

**Walter Jackson Bate
Wildlife & Forest Reservation**

Baseline Documentation of Property

Ecological Information

Hydrology:

This property consists of moderately sloping terrain. The slopes are not steep enough to encourage excessive erosion on undisturbed sites, but they do have enough slope where surface water drains off freely. This property does not lie within any floodplain, nor does it have any associated wetlands.

Soils:

Paxton soils make up 100% of the soils found. The Paxton series consists of well drained soils with a hardpan at a depth of 15-36 inches and are mostly sloping. The soils formed a drumlin with glacial till. The till is compact, acid, and stony and is derived from mica schist and granite.

Wildlife Habitat:

Edge habitat (maintained field) is available to the east of this property. While it is not on the actual property, there is a bequest to the ACC for this field in the future. Hard mast from the oaks (black, red, and white), provide an excellent food source for common wildlife found in the area.

Forests:

This property is dominated by the broadly defined forest community of the *hemlock-beech-oak-pine forest*. Hemlock and beech are somewhat absent which would indicate that this forest has graded into an *oak-pine forest*, which is characterized by central hardwoods (the oaks) that have mixed with pine. Interior stone walls and a relatively rock-free surface indicate an agricultural past. This forest appears to be about 60 years old and started growing when the fields were abandoned. White pine is well represented due to this property's agricultural history (old field pine succession). Other dominants consist of red oak, black oak, and white oak; red maple, black birch, pitch pine, and white birch are present, but in much lower numbers. There is evidence of some blowdown along the eastern margin of this property and may be due to its southeast exposure and wind from the southeast that cross the field to the east.

This forest is in good condition and lends itself easily to any of the forest management schemes presently practiced on ACC forest lands. Any of the traditional silvicultural practices (i.e. thinnings, group selection openings) would yield a positive cash flow to the Commission. Any recommendations at this time would be premature without further discussion of the goal(s) for this property. Access is a limiting factor for management (see *Property Access* below). The hardpan layer makes logging problematic, especially during wet periods.

Forest Connectivity to other Conserved Lands:

It appears there is an unfragmented forest to the west into Mont Vernon and north into the Air Force Station in New Boston and back south into the Joe English Reservation. The ownership status of the land in Mont Vernon is unknown. The field to the east of this property has been bequested to the ACC with the eventual possibility of a connection to the Joe English Reservation on the east side of Mack Hill Road.

Historical Information

As mentioned, interior stone walls indicate boundaries of old fields. It appears that these fields were abandoned about 60 years ago.

Buildings, trails, and other man-made structures

There are no buildings on this property. There is one trail that forms a circuitous route from the David Bate residence west into the middle of the property, continuing south, almost bisecting the property, and then east and north back to the Bate residence.

Protection Plan

This land is owned by the Town of Amherst. Any protection restrictions are not known at this time.

Condition of Boundaries

A field survey of the property has been drawn by Meridian Land Services, Inc., dated December 2, 2002. Property lines are not marked. The northern, western and southern lines are easily located (stone walls, barbed wire); the eastern line is a subdivision line and does not have any permanent markings along its entire length.

Property Access

This property is essentially landlocked. There is a 25' wide access easement to the east near the southeast corner of the property. Due to its width and alignment, any use of this easement would be restricted to hiking access. Further study would be necessary to determine its actual use, if any. It does not look like there is any legal access that is wide enough to allow the use of logging equipment.

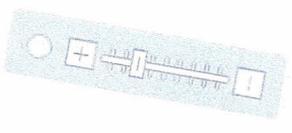
The best access for logging would be off of Bates Road north and west through David Bates' backyard. There is no legal ROW, so any use would be by permission only.

