



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY
DIRECTOR

May 14, 2024

Amanda Lessard
Planning Director
Town of Windham
80 School Rd.
Windham, ME 04062

Dear Ms. Lessard:

Last fall we completed a reconnaissance archaeological survey for the East Windham Community Forest purchase. The report is enclosed. We located two archaeological sites: an historic farmstead cellar hole, and a (somewhat surprising) prehistoric site on the northern end of Little Duck Pond. Finding a prehistoric archaeological site on a pond as small as Little Duck Pond is uncommon.

Development of trails or other access improvements, or other ground disturbing activity in the vicinity of either site should be preceded by consultation with our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Spiess".

Dr. Arthur Spiess
Senior Archaeologist

arthur.spiess@maine.gov

Maine Native American Archaeological Site Survey Record New Site Revisions

Site Number 013.057- Town Windham Map Cumberland Center

Location north end of Little Duck Pond on elevated terrace above pond

NAD83 UTM East19/ 390050 North 4851800 Other UTM from LiDar tp loc Elevation(ft) 400

Site Name or other number _____ Attitude toward Excavation
Land Owner East Windham Community Forest (town?) Positive Conditional
Owner's Address _____ Equivocal Negative Unknown
Previous Owner, date _____ Other Owner/Attitude Info _____

Site Description lithics in three of four testpits
and Remarks _____

Site Attributes Length (m) 200 Width (m) _____ Max depth below surface (cm) _____
 On/near shoreline or bank Fossil shoreline 50m or more AWAY from water feature
 Shell Midden Dark Soil Midden Quarry Petroglyph or Pictograph

Matrix if not above site type: Alluvium Sand/Gravel outwash Silt/Clay (e.g. Presumpscot) Glacial Till
 Aeolian

Cultural Phases Present Paleoindian Late Paleoindian
 General Native American, General Archaic Early Archaic Middle Archaic Late Archaic
 Pre-European, Laurentian Vergennes Moorehead Susquehanna Small Stemmed Point
phase unknown General Ceramic Early Ceramic Middle Ceramic Late Ceramic
 Eurohistoric goods present Early Contact <1675 Later Contact >=1675
NOT in Native American context Radiocarbon Dates _____

Artifacts quartz flakes, quartz wedge, broken up feldspar

Fauna _____ Calcined Unburned

Known Features Hearth Cache Pit, storage or trash Quarry Weir
 House floor Post mold Burial Other: _____

Damage to Site Plowzone Excavation Looting Roads or Trails Recreational Use Buildings/Foundations/Infrastructure
 Underwater Filled/Buried Erosion: None or very little Moderate Severe Total

Damage comment _____

Last Archaeologist at Site Anne Wilder Leith Smith Date visited 2023

Collection Location MHPC/MSM

Site Report, Reference _____

Other Data Available Shovel Testing Surveyed Map Field Notes Photos Sketch Map Analysis RC Date
Historic Site Cross Reference _____

Original Professional to Record Site Spiess, Arthur E. Original Date Recorded 1/2/2024

Site Reported by Leith Smith

MHPC ONLY Archaeological Easement on Property

MHPC ONLY NR Status IN Date NRStat 1/2/2024

MHPC ONLY This site meets the NR Criteria for: _____

MAINE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES INVENTORY

SITE NUMBER ME 483-008	SITE NAME Abraham Ingersoll Farmstead	ETHNICITY Anglo-American	SITE TYPE farmstead
PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE Centuries <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/> 16th <input type="checkbox"/> 17th <input type="checkbox"/> 18th <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th <input type="checkbox"/> 20th <input type="checkbox"/> 21st Date Statement: Before 1857 to ca. 1870 based on county maps and census data.			
STREET OR HIGHWAY On historic dirt road east of Nash Road, north of Falm		CITY OR TOWN Windham	COUNTY Cumberland
POSITION (as measured)	<input type="checkbox"/> NAD 1927 (USGS Topos) Z19 E: N: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAD 1983 or WGS 1984 (GPS) Z19 E: 385995 N: 4854839	USGS 7.5' Quadrangle North Windham	ACREAGE one to ten
GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION Upland just south of Atherton Hill			OWNER Town of Windham
SITE CONFIRMATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identified in the field by Leith Smith, Maine Historic Preservation Commission 2023 <input type="checkbox"/> Inferred from reference (literature or informant)			
RECORDED BY Smith, Leith	INSTITUTION Maine Historic Preservation Commission		DATE ENTERED 3/27/2024
NR STATUS: Potentially eligible		DATE NR STATUS: 3/27/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> EASEMENT
REFERENCES			

Smith, J.N. Leith, Anne Wilder and Arthur Spiess, Archaeological Assessment and Survey, Land for Maine's Future Round 10, East Windham Community Forest, Windham, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, ME, 2024.

REMARKS

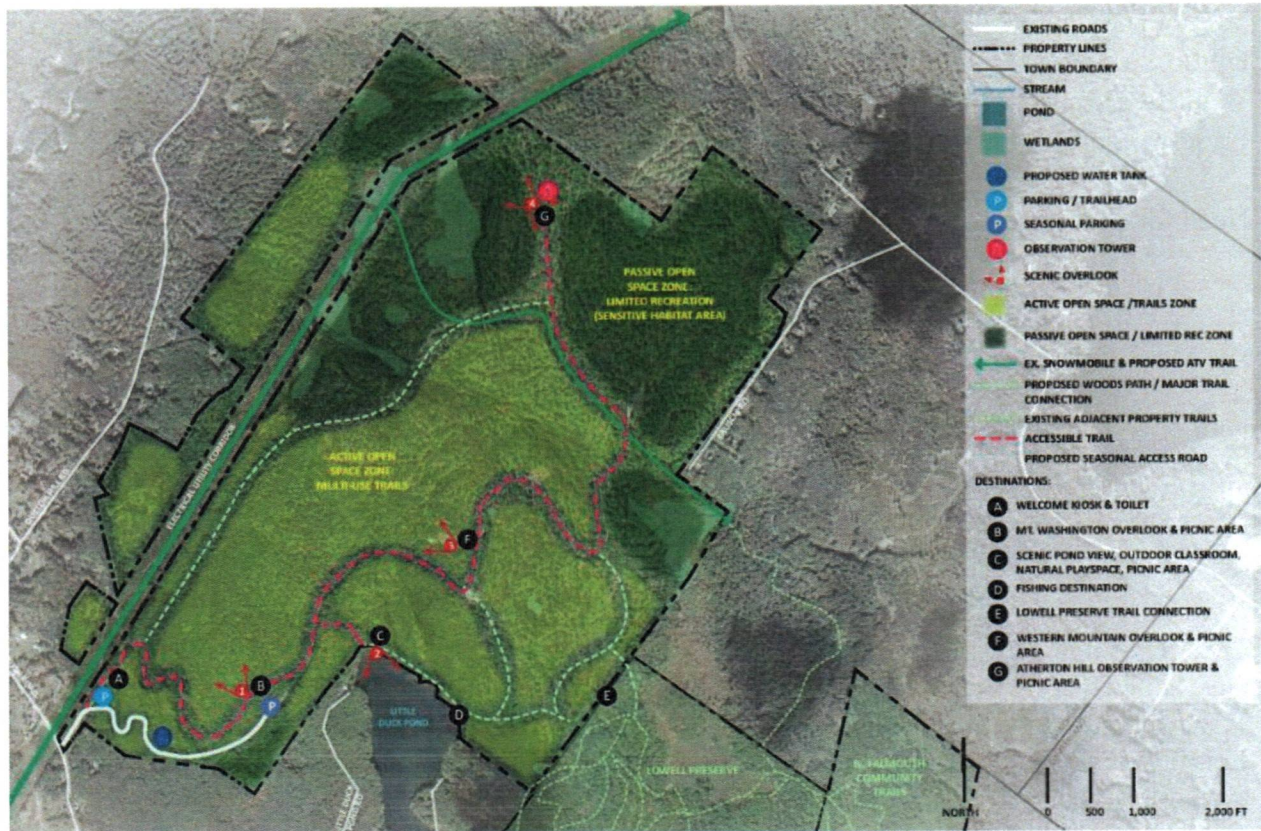
Site identified during Land for Maine's Future survey of the East Windham Community Forest. Consists of a stone-lined cellar measuring 20 x 32 feet with central chimney foundation of two parallel stone walls for arch. Bulkhead entrance is on west gable side. Stone-lined well with stone cover is 56 feet south of house and barn foundation measuring 34 x 36 feet is 90 feet southwest of the house. Abraham established farm between 1850 and 1857 and moved a short distance to Falmouth around 1870 next to his wife, Olive's family farm.

SENSITIVE DATA EXPRESSLY EXEMPT FROM THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
DO NOT REPRODUCE WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND SURVEY

LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE ROUND 10

EAST WINDHAM COMMUNITY FOREST WINDHAM



J. N. Leith Smith, Anne Wilder and Arthur Spiess
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
April 2024

EAST WINDHAM COMMUNITY FOREST, WINDHAM

Town of Windham

Contact Person: Amanda Lessard, Town of Windham

BACKGROUND AND EXPECTATIONS PRIOR TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

(For Summary of Results and Management Recommendations see pg. 4)

The Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program is the State of Maine's primary funding vehicle for conserving land for its natural and recreational value. Its primary purpose is to conserve land in its undeveloped state, provide public recreational water access, protect working waterfronts and promote productive farms and farmlands. Municipalities and land trusts are the more common entities to seek LMF funding. Applicants are sponsored by the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Need for Cultural Resource Surveys:

*All lands acquired with money from the Land for Maine's Future Fund or the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund must be evaluated for rare, threatened or endangered species of plants and animals, exemplary natural communities, **features of historic significance** and other high priority natural features and ecologic functions as determined by the board, with reference to the best inventory data available to the State. Subsequent management by state agencies holding properties found to have such important features and functions must reflect the objective of maintaining and protecting those features and functions.*

MRS Title 5 Chapter 353 ss 6209 (5) Land Evaluated

The archaeological assessment of properties acquired through the LMF Program is conducted by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) through a Memorandum of Agreement. The evaluation of known and potential features of historic significance (known and possibly significant archaeological sites) under MRSA 5 §6209(5) is accomplished using information available at the MHPC, including records of archaeological sites and previous professional archaeological surveys, predictive models of prehistoric site location, and historic maps. The product is an assessment of identified sites (if any) on the parcel, and of the potential for unknown sites. This is followed by either recommendations for archaeological survey (including intensity and focus) after project closing, or a statement that no further archaeological survey or management consideration for the parcel is necessary.

Known Prehistoric Archaeological Sites on Record: No known sites recorded.

Known Historic Archaeological Sites on Record: No known sites.

Previous Archaeological Survey and/or Excavation: None.

Windham LMF Round 10, Archaeological Assessment and Survey

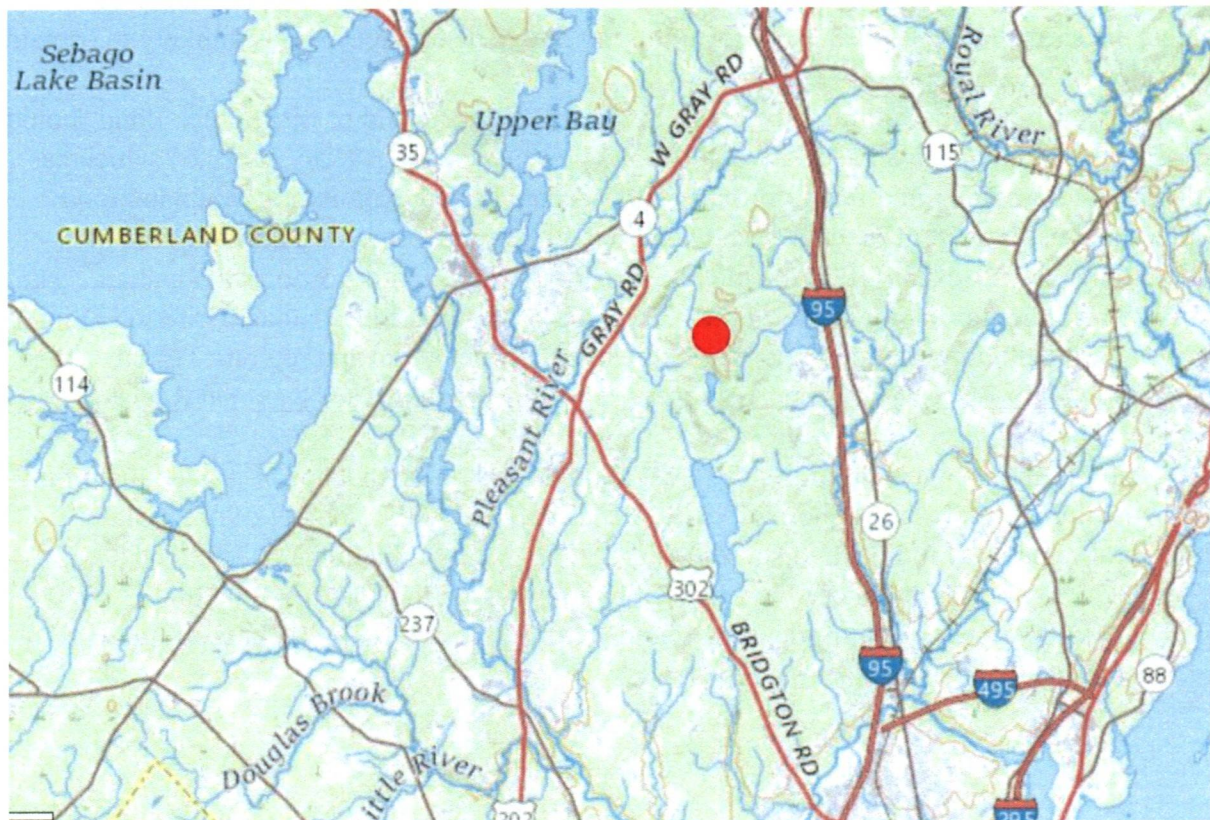
Prehistoric Site Potential: Based on the topography, soils and (lack of) lakes and canoe-navigable streams, the potential for prehistoric archaeological sites is very low (nil).

Historic Site Potential derived from Historic Maps: The 1857 Cumberland County map depicts two properties identified as A. Ingersoll and D. Ingersoll that may be present within the northern portion of the proposed Community Forest off a northeastern extension of Nash Road. The 1871 Atlas Map depicts three properties that may be in the same northern portion. These are labeled as Mrs. M. Sullivan, N. Fry and A. Ingersol. Thus, the potential for the presence of historic archaeological sites is medium to high.

Need for further Archaeological Survey after Project Closing: A Phase 0 pedestrian survey (walkover) should be conducted to determine if the depicted properties are present and lie within the Forest bounds. If sites are identified, each should be subjected to Phase I survey consisting of site mapping and possible shovel testing to assess site integrity and determine if potentially significant archaeological deposits and features are present. A minimum of one day per property with four archaeology technicians may be needed.

Archaeological Site Management Comments: Wait for results of archaeological survey.

Project Location



Topographic map with red dot showing project area location.

EAST WINDHAM COMMUNITY FOREST, WINDHAM

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase I archaeological reconnaissance survey succeeded in identifying a prehistoric Native American occupation (given site number 13.57), and sites of two 19th-century farmsteads. The prehistoric occupation is indicated by lithics (stone) produced during the manufacture of tools. These were found in three of four shovel test pits excavated in the area of Little Duck Pond. The nature of the material suggests general occupation associated with the Archaic Period (ca. 9000 – 4000 BP (years before present)).

The farmstead sites are located in the northwestern portion of the Forest off an historic dirt road that extends southeastward from Nash Road. The A. Ingersoll farm, depicted on the 1857 and 1871 Cumberland County maps, consists of a house site, well, separate barn and possible animal pen. The site has been compromised by metal detectorists, but otherwise is in an excellent state of preservation. The D. Ingersoll (1857) / N. Fry (1871) farmstead was identified by the presence of whiteware ceramics in an ATV trail in an historic roadbed. The site has been severely impacted by clearing of the powerline right-of-way corridor that passes through the Forest. Although dense ground vegetation prevented observation of potential architectural remains, the site as a whole clearly has lost integrity due to disturbance and is unlikely to contain information of historic importance.

The portion of the Community Forest bordering the north end of Little Duck Pond should be considered archaeologically sensitive due to the presence of prehistoric site 13.57 which has the potential to provide important information on Archaic Period exploitation of upland food resources and patterns of occupation. The A. Ingersoll farmstead is in an excellent state of preservation and well-exemplifies an upland 19th-century farm in this portion of Windham. The site may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to the history of the town and region. The site of the D. Ingersoll / N. Fry farmstead is poorly preserved and is not eligible for National Register listing.

Long-term management of the site areas should focus on avoidance of ground disturbing activities within 100 feet of the shore of Little Duck Pond and within 50 feet of observable architectural remains of the A. Ingersoll farmstead. Digging by relic hunters should be discouraged. Site preservation can be enhanced by minimizing the chance for natural degradation such as erosion from running ground water (often due to timber harvesting) and from tree growth that can displace stonework.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY NARRATIVE

Introduction

The Town of Windham applied for LMF funding to support the purchase of a group of contiguous land parcels in the northeastern portion of town. The purpose of the purchase was to create the East Windham Community Forest for landscape preservation and public recreation. Assessment of the combined Forest parcels for the presence of potentially significant cultural resources was conducted in August and September 2023 by Leith Smith of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The assessment consisted of documentary research, pedestrian survey, mapping and shovel testing. The survey succeeded in identifying a locus of pre-contact period Native American occupation likely dating to the Archaic Period (ca. 9000-3000 BP (years before present)), and the sites of two 19th-century farmsteads. Survey details and additional information is provided below.

Summary Prehistory of Windham and the Community Forest Area

There are approximately 1000 prehistoric (pre-European Indigenous) archaeological sites in the Maine Historic Preservation Commission inventory in York and Cumberland counties in coastal and inland locations. Examination of various location attributes, such as distance to water, aspect (e.g., north, south), slope (of ground), and soil drainage (e.g., sandy and well drained, otherwise) comprised a GIS (geographic information system) study (Pontbriand, 2020, Maine Archaeological Society Bulletin) that we can use to predict site locations in southwestern Maine. The vast majority (>90%) of sites are located on level ground adjacent to larger bodies of water (coast, lakes, rivers). A smaller number are located on very well drained soils adjacent to smaller bodies of water such as streams and kettle hole ponds. Patches of well drained soils (derived from glacial outwash primarily) are commonly distributed across the region.

Visual inspection of site location maps shows that sites are concentrated on larger bodies of water such as Sebago Lake, rivers such as the Presumpscot and Saco, and the coast. Small lakes (10 acres) and ponds do not, generally, have pre-European sites located on their shores.

Southern Maine was first inhabited about 12,000 years ago, as the ice age ended in a subarctic environment, by a culture called “Paleoindian” by archaeologists. Small Paleoindian sites are located in Wells, Kennebunk and on the shore of Sebago Lake. Since 10,000 years ago, Maine has been densely forested. Archaeological sites of the Archaic period (10,000 to about 3000 years ago) are concentrated along the shores of major lakes and larger rivers. For example, there is a concentration of many sites of 8000 to about 5000 years of age around the “Basin” at the south end of Sebago Lake. For various reasons we think that boats of the Archaic period were dugout canoes, with foot travel between the larger flat bodies of water. Beginning around 3000 years ago (the “Ceramic Period”) archaeologists (1) know that Indigenous people adopted the use of fired clay pottery, and (2) we infer that they had invented or adopted the use of the birch canoe, allowing easy travel on smaller bodies of water and across portage routes. There are many Ceramic period sites on the major rivers and lake shores, and on smaller rivers and lakes.

Little Duck Pond is the only body of open water in the East Windham Community Forest. McIntosh Brook, which drains Little Duck Pond, flows southward for approximately 1.5 miles to

feed Highland Lake (formerly Duck Pond). Three prehistoric archaeological sites have been identified on the shores of this much larger pond; the nearest “known” sites to Little Duck Pond. Little Duck Pond is much smaller than the bodies of water that commonly have prehistoric archaeological sites associated. Further, there are none of the “patches” of well-drained sandy soil in the East Windham Community Forest that are also known to have been attractive for prehistoric camps (less than 10% of known sites). Therefore, we thought it possible, but unlikely, that there would be prehistoric site(s) around Little Duck Pond, and less chance of sites elsewhere in the Forest.

Summary History of Windham and the Community Forest Parcels

The present Town of Windham was established as a result of residents of the Town of Marblehead petitioning the Massachusetts General Court for new land to support a growing population. The plantation of New Marblehead was granted to 60 proprietors in 1734. The first tract or division was surveyed in 1735 and consisted of 63 lots to accommodate additional lots for the first settled minister, the ministry, and a school as was customary. These were located in the southern portion of town, stretching generally eastward from the shore of the Presumpscot River to the main road that passed northward from Falmouth (present Portland and Westbrook). The town was incorporated as Windham in 1762. The remaining land in the town was divided into lots that were laid out over time. The dates of the different divisions are not known, but the town as a whole appears to have been surveyed and lots established by around 1800 as evidenced by the Anthoine Map of that approximate date (Fig. 1). The Community Forest is composed of portions of lots 45 through 52. Half of lot 47 consisted of Little Duck Pond. When settlement first occurred in this area is also not known, but the 1840s is the best guess based on census data and the farmsteads present on the 1857 map of Cumberland County (Fig. 2).

The 1850 census lists Abraham A. Ingersoll (age 40) as a farmer and the potential resident of the A. Ingersoll farm depicted on the 1857 Map of Cumberland County. His wife, Olive L. Ingersoll (age 28) is inferred from records along with daughters; Rebecca Jane (age 8) and Mary S. (age 3). His real estate was valued at \$500. His absence in the 1850 Agricultural Census suggests he had yet to establish his farm. The 1860 census lists Abram A. Ingersoll (age 49) as a farmer along with his wife, Olive L. Ingersoll and four children consisting of Rebecca J. (age 18), George W. (age 7), Daniel A. (age 5) and Sarah A. (age 1). His real estate was valued at \$1200 and personal estate at \$300. By this time his farm consisted of 40 acres improved and 100 acres unimproved, valued at \$1200. His livestock consisted of 1 horse, 4 milk cows, 4 oxen, 2 other cattle, 13 sheep, and 2 pigs, all valued at \$500. He had on hand 30 bushels of Indian corn, 25 bushels of oats, 3 bushels of peas and beans, 70 bushels of Irish potatoes and 20 tons of hay. His animals had provided 40 pounds of wool and 319 pounds of butter. The value of slaughtered animals was \$108.

By 1870 Abram is listed in the census as living in Falmouth with his wife, Olive, six children and Olive’s mother, Nancy Frank (age 84). Correspondingly, he is absent from the Windham Agricultural Census. It is worth noting that the 1871 Atlas Map depicts A. Ingersoll as still occupying the Windham farm and N. Fry in the former D. Ingersoll residence (Fig. 3). It is possible that Abram moved immediately after the map makers had depicted his presence in

Windham, possibly just before 1870. The new farm in Falmouth was adjacent to Olive's family farm, just north of Duck Pond. Abram (d. 1892) and Olive (d. 1896) are buried in the McIntosh Cemetery in Windham. The identity of D. Ingersol could not be found. Mary D. Ingersoll is listed in the 1850 census and is married to John Ingersol, but these may not be the residents. The research potential of this site is considered to be limited due to its poor state of preservation. If the site can be clearly defined in the future, however, then its potential to contain important historic information should be reevaluated.

Property Location and Existing Conditions

The Windham Community Forest is composed of several land parcels, most of which over time came to be owned by Timothy Sr., Timothy, and Linda Morrill (Fig. 4). At the time of the survey the area amounted to approximately 700 acres (Fig. 5). The property as a whole is situated north of Falmouth Road, east of Nash Road, and just south of Windham's northern town line that abuts the Town of Gray. All actual parcel bounds follow established lot lines. The most noticeable feature crossing the Forest from southwest to northeast is the Central Maine Power electrical utility corridor. The majority of the Forest lies east of the corridor, while additional parcels border the corridor's west side off Nash Road. The Forest is characterized by extremely hilly terrain that includes Atherton Hill, (site of a former fire tower) representing the highest elevation in the town at over 580 feet. The lowest elevation is found at the north end of Little Duck Pond at approximately 380 feet. The area is punctuated by ledge outcrops and is composed almost entirely of glacial till consisting of a poorly sorted mixture of gravel, sand, silt and clay (Retelle 1999). The more mature timber had been harvested from most of the Forest land within the past few years. The remaining open forest is composed primarily of young white pine, red oak, maple, ash, birch and hemlock. Some of the moist upland landscape is characterized by succession grasses that are established due to the open canopy.

