

November 8, 2021

Mr. Joshua Epps
Soilutions, LLC
255 Welcome Drive
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29579

**Re: Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey of
Approximately 25 Acres at the Proposed Edge Road Mining Site
Horry County, South Carolina
Terracon Project No. 73217368**

Author: William Green, M.A., RPA # 10387

Dear Mr. Epps:

Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Terracon), on behalf of Soilutions, LLC, has completed a Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey of approximately 25 acres at the proposed Edge Road Mining Site located south of Edge Road in Conway, Horry County, South Carolina (Figures 1 and 2). The purpose of the survey was to identify and evaluate archaeological and historic resources within and adjacent to the project area that could be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This work was done under contract to Soilutions, LLC, in general accordance with Terracon Proposal No. P73217368, dated October 28, 2021. The project is being conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Mining Act (South Carolina Code of Regulations Chapter 89-120(C)(4)).

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is a proposed 24.99-acre mine located in the southeastern portion of Horry County, approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the community of Hand and five miles north of the Atlantic Ocean. The access road for the project abuts Edge Road to the north, while the remainder of the project is bordered by private, wooded property (Figures 1 and 2).

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

The project area is situated along the South Carolina coast within the Lower Coastal Plain physiographic province. This area falls within the Pee Dee River watershed. The closest natural water sources are wetlands and a small stream associated with Boggy Swamp just east of the property and a small, elliptical wetland (possibly a Carolina Bay) that is partially within and just northwest of the southwestern portion of the project (Figure 1). Topography in the project area is level, with elevations ranging from about 35 ft. above mean sea level (AMSL). Much of the central portion of the project area has already been disturbed (Figures 3 and 4); however, undisturbed areas around the perimeter contain loblolly and long leaf pine, water oak, live oak, and blackjack



oak (Figures 5 and 6).

Soils in the project tract were formed in sandy and loamy marine and alluvial deposits. Specific soil types include moderately well drained Blanton sand, poorly drained Leon fine sand and Lynn Haven sand, and very poorly drained Johnston loam (Figure 7). Approximately 30 percent (7.5 acres) of the soils on the tract (all in the eastern portion of the property) are classified as well drained with the remaining 70 percent (17.5 acres) being classified as poorly or very poorly drained.

3.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

3.1 Previously Recorded Sites

Background research was conducted on November 3, 2021, using ArchSite, a GIS program depicting previously recorded archaeological and historic resources in South Carolina. Also examined was the *Horry County Historic Resource Survey* (Richey and Langdale 2009). The area examined was a 0.5-mile radius around the project area. Based on the results of the background research, there are no previously recorded archaeological or aboveground historic resources within the 0.5-mile search radius.

3.2 Historic Map Research

In addition to checking ArcSite, eighteenth through twentieth century maps of the site were examined to determine whether historic resources were likely to be present on the proposed project area. During the eighteenth through late nineteenth century the project area was located in a rural setting approximately 12 miles east of Conwayborough, currently known as Conway. The 1825 Mills Atlas Map of the Horry District shows this area as being just north of a large, swampy area (labeled “Impassable Bays”) located between the Waccamaw River and the Atlantic Ocean and set apart from any settlements (Figure 8). The 1937 Nixonville USGS topographic map shows one structure in the southwest portion of the project area near a road adjacent to the wetland (Figure 9). This resource would have been in the area that is currently disturbed and no evidence of the structure was found.

3.3 Predictive Model Research

For the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, various predictive models have been used to identify areas having a high likelihood for containing archaeological sites (e.g., Brooks and Scurry 1978; Cable 1996; Clement et al. 2001; O’Donoughue 2008a, 2008b; Scurry 2003). In general, the most significant variables for determining site location appear to be distance to a permanent water source or wetland, slope, and soil drainage characteristics. Prehistoric sites tend to occur on low slope areas with well drained soils that are within 200 meters of a permanent water source or wetland. Historic home sites tend to be located near old roads. Based on these parameters, the

eastern portion of the project area had a high potential for containing prehistoric archaeological sites due to the presence of well drained soils adjacent to Boggy Swamp (see Figure 7), while the western portion of the project near the location of the structure depicted on the 1937 Nixonville topographic map has a high potential for containing historic archaeological resources. Since portions of the project area have already been disturbed (see Figures 3 and 4), these disturbed areas, including the location of the house, have a very low potential for containing intact archaeological resources.

