

July 31, 2025

Mr. Charles A. Brown
countryway@charter.net

Re: Phase IA Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment Survey
Proposed Subdivision Development on Boston Turnpike: Hillcrest Condominiums
Coventry, CT

Dear Mr. Brown:

AHS completed a Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Survey of the above referenced project on July 30, 2025. The purpose of a Phase IA survey is to assess the archaeological sensitivity or potential of a property to contain intact cultural resources. The Phase IA included background research and a walkover survey.

The survey was conducted in accordance with the State Historic Preservation Office's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

Results

The 14.86-acre project is in an area of moderately high archaeological sensitivity for pre-colonial Native American and historical period archaeological sites. It is situated above Lee Brook near the Skungamaug River, an important resource for peoples in all time periods. This area may have provided a good location for temporary campsites and possibly more permanent settlements. There are no recorded sites within the project area or immediate vicinity, though this is likely due to lack of testing and does not serve as an indicator of archaeological sensitivity. There are many pre-contact sites in Coventry, some in upland areas similar to the project area.

During the walkover survey, the parcel was visually inspected and tested for soil integrity via small hand-powered probes (Figure 1). The parcel is characterized by gentle rolling slopes, and also contains rocky, dry, and sandy intact soils. An old dirt road cuts through this parcel running parallel to Route 44 from southeast to northwest, possibly a vestigial remnant of the road's original alignment. The project area contained archaeologically sensitive soils with intact subsoil layers.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Approximately 4.75 acres of the project area appear to be sensitive for intact archaeological resources, based on the intact, well-drained soil sequences, lack of pervasive soil disturbances, and proximity to attractive environmental resources. Based on the results of the Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Survey, AHS recommends that the project area be tested with a Phase IB Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey. AHS estimates that

approximately 44 shovel test pits (STPs) would be necessary to complete the Phase IB survey (Figure 2). The purpose of Phase IB testing is to determine conclusively whether archaeological sites are present in the development area.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mary G. Harper
President

