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Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lawrence University Banta Bowl, Outagamie County, City of Appleton, Wisconsin

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LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SURVEY**
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

MARCH, 2015

PETER N. PEREGRINE, DIRECTOR

**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE LAWRENCE
UNIVERSITY BANTA BOWL**

**OUTAGAMIE COUNTY
CITY OF APPLETON
WISCONSIN**

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March 25, 2015

Abstract

Lawrence University was notified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that planned remodeling at the Banta Bowl football stadium and the construction of a new fieldhouse on the site might impact archaeological site OU-26, and an assessment of that impact was requested. Peter Neal Peregrine, a Registered Professional Archaeologist on the faculty of Lawrence University, carried out the site assessment. He conducted archival research and a visual assessment of the site and found that the site has been heavily disturbed by previous construction and that any archaeological deposits in the area of the planned remodeling and construction would have been destroyed long ago.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Environmental Setting	3
Archaeological Context	3
Methods.....	4
Results of Investigation.....	4
Summary and Recommendations	4

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location of the proposed project, drawn on USGS Appleton 7.5 minute quadrangle, and showing site OU-0026.....	5
Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the proposed project showing the location of the Banta Bowl and the approximate boundaries of site OU-0026. ...	6
Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the site OU-0026 and the project area in 1957, before construction of the Banta Bowl	7
Figure 4. Aerial photograph of the site OU-0026 and the project area in 1964, during construction of the Banta Bowl	8
Figure 5. Fill depth in the Banta Bowl project area as determined by coring	9
Figure 6. Location of areas where subsurface disturbance will take place	10

Introduction

In February of 2015 Lawrence University applied for a storm water permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as part of a project to rebuild portions of the University's football stadium, the Banta Bowl, and to construct a new locker room facility. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources notified Lawrence University that the proposed project might impact archaeological site OU-0026 as listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society's archaeological site inventory (see Figures 1 and 2). The Department of Natural Resources requested that an archaeological evaluation of impact be performed.

In March of 2015, Peter Neal Peregrine, a Registered Professional Archaeologist and member of the Lawrence University faculty, was asked to conduct an archaeological impact evaluation of the Banta Bowl project by Lynn Hagee, project manager for Lawrence University. Peregrine conducted archival research on the site area during the week of March 1, 2015 and performed visual inspections of the project area on March 5 and March 24, 2015.

Environmental Setting

The project area is located on the north bank of the Fox River in a natural ravine that slopes steeply south and west. It is one of numerous similar ravines that once drained the uplands where the City of Appleton now sits. Most of these ravines are now dry, as today storm sewers carry water directly to the river. A drainage system and storm sewer were installed in the ravine in which the project area sits in 1964 as part of the construction of Lawrence University's Banta Bowl, a storm sewer that will be replaced as part of the proposed project. The ravine was also filled with up to 10 feet of lean clay to provide a flat surface for the football field and parking lot (see Figures 3, 4, and 5).

This region of the Fox River was home to a diversity of Native American groups, including the Menominee and Ho Chunk.¹ Although there are no identified historic village sites in this region of the river, prehistoric villages have been identified in many locations along the banks of the Fox River.² These sites appear most common on alluvial flats providing easy access to the river. Ravines would appear to be a poor place for a village or campsite, as the steep slopes and narrow ravine bottom provide little room for structures, and periodic flooding during heavy rains would make even those spots where structures might be located unsuitable for construction.

Archaeological Context

The survey area was targeted because it is situated within the identified boundaries of Wisconsin site OU-0026. This site was identified in 1911 by C.E. Brown in a manuscript included in the Charles E. Brown Manuscript collection housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society.³ Brown reported that the site is located at Telulah Springs and is a place where "Indians frequently camped in the early days of settlement." The location of a campsite near Telulah Springs makes complete sense, as that area represents a flat upland with easy access to the Fox River. The

¹ e.g. *Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents* 54:196-243.

² Copies of SHSW Outagamie County site files in the possession of the Department of Anthropology, Lawrence University.

³ The information here is taken from the site file for OU-0026.

project area, located in a ravine a quarter mile from the spring site, is a far less likely location for a camp.

Two recent archaeological surveys have been performed on OU-0026. The first took place in 2008 prior to the construction of a condominium development located on the banks of the Fox River some 500 feet to the north and east of the proposed project.⁴ The second took place in 2014 within Telulah Park, which encompasses much of the upland area of OU-0026.⁵ No significant archaeological resources were identified in either survey. In addition, an archaeological survey was conducted in a ravine with a similar environmental context to the one in which the Banta Bowl sits, located across the Fox River about one-half mile from the proposed project area. This survey found no significant archaeological resources.⁶

Methods

Archival research was conducted March 4, 5, and 6, and a visual inspections of the site were made on March 5 and 24. Because the entire proposed project area has been disturbed and the ground surface is covered with existing structures or parking, no subsurface investigations were conducted. However, soil borings were made as part of the planning for construction, and these indicate that the entire project area is covered with from one-half foot to ten feet of fill (Figure 5). Thus, any potential archaeological materials on the site are unlikely to be found through Phase I survey.