4.0 RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

4.1 Archaeological Survey

On November 4, 2021, Principal Investigator William Green and Senior Scientist Kimberly Nayda-St. Clair conducted a reconnaissance survey of the project area. The archaeological survey consisted of excavating seven shovel test pits (STPs) at various locations around the perimeter of the disturbed area (Figure 10). Each shovel test was approximately 30 cm in diameter and excavated to either 80 centimeters below surface (cmbs) or until hydric soils were encountered. In addition to shovel testing, a pedestrian survey was conducted in the disturbed areas, including the area around the structure depicted on the 1937 Nixonville topographic map.

A total of seven shovel tests, ranging from 60–80 cm deep, were excavated. A typical soil profile in well drained areas consisted of approximately 38 cm of light yellowish brown (10YR 6/2) sand (Ap horizon), followed by a 12-cm thick (38–50 cmbs) layer of compact dark brown (10YR 3/3) sand (the result of clearing and burning), on top of 26 cm (50–76 cmbs) of pale brown (10YR 6/3) sand (E horizon), overlying 4+ cm (76–80+ cmbs) of strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) loamy sand subsoil (Bt horizon) (Figure 11). Soils in more poorly drained areas consisted of approximately 40 cm of gray (10YR 5/1) sand (Ap horizon), overlying 20+ cm (40–60 cmbs) of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) loamy sand (Eg horizon). No archaeological sites or isolated finds were found as a result of the survey.

4.2 Architectural Survey

In addition to the archaeological survey, an architectural survey was conducted to determine whether the proposed project would affect above-ground historic resources within and immediately adjacent to the project area. All publicly-accessible roads within this area were driven to record structures more than 50 years old. Each identified resource was photographed using a high-resolution digital camera (10 megapixel or greater), marked on applicable USGS topographic maps, and assessed for National Register eligibility using the Criteria established by the National Park Service (36 CFR Part 60.4). Photographs were also taken from each resource toward the project area to help assess possible visual effects caused by the undertaking. Based on the architectural survey, there are no above-ground resources more than 50 years old within and adjacent to the project area.

5.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the archaeological survey, no archaeological sites or isolated finds were found within the project area. Similar results were obtained during a 2014 reconnaissance survey of the 336-acre Bluewater Mine located approximately 0.75 mile to the northwest of the project, which also did not find any archaeological resources (Green and McReynolds 2014). In addition, the architectural survey did not record any above-ground historic resources within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Based on these results as well as prior disturbance within the central portion of the project area, it is the opinion of Terracon that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking and that no additional cultural resource investigations are warranted.

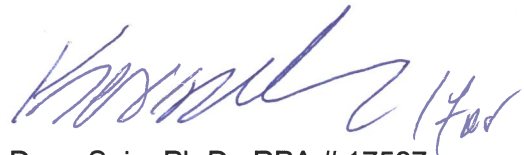
6.0 CLOSING

Terracon appreciates the opportunity to provide you with this report. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bill Green at (803) 403-1256.

Sincerely,
Terracon Consultants, Inc.



