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Town of East Lyme
Land Use

Phase 1b Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey
For Proposed Subdivision on Heritage Road in East Lyme, CT.

June 2024

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Abstract

The Phase Ib Archaeology Reconnaissance Survey was conducted within the area of potential effect (APE) for a proposed three lot subdivision on six acres off Heritage Road in East Lyme, CT. The six acre tract borders on the north and east with Pattagansett Lake, on the west with the East Lyme Land Trust property and on the east with private property. The survey focused on those areas that will be directly impacted by the construction of the dwellings, access road and appurtenances. The topography of the area of potential effect (APE) terrain slopes upwards of 45% on the south and is bounded by a 75 foot conservation easement to the east and north along the shoreline of Pattagansett Lake. The access road to the subdivision has been previously cleared. The soils within each house lot provided an indication that in certain areas the soils were disturbed or displaced, possibly though natural processes. Due to these conditions the area conducive to subsurface testing was limited.

A total of 10 subsurface test pits (STPs) were placed at 15 meter intervals within all three lots. The testing did not identify any artifacts or cultural features such as buried foundations, storage pits or hearths. As a result of the testing, it was determined the proposed subdivision would not have an adverse effect on archaeological resources within the Town of East Lyme nor meet the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. No additional archaeological testing was recommended.

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Project Description

The Heritage Road subdivision is located along the western shoreline of Pattagansett Lake and is surrounded by 115 acres of East Lyme Open Space land. The six acre tract will be subdivided into three separate house lots. In a letter dated April 28, 2024, the Connecticut State Archaeologist Dr. Sarah Sportman recommended a Phase Ib Archaeology Reconnaissance Survey be conducted within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). This recommendation was based on the geographical location of the project area adjacent to Pattagansett Lake, the nearby Pattagansett River, as well as the nature of the well-drained sandy loam soils present. These factors in addition to known historical and archaeological resources recorded in the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) site files determined a higher level of archaeological sensitivity along with established archaeological settlement pattern models for southern New England.

The APE begins at the cul-de-sac on Heritage Road at the top of Pond Hill. The access road leading to the site runs northerly down a steep slope to the house lots below that border along Pattagansett Lake. The access road has been clear cut and sections of Lot 1 & 2 that were disturbed due to these activities in addition to natural processes such as storm runoff. Based on the topography, a majority of the APE was not suitable for subsurface testing due to excessive slope from 15 to 45% and the 75 foot conservation easement along the shoreline of Pattagansett Lake. There is an old road that runs through a portion of the APE. Refer to NRCS soil map below in Fig. 9 for soil conditions.

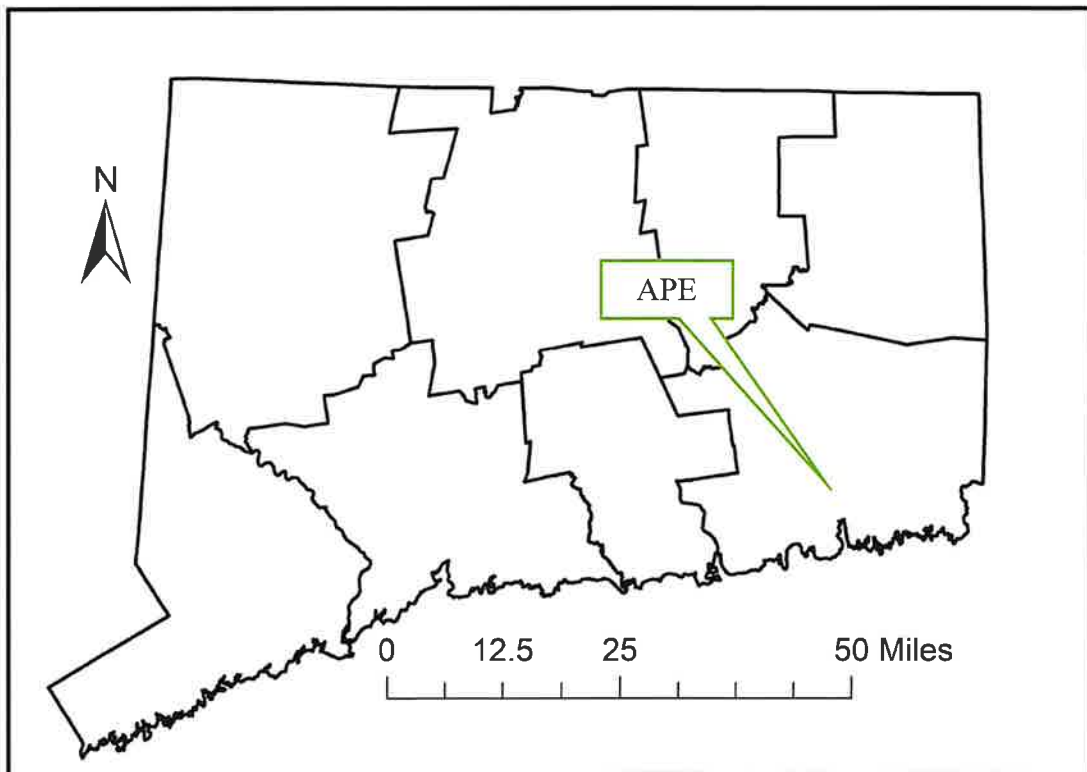


Fig. 1: Connecticut county map on APE in New London County (magic.lib.uconn.edu)

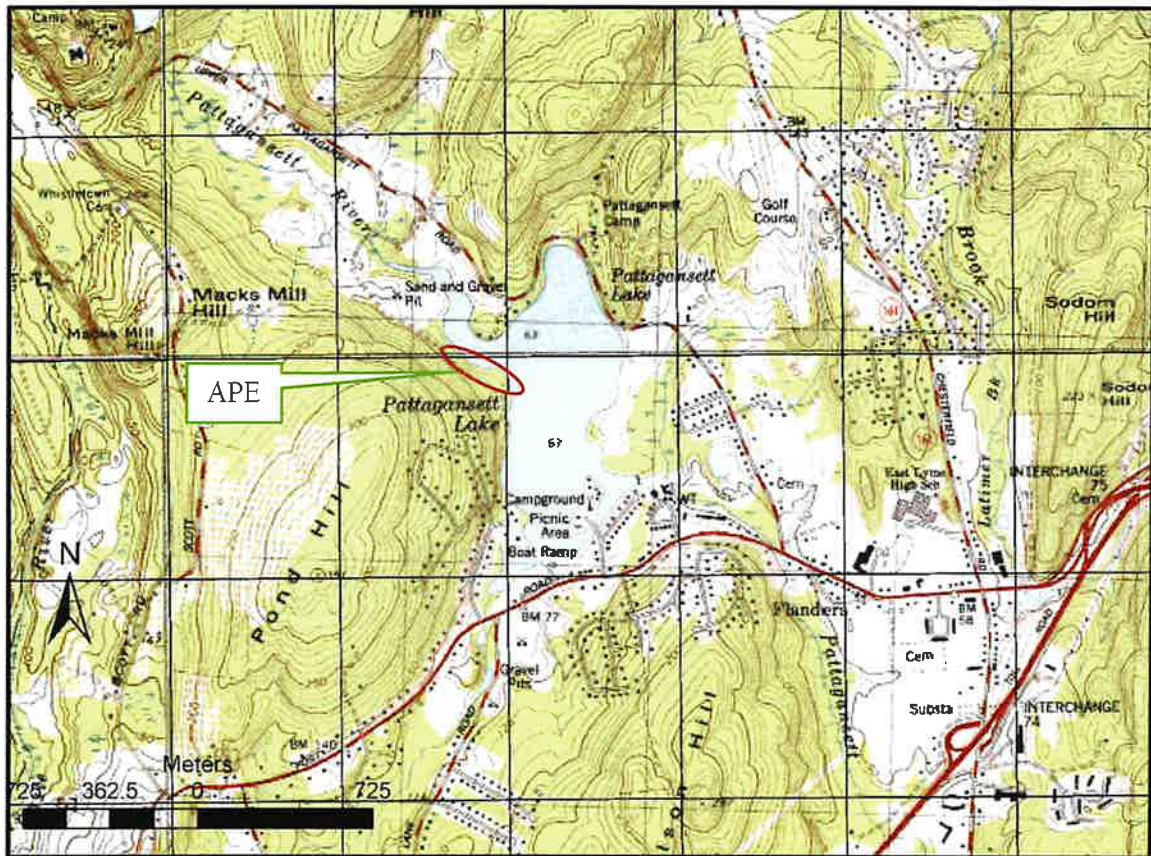


Fig. 2 1997 USGS topographic map of APE location. The map also identifies the old dirt road through the site that is an access road for a dwelling on the abutting property. (magic.lib.uconn.edu)

Background Research

The background research for the proposed subdivision consists of a review of the following sources:

- Archaeological site files and reports archived for the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA).
- Local town histories, state documents, maps identifying historic period Indigenous and Euro-American sites and structures within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

Criteria for Determining Archaeological Potential

Pre-contact, contact and historic period sites are rarely visible on the surface and are typically located through subsurface testing. The presence of Native American sites and some early colonial sites is predicted by implementing models based on known site locations in Connecticut and throughout southern New England. These sites correlate

with environmental criteria based on geology, soils, and topography as listed below. The criteria include:

- 1) Known archaeological sites within or immediately adjacent to the project area.
- 2) National Register properties within or adjacent to the project area.
- 3) Distance from a fresh water source
- 4) Soil characteristics such as slope, drainage, texture and suitability for cultivation.
- 5) Topographic features such as degree of slope, aspect and elevation.
- 6) Proximity to raw material sources such as a lithic quarry, pond or wetland.
- 7) Proximity to areas of historic and modern development
- 8) Degree of disturbance from plowing, gravel mining, and modern construction.

