

Exhibit S
A Cultural Resource Management Preliminary
Review

Weller and Associates

February 9, 2021



**A Cultural Resource Management Preliminary Review for the
Poplar Birch 949 ha (2,345 ac) Solar Farm in Shawnee
Township, Allen County and Logan Township, Auglaize
County, Ohio**

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By

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Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB)



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W-2835

Introduction

In February 2021, Weller & Associates, Inc. (Weller) conducted a Cultural Resource Management Preliminary Review for the Poplar Birch 949 ha (2,345 ac) Solar Farm in Shawnee Township, Allen County and Logan Township, Auglaize County, Ohio (Figures 1-9). The lead agency for this project is the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). This literature review is intended to identify any previously identified resources or surveys that involve the current area of investigation. The work focused on the available and standard resources that are utilized for projects in Ohio. This report summarizes the results of the literature review.

Ryan J. Weller served as the Principal Investigator and as the Senior Project Manager. He was responsible for the textual aspects of the report and Alex Thomas completed the figures.

Project Description

The project area is located to the southwest of the City of Lima, Ohio and straddles the Allen-Auglaize Countyline. It is basically to the north of the Community of Hume, south of Oakville, northwest of Cridersville. This is a rural area that is mostly consistent with agricultural activity such as row crops. There are single family housing lots scattered in the vicinity of the project area and farmsteads are less frequently present in the area. Birch Solar 1, LLC is proposing to construct and operate the Birch Solar Project (Project). The Project would occupy a 1,410-acre portion (Survey Area) of the 2,345-acre Project area (Project Parcel Area), located mostly on farmlands just southwest of Lima, Ohio with portions placed within Shawnee Township in Allen County and Logan Township in Auglaize County. The Project would consist of an east-west tracking solar panel system and associated facilities, with a nameplate capacity of 300 megawatts alternating current. The power generated by the Project would be transmitted via an overhead generation tie-line (gen-tie) that connects to the existing AEP Lima Substation, which connects into the regional transmission grid. The major components of the Project would include solar modules, inverters, access roads, and perimeter fencing. Thin-film or mono-crystalline photovoltaic (PV) solar modules would be connected to a single-axis tracking system, which would be attached to steel piles driven into the ground.

Basic Environment

The project area is located in what is largely upland, till plain conditions as it is within the Central Ohio Clayey Till Plain physiographic region (Brockman 1998). The terrain in this region, like the subject area, is gently undulating with greater relief nearer drainages and on end moraine. All of the streams involved in this area are part of the Maumee-Auglaize River watershed. The project area is drained by the Little Ottawa River, Twomile Creek and relative unnamed tributaries. Twomile Creek flows into the Auglaize River and the Little Ottawa flows into the Ottawa River and then to the Auglaize River. Deep alluvial soil conditions are not deemed likely from this area as there are no mature drainages with well-formed terraces that would promote deeper

floodplain soil formation. In fact, much of the areas where a 100-year floodplain would be present are outside of the project limits.

Literature Review

The literature review was conducted for a 1.6 km (1.0 mi) study area. This allows for an understanding as to the amount of previously recorded resources near the project. In conducting the literature review, the following resources were consulted at SHPO and the State Library of Ohio:

- 1) *An Archeological Atlas of Ohio* (Mills 1914);
- 2) SHPO United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' series topographic maps;
- 3) Ohio Archaeological Inventory (OAI) files;
- 4) Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) files;
- 5) National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files;
- 6) Determinations of Eligibility (DOE) files;
- 7) SHPO CRM/contract archaeology files; and
- 8) Allen and Auglaize County atlases, histories, historic USGS 15' series topographic map(s), and current USGS 7.5' series topographic map(s);
- 9) Online Genealogical and Cemetery Records.

The *Archeological Atlas of Ohio* (Mills 1914) did not indicate any sites in the immediate vicinity of the project. There is a village a burial indicated near what was called "Ottawa Towns" that is to the west of the project by a mile and half mile, respectively (Figure 6).

Inspection of the Ohio Archaeological Inventory (OAI) files indicated that there are six sites recorded in the study area; none are indicated within or immediately adjacent to the project area (Table 1). There were three isolated prehistoric artifacts that were identified during a professional survey that are not considered as significant (Weller 2017) (i.e., 33AL0233-235). There other three sites are located to the north and east or east of the project's boundaries and include a Shawnee cabin site (33AL0027) and a Shawnee burial ground/cemetery site (33AL0026). None of these sites are located within or near the project area.

Site #	General Affiliation	Temporal Period	Site Type	Site Size (m ²)
AL0026	Prehistoric and Historic	Historic Native American; Hamilton Site, Protohistoric; Unknown Archaic	Cemetery/Shawnee Burial Ground	1830
AL0233	Prehistoric	Unassigned	Isolated find	1
AL0234	Prehistoric	Unassigned	Isolated find	1
AL0027	Prehistoric and Historic	Unknown Archaic; Protohistoric	Shawnee cabin	2806
AL0235	Prehistoric	Unassigned	Isolated find	1
AL0028	Prehistoric and Historic	Unknown Archaic, Unknown Woodland; Strawbridge Farm Site A	Habitation	

The Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) files did not indicate any resources within or adjacent the project. There are two resources identified within the study area (Table 2).

OHI #	Present Name	Address	ArchStyle1	HistUse1	Activity	Date
ALL0070306	Antioch Chapel	7301 Ft Amanda Rd	Italianate	Church/Religious Structure	Original Construction	1887
AUG0027203	Bridge, Off SR 501	Off SR 501	Bowstring Truss Bridge		Original Construction	1874

There were no NRHP properties or DOE resources located in the project or within the study radius.

