

February 29, 2012

Alabama Historical Commission

Attention: Mr. Greg Rhinehart
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

RE: **Birmingham Coal & Coke, Inc.**
Knight Mine, P-39--

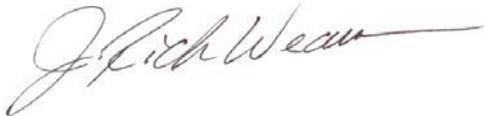
Dear Mr. Rhinehart:

I would like to request an identification of the Areas of Special Concern located in the boundaries for the proposed 236.0 mining acres located in Sections 31 & 32, Township 8 South, Range 10 West, in Franklin County & Sections 5 & 6, Township 9 South, Range 10 West, in Winston County, Alabama. We are in the process of applying for a surface coal-mining permit through the Alabama Surface Mining Commission for this area and will need the study to meet the requirements of the Law. Therefore, please find the enclosed "Request for Identification of Areas of Special Concern" for the above referenced proposed surface coal mining permit area.

I would like to thank you for your co-operation concerning this matter and would appreciate the assessment at your earliest convenience. If you should have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

DSM Design Group, LLC.



J. Rich Weaver
E.I.

Enclosures

**REQUEST FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THE AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN
FOR A SURFACE OR UNDERGROUND MINING OPERATION**

Date: February 29, 2012

Mining Company Name: Birmingham Coal & Coke, Inc.

Return Address: P. O. Box 690, Jasper, Alabama 35502-3431

Contact Person: DSM Design Group, LLC., J. Rich Weaver

Mine Name: Knight Mine

Number of Acres: 236.0 acres

USGS Quad Sheet(s) on which the Mine occurs: Kinlock Springs & Phil Campbell U.S.G.S
Quad

County: Franklin & Winston

See Attached Map

Current Landuse of Permit and Adjacent Areas:

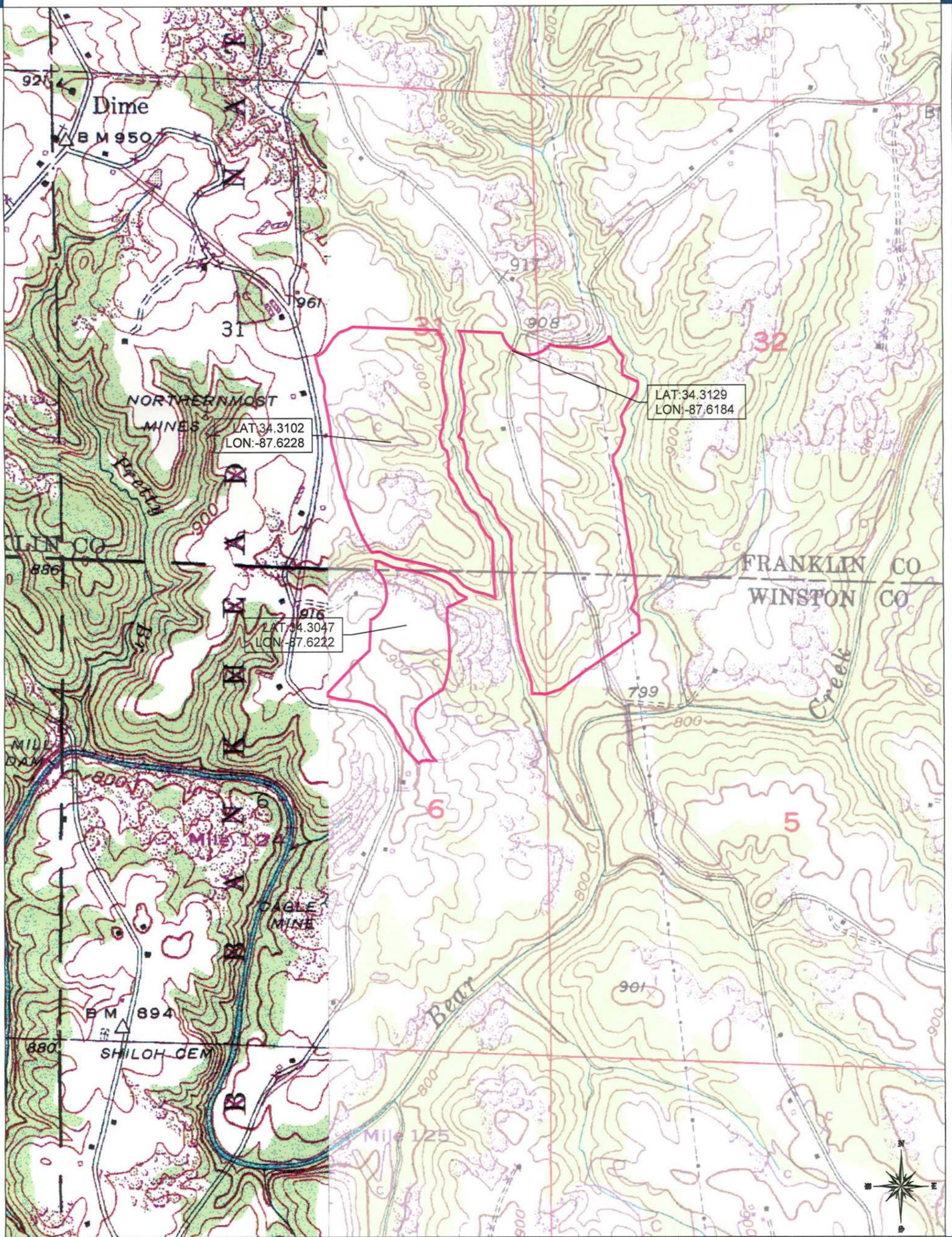
 Undeveloped/No current use

Dominate Vegetation Communities of Permit and Adjacent Areas:

 Virginia and Loblolly Pine, Sweet gums, Yellow Poplar, American Sycamore, Eastern
Cottonwood, Honeysuckle, various grasses, weeds & briars.

Also enclosed is the Phase I Archaeological survey by The University of Alabama Office of
Archaeological Research.





DRAWN BY:
J.R.W.
01/10/2012

APPROVED BY:
J.D.M.
01/10/2012

SCALE:
1" = 2,000'

SHEET:
1 OF 1

BIRMINGHAM COAL & COKE CO., INC.
KNIGHT MINE, P-39--
STUDY AREA MAP

SECTIONS 31 & 32 TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH RANGE 10 WEST
 FRANKLIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
 SECTIONS 5 & 6 TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH RANGE 10 WEST
 WINSTON COUNTY, ALABAMA
 BASE MAP: PHIL CAMPBELL & KINLOCK SPRINGS USGS QUAD
 236.0 ACRES

DSM
 DESIGN GROUP, LLC
 ENGINEERING / SURVEYING
 1400 VIKING DRIVE
 JASPER, ALABAMA 35501
 TELEPHONE: (205) 221-6262

University of Alabama Museums

Office of Archaeological Research

February 23, 2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
MUSEUMS

Rich Weaver, E.I.
DSM Design Group, LLC
1400 Viking Drive
P.O. Box 690
Jasper, AL 35502-0690

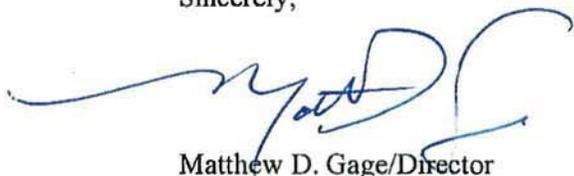
OAR PROJECT NUMBER: 12-149

Dear Mr. Weaver:

Please find enclosed for your company a copy of our recent report entitled "A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Knight Mine Located near Bear Creek in Franklin and Winston Counties, Alabama" by V. Stephen Jones of our staff. Please note that SHPO has 30 days to comment on our findings.

It has been a pleasure to be of service to DSM Design Group, LLC. Please feel free to call for further information or services.

Sincerely,



Matthew D. Gage/Director
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research

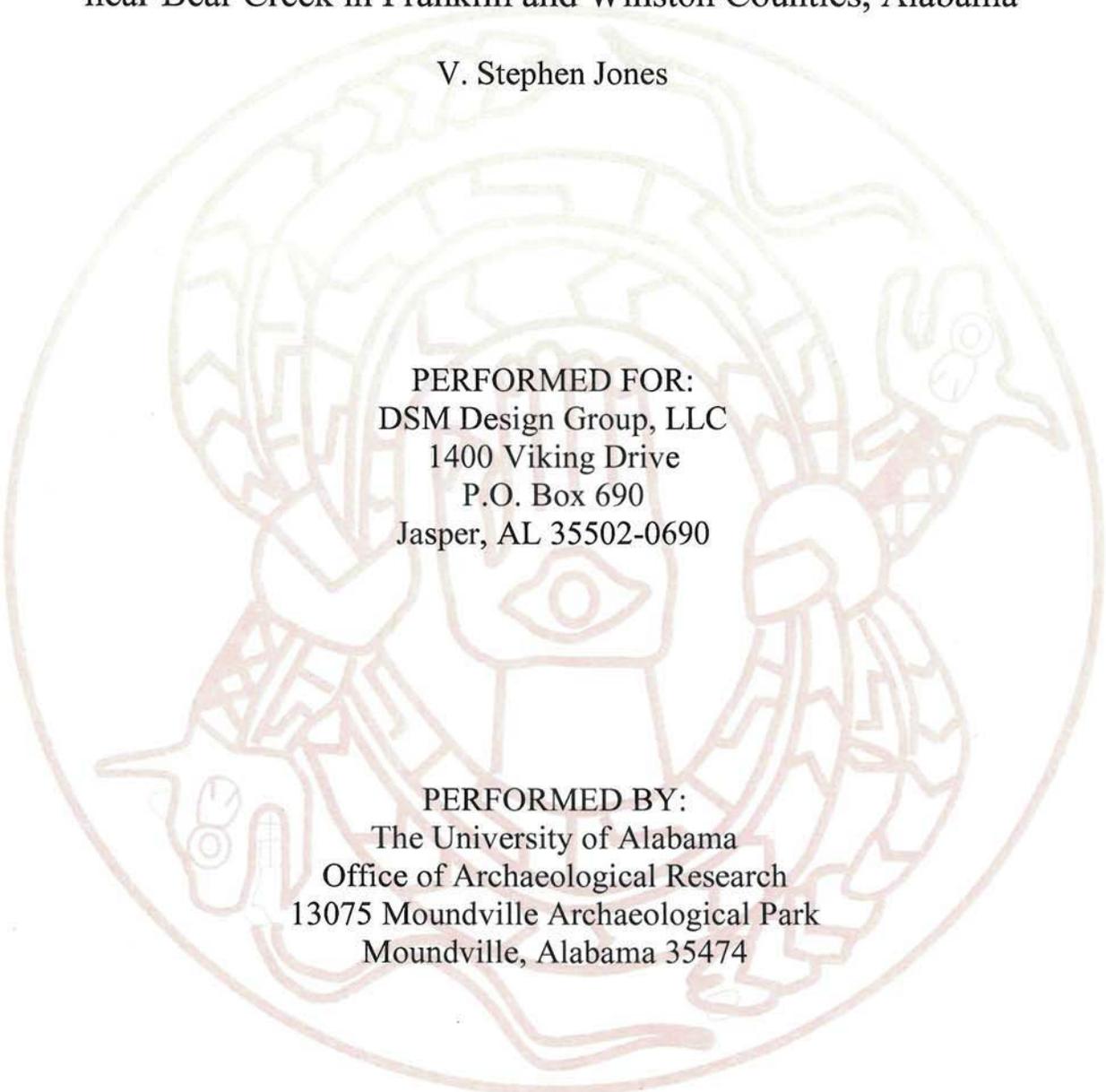
MDG:tkw
FILE:2010-11SURVEY.FCL/1

Enclosures: Survey Report
Invoice for Professional Services

13075 Moundville
Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474
(205) 371-2266
FAX (205) 371-2494

A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Knight Mine Located
near Bear Creek in Franklin and Winston Counties, Alabama