William Green, M.A., RPA # 10387
Principal / Department Manager
Natural and Cultural Resource Services



Doug Sain, Ph.D., RPA # 17527
Senior Archaeologist

REFERENCES

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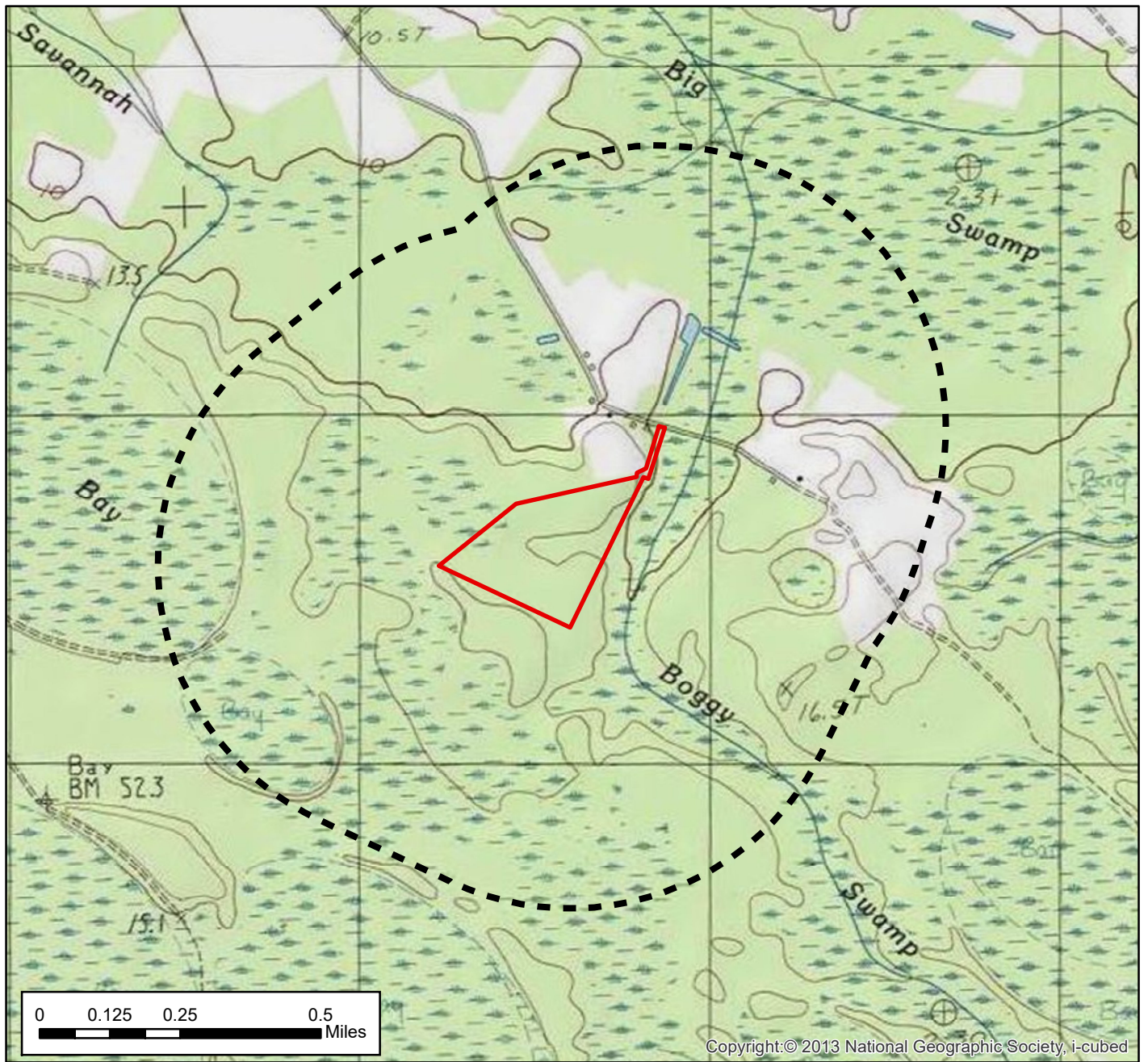


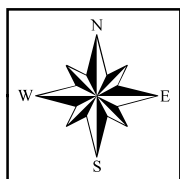
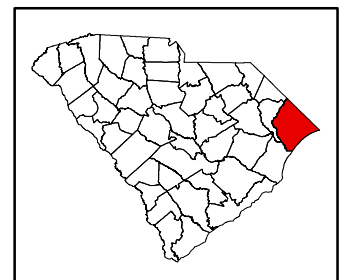


Figure 1. Project area and 0.5-mile search radius for background research.
 Base Map: Hand (1984) USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle.

