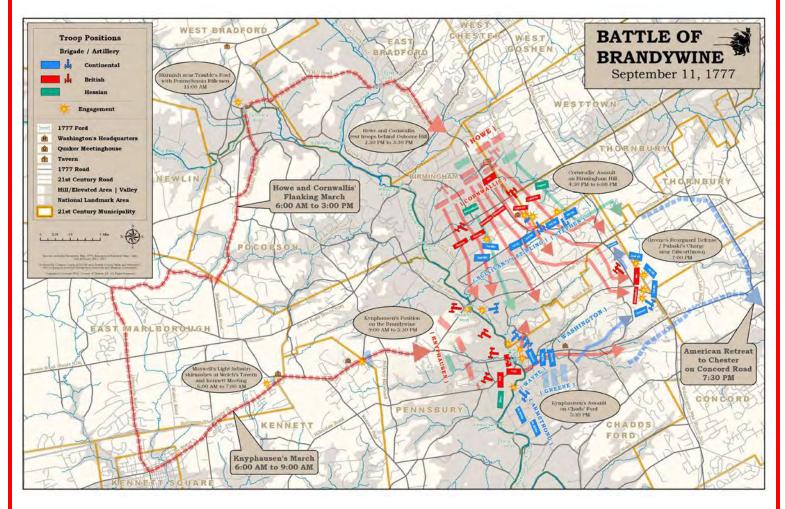
# **Battle of Brandywine**

Animated Map and Atlas Project Final Technical Report



December, 2010

by Chester County DCIS / GIS and Parks Department

This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

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# 1. Battle of Brandywine

The Battle of Brandywine was the largest single-day battle of the American Revolution, and although the Continental Army was driven from the field, George Washington demonstrated, for the first time, his ability to withstand a direct engagement with General Howe's army.

The battle, which took place on September 11, 1777 at Brandywine Creek in Chadds Ford, was Washington's attempt to block Howe from entering the colonial capital of Philadelphia. Howe managed to split his army and outflank Washington as demonstrated on the map in *Appendix A*.

After the battle, Howe continued his Philadelphia Campaign, marching into northern Chester County, where Washington again tried unsuccessfully to block him at the Battle of the Clouds. Days later Wayne's Division was routed at the Paoli Massacre as they tried to position themselves to harass Howe's rear.

By September 26, Howe managed to occupy Philadelphia, leaving Washington to spend the winter at Valley Forge.

Although Brandywine, and the Philadelphia Campaign, demonstrated a tactical victory for the British, Howe's lack of support for General Burgoyne's Northern Campaign in 1777 greatly contributed to a much more significant victory for the Continental Army in Saratoga, New York - seen by many as the turning point of the Revolution.

In the Spring of 1778, the British, now under General Clinton, left Philadelphia and returned to New York City in part to protect that city from America's new ally – the French.

### 2. Battlefield Preservation Timeline

Brandywine Battlefield Park was established as a 50 acre State Park in 1949. It is the location of the Ring House which served as Washington's Headquarters at Chadds Ford and is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

In 1961 the ten square mile National Historic Landmark (NHL) at Brandywine Battlefield was established. The NHL boundaries were recommended for expansion in 1989 and again in 1992 to about fifteen square miles as shown in *Appendix B*. These are currently the accepted boundaries for planning purposes in Chester and Delaware Counties.

By the 1990's suburban development was starting to severely threaten land within the landmark. Recognizing this, the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force was formed to preserve the national landmark planning area, educate the public and to develop interpretation of the battle and its historic and physical setting. The Task Force includes representatives from the municipalities within the Landmark, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, National Park Service, Chester and Delaware Counties, Brandywine Conservancy, Chadds Ford Historical Society, Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates, Valley Forge National Historic Site and the Natural Lands Trust.

### Battle of Brandywine -Final Technical Report

The fifty acre Sandy Hollow Heritage Park was established in 2001 at the site of some of the heaviest fighting of the day. This park is managed by Birmingham Township.

Around this time the non-profit the Friends of Brandywine Battlefield Park (aka the Brandywine Battlefield Associates), became actively involved with educational programs and tours based at the Brandywine Battlefield Park.

In 2007, the Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States, categorized the Brandywine Battlefield as one of thirty Priority I sites, and the ABPP established a Study Area, Core Area, and PotNR for the Brandywine Battlefield. See Appendix C.

Also, in 2007, the non-profit Brandywine Conservancy completed a multi-year preservation project that protected almost 500 acres of land in an area within the landmark known as the Meetinghouse Road Corridor – near the Birmingham Meetinghouse where major fighting occurred.

The Conservancy and its partners, including the Natural Lands Trust, managed to raise over \$16,000,000 to finance four major conservation easements and a fee simple purchase within the corridor. The County of Chester, the National Park Service, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania contributed in roughly equal portions to provide over two-thirds of the necessary funds. The remainder came from various public and private partners.

In 2009 the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum cut state funding to the battlefield park which led to reduced hours and services, as well as the removal of 80% of the museum's artifacts. At the time of this writing, the future of the historic site is unclear.

Also in 2009, the County of Chester was awarded an American Battlefield Protection Program grant to assist with battlefield preservation efforts within the entire landmark.

# 3. ABPP Grant Project

The ABPP project served to identify and inventory threatened parcels of land within the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark boundaries and incorporate them into the county's atlas of historic properties.

An animated map was created which graphically shows the movement of troops through the day of the battle. The animated map serves as both and educational tool and a planning tool. A DVD was also created to help educate the public and raise awareness about the battle's significance.

