

A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
FOR THE PROPOSED BALDWIN GAS  
TRANSMISSION LINE REPLACEMENT,  
TIPPAH AND PRENTISS COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI

PREPARED BY  
TERRAXPLORATIONS, INC.

PREPARED FOR  
CITY OF BALDWIN





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TERRAX REPORT NO. 2018.006

MARCH 6, 2018





# A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED BALDWIN GAS TRANSMISSION LINE REPLACEMENT, TIPPAH AND PRENTISS COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI

## INTRODUCTION

TerraXplorations, Inc. (TerraX) of Mobile, Alabama was contracted by the City of Baldwin, Mississippi to conduct a cultural resources survey for the proposed Baldwin gas transmission line replacement in Tippah and Prentiss counties, Mississippi. The purpose of this study was to determine if any prehistoric or historic properties exist within the limits of the survey tract, and if so, to document and assess each based on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria. The federal agency for this project is the Economic Development Administration.

The Phase I survey was performed on January 15, 17-19, 2018 by Matthew Sumrall, Chris Rivers, Wade Tidwell, and Alexander Ballesteros under the direction of Kelsey Johnson and Paul D. Jackson, Principal Investigators. The project area consists of an approximate 12.31 mile (19.82 km) long linear route with a 50 ft (15 m) right-of-way (ROW). The total area contains approximately 74.72 acres (30.2 hectares). An existing gas line is already in place in this location, but is being replaced. The replacement route begins in the east just north of Frankstown and west of Highway 45 in Prentiss County. It then follows the existing gas line route to the northwest, crossing runways at the Booneville-Baldwin Airport and into Tippah County. It ends north of Dumas at a substation. Along the route, the pipeline crosses Dry Creek, Hatchie River, and Clear Creek. The setting is rural.

The subject property is found in Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 4 East and Sections 7, 16, 17, 21, and 22, T5S, R5E on the 1982 Dumas, MS-FL 7.5' series topographic map; Sections 23 and 24, T5S, R5E on the 1972 Jumpertown, Mississippi 7.5' series topographic map; and Section 25, T5S, R5E and Sections 3, 29, 30, 32, 33, and 34, T5S, R6E, and Section 2, T6S, R6E on the 1973 Baldwin, Mississippi 7.5' series topographic map (Figure 1). An aerial image and photographs depicting the present state of the land within the project area are provided (Figures 2-10).

## PROJECT AREA ENVIRONMENT

The survey tract is located within the Southeastern Plains ecoregion, which consists of cropland, pasture, woodland, and forest land cover (Omernik and Griffith 2012). In northern Mississippi, the area historically consisted of oak-pine and some western mixed mesophytic forests. Within the Southeastern Plains ecoregion, the project area is included in two sub-regions. The eastern portion of the route is within the Blackland Prairie, which varies from flat to undulating. It is underlain by Cretaceous-age chalk, marl, and calcareous clays of the Selma Group. Historical tree species include sweetgum, post oak, blackjack oak, and red cedar, along with patches of bluestem prairie. Presently, this area contains mainly cultivated land and pasture with some mixed hardwoods, red cedar, and pines. The central and western part of the survey route is within the Northern Hilly Gulf Coastal Plain. This contains Eocene and Paleocene-age sand, clay, and lignite, as well as Cretaceous-age fine sands and clays. The western portion of Prentiss County is drained by Dry Creek, which flows into the Hatchie River in Tippah County.



2 - Baldwin Gas Transmission Line Replacement

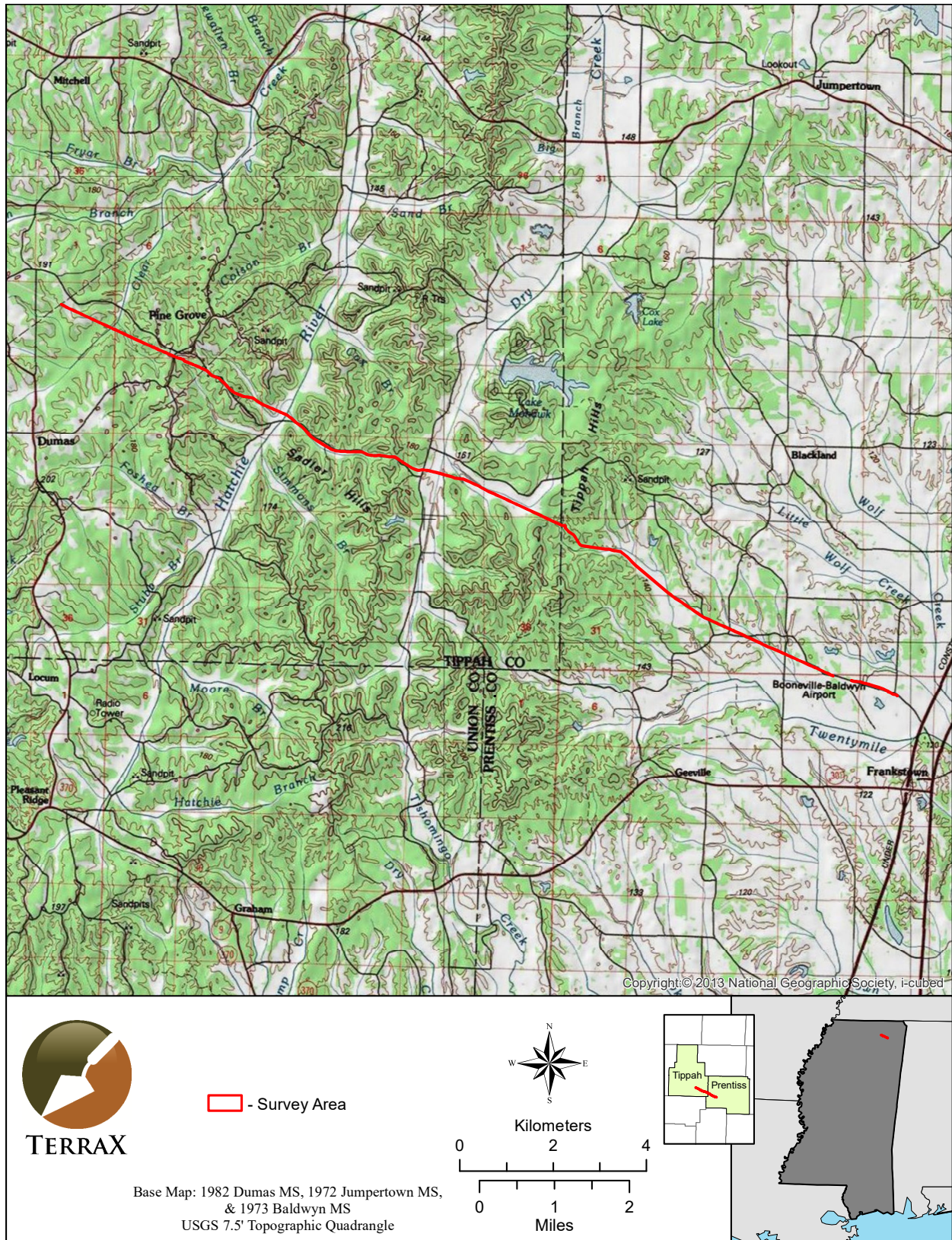


Figure 1. Map showing the project area.



