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PHASE IA CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED WOODSTOCK SOLAR PROJECT AT 11 CASTLE ROCK ROAD IN WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of a Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the proposed Woodstock Solar Project at 11 Castle Rock Road in Woodstock, Connecticut. The approximately 17 acre project area, which encompasses two separate arrays and an interconnection, is situated within a larger 38.13 acre parcel of land to the west of Norwich Worcester Turnpike. The current investigation consisted of: 1) preparation of an overview of the region's precontact, post-European Contact period, and natural settings; 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously recorded cultural resources in the region; 3) a review of readily available maps and aerial imagery depicting the solar facility to identify potential post-European Contact period 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 pedestrian survey indicate that the project parcel is primarily characterized by open agricultural fields with slightly rolling topography and wooded areas in the north, west, and south, and it is located in close proximity to Little Brook to the west and the Quinebaug River to the east. A total of two previously identified precontact era archaeological sites were detected within 1.6 km (1 m) of the project area. While no NRHP properties/districts were identified within 1.6 km (1 m) of the project area, there is one SRHP property, 112-6, situated nearby. Based on this information and soils data, as well as a pedestrian survey, it was determined that 25.9 acres of the project parcel are archaeologically sensitive for intact cultural deposits. It is recommended that these areas be subjected to Phase IB cultural resources survey prior to the construction of the proposed solar center. The remaining 12.3 acres of the project parcel exhibited poorly drained soil and standing water; it was determined that these areas are not archaeologically sensitive and no further examination of it is recommended prior to construction. Finally, a dry laid stonewall was identified along the southwestern, western, and northwestern boundaries of the project parcel during the pedestrian survey. This stonewall measures approximately 589.3 meters (1,933.2 feet) in length. While the stone wall could not be attributed to a specific type, function, or time period, it is recommended, that to the extent practicable, it be protected in place and that it is included on construction maps and marked with high visibility fencing in the field so that it is not inadvertently impacted during construction.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION 1
Project Description and Methods Overview 1
Project Results and Management Recommendations Overview 1
Project Personnel 2

CHAPTER II: NATURAL SETTING 3
Introduction 3
Ecoregions of Connecticut 3
Northeast Hills Ecoregion 3
Hydrology in the Vicinity of the Project Area 4
Soils Comprising the Project Area 4
Paxton and Montauk Soils 4
Woodbridge Soils 5
Summary 5

CHAPTER III: PRECONTACT ERA SETTING 6
Introduction 6
Paleo-Indian Period (12,000 to 10,000 Before Present [B.P.]) 6
Archaic Period (10,000 to 2,700 B.P.) 7
Early Archaic Period (10,000 to 8,000 B.P.) 8
Middle Archaic Period (8,000 to 6,000 B.P.) 8
Late Archaic Period (6,000 to 3,700 B.P.) 9
Terminal Archaic Period (3,700 to 2,700 B.P.) 9
Woodland Period (2,700 to 350 B.P.) 10
Early Woodland Period (ca., 2,700 to 2,000 B.P.) 10
Middle Woodland Period (2,000 to 1,200 B.P.) 10
Late Woodland Period (ca., 1,200 to 350 B.P.) 11
Summary of Connecticut's Precontact Era 11

CHAPTER IV: POST-EUROPEAN CONTACT PERIOD OVERVIEW 13
Introduction 13
Windham County 13
Woodland Period to the Seventeenth Century 13
Seventeenth Century through Eighteenth Century 14
Eighteenth through Nineteenth Century 15

CHAPTER V: PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS 19
Introduction 19
Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites, National/State Register of Historic Places Properties/District, and Inventoried Historic Standing Structure in the Vicinity of the Project Area . 19
Site 169-30 19
Site 169-36 19
Summary and Interpretations 20

CHAPTER VI: METHODS 21
Introduction 21
Research Framework 21
Archival Research & Literature Review 21
Field Methodology and Data Synthesis 21

CHAPTER VII: RESULTS & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS 22
Introduction 22
Overall Sensitivity of the Proposed Facility 22
Results of Phase IA Survey and Management Recommendations 23

BIBLIOGRAPHY 24

LIST OF FIGURES

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

Figure 2. Project plans for the proposed Woodstock Solar Project at 11 Castle Rock Road in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 3. Digital map depicting the soil types present in the vicinity of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 4. Excerpt from an 1856 map showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 5. Excerpt from an 1869 map showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 6. Excerpt from an 1883 map showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 7. Excerpt from a 1934 aerial photograph showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 8. Excerpt from a 1963 aerial photograph showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 9. Excerpt of a 1995 aerial photograph showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 10. Excerpt of a 2021 aerial photograph showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 11. Digital map depicting the locations of the previously identified archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 12. Digital map depicting the locations of the previously identified National Register of Historic Places and State Register of Historic Places properties in the vicinity of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 13. Excerpt from a 2021 aerial photograph illustrating areas of Moderate/High (Red) Archaeological Sensitivity with directional arrows of photo points taken for the proposed Facility in Woodstock, Connecticut.

LIST OF PHOTOS

Photo 1. Overview photo from the southeastern corner of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

Photo 2. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

Photo 3. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing north.

Photo 4. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing north.

Photo 5. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northeast.

Photo 6. Overview photo of the proposed interconnect area of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

Photo 7. Overview photo of the proposed interconnect area of the project parcel. Photo facing southeast.

Photo 8. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing north.

Photo 9. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

Photo 10. Overview photo from the southwestern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing north. Note wind rows in background.

Photo 11. Overview photo from the southwestern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northeast toward wind rows.

Photo 12. Overview photo from the southwestern corner of the project parcel. Photo facing east.

Photo 13. Overview of dry laid stone wall along western boundary of project parcel. Photo facing northeast. Note stone wall runs northeast to southwest.

Photo 14. Overview photo from the northwestern corner of the project parcel. Photo facing south toward corn field.

Photo 15. Overview photo from the northern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing southwest.

Photo 16. Overview photo from the northern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing southeast.

Photo 17. Overview photo from the northern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing southwest.

Photo 18. Overview photo from the northeastern corner of the project parcel. Photo facing southwest.

Photo 19. Overview photo from the eastern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of a proposed solar facility (the Facility) located at 11 Castle Rock Road in Woodstock, Connecticut (Figure 1). Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB) requested that Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage) complete the Phase IA assessment survey as part of the planning process for the proposed solar center. Heritage completed this investigation in October of 2023. 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 Facility will be located at 11 Castle Rock Road in Woodstock, Connecticut on a parcel of land that is situated at elevations ranging between 128 to 150 m (420 to 492 ft) NGVD. The Facility will contain two proposed solar arrays, and access road, an interconnection route, fencing, and associated infrastructure (Figure 2). At the time of the pedestrian survey, the project area was accessed via Castle Rock Road, and vegetation consisted of a mixture of agricultural fields, open grassy areas, and wooded areas.

The Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey consisted of the completion of the following tasks: 1) a contextual overview of the region's precontact, post-European Contact period, and natural settings (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 Facility; 3) a review of readily available maps and aerial imagery depicting the project area in order to identify potential post-European Contact period resources and/or areas of past disturbance; and 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the Facility area in order to determine its archaeological sensitivity.

Project Results and Management Recommendations Overview

The review of maps and aerial images depicting the study area, as well as files maintained by the CT-SHPO, resulted in the detection of two precontact previously identified archaeological sites within 1.6 km (1 m) of the project area. While no NRHP properties/districts were identified within 1.6 km (1 m) of the project area, there is one SRHP property, SRHP 112-6, nearby. They are discussed in Chapter V. Finally, Heritage also combined data from map and aerial image analyses, as well as a study of local soils conditions and a pedestrian survey, to stratify the project parcel area into zones of no/low and/or moderate/high archaeological sensitivity.

The results of the pedestrian survey indicate that the project parcel is primarily characterized by open agricultural fields with slightly rolling topography and wooded areas to the north, west, and south. The Facility area is located in close proximity to Little Brook to the west and the Quinebaug River to the east. Paxton-Montauk and Woodbridge soils were identified within the areas of impact; these soil types are characterized as very deep well drained loamy soils. Based on this information, as well as the presence of previously identified archaeological sites in the region, it was determined that 25.9 acres of the project parcel are archaeologically sensitive for intact cultural deposits, all of which intersect with the proposed Facility location. It is recommended that they be subjected to Phase IB cultural resources survey prior to the construction of the Facility. The remaining 12.3 acres of the project parcel exhibited

poorly drained soil and standing water; it was determined that these areas are not archaeologically sensitive and no further examination of it is recommended prior to construction.

Finally, a dry laid stonewall was identified along the southwestern, western, and northwestern boundaries of the project parcel during the pedestrian survey. This stone wall measures approximately 589.3 meters (1,933.2 feet) in length. While the stonewall could not be attributed to a specific type, function, or time period, it is recommended that it be protected in place to the extent practicable, and that it is included on construction maps and marked with high visibility fencing in the field so that it is not inadvertently impacted during construction.

Project Personnel

Heritage Personnel who contributed to the project include David R. George, M.A., RPA, (Principal Investigator); Linda Seminario, M.A., (Project Archaeologist); Antonio Medina, B.A. (Operations Manager), Sean Buckley, B.A. (GIS Specialist), and Nita Vitaliano, M.A., (Historian).

