

# **YARBROUGH CAVE**

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# **Yarbrough Cave**

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## **Introduction**

Yarbrough Cave is a small limestone cavity with a sheltered entrance, main shaft, and several side chutes that contain late Pleistocene fauna and Archaic through Mississippian archaeological deposits. The cave is located within the Great Valley District of the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province. The surrounding watershed drains into the Oostanaula River, a tributary of the Coosa River. The cave is located approximately 950 feet above sea level on a south facing slope. The cavern is located in northwest Bartow County near Adairsville, Georgia above an unnamed tributary of Oothkalooga Creek on property owned by Richard C. Kessler (Hodler and Schretter 1986). Archaeological and paleontological research was conducted during 1990-1991 under an agreement between Richard C. Kessler, LAMAR Institute, and Berry College.

The main passage of Yarbrough Cave extends 29.7 meters from the main entrance. Within the cave there are several side passages that extend out from the main cavity. Archaeological excavations were conducted outside the main entrance of the cave. The entrance to the cave is marked by a natural arch of limestone rock. Several other rock overhangs and small caves are present in the area, and a large sinkhole/cave is located downslope.

During 1987 and 1988, Dr. Martin led initial paleontological excavations within Yarbrough Cave after amateur spelunkers recognized the importance of the site (Sneed 1983; Abbot 1988). During his first study, four areas of the cave (Peccary Room, Goose/Scooter Hole, Knight's Place, and Beaver Passage) were sampled and all four contained Late Pleistocene bones. In one area, bones were found to a depth of over one meter. The recovered bone sample include several animals that do not frequent caves, so it is probable that their carcasses were dragged there by a large carnivore. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained for the deposits in the Peccary Room (18,610 $\pm$ 960 years B.P.) and 14,315  $\pm$ 755 years B.P. (Martin in press). These dates place the bones firmly within the Late Pleistocene period. The environment at that time would have been periglacial consisting of steppe vegetation with no forests (Wright 1976, 1983; Whitehead 1975).

Paleontological research at Yarbrough Cave is ongoing, although it is focusing on a portion of the cave that has shown very little potential for archaeological research.

Excavations in the Peccary Room continue to produce Pleistocene faunal remains (Martin and Sneed 1989; Klippel and Parmalee 1984). A brief summary of the paleontological research conducted during 1990-1991 by Robert A. Martin is presented as Appendix 1.

To summarize Dr. Martin, included in the faunal assemblage are five types of extinct animals two genera of peccaries, giant ground sloth, steppe vole, and giant armadillo) and six species that are not common to the region today (porcupine, caribou, red-backed vole, thirteen-lined ground squirrel, jaguar (or cheetah), and northern flying squirrel). With the exception of the extinct species and the jaguar, all of these animals today are found in colder climates.

Since the emphasis thus far has been placed on the paleontological aspects of the deposit and not archaeology, increased attention is being directed on the archaeological possibilities of the site. If Pleistocene bones and human activity can be shown to be contemporaneous, then this site would be one of the most important finds in the eastern United States.

### **Other evidence for Human Settlement during the Terminal Pleistocene**

The coexistence of humans and extinct pleistocene species in North America is well documented, but sites containing both are rare in the Eastern United States (Wormington 1957; Haynes 1983; Hester 1972; MacDonald 1968; Soday 1954; Coe 1964; Griffin 1974; Meltzer 1988). Some authors have suggested that man aided in the extinction of some of these species (Martin 1984; Martin and Klein 1984).

There has been found no direct association between extinct Pleistocene megafauna and humans in the State of Georgia, although evidence has been described from adjacent state of Florida (Rayl 1974; Hoffman 1983; Webb et al. 1984). Many pleistocene faunal assemblages have been identified in Georgia (Lipps et al.; 1988; Holman 1982, 1985a, 1985b). The evidence for man's presence in Georgia during the Late Pleistocene has been indirectly inferred by the presence of many fluted stone projectile points identified as Clovis or Clovis-variant throughout the state (Anderson et al. 1990). At "kill sites" in the western North America stylistically similar tools have been found directly associated with the bones of extinct mammals (Hester 1972; Wormington 1957). Furthermore, no radiocarbon dates have been obtained for any suspected Late Pleistocene archaeological sites in the State of Georgia. This is largely due to the fact that all of these sites are open air sites where organic preservation is poor. Cave provide protection from the elements and are more likely to contain dateable organic material.

Of 100 Clovis or Clovis-variant projectile points indicative of the Late Pleistocene recorded by Anderson, Ledbetter, and O'Steen during a recent review of Georgia, four

isolated projectile point finds were recorded in Bartow County (Anderson et al. 1990:73). These finds include one point reported by Robert Wauchope at Site 9Br12 (Wauchope 1966:99, 100, Figure 45b) and three points reported by Ledbetter et al. (1987) in the Lake Allatoona survey. In general, our knowledge of PaleoIndian settlement in northwest Georgia's Ridge and Valley province is sketchy. PaleoIndian data from environmentally similar regions of Alabama and Tennessee is more substantial.

