ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
FOR THE OLD DAVIS ROAD REALIGNMENT
PROJECT
ON THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS CAMPUS
YOLO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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Management Summary

This report documents an archaeological investigation completed for the proposed Old Davis Road Realignment Project (Figures 1 & 2) on the UC Davis campus. The archaeological investigation included archival research, a surface inspection, and subsurface auger testing within the project area (Figure 3). No intact cultural deposits or features were identified in the project area. Due to these negative findings, no further archaeological work is recommended prior to construction of the proposed project. Archaeological monitoring of the initial subsurface construction is recommended due to the project’s proximity to archaeologically sensitive areas shown in Figure 3: the original Putah Creek stream channel (Arboretum Waterway); prehistoric site CA-YOL-197/H (i.e., within ½ mile) of the project area (Milliken 2004); prehistoric archaeological site CA-SOL-397, located at the Solano Park Apartments (L. Shapiro 1999; W. Shapiro 2004; Shapiro and Beasley 2004; Shapiro et al. 2006; and Welsh 2007); a Historic Refuse Feature that was discovered at the Arboretum in 2003 (Shapiro, W. 2003); and archaeological site CA-YOL-118 located on the campus periphery along A Street (Johnson 1971).

Purpose, Need, and Project Description

The proposed project includes the realignment of the Old Davis Road (Hotel to A Street) and excavated utilities. The entire road corridor will be excavated to a depth of up to three (3) feet. Excavation for the utility corridor will be narrower than the road corridor but could go as deep as 10 feet. The project area is approximately 8.5 acres in size. The project area is currently comprised of open space consisting of landscaping, lawn, community garden, concrete walkways, and asphalt parking areas.

An archaeological investigation for this project was warranted because ground disturbing activities would take place within 800 feet of the original Putah Creek stream channel, an archaeologically sensitive zone as determined by the UC Davis Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report (2003).

The archaeological investigations for this project were initiated and completed to satisfy requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (Public Resources Code 21000 et seq.), and as amended, pertaining to potential impacts of proposed developments to cultural resources.

Prehistoric and Historic Context

The project area and the entire UC Davis campus are located within the ethnographic territory of the Patwin. Also known as Southern Wintun, Patwin were linguistic members of the widespread Penutian language family that was prevalent throughout California during the late prehistoric and historic era (e.g., A.D. 1800) (Johnson 1978:350). Principal ethnographic sources on the Patwin include Johnson (1978:350-369) and Kroeber (1925:351-390).

Patwin, although comprised of a number of tribal groups speaking their own dialects, are generally divided into two larger cultural groups based on shared language and territory.
Figure 1. Vicinity Map.

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Figure 2. Project Location Map.

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These two groups are Hill Patwin and River Patwin. Hill Patwin occupied the lower, eastern slopes of the southern North Coast Range. River Patwin occupied the western Sacramento River valley including the area now occupied by the City of Davis and the UC Davis campus. Similar to most northern California prehistoric groups, Patwin subsistence was based on seasonal migrations to capitalize upon various resources spread across their territory. The largest ethnographic villages documented at the time of historic contact (i.e., A.D. 1800) were located along major drainages such as Putah Creek, Cache Creek, and the Sacramento River.

Archaeological investigations in the central Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley and river delta region began during the 1930s, and the history is recounted in several sources (e.g., Moratto 1984:167-216). The prehistory is generally interpreted in terms of three cultural periods or “horizons” which are defined within the Central California Taxonomic System (CCTS). The CCTS recognizes the Early Horizon (5500 B.C.-2000 B.C.), Middle Horizon (1500 B.C.-A.D. 500), and Late Horizon (A.D. 500-1880). Each horizon within the CCTS is characterized by distinctive artifact assemblages. The known prehistoric sites on the UC Davis campus and in the immediate vicinity are attributed to the Late Horizon.

Project Context

The UC Davis (2003) Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) identifies archaeologically sensitive areas on the UC Davis campus and in the vicinity. These areas include the original Putah Creek stream channel and locations next to known archaeological sites and cultural resources. The proposed Old Davis Road Realignment Project is located within an archaeologically sensitive area as it less than 800 feet from the original Putah Creek stream channel next to the Arboretum, and one phase of the project will consist of trenching into the arboretum in one location. The project location is in close proximity to a known archaeological site recorded as prehistoric site CA-YOL-197/H (Milliken 2004) located near the Mondavi Center for the Arts; prehistoric site CA-SOL-397, located at the Solano Park Apartments (L. Shapiro 1999; W. Shapiro 2004; Shapiro and Beasley 2004; Shapiro et al. 2006; and Welsh 2007); a Historic Refuse Feature that was discovered at the Arboretum in 2003 (W. Shapiro 2003a); and archaeological site CA-YOL-118 located on the campus periphery along A Street (Johnson 1971).

