

Phase I & II Archaeological Investigations Archaeological Site Impact Mitigation

Wetland Mitigation Project Canterbury, Connecticut

Archaeological surveys were undertaken at the site of a new wetland basin created by the Connecticut Department of Transportation on the Quinebaug River floodplain in Canterbury. The project also involved modification of an existing dirt farm road as a heavy-machinery accessway for the excavation of the wetland basin within a 1.5-acre section of the floodplain in an existing agricultural field. Seven prehistoric archaeological sites were identified in Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey. Four of the sites were found in the access road; a fifth site covers nearly the entire planned wetland basin on the floodplain itself. Two additional sites were identified in the floodplain in the temporary topsoil/stockpile area. Based on the results of intensive subsurface investigations, PAST determined that five of the sites were eligible for listing on the National Register. Project impacts to all five of the National Register-eligible sites and to another possibly eligible site were mitigated through a combination of *in situ* preservation within the access road under geotextile and fill and archaeological monitoring of excavations on the floodplain.



Late Woodland-period Projectile Points

The five National Register-eligible sites comprise the recently approved Connecticut State Archaeological Preserve known as the Quinebaug River Prehistoric Archaeological District. A booklet and website on the Preserve sites were produced, as was a National Register of Historic Places nomination/inventory form, currently under review by the National Park Service. Archaeological work in this important and poorly understood part of the state will certainly provide a clearer picture of the dynamic human response to the unique social, political and economic environments of eastern Connecticut's uplands.