

**Report of the  
Skagafjörður Archaeological  
Settlement Survey  
2007:**

**Coring at Meðalheimur**

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## Meðalheimur cores

In July of 2007 the second series of cores were taken at Meðalheimur. These complement those taken in 2005 (Steinberg et al 2005) west of the north-south fence that cuts through the eastern part of the farm mound.

For site assessment we use 1 in or 1½ in Oakfield peat core (<http://www.soilsamplers.com>) with a 50 cm extension or an Eijkelkamp 2 in soil auger (<http://www.eijkelkamp.nl>). These pieces of equipment can obtain cores from up to 1 m bgs. Cores are placed every 10 m over the area around the farm mound.

Sixtyfive cores were taken at Meðalheimur in order to identify off-mound activity areas. In those cores, 15 had in situ LNL, 7 had in situ 1000 tephra, 24 (37%) had H1 and 5 had the 1300 tephra layer. Considering the elevation and setting, this is remarkable tephra preservation. There is much water in the soil that could account for the preservation.

In two areas, floors and cultural layers were identified. The eastern area, which appeared as a distant floor layer (#4) was not further investigated nor well defined. The floor does appear to be at or below the 1000 tephra layer. The southern cultural layer was further investigated with 5 cores (#28-32) and a second core with a substantial cultural area was identified. The deposit clearly ended to the east (#28) but continued, although less dense, to the west (#32). This area was further investigated with conductivity, GPR, and excavation (Area B).



