additional shovel test pits were excavated during the Phase II excavations at the southern end of the site. Their purpose was to reevaluate the Phase I conclusion that this site and Site 7NC-J-215, located close by, are separate. The counts of artifacts recovered during Phase I and II investigations are fairly low. A summary of the prehistoric lithic assemblage recovered from both phases of fieldwork at this site appears in Table 32.

Phase II artifact counts were fairly low. One hundred and nineteen prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the eight test units. Four were FCR, one was a chert core, one was a quartz biface, and the rest were lithic reduction debitage. Fifty-two pieces of this debitage were jasper, 26 were chert, 23 were quartz, nine were quartzite, and three were of unknown material. Only 13 of these artifacts were recovered below the plowzone. The sandiness of the soil makes the downward movement of artifacts very possible. It is unlikely that these 13 artifacts are indicative of a significant subplowzone cultural deposit. In fact, the overall distribution of cultural deposits at the Osborne property, as described above in the discussion of Site 7NC-J-212, seems to indicate that the movement of the landforms in the Holocene were toward the south or southeast, which would have exposed deposits at Site 7NC-J-214, rather than burying them.

Only two of the nine shovel test pits contained artifacts, and these were closest to the previously delineated site area. Shovel test pits excavated farther south were sterile, confirming that this site is separate from Site 7NC-J-215, located farther south on the same ridge. Shovel Test Pit 1 contained four flakes, and Shovel Test Pit 5 contained one flake and one argillite bifacial preform with some identifiable characteristics of the Rossville point type (Ritchie 1971), which dates to the Woodland I period. All but one of the flakes from these two shovel tests were in the plowzone, and the one exception was found immediately under the plowzone.

Soil stratigraphy was fairly consistent across the site. A well-developed plowzone of yellowish brown to dark yellowish brown loamy sand extended to an average depth of about 20 centimeters below the surface. The subplowzone soil was yellowish brown to strong brown in color and described as a loamy sand with a higher clay content in spots.

4. Summary

Site 7NC-J-214 can be interpreted as a small procurement site occupied by prehistoric peoples foraging in the nearby wetlands. Artifact counts were fairly low, and the few artifacts from below the plowzone were small and could easily have worked their way down from disturbed contexts. Based on the two possible diagnostic artifacts recovered, the main use of the site seems to have taken place during the Woodland I period.

Q. SITE 7NC-J-216, THE OSBORNE WETLAND NO. 7 SITE

1. Site Description

Site 7NC-J-216 was located during Phase I investigations in Survey Area 7 of the Osborne Wetland Replacement Area, on a low, broad, gently sloping hill south of the stream noted above

TABLE 32 SUMMARY OF PREHISTORIC LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE SITE 7NC-J-214

	RAW MATERIAL								
ARTIFACT TYPE	Chert	Jasper	Quartz	Quartzt	Sandst	Metas	Mica	Not Assgn*	TOTAL
Bifaces									
Projectile Point	1	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	3
Ind. Biface Fragment	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Unifaces									
Utilized Flakes	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cores									
Freehand Core	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	3
Bipolar Core	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Tested Cobble	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Other Core Type	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	
Debitage									
Flake Fragments	12	24	2	1	.	.	.	.	39
Block Shatter	2	6	11	.	.	.	.	.	19
Decortication Flakes	1	17	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Early Reduction Flakes	3	4	4	2	1	.	.	.	14
Biface Reduction Flakes	4	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	6
Fire-Cracked Rock	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	3
TOTALS	23	55	23	4	1	1	1	2	110

*Not Assigned; usually refers to fire-cracked rock; Quartzt= Quartzite, Sandst= Sandstone, Metas = Metasedimentary

in the description of Site 7NC-J-210 (see Figures 53, 56, and 102). It was a prehistoric lithic scatter, and artifacts were found on the ground surface in an area that extends approximately 170 meters east-west and 60 meters north-south (550x200 feet). Results of subsurface testing indicate that subsurface deposits extended at least 100 meters east-west and 40 meters north-south (330x130 feet). Artifacts dating to the Archaic and Woodland I periods were recovered from the site. At the time of the Phase II fieldwork, the majority of the site was covered in nearly mature corn.

