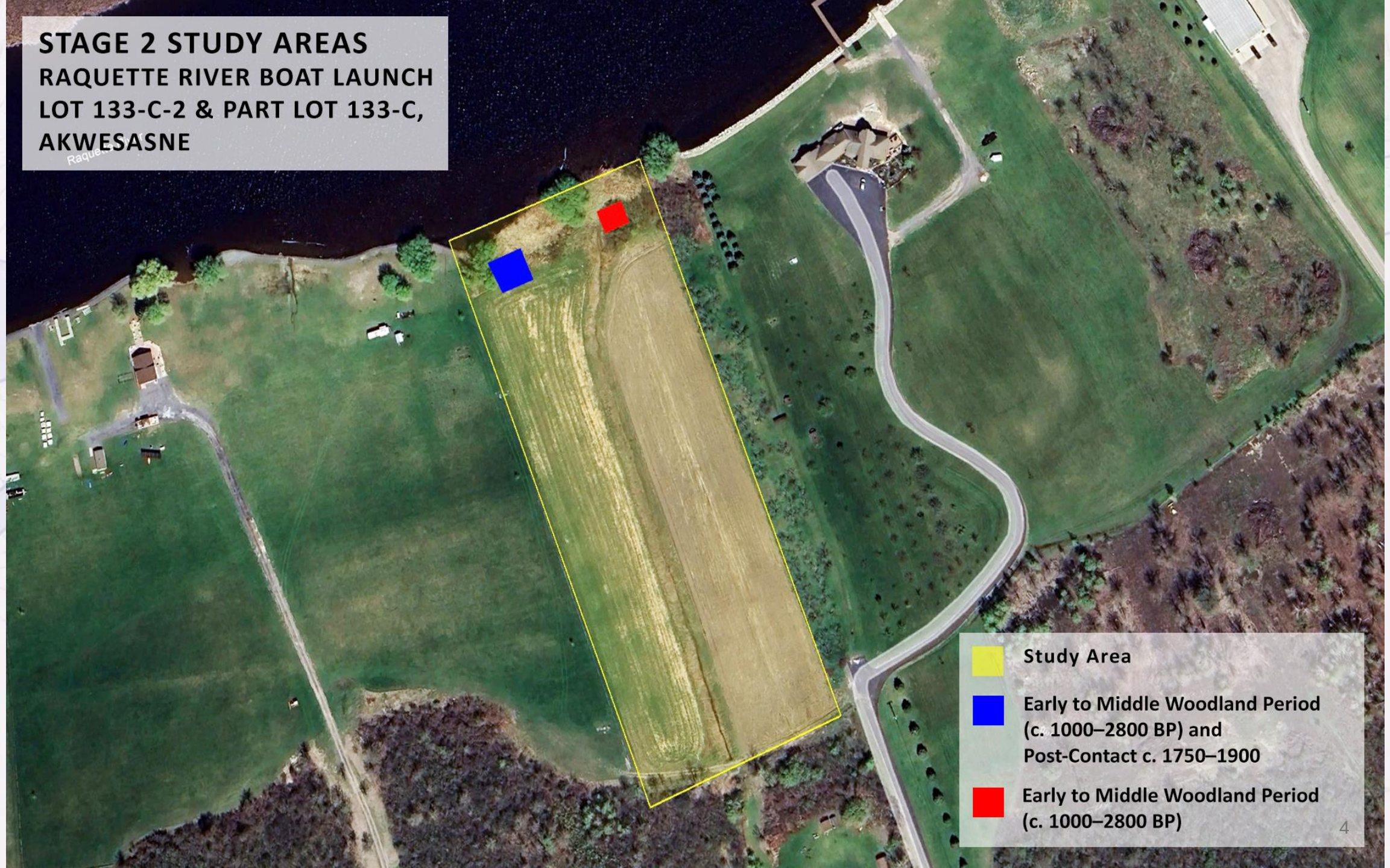
82 Offer up your next communion for the beatification of Ven. Tekakwitha. 82

82 Won't you help us erect a bronze, life-size statue of Kateri in her own parish? 83

82 Ask Kateri to obtain peace for our tired world. 83



STAGE 2 STUDY AREAS
RAQUETTE RIVER BOAT LAUNCH
LOT 133-C-2 & PART LOT 133-C,
AKWESASNE



 Study Area

 Early to Middle Woodland Period
(c. 1000–2800 BP) and
Post-Contact c. 1750–1900

 Early to Middle Woodland Period
(c. 1000–2800 BP)



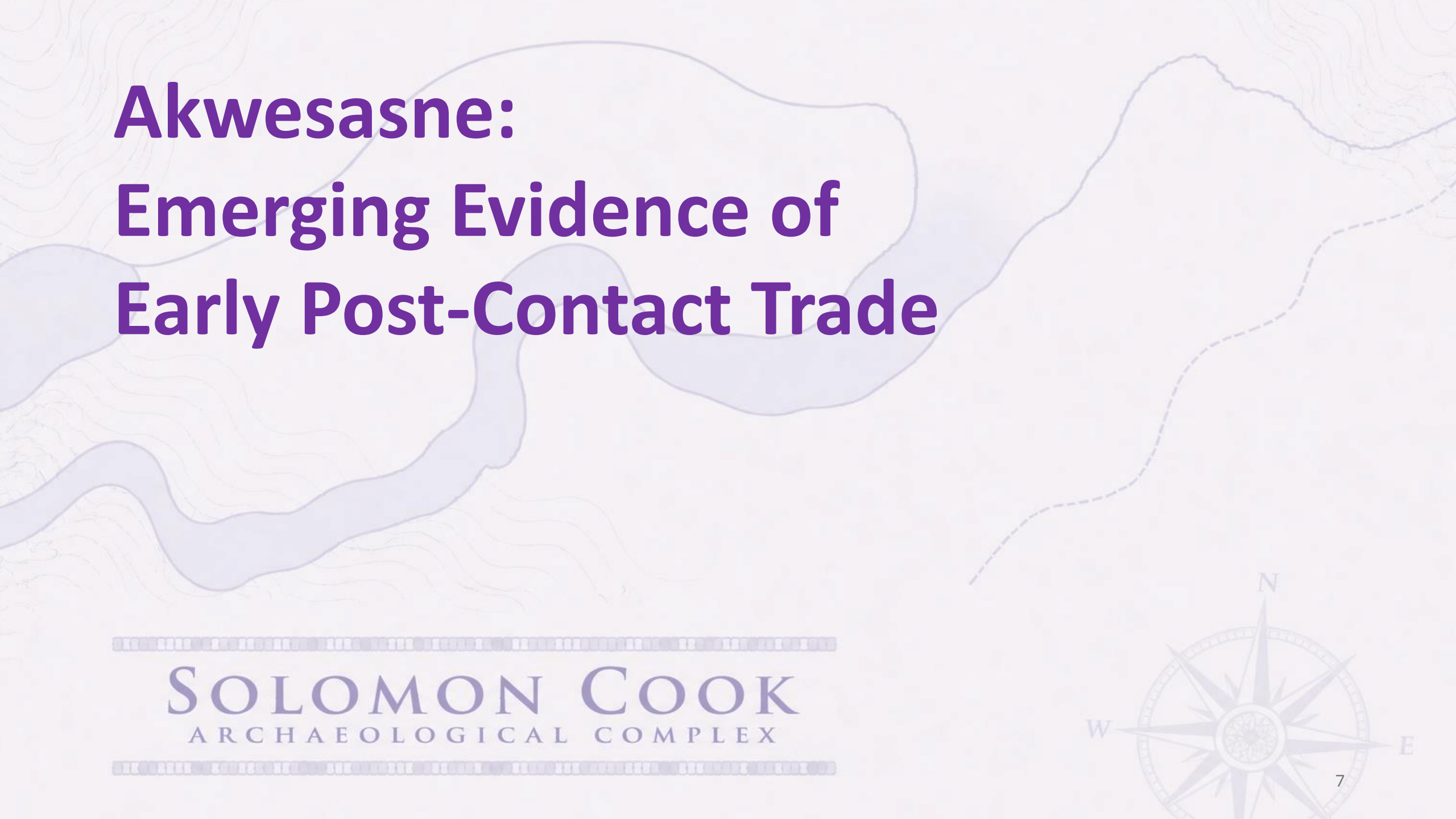
Location
Location
Location

Photo taken in 2024 from the Solomon Cook Site near the mouth of the Raquette River, facing northeast onto the St. Lawrence River. Cornwall Island is located behind the freight ship.

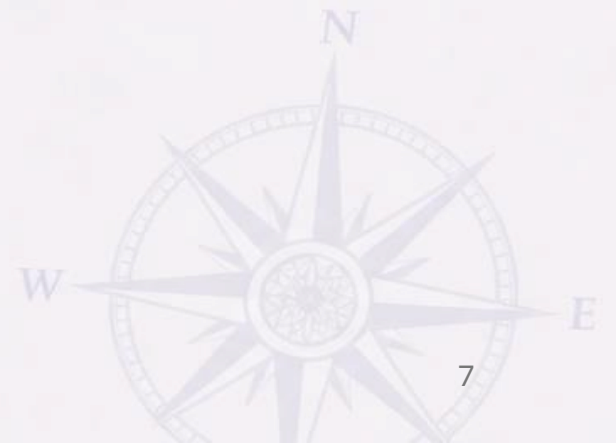


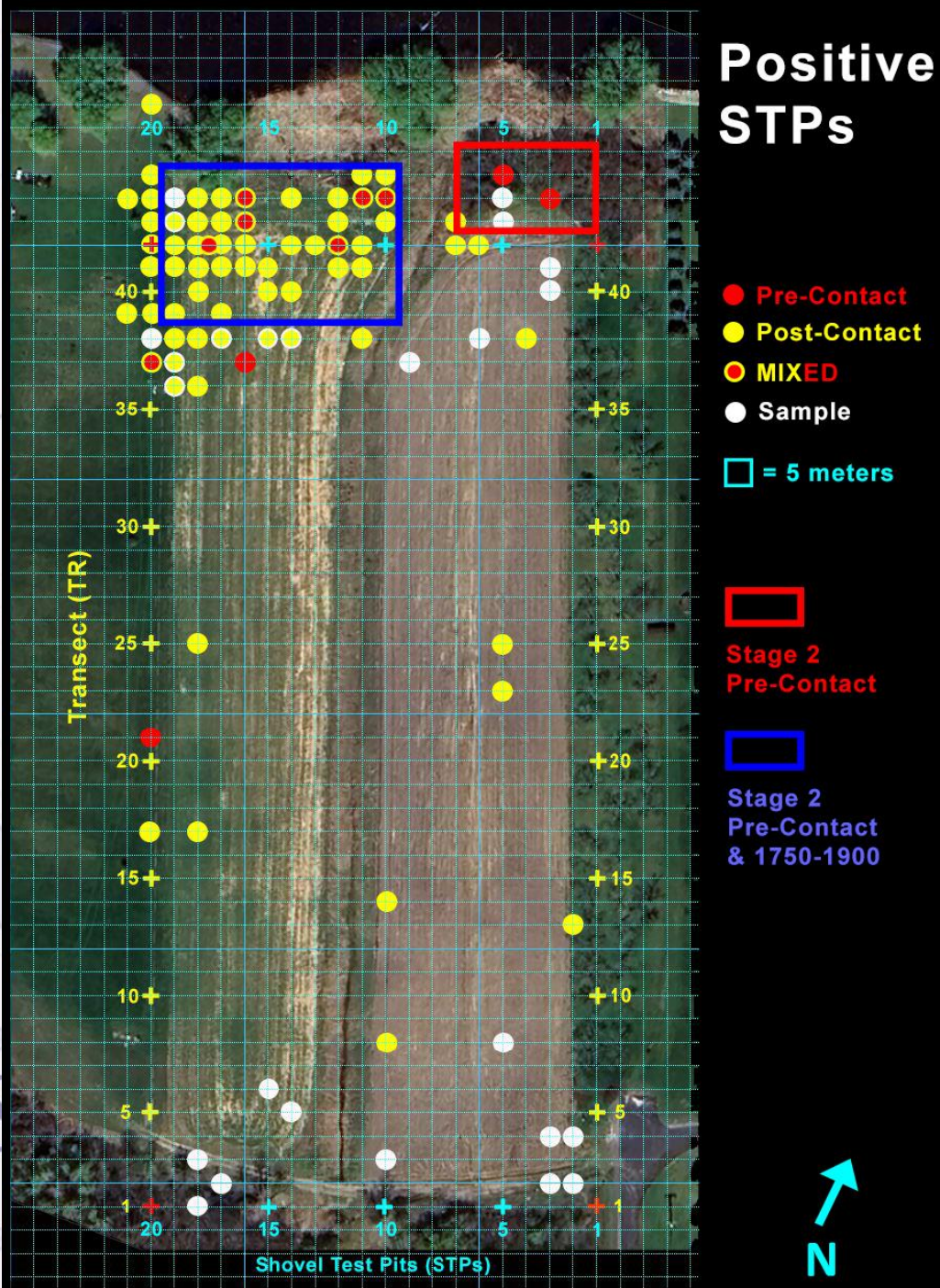
Stage 3 – Field crew opening up additional Test Units to uncover the structure

Akwesasne: Emerging Evidence of Early Post-Contact Trade



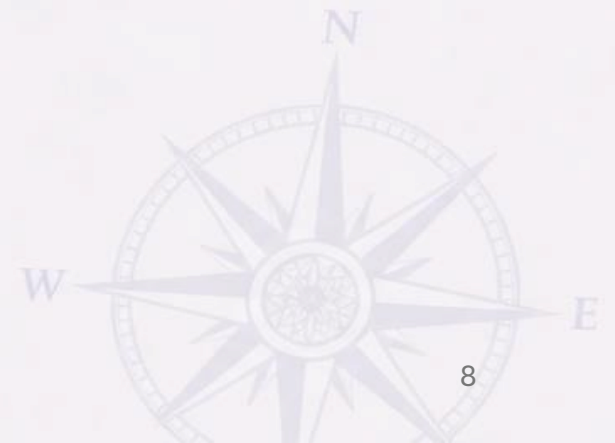
SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



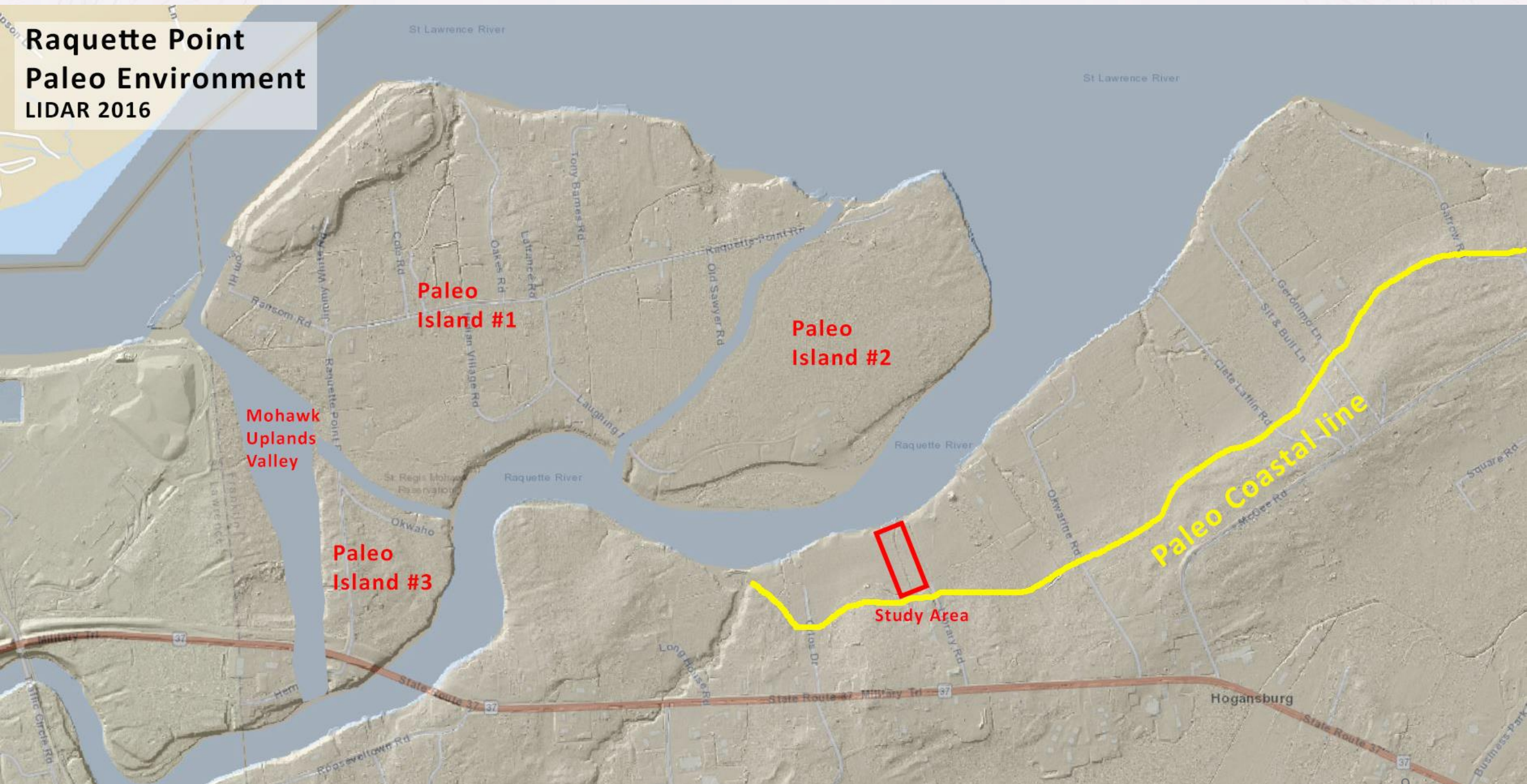


Shovel Test Pits (STPs)

New York vs. Ontario



**Raquette Point
Paleo Environment
LIDAR 2016**

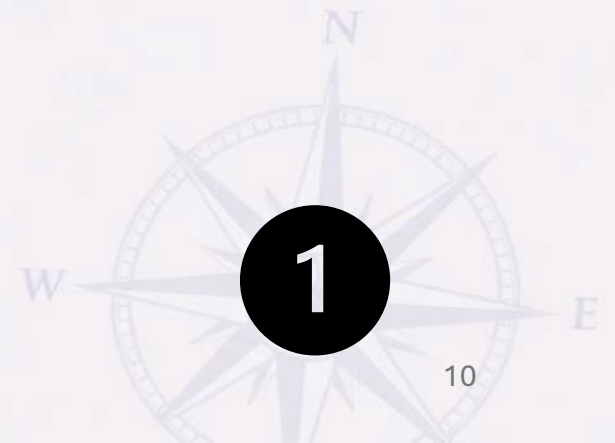


Our first clue of a trading site: **A Silver Pin**



Silver Trade Pin (c. 1750-1800) – Stage 1B (TR 42 – STP 18 – Level 1)

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



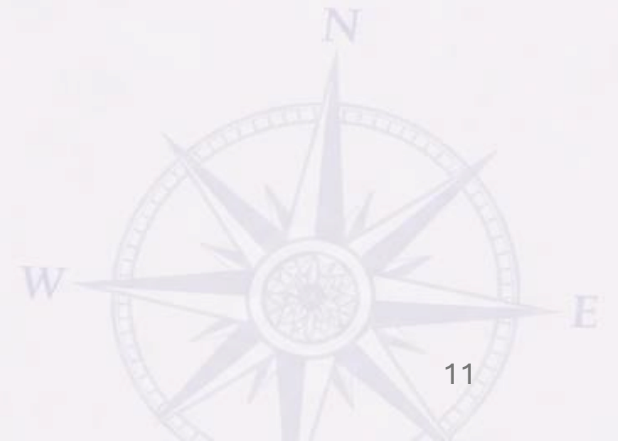


Joseph Brant *Thayendanegea* (1743–1807)

George Romney's 1776 portrait of
Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant).

Courtesy: National Gallery of Canada

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





Silver Pins & Gorget



cm

Metal Gorget

Test Unit 48 – Level 6 (50-60 cm)

