TABLE 30 SUMMARY OF PREHISTORIC LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE SITE 7NC-J-210

ARTIFACT TYPE	RAW MATERIAL						TOTAL
	Chert	Jasper	Rhyolite	Quartz	Quartzite	Not Assgn*	
Bifaces							
Middle-Stage Biface	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Debitage							
Flake Fragments	2	.	1	1	1	.	5
Block Shatter	.	2	.	4	1	.	7
Decortication Flakes	.	3	.	.	.	.	3
Early Reduction Flakes	4	1	.	1	.	.	6
Biface Reduction Flakes	.	3	.	.	.	.	3
Fire-Cracked Rock	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
TOTALS	7	9	1	6	2	2	27

*Not Assigned; usually refers to fire-cracked rock

one of many such sites found in the Osborne Wetland Replacement Area and nearby. Artifact density was very light, and the site had been plowed repeatedly. Most of the artifacts were recovered from the plowzone, and the downward movement of a very few artifacts into the top of the subplowzone soil probably occurred after prehistoric site abandonment. The site's cultural affiliation is unknown.

O. SITE 7NC-J-212, THE OSBORNE WETLAND NO. 3 SITE

1. Site Description

Site 7NC-J-212 was a substantial prehistoric site located north of the stream that flowed out of the wetland area, eventually joining Sawmill Creek on the largest of the parallel sandy ridges that define the topography of the northern bank of this stream. The site extended from the first terrace above the stream northwest along the ridge to the back yard of a house on Black Diamond Road (see Figures 53, 54, and 102). The ridge rose over three distinct low terraces within the site area, including this first terrace. The site measured at least 150 meters northwest to southeast and extended over the width of the ridgetop, approximately 60 meters (500x200 feet). Diagnostic artifacts indicated that this site was occupied during the Archaic, Woodland I, and Woodland II (Early Archaic, Late Archaic, and Woodland) periods.

At the time of the Phase I fieldwork, surface visibility was excellent, and the survey was carried out by surface inspection (Bedell 1995c). A total of 160 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from

the surface survey of Site 7NC-J-212. Most of the artifacts were stone flakes and cobble fragments, but two stemmed projectile points (one resembling the Bare Island type [Custer 1996]) and two flake tools were also recovered. A single transect of 11 shovel test pits was excavated across the site at 20-meter intervals. The soil profile consisted of a moderately deep plowzone of sandy loam over deposits of almost pure sand. Shovel Test Pit 3-11, adjacent to the stream, yielded two flakes from a subplowzone sand stratum, and two of the close-interval shovel test pits excavated nearby also yielded flakes, one from below the plowzone.

2. Environmental Setting

Site 7NC-J-212 was located on one of the larger ridges in the wetland area, extending northwest from the stream to a house on Black Diamond Road (see Figure 102). The site is bounded along its southern and western edges by wetlands and along its eastern edge by a small drainage that still supports sedges in wet seasons. During prehistoric times, the ridge was probably a peninsula bounded on three sides by wetlands. At the time of the Phase II fieldwork, the site was covered in nearly mature soybeans.

3. Phase II Testing

Phase II testing of Site 7NC-J-212 consisted of the excavation of 16 test units across the site (Figure 104). Test Units 1-10 were placed at 20-meter intervals on a transect line that followed the ridgetop. The placement of Test Units 11-16 was based on the results of the excavation of the first 10 test units. A summary of prehistoric lithics recovered in Phase I and II appears in Table 31; selected artifacts are illustrated in Plate 21.

Artifact density for the initial transect of 10 test units was moderate, averaging approximately 20 prehistoric artifacts per test unit. The exceptions were Test Unit 5, which yielded 27 prehistoric artifacts in the plowzone and four below the plowzone; Test Units 6 and 9, which yielded only three and nine artifacts, respectively; and Test Unit 10, which contained 37 prehistoric artifacts in the plowzone and 43 below the plowzone. A Woodland I Bare Island point (Custer 1996) was recovered from a subplowzone stratum in Test Unit 3. Test Unit 5 yielded a small contracting-stemmed Rossville-like point (Ritchie 1971) from the plowzone. This point style may have lasted from Late Archaic to Middle Woodland times, the whole of what is called the Woodland I period in Delaware. A small triangular projectile point and two small sherds of a thin, hard, grit-tempered ceramic were recovered from the surface of the site near the wetlands. The sherds resemble the Minguannan type, which dates to the Woodland II (Late Woodland) period, AD 1000 to 1650; the small triangular point also dates to the Woodland II period.

