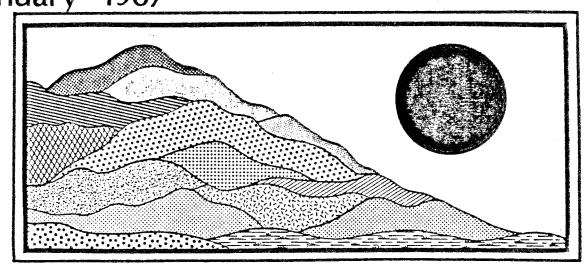
# Cranberry Meadow Farm

East Haddam, Connecticut January 1987



ENVIRONMENTAL

REVIEW TEAM

REPORT

# Cranberry Meadow Farm

East Haddam, Connecticut

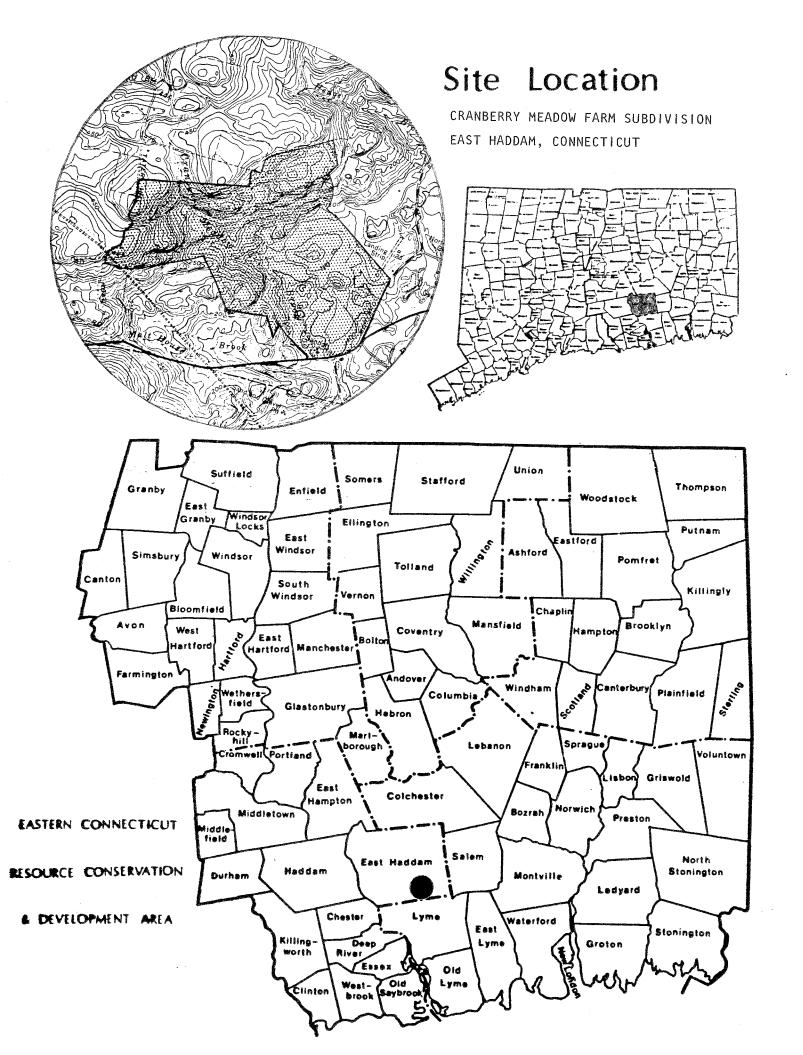
Review Date: NOVEMBER 17, 1986

Report Date: JANUARY 1987



PO BOX 198

BROOKLYN CONNECTICUT D6234



#### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

ON

#### CRANBERRY MEADOW FARM SUBDIVISION

## East Haddam, Connecticut

This report is an outgrowth of a request from East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission to the Middlesex County Soil and Water Conservation District (S&WCD). The S&WCD referred this request to the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D). Area Executive Committee for their consideration and approval. The request was approved and the measure reviewed by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The ERT met and field checked the site on Monday, November 17, 1986. Team members participating on this review included;

