

## Type I and II Ground Disturbing Categorical Exclusion Action Classification Form

STIP Project No.	<u>B-6012</u>
WBS Element	<u>48207.1.1</u>
Federal Project No.	<u>BRZ-1341 (004)</u>

- A. Project Description: (Include project scope and location, including Municipality and County. Refer to the attached project location map and photos.)

Bridge Replacement for Bridge 560073 over Foster Creek on SR 1341 (Foster Creek Road), Madison County, NC. The existing 36' 10" timber bridge on steel I-beams will be replaced with a single span cored slab bridge.

- B. Description of Need and Purpose:

The project is needed to replace a structurally deficient bridge.

- C. Categorical Exclusion Action Classification: (Check one)

TYPE I

TYPE II

- D. Proposed Improvements –

28. Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e)(1-6).

- E. Special Project Information: (Provide a description of relevant project information, which may include: vicinity map, costs, alternative analysis (if any), traffic control and staging, and resource agency/public involvement).

The new bridge will be constructed in the same location as the existing one through staged construction.

F. Project Impact Criteria Checklists:

<u>Type I &amp; II - Ground Disturbing Actions</u>			
<u>FHWA APPROVAL ACTIVITIES THRESHOLD CRITERIA</u>			
If any of questions 1-7 are marked "yes" then the CE will require FHWA approval.		Yes	No
1	Does the project require formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Does the project result in impacts subject to the conditions of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGPA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Does the project generate substantial controversy or public opposition, for any reason, following appropriate public involvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Does the project cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts relative to low-income and/or minority populations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Does the project involve a residential or commercial displacement, or a substantial amount of right of way acquisition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) approval?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Does the project include adverse effects that cannot be resolved with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or have an adverse effect on a National Historic Landmark (NHL)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If any of questions 8 through 31 are marked "yes" then additional information will be required for those questions in Section G.			
<u>Other Considerations</u>		Yes	No
8	Does the project result in a finding of "may affect not likely to adversely affect" for listed species, or designated critical habitat under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Does the project impact anadromous fish?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Does the project impact waters classified as Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), High Quality Water (HQW), Water Supply Watershed Critical Areas, 303(d) listed impaired water bodies, buffer rules, or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Does the project impact waters of the United States in any of the designated mountain trout streams?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Does the project require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Section 404 Permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Will the project require an easement from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Does the project include a Section 106 of the NHPA effects determination other than a no effect, including archaeological remains?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<u>Other Considerations (continued)</u>		Yes	No
15	Does the project involve hazardous materials and landfills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Does the project require work encroaching and adversely affecting a regulatory floodway or work affecting the base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a water course or lake, pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 23 CFR 650 subpart A?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Is the project in a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) county and substantially affects the coastal zone and/or any Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Does the project require a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Does the project involve construction activities in, across, or adjacent to a designated Wild and Scenic River present within the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20	Does the project involve Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Does the project impact federal lands (e.g. U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, etc.) or Tribal Lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	Does the project involve any changes in access control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Does the project have a permanent adverse effect on local traffic patterns or community cohesiveness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Will maintenance of traffic cause substantial disruption?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25	Is the project inconsistent with the STIP or the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (where applicable)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26	Does the project require the acquisition of lands under the protection of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act, the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), or other unique areas or special lands that were acquired in fee or easement with public-use money and have deed restrictions or covenants on the property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Does the project involve Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyout properties under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Does the project include a <i>de minimis</i> or programmatic Section 4(f)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Is the project considered a Type I under the NCDOT's Noise Policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Is there prime or important farmland soil impacted by this project as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31	Are there other issues that arose during the project development process that affected the project decision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

G. Additional Documentation as Required from Section F

8. The Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) is listed as a threatened species on the current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of protected species in Madison County. However, the project study area is not located within a county or watershed known to contain NLEB hibernation or maternity roost sites. Therefore, the project has met the criteria required for the USFWS 4(d) Rule, and any associated take is exempt. Due to the exemption under the 4(d)

ruling, it has been determined that the proposed project “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect” the NLEB.