V. Stephen Jones



PERFORMED FOR:
DSM Design Group, LLC
1400 Viking Drive
P.O. Box 690
Jasper, AL 35502-0690

PERFORMED BY:
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474

FEBRUARY 2012

OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The University of Alabama

University of Alabama Museums

13075 Mound State Parkway

Moundville, Alabama 35474

February 23, 2012

**A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE
PROPOSED KNIGHT MINE LOCATED NEAR BEAR CREEK,
FRANKLIN AND WINSTON COUNTIES, ALABAMA**

**OAR PROJECT NUMBER: 12-149
AHC TRACKING NUMBER NOT ASSIGN**

PERFORMED FOR: DSM Design Group, LLC
1400 Viking Drive
P.O. Box 690
Jasper, AL 35502-0690
Attn: Rich Weaver, E.I.

PERFORMED BY: V. Stephen Jones, Cultural Resources Technician
Donald L. Brown, Cultural Resources Assistant
Ronald Stallworth, Cultural Resources Assistant
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474

DATE PERFORMED: January 9-February 3, 2012



V. Stephen Jones
Cultural Resources Technician
Office of Archaeological Research



Matthew D. Gage RPA, Director
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research

A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Knight Mine Located near Bear Creek in Franklin and Winston Counties, Alabama

V. Stephen Jones

Management Summary

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) was contracted by DSM Design Group, LLC to perform a Phase I cultural resources survey for the proposed Knight Mine, located near the community of Bear Creek along the border of Franklin and Winston Counties, Alabama. The proposed project area is approximately 95.5 ha (236 acres) in size. Field investigations for the project were undertaken between January 17 and February 3, 2012. V. Stephen Jones (Cultural Resources Technician) serves as the project director, and Matthew D. Gage RPA, Director of OAR is Principal Investigator.

As a result of the cultural resources survey two archaeological sites were identified, documented, and added to the Alabama State Site File (ASSF). Site 1Fr743 consists of a sparse Woodland artifact scatter and is ineligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Site 1Fr744 is a sparse historic scatter and well associated with a home site dating to the mid 20th century. The site has been razed and is also ineligible for listing to the NRHP.

A Morrow Mountain PP/K was recovered in an eroded skidder lane and was cataloged as an isolated find. Finally, no significant standing structures were documented during the investigations.

Table 1. Summary of Properties Identified.

Historic Property	Temporal/Cultural Affiliation or Historic Property Type	Recommendation for Listing to the NRHP (Y/N/Listed)
ASSF 1Fr743	Late Archaic and Late Woodland	N
ASSF 1Fr744	Mid 20th Century Residence (ca. 1965)	N

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Page
Management Summary	i
Table 1. Summary of Properties Identified.....	i
List of Figures.....	iii
Introduction.....	1
Environmental Setting	1
Table 2. Summary of soil type/associations for the survey area: Franklin and Winston Counties.....	8
Literature and Document Search	20
Field Methods	21
Laboratory Methods and Collection Curation	22
Results.....	22
Site 1Fr743.....	22
Site 1Fr744.....	26
Survey Interpretation and Evaluation	31
Recommendations.....	32
References Cited	32
Appendix A.....	33

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1. Survey area for the proposed Knight Mine as viewed on the Bear Creek and Kinlock Spring composite aerial topographic maps.	2
Figure 2. Survey area as shown on the Phil Campbell and Kinlock Springs topographic maps.	3
Figure 3. Northwestern portion of the survey area (Area 1).	4
Figure 4. Northern half of the eastern portion of the survey area (Area 2).	5
Figure 5. Southern half of the eastern portion of the survey area (Area 2).	6
Figure 6. Southwestern portion of the survey area (Area 3).	7
Figure 7. Broom sedge growing of a reclaimed surface mine (Area 2). View to the east.	9
Figure 8. Terraced pasture in the northwest portion of the survey area (Area 1). View to the east.	9
Figure 9. Clear-cut (Area 2 to Area 1). View to the southwest.	10
Figure 10. High wall and mine tailings in the survey area. View to the north.	10
Figure 11. Barren depleted soils within a timber loading area (Area 2). View to the south.	11
Figure 12. Severely eroded side slope and exposed bed rock Area 2. View to the south.	11
Figure 13. Planted pines within a reclaimed surface mine (Area 3). View to the south.	12
Figure 14. Siltation berm in the northeast portion of Area 1. View to the west.	12
Figure 15. Mining debris deposited along the western drainage (Area 1). View to the south.	13
Figure 16. Drift mine at the base of slope in Area 2. View to the east.	13
Figure 17. Eastern boundary of Area 2. View to the south.	14
Figure 18. Exposed bedrock along the eastern boundary (Area 2). View to the south.	14
Figure 19. Water fall between Areas 1 and 2. View to the north.	15
Figure 20. Aerial view of the soil types in Franklin County.	16
Figure 21. Soil types as shown on the 1937 Winston County soil map.	17
Figure 22. Example of Albertville soils (Area 2) (Shovel Test 60).	18
Figure 23. Example of Atwood soils from an eroded field in the southern portion of the survey area (Area 3) (Shovel Test 2).	18
Figure 24. Example of Iuka soils (Area 2) (Shovel Test 83).	19
Figure 25. Example of Savannah soils (Area 1) (Shovel Test 26).	20
Figure 26. Site 1Fr743. View to the east.	23
Figure 27. Isolated Find 1 and artifacts recovered from Site 1Fr743.	24
Figure 28. Sketch map of Site 1Fr743.	25
Figure 29. Bedrock mortar hole at Site 1Fr743.	25
Figure 30. 1965 Franklin County Highway Map.	27
Figure 31. Remnant concrete foundation Site 1Fr744. View to the north.	27
Figure 32. Well at Site 1Fr744.	28
Figure 33. Sketch map of Site 1Fr744.	28
Figure 34. Former house location. View to the west.	29
Figure 35. Barn associated with a former house site Area 2. View to the northeast.	30
Figure 36. Recently constructed pole barn. View to the east.	30
Figure 37. Mobile home likely used as a hunting camp in Area 2. View to the northwest.	31

A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Knight Mine Located near Bear Creek in Franklin and Winston Counties, Alabama

V. Stephen Jones

Introduction

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) was contracted by DSM Design Group, LLC to perform a Phase I cultural resources survey for the proposed Knight Mine, located near the community of Bear Creek in Franklin and Winston Counties, Alabama (Figure 1). The proposed project area is approximately 95.5 ha (236 acres) in size. V. Stephen Jones (Cultural Resources Technician), assisted by Donald L. Brown and Ronald Stallworth (Cultural Resources Assistants) conducted the survey during the period from January 9 to February 3, 2012, to locate and identify any archaeological sites or historic standing structures that might be impacted by the proposed mining activities. The Principal Investigator for the project is Matthew D. Gage RPA/Director of OAR.

The research design of the Phase I survey is to locate and identify any archaeological sites or historic standing structures within the survey boundaries, assess their significance, and provide recommendation with regard to guidelines set forth by the National Park Service (NPS) for NRHP eligibility criteria. Included in this report is a discussion of the environmental setting of the survey area, a literature search of any previously recorded sites or previously conducted surveys within or near the survey area, a description of field and laboratory methods, the results of the cultural resources reconnaissance, and conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of this survey.

Environmental Setting

The location of the survey area can be seen on the 1946 and 1947, USGS 7.5' Phil Campbell and Kinlock Springs, AL topographic quadrangle maps (Figure 2). The majority of the survey area is centered in the SE 1/2 of Section 31, and the SW 1/2 of Section 32 in T8S, R10W along the southeastern border of Franklin County, Alabama. Portions of the survey area extend south into the NW 1/4 of Section 5 and the NE 1/4 of Section 6, in T9S, R10W along the northwest border of Winston County.

The survey area consists of three parcels (Areas 1-3) of moderate to steeply sloped terrain situated along a series of east to west trending ridges with elevations ranging from 280 m (920 ft) AMSL, to 244 m (800 ft) AMSL along the drainages feeding into Bear Creek. The drainages are steeply incised and dissected from east to west by numerous intermittent drainages descending from the uplands. In some areas along the drainages outcrops of bedrock are visible. The area has been previously impacted by surface mining, agricultural terracing, and timber management and harvesting activities. Figures 3 through 6 are exhibits of previous surface modification within the survey area.

