



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

May 17, 2022

Ms. Jennifer Young Gaudet  
All-Points Technology Corp., PC  
567 Vauxhall Street Extension, Suite 311  
Waterford, CT 06385

Subject: Preliminary Archaeological Assessment  
Fuel Cell Facility  
Old Amston Road  
Colchester, Connecticut  
ENV-22-0738

Dear Ms. Gaudet:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the preliminary archaeological assessment prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated March 28, 2022. The proposed activities are under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council and are subject to review by this office pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). The proposed undertaking includes the construction of a fuel cell facility, which is to occupy an approximately five acre area to the south of Old Amston Road. Access is to be from the north, through a proposed gravel drive. The submitted report is well-written, comprehensive, and meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

No previously recorded archaeological sites are located within 0.5 miles of the project area. Similarly, no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) are located within 0.5 miles of the project area. One property listed on the State Register of Historic Places is located within 0.5 miles of the project area: the Zagray Sawmill, at 544 Amston Road; however, it will not be impacted by the proposed undertaking. To the east of the project area is a portion of the Air Line Trail, which has not been fully evaluated for eligibility; however, it will not be impacted by the proposed facility.

The preliminary assessment included review of soil maps, GIS data, historical mapping, aerial photos, and pedestrian survey of the project area. Soil profiles are identified as Udorthents/Urban Land, characterized by periods of cutting/filling. Site history indicates that the property was

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undeveloped until the 1970, when it was being used as an auto salvage yard. Following a pedestrian survey, it was determined that the project area had been previously disturbed. These site characteristics indicate that the area has a low potential to contain significant, intact archaeological deposits.

As a result of the information submitted, SHPO concurs with the findings of the report that additional archeological investigation of the project area is not warranted and that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed activities. However, please be advised that if construction plans change to include previously uninvestigated/undisturbed areas, this office should be contacted for additional consultation.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. For additional information, please contact Marena Wisniewski, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2357 or [marena.wisniewski@ct.gov](mailto:marena.wisniewski@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Kinney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jonathan Kinney  
State Historic Preservation Officer

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March 28, 2022

Ms. Jennifer Young Gaudet  
All-Points Technology Corporation  
567 Vauxhall Street Extension – Suite 311  
Waterford, Connecticut 06385

**RE: Preliminary Archaeological Assessment of a Proposed Fuel Cell Development Project Along Old Amston Road in Colchester, Connecticut**

Ms. Gaudet:

Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), is pleased to have this opportunity to provide All-Points Technology Corporation (All-Points) with the following preliminary archaeological assessment of a proposed fuel cell development project along Old Amston Road in Colchester, Connecticut (Figure 1). The current project entailed completion of a cultural resources summary based on the examination of data obtained from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (CT-SHPO), as well as GIS data, including historical mapping, aerial photographs, and topographic quadrangles, maintained by Heritage. This investigation is based upon project location information provided to Heritage by All-Points. The objectives of this study were to gather and present data regarding previously identified cultural resources situated within 0.8 km (0.5 mi) of the proposed fuel cell development and to investigate the proposed project area in terms of its natural and historical characteristics so that the need for completing additional cultural resources investigations could be evaluated.

Figure 2, which is a map excerpt dating from 1854, shows that the region containing the proposed fuel cell development parcel was only sparsely developed during the nineteenth century with the nearest residence belonging to J. S. Lewis. Other nearby residences nearby included those belonging to I. Fullmore, H. Foote, and G. Clark, but none of them was located within the project area. The 1854 map also shows that a well-developed road network also was in place by that time, but that the project area probably consisted of an outlying and unused parcel of land. A subsequent historic map dating from 1868 shows that road network had no changed appreciably by that time (Figure 3). Again, the project area consisted of an undeveloped parcel of land with no buildings or residence noted in the immediate vicinity.

