CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

DAHP Project Number: **2021-10-07107** (Please contact the lead agency for the project number. If associated to SEPA, please contact SEPA@dahp.wa.gov to obtain the project number before creating a new project.)

Author: Emily C. Taber and Bill R. Roulette

Title of Report: Results of a Cultural Resources Study of the Proposed Guild Road Developments, Woodland, Cowlitz County, Washington

Applied Archaeological Research Report No. 2530

Date of Report: December 13, 2021

County(ies): Cowlitz Section: 14 Township: 5N Range: 1E

Quad: 1990 Woodland, WA Acres: 3.97 of a 4.65-acre parcel

PDF of report submitted (REQUIRED) ☒ Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online? ☐ Yes No ☒

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) Found or Amended? ☐Yes ☒No

TCP(s) found? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Replace a draft? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement? ☐ Yes # ☒ No

Were Human Remains Found? ☐ Yes DAHP Case # ☒ No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:

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_____
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- Please check that the PDF displays correctly when opened.

RESULTS OF A CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY OF THE PROPOSED GUILD ROAD DEVELOPMENTS WOODLAND, COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON

By
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Report submitted to

SGA Engineering and Design
Vancouver, Washington

December 13, 2021

APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, INC., REPORT NO. 2530

APPLIED
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INTRODUCTION

Project Purpose and Staffing

This report describes the results of a formal cultural resources study conducted by Applied Archaeological Research, Inc. (AAR) of a property in Woodland, Washington, where Part IV Properties, LLC, proposes to construct one commercial building with a parking lot for 47 vehicles and associated infrastructure. SGA Engineering and Design, the engineering firm providing design services for the project, retained AAR to assist Part IV Properties, LLC, in its compliance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) as implemented by Cowlitz County code chapter 19.

AAR's study was performed by AAR Project Archaeologist Emily C. Taber, M.S., RPA 17399, who was assisted by Donald Pattee, M.A. Ms. Taber and Mr. Pattee were under the technical supervision of Bill R. Roulette, M.A., RPA 11132, AAR's Principal Investigator. They all meet the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards.

Conventions

In this report, measurements for common distances, elevations, and areas are in English units (e.g., inches, feet, miles, acres). Measurements that describe archaeological methods are in metric units (centimeters and meters). Numbers in the thousands used to express ages and distances feature commas to denote thousands. Calendar dates and dates used to express years before present (B.P.) do not use commas to denote the thousands place but do use commas to denote dates of 10,000 B.P. or greater. Modern, common names without taxonomic equivalents are used when listing plants and animals.

Project Area Description and Setting

The project area is in the northwestern part of Woodland, Cowlitz County, Washington, in the southwestern quarter of Section 14, Township 5 North, Range 1 West (Figure 1). It is on a broad alluvial terrace in the lower valley of the main stem Lewis River between it and the Columbia River, which is about 1.7 miles to the west. It is in a part of Woodland that is transitioning from a rural to a suburban setting. Lands to the south have been the subject of increasing residential and commercial developments in recent decades.

The development site consists of a 3.97-acre part of parcel 508350100 that is 4.65 acres in total. The site is irregular in shape (Figure 2). It is a maximum of 400 feet (ft) measured north-to-south and 575 ft measured east-to-west. It is on the south side of Guild Road. Remnants of an access road were noted in the property's northern part. On recent aerials it was depicted in a U-shape but with the exception of two culverts used for access (see below) only fragments of the access road remain (Figure 3). The project area excludes a ditch that borders its northern part except for those two culverts. It contains a segment of Georgia Slough, which flows southwestward and debouches into the Columbia River. The slough passes through culverts in the two spots where the access road crosses it. Elsewhere the project boundaries are defined by property boundaries.

The project area has gently, rolling topography and is between 15 and 23 ft above mean sea level (amsl). It is mostly open and covered in pasture grass. Its eastern, western, and southern edges are lined with trees, mostly Douglas-fir. Its open part contains a few dense clumps of vegetation and thickets of Himalayan blackberry (Figure 4). Other than the access road, there are no developments in it.

