

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD REPORT
SCDOT ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION



TITLE: Cultural Resources Survey for Intersection Improvements at S-61 (Old Post Road)/S-81(Hyatt Street) and S-61 (Old Post Road)/SC 11 (Chesnee Highway), Cherokee County, South Carolina

DATE OF RESEARCH: March 15, 2019

COUNTY: Cherokee

PIN: P029835

ARCHAEOLOGIST: Tracy Martin, Bill Jurgelski

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: David Kelly

PROJECT: Intersection Improvements at S-61 (Old Post Road)/S-81 (Hyatt Street) and S-61 (Old Post Road)/SC 11 (Chesnee Highway)

DESCRIPTION: The South Carolina Department of Transportation proposes to make improvements to the intersections of S-61 (Old Post Road) and S-81 (Hyatt Street) and S-61 (Old Post Road) and SC 11 (Chesnee Highway) in Cherokee County (**Figure 1**). The study area for this project is comprised of areas around two separate intersections. The study area for the northernmost intersection (SC 61/SC 11) runs approximately 520 meters along SC 11 and 520 meters along S-61. The study area for the southernmost intersection runs approximately 270 meters along S-81 and 330 meters along S-61. Approximately 460 meters of new right-of-way (ROW) is proposed to be acquired for rerouting S-61 and S-81 at the southernmost intersection (**Figures 2 and 3**). The area of potential effect (APE) for archaeological resources for the project consists of land that will be acquired as new right-of-way (ROW) as well as those areas within the existing ROW that might be affected by the undertaking. The APE for architectural resources consists of a 300 foot buffer around the archaeological APE (**Figure 4**).

LOCATION: The project area is located in the northwestern portion of Cherokee County approximately three miles northwest of the town of Gaffney.

USGS QUADRANGLE: Gaffney

DATE: 1971

SCALE: 7.5'

UTM: WGS84

ZONE: 17

Centroid of Northern Study Area: **EASTING:** 436143.83 **NORTHING:** 3885629.20

Centroid of Southern Study Area: **EASTING:** 435372.66 **NORTHING:** 3884282.18

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The project area is located in the Piedmont physiographic province. The majority of the project area consists of agricultural land and land that has been very recently logged. Smaller portions of the project area consist of pine forest, or land that has been impacted by commercial or residential development. **Figures 5 – 8** show examples of how the project area looked at the time of the survey.

NEAREST RIVER/STREAM AND DISTANCE: The closest water source to the northernmost portion of the project area is Cherokee Creek, approximately 585 meters to the northeast. The closest water source to the southernmost portion of the project area is Cole Creek, approximately 650 meters to the southeast.

SOIL TYPE: The portion of the project area centered on the S-61/S-81 intersection contains two different soil types. The most abundant type is Cecil sandy loam with 2 to 6 percent slopes. This soil is well drained and comprises 87.6 percent of this part of the project area. The second most abundant soil is Appling sandy loam with 2 to 6 percent slopes. This soil is also well drained and comprises 12.4 percent of this portion of the project area.

The portion of the project area centered on the S-61/SC 11 intersection includes three soil types. Cecil sandy loam with 2 to 6 percent slopes comprises 30.5 percent and Cecil sandy loam eroded with 2 to 6 percent slopes comprises 30.2 percent. Appling sandy loam with 2 to 6 percent slopes makes up 2.8 percent. All of these soils are well drained.

REFERENCE FOR SOILS INFORMATION: Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey. Available online at <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. Accessed [3/15/2019].

GROUND SURFACE VISIBILITY: 1-25% ____ 26-50% ____ 51-75% X 76-100% ____

CURRENT VEGETATION: At the time of the cultural resources survey vegetation in the northernmost portion of the project area consisted primarily of fallow agricultural fields and maintained lawns associated with commercial establishments, while vegetation in the southernmost portion of the project area consisted primarily of grassy road margins, pine forests with a moderate understory of briars and saplings, and recently logged areas.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Prior to the field investigation the online GIS database (ArchSite) was examined to determine if any previously identified archaeological sites, standing structures, or National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites were present in or near the project area. No previously recorded cultural resources were found to be located within or in close proximity to the project area (**Figure 9**).

Maps and historical aerials dating to between 1909 and 1971 were also examined to determine if any no-longer-extant structures or architectural features could be identified that might presently be manifested as archaeological sites within the project area (USDA 1905 and 1962; USGS 1909, 1950, 1955, 1964, and 1971). Historical imagery shows that land in the study area has remained largely undeveloped and has been primarily utilized for agriculture during the last hundred years. A large part of the southernmost portion of the project area has reverted to forest in recent decades. Housing developments in the vicinity of the project area only date to the late twentieth century. **Figures 10 – 12** show the project area through historical maps and aerials.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: An archaeological survey of the project area was conducted March 12, 2019. Survey methods consisted of a pedestrian reconnaissance of the entire APE augmented by the excavation of 30x30 centimeters shovel test pits (STPs). A total of 58 STP locations were investigated. Out of these, eight were not excavated due to standing water, hydric soil, or ground disturbance. One STP was not excavated due to 100 percent ground surface visibility.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS: A total of 29 STP locations were investigated in the northern portion of the project area (**Figure 13**). Four STPs were not excavated due to standing water and hydric soil. This area consisted almost entirely of fallow agricultural fields intermixed with light commercial development. STP locations were not placed along several stretches of the northern project area due to its narrow width. In these places the only land within the archaeological APE consisted of road cuts, road berms, or locations that had been previously disturbed by buried utilities. However, a pedestrian reconnaissance and surface inspection of these areas was performed. **Figures 14 – 17** show typical ground surface visibility, commercial areas, and ground disturbance within the northern portion of the project area.

A total of 29 STP locations were investigated in the southern portion of the project area (**Figure 18**). Four STPs were not excavated due to the presence of good surface visibility or due to disturbance from an active logging operation. This part of the project area included grassy roadway margins, moderately dense forested areas, as well as a large tract that had been recently logged. A portion of the area was also being actively logged at the time of the cultural resources investigation. **Figures 19 – 22** show typical ground surface visibility and ground disturbance within the southern portion of the project area.

Two archaeological sites were identified during the survey. Both resources were located in the southernmost portion of the project area: 38CK202 and 38CK203 (see **Figure 18**).

38CK202

Site 38CK202 is a twentieth century domestic site situated on a ridge top on the eastern side of Old Post Road (S-61) across from the intersection of Old Post Road and Farmington Road. As recorded the site is approximately 68x78 meters in size. The area within and surrounding the site is heavily disturbed. At the time of the survey an active logging operation was underway in the southern portion of the site. Visible features on the site include the remains of what appears to be a dilapidated cement pad probably associated with an outbuilding, a cement lined well, a depression that is likely a cellar hole, disarticulated brick pier supports, and brick and stone rubble piles that may comprise chimney remains (**Figure 23**). Clusters of daffodils are present around the house site. A large shade tree and unidentified domestic shrubbery are also present. **Figures 24 – 25** show the site at the time of the survey.

