

**PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE STAGE 4
EXCAVATION OF THE WICE SITE (BcGv-37),
LOCKHART INNISFIL INVESTMENTS
LIMITED PROPERTY,
PART OF LOT 14, CONCESSION 11,
GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF INNISFIL,
CITY OF BARRIE, COUNTY OF SIMCOE**



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Prepared by

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P.I.F. Number P013-654-2012

July 19, 2012

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Supporting Documents: Location of Archaeological Sites
Supporting Documents: GPS Coordinates

PROJECT PERSONNEL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This preliminary excavation report details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 4 Excavation of the Wice Site (BcGv-37), Lockhart Innisfil Investments Limited Property, Part Of Lot 14, Concession 11, Geographic Township Of Innisfil, City Of Barrie, County Of Simcoe. The Wice site (BcGv-37) is a mid 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead. The Stage 4 mitigation was required by the Planning Act (1996) as a component of a future application for a subdivision development.

The 289 acre subject property which contains this site was subjected to a Stage 1-3 archaeological assessment by our firm in November, 2011 and March, April and May, 2012 (AAL 2012). Two of the sites that were found as a result of the assessment were considered to be potentially significant and were subjected to Stage 3 assessment in April and May, 2012 (AAL 2012). The results of the Stage 3 assessment indicated that the Wice Site (BcGv-37) was the only significant archaeological resource on the subject property and would require Stage 4 mitigation.

The Stage 4 excavation of the Wice Site (BcGv-37) was conducted in June, 2012 and has now been completed. The site area was stripped by a gradall. A total of 5 cultural features were identified and completely excavated including two refuse pits, one general, one ash pit and one root cellar. The results of the excavation indicates that the site represents the location of a homestead occupied by a member of the Wice family sometime between the 1840's and the 1860's.

The site has now been completely excavated and represented the last remaining archaeological planning concern on the 244 acre section of subject property which was subjected to an archaeological assessment. Accordingly, there are no other further concerns for impacts to archaeological resources on the 244 acre development area. No further archaeological assessment of this 244 acre parcel of land is required.

The subject property contains a 45 acre area which is environmentally protected and will be preserved from any development activities. Consequently this 45 acre area was excluded from the Stage 2 field assessment. The EP lands will require a Stage 2 archaeological assessment if any of these lands are subjected to any development activities in the future.

1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

This preliminary excavation report details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 4 Excavation of the Wice Site (BcGv-37), Lockhart Innisfil Investments Limited Property, Part Of Lot 14, Concession 11, Geographic Township Of Innisfil, City Of Barrie, County Of Simcoe. The Wice site (BcGv-37) is a mid 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead. The Stage 4 mitigation was required by the Planning Act (1996) as a component of a future application for a subdivision development.

Permission for access to the property and to remove and curate artifacts was granted by the land owner. All fieldwork was conducted under archaeological consulting licence No. P013, issued to Rick Sutton. The assessment was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act (Government of Ontario 1980), and with the technical guidelines for archaeological assessments formulated by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MTC 2011). Archaeological Assessments Ltd. accepts responsibility for the long term curation of any artifacts recovered or documents produced as a result of the assessment. A more detailed Stage 4 excavation report will be prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport in 2013.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The 289 acre subject property which contains the Wice Site (BcGv-37) is located southeast of the urban core of Barrie, on the north side of Lockhart Road, 500 metres west of Yonge Street (Figure 1). The Wice site is located in the southern section of the subject property, in the northeast corner of a large agricultural field (see supporting documents). The Stage 4 excavation of the Wice Site (BcGv-37) was conducted under the supervision of Chris Brown (License P361), Archaeological Assessments Ltd., between June 4 and June 15, 2012.

