Mad River Path Corridor Study

Warren, Waitsfield and Moretown, Vermont

PREPARED FOR

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Abstract

This desktop archaeological sensitivity has been prepared on behalf of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) for the Mad River Path Corridor Study in the Towns of Warren, Waitsfield, and Moretown. CVRPC is conducting a scoping study to identify alternatives, issues and costs related to construction of a multi-use path facility running adjacent or parallel to VT-100/100B. The multi-use path is envisioned as an alternative transport corridor for the Mad River Valley serving both recreational and functional trips. In this dual role it is intended to simultaneously reduce the automobile dependence of residents while boosting the recreational tourist economy of the Valley. The project is being funded in part through VTrans by way of the Federal Highway Administration and falls under the jurisdiction of Section 106. VHB staff examined the potential for previously recorded and undiscovered archaeological resources within a broad, preliminary Study Area extending approximately 34.93 kilometers (km) (21.70 miles [m]) in length to accommodate project impacts and alternatives (Appendix I: Figure 1). This study resulted in the identification of potential areas of pre-Contact archaeological sensitivity parallel to and intersecting the proposed multi-use path. As the VDHP (2017) stipulates in the Guidelines for Conducting Archaeology in Vermont, either a formal archaeological resource assessment (ARA) report or a Phase IA reconnaissance investigation is required to determine the archaeological sensitivity of an area and thus, desktop assessments alone are not considered a sufficient methodology for identifying archaeological sensitivity. The information in this report is solely derived from the results of a desktop archaeological sensitivity assessment and does not contain definitive conclusions; therefore, its contents should solely be considered a preliminary project planning tool and may serve as a point of departure for future investigations. VHB recommends that a formal ARA or Phase IA reconnaissance investigation be completed to identify archaeologically sensitive areas which may be subject to ground disturbance by proposed Project impacts.

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1

Introduction

This desktop archaeological sensitivity has been prepared on behalf of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) for the Mad River Path Corridor Study in the Towns of Warren, Waitsfield, and Moretown. CVRPC is conducting a scoping study to identify alternatives, issues and costs related to construction of a multi-use path facility running adjacent or parallel to VT-100/100B. The multi-use path is envisioned as an alternative transport corridor for the Mad River Valley serving both recreational and functional trips. In this dual role it is intended to simultaneously reduce the automobile dependence of residents while boosting the recreational tourist economy of the Valley. The project is being funded in part through VTrans by way of the Federal Highway Administration and falls under the jurisdiction of Section 106. VHB staff examined the potential for previously recorded and undiscovered archaeological resources within a broad, preliminary Study Area extending approximately 34.93 kilometers (km) (21.70 miles [m]) in length to accommodate project impacts and alternatives (Appendix I: Figure 1). The study was conducted in accordance with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's (VDHP 2017) Guidelines for Conducting Archaeology in Vermont. Background research for this ARA included a review of the contemporary physical environment, Vermont Archaeological Inventory (VAI) site records, pre-Contact Native American culture-historical chronology in Vermont, and pertinent local historic documentation. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's (VDHP) Online Resource Center (ORC) was consulted to identify any previously completed archaeological studies within or near the Study Area.

2

Environmental Context

This section outlines a review of the physical environment within the proposed Study Area including water resources, topography, floral and faunal resources, bedrock and surficial geology, and soils. This review constitutes the background for interpretations of landscape history and potential past uses of the environment. Consequently, this information serves as a foundation for the archaeological sensitivity modeling discussed below.

The Study Area is seated in the greater Northern Green Mountain Regions (Vermont Fish and Wildlife 2014). The region hosts the state's highest topography, coldest climate, and greatest annual rates of precipitation. The contemporary forest regime is predominately comprised of Northern Hardwoods ranging to approximately 2,500 feet (ft). Yellow birch and spruce forests persist along slopes and summits to approximately 3,500 ft before the forest regime transitions to alpine meadow. The Green Mountains host several mammal species important to peoples past and present such as black bear, white-tailed deer, bobcat, fisher, beaver, and red squirrel. Species such as Gray Wolf, Canadian Lynx, Eastern Mountain Lion, American Marten, and Long-tailed Weasel are now presently listed as rare, endangered, or historically extirpated (VT Fish and Wildlife 2022).

Glaciolacustrine deposits from the former footprint of Glacial Lake Winooski, glaciofluvial deposits, and postglacial fluvial deposits overlie a series of geological formations including (Doll 1970; Ratcliffe et al. 2011):

- Gneiss, schist, and quartzite of the Hazen Notch Formation
- Greenstone and amphibolite member of the Hazen Notch Formation
- Phyllite member of the Pinney Hollow Formation
- Amphibolite and greenstone member of the Pinney Hollow Formation
- Metawacke member of the Pinney Hollow Formation
- Schist and phyllite member of the Stowe Formation
- Amphibolite and greenstone member of the Stowe Formation
- "Pinstriped" granofels member of the Moretown Formation
- Carbonaceous phyllite of the Ottauquechee Formation

According to available United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (2024), soils bisected by the Study Area are further classified as alluvial Ondawa fine sandy loam (2.1%), alluvial Rumney fine sandy loam (4.4%), alluvial Sunny silt loam (1.1%), Cabot silt loam derived from loamy lodgment till (0.6%), Colonel fine sandy loam derived from loamy lodgment till (1.4%), glaciofluvial Adams loamy sand (2.2%), glaciofluvial Machias fine sandy loam (4.1%), glaciofluvial Colton gravelly sandy loam (27.7%), glaciolacustrine Buxton silt loam (3.6%), glaciolacustrine Salmon very fine sandy loam (3.5%), glaciolacustrine Lamoine silt loam (4.3%), glaciomarine Scantic silt loam (0.6%), glaciolacustrine Nicholville very fine sandy loam (0.7%), glaciofluvial Grange silt loam (3.4%), alluvial Waitsfield silt loam (13.3%), alluvial Weider very fine sandy loam (6.4%), Berkshire fine sandy loam derived from supraglacial till meltout (0.4%), glaciolacustrine Salmon-Adamant complex (0.2%), Tunbridge-Lyman complex derived from loamy supraglacial till (14.2%), and Peru fine sandy loam derived from loamy lodgment till (2.8%).