Background research indicated that a structure was present at site location as early as 1909, as seen on the 1909 USGS Gaffney quadrangle (USGS 1909) (see **Figure 10**). Historical aerial photos show the house and outbuildings in use between 1950 and 1964 (see **Figures 11 and 12**) (USDA 1962; USGS 1950, 1955, and 1964).

One shovel test pit (STP) was excavated within the site boundary in close proximity to the probable cellar hole and rubble piles but no artifacts were recovered. The soil profile consists of three strata. Stratum I is dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/6) loamy sand extending to a depth of 15 centimeters below surface (cmbs). This was followed by reddish-brown (5YR 5/4) clay loam to 20 cmbs. The third stratum was red (2.5YR 4/8) clay extending past 35 cmbs.

Due to the presence of an active logging operation shovel testing for the purposes of site delineation was not possible on site 38CK202. For this reason the site boundary was established based on historical aerial photography.

Site 38CK202 is not known to be associated with important historical events or persons (National Register of Historic Places [NRHP] Criteria A and B). In addition, the site does not include elements that embody the distinct qualities of a type, period, or method of construction, or possess other qualities that might make it eligible under NRHP Criterion C. Due the extent of disturbance additional work at the site is unlikely to yield significant new information about 20th century lifeways in western South Carolina. Therefore the site is assessed as not NRHP eligible under NRHP Criterion D as well. No additional work on Site 38CK202 is recommended as part of the current undertaking.

38CK203

Site 38CK203 is a twentieth century domestic site situated on a ridge nose on the eastern side of S-81 (Hyatt Street) (**Figure 28**). The site lies adjacent to but outside the current project archaeological APE. Therefore the investigation of the site was limited to a surface inspection. Site boundaries were established based on the distribution of buildings on the site as shown in historical aerial photography.

As recorded the site is approximately 49x42 meters in size. Visible features observed on the site include a cement lined well, a pile of bricks that appears to comprise a collapsed chimney, a pile of asphalt shingles, a depression that may comprise a silted-in cellar hole, and the rusted remains of a large washing machine (**Figures 29 – 32**). Domestic vegetation noted on the site included numerous clusters of daffodils. Twentieth century trash and architectural debris are scattered throughout the site.

Background research indicated that a structure was present at this location as early as 1909, as seen on the USGS Gaffney quadrangle (USGS 1909) (see **Figure 10**). Historical aerial photos show the house and outbuildings in use between 1950 and 1964 (see **Figures 11 and 12**) (USDA 1962; USGS 1950, 1955, and 1964).

Site 38CK203 is located outside the archaeological APE of the current undertaking. No additional work on the site is recommended as part of this project.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY: A historical resources reconnaissance of the project area was conducted on March 12, 2019. Site survey methods consisted of a visual examination of all buildings within the architectural APE. Two (2) new resources within the architectural APE were documented (site #s 0273 and 0274; see **Figure 13**).

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY RESULTS: The two aboveground resources documented during the project investigations consist of one house constructed circa 1880 (0273) and a heavily altered commercial building constructed circa 1960 (0274) (**Figures 33 – 34**). Both of these resources were evaluated to lack significance under NRHP criteria A, B, and C. Additionally, the resources were determined to lack the necessary cohesion and/or association to qualify as a NRHP-eligible district. Therefore, none of the aboveground resources are recommended eligible for the NRHP.

REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The cultural resources survey for intersection improvements at S-61 (Old Post Road) and S-81 (Hyatt Street) and S-61 (Old Post Road) and SC 11 (Chesnee Highway) resulted in the identification of two new archaeological sites (38CK202 and 38CK203) and two new aboveground resources (site #s 0273 and 0274). The two new archaeological sites are both heavily disturbed 20th century domestic sites. Site 38CK202 was assessed as not eligible for the NRHP. Site 38CK203 lies outside the archaeological APE of the

current undertaking and should not be impacted by the project. The two new aboveground resources, 0273 and 0274, are both recommended not eligible for the NRHP. No historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking. No additional cultural resources investigations are recommended.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

References Cited

United State Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- 1905 Soil Survey of Cherokee County, South Carolina. Retrieved from USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/south_carolina/cherokeeSC1905/cherokeeSC1905.pdf>.
- 1962 Soil Survey of Cherokee County, South Carolina. Retrieved from USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/south_carolina/cherokeeSC1962/cherokeeSC1962.pdf>.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1909 1909 Gaffney 1:62,500 Scale Topographic Quadrangle. Retrieved from USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer <<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>>.
- 1950 1950 Aerial Photo Single Frame. Entity ID ARA007100600735, Project 00710, Roll 000006, Frame 735, Scale 57,000, Retrieved from USGS Earth Explorer <<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>>.
- 1955 1955 Aerial Photo Single Frame. Entity ID AR1VDX000020098, Project VDX00, Roll 000002, Frame 98, Scale 33,000, Retrieved from USGS Earth Explorer <<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>>.
- 1964 1964 Aerial Photo Single Frame. Entity ID ARB650106506231, Project 65010, Roll 000065, Frame 6231, Scale 30,000, Retrieved from USGS Earth Explorer <<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>>.
- 1988 1971 Gaffney 1:24,000 Scale Topographic Quadrangle. Retrieved from USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer <<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>>.

