



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

# Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS)

Annual Site Reporting Activity in 2024



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## Summary

In 2024, 260 new archaeological sites were added to the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) files, bringing the statewide total to 27,269 recorded sites. This represents a slight decrease in site recording from 2023. The majority of new sites were recorded through cultural resources management (CRM) projects, however, there was an increase in site recording from Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA) members. In addition, we continued to see contributions from SHPO managed surveys, independent research projects, and members of the public.

The PASS program continued its pro-active survey efforts in 2024 through the completion of the baseline survey initiative which recorded areas of surficial archaeological evidence in several counties throughout the Commonwealth. Additionally, an effort to survey Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) properties commenced with the survey of two properties: Brandywine Battlefield Park and Daniel Boone Homestead. More information pertaining to these survey activities can be found in the below sections.

## Site Recording Sources

As was true in preceding years, the most significant source of new sites in 2024 were from CRM projects, accounting for over 80% of all newly recorded sites. The second highest source for new site recordation came from the SPA. SPA members from Chapters 23 (Westmoreland), 29 (North Fork), and 31 (Hawk Mountain) recorded 14 sites in Armstrong, Westmoreland, Schuylkill, and Berks counties. These sites included Pre-Contact period habitation sites, lithic scatters, historic industrial sites, and fish weirs. In addition, SPA members from Chapters 11 (Frances Dorrance), 23 (Westmoreland), and 31 (Hawk Mountain) updated 8 previously recorded sites with new information.

In 2024, 13 sites were recorded by a variety of different state and federal agencies. The bulk of these sites came from the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area as part of a clean-up effort to reconcile site information. The PASS files also saw contributions by various individuals including a stone landscape site in Bedford County, a historic domestic site in Centre County, and a historic African American town named Sankanac Village in Chester County.

Source	Sites Recorded	%
CRM	216	83.07%
SPA	14	5.38%
Other	13	5.00%
Individuals	8	3.08%
PHMC Research	6	2.31%
SHPO Managed Surveys	3	1.15%

Research undertaken by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) added 6 new sites to the PASS files in 2024. These sites were identified in the catalog records and other documents held at the State Museum of Pennsylvania. Lastly, 3 sites were recorded through SHPO survey efforts. The baseline survey program completed its third and final year resulting in the recordation of 2 new archaeological sites. One historic domestic site was recorded by SHPO staff archaeologists through survey investigations at a circa-1768 log house in Dauphin County.

## 2024 Project Highlights

Various projects that contributed to the PASS files in 2024 are highlighted below. These articles were provided by guest authors and represent both work that was completed over several years and ongoing effort

### Fertig Store Project (36SC0117)

Curtis Hosey, Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA) Hawk Mountain Chapter 31

The site which is being commonly called “The Fertig Store” (36SC0117), is a colonial site being investigated by the SPA Hawk Mountain Chapter 31. This project began as a basic survey of an area that was said to have been an old settler’s store or cabin, but it has grown into something much greater. This project will likely be the stepping stone in a much larger investigation in not only the Hawk Mountain area but also the surrounding parts of Schuylkill County.



*Figure 1: Main structure on the property.*

The structure (Figure. 1) and surrounding property that is currently being investigated is located near Dreherstown PA, on land owned by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. It is an old building made of stone that is situated on the eastern side of part of the Little Schuylkill River. At present it is uninhabited but still contains much of the past both inside and beneath it, as the structure has a dirt basement. As our project began, it was understood that there was a rough date for the property, but a specific construction and occupation was very blurred. This gave the first of many questions, such that we would be ascertaining a proper date for both the construction and also primary occupation.

As of date this project has had three testing units dug in the plan of a three foot by three foot square. All artifacts recovered are being cleaned and cataloged in the lab at the Acopian Center, which is part of Hawk Mountain. (Figure 2) There have been a multitude of artifacts recovered that have given a good start in being able to date the site in the aforementioned criteria. Some of these

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include two different pipe stems that contain a 5/64ths bore (Figure 3), a shard of Moravian Slipware ceramic, a shard of Philadelphia Slipware ceramic (Figure 3), and also a rubber “Goodyear” button. While these things may not seem to paint much of a picture yet, they do all come from within a general date range of each other. With more progress in the coming year, it is the hope that much more of the puzzle comes into focus.



*Figure 2: Cleaning of artifacts in the Acopian Center Lab*



*Figure 3: Artifacts found in the field. Pipestem (left) and slipware ceramic (right).*

While the project during the 2024 year was certainly a success, it is far from being complete. After a short pause over the winter and holiday season, it will begin again with much excitement and

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some new questions. The most specific that will be researched will be the “who” aspect. Once both the “who” and “when” questions come together, the picture of the entire site will come into even better focus. With some hard work and also generosity from the community at large, this project can begin to open up many other doors for future projects and endeavors by both Hawk Mountain, and the Chapter 31 Archaeology group.

## Studying a Soil Sandwich: The Geomorphology of Pennsylvania

Lauren Metzger, Juniata College, Summer 2024 PA SHPO Archaeology Intern

### Introduction:

During the summer of 2024, I was the intern for the archaeology section of Environmental Review, tasked with updating the geomorphology surveys in PA-SHARE. The purpose of my internship was to provide as much complete information as possible to help inform future projects. I updated over 450 surveys using the soil profiles, topographic and historic aerials, and the data in PA-SHARE to determine the potential for pre-contact artifacts and the survey type.

### The Process:

Every update started with reviewing the reports on file and assessing the available information in PA-Share. The surveys ranged from 1981 to 2024, resulting in variations in each report's completeness and format. Reading through each report provided context for the project. As I read through the reports, I found several sections that informed me of the archaeological potential. The first was the soil maps of each trench or auger.

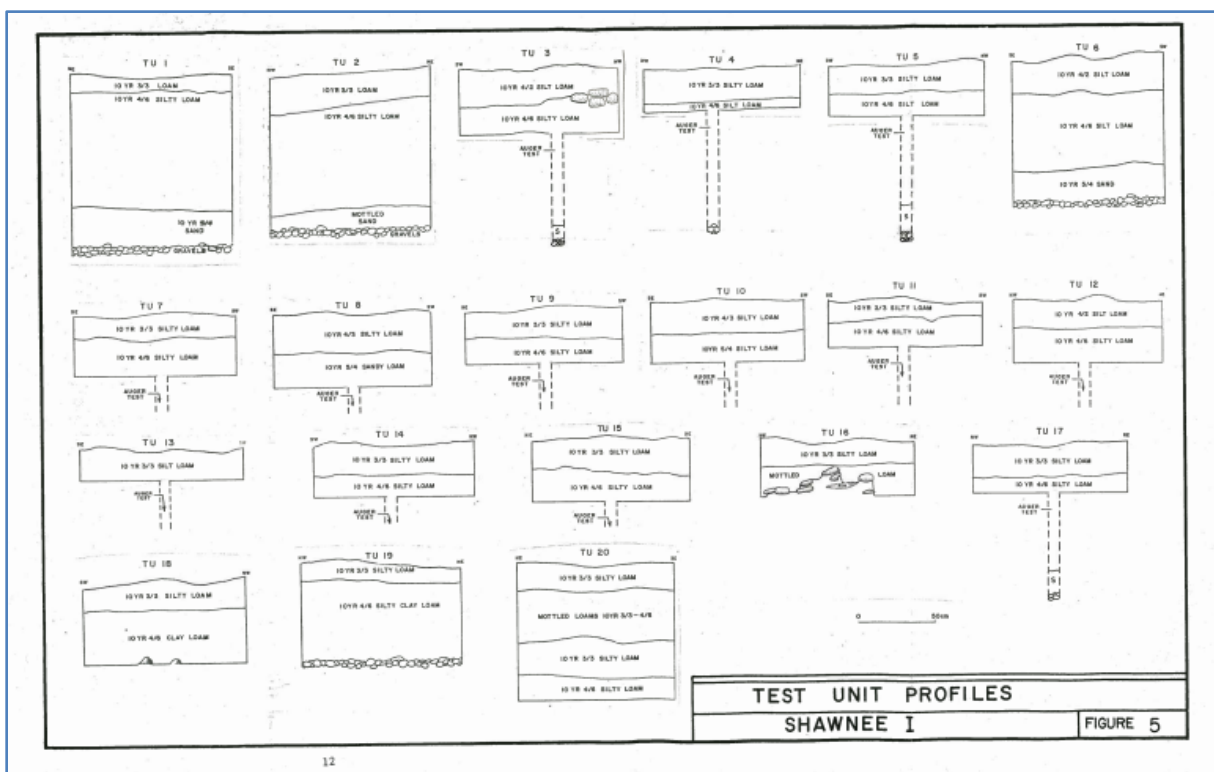


Figure 1: Soil profile for trench and auger surveys (Source: 1988SR00117)

The soil maps reflected the extent of the A horizon and the potentially artifact-filled B horizon if it was present. From there, I would head to the abstract, results, and recommendations sections if they were included in the report to determine the extent of archaeological potential. The depth and probable age of the soils will be used to determine the extent of archaeological excavations during phase I, II, or III projects.



*Figure 2: Profile of a test unit at the Shoop site (36AD0020).*

Each survey received one of three set statements in PA-SHARE, “Geomorphological investigations identified the potential for archaeological resources,” Geomorphological investigations noted no potential for archaeological resources, or “Geomorphological investigations identified the potential for archaeological resources up to X meters below the ground surface.” The survey, 988SR00117 (Figure 1), was noted as having a depth of up to 40 cm of archaeological potential. In contrast, the Shoop Site (Figure 2), 36DA0020, would receive a description of having the potential for archaeological resources.

### *Mapping*

Once the archaeological potential was identified, I mapped each survey in PA-SHARE using the report map. The maps varied greatly, from well-documented photos and topographic maps to blurry photocopies of site maps. Updating the mapping was similar to putting a puzzle back together by matching landscapes over 40 years old to the modern landscape shown in PA-SHARE. The most useful tools were historical topographic maps and aerials in software that overlay the maps with the current landscape (Figures 3 and 4).