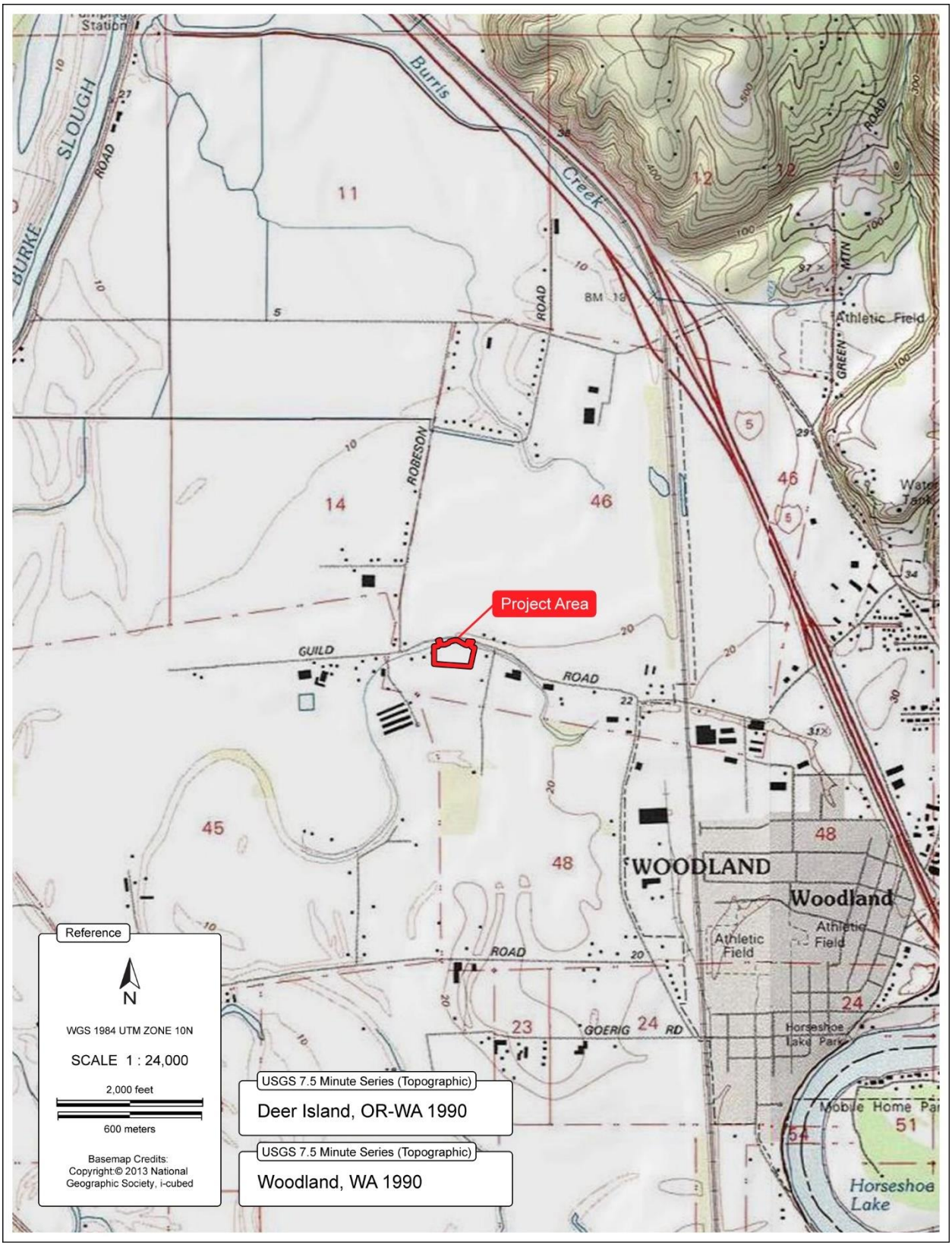

Figure 1. Topographic photomap showing the project area location.

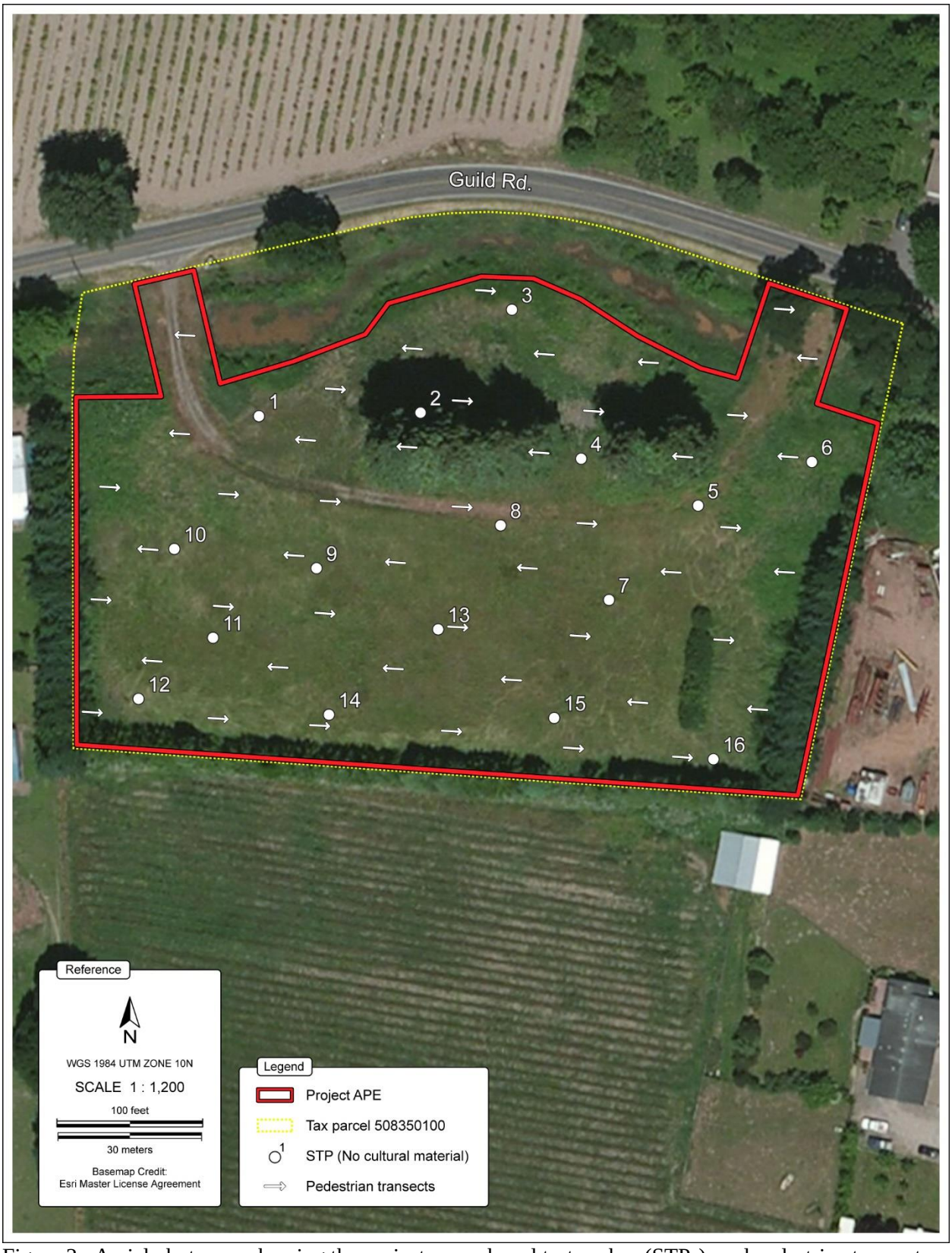

Figure 2. Aerial photomap showing the project area, shovel test probes (STPs), and pedestrian transects.

