

Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the proposed iCan Storage  
Town of Chester, Orange County, New York

November 2021

Prepared for:  
Kirk Rother, P.E., Warwick, New York

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with Alexander Padilla, B.A. (CAD)

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PR#:

na

Involved agencies:

Town of Chester

Phase:

Phase IA & IB

Location:

Town of Chester

Orange County

Survey Area:

Width: about 460 feet (140 meters) north-south

Length: about 200 feet (61 m) east-west

Acres Surveyed: about 2 acres (.8 hectares)

USGS:

Monroe, NY

Survey overview:

ST no. & interval: 31 ST's at 50 ft. (15m) intervals

Results:

No prehistoric or historic remains

Structures:

No. Of buildings/structures/cemeteries in project area: none

No. Of buildings/structures/cemeteries adjacent to project area: 2

No. Of previously determined NR listed or eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: none

No. Of identified eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: none

Report Preparation :

Alfred G. Cammisa, M.A.

Alexander Padilla, B.A. (CAD)

Date of Report:

Report completed November, 2021

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Between October 28 and November 7, 2021, TRACKER Archaeology, Inc. conducted a Phase IA documentary study and a Phase IB archaeological survey for the proposed iCan Storage, in the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York.

The purpose of the Phase IA documentary study was to determine the prehistoric and historic potential of the project area for the recovery of archaeological remains. The Phase IA was implemented by a review of the original and current environmental data, archaeological site files, other archival literature, maps, and documents. In addition, the study area was visited by the author and visually assessed. The prehistoric and historic site file search was conducted utilizing the CRIS resources of the New York State Historic Preservation Office in Waterford, New York. Various historic web sites may have queried to review any pertinent site information.

The purpose of the Phase IB survey was to recover physical evidence for the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the property before their potential destruction. This was accomplished through subsurface testing and ground surface reconnaissance.

These investigations have been conducted in accordance with the standards set forth by the New York Archaeological Council and the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

The project area (APE) consists of the entire property at about 2 acres. The property is located along the west side of Kings Highway (CR 13) near the Pond Road intersection. It is bound to the north by a sports training complex and to the south and west by a driveway leading to a complex of work buildings.

The investigation was completed by TRACKER Archaeology, Inc. of Monroe, New York. Prehistoric and historic research was conducted by PI, Alfred G. Cammisa, M.A. Field work was by Alfred G. Cammisa and crew chief, Alfred T. Cammisa. Report preparation was by Alfred G. Cammisa with Alexander Padilla (CAD).

The work was performed for Kirk Rother, P.E., Warwick, New York.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### Geology

The study area is located in the southeast portion of New York State near the central part of Orange County. This region of New York lies within the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province. This province, also known as the Newer Appalachians, extends from Lake Champlain to Alabama. It passes as a narrow lowland belt between the New England Uplands (Taconic Mountains and Hudson Highlands) to the east and the Appalachian Plateau (Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains) and Adirondack Mountains to the west. The characteristic topography is a succession of parallel valleys and ridges trending roughly in a northeasterly direction. This is a region of sedimentary rocks which were easily eroded and subjected to folding or bedding of the rock layers (Schuberth 1968: cover map, 16-18; Isachsen et al 2000: 4, 53-54; New York-New Jersey Trail Conference 1998: cover map).

### Soils and Topography

Soils on the project area consist of:



NAME	SOIL HORIZON DEPTH in(cm)	COLOR	TEXTURE INCLUSION	SLOPE %	DRAINAGE	LANDFORM
Mardin	Ap 0-8in (0-20cm) B 8-15 (-38) B 15-20(-51)	10YR4/2  10YR5/8 10YR6/3	GrSiLo	8-15	well	glacial till deposits
Rock Outcrop  Nassau complex, hilly	Ap 0-10in (0-25cm) B 10-18 (-45)	10YR4/2  10YR5/4	ShSiLo	15-25	excessive	glacial till

Olsson 1981: map #71, pgs. 39, 58, 95, ).

KEY:

Shade: Lt=Light, Dk=Dark, V=Very

Color: Br=Brown, Blk=Black, Gry=Gray, Gbr=Gray Brown, StBr=Strong Brown, Rbr=Red Brown, Ybr=Yellow Brown

Soils: Si=Silt, Lo=Loam, Sa=Sand, Cl=Clay

Other: Sh=shale, M=Mottle, Gr=Gravelly, Cb=cobbles, /=or

The elevation on the project area ranges from approximately 518 to 560 feet above mean sea level.