The Project Area for Chester County's 2009-10 project is based on the 2007 ABPP Study Area, with six zones of expansion described below and shown in *Appendix D*. The justification for this expansion is based on troop movements that our research has show occurred in these six areas.

- a) Greene's rearguard defense
  - This critical phase of the battle allowed Washington to retreat to Chester without any further harassment from the British.
- b) Continental retreat through hamlet of Thornton / Concord Road

  The retreat through this area was witnessed by a number of local citizens and passes through an area where historic structures still exist.
- c) British left flank at Birmingham
  - Our research showed that Cornwallis' left flank extended a little further to the east than was previously thought.
- d) Martin's Tavern / Marshallton
  - Martin's Tavern was involved in the story of Cornwallis' flanking maneuver. The Continental patrol (under Ross) that first spotted the British were in that vicinity, as was another patrol (under Spear) that infamously reported no British activity in that region.
- e) Kennett / East Marlborough encampment
  - Our research shows that this area was where the British were encamped the night before the battle.
- f) Knyphausen's morning march / Washington's southern position
  This portion of the battle occurred a little to the south of the 2007 study area.

The map shows that there are areas within the National Landmark that are not included in the 2007 Study Area – particularly in sections a, c, and f

# 4. Data Collection Methodology

Data was collected from a variety of sources. In all cases the digital data was entered into ESRI's ArcGIS formats.

### a. Municipal Borders

Paper copies of the Municipal boundaries of 1777 were available from the Chester County archives. These were scanned in, and geo-referenced to create a 1777 municipal borders layer in GIS.

### b. Road Network

Since no reliable road network map from 1777 was available, we devised a method using information available to us, which included the detailed 1873 Witmer municipal maps, the general county-wide Painter-Bowen 1847 map, and a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century landowner maps. These were all scanned in and geo-referenced in ESRI ArcMap. We also have in our archives road dockets going back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century which meticulously describe, in prose format, road alignments in terms of perches, metes and bounds.

We started by making a copy of the 2010 road centerline network, laying it on top of the Witmer maps, and deleting the road segments that did not correspond to roads on the Witmer maps. This gave us an accurately geo-referenced set of roads that existed in 1873 and still exist in 2010.

Roads that no longer exist in our current road network, but were on the Witmer maps, were plotted by hand – giving us a complete digital 1873 road network.

For each municipality in the project area, we then searched the Chester County road dockets prior to 1873 and plotted out every road, including abandoned "parts of roads". In many cases it was necessary to refer to the landowner maps which displayed names mentioned in the road dockets, and the 1847 Painter-Bowen map was used to double-check.

Since the docket descriptions were often vague, and obviously not geo-referenced, we did not want to use this newly created digital road docket network as our final product.

Instead, a copy of the 1873 digital road network was used as the starting point, which we then compared, using overlays, to the road docket network. Any "matching" road found in the road docket network with a court date between 1777 and 1873 was deleted from the 1873 road network, thus creating the 1777 road network.

Roads from the road docket network with a pre-1777 date were kept on the 1777 road network, but the alignments were altered, where appropriate, to match the docket description.

With this approach we have created a 1777 road network which maintains geo-referential digital accuracy as well as historical integrity.

#### c. Historic Resources

In order to inventory the historic resources within the project area, we used our national award winning methodology for data collection and creation of municipal historic atlases.

First, the municipal Historical Commission is contacted by Chester County's Heritage Preservation Coordinator and asked to provide a list of historic resources by address and tax parcel number. The Commission is provided with a black and white parcel atlas to assist them with this task, which is usually accomplished by using local volunteers to fill out Architectural Inventory Forms (AIF).

The AIF information is then entered into a comprehensive spreadsheet. The resources are categorized as described in section 5.b. by the Heritage Preservation Coordinator working in conjunction with the municipal Historic Commission.

A draft wall map is then generated for review by the municipality. Once approved, a final municipal atlas and wall map are generated in printed and digital forms.

A consolidation of the thirteen municipal atlases and wall maps within the project area has been created to demonstrate the historic resources of the Brandywine project area.

### d. Troop Movements

After the discovery of the Archibald Robertson map by Thomas McGuire in the 2000's, many of the historic maps, particularly the Faden map were shown to be incorrect. Other maps were either too vague or too incomplete to use for the precision of mapping needed in this project.

Most of the troop positions, therefore, were taken from the first hand accounts documented in McGuire's Philadelphia Campaign book.

A series of troop positions were created in ArcGIS using time-stamps, which gave us reasonably accurate snapshots of the battle to the half hour. These snapshots were reviewed, altered, and ultimately approved by Professor McGuire during a number of face-to-face meetings.

Since no ESRI tool allows for the creation of graphically smooth video, the snapshots were exported from ArcMap and imported into Adobe Flash CS4. We were then able to create moveable boxes in Flash based on the half hour snapshots, and interpolate the movements along existing roads and/or known fields.

### 5. Products

The primary deliverables from the project are the Animated Map, the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Resource Atlas and wall map, the KOCOA maps, the educational DVD, and an Archeological Assessment map.

### a. Animated Map

The interactive animated map was developed using Adobe Flash CS4 and runs as an html. It functions as both an educational / interpretive tool and a planning tool.

The animated map shows troop movements from dawn to dusk on September 11, 1777. The map has various possible backgrounds including a base map showing just roads and municipalities, a modern features map, an aerial view map, a property parcel map, and a map of the features of 1777.

Other layers are also available in the map, regardless of background, including fords, historic structures, municipal labels, and division labels. Individual units can be identified with a mouse-over.