CHAPTER II
NATURAL SETTING

Introduction

This chapter provides a brief overview of the natural setting of the region containing the Facility in Woodstock, Connecticut. Previous archaeological research has documented that a few specific environmental factors can be associated with both precontact era and post-European Contact period site selection. These include general ecological conditions, as well as types of fresh water sources and soils present. The remainder of this section provides a brief overview of the ecology, hydrological resources, and soils present within the project parcel, the Facility 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 brief 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.

<u>Northeast Hills Ecoregion</u>

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 Facility is situated within close proximity to several sources of freshwater, including Little Brook, Peak Brook, Wappaquasset Pond, Mill Brook, and the Quinebaug River to the east. Small, unnamed bodies of water are also nearby. Previously completed archaeological investigations in Connecticut have demonstrated that streams, rivers, and wetlands were focal points for precontact era 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 a number of variables, including climate, vegetation, parent material, time, and organisms present (Gerrard 1981). Once archaeological deposits are buried within the soil, they are subject to a number of 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 within the current project area. In contrast, acidic soils enhance the preservation of charred plant remains.

The project parcel is characterized by the presence of Paxton-Montauk and Woodbridge soils (Figure 3), which are characterized as very deep well drained loamy soils. Where they are not disturbed, these types of soils are generally well correlated with both post-European Contact period and precontact era archaeological site locations. A descriptive profile for each soil type is presented below; they were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service.

<u>Paxton and Montauk Soils</u>

The Paxton series consists of well drained loamy soils formed in lodgment till. The soil is very deep to bedrock and moderately deep to a densic contact. They are found on nearly level to steep soils on hills, drumlins, till plains, and ground moraines. Slope associated with these soils range 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 soil is very deep to bedrock and moderately deep to a densic contact. This soil is on upland hills and moraines. Slopes associated with these soils range 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).

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. 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; common fine prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) masses of iron accumulation; moderately acid.

Summary

A review of mapping, geological data, ecological conditions, soils, slopes, and proximity to freshwater suggests that the project area appears to be favorable for both precontact and post-European Contact period occupations. This includes areas of low to moderate slopes with well-drained soil located near freshwater sources. The types of Native American sites that may be contained in these areas include task specific, temporary, or seasonal base camps, which may include areas of lithic tool manufacturing, hearths, post-molds, and storage pits.

CHAPTER III
PRECONTACT ERA 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 precontact era occupation of the region was studied at the site level. Sites chosen for excavation were highly visible and they were in such areas as the coastal zone, e.g., shell middens, and Connecticut River Valley. As a result, a skewed interpretation of the precontact era occupation 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 precontact era 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. 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 precontact period of Connecticut. The remainder of this chapter provides an overview of the precontact era setting of the region encompassing the Facility.

Paleo-Indian Period (12,000 to 10,000 Before Present [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., 13,000 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 over 50 surface finds of Paleo-Indian projectile points throughout the State of Connecticut, only three sites, the Templeton Site (6-LF-21) in Washington, Connecticut, the Hidden Creek Site (72-163) in Ledyard, Connecticut, and the Brian D. Jones Site (4-10B) in Avon, Connecticut have been studied in detail and dated using the radiocarbon method (Jones 1997; Moeller 1980; Singer 2017a; Leslie et al. 2020).

The Templeton Site (6-LF-21) in Washington, Connecticut 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 gravers, 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. More recently, the site has undergone re-investigation by Singer (2017a and 2017b), who has determined that the overwhelming majority of tools and debitage are exotic and were quarried directly from the Hudson River Valley. Recent research has focused on task-specific loci at the Templeton Site, particularly the production of numerous Michaud-Neponset projectile points, as identified through remnant channel flakes.

The Hidden Creek Site (72-163) is 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, gravers, 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.

The Brian D. Jones Site (4-10B) was identified in a Pleistocene levee on the Farmington River in Avon, Connecticut; it was buried under 1.5 m (3.3 ft) of alluvium (Leslie et al. 2020). The Brian D. Jones Site was identified by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc., in 2019 during a survey for the Connecticut Department of Transportation preceding a proposed bridge construction project. It is now the oldest known archaeological site in Connecticut at +12,500 years old. The site also provides a rare example of a Paleo-Indian site on a river rather than the more common upland areas or on the edges of wetlands. Ground-penetrating radar survey revealed overbank flooding and sedimentation that resulted in the creating of a stable ancient river levee with gentle, low-energy floods. Archaeological deposits on the levee were therefore protected.

Excavations at the Brian D. Jones Site revealed 44 soil anomalies, 27 of which were characterized as cultural features used as hearths and post holes, among other uses. Of these, one hearth has been dated thus far (10,520 ± 30 14C yr BP; charred Pinus; 2-sigma 12,568 to 12,410 CAL BP) (Leslie et al. 2020:4). Further radiocarbon testing will be completed in the future. Artifact concentrations surrounded these features and were separated in two stratigraphic layers representing at least two temporally discrete Paleo-Indian occupations. The recovered lithic artifacts are fashioned from Normanskill chert, Hardyston jasper, Jefferson/Mount Jasper rhyolite, chalcedony, siltstone, and quartz. They include examples of a fluted point base, preforms, channel flakes, pièces esquillées, end scrapers, side scrapers, grinding stones, bifaces, utilized flakes, gravers, and drilled stone pendant fragments. Lithic tools numbered over 100, while toolmaking debris was in the thousands. The channel flakes represent the production of spear points used in hunting. Scrapers, perforators, and grinding stones indicate animal butchering, plant food grinding, the production of wood and bone tools, and the processing of animal skins for clothing and tents. Other collected cultural materials included charred botanicals and calcined bone. Botanical specimens recovered in hearth features included burned remains of cattail, pin cherry, strawberry, acorn, sumac, water lily, and dogwood. Approximately 15,000 artifacts were collected in total.

The scarcity of identified Paleo-Indian sites suggests a low population density during this period. The small size of most Paleo-Indian sites, their likely inundation by rising sea levels, and the high degree of landscape disturbance over the past 10,000 years likely contribute to poor site visibility, although the presence of two deeply alluvially buried Paleo-Indian sites in Connecticut suggests that other sites may be located along stable rivers (Leslie et al. 2021).

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 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, 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 of 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 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.

Another localized cultural tradition, the Gulf of Maine Archaic, which lasted from ca. 9,500 to 6,000 14C B.P., is beginning to be recognized in Southern New England (Petersen and Putnam 1992). It is distinguished by its microlithic industry, which may be associated with the production of compound tools (Robinson and Peterson 1993). Assemblages from Maine (Petersen et al. 1986; Petersen 1991; Sanger et al. 1992), Massachusetts (Strauss 2017; Leslie et al. 2022), and Connecticut (Forrest 1999) reflect the selection of local, coarse-grained stones. Large choppers and hoe-like forms from southeastern Connecticut's Sandy Hill Site likely functioned as digging implements. Woodworking tools, including adzes, celts, and gull-channeled gouges recovered at the Brigham and Sharrow sites in Maine (Robinson and Petersen 1993:68), may have been used for dugout canoe manufacture. The deeply stratified Sandy Hill (Forrest 1999; Jones and Forrest 2003) and Sharrow sites (Petersen 1991), with their overlapping lenses of "black sand" floor deposits, suggest intensive site re-occupations according to an adaptation that relied, in part, on seasonally available wetland resources. Thus far, sites from this tradition have only been identified within coastal and near-coastal territories along the Gulf of Maine, in southeastern Connecticut, and in Massachusetts.

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

By the onset of the Middle Archaic Period modern deciduous forests had developed in the region (Davis 1969). Increased numbers and types of sites associated with this period are noted in Connecticut (McBride 1984). The most well-known Middle Archaic site in New England is the Neville Site in Manchester, New Hampshire studied by Dincauze (1976). Careful 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, ranging 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^2 (5,383 ft^2). 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 B.P., is perhaps the most interesting, yet confusing of the Archaic Periods in southern New England precontact period. 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 B.P.) is characterized by the presence of Snook Kill and Susquehanna Broadspear projectile points while the latter Terminal Archaic (3,200-2,700 B.P.) is distinguished by 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 was still 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.

<u>Early Woodland Period (ca., 2,700 to 2,000 B.P.)</u>

The Early Woodland Period of the northeastern United States dates from ca., 2,700 to 2,000 B.P., and it was 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. Archaeological investigations of Early Woodland sites in southern New England 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.

<u>Middle Woodland Period (2,000 to 1,200 B.P.)</u>

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 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 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).

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 stylistically diverse 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's Precontact Era

The precontact era of Connecticut spans from ca. 13,000 to 350 B.P., and it is characterized by numerous changes in tool types, subsistence patterns, and land use strategies. Much of this era is

characterized by local Native American groups who practiced a subsistence pattern based on a mixed economy of hunting and gathering 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 precontact period 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 that includes the proposed project area, a variety of precontact site types may be expected, ranging from seasonal camps utilized by Paleo-Indian and Archaic populations to temporary and task-specific sites of the Woodland era.

