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Archaeological Survey of Proposed Sewage Treatment Facilities Site in the Village of New Era, Michigan.

Personnel:

Principal Investigator: Robert G. Kingsley, M.A., Research Associate

Field Assistants: David Hoxie, John Nass, Jr. (graduate students)

Introduction:

On September 27, 1977, an archaeological survey was conducted at the request of Mr. James T. Nordlund of Richardson, Nordlund, and Dunlap, Inc. of Ludington, Michigan. The survey was intended to locate cultural resources in a proposed sewage treatment plant site near the village of New Era, Oceana County, Michigan.

Previous Research:

The archaeological site files at the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, were inspected to determine if known cultural resources existed within the designated project area. This inspection revealed that no site locations had been reported for this area.

Procedures:

As indicated above, the site files were examined prior to actual fieldwork to determine the nature of known cultural resources in the project area.

Field procedures consisted of systematic transect survey with subsurface test probes. The project area was walked using 25 yd apart transects; subsurface test probes were placed every 25 yd and were dug to the glacial sand. In addition to probing, the ground surface was also examined to determine if sites existed in the area. Most of the parcel had poor topsoil development and surface visibility was thus good to excellent.

Description of Survey Area:

The parcel of land surveyed contains 20 acres and lies in the NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 34, Shelby Township, Oceana County, Michigan. The parcel was not marked or bounded in any way, so the distance to it was paced off from a known point. Since the precise boundaries could not be determined with accuracy, the transect survey was designed to cover the general area and thus to cover the parcel itself. Though the area to be impacted covers 20 acres, it is estimated that the transect survey covered about 30 acres, which includes the project area and adjacent areas on all sides.

The project area displays glacial topography. The area is gently rolling, and in what appears to be the center of the 20 acre parcel is a glacial "pot hole" or kettle. This feature is nearly perfectly conical and probably 20-30 ft deep; the feature shows up on the USGS quadrangle map. Land cover is mostly perennials weeds and mosses. Tree growth is sparse and when present consists of deciduous trees with a few pines. The entire area is very sandy and unstable and topsoil development is poor. Topsoil never exceeded a depth of 4 in in any of our test probes, and was usually absent. Glacial till in the form of small gravel is present but not abundant throughout the area.

Sites Recorded:

No cultural material of any kind was found during this survey. No historic or prehistoric sites whatsoever were encountered.

Recommendations:

Since this project area, as outlined to me by Mr. James T. Nordlund of Richardson, Nordlund, and Dunlap, Inc., does not contain extant cultural resources, I can recommend that this project proceed as planned.

Prepared and Submitted by:

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