Figure 3. View looking east of the northern part of the project area. Former location of access road is to frame right but does not fully follow recent tire depressions in grass which are shown.

Figure 4. View looking east showing typical vegetation in the development site.

Project Coordination and Consultation

Prior to AAR's study, Dennis Wardlaw, Transportation Archaeologist at the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), determined that the property is in an area that has a high probability for containing cultural resources. Because of this, Mr. Wardlaw requested that a formal cultural resources study be conducted of the parts of the property to be disturbed by the proposed developments and that affected tribes be contacted and notified of the project. Emily C. Taber, the project's Lead Archaeologist, prepared a letter describing the proposed developments and AAR's field methods for the study. The letter was supplemented with maps showing the project area's location and the configuration of the development footprint. It was distributed for review on November 2, 2021, to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Squaxin Island Tribe. Cultural resources staff from the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde and the Squaxin Island Tribe responded to say they presently had no concerns for the project area. No other comments were received.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Physical Environment

The project area is in a lower part of the valley of the main stem Lewis River, hereafter referred to as the Lewis River. The river is about 95 miles long. Its watershed encompasses approximately 1,050 square miles, most of which is in the Southern Washington Cascades. The river heads on Mount Adams and it also drains the southern flank of Mount St. Helens. Over most of its length it flows through a narrow canyon-like valley, parts of which have been flooded to create Lake Merwin and Yale lakes and Swift Creek Reservoir. The lower 12 miles of the river valley are open and broad. Through that section, it is a meandering stream, with more than one channel in a few locations.

The lower valley is situated on the floor of the Portland Basin, which is one of several topographic and structural basins that as a group compose the Puget-Willamette trough, a north-to-south oriented structural basin located between the Pacific Coast Range to the west and the parallel Cascade Range to the east. The trough extends southward from the Canadian border to Oregon where it merges with the Willamette Valley, its physiographic and geologic continuation (Franklin and Dyrness 1973). It was formed by Pliocene compression and folding of Miocene flood basalts (collectively known as the Columbia River Basalt group), which form the basement rock throughout the region. The Portland Basin part of the Puget-Willamette trough begins where the Columbia River debouches from its gorge through the Cascade Mountains near Washougal.

The structural geology of the Portland Basin is obscured by thick deposits of Quaternary alluvium. Bedrock consists of basalt included in the Columbia River Basalts that issued from fissures on the Columbia Plateau during the mid-Miocene. The Columbia River Basalts are capped by younger basalts, referred to as the Boring Lavas, which poured from vents located within and adjacent to the Portland Basin. The basalts are overlain by deposits of the Troutdale Formation. These are sandstone and cobbly conglomerate formations that were laid down delta-like during the Pliocene from the point where the ancestral Columbia River debouched from its gorge (Trimble 1963:29–36). This formation, in turn, is capped by alluvial deposits that are up to 370 ft thick. Most of this basin-fill material was carried in from the east by the Columbia River but sediment deposited by streams draining the adjacent highlands, like the Lewis River, are locally important.

While the lower Lewis River valley shares common structural geology with the rest of the Portland Basin, it has its own unique quaternary geomorphology, which is closely tied to Mount St. Helens and less so to the Columbia River. Mount St. Helens is a young volcano that formed only about 40,000 years ago (Crandell 1987). Based on his analysis of the lithology and phenocryst assemblages of materials spewed from it, Crandell (1987) divided the eruptive history of Mount St. Helens into five eruptive stages some of which are subdivided into eruptive periods. Lahars and pyroclastic flows generated by eruptive events of the mountain deposited immense quantities of volcanic debris into the upper Lewis River system. The materials were reworked and transported downstream into the lower valley and form beds of unconsolidated alluvium composed of silt sand and that may be more than 240 ft thick in the Woodland area (Evarts 2004a, 2004b; Major and Scott 1988:D26). To the west, the deposits interfinger with finer-grained sediment of the modern Columbia River floodplain.

The material forms several terraces along the river. Major and Scott (1988:D26) call the youngest of the terraces the Woodland terrace and describe it as the "most prominent geomorphic feature in the lower Lewis River valley." The terrace forms a broad flat surface in the Woodland area that is between ca. 20 and 26 ft above the present Lewis River floodplain. The project area is on this geomorphic surface. Major and Scott (1988) infer that the terrace formed during the Kalama eruptive period of Mount St. Helens, ca. 350 and 500 B.P.

The more recent deposits in the lower valley cap Pleistocene-aged alluvium derived from Mount St. Helens and, in places, sediment deposited by the Missoula floods, a series of flood events that took place toward the end of the Pleistocene, between about 17,000 and 12,700 years ago (Clague et al. 2003; Waitt 1994). The floodwaters originated in glacial Lake Missoula; a body of water formed when the Purcell Trench Lobe of the Cordilleran ice sheet blocked the Clark Fork River in Montana. When the waters of Lake Missoula breached the ice dam, the resulting floods rushed across the landscape scouring the surface and eroding and plucking away the bedrock. The floods created the scablands of eastern Washington and changed the profile of the Columbia River Gorge. Exiting the gorge, a 700-foot-tall wall of water spilled out into the Portland Basin where it dispersed and inundated everything below about 400 ft amsl. As they continued downstream, they were blocked by a narrowing of the Columbia River valley. As a result, they backed up into the Portland Basin and up the Lewis River valley (Allen et al. 1986; Alt 2001; Benito and O'Connor 2003; Bourdeau 2004; Evarts et al. 2009; Lentz 1981; O'Connor and Baker 1992; Peterson et al. 2011). Major and Scott (1988:D26) note that the maximum strandline of the floods near Woodland occurs at about 390 ft amsl indicating that the flood-related impacts to the lower Lewis River valley were depositional rather than erosional. The silt and fine sand deposited in the lower valley appear to have derived from impounded flood waters rather than from through-flooding.