CHAPTER IV
POST-EUROPEAN CONTACT PERIOD OVERVIEW

Introduction

The proposed Facility is located at 11 Castle Rock Road in the Town of Woodstock, which is in Windham County, Connecticut. As with most Connecticut towns, Woodstock originated as a Native American settlement and later became an English colonial village. The area including present-day Woodstock was known as originally known as *Wabbaquasset* and was settled by English colonists as New Roxbury. While initially considered part of Massachusetts, Woodstock was incorporated in 1749 as a Connecticut town. The early economy of Woodstock was based on agriculture throughout the eighteen and nineteenth centuries although Woodstock did experience early industrialization in the nineteenth century. Today, Woodstock is still considered a rural, agricultural community. This chapter presents a brief overview of the history of Windham County and the Town of Woodstock, as well as information specific to the proposed project area.

Windham County

Windham County was established in 1726 by an act of the Connecticut General Court with lands taken from Hartford and New London Counties. Located in northeastern Connecticut, it is bounded to the north by the State of Massachusetts, to the east by the Town of Thompson, to the south by the towns of Putnam and Eastford, and to the west by the Town of Union. Windham County encompasses 521.5 square miles and has a population of 116,418 residents, and the most populous town is Windham (Connecticut 2021; USCB 2023a). Often referred to as the "Quiet Corner," Windham County is the least populous county in Connecticut. The topography of Windham County includes parallel rides of hills, aligned primarily north-to-south. The landscape includes terrain that is "rugged and broken" but with numerous streams and falls, thus limiting large scale agriculture except for in the fertile valleys but providing a strong basis for early industrial development on waterways (Bayles 1889). Important waterways associated with Windham County include the Quinebaug, Five Mile, Hop, Willimantic, Shetucket, and Natchaug Rivers (Bayles 1889).

Woodland Period to the Seventeenth Century

During the Woodland Period of northeastern North American history (ca., 3,000 to 500 years ago), the Indigenous peoples who resided in Connecticut were part of the greater Algonquian culture of northeastern North America (Lavin 2013). They spoke local variations of Southern New England Algonquian languages and lived in extended kinship groups on lands they maintained for a variety of horticultural and resource extraction purposes (Goddard 1978). Indigenous people in the region practiced subsistence activities including hunting, fowling, and fishing, along with the cultivation of various crops, the most important of which were maize, squash, and beans. They supplemented these foods seasonally by collecting shellfish, fruits, and plants during warmer periods, and gathering nuts, roots, and tubers during colder times. In addition, these communities came together in large groups to hunt deer in the fall and winter. Indigenous peoples lived with their immediate or extended families in large settlements, often concentrated along rivers and/or wetlands. Some villages were fortified by wooden palisades. Their habitation, known as a *weetu* or *wigwam*, was usually constructed of a tree-sapling frame and covered in reed matting during warm months and tree bark throughout the winter. These varied in size from a small, individual dwelling, to an expansive "long house," which could accommodate several families. Native communities commonly traded among their immediate neighbors

and often maintained long-distance networks (Lavin 2013). At the time of the arrival of Europeans the Nipmuc were the most prominent Native nation within the present-day bounds of Windham County, which included distinct communities known as the Quinebaug, Nipmuc, Mohegan, and Narragansett people (De Forest 1852; Larned 1874; Lavin 2013). All these groups were closely connected through kinship, culture, language, and trade.

Seventeenth Century through Eighteenth Century

As Native communities maintained oral tradition rather than a written record, most surviving information of the Indigenous people of Connecticut was recorded by European observers (Lavin 2013). In 1614, Dutch traders sailing under Captain Adrian Block were the earliest Europeans known to have sailed along Long Island Sound and up the Connecticut River where they initiated contact and trade with the Indigenous people of the Connecticut River Valley (De Forest 1852; Larned 1874; Lavin 2013). Following that voyage, Block created a figurative map of the region that clearly depicted the Connecticut River, which the Dutch named the Versche Rivier (Fresh River) due to it being a freshwater river. It was during this voyage that Dutch traders learned the significance of wampum, polished tubular shell beads created from the white whelk shell and the purple quahog shell (Hauptman and Wherry 2009; McBride 2013). They found they could exchange wampum for valuable furs from Native peoples north along the Hudson River. By the early 1620s, the Dutch and Pequot of present-day southeastern Connecticut entered a trade partnership in which the Pequot supplied wampum and furs in return for European goods. In 1624, the Dutch established New Netherland Colony on the Hudson River with its eastern bounds extending as far as Cape Cod, including the Connecticut River (Jacobs 2009). The Pequot accessed a variety of trade goods they distributed to tributaries and other groups in the region. They extended their dominance over the Connecticut shoreline, eastern Long Island, and the lower Connecticut River Valley bringing Native nations there into a tributary relationship under their leadership (Hauptman and Wherry 2009; McBride 2013). Some Nipmuc groups and the Quinebaug became tributaries to the Pequot during this time as well.

In 1633, the Pequot allowed the Dutch to build a fortified trading post on the Connecticut River at the site of present-day Hartford to further cement both parties' domination over the flow of wampum, fur, and trade goods. To break from the Pequot, several Connecticut River sachems invited the English to settle in the Connecticut River Valley (Van Dusen 1961). Increased European interaction resulted in exposure to diseases and epidemics Indigenous people had never encountered and to which they had no natural immunity. Illnesses such as smallpox, measles, tuberculosis, and cholera devastated Indigenous communities (Lavin 2013). In 1633, an epidemic spread through the region impacting the Pequot and may have spread among the Quinnipiac as well. In addition, tensions between Native and European groups laying claim to the Connecticut River resulted in the death of several colonial traders between 1634 and 1636, which the Pequot were assumed responsible. In retaliation, English forces from Massachusetts Bay destroyed Pequot and Nehantic villages on the Pequot (Thames) River in August 1636 which began the Pequot War. The Pequot laid siege to Saybrook Fort at the mouth of the Connecticut River during the winter of 1636-1637 and attacked Wethersfield in April 1637 further upriver. Connecticut Colony declared war on the Pequot and were joined by Native warriors from the Connecticut River and Mohegans under the Sachem Uncas (Oberg 2006). In May 1637, English allied forces destroyed the fortified Pequot village at Mistick which proved to be the turning point of the war. Pequot refugees fled west with their Sachem, Sassacus. English forces gave chase, making landfall at Quinnipiac and pursuing them west through present-day New Haven County (Cave 1996). In July 1637, the Pequot were defeated in present-day Fairfield and the war soon ended. After the war, the Connecticut English claimed Pequot territory as conquered lands for their newly established colony. Present-day Woodstock was well connected to these events and locations throughout colonial

Massachusetts and Connecticut via the Old Connecticut Path, which passed through Woodstock and linked the settlements of Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford to the colonial settlements in Masschusetts, starting in 1635 (Bayles 1886).

In January of 1639, the river towns adopted the "fundamental orders," which outlined the framework for the self-governed Connecticut Colony that separate from Massachusetts Bay or Plimoth (Trumbull 1886). In the aftermath of the Pequot War, the Sachem Uncas claimed much of northeastern Connecticut colony, the lands of former Pequot tributaries, as Mohegan land through both right of conquest and hereditary claims (Larned 1874; Oberg 2006). This included Wabbaquasset and Quinebaug lands and Uncas' sons were sent to live in the respective communities. During the upheaval of King Philip's War (1675-1676) much of present-day Windham County was reportedly depopulated of Native communities. The Narragansett settlements at Egonk Hill removed during the war and the Nipmuc peoples at Wabbaquasset either allied themselves with the Mohegan or sided with the greater Nipmuc nation that fought alongside Metacom's Native coalition against the English (Bowen 1926; Oberg 2006). Connecticut Colony recognized Uncas's claims to the Wabbaquassett territory. Uncas died around 1684 and his lands were divided between his two sons, Attawanhood and Owaneco.

John Eliot, who travelled to present-day Woodstock, had established Praying Villages in Massachusetts with the intention of Christianizing Native Americans. The first "Indian church" he established in 1651 was at Natick, Massachusetts, but by 1674 he had established further churches and schools in Connecticut, including the Praying Town of Quinnatisett at present-day Thompson Hill (Bowen 1886:14). While Eliot tried to facilitate the growth of these English organized villages, King Philip's War, as mentioned previously, led to the dissolution of many Native American settlements, and Windham County became largely devoid of its native Nipmuck population. Following the war, Wabbaquassett territory came into the possession of Captain James Fitch by 1684 from Owaneco, then sachem of the Mohegan. The English settlement of Woodstock began in earnest in 1686 when 13 men from Roxbury, Massachusetts established permanent homes.

Eighteenth through Nineteenth Century

In 1713, the Connecticut and Massachusetts Colonies agreed on their shared border and those towns under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts remained that way, including Woodstock (Barber 1836). The border proved unsatisfactory for both colonies and by 1749 several Massachusetts towns along the boundary were transferred to Connecticut and Woodstock became part of Windham County (Bowen 1886; Lincoln 1920). By 1750 Windham County contained the towns of Ashford, Canterbury, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Voluntown, Windham, and Woodstock (Bayles 1889). As part of northeast Connecticut, Woodstock continued to develop as a robust agricultural town home to several grist mills, sawmills, copper shops, and a fulling mill all prior to 1775 (Lincoln 1920). Slavery existed in Windham County, including in Woodstock, although it was uncommon in the seventeenth century, and by the eighteenth century it was primarily practiced by wealthy families, merchants, and ministers in larger towns (Hurd 1881; Orcutt 1886; Rockey 1892). The 1774 Connecticut colonial census for the Town of Woodstock recorded a "White" population of 1,974, with 42 "Blacks," and 38 Native American inhabitants although the number of enslaved individuals was not noted (Hoadly 1887). During the American Revolution (1775-1783), Connecticut played an important role recruiting soldiers, supplying food stores, and providing military goods for the war effort while men from Woodstock served from the Lexington Alarm to Yorktown (Bowen 1886). After the Revolution, the region recovered from wartime economic disruptions thanks to its robust agricultural production. In 1784, the State passed a gradual manumission law, but slavery was not fully abolished until 1848 (Normen 2013). On January 9, 1788, Connecticut ratified the U.S. Constitution to become the fifth state (Van Dusen 1961).

Nineteenth through Twenty-first Centuries

Woodstock continued to develop as an important agricultural town located at the junction of three turnpike roads and contained a population of 2,654 people who resided in 350 dwelling houses (Pease and Niles 1819; Connecticut 2023a). In 1801, the Woodstock Academy was constructed on the northern end of the town common to serve the towns growing population and was chartered by the Connecticut legislature the next year (Woodstock Academy 2023). The fertile soil allowed for grazing lands and for growing grains such as rye and corn while butter, cheese, beef, and pork were also important locally raised products.

The Industrial Revolution impacted much of eastern Connecticut during the early decades of the nineteenth century and by 1819 the town was home to a woolen factory and a cotton factory in addition to a fulling mill, several grain mills, a dozen sawmills, and an oil mill in addition to two distilleries, blacksmith shops, wheel-wrights and even a goldsmith (Pease and Niles 1819). By the 1830s, Woodstock was a well-established agricultural town with fertile soils utilized for grazing animals and cultivating crops yet was also home to eight textile factories and a robust shoe making industry (Barber 1836). By 1850 the town's population reached a height of 3,381 residents (Connecticut 2023b).

A Nipmuc community remained in Woodstock following the Revolutionary War on about 100 acres of land on Hatchet Pond in the northwest part of town where they farmed, worked as laborers and sold both white oak baskets and brooms to local residents and country stores. Several homes at Hatchet Pond were damaged in a fall storm in 1850 and many families moved from Hatchet Pond to northern Woodstock and remained in town (Lincoln 1920).

During the Civil War (1861-1865) all Windham County towns, including Woodstock, produced goods for the war effort and recruited troops for the armed forces of which the town was credited for 272 men in the Union Army (Niven 1965; Hines 2002). In 1870, Woodstock's population reached a total of 2,955 residents and in the decades that followed the number slowly declined to 2,309 by 1890 (Connecticut 2023b; Table 1). One key factor in Woodstock's lack of industrial growth was that no railroads entered the town and without access to this efficient transport option the town's few factories could not compete with others in larger, better connected Windham County towns (Turner and Jacobus 1989). Additionally, the exodus of Connecticut farmers to the western territory of Ohio kept the population low in many towns throughout the state during the late nineteenth century (Van Dusen 1961).

Although Woodstock remained rural in nature it attracted a number of visitors due to its location at the intersection of several major roads and proximity to larger mill towns such as Southbridge, Massachusetts to the north as well as both Thompson and Putnam to the east. The American pro-abolitionist publisher, businessman, and philanthropist Henry Chandler Bowen was born and raised in town. He later moved to New York City but in 1846 he built a Gothic Revival summer home called Roseland Cottage in Woodstock where, beginning in 1870, he hosted notable Fourth of July celebrations and routinely invited prominent guests to attend as speakers including four different US Presidents: Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes, and William McKinley (Lincoln 1920). Bowen also purchased Woodstock Academy, renovated it and following the Civil War established an endowment to run the institution (Woodstock Academy 2023). In 1846 the Woodstock Fair was established and has been held annually since 1860 (Day 2014; Woodstock 2014).

In 1900, Woodstock had a population of 2,095 residents and the number continued to decline to 1,849 people by 1910 (Connecticut 2023c; Table 1). At the turn of the twentieth century, Woodstock remained primarily an agricultural community, although some industry remained and in 1907 cotton twine was still

manufactured in town (Connecticut 1907). Lumber was an important product harvested in town and, by 1920, 2,000,000 feet of lumber was produced and largely consumed locally in the mill towns of Southbridge, Webster, and Putnam (Lincoln 1920). By 1930 the town's principal industries remained agriculture and the manufacture of worsted cloth (Connecticut 1932). During the Great War, World War I, 65 men from Woodstock served in the conflict, many of which fought in Europe with American Expeditionary Forces and several of which died in the service (Lincoln 1920). The town's population fluctuated in the years that followed eventually rising to 1,912 residents in 1940 on the eve of American involvement in World War II (Connecticut 2023c; Table 1).

By the mid-twentieth century, the trend toward post-war suburban living brought more permanent residents to industrial towns and cities, further boosting the regional population. This suburban trend was facilitated by the widespread adoption of the automobile by the American middleclass and new highway construction. The Federal Highway Acts of 1944 and 1956 funded the construction of Interstate 395 which ran through nearby Putnam and Thompson which was completed in 1958 (DeLuca 2020). This spurred new commercial and residential development in nearby towns, particularly along Route 44, but impacted Woodstock less as agriculture remained an important economic activity in town. Even so, some manufacturing was attracted to Woodstock including the Linemaster Switch Corporation with produced electrical and pneumatic foot switches and wiring harnesses beginning in 1953 (EPA 2023). Access to nearby highways and the post-war "baby-boom" assisted in Woodstock's significant population increase to a new high of 2,271 residents as of 1950, a number which was exceeded every census year throughout the rest of the century (Connecticut 2022d; Table1).

By 2023, the key industries in Woodstock included manufacturing, government, and educational services. Top employers included Linemaster Switch Corporation, Rogers Corporation, and Northeast Placement (AdvanceCT and CTData Collaborative 2023). Agriculture is still an important part of the economy as it has for centuries. As of 2014, there were 42 farms in town including those for dairy, wine, Christmas trees, as well as fruits and vegetables (Woodstock 2014). Strategic growth is anticipated for Woodstock. According to the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, the Town of Woodstock strives to promote "land uses that allow new development while retaining the look, feel and function of a village" (Woodstock 2014:6).

Table 1: Population of Woodstock, Connecticut 1790-2020 (Connecticut 2023b-d; USCB 2023)

Town	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
Town of Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut	2,309	2,095	1,849	1,767	1,712	1,912	2,271
	1960	**1970**	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**
	3,177	4,311	5,117	6,008	7,221	7,964	8,221

History of the Project Area

The proposed Facility is located at 11 Castle Rock Road in Woodstock, Connecticut. During the nineteenth century the Facility area was cleared and likely utilized as agricultural fields, as were most tillable lands in Woodstock. The 1856 map of the area does not detail any development along Castle Rock Road and limited development along the Norwich Worcester Turnpike (present-day Route 169). Along the eastern bounds of the project parcel and abutting the turnpike were two dwelling houses, one belonging to a "C. Hammitt" and the other belonging to a "J. Giles" (Figure 4; 1856 Map).

As seen in the subsequent 1869 map of Woodstock, the project area still appears to have been undeveloped and was likely under agricultural cultivation. The two dwelling houses on the east bounds

of the property belong to a “Edwing M. Giles” and the other to “P. Arnold T.H.” which may indicate that P. Arnold either owned or rented this tenement house (T.H.). Otherwise, the region does not differ materially from the earlier mapping (Figure 5; 1869 Map). Similarly, an 1883 dated map of the project area does not demonstrate any discernible differences, the parcel remains undeveloped and was likely under agricultural production, while the two unmarked dwelling houses are still located in the eastern bounds of the property (Figure 6; 1883 Lester Map).

Throughout the twentieth century, the area around the proposed Facility remained clear and under agricultural production. A 1934 aerial photograph of the project parcel indicates that the eastern half of the property remained cleared and under agricultural cultivation whereas the western part was wooded at the time. A dwelling house and barn and visible on the eastern edge of the property as of 1934 (Figure 7). A subsequent 1963 aerial photograph of the project parcel shows that nearly the entire property had been cleared and was under agricultural cultivation except from a small strip of woodland running north to south and splitting the property into two fields. There was a small dwelling house located in the southeast corner of the project area (Figure 8). A little more than 30 years later, a 1995 aerial photograph of the proposed project area demonstrates that little change had occurred within the property or in the general vicinity. The project parcel remained largely cleared for agricultural cultivation with a very small, wooded section within the center of the property. There was a farm located to the south of the project area as of 1995 along Castle Rock Road and a small dwelling house is visible in the southeastern corner of property also on Castle Rock Road (Figure 9; 1995 Aerial). Finally, an aerial image taken in 2021 shows the land in its essentially modern state; it remained mostly cleared and under agricultural cultivation with the small strip of woodlot separating the eastern and western fields. A building still appears in the southeast corner of the property on Castle Rock Road and other dwelling houses abut the property to the east along Route 169 and on Castle Rock Road (Figure 10; 2021 Aerial).

Conclusions

The documentary review indicates that the proposed Facility is located within the landscape that mainly consists of agricultural fields, Nevertheless, there is the possibility of encountering remains of outbuildings, stonewalls, or other evidence of post-European Contact farming.