Sites such as Russell Cave, Alabama have yielded tantalizing hints of PaleoIndian presence, but have not yielded in situ Clovis points in stratified cave deposits. Recent excavations at the Enoch Fork Rock Shelter yielded a radiocarbon date associated with cultural debris of 13,480+/-350 B.P. (Cecil Ison, personal communication 1990). No fluted points were associated with this rockshelter.

### **Initial Archaeological Surveys of Yarbrough Cave and Vicinity**

In September, 1989 a team of archaeologists including Dan Elliott, Rita Elliott and Jerald Ledbetter were led to the site by Eddie Stewart. Jerald Ledbetter made a reconnaissance map of the cave. The reconnaissance team then excavated two trowel tests near the cave entrance. Both trowel tests exhibited the potential for intact prehistoric midden deposits. A small collection of artifacts (stone tools, stone debris, and aboriginal pottery) from the ground surface outside the cave entrance was made. No PaleoIndian material was contained within this collection.

The archaeologists met twice with Dr. Robert Martin during April, 1990. The first meeting was a get-acquainted visit. Dr. Martin showed us the research collection that his students had unearthed from Yarbrough Cave and we discussed how the site should be managed. We worked out an agreement that would minimize conflict between his paleontological concerns and our archaeological interests. On April 20th, Dan Elliott and Rita Elliott met with Dr. Martin and his students while they were excavating within the cave. We also met with Joel Sneed, a speleologist, and he provided additional insight into this and one other cave on the Georgia North Development tract. A final meeting was held with Dr. Martin in July, 1991.

During an unrelated study, archaeological survey of 36 acres identified three prehistoric sites within one kilometer of Yarbrough Cave (Garrow and Bloom 1989). None of these three sites were deemed to have any research value because of their disturbed condition. One site contained Woodland/Mississippian stone tools and ceramics, one contained Late Archaic stone tools, and one contained non-diagnostic stone tools. No PaleoIndian material was recovered during their project.

## Archaeological Testing at the Mouth of Yarbrough Cave

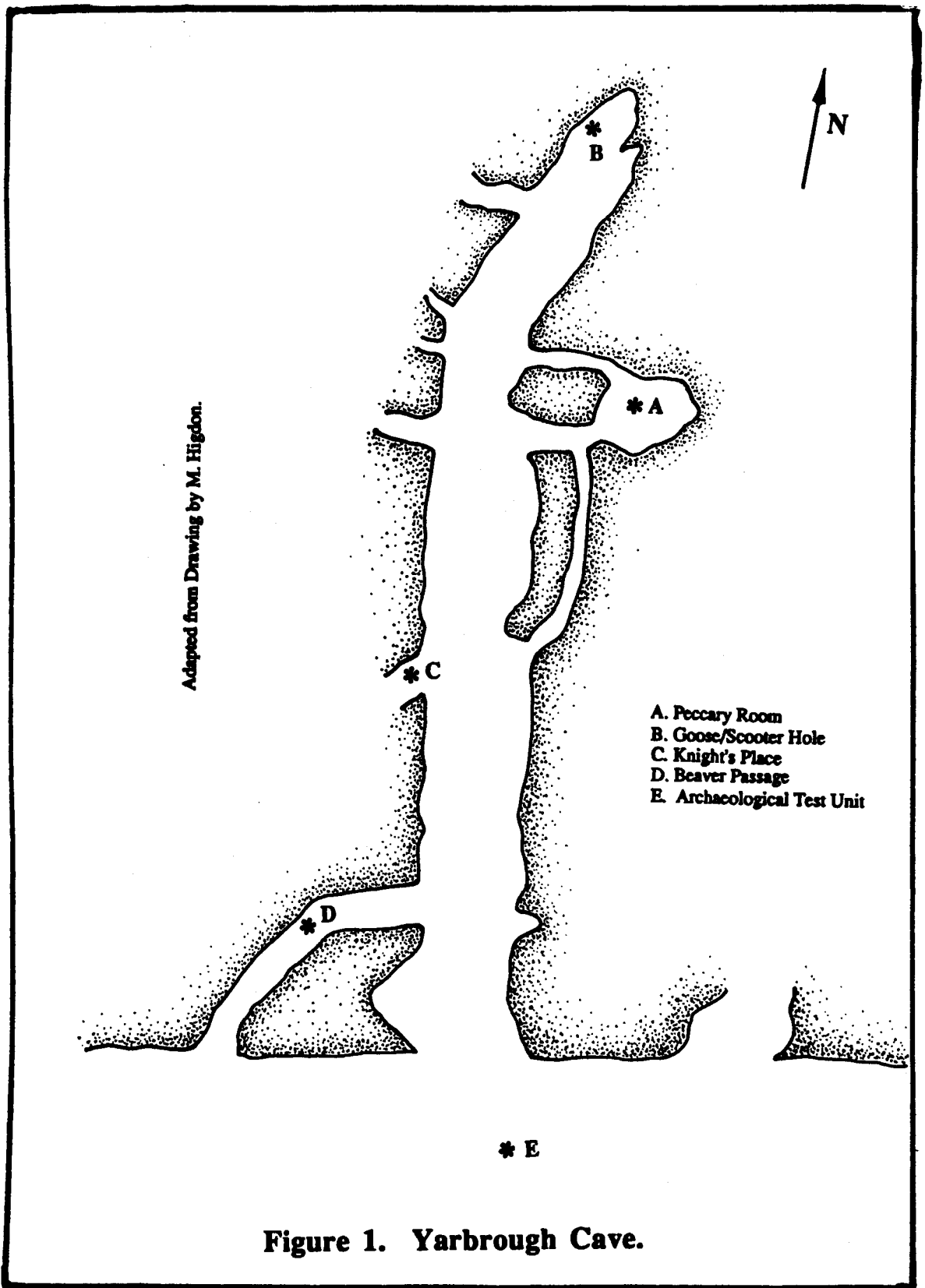
On March 16, 1991 a team of four archaeologists returned to Yarbrough Cave to excavate a 1 meter by 1 meter test unit at the entrance to the cave directly underneath the natural arch. The approximate location of this excavation is shown on Figure 1. Figure 2 shows the test unit in relation to other features at the cave entrance.