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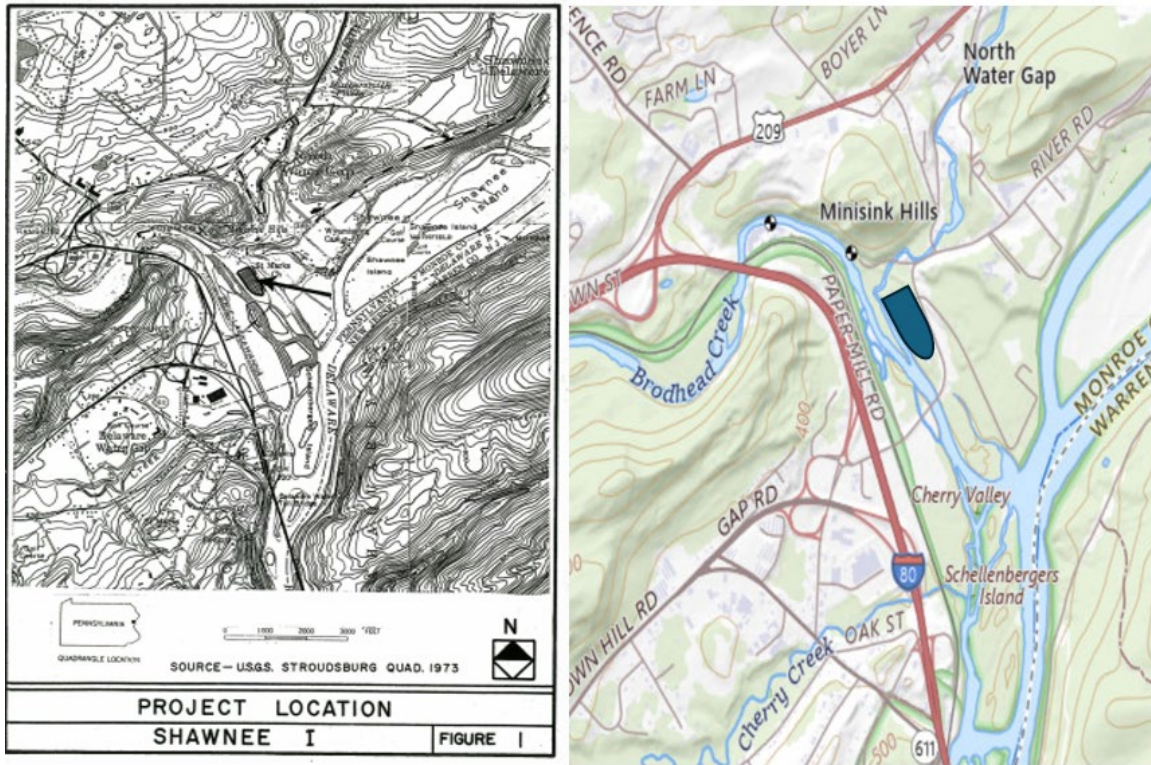


Figure 3: Site map of the Shawnee-on-Delaware project (left), Modern topographic map of the same area with the survey area superimposed on the image (right) (Source: 1988SR00117, Topozone.com)

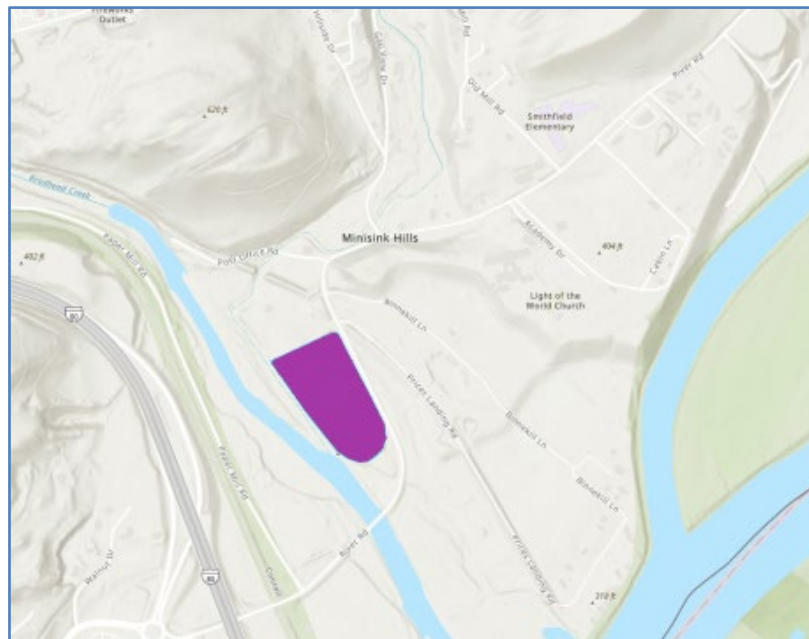


Figure 4: The final map of the Shawnee-on-Delaware survey area in PASHARE (Source: 1988SR00117)

## Anomalies

While most surveys were straightforward, reports with anomalies often yielded the most information. Some reports with wrong or confusing mapping became miniature research projects into Pennsylvania's landscapes. Those cases were only solved through historical aerial maps and tracing buildings that still stood over 40 years later.

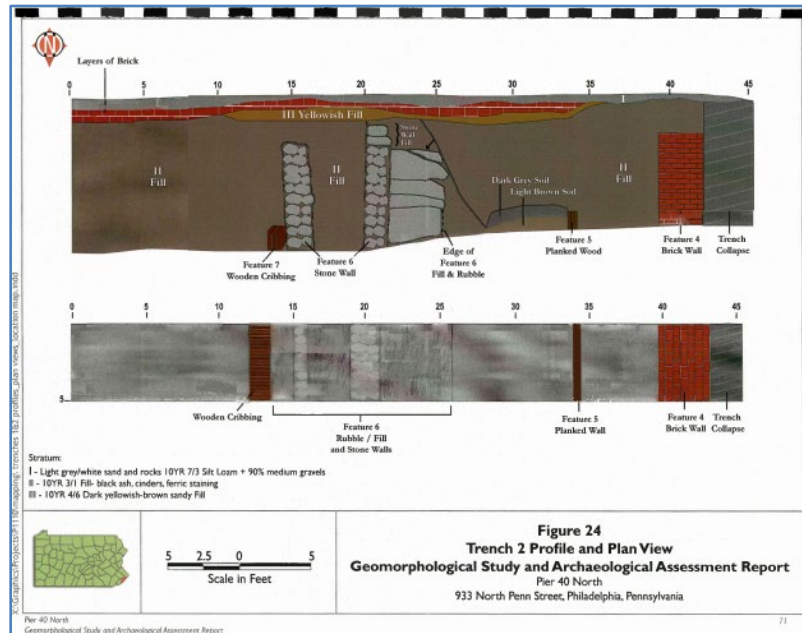


Figure 5: A soil profile of a geomorphological Survey in Philadelphia that uncovered historic deposits (Source: 2008SR00029)

The most complex anomaly reports were those in highly populated areas of Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh that exposed multiple years of use. Geomorphology surveys are intended to reveal the potential for pre-contact sites, which are buried deeper and more challenging to pinpoint without exposing the site through archaeological investigation. However, surveys in significant towns and cities often highlight the historical potential of the area more. Soil surveys in these areas exposed several levels of B horizon stacked on each other from hundreds of years of use. Historic stores, middens, and fill overlaid the deeply buried prehistoric deposits, creating a sandwiched view of every occupation layer (Figure 5). These reports often came with Phase I through Phase III investigations that detailed the extent of its pre-contact and historical potential—providing a detailed and fascinating paper trail for me to follow.

