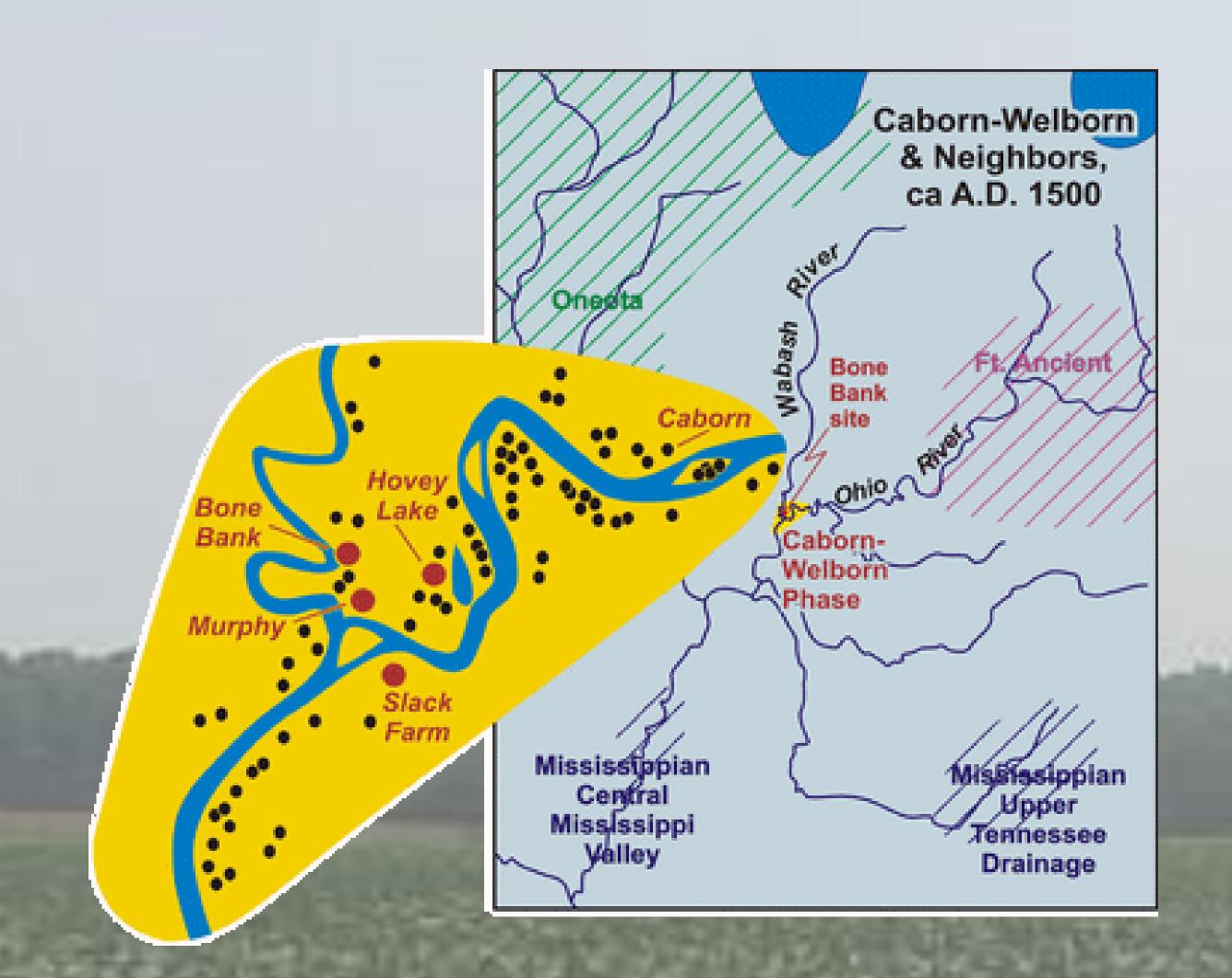


# An Examination of Early Woodland Grave Goods at the Murphy Site By: Emily Thurman



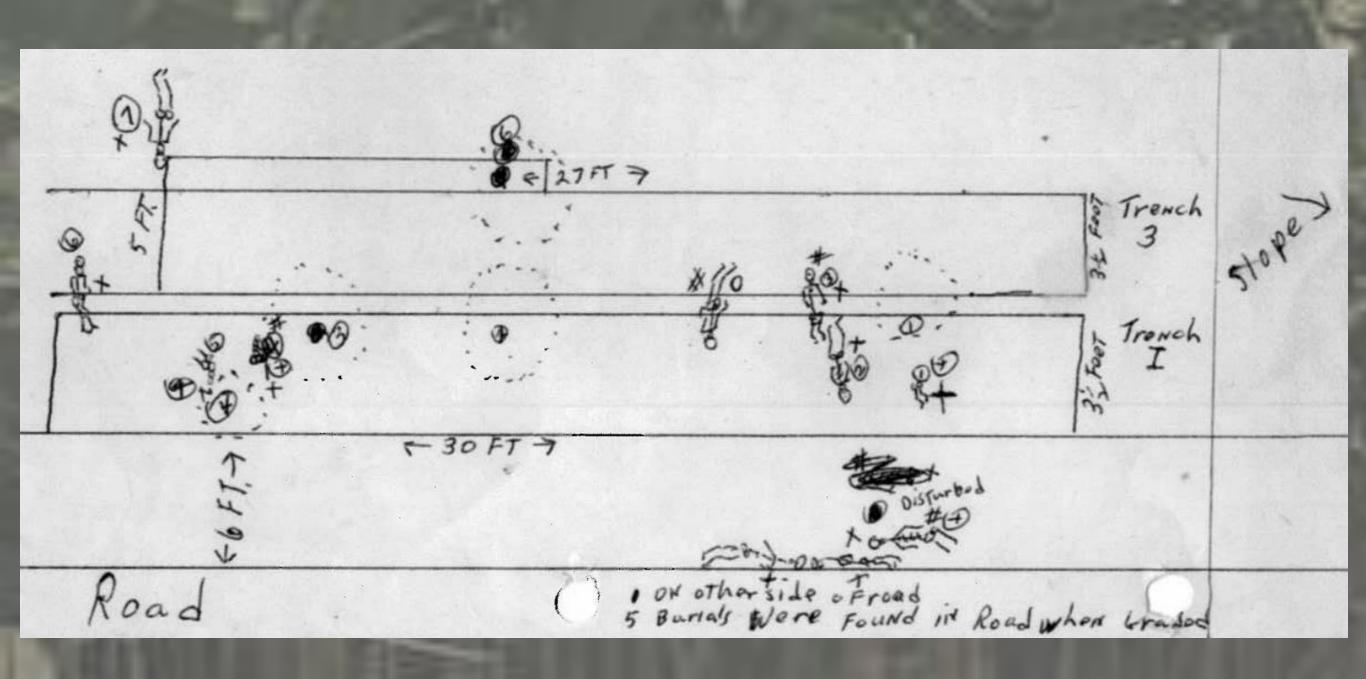
## The Murphy Site

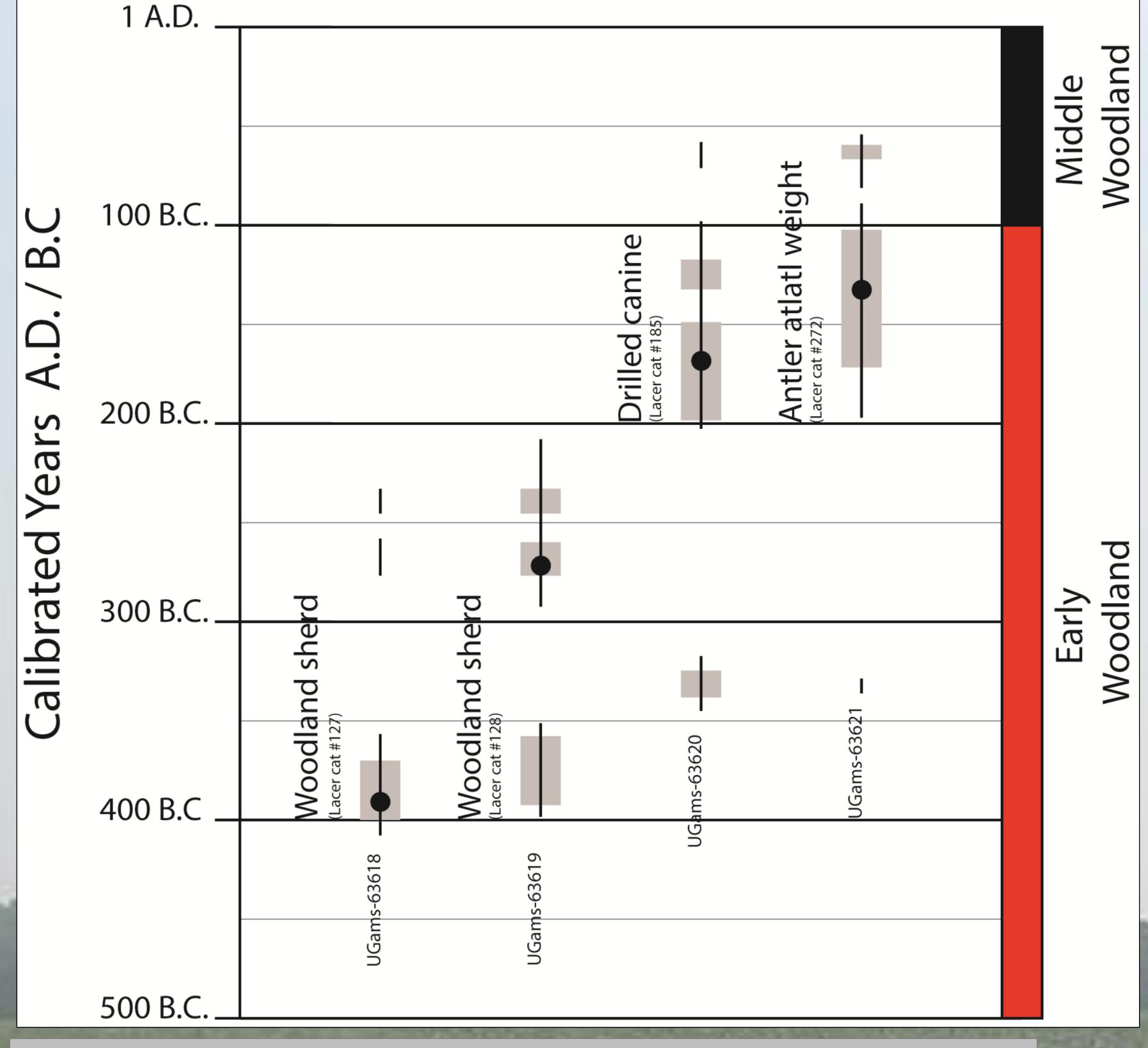
- Located at the confluence of the Wabash and Ohio Rivers in Posey County
- Primary focus on Caborn-Welborn occupation (15th and 16th centuries)
  - Last people to inhabit Southern Indiana prior to pioneer settlement
- Earlier occupation during the Late Early Woodland and Early Middle Woodland periods (c. 200 B.C)