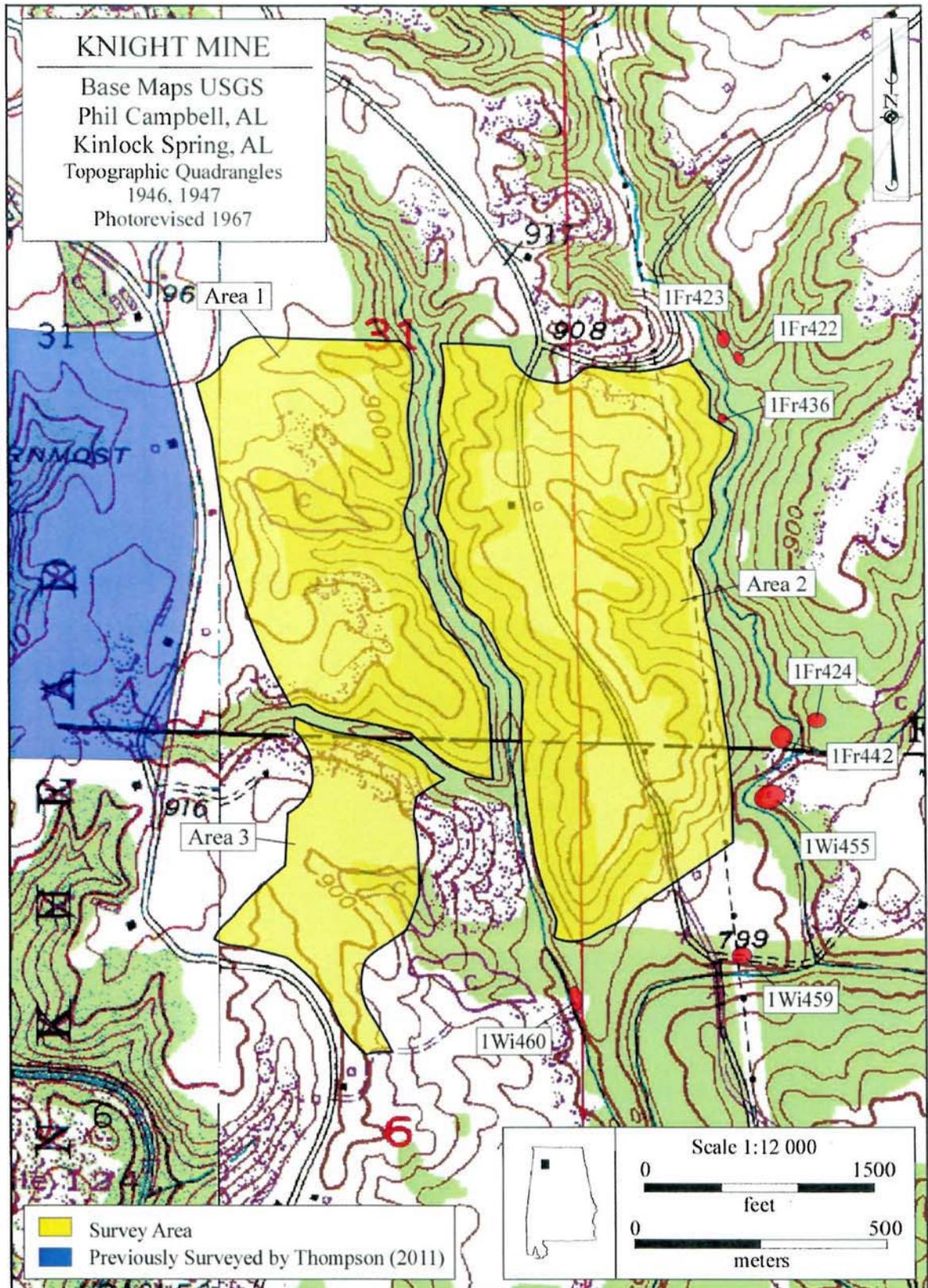


Figure 2. Survey area as shown on the Phil Campbell and Kinlock Springs topographic maps.

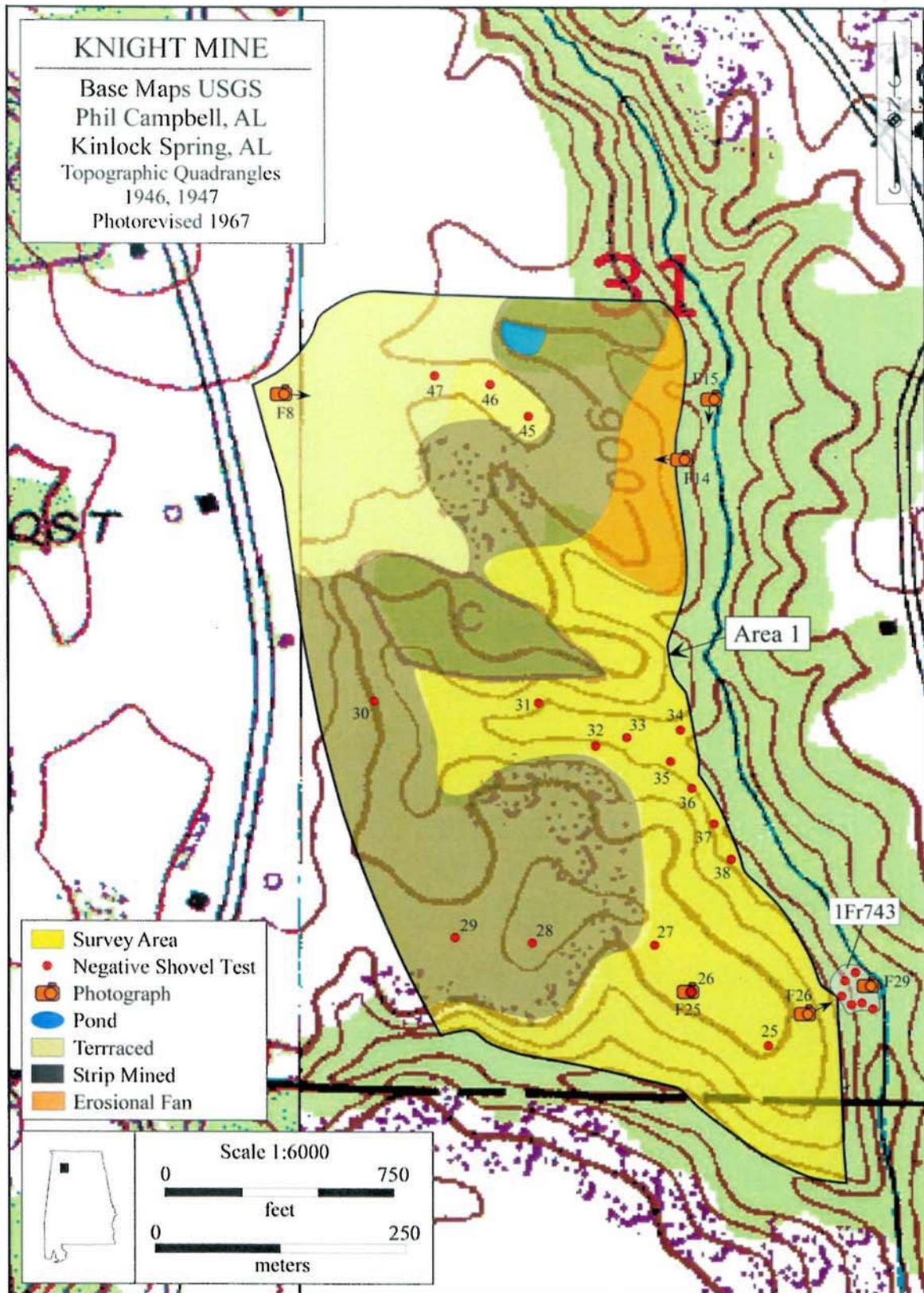


Figure 3. Northwestern portion of the survey area (Area 1).

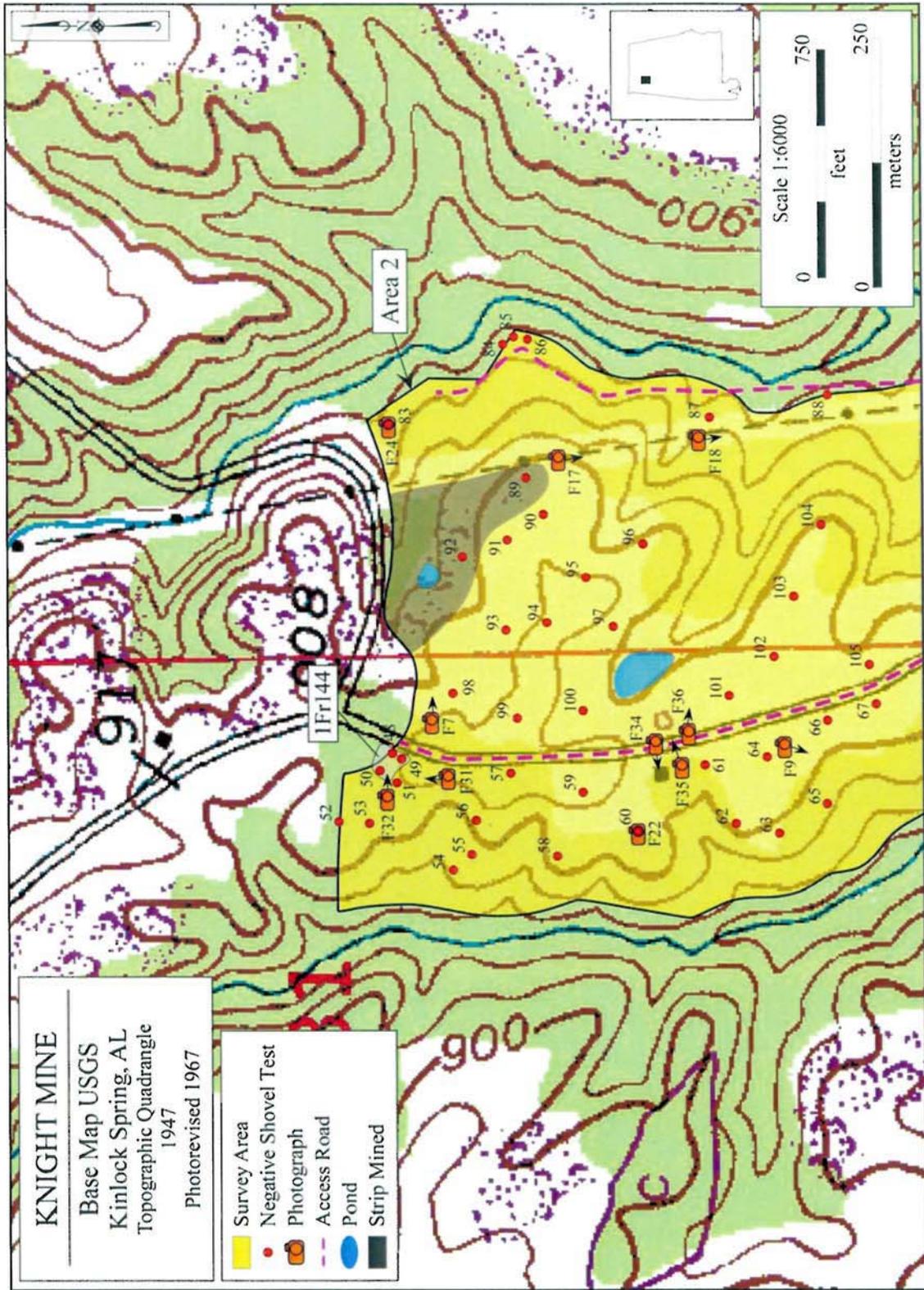


Figure 4. Northern half of the eastern portion of the survey area (Area 2).