	0.5-mile Background Search Radius
	Project Area (approximate)



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Drawn By:	BGG
Reviewed By:	BGG

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
 EDGE ROAD MINE
 HORRY CO., SC

Figure
1

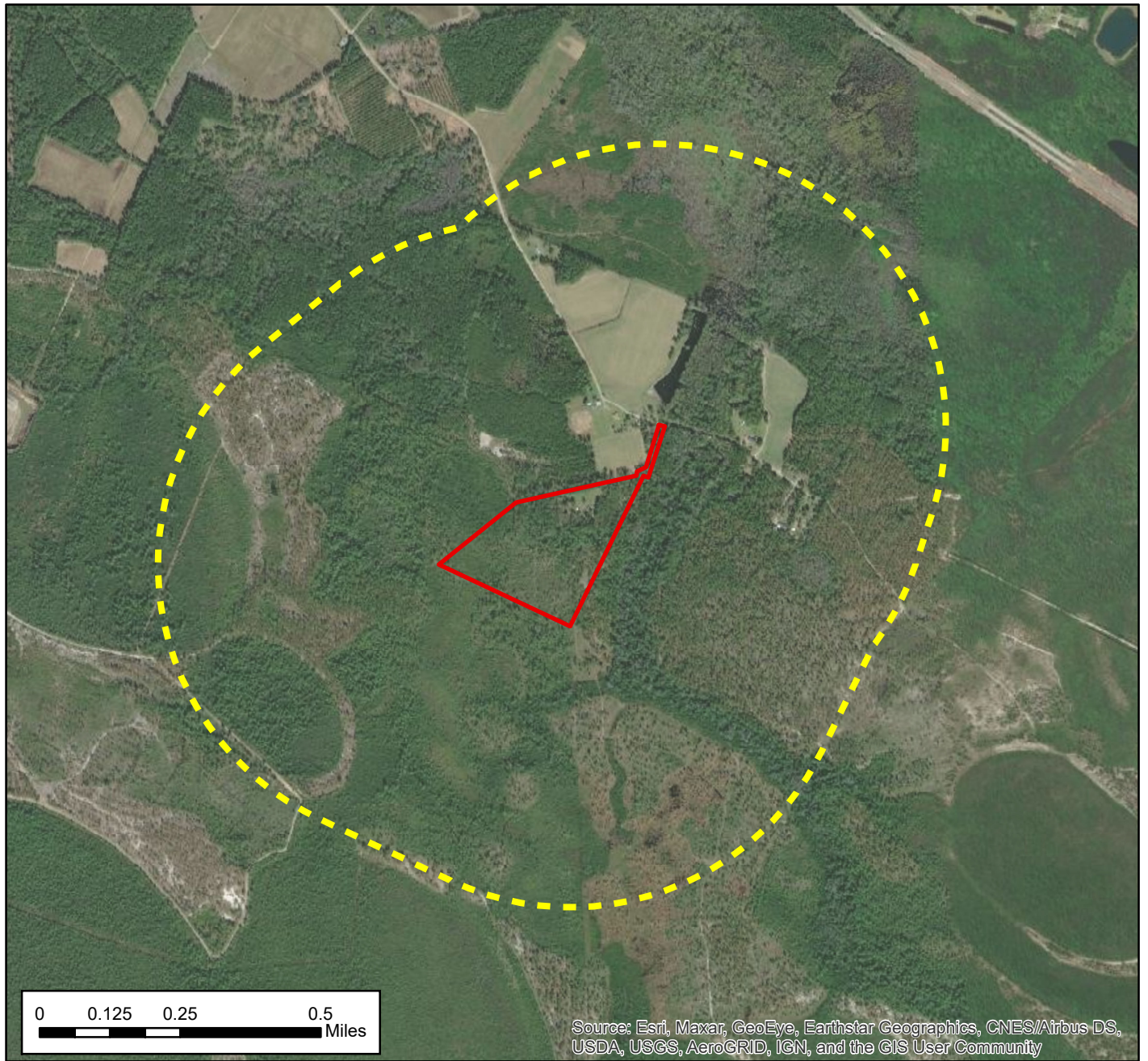


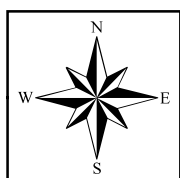
