

Connecting the Dots: Making Sense of the Historic Postholes Identified at the Johannes Kolb Site (38DA75)

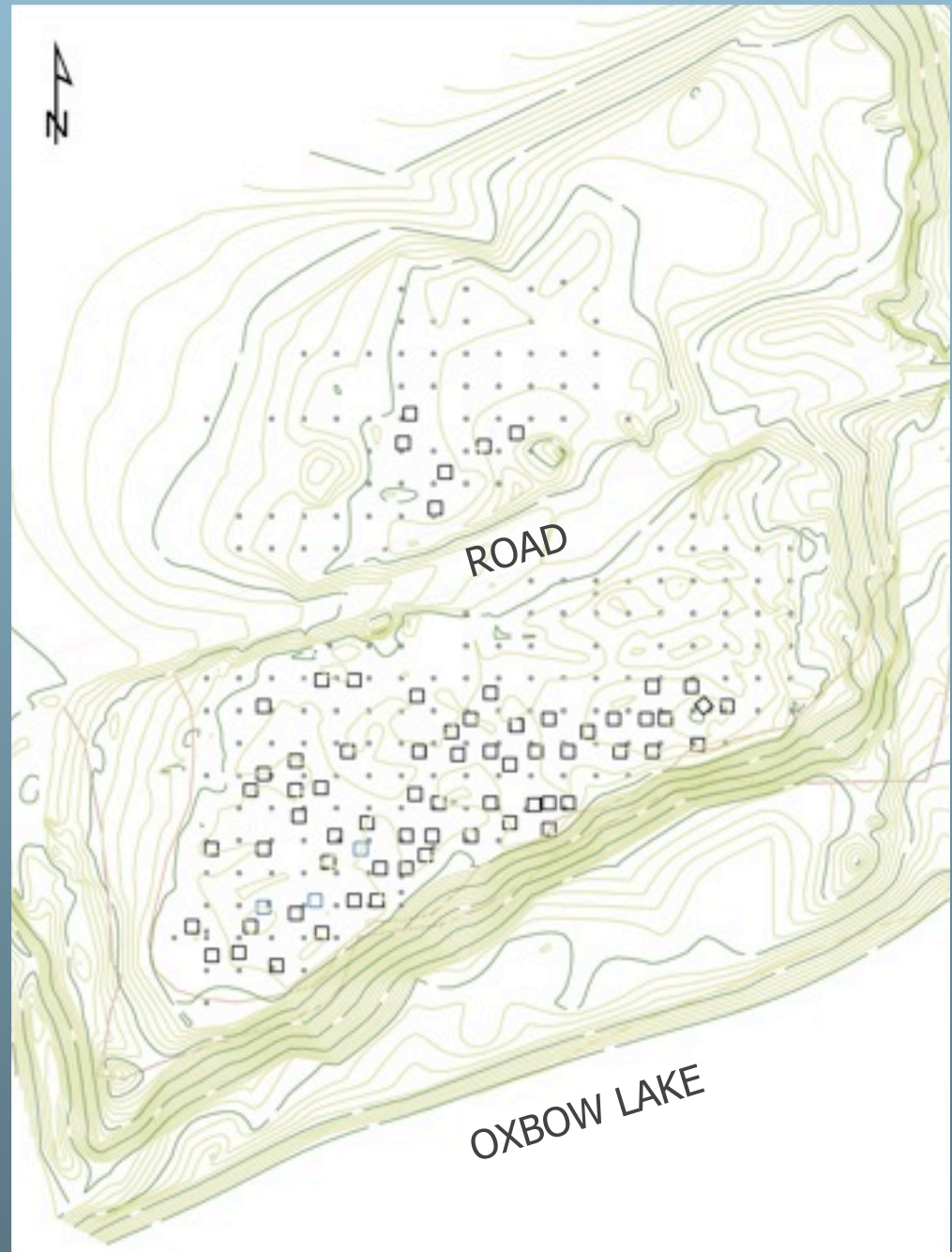
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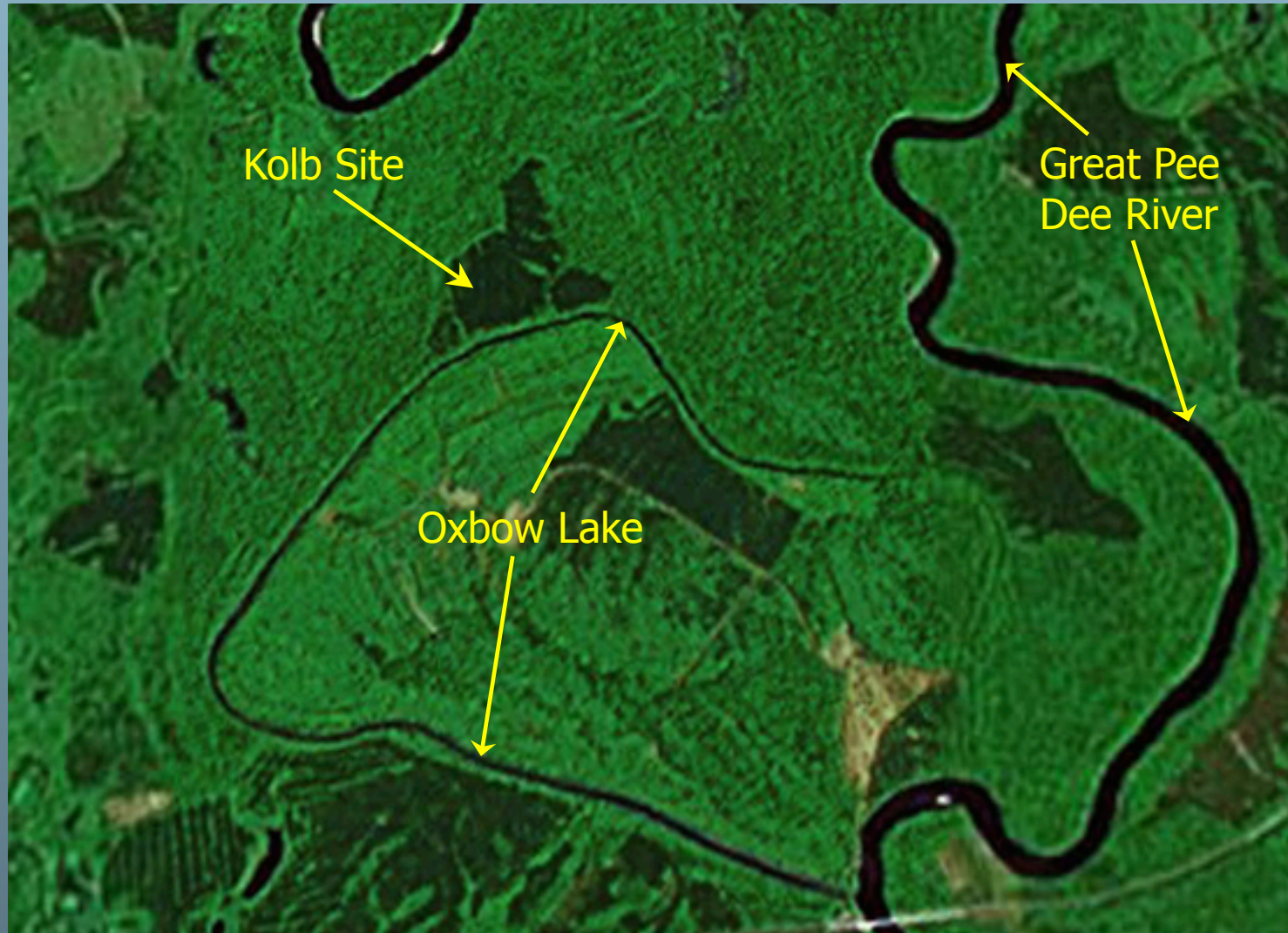
SEAC 2005

Excavation Plan:

- 68 2m² excavation units
- 217 50cm² test units



Site Location



Site Ownership

- Johannes Kolb
 - 1730s through 1760s
- Kolb family
 - 1760s through 1800s
- Thomas C. Williamson (slave cabins)
 - 1800s through 1865
- Edwards family (tenant farmers)
 - 1865-1915
- Timber production/Timber companies
 - 1880s-1971
- Kimberly Clark Conservation Foundation
 - 1971-1991
- SCDNR Heritage Trust Program
 - 1991-present

The Postholes

- 228 postholes
- Terminus post quem:
 - n=18 (8%) 18th century
 - n=32 (14%) 19th century
 - n=178 (78%) no diagnostic material
- Planview shape
 - n=178 (78%) square
 - n=45 (20%) round
 - n=5 (2%) unidentifiable
- Final elevation (cm below surface)
 - ranged from 20 cmbs to 100+ cmbs
- Planview diameter

