

13-08-0045



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REQUIRED 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.14.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:

The project calls for the replacement of Bridge No. 337 on SR 1448 (Unity Road) over Fisher Creek in Jackson County. The archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project is defined as a 525-foot (160.02 m) long corridor running 200 feet (78.74 m) west and 325 feet (127.95 m) east/south along Unity Road 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 the road from its present center.

### SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEW: SURVEY REQUIRED

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

Bridge No. 337 is located just northeast of Sylva in the northern portion of Jackson County, North Carolina. The project area is plotted in the southern half of the Sylva North USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

A map review and site file search was conducted at the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) on August 20, 2013. No previously recorded archaeological sites are reported within the APE, but one known site (31JK282) is located within a mile radius of the bridge. Also, no existing National Register (NRHP), Determined Eligible (DE), State Study Listed (SL), Locally Designated (LD), or Survey Site (SS) properties are within or adjacent to the study area according to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office online data base (HPOWEB 2013). Topographic maps, USDA soil survey maps, aerial photographs (NC One Map), and historic maps (North Carolina maps website) were examined for information on environmental and cultural variables that may have contributed to prehistoric or historic settlement within the project limits and to assess the level of ground disturbance.

The APE for the project starts at the intersection of Unity Road with SR 1446 (Fisher Creek Road) in the west. Unity Road traverses east and cross Fisher Creek at Bridge No. 337. The APE and Unity Road then curves to the south. The Fisher Creek drains south and is a tributary to Scott Creek. These waterways are part of the Little Tennessee drainage basin. The APE is situated along floodplain mainly to the west of the bridge and a bench and toe slope to the east (Figure 2). From aerial photographs, the project area is made up of open residential properties and a grassy field in the southwest quadrant. The toe slope and drainage are wooded. Ground disturbance to the APE appears minimal to moderate from utilities, past road improvements (ditches), and landscaping.

According to the USDA soil survey map, two soil types cover the project area (Figure 3). Dellwood gravelly fine sandy loam (DfA) makes up the floodplain and the eastern half of the APE. This is a

13-08-0045

moderately well drained soil series, which is subject to occasional floods. Slope is less than 3 percent. The western half of the APE consists of Saunook gravelly loam (SaB) that occupies the bench and toe slope. This series is well drained with a slope of 2 to 8 percent. Both series have the potential of yielded archaeological deposits due to being fairly level and dry. Subsurface testing is recommended along each.

A review of the site files shows very few archaeological investigations in the area. The only known site (31JK282) was reported by a local collector in 1993. This is a prehistoric site situated between Monteith Branch and one of its tributaries. The location of this site has yet to be confirmed. Its eligibility for the NRHP has yet to be assessed as well. Additional work is needed throughout the area before any firm conclusions can be drawn on site predictability based upon known sites in the area.

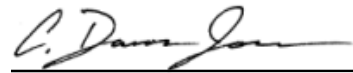
Finally, a historic map review was conducted. Most maps prior to the 20th centuries provide only general details concerning the region illustrating just major roads and settlements. The 1907 USGS Cowee topographic map is one of the first in which an approximate location for the project area could be found (Figure 4). This map shows nearby Fisher Creek Road and Fisher Creek, but Unity Road is not depicted. Also, no structures are plotted near the approximate location of the project area. Subsequent early 20th century maps continue to fail in showing Unity Road or its crossing over Fisher Creek. It is not until the publication of the 1962 North Carolina Highway map for Jackson County that a road with a similar alignment to Unity is illustrated (Figure 5). It appears very unlikely that any significant deposits associated with former historic structure will be encountered within the APE.

A preliminary background investigation suggests that further work is needed within the proposed project area along the floodplain, bench, and toe slope. It is possible that archaeological deposits could be found in this setting due to well drained soils, fairly level landforms, and the close proximity to Fisher Creek. Archaeological work in the form of subsurface testing is recommended within the APE in order to record possible significant resources that might be impacted by the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 337 in Jackson County.

## SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: ☒ Map(s) ☐ Previous Survey Info ☒ Photos ☐ Correspondence  
☐ Photocopy of County Survey Notes Other: **Images from historic maps**

## FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST – SURVEY REQUIRED



C. Damon Jones  
NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST II

9/03/13

Date

1/31/14

Proposed fieldwork completion date

13-08-0045

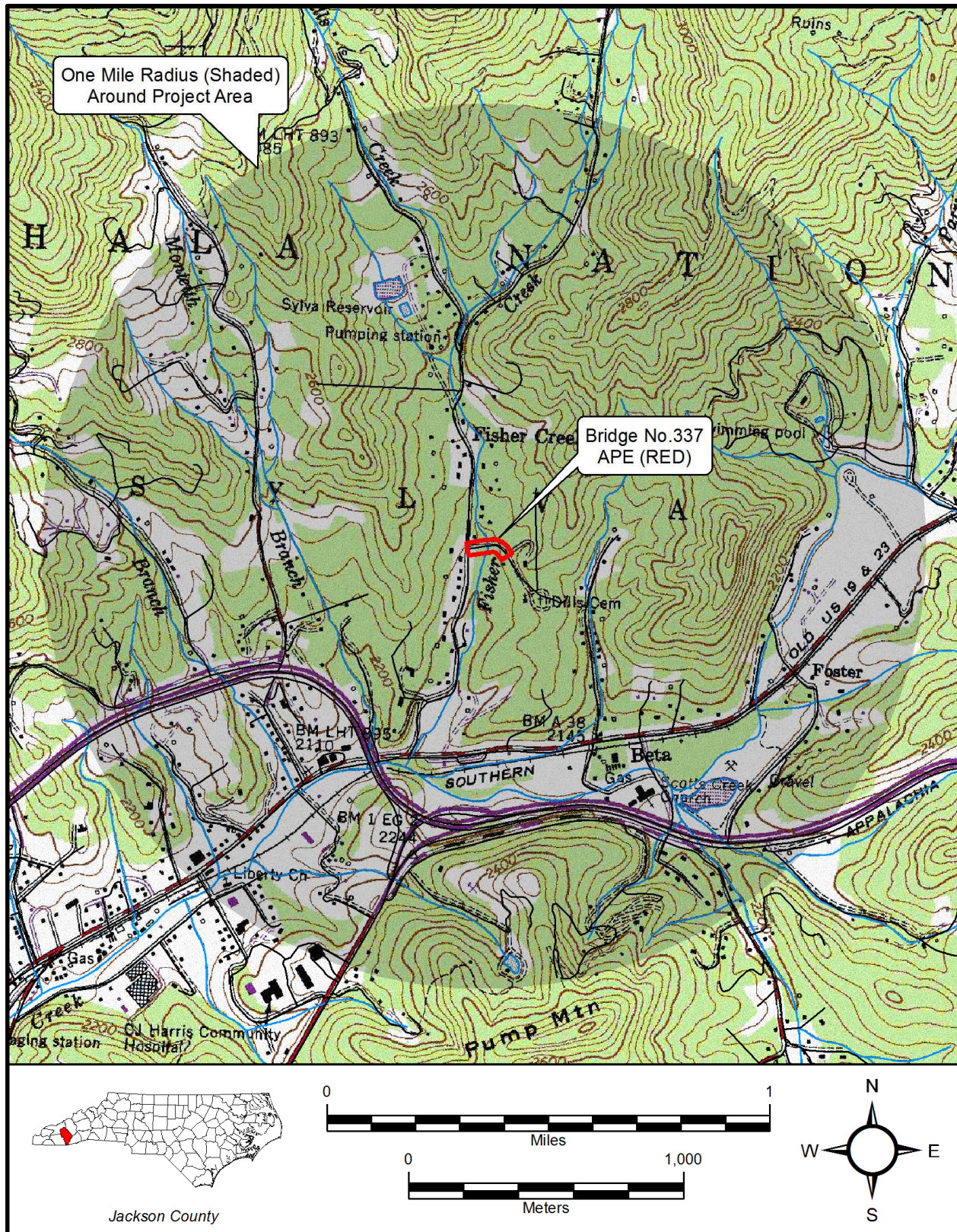


Figure 1. Topographic Setting of the Project Area, Sylva North (1967; photorevised 1978), NC, USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle.

13-08-0045



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development and landforms within and near the project area.

13-08-0045



Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development and soils within and near the project area.

