

# Scale and Community in Hopewell Networks (SCHoN): An Updated Summary

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## Abstract

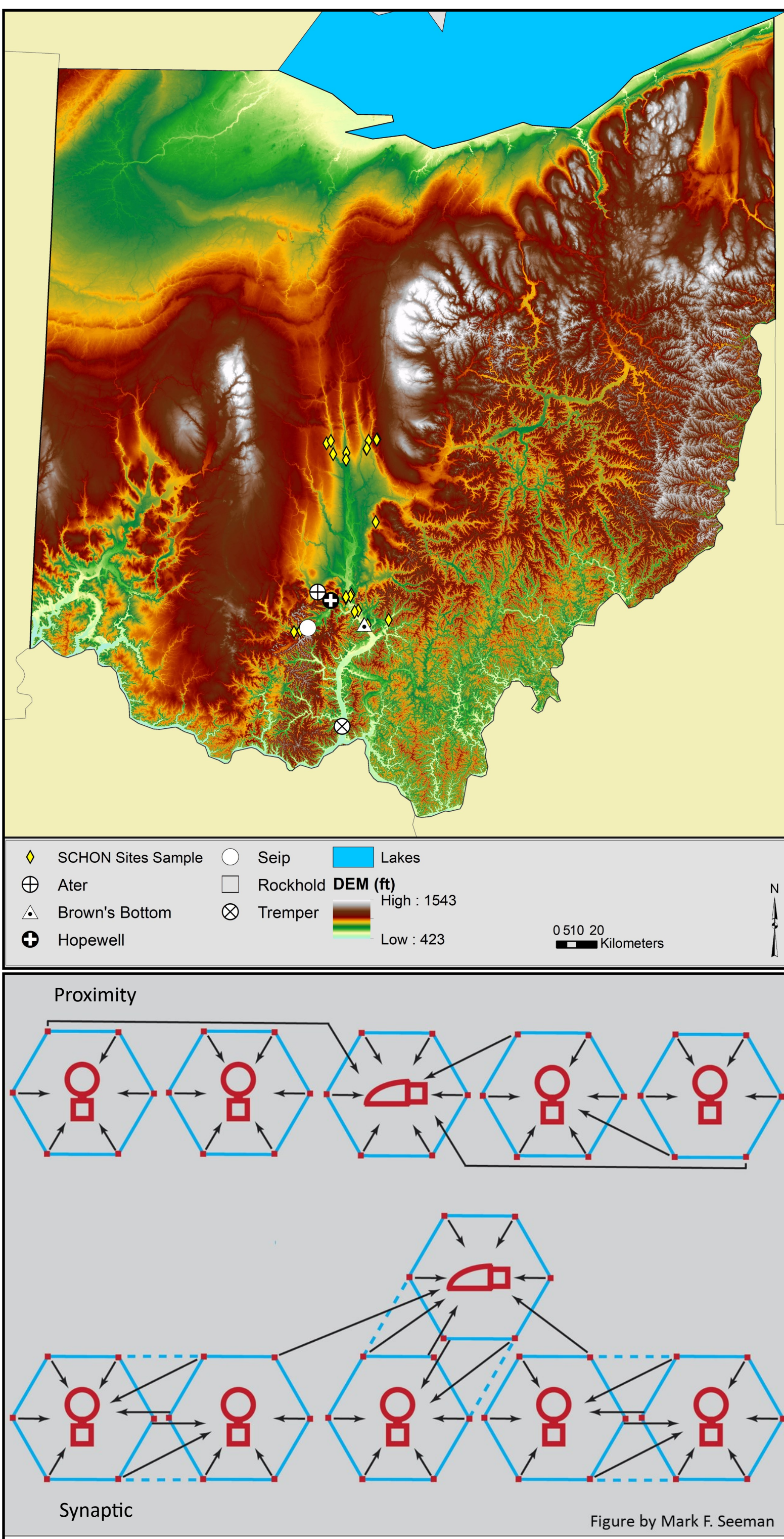
The SCHoN project analyzed curated collections from over 30 Hopewell sites in the Scioto Valley of Central Ohio. We systematically analyzed ceramic, lithic, and copper artifacts from each site (where available) to begin to piece together the multi-layered networks that make up the phenomena we refer to as “Hopewell”. Results from six different analyses are summarized here. We shed light on the relationships between two adjacent household sites (Brown’s Bottom and Lady’s Run), the distribution of copper sources used by Scioto Hopewell, the nature of social connections symbolled by copper procurement, the structure of lithic procurement networks, a descriptive summary of overall relations in the analysis, and the timing of the Hopewell phenomena in the Scioto Valley. Together these analyses are refining and reshaping our collective understanding of Scioto Hopewell.

