II. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

A. Description of Ford Farm Site and Survey Areas

The Ford Farm Site, Locus E (7K-C-386E), is a multicomponent prehistoric archaeological site located on a bluff overlooking the St. Jones River, which flows southeast past the site to the Delaware coastline. The site measures approximately 40 meters (131 feet) north to south and 70 meters (230 feet) east to west, and is bounded on the north by wetlands along the river. The site is currently wooded, and there are large beech trees present on the site. Just west of the site, extensive surface disturbance from dirt bike trails is evident, and some of the trails extend onto the Ford Farm Site.

The proposed Scarborough Road connector between McKee Road and Dupont Highway crosses a broad upland surface between two large creeks before crossing Fork Branch of the St. Jones River and its associated wetlands. The proposed highway corridor continues eastward to its terminus at U.S. Route 13 (Figure 1). A variety of environmental settings, both disturbed and undisturbed, are traversed by this section of proposed roadway. Stormwater Basin Nos. 1 and 2 lie on the mid-peninsular drainage divide in an area with predominantly poorly drained Fallsington soils interspersed among patches of well-drained Sassafras sandy loams. Stormwater Basin No. 3 lies on an upland surface adjacent to the St. Jones River on the east side. The Stormwater Basin No. 1 property is a small plot, measuring about 50 by 70 meters (164x230 feet), adjacent to McKee Road. Eleven shovel tests (STPs) were excavated by Berger in the Stormwater Basin No. 1 property. Stormwater Basin No. 2, measuring approximately 200 meters by 80 meters (650x263 feet), is located in an upland setting a short distance from an intermittent drainage feeding into the St. Jones River. Berger excavated 37 shovel tests in Stormwater Basin No. 2.

Stormwater Basin No. 3, which is slightly larger than Basin No. 2, lies adjacent to the area tested during a previous investigation by Heite and Blume (1995a). During that earlier investigation, the White Marsh Site (7K-C-390) was located, near the mouth of White Marsh Branch and adjacent to the Phase I survey area tested by Berger. During their initial Phase I survey for the proposed Scarborough Road connector project, Heite and Blume (1992:48) excavated two 3x3-foot units (ER1 and ER2) in the location of Berger's proposed Stormwater Basin No. 3 survey area, which produced only a few flakes. Berger's excavations in Stormwater Basin No. 3 consisted of 47 shovel tests; the only positive shovel test was located in the same area where the flakes had been found by Heite and Blume (1992).

Wetland Replacement Area Nos. 1 and 2 are located near the north end of the survey corridor, close to U.S. Route 13. Portions of this area had previously been surveyed by Heite and Blume (1992). Eleven shovel tests were excavated by Berger in Wetland Replacement Area No. 1 and 67 shovel tests in Wetland Replacement Area No. 2.

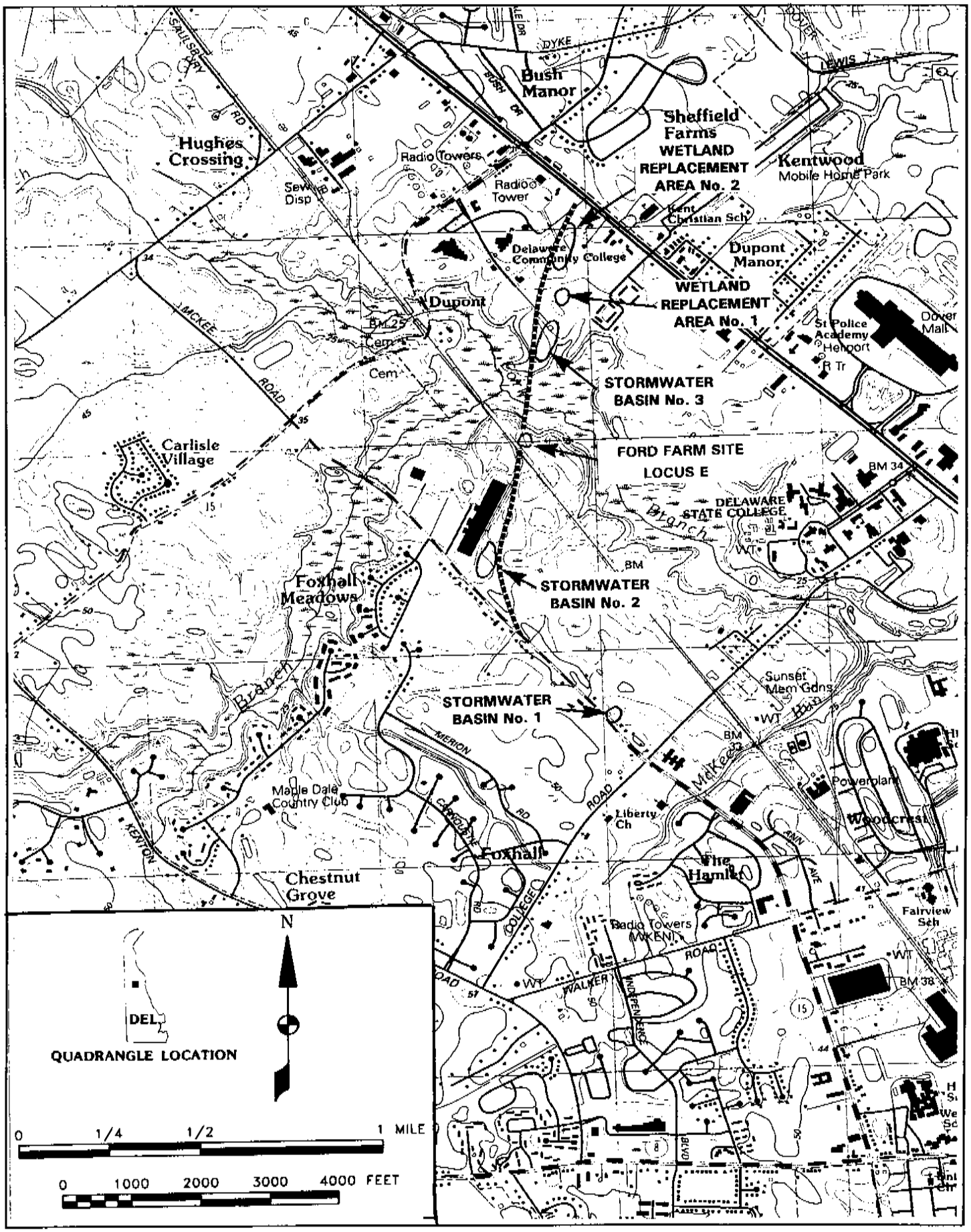

FIGURE 1: Location of the Ford Farm Site, Locus E, and Phase I Survey Areas

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Dover, DE Quadrangle 1993

B. Synopsis of Previous Work on Ford Farm and Nearby Localities

Among previous studies conducted in the vicinity of the project area was work undertaken by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research (UDCAR), which included the discovery of the Blueberry Hill Site (7K-C-107) (Custer and Galasso 1983), and the survey of the southern alignment for the Scarborough Road corridor by Heite and Blume (1992). Additional work was undertaken at the Blueberry Hill Site, including Phase II investigations (Heite and Blume 1992:70) and ultimately a Phase III program of data recovery (Heite and Blume 1995b). The Blueberry Hill Site provided an excellent comparative stratigraphic study for the work done at the Ford Farm Site, Locus E. The two sites occupy a similar bluff-edge position, Blueberry Hill being just a short distance upstream from Ford Farm.

The results of the initial survey of the southern alignment of the project corridor by Heite and Blume (1992) that are pertinent to this project include the recording of five archaeological loci (designated A, B, C, D, and E) at the Ford Farm Site on the west side of the St. Jones River and identification of the White Marsh Site on the east side of the river. Locus D, the original locus identified at the Ford Farm Site, is about 80 meters (263 feet) east of Locus E, the focus of this investigation. A redefinition and refinement of the southern alignment from McKee Road to U.S. Route 13 necessitated additional Phase I survey efforts (Heite and Blume 1995a), and during the course of the additional work further tests were conducted at the Ford Farm Site, Locus E. Loci A, B, and C, all plow-disturbed loci associated with bay/basin features, were not considered eligible for the National Register and were not further tested (Heite and Blume 1995a:92). The same recommendation, that it was plow-disturbed and not eligible, was made regarding the open field locus of the White Marsh Site, which lies adjacent to Berger's Stormwater Basin No. 3 survey area.

Throughout the remainder of this report, unless otherwise indicated, references to the Ford Farm Site should be understood as referring only to Locus E (7K-C-386E) of the site.

Phase I testing at the Ford Farm Site by Heite and Blume (1995a) included the excavation of six 1x1-meter (3.3x3.3-foot) test units to determine the nature and integrity of buried deposits on the site (Figure 2). Three of the units, Units 190, 191, and 192, were placed along a northwest-trending transect 20 meters (66 feet) apart. Units 190 and 191 were excavated to a depth of 40 centimeters (16 inches) below surface and Unit 192 was also shallowly excavated, to the depth of an argillic horizon at 45 centimeters (18 inches) below surface. In these three units it was concluded, based on consultation with John Foss, the soil scientist for the project, that evidence of human occupation was limited to the upper part of the profile. Although artifacts were confined principally to the plow layer in these units, it was noted that in Unit 190, a cambic B-horizon (Bw) was defined below the plow layer to a depth of 60 centimeters (24 inches) below surface. This level was underlain by a B/C-horizon with lamellae and a basal stratum of medium-grain sand. The Phase I unit summaries are tabulated in Table 1.