The placement of the final six units was guided by the results obtained from the first 10 test units. Test Unit 11 was placed 10 meters northeast of Test Unit 5 at a right angle to the original transect, and yielded 71 prehistoric artifacts from the plowzone and five from the subplowzone context. Test Unit 12, located 10 meters northeast of Test Unit 3, contained 38 prehistoric artifacts in the plowzone, including another Rossville-like point, and two artifacts below the plowzone. Test Unit 15 was placed 10 meters northeast of Test Unit 4, between Test Units 11

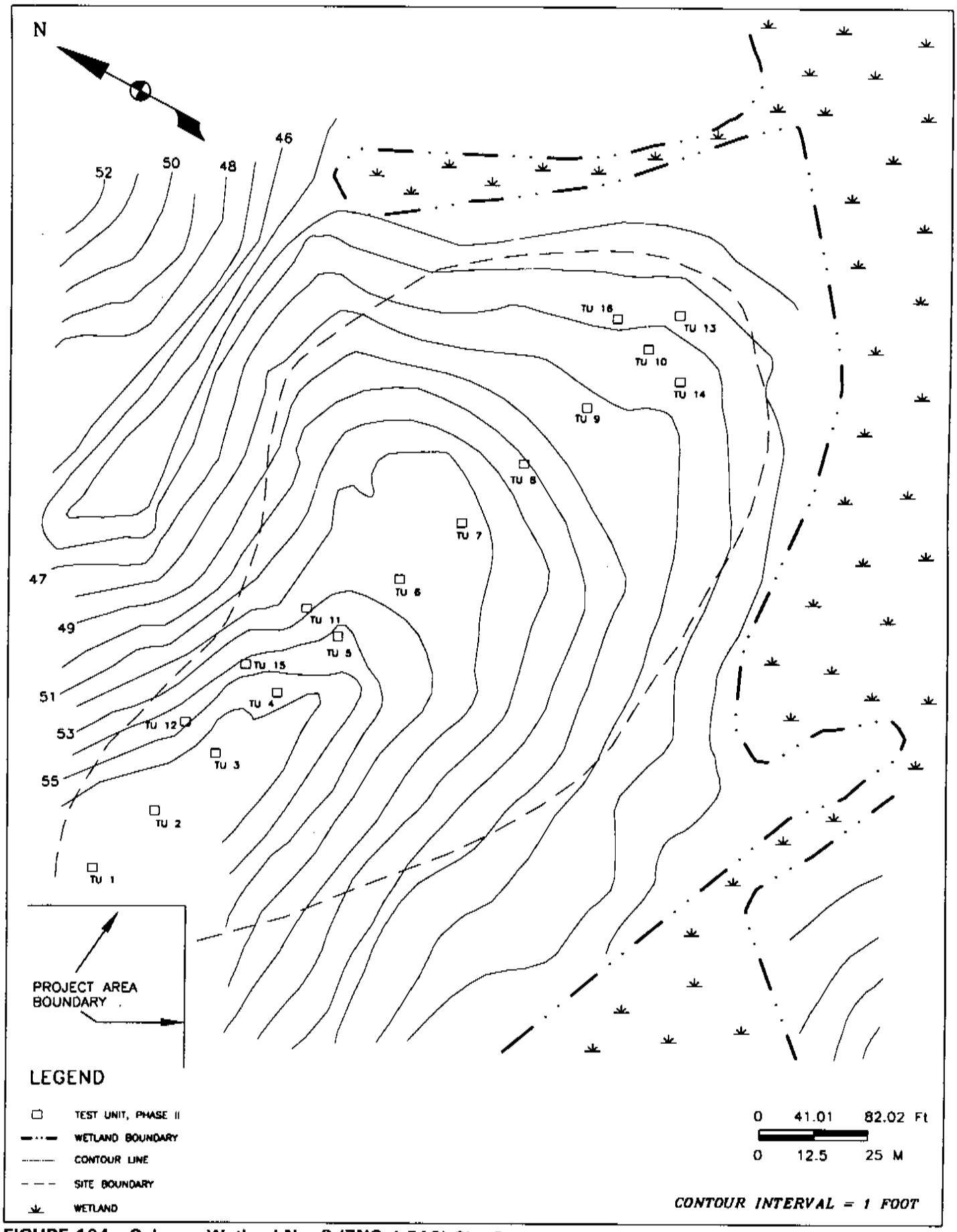


FIGURE 104: Osborne Wetland No. 3 (7NC-J-212) Site Plan

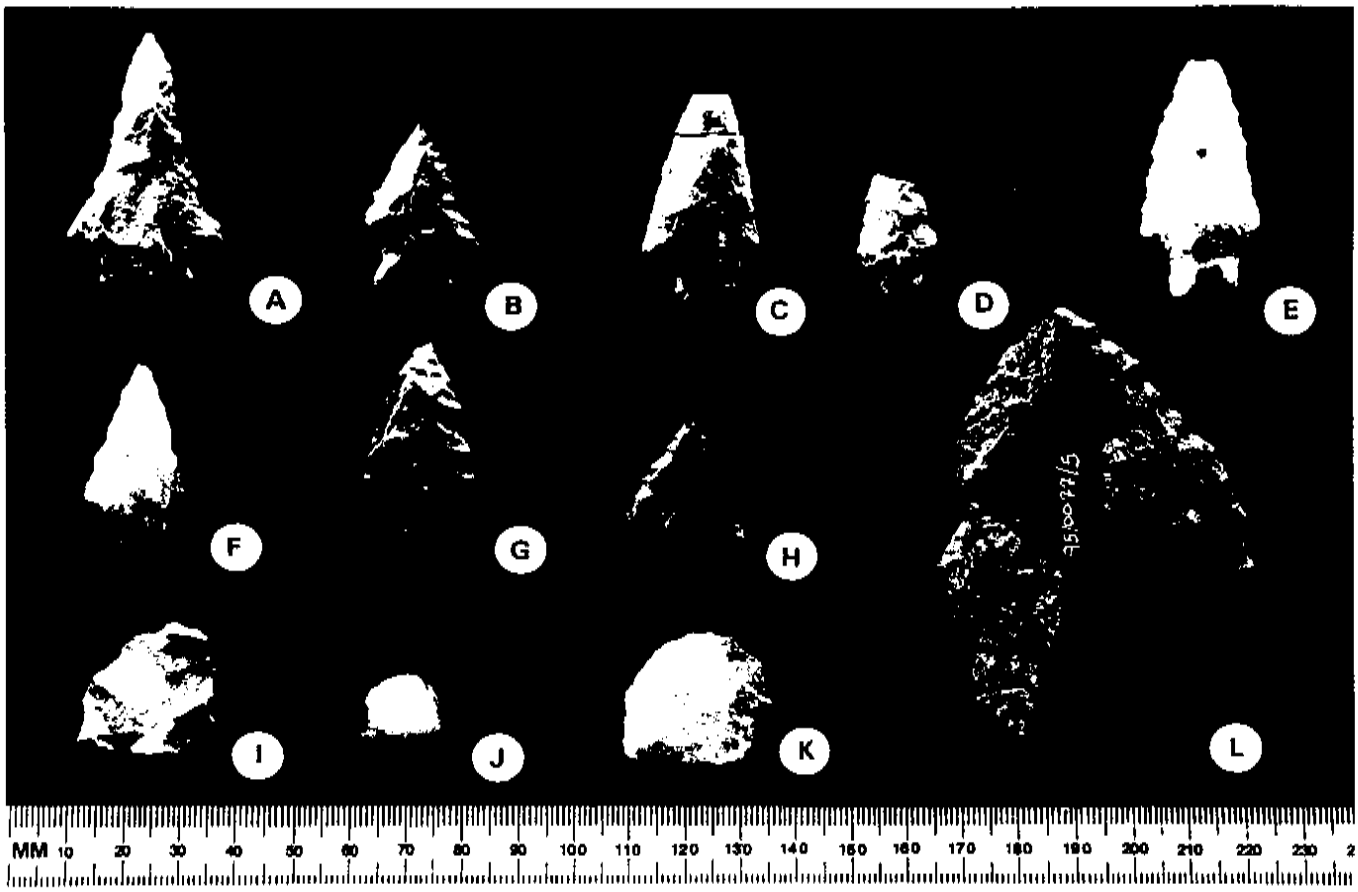


PLATE 21: Prehistoric Artifacts from the Osborne Wetland, Sites 7NC-J-212 and 7NC-J-216