3

Previous Archaeological Research

VHB consulted both the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's (VDHP) Online Resource Center (ORC) and internal documentation to identify potential archaeological research or previously identified sites in the Study Area, as this information may inform the archaeological sensitivity determinations for areas affected by project impacts.

In Warren, the Study Area bisects or abuts several previous archaeological investigations. In 1997, the University Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) completed Phase I archaeological field investigations for the Warren BRF 013-4(14) Project along the western side of Route 100 which resulted in the identification of a post-Contact historic artifact scatter determined to lack research significance (Doherty et al. 1997). In 2003, Hartgen Archeological Associates completed Phase I investigations for the Village of Warren Decentralized Wastewater Management Project east of Main Street and Trout Hollow Road and resulted in a mix of nineteenth and twentieth century domestic materials from two excavated shovel test pits (STPs) (Jamison 2003). Finally, in 2004, Hartgen Archeological Associates completed additional Phase I investigations for the Village of Warren Decentralized Wastewater Management Project west of School Road and north of Brook Road (Jamison 2004). No archaeological sites were identified during this investigation.

In Waitsfield, two previously abutting archaeological investigations were identified. In 1998, the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger and Associates conducted archaeological investigations for the Fayston-Waitsfield RSEGC-RS 0200(7) Project in the current footprint of the path bisecting Mill Brook and did not result in the identification of significant archaeological resources. In 1995, UVM CAP completed Phase I archaeological field investigations north of Kingsbury Road and west of Main Street for the Aldeborgh and Munn Pond Sites Project in Warren and Waitsfield (Thomas and Florentin 1995). The Phase I investigation resulted in the identification of three quartzite flakes and a fire-cracked rock (FCR) specimen, denoted VAI site VT-WA-106. Subsequent Phase I investigations and a Phase II site evaluation of VT-WA-106 was conducted for a wastewater treatment facility resulting in the recovery of 67 flakes, four FCR specimens, and a projectile point tip fragment (Knight 2006). None of the pre-Contact artifacts were recovered from intact subsoils and due to the limited archaeological deposits, the excavated portions of VT-WA-106 were deemed ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In Moretown, UVM CAP completed Phase I field investigations in 1986 for the Moretown Project RS 0167(11) which included a 3.2-mile upgrading of and bypass for Vermont Routes 100 and 100B (Thomas and Kochan 1986). Three historic farmsteads predating 1858 were identified during Phase I field investigations and no pre-Contact archaeological materials were identified. Unfortunately, the precise location of these historic resources is unavailable on the VAI.

A total of twelve previously recorded archaeological sites were identified within a one-kilometer (km) radius of the Study Area (Table 2), indicating a high density of previously recorded sites in portions of the Project Area.

Table 1. Adjacent Archaeological Sites

Site Number/Name	Temporal Affiliation	Distance from Study Area
VT-WA-0194/ Walter Bagley Butter-Tub Mill	Historic/19 th century	15 m
VT-WA-0146/the Cardell site	Historic/19th century	500 m
VT-WA-0043/Daniel Ralph's Mill or MR 50	Historic/19 th century	760 m
VT-WA-0109/Turner Farmstead	Historic/19 th century	20 m
VT-WA-0106/Munn Pond site	Unknown pre-Contact	64 m
VT-WA-0113/Wait House	Historic/19th century	30 m
VT-WA-0169	Unknown pre-Contact	50 m
VT-WA-0042/Tannery Log Dam or Mr 23	Historic	94 m
VT-WA-0039/Carpenter Farm Inn or F.S 7 (WA)	Multicomponent	11 m
VT-WA-0207	Unknown pre-Contact	100 m
VT-WA-0053/Kingfisher site	Middle-Late Archaic	330 m

4

Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment

Study Area

Proposed work is still in the preliminary design phase; therefore, VHB staff examined the potential for previously recorded and undiscovered archaeological resources within a broad, preliminary Study Area extending 34.93 km (21.70 miles [m]) to accommodate project impacts and alternatives.

Pre-Contact Archaeological Sensitivity

Using the VDHP's (2015) Environmental Predictive Model for Locating Pre-contact Archaeological Sites, a variety of contributing environmental factors intersect various portions of the roughly 34.93 km (21.70 m]) Study Area including permanent streams (0-180m), intermittent streams (0-180m), stream confluences (0-180m), and wetlands (0-180m). While sensitivity scores range significantly throughout the Study Area, undisturbed areas generally receive a score of at least 68 points due to the Mad River (0-180), a major floodplain/alluvial terrace, and the natural travel corridor of the Mad River Valley. Using a combination of topographic maps, LiDAR imagery, and Google Street View, areas of excessive slope were exempt from the archaeological sensitivity determinations discussed below.

Historic Period Archaeological Sensitivity

A high-level review of historical maps did not result in the identification of any mapped domestic structures or any other historic archaeological concerns within the Study Area. Despite the presence of nearby roadside mapped domestic structures, previous studies along similar roadside locations throughout Vermont have demonstrated that historic front yards and analogous roadway-adjacent landforms most often contain landscaping fill, historic artifact shatter, or road fill of limited research significance (Appendix I: Figure 2-5; Beers 1871; Borstel 2005; Walling 1857). Additionally, initial analysis of LiDAR imagery did not reveal any unmapped structures or anomalies.