Clato and Newberg series soils are mapped evenly throughout the project area. They are floodplain soils that formed in reworked fluvial material that underlies the Woodland terrace (Major and Scott 1988:D26; NRCS 2019; Pringle and Evans 2006). A typical horizon sequence for Clato silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slope, includes an A horizon that is about 19-inches thick and comprised of dark yellowish to dark brown, silt loam (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2000). Clato soils are used for agriculture and the upper part of the A horizon typically consists of a plowzone (Ap horizon). Beneath the A horizon are a series of B horizons that closely resemble the overlying A horizon and extend to depth of nearly 6 ft below surface. The B horizons overlay a C horizon that extends an additional half foot or so below surface and is comprised of mottled, dark yellowish brown silt loam (USDA 2000).

A profile for Newberg fine sandy loam includes a 19-inch-thick A horizon of dark brown fine sandy loam. The upper 7 inches of the horizon typically consists of a plowzone. The underlying C horizon extends to a depth of around 5 ft below surface. Its upper part consists brown coarse sandy loam that caps a thick layer of dark grayish brown, loamy fine sand that transitions to stratified fine sand (USDA 2006).

Historical and Modern Environmental Conditions

The project area is within the *Tsuga heterophylla* zone as defined by Franklin and Dyrness (1973:44–45), which became established since mid-Holocene times. The zone refers to the climax plant communities in western Washington (and Oregon) that is between sea level and about 2,300 ft amsl where the climate is maritime influenced (i.e., wet, and mild). In its native state, vegetation in the zone was predominantly forest with Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar with a few hardwoods as the dominant overstory species, with an understory of vine maple, Oregongrape, trailing blackberry, salal, western swordfern, and western brackenfern.

In its native state, the project area vicinity would have provided habitat for a wide variety of animals. Mammals would have included elk, black-tailed and white-tailed deer, black bear, possibly grizzly bear, cougar, coyote, possibly gray wolf, beaver, porcupine, raccoon, rabbits, weasels, skunks, and squirrels. Avian and amphibian diversity is also noted to be high in such areas (Altman et al. 2001; Kauffman et al. 2001). Native fish in the Lewis River would have included spring and fall Chinook, coho, and chum salmon, winter and summer steelhead, bull head and cutthroat, and coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey (Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board 2004).

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

Pre-Contact Cultural Chronology

The prehistory of the greater Portland Basin, including its upland aspects, spans approximately 10,000 years based on archaeological research done near the mouth of the Columbia River gorge (Harris et al. 2013). However, given the inferred age of the landforms where the project area is located, it is necessary only to discuss the later stages of pre-contact times.

Based on research conducted in the Scappoose-Sauvie Island area, and comparison with other Portland Basin-area archaeological sites, Pettigrew (1981) organized the last 2,600 years of local prehistory into two cultural phases, Merrybell and Multnomah, with three subphases recognized for the latter. The cultural developments noted by Pettigrew that were used to distinguish the separate phases and subphases are like those observed in the archaeological record elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest and are the basis of extra-regional cultural chronologies. In the model of cultural chronology developed by Ames and Maschner (1999), Pettigrew's Merrybell phase (ca. 2600 to 1700 B.P.) would be included in the Middle Pacific period (ca. 3500 to 1500 B.P.) while the three subphases of the Multnomah phase (ca. 1550 to 150 B.P.) would be encapsulated by the Late Pacific period (ca. 1500 to 250 B.P.).

Middle Pacific Period, ca. 3500 – 1500 B.P.

During the Middle Pacific period the basic economic and technological traits that characterize the ethnographic pattern observed at historical contact became established (Wessen 1983:25). Artifacts diagnostic of the Middle Pacific period/Merrybell phase include broad-necked projectile points, stemmed drills, flaked cylindrical bipoints, flaked crescents, perforated ground stone pendants, peripherally flaked cobbles, and atlatl weights. Sites located in the Portland Basin that contain evidence for Merrybell phase occupations include the Merrybell site (35MU9) on Sauvie Island, the Bachelor Island site, 45CL43 (Daehnke 2005; Steele 1980), at least three of the sites located by Wessen (1983) on Vancouver Lake (Pettigrew 1990:524, Table 1), and the Kersting site, 45CL21 (Jermann et al. 1975).

Regionally, the earliest known houses date to the Middle Pacific period. Evidence for three houses was found at the Kersting site, 45CL21, which is located on the Columbia River bottomlands on a

low levee parallel to the section of Lake River between Round and Post Office lakes. Field crews from the University of Washington excavated at the site in 1971-1972 (Jermann et al. 1975). A full report was never prepared but based on the preliminary report the houses were aligned parallel to Lake River. Two of them measured about 5 meters (m) square and did not exhibit semi-subterranean floors. The third house was much larger, measuring 5 x 8 m and had a definitive semi-subterranean floor (Jermann et al. 1975:25–26). Charcoal from distinct occupation features or levels returned uncalibrated radiocarbon dates of 1889± 100 B.P. (UW-209), 2115 ± 100 B.P. (UW-211), and 2071 ± 85 B.P. (UW-212) yielding an estimated calendar age range of between ca. 165 B.C. to A.D. 61, making 45CL21 the earliest dated occupation site documented on the bottomlands. Tools recovered from the site included broad-necked, stemmed, and lanceolate projectile points, net weights, and atlatl weights. A unique feature of the tool assemblage is the presence of over 3,300 flaked cobbles, including both cobble choppers and peripherally flaked cobbles (Valley 1979).

