

Archaeological Survey and Data Recovery Marshfield Municipal Airport/George D. Harlow Field Marshfield, Massachusetts

The Town of Marshfield is undertaking extensive improvements to its municipal airport, George D. Harlow Field. The improvements required archaeological survey and data recovery under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA). AHS conducted archaeological investigations in multiple areas affected by the extension of the runway and creation of habitat enhancement areas for endangered animal species. The archaeological investigations identified several important ancient Native American and historic-period sites.



AHS worked with Gale Associates, the Town, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, FAA, the ACOE, and Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife to develop and implement an archaeological impact-avoidance/mitigation plan. AHS recently completed large-scale Archaeological Data Recovery excavations at the archaeological sites which could not be avoided by the improvement project. One 120-square-

meter excavation block included the entire site of an early 17th-century house. Large samples of highly significant Archaic-period occupations were also recovered in a 170-meter-square. This project involved daily coordination with the Mashpee and Gay Head Aquinnah Wampanoag tribes. Their consultation was ongoing during site data analysis and interpretation.