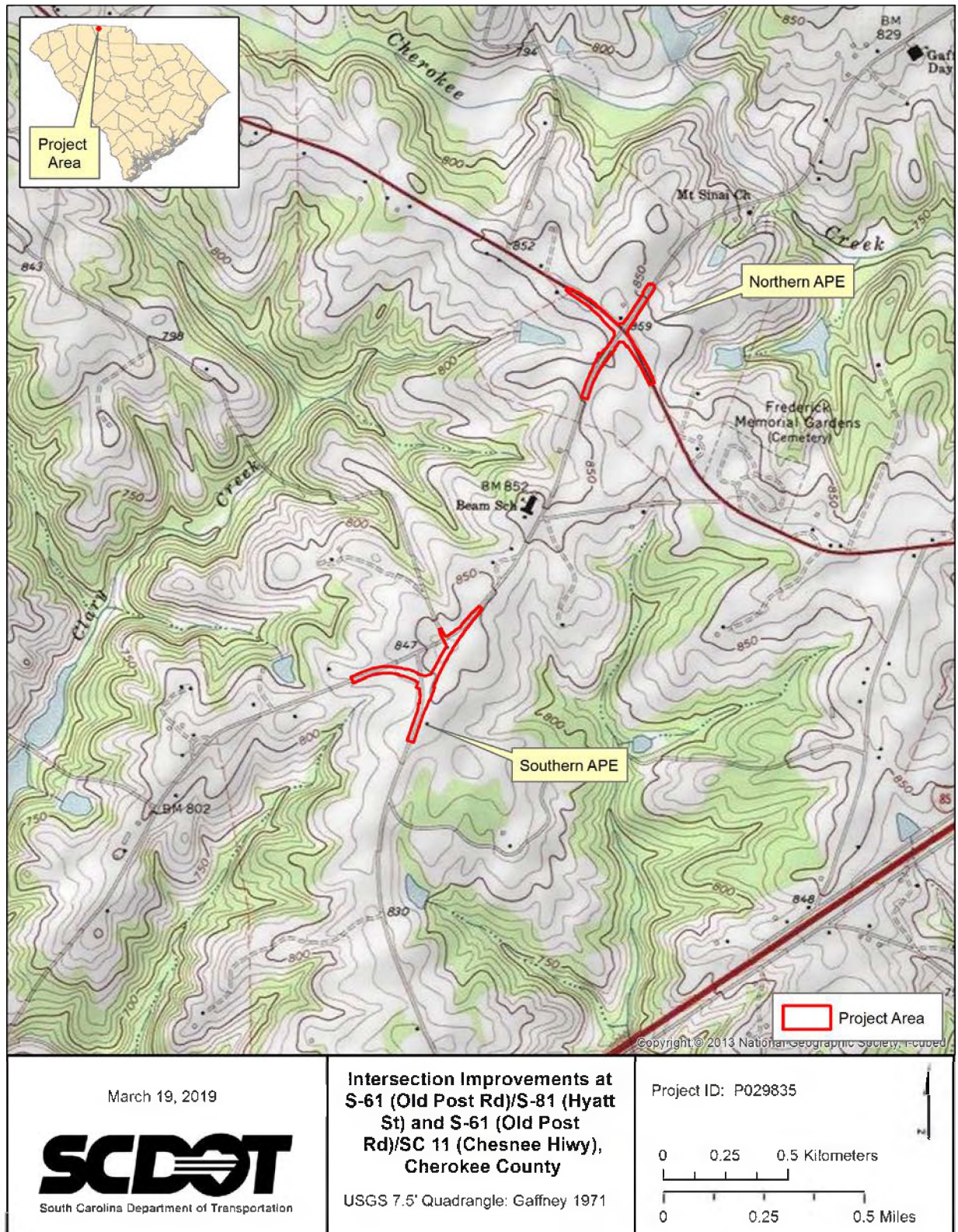


Figure 1. Project Area, 1971 Gaffney, SC, 7.5' USGS Quadrangle (USGS 1971).

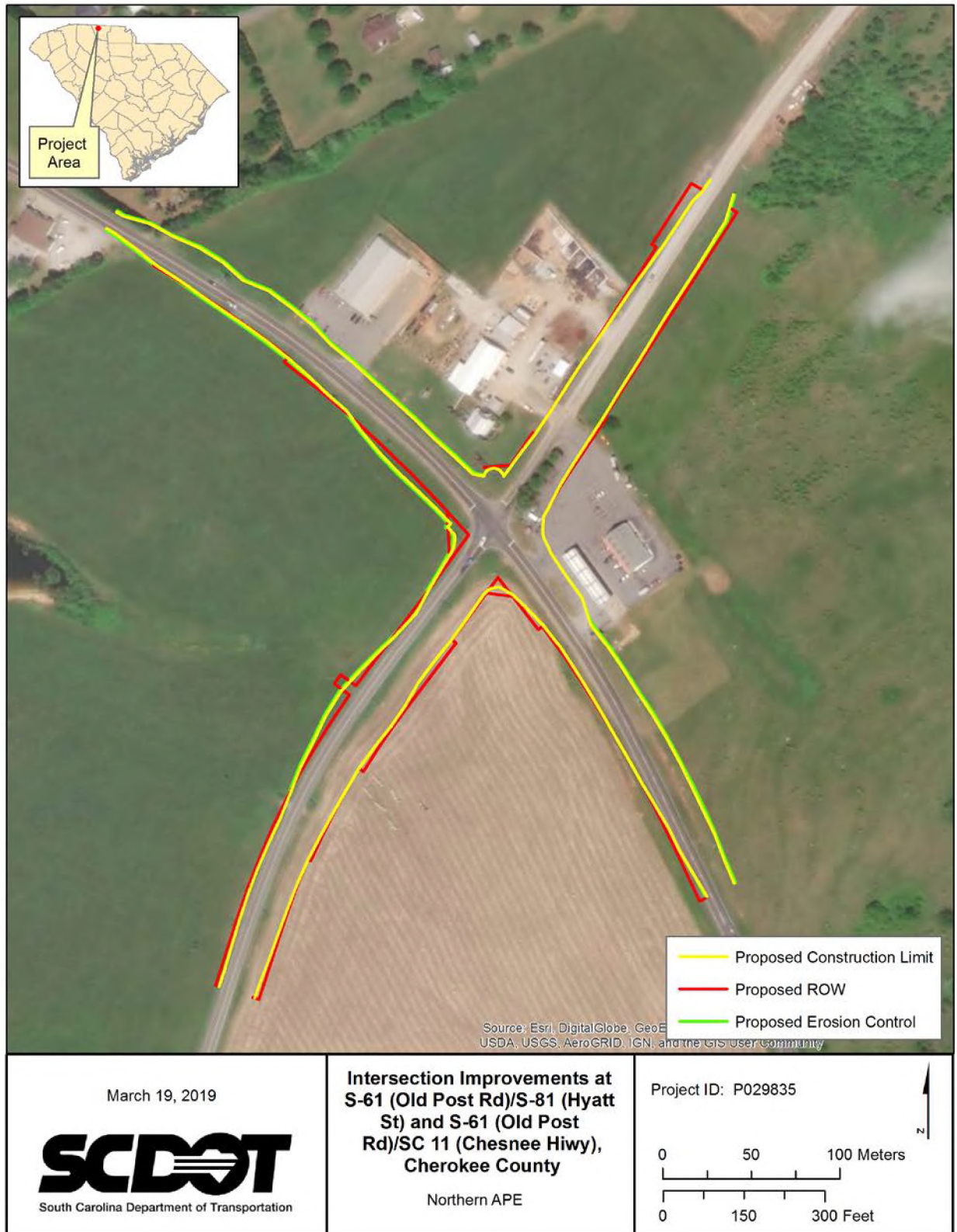


Figure 2. Northern Intersection Improvement Plans.

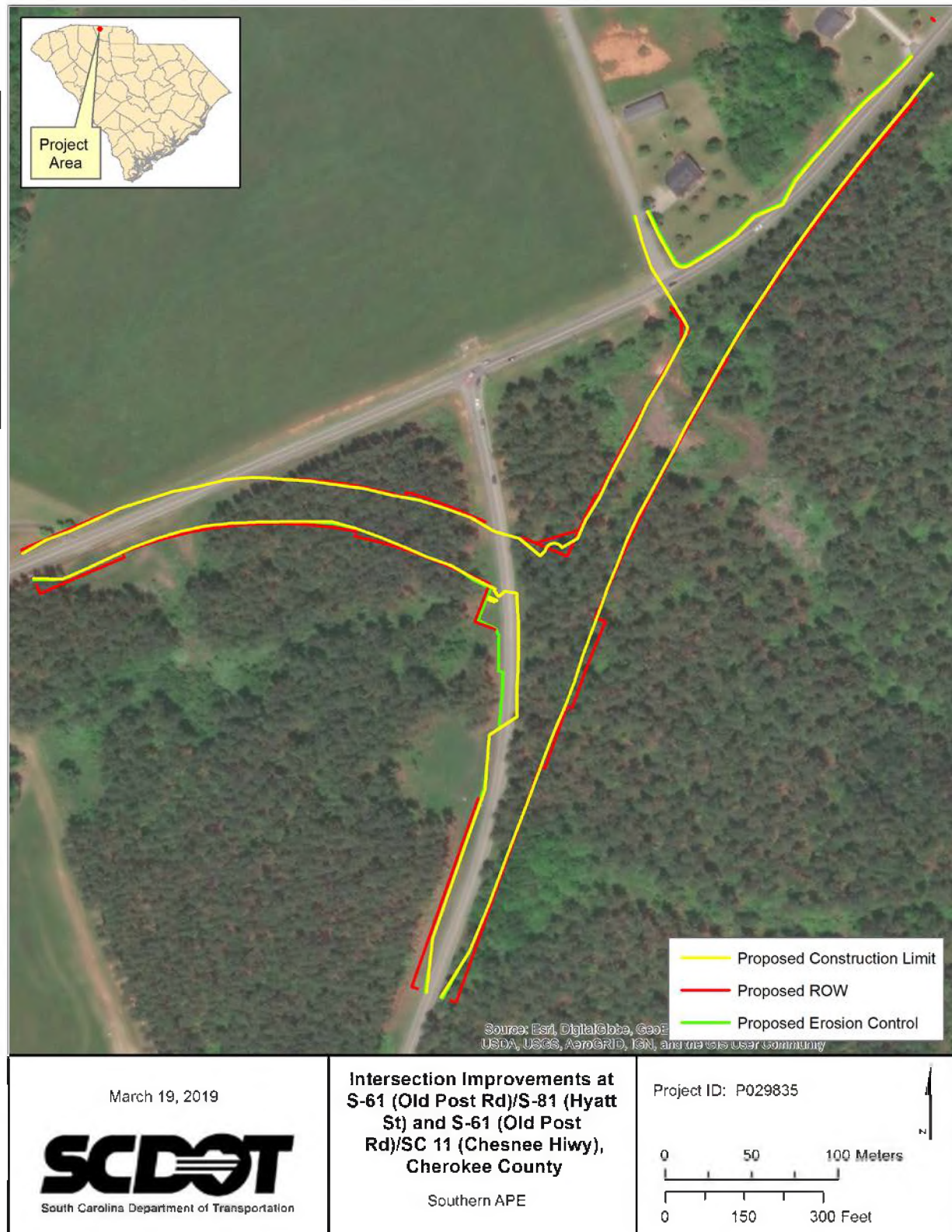


Figure 3. Southern Intersection Improvement Plans.

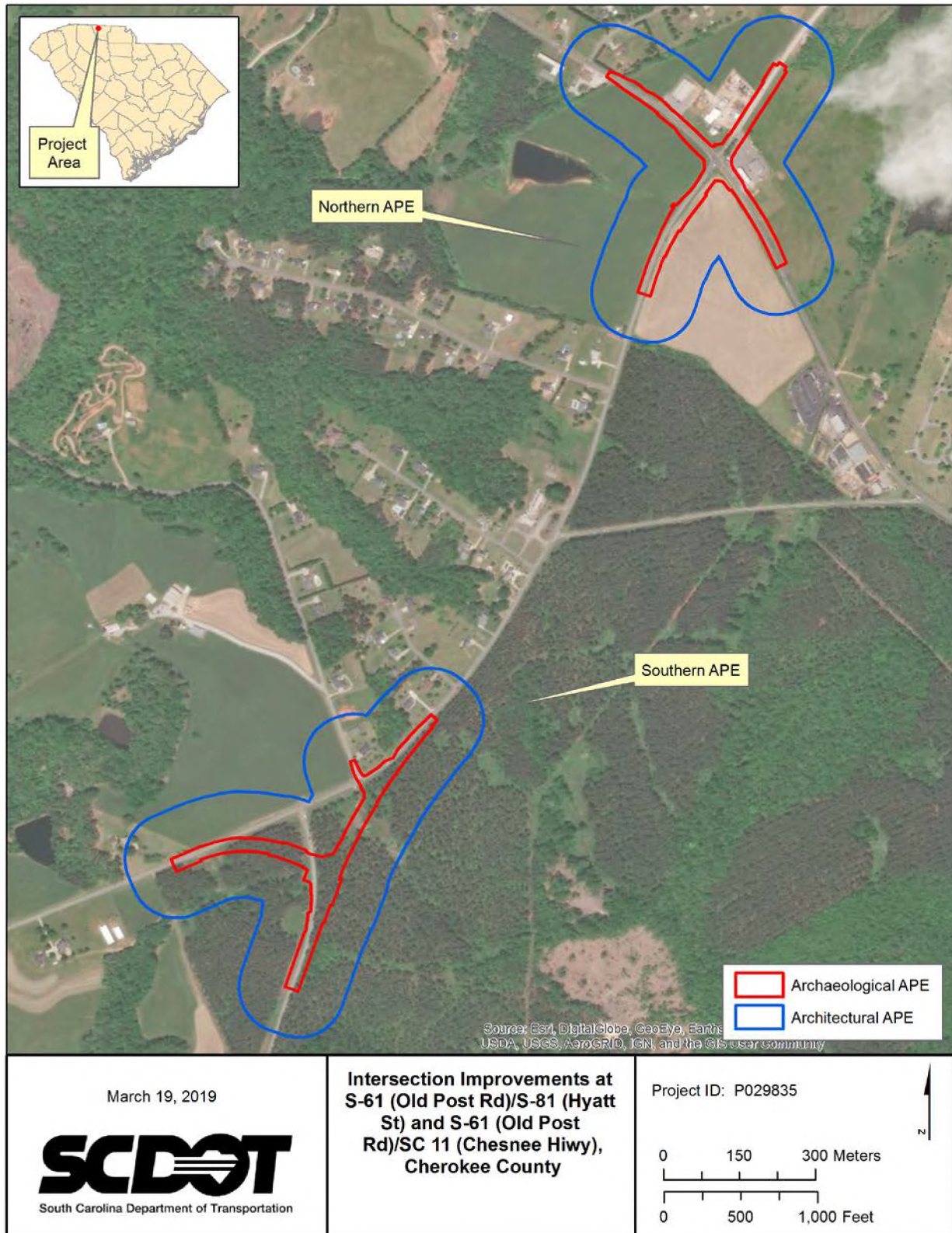


Figure 4. Archaeological and Architectural APEs.



Figure 5. General View of Northern Project Area, Facing Southeast on North Side of SC 11.



Figure 6. General View of Northern Project Area, Facing Northeast on South Side of SC 11.



Figure 7. General View of Southern Project Area, Facing Northeast Along S-61.



Figure 8. General View of Southern Project Area, Facing Northwest in New ROW.

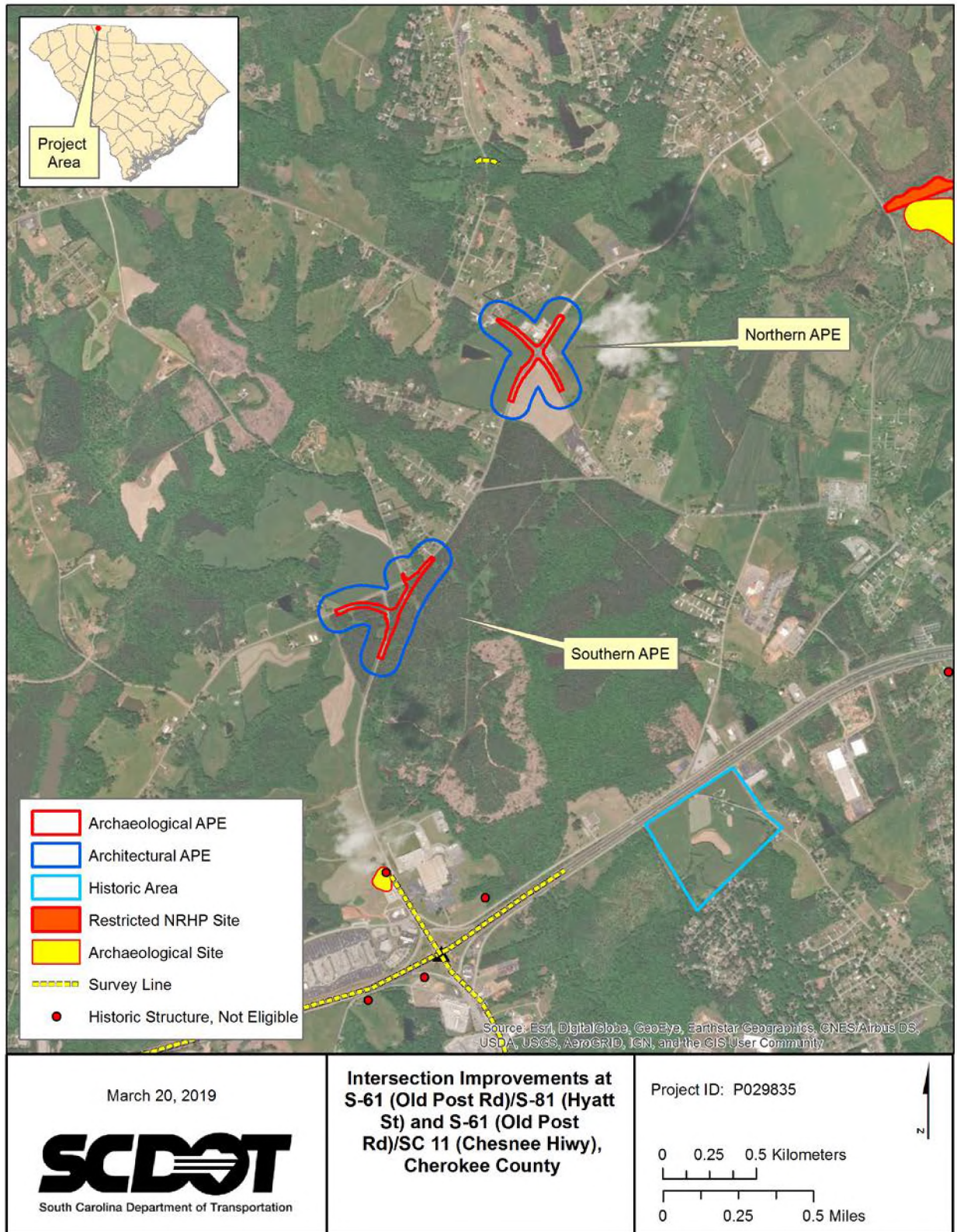


Figure 9. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the Area.

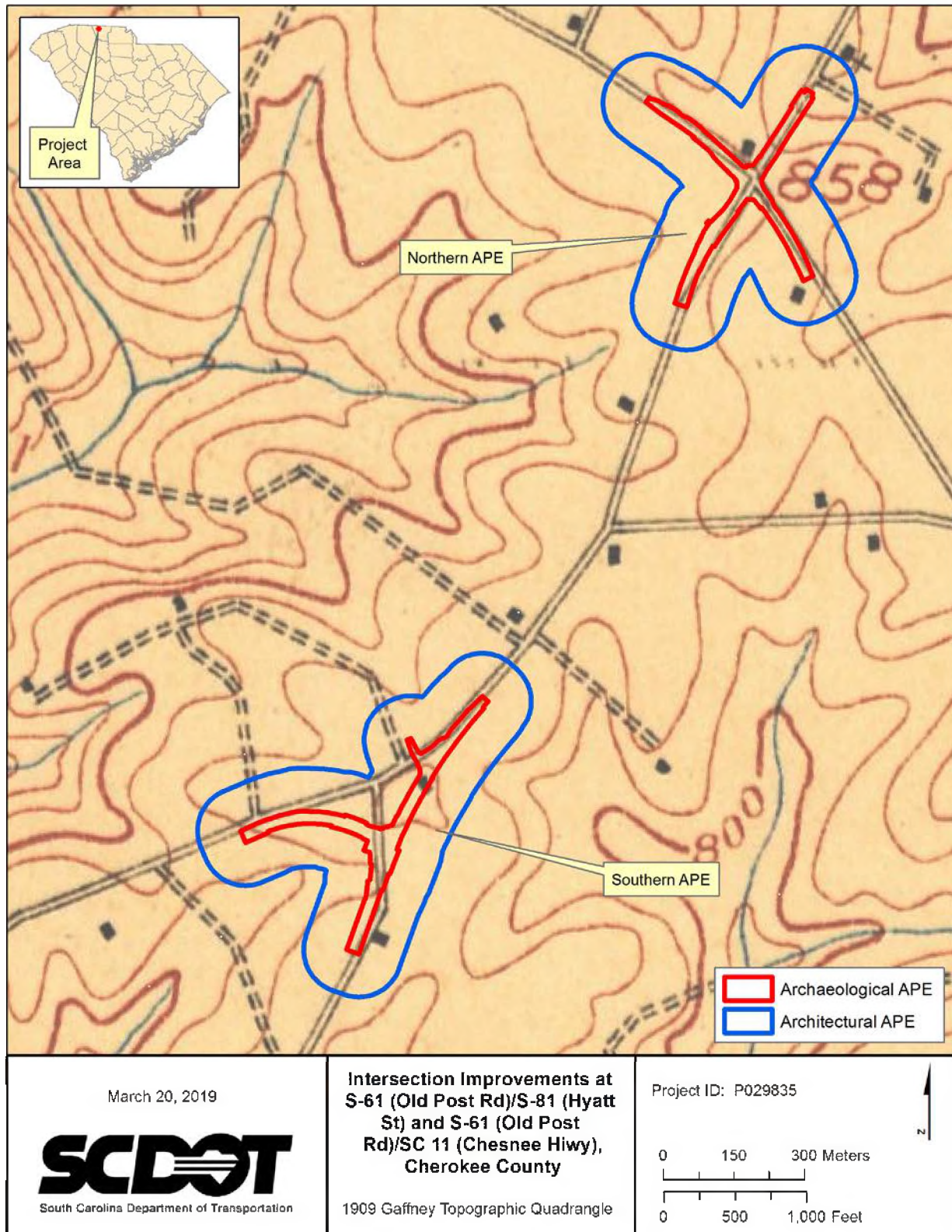


Figure 10. 1909 Gaffney Topographic Quadrangle Showing Archaeological and Architectural APEs (USGS 1910).

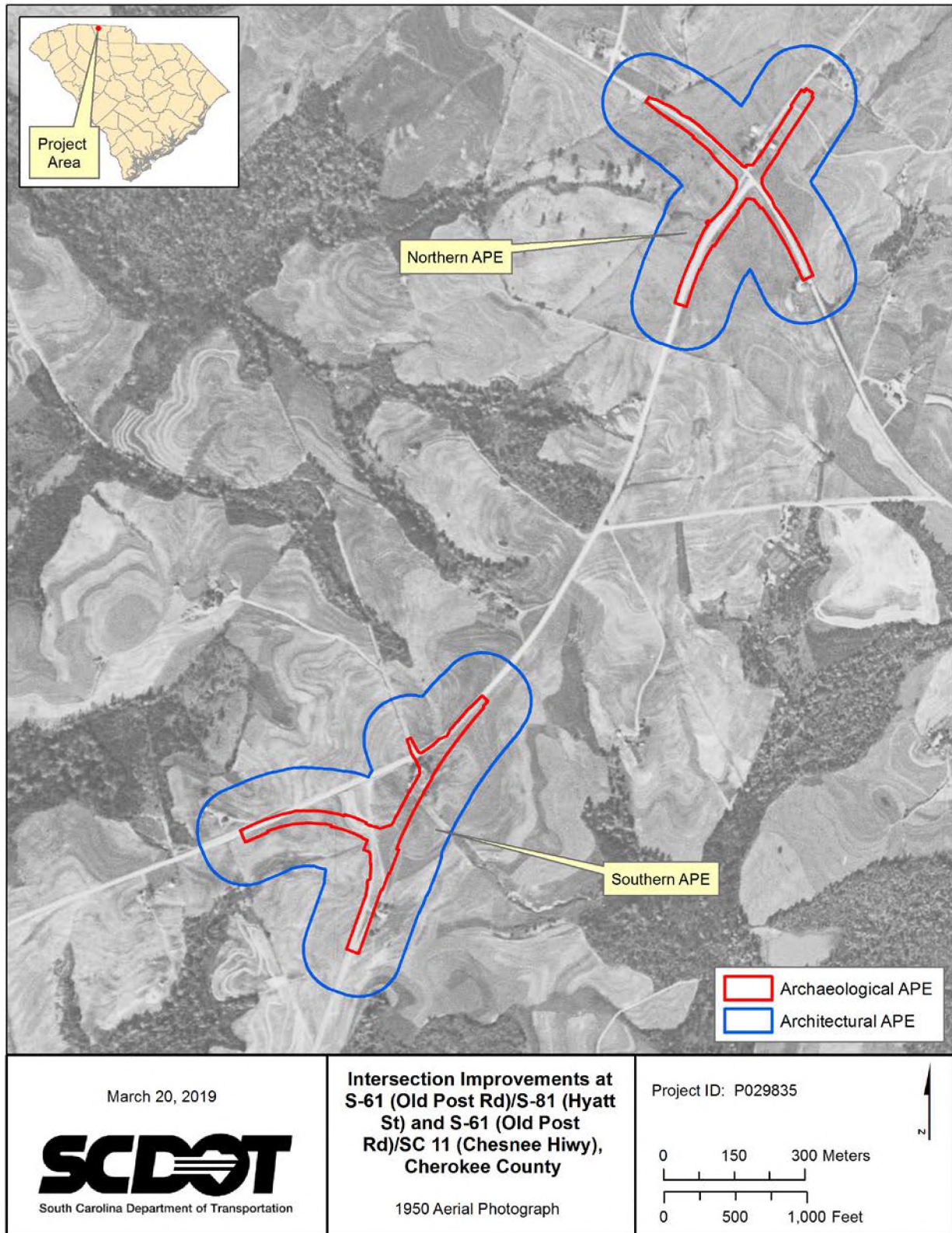


Figure 11. 1950 Aerial Photograph Showing Archaeological and Architectural APEs (USGS 1950).

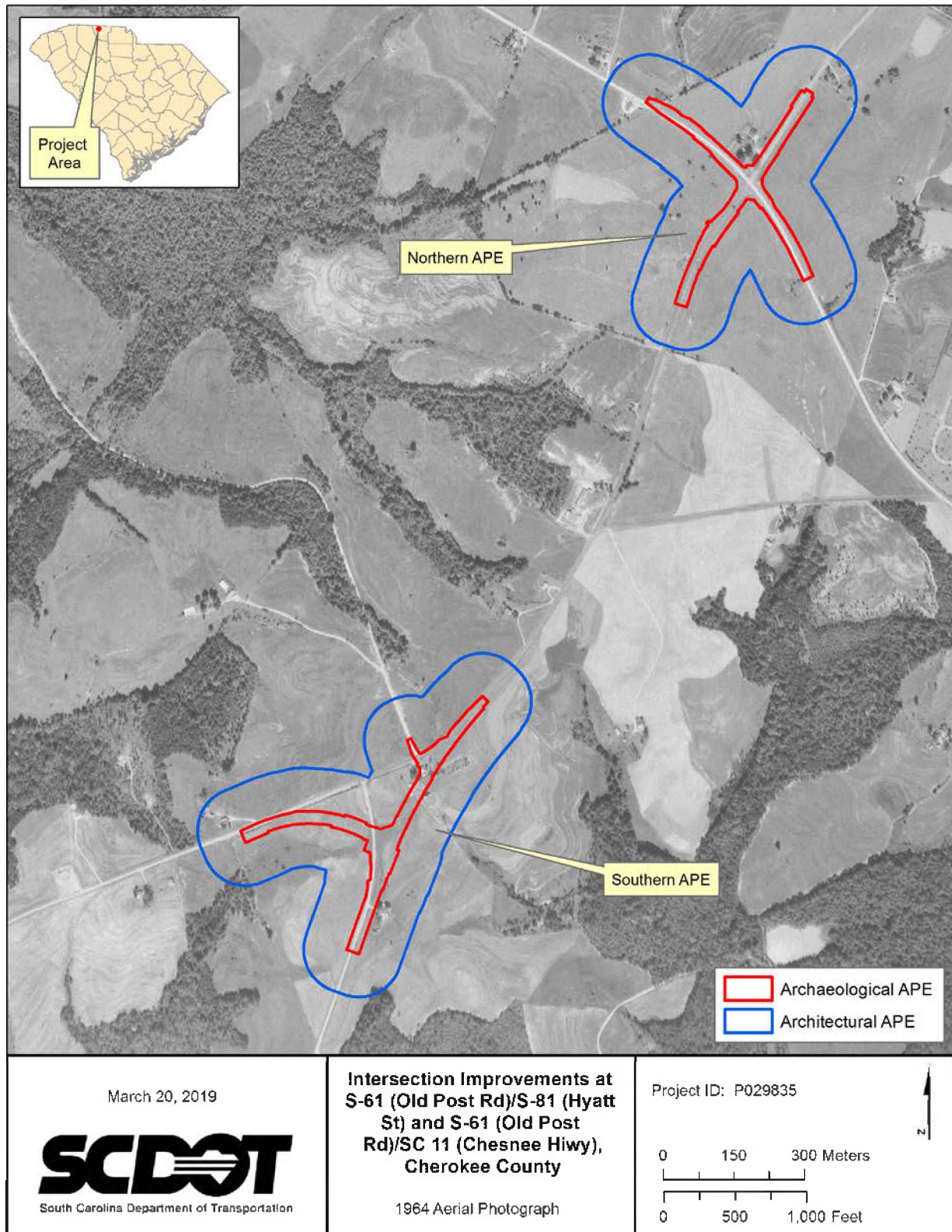


Figure 12. 1964 Aerial Photograph Showing Archaeological and Architectural APEs (USGS 1964).