Late Pacific Period, ca. 1500 to 250 B.P.

Most investigated sites in the Portland Basin date to the Late Pacific period, which encompasses the three subphases of the Multnomah phase. Sites from this period share many similarities and most contain small, triangular-shaped, narrow-stemmed projectile points, small scrapers, flake drills, mule-ear knives, flaked cobble tools, and net weights. More rarely, zoomorphic, or anthropomorphic stone sculpture or objects and figurines from clay are found. Historical trade goods first appear in the Multnomah 3 subphase (ca. 200 to 115 B.P.).

Late prehistoric sites are common on the Columbia River bottomlands. Wessen (1983) lists 15 sites that date to this period that are located around Vancouver Lake, which at its northern end is about 15.5 miles south of the project area. This includes the protohistoric component at site 45CL31 that contains the remains of a wooden fish weir and possible evidence for an ethnohistoric Chinook-style pole and mat or brush structure (Wessen 1983:109). Many sites on the bottomlands were excavated by the Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS) and likely date to this period based on stylistic cross-dating of artifacts illustrated in its site reports. These include the Duck Lake site, 45CL6a (Slocum and Matsen 1972) and the Herzog site, 45CL11 (Foreman and Foreman 1977; Slocum and Matsen 1968).

Site 45CL1, the Cathlapotle village or townsite, is located on the bottomlands on Lake River, a short distance upstream from its confluence with the Columbia and Lewis rivers. In a straight line it is a little more than 6 miles southwest of the project area. It was founded and appears to have flourished during the Late Pacific period/Multnomah phase and persisted into the contact period. It deserves special mention as it the most thoroughly studied late prehistoric/ethnohistoric winter village site located in the Portland Basin.

The village was visited by Lewis and Clark in 1805 (Moulton 1990:23). They describe it as containing 14 wooden houses and as having perhaps 900 residents. The site is quite large, encompassing ca. 3.7 acres. To date, 11 house depressions have been identified. The depressions represent houses that were arranged in two rows facing Lake River. Excavation of six of the depressions indicates that they mark the locations of semi-subterranean plank houses like those recorded ethnographically. The site contains deep stratified cultural deposits up to 4 m thick. The deposits contain very high densities of artifacts, floral and faunal remains, and cultural features. Among the latter are the house depressions with their associated architectural features (e.g., plank and post molds, wall trenches), hearths and hearth dumps, cobble ovens, and storage and cache pits. The artifact collection is large and diverse (and not yet fully analyzed). Noteworthy are the numerous bone and antler artifacts that include chisels, wedges, a needle, awls, bone points, and harpoon toggles (Ames et al. 1996:83). Also noteworthy is the collection of trade goods at the site which includes many glass beads, a piece of ceramic fashioned into a scraper, and many pieces of metal (principally iron and copper) fashioned into utilitarian and decorative items (a

projectile point, a composite harpoon point, adze blades, rolled beads, pendants, wire rings and wire bracelets). An iron adze blade at the site was associated with deposits dated to between 550-450 B.P. and thus predates any direct source of Euroamerican or Asian contact on the Pacific Coast. A suite of 29 radiocarbon dates places the main occupation of the site to between ca. 950-100 B.P., or A.D. 1000 and 1850 (Ames et al. 1996; Ames and Maschner 1999; Banach 2002; Butler 2007; Daehnke 2005; Davis 2010; Kaehler 2002; Smith 1996, 2004; Sobel 2004).

Ethnographic Overview

The project area is located within what Boyd (2011:1) calls the Cathlapotle reach, which he defines as the area along the Columbia River and the drainages of its tributary streams between the mouth of the Cowlitz River and Ft. Vancouver. The reach includes the location of the main indigenous village in the project area vicinity, Cathlapotle, and its environs. The ethnic identities of the peoples that occupied or used the reach shifted through time. More important, according to Boyd (2011:2–6), ethnicity is a poor lens through which to view regional indigenous demography. The peoples that lived in the region containing the project area, full-time or part-time, were interrelated on many levels (Hajda 1984). Their self-identification was based on family and village not ethnic groupings or languages, as later defined by anthropologists and linguists. Because of exogamous marriage rules, people from outside were constantly being added to the social mix of one's home village. Also, people from a village were free to move about to wherever they had connections, although they may have maintained a home-village self-identity.

Nonetheless, it is necessary to have some device or convention for describing the Native Americans that occupied the project area vicinity. In this section we focus on language, subsistence habits, and material traits that did or may have distinguished the separate groups that occupied or used the Cathlapotle reach. The groups discussed below are referred to as the Chinook and the Klickitat.

Knowledge of those groups comes primarily from ethnohistoric accounts including those of Lewis and Clark (Moulton 1990, 1991) and from ethnographers that began to collect information in the late-nineteenth century. By that time, population losses, dislocation from traditional territories by Euroamericans, and acculturation into Euroamerican culture had severely altered the lifeways of Native culture. Consequently, ethnohistoric and ethnographic accounts may not accurately reflect the traditional practices or organization of the aboriginal occupants of the region.

Chinook

At the beginning of the historic era, and presumably for an extended period before that, the Columbia River bottomlands and the adjoining areas extending an unknown distance inland were occupied by Chinook Indians that spoke the Multnomah language as their first language (*sensu* Boyd 2011:176–178). Like other Chinookan peoples, the Multnomah speakers lived in hamlets or villages and used a seasonal round to procure much of what was needed to subsist. The main villages were where they spent winters and were their principal social and political units. A winter village consisted of one or more rectangular, gable-roofed, upright-cedar-plank houses (Hajda 1994; Silverstein 1990). Houses featured raised sleeping and storage platforms that lined the house walls and fireplaces that were excavated into the floor along the midline of the house (Hajda 1994:179–180). In the Portland Basin and lower Willamette Valley houses sometimes were attached to form rows up to 200 or 300 ft long with interiors divided into apartments that were allotted to individual families. Occupants of houses might represent three generations and include the house owner, his wives, some sons or blood relations, and their dependents (Silverstein 1990:543). Villages were somewhat cosmopolitan and multilingual due to extensive and frequently exogamous intermarriages, among other factors, and the presence of non-Chinookan-speaking visitors, trade partners, in-laws, and slaves.

