

**Report of the
Skagafjörður Archaeological
Settlement Survey
2008:**

Coring at The Lower Midden at Stóra Seyla

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Stóra Seyla Cores

Soon after, on July 14, 2008 we began a coring program around the midden identified in the side of the east-west running stream. The coring was performed to expand a test pit in the edge of the ash midden in order to obtain start dates for the site.

We used a JMS backsaver core with two extensions if necessary. Core locations were recorded with using the established grid (see Stóra Seyla excavation report). In general we first placed cores on a 10m grid. The spacing was then confined to identify the deepest part of the midden as well as the oldest part of the midden (closed to the LNS). Twenty-two cores were taken. Of those, we did not ever encounter the 1300 or the 1766 tephra. Of the cores, 17 had H1, 4 had the 1000 layer, 19 had the LNS, and 18 went deep enough to encounter the H3 or H4 tephra. These are difficult to distinguish unless there is a break. Therefore we termed them H3. Three of the cores hit rocks before non-cultural material was encountered at the bottom of the core.

We identified two areas of deep midden: Core 714 (102 cm of midden & turf) and Core 717 (102cm of midden). Because 714 was close to the disturbed area of the east-west running stream, we decided to not to pursue that area, although, it is possible that that area may contain midden that is below the LNS. The area around 717 was extensively cored, and delimited a series of deep midden deposits that all seemed to rest on the LNS. Furthermore, many of those cores had H3 at the bottom, indicating a more complete and possibly intact bottom.



Figure 1. Area of coring with modern farmound to the east. Also shown are the other Excavations (LOE).