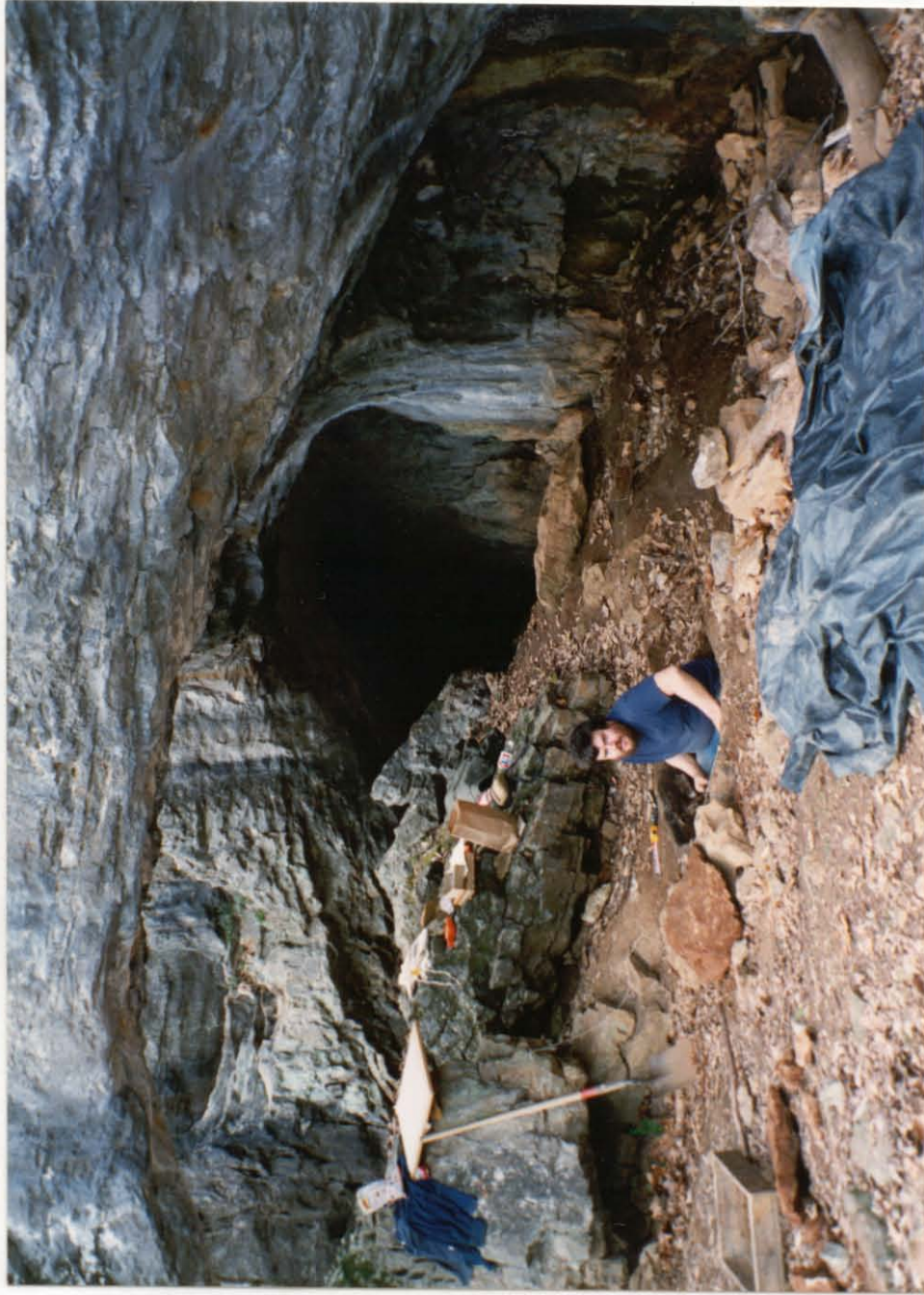
Excavation of the unit proceeded in 10 cm vertical increments. A single 1 m x 1 m test unit was excavated to a maximum depth of 50 cm below ground surface for a total of five excavation levels. All soil removed during excavation was passed through 1/4 inch hardware cloth, or finer sieves, and all artifacts were collected for analysis. All floral and faunal remains, or samples thereof, have been submitted for future analysis by Dr. Robert Martin, Berry College, or his consultants.

