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Name(s): Michael C. Moore, Mark R. Norton, and Kevin E. Smith
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UPLAND ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE CENTRAL BASIN: RESULTS OF LIMITED TEST EXCAVATIONS AT SITE 40DV256, DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Michael C. Moore, Mark R. Norton, and Kevin E. Smith

ABSTRACT

Tennessee Division of Archaeology personnel recorded intact midden deposits and cultural features on an upland site that overlooks the Cumberland River floodplain. Primary occupation of the site area was by Middle Woodland groups. Evidence for Early Archaic through transitional Late Archaic/Early Woodland components was also recovered. The site residents appear to have used this locale as a seasonal camp for hunting/butchering and tool maintenance activities.

Introduction

This article presents the results of archaeological investigations at 40DV256, one of several sites recorded during a reconnaissance survey of state-owned lands within the uplands of Cockrill Bend in western Davidson County. This survey was initially conducted by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology to identify archaeological resources that would be affected by a proposed golf course and associated facilities. The golf course proposal was rescinded soon after test excavations of 40DV256 had been initiated, and further investigation of the site was suspended at that time. However, interest in the site area was renewed in early 1991 due to the proposed expansion of an adjacent airport runway.

40DV256 was reported on October 11, 1988, with test excavations performed between October 17-26, 1988 to assess the potential for buried cultural deposits. These excavations were successful in identifying intact midden deposits and cultural features. However, the field crew was transferred to another project locale before the site area could be accurately defined. Investigations of 40DV256 were not immediately resumed since the proposed golf course plan for Cockrill Bend had been terminated.

At the end of the initial test excavations in 1988, 40DV256 was thought to occupy only the southern portion of a high ridge top which overlooks the Cumberland River floodplain. Roughly 50 meters north of 40DV256, along the same ridge top, a separate area with evidence of cultural activity had been given site number 40DV260. In 1991, the proposed expansion of a nearby airport runway across the entire ridge top made further investigations of 40DV256 and 40DV260 necessary. This additional work determined that sites 40DV256 and 40DV260 were the same cultural occupation (DuVall and Taylor 1991). For the purposes of this article, however, the authors will continue to use the original site number 40DV256.

Site Setting

Cockrill Bend, which incorporates a large tract of land bounded by an oval loop of the Cumberland River, exhibits a topography of well-formed floodplains

and terraces with rugged, dissected uplands. Site 40DV256 covers about three acres of a wooded, gently sloping ridge top overlooking the Cumberland River floodplain (Figure 1). The northwest, north, and east site boundaries are well-defined by sharp dropoffs toward the floodplain. Elevations within the site area range from 520 to 540 feet AMSL along the ridge top, to 400 feet AMSL on the floodplain directly below the site. The present Cumberland River channel flows some 400 meters northeast of 40DV256.

Field Methodology

After 40DV256 was initially recorded (in October of 1988), a north-south grid system was established across what was thought to be the site area. A series of fourteen 1 x 1 meter test squares were excavated to determine if any intact midden deposits or features were present. These units were troweled in natural levels, with all fill screened through 1/4 inch wire mesh. Similarly, all cultural features were removed by trowel and the fill screened through 1/4 inch wire mesh. All artifacts were bagged and brought back to the Division of Archeology laboratory for analysis. An approximate one liter sample of fill from each feature was removed for future analysis. Standard profile maps were drawn for each test unit.

On March 15, 1991, DuVall & Associates, Inc. conducted a one-day investigation to assess the relationship of sites 40DV256 and 40DV260 (DuVall and Taylor 1991). Twenty-one 40 x 40 cm shovel test units were placed across the entire ridge crest to determine if these two sites were the same occupation. Only the presence or absence of cultural material was noted for these tests. Any artifacts found within a shovel test were returned to the respective unit which was then backfilled. This investigation determined that 40DV256 and 40DV260 were indeed the same site. The shovel tests denoted a continuous midden deposit and artifact scatter across the entire ridge top upon which these sites were originally reported.

Three distinct strata were defined in the 1988 (and 1991) test unit profiles (Figure 2). Stratum I consists of a humic zone roughly 15 cm thick across all but the southern site area, where this zone may be up to 29 cm thick. This initial level appears to be the result of tree-clearing activities from a long time ago. The increased depth of Stratum I in the southern site area may be due to a combination of clearing and historic farming/gardening actions. A historic structure foundation was recorded within the southern site area. Stratum II is composed of a dark brown/black silt loam approximately 10 to 30 cm thick. This zone represents an intact midden which contains a moderate amount of cultural material, including chipped stone tools and lithic debris, ceramics, bone, and burned limestone. The base of the midden layer grades into a compact, yellow-brown, silty clay subsoil (Stratum III) between 29 to 49 cm below surface.

Cultural Features

One historic and three prehistoric features were uncovered during the 1988 investigations. Descriptions of these features are presented below.

Feature 1

Feature 1, recorded in unit N99/W103 as a cluster of burned limestone, probably represents the remains of a hearth. A small amount of prehistoric

lithic debris was recovered within the cluster. This feature occurs approximately 20 cm below surface within the southern area of the site.

Feature 2

A small section of a historic structure foundation was observed just below the ground surface in unit N99/W91. Glass fragments, nails, and prehistoric flakes were among the materials associated with the foundation remains. Feature 2 also occurs within the southern site area.

Feature 3

Flakes and faunal remains were among the artifacts recovered from this oval to circular trash pit which was partially exposed in the northeast corner of unit N130/W80.75 immediately below the disturbed upper zone. Based upon observations in the unit profile, this feature extends to a depth of at least 39 cm below surface.

Feature 4

This possible prehistoric trash pit was first observed as a circular to oval-shaped anomaly at 28 cm below surface, which then tapered down to a depth of 45 cm below surface. Only a small portion of this feature, which yielded lithic debris and faunal remains, was uncovered in the southwest portion of unit N130/W80.75. There was not enough of this anomaly exposed in the excavation unit to assess its true nature. This feature may be a midden-filled natural depression. Additional investigations are needed to examine this possibility.