A) Chert Stanly Projectile Point from Site 7NC-J-212, Test Unit 13, Stratum B (95/75/32)
B) Jasper Bifurcate Projectile Point from Site 7NC-J-216, Surface near Test Unit 8 (95/77/7)
C) Quartzite Stemmed Projectile Point from Site 7NC-J-212, Test Unit 3, Stratum B (95/75/6)
D) Jasper Stemmed Projectile Point from Site 7NC-J-212, Test Unit 5, Stratum A (95/75/11)
E) Quartz Stemmed Projectile Point from Site 7NC-J-212, Surface (95/51/390)
F) Quartz Stemmed Projectile Point from Site 7NC-J-216, Surface (95/55/406)
G) Jasper Stemmed Projectile Point from Site 7NC-J-216, Surface (95/55/406)
H) Jasper Triangular Projectile Point from Site 7NC-J-212, Surface (95/51/390)
I) Quartzite Early-stage Biface from Site 7NC-J-216, Surface near Test Unit 6

TABLE 31 **SUMMARY OF PREHISTORIC LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE SITE 7NC-J-212**

	RAW MATERIAL											
ARTIFACT TYPE	Chrt	Jasp	Rhy	Arg	Qtz	Qtzt	Chal	Slate	Sand	Meta	Not Asn*	TOTAL
Bifaces												
Projectile Point	3	4	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Early-Stage Biface	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Late-Stage Biface	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Ind. Biface Fragment	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Other Biface	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Unifaces												
Retouched Flakes	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Utilized Flakes	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Cores												
Freehand Core	2	3	.	.	11	3	.	.	1	.	.	20
Bipolar Core	1	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	3
Tested Cobble	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Debitage												
Flake Fragments	81	77	.	1	28	17	1	1	2	1	.	209
Block Shatter	17	4	.	.	76	5	.	.	.	.	.	102
Decortication Flakes	12	26	.	1	11	1	.	.	.	.	.	51
Early Reduction Flakes	32	39	1	2	53	9	.	.	3	.	.	139
Biface Reduction Flakes	16	23	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	42
Hammerstone	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	2
Fire-Cracked Rock	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	13	16
TOTALS	171	181	1	5	189	40	1	1	8	1	13	611

*Not Assigned; usually refers to fire-cracked rock; Chrt = Chert, Jasp = Jasper, Rhy = Rhyolite, Arg = Argillite, Qtz = Quartz, Qtzt = Quartzite, Chal = Chalcedony, Sand = Sandstone, Meta = Metasedimentary