The archaeological potential uncovered by the geomorphology reports will inform state and federally funded projects for years. Although the updates to the geomorphology reports seem minimal, clarifying the results of the surveys in PA-SHARE will provide easy-to-access information for SHPO reviewers and project managers. Working as a SHPO intern on the geomorphology surveys in PA-SHARE highlighted the archaeological potential of the areas around me and the

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importance of agencies like the SHPO in preserving Pennsylvania's history. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to contribute to this project and to work with the other SHPO interns and staff during my time there.

## SHPO Survey Activities

In 2024, the PASS program continued to progress with survey initiatives from the previous year and made improvements to the systems used to capture and share archaeological site information. Below is a recap of the activities that took place in 2024 and a look at what's to come in 2025.

### Surveyor Updates

In 2024, the PA SHPO continued working on PA-SHARE 2.0- a large-scale effort to update and improve the system based on feedback from external and internal users. PA-SHARE 2.0 also includes upgrades to Surveyor, the PA SHPO's set of survey tools integrated with PA-SHARE to help facilitate the collection of resource information. Surveyor has three interfaces: Surveyor Manger, Surveyor Mobile, and the Surveyor field app. The majority of updates in 2024 focused on Surveyor Manager which is the interface users utilize to manage their survey projects and team members, add resources, and interact with PA SHPO staff. Some of the new updates include a notification system, addition of data fields, and batch photo/attachment uploads. For a more detailed explanation of all the updates to Surveyor in 2024, please see the [Spring into Surveyor Updates](#) blog post.

The most convenient new addition to Surveyor Manager is the notification system that allows users to track resource progression through Surveyor and into PA-SHARE. This notification is visible in the top right corner of the screen via the bell icon which signals to users that there are notifications to review (Figure 1). Users will receive notifications when a resource has been returned by a SHPO staffer for editing purposes and when a resource has been published to PA-SHARE. SHPO staff can now also send an automated email from Surveyor to indicate that there are notifications awaiting review.

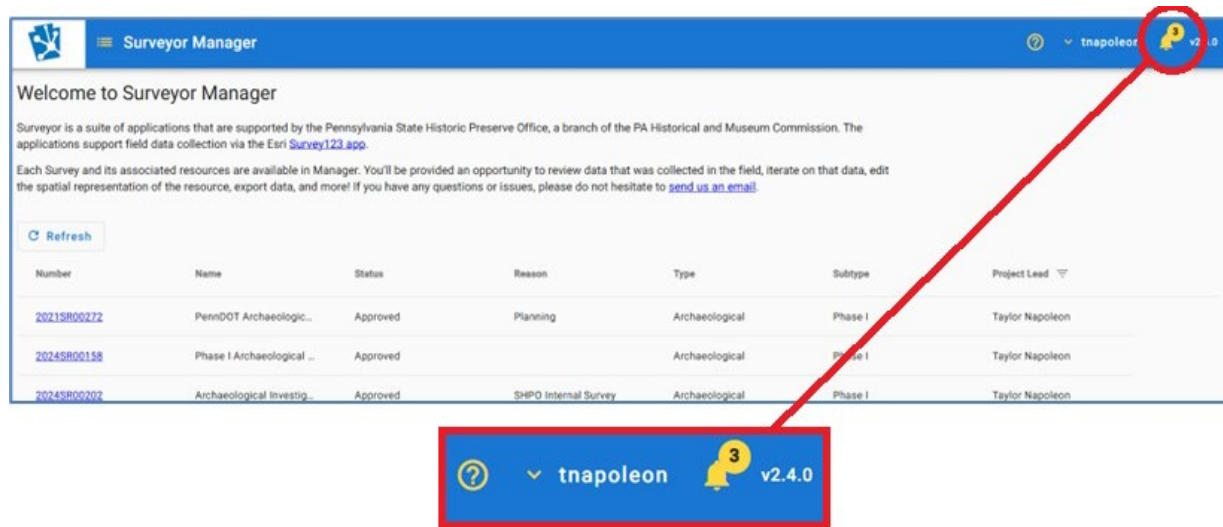


Figure 1: Location of notification icon.

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A notable enhancement for the submission of archaeological sites through Surveyor is the addition of several date entry fields (Figure 2). These are fields that are present on the submission page for archaeological sites in PA-SHARE but missing in Surveyor. These fields include certain site trait information, date sample, repository, physical data and site condition information, and some water drainage area information. The addition of these fields ensures that sites submitted through Surveyor contain the same level of information as required through the PA-SHARE submission process.