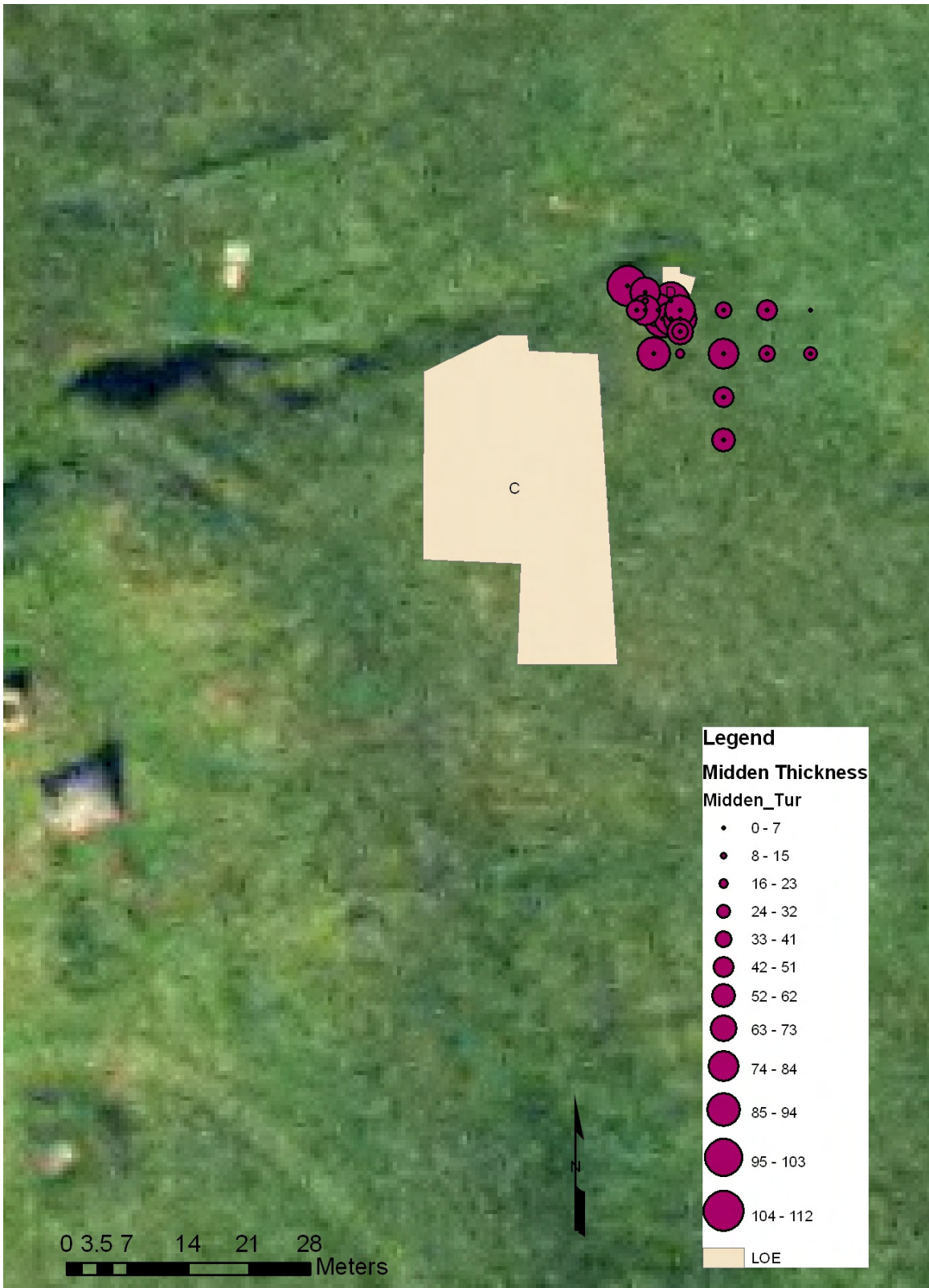


Figure 2. Core locations showing the main excavation area.