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

2



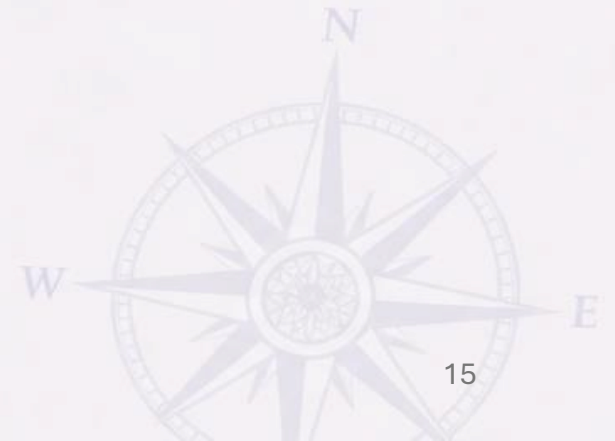
Silver Pins & Gorget

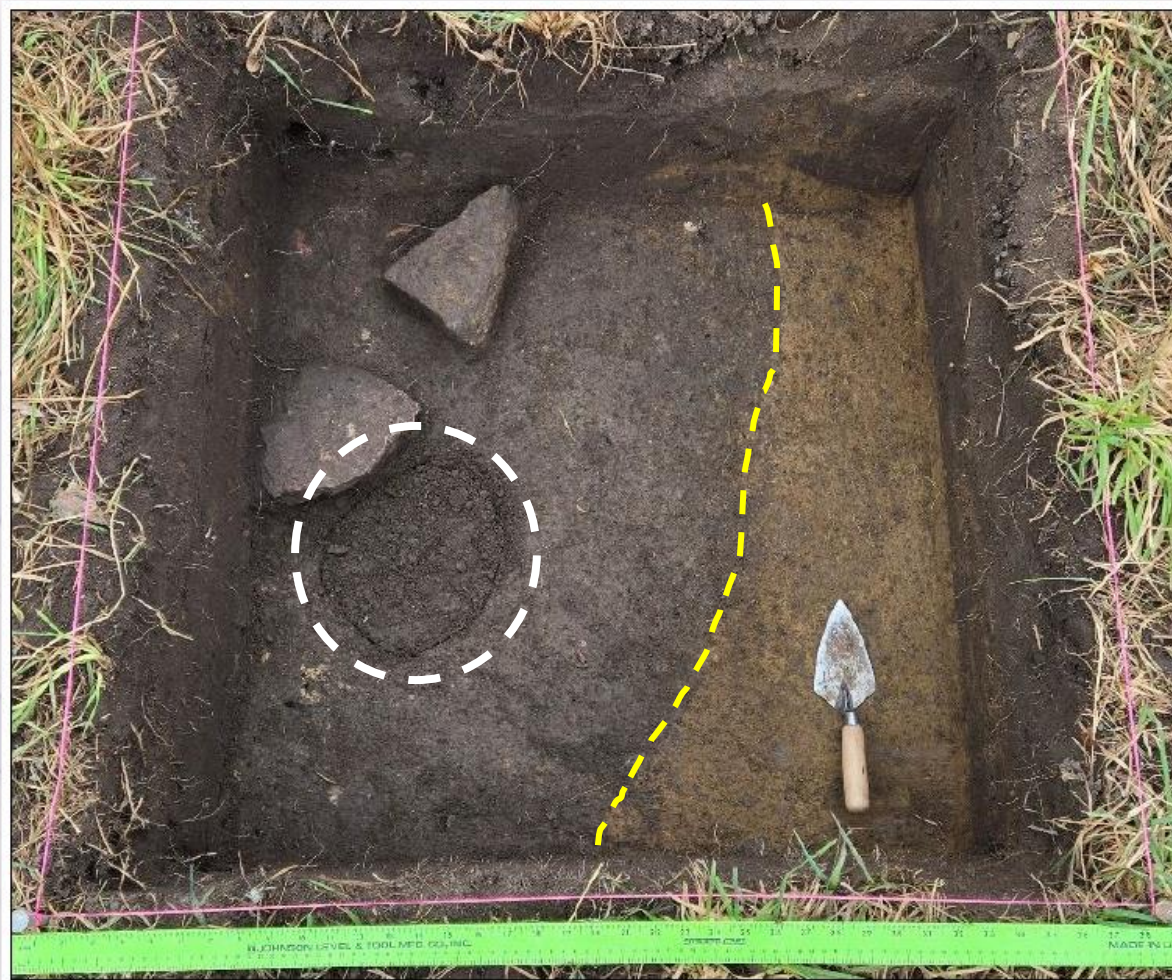


Clue #2 Muskrats* & Beavers

***If you have ever eaten
or trapped Muskrat,
please see me.**

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





First Evidence of a Feature

Stage 1B – TR 42 - STP 17.5

*white circle

First Evidence of a Structure

Stage 2 – Test Unit 7 – Level 4

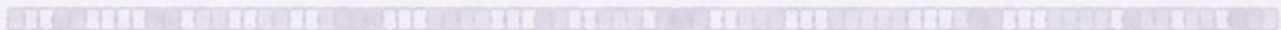
*yellow perimeter

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



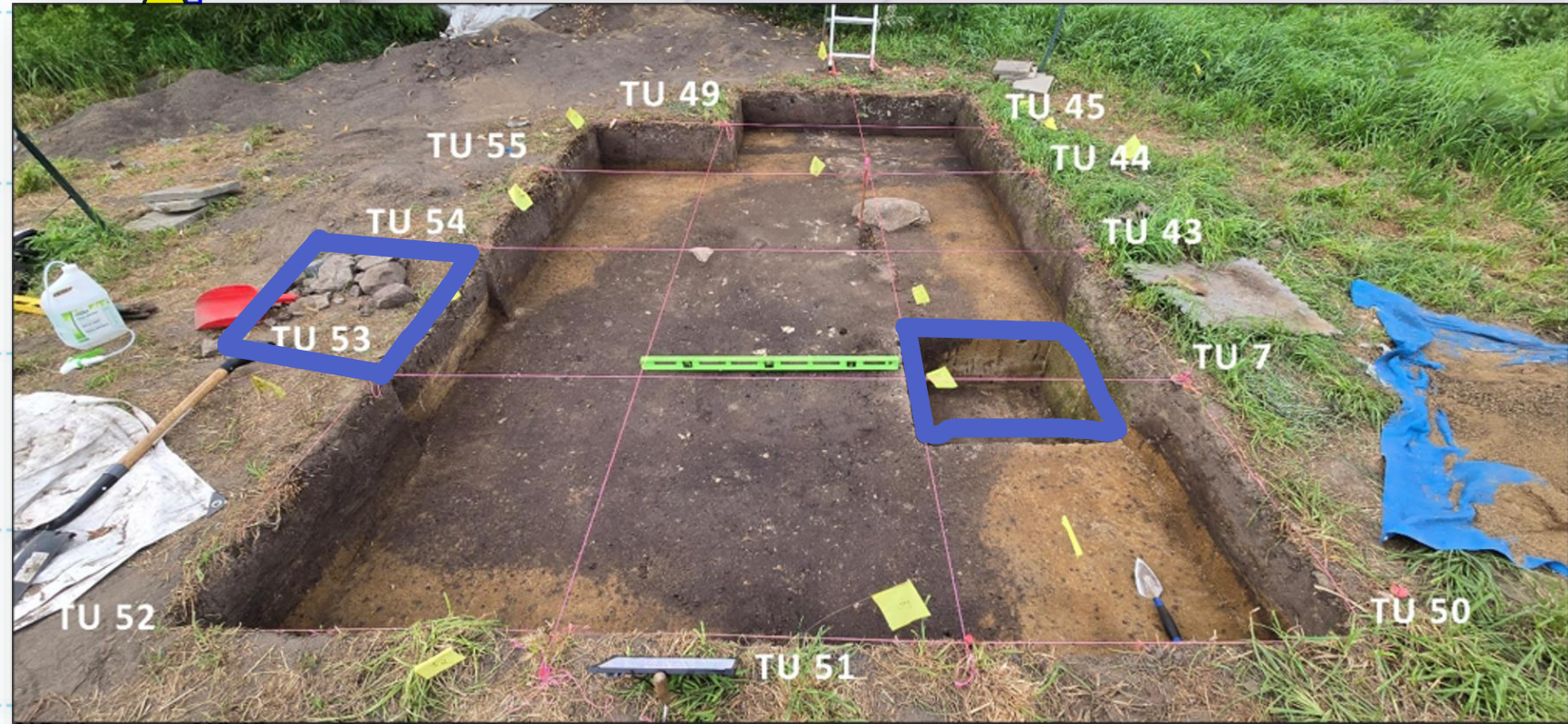
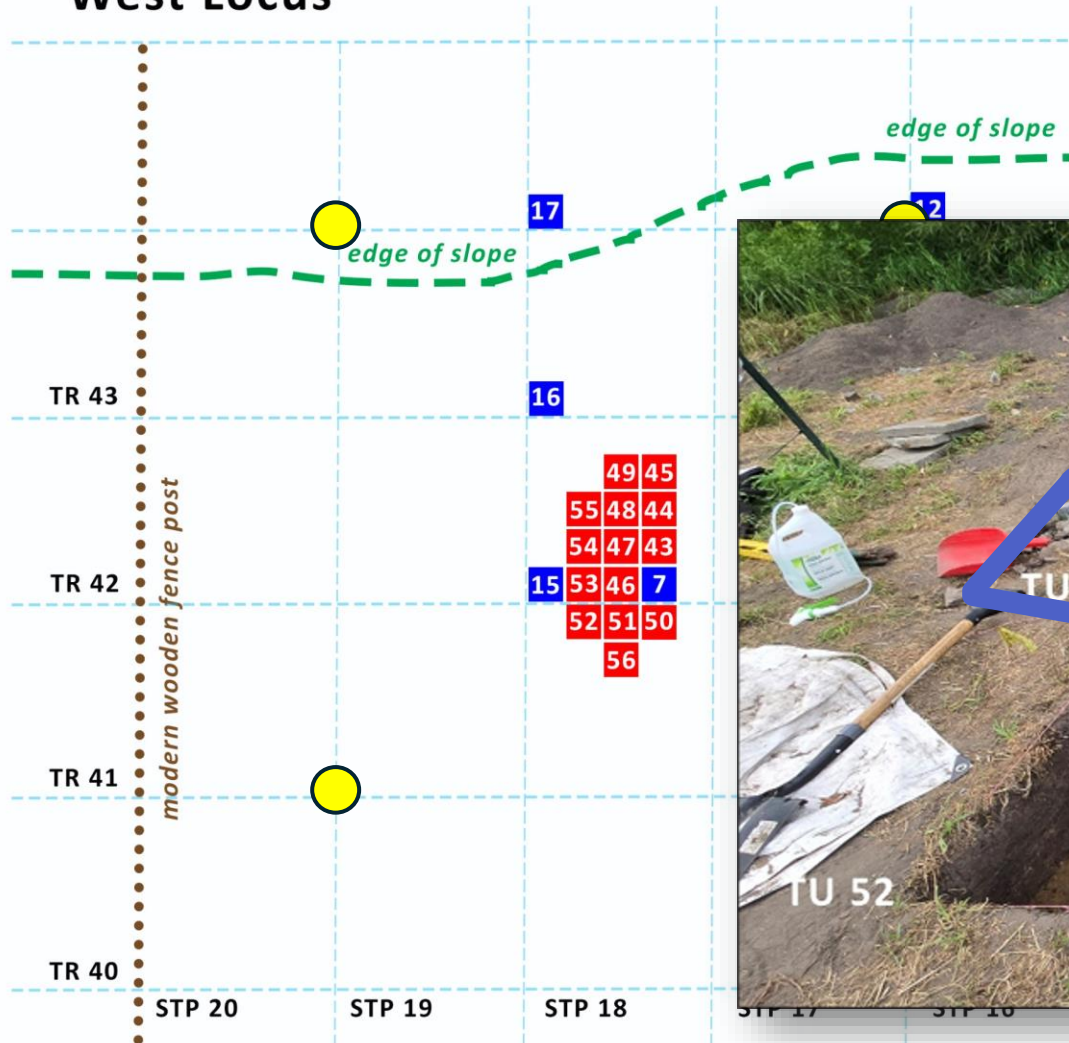


ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



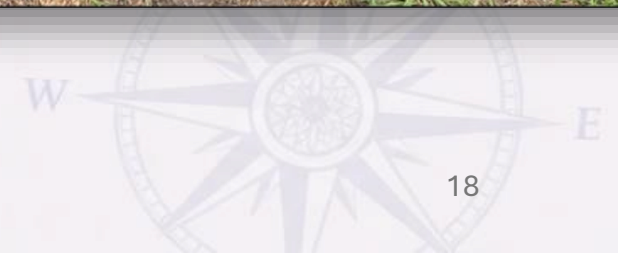
Solomon Site, Akwesasne Stage 3 Test Units West Locus

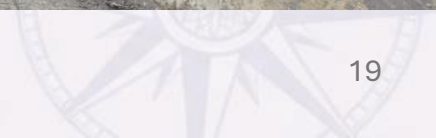
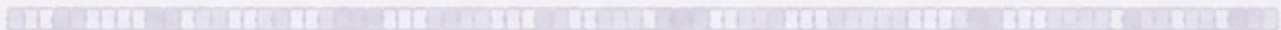
WEST LOCUS



- Stage 2 - 1 by 1 meter - 1/4 in screen
 - Stage 3 - 1 by 1 meter - 1/8 in screen
- 5 meters

OK
PLEX





West Wall Profile of Test Unit 49 – Evidence of angled plow scars (West)



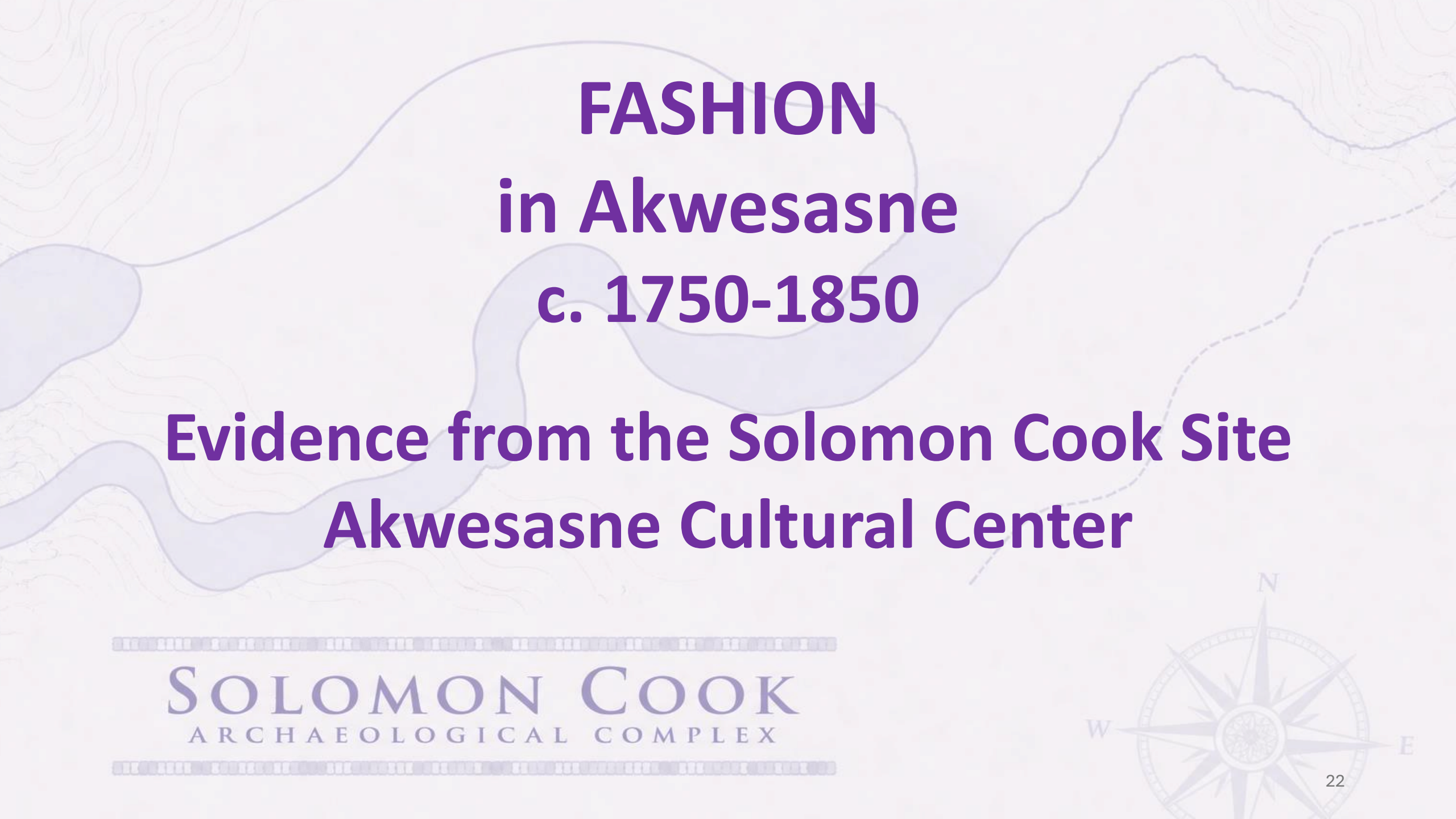


Figure 24. TU #13 with plow scar (east-west) and Pre-Contact ceramic in situ (North)



FASHION in Akwesasne c. 1750-1850

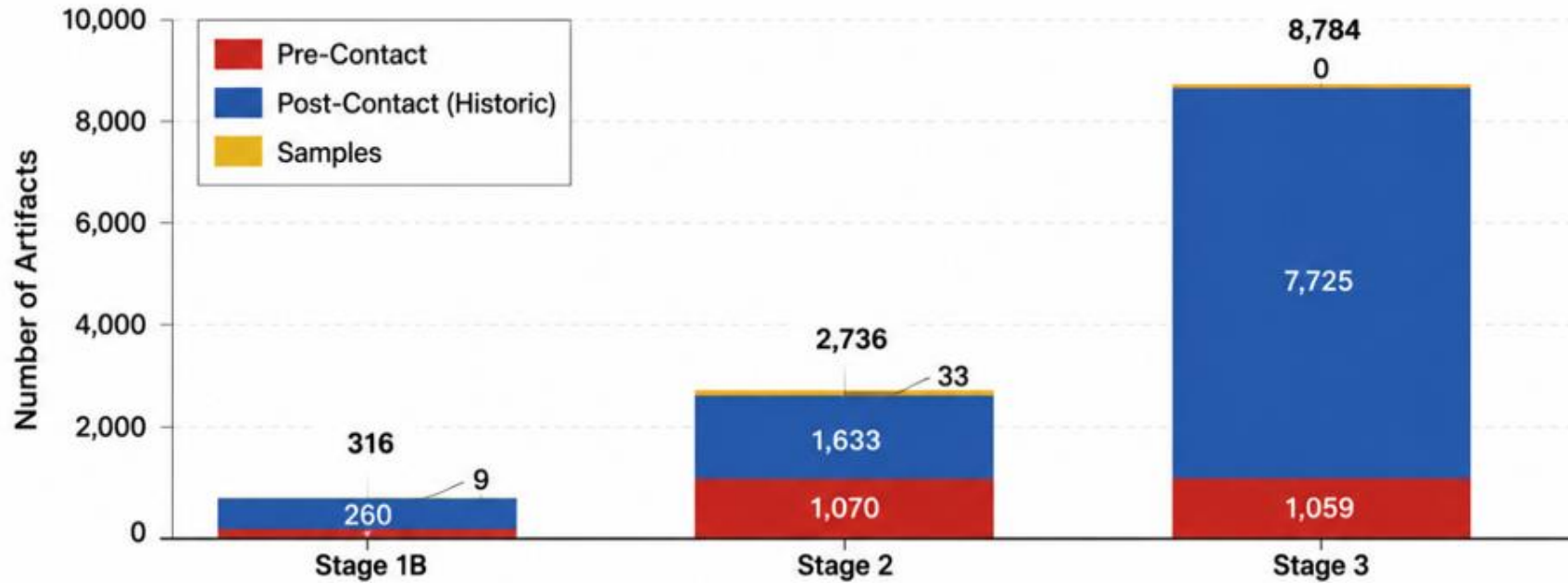
Evidence from the Solomon Cook Site Akwesasne Cultural Center



SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

Artifacts Recovered by Investigation Stage

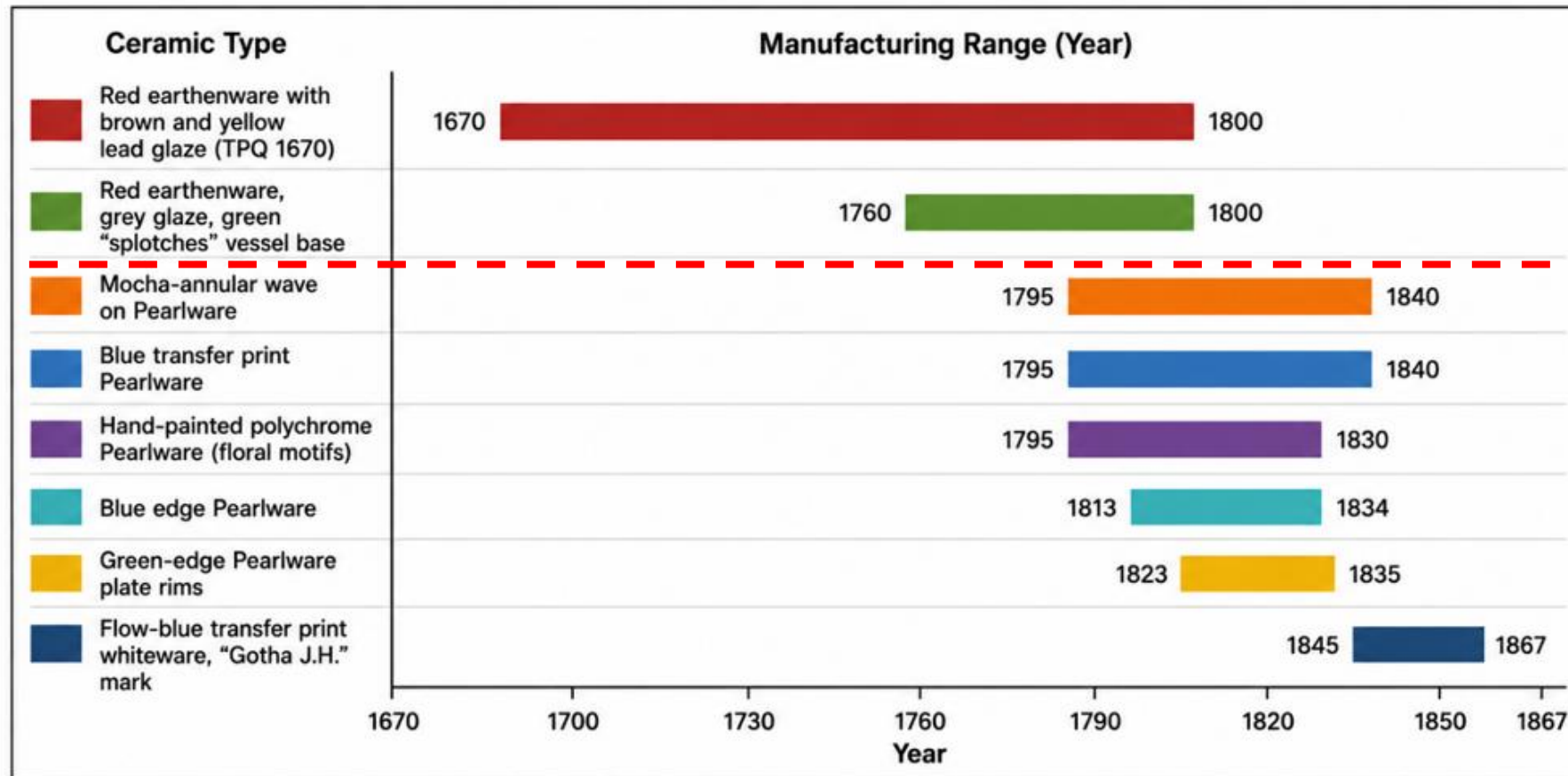
Comparison of Pre-Contact, Post-Contact Artifacts and Samples Recovered During Each Stage of Fieldwork



