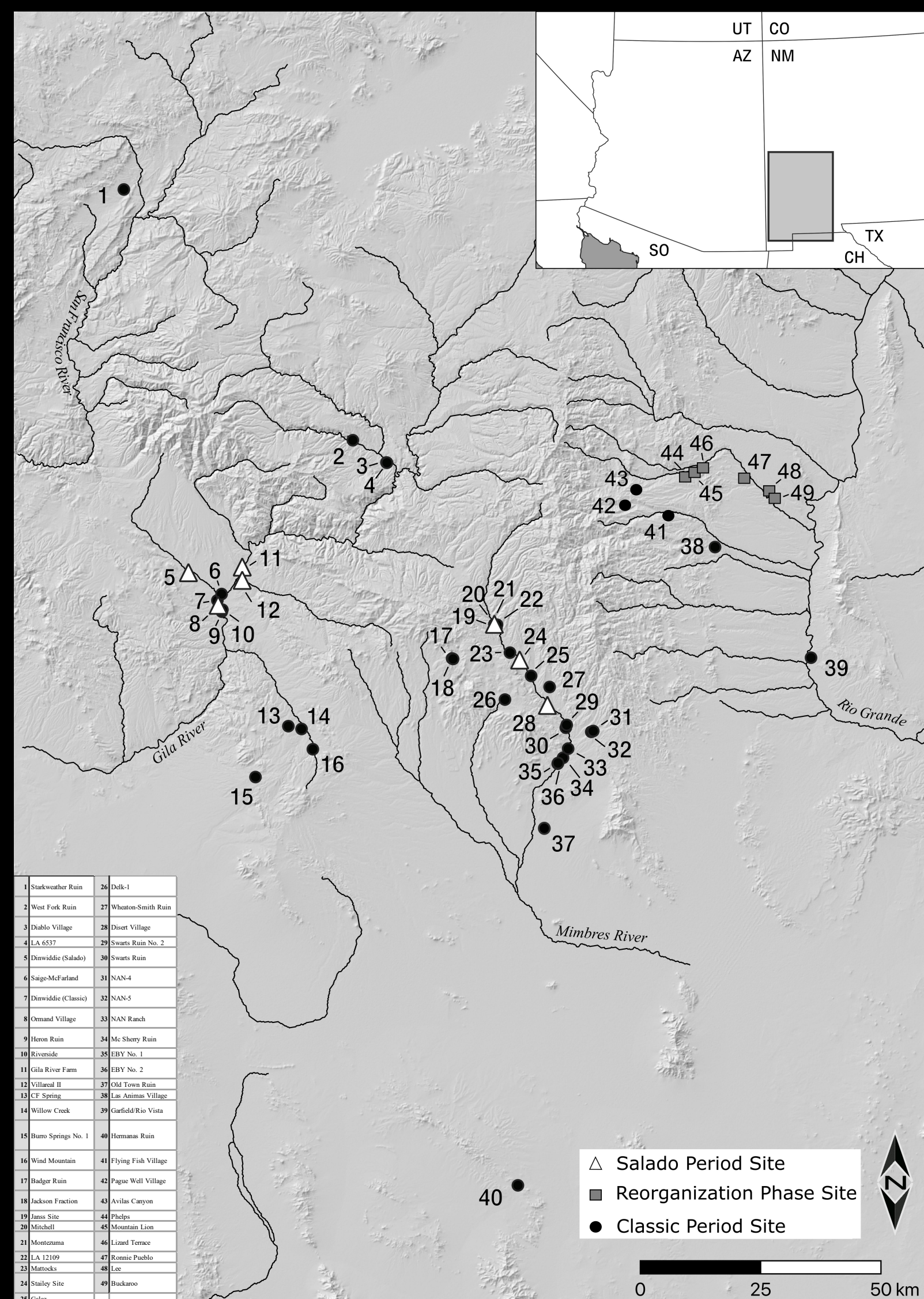


Abstract

Cliff phase Salado (AD 1300-1450) villages in southwest New Mexico show contrasts in architecture, burial patterns, artifact accumulation, and other indicators of shorter occupations in comparison with earlier villages in the same region from the Classic Mimbres period (AD 1000- 1130)^{1,2}. Despite heavy reliance on maize agriculture in both periods, Salado period villagers likely practiced more frequent mobility between villages and at larger spatial scales in comparison to Classic Mimbres period residents of the same areas.

This study assesses evidence for differences in mobility between time periods. Building on an earlier study of presence or absence of burials and post-hole density, this study adds floor-slope data as a complementary line of evidence indicating higher mobility in the Salado period.

