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archeological associates inc

## **PHASE IB ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

### **Bloomingdale Road Reconstruction Project Utility Improvements**

Bloomingdale Road  
Borough of Staten Island  
Richmond County, New York

HAA # 4437-31

**Submitted to:**

HAKS/PB Joint Venture  
40 Wall Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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August 2014

## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

SHPO Project Review Number: n/a

Involved State and Federal Agencies: New York City Department of Design and Construction (NYCDCC), New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) and Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP); permits or approvals may be necessary from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT).

Phase of Survey: Phase IB

## **LOCATION INFORMATION**

Location: Bloomingdale Road between Arthur Kill and Amboy Roads

Minor Civil Division: Staten Island (08501)

County: Richmond

## **SURVEY AREA**

Length: 90 meters (400 ft)

Width: 6 meters (20 ft)

Number of Acres Surveyed: 0.25 acre

7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map: Arthur Kill

## **ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OVERVIEW**

Number and Interval of Shovel Tests: 14 shovel tests placed at 15 meters (50 ft) intervals or less

## **RESULTS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

Number and Name of Precontact Sites Identified: None

Number and Name of Historic Sites Identified: None

Number and Name of Sites Recommended for Phase II or Avoidance: None

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Shovel testing revealed mostly filled and otherwise disturbed soils within the right-of-way of Bloomingdale Road. No further archeological investigation was recommended.

Report Author: Andre Krievis

Date of Report: August 2014

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2. Project Map (HAKS Engineering 2013)

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1. View southwest of the excavation of Test 1 located along the east side of Veterans Road. The area has experienced extensive surface soil disturbance resulting from road construction.
2. View west of the general location of Tests 2–6 excavated along the edge of a wooded area located south of Lorraine Loop and the Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve.
3. View east of the general location of Test 7 excavated along the east side of Bloomingdale Road across from Englewood Avenue.
4. View west of the general location of Test 9 excavated in a wooded area along the west side of Bloomingdale Road north of Hargold Avenue.
5. View east of the general location of Test 12 excavated in a wooded area located along the east side of Bloomingdale Road south of Ramona Avenue.
6. View east of the general location of Test 13 excavated along the edge of a wooded area located along the east side of Bloomingdale Road south of Herrick Avenue.

## **PHASE IB ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD RECONNAISSANCE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Phase IB archeological field reconnaissance was conducted on May 19, 2014. The field crew consisted of John Ham under the direction of Andre Krievs. The Principal Investigator was Matthew Kirk, RPA.

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA**

This Phase IB survey is being conducted for utility improvements proposed as part of the Bloomingdale Road reconstruction project sponsored by the New York City Department of Design and Construction (NYCDDC), New York City Department of Transportation, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Hartgen completed a Phase IA study for the entire project in 2013, which investigated the entire project area for both the construction project and associated utility improvements for archeological sensitivity and potential. It is anticipated that a separate Phase IB survey would be undertaken for the actual road construction.

The current Phase IB study covers only the utility installation elements of the project. The project entails the reconstruction of about 3.1 km (1.9 mi) of Bloomingdale Road from Arthur Kill Road to Amboy Road including the installation of sewer and water mains (Maps 1 and 2). The NYCDDC anticipates that the utility upgrades and installation will be conducted in advance of road reconstruction. This element of the project entails installation of about 1.22 km (4,000 ft) of storm sewer and sanitary sewer lines on Bloomingdale Road and several cross-streets. All of the archeological testing took place on Bloomingdale Road with a very short testable segment on Veterans Road East. Testing locations were limited to areas with minimal obvious disturbance. The APE for this survey is limited to the right-of-way of Bloomingdale Road and Veterans Road East. The ROW of Veterans Road East extends about 9.1 m (30 ft) from the center line. The ROW for Bloomingdale Road extends 12 m (40 ft) from the center. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation advised that although a portion of the APE traverses the edge of Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve, the APE remains within the Bloomingdale Road ROW, and therefore no Section 233 permit would be required from the Office of the State Archaeologist. The APE also passes through Bloomingdale Park, a public park overseen by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and a permit for work in Bloomingdale Park was granted by that office previous to the survey.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) will be reviewing the project under CEQR. Permits or approvals may be necessary from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). As a result, the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) would likely review the project under Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act.

### **WORK SCOPE**

The field investigation work scope examined those sections of the project area directly affected by utility improvements, primarily to the stormwater system. Based on the Phase IA archeological sensitivity assessment, 10 of the utility improvements are located in areas considered sensitive for either precontact or historic cultural resources. Therefore, subsurface testing was recommended for each area.

The regional soil maps indicate the project area is characterized by glacial outwash deposits. It was anticipated that if cultural resources were evident, they would be recovered from the Level 1 topsoil or the upper portions of the Level 2 subsoil.

## Shovel Testing

Shovel tests were excavated at a standard interval of 15 meters (50 ft). Tests were excavated at a reduced interval of 7.5 meters (25 ft) within known archeological sites and within the suspected yard areas of extant structures and MDSs at least 50 years old.

Each shovel test was 40 centimeters (16 in) in diameter. All excavated soil was passed through 0.25-inch hardware mesh and examined for both precontact (Native American) and historic artifacts. The stratigraphy of each test was recorded including the depth, Munsell color, soil description, and artifact content (Munsell Color 2000). The location of each shovel test was plotted on the project map (Map 2). Test excavations were photographed (Photos 1–6).

## Artifacts and Laboratory

All precontact (Native American) cultural material identified during the fieldwork was collected. Significant historic artifacts such as glass, ceramics, food remains, hardware, and miscellaneous items were collected. Coal, ash, cinder, brick, and modern materials were noted. Artifacts collected were placed in paper or plastic bags labeled by provenience and inventoried in a bag list. Bags were numbered in the field and transported to the Hartgen laboratory in the Town of North Greenbush, Rensselaer County, New York, for processing.

At the laboratory, shovel test records and other provenience information were entered into a Microsoft *Access* database (Appendix 1: Shovel Test Records). No artifacts were collected as a result of this Phase IB survey.

## FIELD INVESTIGATION

Ten utility improvement areas were subjected to archeological investigation based on their archeological sensitivity and the nature of the potential effect. Test 1 was excavated along the east side of Veterans Road near Charleston Avenue. The remaining 13 shovel tests (Tests 2–14) were excavated along Bloomingdale Road at the remaining stormwater improvement areas.

