

July 31, 2025

Mr. Charles A. Brown
countryway@charter.net

Re: Phase IA Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment Survey
Proposed Subdivision Development on Boston Turnpike: Lot 1/ 3-Lot Subdivision
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 4.51-acre project area 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 augers (Figure 1). The eastern side of the lot gently slopes to the south, where a wetland borders the project area. The northwestern corner of this lot slopes upward toward a level area that is rocky. The probes indicated dry and well-drained intact soils.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Approximately two acres of the APE 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 23 shovel test pits (STPs) would be necessary to adequately complete the

Phase IB survey (Figure 2). The purpose of Phase IB testing is to determine conclusively if 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

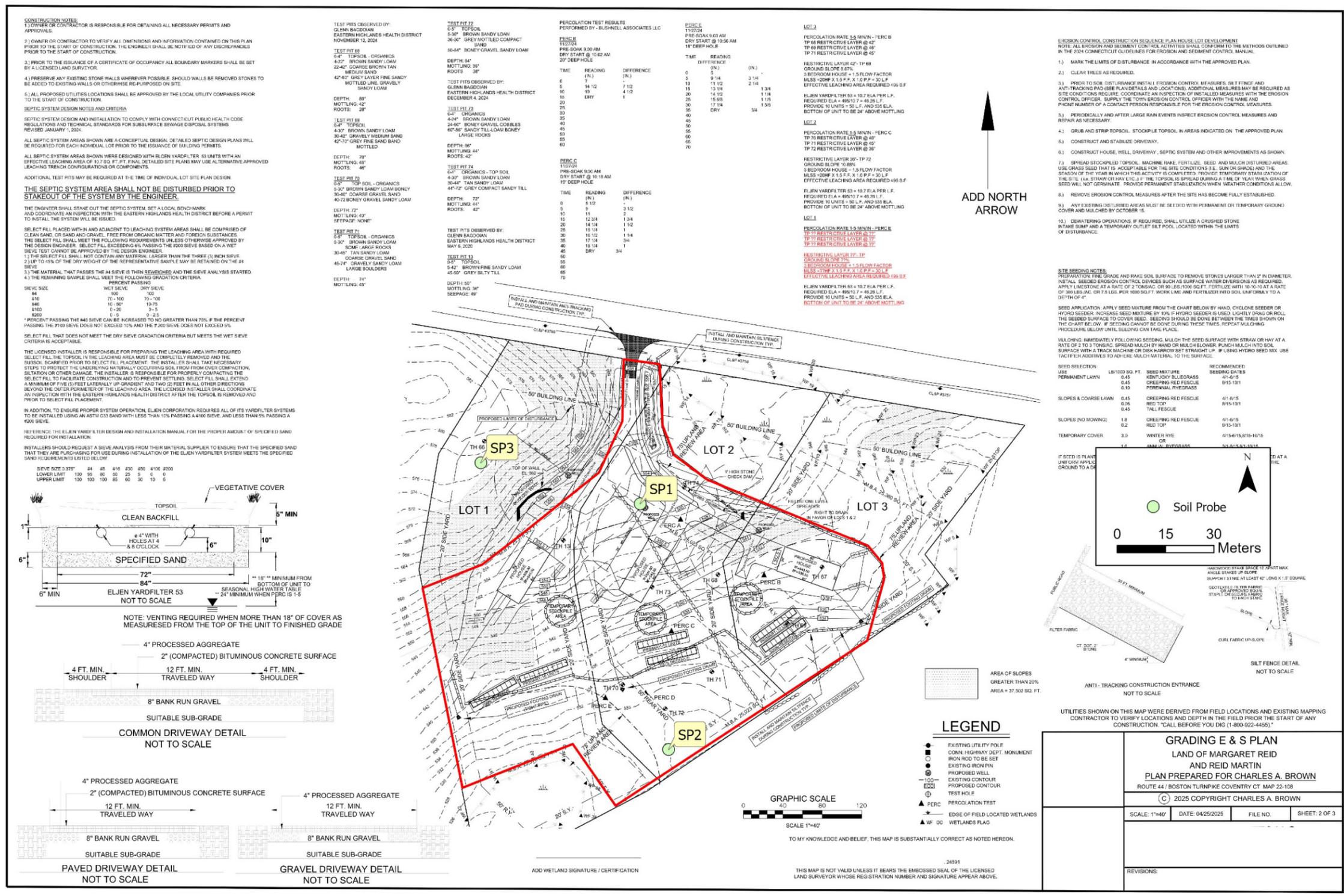
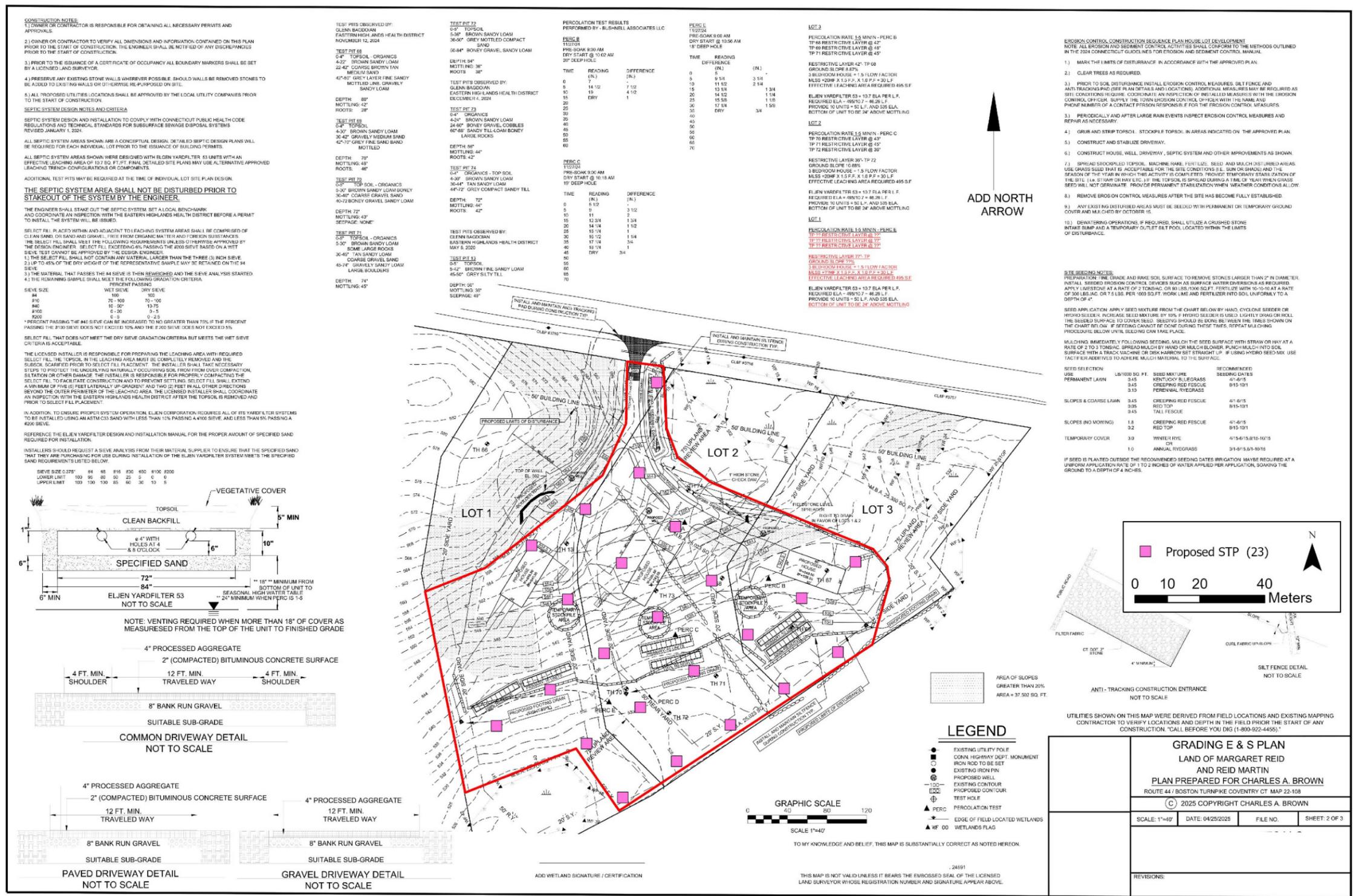


