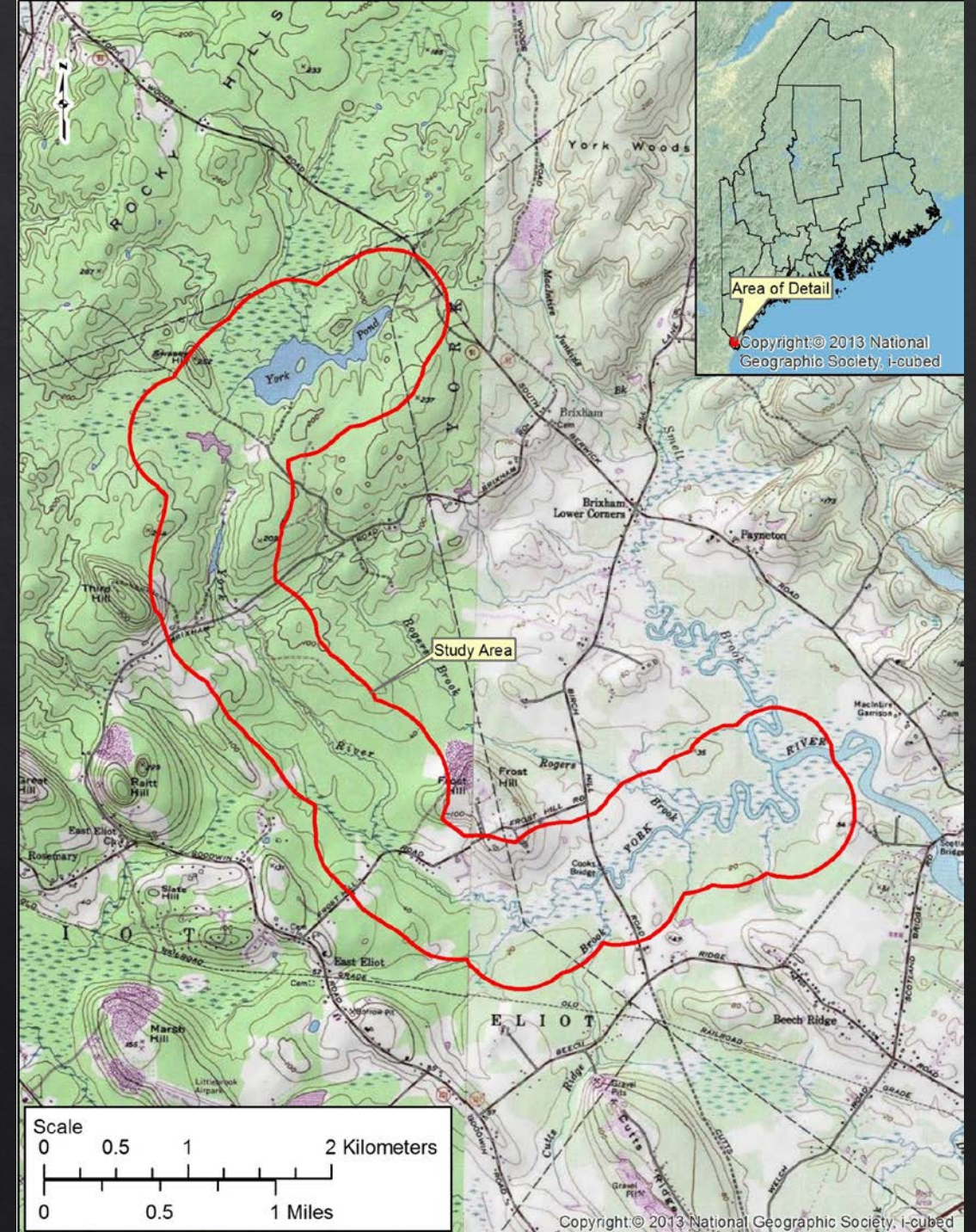
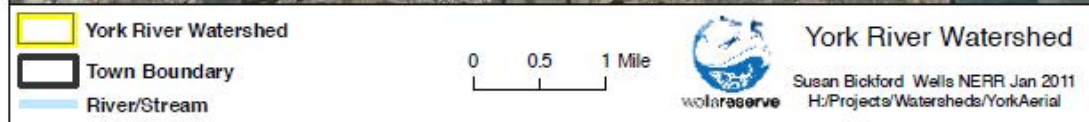
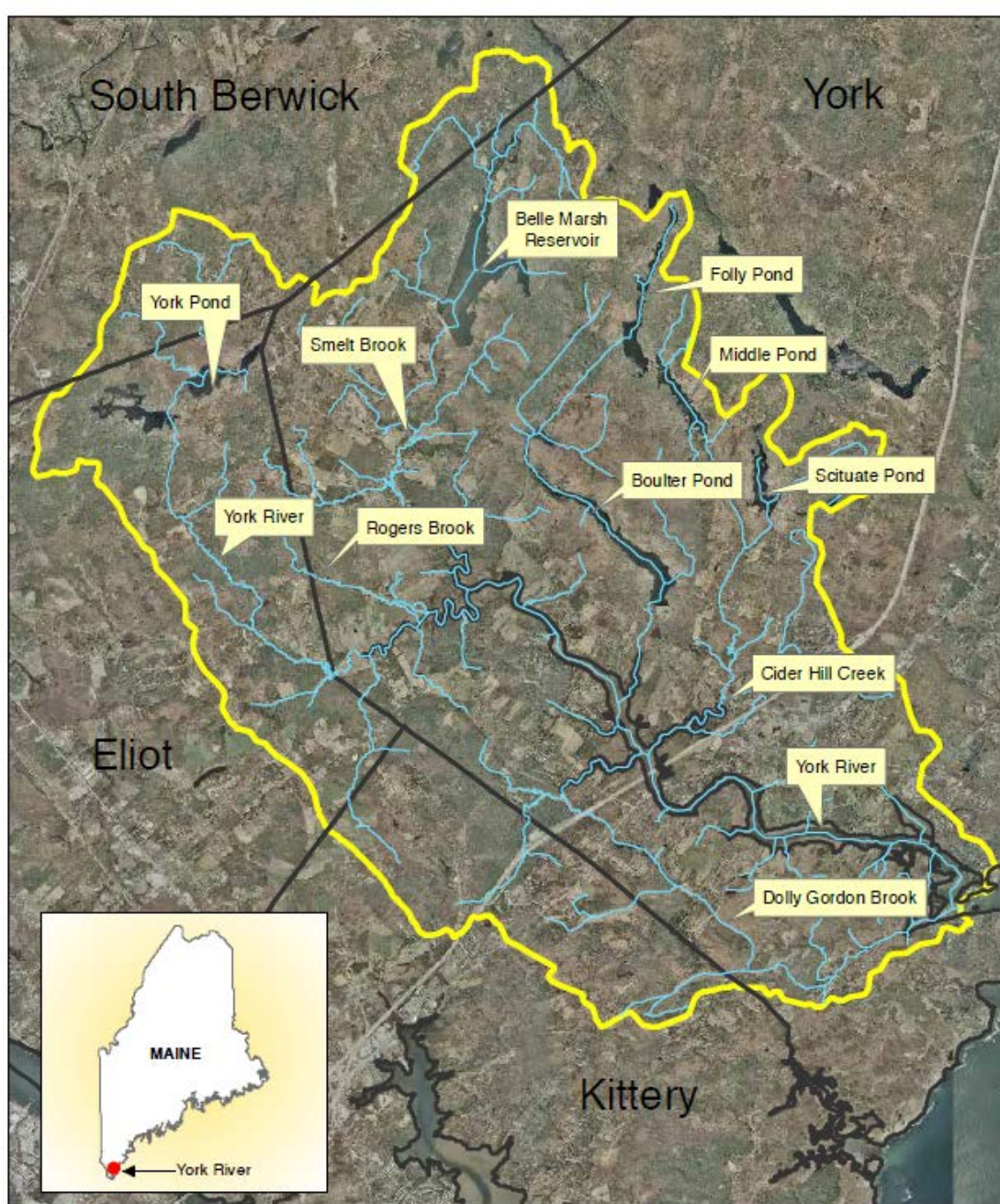



Archaeological and Architectural Survey of the York River Headwaters: A Community Approach for Identification and Management

for the York River Study Committee
York and Eliot, Maine





- 
- An aerial photograph of a winding river flowing through a landscape with a mix of green and autumn-colored trees. The river meanders from the upper center towards the bottom left. The surrounding land is covered in dense vegetation, with some open fields visible on the left side. The sky is clear and blue.
- ◆ **Goal: to determine the potential presence of significant cultural resources (archaeological and architectural) in the study area**
 - ◆ **Identify cultural resources that may possess *outstandingly remarkable value* (ORV)**

- ◆ **Local support and public involvement are key components of a successful Wild and Scenic River designation**
- ◆ **Thus, this study incorporates local, community participation and involvement.**
- ◆ **“Education, not Regulation!”**

- ◊ Who are we?
- ◊ Archaeology: some background
- ◊ What do we know so far?
- ◊ How will we undertake the study?
- ◊ How will we involve the community?
- ◊ What effect will the results have?

Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc. (NE ARC)



- ◆ Based in Farmington, ME
- ◆ Formerly the University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center (UMF ARC)
- ◆ 33 years experience
- ◆ co-Principal Investigator and Director Dr. Ellen Cowie
- ◆ Project Director/Prehistoric Archaeologist Dr. Gemma Hudgell
- ◆ Project Director/Historic Archaeologist Stephen Scharoun

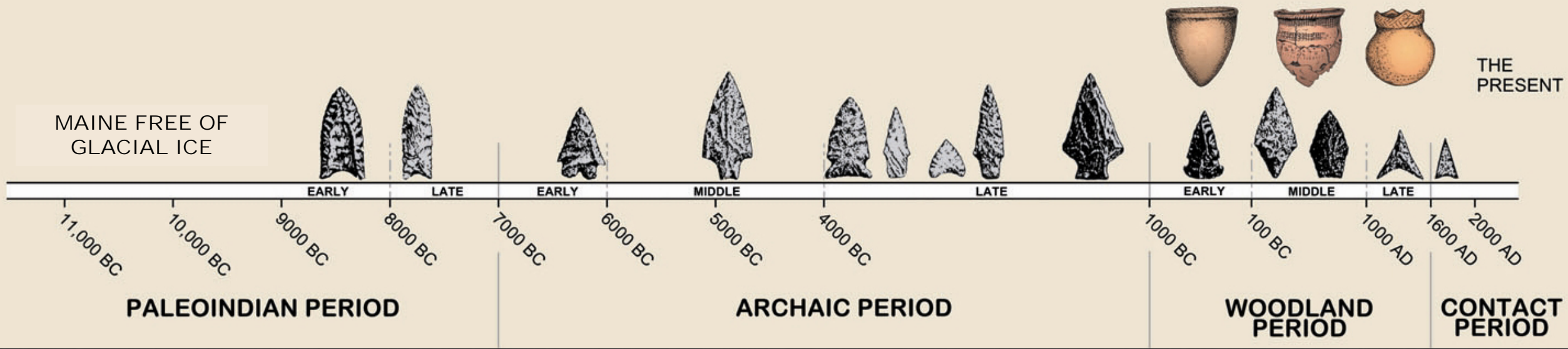
Archaeology

“Prehistoric”

- ◆ Pre-Contact Native American
- ◆ 13,000 years ago to European contact
- ◆ About 20 sites within York (listed with MHPC)

“Historic”

- ◆ Euroamerican
- ◆ 1600s – 1967!
- ◆ About 199 sites in York (listed with MHPC)



Pre-Contact Native American Sites

Five types found in Maine:

1. Habitation (camp or village) and workshop sites
2. Lithic quarries
3. Cemeteries
4. Rock art
5. Waterlogged sites

There are over 6350 sites in Maine prehistoric archaeological survey inventory;

Habitation and workshop sites comprise over 95%



Euroamerican Sites



What do we know so far?

- We know more about HISTORIC than PREHISTORIC
- We know more about YORK than ELIOT

Historical and
Archaeological
Resources Chapter
Comprehensive Plan
Inventory and Analysis



- ◇ Planning Board of York
- ◇ Part of the Comprehensive Plan
- ◇ November 6, 2007

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Wild and Scenic River Reconnaissance Survey of the York River

Prepared by: National Park Service Northeast Region 2013



Find on the York River Study website

Resources

Prehistoric

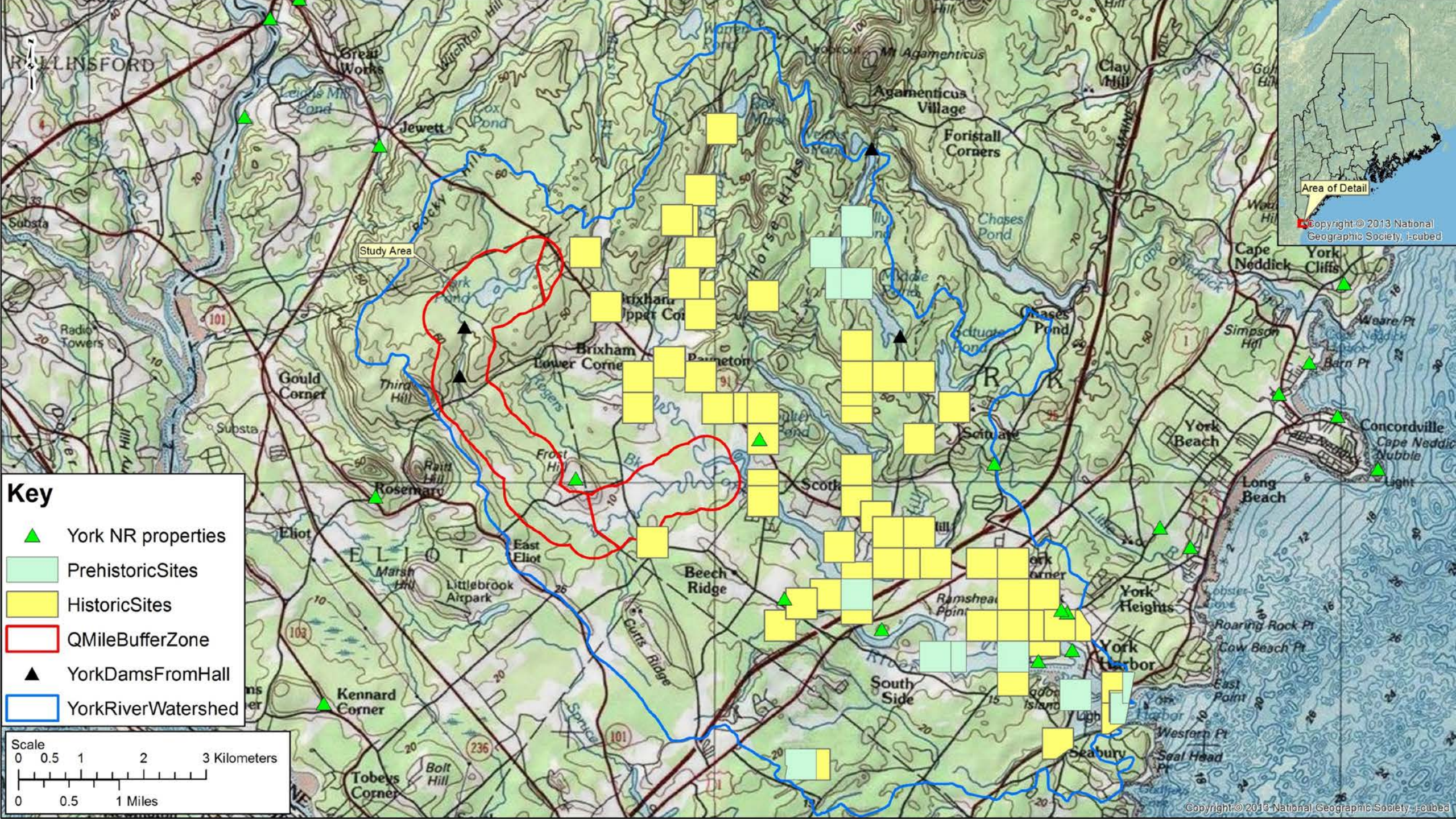
- ◊ MHPC data/Town records/Historical societies (known sites, previous studies)
- ◊ Individual finds
- ◊ Oral histories
- ◊ Written histories/maps
- ◊ Antiquarian research
- ◊ Aerial photography/LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)
- ◊ Archaeological models

Historic

Same as prehistoric, PLUS:

- ◊ Standing structures
- ◊ Tax maps
- ◊ Deeds
- ◊ Newspapers
- ◊ Photographs

And much greater quantities of written history, documentary evidence, maps, recent oral history



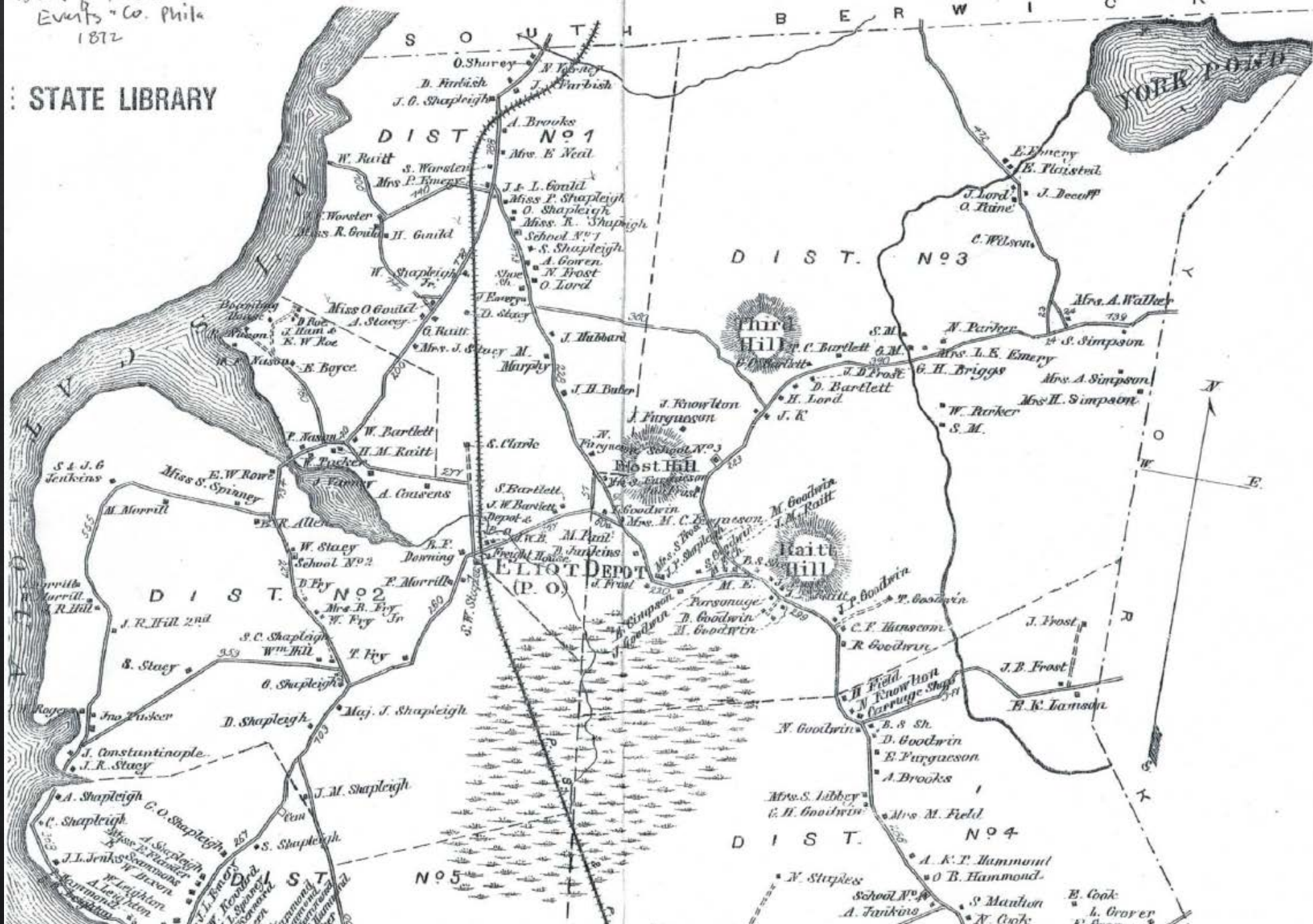
Historical and
Archaeological
Resources Chapter
Comprehensive Plan
Inventory and Analysis