Test 1 was excavated along Veterans Road in an area where the utility will cross the street and the Phase IA study noted the potential of limited testing along the road shoulder. The excavation revealed extensive surface soil disturbance resulting from construction of the road and an on-ramp connecting with the West Shore Expressway (Map 2a; Photo 1). The soil stratigraphy consisted of a sandy loam 16 centimeters (6 in) thick underlain by a very compact clay fill (Appendix 1). All of the soils in this area appear to have been deposited during road construction and no precontact or significant historic cultural resources were evident.

Tests 2–6 were excavated along the west side of Bloomingdale Road along the edge of a wooded area located south of Lorraine Loop and along the edge of the Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve (Map 2c; Photo 2). Resources within the Preserve include ecological areas unique on Staten Island, and the archeological remains of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century African-American community, none of which were reported adjacent to the APE. Tests 2, 3, and 6 were excavated parallel to the APE at a 50-ft interval. Test 4 was located at a point where the utility will cross the street. Test 5 was located furthest away from the road where a lateral appears to extend from the proposed utility installation. Three of the five shovel tests exhibited soil stratigraphy consisting of a black to dark gray loamy sand surface soil 13 to 26 centimeters (5 to 10 in) in depth underlain by a gray to pinkish gray subsoil that continued to depths greater than 80 centimeters (31 in) below the surface (Appendix 1). Test 4 contained multiple levels of strong brown, brown, and yellowish red sand above the pinkish gray subsoil indicating evidence for various filling episodes. Test 6 exhibited a reddish brown and brown sand beneath the very dark gray loamy sand surface soil, also indicating evidence of filling. No precontact or significant historic cultural resources were recovered from the five shovel tests.

Tests 7–10 were excavated along the east and west sides of Bloomingdale Road between Englewood Avenue and Bromley Avenue (Map 2e and 2f; Photos 3 and 4). These tests were located at points where the utility will cross the road and where the Phase IA study identified testable areas. Two of the shovel tests (Tests 7 and 8) exhibited a black to brown and reddish brown surface soil ranging from 29 to 38 centimeters (11 to 15 in) in

depth underlain by a yellowish brown subsoil that continued to depths greater than 60 centimeters (24 in) below the surface. Tests 9 and 10, located within Bloomingdale Park, exhibited multiple levels of dark brown, reddish brown and yellowish red silty clayey loam with gravel (Appendix 1). All appear to be the result of multiple filling episodes resulting from road construction. No precontact or significant historic cultural materials were recovered from the four shovel tests.

Tests 11 and 12 were excavated in Bloomingdale Park on either side of Bloomingdale Road south of Ramona Avenue (Map 2e; Photo 5). These tests were at a point where the utility will cross the road and where testing was recommended in the Phase IA study. The soil stratigraphy consisted of a black to dark reddish brown silt and sand 18 to 20 centimeters (7 to 8 in) in depth underlain by a brown to yellowish red subsoil that continued to depths greater than 47 centimeters (19 in) below the surface (Appendix 1). No precontact or significant historic cultural materials were recovered from the two shovel tests.

Test 13 and 14 were excavated along the west side of Bloomingdale Road along the edge of a wooded area located between Pitney Avenue and Herrick Avenue (Map 2f; Photo 6). These tests were located in Bloomingdale Park at crossing points in an area recommended for testing. The soils encountered in the two tests consisted of a black to dark reddish brown topsoil 12 and 15 centimeters (5 to 6 in) thick underlain by a brown to yellowish red subsoil that continued to depths greater than 45 centimeters (18 in) below the surface (Appendix 1). No precontact or significant historic cultural materials were recovered from the two shovel tests.

## **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The testing for the utility lines focused on the most archeologically sensitive sections where the least amount of surface soil disturbance was visible. The locations coincided with areas recommended for testing in the Phase IA study. The remaining utility line corridors lie within the road or in areas that have experienced extensive surface soil disturbances resulting from road construction as well as existing utility line impacts. No precontact or significance historic cultural resources were identified in the 14 shovel tests and no further archeological investigation is recommended from the proposed utility improvements.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Munsell Color

2000 Munsell Soil Color Charts. GretagMacbeth, New Windsor, New York.

New York Archaeological Council (NYAC)

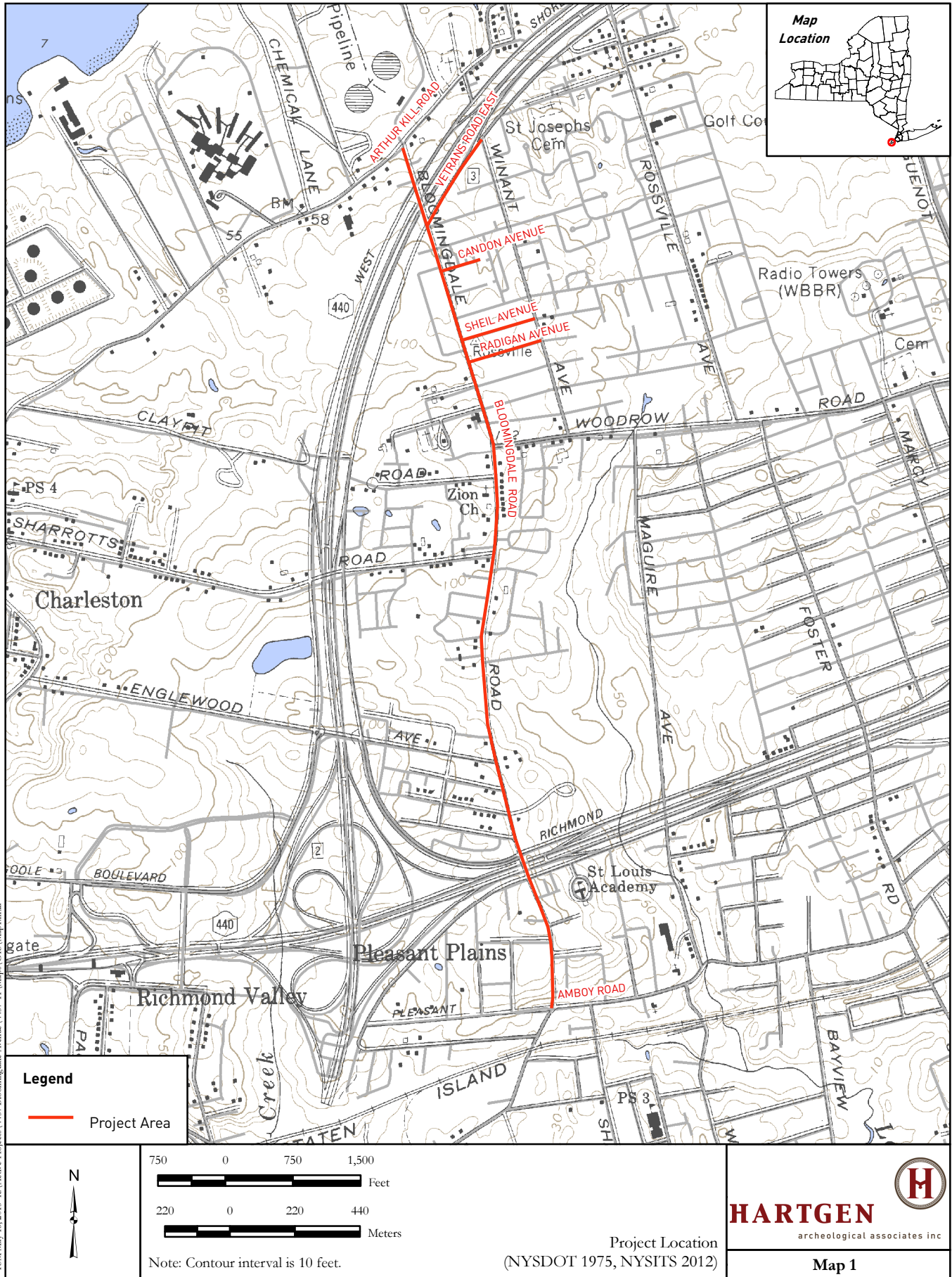
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Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

