



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: _____ County: Avery
WBS No: 17BP.11.R.127 Document: Minimum Criteria Checklist
F.A. No: _____ Funding: ☒ State ☐ Federal
Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Permit Type: NWP 3 / NWP 14

Project Description: Replace Bridge 79 on SR 1341 (Banner Creek Rd.) over the Elk River in Avery County. The Area of Potential Effects (A.P.E.) is approximately 183 meters (600 ft.) long and 18 meters (60 ft.) wide. The A.P.E. includes the area within 92 meters (300 ft.) from each end of the bridge and 23 meters (75 ft.) from centerline on each side of the road. No design plans provided.

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEW: SURVEY REQUIRED

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

The review included an examination of a topographic map, an aerial photograph, and listings of previously recorded sites, previous archaeological surveys, and previous environmental reviews at the Office of State Archaeology (O.S.A.). The bridge is oriented approximately north-south.

The topographic map (Valle Crucis, N.C.) shows the A.P.E. is located in a wide valley. The landforms in all four quadrants of the A.P.E. appear to be level floodplain/terrace. The Elk River flows approximately north-south and the bridge is oriented north-south, so the northwest and southeast quadrants are narrow strips of land between NC 184 and the river (northwest quadrant) and SR 1341 and the river (southeast quadrant). The southwest quadrant is a level floodplain between Sugar Creek to the west and the Elk River. The northeast quadrant is a level floodplain or terrace along the east side of SR 1341 (and NC 184). SR 1341 joins NC 184 a short distance north of the bridge. There are two structures along the east side of NC 184 in the A.P.E.

The aerial photograph shows that most of the northeast quadrant is disturbed by a driveway, the intersection with NC 184, and a parking lot. The north end of the A.P.E. is a residential yard. The northwest quadrant is a narrow strip of land between NC 184 and the river. The southwest quadrant is undeveloped. Most of the A.P.E. in the southeast quadrant is a narrow strip between SR 1341 and the river. SR 1341 curves to the west at the south end of the A.P.E. so the strip of land is wider.

A review of information at the O.S.A. shows there are several previously recorded sites near the A.P.E. Site 31AV17 is located a short distance west of the southwest quadrant. Site 31AV20 is located a short distance south of the southeast quadrant. These sites were recorded by Ayers (1977) during the survey of a proposed sewer line. (The report does not show the location of the surveyed area.) Site 31AV17 was interpreted as a Late Archaic (Savannah River phase)

campsite, and also the site of a 19th and 20th century road. Site 31AV20 was interpreted a prehistoric campsite. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered. Neither site was evaluated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A tract a short distance south of the A.P.E. has been surveyed. Moore (2004) surveyed the 28-acre tract for a proposed Lowe's retail store. The survey identified five archaeological sites along both sides of the Elk River, all recommended ineligible for the NRHP. The A.P.E. is not within the boundaries of any projects that have been previously reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO).

Recommend an archaeological survey of the level, well drained landforms in the A.P.E. The northwest and northeast quadrants appear to have a low potential for archaeological sites. The southwest and southeast quadrants appear to have more potential.

Ayers, Harvard G.

1977 Preliminary Archaeological Test Excavations of Four Sites Located Within the Limits of the Proposed Sewage Project of the Town of Banner Elk, North Carolina. Report submitted to Moore, Gardner and Associates, Asheboro, North Carolina. Harvard G. Ayers, Archaeological Consultant.

Moore, David G.

2004 Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Banner Elk Lowe's, Banner Elk, Avery County, North Carolina. Submitted to Fish and Wildlife Associates, Inc., Whittier, North Carolina. Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

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

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST – SURVEY REQUIRED

Caleb Smith 11/30/2016

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

Date

2/22/2017

Proposed fieldwork completion date







