



NO 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: **Bridge 160** County: **Ashe**
 WBS No: **17BP.11.R.123** Document: **Minimum Criteria**
 F.A. No: **na** Funding: ☒ State ☐ Federal

Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Permit Type: **NWP 3 or 14**

Project Description:

The project calls for the replacement of Bridge No. 160 on SR 1115 (Frank Dillard Road) over Little Naked Creek in Ashe County. The archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project is defined as a 600-foot (182.88 m) long corridor running 300 feet (91.44 m) northeast and 300 feet southwest along Frank Dillard Road from the center of Bridge No. 160. 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 CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

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

Bridge No. 160 is located east of West Jefferson and west of the South Fork New River in the eastern half of Ashe County, North Carolina. The project area is plotted in the southern portion of the Jefferson USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

A site file search was conducted at the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) on October 31, 2016. No previously recorded archaeological sites have been identified within the APE, but two sites (31AH25 and 31AH286) are reported within a mile radius of bridge. According to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office online data base (HPOWEB 2016), there are no known historic architectural resources within the APE that may yield intact archaeological deposits. 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.

Bridge No. 160 and Frank Dillard Road cross Little Naked Creek from northeast to the southwest and is situated along a narrow floodplain with hillsides to either side (Figure 2). The creek flows to the northeast and is part of the New River drainage basin. The waterway runs parallel with Frank Dillard Road in the northeast and southwest quadrants occupying much of the APE in these sections. A confluence between the Little Naked Creek and one of its unnamed tributary is also located just south of the bridge. The surrounding landforms consist of open agricultural properties with possible timber harvesting to the northwest. Ground disturbance is minimal is from ditches alongside the road, an access drive in the northwest quadrant, and the intersection with Tom Severt Road just southeast of the bridge.

The USDA soil survey map for Ashe County shows Evard loam (EvF) encompassing the entire APE (Figure 3). However, it is likely this soil series is not present in the floodplain. According to the LIDAR contour image, it is probable that the neighboring Toxaway loam (To) extends into the project area from the north along the drainageways. The Evard loam, although well drained, is very steep at 25 to 45

percent slope. This is not a typical characteristic of a soil found along a floodplain. Toxaway loam on the other hand is nearly level but poorly drained to very poorly drained. Neither of these soils is suited for significant archaeological resources. The Toxaway series is persistently wet, while the Evard series is too steep.

A review of the site files identified two previous projects within a mile of the bridge. These projects have yielded the only two known sites (31AH25 and 31AH286) in the area. Site 31AH25 was reported by archaeologist with NCDOT in 1990 during the NC 16 improvement project (TIP R-2100). This is a Middle Archaic period site consisting of a small lithic scatter on a well drained stream terrace. It was determined ineligible for the National Register. Site 31AH286 was identified by Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc. in 2014 for Fort Wild Kono Cell Tower. It is a prehistoric isolated find located on a ridge top and is also ineligible for the National Register. Neither of these sites was found in a setting similar to the current project area. This suggests the unlikelihood of an additional archaeological resource being encountered with the current APE.

A historic map review was also conducted. Most early maps from the 18th and 19th centuries provide only general details concerning the region illustrating just major roads and settlements. An approximate location for the project was first identified on the 1891 USGS Wilkesboro topographic map (Figure 3). This map depicts Little Naked Creek and a road similar to Frank Dillard Road. However, the road runs along the southside of the creek and does not cross the stream at the current bridge location. The subsequent 1912 *Soil Survey Map for Ashe County* illustrates much of the same picture with the road crossing only the unnamed tributary to the south (Figure 4). Unlike the topographic map, the soil map also plots structures, but all are well away from the APE. Lastly, The 1938 *North Carolina Highway Map for Ashe County* shows a crossing at or near the current bridge (Figure 5). Frank Dillard Road also follows a more modern alignment, and no structures are depicted near the crossing. From the map review, it is unlikely that deposits associated with former structures will be encountered within the APE.

Brief Explanation of why the available information provides a reliable basis for reasonably predicting that there are no unidentified historic properties in the APE:

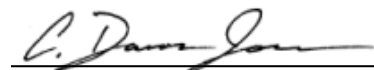
The defined archaeological APE for the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 160 is situated along hillsides and a narrow floodplain. It is unlikely intact and significant archaeological deposits will be present within the project area. This is due to poorly drained and persistently wet soils within the floodplain and steep slopes along the hillsides. Also, the historic maps suggest that no former historic structures and/or features are in the area. As long as impacts to the subsurface occur within the defined APE, no further archaeological work is recommended for the replacement of Bridge No. 160 in Ashe County. If construction should affect subsurface areas beyond the defined APE, further archaeological consultation might be necessary.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

