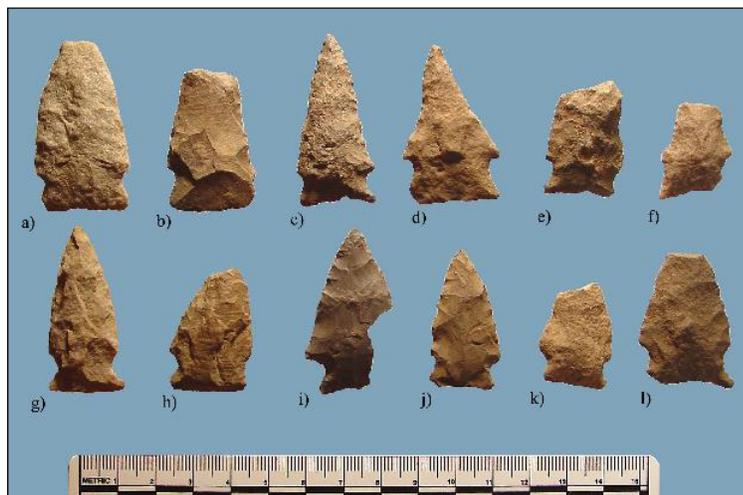


Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery Program Ephraim Sprague Homestead Site and Pre-Colonial Component (Site 1-12) Andover, Connecticut

An Archaeological Data Recovery of Site 1-12, in Andover, Connecticut, recovered the remains of the c. 1705 house of Ephraim Sprague and the remains of extensive prehistoric occupations. The Phase III Data Recovery was done in connection with Connecticut Department of Transportation's U.S. Route 6 improvement project. There was no prudent or feasible alternative to impacting this National Register-eligible site, thus impact mitigation in the form of archaeological excavations was performed. The area examined along Blackman's Brook within the Hop River Valley contained abundant evidence of pre-colonial site use dating between about 8,000 years ago and the arrival of Europeans to the area about 400 years ago.



Overall, the pre-colonial occupations of the site appear to reflect relatively short-term, but redundant use of this location, especially over the past 5,500 years. Spatial patterning evident in the data reflects pre-colonial human activity at the site. A total of 27,704 prehistoric lithic artifacts were excavated from the site and analyzed. Lithic raw material use strongly reflects the production and resharpening of stone tools, especially bifaces.

The site produced 409 stone tools. Projectile points were the most common tool type, comprising over 150

artifacts. The emphasis placed on biface knapping likely relates to gearing-up activities associated with planned hunting. Unifacial tools used primarily for the manufacture of other tools and for material processing represent about 20% of the tool total. A variety of tasks are reflected in these tools, including drilling, hide-scraping, cutting and chopping activities. Changing patterns of lithic use over time reflect significantly different approaches to the acquisition of raw materials. Explanations for these changes are most likely tied to demographic and socio-political shifts in the area over time.