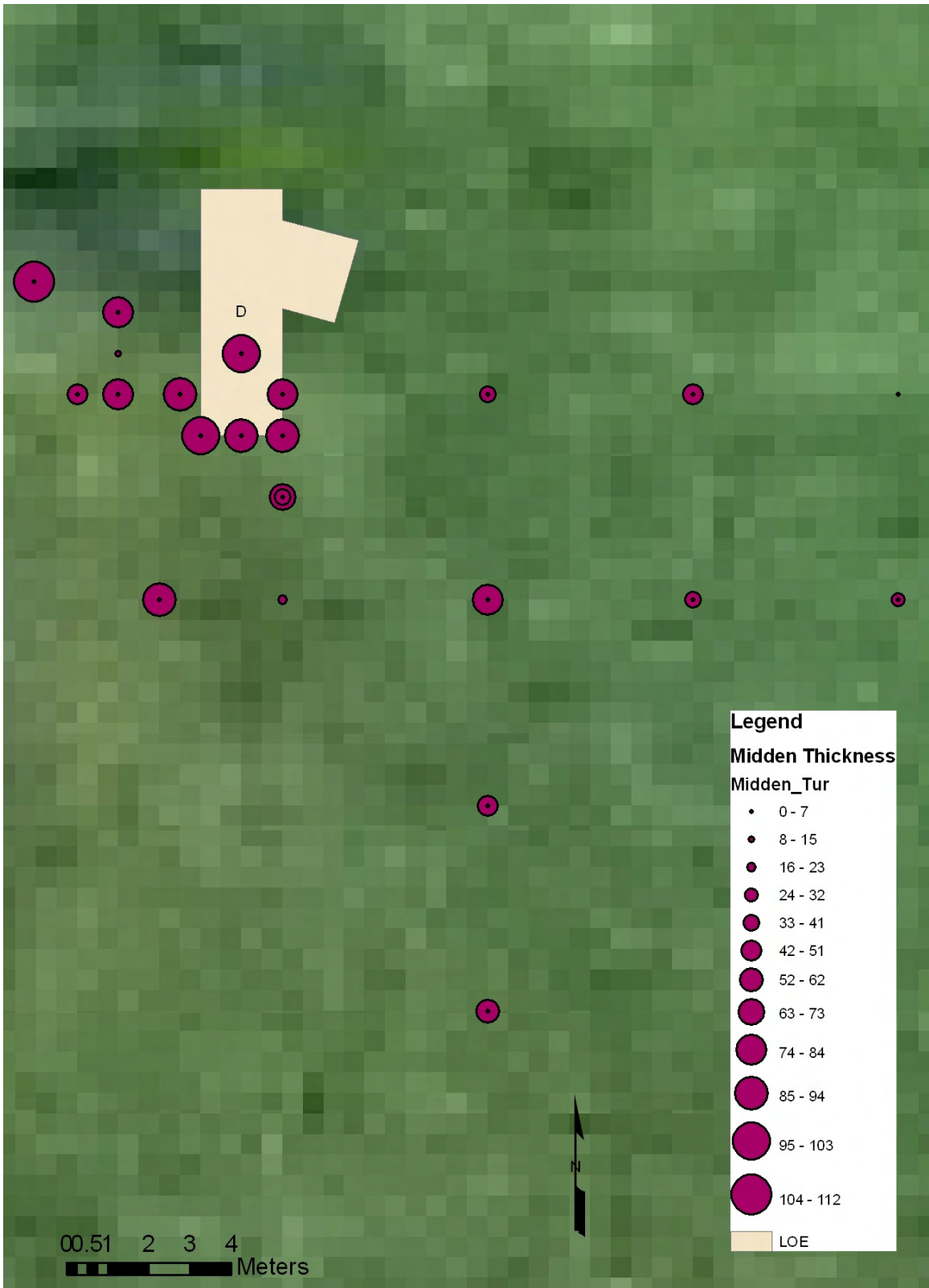


Figure 3. Showing the distribution of all the cores and the depth of midden.

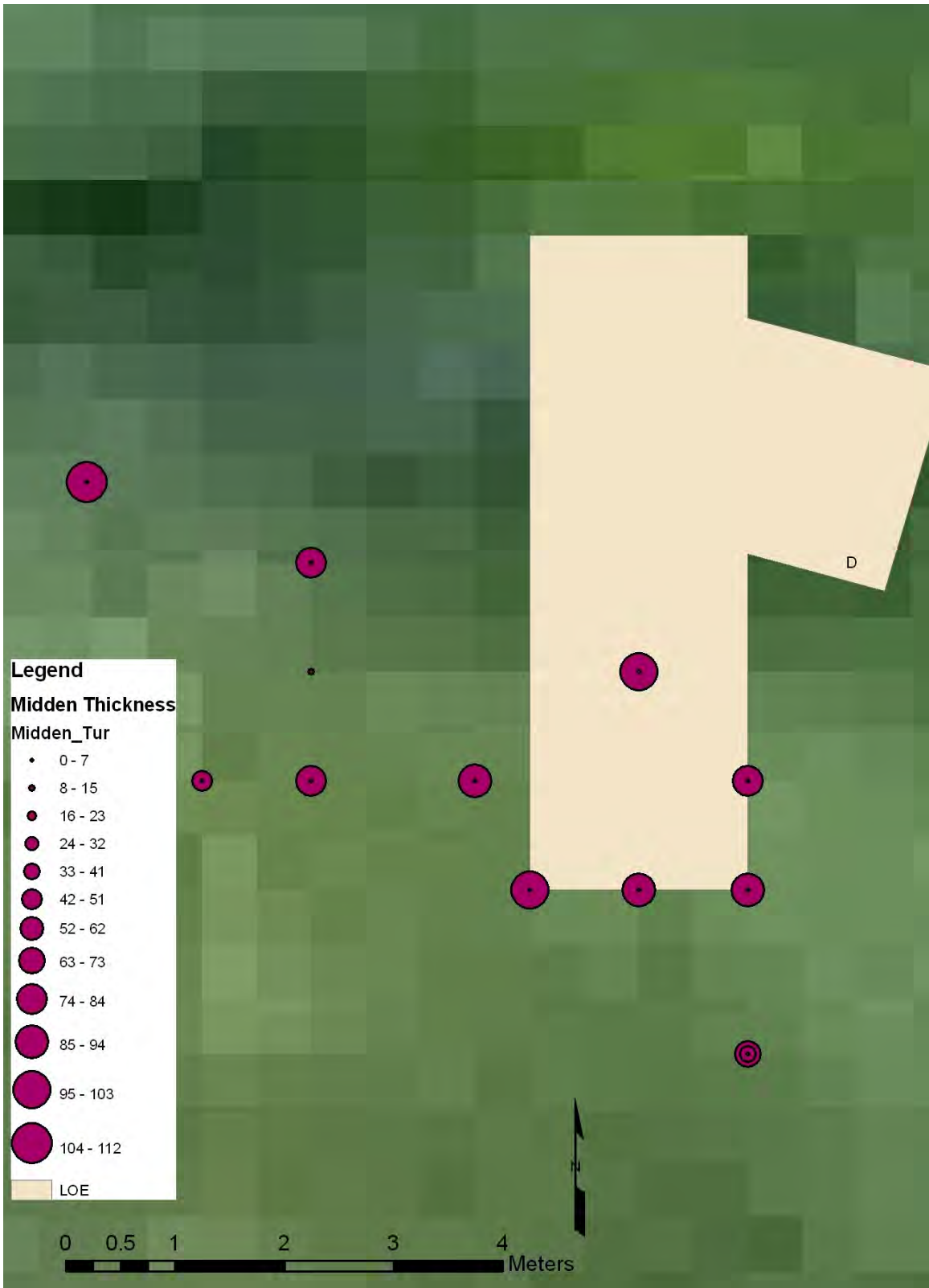


Figure 4. Close up of the area around 721 & 717.

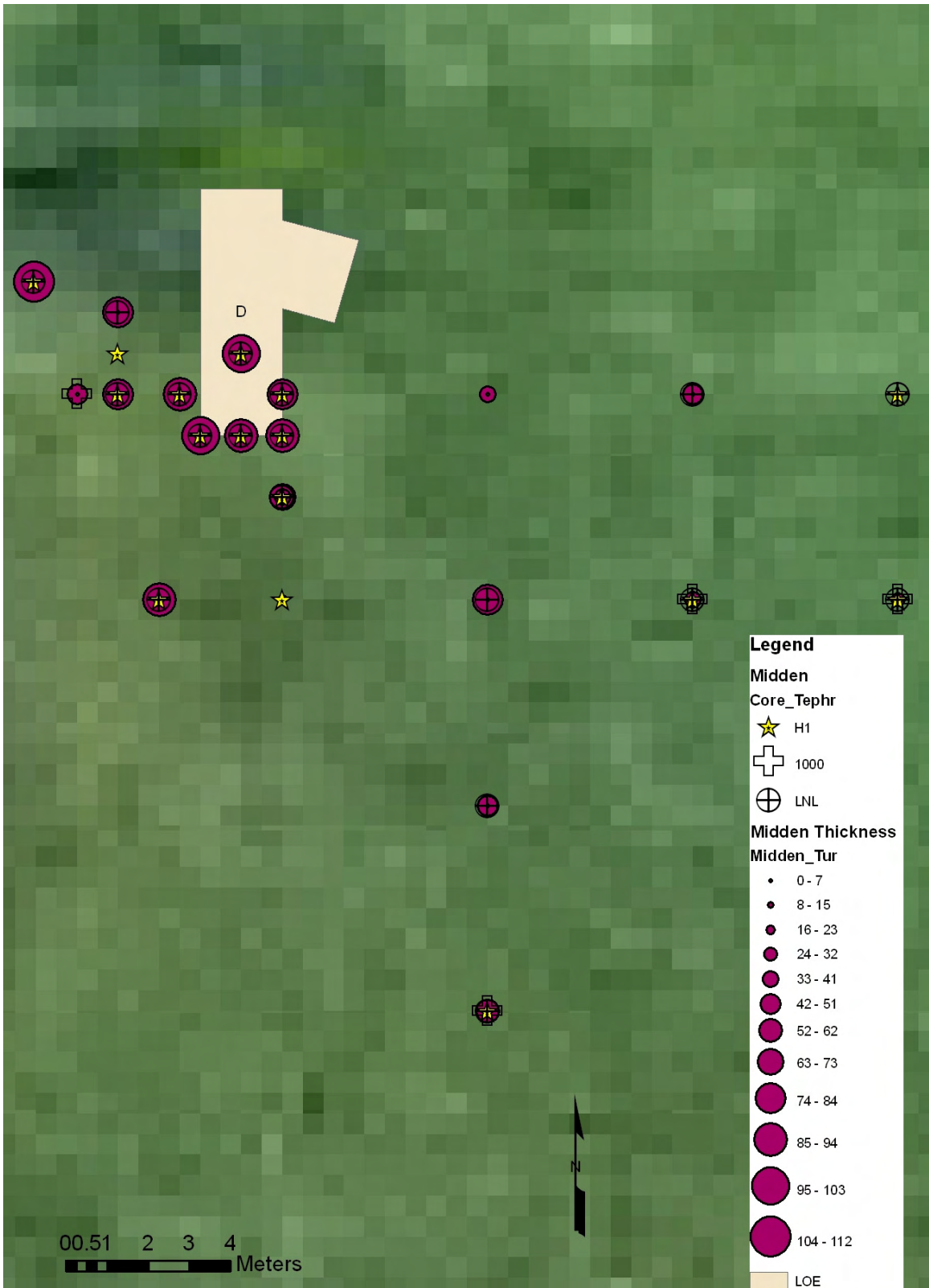


Figure 5. Distribution of all tephra layers.

