

MINIMUM CRITERIA DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

The following questions provide direction in determining when the Department is required to prepare environmental documents for state-funded construction and maintenance activities. Answer questions for Parts A through C by checking either “Yes” or “No”. Complete Part D of the checklist when Minimum Criteria Rule categories #8, 12(i) or #15 are used.

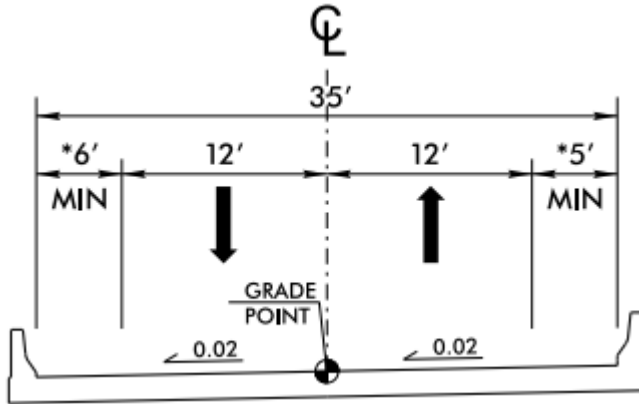
TIP Project No.: **BR-0002**

State Project No.: **67002.1.1**

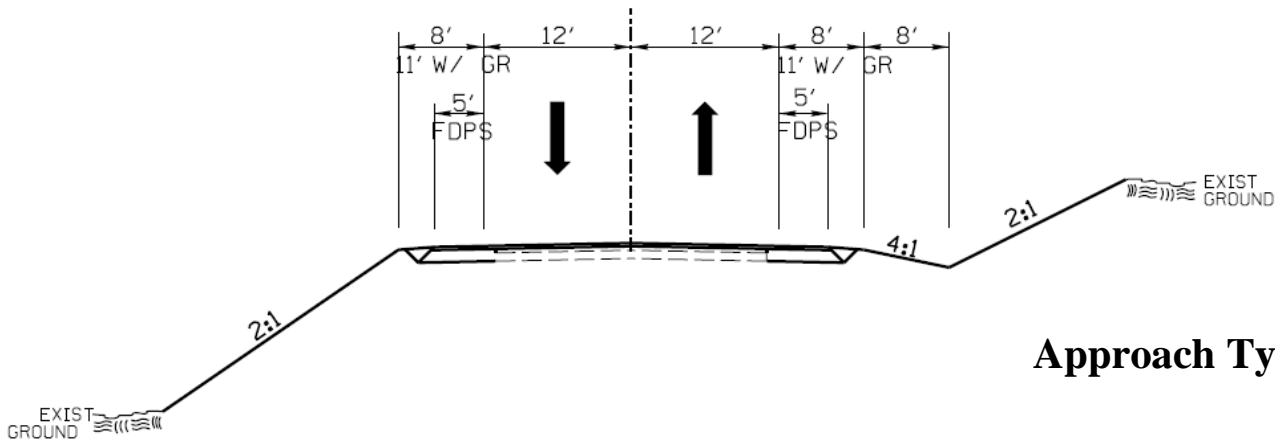
Project Location: **Ashe County, North Carolina (see attached vicinity map)**

Project Description: Replace Ashe County Bridge No. 8 on NC 194 over the North Fork New River. The new bridge will utilize stage construction. A portion of the new bridge will be built on the eastern side of the existing bridge. Traffic will be shifted into a one-lane two-way pattern on the new portion of the bridge. The old bridge will be removed, and the remainder of the new bridge will be completed. Traffic will then be restored into a two-lane two-way pattern. The typical sections for the bridge and approaches are as follows:

*5’ minimum allows for future bike lanes



Bridge Typical



Approach Typical

Anticipated Permit or Consultation Requirements: Nationwide Permit

Special Project Information:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Concerns

NC 194 is indicated in the Ashe County Comprehensive Transportation Plan for bicycle accommodations.

Public Involvement

A Land Owner Notification Letter was sent to all property holders within the study area at the beginning of planning. No comment was received and no additional public involvement is anticipated prior to right of way acquisition.