A review of the OHPO online contract files indicated that there has been one survey completed within the study area. This survey was completed for an electric transmission line and station that are to the immediate south and east of project area boundaries. Archaeological sites 33AL0233-235 were identified during this survey and are not eligible/significant resources (Weller 2017). The project area has not been the subject of any previous investigations.

Atlas & Cartographic Review

Cartographic/atlas resources were reviewed for the project area. Atlas inspection dating from the latter part of the nineteenth century indicated that this is a rural area and with only residences scattered through the area (Harrison 1880; Walsh 1898; Figure 7). The USGS *1906 Lima and the 1911 Spencerville, Ohio Quadrangle 15 Minute Series (Topographic)* maps indicate that the area is largely rural and there are buildings dispersed throughout the project area (Figure 8). According to this resource, there appears to be 11 buildings within the area considered as the project (Figure 8). The USGS *1984 Cridersville, Ohio 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)* map indicates that much of the project area is open farmland with many farmstead being intentionally avoided. There are no extant buildings indicated within the project area (Figures 2 and 3).

The eastern part of the project area is contained within the Hog Creek Shawnee Reservation (Figures 2-5, and 9). There are archaeological sites recorded in the relative near vicinity of the project area that are associated with this former reservation.

Cemeteries

There is one cemetery located in the study area. This is the Saint Mathews Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery. It is located in Section 27 of Shawnee Township, south of the Little Ottawa River and about half a mile east of the project limits.

Summary

In February 2021, Weller & Associates, Inc. (Weller) conducted a Cultural Resource Management Preliminary Review for the Poplar Birch 949 ha (2,345 ac) Solar Farm in Shawnee Township, Allen County and Logan Township, Auglaize County, Ohio. The project area consists of upland terrain that is mostly contained in agricultural land. The eastern part of the area is contained within the bounds of the former Hog Creek Shawnee Indian Reservation; however, there are no known/recorded resources indicated within the project area. The project area has not been the subject of any previous investigations and there are no recorded archaeological or architectural sites within it. There are no known/recorded significant cultural resources indicated within the project or its study area.

References Cited

Brockman, C. S.

1998 *Physiographic Regions of Ohio*. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey, Columbus, Ohio.

Harrison, R. H.

1880 *Atlas of Allen County, Ohio*. Philadelphia.

Mills, W. C.

1914 *Archeological Atlas of Ohio*. Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, Columbus.

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service

2020a *Soil Survey of Allen County, Ohio*. Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Soils, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Columbus.

2020b *Soil Survey of Auglaize County, Ohio*. Soil Conservation Service, U. S.

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Soils, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Columbus.

Walsh, J. B.

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Weller, R. J.

2017 *Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the 19.5 ha (48.3 ac) Southwest Lima Station Safety Fence Project in Shawnee Township, Allen County, Ohio*. Weller & Associates, Inc. Copy available for review from Ohio History Connection.

