

October 30, 2018

Joe Wilkinson
Department of Transportation Project Liaison
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223-4905

RE: SCDOT Acquisition of the “PH 2 Timber Site,” a 1,361.52 acre parcel in Newberry County, South Carolina (Project ID P027662).

Mr. Wilkinson:

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is proposing to purchase an approximately 1,361.52 acre parcel in Newberry County, SC, to be used as partial mitigation for impacts to wetlands caused by the “Carolina Crossroads” (SCDOT Project No. P027662) highway improvement project (**Figure 1**). After the parcel, known as the PH 2 Timber Site, is acquired, it will be transferred to the South Carolina Department Natural Resources (SCDNR) for incorporation into the state’s network of Wildlife Management Areas. At that time management and protection of any cultural resources on the property will fall under the auspices of SCDNR.

Before SCDOT transfers the property to SCDNR, consultants contracted by the agency will undertake ground disturbing actions on portions of the property in order to enhance the value of the tract as a wetlands mitigation site. These ground disturbing actions will include improvements to short sections of existing logging roads to facilitate the movement of equipment within the parcel; stream restoration work consisting of grading and excavation in portions of selected drainages that have been impacted by agricultural or logging activities, and the removal of a small earthen dam and associated pond. Work in the drainages will occur on the margins of active or intermittent streams, and in active or former wetlands, and will not impact adjacent uplands. **Figure 2** highlights the areas where impacts are anticipated to occur. No other impacts to the property are anticipated prior to its transfer to SCDNR.

In order to investigate the impact of these proposed ground disturbing actions SCDOT cultural resources staff conducted background research on the parcel and a field reconnaissance of the areas where ground disturbances are anticipated to occur.



Background Investigations

A background review on ArchSite indicated that no previously recorded cultural resources are present within the PH 2 Timber Site. An examination of SCDOT records indicated that one historic bridge (Asset ID 2582) was previously recorded along Belfast Road. The bridge was recommended as not eligible for the NRHP (**Figure 3**).

Historical maps and images were examined to look for clues as to the location of cultural resources within the study area. Documents examined included the 1825 Mills Atlas map of Newberry District (Mills 1825), a 1941 Spartanburg topographic map (USGS 1941), and historic aerial photographs (USGS 1951, 1961, 1964, and 1966). Historical aerial photographs of the project location show that the parcel has been sparsely populated from the mid-twentieth century to the present. The parcel has largely remained unchanged for 60 plus years with large swathes of forested areas intermixed with scattered fields or pastures present throughout that time. The aerial photographs also indicate that the parcel has been intermittently logged during the period of coverage (**Figures 4 and 5**). With one exception, the historical maps and aerials do not show any potential cultural resources within or in close proximity to areas where stream restoration or road improvement work is anticipated to occur. The exception is the small earthen dam and pond recorded herein as Site No. 1979, which is shown on historical aerials beginning in 1959.

Archaeological Investigations

On October 4 and 9, 2018, SCDOT archaeologists conducted a field survey of the areas on the PH 2 Timber Site that are anticipated to be disturbed by stream restoration work and road improvements prior to the transfer of the site to SCDNR. Field methods consisted of a pedestrian reconnaissance of all of the areas where ground disturbance is anticipated.

The portions of the access roads that will be improved were found to have 75 – 100 percent ground surface visibility. In general, the access roads consist of reddish-yellow clay and sandy clay at the ground surface. In areas of slope the access roads have been greatly eroded exposing friable bedrock. **Figures 6 and 7** are typical views of the access roads as they looked at the time of the reconnaissance.

The locations selected for stream restoration or enhancement typically consisted of low lying floodplains that were likely drained sometime in the twentieth century so that the land could be used for farming. A common scenario in these topographic situations was for a naturally meandering stream to be redirected into an artificial channel excavated at the edge of the floodplain. Evidence of drainage work and other disturbances in these locations was seen in the form of push piles and the presence of obviously artificial stream beds. Restoration work in these places will include reinstating sinuosity to the streams by excavating new meandering channels in approximately the same locations as the original, natural channels.

In other locations restoration or enhancement work will consist of grading and excavation around stream channels that have been silted in as a result of farming and logging on the surrounding hillslopes, with the goal of improving water flow and restoring natural topography to these areas. Locations where these types of improvements are anticipated on the PH 2 Timber Site were usually

streams or drainages in narrow floodplains surrounded by slopes. **Figures 8 – 11** show different locations in the project area where stream restoration or enhancement work will occur.