Archaeological Sensitivity Determinations

As the VDHP (2017) stipulates in the *Guidelines for Conducting Archaeology in Vermont*, either a formal archaeological ARA report, or a Phase IA reconnaissance investigation are required to determine the archaeological sensitivity of an area and thus, desktop assessments alone are not considered a sufficient methodology for identifying archaeological sensitivity. The information in this report is solely derived from the results of a desktop archaeological sensitivity assessment and does not contain definitive conclusions; therefore, its contents should solely be considered a preliminary project planning tool and may serve as a point of departure for future investigations.

The majority of the Study Area generally runs parallel to the routes of VT-100/VT-100B, and thus along historic transportation corridors in Washington County. As stated above, historic front yards and analogous roadway-adjacent landforms like those along VT-100/VT-100B typically contain historic artifacts of limited research significance. However, additional historic map analysis and the potential for unmapped foundations or historic structures should not be factored out of any future investigations.

Large portions of ostensibly undisturbed sections of the Study Area in Warren were determined to contain potential pre-Contact archaeological sensitivity due to the proximity of unnamed streams (0-180m), Mill Brook (0-180m) the Mad River (0-180m), a major floodplain floodplain/alluvial terrace, and a natural travel corridor (Appendix I: Figures 6-10). Concurrently, undisturbed sections of the Study Area in Waitsfield were determined to contain potential pre-Contact archaeological sensitivity due to the proximity of unnamed streams (0-180m), Folsom Brook (0-180m), Mill Brook (0-180m), Pine Brook (0-180m), the Mad River (0-180m), a major floodplain/alluvial terrace, and a natural travel corridor (Appendix I: Figures 10-16). Proceeding north along the proposed shared use path, and alike the Study Area in the Warren and Waitsfield, undisturbed sections contain potential pre-Contact archaeological sensitivity due to a suite of environmental factors including unnamed streams (0-180m), the Mad River (0-180m), the Winooski River (0-180m), a major floodplain/alluvial terrace, and a natural travel corridor (Appendix I: Figures 16-26).

5

Conclusions and Recommendations

This desktop archaeological sensitivity has been prepared on behalf of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) for the Mad River Path Corridor Study in the Towns of Warren, Waitsfield, and Moretown. CVRPC is conducting a scoping study to identify alternatives, issues and costs related to construction of a multi-use path facility running adjacent or parallel to VT-100/100B. The multi-use path is envisioned as an alternative transport corridor for the Mad River Valley serving both recreational and functional trips. In this dual role it is intended to simultaneously reduce the automobile dependence of residents while boosting the recreational tourist economy of the Valley. The project is being funded in part through VTrans by way of the Federal Highway Administration and falls under the jurisdiction of Section 106. VHB staff examined the potential for previously recorded and undiscovered archaeological resources within a broad, preliminary Study Area extending approximately 34.93 kilometers (km) (21.70 miles [m]) in length to accommodate project impacts and alternatives (Appendix I: Figure 1). The purpose of this study was to identify potential for any pre-Contact or historic archaeological resources which could be affected by project activities.

Upon completion of background review and desktop archaeological sensitivity modeling, potential areas of pre-Contact archaeological sensitivity were identified parallel to and intersecting the proposed multi-use path (Appendix I: Figure 3-23). As the VDHP (2017) stipulates in the *Guidelines for Conducting Archaeology in Vermont*, either a formal archaeological ARA report, or a Phase IA reconnaissance investigation are required to determine the archaeological sensitivity of an area and thus, desktop assessments alone are not considered a sufficient methodology for identifying archaeological sensitivity. The information in this report is solely derived from the results of a desktop archaeological sensitivity assessment and does not contain definitive conclusions; therefore, its contents should solely be considered a preliminary project planning tool and may serve as a point of departure for future investigations. VHB recommends that a formal ARA or Phase IA reconnaissance investigation be completed to identify archaeologically sensitive areas which may be subject to ground disturbance by proposed Project impacts.

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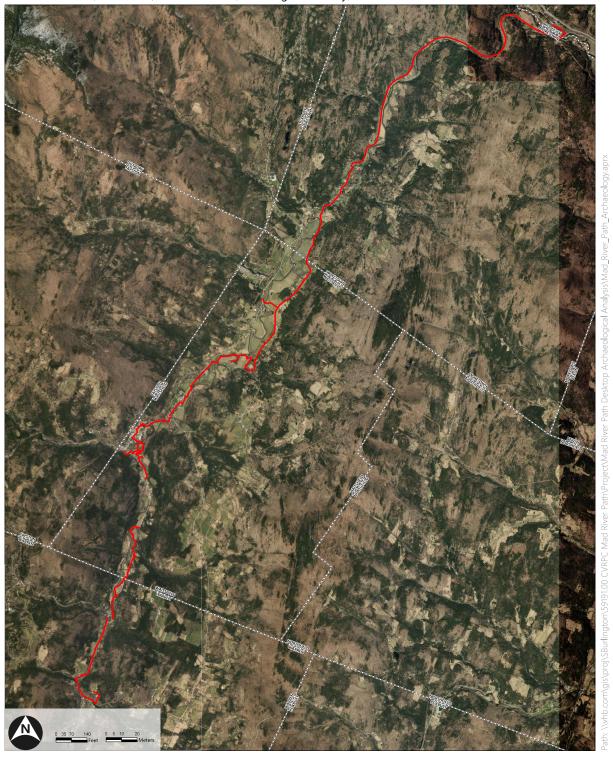
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Appendix I Project Mapping



