

ABSTRACT

John Milner Associates, Inc. conducted a Phase I archeological survey as part of an environmental assessment associated with proposed I-95 improvements in New Castle County, Delaware. The work was conducted in association with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP on behalf of the Delaware Department of Transportation. The purpose of the investigation was to identify archeological sites that might be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and affected by the proposed highway construction, or to document the absence of such sites. In addition, the project included a geoarcheological assessment of two possible wetland mitigation areas to determine the presence or absence of deeply buried archeological deposits that might be adversely affected by possible wetland construction.

The archeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) extends to either side of I-95 and includes three spatially separate project areas. The first is referred to as the western portion and is associated with proposed replacement of the existing toll plaza, and extends from the Maryland-Delaware border eastward approximately 8,600 feet (1.6 miles). The central portion encompasses the I-95/S.R. 1 interchange. The eastern portion of the APE includes two areas of proposed wetland mitigation, referred to as wetland mitigation Site 1 and Site 7.

In the western portion of the APE, 239 shovel tests were excavated and four prehistoric sites were identified. Site 7NC-D-234 and Site 7NC-D-235 produced minimal artifacts do not appear to represent potentially significant archeological resources that might be eligible for listing in the National Register. Therefore, no further archeological investigation is recommended at these sites. Site 7NC-D-236 and Site 7NC-D-237 produced data suggesting these sites may represent significant archeological resources, eligible for listing in the National Register. If construction is planned for the locations of these sites, Phase II archeological evaluations are recommended prior to construction activities.

In the central portion of the APE, around the I-95/S.R. 1 interchange, three areas considered to have moderate to high archeological sensitivity were identified. Phase I archeological testing at these three areas found no evidence of potentially significant archeological resources. Consequently, no additional archeological investigations are recommended for the I-95/S.R. 1 interchange portion of the project.

In the eastern portion of the APE, shovel and auger tests in proposed mitigation Site 1 and Site 7 showed evidence of filling and marshland environments with no potential for intact archeological deposits. No further archeological investigation is recommended in association with proposed wetland mitigation Site 1 and Site 7.