

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Recommendations for the Wetland Mitigation APE

The pre-contact remains recovered in the Wetland Mitigation APE (Site 7S-C-97) are highly focused in two loci. Locus A is an 18.0 m (59.1 ft) diameter portion of the ridge nose, centered near N95 E162. It appears that most or all of the artifacts in this area are from a single Mockley component. It is well demonstrated at other sites that Wolfe Neck and Coulbourn-like ceramics often occur as minority wares in Mockley components. The 254.0 m² (2,734.1 ft²) area appears to represent a distinct, focused occupation. This portion of the site has a high probability of containing cultural features. The recovery of a larger sample of plowzone and upper E horizon artifacts will allow us to better understand the functional nature of this locus. It is recommended that 22 additional 1.0 x 1.0 m (3.3 x 3.3 ft) units be excavated in this locus, representing a sample of approximately 10 percent (when combined with Phase I coverage). Following the excavation of these units, a field view with DelDOT and the SHPO will address the location and extent of plowzone stripping to search for subsurface features. For scheduling and preliminary budgeting, it is proposed that the plowzone be removed from approximately 100.0 m² (1,076.4 ft²) in this locus.

It is recommended that machine-assisted scraping be undertaken to carefully remove the Ap horizon in Locus A. The upper surface of the E horizon will be carefully shovel shaved to determine if any cultural features are present. All suspected features will be transit-plotted, and drawn to scale and photographed in plan view. One-half of the feature will then be removed, and the resultant cross section profile will be drawn to scale and photographed. The remainder of the feature will then be removed. All feature soil will be collected for flotation processing. Materials suitable for radiocarbon dating will be collected appropriately in the field. Surface contours will be reestablished after the excavations are complete.

The second inferred area of intensive activity at the site is Locus B, a 113 m² (1,216.4 ft²) area centered at N120 E153. Locus B yielded five Mockley-like sherds, two Wolfe Neck-like sherds, and a point similar to those recovered in Mockley components at other sites. There is a possibility that Locus B is coeval and related to Locus A, possibly representing pot drops near a former spring. A better artifact sample is required to address the number of individual vessels and other artifacts in this locus. It is proposed that five additional 1.0 x 1.0 m (3.3 x 3.3 ft) units be excavated in Locus B, representing an overall sample of approximately five percent. Following completion of the unit excavation, it is proposed that machine-assisted scraping

remove the Ap horizon from the entire Locus B area. Methods of stripping and feature excavation will follow those proposed for Locus A.

➔ No further work is recommended for the remainder of the wetland mitigation APE.

6.2 Recommendations for the Bridge Replacement APE

The other element of the Bridge 918 project is the proposed bridge replacement construction, resulting in the removal of the existing millrace. The present concrete race was apparently constructed in the twentieth century, and it represents the only currently accessible mill remains at this location. Therefore, no archaeological research was undertaken in the proposed APE for the bridge replacement during the current Phase I survey. Instead, background research and oral history were undertaken to define the history of the mill seat, and to determine the likelihood that earlier mill features may be present beneath the twentieth century flume.

Archival and cartographic research indicates that there was at least one earlier mill at this mill seat, constructed possibly as early as 1809. In fact, this is a case where the archaeology may help resolve the ambiguity of the archival record. Based on conversations with other archaeologists working on Sussex County mills, it is recommended that four calendar weeks be allowed for the excavations once the coffer dam has been emplaced, the existing flume has been removed, and the area has been dewatered.