

Chapter 4

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the surveys undertaken on the eleven areas on the Section 1 alignment, a total of 14 archaeological sites have been identified (see Appendix C).

The following broad definition of an “archaeological site” was used in defining sites. An archaeological site...“encompasses surface, subsurface or submerged remains of human activity at which an understanding of these activities and the management of these resources can be achieved through the employment of archaeological techniques.” (Parks Canada 2009). **The** pragmatic working site definition developed for the U.S. Route 301 Section 2 study is also used here:

An archaeological site on Section 2 of the U.S. Route 301 project is defined as a concentration of artifacts that is clearly distinguishable from surrounding areas that either have similar surface visibility, or which have been subsurface tested at a closely similar interval to the area of the site. These surrounding areas may also contain artifacts, but the visual contrast is clear to a qualified archaeologist. Site boundaries are frequently, but not always, defined by topography (especially low, well-drained knolls adjacent to current or former water sources), and by more or less sharply delineated borders where artifact density becomes much less. These two criteria may be found together or separately. Soil color and composition changes, when also found in association with changes in artifact distribution, also define site boundaries. A secondary supporting criterion at this stage of survey is the recovery of artifacts from soil contexts below the depth of historic (i.e. last 300 years) cultivation or other extensive and repeated disturbance. Artifacts from these contexts are held to suggest site integrity and the survival of patterning. The presence of one or

more subsurface features provides substantial support to identification of the associated artifact concentration as a site (Hunter Research, Inc. 2010).

Table 4.1 presents recommendations for Phase II evaluation of significance surveys for these sites. Only 2 of the 14 sites are considered not to merit Phase II evaluation. These are Scott Run Prehistoric Site 2 [7NC-G177, N14538] in Borrow Area 3 and the Jones-Mathews Historic Site [7NC-F149, N14529] in Borrow Area A. Tables 4.2 through 4.4 order the site and area information in different ways for ease of reference and location of the resources.

B. BORROW AREA 2, VILLAGE OF SCOTT RUN EAST

Two sites are defined in this area. Scott Run Historic Site [7NC-G178, N14540] is provisionally interpreted as a late 17th- through mid-18th-century domestic site containing a building with a brick-walled basement. The quality and quantity of early historic artifacts from this site, plus the structural evidence of the building, are sufficient to provisionally determine this site potentially eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and D. The site boundary is considered to be well defined by the topography and artifact distributions. Because of this site’s location at the periphery of the borrow area, treatment through preservation-in-place, with a restrictive covenant on future land-use, is the preferred option. If avoidance is not possible, a research-driven data recovery program, directed at the early historic settlement patterning of Delaware, is recommended. A formal Phase II is not considered necessary since the Phase I data is so compelling.

**Table 4.1. Route 301 Section 1 New Areas Site Names & Numbers by Survey Area (at July 2011)
with Recommendation Summary**

SITE NAME	Section 1 Survey Area	Sub-Area	Site #	De CRS #	Phase 2 Recommended?
Scott Run Historic Site	2		7NC-G179	N14540	No: site already considered eligible in basis of Phase I study
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 1	2		7NC-G178	N14539	Yes: as part of wider assessment of prehistoric sites on corridor
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 2	3		7NC-G177	N14538	No
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 3	4		7NC-F156	N14537	Yes: as part of wider assessment of prehistoric sites on corridor
Hyetts Corner Tenant Site	4		7NC-G176	N14536	Yes
Churchtown 4 Prehistoric/Historic Site	6	east	7NC-F155	N14535	Yes
Churchtown 2 Prehistoric/Historic Site	6	west	7NC-F154	N14534	Yes
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 4	7		7NC-F153	N14533	Yes (historic component); Prehistoric yes as part of wider assessment of prehistoric sites on corridor
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 1	8	a	7NC-F-151	N14530	Yes
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 2	8	a	7NC-F-150	N14531	Yes
Jones-Mathews Historic Site	8		7NC-F149	N14529	No
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 3	9		7NC-F152	N14532	Yes if avoidance not possible. Site probably eligible on basis of present data
Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric/Historic	10		7NC-F148	N14528	Yes Historic; Yes Prehistoric as part of wider assessment of prehistoric sites on corridor
Pleasanton South Historic-Prehistoric	11		7NC-F147	N14527	Yes (prehistoric main focus)

