



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1127

Site Name: Woolchurch Cove

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Area 5

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early, Middle, and Late Woodland base camp/shell midden

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.9938 Longitude -76.4785
Elevation 6.1 m Site slope 0-2%

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Severn River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 34 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1720 - 1780

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

African American

Anglo-American

Hispanic

Asian American

Unknown

Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural?

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

Burial area

- Cemetery
- Sepulchre
- Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types			
Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	1	Mockley	16
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	35
Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	26
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan Cove	3	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Moyaone	5		
Potomac Crk	11		

Historic Sherd Types		Stoneware	
Earthenware	Ironstone <input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire <input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown <input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury <input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield <input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed <input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied <input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware <input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled <input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley <input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon <input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain <input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish <input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware <input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware <input type="checkbox"/>		Wt Salt-glazed <input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	13	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	11	Unmod faunal	807
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	159	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material	
Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chalcedony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	1
Glass (all)	2	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	3	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	1	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18AN1127 is an Early, Middle, and Late Woodland base camp and shell midden along the Severn River near Annapolis in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated onboard the Naval Support Activity – Annapolis (NSA Annapolis) facility on Greenbury Neck, where the Severn River flows into the Chesapeake Bay. The site is situated on hilltop overlooking the river. An unnamed stream runs approximately 100 meters north of the site. The hilltop has a steep bluff on three sides (north, south, and west) and a trail runs up the hillside and across the site. Vegetation in the site area includes cherry trees and mixed hardwoods, with a relatively dense understory of brush and vines. Soils at the site are Annapolis fine sandy loams.

The site was first identified archeologically in November of 1998 during the course of a Phase I survey conducted to develop an integrated resource management plan for Naval Station Annapolis. The work was carried out to assist the US Navy in meeting their obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Investigation of the site at that time consisted of shovel test pit (STP) excavation across the landform followed by the excavation of a single 1 X 1 m test unit. Shovel tests were excavated on a 30 meter grid with closer-interval (15 meter) radial tests in the central portion of the site landform, in addition to some judgmentally placed shovel tests. A total of 30 shovel tests were excavated. The test unit was placed in an area of concentrated artifacts in the north-central portion of the site.

Thirty-one prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the site during the 1998 Phase I testing, including prehistoric ceramics, debitage, and faunal material (shell and bone). The prehistoric pottery included five different ware types: Sullivan Cove, Yeocomico, Rappahannock Incised, Townsend cordmarked, and Potomac Creek Plain. All of the identified wares date to the Late Woodland period. The assemblage consisted of 1 jasper flake, 1 chert flake, 1 siltstone or argillite flake, 3 tested quartz pebbles, 10 Yeocomico sherds, 1 Rappahannock Incised sherd, 3 Potomac Creek sherds, 3 Sullivan Cove sherds, 1 Townsend corded sherd, and 7 unmodified faunal remains. Based on the Phase I survey, the site was defined as coterminous with an identified shell midden, and measured approximately 30 meters north-south by 20 meters east-west. The site boundary extends along the edge of a bluff.

In October of 2012 an attempt was made to relocate Site 18AN1127 during a combined Phase I/II investigation at 7 sites onboard NSA Annapolis. The investigation was conducted as part of compliance efforts for Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. The investigation, undertaken to help inventory significant resources at the installation, aimed to relocate, characterize, and define the boundary of several known sites that had minimal previously recorded information.

The deposit was re-located through pedestrian reconnaissance and tested by excavation of additional STPs and test units. Thirteen close-interval (5 meter grid) shovel test were excavated to delimit the site area, followed by the excavation of eleven 1 X 1 m test unit dispersed within the site boundary.