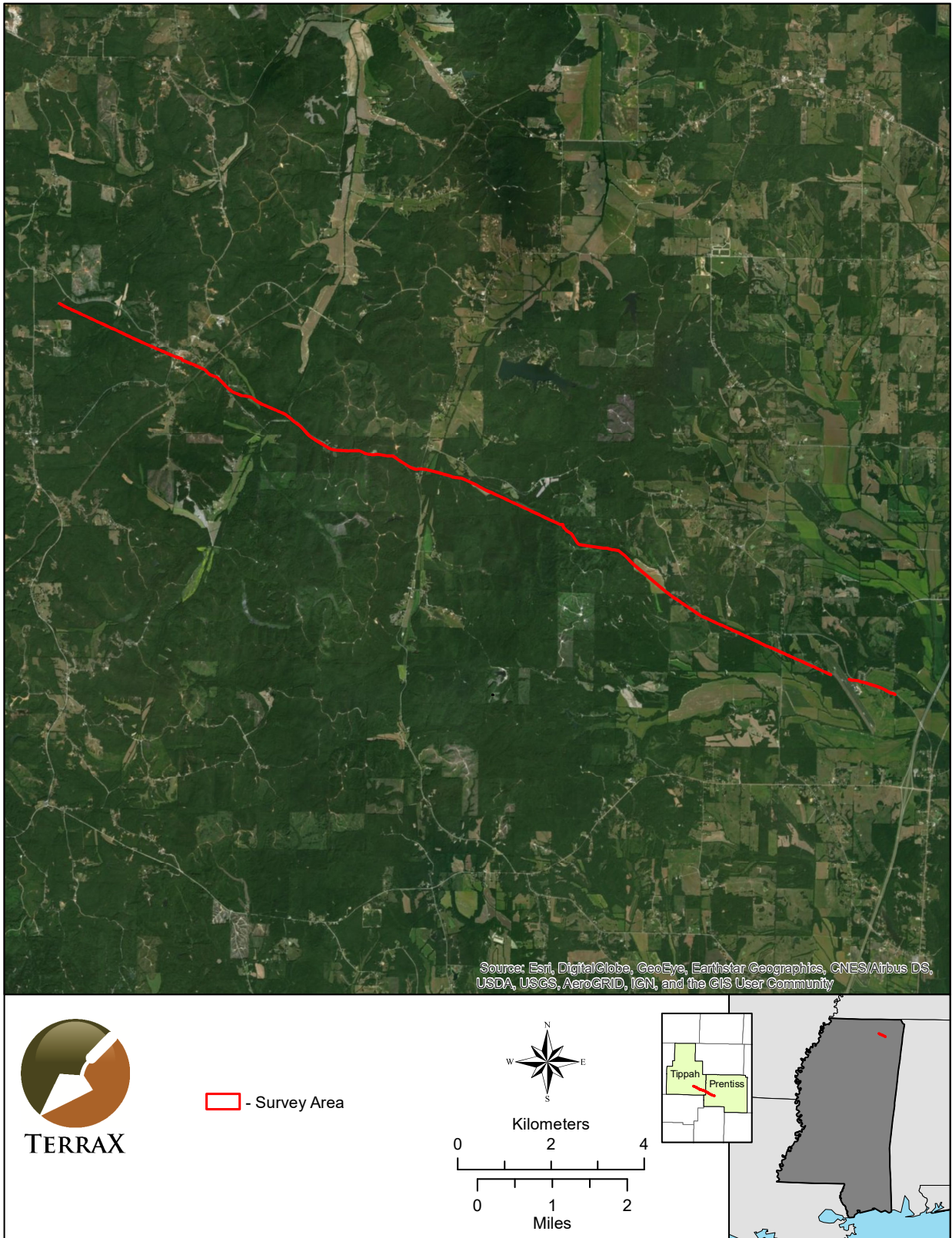


Figure 2. Aerial image showing the project area.



4 - Baldwin Gas Transmission Line Replacement



*Figure 3. Western end of project route at compressor station, view southeast.*



*Figure 4. View from end of Transect 1 in western portion of project route, view southeast.*





*Figure 5. View of creek crossing on Transect 3, view northwest.*



*Figure 6. View of route crossing County Road 626, view northwest.*





*Figure 7. View of slope on Transect 5, view east.*



*Figure 8. View of field on Transect 7, view west-northwest.*





*Figure 9. View of houses along route near eastern end, view east.*



*Figure 10. Eastern end of project route at compressor station, view south.*

Soils in the survey area are many and varied due to the distance traversed within the gas line replacement corridor. Since two counties are involved, soil type names can be different even if it is referring to the same soil type. The soils are listed in two tables, one for each county (Bright et al. 1966; Robards et al. 1997).

<b>Table 1. Prentiss County Soils in survey area.</b>				
<b>Map Unit Symbol</b>	<b>Map Unit Name</b>	<b>Soil Description</b>	<b>Acres in Survey Area</b>	<b>Percent of Survey Area</b>
lu	luka fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	nearly level, moderately well drained, on floodplains	1.5	2.0%
KrC3	Kipling silty clay loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes, severely eroded	moderately sloping, somewhat poorly drained, on hillsides above drainageways	2.1	2.9%
KrD3	Kipling silty clay loam, 8 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	strongly sloping, somewhat poorly drained, on hillsides above drainageways	0.9	1.2%
KrF3	Kipling silty clay loam, 12 to 40 percent slopes, severely eroded	moderately steep to steep, somewhat poorly drained, on hillsides above drainageways	1.3	1.8%
Le	Leeper silty clay, occasionally flooded	nearly level, somewhat poorly drained, on broad floodplains	1.7	2.3%
LV	Luverne and Smithdale sandy loams, 5 to 45 percent slopes	moderately sloping to steep, well drained, on rugged, hilly uplands	0.7	0.9%
Mr	Marietta fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	nearly level, moderately well drained, on floodplains	7.3	9.8%
PdB2	Providence silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes, moderately eroded, north	gently sloping, moderately well drained, on ridgetops in uplands and on terraces	2.3	3.1%
SaA	Savannah fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	nearly level, moderately well drained, in uplands and on terraces	6.5	8.7%
SaB2	Savannah fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	gently sloping, moderately well drained, in uplands and on terraces	1.9	2.5%
SNR	Smithdale, Luverne, and Ruston fine sandy loams, 2 to 45 percent slopes	gently sloping to steep, well drained, in rugged, hilly uplands	1.9	2.5%
SuF3	Sumter silty clay, 12 to 40 percent slopes, severely eroded	moderately steep and steep, well drained, on hillsides	1.6	2.2%
<b>Subtotals for Prentiss County</b>			<b>29.8</b>	<b>39.8%</b>
<b>Totals for Survey Area</b>			<b>74.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## LITERATURE AND DOCUMENT SEARCH

Before conducting the fieldwork, TerraX performed a literature and document search in order to gather pertinent background information regarding the subject property and its surroundings. This search included an online query of the Mississippi State Archaeological Site File (MSASF) (Mississippi Department of Archives and History [MDAH] 2018) performed on January 16, 2018. A one-mile (1.6 kilometers [km]) radius search was conducted around the proposed project area for previously recorded archaeological sites and previous cultural resource surveys. The search area was also inspected for historic structures recorded within MDAH historic property files and in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (National Park Service 2018).

A search of the MSASF identified six previously recorded archaeological sites within a mile of the project area (Figures 11 and 12). Site 22PS0119 was recorded in 2014 by Steve Rabbysmith. This is a stretch of Highway 145 (Old U.S. 45) and three bridges dating to the early twentieth century. The three bridges are also known as Resource 117-BNV-5016, Resource 117-BNV-5017, and Resource 117-BNV-5018 and were all constructed in 1938. The site was recommended as not eligible for the NRHP.