Archaeological Sensitivity

Prior to this survey, the Forest was assessed by MHPC as having a low sensitivity for the presence of prehistoric Native American occupation due to its upland location far from water-related resources and transportation routes that would have avoided difficult terrain. However, with Little Duck Pond representing the only water resource, the decision was made to conduct some testing on its perimeter on the chance that this area served pre-European Indigenous people for resource exploitation and/or for hunting camps. This decision was guided in part by the fact that three sites of prehistoric occupation are known on Highland Lake (formerly Duck Pond) that serves as the drainage for Little Duck Pond and is relatively close by.

The potential for the presence of historic occupation in the form of farmsteads was also fairly low due to the poor quality of the soils and difficult terrain, but the presence of at least two mapped sites increased the potential. These sites were noted to be located in an area of higher terrain that offered some areas of more level ground that potentially had soils that were suitable for cultivation. As noted above, the two mapped sites were all that were known, but the Forest as a whole required additional investigation to determine if unmapped home sites might be present as well.

Phase I Reconnaissance Survey Methodology and Results

The survey began with a meeting with Amanda Lessard at the Windham Town Hall to identify property owners and to gather additional information about the Forest property. Amanda kindly provided maps of the area that showed some of the Forest boundaries to have expanded in a few locations (Fig. 6). She also provided information on the present construction of the new water tower and pipeline between the south boundary of the Forest and Falmouth Road. Amanda introduced Linda Morrill, who works at the town office, and who, along with her husband, Tim, owns much of the Forest land. Permission to conduct the survey was granted by Linda, and it was hoped that Tim Morrill, who was most familiar with the property, would be willing to conduct a walkover. It turned out that Tim was dealing with health issues and was not available.

The Forest property is surprisingly extensive and rugged due to its hilly terrain. The primary means of access is the dirt maintenance road within the electric utility corridor starting at Falmouth Road. The long north-south dimension of the property and eroded and wet nature of the road required a significant amount of time to access survey locations. This hindrance encouraged seeking additional means of access from the west off Nash Road and from the south via Little Duck Pond Road. As a result, several abutting landowners were approached for access and for their knowledge of old roads that might help with finding specific sites. All were very cooperative and helpful. One even led me to view a family of owls that resides on his property.

The southeastern portion of the Forest west of Little Duck Pond was hilly, but was also noted to contain former agricultural fields and stone fences that would have been associated with nineteenth century farms off Falmouth Road. The higher elevated middle portion of the Forest revealed little evidence of historic land use with the exception of quarrying of exposed ledge and some areas of flatter ground where cultivation may have been possible. It is likely that once cleared, this area could have functioned as pasture for livestock. Areas of better soil development were observed in the northern upland portion of the forest along with the presence of stone fences indicating former farming activities. It was in this area that the two farmsteads depicted on the historic maps were found to be located.

The actual search for the two Ingersoll farmsteads began with attempts to identify the historic road on which they were shown. Searching for this road from the utility corridor proved frustrating due to the plethora of skidder trails that crisscrossed the area and the damage that these have caused to the historic roads. Because one farmstead potentially had been identified with LIDAR imagery, the coordinates for that site were followed and the site was found relatively easily (Fig. 7). Present was a stone-lined cellar, well and barn foundation on either side of an old road. The question that remained was which of the two Ingersoll sites this location represented. The historic road was surveyed easterly, resulting in no sign of another property. This suggested that the identified property was that associated with A. Ingersoll, and the D. Ingersoll site was back down the road to the west. Surveying in this direction resulted in no sign of the other farmstead. The west side of the utility corridor was more disturbed from logging, prompting additional effort to locate the former old road. Once the old road was identified with a fairly high degree of satisfaction, survey of its borders west of the corridor failed to find the site. A more intensive search of an ATV trail that crosses the utility corridor succeeded in finding a fragment of whiteware ceramic that likely dated to the mid to later 19th century.

Further examination of this area showed it to be heavily disturbed and covered with a dense thicket of low vegetation that completely obscured the ground surface. After observing scattered fieldstones that may have been associated with a structure, as well as a section of stone fence on the west edge of the utility corridor, it was determined that the D. Ingersol site likely lay within the utility corridor, but was destroyed when the corridor was initially cleared. This is a common occurrence within such corridors. No more time was spent at this site since no intact archaeological remains were present.

Energy shifted to documentation of the A. Ingersoll farmstead that lay a short distance east of the corridor in a remarkably intact forested setting due to the fact that the landscape here had not been stripped of its timber and disturbed by skidders. As noted previously the house site was clearly observed by the presence of a stone-lined cellar that measured approximately 20 by 30 feet and 6 feet deep (Figs. 8 and 9). The cellar excavation created earthen berms to the west, north and east. A chimney foundation consisting of parallel stone walls for an arch is present in the approximate center of the cellar. The structure likely sat directly on the stone cellar walls and consisted of a center-chimney cape-style house. The house main entrance was on its south façade about 15 feet from the road. A bulkhead entrance is centered in the cellar's west wall. Across the road from the house is a stone-lined well covered with a well stone with access hole. Approximately 90 feet south of the house is a stone foundation for a barn that measured 34 by 36 feet. A possible animal run and addition was attached to the barn's west side. A series of stone fences are also present to the south and east. The site has been assigned number ME 483-008 in the Maine Historic Archaeological Sites Inventory.

The identification of Native American archaeological sites focused on the north shore of Little Duck Pond, since this was the only area to maintain a low level of potential. The pond was accessed via Little Duck Pond Road and Libby Hill Road. The northwestern perimeter of the pond is low-lying and moist, but as one moves to the north the land begins to rise in a series of low knolls. Further to the northeast the perimeter consists of steep hillslope with a narrow rocky terrace that borders the shore. The elevated area of low knolls was viewed as the only area of potential habitation within the Forest parcel.

Two shovel tests (Transect 1 on Knoll 1) were excavated in the westernmost knoll approximately 20 m from the pond shore (Fig.10). The tests were only 4 m apart in an effort to avoid surface ledge and stones. Both revealed 8 cm of duff over 4 cm of dark brown silty sand. Below this was strong brown (orangy brown) coarse sandy and gravelly silt that extended to weathered ledge at 30 cm below surface. Within the lower portion of the dark brown sand and the upper strong brown soil were fragments of quartz shatter and possible flakes of rhyolite or a similar metamorphic stone (Table 1, Figures 11 & 12). Two additional tests (Transect 1 on Knoll 2) were placed eastward in an area of elevated landscape approximately 12 m from the shore. Both revealed 8 to 10 cm of duff over a layer of dark brown and albic gray sandy silt. Below this was yellowish brown sandy silt with gravel and some stones. The transition between the dark brown and yellowish brown soils in the first test (Knoll 2 STP 1) contained charcoal fragments, a quartz flake, and a piece of pegmatite shatter (Figure 13). The transition from dark brown to yellow brown soils is interpreted as the base of a plowzone or disturbed soil. The large size of the charcoal fragments at location at the base of the plowzone is consistent with charcoal

originating with the initial forest clearance/burning and initial tilling of the soil by Euro-American settlers at this location.

Table 1: Catalog of artifacts from Little Duck Pond shovel testing.

