



StoneHill

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Project Summary

Supplemental Site Investigation and Remedial Action Plan Former Dagostino Rose Farm, Exeter, NH NHDES Site #201203003

Background

The Former Dagostino Rose Farm (Site) is approximately 41 acres and was operated until the 1990s as a commercial greenhouse operation growing roses. The Site consisted of three large greenhouses, a rose packing building, a boiler building, and several additional smaller buildings (See attached Figure 1 – Site Location Map). Decades earlier a brick manufacturing business reportedly operated on the Site. The historical uses of the Site resulted in the release of lead to soils within the former greenhouse area; deposition of soil containing coal ash and solid waste behind the former boiler and packing buildings (BPB Area); and the accumulation of lead-impacted soil and/or sediments in the large man-made basin on the property (Basin #4), as well as several other smaller basins (See attached Site Plan). The source of the lead contamination is believed to be the result of lead-based paint and window glazing used in the construction of the greenhouses which were likely scattered throughout the former greenhouse area during demolition in the 1990s. Lead impacted soils carried in stormwater runoff likely also accumulated in Basin #4 and the smaller man-made basins within the Former Greenhouse Area. Excess water from the greenhouse operations also likely drained through troughs within the former greenhouses via pipes leading to Basin #4. The overflow from Basin #4 drains through a concrete pipe which runs westerly under Oak Street Extension to a small shallow wetland depression (Wetland H). Sediment samples collected from Basin #4 and Wetland H revealed lead at a concentration above which benthic invertebrates may be adversely impacted, however, below the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Soil Remediation Standard (SRS) of 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) established for lead. The soil containing ash located along the embankment behind the BPB Area may contain poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), possibly associated with the ash, and was likely disposed on the embankment during the former brickyard and possibly the rose farm operations. The areas of fill and lead impacted soils were first identified during site investigations (SI) conducted by Credere Associates, LLC, between 2012 and 2016 on behalf of the Rockingham Planning Commission. These studies determined that the contamination was limited to soils and on-site groundwater had not been impacted by the historic land uses.

Supplemental Site Investigation

StoneHill Environmental, Inc., (StoneHill) of Portsmouth, NH was retained in 2016 by Exeter Rose Farm, LLC to complete additional site investigation activities to fill data gaps and develop a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for submittal to the NHDES. During the the summer and fall of 2017, StoneHill completed supplemental SI field tasks including:

- Collecting additional soil samples in the Former Greenhouse Area to determine the extent and degree of lead contamination.
- Completing test pits in the BPB Area to further delineate the soil containing solid wastes and ash.

Former Greenhouse Area

Remnants of concrete slabs/foundations, metal window frames, wood, and broken glass are partially buried throughout the footprints of each of the three former greenhouses to a depth up to two feet below which native silt and clay is present. Several concrete drainage troughs exist throughout the Former Greenhouse Area appear to have carried drainage from the greenhouses to Basin #4.

StoneHill collected over one hundred soil samples in and around the Former Greenhouse Area from the ground surface to two feet below grade. The field measurements of lead in soil and confirmatory laboratory analyses confirmed lead impacts above the SRS to depths typically less than two feet below the ground surface. The findings also indicate that the elevated lead concentrations in soils are limited laterally to within approximately five feet of the footprint of the Former Greenhouse Area.

Former Boiler and Packing Buildings Area

An area of mixed soil and coal ash, as well as solid waste debris, is located along the embankment in the BPB Area and covers an area approximately 550 feet by 150 feet. The area contains concrete, household appliances, asphalt, bricks, glass, some soil mixed with ash, and other debris that varies in depth between three to thirteen feet. StoneHill completed test pits in the BPB Area to further delineate the soil containing coal ash and solid waste fill. A detailed review of available information from previously completed test pit and soil boring data in conjunction with the recent test pit data indicates that coal ash mixed with sand, silt, clay, and gravel was used to fill and expand the embankment on which the boiler and packing buildings were constructed. This fill includes areas of solid wastes, metal, concrete, brick, plastics, and household wastes (appliances, furniture, etc.) which have been primarily discarded on the ground surface.

