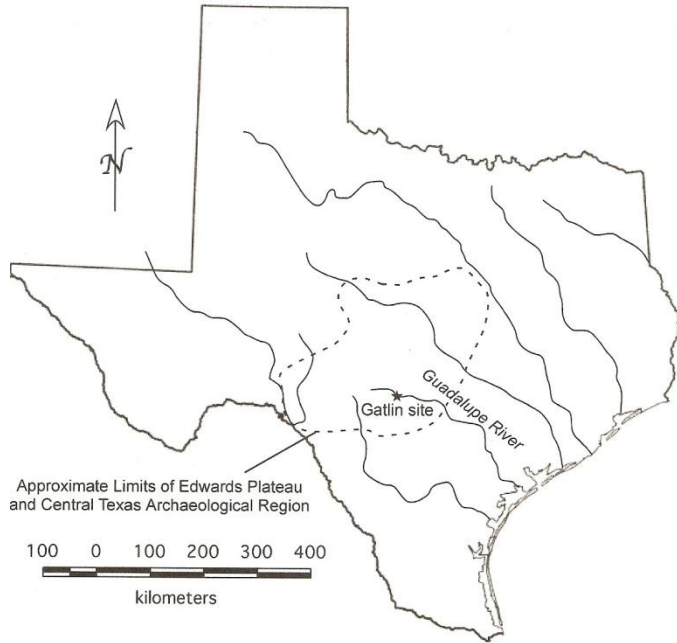


WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHEOLOGY SITES IN KERR COUNTY?

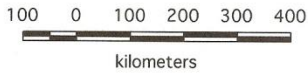
By
Steve Stoutamire

- **THE TWO MOST SIGNIFICANT
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN KERR COUNTY,
TEXAS ARE THE GATLIN SITE AND THE
BEARING SINK HOLE SITE.**