The earliest readily available aerial image of the region containing the proposed fuel cell development parcel dates from 1934 (Figure 4). The image shows that the project region was still sparsely developed; however, a railroad had been constructed to the east. The surrounding area was mostly characterized by forest and wetland, with cleared areas to the west. The subsequent 1951 aerial photo of the project region shows the project area in essentially the same state (Figure 5). It appears that a utility corridor has been cleared to the northeast during the middle of the twentieth century. A 1970 aerial photo shows the project area as cleared, with a large number of vehicles parked on the land; it appears that the project area was used as a junk yard during the second half of the twentieth century (Figure 6). The 1990 aerial photo shows continued use of the project area as a junk yard, with very little change in nearby development and vegetation (Figure 7). Finally, Figure 8, an aerial image dating from 2019,

shows the project area in its modern state. The junk yard had been abandoned by then and most of the land containing the project area is open and is no vegetated.

A review of previously recorded cultural resources on file with the CT-SHPO revealed that there are no previously identified archaeological sites or National Register of Historic Places properties located within 0.8 km (0.5 mi) of the proposed fuel cell development location (Figures 3 and 4). The only State Register of Historic Places property situated within 0.8 km (0.5 mi) of the proposed fuel cell development is known as the Zagray Sawmill; it is discussed below.

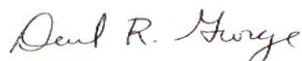
#### Zagray Sawmill

Zagray Sawmill is a State Register of Historic Places property located in Colchester Connecticut. It is located at 544 Amston Road (Route 85), Colchester and it is part of the Zagray Farm Museum. The Zagray Farm Museum encompasses nearly 200 acres of land, which is a combination of woodlands, fields, and a large marsh. There are several original buildings which include not only the sawmill but also the Zagray family homestead, a dairy barn, a machine shop, a foundry, and various sheds. The sawmill was built in 1873. Today, the Zagray Farm Museum is operated by the Quinebaug Valley Engineers Association, Inc. This resource will not be impacted by the construction of the fuel cell project.

Soils located within the project area are described as belonging to the Udorthents-Urban Land Complex (306). The Udorthents-Urban Land Complex consists of moderately, well drained, to excessively drained soils that have been disturbed by cutting or filling, as well as areas that are covered by buildings and pavement. Udorthents are found in areas that have been cut to a depth of 0.6 m (2 ft) or more or are within areas with more than 0.6 m (2 ft) of fill. Udorthents consist primarily of moderately coarse textured soil material and a few small areas of medium textured material. In some areas fill has been used to build up recreational areas and highways. These soils have no depositional integrity or archaeological sensitivity. This was confirmed during a review of the property, which shows that it is largely disturbed (Photos 1 through 3).

Based on the background research and the current condition of the project area, it is the professional opinion of Heritage Consultants, LLC that no additional archaeological examination of the project area is recommended. If you have any questions regarding this Technical Memorandum, or if we may be of additional assistance with this or any other projects you may have, please do not hesitate to call us at 860-299-6328. or email us [info@heritage-consultants.com](mailto:info@heritage-consultants.com). We are at your service.

Sincerely,



David R. George, M.A., R.P.A





Figure 1. Excerpt from a USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle image showing the location of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.





Figure 2. Excerpt from an 1854 historic map showing the location of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.





Figure 3. Excerpt from an 1868 historic map showing the location of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.



