
5.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

John Milner Associates, Inc. conducted a Phase I archeological survey in conjunction with improvements to I-95 in New Castle County, Delaware. The Area of Potential Effects for archeology consisted of three spatially separated locations, within which archeological testing was conducted. The results of the investigation and recommendations generated there from are presented below.

5.1 WESTERN PORTION

In total, 239 shovel tests were excavated in the western portion and four prehistoric sites were identified. In addition, three primary shovel tests produced a single flake each. Radials were excavated and in only one instance was additional material recovered. Due to the low density of artifacts, all three locations were deemed to represent isolated finds. As such, these finds do not warrant further evaluation.

Site 7NC-D-234 produced three artifacts from an area measuring less than 15 meters in diameter. This does not appear to represent a potentially significant archeological resource that might be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and, accordingly, no further archeological investigation is recommended at this location.

Site 7NC-D-235 produced six artifacts from an area measuring approximately 35-12 meters. This does not appear to represent a potentially significant archeological resource that might be eligible for listing in the National Register and, therefore, no further archeological investigation is recommended at this location.

Site 7NC-D-236 recovered 43 artifacts from an area measuring approximately 35-122 meters. This site seems more substantial than most of the others identified during the Phase I survey. Accordingly, it may be a significant archeological resource, eligible for listing in the National Register. If construction is planned for this location, a Phase II archeological evaluation is recommended for the site.

Site 7NC-D-237 produced 31 artifacts from a single STU, 20 of which were recovered from intact B-horizon soil. No additional material was recovered from surrounding STUs. Given that a significant number of artifacts were recovered from intact B-horizon soil at this location, this site may be a significant archeological resource, eligible for listing in the National Register. If construction is planned for this location, a Phase II archeological evaluation is recommended for the site.

In sum, should design plans ultimately include Sites 7NC-D-236 and 7NC-D-237, JMA recommends Phase II archeological evaluation for these sites. Overall, it is clear that jasper from the Iron Hill formation was an important resource to prehistoric people over a long period of time. They made extensive use of this material and it constitutes the bulk of the artifacts recovered. The nearby presence of this lithic raw material source may also have contributed to the number and distribution of the sites identified in the APE. Previous archeological testing in the vicinity of Iron Hill has identified other sites with artifact assemblages similar to that recovered from sites 7NC-D-236 and 7NC-D-237. The lithic material recovered from these two sites is remarkably similar to the assemblage recovered from the Iron Hill East site (7NC-D-108). At that site the artifacts included large amounts of amorphous, decomposed, low-grade lithic debris, and much smaller quantities of better quality jasper artifacts. While neither location yielded

diagnostic artifacts, previous work on the Iron Hill jasper quarries and the Delaware Chalcedony Complex have indicated a time period of exploitation ranging from Paleo-Indian to Woodland.

5.2 CENTRAL PORTION

While the bulk of the APE for the I-95/S.R. 1 interchange portion of the project was previously disturbed, three areas considered to have moderate to high archeological sensitivity were identified. The Phase I archeological testing at these three areas found no evidence of potentially significant archeological resources. An area of intact soil containing historic artifacts was identified at the Lewis Welden Farm location in this part of the APE. However, given the extensive disturbance across most of the site and limited extent of intact soils, it is unlikely that this find represents an historical archeological resource significant in its own right, or as a resource contributing to the criteria under which the property was previously evaluated as being eligible for the National Register. Consequently, no additional archeological investigations are recommended for the I-95/S.R. 1 interchange portion of the project.

5.3 EASTERN PORTION

Proposed mitigation Site 1 and Site 7 are regarded as having very low to no potential for intact, deeply buried archeological deposits dating to either the historic or the prehistoric periods. The shovel and auger tests 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.