

**Exhibit M**

Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Surveys

MAY 2021

PHASE IA CULTURAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF A PROPOSED  
SOLAR CENTER ALONG WRIGHTS CROSSING ROAD IN  
POMFRET, CONNECTICUT

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## **ABSTRACT**

This report presents the results of a Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey for the proposed Amaral Solar Project in Pomfret, Connecticut. The proposed facility encompasses approximately 13.9 acres of land that will be accessed from the southwest from Wrights Crossing Road. The current investigation consisted of: 1) preparation of an overview of the region's prehistory, history, and natural setting; 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously recorded cultural resources in the region; 3) a review of readily available historical maps and aerial imagery depicting the project area to identify potential historical resources and/or areas of past disturbance; and 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the project area to determine its archaeological sensitivity. The results of the Phase IA survey indicate that the 13.9 acre project area is characterized by moderate/high archaeologically sensitive areas.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the proposed Amara Solar Project in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 1). All-Points Technology Corporation (All-Points) requested that Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage) complete the assessment survey as part of the planning process for the proposed solar facility, which will encompass approximately 13.9 acres of land within a larger agricultural hayfield parcel. The facility will include a solar area, two proposed storm basins, and two stormwater drainage swales. It will be accessed from Wrights Crossing Road in the southern portion of the project parcel. The project area is bordered to the south by Wrights Crossing Road, to the north and east by additional hayfield acreage, and to the west by a steep slope down to Bark Meadow Brook. Heritage completed this investigation on behalf of All-Points in May of 2021. All work associated with this project was performed in accordance with the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (Poirier 1987) promulgated by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (CT-SHPO).

### **Project Description and Methods Overview**

The proposed project parcel, which is a large open field, is situated at elevations ranging from approximately 105 to 120 m (344 to 394 ft) NGVD. This Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey consisted of the completion of the following tasks: 1) a contextual overview of the region's prehistory, history, and natural setting (e.g., soils, ecology, hydrology, etc.); 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously completed cultural resources surveys and previously recorded cultural resources in the region encompassing the project parcel; 3) a review of readily available historical maps and aerial imagery depicting the project parcel in order to identify potential historical resources and/or areas of past disturbance; and 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the project parcel in order to determine its archaeological sensitivity.

### **Project Results and Management Recommendations Overview**

The review of historical maps and aerial images depicting the project parcel, files maintained by the CT-SHPO, as well as pedestrian survey of the development area, resulted in the identification of nine previously recorded archaeological sites and a single State Register of Historic Places listed property within 1.6 km (1 mi) mile of the project area. They are discussed in detail in Chapter V. No National Register of Historic Places properties were identified within 1.6 km (1 mi) mile of the project parcel. In addition to the cultural resources discussed above, Heritage combined data from historical map and aerial image analyses, as well as pedestrian survey, to stratify the project parcel into zones of no/low and/or moderate/high archaeological sensitivity. The pedestrian survey determined that the 13.9 acre project parcel is characterized by moderate/high archaeologically sensitive areas.

### **Project Personnel**

Key personnel for this project included Mr. David R. George, M.A., R.P.A, (Principal Investigator), Mr. Antonio Medina, B.A., (Field Operations Supervisor), Ms. Renée Petruzelli M.A., R.P.A., (Project Archaeologist), Mr. Cory Atkinson, M.A., R.P.A., (Field Supervisor), Mr. Stephen Anderson, B.A., (GIS Specialist) and Dr. Kristen Keegan (Historian).



## CHAPTER II

# NATURAL SETTING

### Introduction

This chapter provides a brief overview of the natural setting of the region containing the project solar facility in Pomfret, Connecticut. Previous archaeological research has documented that specific environmental factors can be associated with both prehistoric and historical period site selection. These include general ecological conditions, as well as types of fresh water sources present, degree of slopes, and soils situated within a given project area. The remainder of this chapter provides a brief overview of the ecology, hydrological resources, and soils present within the project area and the larger region in general.

### Ecoregions of Connecticut

Throughout the Pleistocene and Holocene Periods, Connecticut has undergone numerous environmental changes. Variations in climate, geology, and physiography have led to the “regionalization” of Connecticut’s modern environment. It is clear, for example, that the northwestern portion of the state has different natural characteristics than the coastline. Recognizing this fact, Dowhan and Craig (1976), as part of their study of the distribution of rare and endangered species in Connecticut, subdivided the state into various ecoregions. Dowhan and Craig (1976:27) defined an ecoregion as:

“an area characterized by a distinctive pattern of landscapes and regional climate as expressed by the vegetation composition and pattern, and the presence or absence of certain indicator species and species groups. Each ecoregion has a similar interrelationship between landforms, local climate, soil profiles, and plant and animal communities. Furthermore, the pattern of development of plant communities (chronosequences and toposequences) and of soil profile is similar in similar physiographic sites. Ecoregions are thus natural divisions of land, climate, and biota.”

Dowhan and Craig defined nine major ecoregions for the State of Connecticut. They are based on regional diversity in plant and animal indicator species (Dowhan and Craig 1976). Only one of the ecoregions is germane to the current investigation: the Northeast Hills ecoregion. A summary of this ecoregion is presented below. It is followed by a discussion of the hydrology and soils found in and adjacent to the project area.

### Northeast Hills Ecoregion

The Northeast Hills ecoregion 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 as well as gneiss and granite created during the Precambrian period (Bell 1985). Soils in uplands areas have been deposited on top of glacial till and in the valley. They consist of stratified deposits of sand, gravel, and silt (Dowhan and Craig 1976).

### Hydrology in the Vicinity of the Project Area

The project parcel is situated within a region that contains several sources of freshwater, including Day Brook, Carpenter Brook, Bark Meadow Brook, Durkee Brook, the Quinebaug River, as well as unnamed streams, ponds, and wetlands. These freshwater sources may have served as resource extraction areas for Native American and historical populations. Previously completed archaeological investigations in Connecticut have demonstrated that streams, rivers, and wetlands were focal points for prehistoric occupations because they provided access to transportation routes, sources of freshwater, and abundant faunal and floral resources.

### Soils Comprising the Project Area

Soil formation is the direct result of the interaction of many variables, including climate, vegetation, parent material, time, and organisms present (Gerrard 1981). Once archaeological deposits are buried within the soil, they are subject to various diagenic and taphonomic processes. Different classes of artifacts may be preferentially protected, or unaffected by these processes, whereas others may deteriorate rapidly. Cyclical wetting and drying, freezing, and thawing, and compression can accelerate chemically and mechanically the decay processes for animal bones, shells, lithics, ceramics, and plant remains. Lithic and ceramic artifacts are largely unaffected by soil pH, whereas animal bones and shells decay more quickly in acidic soils. In contrast, acidic soils enhance the preservation of charred plant remains.

A review of the soils within the project area is presented below. The study area is characterized by the presence of two major soil types: the Woodbridge series (45A, 45B, and 45C) and Paxton and Montauk series (85C) (Figure 2). A review of the Woodbridge and Paxton and Montauk soils show that they are deep to very deep well drained sandy loams and are the types of soils that are typically correlated with prehistoric and historical use and occupation. Descriptive profiles for each soil type are presented below; they were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service.

#### Woodbridge Series:

The Woodbridge series consists of moderately well drained loamy soils formed in lodgment till. They are very deep to bedrock and moderately deep to a densic contact. They are nearly level to moderately steep soils on hills, drumlins, till plains, and ground moraines. Slope ranges from 0 to 25 percent. A typical profile associated with Woodbridge soils is as follows: **Ap**--0 to 18 cm; very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) fine sandy loam, light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) dry; moderate medium granular structure; friable; many fine and medium roots; few very dark brown (10YR 2/2) earthworm casts; 5 percent gravel; moderately acid; abrupt wavy boundary; **Bw1**--18 to 46 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine roots; few very dark brown (10YR 2/2) earthworm casts; 10 percent gravel; moderately acid; gradual wavy boundary; **Bw2**--46 to 66 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine roots; few very dark brown (10YR 2/2) earthworm casts; 10 percent gravel; few medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) masses of iron accumulation and light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) areas of iron depletion; moderately acid; gradual wavy boundary; **Bw3**--66 to 76 cm; light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; few fine roots; 10 percent gravel; common medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) masses of iron accumulation and light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) areas of iron depletion; moderately acid; clear wavy boundary; **Cd1**--76 to 109 cm; light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) gravelly fine sandy loam; weak thick plates of geogenic origin; very firm, brittle; 20 percent gravel; many medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) masses of iron accumulation and light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) areas of iron depletion; moderately acid; gradual wavy boundary; and **Cd2**--109 to 165 cm; light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) gravelly fine sandy

loam; weak thick plates of geogenic origin; very firm, brittle; few fine prominent very dark brown (10YR 2/2) coatings on plates; 25 percent gravel; fine prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) masses of iron accumulation; moderately acid ([https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD\\_Docs/W/WOODBRIDGE.html](https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/W/WOODBRIDGE.html)).

#### Paxton and Montauk Series:

The Paxton series consists of well drained loamy soils formed in lodgment till. The soils are very deep to bedrock and moderately deep to a densic contact. They are nearly level to steep soils on hills, drumlins, till plains, and ground moraines. Slope ranges from 0 to 45 percent. A typical profile associated with Paxton soils is as follows: **Ap** -- 0 to 20 cm; dark brown (10YR 3/3) fine sandy loam, pale brown (10YR 6/3) dry; moderate medium granular structure; friable; many fine roots; 5 percent gravel; strongly acid; abrupt smooth boundary; **Bw1** -- 20 to 38 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine roots; 5 percent gravel; few earthworm casts; strongly acid; gradual wavy boundary; **Bw2** -- 38 to 66 cm; olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; few fine roots; 10 percent gravel; strongly acid; clear wavy boundary; and **Cd** -- 66 to 165 cm; olive (5Y 5/3) gravelly fine sandy loam; medium plate-like divisions; massive; very firm, brittle; 25 percent gravel; many dark coatings on plates; strongly acid.

The Montauk series consists of well drained soils formed in lodgment or flow till derived primarily from granitic materials with lesser amounts of gneiss and schist. The soils are very deep to bedrock and moderately deep to a densic contact. These soils are on upland hills and moraines. Slope ranges from 0 to 35 percent. A typical profile associated with Montauk soils is as follows: **Ap**-- 0 to 10 cm; very dark gray (10YR 3/1) loam; moderate fine granular structure; very friable; many very fine, fine, medium, and coarse roots; 2 percent gravel, 1 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; extremely acid (pH 4.1); clear smooth boundary; **BA**-- 10 to 34 cm; brown (10YR 4/3) loam; moderate medium and coarse subangular blocky structure; friable; many fine, medium, and coarse roots; many fine and medium pores; 4 percent gravel, 1 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; extremely acid (pH 4.3); clear wavy boundary; **Bw1**-- 34 to 65 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) loam; moderate coarse subangular blocky structure; friable; many fine, medium, and coarse roots; many fine and medium pores; 6 percent gravel, 1 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; extremely acid (pH 4.3); clear wavy boundary; **Bw2**-- 65 to 87 cm; yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy loam; moderate medium and coarse subangular blocky structure; friable; many very fine, fine, and coarse roots; many fine and medium pores; 5 percent gravel and 1 percent cobbles; extremely acid (pH 4.3); clear smooth boundary; **2Cd1**-- 87 to 101 cm; strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) gravelly loamy sand; moderate medium plates; firm; few fine roots; many fine pores; 10 percent gravel, 5 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; very strongly acid (pH 4.7); clear wavy boundary; and **2Cd2**-- 101 to 184 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) gravelly loamy sand; moderate medium plates; firm; many fine pores; 10 percent gravel, 5 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; strongly acid (pH 5.1) ([https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD\\_Docs/M/MONTAUK.html](https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/M/MONTAUK.html)).

#### **Summary**

The natural setting of the area containing the proposed solar facility is common throughout the Northeast Hills ecoregion. The major river within this ecoregion is the Quinebaug River, with numerous smaller rivers and streams. Rolling hills dominate the region, and the soils range from very poorly drained to well drained sandy loams. In general, however, the project region was well suited to Native American occupation throughout the prehistoric era. This portion of Pomfret was also used throughout the historical era, as evidenced by the presence of numerous historical residences and agricultural fields throughout the region; thus, archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric and historical era may be expected near or within the proposed project area.

## CHAPTER III

### PREHISTORIC SETTING

#### **Introduction**

Prior to the late 1970s and early 1980s, very few systematic archaeological surveys of large portions of the state of Connecticut had been undertaken. Rather, the prehistory of the region was studied at the site level. As a result, a skewed interpretation of the prehistory of Connecticut was developed. It was suggested that the upland portions of the state, i.e., the northeastern and northwestern hills ecoregions, were little used and rarely occupied by prehistoric Native Americans, while the coastal zone, i.e., the eastern and western coastal, and the southeastern and southwestern hills ecoregions was the focus of settlements and exploitation in the prehistoric era. This interpretation remained unchallenged until the 1970s and 1980s when several town-wide and regional archaeological studies were completed. These investigations led to the creation of several archaeological phases that subsequently were applied to understand the prehistory of Connecticut. The remainder of this chapter provides an overview of the prehistoric setting of the region encompassing the current project area.

#### **Paleo-Indian Period (12,000 to 10,000 B.P.)**

The earliest inhabitants of the area encompassing the State of Connecticut, who have been referred to as Paleo-Indians, arrived in the area by ca. 12,000 B.P. (Gramly and Funk 1990; Snow 1980). Due to the presence of large Pleistocene mammals at that time and the ubiquity of large fluted projectile points in archaeological deposits of this age, Paleo-Indians often have been described as big-game hunters (Ritchie and Funk 1973; Snow 1980); however, as discussed below, it is more likely that they hunted a broad spectrum of animals.

While there have been numerous surface finds of Paleo-Indian projectile points throughout the State of Connecticut, only two sites, the Templeton Site (6-LF-21) in Washington, Connecticut and the Hidden Creek Site (72-163) in Ledyard, Connecticut, have been studied in detail and dated using the radiocarbon method (Jones 1997; Moeller 1980). The Templeton Site (6-LF-21) is in Washington, Connecticut and was occupied between 10,490 and 9,890 years ago (Moeller 1980). In addition to a single large and two small fluted points, the Templeton Site produced a stone tool assemblage consisting of graters, drills, core fragments, scrapers, and channel flakes, which indicates that the full range of stone tool production and maintenance took place at the site (Moeller 1980). Moreover, the use of both local and non-local raw materials was documented in the recovered tool assemblage, suggesting that not only did the site's occupants spend some time in the area, but they also had access to distant stone sources, the use of which likely occurred during movement from region to region.

The only other Paleo-Indian site studied in detail in Connecticut is the Hidden Creek Site (72-163) (Jones 1997). The Hidden Creek Site is situated on the southeastern margin of the Great Cedar Swamp on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation in Ledyard, Connecticut. While excavation of the Hidden Creek Site produced evidence of Terminal Archaic and Woodland Period components (see below) in the upper soil horizons, the lower levels of the site yielded artifacts dating from the Paleo-Indian era. Recovered Paleo-Indian artifacts included broken bifaces, side-scrapers, a fluted preform, graters, and end-scrapers. Based on the types and number of tools, Jones (1997:77) hypothesized that the Hidden Creek Site represented a short-term occupation, and separate stone tool reduction and rejuvenation areas were present.

While archaeological evidence for Paleo-Indian occupation is scarce in Connecticut, it, combined with data from the West Athens Road and King's Road Site in the Hudson drainage and the Davis and Potts Sites in northern New York, supports the hypothesis that there was human occupation of the area not long after ca. 12,000 B.P. (Snow 1980). Further, site types currently known suggest that the Paleo-Indian settlement pattern was characterized by a high degree of mobility, with groups moving from region to region in search of seasonally abundant food resources, as well as for the procurement of high quality raw materials from which to fashion stone tools.

### **Archaic Period (10,000 to 2,700 B.P.)**

The Archaic Period, which succeeded the Paleo-Indian Period, began by ca., 10,000 B.P. (Ritchie and Funk 1973; Snow 1980), and it has been divided into three subperiods: 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.). These periods were devised to describe all non-farming, non-ceramic producing populations in the area. Regional archaeologists recently have recognized a final "transitional" Archaic Period, the Terminal Archaic Period (3,400-2,700 B.P.), which was meant to describe those groups that existed just prior to the onset of the Woodland Period and the widespread adoption of ceramics into the toolkit (Snow 1980; McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1984, 1990; Witthoft 1949, 1953).

#### Early Archaic Period (10,000 to 8,000 B.P.)

To date, very few Early Archaic sites have been identified in southern New England. As a result, researchers such as Fitting (1968) and Ritchie (1969) have suggested a lack of these sites likely is tied to cultural discontinuity between the Early Archaic and preceding Paleo-Indian Period, as well as a population decrease from earlier times. However, with continued identification of Early Archaic sites in the region, and the recognition of the problems of preservation, it is difficult to maintain the discontinuity hypothesis (Curran and Dincauze 1977; Snow 1980).

Like their Paleo-Indian predecessors, Early Archaic sites tend to be very small and produce few artifacts, most of which are not temporally diagnostic. While Early Archaic sites in other portions the United States are represented by projectile points of the Kirk series (Ritchie and Funk 1973) and by Kanawha types (Coe 1964), sites of this age in southern New England are identified recognized based on a series of ill-defined bifurcate-based projectile points. These projectile points are identified by the presence of their characteristic bifurcated base, and they generally are made from high quality raw materials. Moreover, finds of these projectile points have rarely been in stratified contexts. Rather, they occur commonly either as surface expressions or intermixed with artifacts representative of later periods. Early Archaic occupations, such as the Dill Farm Site and Sites 6LF64 and 6LF70 in Litchfield County, and are represented by camps that were relocated periodically to take advantage of seasonally available resources (McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1986). In this sense, a foraging type of settlement pattern was employed during the Early Archaic Period.

#### Middle Archaic Period (8,000 to 6,000 B.P.)

By the onset of the Middle Archaic Period, essentially modern deciduous forests had developed in the region (Davis 1969). It is at this time that increased numbers and types of sites are noted in Connecticut (McBride 1984). The most well-known Middle Archaic site in New England is the Neville Site, which is in Manchester, New Hampshire and studied by Dincauze (1976). Careful analysis of the Neville Site indicated that the Middle Archaic occupation dated from between ca. 7,700 and 6,000 years ago. In fact, Dincauze (1976) obtained several radiocarbon dates from the Middle Archaic component of the Neville Site. The dates, associated with the then-newly named Neville type projectile point, ranged from 7,740 $\pm$ 280 and 7,015 $\pm$ 160 B.P. (Dincauze 1976).

In addition to Neville points, Dincauze (1976) described two other projectile point styles that are attributed to the Middle Archaic Period: Stark and Merrimac projectile points. While no absolute dates were recovered from deposits that yielded Stark points, the Merrimac type dated from 5,910±180 B.P. Dincauze argued that both the Neville and later Merrimac and Stark occupations were established to take advantage of the excellent fishing that the falls situated adjacent to the site area would have afforded Native American groups. Thus, based on the available archaeological evidence, the Middle Archaic Period is characterized by continued increases in diversification of tool types and 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)

#### Late Archaic Period (6,000 to 3,700 B.P.)

The Late Archaic Period in southern New England is divided into two major cultural traditions that appear to have coexisted. They include the Laurentian and Narrow-Stemmed Traditions (Funk 1976; McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969a and b). Artifacts assigned to the Laurentian Tradition include ground stone axes, adzes, gouges, ulus (semi-lunar knives), pestles, atlatl weights, and scrapers. The diagnostic projectile point forms of this time period in southern New England include the Brewerton Eared-Notched, Brewerton Eared and Brewerton Side-Notched varieties (McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969a; Thompson 1969). In general, the stone tool assemblage of the Laurentian Tradition is characterized by flint, felsite, rhyolite and quartzite, while quartz was largely avoided for stone tool production.

In terms of settlement and subsistence patterns, archaeological evidence in southern New England suggests that Laurentian Tradition populations consisted of groups of mobile hunter-gatherers. While a few large Laurentian Tradition occupations have been studied, sites of this age generally encompass less than 500 m<sup>2</sup> (5,383 ft<sup>2</sup>). 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 1978, 1984:252). Finally, subsistence strategies of Laurentian Tradition focused on hunting and gathering of wild plants and animals from multiple ecozones.

The second Late Archaic tradition, known as the Narrow-Stemmed Tradition, is unlike the Laurentian Tradition, and it likely represents a different cultural adaptation. The Narrow-Stemmed tradition 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). Other tools found in Narrow-Stemmed Tradition artifact assemblages include choppers, adzes, pestles, antler and bone projectile points, harpoons, awls, and notched atlatl weights. Many of these tools, notably the projectile points and pestles, indicate a subsistence pattern dominated by hunting and fishing, as well the collection of a wide range of plant foods (McBride 1984; Snow 1980:228; Wiegand 1978, 1980).

#### The Terminal Archaic Period (3,700 to 2,700 B.P.)

The Terminal Archaic, which lasted from ca. 3,700 to 2,700 BP, is perhaps the most interesting, yet confusing of the Archaic Periods in southern New England prehistory. Originally termed the "Transitional Archaic" by Witthoft (1953) and recognized by the introduction of technological innovations, e.g., broadspear projectile points and soapstone bowls, the Terminal Archaic has long posed problems for regional archaeologists. While the Narrow-Stemmed Tradition persisted through the Terminal Archaic and into the Early Woodland Period, the Terminal Archaic is coeval with what appears to be a different technological adaptation, the Susquehanna Tradition (McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969b). The Susquehanna Tradition is recognized in southern New England by the presence of a new stone tool industry that was based on the use of high quality raw materials for stone tool production and a settlement pattern

different from the “coeval” Narrow-Stemmed Tradition.

The Susquehanna Tradition is based on the classification of several Broadspear projectile point types and associated artifacts. There are several local sequences within the tradition, and they are based on projectile point type chronology. Temporally diagnostic projectile points of these sequences include the Snook Kill, Susquehanna Broadspear, Mansion Inn, and Orient Fishtail types (Lavin 1984; McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1984). The initial portion of the Terminal Archaic Period (ca., 3,700-3,200 BP) is characterized by the presence of Snook Kill and Susquehanna Broadspear projectile points, while the latter Terminal Archaic (3,200-2,700 BP) is distinguished by the use of Orient Fishtail projectile points (McBride 1984:119; Ritchie 1971).

In addition, it was during the late Terminal Archaic that interior cord marked, grit tempered, thick walled ceramics with conoidal (pointed) bases made their initial appearance in the Native American toolkit. These are the first ceramics in the region, and they are named Vinette I (Ritchie 1969a; Snow 1980:242); this type of ceramic vessel appears with much more frequency during the ensuing Early Woodland Period. In addition, the adoption and widespread use of soapstone bowls, as well as the implementation of subterranean storage, suggests that Terminal Archaic groups were characterized by reduced mobility and longer-term use of established occupation sites (Snow 1980:250).

Finally, while settlement patterns appeared to have changed, Terminal Archaic subsistence patterns were analogous to earlier patterns. The subsistence pattern still was diffuse in nature, and it was scheduled carefully. Typical food remains recovered from sites of this period consist of fragments of white-tailed deer, beaver, turtle, fish and various small mammals. Botanical remains recovered from the site area consisted of *Chenopodium* sp., hickory, butternut and walnut (Pagoulatos 1988:81). Such diversity in food remains suggests at least minimal use of a wide range of microenvironments for subsistence purposes.

### **Woodland Period (2,700 to 350 B.P.)**

Traditionally, the advent of the Woodland Period in southern New England has been associated with the introduction of pottery; however, as mentioned above, early dates associated with pottery now suggest the presence of Vinette I ceramics appeared toward the end of the preceding Terminal Archaic Period (Ritchie 1969a; McBride 1984). Like the Archaic Period, the Woodland Period has been divided into three subperiods: Early, Middle, and Late Woodland. The various subperiods are discussed below.

#### Early Woodland Period (ca., 2,700 to 2,000 B.P.)

The Early Woodland Period of the northeastern United States dates from ca. 2,700 to 2,000 B.P. and it has thought to have been characterized by the advent of farming, the initial use of ceramic vessels, and increasingly complex burial ceremonialism (Griffin 1967; Ritchie 1969a and 1969b; Snow 1980). In the Northeast, the earliest ceramics of the Early Woodland Period are thick walled, cord marked on both the interior and exterior, and possess grit temper.

Careful archaeological investigations of Early Woodland sites in southern New England have resulted in the recovery of narrow stemmed projectile points in association with ceramic sherds and subsistence remains, including specimens of White-tailed deer, soft and hard-shell clams, and oyster shells (Lavin and Salwen: 1983; McBride 1984:296-297; Pope 1952). McBride (1984) has argued that the combination of the subsistence remains and the recognition of multiple superimposed cultural features at various sites indicates that Early Woodland Period settlement patterns were characterized by multiple re-use of the same sites on a seasonal basis by small co-residential groups.

### Middle Woodland Period (2,000 to 1,200 B.P.)

The Middle Woodland Period 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). The latter suggests that regional exchange networks were established, and that they were used to supply local populations with necessary raw materials (McBride 1984; Snow 1980). The Middle Woodland Period is represented archaeologically by 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 that are indicative of the Middle Woodland Period includes 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 that utilized native plant and animal species for food and raw materials in tool making (George 1997). These sites were the principal place of occupation, and they were positioned close to major river valleys, tidal marshes, estuaries, and the 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 use of temporary and task-specific sites to support large village populations indicates that the Middle Woodland Period was characterized by a resource acquisition strategy that can best be termed as logistical collection (McBride 1984:310).

### Late Woodland Period (ca., 1,200 to 350 B.P.)

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 corn 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 1974; McBride 1984; Snow 1980; Wiegand 1983).

Stone tool assemblages associated with Late Woodland occupations, especially village-sized sites, are functionally variable and they reflect plant and animal resource processing and consumption on a large scale. Finished stone tools recovered from Late Woodland sites include Levanna and Madison projectile points; drills; side-, end-, and thumbnail scrapers; mortars and pestles; nutting stones; net sinkers; and celts, adzes, axes, and digging tools. These tools were used in activities ranging from hide preparation to plant processing to the manufacture of canoes, bowls, and utensils, as well as other settlement and subsistence-related items (McBride 1984; Snow 1980). Finally, ceramic assemblages recovered from Late Woodland sites are as variable as the lithic assemblages. Ceramic types identified 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 (Lavin 1980, 1988a, 1988b; Lizee 1994a; Pope 1953; Rouse 1947; Salwen and Ottesen 1972; Smith 1947). These types are more diverse stylistically than their predecessors, with incision, shell stamping, punctation, single point, linear dentate, rocker dentate stamping, and stamp and drag impressions common (Lizee 1994a: 216).



