

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBG), has completed a Phase IA archaeological investigation for proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 1 in New Castle County, Delaware. The project is located in northern New Castle County, and extends for a distance of approximately 10 miles (Figures 1 and 2). The northern terminus is located at the Christiana Mall, and the southern terminus is located at Rogers Pit, just south of the Chesapeake & Delaware (C&D) Canal. Besides the addition of new travel lanes, major interchange upgrades are being considered at SR 273, U.S. Route 40, U.S. Route 301, and SR 72. The proposed project will be undertaken in phases, over a number of years. Any archaeological fieldwork will be carried out for the individual sections of the project as they are scheduled and funded. The purpose of this document is to provide an overall framework for any archaeological work to be undertaken as part of this project. It assesses whether or not the area of potential effect (APE) has the potential to contain previously undocumented archaeological resources. It specifies the areas that would require archaeological survey, should they be impacted, and provides an archaeological context for any discoveries that may be made.

For purposes of this study, the APE has been defined in DelDOT's Section 106 initiation letter to the SHPO (Fulmer 2012), which defines the APE as covering the area within 600 feet from the edge of the existing travel lane along the project. The APE measures 1,943 acres. Where the 600-foot limit crosses private property, the APE encompasses the entire privately owned parcel. This design was devised with an eye more toward assessing possible effects to standing structures than archaeology, since impacts to archaeological sites will for the most part be limited to the actual areas of construction.

Research for this study was completed from April through July 2012. Charles LeeDecker was the Project Manager, and John Bedell was the Principal Investigator. Jason Shellenhamer conducted the field inspection.

