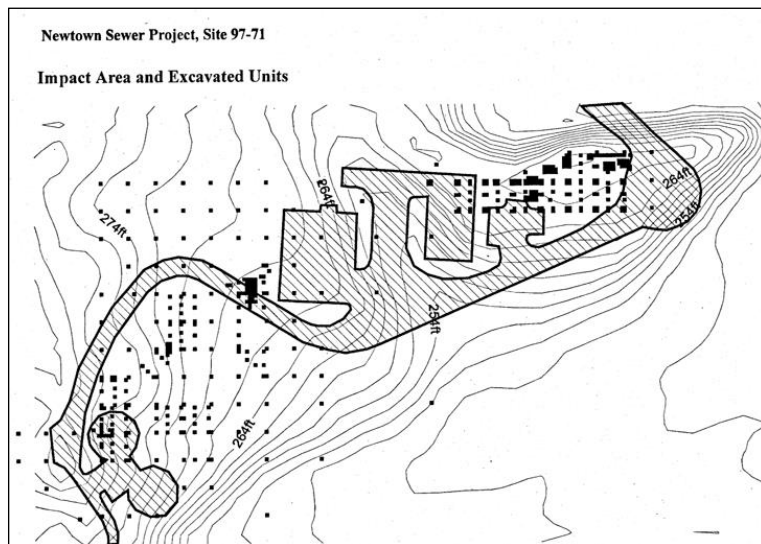


Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery Excavation CRM Planning Newtown Sewer System Project

Newtown, Connecticut

Phase III archaeological excavations of the Newtown Sewer System Project Sites 97-71 and 97-72 resulted in the recovery of important information regarding the prehistoric occupation of the Housatonic drainage. Both sites sit on an upland stream terrace overlooking Deep Brook near its confluence with the Pootatuck River. The sites reflect multiple short-term occupations associated with the quarrying and reduction of local secondary quartz deposits. Site use began during the Laurentian tradition of the Late Archaic period (ca. 5,500-4,200 B.P.), and reached its peak during the subsequent Narrow-Stemmed tradition (ca. 4,500-3,700 B.P.). Sporadic

occupations occurred during the following Terminal Archaic and Woodland periods, but were much less intensive. Over 23,000 artifacts were recovered from the project sites, including 116 diagnostic projectile points and numerous simple flake tools. A total of 27 features (predominantly small hearth remains) were recovered, seven of which were radiocarbon-dated. The Newtown Sewer System project sites complemented archaeological investigations associated with the contemporary Iroquois Gas Transmission Survey. This new information was incorporated into a re-examination of traditional models of prehistoric settlement and



Newtown Sewer Plans Overlaying Site 97-71

subsistence in the Housatonic drainage and the broader region as well. AHS worked closely with project planners to create a site development plan that minimized disturbance to the cultural resources located within the project bounds. The sewage treatment plant was redesigned into a sinuous shape that avoided the most sensitive portions of the archaeological sites. The redesign was less expensive than removing the archaeological site areas.