

artifact inventories representing a broader time span than was originally given.

Prehistoric Types

A "camp" was a temporary living area which may have been occupied for as little as one night. Sites that were occupied for a longer period of time, but not year round are called "base camps". "Villages" were permanent, year-round settlements that were generally occupied by larger populations than other site types. "Shell middens" are prehistoric discard areas consisting mainly of the shells of edible bivalves and/or mollusks. They vary in size according to population and occupation length, and most would qualify as base camps. "Villages" were permanent, year-round settlements that were generally occupied by larger populations than other site types.

Prehistoric site type was often not specifically designated on the site inventory forms, but had to be based on descriptions and artifact inventories. A prehistoric site was considered a camp if it had a small amount of artifacts, usually lithic tools and possibly ceramics scattered over a limited area. Base camps included the same kind of artifacts, but in greater densities, and possible evidence of features. Shell middens were defined as such if dense or extensive shell was reported on the site inventory forms.

Historic Types

Three types of historic sites are presently recorded in Middlesex County. A "domestic" site is one that contains evidence of non-military living quarters. One historic site is a corduroy (log) road. There is also one underwater historic site, a log canoe.

Many other historic site types may be identified in Middlesex in the future. These include large plantations, domestic properties, small to middling farms, tenant farms, "slave/servant" sites, churches, cemeteries, public buildings, commercial sites, industrial sites, taverns, ordinaries, landings, wharves, free black agricultural communities, slave occupation sites, two-story I houses and one-and-a-half story dwellings with an added ell, domestic and agricultural outbuildings built contemporaneously and those built earlier and immigrant farms (Metz and Brown 1994).

Research Potential

The potential for future research at a site was measured on a scale of low, moderate, high, and undetermined. Research potential was determined using a number of criteria, and, whenever possible, emphasis was placed on the investigating archaeologist's recommendations. It was occasionally necessary to modify the investigator's decisions, such as when

they showed a consistent bias against later historic sites. Often, no recommendations were made on the site recording forms, and, in these cases, research potential was defined based on artifact type, artifact density, site size, the presence and integrity of features, past site disturbance, predicted site disturbance, method of site identification, and any other comments made by the recorder.

Nine of the 35 sites in Middlesex County have undetermined research potential. Most of these sites have either never been field-checked by an archaeologist or were slated for development at the time they were recorded at the DHR. Other sites have an undetermined potential because not enough information was provided on the site form. Without further field assessment, it would be impossible to predict the research potential of these sites.

Generally, sites assigned low research potential have very few artifacts, no diagnostic artifacts, and no intact deposits including features. Sites with few artifacts are not, however, always assigned low research potential. For instance, rare site types may have a high research potential even with relatively few artifacts. Sites are also assigned low potential if they have already been heavily disturbed.

Sites that have been partially disturbed and those with some diagnostic artifacts but low artifact density are likely to have moderate potential. If a site has a higher artifact

density but few diagnostic artifacts it is also considered to have moderate potential.

Those sites considered to have high research potential tend to be intact, with moderate to high artifact densities, and moderate to high numbers of diagnostic artifacts. Features that show very little disturbance and may not have many artifacts are also seen as having high research potential. The site type and context also affect research potential. Rare sites such as Paleoindian-period sites and Woodland-period villages are likely to have high potential because they can shed a distinctive light on the prehistory and history of the area. There are some instances, such as in the case of cemeteries, in which high research potential does not imply that sites may be excavated. Human burials are protected by Virginia state regulations and can not be removed through archaeological excavation without a permit.

Based on the above criteria, the Middlesex County site inventory currently contains 74% (n=26) high research potential sites and 26% (n=9) undetermined research potential sites (Figure 6).

State of Preservation

The determination of the state of preservation of sites was based solely on information supplied on the site forms. If a site were partially destroyed at the time of the survey,

