

VII. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS, PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

A. Stormwater Management Area 1

1. Location and Current Conditions

Stormwater Management Area 1 consisted of an irregular triangle measuring approximately 33,600 square feet, or .77 acres. The site lay roughly 150 feet north of the current intersection of SR 896 and Four Seasons Parkway, and 120 feet east of the current SR 896 right-of-way (Figure 7-1). At time of survey the area consisted of portions of the backyard areas of two unoccupied houses and a wooded area east of the yards. The yards were covered with recently mown grass lawn. A chainlink fence delineated the eastern property line, beyond which lay trees and thick underbrush, the latter consisting mainly of poison ivy and greenbriar. A low order drainage, running southeastward toward Muddy Run, lay immediately to the northeast. The northernmost end of the area was adjacent to disturbed ground associated with a disused driveway and foundation lying in the previously surveyed portion of the right-of-way.

2. Field Strategy

Thirteen shovel tests were excavated in Stormwater Management Area 1. The shovel tests were placed on a 20m grid oriented to a baseline that appeared on DelDOT Specification and Construction Plans. The line ran roughly north-south through the area. Two lines of shovel tests were excavated, one along the baseline and one 20m to the east, toward the stream.

3. Stratigraphy

Two main sediment strata were revealed in subsurface tests in Stormwater Management Area 1. The upper stratum consisted of a layer of silt loam, typically grayish brown (10YR 5/2) in color, 20-25cm in depth, and containing occasional small gravels (Figure 7-2). Below lay sandy clay subsoil, brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) in color and also containing small gravels. The transition between the two strata was abrupt,

suggesting that the upper layer represented a former plow zone. The underlying stratum exhibited little evidence of disturbance other than that resulting from natural agents such as roots or small, burrowing animals. In the portion of the Stormwater Management Area that lay within the house yards, the upper stratum contained two layers, the uppermost consisting of a 10cm thick, dark gray (10YR 4/1) root zone associated with the grassy lawn cover (Figure 7-3). The disturbance noted at the north end of the area was visible as compact fill and asphalt in the profile of the northernmost shovel test (Figure 7-4).

4. Artifacts

No artifacts were recovered from the shovel tests excavated in Stormwater Management Area 1.

5. Interpretation

There was no indication of cultural activity in this survey area other than historic period plowing, as evidenced by an inactive plow zone, and recent domestic activity associated with the standing structures.

B. Stormwater Management Area 2

1. Location and Current Conditions

Stormwater Management Area 2 consisted of an irregular triangle measuring approximately 18,000 square feet, or .41 acres. The site lay roughly 120 feet east of the current SR 896 right-of-way (Figure 7-5) at the intersection of SR 896 and County Road 408 (Old Cooches Bridge Road). At time of survey the area, consisted of open grassland adjacent to a Delaware Power and Light clear-cut. The survey area lay on an upper terrace south of a low order drainage that runs southeastward into Sunset Lake, on Muddy Run.

2. Field Strategy

Eight shovel tests were excavated in Stormwater Management Area 2. The shovel tests were placed on a 20m grid oriented to the longest dimension of the triangle described by the survey area. The baseline lay on an azimuth of approximately 20 degrees.

3. Stratigraphy

Two sediment strata were revealed in subsurface tests in Stormwater Management Area 2. The upper stratum consisted of a dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silt loam, 20-25cm in depth, and containing small gravels (Figure 7-6, 7-7). Below lay sandy clay subsoil, yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) to brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) in color and containing small gravels and cobbles of quartz and quartzite. The transition between strata was abrupt, suggesting that the upper portion of the profile had been plowed. The underlying stratum exhibited little evidence of disturbance. There was no direct evidence of disturbance associated with construction of the DP&L power line.

4. Artifacts

No artifacts were recovered from the shovel tests excavated in Stormwater Management Area 2.

5. Interpretation

There was no indication of cultural activity in this survey area other than historic period plowing, as evidenced by an inactive plow zone.