

February 3, 2023

Mr. Gary Goeschel
Director of Planning
108 Pennsylvania Ave
Niantic, CT 06357-1510

Re: Proposed Subdivision, Scott Rd, East Lyme

Dear Mr. Goeschel:

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) reviewed the project plans for the proposed subdivision on Scott Road in the town of East Lyme. The planned project includes development of an eleven-lot residential subdivision on approximately 12 acres along Scott Road. The location of the proposed subdivision is part of a larger 152-acre property. Approximately 120 acres of this property are being acquired by the East Lyme Land Trust, Inc. for open space. The parcel proposed for development is situated just north of several residential lots on Scott Road and is currently wooded.

OSA examined state archaeological site files and reports, USDA soil maps, historic maps, LiDAR imagery, and aerial photographs to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area. The Scott Road project area is situated at the edge of Mack's Mill Hill, between the Four Mile River, which is a quarter of a mile to the west and the Pattagansett River a quarter of a mile to the east. The historic Whistletown Cemetery and an old road are located across Scott Road from the property. Soils in the proposed development area consist of extremely stony, Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams, 3 to 35 percent slopes. State site files include a cluster of historic-period sites associated with the Stone's Ranch Military Reservation approximately 0.5 miles west of the project area.

Given the proximity to the two rivers and the historic use of the project area vicinity, the hill top is likely sensitive for archaeological resources. However, the area planned for development is perched at the very edge of the hill, on rugged upland terrain with steep slopes, and very rocky soils. Based on the environmental setting, OSA feels that the proposed subdivision location has low archaeological sensitivity; it is unlikely that this location would have been attractive to people in the past. As such, the proposed undertaking is unlikely to have an adverse effect on buried archaeological resources. OSA recommends no additional archaeological work in the project area, as it is unlikely to yield significant information about the past.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at sarah.sportman@uconn.edu or (860) 617-6884.

Sincerely,



Sarah P. Sportman, Ph.D.
Office of State Archaeology

Cc: Paul Geraghty, Geraghty & Bonnano, LLC; Catherine Labadia and Cory Atkinson, CTSHPO

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