Summary of All Sites Research Potential

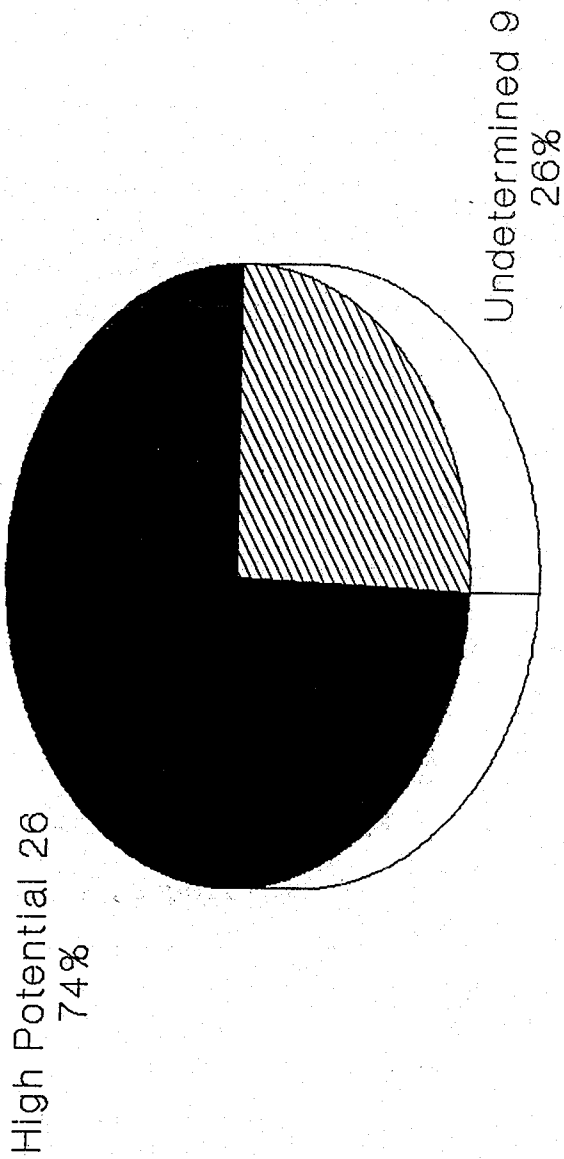


FIGURE 6

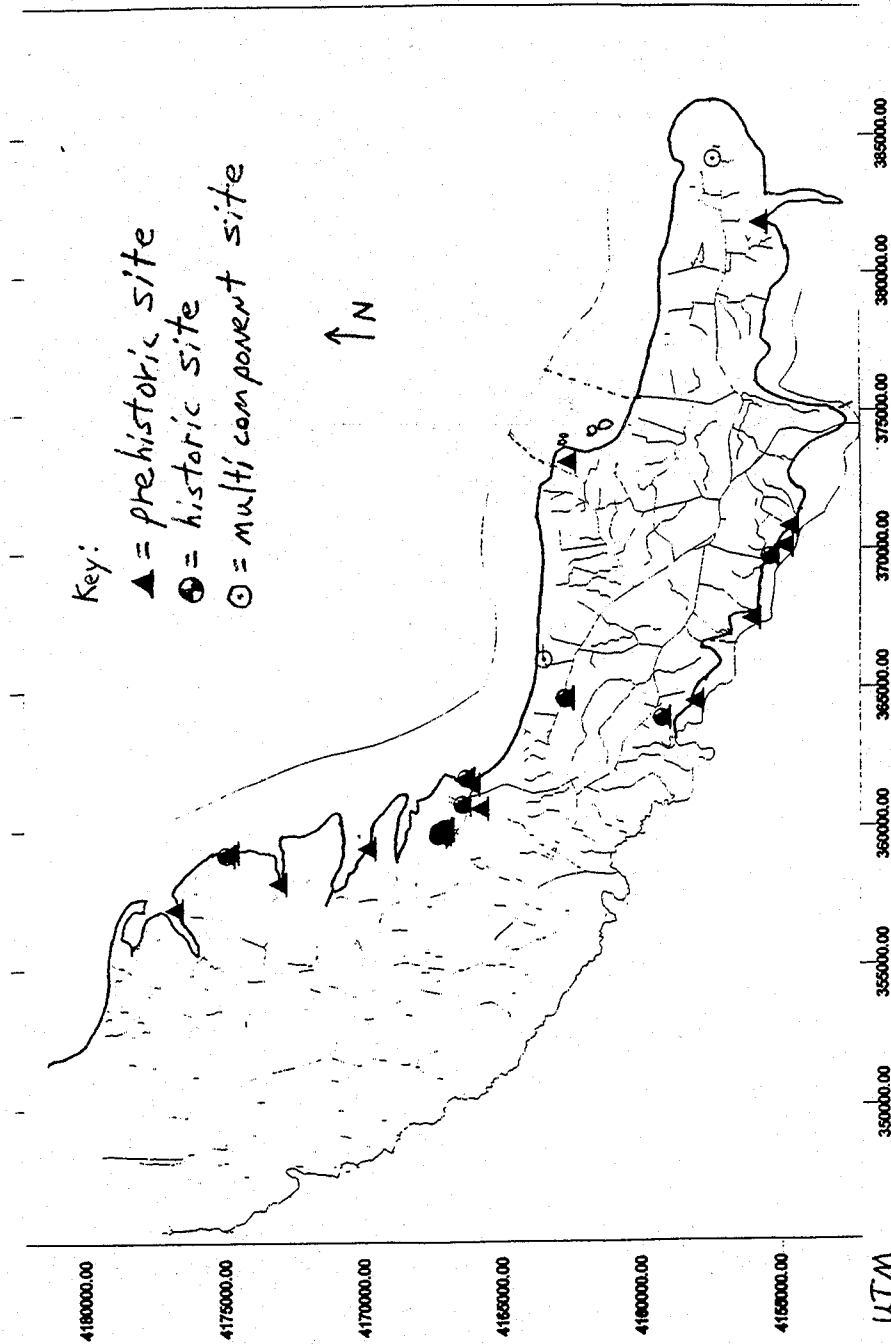
this was noted. Sites that were to be destroyed by development are indicated by the letters "TBD." Sites at Hewick are generally considered to be preserved by the owner of the property and are marked "PBO." The majority of sites are in an undetermined state of preservation. Where the undetermined state is a result of no archaeological field check, the site is identified as "UND/NFC" (Appendix A).

Distribution of Archaeological Resources

Spatial Distribution of Archaeological Resources

Virtually all of the recorded sites in Middlesex County are located close to the shores of the Rappahannock and Piankatank Rivers (Figure 7). This is not surprising given the favorable conditions for settlement along these rivers outlined previously in the prehistoric and historic contexts of this assessment. With only 35 sites presently recorded in the county, however, the spatial distribution data alone can not be treated as conclusive supporting evidence. Instead, it can be viewed as generally reinforcing historical sources used in those chapters.

