



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18KE12

Site Name: Bramble/Tolchester I

Prehistoric

Other name(s) KCARP BR-1; T.D. Jones Field "Tol"

Historic

Brief Description:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden with lithics & ceramics

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code MtB

Latitude 39.2082

Longitude -76.2405

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-5%

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) Unnamed tidal pool

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 61 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

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? 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

- 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 N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>		

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	628	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	4
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	58
Other lithics (all)	6	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	2	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Oyster shell midden associated with indeterminate ceramics

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	1	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1	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: 4955 +/- 60 years BP

Reliability

SI-1913: oyster shell sample from an unknown portion of the site; possible assoc. artifacts include lithics and unidentified ceramics.

Low

Sample 2: 2745 +/- 80 years BP

Reliability

SI-2836: oyster shell sample from an unknown portion of the site; possible assoc. artifacts include lithics and unidentified ceramics.

Low

Sample 3: 3400 +/- 80 years BP

Reliability

SI-2837: oyster shell sample from an unknown portion of the site; possible assoc. artifacts include lithics and unidentified ceramics.

80

Sample 4: 2655 +/- 75 years BP

Reliability

SI-3246: oyster shell sample from an unknown portion of the site; possible assoc. artifacts include lithics and unidentified ceramics.

Low

Sample 5: 5685 +/- 130 years BP

Reliability

SI-3249: oyster shell sample from an unknown portion of the site; possible assoc. artifacts include lithics and unidentified ceramics.

Low

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:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden with lithics & ceramics

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Bramble/Tolchester I Site (18KE12) is an Early and Middle Woodland period shell midden and a small historic artifact scatter. It is located in Kent County near Tolchester Beach. The site is located on a low terrace between two estuaries on the east bank of the Chesapeake Bay. Soils in the site area are Mattapex silt loam 0-10% slope and Matapeake silt loam, 0-5% slope. The irregularly-shaped site measures approximately 225 x 150 meters.

The site was first recorded during the Kent County Archaeological Research Project (KCARP) which involved a systematic regional surface survey, artifact collection, and analysis along the western shore of Kent County. The overall aim of the study was to assess the development of the interrelated changes in the prehistoric environment and resource utilization during the past 7,000-8,000 years along portions of the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Of particular interest was the nature and processes involved in the development of the oyster base subsistence system. Specific goals of the survey were to identify previously unidentified cultural resources within the study area and ultimately to determine if any of those resources were eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Funding was in part provided by the Maryland Historical Trust and three seasons of work were conducted in 1972/73, 1974, and 1976. The study area consisted of 191 km² of western Kent County, including 93 km of shoreline. It was bounded on the north by the Sassafras River, on the east by the Morgan and Woodland Creeks, on the south by a divide separating the Chesapeake Bay and the Chester River, and on the west by the Chesapeake Bay. The study period ranged from the establishment of the Bay (and the drowning of the ancestral Susquehanna River) to the contact period (ca. AD 1600).

The project began in 1972 with archival and environmental research. Fieldwork was conducted in late 1972 and 1973. The archeological investigations included pedestrian survey of several land tracts and controlled surface collection. Artifact clusters were collected in units of 30 m square grid systems. Approximately 7 m distance was maintained between fieldwalkers. A site or artifact cluster was defined as any 30 m² collection unit or group of contiguous units in which each contained a minimum of 40 artifacts. All artifacts were retained during the surface collection except for fire-cracked rock, oyster shells, and unmodified raw material (rocks and pebbles). Limited excavation of shovel tests pits was also done. Additionally, shell samples were collected from cliff exposures of 23 coastal archeological sites and 5 marshes for radiocarbon dating, and from a former sub-estuary for dating and pollen analysis. Archeological investigations were renewed in 1974 and again in 1976. The field seasons consisted of a continuation of the systematic surface survey, and artifact collection and analysis, with the addition of test unit excavations at a few sites. During the test unit excavations, column soil samples were acquired for future microanalysis. Test units were excavated in arbitrary 20 cm levels. An additional 61 radiocarbon samples were collected from 29 different shell sites during the 1974 and 1976 investigations. Results of the C14 dating led the excavators to conclude that oyster resources (*ostrea virginica*) were being exploited as early as 5,700 years ago in the Chesapeake region (roughly the Middle Archaic period).

A total of 87 land tracts were investigated during the three years of survey. The entire shoreline of Kent County was examined on foot and the shorelines of local rivers were examined from a shallow draft boat. The results of the 1970s surveys were provided in several volumes that consisted of computer printouts of individual clusters of artifacts/sites. Only two categories of stone artifacts were recognized, "worns" (tools) and "unworns" (debitage). Standard tool categories and cultural-historical types were not used. No catalogue forms that summarized the available data were provided.