Artifact Descriptions

A total of 8104 lithic, ceramic, and faunal artifacts was recovered from the 1988 test excavations at 40DV256. Brief descriptions of these items are presented below by artifact class. Lithic artifacts have been separated into chipped stone and ground stone sections.

Chipped Stone

Chipped stone artifacts (n=7957) comprise the vast majority of items retrieved from 40DV256. Each artifact was placed in one of twenty categories based upon particular formal and/or functional characteristics (Table 1). A description of each category, along with a brief discussion of the site artifacts included in that category, is presented below.

All of the chipped stone artifacts appear to be made of local Ft. Payne chert. This resource is an opaque, generally fine-grained material that exhibits a range of colors. Blue, gray, and blue-gray mottled were the primary colors exhibited in the site sample. Stream-rolled cortex on many of these artifacts indicates that riverine gravel beds were important sources for this material.

Tested Cobbles and Cobble Fragments

These artifacts are stream-rolled cobbles of chert which have several flakes removed, but exhibit at least 50% of their cortex. The few tested cobbles recovered from the site were small to moderate in size.

Cores and Core Fragments

Virtually all of the specimens from 40DV256 were small (expended?) cobbles and cobble fragments which displayed regular patterns of flake removal. Only one very large core (N130/E80.75, L2) was recovered from the test excavations. The majority of cores exhibited the removal of flakes in an opportunistic, multi-directional manner. Several examples with prepared platforms for the unidirectional removal of flakes were also present (the large core mentioned above was one of these). Several core rejuvenation flakes, the result of a flake being removed from the proximal or distal end of a prepared core to create a new platform, were identified.

Thick Bifaces

Artifacts assigned to this category consist of bifacially flaked cobbles and cobble fragments that have been minimally shaped. These specimens have rather large flake scars, sinuous edges, thick cross-sections, and a variable amount of cortex.

Thin Bifaces

All of the 40DV256 thin bifaces appear to be the result of bifacial modification of large flakes. These artifacts have thinner cross-sections and less sinuous edges than thick bifaces.

Flakes

This category includes all unmodified flakes created by the manufacture or maintenance of chipped stone artifacts. Flakes from 40DV256 have been classified as primary, secondary, or blank, based on a cobble reduction sequence and the amount of cortex remaining on the flakes' dorsal surface. Primary flakes have cortex over their entire dorsal surface. Secondary flakes exhibit less than 90% cortex over their dorsal surface. Blank flakes have no cortex except occasionally over their striking platform.

Blocky Debris

Blocky debris includes those angular and blocky fragments from the manufacture or maintenance of chipped stone tools. Such fragments are usually produced as shatter during percussion flaking.

Modified Flakes

Modified flakes represent those flakes which exhibit intentional, consistent, and even flaking along one or more edges. Four subcategories (scraper, cutting tool, spokeshave, and perforator) were identified in the sample based upon morphological characteristics and wear patterns. Scrapers were unifacially retouched along an edge and exhibited fine unifacial microflaking along the same edge. Cutting tools were bifacially retouched along one or more edges, and exhibited fine bifacial retouch along the same edge. One flake with a unifacially flaked, semi-circular edge and fine unifacial microflaking within the modified edge was designated as a spokeshave. Modified flake perforators comprised those flakes with a slender projection that has been unifacially and/or bifacially retouched along both adjoining edges.

Seven scrapers, three perforators, two cutting tools, and one spokeshave were identified from the chipped stone sample. Blank flakes (n=10) were the preferred flake type to manufacture tools, although three scrapers were made from secondary flakes.

Utilized Flakes

This category contains those flakes that were incidentally modified through usage. Utilized flakes were subdivided into three functional subcategories similar to those used in the modified flake category. These categories include scraping tools, cutting tools, and spokeshaves. The microflaking patterns exhibited on the scraping tools, cutting tools, and spokeshaves are similar to that of modified flakes. However, utilized flakes result from using the natural features of a flake rather than modifying an edge to obtain a desired working area.

Thirteen utilized flakes, representing six scraping tools, six spokeshaves, and one cutting tool, were identified. Similar to the modified flake category, blank flakes (n=10) were the preferred objective piece.

Projectile Points (Figure 3)

This functional category includes those stemmed and unstemmed bifaces believed to have been used as dart points (Table 2). These artifacts were classified by morphological characteristics, and established type names have been used when possible (Cambron and Hulse 1983; Justice 1987).

Thirty-six projectile points and fragments were recovered from the 40DV256 investigations. Identified types within this sample include Kirk Corner-Notched, Big Sandy, Benton, Morrow Mountain, Wade, and Copena (Table 2).

Knives (Figure 4)

The eight knives assigned to this category were generally thin, triangular, well-crafted blades which displayed fine bifacial microflaking along their lateral edges (Table 2). Bases, when present, were straight. All but one of these specimens was bifacially flaked.

Scrapers

Scrapers comprise those artifacts that have at least one edge which exhibits a steep angle and unifacial microflaking (Tringham et al. 1974). These tools differ from modified flake scrapers in that they have been more extensively chipped and shaped.

Three artifacts were placed within this category. One specimen is a dart point (Kirk Corner-Notched?) that has been reworked into an end scraper (Figure 3). The other two items were too fragmentary to positively determine if they were end or side scrapers.

Drills

Two of the three drills from 40DV256 were represented by bifacially flaked, parallel bit fragments. A third specimen exhibited a slightly contracting

Table 1 . Provenience and Number of Chipped Stone Artifacts Recovered From the 1988 Test Excavations of 40DV256.

Provenience	Tstd Cble	Core	Thk Bfc	Thn Bfc	Pri Flk	Sec Flk	Blk Flk	Bky Dbr	Mod Flk Scrp	Mod Flk Cut	Mod Flk Spk	Mod Flk Prf	Utl Flk Scrp	Utl Flk Cut	Utl Flk Spk	Scrp	PP/K	Drl	Hoe	Knf	TOTAL
Feature 1	-	1	-	1	-	1	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Feature 3	-	1	-	1	1	42	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
Feature 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Area A	-	1	1	-	2	7	33	23	1B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	69
N99/W91																					
L1(0-25cm)	-	3	-	-	1	10	114	104	-	1B	-	-	2B	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	239
L2(26-44cm)	-	4	-	1	-	13	93	51	-	-	-	-	-	1S	-	-	1	-	-	1	165
N99/W103																					
L1/2(?)	1	1	-	-	1	11	150	147	1B	1B	-	-	-	-	2B	-	1	-	-	-	316
N100/W91																					
L1(0-29cm)	-	-	1	3	4	26	241	144	-	-	-	-	-	-	1B	-	1	-	-	1	422
L2(29-43cm)	-	-	1	-	3	14	101	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	182
N100/W100																					
L1/2(0-33cm)	-	5	2	-	-	14	192	143	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	359
N100/W103																					
L1(0-20cm)	-	2	-	-	1	6	125	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	207
L2(20-?)	-	2	-	-	4	5	56	31	-	-	-	1B	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	103
N100/W107																					
L1(0-18cm)	-	2	-	-	2	4	85	54	-	-	-	-	1B	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	151
L2(18-29cm)	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	33
N106/W75																					
L1(0-20cm)	-	3	-	-	2	11	237	65	1S	-	-	-	1S	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	324
L2(20-28cm)	-	-	-	-	-	1	56	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
N106/W86																					
L1(0-17cm)	-	-	-	-	4	17	181	136	-	-	-	-	1B	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	344
L2(17-36cm)	2	3	1	-	1	16	140	88	-	-	-	1B	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	255
N114/W85																					
L1(0-15cm)	-	1	-	-	3	10	185	148	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	348
L2(15-49cm)	-	6	-	1	-	13	194	161	1B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	379
N114/W96																					
L1(0-16cm)	-	1	2	-	-	5	47	54	1S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
L2(16-29cm)	-	1	1	-	-	2	31	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48

Table 1 . Provenience and Number of Chipped Stone Artifacts Recovered From the 1988 Test Excavations of 40DV256.(continued)

Provenience	Tstd Cble	Core	Thk Bfc	Thn Bfc	Pri Flk	Sec Flk	Blk Flk	Bky Dbr	Mod Flk Scrp	Mod Flk Cut	Mod Flk Spk	Mod Flk Prf	Utl Flk Scrp	Utl Flk Cut	Utl Flk Spk	Scrp	PP/K	Drl	Hoe	Knf	TOTAL
N122/W84																					
L1(0-17cm)	-	1	-	-	-	18	159	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	1B	-	1	-	-	-	238
L2(17-42cm)	1	2	1	-	2	9	183	87	-	-	-	1B	-	-	1S	-	-	-	1	-	288
N122/W90																					
L1(0-15cm)	-	-	-	2	-	9	68	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	150
L2(15-?)	-	1	-	-	-	2	15	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
N130/W80.75																					
L1(0-16cm)	-	-	2	-	3	10	148	136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	298
L2(16-48cm)	-	4	-	1	7	27	295	209	1S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	545
N130/81.75																					
L1(0-17cm)	-	1	-	-	-	4	89	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	215
L2(17-46cm)	-	5	-	-	5	23	526	256	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	729
N139/W82																					
L1(0-15cm)	-	2	-	-	2	12	158	107	-	-	-	-	-	-	1B	-	2	-	-	-	284
L2(15-42cm)	-	10	2	-	5	40	660	149	1B	-	1B	-	1B	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	871
TOTALS	4	63	14	10	53	382	4622	2724	7	2	1	3	6	1	6	3	43	3	1	9	7957

S=secondary flake
B=blank flake.