Remedial Action Plan

StoneHill has prepared a site specific Remedial Action Plan (RAP) which includes the Supplemental SI findings. The objective of the RAP is to remove lead impacted soils exceeding the SRS in the Former Greenhouse Area, and to remove solid wastes/debris from the BPB Area and cap the area to eliminate potential direct contact to the remaining soil containing ash. The RAP is being submitted to NHDES for review and approval, and includes the following actions:

1. Soil exceeding the lead SRS in the Former Greenhouse Area will be excavated and transported off site for disposal or treatment at a facility licensed to receive lead impacted soils. It is estimated that approximately 5500 to 7500 cubic yards of lead impacted soil will be excavated for off-site disposal. Post excavation soil samples will be analyzed from throughout the Former Greenhouse Area to document the removal of lead impacted soils exceeding the SRS.
2. Solid wastes and debris will be removed from the BPB Area and properly disposed of appropriately. An estimated 1,100 cubic yards of soil containing debris and/or coal ash will be excavated, the obvious debris will be removed, and the soil consolidated in the BPB area. As part of this process, the embankment will be regraded, and covered with a minimum two feet of clean soil and seeded, or with a combination of soil and 4-inch stone rip-rap. The soil fill which currently impacts jurisdictional wetlands will be removed and the wetlands restored. During the remedial activities the quality of the soil containing ash will be reassessed to determine if the soil fill exceeds any SRS for ash related contaminants and whether an Activity and Use Restriction (AUR) is necessary to ensure the maintenance of the earthen cover over the consolidated area.
3. Lead impacted sediments within Basin #4, as well as in several smaller man-made basins, will be removed to achieve concentrations below which a risk is posed to benthic organisms. Sediments removed from basins found to contain total lead exceeding the SRS will be properly disposed at an off-site treatment or disposal facility. Upon completion of the sediment removal, post excavation samples will be collected and analyzed. Finally, the banks of Basin 4 will be graded and revegetated.

It is anticipated that remedial activities will take place during the Spring/Summer of 2018.