Figures

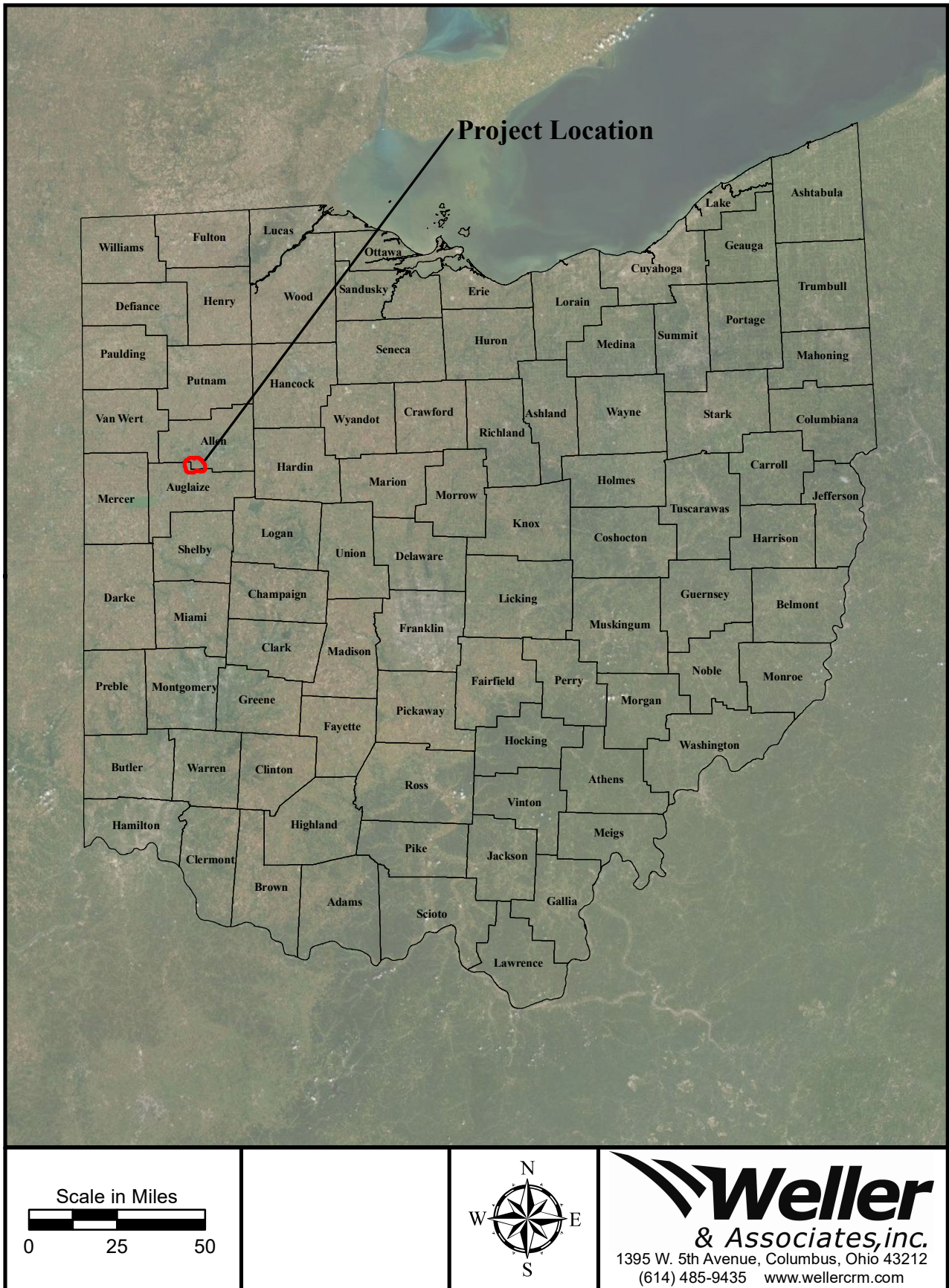


Figure 1. Political map of Ohio showing the approximate location of the project.

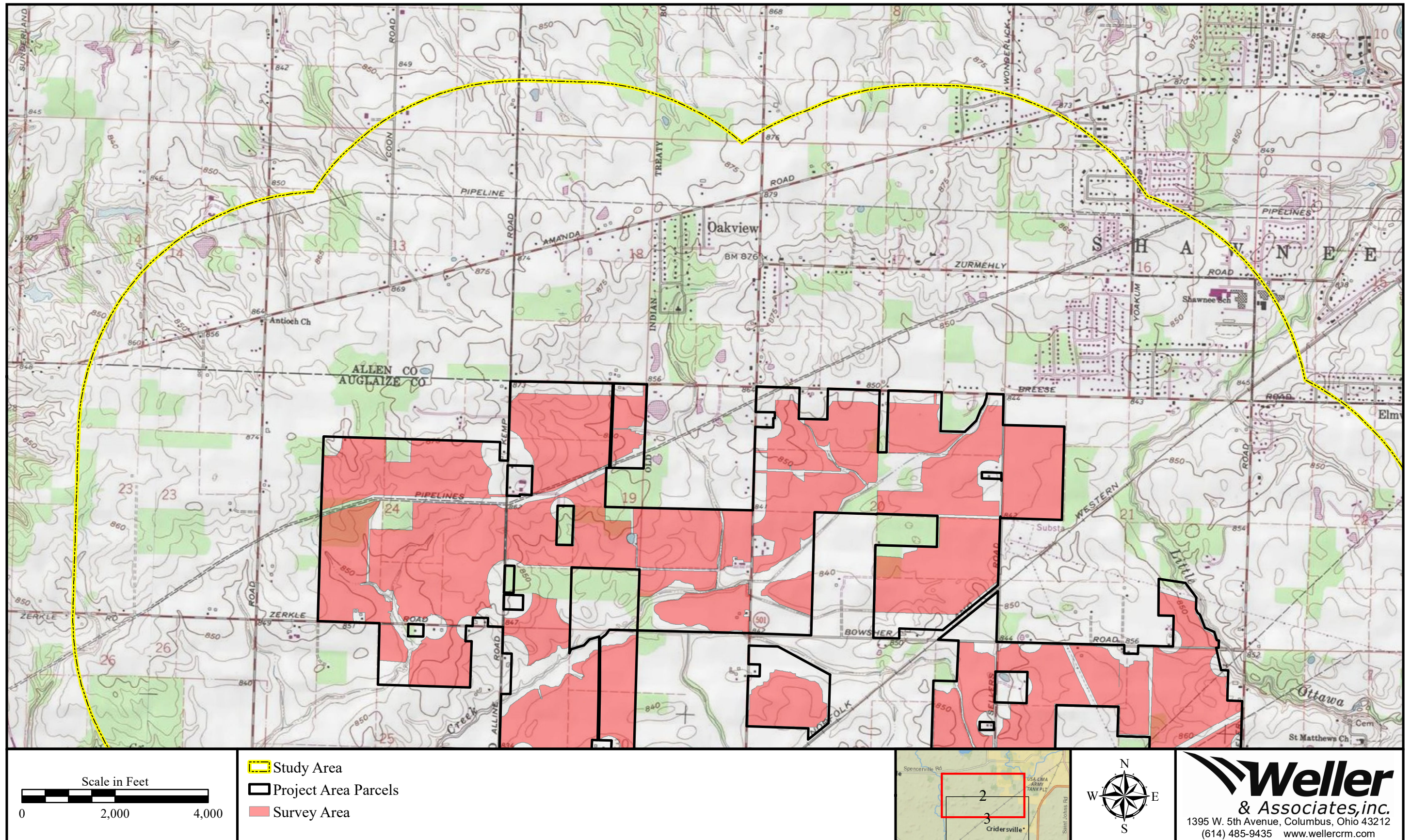


Figure 2. Portion of the USGS 1984 Cridersville, Ohio 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) map indicating the location of the study area, project area parcels, and survey area.