The Gray bat is listed as endangered on the USFWS list of proposed species for Madison County. The bridge was surveyed for signs of bat presence/usage and no evidence of either was found. Due to the stream size, structure type (steel beams), no evidenced of bat usage, and distance from the French Broad River, the project will have “No Effect” on the gray bat.

10. Foster Creek is classified as Class C, Trout, ORW by NC DEQ. Since the project is bridge to bridge, stream impacts will be limited to bank stabilization, if necessary.

11. Foster Creek is within a Corps Designated Trout Watershed and is classified as Class C, Trout, ORW by NC DEQ. Since the project is bridge to bridge, stream impacts will be limited to bank stabilization, if necessary.

H. Project Commitments

**Madison County  
Bridge 560302  
Federal Project No. BRZ-1341(004)  
WBS No. 48207.1.1  
TIP No. B-6012**

The project will not impact any properties or archaeological sites listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. NCDOT will complete Section 106 Tribal consultation following completion of the design.

All activities will follow NCDOT best management practices for erosion control.

Categorical Exclusion Approval

STIP Project No. B-6012  
WBS Element 48207.1.1  
Federal Project No. BRZ-1341 (004)

**Prepared By:**

3/19/2019

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Roger D. Bryan*

Roger D. Bryan  
Division Environmental Officer

**Prepared For:**

Division 13  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

**Reviewed By:**

3/20/2019

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Christopher D. Medlin*

Christopher D. Medlin, P.E.  
Division Bridge Program Manager



**Approved**

If all of the threshold questions (1 through 7) of Section F are answered "no," NCDOT approves this Categorical Exclusion.



**Certified**

If any of the threshold questions (1 through 7) of Section F are answered "yes," NCDOT certifies this Categorical Exclusion.

3/20/2019

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Steve Cannon*

Steve Cannon, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

FHWA Approved: For Projects Certified by NCDOT (above), FHWA signature required.

Date

John F. Sullivan, III, PE, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

18-12-0017



## HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT OR AFFECTED FORM

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

### PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project No:</b>	B-6012	<b>County:</b>	Madison
<b>WBS No.:</b>	48207.1.1	<b>Document Type:</b>	CE
<b>Fed. Aid No:</b>	BRZ-1341(004)	<b>Funding:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal
<b>Federal Permit(s):</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Permit Type(s):</b>	USACE
<b><u>Project Description:</u></b> Replace Bridge No. 73 on SR 1341 (Foster Creek Road) over Foster Creek.			

### SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES REVIEW

- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the area of potential effects, but they do not meet the criteria for listing on the National Register.
- There are no historic properties present or affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed.)

**Date of field visit:** February 5, 2019

#### **Description of review activities, results, and conclusions:**

Review of HPO quad maps, HPO GIS information, historic designations roster, and indexes was undertaken on December 12, 2018. Based on this review, there are no existing NR, SL, LD, DE, or SS properties in the Area of Potential Effects, which is defined as on the following maps. A survey was required as there appears to be undocumented properties over fifty years of age and performed February 5, 2019. Based on this field visit, there are no properties over fifty years of age that warrant further evaluation, and there are no National Register listed or eligible properties. Bridge No. 73 is not eligible for NR listing. If design plans change, additional review will be required.

**SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION**

Map(s)     Previous Survey Info.     Photos     Correspondence     Design Plans

**FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

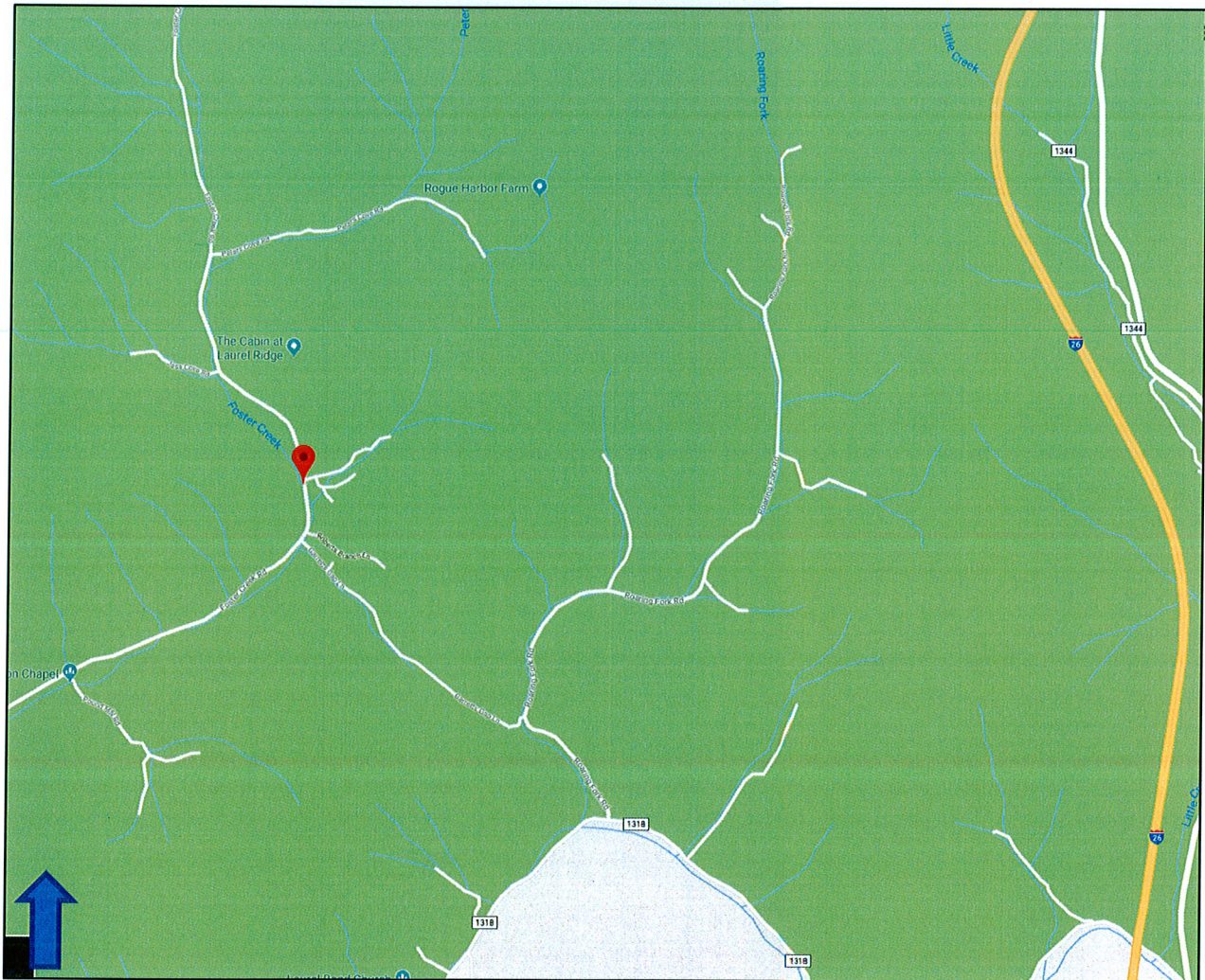
Historic Architecture and Landscapes – **NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT OR AFFECTED**

*Kate Hubbard*

*2/8/2019*

NCDOT Architectural Historian

Date



**Project Location.**





**State Historic Preservation Office GIS.**



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

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**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project No: **B-6012** County: **Madison**  
 WBS No: 48207.1.1 Document: **CE**  
 F.A. No: **BRZ-1341(004)** Funding:  State  Federal  
 Federal Permit Required?  Yes  No Permit Type: **USACE**

***Project Description:***

*The project calls for the replacement of Bridge No. 73 on SR 1341 (Foster Creek Road) over Foster Creek in Madison County (TIP B-6012). The archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project is defined as an approximately 600-foot (182.88 m) long corridor running 300 feet (91.44 m) north and south from the center of the bridge. The corridor is approximately 100 feet (30.48 m) wide extending 50 feet (15.24 m) from either side of the centerline.*

**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 or eligible ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES present within the project's area of potential effects. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)
- No subsurface archaeological investigations were 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.

## SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

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

NC DOT has conducted an archaeological investigation for the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 73 in Madison County, North Carolina. The project area is located north of Mars Hill in the northeastern portion of the county and plotted in the western half of the Sams Gap USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

### **Background Research**

A site files search was conducted by Casey Kirby at the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) on December 12, 2018. No known archaeological sites are identified within the APE, and no previous investigations or reviews have been carried out within the project area. In addition, no known sites are reported within a mile of the bridge. This is due to a lack of archaeological investigations in the region.

According to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office online data base (HPOWEB 2018), there are no known historic architectural resources within the APE that may yield intact archaeological deposits.

County and regional maps prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century that were inspected provide only general details concerning the region illustrating just major roads and settlements. The 1901 USGS Asheville topographic map is one of the first to provide a reliable location for the project (Figure 2). This map depicts a road similar to Foster Creek Road, but its crossing over the creek is undeterminable. The later 1936 *Soil Map for Madison County* provides a clearer picture (Hearn et al. 1936) (Figure 3). It shows a crossing at or near the current bridge location. Both maps also plot two structures to the east near the APE along Proffitt Lane and suggest that an unnamed tributary that follows this road was shifted to the south to avoid the current farm complex during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The two structures are possible still standing at the farm but are outside of the archaeological project limits. Any historic resources within the project limits will likely be 20<sup>th</sup> century in nature and will not provide any new or important information towards the regional history.

The USDA soil survey map for Madison County depicts the Dellwood-Reddies complex (DeA) covering the entire APE, but it is likely that the neighboring Ashe-Cleveland-Rock outcrop complex (ArF) makes up the western hillside (USDA NRCS 2018) (Figure 4). The Dellwood-Reddies complex is a floodplain soil type that is moderately well drained, subject to occasional flooding, and fairly level with 3 percent slope or less. Since it is level and subject to flooding, it is not expected to be found on adjacent hillside. In general, the characteristics of the Dellwood-Reddies complex are well suited for early settlement activities and an archaeological survey was required. However, the field investigation showed otherwise. The Ashe-Cleveland-Rock outcrop complex is somewhat excessively drained with a slope of 50 to 95 percent. The series typically has a low probability for significant archaeological resources due to a slope of 15 percent or more and required no subsurface testing. However, the slope was visually inspected for rock outcrops that could have provided shelter for precontact occupations.

### **Fieldwork Results**

The archaeological field investigation the replacement of Bridge No. 73 was carried out on February 6, 2019. This included a surface inspection of the entire project area. No subsurface testing was conducted due to either standing water, disturbance, or steep slope. No evidence of cultural resources was observed during the surface inspection.

Bridge No. 73 and Foster Creek Road are situated north to south at the edge of the floodplain with steep hillside to the west (see Figure 4). Foster Creek runs parallel with the road occupying most of the

northwest and southeast quadrants. This waterway appears to have been channelized to improve drainage and decrease flooding. The creek drains south into Big Laurel Creek, which is part of the French Broad drainage basin. An unnamed tributary is also located to the northeast with its confluence immediately east of the bridge. The project location is rural with tree cover along the slope and open pasture and farmland in the floodplain.

That section of the northeast quadrant north of Proffitt Lane consists of a very wet floodplain (Figure 5). Standing water was still present at the time of the investigation. Shovel probs showed water logged soils throughout this section of the APE. Wetland vegetation also suggested that the soil had been saturated for a considerable time. The northwest quadrant is a very narrow strip of floodplain between the road and creek (Figure 6). Large rocks have been placed along the banks of the creek and road. These rocks appear to have been pushed to either side of a gully that was dug between the road and creek and/or removed from the creek during channelization. The southeast quadrant and that portion of the northeast quadrant south of Proffitt Lane consists mostly of the unnamed tributary and Foster Creek (Figure 7). The unnamed tributary has been altered as it makes a 90 degree turn from Proffitt Lane onto Foster Creek Road. It currently acts as a drainage ditch for both roads. The narrow landform between Foster Creek and the road in this quadrant slopes sharply into the creek and contains fill from the road cut. Finally, the southwest quadrant is a steep hillside (Figure 8). No rock outcrops that could have provided shelter were seen. As a result of these observations, it was determined that shovel testing would not provide positive results and therefore not necessary.