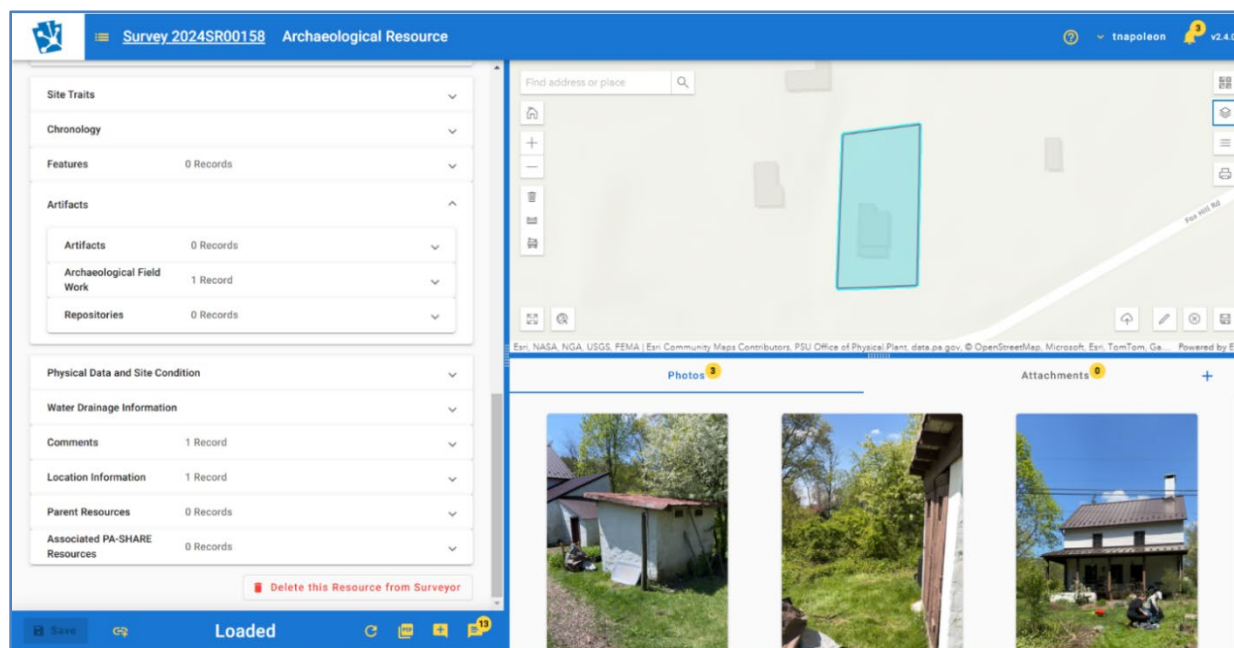


Figure 2: Overview of additional fields for submitting archaeological sites in Surveyor on the left side of the page.

Another new feature as part of the 2024 update is the ability to batch upload photos and attachments (Figure 3). Users can now select and upload multiple photographs and attachments at one time to a resource in Surveyor Manager. Photo and attachment names are pre-populated with the name of the files that were uploaded but this can be easily changed by editing the Name field.

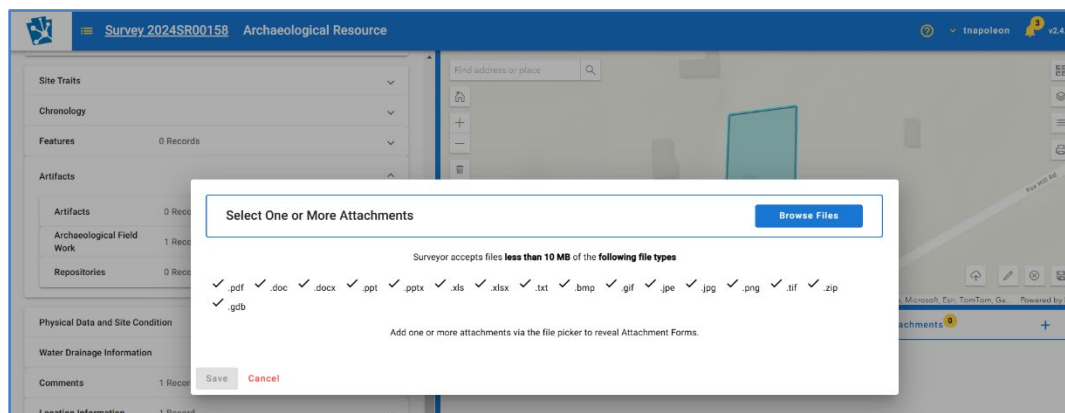


Figure 3: New batch upload feature.

## Baseline Survey

The baseline survey initiative wrapped up its final year in 2024! Since 2020, baseline survey has documented over 20,350 historic places across 55 counties in the Commonwealth. While originally only intended to record above ground resources, Year 2 and 3 of the survey effort included the concept of surficial archaeological as a way to record the remnants of properties that were no longer extant.

In the context of baseline survey, surficial archaeological evidence is the indication of one or more former structures or activity areas that are visible on the surface, such as foundations, middens, altered terrain, and other features, that are 50 years or older. While the focus of baseline survey is on visible evidence, the lack of such evidence does not mean that a potential archaeological site does not exist, particularly if suggested by background research. Baseline survey methodology did not include any excavation and required that survey teams stay within the public right of way during field survey. Therefore, it is important to note that not all areas documented during baseline survey activities received an official PASS number. A majority of areas documented require additional investigations to assess if an archaeological site is present.

While the majority of Year 3 took place in 2023, one survey extended into 2024 resulting in the identification of two new archaeological sites. Both historic sites are located in Cambria County and include remnants of the coal mining industry. Overall, the baseline survey initiative recorded 701 potential archaeological sites throughout Pennsylvania. Of these potential areas, 40 were determined to include adequate information to receive official PASS numbers. Areas that did not receive PASS numbers serve as opportunities for future archaeological research and are the basis for proactive survey efforts in 2025.

To learn more about the PA SHPO's baseline survey initiative, please visit:

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/survey/Pages/Baseline-Survey-Effort-2020-2024.aspx>.

## Survey of PHMC Properties

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) properties survey initiative completed its first round of surveys in the fall of 2024. The goal of this initiative is to provide updated and consistent cultural resource surveys for all properties owned by the PHMC. This in turn would aid in the management and preservation of both archaeological and above ground resources. To kick off this initiative, Brandywine Battlefield Historic Park and Daniel Boone Homestead were the first properties selected to surveyed. The survey effort included documenting all historic structures on the property with updated photos and an archaeological constraints analysis to assess the potential for the presence of both historic and Pre-Contact period archaeological resources. The constraints analysis also included an archaeological probability assessment of the property and appropriate recommendations for future survey.

Brandywine Battlefield Historic Park located in Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County commemorates the 1777 Battle of Brandywine and interprets the events surrounding the battle and the history of the Revolutionary War. The survey updated the records of two previously recorded resources: The Gideon Gilpin House and the Benjamin Ring House (Figure 4). The survey also recorded 9 new resources which mostly include outbuildings associated with the Gilpin and Ring houses. The archaeological constraints analysis highlighted the sensitivity for cultural material around the previously identified Gilpin House site (36DE0084) and the potential for battle-related material to be located throughout the property.



*Figure 4: The Gideon Gilpin House and Gilpin House archaeological site (36DE0084) at the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Park.*

Daniel Boone Homestead located in Exeter Township, Berks County interprets the life of frontiersman Daniel Boone and the history of the Oley Valley. The survey effort updated 4 previously identified resources including the Daniel Boone House/Bertolet House, Visitor Center, J Coleman House and Bridge over Owatin Creek. In total, the survey identified 17 new resources throughout the property, a few of which include the homestead barn, blacksmith shop, bakehouse, Samuel DeTurk House and DeTurk cemetery (Figure 5). The archaeological constraints analysis highlighted the property's sensitivity for both 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century deposits as well as Pre-Contact period material.



*Figure 5: Homestead Barn (right) and blacksmith shop (left) with Daniel Boone House in the distance.*

## Looking to 2025

Several of the survey efforts outlined above will continue and/or expand in 2025. The PASS program will continue to use the same methodology to survey all PHMC-owned properties throughout the Commonwealth with one property scheduled to be completed in 2025. In addition, to build on the recommendations made during the baseline survey effort, the PASS program is facilitating a research study on Underground Railroad related resources in Fayette and Venango counties.

The PASS program would like to thank all those that contributed to and supported our efforts this year! We look forward to continuing a collaborative, informative, and engaging PASS program in 2025. For more information on site registration and survey, please contact Taylor Napoleon at [tnapoleon@pa.gov](mailto:tnapoleon@pa.gov).



## Data Summary and Maps

County	1/1/2025	1/1/2024	New	Deletions**	Density*
Adams	607	594	13	-	1.15 sites / sq. mile
Allegheny	801	796	5	-	1.10 sites / sq. mile
Armstrong	613	606	7	-	0.94 sites / sq. mile
Beaver	416	416	-	-	0.95 sites / sq. mile
Bedford	355	349	6	-	0.35 sites / sq. mile
Berks	1,016	1,007	9	-	1.18 sites / sq. mile
Blair	134	132	2	-	0.25 sites / sq. mile
Bradford	371	367	4	-	0.32 sites / sq. mile
Bucks	503	500	4	1	0.82 sites / sq. mile
Butler	561	560	1	-	0.71 sites / sq. mile
Cambria	226	223	3	-	0.33 sites / sq. mile
Cameron	73	72	1	-	0.18 sites / sq. mile
Carbon	180	180	-	-	0.45 sites / sq. mile
Centre	578	577	1	-	0.52 sites / sq. mile
Chester	1,122	1,088	34	-	1.47 sites / sq. mile
Clarion	220	214	6	-	0.37 sites / sq. mile
Clearfield	121	120	1	-	0.11 sites / sq. mile
Clinton	232	231	1	-	0.26 sites / sq. mile
Columbia	70	69	1	-	0.14 sites / sq. mile
Crawford	517	510	7	-	0.51 sites / sq. mile
Cumberland	246	241	5	-	0.44 sites / sq. mile
Dauphin	329	324	5	-	0.64 sites / sq. mile
Delaware	195	195	-	-	1.06 sites / sq. mile
Elk	453	450	3	-	0.56 sites / sq. mile
Erie	367	360	7	-	0.45 sites / sq. mile
Fayette	602	597	5	-	0.75 sites / sq. mile
Forest	571	571	-	-	1.36 sites / sq. mile
Franklin	469	466	3	-	0.62 sites / sq. mile
Fulton	81	80	1	-	0.19 sites / sq. mile
Greene	505	505	-	-	0.87 sites / sq. mile
Huntingdon	237	235	2	-	0.26 sites / sq. mile
Indiana	533	522	11	-	0.65 sites / sq. mile
Jefferson	207	206	1	-	0.32 sites / sq. mile
Juniata	135	135	-	-	0.35 sites / sq. mile
Lackawanna	87	87	-	-	0.19 sites / sq. mile