Tom Gilligan	Planner - Midstate Regional Planning Agency
Pat Leavenworth	District Conservationist - U.S.D.A., Soil Conservation Service
Nancy Murray	Biologist - DEP, Natural Resources Center
Al Roberts	Soil Resource Specialist - U.S.D.A., Soil Conservation Service
Elaine Sych	ERT Coordinator - Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area
Bill Warzecha	Geologist - DEP, Natural Resources Center

Prior to the review day, each Team Member received a summary of the proposed project, a list of the Town's concerns, a location map, a topographic map and a soils map. During the field review the Team Members were given preliminary site plans. The Team met with, and were accompanied by the Zoning Enforcement Officer, the engineer and his associates. Following the review, reports from each Team Member were submitted to the ERT Coordinator for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report represents the Team's findings. It is not meant to compete with private consultants by providing site designs or detailed solutions to development problems. The Team does not recommend what final action should be taken on a proposed projectall final decisions and conclusions rest with the Town and landowner. This report identifies the existing resource base and evaluates its significance to the proposed development, and also suggests considerations that should be of concern to the developer and the Town. The results of this Team action are oriented toward the development of better environmental quality and the long-term economics of land use.

The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Executive Committee hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in making your decisions on this proposed subdivision.

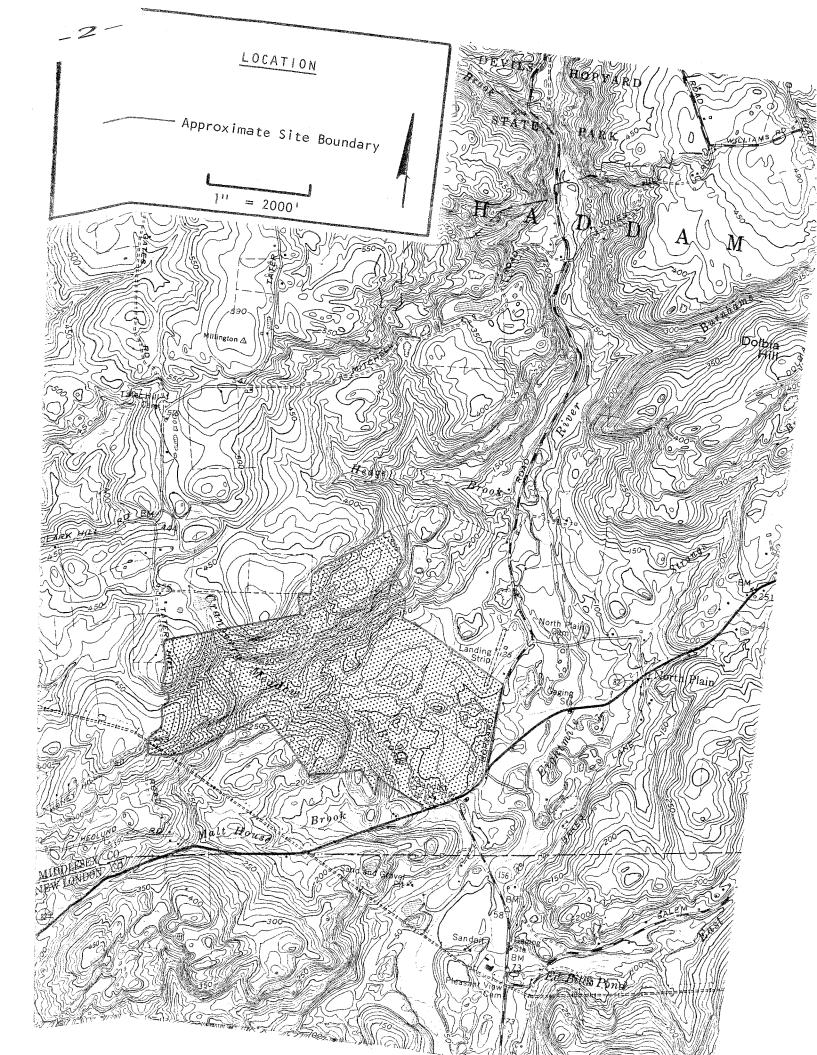
If you require any additional information, please contact:

Elaine A. Sych ERT Coordinator Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area P. O. Box 198 Brooklyn, CT 06234 (203) 774-1253



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page	
Α.	TOPOGRAPHY AND SETTING	, 3	
В.	BEDROCK AND SURFICIAL GEOLOGY	. 3	
С.	GEOLOGIC DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS		
Ð.	HYDROLOGY		
E.	WATER SUPPLY		
Ē.	SOLLS	. 11	
€.	SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL CONCERNS		
Ħ.	THE NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE	14	
1.	PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCERNS		
J.	SUMMARY	. 17	
	TABLE OF MAPS		
	LOCATION MAP	. 2	
	TOPOGRAPHY	, 4	
	BEDROCK GEOLOGY	. 7	
	SURFICIAL GEOLOGY	. 8	
	S01LS	12	



# A. TOPOGRAPHY AND SETTING

Topographic relief of the ±560 acre tract is quite diverse and varies from gentle to very steep slopes. The steepest slopes occur throughout the central and western parts of the site. Of course, interspersed throughout are areas of flat to gently sloping terrain. Clearly, the underlying bedrock controls and the topographic conditions in this area. More gentle slopes characterize the open agricultural fields in the eastern parts. This area is largely covered by relatively thick sandy, gravelly substratum.

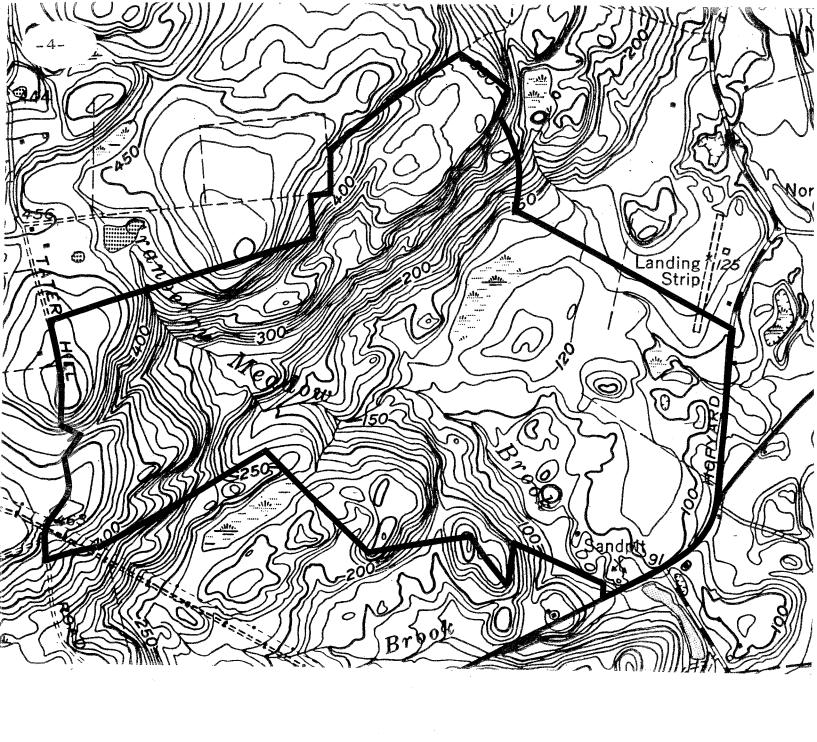
The major through-flowing stream on the site is Cranberry Meadow Brook. This brook forms a spectacular and scenic waterfall over terraced bedrock in the western parts of the site. Every effort should be made to protect this natural area from disturbance, modification, encroachment, etc. Cranberry Meadow Brook is a tributary to Eightmile River to the east. A smaller, unnamed stream flows in the eastern part of the site. It is the outlet stream for a major wetland area on the site, and like Cranberry Meadow Brook is tributary to Eightmile River.