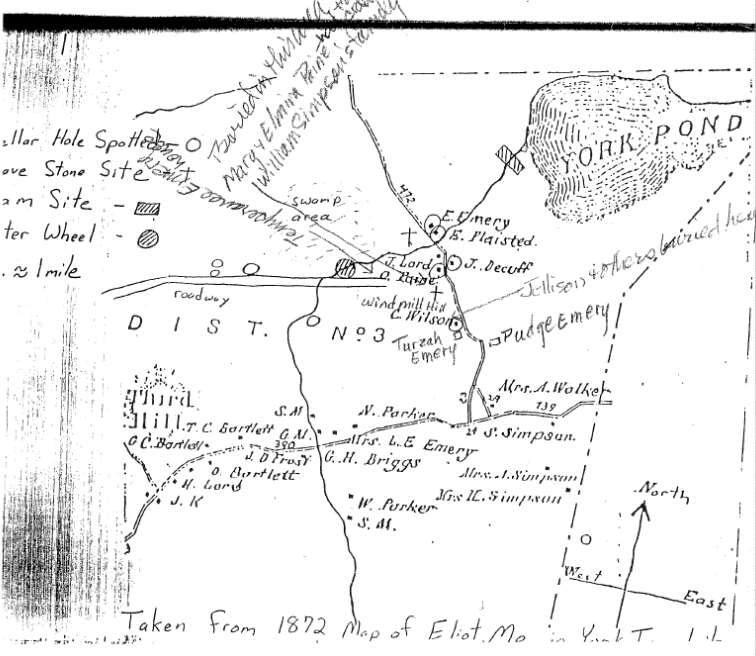
An abbreviated timeline of major events in York's history:



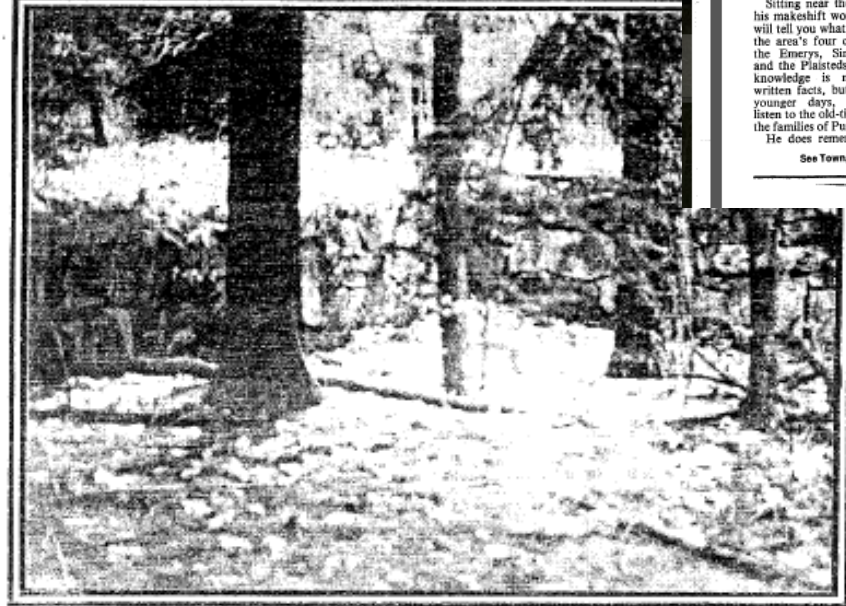
- Paleoindians believed to arrive in this region about 11,000 years ago
- Maine coast visited by Europeans – late 1500s to early 1600s
- First European Settler in York – 1630
- Agamenticus Charter – 1641
- Gorgeana Charter – 1642
- York Charter, following the Massachusetts takeover – 1652
- Candlemas Raid – 1692
- American Revolution – 1775 to 1783
- British coastal embargo cripples local economy - 1807
- Maine becomes a State – 1820
- County Seat completely shifted to Alfred - 1832
- Establishment of York Harbor Village Corporation – 1901
- Establishment of York Beach Village Corporation – 1901
- York Harbor Village Corporation enacts zoning – 1926
- Establishment of York Water District – 1929
- York Beach Village Corporation enacts zoning – 1939
- Opening of the Maine Turnpike through York – 1947
- Establishment of York Sewer District – 1951
- Town of York enacts zoning – 1962
- Termination of York Harbor Village Corporation – 1975
- Termination of York Beach Village Corporation – 1977

STATE LIBRARY





Punkintown



OVER THE YEARS, trees have grown in the remains of a cellar hole, once the foundation of a Punkintown home east of a York River swamp area.
Photo courtesy of Silas Weeks

Punkintown

Mystery shrouds what little is known of families who lived there

By Ed Garland

ELIOT — Those familiar with the sudden, winding curves and tricky slopes of Britham Road might have noticed, at one time or another, a steep dirt road to their left marked by two signs; one, reading Punkintown and the other, Adams Corner.

This ancient thoroughfare, known as Punkintown Road, is in many ways a link to old-timers and local historians alike. Historical data on Punkintown is limited to a handful of faded photographs, an 1872 map of the area, a somewhat incomplete report written by a group of students from the University of New Hampshire, and the memories of a few locals.

Originally a shortcut connecting Eliot and Dover, N.H., Punkintown Road remains as a reminder of a people and town long dead. Scattered among dense forests which line the road, rest obscure family graveyards, dried-up wells and crude foundations overgrown with brush and trees. These relics represent seven or eight farming families who lived in Punkintown before dying out in the 1930s.

The one man who does remember Punkintown's last inhabitants is Frank Parsons, an 81-year-old Britham Road resident who represents "12 or 13" generations of Parsons who have lived in Eliot.

Sitting near the wood stove in his makeshift workshop, Parsons will tell you what he knows about the area's four chief families — the Emerys, Simpsons, Paynes and the Plattedes. He admits his knowledge is not derived of written facts, but of lore. In his younger days, Parsons would listen to the old-timers tell tales of the families of Punkintown. He does remember the Payne

See Town, page 238



Courtesy photograph



Courtesy photograph



Staff photograph by Ed Garland



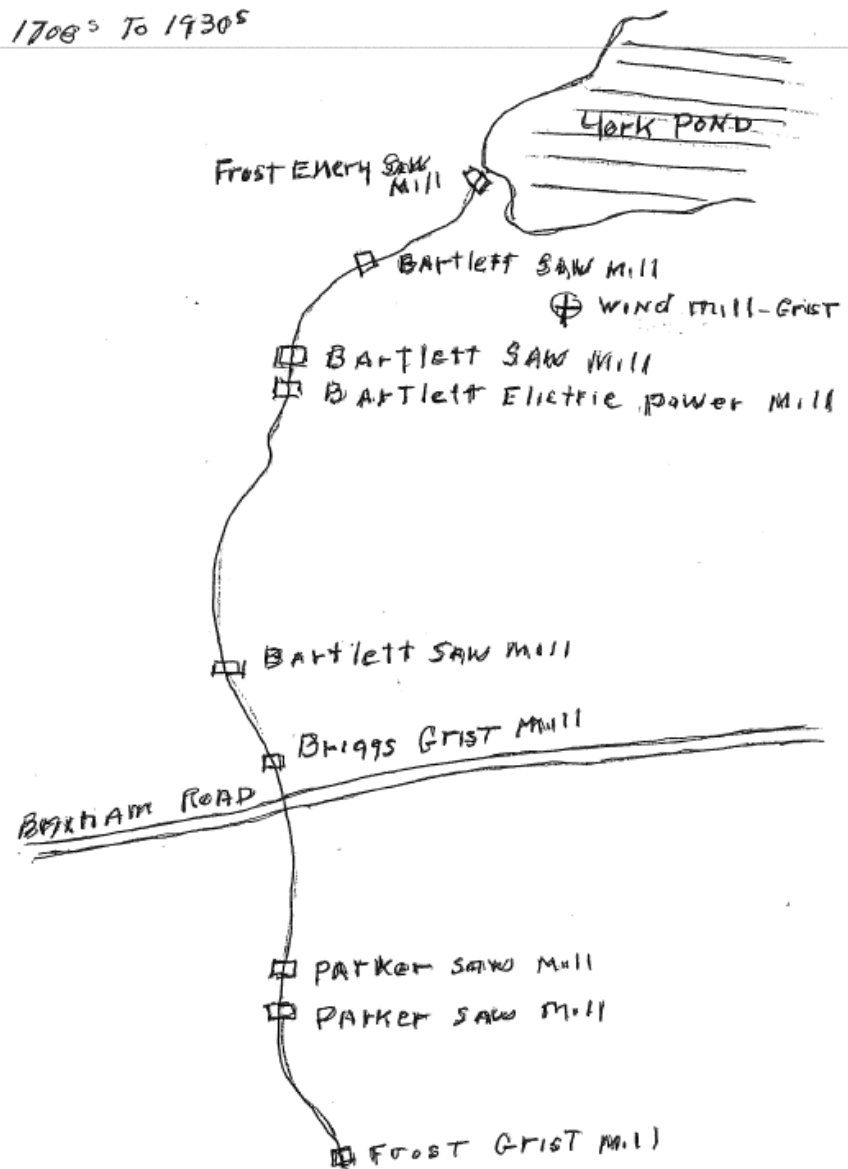
Staff photograph by Ed Garland

Photographs furnished to the Star by Silas Weeks show Tiziah Emery (above) who it is said lived to be the oldest resident of Punkintown. She died when she was 93 years old. The photograph to the right shows sisters Mary Payne and Elmira Payne and Nancy DeCoff and a Mr. Brown in front of the old Garrison house. Today sharp eyes may detect the graveyards of the Payne sisters, the last inhabitants of Punkintown or one of many foundations scattered along the wooded road.