Chinookan peoples can be characterized as riverine-oriented in terms of their settlement patterns, travel, and subsistence habits. They built their winter settlements along sloughs and channels of the Columbia River floodplain so that local groups could control access to certain resources and could control traffic along a waterway (Hajda and Boyd 1988:2). Waterways were used extensively for travel, which was canoe-based. In terms of subsistence, Chinookan peoples were primarily fishers but also were and hunters and gatherers of roots and berries. Based on their analysis of ethnohistoric literature, Boyd and Hajda (1987) found that, excluding food products obtained through trade, the most important foods were salmon, sturgeon, and eulachon, deer, elk, and harbor seal, and wapato, and camas. Most subsistence activity involved small groups that were dispersed in subsistence-oriented camps throughout a village's territory. Important fishing locales might be co-used or co-occupied by different Chinookan village groups and even non-Chinookan groups with social ties with a host Chinookan group.

Because their homes were located along the Pacific Coast, and up the Columbia River from its mouth, the Chinook were some of the first native peoples in this part of the Pacific Northwest to encounter Euroamericans. This also meant that they were some of the first to suffer the effects of introduced diseases against which they had no natural immunity. As a result, the Chinook experienced some of the highest mortality rates in the region from smallpox, measles, and other Euroamerican diseases.

The initial outbreak of smallpox in the Pacific Northwest took place in 1775 and probably affected the entire coastal region (Boyd 1990:139). At least a third of the members of all groups are thought to have died in this epidemic, which may have spread from a Spanish expedition ship (Boyd 1990:138). A second epidemic that followed in 1801 spread from the Great Plains through the Columbia Plateau. In 1824 and 1825, what was probably smallpox or measles resulted in the death of 10 to 20 percent of the remaining population (Boyd 1990:139). In 1830, yet another exotic disease, malaria, further decimated the Chinook and other Northwest Coast groups. Overall, the effects from these and other non-native diseases were such that "by the very late nineteenth century, Chinookan society as seen by Lewis and Clark was already a memory in most external respects" (Silverstein 1990:535).

Based his careful reading of ethnohistorical sources, Boyd (2011:176) believes that much of Chinookan territory was abandoned during the malaria epidemic and that by 1836 the main Chinookan town at Cathlapotle (archaeological site 45CL1, see above) was being colonized by Sahaptin-speaking peoples. Others have argued that Sahaptin-speaking peoples had been using or living part-time in the reach long before that time (Boxberger 1984; Hunn 2003; Ray 1974).

Sahaptins

In the period after major depopulation, ca. 1830-1836, there was in southwest Washington a period of transition in terms of the ethnic groups that were present in the vicinity of the project area (Boyd 2011:178). It seems clear that Sahaptin-speaking peoples colonized the area that once had been the territory of people that spoke Multnomah Chinook as a first language. Based on his reading of ethnohistoric sources, Boxberger (1984:107–108) suggests that the Sahaptin speakers were Klickitat, but notes, (quoting Jacobs [1931]) that the name Klickitat was loosely applied to various Sahaptin-speaking peoples living on either side of the Cascades in Washington, so the "Klickitats" mentioned in the sources could have been one of several Sahaptin-speaking groups.

Boyd (2011:178) identifies the Sahaptin speakers present in the area in the 1830s as the Taytnapam. "Taytnapam was a dialect of Sahaptin spoken originally in the mountainous upper drainage of the Cowlitz River. It is cognate with Tieton, the name of the Sahaptin people who lived in villages along the Tieton River on the east flank of the Cascades, present northern Yakima County."

The Taytnapam appear to have entered Clark County via the Lewis River drainage. Boyd (2011:178) speculates that while uncertain, prior to 1830, groups of Taytnapam may have had villages along the upper part of the river. After 1830, they appear to have assumed Cathlapotle as their own (Boyd 2011:180). The ways on which the Taytnapam occupied and used interior Clark County is not known. The arrival of those peoples in the area was a time of cultural transition as new groups took up lands that had been Chinookan before that peoples' dramatic decline due to introduced diseases. Here we use the Klickitat as a model for how they may have lived and organized themselves in the ethnographic period.

The Sahaptin-speaking Klickitat were a mobile, trading people. They spent winters in villages and groups dispersed from the settlements at other times of the year in subsistence pursuits and to trade (Norton et al. 1999). Winter settlements were located along the lower reaches of the major streams in their territory. The villages were politically autonomous and were composed of long mat lodges built over shallow depressions. Related families resided in a lodge and formed the social subunits within the villages. Each village held recognized settlement sites and resource areas.

Economically, the Klickitat have been characterized as "prairie oriented" (Norton et al. 1999:67). Their territory included numerous prairies that were maintained through regular use of low-intensity fires. From the prairies they harvested a variety of food plants such as camas, acorns, lupine, wild carrot, and other important staples (Norton 1979). In season, groups traveled into the Cascades to collect and process huckleberries. During berry season, important inter-group socializing occurred, including gambling, horse racing, and trading. Groups returned to lower elevation prairie areas in the fall to gather nuts, roots, berries, and other plant and animal resources. In the late fall, Klickitat people returned to their winter village sites to live off stored foods that had been previously gathered. The seasonal round began anew when the first plants sprouted, and the spring runs of suckers and Chinook salmon started.