### Summary and Recommendations

The archeological investigations for the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 73 in Madison County identified no archaeological resources within the APE. The project area consists entirely of disturbance, steep slope, or wet soils. Intact and significant archaeological deposits are not likely due to the unfavorable conditions. No further archaeological work is recommended for this bridge replacement project. However, if design plans change to impact areas outside of the APE, then further archaeological work will be required.

Please note, this project falls within a North Carolina County in which the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Cherokee Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians have expressed an interest. It is recommended that you contact each federal agency involved with this project to determine their Section 106 Tribal consultation requirements.

### SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

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



**C. Damon Jones**  
NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

3/7/19

**Date**

**REFERENCES CITED**

- Hearn, Edward, Eugene Goldston, William Davis, C. Croom, and Samuel Davidson  
1920 *Soil Map for Madison County, North Carolina*. U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. On file at North Carolina Collections,  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- HPOWEB  
2018 North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office GIS Web Service.  
<http://gisNCDCR.gov/hpweb/>. Accessed December 18, 2018.
- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services (USDA NRCS)  
2018 Madison County Soil Survey. Available online at  
<http://webosilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. Accessed December 18, 2018.
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)  
1901 Asheville, North Carolina-Tennessee 30 minute quadrangle map. Reprinted in 1907.  
2013 Sams Gap, North Carolina 7.5 minute quadrangle map.