GEORGE PAYNE HOUSE GOODWIN ROAD ELIOT

Mills on the York River (Stoney Brook)
1700's To 1930's



The main dam site

m

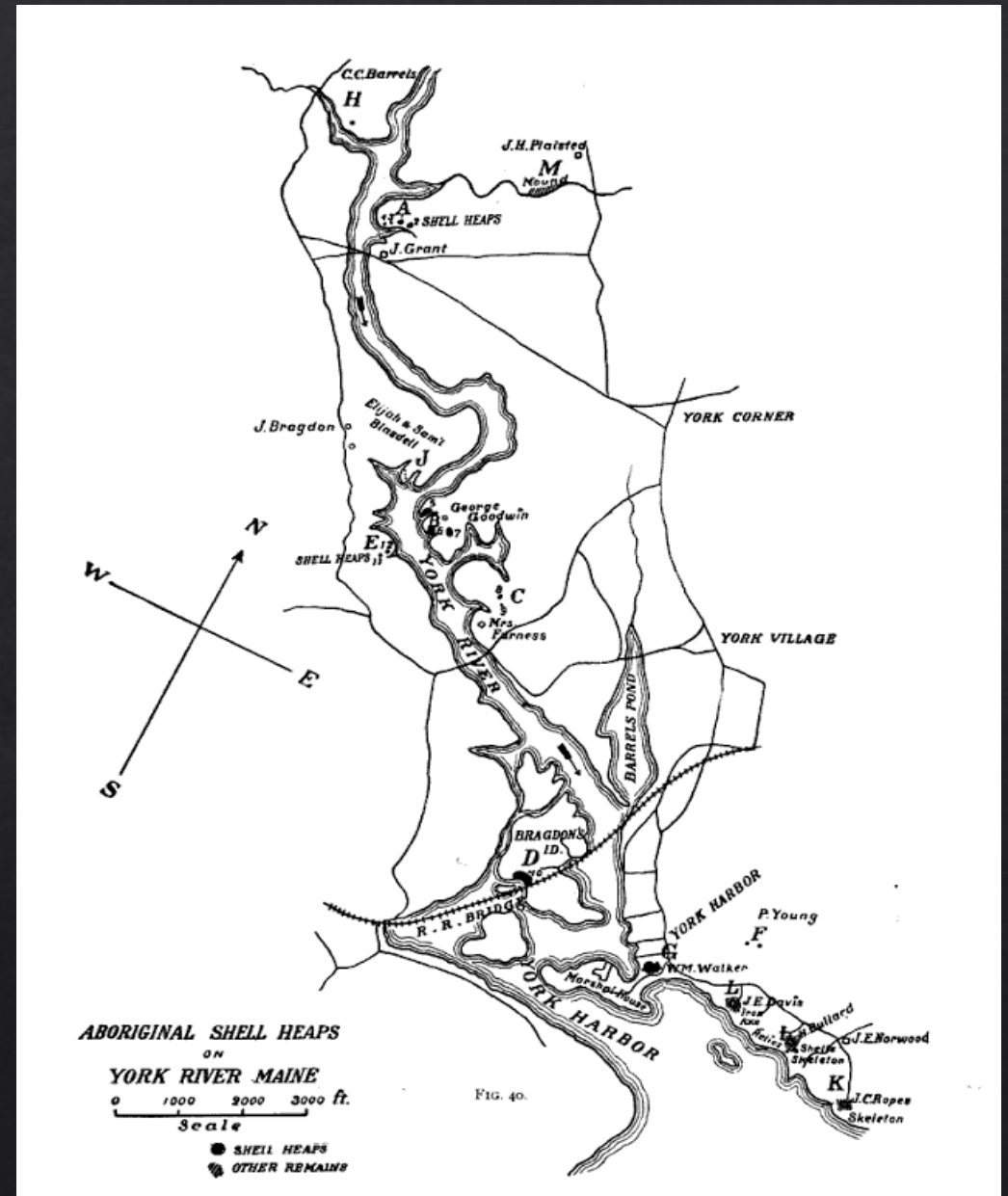
“Researches Upon the Antiquity of Man in the Delaware Valley and Eastern United States”

Henry C. Mercer and others, 1897

AN EXPLORATION OF ABORIGINAL SHELL HEAPS REVEALING TRACES OF CANNIBALISM ON YORK RIVER, MAINE.

BY HENRY C. MERCER.

YORK RIVER,¹ an estuary of the Atlantic Ocean in south-western Maine with a small fresh-water affluent, navigable by ships of light draught for about 4 miles, and for boats and canoes for 8, with a landlocked harbor, and extensive clam-banks daily bared at ebb tide, exhibits on both its shores, and for 2½ miles from the sea, a series of deposits of shells which on examination are found to contain charcoal, pieces of burnt stone, the bones of animals, and very rare fragments of pottery.



ashes, and charcoal as usual.

About twenty heaps lying close together had been obliterated at *G* (in 1890) in grading for Mr. W. M. Walker's new cottages by Stevens' store, at which time (as I learned from Mr. Walker in September, 1891) the workmen found among the heaps a skeleton buried in a sitting posture, between several large stones; and also, though not with the skeleton, a broken stone-scraper.

Heap 10 (at *D*), the largest deposit examined, rested on the

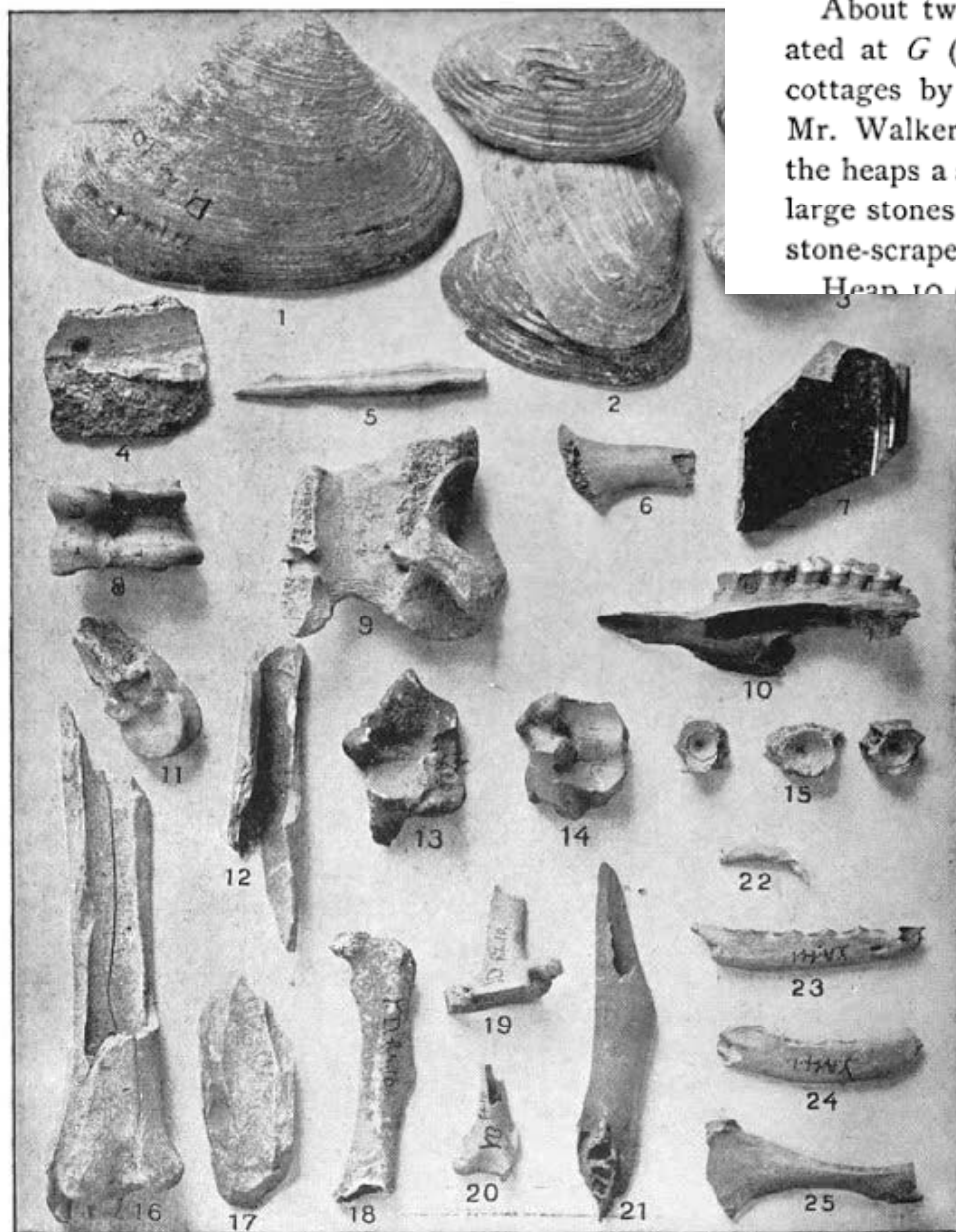


FIG. 41 (\times about $2\frac{1}{2}$). — Bones and shells (identified by Professors E. D. Cope and H. A. Pilsbry) and objects of human handiwork from the aboriginal shell heaps on York River, Maine. Deer, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 21, 25. Beaver, 18. Small mammal, 20. Sheep, 19. Carnivore, 22. Fox, 23 and 24. Catfish or salmon, 15. *Macra solidissima* Dillw., 1. *Mya arenaria* L., 2. *Natica heros* Say, 3 (all small specimens). Aboriginal potsherd, 4. Glazed potsherd (white man), 7. Aboriginal bone harpoon, arrow, or spear, 5.



FIG. 44 (actual size). — Potsherds, bones sharpened to points, and harpoon or arrowhead from the York Harbor shell heaps, found in August, 1896. The sherds 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 are from heap 10; the sherd 6 and the bone point 5, from heap 6; the other bone objects are from heap 10. The pottery containing fragments of quartz is not distinguishable in make or decoration from the common Indian ware found elsewhere in New England and throughout the middle United States.