Criteria for Stratification

The Phase Ib survey entails a walkover of the project area to identify visible cultural or natural features on the landscape. Cultural features include stonewalls, stone piles, and house foundations. Natural (geological) features include bodies of water, streams, swampland and rock shelters that represent a landscape conducive to human site selection.

To locate archaeological sites, project areas are typically stratified (divided) into sections with low, moderate and high sensitivity. Topographic and surficial geology maps compiled by the United States Geological Survey and soil data compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture are used to delineate areas of well-drained soils and minimal slope. Areas with less than a 5% slope, with moderate to well-drained soils within 150 meters of a wetland or stream are considered to be of high potential. Areas further from a water source with poorly drained soils or excessive slope are considered less sensitive. These levels of sensitivity are categorized as follows:

High. Undisturbed areas less than 150 meters (450ft) from a water source, on moderate to well-drained soils and slopes less than 5% are subjected to a more intensive program of systematic subsurface testing including additional judgment test pits when considered necessary.

Moderate. Areas greater than 150 meters (450ft) from a water source on moderate to well-drained soils on slopes between 5-8% are subjected to systematic subsurface testing.

Low. Areas that are poorly drained, in excess of 8% slope or have been disturbed are not subsurface tested.

The preliminary walkover determines the testing strategy when required and placement of the subsurface test pits when warranted. For the East Lyme APE, the soils were inspected through subsurface testing at each building lot.

Pre-Contact Overview

Paleoindian Period (12,500-9,500 BP)

In the Northeast, the Paleoindian Period dates from 12,500 to 9,500 BP, during the final glacial period known as the Younger Dryas. This was a time marked by a return to severe glacial conditions (McWeeney 1999). The earliest archaeological evidence for human occupation in the New England region dates to approximately 12,500 BP (Singer 2017). Sites from this period are characterized by distinctive fluted points and flaked stone assemblages dominated by unifacial tools.

The archaeological record reflects a settlement system based primarily on small, highly mobile social groups seasonally dispersed in search of resources. Their diet consisted of a wide range of food sources, including small and large game, fish, wild plant foods, and perhaps currently extinct megafauna (Meltzer 1988; Jones 1998). Caribou likely played a significant, if seasonal, role in subsistence. However, small game, fish, fowl, reptiles and wetland tubers were also important components of the diet at this time.

Data reflecting Paleoindian Period land use patterns and subsistence activities in the Northeast is relatively scarce (Spiess, Wilson and Bradley 1998). Few intact Paleoindian sites have been found in Connecticut. To date, five sites have been investigated and published in detail: the Templeton Site in Washington (Moeller 1980, 1984), three on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation: the Hidden Creek Site (Jones 1997), the Ohomowauke Site and a third within 100 meters of the Ohomowauke Site (Singer). The fifth, the Dr. Brian D. Jones site, was identified in Avon in 2019. A small number of additional sites have received more cursory attention. Upwards of 50 fluted points have been recovered as isolated finds across Connecticut. The scarcity of identified sites in the region indicates that population density was likely very low at this time. The small size of sites dating to this period, and the high degree of landscape disturbance over the past 12,500 years, also contributes to poor site visibility overall.

Archaic Period (9,500-2,700 BP)

The Archaic Period dating from 9,500 to 2,700 BP in the Northeast is characterized by generalist hunter-gatherer populations utilizing a variety of seasonally available resources. The period is subdivided into the Early, Middle, Late and Terminal Archaic Periods on the basis of associated changes in environment, projectile point styles and inferred adaptations (Snow 1980; McBride 1984). Each sub-period is discussed below.

The Early Archaic Period (9,500-8,000 BP)

Pollen evidence indicates a gradual trend toward a warmer climate beginning around 10,000 BP (McWeeney 1999). By this time Pleistocene megafauna had disappeared and given way to modern game species such as moose, muskrat and beaver. It is feasible deer was not abundant until the end of this period when oak began to dominate upland forests. Plant and animal resources became more predictable and abundant as the climate stabilized, permitting Early Archaic populations to utilize a wider range of seasonal resources. Population density remained low during this period as reflected in

the sparse representation of Early Archaic sites in the regional archeological record. This low representation could be due to changing environmental conditions deeply burying, inundating or destroying many early sites through erosion, or due to the difficulty of recognizing Early Archaic assemblages (Funk 1997, Jones 1998).

Stone tool assemblages dating to the Early Archaic period have been recovered from several sites in the Northeast and indicate this period can be characterized by a number of distinct episodes. The most poorly understood period between 9,500 and 9,000 BP reflects the local Late Paleoindian and intrusive southern Piedmont Tradition Early Archaic influences. A quartz lithic industry in which projectile points are extremely rare occurs locally between roughly 9,000 and 8,500 BP as demonstrated at the Sandy Hill Site on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation (Forrest 1999). The period concludes with the appearance of a temperate forest-adapted culture utilizing bifurcate-based projectile points typically manufactured from non-regional materials (Jones 1998, 1999). The Dill Farm Site in East Haddam is one of the best-documented bifurcate sites in Connecticut (Pfeiffer 1986). Archaeological investigations at this site identified cooking and refuse features, quartz flakes, retouched tools, bifurcate-based projectile points, and subsistence remains including charred nuts and mammal bone associated with a radiocarbon date of 8560 +/- 270 BP.

The Middle Archaic Period (8,000-6,000 BP)

Pollen evidence indicates a trend toward a warmer, drier climate during the Middle Archaic Period, as well as the development of alluvial terraces along Connecticut's major river systems (Jones 1999). Most modern nut tree species established themselves during this period providing a new food resource for human foragers and many game animals including deer, turkey and bear. Evidence of Middle Archaic Period occupation in Connecticut is more widely documented than for the preceding periods and indicates specialized seasonal activity in different resource zones during a period of population increase (McBride 1984; Jones 1999). The development of grooved axes suggests the increased importance of wood being used as a raw material, while the presence of pebble net sinkers on some regional sites implies a growing reliance on marine and riverine resources (Dincauze 1976; Snow 1980).

Despite their relative abundance, sites in Connecticut yield limited information on Middle Archaic subsistence and land use patterns (Jones 1999). Archaeological assemblages are characterized by the presence of Neville and Stark projectile points and large flake tools. The settlement patterns are oriented, at least seasonally, toward large upland interior wetlands (McBride 1984; Jones 1999). The data suggest seasonal re-use of such locales over a long period of time. This pattern is evident at the Dill Farm Site and those around the Great Cedar Swamp on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation (Jones 1999). Coastal and riverine sites may be poorly documented because of rising sea levels that resulted in deep alluvial burial.

Late Archaic Period (6,000-3,700 BP)

The Late Archaic Period in the Northeast is characterized by an essentially modern distribution of plant and animal populations. This period is considered a time of cultural florescence reflected in evidence of burial ritual, population increase, and long-distance

exchange networks (Ritchie 1994; Dincauze 1975; Snow 1980; Cassedy 1999). The Late Archaic Period is one of the best-known temporal sequences in southern New England. During most of this period, large revisited seasonal settlements are located in riverine areas and along large wetland terraces, while smaller more temporary and special-purpose sites are situated in the interior and uplands (Ritchie 1969a and b, McBride 1984; Cassedy 1997, 1999). The nature and distribution of sites suggest aggregation during summer months, with seasonal dispersal into smaller groups during the cold weather (McBride and Dewar 1981).

Terminal Archaic Period (3,700-3,000 BP)

A transition in settlement and subsistence patterning began to occur with the onset of the Susquehanna Tradition, also referred to as the Terminal Archaic Period (Dincauze 1975). A number of technological innovations appear as well. These include the use of steatite bowls and the rare manufacture of cord-marked and grit-tempered ceramics. Lithic assemblages contain high proportions of chert and other non-local lithics such as argillite, rhyolite and felsite. Regionally available quartzite was commonly used as well, but the use of local quartz became uncommon at this time. Settlement focused on upper river terraces rather than floodplains as well as expansive lacustrine and wetland settings (McBride and Dewar 1981). The interior and uplands were used less extensively (McBride 1984). Human cremation burials were common at this time (Dincauze 1968; Robinson 1996; Leveillee 1999). These changes in technology, lithic material preference and settlement organization may represent the arrival of non-regional peoples or ideas rather than in situ developments, though the debate over the possibility of migration remains active (Robinson 1996: 38-39).

The Woodland Period (2,700-450 BP)

The Woodland Period is characterized by the increased use of clay pottery, celts and non-local raw materials as well as the introduction of bow and arrow technology, smoking pipes and horticulture (Lavin 1984, Feder 1984, 1999). An increase in site size and complexity along with greater sedentism and social complexity was likely the result of an increase in population, particularly at the end of this period (McBride and Dewar 1987; Lavin 1988). The Woodland Period is traditionally subdivided into Early, Middle, and Late periods based on ceramic styles, settlement and subsistence patterns, as well as political and social developments (Ritchie 1969a and b; Snow 1980; Lavin 1984). Despite these changes, most recent scholars see the Woodland Period as a continuation of the traditions and lifeways of the preceding Archaic Period (Feder 1984, 1999).

