

Postmolds



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Postmolds

American Indians and early English colonists made their homes out of wooden poles. When these poles are buried in the ground for a long period of time, the chemicals in the wood cause the soil around them to become darker in color. Archeologists call these dark stains "postmolds." They allow us to see where buildings and towns were located. For example, a series of postmolds at Werowocomoco showed archeologists the location of a 72-foot longhouse where Powhatan and other leaders before him may have lived.

Learn more at [nps.gov/cajo](https://www.nps.gov/cajo)

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