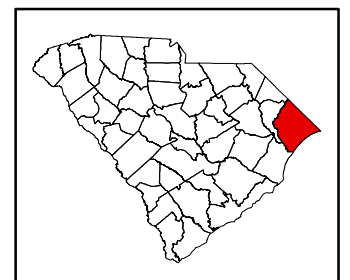


Figure 2. Aerial imagery showing the project area and 0.5-mile search radius for background research.
Base Map: ESRI World Imagery.

	0.5-mile Background Search Radius
	Project Area (approximate)



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AERIAL IMAGERY
EDGE ROAD MINE HORRY CO., SC

Figure
2



Figure 3. Disturbed area, facing south.



Figure 4. Disturbed area, facing east.



Figure 5. Undisturbed area, facing southeast.



Figure 6. Cleared area looking northeast toward a wetland.

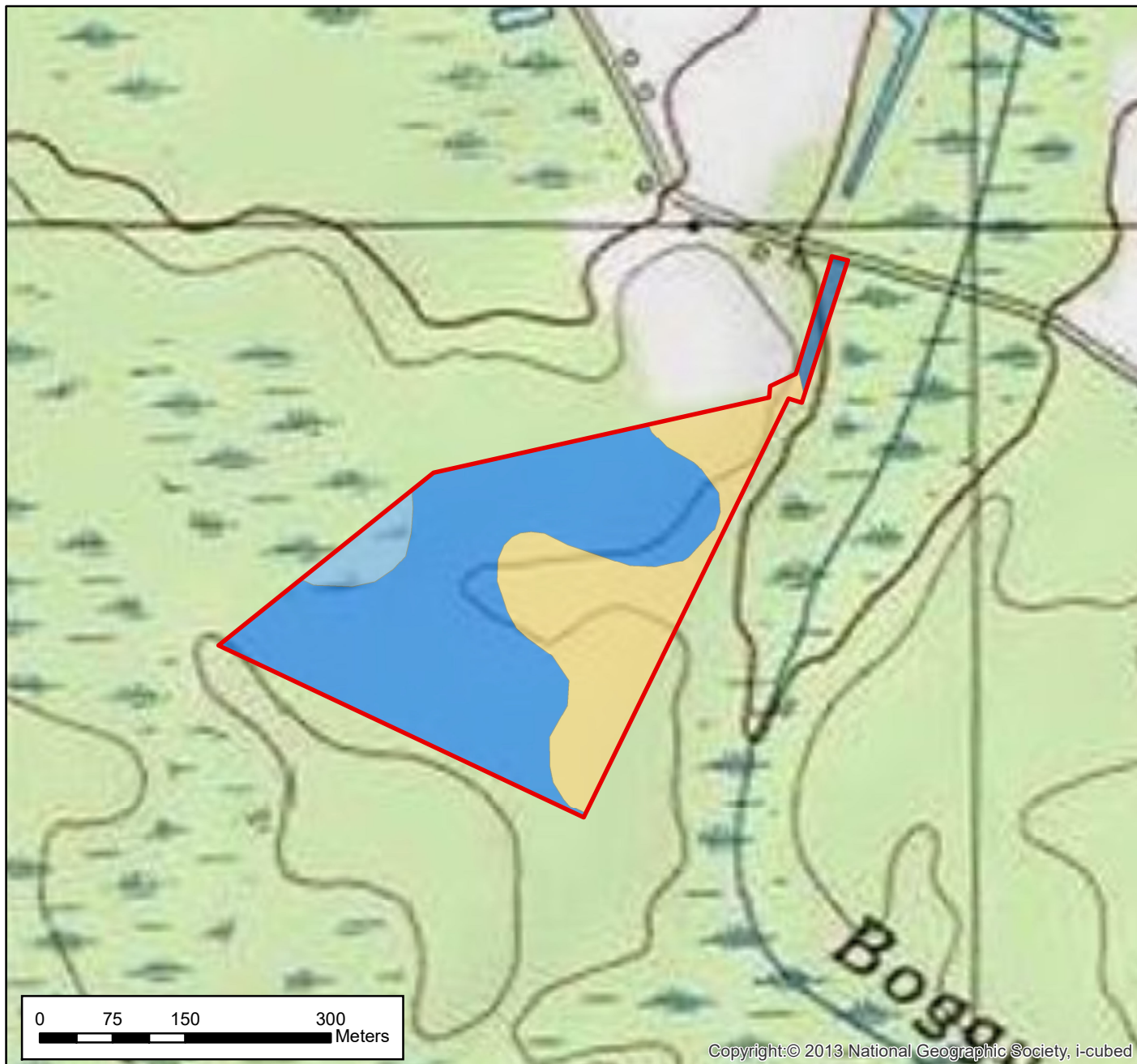
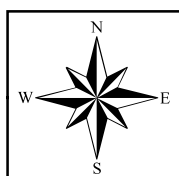
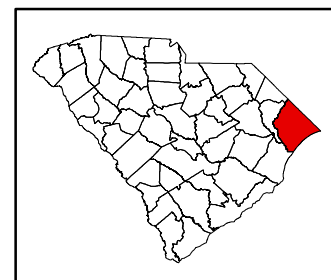
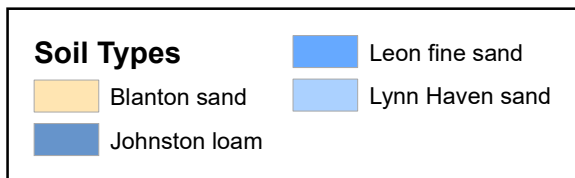


