

CITY OF VANCOUVER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PREDETERMINATION REPORT

Property Owner: Clark County General Services - Sheriff Telephone: 397-2211 x3204
Mailing Address: Ric Bishop
P.O. Box 410
Vancouver, WA 98666

Applicant: Lisa Willis Telephone: 518-3004
Mailing Address: Port of Vancouver
3103 NW Lower River Road
Vancouver, WA 98660

Relationship to Owner: Through a legal agreement, Port will construct the substation for Clark Public Utilities

Property Address: 5197 NW Lower River Road

Legal description: Section 20, Township 2 North, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian.
Portion of parcel 152170000

Parcel Acreage: < 2 acres Disturbance Area Acreage: < 2 acres

A map showing property location is attached.

General Physical Description of Site, including current uses: The project area is located in the northeastern corner of the Clark County Jail Work Center property at the western end of Port of Vancouver's facility (Figure 1). The Jail Work Center parking lot entry access road is the western boundary and SW Harborside Drive forms the southern boundary (Figure 2). The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) forms the northern boundary and Gateway Avenue forms the eastern boundary. A proposed 7.6-m (25-ft) wide access road will skirt the substation and will connect to existing roads. The project area is largely in a cottonwood grove and has open grassy areas in the northern portion. Relatively young pine trees form a border between the work center complex and the wooded area and shield a potting shed and gardening area from view. The surface of the project area is irregular and in some places is lower in elevation than surrounding areas. It exhibits evidence of disturbance likely involving several episodes of soil removal and filling.

Description of proposed activity: Port of Vancouver plans to build a Clark Public Utilities substation and an access road northeast of the Clark County Jail Work Center. The substation will be built on a fill pad. Excavations will be limited to clearing and grubbing to place the proposed additional fill.

Predetermination Trigger:

- Any portion of disturbance area within Predictive Model Probability Level A
- 5 acre or greater disturbance area wholly within Predictive Model Probability Level B.
- Disturbance area within ¼ mile of known archaeological site
- Director option
- Discovery principle

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Detail all background research: Background research included a review of documents obtained from the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and a review of historic maps and other archaeological reports on file at Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. (AINW). Background research revealed no recorded archaeological sites within the project area, although several are within 2.4 kilometers (km) (1.5 miles [mi]) of the project area. Many nearby archaeological sites are near Vancouver Lake, located 2 km (1.2 mi) north of the project area. The project area is within the Vancouver Lakes Archaeological District (45DT101). The district included 125 sites when it was *determined* eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1982 (Burd 1982). Prehistoric sites range from small lithic scatters to the remains of large winter villages. Historic sites are common in the district as well.

The closest archaeological sites to the project area are three sites clustered approximately 1.6 km (1 mi) northeast of the project area: 45CL457, 45CL698, and 45CL768. All three sites contained small numbers of both historic and prehistoric artifacts (Adams and Fagan 2008; Baker et al. 2006; Buchanan and Reese 2008). All sites within the vicinity of the project area are located north of New Lower River Road, which is north of the current project area.

Numerous archaeological studies have taken place in the immediate vicinity of the project area. Three of these have surveyed portions or all of the project area: one by AINW (Forgeng and Reese 1993), a later one by Larson Anthropological/Archaeological Services (LAAS) (Moore et. al 1997), and more recently by ICF Jones & Stokes (ICF Jones & Stokes 2009) for the West Vancouver Freight Access Project.

LAAS surveyed the project area in 1997 as part of the larger, then-proposed, Jail Work Center (Moore et. al 1997). LAAS conducted a pedestrian survey and excavated eight shovel scrapes and eighteen shovel tests, most of which were in or near the present project area (Figure 3). Shovel tests were excavated to a maximum depth of 120 centimeters (cm) (47 inches [in]) and soils were screened through 6.4-millimeter (mm) (¼-in) mesh. LAAS identified areas of coarse sand and gravel dredge fill deposits on the surface and in shovel tests up to 1.2 m (4 ft) deep, except in three areas where native soils were identified (Figure 3). Native soils were sterile compact silt that likely represented flood deposits (Moore et al. 1997). No cultural materials were observed during the LAAS 1997 survey.