Tribal Coordination

NCDOT has coordinated with Cherokee Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Catawba Indian Nation, and Muscogee Creek Nation. Input was received back from Cherokee Nation and Catawba Indian Nation. Neither had concerns about the project but both reserved the right to reengage if new information comes available.

PART A: MINIMUM CRITERIA

Item 1 to be completed by the Engineer.

- 1. Is the proposed project listed as a type and class of activity allowed under the Minimum Criteria Rule in which environmental documentation is not required?

YES

NO

If the answer to number 1 is “no”, then the project does not qualify as a minimum criteria project. A state environmental assessment is required.

If yes, under which category?

(26) Implementation of any project which qualifies as a "categorical exclusion" under the National Environmental Policy Act by one of the Agencies of the U.S. Department of Transportation

If either category #8, #12(i) or #15 is used complete Part D of this checklist.

Although Item 26 doesn't meet one of these categories, it is appropriate to answer the questions in Part D because of the nature of the project.

PART B: MINIMUM CRITERIA EXCEPTIONS

Items 2 – 4 to be completed by the Engineer.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. Could the proposed activity cause significant changes in land use concentrations that would be expected to create adverse air quality impacts? <i>The proposed project will only replace the function of the existing bridge.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Will the proposed activity have secondary impacts or cumulative impacts that may result in a significant adverse impact to human health or the environment? <i>The proposed project will only replace the function of the existing bridge.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is the proposed activity of such an unusual nature or does the proposed activity have such widespread implications, that an uncommon concern for its environmental effects has been expressed to the Department? <i>No concerns have been expressed.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Item 5-8 to be completed by Division Environmental Officer.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. Does the proposed activity have a significant adverse effect on wetlands; surface waters such as rivers, streams, and estuaries; parklands; prime or unique agricultural lands; or areas of recognized scenic, recreational, archaeological, or historical value? <i>No. Source: NRTR, Indirect Screening Tool (available on SharePoint) Section 106 Coordination (see attached forms).</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Will the proposed activity endanger the existence of a species on the Department of Interior's threatened and endangered species list? <i>Source: See NRTR and explanation in Question 9 below</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Could the proposed activity cause significant changes in land use concentrations that would be expected to create adverse water quality or ground water impacts? <i>The proposed project will only replace the function of the existing bridge.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Is the proposed activity expected to have a significant adverse effect on long-term recreational benefits or shellfish, finfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats. <i>The impacts of the project will be very limited both during and after construction.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

If any questions 2 through 8 are answered “yes”, the proposed project may not qualify as a Minimum Criteria project. A state environmental assessment (EA) may be required.

PART C: COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Items 9- 12 to be completed by Division Environmental Officer.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9. Is a federally protected threatened or endangered species, or its habitat, likely to be impacted by the proposed action?
<i>Surveys for the Northern Long eared bat and gray bat were conducted on June 14, 2018 at the project site. Habitat was present but no evidence of presence was observed. Final design, tree clearing and percussive activities information will be provided in the permit application.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Does the action require the placement of temporary or permanent fill in waters of the United States?
<i>A temporary causeway will likely be necessary for construction of the new bridge and demolition of the old structure.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Does the project require the placement of a significant amount of fill in high quality or relatively rare wetland ecosystems, such as mountain bogs or pine savannahs?
<i>See limited impacts of design footprint in Figure 2</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Is the proposed action located in an Area of Environmental Concern, as defined in the coastal Area Management Act?
<i>Source: Not in the 20 CAMA counties</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

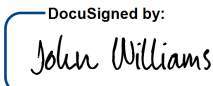
Items 13 – 15 to be completed by the Engineer.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13. Does the project require stream relocation or channel changes? <i>See design footprint on SharePoint and in Figure 2 attached.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Cultural Resources</u> | | |
| 14. Will the project have an “effect” on a property or site listed on the National Register of Historic Places? <i>Section 106 Coordination (see attached forms)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Will the proposed action require acquisition of additional right of way from publicly owned parkland or recreational areas? <i>There are no publicly owned parcels in the footprint of the project. See final survey file in SharePoint.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

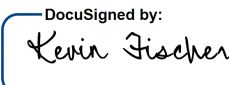
Questions in Part “C” are designed to assist the Engineer and the Division Environmental Officer in determining whether a permit or consultation with a state or federal resource agency may be required. If any questions in Part “C” are answered “yes”, follow the appropriate permitting procedures prior to beginning project construction.