FIGURE 7



Distribution of all recorded sites in Middlesex County

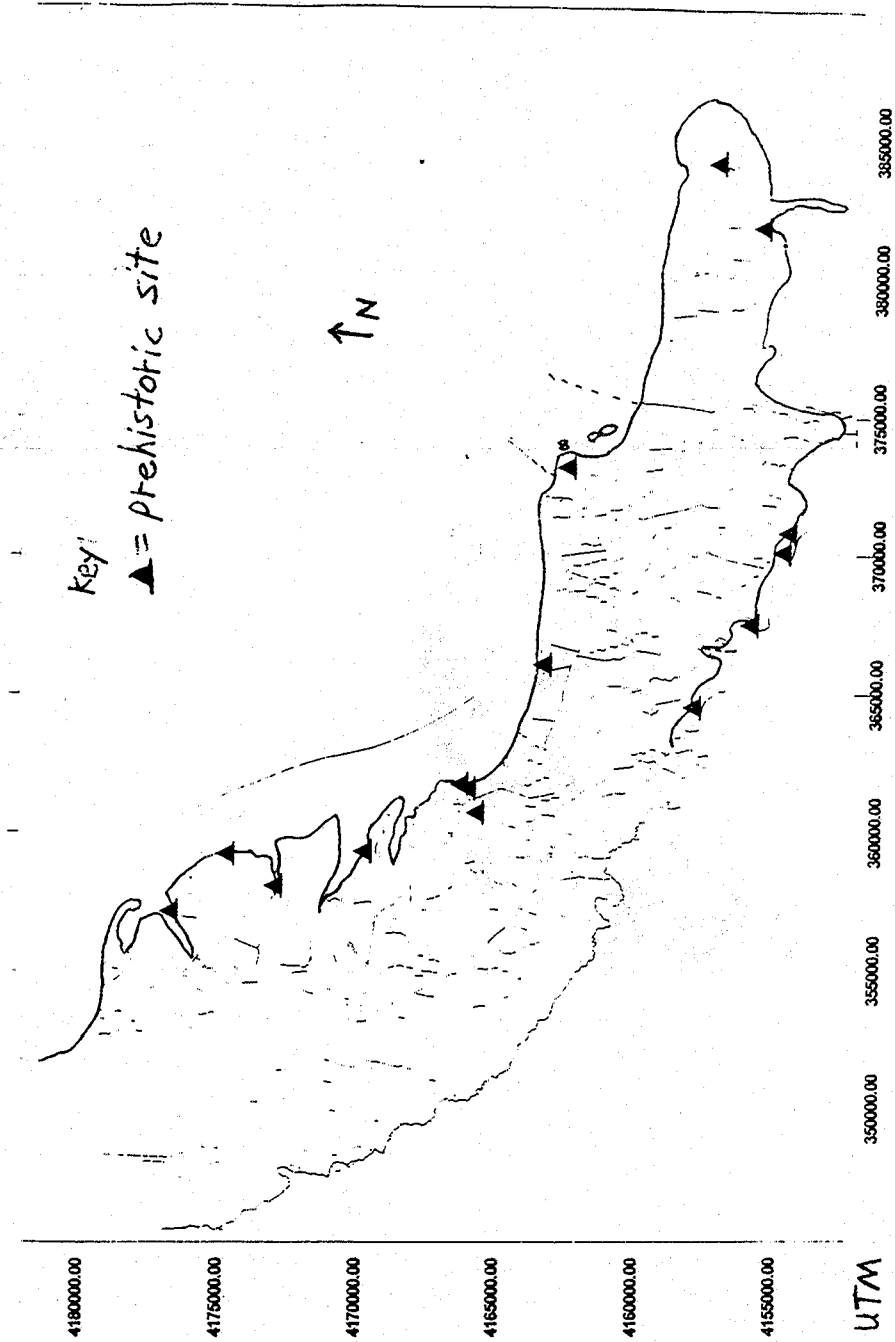
Prehistoric

Inventoried prehistoric sites in Middlesex County are located almost exclusively along the shores of the Rappahannock and Piankatank Rivers (Figure 8). There are two main reasons for this concentration. One is that, as predicted in the prehistoric context chapter of this assessment, Native Americans in what is now Middlesex County, have often preferred to settle near major waterways. The second reason for the high concentration of recorded sites along these two rivers is more pedestrian; these sites include a high proportion (63% (n=10)) of shell middens (Figure 9). Due to erosional factors and their often larger size, shell middens are more likely to be visible upon surface inspection than are many inland sites. While numerous inland sites undoubtedly exist, particularly for the Archaic Period, the spatial distribution of the modest number of prehistoric sites currently recorded seem to fit the predicted trend.

Historic

Eleven of the twenty-one archaeological sites with a historic component currently recorded in Middlesex County are located at Hewick Plantation. This effectively skews the little available data to such an extent that only general observations can be made regarding the spatial distribution of

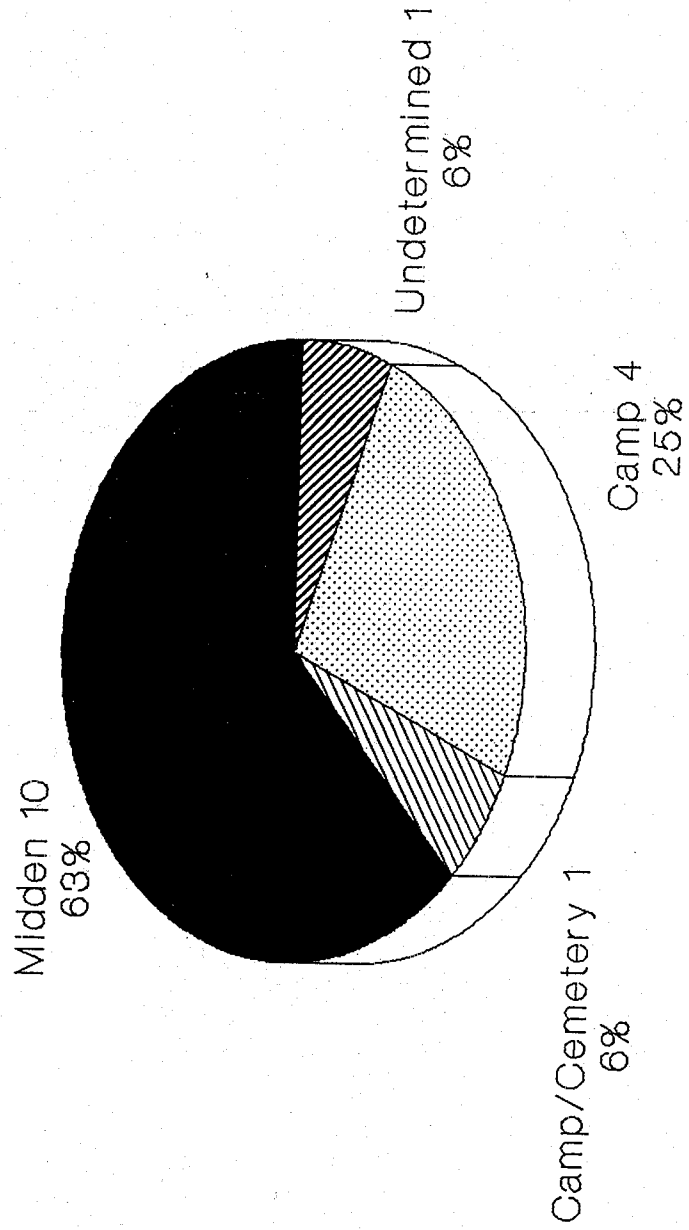
FIGURE 8



Distribution of all recorded prehistoric sites in Middlesex County

Summary of Prehistoric Sites by Type

FIGURE 9



Summary of prehistoric sites by type

recorded historic sites in the county. As with recorded prehistoric sites, there is a distinct concentration of historic sites along the Rappahannock and Piankatank Rivers (Figure 10). Again, as with recorded prehistoric sites, there is a correlation between this concentration and the context section of the assessment.