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

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

NO ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED



C. Damon Jones
NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

11/1/16

Date

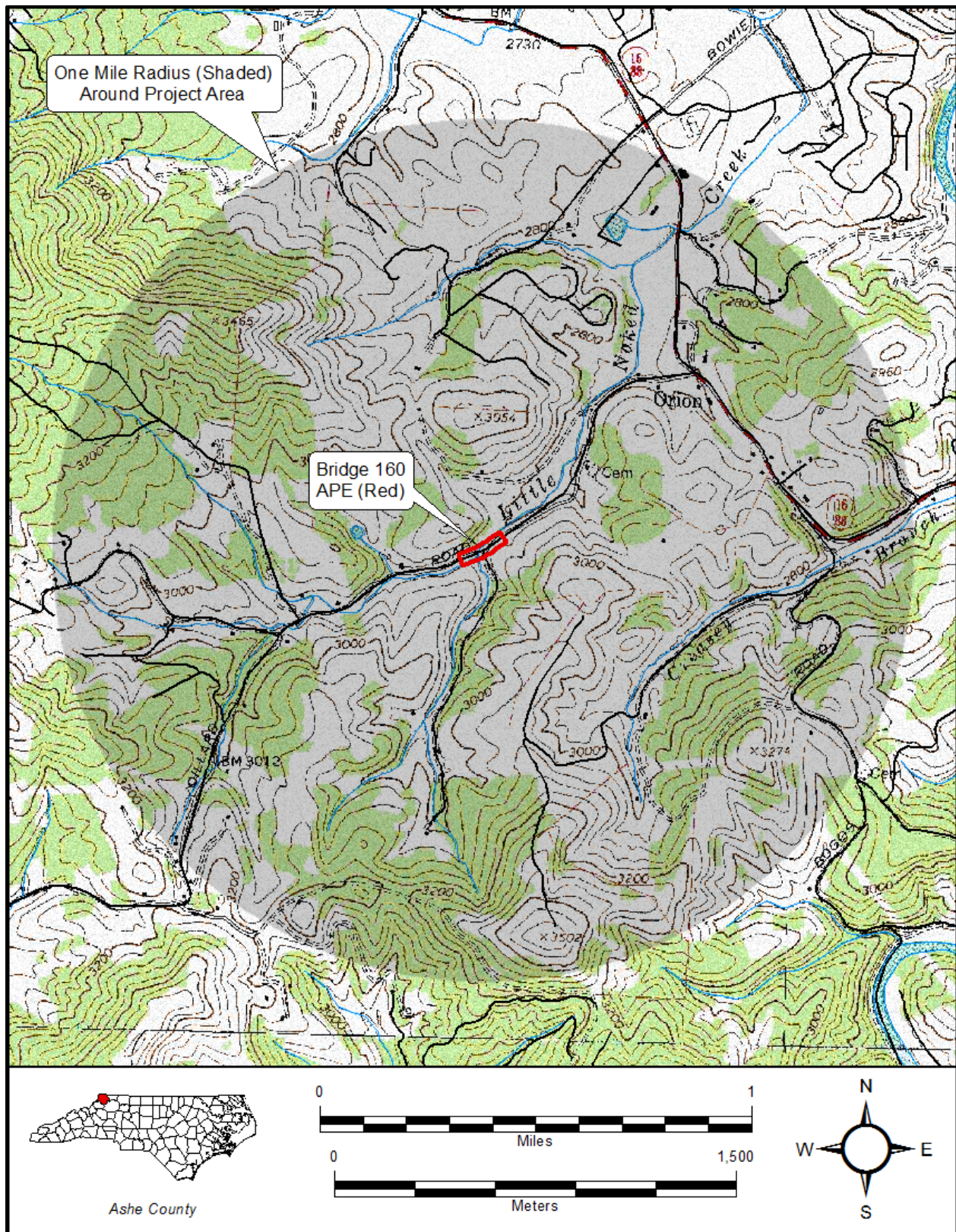


Figure 1. Topographic Setting of the Project Area, Jefferson (1968), NC USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle.