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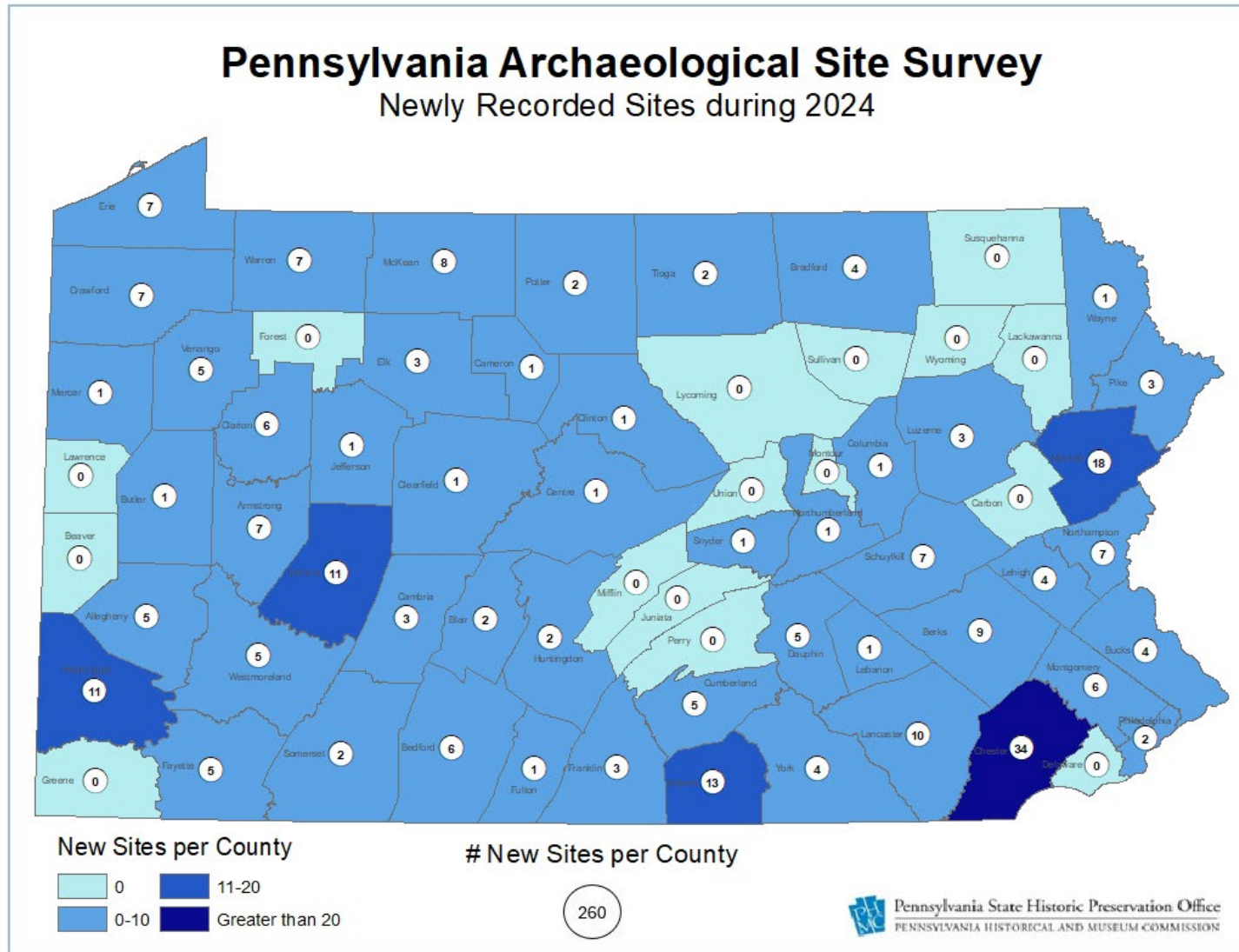
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County	1/1/2025	1/1/2024	New	Deletions	Density*
Lancaster	1,685	1,675	10	-	1.78 sites / sq. mile
Lawrence	364	364	-	-	0.99 sites / sq. mile
Lebanon	569	568	1	-	1.57 sites / sq. mile
Lehigh	405	401	4	-	1.16 sites / sq. mile
Luzerne	386	383	3	-	0.44 sites / sq. mile
Lycoming	368	368	-	-	0.30 sites / sq. mile
McKean	374	366	8	-	0.38 sites / sq. mile
Mercer	304	303	1	-	0.45 sites / sq. mile
Mifflin	122	122	-	-	0.28 sites / sq. mile
Monroe	321	303	18	-	0.53 sites / sq. mile
Montgomery	524	518	6	-	1.06 sites / sq. mile
Montour	116	116	-	-	0.89 sites / sq. mile
Northampton	395	388	7	-	1.05 sites / sq. mile
Northumberland	221	220	1	-	0.49 sites / sq. mile
Perry	102	102	-	-	0.19 sites / sq. mile
Philadelphia	268	266	2	-	2.08 sites / sq. mile
Pike	280	277	3	-	0.52 sites / sq. mile
Potter	57	55	2	-	0.05 sites / sq. mile
Schuylkill	117	110	7	-	0.15 sites / sq. mile
Snyder	303	302	1	-	0.93 sites / sq. mile
Somerset	506	504	2	-	0.47 sites / sq. mile
Sullivan	33	33	-	-	0.07 sites / sq. mile
Susquehanna	230	230	-	-	0.28 sites / sq. mile
Tioga	189	187	2	-	0.16 sites / sq. mile
Union	155	155	-	-	0.49 sites / sq. mile
Venango	342	337	5	-	0.50 sites / sq. mile
Warren	710	703	7	-	0.78 sites / sq. mile
Washington	1,857	1,846	11	-	2.17 sites / sq. mile
Wayne	321	320	1	-	0.43 sites / sq. mile
Westmoreland	1,284	1,279	5	-	1.25 sites / sq. mile
Wyoming	132	132	-	-	0.33 sites / sq. mile
York	496	492	4	-	0.55 sites / sq. mile
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27,269</b>	<b>27,010</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.61 sites / sq. mile</b>

\*Density is measured as "x sites / 1 square mile." It is calculated by dividing the number of recorded sites in the county by the area of the county in square miles.

\*\*36BU0048 and 36BU0130 were found to be the same site but received two different site numbers. The sites were combined under 36BU0130 eliminating one site from the overall total in Bucks County.

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Map displaying the number of new sites recorded in each county last year.

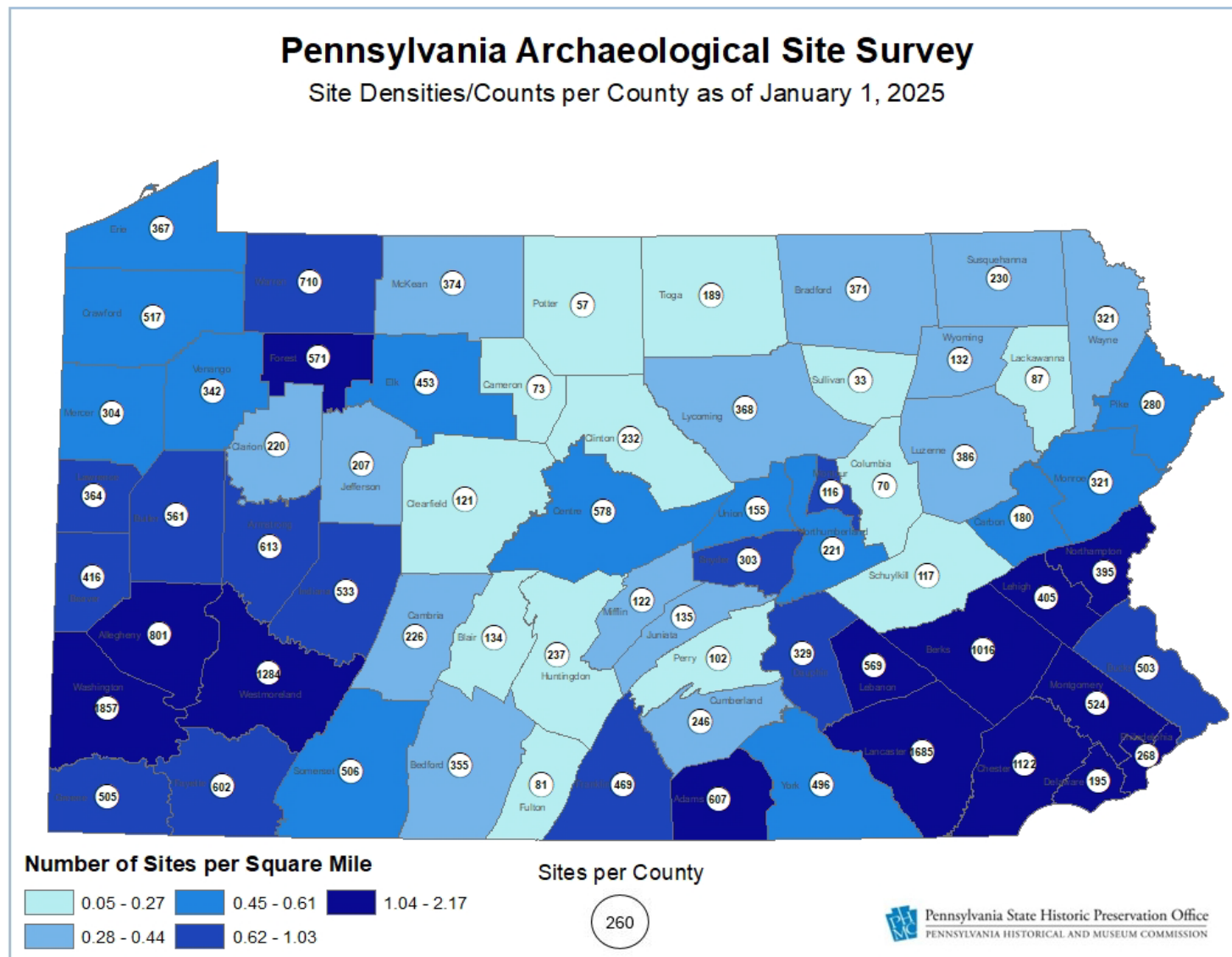
### Counties with the Greatest Increase in Sites during 2024

County	Number Recorded	% of Total Increase
Chester	34	13.08%
Monroe	18	6.92%
Adams	13	5.00%
Indiana	11	4.23%
Washington	11	4.23%
Lancaster	10	3.85%
Berks	9	3.46%
McKean	8	3.08%
Armstrong	7	2.69%
Crawford	7	2.69%
Erie	7	2.69%
Northampton	7	2.69%
Schuylkill	7	2.69%
Warren	7	2.69%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>60%</b>

### Ten Counties with the Greatest Density of Recorded Sites

County	Sites / Sq. Mile
Washington	2.17
Philadelphia	2.08
Lancaster	1.78
Lebanon	1.57
Chester	1.47
Forest	1.36
Westmoreland	1.25
Berks	1.18
Lehigh	1.16
Adams	1.15

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Map displaying site densities and total counts per county.

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**Ten Counties with the Highest Numbers of Recorded Sites**

County	Number	% of Total Sites
Washington	1,857	6.81%
Lancaster	1,685	6.18%
Westmoreland	1,284	4.71%
Chester	1,122	4.11%
Berks	1,016	3.73%
Allegheny	801	2.94%
Warren	710	2.60%
Armstrong	613	2.25%
Adams	607	2.23%
Fayette	602	2.21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,297</b>	<b>37.77%</b>

**Ten Counties with the Lowest Numbers of Recorded Sites**

County	Number	% of Total Sites	Observations
Sullivan	33	0.12%	<i>No change from 2018</i>
Potter	57	0.21%	
Columbia	70	0.26%	
Cameron	73	0.27%	
Fulton	81	0.30%	
Lackawanna	87	0.32%	<i>No change from 2023</i>
Perry	102	0.37%	<i>No change from 2023</i>
Montour	116	0.43%	<i>No change from 2018</i>
Schuylkill	117	0.43%	
Clearfield	121	0.44%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>3.15%</b>	