Temporal Distribution of Archaeological Resources

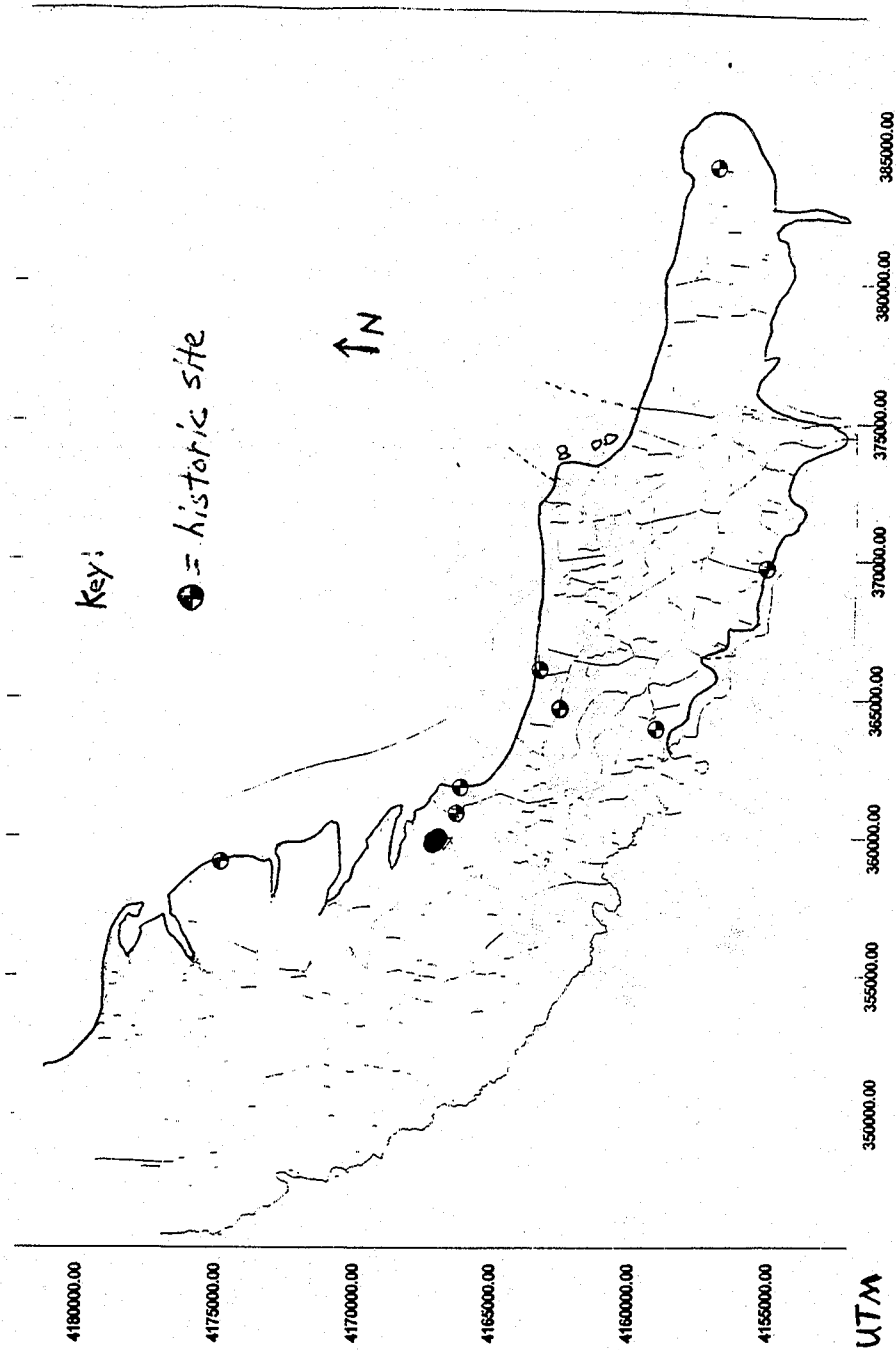
Prehistoric

The prehistoric components of the 35 archaeological sites currently in the state site inventory for Middlesex County are overwhelmingly from the Woodland period. Woodland period components account for 81% (n=13) of the prehistoric components represented. Archaic period components are 13% (n=2) of the total while one component is undetermined (Figure 11).

Historic

Historic site components in Middlesex County consist of 45% (n=9) eighteenth century, 20% (n=4) nineteenth century, 15% (n=3) each for seventeenth and eighteenth through nineteenth century, and 5% (n=1) twentieth century components (Figure 12).