2005 New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Phase I Archaeological Report Requirements. OPRHP, Waterford, New York.



**MAPS**



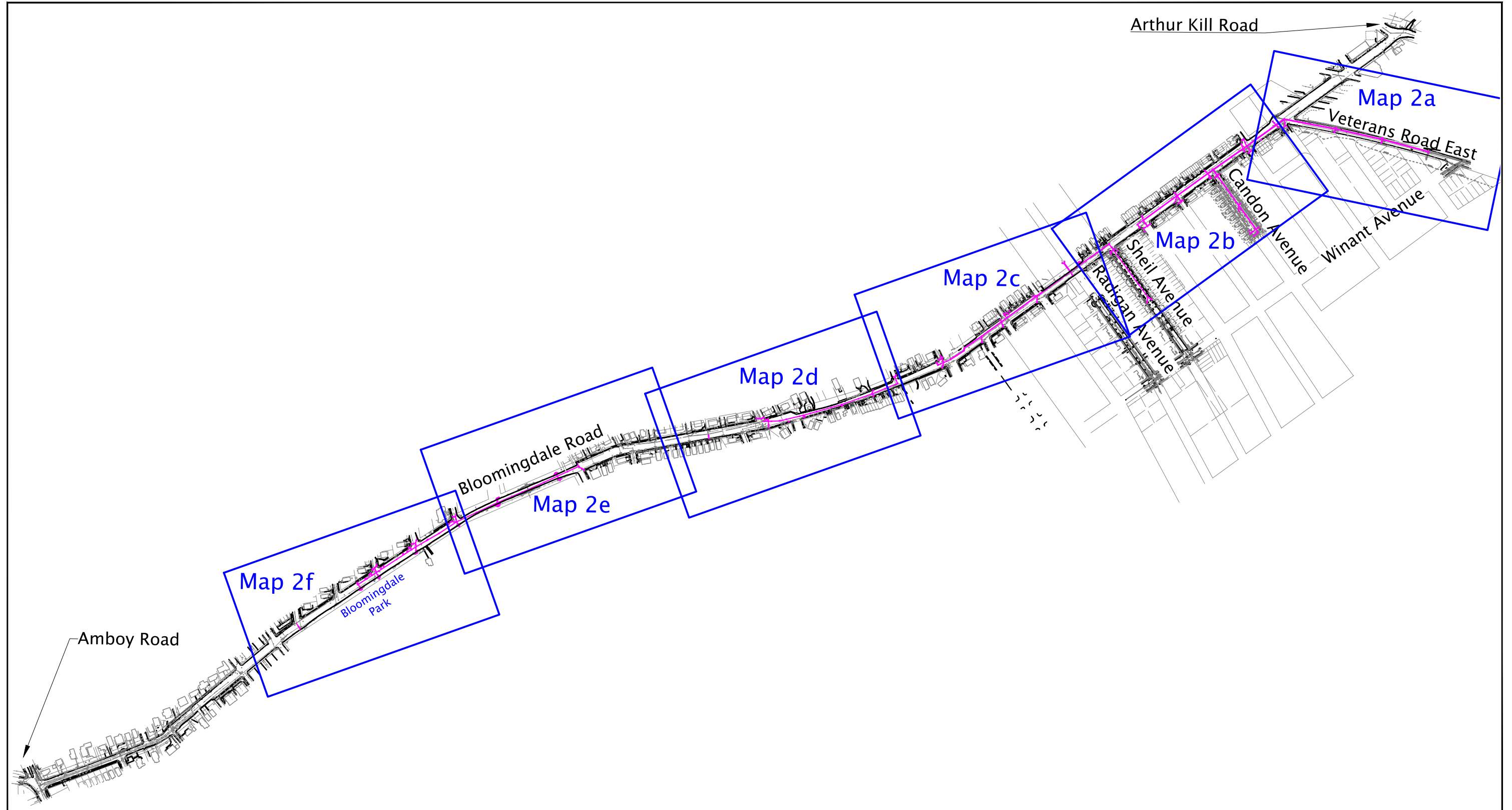
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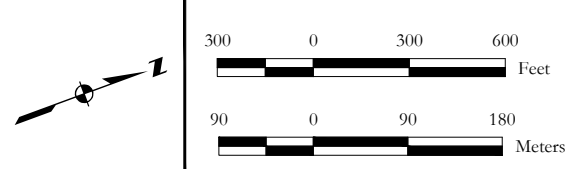


Project Location  
(NYSOT 1975, NYSITS 2012)