Site CA-YOL-197/H (Figure 3) is located on the natural levee along the south side of the Arboretum Waterway, which follows the historic channel of Putah Creek, on the UC Davis campus, and was identified during work for the South Entry Parking Structure and the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts (Milliken 2004). CA-YOL-197/H represents a small prehistoric occupation overlain by a late-nineteenth century farm (Milliken 2004).

Site CA-SOL-397 (Figure 3) is located just east of the northern portion of the project area on the grounds of the Solano Park Family Housing Complex. CA-SOL-397 is described as a prehistoric residential base camp which may have been occupied year round (L. Shapiro 1999; W. Shapiro 2004; Shapiro and Beasley 2004; Shapiro et al. 2006; and Welsh 2007).

CA-YOL-118 (Figure 3) is located to the north less than 1/4 mile of the project area, and is described as an “open midden site of unknown dimensions and nature” (Johnson 1971), but is located on the campus periphery along A Street. The site record prepared by Johnson (1971) for CA-YOL-118 states that a human cranium was found during the construction of Voorhies Hall. The site probably
Figure 3. Auger Probe Location Map.
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extends across A Street as indicted by the reported discovery of a human burial found during excavations for a basement at a house on the southeast corner of 1st and A Street.

Two other undocumented prehistoric sites are reported near the intersection of 2nd and A Streets and 2nd and C Streets. It is possible that CA-YOL-118, CA-SOL-397, and the two undocumented prehistoric sites in vicinity of 1st and A Streets represent portions of a single, large aboriginal site that is bisected by the historic channel of Putah Creek, currently, the Arboretum waterway (L. Shapiro 1999 and 2006).

Archaeological Research Strategy
UC Davis is committed to the proper management of cultural resource. Therefore, implementation of an archaeological research strategy that acknowledges this commitment and current project conditions is appropriate. The following research strategy has been deemed appropriate and included surface survey of the project area and subsurface testing. This sub-surface testing excluded areas previously tested as shown in Table 1 (i.e., The Music Building Project 2003). The field work strategy was designed to determine the presence/absence of intact and possible continuous cultural deposits in the project area prior to the commencement of potential construction activity. Previous UC Davis Projects in and surrounding the proposed Project Vicinity are summarized in Table 1 and shown in Figure 3.

Previous Archaeological Investigations in Close Proximity to the Old Davis Realignment Project

The Archaeological Investigations at Parking Lot 10, located on the corner of First and A streets (Figure 3), was investigated due to its close proximity to the previously recorded boundaries of prehistoric archaeological site CA-YOL-118, described as an “open midden site of unknown dimensions and nature”.

Table 1. Previous UC Davis Projects in the Proposed Project Vicinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UC Davis Project</th>
<th>Reporting Author</th>
<th>Investigation Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects with Positive Archaeological Findings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Archaeological Investigations at Parking Lot 10</td>
<td>Shapiro, L. (2006)</td>
<td>Survey, sub-surface testing and excavation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Projects with Negative Archaeological Findings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Archaeological Investigations for the UC Davis Hotel and Conference Center Project</td>
<td>Nadolski (2000)</td>
<td>Survey and sub-surface testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archaeological Investigations for The Music Building on the UC Davis Campus</td>
<td>L. Shapiro (1994)</td>
<td>Survey and sub-surface testing</td>
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<td>W. Shapiro (2003b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Entry Roadway Project</td>
<td>Nadolski 2000, 2003; Shapiro, L. 1994</td>
<td>Survey, Testing, Monitoring</td>
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The site was originally recorded in 1971 and site record documents reports that human remains were
located in the immediate vicinity, and in particular a cranium was found during the construction of Voorhies Hall. The Parking Lot 10 archaeological investigation involved a surface survey and limited subsurface testing (Figure 3) in the landscaped strip around the perimeter of Parking Lot 10 (Shapiro, L. 2006).

The testing entailed the excavation of five control units (CUs). Cultural materials identified in the project area are attributed to CA-YOL-118. An updated archaeological site record and map for CA-YOL-118 can be found in Shapiro L. (2006).

Archaeological Investigation for Historic Refuse Discovery at the Arboretum (Figure 3) was conducted in 2004 to determine the extent and nature of historic artifacts that had been discovered at the east end of Redwood Grove. This historic refuse discovery was excavated to confirm that it is an isolated deposit, and all discovered materials were inventoried.

In June 2000, archaeological survey and auger testing was conducted for the Hotel and Conference Center (Figure 3). A total of five auger probes were excavated within project boundaries (Nadolski 2000). A total of nine auger probes were previously excavated (Nadolski 1997) and shown on Figure 3. No cultural resources were identified as a result of this work.