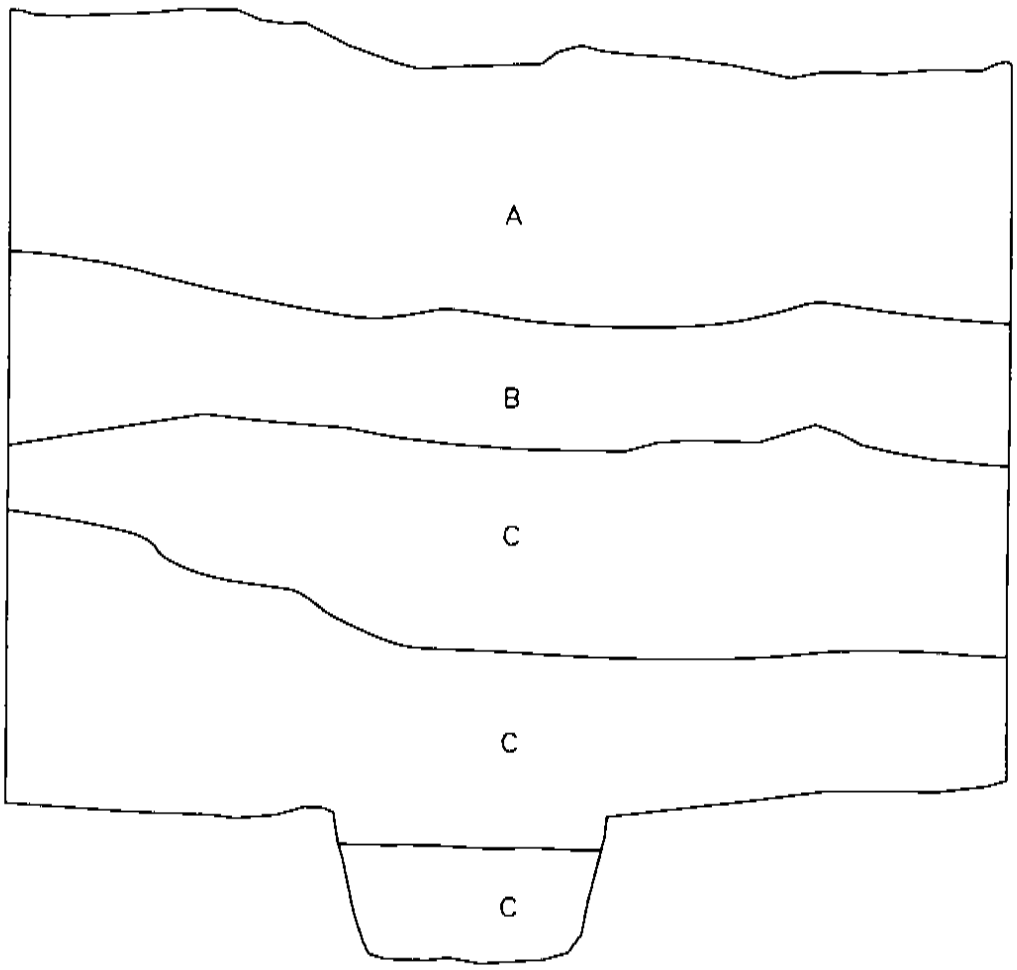
and 12. Twenty-eight prehistoric artifacts were recovered, all from the plowzone. The most productive test unit, Test Unit 13, was placed 10 meters beyond Test Unit 10 on the original transect line, closest to the stream. Its excavation led to the recovery of 33 prehistoric artifacts from the plowzone and 57 more below the plowzone, including a Stanly point with a bifurcated base, which dates the deposit to the Archaic period of Delaware prehistory, circa 7000 to 6000 BC (Coe 1964). Test Units 14 and 16 were located 10 meters southwest and northeast of Test Unit 10, respectively. A single sherd was recovered from the plowzone of Test Unit 14. Otherwise, Test Units 14 and 16 were much less productive than nearby Test Units 10 and 13.

Neither contained any subplowzone artifacts, and Test Unit 16 contained a total of only four prehistoric artifacts. Only three historic artifacts were recovered during this Phase II testing, all from the plowzone.

Soil stratigraphy was fairly consistent in the 16 test units, with the exception of Test Units 10 and 13. All had a plowzone which varied from 20 to 30 centimeters in thickness. This plowzone was a brown to dark yellowish brown loamy sand. Immediately under the plowzone, a more compact soil was found, which was yellowish brown to strong brown in color and varied from sand to sandy loam across the site. A third stratum of lighter-colored loamy sand was encountered in Test Unit 4, which was excavated to a greater depth specifically to investigate stratigraphy below the cultural deposits. A bucket auger test into the floor of Test Unit 4 hit gravel at almost one meter below the surface. The auger only penetrated 4 centimeters into this gravel before an impasse was reached. Test Units 10 and 13 both contained more deeply buried cultural deposits, and deeper subplowzone stratigraphy was observed in profile in these two units (Figure 105). Beneath the plowzone in Test Unit 13 was a layer of brownish yellow sand up to 20 centimeters thick. Forty prehistoric artifacts, all debitage and FCR, were recovered from this stratum. Prehistoric artifacts were also recovered from the third stratum, yellowish brown loamy sand with flecks of yellowish red sand, which was also about 20 centimeters thick. It was from this third stratum that the Stanly point was recovered, along with 16 other artifacts. The fourth stratum, another yellowish brown sand, was sterile. This stratum extended to a depth of just over one meter, where a layer of strong brown coarse sand with large gravels was encountered.

The artifact distribution at Site 7NC-J-212 had several interesting characteristics. Ten of the 16 test units contained subplowzone artifacts, and 110 of the 467 prehistoric artifacts recovered were from below the plowzone. A majority (69%) of these subplowzone artifacts were from Test Units 10 and 13. The horizontal distribution of artifacts indicated the presence of two loci of concentration on the site—a looser concentration around Test Unit 11 on the third terrace above the stream, and a much tighter concentration around Test Units 10 and 13 on the first terrace above the stream. Finally, on each of the three terraces, the most productive test units were closest to the terrace edge, and the least productive were closest to the back of the terrace. If the locations of different occupations of the site can be isolated, this may be evidence of the preferences of each occupying group concerning distance from and elevation above the stream.