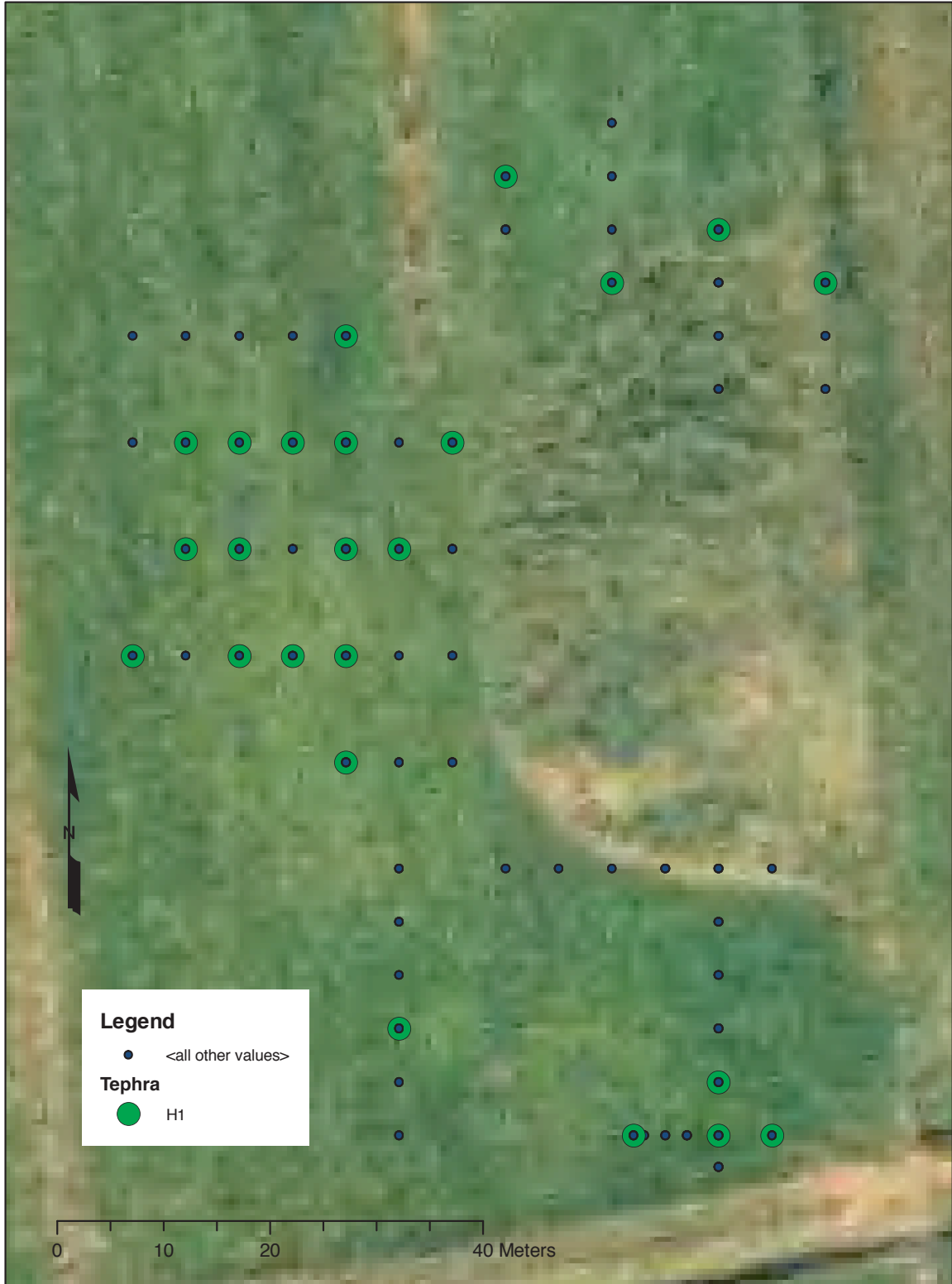
Core location



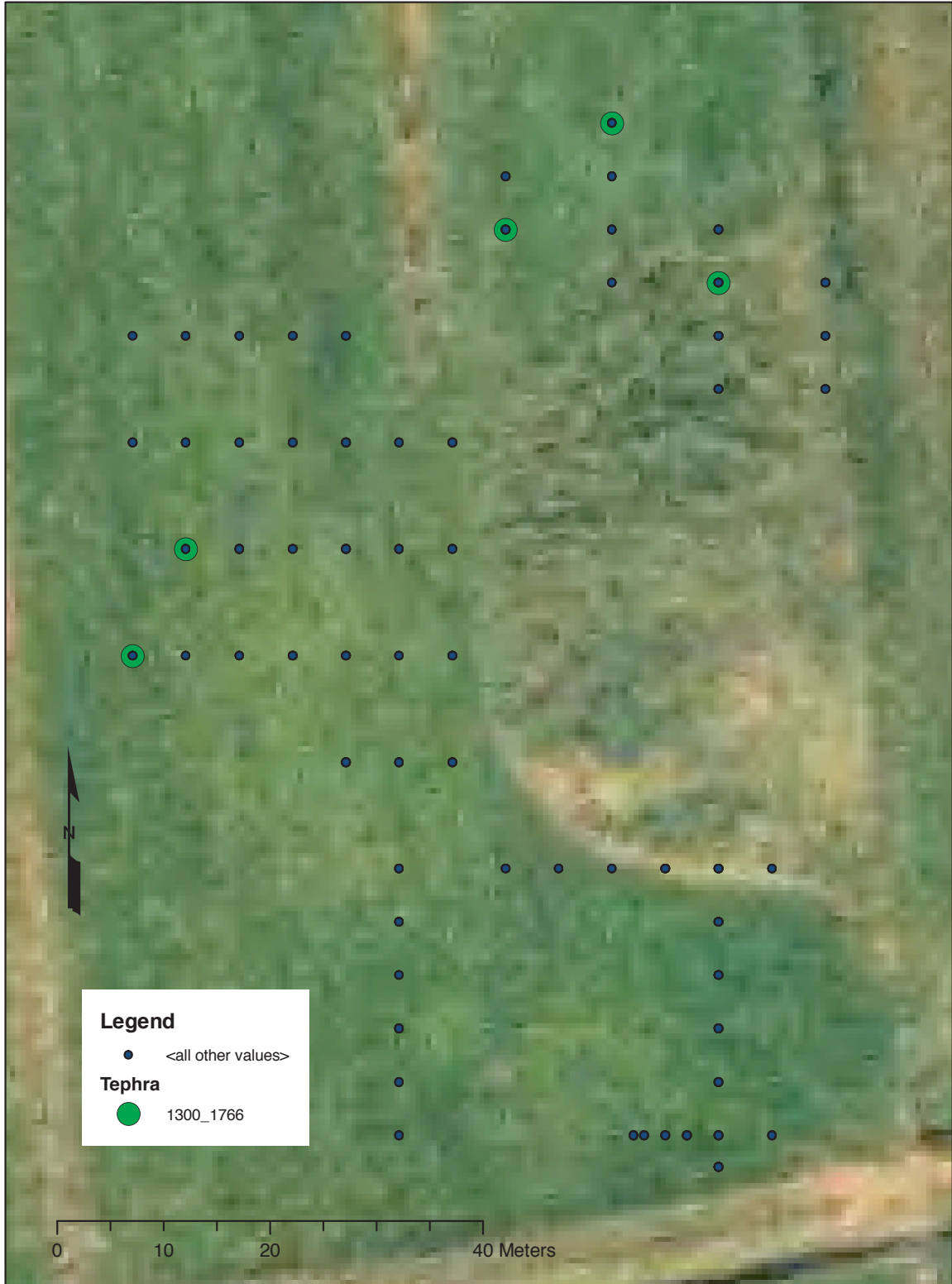
Cores by number

Cores with in situ LNL tephra

Cores with in situ 1000 Tephra layers

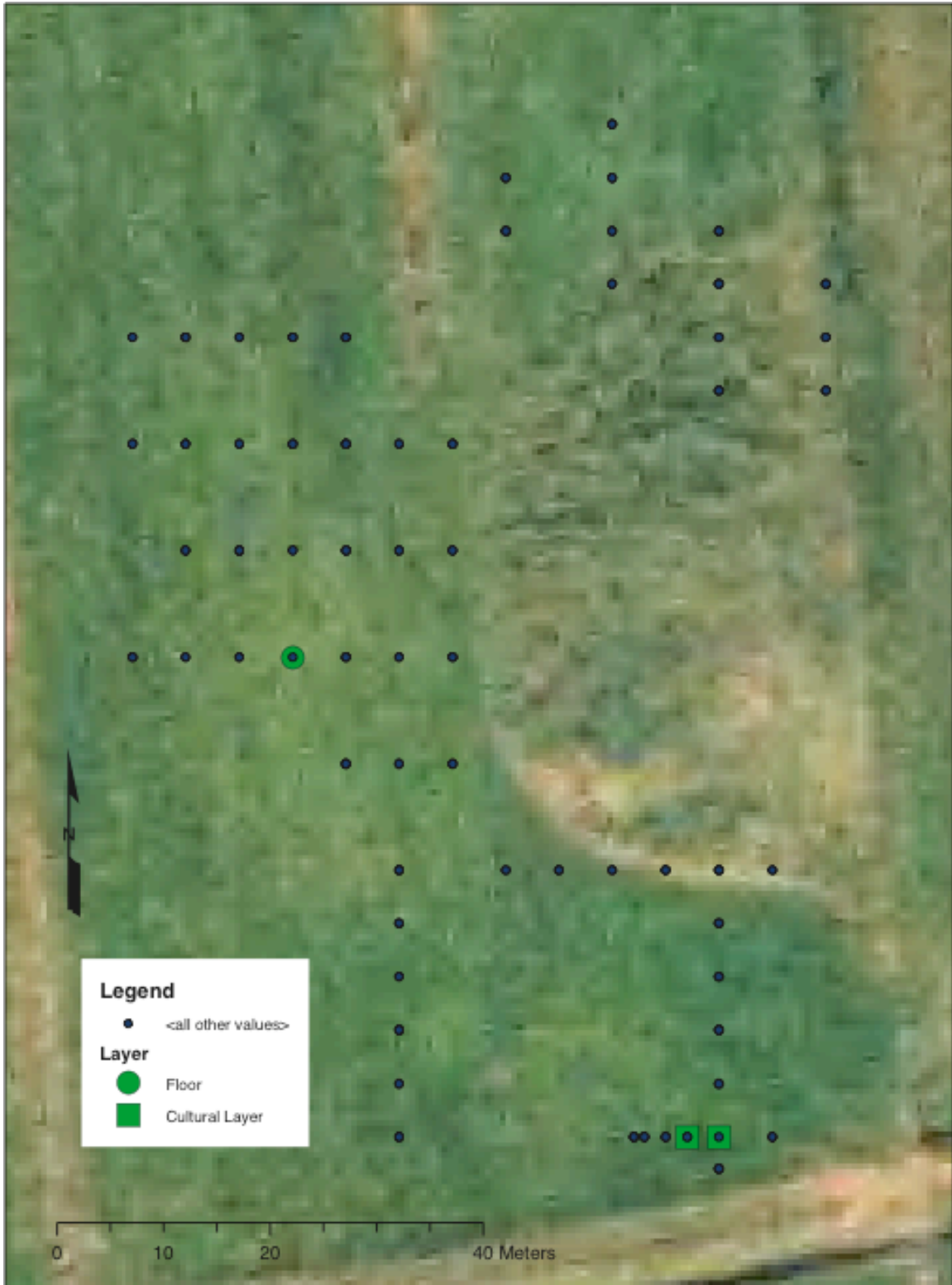


Cores with in situ H1 tephra layer



Location of cores with in situ 1300 and or 1766 tephra layers.





Location of cultural and floor layers.

Core Number	ISNet East	ISNet North	Tephra	Coring Data		Layer	Layer Top Depth	Layer Bottom Depth
				Tephra	Depth			
1	475465	567660	1300_1766		10	Humus	0	10
				H1	22	Midden	10	20
				1000	30	Ash	20	25
