

Preliminary Reanalysis of Chipped-Stone Artifacts at the Kamp Mound Group (11C12)

Caleb Blair (Cornell College) and Jason King (Center for American Archeology)

Introduction

Kamp Mound Group (11C120) is a floodplain mound group located in the lower Illinois River valley, approximately 30 miles north of the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers (Figure 1). The site includes ten Middle Woodland mounds organized around a central plaza, as well as Middle Woodland and Late Woodland habitation components (McKinnon et al. 2016, Struever 1960). The Kamp Mound Group has traditionally been interpreted as one of many floodplain sites at which multiple residential groups gathered to engage in variety of activities, including moundbuilding, mortuary activity, exchange, and other ceremonial activity (Buikstra and Charles 1999, King et al. 2011, Ruby et al. 2006, Struever and Houart 1972).

Stuart Struever excavated a portion of the site in 1958 and 1959, focusing his efforts on the northern half of Mound 9, debris scatters between mounds, and the plaza (Figure 2). Mound 9 dates to the Middle Woodland period (King et al. 2011). Struever’s analysis of habitation debris suggests mound fill, sub-mound 9, and Area 2 occupations reflected temporary Middle Woodland occupations. Area 2 and Area 3 included significant amounts Late Woodland pottery (“Canteen Ware”) not found in either the mound fill or sub-mound debris. Struever also reported 101 projectile points that he classified as in terms of their form, e.g. stemless leaf-shaped, stemless triangular, lanceolate, corner-notched, etc. He noted evidence of Archaic and Woodland occupations of the site. Struever associated the Archaic projectile points with the use of “Kampsville Flint,” though this chert type is no longer recognized as valid.

