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MEMO

TO	Justified Data Power LLC
FROM	Environmental Resources Management, Inc. (ERM) Audrey Nixon, MA, Senior Consultant, Archaeologist Michael Madson, RPA, Technical Consulting Director, Archaeologist
DATE	27 May 2026
REFERENCE	0801634
SUBJECT	Wildcat Data Center, Hancock County, Kentucky - Cultural Resources Desktop Review

1. INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Justified Data Power, LLC (Justified Data), Environmental Resources Management, Inc. (ERM) completed a cultural desktop review of previously recorded cultural resources for the Wildcat Data Center Project (Project). The Project is located on approximately 475 acres (192 hectares) in Hancock County, Kentucky (Project Area) (Attachment A, Figures 1 and 2). This desktop review is intended to aid Justified Data's site planning activities. ERM did not conduct supplemental cultural resources field investigations.

2. CULTURAL RESOURCES

On February 18, 2026, ERM conducted a desktop review of cultural resources by consulting Kentucky's Office of State Archaeology (OSA), maintained by the Kentucky Heritage Council's State Historic Preservation Office (KHC), historic aerials, and historical mapping. The review encompassed the Project Area plus a 1-mile buffer (Study Area) (Attachment A, Figure 1). This desktop review is intended to aid in planning purposes, and no cultural resources field investigations were conducted in support of the Project.

Research was conducted to determine if any portion of the Study Area has been subject to past cultural resources surveys or investigations. The National Park Service's (NPS) National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), National Historic Landmark (NHL), and American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) databases were also consulted. ERM conducted the records review to determine the number, nature, and location of known archaeological sites, cemeteries, and architectural resources within the Study

Area. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological sites, none of the previously recorded archaeological site locations are provided in the attached figures.

2.1 PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

Five previous cultural resources surveys were conducted within the Study Area and no surveys overlap with the Project Area boundaries (OSA). Information on these previous surveys – including their survey number, year, title, and authors– is provided in Table 1. These surveys were associated with infrastructural development for energy operations such as power plants, transmission lines, and a coal plant. Each of the surveys was conducted over 10 years ago and may not be up to date with current Kentucky SHPO regulations.

TABLE 1 PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Survey Number	Year	Title	Author(s)	Within the Project Area?
575372	1977	Previous Archaeological Investigations in Daviess, Ohio and Hancock Counties, Kentucky: A Preliminary Report	Glover, John T.	No
575528	1978	An Archaeological Survey and Assessment of the Proposed Expansion of the Coleman Station Power Plant, Hancock County	Allen, Roger C.	No
576907	1982	A Cultural Resource Assessment of the Coleman EHV 161KV Tie Line Routes, Hancock County, Kentucky	Janzen, Donald	No
576909	1980	An Archaeological Reconnaissance of a Proposed Coal Transfer Facility in Northern Hancock County, Kentucky	Shock, Jack M.	No
581289	1999	An Archaeological Investigation of 28 Acres for Hancock County River Services in Hancock County, Kentucky	Schock, Jack M.	No

Kentucky's Office of State Archaeology (OSA), 2026

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGY

According to OSA, 23 previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the Study Area and none are located within the Project Area (Table 2).

Among the 23 known sites within the Study Area, two are historic. Both of these sites are historic farms or residences. Only one of them has been evaluated for the NRHP, and is not presently eligible for inclusion. The remaining 21 known archaeological sites within the Study area are a range of isolated finds, open habitation sites, and three are

of undetermined status. None of these sites have been evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP.

TABLE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES LOCATED WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Site Number	Time Period	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility	Within the Project Area?
Unknown	Historic	Farm / Residence	Not Eligible	Unknown
Unknown	Historic	Farm / Residence	Unevaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Isolated Find	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Isolated Find	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Isolated Find	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Isolated Find	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Isolated Find	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Open Habitation without Mounds	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Undetermined	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Undetermined	Not Evaluated	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Undetermined	Not Evaluated	Unknown

Kentucky's Office of State Archaeology (OSA), 2026

2.3 ASSESSMENT OF BURIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE POTENTIAL WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

ERM reviewed historic topographic maps dating back to 1903 and found no previous historic structures within the Project Area (USGS 1903, 1953, 1954, 1957, 1961, 1986, 1991, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022). Additionally, historic aerial photographs dating back to 1950 also show no previous historic structures within the Project Area (NETROnline 2026). The Project Area has a low potential for historic archaeological sites relating to standing or demolished historic architectural resources.

