

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PREDICTED FOR THE PROJECT APE

3.1 Precontact Period

The following is a summary of the detailed information regarding precontact archaeological potential for the S.R. 54 Improvements project area as it directly relates to the stormwater management areas (Gundy and Sams 2003). According to the predictive modeling accomplished by Custer (n.d.) for precontact period archaeological resources in Delaware, the stormwater management areas are located within low probability areas. Review of the Delaware archaeological site files did not yield any previously recorded precontact period archaeological sites within or adjacent to the proposed stormwater management areas. Reviews of several previously completed cultural resource management project reports, pertinent to the area, also indicate that no precontact period archaeological sites have been identified within the vicinity of the stormwater management areas.

Based on the absence of previously identified precontact period archaeological sites and specific known Native American villages or trails in the general vicinity of the stormwater management areas, and the disturbed nature of and constricted areal size of the stormwater management areas, they are considered to have a low probability to contain precontact period archaeological sites. The presence of both well drained and poorly drained soils within the stormwater management areas also supports a determination of low probability.

3.2 Historic Period

The following is a summary of the information contained in Gundy and Sams (2003) as it applies to the two stormwater management areas and a discussion of the potential for the two stormwater management areas to contain historic period archaeological sites. The majority of historic period archaeological sites identified for the area are related to agricultural activities (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:109-110, 112). Based on several predictive models used to reconstruct historic settlement patterns in the area surrounding the S.R. 54 Improvements stormwater management areas, Catts *et al.* (1992:110) have determined that historic period sites dating as early as A.D. 1630 to A.D. 1730 are possible. Review of the Delaware archaeological site files did

not yield any previously recorded historic period archaeological sites within the stormwater management areas.

Historic maps also indicate that the route of S.R. 54 has not changed appreciably throughout the historic period, but that development immediately adjacent to the roadway has increased (Beers 1868; Delaware State Highway Department 1941; War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army 1946, 1948). Based on the absence of previously identified historic period archaeological sites located within the stormwater management areas, the lack of structures associated with the two stormwater management areas, and the indications that this area has been rural since its first habitation by Euro-Americans, the stormwater management areas have only a low probability to contain historic period archaeological resources. Due to the long-term rural nature of the project APE, and based on the numbers of different types of previously identified historic period archaeological sites located within Sussex County, if historic period archaeological sites are identified in the stormwater management areas they will likely be related to rural agricultural and/or domestic activities.