Supplemental Text 1: Blind Poll of Ohio Hopewell Scholars on Temporal Span and Placement.

The estimated duration of the Ohio Hopewell episode has varied considerably over the past seven decades. In order to gain a reasonable contemporary estimate, a blind poll using the Qualtrics survey program was administered to Ohio Hopewell scholars in 2021. We were interested in the degree of consensus and the range of potential responses, and further, how these responses would cohere with the results of our 14C chronology constructed with hygienic concerns in mind. The sole criterion for inclusion in the survey was that the individual had published two or more articles or their equivalent on some aspect of Ohio Hopewell archaeology. Thirty-two Ohio Hopewell experts were invited to participate by email and we received 20 responses. Nineteen respondents indicated they would participate, while one refused.

Poll-takers were given 26 consecutive 50-year intervals and asked to select each interval that pertained to the Ohio Hopewell temporal span, inclusive. Seventeen of these intervals were selected by one or more respondents. One respondent checked only the 400- 351 BC interval and another only the 100- 51 BC interval. These were judged to be mistakes and not considered in further analysis. The remaining seventeen individuals polled produced the following results: pre-500 BC (0); 500- 451 BC (0); 450- 401 BC (0); 400- 351 BC (0); 350- 301 BC (0); 300- 251 BC (0): 250- 201 BC (0); 200- 151 BC (3); 150- 101 BC (4); 100- 51 BC (7); 50- 1 BC (11); AD 1- 50 (15); AD 51- 100 (15); AD 101- 150 (16); AD 151- 200 (16); AD 201- 250 (16); AD 251- 300 (17); AD 301- 350 (15); AD 351- 400 (10); AD 401- 450 (5); AD 451- 500 (3); AD 501- 550 (1); AD 551-600 (1); AD 601- 650 (0): AD 651- 700 (0); After AD 700 (0).

Results show a unimodal, non-normal distribution, indicating very strong agreement among experts that the Ohio Hopewell spans the intervals AD-1-AD-50 to AD 301-350. A slim majority of respondents would extend this span another 50 and/or 100 years to a maximum span of 50 BC-1 BC to AD 351-400. Overall, there is more agreement regarding the beginning of Ohio Hopewell than the ending, with the latter showing a prolonged extinction or skew. Based on poll results, we conclude that the duration of Ohio Hopewell using high-quality 14C determinations should fit somewhere within the range of 50 BC-AD 400. Although BC/AD dates are not easily or directly translatable back to specific radiocarbon years, we use the poll to establish a reasonable “window” of expectations for the Ohio Hopewell episode of 2050-1500 14C years BP. Consequently, all dates outside of this range were relegated to Class 6 in the present study.

We thank all nineteen archaeologists that participated, Ten indicated they wished to remain anonymous, while the following wished to be identified as participants: Elliot M. Abrams, Wesley Bernardini, James A. Brown, A. Martin Byers, Jeff Carskadden, Timothy D. Everhart, Paul J. Pacheco, Robert V. Riordan, and Bret J. Ruby. We thank all participants for their help.