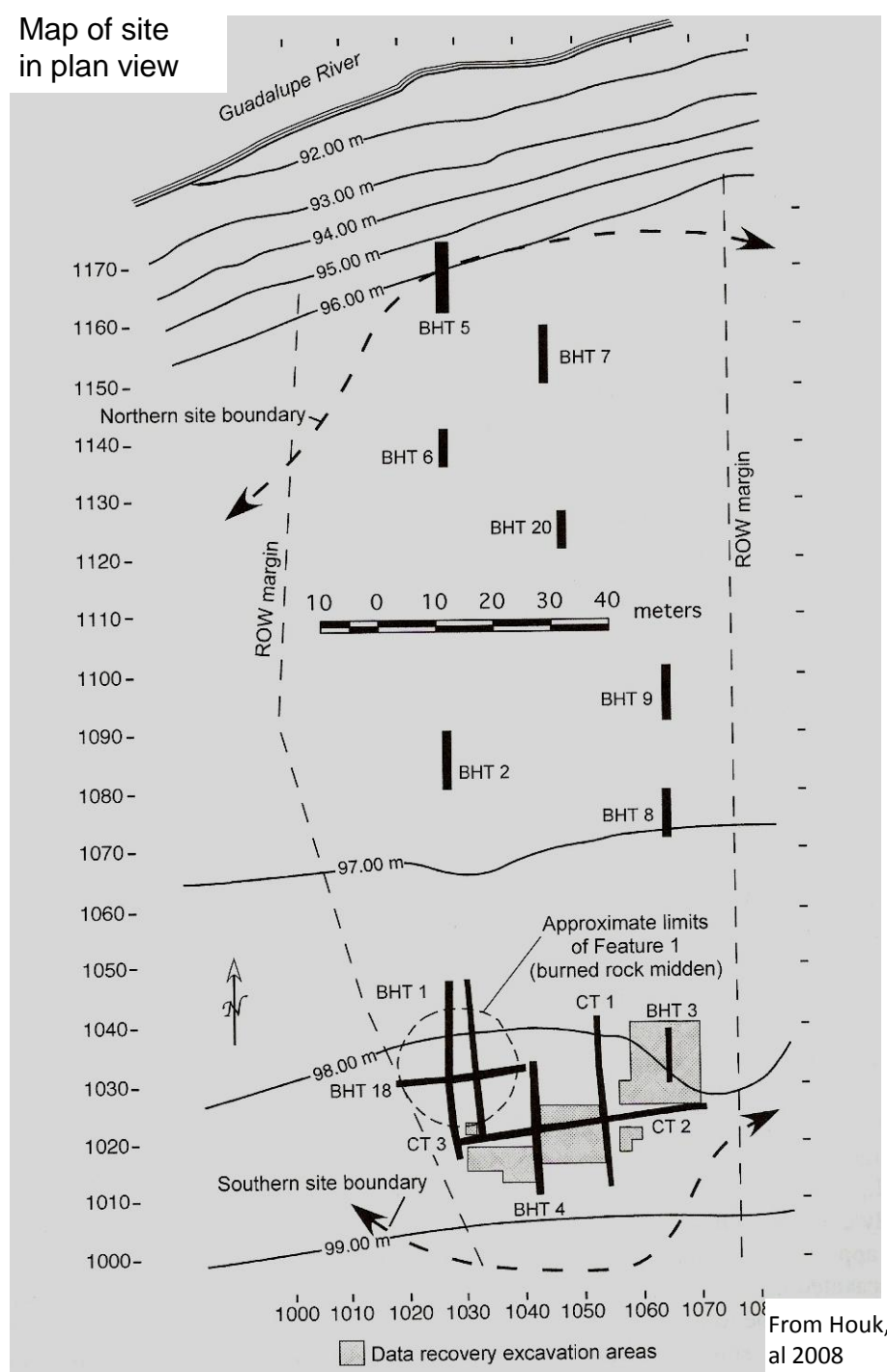
The Gatlin Site Kerr Co., Texas



Approximate Limits of Edwards Plateau
and Central Texas Archaeological Region



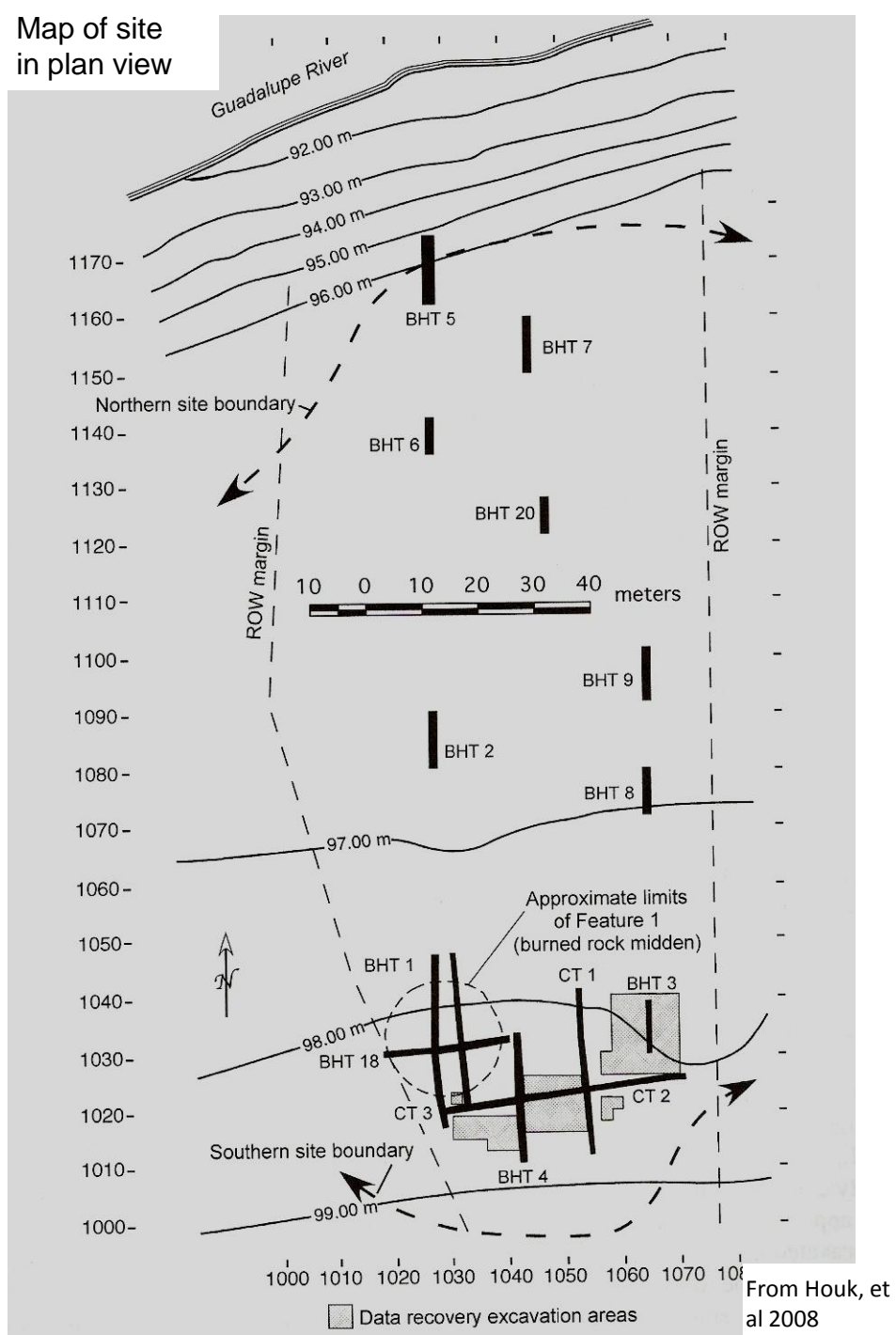
Map of site
in plan view



From Houk, et al 2008

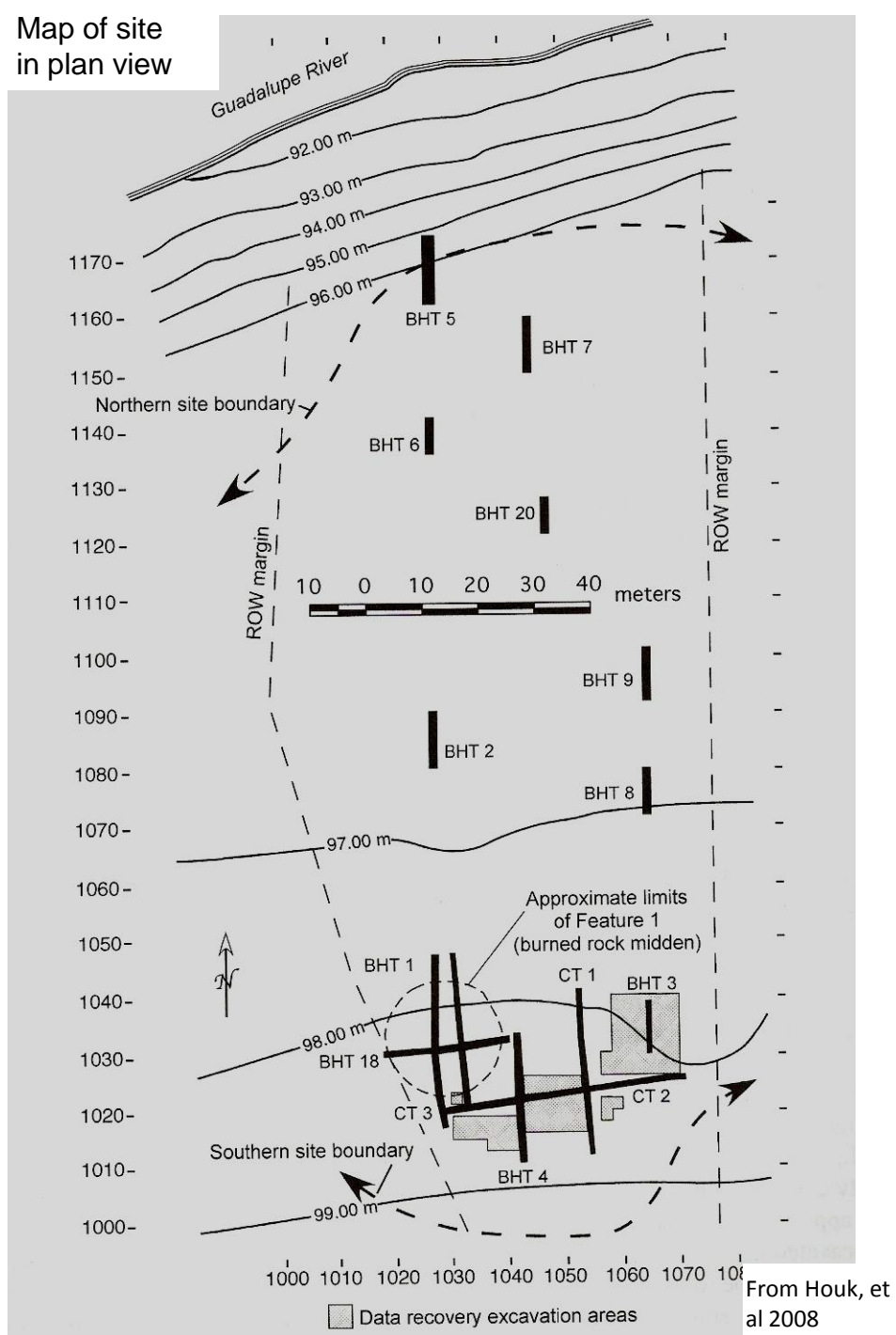
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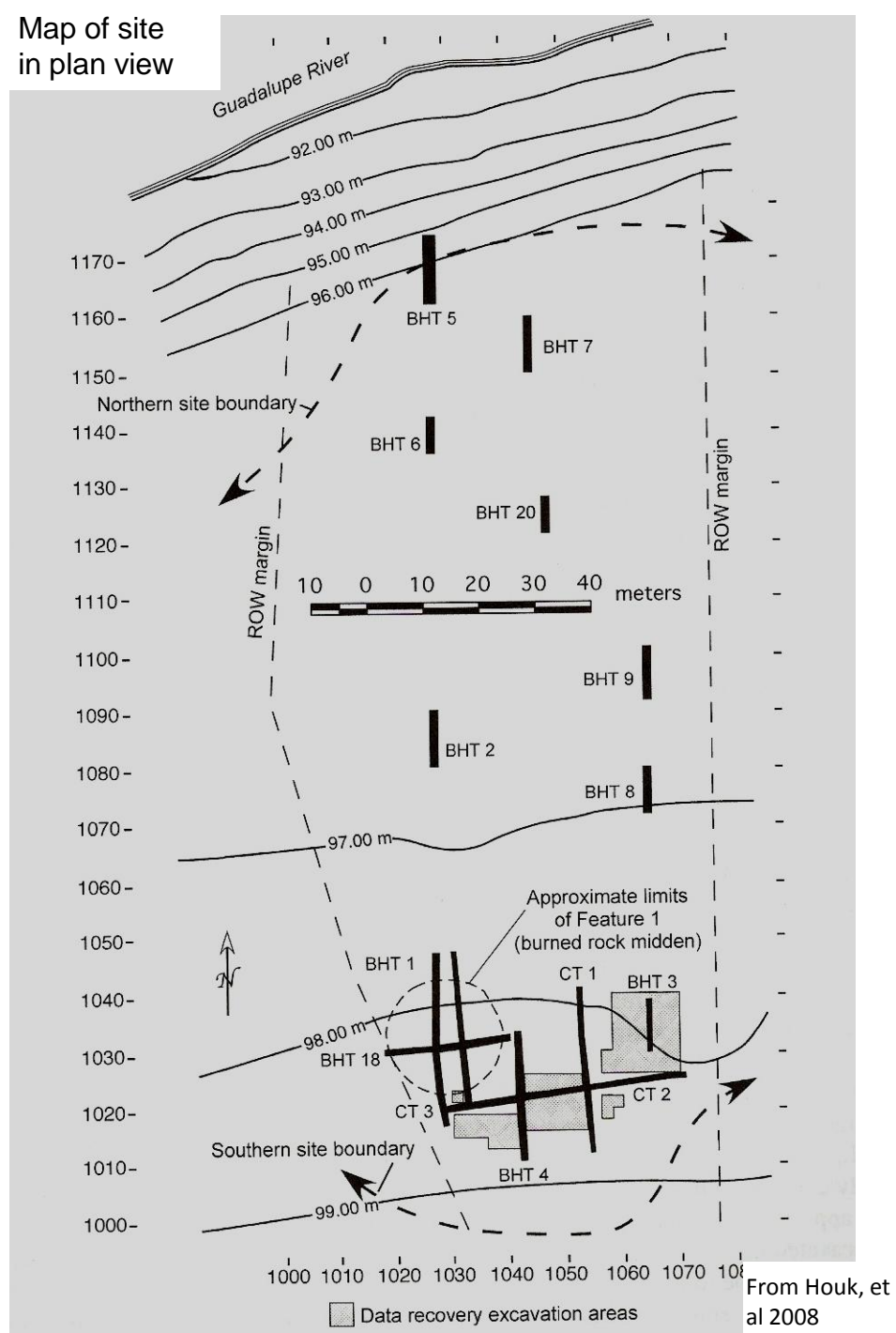


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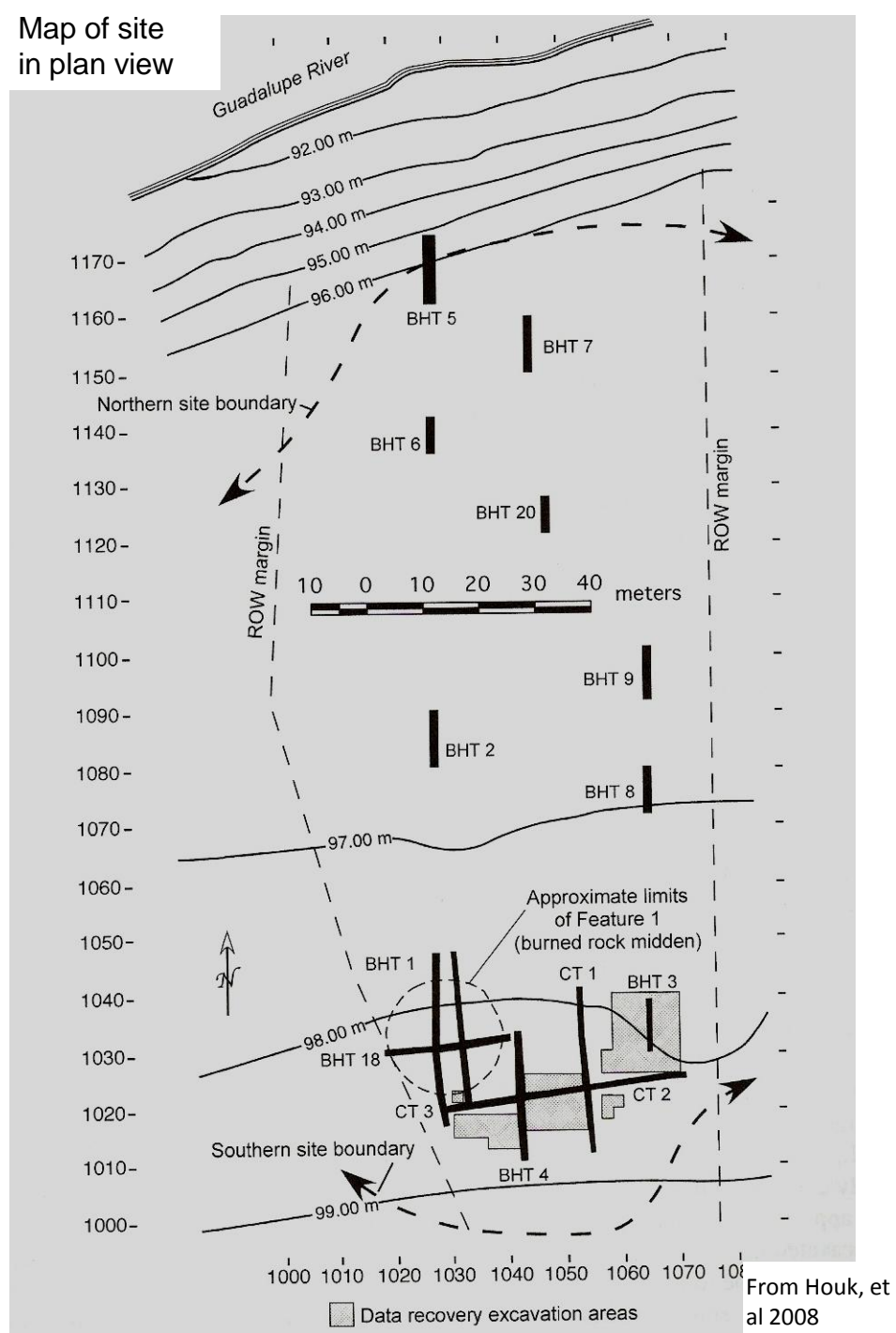