The Project Area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources therefore sites could be present within its boundaries. The majority of the Project Area is mapped on soils that formed on alluvial deposits on the Cape silty clay loam (Ce), Elk silt loam (EkA, EkB, EkC), Otwood silt loam (OtA), Ginat silt loam (uGnA, uGnO). These alluvial soils are fine textured and form on floodplains and river terraces which have high potential for the presence of buried pre-contact archaeological sites. Potential for the presence of buried pre-contact archaeological sites is dependent on the depositional history, environment, and relative age of a landform. Alluvium commonly contains buried archaeological sites. Therefore, 23% (109 acres) has low potential and 77% (366 acres) has high potential for potentially eligible buried pre-contact archaeological sites.

2.4 SACRED PLACES AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES

The Project Area does not overlap with any present-day reservations. Historically, Native American Tribes, Nations, or Pueblos who have interest in the areas within and surrounding the Project area are: Cherokee Nation, Delaware Nation, Oklahoma, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and Osage Nation, and Peoria (Table 3). Justified Data may choose to inform these Native American Tribes and Nations about the Project; however, consultations concerning Project impact on historically Native lands are not required since the Project Site is not located on current or historical Native lands.

TABLE 3: KENTUCKY TRIBAL NATIONS WITH POTENTIAL INTEREST IN PROJECT AREA

Tribe/Nation	Counties of Interest	Address	Additional Information
Cherokee Nation	Hancock	PO Box 948, Tahlequah, OK - 74465	THPO: Elizabeth Toombs: elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org , (918) 453-5389
Delaware Nation, Oklahoma	Hancock	P.O. Box 825, Anadarko, OK - 73005	THPO: Katelyn Lucas: klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov , (405) 544-8115
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Hancock	Qualla Boundary P.O. Box 455, Cherokee, NC - 28719	THPO: Russell Townsend: syerka@ebci-nsn.gov , (828) 554-6851

Tribe/Nation	Counties of Interest	Address	Additional Information
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma	Hancock	P.O. Box 1326, Miami, OK - 74355	THPO: Logan York: thpo@miamination.com , (918) 541-7885
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	Hancock	70500 E. 128 Road, Wyandotte, OK, 74370	THPO: Lora Nuckolls: lnuckolls@estoo.net ; (918) 238- 5151 ext. 1840
Osage Nation	Hancock	N/A, Pawhuska, OK - 74056	THPO: Andrea A. Hunter: s106@osagenation-nsn.gov , (918) 287-5328
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	Hancock	118 S. Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, OK - 74354	THPO: Burgundy Fletcher: rdobbs@peoriatribe.com , (918) 540-2538

TDAT, 2026; Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2026

2.5 CEMETERIES

There are no known cemeteries located within the Study Area and none are located within the Project Area (Find A Grave, 2026). While there are no recorded cemeteries within the Project Area, unmarked rural cemeteries and graves do occur in Kentucky. If human remains or unmarked graves are encountered, stop work immediately and contact law enforcement. Under Kentucky Code, all marked and unmarked cemeteries are protected from disturbance, which prohibit unauthorized excavation or damage to graves, including historic and abandoned burial sites. Upon discovery of human remains outside a known cemetery, individuals must immediately notify the coroner and refrain from disturbance. Unauthorized excavation for commercial gain or artifact removal constitutes first-degree desecration under Kentucky state law (Kentucky Revised Statutes 381.695-381.697, 72.020, 524.120).

2.6 HISTORIC DISTRICTS, BATTLEFIELDS , AND VISUAL IMPACTS

There are no historic districts or battlefields within the Project Area or that overlap the Study Area (NHL 2026, ABPP 2026, NRHP 2026).

2.7 HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND VISUAL IMPACTS

Historic resources constitute any building, site, or structure 50 years or older which has been identified as significant or potentially significant to the state of Kentucky. No previously recorded architectural resources are located within the Project Area and one is located within the one-mile Study Area (KHC 2026) (Table 4).