2.0 RESULTS OF THE STAGE 1-3 ASSESSMENT

The 289 acre subject property which contains the Wice site was subjected to a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment by our firm in November, 2011 and March, April and May, 2012 (AAL 2012). The agricultural fields were pedestrian surveyed at 5 metre intervals. The well drained scrubland and forested areas were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals (Figure 2). A 45 acre area of the subject lands consist of environmentally sensitive lands which will be preserved and were therefore excluded from the Stage 2 assessment (Figure 2).

Three archaeological sites were located during the course of the Stage 2 assessment and were registered as the Wice Site (BcGv-37), Collins Site (BcGv-38) and the Lockhart site (BcGv-39) (AAL 2012). The Wice Site (BcGv-37) is a mid 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead. The Collins Site (BcGv-38) is a late 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead. The Lockhart site (BcGv-39) is a isolated Middle Archaic findspot that is not significant and did not require any further investigation.

A Stage 3 assessment of the two Euro-Canadian sites was carried out in April and May, 2012 (AAL 2012). The results of the Stage 3 assessment indicated that the Collins Site (BcGv-38) is not a significant archaeological resource because of its late 19th century date of occupation and is no longer a planning concern. It was also recommended that 45 acres of EP lands on the subject property would require a Stage 2 archaeological assessment if any of these lands are subjected to any development activities in the future (AAL 2012).

The Stage 3 assessment of the Wice site (BcGv-37) was conducted under the supervision of Chris Brown (P361), Archaeological Assessments Ltd., between April 13 and May 12, 2012 (AAL 2012). A Stage 3 controlled surface collection of the site was conducted and resulted in the recovery of a total of 187 historic artifacts. Stage 3 test excavations were then carried out at the site. A total of 25 one metre square test units were then excavated at 5-10 metre intervals across the site (Figure 3). All of the test units were positive with artifact counts ranging from 2-84 per unit. No potential features or midden areas were identified in the test units.

A total of 1,182 artifacts were recovered from the site during the Stage 2-3 investigations. Archival research and the contents of the artifact assemblage indicated the site represented the location of a homestead occupied by a member of the Wice family sometime between the 1840's and the 1860's.

As per the MTC's Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011: 35), domestic archaeological sites in southern Ontario which were primarily occupied before 1870 (80% or more) have cultural heritage value and require Stage 4 mitigation. The Wice Site (BcGv-37) is therefore a significant archaeological resource it was recommended that it would require Stage 4 mitigation prior to any development activities on this property (AAL 2012). No midden areas were identified at the site. Consequently, the Stage 4 mitigation of the Wice site (BcGv-37) would involve stripping the topsoil from the site with a gradall and recording and excavating all subsurface culture features by hand.

3.0 RESULTS OF THE STAGE 4 EXCAVATION

The Stage 4 excavation of the Wice Site (BcGv-37) was conducted under the supervision of Chris Brown (License P361), Archaeological Assessments Ltd., between June 4 and June 15, 2012 under warm weather conditions with a mixture of sun and cloud. Given the absence of any midden areas, the excavation of additional one metre units was not required. The topsoil was stripped from the site by a gradall on June 4, 2012. The topsoil stripping was monitored at all times by the field director. The area which was stripped of topsoil measured approximately 38 metres north-south by 35 metres east-west (Figure 4). Following the removal of the topsoil, a 5 metre grid system was re-established over the site. The stripped areas were then more closely examined by shovel shining, and where necessary, trowelling.

The next step in the excavation process was the recording of the exact position and limits of all of the features which were discovered while shovel shining. The plan view of all features was recorded using triangulation relative to the five metre grid. Once the features had been recorded in plan view, they were sectioned. Profiles were then drawn and photographed. All excavated feature fill was screened through 6mm mesh in order to maximize artifact recovery.

A total of 8 potential features were identified. Following their excavation, it was determined that only 5 of the features were cultural, and were concentrated in the central area of the site. The remaining features consisted of root burns and rodent burrows. The confirmed cultural features include two refuse pits (Features #1, #7), one general pit (Feature #4), one ash pit (Feature #2) and one root cellar (Feature #8). All of the features were completely excavated. Flotation samples were taken from two opposing quadrants of Feature 8 (root cellar).

