# GLOSSARY

A-horizon	Dark surface horizon or topsoil layer containing high percentages of organic material.
abrader	Cobble tool used to smooth and shape stone tool edges during the manufacturing process.
aeolian	Wind-deposited fine-textured sediments commonly found on Coastal Plain archaeological sites.
alluvium	Sediments that accumulate on floodplains as a result of overbank floods.
anadromous fish	Schooling fish that migrate in large numbers into freshwater streams from the ocean during spawning periods, often in the springtime.
argillite	A rock type that is harder than claystone but softer than shale, used by aboriginal peoples for making stone tools. Argillite weathers easily, leaving a softened clay-like rind on artifact surfaces.
assemblage	A collection or group of objects (e.g., stone tools) that are related in time and space within an archaeological site. Contemporary assemblages may be similar from one site to another.
B-horizon	Weathered soil horizon containing accumulations of clay, iron, aluminum, humus, carbonates, silica, and other constituents that originate in overlying strata. Highly weathered B-horizons are often too ancient to contain prehistoric artifacts.
biface	Generalized type of stone tool that is flaked on both faces and can be used for cutting purposes or as a projectile at the tip of a spear or arrow.
bipolar	Technique of lithic raw material (usually cobbles) processing in which cobble is placed on an anvil stone and struck with another stone to fracture the cobble and produce flakes.
C-horizon	Unweathered sediments that are relatively unaffected by weathering processes.
chalcedony	Cryptocrystalline (lacking crystals) type of quartz that is often fibrous at the microscopic level; used as raw material for making stone tools.
chert	Cryptocrystalline rock of variable color and texture used as raw material for making stone tools.
chronology	Sequence of prehistoric cultures represented in a region.
cobble tool	Stone tool, such as a hammerstone, a netsinker, or an abrader, made on a stream cobble that usually exhibits pitting, smoothing, or other types of modification as a result of use.

colluvium	Coarse-textured sediments that accumulate primarily at the base of slopes as a result of slopewash and rock slides from higher elevations.
core	Mass of stone systematically modified to produce tools from flakes. Flake scars are evident on core surfaces as an indication of flake removal.
cortex	Weathered surface or rind on stone.
cracked rock	Rock fragments recovered from prehistoric sites that evidence human modification other than tool manufacturing, such as through fire cracking or stone boiling.
cryptocrystalline	Rock type that shows no crystalline structure when observed under a low-power microscope. This type of rock is well suited as raw material for manufacturing stone tools.
cultigen	Domesticated plant (e.g., maize, beans, squash, sunflower) cultivated by prehistoric peoples that originates from a wild ancestral form.
debitage	Waste flake debris resulting from stone tool manufacturing.
E-horizon	Light-colored soil horizon usually underlying the A-horizon and characterized by less organic matter and/or lower amounts of iron and aluminum compounds than the underlying horizon.
edge damage	Wear on stone tool edges as a result of use in cutting, scraping, and other activities.
expedient tool	Stone tool lacking formal characteristics of consistent shape and outline form but with simply modified edges specific to a task. These tools are usually flakes that have been only slightly retouched along a single edge.
faunal remains	Animal bones recovered from archaeological sites.
floral remains	Seeds, nuts, wood charcoal, and other preserved plant remains recovered from archaeological sites.
flotation	Process of sifting sediments collected from archaeological sites through fine mesh to retrieve small fragments of artifacts, plant remains, shell, and animal bones.
geomorphology	Study of landforms, with specific applications to the geographic setting of archaeological sites.
groundstone tools	Cobble tools that have been systematically shaped and polished to form a variety of tool types (e.g., axes, adzes, and gouges) or ornaments (e.g., gorgets).
intrasite patterning	Artifact and feature locations within an archaeological site as related to prehistoric human activities and processes of site formation.
jasper	Iron-rich cryptocrystalline rock used for making stone tools. Jasper outcrops in northwestern Delaware and is found in cobble deposits on the Coastal Plain.
lithic	Stone.

palynology	Study of pollen, applied to reconstructing past environments.
pedology	Study of soil science.
phytolith	A mineral structure, usually composed of opal or calcite, that is secreted by living plants; it has identifiable attributes that are specific to certain plants.
plowzone	Surface layer of A-horizon disturbed by plowing, usually to depths varying between 8 and 12 inches.
quartz	Crystalline form of silica used as raw material for manufacturing stone tools.
quartzite	Highly silicified sandstone used as raw material for making stone tools.
residue analysis	Study of ancient remnant organic materials adhering to the surfaces of stone tools and ceramics.
rhyolite	Meta-volcanic microcrystalline rock from the Blue Ridge Mountain region used as a raw material for making stone tools.
settlement patterns	Distributions of various archaeological site types (such as base camps, hunting sites, and stations) across the landscape and the relationship of these sites to prehistoric human land use through time.
stratigraphy	Study of the layers of the earth and their contents (artifacts and fossils, environmental information, etc.) and the relationships between layers.
stratum	A single definable layer of soil that has its own set of physical characteristics that can be distinguished from adjacent soil layers, both above and below.
steatite	Soapstone. A soft talc-rich rock that is easily carved and polished, principally for stone bowls.
subsistence	Prehistoric food gathering and food production practices.
temper	Crushed rock, shell, or other raw material added to pottery clay before it is fired.
uniface	Stone tool that is flaked on only one face, leaving the opposing face flat and the edges of the tool steep-angled (e.g., scrapers).
waste flake	Chipped-stone debris byproduct that results from the stone tool manufacturing process.

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