CHAPTER V
PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of previous cultural resources research completed within the vicinity of the proposed Facility in Woodstock, Connecticut. This discussion provides the comparative data necessary for assessing 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 Facility area 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 11 and 12). The discussions presented below are based on information currently on file at the 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, National/State Register of Historic Places Properties/District, and Inventoried Historic Standing Structure 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, indicates that two previously identified archaeological sites (169-30 and 169-36) are located within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of the proposed Facility (Figure 11). A single State Register of Historic Places properties, the SRHP 112-6, was also identified within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area (Figure 12). Finally, no National Register of Historic places properties/districts are located within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area (Figure 12). The two archaeological sites and the State Register of Historic Places property are reviewed below.

Site 169-30

Site 169-30, which is also known as the Fairgrounds (Boivan Find) Site, is a Late Woodland period site that consists of an isolated Genesee projectile point that was collected from the ground surface within the fairgrounds on Route 71 in Woodstock, Connecticut (Figure 11). Mr. David Boivan collected the Genesee projectile point in the 1960s while working on construction at the fairgrounds. The projectile point remained in his private collection. Site 169-30 was reported in June of 1980 by Kevin McBride and William Wadleigh of Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. (PAST). McBride and Wadleigh submitted a site form for the findspot because they noted that it could be related to ethnohistorical reports of an "Indian Village" in South Woodstock. This site was not assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CR 60.4 [a-d]). Due to its distance from the Facility, no impact to Site 168-30 will occur as a result of construction of the proposed solar project.

Site 169-36

Site 169-36, which is also known as the Chapman Site, is a Late Archaic period campsite that was reported in May of 1981 by William Wadleigh of PAST (Figure 11). It was identified within a corn field on the southwestern side of Peak Brook Road in Woodstock. The Chapman Site was surface collected in June of 1980 by PAST archaeologists. At the time it was recorded, the Chapman Site had been subjected to extensive disturbance from plowing and agricultural activities. Large numbers of finished artifacts identified suggested a semi-permanent or permanent occupation. In addition to lithic projectile points, several bifaces, scrapers and utilized flakes were also recovered from the site area. PAST recommended additional pedestrian survey of the site. Site 169-36 was not assessed applying the National Register of

Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CR 60.4 [a-d]). It is located well enough away that it will not be impacted by the proposed solar project.

SRHP 112-6

SHRP-112-6 is an eighteenth century two-and-a-half-story wood frame residence. It was listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places on December 7, 1967 (Figure 12). The home was recorded by H.C. Darbee of the Connecticut Historical Commission. Mr. Darbee noted that there was a sign above the front door that said "1762." He described the house as facing to the south on the northern side of State Route 97, approximately 45.7 meters (150 feet) to the west of the junction of Route 97, Route 169, and U.S. Route 44 in Pomfret, Connecticut. The building was characterized as a simple structure with porches extending across the front of both the first and second stories. Darbee noted that the building served as a store during the early decades of it use. The building, which now is residence, is located approximately 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) to the southeast of proposed Facility; it will not be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed construction.

Summary and Interpretations

The review of previously identified cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed Facility indicates that the larger project region contains precontact era and post-European Contact period cultural resources related to Native American habitation and resource extraction, as well as colonial commerce and farming.

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 parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut. The following tasks were completed during this investigation: 1) study of the region's precontact era, post-European Contact period, and natural settings; 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously recorded cultural resources in the area encompassing the project parcel; 3) a review of post-European Contact period maps, topographic quadrangles, and aerial imagery depicting the project parcel in order to identify potential post-European Contact period 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. 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 identify and assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area, as well as to visually examine the area and record any previously unidentified cultural resources during pedestrian survey. The undertaking was comprehensive in nature, and project planning took into consideration the distribution of previously recorded cultural resources located within the project region, as well as the 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 (see below).

Archival Research & Literature Review

Background research for this project included a review of a variety of maps depicting the 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, National and State Register of Historic Places, and inventoried historic standing structures 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 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.

Field Methodology and Data Synthesis

Heritage performed fieldwork for the Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the project parcel associated with the proposed solar project in Woodstock, Connecticut in October of 2023. This included pedestrian survey, photo-documentation, and mapping. During the completion of the pedestrian survey, representatives from Heritage photo-documented all potential areas of impact using digital media.

CHAPTER VII
RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut, as well as management recommendations for the proposed Facility. As stated in the introductory section of this report, the investigation involved the following tasks: 1) a contextual overview of the region's precontact, post-European Contact, and natural settings (e.g., soils, ecology, hydrology, etc.); 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously recorded archaeological and cultural resources in the project region; 3) a review of readily available maps and aerial imagery depicting the project area in order to identify potential post-European Contact period resources and/or areas of past disturbance; 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the facility area to determine its archaeological sensitivity; and 5) preparation of the current Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey report.

Overall Sensitivity of the Proposed Facility

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 maps, aerial images, and data regarding previously identified archaeological sites and National/State Register of Historic Places properties, and inventoried historical standing structures to stratify the project area and the Facility into zones of no/low or moderate/high archaeological sensitivity. In general, post-European Contact 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 precontact era, in contrast, 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 precontact era archaeological sites, the project parcel and the Facility were divided into areas of no/low and 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 meters (1,000 feet) from a freshwater source and that contain slopes of less than 8 percent and well-drained soils possess a high potential for producing precontact era archaeological deposits. Those areas located between 300 and 600 meters (1,000 and 2,000 feet) from a freshwater source and well drained soils are considered moderate probability areas. This is in keeping with broadly based interpretations of precontact era 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 precontact 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 meters (1,000 feet) but less than 600 meters (2,000 feet) 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 precontact era archaeological sites.

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

Results of Phase IA Survey and Management Recommendations

Heritage personnel conducted a pedestrian survey of the proposed project area in October of 2023. The pedestrian survey was supplemented by mapping and photo-documentation (Figure 13 and Photos 1 through 19). The project area is situated at elevations ranging between 128 to 150 meters (420 to 492 feet) NGVD. At the time of the pedestrian survey, the project area was accessed via Castle Rock Road, and vegetation consisted of agricultural fields. The predominant soil types located noted throughout the project parcel include Paxton-Montauk and Woodbridge soils, all of which are well-drained loamy soils. Where they are not disturbed, these types of soils are generally well correlated with both post-European Contact period and precontact era archaeological site locations.

As noted earlier in this report, the results of the pedestrian survey indicate that the larger project parcel is primarily characterized by open agricultural fields with slightly rolling topography and wooded areas in the north, west, and south. The walkover also revealed that the Facility is located in close proximity to Little Brook to the west and the Quinebaug River to the east. In addition, two previously identified precontact era archaeological sites were noted within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of the project area. While no NRHP properties/districts were identified within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) .there is one State Register of Historic Places property, SRHP 112-6, situated nearby.

Based on this combined information, it was determined that 25.9 acres of the project parcel may be considered archaeologically sensitive for intact cultural deposits (Figure 13), and it is recommended that any areas within this acreage that are associated with the proposed Facility and will be impacted be subjected to Phase IB cultural resources survey prior to the construction. The remaining 12.3 acres of the project parcel exhibited poorly drained soil and standing water; it was determined that these areas are not archaeologically sensitive and no further examination of this area is recommended prior to construction.

Finally, a dry laid stonewall was identified along the southwestern, western, and northwestern boundaries of the project parcel during the pedestrian survey. This stonewall measures approximately 589.3 meters (1,933.4 feet) in length. While the stonewall could not be attributed to a specific type, function, or time period, it is recommended, that it be protected in place to the extent practicable. It is also recommended that the stonewall be included on construction maps and marked with high visibility fencing so that it is not inadvertently impacted during construction.