MGH/rlb
Enclosure
Via e-mail

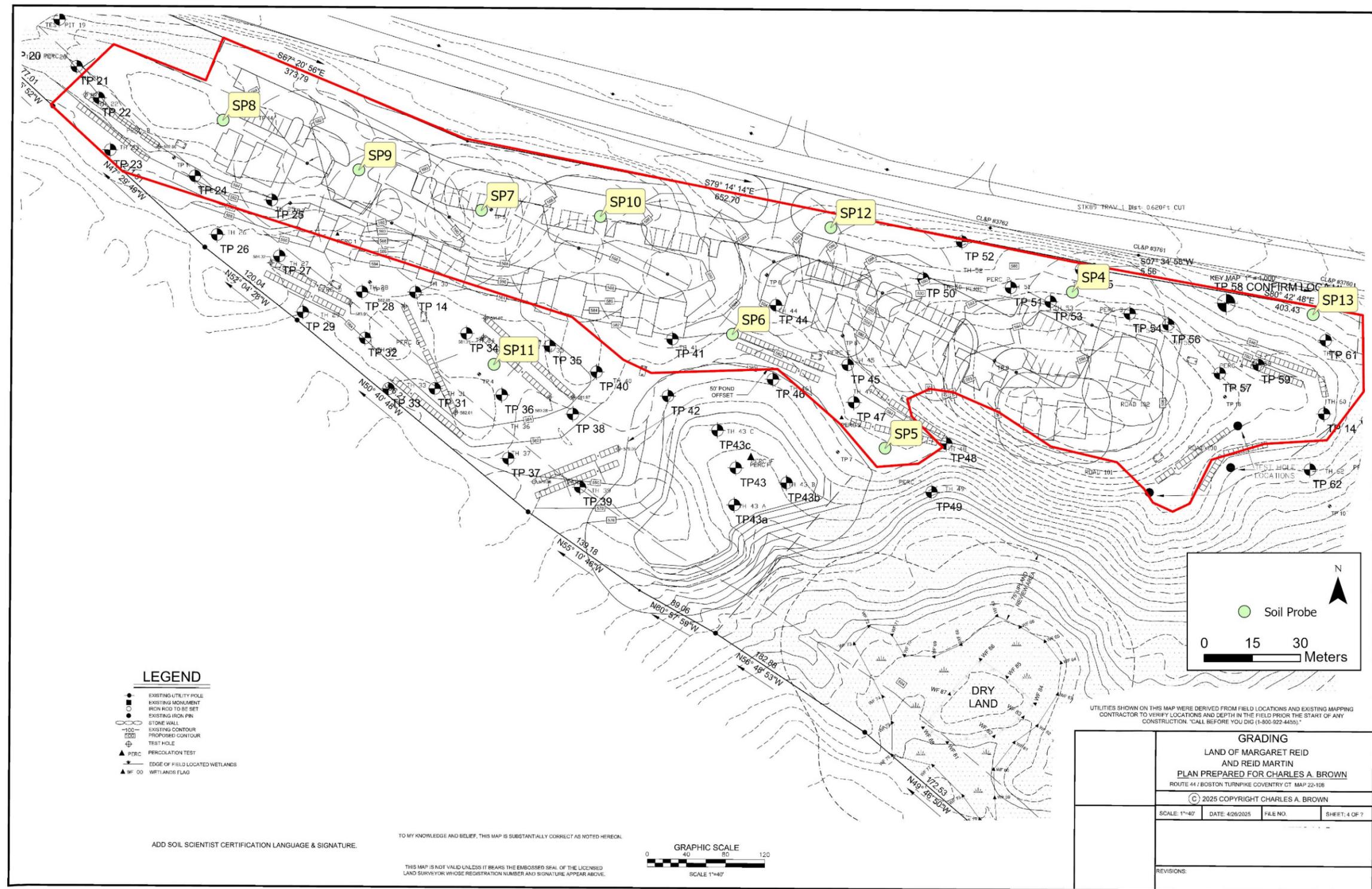


Figure 1: Locations of soil probes on project plans.

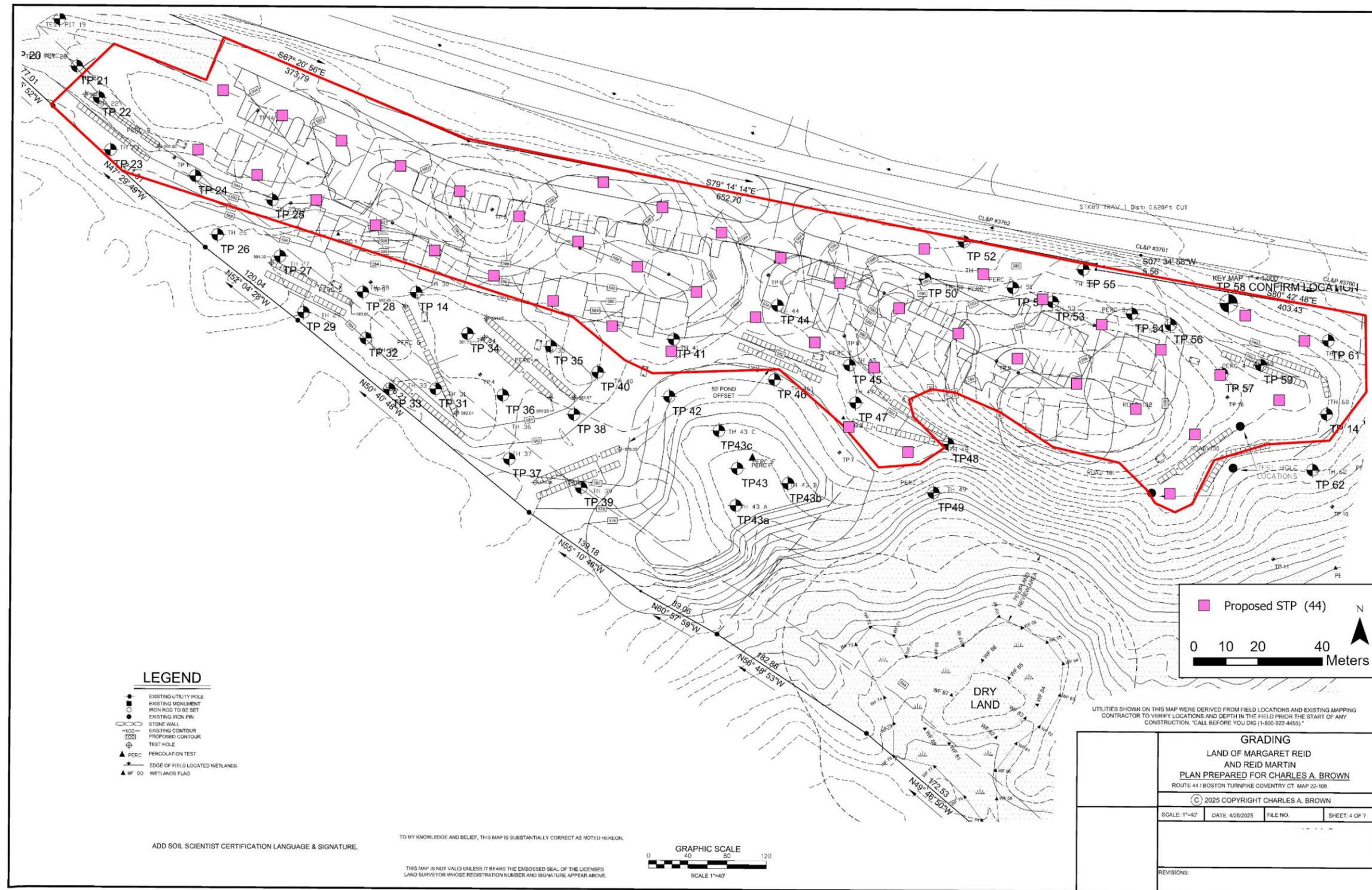


Figure 2: Locations of proposed test pits on project plans.

August 7, 2025

Mr. Charles A. Brown
countryway@charter.net

Re: **End-of-Fieldwork Summary**
Phase I Archaeological Assessment and Reconnaissance Survey
Proposed Subdivision Development on Boston Turnpike: Hillcrest Condominiums
Coventry, CT

Dear Mr. Brown:

PAST has completed the subsurface testing component of the above-referenced archaeological survey. A total of 43 shovel test pits (STPs) was excavated in the project area (see attached figure). One planned STP, T9-13, was not excavated as it was situated on a small outcropping that had been largely disturbed by a percolation test. No STPs were excavated on the western end of the project area due to visible soil disturbance. The STPs throughout the project area contained a thin A soil overlying B1 subsoil, which was in turn above B2 and C subsoils. Cobbles and boulders were frequently encountered in this area, and all soils were noted as sandy and gravelly. This parcel does not appear to have been plowed in the past, and the presence of a stone wall suggests that it was more likely used as a livestock pasture. Most of the STPs could only be excavated to 50-60 centimeters below the surface, with only a few reaching C soil due to rocky impasses. Forty of the STPs were sterile and contained no cultural material. Three pits contained small amounts of historic material: T7-7, T8-6, and T8-8. These yielded three sherds of whiteware, one piece of shell, and a single cut nail. Small collections of historic artifacts such as these often appear in what is termed "field scatter", and do not constitute a site, nor do they have the potential to convey important information.

The paucity of artifacts recovered, combined with evidence of prior soil disturbance, indicates that the project area has virtually no potential to contain significant archaeological remains. No additional archaeological survey is recommended.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Mary G. Harper
President

MGH/rlb
Enclosure
Via e-mail

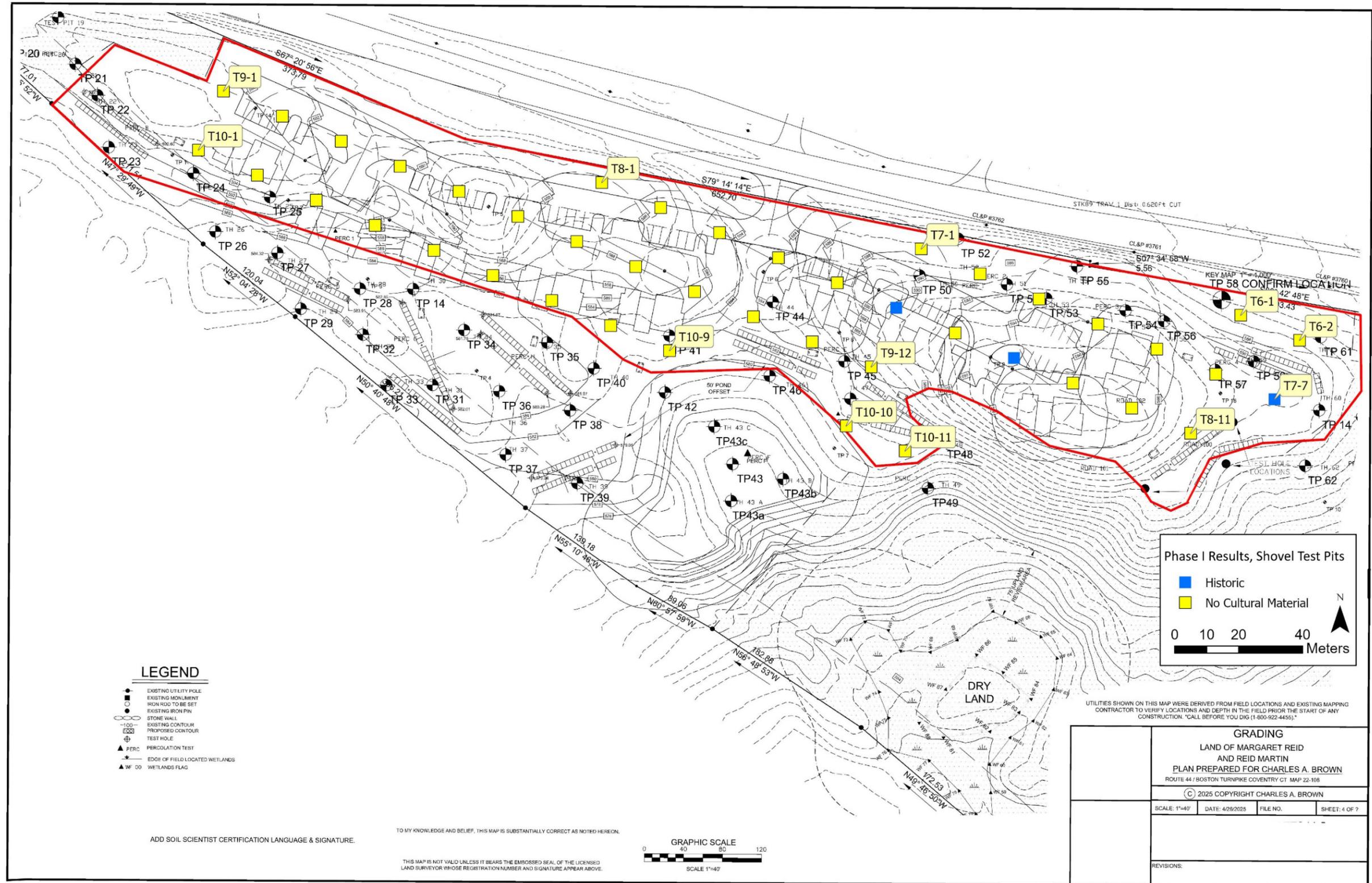


Figure 1: Locations of STPs shown on project plans.



Figure 2: Excavation of T9-10, camera facing southeast.



Figure 3: Excavation of T10-1, camera facing west.