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# Defining the Location of a Late Woodland Enclosure Ditch

Adrienne Taylor

*Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne*

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## Defining the Location of a Late Woodland Enclosure Ditch

Adrienne Taylor

Dr. Robert McCullough

Department of Anthropology

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

The Office of Research and External Support awarded me a summer research grant to conduct research on a Late Prehistoric earthen embanked village site in Allen County, Indiana. Currently this site is forested. The embankment and exterior ditch is extant on the east and west sides of the enclosure, but the central portion of the enclosure has been previously cultivated. This research was designed to supplement ongoing grant-related research that the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne Archaeological Survey has been conducting in 2008 and 2009. The purpose of this research was to identify the central portion of the exterior ditch using an Oakfield Split Spoon Probe to extract soil cores and to observe them for subtle color changes. Delineating the ditch would assist in determining the size and shape of the earthwork, as well as determining whether an opening to the enclosure existed. During the 2008 field season the embankment ditch was exposed in the central portion of the enclosure through an excavation of a 6 meter by 1 meter trench. This trench excavation demonstrated that the soil differences in the ditch could be identified by soil coring. A series of 126 cores was placed in a systematic fashion running north and south at intervals necessary to identify the ditch along east and west transects spaced every 4 meters. This methodology was able to detect the presence of the exterior ditch in the central portion of the enclosure and the identification of an opening to the north.