

## **Appendix E: Cultural Resources Report**



State Historic Preservation Office

One Constitution Plaza | Hartford, CT 06103 | 860.256.2800 | Cultureandtourism.org

PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM

1. This information relates to a previously submitted project.

You do not need to complete the rest of the form if you have been previously issued a SHPO Project Number. Please attach information to this form and submit.

SHPO Project Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Not all previously submitted projects will have project numbers)

Project Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street Address and City or Town)

2. This is a new Project.

If you have checked this box, it is necessary to complete ALL entries on this form .

Project Name Pequonnock Substation Improvement Project

Project Location 1 Atlantic Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut Include street number, street name, and or Route Number. If no street address exists give closest intersection.

City or Town Bridgeport, Connecticut In addition to the village or hamlet name (if appropriate), the municipality must be included here.

County Fairfield If the undertaking includes multiple addresses, please attach a list to this form.

Date of Construction (for existing structures) \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY (include full description in attachment):

The United Illuminating Company (UI) is proposing to re-locate and upgrade the Pequonnock Substation as part of its effort to provide flood protection for electrical substations located in coastal areas. The proposed site for the new substation consists of several parcels of land currently owned by PSEG Power Connecticut LLC (PSEG) at the Bridgeport Harbor Station power generating facility. The parcels are located on the northern, developed portion of the PSEG property along Ferry Access Road and adjacent to the Amtrak/Metro-North rail line.

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED

a. Does this undertaking involve funding or permit approval from a State or Federal Agency?

Yes  No

Agency Name/Contact	Type of Permit/Approval	State	Federal
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b. Have you consulted the SHPO and UCONN Dodd Center files to determine the presence or absence of previously identified cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area?  Yes  No

If yes: Was the project site wholly or partially located within an identified archeologically sensitive area?  Yes  No

Does the project site involve or is it substantially contiguous to a property listed or recommended for listing in the CT State or National Registers of Historic Places?  Yes  No

Does the project involve the rehabilitation, renovation, relocation, demolition or addition to any building or structure that is 50 years old or older?  Yes  No



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PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM

The Historic Preservation Review Process in Connecticut Cultural Resource Review under the National Historic Preservation Act – Section 106 http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html involves providing technical guidance and professional advice on the potential impact of publicly funded, assisted, licensed or permitted projects on the state's historic, architectural and archaeological resources.

Project review is conducted in two stages. First, the SHPO assesses affected properties to determine whether or not they are listed or eligible for listing in the Connecticut State or National Registers of Historic Places. If so, it is deemed "historic" and worthy of protection and the second stage of review is undertaken. The project is reviewed to evaluate its impact on the properties significant materials and character. Where adverse effects are identified, alternatives are explored to avoid, or reduce project impacts; where this is unsuccessful, mitigation measures are developed and formal agreement documents are prepared stipulating these measures.

ALL PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS\*:

- PROJECT DESCRIPTION Please attach a full description of the work that will be undertaken as a result of this project. Portions of environmental statements or project applications may be included. The project boundary of the project should be clearly defined\*\*
PROJECT MAP This should include the precise location of the project – preferably a clear color image showing the nearest streets or roadways as well as all portions of the project. Tax maps, Sanborn maps and USGS quadrangle maps are all acceptable, but Bing and Google Earth are also accepted if the information provided is clear and well labeled. The project boundary should be clearly defined on the map and affected legal parcels should be identified.
PHOTOGRAPHS Clear, current images of the property should be submitted. Black and white photocopies will not be accepted. Include images of the areas where the proposed work will take place. May require: exterior elevations, detailed photos of elements to be repaired/replaced (windows, doors, porches, etc.) All photos should be clearly labeled.

Table with 4 columns: Item, Yes, N/A, Comments. Rows include: For Existing Structures (Property Card), For New Construction (Project plans or limits of construction, etc.), For non-building-related projects (dams, culverts, bridge repair, etc.), and STAFF REVIEW AREA (Indicate date of Review and Initials of Reviewer).