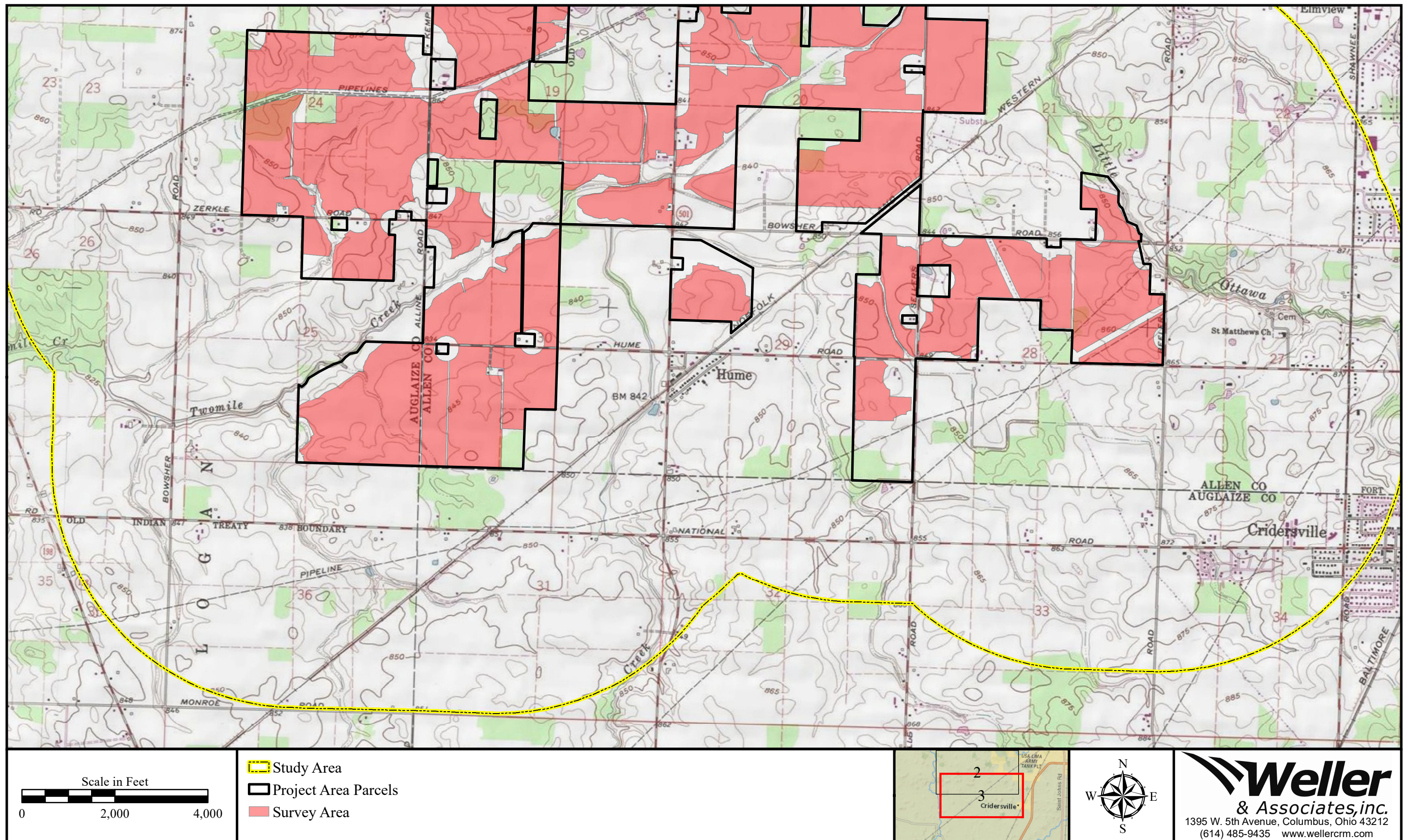


Figure 3. Portion of the USGS 1984 Cridersville, Ohio 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) map indicating the location of the study area, project area parcels, and survey area.

