

13-08-0045



**NO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
ELIGIBLE OR LISTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
PRESENT OR AFFECTED FORM**

This form only pertains to ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES for this project. It is not valid for Historic Architecture and Landscapes. You must consult separately with the Historic Architecture and Landscapes Group.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No: **Str# 490337** County: **Jackson**
WBS No: **17BP.13.R.107** Document: **Minimum Criteria**
F.A. No: **n/a** Funding: ☒ State ☐ Federal

Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Permit Type: **NWP 3, NWP 14, & TVA**

Project Description:

This project an intensive archaeological survey and evaluation for Bridge No. 337 on SR 1448 (Unity Road) over Fisher Creek (Structure No. 490337; WBS No. 17BP.14.R.107; PA No. 13-08-0045) in Jackson County. As specified by the NCDOT, the survey corridor (Area of Potential Effects [APE]) for archaeology is defined as a 525-foot (160.02 m) long corridor running 200 feet (60.96 m) west and 325 feet (99.06 m) east/south along SR 1448 from the center of Bridge No. 337. The corridor is approximately 150 feet (45.72 m) wide extending 75 feet (22.86 m) on either side of SR 1448 from its present center.

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Archaeology Group reviewed the subject project and determined:

- ☒ There are no National Register listed ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES within the project's area of potential effects.
- ☐ No subsurface archaeological investigations are required for this project.
- ☒ Subsurface investigations did not reveal the presence of any archaeological resources.
- ☐ Subsurface investigations did not reveal the presence of any archaeological resources considered eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ All identified archaeological sites located within the APE have been considered and all compliance for archaeological resources with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- ☐ There are no National Register Eligible or Listed ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES present or affected by this project. *(Attach any notes or documents as needed)*

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RECOMMENDATION

An archaeological survey and evaluation of the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 337 on SR 1448 (Unity Road) over Fisher Creek in Jackson County was conducted on November 5 and 13, 2013, by Michael Nelson and Belinda Cox of TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC). No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. They have recommended no further archaeological investigations in the area they surveyed. The unsurveyed portion of the APE at the far end of the northeast quadrant has subsequently been review by NC DOT archaeologist, Damon Jones. It is unlikely to yield a significant archaeological site due disturbance cause by soil erosion. Although the slope at the base of the hill is gradual, it has been dissected by the run-off of water, which has impacted any potential deposits. I concur with the recommendation as the proposed bridge replacement project will not impact significant archaeological resources. No additional work is needed. However if the project expands and impacts subsurface areas beyond the defined APE, further archaeological consultations will be necessary.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: ☒ Map(s) ☐ Previous Survey Info ☒ Photos ☐ Correspondence

Other:

Signed:



C. Damon Jones

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

1/14/14

Date

Brief description of review activities, results of review, and conclusions:

TRC has conducted an intensive archaeological survey and evaluation for the replacement of Bridge No. 337 on SR 1448 (Unity Road) over Fisher Creek in Jackson County, North Carolina (Figures 1 and 2). As specified by the NCDOT, the survey corridor (Area of Potential Effects [APE]) for archaeology is defined as a 525-foot (160.02 m) long corridor running 200 feet (60.96 m) west and 325 feet (99.06 m) east/south along SR 1448 from the center of Bridge No. 337. The corridor is approximately 150 feet (45.72 m) wide extending 75 feet (22.86 m) on either side of SR1448 from its present center.

A map review and site files search was conducted by Tasha Benyshek of TRC at the Western Office of State Archaeology (OSA) on November 21, 2013, which corroborated a previous NCDOT review. This review identified no archaeological sites within or adjacent to the APE. One site (31JK282) is located within a mile radius of the project area. The site form indicates that 31JK282 contains only lithic material, including debitage and tools. The Jasper Allen mound was located along Scott Creek in the general project vicinity, but that site's exact location has not been verified.

Topographic maps, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil survey maps, and historic maps were examined for information on natural or cultural variables that might have affected site locations. One of the earliest road maps of Jackson County examined (Cox 1924) shows Fisher Creek and Fisher Creek Road, but no side roads or structures are depicted within the project area. The 1938 Jackson County North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission road map shows a few structures along Fisher Creek Road, but they appear to be located north of the project area (North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission [NCSHPWC] 1938). The 1968 North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map of Jackson County, shows Fisher Creek, Fisher Creek Road and Unity Road, but no structures in the project vicinity (NCSHPWC 1968; 1972; 1980).

