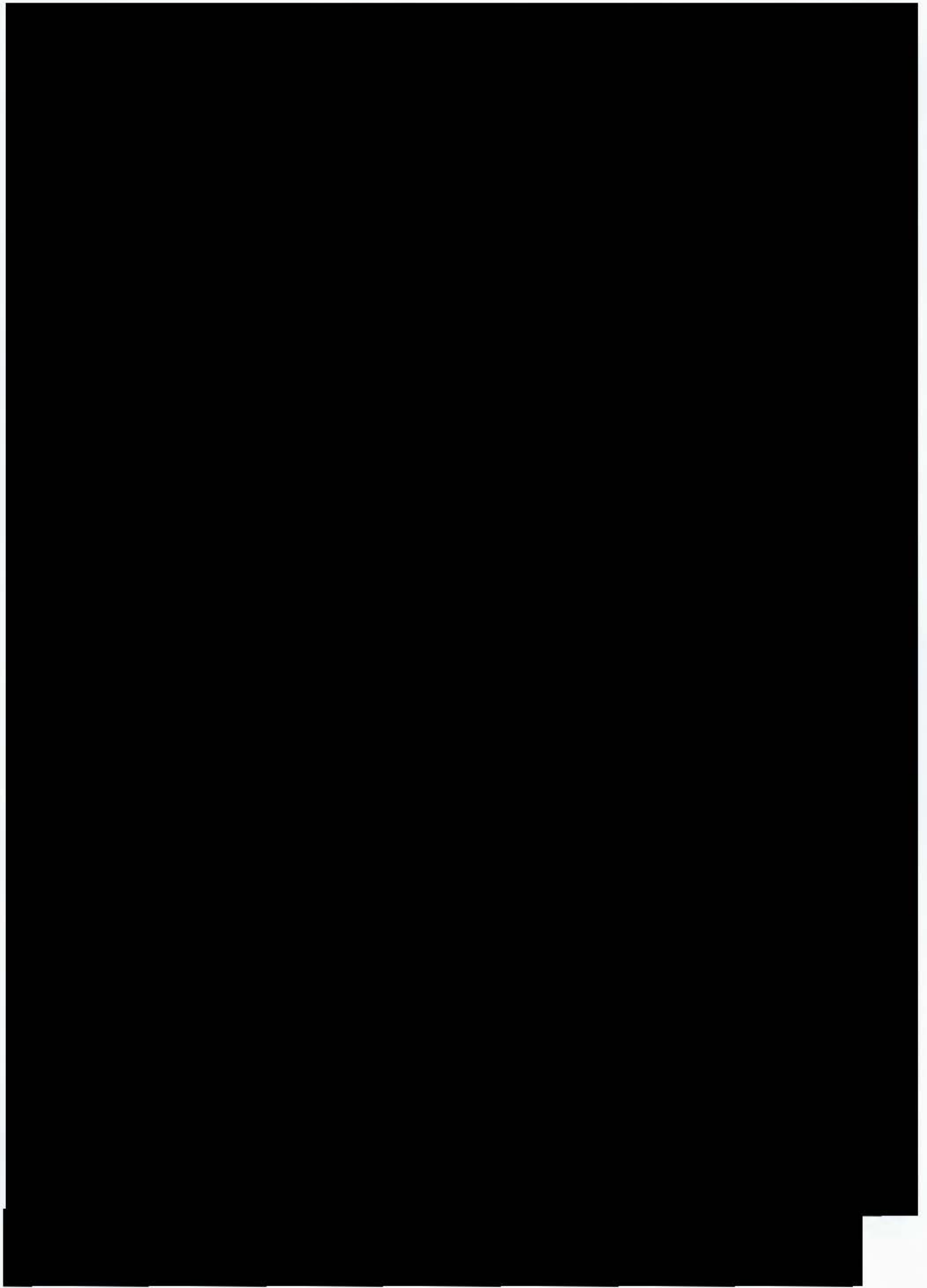


1.0 INTRODUCTION

In April and May 2015, Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc. (CCRG) conducted a Phase II archaeological evaluation on property owned by the Kohler Company (Kohler) in Wilson Township (T14N/R23E), Sheboygan County, Wisconsin (Figure 1.0-1). Kohler is developing an 18 hole, world-class golf course on its land along Lake Michigan in Sections 11 and 14. Although the area of potential effects (APE) has not been formally defined, the golf course will be located within the 100 hectare (247 acre) Kohler property that constitutes the study area.

Previous archaeological investigations of the project area were conducted from August through October 2014 by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management (UWM CRM). The UWM CRM investigations consisted of archival and literature review, field investigations, and laboratory analysis. These investigations were conducted on behalf of Kohler. They are consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665), as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190); the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-291); and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Regulations for the Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 800).