## A SCHoN Summary (Nolan et al. in press)

In the earthwork sites, Flint Ridge and Wyandotte are represented by much larger diagnostics than in non-earthwork locations, but notably not Upper Mercer, representing a distinct pattern of production for activities at earthworks. Flint Ridge, Upper Mercer, and Unknown are proportionally greater in quantity at non-earthwork sites. The rest of the categories are larger and proportionally over-represented at earthworks. For non-diagnostic lithics only “Other”, Upper Mercer, and weight of unknown material show a larger proportional representation for non-earthworks due to the extreme reliance on Delaware. The similarity in material among site types for diagnostics indicates preference of display of certain material types.

Sherd thickness is fairly consistent across sites, generally between 5 and 6 mm, except Ater, Hopeton, and especially Rockhold. Earthwork sherds also exhibit more plain, burnishing, stamping, and decoration. Non-earthwork sites have more brushing and more S-twist..

Grit and grit/chert temper are more prevalent at non-earthwork sites. The earthwork sites show greater variability in recipes. Very fine temper is overrepresented at non-earthwork sites while Medium temper is overrepresented at earthwork sites. The low temper density sherds likely represent poor quality domestic wares. Trailed and cord impressed designs are slightly more prevalent at non-earthwork sites, and dentate linear designs are slightly more prevalent at earthworks. Earthwork sites exhibit a slightly greater richness of decoration types.