The site was discovered during the Phase I survey of the Osborne Wetland Replacement Area right-of-way (Bedell 1995c). Because of high surface visibility, Survey Area 7 was subjected to surface collection. A total of 167 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the Phase I surface survey, including one chert point resembling the Morrow Mountain type and a quartz point resembling the Halifax type (Coe 1964). The two projectile points suggest a date in the Archaic

period. Two transects of nine shovel test pits were then excavated across the site at 20-meter intervals. Eight of these shovel tests contained artifacts, all recovered from the plowzone.

2. Environmental Setting

The hill on which Site 7NC-J-216 was located was the northern end of a low, broad ridge. The site was bounded on the east and west by shallow drainages. North of the site, the stream had been dredged to make a pond, but in prehistoric times the area was presumably a substantial swamp. The setting was a raised, nearly level area located very close to productive wetlands.

3. Phase II Testing

Phase II testing of Site 7NC-J-216 consisted of the excavation of 15 test units (Figure 107). These test units were laid out in three transects of five test units each across the area subjected to Phase I shovel testing. The transects followed the corn rows, resulting in a transect orientation of 70 degrees, roughly parallel to the stream.

Two hundred and fifty-seven prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the 15 Phase II test units (see Plate 21; Table 33). The great majority of these prehistoric artifacts were jasper, chert, and quartz lithic debitage. Rhyolite, argillite, quartzite, chalcedony, ironstone, and metasedimentary rock are also present as raw materials. Artifacts of note include a projectile point of the Stanly type with a bifurcated base (Coe 1964) from the plowzone of Test Unit 1, a ceramic sherd from the plowzone of Test Unit 1, and a ceramic sherd from the plowzone of Test Unit 15. Thirty-seven of the Phase II prehistoric artifacts were recovered below the plowzone. With just a few exceptions, these subplowzone artifacts are small pieces of lithic debitage. The exceptions include a possible chopper from the first subplowzone level of Test Unit 1, and a quartz core from the second subplowzone level of Test Unit 9.

With the exception of the low counts in Test Units 14 and 15 at the eastern end of the third transect, artifact distribution was relatively even among the Phase II test units. This makes it difficult to discern separate loci or activity areas. However, the distribution of artifacts in four test units is worth mentioning. In Test Unit 1, while only 11 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the plowzone, another 10 were recovered from the first 30 centimeters below the plowzone, including the possible chopper mentioned above. The 25 prehistoric artifacts contained in the plowzone of Test Unit 4 amount to the highest plowzone count for all 15 test units. Four of these artifacts are FCR. However, the potentially significant information yielded by Test Unit 4 came from the subplowzone context in the form of a possible pit feature, Feature 1 (Figure 108). Feature 1 was indistinct, but contained charcoal flecking and softer soil which seemed to retain more moisture than the surrounding soil matrix. Feature 1 was approximately 35 centimeters deep, with sloping sides and a flat bottom. Because it extended beyond Test Unit 4, its horizontal dimensions are not known. Unfortunately, no artifacts were recovered from this possible feature, and no statement as to its function can be made at this time. It is entirely possible that this was some sort of natural anomaly.

