

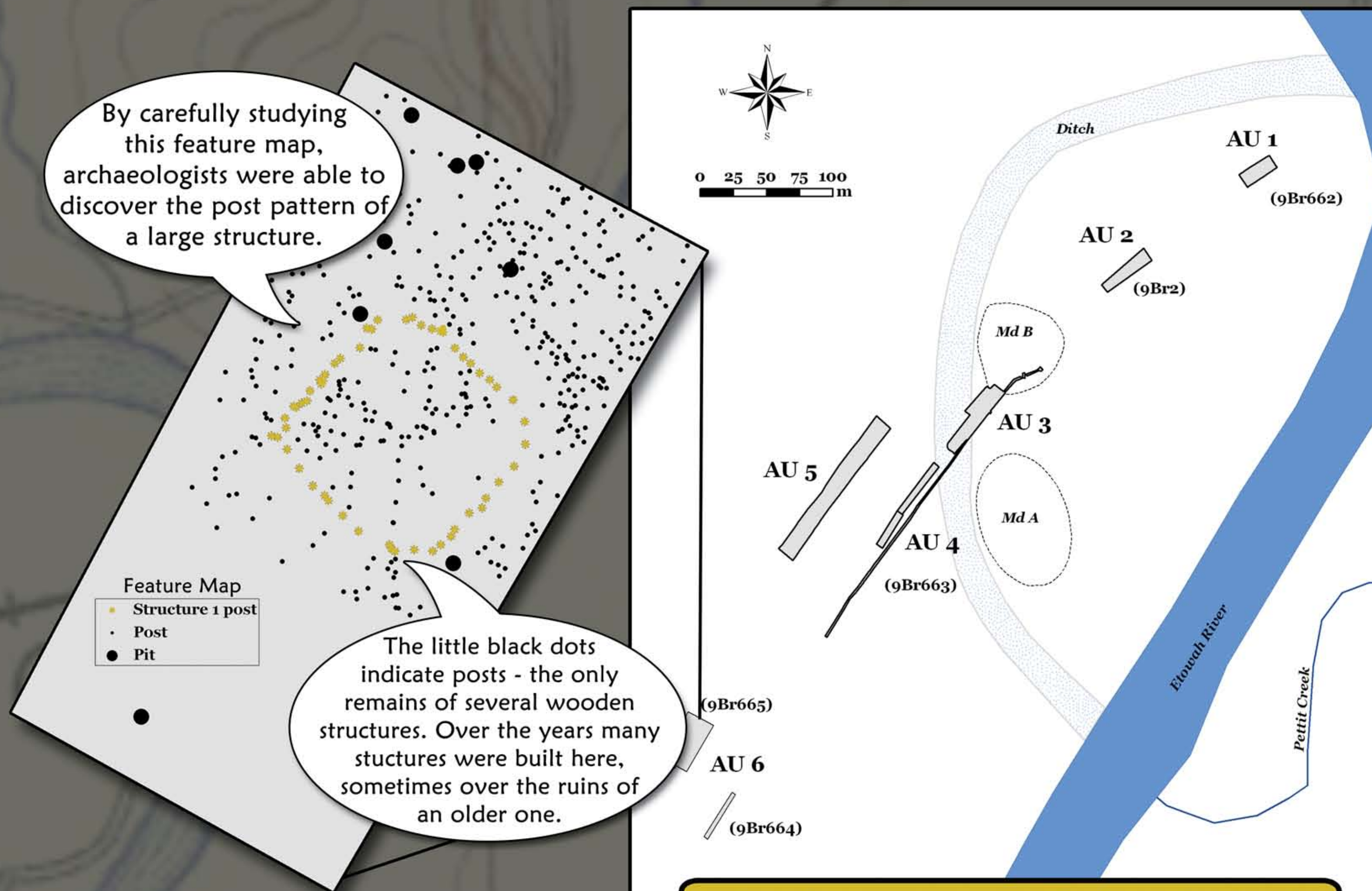
WHAT'S IN A SITE?

HAVE you ever wondered what makes a certain place a "site" or how archaeologists know where to dig?

Archaeologists study people, so an *archaeological site* is a place that has evidence of past human activity. Evidence includes objects and structures found both in and above ground.

Archaeologists can use historic maps and documents or aerial photography to locate sites of interest. When areas are investigated archaeologists can use new technologies like ground-penetrating radar or older methods, like sampling with shovels, to look for clues of past human activity.

