

## RESEARCH METHODS

### GENERAL RESEARCH METHODS

Each of the study areas was subjected to a preliminary reconnaissance to determine the surface visibility of the ground surfaces and to determine the percentage of the area which was wooded and could not be studied with surface survey. All

locations targeted for surface and subsurface study were identified, landowners and/or tenants notified of our survey intentions, and permission requested from each. Most landowners granted access; however, where access was denied, the land was not surveyed.

Surface survey of locations within the study area consisted of walking the fields in regularly spaced intervals. The extent of surface visibility was noted for each field and expressed as a percent figure. It is an estimate of the visible ground surface versus the vegetated surface and is an impressionistic figure best considered to be a relative, rather than absolute value. So as to organize the pedestrian survey, each of the study areas was divided into numbered subareas. Figures 15-23 show the subarea divisions with each of the project areas. The subareas were designed to be roughly equal in size and were delineated by prominent features like roads and perennial streams.

The term "locus" was employed to initially designate discrete artifact concentrations found during the surface survey and was defined as any area with at least one flake, a few pieces of fire-cracked rock or a concentration of historic materials. The very thin scatter of historic materials found throughout many large fields was regarded as "field scatter" associated with cultivation and fertilization. A locus was later determined to constitute an archaeological site if it possessed more than a few artifacts given an area's visibility and erosion conditions. Thus, an archaeological site is here defined as the location of prehistoric and/or historic activity as expressed by an artifact concentration. Each locus was given a letter designation within the subarea.

Prehistoric fire-cracked rock, debitage, and historic artifacts found during the pedestrian survey were generally not collected. However, these materials were counted and recorded for each locus. Collected were all chipped and ground stone tools, utilized flakes, prehistoric ceramics, and diagnostic historic artifacts.

Following the pedestrian survey, wooded sections of the study areas were examined to see if any might be appropriate locations for subsurface testing. The intent was to overcome any bias in the pedestrian survey introduced by the selectivity of farmers for arable land and to compare wooded and tilled land for prehistoric site selectivity. It was also hoped that the woodlots would produce sites in unplowed contexts. Many of the wooded areas had slopes which were too steep for testing, or were poorly drained and, therefore, unlikely locations for archaeological sites. Nonetheless, many of the wooded areas were possible site locations and sub-surface testing produced remains of unplowed prehistoric archaeological sites. Subsurface testing consisted of the excavation of one-by-one meter test units which were numbered consecutively within each subarea. All prehistoric and historic artifacts recovered from the excavated test units were collected.