13-08-0045

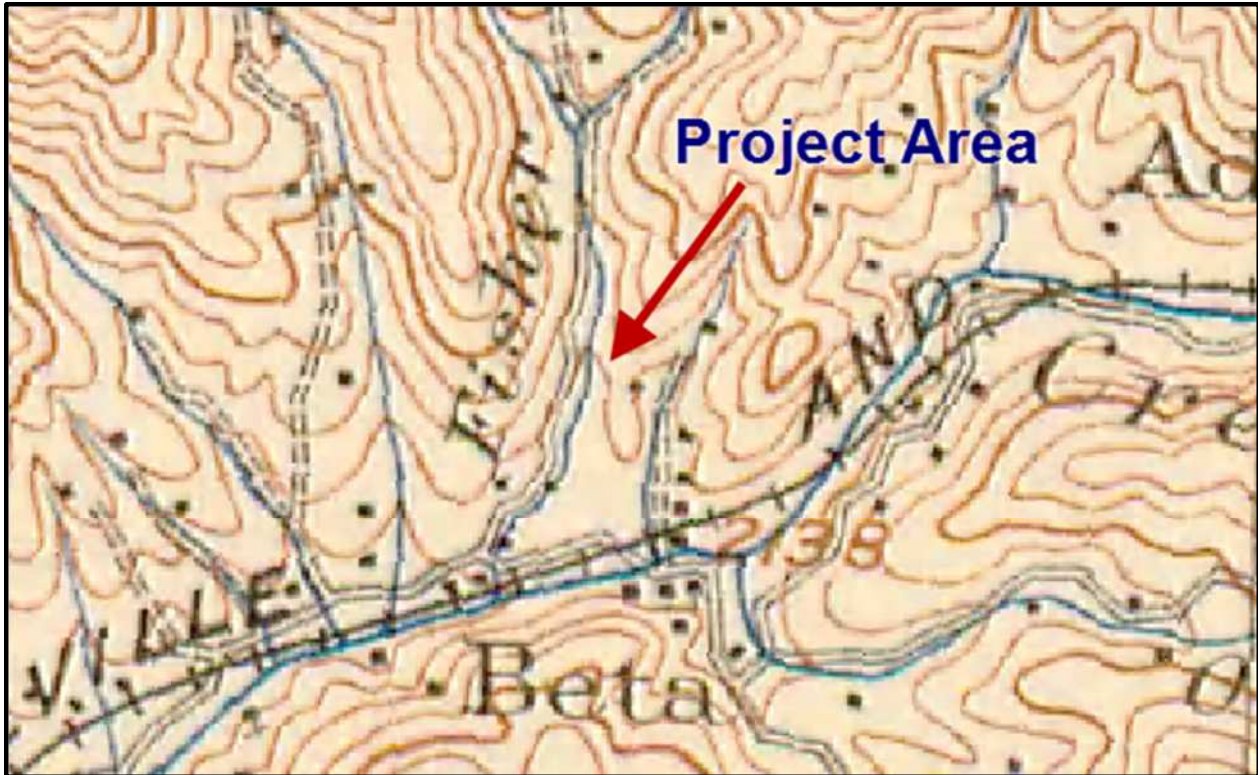


Figure 4. The 1907 USGS Cowee topographic map showing the approximate location of the project area.

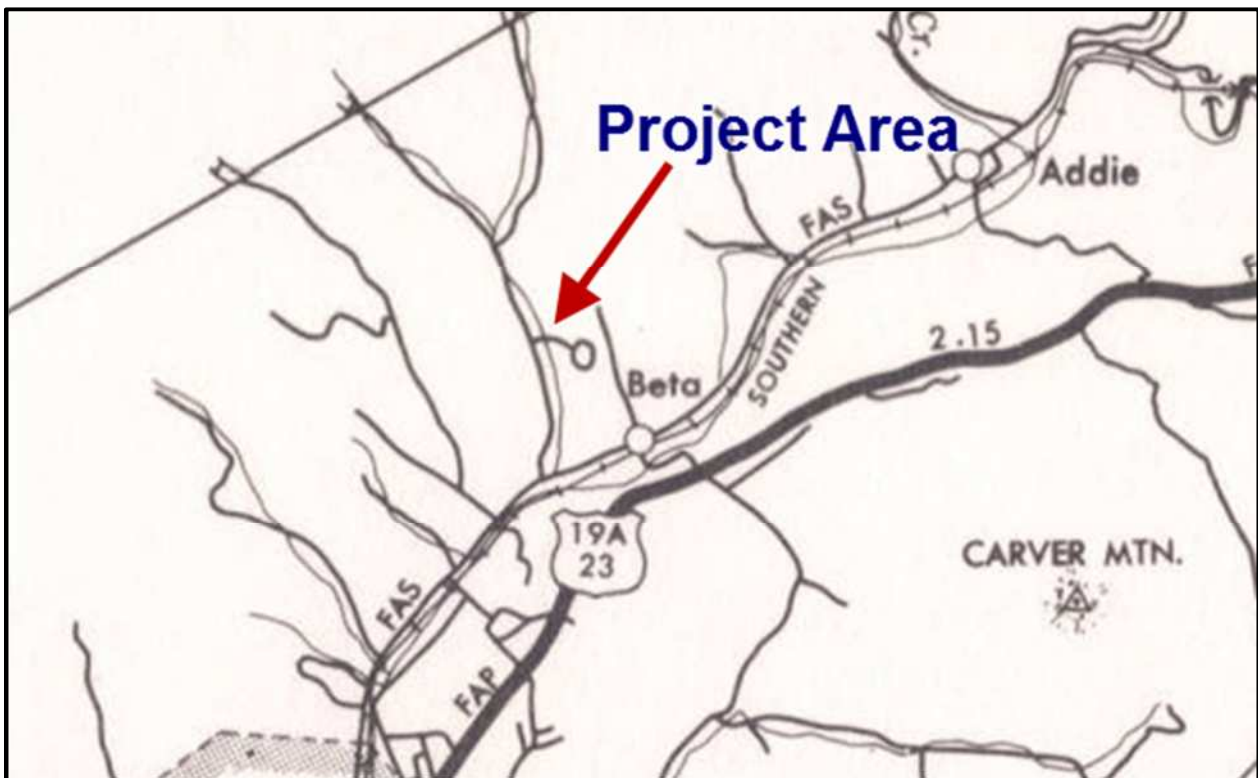


Figure 5. The 1962 North Carolina State Highway map of Jackson County showing the location of the project area.