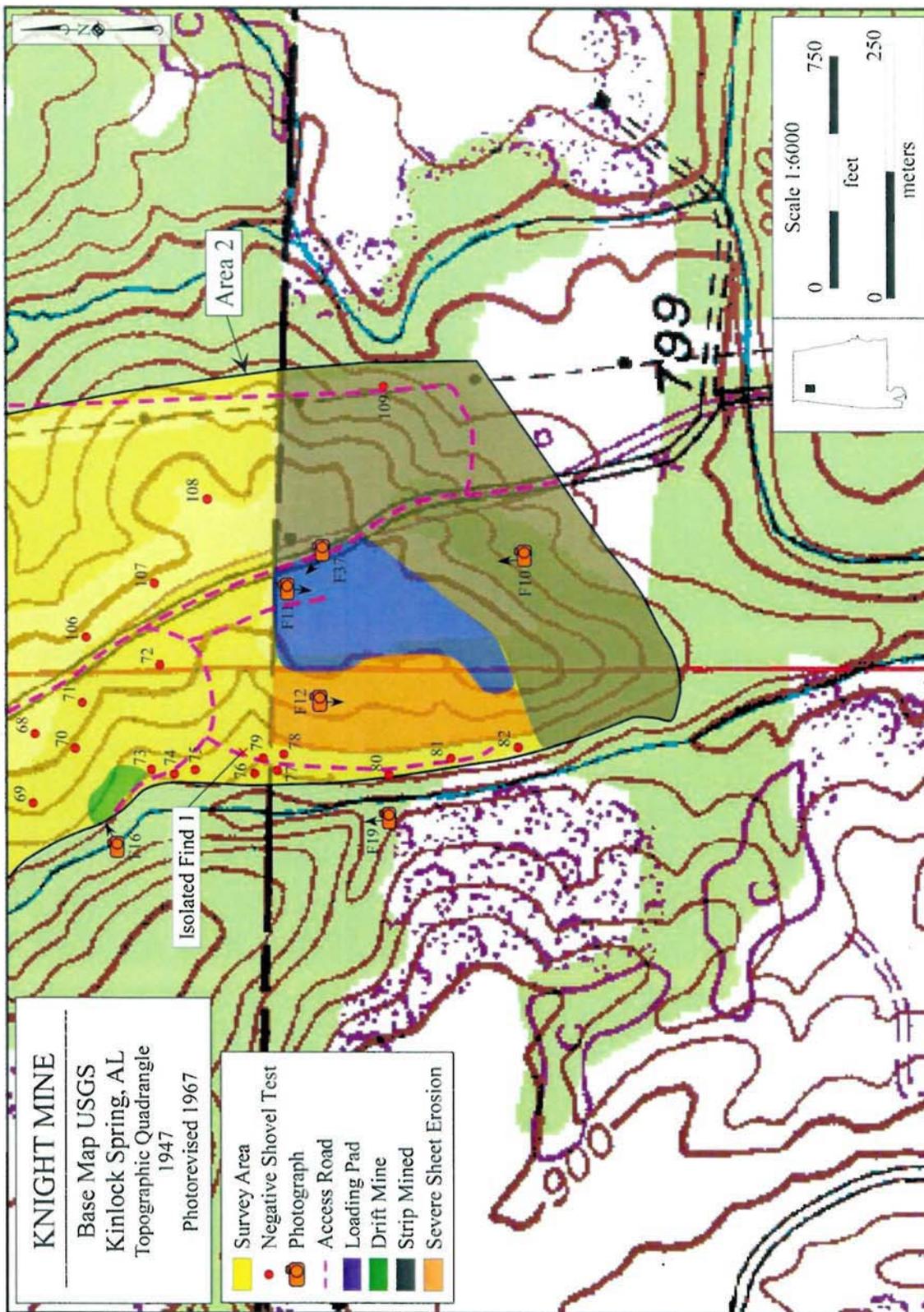


Figure 5. Southern half of the eastern portion of the survey area (Area 2).

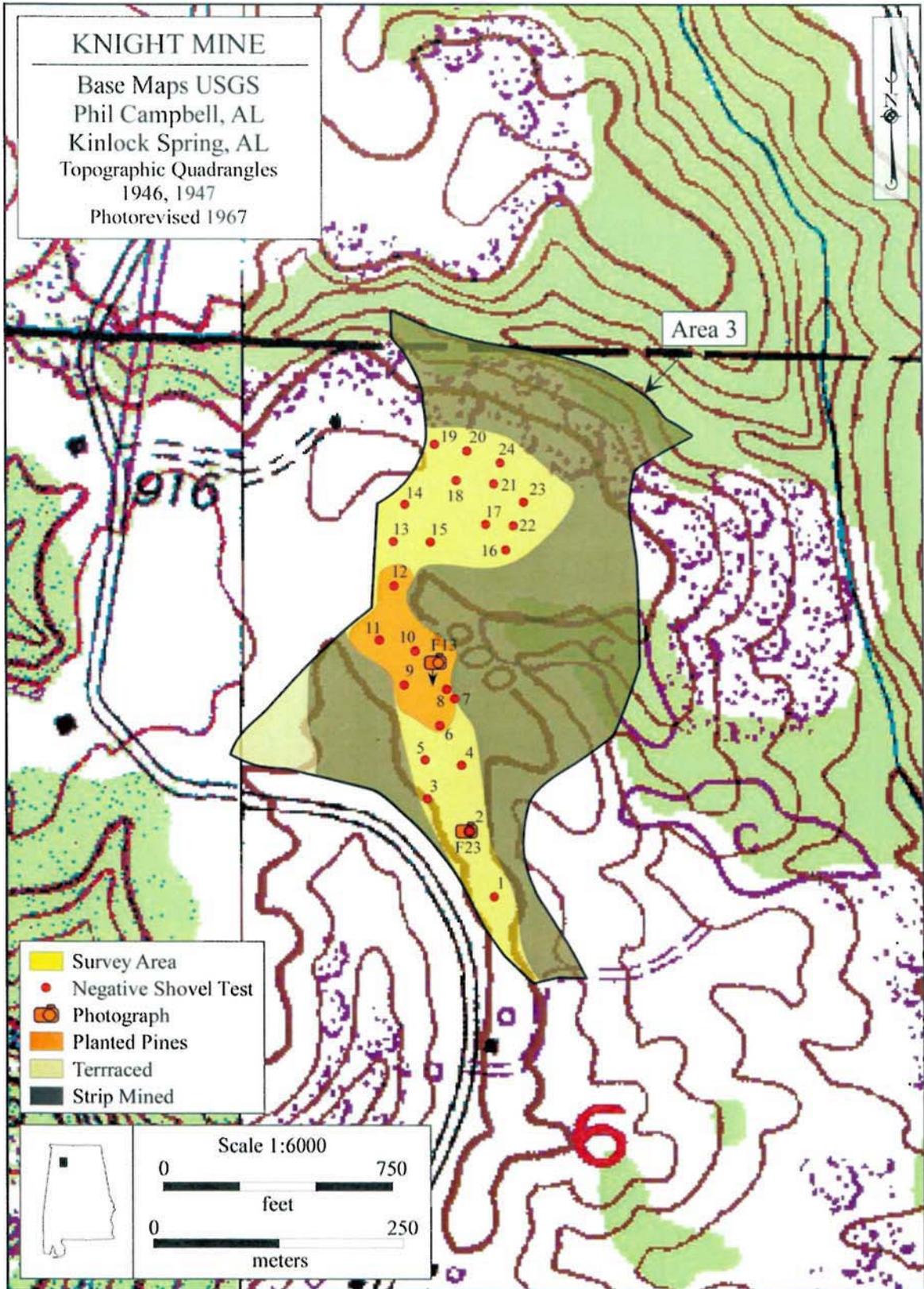


Figure 6. Southwestern portion of the survey area (Area 3).

Vegetation consists of secondary growth pine and hardwood along the drainages. The more level areas on the uplands are made up of pasture lands and reclaimed surface mines with vast areas of broom sedge (Figures 7, 8). At the time of the survey the previously wooded uplands along the central drainage between Areas 1 and 2 had been recently clear-cut, and numerous skidder lanes, loading pads, and brush piles were scattered throughout (Figures 9-12). A tract of planted pine is located in a reclaimed surface mine in the southwestern portion of Area 3 (Figure 13). Logging and mining activities have resulted in severe sheet erosion along the steep side slopes with numerous erosional gullies observed along the first and second terraces of the drainages in all three areas. In the northeastern portion of Area 1, a siltation berm was built to hold back soil erosion during past mining activities (Figure 14). A crevasse splay indicative of the berm's failure is present. Figures 7 through 19 are various views of the survey area and depict the conditions encountered at the time of field investigations.

All three areas lie within the Warrior Basin district of the Cumberland Plateau physiographic section of Alabama. The Warrior Basin district is described as a "Synclinal Submaturely to maturely dissected sandstone and shale plateau of moderate relief" (Sapp and Emplincourt 1975).

The National Cooperative Soil Survey of Franklin County, Alabama shows 11 soil types/associations present within the survey area (Soil Survey Staff 2011) (Figure 20). There is no current digital soil data for Winston County, however, the 1937 *Soil Survey of Winston County, Alabama* lists 2 soil types for the survey area, 1 of which (Guin gravelly sandy loam) coincides with the Franklin County survey (Swann et al. 1937) (Figure 21). Of the 12 types 4 fall within the Albertville association, 2 within the Savannah association, and 2 in the Linker association. These soils are found mostly along the more level uplands. The remaining types/associations are confined to the steep side slopes and floodplains of the drainages. The areas along the uplands have been previously impacted by surface mining, agricultural terracing, and timber harvesting activities. Subsequent erosion from these activities has impacted the adjacent side slopes to a severe degree.

