

IV. EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GAI has completed a Phase I archeological survey of the Bridge 4A at Derby Pond project in Kent County. Work conducted for this project included background research, pedestrian reconnaissance, and subsurface survey. This chapter summarizes the results of these investigations and provides recommendations for further work.

The background research indicated that no recorded cultural resources were present in the project APE, although the eighteenth century R. Lewis House (K-2032) was recorded immediately east of the project area. This research further suggested that the majority of the project corridor was poorly drained and therefore possessed a predominantly low potential for prehistoric archaeological resources. Prehistoric archeological sites expected to occur would most likely represent resource procurement stations associated with any prehistoric period. Research suggested that the project area also possessed a moderate potential for historic archeological resources related to historic dwellings and milling activities associated with a reported mill seat at Derby Pond during the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. This evaluation was modified as a result of an interview with the present property owner during the pedestrian reconnaissance; Mr. Cronus stated that the burned mill ruin had been entirely removed for construction of a new dwelling in 1969 and that the former millrace had been filled in the 1970s. Reconnaissance also indicated that the entire western side of the project ROW either was disturbed by prior road construction or was inundated by Derby Pond. This information suggested that the project area had a low potential to contain archaeological resources related to a mill at this location, but a moderate potential for historic archeological remains associated with the R. Lewis house.

Phase I subsurface survey was limited to less disturbed setting on the eastern margin of the project APE (Figure 2). This work included excavation of 16 STPs and two test units. In general, this work revealed disturbed stratigraphy along the APE. No prehistoric artifacts were encountered, and the few modern materials recovered represented casual discard and do not constitute archaeological resources. Survey identified a group of planks set vertically in the Tidbury Stream bed that probably represents the remains of an earlier, pre-1922 bridge wing wall at this location. This find lies outside of the project APE, and therefore requires no further investigation. No archeological evidence of the reported historic mill or of the R. Lewis House residence was encountered during the fieldwork. As a result of this Phase I survey, GAI recommends that the proposed bridge replacement project will have no effect on any archeological resources and no further archeological investigations are required.