

RESULTS FROM JUNE 16, 2011

After two days of on-and-off rain showers and storms, we arrived this morning to a blanket of fog covering the site. Below, the plastic over the Mound 3 units is barely visible and only a ghostly hint of Mound 2 can be seen in the background.



The students emerged out of the mist on their way to the site.



Later in the morning, a large cube of galena was discovered on the summit of Mound 3 – this particular mineral (a lead ore) was highly valued by Native Americans as a source of pigment or paint.



Towards the base of the plowzone on Mound 3, the layer of yellowish brown sandy clay began to emerge in several of the units. Although heavily scarred by plowing, the layer appears to represent a surviving cap of colored soil placed on top of the mound.



Over at Feature 119, we cleaned the three units up for a photograph. The feature appears to be a large pit – probably used as a borrow pit for clay – that was later filled with trash. All of the objects visible at this level are artifacts – broken pieces of pottery, stone tools, burned stone discarded from hearths and fireplaces, and scattered pieces of animal bone discarded from meals 800 year ago.



As excavation of the feature proceeded, a fragment of another effigy vessel appeared in Feature 119 – although difficult to see, this fragment is of a fish effigy bowl.



Over at the excavation area, Caitlin, Rae, Noah, Ethan, and Kelly continue to search for evidence of the palisade while Libby sorts through the wheelbarrow. We will need to go another 10 cm or so before the buried land surface from AD 1250 emerges.