“A Survey for Prehistoric Archaeological Sites, York, Maine”

Richard T. Will and Rebecca Cole-Will, 1986

- ◆ Emphasis: Native American land use along the York River
- ◆ Prehistoric sites within the York National Historic District
- ◆ Finding sites within the corporate boundaries of York:
 - ◆ Coastal margin
 - ◆ Rivers
 - ◆ Interior ponds
 - ◆ Relict features (old river terraces, extinct drainages)





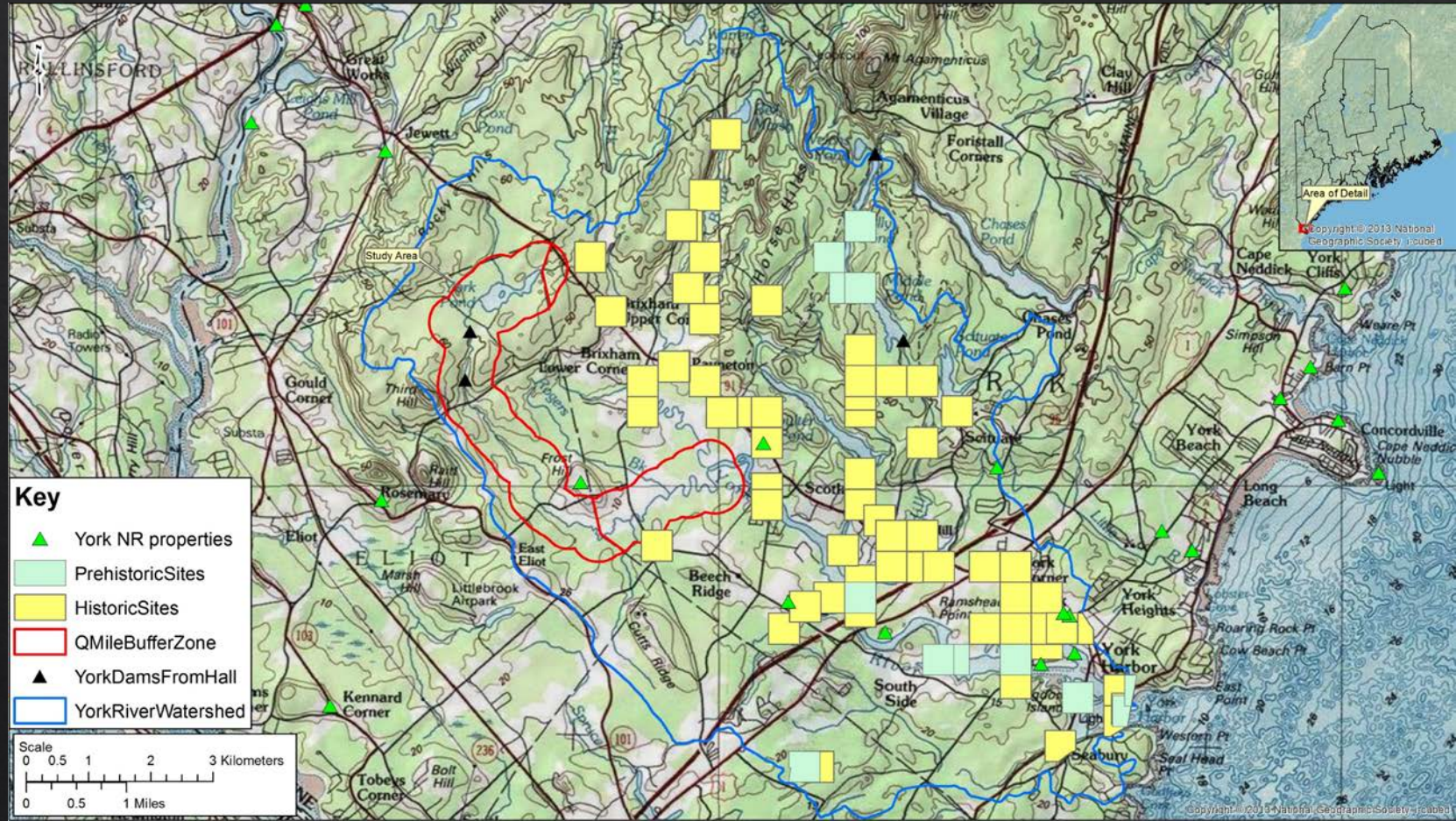
Mainly
relocating
Mercer's
sites

Figure 2. Location of place names along the York River.

Archaeological Survey: How do we go about it?

Prepare an archaeological context for York County

- ◇ Known sites
- ◇ Sensitive areas



Sensitivity Assessment:

Based on “Predictive Models for Maine Prehistoric Sites”