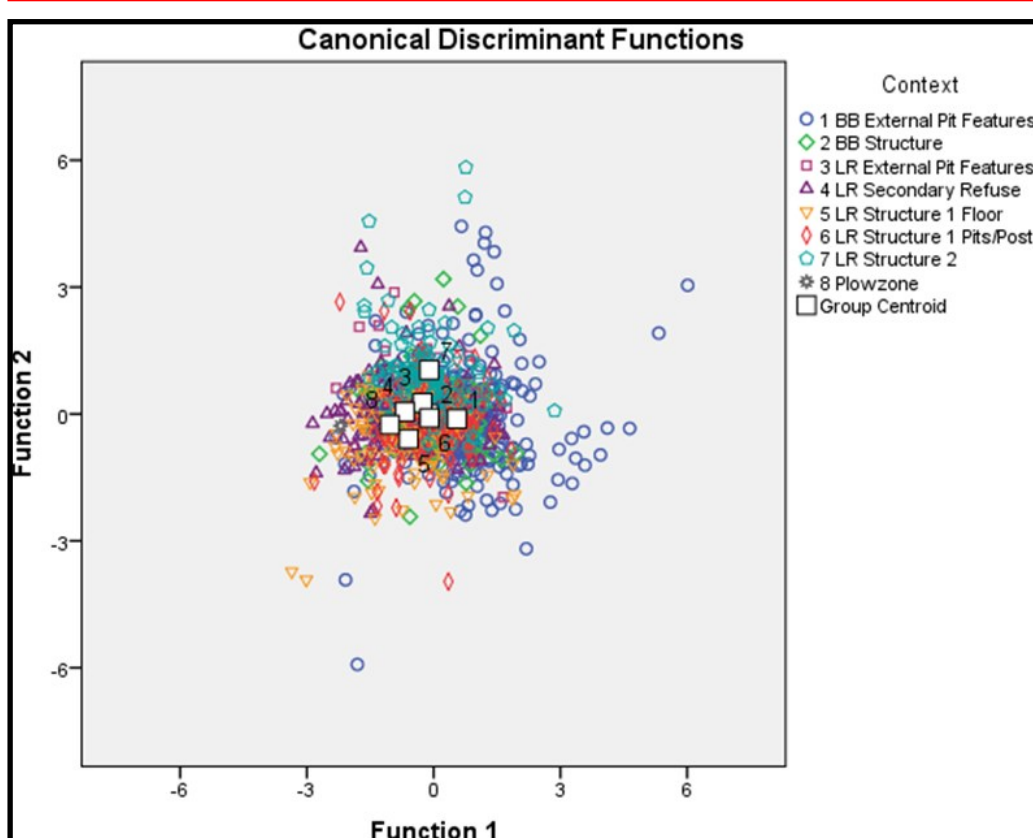


lent at non-earthwork sites, and dentate linear designs are slightly more prevalent at earthworks. Earthwork sites exhibit a slightly greater richness of decoration types.

We have evidence for emphasis on display at earthworks with a greater diversity of temper and decoration styles. The diversity in paste recipes at earthwork sites seems to be more in line with the Synaptic model; however, the variety at earthwork sites is not drawn from a mix of populations