



®

Lake Ontario Ordnance Works

Site Inspection Report

Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Buffalo District

Building Strong®

Defense Environmental Restoration Program for
Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS)
June 2015

Site Description and History

The former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Site is located approximately 10 miles north of the City of Niagara Falls within the Towns of Lewiston and Porter in Niagara County, New York.

The original site encompassed approximately 7,500 acres and was established in 1942. A portion of LOOW, consisting of 6,500 acres, is eligible for inclusion in the Department of Defense (DoD) Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). During World War II, the U.S. Army built and operated a trinitrotoluene (TNT) plant on approximately 2,500 acres of the site, known as the developed zone. The remaining 5,000-acre undeveloped zone served as a buffer area around the TNT plant. The plant manufactured bulk TNT for approximately nine months and was decommissioned in 1943. The Corps of Engineers is conducting an environmental investigation on the former LOOW Site in accordance with the phased Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Current owners of the former LOOW Site include federal and local governments, individual private residents, and private corporations. Additional information regarding the former LOOW Site can be found on the web at:

www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/DERPFUDS/LakeOntarioOrdnanceWorks

Site Inspection Report

A site inspection (SI) was performed to evaluate ground disturbances that were present during the period that the TNT plant was operated. These disturbances were identified by the U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center (TEC) and documented in *Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Examination of Historical Aerial Photography – Selected Sites* (September 2002). The SI was conducted to determine if potential environmental impacts may be present at the ground disturbance locations that are attributable to former DoD activities.

The SI consisted of reviewing historical information and conducting walkover inspections at all accessible locations. The ground disturbances were organized and assessed by parcels and parcel groups as determined by the former LOOW Management Action Plan. Rights of entry (ROEs) were obtained for eight parcels, which permitted the inspection of 17 ground disturbance locations. A summary of the SI results is provided in Table 1 and discussed below. Ground disturbance locations are illustrated in Figures 1, 2, and 3.

- Ground disturbances previously identified by the Corps of Engineers primarily occur in areas of the former LOOW that did not support trinitrotoluene production (i.e. the buffer area)
- Historical records did not confirm past DoD activities at six of the eight parcels
- Evidence of ground disturbances related to past DoD activities was not identified at most locations
- There was no evidence of potential contamination source areas or releases of contamination to groundwater, surface water, or soil at any of the ground disturbance locations

The SI report concluded that no further action is necessary for the evaluated ground disturbance locations.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
BUFFALO DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM
1776 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14207
Phone: 800-833-6390 (Option 4)
Email: derpfuds@usace.army.mil

Website: www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/DERPFUDS/LakeOntarioOrdnanceWorks

Table 1 – Summary of Ground Disturbances Evaluated in the Site Inspection Report

Ground Disturbance	Type	Figure	Property Owner	Group Name	Parcel No.	Visual Survey Date	Observations
1944-16	Mounded Material	1 & 2	Private	Group K	60.00-3-18.12	None – no ROE	Mounded material is believed to be displaced native soil from construction of the southwest drainage ditch. Previous analytical data from similar ground disturbances did not identify contamination.
1944-45	Berm	2	Guardian Corporation	Support Facility Administrative Offices	74.00-1-4	24 April 2014	The berm appeared to be constructed with native soil; it surrounded a slurry pond for a former freshwater treatment plant. No DoD marker compounds were found in the former pond during a previous remedial investigation.
			Private		74.00-1-50	None – no ROE	
			National Grid		88.00-1-41	24 April 2014	
1944-46	Trench	2	Guardian Corporation	Support Facility Administrative Offices	74.00-1-4	24 April 2014	The trench appeared to be an area where native soils were excavated to construct the berm (described above).
			Private		74.00-1-50	None – no ROE	
			National Grid		88.00-1-41	24 April 2014	
1944-47	Mounded Material	2	National Grid	Support Facility Administrative Offices	88.00-1-41	23 April 2014	The TEC report indicates that many of the “mounded material” disturbances may have been associated with farming. The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-48	Pit(s)	2	National Grid	Support Facility Administrative Offices	88.00-1-41	23 April 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-121	Disturbed Ground/Scar	2	National Grid	Support Facility Administrative Offices	88.00-1-41	23 April 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-137	Material/Mounded Material	3	Private	TEC Group B	88.00-1-5	None – no ROE	The TEC report indicates that many of the “mounded material” disturbances may have been associated with farming. Current aerial photography indicates that this area is actively farmed, which suggests that the ground disturbance (if present) is not a potential source of contamination.
1944-138	Disturbed Ground/Scar	3	National Grid	Support Facility Administrative Offices	88.00-1-41	23 April 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-147	Other	3	Modern Landfill, Inc.	Group K	74.00-1-15.1	6 May 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-153	Disturbed Ground/Scar	2	National Grid	Support Facility Administrative Offices	88.00-1-41	23 April 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify any evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-161	Disturbed Ground/Scar	3	Three F Club	TEC Group B	88.00-1-46.1	23 April 2014	A small mound of rocks was observed during the walkover inspection. There was no evidence of a potential source of contamination.