Stage	Fieldwork Methodology	Artifacts Recovered			TOTAL
		Pre-Contact	Post-Contact (Historic)	Samples	
Stage 1B	STPs = 907	47	260	9	316
Stage 2	Test Units = 20	1,070	1,633	33	2,736
Stage 3	Test Units = 26	1,059	7,725	0	8,784
TOTAL*		2,176	9,618	42	11,836

* Does not include soil samples or complete faunal and botanical inventory.

Chronological Distribution of Early Akwesasne Ceramics (1670–1867)



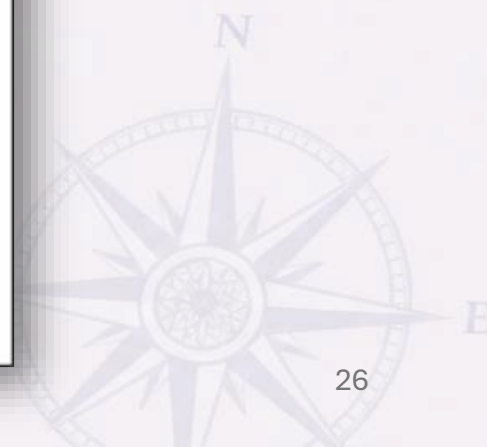
**French and Indian War
(Seven Years' War),
1754–63**



Red Earthenware, Grey Glaze, Green "Splotches" Vessel Base (c. 1760) Test Unit 43 – Level 5.

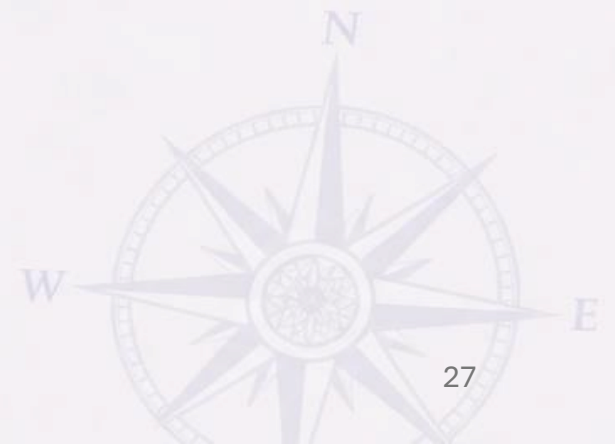


Flow-Blue Transfer Print Whiteware
plate sherds – “Gotha J.H.” mark -
1845-1867 (TU 47 – Level 6)





COOK
COMPLEX





French (yellow) and British (gray-brown) gunflint fragments – TU 47 – Level 6

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





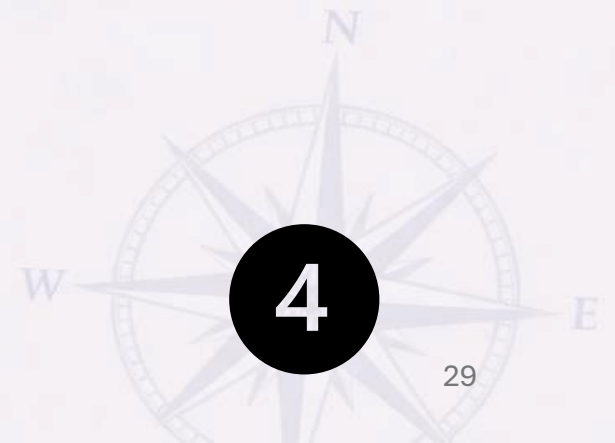
Crochet Hook (bone)

Test Unit 47
Level 4 (30-40 cm)

Some things don't change.

***Currently not available. Sent to lab to determine bone species.**

Question: What animal bone was used to make this crochet?





Lice Comb (wood)

Test Unit 50
Level 3 (20-30 cm)

Note: Currently, the only artifact with a marking “X”

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

6



Thimble (metal) (TU 48 – Level 5)

What is this object?

- A) A bullet cap used in early firearms
- B) A sewing thimble used to protect fingers while sewing and stitching
- C) A small candle holder for ceremonies
- D) A trade bead container used by fur traders



Buttons

Test Unit 47

Level 6 (50-60 cm)

Can you guess what material each button is made of?

Match the following:

- Shell
- Glass
- Bone
- Copper
- Brass
- Steel
- **NOTE 1: NO PLASTIC!**
- **NOTE 2: One repeats**

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

7



Multi-faceted **blue** glass bead (Wlc10)
c. 1800-1850

White glass bead (Lla11)
c. 1750

(TU 48 – Level 4)

Turquoise glass micro bead
c. 1750

***NOTE: It fits inside the other beads!**

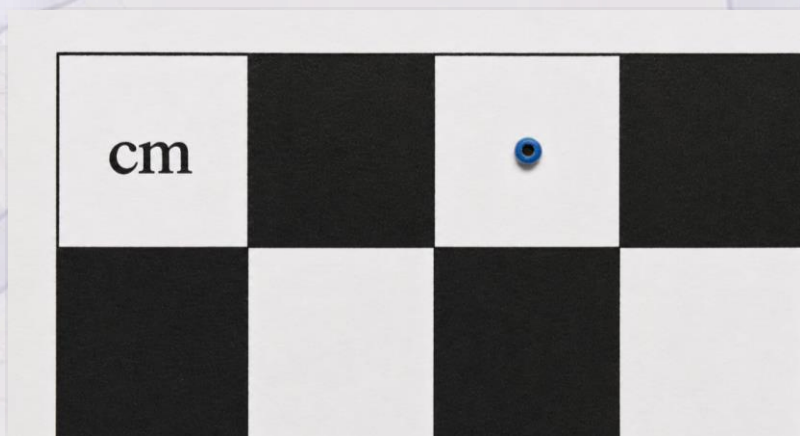
(TU 43 – Level 5)

Glass Beads

Small

Smaller

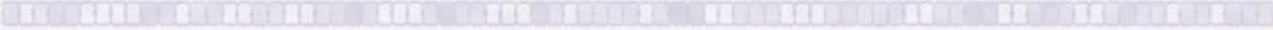
Smallest



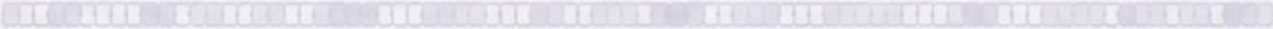
SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



“European materials are sometimes
repurposed & adapted
through a Haudenosaunee cultural framework.”



SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





cm

SOLOMON COOK

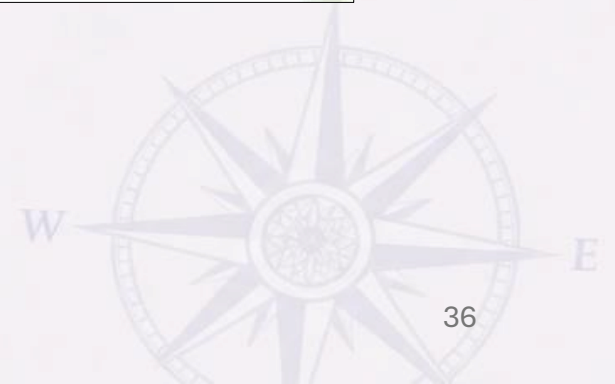
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





Retouched 19th-century olive-green bottle glass. Length = 3 cm (TU 55 – Level 3)

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

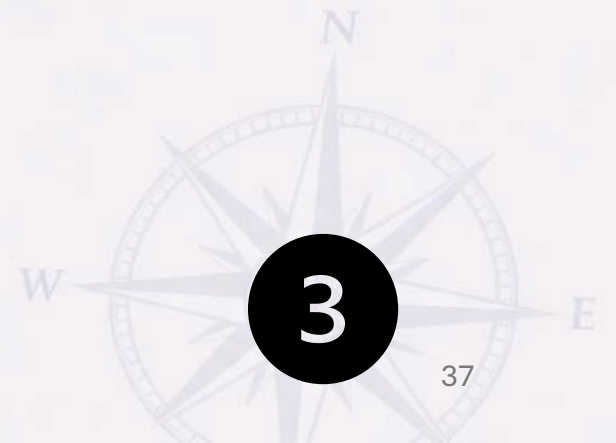




Black Shale Pendant
Test Unit 48 – Level 5 (40-50 cm)

Early Contact or Pre-Contact?

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



A Cultural Bias

What do you see?



TU 43 – Level 4

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



Repurposing:

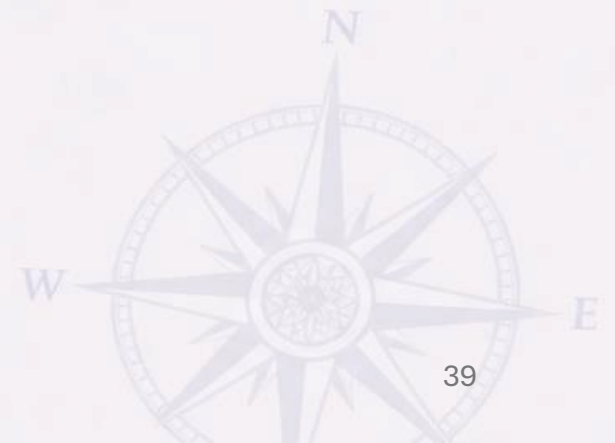
**Pipe Stems
as beads**



Kaolin pipe stem, sinew and bark(?) – TU 43 – Level 4

***NOTE: Too fragile for public display**

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



Possible Beads?



BONUS #

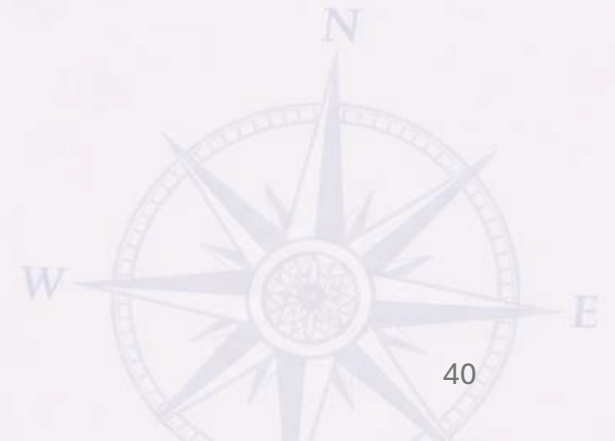
Pipe bowl and
contents, with a
variety of pipe stems.
(Kaolin clay)

***Some stems may
also be beads.**

c. 1800

(TU 47 – Level 6)

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

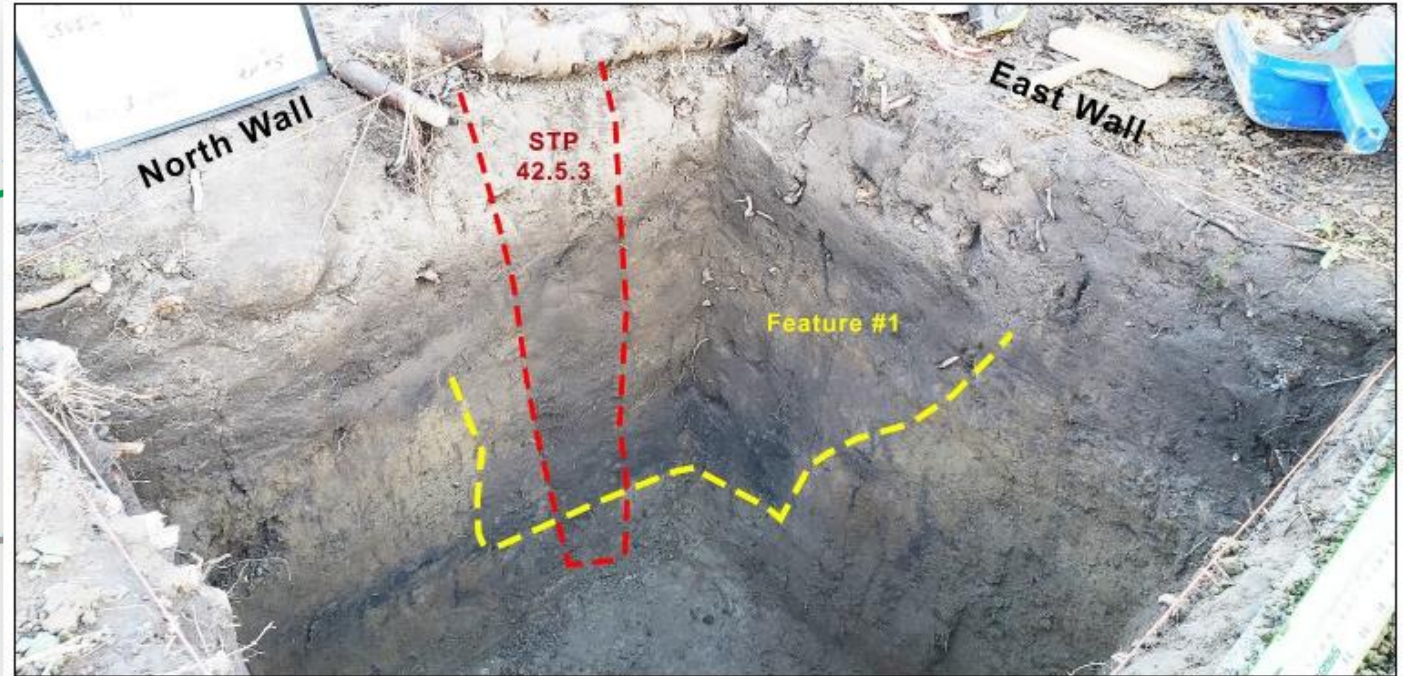




SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



WEST LOCUS





SOLOMON COOK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





2025.001
TV 24-25 (NOT COR)
TIFLEVEL Y @ 80 CM
FERTON #1
JULY 2, 2025
P. 241 R2
← N

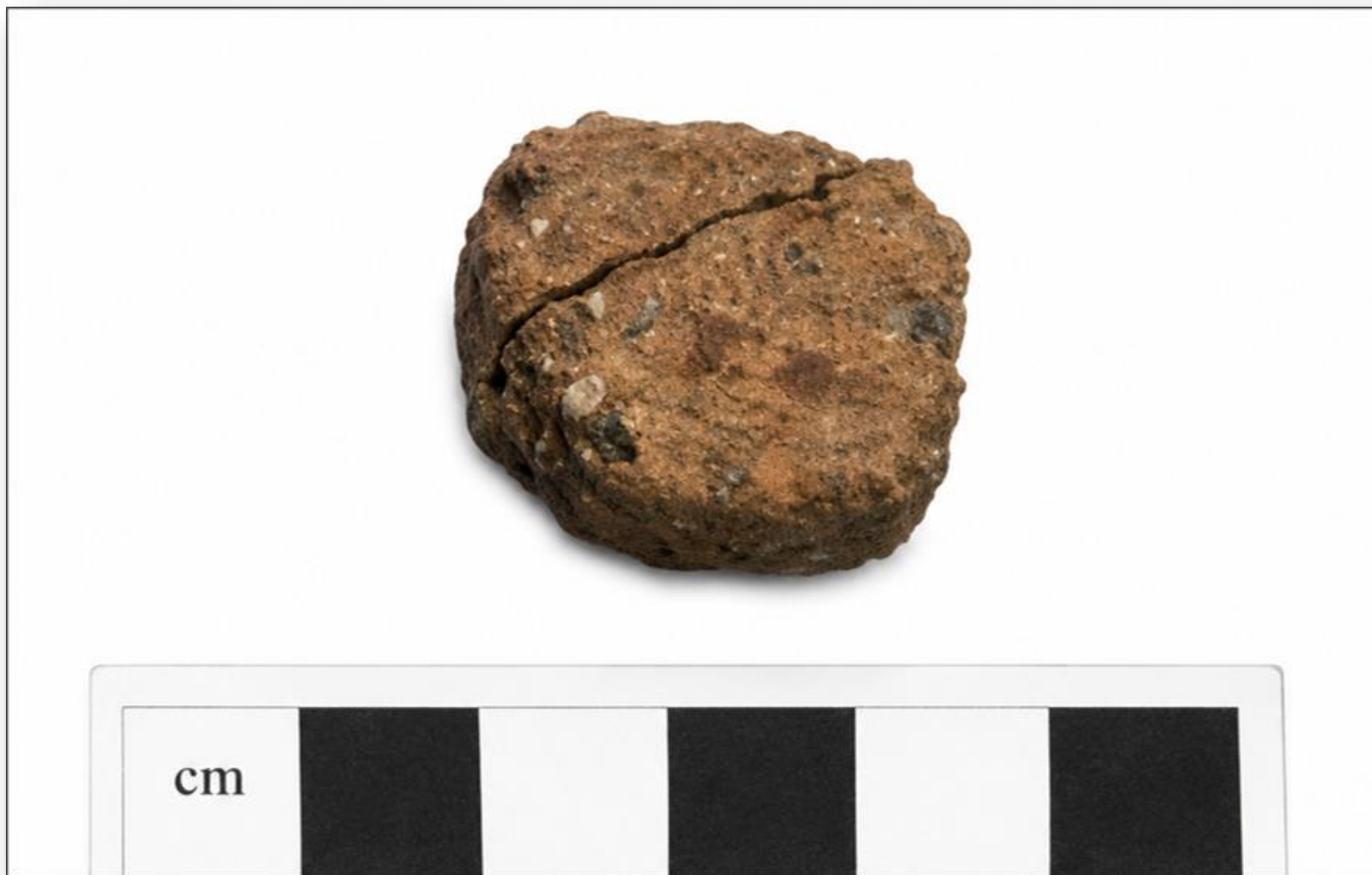




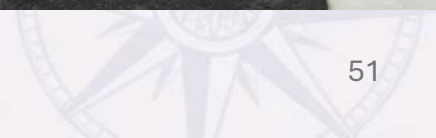
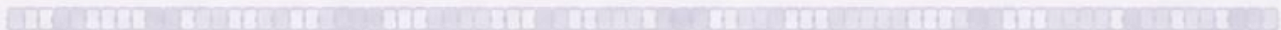




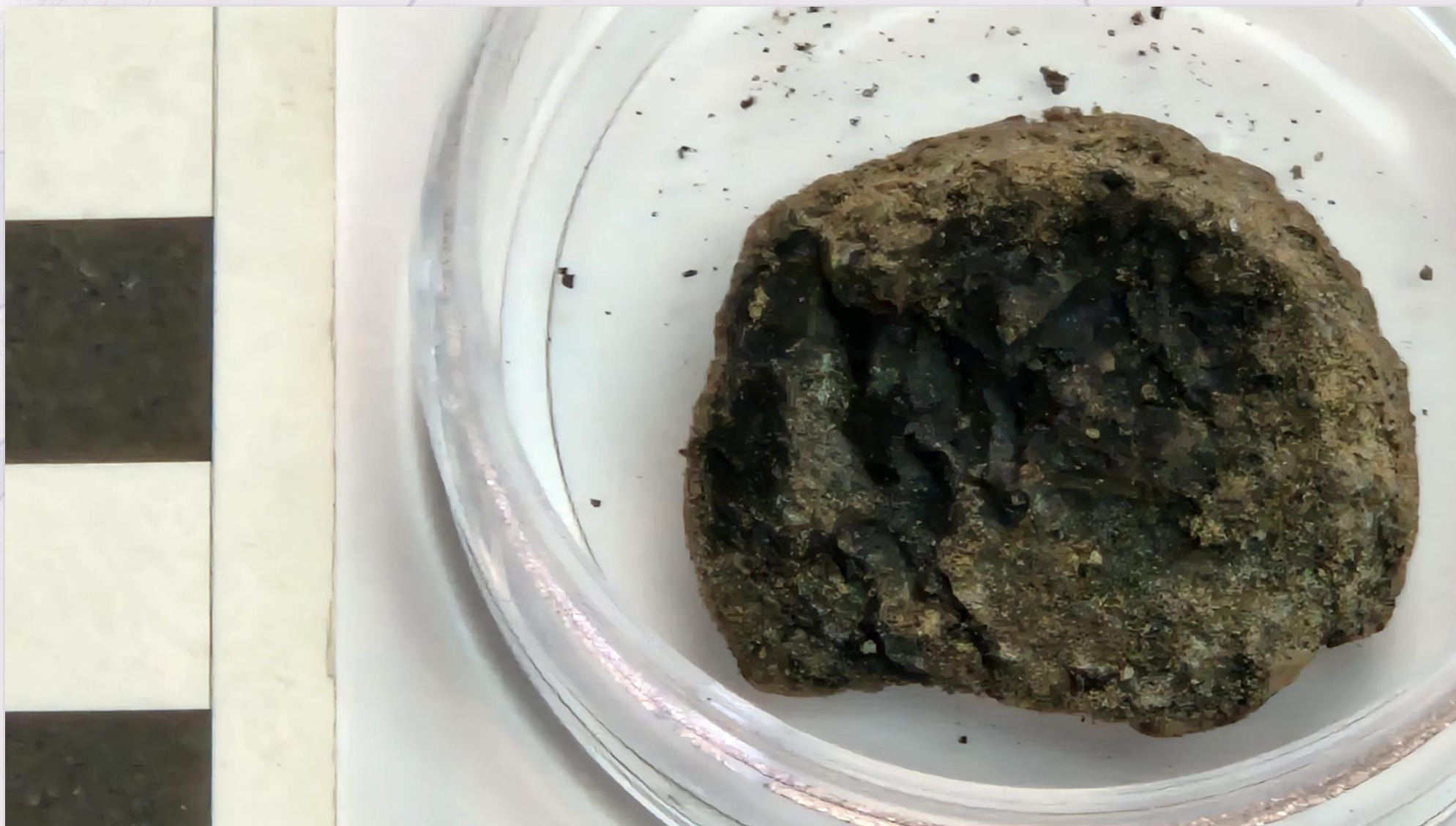




Repurposed pottery into a gaming disk (TU 26 – Level 4)



