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Report Title: Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation of the Olson Gravel Mine Project, Carver County, Minnesota

Report Date: April 16, 2021

Authors: Craig Picka and Daniel Salas

Principal Investigator: Daniel Salas

Project Client: Olson Construction Company
6970 Inwood Road
Cologne, MN 55322

Survey Date: April 9, 2021

Acres: 37 acres

Legal Description: The project area is located in Carver County, Minnesota in the N½ SE¼ and S½ NE¼ of Section 4 of Township (T) 114 North (N), Range (R) 24 West (W).

Location Description: The project area is located on privately-owned land approximately 5.5 miles southwest of the City of Carver, Minnesota (Figures 1-2). The project area includes an approximately 37-acre area. The project area is within an open area consisting of an agricultural field. The topography consisted of rolling hills. Vegetation consisted of tilled agricultural debris, non-native grasses, native grasses, and trees.

Project Description: The survey was for the proposed Olson Gravel Mine Project. The survey consisted of a 37-acre area located on private property in Carver County, Minnesota. A total of approximately 37 acres were surveyed for this project. The proposed project is for a proposed gravel mine and the cultural resource assessment was completed as part of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined that a Phase I Reconnaissance Survey will need to be conducted within the project area and this report presents the results of the investigation. The proposed project will encompass 37 acres of an agricultural field. The cultural resource assessment is subject to review by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Literature Search Results: A literature search within a 1-mile study area surrounding the proposed project area was conducted on April 7, 2021, by In Situ staff (Figures 3-5). This task was completed using site data files and previous inventory files maintained at the Minnesota SHPO and Minnesota OSA. The literature search revealed no previously recorded archaeological sites and one previously recorded architectural resource (Table 1). The previously recorded architectural resource is *unevaluated* for the NRHP and is located outside of the project area. No further work is recommended for this resource for this project.

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Due to the implementation of Emergency Executive Order 20-20 in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, at the time of this project's completion, the Minnesota SHPO and OSA offices were closed. Due to this, information regarding previous surveys and reports could not be obtained for this report, as most reports were not available at the time. However, for the purpose of this Phase I investigation, the information regarding previous surveys and reports would only serve as context for the broad research area and is not directly related to the outcome of the current project.

Table 1: Previously Recorded Architectural Resources within the One-Mile Study Area

Site Number	Site Name/Type	Address/Location	NRHP Eligibility	Within Project Area
CR-DHL-006	Oswood House	Off Co. Hwy. 50	Unevaluated	No

Field Personnel: The field survey crew consisted of In Situ archaeologists Daniel Salas and Nathan Mathews.

Field Methods and Conditions: The Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation was conducted using visual inspection. This method was conducted in accordance with the Minnesota SHPO guidelines.

- *Visual Inspection* – Locations where cultural resources were not expected, such as disturbed areas, areas with a slope greater than 20 degrees, and low/wet areas were walked over and visually inspected. This method was used to verify the absence or likelihood of any cultural resources within these areas. This method was also utilized to document the general terrain and the surrounding area.
- *Pedestrian Survey* – this method was used to survey landforms with slopes that are greater than 20 degrees, or landforms with slopes that are less than 20 degrees and have a surface visibility greater than 25% (e.g., plowed field). The pedestrian survey transect interval was 5 m.
- *Shovel Testing* – this method was used to sample subsurface contexts in areas with slopes less than 20 degrees and ground surface visibility (GSV) of less than 25%. A typical shovel test was 40 cm in circular diameter. The shovel tests were excavated on a grid at 15 m intervals, with additional radial shovel tests conducted at 5 m intervals when any artifacts were discovered. Shovel tests were excavated in 10 cm levels. All shovel tests were documented using a sub-meter GPS unit. Excavated soil was screened through 0.25-inch mesh. Shovel tests were excavated no deeper than 1 m or 10 cm into sterile subsoils. Data gathered from the shovel tests included stratigraphy, soil texture, Munsell color, and the presence or absence of cultural materials. All excavated soils were immediately backfilled upon completion.

The topography of the project area consisted of rolling hills. Vegetation consisted of mostly tilled agricultural field debris and a small area consisting of non-native grasses and trees. The areas within the wooded and grassy areas provided poor (< 25%) GSV while the agricultural fields provided good (80%) GSV. The project area was subject to visual

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inspection, pedestrian survey, and shovel testing (Figures 6A and 9B). The weather was cool and raining during the survey. A total of six shovel test units were conducted along the west and northern edges of the small wooded and grassy area within the agricultural field. The majority of the small wooded and grass area is the remnants of an old, disturbed gravel pit that was previously excavated. A typical shovel test profile consisted of a black (10YR2/1) sandy loam, over a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) loamy sand with gravels, as shown in Figure 7. All of the shovel tests were negative for cultural resources. The existing tilled agricultural fields were subject to pedestrian survey due to good (80%) GSV (Figure 8). No cultural materials were observed or recorded during the assessment of this project area.

The crew was directly supervised in the field by an MA-level archaeologist who meets the requirements for the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Professional Qualifications in Archaeology. A sub-meter GPS unit utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) data as well as field maps were used to collect spatial data. This ensured that field personnel did not survey outside the project area. All field data, notes, and photographs are on file at In Situ's Eden Prairie, Minnesota office. A map of the inventoried project area is attached to this report, as well as photographs of the project area (Figures 9-18).

Results and Recommendations: During the field survey, a total of 37 acres were inventoried for the proposed Olson Gravel Mine Project, Carver County, Minnesota. No cultural resources were observed during this inventory of the proposed project. Therefore, In Situ recommends a finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* and no further work.

For In Situ Archaeological Consulting, LLC.

Signed: 

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Position: Principal Investigator, Archaeology

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