Results

Two cultural resources were identified during the cultural resources survey of the PH 2 Timber Site (**Figure 12**).

The first resource (Site No. 1979) is a mid-twentieth century earthen dam and associated pond. This resource is located at the southeast end of the southernmost stream restoration area (**Figure 13**). The dam is approximately 60 meters in length by 9 meters in width and the pond is approximately 50 x 30 meters in size. **Figures 14 and 15** show the earthen dam and pond as they looked at the time of the cultural resources reconnaissance. The dam is not shown on any historic topographical quadrangles but an examination of historical aerial photographs indicated that the dam and pond were built sometime between 1951 and 1959. **Figure 16** shows the site as it looked on a 1966 aerial photograph. Site No. 1979 is a common type of landscape feature in South Carolina. It lacks distinctive characteristics of a style, period, or method of construction, is not known to be associated with events or persons significant in the past, and is not likely to yield important historical information. Therefore the site is recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

All of the remaining areas slated for stream restoration that were examined on the PH 2 Timber Site were judged to have a low probability to be the locus of previously undiscovered archaeological deposits based on their topographic situation. No above-ground cultural resources were observed in these areas.

The second resource identified was a prehistoric isolated occurrence (ISO 1, see **Figure 11**). This resource is situated on a southwestern facing and gently sloping hillside and was identified by two artifacts recovered from the ground surface along the southern access road impact area (**Figure 17**). Artifacts recovered consist of one rhyolite LeCroy projectile point base fragment and one rhyolite flake fragment. The resource was delineated on a 15 meter grid. Six shovel test pits within the delineation grid were excavated and three were not excavated due to high ground surface visibility. No artifacts were found during the delineation efforts.

The landform this resource is located on is heavily disturbed from logging and erosion, and the soils are highly deflated. Profiles in the delineation shovel tests reflected this disturbance. Stratum I varied from mottled yellowish-brown (10YR 5/8) and grayish-brown (10YR 5/2) clay loam to pale brown (10YR 6/3) loamy sand, dark gray (10YR 4/1) loamy sand, or strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) clay and reached between 5 and 25 centimeters below surface (CMBS). Where present, Stratum II varied from reddish-yellow compact clay, dark gray (10YR 4/1) loamy sand, or olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) loamy sand reaching between 15 and 30 CMBS. Stratum III consisted of reddish-brown (5YR 4/4) clay.

As an isolated find ISO 1 is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. No other cultural resources were noted in any of the other locations that were examined on the PH 2 Timber Site where road improvements are anticipated to occur.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The cultural resources survey of the PH 2 Timber Site resulted in the identification of one new above-ground resource, Site No. 1979, a mid-20th century earthen dam and associated pond, and one isolated occurrence consisting of a projectile point base and flake. Site No. 1979 will be impacted by the proposed undertaking, but the site is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP. Therefore no additional work on this resource is recommended. As an isolated find, ISO 1 is not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Based on the results of the background research and field investigations, the Department has determined **that no historic properties will be affected** by the proposed improvements on the PH 2 Timber Site that will occur prior to the transfer of the parcel to SCDNR, and no additional cultural resources investigations are recommended as a part of this undertaking.

It is requested that you review these findings, and, if appropriate, indicate your concurrence in the Department's conclusions. Please respond within 30 days if you have any objections or if you have need of additional information.

Sincerely,



Tracy Martin

Archaeologist

I (~~do not~~) concur in the above determination.

Signed: Joseph E. Wilkinson Date: 11-13-18

References Cited

Mills, Robert

- 1825 1825 Newberry District, South Carolina [1820] Map. Retrieved from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Digital Collections, Atlas of South Carolina by Robert Mills, <<http://digital.tcl.sc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/rma/id/61>>