Table 2. Tippah County Soils in survey area.				
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Soil Description	Acres in Survey Area	Percent of Survey Area
AtC3	Atwood silt loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes, severely eroded	well drained, on long, narrow to broad ridgetops and on upper side slopes	1.8	2.5%
AtD3	Atwood silt loam, 8 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	well drained on upper side slopes	1.3	1.7%
Gn	Gullied land, sandy	soils severely damaged by erosion	6.0	8.0%
Ik	luka soils	moderately well drained, on bottom lands	0.2	0.3%
Ma	Mantachie soils	somewhat poorly drained, on bottom lands	8.3	11.1%
Mc	Mantachie soils, local alluvium	somewhat poorly drained, on bottom lands	1.7	2.3%
OrB3	Ora loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes, severely eroded	well drained or moderately well drained, on ridgetops	0.4	0.5%
OrC3	Ora loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes, severely eroded	well drained or moderately well drained, on ridgetops and upper side slopes	1.2	1.6%
OrD3	Ora loam, 8 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	well drained or moderately well drained, on ridgetops and upper side slopes	1.5	2.0%
RnE2	Ruston soils, 12 to 17 percent slopes, eroded	well drained, on narrow ridgetops and side slopes	0.7	1.0%
RnF	Ruston soils, 17 to 45 percent slopes	well drained, on uplands	7.6	10.2%
RuE2	Ruston-Cuthbert-Shubuta association, moderately steep, eroded	well drained to moderately well drained, on narrow ridges and side slopes	0.9	1.2%
RuF	Ruston-Cuthbert-Shubuta- Association, steep	well drained to moderately well drained, on narrow ridges and side slopes	6.7	9.0%
Wb	Waverly and Bibb soils	poorly drained, on bottom lands	6.6	8.9%
<b>Subtotals for Tippah County</b>			<b>45.0</b>	<b>60.2%</b>
<b>Totals for Survey Area</b>			<b>74.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Sites 22PS501 and 22PS502 were recorded in 1970 by Sam McGahey and at that time were recommended as eligible for the NRHP. Site 22PS501 is a Middle to Late Woodland burial mound. Site 22PS502 was said to be a Woodland possible small burial mound, as sherds, flakes, and a human molar cap were found. The site was later tested by MDOT with four 1-x-1 m test units. No artifacts were found and the site evaluation was changed to ineligible (Hyatt 1988).

There is little information in the state site files concerning Site 22PS570. The site was said to possess Early, Middle, and Late Archaic, as well as Woodland components. No date, recorder, or site evaluation are listed on the form.

Sites 22PS578 and 22PS587 were recorded by MDOT archaeologists in 1990. Both are Late Woodland lithic scatters and both were recommended as ineligible for the NRHP.

Additionally, background research revealed six previously conducted cultural resource surveys within a mile of the study area (see Figures 11 and 12).

**Survey 83-169.** *Cultural Resources Survey of the Areas Surrounding a Bridge on the Twenty Mile Creek.* C. Moorehead conducted this survey of unknown acreage in 1983, but there is no report available on the Mississippi website.

**Survey 88-006.** *Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Relocation of U.S. Highway 45 between Baldwin and Frankstown, Prentiss County, Mississippi.* MDOT conducted this 200-acre survey in 1988. Four historic residences were recorded, but all were deemed ineligible for the NRHP (Hyatt 1988a). In addition, Site

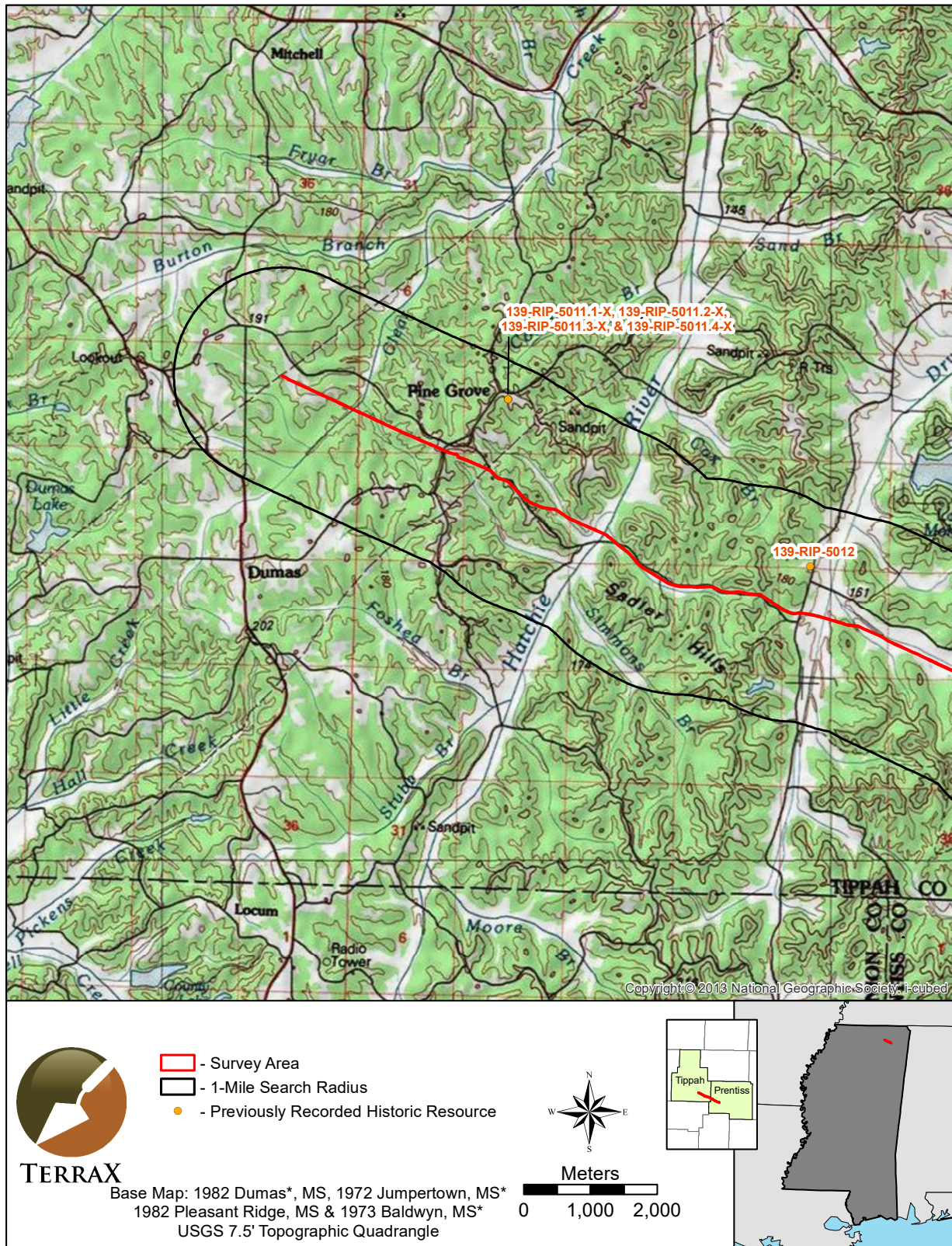


Figure 11. Map of western end of project route showing previously recorded historic resources.





Figure 12. Map of eastern end of project route showing previous surveys and previously recorded sites and historic resources.

22PS502 was tested with four 1-m square units. As mentioned above, no artifacts were found and the site was deemed ineligible.

