



## **Hingham Residential Development Archaeological Survey Summary**

PAL has completed an archaeological reconnaissance survey and intensive (locational) archaeological survey for the proposed Hingham Residential Development Project (the project) in Hingham, Massachusetts. The project was completed under a State Archaeologist's permit issued by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). The proposed project includes new development and redevelopment within an approximately 12-acre parcel that is a portion of the former U.S. Naval Ammunition Annex at Bare Cove. The project area is located in the vicinity of a previously identified Native American archaeological site as well as the Salah Office Park/Hingham Poor Farm Site, both listed in the MHC inventory of the Assets of the Commonwealth.

The archaeological reconnaissance survey of the entire project parcel identified areas of moderate and low archaeological sensitivity. After consulting with the proponent about the preliminary results of the reconnaissance survey, the development plan was revised to avoid impacts to the southerly portion of the project parcel. The revised proposed project impact area is limited to the northern two-thirds of the 12-acre parcel and includes approximately 3.2 acres of moderate sensitivity and 6.4 acres of low sensitivity. During the subsequent intensive archaeological survey, subsurface testing was completed within the revised project impact area. Low densities of historic and modern period domestic and architectural debris were recovered from fill/disturbed soils.

The combined results of the reconnaissance and intensive surveys documented previous land use in the Hingham Residential Development project area and collected additional information about the degree and extent of ground disturbance within the parcel. None of the background research or informant interviews indicated that any Native American materials had been identified or collected within the project area before the surveys, but the research did confirm the location of the Hingham Poor Farm complex to the east of the project area within an area where a modern townhouse complex is situated. The association of a brick crypt in the southern section of the project parcel with the Poor Farm has not been documented through archival research. Research about the Navy's use of the property in the mid-twentieth century indicated that the entire project parcel had been cleared and extensively altered during that period. The intensive survey subsurface testing confirmed this disturbance and documented fill and disturbed soils in all the areas of moderate sensitivity. The lack of natural soils is likely the result of the more recent construction of an office park in the 1980s.

No Native American cultural materials were collected as part of the intensive survey. The lack of natural soils within the project area, coupled with the degree of previous ground disturbance, suggests that if an ancient Native American site at one time existed in this area, no cultural deposits remain within the proposed impact area. The low density of post-contact materials collected in the fill soils are likely associated with the Navy occupation, and/or possibly with the earlier use of the general area when the Poor Farm was established. PAL recommends that the proposed Hingham Residential Development Project will not affect any archaeological deposits and no additional archaeological investigations are recommended. PAL also recommends that the project proponent avoid any ground-disturbing impacts in the area to the south of the impact area as identified on PAL's project mapping. PAL's technical report for this project is currently being reviewed by the MHC.