The Klickitat accessed their resource areas using a long-established network of trails. In southwest Washington, the best known of the trails is referred to as the Klickitat Trail. It ran from Fort Vancouver to The Dalles and on to the Yakima Valley. The trail is well known historically because it was used in the mid-nineteenth century by George McClellan and his party while scouting the route of the proposed Pacific Railroad. A map in Norton et al. (1999:135) shows the route taken by McClellan that presumably approximates the Klickitat Trail. The route can be seen to cross the main channel of the Lewis River about where in modern times Speelyai Creek empties into Lake Merwin and to follow a chain of open prairies southward from there, which include the modern day Chelatchie Prairie and one in the Yacolt valley. The trail crossed the East Fork Lewis River at Lucia Falls.

Previous Archaeological Investigations in the Project Area Vicinity

Records on file obtained at the DAHP using its Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) web portal indicate that the project area has not been surveyed and contains no recorded archaeological sites. It is in a part of Cowlitz County that has not been intensively studied by archaeologists. Ten previous cultural resource studies have been conducted within one mile (Table 1).

As a result of the previous studies only one archaeological resource has been documented. It is historic-era site 45CW301, which is located 0.48 mile to the east. As presently understood, it is a surface scatter of domestic household debris which is embedded in broken chunks of cement. Observed artifacts mostly date to the 1940s. The cement chunks were generally observed in piles strewn across the property, and assumed to be associated with a 1940s-era house which was destroyed prior to that survey (Haddad and Gall 2021).

Table 1. Cultural Resource Studies Conducted Within 1 Mile of the Project Area.

Author(s)/Year	Report Type	Acreage within 1 mile	Findings
Foutch et al. 2009	Survey Report	18.2	No archaeological resources identified
Gall 2009	Survey Report	5.7	No archaeological resources identified
Lloyd-Jones and Fagan 2009	Survey Report	6.4	No archaeological resources identified
Lloyd-Jones and Fagan 2010	Survey Report	2.3	Numerous archaeological resources identified at distances greater than 1 mile from the project area
Holschuh and Gall 2012	Survey Report	3	Numerous archaeological resources identified at distances greater than 1 mile from the project area
Moret-Ferguson and Donovan-Boyd 2013	Survey Report	28.2	No archaeological resources identified
Smith and Gall 2016	Survey Report	12.2	No archaeological resources identified
Gauthier and Gall 2019	Survey Report	2.1	No archaeological resources identified
Tuck et al. 2019	Survey Report	1.8	No archaeological resources identified
Haddad and Gall 2021	Survey Report	2.88	Archaeological site 45CW301 identified and recorded

The next nearest recorded site is 45CL1383, which consists of wooden pilings in the Lewis River. The pilings are organized in two rows and may include part of a structure such as a dock. However, at the time it was recorded the dense vegetation obscured views of the structure. According to historic aerial photographs of the area it dates to at least the late 1960s (Williams-Larson and Tisdale 2018). It is 2.1 miles to the east.

Results of Map and Photograph Research

As part of the background research, historical maps were reviewed to identify past uses of the project area and its ownership. Maps reviewed include those produced by the General Land Office (GLO) as part of the cadastral survey, maps prepared by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and Metsker. Historical and modern aerial photographs were also reviewed to track historical developments into the modern era.

The earliest map reviewed that depicts the project area was produced in 1854 by the GLO as part of its cadastral survey. It shows the project area to lack developments (GLO 1854). The surveyor described the nearby lands as "mostly prairie and subject to inundation from summer floods" and noted that trees around the slough were composed of "balmgilead [sic], ash, oak, willows" (GLO 1854). The property remained undeveloped through the twentieth century. On maps published by the USGS beginning in 1940, no developments are depicted (USGS 1940, 1954, 1970, 1990).

Similarly, aerial photographs taken of the area beginning in 1951 show the project area as mostly agricultural lands with forested areas restricted to the slough. No developments are depicted on aerial photographs until the twenty-first century, at which point a U-shaped dirt road appears in its northern part, connecting to Guild Road to the north. Otherwise it remains undeveloped and in use as pasture land and for growing hay (Google 2021; Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC [NETR] 2021).

Information on ownership during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is sparse. The project area is shown as within the donation land claim (DLC) of Solomon Strong on an 1863 GLO map (GLO 1863). Strong was born in Erie County, New York, in 1817, the descendant of English immigrants. Along with his wife, Mary Ann Strong (nee Bozarth) and his brothers Ezra Strong and Jackson Strong,

Solomon moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1847. By 1850 he had acquired the DLC in which the project area is situated. Strong became a prominent citizen in Clark and Cowlitz Counties, holding various public positions including Clark County Commissioner (1853-1862), Cowlitz County Commissioner (dates unlisted), and Lewis River Justice of the Peace (1852-1854). Mary Ann passed away in 1860, two months after delivering her tenth child. Strong remarried, to Cornelia Ann Bolton, but they had no children. He died in December of 1902 (Harshman 1989:497–498).

The United Bulb Company owned the property in 1956 (Metsker 1956).

METHODS AND RESULTS

Archaeological Methods

Field investigations were conducted on December 3, 2021. They began with an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area that entailed walking a series of east and west oriented transects that were spaced no more than 20 meters (m) apart. Following the surface survey, 16 STPs were excavated to search for buried archaeological material. STP placement approximated a grid designed to provide representative coverage of the project area. The STPs were between 30 and 40 centimeters (cm) in diameter and were excavated in 20-cm or thinner levels to depths of at least 50 cm below surface (cmbs). Based on the known nearby archaeological resources, surficial geology, and history of local landforms (the latter two of which are described in more detail in Roulette and Lynch [2020:7–10]), if artifacts were present within the project area they would occur above this depth. Sediment removed from all STPs was screened through one-eighth inch-mesh hardware cloth. Afterward the STPs were completely backfilled, and their locations were recorded using a handheld Trimble GeoExplorer CE global positioning system (GPS) device. GPS data were then corrected and exported to a graphics program for final editing and formatting.