Windham Little Duck Pond Site 13.57 Artifact Catalog

Cat #	Exca.	Date	Area	Tr.	STP	Depth (cmbs)	Soils	Material	Contents	Qty.
1	LS	9/27/23	Knoll 1	1	1	8-25cmbs		quartz	shatter	2
2	LS	9/27/23	Knoll 1	1	2	8-25cmbs	A&B	quartz	shatter	3
3	LS	9/27/23	Knoll 1	1	2	8-25cmbs	A&B	lg metamorph.	poss flakes/shatter	3
4	LS	9/27/23	Knoll 1	1	2	8-25cmbs	A&B	rhyolite?	poss flakes/shatter	3
5	LS	9/27/23	Knoll 2	1	1	10-30cmbs	Ae-B	charcoal	charcoal	4
6	LS	9/27/23	Knoll 2	1	1	10-30cmbs	Ae-B	quartz	flake	1

The presence of the worked lithic material demonstrates that the north shore of Little Duck Pond was occupied by Native Americans probably on more than one occasion. This site has been assigned number 013.057 in the Maine Prehistoric Archaeological Sites Inventory. This locality likely served as a short-term camp for hunting or for exploitation of pond resources. The stone flakes indicate breaking apart pegmatite bedrock to obtain higher-quality quartz fragments. One of the quartz pieces was used as a splitting wedge tool (a sharp edge battered into a softer material, likely wood) (Figure 11). The nature of the lithic materials suggests occupation dating between ca. 9000 to 4000 BP (before present) when use of quartz material particularly reused for wedges was common.

Summary

The archaeological assessment of the Windham Community Forest commenced with a walkover survey generally working from south to north. Existing dirt tracks and logging trails were utilized in this effort, as was a newly established mountain bike trail. Two archaeological sites of potential significance were identified by the survey. Furthest south and on the north end of Little Duck Pond is a Native American camp site likely dating to the Archaic Period (ca. 9000-4000 years ago). The perimeter of the pond in this area should be considered archaeologically sensitive due to the potential of the area to contain archaeological deposits that can further inform on the use of such upland settings by Native Americans. Identified in the northeastern portion of the Forest is the site of a very well-preserved 19th-century farmstead associated with the family of Abraham Ingersoll. Features include a cellar from the house, well, barn foundation and stone fences. The site exhibits an excellent state of preservation and

exemplifies a farmstead established by a family of average means in this portion of town. These characteristics suggest the site is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D due to its potential to contain information of importance to the town's and region's history.

References

Anthoine, Nicholas

ca. 1745-1782 Plan of Windham showing the numbered lots. Collections of the Maine Historical Society.

Beers, F. W.

1871 Atlas of Cumberland County, Maine from Actual Surveys. F. W. Beers & Co., New York.

Chase, J.

1857 Map of Cumberland County, Maine from Actual Surveys. Portland, ME.

Dole, Samuel Thomas

1916 Windham in the Past. Reprinted Courtesy Windham Historical Society 1974.

Retelle, Michael J.

1999 Surficial Geology of the Cumberland Center Quadrangle, Maine. Maine Geological Survey, Open-file Map 99-81.

Figures



Figure 1. Detail of the ca. 1800 Anthoine map depicting lots in the northeastern portion of town.



Figure 2. Detail of the 1857 Map of Cumberland County depicting the project area.

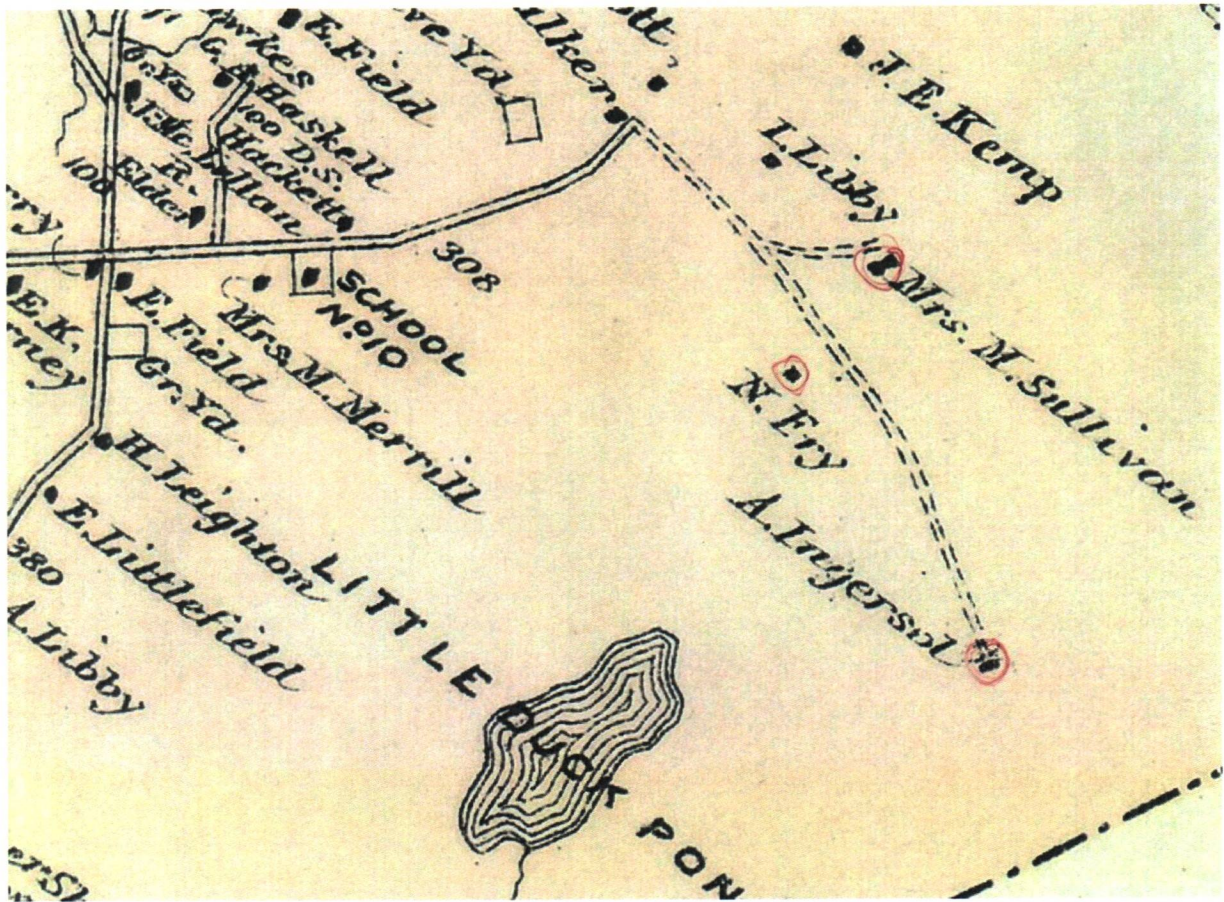


Figure 3. Detail of the Windham 1871 Atlas Map of Cumberland County depicting the project area.