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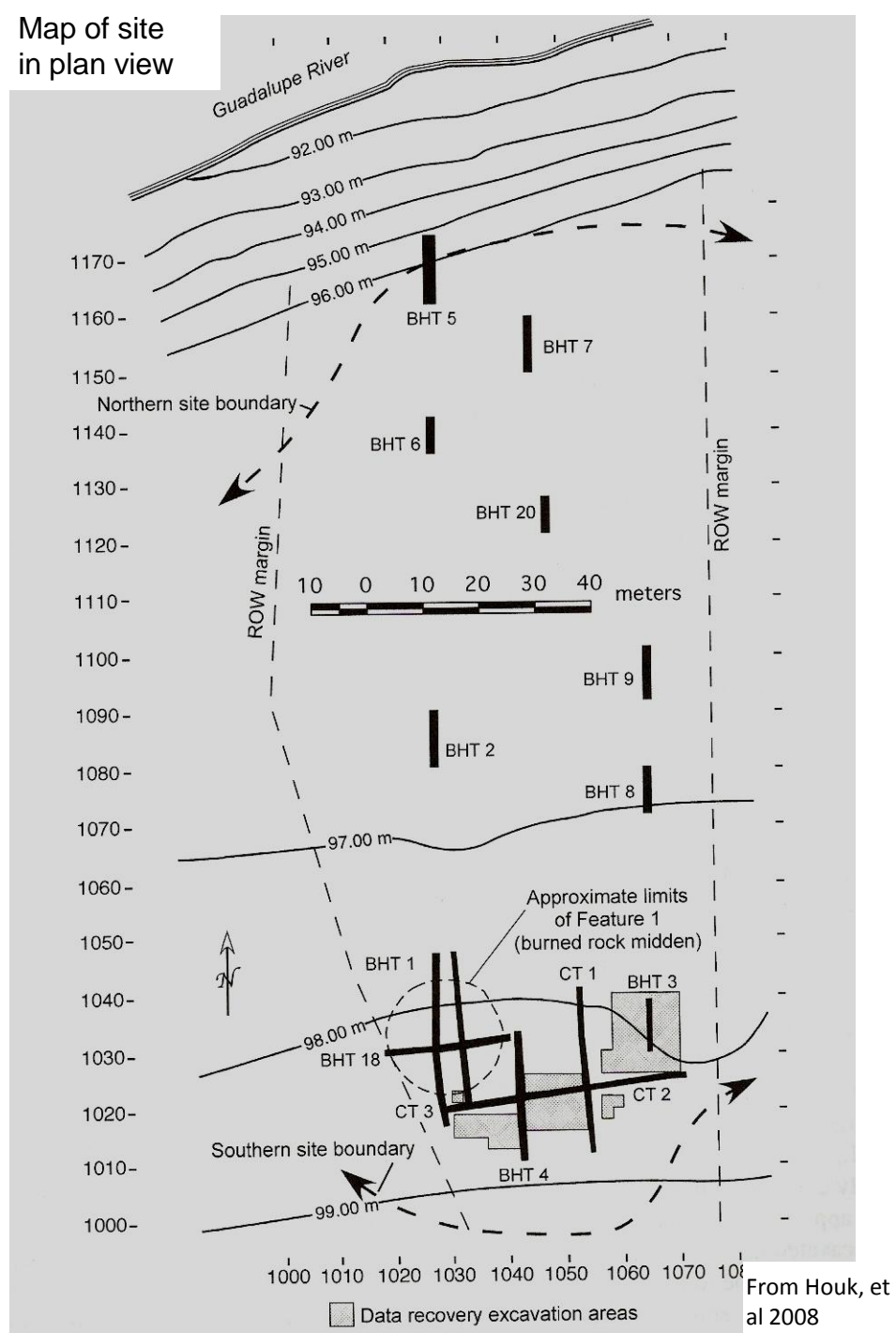
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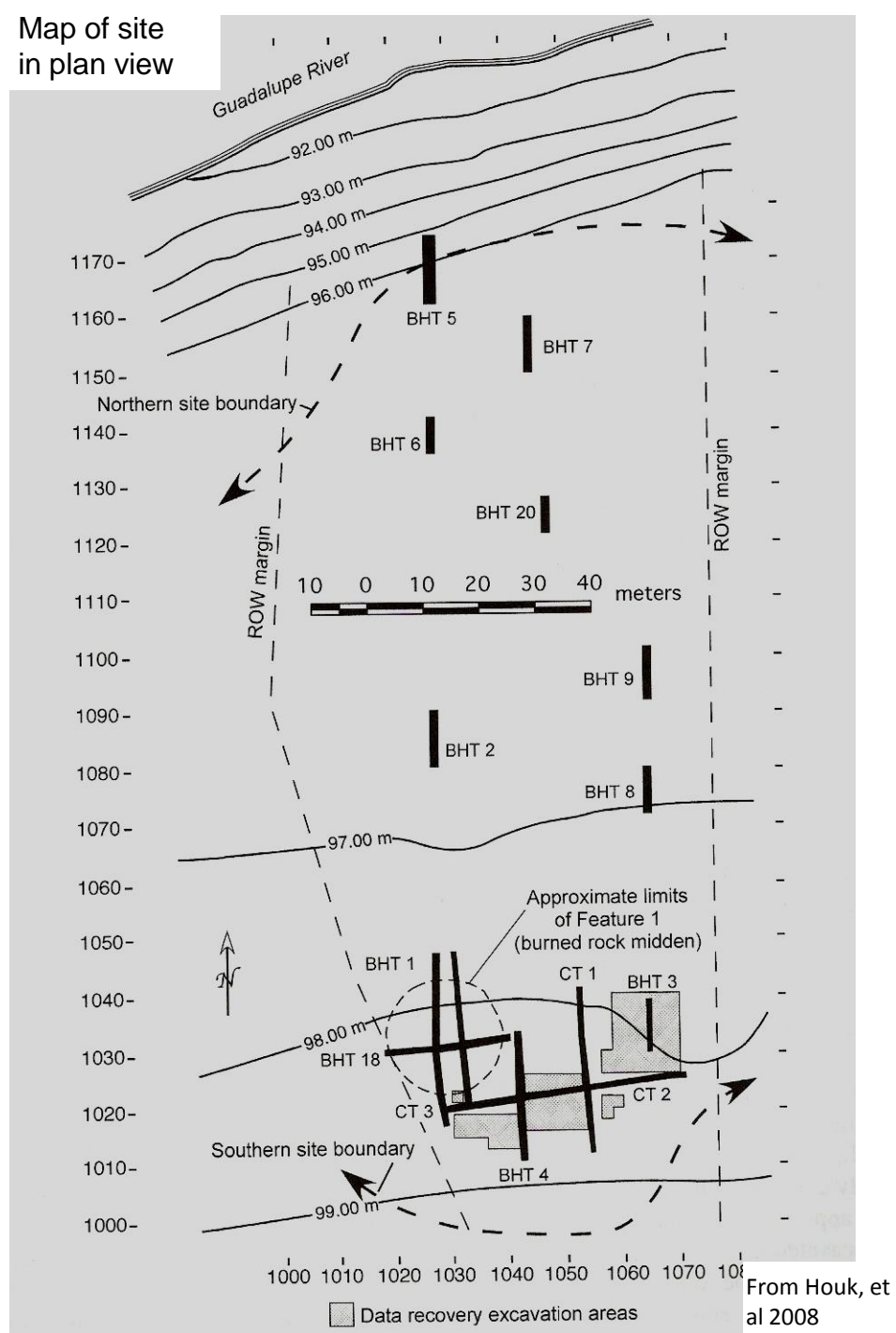
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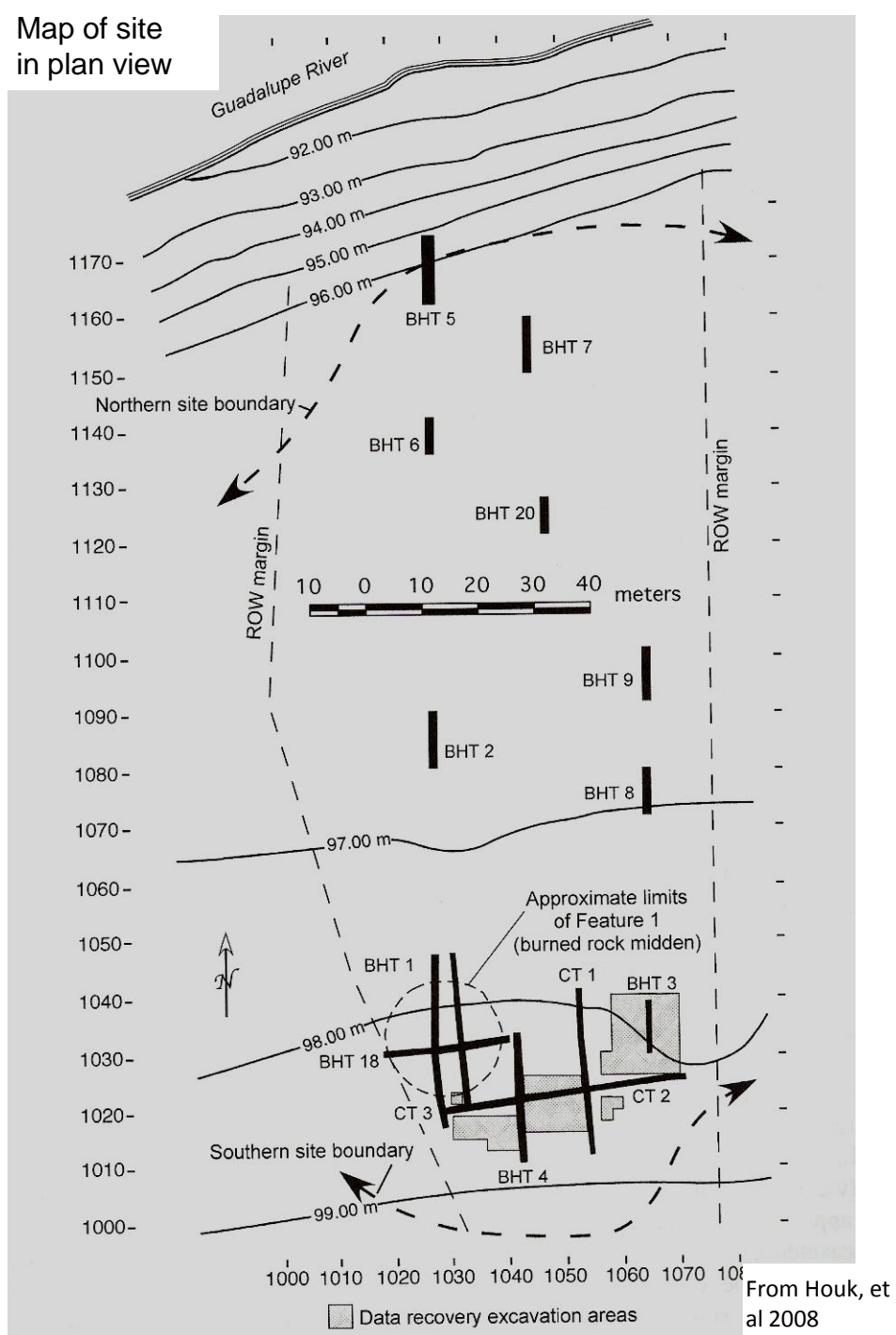
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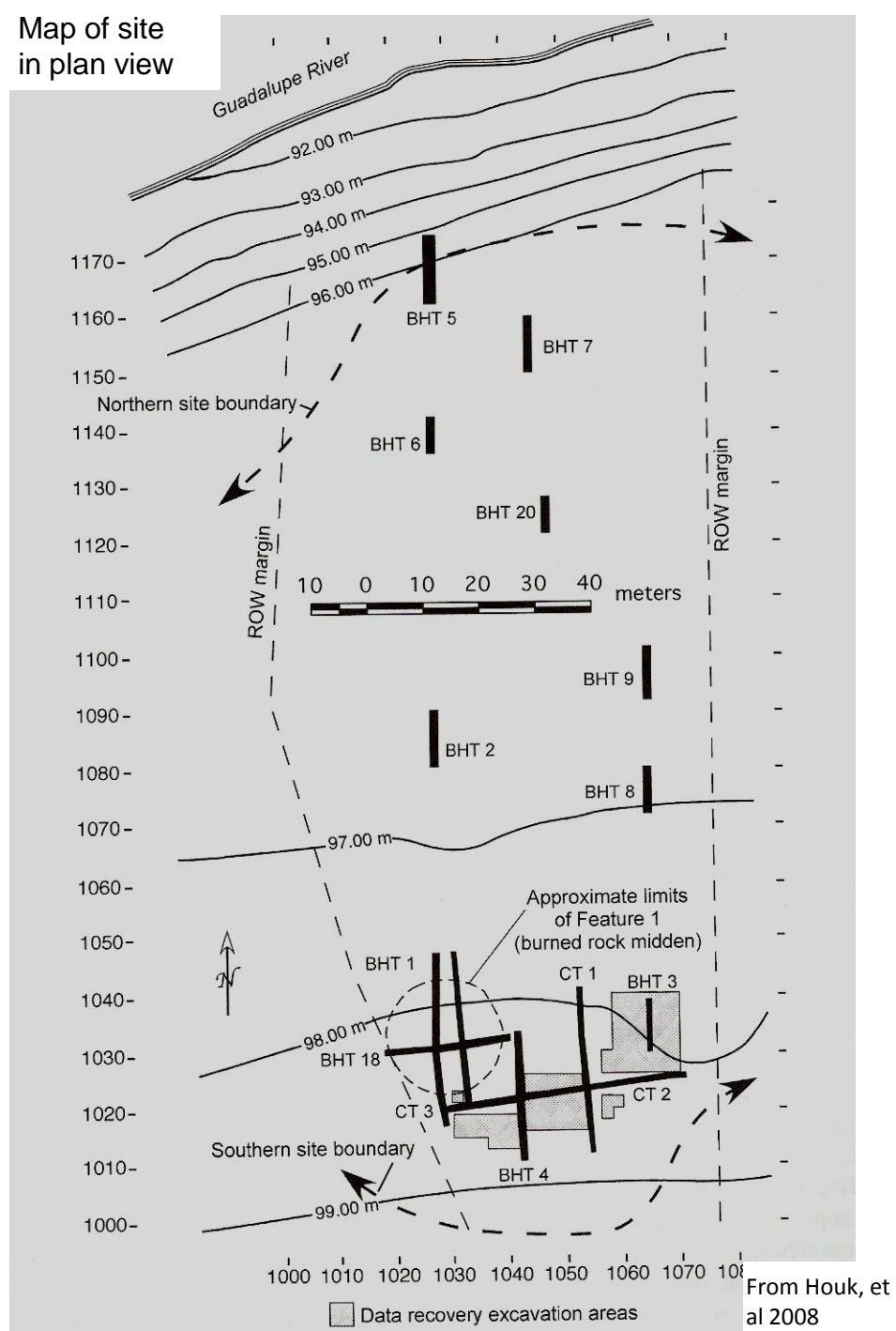
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- The site had no apparent surface expression such as mounding, and was unearthed in a grass pasture during road construction for the connection of Spur 98 across the Guadalupe River to Thompson Drive



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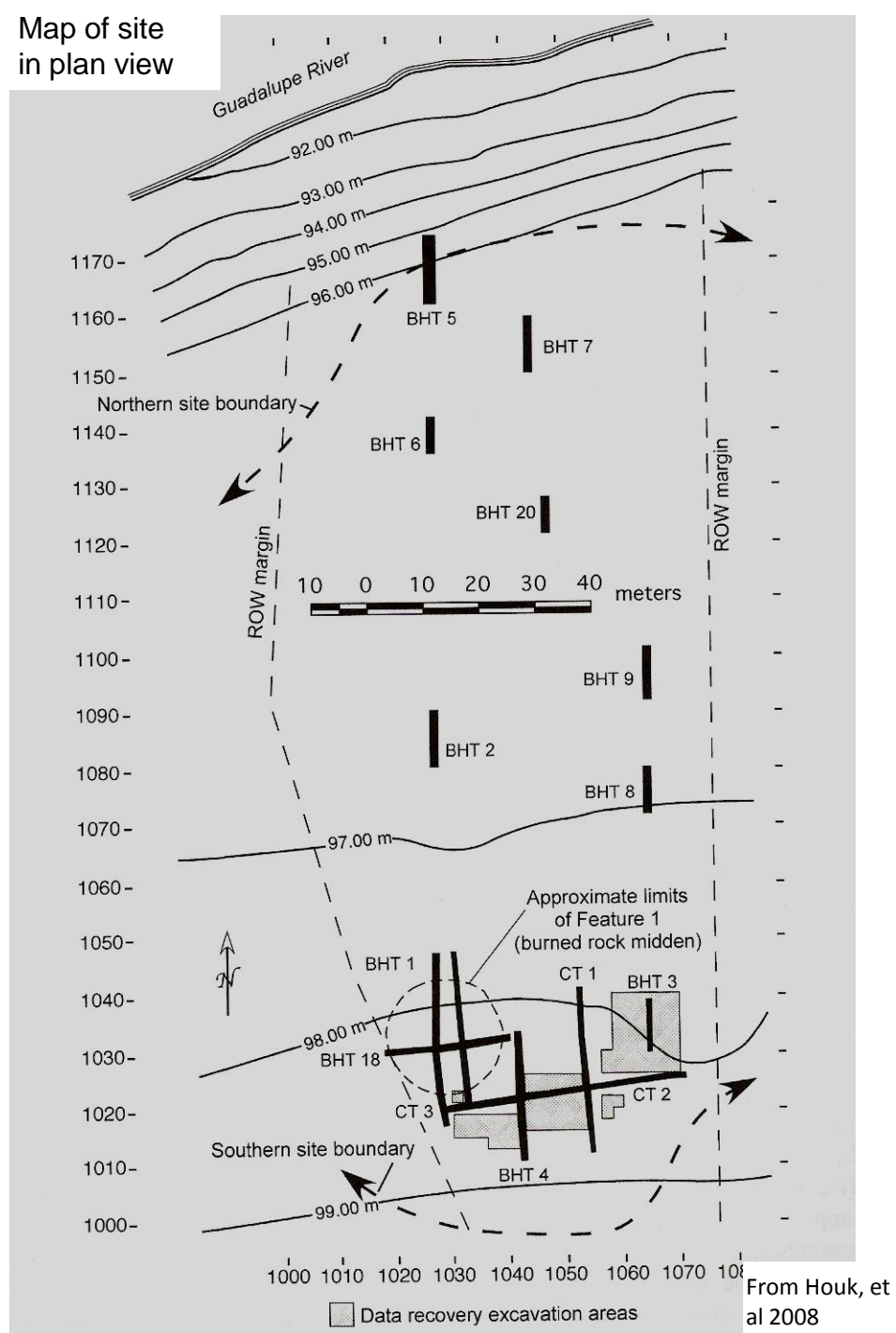
- The site has several zones of occupation beginning with the Early Archaic Period (8,000- 4500 years Before Present)