### **Summary of Connecticut Prehistory**

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 patterns, and land use strategies. For most 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 domesticated species 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 area, 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.

## CHAPTER IV

### HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

As discussed in Chapter 1, the project area measures 13.9 acres in size and is situated in the town of Pomfret, which is located in Windham County. This parcel is located in the northeastern section of Pomfret, on the north side of Wrights Crossing Road. This chapter provides an overview history of Pomfret and additional details associated with the project area.

#### **Native American History**

At the time of contact, the northeastern corner of Connecticut was inhabited by the Wabbaquasset community of Native Americans, which was part of a loosely aligned group of communities that is often referred to as the Nipmucks. Nipmuck communities occupied a wide area, mainly in Massachusetts but in parts of northeastern Connecticut; they consisted of small villages typical of the shifting cultivation lifestyle of the Native Americans of this time period. Prior to the 1650s, the Native American residents of this upland region were largely undisturbed by colonial incursions. During the 1660s and early 1670s, various sales of land were made to English colonists. By 1675, however, it appears that the Native Americans of the region understood that the land sales were permanent and that the Massachusetts Bay government intended to dispossess them of the territory entirely. As a result, many of the Nipmuck groups' members joined in King Philip's War against the English (Connole 2001). After King Philip's War, the General Court of Massachusetts Bay appointed a committee to investigate English land claims in the Nipmuck Country. They bought up any claims to ownership by Native Americans and fully opened the territory to colonization (Bowen 1886).

In addition to this sequence of events, Connecticut historical traditions claim that the Wabbaquassetts, as well as other neighboring groups, were "entirely under the domination of the Mohegans," who sold away all their lands to the English (DeForest 1852:376; Bowen 1886). The two traditions about the Wabbaquassetts' actions in King Philip's War (1675-1676) are that some of them "deserted their homes and threw themselves at the feet of Uncas at Mohegan" to help fight King Philip, while others joined his King Philip (Bowen 1926:14-15). Within the boundaries of Connecticut, a large part of northeastern Connecticut area was also claimed by the Mohegan tribe of Native Americans, as territory conquered from the Pequot tribe in the 1636-1637 war against them. The wartime Mohegan Sachem Uncas willed the eastern half of this land to his son Owaneco (and the western half to his son Joshua). Owaneco sold a large part of this legacy to Captain James Fitch in 1684, in a deed that described it as part of the Nipmuck and Wabbaquasset country; moreover, this deed was accompanied by a quit-claim deed from several members of those communities (Connole 2001).

These land transactions by politically powerful strangers did not immediately convince the actual inhabitants to move away. Many of the Wabbaquassetts returned to their traditional territory and, during the 1690s, became a source of serious security concern to the colonists. In the early decades of the eighteenth century, Native Americans continued to reside in and make use of this territory, and only gradually moved away, were displaced, or ceased to live in distinct communities (Larned 1874). Because of the history of war, conquest, and land title shenanigans, exactly where Native Americans lived in Pomfret and Killingly during the colonial period, and what their communities were called, is difficult or impossible to determine.

## **History of the Town of Pomfret**

Throughout its history, Pomfret has remained a relatively small town in terms of population. While other towns in Windham County developed substantial industrial villages during the nineteenth century, Pomfret remained rural into the modern era. As is discussed below, as of the early twenty-first century, farming was no longer the mainstay of its economy, and in contrast to previous eras, the town had a certain amount of modern industrial employment.

### Colonial Era

Pomfret avoided the significant title controversies caused by James Fitch's many land transactions in northeastern Connecticut simply because the General Assembly, absent any other claims they were willing to acknowledge, confirmed the relevant sale by him (Bushman 1967). This took place in 1686, and the buyers were a group of 12 men from Roxbury, Massachusetts. Initially known as Maschamoquet or Massamugget, the town was named and incorporated by the colonial legislature in 1713 (Crofut 1937). The deed specified that the area included 15,100 acres (6,111 ha) of "wilderness." The owners applied for, and received, a township patent from the Connecticut General Assembly, also in 1686. The proprietors' initial efforts to subdivide the land, in 1687, were frustrated by the British Crown's imposition on the colonies of a governmental reorganization, specifically its appointment of Governor Andros and the creation of the Dominion of New England. Although this period of political conflict was short, the proprietors did not meet again until 1693, at which time they granted each of them 540 acres (218.5 ha). They had previously given James Fitch 1,080 acres (437 ha) on the tract's east side, and left a large amount to be divided later. The first settler, Captain John Sabin, arrived there earlier, however; he bought 100 acres (40.5 ha) of the north end of Fitch's land and settled there between 1691 and 1696, despite the intermittent conflict between the Native Americans and settlers in nearby Woodstock (Larned 1874).

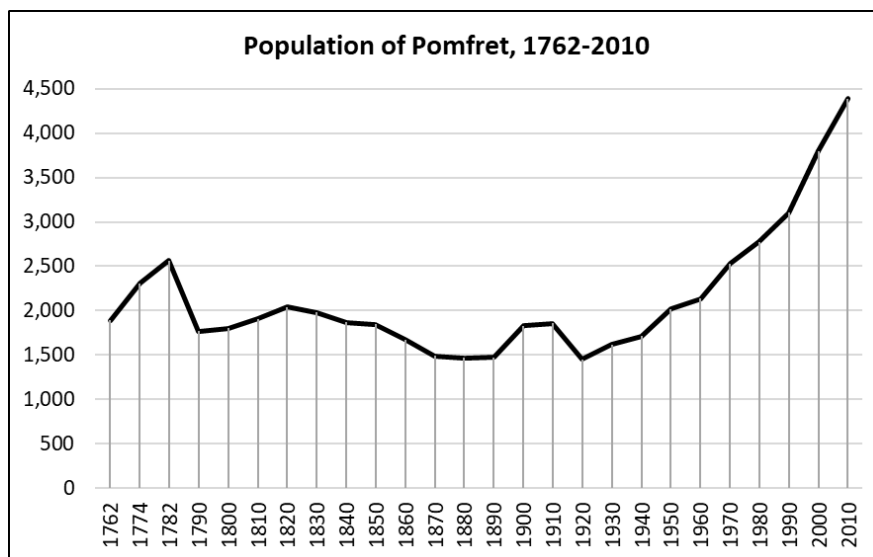
In 1703, the inhabitants of Maschamoquet joined with Woodstock and Killingly in a petition for a road to Providence to be built. A militia company was organized in 1710, at which time there were about 50 males over the age of 16 living in town. In 1713, the community petitioned the General Assembly to give the town official status and privileges, renaming it Pomfret in the process. The town acquired the services of a minister, as their grant required, and in 1714 built a meeting house at White's Plain. In 1716, another proprietors' meeting was held to lay out highways and survey more land; difficulties caused the matter to be delayed however, and John Chandler Jr., was hired to survey the town in 1718. More inhabitants arrived after these signs of prosperity and organization, and a schoolhouse was built there in 1723. In 1729, the Congregational church had 50 male members; in 1731, there were over 100 landowners. Most of their residences were still on the eastern side of the town at that time. In 1740, Pomfret and neighboring town residents organized a subscription library, which continued in existence (with changes) for generations (Larned 1874).

By 1749, there were at least 29 heads of families on the west side of the town. They petitioned the General Assembly to allow them to form a new church society, against the wishes of the main part of the town. The General Assembly granted the petition, establishing the area as the parish of Abington. That same year, 47 men attended a meeting that voted to build a meeting house there, which was not constructed until 1751 because of the first society's continuing opposition. The first colonial census, taken in 1756, recorded 1,677 white and 50 black residents living in Pomfret. During the French and Indian War (1755-1760), a company from Pomfret was led by Capt. John Grosvenor, First Lt. Nehemiah Tyler, and Second Lieutenant Israel Putnam. The latter of these men became famous for his exploits with Rogers' Rangers, was made a captain, and continued an increasingly illustrious career that brought him to the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1759 (Larned 1874).

Between 1686 and 1752, Pomfret’s affairs were complicated by the existence of a large (5,740-acre (2,323-ha) allegedly autonomous area within its official borders; it was known as Mortlake. A Captain John Blackwell of England had purchased from Major John Fitch a piece of land containing 5,750 acres (2,327 ha), which abutted the southeast corner of Maschamoquet (the later Pomfret). In 1687, he secured permission from the General Court to settle and organize this parcel as a separate township. Political developments in both the colonies and England then caused him to abandon the project. In 1713, the still-uncolonized tract was bought by Jonathan Belcher, later governor of Massachusetts, who had it surveyed and sold it off to various parties. None of the buyers, however, ever organized a proper town government, which caused Pomfret and other neighboring towns considerable trouble. The General Assembly finally merged the tract with Pomfret by an act of 1752 (Larned 1874).

Revolutionary and Early Industrial Period (1774 to 1850)

In 1774, Pomfret’s population had reached 2,306 residents, a respectable size for a town in this time period (see the population chart below; Keegan 2012). In that same year, the town meeting voted to support the General Congress and try to avoid imported British goods. According to one source, 150 men enlisted after the Lexington Alarm; the company, led by Capt. Stephen Brown and Lieutenant. Thomas Grosvenor, served under Colonel Knowlton at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Pomfret was also the site of the April 1775 Windham County muster, at which more than 1,000 men assembled (Crofut 1937). In 1786, the new towns of Brooklyn and Hampton were formed, partly from the southernmost part of Pomfret (Larned 1880). This explains why the population of Pomfret fell from 2,566 residents (the highest it would be for another 188 years) to 1,769 residents (see the population chart below; Keegan 2012). After 1790, the state legislature began creating corporations to build turnpike roads, in order to improve transportation infrastructure and encourage economic development. One of the earliest was the Boston Turnpike Company, incorporated in 1797, which built a road from Hartford to the Massachusetts line in Thompson. It crossed the north end of Pomfret, and a toll gate was to be in the town near Mashamoquet Brook. Pomfret opposed the project intensely, but their efforts to have it re-routed failed. The Boston Turnpike, also known as the Middle Turnpike, remained a toll road in Pomfret until 1845; other sections became free over time, until by 1879 all of it was. The other turnpike in the town, known as the Connecticut and Rhode Island Turnpike, was chartered in 1802 and 1806, and ran from the Boston Turnpike in Pomfret to the Rhode Island line in Killingly. Pomfret resisted this turnpike as well, and again lost the battle. This road became public in 1851 (Wood 1919).



As of 1800, the Quinebaug River supported a gristmill, sawmill, and fulling mill near the northern boundary; there was also a mostly-abandoned quarry once used for gravestones. A few Native Americans reportedly still lived in Pomfret at this time. The town's colonial inhabitants mostly raised corn, rye, and flax, and some wheat and hemp. A substantial number of families had moved away from the town, to be partly replaced by Baptists and Quakers, but not enough to help with the resulting labor shortage (Putnam 1800). A number of commercial stores opened in the town before 1807, in addition to various agricultural mills, blacksmith shops, and a potash works. In the 1830s, Pomfret was described as having "rich and productive" soils that were "deep, strong, and fertile, and admirably adapted to grazing" (Barber 1837:437). The town produced mostly agricultural products, especially butter, cheese, and pork, but a small village called Pomfretville had sprung up at the northeastern corner, on the Quinebaug River, where a cotton factory had been built. In addition to the two Congregational societies, the town also had a Baptist, and Episcopal, and a Quaker house of worship. It also had three post offices (Barber 1837). An 1833 map of the county shows clusters of dense population at the villages of Abington, Williamsville, Prospect Hill, and Pomfretville. This map's many inaccuracies make it difficult to properly geo-register. The project area parcel appears, however, to have no mapped cultural resources other than the road within 152 m (500 ft) of it. Approximately 2.4 km (1.5 miles) to its west were the unlabeled villages that are now known as Prospect and Prospect Center, and between the project area and Prospect Hill the map indicates that there was a sawmill on the small brook to its west (Figure 3; Lester 1833).

As can be seen from the population chart above, Pomfret's population continued to decline after 1830, to just under 1,500 residents in 1870 (Keegan 2012). Nonetheless, the 1850 federal census of industry found thirteen manufacturing enterprises that made \$500 or more of products in the prior year. These included sawmills, a gristmill, and a plaster mill that each employed only one man. Only one of these businesses made as much as \$1,000 in goods. There were also a carriagemaker and two blacksmiths, who each employed two or three men. A single large cotton mill employed 60 men and 45 women; the next largest were two shoe-assembly businesses, one that employed 30 men and 20 women, and another that employed 20 men and five women. Overall, only about 200 people were employed in an industrial capacity in Pomfret at that time (U.S. Census 1850). This is not an impressive number compared with many other towns, and as the population figures indicate, not enough to raise the town's population in any significant way.

#### Later Industrial Period (1850-1930)

In 1855, Pomfret lost the northeastern corner of its territory, where the cotton textile mill was located, to the new town of Putnam (Larned 1880). An 1856 county map reflects this change, and identified the remaining population clusters as Abington Four Corners, Pomfret Street (instead of Prospect Hill) and Pomfret Landing (instead of Williamsville). This map's higher level of detail, with many labeled buildings, also indicated that none of these villages were focused on industrial production; they contained churches, stores, and schools. At the project area, no cultural features – not even Wrights Crossing Road – were located within 152 m (500 ft) of the parcel. The nearest building was labeled with the name O. Dennis (Figure 4; Woodford 1856). A lack of industrial development was still visible in the 1869 map of the town, on which the villages of Abington, Pomfret Landing, and Pomfret Street still had no reported industry, even though the railroad passed through the town. In this map, the project area was located on the north side of a road, with no other cultural features definitely within 152 m (500 ft) of it. Buildings shortly beyond that distance were labeled "T.H.," "T. Pettis," and "P. Towbridge." The initials "T.H." appeared multiple times on this map and likely refer to "Toll House," but it is not clear defined on the map (Figure 5; Gray 1869). These names have not been certainly identified in the census. The

scattered nature of the buildings in this area of the town is, however, a clear sign of a rural agricultural landscape.

In 1872, a railroad link between Willimantic and Putnam opened; it also crossed the width of Pomfret. Although this line was shown on the 1869 map, and it was started by the Boston, Hartford & Erie Railroad sometime after 1863, that company went bankrupt in 1870 with this link incomplete. The rights were bought up by the New York & New England Railroad, which finished the line. This line started the famous “New England Limited” train, also known as the “White Train” for its cars’ color – special express trains that took only six hours to make the 213 mile trip between Boston and New York. Operating between 1885 and at least 1895, it had a stop in Pomfret (Turner and Jacobus 1989).

Larned credited the train with helping revive Pomfret’s fortunes after the loss of the factory village; in 1880, she wrote that the town was “becoming a favorite and fashionable resort. Families from many cities enjoy the coolness and comforts of these airy homes” (Larned 1880:475). According to Larned, this local demand helped to stimulate the town’s agricultural efforts, so that a Farmer’s Club and a turn to dairying improved the economic situation. Some residents built mansions, and Pomfret Hall was erected as a location for various entertainments. Also as of 1880, the separate Baptist congregation had closed and the Quakers were gone, but the Episcopal, the two Congregational, and a new Second Advent church remained in place (Larned 1880). Writing in 1919, a historian of turnpikes remarked of Pomfret, which had intensely resisted turnpike construction efforts, “What a change a century has brought! Now Pomfret is the summer home of millionaires with palatial estates” (Wood 1919:376). In contrast to these optimistic statements, however, Pomfret’s population slowly declined after 1850, and reached a low of 1,470 residents and 1,471 residents in 1880 and 1890. It did not show consistent growth until after 1920, and even that was very slow; in 1930 the population was still only 1,671 residents (see the population chart above; Keegan 2012).

Without an industrial base, the town was left with a largely agricultural permanent population spread thinly over the better agricultural land. Despite Larned’s encouraging remarks about agriculture in Pomfret, during the mid to late nineteenth century farming became an increasingly specialized and concentrated activity in Connecticut. Most farmers switched from meat and grains, which could be purchased more cheaply from the Midwest, to butter and cheese, which did not travel well and could be sold locally. In the 1880s, refrigerated railroad cars were developed, which allowed the production of fresh milk to become important as well. Overall, the farming population declined and marginal lands were abandoned. Towns with industrial activity managed to keep their populations stable, while wholly agricultural places lost population through the 1930s (Rossano 1997). The popularity of Pomfret as a resort area may be what kept its population from declining even further than it did.

#### Modern Era (1930-present)

A 1932 summary of town information reported its principal industry simply as agriculture, then added, “Is noted as a summer resort” (Connecticut 1932:296). Consistent with this description, the 1934 aerial photograph shows the project area in an agricultural landscape that probably would have seemed generally familiar to nineteenth-century residents of the town. Even the two historic farmsteads were still present, to the west and east of the project area parcel. The parcel itself occupied a mix of cleared, reforesting, and reforested fields, which was very similar to the surrounding landscape (Figure 6; Fairchild 1934). A 1935 guide to Connecticut remarked on how scenic the town was, and how attractive as a summer home; it also noted the existence of the Pomfret School for boys, founded in 1894 (Heermance 1935). The number of farms in Connecticut continued to decline through the twentieth

century, but because of suburbanization, a result of the rise of the automobile, the population of many towns began to grow again (Rossano 1997).

After 1920, the population of Pomfret grew slowly but steadily through the twentieth century, with the pace picking up a little after 1960, and stood at 4,386 residents in 2010. This was three times the population at the start of this period. Pomfret ranked 135th out of 169 towns in that year (see the population chart above; Keegan 2012). The 1951 aerial photograph shows how small the impact of this population growth had been in the vicinity of the project area, which seemed largely identical to the landscape of 1934, aside from some small advances in reforestation of some fields (Figure 7; USDA 1951). The 1996 aerial photograph, however, shows a number of significant changes in the area. The section of Wrights Crossing Road to the west of the project area was lined with houses on moderate-sized lots. The section of the road to the south of the project area, however, was relatively undeveloped, with only the two historic farmsteads and a swampy area visible. The project area itself had become part of a single large field, with the old field outlines erased (Figure 8; CT DEP 1996). As of 2019, the area remained almost completely unchanged (Figure 9; CT ECO 2019).

According to an official town web site, at a recent point Pomfret had only 14 farms, five of them dairy and the rest including orchards and other products. The large amount of open space in the town was due to the presence of Mashamoquet Brook State Park, as well as preservation efforts by other private and public organizations (Pomfret n.d.). Interestingly, the town's small population (4,376 residents as of 2009) displayed some unusual characteristics: in 2005, while 2.1 percent of its workers were in agriculture, a full 42 percent were in manufacturing, a very unusual proportion for the modern time period. On the other hand, in 2008 there were only 2,273 workers in town, another 42 percent of whom were working in trade or services. The five largest employers in Pomfret in 2006 were the Steak-UMM Co., which made mass-produced sandwiches; Fiberoptics Technology Inc.; Loos and Company, a wire and cable producer; the Pomfret Preparatory School; and the Town of Pomfret Board of Education. In a small town, a small number of companies can have a substantial impact on its economic structure (CERC 2010). With its small population and large areas of preserved open space, it appears that Pomfret will nonetheless remain substantially rural into the future.

## **Conclusions**

The documentary record indicates that this project area was used only for agriculture during the historical period, and it is unlikely that any significant historical resources are present there or in its immediate vicinity. Even the majority fence and wall lines from earlier eras of farming have been removed for the convenience of modern machinery. Surviving traces of such activity are unlikely to be considered historically significant.

## CHAPTER V

### PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

#### **Introduction**

This chapter presents an overview of previous archaeological research completed within the vicinity of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. This discussion provides the comparative data necessary for considering the results of the current Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey, and it ensures that the potential impacts to all previously recorded cultural resources located within and adjacent to the project parcel are taken into consideration. Specifically, this chapter reviews previously identified archaeological sites and National/State Register of Historic Places properties situated in the project region (Figures 10 and 11). The discussions presented below are based on information currently on file at the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (CT-SHPO) in Hartford, Connecticut. In addition, the electronic site files maintained by Heritage were examined during this investigation. Both the quantity and quality of the information contained in the original cultural resources survey reports and State of Connecticut archaeological site forms are reflected below.

#### **Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites and National/State Register of Historic Places Properties/Districts in the Vicinity of the Project Area**

A review of data currently on file at the CT-SHPO, as well as the electronic site files maintained by Heritage resulted in the detection of nine previously recorded archaeological sites and a single State Register of Historic Places listed property situated within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project parcel (Figures 8 and 9). They are discussed below. No National Register of Historic Places properties/districts were nearby.

##### Archaeological Site: 112-1

Site 112-1 is described as a prehistoric camp site, possibly from the Woodland Period. It is located to the south of Holmes Road and on the east side of Durkee Brook in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 11). Mary G. Soulsby of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., (PAST) recorded the site in July of 1990. PAST archaeologists tested the site area in July of that year preceding construction of the Rainbow Creek Development. They recovered 8 quartz flakes, 13 flint flakes, 34 argillite flakes, 50 bone fragments, nine charred botanical fragments, one quartzite knife, and one quartzite Narrow-Stemmed projectile point. A possible feature was also identified, which consisted of a dark soil stain and fire-reddened soil 40 cmbs (16 inbs). Site 112-1 has not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

##### Archaeological Site: 112-2

Site 112-2 is situated at the southwest corner of the Holmes Road and Modock Road intersection in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 11). It also was recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., (PAST) in July 1990 when PAST tested the area for the proposed Rainbow Creek housing subdivision. The site was described as a prehistoric camp site dating from an unknown prehistory time period. PAST archaeologists recovered 2 quartz flakes, 5 quartzite flakes, and a single flint flake from the site area. Site 112-2 has not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.



#### Archaeological Site: 112-3

Site 112-3 is an unnamed prehistoric camp site recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., (PAST) in July 1990. It is located at the southwest corner of the Holmes Road and Modock Road intersection in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 11). PAST archaeologists tested the area preceding construction of the proposed Rainbow Creek subdivision and recovered 84 quartzite flakes, 3 quartz flakes, and a single quartzite Neville-like projectile point base. The Neville-like point indicated a Middle Archaic Period occupation. Site 112-3 has not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### Archaeological Site: 112-4

Site 112-4 is located 30 m (98.4 ft) to the south of Holmes Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 11). It was recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., (PAST) in July 1990 after PAST tested the area preceding construction of the Rainbow Creek subdivision. Archaeologists recovered a single quartz flake and 8 rhyolite flakes. According to the site form, the proposed Rainbow Creek subdivision would impact Site 112-4 and therefore PAST recommended Phase II survey to determine the site's boundaries and significance. At the time the site was recorded it had not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the current proposed solar project.

#### Archaeological Site: 112-5

Site 112-5 also was recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., (PAST) in July 1990 preceding the construction of the Rainbow Creek subdivision. Survey of the site area resulted in the identification of Site 112-5, a prehistoric camp site from an unknown time period. PAST archaeologists recovered 193 quartzite flakes and 4 quartz flakes from the Site 112-5 area. The site was not assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]) at the time it was recorded, though PAST recommended further excavation before subdivision construction. It would have been impacted by the Rainbow Creek subdivision project, but it will not be further impacted by the current proposed solar facility. It is located southwest of the intersection of Holmes Road and Modock Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 11).

#### Archaeological Site: 112-6

Site 112-6 is located to the southwest of the intersection of Holmes Road and Modock Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 11). It was recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., (PAST) in July 1990 as a prehistoric site from an unknown time period. PAST discovered the site during testing in July 1990 preceding construction of the Rainbow Creek subdivision. Archaeologists recovered a single quartzite flake from the site in an area that would be impacted by the Rainbow Creek Subdivision. PAST recommended further survey to determine the boundaries and significance of Site 112-6. Site 112-6 has not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### Archaeological Site 112-25

Site 112-25 was identified by John Kelly of the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc (PAL) in February of 2017. The site was identified during a 2015 Phase IB survey of a natural gas pipeline in an area approximately 340 ft (140 m) east of Grosvenor Road in Pomfret, Connecticut. Site 112-25 was interpreted as a nineteenth to twentieth century refuse disposal area. Artifacts recovered from the site

included untyped flat glass, a bottle base, transfer print ceramic sherds, decal-printed ceramic sherds, porcelain sherds, and window glass. No historic architectural remains were identified during background research or archaeological investigation. Site 112-25 has not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### Archaeological Site: 112-26

Site 112-26 also was recorded in 2017 by John Kelly of the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., (PAL). It is located at the intersection of a natural gas pipeline and Wrights Crossing Road in Pomfret, Connecticut. PAL tested Site 112-26 in 2015, which consists of a dry-laid stone foundation. The foundation was likely an outbuilding associated with the adjacent Horace Clapp house, which was constructed in 1869. A total of 21 historic artifacts dating to the twentieth century were recovered from the site; they included complete and fragmented soda bottles, a porcelain sherd, iron nails, hooks, and spikes. Site 112-26 was assessed as not significant applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### Archaeological Site: 112-27

Site 112-27 was documented by John Kelly of the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc (PAL) in February of 2017. The site was identified during a 2015 Phase IB survey of a natural gas pipeline in an area approximately 240 ft (73 m) east of Wrights Crossing Road in Pomfret, Connecticut. Site 112-27 was a prehistoric archaeological site of an unknown temporal affiliation. Recovered cultural material consisted of 52 prehistoric artifacts, including 33 quartz, chert, and rhyolite flakes; 2 utilized quartz flakes; 12 pieces of quartz quartzite and unidentified shatter; a single untyped chert projectile point preform; a piece of calcined bone; 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock; and a single piece of uncharacterized schist. The site was assessed as potentially significant applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### State Register of Historic Places: 112-12

State Register of Historic Places property 112-12 is the Tyrone Farm and it located at 89 Tyrone Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 12). It was recorded by H.C. Darbee of the Connecticut Historical Commission on December 7, 1967 as a distinguished Federal-style residence. The main building was built in 1742 and is characterized by two-and-a-half stories with pilasters at its front corners supporting a plain frieze above the second story. Window caps mimic the frieze pattern, and the windows have six-over-six sash. The main door has decorative pilasters to its sides and a prominent pediment above it. Exterior walls are clad in clapboards and the gable roof now has asphalt shingles. This main block is surrounded by later additions to both sides. Furthermore, there is an associated barn and caretaker's lodge on the property. This historic house is now used as a wedding venue. Despite some modern alterations, the structure's architectural features and setting remains intact. The proposed solar project will have no direct or indirect impact on property 112-12.