**Table 4.2 Route 301 Section 1 New Areas Site Names and Numbers by Site Name
(at July 2011)**

SITE NAME	Hunter Research Survey Area	Sub-Area	Site #	De CRS #
Churchtown 2 Prehistoric/Historic Site	6	west	7NC-F154	N14534
Churchtown 4 Prehistoric/Historic Site	6	east	7NC-F155	N14535
Hyetts Corner Tenant Site	4		7NC-G176	N14536
Jones-Mathews Historic Site	8		7NC-F149	N14529
Pleasanton South Historic-Prehistoric	11		7NC-F147	N14527
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 1	8	a	7NC-F-151	N14530
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 2	8	a	7NC-F-150	N14531
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 3	9		7NC-F152	N14532
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 4	7		7NC-F153	N14533
Scott Run Historic Site	2		7NC-G179	N14540
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 1	2		7NC-G178	N14539
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 2	3		7NC-G177	N14538
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 3	4		7NC-F156	N14537
Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric/Historic	10		7NC-F148	N14528

**Table 4.3 Route 301 Section 1 New Areas Site Names & Numbers by Site Number
(at July 2011)**

SITE NAME	Survey Area	Sub-Area	Site #	De CRS #
Pleasanton South Historic-Prehistoric	11		7NC-F147	N14527
Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric/Historic	10		7NC-F148	N14528
Jones-Mathews Historic Site	8		7NC-F149	N14529
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 2	8	a	7NC-F-150	N14531
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 1	8	a	7NC-F-151	N14530
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 3	9		7NC-F152	N14532
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 4	7		7NC-F153	N14533
Churchtown 2 Prehistoric/Historic Site	6	west	7NC-F154	N14534
Churchtown 4 Prehistoric/Historic Site	6	east	7NC-F155	N14535
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 3	4		7NC-F156	N14537
Hyetts Corner Tenant Site	4		7NC-G176	N14536
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 2	3		7NC-G177	N14538
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 1	2		7NC-G178	N14539
Scott Run Historic Site	2		7NC-G179	N14540

**Table 4.4 Route 301 Section 1 New Areas Site Names and Numbers by CRS #
(at July 2011)**

SITE NAME	Hunter Research Survey Area	Sub-Area	Site #	De CRS #
Pleasanton South Historic-Prehistoric	11		7NC-F147	N14527
Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric/Historic	10		7NC-F148	N14528
Jones-Mathews Historic Site	8		7NC-F149	N14529
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 1	8	a	7NC-F-151	N14530
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 2	8	a	7NC-F-150	N14531
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 3	9		7NC-F152	N14532
Reedy Island Cart Road Site 4	7		7NC-F153	N14533
Churchtown 2 Prehistoric/Historic Site	6	west	7NC-F154	N14534
Churchtown 4 Prehistoric/Historic Site	6	east	7NC-F155	N14535
Hyetts Corner Tenant Site	4		7NC-G176	N14536
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 3	4		7NC-F156	N14537
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 2	3		7NC-G177	N14538
Scott Run Prehistoric Site 1	2		7NC-G178	N14539
Scott Run Historic Site	2		7NC-G179	N14540

Scott Run Prehistoric Site 1 [7NC-G178, N14539] is a moderately dense multi-period prehistoric locus that yielded over 200 artifacts. It is similar in character to the other prehistoric sites investigated under this task order. As such it appears to reflect repeated and low-density occupation in advantageous locations near mid-peninsular drainages.

Next Steps

While National Register significance could be asserted for these prehistoric sites individually, it is suggested that a more effective approach would be to evaluate, as a group, the data from sites on all the U.S. Route 301 sections so far examined. Using such factors as artifact density, range of artifact types, raw material distribution, and chronology as revealed by diagnostic artifacts, an assessment of likely information yield under Criterion D could be developed. The sites could be treated as a group, with different investigation objectives being used at different locations as part of an overall evaluation/mitigation strategy. In this case, the site's location at the periphery of the borrow area suggests that avoidance is the best option here.

C. BORROW AREA 3, VILLAGE OF SCOTT RUN WEST

Scott Run Prehistoric Site 2 [7NC-G177, N14538] is a prehistoric artifact distribution over the northern portion of the borrow area. This area had the lowest artifact density of any of the areas examined under this task order. Two projectile points were recovered.

