Jun-1996

Inside Front and Back Covers: Aerial Photographs of Southeastern Massachusetts and Chatham

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://vc.bridgew.edu/br_rev/vol15/iss1/3

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Landsat Thematic Mapper scene (15km x 15km) of the Wareham area acquired from 705 km altitude. Some of the landmarks visible in this scene are Route 495 which is the grey line running from upper left to lower right and Route 195 which runs from the lower center to Route 495. The interchange is quite recognizable by its distinctive T shape. At the bottom of the image is the Wareham River. Running from the top center to lower right are a series of brightly colored orange irregular patches which are healthy cranberry bogs in this August image. This image is a rendition of the Landsat image Bands 4,5,7 displayed as red, green, blue. In this rendition, healthy chlorophyll in green vegetation reflects light strongly in the red portion of the spectrum and this is the reason for the bright orange color. The left side of the image which is a reddish brown is natural vegetation developed on glacial tills. The upper right side of the image is a portion of the Wareham Pitted Plain, which is a glacial outwash plain formed by streams issuing from the glaciers which at that time were located in the vicinity of Plymouth. The soils in this area are developed on well drained sands that support a more sparse vegetative cover. The darker brown tones are different stands of trees and scrub. One outcome of this present work is that the bogs seem to be localized along the margin of the outwash plain and the till. The tills are poorly drained and the outwash is very well drained. It appears that the soils at the boundary are more conducive to bog development. Also of note are the distribution of more or less parallel linear drainage features following the drainage of the original glacial streams. In this rendition, bodies of water are jet black due to their strong absorption of light in the infrared.
This scene of the Chatham area of Cape Cod was acquired during the summer of 1984. It is a color composite image of bands 4,5,7. In this rendition healthy green vegetation appears in various shades of orange. Bare sandy soil appears grey and the golf courses are a light yellow. The Chatham Airport is located just below and to the right of the center of the image. The southern end of Nauset Beach extends from top to bottom along the right edge of the image. Shortly after this image was obtained a major Nor'easter eroded the beach at its narrowest point and created a new opening. The white “fingers” at the southern tip of Nauset Beach mark the position of previous and the current end of the beach. Note also the thin white streaks in Nauset Beach that mark the position of previous shorelines that have migrated to the south in the past.