Each of the excavation levels is described below in detail. This is followed by a summary of the observed stratigraphy and potential for harboring a PaleoIndian component. The soil profile of this 1 meter x 1 meter test unit is illustrated in Figure 3. A close-up view of the test unit is provided in Figure 4.

*Level 1* (0-10 centimeters below surface) contained many modern artifacts and wood charcoal associated with a recent cooking pit. The recent debris was concentrated in the southwestern quadrant of the test unit. Aboriginal artifacts recovered from this level include a chert core, 61 chert debitage, and four daub fragments. Bone recovered from the level included one nonpoisonous snake vertebra and one unidentifiable mammal bone fragment. A one gallon sample was saved for fine mesh screening. The remaining fill from Level 1 was screened through 1/4 inch mesh. The soil in Level 1 consisted of a very dark brown silty clay (10YR2/2) with many pieces of limestone rock in various sizes throughout the level.

*Level 2* (10--20 centimeters below surface) contained 132 chert debitage, two prehistoric pottery sherds (one Cartersville Check stamped sand tempered sherd and two burnished plain shell tempered sherd), three small daub fragments, and recent artifacts. Faunal remains were not common in this level, but included three unidentified mammal bone fragments one of which had been burned (presumably by humans), and 10 land snails. As with Level 1, the contents of this level were screened through 1/4 inch mesh and a one gallon soil sample was taken for finer screening. The soil in Level 2 consisted of a very dark brown silty clay (10YR2/2) mottled with lesser amounts of strong brown silt clay (7.5YR4/6), and limestone rocks.



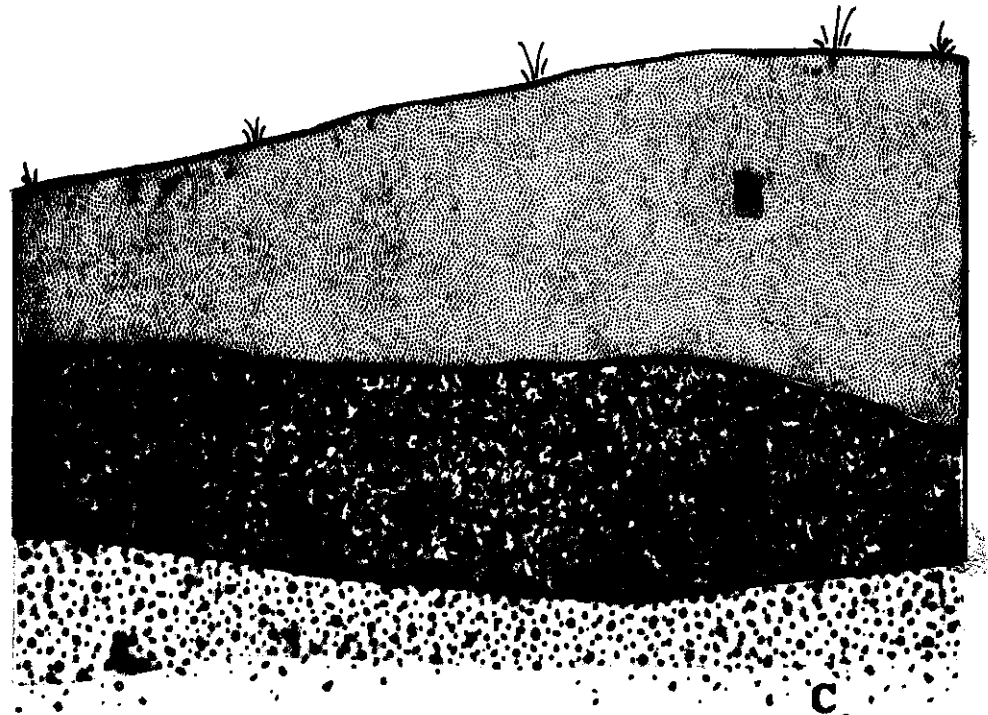


**Figure 2. Location of Test Excavation.**



**Figure 3. Excavation at Base of Level 5.**





- A - Zone A.
- B - Zone B.
- C - Rock Roof Fall

**Figure 4. Soil Profile, Test Unit 1.**

*Level 3* (20-30 centimeters below surface) contained 120 chert debitage, one quartz debitage, one informal unifacial chert flake tool, and one bifacial chert tool, two plain decorated prehistoric pottery sherds, one daub fragment, and recent debris. Faunal remains included three small unidentified bones, two small fragments of freshwater mussel shells, and 18 land snails. The mussels probably were brought to the cave by man. Recovery techniques were similar to those employed in Levels 1 and 2. The soil in Level 3 consisted of a transition from the very dark brown silt clay (10YR2/2) to mottled strong brown silt clay (7.5YR4/6) mottled with very dark brown silt clay (10YR2/2). Limestone rocks of various size also were present in this level.