Project Area



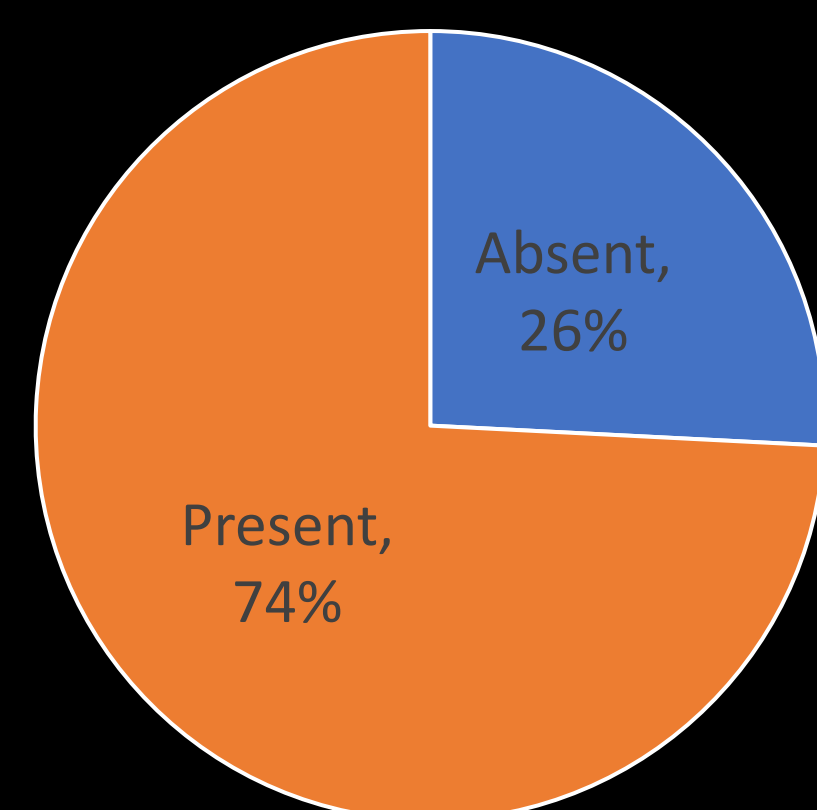
Mobility as a Land Use Strategy in Prehispanic Southwest New Mexico

By Stephen L. Uzzle

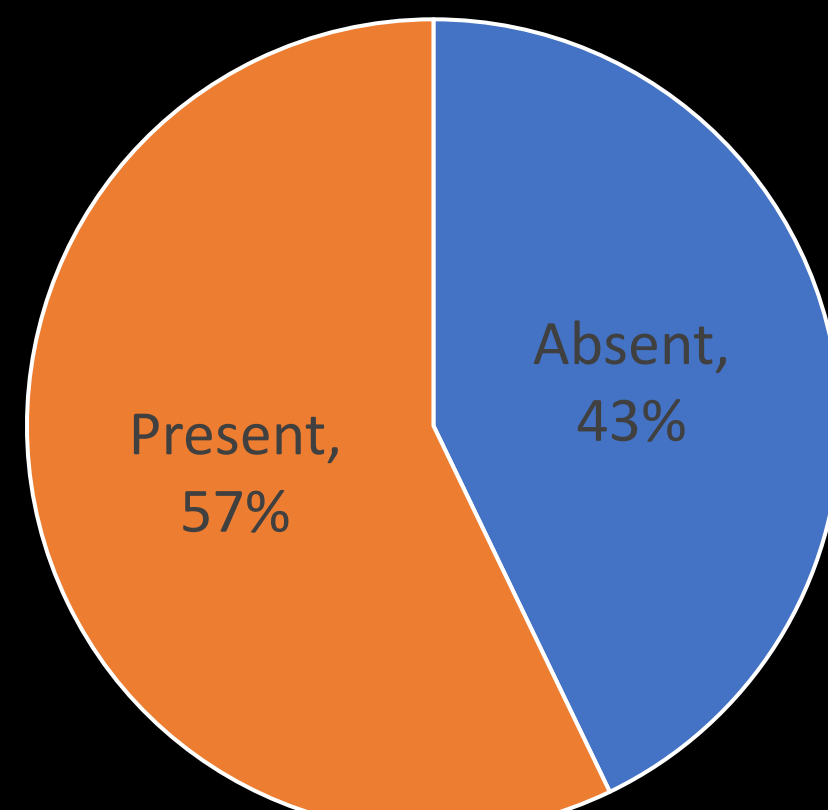
Presence/Absence of Burials

- Classic Mimbres sites had burials present more often than Salado sites.
- This is consistent with longer occupations during the Classic Mimbres period that resulted in more burials³.
- Although cremation was practiced in both periods, using presence/absence data lessens the effect of differences in these practices on the analysis.

