

Interpreting Data at The Briar Site (35CO35)

Matt F. Goodwin
Willamette Cultural Resources Associates, Ltd.

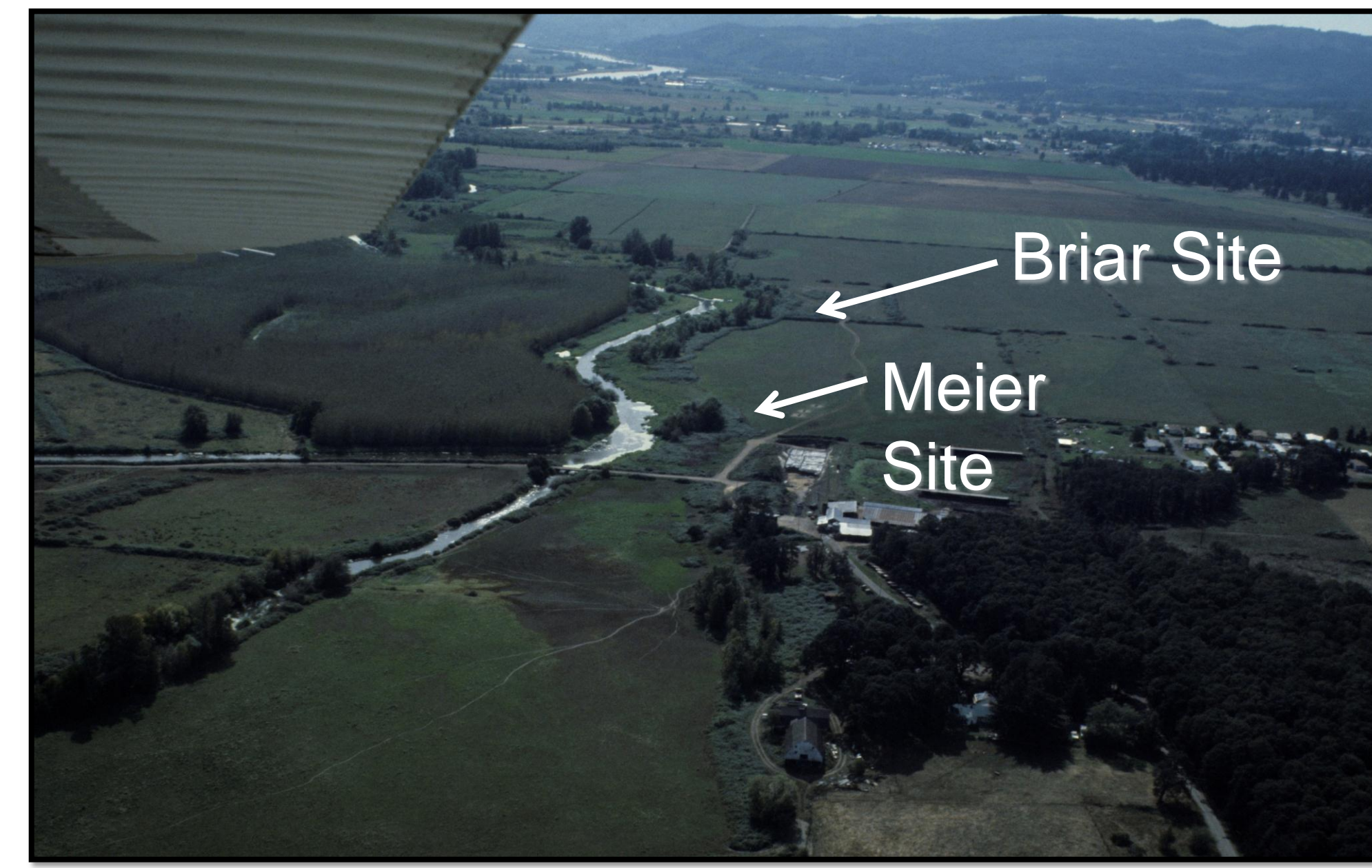
Introduction

The Briar site was the focus of a joint Portland State University/Portland Community College 1986 field school. The excavations produced a rich and diverse assemblage, but the artifacts were shelved and the analysis incomplete for nearly three decades. Beginning in the winter of 2011 Portland State University and WillametteCRA launched a joint effort to complete the analysis of this long neglected site. This poster provides an introduction and context to the project.



Internships

A set of interns are analyzing the assemblage under the supervision WillametteCRA and PSU staff. To date, they have analyzed points and abraders as well as bone and antler tools. Other stone tools and debitage, FCR and faunal material including mammal, bird and fish remains, are available for study. Additional internships are planned for spring and fall, 2012.

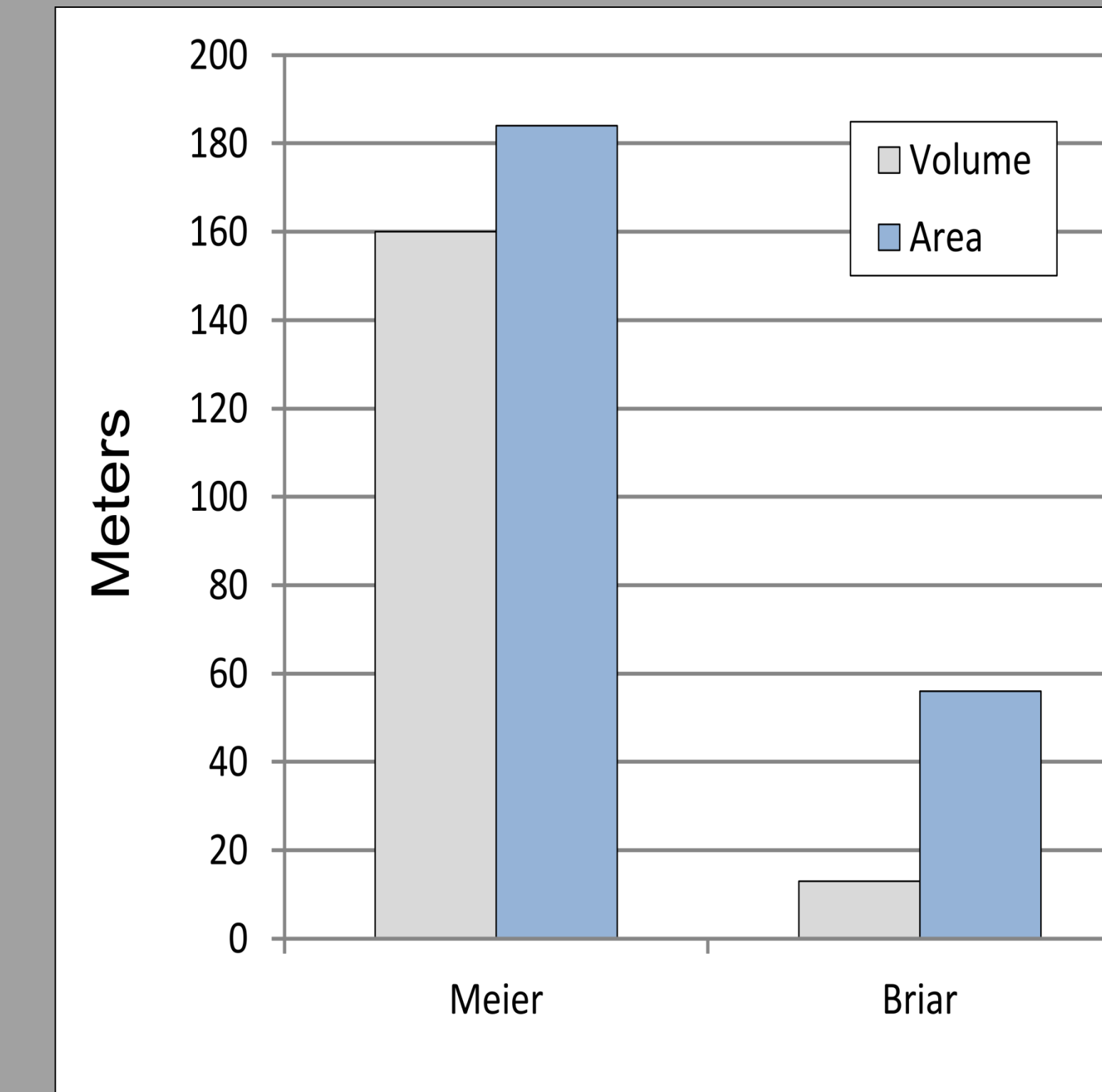


Courtesy Dr. Kenneth Ames and the Wapato Valley Archaeology Project

At one time, it would have been possible to travel from the Briar site to the Multnomah Channel via a network of sloughs, creeks and wetlands with only a short portage necessary to cross the natural levee at the Multnomah Channel.