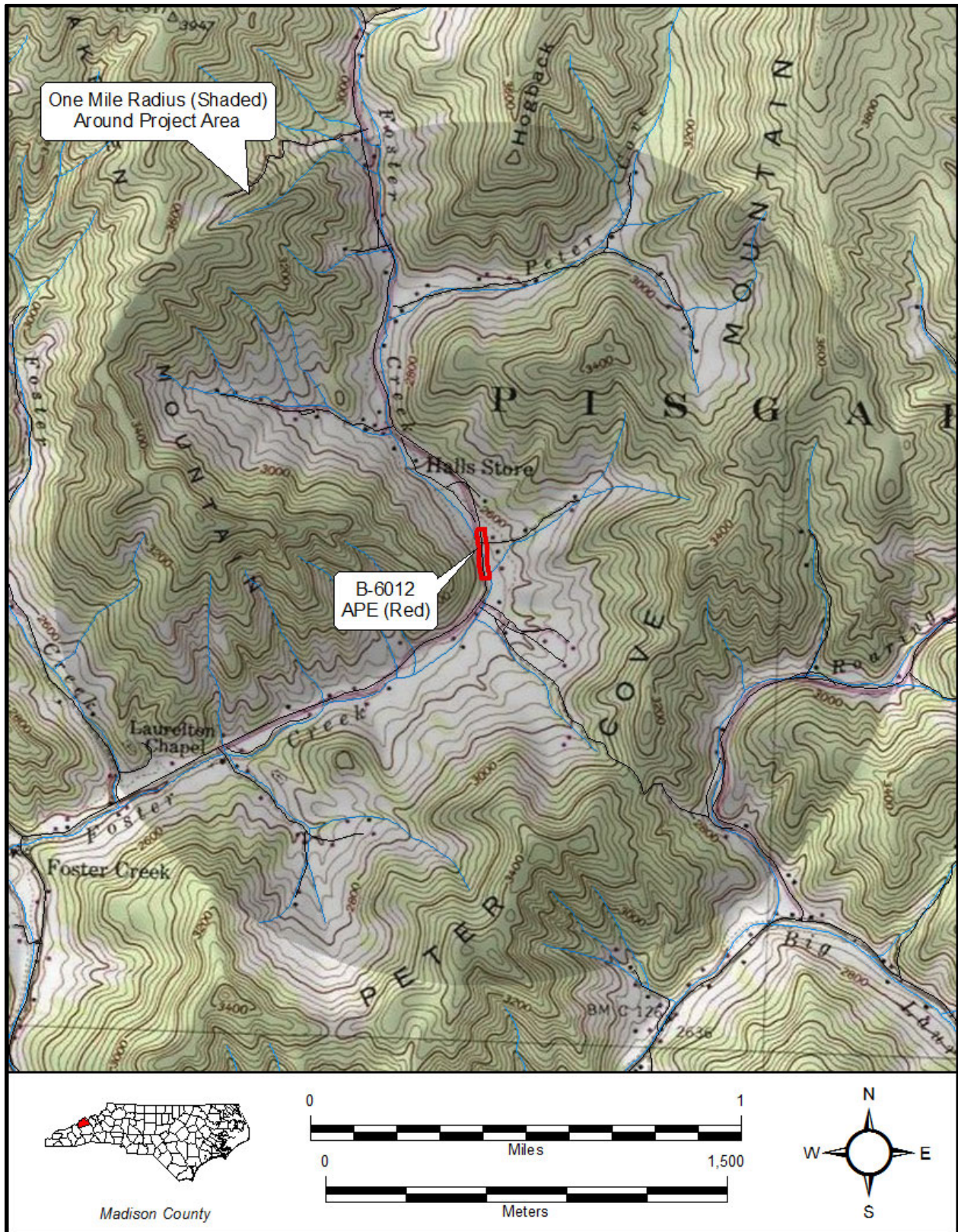


Figure 1. Topographic Setting of the Project Area, Sams Gap (2013), NC, USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle.

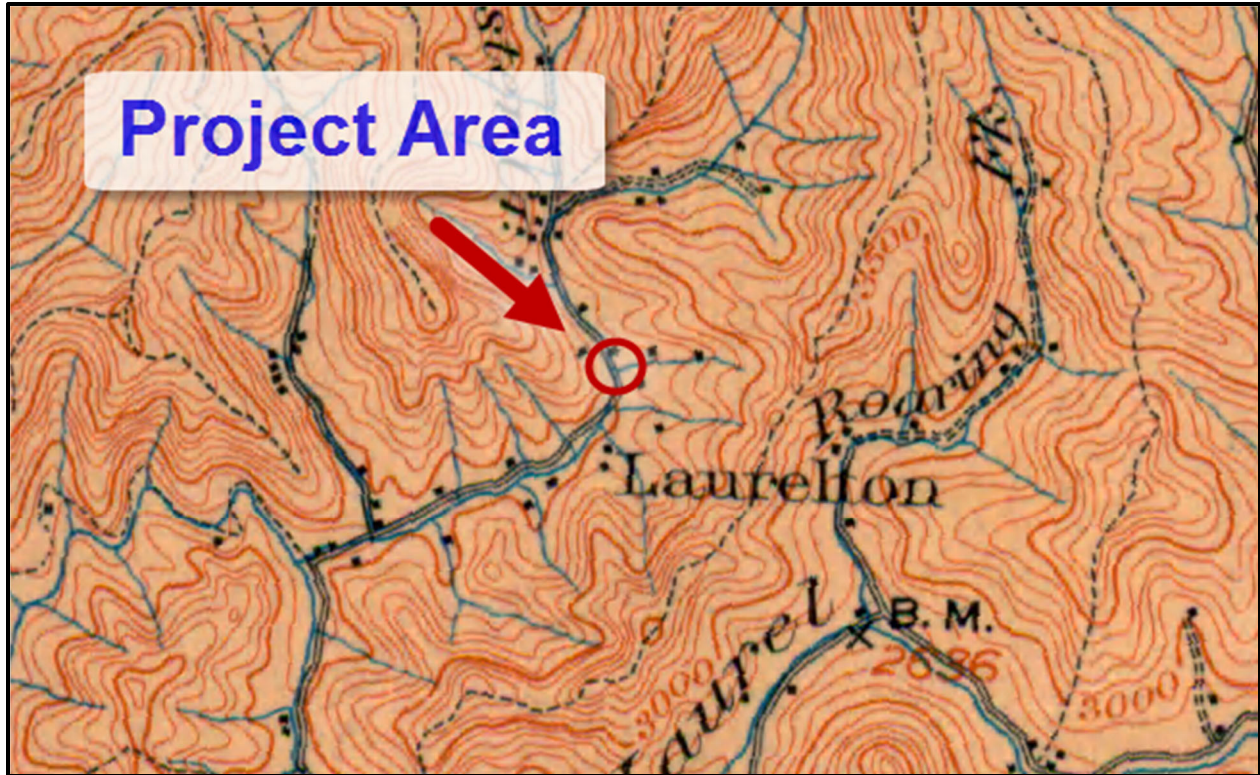


Figure 2. The 1901 Asheville USGS topographic map showing the location of the project area.