2	475470	567660				Clay		100
						Humus	0	10
						Charcoal	10	12
3	475475	567660	H1		33	Clay	12	25
						Humus	0	20
						Clay	20	30
4	475480	567660	H1		22	Iron Pan	30	32
						Clay	32	40
				1000	54	Humus	0	22
5	475485	567660	H1			Midden	22	47
				1000		Floor	47	55
				LNL		Clay	55	70
6	475490	567660	H3		35	Humus	0	25
				H4		Loam	22	35
					42	Turf	42	50
7	475495	567660	H3		55	Clay	50	70
				H4		Humus	0	25
					55	Low Density Cultural	25	50
8	475475	567670				Clay	50	60
						Humus	0	30
						Low Density Cultural	30	50
9	475470	567670	1300_1766			Midden	50	60
				H1		Clay	60	70
					5	Humus	0	20
10	475475	567670	H1		20	Ash/Charcoal	20	52
						Gravel	52	60
						Loam	0	10
11	475470	567670	H1			Ash	10	20
						Ash	20	30
						Gravel	30	60
12	475475	567670	H1		38	Humus	0	20
						Gravel/Ash	20	40
						Floor/Turf with LNL	40	45
13	475495	567680	H1			Sand	45	50
				H3		Humus	0	30
					60	Disturbed	30	60
14	475465	567690				Floor/Turf with LNL	60	75
						Sand	75	90
						Humus	0	30
15	475470	567690				Iron Pan	30	32
						Humus	0	25
						Turf	25	50
16	475475	567690				Sand	50	55
						Iron Pan	55	60
						Turf	0	20