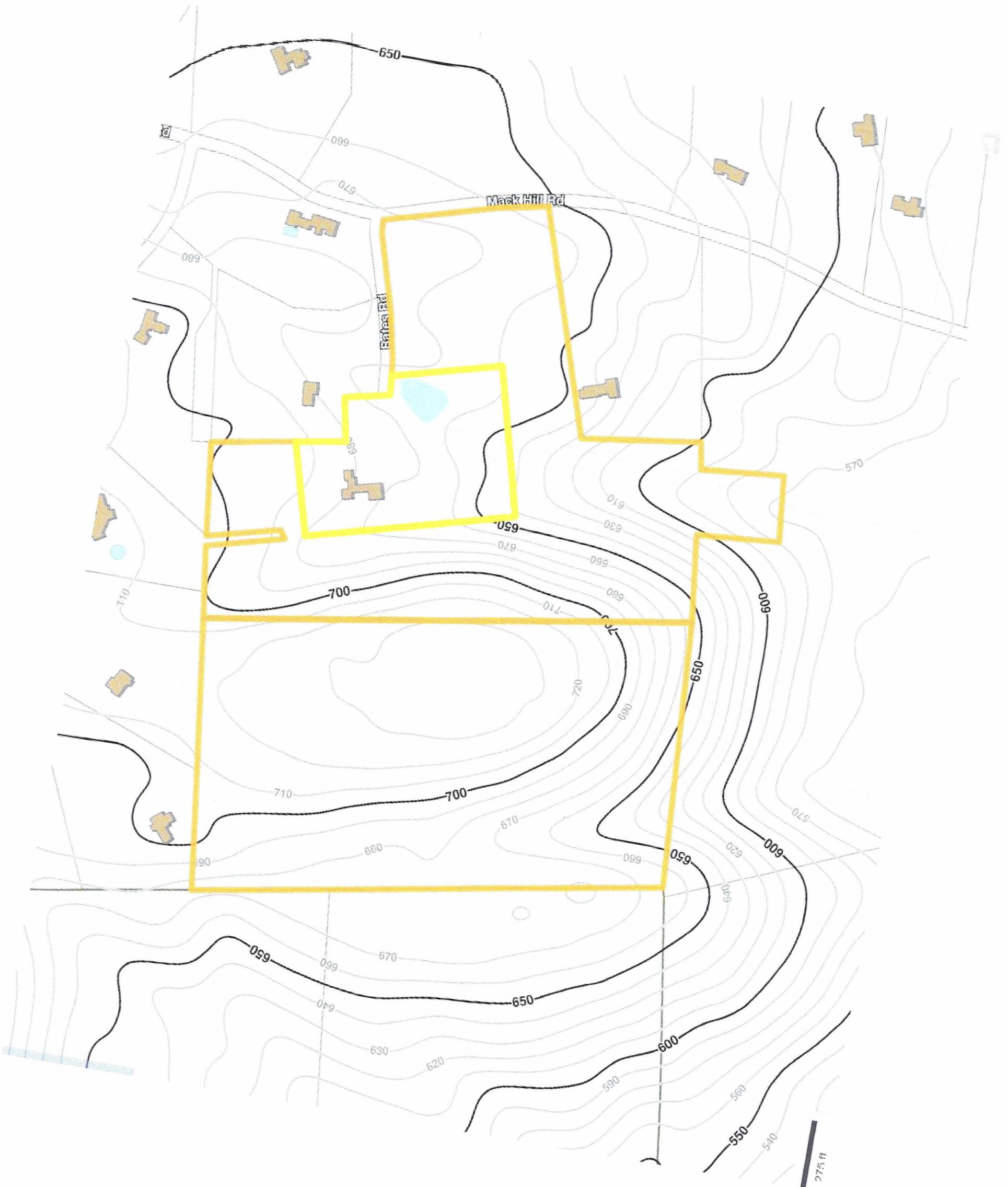
Charles Koch
Forester
December 7, 2015

Attachments:

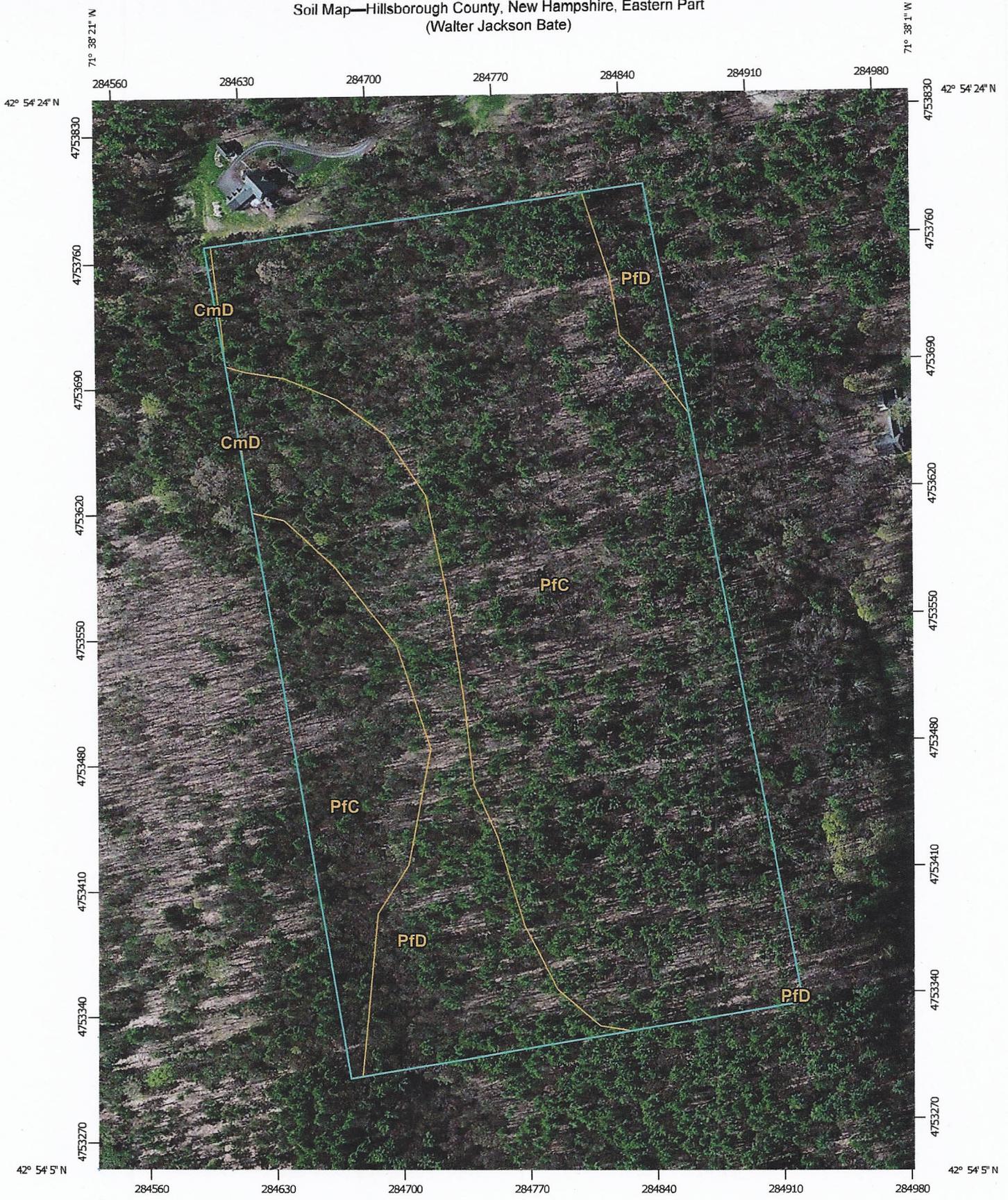
Walter Jackson Bate Property Map
Tax Map
Topo Map
Soils Map

Maps Search Properties Property Info NRPC Help





Soil Map—Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, Eastern Part
(Walter Jackson Bates)



Map Scale: 1:2,900 if printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 19N WGS84



Map Unit Legend

Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, Eastern Part (NH601)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
CmD	Canton stony fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	0.0	0.1%
PfC	Paxton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	21.9	76.3%
PfD	Paxton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	6.8	23.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		28.7	100.0%