The carbonized stalk end of a corn cob (TU 39 – Feature 1 – Level 5)



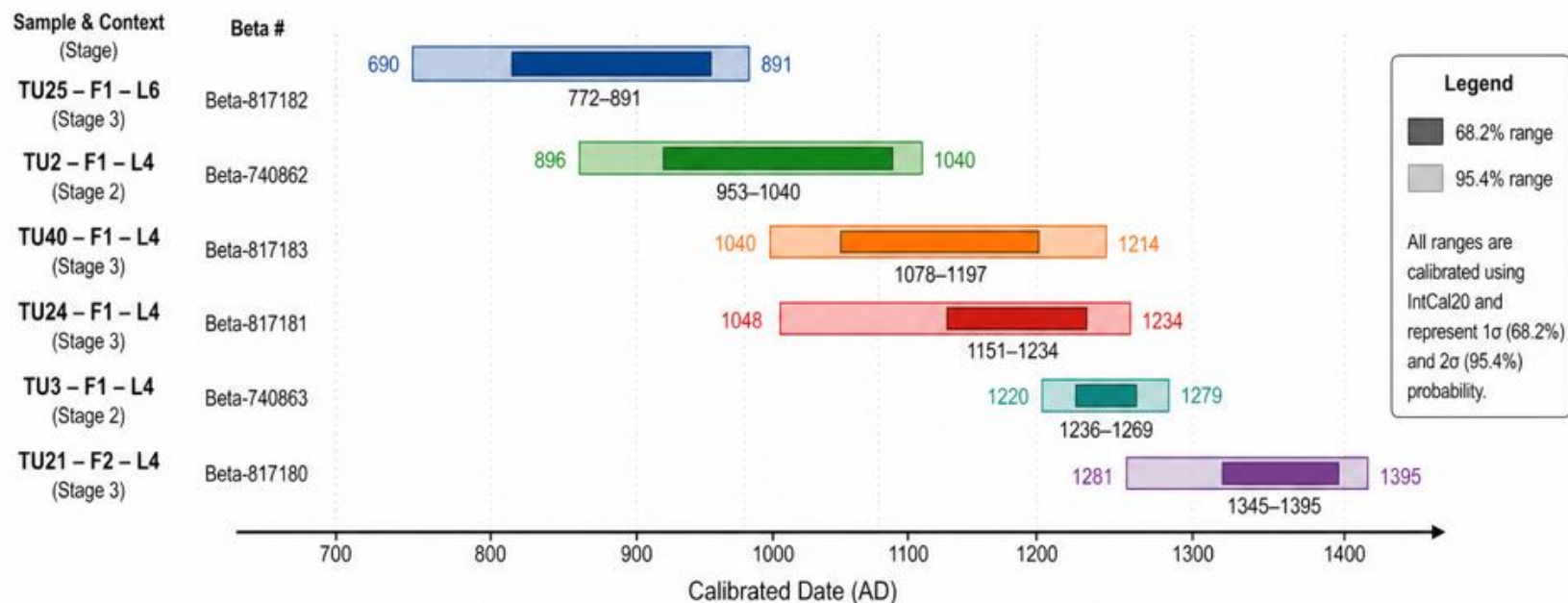
Carbonized organic matter and corn kernel (TU 25 – Feature 1 – Level 5)



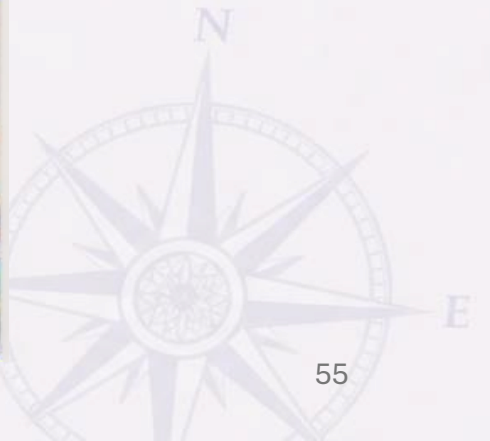
Late Woodland Occupation Timeline – Raquette River Site (cal AD)

Calibrated Radiocarbon Dates (IntCal20)

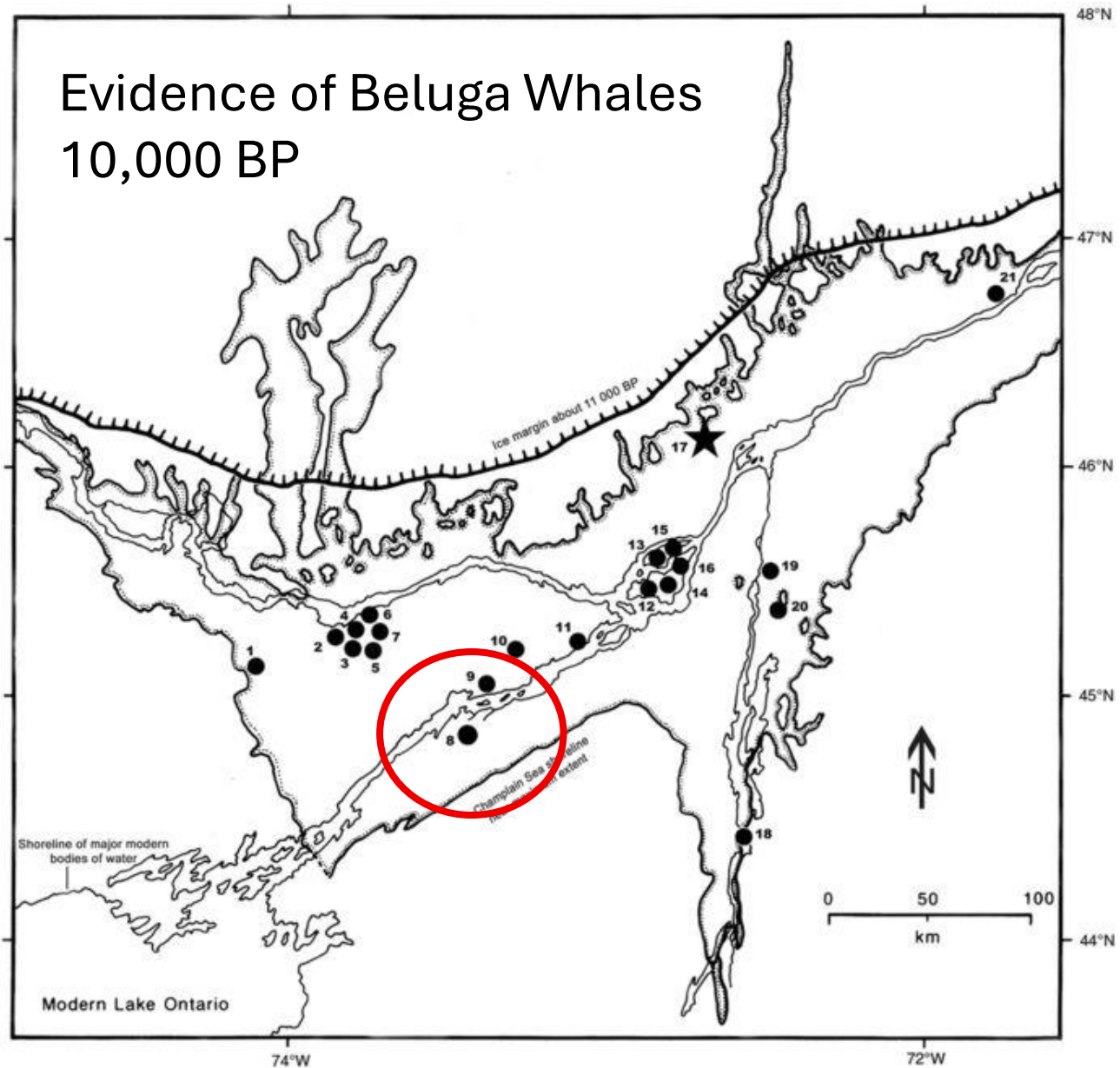
Dark bars = 68.2% probability ranges; Light bars = 95.4% probability ranges

