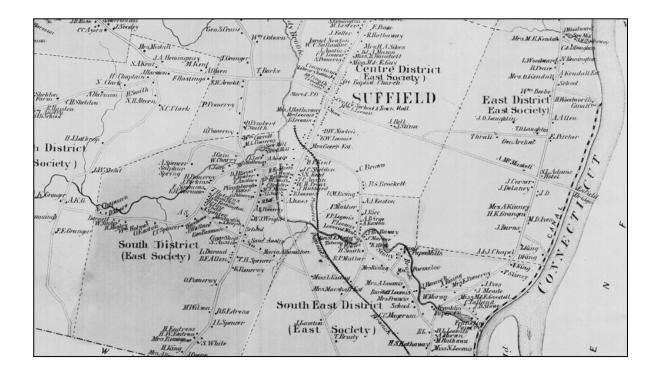
Appendix D: Cultural Resources



Phase Ia Archaeological Assessment Survey Proposed Solar Photovoltaic Array Spencer Street Town of Suffield, Connecticut

June, 2023



ACS

Phase Ia Archaeological Assessment Survey Proposed Solar Photovoltaic Array Spencer Street Town of Suffield, Connecticut

by

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June, 2023

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Abstract

This report contains the results of a Phase Ia archaeological assessment survey conducted by ACS (Archaeological Consulting Services) during the months of May to June, 2023. The project calls for an evaluation of potential cultural resources to be affected by the construction of a solar farm on a property that measures about 12 acres in Suffield, Connecticut. The project property consists of one lot on the south side of Spencer Street in south-central Suffield in the Suffield Depot part of town. The project is being coordinated by Solli Engineering, a civil engineering firm based in Monroe, Connecticut. Solli supplied site plans which show the proposed development and existing conditions. The project is subject to review by the Connecticut Siting Council and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Background research indicates a low sensitivity for potential prehistoric cultural resources, with a statistical prehistoric landscape sensitivity model developed and utilized by ACS indicating a high score of only 5.9 out of a potential 100.0, and therefore within the low sensitivity range (0-20). The low score can be attributed to rocky soil contexts and considerable distance to the nearest major water source, which is Spencer Brook about one-quarter mile to the west. The property bears a higher sensitivity for historic cultural resources, given its location on Spencer Street that was occupied during the 19th century or earlier.

Land records and historic maps indicate the presence of a substantial Spencer family occupation to the west of the project property on Hale Street near its intersection with Spencer Street, with other Spencer family homes along Spencer Street to the north and east. The property just west of the project area contained a substantial cluster of outbuildings, including a "warehouse" on historic maps that likely relates to tobacco farming in the area. One of the lesser outbuildings was a shed located at the northwest corner of the project property, mostly outside the bounds of the project area according to a late historic survey map. Because of the possibility that previous historic occupations could have been located elsewhere on Spencer Street, and the known existence of the late historic outbuildings at or near the northwest corner of the project property, ACS recommends a Phase Ib archaeological reconnaissance survey, limited to an area within 300 feet of Spencer Street and within the project impact area, prior to any construction activities and subject to review by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Project Summary

Project Name: Proposed Solar Photovoltaic Array, Spencer Street, Suffield, Connecticut.

Project Purpose: To investigate possible cultural resources which may be impacted by the construction of a solar farm in Suffield, Connecticut, in compliance with requirements of the Connecticut Siting Council and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

Project Funding: The Nevar Company, Cheshire, Connecticut.

Project Location: Spencer Street, Suffield, Connecticut.

Project Size: ~11.7 acres.

Investigation Type: Phase Ia archaeological assessment survey.

Investigation Methods: Background research, pedestrian surface survey.

Dates of Investigation: May to June, 2023.

Performed by: ACS (Archaeological Consulting Services), 118 Whitfield Street, Guilford, Connecticut 06437, (203) 458-0550 (telephone), (203) 672-2442 (fax), acsinfo@yahoo.com.

Principal Investigators: Gregory F. Walwer, Ph.D. and Dorothy N. Walwer, M.A.

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Connecticut Office of State Archaeology (Dr. Sarah Sportman, State Archaeologist), University of Connecticut, 354 Mansfield Road, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-1176, (860) 486-5248.

Reviewing Agency:

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (Catherine Labadia, Staff Archaeologist), 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut 06103, (860) 500-2329.

Recommendations: Phase Ib archaeological reconnaissance survey of areas to be impacted within 300 feet of Spencer Street.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Project Description

This report provides the results of a Phase Ia archaeological assessment survey conducted by ACS for the planned development of a solar voltaic array, or solar farm, in Suffield, Hartford County, Connecticut. The owner of the property is The Nevar Company of Cheshire, Connecticut. The project is located within a single lot, listed with the Suffield tax assessor as Lot 59 on Tax Map 30, Block 25, measuring 11.7 acres. The project area itself is limited to the bulk of the lot which contains a cleared farm field. The project area is in southern Suffield, in the Suffield Depot part of town. The project property contains no existing structures.

ACS was contacted by Solli Engineering, a civil engineering firm based in Monroe, Connecticut to conduct the archaeological assessment survey for the project. Solli supplied ACS with a survey map, indicating that the survey was likely required for review by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Connecticut Siting Council. The survey map shows existing conditions, including topography and wetlands, as well as the location of the proposed development.

ACS conducted the assessment survey in conformance with the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut Archaeological Resources* issued by SHPO. The assessment survey evaluated the potential need, if any, for a Phase Ib archaeological reconnaissance survey. The archaeological assessment survey consisted of a thorough background research effort and pedestrian surface survey to evaluate the potential sensitivity of the project area for any prehistoric and/or historic cultural resources, with SHPO to serve as review agency for the final report.

CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the Town of Suffield, Hartford County, Connecticut. The project setting is in the North-Central Lowlands (III-B) ecoregion of Connecticut (Dowhan and Craig 1976). The project area lies in the southern part of Suffield in the Suffield Depot section of town, to the west of Route 72 and to the north of Bradley International Airport. The parcel is undeveloped other than the farm field in the bulk of the lot where the solar array will be based (Figure 1).

Underlying bedrock is a massive unit of Portland Arkose (Jp), a Jurassic formation on the order of 210 to 150 million years old (Rodgers 1985). The arkose unit is a sedimentary formation that resulted from the failure of a tectonic rift forming the central lowlands of the state. Bedrock dips are modest, on the order of 10 to 15 degrees to the east. The property is set on a glacial moraine setting (Stone et al. 1992), with a core taken from a nearby moraine revealing 42 feet of till above bedrock. Elevations in the project area vary from about 180 feet above mean sea level in the northwest corner to about 150 feet above mean sea level in the southeast corner, with a gentle slope from northwest to southeast (Figure 2). The project is set within an open farm field part of the property that contains some scrub growth in the western part of the property. There are no wetlands within the project area, which is set within the broader Stony Brook (#4100) drainage basin (McElroy 1991). Spencer Brook is a perennial stream tributary of Stony Brook that courses north and empties into Stony Brook about one-quarter mile to the west, while Stony Brook flows east and empties into the Connecticut River several miles to the east.

The moraine supporting the project area is dominated by soil units of Broadbrook silt loam (82B / 82C) (Figure 3) (Shearin and Hill 1962; USDA NRCS websoil survey 2023). Typical soil profiles for Broadbrook silt loams include a surface layer of brown to dark brown (10YR 4/3 - 3/3) silt loam eight inches thick, followed by subsoil layers of silt loam (dark brown 7.5YR 4/4 silt loam to 18 inches and yellowish brown 10YR 5/4 and yellowish brown with gray streaks) to about two feet below the surface, and a substratum of reddish brown (5YR 4/4) and dark reddish brown (5YR3/4) compact and gravelly loam to four feet deep or more. The well drained soil has a high moisture capacity and is slow to dry out, thus it is suitable for growing crops. The moraine supporting the project area is flanked by wetter soils of poorly drained Scitico, Shaker, and Maybrid units (9).

Figure 1: Map of the Project Area

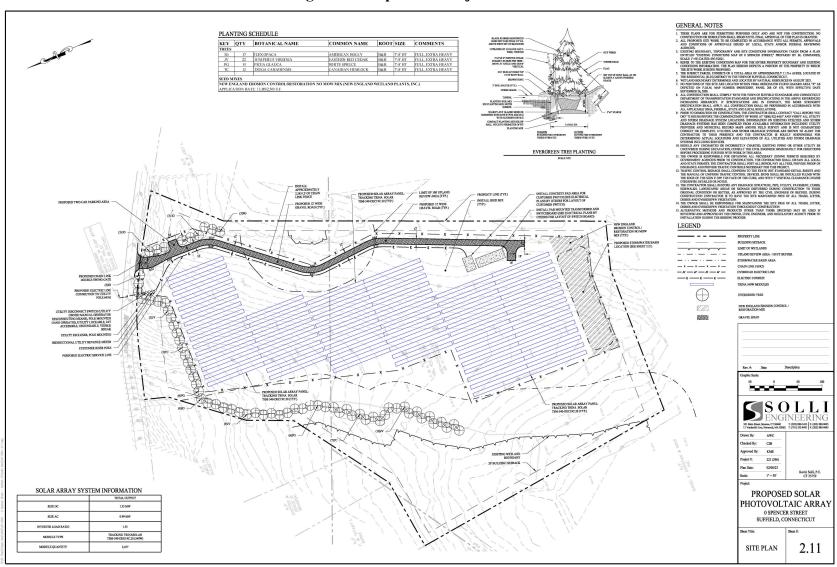


Figure 1: Map of the project area, from site plans drafted by Solli Engineering. Scale 1:2,400 (1" = 200').