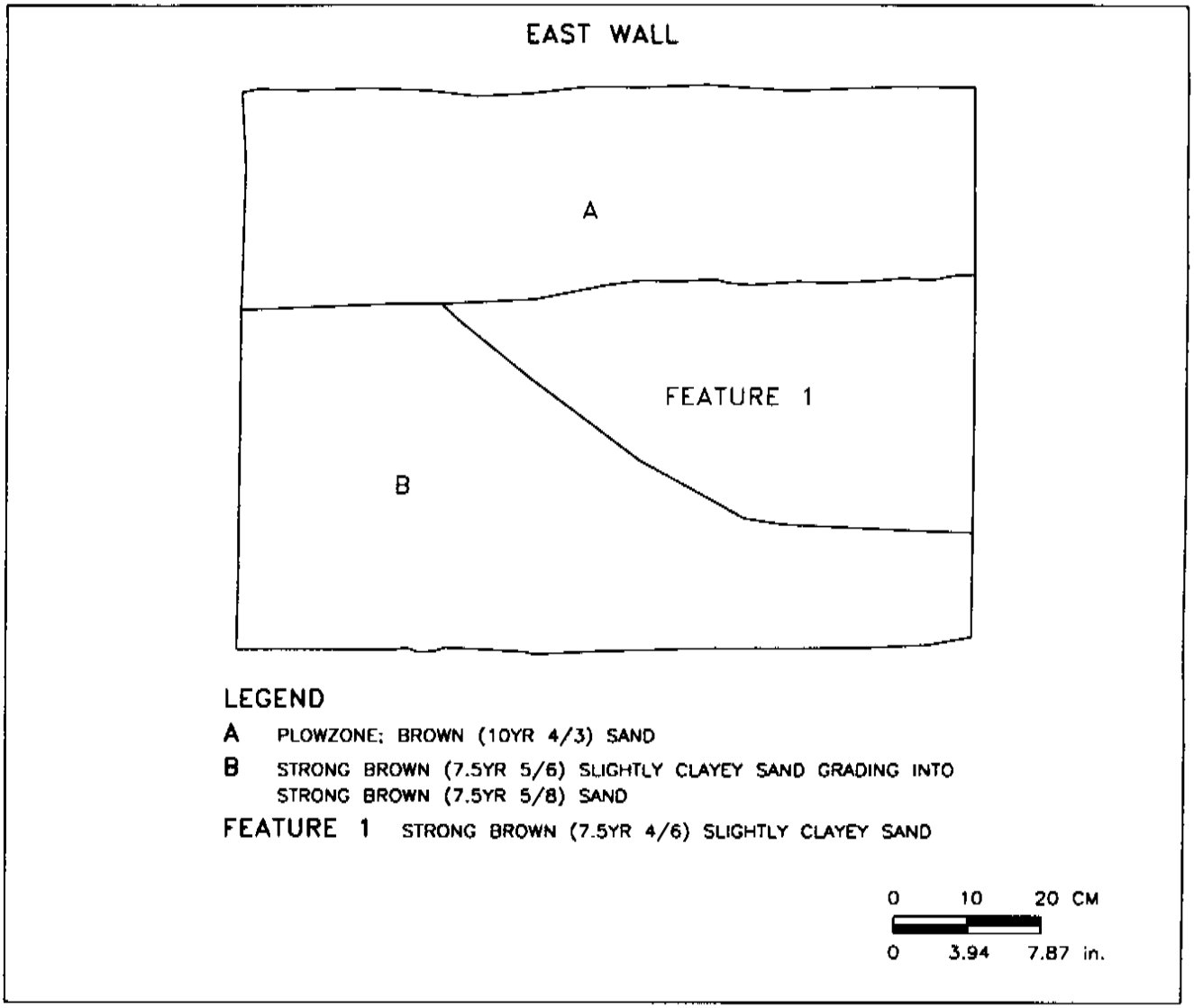

FIGURE 108: Osborne Wetland No. 7 (7NC-J-216) Site, Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 4

TABLE 33 SUMMARY OF PREHISTORIC LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE SITE 7NC-J-216

	RAW MATERIAL										
ARTIFACT TYPE	Chrt	Jasp	Rhy	Arg	Qtz	Qtzt	Chal	Iron	Meta	Not Asg*	TOTAL
Bifaces											
Projectile Point	1	3	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	5
Early-Stage Biface	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Middle-Stage Biface	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Late-Stage Biface	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Ind. Biface Fragment	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Unifaces											
Retouched Flakes	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Utilized Flakes	1	2	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	5
Cores											
Freehand Core	2	.	.	.	5	3	.	.	.	.	10
Bipolar Core	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Debitage											
Flake Fragments	35	62	.	1	59	5	.	2	4	.	168
Block Shatter	11	16	.	.	50	2	.	2	3	.	84
Decortication Flakes	2	10	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	17
Early Reduction Flakes	16	21	.	1	42	4	.	6	2	.	92
Bipolar Reduction Flakes	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Biface Reduction Flakes	6	11	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	19
Fire-Cracked Rock	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17	17
TOTALS	77	129	1	2	163	16	1	11	9	17	426