#### Hydrology

The project areas about 400 feet west of a tributary to Black Meadow Creek. Black Meadow flows into Otter Kill. Otter Kill is a tributary of the Moodna Creek which flows into the Hudson River.

#### Vegetation

The predominant forest community in this area was probably the Oak Hickory. This forest is a nut producing forest with acorns and hickory nuts usually an obvious part of the leaf litter on the forest floor. The Oak Hickory Forest intermingles with virtually all other forest types. The northern extension of this forest community was also originally called the Oak-Chestnut forest, before the historic Chestnut blight (Kricher 1988:38, 57-60).

At the time of the Phase IB field work, the project area consisted of a pine & oak woods with cedar and a moderate understory of weeds, especially in the open areas.

### **PREHISTORIC POTENTIAL**

A prehistoric site file search was conducted at the New York State Historic Preservation Office. The search included a 1 mile radius around the study area. The following sites were recorded:

NYSM SITES	NYSHPO SITES	DISTANCE FROM APE ft(m)	SITE DESCRIPTION
	7102.000091	1180(359)	Ridgeway Site 2: 2 chert frags (prob.primary flakes?)
	7102.000090	1572(479)	Ridgeway Site 1:8 primary flakes?, 3 cores
	7102.000089	3025(922)	Smith: 2 cores, 5 primary flakes, 2 heammerstones
	7102.000013	4785(1458)	Camp:no info.

An Indian foot trail followed roughly along the path of Kings Highway. Although this foot path was recorded historically, it undoubtedly existed prehistorically, to some extent (see Historic Potential).

Assessing the known environmental and prehistoric data, we can summarize the following points:

- The project areas about 400 feet west of a tributary to Black Meadow Creek.
- The project area has well drained soils with moderate to very steeply sloping terrain.
- Prehistoric sites were recorded near the project area.
- An Indian foot trail was located along current Kings Highway, adjacent to the study area.

In our opinion, the study area has a higher than average potential for the recovery of prehistoric sites. The type of site encountered could be a procurement/processing or base camp site from either Woodland or Archaic Periods.

## HISTORIC POTENTIAL

### Seventeenth Century

At the time of European contact and settlement, the study area was probably occupied by the Waoranecks who lived between Stony Point and Danns Kammer (near Newburgh Bay). Their western boundary unknown. These peoples were likely a sub-branch and/or clan related to the large Munsee (Minsi) tribe belonging to the Delawarean linguistic family. The term "Minsi" (or "Munsee") means people of the stony country" or abbreviated as "mountaineers" (Ruttenber 1992A:35, 44-45, 49-50, 93; Ruttenber 1992B:221; Becker 1993:16-22; Weslager 1991:45; Synder 1969:2; Figure 3).

Population estimates for the Munsee are 600 to 800 individuals. The Munsee are described by Becker (1993:18) as possibly horticultural. Hull (1996:10) mentions that they were hunters, gatherers, and horticulturalists. They fished in the fast running waters of the Wawayanda and Pochuck creeks.

An Indian trail known as the Wawayanda Trail started at the tribal meeting grounds at Danns Kammer, then passed through Washingtonville, Chester, Warwick and Vernon villages, and eventually on to Philadelphia. This road, or the close approximation, is currently known as Kings Highway (Hull 1996:127; Durland 1903:148).

#### Eighteenth Century

The Waoraneck Munsees living in Warwick had a large settlement a few hundred yards from the old Welling farm on Route 94 (Kings Highway here). This group was known locally, or their village was known locally as the Mistucky. It was recorded that these Indians had an apple orchard. Their chief/headman was called Chuckhass in the early eighteenth century. Chuckhass was one of the twelve chiefs signing the Wawayanda Patent to release their territory (Durland 1903:148; Ruttenber and Clarke 1881:568).

In many of the valleys between the high mountain ridges, are the old roads, following in some instances, Indian foot paths (Durland 1903:148).

The 1779 Sauthier map shows the study property along Kings Highway, just north of of what is believed to be Sugar Loaf Mountain(Figure 3).

#### Nineteenth Century

Chester's chief business was agriculture. The Town is said to contain some of the most fertile land in the state (Ruttenber 1881:620; Durland 1903:148).

The 1850 Map of Orange County shows the project area long Kings Highway. Structures are depicted along Kings Highway but not near the project aerea (Figure 4).