Figure 2: USGS 7.5' Topographic Map, Windsor Locks Quadrangle

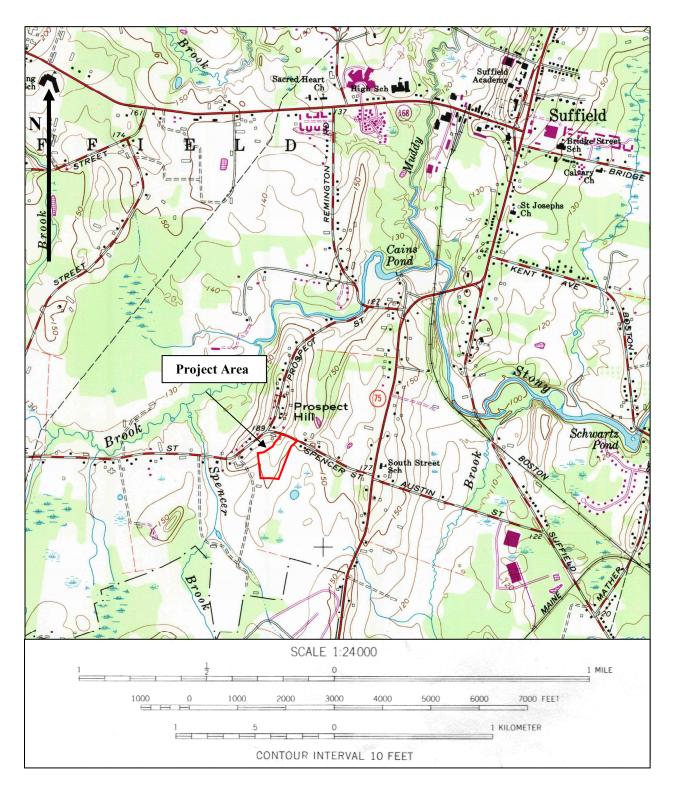


Figure 2: From USGS 1984.

Figure 3: USDA Websoil Survey Map

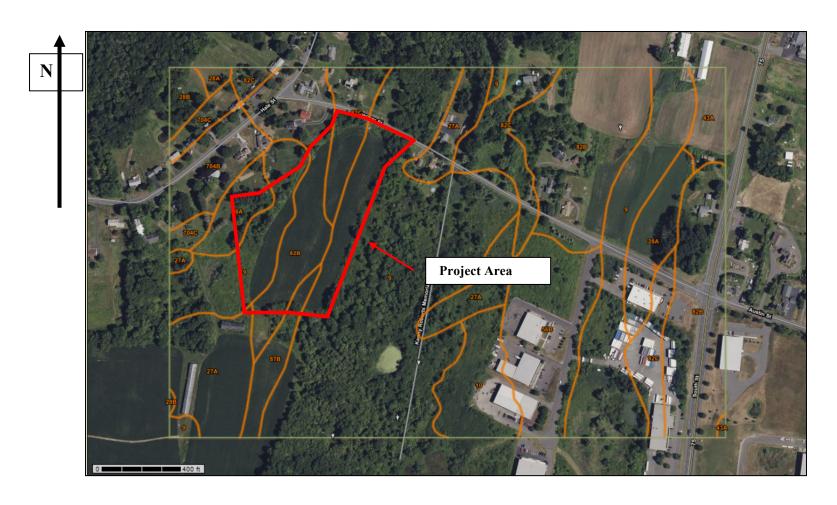


Figure 3: From USDA NRCS websoil survey.

Cultural Setting

Regional Prehistory

The prehistory of the project region and New England in general can be broadly divided into periods reflecting changes in environment, Native American subsistence and settlement patterns, and the material culture which is preserved in the archaeological record (Table 1). Although it remains controversial today, the conservative estimates for the first occupations of North America are about 18,000 to 15,000 years ago, just after the maximum extent of the last glaciation and the broadest extent of the Bering land bridge (Kehoe 1981:7; Parker 1987:4; Jennings 1989:52). Southern Connecticut itself remained glaciated until about 15,200 B.P. (Snow 1980:103; Gordon 1983:71; Parker 1987:5; McWeeney 1994:181, 1999:6).

Paleo-Indian

The Paleo-Indian period is documented in Connecticut after 13,000 years ago and extends to roughly 9,500 B.P. (Swigart 1974; Snow 1980:101; Lavin 1984:7; Moeller 1984, 1999). The earliest radiocarbon date in Connecticut was secured recently at the Brian D. Jones site, at about 12,500 B.P. (Leslie and Sportman 2020). An unpublished date of 12,600 B.P. was also obtained from the site (Sportman pers. comm. 2022). This was a period of climatic amelioration from full glacial conditions, and a rise in sea levels which fell short of inundating the continental shelf. It was during this time that tundra vegetation was replaced by patches of boreal forests dominated by spruce trees (Snow 1980:114; Parker 1987:5-6), and eventually white pine and several pioneering deciduous genera (McWeeney 1994:182, 1999:7). Early in the period, the environment was conducive to the existence of large herbivores and, although a low population density of humans who procured these animals as a major subsistence resourcewarming temperatures and denser forests contributed to their extinction. The projected social and settlement patterns are those of small bands of semi-nomadic or restricted wandering people who hunted mammoth, mastodon, bison, elk, caribou, musk ox, and several smaller mammals (Ritchie 1969:10-11; Snow 1980:117-120). Episodes of sparse vegetation during this period encouraged the use of high lookout points over hollows and larger valleys by people in pursuit of large game. The southern part of New England had an earlier recovery from glacial conditions when compared to areas to the north, however, with a higher density of vegetation that might have precluded Paleo-Indians of Connecticut from focussing heavily on the larger mammals (McWeeney 1994:182).

The cultural material associated with this period includes large to medium-sized, fluted projectile points (cf. Clovis), in addition to knives, drills, pieces esquillees and gravers, scrapers, perforators, awls, abraders, spokeshaves, retouched pieces, utilized flakes, and hammerstones (Wilbur 1978:5; Snow 1980:122-127; Moeller 1980). Although numerous finds from this period have been found in Connecticut, only a few, small *in situ* sites exist throughout the state. Finds tend to be located near very large streams in the lower Connecticut River Valley, and in rockshelters of other regions (McBride 1981). A survey performed by the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut resulted in the documentation of 53 Paleo-Indian "find spots" in Connecticut (Bellantoni and Jordan 1995), while a more updated research survey indicates up to 72 locations and sites (Bouchard 2014). Many more sites have likely been eradicated by rising sea levels since the Paleoindian period (Anderson 2001).

Early Archaic

The Early Archaic period lasted from approximately 9,500 B.P. to 7,500 B.P. (Snow 1980:159; Lavin 1984:9; Moeller 1984). Sea levels and temperatures continued to rise during this period as denser stands of forests dominated by pine and various deciduous species replaced the vegetation of the former period (Davis 1969:418-419; Snow 1980:114; Parker 1987:9; McWeeney 1994:184-185, 1999:8-9). This environmental change was rapid and caused a major shift in the animals it supported, including deer, moose, other small to medium-sized mammals, migratory birds, fish, and shellfish. The material culture changed along with the environmental conditions to include the atlatl and smaller stemmed and bifurcated projectile points (Stanly, cf. Kanawha and Lecroy) for procuring smaller, faster game in more closed settings (Wilbur 1978:6-7). The expanded tool set included choppers and anvil stones. Settlement patterns were probably becoming more territorialized towards a central-based wandering character (Snow 1980:171; see also Forrest 1999). The Early Archaic period is poorly represented in Connecticut and the lower coastal river valleys, probably resulting from a combined effect of low population densities in response to rapidly changing environmental conditions, as well as site location and preservation factors (Snow 1980:168; McBride 1981; McBride and Dewar 1981:45; Lavin 1984:9; McWeeney 1986; see also Forrest 1999).