# CHAPTER VI

## METHODS

### **Introduction**

This chapter describes the research design and field methodology used to complete the Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. The following tasks were completed during this investigation: 1) study of the region's prehistory, history, and natural setting, as presented in Chapters II through IV; 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously recorded cultural resources in project region; 3) a review of historical maps, topographic quadrangles, and aerial imagery depicting the project parcel in order to identify potential historical resources and/or areas of past disturbance; and 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the project area in order to determine their archaeological sensitivity. These methods are in keeping with those required by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office in the document entitled: *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (Poirier 1987).

### **Research Framework**

The current Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey was designed to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project parcel, as well as to visually examine the development area for any previously unidentified cultural resources during pedestrian survey. The undertaking was comprehensive in nature, and project planning considered the distribution of previously recorded cultural resources located within the project region, as well as a visual assessment of the project area. The methods used to complete this investigation were designed to provide coverage of all portions of the project area. The fieldwork portion of this undertaking entailed pedestrian survey, photo-documentation, and mapping.

### **Archival Research & Literature Review**

Background research for this project included a review of a variety of historical maps depicting the proposed project area; an examination of USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangles; an examination of aerial images dating from 1934 through 2019; and a review of all archaeological sites and National and State Register of Historic Places on file with the CT-SHPO, as well as electronic cultural resources data maintained by Heritage. The intent of this review was to identify all previously recorded cultural resources situated within and immediately adjacent to the project area, and to provide a natural and cultural context for the project region. This information then was used to develop the archaeological context of the project area, and to assess its sensitivity with respect to the potential for producing intact cultural resources.

Background research materials, including historical maps, aerial imagery, and information related to previous archaeological investigations, were gathered from the CT-SHPO. Finally, electronic databases and Geographic Information System files maintained by Heritage were employed during the course of this project, and they provided valuable data related to the project region, as well as data concerning previously identified archaeological sites and National and State Register of Historic Places properties within the general vicinity of the project parcel.

### **Field Methodology and Data Synthesis**

Heritage also performed fieldwork for the Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the project area associated with the proposed solar project in Pomfret, Connecticut. This included visual reconnaissance, photo-documentation, and mapping of the proposed development area.

# CHAPTER VII

## RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

### Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the proposed solar facility in Pomfret, Connecticut. As stated in the introductory section of this report, the goals of the investigation included completion of the following tasks: 1) a contextual overview of the region's prehistory, history, and natural setting (e.g., soils, ecology, hydrology, etc.); 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously completed cultural resources surveys and previously recorded cultural resources in the project region; 3) a review of readily available historical maps and aerial imagery depicting the project area in order to identify potential historical resources and/or areas of past disturbance; and 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the project area in order to determine their archaeological sensitivity.

### Results of Phase IA survey

At the time of the survey, the project area was characterized by a large open agricultural field that was in use as a hayfield along the north side of Wrights Crossing Road. Access to the project area was from Wrights Crossing Road to the southwest (Photos 1 through 6). The project area is situated at elevations ranging from approximately 105 to 120 m (344 to 394 ft) NGVD. As discussed in Chapter II, the predominant soil types located throughout most of the area are Woodbridge and Paxton and Montauk soils, which are very deep well drained sandy loams.

### Overall Sensitivity of the Proposed Project Area

The field data associated with soils, slopes, aspect, distance to water, and previous disturbance collected during the pedestrian survey and presented above was used in conjunction with the analysis of historical maps, aerial images, and data regarding previously identified archaeological sites and National/State Register of Historic Places properties to stratify the project areas into zones of no/low and/or moderate/high archaeological sensitivity. In general, historical period archaeological sites are relatively easy to identify on the current landscape because the features associated with them tend to be relatively permanent constructions that extend above the ground surface (i.e., stone foundations, pens, wells, privies, etc.). Archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric era, on the other hand, are less often identified during pedestrian survey because they are buried, and predicting their locations relies more on the analysis and interpretation of environmental factors that would have informed Native American site choices.

With respect to the potential for identifying prehistoric archaeological sites, the project area was divided into areas of no/low and/or moderate/high archaeological potential by analyzing the landform types, slope, aspect, soils contained within them, and their distance to water. In general, areas located less than 300 m (1,000 ft) from a freshwater source and that contain slopes of less than 8 percent and well-drained soils possess a high potential for producing prehistoric archaeological deposits. Those areas located between 300 and 600 m (1,000 and 2,000 ft) from a freshwater source and well drained soils are considered moderate probability areas. This is in keeping with broadly based interpretations of prehistoric settlement and subsistence models that are supported by decades of previous archaeological research throughout the region. It is also expected that there may be variability of prehistoric site types found in the moderate/high sensitivity zones. For example, large Woodland period village sites and

Archaic period seasonal camps may be expected along large river floodplains and near stream/river confluences, while smaller temporary or task specific sites may be expected on level areas with well-drained soils that are situated more than 300 m (1,000 ft) but less than 600 m (2,000 ft) from a water source. Finally, steeply sloping areas, poorly drained soils, or areas of previous disturbance are generally deemed to retain a no/low archaeological sensitivity with respect to their potential to contain prehistoric archaeological sites.

In addition, the potential for a given area to yield evidence of historical period archaeological deposits is based not only on the above-defined landscape features but also on the presence or absence of previously identified historical period archaeological resources as identified during previous archaeological surveys, recorded on historical period maps, or captured in aerial images of the region under study. In this case, proposed project items that are situated within 100 m (328 ft) of a previously identified historical period archaeological site or a National or State Register of Historic Places district/individually listed property also may be deemed to retain a moderate/high archaeological sensitivity. In contrast, those areas situated over 100 m (328 ft) from any of the above-referenced properties would be considered to retain a no/low historical period archaeological sensitivity.

#### **Phase IA Results and Management Recommendations**

The combined review of historical maps, aerial images, land deeds, and pedestrian survey indicates that the approximately 13.9 acre project area contains low slopes and well drained soils situated in proximity to Bark Meadow Brook to the west and large wetlands to the south. Soils found throughout the project parcel are mainly attributed to the Woodbridge and Paxton and Montauk series. The Woodbridge, Sutton, Paxton and Montauk soils are very deep well drained sandy loams. A review of soils in the area indicates that intact B-Horizons deposits are likely within the sandy well drained portions of the project parcel. Based on the totality of the information available, including landscape types, well-drained soil types, proximity to freshwater, and nearby previously identified archaeological sites, it is the professional opinion of Heritage that the entirety of the 13.9 acre project area retains a moderate/high sensitivity for yielding archaeological deposits.

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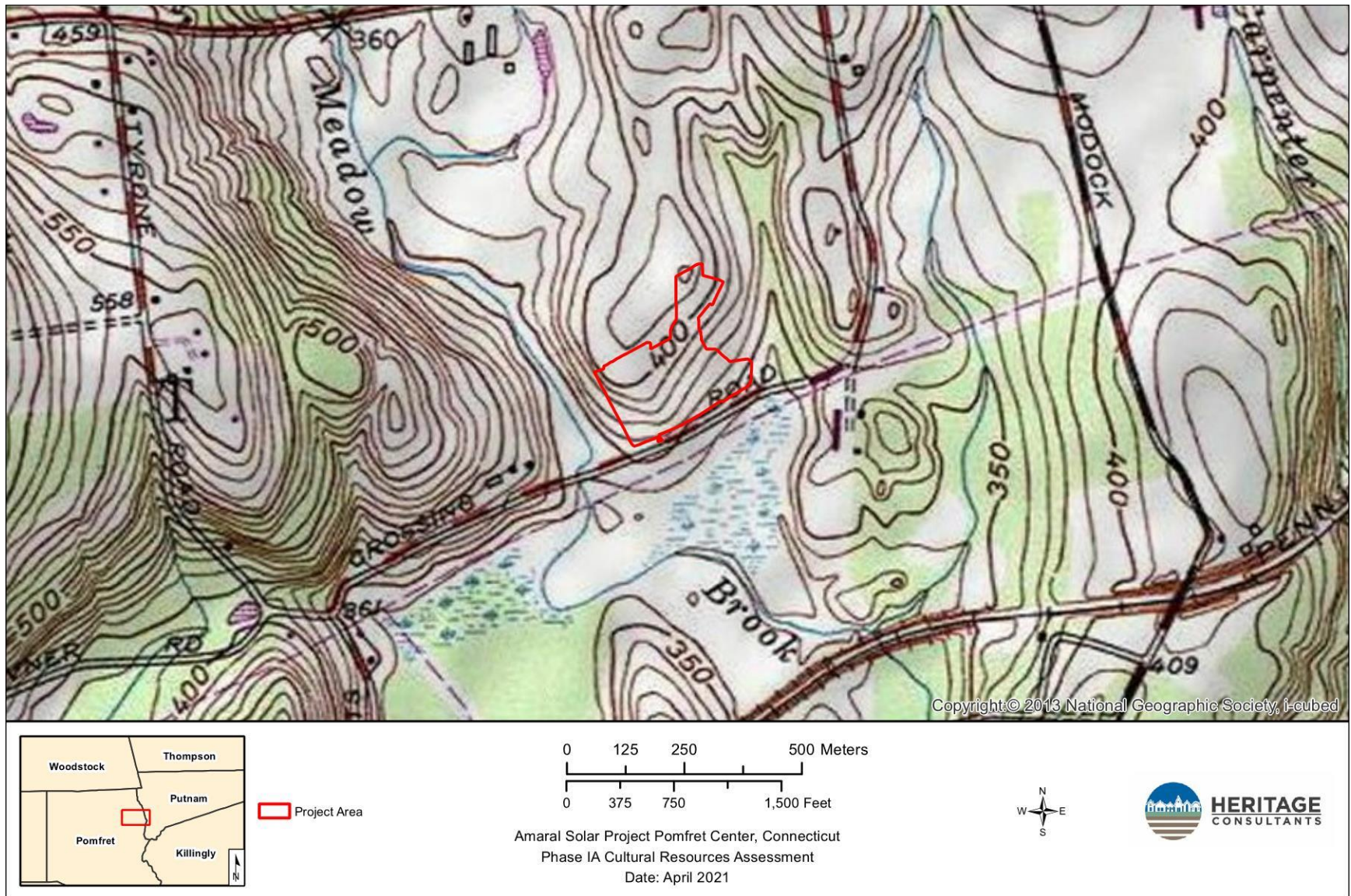


Figure 1. Excerpt from a USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle image showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



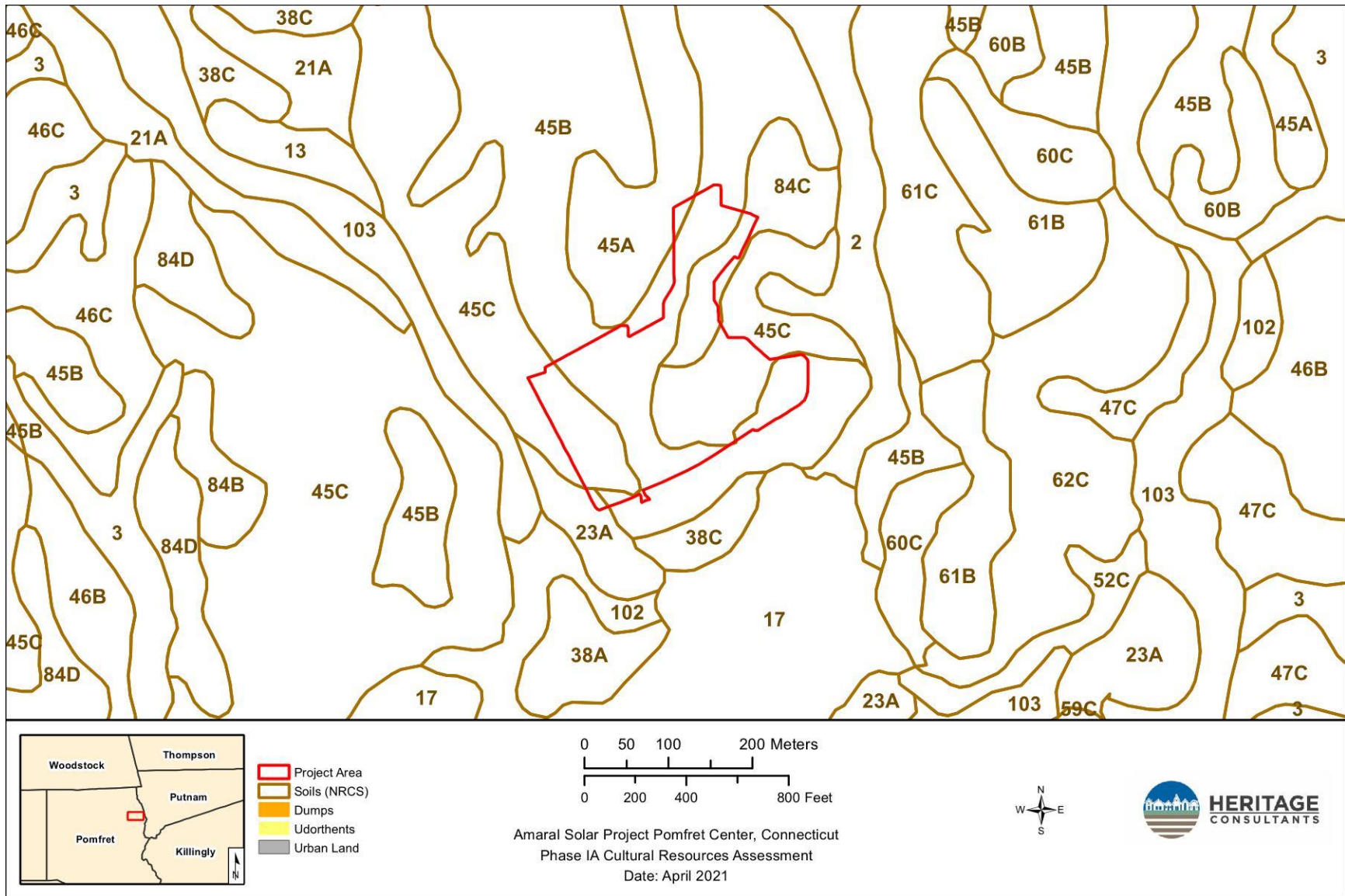


Figure 2. Map of soils located in the vicinity of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



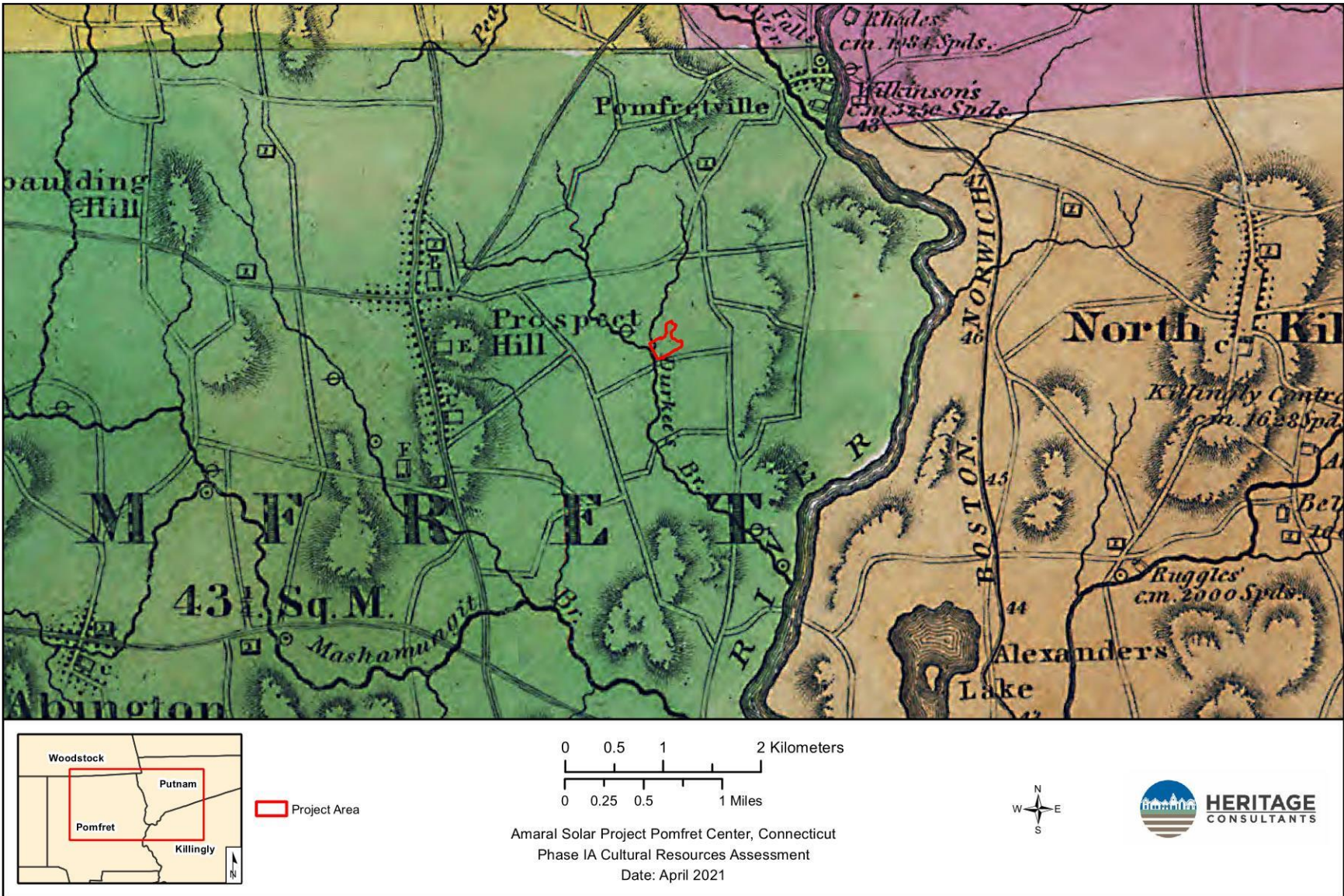


Figure 3. Excerpt from an 1833 historical map showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



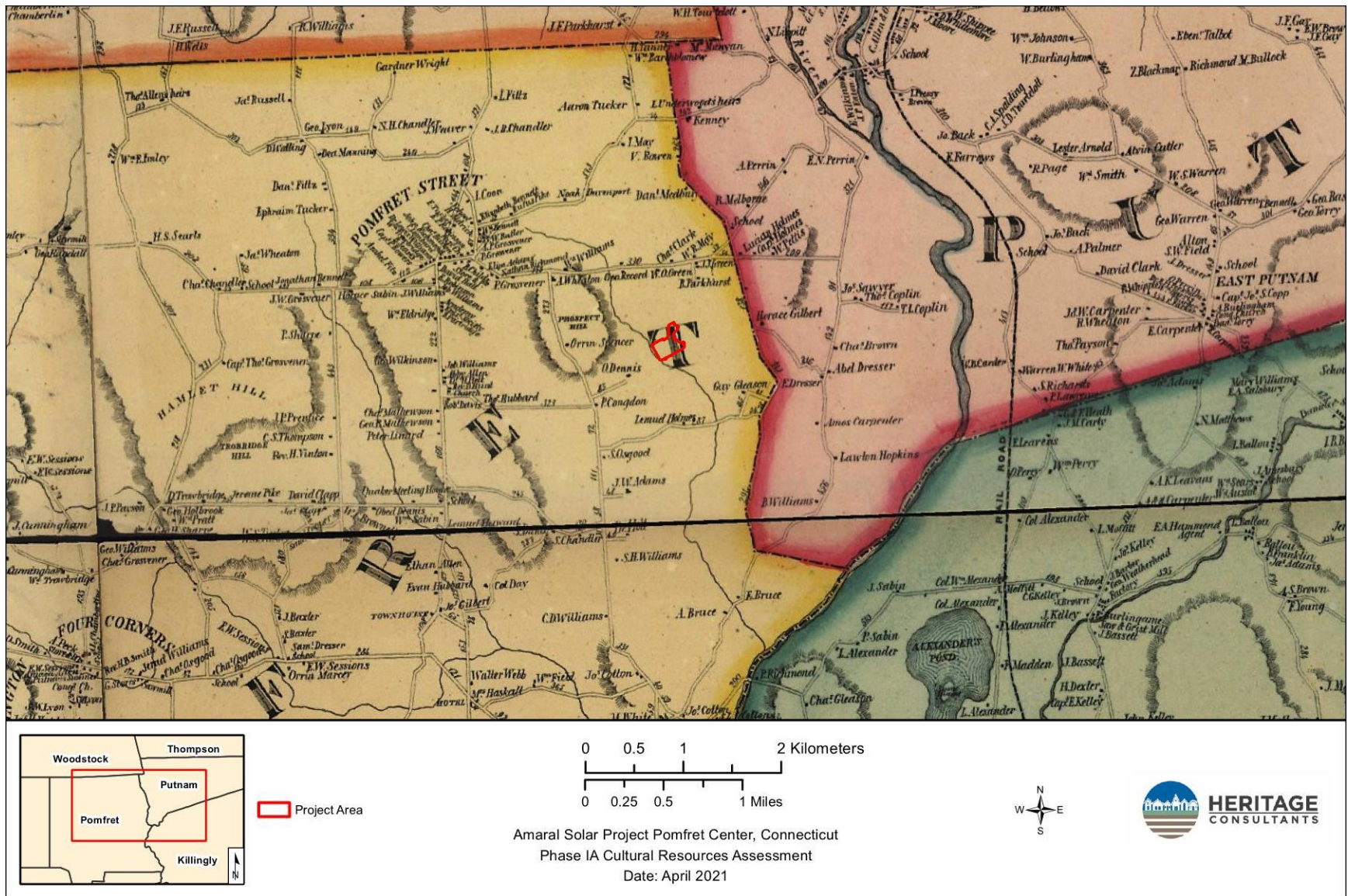


Figure 4. Excerpt from an 1856 historical map showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



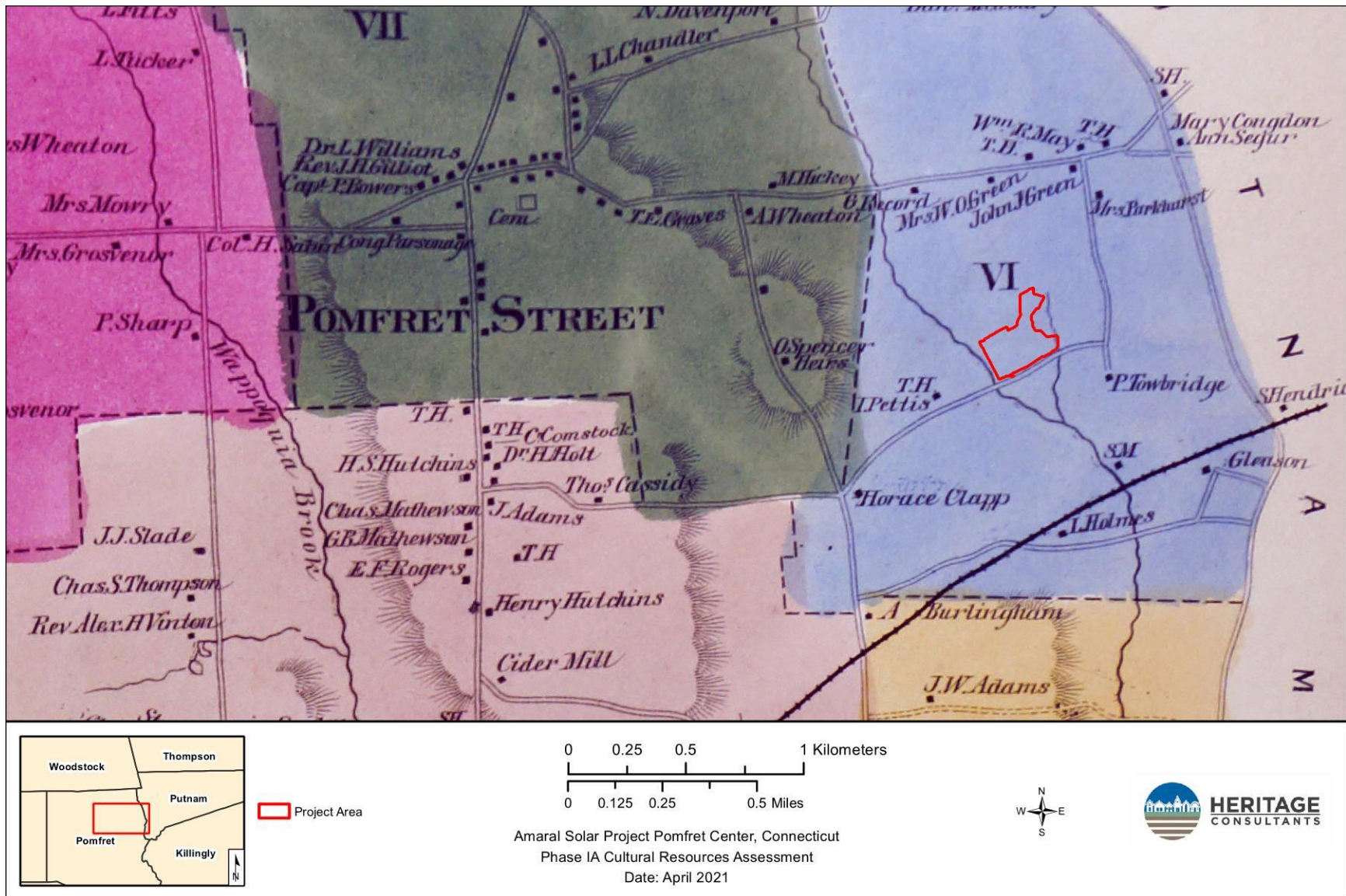


Figure 5. Excerpt from an 1869 historical map showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



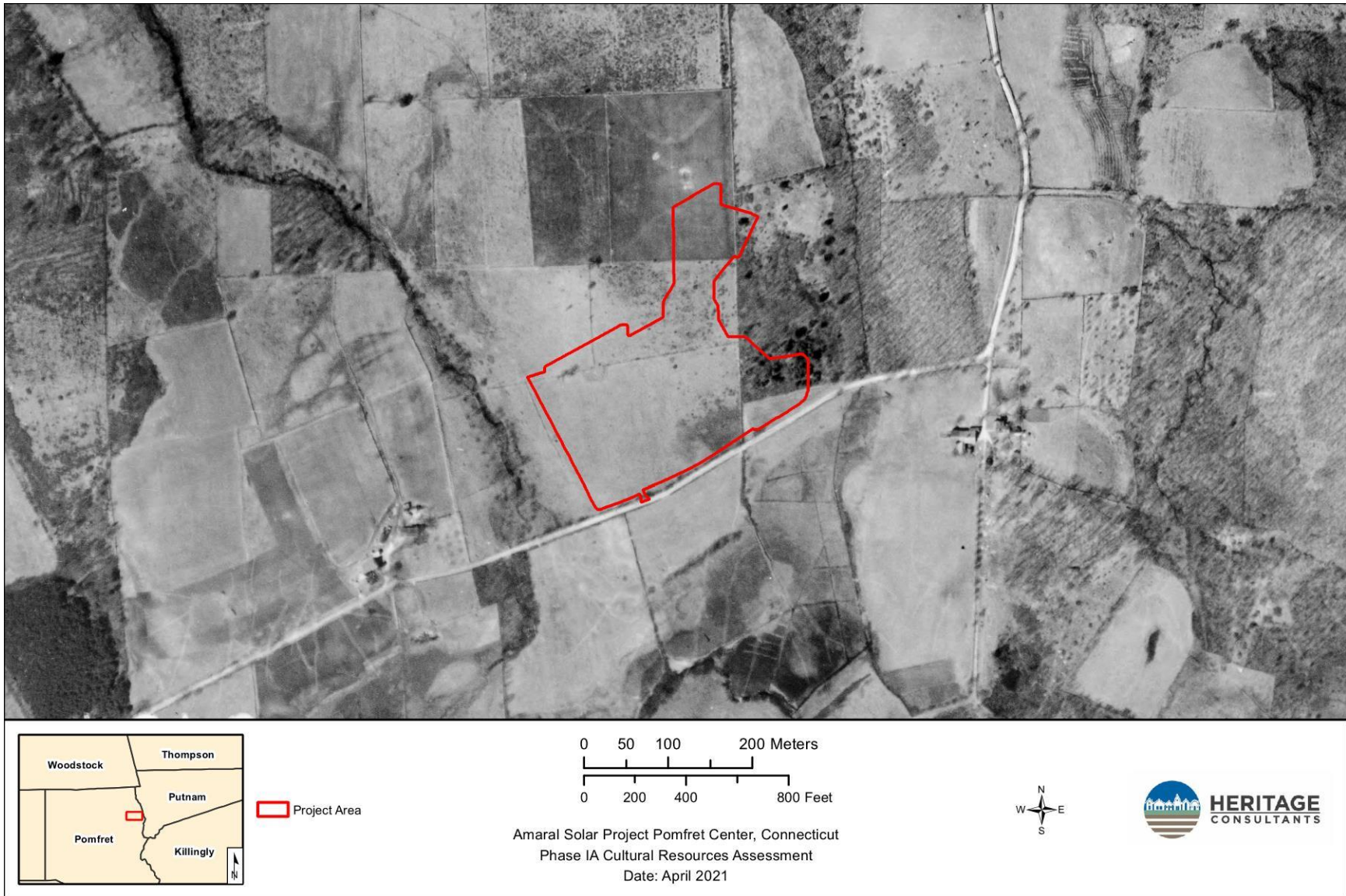


Figure 6. Excerpt from a 1934 aerial photograph showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.