Table 1 – Summary of Ground Disturbances Evaluated in the Site Inspection Report

Ground Disturbance	Type	Figure	Property Owner	Group Name	Parcel No.	Visual Survey Date	Observations
1944-162	Tracks/Trail	3	Three F Club	TEC Group B	88.00-1-46.1	23 April 2014	Numerous tracks and trails were observed during the walkover survey that appeared to be related to recent activities by the property owner. Construction and demolition debris from recent site improvements was also present at the eastern end of the area. The walkover inspection did not identify a potential source of contamination attributed to previous DoD activities.
1944-163	Other	2	Guardian Corporation	Support Facility Administrative Offices	74.00-1-4	24 April 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-170	Other	2	Private	TEC Group C	74.00-1-3	24 April 2014	Vehicle tire tracks were observed; no improvements, structures, distressed vegetation, or stained soil were observed. The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a potential source of contamination.
1944-173	Disturbed Ground/Scar	1	National Grid	Group R	60.00-3-6	23 April 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-174	Pond	1 & 2	National Grid	Group R	60.00-3-6	23 April 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-177	Material/Mounded Material	3	Three F Club	TEC Group B	88.00-1-46.1	23 April 2014	The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a disturbance or a potential source of contamination.
1944-180	Material/Mounded Material	1	Private	TEC Group D	60.00-2-17	23 April 2014	A small mound of soil was observed that appeared to be displaced native soil associated with past agricultural or drainage improvement activities. The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a potential source of contamination.
1944-192	Other	1	Private	Group N	60.00-2-9	23 April 2014	The area was previously used for clay mining activities that resulted in the removal of the upper 5 feet of soil. The area was regraded and is currently used for agricultural activities. The walkover inspection did not identify evidence of a potential source of contamination.

Legend:
 ROE – Right of Entry
 TEC – Topographic and Engineering Center
 Three F Club – Fin, Fur, and Feather Conservation Society
 Other – “Other” defines a ground disturbance that is not a “ground scar or disturbed ground,” “pits,” “mounded material,” or “open storage areas”