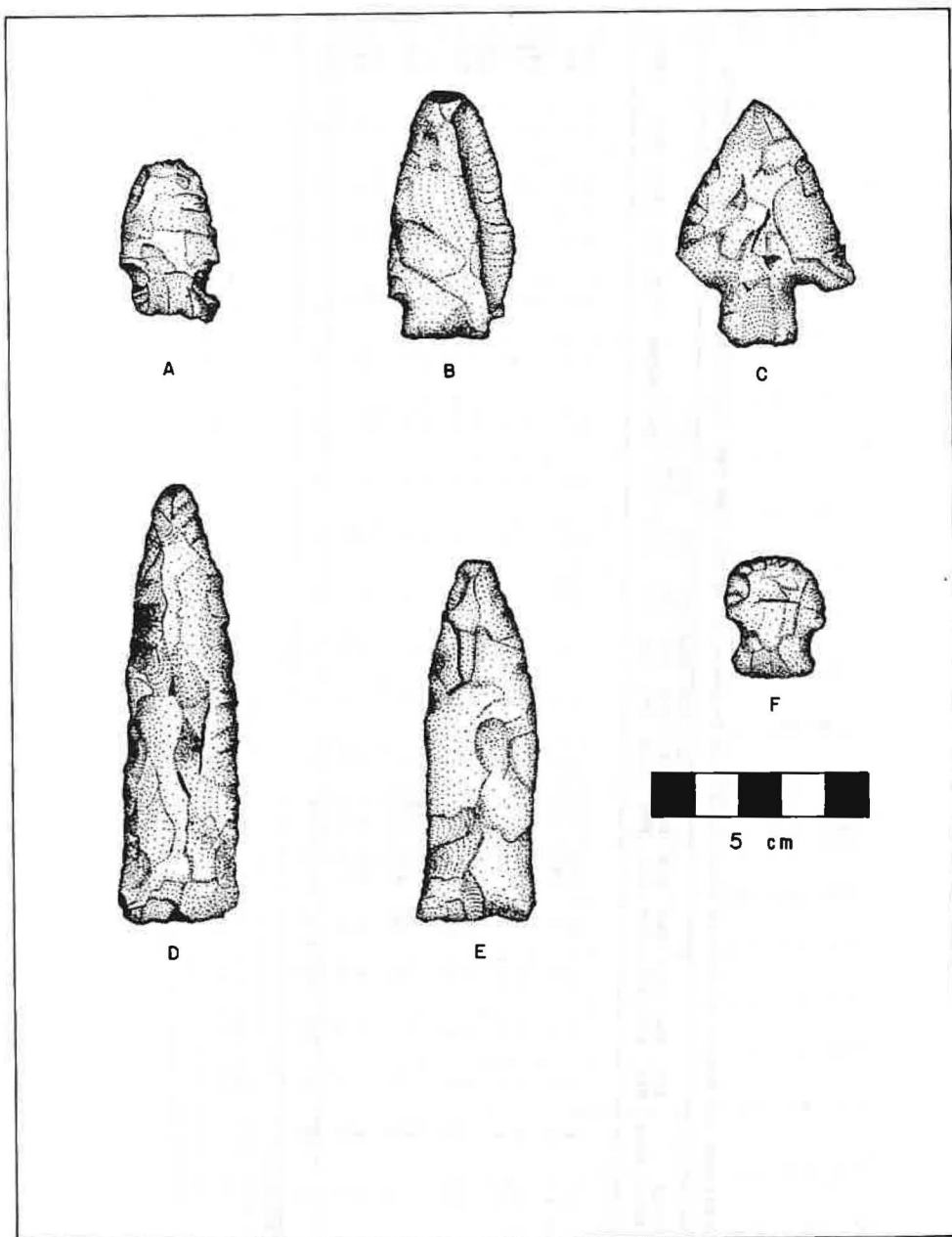


Figure 3. Selected projectile points from 40DV256: a. Big Sandy; b. Benton; c. Wade; d-e. Copena; f. Kirk Corner-Notched (?) reworked into end scraper.

Table 2. Projectile Points/Knives Recovered from 1988 Investigations of Project 40DV256.

Provenience	Comments
<u>Identified Points</u>	
N99/W91 (L2)	Benton
N100/W91 (L2)	Copena
N100/W100 (L1&2)	Benton?
N100/107 (L2)	Copena
N114/W85 (L2)	Kirk CN?, reworked into end scraper.
N122/W90 (L1)	Big Sandy
N130/W81.75 (L2)	Morrow Mountain
N130/W81.75 (L2)	Wade
N139/W82 (L1)	Kirk CN
N139/W82 (L2)	Benton
<u>Knives</u>	
N99/W91 (L1)	triangular, bifacially flaked blade.
N100/W91 (L1)	thin, bifacially flaked blade fragment (lanceolate?).
N100/W100 (L1&2)	thin bifacially flaked blade fragment with bifacial microflaking along lateral edges (oval-shaped?).
N100/W103 (L2)	thin, large triangular biface fragment with fine bifacial microflaking along lateral edges.
N106/W86 (L1)	thin, triangular, unifacially flaked blade.
N114/W85 (L1)	thin, triangular, bifacially flaked blade.
N130/W81.75 (L2)	bifacially flaked blade fragment.
N130/W81.75 (L2)	thin, lanceolate, bifacially flaked blade fragment with bifacial microflaking along lateral edges.
<u>Unidentified</u>	
Area A	dart base fragment.
N99/W91 (L1)	(2) dart midsections; (2) tip fragments.
N99/W103 (L1&2)	midsection fragment.
N100/W91 (L1)	base fragment.
N100/W100 (L1&2)	medium/large dart midsection fragment, serrated edges.
N100/W103 (L1)	dart base and blade fragment, possibly side-notched.
N100/W103 (L2)	dart midsection fragment.
N100/W107 (L1)	dart base fragment; dart midsection fragment (burned); dart? tip fragment (burned).
N106/W75 (L1)	(2) tip fragments; dart midsection fragment.
N106/W86 (L1)	(2) tip fragments; (2) dart midsection fragments.
N106/W86 (L2)	midsection fragment; dart tip fragment.
N114/W85 (L2)	tip fragment.
N122/W84 (L1)	dart midsection fragment.
N122/W90 (L1)	dart midsection fragment; base fragment.
N130/W81.75 (L1)	(2) midsection fragments (burned).
N130/W81.75 (L2)	(2) tip fragments; midsection fragment.
N139/W82 (L2)	tip fragment.

