

**PHASE III EXCAVATIONS AT THE 7NC-C-360  
DOVER, DELAWARE**

The 7K-C-360 Site was identified during the Phase I/II testing of the Route 13 Corridor by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research. Site 7K-C-360 is located on an unplowed sandy knoll in a wooded area in northeastern Kent County, Delaware. To the east and west, the knoll drops off steeply to seasonally inundated low swampy areas.

Excavations at the site have showed that it is unplowed and has produced Early and Middle Archaic artifacts in good stratigraphic context. The association of features with the Early and Middle Archaic artifacts, the intact stratigraphic context of the artifacts and features, and the presence of local freshwater wetlands which are good sources of information on local paleoenvironments all combine to make Site 7K-C-360 likely to yield important information on the poorly known Early and Middle Archaic Periods.

Early and Middle Archaic sites have been identified previously on the Delmarva Peninsula, but all of the known sites, with the exception of the Dover Downs Site, are disturbed surface sites with no stratigraphic context. Prior studies of Early and Middle Archaic lifeways and adaptations have suggested that there is considerable continuity running from the Paleo-Indian Period (ca. 12,000 - 10,500 B.P.) through the Early Archaic Period (ca. 10,500 - 8500 B.P.), into the Middle Woodland Period (ca. 8500 - 5000 B.P.). This continuity of lifeways is related to adaptations to the spruce and hemlock forests which dominated the environments of the Delmarva Peninsula during this time period. Because Site 7K-C-360 contains both Middle and Early Archaic components it will be possible to compare the uses of the site during these two time periods to test ideas about continuities in prehistoric adaptations and lifeways.

The presence of chipping features produced by the manufacturing of stone tools will allow the study of tool production strategies. The presence of hearth features will allow the possible recovery of prehistoric food remains and other ecofacts which will allow the study of prehistoric diets. Furthermore, the ecofacts from the site will provide data on the environments surrounding the site during the prehistoric past. Pollen and sediment cores can also be taken from the adjacent freshwater wetlands to study local environments and the combination of the ecofacts from the sites and the pollen data from local cores provides an excellent data base for the study of local paleoenvironments. Knowledge of these paleoenvironments during the time periods of the site's occupation will also enhance the study of continuities in prehistoric adaptations and lifeways.