**Survey 88-190.** *Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Realignment of U.S. Highway 45 from Mississippi Highway 30 to the Prentiss-Alcorn County Line, Prentiss County, Mississippi.* MDOT conducted this 560-acre survey in 1988. Four archaeological sites (22PS578-581) and numerous historic structures were recorded, but all were deemed ineligible for the NRHP (Hyatt 1988b).

**Survey 90-225.** *Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed Borrow Pit near Frankstown, Prentiss County, Mississippi.* Jay K. Johnson conducted this two-acre survey in 1990. One site was found, but it does not appear as if it was recorded. Johnson found nine sherds (Baldwin Plain and Mississippi Plain) along with a preform and several flakes. He believed the site to represent Late Archaic and Mississippian components and deemed it not eligible (Johnson 1990).

**Survey 93-101.** *Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed Extension of the Booneville-Baldwyn Airport, Prentiss County, Mississippi.* Jay K. Johnson conducted this nine-acre survey in 1993 on the south side of Highway 7450. No significant cultural resources were encountered (Johnson 1993).

**Survey 04-136.** *Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Booneville Airport Expansion and County Road Relocation, Prentiss County, Mississippi.* Cultural Resource Services, Inc. conducted this 15-acre survey in 2004 on the north side of Highway 7450. While no archaeological sites were encountered, it was noted that a cemetery organized in 1963 would need to be relocated (Smith and Smith 2004).

One extant historic resource (139-RIP-5012) is located within one mile of the project area (see Figure 1). Dry Creek School was built in 1940 as a “white” school. No other information is available. The Pine Grove School (139-RIP-5011.1-X), also a “white” school, was built in 1928 and is no longer extant. Other buildings associated with the school are also no longer standing. Resource 139-RIP-5011.2-X was the Vocational Shop, built in 1940; Resource 139-RIP-5011.3-X was the 1951 Gymnasium; and Resource 139-RIP-5011.4-X was the Superintendent’s Home, built in 1930. There are no National Register listed properties within a mile of the project route.

## COUNTY HISTORY

The original treaty between the Chickasaw and the U.S. was signed in 1830 in Franklin, Tennessee and included President Andrew Jackson among the signatories. The treaty stated that the Chickasaw would exchange all their lands east of the Mississippi River for an equal amount of land in Indian Territory (Oklahoma), but when suitable land was not available, the treaty became null and void. A new treaty was signed on Pontotoc Creek in 1832, even though corresponding land was not yet found in Indian Territory. The 1832 treaty also called for a land office for the sale of lands of the Chickasaw. This was supposed to be in the center of the ceded land, but that area did not have a reliable water supply, so the office was moved to the area that became Pontotoc.

The Mississippi lands were immediately sold with the money held to pay for the removal of the Chickasaw. Although the treaty stated white settlers would not be allowed to move onto lands until the Chickasaw had left, the settlers poured in. It was not until 1837 that the Chickasaws had land in the west. They met with the Choctaws at Doaksville, Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory, and the Choctaws sold them the western part of their new territory (O’Brien 2003).



Following the Chickasaw Cessions, 12 counties were formed, including Tishomingo and Tippah. It was not until 1870 that Prentiss County was formed from part of Tishomingo. The area was settled quickly, with Carrollville founded in 1834 in what would later become Prentiss County. By 1846, there was a post office at the Cross Ridge settlement, which would be incorporated as Booneville in 1862 and become the Prentiss County seat. The county was named in honor of Seargent Smith Prentiss, the gifted statesman, jurist, and orator (Mississippi Genealogy and History Network 2018). Tippah, meaning “cut off,” was named for the wife of Chickasaw leader Pontotoc. Ripley is the county seat.

Carrollville was located on the old Tuscumbia and Pontotoc Road and was an important center of trade until the railroad came through eastern Mississippi (MSGenWeb 2018). The Mobile & Ohio Railroad, chartered in 1848, was planned to extend from Mobile to the Ohio River near Cairo, Illinois. Completed through eastern Mississippi in the 1850s, it bypassed Carrollville. The new town of Baldwyn sprang up along the railroad, named for J.D. Baldwyn of Mobile, the founder of the railroad (Richey 2013).

There were several incidents during the Civil War in northeastern Mississippi. The Battle of Booneville occurred on July 1, 1862. Confederate General Braxton Bragg led an attack on Union forces at Booneville. In the end, the Union troops under Colonel Phil Sheridan were victorious, leading to Sheridan’s promotion to brigadier general (Cox 2011).

The Battle of Brice’s Cross Roads took place in what is now Prentiss, Lee, and Union counties. Confederate Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his cavalry of 2,000 men set out to disrupt Major General William T. Sherman’s supply lines. Forrest’s aim was to destroy the Mobile & Ohio Railroad lines. On June 10, 1864, Forrest defeated Brigadier General Samuel Sturgis and his larger Union Army. The end result was 2,610 Union casualties and 495 Confederate casualties. This battle helped create Forrest’s reputation as a brilliant military leader (civilwar.org 2018).

With the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of the enslaved people came other problems. The infrastructure, railroads, and industries of the South were in tatters, as was a way of life on which the plantation owners had come to depend. The once-wealthy planters saw their fortunes evaporate as most of their personal value was in the humans they kept in bondage. While the former slaves were now free, they now had other problems. Most had no skills other than those required to farm cotton. They had no land, no homes, no education, no money, and no job prospects. The tenant farming system was adopted as a way to help the plight of both former owner and former slave. While conditions were not markedly better in this system, it did allow the former slaves a small measure of dignity and self-worth. Reconstruction tried to make up for the centuries of slavery by giving African Americans voting rights and installing them in positions of power. Southerners pushed back and brought about the age of the Ku Klux Klan and, eventually, Jim Crow. In 1875, Mississippi Republican Governor, Adelbert Ames, resigned in the face of violence from the Ku Klux Klan and their supporters. The federal government abandoned their lofty goal of equality and left the South to its own racist devices.

The American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s was felt particularly strongly in Mississippi. Many whites, from private citizens to police officers to elected officials, advocated and used violent tactics and the threat of violence in an effort to keep the African American population subservient. These tactics included bombings, beatings, unreasonable arrests, and lynchings. It was not uncommon for outspoken people urging African Americans to vote to be murdered in front of witnesses. But, either no one was charged for the crime or the trial was a farce, with both having the same outcome of justice not being served. Prentiss and Tippah counties seem to have escaped any notable atrocities.

Most people in Tippah County today work in manufacturing, retail, or education, with large employers including Ashley Furniture, Big M Trucking, and Dirt Cheap Distribution. The county is home to the manufacture of ATV accessories, cat litter, water filtration systems, wood products, and rubber products. Top employers in Prentiss County include Plumrose USA (deli meats), Northeast Mississippi Community College, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Kimberly-Clark Corporation (paper products), Wal-Mart, and county government.

## FIELD METHODS

This Phase I cultural resources survey was guided by procedural standards established by MDAH. Land coverage requirements were achieved by walking and visually inspecting the entire survey area. Any exposed surfaces were carefully examined for cultural material. Subsurface testing was performed along transects comprised of shovel tests spaced 30 m apart. If cultural material is discovered, delineations are performed at 10-m intervals. Standard shovel tests consist of 30 centimeter (cm) diameter cylindrical holes excavated to the top of the sterile subsoil layer. Soils from each test were screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth for the purpose of recovering any cultural material that may exist at that location. If cultural material is encountered, the material is sorted by provenience and placed into bags labeled with the pertinent excavation information before being transported to TerraX's laboratory.