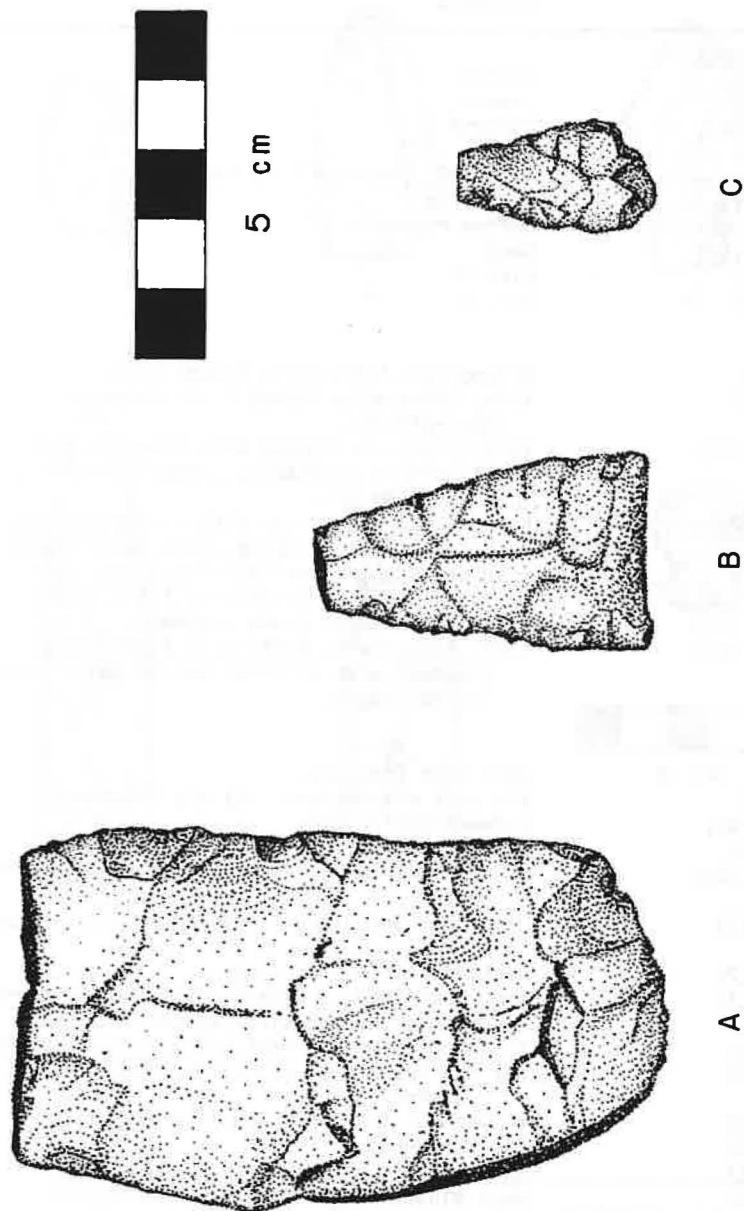


Figure 4. Selected chipped stone tools from 40DV256: a. hoe/digging implement; b. triangular knife; c. drill.

bit that extended from an ovoid base (Figure 4).

Hoe (Figure 4)

This artifact fragment is a broad, somewhat thick, bifacially worked tool with a polished lateral edge and adjacent areas. This was probably a digging implement for gathering plants and roots, although it may have been used in horticultural activities.

Pecked and Ground Stone

Four pecked/ground stone artifacts were observed within the lithic artifact sample. These items include two hammerstones, one adze/hoe rejuvenation flake, and one unidentified groundstone object.

Hammerstones

Both hammerstones were small, round to oval chert cobbles that displayed crushed lateral edges.

Groundstone

Two artifacts were included in this category. The first item, a small flake that exhibits a polished dorsal surface, constitutes an adze/hoe rejuvenation flake. The second specimen represents a rectangular sandstone fragment with one ground and rounded face. The function of this particular artifact is unknown.

Ceramics

Ceramic sherds (n=74) are a distinct minority of the artifacts recovered from the test excavations at 40DV256 (Table 3). From an analytical perspective, the ceramics were categorized into two primary wares: (1) limestone-tempered, and (2) chert-tempered. A third category, limestone-tempered residual, included all limestone-tempered ceramics whose surface treatment could not be determined because of weathering or other post-depositional factors. Although some attempts were made to refit sherds, it was fairly obvious from the beginning that the small sample size and eroded edges of the sherds would not allow for much success.

The majority of ceramics were limestone-tempered (97.3%), with only two chert-tempered sherds represented (2.7%). Although only 58.1% of the sherds were classified as decorated, the majority, if not all, of the sherds placed in the residual category also may have been decorated. Three predominantly limestone-tempered sherds also exhibited minor grit exclusions, but these appear to have been fortuitous, since no regularity in distribution or size of this additional tempering agent was noted. The two chert-tempered sherds do not allow for much interpretation, but the use of chert microflakes as a tempering agent appears to have been intentional, since both the size and distribution of chert was relatively homogeneous throughout the body of the sherds.

Table 3. Provenience and Number of Ceramic Artifacts.

Provenience	Limestone-Temper		Chert-Temper	TOTALS
	Decorated	Residual		
N99/W91				
Level 1	1	1	-	2
N99/W103				
Level 1	-	1	-	1
N100/W91				
Level 1	1	-	-	1
N100/W100				
Level 1&2	1	-	-	1
N100/W103				
Level 2	-	2	-	2
N100/W107				
Level 1	-	1	-	1
N106/W86				
Level 2	1	-	-	1
N114/W85				
Level 1	1	-	-	1
Level 2	1?	3	-	4
N114/W95				
Level 1	lab	-	-	1
Level 2	-	1	-	1
N122/W84				
Level 1	-	2	-	2
Level 2	-	4	-	4
N122/W90				
Level 1	1	1	-	2
Level 2	2	-	1	3
N130/W80.75				
Level 1	1	1	-	2
Level 2	2	-	1	3
N130/W81.75				
Level 1	-	1	-	1
Level 2	7,1b	-	-	8
N139/W82				
Level 1	2	2	-	4
Level 2	11,1b	6	-	18
TOTALS	43 (58.1%)	29 (39.2%)	2 (2.7%)	74

a=Probably cordmarked, then smoothed

b=Minor grit inclusion in paste

Paste: Highly porous, low density paste was used, with crushed limestone temper. Although most of the temper had leached from the bodies of the sherds, easily recognizable irregular voids were visible on all surfaces. With the exception of a single rim sherd, the paste was a light tan to orange-tan in color throughout, with only minimal differences in coloration between core and exterior of the sherds. The single exception was quite distinct from the remainder of the limestone-tempered sherds, being much better fired, having a more homogeneous darker brown paste, and being cordmarked in a fairly regular fashion perpendicular to the lip of the vessel.

Surface Treatment: The surface treatment on identifiable sherds resembles fabric marking, but a dowel or stick tightly wrapped with cord appears to have been used to create these designs--perhaps an imitation of fabric impressions. On several sherds, the use of a linear implement wrapped with cord is indicated, since the linear impressions overlap with adjacent linear elements.

Manufacturing Technique: The edges of two sherds exhibit characteristics of single coils that had separated at both edges, suggesting that the pottery was manufactured using a coil technique. Assuming this interpretation of the sherds is correct, the coils used were approximately 34.5 to 35.5 mm in width.

Vessel Form: Due to the small size, highly weathered nature, and infrequency of rim sherds, very little information is available on vessel form. However, the general shape of the available sherds indicates that a medium-to-large globular or subglobular jar with a relatively wide, slightly restricted orifice was probably the most common vessel form. The lip of the vessels was roughly flattened and slightly excurvate. The walls of the vessel bodies are relatively thick, averaging 8.0 to 12.0 mm on a selected sample of less weathered sherds. Assuming the rim sherds are from vessels of comparable shape, the vessels were thinned between the poorly defined shoulder and lip, averaging 6.0 to 10.0 mm.

Interpretations: A speculative interpretation of the ceramics would be that the majority were made on the site, and were designed to be of an impermanent nature due to the low-fired, porous nature of the clay fabric. This interpretation meshes well with the overall interpretation of the site as a seasonal short-term encampment.