*Level 4* (30-40 centimeters below surface) was excavated in two zones. Zone A consisted of very dark brown silt clay (10YR2/2). This zone contained 45 pieces of chert debitage and one chert biface preform fragment. Recent artifacts continued in this zone. Faunal remains consisted of five land snails. No bones were found in this zone.

Zone B, Level 4 consisted of strong brown silt clay (7.5YR4/6). This zone contained only six chert debitage and no recent artifacts were present. The frequency of bone in this zone was markedly increased from Zone A, Level 4 and from Levels 1 through 3. The faunal assemblage included a large black bear molar tooth (Figures 5a & 5b), 12 small unidentified bones, and one land snail. The black bear fossil is similar to species that inhabit the area today. Methods used in the excavation of Level 4 were identical to those used for Levels 1 through 3. Limestone rocks of various size were present in both zones.

*Level 5* (40-50 centimeters below surface) also was excavated in two zones. Zone A consisted of dark brown silty clay (7.5YR3/2) and this zone contained 15 pieces of chert debitage. It also contained two recent artifacts (a Pabst Blue Ribbon beer cap and an aluminum pull tab). Zone A ended at the bottom of Level 5. No bones were found in this zone.

Zone B, Level 5 consisted of brown silty clay (7.5YR4/4) and limestone rocks and this zone contained seven pieces of chert debitage. The fill from Zone A was treated similarly to the previous excavation levels. The entire fill of Zone B was retained for fine mesh screening. Zone B contained abundant animal bone, particularly many small animal bones. A large pecarry tusk (Figures 5c & 5d) and two giant armadillo scutes (Figures 5e, 5f, & 5g) were among the bones recovered. Both the pecarry and armadillo represent extinct pleistocene species, and both have been identified by paleontological excavations elsewhere in the cave. Soil zone 5B begins approximately 30 centimeters below present ground surface and it appears to be largely undisturbed by modern man. Limestone rocks of various size were present in both zones.

At the base of Level 5 we encountered a large limestone slab that had fallen from the

(Actual Size)



**A & B. Black Bear Molar, Level 4, Zone B, side and top view.**



**C & D. Pecarry tusk,**

**Level 5, Zone B, two views with enameled portion at bottom.**



**E, F, & G. Giant Armadillo Scute, Level 5, Zone B, back, side and front.**

**Figure 5. Selected Fossils, Test Unit 1.**

roof of the cave. We were unable to dig beneath this large rock within the confines of the one meter by one meter test units. At that point all excavation was halted. Zone B probably continues beneath the roof fall.

### **Test Unit Summary**

The test unit produced 387 pieces of chert debitage, one piece of quartz debitage, four nondiagnostic chert tools, five pottery sherds, and seven pieces of baked clay (daub). A summary of the artifacts recovered from each level is presented in Table 1. The overwhelming majority of these artifacts came from a dark brown silty clay (Zone A). None of the tools had any characteristics of PaleoIndian or Early Archaic assemblages. We speculate that most of the chipped stone tools and debris date from the Late Archaic or more recent. The debitage assemblage was dominated by flakes produced during thinning of bifacial preforms or tool resharpening (39 percent, or 151 specimens). Early stage lithic reduction flakes comprised four percent of the debitage assemblage (16 specimens). Chert found on the site was almost exclusively obtained from the Ridge and Valley physiographic province, although one quartz flake from the Piedmont province was found. Five prehistoric pottery sherds were found in Levels 2 and 3 indicating that the cave continued to be used into the Early Woodland and Mississippian time periods. Daub was found in the upper three levels and may indicate that some sort of aboriginal structure was formerly present near the cave entrance. The peak zone for prehistoric artifacts was in levels 2 and 3 from 10 to 30 centimeters below present ground level. Bone was not common in the upper 30 centimeters. The stark change in soil color from Zone A to Zone B probably reflects the drastic changes in the cave's environment that transpired during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition.

Zone B contained a total of 13 pieces of chert debitage. We are uncertain whether these artifacts migrated to this zone through natural processes such as rodent burrows or root action. Our initial interpretation is that these flakes are intrusive from the upper occupation zones. No tools reminiscent of Paleo-Indian or Early Archaic lithic technology have been found. This Pleistocene bone-rich zone contains bones from both large and small animals but their exact age is presently unknown. The bone assemblage includes many shattered bone fragments that represent carnivorous activity. Their presence indicates that the cave entrance was used as a den by a carnivore, and large animals were brought to the cave where they were consumed. Long bones were broken so that the nutrient-rich marrow could be eaten. Since Paleo-Indian man also had carnivorous habits, it is difficult to determine if these bones were broken by man or another large animal such as a bear, wolf, or cat. None of the bone fragments showed any signs fire alteration. Burned bone would

be a good indication of man's presence, since man had the use of fire while other carnivores did not. At this point in our research, the possible presence of humans at Yarbrough Cave during the Late Pleistocene epoch cannot be ruled out.

