# 6. Second Alignment Phase II Fieldwork

## *When the proposed alignment was changed, fieldwork emphasis switched to new areas and required opening large features*

The second Phase II study was designed to deal with an alternative route for the road, which eventually would be selected. The grid that had been established along line E-J became the basis for the new testing. It is shown within dashed lines in figure 44, on the next page.

In late June, nine units were opened for planning purposes inside the revised project right-of-way. Another brief period of excavations occurred July 11-13, when a public day was planned, particularly for the DelDOT summer interns.

Work finally resumed August 8. John Foss of Soils International, Inc., visited the site and conducted tests August 10. Fieldwork finally concluded September 11.

There were three different objectives in this part of the Phase II work. First, we were to provide relatively even coverage over the whole proposed route as it passes through the woods. This required us to fill in the gaps in the overall coverage within the outline. Several of the earlier, random, units fell within the new alignment.

A second objective was to test the

Figure 43: This is one section of the rim of a "pot drop" vessel, reconstructed from the sherds shown in Figure 46. Width is 19.5 centimeters.

proposed site for relocating a stormwater basin that will be impacted by the new road. The relocation site is now a grassed field between Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, and the Cedar Chase Apartment complex and its grounds.

The third objective was to plumb a representative sample of the identified features, seeking to better understand

Figure 45: Judy Rosentel and Dawn Corbett open a shovel test pit in the area where the new stormwater basin will be built. Peter Mires is testing in the far background. The buildings in background are part of the Cedar Chase complex.

the function of the site and therefore its possible significance. The State Historic Preservation Officer requested that we expand excavation of the "pot drop" area around Unit 10 because it would be vulnerable to even the slightest intrusion, even though it is slightly outside the immediate impact area of the highway project.

The area around Unit 10 was therefore cleared and units 55, 59, and 57 were opened. As it happened, the remaining undisturbed parts of the pot were concentrated around the intersection of the four units. Much of the pot's rim was discovered, allowing us to reconstruct large parts of it.

The overall survey units confirmed a pattern of artifact

Figure 46: Part of the "pot drop" *in situ.*

distribution that had been suggested by earlier work. We had observed that units near the center of the peninsula tended to contain fewer, if any, artifacts.

This trend was confirmed by excavation of the twelve units on and south of the center line. Only two of these units contained any artifacts at all. Of these two, unit 39 yielded a quartz flake and a quartz biface fragment. Unit 44 contained a quartz chunk, three quartz flakes, and two fire-cracked rocks.

STORMWATER BASIN

The area to be included in the new and expanded stormwater basin was tested on August 30 by Heite, Rosentel, Mires, and Corbett.

Figure 47: The crew puzzles over the profile of the large "eastern" pit. Left to right: Dawn Corbett, Bryan Much, Judy Rosentel, Cara Blume, and Peter Mires.

Testing began with a half-meter square test in the middle of the lawn, the first of six test pits.

In each case, we found layers of fill, capped by a topsoil that obviosly had been installed, rather than develop on site. Such "installed" soil deposits are abrupt changes, unlike the gentle transition typical of natural soil development.

The topography of the field appears flat and pristine to the casual observer, but upon examination its artificial drainage pattern, graded subtly parallel to the curb lines, becomes evident. We found nothing that could be identified as a naturally-occurring soil anywhere in the six tests.

Clearly the prospective stormwater basin area deserves no more investigation, so we moved on.

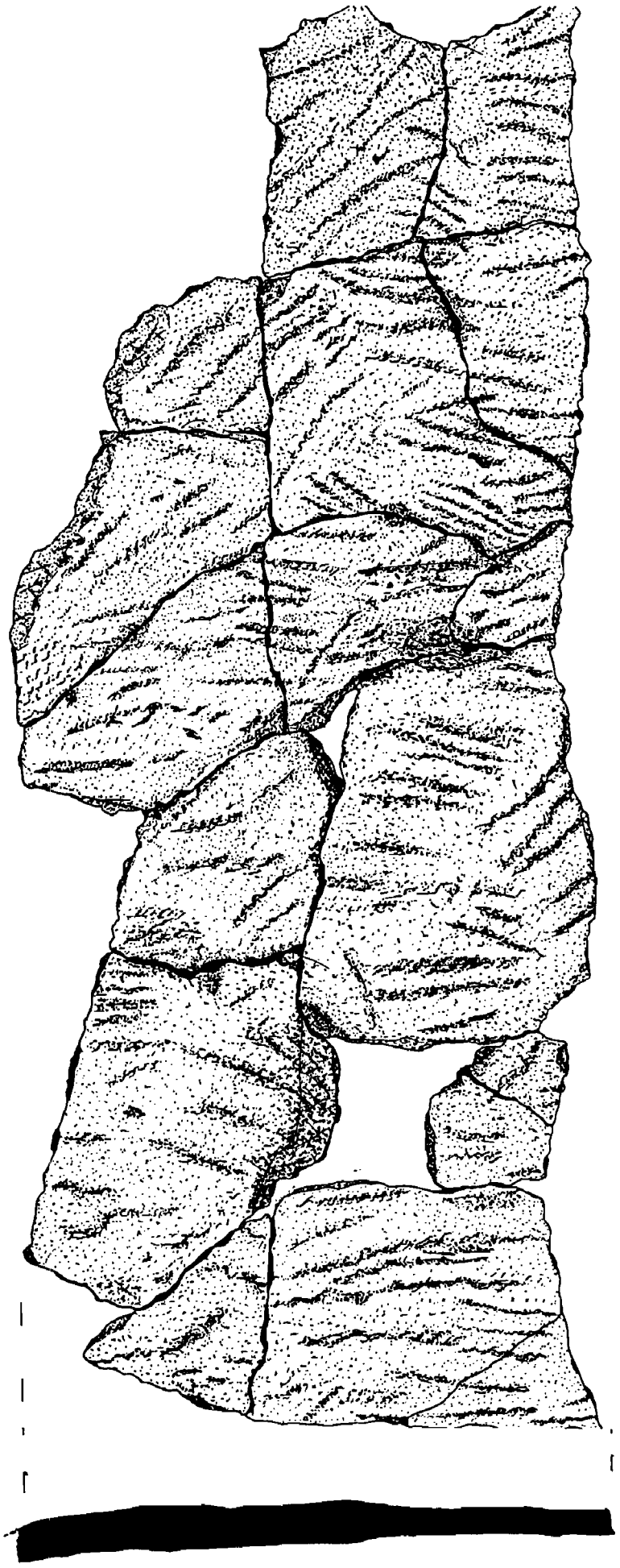

Figure 48: The dropped pot, shown here in "flattened" or diagrammatic format, was represented by several restorable segments, of which this was the biggest. This is reproduced actual size, with the rim to the right. For a perspective view, see the photograph, Figure 43.