The previously recorded resource is located approximately 0.71 miles west from the Project Area's northwest corner on River Road. The resource, Lewis Place (HA 12), is a vernacular dwelling built between 1875 and 1899. It is currently unevaluated for listing on the NRHP. The environment surrounding the previously recorded resource is rural with dense pockets of forest. Due to these forested lands and the significant distance between the resource and Project Area, the Project will not impact HA 12.

A map review indicates that there are two existing private structures located within the one mile Study Area, approximately 0.09 miles southeast and 0.13 mile southwest of the Project Area southwest corner on River Road (USGS 1961; NETROnline 2026). Unrecorded and unevaluated resources in close proximity of the Project Area could be visually impacted due to the proximity between the resources and Project Area and lack of vegetative screening. Evaluation of these resources may be required by a federal agency to determine Project impacts to cultural resources.

TABLE 4 HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE LOCATED WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Resource Number	Resource Name	Year(s)	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Within the Project Area?
HA 12	Lewis Place	1875-1899	Vernacular Dwelling	Undetermined	No

KHC Cultural Resources Map, 2026

2.8 SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

This desktop review is for planning purposes only, and no cultural resource field investigations have been conducted. Such investigations may be warranted to satisfy Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, if it is determined that one or more federal permits (such as a Section 404 permit under the CWA, requiring USACE involvement), federal licensing, is subject to another federal nexus, or approval are required. These investigations could include archaeological survey to identify NRHP-eligible sites that could be directly affected by the Project and/or an architectural survey to identify any NRHP-eligible architectural resources that could be directly or indirectly (visually) affected by the Project. Should the Project be subject to federal, state, or county permitting requiring consideration of cultural resources, evaluation of these resources inclusive of NRHP eligibility could be needed to determine Project impacts.

The cultural resources within the Wildcat Data Center Study Area that were discussed above are summarized in Table 5:

TABLE 5 SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Resource / Survey Type	Number	Within the Study Area	Within the Project Area?
Cultural Resources Survey	5	5	0
Archaeological Sites	23	23	Unknown
Cemeteries	0	0	0
Historic Districts	0	0	0

Resource / Survey Type	Number	Within the Study Area	Within the Project Area?
Historic Architecture Resources	1	1	0

The NRHP eligibility of cultural resources within the Study Area that were discussed above are summarized in Table 6:

TABLE 6 SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES AND THEIR NRHP ELIGIBILITY WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Resource / Survey Type	Listed	Eligible	Ineligible	Undetermined	Demolished
Archaeological Sites	0	0	1	22	0
Historic Districts	0	0	0	0	0
Historic Architecture Resources	0	0	0	1	0

2.9 UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY PLAN

As a best practice, ERM recommends that Justified Data Power LLC have an Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) be prepared prior to construction and in place for all earth-moving activities, so that a cultural resource inadvertently encountered can be appropriately managed. The purpose of the UDP is to make field personnel aware that, although there is currently no federal nexus to require a formal survey, cultural resources could still be present, and that construction should cease if any cultural resources are encountered. Further, the UDP guides steps that should be taken following any unanticipated discovery. A UDP is not intended to allow any short-cuts or reduction of effort in any part of the Section 106 consultation process, should NHPA pertain to the Project. The UDP should be followed during Project construction to minimize potential impacts to any unknown intact archaeological resources. If previously unrecorded cultural resources, human remains, or unmarked graves are encountered within the Wildcat Data Center Project Area, work should stop immediately, and law enforcement contacted along with Kentucky's OSA.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Based on ERM's review of existing conditions and resources, we recommend that there is a moderate to high likelihood of buried cultural deposits in the Project Area. Should a federal agency request cultural resources information to support their regulatory review, a Phase I archaeological survey may be required to determine if there are intact and buried archaeological deposits that could be adversely impacted by federal agency action or undertaking. A historic resources survey may also be requested by

the federal agency depending on the nature of their undertaking. Any survey areas would be determined by the federal agency and may involve possible construction locations where direct impacts could occur, as well as nearby areas where indirect impacts may occur.