Map of site
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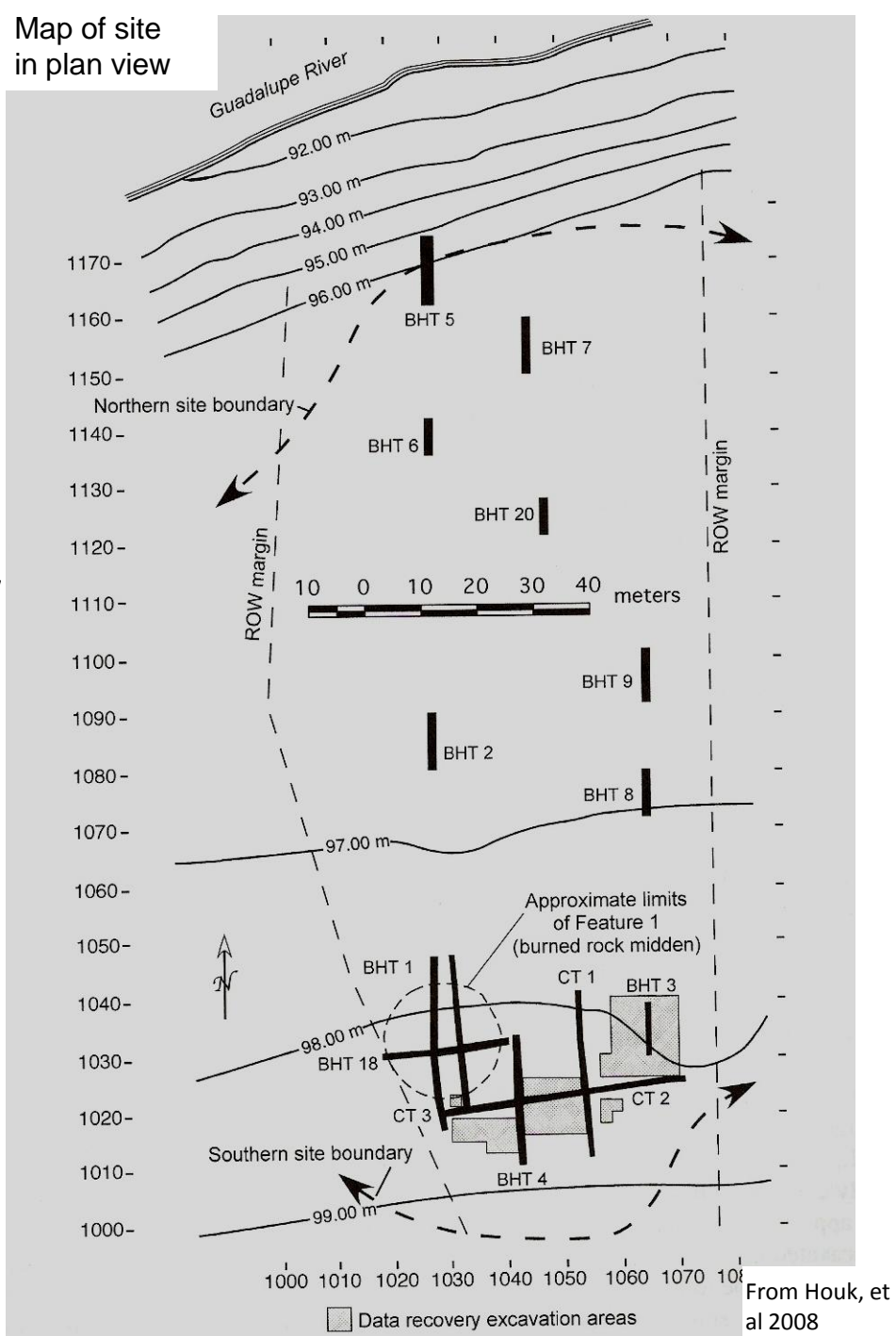
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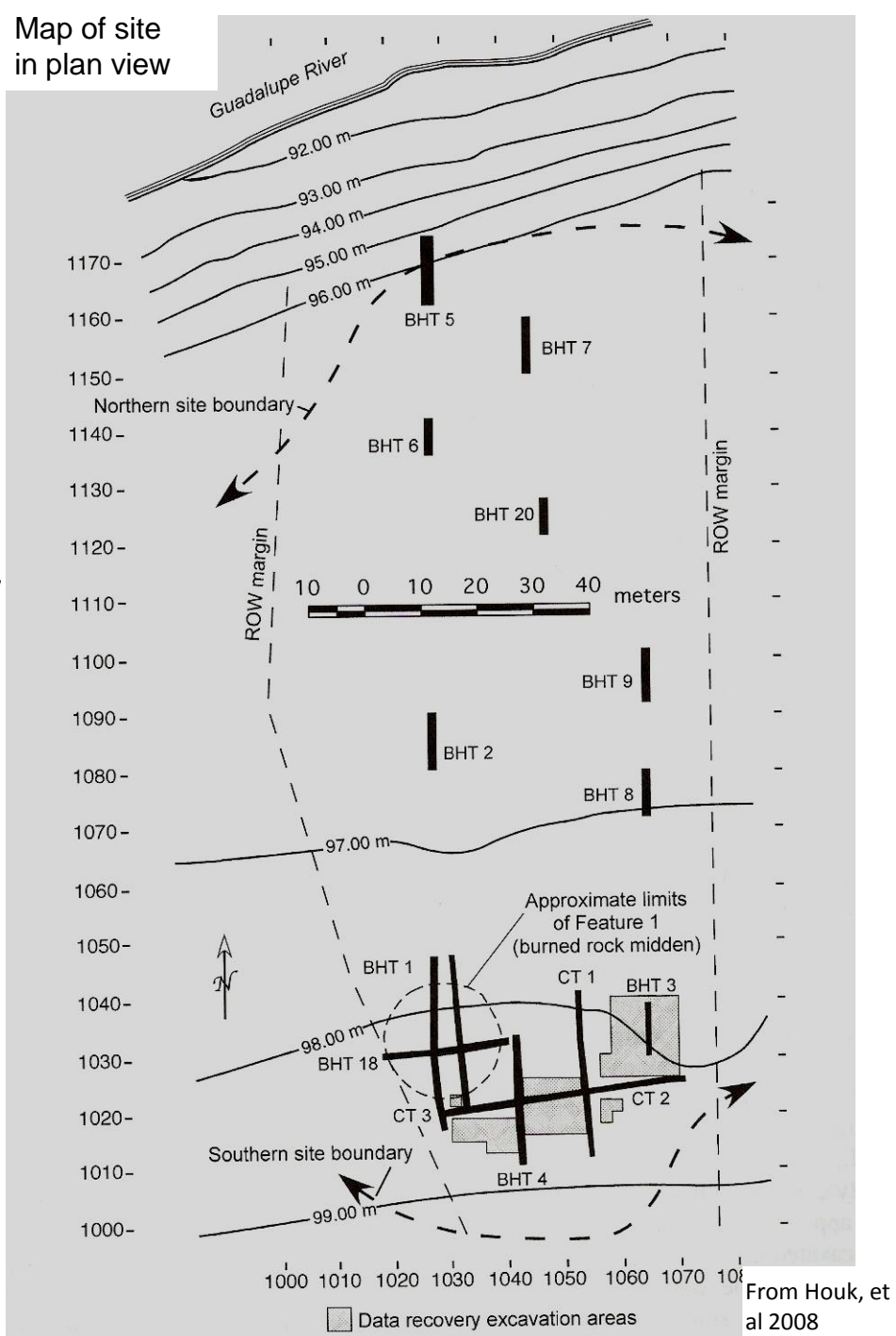
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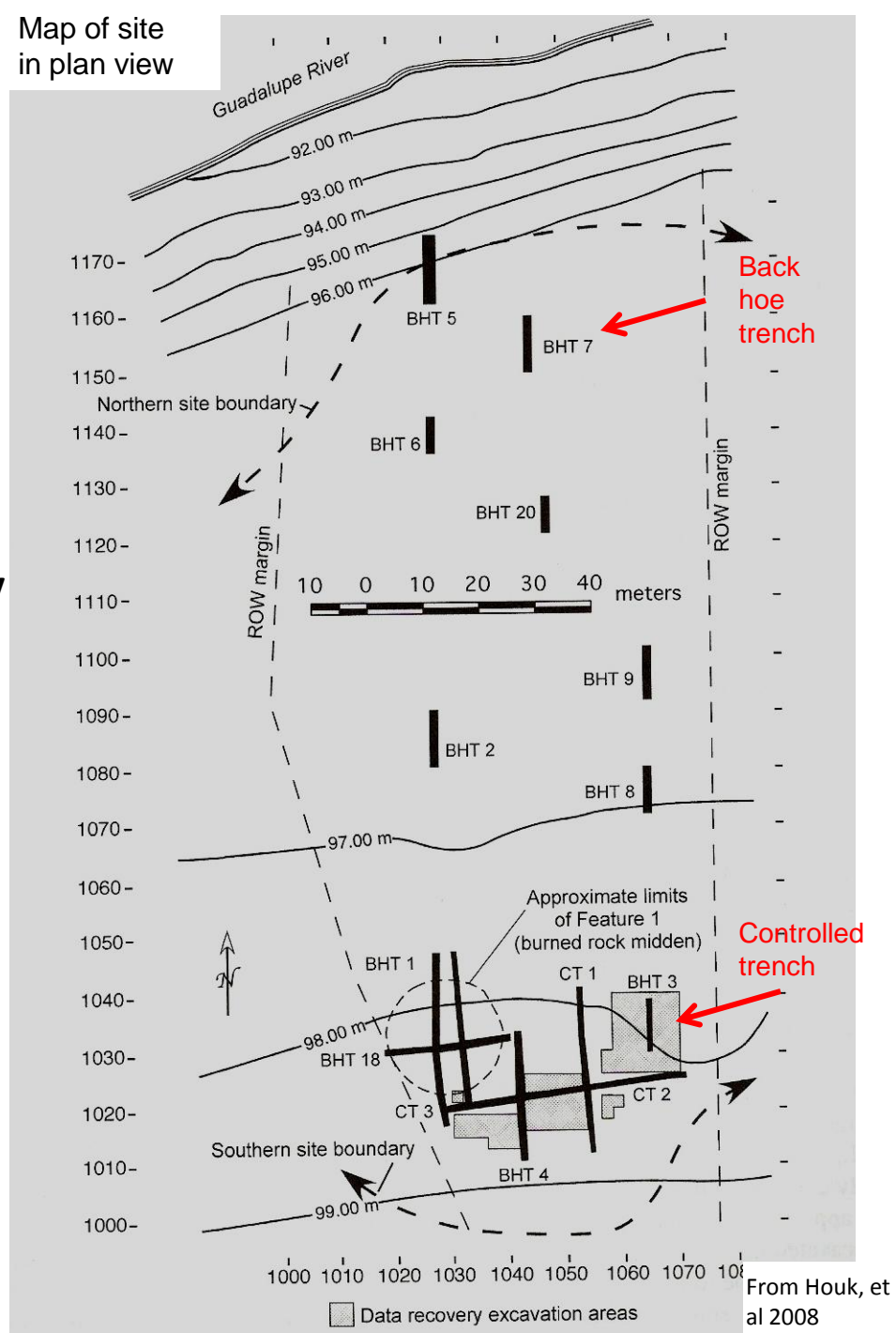
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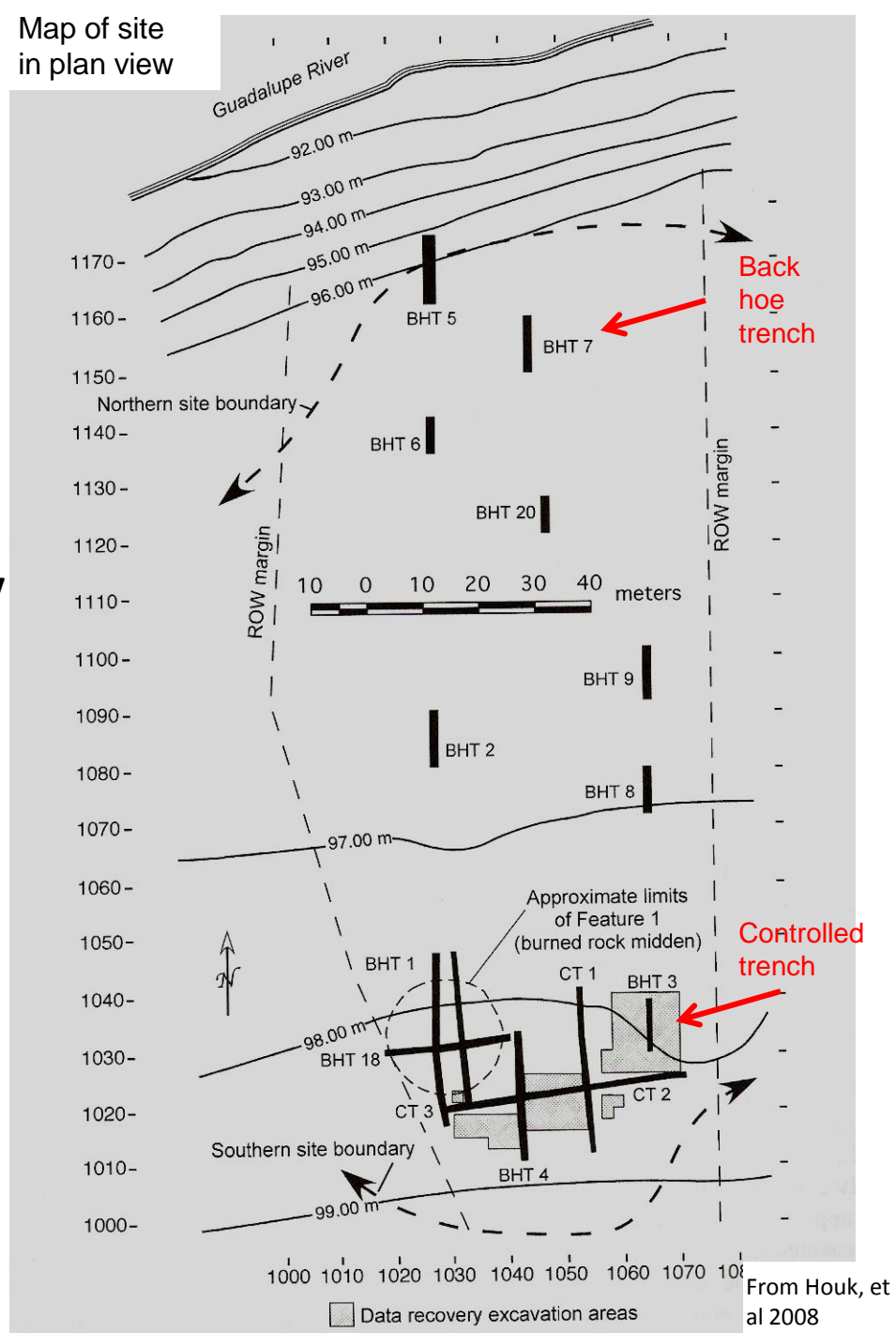
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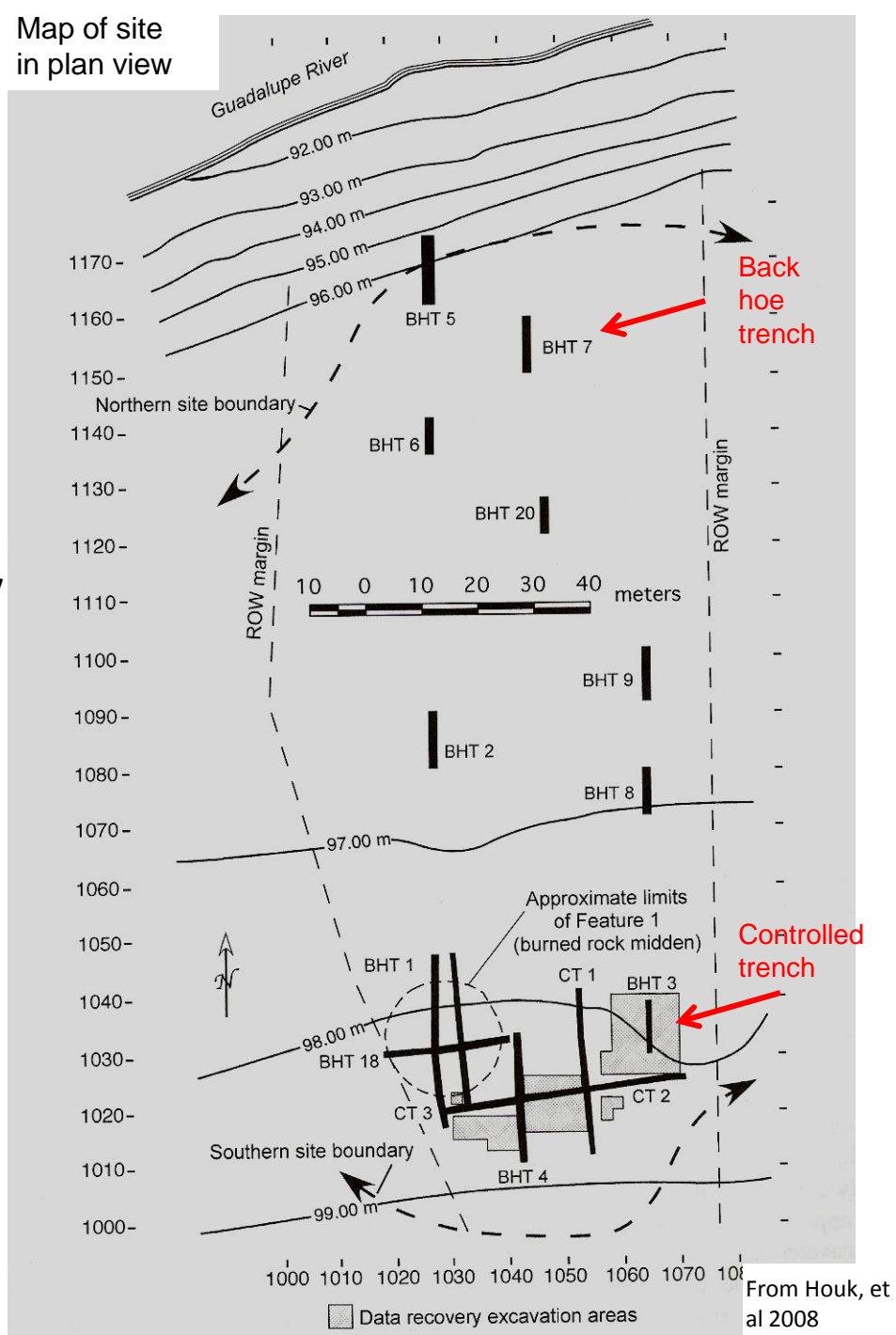
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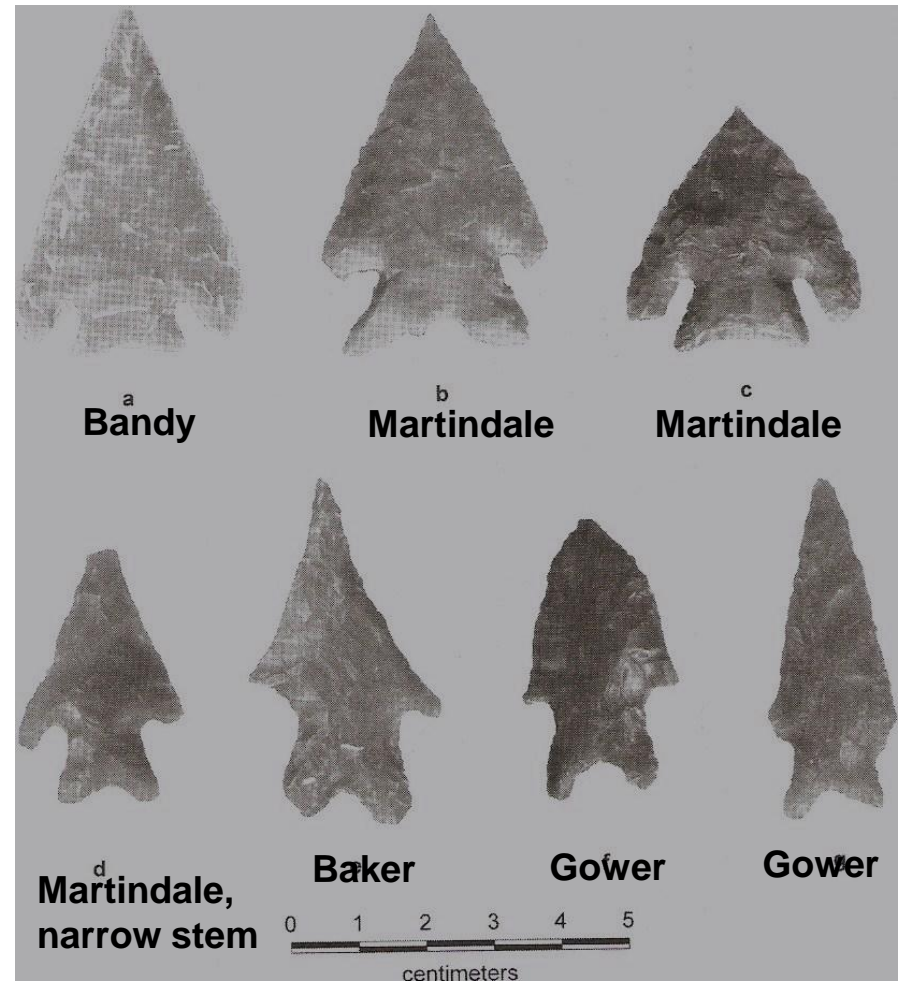
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- The eastern and western borders of the site are not known, and are on private land



The Gatlin Site Kerr Co., Texas

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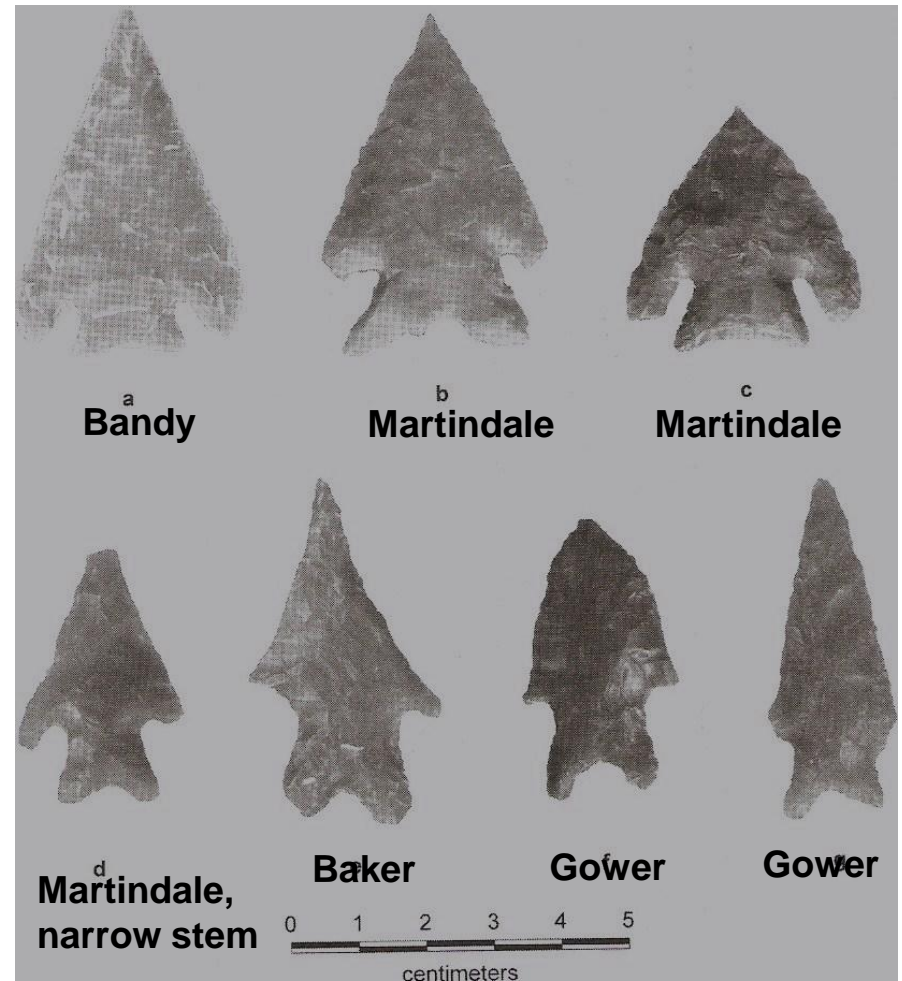