Figure 1. Study Area in the Towns of Warren, Waitsfield, and Moretown



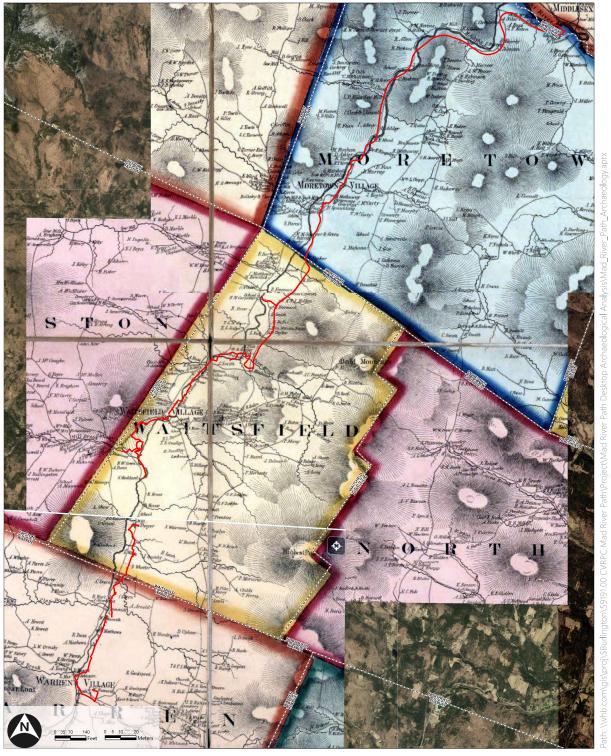
—Study Area

Town Boundary (VCGI)





Figure 2. Study Area Depicted on the Walling (1858) Map of Washington County



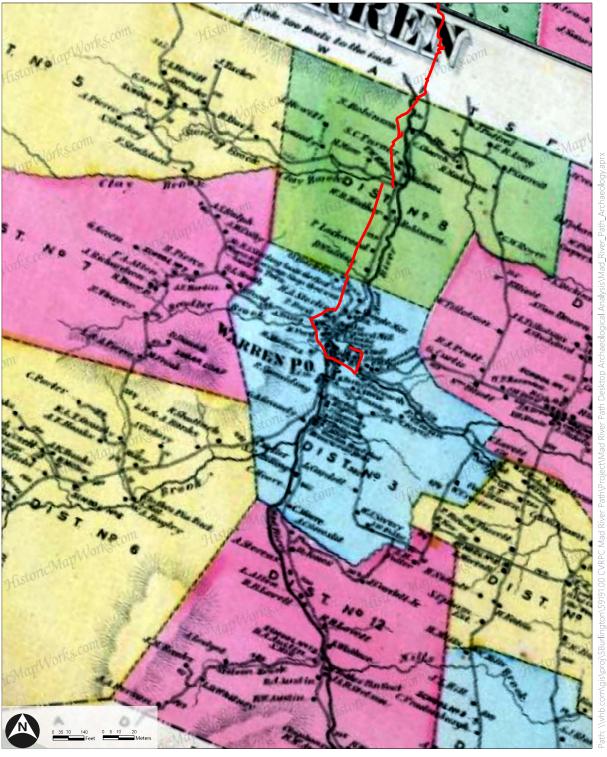
- Study Area

Town Boundary (VCGI)



Figure 3. Study Area in Warren Depicted on the Beers (1873) Atlas of Washington County





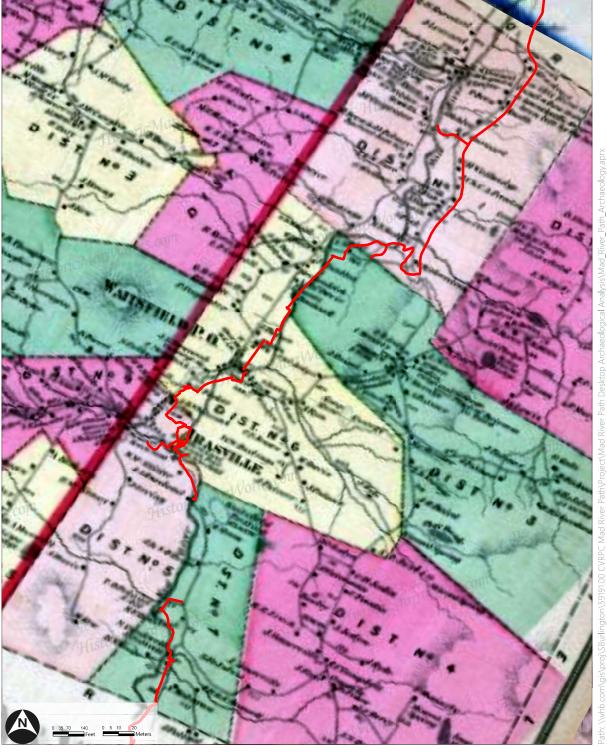
-Study Area



Figure 4. Study Area in Waitsfield Depicted on the Beers (1873) Atlas of Washington County



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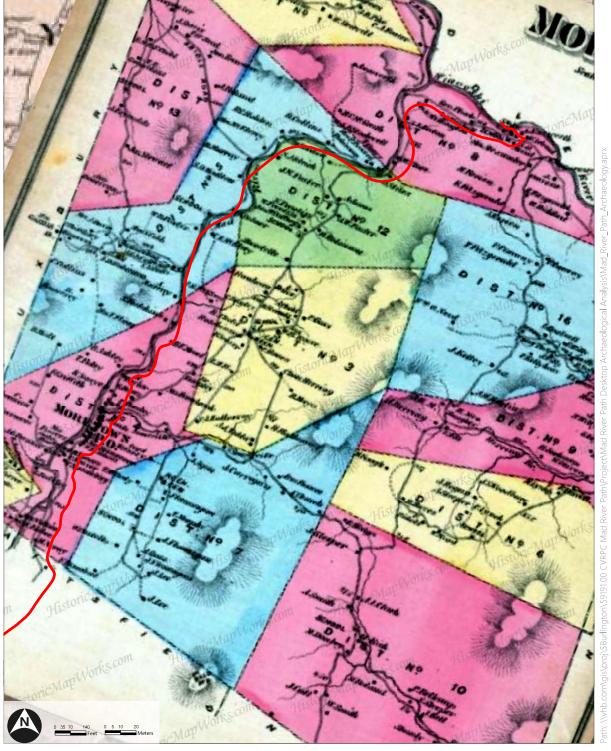


-Study Area



Figure 5. Study Area in Moretown Depicted on the Beers (1873) Atlas of Washington County





-Study Area











— State Highway

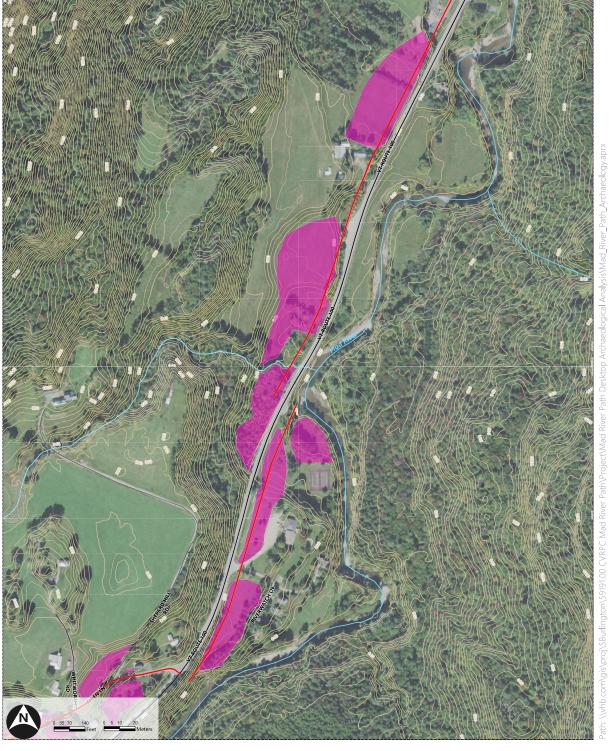
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- VHD Stream (ANR)
- Other Road
- VHD Waterbody (ANR)
- --- Private Road
- Town Boundary (VCGI)
- Wetlands VSWI
- Railroad (VTrans) —Interstate Highway
- Class 1 Wetland Class 1 Wetland
- **US** Highway
- Class 2 Wetland Class 2 Wetland











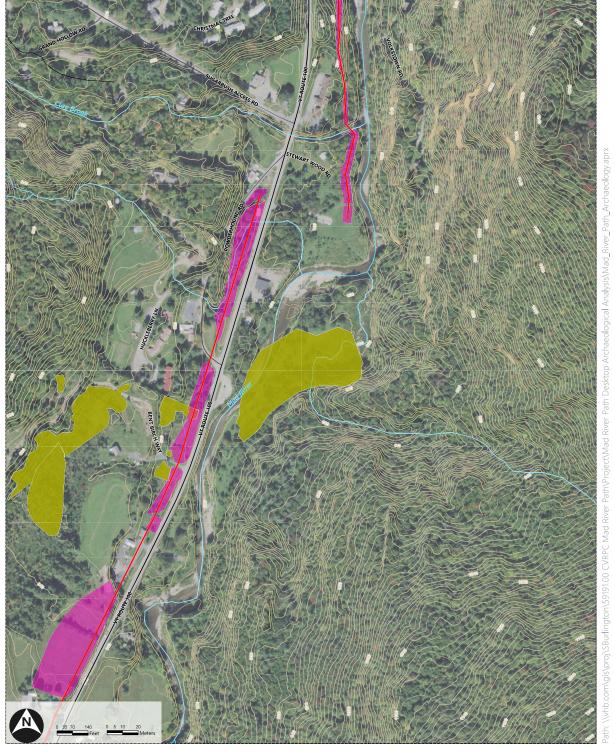
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- Other Road
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- --- Private Road
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US Highway











— State Highway

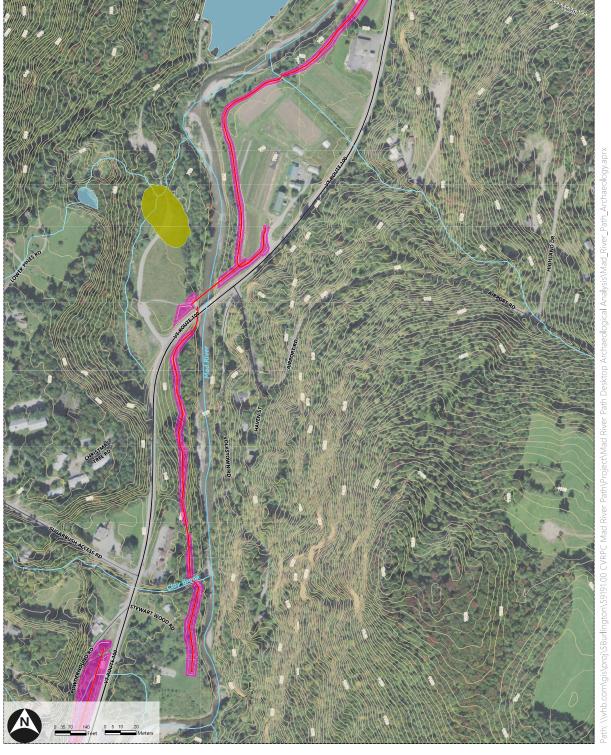
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—US Highway











—State Highway

Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity — Local Road

-VHD Stream (ANR)

■VHD Waterbody (ANR)

--- Private Road

Town Boundary (VCGI)

Wetlands - VSWI

- Railroad (VTrans)

Class 1 Wetland Class 1 Wetland

-Interstate Highway

Class 2 Wetland Class 2 Wetland













— State Highway

Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity — Local Road

VHD Stream (ANR)

■VHD Waterbody (ANR)

Town Boundary (VCGI)

- Railroad (VTrans)