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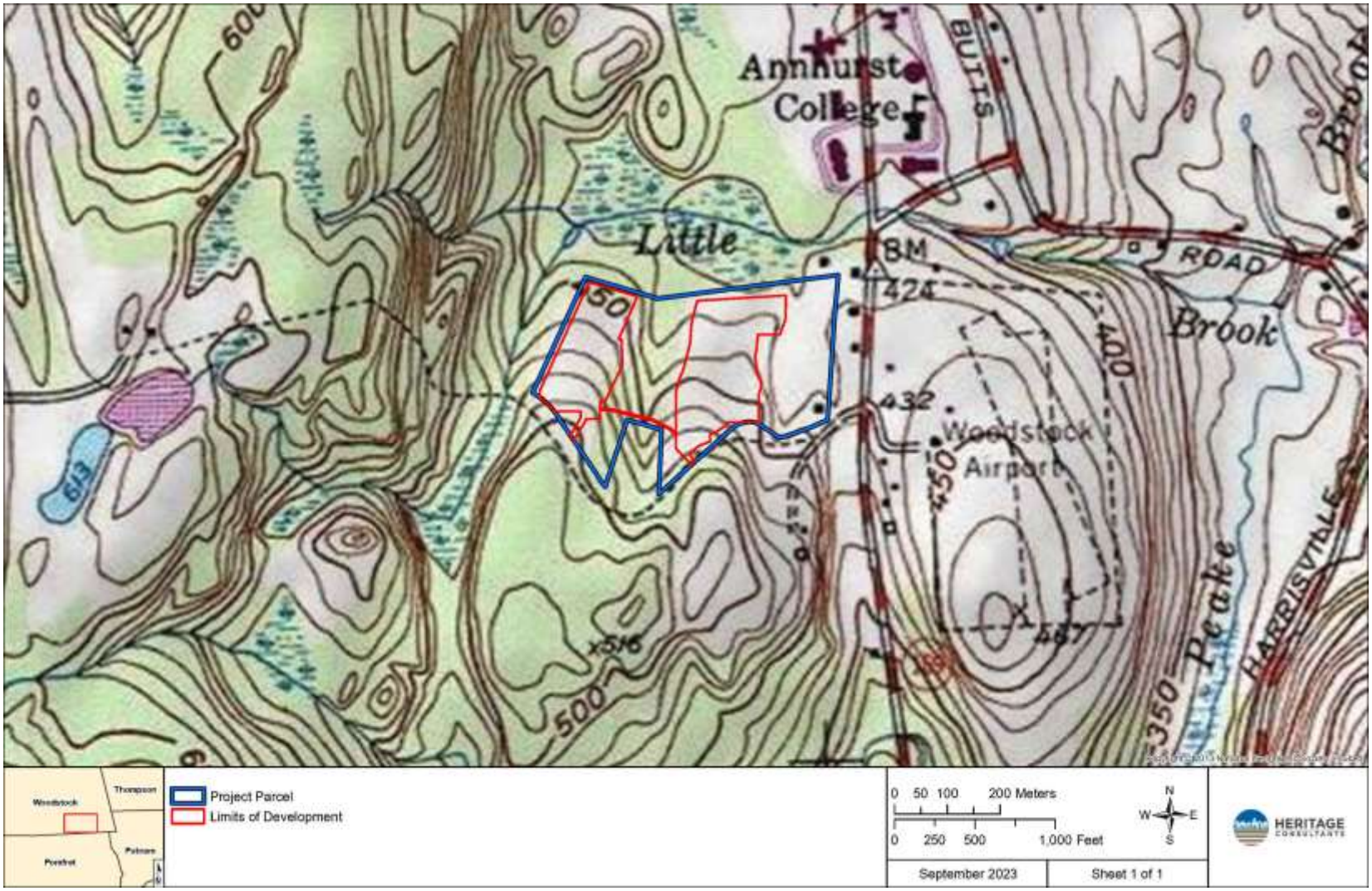

Figure 1. Excerpt from a USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle image showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 2. Project plans for the proposed Woodstock Solar Project at 11 Castle Rock Road in Woodstock, Connecticut.

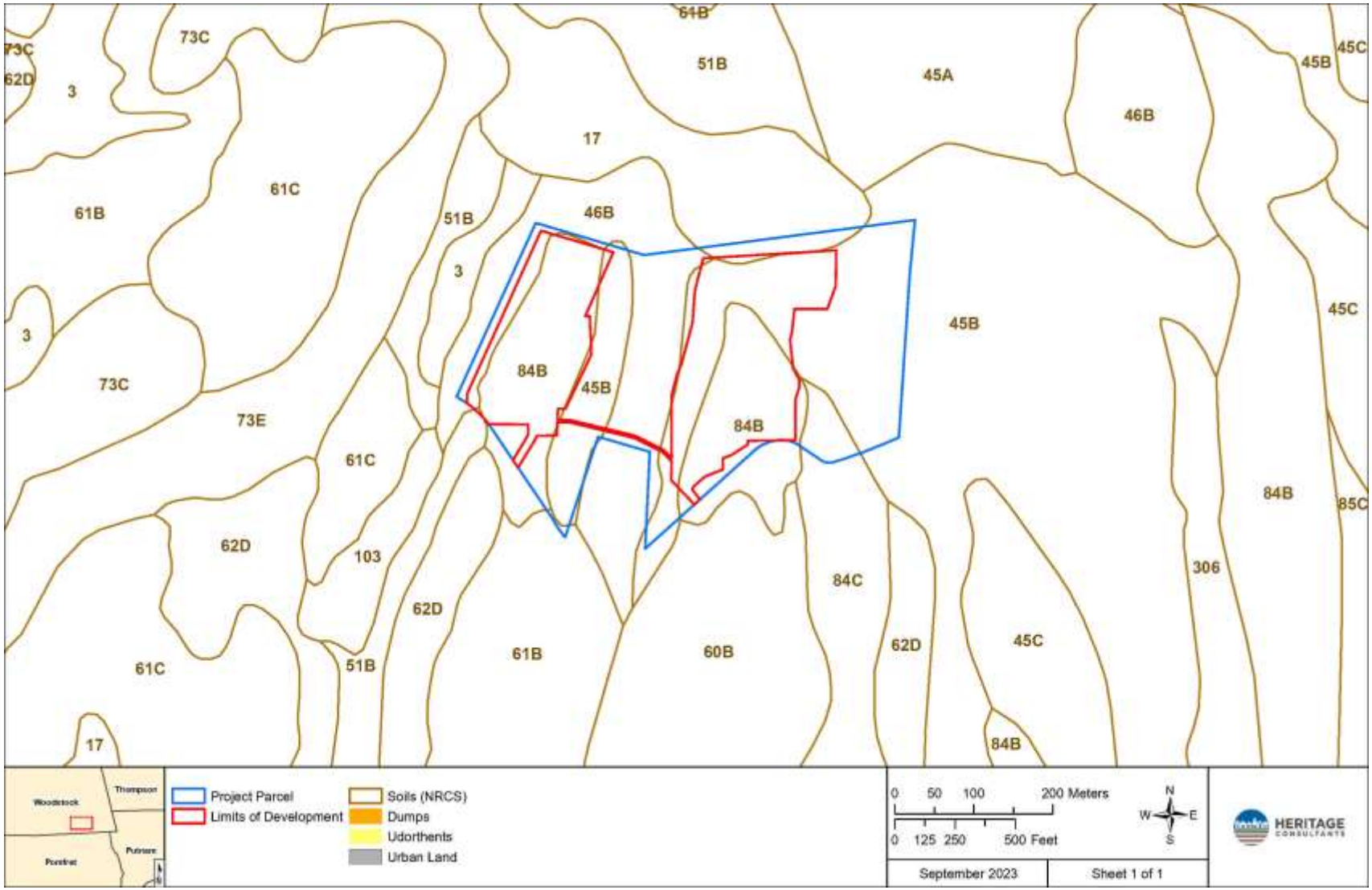

Figure 3. Digital map depicting the soil types present in the vicinity of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

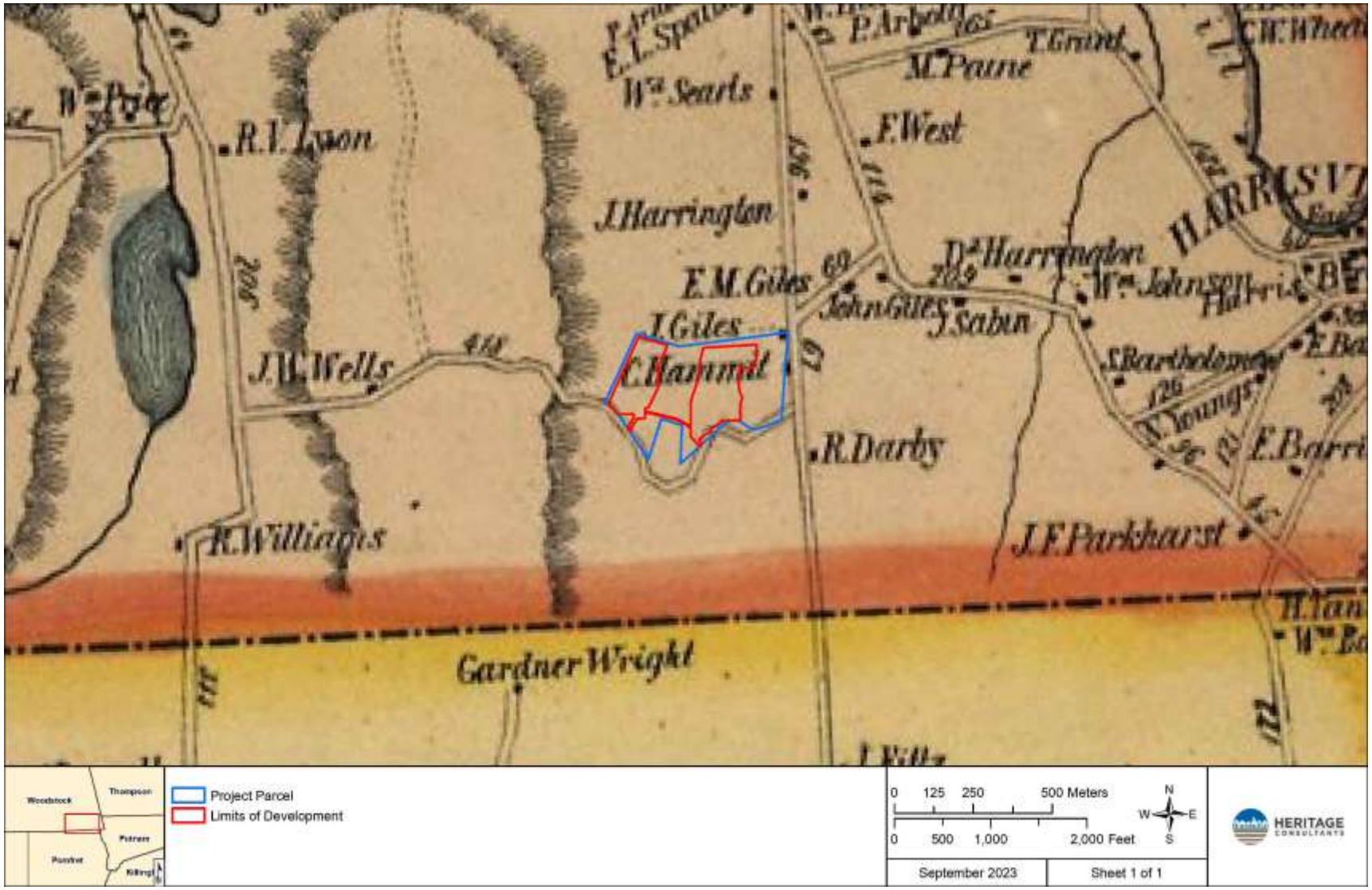

Figure 4. Excerpt from an 1856 map showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 5. Excerpt from an 1869 map showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