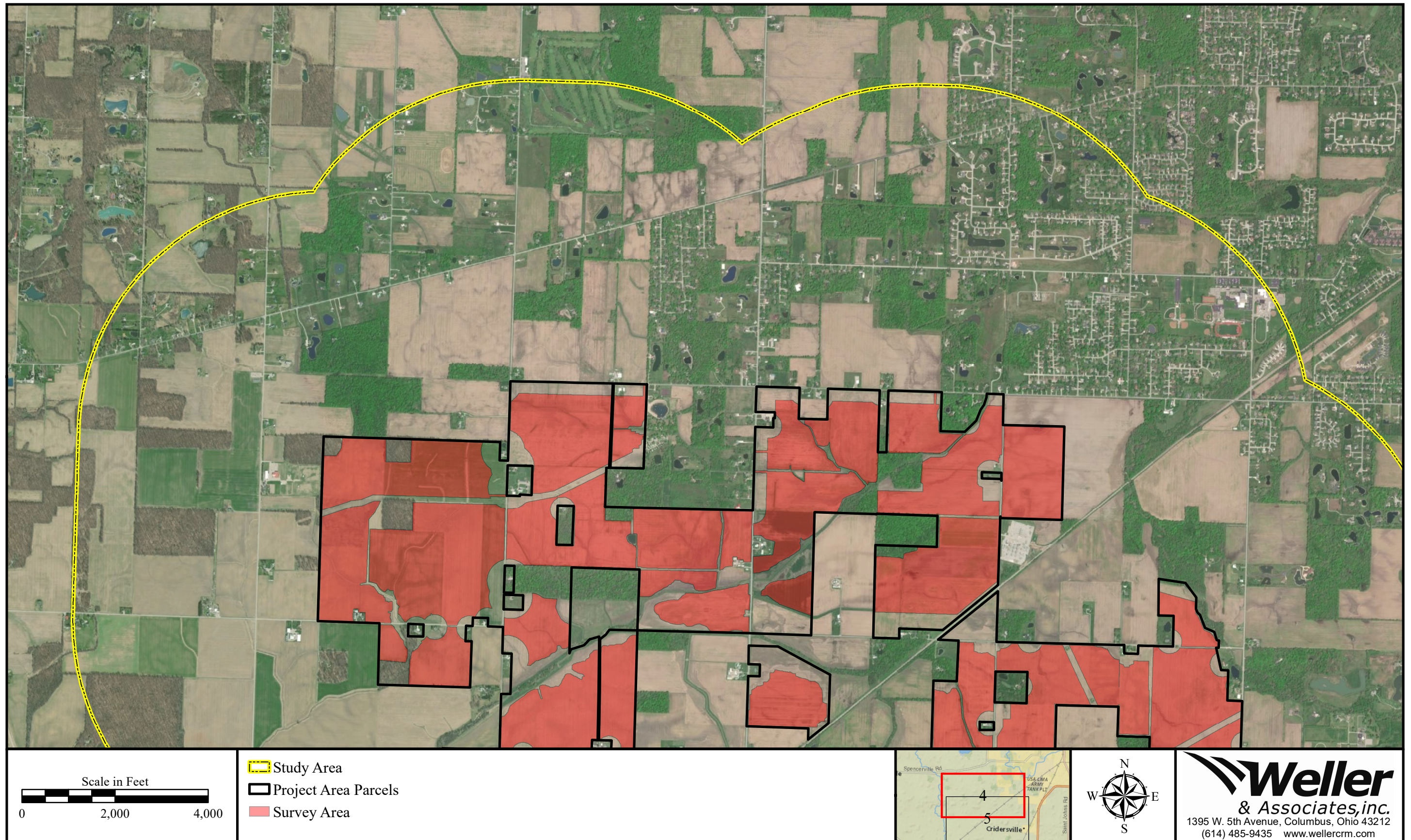


Figure 4. Aerial map indicating the location of the study area, project area parcels, and survey area.

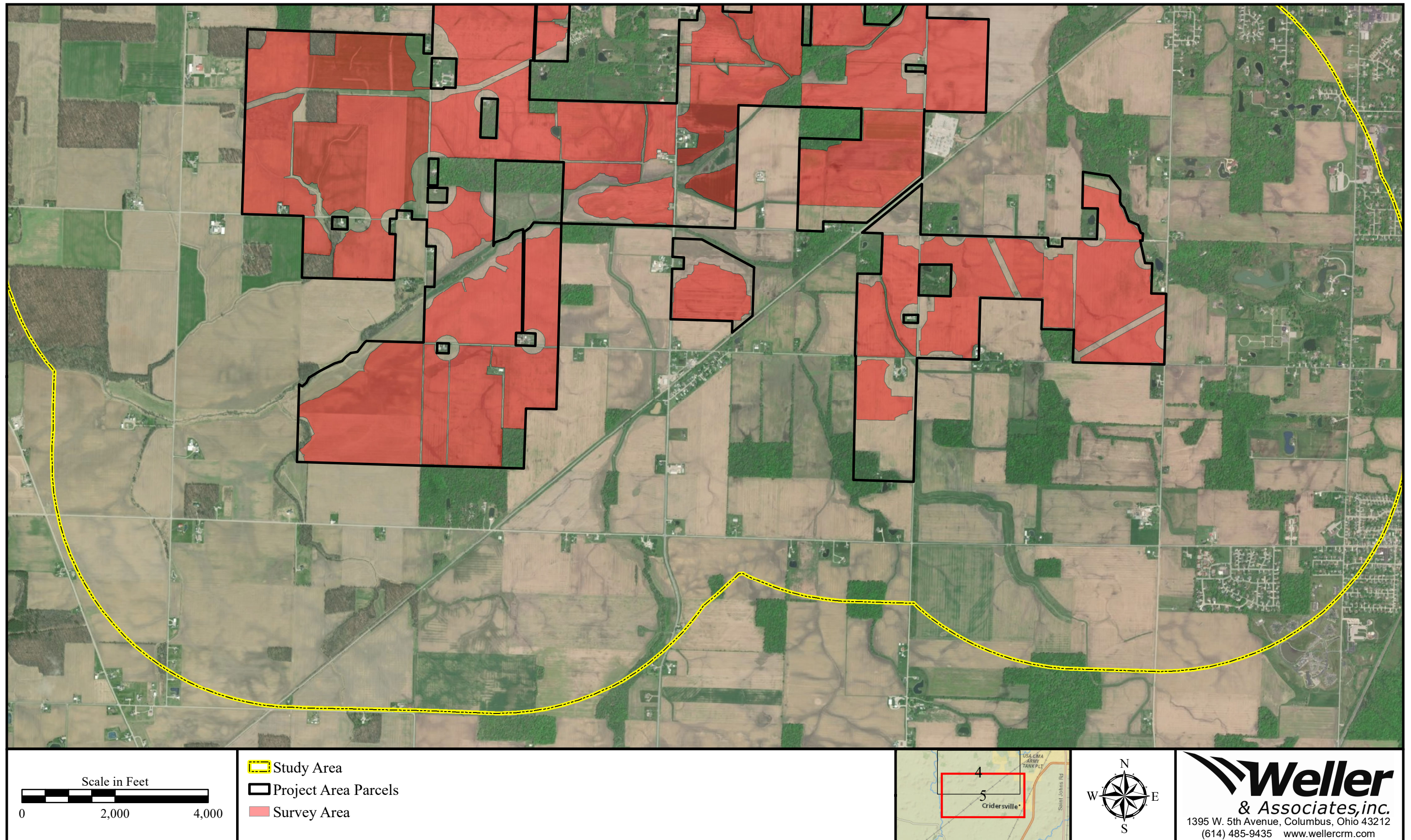


Figure 5. Aerial map indicating the location of the study area, project area parcels, and survey area.