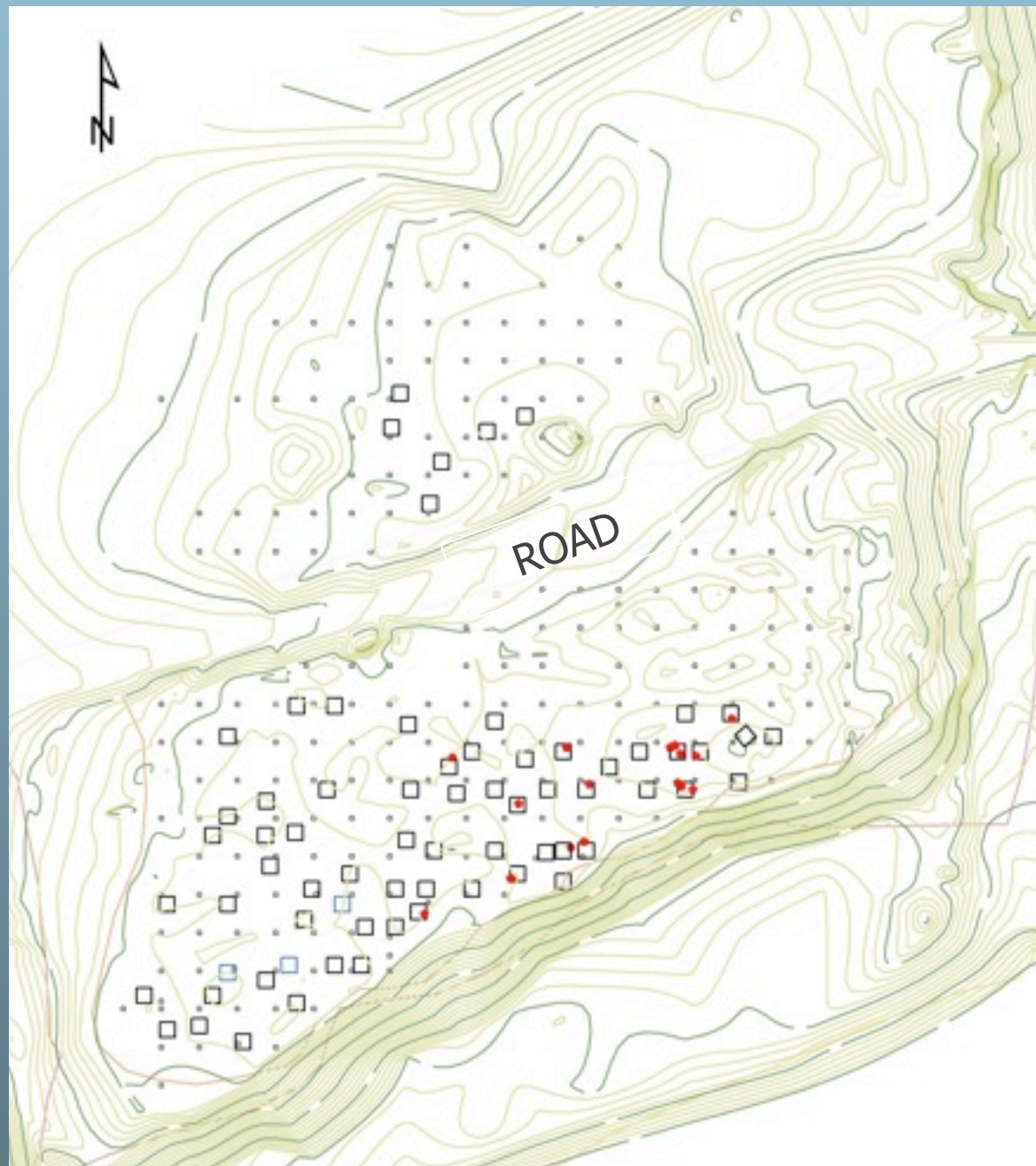
Multiple Posts

- Five sets of double/paired posts
- Two sets of triple postholes
- One set of five postholes



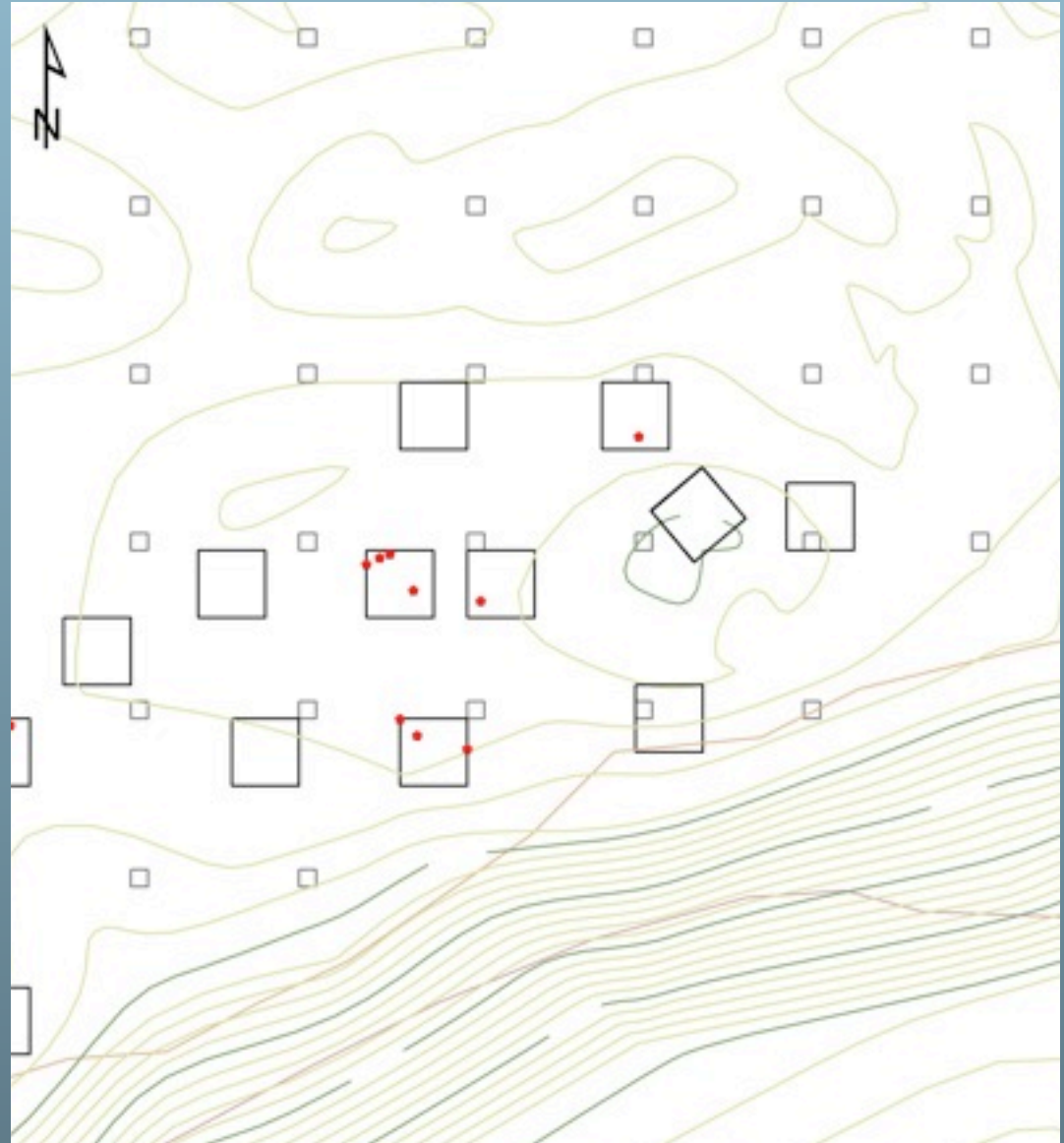
Plotted by TPQ: 18th century postholes

- No posts north of road
- Clustering in area producing the 18th century artifacts



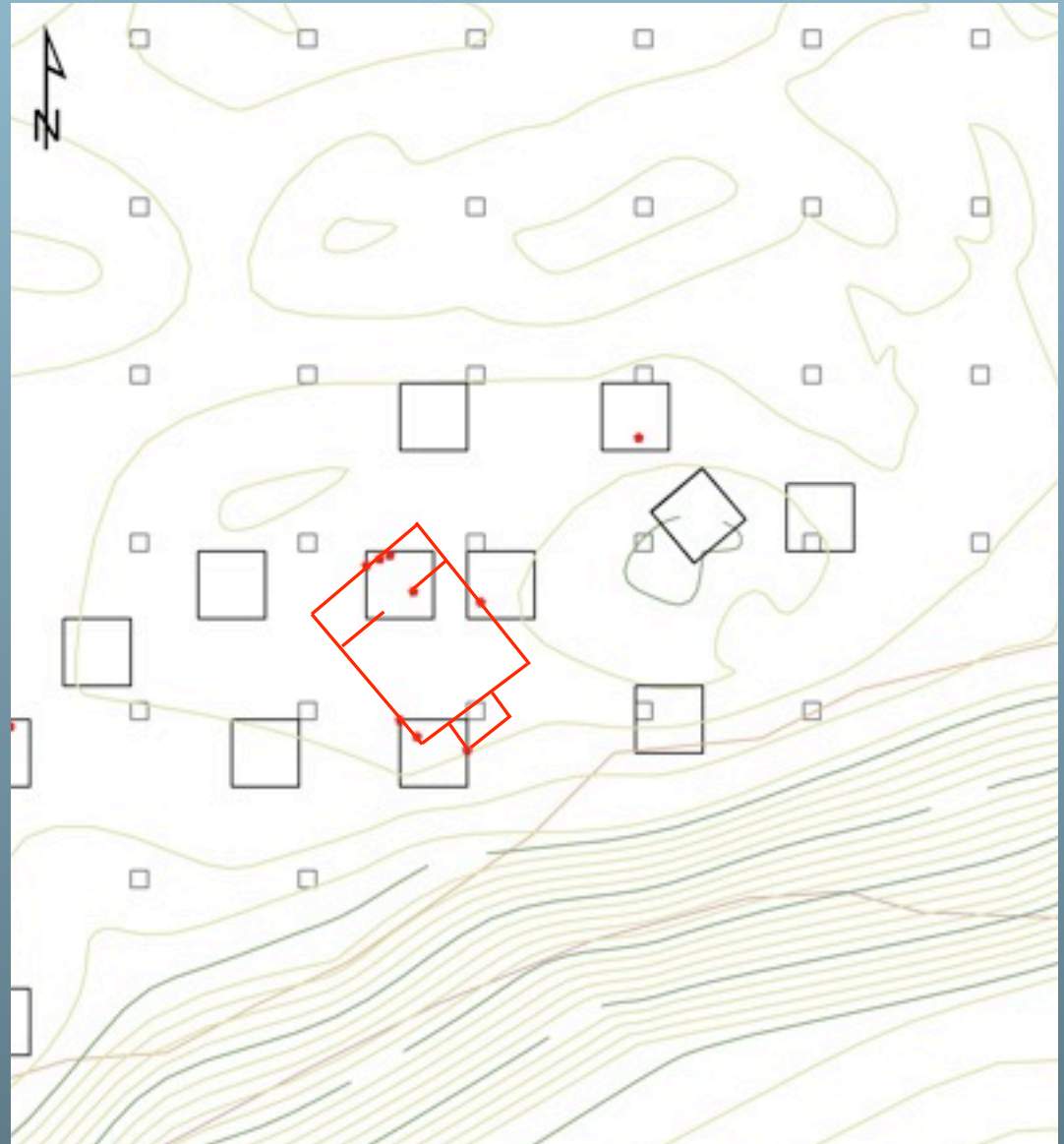
18th century: Southeastern Cluster

- Possible post-in-the-ground structure
- Johannes Kolb house??



