

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PREDICTED FOR THE PROJECT APE

During the original S.R. 26 Improvements project Phase I archaeological survey, the project Area of Potential Effects (APE) was determined to have moderate potential to contain pre-contact period archaeological sites. However, this assignation of moderate site potential must be tempered by the disturbed nature of the project APE along an existing transportation and utilities corridor. Since the design change areas are located further from S.R. 26 than most of the original APE, they will have a moderate potential to contain pre-contact period archaeological resources. If pre-contact period archaeological resources are identified within the design change areas, they will most likely represent ephemeral transitory use (procurement sites according to Custer 1986) of this upland area as part of a more generalized settlement pattern, which included larger, more permanent base camps in the Indian River Bay area.

The historic period archaeological resource potential for the S.R. 26 Improvements project APE was determined to be moderate, with remains related to domestic or commercial activities associated with residences, churches, stores, schools, and cemeteries. However, due to the location of most of the design change areas in agricultural fields, if any historic period archaeological remains are identified, they will most likely reflect inadvertent loss or disposal during agricultural activities.

For details on the development of the pre-contact and historic period archaeological site potential for the S.R. 26 Improvements project APE, the reader is referred to the original Phase I archaeological survey report entitled *Sussex County, Delaware, Baltimore Hundred, S.R. 26 (Clarksville to Assawoman Canal) Improvements, Phase I Archaeology* (Gundy et al. 2004).