The Early Woodland Period (2,700-2,000 BP)

Early Woodland regional complexes are generally characterized by stemmed, tapered and rare side-notched point forms; thick, grit-tempered, cord-marked ceramics; tubular pipe-stones; burial ritual; and suggestions of long-distance trade and exchange networks (Lavin 1984; Juli 1999). The Early Woodland Period remains poorly understood, and is less well represented in the archaeological record than the preceding phases of the Late Archaic. This may be the result of shifts in settlement that promoted the formation of

larger, but fewer seasonal aggregation camps. It is possible that incipient horticulture focused on native plant species (George 1997). The existence of stone pipes suggests the trade of tobacco into the region by this time.

The Middle Woodland Period (2,000-1,200 BP)

The Middle Woodland Period is characterized by increased ceramic diversity in both style and form, continued examples of long-distance exchange, and at its end the introduction of tropical cultigens (Dragoo 1976; Snow 1980; Juli 1999). Much of our current knowledge of the Middle Woodland Period in southern New England is from work done by Ritchie (1994) in New York State. Ritchie noted an increased use of plant foods such as goosefoot (*Chenopodium sp.*), which he suggested had a substantial impact upon social and settlement patterns. Ritchie further noted an increased frequency and size of storage facilities during the Middle Woodland Period, which may reflect a growing trend toward sedentism (Ritchie 1994; Snow 1980). At this time jasper tool preforms imported from eastern Pennsylvania are entering the region through broad exchange networks (Luedtke 1987).

Settlement patterns in Connecticut indicate an increased frequency of large sites adjacent to tidal marshes and wetlands along the Connecticut River, a decrease in large upland occupations, and a corresponding increase in upland temporary camps (McBride 1984). This may indicate reduced residential mobility from earlier time periods and is likely due to the development of modern tidal marshes in low-lying riverine areas by 2,000 BP. The tidal marshes supported a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic animal and plant resources, allowing for longer residential stays (McBride 1984).

Late Woodland Period (1,200-450 BP)

The Late Woodland Period is characterized by the increasing and intensive use of maize, beans, and squash and changes in ceramic technology, form, style, and function. Settlement patterns reflect population aggregation in villages along coastal and riverine locales and the eventual establishment of year-round villages. However, the use of the upland-interior areas by small, domestic units or organized task groups on a temporary and short-term basis remains apparent as does this trend toward fewer and larger villages near coasts and rivers. It has been hypothesized that these changes can be attributed to the introduction of maize, beans, and squash, but it is unclear how important cultigens were to the aboriginal diet of southern New England groups, especially those with access to coastal resources (Ritchie 1994; Ceci 1980; McBride 1984; McBride and Dewar 1987; Bendremer and Dewar 1993; Chilton 1999). Although sites clearly demonstrate the use of tropical cultigens in the Connecticut River Valley, wild plant and animal resources were still a primary component of the aboriginal diet. The use of imported chert increases over time in the Connecticut River Valley implying social, economic, and/or political ties to the Hudson Valley region. Ceramic style affinities also suggest western ties at the end of this period (Feder 1999).

Activities associated with a more sedentary subsistence pattern, such as the cultivation of maize, beans, and squash, resulted in the development of a more complex social organization. Regional variation between various tribal entities is reflected in stylistic

design elements found on pottery in particular. Prior to this time, the populations were fairly mobile, loosely based kin-groups that required little, if any, form of centralized authoritative power. Leadership roles were determined on a case-by-case basis and often shifted according to circumstance. This began to change with increasing sedentism.

Contact Period Overview

The Seasonal Round

Although the European trading networks impacted the daily lives of many indigenous communities throughout southern New England, they continued to practice many of their traditional subsistence strategies. Archaeological sites in the area of coastal New England, as well as locations throughout Connecticut, reflect a series of occupations taking place within specific resource areas on an annual and seasonal basis. As with other coastal groups, the Nehantic, Pequot, Mohegan and Narragansett settled closer to the coastline and riverbanks to fish and gather mollusks in the spring, summer, and autumn months. Large amounts of shell found along the coastline of Connecticut attest to these activities taking place. The coastal marshlands provided rushes and cattails, the necessary raw materials for making basketry and matting. By mid-April many groups cultivated maize, beans, squash, and tobacco in the fields adjacent to their settlements. Indigenous plants were collected, such as nuts, berries, herbs, and tubers. Fishing was also an integral part of the seasonal round where stone and wooden weirs were built to divert fish into enclosures. In the colder months, foodstuffs cached away from summer habitations were utilized. As winter months approached, family groups or bands removed from the immediate coast further inland to wooded areas where archaeological sites reflect the presence of smaller temporary hunting camps.

In contrast to the end of the Late Woodland, after European contact, cultural rather than environmental factors influenced the subsistence patterns of local Indigenous peoples (Ceci 1979). The impact from European trading networks, Native wampum production and the fur trade disrupted the balance of power in the years just prior to the Pequot War in 1637 (McBride 1994:44). After contact, European trade affected Indigenous populations who opted to shift their settlements to one geographical area to intercept and negotiate with their trading partners. This was certainly the case for inland groups along the Connecticut River and its tributaries. The same applied to coastal dwelling peoples such as the Nehantic, Mohegan, and Pequot who constructed fortified villages for protection while vying for trade (Ceci 1979). Fortifications were often occupied on a continual basis for at least a segment of the population, possibly housing the sachem's family. However, other horticultural activities took place within close proximity of these structures.

The socio/political organization of groups such as the Nehantic, Pequot, Mohegan, and Narragansett were becoming more highly stratified during the Contact Period. Larger village sites were made up of several lineages whose sachem was a close family relation. The Nehantic, Mohegan, and Pequot leaders served as hereditary chief sachems with several sachems under their jurisdiction. Although the title of sachem was routinely

passed down to the male heirs, women on occasion did acquire this elevated status. It is important to note infectious disease introduced by European voyagers decimated local Indigenous communities and disrupted traditional leadership roles observed just after contact. Women's authority was reflected in their land rights to horticultural fields, therefore an indication of matrilineal social organization.

Early Historic Period in East Lyme

East Lyme was originally a part of the Town of Saybrook. Referred to as Saybrook's lands on the east side of the Connecticut River, this territory was eventually set off to establish the town of Lyme and subsequently East Lyme. Several boundary disputes occurred during these early years of settlement. In 1671, Lyme landholders were in conflict over their eastern bound with inhabitants of New London. The General Court intervened in 1672 to resolve the issue and in the same year, the Court established the Nehantic reservation at Black Point (Stark 1976). In the 17th century, the Nehantic settlements included a fort at Black Point and another at the head of the Niantic River. After the Pequot War in 1637, the Nehantic sachem Sassyous granted John Winthrop, Jr. permission to settle along the west bank of the Thames River where he founded Pequot Plantation, known today as New London.

Town proprietors were granted the authority by the General Court to oversee and divide the common lands. From 1660 to 1702, Lyme underwent four land divisions. At this time, the settlement patterns in Lyme/East Lyme were a collection of dispersed homestead farms. The first highways in Lyme included the road that crossed over the river to Giants Neck dating to 1687 and the Old Post Rd that ran from New London to Lyme. Descriptions of the natural environment and of land-use in the land records indicate the local economy of East Lyme focused on farming, raising livestock, dairying, logging, and the cultivation orchards. By the 1750's wharves were built along the Lieutenant River to accommodate the West Indian trade industry. (ibid.)

East Lyme, and the villages of Flanders and Niantic, were eventually incorporated in 1839. Early 18th and 19th century maps note several active mill sites in existence such as cider, grist and sawmills throughout East Lyme and along the Pattagansett River. Flanders, in particular was a center for woolen production.

Other nineteenth century industries in the area included quarrying, commercial fishing, shipbuilding, and ice production. As seashore communities, East Lyme, Niantic and nearby Oswegatchie in Waterford continue to be popular summer resort destinations.

Table 1: List of National Register Properties in East Lyme

National Register Properties and Districts in East Lyme, Ct			
Property	Address	Date	Comments
Thomas Avery House	33 Society Rd	1845-1846	aka Smith-Harris House, Greek revival farmhouse
William Gorton Farm	14 West Lane	18-19th century	farm buildings, farm dates to 17th century
Thomas Lee House	156 Giant's Neck Rd	1660-1664	
Morton Freeman Plant Hunting Lodge	56 Stone Ranch Rd	1908	
Rocky Neck Pavilion	Lands End Rocky Neck State Park	1930s	Depression era
Samuel Smith House	82 Plants Dam Rd	1700-1730s	Cape style dwelling

Historic Maps

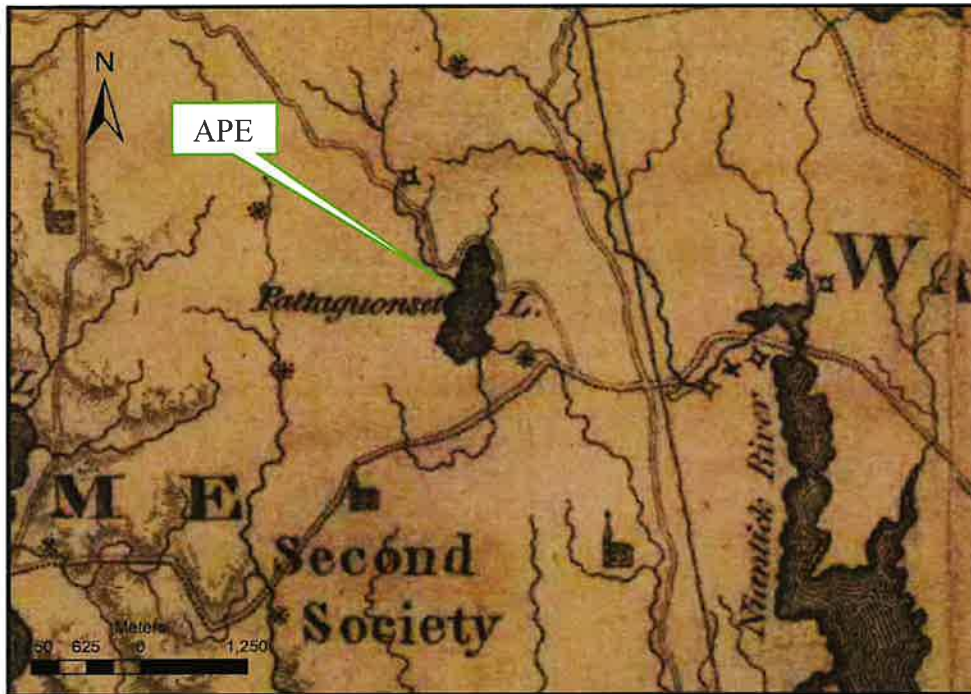


Fig. 3 1811 Warren & Gillet map identifies several sawmill and gristmills in this section of town and near to APE (magic.lib.uconn.edu)