Chert-tempered Ware

Paste: Chert-tempered ceramics were generally more completely fired, and of a darker brownish-tan paste than the limestone-tempered ceramics. Some minor amounts of limestone temper may also have been present, judging from the rare irregular voids on eroded surfaces. However, chert was clearly the major tempering agent.

Surface Treatment: Smoothed plain surfaces. One sherd showed minimal evidence for smoothed-over cordmarking.

Manufacturing Technique: Indeterminate.

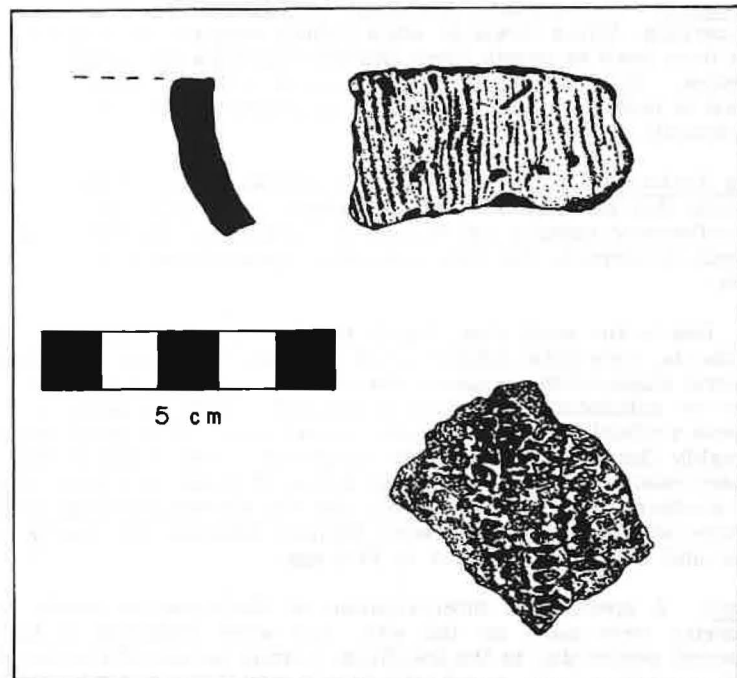


Figure 5. Limestone-tempered ceramics from 40DV256: top, rim sherd; bottom, body sherd.

Vessel Form: Indeterminate, but from sherd curvature may represent fragments of smaller vessels than the limestone-tempered sherds.

The small sample size of ceramics from 40DV256 precludes any definitive statements concerning Woodland period ceramics in the Middle Cumberland region, but a rigorous examination of trends in adjacent regions permits some speculative hypotheses to be constructed. The limestone-tempered ceramics exhibit strong similarities to sherds classified as fabric marked recovered from the Duncan Tract site (McNutt and Weaver 1983). This component (Middle Woodland A) is tentatively interpreted as dating between 200 B.C. and A.D. 200 by the authors. Walthall (1980:112) notes that "a cord-wrapped stick or dowel was also at times carefully applied in imitation of the fabric impression" on Long Branch Fabric Impressed in the "Colbert Culture" of the Middle Tennessee River Valley in Alabama. The Colbert Culture has been assigned a date of circa 300 B.C.-100 A.D. in the Middle Tennessee River Valley (Walthall 1980:112), and is followed by Copena occupations dating between 100 and 500 A.D. Jolley (1980:82) tentatively suggested an Early/Middle Woodland date for fabric impressed, cordmarked, check stamped, simple stamped, and plain limestone-tempered ceramics in the Middle Cumberland region based on data from surface collections and limited test excavations. Although the ceramics "bear affinities to the South Appalachian Ceramic Complex and to ceramic types originally defined in Southern Illinois" (Jolley 1980:82), the near absence of check stamped and complicated stamped ceramic types in the Middle Cumberland region suggests that the peoples residing in this region are peripheral to the South Appalachian Ceramic Complex.

Although tempering agents vary widely between the southern Illinois region and the Middle Cumberland region, cord-wrapped dowel surface treatments are limited primarily to the middle and late Middle Woodland, and early Late Woodland complexes in Illinois. As noted by Clay (1963:209), "cord-wrapped dowel impression represents a geographically widespread surface treatment, possibly with an equally expansive temporal placement." Clay (1963:211-212) notes the use of this decorative technique on Baumer Fabric Impressed (Hanson 1960), Wither's Fabric Impressed in the Mississippi River Valley (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin, 1951:73-76), and Benson Fabric Impressed and Long Branch Fabric Marked in the Middle Tennessee River Valley (Heimlich 1952:13,17). He suggests a primary temporal span of 500 B.C. to 100 A.D. for Baumer Fabric Impressed in the Tennessee-Cumberland region (Clay 1963:211).

Long Branch Fabric Marked has been dated at 40FR47 along the Duck River to 1895+/-95 B.P. or 55 A.D.+/-95 (UGa-549; Bacon 1975). Bacon (1975:99) noted that this date probably also applies to the large triangular Copena-like projectile point forms found on this site. Ceramics from similar McFarland phase sites in the Upper Duck River Valley include "limestone-tempered check stamped, simple stamped, fabric marked, and complicated stamped ceramics with tetrapodal vessels represented" (Kline et al. 1982:4). The McFarland phase is generally assigned to between 100 B.C. and A.D. 150 (Kline et al. 1982:4; DuVall 1977). In upper East Tennessee, Long Branch Fabric Marked appears between 600 and 700 B.C. in the Phipps Phase and continues into the Long Branch phase dated between about 600 and 400 B.C. (Lafferty 1981:500). Lafferty suggested that the limestone-tempered ceramic tradition probably begins more in the north-central part of the Tennessee and Kentucky area and generally diffuses south (1981:500). Ceramics from 40DV53, the Mansker Creek site, are predominantly cordmarked limestone-tempered wares, and have been interpreted as belonging to the early Late Woodland period

(William O. Autry, personal communication, 1989).