**Map 1**



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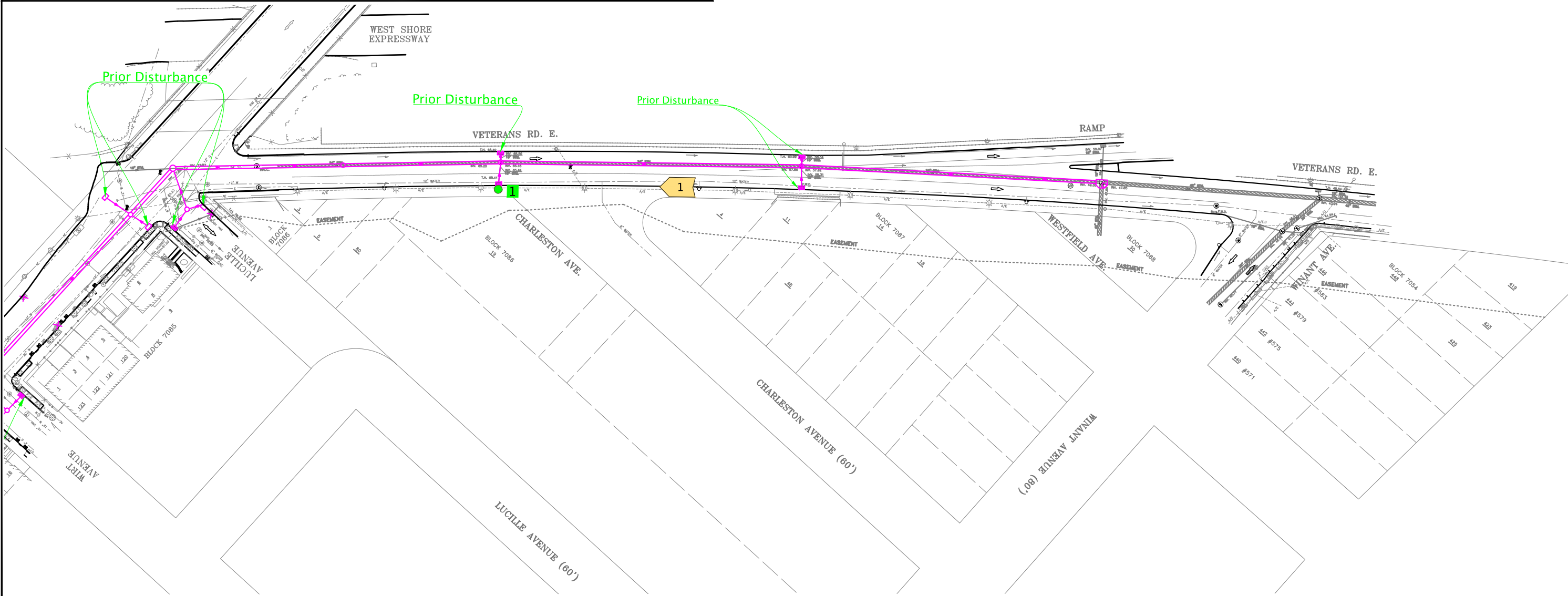
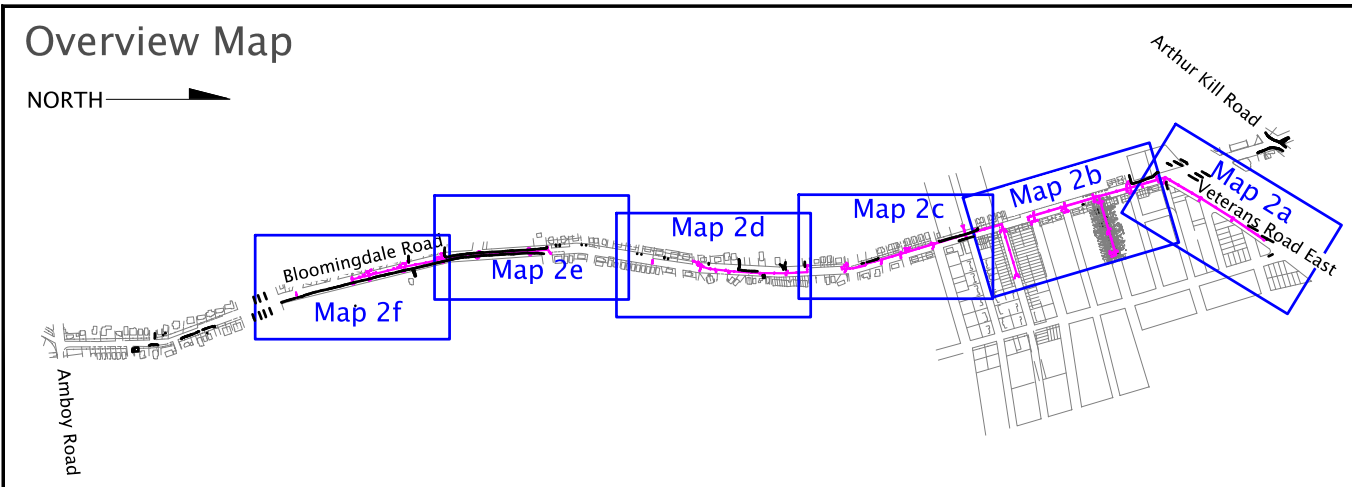
**Legend**  
—□— Areas of Potential Effects (APE)

Project Overview Map  
(HAKS Engineering 2013,  
Hartgen 2013)

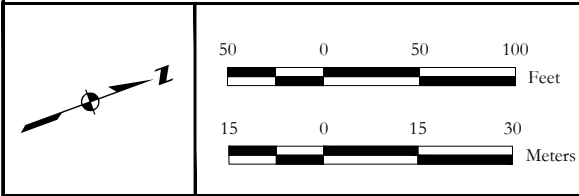
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**Map 2**