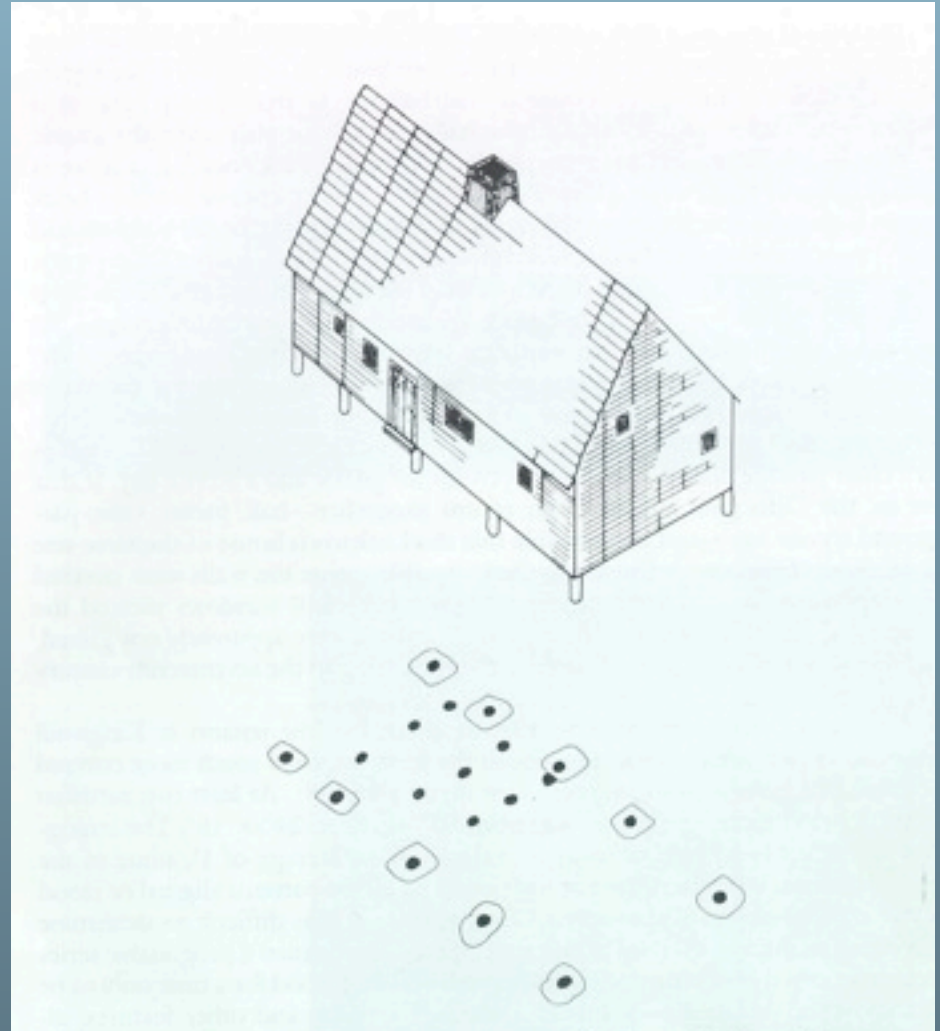
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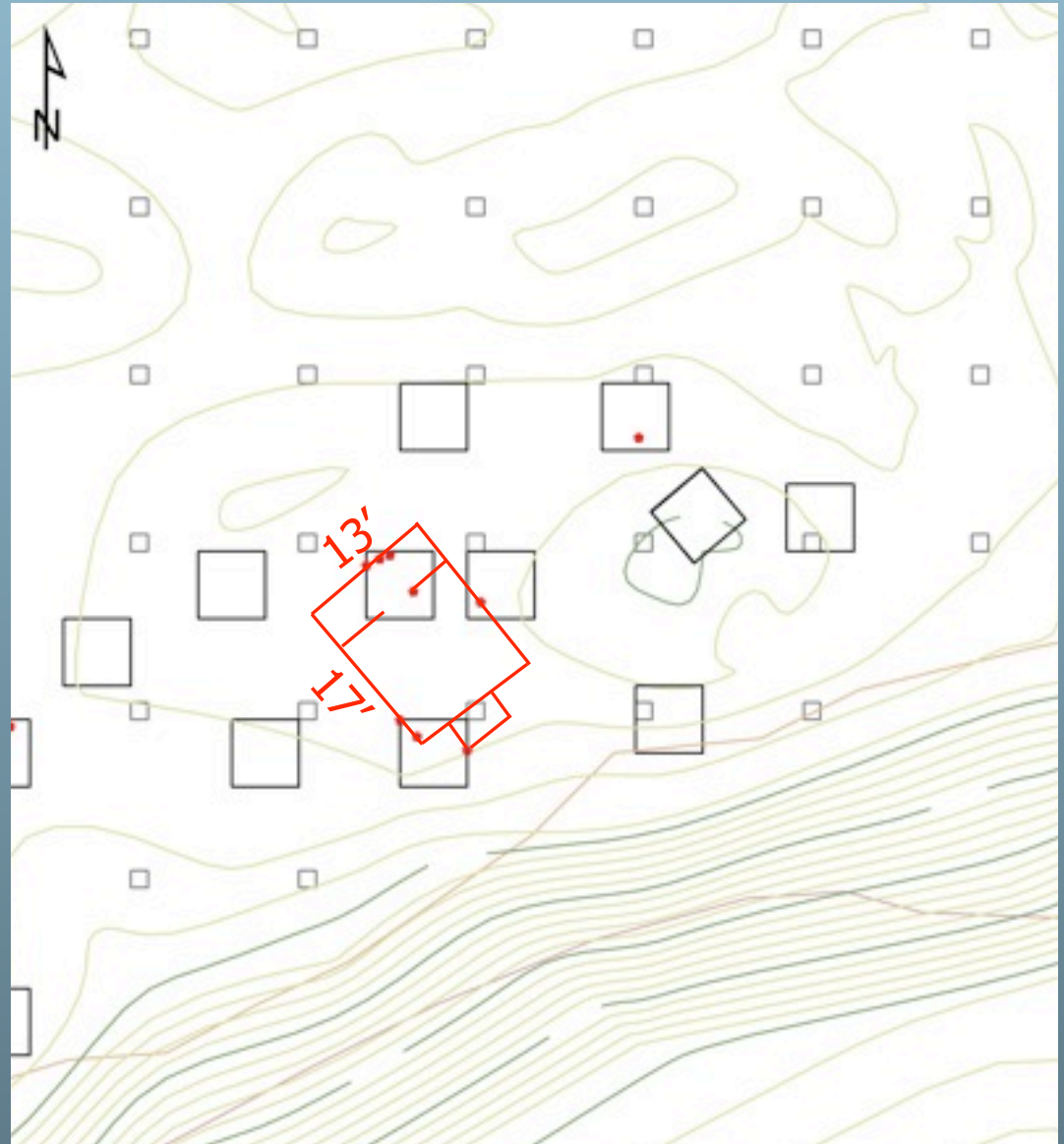
Kingsmill Plantation

- Similar two room post-in-the-ground structure (Kelso 1984)