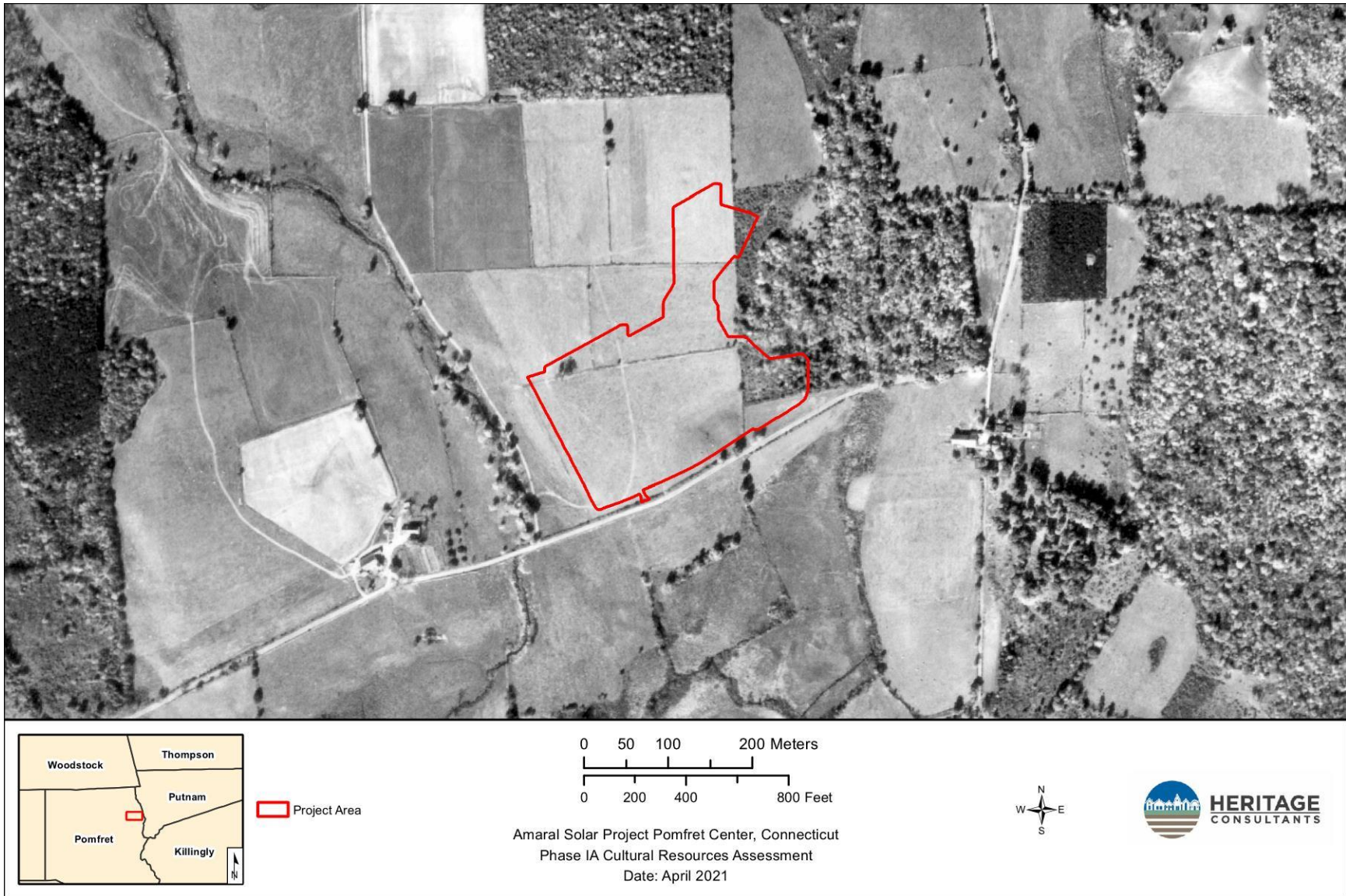


Figure 7. Excerpt from a 1951 aerial photograph showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



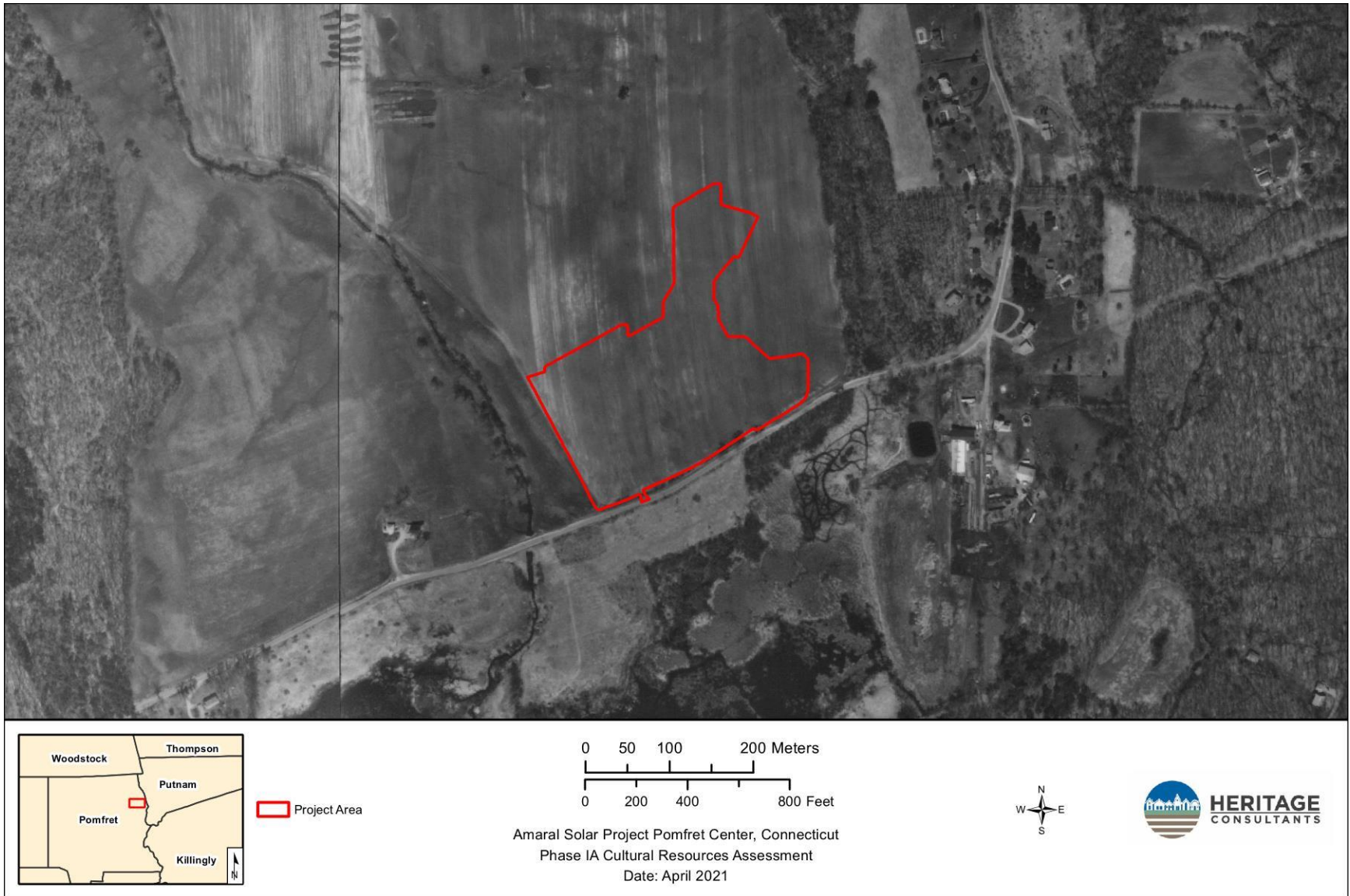


Figure 8. Excerpt from a 1996 aerial photograph showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.

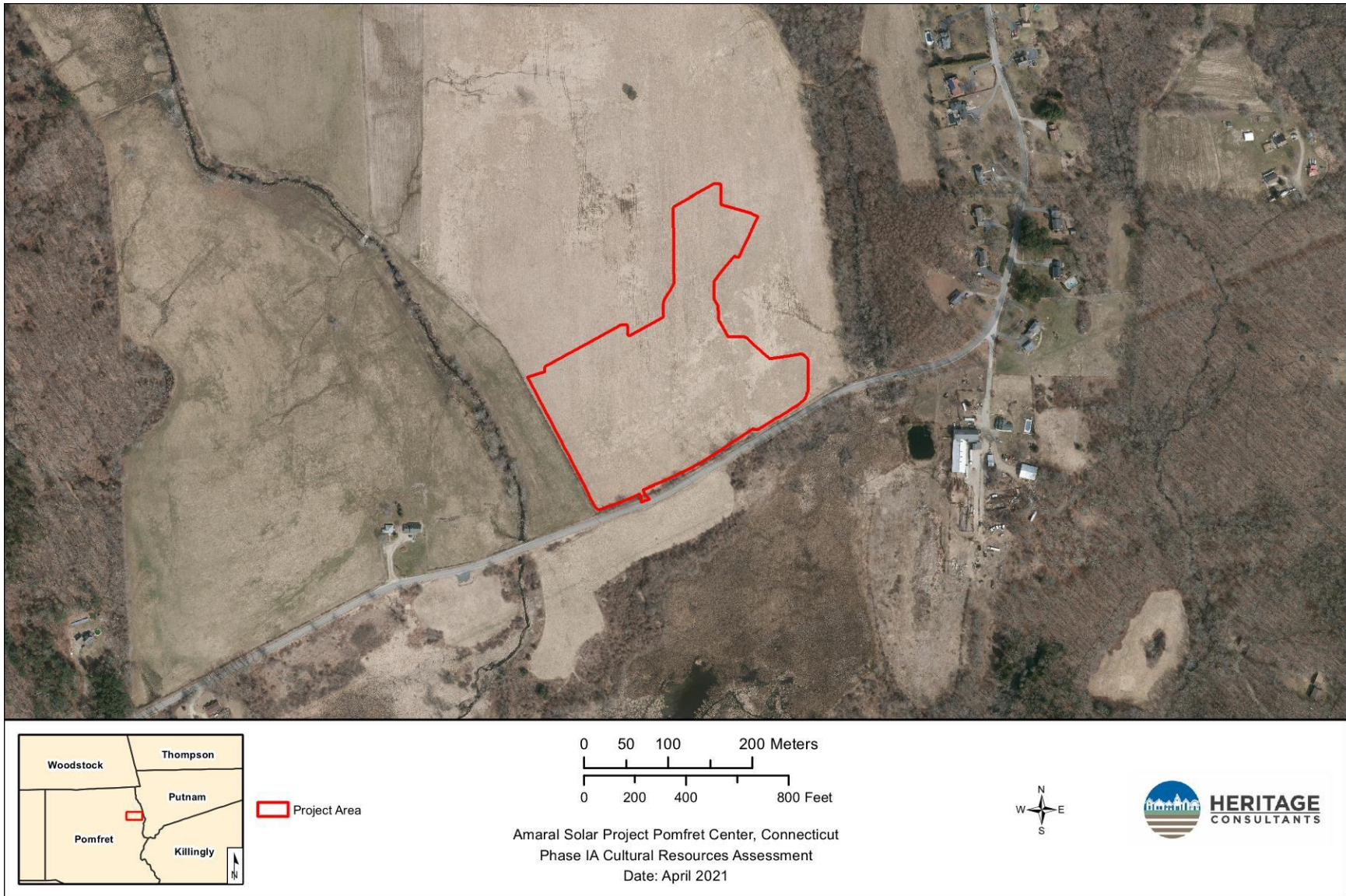


Figure 9. Excerpt from a 2019 aerial photograph showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



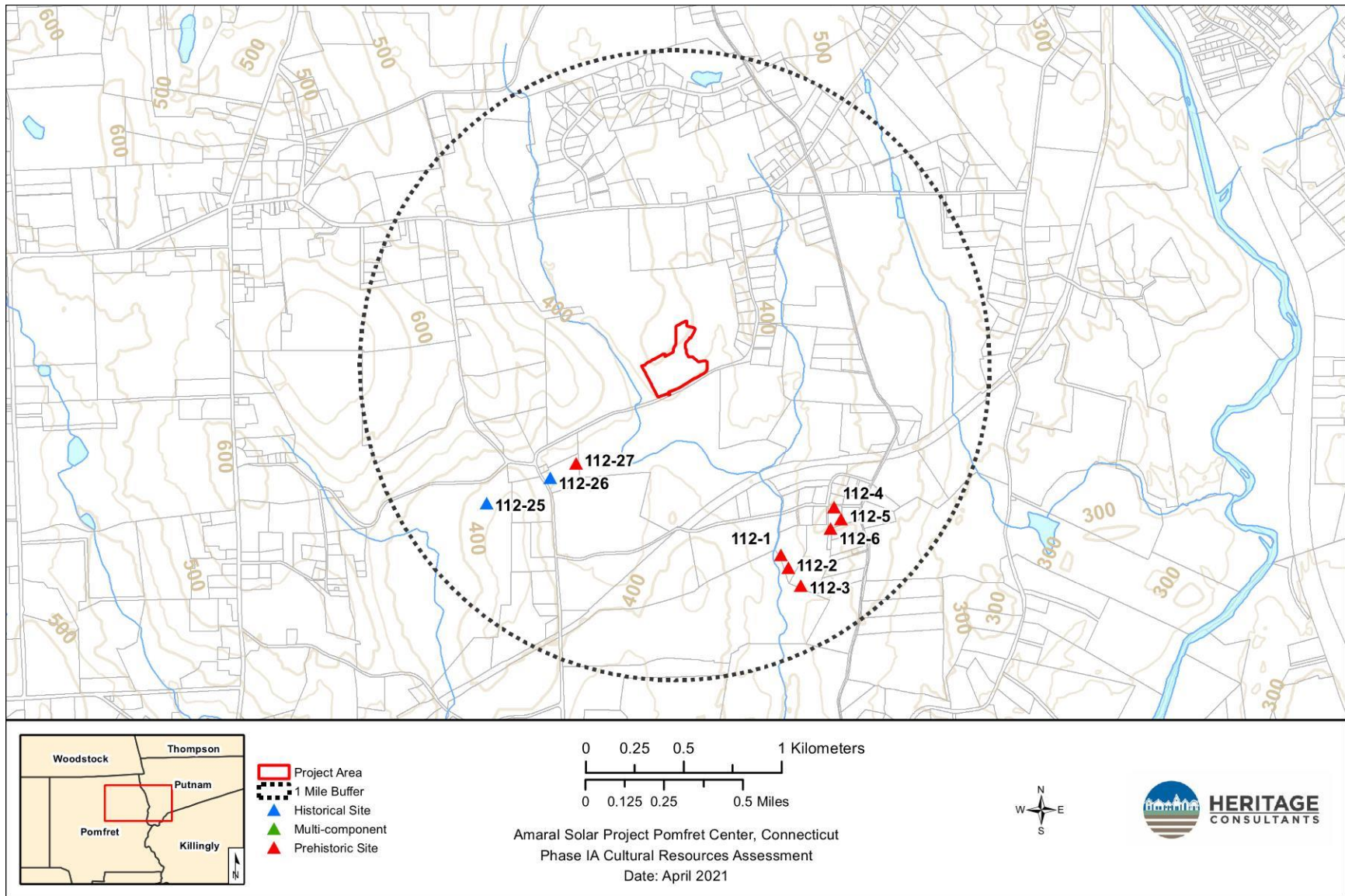


Figure 10. Digital map showing the location of previously identified archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.

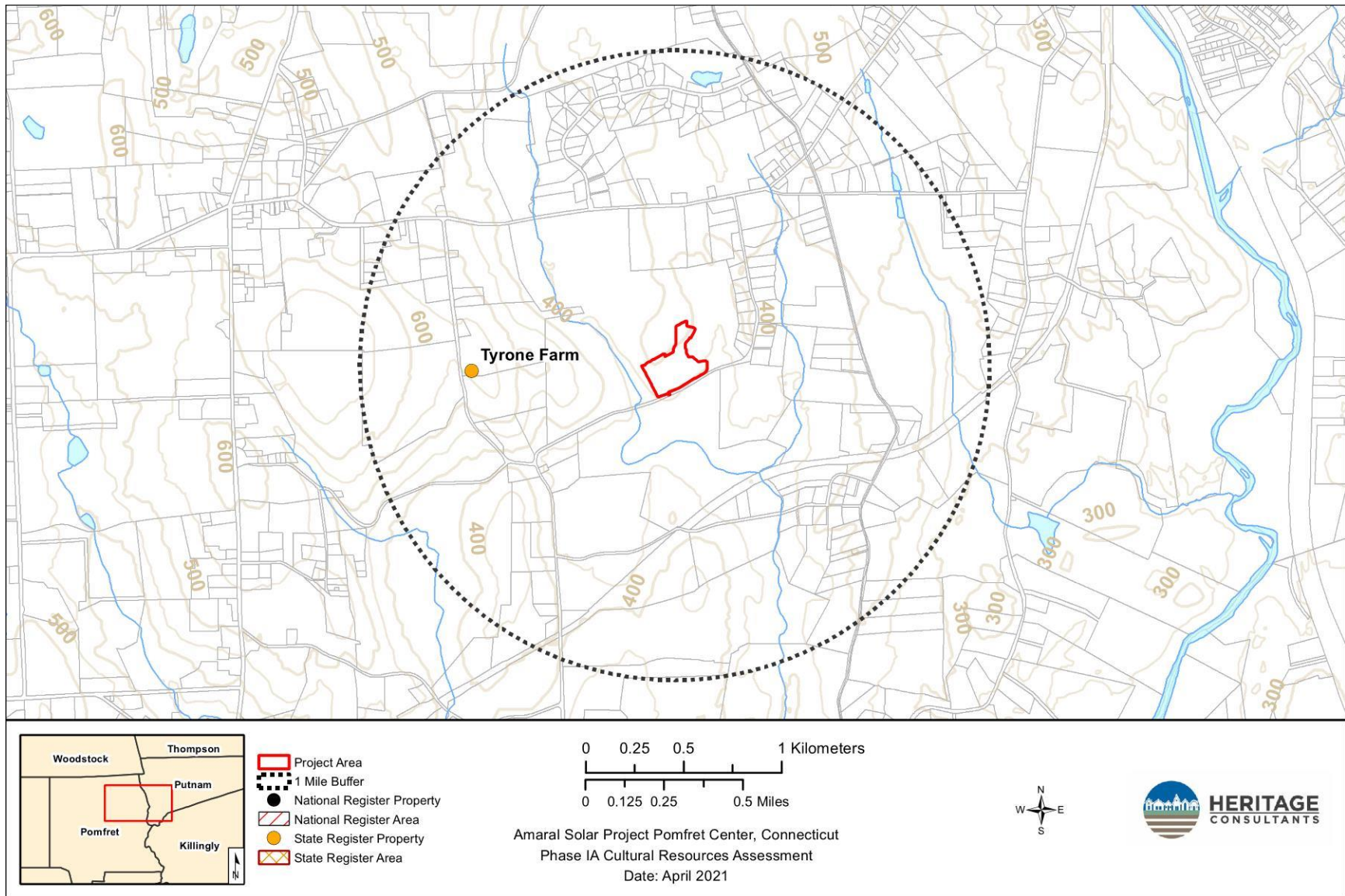


Figure 11. Digital map depicting the locations of previously identified National/State Register of Historic Places properties and inventoried Historic Standing Structures in the vicinity of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.





Photo 1. Overview photo from southeastern corner of project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing southwest.



Photo 2. Overview photo from southwestern corner of project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing northeast.



Photo 3. Overview photo from northern boundary of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing southeast.



Photo 4. Overview photo from the northwest portion of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing southeast.





Photo 5. Overview photo from center of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing west.



Photo 6. Overview photo from center of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing east.

JULY 2021

PHASE IB CULTURAL RESOURCES RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY  
OF THE PROPOSED TRITEC AMARAL SOLAR PROJECT IN  
POMFRET, CONNECTICUT

PREPARED FOR:



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## **ABSTRACT**

This report presents the results of a Phase IB cultural resources survey of the proposed Tritec Amaral Solar Project, which will occupy approximately 13.9 ac of land along Wright's Crossing Road, in Pomfret, Connecticut. Heritage completed the current survey on behalf of All-Points in July of 2021. After completion of background research, total of 137 of 137 (100 percent) planned shovel tests and 24 of 24 (100 percent) delineation shovel tests were excavated throughout the areas containing the proposed solar panel locations. This effort resulted in the identification of a single prehistoric locus, Locus 1. Given the disturbed soil context, low density of cultural material, and lack of intact cultural features, Locus 1 was assessed as not significant applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). Further, historic cultural material recovered during excavation was interpreted as a scatter of materials that lacks historical association, research potential, and the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). No additional archaeological examination of the LOW is recommended prior to construction of the proposed solar facility.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase IB cultural resources survey for the Tritec Amara Solar Project (the Project) in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 1). All-Points Technology Corporation (All-Points) requested that Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage) complete the current reconnaissance survey as part of the planning process for the facility development, which was completed in July of 2021. All work associated with this investigation was performed in accordance with the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (Poirier 1987), which is promulgated by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

### **Project Description and Methods Overview**

The proposed undertaking will involve construction of a solar facility, associated driveways, and utilities. The proposed facility will occupy approximately 13.9 ac of land along Wright's Crossing Road. The proposed 13.9 ac development area is hereafter referred to as the Project area. The parcel of land within which the Project area is located occupies a forested area that is bordered by the open hayfields to the north, wooded areas to the east, Wright's Crossing Road to the south, and by a slope down to a Bark Meadow Brook to the west. Access to the Project area will be from Wright's Crossing Road. During this investigation, Heritage conducted a cultural resources review that consisted of the completion of the following tasks: 1) a contextual overview of the region's prehistory, history, and natural setting (e.g., soils, ecology, hydrology, etc.); 2) a literature search to identify previously completed cultural resources surveys and previously recorded cultural resources in the region encompassing the Project area; 3) a review of readily available historic maps and aerial imagery depicting the Project area in order to identify potential historic resources and/or areas of past disturbance; 4) Phase IB fieldwork, and 5) preparation of the current Phase IB cultural resources assessment survey report.

Based on the results of the background search, it was determined that the entirety of the 13.9 ac of land comprising the Project area contains low slopes, well drained soils, and is situated in proximity to Bark Meadow Brook to the west and Durkee Brook to the east. As a result, it was determined that this area may contain intact archaeological deposits in the subsoil, which according to the National Conservation Resources Service should extend to a depth of approximately 76 cms (29.9 in). Finally, in July 2021, Heritage conducted the Phase IB cultural survey of the Project area in order to assess current field conditions and soil integrity.

### **Project Results and Management Recommendations Overview**

During the Phase IB cultural resources survey, 137 of 137 (100 percent) planned shovel tests and 24 of 24 (100 percent) delineation shovel tests were excavated throughout the Project area in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 2). This effort resulted in the identification of a single prehistoric locus, Locus 1. Given the disturbed soil context, low density of cultural material, and lack of intact cultural features, Locus 1 was assessed as not significant applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). Further, historical cultural material recovered during excavation was interpreted as a scatter of materials that lacks historical association, research potential, and the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). No additional archaeological examination of Locus 1 or the remainder of the Project area is recommended prior to construction of the proposed solar facility.



