

ABSTRACT

Geomorphological investigations have been completed for the State of Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) proposed improvements to a segment of School Bell Road (S.R. 1 to U.S. 40), New Castle Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. DelDOT will improve the existing two-lane roadway by the construction of 1.5 m (5.0 ft) wide roadway sidewalk/bicycle lanes, 2.4 m (8.0 ft) wide shoulders, and stormwater management systems, as well as the minor realignment of substandard horizontal curves located north and south of the Jamestowne community and at the intersection of School Bell Road with U.S. 40. The project Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes all of the areas designed for ground disturbance as shown on project design mapping dated June 24, 2003 and supplied by DelDOT to Skelly and Loy, Inc. The project APE is located in the Upper Coastal Plain physiographic province and includes 5.85 ha (14.45 ac).

Geomorphological investigations conducted within the project APE assessed the nature of the landforms and soils, and determined if areas existed for the implementation of Phase I archaeological fieldwork *via* expedient auger borings. Many areas adjacent to existing School Bell Road, U.S. 40, S.R. 1, and other local roads have been extensively disturbed by the roadway construction and maintenance. Additionally, disturbances within the project APE also occur adjacent to private driveways, landscaped yards, commercial paved parking lots, buried utilities, and drainage ditches.

Other portions of the project APE (e.g., proposed stormwater management areas) are located further from existing roadways and buildings and have not been extensively disturbed. Phase I archaeological survey is recommended for these areas. Project mapping was coded for testable areas versus non-testable areas, with a total of approximately 2.35 ha (5.81 ac) of the project APE categorized as testable. A summary of the results of the preliminary archaeological background research and the geomorphological reconnaissance, as well as a work plan for the recommended Phase I archaeology survey investigations are presented in this report.