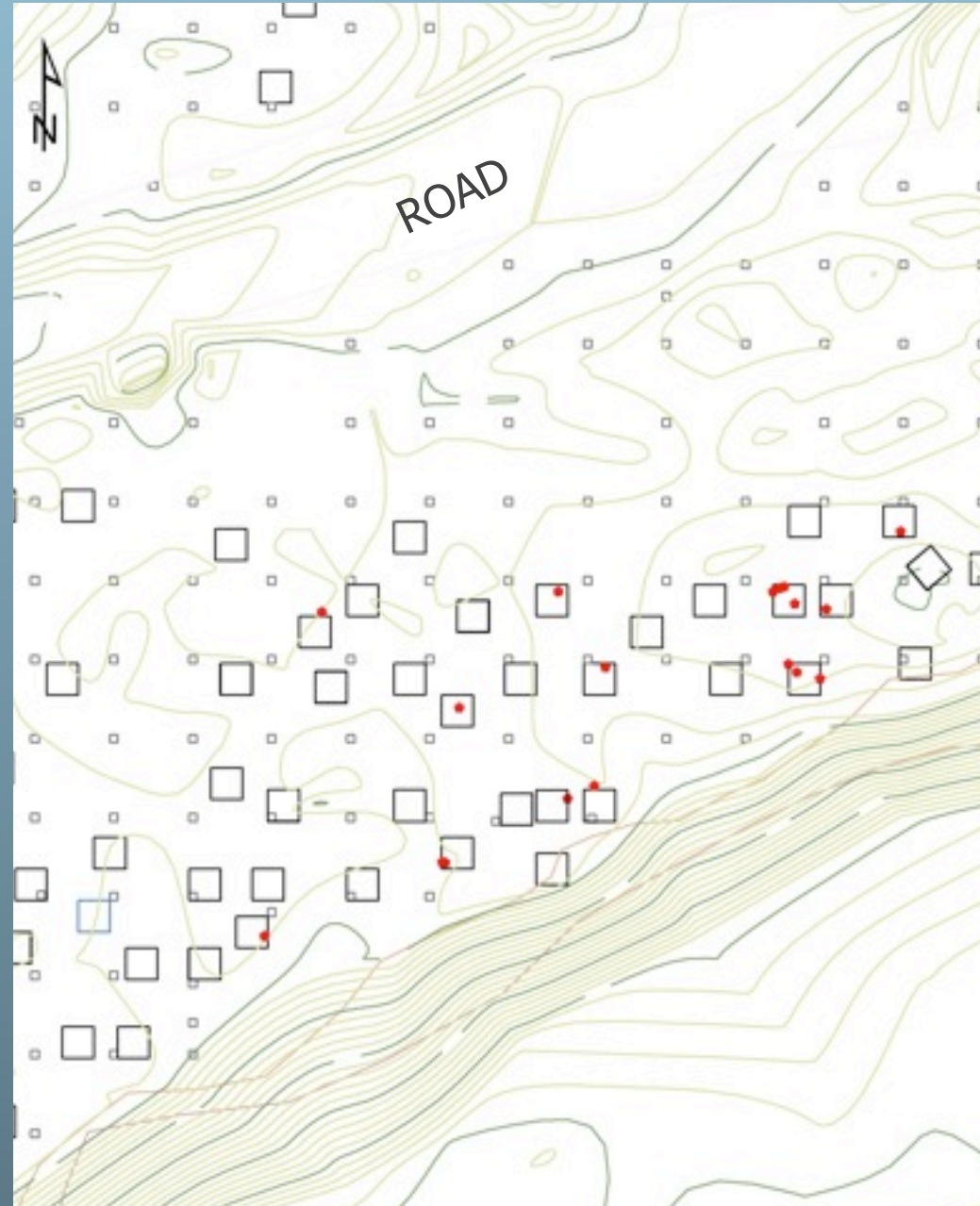
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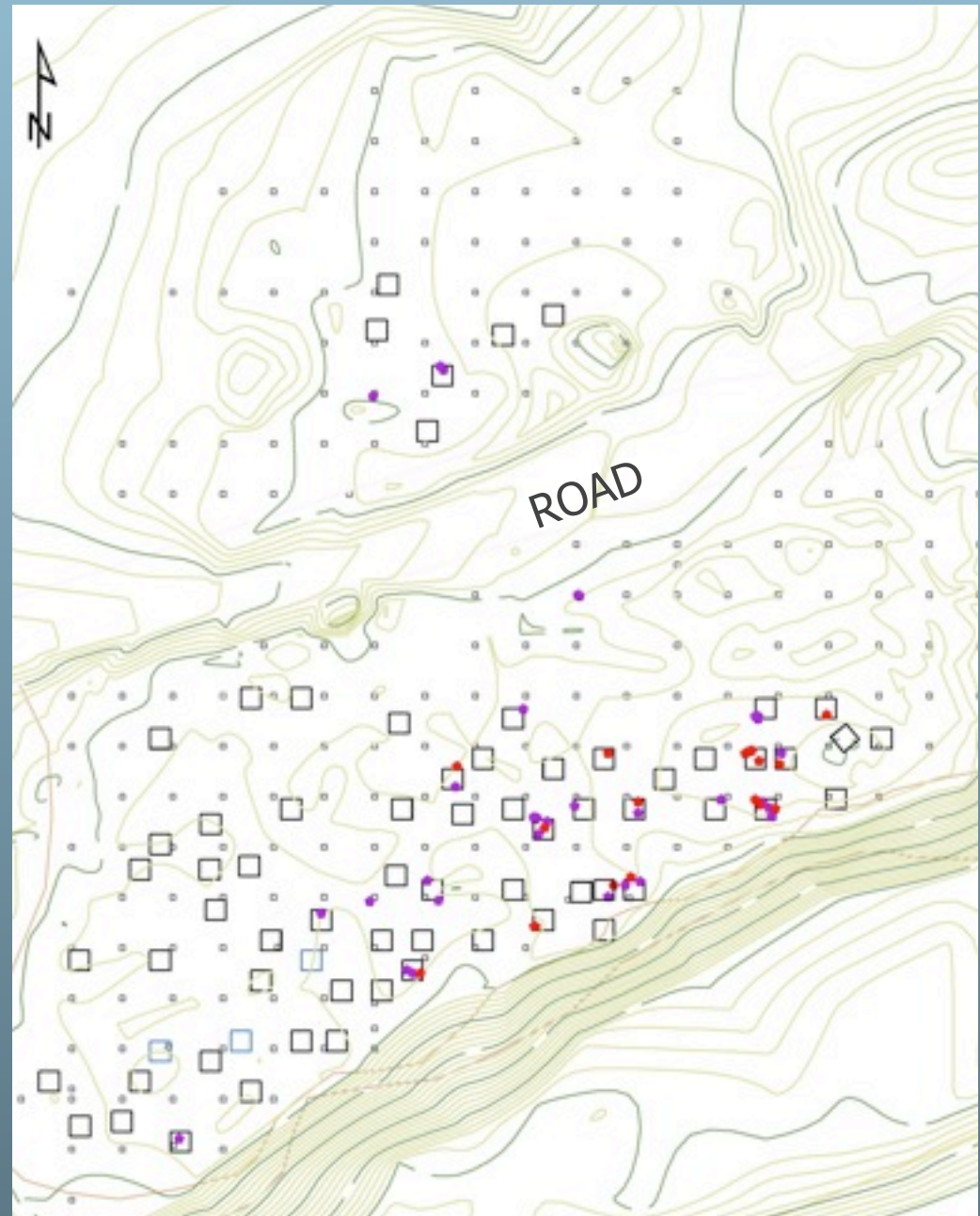
Remaining 18th century postholes

- Run parallel to post-in-the-ground structure.
- Possible barn or outbuilding from Kolb's time.



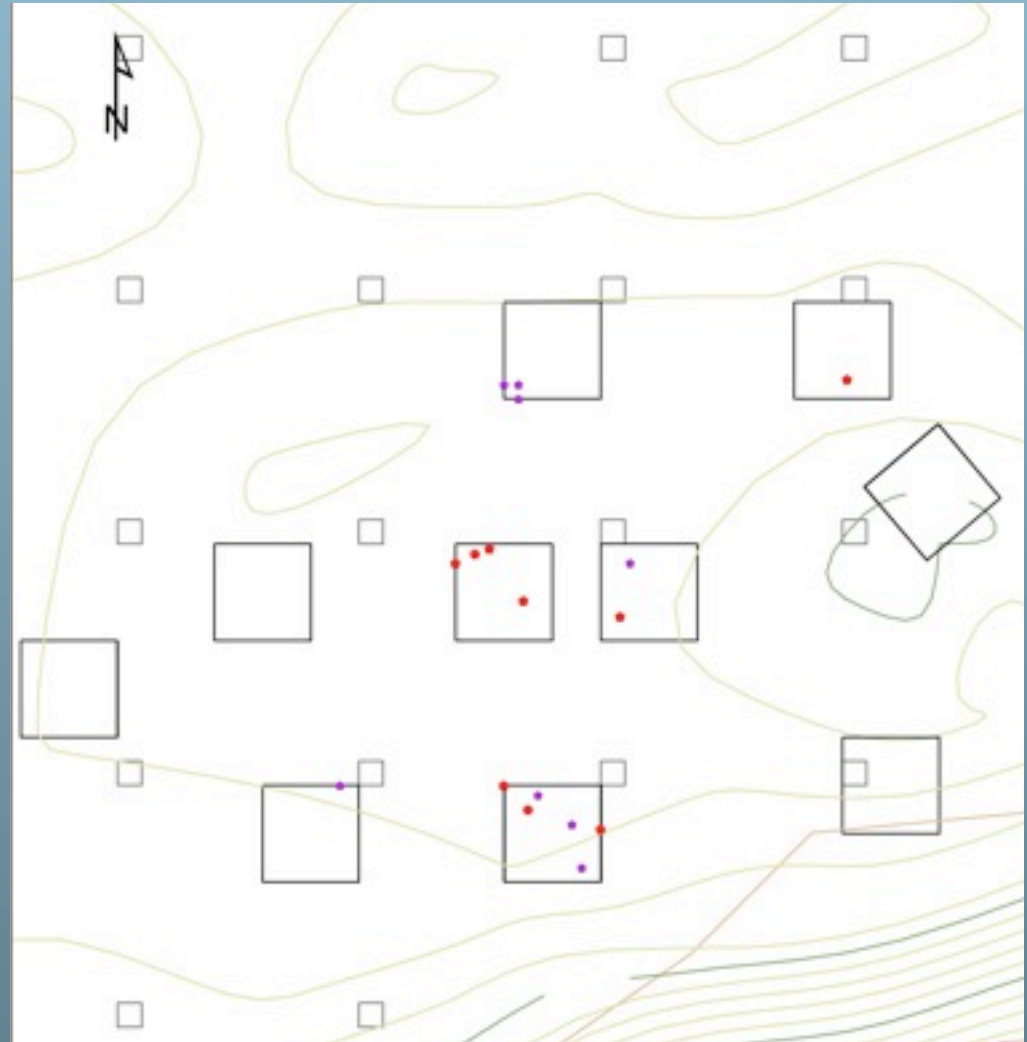
Plotted by TPQ: 19th century postholes

- On both north and south sides of road
- Clustering round 18th century structure
- Purple: 19th century
- Red: 18th century