Table 1. Phase I Artifact Recoveries from the Ford Farm Site
(after Heite and Blume 1995a:107-108)

Unit and Provenience	Artifacts Recovered
190 (plowzone)	1 quartz chunk 2 FCR
191 (plowzone)	1 quartz flake 1 chert flake 1 FCR
192 (0-30 cm)	1 Dames Quarter sherd 1 chert flake 1 pebble core 4 FCR
192 (30-35 cm)	2 nails 1 whiteware sherd 1 quartz flake 1 FCR
193 (0-85 cm)	2 jasper flakes 4 FCR 1 chert core 1 quartz core 1 quartzite flake 1 jasper scraper
194 (0-20 cm)	3 heat-reddened pebbles
195 (0-95 cm)	2 heat-reddened pebbles 1 quartz chunk 1 chert chunk 2 jasper flakes 1 chert flake 4 FCR 1 jasper small-stemmed point 1 piece of grinding stone

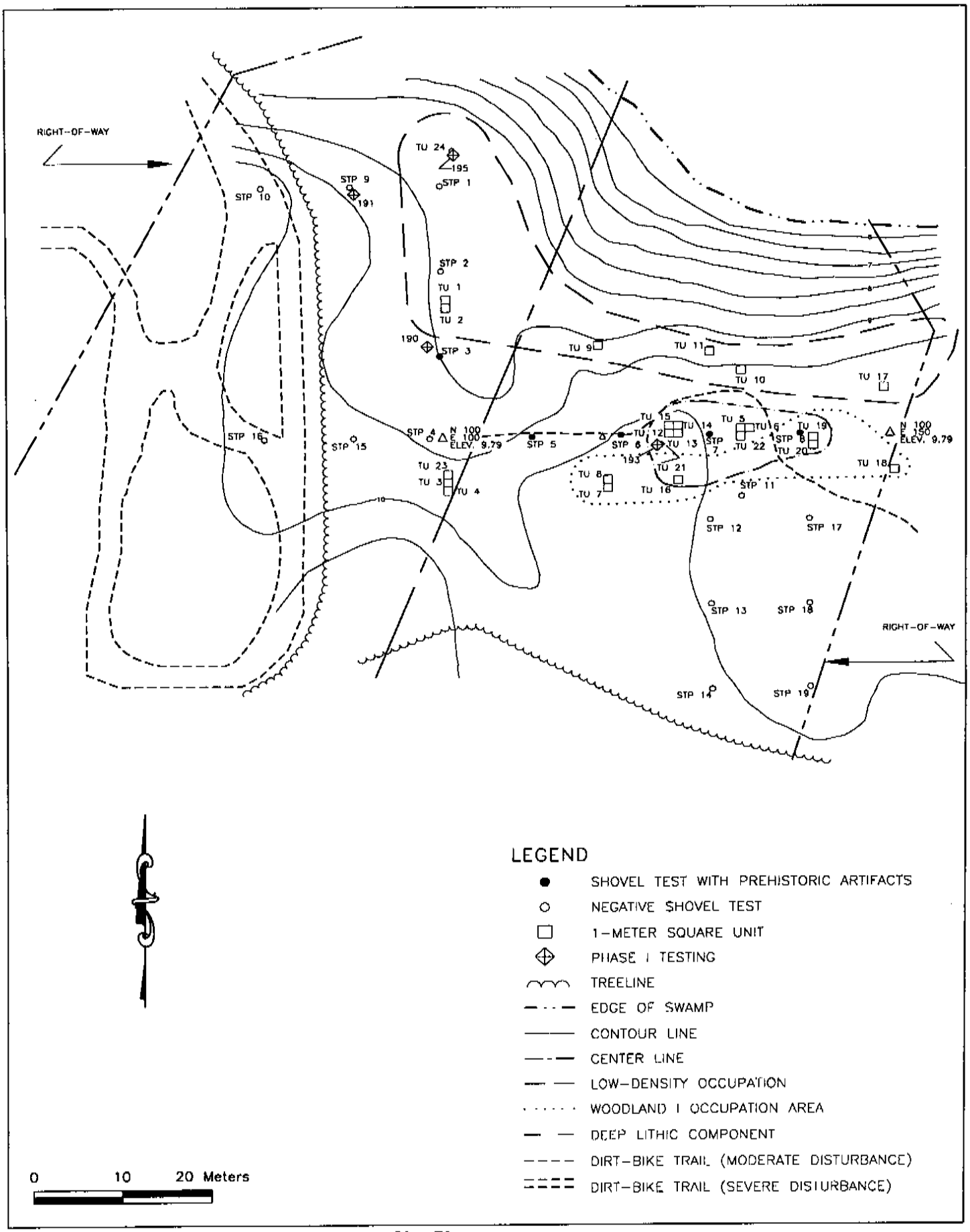

FIGURE 2: The Ford Farm Site, Locus E, Site Plan