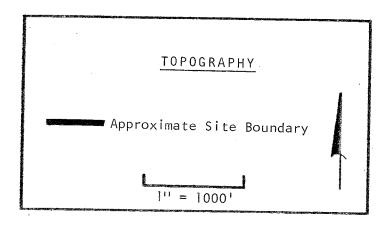
# B. BEDROCK AND SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

Bedrock outcrops are extensive in the western and central parts of the parcel, but only in a few isolated areas in the eastern parts. As opposed to the western and central parts, relatively thick deposits of sand and gravel mask the bedrock surface in the eastern parts.

A major geologic boundary, known as Honey Hill Fault traverses the central parts of the site. It separates rock types, which differ in age, texture and mineralogy. Rock types to the north of the fault, consist mainly of gneisses and schists, while rock types to the south are mainly rocks of granitic (rich in quartz and feldspar) composition. (See attached Bedrock Geologic Map for detailed descriptions).

A +1/2 mile wide zone of thinly layered or laminated rock, which resulted from the faulting activity, parallels the route of the Honey Hill Fault. The geologic term given to these type of rocks are "mylonites". The thinly-layered structure of the mylonites makes them excellent stones for stonewalls. Most of the stones comprising stonewalls on the site are "mylonites". It should be pointed out that the Honey Hill Fault is an inactive fault. The foliation/or/layering in the rock throughout most of the site dips gently to the northwest.





According to Water Resources Bulletin Number 30, depth to bedrock ranges between zero in rock outcrop areas to about thirty (30) feet below ground surface in the eastern parts of the site along Route 82. (Reference: The Bedrock Geology of the Hamburg Quadrangle, QR-19, 1966).

A surficial geologic map for the Hamburg quadrangle has not been published to date. The Team's Geologist referenced the <u>Surficial Materials Map of Connecticut</u> (open-filed at the DEP's Natural Resource Center in Hartford) by Stone, et al, for the purpose of this report.

A relatively thin blanket of till, covers most of the site. It consists or rock particles of varied shapes and sizes. These particles were deposited directly from glacier ice without being reworked by meltwater streams emanating from the glacier ice. In the first few feet and in shallow to bedrock areas, the till is often relatively sandy and friable, with moderate permeability. Stoniness is also characteristic of this zone.

Overlying bedrock in the eastern limits of the site is a surficial deposit referred to as stratified drift (see <u>Surficial Geologic Map</u>). Stratified drift is composed of rock materials that were washed by meltwater streams from a mass of stagnant glacier ice. Because the materials were transported and deposited by water, they commonly are well-sorted by grain size and are layered (stratified). Sand and gravel are the main components of stratified drift. The exact thickness of the stratified drift on the site is not known, but it is at twenty-nine (29) feet in the front portion along Route 82. In order to determine its thickness, subsurface exploration will need to be conducted on the site.

Overlying till, primarily along watercourses and intermittent drainage channels, on the site are seasonally wet soils. They consist of poorly to very poorly drained mineral soils which are nearly level and very stony.

An area designated as Aa on the soils map consist primarily of organic matter which in places is interlayered with sand, silt, and clay particles. This area is found in the eastern parts of the site. The groundwater table is at or near the surface of the ground throughout most of the year in these soil areas. Development in areas covered by the other regulated wetland soil types (e.g. LG, Wa, etc.) should also be avoided if possible.

## O. GEOLOGIC DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS

In terms of the proposed subdivision development, the major geological limitations present on the parcel include: 1) areas when bedrock is at or near ground surface; 2) areas of moderate to