Middle Archaic

The Middle Archaic period extended from approximately 7,500 B.P. to 6,000 B.P. (Snow 1980:173; Lavin 1984:9; McBride 1984; Jones 1999). It was by the end of this period of increased warming that sea levels and coastal configurations had stabilized and approached their present conditions (Kehoe 1981:211; Gordon 1983:82; Parker 1987:9). The period is marked by the establishment of forests with increasing proportions of deciduous hardwoods in relation to the pine predecessors in Connecticut (Davis 1969; Snow 1980:114; McWeeney 1999:10). The material culture included square or contracting-stemmed points (Neville, Stark, and Merrimac), semi-lunar groundstone knives, ground and winged banner stones for atlatls, plummets for nets, gouges, denticulates, perforators, percussed celts and adzes and grooved axes for woodworking (Snow 1980:183-184), as well as tools used in previous periods. This more extensive range of material culture indicates a broader subsistence base than in previous periods, including greater fish and shellfish procurement (Wilbur 1978:8; Snow 1980:178-182) which was associated with the stabilization of sea levels towards the end of the period. The increased breadth of subsistence resources had the effect of increasing scheduling efforts and may have caused settlement patterns to take on more of a central-based or seasonally circulating pattern with bands joining and dispersing on a seasonal basis (Snow 1980:183). Sites found in the lower Connecticut River Valley region suggest that a wider range of environments and associated site types were exploited, including both large and special task sites in upland areas (McBride 1981, 1984:56). This regional pattern may confirm the suggested settlement pattern of central-based, seasonally circulating or restricted circulating groups of people supported by logistical procurement sites throughout the state. Middle Archaic sites are fairly rare in Connecticut, again a combined product of rising sea levels and poor site preservation (see Forrest 1999).

Late Archaic

The Late Archaic period ranged from approximately 6,000 B.P. to 3,700 B.P. (Snow 1980:187; Lavin 1984:11; McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1984; Cassedy 1999). This period is marked by a warm-dry maximum evident from pollen cores in the region (Davis 1969:414; Ogden 1977). Hardwood, oak-dominated forests very similar in character to ones established today covered most of Connecticut by the Late Archaic (Parker 1987:10). The Late Archaic in Connecticut has been divided into two traditions: the Laurentian and the Narrow Point (Lavin 1984:11), with the former perhaps being distributed more in the interior. The Laurentian tradition is defined by wider-bladed, notched and eared triangular points, and ground slate points and ulus, while the Narrow Point tradition includes smaller, thicker, and narrower points. The tool kit and general material culture became even more expanded during this period, with the advent of ground stone manos, nut mortars, pestles, and bowls, as well as stone pipes, bone tools, corner-notched (Vosburg, Brewerton, and Vestal), side-notched (Otter Creek, Brewerton, Normanskill), smaller narrow-stemmed (Dustin, Lamoka, Squibnocket, and Wading River), and triangular points (Squibnocket, Brewerton, and Beekman), grooved and perforated weights, fish weirs and harpoons, and decorative gorgets (Wilbur 1978:15-24; Snow 1980:228-231). The groundstone material has been inferred as being associated with an increased vegetable diet that consisted of berries, nuts, and seeds (Snow 1980:231; Lavin 1984:13), including acorn, butternut, chestnut, walnut, hickory, bayberry, blackberry, goose foot, cranberry, partridge berry, service berry, strawberry, and swamp current (Cruson 1991:29). Deer continued to be the predominant meat source, although animal remains recovered from archaeological sites in the region include black bear, raccoon, woodchuck, rabbit, otter, gray squirrel, red fox, gray fox, wolf, wild turkey, grouse, pigeon, migratory fowl, and anadromous and freshwater fish and shellfish (Cruson 1991:28-29). Various sea mammals and fish were procured along the coast.

The increasing breadth of the subsistence base and material culture was in turn associated with a central-based settlement pattern in which a restricted range of seasonally scheduled and used areas were exploited in a more semi-sedentary fashion than previously (Lavin 1984:13; Dincauze 1990:25). Sites in the lower Connecticut River Valley suggest that the larger rivers served more as long-term bases within a central-based circulating system than in the Middle Archaic (McBride 1981; McBride and Dewar 1981:48). The interior uplands of Connecticut may have supported a relatively independent set of seasonally circulating groups which used larger wetlands as long-term bases (Wadleigh 1981). Mortuary practices of the time suggest some sedentism for certain groups of people who were buried in specialized secondary cremation cemeteries and who may have had some control over restricted resources (e.g. riparian transportation routes) (Walwer 1996). Although the cremation sites largely include utilitarian funerary objects, some contain non-local materials which suggest trade association with cultures to the west of Connecticut (Walwer 1996).

Terminal Archaic

The Terminal Archaic period extended from approximately 3,700 B.P. to 2,700 B.P., as defined by the Susquehanna and Small-Stemmed traditions (Swigart 1974; Snow 1980:235; Lavin 1984:14; Pfeiffer 1984; Pagoulatos 1988; Cruson 1991; Cassedy 1999). Steatite, or soapstone, was a frequently used material by this time, and could be fashioned into bowls and other objects. The mass, permanency, and labor intensiveness of creating these heavy items have

led to the inference of more sedentary base camps, especially on large rivers where the development of a canoe technology had become fully established and increased the effective catchment area within which groups of people were gathering resources on a continuous basis. The material culture of the period was very similar to the Late Archaic, with a proliferation of stemmed projectile point types including Snook Kill, Bare Island and Poplar Island stemmed points, Orient Fishtail points, Sylvan and Vestal side-notched points, and Susquehanna cornernotched points. The resource base continued to consist of deer and small mammals, nuts, shellfish, turtles, and birds (Snow 1980:249). The first signs of ceramics (Vinette I pottery) tempered with steatite fragments appeared during this period (Lavin 1984:15; Lavin and Kra 1994:37; see also Cassedy 1999:131), and archaeological evidence of trade with other regions becomes more substantial for this time (Pfeiffer 1984:84).

The distribution of sites and site types in the lower Connecticut River Valley during this period suggests that there was a change in settlement to one with fewer, yet larger sites in riverine settings, and associated satellite task-specific sites in the uplands (McBride 1981; McBride and Dewar 1981:49). The implications are less foraging-strategy residential movement and more task-oriented collection activities within a radiating settlement pattern, but probably one in which some degree of seasonal circulation of settlement took place. Pagoulatos (1988) has shown that while sites associated with the Small-Stemmed tradition tend to suggest a more mobile settlement pattern in the interior uplands, sites of the Susquehanna tradition indicate a semi-sedentary collector strategy in major riverine and estuarine environments. At least certain groups exhibited semi-sedentism and some control over restricted resources, as indicated by the elaborate burials of the Terminal Archaic (Walwer 1996). Mortuary practices from the period include secondary cremation interments in formalized cemetery areas, with individual pits containing fragmented utilitarian material from communal cremation areas, as well as highly stylized funerary objects from non-local material (Walwer 1996). The lack of other, less formalized burial types evident in the archaeological record may be a matter of poor preservation, in which case it has been proposed that the cremation cemeteries are representative of a stratified society in which a portion of the people (of the Susquehanna "tradition") were able to generate a surplus economy that supported a semi-sedentary settlement pattern. This surplus may have been generated by the procurement and control over the transportation of steatite from various areas in Connecticut and surrounding territory.

Early Woodland

The Early Woodland period in Connecticut extended from about 2,700 B.P. to 2,000 B.P. (Lavin 1984:17; Juli and McBride 1984; Cruson 1991; Juli 1999). A cooling trend during the Early Woodland (Davis 1969:414; Parker 1987:10; McWeeney 1999:11) is thought to have reduced population sizes and regional ethnic distinction as the hickory nut portion of the resource base was significantly decreased, although the apparent decline in populations may possibly be related to other factors such as the inability to confidently distinguish Early Woodland sites from those of other periods (Filios 1989; Concannon 1993). Climatic deterioration and depopulation are in turn thought to have inhibited the progression towards, and association with, more complex social structures and networks that were developing further to the west and south (Kehoe 1981:215). A proliferation of tobacco pipes may indicate the beginnings of agricultural

efforts in the northeast. The Early Woodland of this region, however, exhibits no direct traces of subsistence crop remains, indicating continuity with previous periods in terms of subsistence practices (Lavin 1984:18).

Materially, the period is marked by a substantial development of a ceramic technology, with the Early Windsor tradition of pottery being dominant in the Early Woodland of Connecticut (Rouse 1980:68; Lavin 1984:17, 1987). Both Early Windsor cord-marked and Linear Dentate ceramic forms were being produced at this time. Diagnostic projectile points can be developmentally traced to indigenous points of previous periods, consisting of many stemmed forms in addition to Meadowood and Fulton side-notched points, Steubenville points, and Adena-Rossville types, but now may have been used in conjunction with the bow and arrow (Lavin 1984:18). Adena-like boatstones are also found in this period. Although rare contact with the Adena culture is evident throughout assemblages of the period, the Early Woodland in southern New England remained a very gradual transitional period (Snow 1980:279,287; Lavin 1984:19).