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1941 1941 Spartanburg 1:250,000 Scale Topographic Quadrangle. Retrieved from USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer, <<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>>.
- 1951 1951 Aerial Photo Single Frames. Entity ID ARA007105307563, Project 00710, Roll 000053, Frame 7563, Scale 59,000, Retrieved from USGS Earth Explorer, <<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>>.
- 1961 1961 Aerial Photo Single Frames. Entity ID ARB610360130821, Project 61036, Roll 000013, Frame 821, Scale 60,000, Retrieved from USGS Earth Explorer, <<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>>.
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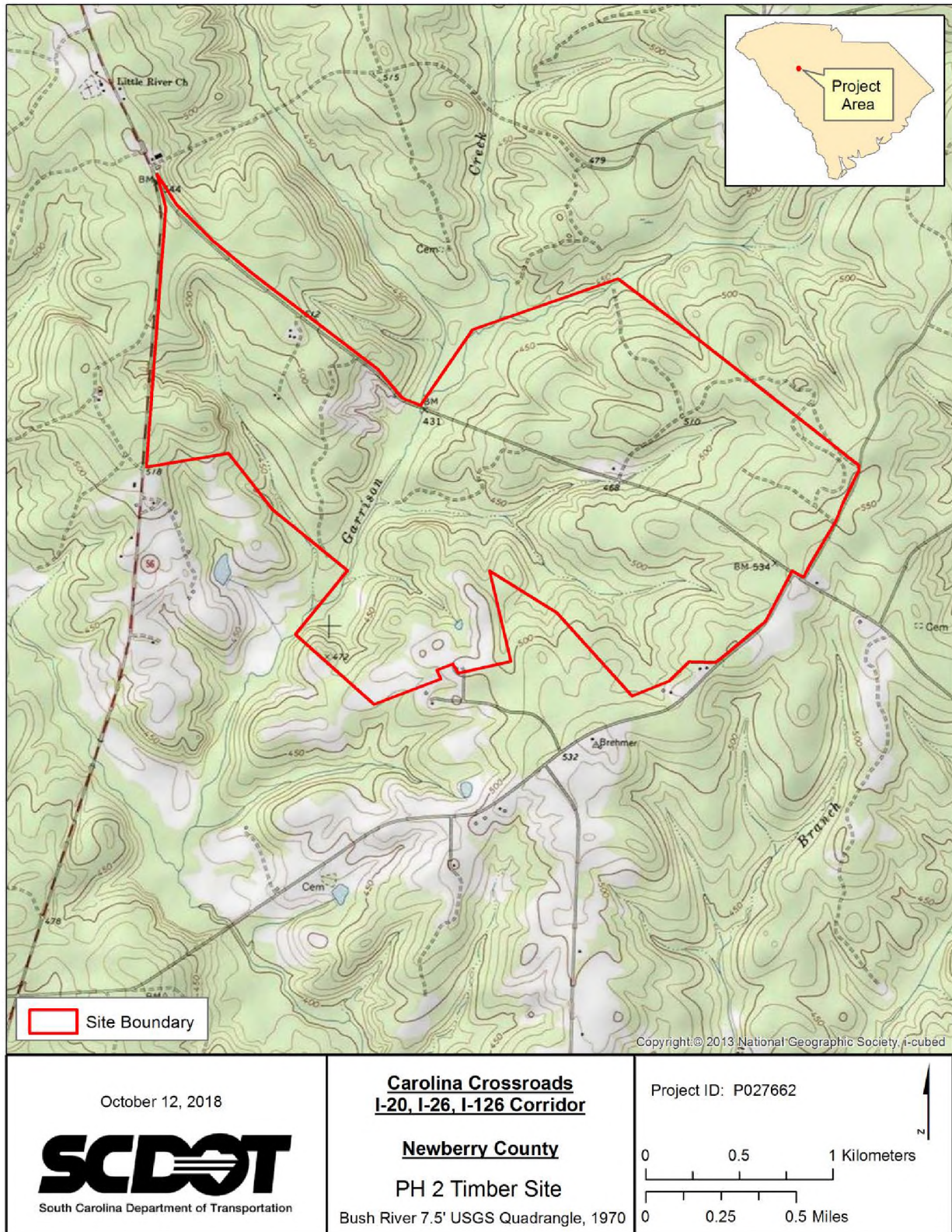


Figure 1. Topography Map Showing the Site Boundary (USGS 1970).