Figure 7. Soil types in the project area. Soils in orange are well drained, soils in blue are poorly drained. Soil data obtained from NRCS Web Soil Survey. Base Map: Hand (1984) 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle.



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SOIL TYPES
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Figure
7

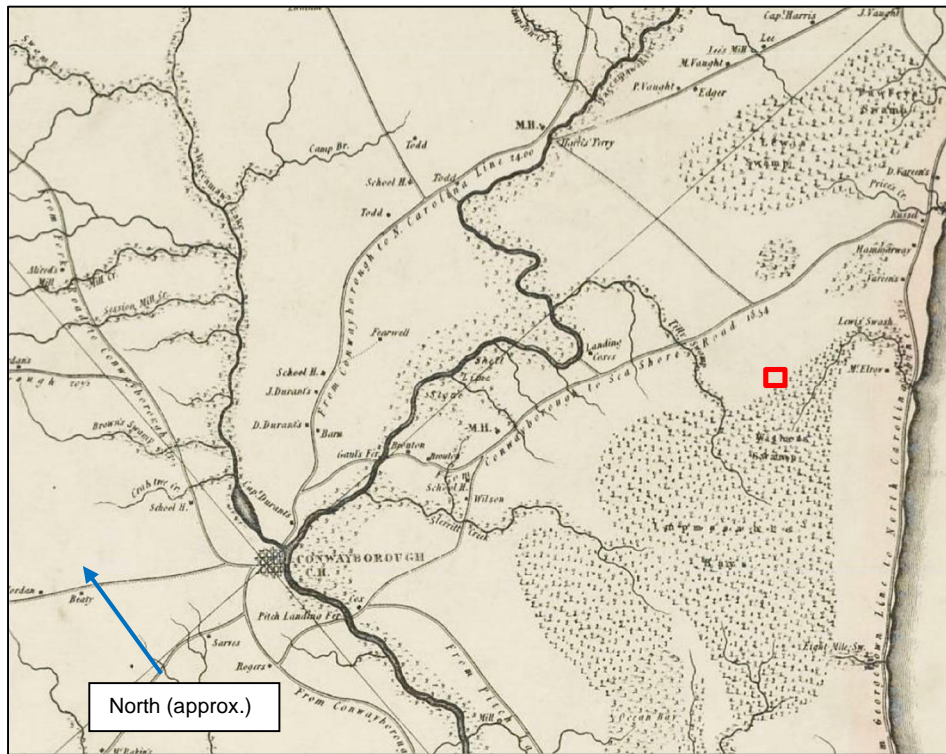


Figure 8. Mills (1825) Atlas map of the Horry District showing the approximate location of the project area in red.

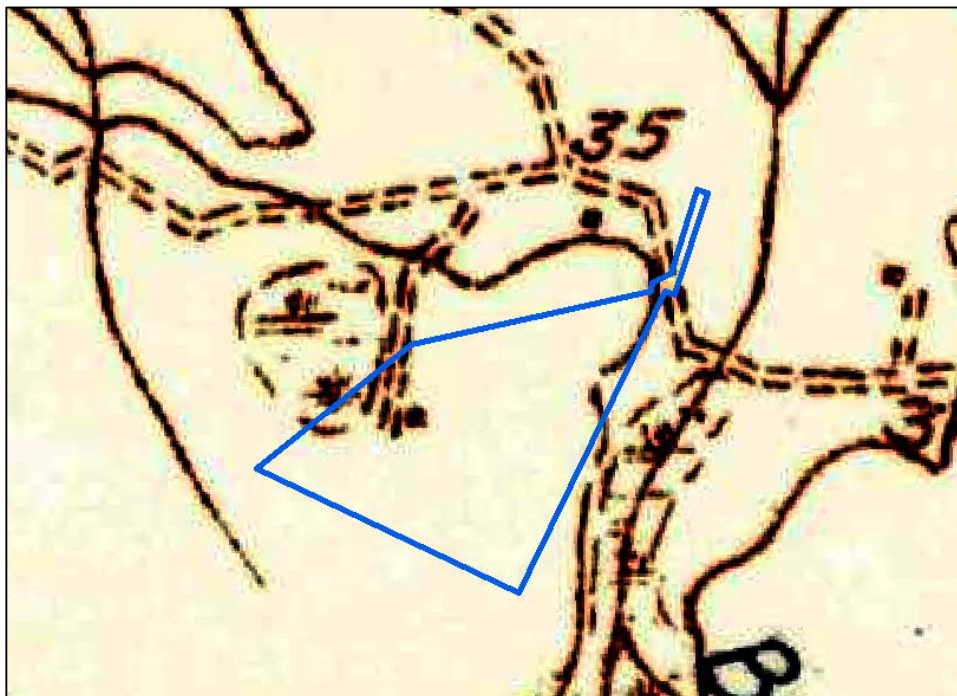


Figure 9. Nixonville (1937) 1:48,000 USGS topographic quadrangle showing the project area in blue.