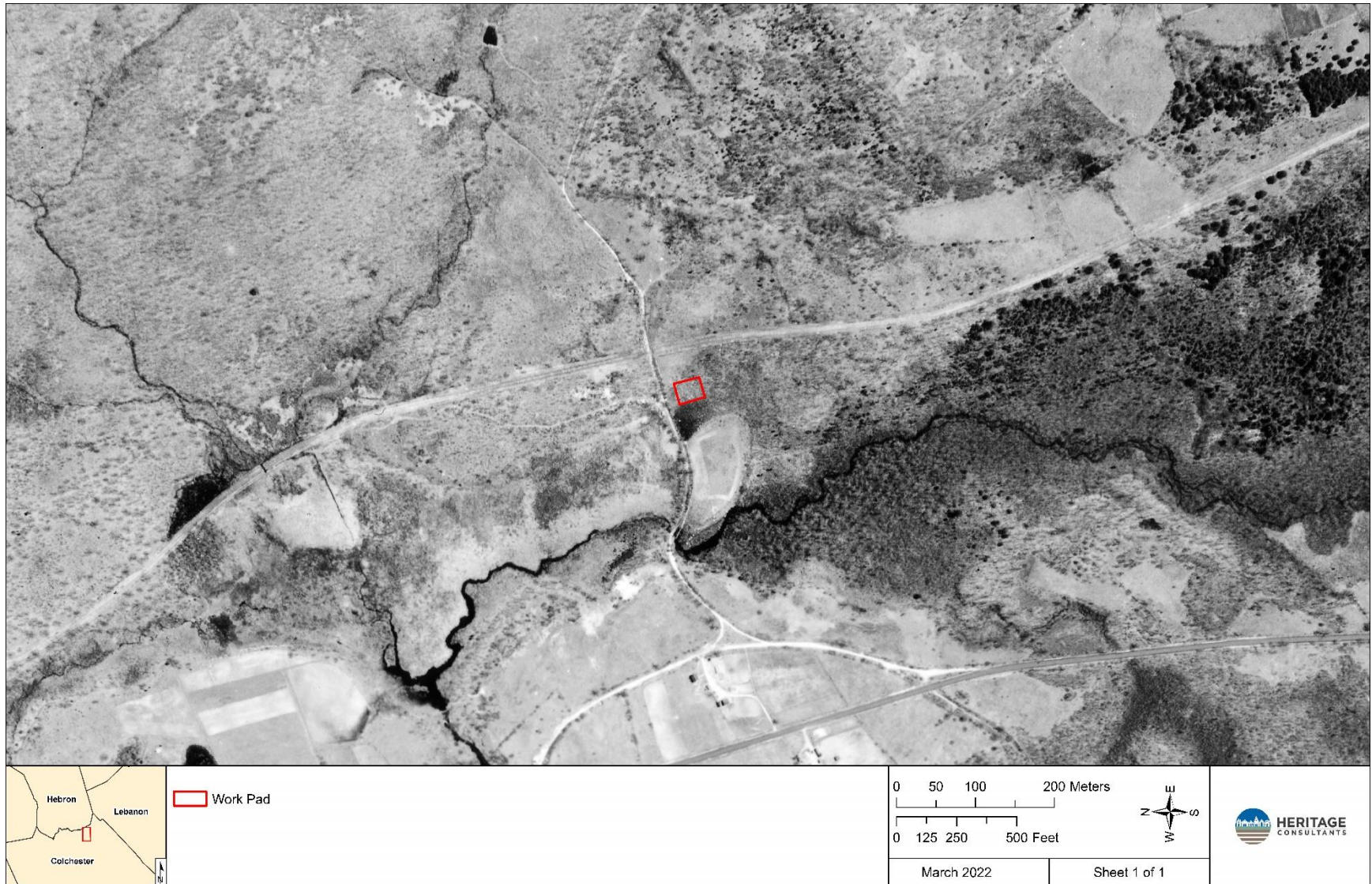


Figure 4. Excerpt from a 1934 aerial photograph showing the location of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.





Figure 5. Excerpt from a 1951 aerial photograph showing the location of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.



Figure 6. Excerpt from a 1970 aerial photograph showing the location of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.





Figure 7. Excerpt from a 1990 aerial photograph showing the location of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.





Figure 8. Excerpt from a 2019 aerial photograph showing the location of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.



