



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN30

Site Name: Elkridge

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic - Woodland stratified village

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 1) CH,HA

Latitude 39.2167

Longitude -76.6935

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 6 m

Site slope 0

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) Patapsco River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic P

Early woodland Y

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Middle archaic P

Mid. woodland Y

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic Y

Late woodland Y

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

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 U

Flotation samples taken U

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"/> 1
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
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"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/> 907	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/> 381		

Historic Sherd Types

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1624	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1627	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/> 68	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

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

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>

Historic Features

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

Description:

Late Archaic - Woodland stratified village

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Elkridge site (18AN30) is an apparent Late Archaic - Woodland period site in northern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on a teardrop shaped terrace that rises 6.1 m (20 ft) above a meander bend in the Patapsco River. It is also near the mouths of three of the river's tributaries. The site extends 365.8 m (1200 ft) along the river and inland from 2.1-121.9 m (20-400 ft), to where the eastern portion of the site was destroyed by gravel mining around the turn of the 20th century. Shortly after the gravel mining, the Patapsco was re-routed through this portion of the site. In 1928 a railroad track was expanded and the stream was then returned to its original course. The site has also been subjected to repeated flooding episodes over time. The surrounding landscape was much more of a swampy lagoon environment in historic times (and possibly during earlier eras) than is evident today. The site itself was previously cultivated (at least in the 1930s), but by the time of the site's discovery in the 1960s, it was forested. Soils at the site are Susquehanna gravelly loams.

The site was first identified in the late 1960s when John and Wayne Clark (a father and son) located the site, visible on the surface as a scatter of points, flakes, and pottery. The pair also located a local resident of the area who farmed the property in the 1930s and had collected prehistoric artifacts there. At that time, neither of the Clarks had any formal training in archeology, although Wayne Clark would go on to become a professional archeologist. The father and son team carried out test excavations in 1967 and 1968. The first year of work was largely uncontrolled in nature. A trench was dug through the southeastern portion of the site and the depth of artifacts was recorded. Any features present may have been overlooked due to the relative inexperience of the excavators.

In 1968, a ranger at the nearby Patapsco Valley State Park, who had discovered the excavation trench from the previous year, provided some basic training to the Clarks and a second summer of work was carried out. Soils were screened in all of the 1968 units and daily field notes were kept.

In the vicinity of the 1967 excavations, twenty-four 76.2 X 76.2 cm (30 X 30 in) squares were staked out in a large excavation block and dug to a depth of 30.5-40.6 cm (12-14 in) below the surface in the spring of 1968. Six postmolds and 3 potential boiler-stone dumps were identified, along with numerous artifacts. An identified hearth was believed to be an intrusive 20th century feature. Two additional 76.2 X 76.2 cm test squares were excavated to the west of the aforementioned excavation block. Some historic materials were identified in these units along with a profusion of chert flakes and pottery. Roughly 61 m (200 ft) to the north of the area of the 1967 excavations a line of six adjacent 1.5 m (5 ft) test squares was excavated to a depth of 50.8 cm (20 in) below the surface in 1968. No features were identified in any of these northern units, but many prehistoric artifacts were recovered. Additional isolated test units may have been excavated elsewhere during the 1968 season, but the nature of such excavations is difficult to determine from the extant field records.

Artifacts recovered during the 1967 and 1968 excavations by the Clarks at 18AN30 include 278 projectile points, 32 biface "blanks", 4 utilized flakes, 530 chert and jasper flakes, 2 ground cobbles, 1 hammerstone, 1,584 pottery sherds (at least 67 rims), 3 ceramic pipe fragments (one with organic material adhering inside), and 2 other fragments of worked clay (of unknown function). The points include 2 Lehigh Broadspears, 1 Susquehanna Broadsphear, 2 Piscataway points, and 15 triangular points. The ceramic assemblage included 903 Rappahannock sherds, 4 other Townsend variant sherds, 379 Potomac Creek sherds, 252 unidentified crushed-quartz sherds, and 46 unidentified shell-tempered sherds.

Additional testing was conducted in 1968 by the Maryland Academy of Sciences. A total of 12 "small" test pits and one "large" test unit was excavated in a dispersed pattern across the site. Very little is known about this excavation, but according to MHT site files, very little was recovered. A 15.2-35.6 cm (6-14 in) artifact-bearing layer was encountered above a sterile deposit of sand and gravel throughout. These test units produced 19 rhyolite and quartz projectile points of unidentified form, 1 biface (knife), and 24 sherds of unknown type. Flakes were also encountered, but are not quantified in the extant documents. The Maryland Academy of Sciences researchers concluded that the site was primarily a quarrying and point manufacturing locale.

No documented archeological work took place again at 18AN30 until May of 1987. At that time the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) was considering a highway improvement project which threatened the site. A connector highway was being planned between the Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Airport and I-95. While the site would not be directly impacted by construction of the highway, re-channelization of the Patapsco and one of its tributary streams would have impacted the site. Since 18AN30 was already a known site within the project corridor, the Maryland Geological Survey was called in at the request of SHA to conduct limited testing at the Elkridge site.

The 1987 testing entailed the excavation of a single 1 X 1 m test unit to determine the potential depth of cultural deposits. Efforts were also made to examine cut banks, however, extensive undergrowth limited the value of this endeavor. The 1 X 1 was excavated on the upper terrace, approximately 11 meters from the terrace edge above the Patapsco and approximately 85 meters north of its confluence with a major tributary stream. Unit walls were aligned in cardinal directions, and levels were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm units. The test unit was excavated to 1 meter in depth. A 10.16 cm (4 in) diameter bucket auger in the unit floor penetrated another 65 cm.

The test unit was extremely productive, yielding 816 artifacts total. After a nearly sterile silty sand layer approximately 12-15 cm thick, artifact density increased dramatically. Underlying the sand, a dark sandy silt with irregular upper and lower boundaries was present. This may have been a former plowzone, or a buried natural "A" horizon. The remaining soils in this unit contained very indistinct boundaries, and were distinguished primarily on textural differences. Slight color variations were present although all deeper levels were essentially reddish brown. A layer containing 10-20% pebbles ending at about 50 cm, corresponded with a decline in artifact density. Significant numbers of artifacts, however, continued to be found to a depth of 70 cm. The final three levels contained a total of only 15 artifacts. Bucket augering provided evidence of increasing quantities of pebbles. An impenetrable gravel layer was reached at 165 cm. No cultural features were encountered during the 1987 study.

The 1987 test excavation indicated that artifacts were present at depths much greater than the Clarks excavated. Their digging appears to have terminated at the top of the gravel layer between 40-50 cm. Absence of profile data from the earlier studies, however, limits comparisons. It is apparent, however, that cultural deposits extend at least 1 meter. It is possible that still earlier deposits lie stratified below this depth.

The 1987 testing produced 1 projectile point, 9 bifaces, 19 cores, 1 scraper, 7 pieces of retouched debitage, 501 quartz flakes, 90 quartzite flakes, 30 rhyolite flakes, 12 jasper flakes, 3 chert flakes, 1 argillite flake, 86 pieces of chunk/shatter, 10 fragments of hematite, 1 hammerstone, 26 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 19 ceramic sherds.



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Late Archaic - Woodland stratified village

Unknown

Prehistoric ceramics were restricted to Levels 3, 4, and 5 (between 20 and 50 cm). A corner-notched projectile point made on a decorticated flake was also recovered from Level 5. As no sterile zones were encountered between levels, it is unclear if the 129 artifacts found below 50 cm are from an earlier occupation. No other diagnostic artifacts were found.

Ceramics from the test unit are generally small in size. One undecorated rimsherd from Level 5 is clearly and Early Woodland Accokeek sherd. This level, however, also produced an incised, shell-tempered body sherd that is probably Late Woodland in age. Two remaining sherds could not be assigned to a time period. Two Middle Woodland (Mockley) and three Early Woodland (Accokeek) body sherds were recovered from Level 4. Level 3 produced sherds from all the Woodland temporal subdivisions: 2 Late Woodland (Potomac Creek), 2 Middle Woodland (Mockley), 5 Early Woodland (Accokeek), and 1 unassigned. Although ceramics are confined to Levels 3 through 5 (20-50 cm), apparent mixing occurs within this zone.

The 1987 excavations suggest that cultural deposits are fairly deeply buried, providing protection from modern surface disturbing activities. The height of the terrace and minimal depth of one meter for prehistoric artifacts, indicate a potential for intact deeply buried occupations (perhaps dating to the Archaic or PaleoIndian periods) elsewhere at the site. Ultimately, the highway project was redesigned in such a way that it avoided the site. Thus, no additional compliance-related work had to be carried out at 18AN30.

Additional archeological fieldwork did occur at the site in 1996 as the result of Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) and Towson University fieldschool sessions. A Master thesis and a Mid-Atlantic Archeological Conference paper were prepared that report on the 1996 findings at the site. Unfortunately, these resources are not available to MHT at this time.

Site 18AN30 appears to be a significant prehistoric resource with at least some additional potential to answer research question related to Maryland prehistory. It is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

MDARC6-2, 00000586