Subject: Internal wall profile (west view)

Recorded by: Lisa Brigham

Plow zone

DATE: 6-13-98

Scale: Bone - Rodent Run 4th Caliche - Pottery Charcoal: - Tool Caliche Line

1 square = 5 cm
Graphic #9 label

Wall Profile of an Excavated Unit

(See Graphic 8 to view a photograph of this cross section.)

After excavation, a profile is drawn of selected walls of each unit to record the layers deposited by people and natural processes.

This wall profile drawing records the layers of soil, features, and artifacts that were exposed by the 1998 excavation of a unit at the Lundeen site (14MD306) in Meade County, Kansas. The profile is color coded and shows the following elements:

Bone – fragment of animal bone
Caliche – nodule of calcium carbonate
Turtle – bone or carapace fragment
Rodent Run – disturbance caused by burrowing critter
Pottery – sherd (fragment of pottery)
Tool – stone tool fragment
Ash – powdery residue from burned wood
Charcoal – flecks or small chunks of burned wood
Caliche Line – crust of calcium carbonate
Plow Zone – surface layer that has been disturbed by farming
Darker Soil – soil that probably contains organic materials

From this profile can you determine the length of this wall unit? How deeply the unit was excavated? (Hint: Look for the notation of scale.)

Image source: Archeology Department, Kansas State Historical Society.

Puzzles from the Past: Problem Solving Through Archeology Traveling Resource Trunk, Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099, 785-272-8681, kshs.education@ks.gov, www.kshs.org