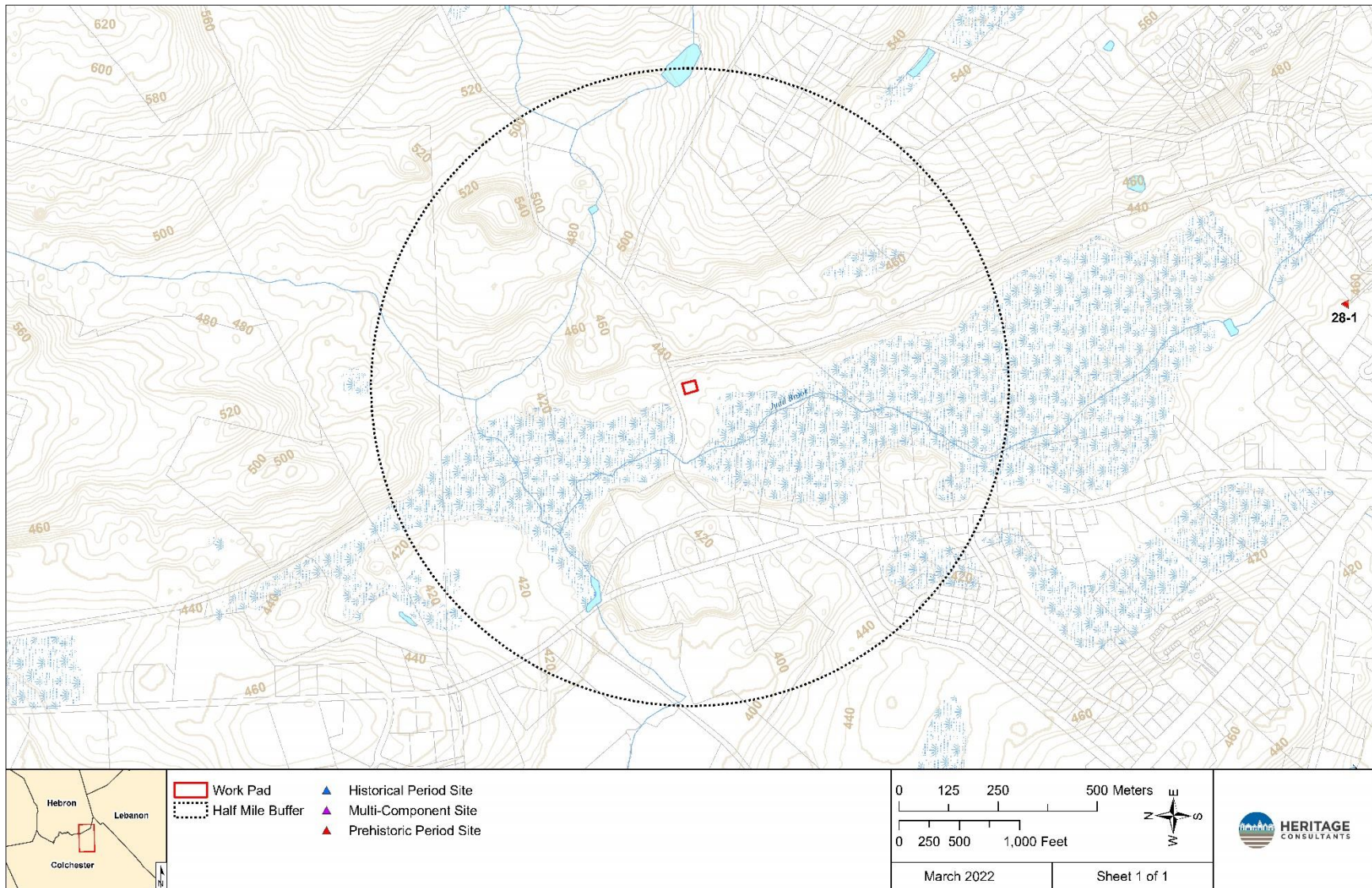


Figure 9. Digital map showing the location of previously identified archaeological sites in the vicinity of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.