Results of the Archaeological Field Investigations

Surface Survey

Except where vegetation had been disturbed, surface visibility across the project area was close to zero percent due to thick vegetation. Where vegetation was disturbed, surface visibility was between 50 and 100 percent. During the surface survey modern car parts were found in the northern part of the project area (Figure 5). The location of the former access road was overgrown and remnants of it had more compacted soils than elsewhere on the property. The only other evidence of the access road were the two culverts crossing the ditch. One of the culverts was still usable. The other was overgrown.

Subsurface Sampling

Soil profiles exposed in the STPs had characteristics of the typic pedons for Clato and Newberg series soils, but the profiles were frequently disturbed (Table 2). As a group, soil profiles featured upper layers of dark yellowish brown and very dark brown to brown silt loam, sandy silt loam, and sand. Where a second layer was present, it generally was dark brown, dark grayish brown, and dark gray silt loam, silty sandy loam, or sand. Some had abundant gravels but mostly they did not include gravels or rocks. STP 2 included modern trash between 40 and 50 cmbs and STP 5 included some road gravels in the upper 0-20 cm.

Table 2. Results of Shovel Test Probes

STP No.	UTM Coordinates (Zone 10N)	Depth (cmbs)	Description	Results
1	517930 5084690	0-60	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) to dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sand with small pockets of silty sand. No gravels.	No artifacts
2	517963 5084691	0-10	Dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) gravelly coarse sand with compact pockets of brown (10YR 4/3) gravelly silt loam.	No artifacts
		10-40	Dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) coarse gravelly sandy loam.	
		40-50	Very compacted brown (10YR 3/3) silt loam with sub-rounded to sub-angularpoorly-sorted gravels and rocks. Modern plastic trash and wood debris intermingled.	
3	517983 5084712	0-15	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt loam. Sand content increases with depth. No gravels.	No artifacts
		15-50	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sand. No gravels.	
4	517997 5084681	0-60	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) silt loam. No gravels. Dense fine roots in the upper 30 cm.	No artifacts
5	518022 5084671	0-40	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt loam. Sparse road gravels in upper 20 cm.	No artifacts
		40-50	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sand. No gravels.	
6	518045 5084681	0-40	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt loam. Sparse road gravels in upper 20 cm.	No artifacts
		40-50	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sand. No gravels.	
7	518003 5084652	0-40	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt loam. Sparse road gravels in upper 20 cm.	No artifacts
		40-50	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sand. No gravels.	
8	517980 5084667	0-50	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt loam. Sparse road gravels in upper 20 cm.	No artifacts
		50-55	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sand. No gravels.	
9	517942 5084658	0-50	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sticky silt loam. No gravels.	No artifacts
10	517912 5084662	0-50	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sticky silt loam. No gravels.	No artifacts
11	517920 5084644	0-50	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sticky silt loam. No gravels.	No artifacts
12	517904 5084631	0-50	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sticky silt loam with abundant charcoal chunks from 30-50 cmbs. No gravels.	No artifacts
13	517967 5084646	0-40	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sticky silt loam. No gravels.	No artifacts
		40-50	Grayish brown (10YR 5/2) sticky silt loam. No gravels.	
14	517991 5084627	0-40	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sticky sandy silt loam. No gravels.	No artifacts
		40-50	Grayish brown (10YR 5/2) sticky sandy silt loam. Sand content increases with depth. No gravels.	
15	518025 5084618	0-50	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sticky silt loam. No gravels.	No artifacts
16	517944 5084628	0-40	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sticky sandy silt loam. No gravels.	No artifacts
		40-50	Grayish brown (10YR 5/2) sticky sandy silt loam. Sand content increases with depth. No gravels.	

Figure 5. View looking southwest showing an area of disturbed soil with modern car axle and other smaller machine parts.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This report has described the results of a cultural resources study conducted by AAR of a 3.97-acre development site where Part IV Properties, LLC proposes to construct one commercial building with associated infrastructure and parking. Background research indicated that the project area does not contain recorded cultural resources and no such resources were found during the fieldwork.

Recommendations

The excavation of 16 STPs in the 3.97-acre project area represents thorough coverage that AAR believes would have resulted in the discovery of cultural resources had they been present. AAR's study was done to assist Part IV Properties, LLC in complying with SEPA as implemented by Cowlitz County code Chapter 19. In terms of Line 13 of the SEPA checklist, it is AAR's finding that the project area does not contain any buildings, structures, or sites, that are listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers. The general lack of archaeological resources recorded within one mile of the project area, coupled with the surficial nature of the few archaeological sites within a radius broader than one mile (Roulette and Lynch 2020), indicates that the minimum excavation depth for STPs of 50 cmbs would have encountered artifacts, if present. Therefore, AAR recommends **no further archaeological work in the project area defined in this report.**

Although considered unlikely, there is always a possibility that an archaeological resource may be discovered during development activity on the property. For that reason, the applicant and any

contractors that may work on the property need to be aware that under the Revised Code of Washington at 27.53.060, it is unlawful to knowingly damage, deface, or destroy an archaeological site on public or private land in Washington. Under the Revised Code of Washington at 27.44.040 it a class C felony to knowingly remove, mutilate, deface, injure, or destroy any cairn or grave of any native Indian. Thus, if archaeological materials, Indian cairns, or human remains are encountered during the development of the property, all construction activities must stop in the vicinity of the finds and the DAHP should immediately be notified, and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. Procedures outlined under Washington Administrative Code at 25-48 will be followed and work will not resume until mitigation measures have been agreed upon.

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