The eastern portion of the project area was surveyed, prior to the LAAS survey, in 1993 by AINW as part of a larger survey for the Port of Vancouver (Forgeng and Reese 1993). Thick dredge fill deposits were observed on more than half of the property including the current project area. Seven trenches were excavated with a backhoe in a high elevation oak grove east of the current project area. Trenches were excavated up to 1.6 m (5.3 ft) deep. Dredge fill was identified up to 1.6 m (5.3 ft) in some

BACKGROUND RESEARCH, continued

trenches, while others revealed buried soils. A sample of soils was screened through 3.2-mm (1/8-in) mesh. No archaeological materials were identified in trenches or by screening samples. Forgens and Reese (1993) concluded the old surface was likely mechanically worked while dredge materials were deposited, greatly impacting native surfaces.

The northern portion of the project area was surveyed in 2009 by ICF Jones & Stokes as part of the West Vancouver Freight Access Project for the Port of Vancouver (ICF Jones & Stokes 2009). ICF Jones & Stokes noted ground disturbance and 5 to 20 ft (1.5 to 6 m) of fill in the ALCOA property. No prehistoric or historic period archaeological sites were identified during this survey (ICF Jones & Stokes 2009).

The project area lies between the BNSF Railway and the Columbia River. Forgens and Reese (1993) described the area north of BNSF Railway and New Lower River Road as an undisturbed landscape of ridges, swales, sloughs, and lakes reflecting the shifting course of the Columbia River over several thousand years. The area south of the BNSF Railway and north of the Columbia River shore is covered with dredge sands and gravels up to 20 ft (6 m) deep or more. The presence of thick dredge fill deposits likely represents the extension of the north shore of the Columbia River south into the river by the placement of dredge sand along the riverbank, creating new land for development. Additionally, 1940s construction of the ALCOA aluminum manufacturing plant to the west included filling the area with dredge sands to level and elevate the property (Fagan and Zehendner 2009).

The project appears on an 1854 General Land Office (GLO) map for Township 2 North, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian, within an area labeled "Claimed by Hudson's Bay Company Under Treaty of 1846" (GLO 1854). The updated 1860 GLO map for the same area shows the entire area north of the Columbia River to be "Washington Territory" (GLO 1860). The 1863 GLO map shows the project area within the Donation Land Claim of H. Van Alman (No. 57) (GLO 1863). No houses or structures were shown for the project vicinity on the GLO maps.

The project area is within the former ALCOA aluminum plant property. The Vancouver ALCOA aluminum plant was constructed in 1940 and operated in the Port of Vancouver area until 1987. Evergreen Aluminum and Vanalco continued production at the former ALCOA facilities until both were closed and their buildings demolished in 2007 and 2008 (ICF Jones & Stokes 2009). The BNSF Railway spur immediately north of the project area was built to service the ALCOA plant and other industry in the area during World War II. The BNSF Railway spur is not eligible for listing in the NRHP (Reese 2009).

In summary, the project area is located within the Vancouver Lakes Archaeological District and numerous sites are located within 2.4 km (1.5 mi). However, most of these sites are located north of New Lower River Road, closer to Vancouver Lake than the project. Several surveys and studies conducted south of New Lower River Road in the Port of Vancouver/ALCOA area and the three surveys conducted in the project area note thick dredge fill deposits and no artifacts or cultural features observed. It is unlikely the proposed substation and road will encounter an archaeological site.

SURFACE INSPECTION

Date of inspection: March 5, 2012

Time of Day: Afternoon

Weather conditions at time of inspection: Overcast

Describe soil visibility:

over 50% visible

less than 50% visible

Description of proposed project's locational characteristics: The project area is within the Columbia River floodplain at an elevation of 20 ft (6 m) above mean sea level, although the surface is irregular and portions are lower in elevation than surrounding areas by as much as 33 m (10 ft). The project area is a 75x100 m (246x328 ft) rectangular shaped area in the northeast corner of the Jail Work Center parcel. A proposed access road, 7.6-m (25-ft) wide, will extend 120 m (394 ft) west and 75 m (246 ft) south of the rectangular shaped area.

Topography within the project area was irregular, artificial, and included evidence of mechanical disturbance and episodes of dredge fill deposition. The project area is covered with woody debris, hummocky areas, leaf litter, several push piles of dredge fill, and modern materials including fired brick, presumably from the former nearby ALCOA plant, wood planks, concrete, and road gravels.

The Columbia River is located 0.4 km (0.25 mi) south of the project area, Vancouver Lake is located 2 km (1.2 mi) north of the project area, and the closest wetlands are located 1.2 km (0.75 mi) northeast of the project area.

Describe surface investigation procedures: A site visit, which consisted of a pedestrian survey, was conducted on March 5, 2012, by AINW archaeologists Jo Reese, M.A., R.P.A., and Kristen A. Fuld, B.A. The project area was surveyed by walking west/east, north/south, and meandering transects spaced no more than 10 m (33 ft) apart. Ground surface visibility ranged from 0% to approximately 50%. All exposed soils were inspected, including rodent mounds and push piles.

Vegetation within the majority of the project area included cottonwood, young trees, cedar, one small patch of snowberry, and various grasses and forbs. The entire project area is bordered with recently planted pine trees that appear to have been placed to form a border for the Jail Work Center to the south. Even with the vegetation and leaf litter, the area was very open.

In the central area of the project, a wooden shed used for potting soil, two small greenhouses, several compost bins, and at least two planted garden beds had been constructed at the base of some of the trees. Bricks and rocks found on site had been used to create small garden plots.

In 1997, LAAS archaeologists observed marshy areas and a pond in the western portion of the project area (Moore et al. 1997). These water features were not present during this AINW site visit.

AINW archaeologists observed gray brown, coarse-grained, poorly sorted sandy loam with approximately 25% subrounded pebbles. These soils clearly appear to be dredge fill and cover the entire project area in leveled, graded areas as well as several push piles. Some dredge fill deposits were on top of wood planks and concrete, showing continued modifications of the area.

SURFACE INSPECTION, continued

McGee (1972) mapped areas immediately adjacent to project area as fill land (Fn). Soils observed during the March 5, 2012, site visit are consistent with fill land. Soils in the project area are classified by McGee (1972) as Pilchuck fine sand (PhB). Pilchuck soils are characterized by very dark gray fine-grained sands.

Describe any artifacts found: No historic or prehistoric artifacts or features were observed.

SUBSURFACE INSPECTION

Describe and quantify amount of subsurface probing and manual surface exposing activities that were carried out, if any: The site visit conducted by AINW archaeologists was limited to a pedestrian survey. LAAS excavated eight shovel scrapes and eighteen shovel tests to a depth of 120 cm (46 in) below the surface in and near the current project. That study noted dredge fill deposits throughout the project area. No archaeological resources were identified during the subsurface testing (Moore et al. 1997).

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

State findings and conclusions: No prehistoric or historic artifacts, archaeological features, or other evidence of an archaeological site were observed during the site visit and pedestrian survey. The project area has been previously surveyed three times (Forgeng and Reese 1993; ICF Jones & Stokes 2009; Moore et al. 1997). All three cultural resource surveys concluded the project area was disturbed by dredge fill deposits to a significant depth and no cultural materials were present. Results of the March 5, 2012, AINW site visit agree with these findings. AINW recommends no further archaeological work is required.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation:

- An archaeological resource survey is necessary.
- An archaeological resource survey is not necessary.
- Monitor during construction.


CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

I certify that I am a:

- qualified archaeologist, as defined by RCW 27.53.030(9). (Kristen A. Fuld, B.A.)
- professional archaeologist, as defined by RCW 27.53.030(8) and WAC 25-48 020(4). (Jo Reese, M.A., R.P.A.)