—Interstate Highway













— State Highway

Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity — Local Road

-VHD Stream (ANR)

— Other Road

■VHD Waterbody (ANR)

--- Private Road

Town Boundary (VCGI)

Wetlands - VSWI

+ Railroad (VTrans)- Interstate Highway

Class 1 Wetland Class 1 Wetland

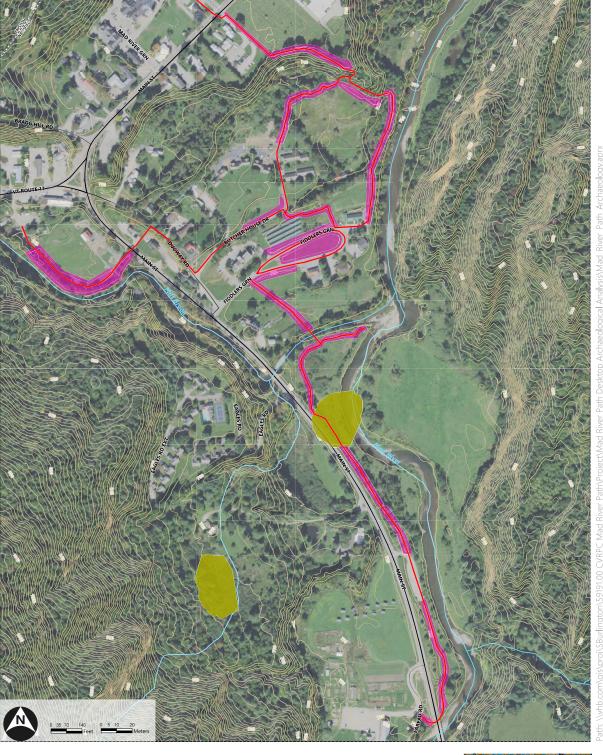
US Highway

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— State Highway

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Class 2 Wetland Class 2 Wetland —Interstate Highway











— State Highway

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— Other Road

VHD Waterbody (ANR)

--- Private Road

Town Boundary (VCGI)

Wetlands - VSWI

+ Railroad (VTrans)- Interstate Highway

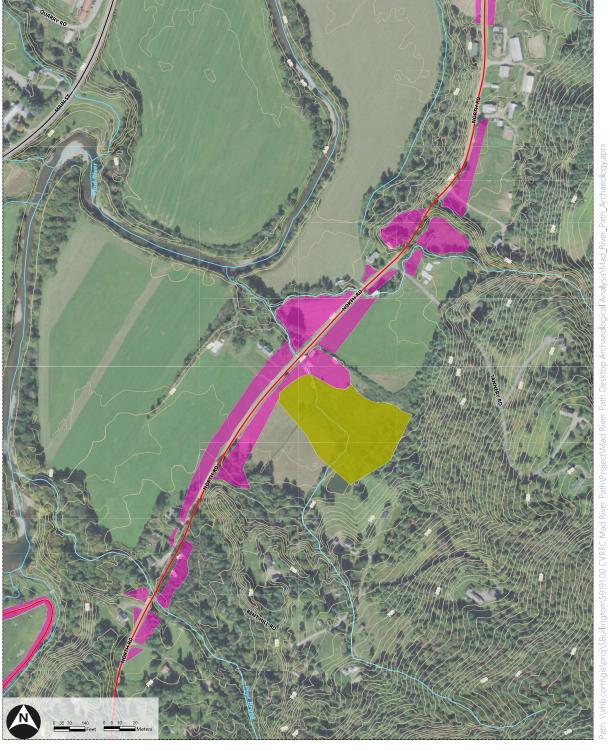
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US Highway











