

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Background Research

Background research, completed during the original S.R. 54 Improvements archaeological survey (Gundy and Sams 2003), was broad enough to cover the areas proposed for the stormwater management areas.

2.2 Fieldwork

The Phase I investigations of the S.R. 54 stormwater management areas were conducted in two stages. The first stage was a geomorphological reconnaissance of both of the stormwater management areas in order to assess the nature of the landforms and soils within them, and to determine if appropriate areas exist for the implementation of Phase I archaeological survey procedures. Geomorphological investigations included the examination of the soils/sediments contained in the proposed stormwater management areas, *via* expedient hand excavated auger borings, in order to determine the presence or absence of *in situ* soils, slope, microrelief, the depth of potential cultural deposits, and any areas of modern disturbances that would preclude the preservation of buried archaeological resources. Only Stormwater Management Area #2 was determined to have relatively intact, well drained soil horizons as appropriate locations for Phase I archaeological fieldwork.

Phase I archaeological field procedures consisted of the subsurface testing of Stormwater Management Area #2. Five transects of six shovel test pits (STPs), and one transect of five STPs were emplaced within the stormwater management area. The STPs were spaced at 15.0 m (49.2 ft) intervals within each transect and numbered using northing and easting grid coordinates. The STPs were excavated by arbitrary 10.0 cm (3.9 in) levels within natural strata to a minimum depth of 10.0 cm (3.9 in) into the culturally sterile subsoil. All of the sediments recovered from each STP were screened through 0.64 cm (0.25 in) mesh hardware cloth. Information regarding the soil texture and color, depth of any cultural materials recovered, and any soil disturbance was recorded on Skelly and Loy's standard excavation forms. Daily field notes and STP excavation information were kept by the field director. Field data were supplemented with notes made on the project maps, as warranted and 35 mm photography. No artifacts were recovered during the Phase I archaeological survey of the two stormwater management areas; therefore, no artifact processing or analyses are necessary.