PROJECT CONTACT

Name Mr. Joshua Wilson Title Senior Ecologist
Firm/Agency Fuss and O'Neill
Address 146 Hartford Road
City Manchester State CT Zip 06040
Phone 860.646.2649 Cell Fax
Email JWilson@fando.com

\*Note that the SHPO's ability to complete a timely project review depends largely on the quality of the materials submitted.
\*\* Please be sure to include the project name and location on each page of your submission.



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### PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM

#### SHPO USE ONLY

Based on our review of the information provided to the State Historic Preservation Office, it is our opinion that:

- No historic properties will be affected by this project. No further review is requested.
- This project will cause no adverse effects to the following historic properties. No further review is requested:
- This project will cause no adverse effects to the following historic properties, conditional upon the stipulations included in the attached letter:
- Additional information is required to complete our review of this project. Please see the attached letter with our requests and recommendations.
- This project will adversely affect historic properties as it is currently designed or proposed. Please see the attached letter for further details and guidance.

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Daniel T. Forrest  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date



## *INTEGRATED HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING*

January 4, 2017

Mr. Joshua Wilson  
Senior Ecologist  
Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.  
146 Hartford Road  
Manchester, Connecticut 06040

**RE: Cultural Resources Review of United Illuminating Substation Upgrades at 1 Atlantic Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut**

Mr. Wilson:

Heritage Consultants, LLC, is pleased to have this opportunity to provide Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., in support of The United Illuminating Company (UI), with the following cultural resources review of the existing Pequonnock Substation at 1 Atlantic Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut (Figure 1). UI is proposing to relocate and upgrade the substation as part of its effort to provide flood protection for electrical substations located in coastal areas. The proposed site for the new substation consists of land currently owned by PSEG Power Connecticut LLC (PSEG) at the Bridgeport Harbor Station power generating facility. The land is located on the northern, developed portion of the PSEG property along Ferry Access Road and adjacent to the Amtrak/Metro-North rail line. The current project entailed completion of an existing conditions cultural resources summary based on the examination of cultural resources data obtained from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, as well as GIS data, including historical mapping, aerial photographs, and topographic quadrangles, maintained by Heritage Consultants, LLC. This investigation is based upon project location information provided to Heritage Consultants, LLC by Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. The objectives of this study were to gather and present data regarding previously identified cultural resources situated within the vicinity of the proposed project parcel and to investigate the Area of Potential Effect in terms of its natural and historical characteristics so that the need for completing additional cultural resources investigations could be evaluated.

Figure 2, which is an excerpt from an 1856 map of Bridgeport, Connecticut, shows that the Area of Potential Effect is located in what was a residential area to the west of Bridgeport Harbor during the middle of the nineteenth century. This figure also indicates that the northeastern portion of the parcel falls within what would have been water in 1856. Figure 3 is an excerpt from a map dating from 1886. By this time the complexion of the area had changed, and some buildings had been razed while new ones were built in their place. The 1886 map also shows that the northeastern portion of the project parcel, which used to be water, had been infilled and a railyard had been constructed there. In addition, a large jetty or wharf is shown to the south of the substation area. A review of Figure 4, an aerial image dating from 1934, shows that the proposed project parcel retained some of the nineteenth century buildings; it also clearly shows that the above-referenced railyard had been expanded during the early twentieth century. The railyard was much larger and included a substantial rail car roundhouse, which was used to turn the cars around on the tracks so they could make their way back to their departure point(s). Figure 5, an aerial image dating from 1951, shows very little change to the project area by the middle of the twentieth

century. The use of the project parcel appears to have remained primarily related to the railyard. Figure 6, an aerial image taken in 1971, shows that the Area of Potential Effect remained essentially unchanged from 1971; however, by 1990 it is clear that many of the buildings in this area had been demolished and the railyard had been abandoned (Figure 7). Finally, Figure 8, an aerial dating from 2016, shows the proposed project parcel in its modern state. Today, the project parcel used as a substation by United Illuminating. It contains a warehouse, mobile trailer offices, and electrical structures; Ferry Access Road bisects the parcel in the north.

A review of previously recorded cultural resources on file with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office revealed that a single archaeological site (15-22.01) and two National Register of Historic Places historic districts (Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses and William D. Bishop Cottage Development historic district) are situated within 152 m (500 ft) of the proposed project parcel (Figures 9 and 10). These previously identified cultural resources are discussed briefly below.

