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PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF A PROPOSED CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, ALONG RICH ROAD, THOMPSON CONNECTICUT

PREPARED FOR:

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1.0 Introduction

This report summarizes the results of a Phase I cultural resources reconnaissance survey of a proposed cellular communications facility to be constructed along Rich Road in Thompson, Connecticut. Heritage Consultants, LLC, completed the field investigation portion of this project, performed on behalf of Kleinfelder, Inc. , in June of 2007. All work was conducted in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; and the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (Poirier 1987). The remainder of this document presents a description of the Areas of Potential Effect, information used as project context, the methods for the current Phase I cultural resources reconnaissance survey, results of the investigation, and management recommendations for the project.

The current Phase I cultural resources reconnaissance survey was completed using a three-step approach. The first step consisted of historic research and records review that focused on the portion of Thompson encompassing the Areas of Potential Effect. This was followed by a review of all previously recorded archeological sites situated within the vicinity of the project area in an effort to determine the archeological context of the region. Finally, this approach entailed the completion of the current Phase I cultural resources reconnaissance survey.

2.0 Project Description

As mentioned above, the proposed cellular communications facility will be located in Thompson, Connecticut (Figure 1). The Areas of Potential Effect are situated at an approximate elevation of 64 m (210 ft) NGVD; they are bounded to the east by a residential lot with manicured lawn, to the north and west by wooded areas, and to the south by Rich Road. The Areas of Potential Effect consist of a proposed lease area measuring 30.3 x 30.3 m (100 x 100 ft) in size and a single 3.6 m wide (12 ft) proposed access road that will extend from Rich Road to the proposed lease area; it will measure approximately 38.1 m (125 ft) in length (Figure 2). The proposed lease area will house an equipment shelter, a 45.7 m (150 ft) monopole type tower, a transformer and utility cabinet, and protective bollards. All of these items will be enclosed within a chain link fence.

At the time of survey, the Areas of Potential Effect were characterized by mixed forest (Figures 3 through 6). The Areas of Potential Effect associated with the proposed lease area were surveyed using visual reconnaissance and shovel testing in an effort to identify evidence of intact soil strata and cultural deposits. The proposed access road also was subjected to shovel testing, visual reconnaissance, and photo-documentation. Field methodologies employed during the current investigation consisted of pedestrian survey, mapping, photo-documentation, and subsurface testing. The details of the field methods, as well as the results of this field effort, are reviewed below.

3.0 Background Research

Background research included analysis of readily available historic maps and aerial imagery depicting the area encompassing proposed project area; an examination of the pertinent 1983 USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle; and a review of all archeological data maintained by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office and digital records archived by Heritage Consultants, LLC. The intent of this review was to identify all previously recorded cultural resources situated within and/or immediately adjacent to the Areas of Potential Effect. This information was used to develop the archeological context for assessing cultural resources that may be identified during survey.

4.0 Project Context: Previous Investigations, Natural & Prehistoric Settings, and Historic Overview

The following sections provide an overview of the region's natural and prehistoric settings, historic backdrop, and previous cultural resources investigations completed within the vicinity of the Areas of Potential Effect. These brief discussions are included in an effort to provide contextual information

relative to the location of the Areas of Potential Effect, its natural characteristics, and its prehistoric and historic use and occupation. It concludes with an overview of the previous cultural resources investigations that have taken place in the area and a discussion of their results.

4.1 Natural Setting

The Areas of Potential Effect are located in the Northeast Hills ecoregion region, which consists of a hilly upland terrain located between approximately 40.2 and 88.5 km (25 and 55 mi) to the north of Long Island Sound (Dowhan and Craig 1976). It is characterized by streamlined hills bordered on either side by local ridge systems, as well as broad lowland areas situated near large rivers and tributaries. Physiography in this region is composed of a series of north-trending ridge systems, the western-most of which is referred to as the Bolton Range and the eastern-most as the Mohegan Range (Bell 1985:45). Elevations in the Northeast Hills range from 121.9 to 243.8 m (400 to 800 ft) above sea level, reaching a maximum of nearly 304.8 m (1,000 ft) above sea level near the Massachusetts border (Bell 1985). The bedrock of the region is composed of Schist and gneiss created during the Paleozoic and well as gneiss and granite created during the Precambrian period (Bell 1985). Soils uplands areas have been deposited on top of glacial till and in the in the valley they consist of stratified deposits of sand, gravel, and silt (Dowhan and Craig 1976). Vegetation located within the immediate vicinity of the Areas of Potential Effect consists of mixed deciduous forests. Finally, local fauna include rainbow trout, largemouth bass, sucker, rabbit, fox, raccoon, opossum, squirrel, white tailed deer, and a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic bird species.

4.2 Prehistory of Connecticut

The earliest inhabitants of Connecticut, referred to as Paleo-Indians, probably arrived in the area after ca. 14,000 B. P. (Gramly and Funk 1990; Snow 1980). While there have been numerous finds of Paleo-Indian projectile points throughout Connecticut, only two sites, the Templeton Site (6-LF-21) and the Hidden Creek Site (72-163), have been studied in detail (Jones 1997; Moeller 1980). The Templeton Site (6-LF-21) is located in Washington, Connecticut on a terrace overlooking the Shepaug River. Carbon samples recovered during excavation of the site area produced a radiocarbon date of 10,190±300 B. P. , for the occupation. In addition to a single large and two small fluted points, the Templeton Site produced gravers, drills, core fragments, scrapers, and channel flakes, indicating that the full range of lithic reduction took place within the site area (Moeller 1980). Moreover, use of both exotic and local raw materials was documented in the recovered lithic assemblage, suggesting that not only did the site's occupants spend some time in the area, but they also had access to distant lithic sources.

The only other Paleo-Indian site studied in detail is the Hidden Creek Site (72-163) (Jones 1997). Paleo-Indian artifacts recovered from this site include bifaces, side scrapers, a fluted preform, gravers, and end scrapers. While no direct date for the Paleo-Indian assemblage yet has been obtained, Jones (1997:76) argues that based on typological considerations the artifacts likely date from ca. , 10,000 to 9,500 years ago. Further, based on the types and number of tools present, Jones (1997:77) has hypothesized that the Hidden Creek Site represents a short-term occupation. Excavation of both sites suggest that the Paleo-Indian settlement pattern consisted of a high degree of mobility, with groups moving regionally in search of seasonal food resources, as well as for high quality lithic materials.

The Archaic Period began by ca. , 10,000 B. P. (Ritchie and Funk 1973; Snow 1980). Later, Griffin (1967) and Snow (1980) divided the Archaic Period into three subperiods: the Early Archaic (10,000 to 8,000 B. P.), Middle Archaic (8,000 to 6,000 B. P.), and Late Archaic (6,000 to 3,400 B. P.). To date, very few Early Archaic sites have been identified in southern New England. Like Paleo-Indian sites, Early Archaic sites tend to be very small and produce few artifacts, most of which are not diagnostic. Sites of this age are identified based on the recovery of a series of ill-defined bifurcate-based projectile points. These projectile points are identified by their characteristic bifurcated base, and they generally are made from high quality lithics, though some quartz and quartzite specimens have been recovered. Current archeological evidence suggests that Early Archaic groups became more focused on locally available and

smaller game species. Occupations of this time period are represented by camps that were moved periodically to take advantage of seasonal resources (McBride 1984).

By the onset of the Middle Archaic Period, increased numbers and types of sites are noted in the region (McBride 1984). The most well known Middle Archaic site in New England is the Neville Site (Dincauze 1976). Analysis of the Neville Site indicated that the Middle Archaic occupation dated from between ca. , 7,700 and 6,000 years ago. These sites are associated with the recovery of Neville, Stark, and Merrimac projectile points. McBride (1984) noted that Middle Archaic sites in the lower Connecticut River Valley tend to be represented by moderate density artifact scatters representing a "diversity of site types, with both large-scale occupations and small special purpose present" (McBride 1984:96). Thus, based on the available archeological evidence, the Middle Archaic Period is characterized by continued increases in diversification of resources exploited, as well as by sophisticated changes in the settlement pattern to include different site types, including both base camps and task-specific sites (McBride 1984:96).

The Late Archaic Period in southern New England is divided into two major cultural traditions: the Laurentian and Narrow-Stemmed Traditions (Funk 1976 McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969a and b). Laurentian artifacts include ground stone axes, adzes, gouges, ulus (semi-lunar knives), pestles, atlatl weights and scrapers. The diagnostic projectile point forms of this time period include the Brewerton Eared-Notched, Brewerton Eared and Brewerton Side-Notched varieties (McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969a). Current archeological evidence suggests that Laurentian populations consisted of groups of mobile hunter-gatherers. While a few large Laurentian Tradition occupations have been identified and studied, they generally encompass less than 500 m^2 in area. These base camps reflect frequent movements by small groups of people in search of seasonally abundant resources. The overall settlement pattern of the Laurentian Tradition was dispersed in nature, with base camps located in a wide range of microenvironments, including riverine as well as upland zones (McBride 1984:252).

The latter portion of the Late Archaic is represented the Narrow-Stemmed Tradition. It is recognized by the presence of quartz and quartzite narrow stemmed projectile points, triangular quartz Squibnocket projectile points, and a bipolar lithic reduction strategy (McBride 1984). In general, the Narrow-Stemmed Tradition corresponds to when Late Archaic populations in southern New England began to "settle into" well-defined territories. Further, Narrow-Stemmed Tradition settlement patterns are marked by an increase in the types of sites utilized. That is, the Narrow-Stemmed Tradition witnessed the introduction of large base camps supported by small task-specific sites and temporary camps. The increased number of Narrow Stemmed Traditions temporary and task specific sites indicates frequent movements out of and back into base camps for the purpose of resource procurement; however, the base camps were relocated seasonally to position groups near frequently used, but dispersed, resources (McBride 1984:262).

The Terminal Archaic, which lasted from ca. , 3,700 to 2,700 B. P. , is represented by the Susquehanna Tradition (McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969b). The Susquehanna Tradition is based on the classification of several Broadspear projectile point types and associated artifacts. Temporally diagnostic projectile points of this tradition include the Snook Kill, Susquehanna Broad, Mansion Inn, and Orient Fishtail types (Lavin 1984; McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1984). In addition, the material culture of the Terminal Archaic includes soapstone vessels, chipped and ground stone adzes, atlatl weights, drills, net sinkers, plummets and gorgets (Lavin 1984; McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969a and 1969b; Snow 1980). Susquehanna Tradition settlement patterns are centered around large base camps located in on terrace edges overlooking floodplains. Acting as support facilities for the large Terminal Archaic base camps were numerous task specific sites and temporary camps. Such sites were used as extraction points for the procurement of resources not found in the immediate vicinity of the base camps, and they generally were located adjacent to upland streams and wetlands (McBride 1984:282). Finally, there also are a large number of Terminal Archaic cremation cemeteries with burials that have produced broadspear points and radiocarbon dates between 3,700 and 2,700 B. P. (Pfeiffer 1990). Among the grave goods are ritually "killed" (intentionally

broken) steatite vessels, as well as ground stone and flaked stone tools (Snow 1980:240); however, this represents an important continuation of traditions from the Late Archaic and it should not be regarded as a cultural trait unique to the Susquehanna Tradition (Snow 1980:244).

Traditionally, the advent of the Woodland Period in southern New England has been associated with the introduction of pottery (Ritchie 1969a; McBride 1984). Like the Archaic Period, the Woodland Period has been commonly divided into three subperiods: Early, Middle, and Late Woodland. The Early Woodland period of the northeastern United States dates from ca. , 2,700 to 2,000 B. P. In his study of the lower Connecticut River Valley, McBride (1984) described Early Woodland sites as "characterized by a quartz cobble lithic industry, narrow-stemmed points, an occasional Meadowood projectile point, thick, cord-marked ceramics, and perhaps human cremations" (McBride and Soulsby 1989:50). Early Woodland sites tend to be located in a variety of different ecozones; however, the largest settlements associated with this period were focused on floodplain, terrace, and lacustrine environments (McBride 1984:300), suggesting "population aggregations along major rivers, interior lakes, and wetlands" (McBride and Soulsby 1989:50). In sum, archeological evidence indicates that Early Woodland populations consisted a mobile hunter/gatherers that moved seasonally throughout a diversity of environmental zones in search of available plant and animal resources.

The Middle Woodland Period of southern New England prehistory is marked by an increase in the number of ceramic types and forms utilized (Lizee 1994a), as well as an increase in the amount of exotic lithic raw material used in stone tool manufacture (McBride 1984). In Connecticut, the Middle Woodland Period is represented archeologically by the use of narrow stemmed and Jack's Reef projectile points; increased amounts of exotic raw materials in recovered lithic assemblages, including chert, argillite, jasper, and hornfels; and conoidal ceramic vessels decorated with dentate stamping. Ceramic types indicative of the Middle Woodland period include Linear Dentate, Rocker Dentate, Windsor Cord Marked, Windsor Brushed, Windsor Plain, and Hollister Stamped (Lizee 1994a: 200). In terms of settlement patterns, the Middle Woodland period is characterized by the occupation of village sites by large co-residential groups. These sites were the principal place of occupation, and they were positioned in close proximity to major river valleys, tidal marshes, estuaries, and the nearby coastline, all of which would have supplied an abundance of plant and animal resources (McBride 1984:309). In addition to villages, numerous temporary and task-specific sites were utilized in the surrounding upland areas, as well as in closer ecozones such as wetlands, estuaries, and floodplains.

The Late Woodland period in southern New England dates from ca. , 1,200 to 350 B. P. , and it is characterized by the earliest evidence for the use of maize in the lower Connecticut River Valley (Bendremer 1993; Bendremer and Dewar 1993; Bendremer et al. 1991; George 1997; McBride 1984); an increase in the frequency of exchange of non-local lithics (Feder 1984; George and Tryon 1996; McBride 1984; Lavin 1984); increased variability in ceramic form, function, surface treatment, and decoration (Lavin 1980, 1986, 1987; Lizee 1994a, 1994b); and a continuation of a trend towards larger, more permanent settlements in riverine, estuarine, and coastal ecozones (Dincauze 1973, 1974; McBride 1984; Snow 1980). Late Woodland lithic assemblages typically contain up to 60 to 70 percent exotic lithics. Finished stone tools include Levanna and Madison projectile points; drills; side-, end-, and thumbnail scrapers; mortars and pestles; nutting stones; netsinkers; and celts, adzes, axes, and digging tools (McBride 1984; Snow 1980). In addition, ceramic assemblages recovered from Late Woodland sites include Windsor Fabric Impressed, Windsor Brushed, Windsor Cord Marked, Windsor Plain, Clearview Stamped, Sebonac Stamped, Selden Island, Hollister Plain, Hollister Stamped, and Shantok Cove Incised types (Lavin 1980; Lizee 1994a; Pope 1953; Rouse 1947; Salwen and Ottesen 1972; Smith 1947).
Finally, McBride (1984:323-329) characterized Late Woodland settlement patterns as more nucleated than the preceding Middle Woodland ones, with fewer, larger sites situated in estuarine and riverine ecozones. Both river confluences and coastal zones were favored areas for the establishment of large village sites that contain numerous hearths, storage pits, refuse pits, ceramic production areas, house

floors, and human and dog burials (Lavin 1988b; McBride 1984). McBride (1984:326) has argued that these sites certainly reflect multi-season use, and were perhaps occupied on a year-round basis (see also Bellantoni 1987). In addition to large village sites, McBride (1984:326) identified numerous temporary and task-specific sites in the uplands of the lower Connecticut River Valley and along the coastline. These sites likely were employed for the collection of resources such as plant, animal, and lithic raw materials. These sites tend to be very small, lack internal organizational structure, and usually contain a limited artifact assemblage and few cultural features, suggesting that they were occupied from only a few hours to perhaps overnight. Temporary camps, on the other hand reflect a longer stay than task-specific camps, perhaps on the order of a few days to a week, and they contain a more diverse artifact assemblage indicative of more on-site activities, as well as more features (McBride 1984:328-329). In sum, settlement patterns of the Late Woodland period are characterized by "1) aggregation in coastal/riverine areas; 2) increasing sedentism, and; 3) use of upland areas by small task groups of individuals organized for specific tasks" (McBride 1984:326).

In sum, the prehistory of Connecticut spans from ca. , 12,000 to 350 B. P. , and it is characterized by numerous changes in tool types, subsistence pattern, and land use strategies. For the majority of the prehistoric era, local Native American groups practiced a subsistence pattern based on a mixed economy of hunting and gathering wild plant and animal resources. It is not until the Late Woodland period that incontrovertible evidence for the use of maize horticulture as an important subsistence pursuit is available. Further, settlement patterns throughout the prehistoric era shifted from seasonal occupations of small co-residential groups to large aggregations of people in riverine, estuarine, and coastal ecozones. In terms of the region containing the proposed project parcel, a variety of prehistoric site types may be expected. These range from seasonal camps utilized by Archaic populations to temporary and task-specific sites of the Woodland era.

4.3 History of the Proposed Project Region

The town of Thompson forms the northeastern corner of the state of Connecticut, and it is located in Windham County. Not colonized by the English until after 1700, the town, like the rest of the county, enjoyed a period of success and prosperity in the area of manufacturing, especially textiles, from the early nineteenth century until the early twentieth century. The Areas of Potential Effect, located on Rich Road in the north-central part of the town, appear to have been subjected to little more than historic agricultural use.

Native American History

Prior to King Philip's War in the 1670s, the area encompassing the project vicinity was located at the intersection of several Native American territorial ranges - specifically the Nipmuck to the north, the Mohegan to the south, and the Narragansett to the east. In historic times, the Quantisset (or Quinatisset) occupied the project region and may have been a sub-group of the greater Nipmuck tribe, or at least the area was part of what was generally known as the "Nipmuck Country. " They also may have been affiliated with the Wabbaquassett group, which resided mainly in what would become Woodstock, or the groups that lived in the Blackstone River valley to the east. For much of the seventeenth century, there is little information about the Quantisset Indians in the historical record. Research has identified the approximate locations of a number of Indian villages within what are now Thompson's borders (Figure 7). These people may have been the group of Quinebaug Valley area Indians who appealed, in 1647, to John Winthrop Jr. for help in getting redress against a group of Mohegans who had robbed them. Winthrop brought a complaint to the Commissioners of the United Colonies (an alliance of the several New England colonies) on their behalf; the Commissioners, much involved in keeping the peace between the Indian groups and especially in controlling the Mohegans, ordered compensation for the affected group. In 1668, the Quinebaug Valley and Blackstone Valley groups, living in the villages of Quantisset, Manchage, Chabanakongkomun, Asukodnoeog, Resepusgus, and Wabaquasset, plus those not residing in those specific villages, submitted to the authority of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They were the last of

the Nipmuck groups to take this step. Part of the agreement was that they would live under English law as Christians. The political context of this decision on their part was a dispute with the numerous and powerful Narragansett tribe, which had resulted in incidents of robbery (Connole 2001).

A parallel process in the 1660s was the evangelization of the Nipmucks and other Massachusetts Bay Indians. The efforts of the Rev. John Eliot and his supporter Daniel Gookin was focused on converting the Indians simultaneously to Christianity and to European lifeways, no other type of civilization being considered appropriate for true Christians. Under their guidance and with the support of the Massachusetts Bay legislature, groups of Indians were settled into villages, called "praying towns," sometimes in English houses but more usually in wigwams, and taught other sedentary English lifeways as well as the language and the Christian religion. By 1669, there were eight of these villages, one of them, Quantisset in Thompson, which had been established after 1665 (Figure 8). A 1674 report by Gookin indicated that another village had been founded in Thompson, called Maanexit (Figure 8). Despite the apparent success of the program, the missionaries and their converts encountered a core of resistance to these socially disruptive changes. Encouraged by their belief in the obvious superiority of the English way of life and the Christian religion, and by an absence of overt resistance by the unconverted, in the early 1670s they and the legislature began to strictly enforce within the "praying towns" all the civil and criminal laws of the colony, giving the Christianized Indians considerable power to harass their unconverted neighbors. These laws included laws against various practices of the Indians' traditional religion. Moreover, at the same time it became clear to the Indians that the government's policy was to grant land only to Christian Indians and, because all other land belonged to the government, not their original inhabitants, they were destined to be forced into one of the approved Christian Indian settlements (Connole 2001).

In 1675, these pressures came to the head in the form of the widespread Indian rebellion known as King Philip's War, so named after the Wampanoag sachem who led the fight. Many of the Nipmuck tribal members joined in the war against the English. The conflict was widespread, but there were no English settlers within the bounds of Thompson at this time, so the only danger to whites was if they happened to wander into the area – as the scout Ephraim Curtis was warned against doing. Numerous war parties passed through or stayed in this still-wild region. The war, essentially a series of pitched battles, skirmishes, and massacres across much of southern New England, was over in less than a year, and the English won. Several years after the war, the effort to colonize the Nipmuck country was resumed, in the form of Massachusetts' appointment of Joseph Dudley and William Stoughton to look into purchasing all the land in the Nipmuck country that had not previously been sold to the government (Connole 2001). The disconnect between this policy and the earlier one can perhaps be explained by pressure from the British government regarding the colonial government's policies pertaining to Indian lands.

The local Indian leader who sold most of what would become Thompson was known as Black John; his group's main settlement was near what would become the town of Webster, Massachusetts. He retained ownership of two parcels in the future Thompson, one at Quantissett and one at Maanexit. In 1682, the commissioners purchased from Black James thousands of acres of this land and put it on the market; the rest was sold by Black James in 1707. Some of the Indians stayed in the region, while others moved westward to escape English domination for a time (Connole 2001).

Colonial Period

Thompson was included in the original bounds of the town of Killingly, incorporated in 1708. Before 1713, the northernmost part of Thompson was part of Massachusetts; however, it became part of Connecticut (and of Killingly) as a result of a settlement of the boundary between the two colonies. The area known as Killingly was first settled in about 1696 by one Deacon Stearns; the town was incorporated in 1708 (Crofut 1937). At incorporation, most people lived in the north end of town, in what is now Putnam (which lies between Thompson and Killingly), and in 1715 an ecclesiastical society was organized there; its meeting

house was situated at Killingly Hill, then later in East Putnam or Putnam Heights. The first settlements at Chestnut Hill, in the south part of Killingly, were made in 1711, by a group of people from Massachusetts (Crofut 1937). The first colonists arrived in what would become Thompson in 1715, and a Congregationalist ecclesiastical society was incorporated there in 1728; a formally constituted church was organized in 1730, with twenty-seven members. Unusually for Connecticut, and because of its previous status as a section of Massachusetts Bay, a large part of the town's area was held by individuals who were given patents, men by the name of Thompson, Saltonstall, Wolcott, Davy, and others (Barber 1837). None of these individual grants appear to have covered the Areas of Potential Effect, however.