Table 2. Summary of soil type/associations for the survey area: Franklin and Winston Counties

Symbol	Soil Type	County
AbB2	Albertville fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Franklin
AbC	Albertville fine sandy loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes	Franklin
AbC2	Albertville fine sandy loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes, eroded	Franklin
AsD	Albertville fine sandy loam, 10 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Franklin
Av	Atwood very fine sandy loam, rolling phase	Winston
GuF	Guin gravelly sandy loam, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Franklin/Winston
Is	Iuka fine sandy loam	Franklin
LkB2	Linker fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Franklin
LkC2	Linker fine sandy loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes, eroded	Franklin
Rs	Rock land, sandstone	Franklin
SnB	Savannah very fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Franklin
SnB2	Savannah very fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Franklin



Figure 7. Broom sedge growing in a portion of a reclaimed surface mine in the eastern portion of the survey area (Area 2). View to the east.



Figure 8. Terraced pasture in the northwest portion of the survey area (Area 1). View to the east.



Figure 9. Clear-cut side slope the western half of the survey area (Area 2 to Area 1). View to the southwest.



Figure 10. High wall and mine tailings in the southern portion of the survey area. View to the north



Figure 11. Barren depleted soils within a timber loading area (Area 2). View to the south.



Figures 12. Severely eroded side slope and exposed bed rock in the southwest portion of Area 2. View to the south.

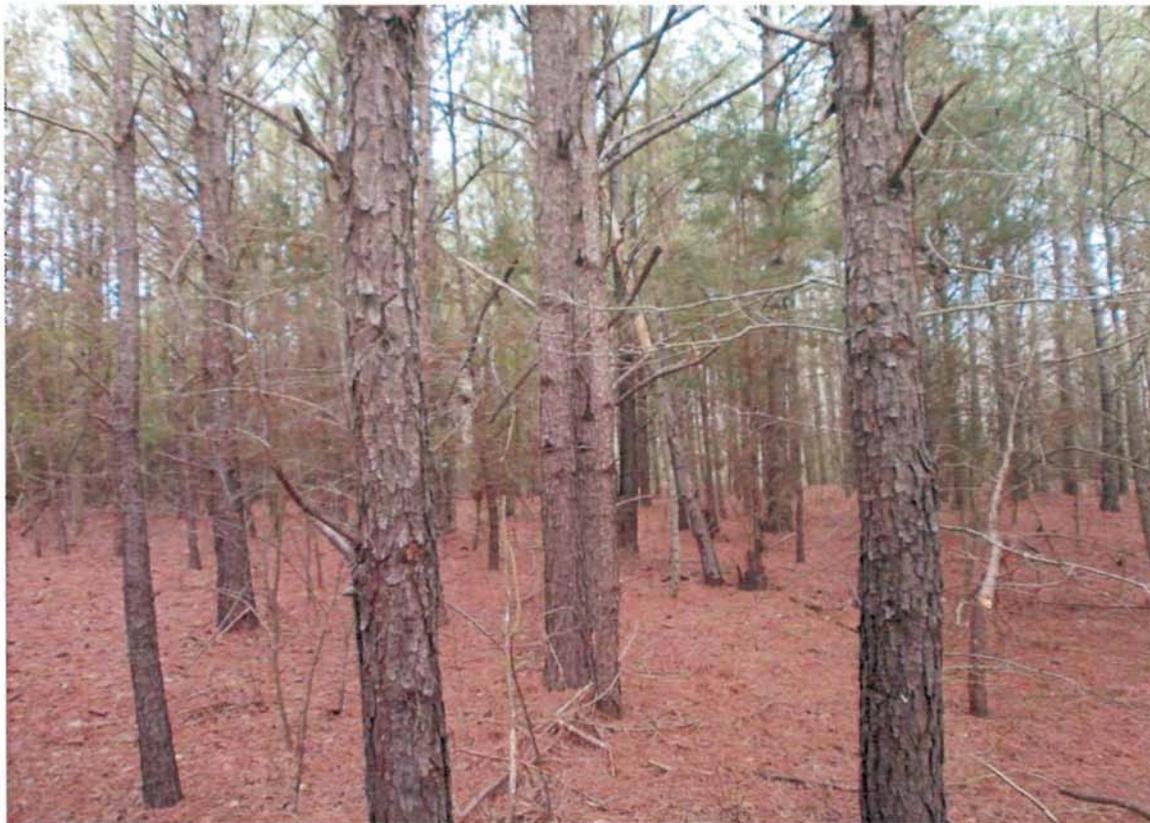


Figure 13. Planted pines within a reclaimed surface mine (Area 3). View to the south.



Figure 14. Siltation berm and a crevasse splay along a first terrace in the northeast portion of Area 1. View to the west.



Figure 15. Mining debris deposited along the western drainage in the northeast portion of the survey area (Area 1). View to the south.



Figure 16. Drift mine at the base of slope in Area 2. View to the east.



Figure 17. Eastern boundary of Area 2. View to the south.



Figure 18. Exposed bedrock along the eastern boundary of the survey area (Area 2). View to the south.



Figure 19. Water fall over exposed bedrock along a drainage between Area 1 and 2 in south central portion of the survey area. View to the north.

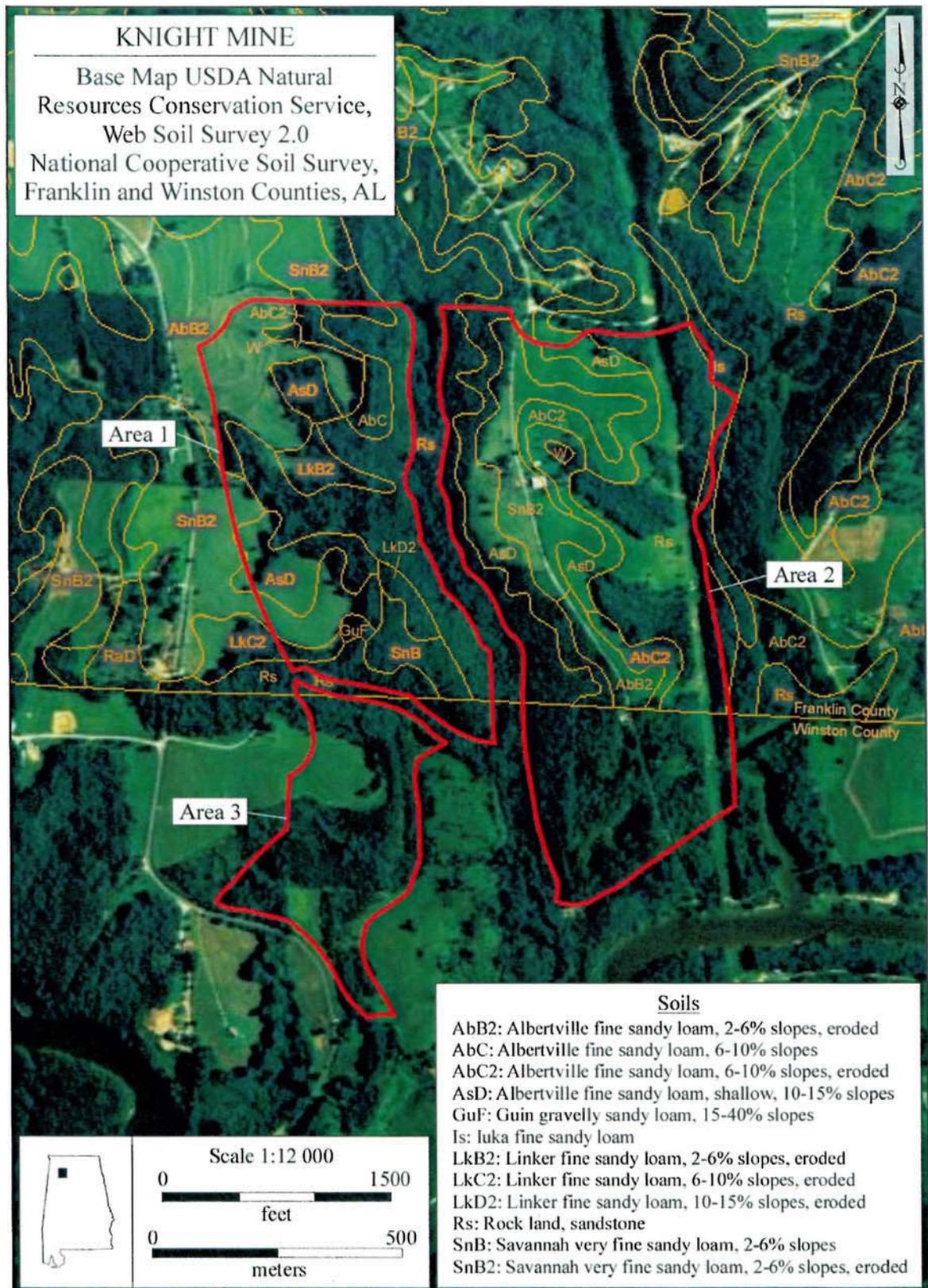


Figure 20. Aerial view of the soil types in Franklin County.

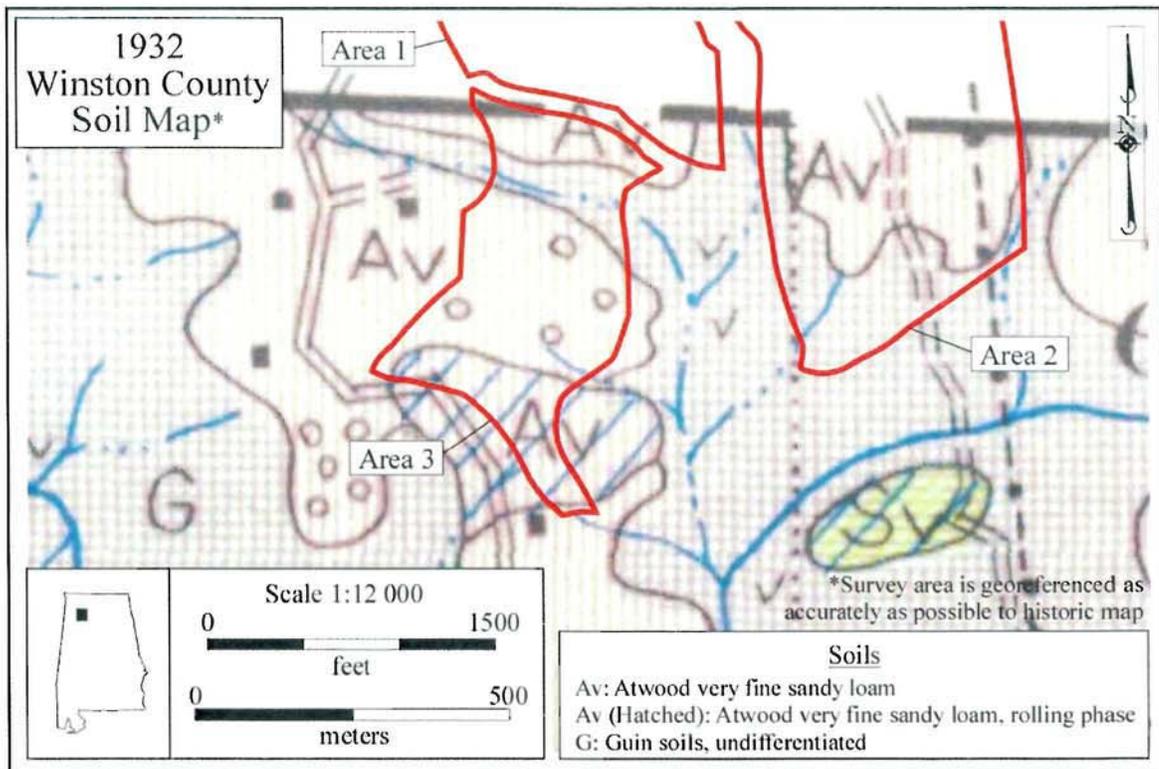


Figure 21. Soil types as shown on the 1937 Winston County soil map.