Site 15-22.01, also known as the Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses Site, was recorded in 1999 by Dr. Nicholas Bellatoni, Connecticut State Archaeologist. The site area contains the standing ruins of two residential dwellings dating from the mid nineteenth century. The site area was surveyed using a digital multifrequency electromagnetic induction sensor in an effort to identify subsurface cultural features through non-invasive means. The non-invasive survey resulted in the identification of several buried anomalies that were interpreted as the remains of historic period cultural features. While none of the features were verified through excavations, Site 15-22.01 was determined to contain intact archaeological deposits and was assessed as significant applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). As discussed below, the standing structures associated with Site 15-22.01 also were determined to be significant applying the above-referenced criteria for evaluation.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, the Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses consist of two residential buildings that date from the mid nineteenth century. They are situated on the eastern side of Main Street, approximately a half mile to the north of Seaside Park and a half mile to the south of Bridgeport's central business district. Bridgeport Harbor, which has undergone considerable infilling over the years, is located approximately a quarter mile to the east of the house, but once was situated only a few hundred feet from the houses. Today, the Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses are surrounded by warehouses, industrial buildings, residential/commercial structures, and a large parking area. Both houses are of wood-frame construction and are clad in clapboard; they are both two stories in height and rest on brick foundations. The Mary Freeman House, which is the northern residence, was built as a duplex in the Italian Villa style. It has opposite side entries and paired low hip roofs. The Eliza Freeman House, which is the southern residence was built in the Greek Revival as a single-family house with a side-gable roof. Both houses are characteristic of working-class dwellings built in Bridgeport between 1840 and 1860. The Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses are considered significant as they represent last dwellings to survive of what was once "Little Liberia." This settlement of black freedmen was established in 1831 and reached its highest population level just prior to the Civil War. Mary and Eliza Freeman were integral to the development and maintenance of this community. As a result, the Mary and Eliza Freeman houses were considered significant applying Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]).

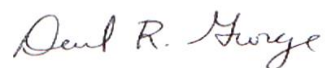
The William D. Bishop Cottage Development historic district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. It is located in the south end of Bridgeport, and it contains 35 small wood cottages, which were originally workers' houses planned and built by the Bishop Realty Company. The buildings consist of one-and-a-half-story Gothic style structures. They are L-shaped in plan, with both front and side-gabled roofs. The cottages were built between 1880 and 1881, and the architects of the

development were mostly likely Palliser, Palliser, and Company, a prominent architectural firm in the area. In addition to the cottages, the William D. Bishop Cottage Development Historic District also encompasses a Greek Revival single family house, an Italianate duplex, and a block of brick row houses that contain elements of Victorian Gothic, Queen Anne and Romanesque styles in their facades. The district is known to be one of Bridgeport's first extensive tract developments that was planned to provide housing for lower-income workers. The development was named after William Darius Bishop, who was the son of Alfred S. Bishop, the builder of the Morris Canal across New Jersey, as well as the segment of the Housatonic Railroad between Bridgeport and Pittsfield, Massachusetts. William Darius Bishop also was a single term Congressman from Fairfield County. The William D. Bishop Cottage Development historic district was one of the earliest forms of housing for the lower-income populace of Bridgeport. This district is considered significant under Criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). Since the proposed project parcel already contains an existing substation, upgrades to the facility will have no adverse impact on the William D. Bishop Cottage Development historic district.

Finally, Figure 11, which consists of a map of soil types present within the vicinity of the Area of Potential Effect, demonstrates that the proposed project parcel consists entirely of Urban Land. Urban Land results from heavy disturbances to original soils coupled with the admixture of soils from other locations. In this case, the Urban Land present in the project area has resulted from repeated episodes of demolition and construction in the area. It retains little, if any, potential to yield intact archaeological deposits.