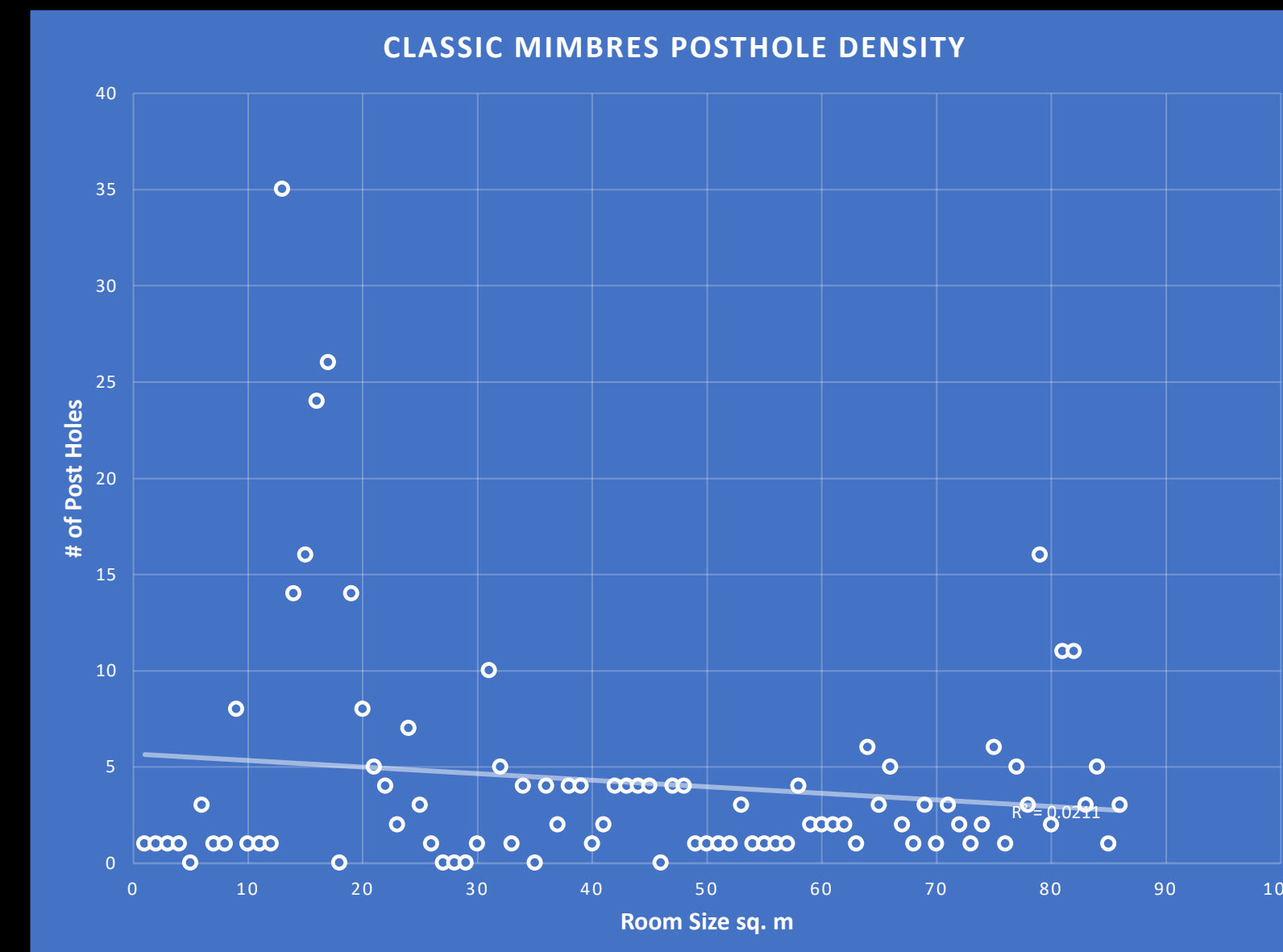
Classic Mimbres Sites P/A Burials



Salado Sites P/A Burials

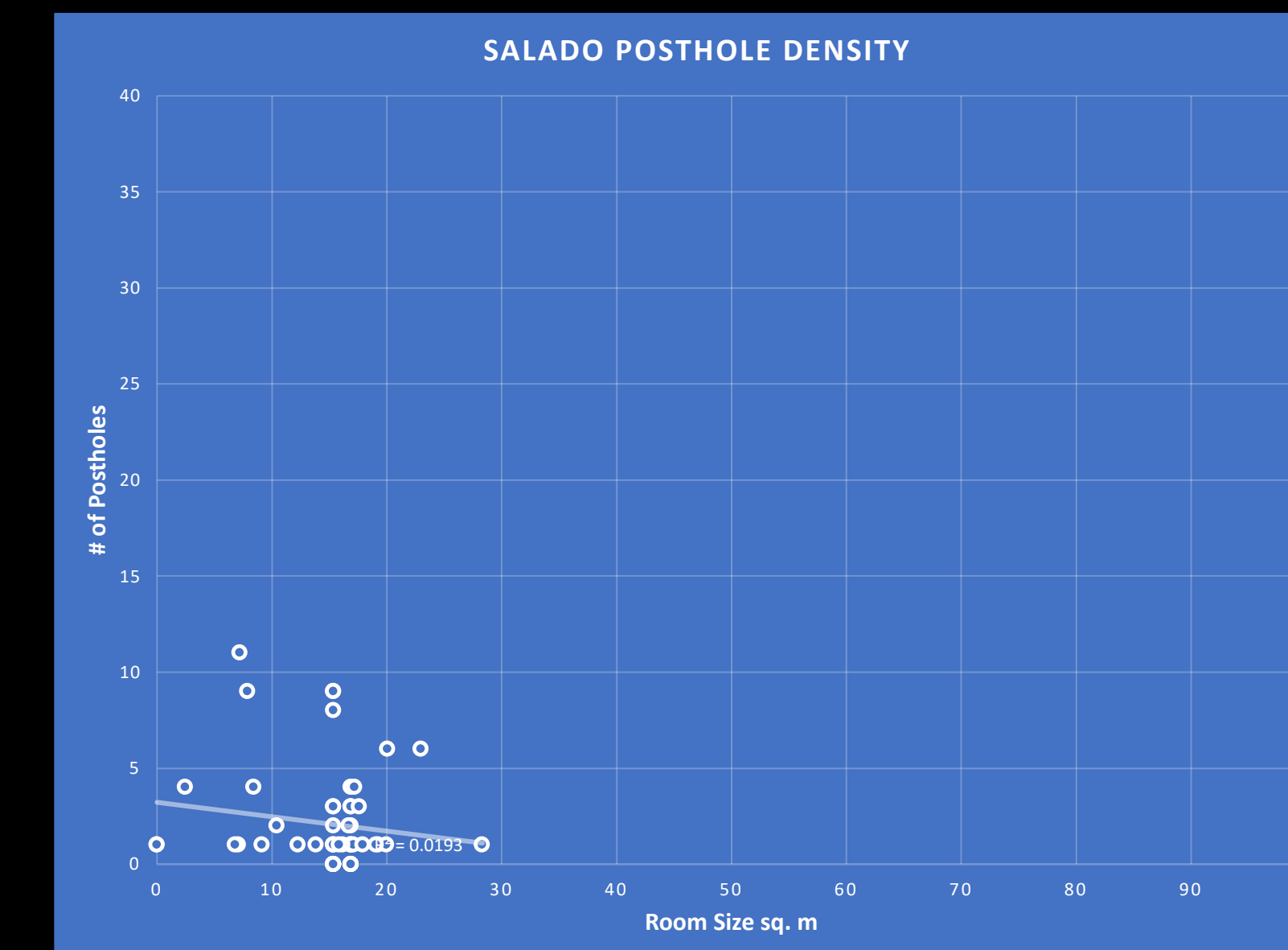


Post Hole Density



Classic Mimbres

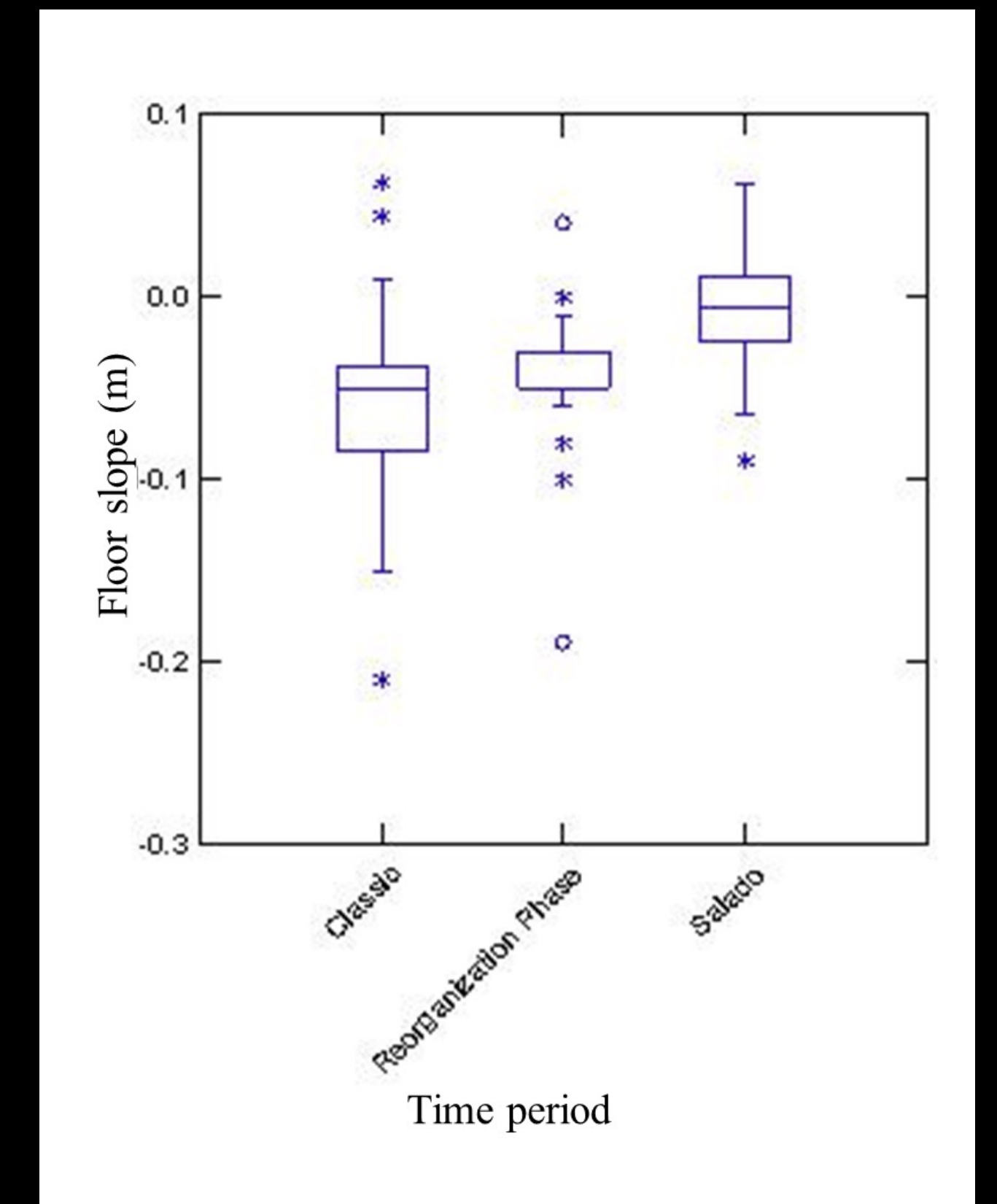
- Small rooms, primarily used for storage, require fewer roof supports.
- Although larger rooms required additional support posts, there is no relationship between room size and post hole density per area of floor space ($r^2 = 0.0221$).
- Post hole density is not a function of room size but is rather a sign of remodeling in habitation rooms⁴.



Salado

- Salado site data also indicate post hole density is not a function of room size.
- The overall density of post holes in Salado rooms is lower than Classic rooms in all size ranges. This indicates less remodeling during the Salado period, consistent with shorter occupations.

Floor Slope



- Greater floor slope in a room indicates more wear to floor plaster, showing the room was used for a longer period of time⁴.
- Interquartile ranges for Salado and Classic Mimbres floor slope data do not overlap, indicating a statistically significant difference between samples with Salado rooms showing substantially less floor slope.
- The Reorganization phase range overlaps with Classic but not Salado. Floors slope somewhat less in this phase, but the difference is not statistically significant.

Conclusions

- Burials are present less often in Salado sites than Classic Mimbres sites, suggesting shorter Salado occupations.
- Post hole density shows less remodeling in Salado than Classic period rooms, indicating fewer repairs were required.
- Salado rooms have a statistically significant difference in floor slope, with floors showing much less sloping due to use-wear than Classic Mimbres sites.
- All three patterns are consistent with shorter occupation lengths in Salado sites.



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