					Turf/Charcoal	20	40
					Iron Pan	40	42
<b>17</b>	475480	567690			Humus	0	25
					Turf	25	58
					Gravel	58	60
<b>18</b>	475485	567690	H1	48	Humus	0	25
					Gravel/Ash	25	48
					Turf	48	70
					Clay	70	72
<b>19</b>	475465	567680			Humus	0	10
					Charcoal	10	48
					Iron Pan	48	60
<b>20</b>	475470	567680	H1	30	Humus	0	10
					Clay	10	30
					Iron Pan	30	58
					Gravel	58	60
<b>21</b>	475475	567680	H1	55	Humus	0	15
					Clay	15	55
					Clay	55	60
<b>22</b>	475480	567680	H1	30	Humus	0	20
					Clay	20	30
					Clay	30	60
<b>23</b>	475485	567680	H1	50	Humus	0	30
					Ash	30	55
					Turf	55	72
					Clay	72	78
					Iron Pan	78	80
<b>24</b>	475490	567680	LNL	72	Humus	0	45
			H3	75	Turf w/ H1	45	80
					Iron Pan	80	82
<b>25</b>	475520	567620	H1	20	Humus	0	20
			LNL	51	Charcoal	20	51
			H3	60	Clay	51	70
<b>26</b>	475520	567615	H1	68	Humus	0	20
					Ash	20	40
					Aeolian Deposit	40	50
					Charcoal	50	68
					Cultural Layer	68	78
					Gravel	78	80
<b>27</b>	475520	567612	H3	72	Humus	0	20
			H4	72	Aeolian Deposit	20	62
					Charcoal	62	68
					Turf	68	72
					Clay	72	82
					Gravel	82	90
<b>28</b>	475525	567615	H1	65	Humus	0	20
					Disturbed	20	78
					Aeolian Deposit	78	90
					Gravel	90	100
<b>29</b>	475515	567615			Humus	0	22
					Disturbed	22	70
					Aeolian Deposit	70	88

<b>30</b>	475517	567615			Gravel	88	100		
					Humus	0	28		
					Disturbed	28	45		
					Charcoal	45	50		
					Peat Ash	50	55		
					Cultural Layer	55	75		
<b>31</b>	475513	567615			Aeolian Deposit	75	90		
					Gravel	90	100		
					Humus	0	40		
					Aeolian Deposit	40	70		
					Charcoal/Cultural Layer	70	90		
					Gravel/Clay	90	100		
<b>32</b>	475512	567615	H1	55	Humus	0	20		
			1000	98	Aeolian Deposit	20	52		
					Aeolian Deposit	52	60		
					Turf/Ash	60	72		
					Charcoal/Cultural Layer	72	88		
					Aeolian Deposit	88	98		
<b>34</b>	475500	567700	1300_1766	25	Humus	0	25		
			1000	50	Natural Turf	25	50		
			H3	85	Natural Turf	50	72		
			H4	85	Gravel	72	85		
					Gravel	85	100		
					Humus	0	30		
<b>35</b>	475500	567705	H1	25	Natural Turf	30	80		
					Gravel	80	100		
					Natural Turf	0	30		
<b>36</b>	475510	567700			Midden/Charcoal	30	48		
					Natural Turf w/ Gravel	48	68		
					Disturbed	0	40		
<b>37</b>	475515	567640	LNL	72	Charcoal	40	45		
			H3	75	Disturbed	45	80		
			H4	75	Aeolian Deposit	80	90		
<b>38</b>	475520	567640	LNL	60	Gravel/Clay	90	100		
			H3	6280	Humus	0	20		
			H4	6280	Disturbed	20	40		
					Turf/Ash	40	60		
					Brown Clay	60	88		
					Gray Clay	88	90		
<b>39</b>	475525	567640	H3	7585	Disturbed Humus	0	58		
			H4	7585	Turf/Charcoal	58	75		
					Gray Clay	75	90		
<b>40</b>	475520	567635	LNL	60	Humus	0	12		
					Disturbed	12	40		
					Charcoal	40	58		
					Tan Clay	58	68		
					Gray Clay/ Gravel	68	70		
							Humus	0	20
<b>41</b>	475520	567630	H3	6575	Disturbed	20	55		
			H4	6575	Ash	55	60		
			LNL	6065	Tan Clay	60	78		
<b>42</b>	475520	567625	H3	6570	Gray Clay/ Gravel	78	80		
					H4	6570	Humus	0	20
							Disturbed	20	45