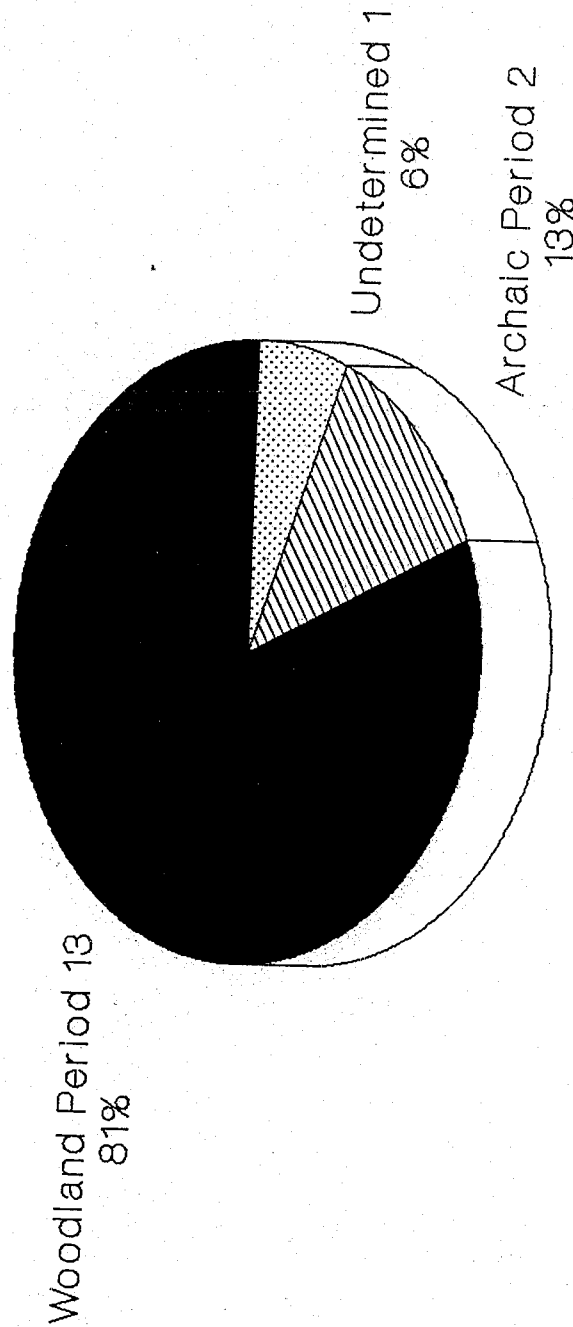
FIGURE 10



Distribution of all recorded historic sites in Middlesex County

Summary of Prehistoric Sites by Component

FIGURE 11



Summary of prehistoric sites by component

Summary of Historic Sites by Component

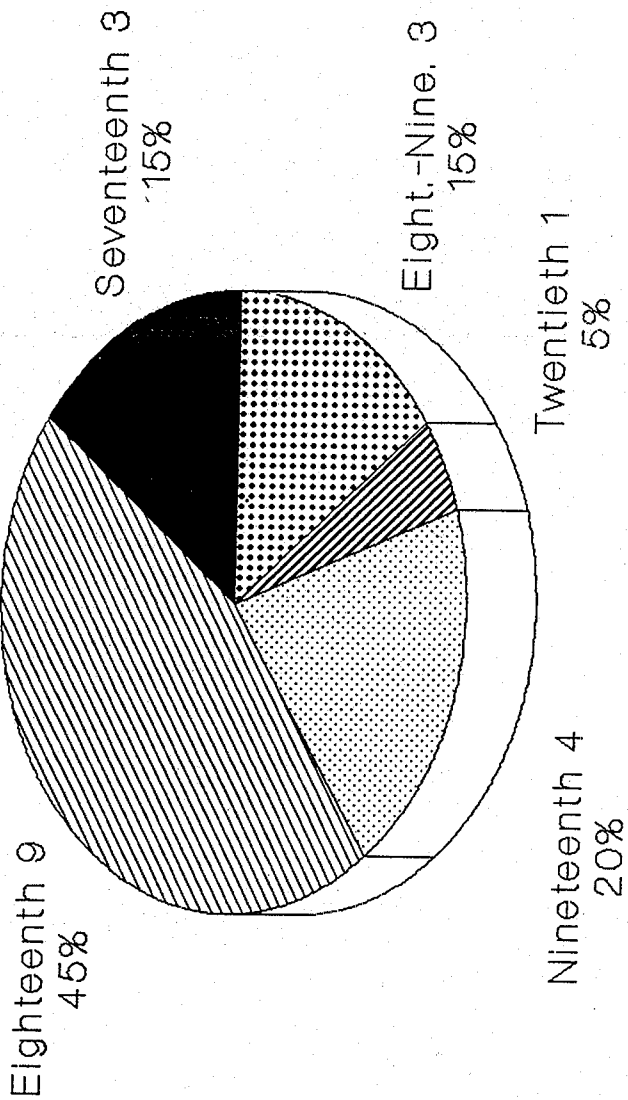


FIGURE 12

Summary of historic sites by component

Type Distribution of Archaeological Resources

Prehistoric

Prehistoric site types for the county are predominantly shell middens. They represent 63% (n=10) of the prehistoric sites in the inventory. Another 25% (n=4) of the county's prehistoric sites are camps. There is one camp associated with a cemetery and one undetermined type each representing 6% (n=1) of the inventory (see Figure 9).

Historic

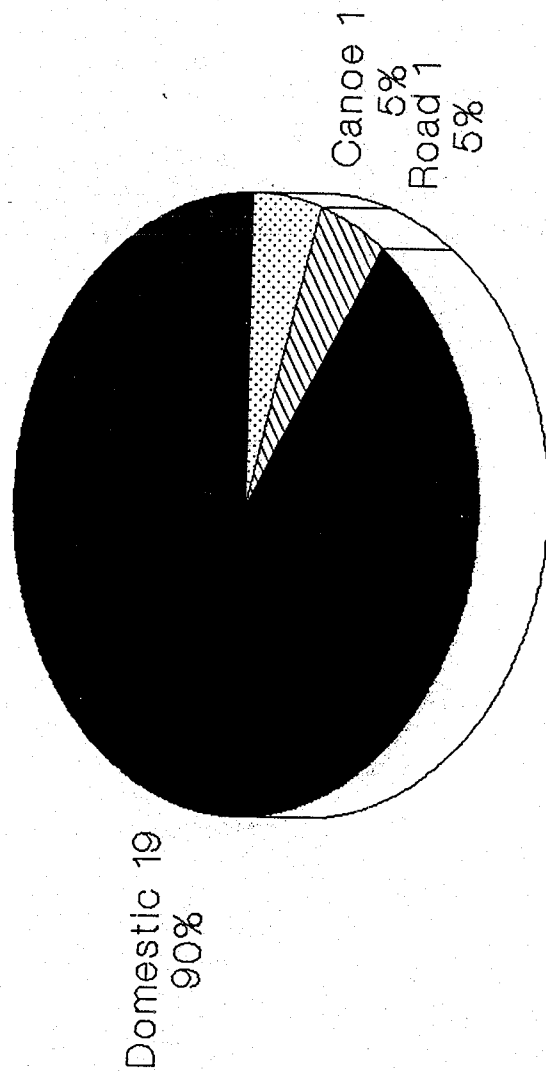
Historic sites in Middlesex are overwhelmingly domestic sites. They represent 90% (n=19) of the sites on file. There is one historic corduroy road in the inventory and one submerged canoe, each representing 5% (n=1) (Figure 13).