Feature #1 and #7 are both refuse pits. Feature #1 is located in the southern section of the site area and is roughly circular in shape. It measures 43cm by 40cm and has a maximum depth of 16cm. In profile, it features a shallow bowl shape, with a generally flat bottom. Feature fill consists of dark soil mottled with brick material. Ceramics, glass and bone fragments were recovered from this feature.

Feature #7 is located in the northeast section of the site area and is irregular in shape, with dimensions of 215cm by 146cm. Fill consists of mainly dark soil, mottled with ash and charcoal. A number of pockets featuring wood, brick material and mortar were also present. In profile, Feature #7 is shallow, with a generally flat bottom and gently sloping sides. The western portion of the feature is the deepest, with a maximum depth of 26cm. The remainder of the feature has a depth of 10cm on average. Ceramics, glass and metal items were recovered from this feature.

Feature #4 is located in the central section of the site area and is interpreted as a general pit. It is roughly circular in shape, measures 40cm by 38cm and has a maximum depth of 16cm. In profile, it features a shallow bowl shape, with a generally flat bottom. Feature fill consists of dark soil mottled with subsoil, brick material and mortar. Ceramic artifacts were recovered from this feature.

Feature #2 is located in the southeast section of the excavated site area. It is interpreted as an ash pit, and is roughly circular with dimensions of 156cm by 150cm. Its fill is composed mainly of

dark grey-brown soil mottled with ash and charcoal, in addition to a number of pockets of higher concentrations of ash and charcoal. In profile, Feature # 2 had a general basin shape with a somewhat undulating bottom, with a maximum depth of 21cm. Two distinct layers were visible, with the uppermost layer being composed of the main dark grey-brown ashy feature fill, with a maximum depth of 13cm. This layer overlaid another, which was composed of ash mottled with charcoal, with a maximum thickness of 13cm. Most of the artifacts recovered from Feature #2 came from the uppermost layer, and include metal, ceramics, glass and bone.

The root cellar (Feature #8) is located in the northern section of the excavated site area and is roughly ovoid in shape. Its dimensions are 263cm by 287cm, and at the surface Feature #8 is composed of dark brown soil mottled with subsoil, brick, mortar and small artifact fragments. Initially, two opposing quadrants of Feature #8 were excavated in order to obtain profile drawings from each face and determine its architectural characteristics. The remaining two quadrants were then excavated. In profile, Feature #8 features generally steeply-sloping sides and a relatively flat bottom. A number of fill layers were also identified. The uppermost features dark soil heavily mottled with subsoil, with a maximum depth of 56cm. Thin, organic soil deposits were found in addition to a 5-10cm thick layer of heavily fired orange soil which covered much of the feature. The lowest layer is composed of homogenous dark soil, which extended across the bottom of the entire feature, to a maximum depth of 13cm. Wooden lining was found running vertically along the northern and eastern edges at the lowest levels of the feature (forming a right angle), as well as forming an intermittent horizontal lining sitting just above the living floor. This feature contained a large number of artifacts and a moderate amount of stone rubble infill. It likely represents a root cellar, probably placed underneath the floor of a house and used for the storage of perishable foodstuffs.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS & COMPLIANCE ADVICE

4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

As indicated in this preliminary excavation report, the subject property contained one significant archaeological site that was subjected to a Stage 4 excavation in June, 2012. The Wice Site (BcGv-37) is a mid 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead. The site has now been completely excavated and represented the last remaining archaeological planning concern on the 244 acre section of subject property which was subjected to an archaeological assessment. Accordingly, there are no other further concerns for impacts to archaeological resources on the 244 acre development area. No further archaeological assessment of this 244 acre parcel of land is required.