Albertville: The Albertville series consists of deep, well drained, moderately slowly or slowly permeable soils that formed in clayey residuum weathered mainly from shale. These soils are on gently sloping to moderately steep uplands. The surface layer is fine, mixed, semiactive, 0 to 6 inches; yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silt loam; weak fine granular structure; friable; few fine quartz gravels and shale channers; strongly acid; abrupt smooth boundary. (5 to 8 inches thick) The subsoil is 6 to 15 inches; brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) silty clay loam; with a few fine quartz gravels and shale; strongly acid; clear wavy boundary. (0 to 9 inches thick) Figure 22 is an example of Albertville soils from and eroded ridge top in the central portion of the survey area.

Atwood: The Atwood series consists of deep, well drained soils on uplands of the Southern Mississippi Valley Silty Uplands Land Resource Area. Permeability is moderate. These soils formed in mantle of silty material and the underlying loamy sediments. Slopes range from 0 to 17 percent. The surface is 0 to 6 inches, dark brown (7.5YR 4/4) silt loam; weak fine and medium granular structure; friable; abrupt smooth boundary. (4 to 9 inches thick) Subsoil is 6 to 18 inches, dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) silty clay loam; moderate fine and medium subangular blocky structure; friable, slightly plastic; few fine black concretions; patchy clay films on faces of peds and in root channels; slightly acid; gradual smooth boundary. Figure 23 is an example of Atwood soils from and eroded field in the southern portion of the survey area.



Figure 22. Example of Albertville soils from an eroded ridge top in the central portion of the survey area (Area 2) (Shovel Test 60).



Figure 23. Example of Atwood soils from an eroded field in the southern portion of the survey area (Area 3) (Shovel Test 2).

Guin: The Guin soils represent a class of soil materials rather than a specific series. These soils are a mixture of many classes and types found on rough and broken lands with little or no agricultural value. The deposits vary widely in thickness and texture.

Iuka: The Iuka series consists of deep, moderately well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in stratified loamy and sandy alluvial sediments. These soils are on nearly level flood plains. They are saturated with water at depths of 1 foot to 3 feet below the surface during wet periods and are subject to flooding. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent. The surface is 0 to 7 inches; brown (10YR 4/3) fine sandy loam; weak medium granular structure; friable; fine pebbles of chert and quartzite, medium acid; abrupt smooth boundary. (0 to 8 inches thick) Subsoil is 7 to 13 inches; brown (10YR 5/3) fine sandy loam; single grained; friable; very strongly acid; (5 to 8 inches thick) Figure 24 is an example of Iuka soils from the eastern portion of the survey area.

Linker: The Linker series consists of moderately deep well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in loamy residuum weathered from sandstone. These soils are on broad plateaus, mountains and hilltops and benches. Slopes are dominantly 1 to 15 percent but range to 30 percent. The surface is 0 to 5 inches; brown (10YR 5/3) fine sandy loam; weak medium granular structure; very friable; strongly acid; clear wavy boundary: (4 to 7 inches thick) Subsoil is 5 to 10 inches; yellowish red (5YR 4/6) loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine roots; very strongly acid; clear wavy boundary: (0 to 7 inches thick)



Figure 24. Example of Iuka soils from the eastern portion of the survey area (Area 2) (Shovel Test 83).

Rock land: Rough stony land in areas of steep slopes with rock fragments, outcrops, bluffs, mountain sides, areas of stone bluffs and bare sandstone glades.

Savannah: The Savannah series consists of moderately well drained, moderately slowly permeable soils formed in loamy marine or fluvial terrace deposits. They are on uplands and terraces that range from nearly level to moderately steep in the Southern Coastal Plain. Slopes range from 0 to 15 percent. The surface is 0 to 6 inches; dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) fine sandy loam; weak fine and medium granular structure; very friable; strongly acid; clear smooth boundary. (5 to 8 inches thick) The subsoil is 6 to 11 inches; pale brown (10YR 6/3) silt loam; weak fine and medium granular and medium sub angular blocky structure; friable; strongly acid; clear smooth boundary. (0 to 6 inches thick) Figure 25 is an example of Savannah soils from the western portion of the survey area.



Figure 25. Example of Savannah soils from the western portion of the survey (Area 1) (Shovel Test 26).

Literature and Document Search

For prior archaeological surveys conducted in the general area, the National Archaeological Database Bibliography, housed at OAR (2002), and the Alabama Phase I Surveys Website (OAR 2011) were reviewed. Two Phase I surveys were conducted within a one-mile radius of the present survey area. In 2011, Brandon Thompson conducted a survey of a proposed 465 ha (1,150 acre) strip mine to the west and north of the survey area (Thompson 2011). No cultural resources were discovered as a result of this survey. In 1999, Greg S. Hendryx

conducted a Phase I survey of the Upper Bear Creek and Big Bear Creek Reservoirs (Hendryx 1999). The survey resulted in the discovery of 134 archaeological sites.

The ASSF shows 8 of these sites (1Fr422, 1Fr423, 1Fr424 1Fr436, 1Fr442, 1Wi455, 1Wi459, 1Wi460) within a 1/2 mile radius of the survey area (Figure 2). Only a single site (1Wi455) is listed as potentially eligible for inclusion to the NRHP and it is well outside of the survey area. Only Site 1Fr436 is directly adjacent to the survey area and is recommended as ineligible for the NRHP. The site is listed as being confined to an area of 10 m². Although outside of the survey area, the site was revisited and no artifacts were recovered. The remaining 6 sites lie well outside of the survey boundary, and will not be impacted by this proposed project.

The NRHP and related supplements list no eligible properties located in the general vicinity of the project area. A review of the 1927 Franklin and 1932 Winston County, Alabama Soil Maps show 2 structures within the survey area. The *Historical Map Index* section of the University of Alabama, Alabama Maps web site was examined for assistance in past land use patterns and development activities (Department of Geography 2011) The 1937 Winston and Franklin, and the 1949 and 1965 editions of the Franklin County, Alabama Highway Maps revealed three standing structures located within of the survey area. Finally, the *Historical Atlas of Alabama, Vol. 2* lists no historic cemeteries located within the survey tract (Remington 1999).

Field Methods

Field investigations consisted of a pedestrian walkover of the proposed project area employing visual inspection of exposed ground surface and subsurface testing. Investigations were conducted by a two person crew. Per AHC guidelines, all shovel tests had a minimum diameter of 30 cm and were excavated to recognizable, culturally sterile subsoil. All excavated soil was sieved through 6.35 mm (1/4 inch) hardware cloth in an effort to recover cultural materials. Soil profiles were recorded for each shovel test noting soil colors, textures, and depths of soil texture/color changes and horizon boundaries. All shovel test locations were documented using global positioning systems units rated for 1-3 m accuracy. A total of 109 shovel tests was excavated in the course of this survey. Due to the sloped terrain, coupled with the extensive impact from previous strip mining and terracing and timber harvesting activities, the survey area offered little potential for areas of intact evidence of prior aboriginal or historic occupation. As a result, subsurface testing was confined to the more level grounds along the uplands, ridge tops, and the more level benches and terraces along the drainages. Photographic documentation was undertaken to provide evidence of the varying environments and disposition of the proposed project area (Figures 7-19). These photographs are keyed to the topographic maps (Figures 3-6) showing their location.

Where exposed ground surface was present, initial investigations consisted of visual inspection. The locations included bare soil exposures along natural slopes, drainages, road cuts, road surfaces, and erosional surfaces. Where visibility was limited, and in the less disturbed areas

shovel tests were excavated at 30 m intervals. Such areas were very limited in extent and consisted of landforms with relatively level settings (areas of less than 15 percent slope) and terraces adjacent to intermittent and permanent water courses. The 30 m interval subsurface testing method was also limited to those settings exhibiting an absence of disturbance from previous activities and subsequent erosion. Lower probability areas were sampled at greater intervals ranging from 60 m to 100 m and included gently sloped and disturbed settings. Slopes greater than 15 percent were visually inspected. Shovel test intervals in these areas exceeded the 60 m spacing and in some cases was curtailed altogether due to the lack of intact near surface soil horizons. As previously stated, the survey area has been modified to a degree where the majority of the elevation contours shown on the 1946 and 1947 7.5' USGS Phil Campbell and Kinlock Springs, AL topographic quadrangles no longer exist.

Laboratory Methods and Collection Curation

All cultural materials recovered during the project were transported to the David L. DeJarnette Archaeological Laboratory at Moundville Archaeological Park in Moundville, Alabama for processing and analysis. Laboratory analysis followed accepted standard procedures involving washing of all recovered materials, sorting by artifact class, and tabulation of all artifacts. During the analysis process, artifacts were placed into archival bags with permanent provenience information and prepared for permanent curation.

All artifacts, photographs, field notes, maps, and documentation pertinent to the survey will be curated at the Erskine Ramsay Archaeological Repository located at Moundville Archaeological Park. This repository meets Department of the Interior curation standards as defined under 36 CFR Part 79 and required by Chapter 460- x -9 of the Administrative Code of Alabama.

Results

As a result of the field investigations, a total of two archaeological sites and one isolated find were identified and documented. These include Sites 1Fr743 and 1Fr744. In addition, a relatively recent farm complex with two extant barns is addressed in the following section.