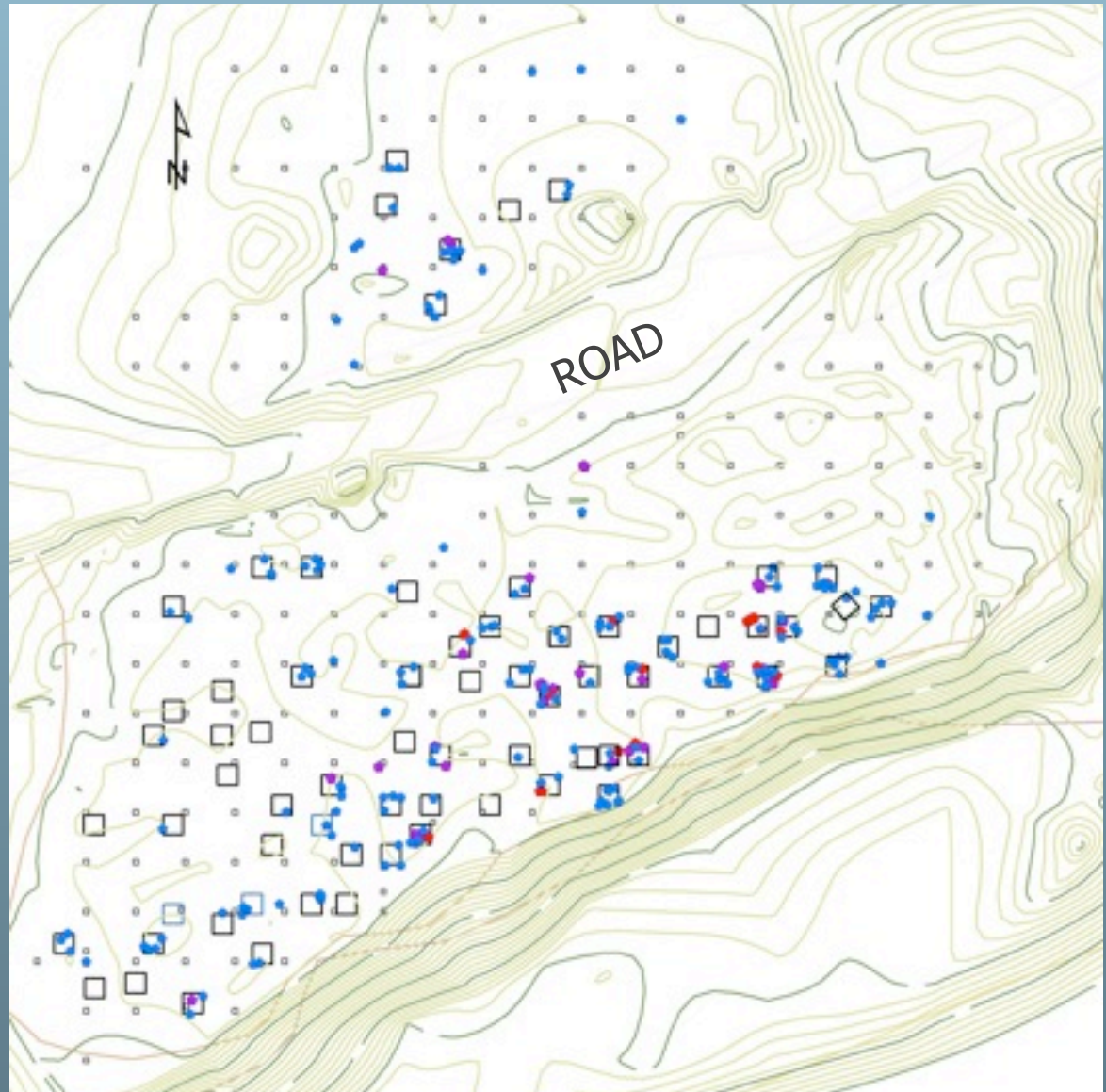


Clustering

- Close up view of clustering around possible 18th century structure

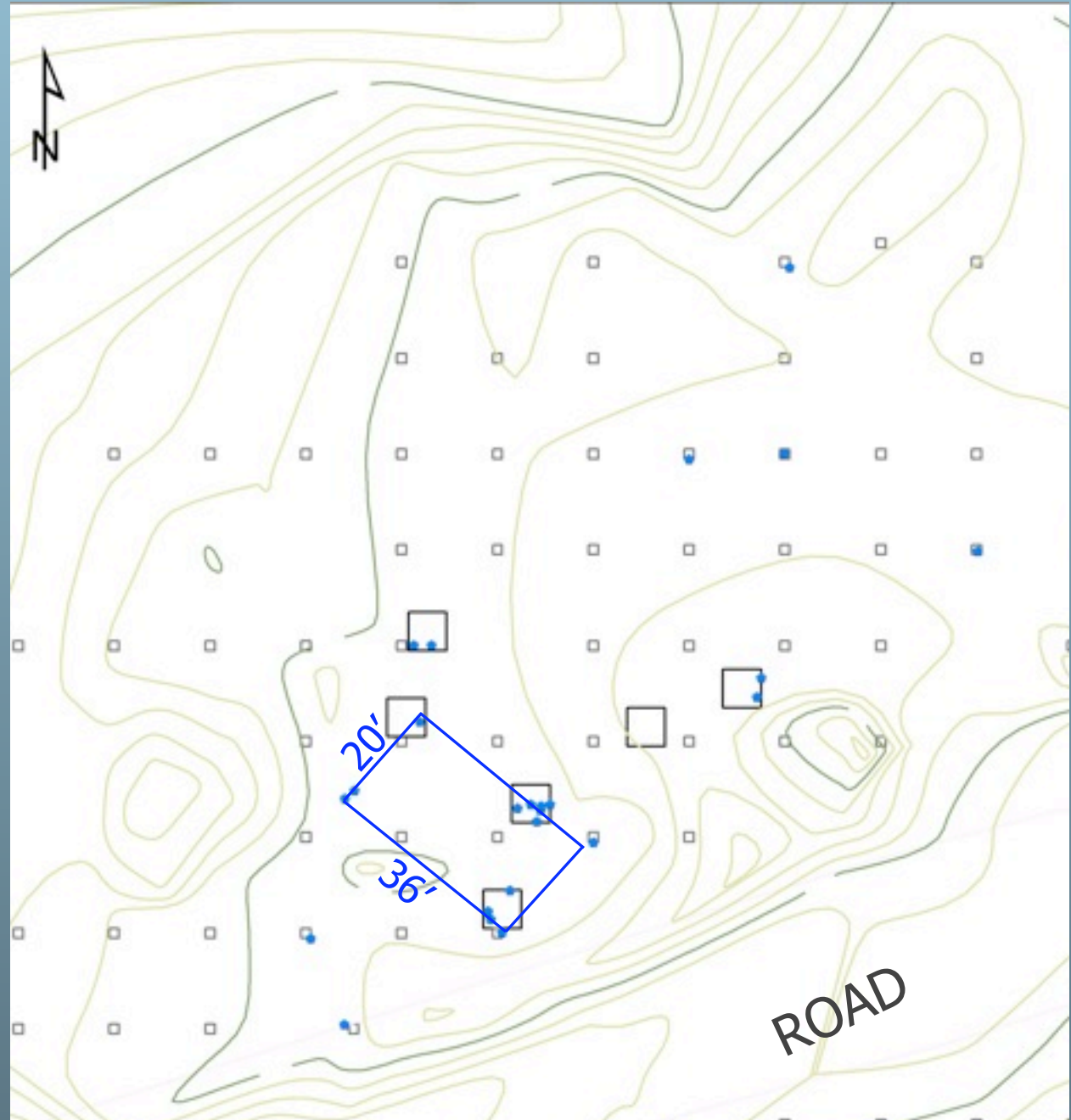


Adding the Undated Postholes...