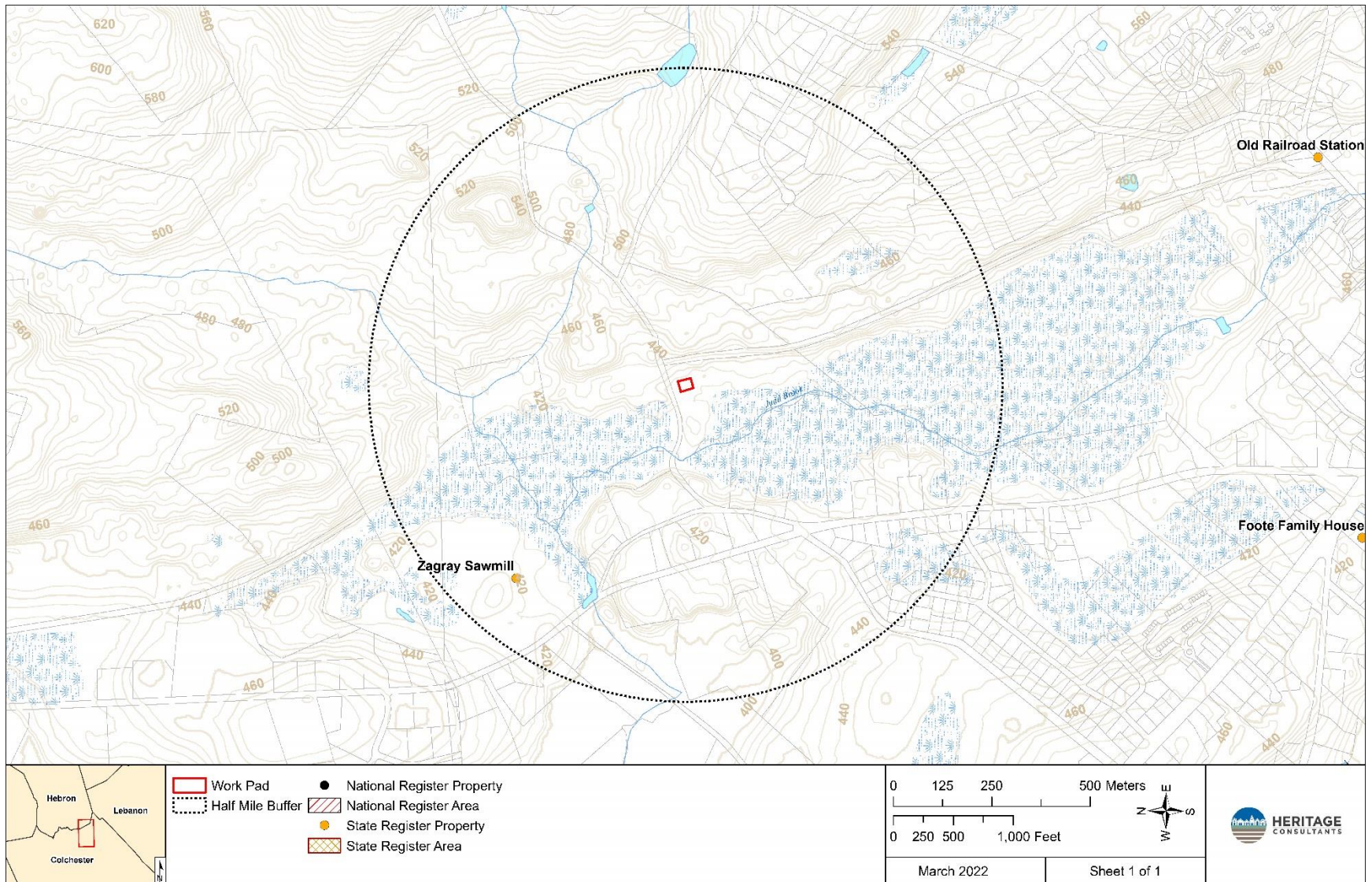


Figure 10. Digital map depicting the locations of previously identified National/State Register of Historic Places properties in the vicinity of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.