A heightened use of ceramics has been erroneously promoted as an automatic indication of increased sedentism in many areas. Instead, central-based camps with restricted seasonal encampments appear to be the dominant settlement pattern (Snow 1980:287). Minimal archaeological evidence from the lower Connecticut River Valley appears to suggest a similar settlement pattern to the Terminal Archaic in which large riverine sites served as central bases with upland seasonal dispersal or specific task sites (McBride 1981; McBride and Dewar 1981:49), but with a lesser degree of sedentism. Interior uplands populations also decreased during the Woodland era, perhaps related to the intensification of agricultural resources along major riverine and coastal areas (Wadleigh 1981:83). The trend towards greater mobility may in part be attributed to the decline in the use of steatite that no longer gave certain groups control over critical and restricted resources, as indicated by the declining ceremonialism of burial sites at the time which were more often located in habitation sites and exhibited combinations of secondary cremation features and primary inhumations (Walwer 1996). This transition in the socio-economics of the region was brought about by the decrease in importance of steatite as ceramics obscured its value for producing durable containers. Partially preserved primary inhumations appear for the first time in the region based on preservation considerations.

Middle Woodland

The Middle Woodland period lasted from about 2,000 B.P. to 1,000 B.P. (Lavin 1984:19; Juli and McBride 1984; Cruson 1991; Juli 1999). The climate was returning to the conditions basically witnessed today (Davis 1969:420; McWeeney 1999:11). It is a period which exhibited considerable continuity with previous periods in terms of both subsistence and material culture. Cylindrical pestles and groundstone hoes are tools diagnostic of the period and reflect developing agricultural efforts, including the cultivation of squash, corn, and beans on a seasonally tended basis (Snow 1980:279). Direct evidence for agriculture in the form of preserved vegetal remains, however, does not generally appear until the early Late Woodland (Lavin 1984:21) when corn is thought to have been introduced into the Connecticut River Valley from the upper Susquehanna and Delaware River Valleys (Bendremer and Dewar 1993:386). Projectile point forms from the period include Snyders corner-notched, LongBay and Port Maitland side-notched, Rossville

stemmed, and Greene lanceolate types. A proliferation of ceramic styles was witnessed during the Middle Woodland (Rouse 1980; Lavin 1984:19-20, 1987; Lavin and Kra 1994:37), including Rocker Dentate, Windsor Brushed, Sebonac Stamped, Hollister Stamped, Selden Island, and Windsor Plain types that were all also produced in the Late Woodland, with the exception of the Rocker Dentate. Ceramic forms from the Early Woodland were still being produced as well. Minor traces of the Hopewell cultures to the west are also present in the archaeological record of this period. Site types and distributions in the lower Connecticut River Valley imply that a moderate increase of sedentism with aspects of a radiating settlement pattern took place on large rivers, supported by differentiated upland task sites (McBride 1981; McBride and Dewar 1981:49). This trend may have been supported by the expansion of tidal marshes up larger rivers (McBride 1992:14).

Late Woodland

The Late Woodland period extended from approximately 1,000 B.P. to 1600 A.D., the time of widespread European contact in the broader region (Snow 1980:307; Kehoe 1981:231; Lavin 1984:21; Feder 1984, 1999). A warmer climate and increased employment of large scale agriculture for subsistence in New England were associated with increased population densities, more sedentary settlements, and more permanent living structures and facilities in larger villages. Settlements in Connecticut, however, tended to remain smaller with only small scale agricultural efforts, and as part of a seasonal round in which smaller post-harvest hunting and task-specific settlements were established in fall, and protected settlements occupied in winter (Guillette 1979:CI5-6; McBride and Bellantoni 1982; Lavin 1984:23; Starna 1990:36-37). Instead of maintaining permanent villages near agricultural plots, aboriginal populations engaged in the slashing and burning new plots and let old plots lie fallow periodically (Salwen 1983:89). In this area, domestic resources included corn, beans, squash, Jerusalem artichoke, and tobacco (Guillette 1979:CI5; Starna 1990:35). Agriculture was largely maintained by women, with the exception of tobacco (Salwen 1983:89; Starna 1990:36). Deer, small mammals, fish and shellfish, migratory birds, nuts and berries, and other wild foods continued to contribute significantly to the diet (Waters 1965:10-11; Russell 1980). Many of the foods produced were dried and/or smoked and stored in baskets and subterranean holes or trenches.

The increasing diversity of wild estuary resources may have served to increase sedentism in the coastal ecoregions of Connecticut (Lavin 1988:110; Bragdon 1996:67), while agriculture and sedentism may have been even more prominent along the larger river bottoms (Bragdon 1996:71). Late Woodland settlement patterns of groups in the uplands interior ecozones of Connecticut may have included the highest degree of mobility, while many sites from the central lowlands represent task-specific sites associated with larger settlements along the Connecticut River (McBride 1992:16). House structures consisted of wigwams or dome-shaped wooden pole frameworks lashed and covered with hides or woven mats, and clothing was made from animal hides (Guillette 1979:CI7-8; Starna 1990:37-38). Pottery for the period is defined as the Late Windsor tradition in Connecticut (Rouse 1980:68; Lavin 1984:22, 1987). Most of the ceramic forms of the Middle Woodland were still being produced, in addition to the newer Niantic Stamped and Hackney Pond forms. Ceramics of the East River tradition also appear in the area during the Late Woodland, having originated and been concentrated in the New York area (Rouse 1980; Wiegand 1987; Lavin 1987). The period exhibits some continuity in terms of

projectile point forms, although the Jack's Reef, Madison triangular, and Levanna points are considered diagnostic for the period. As likely with earlier periods, the material culture included various textile products such as baskets and mats, and wooden utensils such as bowls, cups, and spoons (Willoughby 1935; Russell 1980:56).

Unlike groups of the Mississippi valley, the overall cultural pattern for the entire Connecticut Woodland era exhibits considerable continuity. Interregional contact increased during this period, however, with non-local lithic materials increasing from as low as 10% to as high as 90% from the early Middle Woodland to the Late Woodland (McBride and Bellantoni 1982:54; Feder 1984:105), although most trade appears to have been done between neighboring groups rather than initiated through long-distance forays (Salwen 1983:94). The lack of enormous agricultural surpluses for the time is indicated by the low density of small storage features in habitation sites, as well as the ubiquitous primary inhumation of people without a select portion of graves exhibiting special treatment that would require high energy expenditure (Walwer 1996). As confirmed by early ethnohistoric accounts, this suggests a largely egalitarian and relatively mobile society for the Late Woodland despite the fact that this period marks the highest development of food production (i.e. agriculture) during the course of prehistory in the region. Corn was undoubtedly important, however, as a disproportionate amount of the simple, flexed burials were oriented towards the southwest which was the aboriginally acknowledged direction for the origins of corn and the Spirit Land.

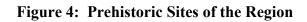
Local Sites and Surveys

There has been a low to moderate density of prehistoric sites recorded in the south-central and eastern Suffield area (CT SHPO 2023; Figure 4). Several sites have been found just within a mile surrounding the project area. The most prolific site documented in the area is the Carolyn Site (139-11) where professional surveys led to the mitigation of the site for a proposed correctional facility (LBA 1988a, 1989; Lothrop 1991). Located within a mile to the east of the project area on a small tributary of Stony Brook and the Connecticut River, the Carolyn site revealed both Late Archaic and Late Woodland components, the former identified by Vosburg and narrow stemmed projectile points, the latter by Levanna points. The Late Archaic occupations included concentrations of fire-cracked rock, debitage, and lithic tools, while a gorget and ceramic sherds were found in the Late Woodland contexts. The site may have been at one time closer to the meandering course of the Connecticut River.

Over one mile to the northeast of the project area, prehistoric site (139-12) contained a groundstone pestle reportedly found near a spring at the head of Rawlins Brook. The Skorski III site (139-9) is a Late Woodland site found a few miles to the east of the project area near the Connecticut River where a cord-marked ceramic sherd was found.

A number of sites recorded in the area are only known by isolated projectile point tips, including the Find Spot 1 Site (139-26) and the Find Spot 4 Site (139-27) located for a pipeline survey within one mile to the west of the project area, and another tip was found during a professional survey of land adjacent to Route 75 within a mile to the east of the project area (HC 2009). Seven other sites previously recorded in Suffield (139-1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 24, 25) are only known by low densities of lithic debitage, including local quartz, basalt, argillite, and quartzite as well as non indigenous chert (see LBA 1988b).