The 1875 Beers atlas of Chester Town shows the project area along Kings Highway. Thee is a stream which crosses where Pond Road currently exists. The railroad is now shown. No structures are on or adjacent to the project area (Figure 5).

During the 1880's businesses in the village included: a hotel, post office, insurance company, bakery, undertaker, boots and shoes store, Allison's store-a place of trade, stoves and hardware, confectionary, restaurant, the doctor's office, groceries, meat market, drug store, dry goods-groceries-general merchandise, harness-shop, millinery, dress-making, and two carpenter shops. In town, but outside the village proper, were located other business (Ruttenber 1881:616).

#### Twentieth Century

The 1908 USGS shows no structures near the project property. A pond is now depicted where the pond currently exists along Pond Road across from Kings Highway(Figure 6).

An historic site file search was conducted at the New York State Historic Preservation Office. The search included a 1 mile radius around the study area. The following sites were recorded:

<b>NYSM SITES</b>	<b>NYSHPO SITES</b>	<b>DISTANCE FROM APE ft(m)</b>	<b>SITE DESCRIPTION</b>
	7151.00056	2163(660)	Suburban propane entrance sign:
	7151.00055	3078(938)	Lawrence Cremery site:

<b>NYSM SITES</b>	<b>NYSHPO SITES</b>	<b>DISTANCE FROM APE ft(m)</b>	<b>SITE DESCRIPTION</b>
	7151.000034	3423(1043)	Chester Cemetery
	7151.00006	3669(1118)	David Drake House
	7151.000014	3586(1093)	F.D.Puy House:
	7151.000011	4284(1306)	D School site:
	7151.000053	4550(1387)	Townsend homestead
	7151.000005	4903(1495)	Townsend House & Store

An Indian foot trail followed roughly along the path of Kings Highway.

Assessing the known environmental and historic data, we can summarize the following points:

- The project areas about 400 feet west of a tributary to Black Meadow Creek.
- The project area has well drained soils with moderate to very steeply sloping terrain.
- Euro-American historic sites were recorded nearby the project area.
- An Indian foot trail was located near current Kings Highway, adjacent to the study area.
- No historic MDS's is shown along the project area. The road is historic (19th century).

In our opinion, the study area has a higher than average potential for the recovery of historic sites. The type of site encountered could be likely Euro-American or native American.

## **FIELD METHODS**

### Walkover

Any exposed ground surfaces were walked over at about 3 to 5 meter intervals to observe for artifacts. Covered ground terrain was reconnoitered at about 15 meter intervals for any above ground features, such as berms, depressions, or rock-shelters which might be evidence for historic or prehistoric sites.

### Shovel Testing

Shovel tests were excavated at about 15 meter intervals throughout the project area. Each shovel test measured about 30 cm. in diameter and was excavated into the underlying subsoil (B horizon) 10 to 20 cm. if possible. All soils were screened through 1/4 inch wire mesh and observed for artifacts. Shovel test pits were flagged in the field. All shovel tests (ST's) were mapped on the project area map at this time.

Soil stratigraphy was recorded according to texture and color. Soil color was matched against the Munsell color chart for soils. Notes on ST stratigraphy and other information was transcribed in a notebook and on pre-printed field forms.

## **FIELD RESULTS**

Field testing of the project property included the excavation of 31 shovel tests. No prehistoric artifacts or features were encountered. No historic artifacts or features were encountered.

### Stratigraphy

Stratigraphy across the project area consisted of:

A/O Horizon - about 5 cm. thick of root mat, leaf litter and humus.

A Horizon - about 15 to 22 cm. thick of 10YR4/4 dark yellow brown gravelly loam.

B Horizon - about 10 cm. dug into of 10YR5/6 yellow brown gravelly loam.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based upon proximity to a stream and wetlands, prehistoric sites, Indian trails, and topography and terrain with well drained to poorly drained soils, the project area is seen as having a higher than average potential for the recovery of prehistoric sites.

Based upon the similar environmental characteristics and proximity to historic sites, MDS's, and Indian trails, the project area was seen as having a higher than average potential for encountering historic sites.

The field survey included the excavation of 31 ST's on the project property. No prehistoric artifacts or features were recovered. No historic artifacts or features were encountered. No further archaeological work is recommended.