Site 1Fr743

Topographic Map: 1947 Kinlock Springs, AL
Township: 8S *Range:* 10W
Elevation: 840 ft AMSL
Surface Area: 2000 sq. m.
Natural Setting: Floodplain
NRHP Status: Ineligible
Soil Type: Rock Land
Artifact Density: Light

Eastings: 443060 *Northings:* 3796382
Section: 31 SE ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼
Site Size: 30 m by 25 m
Maximum Depth: 0 cmbs
Degree of Disturbance: 99%
Vegetative Cover: Open, and Eroded
Soil Texture: Silt Loam
Components: Woodland

Comments: This site is a sparse Late Archaic and Late Woodland surface scatter located along the floodplain and drainage of the west bank (right descending bank) of an unnamed tributary of Little Bear Creek. The artifacts were collected from an open/disturbed logging road and possible loading area used for recent timber harvesting (Figure 26). A recently constructed logging road bisects the site and ascends westward from the site to the adjacent uplands. All recovered artifacts were recovered from surface collections, and include a Flint Creek PP/K, one sherd of Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, chipped stone and debitage (Figure 27). Six shovel tests were excavated within the site boundary. All were negative with regards to cultural material (Figure 28). Examinations of the soil profiles revealed eroded soils with cobbles and bedrock encountered within 10 to 15 cm from the ground surface. A bedrock mortar hole was noted in an outcrop at the streambed along the eastern edge of the site (Figure 29) as were two sets of historic initials (“EL” and “MT”) carved into the rock approximately 60 cm northeast of the mortar hole.

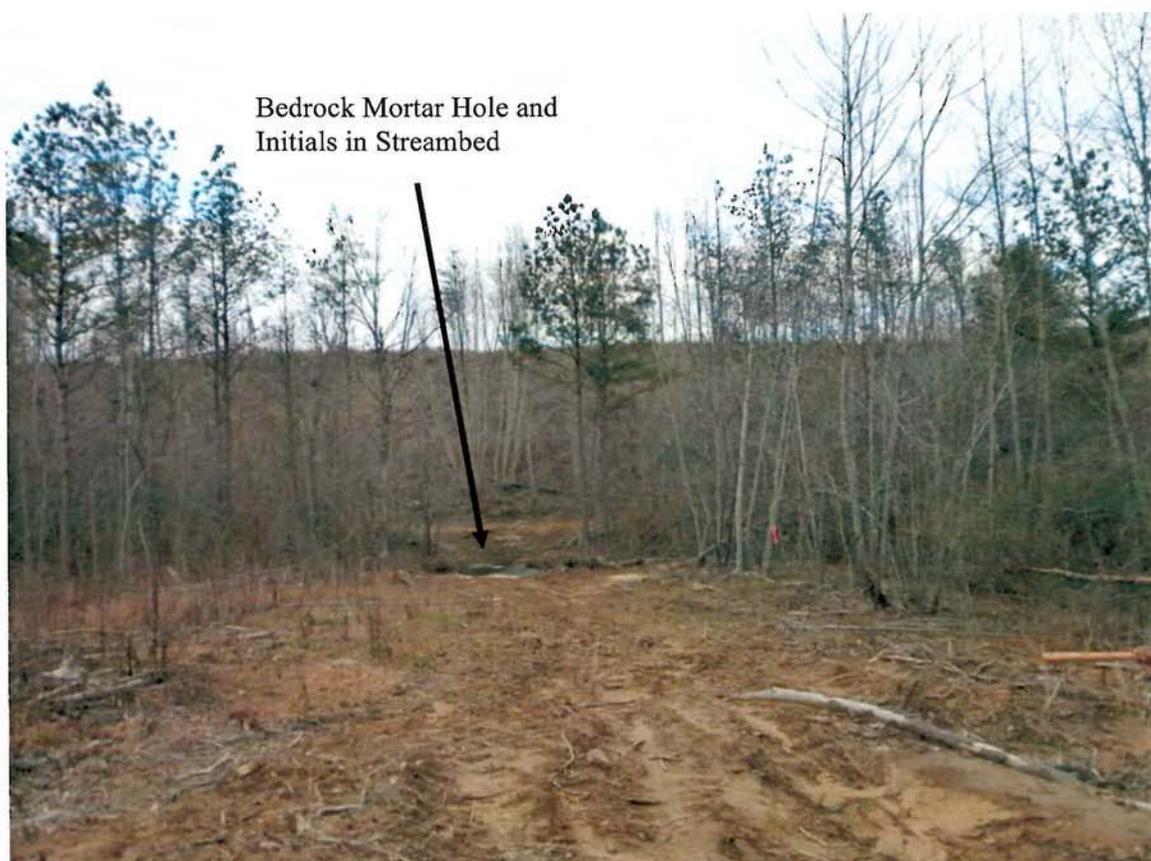


Figure 26. Site 1Fr743. View to the east.

Recovery Technique: Surface Collection-Complete

Materials Recovered:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Sub Category</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Wt (g)</u>
Ceramic	Grog Tempered	Mulberry Crk Cord Marked	Body	1	8.4
Chipped Stone	PP/K	Flint Creek	Tusc Gravel	1	8.3
Chipped Stone	Punch/Drill		Bangor	1	9

Debitage	Debitage	Bangor	5	13.4
Debitage	Debitage	Tusc Gravel	2	1.5

Cultural Affiliation: Late Archaic and Late Woodland

Evaluation/Recommendation: Site 1Fr743 is a sparse woodland surface scatter found in a highly disturbed setting. The site and surrounding area have been heavily impacted by logging, skidder road construction, and extensive sheet erosion. The site is within the floodplain of an unnamed tributary of Little Bear Creek and is not in the defined confines of the proposed surface mine. However, given the site location within the interior of the study area it is included in the survey findings. Given the paucity of material recovered and the extent of disturbance, the site is considered to exhibit an extremely low potential for providing significant information. As such, it is recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP.



Figure 27. Isolated Find 1 (Morrow Mountain PP/K) and artifacts recovered from Site 1Fr743.

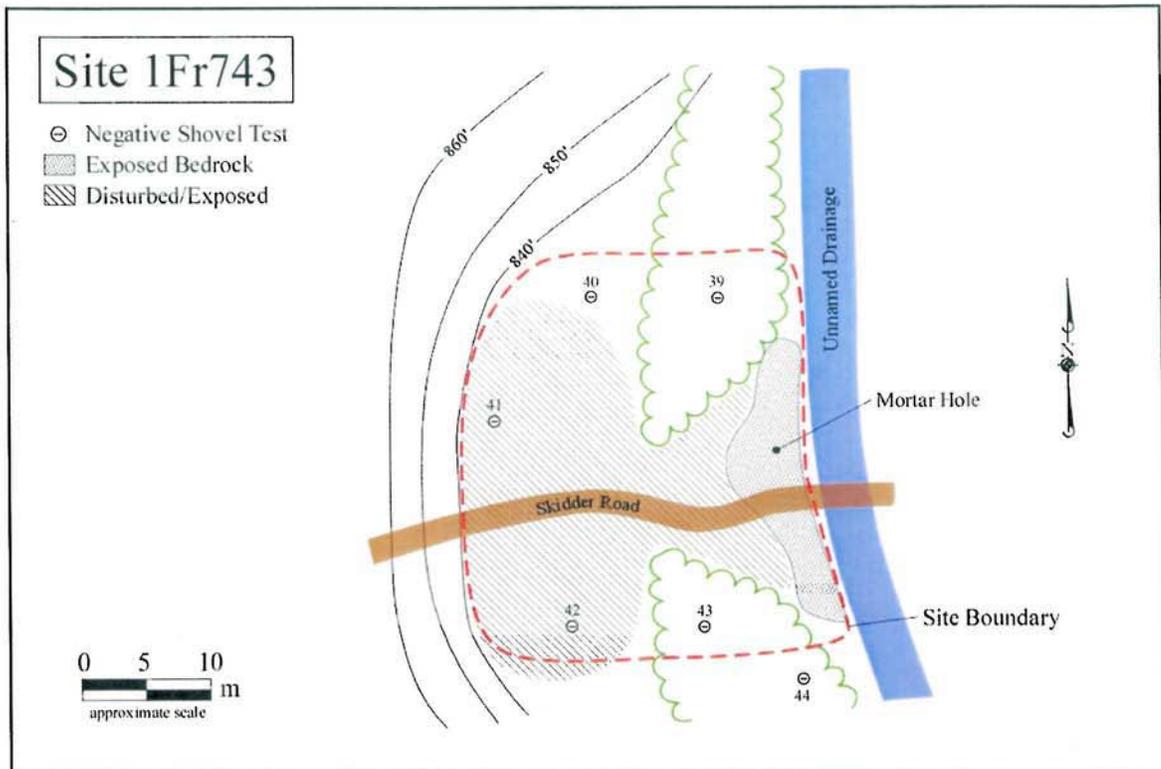


Figure 28. Sketch map of Site 1Fr743.



Figure 29. Bedrock mortar hole at Site 1Fr743.

Site 1Fr744

Topographic Map: 1947 Kinlock Springs, AL
Township: 8S *Range:* 10W
Elevation: 920 ft AMSL
Surface Area: 1086 sq. m.
Natural Setting: Upland Crest
NRHP Status: Ineligible
Soil Type: Savannah
Artifact Density: Light

Easting: 443113 *Northing:* 3797080
Section: 31 SE ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼
Site Size: 15 m by 10 m
Maximum Depth: 0 cmbs
Degree of Disturbance: 95%
Vegetative Cover: Open, and Eroded
Soil Texture: Very Fine Sandy Loam
Components: Historic 20th Century

Comments: This site is a sparse historic scatter associated with a former structure shown on the 1965 Franklin County, Alabama highway map (Figure 30). The structure does not appear on the earlier or later topographic quadrangles. The artifacts were collected from an open/disturbed upland crest adjacent to a now closed county road. The site has been razed with only the remnants of a concrete foundation and a partially filled well still visible as surface expressions (Figures 31 and 32). Recent logging activities have severely disturbed the ground surface and the recovered artifacts were gathered from surface collections. Four shovel tests excavated at the site were negative with regards to cultural material (Figure 33). Examinations of the soil profiles revealed eroded soils.