Signature of Archaeologist:

Date: March 30, 2012



Name: Kristen A. Fuld, B.A.

Name: Jo Reese, M.A., R.P.A.

Firm: Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.

Address: 2632 S.E. 162nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97236

Phone: 696-7473 (Vancouver)

Fax: (503) 761-6620

E-mail: kristen@ainw.com

jo@ainw.com

REFERENCES

Adams, Ron L., and John L. Fagan

2008 *Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Portside Lagoon and Landfill, Vancouver, Washington*. Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. Report No. 2218. Prepared for JD White, Vancouver, Washington.

Baker, R. Todd, Jason M. Allen, and Jo Reese

2006 *Cultural Resource Survey for the Port of Vancouver's Proposed Parcel 8 Development Project, Vancouver, Washington*. Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. Report No. 1728. Prepared for Berger/ABAM Engineers, Inc., Portland, Oregon, and Port of Vancouver, Vancouver, Washington.

Buchanan, Kelsey W., and Jo Reese

2008 *Cultural Resource Survey of the Port of Vancouver's Wetland Bank, Parcel 6, Vancouver, Washington*. Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. Report No. 2108. Prepared for Clark County Mitigation Partners, Woodinville, Washington, and Port of Vancouver, Vancouver, Washington.

Burd, Robert S.

1982 Determination of Eligibility for Vancouver Lakes Archaeological District. On file, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, Washington.

Fagan, John L., and Maureen N. Zehendner

2009 *The Port of Vancouver's Proposed Alcoa/Evergreen Development Project, Clark County, Washington, Archaeological Study*. Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. Report No. 2257. Prepared for HDJ Design Group PLLC, Vancouver, Washington, and Port of Vancouver, Vancouver, Washington.

Forgeng, Eric, and Jo Reese

1993 *Cultural Resources Investigation of the Port of Vancouver's Parcel One Project on the Columbia River*. Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. Report No. 39, Portland. Report to the Port of Vancouver, Vancouver, Washington.

General Land Office (GLO)

1854 *Plat of Township No. 2 North, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian*. Microfiche on file, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, Portland.

1860 *Plat of Township No. 2 North, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian*. Microfiche on file, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, Portland.

1863 *Plat of Township No. 2 North, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian*. Microfiche on file, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, Portland.

ICF Jones & Stokes

2009 *Cultural Resources Study, West Vancouver Freight Access Project, Schedules 2 through 4, Port of Vancouver, Clark County, Washington*. ICF Jones & Stokes, Portland, Oregon. Prepared for Port of Vancouver, Washington.

Moore, Robin, Leonard A. Forsman, Dennis E. Lewarch, and Lynn L. Larson

1997 *Cultural Resource Assessment Proposed Jail Work Center Clark County, Washington*. Larson Anthropological/Archaeological Services Technical Report #97-8, Seattle. Submitted to Berger/Abam Engineers, Inc., Federal Way, Washington.

McGee, Dale A.

1972 *Soil Survey of Clark County, Washington*. United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Washington Agricultural Experiment Station. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Reese, Jo

2009 *Memo regarding Port of Vancouver's Terminal 4 Improvements Project Archaeological Survey*. Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. Report No. 2402. Submitted to HDJ Design Group, PLLC, BergerABAM, and Port of Vancouver.