## LABORATORY METHODS AND COLLECTION CURATION

All cultural materials recovered during field projects are delivered to TerraX's laboratory in Tuscaloosa, Alabama for processing. Here, materials are sorted by provenience, cleaned, and analyzed. Along with the cultural material, all project records, photographs, and maps produced while conducting the investigation will be curated at the Troy University Archaeological Research Center, Troy, Alabama. The curation agreement can be found in Appendix A.

## RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATION

The current investigation required 660 shovel tests attempted along nine transects. Of these tests, 593 were negative and 67 were not excavated due to asphalt, gravel, roads, a lumberyard, slope, and standing water/creeks/wetland. The project route runs through cleared grassy corridors, residential lawns, pastures, scrubby secondary vegetation, and along roadsides while crossing roads and creeks. The Booneville-Baldwyn Airport was avoided and not considered project area. This area has also been previously subjected to cultural resources survey. Maps have been produced detailing the placement of the transects conducted during this survey (Figures 14-23). A typical shovel test in higher elevation portions of the route consisted of 15 cm of strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) sandy loam over red (10R 5/8) clay. Lower elevations revealed 10 to 30 cm of brown (10YR 4/3) or grayish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy loam over gray (10YR 5/1) or yellow (10YR 7/6) clay. Many tests revealed gravel fill and there was modern trash scattered about. Much of the project area had been disturbed from silviculture activities with planted pine and clear-cut areas evident, as well as disturbance from the previous pipeline placement. Road construction and the lumberyard were other noted disturbances. Ground surface visibility was obscured in most areas due to grass, pine needles, and a recent snowfall. No historic properties are present within the pipeline project corridor and no cultural material or archaeological sites were discovered.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TerraX, under contract with the City of Baldwin, Mississippi, performed the Phase I cultural resources survey for the proposed pipeline replacement in Prentiss and Tippah counties, Mississippi. The Phase I survey was performed on January 15 and 17-19 and February 8, 2018. No historic or modern properties or structures are present within the pipeline project corridor. No archaeological sites were found and the Baldwin gas transmission line project should be allowed to proceed with no archaeological concerns.



Figure 14. Aerial 1 showing location of transects and survey area route.



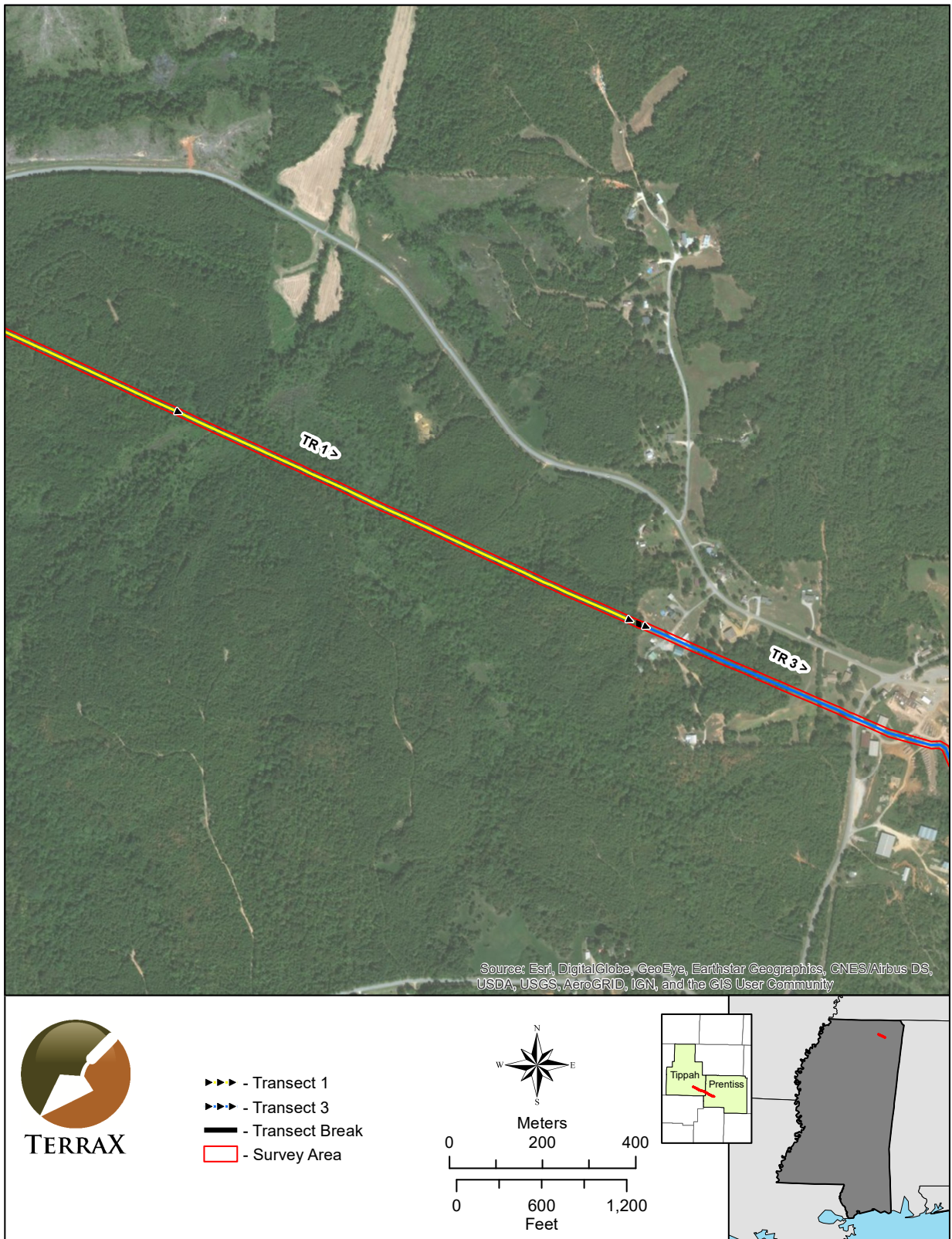


Figure 15. Aerial 2 showing location of transects and survey area route.