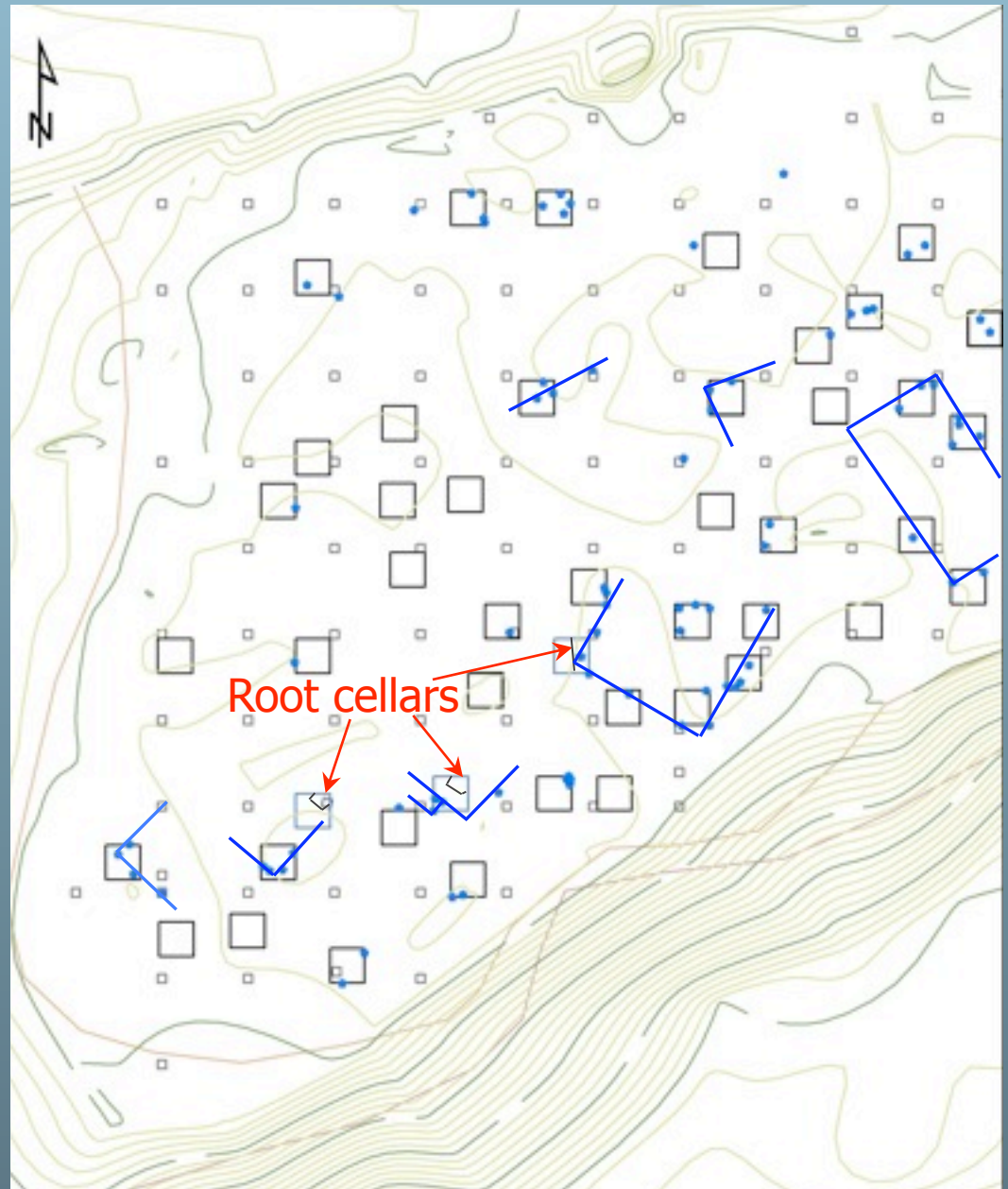
TPQ: All Postholes

- One large structure north of road

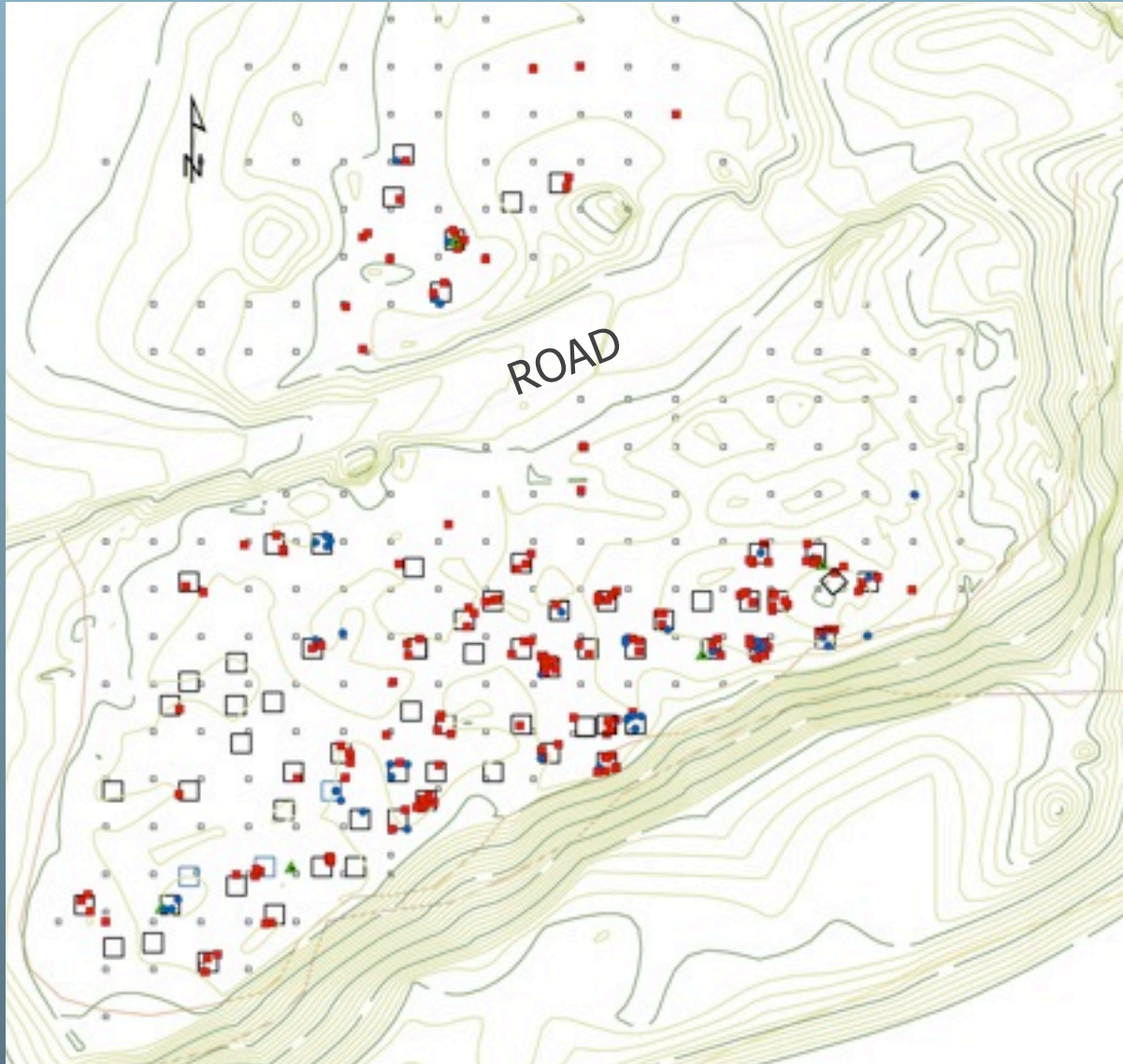


TPQ: All postholes

- Southwestern part of site: possible small structures...
- slave cabins??