**Project Personnel**

Key personnel for this project included. David R. George, M.A., R.P.A., (Project Manager), Mr. Cory Atkinson, M.A., R.P.A. (Field Director); Mr. Stephen Anderson, B.A., (GIS Specialist); Dr. Kristen Keegan (Historian); and Ms. Elizabeth Correia, B.A., (Laboratory Specialist) completed the artifact analysis and curation for this project.

**Organization of the Report**

The natural setting of the region encompassing the study area is presented in Chapter II; it includes a brief overview of the geology, hydrology, and soils, of the project region. The prehistory of the project region is outlined briefly in Chapter III. The history of the region encompassing the project region and Project area is chronicled in Chapter IV, while a discussion of previous archaeological investigations near the Project area is presented in Chapter V. The methods used to complete this investigation are discussed in Chapter VI. The results of this investigation and management recommendations for the study area and the identified cultural resources are presented in Chapter VII.

## CHAPTER II

# NATURAL SETTING

### Introduction

This chapter provides a brief overview of the natural setting of the region containing the proposed Project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Previous archaeological research has documented that a few specific environmental factors can be associated with both prehistoric and historical period site selection. These include general ecological conditions, as well as types of fresh water sources, soils, and slopes present in the area. The remainder of this section provides a brief overview of the ecology, hydrological resources, and soils present within the Project area and the larger region in general.

### Ecoregions of Connecticut

Throughout the Pleistocene and Holocene Periods, Connecticut has undergone numerous environmental changes. Variations in climate, geology, and physiography have led to the “regionalization” of Connecticut’s modern environment. It is clear, for example, that the northwestern portion of the state has very different natural characteristics than the coastline. Recognizing this fact, Dowhan and Craig (1976), as part of their study of the distribution of rare and endangered species in Connecticut, subdivided the state into various ecoregions. Dowhan and Craig (1976:27) defined an ecoregion as:

“an area characterized by a distinctive pattern of landscapes and regional climate as expressed by the vegetation composition and pattern, and the presence or absence of certain indicator species and species groups. Each ecoregion has a similar interrelationship between landforms, local climate, soil profiles, and plant and animal communities. Furthermore, the pattern of development of plant communities (chronosequences and toposequences) and of soil profile is similar in similar physiographic sites. Ecoregions are thus natural divisions of land, climate, and biota.”

Dowhan and Craig defined nine major ecoregions for the State of Connecticut. They are based on regional diversity in plant and animal indicator species (Dowhan and Craig 1976). Only one of the ecoregions is germane to the current investigation: Northeast Hills Ecoregion. A summary of this ecoregion is presented below. It is followed by a discussion of the hydrology and soils found in and adjacent to the project area.

### Northeast Hills Ecoregion

The Northeast Hills ecoregion 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 as well as gneiss and granite created during the Precambrian period (Bell 1985). Soils in uplands areas have been deposited on top of glacial till and in the valley they consist of stratified deposits of sand, gravel, and silt (Dowhan and Craig 1976).

### Hydrology of the Study Region

The Project parcel is located within close proximity to several streams, ponds, and wetlands. These fresh water sources include the Medbury Pond, Bark Meadow Brook, Durkee Brook, Dau Brook, and the Quinebaug River, as well as several unnamed ponds, streams, and associated wetlands. Both Bark Meadow Brook and Durkee Brook are located within 300 m (984.2 ft) of the Project parcel. Previously completed archaeological investigations in Connecticut have demonstrated that streams, rivers, and wetlands were focal points for prehistoric occupations because they provided access to transportation routes, sources of freshwater, and abundant faunal and floral resources. These water sources also provided the impetus for the construction of water powered mill facilities during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

### Soils Comprising the Project area

Soil formation is the direct result of the interaction of several variables, including climate, vegetation, parent material, time, and organisms present (Gerrard 1981). Once archaeological deposits are buried within the soil, they are subject to many diagenic processes. Different classes of artifacts may be preferentially protected, or unaffected by these processes, whereas others may deteriorate rapidly. Cyclical wetting and drying, freezing and thawing, and compression can accelerate chemically and mechanically the decay processes for animal bones, shells, lithics, ceramics, and plant remains. Lithic and ceramic artifacts are largely unaffected by soil pH, whereas animal bones and shells decay more quickly in acidic soils such as those that are present in within the current project area. In contrast, acidic soils enhance the preservation of charred plant remains.

A review of the soils within the project area is presented below. The project area is characterized predominantly by Woodbridge soils occurring on low to moderate slopes, and to a lesser extent Paxton and Montauk soils that occur on moderate slopes (Figure 2).

#### Woodbridge Soils:

The Woodbridge series consists of moderately well drained loamy soils formed in lodgment till. They are very deep to bedrock and moderately deep to a densic contact. They are nearly level to moderately steep soils on hills, drumlins, till plains, and ground moraines. Slope ranges from 0 to 25 percent. Saturated hydraulic conductivity ranges from moderately to high in the surface layer and subsoil and low or moderately low in the dense substratum. A typical soil profile is as follows: **Ap**--0 to 18 cm; very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) fine sandy loam, light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) dry; moderate medium granular structure; friable; many fine and medium roots; few very dark brown (10YR 2/2) earthworm casts; 5 percent gravel; moderately acid; **Bw1**--18 to 46 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine roots; few very dark brown (10YR 2/2) earthworm casts; 10 percent gravel; moderately acid; **Bw2**--46 to 66 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine roots; few very dark brown (10YR 2/2) earthworm casts; 10 percent gravel; few medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) masses of iron accumulation and light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) areas of iron depletion; moderately acid; **Bw3**--66 to 76 cm; light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; few fine roots; 10 percent gravel; common medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) masses of iron accumulation and light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) areas of iron depletion; moderately acid; **Cd1**--76 to 109 cm; light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) gravelly fine sandy loam; weak thick plates of geogenic origin; very firm, brittle; 20 percent gravel; many medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) masses of iron accumulation and light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) areas of iron depletion; moderately acid; **Cd2**--109 to 165 cm; light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) gravelly fine sandy loam; weak thick plates of geogenic origin; very firm, brittle; few fine prominent very dark brown

(10YR 2/2) coatings on plates; 25 percent gravel; common fine prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) masses of iron accumulation; moderately acid.

#### Paxton Soils:

The Paxton series consists of well drained loamy soils formed in lodgment till. The soils are very deep to bedrock and moderately deep to a densic contact. They are nearly level to steep soils on hills, drumlins, till plains, and ground moraines. Slope ranges from 0 to 45 percent. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high in the surface layer and subsoil and low or moderately low in the substratum. A typical soil profile is as follows: **Ap** -- 0 to 20 cm; dark brown (10YR 3/3) fine sandy loam, pale brown (10YR 6/3) dry; moderate medium granular structure; friable; many fine roots; 5 percent gravel; strongly acid; **Bw1** -- 20 to 38 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine roots; 5 percent gravel; few earthworm casts; strongly acid; **Bw2** - - 38 to 66 cm; olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; few fine roots; 10 percent gravel; strongly acid; **Cd** -- 66 to 165 cm; olive (5Y 5/3) gravelly fine sandy loam; medium plate-like divisions; massive; very firm, brittle; 25 percent gravel; many dark coatings on plates; strongly acid

#### Montauk Soils:

The Montauk series consists of well drained soils formed in lodgment or flow till derived primarily from granitic materials with lesser amounts of gneiss and schist. The soils are very deep to bedrock and moderately deep to a densic contact. These soils are on upland hills and moraines. Slope ranges from 0 to 35 percent. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high in the mineral solum and low to moderately high in the substratum. A typical soil profile is as follows: **Ap**-- 0 to 10 cm; very dark gray (10YR 3/1) loam; moderate fine granular structure; very friable; many very fine, fine, medium, and coarse roots; 2 percent gravel, 1 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; extremely acid (pH 4.1); **BA**-- 10 to 34 cm; brown (10YR 4/3) loam; moderate medium and coarse subangular blocky structure; friable; many fine, medium, and coarse roots; many fine and medium pores; 4 percent gravel, 1 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; extremely acid; **Bw1**-- 34 to 65 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) loam; moderate coarse subangular blocky structure; friable; many fine, medium, and coarse roots; many fine and medium pores; 6 percent gravel, 1 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; extremely acid; **Bw2**- - 65 to 87 cm; yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy loam; moderate medium and coarse subangular blocky structure; friable; many very fine, fine, and coarse roots; many fine and medium pores; 5 percent gravel and 1 percent cobbles; extremely acid; **2Cd1**-- 87 to 101 cm; strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) gravelly loamy sand; moderate medium plates; firm; few fine roots; many fine pores; 10 percent gravel, 5 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; very strongly acid; **2Cd2**-- 101 to 184 cm; dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) gravelly loamy sand; moderate medium plates; firm; many fine pores; 10 percent gravel, 5 percent cobbles, and 1 percent stones; strongly acid.

#### **Summary**

A review of mapping, geological data, ecological conditions, soils, slopes, and proximity to freshwater, suggests that the Project parcel appears to be favorable to both prehistoric and historic period occupations. This includes areas of low to moderate slopes with well drained soils located near freshwater sources. The types of Native American sites that may be contained in these areas include seasonal base camps and may include areas of lithic tool manufacturing, hearths, post-molds and storage pits. Based on the close proximity to streams, it is possible that the area may contain buried architectural/archaeological remains related to domestic and agricultural occupations.

## CHAPTER III

# PREHISTORIC SETTING

### Introduction

Prior to the late 1970s and early 1980s, few systematic archaeological surveys of large portions of the state of Connecticut had been undertaken. Rather, the prehistory of the region was studied at the site level. Sites chosen for excavation were highly visible and located in the coastal zone, e.g., shell middens, and Connecticut River Valley. As a result, a skewed interpretation of the prehistory of Connecticut was developed. It was suggested that the upland portions of the state, i.e., the northeastern and northwestern hills ecoregions, were little used and rarely occupied by prehistoric Native Americans, while the coastal zone, i.e., the eastern and western coastal and the southeastern and southwestern hills ecoregions, were the focus of settlements and exploitation in the prehistoric era. This interpretation remained unchallenged until the 1970s and 1980s when several town-wide and regional archaeological studies were completed. These investigations led to the creation of several archaeological phases that subsequently were applied to understand the prehistory of Connecticut. This chapter provides an overview of the prehistoric setting of the region encompassing the project area.

### Paleo-Indian Period (12,000 to 10,000 Before Present [B.P.])

The earliest inhabitants of the present-day State of Connecticut, who have been referred to as Paleo-Indians, arrived in the area by ca., 12,000 B.P. (Gramly and Funk 1990; Snow 1980). Paleo-Indians are often described as big-game hunters due to the presence of large Pleistocene mammals at that time and the ubiquity of large fluted projectile points in archaeological deposits of this age, (Ritchie and Funk 1973; Snow 1980). However, as discussed below, it is more likely they hunted a wide variety of animals.

While there have been numerous surface finds of Paleo-Indian projectile points throughout the State of Connecticut, only two sites, the Templeton Site (6-LF-21) in Washington, Connecticut, and the Hidden Creek Site (72-163) in Ledyard, Connecticut, have been studied in detail and dated using the radiocarbon method (Jones 1997; Moeller 1980). The Templeton Site (6-LF-21) is located in Washington, Connecticut and was occupied between 10,490 and 9,890 years ago (Moeller 1980). In addition to a single large and two small fluted points, the Templeton Site produced a stone tool assemblage consisting of graters, drills, core fragments, scrapers, and channel flakes, which indicates that the full range of stone tool production and maintenance took place at the site (Moeller 1980). Moreover, the use of both local and non-local raw materials was documented in the recovered tool assemblage, suggesting that not only did the site's occupants spend some time in the area, but they also had access to distant stone sources, the use of which likely occurred during movement from region to region.

Another Connecticut Paleo-Indian site studied in detail is the Hidden Creek Site (72-163) situated on the southeastern margin of the Great Cedar Swamp on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation in Ledyard, Connecticut (Jones 1997). While excavation of the Hidden Creek Site produced evidence of Terminal Archaic and Woodland Period components (see below) in the upper soil horizons, the lower levels of the site yielded artifacts dating from the Paleo-Indian era. Recovered Paleo-Indian artifacts included broken bifaces, side-scrapers, a fluted preform, graters, and end-scrapers. Based on the types and number of tools present, Jones (1997:77) has hypothesized that the Hidden Creek Site represented a short-term occupation, and that separate stone tool reduction and rejuvenation areas were present.

While archaeological evidence for Paleo-Indian occupation is scarce in Connecticut, it, combined with data from the West Athens Road and King's Road Site in the Hudson drainage and the Davis and Potts

Sites in northern New York, supports the hypothesis that there was human occupation of the area not long after ca. 12,000 B.P. (Snow 1980). Further, site types currently known suggest that the Paleo-Indian settlement pattern was characterized by a high degree of mobility, with groups moving from region to region in search of seasonally abundant food resources, as well as for the procurement of high-quality raw materials from which to fashion stone tools.

### **Archaic Period (10,000 to 2,700 B.P.)**

The Archaic Period, which succeeded the Paleo-Indian Period, began around 10,000 B.P. (Ritchie and Funk 1973; Snow 1980) and has been divided into three subperiods: 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.). These periods were devised to describe all non-farming, non-ceramic producing populations in the area. Regional archeologists recently have recognized a final “transitional” Archaic Period, the Terminal Archaic Period (3,400-2,700 B.P.), which was meant to describe those groups that existed just prior to the onset of the Woodland Period and the widespread adoption of ceramics into the toolkit (Snow 1980; McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1984, 1990; Witthoft 1949, 1953).

#### Early Archaic Period (10,000 to 8,000 B.P.)

To date, few Early Archaic sites have been identified in southern New England. As a result, researchers such as Fitting (1968) and Ritchie (1969) have suggested a lack of these sites likely is tied to cultural discontinuity between the Early Archaic and preceding Paleo-Indian Period, as well as a population decrease from earlier times. However, with continued identification of Early Archaic sites in the region, and the recognition of the problems of preservation, it is difficult to maintain the discontinuity hypothesis (Curran and Dincauze 1977; Snow 1980).

Like their Paleo-Indian predecessors, Early Archaic sites tend to be small and produce few artifacts, most of which are not temporally diagnostic. While Early Archaic sites in other portions the United States are represented by projectile points of the Kirk series (Ritchie and Funk 1973) and by Kanawha types (Coe 1964), sites of this age in southern New England are recognized on the basis of a series of ill-defined bifurcate-based projectile points. These projectile points are identified by the presence of their characteristic bifurcated base, and they generally are made from high quality raw materials. Moreover, finds of these projectile points have rarely been in stratified contexts. Rather, they occur commonly either as surface expressions or intermixed with artifacts representative of later periods. Early Archaic occupations, such as the Dill Farm Site and Sites 6LF64 and 6LF70 in Litchfield County, are represented by camps that were relocated periodically to take advantage of seasonally available resources (McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1986). In this sense, a foraging type of settlement pattern was employed during the Early Archaic Period.

#### Middle Archaic Period (8,000 to 6,000 B.P.)

By the onset of the Middle Archaic Period, essentially modern deciduous forests had developed in the region (Davis 1969). It is at this time that increased numbers and types of sites are noted in Connecticut (McBride 1984). The most well-known Middle Archaic site in New England is the Neville Site, which is located in Manchester, New Hampshire and studied by Dincauze (1976). Analysis of the Neville Site indicated that the Middle Archaic occupation dated from between 7,700 and 6,000 years ago. In fact, Dincauze obtained several radiocarbon dates from the Middle Archaic component of the Neville Site associated with the then-newly named Neville type projectile point, ranged from 7,740±280 and 7,015±160 B.P. (Dincauze 1976).

In addition to Neville points, Dincauze (1976) described two other projectile points styles that are attributed to the Middle Archaic Period: Stark and Merrimac projectile points. While no absolute dates were recovered from deposits that yielded Stark points, the Merrimac type dated from 5,910±180 B.P. Dincauze argued that both the Neville and later Merrimac and Stark occupations were established to take advantage of the excellent fishing that the falls situated adjacent to the site area would have afforded Native American groups. Thus, based on the available archaeological evidence, the Middle Archaic Period is characterized by continued increases in diversification of tool types and 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)

#### Late Archaic Period (6,000 to 3,700 B.P.)

The Late Archaic Period in southern New England is divided into two major cultural traditions that appear to have coexisted. They include the Laurentian and Narrow-Stemmed Traditions (Funk 1976; McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969a and b). Artifacts assigned to the Laurentian Tradition include ground stone axes, adzes, gouges, ulus (semi-lunar knives), pestles, atlatl weights, and scrapers. The diagnostic projectile point forms of this time period in southern New England include the Brewerton Eared-Notched, Brewerton Eared and Brewerton Side-Notched varieties (McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969a; Thompson 1969). In general, the stone tool assemblage of the Laurentian Tradition is characterized by flint, felsite, rhyolite, and quartzite, while quartz was largely avoided for stone tool production.

In terms of settlement and subsistence patterns, archaeological evidence in southern New England suggests that Laurentian Tradition populations consisted of groups of mobile hunter-gatherers. While a few large Laurentian Tradition occupations have been studied, sites of this age generally encompass less than 500 m<sup>2</sup> (5,383 ft<sup>2</sup>). 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 1978, 1984:252). Finally, subsistence strategies of Laurentian Tradition focused on hunting and gathering of wild plants and animals from multiple ecozones.

The second Late Archaic tradition, known as the Narrow-Stemmed Tradition, is unlike the Laurentian Tradition and it likely represents a different cultural adaptation. The Narrow-Stemmed tradition 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). Other tools found in Narrow-Stemmed Tradition artifact assemblages include choppers, adzes, pestles, antler and bone projectile points, harpoons, awls, and notched atlatl weights. Many of these tools, notably the projectile points and pestles, indicate a subsistence pattern dominated by hunting and fishing, as well the collection of a wide range of plant foods (McBride 1984; Snow 1980:228).

#### Terminal Archaic Period (3,700 to 2,700 B.P.)

The Terminal Archaic, which lasted from ca., 3,700 to 2,700 BP, is perhaps the most interesting, yet confusing of the Archaic Periods in southern New England prehistory. Originally termed the "Transitional Archaic" by Witthoft (1953) and recognized by the introduction of technological innovations, e.g., broadspear projectile points and soapstone bowls, the Terminal Archaic has long posed problems for regional archeologists. While the Narrow-Stemmed Tradition persisted through the Terminal Archaic and into the Early Woodland Period, the Terminal Archaic is coeval with what appears to be a different technological adaptation, the Susquehanna Tradition (McBride 1984; Ritchie 1969b). The Susquehanna Tradition is recognized in southern New England by the presence of a new stone tool industry that was

based on the use of high-quality raw materials for stone tool production and a settlement pattern different from the “coeval” Narrow-Stemmed Tradition.

The Susquehanna Tradition is based on the classification of several Broadspear projectile point types and associated artifacts. There are several local sequences within the tradition, and they are based on projectile point type chronology. Temporally diagnostic projectile points of these sequences include the Snook Kill, Susquehanna Broadspear, Mansion Inn, and Orient Fishtail types (Lavin 1984; McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1984). The initial portion of the Terminal Archaic Period (ca., 3,700-3,200 BP) is characterized by the presence of Snook Kill and Susquehanna Broadspear projectile points, while the latter Terminal Archaic (3,200-2,700 BP) is distinguished by the use of Orient Fishtail projectile points (McBride 1984:119; Ritchie 1971).

It was during the late Terminal Archaic that interior cord marked, grit tempered, thick walled ceramics with conoidal (pointed) bases made their initial appearance in the Native American toolkit. These are the first ceramics in the region, and they are named Vinette I (Ritchie 1969a; Snow 1980:242). This type of ceramic vessel appears with much more frequency during the ensuing Early Woodland Period. In addition, the adoption and widespread use of soapstone bowls, as well as the implementation of subterranean storage, suggests that Terminal Archaic groups were characterized by reduced mobility and longer-term use of established occupation sites (Snow 1980:250).

Finally, while settlement patterns appeared to have changed, Terminal Archaic subsistence patterns were analogous to earlier patterns which were diffuse in nature and scheduled carefully. Typical food remains recovered from sites of this period consist of fragments of white-tailed deer, beaver, turtle, fish, and various small mammals. Botanical remains recovered from the site area consisted of *Chenopodium* sp., hickory, butternut, and walnut (Pagoulatos 1988:81). Such diversity in food remains suggests at least minimal use of a wide range of microenvironments for subsistence purposes.

### **Woodland Period (2,700 to 350 B.P.)**

Traditionally, the advent of the Woodland Period in southern New England has been associated with the introduction of pottery; however, as mentioned above, early dates associated with pottery now suggest the presence of Vinette I ceramics appeared toward the end of the preceding Terminal Archaic Period (Ritchie 1969a; McBride 1984). Like the Archaic Period, the Woodland Period has been divided into three subperiods: Early, Middle, and Late Woodland. The various subperiods are discussed below.

#### Early Woodland Period (ca., 2,700 to 2,000 B.P.)

The Early Woodland Period of the northeastern United States dates from ca., 2,700 to 2,000 B.P., and it has thought to have been characterized by the advent of farming, the initial use of ceramic vessels, and increasingly complex burial ceremonialism (Griffin 1967; Ritchie 1969a and 1969b; Snow 1980). In the Northeast, the earliest ceramics of the Early Woodland Period are thick walled, cord marked on both the interior and exterior, and possess grit temper.

Careful archaeological investigations of Early Woodland sites in southern New England have resulted in the recovery of narrow stemmed projectile points in association with ceramic sherds and subsistence remains, including specimens of White-tailed deer, soft and hard-shell clams, and oyster shells (Lavin and Salwen: 1983; McBride 1984:296-297; Pope 1952). McBride (1984) has argued that the combination of the subsistence remains and the recognition of multiple superimposed cultural features at various sites indicates that Early Woodland Period settlement patterns were characterized by multiple re-use of the same sites on a seasonal basis by small co-residential groups.



### Middle Woodland Period (2,000 to 1,200 B.P.)

The Middle Woodland Period is marked by increased ceramic vessel 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). The latter suggests that regional exchange networks were established, and that they were used to supply local populations with necessary raw materials (McBride 1984; Snow 1980). The Middle Woodland Period is represented archaeologically by narrow stemmed and Jack's Reef projectile points, increased amounts of exotic raw materials in recovered lithic assemblages, including chert, argillite, jasper, and hornfels as well as 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 that utilized native plant and animal species for food and raw materials in tool making (George 1997). These sites were the principal place of occupation and were positioned close to major river valleys, tidal marshes, estuaries, and the 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 use of temporary and task-specific sites to support large village populations indicates that the Middle Woodland Period was characterized by a resource acquisition strategy best described as logistical collection (McBride 1984:310).

### Late Woodland Period (ca., 1,200 to 350 B.P.)

The Late Woodland Period in southern New England dates from around 1,200 to 350 B.P. and is characterized by the earliest evidence for the use of corn in the lower Connecticut River Valley (Bendremer 1993; Bendremer and Dewar 1993; Bendremer et al. 1991; George 1997; McBride 1984), increased 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) along with a continued trend towards larger, more permanent settlements in riverine, estuarine, and coastal ecozones (Dincauze 1974; McBride 1984; Snow 1980).

Stone tool assemblages associated with Late Woodland occupations, especially village-sized sites, are functionally variable and they reflect plant and animal resource processing and consumption on a large scale. Finished stone tools recovered from Late Woodland sites 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. These tools were used in activities ranging from hide preparation to plant processing to the manufacture of canoes, bowls, and utensils, as well as other settlement and subsistence-related items (McBride 1984; Snow 1980). Finally, ceramic assemblages recovered from Late Woodland sites are as variable as the lithic assemblages. Ceramic types identified 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 (Lavin 1980, 1988a, 1988b; Lizee 1994a; Pope 1953; Rouse 1947; Salwen and Ottesen 1972; Smith 1947). These types are more diverse stylistically than their predecessors, with incision, shell stamping, punctation, single point, linear dentate, rocker dentate stamping, and stamp and drag impressions common (Lizee 1994a:216).

### **Summary of Connecticut Prehistory**

The prehistory of Connecticut spans from around 12,000 to 350 B.P. and it is characterized by numerous changes in tool types, subsistence patterns, and land use strategies. Much of the prehistoric era is

characterized by local Native American groups who 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 evidence for the use of domesticated species 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 area, 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.

## CHAPTER IV HISTORIC OVERVIEW

### Introduction

As discussed in Chapter 1, the Project area measures 13.9 acres in size and is situated in the town of Pomfret in Windham County. Throughout its history, Pomfret has remained a relatively small town in terms of population. While other towns in Windham County developed substantial industrial villages during the nineteenth century, Pomfret continued to be rural into the modern era. The Project area is located in the northeastern section of Pomfret and on the north side of Wrights Crossing Road. This chapter provides an overview history of Pomfret and additional details associated with the Project area.

### Native American History

At the time of contact, the northeastern corner of Connecticut was inhabited by the Wabbaquasset community of Native Americans, which was part of a loosely aligned group of communities that is often referred to as the Nipmucks. Nipmuck communities consisted of small villages typical of the shifting cultivation lifestyle of the Native Americans of this time period. They occupied a wide area, mainly in Massachusetts and in parts of northeastern Connecticut. Prior to the 1650s, the Native American residents of this upland region were largely undisturbed by colonial incursions. During the 1660s and early 1670s, various sales of land were made to English colonists; however, Native Americans had different beliefs concerning land ownership than the colonists. By 1675, it appears that the Native Americans of the region understood that the land sales were permanent and that the Massachusetts Bay government intended to dispossess them of the territory entirely. As a result, many members of the Nipmuck group joined in King Philip's War against the English (Connole 2001). After the King Philip's War, the General Court of Massachusetts Bay appointed a committee to investigate English land claims in the territory of the Nipmucks. They bought up any claims to ownership by Native Americans and fully opened the territory to colonization (Bowen 1886).

Within the boundaries of Connecticut, a large part of the northeastern portion of the state was also claimed by the Mohegan tribe as territory conquered from the Pequots in the Pequot War of 1636 to 1637. The Mohegan sachem Uncas willed the eastern half of this land to his son Owaneco and the western half to his son Joshua. Owaneco sold a large part of this legacy to Captain James Fitch in 1684 in a deed that described it as part of the Nipmuck and Wabbaquasset country; moreover, this deed was accompanied by a quit-claim deed from several members of those native communities (Connole 2001).