It is important to note that there are literary references to early historic Native American sites in the area that have not been archaeologically verified: "on the west bank of the



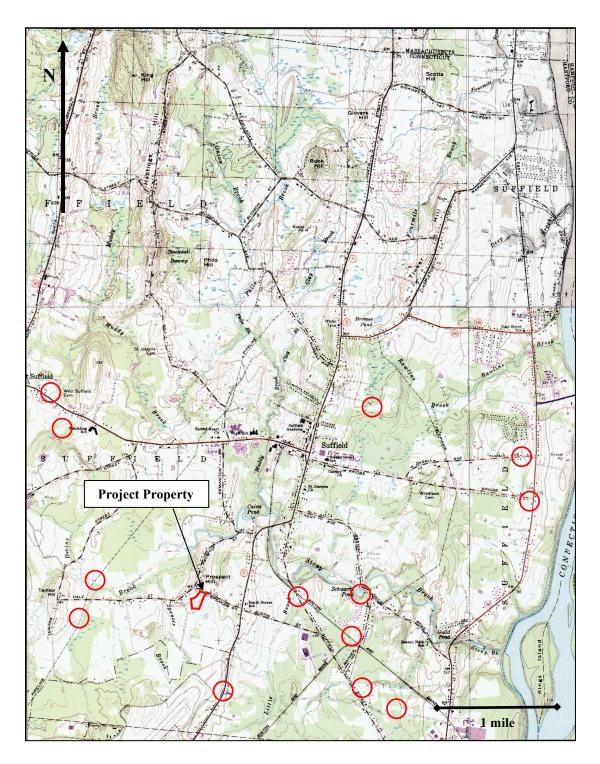


Figure 4: Approximate location of previously recorded sites shown as red circles.

Connecticut River, between Rawlin's Brook and the Falls, was an extensive Indian burial ground," and "They were numerous about the Falls above Stony River (Lacowsick); and below (at Squotuck), attracted thither by the admirable fishing grounds" (Sheldon 1879:8).

Summary

In summary, there is a low to moderate density of previously recorded prehistoric sites within a few miles of the project area. The chronological range of documented sites is from the Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods, although earlier sites are likely present and as of yet undiscovered. Sites range in size from task specific through large camp or small village sites, possibly confirming reconstructed settlement patterns of larger regional settlement models, with a primary focus on larger streams and marshes, and radiating use / settlement up the smaller drainages for task specific / resource extraction or seasonally restricted sites. The project area is within the Stony Brook drainage along which sites have been previously located, although closest to Spencer Brook which is a very small Stony Brook tributary. Most nearby sites tend to be located further down the drainages and closer to the Connecticut River, although one of the most prolific sites of the area was also recorded on a smaller tributary of Stony Brook, and the meandering course of the Connecticut River through time may have made the project area closer to the river at certain times in the past.

Local History

Contact Period

The Contact period is designated here as the time ranging from the first substantial contact between European explorers and Native American inhabitants of Connecticut to the time of initial occupation by European settlers, roughly 1600 to 1700. Initial contact in the broader region occurred in 1524 when Verrazano reached the coast of New England (Terry 1917:16). Others followed in the first decade of the 1600s (Salwen 1983), and in 1614 Dutch explorers reached the Connecticut River (DeForest 1852:70; DeLaet 1909 [1625-1640]). The Dutch were met by the Quinnipiacs at New Haven Harbor in 1625 (Brusic 1986:9) when they initiated fur trading relationships with several local tribes. The trade relationship between local tribes and the Dutch was short-lived, however, coming to an abrupt end by the mid-1630s (Guillette 1979:WP2) when substantial English settlements were being established in the area. DeForest (1852:48) estimates about 6,000 to 7,000 Native Americans in pre-epidemic Connecticut (early 1630s), while others consider the aboriginal population to have been as high as 16,000 to 20,000 or more (Trumbull 1818:40; Gookin 1970 [1674]; Cook 1976; Snow 1980:35; Bragdon 1996:25).

The spatial configuration of tribal territories at the time of initial contact is fairly well known, although boundaries are known to have fluctuated significantly, as did the political alliances by which the tribes could be defined (Thomas 1985:138). Three major divisions of Algonkian speaking groups can be delineated in eastern Connecticut, and their original territories conform well to present ecozone distributions (see Dowhan and Craig 1976:26 and Speck 1928:Plate 20). Centralized in East Windsor and South Windsor (Trumbull 1818:40; DeForest 1852:54-55; Spiess 1933), the Podunks occupied that part of the Connecticut River drainage basin which constitutes the North-Central Lowlands east of the river. Linguistically, the Podunks were part of the Wappinger or Mattabesec Confederacy of tribes that extended west of the Connecticut River and onto Long Island (Speck 1928). The validity of the Wappinger-Mattabesec Confederacy as a cultural entity has been challenged (Salwen 1983:108-109), however, with many smaller and somewhat independent tribes occupying much of the western half of the state. In the northeast part of the state, the Nipmucs occupied areas covering the Northeast Uplands and Northeast Hills ecoregions, but were centrally based in Massachusetts (Gookin 1970 [1674]; Van Dusen 1975:21; DeForest 1852:57). Blanketing the Southeast Hills and Eastern Coastal regions, the territory of the Pequots lay adjacent to the Narragansetts of Rhode Island to the east (Speck 1928).

The Suffield area was part of Agawam territory at the time of contact (Spiess1933:21-22). The Agawams were a branch of the Pocomtock Confederation of tribes which were based in Deerfield, Massachusetts. Their territory extended south to include all of Suffield and also east across the Connecticut River into Enfield. Two main villages of the Agawams in the area at the time of contact include Agawam and Congamond, and the two main Sachems of the Agawan territory to the west of the Connecticut River were Pampunkshat and Mishnousqus.

The fluctuating nature of tribal territory boundaries can be partly attributed to aspects of mobility and subsistence. Ethnohistoric sources offer descriptions of terminal Woodland and early Contact subsistence-settlement strategies of the area (McBride and Bellantoni 1982; Starna 1990:36-37). Spring settlements were located to take advantage of anadromous fish runs in

larger drainages and along the coast. By late spring, attention was focussed on tending corn fields on alluvial terraces and glacial meltwater features along perennial streams and rivers. Semi-sedentary settlements near these fields were supported by task-specific hunting and gathering sites. Dispersal in the late fall and winter brought smaller groups into protected, upland or interior valleys where hunting and gathering continued. This model is confirmed by an archaeological survey of the lower Connecticut River Valley (McBride and Dewar 1981:49-50) in which large, early Contact period villages were found to be a part of a central-based circulating settlement pattern. Family units occupied major villages on a seasonal basis. The dispersal phase had a longer duration in the Contact period than the Late Woodland, and consisted of smaller subsistence units (e.g. single families).

The fortification of some larger villages in the early Contact period was likely a response to intertribal and intercultural political conflicts resulting from increased economic pressures induced by Euroamerican trade relationships (Salwen 1983:94; McBride 1990:101; but see Thomas 1985:136). The fortified villages are representative of the trend towards increasing sedentism and territoriality during the Contact period. Eventually, Native American populations became dispersed and afflicted by disease, warfare, and intertribal conflict to the point that small, scattered reservations served as the final restricted territories for some indigenous populations.

The economic base for Native Americans in eastern Connecticut during the Contact period continued to consist of hunting deer and small mammals, gathering berries, nuts, and roots, and procuring shellfish and fish on larger drainages and along the coast (Waters 1965:7; Salwen 1970:5). This basic subsistence strategy was supported by various horticultural products, including corn as a staple, squash, beans, Jerusalem artichoke, and tobacco (Guillette 1979:CI5; Starna 1990:35). The importance of corn is evident in historic descriptions of ritual activities, including variations of the Green Corn Festival that extended with various groups, including the Mohegans, into the present day (Speck 1909:194; Speck 1928:255; Tantaquidgeon 1972:81; Fawcett 1995:54-57). Elderly women possessed extensive knowledge of wild plants which provided a host of medicines and treatments (Russell 1980:35-37).

The material culture included a mix of aboriginal forms and European goods such as metal kettles and implements (e.g. knives and projectile points), cloth, glass beads, and kaolin pipes (Salwen 1966, 1983:94-96). Wigwams continued to serve as the principal form of housing, in some cases well into the 18th Century (Sturtevant 1975). Unlike the Late Woodland, however, Contact aboriginal lithic products were predominantly manufactured from local quartz sources (McBride and Bellantoni 1982:54). Dugout canoes may have continued to provide a major form of transportation in larger drainages (Salwen 1983:91). Late Contact period Euroamerican trade goods included various metal tools, glass bottles, ceramic vessels, kaolin clay pipes, and nails (McBride and Grumet 1992).

Wampum (shell beads) served as an important item for exchange by Native Americans with European traders, but their original use was in the form of belts as symbolic signs of allegiance or reciprocity between tribes, and as sacred markers or tokens of honor for individuals (Guillette 1979:CI8; Ceci 1990:58-59; Salisbury 1990:87; Fawcett 1995:59). With European metal drill bits, tribes along the coast were now mass producing wampum for trade with the Dutch and English, who in turn used the shell beads to trade for fur procured by other tribes farther inland (Salwen 1983:96; Ceci 1990:58). Control of wampum production along the eastern Connecticut coast may have contributed to Pequot dominance over other tribes at this

time. Although wampum was initially traded for Euroamerican goods, it was eventually used to pay fines imposed by colony governments on the tribes for "illegal" acts. While colonization brought new material goods to Native Americans in the area in exchange for fur, land, and services, the indigenous inhabitants became increasingly subject to legislative economic restrictions by the colonists (Salisbury 1990:83).