Figure 1: Locations of soil probes on project plans.



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: three-lot subdivision
Coventry, CT

Dear Mr. Brown:

PAST has completed the subsurface testing component of the above-referenced archaeological survey. A total of 23 shovel test pits (STPs) was excavated in the project area (see attached figure). No STPs were dug in the western corner of the project area due to the steep slope. The STPs usually terminated around 70 centimeters below the surface, frequently due to large rocks and cobble impasses in the soil. Nineteen of the STPs were sterile; that is, they produced no pre-contact or historic period cultural material. One STP, T3-5 on the southern border of the project area, produced five quartz flakes. These artifacts represent isolated finds and do not constitute an archaeological site within the project area, as the surrounding STPs were negative for pre-Contact material. Three STPs yielded small amounts of historic material: T5-3, T3-4 and T2-3. These contained 5 whiteware, 1 blue bottle glass shard, and 2 unidentified ceramic sherds. A stone wall bisects this lot from the northwest to southeast, and the soils contained a plow zone, indicating a period of agricultural usage where a small collection of historic artifacts such as these often appear in what is termed "field scatter", and do not constitute a site nor have the potential to convey important information.

The paucity of artifacts recovered 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 2: Excavation of T1-2, camera facing east.



Figure 3: Excavation of T4-4. camera facing west.