According to Barber, the town's landscape "exhibits an interesting variety of hills and valleys," which are not steep enough to be called mountains, and "[t]he prevailing soil is a gravelly loam, strong and dry, well adapted to the culture of Indian corn, wheat and clover, and generally excellent for grazing" (1837, p. 441). As early as 1760, the town of Killingly (then including Thompson) was notable as the location of a large number of mills (Barber 1837:426-433). During the Revolution, Killingly was able to provide 146 men in response to the Lexington Alarm. This number was so great that few men were left in town (Crofut 1937).

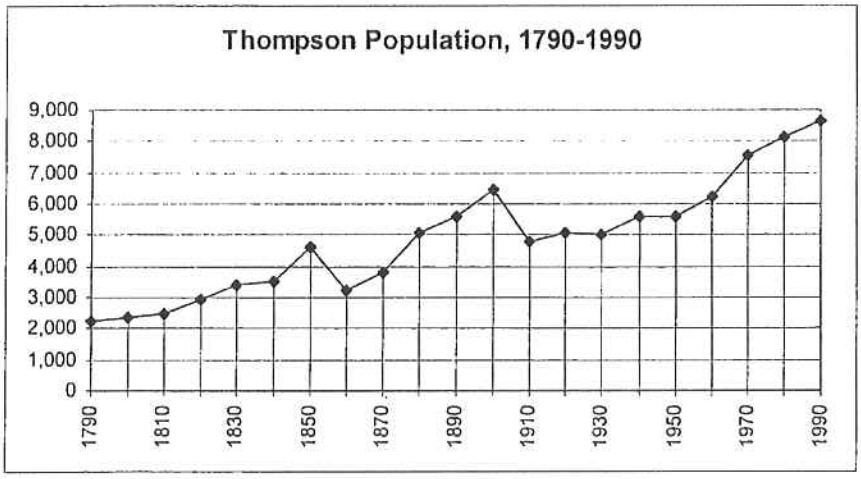
Early National Period (1780-1850)

By the 1830s, Thompson had become "a rich agricultural and manufacturing town, and the inhabitants [were] distinguished for their spirit of enterprise" (Barber 1837, p. 441). At that time, the four houses of worship in town included one Congregational, one Methodist, and two Baptist sects. At this time, the village of Thompson contained some thirty dwelling houses, four stores, a bank, and a printing office; the town as a whole had six or seven cotton factories and two or three woolen factories. Other villages in town included Masonville (probably its largest manufacturing village), Fisherville, and New Boston (Barber 1837). The manufacture of cotton textiles in eastern Connecticut, using water power and technology imported from Britain, began to take off in the second decade of the nineteenth century, propelled by political and economic events such as the Embargo Act and the War of 1812. The first major company in Thompson, however, was a thousand-acre facility called Conger's Mills, on the Quinebaug River at the junction between Pomfret, Thompson (the southern section that would later be Putnam), and Killingly. Others in and round the town followed, mostly founded by members of the Slater and Wilkinson families, who had started the textile technology revolution in Rhode Island during the 1790s (Iamartino 2003).

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the State of Connecticut recognized the need for improved transportation routes to accommodate and encourage commercial and industrial growth; its solution was to create corporations to build, improve, and maintain turnpike roads, which charged tolls to those who used the roads in order to recoup their investments. One of the most important routes in the state was that between Hartford and Boston; consequently, the Boston Turnpike Company was one of the first incorporated, in 1797. Local opposition to the charging of tolls was strong, especially in East Hartford and Pomfret. The improved road, largely following an existing route that had existed since before the Revolution, crossed Thompson on a diagonal from southwest to northeast, passing through the village of Thompson in the south-central part of the town. The tolls were increased in 1807. Often called the Middle Turnpike, because it lay between the shoreline and the more northerly routes to Boston, the Boston Turnpike continued in operation as a toll road until 1879, though some parts had been made free earlier. In 1803, the Thompson Turnpike was created to improve a route from Providence to Springfield, crossing Thompson on a diagonal from southeast to northwest, and crossing the Boston Turnpike where the village of Thompson came to stand. When it was abandoned is unknown, although its Rhode Island connection remained a toll road until 1888. In 1808, the Woodstock and Thompson Turnpike Company was incorporated to run from the meeting house in Woodstock to the Thompson Turnpike in the village of Grosvenordale. It was only operated for a few years, however, and had been abandoned before its charter was repealed in 1832 (Wood 1919). None of these turnpikes passed close to the Areas of Potential Effect.

The turnpikes were superseded by the railroads beginning in the 1830s, though it took some time for many parts of the state to be reached by them. The first line that passed through Thompson was the Norwich & Worcester Railroad, which opened in 1840 with stops at Mechanicsville, West Thompson, and North Grosvenordale. Prior to this, in the 1820s, there had been plans and even a chartered company to build a canal, but this was superseded by the incorporation in 1832 of the Boston, Norwich & New London Railroad, while Massachusetts chartered the Norwich & Worcester Railroad; in 1836 the two were consolidated as the Norwich & Worcester Railroad. The corporations were fully capitalized, and the U. S. Congress funded the dredging of the Thames River channel to Norwich in support of the project. The section between Danielsonville (in Killingly) and the state line was completed in 1838, despite the panic of 1837. The road opened with financial difficulties, though it eventually recovered, but after the Civil War it was leased to various other railroad corporations during the nineteenth century: first the Boston, Hartford & Erie, then the New York & New England, and in the end the New York, New Haven & Hartford. In the present day, it is only a freight line (Turner and Jacobus 1989). Additional lines were built through Thompson after 1850, as will be seen below.

The following chart illustrates how the population of Thompson changed over time, beginning with the first census after its incorporation in 1785. Its 1790 population was close to the median for the state, and that population rose steadily through 1900, except for a drop between 1850 and 1860 caused by the loss of some territory to the new town of Putnam in 1855 (CT-DEP 1996; see chart below). This is the growth pattern of a moderately successful industrial town. During this same period, many towns that relied solely on agricultural lost population, but Thompson's population continued to grow.



Industrialization and Urbanization Period (1850-1930)

The Boston & New York Central railroad opened in 1854 between Boston and Mechanichsville in Thompson, with stations in Thompson and East Thompson as well. This road passes some distance to the southeast of the Areas of Potential Effect. Its poor financial position led to a series of bankruptcies and successor companies, until it became part of the Boston, Hartford & Erie Railroad, chartered in 1863. In 1867 it built a branch line from East Thompson through Webster, Massachusetts to Southbridge, Massachusetts, looping through the mill village of New Boston in the northwestern corner of Thompson on its way. This company was not a success, either, and it was subsumed into the New York & New England Railroad company around 1870. This line, created by the famous New England Limited or "White Train" luxury, offered express passenger service between Boston and New York, which stopped in East Thompson. In the late 1880s and 1890s, ruthless competition in the railroad business led to the demise of the company

as an independent entity. In addition to its famous express trains, this company's other mark in history was a terrible four-train accident that killed several train crew members at East Thompson in 1891 (Turner and Jacobus 1891).

This high level of rail service undoubtedly helped Thompson maintain and even increase its population to over 6,000 by 1900, as the chart above shows, as well as supporting both the agricultural and the mill-based industrial economy. During the late nineteenth century, agriculture in Connecticut became increasingly difficult as farmers struggled to compete with western producers. Specialized production such as dairying and poultry, as well as organization and cooperation, became important parts of Connecticut farming. Nonetheless, by the early twentieth century many native farmers had abandoned agriculture for more secure pursuits. Towns whose economy depended on agriculture lost population, in some cases so much that their numbers fell below 1790 levels. The proximity of the numerous industrial firms in Thompson, Killingly and Putnam may, however, have helped the farms in town remain more viable as truck farms (providing fresh produce and dairy products to industrial and urban areas). By the end of the century, Thompson and its neighbors contained three-fourths of all the cotton mills in the state. Conversion from water to steam power also helped diversify the factories' locations. These towns also were the location of many new immigrants to the United States, especially French Canadians, who worked in the mills. An economic depression in 1893-1897 may be responsible for the drop in Thompson's population between 1900 and 1910, although details of any business collapse serious enough to cause the departure of over 1,000 people are not known. World War I brought a period of renewed prosperity to much of the northeastern corner of the state, but after about 1920 competition from new factories located in the south drove many of these textile companies out of business (Spencer 1993).

Modern Era (1930-Present)

In 1932, Thompson's main industries were still cotton and woolen textile manufacturing and agriculture (Connecticut 1932). A number of textile mills limped along through the Depression, but during World War II, high demand again boosted the mill-based economy. In the 1950s, however, the textile industry in the region collapsed completely. Some new industries appeared to take over the mill buildings or build new facilities, but the domination of a single industry had come to an end (Spencer 1993). These new businesses, however, probably did not employ sufficient people to explain the rise in Thompson's population after 1950. The diffusion of residential population into formerly rural areas as a result of the adoption of the automobile, support for home purchases, and the improvement of roads and construction of highways for transportation are more likely explanations (Spencer 1993). Route 12, established in the 1920s, formed the first north-south improved "interstate" road between Worcester and New London. In 1968, however, Interstate 395 opened through Thompson, provided an expressway link to the city of Worcester and connections to Boston, as well as to southeastern Connecticut (Oglesby 2006). This is the highway located immediately to the west of the Areas of Potential Effect.

Despite suburbanization, highways, and the various new businesses, Thompson's population of less than 9,000 as of 1990 made it a relatively small municipality by Connecticut standards (CT-DEP 1996). With 27.2 percent of its workers employed in manufacturing as of 2005, Thompson was still unusually reliant on that economic sector; only 1.6 percent of workers were employed in agriculture, while 40.6 percent were employed in service industries, and the remainder in other parts of the commercial sector (except for 6.1 percent in construction and mining). This was, however, an employed workforce of only 4,939, so the influence of only a few large manufacturing employers would affect the percentage. According to a 2000 survey of commuting behavior, most of Thompson's workers worked outside the town, especially in neighboring Putnam, and nearby Worcester and Webster, Massachusetts (CERC 2007).

Parcel History

The Areas of Potential Effect have an unusual ownership history. In 1965, the Town of Thompson foreclosed on three pieces of land "standing in the name of the Estate of Lawson Aldrich" for nonpayment of taxes. The parcel was described as

> one cedar Swamp containing ten (10) acres more or less, commencing at stake and stones at South West corner of lot and running Northerly on line of land set to West corner of lot and running Northerly on line of land set to L. Aldrich estate to corner of fence forty six and one half 46 ½ rods thence Easterly by land of Geo. Tourellotte heirs sixty (60) rods more or less to North East of Cedar Swamp corner thence on direct line to first mentioned bound being a part of the same conveyed from D. G. Aldrich and A. J. Stearns to L. Aldrich and J. Bowdish dated May 5th 1881
>
> Thompson Land Records, Volume 75, Page 87

The unusual part of this is that according to the records of the Probate District of Windham, Lawson Aldrich died on September 25, 1884, and his wife Dora died on January 7, 1887. Why this parcel was tied up in this estate for over eighty years is not known. In 1885, the land records record a division of various properties between the Estate of Lawson Aldrich and Joseph Bowdish as joint owners. In this division, Aldrich's estate received six different parcels, one of which used the same description as that cited immediately above (Thompson Land Records, Volume 29, Page 99). The 1881 deed is a quit-claim from David G. Aldrich, of Auburn, Massachusetts, and Andrew Stearns of Boston, to Lawson Aldrich and Joseph Bowdish. According to the document, it transferred the grantor's interest under an 1874 mortgage from Jonathan Porter (or Portis) and David G. Aldrich to Andrew J. Stearns (Thompson Land Records, Vol. 24, Page 545).