Results of Investigations

No archaeological deposits were identified in the survey area. The survey area is part of a deep ravine adjacent to the Fox River uplands, and this environmental context makes it unlikely that the area was ever inhabited, a conclusion supported by nearby archaeological surveys. In 1964 a deep layer of fill was deposited in the ravine as part of the construction of Lawrence University's Banta Bowl and associated parking lot. If any early historic or prehistoric archaeological deposits are present in the survey area, they are likely deeply buried.

Summary and Recommendations

There appear to be no archaeological deposits in the survey area, and no further investigation is recommended. Any archaeological deposits that might be present in the area are likely deeply buried beneath the current ground surface. If, during the course of construction, archaeological materials are uncovered, they should be immediately reported to the Office of the State Archaeologist.

⁴ Harvey, Jennifer, 2008. *Archaeological Investigations for the River Heath Development, City of Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin*. Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center, Milwaukee: Reports of Investigations 2008-11.

⁵ Keene, David. 2014. *Phase I Archaeological Investigation, Telulah Park Improvements, Outagamie County, Appleton, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Archaeological Research, Inc.

⁶ Pleger, Thomas and Nathan Lowery. 1999. *Phase I Archaeological Investigation for Proposed Restorations Along Bellaire Creek, Peabody Park, City of Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin*. Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center, LaCrosse: Reports of Investigations 344.

Figure 1. Location of the proposed project, drawn on USGS Appleton 7.5 minute quadrangle, and showing site OU-0026.