The animated map has a clock which shows the approximate time of the troop positions, and a slidebar which can be used to move through time in either direction. A zoom capability is also included.

Three levels of security are available that limit the number of backgrounds. This was included so that publicly available copies don't show sensitive property parcel information that is important to planners.

The animated map is available to the public upon request in CD form.

### **b. Historic Resource Atlases**

Various atlases were created for the individual municipalities with the project area. These atlases are intended to show historic resources at a property parcel level, which are color coded to show classifications:

Class I – On or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Class II - Locally significant historic resource

Class III – All remaining resources over 50 years old

The information from the individual atlases was consolidated to create an overall Battle of Brandywine Historic Resource Atlas and Wall Map shown in *Appendix E*. Historic resources that were built prior to 1780 and are still recorded as historic resources on the municipal atlases will be incorporated into the battlefield atlas.

### c. KOCOA Maps

KOCOA is an acronym that stands for Key Terrain, Observation and Fields of Fire, Cover and Concealment, Obstacles, Avenues of Approach. Studying the KOCOA elements of a given battlefield is helpful for understanding how the unique landscape configuration can affect the outcome of a battlefield.

KOCOA maps were created based on terrain and troop positions. An overall KOCOA map shows the general movement of troops (avenues of approach and retreat), cover and concealment, obstacles, and significant fields of fire within the terrain of the area as it was in 1777. This map builds upon two other maps detailing the physical and cultural topography of the project area in 1777.

Three individual KOCOA Fields of Fire maps were created to show troop positions and firepower at specific significant intervals of the battle. Four KOCOA Viewshed maps illustrate the view available to commanders leading up to the key intervals.

The KOCOA suite of maps can be seen in *Appendix F through Q*.

#### d. Educational DVD

The educational DVD is a recorded version of the public presentation. It incorporates sequences from the animated map along with descriptions of the American Revolution and the Philadelphia Campaign in order to set the context.

The DVD also includes special features such as 3-D Terrain Analysis and 3-D Historic Resource animation.

The DVD has classic historical artwork as well more recently produced art. Some period music has also been included.

This DVD in its current form is available upon request to the public, and is adequate for instructional purposes, but we recommend that it be considered for professional production and distribution to wider audiences.

## e. Archeological Assessment Map

The Archeological Assessment map in *Appendix R* is based on the 1989 Cultural Resources Management Study by the Delaware County Planning Department. It shows areas of Archeological Potential (based on degree of development) and areas of Anticipated Deposits (where action occurred during the battle).

By juxtaposing the two metrics on one map we can help planners and archeologists determine the areas most likely to contain artifacts.

Due to the sensitive nature of archeological excavations, especially in residential areas, this map is not meant for public distribution. Anyone interested in this map should contact Chester County Planning or the PHMC.

# 6. Publicity

One of the requirements of the ABPP grant was to have at least two public meetings – one involving stakeholders, and the other with the general public.

Prior to the stakeholders meeting in March, 2010 at the Brandywine River Museum, preliminary versions of the animated map were shown to officials at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Brandywine Battlefield Associates and to a gathering of over 100 people at the Radley Run Country Club located within the National Historic Landmark.

The stakeholders meeting included local elected government officials, Historical Commission members, Planning Commission members, representatives from the Brandywine Battlefield Associates and the Brandywine Conservancy, as well as a number of significant private landowners.

At this point interest in the presentation began to spread by word of mouth, and we started getting requests from groups within the community who wanted to see the presentation, which was improving as the products became more developed. The public seemed to be quite enthused about the animated map, particularly planners and Middle School teachers.

Other notable presentations were made to the Superintendent and staff of Valley Forge National Historical Park and members of the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund.

The final public presentation was made on November 30. About 60 people were in attendance. A majority of the group were Historic Commission members from the surrounding municipalities. An official from each of the ten surrounding municipalities was presented with a Historic Resource Atlas and Animated CD before our products were presented.

Throughout the grant period over 500 people from the Brandywine region viewed the presentation.

We have been contacted by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution to make this presentation at their January meeting and the private Tower Hill School in Wilmington Delaware is also interested in having us present at a school assembly.

### 7. Recommendations

### a. National Historic Landmark expansion

One of the most critical findings of the ABPP study was the large number of at-risk parcels, directly relating to the troop movements on September 11, 1777, which are not included in the current National Historic Landmark and are not designated as contributing historic properties by local planning efforts. It is therefore recommended that a review of the current Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark boundaries be considered using "The Proposed Study Area for the Expanded Landmark Map" (see *Appendix S*). The Brandywine Battlefield Taskforce could undertake this review to determine if a nomination for an expanded National Historic Landmark for the Battlefield should be developed.

### b. Regional Linkages

It is recommended that the *Revolutionary War Campaign of 1777 Loop* proposed by the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force in conjunction with municipal input be formally endorsed by both Chester and Delaware counties. This Loop concept is a regional planning effort that would provide regional linkages between significant Battlefield landscapes and historic sites. The Loop would provide pedestrian access along many of the roadways and other corridors that were used for troop movements. The Animated Map and Atlases can serve as the historical reference material to locate opportunities for historical interpretation along the proposed regional linkages. (Note the 1777 Loop concept is presented in *Appendix T*.)

This Loop would connect the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site (BBHS) with Valley Forge National Historical Park and with the Paoli Battlefield Site and Memorial Grounds. Each of these sites is key to the Revolutionary War Campaign of 1777. As the primary public access point for the Brandywine Battlefield NHL, the BBHS serves as the southern gateway and trailhead for the 1777 Loop. The interpretive/visitors center would provide the opportunity for recreational users to view the animated map as part of their visit to the Loop, and so promote historical education to a wider segment of the public.

The archeological impacts of the proposed Loop can not be determined until a feasibility study is undertaken to determine preliminary alignments. Depending on funding availability for such a study, the timeframe would be a minimum of 2-5 years.

#### c. Educational Kiosks

It is recommended that educational kiosks displaying the animated map be developed and placed at the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site, the 1704 House, the Brandywine Conservancy, and Brandywine Valley Visitors Bureau as well as possibly Valley Forge National Historical Park, Paoli Battlefield Site and Memorial Grounds, and municipal buildings. Some or all of these sites may want traditional map displays to compliment that animated map.

Additional background layers for the animated map should considered, especially some of the KOCOA maps produced for this grant.

In conjunction with the kiosks, a website should be developed to provide the interactive map and professionally produced version of the educational video to teachers who wish to utilize the information in the classroom. It is further recommended that Chester County Parks & Recreation incorporate the educational programming into their county-wide educational programming.

### d. Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan

To follow up on this 2009-10 ABPP study, which focused on historic resources identification and mapping, it is recommended that Chester County develop a Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan that would encompass a Land Preservation component, a Master Plan

element, a Site/Public Access/Facilities planning element, and an Interpretative opportunities element.

It is recommended that the County work with the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force and the municipal leaders that worked with the ABPP team and were at the final public meeting on November 30, 2010. This would build on the already established knowledge base and enthusiasm of the municipal leadership developed during the ABPP grant process. A mapping component integrating the interactive map with the maps developed for the ABPP grant should be considered as a component of this planning process. The plan could also explore future relationships between the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site (BBHS) with Valley Forge National Historical Park and with the Paoli Battlefield Site and Memorial Grounds. Each of these sites is key to the Revolutionary War Campaign of 1777

The geographic scope of this plan should include the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark area and areas identified as historically significant in this 2009-10 study. The timing of obtaining this grant for a Preservation Plan is critical considering the drastic financial and staffing cuts to the existing facilities discussed in section 2.

# 8. Bibliography and Credits

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### **Oral History**

Thomas J. McGuire - 2010 The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission - 2009

### **Artwork and Picture Credits**

Pamela Patrick White and Bryant White of White Historic Art
Don Troiani, courtesy of the Historical Image Bank, www.historicalimagebank.com
Stephen Walsh, Great Britain
Friends of Martins Tavern, Marshalton, PA
Chadds Ford Historical Society, Chadds Ford, PA
Joe Gawinski, Chadds Ford, PA
Florida Institute for Instructional Technology

#### Music

Yankee Doodle - Chester County Studio Musicians, 2006 Grenadiers March – Grenadiers Guard Band, 1989 The World Turned Upside Down – Chumbawamba, 2008 Chester – Douglas Jimerson, 1998 Johnny Has Gone For a Soldier – Wallace House, 1970 Katy Cruel - The George Washington Royal Orchestra, 2009