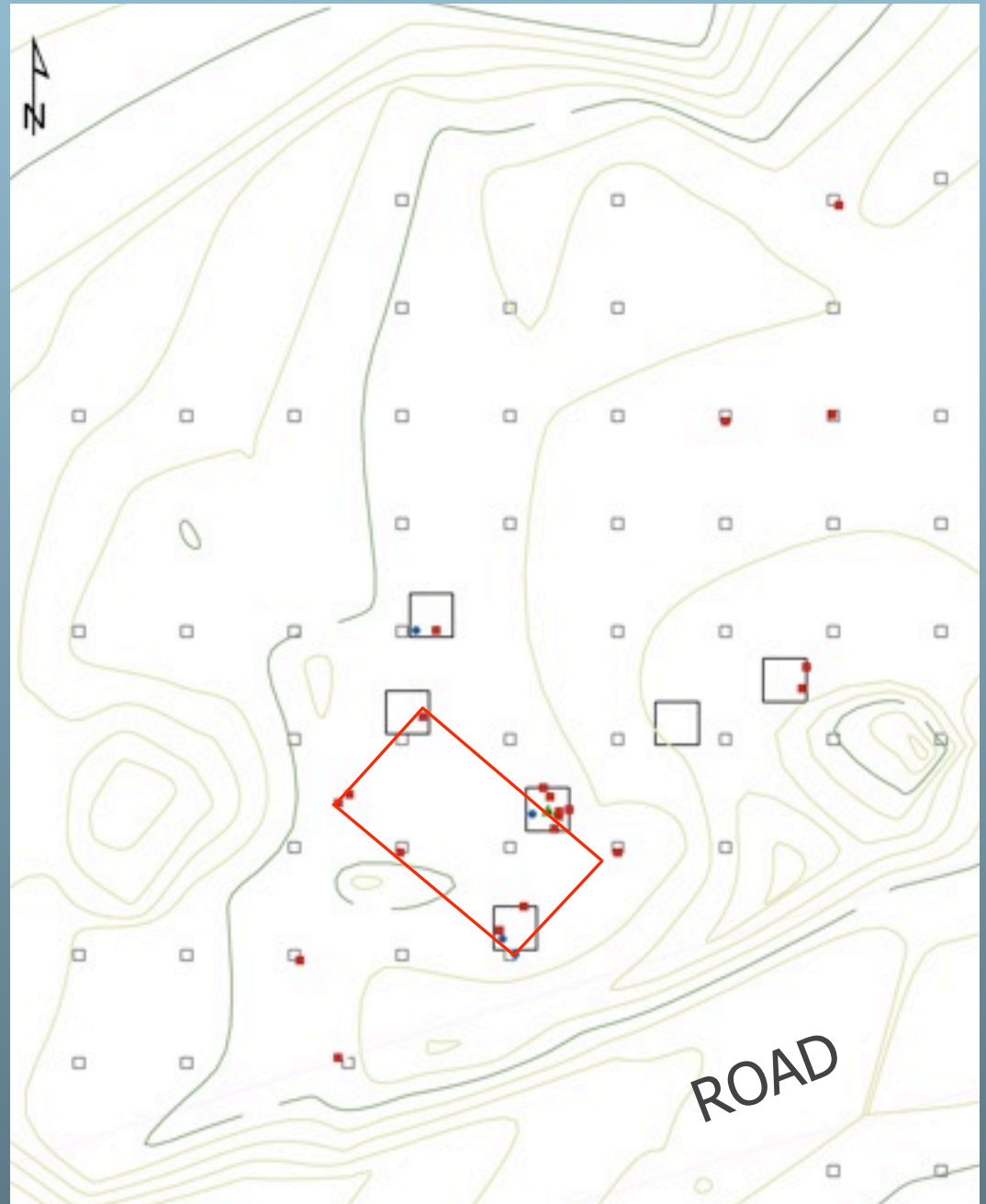


Distribution by Shape

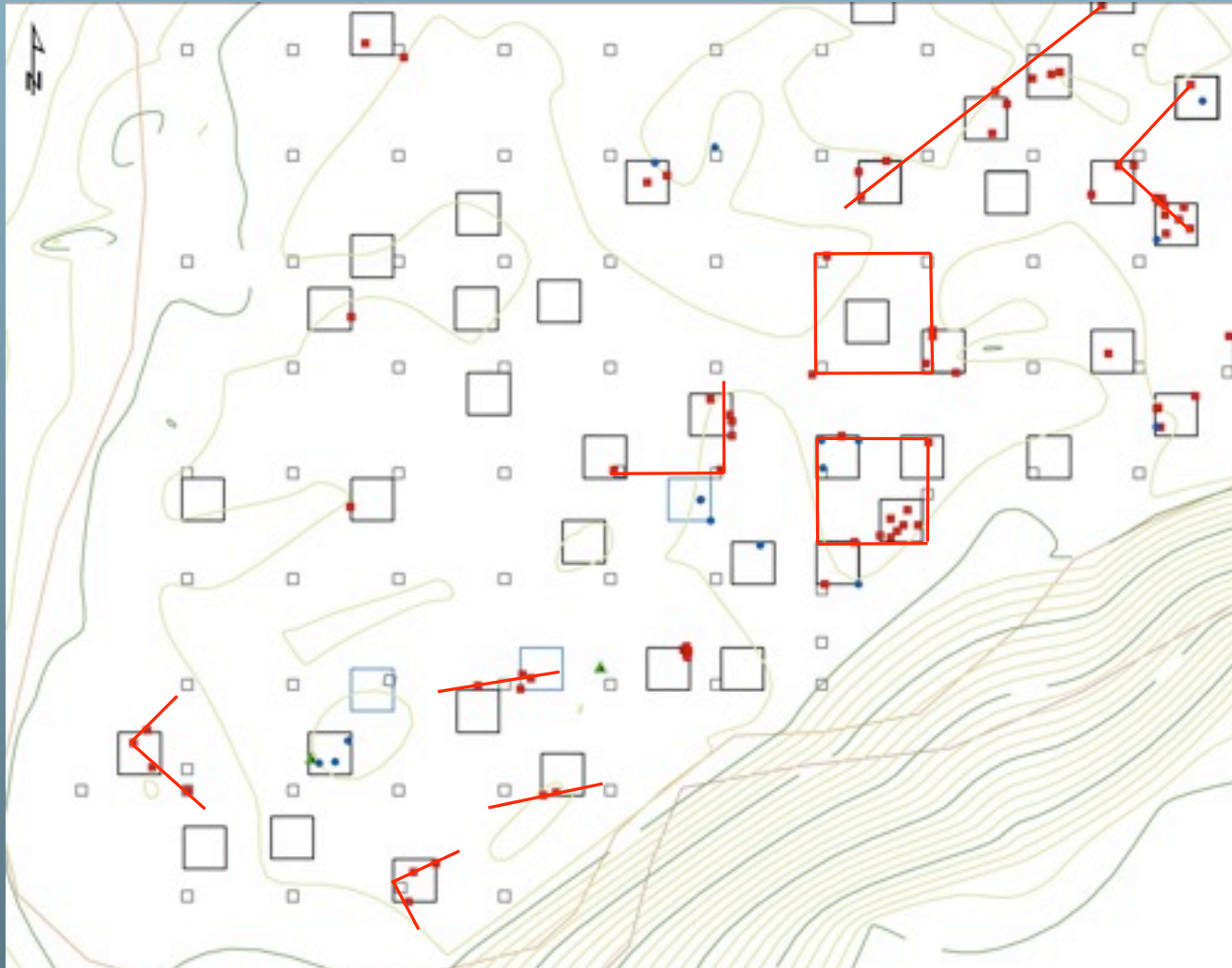


Shape: North of Road

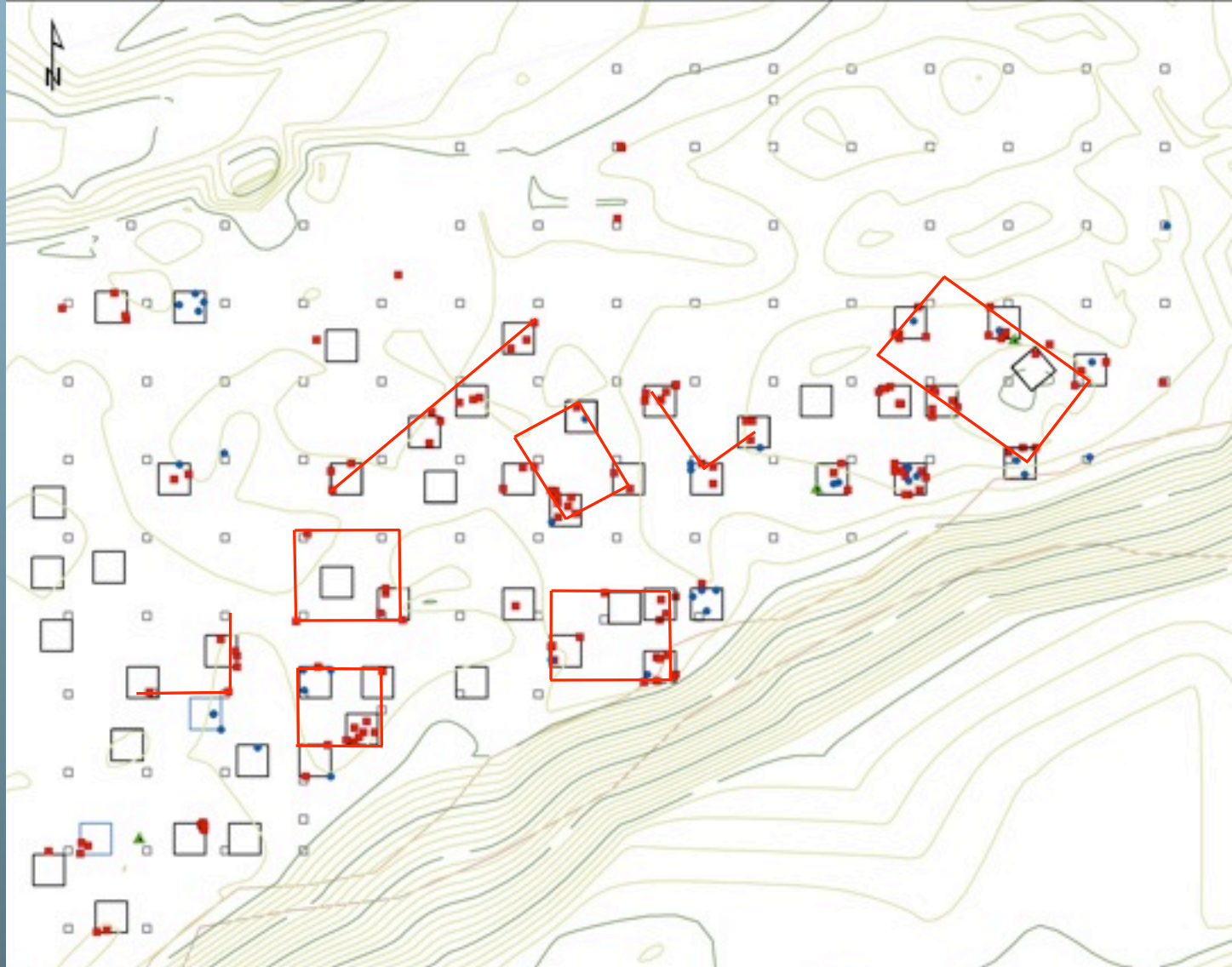
- Confirms presence of a large structure