Physical Setting

The Briar site is located near Scappoose, Oregon along Santosh Slough on the eastern edge of a broad, flat plain along the Columbia River. Santosh Slough drains into Scappoose Bay, an expanse of open water where the Multnomah Channel flows into the Columbia at the lower end of Sauvie Island.



Briar and Meier Site Assemblages

- Differences in volume and area excavated.
- Briar artifacts have only initial and coarse, field classifications.
- Interestingly, some tool classes show similar representation at both sites despite the vast differences in volume excavated and level of classification.

Goals-Analysis and Teaching

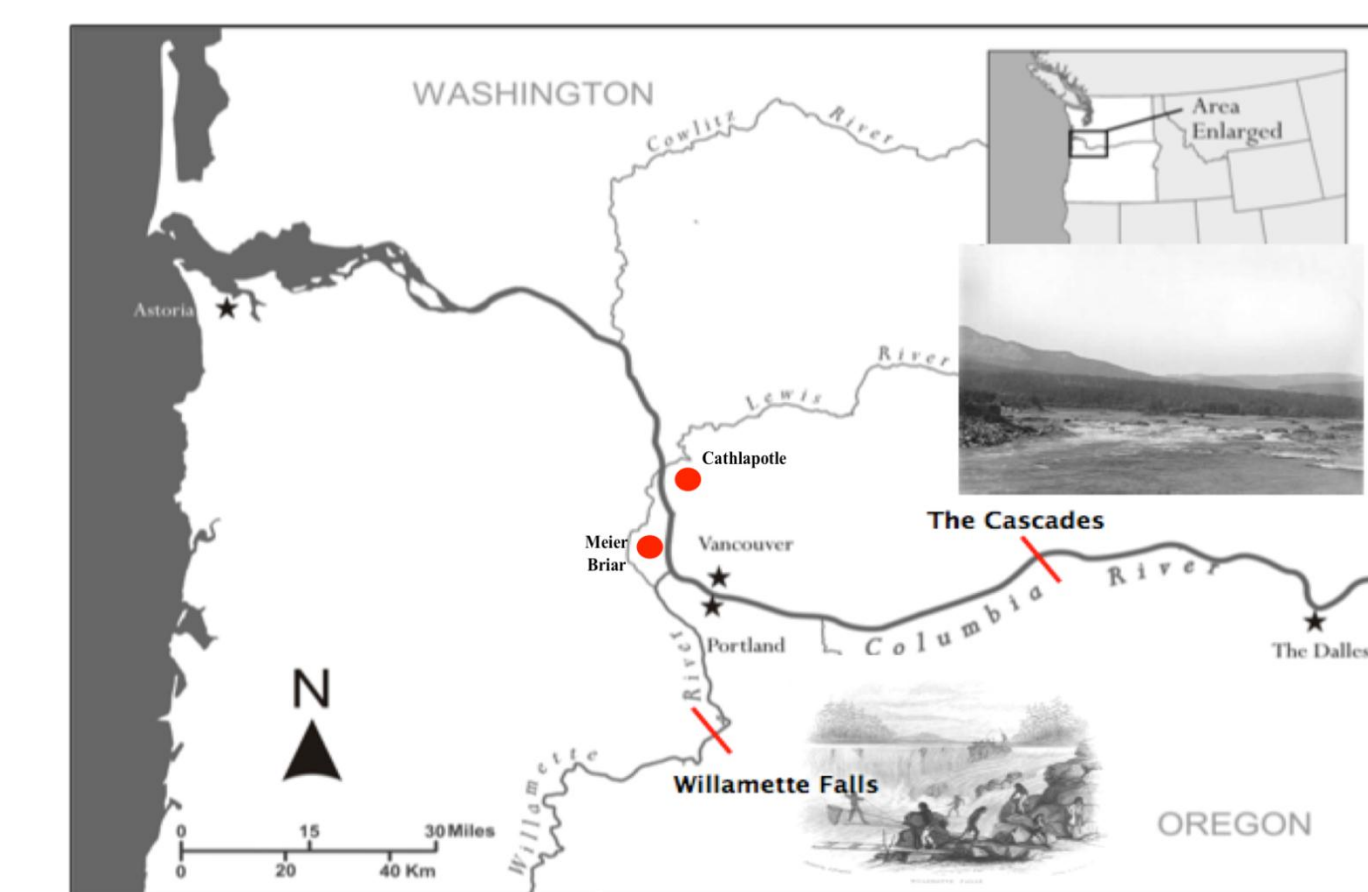
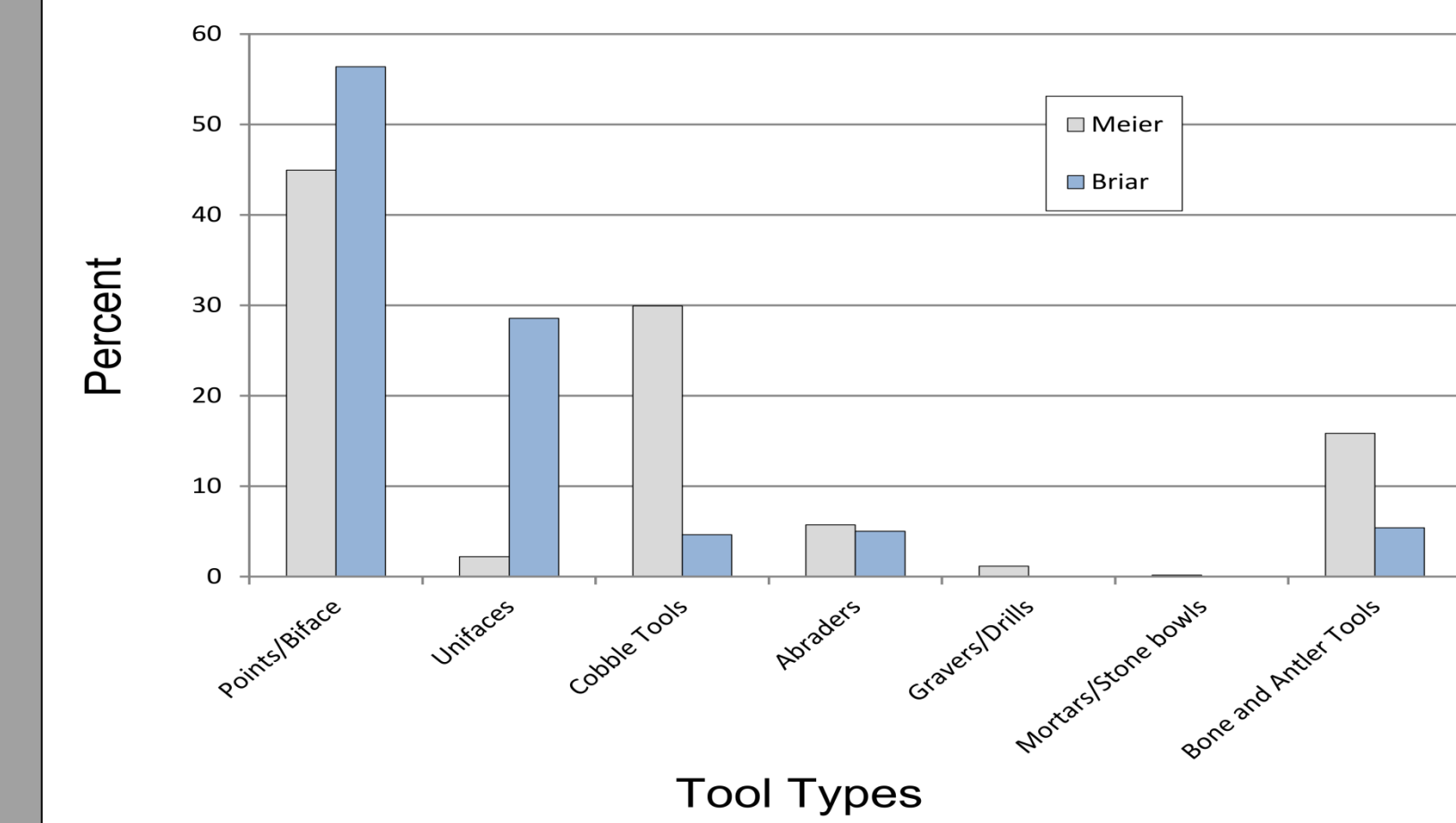
The primary goal is to have the Briar site materials analyzed. Providing students with the opportunity to work with materials from an archaeological site, as opposed to teaching collections, is an important secondary goal.