PART D:(To be completed when either category #8, 12(i) or #15 of the rules are used.)

- 16. Project length: 1745 feet
- 17. Right of Way width: varies
- 18. Project completion date: 2021
- 19. Total acres of newly disturbed ground surface: 5.13 acres
- 20. Total acres of wetland impacts: 0
- 21. Total linear feet of stream impacts: 80 feet
- 22. Project purpose: Replace deficient bridge

Prepared by:


44EF0281C0DE4EC...
Date: 3/5/2020
 RK&K Project Manager

Approved by:


ED19A18D98EC496...
Date: 3/11/2020
 Kevin Fischer, PE
 Asst. State Structures Engineer PEF
 Coordination,
 Program Manager and Field Operations
 Structure Management Unit
 North Carolina Department of Transportation

PROJECT COMMITMENTS:

T.I.P. No. BR-0002

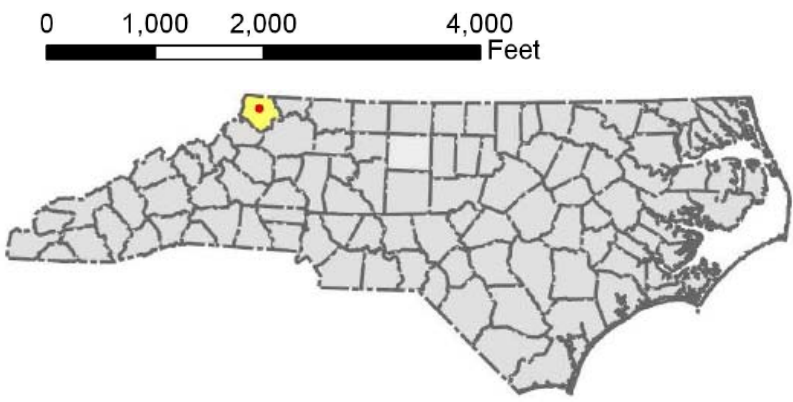
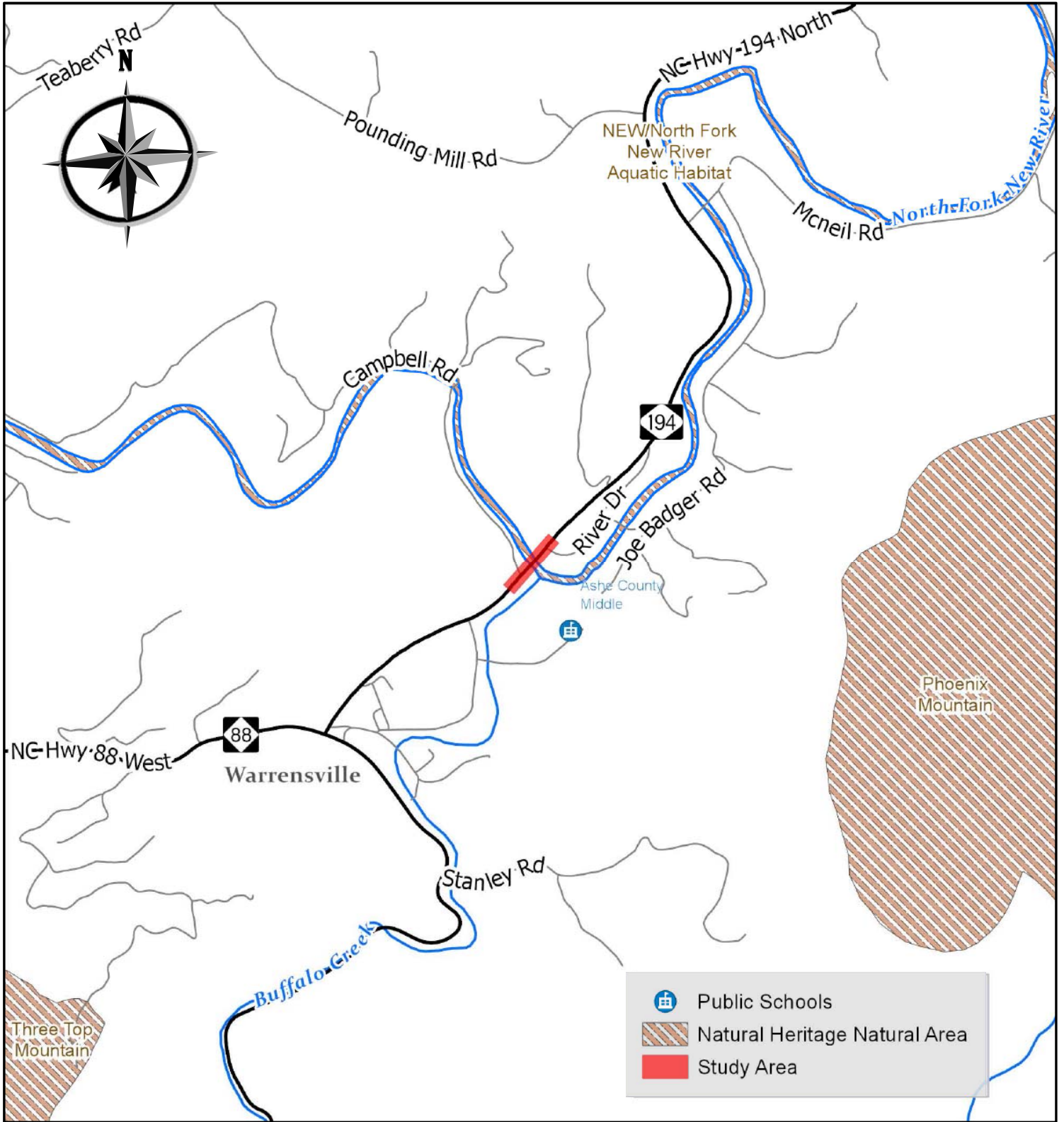
Replace Ashe County Bridge No. 8
On NC 194 over North Fork New River
WBS# 67002.1.1