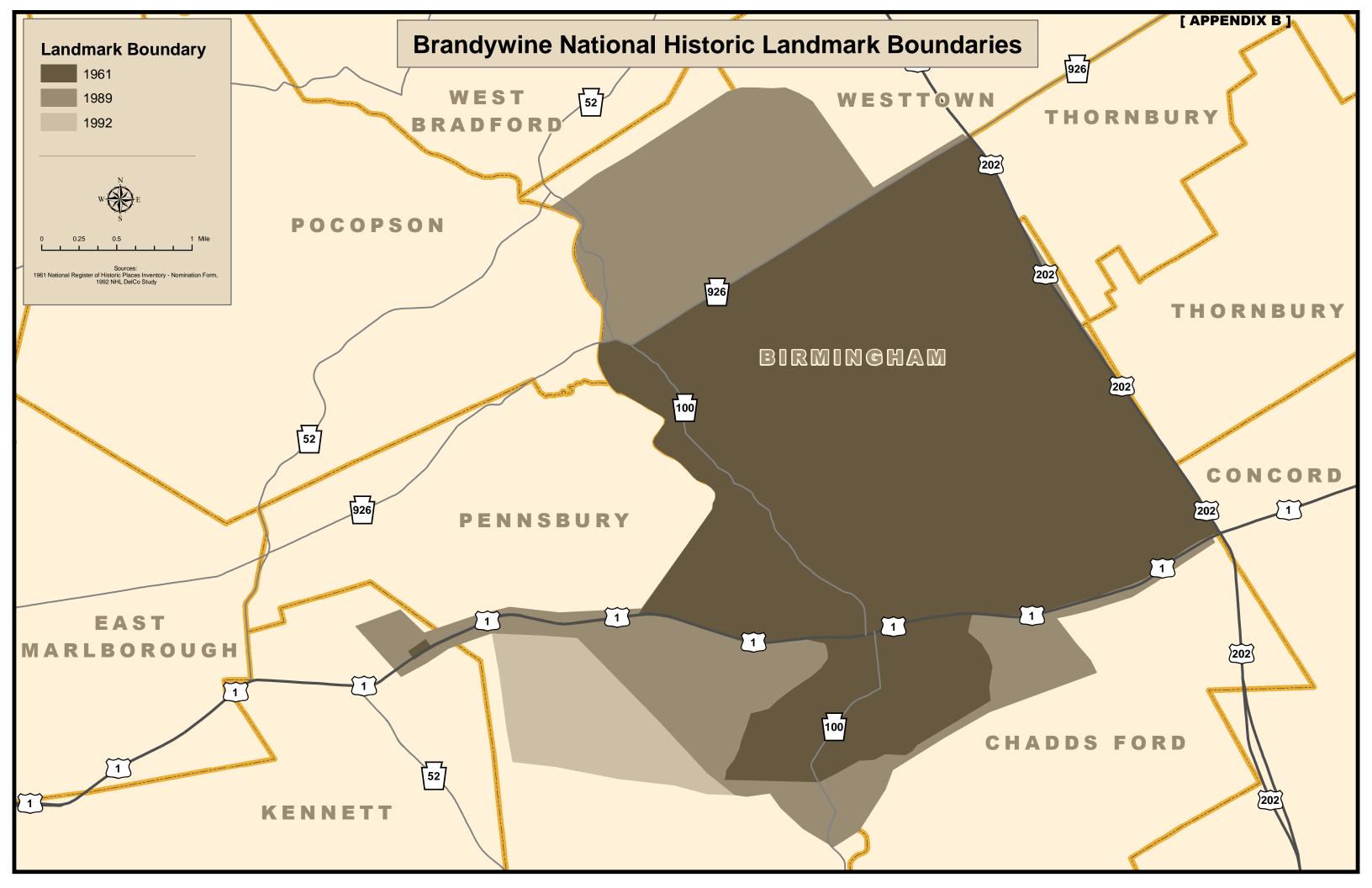
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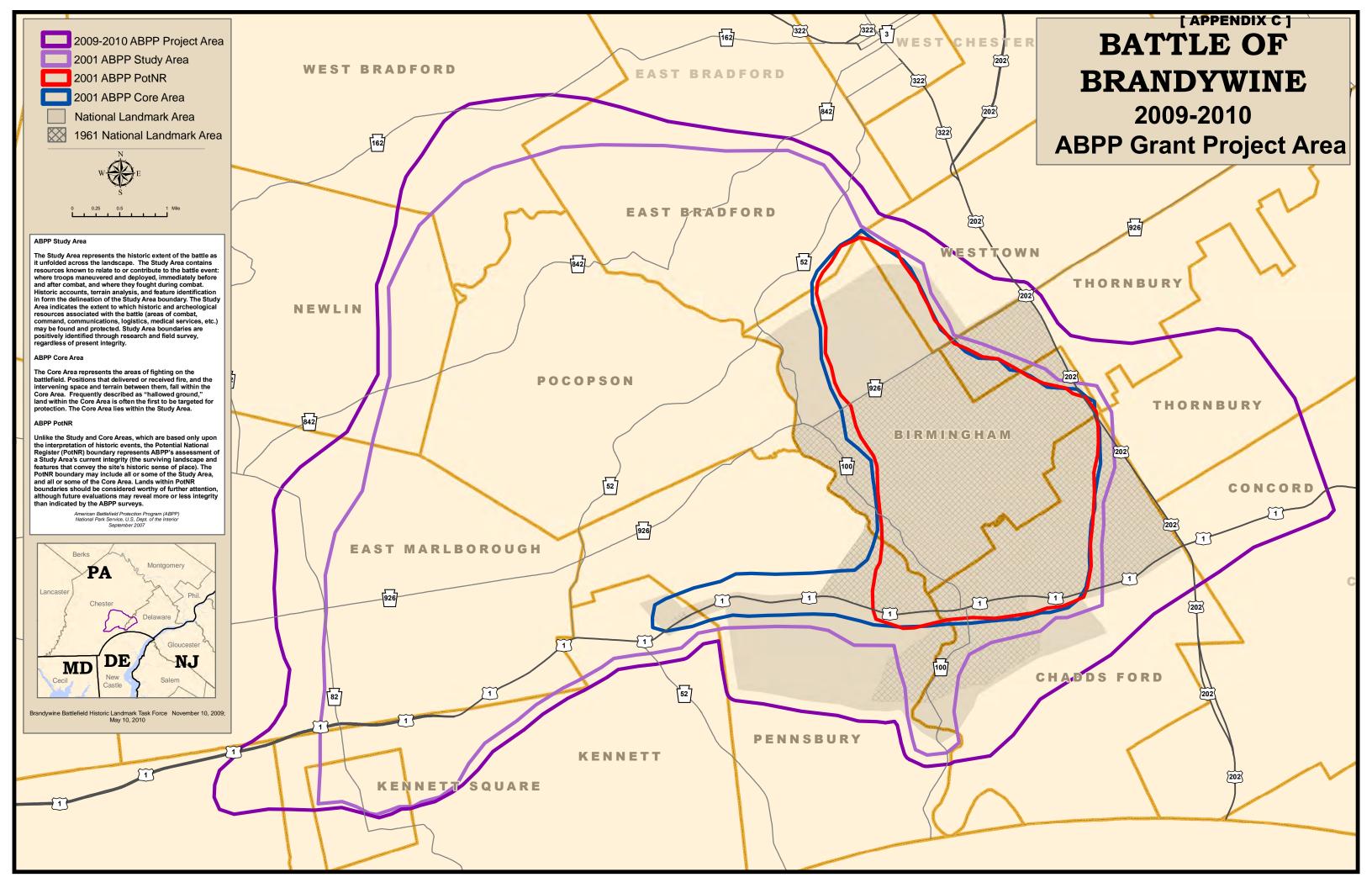
Friends of the Brandywine Battlefield Brandywine Battlefield Task Force