Model 1: Paleoindian Sites

- ◆ Well-drained, sandy soil
- ◆ Small water bodies, not canoe-accessible



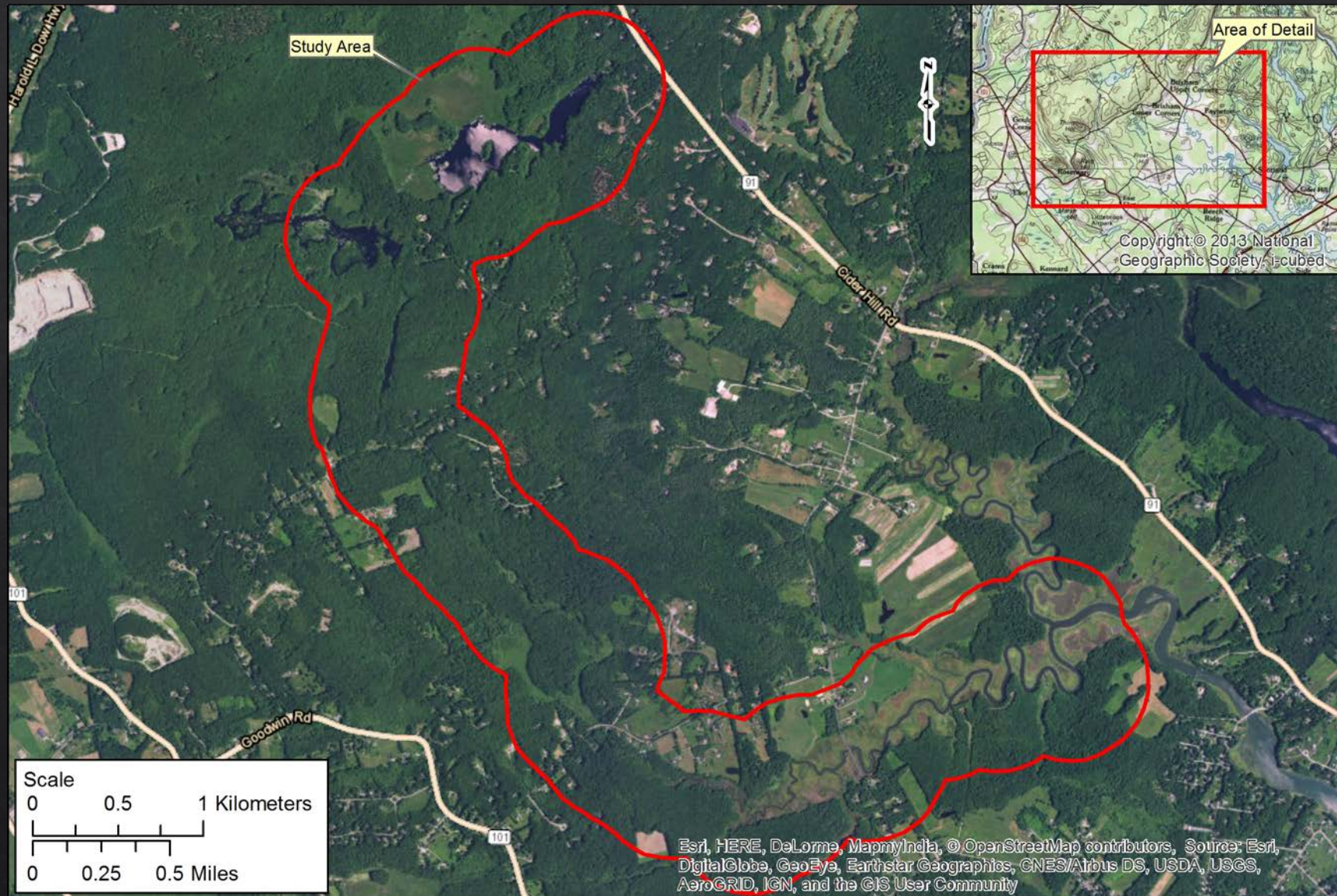
Model 2: Later Prehistoric Sites

- ◆ Level, well-drained landforms
- ◆ Adjacent to canoe-navigable water

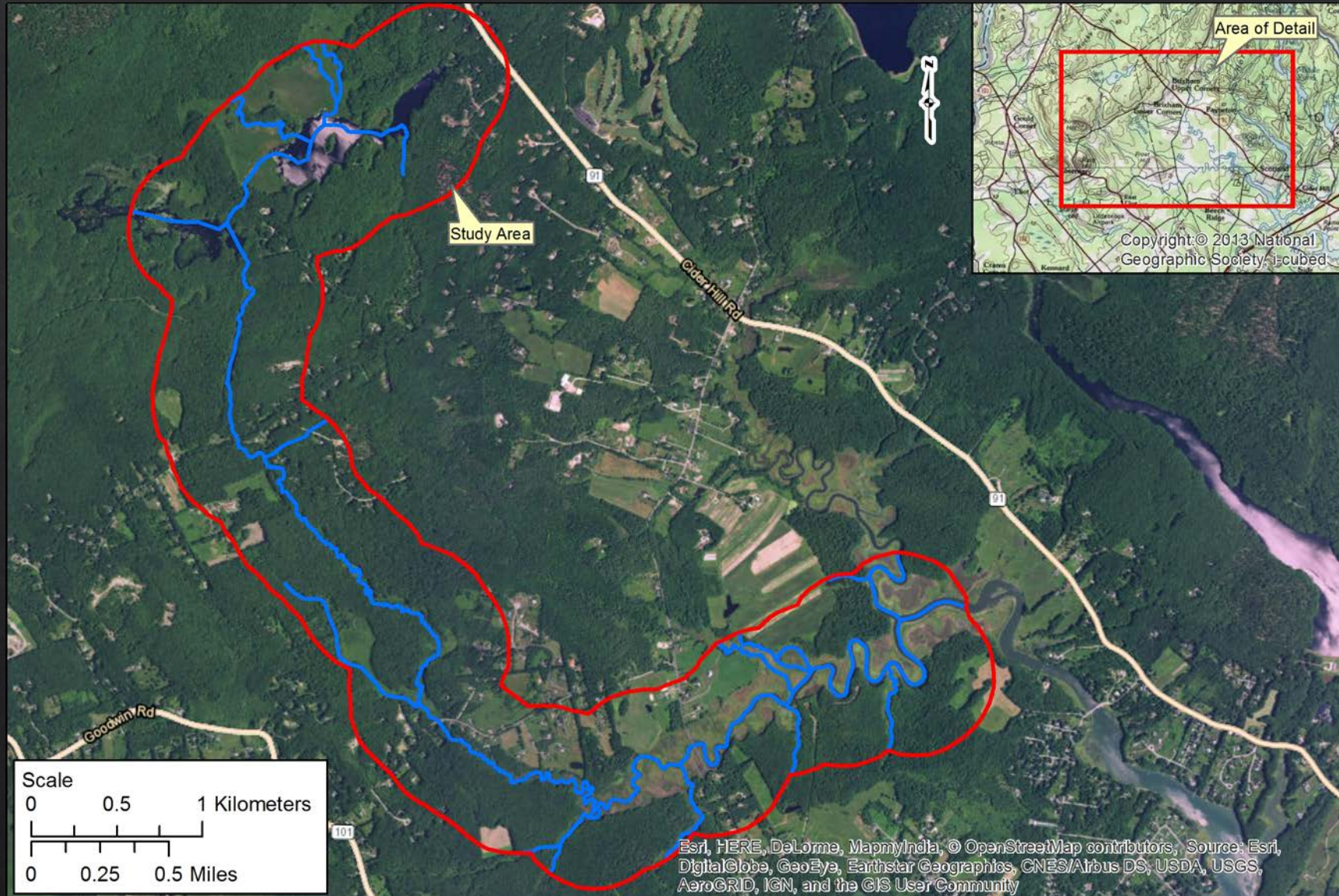


These describe “paleo landforms” – not modern landforms!