According to the 1880 U. S. Census, Lawson Aldrich was a 45-year-old farmer living in Thompson with his wife, Dora C. (40), and sons Fr____ (13) and Frank L. (8). The household also included Howard De May, a 19-year-old school teacher who boarded with them; in a separate household in the same building lived 49-year-old spinster Adeline Carpenter (U. S. Census, 1880, Series: T9 Roll: 110 Page: 571). In an 1869 map of Thompson, there is no indication of any structures in the Areas of Potential Effect; the nearest houses are those of John George to the southwest, Cyrell Jacobs to the northwest, and Cyrell Jacobs and Jessey Bates to the north. To the east was a schoolhouse (marked "S. H. ") (Figure 9; Gray 1869). An 1856 map shows largely the same residential locations and owners, except that the Jacobs and Gaton house was occupied by Robert Shelly (Figure 10; Woodford 1856). A 1934 aerial photograph shows the Areas of Potential Effect as a forested area with a patch of darker swampy area within it, and surrounded by farmland and patches of forest (Figure 11). By 1951, an aerial photograph shows, the Areas of Potential Effect were covered with mature forest, as was almost all of the surrounding area (Figure 12). In 1956, the situation was nearly the same, except that a single structure had been built across Rich Road from the Areas of Potential Effect, as the aerial photograph shows (Figure 13). The 1970 aerial photograph shows substantial changes, I-395 had been built and more houses had appeared along Rich Road, although the Areas of Potential Effect itself remained forested (Figure 14). Change between 1970 and 1986 was more limited, with only a few more structures appearing north of the Areas of Potential Effect (Figure 15). Similarly, in the 2000 aerial photograph, another few structures had appeared north of the Areas of Potential Effect (Figure 16).

Summary

There is nothing in the documentary record to indicate that any non-agricultural use was made of the parcel during the historic period. Historic maps show no residential or industrial occupation, and the ownership history and aerial photographs corroborate that conclusion. The presence of an old stonewall in part of the parcel of land in which the Area of Potential Effect is located supports the supposition that at least some agricultural use was made of the area during the historic period.

4.4 Previous Investigations

A review of data currently on file at the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, as well as the electronic site files maintained by Heritage Consultants, LLC, revealed that no formally submitted archaeological surveys have taken place within 0.8 km (0.5 mi) of the Areas of Potential Effect. In addition, no previously identified archaeological sites have been documented within 0.8 km (0.5 mi) of the proposed project area.

5.0 Field Methods

Following the completion of the background research, the Areas of Potential Effect were subjected to a Phase I cultural resources reconnaissance survey utilizing pedestrian survey, subsurface testing, mapping, and photo-documentation. The sampling strategy was designed to provide thorough coverage of all portions of the Areas of Potential Effect, including the proposed lease area and associated access road. The pedestrian survey portion of this investigation included visual reconnaissance of all areas located within and immediately adjacent to the Areas of Potential Effect, as well as photo-documentation of the proposed project area and its immediate surroundings. The subsurface testing portion of this investigation involved the excavation of shovel tests throughout the proposed lease area. Shovel tests excavated in these areas were positioned in the four corners, as well as at the proposed monopole location. Shovel testing was also conducted along the route of the proposed access road at 15 m (49.2 ft) intervals.

During survey, each shovel test measured 50 cm (19.7 in) in diameter and each was excavated to a depth of 50 cmbs (19.7 inbs) or until sterile subsoil, glacial till, or immovable objects (e. g. , boulders) were encountered. Each shovel test was excavated in 10 cm (3.9 in) arbitrary levels within natural strata, and the fill from each level was screened separately. All shovel test fill was screened through 0.635 cm (0.25 in) hardware cloth. Soil characteristics were recorded in the field using Munsell Soil Color Charts and standard soils nomenclature. Finally, each shovel test was backfilled immediately upon completion of the archeological recordation process.

6.0 Curation

Following the completion and acceptance of the Final Report of Investigations, all project drawings, maps, photographs, and field notes will be curated with Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, Office of Connecticut State Archaeology, Box U-1023, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06269.

7.0 Results of the Investigation and Management Recommendations

During survey, 5 of 8 (63 percent) planned shovel tests were excavated successfully throughout the Area of Potential Effect associated with the proposed lease area (Figure 2). These included three positioned along the proposed access road centerline and two located in the southeastern and northeastern corners of the proposed lease area. The three planned but unexcavated shovel tests feel on slopes in the western portion of the proposed lease areas, as well as on a large pile of rocks characterizing the location of the proposed monopole cellular tower. A typical shovel test profile contained two strata and it extended to a depth of 50 cmbs (19.7 inbs). Stratum I, which extended from 0 to 10 cmbs (0 to 3.9 inbs), consisted of a layer of dark brown (10YR 3/3) loamy sand. Stratum II reached from 10 to 50 cmbs (3.9 to 19.7 inbs) and it was characterized as a deposit of yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) loamy sand mixed with gravel. No evidence of cultural features was identified within the excavated shovel tests, and no cultural material, either prehistoric or historic in origin, was recovered. Since no cultural material was identified during survey and no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated as a result of the planned construction, no additional fieldwork is recommended.

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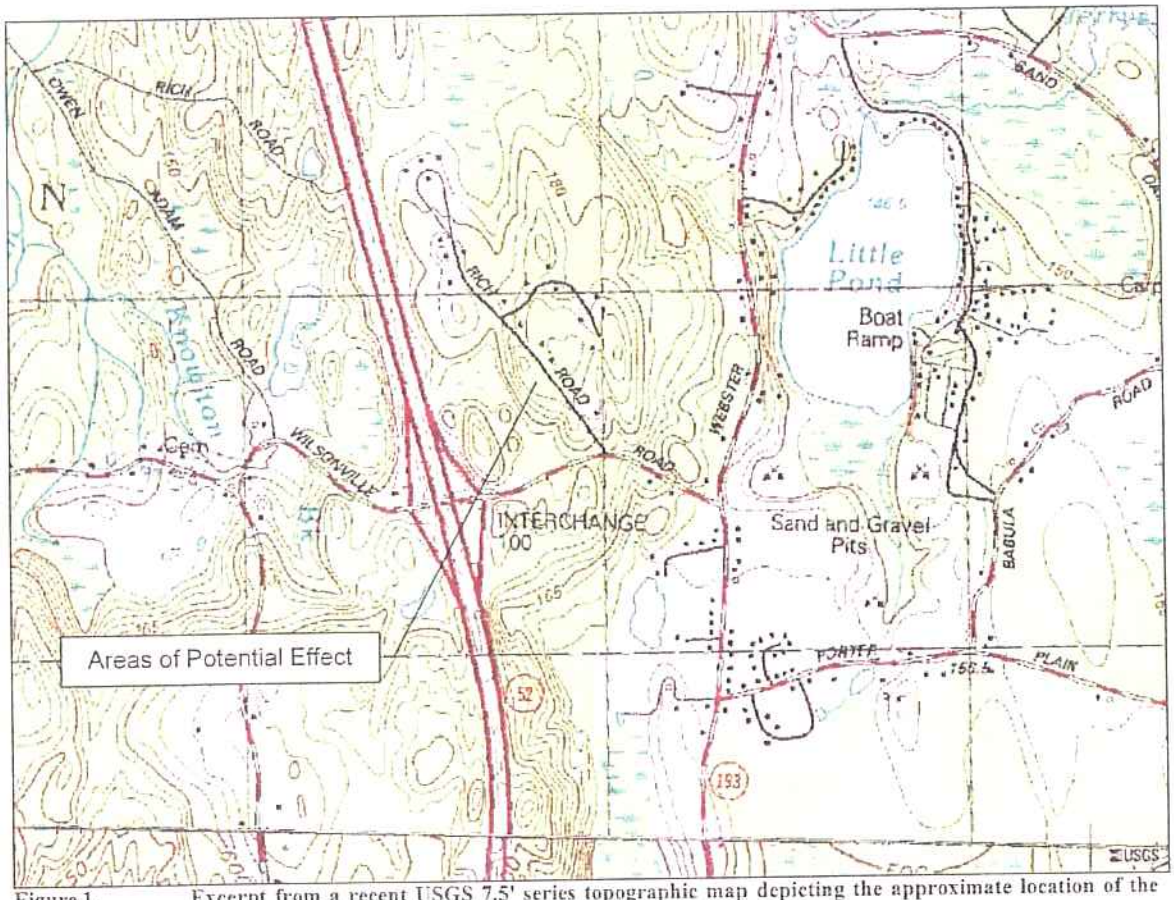

Figure 1. Excerpt from a recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map depicting the approximate location of the proposed Rich Road cellular communications tower in Thompson, Connecticut.

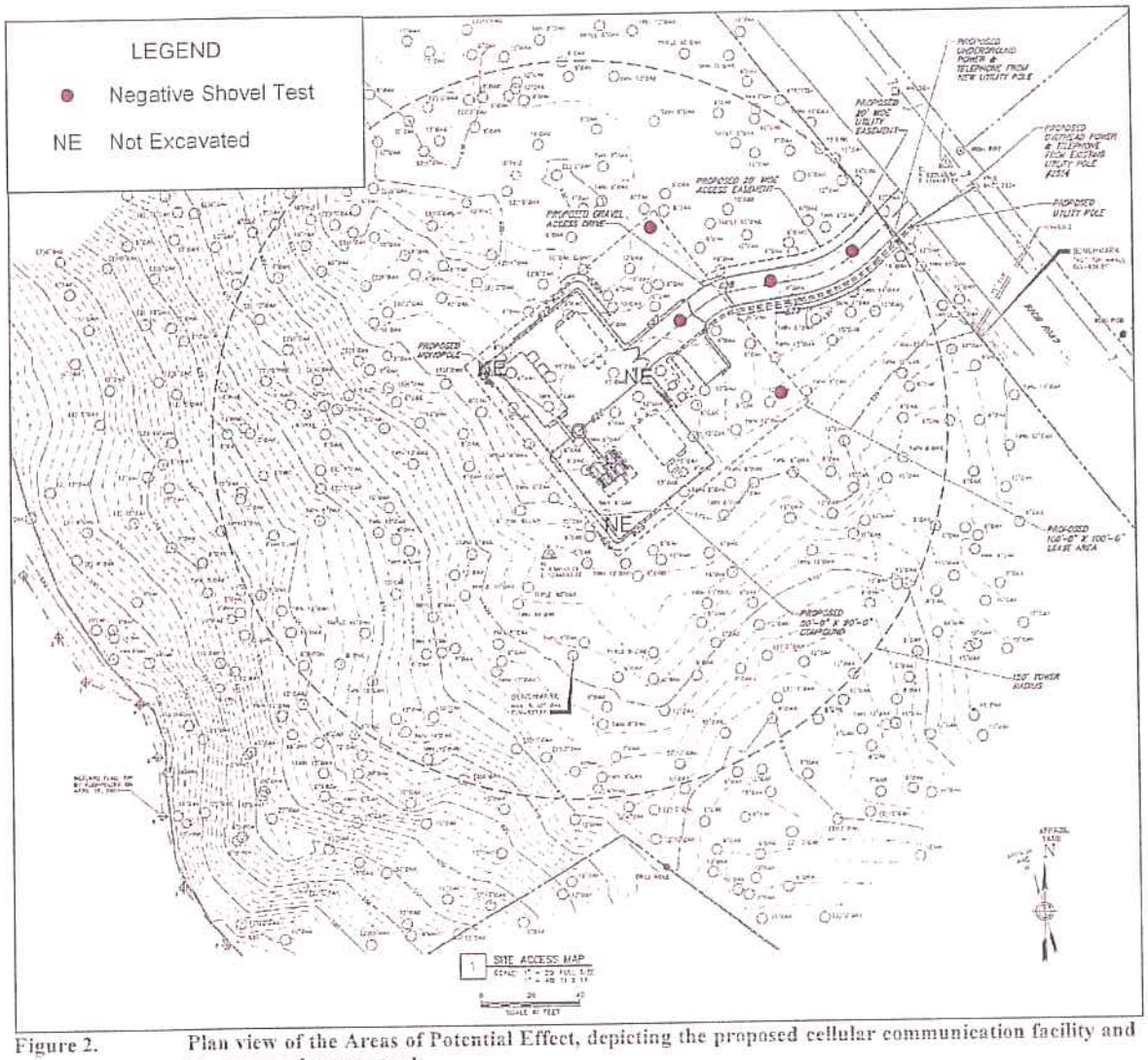

Figure 2. Plan view of the Areas of Potential Effect, depicting the proposed cellular communication facility and the proposed access road.

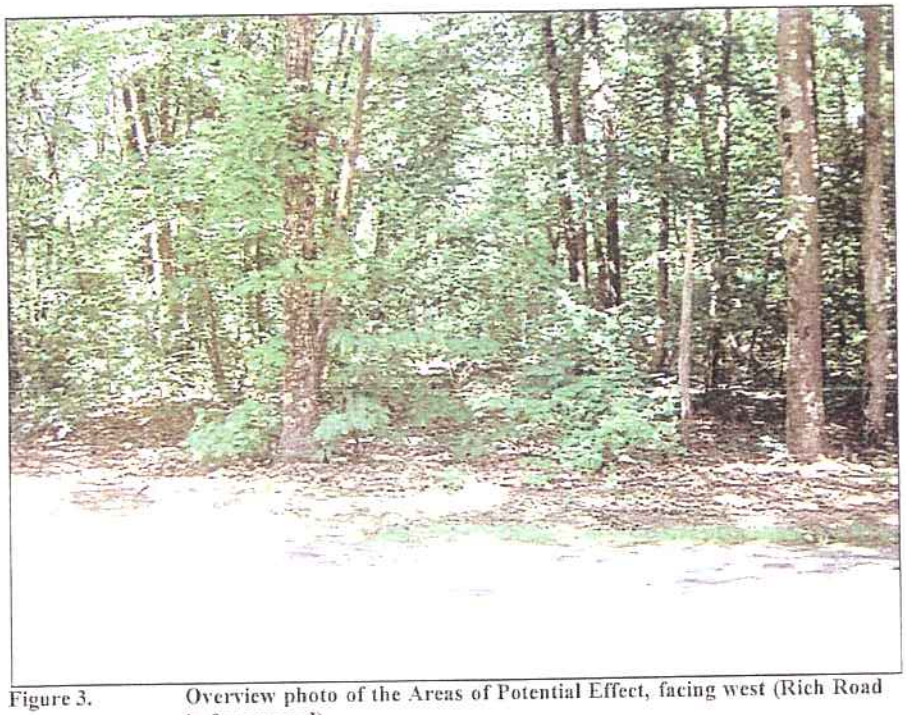

Figure 3. Overview photo of the Areas of Potential Effect, facing west (Rich Road in foreground).

Figure 4. Overview photo of the proposed lease area, facing northwest.

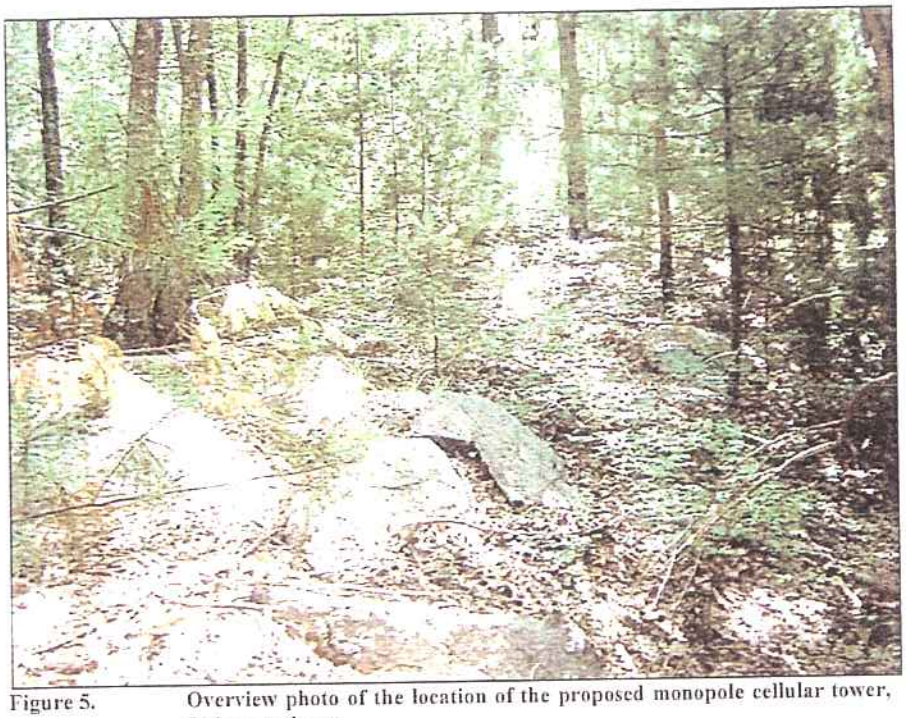

Figure 5. Overview photo of the location of the proposed monopole cellular tower, facing northeast.

Figure 6. Overview photo of the proposed access road, facing east.

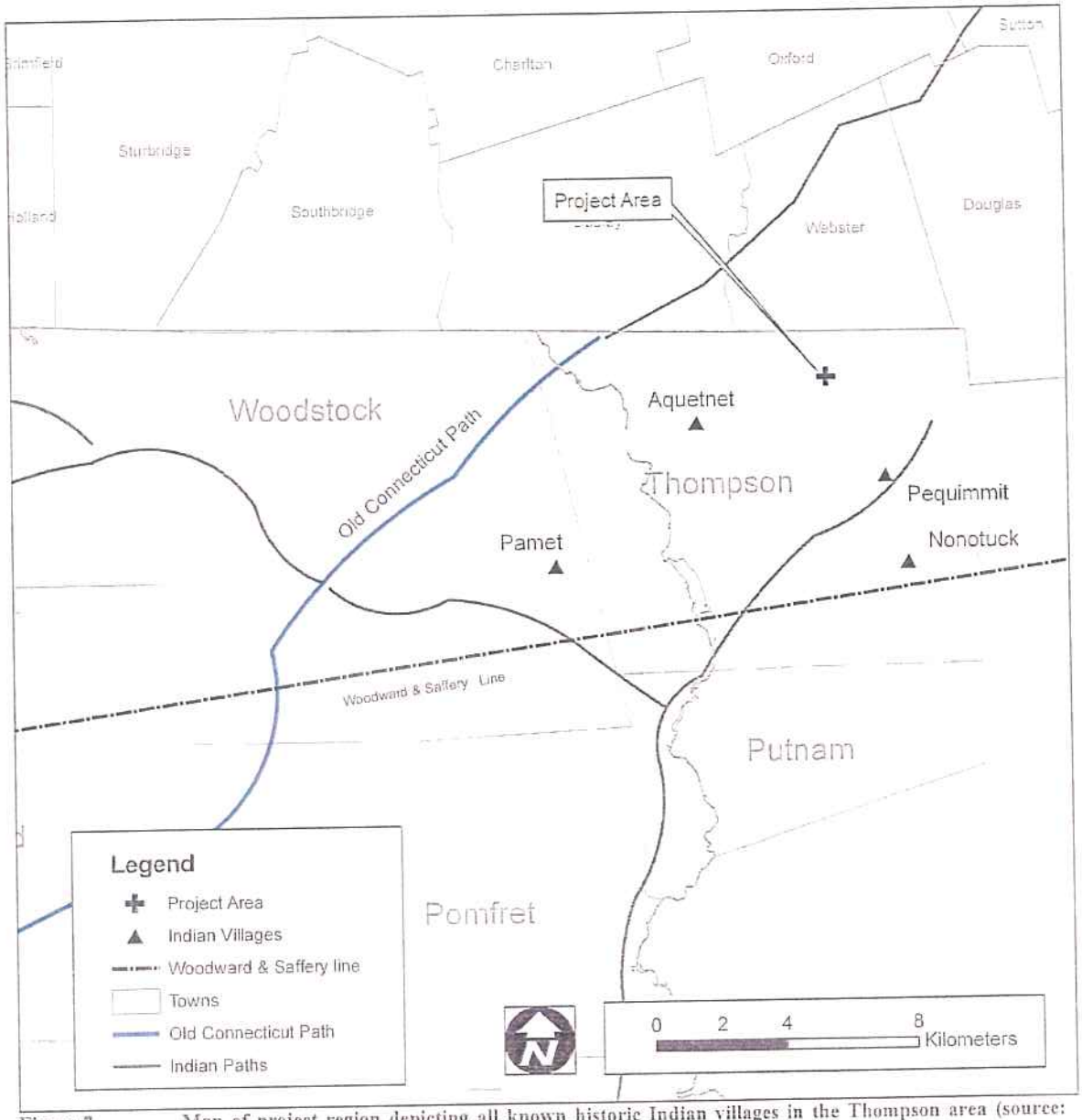

Figure 7. **Map of project region depicting all known historic Indian villages in the Thompson area (source: Dexter 1984).**

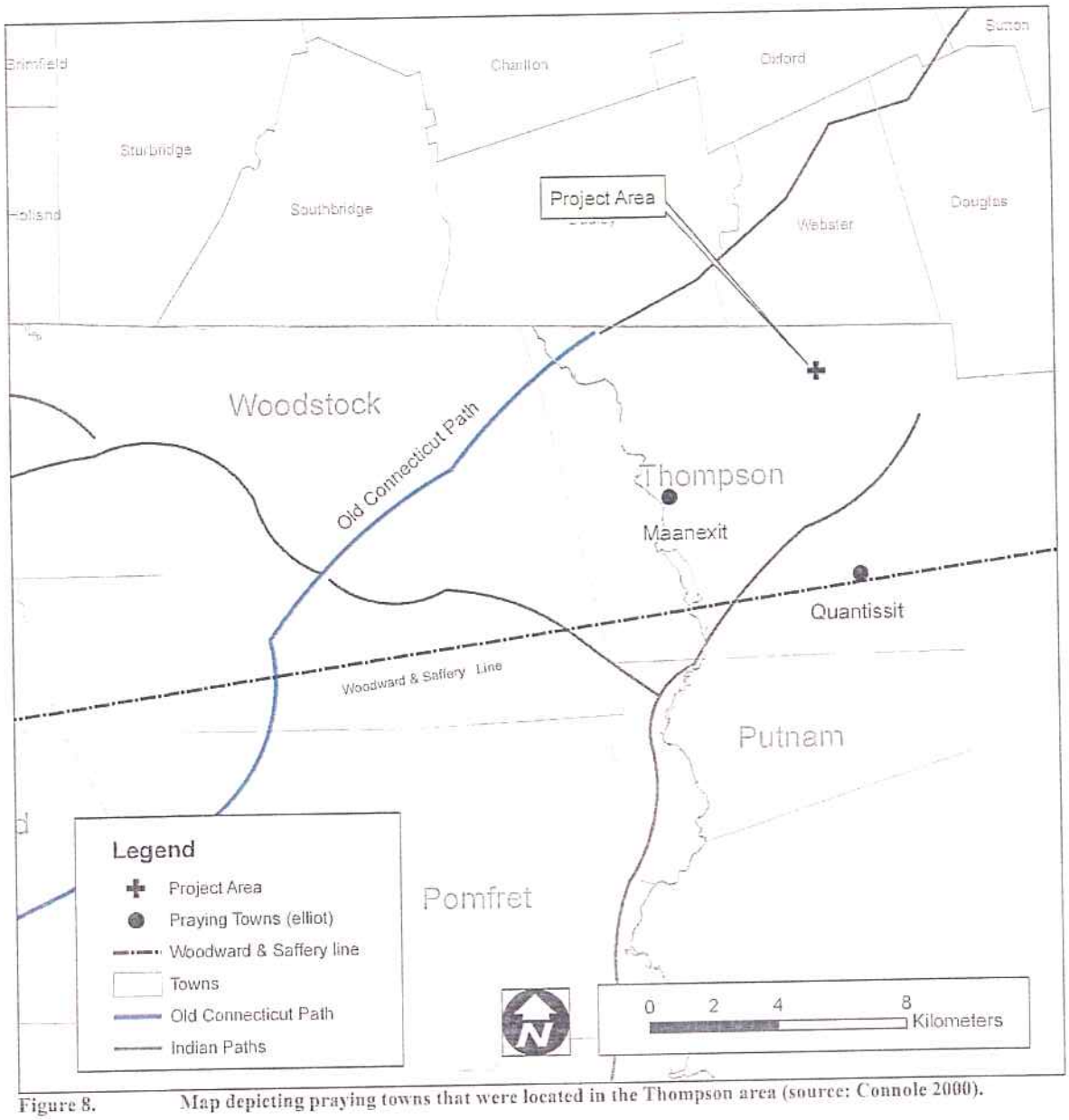

Figure 8. **Map depicting praying towns that were located in the Thompson area (source: Connole 2000).**

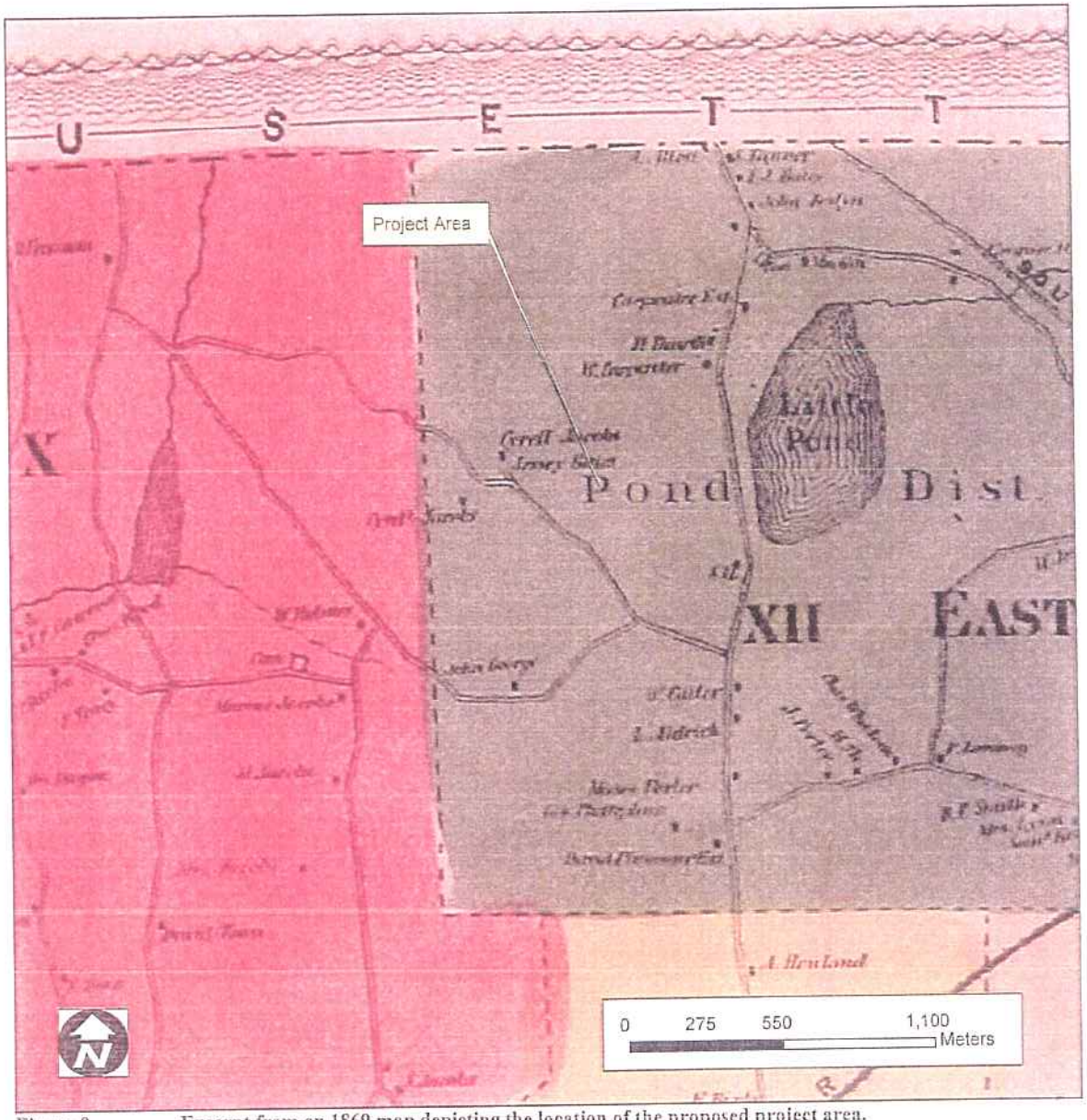

Figure 9. Excerpt from an 1869 map depicting the location of the proposed project area.

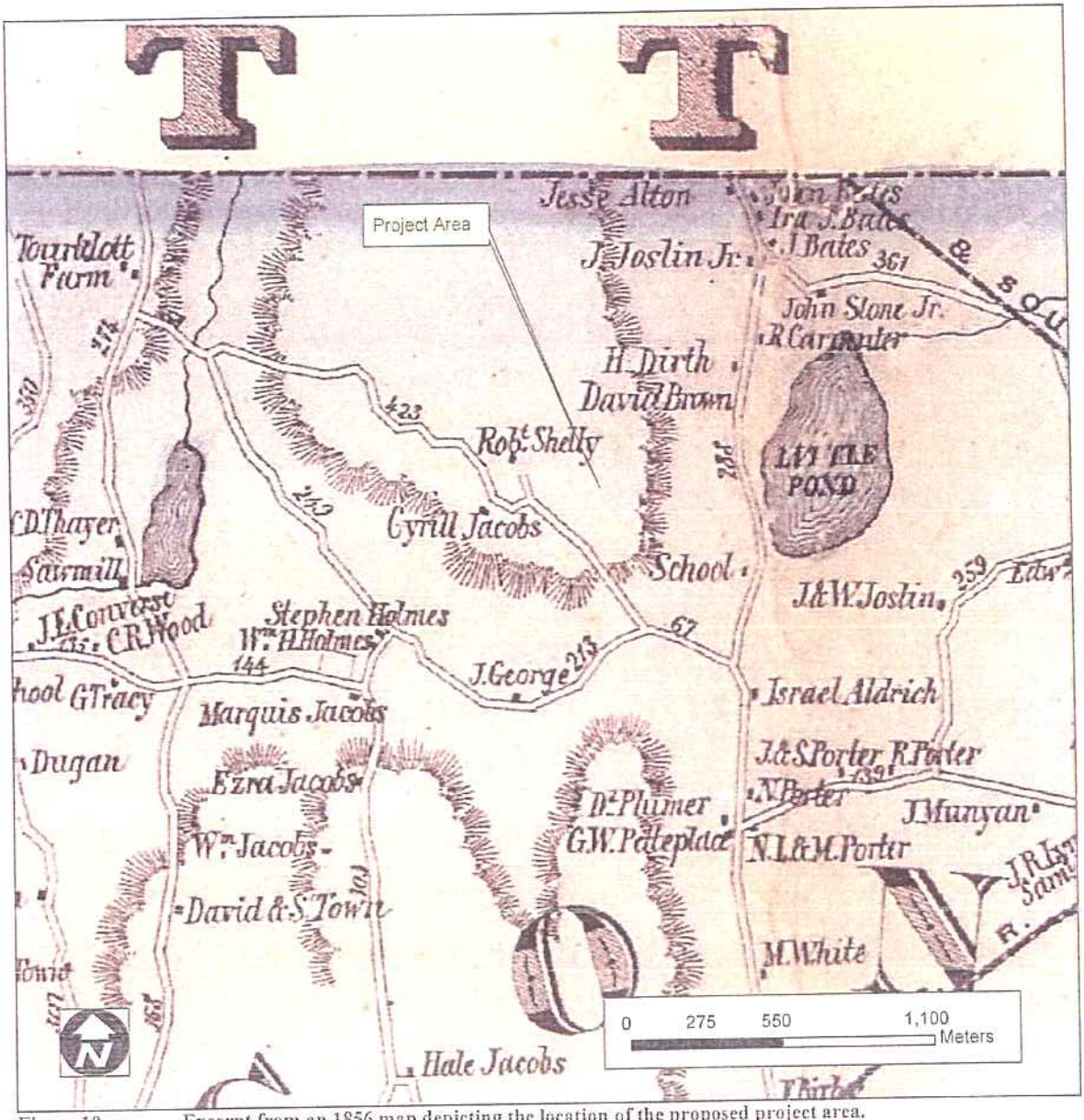

Figure 10. Excerpt from an 1856 map depicting the location of the proposed project area.

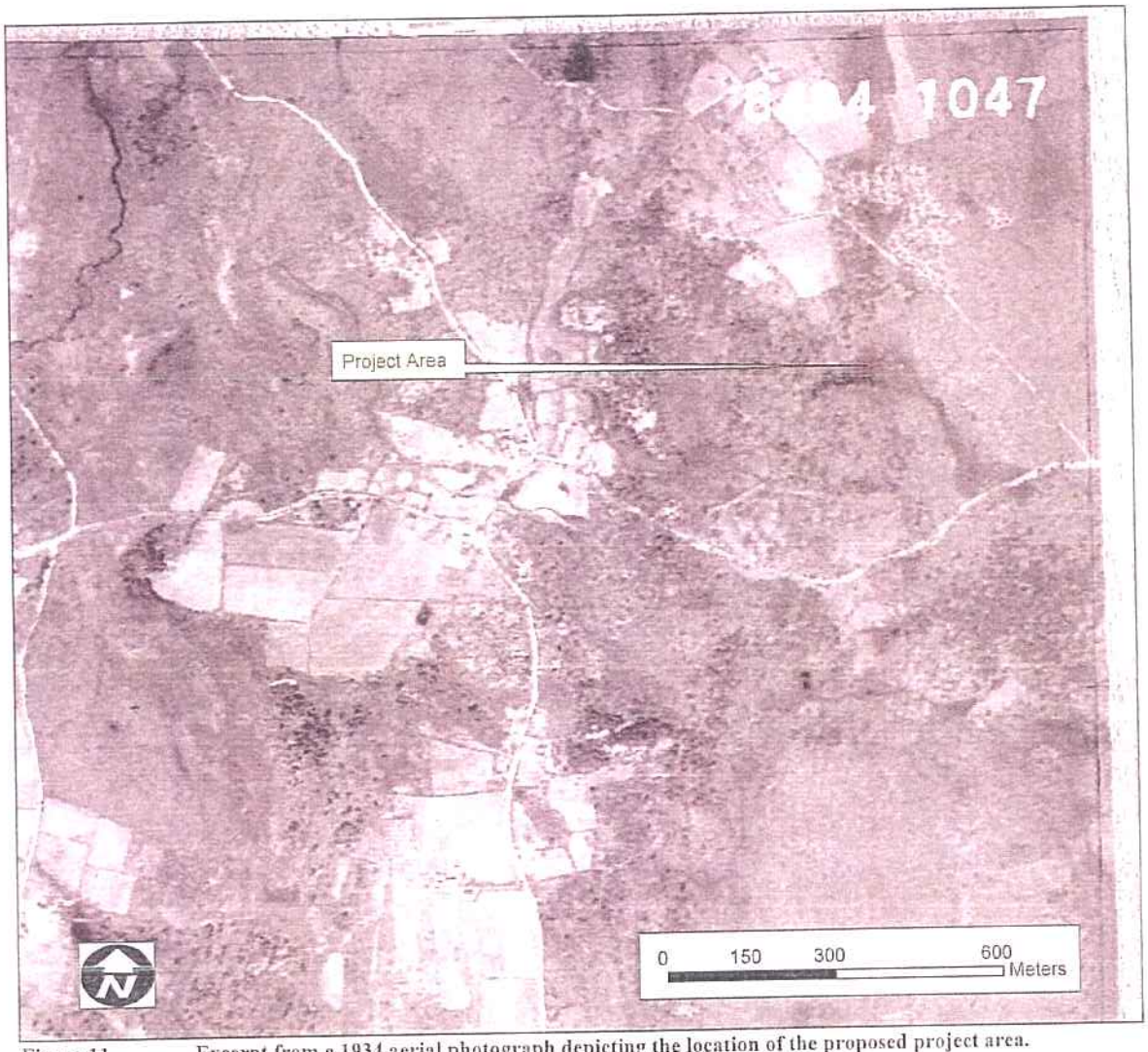

Figure 11. **Excerpt from a 1934 aerial photograph depicting the location of the proposed project area.**

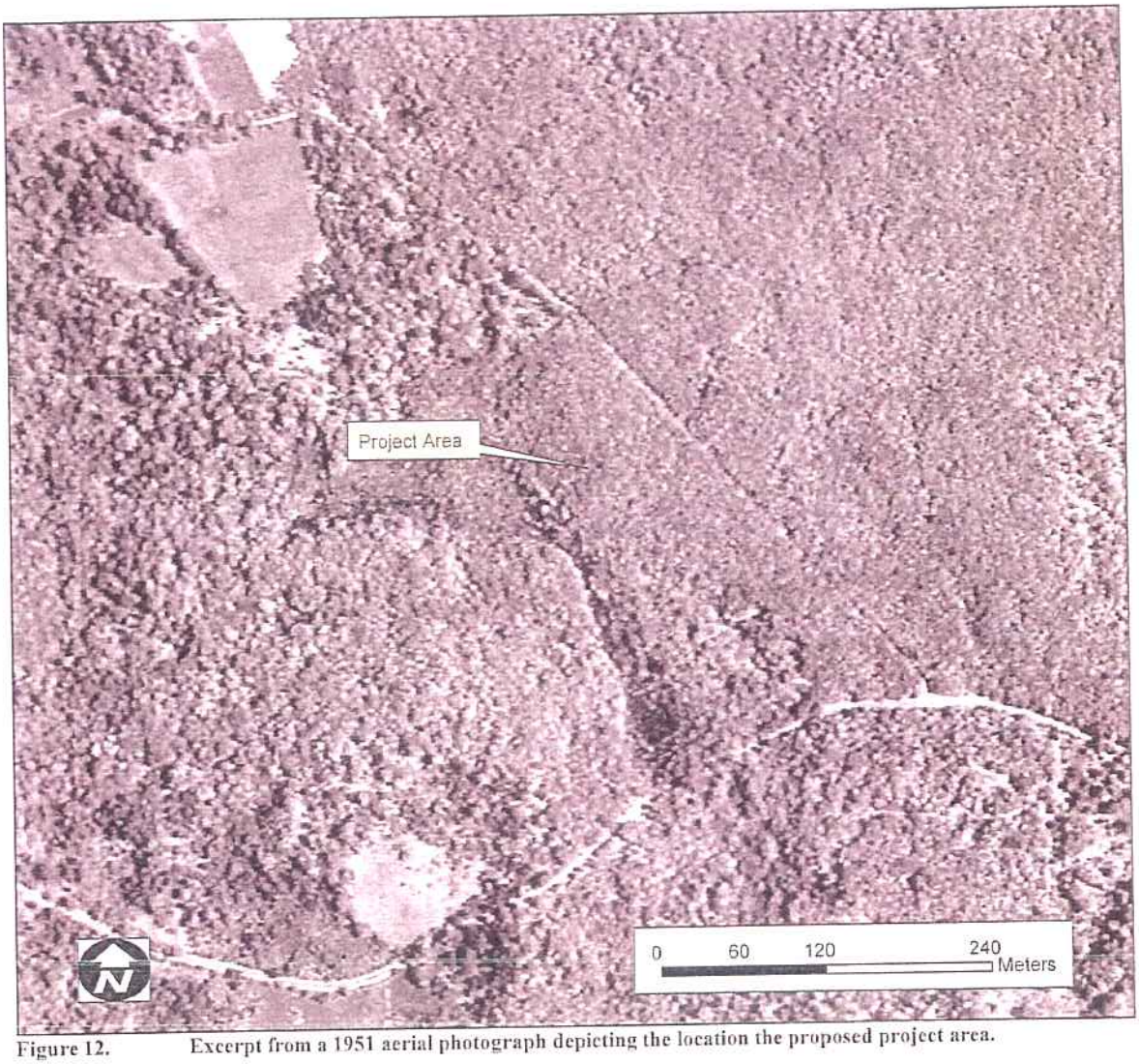

Figure 12. Excerpt from a 1951 aerial photograph depicting the location the proposed project area.

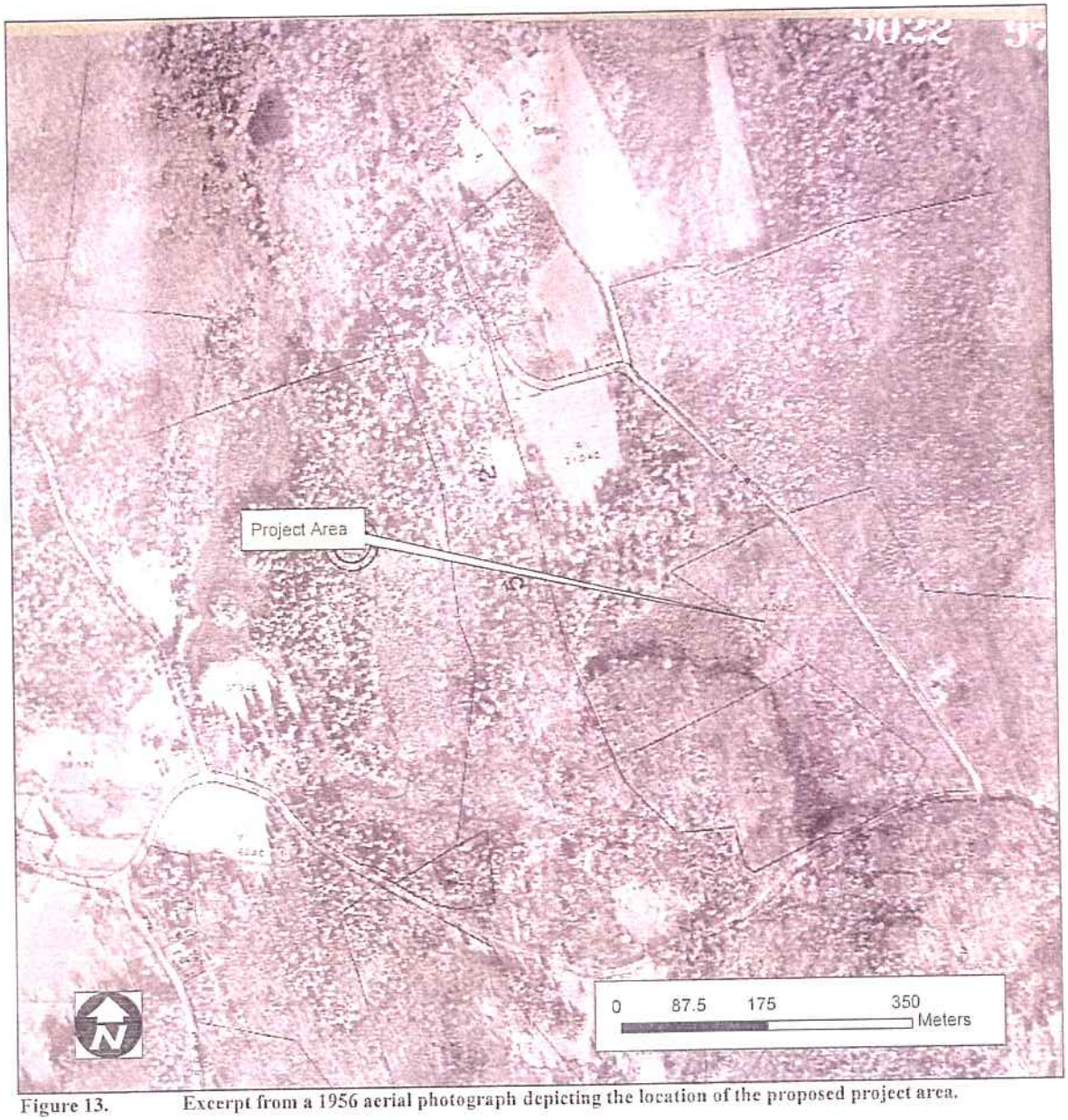

Figure 13. Excerpt from a 1956 aerial photograph depicting the location of the proposed project area.

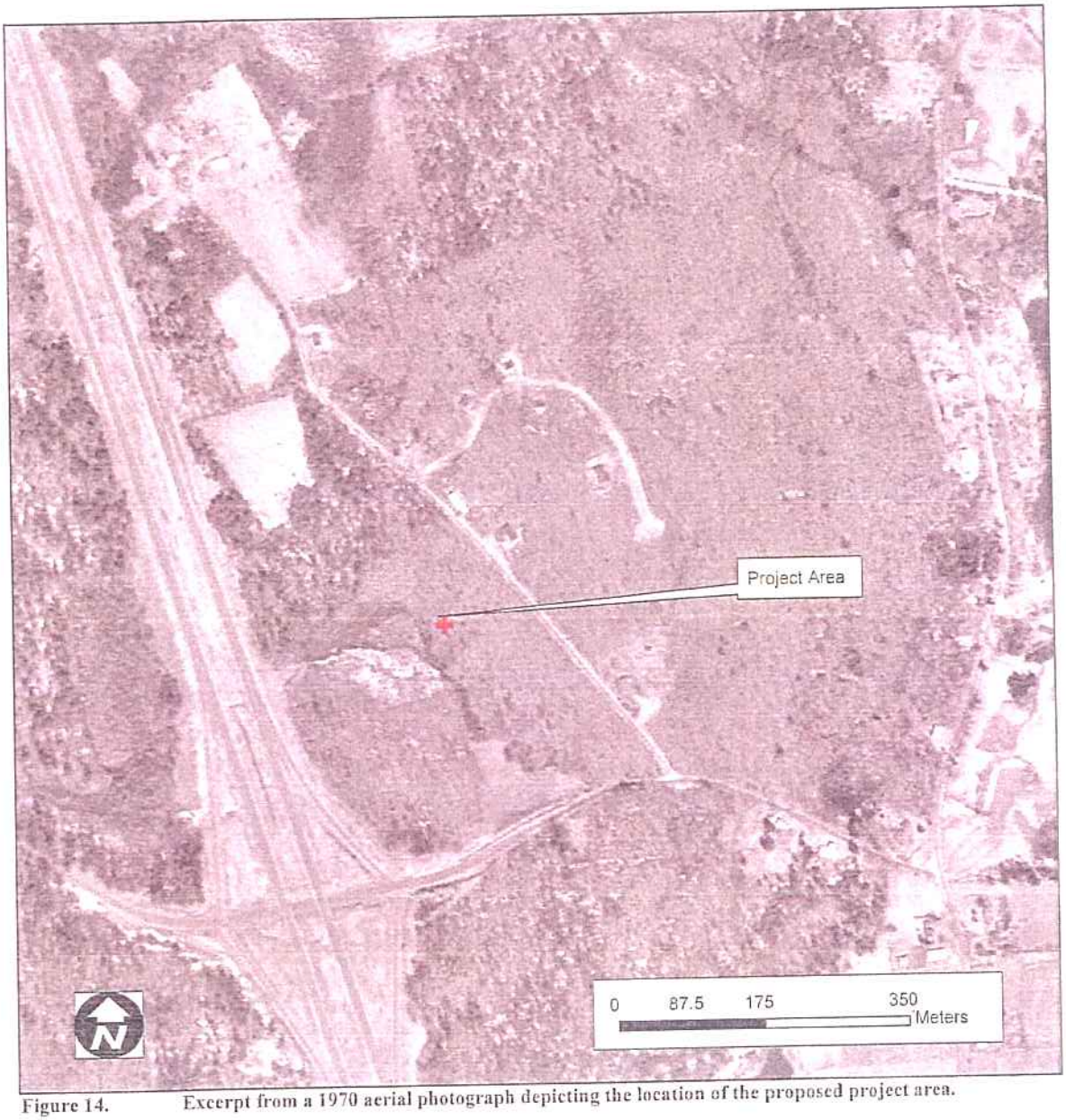

Figure 14. Excerpt from a 1970 aerial photograph depicting the location of the proposed project area.

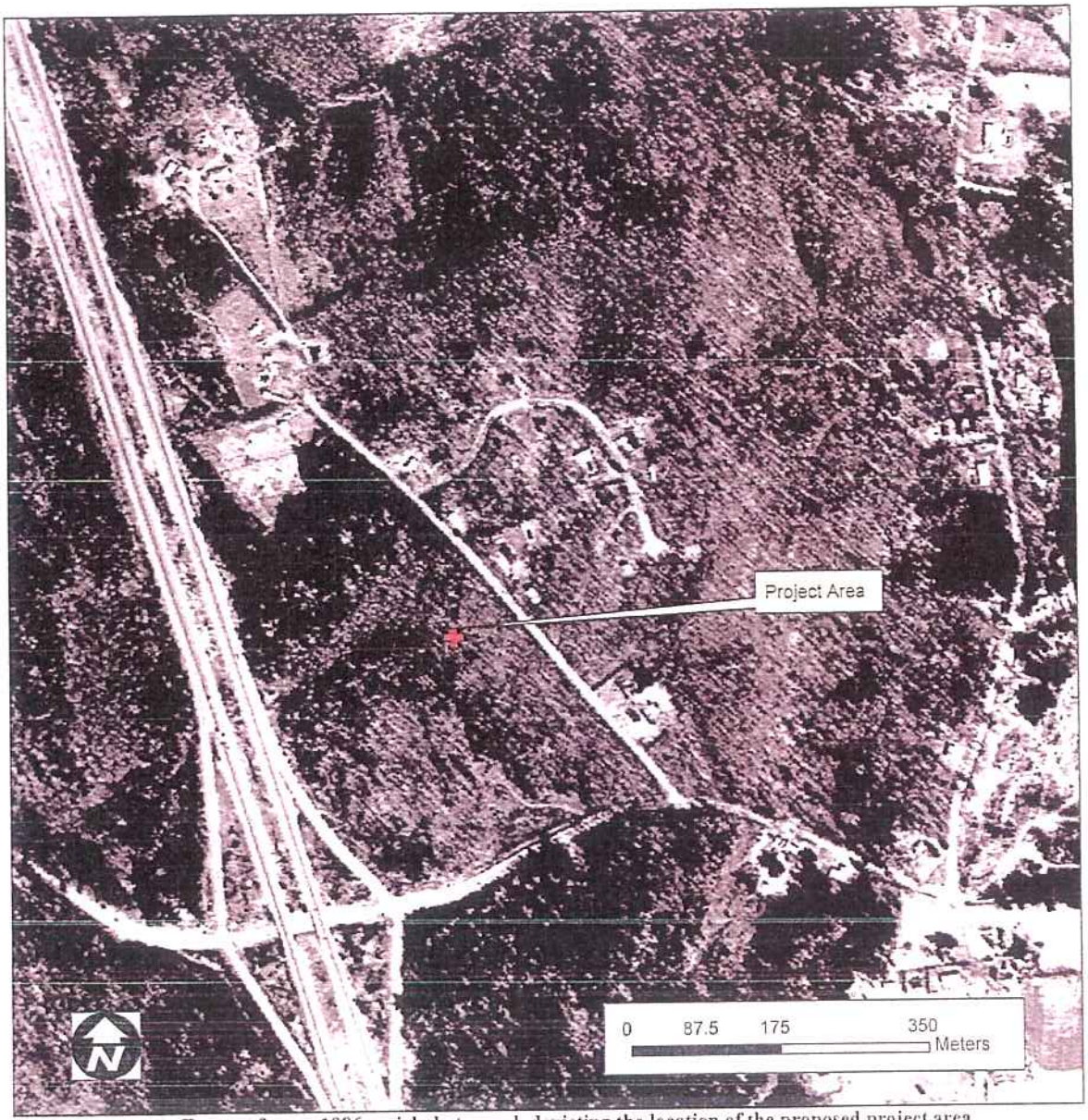

Figure 15. Excerpt from a 1986 aerial photograph depicting the location of the proposed project area.

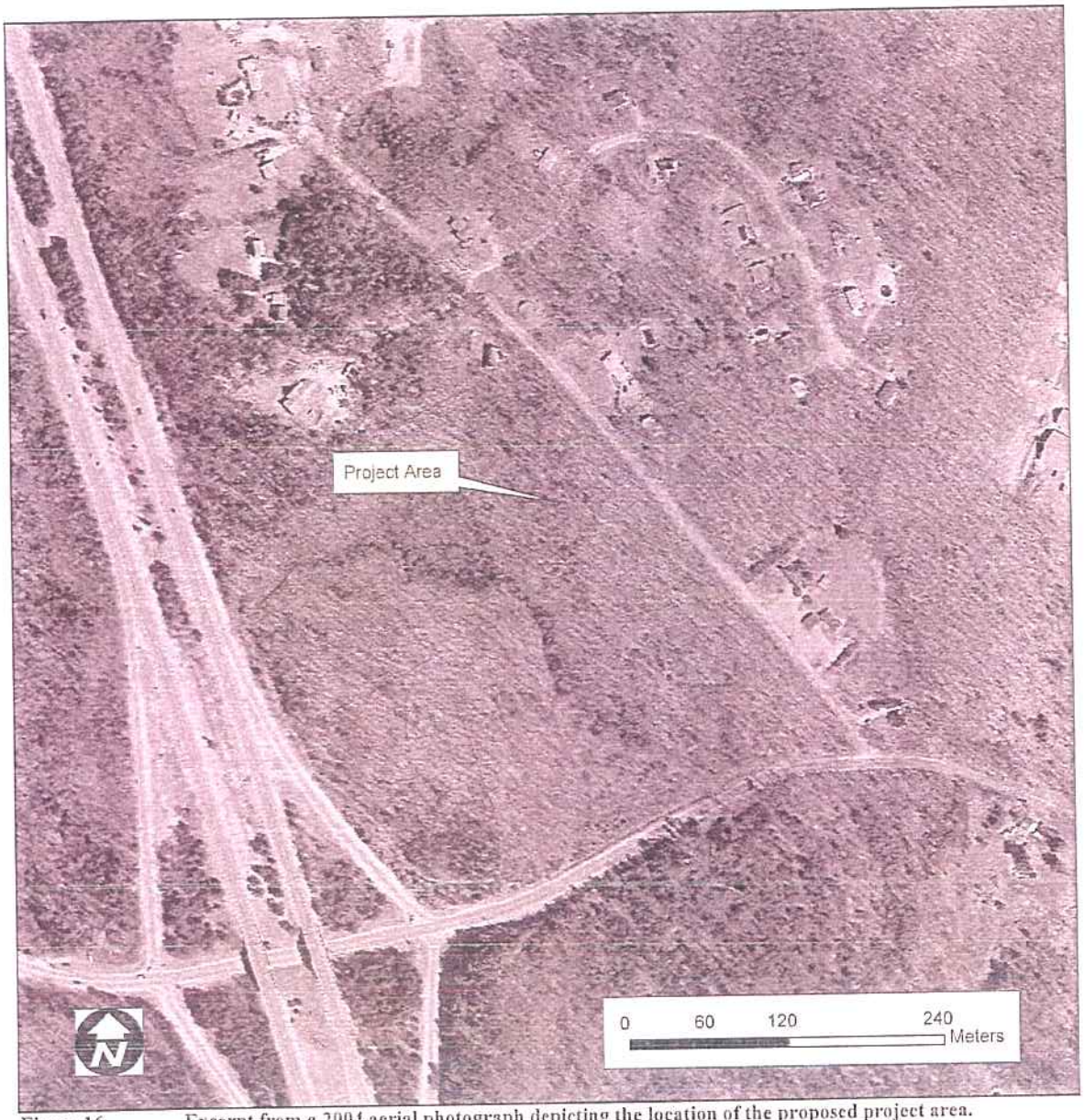

Figure 16. Excerpt from a 2004 aerial photograph depicting the location of the proposed project area.