from different subregions. Interestingly, the earthwork sites are more distinctive in terms of production characters than the non-earthwork sites. This is the opposite of expected if there was wide mixing of dispersed populations as in the Synaptic model. It does suggest that each earthwork center had a relatively distinct preference for the ceramics on display. For more see Nolan et al. in press.

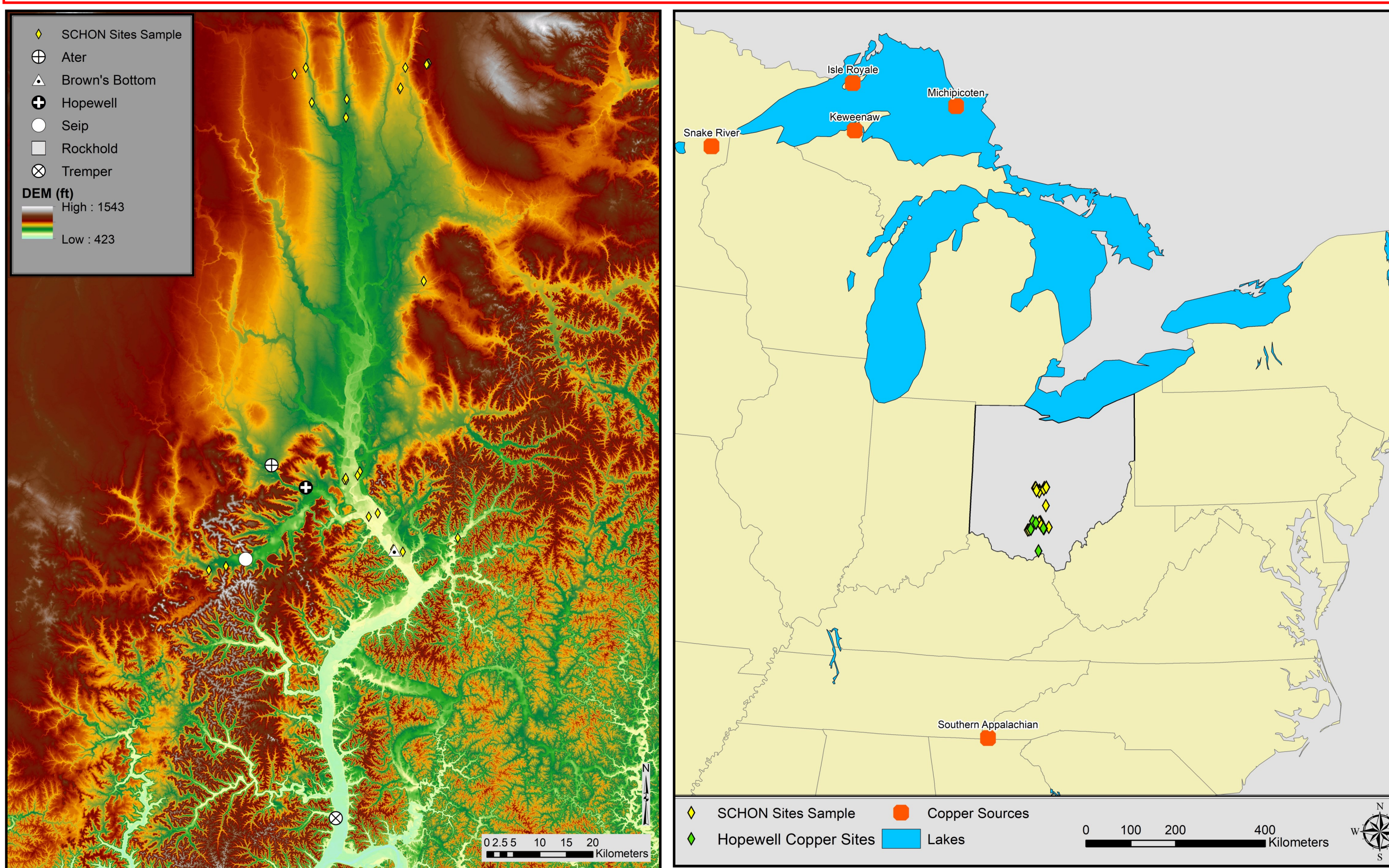
## Brown’s Bottom and Lady’s Run (Hill et al. in press)

