

Rediscovering Ludlow

Archaeologists uncovered the original tent colony.

Between 1997 and 2002 archaeologists studied the living conditions of miners in southern Colorado.

Excavations were carried out at the Berwind coal camp and the Ludlow tent colony; two sites from the 1913-1914 Colorado coalfield strike. Many of the strikers at the Ludlow colony came from the nearby company-owned town of Berwind.



Students processing artifact from the tent colony

Archaeology at Ludlow was more than just excavations. Laboratory work, including cleaning, identifying, and analyzing artifacts, played a vital role. By combining information about artifacts and their locations, archaeologists were able to draw conclusions about what life was like.

GPR transmits a radar signal into the ground. This technique provides clues to what lies beneath without ever having to dig. GPR located 8 buried cellars. Two were fully excavated.

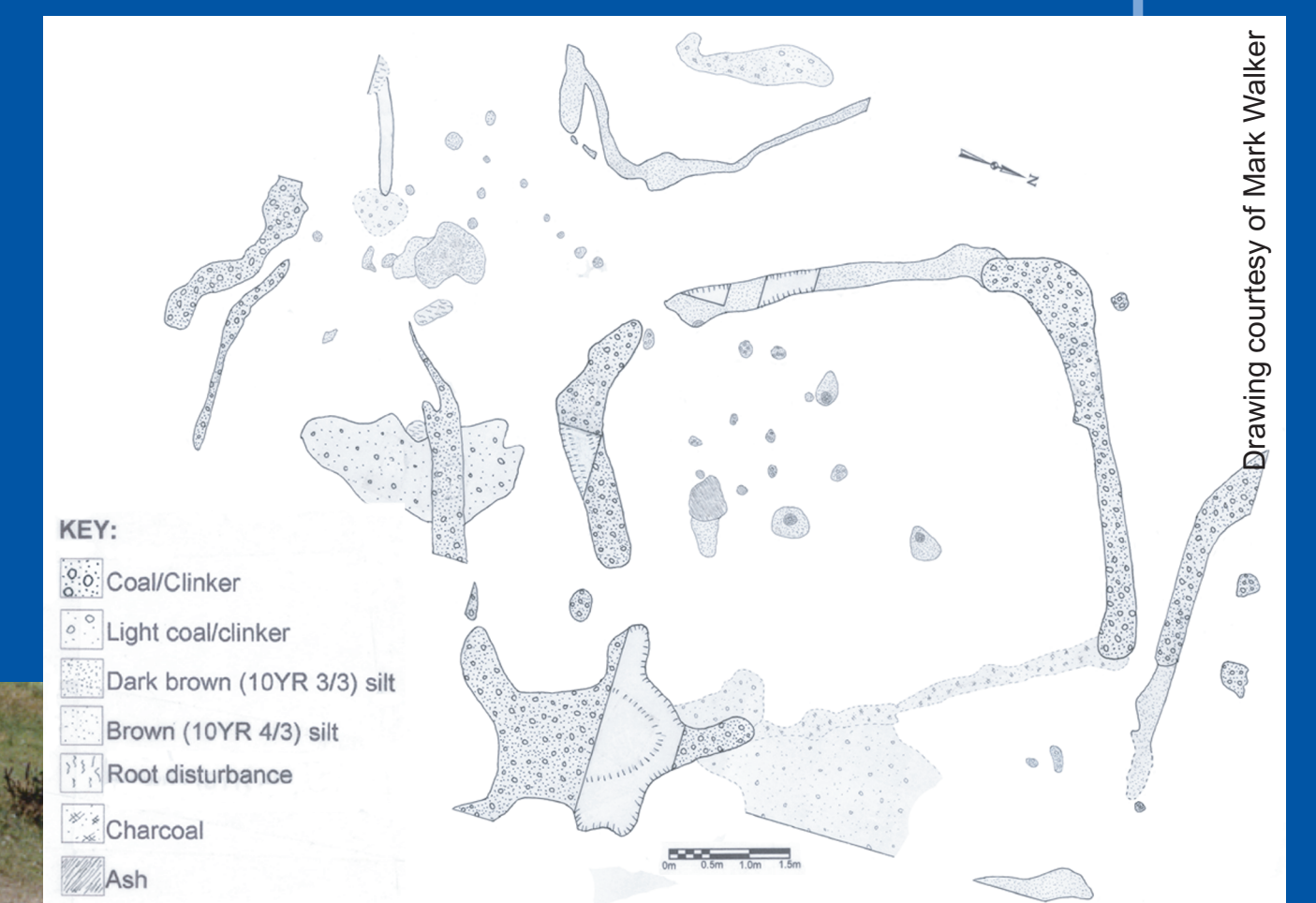


Archaeologist sweeping the site with ground penetrating radar

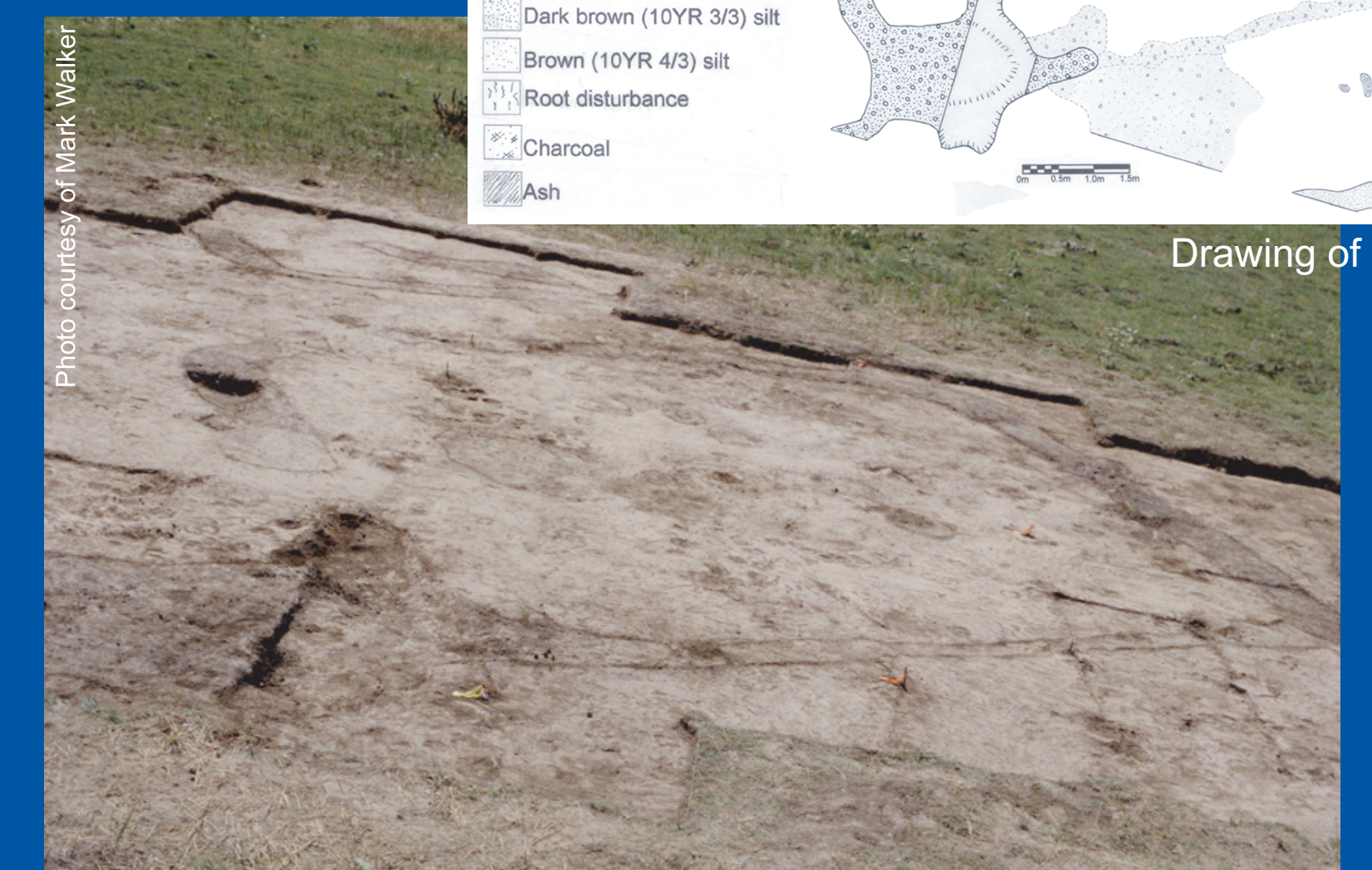
Using various techniques, archaeologists located individual tents and cellars.

The project set out to determine the size and layout of the colony and to see if anything remained underground. Archaeologists mapped artifacts on the surface, used traditional excavations, ground penetrating radar (GPR), and historic photo overlay.

Historic photo overlay uses a special camera to project a historic image onto a modern landscape. This method was successful in locating the remains of three tents in the northwest section of the colony about 100' ahead of you.



Drawing courtesy of Mark Walker



Excavated soil stain showing tent outline