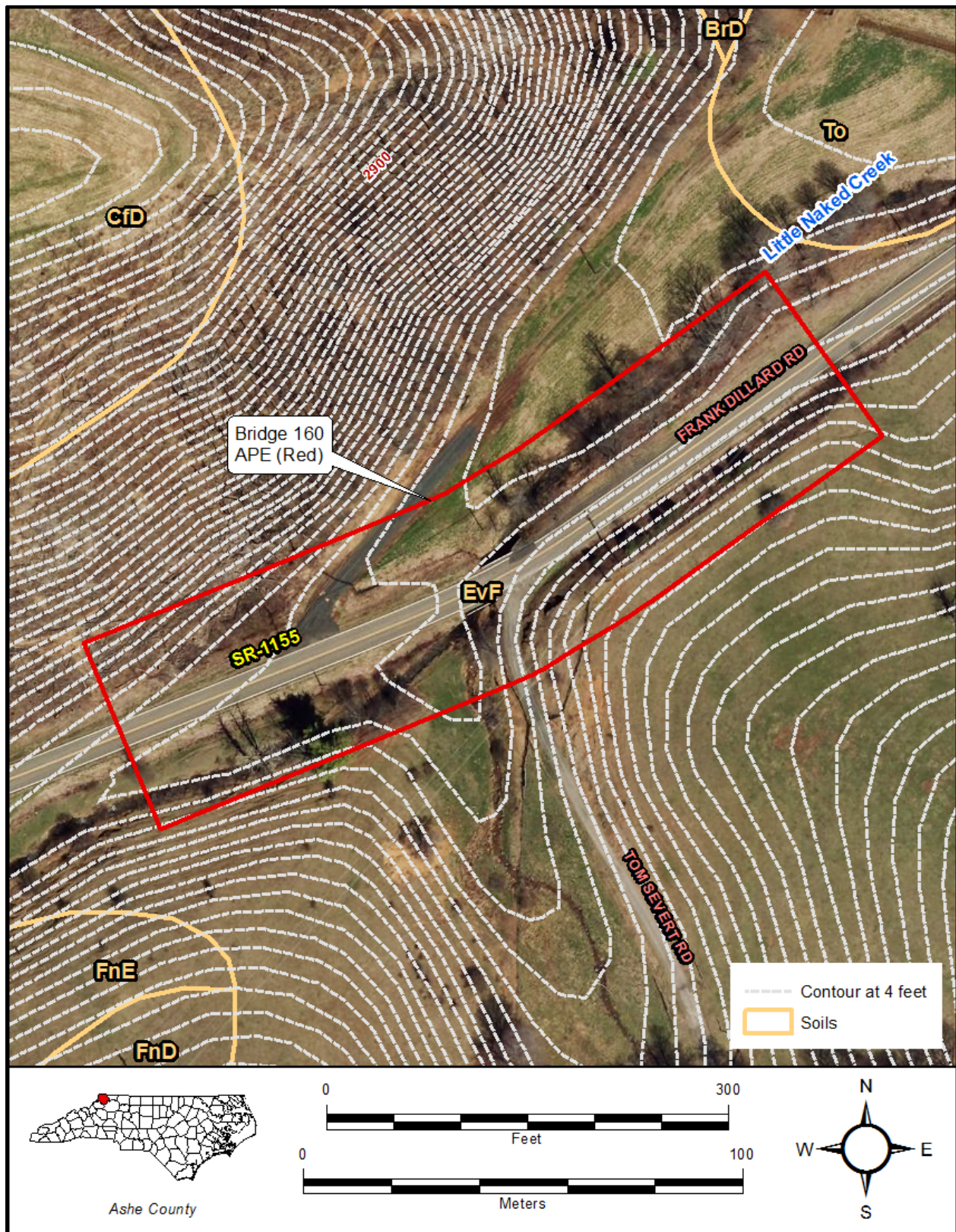


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development, contours, and soils within and near the project area.

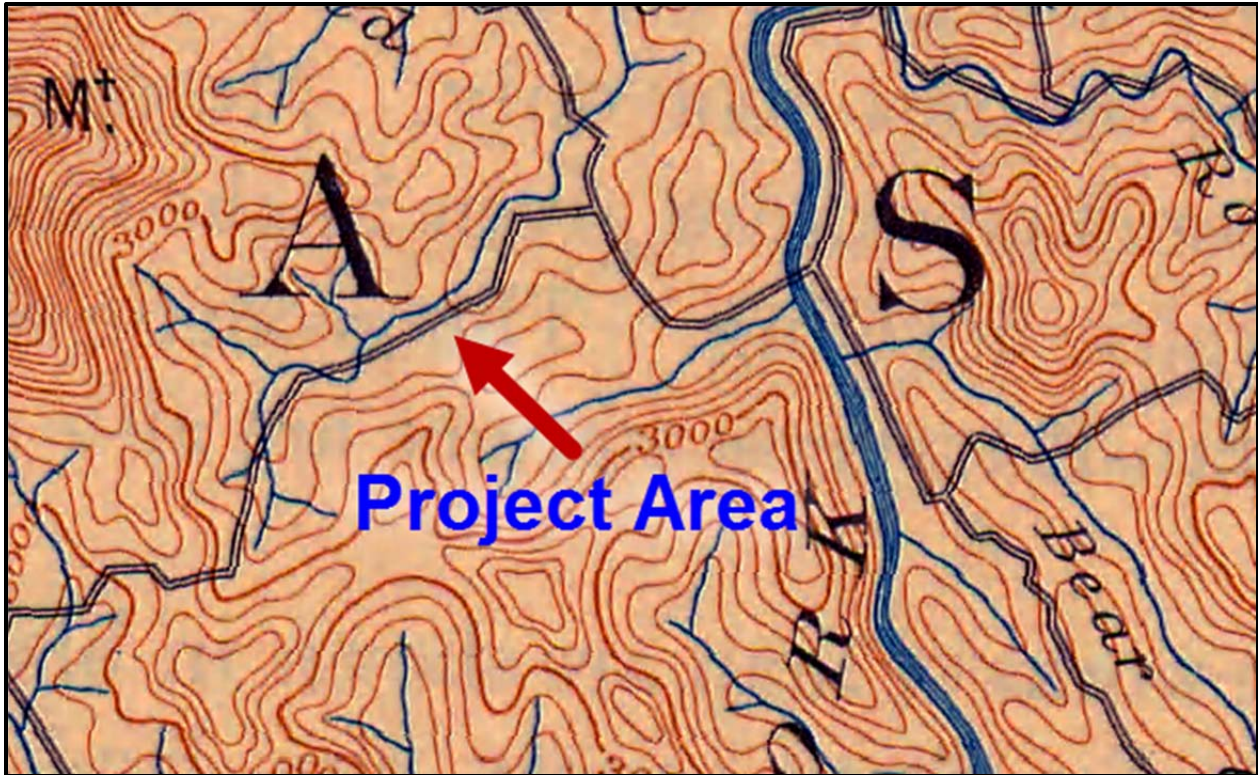


Figure 3. The 1891 USGS Wilkesboro topographic map showing the location of the project area.

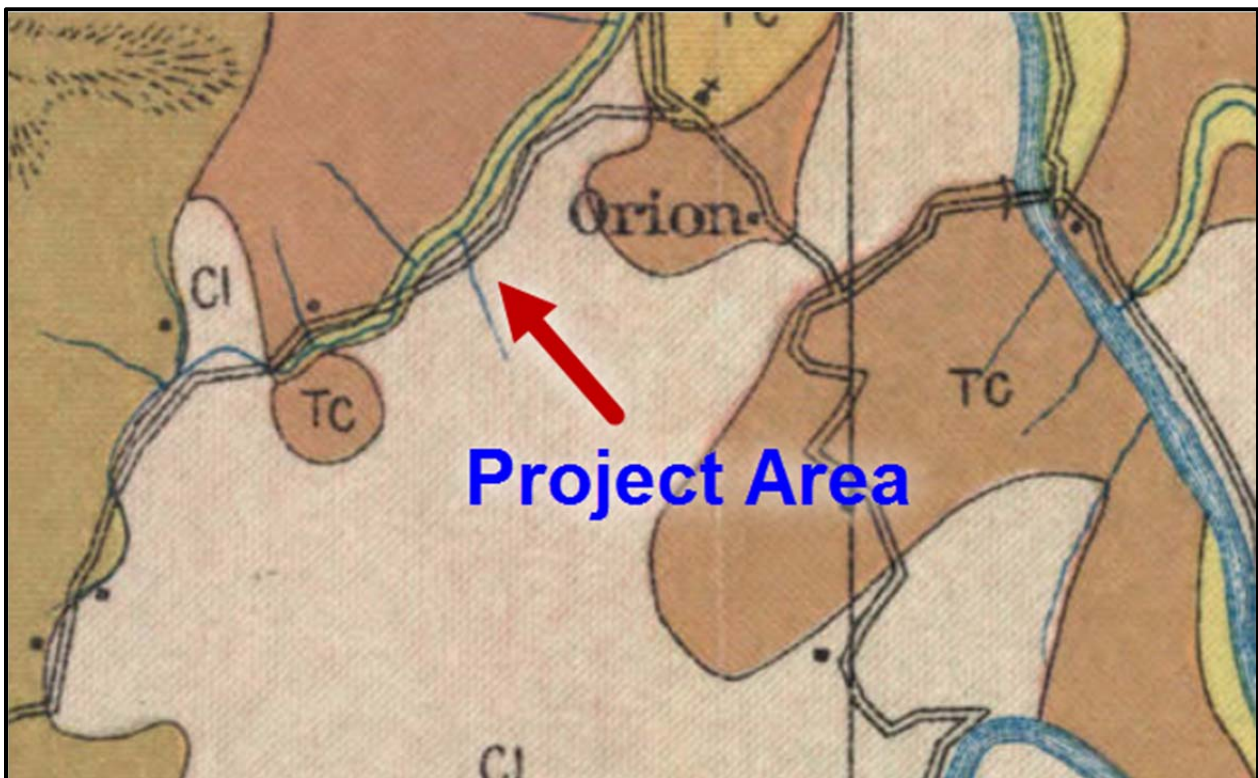


Figure 4. The 1912 Soil Survey Map for Ashe County showing the location of the project area.



Figure 5. The 1938 North Carolina State Highway Map for Ashe County showing the location of the project area.