Figure 13. Map Showing Shovel Test Pits and Newly Recorded Resources in Northern Project Area.



Figure 14. View of Ground Disturbance Along SC 11, Facing Northwest From Intersection.



Figure 15. View of Ground Disturbance Along SC 11, Facing Northwest From Northwest Edge of Project Area.



Figure 16. View of Paved Area on Eastern Side of Project Area, Facing Southwest.



Figure 17. General View of Northern Project Area, Facing Northeast from STP 5-6.

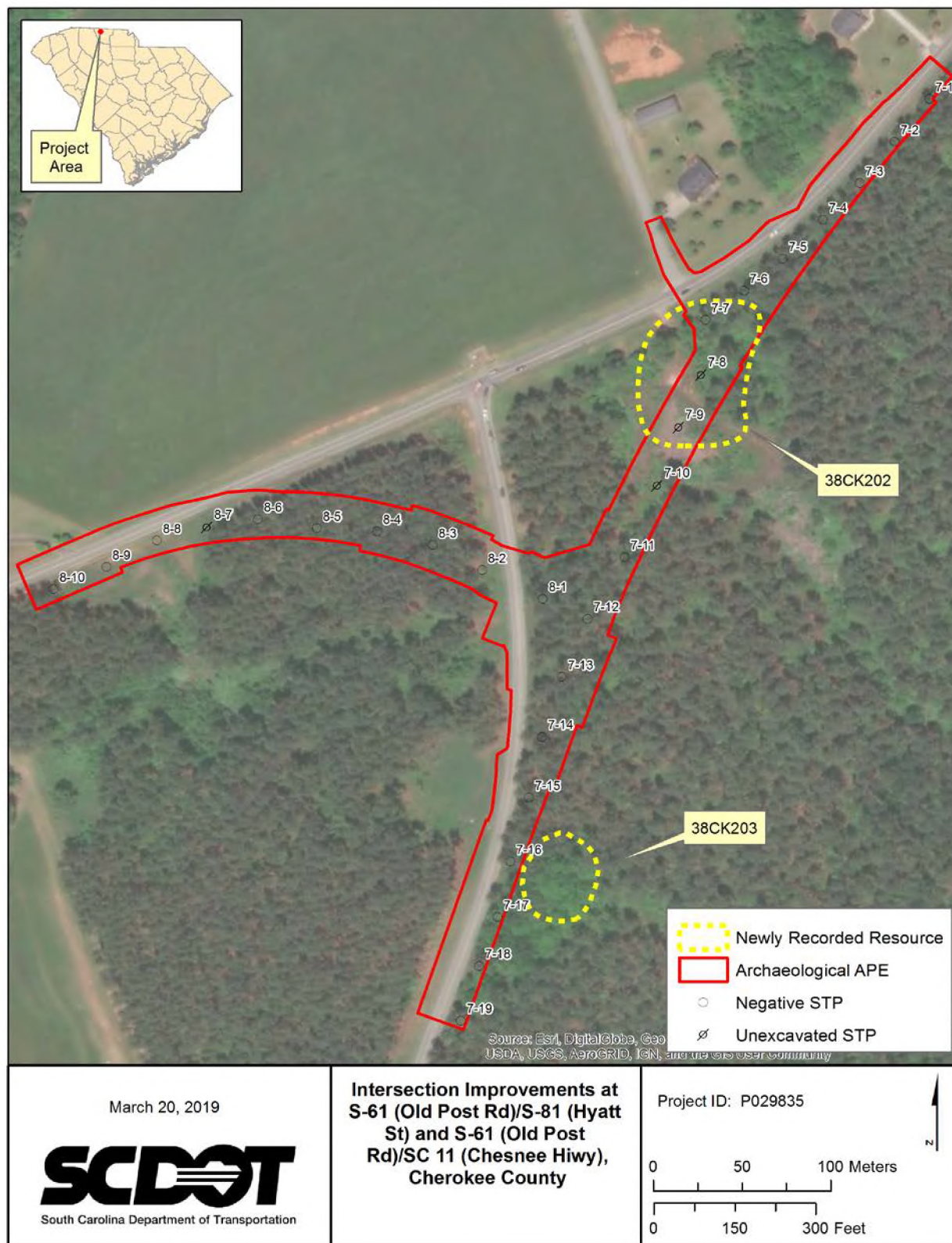


Figure 18. Map Showing Shovel Test Pits and Newly Recorded Resources in Southern Project Area.



Figure 19. General View of Logging Disturbance in the Project Area, Facing East from Shovel Test 7-8.



Figure 20. View of Ground Disturbance Along Hyatt Street, Facing Northeast From Vicinity of STP 7-16.



Figure 21. View of Disturbance Facing Northeast from the Western Edge of the Project Area Along SC 61.



Figure 22. View of Disturbance Facing Northeast from STP 8-8.