These land transactions did not immediately convince the native inhabitants to move away. Many of the Wabbaquassets returned to their traditional territory and, during the 1690s, became a source of serious security concern to the colonists. In the early decades of the eighteenth century, Native Americans continued to reside in and make use of this territory, and only gradually moved away, were displaced, or ceased to live in distinct communities (Larned 1874). Because of the history of war, conquest, and questionable deeds, exactly where Native Americans lived in Pomfret during the colonial period, and what their communities were called, is difficult to determine.

### Colonial Era

Pomfret (initially known as Maschamoquet or Massamugget) avoided the significant title controversies caused by James Fitch's many land transactions in northeastern Connecticut simply because the General Assembly, absent any other claims they were willing to acknowledge, confirmed the relevant sale by him (Crofut 1937; Bushman 1967). This occurred in 1686, and the purchasers were a group of 12 men from

Roxbury, Massachusetts. The deed specified that the area included 15,100 acres (6,111 ha) of “wilderness.” In 1686, the new owners applied for, and received, a township patent from the Connecticut General Assembly. The proprietors’ initial efforts to subdivide the land in 1687 were frustrated by the British Crown’s imposition on the colonies of a governmental reorganization, specifically its appointment of Governor Andros and the creation of the Dominion of New England. Although this period of political conflict was short, the proprietors did not meet again until 1693, at which time they granted each of new owner 540 acres (218.5 ha) of land. The proprietors had previously given James Fitch 1,080 acres (437 ha) on the tract’s east side, and left a large amount to be divided later. The first settler, Captain John Sabin, arrived there earlier, however; he bought 100 acres (40.5 ha) of the northern end of Fitch’s land and settled there between 1691 and 1696, despite the intermittent conflict between the Native Americans and settlers to the north of Pomfret (Larned 1874).

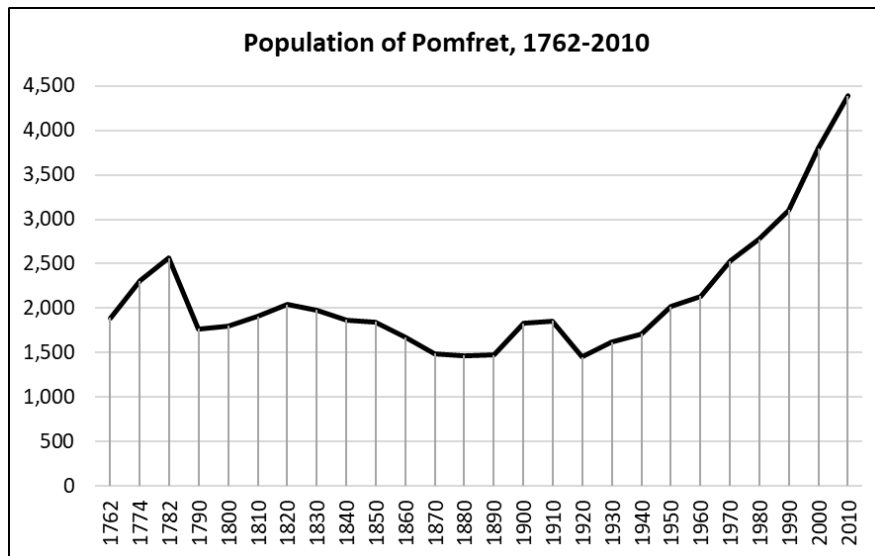
In 1713, the community petitioned the General Assembly to grant the town official status and privileges, renaming it Pomfret in the process. The town acquired the services of a minister, as their grant required, and in 1714 built a meeting house. In 1716, another proprietors’ meeting was held to lay out roads and survey more land, which was not completed until 1718. More inhabitants arrived after these signs of prosperity and organization, and a schoolhouse was built in 1723. In 1729, the Congregational church had 50 male members and in 1731, there were over 100 landowners in the congregation. Most of their residences were still on the eastern side of the town at that time (Larned 1874). By 1749, there were at least 29 heads of families on the west side of the town. They petitioned the General Assembly to allow them to form a new church society, against the wishes of the main part of the town. The General Assembly granted the petition, establishing the area as the parish of Abington. That same year, 47 men attended a meeting that voted to build a meeting house there, which was not constructed until 1751 because of the first society’s continuing opposition. The first colonial census, taken in 1756, recorded 1,677 white and 50 black residents living in Pomfret. During the French and Indian War (1755-1760), a company from Pomfret was led by Capt. John Grosvenor, First Lt. Nehemiah Tyler, and Second Lieutenant Israel Putnam. The latter of these men became famous for his exploits with Rogers’ Rangers, was made a captain, and continued an increasingly illustrious career that brought him to the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1759 (Larned 1874).

Between 1686 and 1752, Pomfret’s affairs were complicated by the existence of a 5,740 acre allegedly autonomous area within its official borders known as Mortlake. Captain John Blackwell of England had purchased from Major John Fitch a piece of land containing 5,750 acres (2,327 ha), which abutted the southeastern corner of what was Maschamoquet at the time. In 1687, he secured permission from the General Court to settle and organize this parcel as a separate township. Political developments in both the colonies and England then caused him to abandon the project. In 1713, the still-uncolonized tract was bought by Jonathan Belcher, later governor of Massachusetts, who had it surveyed and sold it off to various parties. None of the buyers, however, ever organized a proper town government, which caused Pomfret and other neighboring towns considerable trouble. The General Assembly finally merged the tract with Pomfret in 1752 (Larned 1874).

### **Revolutionary and Early Industrial Period (1774 to 1850)**

In 1774, Pomfret’s population had reached 2,306 residents (see the population chart below; Keegan 2012). In that same year, the town meeting voted to support the General Congress and try to avoid imported British goods. According to one source, 150 men enlisted after the Lexington Alarm; the company, led by Captain Stephen Brown and Lieutenant Thomas Grosvenor, served under Colonel Knowlton at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Pomfret was also the site of the April 1775 Windham County muster, at which more than 1,000 men assembled (Crofut 1937). In 1786, the new towns of Brooklyn

and Hampton were formed, partly from the southernmost part of Pomfret (Larned 1880). This is most likely the reason that the population of Pomfret fell from 2,566 residents in 1782 (the highest it would be for another 188 years) to 1,769 residents in 1790 (Keegan 2012). After 1790, the state legislature began creating corporations to build turnpike roads, in order to improve transportation infrastructure and encourage economic development. One of the earliest was the Boston Turnpike Company, incorporated in 1797, which built a road from Hartford to the Massachusetts line in Thompson. It crossed the north end of Pomfret, and a toll gate was to be built in the town near Mashamoquet Brook. Pomfret opposed the project intensely, but their efforts to have it re-routed failed. Several other companies built toll roads in town but by the mid-nineteenth century most roads had been made public (Wood 1919).



As of 1800, the Quinebaug River, which flowed along Pomfret’s eastern town line, supported a gristmill, sawmill, and fulling mill near the northern boundary of the town; there was also a mostly-abandoned quarry once used for gravestones. A few Native Americans reportedly still lived in Pomfret at this time. The town’s colonial inhabitants mostly raised corn, rye, and flax, as well as wheat and hemp (Putnam 1800). A number of commercial stores opened in the town before 1807, in addition to various agricultural mills, blacksmith shops, and a potash works. In the 1830s, Pomfret was described as having “rich and productive” soils that were “deep, strong, and fertile, and admirably adapted to grazing” (Barber 1837:437). The town produced mostly agricultural products, especially butter, cheese, and pork, but a small village called Pomfretville had been established at the northeastern corner, on the Quinebaug River, where a cotton factory had been built. In addition to the two Congregational societies, the town also had Baptist and Episcopal churches, and a Quaker house of worship (Barber 1837). An 1833 map of the county shows clusters of dense population at the villages of Abington, Williamsville, Prospect Hill, and Pomfretville. This map’s many inaccuracies make it difficult to properly geo-register. The Project parcel appears, however, to have no mapped cultural resources other than a road within 152 m (500 ft) of it. Approximately 2.4 km (1.5 miles) to its west were unlabeled villages that are now known as Prospect and Prospect Center, and between the Project area and Prospect Hill the map indicates that there was a sawmill on the small brook to its west (Figure 3; Lester 1833).

Pomfret’s population continued to decline after 1830, to just under 1,500 residents in 1870 (Keegan 2012). Nonetheless, the 1850 federal census of industry recorded 13 manufacturing enterprises that

made \$500.00 or more of products in the prior year. These included sawmills, a gristmill, and a plaster mill that each employed only one man. Only one of these businesses made as much as \$1,000.00 in goods. There was also a large cotton mill, two shoe-assembly businesses, two blacksmiths, and a carriagemaker. Overall, only approximately 200 people were employed in an industrial capacity in Pomfret at that time, which was not enough to raise the town's population in any significant way (United States Census Bureau 1850).

### **Later Industrial Period (1850-1930)**

In 1855, Pomfret lost the northeastern corner of its territory, where the cotton textile mill was located, to the new town of Putnam (Larned 1880). An 1856 county map reflects this change, and identified the remaining population clusters as Abington Four Corners, Pomfret Street (instead of Prospect Hill) and Pomfret Landing (instead of Williamsville). This map's higher level of detail, with many labeled buildings, also indicated that none of these villages were focused on industrial production; they contained churches, stores, and schools. The 1856 map shows no cultural features – not even Wrights Crossing Road –within 152 m (500 ft) of the parcel. The nearest building was labeled with the name O. Dennis (Figure 4; Woodford 1856). A lack of industrial development was still visible in the 1869 map of the town, on which the villages of Abington, Pomfret Landing, and Pomfret Street still had no reported industry, even though the railroad passed through the town. The Project area was located on the northern side of a road, with no other cultural features within 152 m (500 ft) of it. Buildings shortly beyond that distance were labeled “T.H.,” “T. Pettis,” and “P. Towbridge.” The initials “T.H.” appeared multiple times on this map and likely refer to “Toll House,” but it is not clearly defined on the map (Figure 5; Gray 1869). These names have not been positively identified in the census. The scattered nature of the buildings in this area of the town is, however, a clear sign of a rural agricultural landscape.

In 1872, a railroad link between Willimantic and Putnam opened, which crossed the width of Pomfret. Although this line was shown on the 1869 map, and it was started by the Boston, Hartford & Erie Railroad sometime after 1863, that company went bankrupt in 1870 with this link incomplete. The rights were bought up by the New York & New England Railroad, which finished the construction. This line started the famous “New England Limited” train, which was a special express train that took only six hours to make the 213 mile trip between Boston and New York. It was also known as the “White Train” for the color of its cars. Operating between 1885 and at least 1895, the New England Limited had a stop in Pomfret (Turner and Jacobus 1989). The arrival of the railroad can be credited with helping revive Pomfret's fortunes after the loss of the factory village. By 1880, the town was “becoming a favorite and fashionable resort. Families from many cities enjoy the coolness and comforts of these airy homes” (Larned 1880:475). This local demand helped to stimulate the town's agricultural efforts, so that a Farmer's Club and a turn to dairy farming improved the economic situation. Some residents built mansions, and Pomfret Hall was erected as a location for various entertainments. Also as of 1880, the separate Baptist congregation had closed and the Quakers were gone, but the Episcopal, the two Congregational, and a new Second Advent church remained in place (Larned 1880). By 1919, a historian remarked, “What a change a century has brought! Now Pomfret is the summer home of millionaires with palatial estates” (Wood 1919:376). In contrast to these optimistic statements, however, Pomfret's population slowly declined after 1850, and reached a low of approximately 1,470 residents in 1880 and 1890 (Keegan 2012).

Without an industrial base, the town was left with a largely agricultural permanent population spread thinly over the better agricultural land. During the mid to late nineteenth century, farming became an increasingly specialized and concentrated activity in Connecticut. Most farmers switched from meat and grains, which could be purchased more cheaply from the Midwest, to butter and cheese, which did not

travel well and could be sold locally. In the 1880s, refrigerated railroad cars were developed, which facilitated the production and sale of fresh milk. Overall, the farming population declined and marginal lands were abandoned. Towns with industrial activity managed to keep their populations stable, while wholly agricultural places lost population through the 1930s (Rossano 1997). The popularity of Pomfret as a resort area may be what kept its population from declining even further than it did.

### **Modern Era (1930-present)**

A 1932 summary of town information reported Pomfret's principal industry simply as agriculture, then added, "is noted as a summer resort" (Connecticut 1932:296). Consistent with this description, the 1934 aerial photograph shows the Project area in an agricultural landscape that probably would have seemed generally familiar to nineteenth-century residents of the town. Even the two historic farmsteads were still present, to the west and east of the Project parcel. The parcel itself was characterized by a mixture of cleared, reforesting, and reforested fields, which was very similar to the surrounding landscape (Figure 6; Fairchild 1934). A 1935 guide to Connecticut remarked on how scenic Pomfret was, and how attractive as a summer home; it also noted the existence of the Pomfret School for boys, which was founded in 1894 (Heermance 1935). The number of farms in Connecticut continued to decline through the twentieth century, but because of suburbanization, which was a result of the rise of the automobile, the population of many towns began to grow again. This was the case with Pomfret, but on a much smaller scale (Rossano 1997).

Throughout most of the twentieth century, Pomfret's population grew slowly but steadily, with the pace picking up a little after 1960; it stood at 4,536 residents in 2020 (Keegan 2012, AdvanceCT and CTData Collaborative 2020). This was three times the population at the start of this period. The 1951 aerial photograph shows how small the impact of this population growth had been in the vicinity of the Project area, which seemed largely identical to the landscape of 1934, aside from some small advances in reforestation of some fields (Figure 7; USDA 1951). The 1996 aerial photograph, however, shows a number of significant changes in the area. The section of Wrights Crossing Road to the west of the Project area was lined with houses on moderate-sized lots. The section of the road to the south of the Project area, however, was relatively undeveloped, with only the two historic farmsteads and a swampy area visible. The Project area itself had become part of a single large field, with the old field outlines erased (Figure 8; CT DEP 1996). In 2019, the area remained almost completely unchanged (Figure 9; CT ECO 2019).

As of the early twenty-first century, Pomfret mostly consisted of residential housing, numerous farms, and undeveloped land. The large amount of open space in the town was due to the presence of Mashamoquet Brook State Park, as well as preservation efforts by other private and public organizations (Pomfret 2016). Interestingly, in 2018, three of the rural town's five largest employers were manufacturers, namely Loos and Company, a wire and cable producer; Hull Forest Products, a timber harvester; and Fiberoptics Technology Inc. In 2019, approximately 31 percent of Pomfret's workers were in manufacturing (AdvanceCT and CTData Collaborative 2020). With its small population and large areas of preserved open space, it appears that Pomfret will nonetheless remain substantially rural into the future.

### **Conclusions**

The documentary record indicates that the Project area was used only for agriculture during the historical period, and it is unlikely that any significant historical resources are present there or in its immediate vicinity. Even the majority fence and wall lines from earlier eras of farming have been

removed for the convenience of modern machinery. Surviving traces of such activity are unlikely to be considered historically significant.



## CHAPTER V

# PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

### **Introduction**

This chapter presents an overview of previous archaeological research completed within the vicinity of the Project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. This discussion provides the comparative data necessary for considering the results of the current Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey, and it ensures that the potential impacts to all previously recorded cultural resources located within and adjacent to the Project parcel are taken into consideration. Specifically, this chapter reviews previously identified archaeological sites and National/State Register of Historic Places properties situated in the Project region (Figures 10 and 11). The discussions presented below are based on information currently on file at the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (CT-SHPO) in Hartford, Connecticut. In addition, the electronic site files maintained by Heritage were examined during this investigation. Both the quantity and quality of the information contained in the original cultural resources survey reports and State of Connecticut archaeological site forms are reflected below.

### **Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites and National/State Register of Historic Places Properties/Districts in the Vicinity of the Project Area**

A review of data currently on file at the CT-SHPO, as well as the electronic site files maintained by Heritage resulted in the detection of nine previously recorded archaeological sites and a single State Register of Historic Places listed property situated within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the Project parcel (Figures 10 and 11). They are discussed below. No National Register of Historic Places properties/districts were nearby.

#### Site 112-1

Site 112-1 is described as a prehistoric camp site, possibly from the Woodland Period. It is located to the south of Holmes Road and on the eastern side of Durkee Brook in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10). Mary G. Souls by of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., (PAST) recorded the site in July of 1990. PAST archaeologists tested the site area in July of that year preceding construction of the Rainbow Creek Development. They recovered 8 quartz flakes, 13 flint flakes, 34 argillite flakes, 50 bone fragments, nine charred botanical fragments, one quartzite knife, and one quartzite Narrow-Stemmed projectile point. A possible feature was also identified, which consisted of a dark soil stain and fire-reddened soil 40 cmbs (16 inbs). Site 112-1 has not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted by the proposed Project.

#### Site 112-2

Site 112-2 is situated at the southwest corner of the Holmes Road and Modock Road intersection in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10). It also was recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of PAST in July of 1990 when it was tested prior to the development of the proposed Rainbow Creek housing subdivision. The site was described as a prehistoric camp dating from an unknown prehistory time period. PAST archaeologists recovered 2 quartz flakes, 5 quartzite flakes, and a single flint flake from the site area. Site 112-2 also has not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted by the proposed solar Project.

#### Site 112-3

Site 112-3 is an unnamed prehistoric camp site recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of PAST in July of 1990. It is located at the southwestern corner of the Holmes Road and Modock Road intersection in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10). PAST archaeologists tested the area preceding construction of the proposed Rainbow Creek subdivision and recovered 84 quartzite flakes, 3 quartz flakes, and a single quartzite Neville-like projectile point base. The Neville-like point indicated a Middle Archaic Period occupation. Site 112-3 has not been assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). This site will not be impacted by the proposed solar Project.

#### Site 112-4

Site 112-4 is located 30 m (98.4 ft) to the south of Holmes Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10). It was recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of PAST in July of 1990 after PAST tested the area preceding construction of the Rainbow Creek subdivision. Archaeologists recovered a single quartz flake and 8 rhyolite flakes. According to the site form, the proposed Rainbow Creek subdivision would impact Site 112-4 and therefore PAST recommended Phase II NRHP testing and evaluation to determine the site's boundaries and significance. The results of the Phase II testing and evaluation, if performed, are not listed on the site form. This site will not be impacted by the proposed solar Project.

#### Site 112-5

Site 112-5 also was recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of PAST in July of 1990 preceding the construction of the Rainbow Creek subdivision. Survey of the site area resulted in the identification of a prehistoric camp site from an unknown time period. PAST archaeologists recovered 193 quartzite flakes and 4 quartz flakes from the Site 112-5 area. The site was not assessed applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]) at the time it was recorded, though PAST recommended further excavation before subdivision construction. It would have been impacted by the Rainbow Creek subdivision project, but it will not be further impacted by the current proposed solar facility. It is located southwest of the intersection of Holmes Road and Modock Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10).

#### Site 112-6

Site 112-6 is located to the southwest of the intersection of Holmes Road and Modock Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10). It was recorded by Mary G. Soulsby of PAST in July of 1990 as a prehistoric site from an unknown time period. PAST discovered the site during testing in July 1990 preceding construction of the Rainbow Creek subdivision. Archaeologists recovered a single quartzite flake from the site in an area that would be impacted by the Rainbow Creek Subdivision. PAST recommended Phase II NRHP testing and evaluation of Site 112-6 determine its boundaries and significance. The results of the Phase II testing and evaluation, if preformed, are not listed on the site form. It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### Site 112-25

Site 112-25 was identified by John Kelly of the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., (PAL) in February of 2017. The site was identified during a 2015 Phase IB survey of a natural gas pipeline in an area situated approximately 340 ft (140 m) to the east of Grosvenor Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10). Site 112-25 was interpreted as a nineteenth to twentieth century refuse disposal area. Artifacts recovered from the site included untyped flat glass, a bottle base, transfer print ceramic sherds, decal-printed ceramic sherds, porcelain sherds, and window glass. No historic architectural remains were identified during background research or archaeological investigation. Site 112-25 has not been assessed applying

the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### Site 112-26

Site 112-26 also was recorded in 2017 by John Kelly of PAL. It is located at the intersection of a natural gas pipeline and Wrights Crossing Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10). PAL tested Site 112-26 in 2015, which consists of a dry-laid stone foundation. The foundation was likely an outbuilding associated with the adjacent Horace Clapp house, which was constructed in 1869. A total of 21 historic artifacts dating to the twentieth century were recovered from the site; they included complete and fragmented soda bottles, a porcelain sherd, iron nails, hooks, and spikes. Site 112-26 was assessed as not significant applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). This site will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### Site 112-27

Site 112-27 was documented by John Kelly of PAL in February of 2017. The site was identified during a 2015 Phase IB survey of a natural gas pipeline in an area located approximately 240 ft (73 m) to the east of Wrights Crossing Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 10). Site 112-27 was described as a prehistoric site of an unknown temporal affiliation. Recovered cultural material consisted of 52 prehistoric artifacts, including 33 quartz, chert, and rhyolite flakes; 2 utilized quartz flakes; 12 pieces of quartz quartzite and unidentified shatter; a single untyped chert projectile point preform; 1 piece of calcined bone; 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock; and a single piece of uncharacterized schist. The site was assessed as potentially significant applying the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). The results of the Phase II testing and evaluation, if preformed, are not listed on the site form. This site will not be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed solar project.

#### State Register of Historic Places: 112-12

State Register of Historic Places property 112-12 is also known as the Tyrone Farm, and it is located at 89 Tyrone Road in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figure 11). It was recorded by H.C. Darbee of the Connecticut Historical Commission on December 7, 1967 as a distinguished Federal-style residence. The main building was built in 1742 and is characterized by two-and-a-half stories with pilasters at its front corners supporting a plain frieze above the second story. Window caps mimic the frieze pattern, and the windows have six-over-six sash. The main door had decorative pilasters to its sides and a prominent pediment above it. Exterior walls were clad in clapboards and the gable roof was covered with asphalt shingles. This main block was surrounded by later additions to both sides. Furthermore, as of 1967, there was an associated barn and caretaker's lodge on the property. This historic house is now used as a wedding venue. Despite some modern alterations, the structure's architectural features and setting remains intact. Due to the presence of intervening vegetation, local topography, and the low profile of the facility, proposed solar project will have no impact on the Tyrone Farm.

## CHAPTER VI

### METHODS

#### **Introduction**

This chapter describes the research design and field methodology used to complete the current cultural resources survey of the Project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. It also includes a discussion of the laboratory methods and the procedures used to process and analyze the recovered cultural material. Finally, the location and point-of-contact for the final facility at which all cultural material, drawings, maps, photographs, and field notes generated during survey will be curated is provided below.

#### **Research Design**

The current cultural resources survey was designed to identify all prehistoric and historic cultural resources located within the Project area. Fieldwork for the project was comprehensive in nature; planning considered the distribution of previously recorded archaeological sites located and State/National Register of Historic Places near the proposed Project area, and a geological assessment of the Project area. The methods used to complete this investigation were designed to provide complete and thorough coverage of all portions of the Project area. This undertaking entailed pedestrian survey, systematic subsurface testing, detailed mapping, and photo-documentation throughout the limits of the study area.

#### **Field Methodology**

Following the completion of all background research, the Project area was subjected to an archaeological reconnaissance survey utilizing pedestrian survey, photo-documentation, mapping, and systematic shovel testing. The field strategy was designed such that the entire Project area was examined visually and photographed. The pedestrian survey portion of this investigation included visual reconnaissance of all areas scheduled for impacts by the proposed development project. The field methodology also included subsurface testing of the Project area. Since the Project area was assessed as having only a moderate sensitivity for intact archaeological deposits, the area was surveyed by placing shovel tests at 20 m (65.6 ft) intervals along parallel survey transects spaced 20 m (65.6 ft) apart.

During survey, each shovel test measured 50 x 50 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in) in size and each was excavated until the glacially derived C-Horizon was encountered, the water table was reached, or until large buried objects (e.g., boulders) prevented further excavation. 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 and examined visually for cultural material. 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 archaeological recordation process.

#### **Laboratory Analysis**

Laboratory analysis of recovered cultural material, which consisted of only historic artifacts, followed established archaeological protocols. To begin the laboratory analysis process, field specimen bag proveniences first were crosschecked against the field notes and the specimen inventories for accuracy and completeness. Following this quality-control process, all recovered material was washed by hand, air-dried, and sorted into basic material categories. The nature and structure of the laboratory analysis was determined by the goals of the project. The artifact analysis consisted of making and recording a series of observations for each recovered specimen. The observations were chosen to provide the most

significant information about each specimen. Separate databases, designed specifically for the analysis of the recovered historic and prehistoric artifacts, were employed to store, organize, and manipulate data gathered during the analytical process. A detailed discussion of the recovered artifacts is discussed in detail in the following chapter.

#### Prehistoric Lithic Analysis

The lithic analysis protocol used in this project was a “technological” or “functional” one designed to identify prehistoric reduction trajectories, lithic industries, and tool functions. The protocol focused on recording technological characteristics of the recovered lithic artifacts. The lithic artifact database was organized by lithic material group, type, and subtype. The first level describes the raw material type of the artifact. Lithic materials were identified utilizing recognized geological descriptions and terminology, and with the use of type specimens of known source. Lithic raw materials were divided into distinct categories based on three factors: texture, color, and translucence. The second analysis level, type, was used to define the general class, e.g., unmodified flake, core, or preform, of lithic artifact, while the last level, subtype, was employed to specify morphological attributes, e.g., primary cortex, extensively reduced, or corner-notched. Typological identifications for temporally and regionally diagnostic tools were included in the analysis. Such identifications were made by reference to established lithic artifact typologies.

#### Historical Cultural Material Analysis

The analysis of the historical cultural material recovered during the current Phase I cultural resources reconnaissance survey was organized by class, functional group, type, and subtype. The first level, class, represented the material category, e.g., ceramic, glass, metal. The second level, functional group, e.g., architecture, kitchen, or personal, was based on standard classifications. The third and fourth levels, type and subtype, described the temporally and/or functionally diagnostic artifact attributes. The identification of artifacts was aided by consulting standard reference works.

