



May 28, 2020

Mr. David R. George
Heritage Consultants
PO Box 310249
Newington, CT 06131

Subject: Phase IA and Phase IB Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey
Bristol Solar Project
399 Hill Street
Bristol, Connecticut
ENV-20-0693

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the cultural resource reconnaissance surveys prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated February 2020 and April 2020, respectively. The proposed activities are under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council and are subject to review by this office pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). The proposed undertaking includes the construction of a solar facility, which is to occupy an approximately 17.4 acre limit of work (LOW) within a larger 28.6 acre parcel. The parcel is bordered to the north and west by wooded lands and industrial/commercial development, to the south by forested area, agricultural fields and a residential development, and to the east by Hill Street. In addition to solar panels and associated equipment, the facility is also to contain four stormwater basins, three located south of the array field and one located northwest. The facility is to interconnect with an existing utilities corridor, located to the north of the project area. The submitted reports are well-written, comprehensive, and meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

No previously recorded archaeological sites are located within 1 mile of the project area. Similarly, no properties listed or formally determined eligible for listing on either the State or National Register are located within one mile of the project area. A collection of 3 barn structures, located near the southwest corner of Hill Street and James P Casey Road, was identified as part of the 2012 *Connecticut Barns Survey*; however, due to distance and intervening vegetation/structures, it will not be impacted by the undertaking. Following a

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pedestrian survey, it was determined that approximately 17.4 acres of the project area was characterized as having low slopes, well-drained soils, and proximity to fresh water sources, and therefore, retained a moderate to high potential to contain intact archaeological deposits. A Phase IB reconnaissance survey was recommended and completed.

Phase IB of the reconnaissance survey consisted of subsurface testing of areas deemed to have moderate to high archaeological sensitivity during Phase IA, and that would be subject to ground disturbing impacts as part of the proposed undertaking. A total of 197 of 198 planned shovel tests were excavated successfully throughout the proposed work area; the single unexcavated shovel test fell within standing water. Additionally, the southwest corner of the project area was not subject to shovel testing due to the presence of slopes. The survey resulted in the identification of a single locus, Locus 1, which yielded a two historic period artifacts: a shard of window glass and a brown glazed redware sherd. No other cultural materials or features were identified. As Locus 1 did not yield substantial numbers of artifacts, none of which are temporally diagnostic, and lacks any cultural features, Locus 1 is not eligible for listing on either the State or National Register of Historic Places.

As a result of the information submitted, SHPO concurs with the findings of the report that additional archeological investigations of the project areas are not warranted and that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed activities. However, please be advised that if construction plans change to include previously uninvestigated/undisturbed areas, this office should be contacted for additional consultation.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. For additional information, please contact Marena Wisniewski, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2357 or marena.wisniewski@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary B. Dunne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mary B. Dunne
State Historic Preservation Officer

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