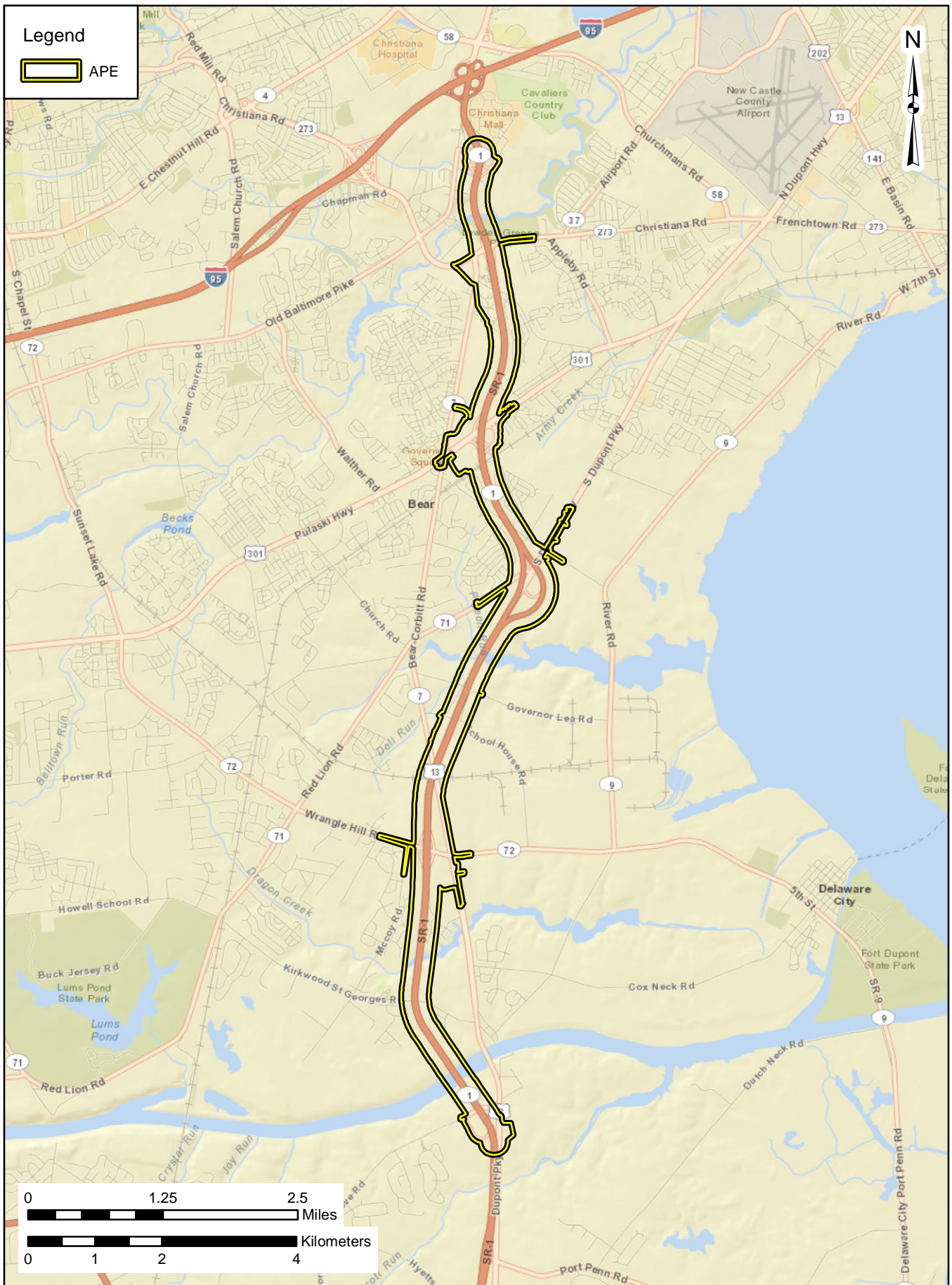


FIGURE 1: Study Area Location

SOURCE: ESRI 2011

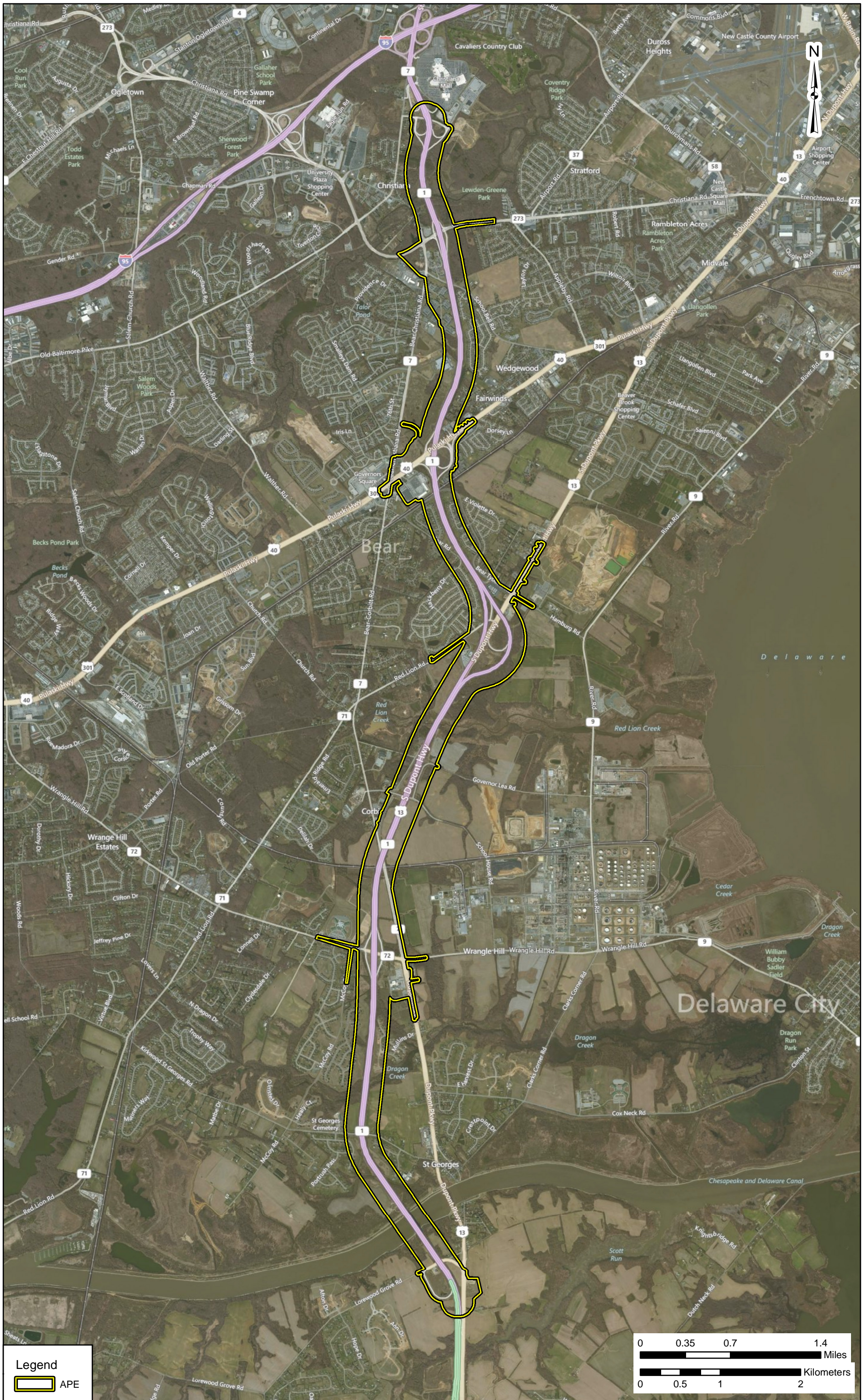


FIGURE 2: Aerial View of Study Area and APE

SOURCE: ESRI 2010