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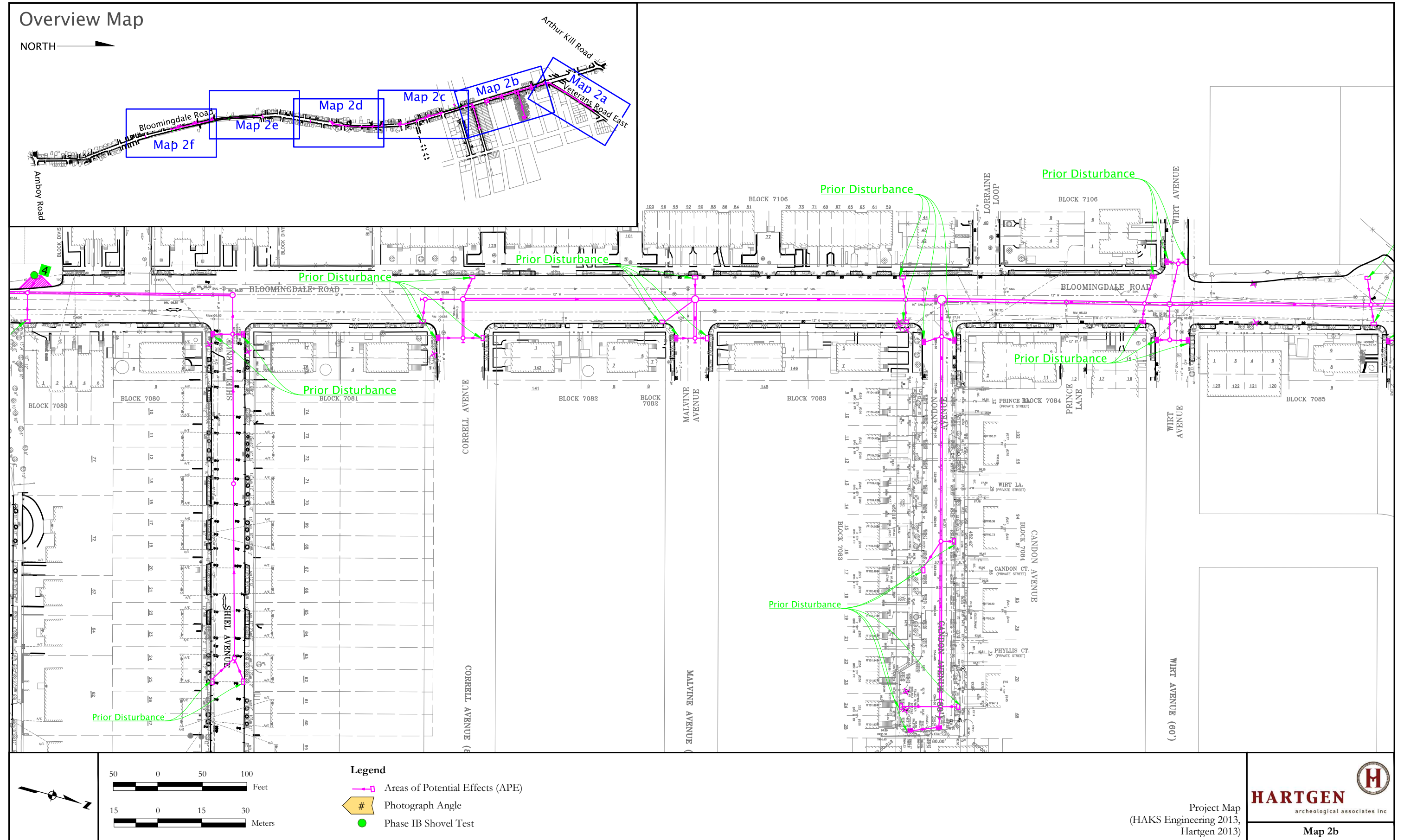


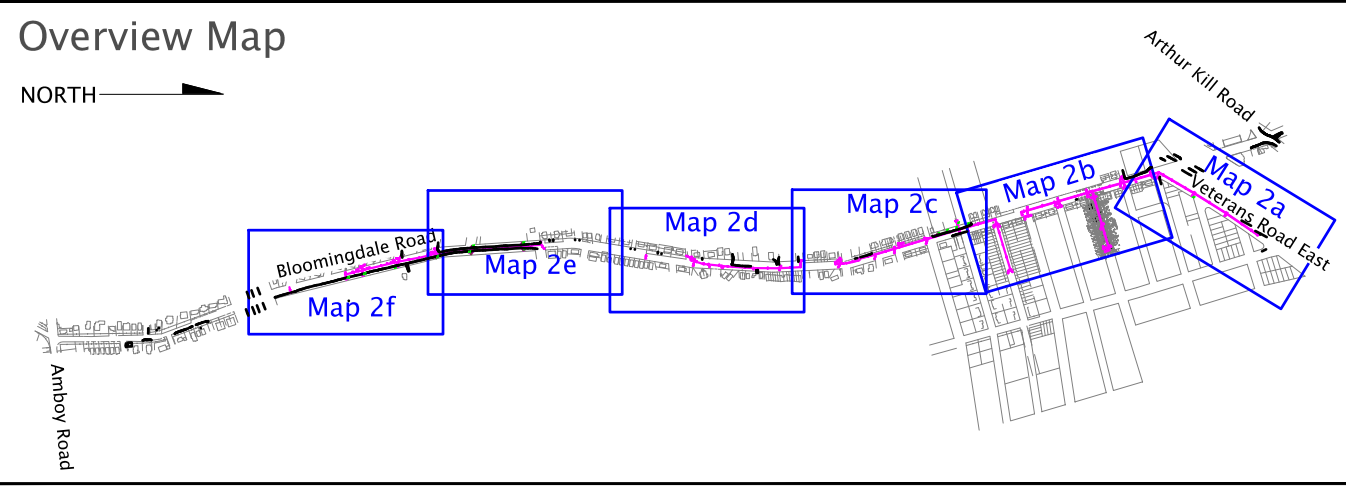
- Legend**
- Areas of Potential Effects (APE)
  - Photograph Angle
  - Phase IB Shovel Test

Project Map  
 (HAKS Engineering 2013,  
 Hartgen 2013)

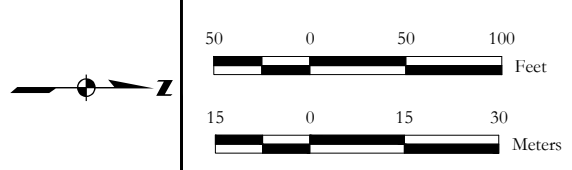
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Map 2a





