

RESULTS FROM JUNE 7, 2011

Each year, the beginning of our first day of fieldwork consists of gathering our equipment and transporting it to our excavation areas. This year, we have nine teams (most consisting of three members) who will be working in three larger teams – one on Mound 3, one on the large pit from 2008, and the last on the possible palisade ditch and wall. Here, we are transporting our previously assembled shelters from storage to the excavation areas.



Project staff (me, Emily and Michael) had previously relocated the galvanized spikes left in place from our 2008 excavations (marked with blue pin flags).



Our next order of business is to instruct students in laying out new excavation units. Below Michael, Libby, and I are demonstrating triangulation – using two of our pins from 2008 to set new pins in place.



In addition, we had to take the backfill out of three of our units from 2008. We are going to be excavating the units on both sides of this area to uncover the rest of the large pit – the loose fill from these units would collapse into the new units unless removed. Fortunately, thanks to our friend John Garrott, we were able to fill these units with loose sand in 2008 – which allowed us to get this accomplished by mid-afternoon. Here, John, Brittani, Megan, Amy, Mark, Courtney and Matt remove fill.



We worked through the afternoon today to get the site prepared. The weather is not cooperating at this point – we are in our tenth day in the mid-90s with the promise of more to come. Average highs are in the mid-80s this time of year. Despite plenty of water on hand and instruction on heat exhaustion, it will take several days to acclimate – we will not be able to work through the afternoons given the forecast.