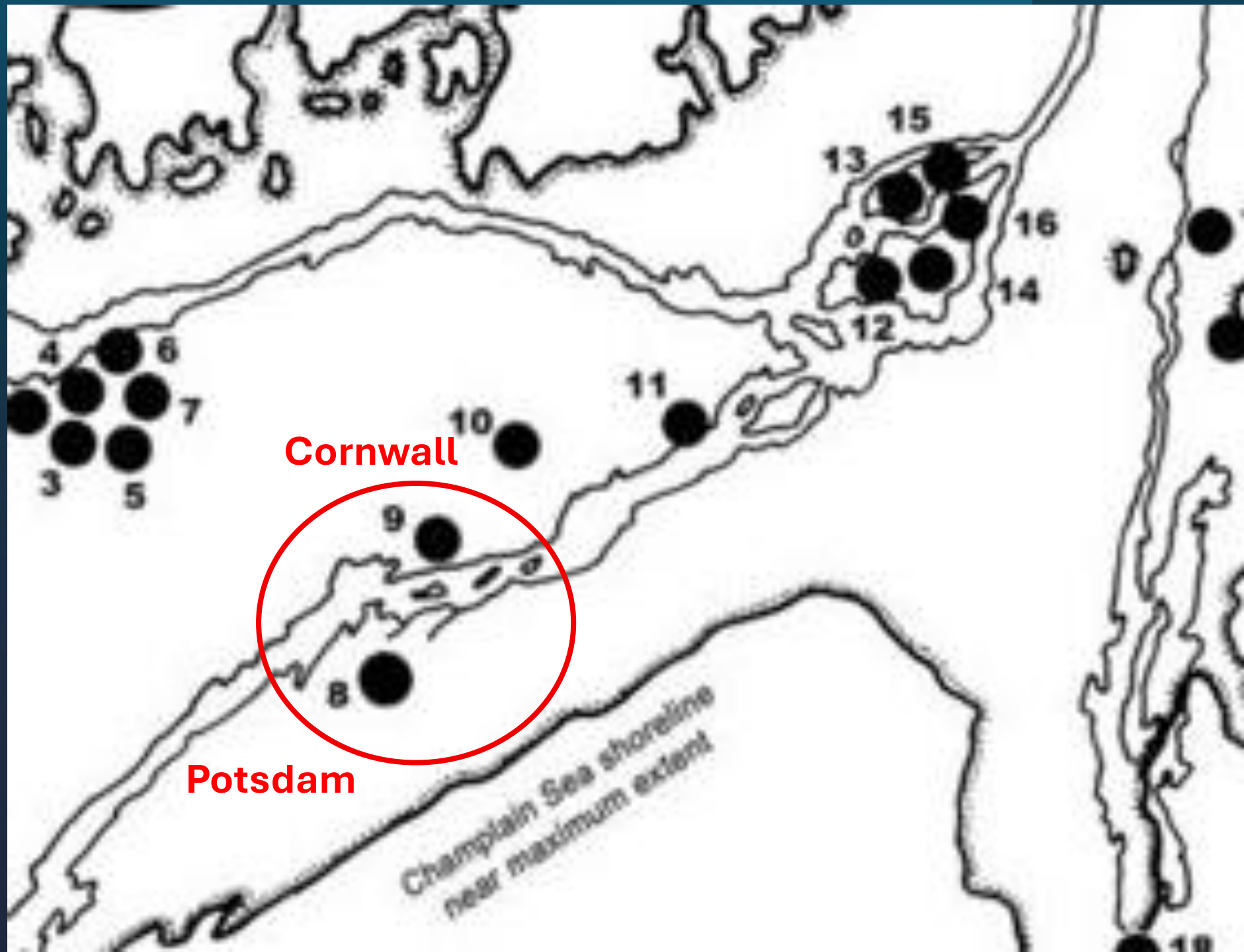


Beta #	Sample	Context (Stage)	Conventional Age (BP)	Calibrated Range (cal AD) 95.4% Probability (2σ)	Calibrated Range (cal AD) 68.2% Probability (1σ)
Beta-817182	TU25 – F1 – L6	Stage 3	1210 ± 30	690 – 891	772 – 891
Beta-740862	TU2 – F1 – L4	Stage 2	1040 ± 30	896 – 1040	953 – 1040
Beta-817183	TU40 – F1 – L4	Stage 3	910 ± 30	1040 – 1214	1078 – 1197
Beta-817181	TU24 – F1 – L4	Stage 3	870 ± 30	1048 – 1234	1151 – 1234
Beta-740863	TU3 – F1 – L4	Stage 2	780 ± 30	1220 – 1279	1236 – 1269
Beta-817180	TU21 – F2 – L4	Stage 3	650 ± 30	1281 – 1395	1345 – 1395



Evidence of Beluga Whales 10,000 BP







1996



“See that point down behind my place, where the Raquette River empties into the St. Lawrence?” he asked. “That’s the first United States land that ships coming up the Seaway from the Atlantic pass. It would be a perfect place for a seaport. For many years, I’ve urged the tribe to look into acquiring the financing to build one there.”

Solomon Cook

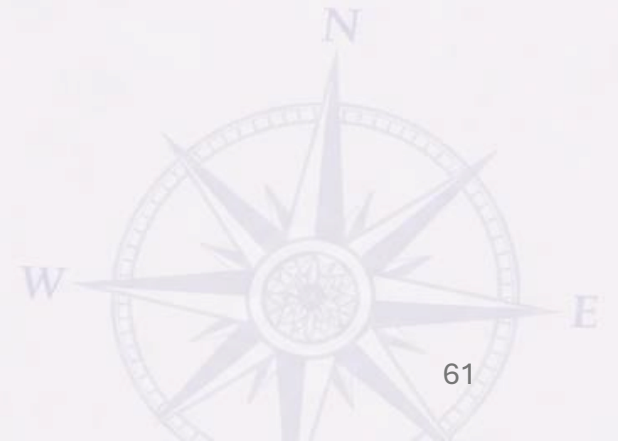
Raquette River Boat Launch

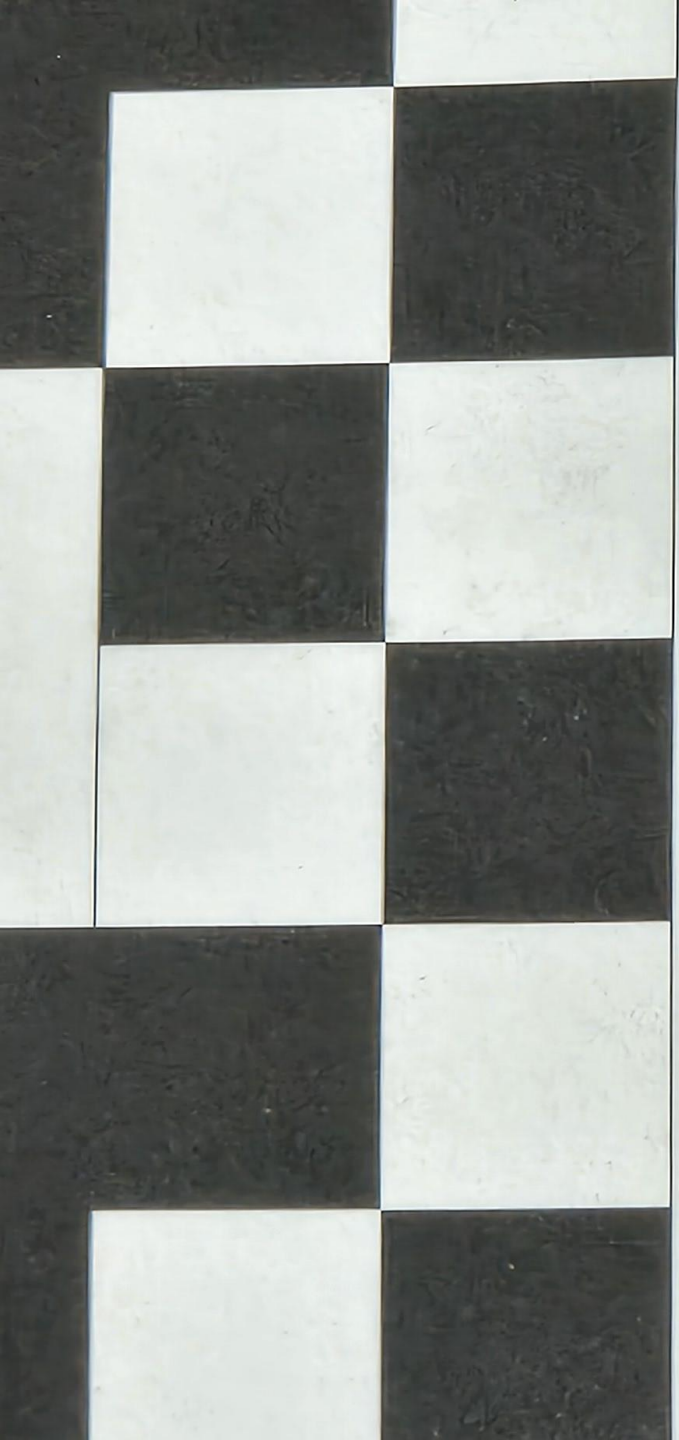
**Environment Division
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Akwesasne
July 22, 2026**

Prepared by: Francis (Francesco) Scardera
V. 5.0 – revised: July 22, 2026

EXTRA SLIDES

SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





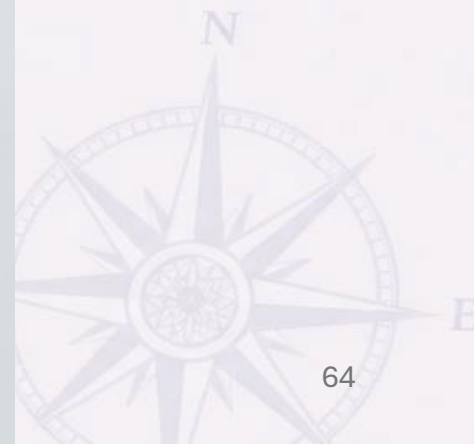


SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





SOLO
ARCHA





cm

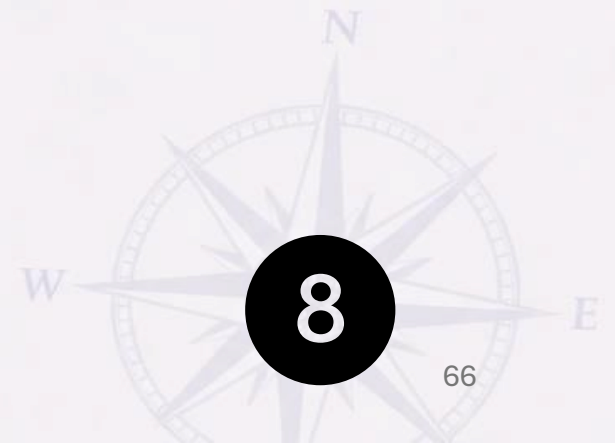
It's all about the shoes!

Test Unit 43

Level 3 (20-30 cm)



SOLOMON COOK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





So

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX



SOLOMON COOK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX





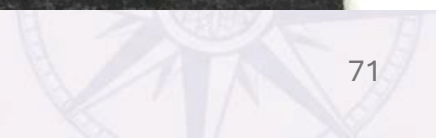
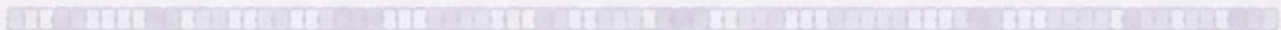
9

8

3

1





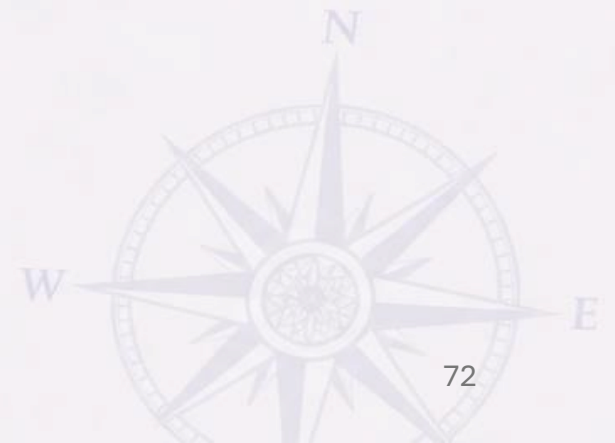


Feature 1:

Outline of semi-subterranean structure below the plow zone.

Square = 1 by 1 meter

Level = 40 cm





1992