#### **Curation**

Following the completion and acceptance of the Final Report of Investigations, all cultural material, drawings, maps, photographs, and field notes will be curated with:

Office of Connecticut State Archaeology  
Box U-1023  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, Connecticut 06269

## CHAPTER VII

# RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION

### Introduction

This chapter presents the results of a cultural resources survey of the proposed solar facility in Pomfret, Connecticut (Figures 1 and 2). The investigation was completed on behalf of All-Points in July of 2021, by personnel representing Heritage. All fieldwork was performed in accordance with the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (Poirier 1987) promulgated by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office. The Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey results are presented below.

### Results of the Phase IB Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey of the Project Area

As discussed in Chapter I, the Project area associated with the proposed solar facility measures approximately 13.9 ac in size. It occupies a forested area that is bordered by the open hayfields to the north, wooded areas to the east, Wright's Crossing Road to the south, and by a slope down to a Bark Meadow Brook to the west. Access to the Project area will be from Wright's Crossing Road. The area around the Project area is rural in character and contains large open spaces with sparse single-family homes.

The current effort consisted of pedestrian survey, subsurface testing, and mapping of the project parcel. The subsurface testing regime resulted in the excavation of 137 of 137 (100 percent) planned shovel tests and 24 of 24 (100 percent) delineation shovel tests, each measuring 50 x 50 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in) in size, throughout the area containing the proposed solar facility (Figures 12 through 18). The Phase IB effort resulted in the identification of a single prehistoric archaeological locus (Locus 1) and a scatter of historical period artifacts. The Locus 1 area and the historical artifact scatter are described below.

#### Locus 1

The Locus 1 area was identified in the western portion of the Project area. It contained prehistoric artifacts that were recovered from five shovel tests situated along Survey Transects 5, 7, and 8, respectively. A typical shovel test pit excavated in this area exhibited three soil horizons in profile. The Ap-Horizon (plow zone) extended from the surface to 26 cmbs (0 to 10.2 inbs) and was characterized as a layer of dark brown (10YR 3/3) fine sandy silt. The underlying B-Horizon subsoil reached from 26 to 62 cmbs (10.6 to 24.4 inbs); it was characterized as a deposit of yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) fine sandy silt. Finally, the glacially derived C-Horizon was identified at 62 cmbs (24 inbs) and was excavated to a maximum depth of 72 cmbs (28.3 inbs); it was characterized as light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) coarse sand with gravel.

As seen in Table 1, Locus 1 yielded 2 quartz scrapers, 1 piece of quartz shatter, and 2 quartz secondary thinning flakes from the disturbed Ap-Horizon (plow zone) at depths ranging from between 0 and 20 centimeters (0 and 7.9 inches) below surface. No cultural features or soil anomalies were associated with the recovered lithic debris, and the recovered artifacts could not be assigned to particular prehistoric time period or cultural affiliation. Locus 1, which appears to represent a task-specific or very short term occupation, lacks research potential and the qualities of significance applying the NRHP criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). No additional archaeological examination of Locus 1 is recommended prior to construction of the proposed solar facility.

Table 1. Artifacts recovered from Locus 1.

Transect	Shovel Test	Horizon	Depth	Material	Type	Subtype	Count
5	3	Ap	10-20 cmbs	lithic	quartz	end scraper	1
	D5	Ap	10-20 cmbs	lithic	quartz	secondary thinning flake	1
7	5	Ap	0-10 cmbs	lithic	quartz	shatter	1
	D21	Ap	0-10 cmbs	lithic	quartz	shatter	1
8	1	Ap	10-20 cmbs	lithic	quartz	scraper	1
						secondary thinning flake	1
<b>Total</b>							<b>6</b>

Historical Artifacts Scatter

The Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey also resulted in the collection of 10 historical period artifacts. They were found scattered throughout the Project area and consisted of 3 clear window glass fragments, 1 machine-cut nail (1790s to 1900s), 1 kaolin pipe stem fragment, 2 blue transfer printed pearlware body sherds (ca. 1780 to 1830), and 3 clear glazed whiteware body sherds (ca. 1820 to present). The historical materials were all recovered from the Ap-Horizon (plow zone) at depths ranging from between 0 and 20 centimeters below surface (0 and 7.9 inbs) (Table 2).

The historical period artifacts recovered from the Project area are domestic in nature. The Phase IB survey of the project area failed to identify any surficial or buried architectural features (e.g., foundations, wells, privies, etc.) that could be associated with the historical artifacts. Therefore, these artifacts are interpreted as a field scatter of materials that lack historical association, research potential, and the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). No additional examination of historical artifact scatter is recommended.

Table 2. Historical artifacts recovered throughout the project area.

Transect	Shovel Test	Horizon	Depth	Material	Type	Subtype	Count
1	1	Ap	0-10 cmbs	glass	clear	flat glass	2
				ceramic	whiteware	clear glazed body	1
			10-20 cmbs	ceramic	clear	flat glass	1
	2	Ap	10-20 cmbs	ceramic	kaolin	pipe stem	1
	14	Ap	0-10 cmbs	ceramic	whiteware	clear glazed body	1
5	D5	Ap	10-20 cmbs	ceramic	whiteware	clear glazed body	1
7	D23	Ap	0-10 cmbs	ceramic	pearlware	blue transfer printed body	1
				metal	iron	machine-cut nail	1
8	D9	Ap	10-20 cmbs	ceramic	pearlware	blue transfer printed body	1
<b>Total</b>							<b>10</b>

## CHAPTER VIII

### SUMMARY & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage completed the current Phase IB cultural resources survey on behalf of All-Points in July of 2021. A total of 137 of 137 (100 percent) planned shovel tests and 24 of 24 (100 percent) delineation shovel tests were excavated throughout the area containing the proposed solar facility. This effort resulted in the identification of a single prehistoric locus, Locus 1. Given the disturbed soil context, low density of cultural material, and lack of intact cultural features, Locus 1 was assessed as not significant applying the NRHP criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). Further, historical cultural material recovered during excavation was interpreted as a scatter of materials that lacks historical association, research potential, and the qualities of significance as defined by the NRHP criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). No additional archaeological examination of Locus 1, the scatter of historical artifacts, and the Project area is recommended prior to construction of the proposed solar facility.



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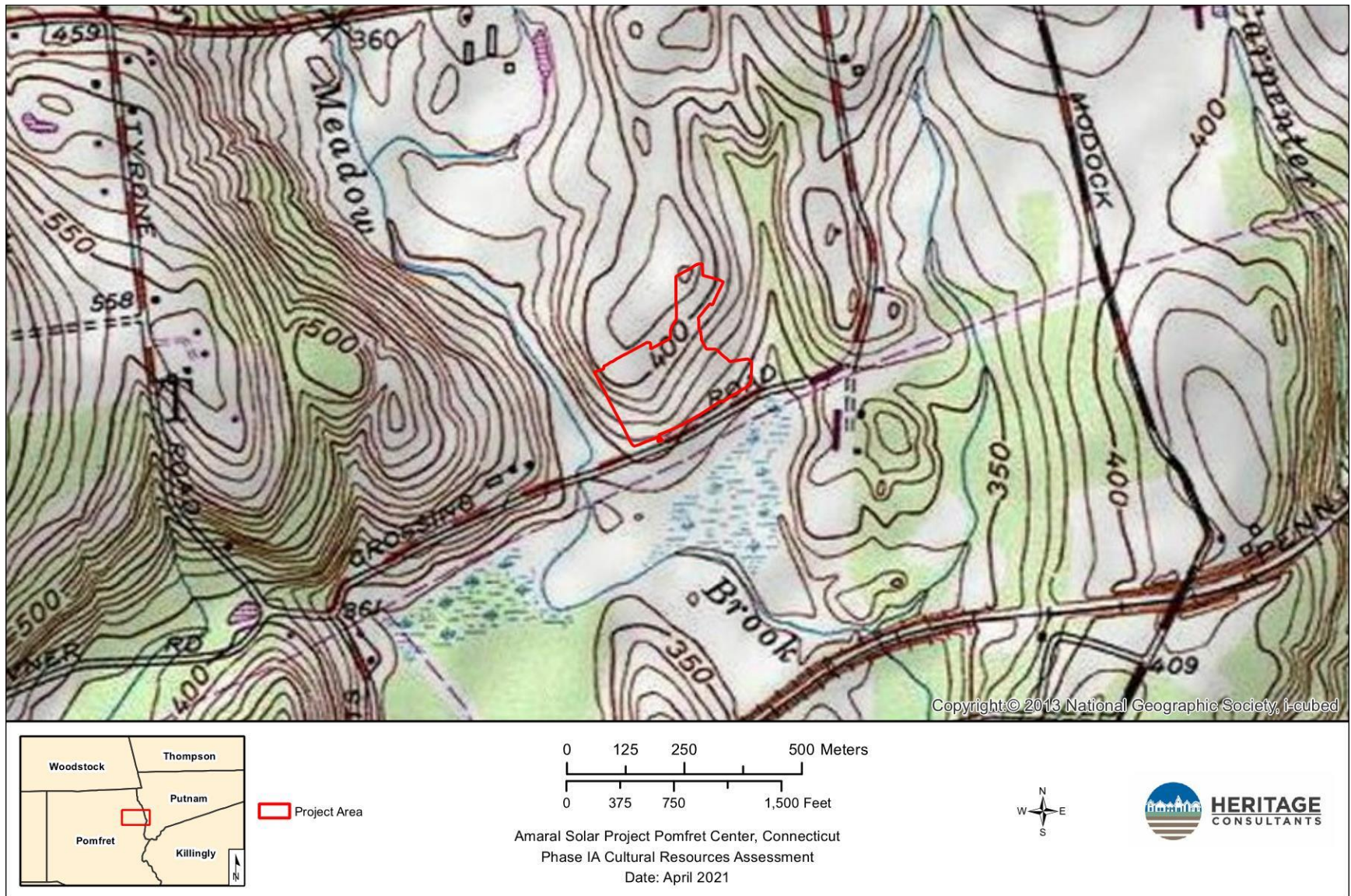


Figure 1. Excerpt from a USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle image showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



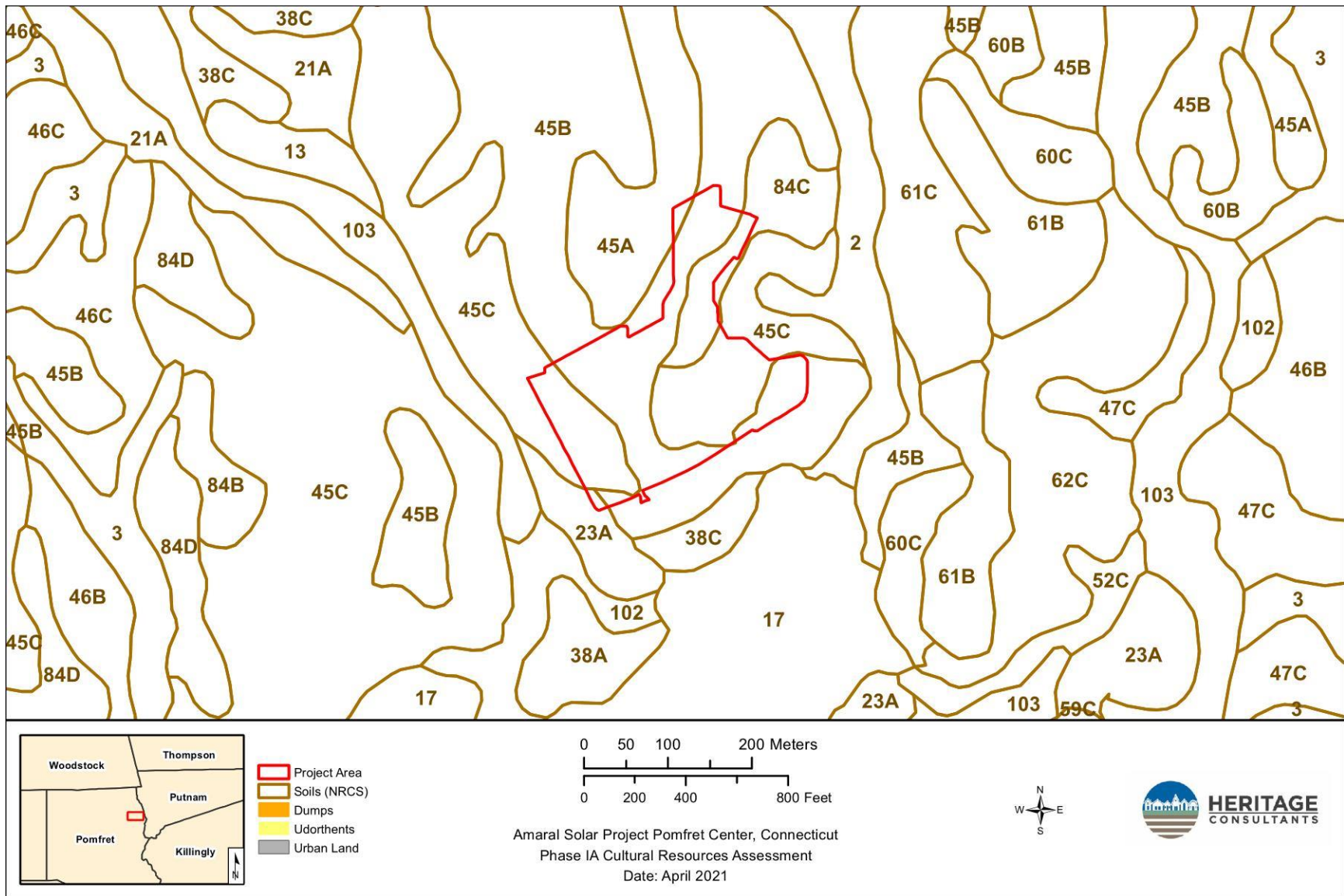


Figure 2. Map of soils located in the vicinity of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



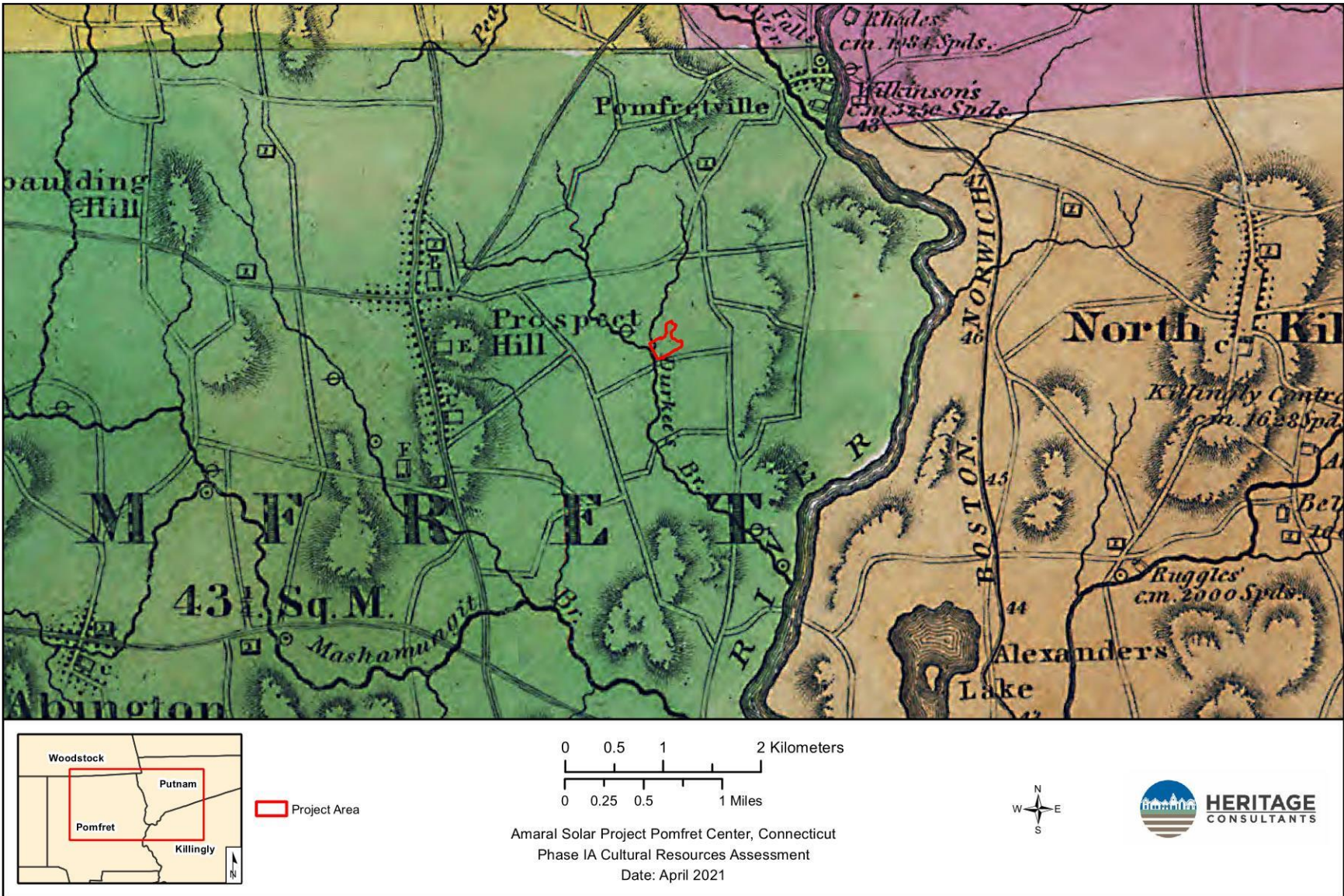


Figure 3. Excerpt from an 1833 historical map showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



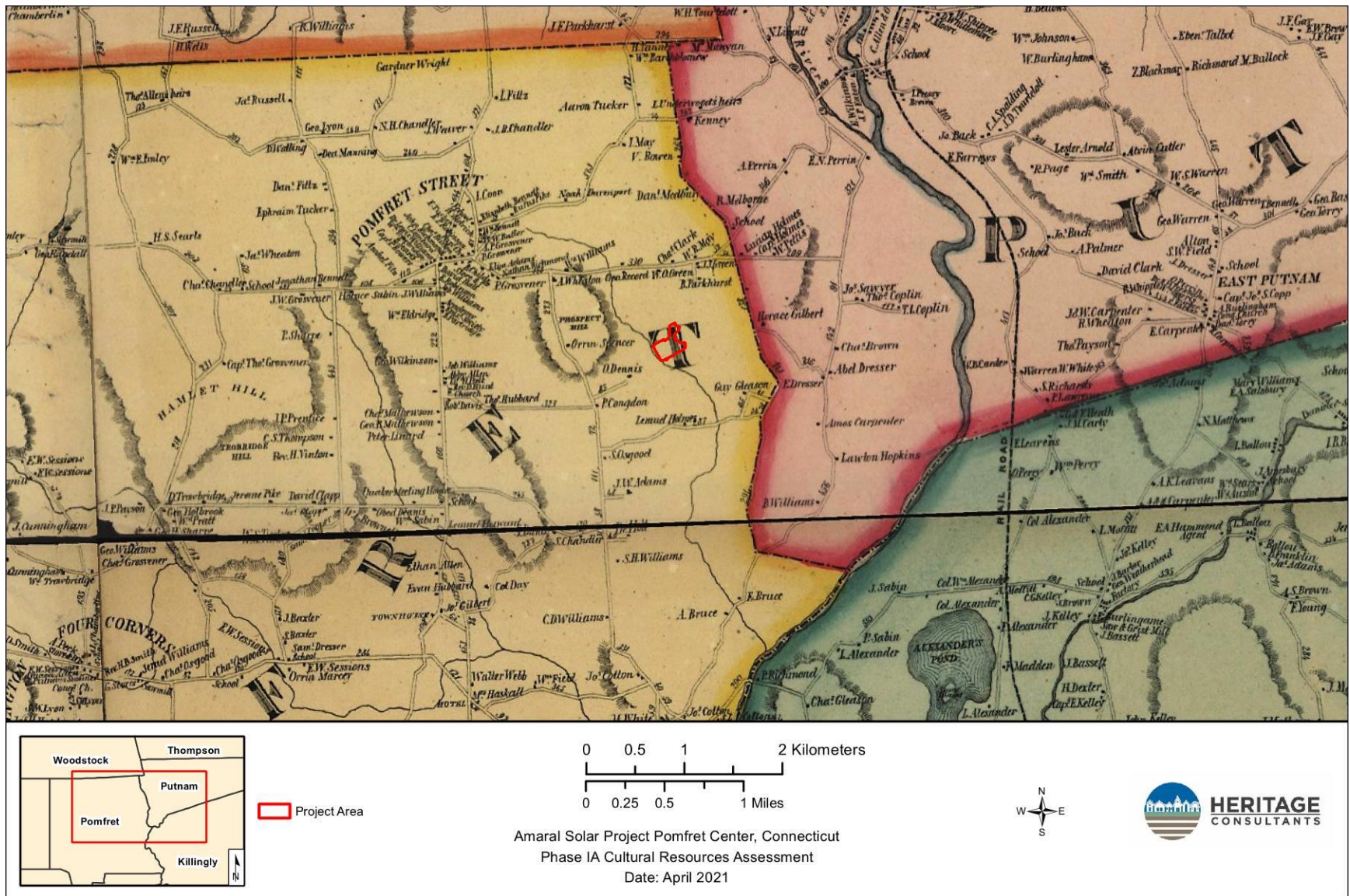


Figure 4. Excerpt from an 1856 historical map showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



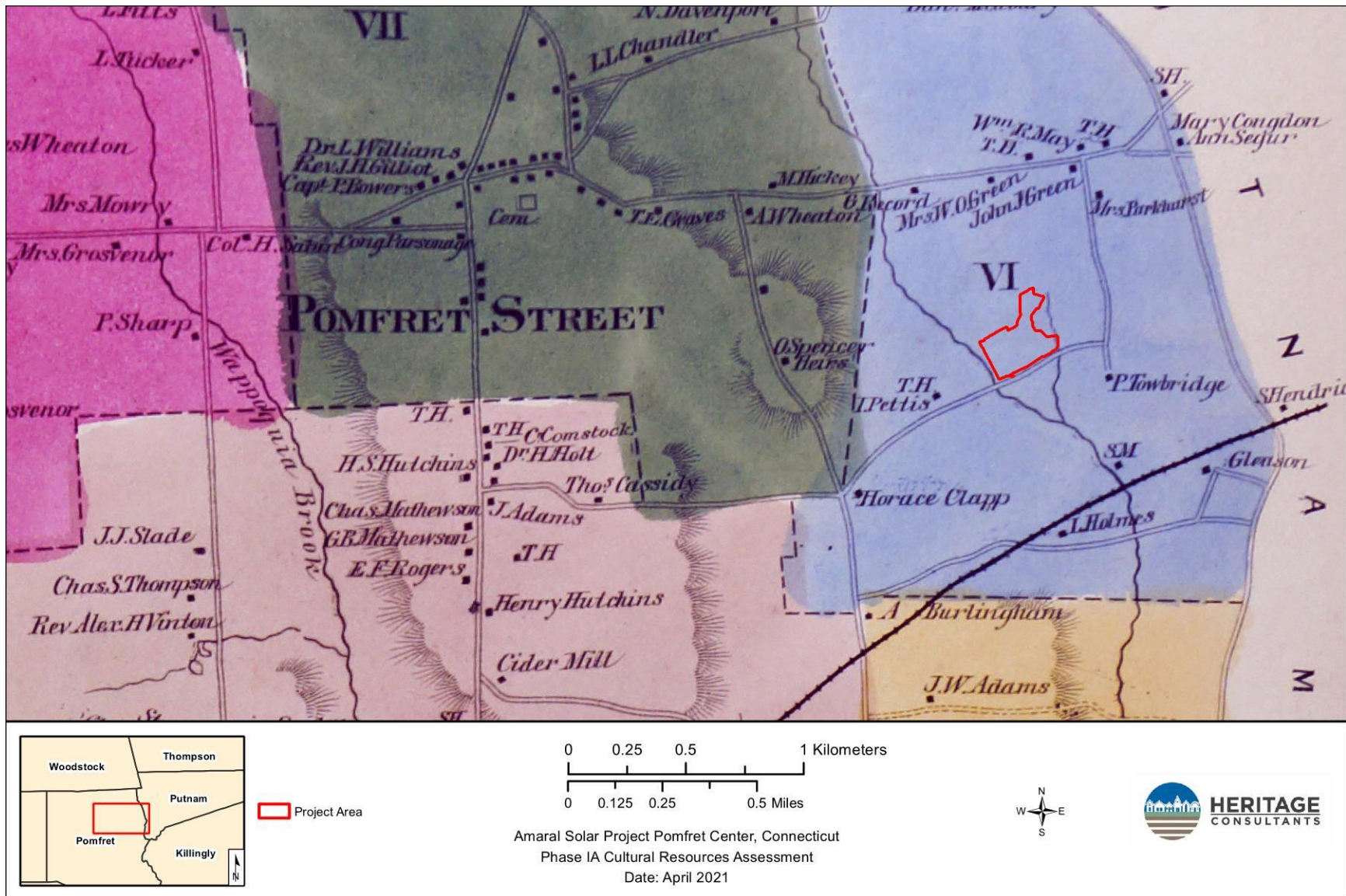


Figure 5. Excerpt from an 1869 historical map showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.

