The Woodland Period: 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1200 - 2014

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pot·ter·y (potˈə rē), n.

1. an artifact made from clay and hardened by heat.
2. a hallmark artifact of the Woodland Period, ca. 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1200.

The Woodland Period
1000 B.C. to A.D. 1200

23rd Annual South Carolina Archaeology Month
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Many important Woodland Period site excavations have taken place over the last fifty years in South Carolina. As the volume here attests, much of this work would not have been possible without the selfless dedication of volunteers, the philanthropy of organizations and agencies, such as SC DEQ and SC DNR, the depth of expertise of the archaeologists, and a strong interest on the part of local citizens and business communities. It is through these partnerships and collaborations that we have come to understand a great deal about individual and community life, foodways, burial customs, pottery and stone tool crafts, and the like, culminating in a wealth of information about the period in South Carolina history from roughly 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1200, though questions remain. We hope these sites continue to inspire you to reach out for more answers and to look for ways to engage with archaeologists and archaeologists in your part of the state, not just during Archaeology Month but throughout the year. And, as always, thank you for your support of South Carolina archaeology!

The Wando-Welch site pottery assemblage is dominated by the Summerville-tempered Wando series. Within the Wando series, cord marked and plain wares occur most frequently accompanied by smaller quantities of simple-tempered, fabric-impressed, and check-stamped pottery. At least 35 sherds were not associated with the pottery and radiocarbon dates provide evidence of a brief but intense occupation between A.D. 550 and 600 during a portion of the Copperhine Phase (i.e., A.D. 290 to 800).

The Wando-Welch site stands out for its plant remains. Carbonized seeds common associated with Middle Woodland foodways in eastern North America, such as gypsum, grape, sycamore, and honey locust, were recovered through flotation processes. A radiocarbon date of A.D. 490 on gteen is a good example of how this process could be used to illuminate the history of indigenous peoples in South Carolina. In addition, several of these seeds were found associated with pottery sherds, offering a glimpse into the foodways of these ancient peoples. The presence of such seeds indicates that the inhabitants of the Wando-Welch site were not only skilled at collecting and processing plant materials but also had a deep understanding of the natural environment and the resources available to them.

The Lewis-West site is a feature-rich middle Woodland period site located on the Savannah River on the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. Radiocarbon dates place the main occupation between 1000 B.C. and A.D. 250 during the early Copperhill phase (ca. 600 B.C. to A.D. 500). Like the other sites described here, G.S. Lewis-West is thought to be located on our Wando-Welch site, the southeastern coast of South Carolina. The recovery of a large range of artifacts, includingO. S. Lewis-West is an important site also for its connections to the wider Woodland Period world. Evidence for broad contacts is revealed in the presence of exotic goods from the coast and in Gulf Coast-like sherds, as well as in a wealth of animal remains from a variety of sources. Excavations have also revealed several small house structures, and the presence of a major waterway that runs through the site. This waterway was likely used for transport and trade, and it may have played a role in the site's success.

Lewis-West (38A228-W)

The Wando-Welch site is located on a small bluff above Holcomb Creek, near the confluence of the Wando and Cooper creeks, a few miles north of Winnsboro. The site is located in an area that was once a rich source ofछे पानी जलवायु, जिसमें उनकी जलवायु से प्रभावित है। यहां तीव्रता से है। पानी जलवायु, जिसमें उनकी जलवायु से प्रभावित है। यहां तीव्रता से है। पानी जलवायु, जिसमें उनकी जलवायु से प्रभावित है। यहां तीव्रता से है। पानी जलवायु, जिसमें उनकी जलवायु से प्रभावित है। यहां तीव्रता से है। पानी जलवायु, जिसमें उनकी जलवायु से प्रभावित है। यहां तीव्रता से है।