The 1986 Briar Site Excavations

A total of 14 2x2 meter units were excavated during the 1986 field school. They recovered a wide variety of artifacts and artifact classes from the excavation units, including several kinds of stone and bone tools.



Period	ID	Site	House	Max BP	Min BP	Total Classes	Total Artifacts	Richness	Evenness	References
8000 - 4000	1	CL632	No	8,000	4,000	5	13	5	0.30	Wilson et al. 2005
	12	CL631	No	8,000	4,000	9	27	6	0.48	Smith 2005
	33	CL496	No	8,000	6,000	9	80	9	1.57	Hamilton and Roulette 2005
	35	CL428	No	8,000	4,000	12	352	16	3.56	Woodward and Associates 1996
	40	Geertz	No	8,000	4,000	11	308	13	2.71	Woodward 1970
	Total				5					
6000 - 3000	3	CL412	No	6,000	4,000	19	394	14	2.79	Hamilton and Roulette 2004
	6	CL527	No	6,000	4,000	10	29	6	0.61	Roulette, Hamilton and Solimano 2003
	41	CLA55	No	6,000	4,000	12	374	14	2.89	Lebow 1984
	Total				3					
2550 - 1750	9	CL124	No	2,550	1,750	8	25	6	0.55	Musil 2004
	11	CL460	House	2,000	1,250	8	171	11	2.37	Wilson 1998
	14	CL479	No	2,550	1,750	6	24	6	0.75	Becker 2004
	15	CL454	No	2,550	1,750	9	19	6	0.29	Musil, Topel and Boersma 1998
	18	CO34	House	2,100	1,500	8	30	6	0.83	Minor 1985
	20	CL500	No	2,550	1,750	10	165	11	2.47	Wilson 2000
1750 - 700	21	CL501	No	2,550	1,750	5	91	9	1.97	Wilson 2000
	27	MU9	No	2,250	1,750	12	1,017	19	4.06	Pettigrew 1981
	Total				8					
700 - 0	8	CL427	No	1,750	0	9	81	9	1.81	Musil 1994; 2004
	10	CL422	No	1,700	670	12	188	11	2.25	Wilson and Roulette 1998
	16	CL429	No	2,000	500	8	23	6	0.45	Ozburn, Chapman and Reese 1995
	17	MU57	House	1,000	500	8	101	9	1.99	Ellis and Fagan 1993
	19	CO34	House	1,500	1,000	10	30	6	0.55	Minor 1985
	24	CO4	No	1,750	700	10	92	9	1.89	Pettigrew 1981
	25	MU1	House	1,750	700	15	418	15	3.27	Pettigrew 1981
	26	CO3	House	1,750	700	16	753	17	3.95	Pettigrew 1981
	31	MU26	No	1,750	700	5	21	6	0.96	Becker and Roulette 2003
	39	CL6	House	1,750	0	16	165	11	2.21	Hamilton et al. 2005
	Total				10					
700 - 0	22	CL31	No	200	0	14	408	14	2.87	Wesson and Daugherty 1983
	28	MU6	House	700	0	12	196	11	2.48	Pettigrew 1981
	29	CO7	House	700	0	8	217	12	2.94	Pettigrew 1981
	36	CL4	No	700	0	7	88	9	1.97	Minor and Toepel 1985
	38	CL4	No	200	0	4	7	4	-0.26	Minor and Toepel 1985
	42	CO5	House	700	0	12	401	14	3.41	Pettigrew 1981
	43	CL1	House	600	200	20	4,981	25	5.20	Ames, personal communication
	44	CO5	House	600	200	18	6,480	25	5.45	Ames, personal communication
	45	CO35	No	520	300	-6	245			WillametteCRA
	Total				9					



Courtesy Dr. Kenneth Ames and the Wapato Valley Archaeology Project

Goals-Research

The Portland Basin has an extensive archaeological record. Materials range from Early Holocene sites to large, sedentary villages dating to the Late Holocene. Little of this information has been synthesized, however.