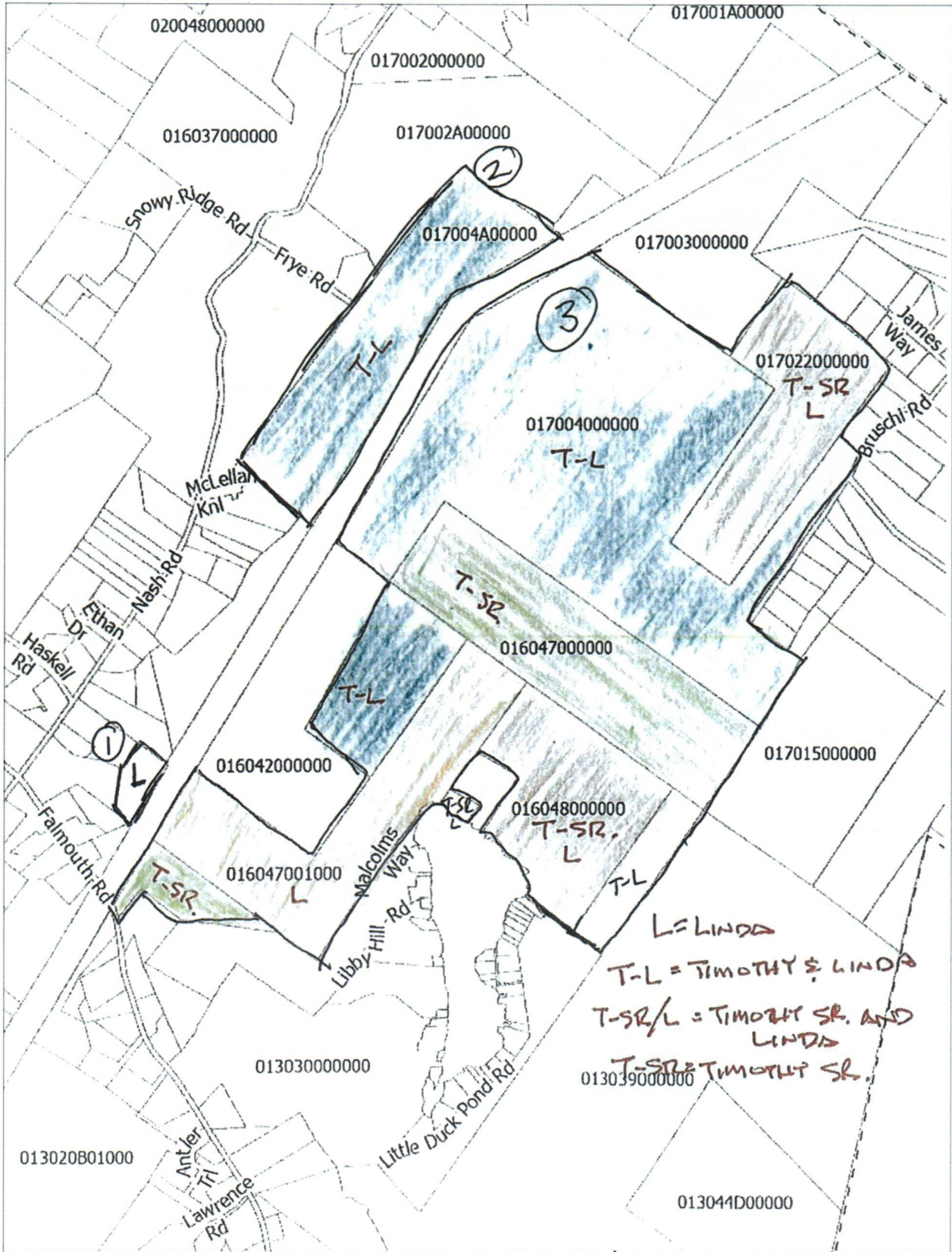


Figure 4. Plan of Morrill family lots making up the Community Forest (courtesy Amanda Lessard, Windham Town Hall).

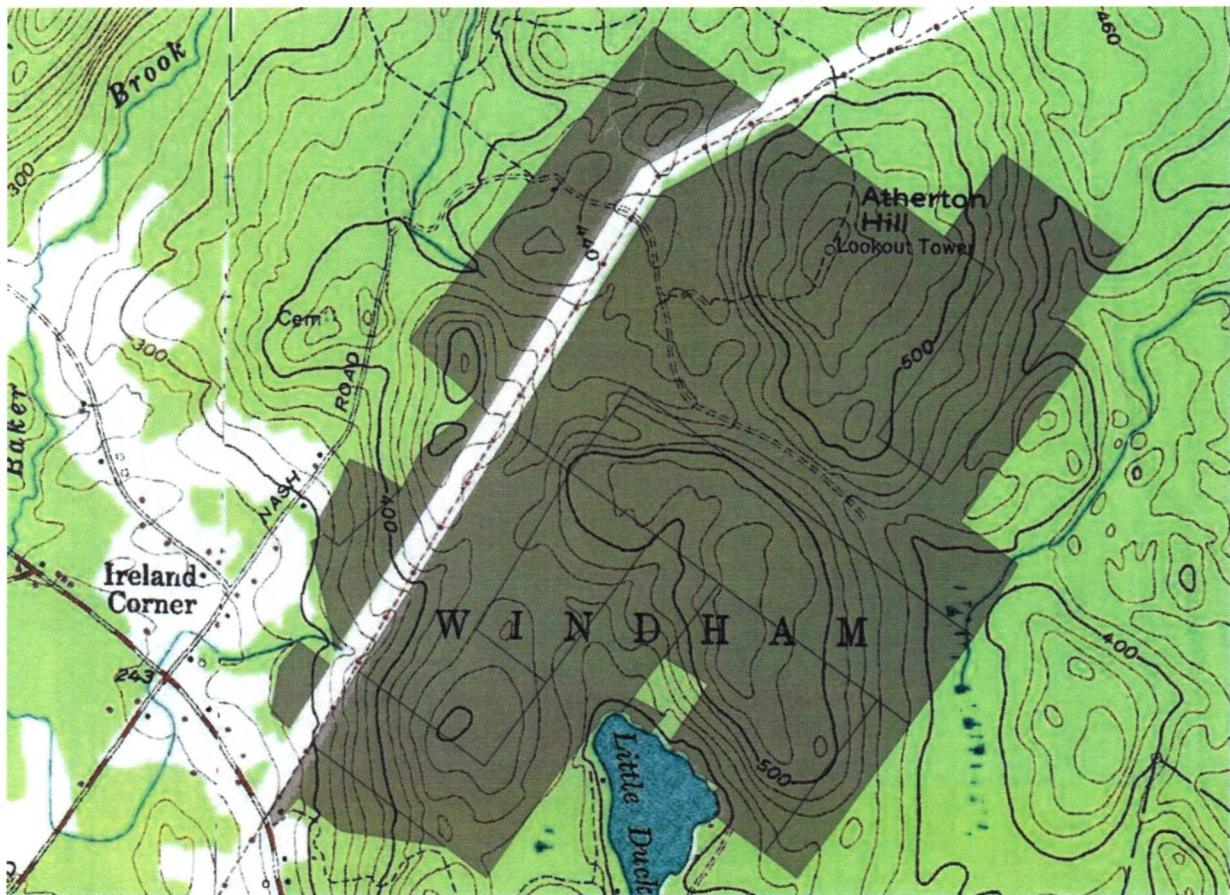


Figure 5. Community Forest boundaries depicted on a USGS topographic map.



Figure 6. General plan showing expanded Community Forest boundaries (orange) at the time of the survey (courtesy Amanda Lessard, Windham Town Hall).

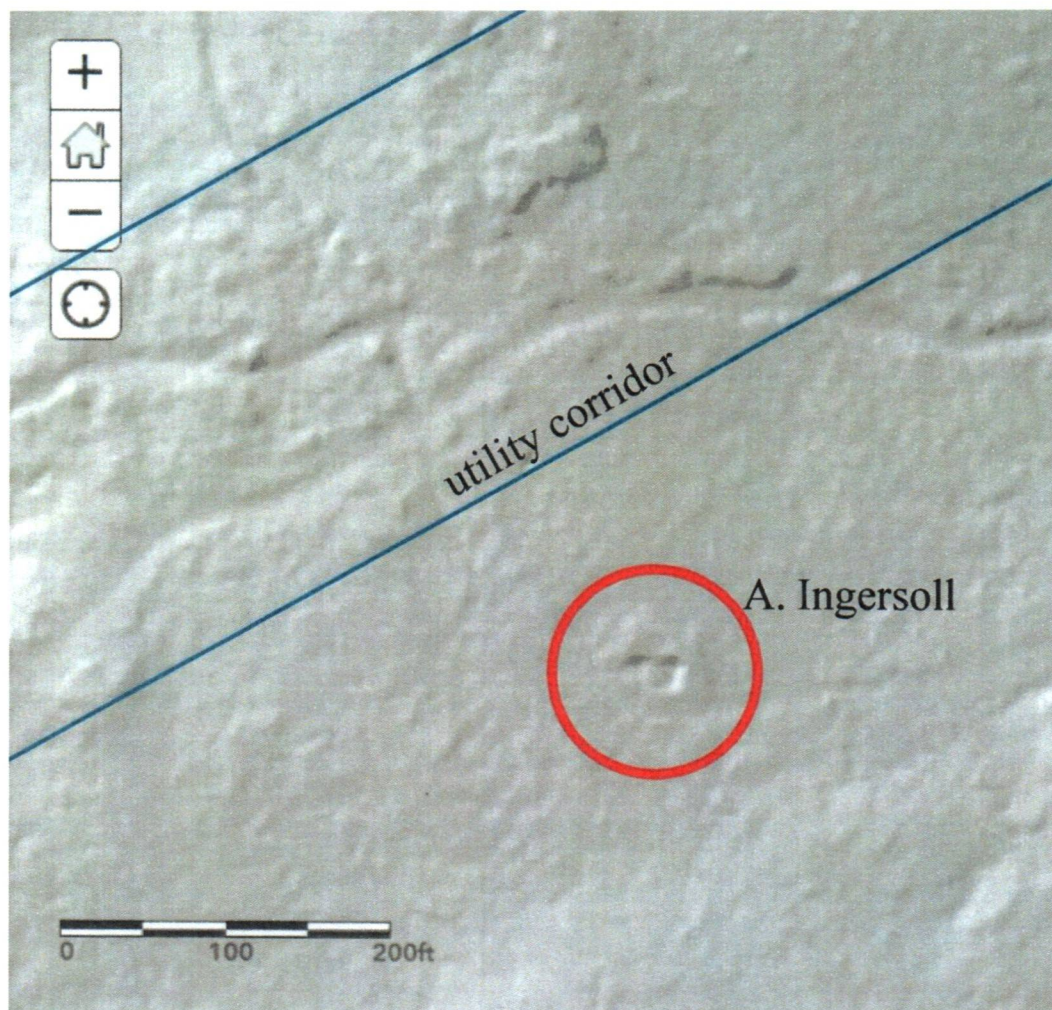


Figure 7. LIDAR image showing the A. Ingersoll farmstead and utility corridor.