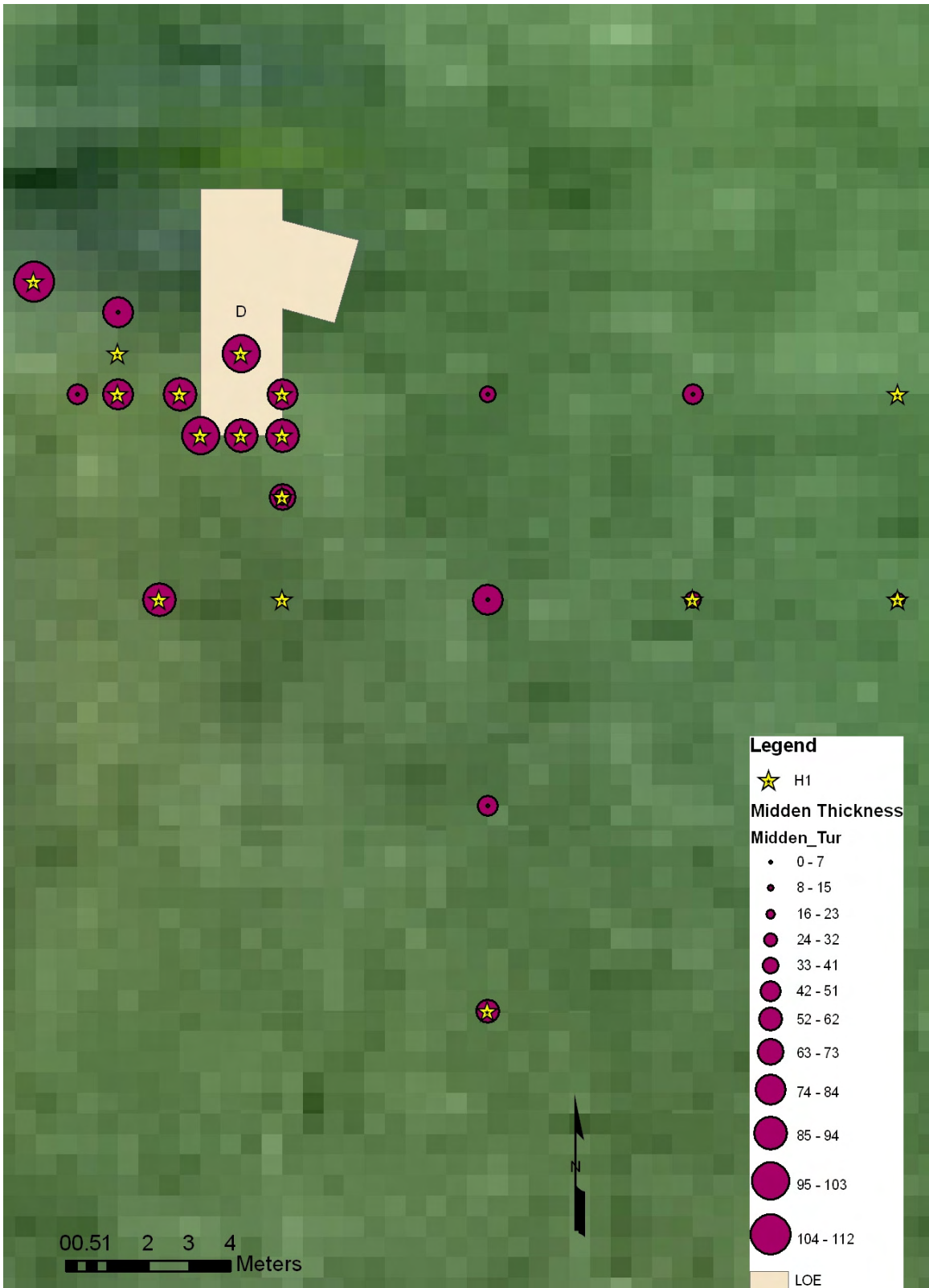


Figure 6. Distribution of H1 tephra.