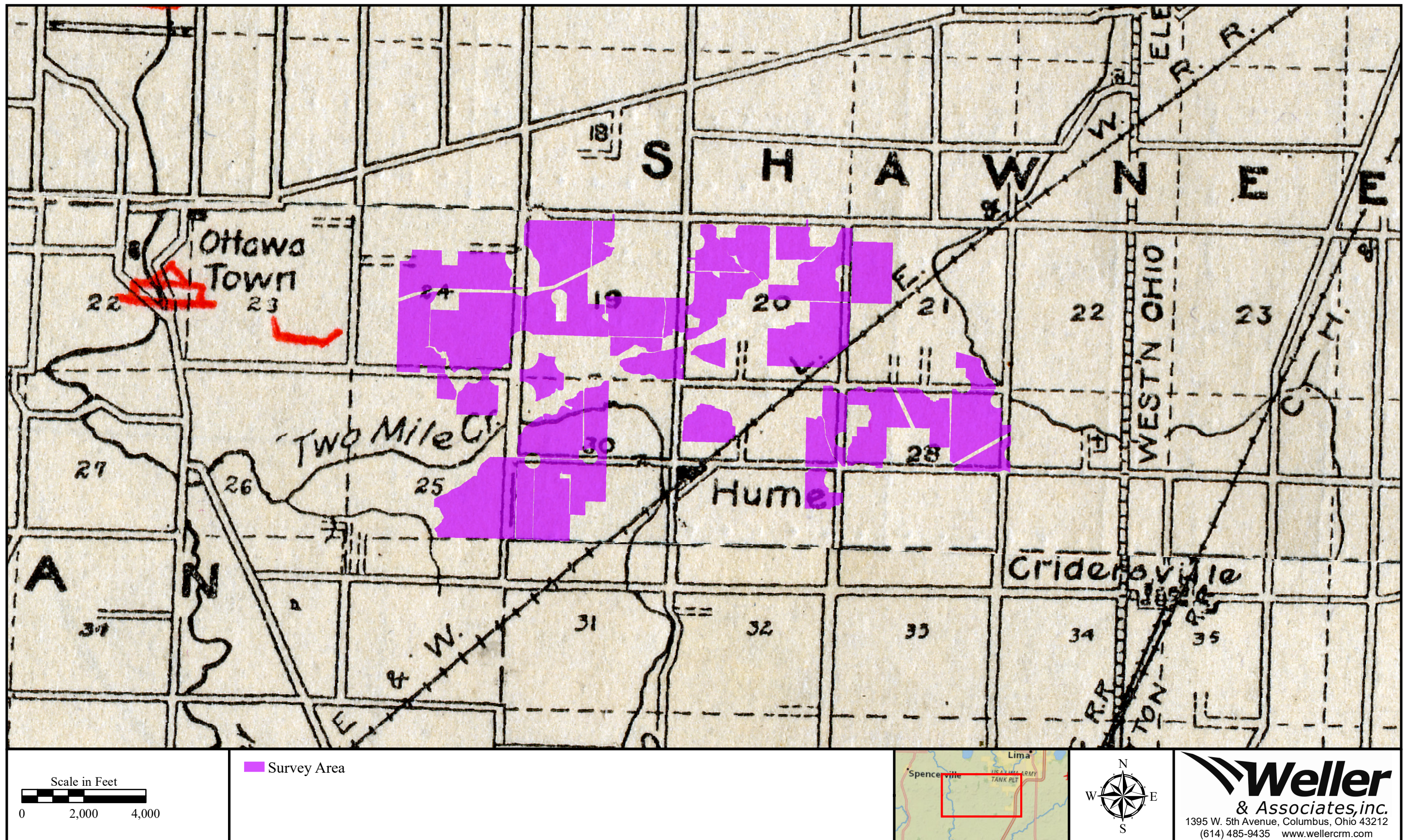


Figure 6. Portion of the *Archeological Atlas of Ohio* (Mills 1914) indicating the approximate location of the project.