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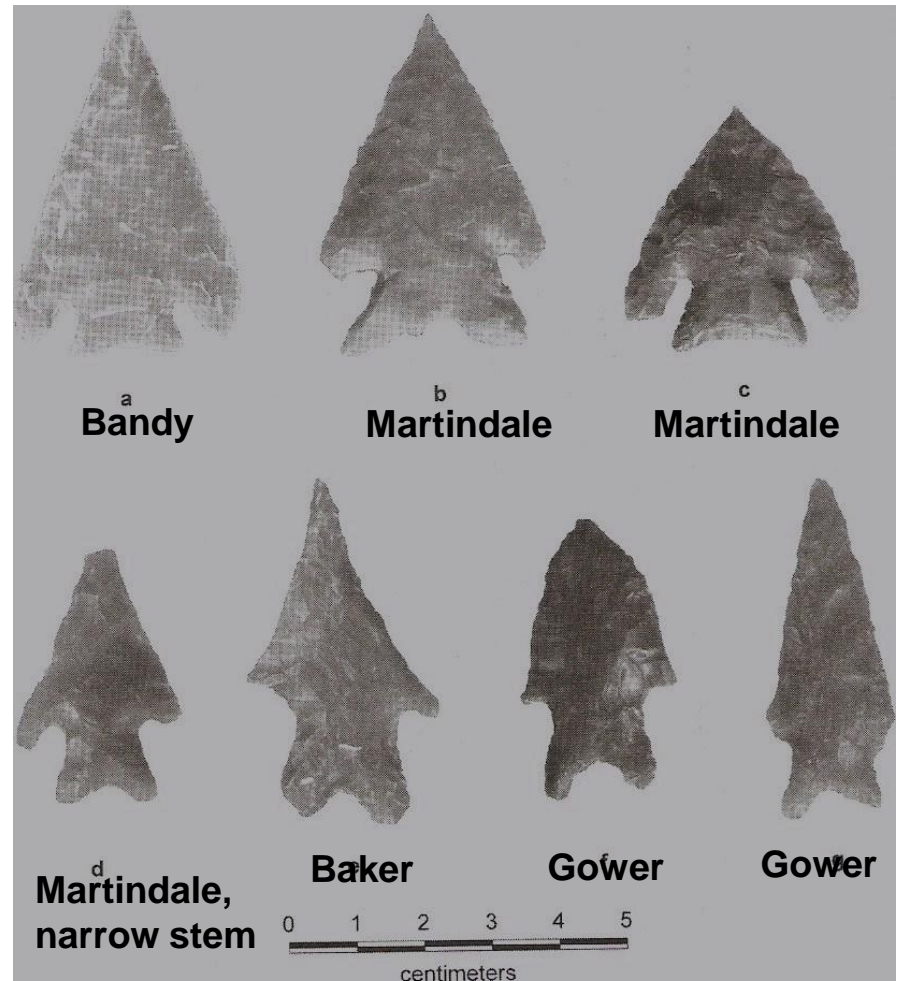
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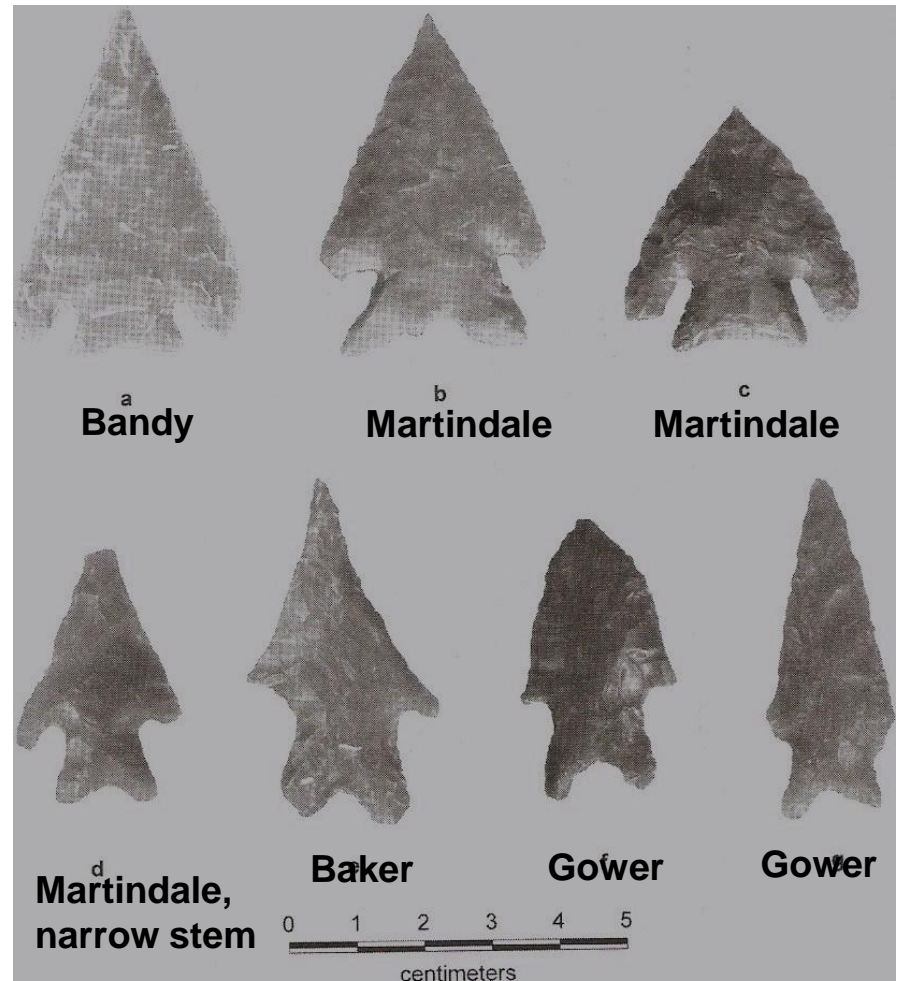
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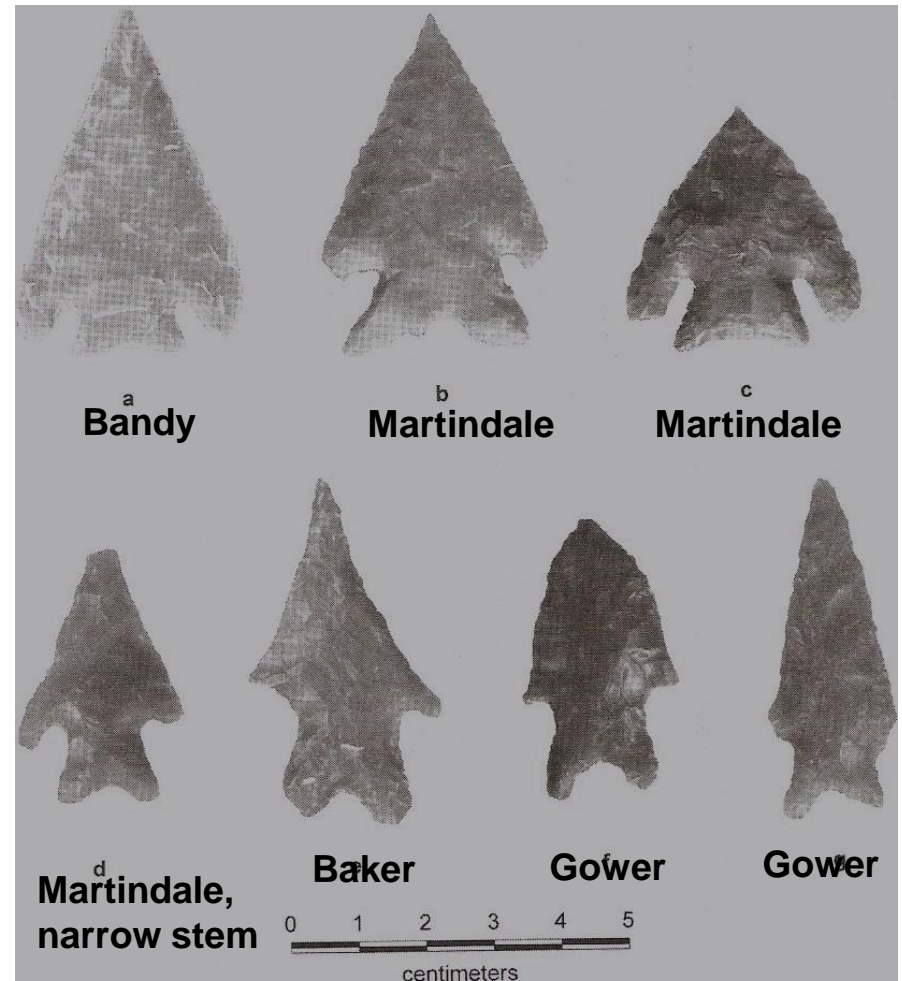
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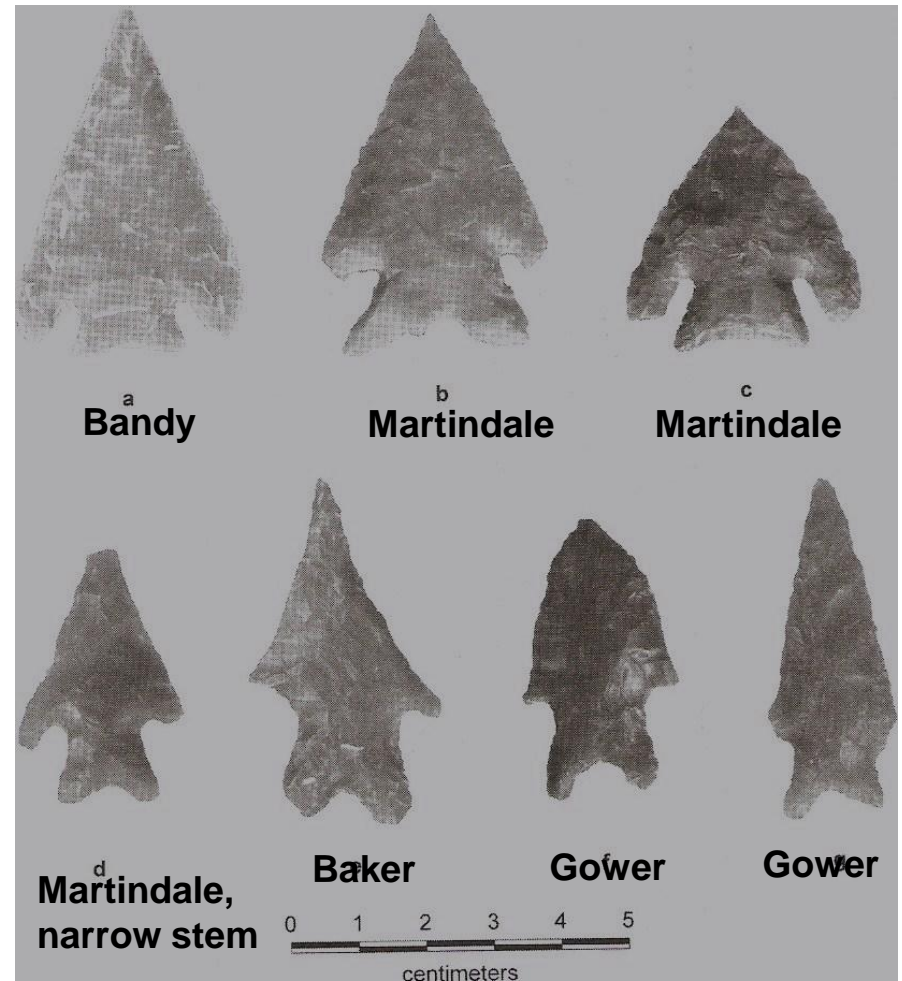
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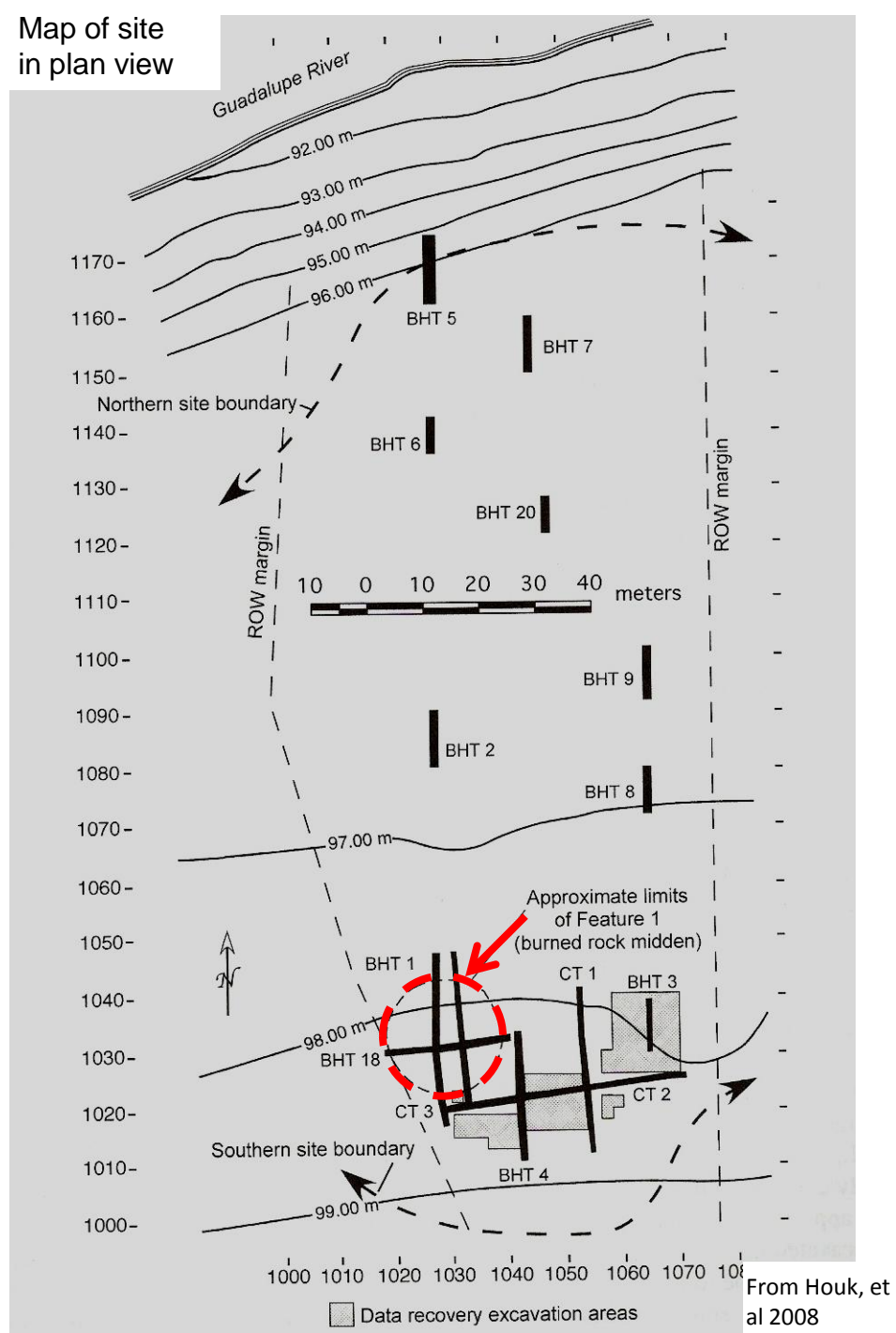