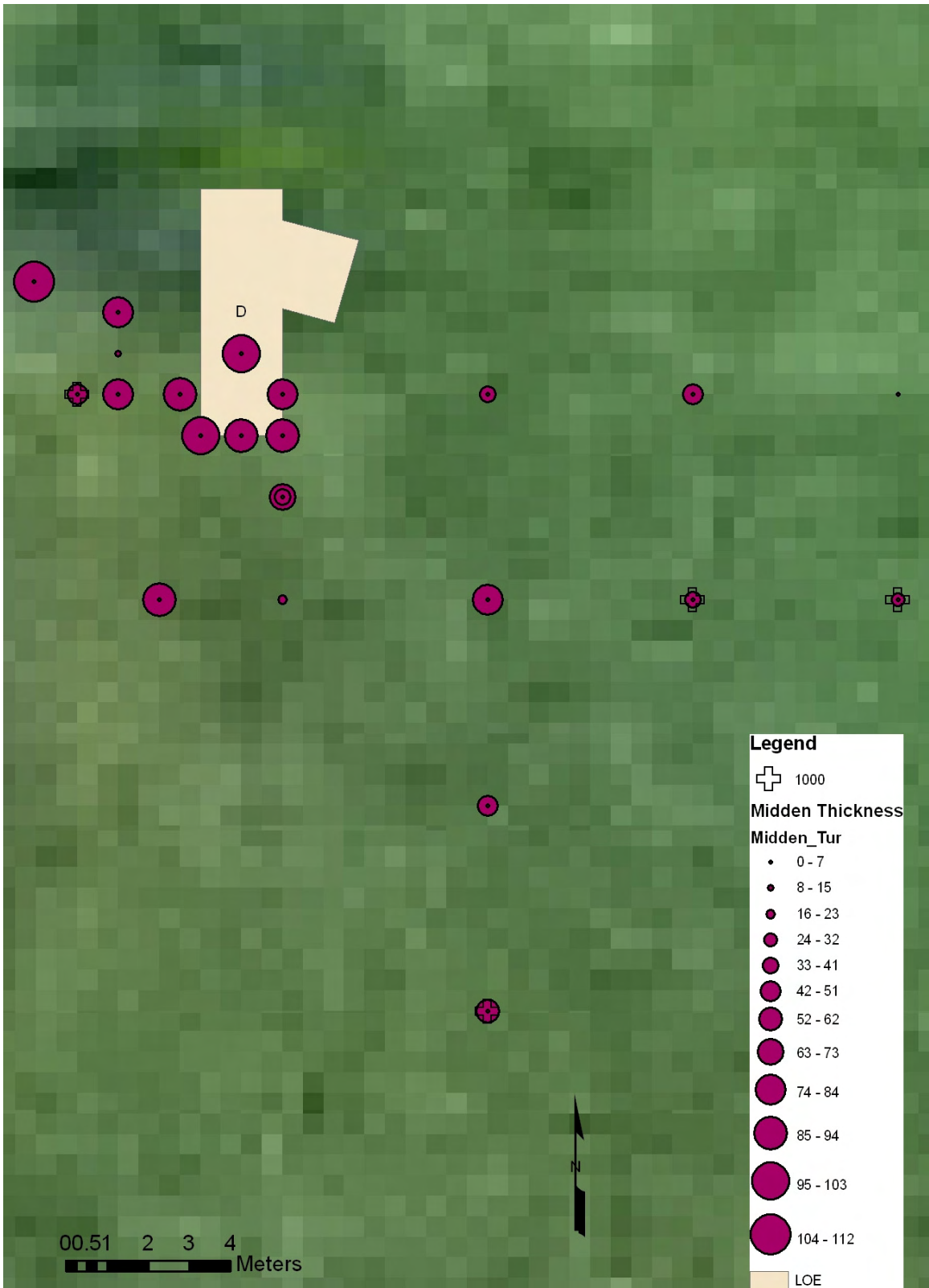


Figure 7. showing distribution of V-1000

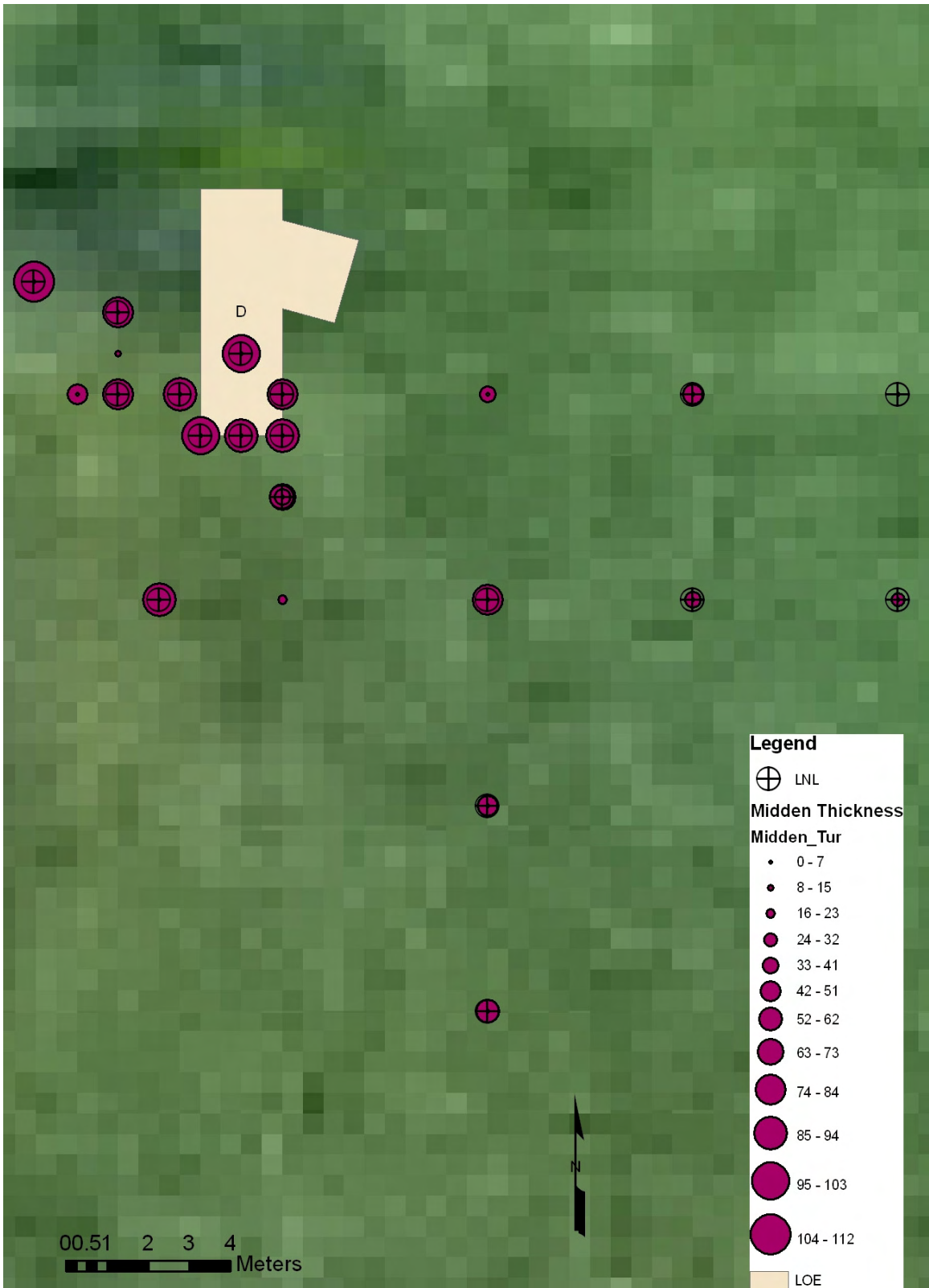


Figure 8. Distribution of LNS

	description	top depth	bottom depth	Thickness
CORE	701	477835	564145	
	Silt	0	45	45
	Cultural Layer	45	90	45
CORE	702	477830	564145	
	Removed	0	20	20
	Aeolian Deposit	20	25	5
	Midden	25	70	45
	Low Density Cultural	70	85	15
	Aeolian Deposit	85	115	30
	Glacial Sand	115	120	5
CORE	703	477825	564145	
	Humus	0	20	20
	Low Density Cultural	20	50	30
	Midden	50	90	40
	Aeolian Deposit	90	120	30
CORE	704	477820	564145	
	Aeolian Deposit	0	15	15
	Aeolian Deposit	15	35	20
	Midden	35	115	80
	Aeolian Deposit	115	140	25
CORE	705	477815	564145	
	Tan Clay	0	40	40
	Midden	40	80	40
	Turf	80	85	5
	Upcast with Mottled H3/4	90	110	20
	Aeolian Deposit	110	150	40
CORE	706	477835	564140	
	Turf	0	10	10
	Natural Turf	10	45	35
	Low Density Cultural	45	70	25
	Charcoal	70	75	5
	Midden	75	95	20
	Diatoms	95	96	1
	Aeolian Deposit	96	120	24
CORE	707	477830	564140	
	Removed	0	20	20
	Aeolian Deposit	20	40	20
	Midden	40	80	40
	Aeolian Deposit	80	110	30
CORE	708	477825	564140	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	38	28

