



Soil & Environmental Consultants, PA

11010 Raven Ridge Road • Raleigh, North Carolina 27614 • Phone: (919) 846-5900 • Fax: (919) 846-9467
www.SandEC.com

April 6, 2006
S&EC Project #7185.w3

Kathy Smith
P.O. Box 5689
Cary, NC 27512

Re: The Bluffs

Re: Environmental Status Report for The Bluffs Project
Chatham County, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Smith:

The purpose of this report is to advise you on the status of environmental evaluations conducted for The Bluffs. The site is located east of Old Hwy 87 approximately 1 mile southeast of Terrells, NC and is adjacent to the Haw River. The site is approximately 597 acres in size.

Currently, the following environmental evaluations have been performed: 1) Preliminary wetland delineation, 2) Detailed wetland delineation, and 3) Natural Heritage Program and State Historic Preservation file searches. A field survey of plant community types and the potential for protected and listed terrestrial plant and animal species will be conducted within the next two months. The above listed evaluations are discussed briefly below.

Preliminary and Detailed Wetland Delineations

S&EC completed a preliminary wetland delineation of the central +/- 300-acre portion of the property in July of 2002. A detailed wetland delineation of the same property was completed in January of 2005. A detailed wetland delineation was completed on three additional adjacent parcels in December of 2005. During the detailed delineations, perennial streams, intermittent streams, and wetlands were identified and flagged. Jurisdictional waters on the property are classified as WS-IV; NSW in NC-DENR's "Classifications and Water Quality Standards Applicable to Surface Water And Wetlands Of North Carolina". Mr. Todd Tugwell of the USACE and Mr. Eric Kulz of the NC-DWQ have previously visited portions of the site to confirm stream determinations and wetland boundaries and are scheduled to return to the site to complete their field reviews.

NC State Historic Preservation Office File Search

The most recent records' check at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducted in March and April of 2006 revealed that there are no structures on the property that appear on the

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National Registry (NR), Determination of Eligibility (DOE), Study List (SL), or Locally Designated (LD) lists. One historical site, Rock Rest Multiple Structures (CH408) occurs on property and has been architecturally reviewed. A Natural Registry Property, Baldwin's Mill (CH 535), is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the site along Terrell's Branch. The Mitchum Site, an archeological dig site, occurs adjacent to the property in the floodplain of the Haw River.

NC Natural Heritage Program Office File Search

NC NHP records occurrences of rare plant and animal species, exemplary natural communities, and special animal habitats known to occur in North Carolina. A record check was performed in November 2004 and again in March 2006. The file reviews yielded no federally or state listed plant or animal species found within the project boundaries. The subject property is located on the Bynum USGS quadrangle. However, the Silk Hope quadrangle also was checked for possible nearby occurrences.

The Haw River borders the eastern portion of the property. An Identified Priority Area (IPA), as designated by the Natural Heritage Program (NHP), is documented +/- 500 feet downstream of the site. In addition, another locally designated IPA, Terrell's Creek Galax Bluffs, occurs along Terrell's Creek approximately one mile northwest of the site. Within the Haw River downstream near Bynum, North Carolina are known locations of the federally-listed and state-listed Endangered Cape Fear shiner (*Notropis mekistocholas*), state-listed Endangered yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*), and a state-listed Significantly Rare septima's clubtail (*Gomphus septima*), a dragonfly. An occurrence of *Phacelia ranunculata* is recorded approximately 0.6 miles northwest of the site along the floodplain of the Haw River.

If you have any questions or need additional services please call us.

Sincerely,



Aaron Cooper
Botanist/Wetland Scientist



Sean Clark
Environmental Scientist



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S&EC Project No.: 7185.W3

Polk-Sullivan, L.L.C.
Attn: Kathy Smith
P.O. Box 5689
Cary, NC 27512

Re: Historical Records Review / Natural Heritage Program File Search
The Bluffs
Chatham County, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Smith:

In March 2006 S&EC conducted an updated review of records at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for sites and structures of historical significance on the subject property. In addition, a file search for federally protected species was performed at the Natural Heritage Program office in Raleigh, North Carolina. The location of the project site is depicted on the attached Bynum and Silk Hope USGS topographic quadrangles.