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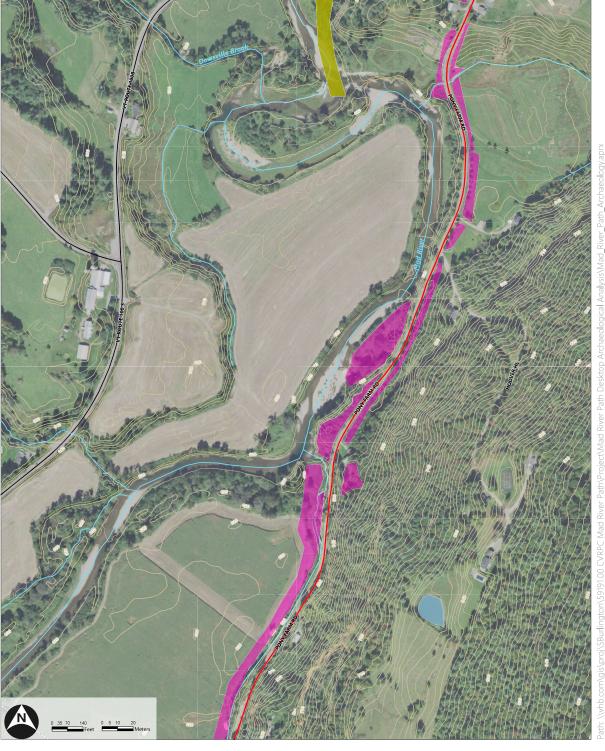
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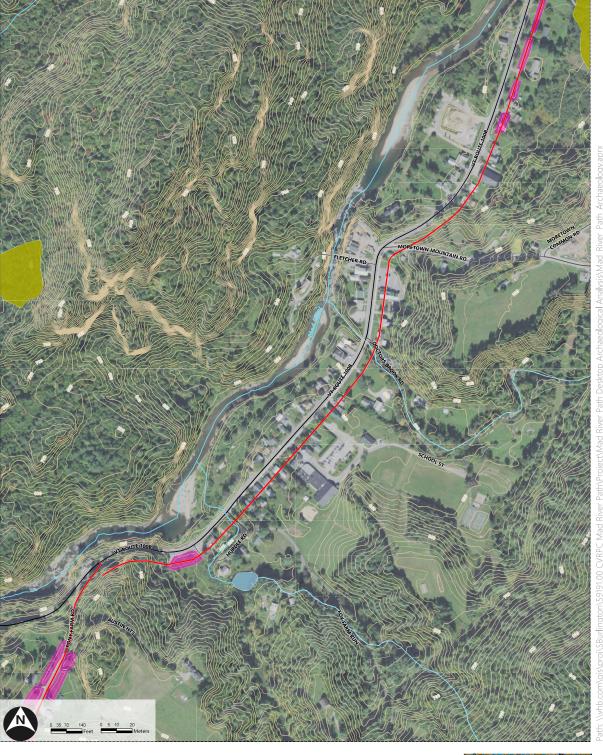
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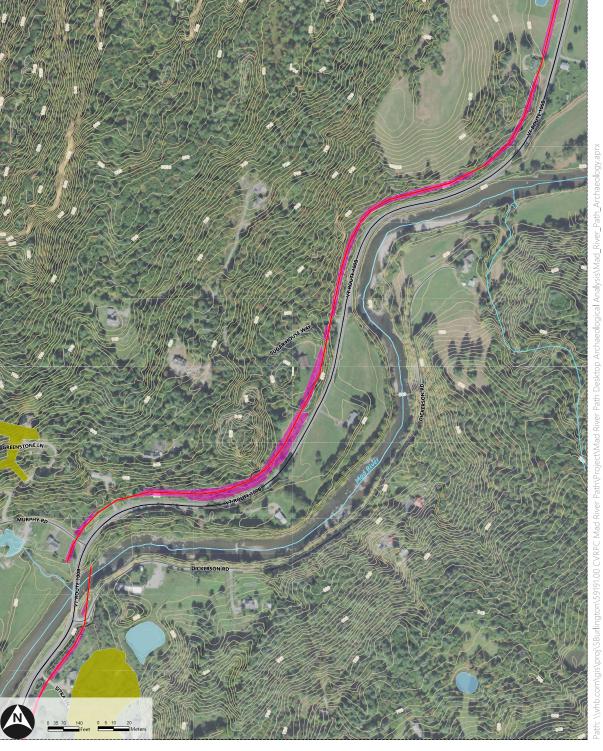
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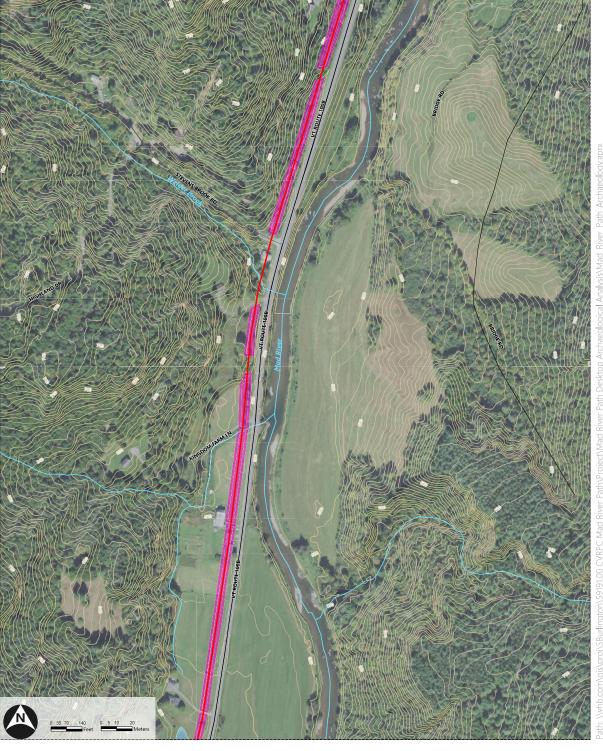
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Class 1 Wetland Class 1 Wetland

—Interstate Highway

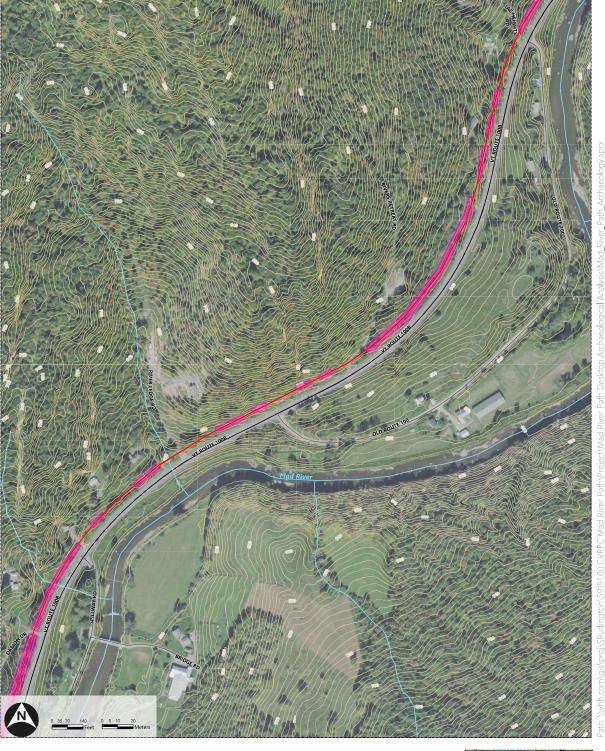
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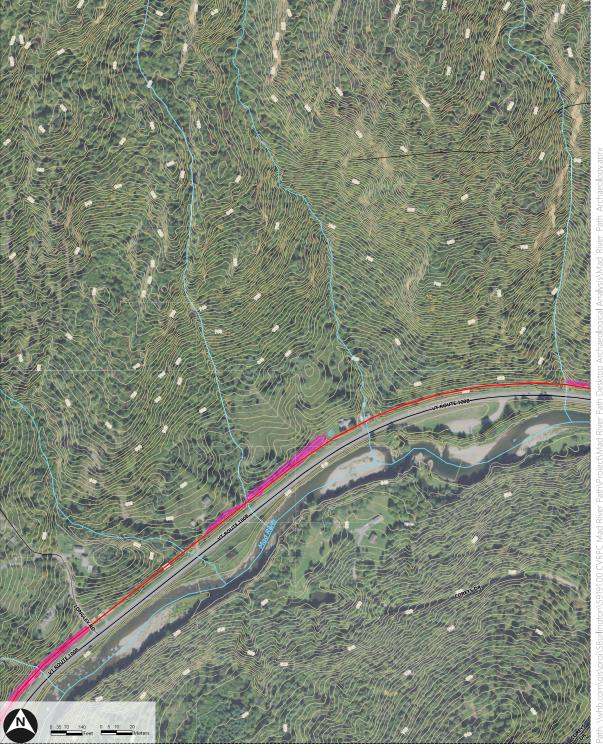
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- Class 1 Wetland Class 1 Wetland
- US Highway
- Class 2 Wetland Class 2 Wetland