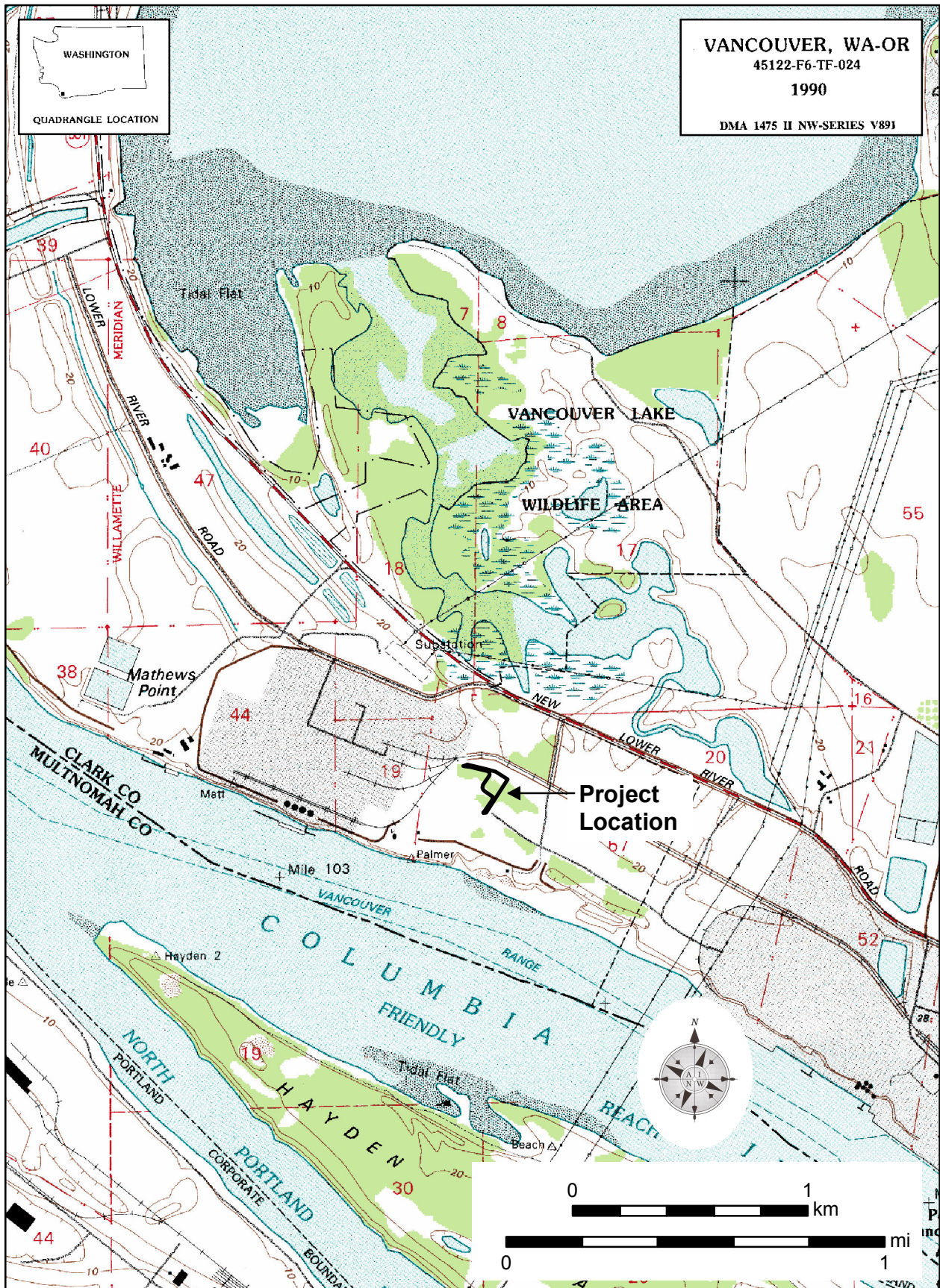


Figure 1. Clark Public Utilities proposed substation project location. This map does not accurately reflect the existing developments.



Figure 2. Clark Public Utilities proposed substation location at the Clark County Jail Work Center, Port of Vancouver.