					Turf w/ H1	45	60
					Charcoal	60	70
<b>43</b>	475480	567670			Disturbed	0	60
<b>44</b>	475485	567670	H1	40	Gray Clay/ GravelHumus	0	10
			H3	70	Disturbed	10	40
			H4	70	Aeolian Deposit	40	50
					Midden	50	70
					Gravel/Clay	70	80
<b>45</b>	475490	567670	H1	60	Humus	0	20
			H3	70	Disturbed	20	50
			H4	70	Aeolian Deposit	50	90
<b>46</b>	475495	567670	LNL	88	Humus	0	40
					Disturbed	40	70
					Clay	70	100
<b>49</b>	475495	567650			Humus	0	12
					Disturbed	12	70
					Sand	70	100
<b>50</b>	475490	567650	H3	6570	Humus	0	25
			H4	6570	Disturbed	25	65
					Tan Sand	65	90
					Gray Clay	90	100
<b>51</b>	475485	567650	H1	60	Humus	0	22
					Disturbed	22	48
					Sand	48	78
					Turf	78	92
					Sand	92	100
<b>52</b>	475500	567640	LNL	58	Disturbed	0	50
			H3	6065	Aeolian Deposit	50	65
			H4	7075	Sand	65	80
<b>53</b>	475505	567640	LNL	75	Disturbed w/ Charcoal	0	45
			H3	7580	Turf	45	65
			H4	7580	Charcoal	65	80
					Brown Clay	80	90
<b>54</b>	475510	567640			Disturbed	0	45
					Turf/Charcoal	45	88
					Gray Clay	88	90
<b>55</b>	475510	567695	H1	25	Humus	0	12
			LNL	78	Natural Turf w/ Aeolian Deposits	12	48
					Midden	48	70
					Natural Turf	70	85
<b>56</b>	475510	567705	1000	48	Humus	0	12
			H3	6068	Natural Turf w/ Charcoal	12	70
			H4	6870	Sand	70	92
					Clay	92	100
<b>57</b>	475510	567710	1300_1766	50	Humus	0	18
			1000	58	Natural Turf	18	45
					Iron Pan	45	58
					Natural Turf	58	68
					Iron Pan	68	72
					Clay	72	80
<b>58</b>	475520	567700	H1	50	Humus	0	20

			LNL	75	Natural Turf	20	50
			H3	7582	Natural Turf	50	75
			H4	7582	Gray Clay	75	100
<b>59</b>	475520	567695	1300_1766	20	Humus	0	8
			H4	68	Natural Turf	8	20
			H3	72	Charcoal	20	40
					Natural Turf	40	72
					Iron Pan	80	90
					Gravel	90	95
					Iron Pan	95	100
<b>60</b>	475520	567690	H3	95	Humus	0	22
			H4	95	Charcoal	25	30
					Natural Turf	30	50
					Clay	50	85
					Iron Pan	85	100
<b>61</b>	475490	567630	H3	6070	Disturbed	0	60
			H4	6070	Aeolian Deposit	60	75
					Gravel	75	80
<b>62</b>	475490	567625	H1	65	Humus	0	12
			LNL	70	Disturbed	12	50
			H3	75	Charcoal	50	60
			H4	80	Aeolian Deposit	60	90
					Gray Clay/ Gravel	90	100
<b>63</b>	475490	567620	H3	50	Humus	0	12
			H4	50	Disturbed	12	55
					Gravel	55	70
<b>64</b>	475490	567615			Humus	0	15
					Disturbed	15	65
					Gravel	65	75
<b>67</b>	475520	567685			Humus	0	8
					Aeolian Deposit	8	20
					Turf/Charcoal	20	55
					Midden	55	72
					Gravel	72	80
<b>68</b>	475530	567695	H1	50	Humus	0	25
			H3	65	Natural Turf	25	50
			H4	7075	Natural Turf	50	70
					Tan Clay	70	80
<b>69</b>	475530	567690	H3	55	Ash	0	12
			H4	60	Natural Turf	12	40
					Natural Turf (Banded)	40	55
					Iron Pan/Gravel	65	70
<b>70</b>	475530	567685			Humus	0	15
					Aeolian Deposit	15	50
					Midden/Charcoal	50	62
					Iron Pan/Gravel	62	70
<b>71</b>	475490	567640	LNL	78	Humus	0	10
			H3	80	Disturbed	10	65
			H4	80	Turf w/ Midden	65	70
					Aeolian Deposit	70	85
					Gray Clay/ Gravel	85	90
<b>72</b>	475490	567635	LNL	60	Humus	0	10
			H3	65	Disturbed	10	40
			H4	70	Turf	40	50

Aeolian Deposit	60	70
Tan Clay	70	80