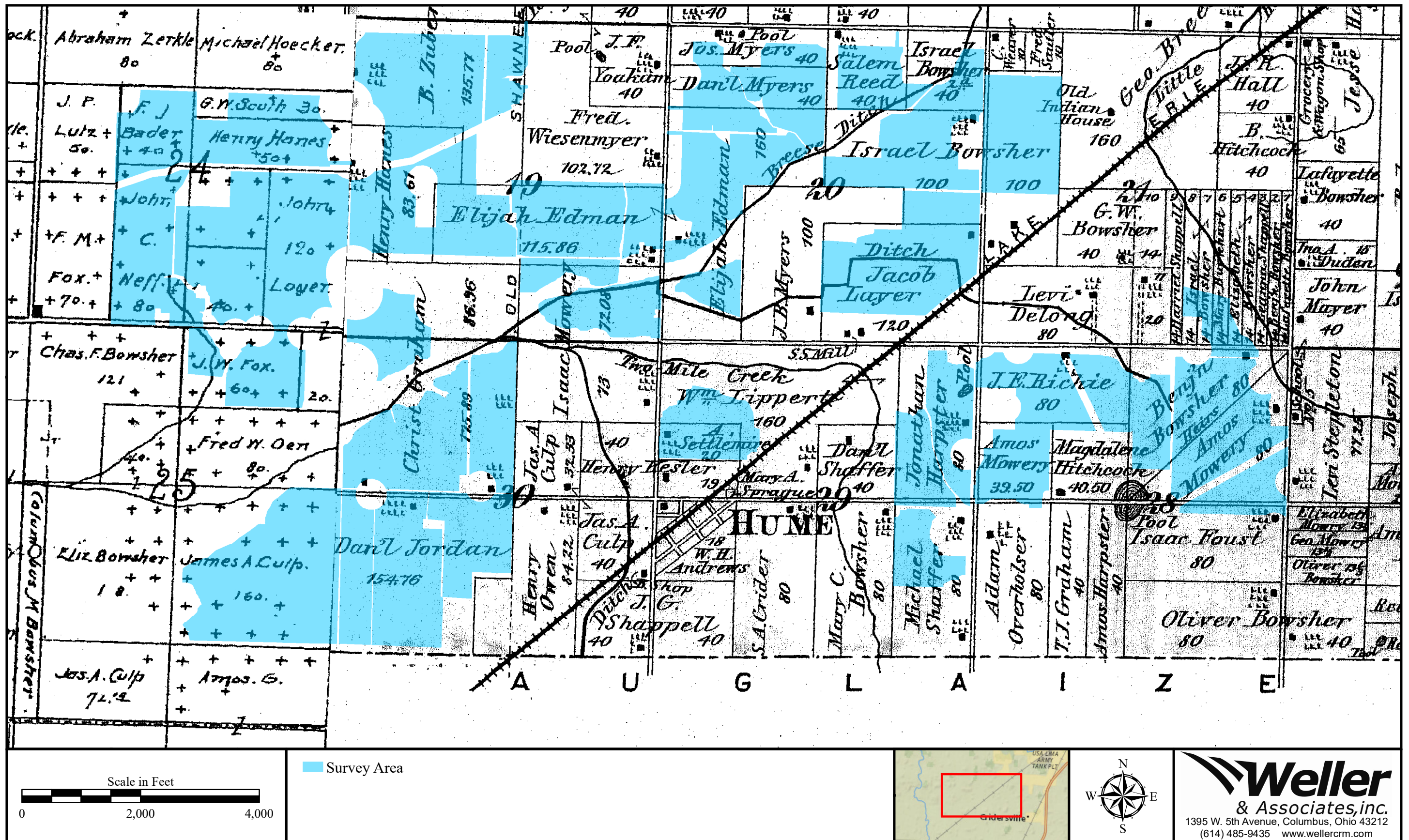


Figure 7. Portions of the *Atlas of Allen County, Ohio* and *Atlas of Auglaize County, Ohio* (Harrison 1880, Walsh 1898) indicating the approximate location of the project.