Multicomponent

There are two multicomponent sites in the Middlesex inventory, representing 6% (n=2) of the county's 35 recorded sites. These two sites are 44MX9, a Woodland period shell midden with a nineteenth century domestic site, and 44MX14, a Woodland period camp with an eighteenth through nineteenth century domestic site (see Appendix B).

Summary of Historic Sites by Type

FIGURE 13



Summary of historic sites by type

CHAPTER 5:

Conclusions and Recommendations

Introduction

The previous chapter clearly shows that Middlesex County possesses significant archaeological resources, some of which have been documented and many others that await discovery. A survey of the number of sites recorded at the DHR for 17 Virginia counties surrounding Middlesex revealed that Middlesex County has the fewest of all. The lowest total recorded sites for any county, next to 35 for Middlesex, is neighboring Mathews County with 70 sites. The highest number of sites reported is 819, recorded in both James City County and Henrico County, but most counties averaged several hundred (Figure 14) (DHR n.d.:b).

The low number of sites recorded in Middlesex County likely reflects the county's low rate of development. Archaeologically, this is encouraging, because it means that the county probably contains a large number of undisturbed sites.

This chapter discusses the assessment's findings and recommendation options from which Middlesex County can choose to institute an archaeological preservation program. The

county may wish to begin protecting its known archaeological resources by correcting, completing, and updating the site inventory at the DHR. A more complete picture of recorded sites would allow the county to act to prevent their loss. While preserving known sites may be a priority, it is equally important to try to predict the locations of sites yet to be discovered and to plan for their preservation. Combining knowledge of the location of sites on file with the historical context data enables us to construct general predictive models for Middlesex County, which highlight areas where there is a high potential for certain types of sites to be located. Finally, the chapter contains descriptions of various preservation tactics available to local governments in Virginia.

Site Potential

In order to predict where undiscovered sites are most likely to be encountered, the locations of all recorded sites were first plotted on a base map of Middlesex County by their UTM coordinates using the automated drafting system, AutoCAD R12. Then, the base maps were combined with information from the historic contexts to produce shaded areas of high potential for sites from various periods. In order to put the site potential maps to their best use, planners should be aware that these maps represent predicted general trends in

site distribution. The maps do not suggest that there are no important sites located outside the bounds of high potential areas. High potential areas are simply those that should have a relatively high concentration of sites, and thus may be more sensitive to future development. Unshaded portions of the site potential maps indicate areas of low and moderate site potential. The quality of currently available data and the research level of the current assessment do not allow delineation between areas of moderate and low site potential. These areas may be delineated in the future through archaeological survey and revision and updating of the present DHR site file data.

Generally, high potential indicators for prehistoric sites are the presence of previously-recorded sites, proximity to water, game, and lithic outcrops, and, for the Woodland and Protohistoric periods, proximity to arable land and locations of village sites on early historic maps. For historic sites, predictors of high potential are historic maps showing roads, town sites, industrial complexes, and other areas that tend to be highly populated. Areas of high potential for historic sites are also based on the location of previously-recorded sites, and proximity to water, game, and arable land.

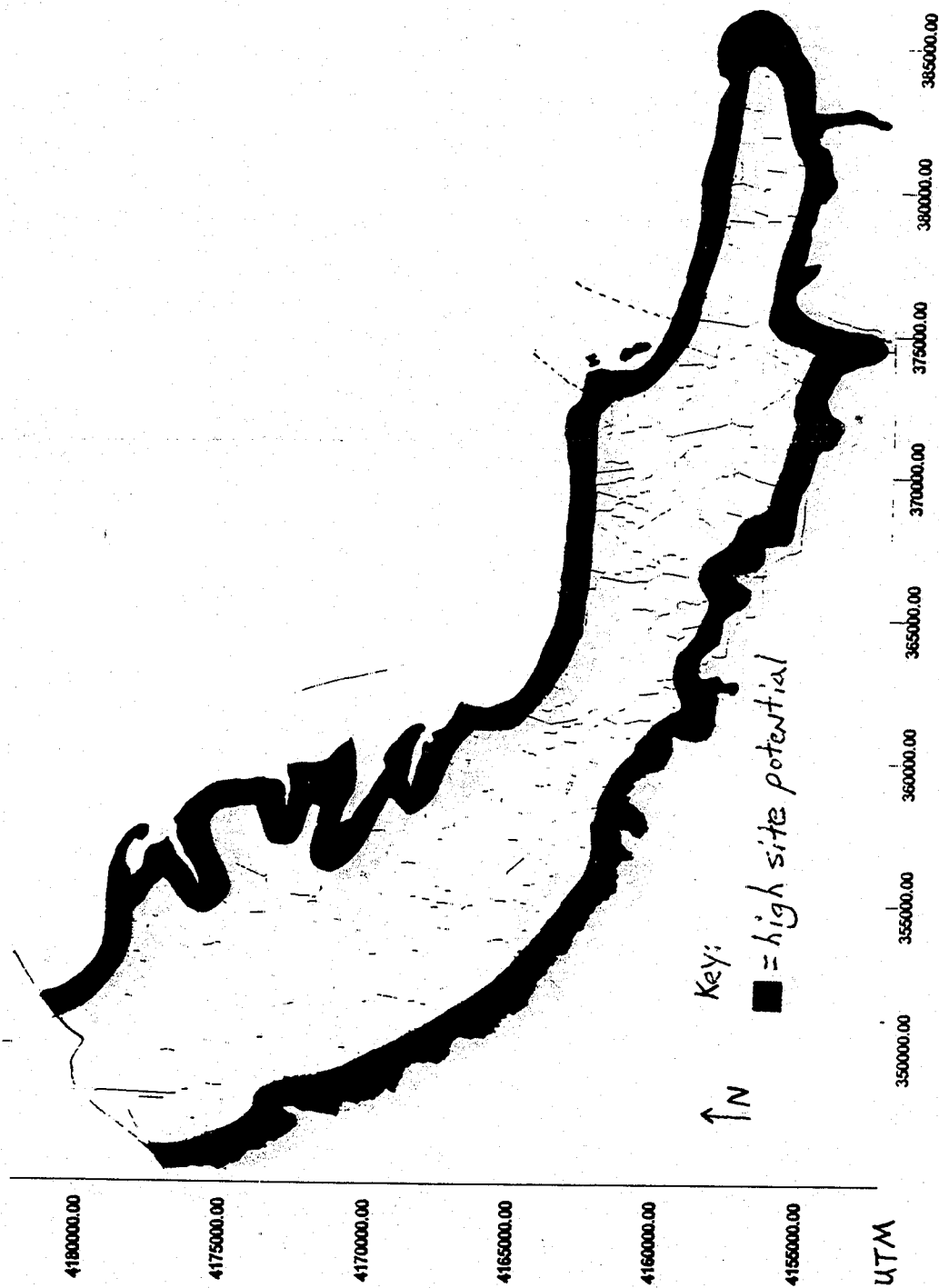
No site potential map has been created for the twentieth century due primarily to the temporal limitations of the National Register of Historic Places discussed earlier. With the exceptions discussed in Criteria Consideration G, sites 50