In sum, it is the professional opinion of Heritage Consultants, LLC that the Area of Potential Effect has been disturbed repeatedly throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and it no longer possesses any archaeological sensitivity. Thus, no additional archaeological research is recommended prior to construction of the proposed project. Further, since the proposed project parcel already contains substation equipment and the general area is well developed, the proposed upgrades will not have any effects on the viewshed of either the Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses or the William D. Bishop Cottage Development historic district. No additional architectural recordation is recommended. If you have any questions regarding this Technical Memorandum, or if we may be of additional assistance with this or any other projects you may have, please do not hesitate to call me at 860-299-6328 or email me [dgeorge@heritage-consultants.com](mailto:dgeorge@heritage-consultants.com). We are at your service.

Sincerely,



David R. George, M.A., R.P.A.  
Heritage Consultants, LLC

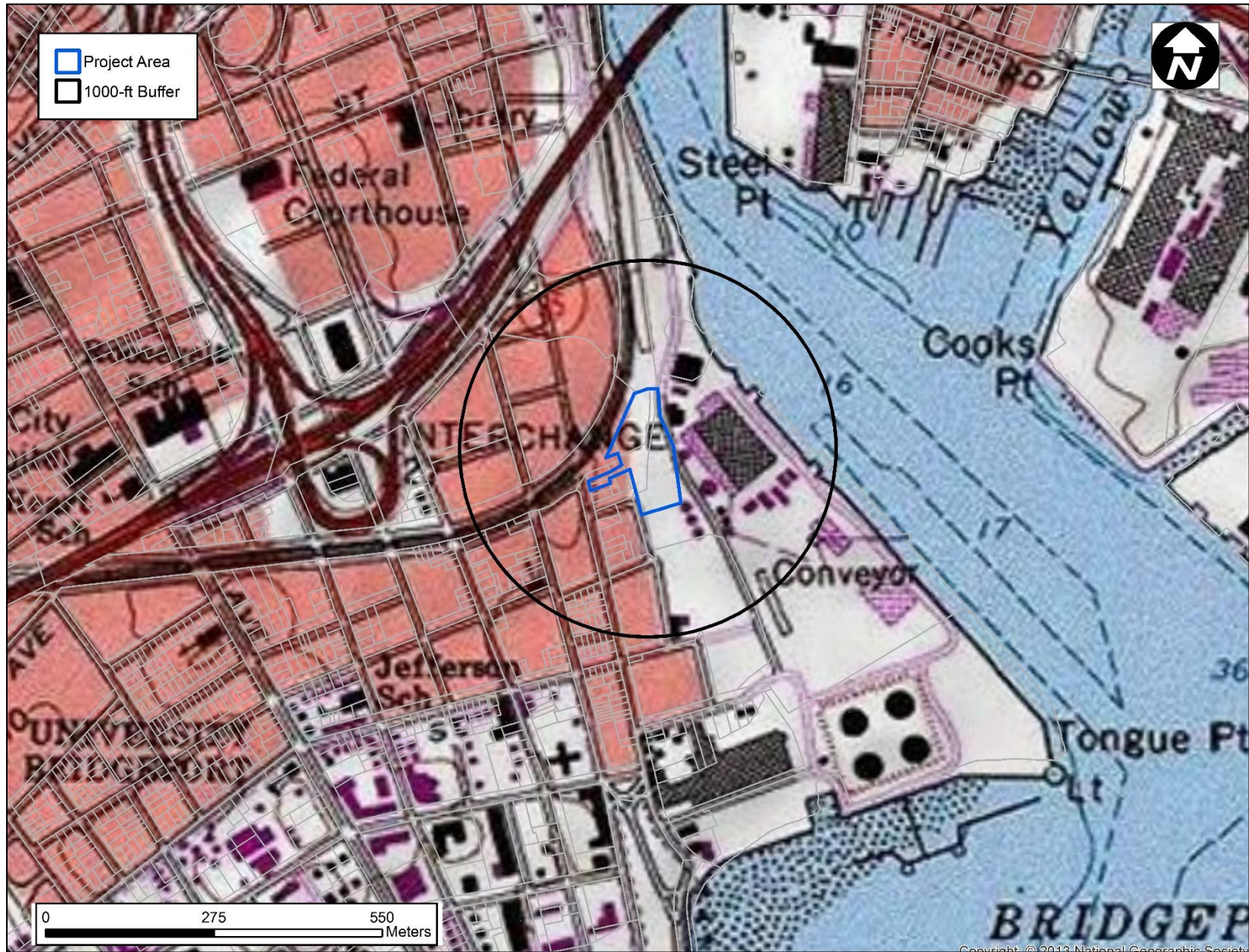


Figure 1. Excerpt from recent USGS topographic quadrangle map depicting the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.