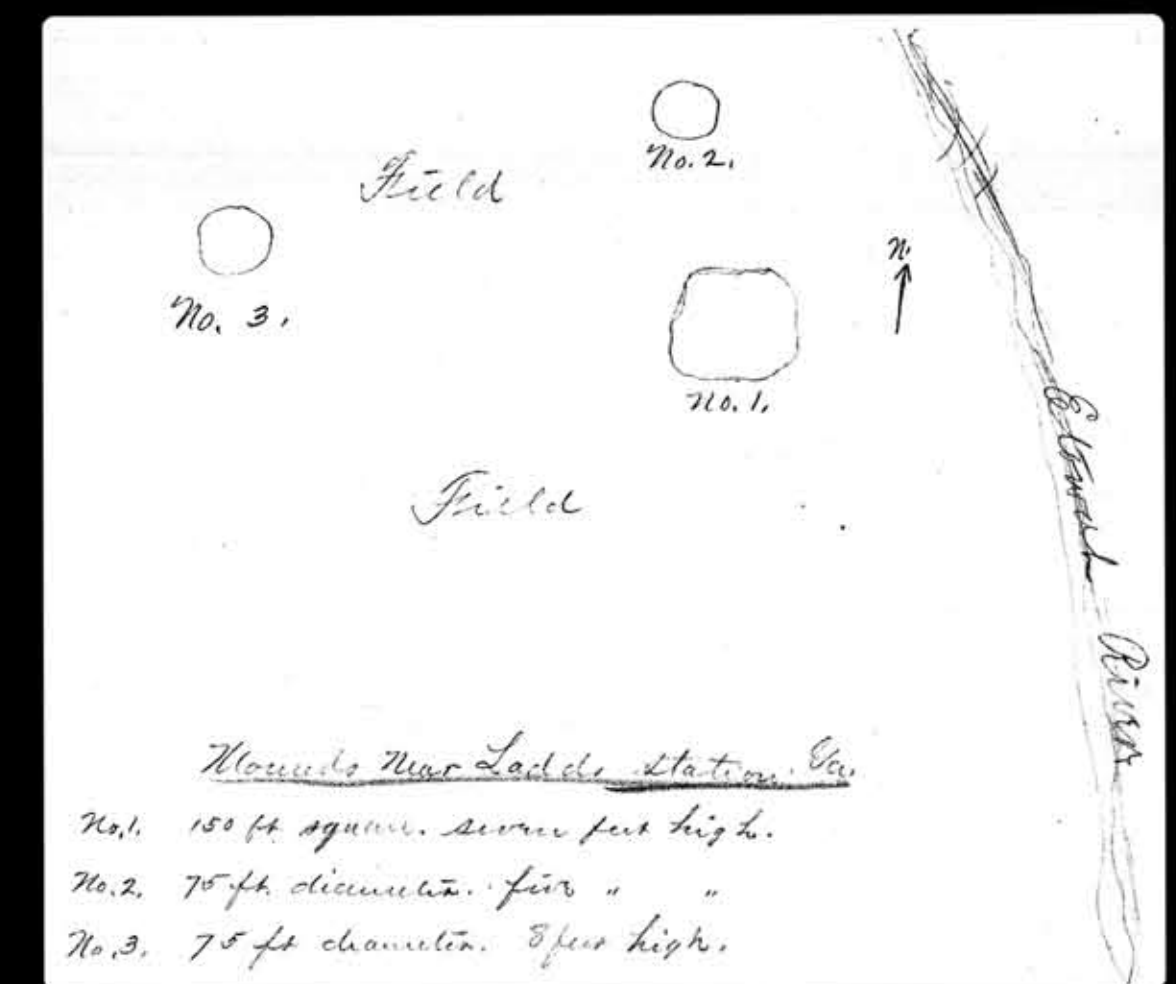
The area that makes up the Leake Site is about the size of 400 football fields! Archaeologists didn't excavate the whole thing though. At the Leake Site archaeologists excavated along SR 61/113 because that was where the site was going to be impacted by road construction.



Archaeologists investigated the Leake Site by excavating six area units (AUs). In them, archaeologists found evidence of a ditch which may have surrounded the mounds already known at the site.



Two "Indian Mounds" are shown on this road map from 1940.



Material Concerning the Archaeology of Barrow County, Georgia. Manuscript 2400, Box 2, Georgia, Smithsonian Institution National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Museum Support Center, Suitland, Maryland.

This map of the Leake Site was drawn in 1883 and included many important features. Notice how it lists the Etowah River and the three mounds (including their dimensions)?



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Sometimes a feature is a cluster of artifacts, like this broken pot. Although the individual pieces can be picked up, the feature is defined by their relation to one another.

FEATURING...

Features can be all different kinds of things, but unlike artifacts, features are not considered to be portable.



A soil stain, like this Woodland fire pit, isn't something that can just be picked up. So it isn't an artifact but it is evidence of human activity and as such is important to archaeologists.

Aerial Photograph No. 123-49. Aerial Photography of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, 1934-1954; Record Group 145; Cartographic and Architectural Records; LICON. Special Media Archives Division, National Archives, College Park, Maryland.



Aerial photographs help archaeologists look back in time to see what a site used to look like.