## Charles Lacer's Collection

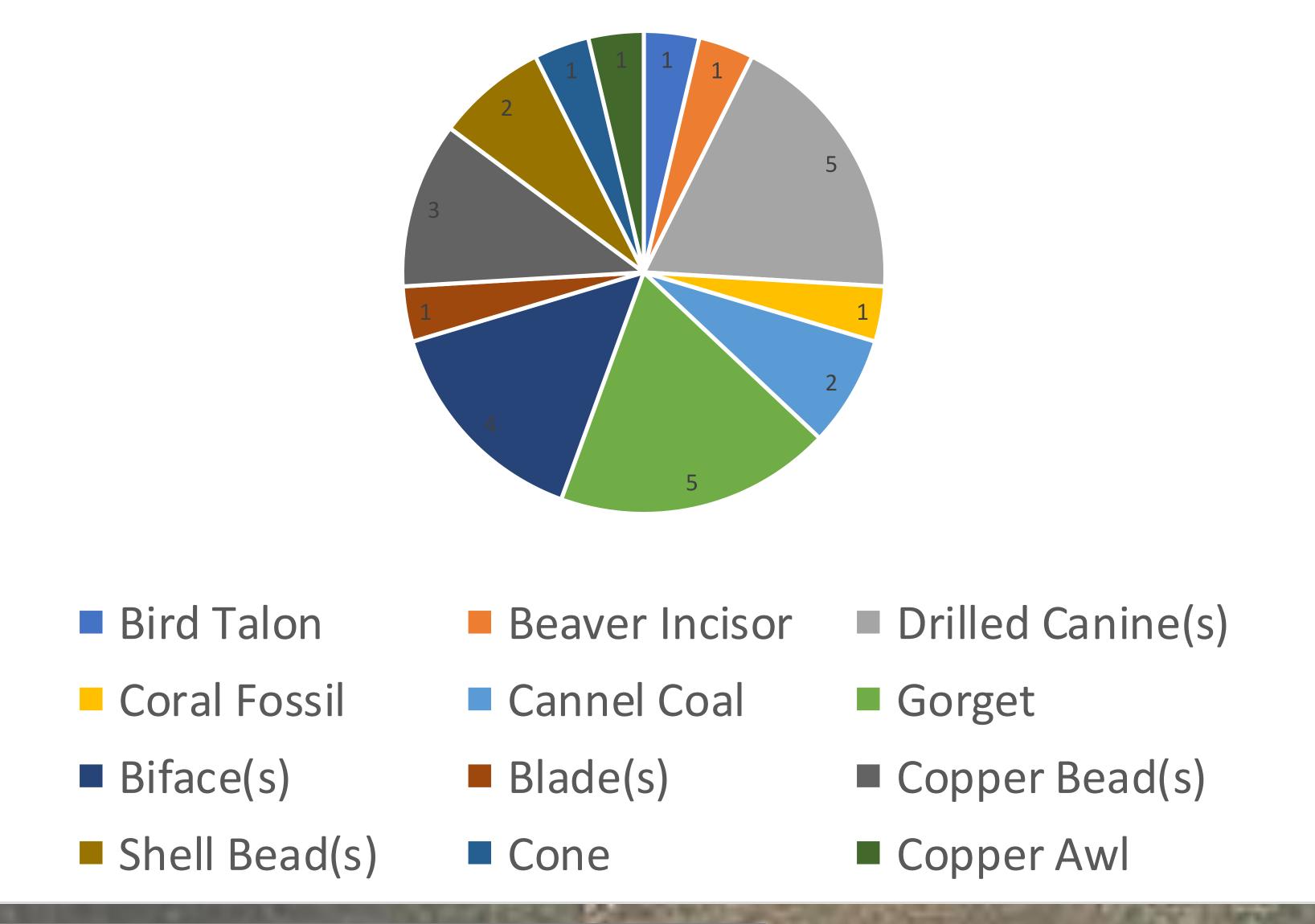
- Local amateur archaeologist who conducted his own excavations in the early 1960s
- Excavated some of the Early Woodland Burials at the Murphy Site (1963 and 1964)
- Notes and drawings of the burials
- Videotapes describing artifacts
- Much of his collection is housed at USI
- Sorting and cataloging thousands of artifacts to develop inventory of collection