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ATTACHMENT A FIGURES

FIGURE 1 PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW, AERIAL VIEW



FIGURE 2 PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW, TOPOGRAPHIC VIEW

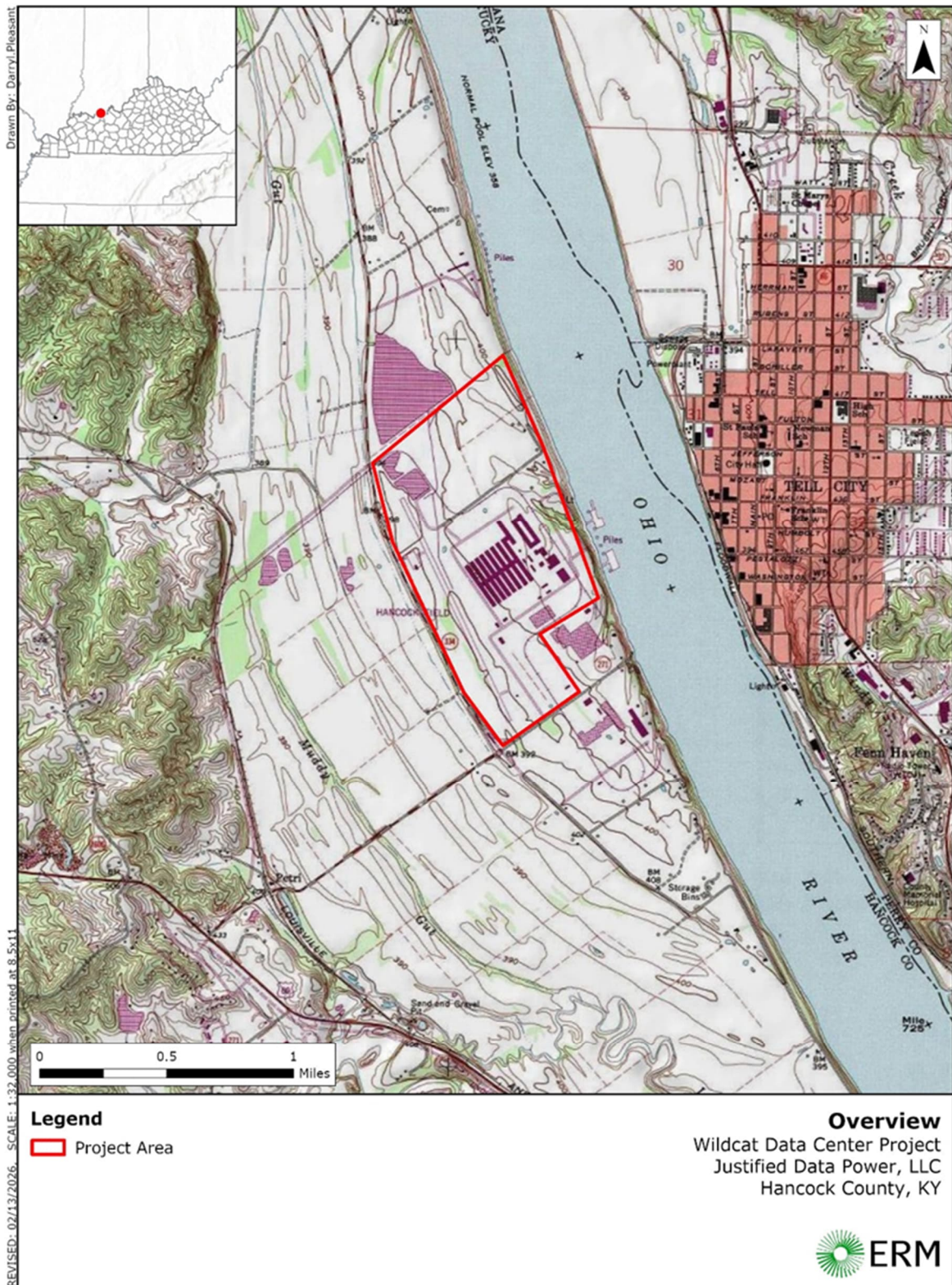


FIGURE 3 PREVIOUS SURVEYS AND RECORDED RESOURCES WITHIN STUDY AREA



FIGURE 4 SOILS WITHIN PROJECT AREA