The subject property contains a 45 acre area which is environmentally protected and will be preserved from any development activities. Consequently this 45 acre area was excluded from the Stage 2 field assessment. The EP lands will require a Stage 2 archaeological assessment if any of these lands are subjected to any development activities in the future.

4.2 COMPLIANCE ADVICE

This report is submitted to the Minister of Tourism and Culture as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.

It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeology Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. C.4 and the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.

5.0 IMAGES



Plate 1. The Wice Site (BcGv-37) (view northeast)



Plate 2. Wice Site (BcGv-37) Stage 3 Test Excavations (view south)



Plate 3. Stage 4 Topsoil Stripping of the Wice Site (BcGv-37) (view northeast)



Plate 4. Feature 8 Profile, Wice Site (BcGv-37) (view north)



Plate 5. Wice Site (BcGv-37) Artifacts

6.0 MAPS

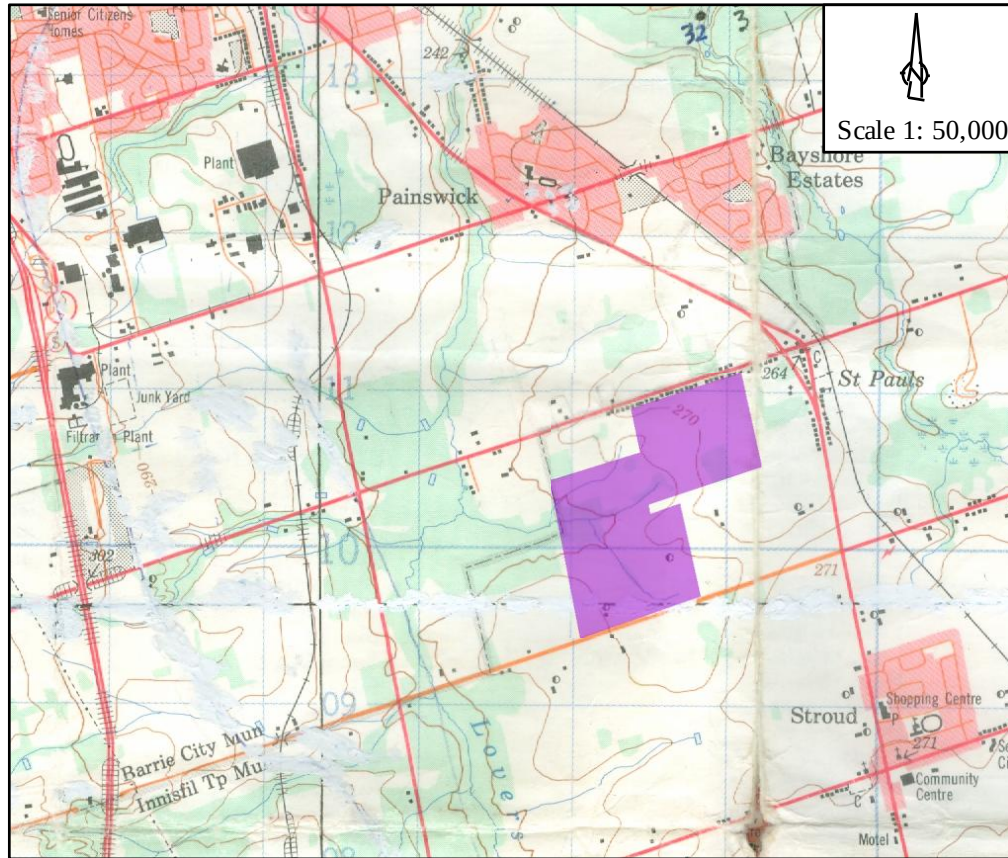


Figure 1. Location of the Subject Property
(Department of Energy, Mines and Resources 1986 Barrie 31 D/5)

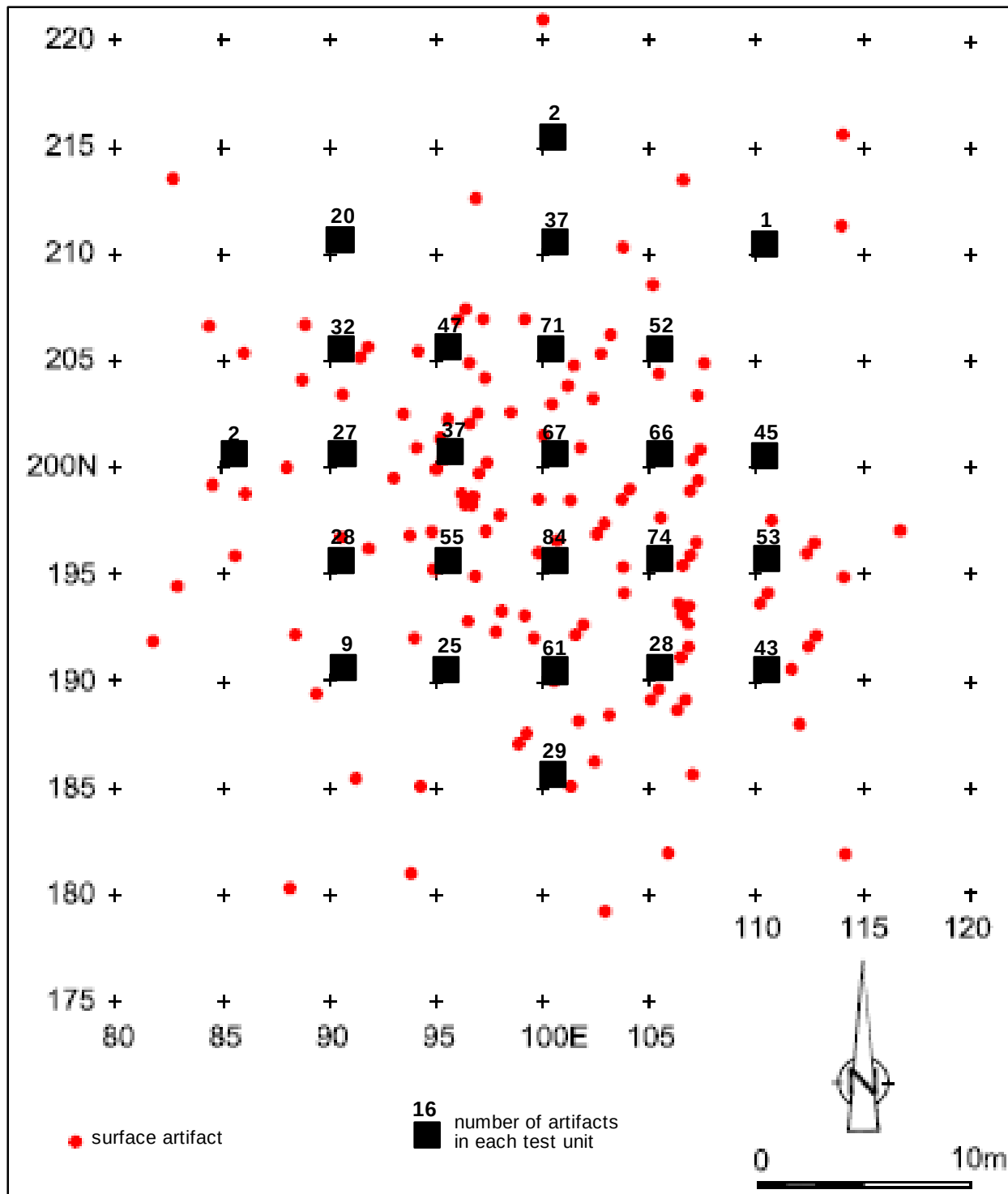


Figure 3. Results of the Stage 3 Assessment of the Wice Site (BcGv-37) (AAL 2012)