Although only further, more intensive investigations of Woodland ceramics from the Middle Cumberland region will permit the resolution of these chronological problems, some admittedly speculative hypotheses can be established to guide future research. The Middle Cumberland region lies in an intermediate zone between several distinct Woodland ceramic complexes, and therefore the local ceramics can be expected to reflect both local developments and the mixing of traits from several adjacent regions. Chronologically, the ceramics from 40DV256 can be interpreted as forms intermediate between the widespread fabric impressed tradition of the late Early Woodland and early Middle Woodland subperiods, and the cordmarked ceramic traditions of the later Middle Woodland and early Late Woodland subperiods. On the basis of these speculations, the ceramic complex represented at 40DV256 should probably fall somewhere between 300 B.C. and A.D. 300. This suggested dating for the ceramics correlates with the presumably related medium-to-large triangular projectile point/knife forms found on the site. It should be noted that while these PP/K forms along the upper Duck River, middle Tennessee River, and middle Cumberland River may reflect a relatively comparable time frame, the ceramic assemblages are markedly distinct. The relative absence of stamping as a surface treatment in the Middle Cumberland region, and other ambiguities in comparison with other adjacent regions suggests that any definite statements concerning ceramic chronologies must be developed internal to the region, rather than through comparisons to adjacent regions.

Faunal Remains

Sixty-seven specimens of bone recovered from the site represent eight mammal, one bird, two turtle, and two fish species (Tables 4 and 5). Nine specimens were exposed to fire or heat, two specimens exhibit cut marks, and five specimens display cultural modification. A minimum of 17 individuals include the following species: human, white-tailed deer, raccoon, domestic dog, beaver, cottontail rabbit, common mole, wild turkey, box turtle, spiny softshell turtle, drumfish, and channel catfish. The represented species are typical faunal components of the region. Based on the presence of the latter species, site inhabitants exploited forest margins, open wooded, aquatic, and riparian habitats. Relative to the number of fish remains recovered, fishes are particularly well-represented by individual count, and imbue site subsistence activity with a strong seasonal component.

Deer remains, accounting for 46 specimens, display cut marks along one element, and modification in three cases. A right proximal radius fragment bears a knife cut suggesting that deer were disarticulated by cutting within the "elbow" region. One antler tine displays polish and other wear typical of a flaking tool. A second antler specimen exhibits polish and fine striae and may be the remnant of an awl or pin. One first phalanx of the third or fourth digits shows scoring and splitting. The latter type of modification is typical of fishhook manufacturing residue.

Other specimens displaying modification include a right proximal turkey tarsometatarsus, and a possible human femur shaft fragment. While the turkey element probably represents an awl, no definite purpose of the polished, and possibly cut, human femur fragment can be suggested at this time.

Table 4. Identifiable Vertebrate Fauna from 40DV256.

Species	Number	MNI	B	C	M
<i>Homo sapiens</i> , Human	1	1	1	1?	1?
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> , White-tailed deer	46	1	4	1	3
<i>Procyon lotor</i> , Raccoon	2	1	-	-	-
<i>Canis familiaris</i> , Domestic dog	partial skeleton	1	-	-	-
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i> , Gray squirrel	1	1	-	-	-
<i>Castor canadensis</i> , Beaver	1	1	-	-	-
<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i> , Cottontail rabbit	1	1	1	-	-
<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i> , Common mole	1	1	1	-	-
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> , Wild turkey	3	1	-	-	1
<i>Terrapene carolina</i> , Box turtle	2+	1	-	-	-
<i>Trionyx spiniferus</i> , Spiny softshell turtle	2	1	2	-	-
<i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i> , Freshwater drumfish	4	3	-	-	-
<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> , Channel catfish	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	67	17	9	2	5

MNI=minimum number of individuals

B=burned

C=cut

M=modified

Table 5. List of Identified Faunal Elements from 40DV256.

Provenience	Faunal Elements and Comments
Feature 3	Deer: frontal fragment, right ramus (individual approximately 4 yrs old), distal ulna styloid process, radius shaft, right fibular tarsal; Raccoon: left ramus; Gray Squirrel: right fibular tarsal; Turtle: plastron fragment; Drumfish: 2 pharyngeal arches (live weight estimated 6 lbs).
Feature 4	Turkey: left tibiotarsus fragment.
N100/W91	
Lev 1	Deer: proximal humerus.
Lev 2	Deer: right distal humerus.
N106/W75	
Lev 1	Human: femur fragment (burned) with visible polish and possible cut mark.
N114/W85	
Lev 2	Deer: antler fragment.
N122/W84	
Lev 2	Deer: craniofacial fragment (burned).
N122/W90	
Lev 1	Deer: distal metapodial epiphysis.
Lev 2	Deer: 2nd phalanx (burned).

Table 5. List of Identified Faunal Elements from 40DV256. (continued)

Provenience	Faunal Elements and Comments
N130/W80.75	
Lev 1	Modified Deer: antler tine tip with polish. Possible pressure flaker.
Lev 2	Deer: 4 dental fragments, left mandibular condyle, cervical vertebra, proximal rib, scapula fragment, left proximal radius, right proximal metacarpal, metacarpal fragment, ischium fragment, left femur shaft, fibular tarsal, tuber calcis epiphysis, left proximal metatarsal, distal metapodial condyle, distal phalanx; Modified Deer: burned antler fragment (polished with fine striations, probable awl or pin), right proximal radius with cut on lateral side, 1st phalange (scored and split, probable fishhook manufacturing residue); Turkey: right proximal tarsometatarsus (polish visible along shaft, possible awl), left proximal tarsometatarsus; Turtle: miscellaneous carapace and plastron fragments; Drumfish: pharyngeal arch (live weight estimated 10 lbs), pharyngeal arch (estimated live weight 20 lbs); Channel Catfish: right dentary (estimated live weight 1.5 lbs), proximal pectoral spine (estimated live weight 1.0 lb), right articular (live weight estimated 4 lbs).
N130/W81.75	
Lev 1	Deer: rib shaft fragment (burned); Beaver: incisor fragment; Dog: left fibular tarsal.
Lev 2	Deer: antler fragment (burned), dental fragment, left maxilla (M1,M2,M3), right petrous fragment, thoracic spinous process, nansal fragment, miscellaneous rib fragments, left proximal ulna, distal right femur (dog gnawed); Raccoon: baculum; Rabbit: left distal tibia (burned); Box Turtle: marginal bone, miscellaneous carapace and plastron fragments; Softshell Turtle: plastron fragment (burned).
N139/W82	
Lev 1	Softshell Turtle: plastron fragment (burned); Mole: left humerus (burned); Bird: unidentified phalanx.
Lev 2	Deer: right scapula, left fibular tarsal, distal metapodial condyle; Dog: mandibular molars and premolars, miscellaneous cranial, teeth, phalange, rib, ulna, radius, vertebrae, and long bone fragments, fibular tarsal.