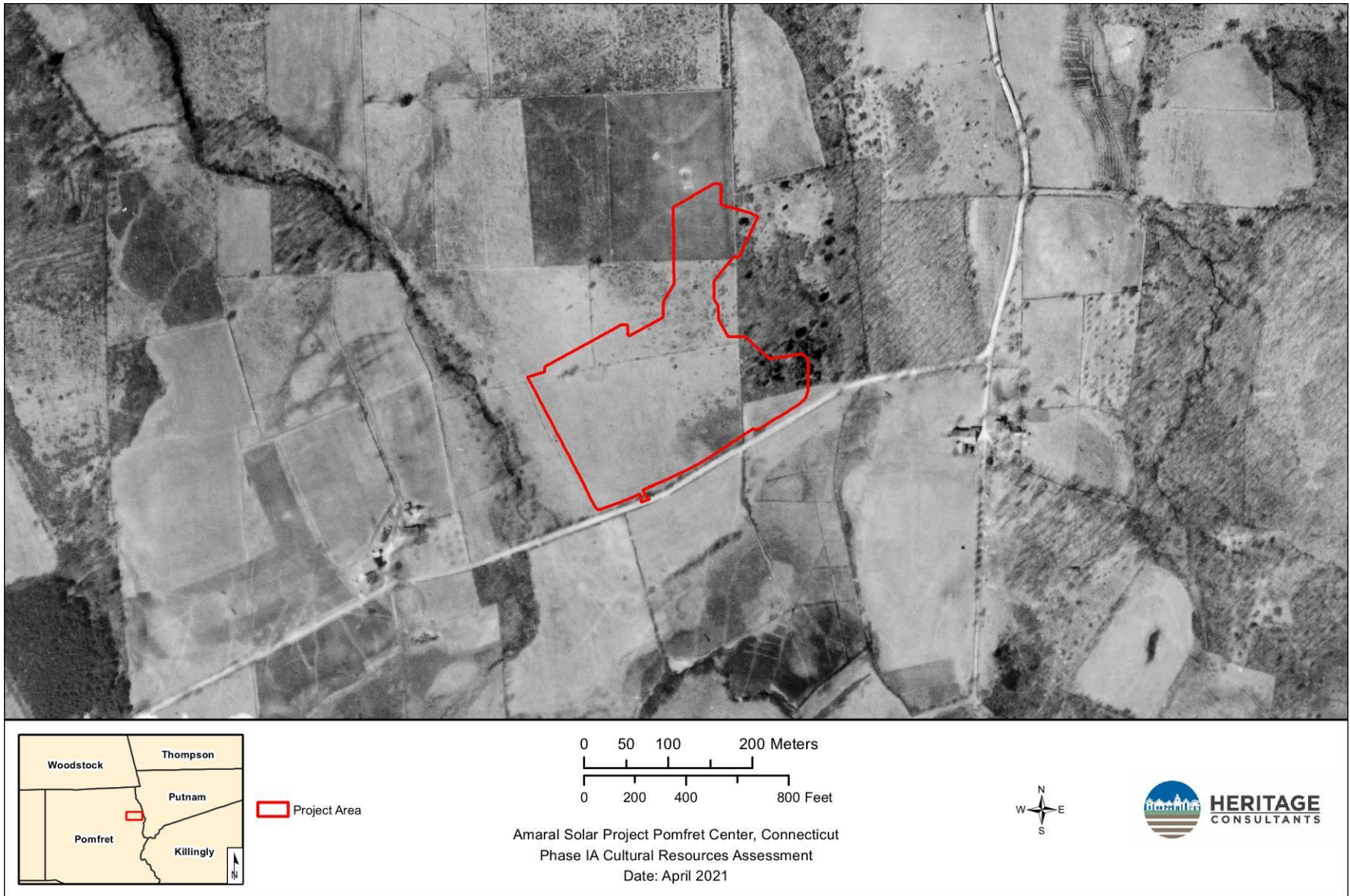


Figure 6. Excerpt from a 1934 aerial photograph showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



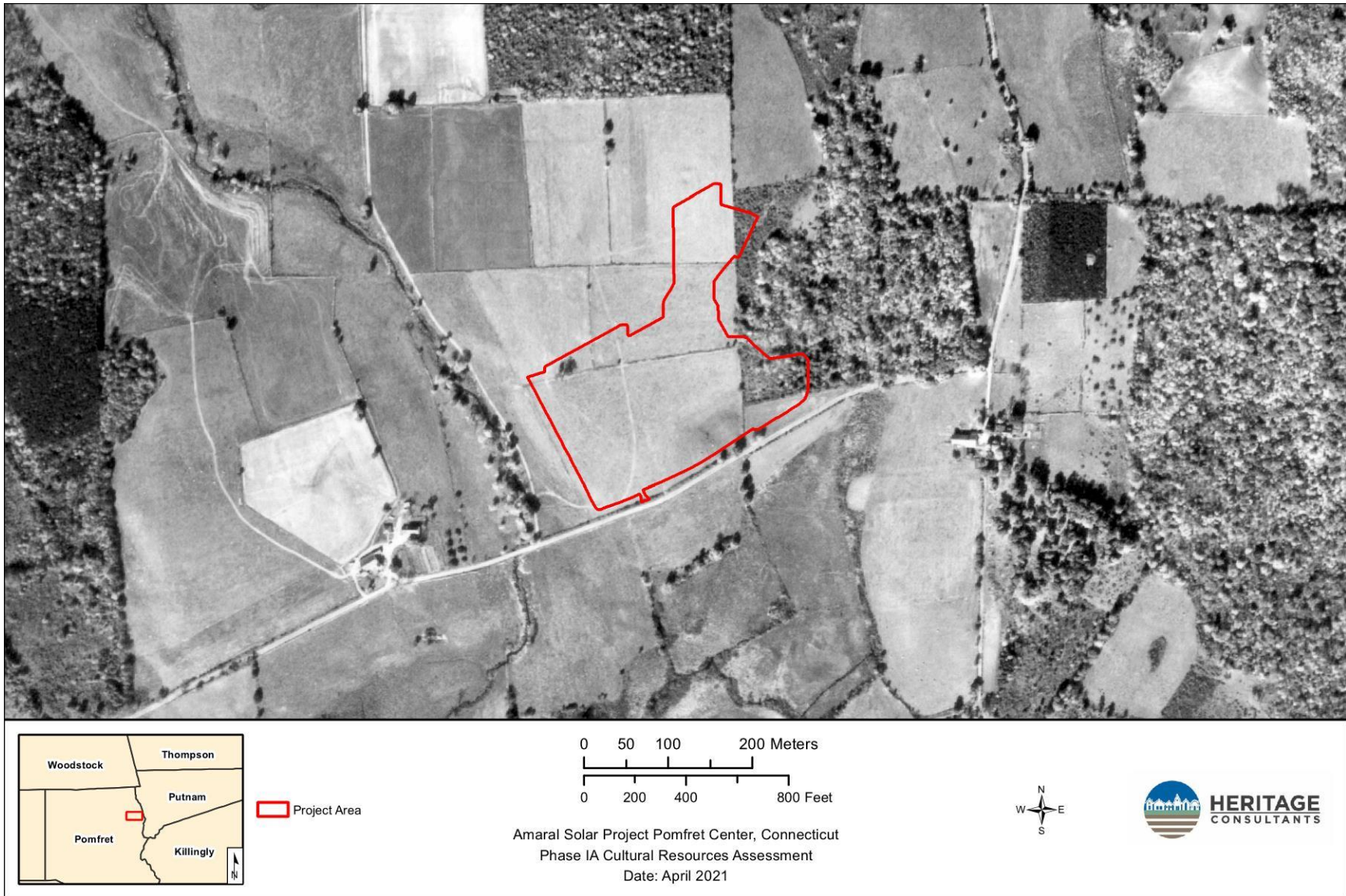


Figure 7. Excerpt from a 1951 aerial photograph showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



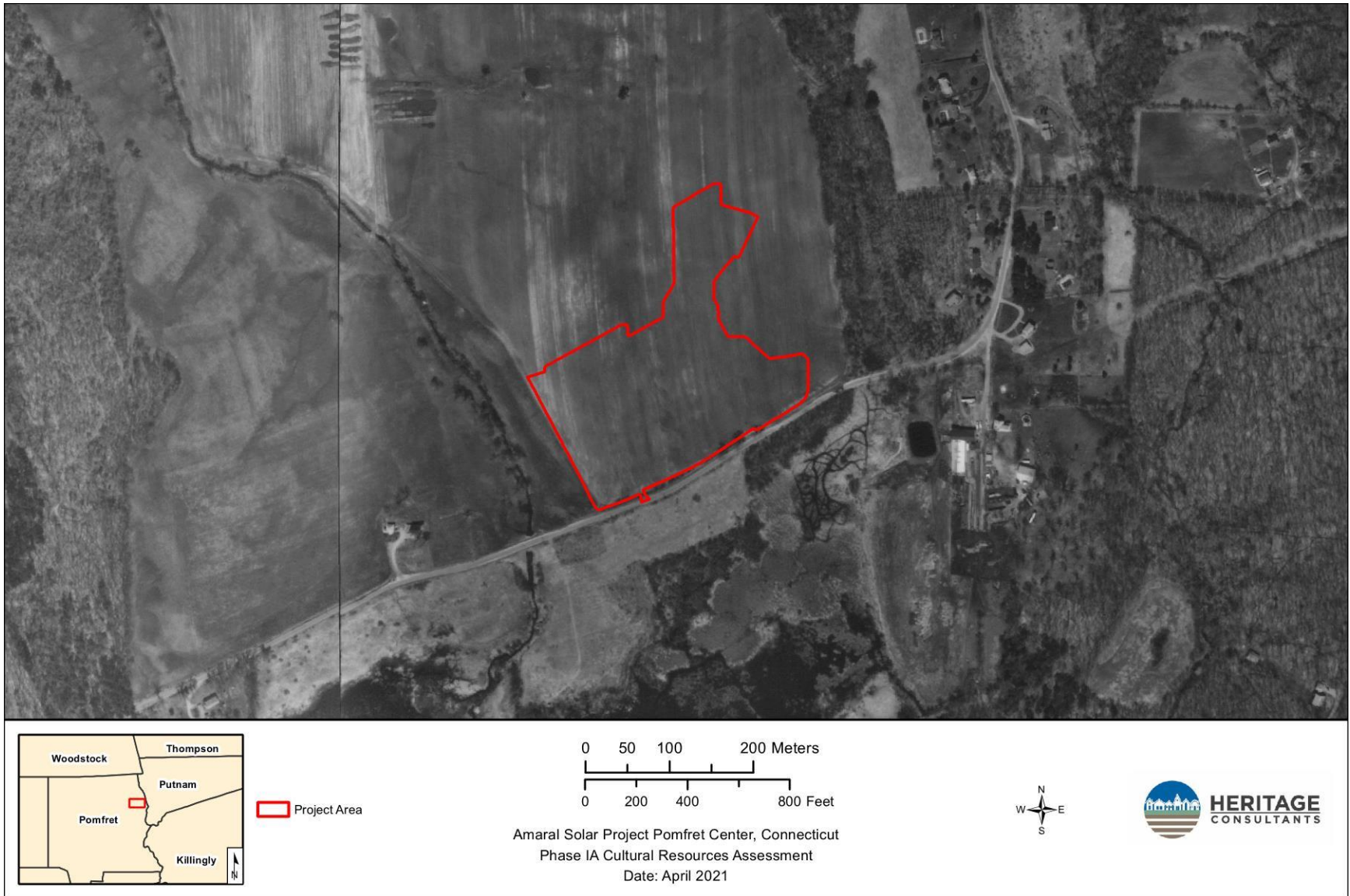


Figure 8. Excerpt from a 1996 aerial photograph showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.

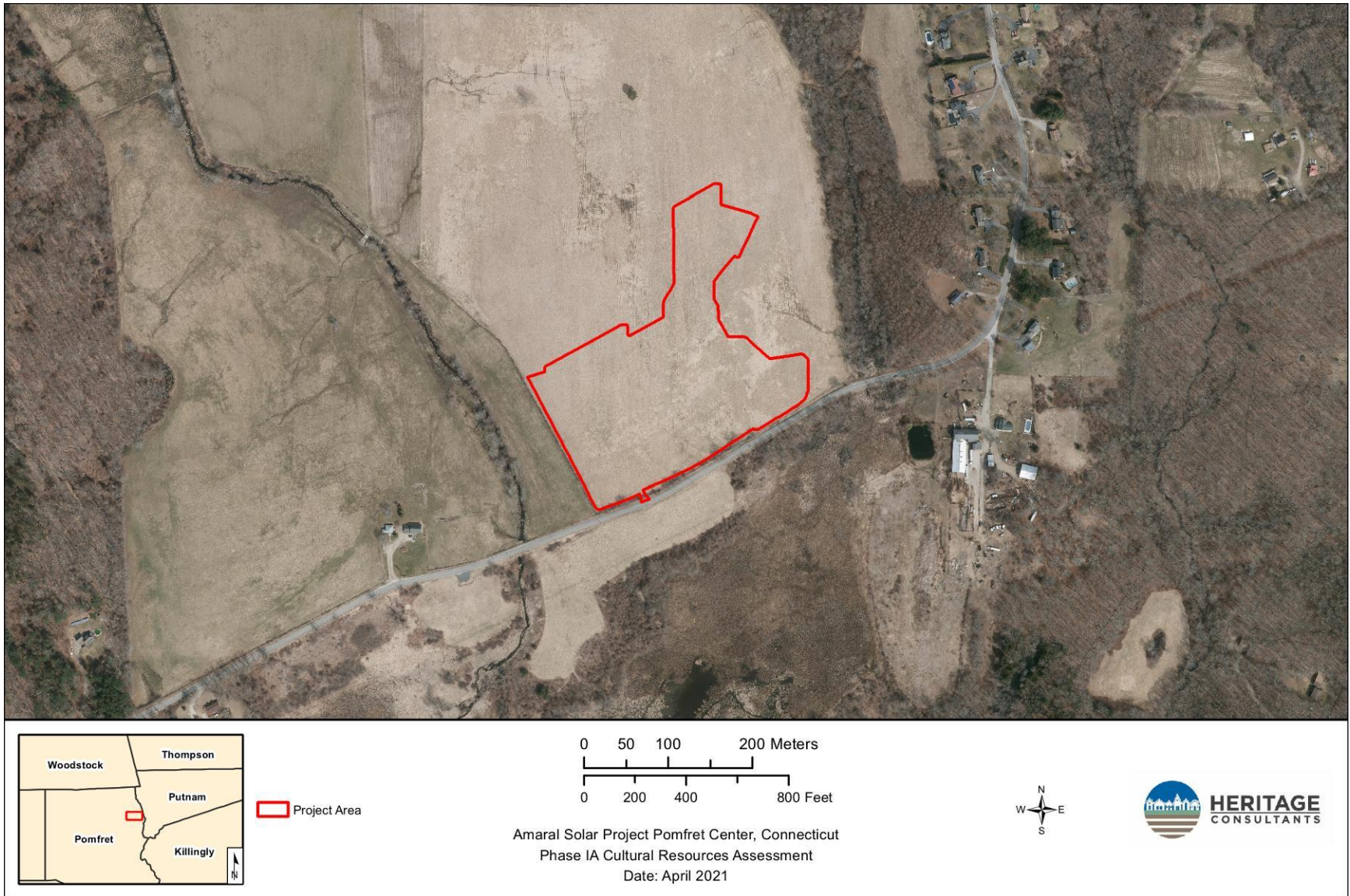


Figure 9. Excerpt from a 2019 aerial photograph showing the location of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



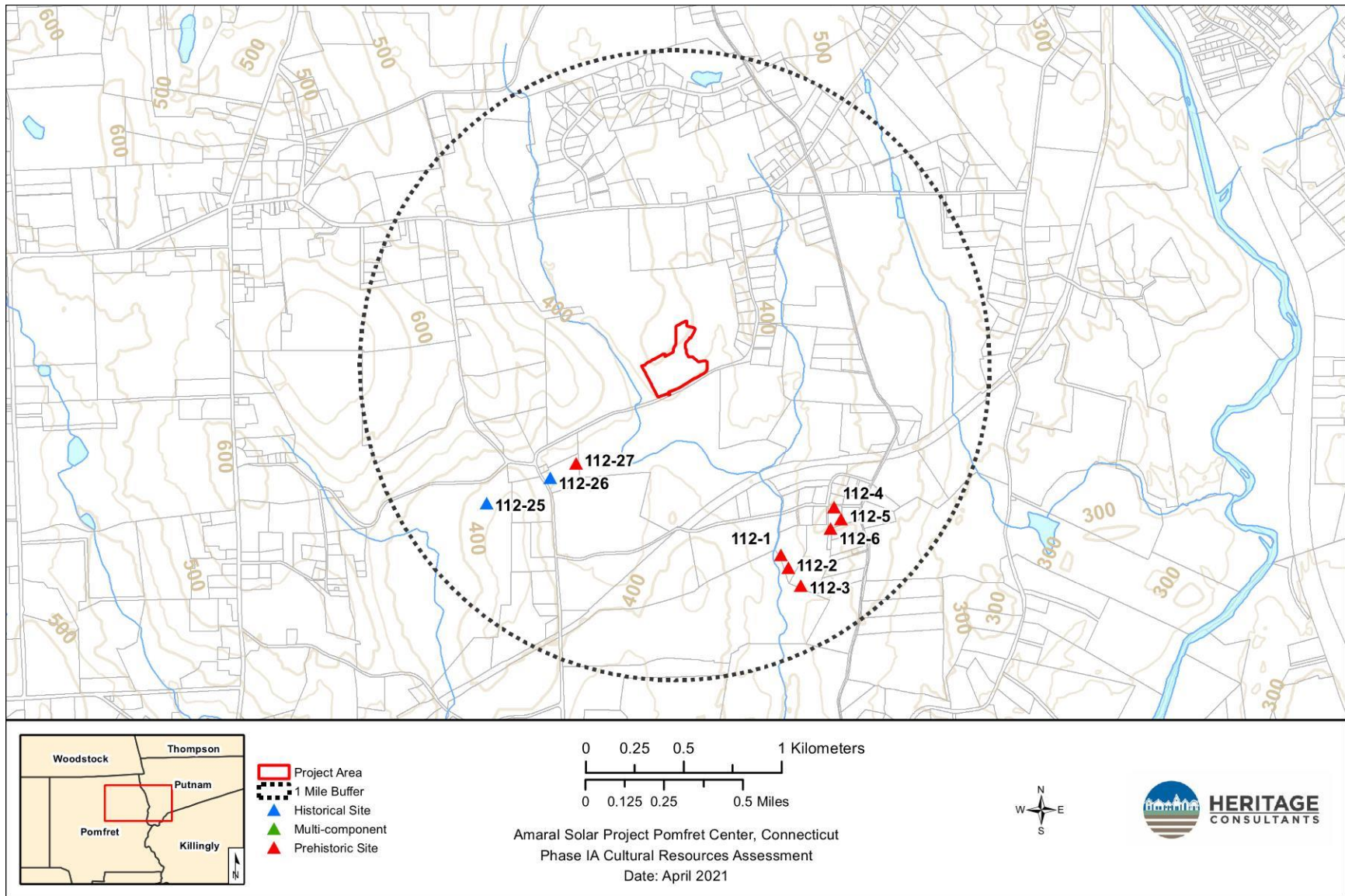


Figure 10. Digital map showing the location of previously identified archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.

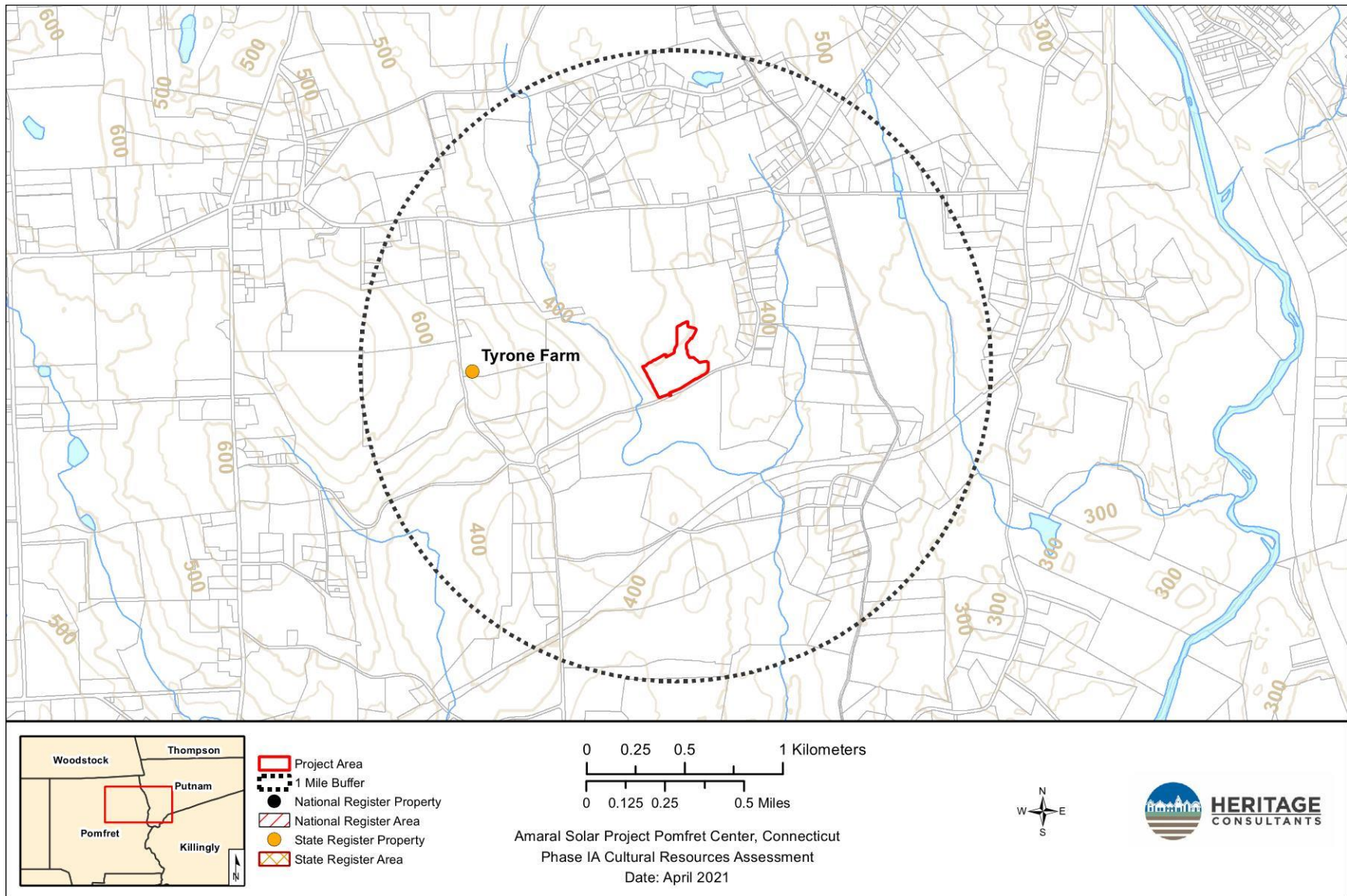


Figure 11. Digital map depicting the locations of previously identified National/State Register of Historic Places properties and inventoried Historic Standing Structures in the vicinity of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut.



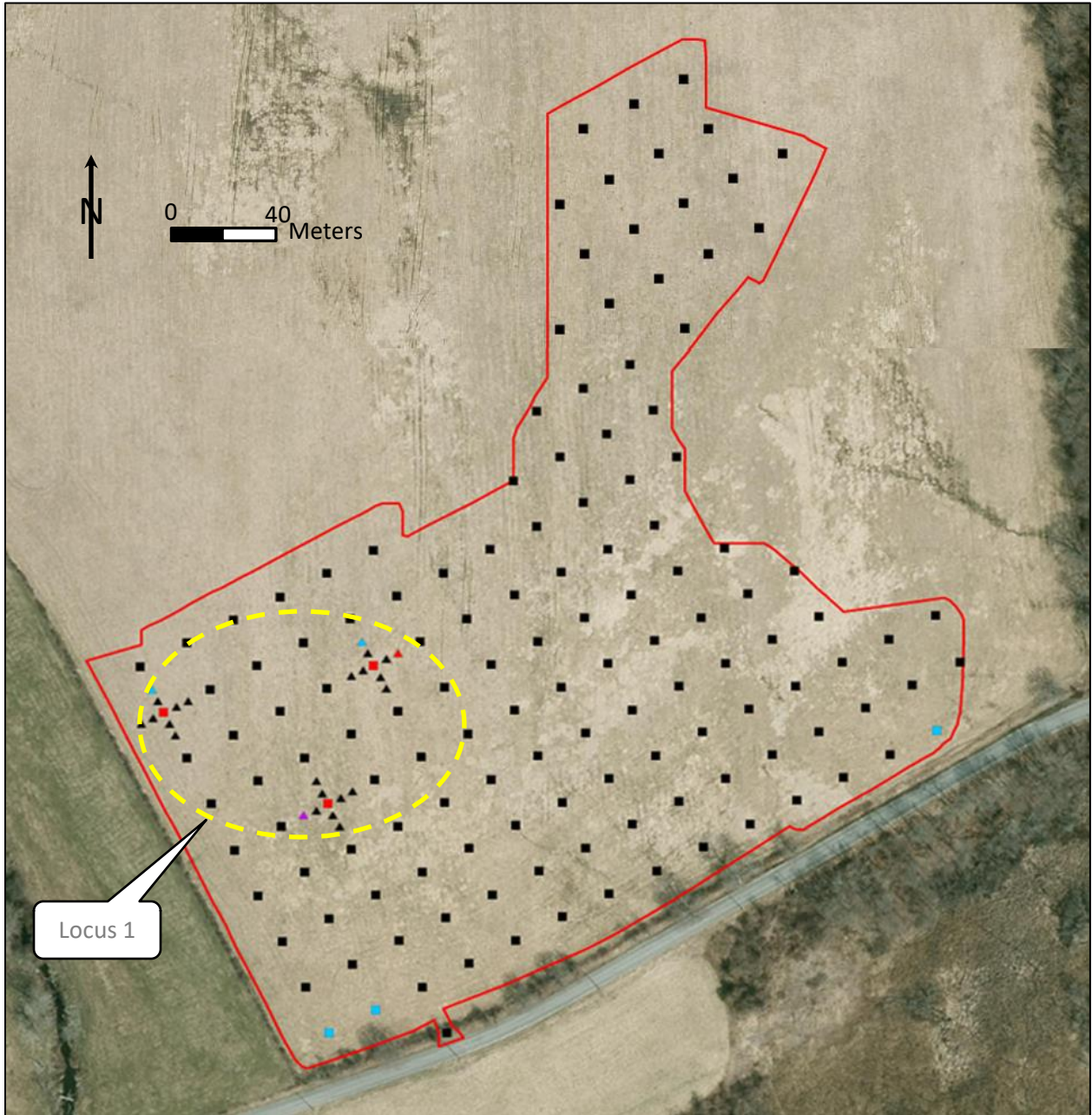


Figure 12. Plan view of the proposed Project area showing the locations of shovel tests, Locus 1, and the scatter of historical artifacts.



Figure 13. Overview photo from southeastern corner of project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing southwest.



Figure 14. Overview photo from southwestern corner of project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing northeast showing Locus 1.





Figure 15. Overview photo from northern boundary of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing southeast.



Figure 16. Overview photo from the northwest portion of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing southeast.





Figure 17. Overview photo from center of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing west.



Figure 18. Overview photo from center of the project area in Pomfret, Connecticut. Photo taken facing east.