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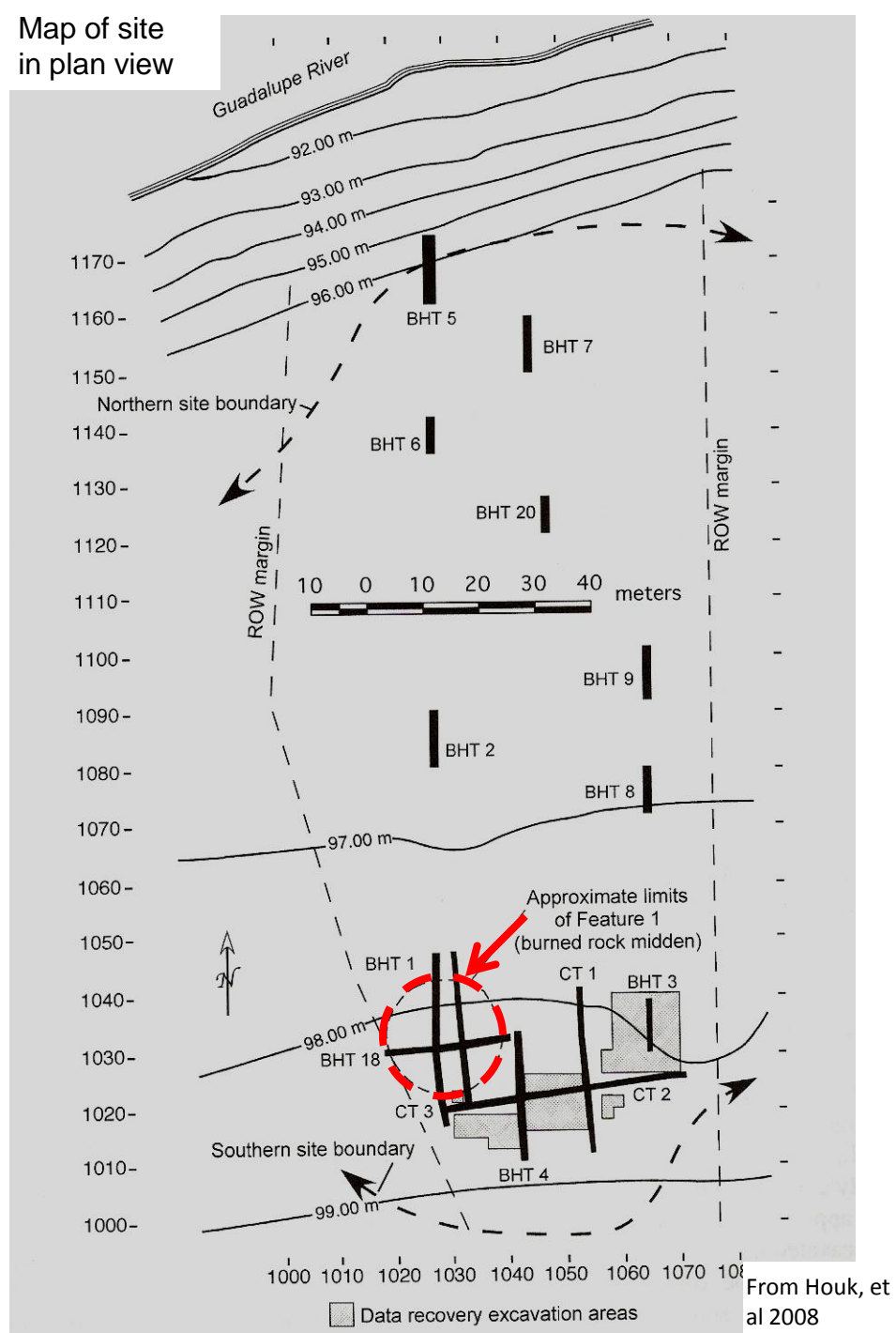
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- The site was not one of continuous occupation ,but hundreds of generations of semi nomadic hunter and gatherer Native Americans used it as a temporary camp over thousands of years



The Bearing Sink Hole Site Kerr Co., Texas

•The site (41KR241) is located in north western Kerr County, Texas and is a natural sink hole within the limestones of the Edwards Formation



Photo of Entrance to Bearing Sink Hole
Photo taken During Excavation and Studies
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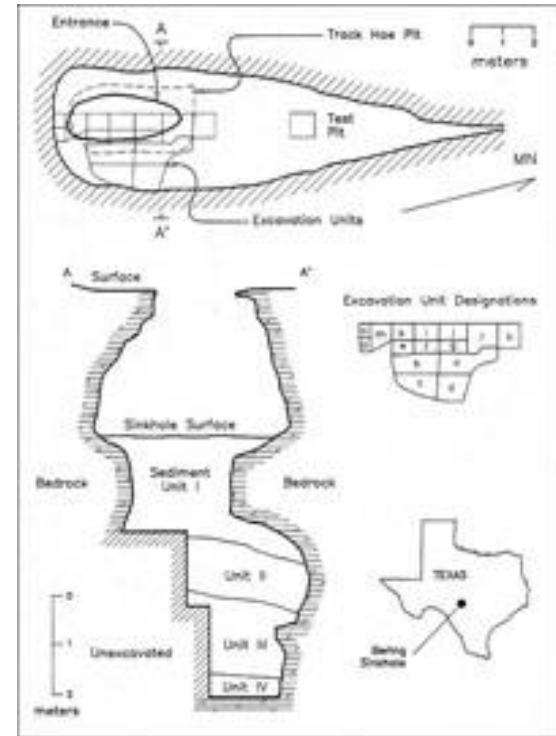
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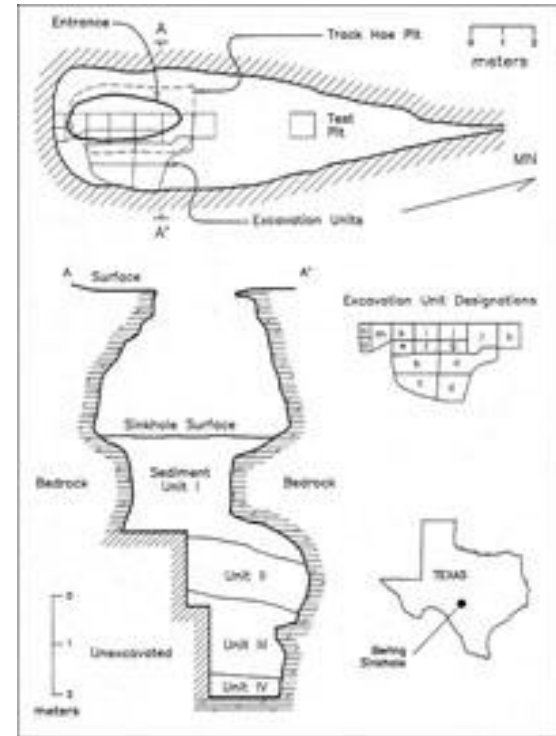
•The land owner probed into the sink hole with a back hoe and recovered several Indian artifacts as well as bones of animals and humans. He then contacted several area universities resulting in the Texas Archeology Research Laboratory at the University of Texas, Austin initiating excavations and research of the site in 1987



Plan view (top) and cross sectional view (bottom) of Bearing Sink Hole based upon archeological work between 1987 to 1991

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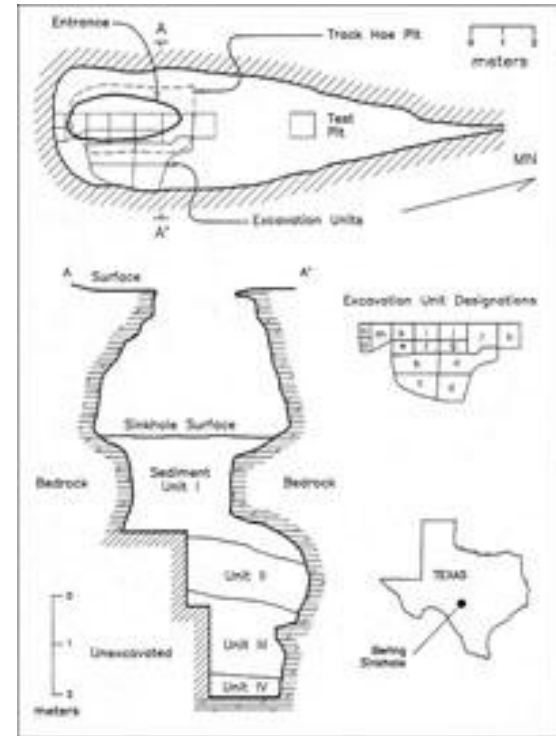


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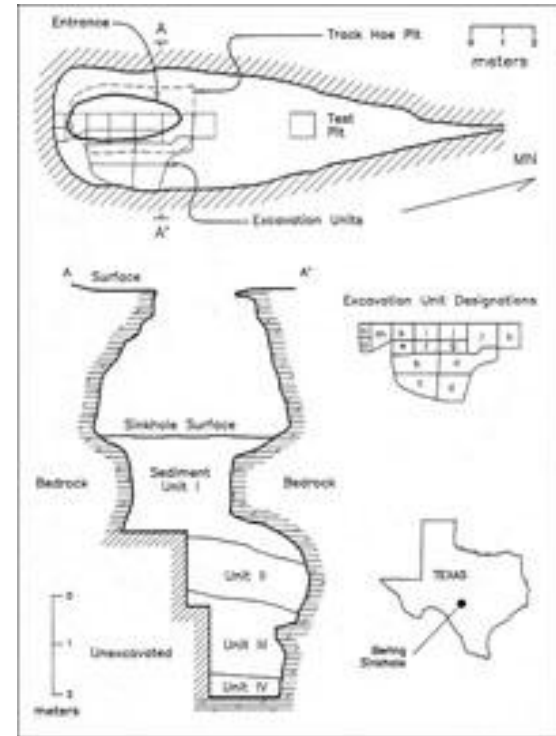


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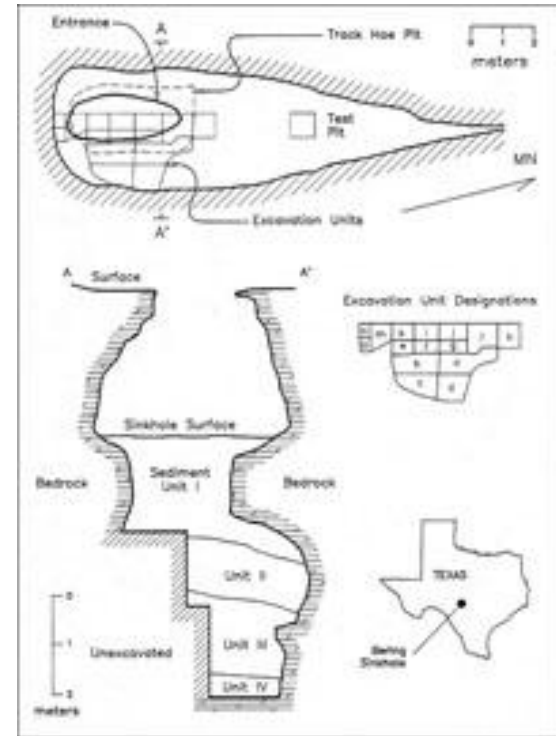
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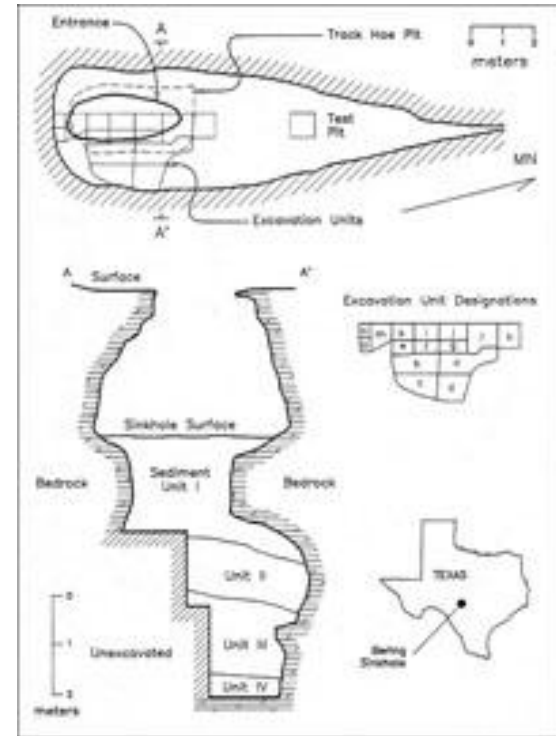
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Ongoing excavations at the sink hole during 1987-1991 period



Thin biface from Edwards chert (left) and two shell pendants of Gulf Coast conch shell from site believed to represent grave offerings

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- Prehistoric cemeteries are rare on the Edwards Plateau, in contrast to the coastal plains of southern and south eastern Texas. Based on what is known about beliefs of Native peoples of the south west, ancient Native Americans likely believed sink holes were a portal to the under world and after life



Bifaces and stone drill from cache