

April 29, 2024

Mr. David George
Heritage Consultants, LLC
830 Berlin Turnpike
Berlin, CT 06037
(sent only via email to dgeorge@heritage-consultants.com)

Subject: Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey
141 Town Farm Road
Enfield, Connecticut

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the technical report titled *Phase IB Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey for the Proposed Town Farm Solar Project in Enfield, Connecticut* prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated December 2023. The submitted technical report appears to meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*. SHPO understands that the proposed project entails the construction of a 1.93 megawatt ground-mounted solar voltaic facility at the referenced address. The proposed facilities will include solar panels, centralized inverters, transformers, a station controller, substation, access roads, security fencing, and utilities. The project is seeking approval from the Connecticut Siting Council; therefore, it is subject to review by this office.

A cultural resources reconnaissance survey of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the project was completed by Heritage in November of 2023. The investigation included comprehensive background research that examined historic maps and aerial imagery as well as previously identified cultural resources located in proximity to the APE. The review failed to identify any previously reported archaeological sites in the vicinity of the APE. The review located one property (Hazardville Historic District) listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and nine properties listed on the State Register of Historic Places within one mile of the project area. The report concluded that the proposed activities will not impact any previously identified cultural resource.

During survey, 136 of 138 planned shovel tests were excavated at 20-meter intervals along transects placed 20 meters apart throughout the APE. The two planned but unexcavated shovel tests fell within previously disturbed areas. The field effort resulted in the recovery of 15 Postcontact Period artifacts from 12 shovel tests. Recovered cultural material consisted of nine domestic ceramic sherds, three glass shards, an iron bolt, a machine cut nail, and an unidentified iron fragment. Heritage determined that the identified archaeological deposits lacked research potential and were not eligible for listing on the NRHP. Based on the information submitted to this office, it is the opinion of SHPO that no historic properties will be

affected by the proposed solar facility and no additional archaeological investigation is warranted. This comment is conditional upon the submission of two bound copies of the final report; one will be kept for use in the office and the other will be transferred to the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut (Storrs) for permanent archiving and public accessibility.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. Do not hesitate to contact Cory Atkinson, Staff Archaeologist and Environmental Reviewer, for additional information at (860) 500-2458 or cory.atkinson@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Kinney
State Historic Preservation Officer

