

B. ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Several phases may be involved when an archaeological survey is required for a proposed road. A preliminary Phase I survey is conducted to determine whether more comprehensive Phase II or III surveys are required.

The results of archaeological surveys performed on the original 5.4 mile Alternative 10 corridor are summarized in the *FEIS* of January 1993. The *FEIS* did not list any sites warranting further investigation in a Phase II survey. However, several old private cemeteries were located near the Rio Hills Shopping Center. The survey consultants missed a large cemetery of Woodfolk family descendants, which was directly in the path of the southbound lane of the proposed Bypass, just south of the SPCA. After being informed several times of its existence, VDOT finally acknowledged its presence. Avoiding this cemetery was one of the reasons VDOT gave for extending the northern terminus approximately 0.8 miles to a point north of the South Fork Rivanna River in 1995.

New archaeological surveys were required when the termini revisions were proposed in 1993-94. A summary of findings on these revisions is given in the *Final Environmental Assessment (FEA)* dated June 8, 1995. More detailed findings of well-defined search areas along the Woodburn Road area and the revised northern terminus are contained in the September 1994 "Phase I Cultural Resource Survey Route 29 Bypass Around Charlottesville: Corridor 10 Revision at North End" and the June 1994 "Phase I Cultural Resource Survey Route 29 (for modifications to the northern and southern termini)." Nothing significant was found in the Woodburn Road area. However, pre-historic flints and chips were discovered in several locations in the path of the revised northern terminus, and a Phase II survey was conducted.

The "Phase II Archaeological Investigations, Sites 44AB428, 44AB429, and 44AB430," dated September 1994, stated that two of these sites at the northern terminus *"are considered to possess integrity and to contain information useful for the study of regional prehistory. These two sites are thus eligible for the National Register under Criterion D. These sites will be directly impacted by the proposed construction and should be avoided, if possible, through redesign ... Because [these sites] are of value only for their potential contribution to archaeological research, a data recovery program would preserve the information each site contains and the proposed road improvement project would have no adverse impact upon the two sites."* (Emphasis added.)

Since the final roadway footprint was not officially designated prior to these 1994 investigations, the survey areas were based on only the best "guesstimates" of where the roadway would be located. In 1994, an at-grade signalized intersection, requiring a width no greater than the 300 foot right-of-way required for the roadway, was designed for the northern terminus. Soon after CTB approval of the termini revisions in March 1995, the northern terminus was redesigned as a complex much larger grade-separated interchange. To date, VDOT has not published the final design of the northern terminus. However, the areas searched by the archaeological survey teams do not encompass the most recent (February 1998) official footprint area of the Bypass. In other words, the footprint of the Bypass is significantly greater than the surveyed areas--particularly in the revised northern terminus area. Therefore, there are many acres of topographic significance that are outside the areas already searched but within the proposed Bypass right-of-way. This unsurveyed area should be investigated.

The ~43 acre tract between Barracks Road and Colthurst, which would be traversed by the Bypass, merits a more thorough survey. A brief search of the county land records revealed that a house was located on that site at least as early as ~1870. A house is also noted on that site on the 1875 Peyton Map of Albemarle County. This suggests that artifacts of at least 125-150 years ago may be present, and that a more thorough survey should be undertaken. A February 14, 1997 letter from Mark Wittkofski, Cultural Resources Manager, VDOT, stated that only early twentieth century artifacts were found at this old home site, and that no further survey was required.

SEE APPENDIX “B” FOR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS