

Scarborough Excavations

MARTI LATTA

Scarborough College held two field schools at the Draper Site (A1Gt-2) during the summer (July 9–20) and fall (Sept. 29–Oct. 21) sessions of 1973, under the direction of Martha Latta, assisted by Helga Esche and Mima Kapches. Both classes concentrated on the north-western edge of the occupation area, in a ploughed field. A total of 69 2-metre squares were excavated.

During the summer, three 2 m trenches were excavated at 10 m intervals, extending 30 m west of the base line at 110, 120, and 130 m north of datum, respectively (Fig. 1).

Since these extended to the area where surface finds had ceased, as noted in the initial surface survey by the permanent crew, it was expected that the trenches would show the edge of the village and yield some information about Draper defenses. In laying out the trenches, we noticed a shallow (mean depth 20 cm) ditch which crossed the trenches in the westernmost squares. This gully did not appear to be due to erosion, having gently rounded sides and bottom. It was nearly filled with brush, and almost invisible.

Alternative explanations include a ditch outside the prehistoric palisade, drainage, or a more recent fence line, although none is known for this area.

The students worked 10 partial days in the summer session, and eight full days in the fall. They maintained 10 cm levels, and bagged and noted each quadrant of the 2 m square separately. As excavation proceeded, it became apparent that the four westernmost squares in the north two trenches were cutting through midden, with much blacker soil and markedly higher artifact counts. Depth

of deposit also increased, although the surface was levelled by repeated ploughing. Square N120W26 was 32 cm deep on the east side, with about ten centimetres of undisturbed deposit below the plough zone.

In the B horizon, several additional features appeared: A double row of fairly large (10–15 cm) posts were observed clearly in the west ends of Trenches 130 and 120, and less clearly in Trench 110. The relation of these posts to the surface ditch and to the midden suggested that this was, in fact, a double palisade. Two house walls were clearly observed in Trench 130 located almost exactly 8 m apart, and running exactly north–south. They did not appear to extend south to Trench 110.

In the fall session, work was concentrated around Trench 130, to clarify these features. The palisade extends clearly for 16 m, and appears to reach its westernmost extent at the end of Zones 122–130. The house picture was confused, however, by the appearance of a third wall, lying between and parallel to the first house and the palisade. In addition, four deep pits were found, on a line running exactly E–W across the house(s). The pits were identical, in being about 30–40 cm in diameter, 30–45 cm deep, round, with straight sides and rounded bottoms. All four contained reddened soil, ash, charcoal, and considerable quantities of artifacts, ceramics, stone and bone. The soil from these pits was saved, and is presently being floated for recovery of micro-flora. The pits appear to contain hearth refuse, although no hearth was found.

Analysis of the artifacts will be carried out during the coming year.

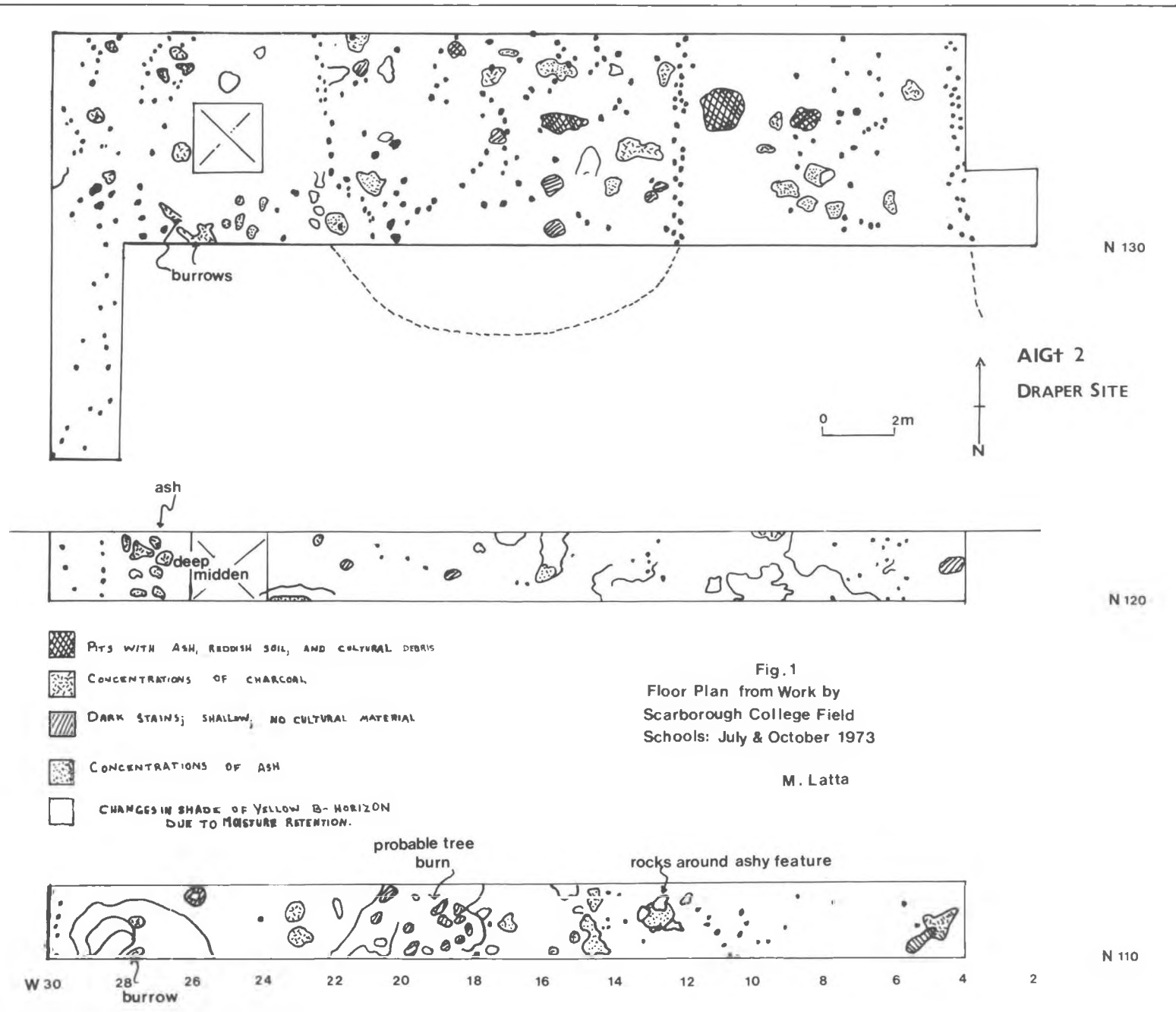


Fig. 1
 Floor Plan from Work by
 Scarborough College Field
 Schools: July & October 1973
 M. Latta