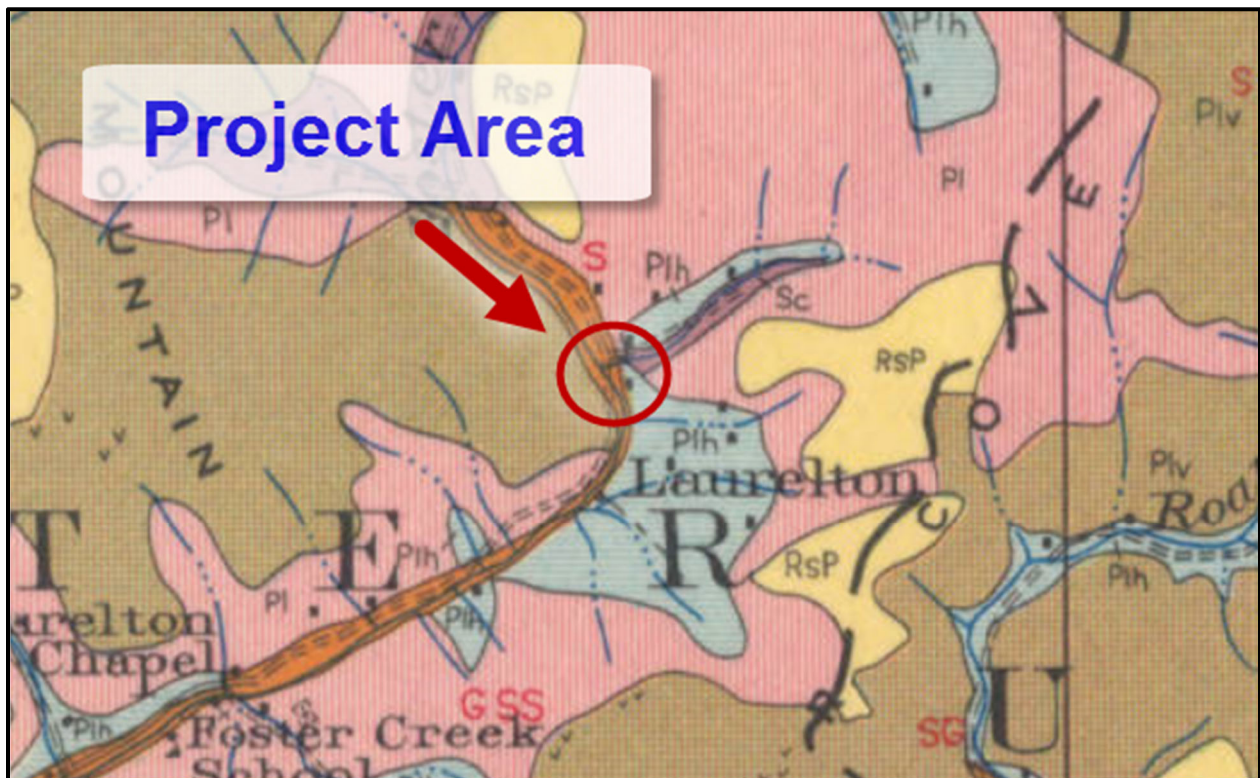


Figure 3. The 1936 Soil Map for Madison County showing the location of the project area.