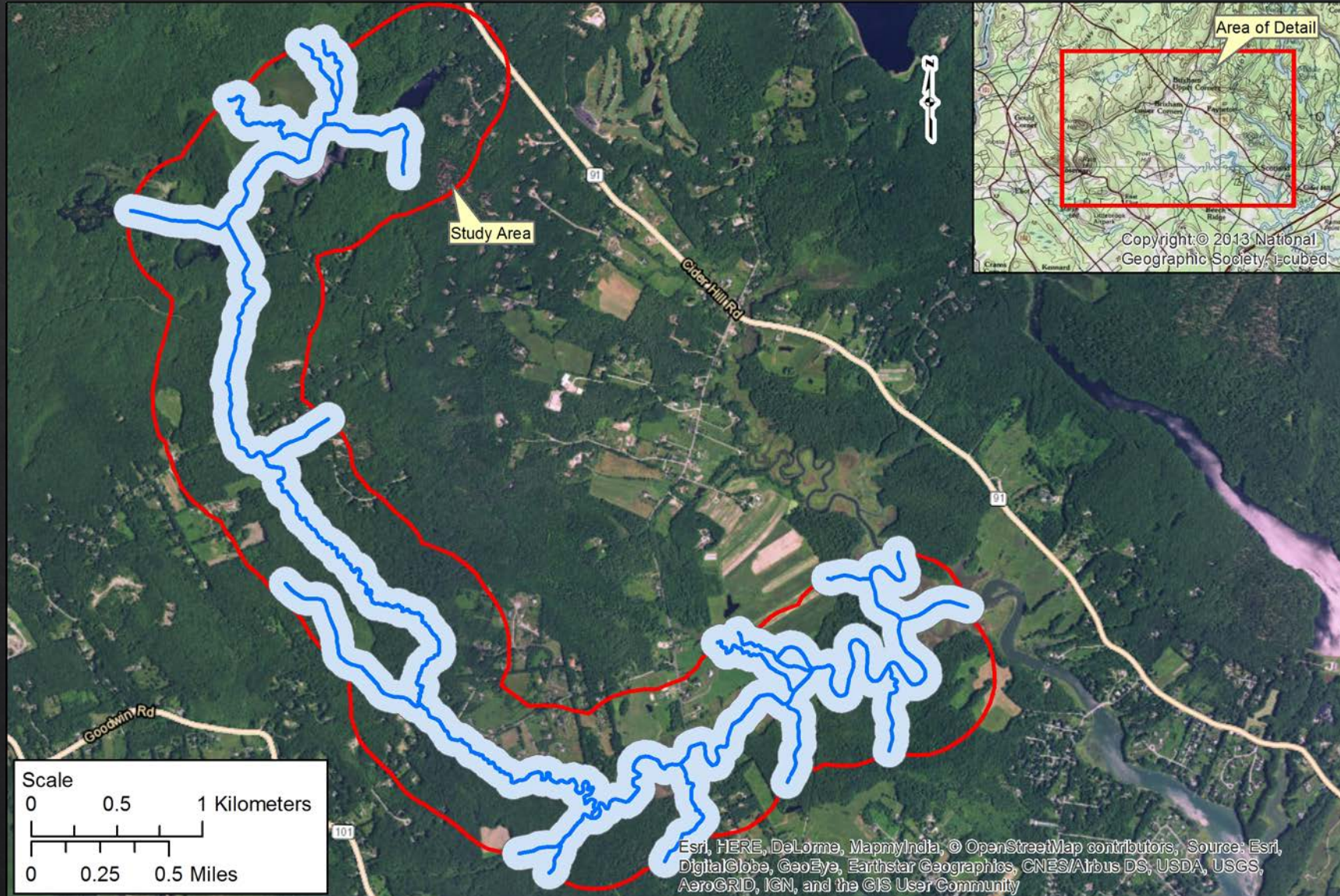
How To Construct A Predictive Model



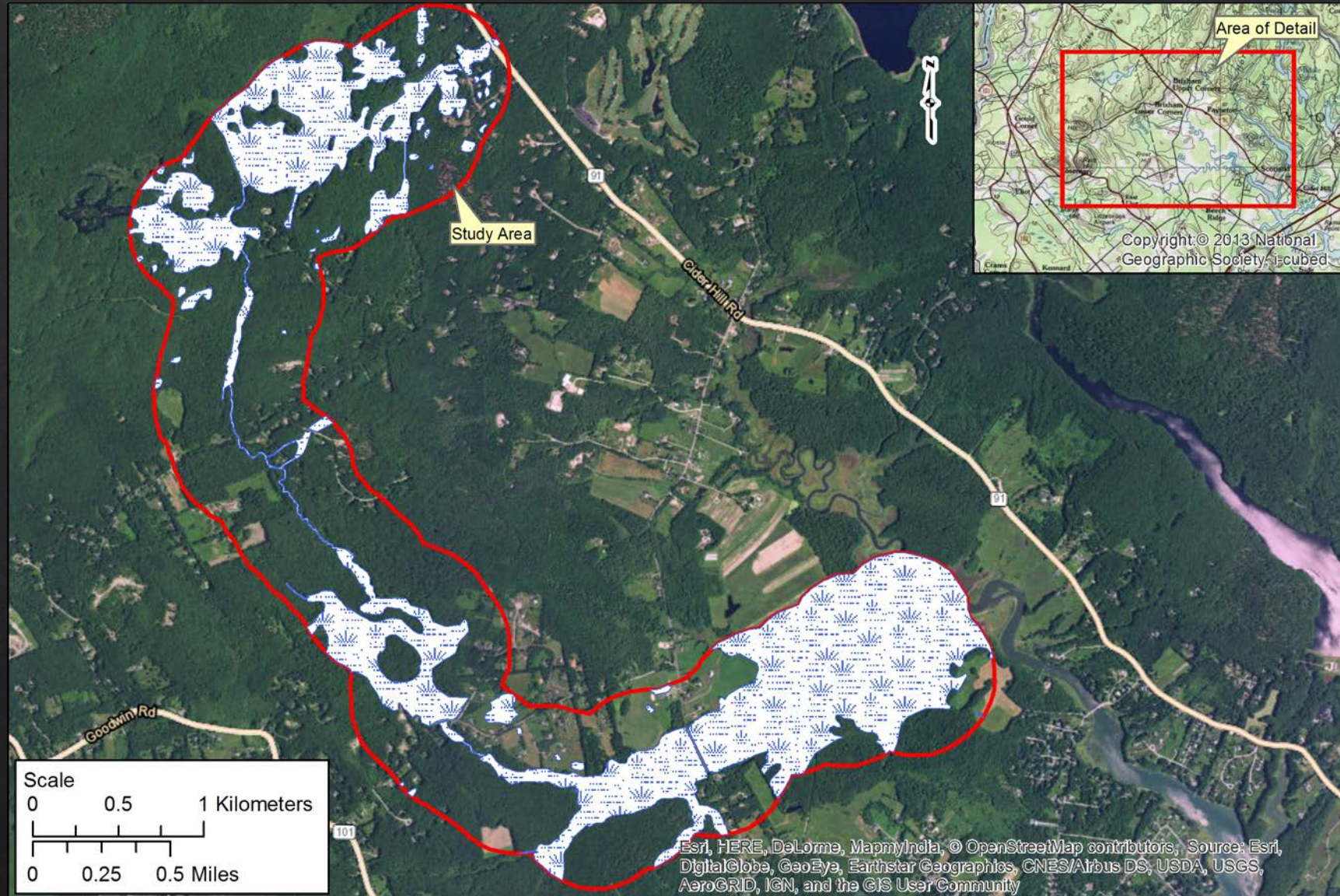
Streams/ Rivers



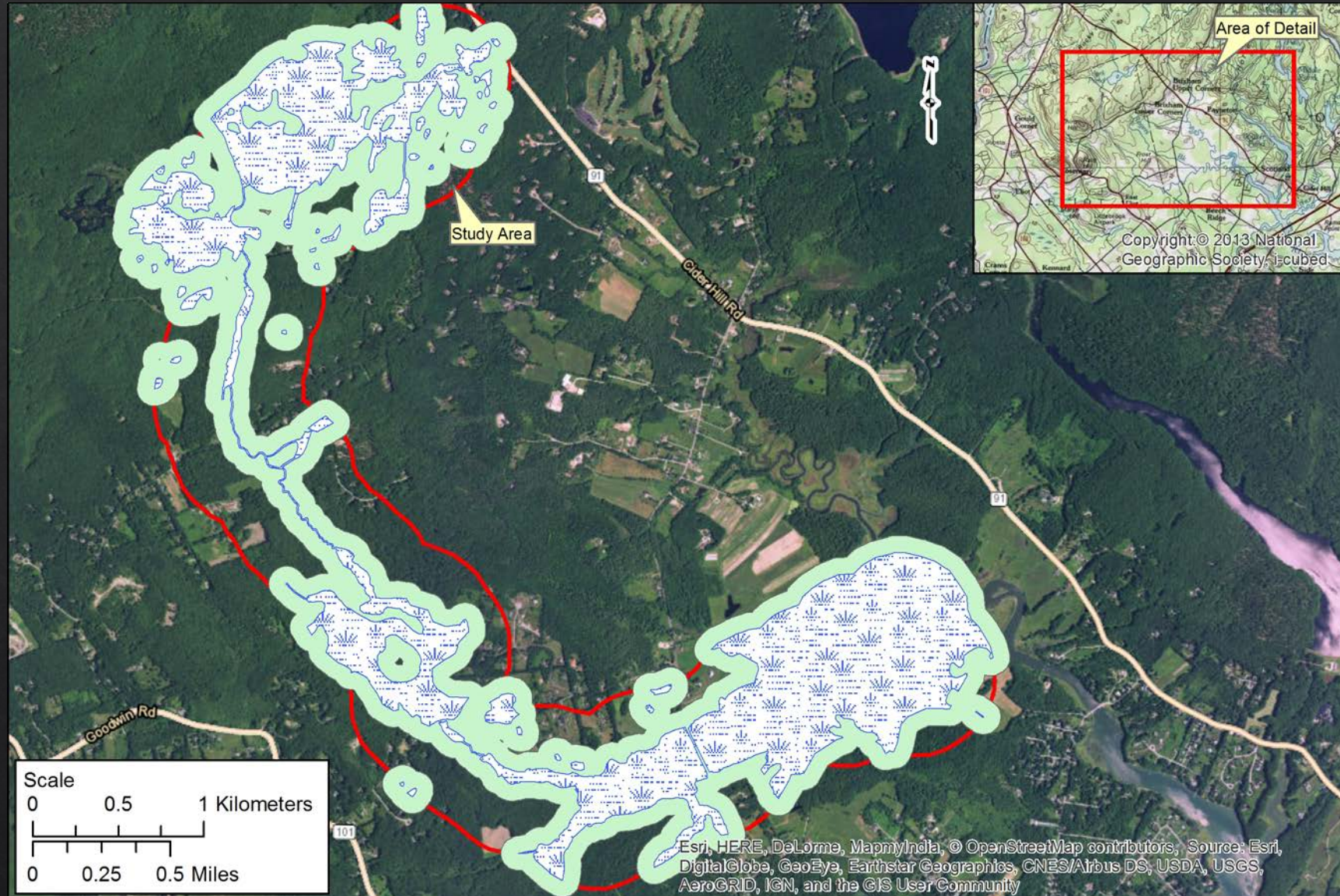
Streams/
Rivers,
100 m buffer

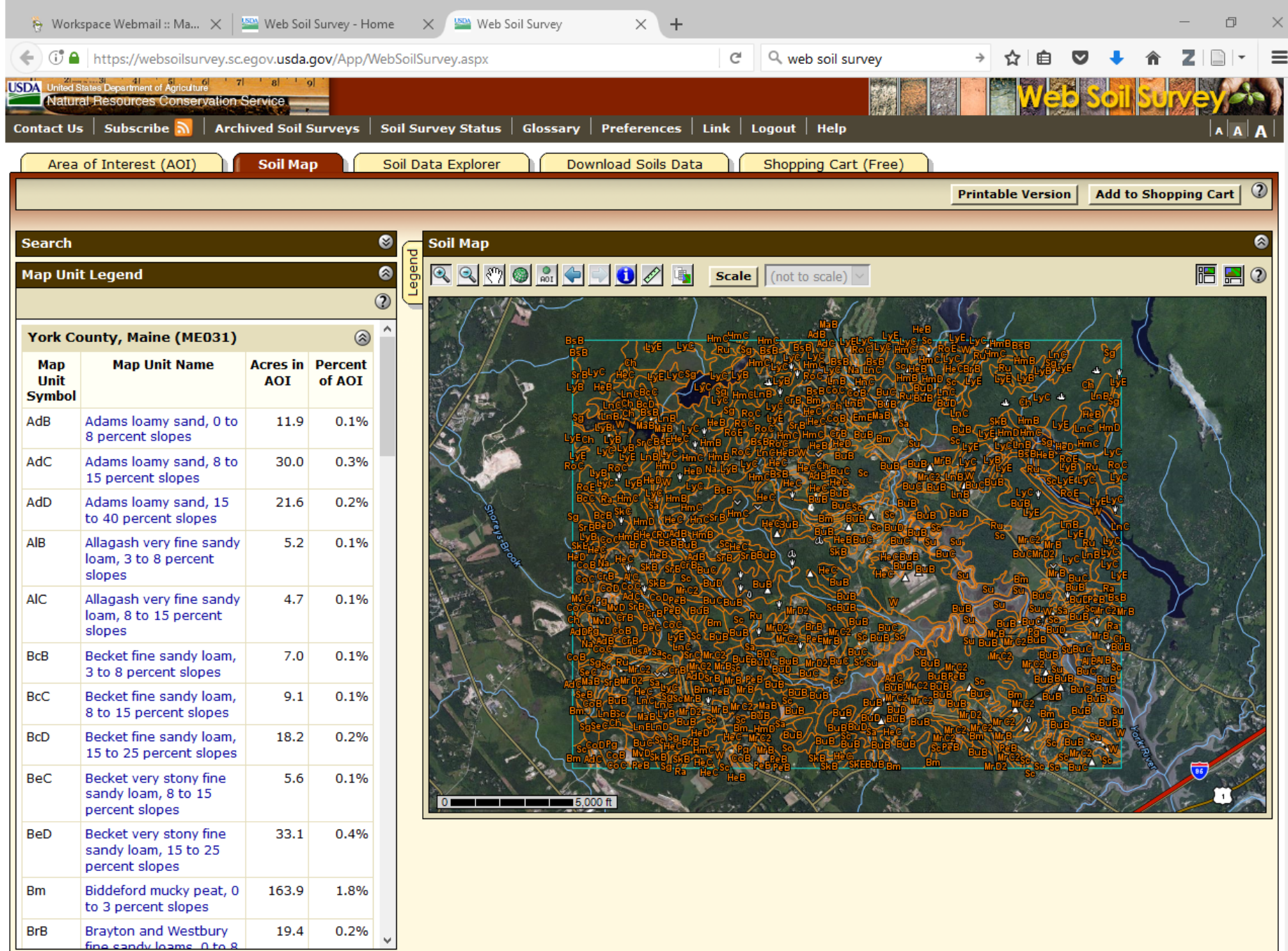


Wetlands

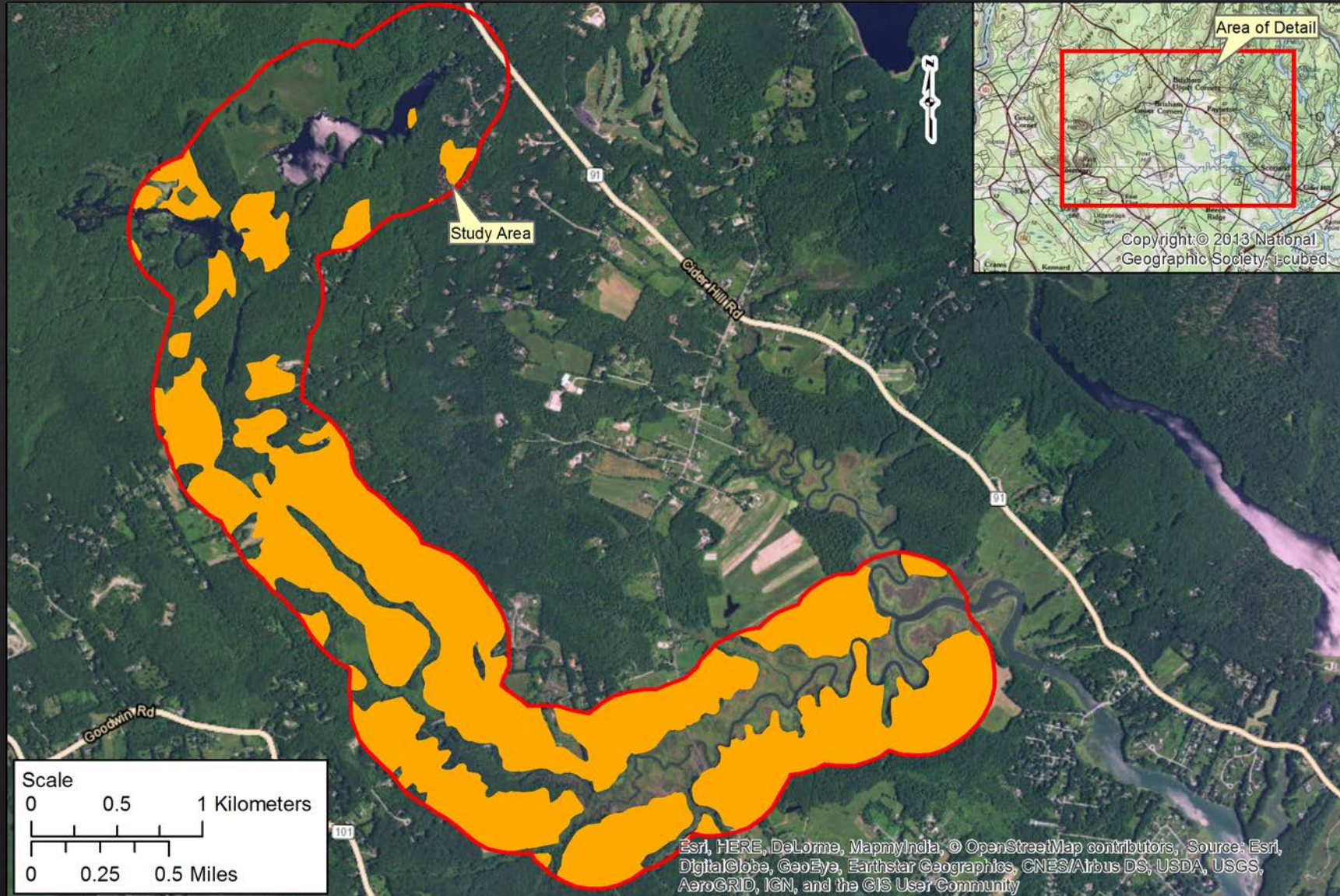


Wetlands,
100 m buffer

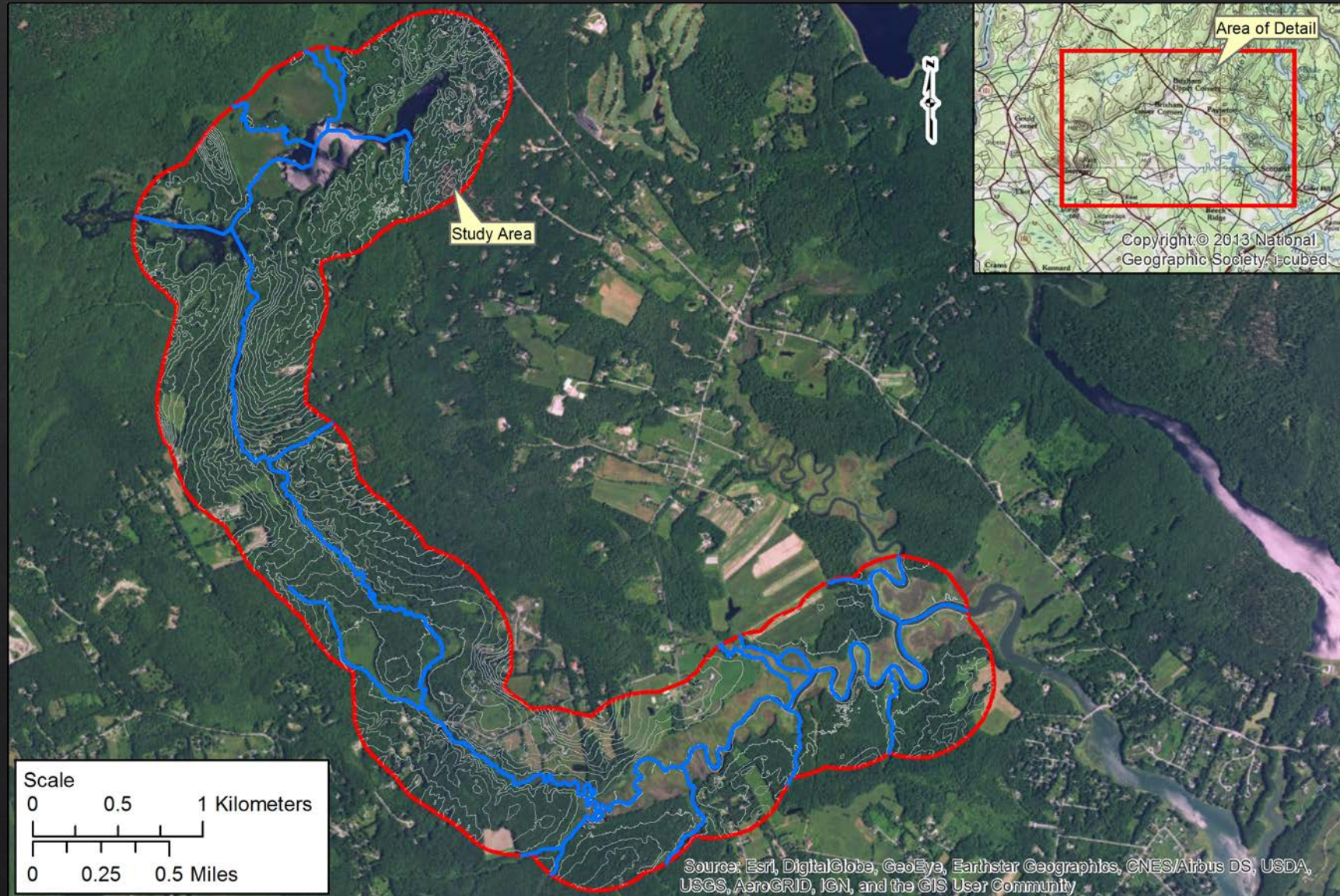




Soils,
well-drained,
fine-grained,
potentially
level, relict
landforms

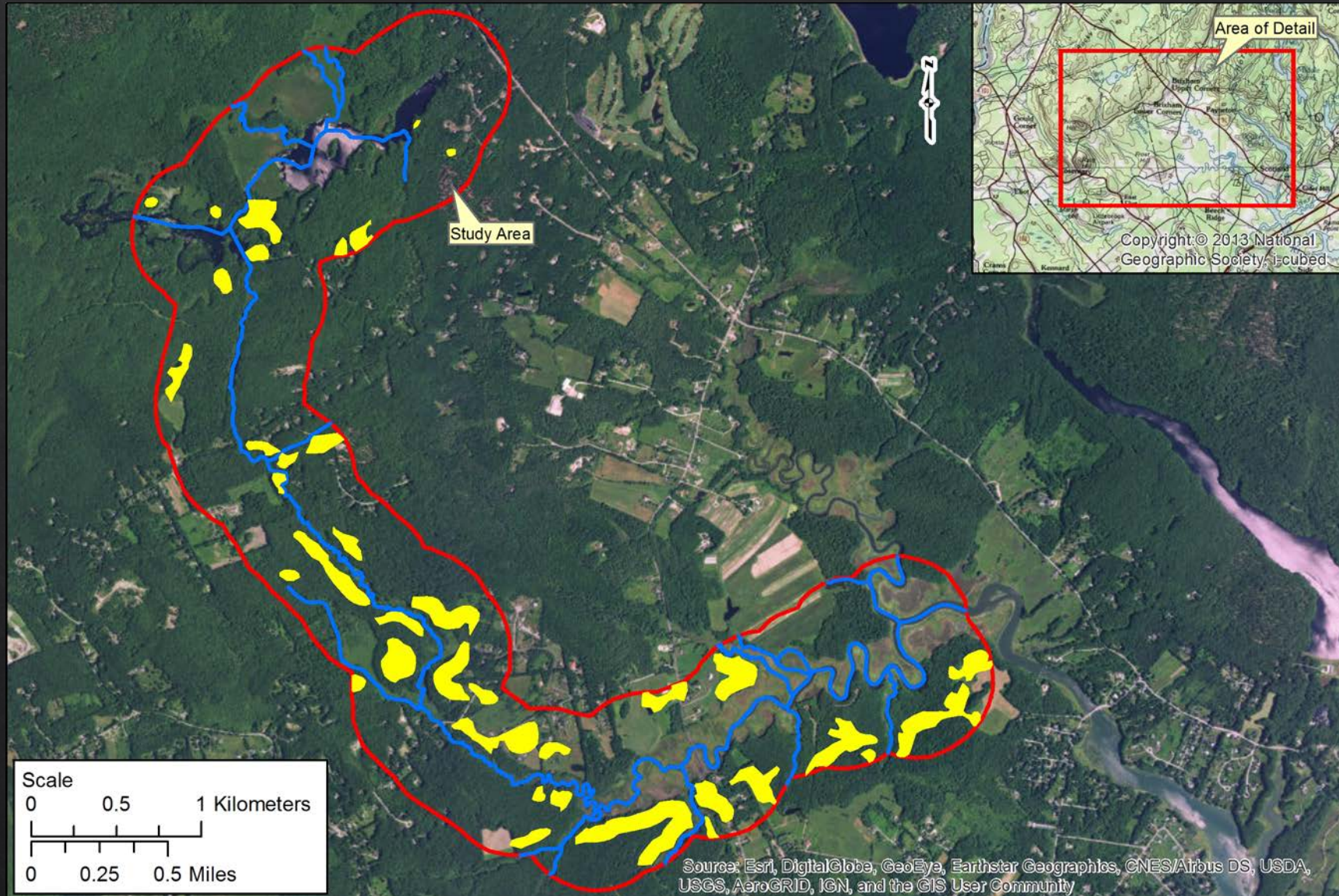


Slope, 10 ft
contours



Result:

Archaeologically Sensitive Areas



We could go further and rank these areas



Upper York River
from Scotland
Bridge

View west from
Birch Hill Road

David J. Murray, ClearEyePhoto.com

Field Inspection:
“Ground Truth”
the results
(for historic, too!)



Archaeological Survey!





Archaeological Survey Plan

- ◇ Summer 2017 (June)
- ◇ A 4-day survey
- ◇ Three NE ARC staff, two local paid workers (high school-aged or older) and local community volunteers (up to 4-5 per day)
- ◇ A surface survey of the most archaeologically sensitive portions of the study area and mapping select sites/features identified
- ◇ AND subsurface excavation of test pits at select locations (40-60 standard survey test pits)
- ◇ Remember: Prehistoric AND Historic



What happens if we find a site?

- ◇ **Material belongs to the landowner.**
 - ◇ Gift to State? (or Town; Historical Society; Museum; etc.)
 - ◇ Record site with MHPC: get a site number.
 - ◇ What did we find? Where? How?
 - ◇ Worthy of more investigation?
 - ◇ Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?
 - ◇ Is the site “at risk” of loss of information (Artifact collectors? Erosion? Development?)
-
- ◇ **To determine the potential presence of significant cultural resources (archaeological and architectural) in the study area**
 - ◇ **Identify cultural resources that may possess *outstandingly remarkable value* (ORV)**
 - ◇ **Local support; community participation and involvement:**
 - ◇ **“Education, not Regulation!”**



David J. Murray, ClearEyePhoto.com