

**PHASE III EXCAVATIONS AT THE LEIPSIC SITE,
(7K-C-194A), KENT COUNTY, DELAWARE**

The Leipsic Site is located along the Leipsic River in northeastern Kent County, Delaware. In the vicinity of the site the Leipsic River is brackish and tidal, and the northern bank is approximately 1.5m higher in elevation than the river. This site was discovered during initial archaeological testing along the Proposed Route 13 Corridor. Pit house features, hearths and storage pits of various sizes were encountered at the site. The artifacts recovered included debitage, bifaces, projectile points, and ceramics. Diagnostic artifacts dated primarily to the early portions of the Woodland I time period, specifically, Barker's Landing and Delmarva Adena Complex times (ca. 3000 BC - 500 BC). Few faunal remains were preserved in the features; however, floral remains were well preserved including **Amaranth**, hickory nut and butternut. Other diagnostic artifacts were recovered indicating that the site's occupation spanned the entire Woodland Period (ca. 3000 BC - AD 1600).

Based on the large numbers of artifacts and features recovered, site 7K-C-194A is most likely a base camp. The feature concentrations, including houses and storage pits, indicate that "household clusters", or residential locales, were present at the site during Woodland I times. Excavations at the site show that it contains well-preserved features in good stratigraphic context. Preservation of floral remains within the features is good and will allow the study of prehistoric diets. The presence of numerous house features and associated storage pits within "household clusters" allows the analysis of archaeological materials by prehistoric social units. Such analyses will clarify the nature of prehistoric social organizations during the early part of the Woodland I period, which is a time period when these social organizations were undergoing pronounced change. Furthermore, because the household clusters seem to date to different time periods within the Woodland Period, it should be possible to examine changes in the organization of households over time.