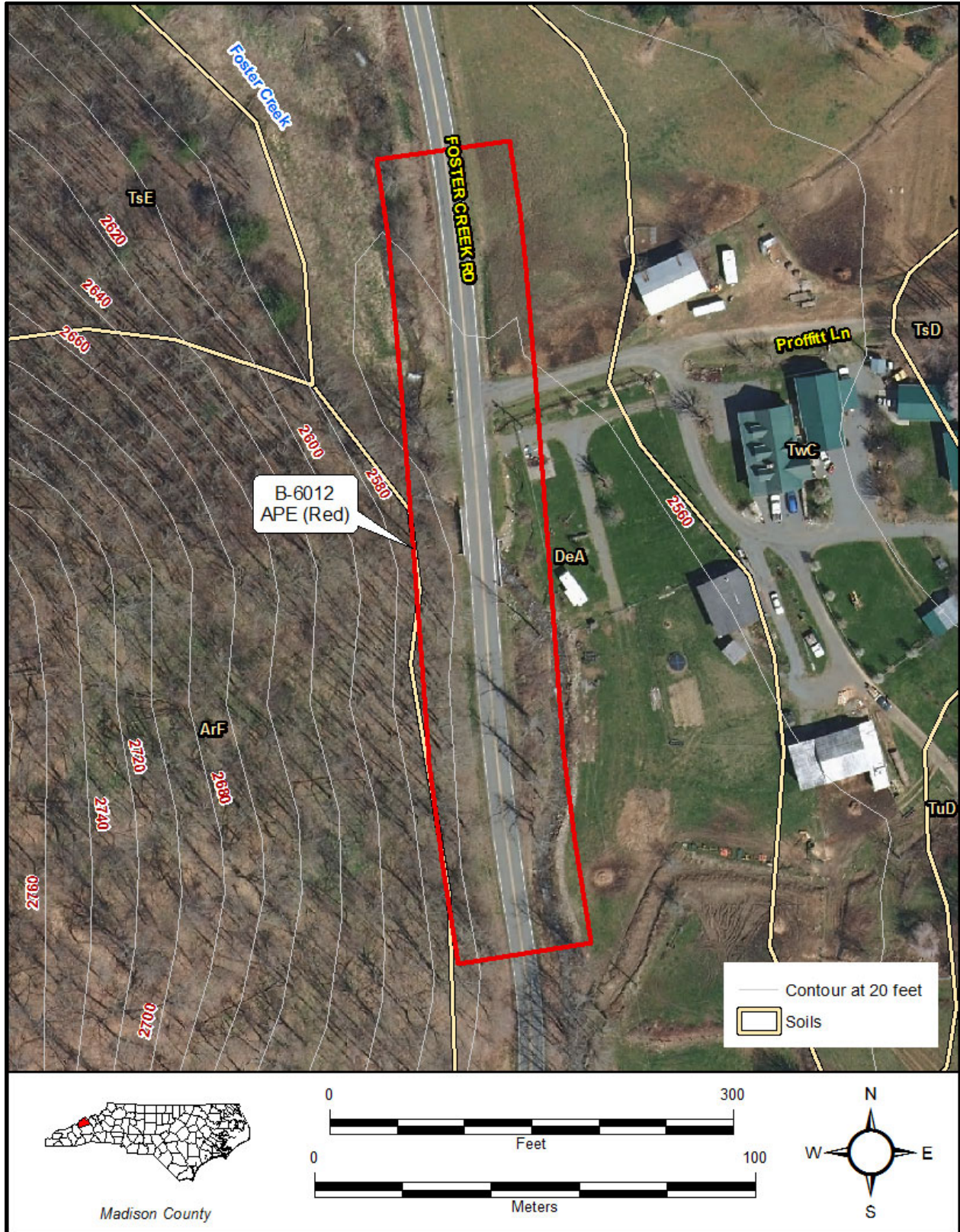


Figure 4. Aerial View of the project area showing soils, contours, development, and ST placement.





Figure 5. View of the floodplain in the northeast quadrant north of Proffitt Lane, looking south.



Figure 6. View of the floodplain in the northwest quadrant showing the gully between the road and creek, looking south.



Figure 7. View of the southeast quadrant showing Foster Creek adjacent to the road, looking north.



Figure 8. View of the southwest quadrant showing steep slope, looking north.