Bicycle Accommodations – Structure Design and Roadway Design Units

The design of the project will accommodate bicycles regarding paved shoulders and the approaches and regarding offset and bicycle safe rail on the bridge.

***Design Stds. in Sensitive Watersheds – Division 11, Roadside Environmental Unit,
Environmental Analysis Unit***

Due to the presence of waters classified HQW, ORW, and Tr, Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds shall apply.



	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION 11
	BR-0002 Replace Ashe Co. Bridge No. 8 On NC 194 over North Fork New River
Project Location Map Figure 1	



194

CAMPBELL RD

NW SCHOOL RD

RIVER DRIVE

South Fork New River

Ashe County Middle School

LEGEND

Study Area	
Right of Way	
Easement	
Edge of Pavement	
Slope Stakes	
Retaining Wall	
Streams	



	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION 11
	BR-0002 Replace Bridge No. 8 On NC 194 over North Fork New River Ashe County
Design and Notable Features	Figure 2

17-12-0011



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

Project No:	BR-0002	County:	Ashe
WBS No.:	67002.1.1	Document Type:	MCC
Fed. Aid No:	N/A	Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal
Federal Permit(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Permit Type(s):	USACE
Project Description: Replace Bridge No. 08 over North Fork New River on NC 194.			

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:

Description of review activities, results, and conclusions:

Review of HPO quad maps, HPO GIS information, historic designations roster, and indexes was undertaken on December 18, 2017. It was determined that no survey is required. The project area was **UPDATED 1/2019** with an expanded study area. **Due to photographs provided by archaeological unit and updated study area, the Survey Site AH0372 (House) will require a survey.** An historic architecture survey was required and performed April 2019. The Thompson-Barr House (AH0372) was determined Not Eligible for National Register listing from this evaluation, and the State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this finding on June 10, 2019. There are no National Register listed or eligible properties. If design plans change, additional review will be required.