Shovel tests were approximately 30 cm in diameter and were excavated into subsoil. All excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth to recover artifacts. All shovel tests were backfilled immediately upon completion. Obviously recent objects found in the shovel tests were noted and discarded, along with shell, coal, clinker, brick limestone, and other building materials. Other artifacts were bagged by provenience with a tag containing location information. Each shovel test was recorded on a standardized form that included soil descriptions and a schematic drawing of the stratigraphic profile. The location of each shovel test was plotted on field maps, and the coordinates recorded using a high-accuracy GPS device (Trimble GeoXT).

Test units were judgmentally placed across the extent of the site, with approximately half placed in areas of high artifact counts (as determined by the shovel testing). Test units were excavated stratigraphically using shovels and trowels, with each soil stratum removed separately and recorded on a separate standardized form. Units were excavated until sterile soils were reached, to a maximum depth of 1.5 meters below ground surface. A measured soil profile was drawn of at least one wall of each test unit, and digital photographs were used as part of the test unit documentation. Since the upper stratum at 18AN1127 was a midden deposit, it was excavated in 5 cm arbitrary levels. Soil samples were drawn from the midden feature for flotation and botanical analysis.

The stratigraphy of the site was found to consist of a shell midden matrix (A-horizon) above subsoil. In some instances the shell midden was covered by approximately 8 cm of humus (Ao-horizon), and in other instances the shell was found at the top of the soil column. The shell midden matrix was dark brown silt loam, typically approximately 15 cm thick. Underlying the A-horizon was subsoil, described as dark yellowish brown silt loam.

No cultural features, aside from the shell midden itself, were encountered.

Exclusive of oyster shell, a total of 164 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the Phase I/II testing in 2012. The assemblage consisted of 1 early stage biface, 1 decortication flake, 3 flake fragments, 2 tested cobbles, 11 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 1 Accokeek sherd, 16 Mockley sherds, 4 Moyaone cord-marked sherds, 1 Moyaone plain sherd, 8 Potomac Creek sherds, 33 Townsend sherds, 16 Yeocomico sherds, 62 untyped ceramic fragments, 4 unidentified mammal bones, and 1 piece of nutshell. In addition, a sample of 796 oyster shell fragments was retained.

A small number of historic artifacts were recovered from the site. The historic assemblage included 1 cut nail, 2 unidentified nails, 2 container glass fragments, a pipe bowl fragment, and a 7 mm cartridge casing. The ammunition and glass fragment likely represent items casually discarded during the modern era. The pipe bowl fragment and three nails are more enigmatic, and may attest to the presence of a nearby shed, or perhaps to 19th century dumping.

A total of 5 soil samples from Stratum A of the midden were targeted for analysis. A total of 10.75 liters of midden fill were flotation processed. Identifications were attempted on all carbonized nut and miscellaneous plant remains recovered, and on a sub-sample of 20 randomly selected wood fragments from samples containing more than 20 fragments. Of 67 carbonized wood specimens recovered, 49 could be at least partially identified, including 2 hickory fragments, 10 black locust fragments, and 37 unidentified deciduous species. Five thick-walled hickory nut fragments were recovered. Other carbonized specimens included 8 fungal fruit fragments, 1 peduncle, and 7 rindlike objects. Cultivated plants are conspicuously absent within this assemblage. For more information, see the linked ethnobotany profile.



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Unknown

Site 18AN1127 was found to have Early, Middle, and Late Woodland period occupations, and to have considerable stratigraphic integrity. The Late Woodland component is substantial and suggests the quantity of sherds suggests a more permanent settlement like a base camp. The shell midden was the only cultural feature identified at the site.

Erosion from an informal jogging path has compromised some of the site deposits at 18AN1127, but a substantial portion of the small site remains intact. The recovery of carbonized plant remains and faunal materials, as well as numerous ceramic sherds suggests that the rich deposits from the Late Woodland period may be able to provide information related to diet and ceramic technology. The site has the potential to refine prehistoric chronology through carbon-dating or potsherds and oyster shell. It was recommended that NSA Annapolis take steps to stabilize and protect the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002261, Site Files