Methods

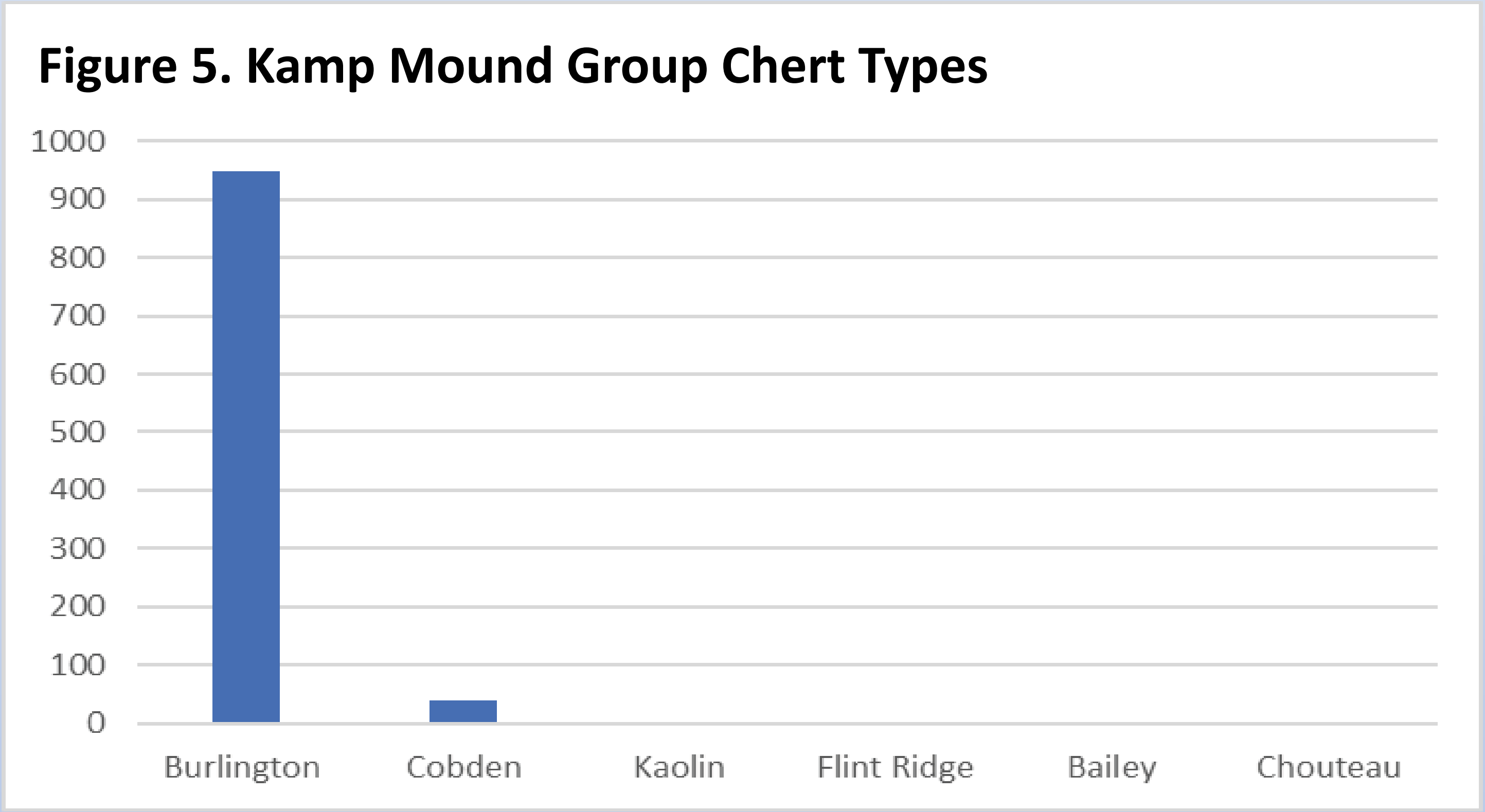
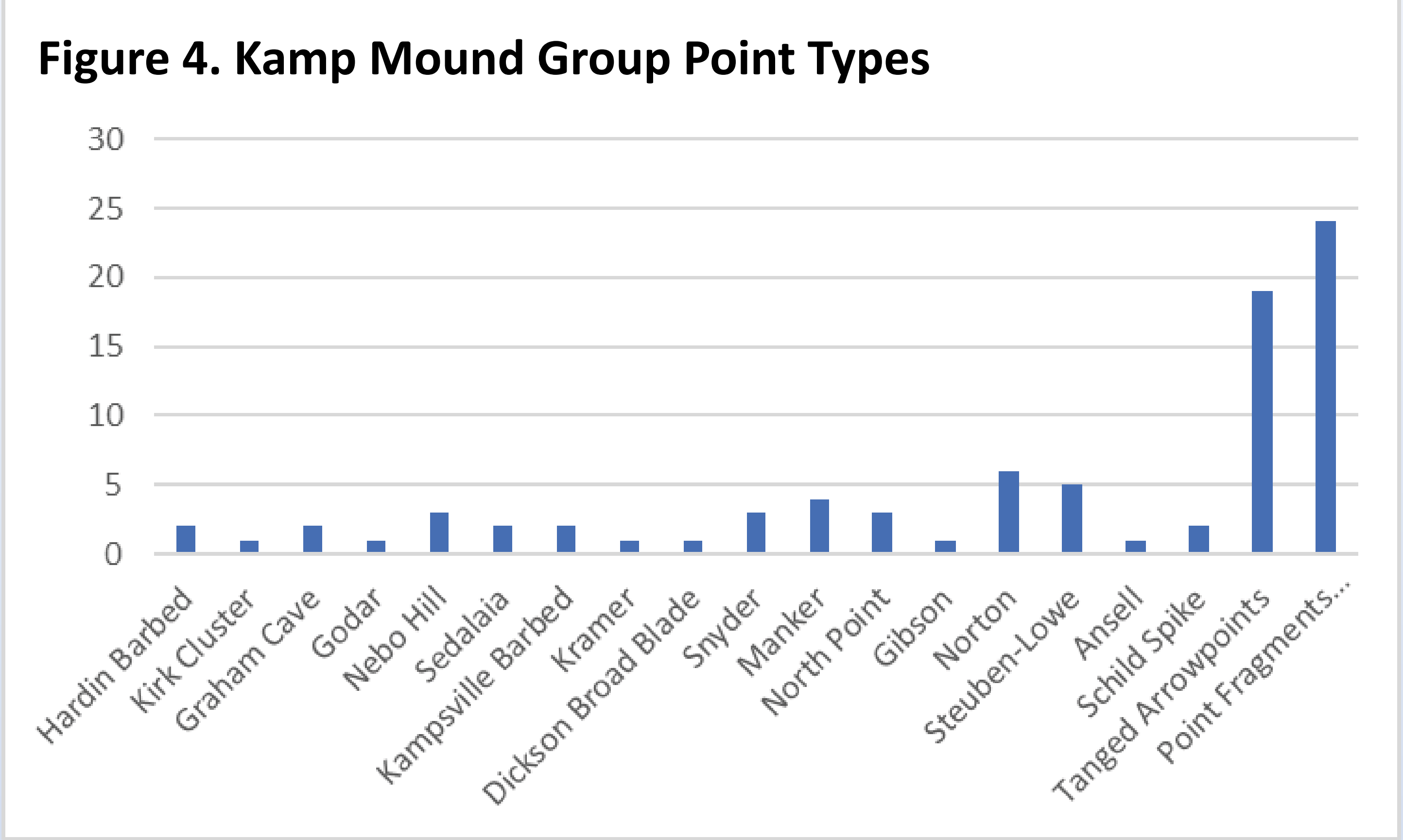
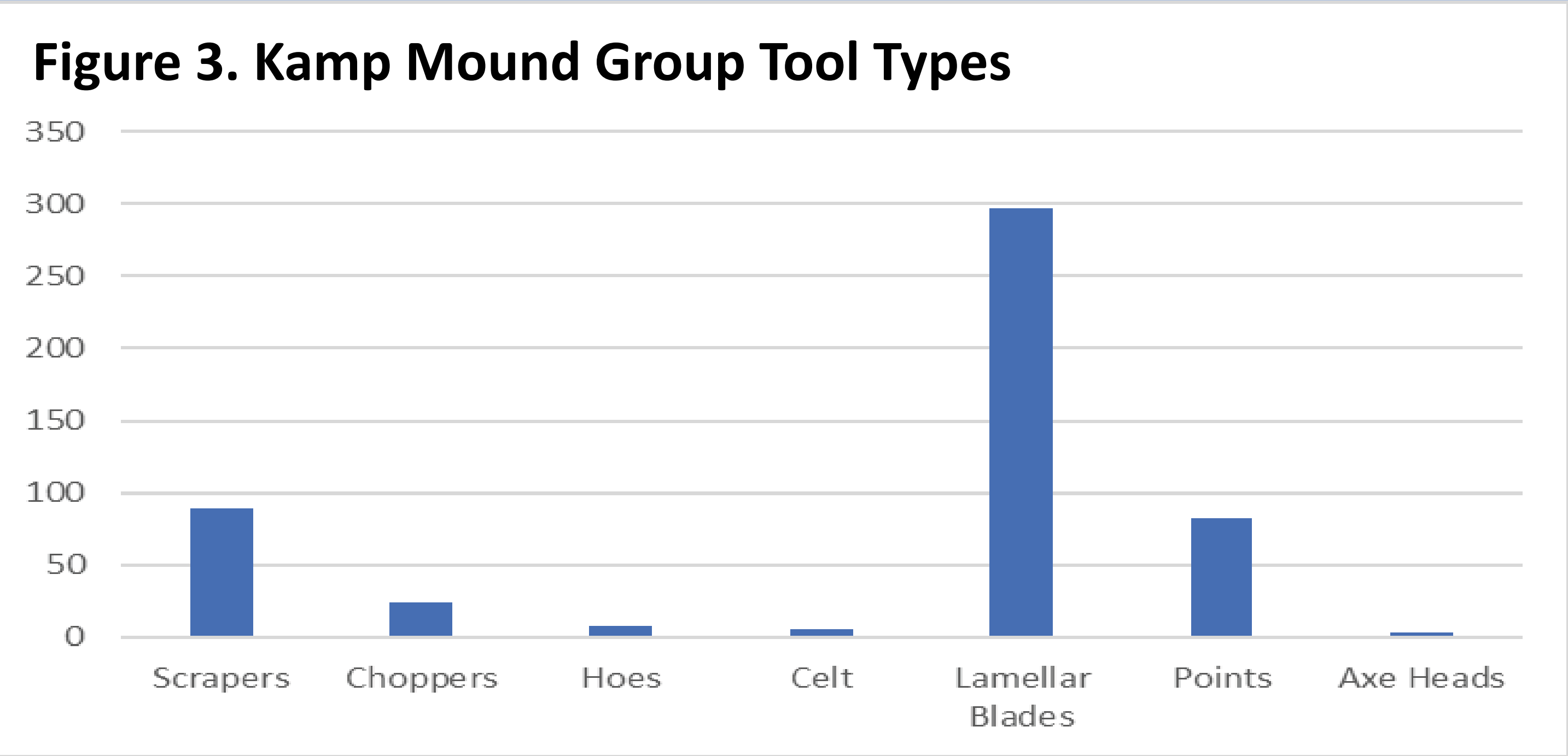
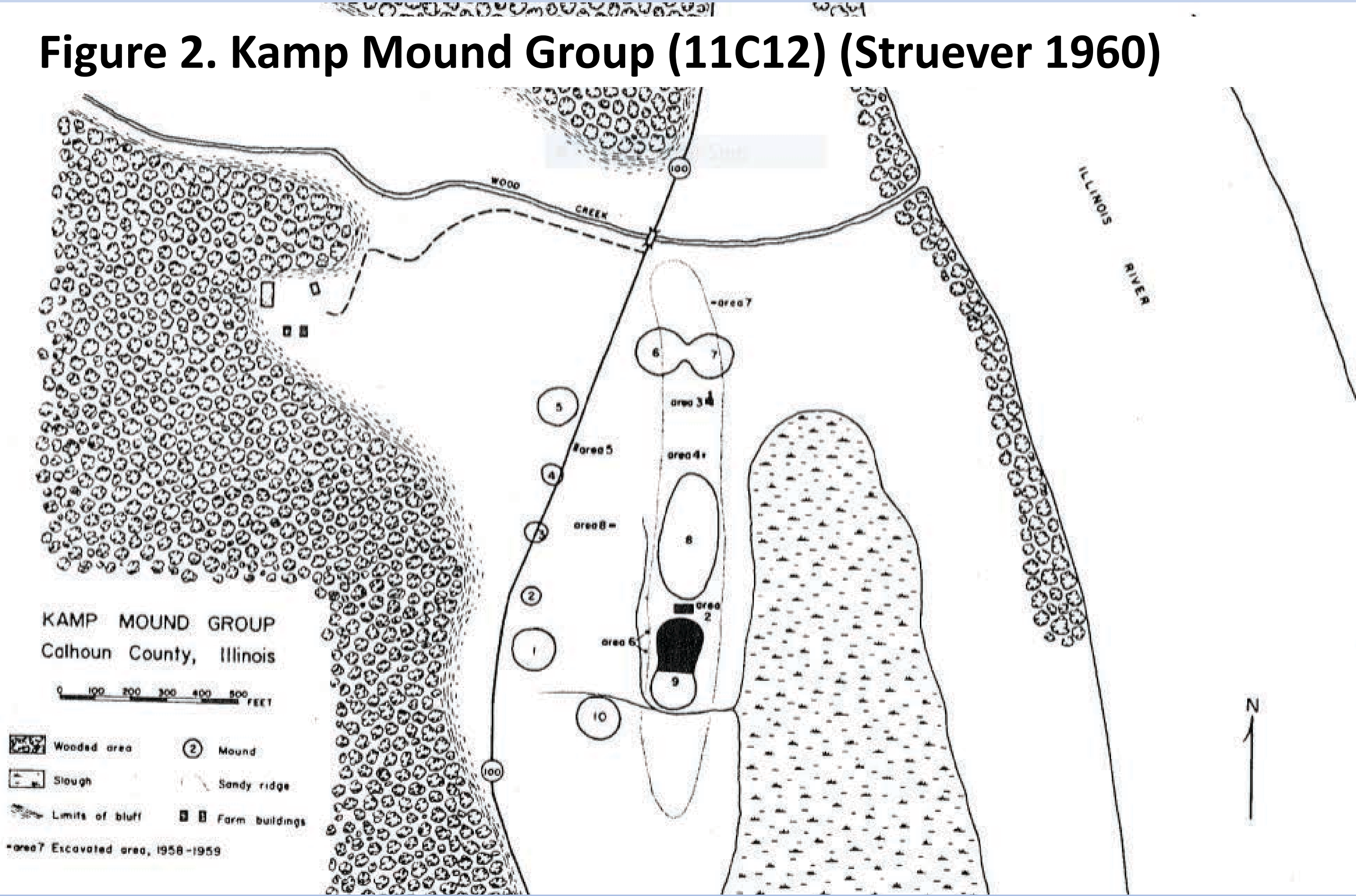
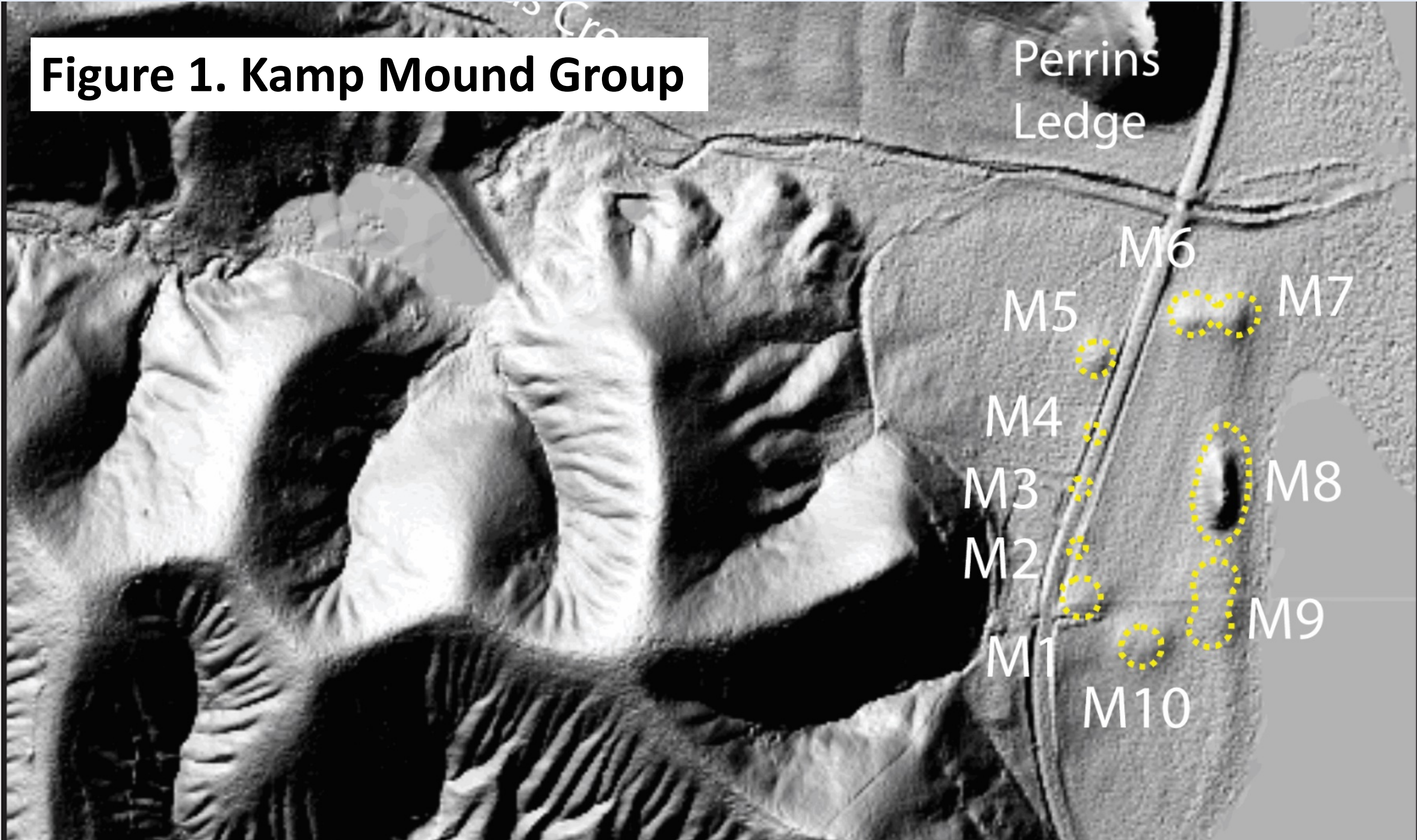
The Kamp Mound Group material has not been reanalyzed since Struever’s initial work. As a first a first step toward a full reanalysis, we focused on bifaces and lamellar blades from the site, and identified basic types and raw material.

Results

- Middle Woodland lamellar blades were the most common tool type, followed by scrapers and projectile points (Figure 3).
- Kamp Mound Group projectile point ages ranged from the Early Archaic Period (ca 8600-7400 cal BCE) to the late Late Woodland Period (ca 800-1000 cal CE) (Figure 4).
- Burlington chert was the most common material type for all tool types, though non-local cherts were also present, as might be expect at Middle Woodland sites (Figure 5).

Further Research

- Resolution of context and labelling issues with the collection
- Continued analysis lithics including non-point/bifacial tool
- Reanalysis of pottery and other artifact classes
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