Findings - NC State Historic Preservation Office

North Carolina SHPO maintains records and locations of buildings, structures, and objects that are listed by local governments as historic landmarks or that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The records check at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) revealed that there are no structures on the property that appear on the National Registry (NR), Determination of Eligibility (DOE), Study List (SL), or Locally Designated (LD) lists. A Natural Registry Property, Baldwin's Mill (CH 535), is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the site along Terrell's Branch. A separately owned (by parties other than the applicant) parcel of the property, not within the project boundary, contains the Rock Rest Multiple Structures (CH 408), a reviewed historical site that has been architecturally reviewed. CH 408 is not a part of the Bluffs project area. Please refer to the attached Bynum USGS quadrangle for the exact locations of these properties.

Findings - NC Natural Heritage Program Office

North Carolina Natural Heritage Program records occurrences of rare plant and animal species, exemplary natural communities, and special animal habitats known to occur in North Carolina.

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The record check was performed in March 2006. The subject property is located on the Bynum USGS quadrangle. However, the Silk Hope quadrangle was also checked for nearby occurrences.

The Haw River borders the eastern portion of the property. An Identified Priority Area (IPA), Haw River Aquatic Habitat, as designated by the Natural Heritage Program (NHP), is documented +/- 500 feet downstream of the site. In addition, another locally designated IPA, Terrell's Creek Galax Bluffs, occurs along Terrell's Creek approximately one mile northwest of the site. Within the Haw River downstream near Bynum, North Carolina are known locations of the federally-listed and state-listed Endangered Cape Fear shiner (*Notropis mekistocholas*), state-listed Endangered yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*), and a state-listed Significantly Rare septima's clubtail (*Gomphus septima*), a dragonfly. An occurrence of *Phacelia ranunculata* is recorded approximately 0.6 miles northwest of the site along the floodplain of the Haw River. A list of the occurrences within the Bynum and Silk Hope USGS quadrangles are listed below:

Bynum USGS

- IPAs: Terrell's Creek Galax Bluffs (local)
Duke Forest/Haw River Slopes & Levees
Haw River Aquatic Habitat
- Plants: *Phacelia ranunculacea* (Status unlisted)
Phacelia covillei (Buttercup Phacelia)
NC-SR-T; FSC
- Animals: *Notropis mekistocholas* (Cape Fear Shiner)
NC-E; US-E (2 dots on map; found 1992, 1993, and 2000)
Gomphus septima (Septima's clubtail)
NC-SR; US-FSC
Lampsilis cariosa (Yellow Lampmussel)
NC-E; US-FSC

Silk Hope USGS

- Rare Plants: *Collinsonia tuberosa* (Piedmont Horsebalm)
NC-SR-P

Findings – NC Office of Archaeology

North Carolina Office of State Archaeology records archaeological sites and excavations. The record check was performed in April 2006. Although, areas surrounding the project boundary have historic sites, no documented historic sites are located within the project's boundaries. Five

archaeological sites in the surrounding area have been excavated. There are two well documented sites within 1000 feet of the project boundary; the Mitchum Site and the Webster Site.

The Mitchum Site is located on the right descending bank of the Haw River at a point approximately 700 feet off site from the project's northern property line. The Mitchum Site was tested during the summer of 1983 by H. Trawick Ward and R. P. Stephen Davis of the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. This work exposed a single subrectangular house, a human burial, and 14 other associated features. Ethnohistoric accounts of Indian peoples in the piedmont North Carolina during this period suggest that the site was part of a Sissipahaw village.

The Webster site is a Late Woodland Haw River phase village in Chatham County. The Webster Site is located across the Haw River directly east (off site) of the project site. This Webster site was also tested by H. Trawick Ward and R. P. Stephen Davis of the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Based on the proximity of these sites to the project boundary, an archeological reconnaissance survey to determine whether there are any archeologically significant sites located within the project boundary may be helpful.

Summary

The records search at the Natural Heritage Program revealed that no rare plants or animals have been recorded within the project boundaries. The file search at the State Historic Preservation Office produced no records of structures on property listed on the National Registry (NR), Determination of Eligibility (DOE), Study List (SL), or Locally Designated (LD) lists. The records search at the North Carolina Office of Archaeology revealed no records of archaeological sites discovered within the project boundaries.

If you have any questions or need additional services, call me.