While the similarities between the ceramic and lithic assemblages at Lady’s Run and Brown’s Bottom there are notable differences. In particular, depositional contexts exhibit an inverse organization between the two sites. Wyandotte is preferred at Lady’s Run while Burlington is preferred at Brown’s Bottom. The sites demonstrate that procurement and production are organized at the household level, and households drive the macro-scale.



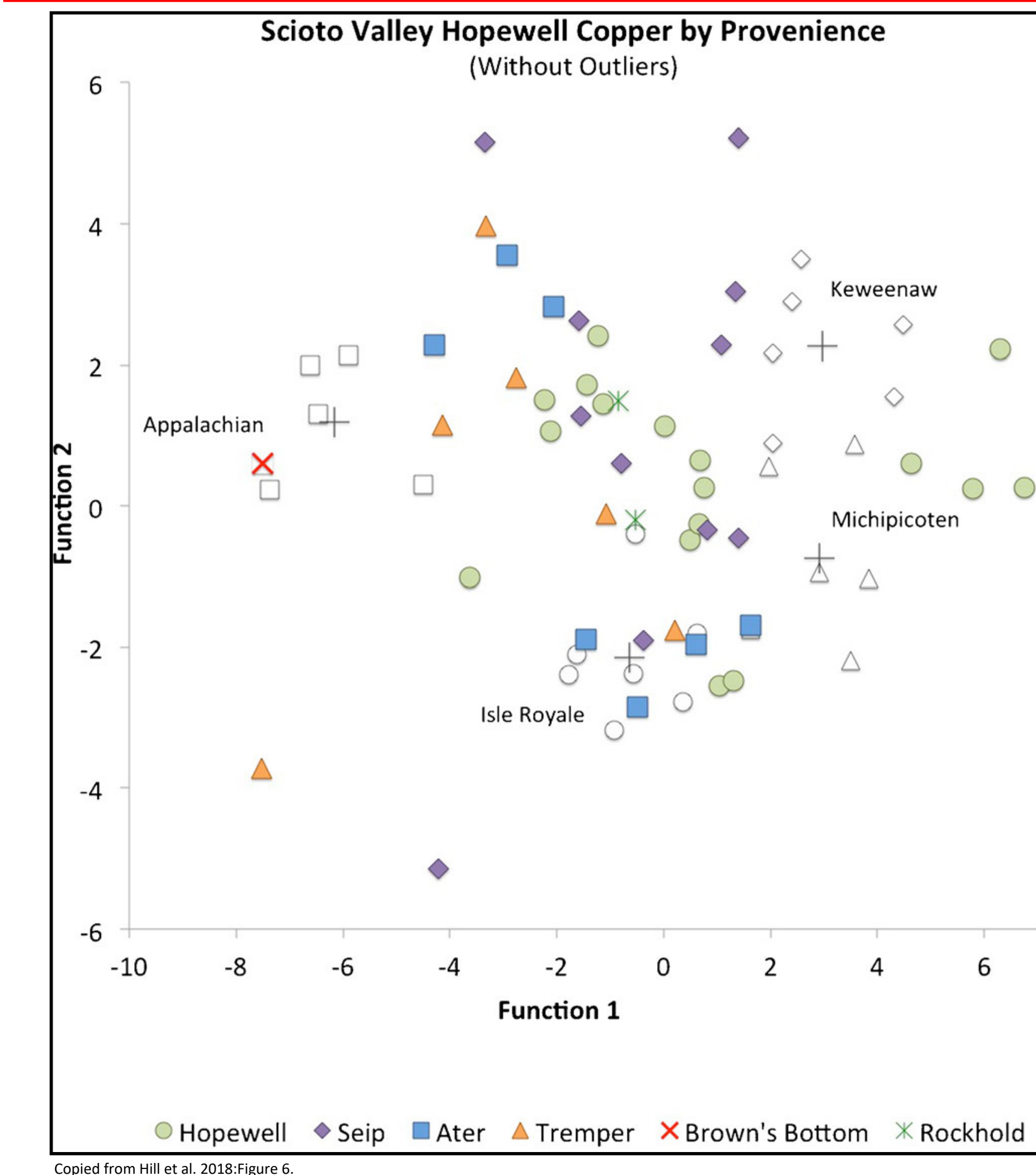
## Copper Procurement (Hill et al. 2018)

