



The  
UNIVERSITY  
of VERMONT

CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

## **State of Vermont Water Supply Division Archaeological Review for ARRA Funded Projects**

Municipality: **Jericho & Underhill**

Project: **Jericho-Underhill Water District Water System Improvements**

Date of Review: **6/24/09**      Reviewed by: **UVM CAP**

Summary Findings:    **No archaeological sensitivity. No affect on Historic Properties.**

### **1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Towns of Jericho and Underhill, through the consulting engineering firm of Green Mountain Engineering, propose to construct a new water line that will cross the Browns River in Jericho and Underhill, Chittenden County, Vermont (Figure 1). The proposed water line will be directionally bored underneath the Browns River parallel to the boundary line between Underhill and Jericho townships, south of River Road and east of the River Road VT Rte 15 intersection. Disturbances will be limited to the entry and exit points of the directional bore on either side of the river. An existing pump control building, hydrant, and gravel access road are located on the north shore of the river, while an existing well and associated well mound are located on the southern banks of the river. The proposed water line will follow the alignment of the existing water line that crosses the river.

### **2.0 DESK REVIEW**

The proposed Jericho-Underhill Water District Water System Improvements Project is centered on the Browns River. No known archaeological sites exist within the proposed project area or within 3 km of the project area. The proposed project scores 12 on the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's (VDHP) Environmental Predictive Model for Locating Precontact Archaeological Sites, due to its proximity to the Browns River and location on a major floodplain of the river. However, historic period disturbances throughout the project area negate the assigned sensitivity score of the floodplain location. The digital Geographic Information System (GIS) application of this predictive model demonstrates that seven overlapping sensitivity factors are located within the proposed project area, which are Drainage, Waterbody, Wetland, Stream-Waterbody Confluence, Head-of-Draw, Floodplain, and Level Terrain (see Figure 1).

### **3.0 FIELD INSPECTION**

Dr. Charles Knight, Assistant Director of the UVM CAP., carried out a field inspection of the proposed project area on June 23, 2009. The northern riverbank showed evidence of past disturbances associated with the construction of the access road and the original water line. The southern riverbank, which is higher, also showed evidence of past disturbances, including rip-rap placed along its bank, the construction of the water well, an access road to that well, and the construction of the existing water line. While the landform would generally be very archaeologically sensitive, the disturbances associated with the placement of the original water line have eliminated all archaeological sensitivity associated with the proposed project.

After the field inspection, Knight spoke with Mr. Marc Maheux, the system operator for the project, who confirmed the existence of the observed disturbances, such as the rip-rap, which occurred in the 1990s.

### **4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECCOMENDATIONS**

The proposed Jericho-Underhill Water District Water System Improvements Project in Jericho and Underhill, Chittenden County, Vermont is located at the Browns River and adjoining floodplain. Archaeologically sensitive portions of the proposed project are associated with the floodplain and the river itself. This archaeological sensitivity of the area has been eliminated by past disturbances associated with the construction of the original water line, water well, pump control building and other associated elements. As a result, archaeologically sensitive areas will not be disturbed by the proposed project. The proposed project will have no effect on historic properties and no additional work is recommended.

Sincerely,

Charles Knight, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director

cc. Scott Dillon - VDHP

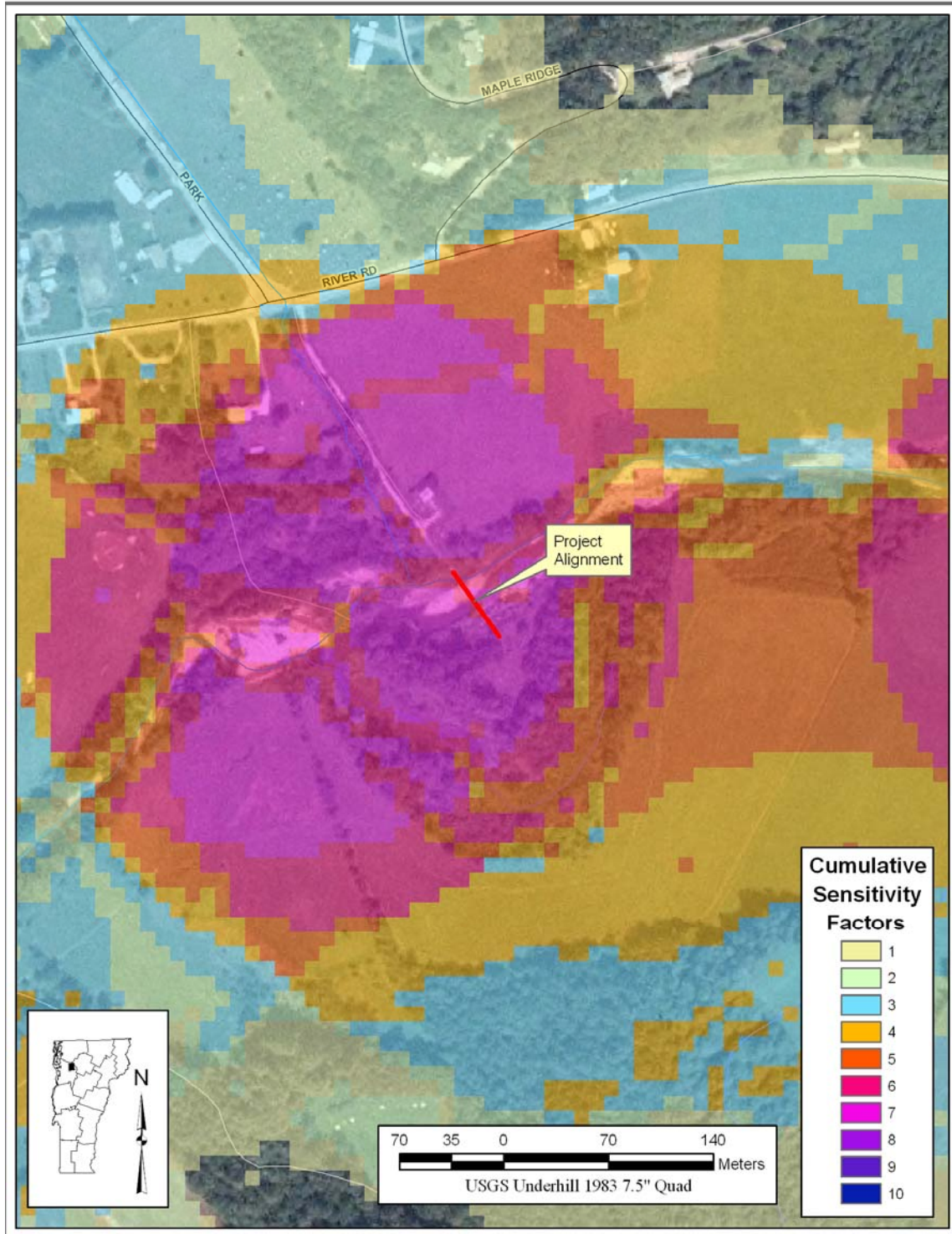


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the proposed Jericho-Underhill Water District Water System Improvements Project, Jericho and Underhill, Chittenden County, Vermont.