

Methodology

The primary objectives of this survey were to ascertain the archaeological potential of the Dover Bypass Corridor during the PE phase prior to actual construction in order to establish mitigation procedures if necessary. To accomplish this goal, the archaeological sites needed to be located, their limits or boundaries recorded, and site significance recognized. Therefore, the following survey method was maintained throughout the PE phase. This method included uncontrolled walking survey, controlled surface survey, and controlled test pitting. The controlled surface survey and test pitting were limited just to the R.O.W. Each site was surface surveyed, where applicable, at least twice in order to guard against sample bias caused by either poor field conditions or surface collecting by amateurs.

Since the area to be surveyed included both tilled and wooded land, the survey had to include both field survey and testing to locate sites and their limits. The field survey consisted of an uncontrolled surface survey of plowed fields and test pitting in wooded areas. An uncontrolled walking survey involves walking over a broad area and collecting artifacts with little or no horizontal control other than site location.

Test pitting in the woods is a good deal more involved. For each site a datum is established whereby horizontal and vertical control can be maintained. From datum, a horizontal grid is established using the metric system. The area to be excavated is divided into blocks, 10 meters on a side which are in turn subdivided into 25 units, two meters on a side. These units are then tested through excavation. First, the loose forest debris and root mat is removed; then each unit is excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels. All artifacts are bagged and catalogued separately by level and unit. In most wooded areas tested "prehistoric living floors" were encountered and in these areas artifacts were plotted on graph paper at scales of either 1:10 or 1:20. The excavation procedures involved shoveling and sifting the arbitrary levels and troweling and

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