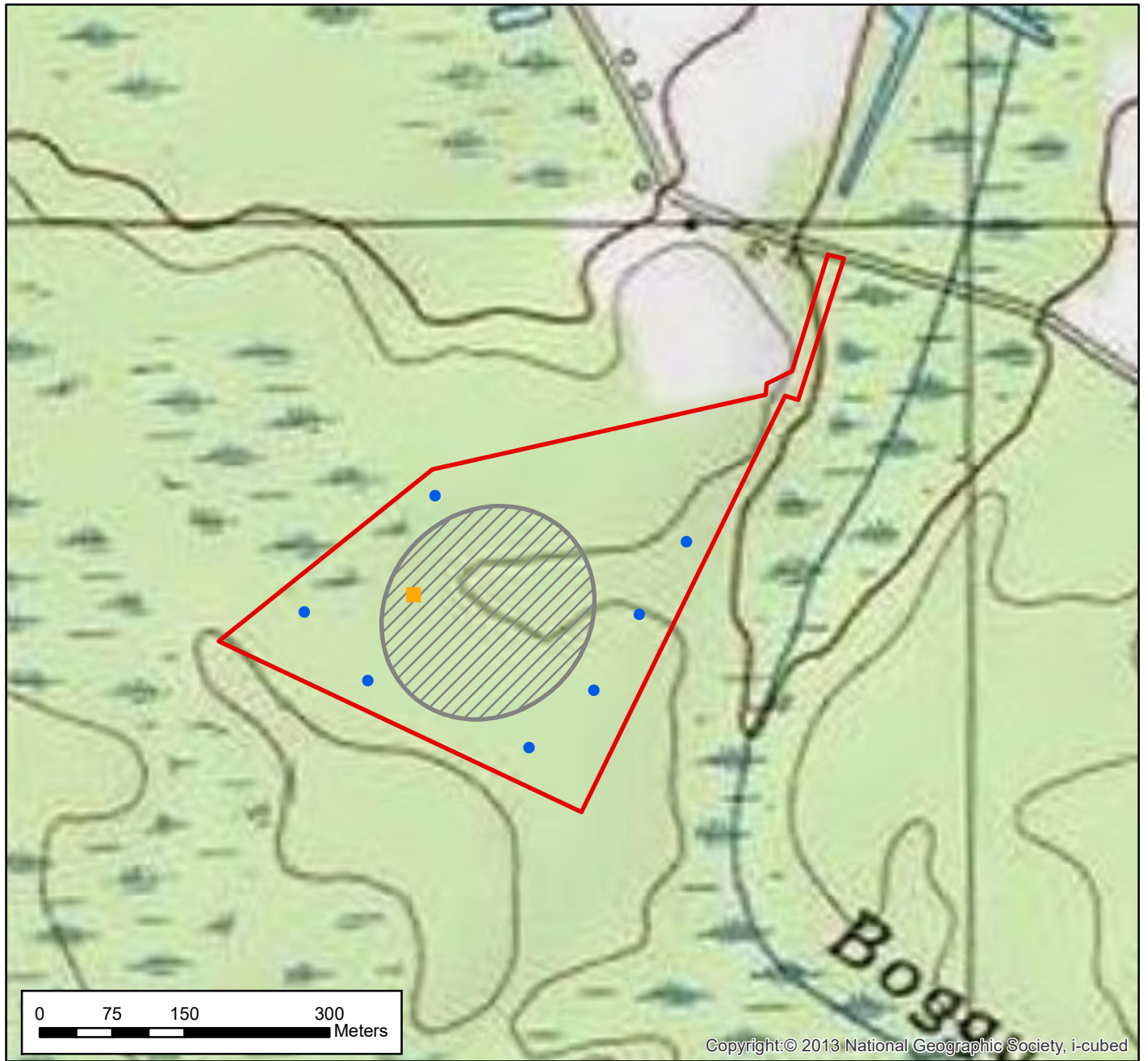
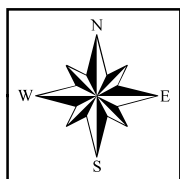
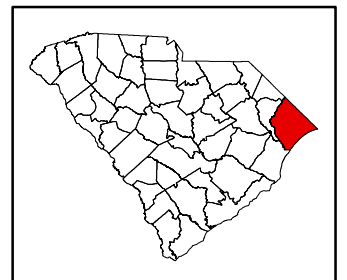


Figure 10. Shovel test locations and approximate location of house on 1937 Nixonville topographic quadrangle.
 Base Map: Hand (1984) 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle.

	Shovel Test Locations
	Approximate Location of Former House Site
	Project Area (approximate)
	Disturbed Area (approx.)



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SHOVEL TESTS
EDGE ROAD MINE HORRY CO., SC

Figure
10



Figure 11. Typical shovel test in well drained areas (STP 1).