Next Steps:

This area is considered not to contain potentially significant archaeological resources, and no further work is recommended.

D. BORROW AREA 4, HYETTS CORNER, LLC

The southeastern side of this area appears to have been quarried for marl and then backfilled with materials brought in from elsewhere and containing modern materials. There are however two sites to the northwest of this disturbance.

Hyetts Corner Tenant Site [7NC-G176, N14536] is a concentration of historic artifacts dating from roughly 1750 to 1820. Some of the material from the periphery of this site was encountered by the adjacent A&HC survey (2010). The material forms a sufficiently compact distribution to suggest that there may be a structure at this location, although no subsurface features were identified in the shovel testing.

Scott Run Prehistoric Site 3 [7NC-F156, N14537] is a low-density prehistoric site, apparently confined to the plowzone, and is similar in character to the majority of the prehistoric loci identified in this survey.

Next Steps

A Phase II investigation of the Hyetts Corner Tenant Site is recommended to establish site integrity and National Register eligibility.

The general recommendation for prehistoric sites, that they should be evaluated as a group, applies to Site 4B.

E. BORROW AREA 5, CHURCHTOWN MANOR NORTH

Although this area was excluded from the testing under this task order, the data from Area 6 and the adjacent portion of the main alignment, and the

nearby location of bay-basin type features, suggest that this area has a higher sensitivity than initially appreciated.

Next Steps

It is recommended that a Phase IB survey, using the methodology employed for the remainder of Section 2, be completed on this area.

F. BORROW AREA 6, CHURCHTOWN MANOR SOUTH

Two sites were defined in this area, the Churchtown 4 Prehistoric/Historic Site [7NC-F155, N14535] and the Churchtown 2 Prehistoric/Historic Site [7NC-F154, N14534]. These are multi-component prehistoric and historic sites extending into the area of the main alignment to the north. Prehistoric features were identified below the plowzone, one containing charcoal. This rather exceptional result from Phase IB testing suggests that the prehistoric component may already be considered eligible for the National Register because it demonstrates integrity and has the potential to yield information important to the study of prehistory.

The historic component includes several ceramic types that are conventionally dated before 1750, and some that may extend back into the 17th century. Together with finds of kettle fragments, a trade bead and a wheel fragment, these materials are an example of the unusually rich material culture now represented at several sites along the U.S. Route 301 alignment.

Next Steps:

It is recommended that the dense concentration of historic material found towards the western end of Area 6 above the Spring Mill Branch be subjected to

Phase II testing to establish its integrity and National Register eligibility. Alternatively, a protected buffer zone about 150 feet wide along the southern side of Area 6 would probably protect the core of both the historic and prehistoric sites.

G. BORROW AREA 7, PLEASANTON EAST

Area 7 contains several dense concentrations of historic material, one with a brick-lined cellar feature. Prehistoric materials are present chiefly along the north side of the area and appear to be closely similar in character to sites located in similar headwater settings along the alignment. The main concentration is designated the Reedy Island Cart Road Site 4 [7NC-F153; N14533].

Next Steps

A strong case can be made for the National Register eligibility of the historic component based on the artifact assemblage and the demonstrated presence of the stratified subsurface cellar feature. Treatment through avoidance may be considered at this point. If this is not feasible, a staged data recovery program comprising both primary historical research and an archaeological investigation, driven by contextual research hypotheses developed as part of this project, should be undertaken. The prehistoric site should be considered with others of the group of headwater sites on the alignment.

H. BORROW AREA 8, PLEASANTON MITIGATION SITE

Two sites are defined in this area. The Reedy Island Cart Road Site 1 [7NC-F-151, N14530] and the Reedy Island Cart Road Site 2 [7NC-F-150, N1453] are loci of historic material of mid- to late 18th-century date

with a less dense scatter of prehistoric material probably associated with relict and now heavily modified springheads flowing southward from the western half of the area.

The Jones-Mathews Historic Site [7NC-F149, N14529] is an artifact scatter corresponding to the mapped location of the Jones/Mathews farmstead of *circa* 1850 to 1900.

Next Steps

No further work is considered appropriate on Site 8B (the Jones-Mathews Historic Site) since the integrity of the early phases of the site has probably been compromised by the construction of the adjacent railroad, and no *in situ* structural evidence was observed.

