

## 2.0 METHODS

The scope of work for the Phase IA archaeological investigations of U.S. 301 Orange Section 4 is based on requirements set forth in the MOA and correspondence and conversations with DelDOT and DESHPO cultural resource personnel. The goal of the Phase IA archaeological investigations is to provide DelDOT and DESHPO with this report containing integrated and synthesized information that can be used to determine the level of effort necessary to complete a Phase IB archaeological survey of the Orange Section 4 archaeological APE.

This document incorporates both previously reported as well as newly gathered historical, environmental, and project information as it relates to the recommendation and justification for future archaeological investigations. The results of the Phase IA archaeological investigations will be used throughout the remaining archaeological research, including Phase I survey, any necessary Phase II testing, and/or Phase III data recoveries or other mitigation measures.

### 2.1 Background Research

The bulk of this Phase IA study is comprised of gathering, synthesizing, and presenting historical, environmental, and project specific data that relates to the potential for pre-contact and historic period archaeological remains to be present in the Orange Section 4 archaeological APE, and the recommendations and justifications for Phase I archaeological survey. In addition to delineating what types of archaeological resources may be expected, the background research will also provide a context within which to place and interpret any identified archaeological resources.

Several sources of previously reported information are available for use in this Phase IA effort. Two archaeological predictive models of the U.S. 301 project area have been developed previously (Baublitz *et al.* 2006; Kellogg 1992). The predictive model reports include pre-contact and historic period as well as environmental contexts, so some of that information will be useful; however, the generalized nature of this information will need to be refined to apply it more specifically to the Orange Section 4 APE. In addition to the background information contained in these reports, the predictive model results and the preliminary Phase I testing completed by A.D. Marble will be used to help guide the recommendations for Phase I archaeological survey. During A.D. Marble's Phase I testing, a sample of the areas owned by DelDOT at the time were used to make a preliminary assessment of the utility of the predictive model (Baublitz *et al.* 2006:73). Skelly and Loy's discussion about the predicted resources for the archaeological APE, as well as the Phase IA archaeological scope of work, incorporates the results of the previous testing. Intensive

background research, including deed traces and other sources, may be helpful for refining the predictive model results. Other previously completed cultural resource reports that are pertinent to the proposed research were reviewed and cited as appropriate. Additionally, DESHPO records and files were searched as necessary for site specific information and previously conducted cultural resource research.

A Historic Context Reconnaissance Survey Report (Frederick *et al.* 2006a), a Determination of Eligibility Report (Frederick *et al.* 2006b), and a Documentation in Support of a Finding of Adverse Effect and Memorandum of Agreement (Frederick *et al.* 2007) have been prepared for the U.S. 301 Project. Skelly and Loy personnel reviewed the historic context and resource information contained in each of the reports for information directly related to Orange Section 4, and incorporated that information into the historic period context as well as the Phase I archaeological survey methodology in the Phase 1A report. The information in these reports directly influenced the recommendations regarding the potential, need, and significance of historic archaeology in the Orange Section 4 archaeological APE.

In addition to these reports, Skelly and Loy also reviewed historic maps, atlases, and aerial photographs, and other cultural resource reports, including an earlier historic architectural resource survey on the U.S. 301 project area (Siders 1993), cultural resource investigations associated with the Choptank Road Improvements Project (Silber and Seavey 2001), the New Castle County agricultural context (De Cunzo and Garcia 1992), a historic context on the archaeology of farm and rural dwelling sites in New Castle and Kent counties (Bedell 2002), and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination *Rebuilding St. Georges Hundred, New Castle County, 1850-1880* (Herman *et al.* 1985). All Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms for previously surveyed historic architectural resources were also gathered.

Initial deed research was undertaken for each of the 64 current tax parcels that may be potentially impacted by the construction of the Orange Section 4 selected alternative. The current tax parcel boundaries and the most recent deed references were identified using the online resources provided by the New Castle County eParcel View Map at the website <http://nccde.org/landuse/home/webpage1.asp> (New Castle County Department of Land Use 2009).

On-site research was then conducted at the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds library in Wilmington, where computer and paper records include deeds from the present back to the 1940s. Research continued at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover, using the collection of New Castle County Deeds (Record Group 2555) on microfilm. Maryland deed records were not searched to complete the Phase 1A property research. Most of the farms in the Orange Section 4 APE, notably those owned by the Clayton family, were originally part of Bohemia Manor, a seventeenth century

estate located in Cecil County, Maryland, and Pencader, St. Georges, and Appoquinimink hundreds in Delaware. There was no evidence found, however, that any of the farms were deeded in Maryland, and the early history of Bohemia Manor is available through other sources, including the NRHP nomination *Rebuilding St. Georges Hundred, New Castle County, 1850-1880* (Herman *et al.* 1985) and J.T. Scharf's *History of Delaware, 1609-1888* (Scharf 1888).

Some deeds were easily traced back to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, but more often there were difficulties following the deed history of a specific parcel. As the deeds were traced back in time, most of the tax parcels tended to consolidate into larger, overlapping holdings, sometimes covering hundreds of acres, which resulted in extensive repetition of deed information in the tables contained in Appendix A. Other deeds revealed that substantial properties were amassed from many smaller parcels, making it difficult to determine which represent the current parcel being researched. Where possible, the descriptions were used to refine the deed history, but in some cases the full range of possibilities is included to avoid the risk of eliminating pertinent information. Another common problem was the lack of a prior deed reference within a historic deed. In these instances, the New Castle County Grantor and Grantee indexes were consulted to try to locate the previous deed. In a few instances will books were also consulted when a will was referenced in a deed. Deed research concluded in this phase of the archaeological investigation when a prior reference could not be located either in a deed or through the Grantor/Grantee indexes. More intensive efforts to trace the history of a property, including examination of tax assessments, probate inventories, and the records of Orphans and other courts, will be undertaken during Phase IB investigations.

## **2.2 Field View**

Archaeological and historic architectural staff completed a limited field view of the Orange Section 4 archaeological APE in order to become familiar with and photograph the current topographic and ground surface conditions present. However, due to a legislative mandate and at FHWA/DeIDOT's request, landowner contact and entry onto private property were not made during the field view for Orange Section 4. Therefore, some conditions of the archaeological APE are extrapolated from aerial photographs and long distance views, and no information from landowners regarding their proclivity to Phase IB survey or potential methods of survey on their property are known.

### **2.3 Phase IA Report and Thank You Certificate**

The results of the background research and limited field view are discussed in this Phase IA report. The report text, photographs, figures, and mapping provide the necessary cultural, historical, and environmental data to support the recommendations for Phase IB archaeological survey discussed in the Phase IB archaeological survey research design included in this document.

In addition to the Phase IA report, DeIDOT requested that Skelly and Loy develop a “Thank You” certificate acknowledging landowner and local persons’ and groups’ contributions to the archaeological studies during the project. Several draft suggested formats for the U.S. 301 Thank You certificate are included in Appendix B. One suggestion would be to use an archaeology photo in place of or in addition to the aerial presently used on the drafts. As the project continues, these formats will be modified based on continued coordination with DeIDOT and the other consultants working on the project.