	description	top depth	bottom depth	Thickness
	Midden	38	120	82
	Aeolian Deposit	120	125	5
CORE	709	477820	564140	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	35	25
	Midden	35	50	15
	Rock	50	51	1
CORE	710	477817	564140	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	25	15
	Midden	25	110	85
	Aeolian Deposit	110	130	20
CORE	711	477825	564135	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Low Density Cultural	11	30	19
	Midden	30	75	45
	Aeolian Deposit	75	100	25
CORE	712	477820	564142.5	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	35	25
	Midden	35	45	10
	Turf	45	65	20
	Floor	65	70	5
	Midden	75	80	5
	Aeolian Deposit	80	100	20
	Humus	0	10	10
CORE	713	477825	564130	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	38	28
	Midden	38	90	52
	Rock	91	91	0
CORE	714	477813.94	564147.74	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	38	28
	Midden	38	145	107
	Turf	75	80	5
	Aeolian Deposit	145	155	10
CORE	715	477820	564142.5	
	Humus	0	15	15
	Aeolian Deposit	15	37	22
	Midden	37	95	58
	Turf	95	100	5

	description	top depth	bottom depth	Thickness
CORE 716	Aeolian Deposit	100	120	20
		477817.5	564145	
	Humus	0	8	8
	Aeolian Deposit	8	40	32
	Midden	40	100	60
	Turf	100	110	10
	Midden	110	130	20
CORE 717	Aeolian Deposit	130	142	12
		477819	564146	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	28	18
	Midden	28	130	102
	Aeolian Deposit	130	142	12
		477816	564147	
CORE 718	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	30	20
	Midden	30	110	80
	Aeolian Deposit	110	120	10
		477816	564146	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	30	20
CORE 719	Midden	30	40	10
	Rock	40		-40
		477816	564145	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	40	30
	Midden	40	120	80
	Aeolian Deposit	120	140	20
CORE 720		477819	564144	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	35	25
	Midden	35	120	85
	Aeolian Deposit	120	140	20
		477818	564144	
	Humus	0	10	10
CORE 721	Aeolian Deposit	101	32	-69
	Midden	32	85	53
	Turf	85	130	45
	Aeolian Deposit	130	160	30
		477820	564144	
	Humus	0	10	10
	Aeolian Deposit	10	40	30
CORE 722				
CORE 723				

	description	top depth	bottom depth	Thickness
	Midden	40	125	85
	Aeolian Deposit	125	130	5

	Tephra Layer	Depth	East	North
Core 701			477835	564145
	H1	53		
	LNL	91		
	H3	95		
Core 702			477830	564145
	LNL	65		
	H3	75		
Core 703			477825	564145
	H3	90		
Core 704			477820	564145
	H1	30		
	LNL	115		
	H3	120		
Core 705			477815	564145
	1000	50		
	H3	115		
Core 706			477835	564140
	H1	42		
	1000	58		
	LNL	100		
Core 707			477830	564140
	H1	35		
	1000	55		
	LNL	90		
Core 708			477825	564140
	LNL	115		
	H3	120		
Core 709			477820	564140
	H1	50		
Core 710			477817	564140
	H1	25		
	LNL	105		
	H3	110		
Core 711			477825	564135
	LNL	75		
	H3	85		
Core 712			477820	564142.5
	H1	38		
	LNL	78		
	H3	80		

	Tephra Layer	Depth	East	North
Core 713			477825	564130
	H1	20		
	1000	55		
	LNL	90		
Core 714			477813.94	564147.74
	H1	30		
	LNL	140		
	H3	150		
Core 715			477820	564142.5
	H1	25		
	LNL	100		
	H3	110		
Core 716			477817.5	564145
	H1	25		
	LNL	120		
	H3	140		
Core 717			477819	564146
	H1	20		
	LNL	133		
	H3	142		
Core 718			477816	564147
	LNL	110		
	H3	120		
Core 719			477816	564146
	H1	25		
Core 720			477816	564145
	H1	30		
	LNL	110		
	H3	130		
Core 721			477819	564144
	H1	28		
	LNL	118		
	H3	120		
Core 722			477818	564144
	H1	30		
	LNL	130		
	H3	135		
Core 723			477820	564144
	H1	30		
	LNL	120		
	H3	130		