The earliest USGS map available of the area is the Cowee (1897) quadrangle, which depicts Fisher Creek, but no roads or structures in that area. The later 1907 Cowee quadrangle map depicts a road along Fisher Creek, but Unity Road is not shown. Also, no structures are apparent in the general project area, but structures are depicted elsewhere along Fisher Creek (Cowee 1907). The 1935 Addie, NC 7.5-minute quadrangle illustrates Fisher Creek, Fisher Creek Road, and Unity Road in their current locations. However, Unity Road is shorter than its current incarnation. One structure on the west side of the creek is shown on this map and may correspond with an existing house in the project corridor. This same information is shown on the 1941 and 1942 maps as well (USGS 1935; 1941; 1942). The earliest version of the Sylva North, NC 7.5-minute quadrangle dates to 1967 and shows the current project area including Unity Road in its present layout. Three structures are depicted within or near the project area. These include the structure from the 1935 map, the one at the Fisher Creek and Unity Road intersection, and the one at the east end of the approximate project area (USGS 1967).

On-line soils data indicate just two soil types are present in the APE. Separated by Fisher Creek, the west half of the project area is mapped as Dellwood gravelly fine sandy loam, which has a 0–3% slopes (DfA), while the east half is comprised of Saunook gravelly loam with 2–8% slopes (SaB). The Dellwood soils are moderately well-drained soils found on floodplains and are in areas subject to occasional floods. The Saunook gravelly loam is a well-drained soil type found along the bases of slopes (NRCS 2013).

The archaeological field survey included a systematic walkover of the APE to search for above-ground features and the excavation of 10 shovel tests in areas lacking standing water, wetland soils, severe slope or signs of severe disturbance. The shovel tests measured 30 cm in diameter and were excavated to subsoil or at least 75 cm below surface (cmbs). All soils that were not obvious fill were dry-screened through ¼-inch mesh.

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Shovel tests were excavated in each of the quadrants of the project area, although a single wooded property in the far northeastern corner was not surveyed due to objections by the landowner (see Figure 2). Should the design plans for the current bridge replacement include this property, a review by a NC DOT archaeologist is recommended. Almost the entire project area is located within open residential yards or fields with the exception of the far southeastern end of the corridor which is lightly wooded (Figures 3–6). Two shovel tests were excavated in the wooded areas, one (ST 1) in the southeast quadrant and one (ST 10) in the northeast quadrant. These two shovel tests, along with ST 2 also in the southeast quadrant, encountered the only intact soils within the project corridor; compact brown to dark yellow brown loam atop a very compact red silty clay loam to clay. All remaining shovel tests (STs 3–9) encountered varying degrees of disturbed soils/fill to depths ranging from 30 to 86 cmbs. Modern debris (i.e., black plastic, asphalt, brick and concrete, safety glass, and slag) was noted within four shovel tests (STs 3–6 and 8), but not collected. No above ground evidence of an archaeological site was noted within the defined APE, and no artifacts were found within the 10 shovel tests excavated.

Based on the results of the background research and field survey, there is no evidence that NRHP-eligible archaeological resources are situated within the Bridge 337 APE. Consequently, no additional archaeological investigations are recommended for this project as currently defined. As stated above, however, a review by NC DOT archaeologist is recommended in the unaccessed wooded area at the far northeastern corner of the APE should that area be included within the final design plans for the project.



Michael Nelson
Archaeologist, Asheville
TRC Environmental Corporation

REFERENCES CITED

Cox, Thomas A.

1924 *Jackson County, North Carolina*. On file, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. Available online at <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/3571>.

National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

2013 Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture Web Soil Survey. Available online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/> accessed November, 2013.

North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission (NCSHPWC)

1938 Map of Jackson County. On file, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. Available online at <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/525>.

1968 Map of Jackson County. On file, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. Available online at <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/3716>.

1972 Map of Jackson County. On file, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. Available online at <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/8361>.

1980 Map of Jackson County. On file, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. Available online at <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/8878>.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

1953 *Soil Map, North Carolina, Jackson County*. On file, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. Available online at <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/1160>.

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U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1897 Cowee, N.C., topographic quadrangle (1:125,000).
- 1907 Cowee, N.C., topographic map (1:125,000).
- 1935 Addie, N.C., 7.5-minute topographic map (1:24,000).
- 1941 Addie, N.C., 7.5-minute topographic map (1:24,000).
- 1942 Addie, N.C., 7.5-minute topographic map (1:24,000).
- 1967 Sylva North, N.C., 7.5-minute topographic map (1:24,000).

