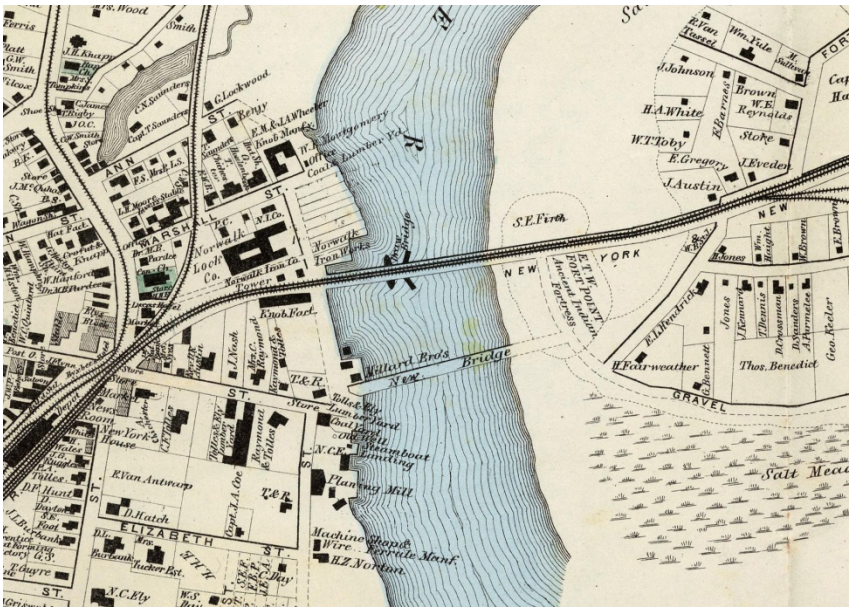
GEOARCHAEOLOGY
NORWALK RAILROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

The State of Connecticut is replacing the historic railroad swing bridge over the Norwalk River in Norwalk, Connecticut. Many terrestrial parcels will be affected by the undertaking, with actions ranging from property acquisition for equipment storage and construction access purposes, to historic resource removal. Most of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is paved and thus not amenable to standard shovel testing to determine whether intact historic-period remains are present. Much of the APE is comprised of filled-in march and former near-marsh land, areas that may contain pre-colonial Native American archaeological resources. An "ancient Native American fort" is noted in an early deed and on a historic map.



AHS is conducting subsurface investigation with a Geoprobe, a mechanical coring device that collects long soil cores with minimal ground disturbance. Local buried utility regulations require non-mechanical excavation to a depth of five feet prior to mechanized digging. This sampling design is adequate for 1) evaluating the presence and/or potential for subsurface cultural materials; 2) reconstructing paleography, evaluating depositional environments, and potentially recording changes in historical land use; and 3) providing recommendations for further investigations or mitigation based on an overall assessment of underground archaeological potential within the APE.