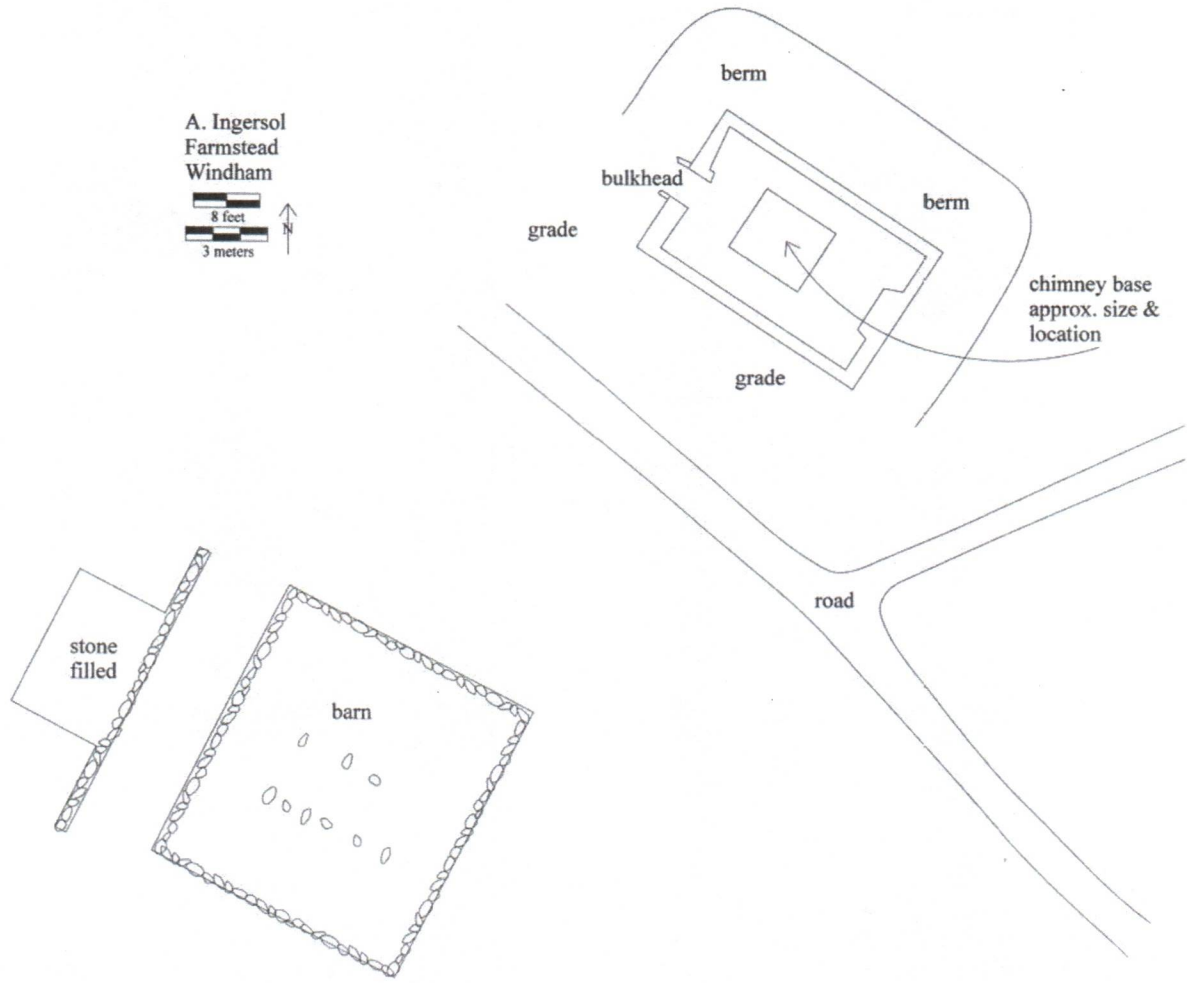


Figure 8. Plan of the A. Ingersoll farmstead showing the house, well and barn locations.



Figure 9. Photo of the stone-lined A. Ingersoll cellar (facing north).

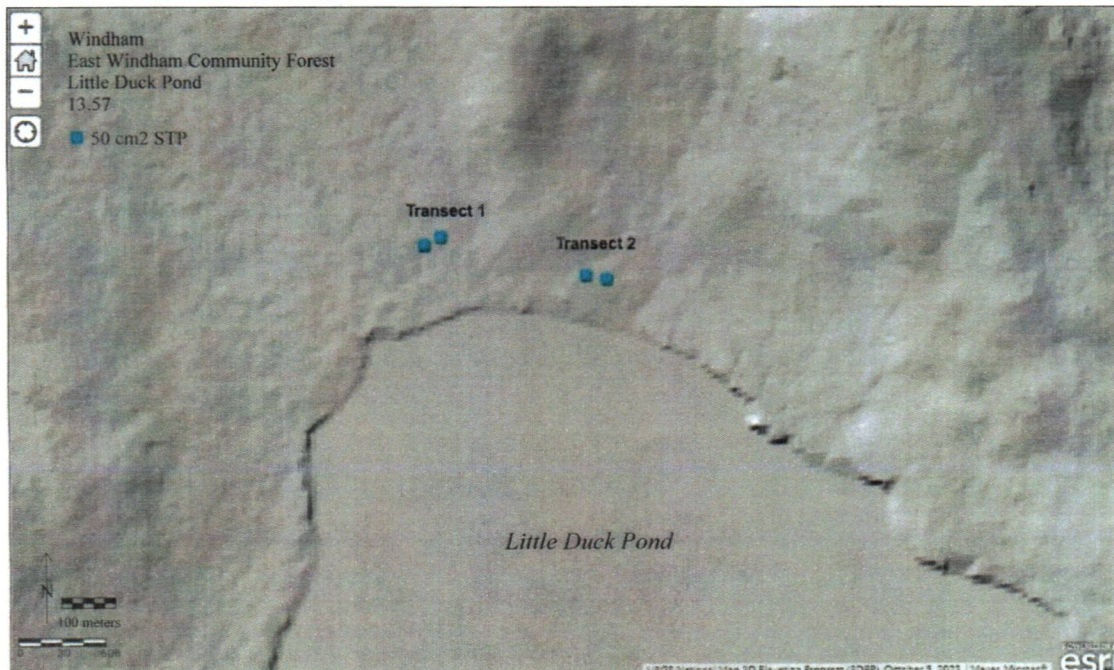


Figure 10. LIDAR image showing approximate shovel test locations at the north end of Little Duck Pond.