Resulting radiocarbon dates from the four of the five radiocarbon samples

## Number of Adult Burials Per Artifact Type



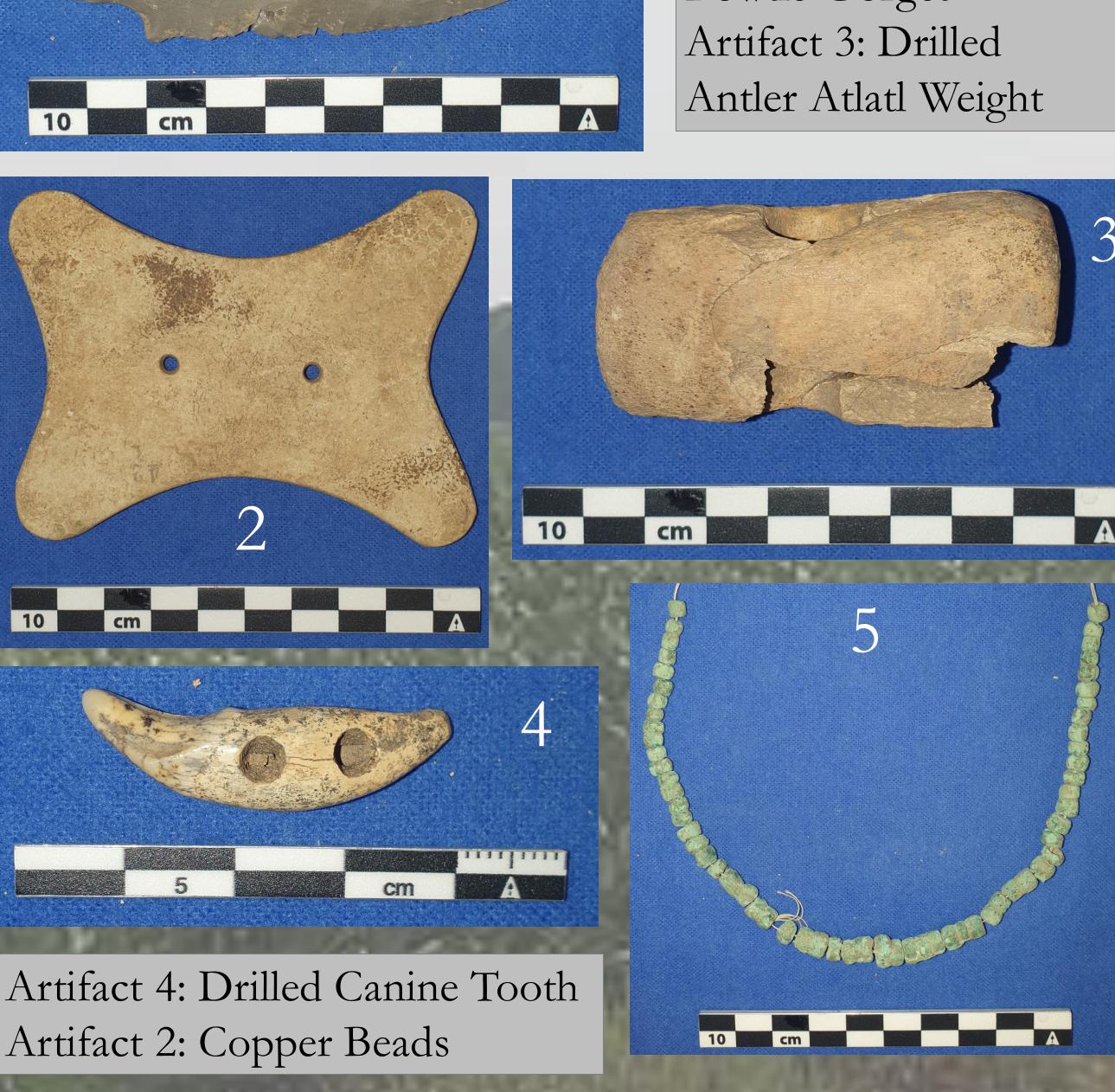
Types of grave goods found with adult burials

### Process

- Sorting and cataloging pottery sherds
- Cataloging artifacts such as drilled canines, gorgets, copper beads, and projectile points
- Sorting human remains based on sex and age if possible
- Sending off five samples for radiocarbon dates
- Creating a list of burials that matched individuals with artifacts
- Analyzing data to determine which individuals were buried with which types of artifacts



Artifact 1: Adena Point
Artifact 2: Limestone
Bowtie Gorget
Artifact 3: Drilled
Antler Atlatl Weight



#### References

Justice, Noel D.

1986 Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points of the Midcontinental and Eastern
United States. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

Munson Cheryl A.

Archaeological Survey and Testing of Mississippian Caborn-Welborn
Phase Sites in Posey County Indiana 1996-1997: Investigations at the
Hovey Lake and Murphy Sites and Environs.

Munson Cheryl A.

2001 Archaeological Survey Test Excavation and Public Education in Southwestern Indiana.

Strezewski, Michael

The Barker Variant: A Crab Orchard Related Cultural Manifestation at

the Ohio-Wabash Confluence. Illinois Archaeology 30:137–166.