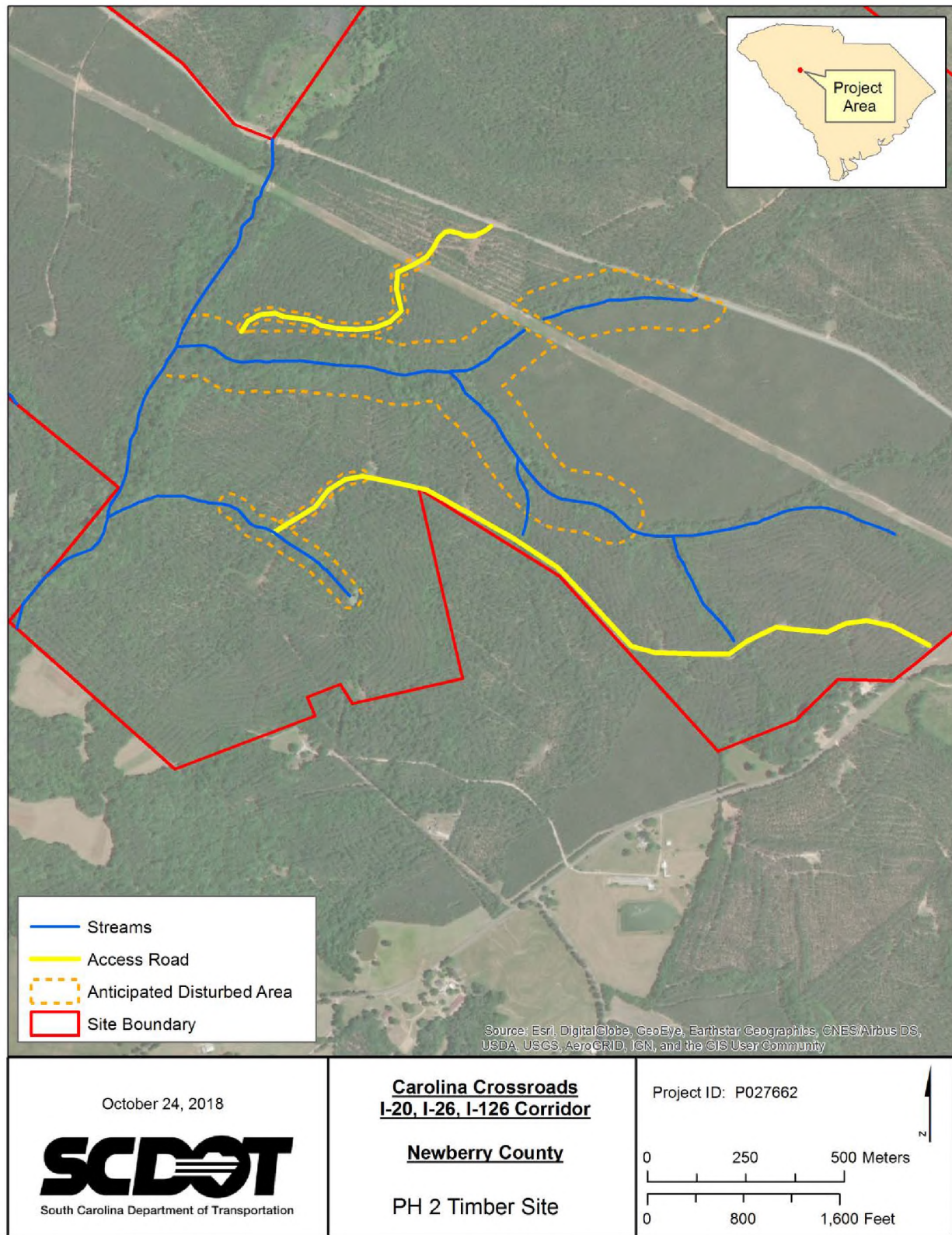


Figure 2. Map Showing Areas of Anticipated Disturbance on the PH 2 Timber Tract.

