

Guidelines for Above Ground Cultural Resource Search Buffers for Section 106 Submissions

Site Check Search Buffers

Project Type	Suggested search buffer(s)
Cell Tower, new	FCC Guidance
CRAN/Small Cell, new	FCC Guidance
Exterior Building Modifications	Building + adjacent buildings
Building(s), demolition	1 mile
Building (Individual), new construction	Project footprint and resources in adjacent parcels
Building Complexes, new (e.g., apartment complex, distilleries, industrial park, subdivision, etc.)	1 mile from project footprint
Fiber Optics	500 feet
Exterior Generator, new installation	500 feet
Grain Bin, new installation	0.5 mile
HRSA (Healthcare)	Building + adjacent buildings
Park Improvements	0.5 mile
Pipeline, new installation	1 mile
Solar Farms, new construction ¹	1 mile
Roadwork, County or State level	500 feet
Rooftop or small commercial solar, new	500 feet
Sewer, Water, other buried lines	500 feet
Sidewalk installation	500 feet

¹ Solar Farms are large-scale installations that generate substantial electricity for commercial purposes. They include ground-mounted panels installed across large, often rural areas, as well as associated infrastructure like transmission facilities and lines, equipment pads, and substations. In contrast, rooftop solar systems are small-scale setups mounted on residential or commercial buildings, primarily to provide power to individual homes or businesses. Rooftop solar systems fall under "Exterior Building Modifications."

Project Type (cont'd.)	Suggested search buffer(s)
Substation	0.5 miles
Trails, new construction	500 ft from centerline
Trails, rehab	500 feet
Transmission Line, new construction	0.5 miles
Transmission Line, rebuild/replace/rehab	0.25 miles from centerline

No Site Check Required

- Building Acquisition Only (no additional construction activities)
- Building Mortgages/Refinancing
- HUD/CDBG-CV Utility Forgiveness Projects
- Divestment of Building(s), Property from Federal Ownership
- Any projects that no have no above ground elements
- Any projects that the landscape will remain unchanged after project completion
- Projects within abandoned mine lands

Project Type Not Listed?

If your Section 106 project description does not fit within parameters listed above, you may provide the results of a site check for one mile from the centerpoint or centerline of your project area for consideration with the remainder of your Section 106 documentation.

If you are the representative of a lead federal agency and would like to consult on your Area of Potential Effect prior to conducting your site check, or if you are unsure of your recommended buffer based on the project type list, please contact the Site Protection Team by emailing Nicole.Konkol@ky.gov.

The buffers recommended in this document do not supersede any recommended buffers established in agreement documents with our agency.

For site checks on archaeological resources, please contact the [University of Kentucky-Office of State Archaeology](#).