Cultural Affiliation and Site Function

Although no radiocarbon dates are available for 40DV256, the 1988 test excavations were successful in recovering temporally sensitive artifacts that could define a general time frame of site use. An Early Archaic through Middle Woodland occupation of the site area is supported by projectile points and ceramics retrieved during the excavations. Kirk Corner-Notched points attest to an initial Early Archaic occupation, while the presence of Big Sandy, Benton, and Morrow Mountain points demonstrate a continued use of the area during the Middle Archaic period. Late Archaic/Early Woodland presence on 40DV256 is supported by a Wade point. Copena points, medium to large triangular knives, and limestone-tempered ceramics recovered from the intact midden deposit support a more intensive use and habitation of the site area during the Middle Woodland period (Kline et al. 1982; Walthall 1973, 1980). No evidence of Late Woodland or Mississippian habitation was observed or recovered during the 1988/1991 work.

None of the prehistoric features recorded in the test excavations could be associated with a particular time period due to the absence of temporally sensitive artifacts. However, the fact that these features were initiated into established midden rather than subsoil suggests they were not prepared by early occupants of the site. The presence of such temporally diagnostic artifacts as Copena projectile points, medium to large triangular knives, and limestone-tempered ceramics throughout the midden deposit supports an argument that Middle Woodland group visits were more frequent and/or of longer duration than during previous periods.

Due to the limited nature of the site excavations, discrete activity areas could not be identified. The types of artifacts recovered from the investigations do allow us to make some preliminary observations about the daily activities of the 40DV256 residents.

A major site activity, probably throughout the occupation of 40DV256, was the manufacture and/or maintenance of chipped stone tools. Numerous cores, thick and thin bifaces, waste flakes, and blocky debris were recovered from the limited excavations. Several hammerstones and an antler tine pressure flaker were also found. The overwhelming presence of stream-worn cortex on primary and secondary flakes, the relative small core size, and lack of knappable resources adjacent to the site area strongly suggest that much of the initial lithic reduction work was performed at other locations.

The presence of projectile points and formal knives indicates that hunting (and butchering) game was an important site activity. The remains of large and small game were recovered during the investigations, although at this time it is unclear what particular resources were consumed during any one time period. Deer, raccoon, squirrel, beaver, rabbit, turtle, and turkey were among the fauna consumed by the site residents (see Table 4). Fishing in the nearby Cumberland River was a successful food collection activity as drumfish and catfish were identified within the faunal sample. Residue from the production of (deer) bone fishhooks was observed among the retrieved faunal remains. Other site activities include hide processing, bone/wood processing, and storage/cooking.

Based upon the available information, site 40DV256 has been interpreted as a seasonally reoccupied hunting camp for Early Archaic through Middle Woodland groups living in or around the Cockrill Bend region. It is argued here that Early Archaic through transitional Late Archaic/Early Woodland habitation was rather ephemeral, and that site use increased and became more intensive during the Middle Woodland period.

Concluding Remarks

Woodland period sites comprise some of the least documented resources within the middle Cumberland River drainage. Archaeological work in the Nashville area has tended to focus upon Mississippian sites due to their high visibility and tendency to occur in high-potential development zones. This void is in stark contrast to the impressive amount of Woodland information generated during the Normandy Reservoir investigations on the upper Duck River (Faulkner and McCollough 1982; Kline et al. 1982).

At this time, the only Woodland period site within the Nashville/middle Cumberland area to be intensively excavated is the Mansker Creek site (40DV53). This particular site was excavated in 1977 to mitigate adverse impacts by impending road construction (Autry 1977). These investigations uncovered an artifact rich midden deposit and numerous cultural features, including structures, refuse pits, and burials. The valuable information obtained from this site presented the archaeological community with an opportunity for its first glimpse of Woodland culture within the middle Cumberland River Valley. Unfortunately, the lack of a published site report has limited its research value at the present time. Hopefully the final report, currently under preparation by William Autry, will be completed and available for study in the near future.

The current paucity of information about middle Cumberland Valley Woodland occupations appears to be due to a lack of systematic investigation rather than an actual absence of sites. A review of the Tennessee Division of Archaeology files revealed that Woodland components have been noted on sites within the study area. However, these sites are generally reported as multicomponent with a limited number of diagnostic Woodland artifacts listed on the form. Most of these sites have not had any substantial investigations after the initial site visit, and this lack of supplemental work has been a major factor in our present limited knowledge of basic Woodland material culture and settlement/subsistence patterns.

The Cockrill Bend area explicitly illustrates the current situation with Woodland sites in the middle Cumberland River Valley. Six sites within Cockrill Bend have been identified by previous investigations as having a Woodland component, with four (40DV35, 40DV36, 40DV68, and 40DV256) having some additional investigation beyond the reconnaissance level (Dowd and Broster 1972; Moore et al. 1992). These site investigations were restricted to somewhat limited test excavations. While these excavations were helpful in the partial identification of Woodland artifactual material and site activities, they were not extensive enough to provide the kinds of information needed to positively delineate Woodland architectural styles, intra-site settlement patterns, diet, or mortuary customs.

In conclusion, systematic reconnaissance surveys to identify new sites, as well as much more intensive testing of presently known sites, are desperately needed to accurately assess the nature of Woodland period habitation within the

middle Cumberland River Valley. Site 40DV256 has demonstrated the potential to partially alleviate this void based upon the presence of intact midden deposits and cultural features.

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