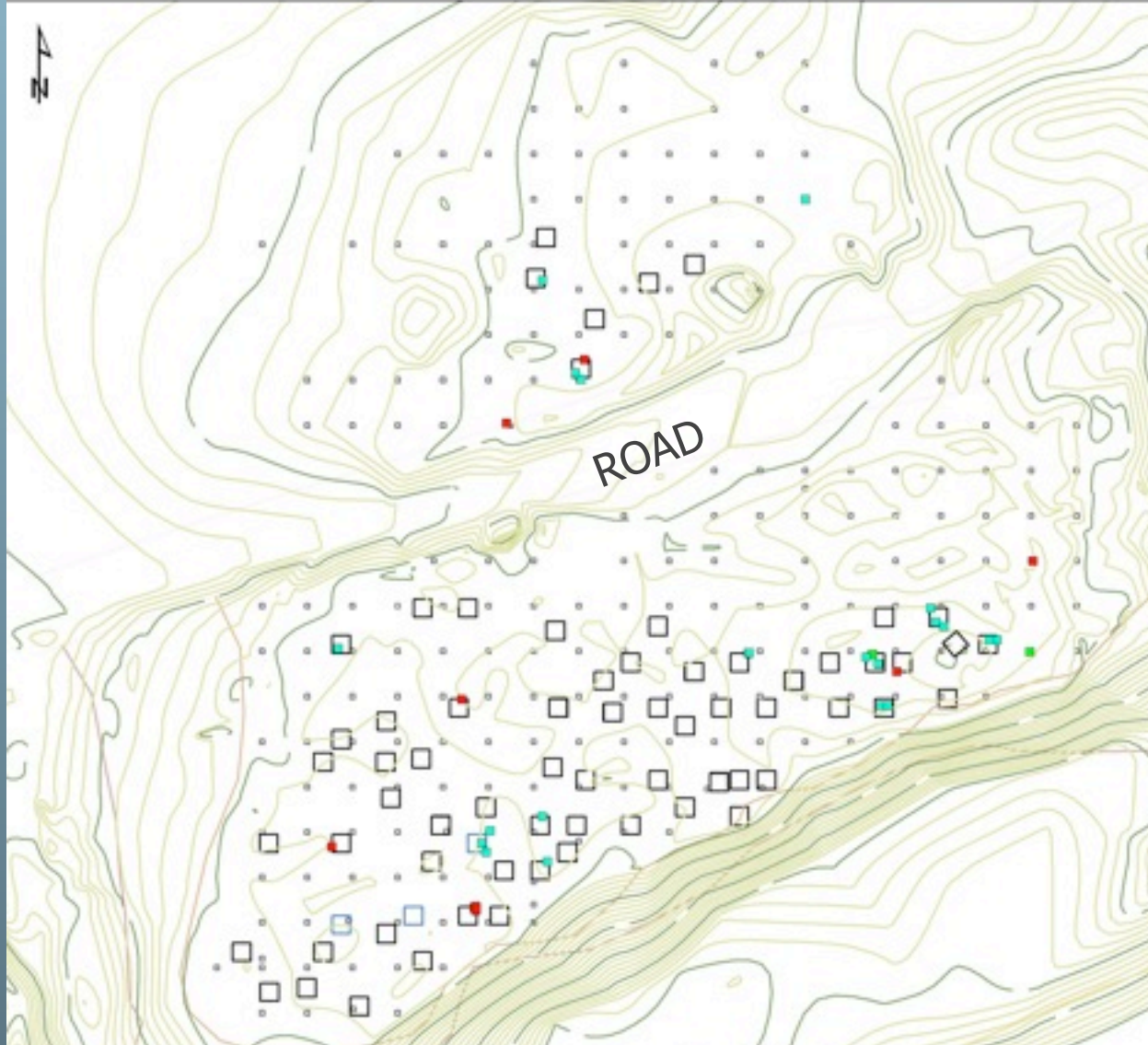
Shape: Southwest Portion



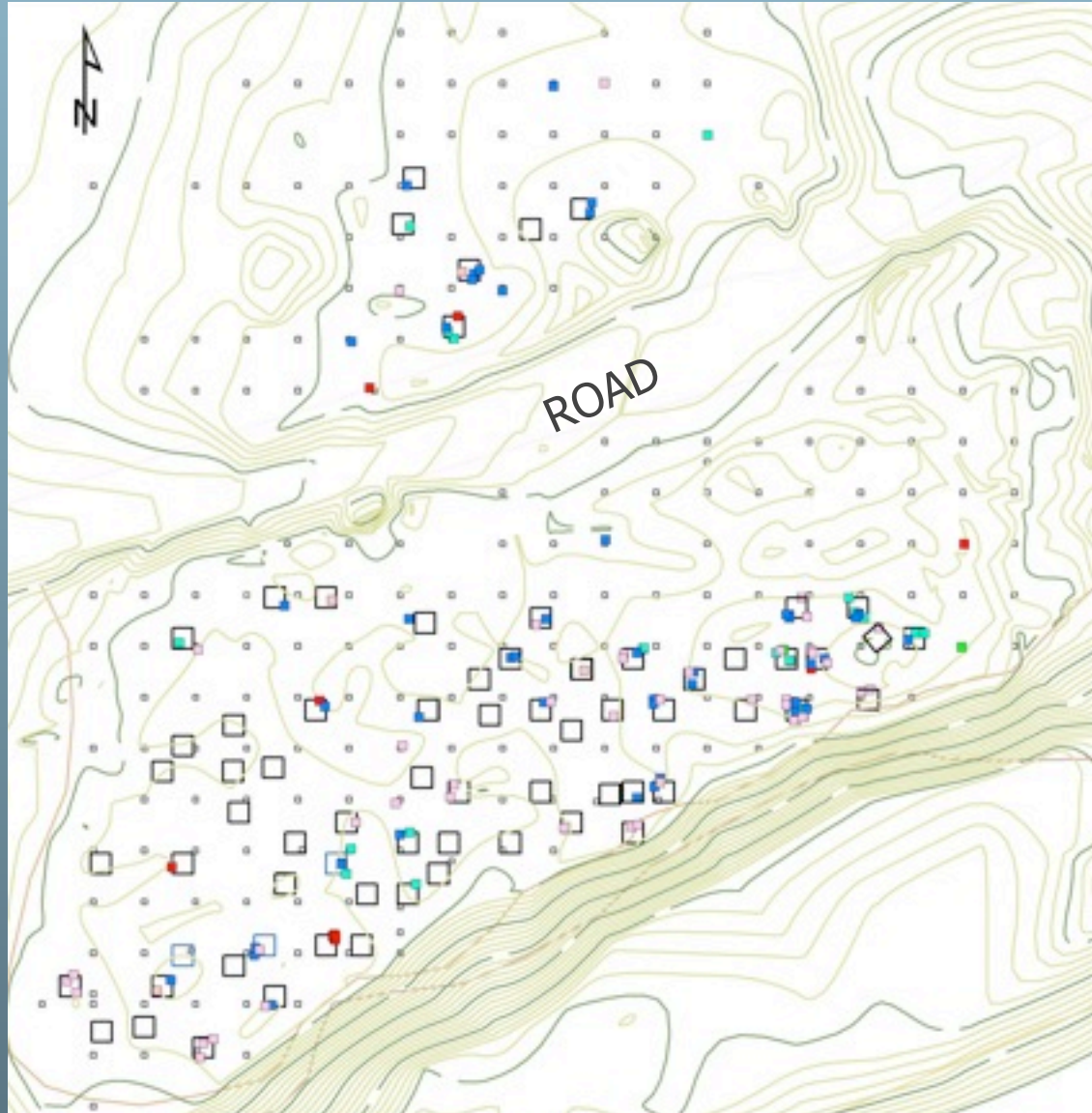
Shape: Southeast Portion



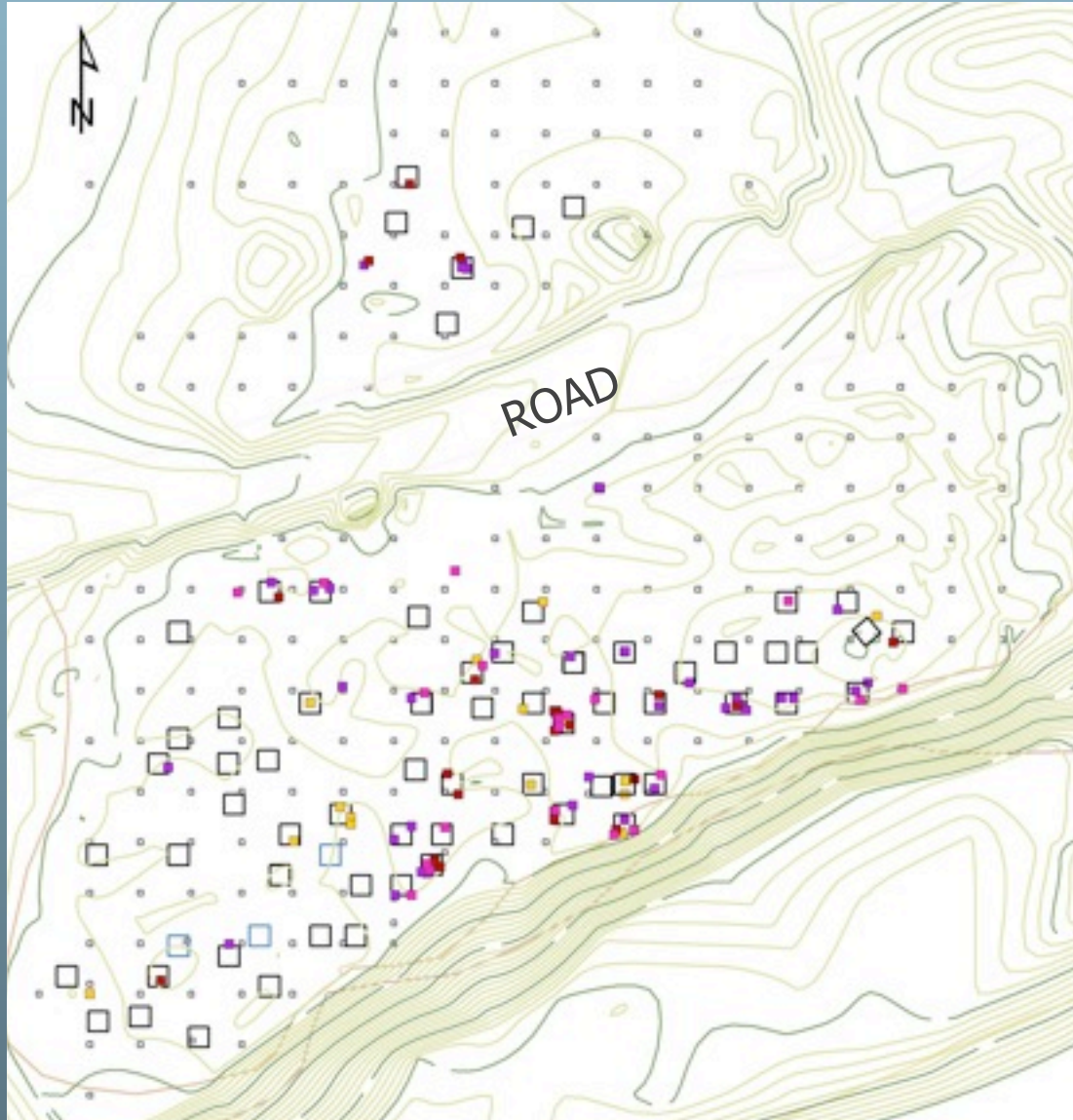
Postholes <49 cmbs



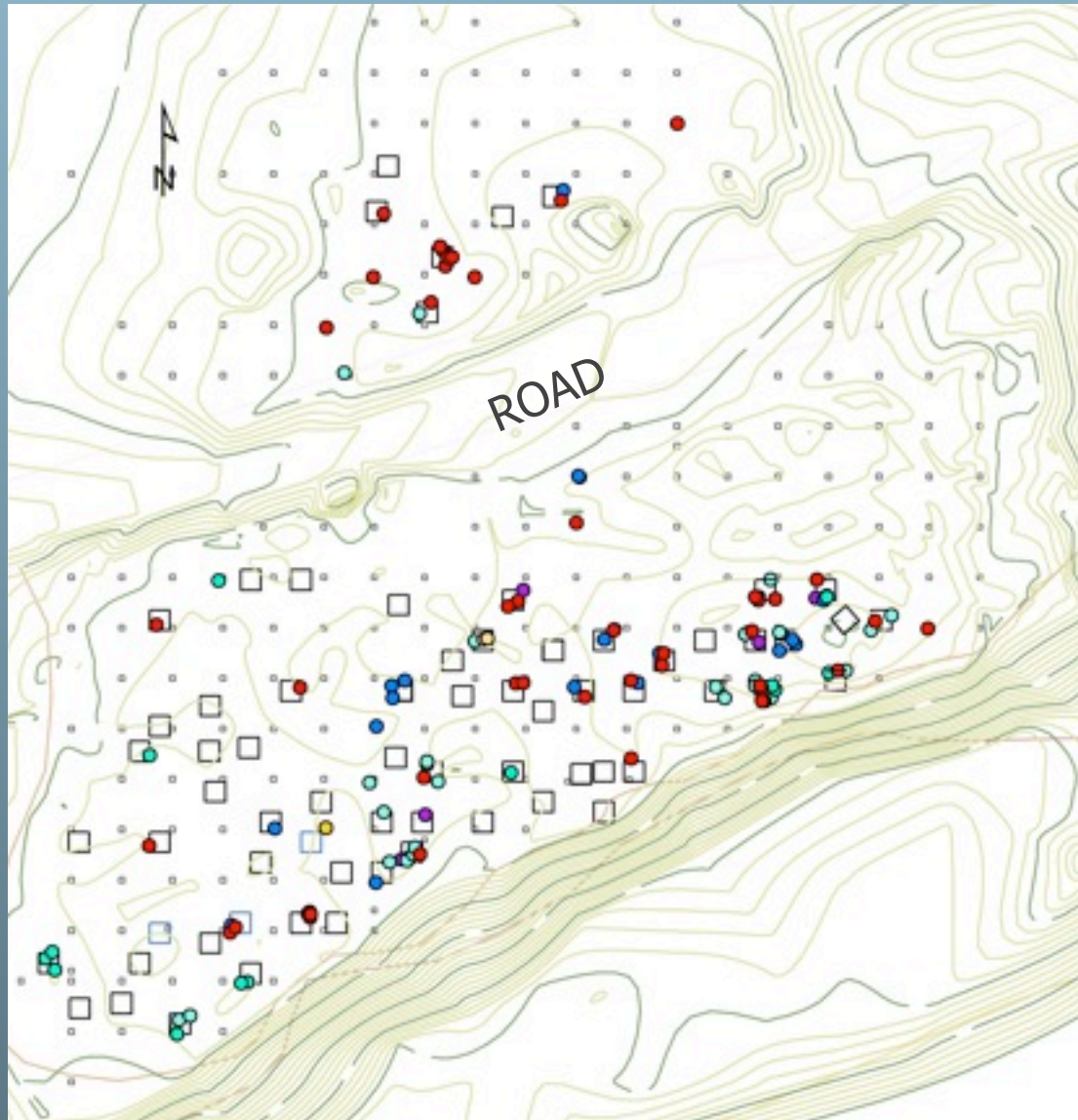
Postholes < 69 cmbs



Postholes >70 cmbs



Planview Diameter



Conclusions

- Use of TPQ dates are most accurate; only variable to outline a possible 18th century post-in-the-ground structure.
- Many possible structures were identified, however, additional research is needed to confirm or reject the patterns identified in this presentation.
- Also, more excavation is needed to identify additional postholes which will help to fill in the gaps.

Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank Chris Judge and Carl Steen for allowing me to participate in this symposia and the Kolb site excavations; all of the volunteers for producing the wealth of information used in this presentation; and, all of the costless individuals and families who open their hearts and cupboards to us every year and make the annual excavations so much fun.