As with most historic sites identified in this survey, The Reedy Island Cart Road Sites 1 and 2 will benefit from supplementary documentary research that will throw light on their colonial ownership history. The chain of title has been taken back to 1780 at this point. No subsurface features earlier than the late 19th century were identified in the shovel testing and excavation units, and it is possible that the historic component of the site lies entirely within the plowzone. However, the density of the artifact clusters is similar to those in Areas 2 and 7, where building foundations have been located, and it is recommended that Phase II archaeological investigations be directed to locating subsurface features in these clusters.

The prehistoric component of the Reedy Island Cart Road Sites 1 and 2 (Site 8A) should be reviewed together with the data from the other headwater prehistoric sites along the alignment to better determine the research potential and overall context of these occupations.

I. BORROW AREA 9, PLEASANTON STOCKPILE

Much of Area 9 was strikingly devoid of artifacts of any period. It is clear from the linear character of the headwater drainages, and the large amounts of modern fill placed on the east side of the main north-south drainage, that this part of the project area has been considerably reworked. It is considered to retain no archaeological potential.

The Reedy Island Cart Road Site 3 [7NC-F152, N14532] is a concentration of historic artifacts south and east of the Pleasanton House. The area immediately south and east of the house presents an artifact density as high as any other location in the present survey. The small number of prehistoric items is overwhelmed by the rich 18th-century assemblage, chiefly ceramics but also including a trade bead and iron kettle fragments. These last two items have come to be seen almost as “signature” artifacts of 18th-century sites on both Sections 1 and 2 of U.S. Route 301. As with Area 8, no subsurface features were identified in the limited subsurface testing, but again the density of the material, particularly southeast of the present Pleasanton House, appears to point to the presence of a building and intense occupation.

Next Steps

Given the absence of archaeological sensitivity in the bulk of this stockpile area, and the tightly defined character of Site 9A, it is recommended that avoidance of Site 9A, with a restrictive covenant concerning future land use, be pursued as the preferred option here.

J. BORROW AREA 10, PLEASANTON SOUTHEAST

The Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric/Historic Site [7NC-F148, N14528] extends along the east and north flanks of the Spring Mill Branch. It is a multicomponent site comprising a scatter of prehistoric material (heavily collected in the past by a local avocational archaeologist) and a closely defined concentration of later 18th- and 19th-century material in a swale-like setting leading down towards the Spring Mill Branch. Both components present problems of interpretation and assessment. The prehistoric site assemblage is probably considerably skewed by the repeated collection of tools and diagnostics from it in the past (although this is a characteristic probably shared by many other prehistoric sites in Delaware). The concentration of historic material in a distinctive depression may suggest it is the result of natural processes or a deliberate filling process.

Next Steps

Further work is needed on both components of this site to better characterize, delineate and evaluate them. More extensive exposure of the historic area through excavation units should establish whether it has a structural component and integrity. The prehistoric site is sufficiently similar to the other headwater sites to be considered with them as a group.

K. BORROW AREA 11, PLEASANTON SOUTH AND AHC1, A&HC SEGMENT 1

These adjacent areas are combined in this section because the historic components of both are probably eastward extensions of Site 19A in Section 2, probably relating to the Cornelius Armstrong (1799-1824), James Rogers (1824-1850) and earlier occupations. The prehistoric component contains subsurface fea-

tures (a pit was located in Excavation Unit 2). The archaeological site here is designated Pleasanton South Historic-Prehistoric [7NC-F147, N14527].

Next Steps

The prehistoric component, which has demonstrated survival of subsurface features, should be subjected to a Phase II study to better define its vertical and horizontal extent, chronology and function. Evaluation of the historic component should in this case be secondary to that of the prehistoric site.

L. SURVEY SEGMENT AHC5, A&HC SEGMENT 5

Although this area yielded a number of projectile points, debitage and thermally altered rock there were no concentrations felt to meet the site definition adopted for this study. The historic features encountered at the eastern end of AHC5 are discussed under Area 7.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended on the prehistoric component. Recommendations for the historic features are presented under Area 7.

M. SECTION 2, AREA 17 (PADDOCK AREA)

The limited material recovered from shovel testing in the paddock indicates that this area is peripheral to the Dale Sites to the west. No further work is recommended here.