

5.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

The objectives of the research presented herein were threefold: 1) to refine and adapt ADM's archaeological predictive model (Baublitz et al. 2006) to the specific conditions and expected archaeological resources in Purple Section 1 of the highway project, 2) to devise a scheme for selecting a sample of the Purple Section 1 archaeological APE for Phase Ib survey coverage, and 3) to develop methodologies for implementation of Phase Ib survey within the portions of the APE selected for survey coverage.

Methods used to achieve these objectives included literature review; site file, historic map, and archival research; and walkover field survey. The literature review was selective, and focused on sources of highest relevance to the goals of the project. These primarily included previous predictive models developed for this project and for other nearby projects and sources on the types of archaeological resources to be expected within this project's APE. The Delaware archaeological site files and historic maps were also examined. Archival research focused on deeds, will books, and census records. All tax parcels crossed by the Purple Section 1 alignment were researched, but in some cases, chains of title could not be traced to warrant due to complex property transactions. During walkover survey, the entirety of the APE was examined several times during approximately one week of fieldwork. The topographic and hydrologic characteristic of the landscape, current ground cover, and the extent of obvious previous disturbance were documented. Auger probes were placed opportunistically to provide a preliminary understanding of sedimentation within drainageways. Local informants were interviewed.

The end result of these efforts was a predictive model that had been refined and adapted for the specific conditions found in the Purple Section 1 APE, and a detailed strategy for Phase Ib field survey.