*Not Assigned; usually includes unmodified lithics and/or fire-cracked rock; Chrt = Chert, Jasp = Jasper, Rhy = Rhyolite, Arg = Argillite, Qtz = Quartz, Qtzt = Quartzite, Chal = Chalcedony, Iron = Ironstone

Five prehistoric artifacts were found in the first 40 centimeters below the plowzone in Test Unit 9, including the quartz core mentioned earlier. Test Unit 9 only had five artifacts in the plowzone. Finally, 13 of 37 prehistoric artifacts yielded by Test Unit 11 were from the first 20 centimeters below the plowzone. All of these subplowzone artifacts are lithic debitage, but 11 of them are jasper. This differs from the assemblage of plowzone lithic raw materials from Test Unit 11, where only five of the 24 lithics recovered are jasper. The information from the four test units discussed above suggests that pockets of intact subplowzone cultural deposits exist on the site; however, these pockets appear to be quite small and randomly located.

The soil stratigraphy of the site varied considerably. The variations occurred beneath the well-developed plowzone of brown to dark yellowish brown loamy sand in randomly-alternating test units across the site. In some test units, a more well-developed strong brown loamy to clayey sand was encountered immediately beneath the plowzone. In the other units, the initial subplowzone soil was yellowish brown, light olive brown, or pale brown sand to loamy sand of varying thickness. In a few cases, the strong brown clayey sand was found beneath the yellowish brown sand in the same test unit. These subplowzone variations may be indicative of past erosional activity on the landform, which formed troughs that eventually filled in.

Thirty-seven historic artifacts were also recovered (14 from Test Unit 2), all from the plowzone. They include many tiny brick fragments, clear vessel glass, and a few cut and wire nails. No evidence of intact or disturbed historic structural remains was observed. These artifacts are believed to be associated with the historic farm that was located along U.S. Route 13 east of the SR 1 right-of-way.

4. Summary

The relatively small number of artifacts recovered from Site 7NC-J-216 was somewhat surprising, since the surface survey was so promising. A summary of the prehistoric lithic assemblage recovered during Phase I and II investigations is provided in Table 33. Surface artifact density was greater than that of Site 7NC-J-212, yet fewer than half as many artifacts were recovered from the test units. Experience in the Virginia and Maryland Piedmont indicates that sites with large numbers of surface finds and relatively few subsurface artifacts have often been severely deflated, and although the sandy soils of the Osborne Wetland Replacement Area are quite different from the clay soils of the Piedmont, the same conclusion may apply. As described above in the discussion of Site 7NC-J-212, it seems from an analysis of all the cultural deposits around the Osborne pond that the sandy soils on these sites have been moving toward the south or southeast. This motion, which buried intact Archaic deposits at Site 7NC-J-212, would have deflated Site 7NC-J-216, leaving artifacts lying on the surface after their covering soils had been blown away.

The diagnostic artifacts recovered from Site 7NC-J-216 span most of Delaware prehistory, from the Archaic to the later Woodland I or Woodland II periods. The site appears to be a procurement station. A single subplowzone feature of unknown date and function was discovered; it may be a cultural pit of the kind discovered in quantities at other Delaware sites, or it may be natural.

R. SUMMARY OF PHASE II EVALUATIONS

Phase II evaluations of 17 archaeological sites in the SR 1 corridor and associated wetland areas have been carried out. Four of these sites were historic, 11 were prehistoric, and two had both historic and prehistoric components. Of the historic sites, Sites 7NC-G-144 and 7NC-G-145 were farm sites; Site 7NC-G-145 dated to the mid-eighteenth century, and Site 7NC-G-144 to the second half of the eighteenth century. Site 7NC-F-13 was a farm dating to the later eighteenth