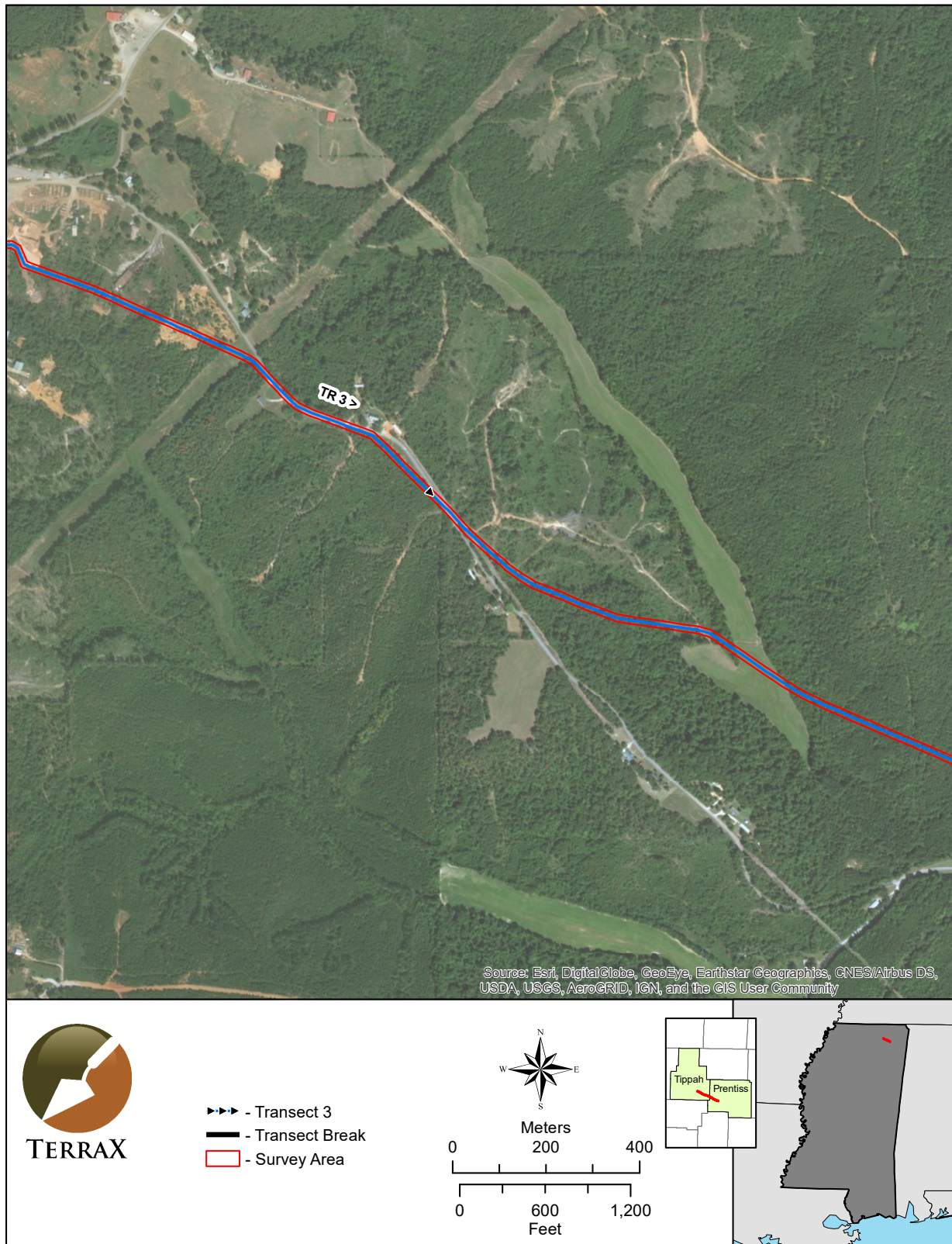


Figure 16. Aerial 3 showing location of transects and survey area route.



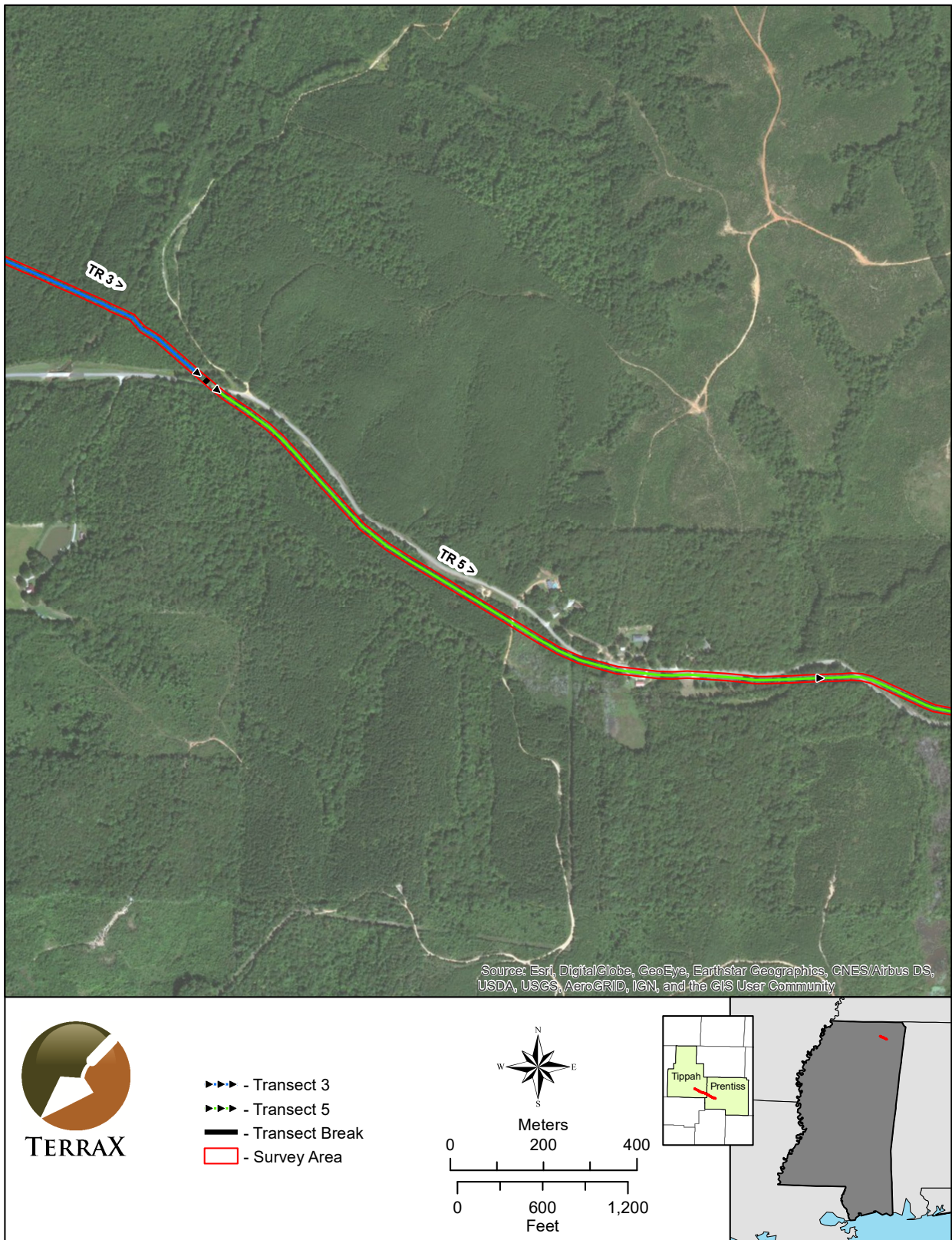


Figure 17. Aerial 4 showing location of transects and survey area route.





Figure 18. Aerial 5 showing location of transects and survey area route.





Figure 19. Aerial 6 showing location of transects and survey area route.