On October 2003 Archaeological Investigations for the Music Building project were conducted (Shapiro, W. 2003). A systematic archeological surface survey and a series of 20 auger probes were excavated throughout the project area (Figure 3). This investigation did not identify any cultural materials or significant evidence to suggest the presence of intact archeological deposits within project boundaries. A previous archaeological investigation was conducted within the project area in 1994 for a proposed utility trench and involved the excavation of six auger probes (Figure 3), and no cultural materials were found (L. Shapiro 1994).

During 2002 and 2003 a surface survey and 84 auger probes were excavated for the archaeological investigations for the South Entry study area (Figure 3). The placement of the 84 auger probes are shown in Nadolski (2003). The surface artifact distribution and initial excavation results were used to position six control units. It was concluded that the small assemblage was not representative of cultural occupation in the area, but rather suggests that the cultural material is redeposited to the area (Nadolski 2003).

Field Methods and Results

The archaeological investigation for the Old Davis Road Realignment Project was conducted by Pacific Legacy staff archaeologists on April 6th and 7th, 2011. Patricia Welsh, M.A. directed the fieldwork and was assisted by archaeologists Angela Avery, B.A. The fieldwork was coordinated with Matt Dulcich, AICP Assistant Director for Environmental Planning, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability. Prior to conducting the fieldwork, sixteen subsurface auger probe locations within the project area were selected for excavation by Pacific Legacy staff archaeologists William Shapiro, M.A. and Patricia Welsh, M.A., with the assistance of Brad Markel, UC Davis Excavation Coordinator and Utilities Locator with Facilities Operations and Maintenance. These locations were spray painted white and marked with white pin flags. Underground Service Alert (USA) was then contacted so that various utilities could confirm that the proposed auger locations would avoid underground utilities. The UC Davis Grounds Services was also notified so that buried
irrigation and sprinkler lines would be similarly avoided. The sixteen auger probes were excavated using a bobcat-mounted auger provided by and staffed by the Agricultural Services Department at UC Davis. Ismael Castro, Jr. of the Agricultural Services Department operated the auger for the field investigation. The auger probes measured 16 inches in diameter and varied in depth from 5.0 to 5.5 feet below the current ground surface (Figure 3). Due to the sensitive nature of this proposed project area, all the soil from each auger probed was passed through ¼-inch wire mesh screens to identify cultural constituents (e.g., prehistoric midden soils, charcoal, flaked stone, bone, shell, and/or historic items such as porcelain, glass and iron fragments).

Soils throughout the project area consisted of sterile, light brown to medium brown silt which was typically higher in clay content near the surface and higher in sand content with depth. Auger Probe No. 1 contained small pebbles and a few small rocks. Auger Probe No. 2 contained small water worn pebbles. Probes No. 3, 4, 5, 6 yielded a few small pebbles, plant material and roots. Probe No. 7 yielded a few very small pieces of charcoal. Probe No. 8 contained a few small pebbles and one small metal electric saw blade. Probe No. 9 contained three to four medium size rocks, a few small cobbles, one small, broken obsidian flake, and several small pieces of charcoal. Probe No. 10 yielded one piece of charcoal, small cobbles and numerous roots. Probe No. 11 contained some gravels and one small piece of charcoal. Probes 12, 13, 14, and 15 contained some gravels. Probe 16 was extremely wet and clay like and was void of any materials. There were no concentrations of cultural material identified in any of the probes. The charcoal flecking from the auger probes likely represents contemporary fill debris resulting from previous construction, and the one obsidian flake may have also been brought in when constructing the present road and parking lot.

In conclusion, the archaeological investigation for the proposed Old Davis Road Realignment Project did not identify any significant cultural materials or evidence to suggest the presence of intact cultural deposits within project boundaries. Therefore, no additional archaeological work is recommended for the proposed Old Davis Road Realignment Project prior to the start of construction.

Conclusions and Management Recommendations

An archaeological investigation for the proposed site of the Old Davis Road Realignment Project was conducted to identify cultural resources in the project area. The investigation consisted of surface field survey and limited subsurface excavations. No cultural materials or features were identified in the project area as a result of the work. Therefore, no additional archaeological investigation is recommended prior to project implementation. However, archaeological monitoring of initial ground disturbing project activity is recommended due to the project’s location within the archaeologically sensitive zones around the historic Putah Creek channel and previously recorded site CA-YOL-197/H, as defined by the UC Davis Long Range Development Plan EIR (2003).

A monitoring plan should be developed prior to project construction to insure an archaeologist is present for the deep excavations with the proposed project area. Construction crews should also be informed that in the remote possibility unidentified cultural material is found during project construction, work should stop in the vicinity of the find until a professional archaeologist can assess the situation.
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