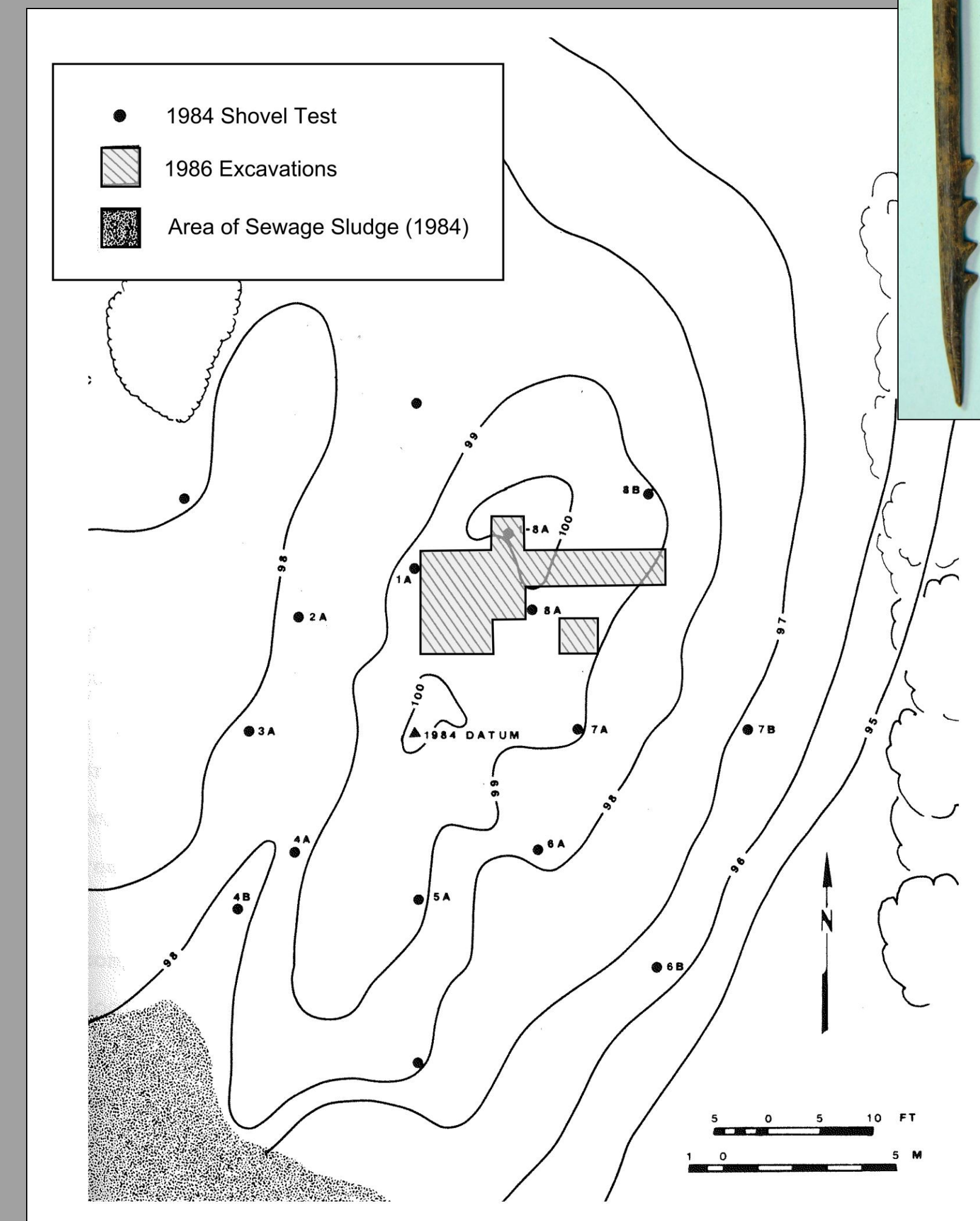
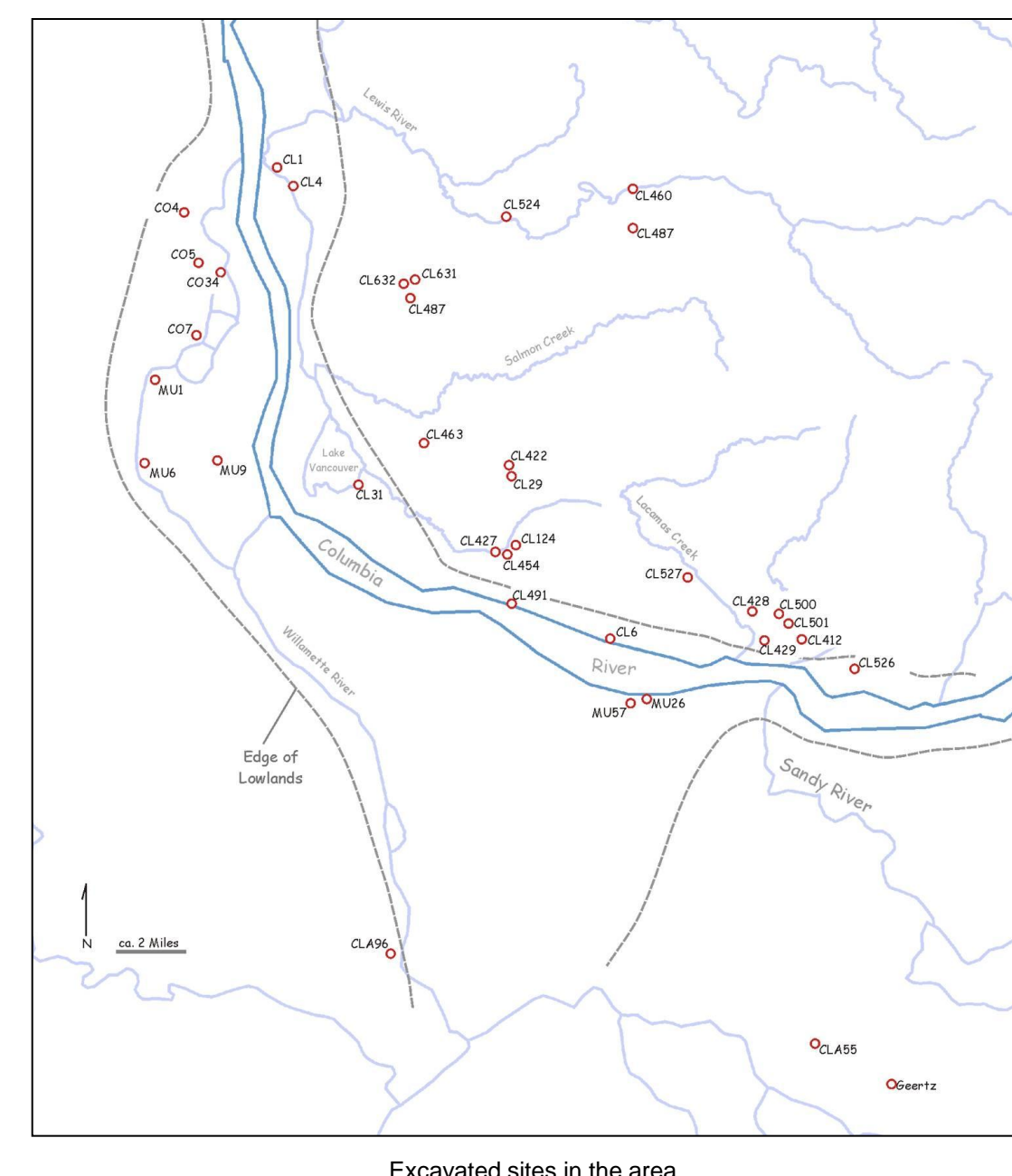
The Meier Site is a Late Holocene village site just 400 meters from Briar and an obvious candidate for comparison.

Similarities between Meier and Briar:

- Contemporaneous.
 - Briar: 520 to 300 years BP.
 - Meier: 600 to 200 years BP.
- Environmental setting.
- Both produced large, diverse assemblages including stone and bone tools.

Differences between Meier and Briar:

- Meier has a plankhouse, while Briar has no houses.
- Meier has multiple features, while Briar has none.



Acknowledgements

Paul Solimano, David Ellis, Todd Ogle, Danny Gilmour, Angie Kozlik, Michael Daniels, WillametteCRA, Dr. Kenneth Ames, and Portland State University's Anthropology Department.

Briar and Meier Sites in Regional Context

- Little is known about changes in Portland Basin land-use through the Holocene.
- Assemblage diversity varies little over time.
- Earliest houses ca. 2,000 BP.
- Population aggradation after ca. 500 BP.