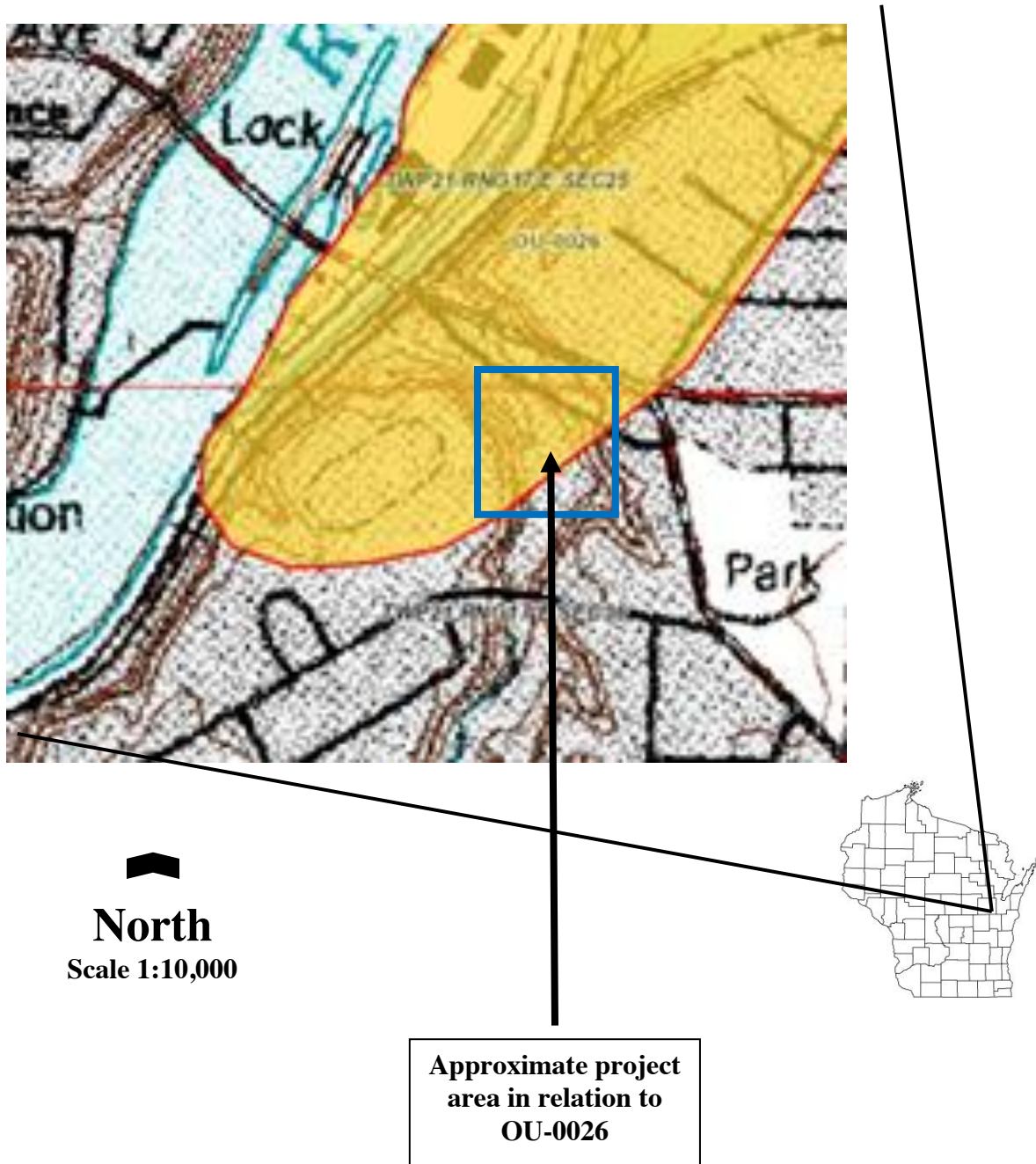


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the proposed project showing the location of the Banta Bowl and the approximate boundaries of site OU-0026.

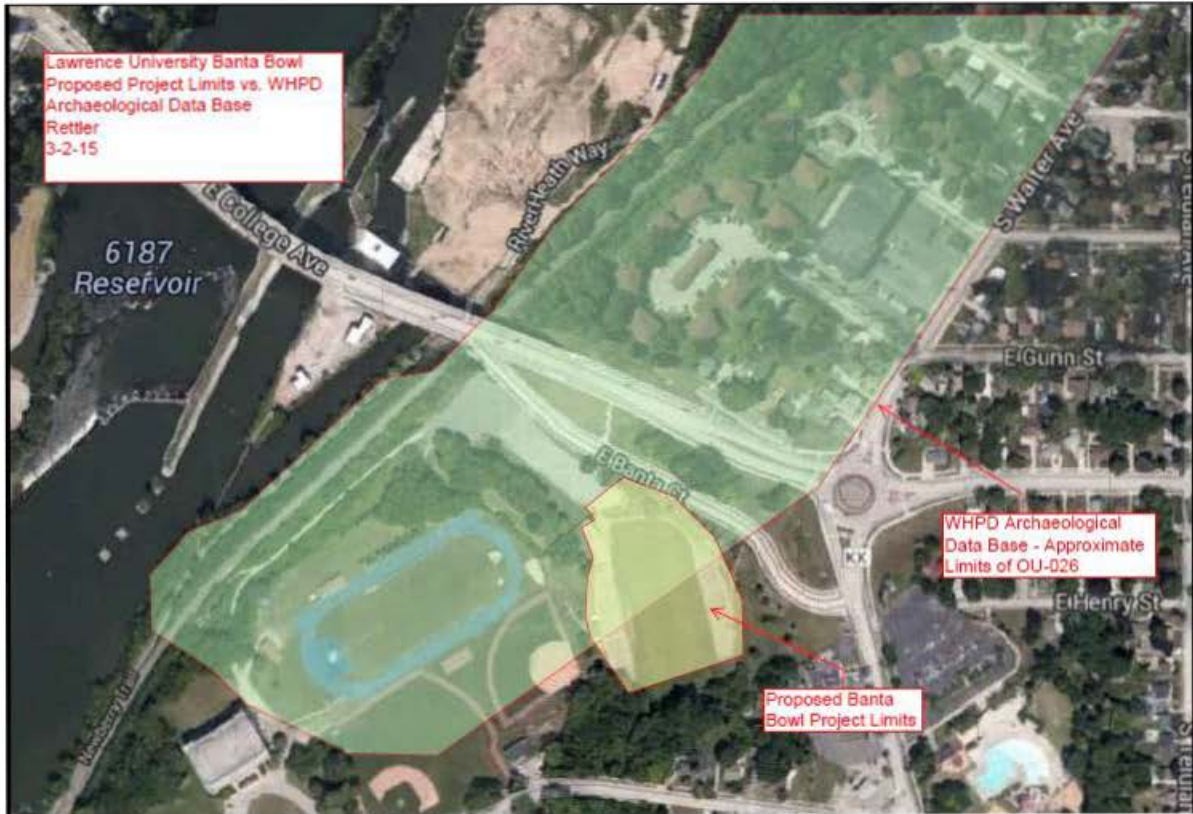


Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the site OU-0026 and the project area in 1957, before construction of the Banta Bowl.



Figure 4. Aerial photograph of the site OU-0026 and the project area in 1964, during construction of the Banta Bowl. Note the large area of fill.



Figure 5. Fill depth in the Banta Bowl project area as determined by coring.