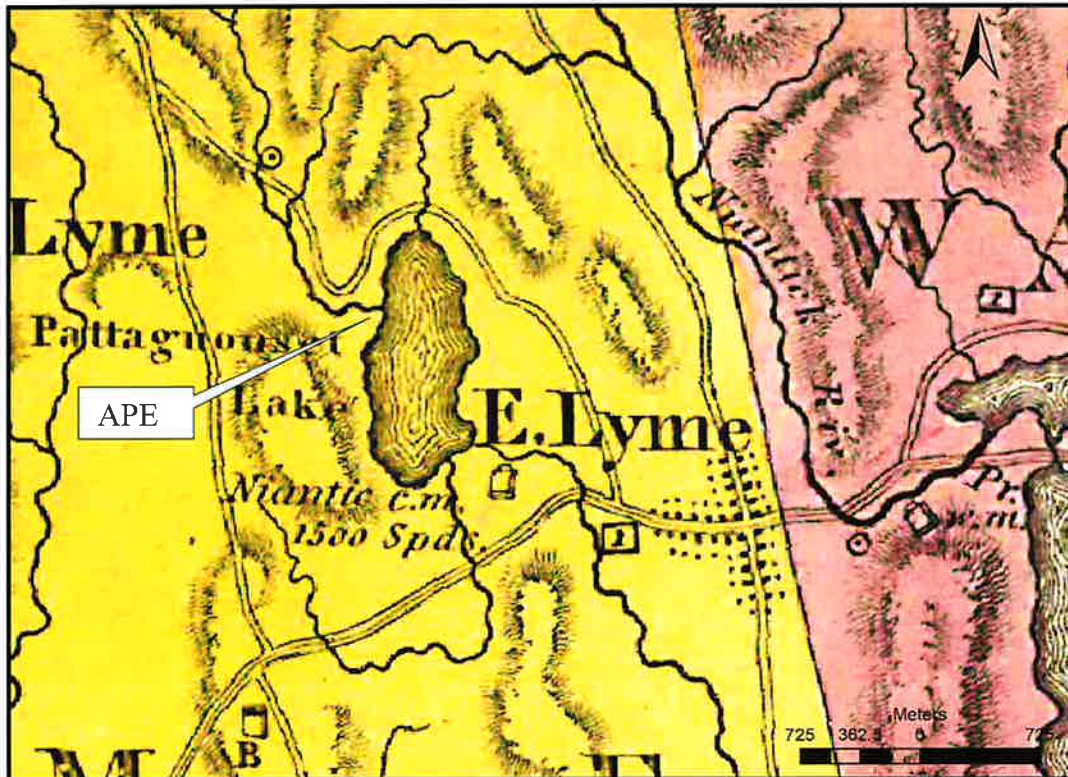


Fig 4. 1833 Lester map identifies gristmills upstream and a woolen factory downstream to the southeast the APE (magic.lib.uconn.edu)

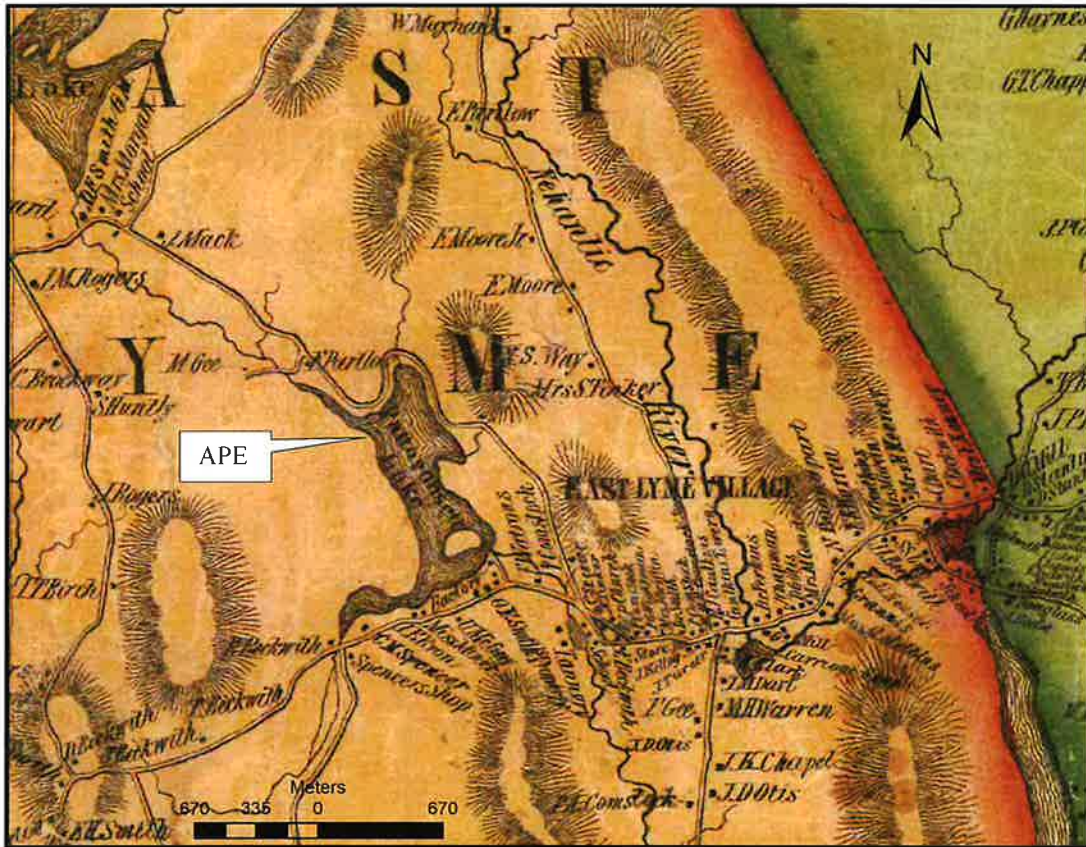


Fig. 5 1854 Baker map (magic.lib.uconn.edu)

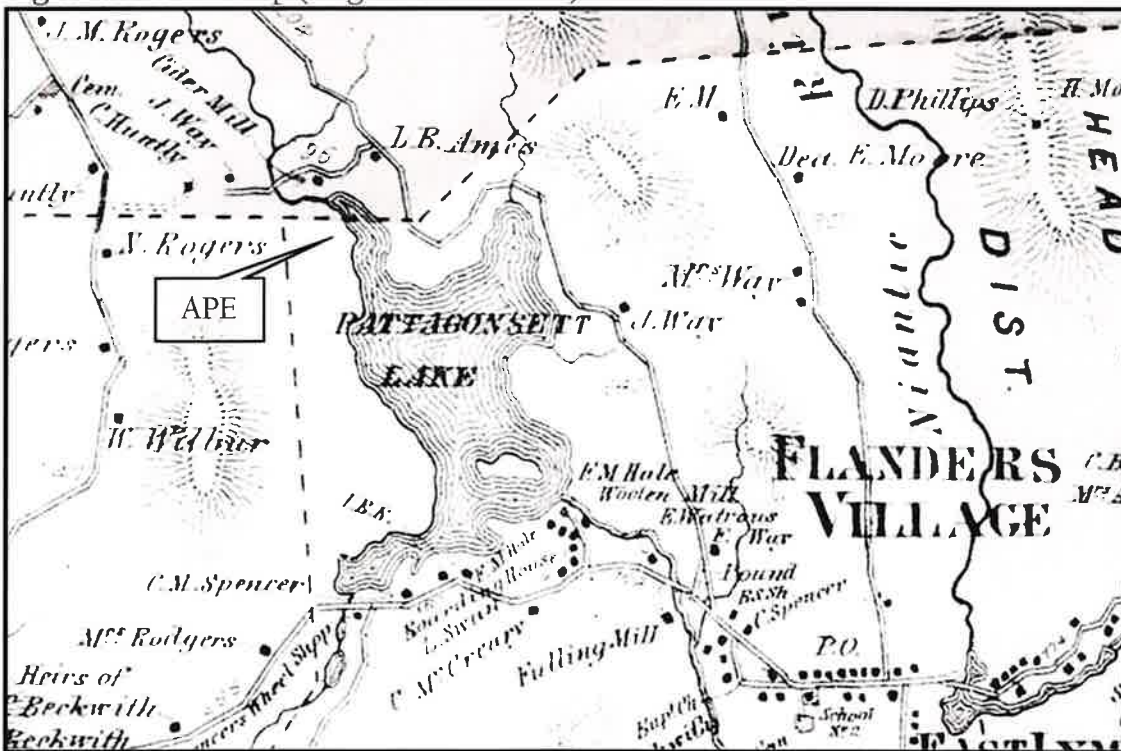


Fig. 6 1868 Beers, Ellis, Soule map identifies the cider mill to the north. To the south are the F.M Hale woolen flannel mill and a fulling mill. (Peterson 1868 - magic.lib.uconn.edu)

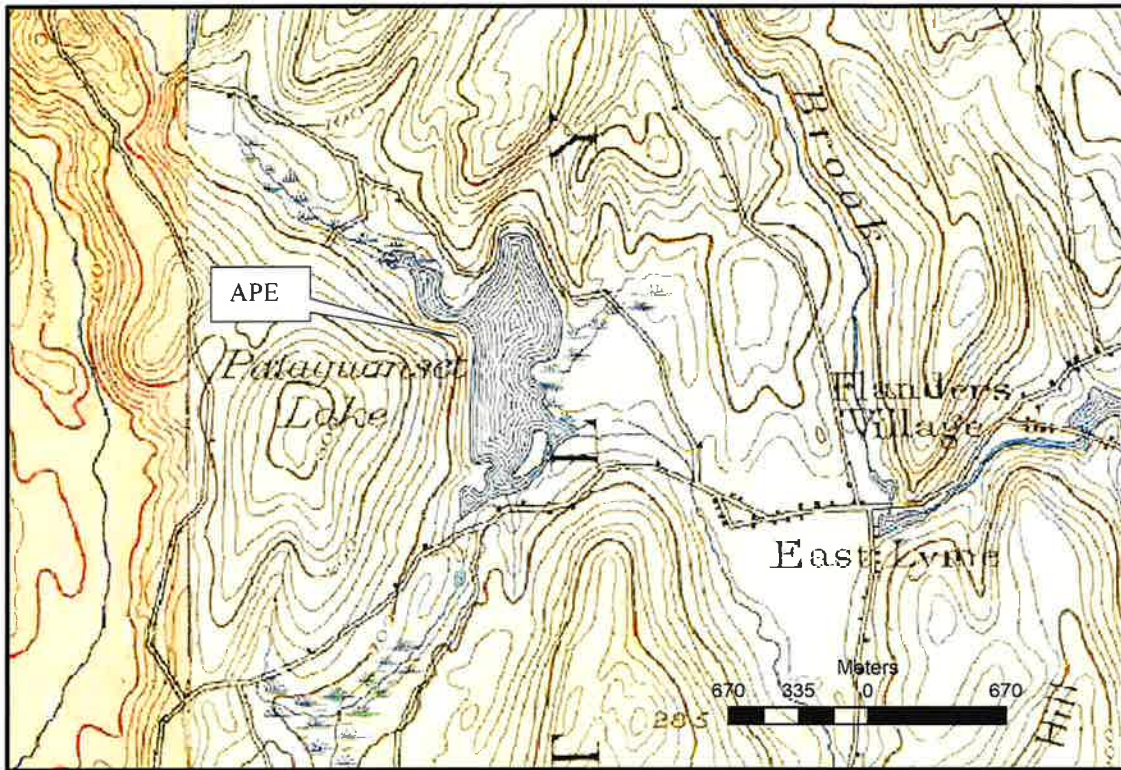


Fig. 7 1895 USGS topographic map of APE (magic.lib.uconn.edu)



Fig. 8 1934 aerial shows old road that exists today and runs through a section of the APE - refer to photograph in Fig. 14 (magic.lib.uconn.edu)

Environmental setting

The topography of the APE consists of rugged terrain with a 15 to 45% slope from the south off Heritage Road to north toward the old dirt road. The topography on the north within the conservation easement drops off sharply to Pattagansett Lake below. The deciduous flora consists of laurel, oak, maple, and beech.

The NRCS web soil survey map and soil chart for Heritage Road identified five soil types for the APE ranging from 703B Haven silty loam with 3 to 8% percent slopes to 73E Charlton-Chatfield complex with 15 to 45% percent slopes with very rocky conditions. There are sections where rock outcrops are visible. The Munsell color chart designations noted for soils during testing were within a 10yr hue for the topsoil/A1 which ranged from a dark to brown sandy to silty loam. The B1/B2 horizon ranged from dark yellow brown to yellow brown sandy loam with and without gravel and rock. The C horizon contained light grey to olive coarse sand with gravel and rock.

Table 2: NRCS soil designations (<http://websoilsurvey.usda.gov>)

Soil ID	Soil type
38E	Hinckley loamy sand, 15 to 45 percent slopes
62D	Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams, 15 to 35 percent slopes, extremely stony
73E	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes, very rocky
703B	Haven silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
W	Water

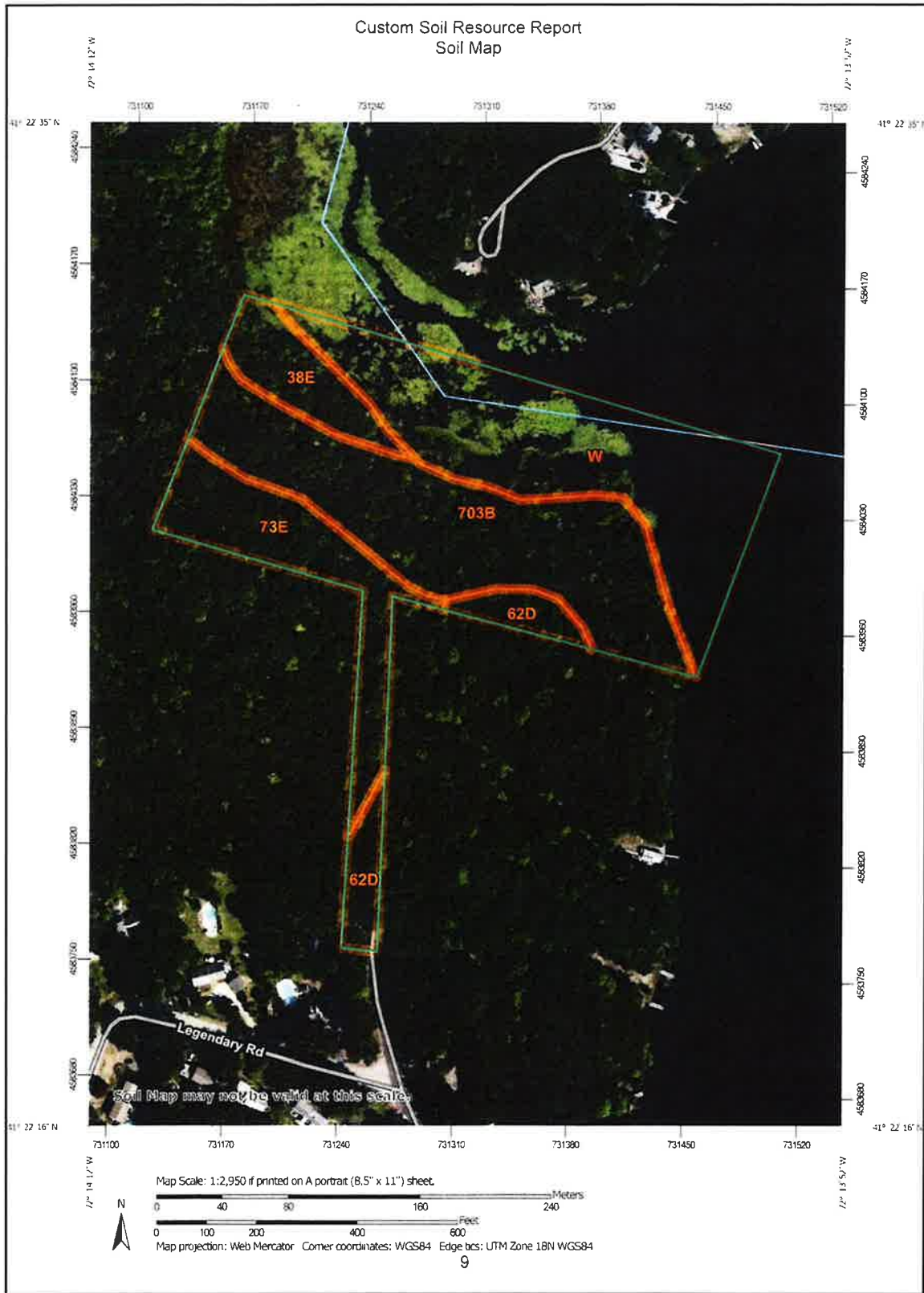


Fig. 9 NRCS soils map identifies the 703B Haven silty loams with 3 to 8% percent slopes that were conducive to subsurface testing. (<http://websoilsurvey.usda.gov>)

Previous Archaeological Research and Historical Review

The name Pattagansett is likely an English corruption of the Algonquian place name Pattaquonset signifying “at or near the small, round place” (Douglas-Lithgow 1909). Archaeological records and sites reports archived at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Dodd Research Center note previous archaeological surveys conducted within the Flanders section of East Lyme. Although outside of a two mile radius of the APE, upwards of 32 archaeological site have been identified, a majority to the northeast of Camp Pattagansett east of Route 161.

Pre-contact sites date back to as early as the Archaic Period through to the Woodland Period (10,000 thru 450BP). Archaeological features on the landscape include rock-shelters, campsites and hearths. Artifact assemblages consist of aboriginal pottery and various lithic materials such as quartz, quartzite, argillite, chert, basalt and jasper. Diagnostic artifacts include projectile points dating to the Late Archaic.

Historic sites range in date from the early 18th century to the 20th century. Many are remnants of homestead farms and include abandoned house foundations, cellar holes, mill works, charcoal mounds and stonewall bounded fields. Artifact assemblages from these sites are historic ceramics identified as creamware, stoneware, pearlware, in addition to kaolin pipes, bone and shell.

Survey and Assessment Strategy for the Phase 1b

As noted above, the proposed three house lots within the six acre tract were numbered Lot 1 thru 3 bordering on the north and east with Pattagansett Lake, on the west with East Lyme Land Trust property, on the east with private property and along the shoreline of Pattagansett Lake with a 75 foot conservation easement. As recommended in the letter from OSA, subsurface testing was accomplished in those areas within the APE designated for the proposed construction of the access road, dwellings and other appurtenances. As discussed, the testable area within in APE was quite limited due to the sloped terrain on the south, the 75 foot conservation easement along Lake Pattagansett and disturbed areas due to the previous clear cutting for the access road to the site.

Subsurface test pits were placed within areas based on topography and that contained little to no slope. Subsurface test pits were laid out at a 15 meter intervals whenever possible. A total of nine STPs were tested with one judgement STP J1 placed on the access road at the bottom of the hill on Lot 2. The STPs were labelled T1 thru T3 based on lot number. STPs terminated at the C horizon whenever possible around 75 cmbs. Lot 1 STPs terminated at 30 to 55 cmbs due to dense root and rock. Subsoil horizons were found to contain very wet silty loams. All STPs were sterile containing no artifacts. With the exception of the existing dirt road, no archaeological features were identified such as buried foundations, hearths or storage pits. No additional subsurface testing was merited.

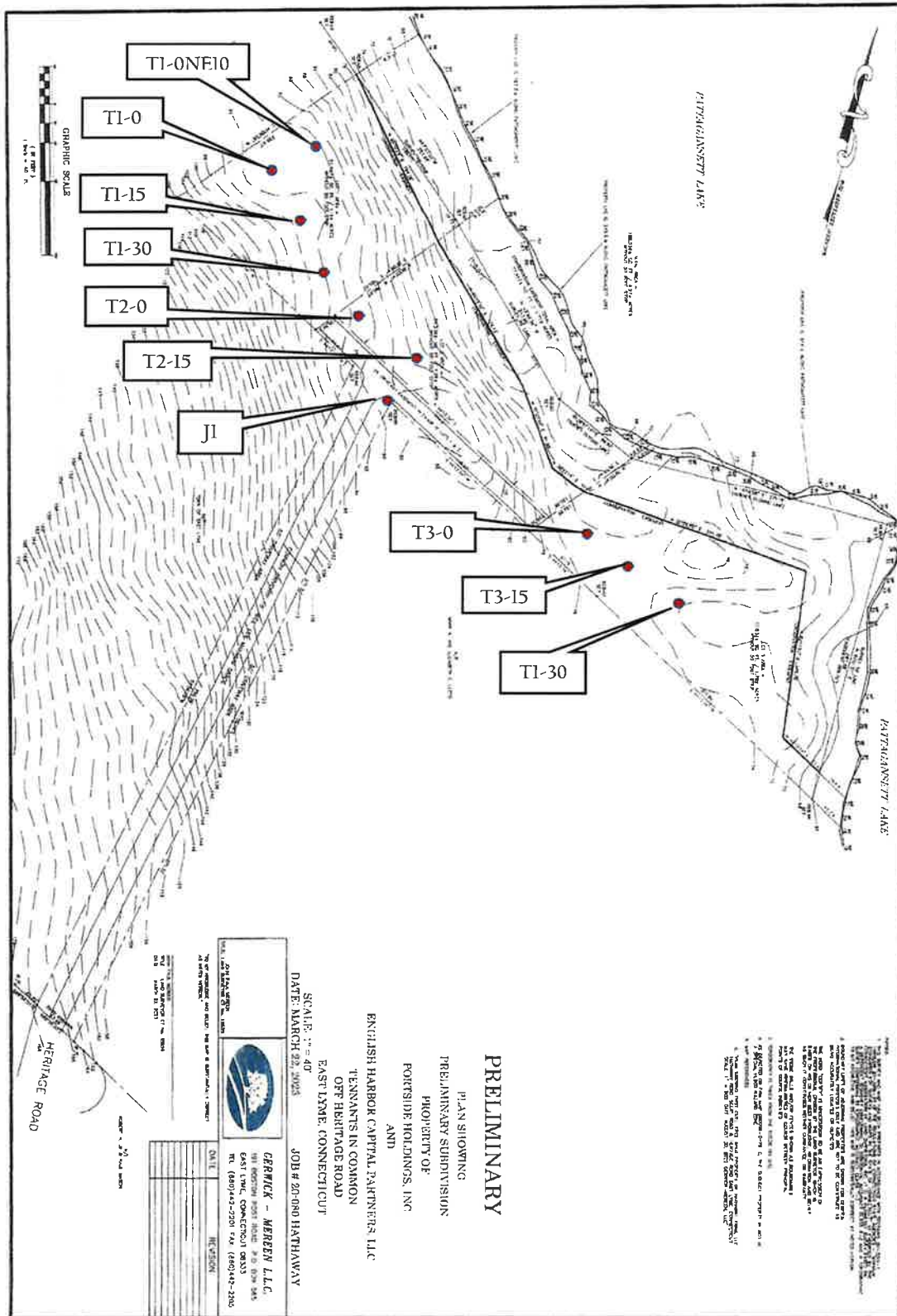


Fig. 10 Placement of subsurface test pits for Phase 1b testing. (base map: Gerwick-Mereen, LLC)

Table 3: Excavation Summary

Excavation Summary								
STP#	Bags	A0/A1 soils	Depth	B1 soils	Depth B1	B2/C soils	Depth	Comments
T1-0	1	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-3 cmbs/ 3-15 cmbs	dk yw bn slt lm w/rk 10yr 4/6	15-30 cmbs			rock, sterile - STP adjacent to buried outcrop at base of hill - Lot 1
T1-15	0	dk brn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-3 cmbs/3-16 cmbs	yw bn slt lm w/ gr & rk 10yr 4/6	16-40 cmbs	lt yw bn slt w/rk 10yr 6/4 B2 horizon	40-55 cmbs	rock, damp clay at 40 cmbs - Lot 1
T1-30	0	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-4 cmbs/4-20 cmbs	yw bn slt lm w/ gr & rk 10yr 4/6	20- 42 cmbs	lt yw bn slt w/rk 10yr 6/4 B2 horizon	42-60 cmbs	dense root, wet clay at base of hill - Lot 1
T1-0W10	0	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-2 cmbs/2-13 cmbs	yw bn slt 10yr 4/6	13-54 cmbs			root - at base of hill adjacent old road - Lot 1
J-1	0	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-2 cmbs/2-12 cmbs	yw bn slt 10yr 4/6	12-39 cmbs			STP adjacent to access road in logged area - Lot 2
T2-0	0	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-2 cmbs/2-17 cmb	yw bn slt 10yr 4/6	17-66 cmbs			very rocky - Lot 2
T2-15	0	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-3 cmbs/3-24 cmbs	yw bn slt 10yr 4/6	24-77 cmbs	lt gy sd 10yr 5/1 C horizon	77 cmbs	rock - Lot 2
T3-0	0	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-2 cmbs/2-32 cmbs	yw bn slt 10yr 4/6	32-78 cmbs	gy crs sd 10yr 5/1 C horizon	78 cmbs	Lot 3
T3-15	0	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-3 cmbs/3-26 cmbs	yw bn slt 10yr 4/6	26-76 cmbs	lt yw slt 10yr 6/4 C horizon	76 cmbs	very wet soil - Lot 3
T3-30	0	dk bn duff/dk sd lm 10yr 4/3	0-3 cmbs/3-23 cmbs	dk yw bn slt 10yr 4/6	23-64 cmbs	lt gy sd 10yr 5/1 C horizon	64 cmbs	very rocky - Lot 3

Conclusions and Recommendations

Subsurface testing for the proposed APE focused on the three lots within the subdivision and on an access road at the base of the hill adjacent to Lot 2. The main access road off Heritage Road was not tested due to slope and previous clear cutting. Surface soils on Lot 1 and 2 did appear slightly disturbed, in areas soil may have been displaced along the existing dirt road leading to an older dwelling no longer present just off the property line and the existing structure to the east of the APE.

A total of 10 subsurface test pits (STPs) were tested throughout the APE with no artifacts identified. Due to the steep slope on the southern side of the APE and the 75 foot conservation easement, only a limited area was conducive to testing. In addition, the soils within Lot 1 contained an extensive root system, rock and buried ledge that hindered subsurface testing below 55 to 60 cms.

Although the geography of the APE, being in close proximity to Pattagansett Lake, would characterize this tract having archaeological potential, the subsurface testing did not produce any additional evidence of past lifeways. The Phase 1b Archaeology Reconnaissance Survey did not identify any archaeological remains nor features such foundations, hearths or storage pits. Therefore to conclude, the proposed subdivision should not have an adverse effect on archaeological resources within the Town of East Lyme nor does the APE meet the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places.

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Appendix A: Photographs of Heritage Road APE



Fig 11 Facing north on access road toward Pattagansett Lake off Heritage Road



Fig 12 Facing south on access road uphill towards Heritage Road



Fig. 13 Facing westward toward access road at location of J-1 and west toward Lot 1



Fig. 14 View northeasterly over Lot 1 and old road or trail that heads east visible in 1934 aerials and on 1997 USGS map.