years or older may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service 1991). Since the number of acceptable twentieth-century sites will increase yearly until 2050, it would be inappropriate to use the amount of known twentieth-century sites as a site potential predictor until that year. In addition, twentieth-century Middlesex has seen enough residential and industrial activity that practically the entire county could be seen as having high potential for this period.

Recorded prehistoric sites are concentrated along the Piankatank and Rappahannock Rivers (see Figure 8). As previously mentioned, the favorable environmental conditions in this area account for the distribution. Prehistoric context and known site information was used to plot areas of high potential throughout the county for Paleoindian-period, Archaic-Middle Woodland-period, and Late Woodland-Protohistoric-period sites, respectively (Figures 15-17).

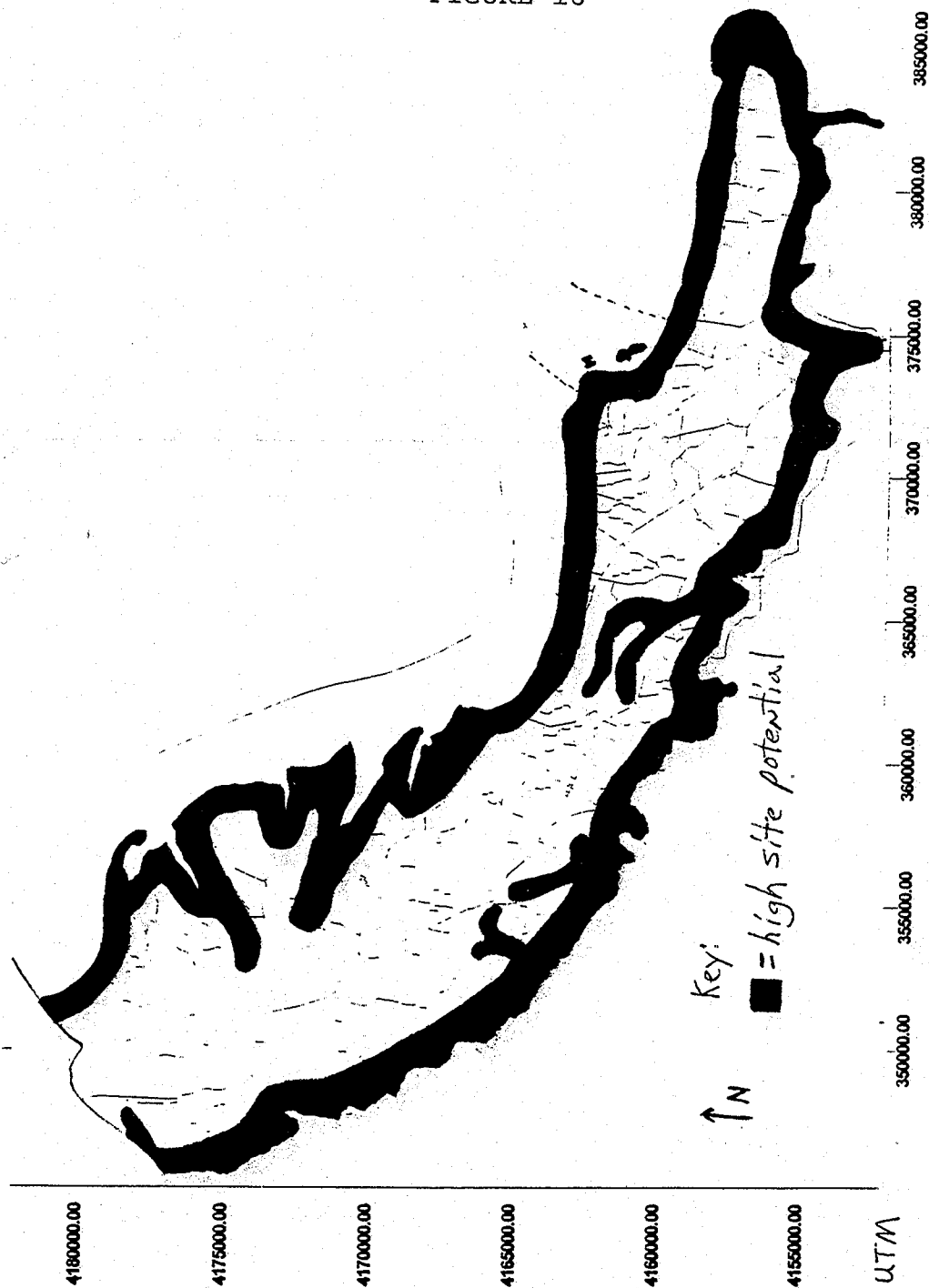
Paleoindian-period sites are most likely to be found along the county's primary waterways (see Figure 15). Higher population densities and changing subsistence patterns during the Archaic through Middle Woodland periods resulted in the exploitation of both major waterways and minor interior tributaries. The result is a wider distribution of high potential areas for this time period than for either of the others (see Figure 16). The Late Woodland through