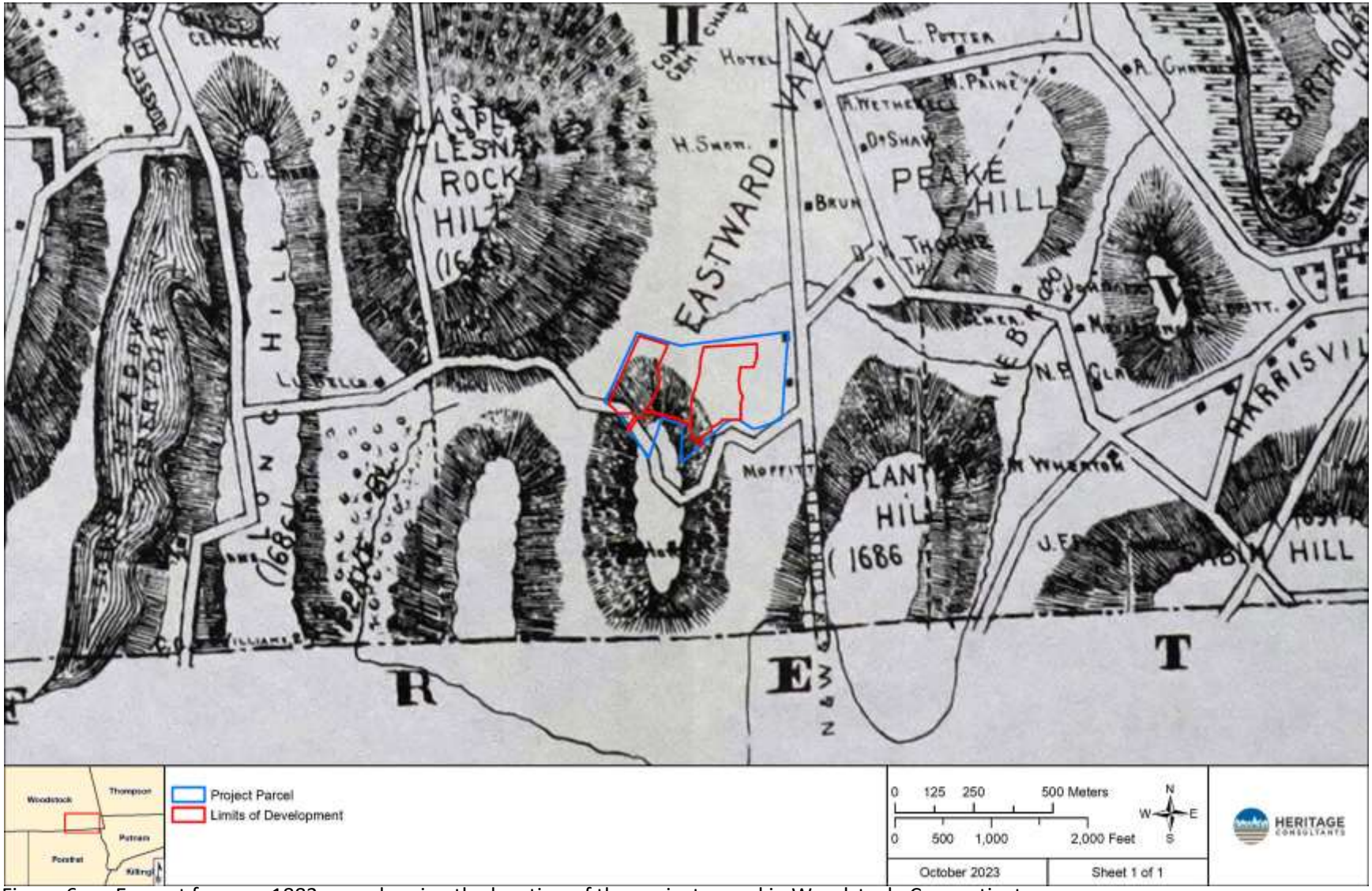

Figure 6. Excerpt from an 1883 map showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

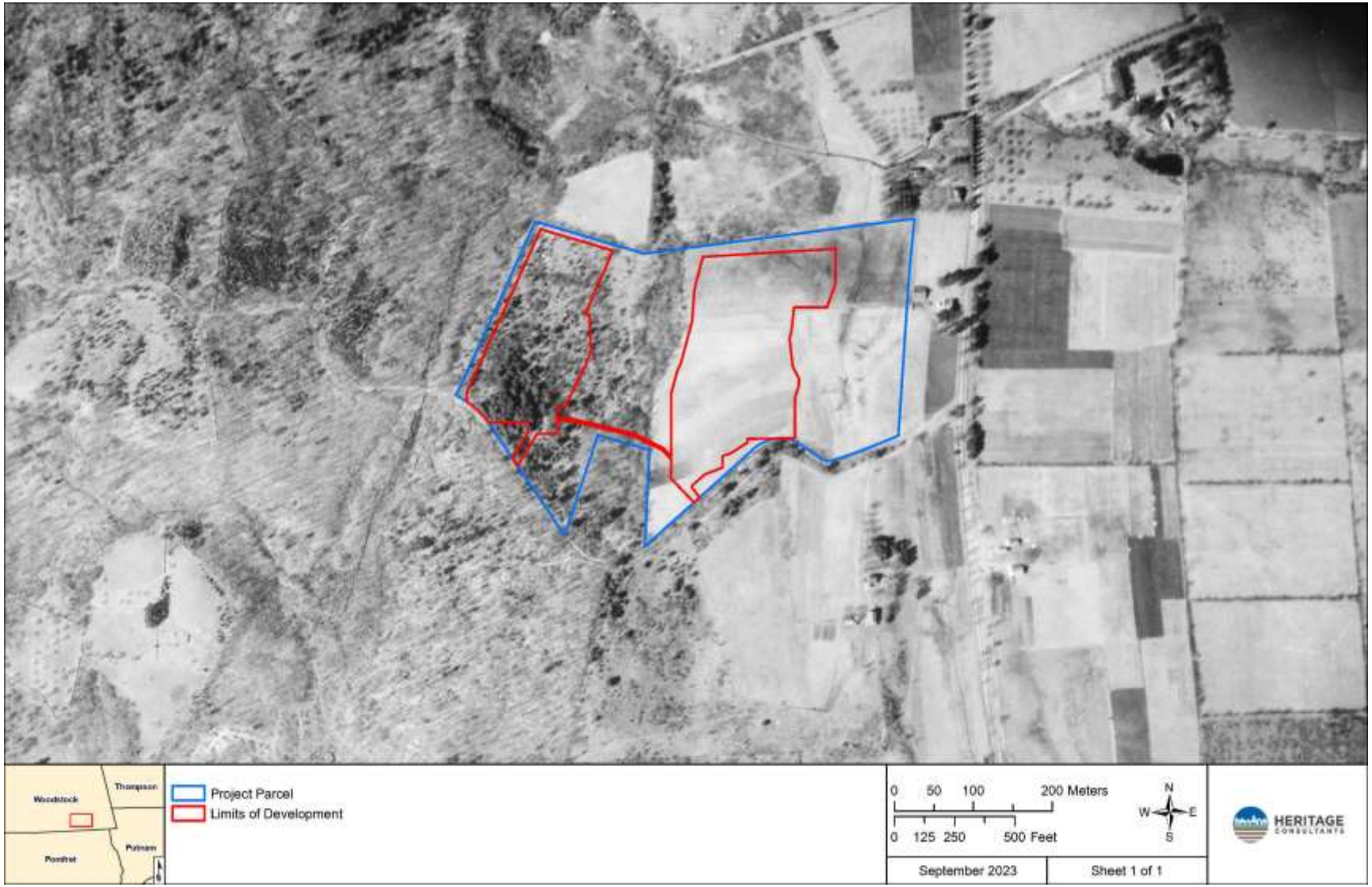

Figure 7. Excerpt from a 1934 aerial photograph showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 8. Excerpt from a 1963 aerial photograph showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 9. Excerpt of a 1995 aerial photograph showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 10. Excerpt of a 2021 aerial photograph showing the location of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