Figure 2. Excerpt from a 1856 historic map depicting the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.



Figure 3. Excerpt from an 1886 historic map depicting the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.



Figure 4. Excerpt from a 1934 aerial image depicting the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.



Figure 5. Excerpt from a 1951 aerial image depicting the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.



Figure 6. Excerpt from a 1971 aerial image depicting the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.



Figure 7. Excerpt from a 1990 aerial image depicting the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

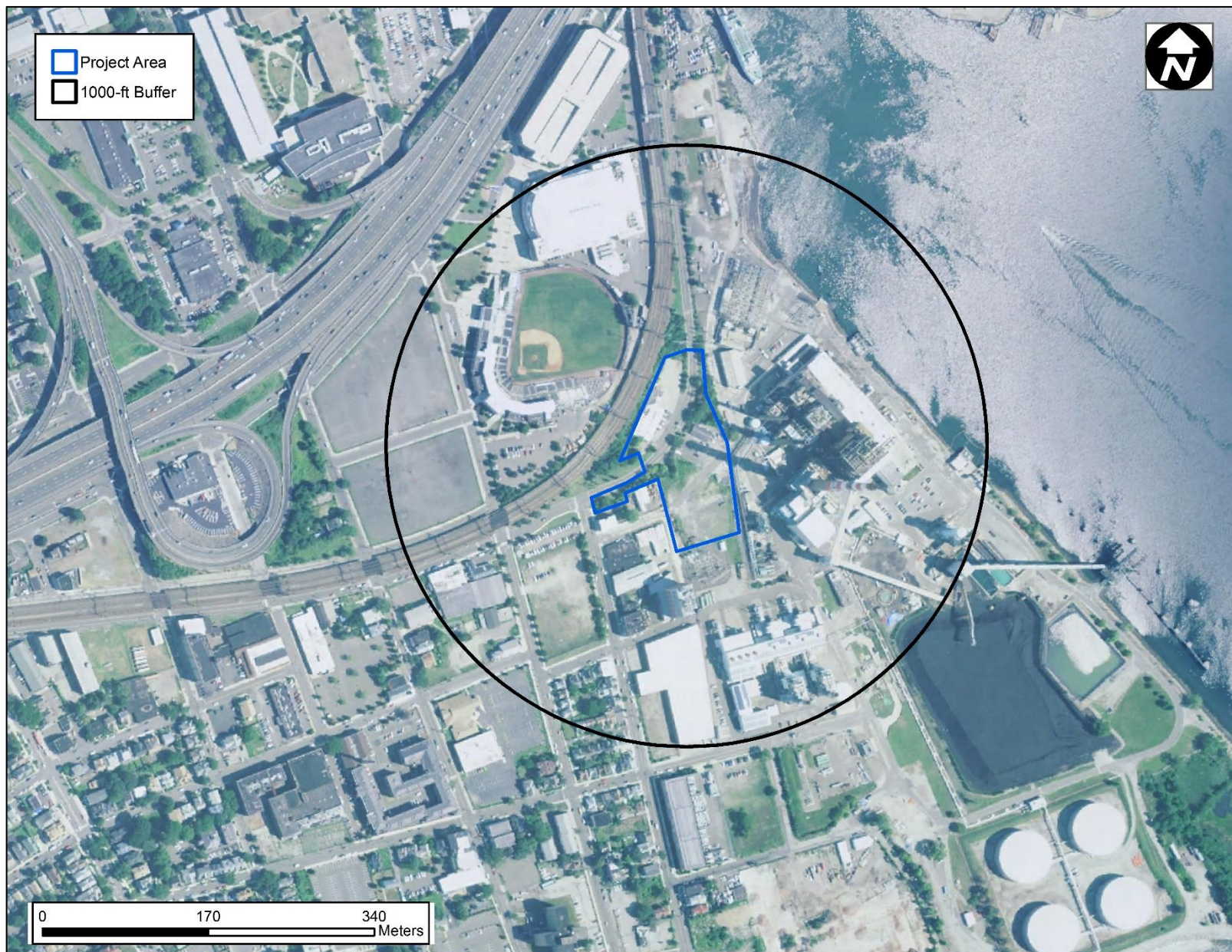


Figure 8. Excerpt from a 2016 aerial image depicting the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