The buried deposits in Test Units 10 and 13, dated by the Stanly point to the Archaic period, were presumably buried by aeolian action during a period when the site was bare of vegetation. Since the buried deposit is on the southeastern edge of the site, the prevailing winds seem to have been from the northwest during that period, pushing the loose, sandy soil southeast into the wetlands. Confirmation of this model is provided by Sites 7NC-J-214 and 7NC-J-216, south of the wetlands, which are discussed below. No buried deposits were found at either one of these sites. In fact, the recovery of artifacts from the test unit excavations was disappointing compared to the surface finds; more artifacts were recovered from the surface of Site 7NC-J-216 than from the surface of Site 7NC-J-212, but the test units yielded less than half the total. It thus appears that the sites south of the Osborne wetland have been deflated by winds pushing sand off those sites toward the south, the same process that buried the southeastern portion of Site 7NC-J-212.



LEGEND

A BROWN (10YR 5/3) LOAMY SAND

B YELLOWISH BROWN (10YR 5/8) LOAMY SAND

C BROWNISH YELLOW (10YR 6/6) LOAMY SAND MOTTLED WITH REDDISH YELLOW (7.5YR 6/8) FINE SAND

D YELLOWISH BROWN (10YR 5/8) LOAMY SAND MOTTLED WITH YELLOWISH RED (5YR 5/8) CLAYEY SAND

E STRONG BROWN (7.5YR 5/8) MOIST COARSE SAND WITH LARGE GRAVEL

0 10 20 CM

0 3.94 7.87 in.

FIGURE 105: Osborne Wetland No. 3 (7NC-J-212) Site, Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 13

Since the Woodland period artifacts from Site 7NC-J-212 are generally not buried, it appears that the period of greatest soil mobility on the Osborne wetland sites was sometime in the Archaic period, probably between 6000 and 3000 BC.

4. Summary

Site 7NC-J-212 appeared to be a procurement site or microband base camp occupied by prehistoric peoples over a period of several thousand years. A total of 649 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during Phase I and II investigations—647 lithic artifacts and two ceramic sherds (see Table 31). Diagnostic artifacts recovered date to the Archaic (7000 to 6000 BC), earlier Woodland I (3000 to 1000 BC), and Woodland II (AD 1000 to 1650) periods. The site's attractiveness presumably came from its proximity to extensive wetlands and from the topography of the broad, nearly level ridge. The buried stratum on the lower terrace, tested in Units 10 and 13, was dated by the Stanly bifurcated-base point to the Archaic period.

P. SITE 7NC-J-214, THE OSBORNE WETLAND NO. 5 SITE

1. Site Description

Site 7NC-J-214, a small prehistoric lithic scatter, was located in Phase I Survey Area 5 of the Osborne Wetland Replacement Area, on a small hill southwest of a bend in the stream noted above in the description for Site 7NC-J-210 (Bedell 1995c) (see Figures 53, 56, and 102). When the Phase I survey of the site was carried out, the area had just been plowed and rained on, and surface visibility was excellent, so the survey was carried out by surface inspection. Twelve lithic flakes, and a chert projectile point resembling the Bare Island type (Custer 1996), were recovered from the surface in an area measuring approximately 55 by 45 meters (180x150 feet). A single transect of four shovel test pits was excavated in the survey area, but none of the shovel tests yielded artifacts.

2. Environmental Setting

Wetlands associated with the stream were present north and east of the site. The western, northern, and eastern sides of this small hill slope gently down to the floodplain of the stream, while the southern side rises toward a long, low ridge. At the time of the Phase II fieldwork, the majority of the site was covered in nearly mature soybeans. The extreme southern edge of the site was planted in corn, which was harvested during the Phase II fieldwork.

3. Phase II Testing

Phase II testing of Site 7NC-J-214 consisted of the excavation of eight test units (Figure 106). Since the Phase I shovel test pits were all culturally sterile, yielding no data on intrasite artifact distribution, Test Unit 1 was placed at the center of the site, as determined during the Phase I surface survey. The other seven test units were spread across the top of the landform at 10-meter intervals in all four cardinal directions so that full coverage of the hilltop was achieved. Nine