

## Phase I, II and III Archaeology

### Edgewood Site Plainville, Massachusetts

Phase IB Intensive Survey and Phase II Site Examination archaeological testing was conducted on a proposed 3.5-acre apartment complex site along Taunton Street in Plainville, Massachusetts. Under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), the Massachusetts Historical Commission assessed the project area as having both pre-Colonial ancient Native American and post-contact Euro-American site sensitivity. Most of the project area was disturbed by landscaping associated with the construction and demolition of the late-1950s Cowboy Town theme park, which stood on site, but some intact soil areas were identified. In the Phase I survey, 36 shovel test pits were excavated at 10-meter intervals along six transects in the southwestern and northwestern portions of the project area, followed by an additional 11 verification array pits around three areas of concern and two judgment test pits in areas not covered by the transects.



One small portion of the project area produced Native American quartz artifacts in a good soil context. A Phase II survey of this area was conducted to assess its potential National Register eligibility. The locus was determined to represent a significant small area of Early Archaic tool manufacturing associated with the Gulf of Maine Archaic Tradition likely eligible for Register listing. Because impacts to the site were

unavoidable, the remainder of the site was removed in Phase III excavations. This resulted in the recovery of two dense loci of lithic materials, including numerous diagnostic quartz core/scrapers and charcoal samples dated to 8830 $\pm$ 40 and 8600 $\pm$ 40 rcBP. This site represents the only Gulf of Maine Archaic Tradition site identified to date in Massachusetts, and makes an important contribution to the understanding of pre-colonial lifeways.