

**WORK PLAN  
CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT  
BOBWHITE-MANATEE 230-KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT  
CONDITION OF CERTIFICATION XX.B**

SouthArc, Inc.  
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## **Introduction**

The Bobwhite-Manatee transmission line project includes the construction and operation of a new approximately 26-mile 230-kV transmission line connecting the Florida Power & Light Company Manatee Plant near Parrish in Manatee County to the future Bobwhite Substation east of I-75 in Sarasota County (see attached map). For post-certification agency submittal purposes, the project has been divided into two segments. Segment 1 includes the portion of the transmission line from the future Bobwhite Substation to State Road 64 (approximately 11.5 miles). Segment 2 includes the portion of the transmission line from the entrance onto State Road 64 to the Manatee Plant (approximately 14.5 miles). This work plan is specific to Segment 1 of the project. A second work plan will be submitted at a later date for Segment 2.

## **Purpose**

Cultural resource assessments consist of identification and evaluation of the archaeological or historical resources within a project area, in this case, a proposed power line transmission corridor. Such assessments may be required in order to comply with state or federal environmental permitting regulations. *Florida Statute 267.061* and Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (as amended) are the major legal instruments involved. In this case, Sarasota County Code Chapter 66 also regulates this undertaking.

The tasks required for a cultural resource assessment are outlined in guidelines developed by the Florida Division of Historical Resources (FDHR), which is the review and compliance agency for such assessments. SouthArc also consulted the Sarasota County Archaeologist to make sure that the proposed scope will comply with county requirements.

## **Project Tasks**

The major tasks for the cultural resource assessment are as follows:

1. **Delineation of the Area of Potential Effect (APE):** The study area or APE is defined based on a review of maps provided by Florida Power & Light Company. The survey will not extend beyond the APE. The transmission corridor APE ranges from 60 to 80 feet in width. Archaeological impacts are confined to the corridor itself. The towers will average approximately 90 feet in height. As a result, structures or historic resources within one-half mile of the corridor will be considered to be within the APE in terms of visual impacts.
2. **Background Research:** The background research is designed to identify any previously known archaeological or historical sites within or in proximity to the APE, as well as to obtain sufficient environmental and historic information to define areas of sensitivity. This information is also used to develop the cultural and environmental settings sections of the project documentation.

Material for this task is obtained from the FDHR, the Florida Master Site File Office, the Florida Department of Natural Resources, local and regional archives, and from the consultant's existing data base. Data includes aerial photography, current and historic maps, previous cultural resource assessments from the project area, local histories, soil surveys, and topographic maps. In the case of this project, we will also review any county predictive model maps.

3. **Development of Field Approach:** The information obtained from the background research is used to develop a preliminary model for site location within the project corridor/APE. This model identifies high, medium and low potential areas within the APE, as well as any known resources. Known resources can include previously recorded archaeological or historic sites, properties identified as historic through the background research, and properties identified from review of aerial photographs and maps.
4. **Phase I Intensive Field Survey:** This task consists of the archaeological and historic structure survey and documentation. Archaeological field work includes placement of 50-centimeter square by one meter deep test units at intervals within the APE based on the resource potential of the route. High potential areas are tested at 25 meter intervals, medium at 50 meters, and a 10 % sample is completed in low potential areas. Test units are excavated by natural soil strata and all soil is screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth. Field notes record unit location, soil stratigraphy, proximity to cultural or natural features, dominant vegetation community, and presence/absence of cultural material. In addition to test units, areas of exposed soil are inspected for surface evidence of archaeological sites. When sites are encountered, additional test units will be placed within the corridor to delineate site boundaries and obtain sufficient evidence to complete an assessment of potential significance.

The historic structure survey is designed to identify all structures over 50 years old or architecturally or historically significant which may be impacted by the project. Such impacts may extend to structures which are not within the actual project APE, but are adjacent to it or within one half mile in terms of the viewshed. The identified structures are photographed and a historic record form is completed for each one.

5. **Analysis:** This task primarily involves the archaeological materials recovered during the survey. The artifacts are washed, sorted by material, identified and catalogued, and correlated with field and background information to complete the site assessments. During the analysis task, all project data is evaluated to make the final site assessments and determine the potential impacts to those sites identified as significant. All recovered material will be prepared for curation at a location to be specified by Florida Power & Light Company.
6. **Documentation:** Project documentation consists of a report suitable for submission to FDHR including Florida Master Site File forms for all identified resources and a map showing all located sites. A GIS map of located sites can also be provided. A resource management plan may also be developed for significant resources which may be impacted by the project. The project report includes the environmental and cultural settings, project goals and methods, results, and recommendations. The report will meet the guidelines of Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*.

All project activities will be completed under the direction of fully qualified archaeologists and historians who are members of the Florida Archaeological Council and the Register of Professional Archaeologists. The project will fully comply with the FDHR guidelines, specifically Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*, as well as Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (as amended).