

Basic Research Tasks Associated With the Morris Pottery Kiln Site (44RM430)

The construction of the pole shed over the Morris Pottery Kiln is the first step in protecting the site. Given the Kiln's unique characteristics and rarity, the Massanutten Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia presents the following research tasks that will be implemented once the shed is erected:

The Basics (*Establishing a Baseline for Stabilization and Future Research*)

- 1. Comprehensive Plan Mapping and Vertical Profiling of the Kiln – what does it look like at present?
- 2. Systematic Test Excavations of the Kiln Periphery and Adjoining Property – what other features associated with the kiln are still intact?
- 3. GPS Mapping and GIS-Generated Data Layers – where is the Kiln in relation to other landmarks?
- 4. Primary Document Research on the Morris Operation – what can we learn about the Morris family and the role of the pottery in their economic and social life?
- 5. Nomination of the Morris Pottery Kiln to the National Register of Historic Places and the Placement of the Site Under Historic Easement
- 6. Consultation with Experts on How to Best Stabilize the Kiln for the Long-Term – how is the kiln best cared for and preserved for posterity?

Objectives one and two are sequenced and can be accomplished through an Archaeological Society of Virginia's Archaeological Certification Program field school, an intensive training program with over 100 students eager to learn about Virginia archaeology. In tandem with Objectives one and two, Objectives three, four, and five can be accomplished through internships with James Madison University Geographic Science, Anthropology, and History students, who will work with ASV members. The nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places will open doors to funding for further research and stabilization efforts, and a historic easement (between the Archeological Society of Virginia and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources) will ensure the perpetual protection of the site. Objective six will require the input of archaeologists and engineers with experience in stabilizing above-ground features