



December 16, 2020

Mr. A. Peter Mair  
Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.  
26 Main Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
(via email only to pmair@palinc.com)

Subject: Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey - Litchfield Solar Project  
Wilson Road  
Litchfield and Torrington, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Mair:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the report titled, *Phase I Reconnaissance Archaeological Survey: Litchfield Solar Project* prepared by Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL). The proposed ground mounted solar array facility and associated improvements will cover approximately 80.5 acres within a consolidation of parcels totaling in excess of 200 acres located on both sides of Wilson Road with additional access from Highland Avenue to the north and Litchfield Town Farm Road to the west. The survey was completed in consultation with this office in a letter dated July 25, 2019 pursuant to both Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. The completed fieldwork and submitted report meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*. SHPO has received two bound copies of the report; one will be kept for use in the office and the other will be transferred to the Dodd Research Center in Storrs for permanent archiving and accessibility.

A previously submitted archaeological assessment of the project was reviewed by SHPO and this office concurred with the then proposed stratified systematic testing methods. During the current archeological reconnaissance survey, a total of 117 shovel tests measuring 50x50 cm were excavated throughout the areas identified as having either a moderate or high probability for containing significant cultural deposits that could be impacted by the proposed project. Of the 17 subareas, four were not subjected to subsurface testing (Areas 6, 7, 9, and 10), no cultural material was recovered from seven areas (Areas 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 16, and 17), post-contact artifacts were recovered from five areas (Areas 1, 5, 12, 14, and 15), and one area contained pre-contact artifacts (Area 13). The 19 artifacts attributed to the post-contact period were reported as brick fragments, glass shards, and ceramic sherds. All of the pre-contact cultural material (n=4) consisted of lithic chipping debris from stone tool manufacture or sharpening. SHPO concurs

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that these low-density scatters of common types of artifacts are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) applying the criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4). SHPO also concurs with PAL that no additional testing of the project area is warranted, and no historic properties will be affected by the proposed activities.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. For additional information, please contact Catherine Labadia, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2329 or [catherine.labadia@ct.gov](mailto:catherine.labadia@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jonathan Kinney  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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