

ABSTRACT

Final Phase III data recovery excavations at Site 7K-C-360 and the Dover Downs site (Hill A/7K-C-365 and Hill B/7K-C-365B) and were oriented towards determining the sites' roles in regional settlement systems, the organization of lithic technologies throughout the sites' occupations, and the effects of climatic change on evolving prehistoric cultural adaptations. Areas of all three sites contained some buried, *in situ*, prehistoric artifacts indicative of short term transient camps. Diagnostic artifacts from 7K-C-360 indicate occupations dating to the Archaic Period (ca. 6500 B.C.- 3000 B.C.) and the Woodland I Period (ca. 3000 B.C. to A.D.1000). Diagnostic artifacts recovered from Dover Downs, Hill A represent all four periods of prehistory and indicate that this site was the locus of frequent visits by prehistoric populations; and diagnostic artifacts from Dover Downs, Hill B indicate occupations dating to the Woodland I Period and the Woodland II Period (ca.1000-1650 A.D.).

Identification of tool types, analyses of tool distributions, use-wear, and debitage attributes, and results of blood residue tests indicate that all three sites contained butchering/processing areas and that Dover Downs Hill B served as a quartzite reduction station. The use of locally available cobbles for the manufacture of expedient tools was noted at all three sites and was inferred to have played an important role in the organization of lithic technologies in the relatively lithic poor landscape of central Delaware. Such "embedded" procurement practices suggest the possibility of some degree of sedentism in settlement practices in the region. The use of argillite for bifacial artifacts was also noted in the assemblages from Dover Downs Hill A/7K-C-365A, and 7K-C-360 and indicate that these sites were part of the wandering range of groups traveling to the Delmarva Peninsula after securing raw materials from western central New Jersey and/or southeastern Pennsylvania.

Analyses of soils data and palynological core samples from areas surrounding Dover Downs Hill A and 7K-C-360 indicated a stable depositional environment surrounding 7K-C-360 and an unconformity in the stratigraphic record in the area surrounding Hill A. These results demonstrate the important role that local edaphic factors play in site formation processes.