**Table 1. Yarbrough Cave, Test Unit 1, Artifact Summary by Levels.**

LEVEL	I	II	III	IVA	IVB	VA	VB	TOTAL
<b>ARTIFACT TYPE</b>								
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
								12
Daub	4	3						7
Cartersville Check Stamped		1						1
Plain, Shell tempered		2						2
Plain, untempered			2					2
<b>CHIPPED STONE</b>								
								392
<b>TOOLS</b>								
								4
Chert utilized thinning flake			2					2
Chert bifacial flake tool			1					1
Chert biface preform fragment				1				1
<b>DEBITAGE</b>								
								388
Chert core	1							1
Chert percussion flake	3	7	5	1				16
Chert thinning flake	27	55	45	16	3	4	1	151
Chert flake fragment	27	49	37	17	3	7	5	145
Chert shatter	4	21	33	11		4	1	74
Quartz flake fragment			1					1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>404</b>

## **Future Research Needs**

Study of the paleontological materials recovered by Berry College will continue as part of the Department of Biology research program. Presently there is a large backlog of material that needs to be analyzed, but the laboratory analysis is continuing. There are two areas of recognized financial need: (1) radiocarbon dating, and (2) fossil pollen analysis. Dr. Martin needs to secure additional dates for layers within the Peccary Room excavations. For this very small samples of bone will need to be run using a special technique called the "accelerator method". This method allows scientists to date very small samples of organic material with accuracy. Unfortunately it is an expensive process, and dates cost \$500 each. He would like to run at least two dates, and more if possible. More dates would provide a context that would give the fossil assemblage more meaning, and it would expand the research value of the cave deposit.

The other special study that needs to be done with the existing collection is palynology (the study of fossil pollens). Dr. Martin has collected small samples suitable for pollen analysis, and will subcontract out this analysis to Hazel and Paul Delcourt, recognized specialists in southeastern pollen studies. The pollen analysis will cost an estimated \$2000. Funds for the radiocarbon dating and pollen analysis can be directed directly to Dr. Martin. He will be required to provide Kessler Enterprise with the results of these studies.

Archaeologically, future investigations should focus on the cave's entrance rather than on its recesses. Both the archaeologist and paleontologist are in agreement that the archaeological research value of the cave's interior is nil. To conduct an adequate excavation at the entrance to the cave would require an excavation of 3 meter x 3 meter minimum size. This unit would be placed surrounding Test Unit 1. This would allow the excavators to undermine and remove sections of roof fall similar to those encountered in the initial 1 meter x 1 meter test unit. Excavation of this larger block probably could be accomplished with a four person crew in four weeks of fieldwork. This is only an estimate since we do not know the maximum extent of the deposits, and the excavation should proceed to bedrock. The fill of Zone B (containing the Pleistocene faunal remains) will need to be screened entirely through fine screen (window screen). This fine screening greatly slows the rate of excavation, since the soil will need to be waterscreened some distance from the cave. The upper soil zone (Zone A) will be screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth.

As with the collections from the current project, the collections will be curated at Berry College, Department of Biology. This excavation will generate a sizable collection and curation costs should be paid to Berry. Also, some provision should be made to fund analysis of the collections, since this would be beyond the research currently budgeted by Dr. Martin. One way to fund the faunal analysis would be the creation of a research grant

for students interested in analyzing the collection.

Analysis of the cultural materials and preparation of a cultural resource report will require approximately two months to complete. This research can be accomplished by the LAMAR Institute during 1992. Estimated cost for the project, excluding the faunal analysis, is approximately \$26,000. A detailed budget can be provided upon request.

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## **Report on Excavations at Yarbrough Cave**

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Only minimal excavation was accomplished during the 1990-91 academic year. We concentrated our digging in the Peccary Room and, because of limited time and funds, increased our stratum depth to 20 cm/ unit.

Recently, we completed excavation on Stratum 13 in the Peccary Room, and will be beginning Stratum 14 next week. There will be a stepped up attempt to finish the excavations this summer, but one cannot tell about cavern fills. We may be near the bottom, or the hole may go on for some depth. This could be determined with sonic devices, and I will explore that possibility soon.