Sincerely,

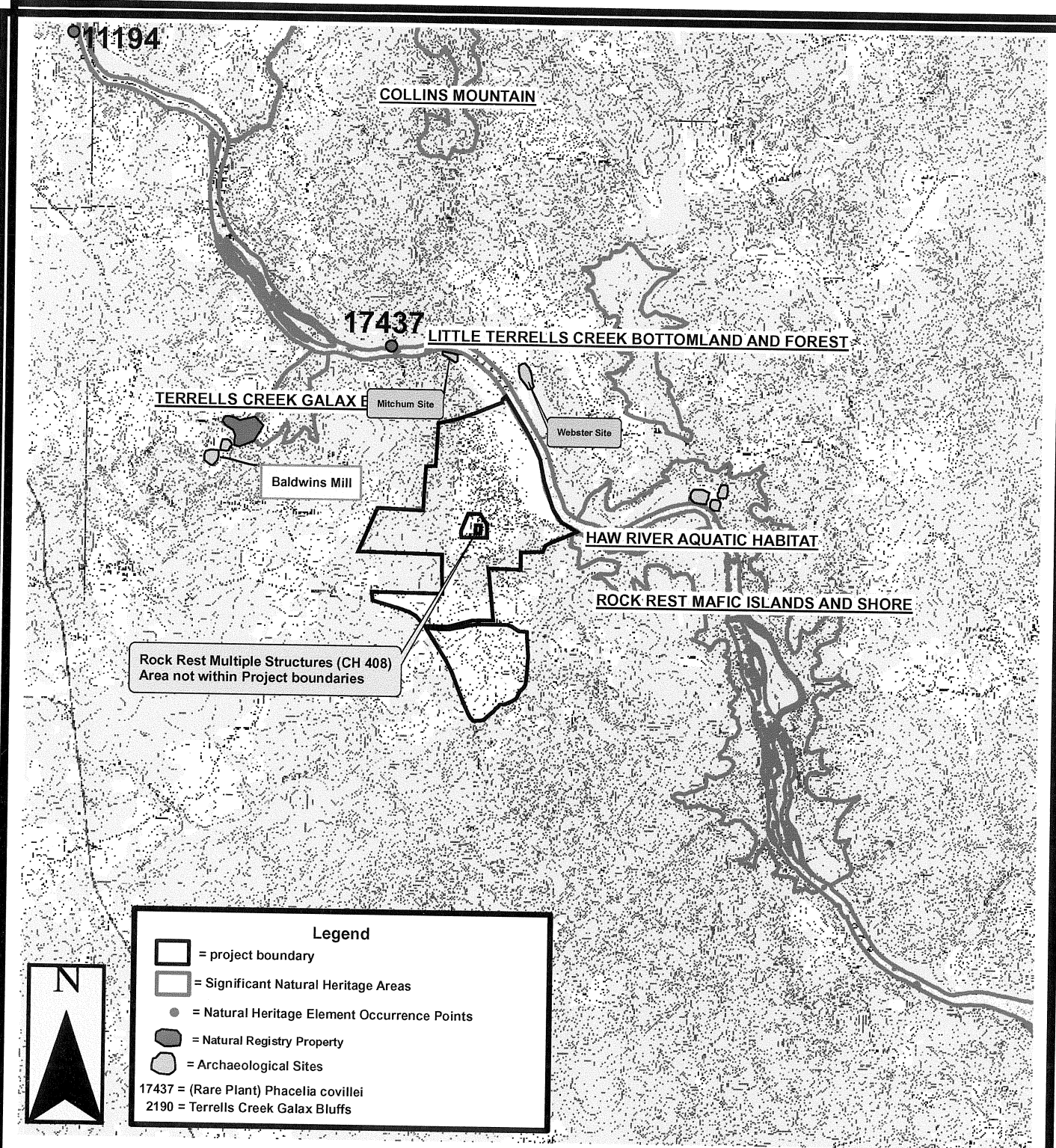


James R. Graham Jr.
Biologist / Environmental Scientist



Sean Clark
Environmental Specialist / Project manager

Attachments: USGS Quad Map with Historical Site Locations and Occurrences of Rare Plant and Animal Species



Legend

- = project boundary
- = Significant Natural Heritage Areas
- = Natural Heritage Element Occurrence Points
- = Natural Registry Property
- = Archaeological Sites

17437 = (Rare Plant) *Phacelia covillei*
 2190 = Terrells Creek Galax Bluffs

Project Number:
7185.W3

Project Manager:
DG

Scale:
1" = 2000'

Date:
04/06/2006

Map Title:
**Natural Heritage
Program Map
The Bluffs
Project #: 7185.W3
Chatham County, NC**

Source:
Bynum Quad



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