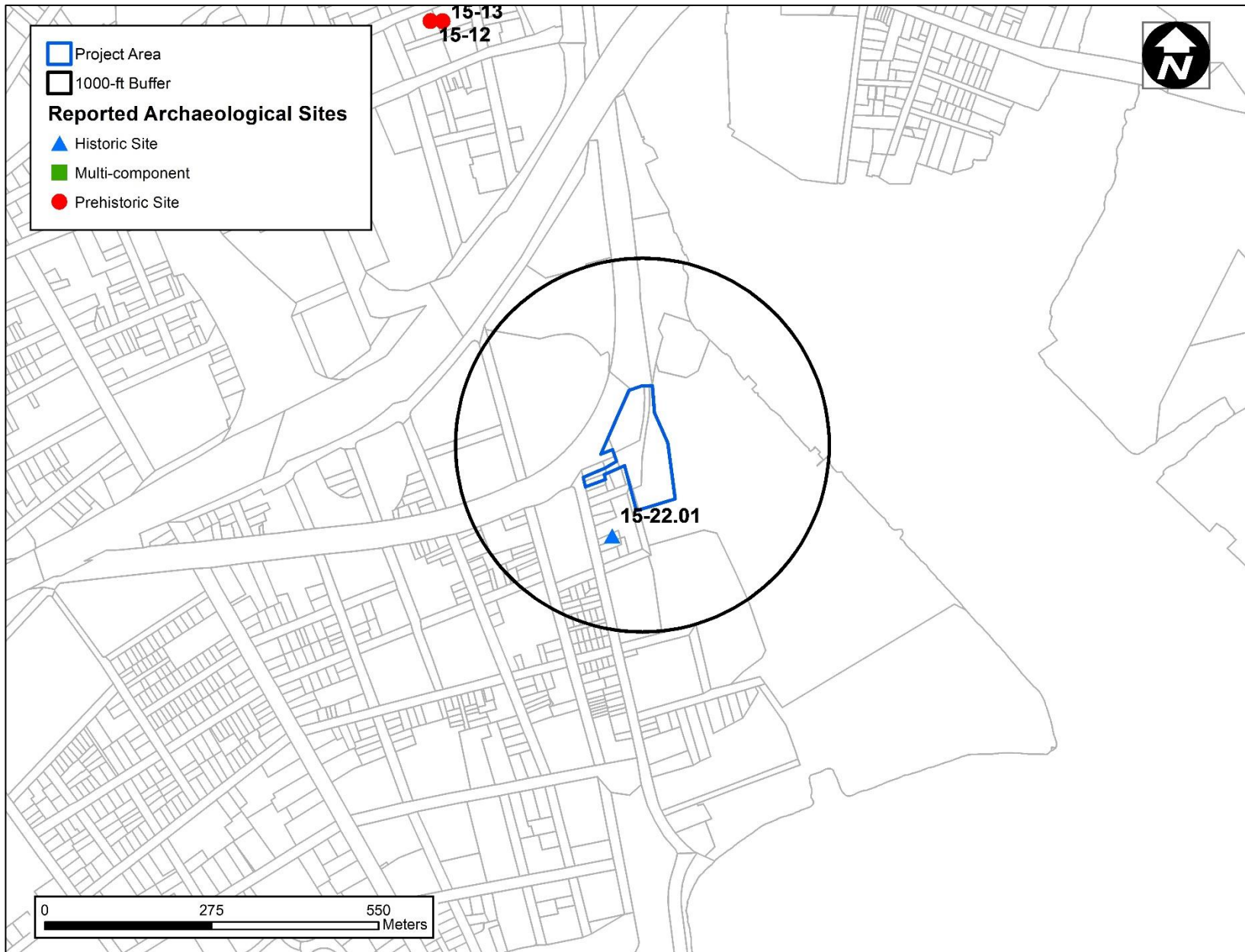


Figure 9. Digital map depicting the locations of previously recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.