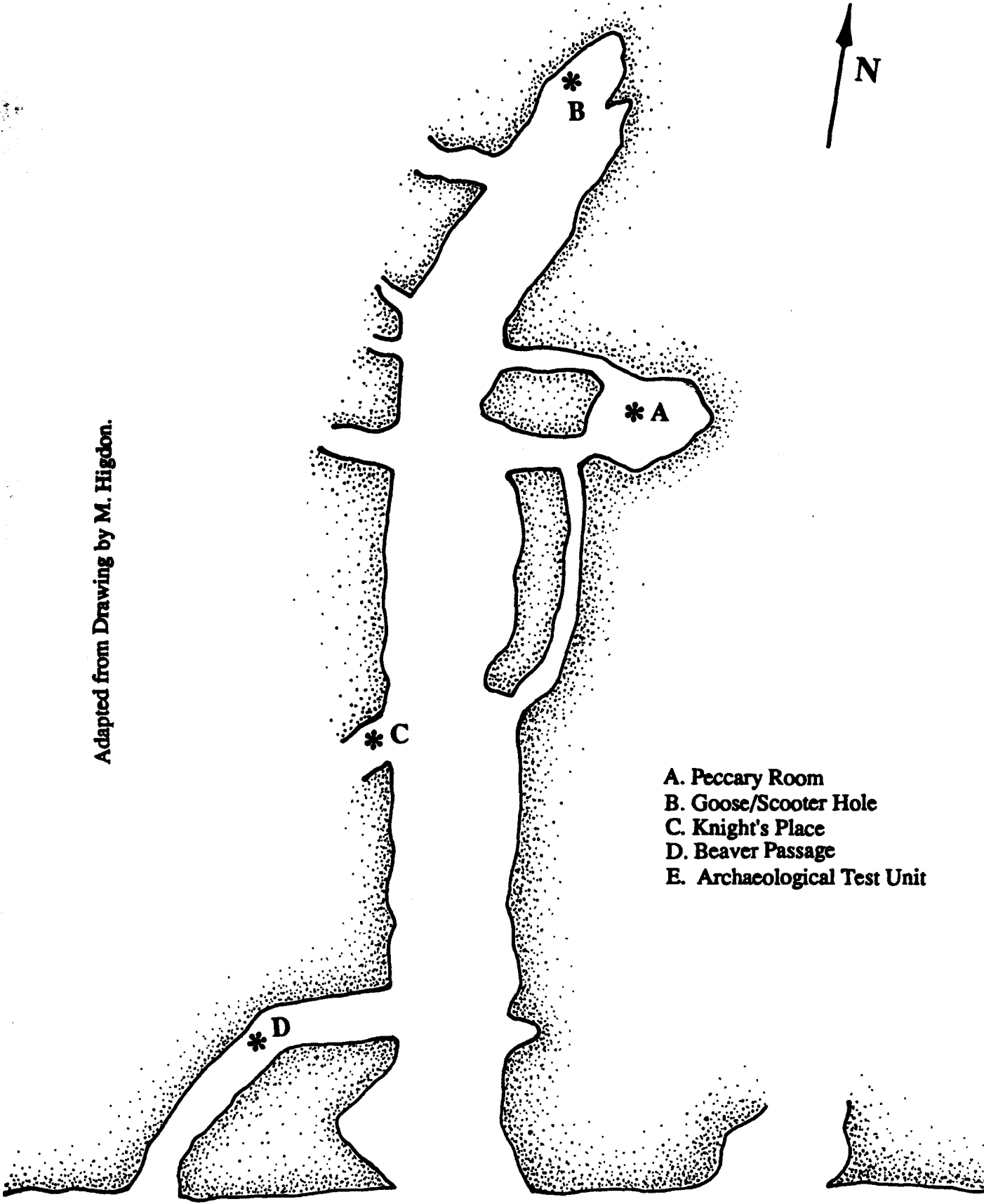
I have not begun a systematic study of the vertebrates from the cave yet, but can report that the mammalian fauna includes at least the following (extinct forms identified with a †): four species of bats, four shrews, numerous rodents (pine vole, meadow vole, bog lemming, jumping mouse, porcupine, beaver, muskrat, white-footed mouse, red-backed vole, seven sciurids [red squirrel, gray squirrel, chipmunk, northern and southern flying squirrel, fox squirrel, thirteen-lined ground squirrel], woodchuck, eastern wood rat, †Parmalee's steppe vole), a variety of carnivores (raccoon, weasel sp., skunk sp., otter, gray wolf, fox sp., black bear, bobcat, cf jaguar), deer, caribou, two genera of †peccaries, †giant ground sloth, †giant armadillo.

The porcupine, caribou, red-backed vole, thirteen-lined ground squirrel, jaguar, and northern flying squirrel are not found in the Yarbrough Cave area today, and are generally indicative of a colder, drier climate. This correlates well with the average C14 date of about 16,000 years from the first six strata, indicating height of the Wisconsinan glaciation. Parmalee's steppe vole, a taxon I will be recognizing in an upcoming paper, is also only associated with periglacial faunas of the eastern Appalachian region.

Other vertebrate classes; fishes, amphibians, reptiles and birds are represented, but not nearly as common as mammals. No archeological material was found below stratum 1, which represents mixed, unconsolidated surface matrix.

Matrix samples from all units have been isolated for fossil pollen analysis, but we have no-one here capable of that sort of work. It will cost about \$2,000 to farm out to the Delcourts at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Adapted from Drawing by M. Higdon.



- A. Peccary Room
- B. Goose/Scooter Hole
- C. Knight's Place
- D. Beaver Passage
- E. Archaeological Test Unit

\* E

# **Addendum to Yarbrough Cave**

**Daniel Elliott**

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1991**

# **Addendum to Yarbrough Cave**

by

Daniel Elliott,

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September 30, 1991

Archaeological and paleontological fieldwork on the Yarbrough Cave site in Bartow County, Georgia was completed by late summer, 1991. A report of two seasons of work on the site was prepared and submitted to the landowner, Richard C. Kessler (Elliott and Martin 1991). Events have occurred since the completion of that document that necessitate additional comment on this important cave site.