Materials Recovered:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Sub Category</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Wt (g)</u>
Ceramic	Coarse Earthenware	Clay Slipped	Body	1	58.8
Brick	Fire Brick			1	71.9
Glass	Window	Clear		1	5.5
Glass	Bottle	Blue	Body	1	2.6
Glass	Lid Liner	Opaque		1	5.5

Cultural Affiliation: Historic 20th century

Evaluation/Recommendation: Site 1Fr744 is a sparse historic scatter found in a highly disturbed setting. The site and surrounding area have been heavily impacted by logging and likely intentional destruction. Remnants of a concrete foundation and a partially filled well are the only recognizable surface expressions. The soils are depleted and eroded. Given the paucity of material recovered and the extent of disturbance, the site offers no potential for providing significant information. As such, it is recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP.

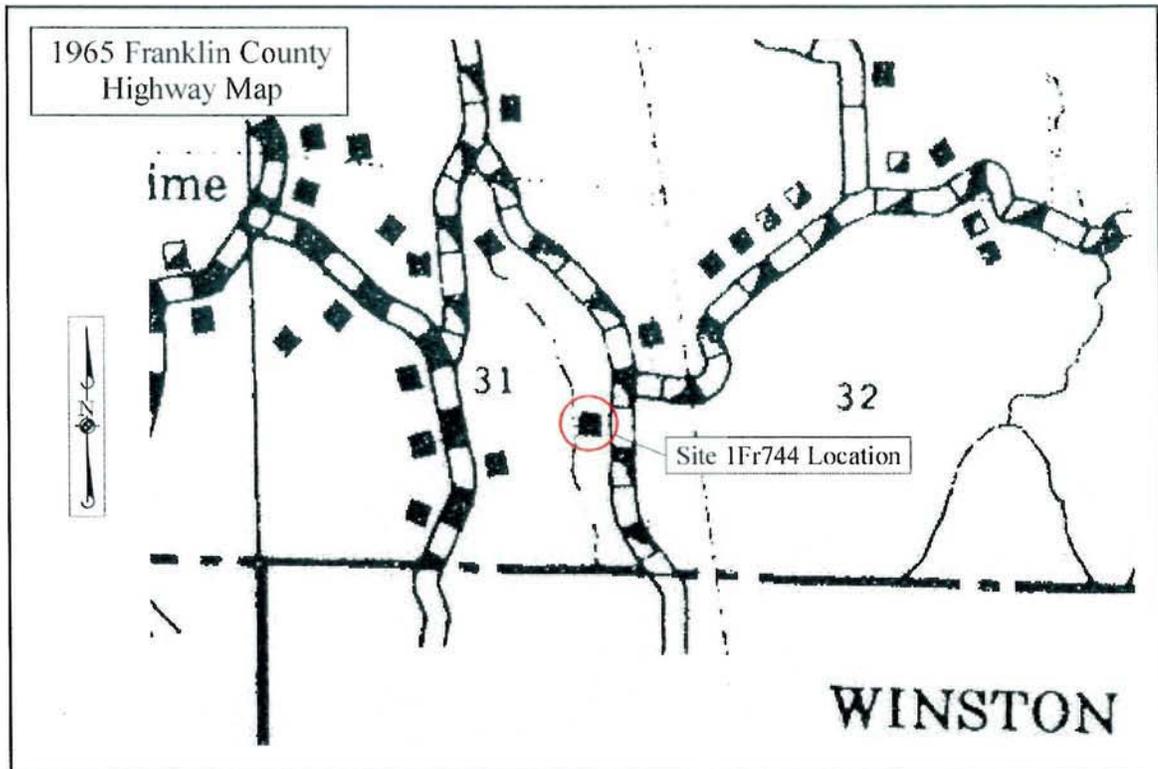


Figure 30. 1965 Franklin County Highway Map.



Figure 31. Remnant concrete foundation Site 1Fr744. View to the north.



Figure 32. Well at Site 1Fr744.

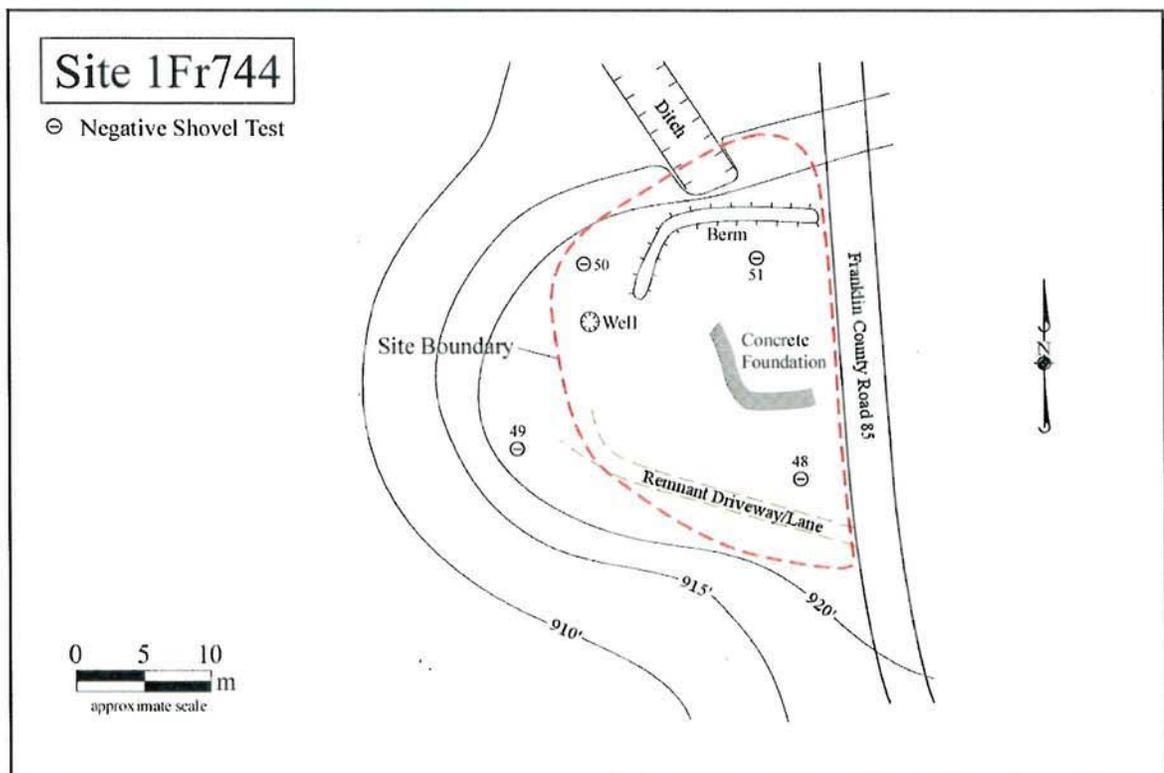


Figure 33. Sketch map of Site 1Fr744.

Isolated Find 1

Topographic Map: 1947 Kinlock Springs, AL
Township: 8S *Range:* 10W
Elevation: 840 ft AMSL
Natural Setting: Upland Slope
Vegetative Cover: Open, and Eroded
Soil Texture: Silt Loam

Easting: 443113 *Northing:* 3797080
Section: 31 SE ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼
Maximum Depth: 0 cmbs
Degree of Disturbance: 99%
Soil Type: Rockland
Component: Middle Archaic

Comments: Isolated Find 1 consists of a single Morrow Mountain PP/K found on the west dipping slope of the uplands in Area 2, east of Site 1Fr743 approximately 80 m (Figure 5). The terrain is strongly sloping and the surrounding area has been subjected to past mining and recent clear-cut logging. The Morrow Mountain is made of Fort Payne Chert with a recurvate blade edge (Figure 27).

The remaining cultural landscape consists of the remnants of an abandoned farmstead (now used as a hunting camp) with two recent barns, and an unoccupied mobile home (Figures 34-37). Gene A. Ford, OAR's Architectural Historian, examined the standing structures and noted their recent age (ca. 1970s-1980s) and disposition. Neither is considered a significant historic resource.

The southernmost portion of the survey area, as well as the majority of the uplands have been altered by previous mining activities. As a result, no intact surface soils were recognized within the survey corridor, and with the exception of two sparse artifact scatters no significant cultural resources are located within the survey area.



Figure 34. Former house location now used as an RV pad and hunting camp. View to the west.



Figure 35. Barn associated with a former house site in the central portion of Area 2. View to the northeast.



Figure 36. Recently constructed pole barn. View to the east.



Figure 37. Mobile home likely used as a hunting camp in Area 2. View to the northwest.

Survey Interpretation and Evaluation

The Phase I cultural resources survey of the proposed Knight Mine identified a severely disturbed and previously modified environment (Figures 3-19). Combinations of surface mining, agricultural modification/terracing, timber harvesting, and subsequent erosion have altered the landscape to a degree where very few, if any, intact soils exist. All shovel tests excavated within the proposed project area were negative in regards to cultural material recovery.

Two archaeological sites (1FR743 and 1FR744) were identified, documented, and recorded in the ASSF. Although site 1FR743 retains an intact feature in the form of the bedrock mortar hole and the initials, neither is likely to contribute significant information without other contributing aspects, the likes of which have been negated by past land clearing, mining, and severe erosion. Site 1FR744 consists of the remains of a house site dating to between 1947 and 1965. Given the age of the site and the disposition of the features, it is not considered likely to contribute to the overall understanding of the culture history of the area.

Isolated Find 1 consists of a single Morrow Mountain PP/K recovered from a highly disturbed context. Finally, the two barns which stand in Area 2 are relatively recent in age (ca. 1970s-1980s) and are not considered significant historic resources.

Recommendations

During the course of this survey, two new archaeological sites, Site 1Fr743 and 1Fr744 were discovered within or along the perimeter of the proposed project area. Isolated Find 1 was found within Area 2, on the western flank of the upland. None of the sites or isolated finds are recommended eligible for inclusion to the NRHP. This determination is based on a low research potential due to deep soil disturbances, lack of any intact structural features, and sparse artifact recovery. Based on these findings, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed Knight Mine will not have an adverse effect on any significant historic properties.

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APPENDIX A

University of Alabama Museums
Office of Archaeological Research



October 31, 2011

Matthew D. Gage, Director
Office of Archaeological Research
University of Alabama Museums
13075 Mound State Parkway
Moundville, AL 35474

Dear Matt:

This letter is to confirm our agreement to provide curation services for all the materials generated by this project. As you know, we are recognized by a variety of Federal agencies as a repository meeting the standards in 36 CFR Part 79 and have formal agreements to provide curation under these guidelines to agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, National Forest Service, etc.

We appreciate having the opportunity to assist you with curation services in the past and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene Futato". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eugene M. Futato RPA
Deputy Director

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