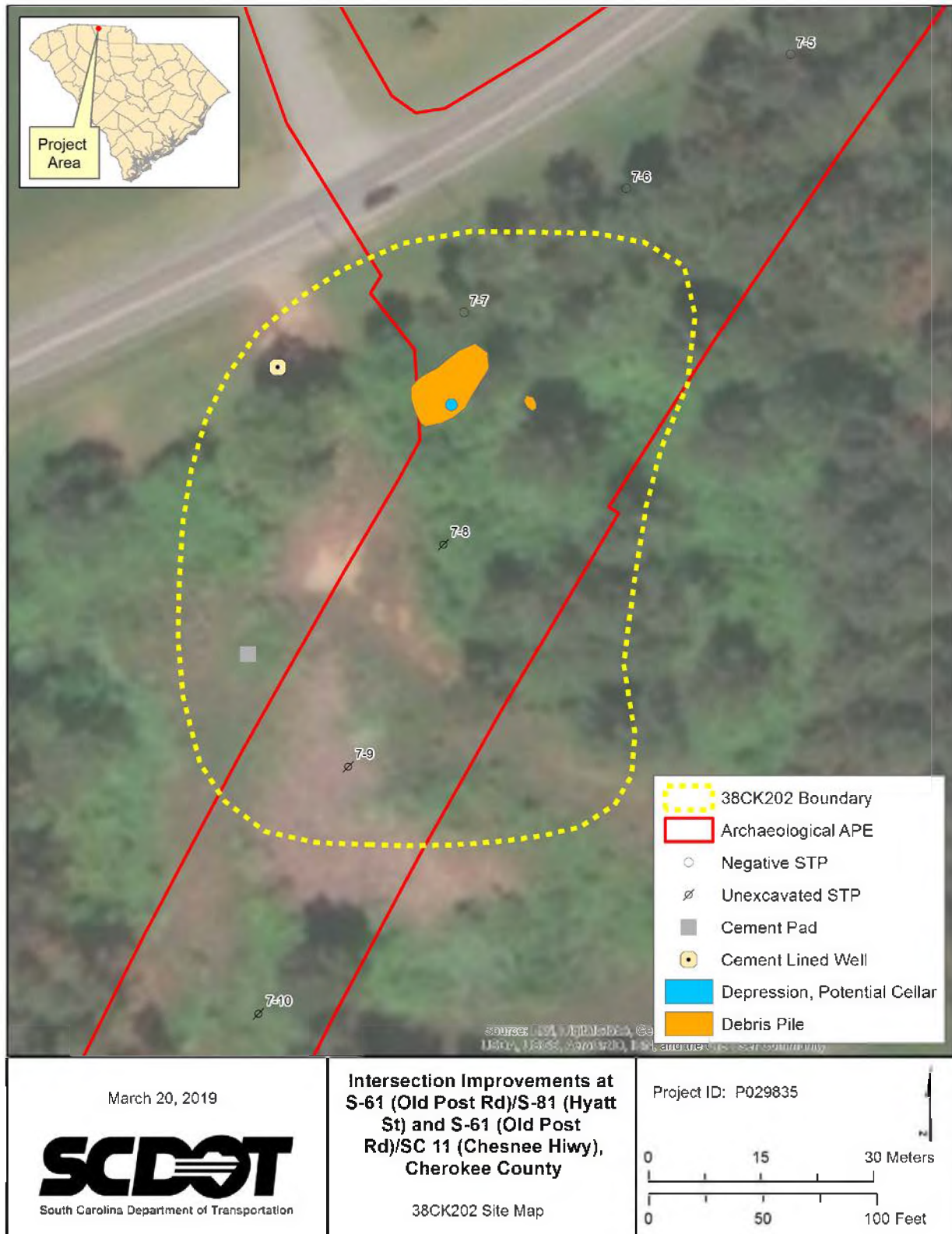


Figure 23. Site 38CK202 Boundary and Archaeological APE.



Figure 24. Cement Pad at Site 38CK202, Facing Northeast.



Figure 25. Cement Lined Well at Site 38CK202, Facing Southwest.



Figure 26. Debris Pile at Site 38CK202, Facing Southwest.



Figure 27. Debris Pile at 38CK202, Facing East.

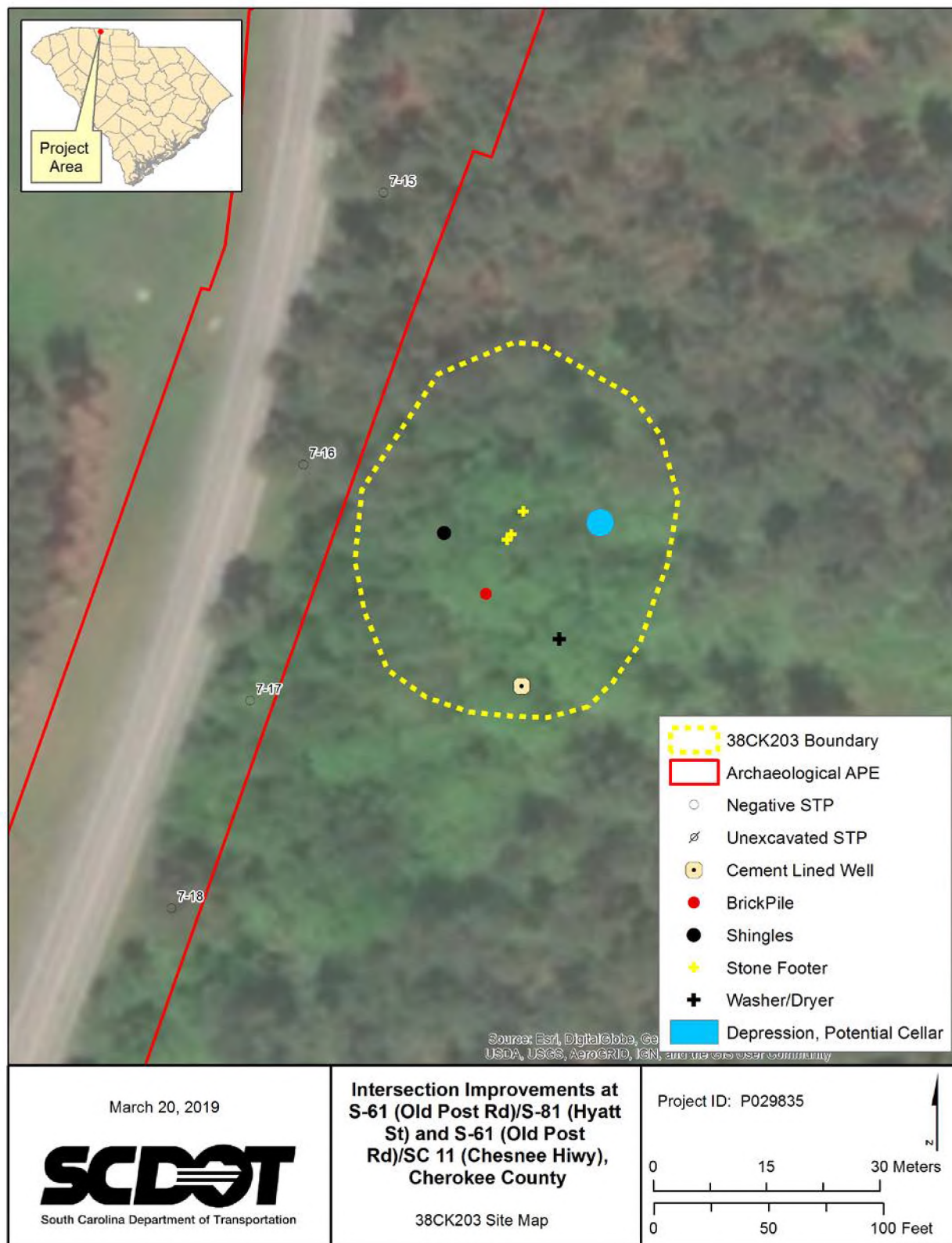


Figure 28. Site 38CK203 Boundary and Archaeological APE.



Figure 29. Brick Debris Pile at Site 38CK203.



Figure 30. Cement Lined Well at Site 38CK203.



Figure 31. Asphalt Debris Pile at Site 38CK203.



Figure 32. Abandoned Washer and Dryer at Site 38CK203.



Figure 33. Historic Resource Number 0273, Facing Northwest.



Figure 34. Historic Resource Number 0274, Facing West.