Artifacts of copper occupy a position of prominence and also represent social contacts and long-distance interactions. We begin to develop the foundation for understanding these important social issues by analyzing the elemental variability of Hopewell copper through the use of laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry. We analyze 24 samples from four known copper source regions and 52 samples from 6 prominent sites in the Scioto Valley. Results suggest that a majority of the artifacts are consistent with sources in the Great Lakes, with a plurality classified as Isle Royale. However, 21% of Scioto Hopewell copper artifacts were most consistent with southern Appalachian sources. Our results suggest that instead of being derived from the struggle to access a specific source, value is derived from the social relationships represented by the copper and the connotation of exotic connection embodied in both style and material.



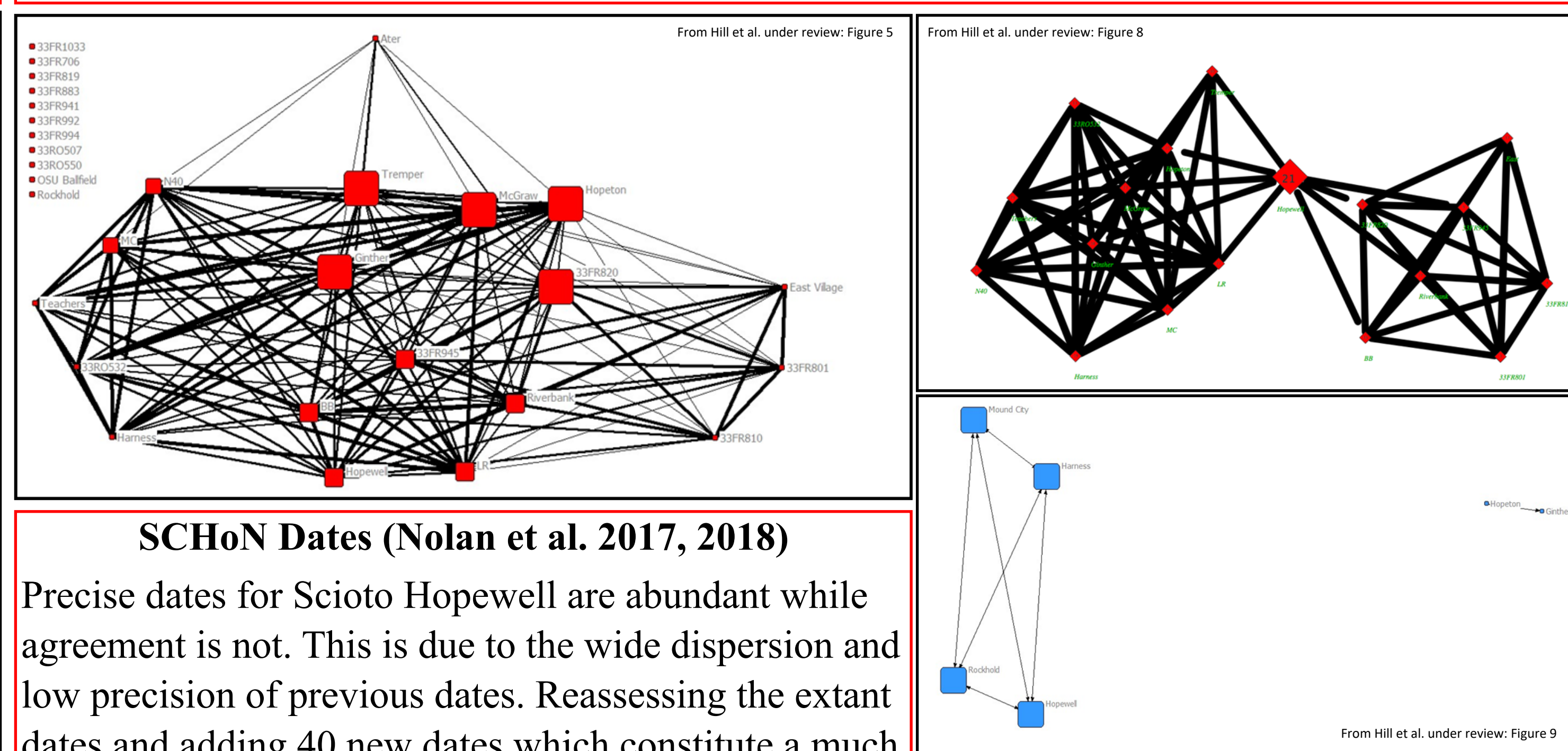
## Social Copper (Seeman et al. under review)

Copper was the most important metal used by Scioto Hopewell societies. Here we interpret our sourcing analysis above within the general theoretical frame of the new animism. We argue that the actors participating in the social networks that brought copper to Ohio Hopewell societies understood and creatively maintained multiple kinds of links to this material based on patterned distributions in archaeological contexts, and we especially highlight the association of large copper objects with the Isle Royale and Michipicoten sources in the Lake Superior basin. We further suggest that southern Appalachian copper and Great Lakes copper were part of different kinds of extra-regional social networks with implications for interpreting the range of potential Hopewell relations in the Midwest.



