



April 8, 2020

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

Subject: Phase IA and Phase IB Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey
Burlington Solar Project
Prospect Street
Burlington, Connecticut
ENV-20-0633

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 March 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 facility includes the construction of a solar facility, which is to occupy an approximately 15.93 acre limit of work (LOW) within a larger 63.93 acre parcel. The parcel is bordered to the north and east by forest, residential development and Wildcat Brook, to the south by a residential street, and to the west by agricultural fields. Access to the facility is to be through an existing road extending north from Prospect Street, through an existing sand and gravel pit, to the south 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*.

The Phase IA identified one previously recorded archaeological site located within 1 mile of the project area; however, it will not be impacted by the undertaking. Similarly, one property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Hart's Corner Historic District (NR# 87000351), is located within 1 mile of the project area; however, it will also not be impacted by the proposed undertaking. Following a pedestrian survey, it was determined that approximately 12.2 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.

State Historic Preservation Office

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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 133 of 118 (112 percent) of planned shovel tests were excavated successfully throughout the proposed work area. The survey resulted in the identification of a single site, Site 20-3, which contained a single historic period artifact (turn of 20th century wooden spindle), as well as five prehistoric period artifacts: four quartz secondary thinning flakes, and one chert secondary thinning flake. No other cultural materials or features were identified. As both components did not yield substantial numbers of artifacts, and lack any cultural features, Site 20-3 is not eligible for listing on the 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) 256-2754 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 line extending from the end of the name.

Mary B. Dunne
State Historic Preservation Officer

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