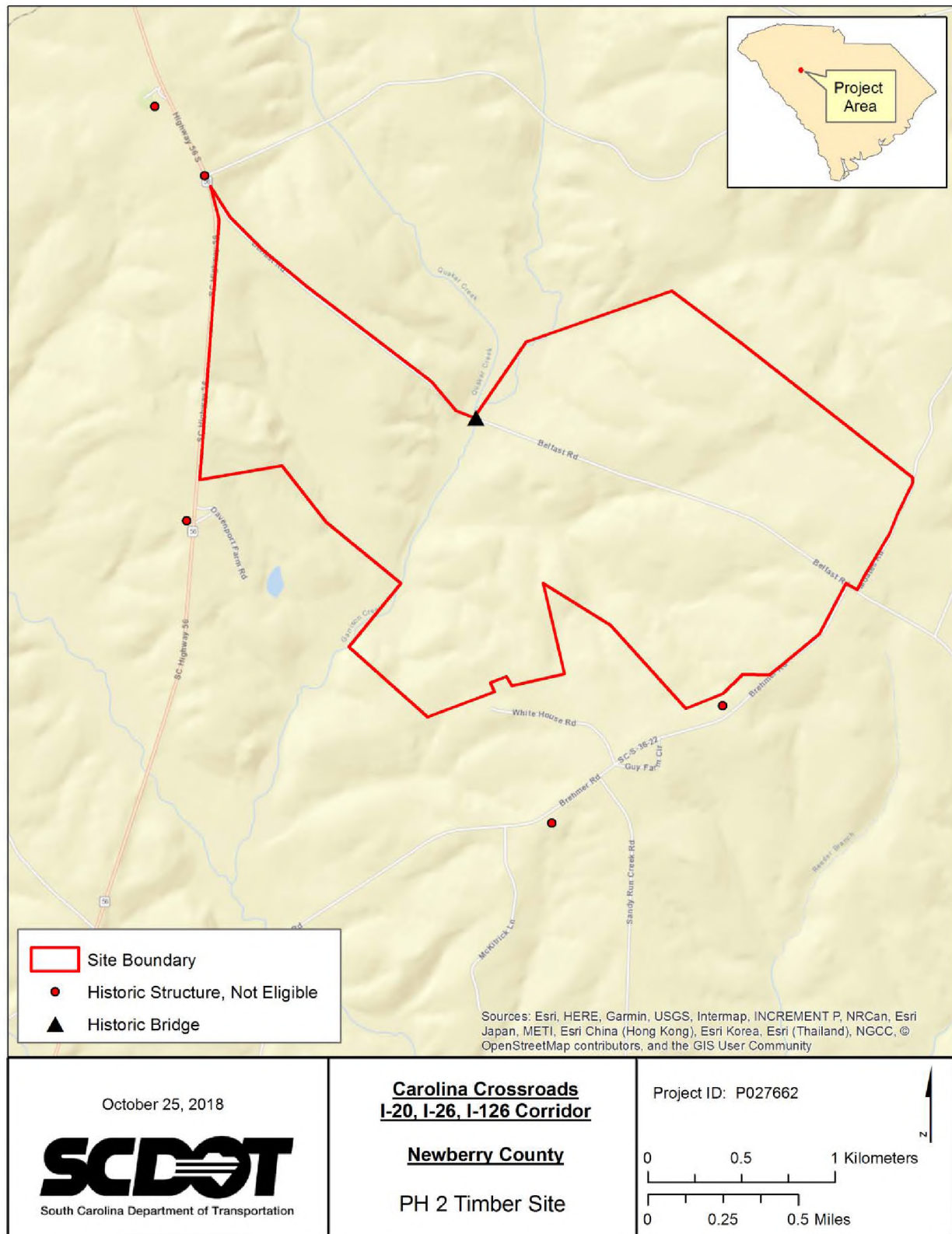


Figure 3. Map Showing Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within or Near the PH 2 Timber Site.