FIGURE 15



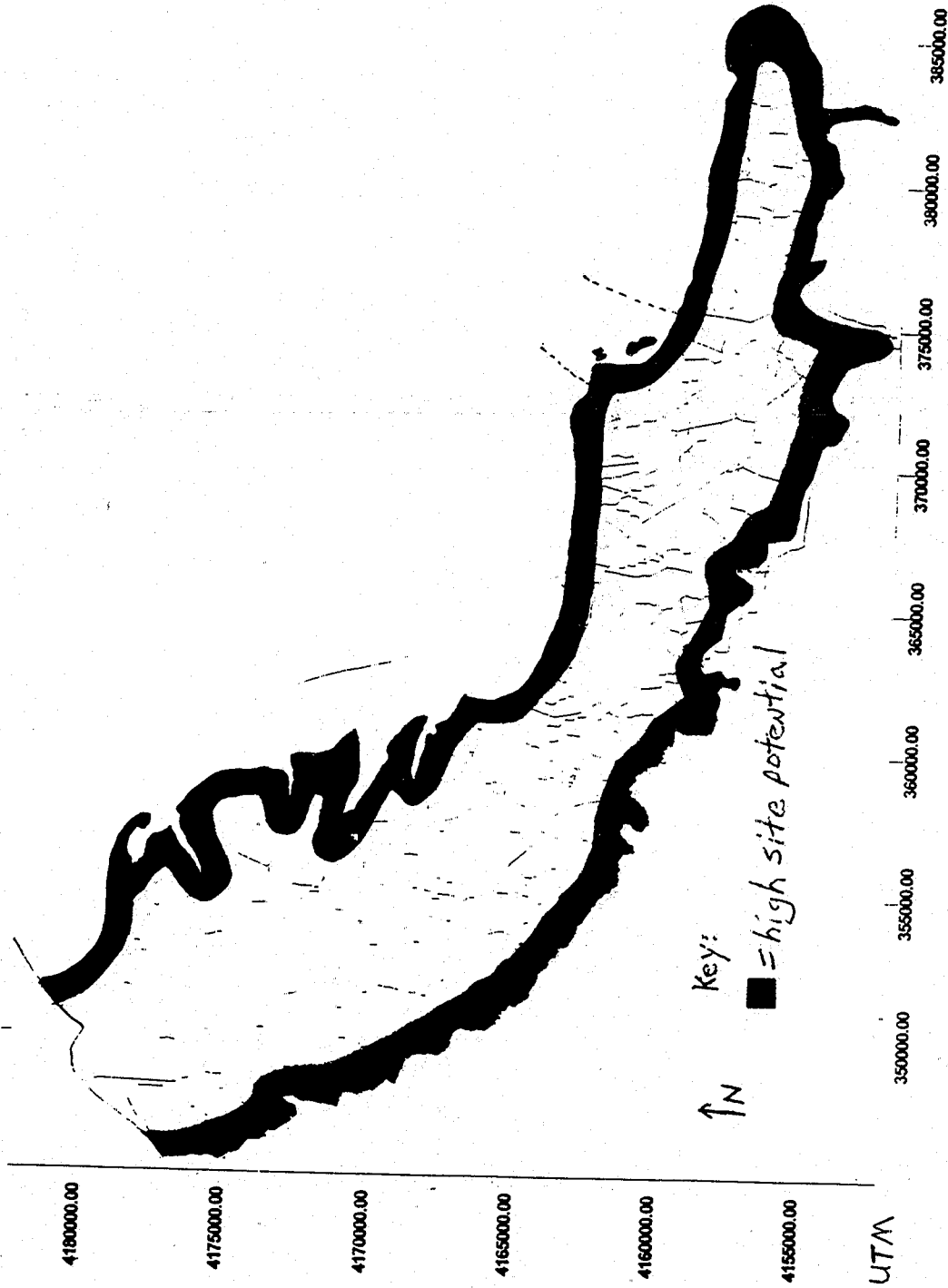
Areas of high site potential for Paleoindian-period resources in Middlesex County

FIGURE 16



Areas of high site potential for Archaic-Middle Woodland-period resources in Middlesex County

FIGURE 17



Areas of high site potential for Late Woodland-Protohistoric-period resources in Middlesex County

Protohistoric periods are marked by more sedentary societies. Native Americans in Middlesex County at this time, as in the Paleoindian period, were concentrated in the lands along the primary rivers. Late Woodland and Protohistoric-period societies exploited the high-quality agricultural soils located along these waterways. The presence of these fertile soils is one factor in predicting the location of Late Woodland and Protohistoric-period archaeological sites (see Figure 17).

No maps were produced showing areas of high site potential for the historic period. Upon reviewing the current state of knowledge of the location of historic structures, roads, towns, and recorded archaeological sites, it was determined that more information, both documentary and archaeological survey, is needed to construct meaningful historical high site potential maps. According to the historic context, Middlesex County was quite rapidly settled beginning in the seventeenth century. Large areas of the county have been under cultivation since. This information, combined with the small number of recorded historic archaeological sites would make high site potential maps misleading because, at this point, virtually the entire county has high potential for historic sites. Further research must be done before a complete understanding of the archaeological potential in Middlesex County can be attained.