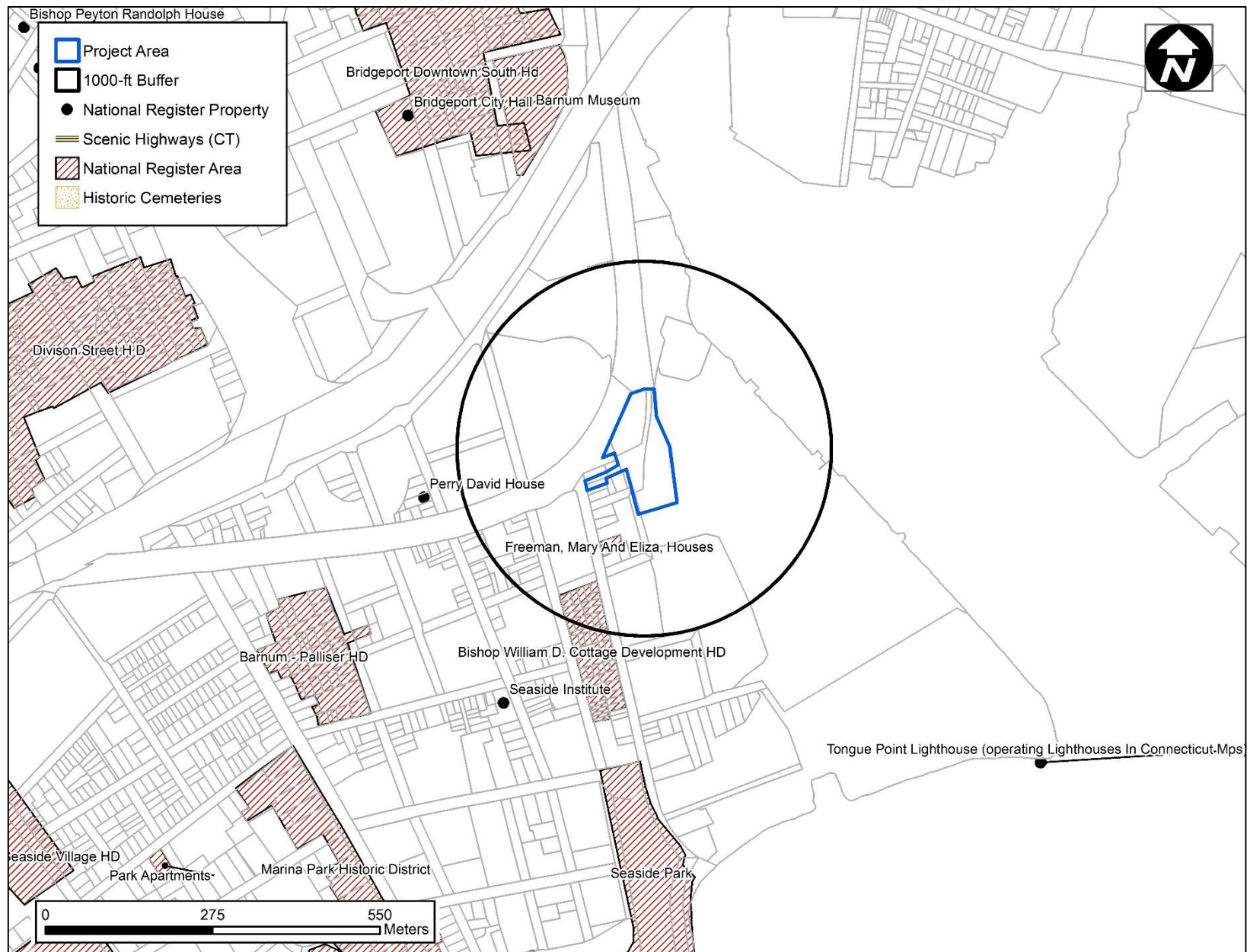


Figure 10. Digital map depicting the locations of previously National Register of Historic Places properties in the vicinity of the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