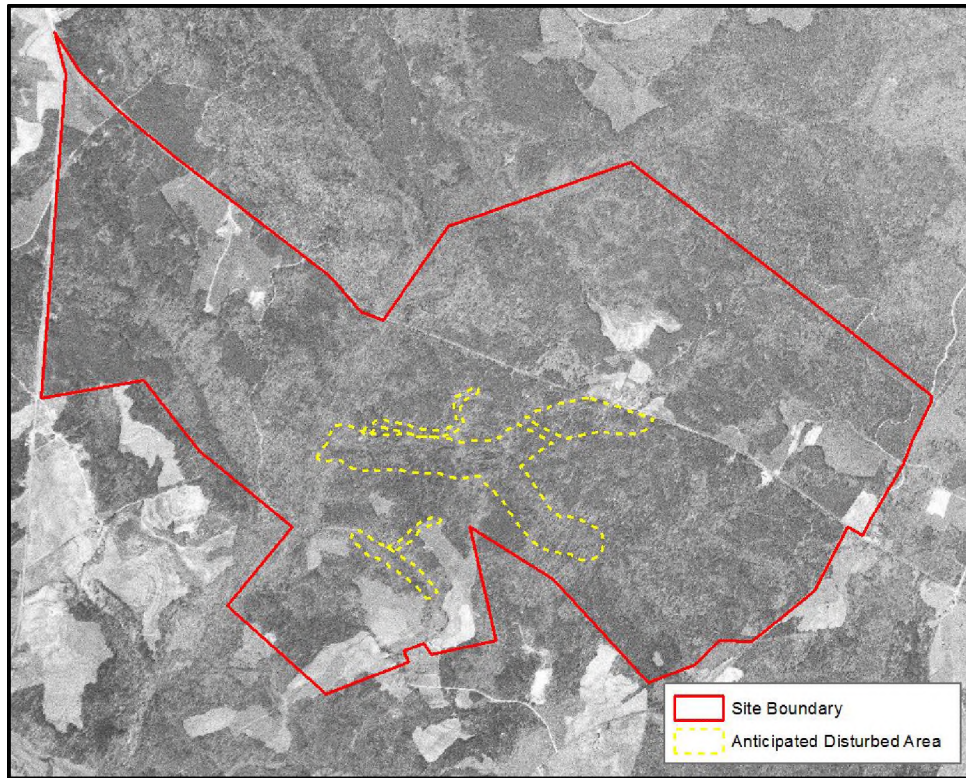


Figure 4. Map Showing Project Area and Anticipated Disturbed Areas on 1951 Aerial (USGS 1951).

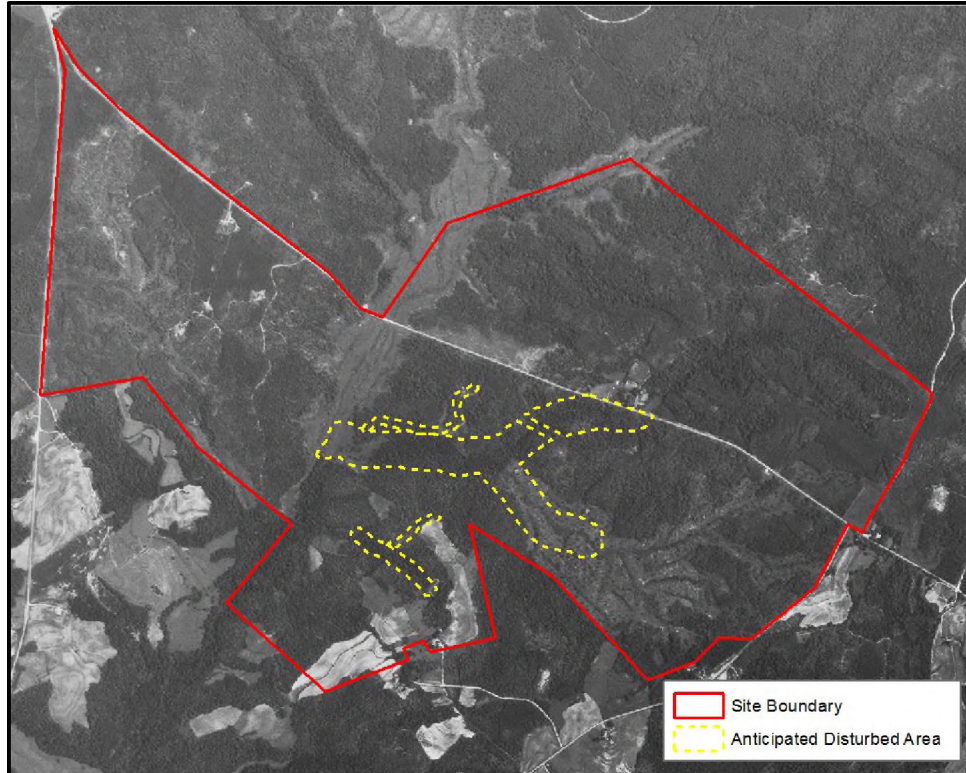


Figure 5. Map Showing Project Area and Anticipated Disturbed Areas on 1961 Aerial (USGS 1961).



Figure 6. Northern Access Road at Powerline Corridor, Facing Southwest.