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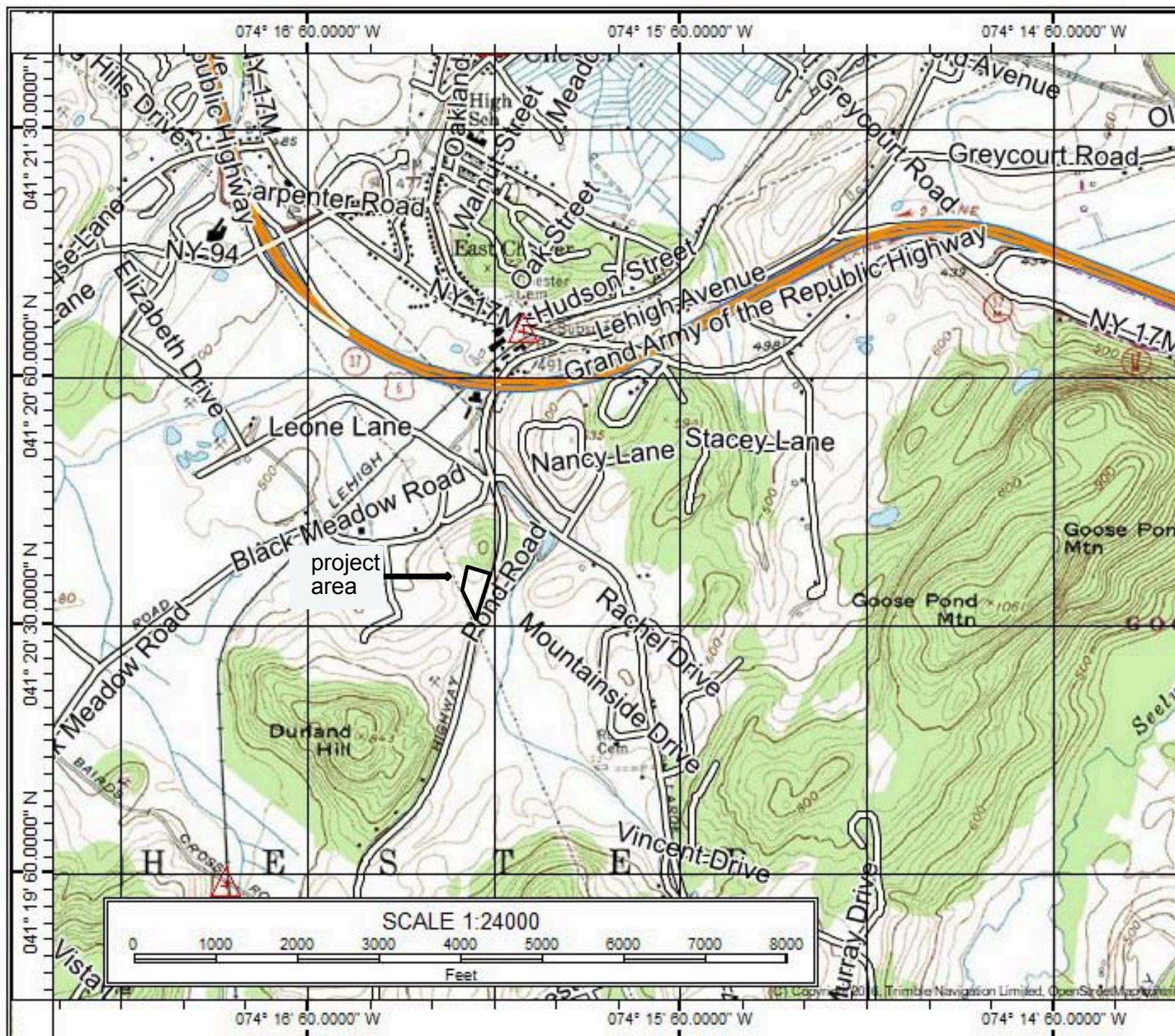
## **APPENDIX 1**