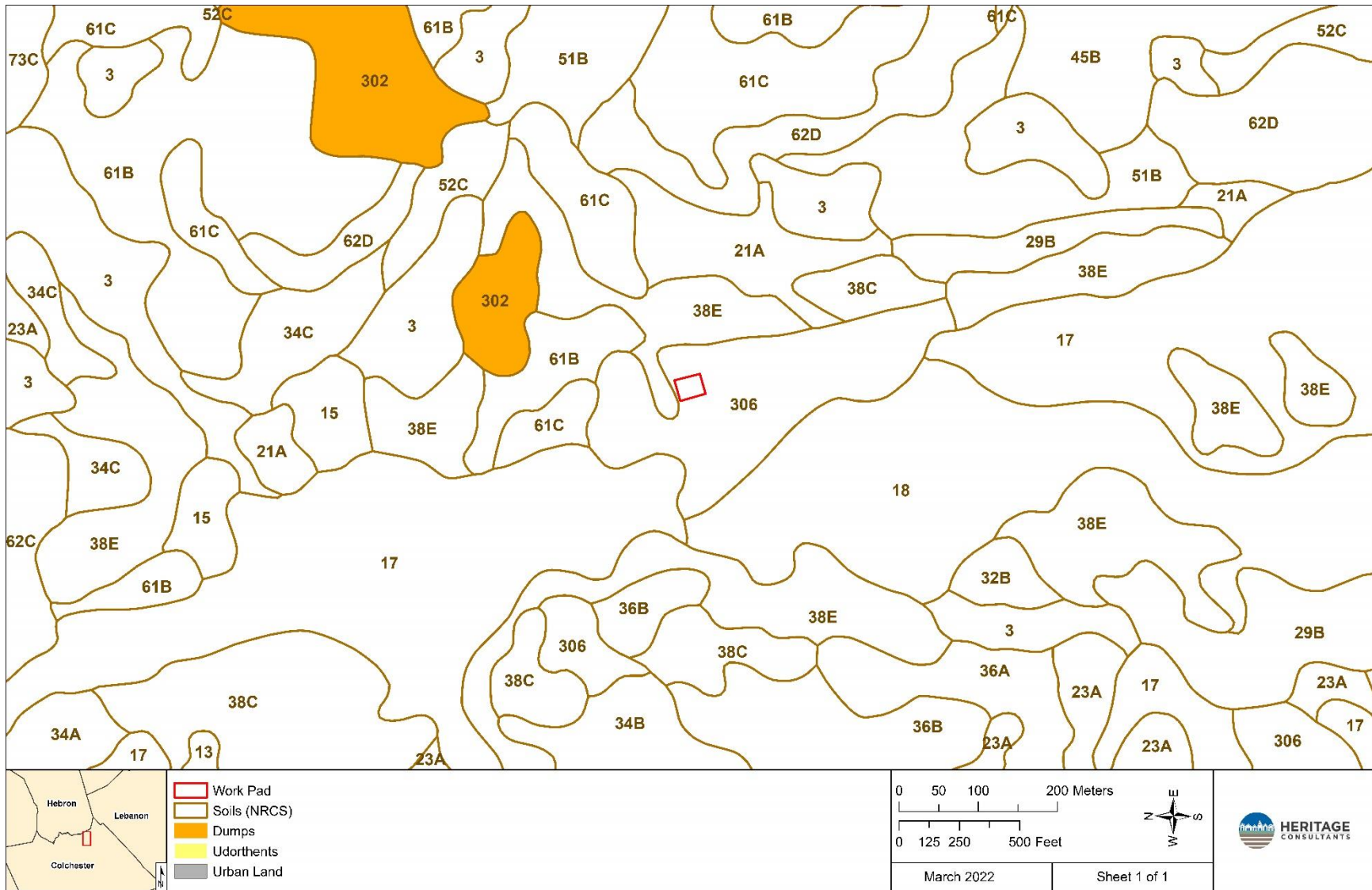


Figure 11. Map of soils located in the vicinity of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.



Photo 1. Overview photo of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.





Photo 2. Overview photo of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.



Photo 3. Overview photo of the fuel cell development parcel in Colchester, Connecticut.