Figure 7. Southern Access Road above Stream Drainage, Facing Southwest.



Figure 8. Floodplain in Northernmost Stream Restoration and Enhancement Area, Facing East.



Figure 9. View of Ground Disturbance in Northernmost Stream Restoration and Enhancement Area



Figure 10. Typical topography in upper reaches of the Northern Stream Restoration and Enhancement Area.



Figure 11. Floodplain in the Southernmost Stream Restoration and Enhancement Area, Facing Southeast.

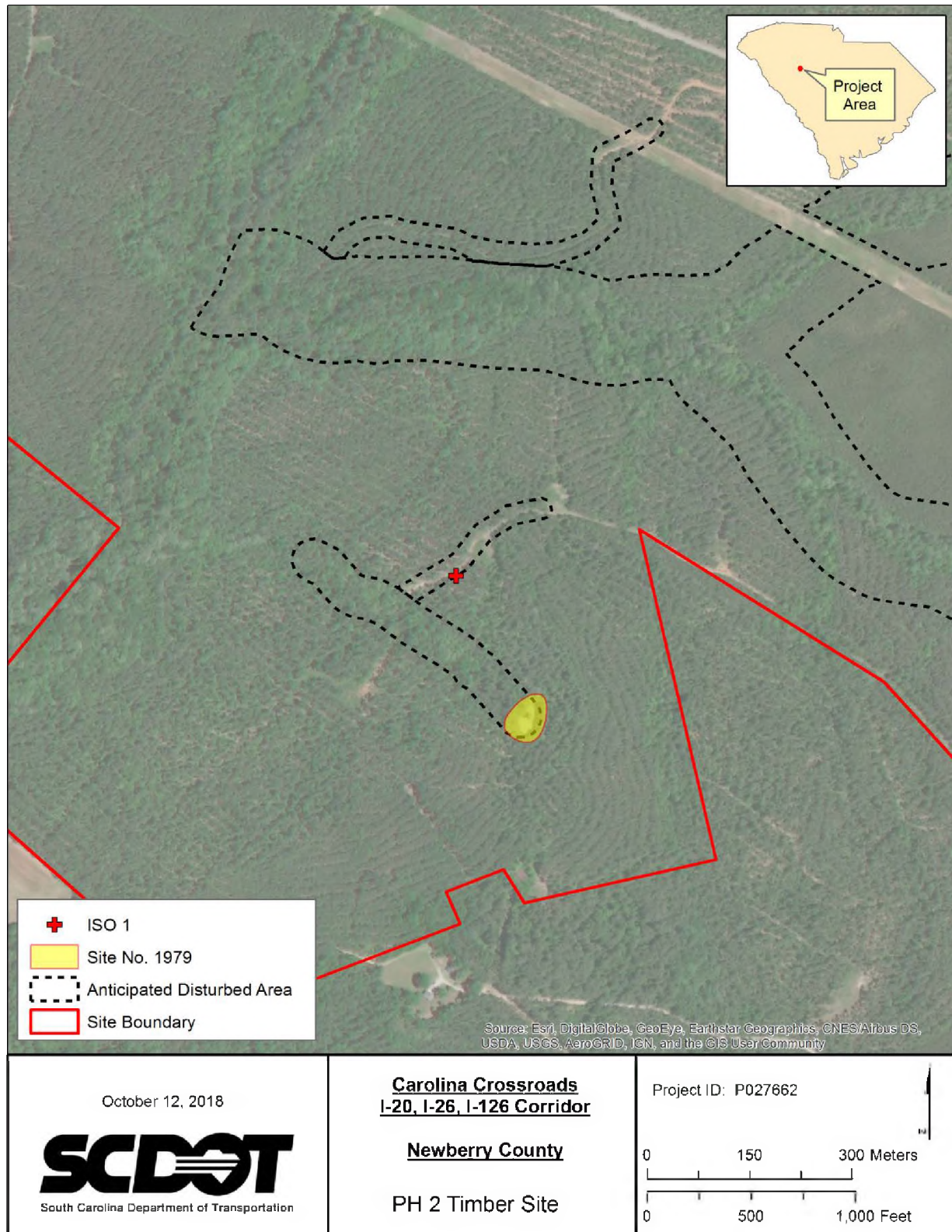


Figure 12. Newly Recorded Cultural Resources within the PH 2 Timber Site.