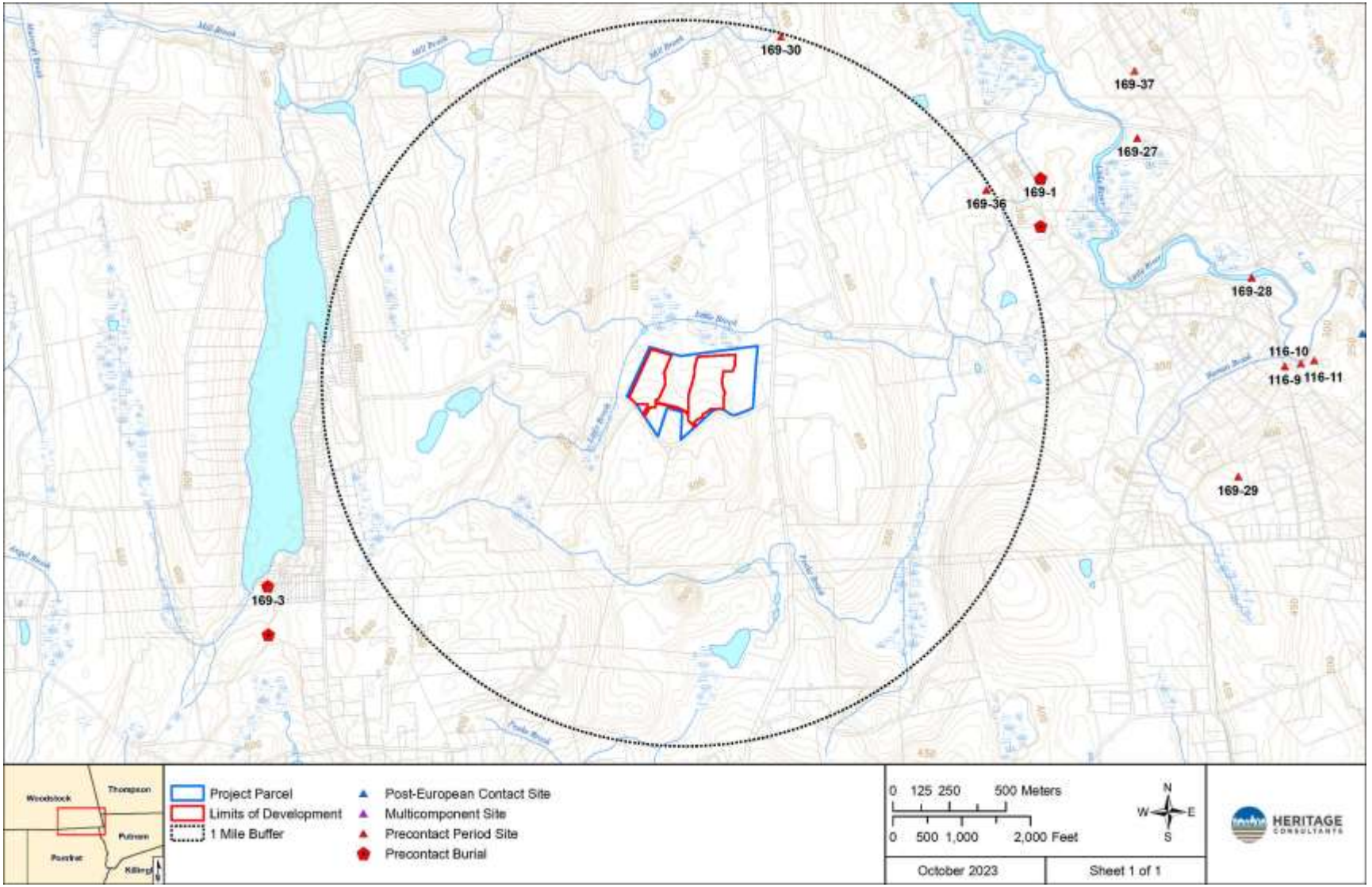

Figure 11. Digital map depicting the locations of the previously identified archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

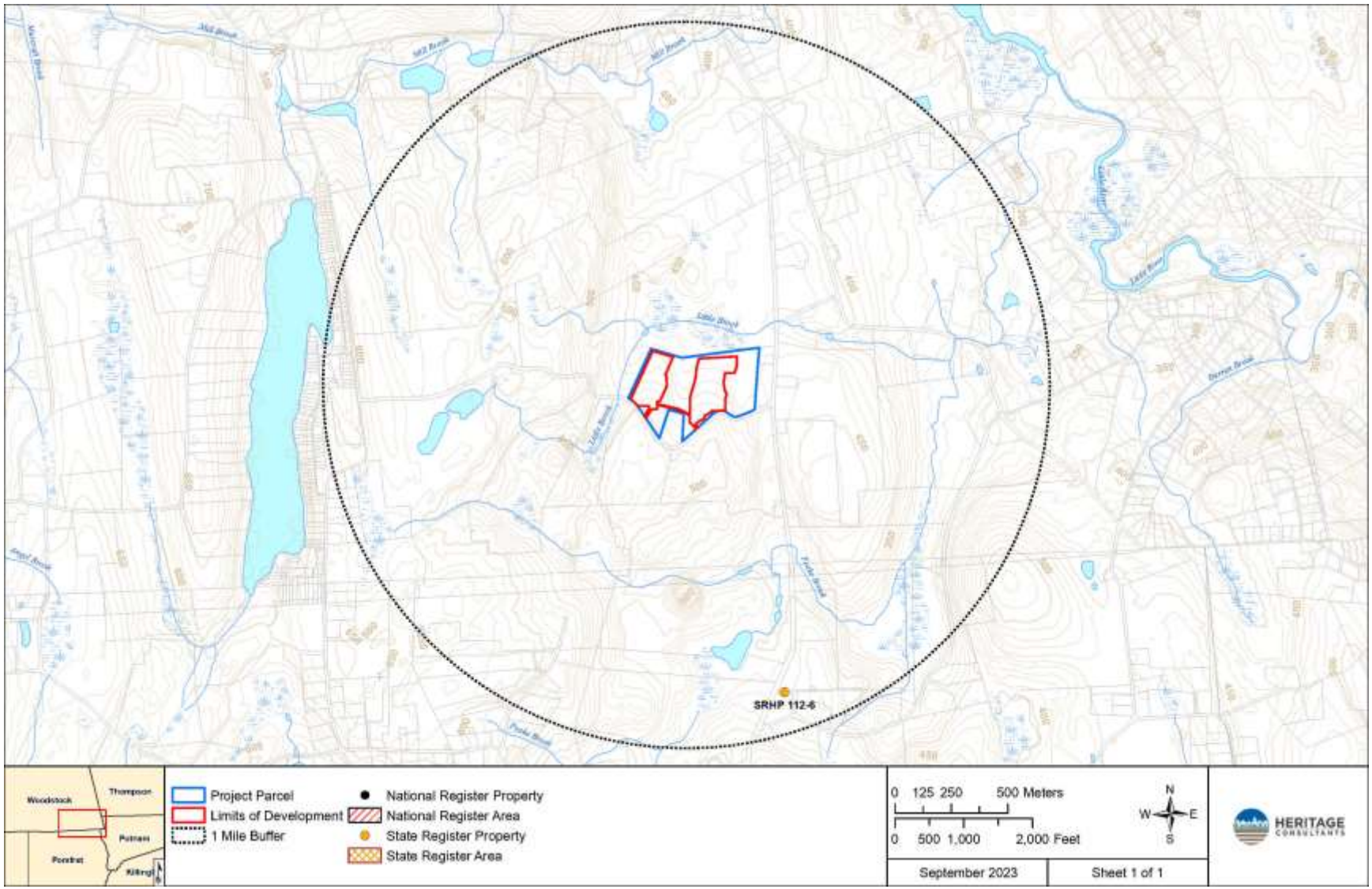

Figure 12. Digital map depicting the locations of the previously identified National Register of Historic Places and State Register of Historic Places properties in the vicinity of the project parcel in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Figure 13. Excerpt from a 2021 aerial photograph illustrating areas of Moderate/High archaeological sensitivity (Red) with directional arrows of photo points taken for the proposed Facility in Woodstock, Connecticut.

Photo 1. Overview photo from the southeastern corner of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

Photo 2. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

Photo 3. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing north.

Photo 4. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing north.

Photo 5. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northeast.

Photo 6. Overview photo of the proposed interconnect area of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

Photo 7. Overview photo of the proposed interconnect area of the project parcel. Photo facing southeast.

Photo 8. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing north.

Photo 9. Overview photo from the southern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northwest.

Photo 10. Overview photo from the southwestern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing north. Note wind rows in background.

Photo 11. Overview photo from the southwestern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing northeast toward wind rows.

Photo 12. Overview photo from the southwestern corner of the project parcel. Photo facing east.

Photo 13. Overview of dry laid stone wall along western boundary of project parcel. Photo facing northeast. Note stone wall runs northeast to southwest.

Photo 14. Overview photo from the northwestern corner of the project parcel. Photo facing south toward corn field.

Photo 15. Overview photo from the northern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing southwest.

Photo 16. Overview photo from the northern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing southeast.

Photo 17. Overview photo from the northern boundary of the project parcel. Photo facing southwest.

Photo 18. Overview photo from the northeastern corner of the project parcel. Photo facing southwest.

Photo 19. Overview photo from the eastern boundary of the project parcel. Photo northwest.