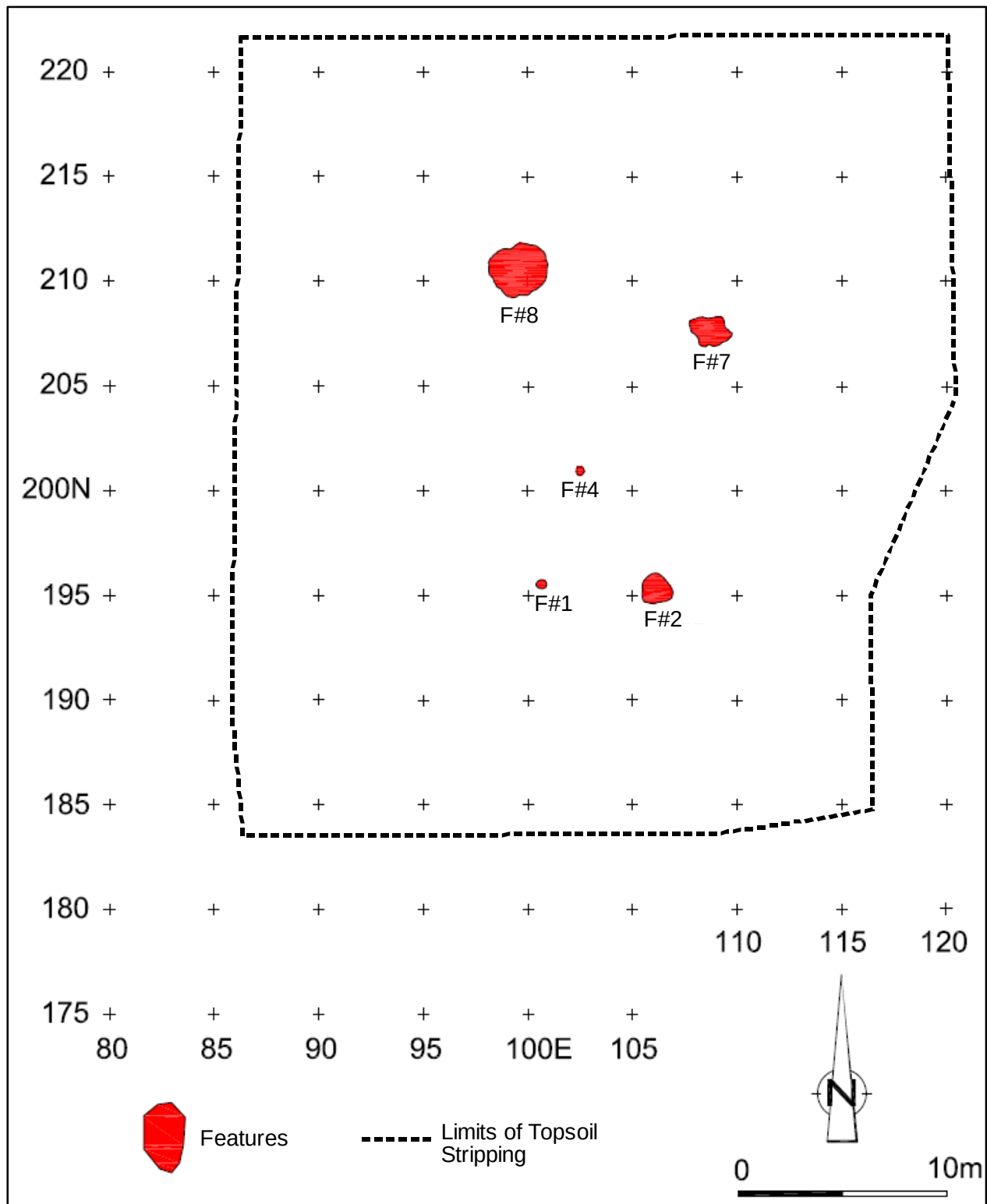


Figure 4. Results of the Stage 4 Excavation of the Wice Site (BcGv-37)

7.0 REFERENCES CITED

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