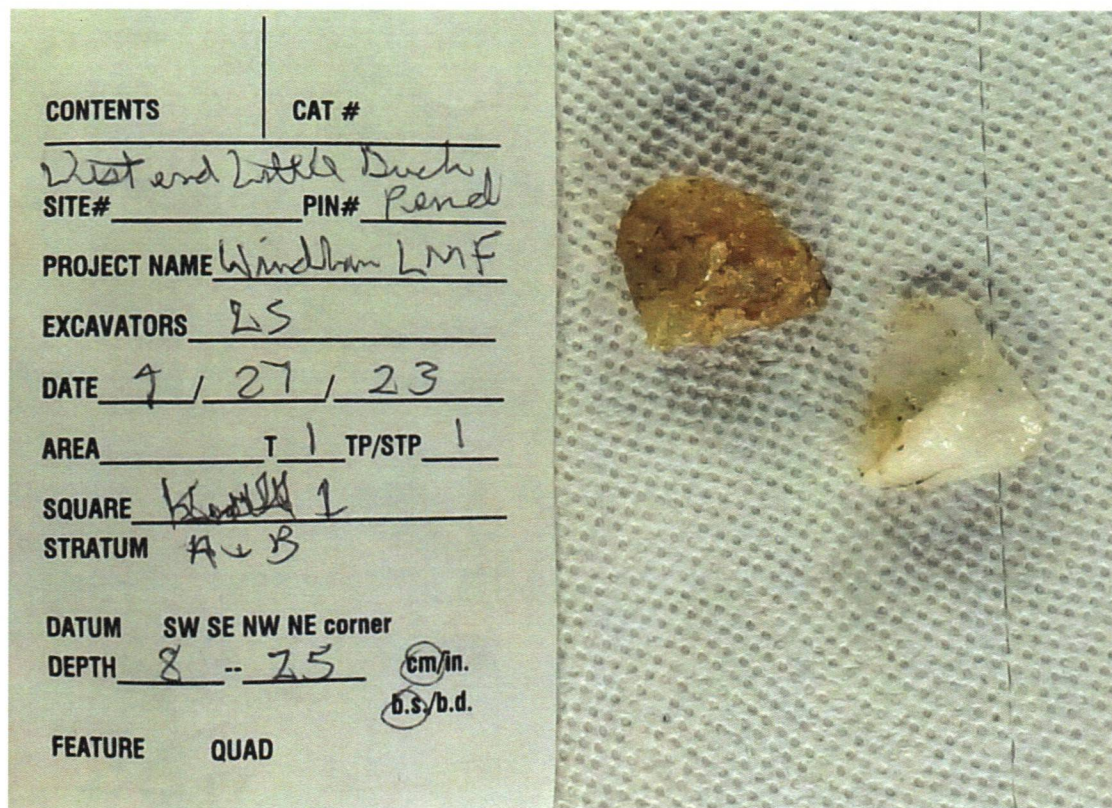


Figure 11. Possible quartz wedge (left) and quartz flake.

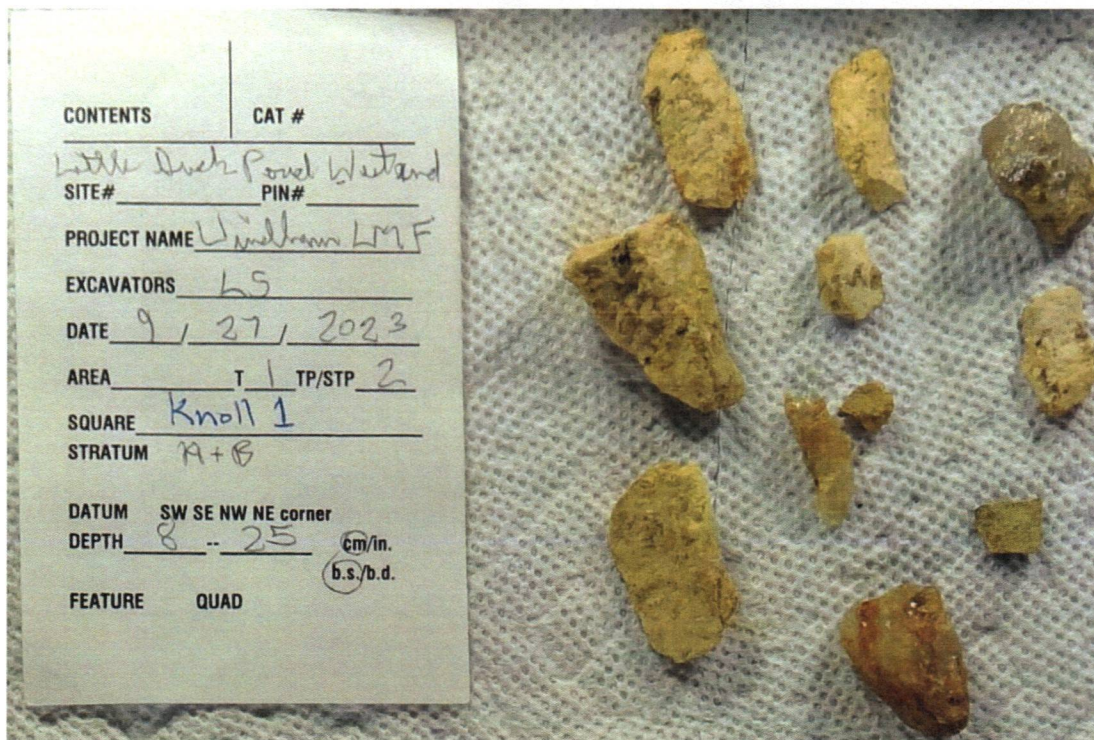


Figure 12. Fragments of quartz shatter and possible flakes of rhyolite or a similar metamorphic stone

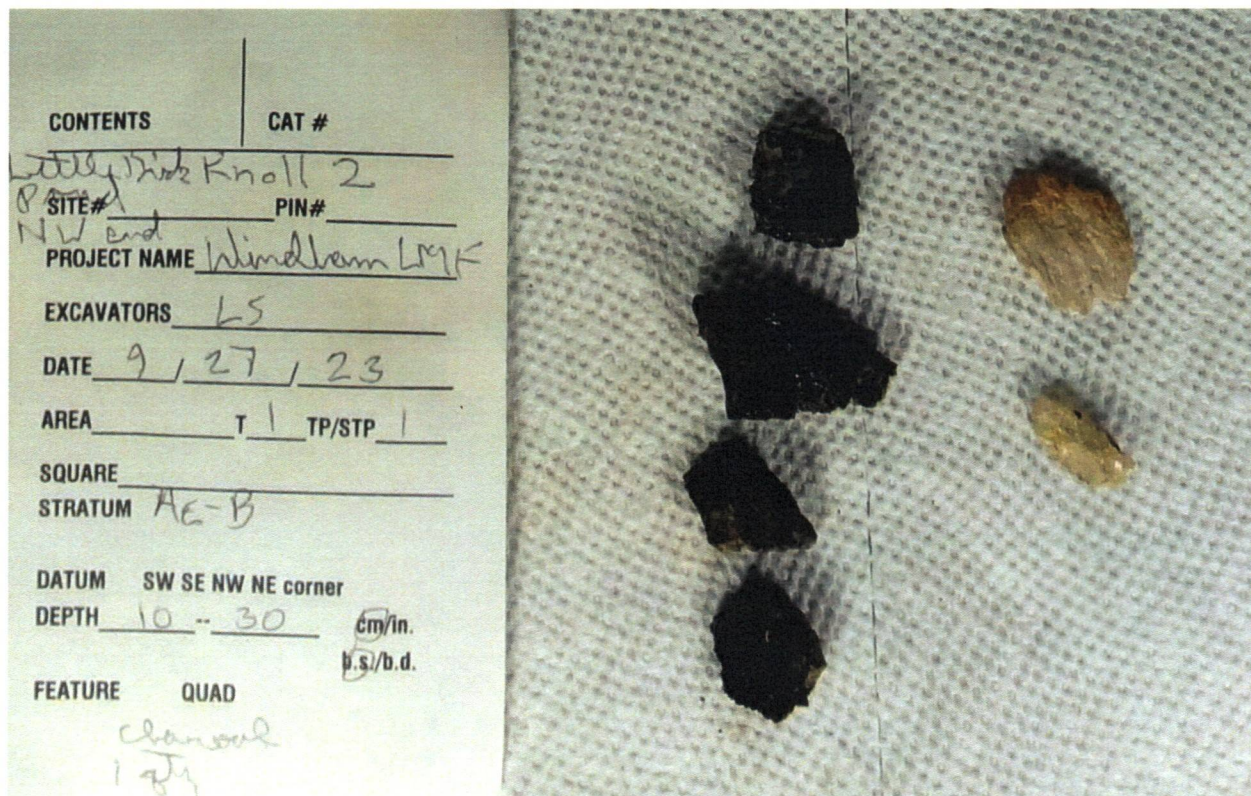


Figure 13. Charcoal fragments, quartz flake, and a fragment of pegmatite shatter.