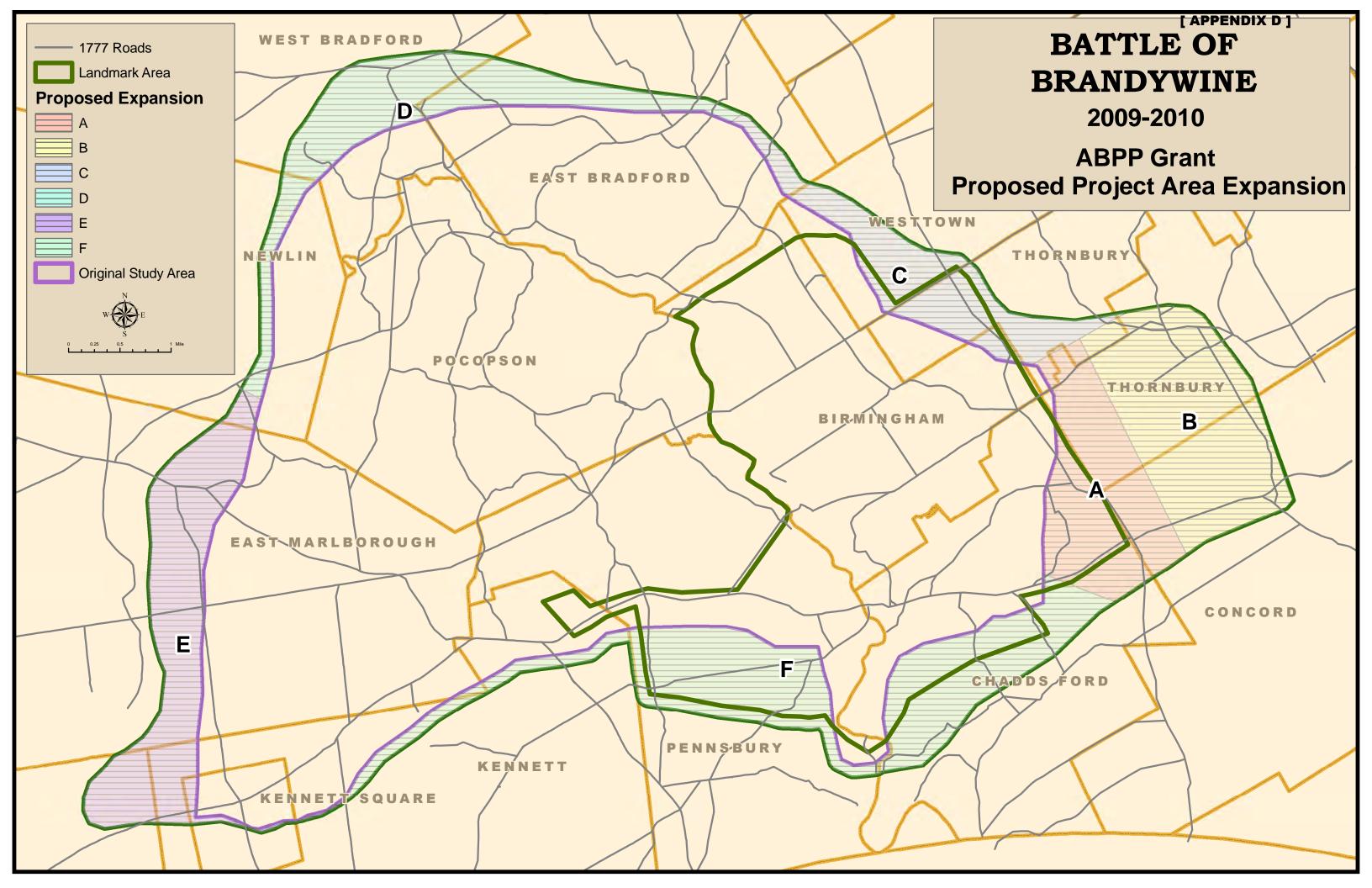
# **Appendix**

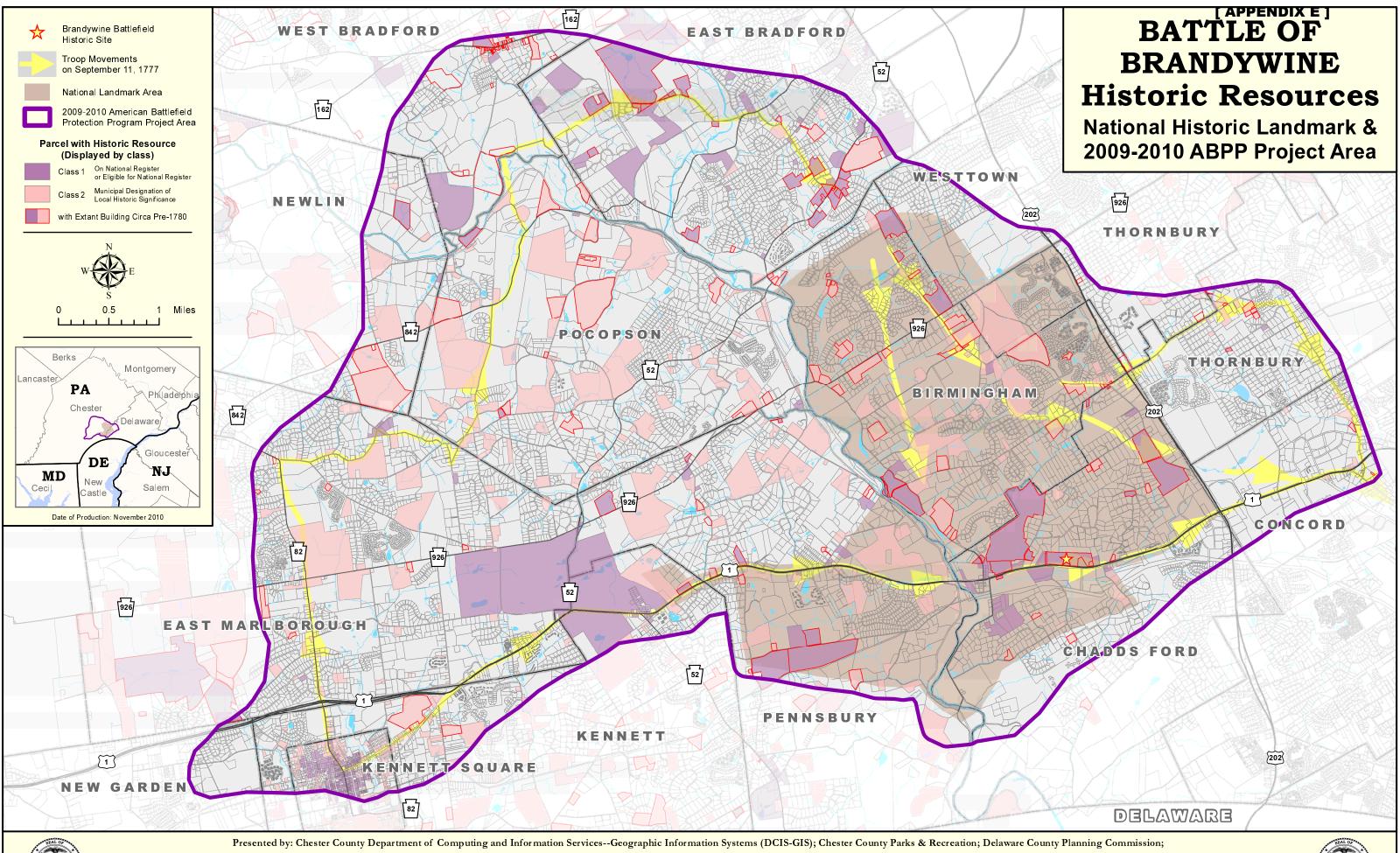
- A. Battle Map
- B. National Historic Landmark Boundaries
- C. Brandywine Project Area
- D. Project Area Expansion
- E. Wall Map
- F. KOCOA Topography
- G. KOCOA Overall
- H. KOCOA Cultural Topography
- I. KOCOA Birmingham Hill Fields of Fire
- J. KOCOA Birmingham Hill Viewshed
- K. KOCOA Osbourne Hill Viewshed
- L. KOCOA Chads' Ford Fields of Fire
- M. KOCOA Chads' Ford Viewshed East
- N. KOCOA Chads' Ford Viewshed West
- O. KOCOA Dilworthtown Fields of Fire
- P. KOCOA Dilworthtown Viewshed South
- Q. KOCOA Dilworthtown Viewshed Southeast
- R. Archeological Assessment
- S. Proposed Study Area for the Expanded Landmark