On September 16, 1991 I received a telephone call from an archaeologist in Atlanta named Tom Neumann. Dr. Neumann is employed by Christopher Goodwin Associates, a private archaeological consulting firm in Baltimore, Maryland and by Emory University. Neumann had received a telephone call from an amateur spelunker and Indian artifact collector named David Brock. Mr. Brock, a resident of Woodstock, Georgia related the following statements to Dr. Neumann. Mr. Brock claimed to have found two PaleoIndian projectile points within an excavation at Yarbrough Cave. Mr. Brock was concerned that construction of the Georgia North Development would endanger the cave site, and so he called Dr. Neumann in hopes of attracting attention of the professional archaeological community. Dr. Neumann referred Mr. Brock to me whereby his story was repeated. From my questioning, it seemed that the two stone tools were found in the vicinity of Dr. Martin's paleontological excavation identified as the Peccary Room (see Figure 1a, in Elliott and Martin 1991:5). I informed Mr. Brock that the Yarbrough Cave site was on private property and that scientific research within the cave was ongoing.

Both Dr. Neumann and myself were initially skeptical of the find, as was Dr. Martin when he was informed of the situation. A meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 20, 1991 at the cave to clarify the situation. Attending the meeting were myself, Dr. Robert Martin, Dr. Tom Neumann, Jerald Ledbetter, Mr. Brock, and two of Mr. Brock's friends (Figure 1). Mr. Brock repeated his story of finding the tools within the cave, and the group then entered the cave so that he could show us the exact location of the find (Figure 2).

There were two tools that reportedly came from the cave. The first was a large grey flint lanceolate biface found on the surface adjacent to the Peccary Room excavation. The



age of this tool could not be determined on a morphological basis, and its lack of context does not warrant its further consideration. The second tool, however, has more merit.

This was a small quartz lanceolate biface with a central flute on one side (Figures 3 & 4). Among all three professional archaeologists who examined the tool there was agreement that the tool was of PaleoIndian vintage. Close inspection of the tool by using a hand lens revealed silty soil cemented to the surface of the tool. This soil was visually similar to the soil deposits within the cave excavation lending further credence to the find. The tool was photographed and measured using methods consistent with the Georgia PaleoIndian Projectile Point Recordation Project.

Mr. Brock showed Dr. Martin where he had found the tool within the excavation wall. Mr. Brock stated that he had visited the cave approximately four weeks earlier and he had observed a corner of the small quartz tool protruding from the pit wall. In Figure 5, Dr. Martin is pointing the location where Brock claimed to have pulled the point from the wall.

Dr. Martin stated that the particular location had formerly contained a cluster of extinct Peccary bones and he further noted that the vertical position of the alleged tool find was below a soil zone that had been radiocarbon dated to approximately 18,000 and 14,000 B.P. All of the cultural material previously identified by Dr. Martin within the Peccary Room excavation had been in the first excavation level (0-10 cm below surface). The location of the alleged projectile point find was several feet beneath that, clearly in a late Pleistocene context.

Both Mr. Ledbetter and myself consider the context of the tool within the cave to be believable, although the conditions under which it was found affect the credibility of the find. If the tool was indeed found in the context claimed by Mr. Brock, then it is the first associated find of PaleoIndian stone tools and Pleistocene fauna in Georgia. It also enhances the significance of the cave site on a national level, since there are very few such sites known east of the Mississippi River. It is disturbing that PaleoIndian evidence was not found by Dr. Martin or myself during our previous excavations.

I reiterated to Mr. Brock and his companions that the Yarbrough Cave site was private property, that they were trespassers, and that scientific research was in progress. I also suggested to Mr. Brock that he donate his finds so that they could be combined with the other materials currently curated at Berry College. Mr. Brock loaned the stone tool temporarily to Dr. Neumann so that it could be examined more closely using high power magnification. Dr. Martin offered to make Mr. Brock a plastic cast of the tool if it was donated to Berry College. Mr. Brock made no final decision.

This sums up the events that have transpired to date at Yarbrough Cave. The cave now has an unconfirmed PaleoIndian component which heightens its archaeological significance. Although there are credibility problems with the context of the fluted stone tool find, the situation is believable. The presence of a single artifact at the depth claimed

by Mr. Brock suggests that if the find is real, this tool may have been carried to the cave by a wounded animal. The lack of other tools or chipping debris suggest that this is not a primary human occupation. The find does strengthen the possibility that PaleoIndian evidence may be present within the Pleistocene deposits nearer to the cave entrance. If so, then this evidence may lie several feet beneath where we stopped excavating in our archaeological excavations. PaleoIndian living debris may be sealed beneath the numerous pieces of limestone roof debris that as fallen over the millenia since Ice Age Man used the cave. Discovery of these deposits would require large scale excavation with greater areal exposure than was possible during our initial tests.

### References Cited

Elliott, Daniel T., and Robert A. Martin

1991 *Yarbrough Cave*. LAMAR Institute, Watkinsville, Georgia.

**Figure 1. Entrance to Yarbrough Cave; Figure 2. Dr. Martin (right) talking to Mr. Brock (second to right) and his companions.**

**Figure 3 & 4. Quartz PaleoIndian Projectile Point, Views of Both Sides.**

**Figure 5. Dr. Martin Pointing to the Alleged Location of the Projectile Point within the Peccary Room Excavation. Figure 6. The Group Exiting Yarbrough Cave.**