Sachems and councils of leading males formed the basic political unit for groups of villages (Gookin 1970 [1674]; Simmons 1986:12). The authoritative roles of clan mothers had diminished as a result of a strong European leadership bias towards males in trade relationships (Fawcett pers. comm. 1996). Tributes paid to sachems were generally used as reserves for the tribe at large. Although sachems were generally assigned by hereditary lineage, this was not always the case (Bragdon 1996:140-141). Additionally, authority was usually enforced by persuasion of a council. Shamans were "magico-religious" specialists of the tribes who also had a considerable role in leadership and decision-making (Speck 1909:195-196; Simmons 1986:43; Starna 1990:42-43). Other special status roles included warriors and persons who had visions, thus social status was largely based on achievement and recognition. Rules of obligation and reciprocity operated on all levels of tribal-wide decision-making (Bragdon 1996:131-134), serving to diffuse centralized authority. While the assignment of lineality (i.e. matrilineal vs. patrilineal) for the area tribes is still debated (Bragdon 1996:157), the well established practice of bride-pricing and traditional accounts support a patrilineal social organization (Speck 1909:193; Salwen 1983:97). Post-marital residence appears to have been ambilocal.

On a larger scale, more powerful tribes demanded tributes from smaller ones, often resulting in loose alliances between the latter. This process created a dynamic political environment that prompted intertribal conflict, especially after contact with Euroamericans (Guillette 1979; Bragdon 1996). The European settlers of the Contact period used this embedded rivalry system to their advantage in trade relationships and the procurement of land. The colonists were placed at a further political advantage because of the severe reduction in aboriginal populations as a result of disease (Starna 1992). Major epidemics occurred between 1616 and 1619, and more severely around 1633 (Snow and Lanphear 1988; Starna 1990:45; Snow and Starna 1989). Diseases introduced into the Americas included chicken pox, cholera, diphtheria, malaria, measles, oncercerosis, poliomyelitis, scarlet fever, smallpox, tapeworms, trachoma, trichinosis, typhoid fever, whooping cough, and yellow fever (Newman 1976:671).

Early land sales of the region by the various tribes often overlapped, with multiple episodes of reconfirmation (Stiles 1891:109,122-127; Howard 1935:19-20; Uricchio 1976:41). Surrounding land sales falling under the jurisdiction of Windsor, then known as Dorchester after the location in Massachusetts where many of Windsor's early settlers derived, included approximately 150,000 to 175,000 acres, soon to be subdivided into different towns including what is now Suffield, Windsor Locks, Granby, East Granby, Enfield, East Windsor, and South Windsor in northern Hartford County, as well as various other non-contiguous lands (Howard 1935:20-21; Uricchio 1976:46). The greater Windsor settlement had begun as a trading post in 1633 near the mouth of the Farmington River (Springman and Guinan 1983:1). As emigration from England increased, settlement spread along the rivers, and into the Suffield area which included approximately 500 acres of meadow suitable settlement land next to the Connecticut River (Sheldon 1879:7). The Suffield area was located between the early settlements of Springfield and Windsor, transected by Native American Indian trails and the European trade

route known as the "Northampton Path" (Alcorn 1970:2). In the mid-17th century, William Pynchon was a prominent fur trader and businessman in Springfield who traded with the Native Americans in the area and shipped the furs back to England (Alcorn 1970: 2-3). After publishing a controversial book, being indicted for heresy, and returning to England, his son, John Pynchon, took over his father's businesses and continued as a successful and wealthy fur trader and businessman in the area (Alcorn 1970: 4).

John Pynchon's fortune and influence grew, and he expanded his businesses to all parts of commerce in the Springfield area including ironworks, sawmills, and gristmills, became magistrate of Springfield, and held shares in many neighboring settlements (Alcorn 1970:4). His long business travels from Springfield to Windsor inspired him to establish a mid-point for travelers in the now Suffield area because of the extensive meadows in the area rich with natural resources including animals and farm land (Alcorn 1970:5-6). In 1670, the Massachusetts Bay Colony approved the purchase of lands in the Suffield area by Major John Pynchon for the establishment of an agricultural village called the Stony Brooke Plantation, now known as Suffield (Sheldon 1879:7;Alcorn 1970:5-6).

The Suffield lands were purchased from several different chiefs as part of several different land transactions (Sheldon 1879:9). One substantial part of the territory was purchased from Pampunkshat in the sale of 'Waronoco' (Westfield) to Major John Pynchon (Sheldon 1879:9). Another substantial part of the territory to the south was purchased by Major Pynchon from Misnouasques (Sheldon 1879:9) (spelled as Mishnousques above). Pynchon and the committee granted land grants to settlers and established roads and a meeting house in a very planned process (Sheldon 1879; Alcorn 1970:7). Pynchon and this committee carefully planned out this settlement and closely regulated the land grants by enforcing conditions on the settlers as detailed in the items listed in the minutes of early town meetings (Alcorn 1970:7-8). The land grants were generally 40 acres, but there were exceptions for more or less, and there were land grants for specific purposes including the town common area, 40 acres for a school, and 80 acres for the minister (Alcorn 1970:8). Between 1670 and 1674, there were 38 land grants to new settlers of the town (Sheldon 1879: 24; Alcorn 1970:12).

Pynchon established a gristmill and saw mill along the Stony Brook (Sheldon 1879:8). Running along a trail on a major ridge, the first road in Suffield was the "Northampton Road", now Christian Street, South Street, Remington Street, and Zion's Hill Road (Sheldon 1879:7-8). Several other streets were laid out at this time along the other trails on prominent ridges, including High Street (now North Main Street) and Feather Street (Sheldon 1879:8). The first minister of Suffield was Mr. John Younglove, and the committee of Suffield granted him a house and lot of 30 acres in 1680 (Sheldon 1879:15). Also at this time, the first meeting house was constructed on the town common land (Sheldon 1879:17, 80).

During the time of the King Philips's War, the settlers of Suffield abandoned their homes and fled to Springfield. Pynchon's grist and saw mills in both Suffield and Springfield were burned, and one of the original proprietors of Suffield, Lieutenant Thomas Cooper, was killed in the violence (Alcorn 1970:12). By 1677, most of the Euroamerican settlers had returned to Suffield, and Pynchon rebuilt his grist and saw mills in their original locations (Sheldon 1879:15; Alcorn 1970:12).

The late 17th century was also a time of industry expansion in Suffield. At this time, Suffield was no longer known as the Stoney Brooke Plantation, but was referred to as "Southfield," which became Suffield (Alcorn 1970:14). In 1681, Pynchon and his committee conducted an election of town officers (Alcorn 1970:17). Pynchon constructed a third gristmill on Schwartz pond, and others constructed a tannery at Rawlins Brook (close to the Connecticut River) and a tar kiln near the intersection of East Street and Mapleton Avenue (Alcorn 1970:27). By 1691, there was an established ferry across the Connecticut River from Suffield to Enfield on the site of the Thompsanville bridge (Alcorn 1970:44).

18th Century

Expansion of Suffield continued in the 18th century. Wealthy John Pynchon continued to construct new buildings and added new industries to the area. In 1701, he built a "bloomery," or iron works, on Stony Brook (Alcorn 1970:27,41). The bloomery was used to process the iron bog ore found in "Pancake Swamp" between South Grand and Sheldon Streets (Alcorn 1970:41). Others constructed a cider mill on Stony Brook in 1700, a cotton mill in 1710, a blacksmith shop on High Street (now North Main Street), and several taverns and inns were established in town (Alcorn 1970:27,35,44,95). A fish dam was constructed at the mouth of Stony Brook on the Connecticut River for catching and supplying Suffield residents with salmon and shad (Alcorn 1970:39). Corn, rye, wheat, and barley were grown by local farmers along with keeping diary cows and sheep (Alcorn 1970:96). And an oil mill for processing flax seed was built by Eli Granger on Stony Brook in 1793 (Alcorn 1970:103). Expansion also included construction of the second meeting house on the common area (in the location of the present day Congregational Church) in 1702, and construction of the first school next to the new meetinghouse in 1704 (Sheldon 1879:18, 80; Alcorn 1970:20). The second schoolhouse was constructed in 1733, and was later moved in the late 18th century to the corner of Crooked Lane and Thompsanville Road (Alcorn1970:39).

During this century, the tobacco industry was an important part of Suffield's economy. The valuable tobacco was actually considered currency and accepted as payments of debts as early as 1727 (Alcorn 1970:44,117), and by 1753, the tobacco grown in Suffield was being exported to England (Alcorn 1970:72,117). Its economic value and its relative ease to grow in the soil and climate of the area made tobacco a popular crop of the local farmers (Alcorn 1970:117).

Suffield was very vocal in its defiance of the British Crown during the Revolution and even documented the independent political views of the town in the minutes of a town meeting in 1774 (Alcorn 1970:75-79). In recognition of its view for independence, George Washington visited Suffield on his way to Boston in June, 1775 (Alcorn 1970:78-79). It was recorded that he spoke at what is currently the Hatheway House Property and then entered the Congregational Church, and afterward, ate lunch at the Austin Tavern at Bridge and High Streets (Alcorn 1970:79-80). Washington returned again to Suffield as president in 1789 (Alcorn 1970:80). Revolutionary troops utilized the Ferry Tavern and Riverman's Hotel on the east side of High Street while waiting to cross the river (Alcorn 197:87). The project property was likely occupied and farmed by the Spencer family during the 18th century (SGEC 1921:169).