T. 1777 Trail Loop



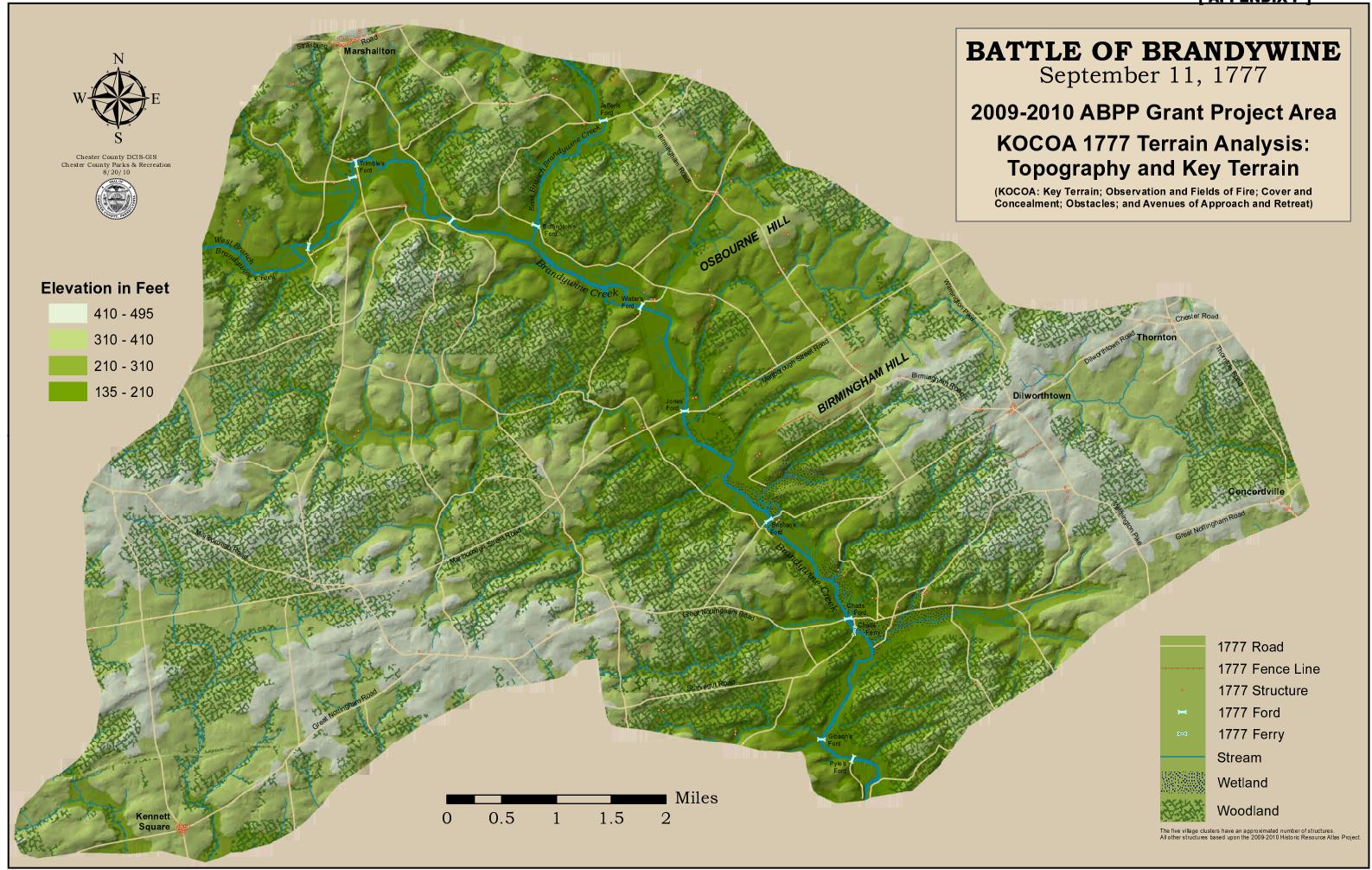


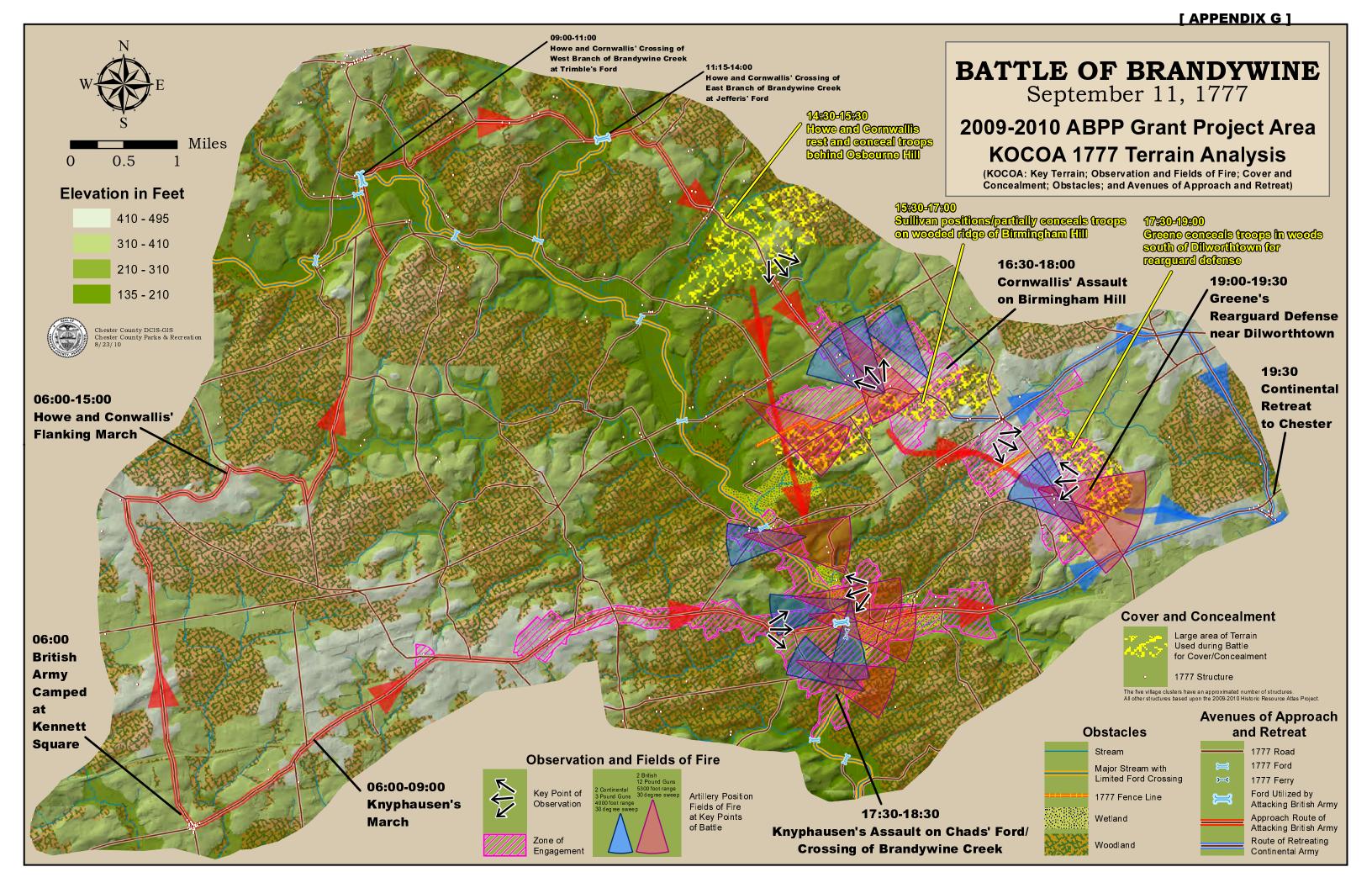












[ APPENDIX H ]