Figure 1 Ground Disturbances Inspected in the Northern Area of the Former LOOW

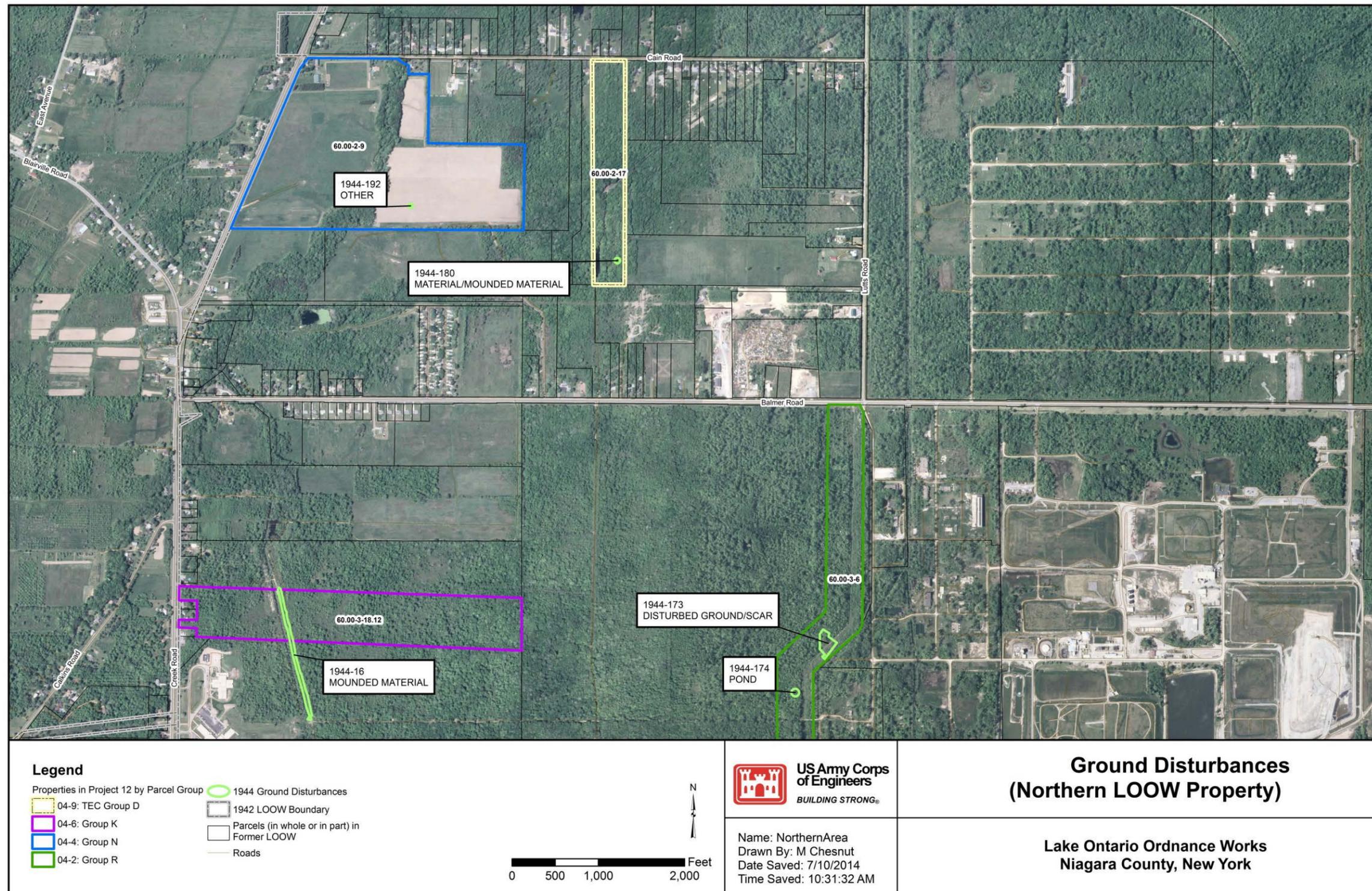


Figure 2 Ground Disturbances Inspected in the Central Area of the Former LOOW

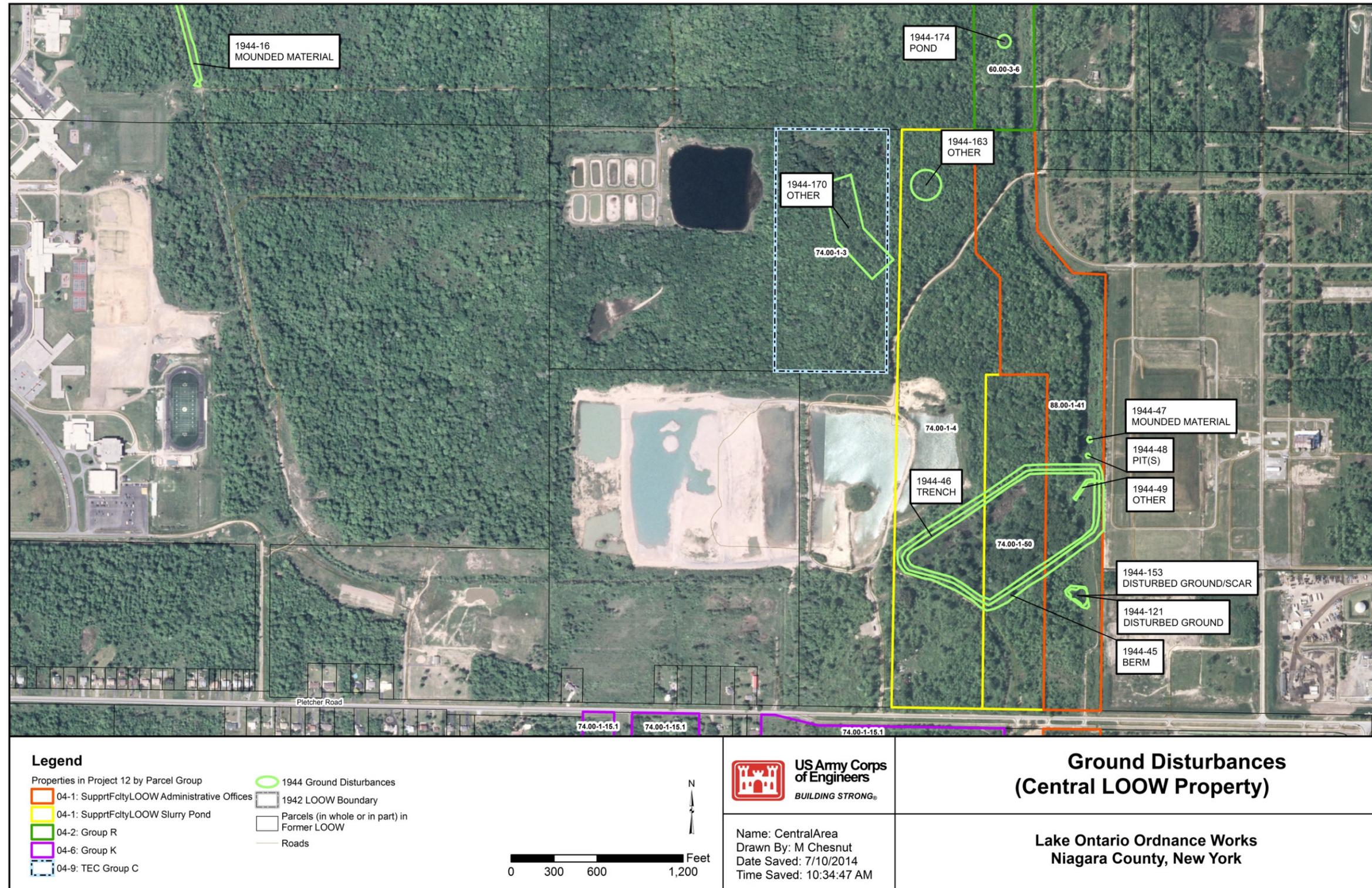
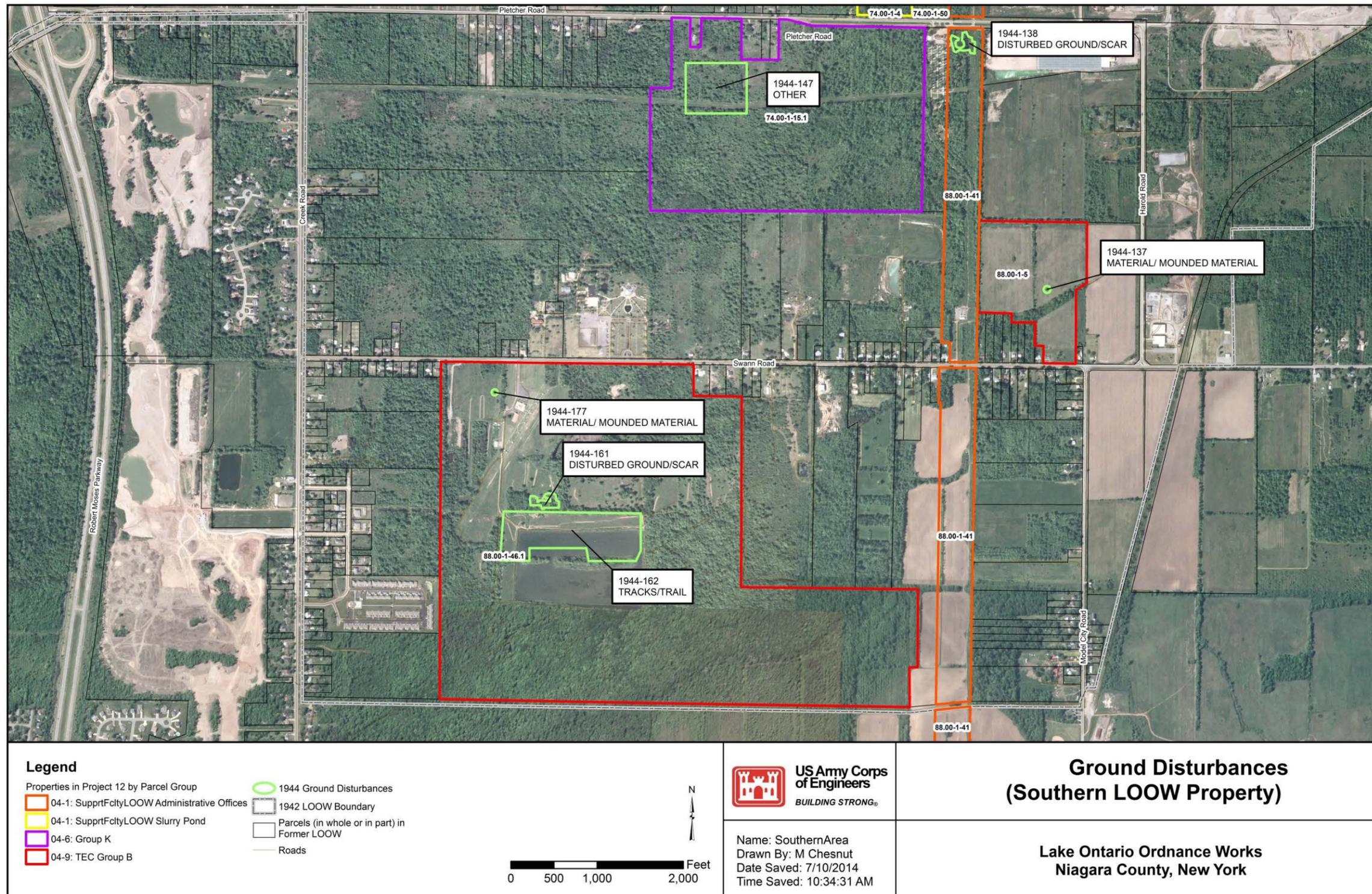


Figure 3 Ground Disturbances Inspected in the Southern Area of the Former LOOW



Legend

Properties in Project 12 by Parcel Group

- 04-1: SupprtFcltyLOOW Administrative Offices
- 04-1: SupprtFcltyLOOW Slurry Pond
- 04-6: Group K
- 04-9: TEC Group B

- 1944 Ground Disturbances
- 1942 LOOW Boundary
- Parcels (in whole or in part) in Former LOOW
- Roads

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

N

US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®

Name: SouthernArea
 Drawn By: M Chesnut
 Date Saved: 7/10/2014
 Time Saved: 10:34:31 AM

Ground Disturbances (Southern LOOW Property)

**Lake Ontario Ordnance Works
 Niagara County, New York**