19th Century

Around the turn of the century, a number of families in the greater Suffield area emigrated to Ohio to Western Reserve land (Alcorn 1970; Springman and Guinan 1983:96-98) with some migration of African Americans from the south and Irish immigrants to work first for the construction of the Farmington Canal which ran through the western part of Suffield and then the railroad (Springman and Guinan 1983:99). The Franklin Paper Mill was built at the mouth of Stony Brook in 1801 and remained in business until a fire destroyed it in 1914, and a second paper mill, the Eagle Mill was built in 1816 (Alcorn 1970:113,119). Other industries which rose in popularity in the early 19th century included spa-like accommodations centering around a natural spring. "The Pool" in Suffield was a mineral spring located on Remington Street that became a source of prescribed cure for many ailments and was surrounded by a farmhouse-like hotel (Alcorn 1970:121). A major construction project of the 19th century in Suffield was a bridge across the Connecticut River at Bridge Street from 1805 to 1809 (Alcorn 1970:115). The bridge collapsed after only a few years of use, and a new bridge was constructed in 1826 (Alcorn 1970:115).

The state constitution of 1818 opened the door for greater denominational diversity, with a Baptist church established in the area in, the building of the Methodist Church in 1839, the first Episcopal Church in 1865, the Calvary Episcopal Church in 1872, and the Roman Catholic Church in 1885 (Alcorn 1970:171-172). The Connecticut Baptist Literary Institution opened in 1833 on the land that is now the Kent Memorial Library (Alcorn 1970:131).

The Irish immigrants of the 1850s settled mostly in the western part of Suffield along Ratley Road (Alcorn 1970:169). In 1868, following the decline of the Farmington Canal of the 1820s, the Windsor Locks and Suffield Railroad branch line was opened that connected with the Springfield-New York main line (Alcorn 1970:172). "The Huckleberry" was the Suffield branch infamous engine car (Alcorn 1970:172).

Cigar wrapper tobacco leaf farming proliferated during the 19th Century, and peaked by the end of the century (Vibert 1970:158; Springman and Lahue 2011:7,91). It is estimated that in 1801, 20,000 pounds were grown in the Connecticut Valley region and in 1864, 292 of the 316 farms in Suffield were growing tobacco (Alcorn 1979:141). Simeon Viets expanded the tobacco industry in Suffield to include cigar manufacture (Alcorn 1970:117). In 1810, Viets hired a man from Cuba to instruct a group of women in how to make cigars, and he began the first cigar factory in the United States on Ratley Road (Alcorn 1970:117). The tobacco produced in Suffield, the Connecticut Valley Broadleaf tobacco, was considered the finest outer leaf cigar wrappers in the world for the next 100+ years (Alcorn 1970:118). Cigar shops proliferated in the area until the end of the 19th century, when focus shifted to producing the cured leaf and not the final cigar product (Alcorn 1970:186).

Maps of the mid to late 19th century (Figures 5a and 5b) do not show any developments within the project area. However, land records of the parcel can be traced back to the Spencer family, after whom the road fronting the parcel is named. In 1899, James P. Spencer and six other heirs of a Spencer estate sold four lots at that location to the Alfred Spencer Company (Suffield land records volume 38, page 242). The primary Spencer farmstead house appears to have been located to the west of the project property on Hale Street, and a late 1860s map further shows a "warehouse" being located there. The broader Spencer land holdings appears to have extended to the north of Spencer Street, which was actually moved since it was laid out in 1803 from the north of another Spencer farm house to its current alignment (SGEC 1921:169).

Figure 5a: Historic Sites of the Area (1855 Map)

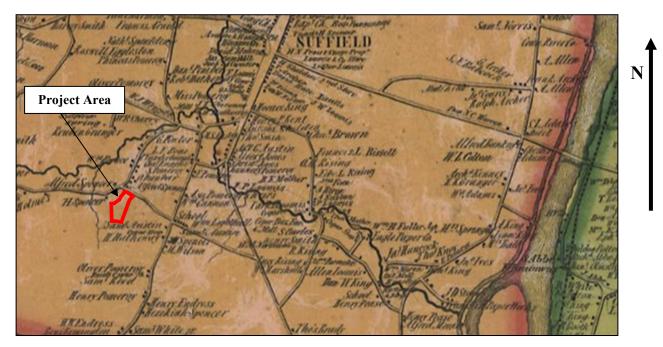


Figure 5a: From Woodford 1855.

Figure 5b: Historic Sites of the Area (1869 Map)

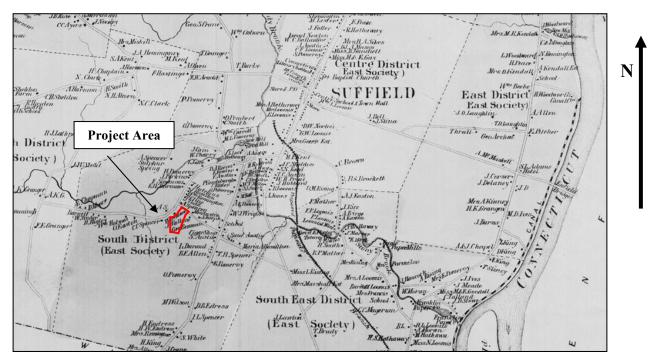


Figure 5b: From Baker and Tilden 1869.

20th Century+

Many families from Poland arrived in Suffield in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Alcorn 1970:196-197). In 1905, the St. Joseph's Polish Church Society was formed and included 25 members by 1910 (Alcorn 1970: 215). The services were held in a barn until 1952 when a large church was built.

Infrastructure of Suffield was expanded in the early 20th century. At the end of the 19th century, the Village Water Company was established, and by 1902 trolley service existed through Suffield on a line from Springfield to Hartford (Alcorn 1970:105-206). A nurse was employed by Suffield to serve the community in 1915, and the Emergency Aid Association was formed (Alcorn 1970:241). The first fire truck that was motorized was purchased in 1917, and automobiles became popular (Alcorn 1970:241).

The tobacco business proliferated in Suffield and remained the base of the economy. The early tobacco farmers of 20th century began to concentrate on cigar wrapper leaf seed from Sumatra grown under cloth shade tents (Alcorn 1970:252-253; Vibert 1970:159; Springman and Guinan 1983:239; Springman and Lahue 2011:7,93). The tobacco grown under the cloth shades required much more manual labor of cultivation and maintenance of the tents, but resulted in higher tobacco prices (Alcorn 1970:253-254). The seasonal nature of growing tobacco led to the increase of immigrant workers in the area (Vibert 1970:161-162; Springman and Lahue 2011:94).

Larger corporations began consolidating some of the larger tobacco farms of the area, with 15 large packing houses functioning in 1950 (Alcorn 1970:216). The smaller farms were unable to compete. In the early 20th century, the Suffield tobacco packing houses employed over 600 men with relatively high individual salaries of \$20 a month in 1901, which increased substantially to \$35 a month in 1906 (Alcorn 1970:218). Reportedly, the very first Carrier airconditioning unit was constructed at the tobacco warehouse shed of William S. Pinney located on South Street (Alcorn 1970:216-217). Willis Carrier was a friend of Pinney, and frequented his home in Suffield. His invention was used to control humidity in the packing house of the valuable tobacco leaves and prevent cracking or breaking before shipment.

Traditional homestead farming continued to be important, with a notable shift in the mid-20th Century agriculture to farms owned by Polish and African American families in Suffield (Alcorn 1970:255). These farms continued smaller tobacco acreage and also included dairy cows, crops of potatoes, corn, and other household vegetables and fruit (Alcorn 1970:256). Tobacco continued to serve as a major crop of the area into the late 20th Century, with Connecticut tobacco constituting two-thirds of all wrapper tobacco utilized by American cigar manufacturers (Vibert 1970:159).

By the mid 1900s, the population of Suffield was nearly 8,000 (Alcorn 1970:227). Social and recreational activities were established in Suffield and included tennis courts, a golf course, and a theater group (Alcorn 1970:258,284). Civic organizations of the times included the Suffield Hounds fox hunting club, the Suffield Sportsmens Club, and for women, the Womens Club, the Mapleton Literary Club, and the West Suffield Wide Awakes group (Alcorn 1970:260, 268-269). In 1938, the federal government sensed the potential need to prepare for a war effort, and they began to develop Bradley Field at the southern end of Suffield and into Windsor Locks as a training site for fighter pilots (Alcorn 1970:225,271). The large Polish community responded to the invasion of Poland in WW II by organizing clothes and blood drives (Alcorn 1970:260,268-269;271).