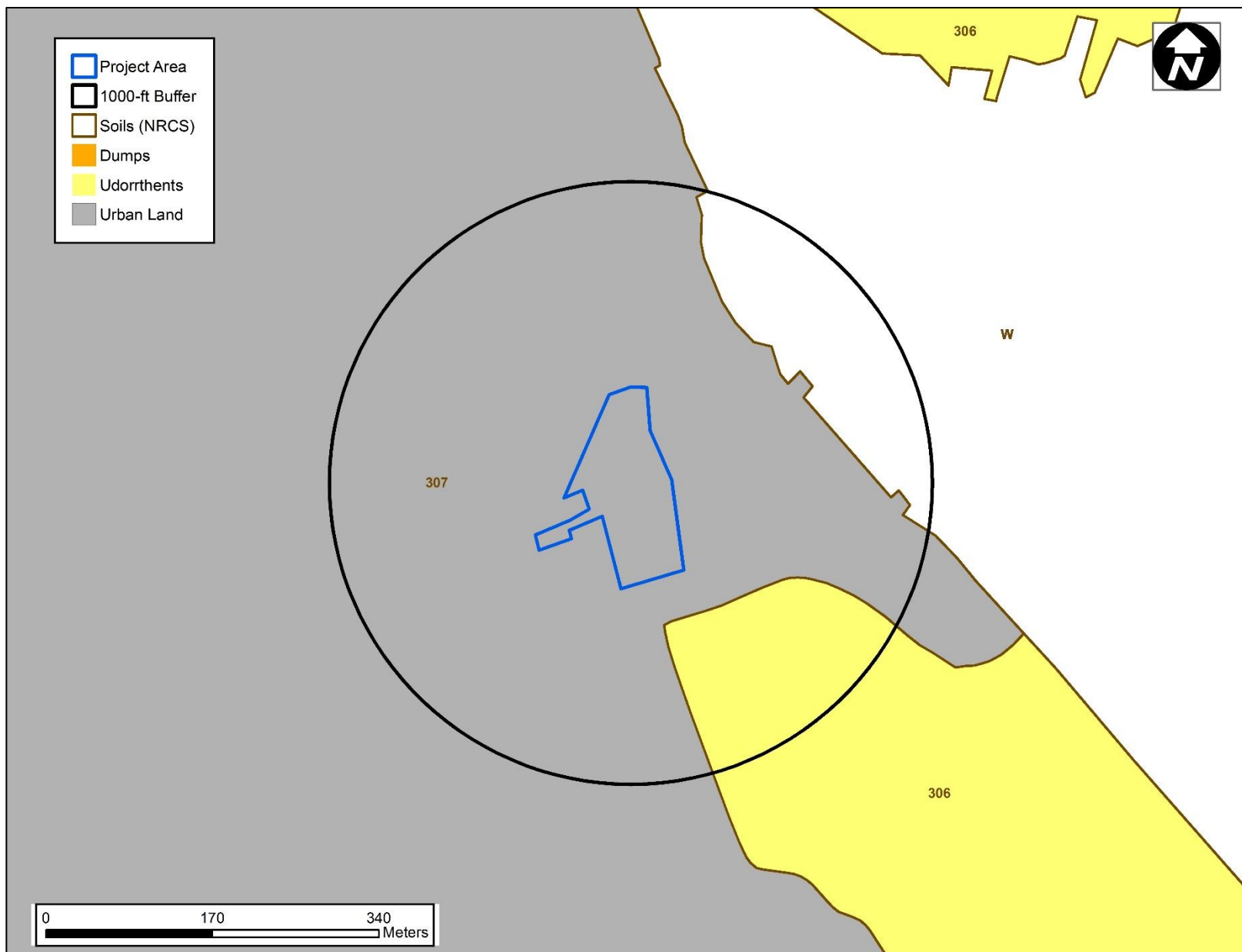


Figure 11. Digital map depicting soil types in the vicinity of the proposed project area in Bridgeport, Connecticut (note the presence of Urban Land, which has been disturbed in past through mechanical means).