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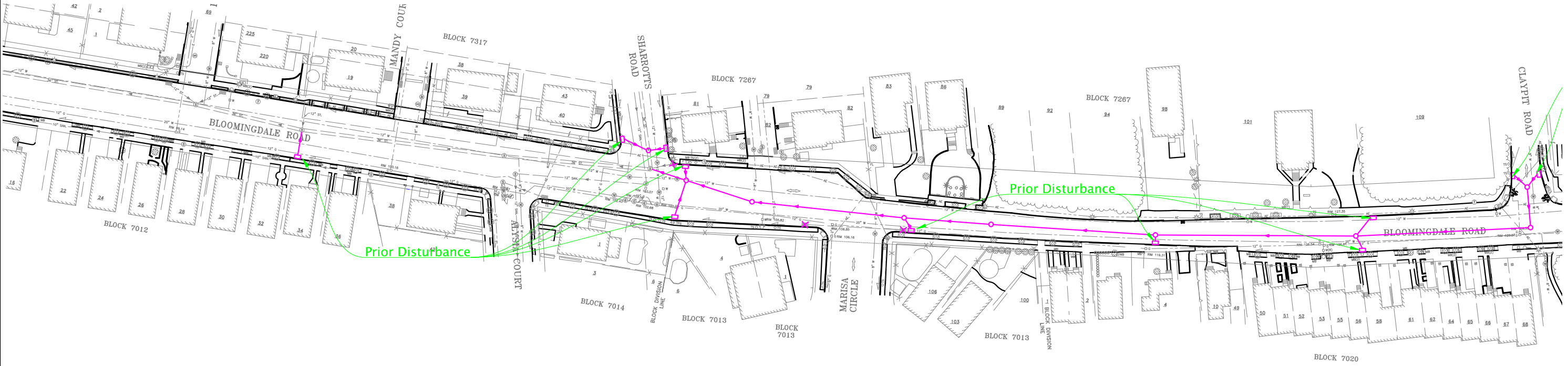
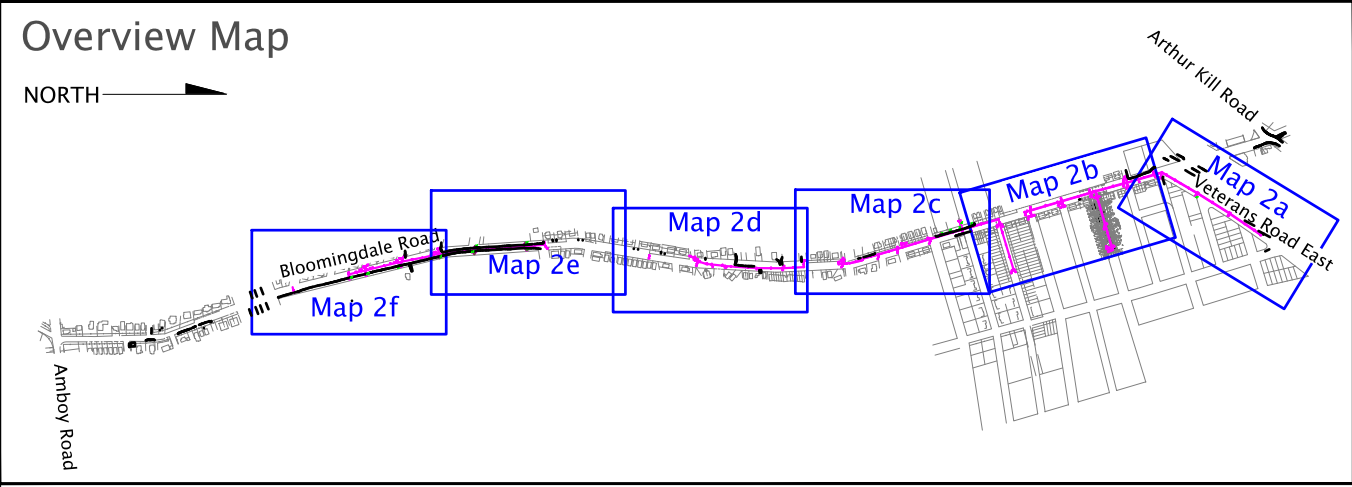


- Legend**
- Areas of Potential Effects (APE)
  - # Photograph Angle
  - Phase IB Shovel Test

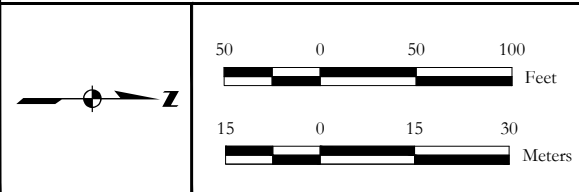
Project Map  
 (HAKS Engineering 2013,  
 Hartgen 2013)

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**Map 2c**




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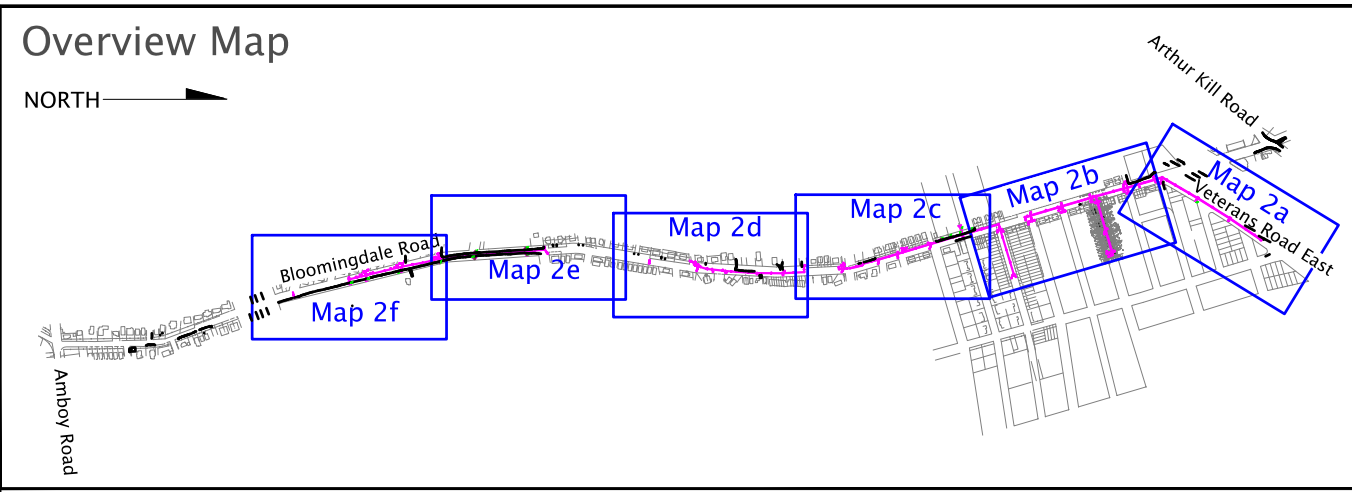
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- Areas of Potential Effects (APE)
  - # Photograph Angle
  - Phase IB Shovel Test

Project Map  
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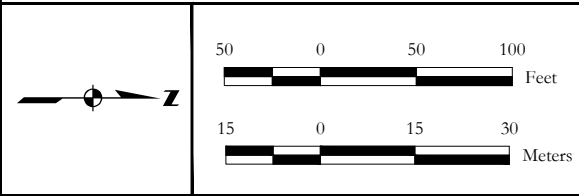