Figure 13. Map Showing Site No. 1979 within the Southernmost Stream Restoration and Enhancement Area.



Figure 14. View of Earthen Dam of Site No. 1979, Facing Southwest.



Figure 15. View of Pond of Site No. 1979, Facing East.



Figure 16. Site No. 1979 as Shown on the 1966 Aerial Photograph (USGS 1966).

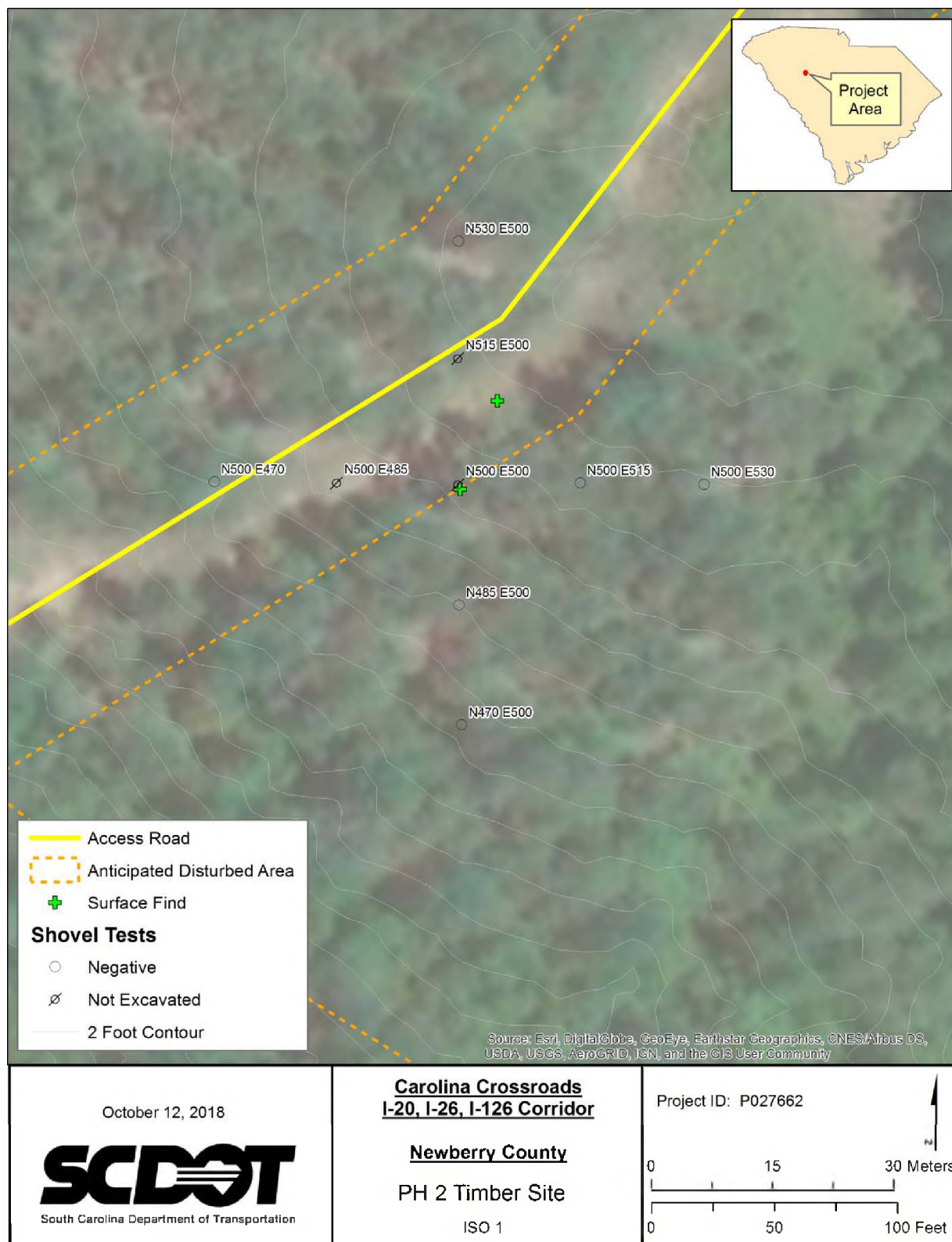


Figure 17. Map of Isolated Find 1.