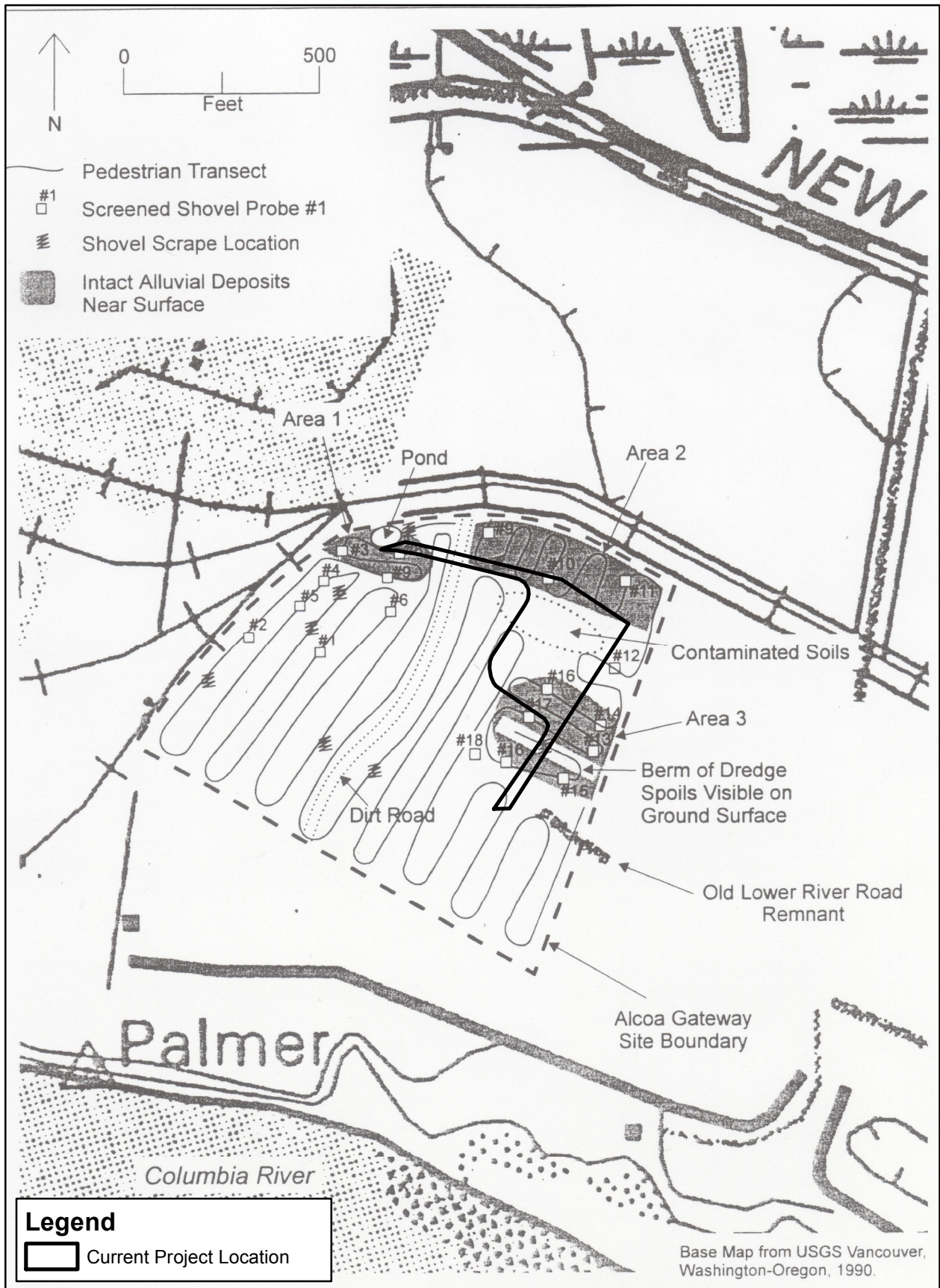


Figure 3. Location of pedestrian transects, shovel probes, and areas of intact alluvial deposits within the project area studied for the then-proposed Clark County Jail Work Center, in 1997 (Figure 6 from Moore et al. 1997). The current project area has been overlaid onto the 1997 map.



Photo 1. Overview of the eastern portion of the project area. The view is towards the southeast. The soil potting shed is in the central part of view.



Photo 2. Berm with trees growing on it and cut/scraped land at left, in central part of the project area. The view is towards the east.



Photo 3. Current use of the project area as gardening facility. The view is towards the south.



Photo 4. Overview of the project area, looking north from southernmost part of project area. Gateway Avenue is at right.