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**Map 2d**



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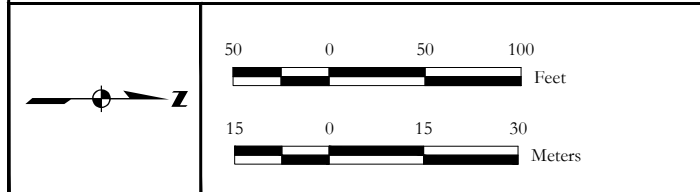
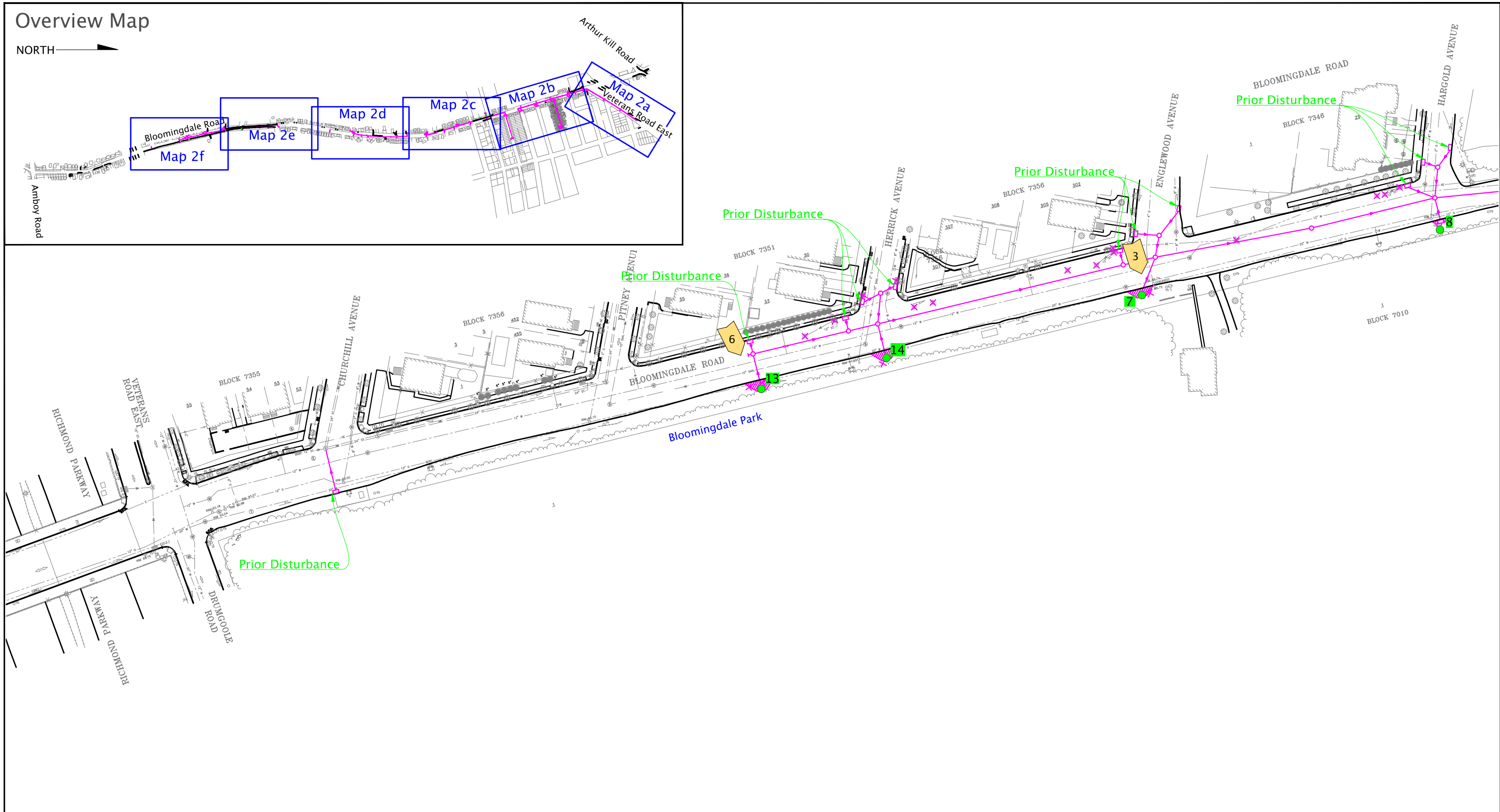
- Legend**
- Areas of Potential Effects (APE)
  - Photograph Angle
  - Phase IB Shovel Test

Project Map  
(HAKS Engineering 2013,  
Hartgen 2013)

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**Map 2c**





- Legend**
- Areas of Potential Effects (APE)
  - # Photograph Angle
  - Phase IB Shovel Test

Project Map  
 (HAKS Engineering 2013,  
 Hartgen 2013)

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**Map 2f**

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## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. View southwest of the excavation of Test 1 located along the east side of Veterans Road. The area has experienced extensive surface soil disturbance resulting from road construction.