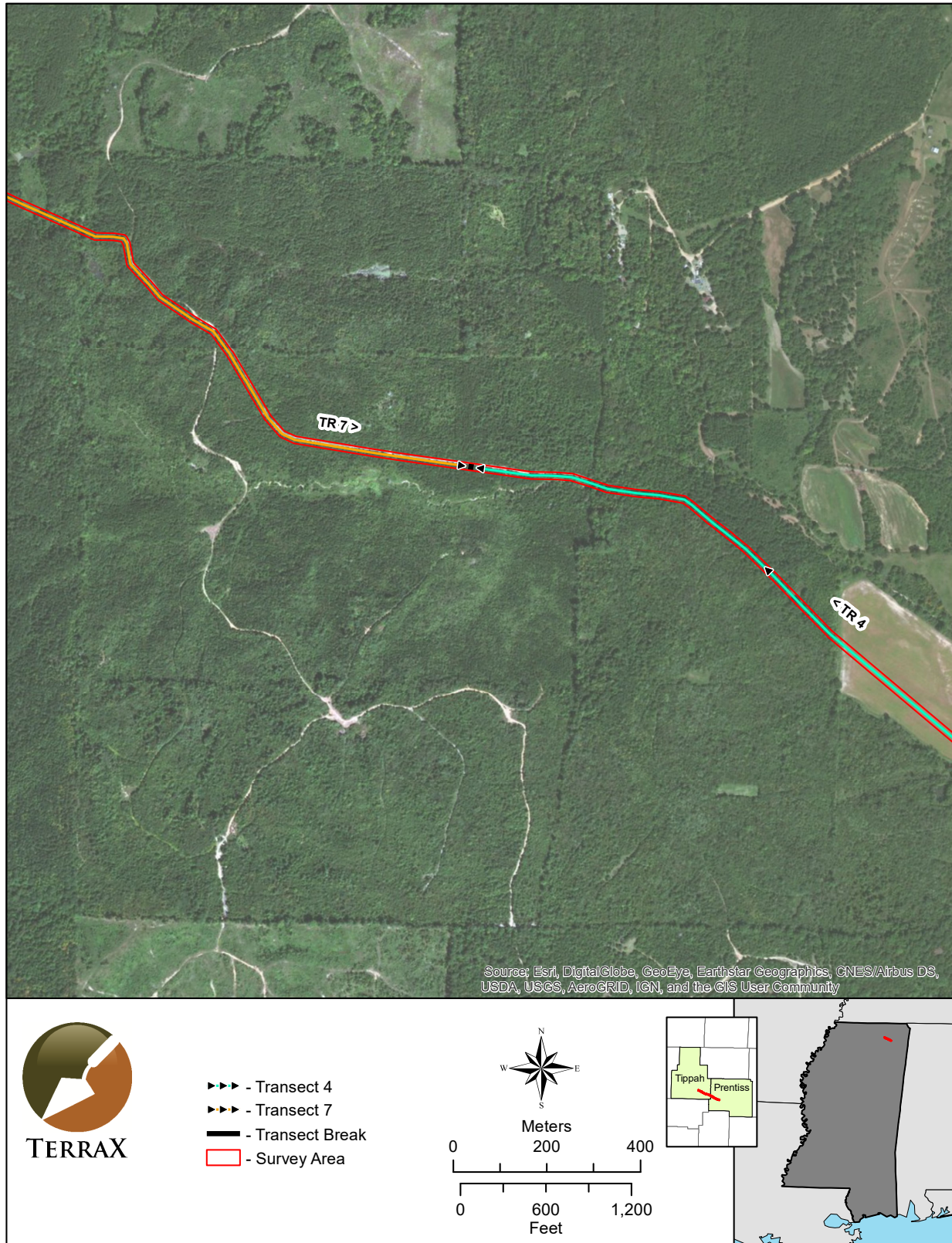


Figure 20. Aerial 7 showing location of transects and survey area route.



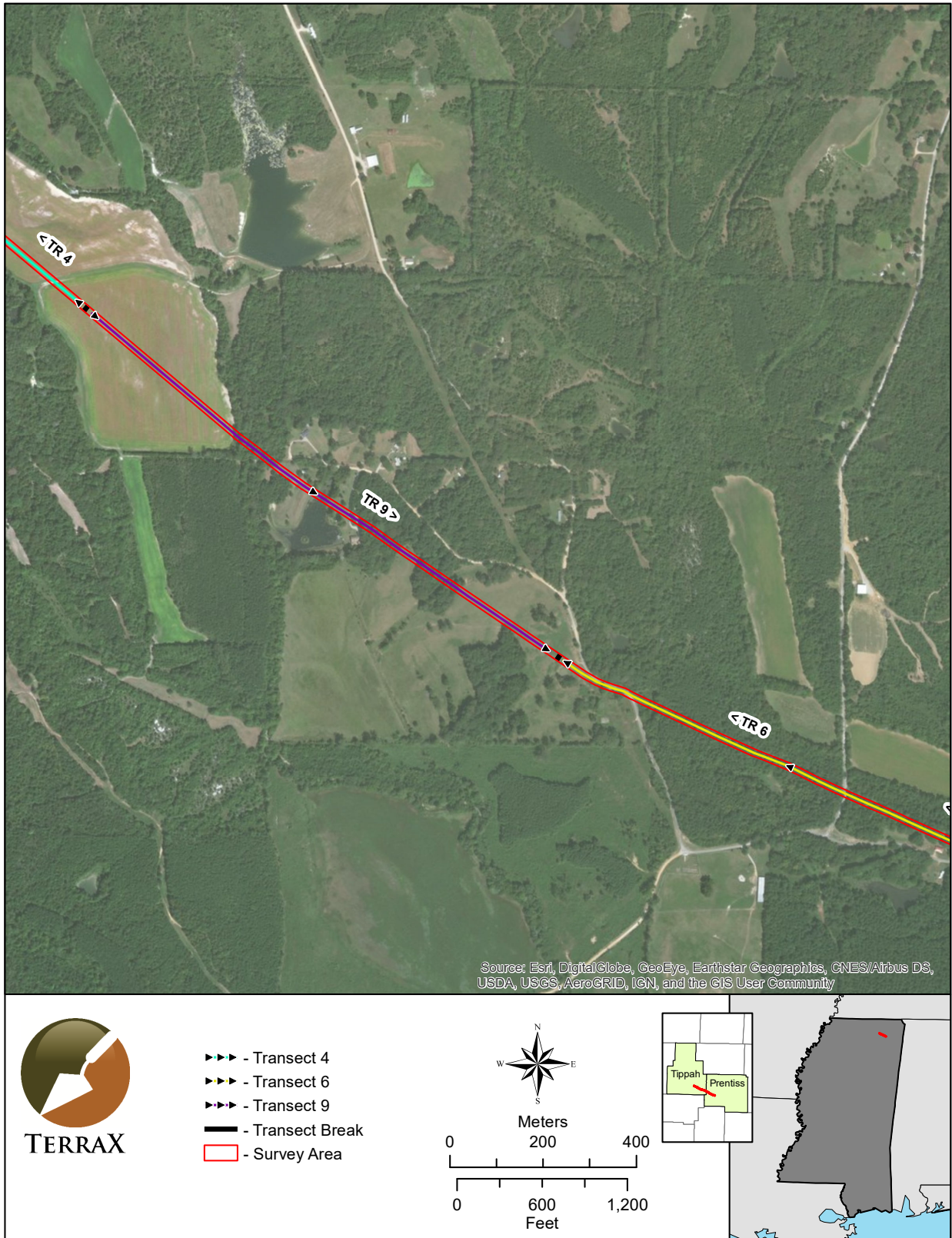


Figure 21. Aerial 8 showing location of transects and survey area route.