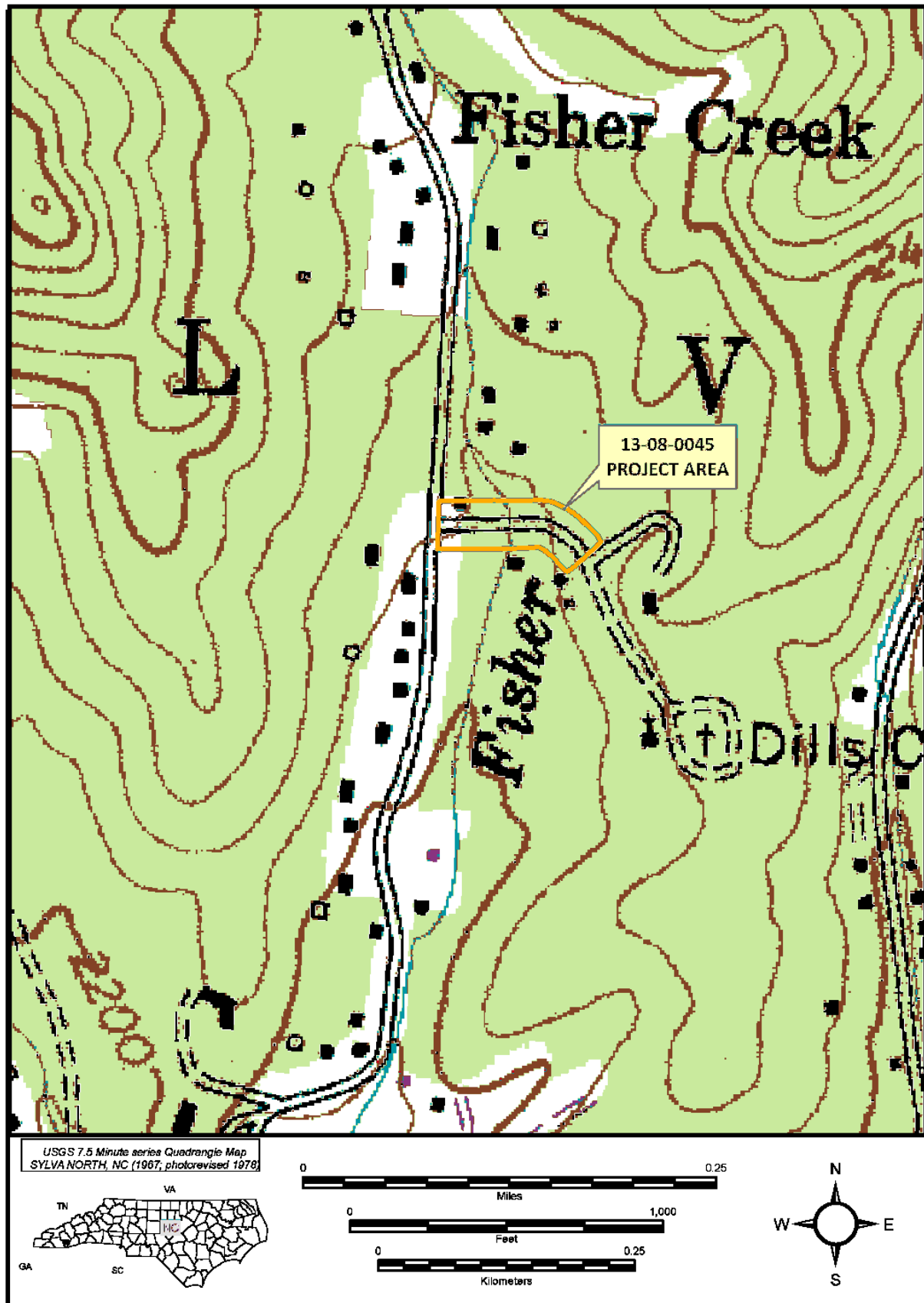


Figure 1. Location of Bridge No. 337 over Fisher Creek in Jackson County, North Carolina

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Figure 2. Map of Bridge No. 337 showing the APE and shovel test locations.

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Figure 3. View of unsurveyed wooded property in northeast corner of Bridge 337 APE, view east.



Figure 4. View of residential yard and open strip of roadside on the west side of Bridge 337, view east.



Figure 5. View of residential yards in the east half of Bridge 337 APE, view southwest.



Figure 6. View of the lightly wooded area in the far eastern end of the Bridge 337 APE, view east.