



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H36(2287)

October 3, 2016

Anna Lawston
USACE - Norfolk District
The Warrenton Field Office
PO Box 578
Amissville, Virginia 20106

RE: Midwood (VMRC/DEQ Project Number: WP4-16-1058) - Section 106 Invitation to Comment
SENT VIA EMAIL. NO HARD COPY.

Dear Ms. Anna Lawston,

Thank you for contacting the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) concerning the Section 106 Coordination Process due to an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the above referenced project in Virginia. The ABPP reviewed the materials (VDHR Coordination Form, APE Map, VCRIS Map, Permit Application Maps, Phase I Cultural Resource Survey) sent by you via email on August 29, 2016 for the project's potential effects on Civil War Battlefields in the project's area.

Historic Properties

As acknowledged on the VDHR Coordination Form, ABPP recognizes that the proposed project's APE falls within the study area for four Civil War Battlefields, as identified by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC): Buckland Mills (VA 042), Thoroughfare Gap (VA025), Manassas Station Operations (VA024), and Bristoe Station (VA 040). Bristoe Station is listed as Preservation Priority I, as determined by the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields. Buckland Mills is listed as a Priority II. Both Priorities I and II refer to battlefields in critical need of preservation action.

Potential Effects- Direct and Indirect

The ABPP believes that the battlefields mentioned above have the potential of being affected by this project. The proposed project has the potential of affecting the historic integrity of these battlefield landscapes through both ground disturbance and visual means. The construction of the two warehouses and associated infrastructure related to project Midwood (VMRC/DEQ Project Number: WP4-16-1058) could damage or destroy archeological resources and military terrain in the area, in particularly that of Buckland Mills. The proposed APE falls within the northern core area of the battlefield, which at present consists of mostly undeveloped land and is eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On October 19, 1863, after a defeat at Bristoe Station and an aborted advance on Centreville, Stuart's cavalry shielded the withdrawal of Lee's army from the vicinity of Manassas Junction.

Union cavalry under Kilpatrick pursued Stuart's cavalry along the Warrenton Turnpike but were lured into an ambush near Chestnut Hill and routed. The Federal troopers were scattered and chased five miles in an affair that came to be known as the "Buckland Races."¹ The proposed project area and the APE are located within the core area of the battlefield associated with the Union retreat across Broad Run, towards Haymarket. The two-pronged retreat resulted in the two northern core areas of the battlefield; the locations of the final skirmishes of the battle (See enclosed maps).

The Phase I Cultural Resource Survey conducted by Thunderbird Archeology was provided to the ABPP through this consultation. The ABPP thanks Thunderbird for conducting a KOCOA military terrain analysis and metal detecting survey due to the identified battlefields within the APE. However, the ABPP disagrees with the assertion that, "The portion of the resource within the project area lacks integrity with regards to its location and association (i.e. events of great significance in association with the battle did not occur in this location based on the results of archeological and historical research)."² Given that the Battle of Buckland Mills was a cavalry battle, the weight of the integrity of the battlefield site is not on the yield of artifacts, but the topography and the landscape. Given that the feeling and setting are still present, and even the location of the historic extent of the battle, if not the exact core, as suggested by Thunderbird, the ABPP believes that the property in association with the core area of Buckland Mill's battlefield, as per the ABPP's Resurvey maps, is still eligible for the National Register under criteria A.

In review of the project proposal and location, the American Battlefield Protection Program disagrees with the determination of no adverse effect. The location of this project site is in the center of a core battlefield area, will affect the integrity of the site, and ability to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Please keep the ABPP informed of the Section 106 process due to the potential effects to Civil War battlefield landscapes. Feel free to refer to our website (www.nps.gov/abpp) for more information about the CWSAC, Resurvey, and battlefield survey methodology. If you have any further questions about these battlefields, please contact me at 202-354-2215 or elizabeth_vehmeyer@nps.gov.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Vehmeyer

Grants Management Specialist
American Battlefield Protection Program

Enclosures

cc: Greg LaBudde, VDHR

¹ CWSAC Battlefield Summaries: Buckland Mills

² p.ii Thunderbird Archaeology, "Midwood Property Prince William County, Virginia"