**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.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No: BR-0002 *County:* Ashe
WBS No: 67002 *Document:* State Minimum Criteria Checklist
F.A. No: *Funding:* State Federal
Federal Permit Required? Yes No *Permit Type:* USACE

Project Description:

Replace Bridge 8 on NC 194 over the North Fork New River in Ashe County. The Area of Potential Effects (A.P.E.) is approximately 700 meters (2,272 ft.) long and 91 meters (300 ft.) wide. The A.P.E. includes the area within 350 meters (1,148 ft.) from each end of the bridge and 46 meters (150 ft.) from centerline on each side of the road. No design plans provided.

NOTE: An Archaeological Survey Required form for this project was submitted on 1/16/2018. The recommendation was changed to no survey required based on a visual inspection of the project, and a No Archaeological Survey Required form was submitted on 3/12/2018. The A.P.E. for this project was expanded in November 2018 from 235 meters (771 ft.) long and 46 meters (150 ft.) wide to 700 meters (2,272 ft.) long and 91 meters (300 ft.) wide. The recommendation has been changed back to archaeological survey required based on the larger A.P.E. An Archaeological Survey Required form was submitted on 1/3/2019.

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. (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.

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

The initial review included an examination of a topographic map, the Ashe County web soil survey, 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 northeast to southwest, but is considered north-south for this review. An archaeological survey of the A.P.E. was recommended on 1/16/2018. An archaeological reconnaissance of the original (smaller) A.P.E. was conducted by NCDOT archaeologist Caleb Smith on 3/9/2018. The reconnaissance showed that the landforms within the A.P.E. had a low potential for archaeological sites. A No Archaeological Survey Required form was submitted on 3/12/2018.

The A.P.E. was expanded in November 2018. The expanded A.P.E. included a larger section of the level floodplain in the northeast quadrant, and the recommendation was changed to archaeological survey required. The Archaeological Survey Required form submitted on 1/3/2019 recommended survey of the floodplain in the northeast quadrant, only.

The landform in the northeast quadrant is a narrow floodplain from the river north for approximately 30 meters (100 ft.), then a slope up to the intersection of NC 194 and SR 1504 (River Rd.), and then a gently-sloped ridge. The floodplain is currently a grass field and/or maintained residential yard. The landuse on the ridge is maintained residential yards, also. In general, maintained residential yards have a low to moderate potential for intact archaeological sites. The original A.P.E. for the project included only a narrow strip (within 15 meters [50 ft.] of the bridge) of the floodplain. The expanded A.P.E. included a wider strip of the floodplain, so it was decided to excavate shovel tests in that area.

The archaeological survey of the A.P.E. was conducted by NCDOT archaeologists Shane Petersen and Caleb Smith on 2/18/2019. The survey consisted of the excavation of three shovel tests (STs) in the northeast quadrant. None contained any artifacts. The landform is a narrow strip of level floodplain along the north bank of the North Fork New River. There is a house and shed on the ridge to the north.

ST 1 was placed approximately 20 meters (66 ft.) east of the bridge and 5 meters (16 ft.) north of the North Fork New River. The soils consisted of 80 centimeters (31 in.) of dark brown silty loam (with no rocks). There were several small pieces of rusted metal in the soil. The excavation stopped at a layer of poorly-drained "gley". ST 2 was placed approximately 15 meters (50 ft.) east of ST 1 and 5 meters (16 ft.) north of the river. The soil consisted of 73 centimeters (29 in.) of dark brown silty loam (with no rocks). ST 3 was placed approximately 10 meters (33 ft.) north of ST 2, at the north edge of the floodplain along the base of the ridge. The soil consisted of disturbed fill dirt and gravel. This may be the former location of a farm road.

Since no artifacts were recovered from any of the shovel tests, no additional work is recommended for the project. If the project area expands to include more of the floodplain then additional shovel tests should be excavated.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

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

Other:

Signed:

CALEB SMITH

4/8/2019

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

Date