



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1281

Site Name: Beverly Triton 5

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle & Late Woodland shell midden

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code DnA

Latitude 38.8810

Longitude -76.4968

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 2%

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime 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) Chesapeake Bay

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 6 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

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

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

N

Flotation samples taken N

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		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	4
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	75
Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	14	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	1	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	210
Fire-cracked rock	4	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	89	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<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		Fer quartzite		Sil sandstone	
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	8	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	2	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	18
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18AN1281, also known as Beverly Triton 5, is a Middle to Late Woodland oyster shell midden on a small promontory within Beverly Triton Beach Park in Anne Arundel County. The site is wooded, with marsh and a gravel road on one side and the eroding beach of the Chesapeake Bay on the other. Soils at the site are Donlonton fine sandy loams.

The site was first identified in June of 2005 during the course of a Phase I survey of the north shore of the Rhode River in Anne Arundel County. The survey work was being carried out by archeologists of the Lost Towns Project under an MHT Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant awarded to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT) in FY2005. The grant was part of a three-year program to better assess, evaluate, and plan for the cultural resources in this region. A total of 44 archeological sites were discovered and preliminarily assessed, 9 of which were targeted for future work. In FY2006, MHT again provided funds to ACT to carry out testing at 5 of the potentially significant sites, 18AN1281 among them. The MHT Non-capital Historic Preservations Grants are funded by the state legislature and, as such, represent expenditures of public funds for the purposes of archeological (and historic) research and interpretation.

Site 18AN1281 was identified, based on surface observation, as the eroding edge revealed a highly visible oyster deposit. After surface reconnaissance, four judgmental shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated across the oyster deposits at approximately 6.1 m (20 ft) intervals. These STPs yielded Rappahannock pottery sherds, oyster shell, animal bone, and some modern bottle glass. Subsoil was encountered approximately 23-30 cm (.75-1 ft) below ground surface, and the oyster shell midden averaged about 15 cm (6 in) thick, lying immediately on top of subsoil. The Phase I results suggested that the site might have the potential to yield information about the region's prehistoric past and was one of the few sites at Beverly Triton Beach Park where prehistoric diagnostics were recovered.

Phase II work at 18AN1281 was carried out under the Non-capital Grants program in April and May of 2006. Testing included additional radiating STPs, probing to locate the extent of the shell deposits, and the excavation of two formal test units. Four supplemental STPs were excavated with shovels. Soils were screened through hardware cloth and all cultural artifacts were retained. The two formal test units were 1.52 X 1.52 m (5 X 5 ft) and 152 X 76 cm (5 X 2.5 ft) in extent. Test unit excavation began using flat shovels, but the density of oyster shell within the midden required that excavation shift to hand troweling. The unit was excavated by natural stratigraphy and all cultural artifacts were retained and placed in bags labeled with appropriate provenience information.

Of the four supplemental STPs, only one produced artifacts, confirming that the extent of the site was limited to the extent of the shell deposits observed on the surface. Both STPs and test units revealed that the primary occupation layer was a dense oyster midden (averaging 11.4 cm deep) across the site, under a layer of 7.5-10 cm of topsoil and lying immediately on top of subsoil. Most diagnostic artifacts were recovered from strata 2 and 3, suggesting that the midden is an intact occupation layer. Artifacts included diagnostic ceramics, quartz and quartzite lithics, fire-altered materials, as well as a possible pecking stone and a grinding stone fragment.

The artifacts recovered from both Phase I and Phase II investigations at 18AN1281 include Native ceramics, lithics, faunal remains, and a few historic artifacts. The full assemblage consisted of 1 quartz point fragment, 8 quartz flakes, 5 quartzite flakes, 1 thermally-altered sandstone pecking stone, 1 grinding stone, 4 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 4 Mockley sherds, 75 Rappahannock sherds, 10 unidentified shell-tempered ceramic sherds, 18 fragments of charcoal, 11 mammal bones, 1 bird bone, 197 oyster shells, 1 snail shell, 8 pieces of glass, 18 pieces of metal, and 2 fragments of historic daub.

This primarily Late Woodland site is part of a larger system occupation within the Rhode River and central Maryland tidewater region. Similar Late Woodland sites, such as 18AN225 (Contee's Wharf) and 18AN1285 (Camp Lett's 11) are also oriented toward the bountiful shorelines. This site is likely a short-term procurement site, used for a limited period of time to fish and process oyster. The presence of the deer bone, pecking stone and grinding stone fragment suggests that these Late Woodland peoples may have spent considerable time at the site, though no evidence for structures or storage pits has yet been identified.

The soils in this region have not been disturbed by plowing or a large amount of erosion, which has helped to maintain the site's stratigraphic integrity. The fact that this site has remained relatively unharmed has been useful in identifying it as a short-term occupation site. The artifacts have not been destroyed or spread over the land through extensive plowing and have been left in the exact vicinity in which they were last used. While subsurface pits were not encountered during the Phase II investigations, the intact midden is a significant subsurface feature and remains intact. It is possible that subsurface features may be found under the intact midden if future excavations are carried out. More might be learned if subsurface pits were identified, yielding evidence for more sedentary occupation.

Site 18AN1281 is likely eligible for the National Register based upon Criteria D. This site has yielded information that is important in learning more about Late Woodland prehistory in this region, and with intact deposits showing evidence of a short-term procurement site, that promises to yield additional information. The site is relative protected as it is on Anne Arundel County parkland operated as a passive recreational space. The beaches are not heavily used and the topography is relatively stable, thus, not threatening the integrity of the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001575, Site Files