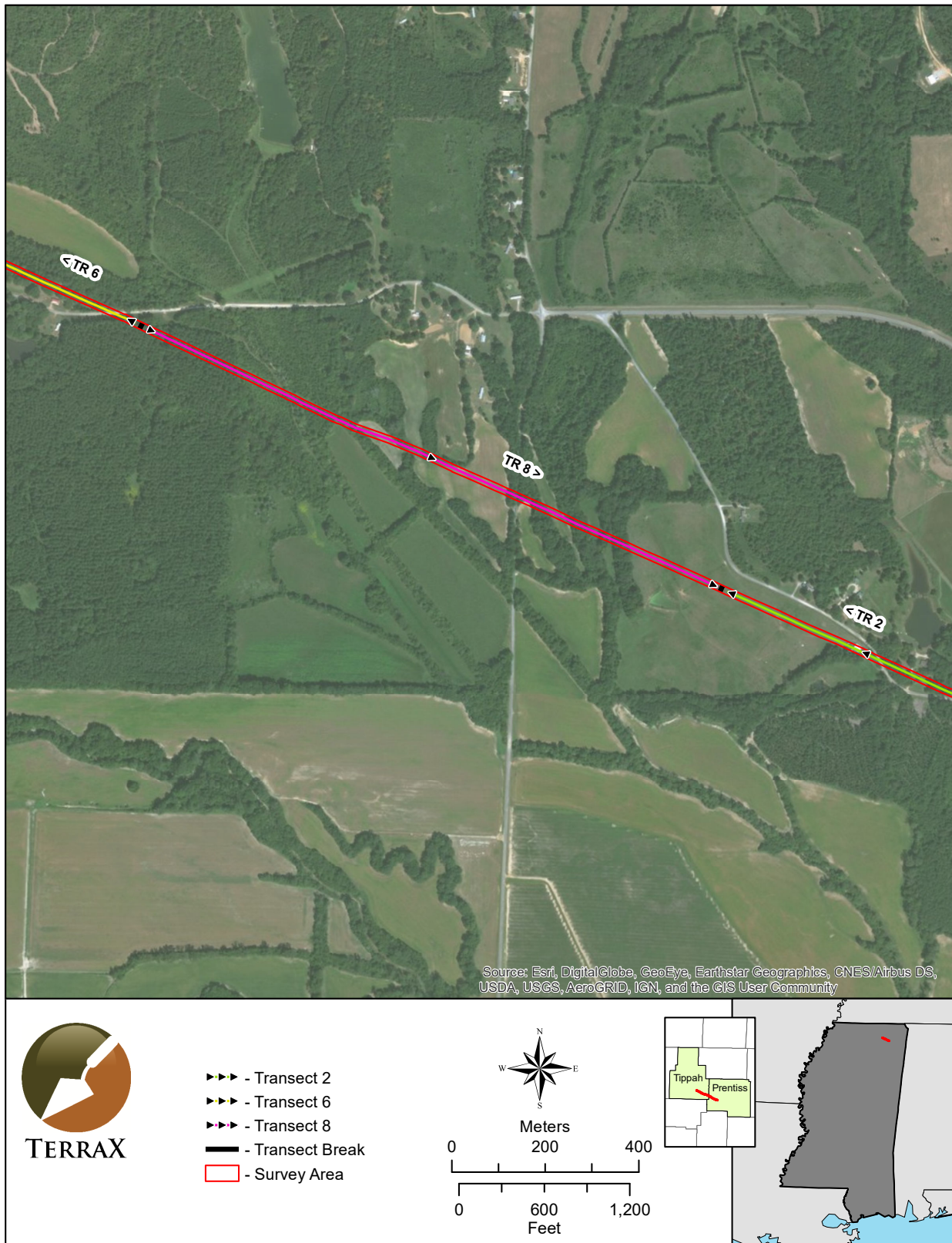


Figure 22. Aerial 9 showing location of transects and survey area route.



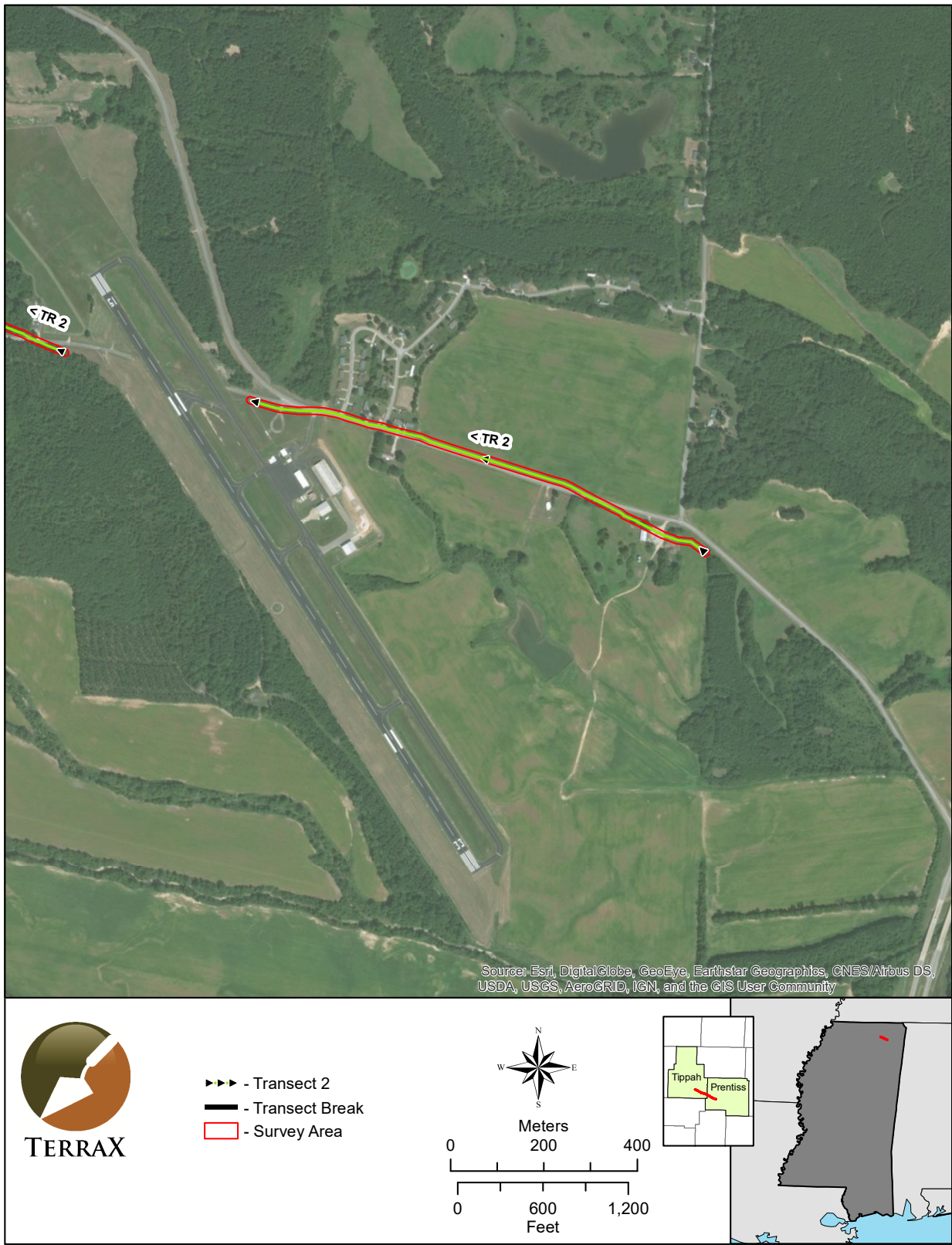


Figure 23. Aerial 10 showing location of transects and survey area route.

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APPENDIX A  
CURATION AGREEMENT





**TROY UNIVERSITY**



**Archaeological  
Research Center**

*Date: September 30, 2017*

*Paul Jackson*

TerraXplorations  
3130 East University Blvd  
Tuscaloosa Al 34504.

*Dear Paul,*

As per your request, this letter is to confirm our standing agreement with you to provide curation services to Terra Explorations on an as-needed basis. 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 multiple federal agencies such as the Army National Guard and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Please be advised that once a year we must be notified of all reports in which we were named as the repository. Project collections must be submitted within one calendar year of completion. Small projects may be complied for periodic submission. The AHC survey policy specifies which materials must be curated (Administrative Code of Alabama, Chapter 460-X-9). Renewal of this agreement is contingent upon compliance.

We appreciate this opportunity to be of assistance and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Mann', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Mann  
Director  
Archeological Research Center  
Troy University