The mid 1900s was also a time of growth for the churches of the area. The Episcopal Church, that had previously closed, reopened in 1949 and a new church was built in 1951; a new St. Joseph's Church was built in 1952; and additions and upgrades were added to the Second Baptist Church in 1953, The First Congregational Church in 1956, The Second Congregational Church in 1958, and the Third Baptist Church in 1962 (Alcorn 1970:281-282). Several banks and shops were also constructed in Suffield at this time, as well as parks and a wildlife conservation area on the banks of the Muddy Brook and Stony Brook (Alcorn 1970:304-305).

Early to mid-20th century maps of the area reveal no structures on the project property (Figures 5c and 5d), although a large tobacco barn was located near the southwest corner where the dilapidated remains of the structure are visible today. Land records reveal that the Alfred Spencer Company owned the parcel until 1962 when sold to Donald Lanz (volume 103, page 105), and the property remained in the Lanz then Sedor families until into the 21st century. A survey map at the Suffield town hall from 1986 (volume 14, page 149) shows a cluster of outbuildings near the northwest corner of the project property, with one shed within the bounds of the project property but just outside the project impact area.

Local Sites and Surveys

Many of the historic archaeological sites of the area were documented by the American Indian Archaeological Institute (AIAI). A number of these include late 18th through early 20th century domestic household occupations, some of which were correlated to individual households on historic maps (139-5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16). Typical artifacts include architectural materials such as bricks and wrought and cut nails; ceramic forms such as redware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, ironstone china, and stoneware; bottle glass and other vessel glass; faunal and floral remains; and fuel related materials such as coal, slag, and charcoal. At the Viniconis I Site (139-4), recorded 18th century structures include barns and a house that were converted into tobacco barns in the 19th century.

The AIAI also recorded some industrial sites along Stony Brook that runs to the north and east of the project area. The Franklin Paper Mill site (139-17) includes a dam and mill foundations constructed of mortared arkose stone work dating to the first quarter of the 19th century. The H Smith I Site (139-18) includes a mill foundation and sunken garden dating to 1816. Other associated remains for the H Smith I Site include a mill ditch at H Smith II (139-19), a dam and stone abutment at H Smith III (139-20), and a chimney at H Smith IV (139-21). The most significant industrial site of the area is on the Connecticut River and listed with the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), consisting of traces a five mile long section of the historic Enfield Canal, including dam features, sluice gates, a lock, aqueduct, and tow path.

Some historic archaeological contexts of the area have been recorded by professional cultural resource management studies. One survey of an expansion of Route 75 in southern Suffield documented archaeological remains similar to those documented by AIAI as described above, and additionally reviewed potential impacts to existing historic structures (Soulsby and Clouette 1995). Similar remains along with traces of former tobacco sheds were also recorded at another survey about two miles east of the project area near Stony Brook and the Connecticut River (Heitert and Mair 2003). Just to the south of Stony Brook, another survey revealed artifacts that may have been related to a 19th century occupation of a demolished house located off site (Holmes 2015). Other surveys of the area have not revealed substantial cultural resources (Aigner et al. 1977; HC 2014; Raber 2015).

Figure 5c: Historic Sites of the Area (1934 Map)

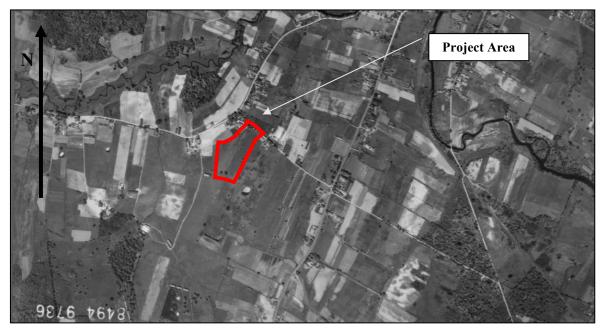


Figure 5c: From Fairchild 1934.

Figure 5d: Historic Sites of the Area (1939 Map)

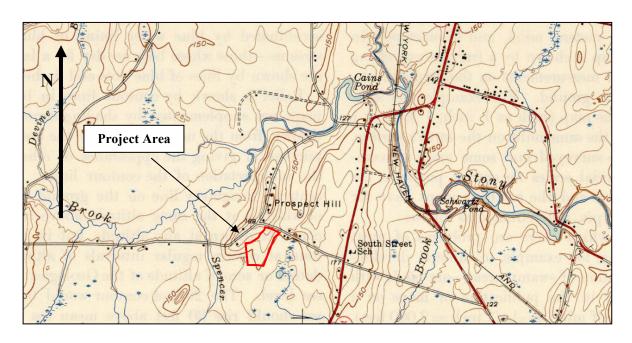


Figure 5d: From USGS 1939.

The project property is within one mile of the Suffield National Register District (Ransom 1978) listed with the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). The project area is to the southwest of the southern end of the district, which extends up and down North and South Main Streets and includes a high density of residential homes as well as religious and educational structures dating to the 18th through 20th centuries. Represented styles include Colonial, Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Second Empire, Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, and modern styles. Tobacco was a core of the Suffield economy that served as the basis of much of the construction within the district during the 18th through 20th centuries.

Summary

The project area was part of the Agawam tribal range at the time of contact. Euroamerican settlement of the Suffield area started in 1670, although the town was virtually abandoned after an attack during King Philip's War until re-occupied by 1677. Self-subsistence agriculture dominated the local economy, until tobacco became a main crop in the first quarter of the 18th Century. It was a substantial export to England by the mid-18th Century, and became the dominant crop during the 19th Century. The project property was part of the Spencer family farm, which had a "warehouse" located just west of the property likely dedicated to processing and shipping tobacco leaf. The Spencer farmstead to the west also had a cluster of outbuildings located near the northwest corner of the project property but mostly just outside its bounds, with the exception of one shed that was at the northwest corner of the project impact area. The Spencer family owned the property until the mid-20th century, followed by the Lanz and Sedor families who continued to use the land for agricultural purposes.

CHAPTER 3: CONCLUSION

Prehistoric Sensitivity

Background research and the pedestrian surface survey indicate a low sensitivity for potential prehistoric cultural resources in the project area. A statistical prehistoric landscape sensitivity model developed and employed by ACS utilizes eight environmental variables to rank sections of project properties relative to a scale of 100.0 (www.acsarcheaology.com/sensitivity-model.html). In this case, the project area scores no higher than 5.9 out of a possible 100.0, and therefore solidly within the low (0-20) sensitivity range. Factors contributing to this low sensitivity score include great distance to the nearest major water source for the project area, rocky hill slope context, and fine particle fraction for dominant soils. Spencer Brook is the nearest perennial stream at about one quarter mile to the west, with some lesser wetlands and ponds closer to the east. A review of previously recorded prehistoric sites in the region reveals none in close proximity to the project area, with sites concentrated close to substantial water sources, particularly on glacial meltwater landforms and alluvial terraces. No further archaeological conservation efforts are required for the proposed project development with respect to potential prehistoric cultural resources.

Historic Sensitivity

Historically, the project area has a moderate sensitivity for historic cultural resources. The project setting was probably on the outskirts of Agawam settlement range during the Contact period, a tumultuous time when indigenous populations were experiencing significant impact from non-indigenous disease, land occupation by Euroamerican settlement, and removal to other regions. Euroamerican settlement was relatively sparse by agriculturalists until the early 20th century, and the project area remained as a farm field until now (Figures 6 and 7). Spencer Street that fronts the property was named after the family that owned the project property until well into the 20th century. The Spencers had a prominent farm that extended west to Hale Street, and included a family farmhouse there as well as a "warehouse," likely related to tobacco production. Historic maps do not show any principal structures within the project property, although a prominent outbuilding cluster was located near the northwest corner of the project property, and at least one shed was located within the property but mostly just outside the project impact area. Because of this and the location of the project property along a historic route, ACS recommends that any part of the development project within 300 feet of Spencer Street be subject to a Phase Ib archaeological reconnaissance survey in advance of any construction impacts (Figure 8). The historic route of Spencer Street is known to have serviced the agricultural operations of multiple Spencer farms historically, and there could be other unmapped structures represented within the project property. Any such remains could reveal important information regarding early agricultural life in the region. Any further archaeological study of the project property should be subject to review by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Figure 6: Field, North View



Figure 6: North view of the open farm field, Spencer Street in background along tree line.





Figure 7: South view of the open farm field, dilapidated tobacco shed in background off project property.

GENERAL NOTES PLANTING SCHEDULE COMMON NAME ROOT SIZE COMMENTS KEY QTY BOTANICAL NAME TREES Recommended area for Phase Ib archaeological reconnaissance survey. EVERGREEN TREE PLANTING Approximate location of former shed. SOLAR ARRAY SYSTEM INFORMATION PROPOSED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY 0 SPENCER STREET SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT SIZE AC 2.11 SITE PLAN

Figure 8: Cultural Resource Sensitivity Map

Figure 8: Map of the project area, from site plans drafted by Solli Engineering. Scale 1:2,400 (1" = 200').

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