The UWM CRM 2014 investigations confirmed the presence of five previously reported archaeological sites ([REDACTED]) within the study area (Kubicek et al. 2015). An uncatalogued prehistoric burial site and mound group ([REDACTED]) was documented on the Kohler property but is outside of the study area, and development will not impact the burial site. No additional burial sites have been encountered in the study area, and the project will avoid disturbance to burial sites and mound groups. Systematic shovel testing of the study area documented a relatively undisturbed, nearly continuous scatter of prehistoric cultural materials (stone tools, lithic debitage, ceramics, fire-cracked rock, faunal remains). Temporally diagnostic artifacts indicate occupations dating from the Late Archaic stage (ca. 1200 B.C. to 100 B. C.) to late prehistoric times (c.a. A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1600), with high frequencies of Early, Middle, and Late Woodland stage artifacts (Kubicek et al. 2015). Due to the concentrated distribution of prehistoric cultural materials across the study area, all of the previously reported archaeological sites (with the exception of the mound group [REDACTED]) were combined within the boundaries of site 47SB0173. The newly defined site boundary of [REDACTED] spans the north and south boundaries of the Kohler property. It lies above the active shoreline of Lake Michigan at the east and primarily straddles the boundaries of the Black River wetlands to the west (Kubicek et al. 2015).



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UWM CRM investigations also documented the location of a previously unreported historic period site (Fairchild Fish House) near the shore of Lake Michigan in the southern portion of the study area (Kubicek et al. 2015). The site consists of floor and foundation remnants, as well as surface and subsurface archaeological deposits representing the homestead and fishery of the Fairchild family, who were among the earliest Euro-American settlers of the area. Archival and historical research suggests that the site was occupied by the Fairchild family for approximately 45 years, during which time they developed a substantial fishing business (Kubicek et al. 2015).

The UWM CRM archaeological investigations of the Kohler property identified sufficient cultural deposits to warrant further investigations (Kubicek et al. 2015). UWM CRM recommended Phase II evaluation to determine the potential of the site for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). UWM CRM also recommended comprehensive geomorphological investigations of the study area to identify site formation processes and determine the potential for the presence of deeply buried archaeological deposits (Kubicek et al. 2015).

In April 2015, CCRG conducted a Phase II archaeological evaluation of site 47SB0173. The Phase II evaluation was conducted in accordance with “Phase II Evaluation According to National Register Criteria” in *Guide for Public Archaeology in Wisconsin* (Dudzik et al. 2012), 36 CFR 800.4 (c) (1), and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 44716). According to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*, evaluation is defined as the process of determining whether identified properties meet defined criteria of significance for the NRHP.

Phase II archaeological evaluation of site 47SB0173 was conducted in April and May of 2015 and consisted of the excavation of 96 formal test units and geomorphological investigations. Investigations resulted in the recovery of 25,186 prehistoric and historic artifacts and the documentation of extensive stratified cultural deposits within the study area. Prehistoric cultural materials indicate occupations spanning the Late Archaic stage (ca. 1200 B.C to 100 B.C.) to the late prehistoric Oneota tradition (ca. A.D. 1000 to A. D. 1600). Phase II investigations also documented floor and foundation remnants and surface and subsurface deposits related to the mid to late nineteenth century occupation of the Fairchild Fish House. Based on the Phase II archaeological evaluation of site 47SB0173, it is the opinion of CCRG that the prehistoric component of the site meets the defined criteria of significance for the NRHP (under *Criterion D*). While the historic component of the site also may meet the defined criteria of significance for the NRHP (under *Criteria A and/or D*), remaining deposits (which do not include any buildings or structures) and the absence of artifacts relating to commercial fishing limits the potential for the site to provide information in this regard.

This report is prepared in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* and is organized into seven sections. Following this introductory section, the environmental setting of the project area is presented in Section 2.0. The cultural overview is presented in Section 3.0. Section 4.0 outlines the methods employed in the pre-field, field, and laboratory stages of the research and provides the criteria for evaluating the NRHP eligibility of archaeological sites. The results of field investigations are

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detailed in Section 5.0. Section 6.0 provides a summary of the research and specific cultural resource recommendations based on this research. A comprehensive list of the references cited within the text of this report is provided in Section 7.0. Supplemental materials pertinent to the project are found in the appendices. Appendix A includes a copy of the Archaeological Report Inventory Form; an Archaeological Site Inventory update form is provided in Appendix B. Appendix C contains the artifact inventory on Compact Disc (CD) and Appendix D contains the inventory of formal lithic tools. The ceramic vessel inventory is provided in Appendix E and the floral analysis is included in Appendix F. The results of radiocarbon dating are included in Appendix G. An analysis of faunal remains recovered from the site is provided in Appendix H. The results of geomorphological and stratigraphic investigations are presented in Appendix I.