A re-analysis of the prehistoric artifacts recovered during the 1970s surveys and excavations was carried out in 1983 by archeologists from the University of Delaware and funded by a National Park Service Survey and Planning grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. The aim of that re-analysis was to increase the research utility of the collection, which was then on deposit with the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey. The re-analysis provided more comprehensive descriptions of excavated materials, catalogues of surface collected materials, and in a few cases, listings of types of special interest. Artifacts were recorded as flakes, flake tools, staged bifaces, Late Archaic/Woodland I points (from after ca. 5000 BC-AD 1000), Woodland II points (ca. AD 1000-1600), other points, cores, indeterminate objects, groundstone artifacts and ceramics. Points were not designated to any particular cultural type but to one of the time periods or 'other points' categories as noted above. The re-analysis provided the most updated and more comprehensive data of the entire survey assemblage. It is that data that is given in the table above. No total counts for any of the faunal or floral material or for the ceramic sherds that were recovered from the test unit excavations were provided except in a few rare cases. Therefore, the totals for those objects in the table above should be considered minimum estimates.

Artifacts were surface collected from site 18KE12 during the 1973 survey, at which time it was designated KCARP BR-1. In 1974, two 2 m² test units referred to as Pit 1 and Pit 2 were excavated. According to the 1983 re-analysis report, a "pit feature" was also associated with the surface collection. The exact location of the test units was not known but they were likely placed in the grid of the surface collected artifacts. Pit 1 contained 4 excavated levels and Pit 2 contained 5 levels. No other information on pit size was available. Soil samples were recovered from the plowzone and soil samples and charcoal samples were taken from the excavated levels.

A total of 587 artifacts were collected from the surface. There were 447 pieces ofdebitage (249 quartz, 14 quartzite, 134 chert, 18 jasper, 1 argillite, 31 other unidentified materials) and 18 cores (15 chert, 3 jasper). Six flake tools (chert) and 110 staged bifaces (83 quartz, 9 quartzite, 13 chert, 1 jasper, 1 argillite, 1 other material) were also recovered. In all, 3 Woodland II points were retrieved. On the original Site Survey form, it was noted that ceramics were found at the site; however, none were listed in the artifact inventory; as such a minimum of 2 unidentified prehistoric ceramic sherds were included in the table above. The excavators suggested dates for the site from the Early to Middle Woodland periods, most likely based on the ceramic finds. Therefore, these are the dates that were assigned to the site. A further 116 artifacts were recovered from the test unit excavations. There were 43 pieces ofdebitage (25 quartz, 12 chert, 1 jasper, 5 other materials) and 1 early stage biface reject (from pit feature). Other lithics included 6 rocks. Unmodified faunal material (n=58) consisted of 32 animal bone fragments, 4 animal teeth, 2 fish bone fragments, 12 shell fragments, and 4 snail shells. A minimum estimate of 4 burned bone and shell fragments were listed as modified faunal items in the table above. Floral material included 8 pieces of charcoal (pieces found in envelopes).

Two historic materials were recovered from the plow zone: 1 washer (recorded as an architectural item in the table above) and 1 bottle glass fragment (recorded under glass in the table above). Brick, ceramics, and pipe stems were also noted on the Site Survey form but none were listed in the artifact inventory. This small historic component of the site was designated as BR-1H.

Over the years, the site has been collected by local residents. Known artifacts from private collections include prehistoric ceramics, a fragment of a 2-holed gorget, a bannerstone fragment, and 3 grooved axes.



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Historic

Brief
Description:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden with lithics & ceramics

Unknown

Five shell samples were collected from 18KE12 for radiocarbon dating. The location of the samples and any associated artifacts was not made explicit in the original reports, although at least 1 sample was taken from the top of the midden and 1 from the bottom of the midden. The dates (calibrated to 2-sigma using intcal09) obtained from the C14 analyses are quite varied, ranging from 4836 BC to 738 BC. This range would indicate periods of occupation from the late Middle Archaic into the Early Woodland period. However, the general validity of the samples was questioned during the 1983 re-analysis. When diagnostics were identified with a shell midden, they appeared to be in the surface collection from around the midden and not in the midden itself, and when diagnostic artifacts were present within a midden, the diagnostics did not fit with the radiocarbon date. This was the case with the Woodland II (ca. AD 1000-1600) points recovered from the site. Presumably, as noted above, the ceramic sherds that were found at the site dated from ca. 1000 BC to AD 1000, just barely falling within the time range of 2 of the shell sample dates (SI-2836: 2745±80 and SI-3246: 2655±75).

The Bramble/Tolchester I Site (18KE12) is an Early and Middle Woodland period shell midden with a small historic artifact scatter. All of the information regarding the site was provided in tabular data form. No interpretation, discussion, or conclusions were available in any of the associated reports.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005907, 00005909, 00005910, 00005911, 00005924, 00005936, 00006808, Site Files