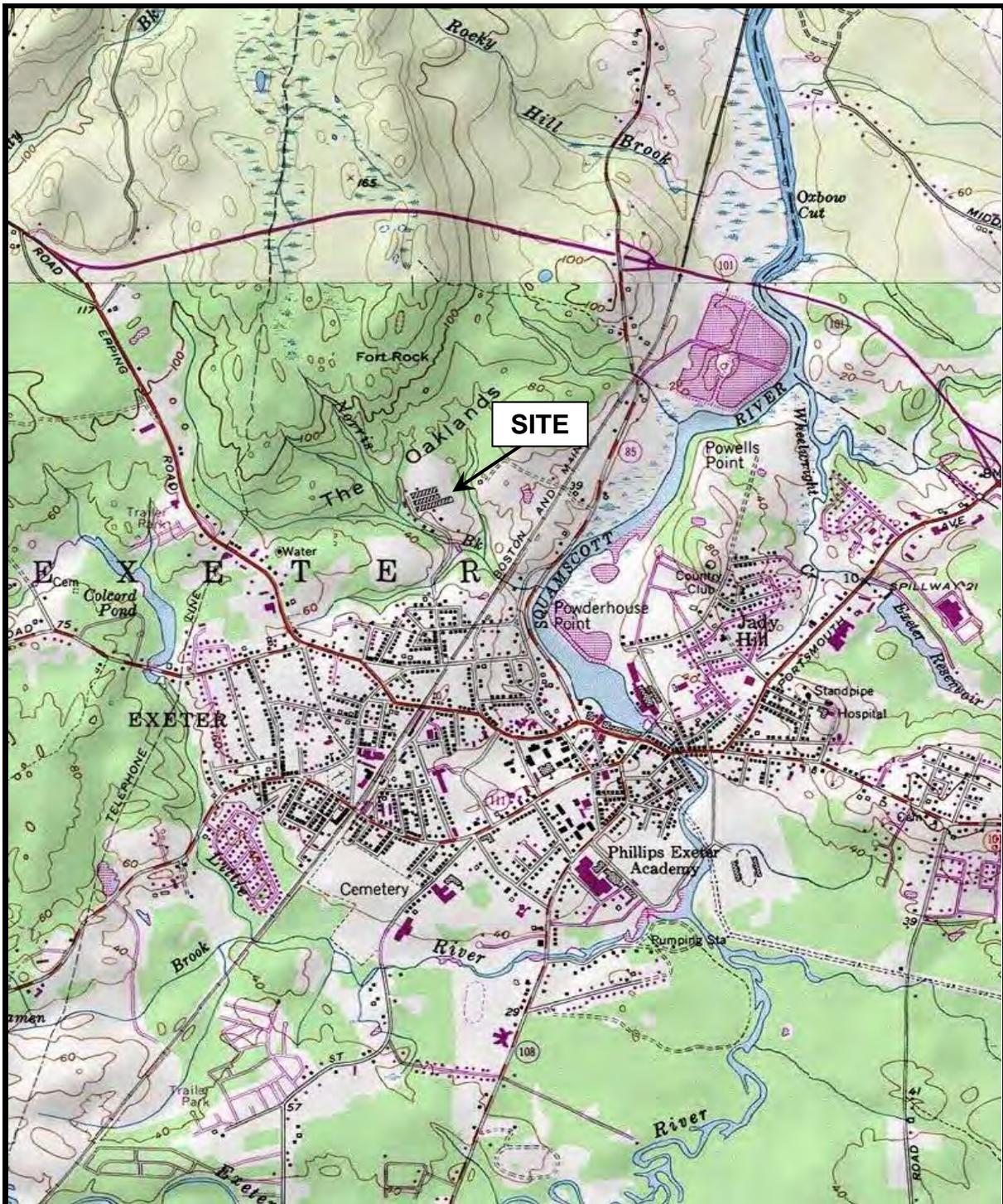


FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION MAP

**Dagostino Rose Farm
Oak Street Extension
Exeter, NH**

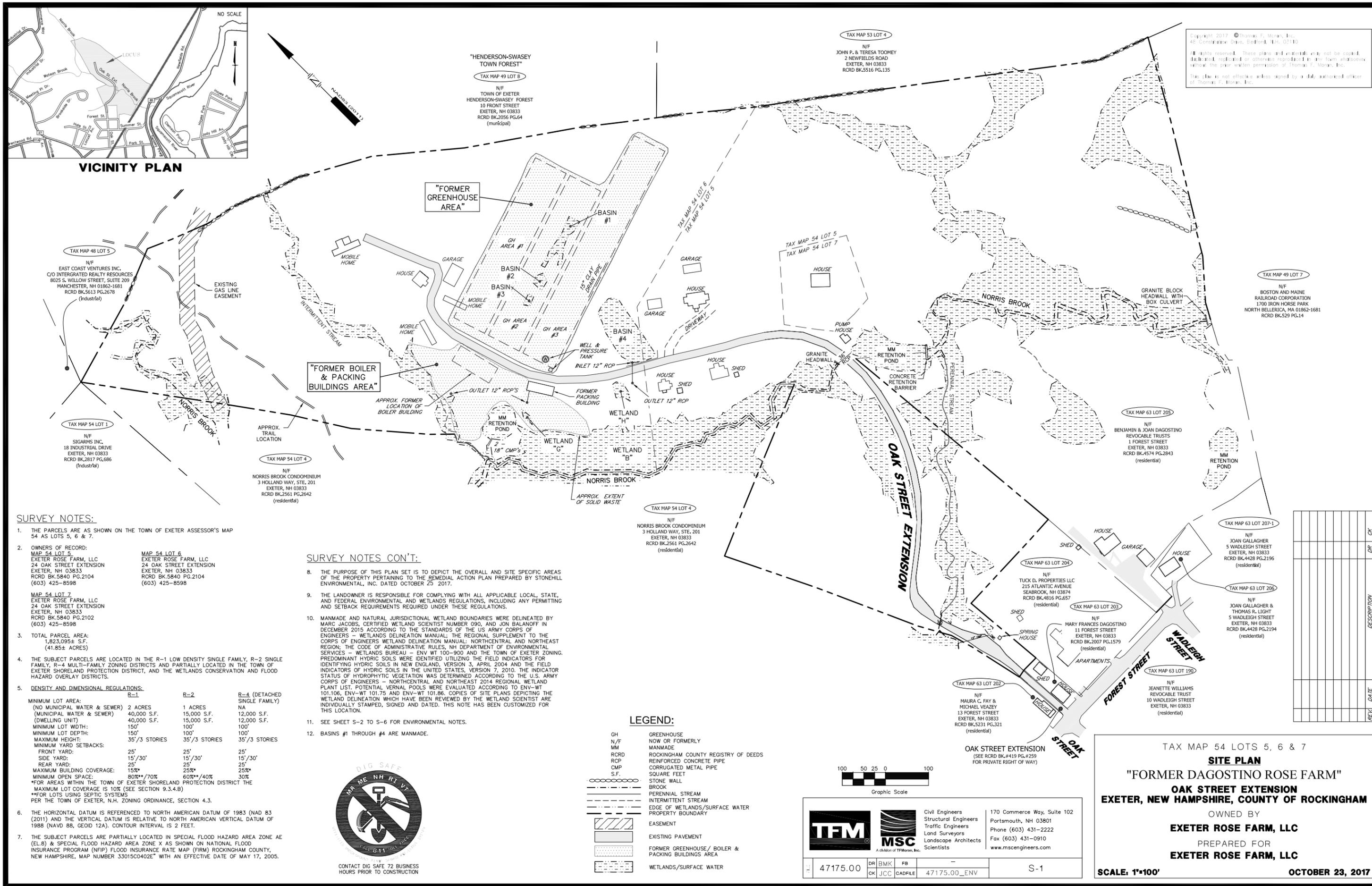
Prepared by:
StoneHill Environmental, Inc.
Project No. 15046



approximate scale in feet
Contour Interval 10 feet

Map Source:
USGS 7.5 Minute
Topographic Quadrangle
Exeter, NH





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