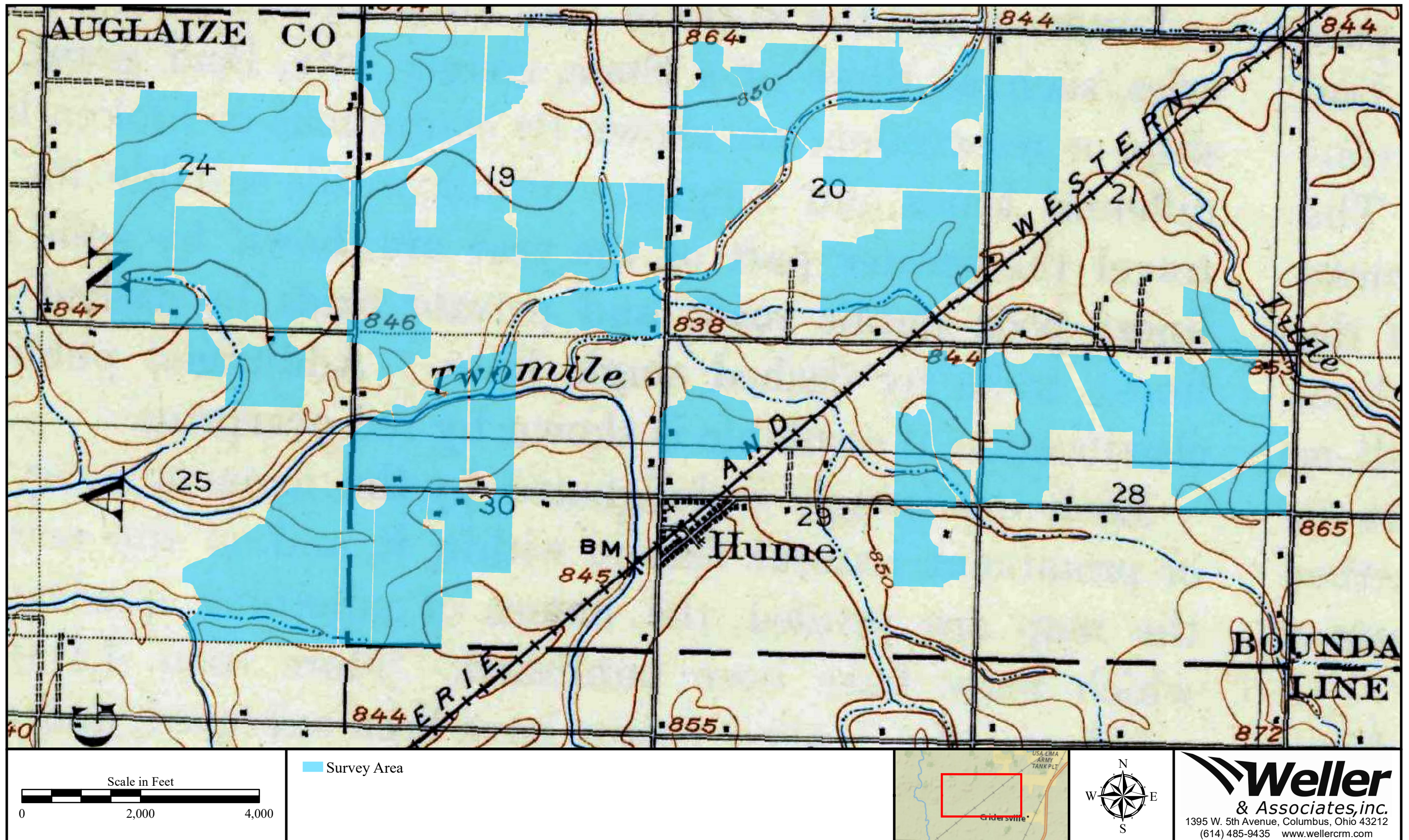
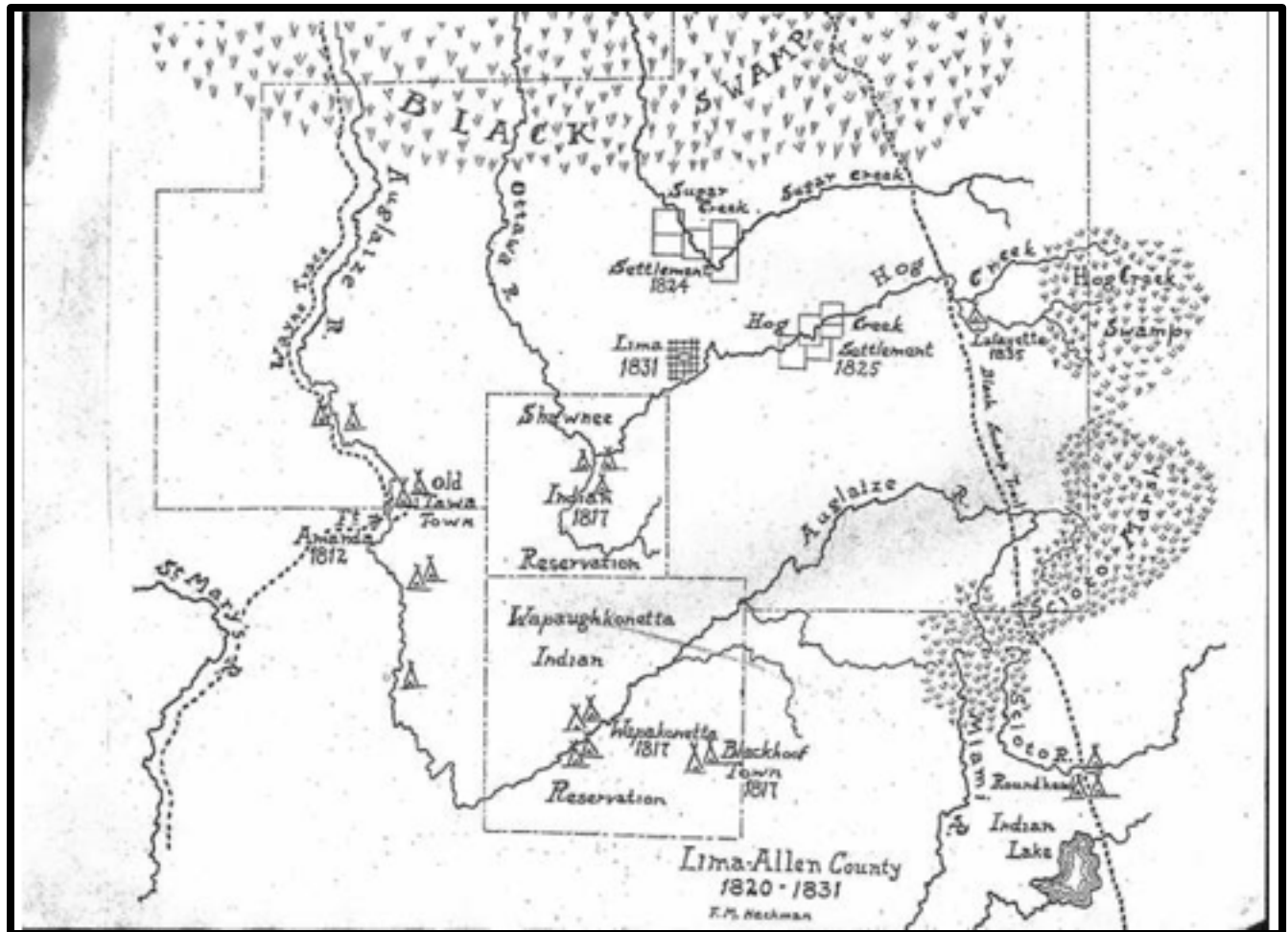


Figure 8. Portion of the USGS 1906 Lima, and 1911 Spencerville, Ohio 15 Minute Series (Topographic) maps indicating the approximate location of the project.

Hackman, F. M.

1820-1831...this shows various reservations in the area.



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Summary: Application - 25 of 31 (Exhibit S – Cultural Resource Management Preliminary Review) electronically filed by Christine M.T. Pirik on behalf of Birch Solar 1, LLC