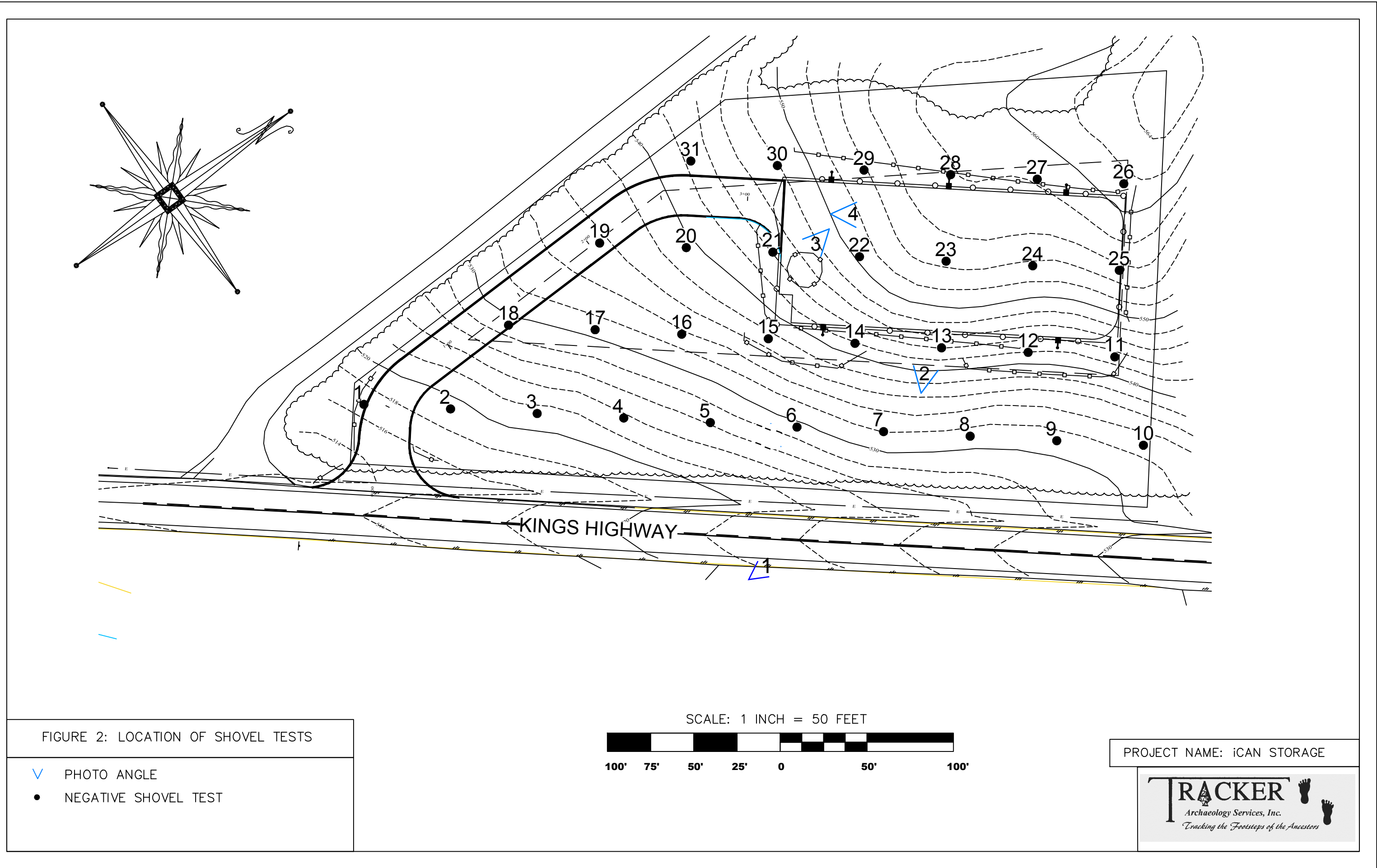
Figure 1

N

Monroe, NY USGS









N





## 1850 Sidney map





Figure 5

1875 Beers atlas

N





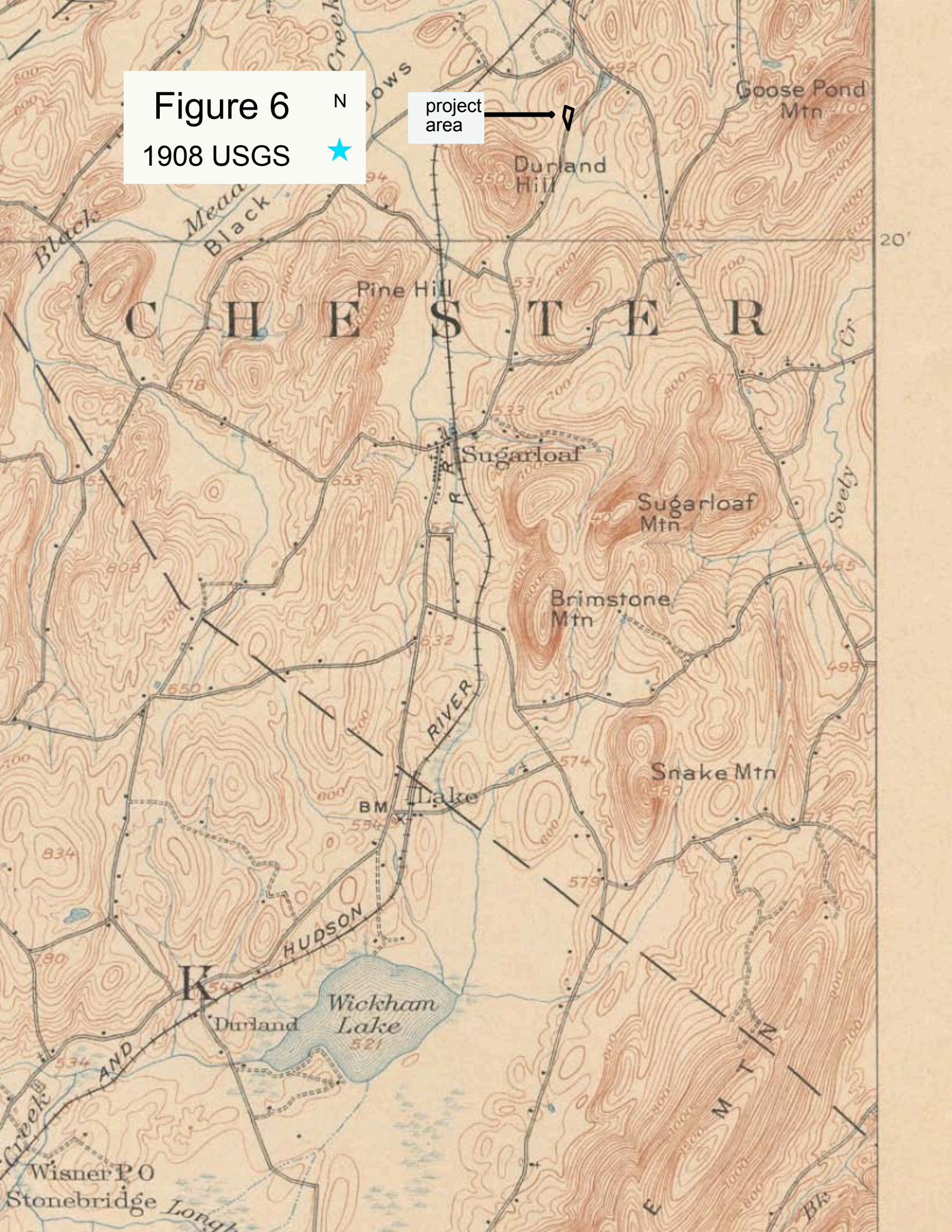
Figure 6

1908 USGS

N



project area





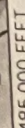




Photo 1

From road at project property





Photo 2  
Steep slopes





Photo 3

Looking toward adjacent driveway





Photo 4

Looking upslope toward sports complex





## **APPENDIX 2**

## SHOVEL TESTS

STP	LV	DEPTH(CM)	TEXTURE	COLOR	HOR	COMMENT
1	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-24	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	24-34	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
2	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-25	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
3	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	26-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	A	NCM
4	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-27	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	27-37	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
5	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-25	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
6	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-25	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
7	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	26-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
8	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-25	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
9	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	26-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
10	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	26-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	A	NCM
11	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-20	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	20-30	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
12	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-27	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	27-37	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM

13	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	24-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
14	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-24	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	24-34	GiLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
15	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-24	GrSdLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	24-34	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
16	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-25	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
17	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	26-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
18	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-27	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	27-37	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
19	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	26-38	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
20	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-25	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
21	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-20	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	20-30	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
22	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-24	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	24-34	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
23	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-20	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	20-30	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
24	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-20	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	20-30	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
25	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	26-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM

26	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM	
	2	5-20	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM	
	3	22-32	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM	
27	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM	
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM	
	3	26-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM	
28	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM	
	2	5-25	GrLo	water	10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM	
29	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM	
	2	5-25	GrSdLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM	
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM	
30	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM	
	2	5-25	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM	
	3	25-35	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM	
31	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM	
	2	5-26	GrLo	10YR4/4	A	NCM	
	3	26-36	GrLo	10YR5/6	B	NCM	