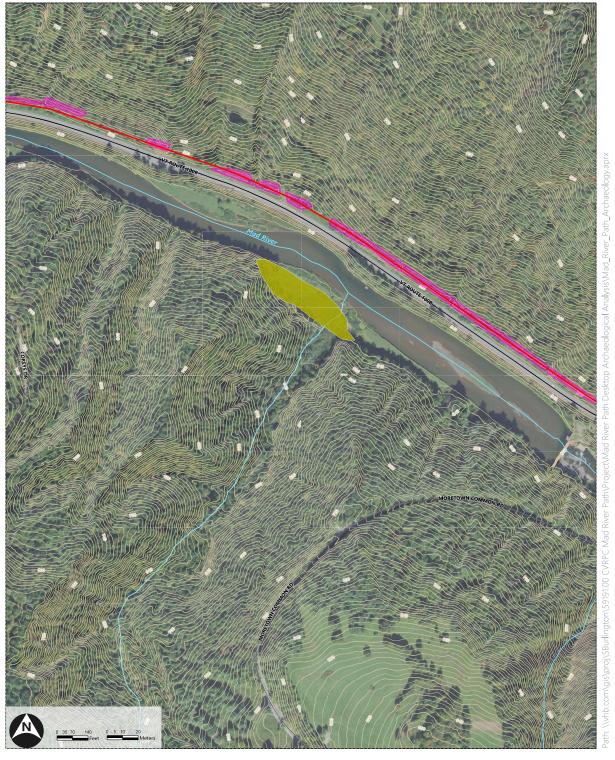




Figure 23. Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment 18 of 21



Mad River Path Corridor Study | Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment Towns of Warren, Waitsfield, and Moretown, Washington County, VT





— State Highway

Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity — Local Road

- VHD Stream (ANR)

— Other Road

■VHD Waterbody (ANR)

--- Private Road

Town Boundary (VCGI)

Wetlands - VSWI

- Railroad (VTrans)

Class 1 Wetland Class 1 Wetland

—Interstate Highway

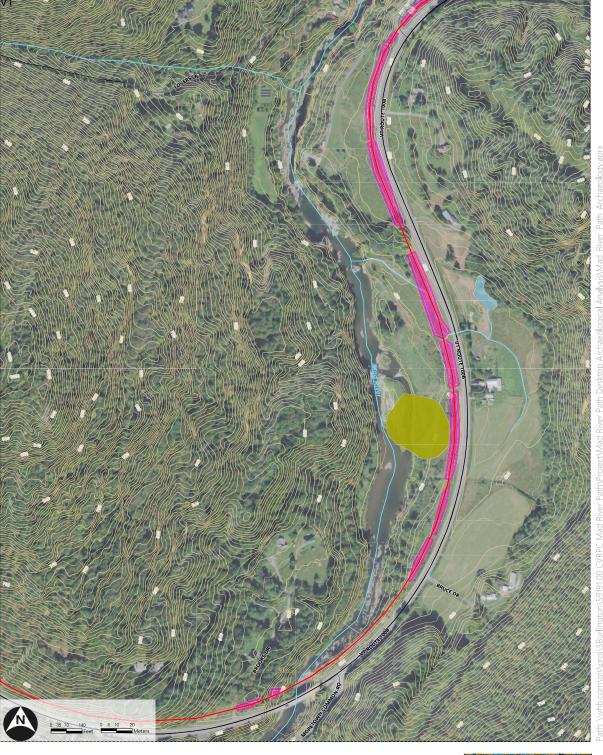
Class 2 Wetland Class 2 Wetland

US Highway











— State Highway

Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity — Local Road

-VHD Stream (ANR)

 $- \, {\rm Other} \, {\rm Road} \,$

■VHD Waterbody (ANR)

--- Private Road

Town Boundary (VCGI)

Wetlands - VSWI

+ Railroad (VTrans)- Interstate Highway

US Highway

Class 1 Wetland Class 1 WetlandClass 2 Wetland Class 2 Wetland











— State Highway

Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity — Local Road

- VHD Stream (ANR)

— Other Road

VHD Waterbody (ANR)

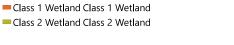
--- Private Road

Town Boundary (VCGI)

Wetlands - VSWI

+ Railroad (VTrans)- Interstate Highway

US Highway













— State Highway

- Desktop Archaeological Sensitivity Local Road
- -VHD Stream (ANR)
- Other Road
- VHD Waterbody (ANR) 51 Town Boundary (VCGI)
- Private Road
- Railroad (VTrans)
- Wetlands VSWI

 Class 1 Wetland Class 1 Wetland
- —Interstate Highway
- Class 2 Wetland Class 2 Wetland

US Highway