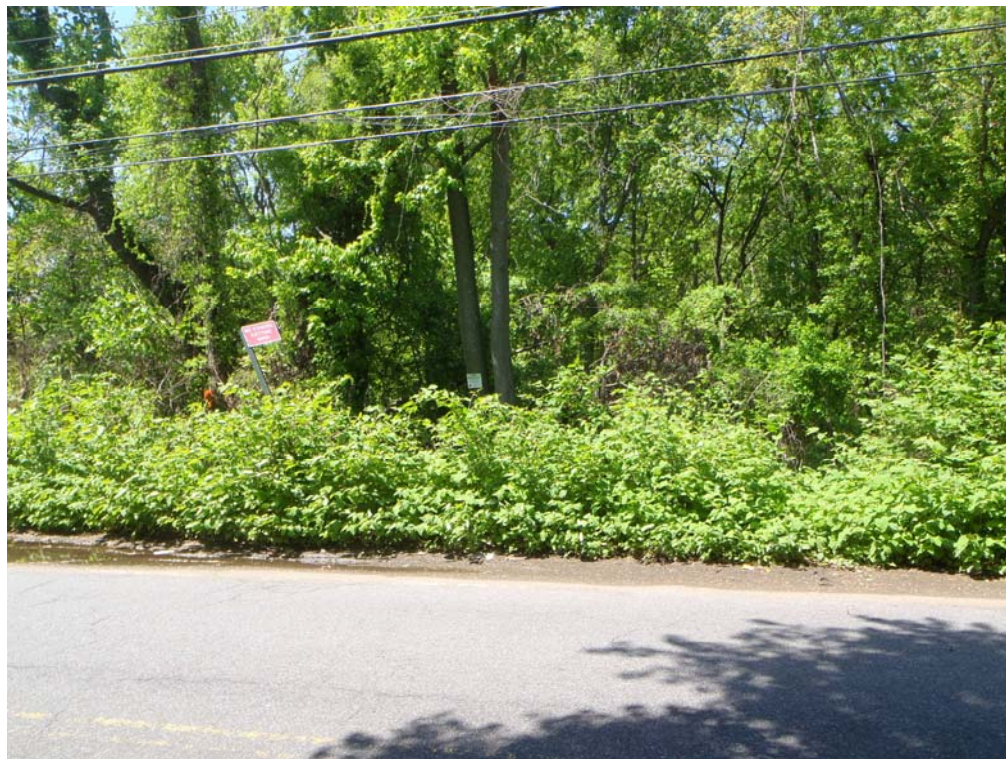


Photo 2. View west of the general location of Tests 2-6 excavated along the edge of a wooded area located south of Lorraine Loop and within the Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve.



Photo 3. View east of the general location of Test 7 excavated along the east side of Bloomingdale Road across from Englewood Avenue.



Photo 4. View west of the general location of Test 9 excavated in a wooded area along the west side of Bloomingdale Road north of Hargold Avenue



Photo 5. View east of the general location of Test 12 excavated in a wooded area located along the east side of Bloomington Road south of Ramona Avenue.



Photo 6. View east of the general location of Test 13 excavated along the edge of a wooded area located along the east side of Bloomington Road south of Herrick Avenue.

**APPENDIX 1: Shovel Test Records**

# 443731: Phase I Archeological Investigation, Bloomingdale Road

## Shovel Test Records

	<u>Depth (cm)</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Soil Inclusions</u>	<u>Munsell Color</u>		<u>Termination Reason</u>
1	0 - 16	sandy silty loam		5YR 3/1	very dark gray	
	16 - 32	clayey silt		5YR 4/4	reddish brown	subsoil
2	0 - 26	loamy sand		10YR 2/1	black	
	26 - 42	sand		10YR 6/1	gray	subsoil
3	0 - 32	loamy silt		10YR 3/1	very dark gray	
	32 - 50	sand		10YR 6/1	gray	subsoil
4	0 - 13	silt	humus	7.5YR 3/1	very dark gray	
	13 - 20	sand		7.5YR 5/6	strong brown	
	20 - 32	sand	gravel	7.5YR 4/3	brown	
	32 - 50	silty clay		5YR 4/6	yellowish red	
	50 - 80	sand		7.5YR 6/2	pinkish gray	subsoil and water
5	0 - 24	silt	humus	7.5YR 3/1	very dark gray	
	24 - 60	sand		7.5YR 6/2	pinkish gray	subsoil and water
6	0 - 23	loamy sand		10YR 3/1	very dark gray	
	23 - 33	clayey sand		5YR 4/4	reddish brown	
	33 - 80	silty sand		10YR 4/3	brown	fill
7	0 - 20	silty loam		10YR 2/1	black	
	20 - 38	clayey loam		10YR 5/3	brown	
	38 - 52	clayey loam		10YR 5/6	yellowish brown	subsoil
8	0 - 29	silty sand	gravel	5YR 3/3	dark reddish brown	
	29 - 60	sand		5YR 5/6	yellowish red	subsoil
9	0 - 80	silty clayey loam		10YR 3/3	dark brown	fill
		silty clayey loam		10YR 5/8	yellowish brown	fill
		silty clayey loam		10YR 3/6	dark yellowish brown	fill
		silty clayey loam		10YR 5/2	grayish brown	fill
10	0 - 27	sand	gravel	5YR 3/2	dark reddish brown	
	27 - 37	silty clay		5YR 4/6	yellowish red	
		silty clay		5YR 3/2	dark reddish brown	
	37 - 50	sand	gravel	5YR 4/4	reddish brown	
	50 - 85	silty clayey sand		5YR 5/3	reddish brown	fill
11	0 - 20	sand	humus	7.5YR 2.5/1	black	
	20 - 38	loamy sand		7.5YR 4/4	brown	subsoil
12	0 - 18	silt		5YR 3/2	dark reddish brown	
	18 - 47	silt		5YR 4/6	yellowish red	subsoil

# 443731: Phase I Archeological Investigation, Bloomingdale Road

## Shovel Test Records

	<u>Depth (cm)</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Soil Inclusions</u>	<u>Munsell Color</u>		<u>Termination Reason</u>
13	0 - 15	sandy loam		7.5YR 2.5/1	black	
	15 - 35	loamy sand		7.5YR 4/4	brown	subsoil
14	0 - 12	silt		5YR 3/2	dark reddish brown	
	12 - 45	silt		5YR 4/6	yellowish red	subsoil



**APPENDIX 2: OPRHP Project Review Cover Form**



**PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM** Rev. 10-04

*Please complete this form and attach it to the top of any and all information submitted to this office for review.  
 Accurate and complete forms will assist this office in the timely processing and response to your request.*

This information relates to a previously submitted project.

**PROJECT NUMBER** \_\_ PR \_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have checked this box and noted the previous Project Review (PR) number assigned by this office you do not need to continue unless any of the required information below has changed.

**2. This is a new project.**  If you have checked this box you will need to complete ALL of the following information.

**Project Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location** \_\_\_\_\_  
 You MUST include street number, street name and/or County, State or Interstate route number if applicable

**City/Town/Village** \_\_\_\_\_  
 List the correct municipality in which your project is being undertaken. If in a hamlet you must also provide the name of the town.

**County** \_\_\_\_\_  
 If your undertaking\* covers multiple communities/counties please attach a list defining all municipalities/counties included.

**TYPE OF REVIEW REQUIRED/REQUESTED** (Please answer both questions)

**A. Does this action involve a permit approval or funding, now or ultimately from any other governmental agency?**

No  Yes

If Yes, list agency name(s) and permit(s)/approval(s)

Agency involved	Type of permit/approval	State	Federal
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**B. Have you consulted the NYSHPO web site at <http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo> to determine the preliminary presence or absence of previously identified cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area? If yes:**

Yes  No

Was the project site wholly or partially included within an identified archeologically sensitive area?  Yes  No

Does the project site involve or is it substantially contiguous to a property listed or recommended for listing in the NY State or National Registers of Historic Places?  Yes  No

**CONTACT PERSON FOR PROJECT**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Firm/Agency** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_