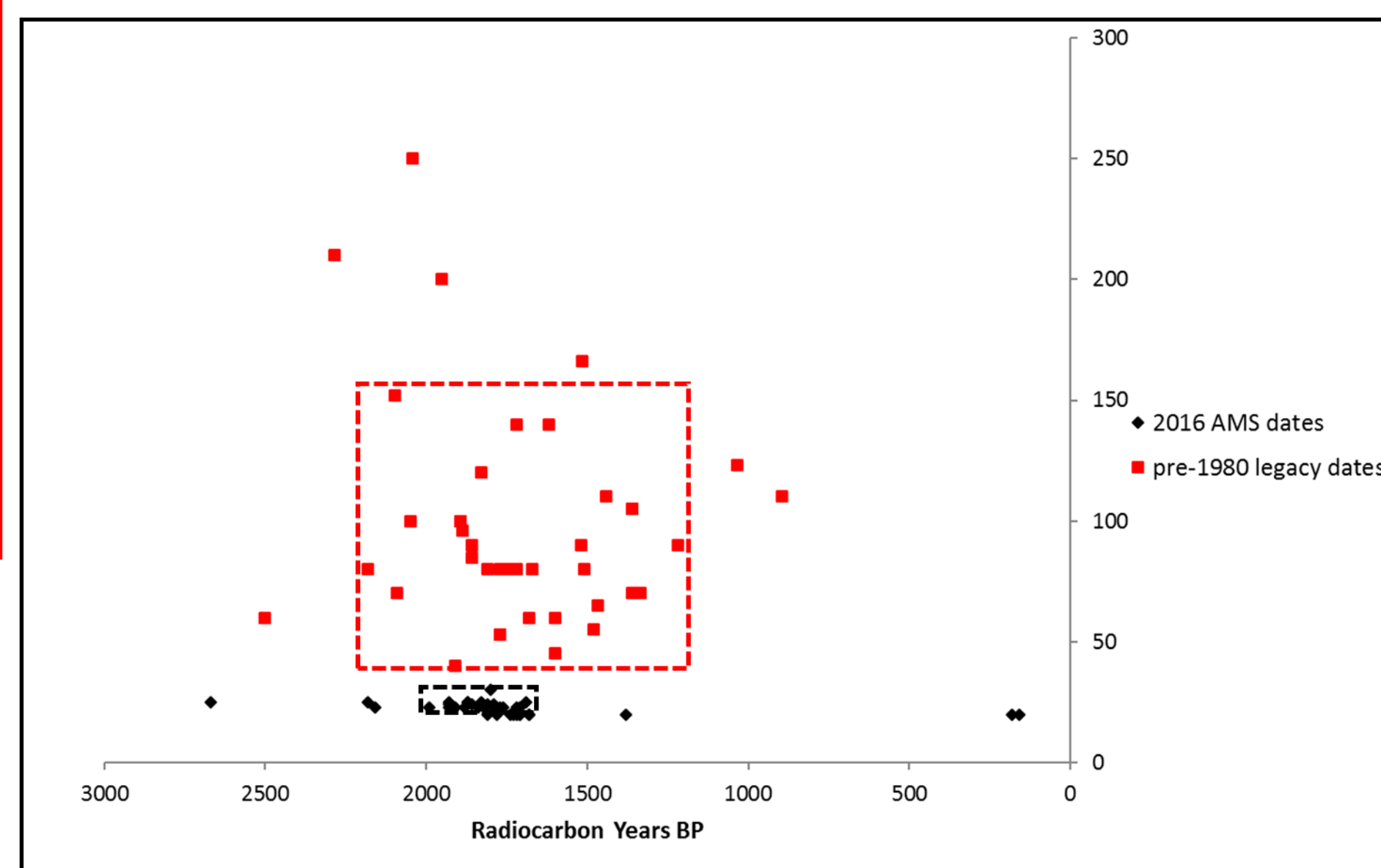
## Social Lithics (Hill et al. under review)

The communities that made up “Hopewell” constructed elaborate mounded landscapes, participated in continental social networks that brought exotic materials from all directions and great distances to the Ohio Valley. Scales of participation range from the household level, to regional scales, and broader scales that combine these diverse societies into an amorphous “Hopewell.” We must engage explicit methods of analysis, such as Social Network Analysis (SNA) to understand “Hopewell”. We use SNA to examine the structure and distribution of the multi-scalar lithic material patterns that are the objectification of the underlying relations that unite and define these communities. We reveal an interaction structure built from the household level upwards, not centered, or dependent upon the large earthwork complexes. This requires a re-evaluation of the nature of “Hopewell” in the Scioto Valley and beyond.



## SCHoN Dates (Nolan et al. 2017, 2018)

Precise dates for Scioto Hopewell are abundant while agreement is not. This is due to the wide dispersion and low precision of previous dates. Reassessing the extant dates and adding 40 new dates which constitute a much tighter and more precise cluster. This upends previous site orderings. Inherited chronologies must be re-evaluated. We must be prepared to discard (tschuß) previous conclusions when new evidence becomes available. Any social models and histories based on these legacy chronologies must be reassessed.



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