Fig. 15 Facing west over Lot 1 reflects disturbed surface.



Fig. 16 Facing south toward outcrop at base of hill at T1-0 on Lot 1



Fig. 17 Facing north toward Pattagansett Lake at T2-0 on Lot 2



Fig. 18 Facing northeasterly at Lot 2



Fig. 19 Facing north toward Pattagansett Lake on Lot 3 reflects extent of vegetation present on the landscape.



Fig. 20 Facing northward toward Pattagansett Lake and Lot 3

Appendix B Letters from OSA



April 28, 2024

Mr. Paul Geraghty
38 Granite Street
PO Box 231
New London, CT 06320

Re: Proposed Subdivision, Heritage Road, East Lyme, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Geraghty:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed subdivision at the above address. The proposed project includes the development of three house lots with dwellings and associated infrastructure within a property totaling approximately 6 acres. The property is located on the western shore of Pottagansett Lake and is surrounded by 115 acres of Open Space land owned by the town of East Lyme. The proposed project calls for the land within 75 feet (22.8 meters) of the lake to be protected by a Conservation Easement.

Pottagansett Lake drains south five miles along the Pottagansett River to Black Point on Long Island Sound. Most of the area of proposed development is situated on relatively level, sandy loam soils. This area is considered to have high potential archaeological sensitivity due to these environmental characteristics. Given the topography, well-drained soils, and proximity of the lake, the property is considered sensitive for archaeological resources. The sand and gravel pit to the north and the steep slope of the base of Pond hill to the southwest, possess relatively low archaeological sensitivity.

OSA recommends a limited Phase Ib archaeological survey of undisturbed, archaeologically sensitive areas of planned disturbance within the project area, based on the assessment of professional contract archaeologists. These areas would include the planned locations of houses, driveways, septic areas, rain gardens, and other areas of planned ground disturbance. This work should take place prior to the start of development.

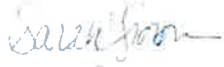
The survey should be conducted in accordance with State Historic Preservation Office standards summarized in the state's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut Archaeological Resources*. (<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/Environmental-Review-Primer-for-CT's-Archaeological-Resources.pdf?la=en>). A list of Cultural Resource Management firms trained to undertake such a survey is included with this letter. This survey would consist of an historical and environmental background review of the property to better document its past use and soil conditions, and a visual inspection of the property to assess the potential for intact soils and archaeological deposits, and the excavation of a limited number of archaeological shovel test pits to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the project area. If artifacts or cultural features suggesting the potential presence of a significant archaeological resource are encountered, some additional testing may be required to establish the site's National Register eligibility. Should the finds be determined to be insignificant, no further work would be required. The results of the survey can be presented to my office as a condensed memorandum report for review.

OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY

sarah_spartman@uconn.edu

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.
State Archaeologist

c.c. Catherine Labadia and Cory Atkinson, CTSHPO; Gary A. Goeschel, Director of Planning, Town of East Lyme



June 24, 2024

Kristen Clarke P.E.
20 Risingwood Drive
Bow, NH 03104

Re: Proposed Subdivision, Heritage Road, East Lyme, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Clarke:

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) reviewed the draft report from Dr. Sarah Holmes, regarding the results of the Phase I archaeological reconnaissance archaeology survey of the proposed three-lot residential subdivision on Heritage Road in the town of East Lyme. Dr. Holmes conducted background research on the property and visual inspection identified several areas with previous soil disturbance within the area of planned development. Dr. Holmes completed an archaeological survey comprising 10 shovel test pits in areas of potential archaeological sensitivity. No significant artifacts or cultural features were identified in any of the shovel test pits. As a result of the survey Dr. Holmes determined that the proposed subdivision will not impact archaeological or historical resources within the Town of East Lyme, and recommended no additional archaeological testing.

OSA concurs that the proposed development will have no effects on any cultural resources listed, eligible, or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and it will therefore have no effect on the cultural and historical resources of the State of Connecticut. No additional archaeological work is required.

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

Sincerely,

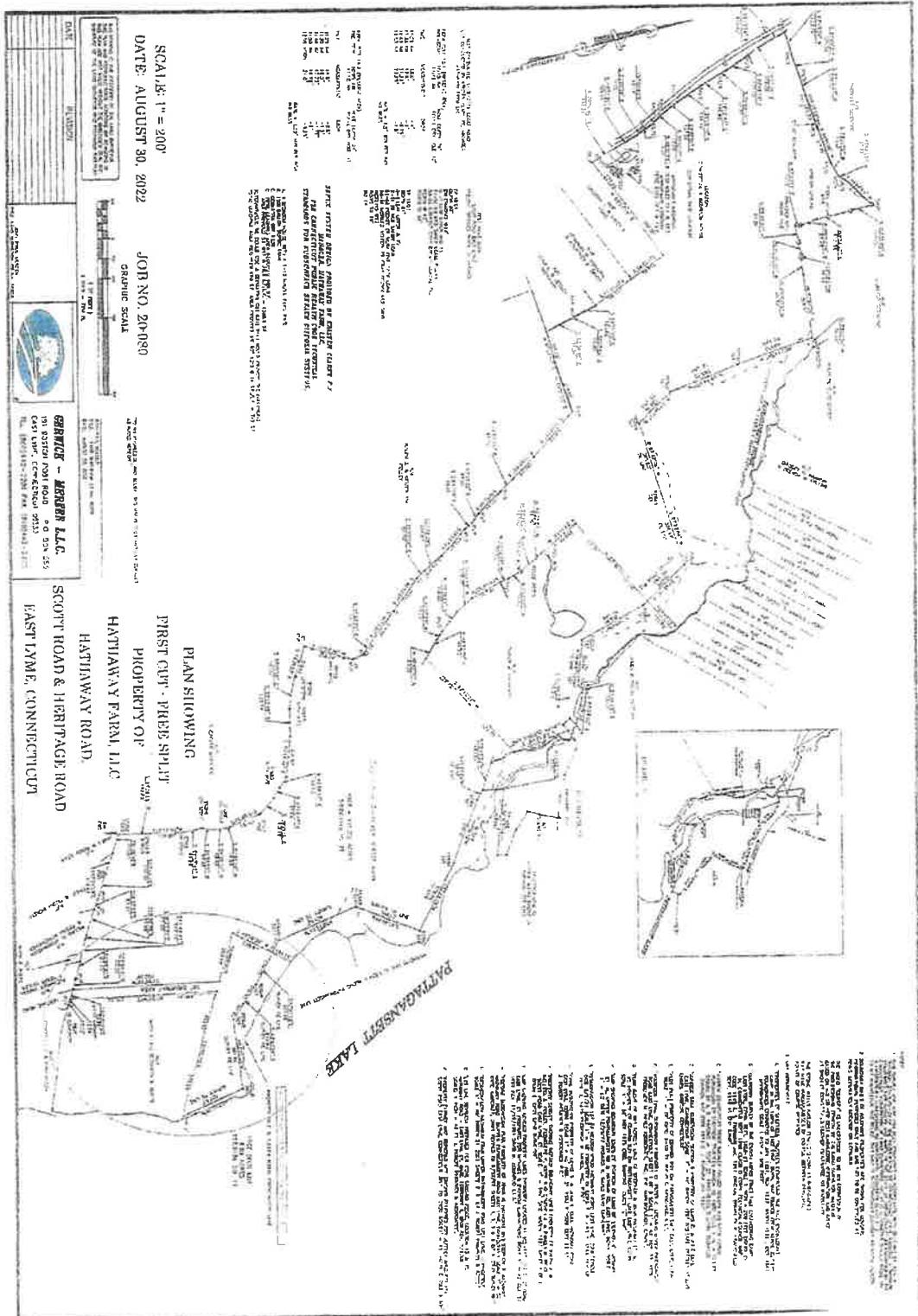
Sarah P. Sportman, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist

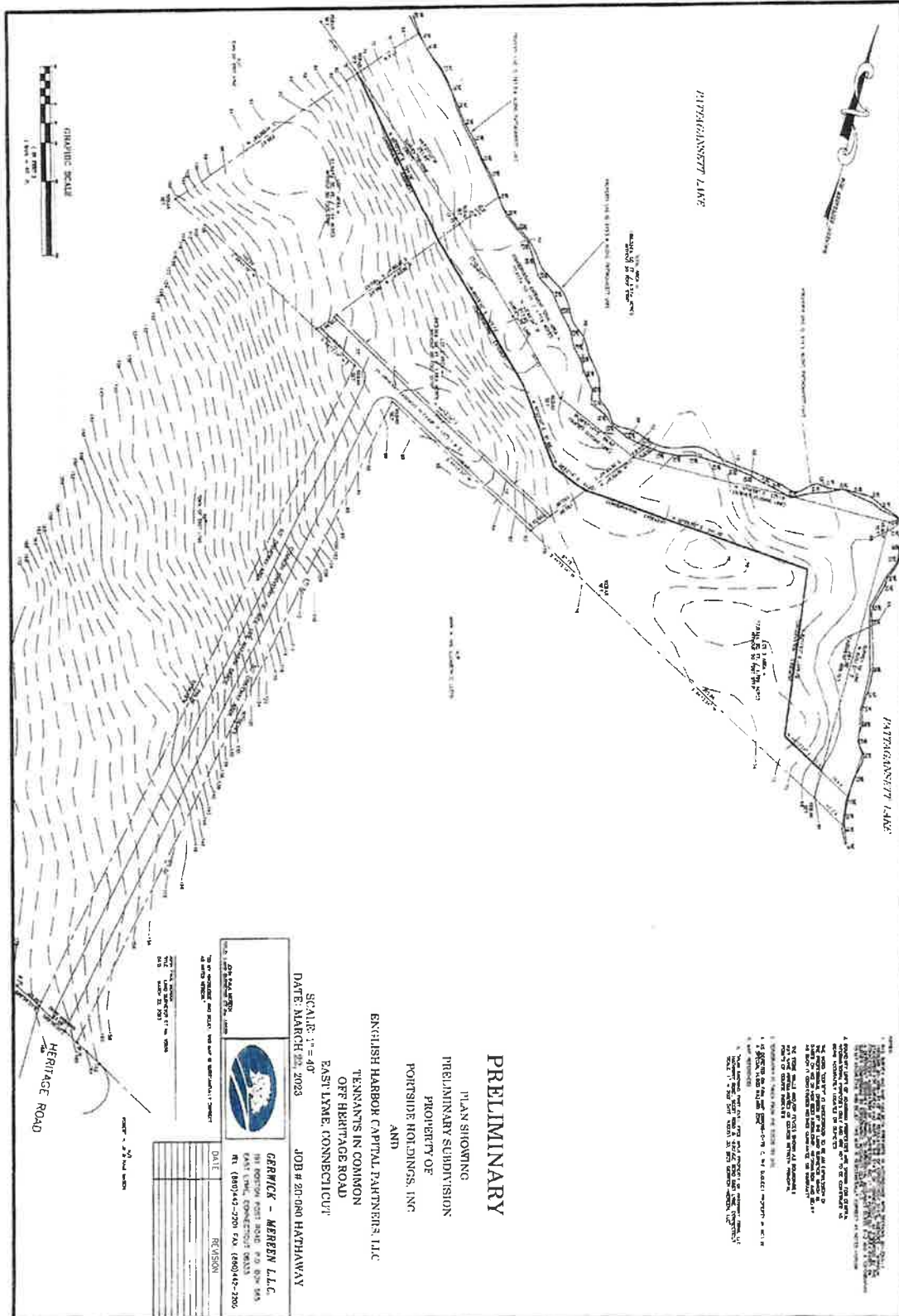
Cc: Cory Atkinson, CTSHPO; Sarah Holmes; Gary A. Goeschel, Town of East Lyme

OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY

Sarah.Sportman@uconn.edu

Appendix C: Map of proposed Heritage Road Subdivision. Gerwick-Mereen, LLC





THIS PLAN SHOWS THE PROPOSED SUBDIVISION OF THE LAND SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED MAP. THE PROPOSED SUBDIVISION IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT. THE TOWN ENGINEER HAS REVIEWED THIS PLAN AND HAS ISSUED THIS CERTIFICATE OF REVIEW. THE TOWN ENGINEER'S REVIEW IS LIMITED TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION SHOWN ON THE PLAN. THE TOWN ENGINEER'S REVIEW IS LIMITED TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION SHOWN ON THE PLAN.

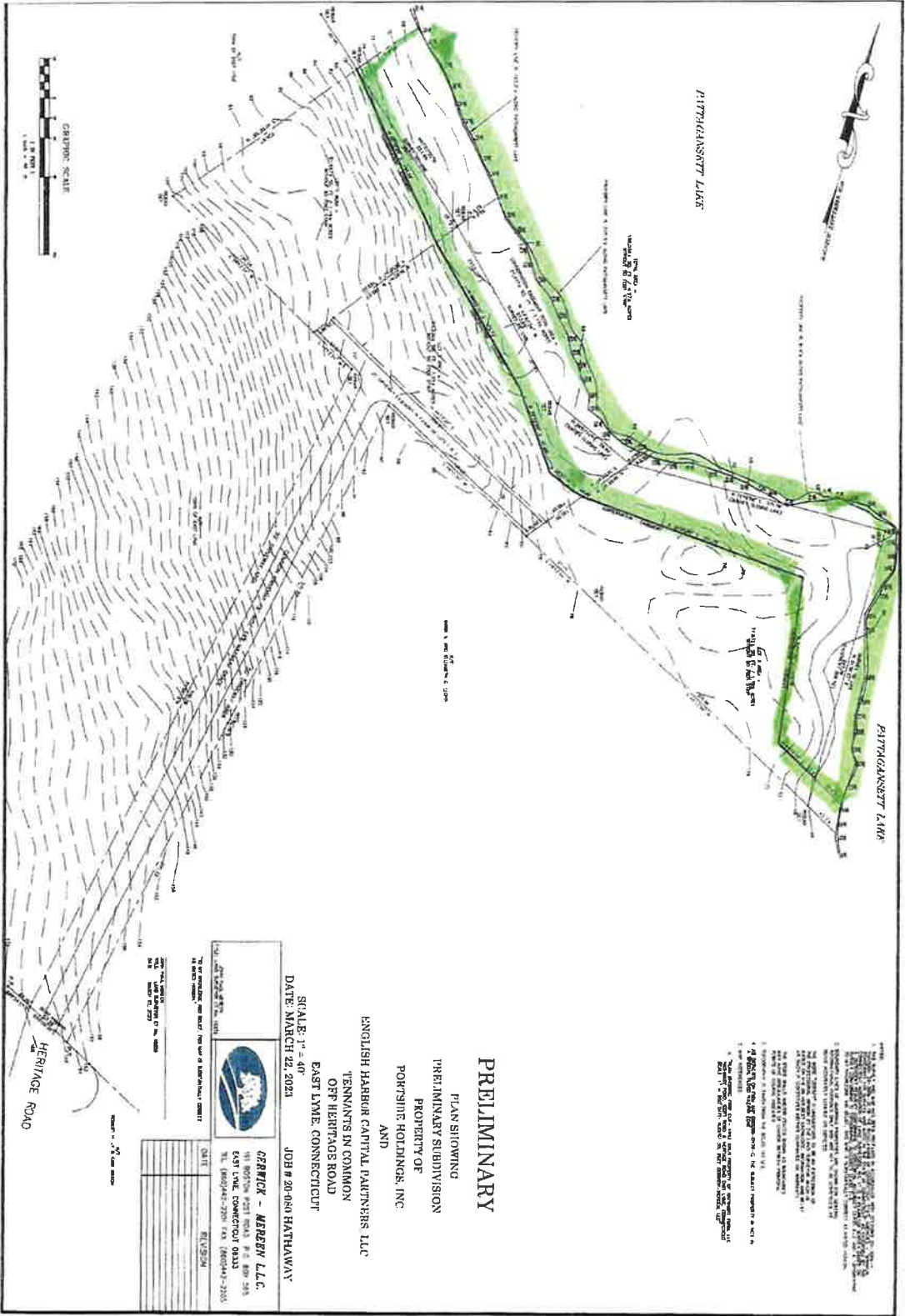
PRELIMINARY

PLAN SHOWING
 PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION
 PROPERTY OF
 PORTSIDE HOLDINGS, INC.
 AND
 ENGLISH HARBOR CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC
 TENANTS IN COMMON
 OFF HERITAGE ROAD
 EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT

SCALE: 1" = 40'
 DATE: MARCH 22, 2023
 JOB # 207080 HATHAWAY

	
GERRICK - MERREN L.L.C. 801 BOSTON POST ROAD, P.O. BOX 545 EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT 06424 CT (860) 442-2200 FAX (860) 442-2205	
DATE:	REVISION:





PITTSFORDSSETT LIMS

PITTSFORDSSETT LIMS

HERITAGE ROAD

NOTES:
 1. THIS PLAN IS A PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION PLAN AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OR RECORDING.
 2. THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED PLANS.
 3. THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED PLANS.
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PRELIMINARY

PLAN SHOWING
 PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION
 PROPERTY OF
 PORTSIDE HOLDINGS, INC
 AND
 ENGLISH HARBOR CAPITAL PARTNERS LLC
 TENANTS IN COMMON
 OFF HERITAGE ROAD
 EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT

SCALE: 1" = 40'
 DATE: MARCH 22, 2023
 JOB # 20180 HATHAWAY

GENRICK - MERRIFIELD L.L.C.
 11 BROWN STREET, SUITE 200
 EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT 06424
 TEL: 860-439-2200 FAX: 860-439-2205

DATE	REVISION



Appendix D:

Subdivision Regulations Adopted: September 7, 1952

Revised Through: February 1, 2011

Effective: February 1, 2011

5-8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS – Archaeological surveys shall be conducted by a professional archaeologist whose credentials are recognized by the Connecticut Historical Commission and/or State Archaeologist. A report of all surveys conducted shall be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office a minimum of 35 days prior to submission of the subdivision application to the Planning Commission.

- 5-8-1 Assessment Survey - An Assessment Survey (sensitivity survey) shall be conducted on all land proposed for subdivision to provide a general evaluation of the archaeological potential of the property including identification of known archaeological sites, areas of severe ground disturbance, and areas of low to high probability for the existence of unknown archaeological sites.
- 5-8-2 Reconnaissance Survey - A Reconnaissance Survey (detailed field examination) shall be conducted where the Assessment Survey indicates that an archaeological site exists or is likely to exist. A reconnaissance survey is a detailed field examination designed to locate all prehistoric and historic archaeological resources within the project area.
- 5-8-3 Intensive Survey - An Intensive Survey shall be conducted where evidence of an archaeological site has been found through the Reconnaissance Survey. An intensive survey represents an in-depth archaeological field examination of a particular archaeological site(s) for the express purpose of recovering sufficient information to enable an evaluation of the context, integrity and significance of the site.

<https://eltownhall.com/government/departments/department-of-planning/subdivision-regulations/>