



May 24, 2019

Mr. Walter Clark, Executive Director  
NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund  
121 W. Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1651

RE: Archeological resources related to Foothills Conservancy's Canoe Creek conservation project

Dear Mr. Clark,

Burke County is home to an abundance of significant historic and prehistoric archaeological resources. Archaeologists from Warren Wilson College, the University of Michigan, Tulane University, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, have been actively involved in archaeological excavations in the county for more than 30 years.

Their investigations have identified the nationally and internationally significant Berry site as the sixteenth-century Native American town of Joara. The site is located about 8 miles north of Morganton, and approximately 3 miles north of the Canoe Creek project property. From 1566-1568, the Spanish Captain, Juan Pardo, led two army expeditions from the coast of South Carolina into the mountains of eastern Tennessee.

During these expeditions he built six forts, at which he stationed 10 – 30 men. He built two forts in South Carolina, three in North Carolina, and one in Tennessee. The only one of these forts that has been identified is Fort San Juan and it is located at Joara. The fort was built in January of 1567 and destroyed in May 1568. Fort San Juan was the first of the forts built and as such, constitutes the earliest European settlement in the interior of the United States, 18 years before the English "Lost Colony" on the coast of North Carolina, and 40 years before the first permanent English settlement of Jamestown in Virginia.

Although the Berry site is the best known and most significant of the Burke County archaeological resources, it is by no means the only important site in the county. Archaeologists are aware of several dozen sites in the county that are worthy of more study. In that regard, the Canoe Creek property has never been surveyed for archaeological sites. However, it's location and topographic situation suggest that significant sites may be present on the property. It should be noted that more than 50 previously recorded archaeological sites are located within 5 miles of the property.

Based on my more than 30 years of experience in the archaeology of Burke County, I would estimate that there may be as many as 8-10 different sites on the property. These would include the possibility of moderate sized villages (1-2 acres in size) from the Woodland and Mississippian periods (1000 BC to AD 1500), to smaller camp sites from the Paleoindian and Archaic periods (12,000 BC to 1000 BC). It is likely that one or more of these sites would be important enough to conduct exploratory excavations.

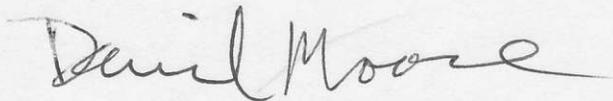
*In the Swannanoa Valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains*

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These kinds of resources present ideal opportunities for public education for school children and the public. I have a long history of public archaeology in Burke County. In Burke County, we not only teach about Native American history and culture and their use of the environment, but we can also tell the important story of the first European contacts with Native Americans. This is local history seldom available to most Americans.

For instance, at the Berry site, more than 600 people (ages 14 – 75) from across the country have participated in our formal archaeology field schools and every year 500 to 1000 visitors attend our annual field day open house in June. We have also received support from local governments for our excavations and our efforts at public education. My colleagues and I work closely with the Exploring Joara Foundation (EJF) in their public programming on local history and archaeology. We have helped EJF present programs at their Living History Village in Morganton and hosted public tours and visits at the Berry site.

I would like to offer to work with the Foothills Conservancy to build a local public archaeology program specifically related to the Canoe Creek property. Working through Warren Wilson College and the Exploring Joara Foundation, we would develop opportunities to involve school groups and the public in archaeological survey, excavations, and laboratory activities. The property holds tremendous potential and I look forward to working with Foothills Conservancy towards an exciting and important public archaeology program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Moore, PhD  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology