

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION .....	1
Introduction .....	1
Project Description and Methods Overview.....	1
Project Results and Management Recommendations Overview .....	1
Project Personnel.....	2
Organization of the Report .....	3
CHAPTER II: NATURAL SETTING .....	4
Introduction .....	4
Ecoregions of Connecticut .....	4
Eastern Coastal Ecoregion .....	4
Hydrology of the Study Region.....	5
Soils Comprising the Project area .....	5
Woodbridge Soils .....	5
Canton and Charlton Soils .....	6
Charlton-Chatfield Soils .....	6
Sutton Soils.....	6
Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman Soils .....	7
CHAPTER III: PREHISTORIC SETTING .....	9
Introduction .....	9
Paleo-Indian Period (12,000 to 10,000 B.P.).....	9
Archaic Period (10,000 to 2,700 B.P.) .....	10
Early Archaic Period (10,000 to 8,000 B.P.) .....	10
Middle Archaic Period (8,000 to 6,000 B.P.) .....	10
Late Archaic Period (6,000 to 3,700 B.P.).....	11
The Terminal Archaic Period (3,700 to 2,700 B.P.).....	11
Woodland Period (2,700 to 350 B.P.) .....	12
Early Woodland Period (ca., 2,700 to 2,000 B.P.).....	12
Middle Woodland Period (2,000 to 1,200 B.P.) .....	13
Late Woodland Period (ca., 1,200 to 350 B.P.) .....	13
Summary of Connecticut Prehistory .....	13
CHAPTER IV: HISTORIC OVERVIEW.....	15
Native American History.....	15
Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century History.....	15
Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries .....	16
Project Area History .....	17

Conclusions .....	21
CHAPTER V: PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS .....	22
Introduction .....	22
Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within the Vicinity of the Project area .....	22
Site 102-5 .....	22
Site 102-6 .....	22
Site 102-7 .....	23
Site 102-8 .....	23
Site 102-9 .....	23
Site 102-98 .....	23
Site 137-10 .....	23
Historic Standing Structure 102-139 .....	23
Historic Standing Structure 102-67 .....	24
Historic Standing Structure 102-170 .....	24
Summary and Interpretations .....	24
CHAPTER VI: METHODS .....	25
Introduction .....	25
Research Framework .....	25
Archival Research & Literature Review .....	25
Field Methodology and Data Synthesis .....	26
Curation .....	26
CHAPTER VII: RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION .....	27
Introduction .....	27
Results of Pedestrian Survey and Photo-Documentation of the Project Items .....	27
Wheeler Farmstead (Site 102-130) .....	27
Stanton Farmstead (Site 102-131) .....	28
Post 1868 Farmstead (Site 102-132) .....	29
Stanton Cemetery .....	29
Partlow Cemetery .....	30
Site 102-8 .....	30
Overall Sensitivity of the Proposed Project area and Project Recommendations .....	31
CHAPTER VIII: SUMMARY AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS .....	33
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	35

## LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1. Excerpt from a USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle image showing the location of the study area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 2. Project area location in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 3. Digital maps of soil types present throughout the proposed project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 4. Excerpt from a 1916/1918 map showing the location of a trolley line to the west of the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 5. Digital index map of the project parcels comprising the study area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 6. Excerpt from an 1854 map depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 7. Excerpt from an 1868 map depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 8. Excerpt from 1934 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut
- Figure 9. Photo of the Wheeler Family headstone.
- Figure 10. Excerpt from a 1939 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 11. Excerpt from a 1941 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 12. Excerpt from a 1951 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 13. Excerpt from a 1953 USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 14. Excerpt from a 1955 map depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 15. Excerpt from a 1957 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 16. Excerpt from a 1962 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 17. Excerpt from a 1965 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.

- Figure 18. Excerpt from a 1970 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 19. Excerpt from a 1972 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 20. Excerpt from a 1988 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 21. Excerpt from a 1997 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 22. Excerpt from a 2005 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 23. Excerpt from a 2012 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 24. Excerpt from a 2016 aerial image depicting the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 25. Digital map showing the locations of previously identified archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 26. Digital map showing the locations of previously identified National Register of Historic Places properties/districts in the vicinity of the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 27. Digital map showing the locations of previously identified State Register of Historic Places properties/districts in the vicinity of the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 28. Digital map showing the locations of previously identified historic standing structures in the vicinity of the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.
- Figure 29. Excerpt from a 1996 USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle depicting the no/low, moderate, and high sensitivity areas within the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut.

## LIST OF PHOTOS

- Photo 1. Overview photo east towards the Wheeler Farmstead.
- Photo 2. Overview photo of the former Wheeler Farmstead location facing west (note this area has been bulldozed).
- Photo 3. Overview photo of the former Stanton Farmstead (note bulldozed rubble in background of photo).
- Photo 4. Overview photo of former Stanton Farmstead facing southwest (note vegetated area contains the well).
- Photo 5. Overview photo of the Post 1868 Farmstead house foundation facing east.
- Photo 6. Overview photo of the stone lined well associated with the Post 1868 Farmstead facing east.
- Photo 7. Overview photo of the long narrow building foundation associated with the Post 1868 Farmstead facing east.
- Photo 8. Photo of John Stanton's headstone in the Stanton Cemetery.
- Photo 9. Overview photo of the Stanton Cemetery facing southeast (note the cemetery is covered in brush).
- Photo 10. Overview photo of the Partlow Cemetery facing east.
- Photo 11. Overview photo of Henry Stanton's headstone in the Partlow Cemetery.
- Photo 12. Overview photo of Site 102-8 facing northeast.
- Photo 13. Overview photo of Site 102-8 facing northwest.
- Photo 14. Overview photo of a typical no/low sensitivity zone in the project area (note steep slopes and rocks).
- Photo 15. Overview photo of a typical no/low sensitivity zone in the project area (note this area characterized by wet soils).
- Photo 16. Overview photo of a typical no/low sensitivity zone in the project area (note this area disturbed by previous bulldozing).
- Photo 17. Overview photo of a typical moderate sensitivity zone in the project area (note moderate slopes in this area).

- Photo 18. Overview photo of a typical moderate sensitivity zone in the project area (note moderate slopes in this area).
- Photo 19. Overview photo of a typical moderate sensitivity zone in the project area (note moderate slopes in this area).
- Photo 20. Overview photo of a typical high sensitivity zone in the project area (note low slopes and sandy well drained soils in this area).
- Photo 21. Overview photo of a typical high sensitivity zone in the project area (note low slopes and sandy well drained soils in this area).
- Photo 22. Overview photo of a typical high sensitivity zone in the project area (note low slopes and sandy well drained soils in this area).

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey for the proposed Pawcatuck Solar Center in North Stonington, Connecticut (Figures 1 and 2). Pawcatuck Solar Center, LLC (Pawcatuck Solar), working through its contractor, All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C. (Allpoints), has requested that Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage) complete the assessment survey as part of the planning process for a proposed 15.0 Megawatt (MWac) solar energy facility. Heritage completed this investigation in November of 2017. All work associated with this assessment survey was performed in accordance with National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and; the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (Poirier 1987) promulgated by the Connecticut Historic Commission, State Historic Preservation Office.

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

Pawcatuck Solar is proposing to install a 15.0 MWac solar photovoltaic (PV) facility (the Pawcatuck Solar Center) in North Stonington, Connecticut. While the details of the construction plan are still under development, the facility will interconnect with the Eversource Energy electrical grid at the adjacent Shunock Substation via a new 13.2kV feeder running to the west across Pendleton Hill Road. The main entrance for the facility will be located along Ella Wheeler Road and there will be power centers located in the interior of the six-foot high facility fence line, each of which will consist of an inverter and medium-voltage transformer where PV module strings are aggregated. The PV modules will be mounted on single-axis tracker racking designed to optimize energy production for this location. The facility will require aggregate, compacted soil, or equivalent, roads for access to the power centers, and other critical equipment.

This Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey consisted of the completion of the following tasks: 1) a contextual overview of the area's prehistory, history, and natural setting (e.g., soils, ecology, hydrology, etc.); 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously recorded archaeological sites, National and State Register of Historic Places properties/districts, and historic standing structures more than 50 years in age within and close to the region encompassing the project area; 3) a review of readily available historic maps and aerial imagery depicting the project area to identify potential historic resources and/or areas of past disturbance; 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the project area to determine its archaeological sensitivity, as well as to record any historic built resources; and 5) preparation of the current Phase IA assessment survey report.

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

The review of historic maps and aerial images of the project area, files maintained by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, and pedestrian survey of the proposed Pawcatuck Solar Center resulted in the identification of three historic farmsteads, two historic cemeteries, and the location of single prehistoric archaeological site (102-8). Visual reconnaissance of the Wheeler and Stanton Farmsteads, both of which date from the nineteenth century and perhaps earlier, revealed that they have been massively disturbed in the past due to bulldozing. This occurred when these farmsteads were razed in the late twentieth century. Due to a lack of intact archaeological deposits and research potential, neither of these two historic cultural resources rises to the level of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, and no additional archaeological examination of them is required prior to construction

of the proposed solar facility. The third historic farmstead, known as the Post 1868 Farmstead was identified in the southwestern portion of the proposed project area near where the solar center will interconnect with Eversource's power grid. These areas contained intact above ground features (e.g., house foundation and outbuilding footprints). If, as the project plans develop further, this area is to be disturbed, then Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey of the Post 1868 Farmstead would appear warranted.

The pedestrian survey of the project area also resulted in the identification and recordation of two historic cemeteries and the location of a single previously identified prehistoric archaeological sites. The Stanton Cemetery was noted outside of the southern limits of the proposed project area. It is clearly demarcated by a stone wall and contains the graves of approximately 10 members of the Stanton Family. Currently, no impacts to this historic resource are anticipated as the project boundary lies approximately ca. 75 m (250 ft) to the west of this resource. If the proposed project area does not increase to include the burial ground, no other recordation of the Stanton Cemetery is required; however, if the project plans change such that the cemetery will be in or near the project limits, it is recommended that no construction occur within 15 m (50 ft) the stone walls demarcating the cemetery.

The second cemetery was noted in the north-central portion of the proposed project area within a large cornfield. This area is associated with the Partlow Family and it was used during the nineteenth century. There are currently head and footstones there representing between 15 and 20 individuals. However, while the area is in a small stand of trees, there is no stonewall or fence demarcating its boundaries. Thus, it is possible that additional, unmarked graves may exist within the cornfield. As a result, the project sponsor should take particular care when developing plans for this area so that the cemetery is not inadvertently impacted. It is recommended that no construction occur within 15 m (50 ft) of the area around the small stand of trees where graves are known to exist.

In addition, the location of Site 102-8 was reidentified during pedestrian survey. This area is known to contain prehistoric deposits and is officially recognized as an archaeological site by the State of Connecticut. Currently, the area is being used as a cow pasture and appears to be largely undisturbed. A Phase IB cultural resource reconnaissance survey appears warranted for this area if it is to be impacted by the proposed project.

Finally, 46 and 66 acres of land have been categorized as moderate and high archaeologically sensitive areas, respectively. These are areas with access to freshwater, low to moderate slopes, and well drained soils. These areas also appear to be likely candidates for Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey prior to disturbance associated with construction of the proposed solar center. Those portions of the solar facility area that possess steep slopes are characterized as no/low probability areas and need not be examined further prior to construction.

We recommend the field methods for the Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey be developed in consultation with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

### **Project Personnel**

Key personnel for this project included Mr. David R. George, M.A., R.P.A, who acted as Principal Investigator. He was assisted by Mr. Antonio Medina, B.A., who assisted in the field review portion of the project. Mr. George also was assisted by Mr. William Keegan, B.A., who provided GIS support services and project mapping. Finally, Ms. Kristen Keegan completed this historic background research of the project and contributed to the final report.



**Organization of the Report**

The natural setting of the region encompassing the project area is presented in Chapter II; it includes a review of the geology, hydrology, and soils, of the project region. The prehistory of the project region is outlined in Chapter III. The history of the region encompassing the project area is discussed in Chapter IV, while previously identified cultural resources near the project area are reviewed in Chapter V. The methods used to complete this investigation are discussed in Chapter VI. Finally, the results of this investigation are presented in Chapter VII, and management recommendations are contained in Chapter VIII.

## CHAPTER II

# NATURAL SETTING

### **Introduction**

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

### **Ecoregions of Connecticut**

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

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

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

### Eastern Coastal Ecoregion

The Eastern Coastal ecoregion region consists of a hilly upland terrain located between approximately 5 to 7 mi to the north of Long Island Sound (Dowhan and Craig 1976). It is characterized by “coastlands, including extensive tidal marshes, estuary areas, and sand beaches, by relatively level but rolling near-shore lands, and by protrusions of rugged and rocky upland extending to the coastline” (Dowhan and Craig 1976:29). Elevations in the Eastern Coastal ecoregion range from sea level to 122 m (400 ft) above sea level (Bell 1985). The bedrock of the region is composed of schists, gneisses, and granite deposited during the Paleozoic (Bell 1985). Soils in the region have developed on top of glacial till in upland locales, and on top of stratified deposits of sand, gravel, and silt in the local valleys and coastal areas (Dowhan and Craig 1976).

## **Hydrology of the Study Region**

The project region contains several sources of freshwater, including Shunock River, Anguilla Brook, Lewis Pond, Wheeler Brook, and the Pawcatuck River, as well as several unnamed wetlands. The brooks, ponds, rivers, and wetlands may have served as resource extraction areas for Native American and historic populations alike. Previously completed archaeological investigations in Connecticut have demonstrated that streams, rivers, and wetlands were focal points for prehistoric occupations because they provided access to transportation routes, sources of freshwater, and abundant faunal and floral resources. These water sources also may have provided the impetus for the construction of water powered mills facilities during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

## **Soils Comprising the Project area**

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

A review of the soils within the project area is presented below. The project area is characterized by five major soil types (Figure 3). They include Woodbridge; Canton and Charlton; Charlton and Chatfield; Sutton, and Ridgebury, Whitman, and Leicester soils. The first four of these types, when found on low slopes in proximity to fresh water and in an undisturbed state, are well correlated with both historic and prehistoric archaeological site locations. Ridgebury, Whitman, and Leicester soils, in contrast, typically are wet and do not correlate with prehistoric or historic period occupation sites. Descriptive profiles for each soil type in the project area, which were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service, are presented below.

### Woodbridge Soils:

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;

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.

Canton and Charlton Soils:

**Oi**-- 0 to 5 cm; slightly decomposed plant material;

**A**-- 5 to 13 cm; very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) fine sandy loam; weak fine granular structure; friable; common fine roots; 5 percent gravel; very strongly acid (pH 4.6); abrupt smooth boundary;

**Bw1**-- 13 to 30 cm; yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine and medium roots; 5 percent gravel; very strongly acid (pH 4.6); clear smooth boundary;

**Bw2**-- 30 to 41 cm; yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine and medium roots; 5 percent gravel; strongly acid (pH 5.1); clear smooth boundary.

**Bw3**-- 41 to 56 cm; yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) gravelly fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky; friable; common fine and medium roots; 15 percent gravel; strongly acid (pH 5.1); abrupt smooth boundary;

**2C**-- 56 to 170 cm; grayish brown (2.5Y 5/2) gravelly loamy sand; massive; friable; 25 percent gravel; moderately acid (pH 5.6).

Charlton-Chatfield Soils:

**Oe** -- 0 to 4 cm; black (10YR 2/1) moderately decomposed forest plant material;

**A** -- 4 to 10 cm; dark brown (10YR 3/3) fine sandy loam; weak fine granular structure; very friable; many fine roots; 5 percent gravel; very strongly acid; abrupt smooth boundary;

**Bw1** -- 10 to 18 cm; brown (7.5YR 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak coarse granular structure; very friable; many fine and medium roots; 5 percent gravel; very strongly acid; clear wavy boundary;

**Bw2** -- 18 to 48 cm; yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; very friable; common fine and medium roots; 10 percent gravel and cobbles; very strongly acid; clear wavy boundary.

**Bw3** -- 48 to 69 cm; light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) gravelly fine sandy loam; massive; very friable; few medium roots; 15 percent gravel and cobbles; very strongly acid; abrupt wavy boundary;

**C** -- 69 to 165 cm; grayish brown (2.5Y 5/2) gravelly fine sandy loam with thin lenses of loamy sand; massive; friable, some lenses firm; few medium roots; 25 percent gravel and cobbles; strongly acid.

Sutton Soils:

**Oe**--0 to 2 cm; black (10YR 2/1) moderately decomposed forest plant material. (0 to 8 cm thick)

**A--**2 to 15 cm; very dark brown (10YR 2/2) fine sandy loam; weak medium granular structure; very friable; common fine and medium roots; 5 percent gravel; strongly acid; clear wavy boundary;

**Bw1--**15 to 30 cm; brown (7.5YR 4/4) fine sandy loam; weak fine and medium subangular blocky structure; friable; common fine and medium roots; 10 percent gravel and cobbles; moderately acid; gradual wavy boundary;

**Bw2--**30 to 61 cm; yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; few medium roots; 10 percent gravel and cobbles; common fine and medium prominent light brownish gray (2.5Y 6/2) iron depletions and yellowish red (5YR 5/6) masses of iron accumulation; moderately acid; gradual wavy boundary;

**Bw3--**61 to 71 cm; yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) fine sandy loam; weak medium subangular blocky structure; friable; 10 percent gravel and cobbles; common medium prominent light brownish gray (2.5Y 6/2) iron depletions and reddish brown (5YR 4/4) and strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) masses of iron accumulation; moderately acid; gradual wavy boundary;

**C1--**71 to 91 cm; brown (10YR 5/3) gravelly fine sandy loam; weak thick platy structure; firm; 15 percent gravel and cobbles; common medium distinct light brownish gray (2.5Y 6/2) iron depletions and common medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) masses of iron concentrations; moderately acid; gradual wavy boundary;

**C2--**91 to 165 cm; light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) gravelly sandy loam; massive; friable; 25 percent gravel and cobbles; moderately acid;

#### Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman Soils:

**Ap--**0 to 25 cm; black (10YR 2/1) loam, dark gray (10YR 4/1) dry; weak medium granular structure; friable; 10 percent rock fragments; common medium distinct red (2.5YR 4/8) masses of iron accumulation lining pores; moderately acid; abrupt wavy boundary;

**Bg--**25 to 46 cm; gray (5Y 5/1) fine sandy loam; massive; friable; 10 percent rock fragments, few medium distinct pale olive (5Y 6/4) and light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) masses of iron accumulation; strongly acid; abrupt wavy boundary;

**Cdg--**46 to 79 cm; gray (5Y 6/1) fine sandy loam; moderate medium plates; firm; 10 percent rock fragments; many medium distinct light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) masses of iron accumulation; moderately acid; clear wavy boundary;

**Cd1--**79 to 122 cm; olive (5Y 4/3) fine sandy loam; massive; firm; 10 percent rock fragments; few medium prominent dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) masses of iron accumulation; moderately acid; gradual wavy boundary;

**Cd2--**122 to 165 cm; olive (5Y 5/3) fine sandy loam; massive; firm; 10 percent rock fragments; moderately acid.

#### **Summary**

A review of mapping, geological data, ecological conditions, soils, slopes, and proximity to freshwater, suggests that portions of the proposed project area appear to be favorable to both prehistoric and historic period occupations and land use. This includes areas of low to moderate slopes with well drained soils located near freshwater sources. Other portions of the project area contain steeper slopes and/or poorly drained soils; these areas would not have been amenable to prehistoric and/or historic period occupations.

This information is combined with the results of a pedestrian survey and is discussed in greater detail in Chapter VII regarding how the project area was divided into areas of no/low, moderate, and high archaeological sensitivity.

## CHAPTER III

# PREHISTORIC SETTING

### **Introduction**

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

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

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

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

The only other Paleo-Indian site studied in detail in Connecticut is the Hidden Creek Site (72-163) (Jones 1997). The Hidden Creek Site is situated on the southeastern margin of the Great Cedar Swamp on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation in Ledyard, Connecticut. While excavation of the Hidden Creek Site produced evidence of Terminal Archaic and Woodland Period components (see below) in the upper soil horizons, the lower levels of the site yielded artifacts dating from the Paleo-Indian era. Recovered Paleo-Indian artifacts included broken bifaces, side-scrapers, a fluted preform, graters, and end-scrapers. Based

on the types and number of tools present, Jones (1997:77) has hypothesized that the Hidden Creek Site represented a short-term occupation, and that separate stone tool reduction and rejuvenation areas were present.

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

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

The Archaic Period, which succeeded the Paleo-Indian Period, began 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 the United States are represented by projectile points of the Kirk series (Ritchie and Funk 1973) and by Kanawha types (Coe 1964), sites of this age in southern New England are identified recognized 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, and are represented by camps that were relocated periodically to take advantage of seasonally available resources (McBride 1984; Pfeiffer 1986). In this sense, a foraging type of settlement pattern was employed during the Early Archaic Period.

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

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



7,740±280 and 7,015±160 B.P. (Dincauze 1976).

In addition to Neville points, Dincauze (1976) described two other projectile point styles that are attributed to the Middle Archaic Period: Stark and Merrimac projectile points. While no absolute dates were recovered from deposits that yielded Stark points, the Merrimac type dated from 5,910±180 B.P. Dincauze argued that both the Neville and later Merrimac and Stark occupations were established to take advantage of the excellent fishing that the falls situated adjacent to the site area would have afforded Native American groups. Thus, based on the available archaeological evidence, the Middle Archaic Period is characterized by continued increases in diversification of tool types and resources exploited, as well as by sophisticated changes in the settlement pattern to include different site types, including both base camps and task-specific sites (McBride 1984:96)

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

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

In terms of settlement and subsistence patterns, archaeological evidence in southern New England suggests that Laurentian Tradition populations consisted of groups of mobile hunter-gatherers. While a few large Laurentian Tradition occupations have been studied, sites of this age generally encompass less than 500 m<sup>2</sup> (5,383 ft<sup>2</sup>). These base camps reflect frequent movements by small groups of people in search of seasonally abundant resources. The overall settlement pattern of the Laurentian Tradition was dispersed in nature, with base camps located in a wide range of microenvironments, including riverine as well as upland zones (McBride 1978, 1984:252). Finally, subsistence strategies of Laurentian Tradition focused on hunting and gathering of wild plants and animals from multiple ecozones.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Middle Woodland Period is marked by an increase in the number of ceramic types and forms utilized (Lizee 1994a), as well as an increase in the amount of exotic lithic raw material used in stone tool manufacture (McBride 1984). The latter suggests that regional exchange networks were established, and that they were used to supply local populations with necessary raw materials (McBride 1984; Snow 1980). The Middle Woodland Period is represented archaeologically by narrow stemmed and Jack's Reef projectile points; increased amounts of exotic raw materials in recovered lithic assemblages, including chert, argillite, jasper, and hornfels; and conoidal ceramic vessels decorated with dentate stamping. Ceramic types indicative of the Middle Woodland Period includes Linear Dentate, Rocker Dentate, Windsor Cord Marked, Windsor Brushed, Windsor Plain, and Hollister Stamped (Lizee 1994a:200).

In terms of settlement patterns, the Middle Woodland Period is characterized by the occupation of village sites by large co-residential groups that utilized native plant and animal species for food and raw materials in tool making (George 1997). These sites were the principal place of occupation, and they were positioned close to major river valleys, tidal marshes, estuaries, and the coastline, all of which would have supplied an abundance of plant and animal resources (McBride 1984:309). In addition to villages, numerous temporary and task-specific sites were utilized in the surrounding upland areas, as well as in closer ecozones such as wetlands, estuaries, and floodplains. The use of temporary and task-specific sites to support large village populations indicates that the Middle Woodland Period was characterized by a resource acquisition strategy that can best be termed as logistical collection (McBride 1984:310).

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

The Late Woodland Period in southern New England dates from ca., 1,200 to 350 B.P., and it is characterized by the earliest evidence for the use of corn in the lower Connecticut River Valley (Bendremer 1993; Bendremer and Dewar 1993; Bendremer et al. 1991; George 1997; McBride 1984); an increase in the frequency of exchange of non-local lithics (Feder 1984; George and Tryon 1996; McBride 1984; Lavin 1984); increased variability in ceramic form, function, surface treatment, and decoration (Lavin 1980, 1986, 1987; Lizee 1994a, 1994b); and a continuation of a trend towards larger, more permanent settlements in riverine, estuarine, and coastal ecozones (Dincauze 1974; McBride 1984; Snow 1980; Wiegand 1983).

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

### **Summary of Connecticut Prehistory**

In sum, the prehistory of Connecticut spans from ca. 12,000 to 350 B.P., and it is characterized by numerous changes in tool types, subsistence patterns, and land use strategies. For most of the prehistoric era, local Native American groups practiced a subsistence pattern based on a mixed economy of hunting and gathering wild plant and animal resources. It is not until the Late Woodland Period that

incontrovertible evidence for the use of domesticated species is available. Further, settlement patterns throughout the prehistoric era shifted from seasonal occupations of small co-residential groups to large aggregations of people in riverine, estuarine, and coastal ecozones. In terms of the region containing the proposed project area, a variety of prehistoric site types may be expected. These range from seasonal camps utilized by Archaic populations to temporary and task-specific sites of the Woodland era.

## CHAPTER IV

# HISTORIC OVERVIEW

The proposed project area is in the southeastern corner of the Town of North Stonington, Connecticut. This area was formerly a part of the Town of Stonington, and it rests on a predominantly level landform north of the Pawcatuck River and south of Interstate 95. The State of Rhode Island border is east of the project area. As discussed below, the present appearance of the project area belies its intensive historic use and occupation.

### **Native American History**

The Town of North Stonington lies within the region conquered from the Pequot Indians in 1636-1637, during the war waged against them by Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Connecticut Colony, and the Narragansett Indians. The main settlements of the Pequot tribe at that time were in the territory that would later become Groton: one fort on the heights “a little southeast of Fort Friswold [*sic*],” where the sachem Sassacus resided, and the other near the Mystic River. The latter is the location of the famous battle at which hundreds of Pequots were massacred in an assault led by Captain John Mason in 1637 (Barber 1837:311). According to historical reports, Sassacus and his people destroyed their other fort and fled after the attack at Mystic. Barber also described Sassacus’s seat as being on Fort Hill, “four miles east from New London,” and not on the Thames River as the prior description suggests, although the location marked as Fort Hill on historic maps might reasonably be said to be “a little” southeast of Fort Griswold. In general, although it can be assumed that the Stonington territory was used by historic Native American groups, it may also have served as a buffer zone between the Pequots and their more eastern rivals, the Narragansetts. Sometime after the war, two dispersed groups of Pequots reconstituted themselves and maintained populations in the towns of northwestern North Stonington and Ledyard; the Narragansett tribe remained in Rhode Island, particularly in Charlestown.

### **Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century History**

As a result of the joint nature of the Pequot War, the question of which colony would have jurisdiction over the conquered area was a problem. It was resolved in 1658 by dividing the land between the two colonies at the Mystic River, with the Connecticut Colony keeping the west side and Massachusetts Bay Colony the east side; the latter section would become the Town of Stonington (parent town of North Stonington). Before that resolution, the conquered land had been surveyed by Connecticut in 1641, and several grants of land to individuals were made in the future Stonington, including one to William Chesebrough in 1652 that is now the borough of Stonington (incorporated 1801). The royal Charter granted to Connecticut in 1662 extended the colony’s boundary eastward to the Pawcatuck River, bringing the section east of the Mystic River back within that colony’s control. Before then, the area between the Mystic River and the Pawcatuck River was known as Southerton, a town of the Massachusetts Bay colony. In 1665, the General Court of Connecticut changed its name to Mistick, and in 1666 changed it again, to Stonington (Crofut 1937). The Billings family, after whom Billings Lake was named, were among the original colonists who settled there; the first head of family, William Billings, married in Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1658 and died in Stonington in 1713 (Wheeler 1900).

The village at the head of Mystic began to form after 1660, when Robert Burrows was appointed by the General Court to operate a ferry across the Mystic River. He and his family joined three other families

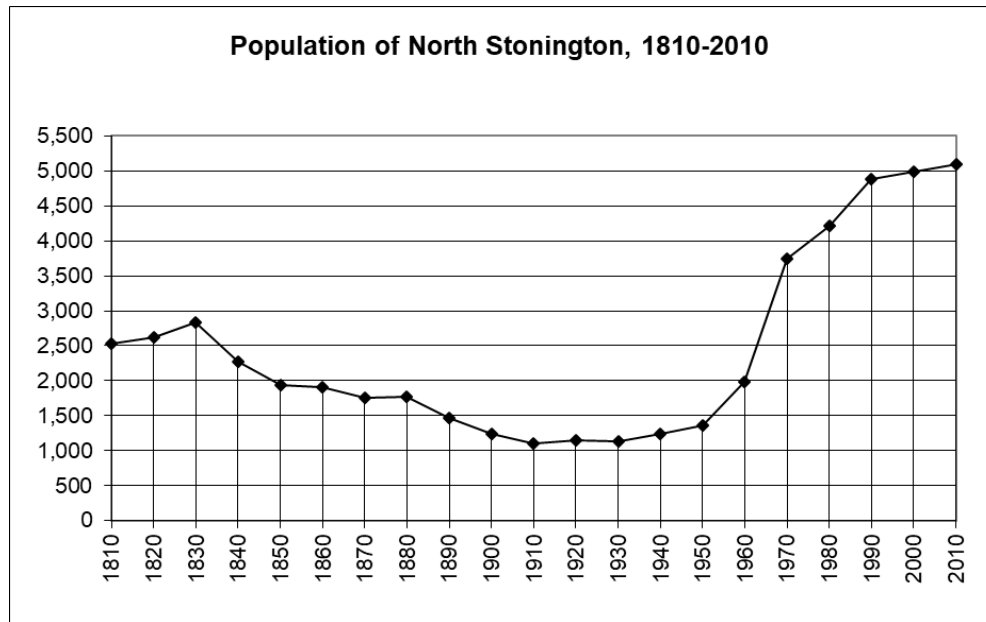
that had moved into the area in the 1650s. When the first Congregational meeting house was built in 1673, it was arguably closer to the ferry than to any other point in the town; in 1674, a grist mill was built on the Mystic River above the falls. A 1761 census of the state recorded 3,900 people in the town, including 254 African Americans and 309 Native Americans (Greenhalgh 1999; Wheeler 1900). The Stonington North Ecclesiastical Society was established in 1720, but debate over the location of its Congregational meeting house led to its opening being delayed until 1723. The first Baptist church was organized in 1743, and a second in 1765; in 1746 a Separatist Congregational church was established (Crofut 1937).

By 1774, Stonington was already a substantial town, with a population of 5,431 that made it the sixth-largest in Connecticut. This number remained steady through 1800 (except for the failure to collect town data in New London county during the first census in 1790) (see population chart below; Keegan 2012). During the Revolutionary War, the town supported the cause, and many Stonington men served in the militias and the Continental Army. The future borough (then simply Long Point), with its wharves and shops, became a target of the British Navy in 1775, but the citizens fought off the attack (Wheeler 1900).

### **Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries**

The Town of North Stonington separated from Stonington in 1807; according to one report, the name of North Stonington was given to it despite a town meeting vote that it be called Jefferson. During the War of 1812, the Borough was bombarded by the British Navy but not invaded. The first meeting house was demolished in 1817, and replaced by a church built jointly by the established and separatist churches; in 1827 the two congregations united, and in 1828 a third Baptist congregation was created (Crofut 1937). The Groton and Stonington Turnpike Company, chartered in 1818 by the state as part of its efforts to improve transportation in the early nineteenth century, crossed the southeastern corner of North Stonington on its way to the Rhode Island border at Hopkinton. This corporation continued in existence, charging tolls for use of the road until competition from the railroads forced it to request dissolution from the legislature in 1853 (Wood 1919). According to an overview of the town from the 1830s, it had a rough landscape with good grazing and some good water power sites for mills; the only village at the time was called Milltown, and had approximately 30 houses, five stores, and two churches (one Congregationalist and one Baptist). There were also two other Baptist churches elsewhere in town (Barber 1837).

The local population began at 2,524 according to the 1810 census, and rose to 2,840 by 1830, but then fell steadily to a low of 1,100 in 1910, as shown in the population chart below (Keegan 2012). These population trends are consistent with the fact that during the mid to late nineteenth century, farming became an increasingly uneconomical proposition in Connecticut. The wiser and better-situated farmers switched from meat and grains, which could be purchased more cheaply from the Midwest, to butter, cheese, and perishable fruits and vegetables. In the 1880s, refrigerated railroad cars were developed, which allowed the production of fresh milk to become important as well. Overall, however, the farming population fell, and marginal lands were abandoned. Towns with industrial activity managed to keep their populations stable, while wholly agricultural places lost population through the 1930s. The number of farms continued to fall through the twentieth century, but because of suburbanization, a result of the rise of the automobile, the population of many towns began to grow again after 1940 (Rossano 1997).



Without a railroad connection or proximity to a major industrial city, North Stonington was disadvantaged and had a very low population through the 1950s, as shown in the population chart above. This is despite, as a map from 1916 or 1918 shows, a trolley line was built from Westerly to Norwich through North Stonington, passing just west of the project area (Figure 4). In 1932, the State of Connecticut reported that North Stonington’s industries included only agriculture, it had post offices in North Stonington and Clark’s Falls, and its public transportation was limited to a bus route passing through from Norwich to Westerly, R.I. (Connecticut 1932). Although its lack of ocean coastline was a disadvantage, during the automobile era the town did attract some summer residents, as evidenced by a report of a forest fire near Billings Pond in 1944 that destroyed 600 acres of forest, eight summer cottages, and an abandoned farmhouse (Haynes 1949). The year 1970 marked the largest recorded jump in the town’s population, from 1,982 in 1960 to 3,748 a decade later – a near doubling that still left North Stonington a small town in modern terms (see population chart above; Keegan 2012).

By 2010, North Stonington’s population had risen to 5,093 in 1,914 households. Its agricultural past was still represented, in 2005, by 2.7 percent of the town’s workers being employed in that sector; another 6.1 percent were working in construction and mining, 18.3 percent in manufacturing, and 44.1 percent in services. According to a 2000 survey, many workers also commuted to Groton and Stonington for their jobs (CERC 2011). At the beginning of the twenty-first century, North Stonington was still a small town by Connecticut standards, with low population density and no obvious prospects for substantial growth.

### Project Area History

For the purposes of organizing this discussion, the four land parcels that constitute the project area have been designated A, B, C, and D, as shown in Figure 5. Historic maps of this area tend to be distorted, due in part to the fact that it is near the edge of both a town and the State of Connecticut. Careful analysis of the maps is therefore required to avoid error, and matching current parcel boundaries and landmarks is often difficult. That being said, the analysis indicates that the present Ella Wheeler Road, which leads to Parcel B, is the surviving portion of an east-west trending road that appeared on the 1854 map of the county depicted in Figure 6. It extends from the present Voluntown Road to the sawmill at Lewis Pond. Thus, the buildings labeled “S. H. Babcock,” “Miss. S. Stanton,” “R. Wheeler,” and “David A. Gallup” are likely to be in or near the project area. In addition, the present Boom Bridge Road is also shown, leading to what appears to be represented as a bridge in the map, indicating a very long-term use of that

site as a bridge crossing. A number of other farms are shown in the area, as well as the Second Baptist Church to the north (Figure 6).

The 1868 map of the town is less distorted than the earlier one, though still imperfect. It shows, however, that the eastern end of Ella Wheeler Road had been abandoned by the late nineteenth century, and that the R. Wheeler farmstead was located at the end of the short western segment. The S. H. Babcock farmstead was still shown south of this road, though further to the west, and there was also not only a Mrs. Stanton south of the Wheeler place but also an H. Stanton there as well. At Lewis Pond there was now a textile mill (“Weaving Fac.”) owned by Sanders and Wilber, as well as a sawmill and, south of all this, the home of P. H. Gallup. In the general area there were still other farmsteads, and a notation that the Baptist church to the north was known as “Old Miner Church founded 1785,” with School No. 5 nearby (Figure 7).

The 1934 aerial photography provides a clearer picture of where these various households were located, as it is far more precise than the historic maps (Figure 8). Based on the available information, it can be concluded that the Babcock farmstead is the one visible to the south of Ella Wheeler Road, and it not located within the project area. The Richard Wheeler farmstead is certainly the one at the end of Ella Wheeler Road and within the Parcel B area. Finally, the Stanton farmsteads are most likely the ones visible at the end of a road across the northeast part of Parcel A, which seems to extend off the project area as well. In addition, there is clearly a farmstead at the west end of Parcel A, near the road, but at present there is no further information available about it since it post-dates the 1868 map mentioned above. At the east end of Parcel D, the buildings that are on Boom Bridge Road, but not within the project area, are probably associated with the Gallup farmstead (Figure 8).

Historic research has also revealed that there are two nineteenth-century cemeteries located within the boundaries of Parcel C, one close to Interstate-95 and the other near the parcel’s southern boundary. Both cemeteries have been maintained to some degree over the years by various landowners. The northerly cemetery is listed as #73 in the Hale Collection for North Stonington, and it is called the Partlow Cemetery. According to the Hale Collection cemetery transcription records, the headstones that were recorded there in the 1930s were associated with:

Partlow, Hannah, w. Azariah, d. 10/09/1804, ae 54  
Partlow, Thomas, d. 03/01/1816, ae 34  
Partlow, Isaac, d. 10/23/1816, ae 29  
Partlow, Nancy, dau. Azariah & Hannah, d. 10/28/1816, ae 31  
Stanton, Henry, d. 10/25/1819, ae 51  
Partlow, Azariah, d. 11/01/1821, ae 70

Historic research has turned up very little information about the Partlow family. Marriage records from the town and its parent, North Stonington, show only one marriage, Thomas Partlow to Deborah Wells in 1740, perhaps because records stopped being kept after 1781 – or perhaps because the Partlows became Baptists and their marriages were recorded elsewhere (Norman n.d.). The town began keeping better records after 1807, but the only entries for Partlows date from post 1820. The 1810 U.S. Census does contain an entry for Thomas Partlow, who was in the 26 to 44-year age group. He was described as living with a boy aged 10 to 15 and a girl aged 16 to 25. Henry Stanton, who is also buried in the Partlow Cemetery, appears in this Census as well; he was listed as head of a family totaling 11 (U.S. Census 1810). The subsequent 1820 Census included three Partlow families: Ezariah (4 people total), Weltha (2 people total), and Ezariah Jr. (10 people total) (U.S. Census 1820). Thus, it appears that family remained in town, but no longer used the cemetery after 1820.

The southern cemetery is listed in the Hale Collection for North Stonington Cemetery #74 and referred to as the Stanton Cemetery. Headstones recorded by Hale in this cemetery during the 1930s were:



Stanton, Eliza, w of John (stone broken)  
 Stanton, John, d. 04/21/1827, ae 17  
 Stanton, Amos, d. 01/08/1841, ae 72  
 Stanton, John, d. 05/24/1851, ae 90

The Stanton family was extremely numerous in Stonington and North Stonington, which presents a different research problem than the Partlow Family. However, the 90-year-old John Stanton is an excellent research target, and in fact appears in the 1850 U.S. Census, where he is listed as aged 90, as a farmer with \$1,200 in real estate, and living with Martha Stanton, age 70, who owned \$400 in real estate (U.S. Census 1850). In the 1860 Census, Martha (now 80) was listed in the household of Zebulon B. Minor, not (as far as can be determined) in or near the “Mrs. Stanton” house on the 1868 map. Other Stanton Family members who appear in the 1860 Census are:

House Number	Family	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate
85	90	Hosa W. Stanton	45	M	Farmer	\$600	\$100
		Mary E. Stanton	25	F			
		Benjamin F. Stanton	9	M			
		Susan M. Stanton	5	F			
		John Stanton	2	M			
	91	Tryphena Stanton	55	F		\$800	\$100
		Courtland G. Stanton	20	M	Painter		
87	93	Richard Wheeler	31	M	Farmer		\$2,000
		Lucy G. Wheeler	30	F		\$2,000	
		Ella J. Wheeler	6	F			
		Emiline N. Bentley	23	F		\$2,000	
		Ethan Allen 2d	44	M	Farm Laborer		\$700
		Polly Allen	45	F	Servant		
88	94	Samuel H. Babcock	62	M	Farmer	\$1,800	\$400
		Caroline S. Babcock	48	F			
		Samuel H. Babcock	26	M	Teacher		\$500
		Heris S. Babcock	19	M	Farm Laborer		
		Albert C. Babcock	17	M	Clerk		

Particular attention should be paid to Richard Wheeler, who was described in 1905 as “one of the leading agriculturalists and prominent citizens of North Stonington for a very long period,” having been born in 1829 (J. H. Beers 1905: 620). He was of the eighth generation of his family to live in North Stonington, but the house he lived in – presumed to be the one noted on the maps and in Parcel B, as noted below – had been built by his father-in-law in 1834. He moved there in 1847, presumably upon marrying Lucy G. (Bentley) Wheeler. Their children were Ella J. (born 1853, unmarried); Happie J. (born 1861, married to Oscar Vose); and Richard Bentley (born 1867 and engaged in the lumber business, married to Mary Wells) (J. H. Beers 1905).

The 1870 Census reports that Ethan and Polly Allen were still with the family as a farm hand and servant, respectively (U.S. Census 1870). The 1880 Federal agricultural census contains numerous corrections to its numbers; although it first had it that Richard Wheeler had 100 acres each of tilled land and other land, this was changed to 50 acres of each, plus 75 acres of woodland. The whole value of the farm was \$7,000. He was reported to own 2 horses, 2 working oxen, 5 milk cows, 2 other cattle, 25 sheep, 4 swine, and 17 poultry; the farm made 300 pounds of butter in 1879 and got 170 dozen eggs. For crops, they grew small

amounts of Indian corn, oats, and some potatoes, and had 142 apple trees (U.S. Census 1880, Schedule 2). Altogether this was a typical New England multi-faceted approach to agriculture. The 1880 population census listed all the children as still at home, aged 12 to 26, with no servants in the household anymore; Ella was at home, and Happie was teaching school (U.S. Census 1880). In the 1900 census, Happie had moved away, Richard B. was a lumber dealer, and the household had an unnamed female servant (U.S. Census 1900). In 1910, the elder Richard was 81 years old, Lucy G. B. was 80 years old, and Richard B. (age 42) had added his wife Mary A. (32) and 5-year-old daughter to the household (U.S. Census 1910). By 1920, however, the household consisted of Richard (age 91) and daughter Ella (66) (U.S. Census 1920). In 1930, Ella appeared living alone at 76 years of age, but finally, in the last entry for her, described as a farmer running a general farm and living on Wheeler Road (U.S. Census 1930). Ella, her siblings, and their parents are all buried or at least memorialized in Union Cemetery in North Stonington (Figure 9; Find A Grave n.d.). The last vestige of Ella on the property is the road that bears her name: Ella Wheeler Road.

Hosea W. Stanton and Tryphena Stanton also require attention, as their farm or farms were probably located at least partly on the northeastern part of Parcel A. Tryphena had appeared alone in the 1850 census, with daughter Almira (age 18) and son Courtland (10), owning \$1,500 in real estate (U.S. Census 1850). According to her headstone in Union Cemetery, she died in 1872 and was the wife of Amos Stanton and the daughter of James Brown and Mary Main Brown. By 1870, Trifena and her son were apparently living elsewhere in North Stonington. Hosea and Mary, however, were still living next door to the Wheelers, their three children aged 12 to 20 (U.S. Census 1870). The children were all still there in 1880 as well, working on the farm and in the house, though all were in their twenties (U.S. Census 1880). In 1900, Mary was a widow aged 68, and reported that she had borne eight children of whom only three had survived. Henry, the youngest, had married and lived next door, but at age 42 and with his wife aged 51, had had no children. Her other two children, Benjamin F. and Susan A., still lived at home with her and were listed as unmarried (U.S. Census 1900). In 1910, only Mary (now 75), Susan, and Henry (now living alone) were left (U.S. Census 1910). In 1920, there was only Susan (age 65) (U.S. Census 1920). She was still living off Wheeler Road in 1930 (U.S. Census 1930).

The late-married and unmarried state of most of the last generations of these families is not uncommon among farmers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as they were people engaged in an industry with declining opportunities, so their ability to attract mates also declined. Nevertheless, the 1934 aerial photograph shows that much of the project area was still cleared for farming, except for large portions of Parcel C; the Wheeler farmstead on Parcel B was still particularly large and clearly being worked (Figure 8). It is likely that mechanization had made it possible for fewer farmers to work large areas of land, though parts of the project area also show signs of relatively recent reforestation. In the 1939 aerial photograph, little has changed, though there appears to be a small area of mining near the riverside on Parcel D (Figure 10). Even in 1941, little appears to have changed, though it is known that both the Wheeler and the Stanton Families' occupation of the area had ended by that time (Figure 11). In the 1951 aerial photography, however, most or all of the buildings of the Stanton Farmstead in the northeast part of Parcel A had disappeared. On Parcel C, the area of farming had actually expanded – which is the opposite of what has usually happened in old farm areas. On Parcel D, there was a sand and gravel operation underway by the middle of the twentieth century (Figure 12). A 1953 topographic map marked buildings on the west end of Parcel A but not the northeast part, where the Stanton Farmstead was, and also on Parcel B, but nowhere else; it includes the location of the Stanton Cemetery but not the Partlow Cemetery; and it does not indicate the sand and gravel operation but does label the Boom Bridge (Figure 13).

In 1955, the Connecticut Highway Department carried out an extensive survey for a planned limited-access highway that included some of the western and northern ends of the project area. The maps show several buildings at the western end of Parcel A, and at least three (including a silo) on Parcel B (Figure

14). By 1957, however, the aerial photography suggests that the farmstead at the west end of Parcel A had been reduced in the number of buildings, and much of the rear part of the fields were reforesting, but the Wheeler Farmstead buildings still looked intact. Enough of Parcel C had been re-cleared for farming that the locations of both cemeteries stand out, and a larger area of Parcel D was being graveled (Figure 15). In 1962, the aerial photograph suggests that the cleared area around the farmstead at the west end of Parcel A was manicured lawn, but little else had hanged aside from further sand and gravel operations on Parcel D (Figure 16). As of 1965, Interstate 95 had been built along the northern edge Parcel B and Parcel C. At the northeastern end of Parcel A, the area of the Stanton farmstead had been cleared and plowed, with no visible trace of the former buildings. The gravel operations on Parcel D had become very extensive (Figure 17).

As of 1970, the cleared utility corridor extending from east to west across Parcel A had appeared, but there were no other visible additional changes (Figure 18). By 1972, it appears that the farmstead at the western end of Parcel A had been reduced to only two buildings (Figure 19). A 1988 photograph suggests that the buildings at the west end of Parcel A had been demolished, but it is not entirely clear (Figure 20). By 1997, the next available photograph, it is certain that the house at the west end of Parcel A had been razed and the entire parcel, aside from the utility right-of-way, was reforested. The Wheeler farmstead on Parcel B appears to have lost its northerly barn at this point, and it seems that on Parcel D a project to smooth and level the graveling area had led the water-filled pits to be filled with dirt instead (Figure 21). In 2005, the Wheeler farmstead on Parcel B appears even smaller in the aerial photography, and the sand and gravel area on Parcel D was greening over (Figure 22). In the 2012 aerial photography, it appears that the Wheeler Farmstead may have disappeared entirely; the sand and gravel area had become very brushy (Figure 23). By 2016, it is clear that the entire Wheeler farmstead had disappeared. The Area of Potential Effect contained a mix of woods, cleared fields, and the smoothed and leveled graveling operation area (Figure 24).

## **Conclusions**

Although the project area no longer contains any visible historic buildings, below-ground historic resources may be expected in at least three locations: Post 1868 Farmstead at the west end of Parcel A, the Stanton Farmstead in the northeast part of Parcel A, and the Wheeler Farmstead on Parcel B. In addition, there are the two historic cemeteries on Parcel C. Stonewalls and the remains of fences also may be expected across the parcels, whether at the edge of still-active agricultural fields or in the woods. It is also possible that undocumented building remains (cellar holes, wells, or other ruins) may be identified in the forested area or plowed under in the fields. The only area that can be said to have less than elevated historical sensitivity is the part of Parcel D that was affected by the twentieth-century sand and gravel operation. The depositional integrity of this area has been destroyed.

## CHAPTER V

# PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

### **Introduction**

This chapter presents an overview of previous cultural resources research completed within the vicinity of the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut (Figures 25 through 28). This discussion provides the comparative data necessary for assessing the results of the current Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey, and it insures that the potential impacts to all previously recorded cultural resources located within and adjacent to the proposed project area are taken into consideration. Specifically, this chapter reviews all previously identified archaeological sites, National and State Register of Historic Places properties, and historic standing structures more than 50 years in age in and near the project area. The discussions presented below are based on information currently on file at the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office in Hartford, Connecticut. In addition, the electronic site files maintained by Heritage also were examined during this investigation. Both the quantity and quality of the information contained in the State of Connecticut archaeological site, National and State Register of Historic Places, and historic standing structure forms are reflected below.

### **Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within the Vicinity of the Project area**

A review of data currently on file at the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office revealed that while there are no National or State Register of Historic Places in or near the project area, there are seven previously identified archaeological sites (102-5, 102-6, 102-7, 102-8, 102-9 102-98, and 137-10) and three historic standing structures (102-139, 102-67, and 102-70) within a 1.6 km (1 mi) area encompassing the project area (Figures 25 through 28). Each of the previously identified resources is reviewed briefly below.

#### Site 102-5

Site 102-5, also known as the Anthony's Dairy Farm Site, was recorded by Kathy Hoy in 1991 (Figure 25). This site location was related to Hoy by a former game warden named Louis Bayer. Mr. Bayer indicated that the site area contained temporally diagnostic artifacts, but the submitted site form does not enumerate what was found at his location. While it is unclear to which prehistoric time period this site belongs, it was listed as in good condition as of the time of recording. Site 102-5 has not been assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]), and it will not be impacted by the solar project since it is located outside of the project area.

#### Site 102-6

Site 102-6, also known as the Beriah Lewis Farm Site, also was recorded by Kathy Hoy in 1991 (Figure 25). This site location also was related to Hoy by Mr. Bayer, who indicated that the site yielded numerous prehistoric lithic artifacts recovered during surface collection of the area. Among them were an unspecified number of Levanna projectile points, which are indicative of a Late Woodland occupation of the site area. This site also was listed as in good condition as of the time of its recording. Like Site 102-5, the Beriah Lewis Farm Site also has not been assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It also is located outside of the project area and will not be impacted by the solar project.

#### Site 102-7

Site 102-7 was recorded by Kathy Hoy in 1991 (Figure 25). As was the case with Sites 102-5 and 102-6, this site location was given to Hoy by Mr. Bayer, who indicated that he collected prehistoric lithic artifacts while walking over the site area; however, the submitted site form does not list what type or number of artifacts were collected from this location. While it is unclear what prehistoric time period this site belongs to, it was listed as in good condition as of the time of its recording. Site 102-7 also has not been assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]), and it will not be impacted by the solar project as it is located outside of the project area.

#### Site 102-8

Also known as the Lewis Farm Site, Site 102-8, was identified by Mr. Louis Bayer and reported by Kathy Hoy in 1991 (Figure 25). While the site reportedly contained a large number of temporally diagnostic prehistoric lithic artifacts, the types recovered were not listed on the submitted site forms. Thus, it is impossible to date this site; however, the site area was described as a large camp covering several acres of land. It also was listed as in good condition at the time of its recordation. Site 102-8 also has not been assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). This site is situated in the northeastern portion of the project area overlooking a large wetland, and may be impacted by the proposed solar project.

#### Site 102-9

Site 102-9, also known as the Moran Farm Site, was recorded by Kathy Hoy in 1991 (Figure 25). This site location also was related to Hoy by Mr. Bayer, who indicated that the site area contained numerous temporally diagnostic prehistoric stone tool and lithic artifacts; however, the submitted site form does not describe what was recovered from this location. It is unclear to which prehistoric time period this site belonged, and it was listed as destroyed by sand and gravel operations as of 1991. Site 102-9 has not been assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). It will not be impacted by the solar project as it is located outside of the project area and has been destroyed.

#### Site 102-98

Site 102-98 was recorded by Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., in 2002 (Figure 25). Phase I cultural resources survey and Phase II National Register testing and evaluation of the site area resulted in the collection of 3 quartz flakes and a single possible quartz core with cortex. Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. described the site as of unknown function and dating from an unknown prehistoric time period. The site was listed as in good condition at the time of its recordation. However, it was assessed as lacking research potential and the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). This site lies to the west of the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

#### Site 137-10

Site 137-10, also known as the Rout 49 Site, was identified by Mr. Louis Bayer and recorded by Kathy Hoy in 1991 (Figure 25). This site is recorded as a prehistoric camp dating from an unknown time period. According to the submitted site form, the site area yielded numerous prehistoric lithic artifacts, including 25 “bird points.” No other information about the site was listed on the site form other than that it was in good condition at the time of its recording. The Route 49 Site has not been assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]), and it will not be impacted by the solar project as it is located outside of the project area.

#### Historic Standing Structure 102-139

Historic Standing Structure 102-139, which was reported at 55 Stillman Road, was recorded by Jennifer Lutke in 1997 (Figure 28). According to the submitted historic resource inventory form, this house was built in ca. 1815. It was described as five-bay, two story Federal Style residence. It contained a gable roof

and a single brick chimney. The house was sheathed in clapboard and contained an asphalt roof at the time of its recordation. The house contained six-over-one sash windows flanked by movable shutters, as well as a paneled front entrance door. The foundation of the main house was recorded as of cut stone, while the front porch rested on a cobble stone foundation. It does not appear that Historic Standing Structure 102-170 was assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). This building is located well to the south of the proposed project area and will not be impacted by construction of the proposed solar facility, either directly or indirectly.

#### Historic Standing Structure 102-167

Historic Standing Structure 102-167, which was located at 39 Ella Wheeler Road, was recorded by Jennifer Lutke in 1997 (Figure 28). According to the submitted historic resource inventory form, this address contained a house that was built in 1834. It was described as three-bay, two-and-a-half story Greek Revival residence. It had a gable roof and moderate sized chimney. The house was sheathed in clapboard and contained an asphalt roof at the time of its recordation. The house contained both three over three and six-over-six sash windows, as well as a paneled front entrance on its southern façade that was flanked by sidelights and surmounted with a pedimented casing. The foundation was described as large cut stone. It does not appear that Historic Standing Structure 102-167 was assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]), and it is clear from aerial photos dating from post 2004 that the house and all surrounding buildings have been demolished.

#### Historic Standing Structure 102-170

Historic Standing Structure 102-170, which was reported at 12 Ella Wheeler Road, also was recorded by Jennifer Lutke in 1997 (Figure 28). According to the submitted historic resource inventory form, this house was built in ca. 1850. It was described as five-bay, one-and-a-half story Greek Revival residence. It contained a gable roof and two chimneys. The house was sheathed in clapboard and contained an asphalt roof at the time of its recordation. The house contained six-over-six sash windows flanked by movable shutters, as well as a paneled front entrance on its southern façade that was flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a non-pedimented entablature. The foundation could not be discerned at the time of recording. It does not appear that Historic Standing Structure 102-170 was assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]); it is apparent from aerial photos dating after 2008 that the house and all surrounding buildings have been demolished.

### **Summary and Interpretations**

The review of the previously identified cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area indicates that the region possesses a long history of both prehistoric Native American and historic period occupation and use. Prehistoric archaeological sites recorded in the project region appear to date from at least the Late Woodland period and probably earlier. Moreover, the data noted in the previously identified prehistoric sites indicate that the area was used for a variety of tasks and for variable amounts of time, ranging from task specific and temporary occupations to seasonal camps. This suggests that prehistoric sites may be expected in those undisturbed portions of the project area that are in relatively close proximity to nearby freshwater sources, have level slopes, and that have not been heavily disturbed in the past. In addition, the historic resources in the area also suggest that the larger study region was settled by Euroamericans early on and that by the mid-nineteenth century farming was important to the local economy. It is possible that historic archaeological sites may be identified within the project area.

# CHAPTER VI

## METHODS

### **Introduction**

This chapter describes the research design and field methodology used to complete the Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the project area in North Stonington, Connecticut. The following tasks were completed during this investigation: 1) study of the region's prehistory, history, and natural setting, as presented in Chapters II through IV; 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously completed cultural resources surveys and all previously recorded cultural resources in the area encompassing the project area; 3) a review of historic maps, topographic quadrangles, and aerial imagery depicting the project area in order to identify potential historic resources and/or areas of past disturbance; and 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the project area 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 assess the historical and archaeological sensitivity of the proposed project area, as well as to visually examine the project area and record any prehistoric or historic resources noted during pedestrian survey. The undertaking was comprehensive in nature, and project planning considered the distribution of previously recorded cultural resources located within and near the project area, and a visual assessment of the project area. The methods used to complete this investigation were designed to provide coverage of all portions of the project area. The fieldwork portion of this undertaking entailed pedestrian survey, photo-documentation, and project area mapping (see below).

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

Background research for this project included a review of a variety of historic maps depicting the proposed project area; an examination of USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangles; an examination of aerial images dating from 1934 through 2016; and a review of all National and State Register of Historic Places properties, previously identified archaeological sites, and historic standing structures more than 50 years in age data on file with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, as well as electronic cultural resources data maintained by Heritage. The intent of this review was to identify all previously recorded cultural resources situated in and adjacent to the project area and to provide a natural and cultural context for the proposed project area. This information then was used to develop the archaeological context of the project area, and to assess its sensitivity with respect to producing intact cultural resources.

Background research materials, including historic maps, aerial imagery, and information related to previous archaeological investigations, were gathered from the North Stonington Public Library, North Stonington Town Hall, the Connecticut State Library, the Homer Babbidge Library on the Storrs Campus of the University of Connecticut, and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office. Finally, electronic databases and Geographic Information System files maintained by Heritage were employed

during this project, and they provided valuable data related to the project area, as well as data concerning previously identified archaeological sites within the general vicinity of the project area.

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

Heritage also performed fieldwork for the Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey of the project area associated with the proposed Pawcatuck Solar Center in North Stonington, Connecticut. This included pedestrian survey, photo-documentation, and mapping of the project area. During the completion of the pedestrian survey, representatives from Heritage visually reconnoitered and photo-documented the project area using digital media. Heritage also obtained GIS files depicting the proposed solar development from All-Points, contractor for the project sponsor, Pawcatuck Solar (Figure 2). The digital files were imported into ESRI's ArcGIS 10.2, the geographic information system (GIS) employed by Heritage. The inclusion of the digital files in the project GIS streamlined the research process and it ensured that all portions of the project area that may be impacted by the proposed solar project were examined during the investigation and mapped accurately. Finally, the GIS files were employed to output the maps and drawings included in this report.

### **Curation**

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

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## CHAPTER VII

# RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION

### **Introduction**

As mentioned in Chapter I of this report, the current Phase IA cultural resources assessment survey consisted of the completion of the following tasks: 1) a contextual overview of the area's prehistory, history, and natural setting (e.g., soils, ecology, hydrology, etc.); 2) a literature search to identify and discuss previously completed cultural resources surveys and previously recorded archaeological sites, National and State Register of Historic Places properties/districts, and historic standing structures in more than 50 years in age within the region encompassing the project area; 3) a review of readily available historic maps and aerial imagery depicting the project area to identify potential cultural resources and/or areas of past disturbance; and 4) pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the project area to determine its archaeological sensitivity, as well as to record any prehistoric historic built resources. Tasks 1 and 2 of this list were completed and presented in Chapters II through V. The results of Tasks 3 and 4 are presented below.

### **Results of Pedestrian Survey and Photo-Documentation of the Project Items**

As discussed throughout the report, the Pawcatuck Solar Center will be built in North Stonington, Connecticut. The proposed project area is bounded to the north by Interstate 95, the east by wooded area, the south by the Pawcatuck River, and the west by Pendleton Hill Road (aka Route 49). Heritage completed pedestrian survey and photo-documentation of the proposed project area on November 1 and 2, 2017. The visual reconnaissance of the area resulted in the identification of two former historic farmstead associated with known historic residents of the area (Wheeler and Stanton Farmsteads), one historic farmstead for which ownership information was not readily available (Post-1868 Farmstead), two historic era cemeteries (Stanton and Partlow Cemeteries), and a single prehistoric site location (102-8). Each of these resources is discussed below.

#### Wheeler Farmstead (Site 102-130)

Pedestrian survey of the northwestern portion of the proposed project area at the eastern end of Ella Wheeler Road resulted in the identification of the remnants of the Wheeler Farmstead. As was discussed in Chapters IV and V, the Wheeler Farmstead was owned and operated by the Wheeler Family. The main house was built in 1834 and according to early aerial images of the area several outbuildings and barns were located near the house (Figures 6 through 8 and 10 through 20). The Wheeler Farmstead first appeared on an 1854 historic map of the area, where it is ascribed to "R. Wheeler." Historical research presented in Chapter IV indicates that this was Richard Wheeler, who was "one of the leading agriculturalists and prominent citizens of North Stonington for a very long period" (J. H. Beers 1905:620). Richard represented the eighth generation of his family to live in North Stonington, and he dwelled in the house on the property area that was been built by his father-in-law in 1834. Richard lived on the project area with his wife Lucy G. and their two children, Ella J. and Richard B. (J. H. Beers 1905). It is Ella J. Wheeler that Ella Wheeler Road for which the road is named.

Based on the layout of the farmstead as seen in the aerial photographs discussed above, the Wheelers operated a farm typical of the region in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and planted crops and raised dairy animals. The farm remained in place, and likely operating, until the last few decades of the twentieth century. However, as seen in Figure 20, a 1997 aerial image of the farmstead area, most of the buildings had been razed and the farming operations were much reduced. Just seven years later, in 2005, all traces of the Wheeler Farmstead disappeared as the farm ceased to operate (Figure 22).

Having noted the farmstead in various aerial images and on maps of the area, Heritage visited the location to determine what, if anything was left of the Wheeler Farmstead. Visual reconnaissance of the area revealed the presence of disturbed building remnants within an area measuring approximately 60.9 x 76.2 m 200 x 250 m (200 x 250 ft) in size. This area, designated as Site 102-130, is situated at an approximate elevation of 48.7 m (160 ft) NGVD and was characterized by tall grasses, shrubs, and small trees, indicative of an area that is in the process of retuning to secondary forest. Examination of the site revealed several areas containing broken concrete slabs and large numbers of displaced stones. Based on the results of the pedestrian survey, it appears that the area that once contained the Wheeler Farmstead has been heavily disturbed by bulldozing, which likely took place when the buildings were demolished in the early sometime after 1997 (Photos 1 and 2). Due to the large amount of disturbance, it is clear the Wheeler Farmstead lacks research potential and the qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places. As a result, it has been categorized as a no/low archaeologically sensitive area, and no additional archaeological examination of this area is recommended prior to construction of the proposed solar facility.

#### Stanton Farmstead (Site 102-131)

Pedestrian survey of the central portion of the proposed project area resulted in the identification of the remnants of the former location of the Stanton Farmstead. As discussed in Chapter IV, the Stanton Farmstead was owned by a “Mr. Stanton” (see Figures 6 and 7). The historical research for this project indicates that Tryphena Stanton is the likely owner of the Stanton Farmstead prior to and during the 1850s. She appeared in the 1850 census at that location, with her daughter Almira and son Courtland. It is clear by the 1870 census, however, that Mrs. Stanton no longer lived in house, having moved elsewhere by that time. Without additional exhaustive historic research, which is beyond the scope of the project, it cannot be said who owned the Stanton Farmstead after 1870. Despite not knowing the exact ownership of the farmstead in the late nineteenth century, the 1934 aerial image depicted in Figure 8 shows that the Stanton Farmstead remained in place and was comprised of approximately five buildings, one of which appears to be a dwelling house situated at the end of a dirt road. By 1939, it appears that some of these buildings were demolished; likely barns or other outbuildings (see Figure 10). Based on the layout of the farmstead as seen in the 1934 and 1939 aerial photographs discussed above, the Stanton Family operated a farm typical of the region in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries just as the Wheeler Family did to the north. While the farm may have originated as early as the turn of the nineteenth century, it ceased to operate by the middle of the twentieth century. The 1957 aerial image, for example, shows that the Stanton Farmstead structures had been razed by then (Figure 15).

Once the farmstead was identified in various aerial images and on maps of the area, Heritage visited the location to determine what remained of the Stanton Farmstead. Visual reconnaissance of the area revealed the presence of a previously bulldozed area measuring approximately 60.9 x 60.9 m (200 x 200 ft) in size. This area, designated as Site 102-131 is situated at an approximate elevation of 39.6 m (130 ft) NGVD and was characterized by a combination of agricultural fields, tall grasses, shrubs, and small trees. Examination of the site revealed that the area that once contained the Stanton Farmstead buildings that been heavily disturbed by bulldozing, which likely took place when the buildings were demolished in the early 1950s and 1960s. Today, the only undisturbed remnant of the Stanton Farmstead is a stone lined well located in a portion of the agricultural field that contained the westernmost buildings of the farmstead (Photos 3 and 4). Despite the presence of the above-referenced well, it is clear that the Stanton

Farmstead has been massively disturbed, lacks research potential, and does not rise of the level of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). This area has been categorized as a no/low archaeologically sensitive area, and no additional archaeological examination of this area is recommended prior to construction of the proposed solar facility.

#### Post 1868 Farmstead (Site 102-132)

Located in the southwestern portion of the project area at an approximate elevation of 18.2 m (60 ft) NGVD, this historic farmstead, designated as the “Post 1868 Farmstead,” consists of three remnant building foundations located in a wooded area to the east of Pendleton Hill Road. A built-up driveway leading to the farmstead area extends from the east side of Pendleton Hill Road across a narrow drainage ditch and travels east roughly 95 m (300 ft) to an area containing the stone and concrete building foundations. The driveway is lined on either side with wooden posts that stand approximately 1 m (3.3 ft) in height. At the end of the driveway and to the east lies a fieldstone foundation with a concrete addition. Behind the fieldstone foundation is a circular filled-in well structure, which measures approximately 1.5 m (5 ft) in diameter. The well is made of stone and patched with mortar. Behind the fieldstone foundation and well lies a long and narrow rectangular concrete foundation. Preliminary observations suggest the structure may represent the footprint of a former chicken coop, shed, or other type of outbuilding associated with the former farmstead. To the north lies a third foundation that appears to represent a former residence, which was built directly on bedrock ledge. The front stone steps are still in place (Photos 5 through 7).

Historic map research of the area containing this Site 102-132 suggests that it dates to after 1868, as it does not appear on that map; in contrast, the Wheeler, Babcock, and Stanton Farmsteads discussed in Chapter IV were recorded by that time. The Post 1868 Farmstead is visible in a 1934 image of the area, which shows the dwelling house, an outbuilding, and what appears to be the long narrow building mentioned above (Figure 7). This farmstead remains visible in all successive aerial images until the one taken in 1997. Thus, the Post 1869 Farmstead appears to have been in used an occupied for at least 70 years (see Figures 8 and 10 through 20). The field walkover suggests that the structures, based on their construction techniques that employed stone foundation, most likely date to the late nineteenth or turn of twentieth century. Further pedestrian survey of the area suggests that intact historical archaeological deposits may remain in this area.

#### Stanton Cemetery

In addition to the above-referenced farmsteads, pedestrian survey of the project area also resulted in the identification of two family cemeteries. The first, the Stanton Cemetery, was identified in a wooded area and just outside of the proposed project area (Photos 8 and 9). This burial ground is currently overgrown with tall grasses and shrubs, and it is situated at an approximate elevation of 19.8 m (95 ft) NGVD. The cemetery is bordered by a cornfield to the north and forested areas to the south, east, and west. The Pawcatuck River lies roughly 530 m (1740 ft) to the south. The boundary of the Stanton Cemetery was discernable and consisted of a low-lying stone wall that encompassed contains 400 m<sup>2</sup> (1,300 ft<sup>2</sup>). A narrow gap on the southern side of the stone wall suggests a south-facing entrance. Approximately 10 burial marker stones were observed during the pedestrian survey. While most of the headstones have eroded and were not easily deciphered, one included the description “In memory of Dea. (Deacon) John Stanton, who died May 24, 1851 age 90 years.” This is the same John Stanton that was referenced in Chapter IV of this report.

The Stanton Cemetery was recorded by Hale in the 1930s, and was referred to as Cemetery #74. The location of the cemetery is clearly marked on the 1953 topographic map of the area depicted in Figure 13, which listed it as “cem.” Hale also indicated that the burial ground also contained, in addition to the marker for John Stanton, the headstones of Eliza Stanton, the wife of John Stanton; John Stanton (likely

son of John); and Amos Stanton. While Hale only recorded the markers for four Stanton Family members, it is clear that other people are buried there as well. This cemetery is typical of early to mid-nineteenth century family burial grounds of rural Connecticut populations. As mentioned above, the Stanton Cemetery is located outside of the proposed project area, ca. 75 m (250 ft) to the west of the proposed project boundary. As long as the proposed project area does not increase to include the burial ground, no other recordation of the Stanton Cemetery is required.

#### Partlow Cemetery

Visual reconnaissance of the proposed project area also resulted in the identification of the Partlow Cemetery in the north-central portion of the project area (Photos 10 and 11). This cemetery is situated at an approximate elevation of 48.7 m (160 ft) NVGD and is surrounded by a large cornfield to the south of Interstate 95. It is first very visible in a 1965 aerial image of the area as depicted in Figure 17. The cemetery consists of an irregularly-shaped wooded area that was covered in brush and surrounded entirely by the agricultural field. The currently visible edges of the cemetery cover an area roughly 850 m<sup>2</sup> (2800 ft<sup>2</sup>). The cemetery is not bounded by a fence of any kind or stone wall. A total of 30 to 40 head and foot stones were observed, of which only a few contained legible inscriptions. The most easily discerned inscription was “Nancy, daughter of Azariah and Hannah Partlow who died October 28, 1816, aged 81 years.” Based on the number of head and footstone pieces observed, it is estimated that there may be between 15 to 20 graves in the visible portion of the cemetery.

The historical research for this project indicates that the Partlow Cemetery was listed as #73 in the Hale Collection for North Stonington. According to the Hale Collection cemetery transcription records, the headstones that were recorded there in the 1930s were associated with, in addition to Nancy Partlow (mentioned above), Hannah Partlow, wife of Azariah Partlow; Thomas Partlow; Isaac Partlow; Henry Partlow; Azariah Partlow, and Henry Stanton. As discussed in Chapter IV, very little is recorded about this family in North Stonington. This may reflect that the Partlow Family were Baptists and only recorded births, deaths, and marriages with their church and not with the town. The earliest reference to any of the Partlows buried in this cemetery is in regard to Thomas Partlow in 1810. Thomas’ family included 11 members, some of which may be buried in the cemetery. Henry Stanton, also is listed in the 1810 census as the head of a family of 11 (U.S. Census 1810). The only other Partlow mentioned in any census of this area is Azariah Jr. who had 10 people in his family (U.S. Census 1820). The presence of Henry Stanton in the Partlow cemetery suggests that the Partlow and Stanton Families from the project area intermarried at least once.

In sum, Partlow Cemetery is currently located in small wooded area that is encompassed by a large cornfield. It is not bounded by a stone wall or fence of any kind, but the presence of 30 to 40 head and footstones is indicative of a burial population of at least 15 to 20 individuals, far more than the six as recorded by Hale in the 1930s. Thus, while the original owners of the land likely knew the extent of the cemetery, it is possible subsequent generations lost track of the cemetery’s boundaries and may have inadvertently began plowing over portions of the burial ground, as has been seen in other rural cemeteries in Connecticut. Thus, the cemetery boundaries may extend into the surrounding cornfield. Particular care should be taken when considering development plans in the area containing the Partlow Cemetery.

#### Site 102-8

As mentioned in Chapter V, Site 102-8 is also known as the Lewis Farm Site (Figure 25). This site was first reported in 1991 by Kathy Hoy who learned of the existence of the site from Mr. Louis Bayer, a former game warden. Mr. Bayer reportedly collected a large number of temporally diagnostic prehistoric lithic artifacts from the site area; however, it remains unknown as to what types of artifacts he recovered. To date, Site 102-8 also has not been assessed applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). Pedestrian survey of the recorded site area during the current Phase I investigation revealed that is currently being used as a cow pasture and appears to be largely undisturbed

(Photos 12 and 13). This area, like the Post 1868 Farmstead discussed above, should be subjected to Phase IB cultural resource reconnaissance survey if it is to be impacted by the proposed project.

### **Overall Sensitivity of the Proposed Project area and Project Recommendations**

In addition to the above-referenced research, the field data collected during the pedestrian survey was used in conjunction with the analysis of topographic and soils mapping to stratify the project area into zones of no/low, moderate, and high archaeological sensitivity. As seen above, historic sites are generally easy to find on the landscape because the features associated with them tend to be relatively permanent above-ground constructions (e.g., building foundations, wells, pens, etc.). Prehistoric sites, on the other hand, are less often identified during pedestrian survey, and predicting their locations relies more on environmental factors that would have informed Native American site choices.

With respect to the potential for identifying prehistoric archaeological sites, the project area was divided into areas of no/low or moderate/high archaeological potential by analyzing landform types, slope, aspect, soils, and distance to water. In general, areas located less than 300 m (1,000 ft) and no more than 600 m (2,000 ft) from a freshwater source and that contain slopes of less than 8 percent and well-drained soils possess a moderate/high potential for producing prehistoric archaeological deposits. This is in keeping with broadly based interpretations of prehistoric settlement and subsistence models that are supported by decades of previous archaeological research throughout the region. It is also expected that there may be variability of prehistoric site types found in the moderate/high sensitivity zones. For example, large Woodland period village sites and Archaic period seasonal camps may be expected along large river floodplains, on upland terraces, and near stream/river confluences. Smaller temporary or task specific sites may be expected on level areas with well-drained soils that are situated more than 300 m (1,000 ft) but less than 600 m (2,000 ft) from a water source. Finally, steeply sloping areas, poorly drained soils, or areas of previous disturbance are deemed to retain a no/low archaeological sensitivity.

As discussed in Chapter I, proposed solar center will be built on parcels that encompass approximately 236 acres of land. A review of cultural resources on file with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, historical research, and a pedestrian survey of the area indicates that 124 acres of the project area retain no/low archaeological sensitivity either due to the presence of wetlands, steep slopes and/or previous disturbances (i.e., bulldozing and building demolition. These areas, which contain both the Wheeler and Stanton Farmstead, have been assigned a no/low archaeological sensitivity. No additional archaeological investigation of these areas is recommended prior to construction of the proposed solar facility.

The above-reference literature review, historical research, and pedestrian survey revealed that of the remaining acreage, 46 acres and 66 acres possess a moderate and high potential to contain archaeological deposits, respectively. The moderate probability areas are those located on moderate slopes and at a distance from a freshwater source (see for example Photos 14 through 16). The high probability areas are located near freshwater sources, on low slopes, sandy soils, and/or contain previously identified archaeological sites, as is the case in the easternmost portion of the project parcel, which contains the Lewis Farm Site (102-8), a prehistoric occupation (see for example Photos 12, 13 and 17 through 19).

Figure 29 shows the portions of the project area that have been assessed as retaining no/low, moderate, and high sensitivities for historic and/or prehistoric deposits. They are highlighted yellow, orange, and red, respectively. As mentioned above, no additional examination of the no/low areas is required as they possess little if any potential to yield intact archaeological deposits due to steep slopes, poor soil conditions, or previous disturbances. No/low sensitivities comprise most of the eastern portion of the project areas, as the location of the previously bulldozed Wheeler Farmstead and steep areas in the western portion of the project acet. The moderate sensitivity areas contain moderately slope areas with good soils, and access to freshwater. These areas are located along a north to south axis in the central

portion of the project area. Finally, the high sensitivity areas are those with low slopes, sandy soils, and close proximity to water. These areas are found around the Lewis Farm Site (102-8) in the northeastern portion of the project area, in the central portion of the project area that is flanked by wetlands, and two smaller areas in southwestern portion of the project area, one of which encompasses the Post 1868 Farmstead.

Based on the results of the background research for this project and the pedestrian survey, it is possible that historic and prehistoric deposits are likely to be identified within the moderate and high sensitivity portions of the project area. Thus, Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey of these areas, using subsurface testing techniques, is recommended for those portions of the moderate and high sensitivity areas that will be impacted by construction, whether it be for the solar center or tree clearing where stumping will occur. The field methods for the recommended Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey should be developed in consultation with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office. In addition, preservation plans for the Stanton and Partlow Cemeteries also should be crafted in consultation with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office prior to construction. Finally, no additional archaeological examination of the no/low sensitivity areas is recommended (see for example Photos 14 through 16).

## CHAPTER VIII

# SUMMARY AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The review of historic maps and aerial images of the project area, files maintained by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, and pedestrian survey of the proposed Pawcatuck Solar Center resulted in the identification of three historic farmsteads, two historic cemeteries, and the location of single prehistoric archaeological site (102-8). Visual reconnaissance of the Wheeler and Stanton Farmsteads, both of which date from the nineteenth century and perhaps earlier, revealed that they have been massively disturbed in the past due to bulldozing. This occurred when these farmsteads were razed in the late twentieth century. Due to a lack of intact archaeological deposits and research potential, neither of these two historic cultural resources rises to the level of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, and no additional archaeological examination of them is required prior to construction of the proposed solar facility. The third historic farmstead, known as the Post 1868 Farmstead was identified in the southwestern portion of the proposed project area in the vicinity of where the solar center will interconnect with Eversource's power grid. This area contained intact above ground features (e.g., house foundation and outbuilding footprints). If, as the project plan develops further, this area is to be disturbed, then Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey of the Post 1868 Farmstead would appear warranted.

The pedestrian survey of the project area also resulted in the identification and recordation of two historic cemeteries and the location of a single previously identified prehistoric archaeological site. The Stanton Cemetery was noted outside of the southern limits of the proposed project area. It is clearly demarcated by a stone wall and contains the graves of approximately 10 members of the Stanton Family. Currently, no impacts to this historic resource are anticipated as the project boundary lies approximately ca. 75 m (250 ft) to the west of the proposed project boundary. As long as the proposed project area does not increase to include the burial ground, no other recordation of the Stanton Cemetery is required however, if the project plans change such that the cemetery will be in or near the project limits, it is recommended that no construction occur within 15 m (50 ft) the stone walls demarcating the cemetery.

The second cemetery was noted in the north-central portion of the proposed project area within a large cornfield. This area is associated with the Partlow Family and it was used during the nineteenth century. There are currently head and footstones there for between 15 and 20 individuals. However, while the area is located in a small stand of trees, there is no stonewall or fence demarcating its boundaries. Thus, it is possible that additional, unmarked graves may exist within the cornfield. As a result, the project sponsor should take particular care when developing plans for this area so that the cemetery is not inadvertently impacted. It is recommended that no construction occur within 15 m (50 ft) of the area around the small stand of trees where graves are known to exist.

In addition, the location of Site 102-8 was reidentified during pedestrian survey. This area is known to contain prehistoric deposits and is official recognized as an archaeological site by the State of Connecticut. Currently, the area is being used as a cow pasture and appears to be largely undisturbed. A

Phase IB cultural resource reconnaissance survey in this area also appears warranted if it is to be impacted by the proposed project.

Finally, 46 and 66 acres of land, respectively, have been categorized as moderate and high archaeologically sensitive areas. These are areas with access to freshwater, low to moderate slopes, and well drained soils. These areas also appear to be likely candidates for Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey prior to disturbance associated with construction of the proposed solar center. Those portions of the solar facility area that possess steep slopes are characterized as no/low probability areas and need not be examined further prior to construction (Figure 17).

We recommend that the field methods for the Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance survey be developed in consultation with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.



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