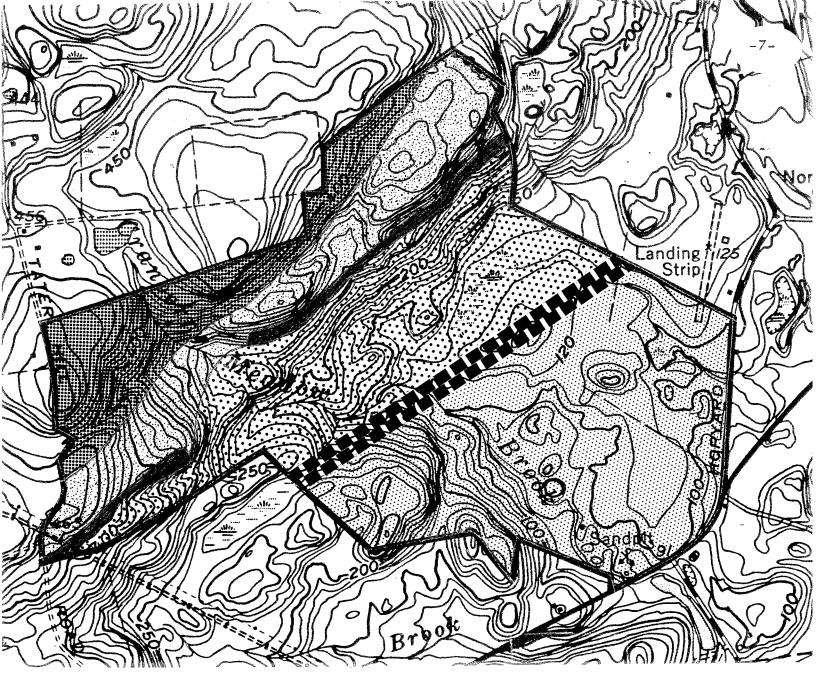
steep slopes; 3) the presence of till based soils which may have compact zones that commonly result in seasonally elevated ground-water tables and slow percolation rates; 4) areas of seasonal and permanent wetness. In regard to the latter, it is recommended that the regulated inland wetland soils on the site be mapped by a certified soil scientist and the boundaries superimposed on to the subdivision plan. It appears that wetlands especially in the central parts may be more extensive in places than shown on the preliminary layout plan distributed to Team members on the review. It is understood that the wetland boundaries on the preliminary layout plan were superimposed from the Soil Survey for Middlesex County and that wetland soils on the site would be checked.

The above mentioned geologic limitations will undoubtedly weigh heaviest on the ability to provide adequate subsurface sewage disposal systems serving homes constructed in the subdivision, since public sewers are not available. Although some subsurface exploration on the parcel relative to subsurface sewage disposal has been conducted, this information was not made available to Team members.

Individual lot testing will provide the Town Sanitarian with necessary information to determine whether or not each of the proposed lots has a suitable area for leaching purposes. Based on soils mapping information, bedrock and surficial geologic maps, and visual observations it appears that the hostile terrain i.e., shallow soils and steep slopes, that characterized the western and central parts are not favorable for on-site sewage disposal. Thorough soil testing, percolation tests and the determination of a good profile of the bedrock surface will be required on all lots, especially those in the western and central parts. The ultimate size of the lots will depend upon subsurface conditions throughout the site. If soil testing on any of the proposed lots fail to identify a satisfactory area and unsuitable conditions as identified in Section 19-13-B103 C (A) (3), of the Public Health Code, the lot or lots should be combined or otherwise removed.

The sandy, gravelly texture of the soils in the eastern parts of the site would be more favorable for on-site sewage disposal. However, because of their texture, they would be expected to have rapid seepage. This condition would not afford ideal conditions for filtering and renovating the sewage effluent to a stabilized form. As a result, leaching systems in such soils require special design considerations in order to ensure that they will not pollute nearby wells or ground and surface waters. An area of very special concern would be those areas of highly permeable soils and shallow bedrock.

In conclusion, it seems likely that detailed soil testing will be required before an accurate assessment of the overall density for the subdivision is determined.



#### BEDROCK GEOLOGY



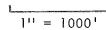
Hebron Formation - Interbedded brownish gray quartz-biotite-plagioclase schist and greenish gray calc-silicate gneiss.



<u>Canterbury Gneiss</u> - gray biotite rich quartz-feldspar gneiss.



Tatnic Hill Formation (subunit) - greenish gray calc-silicate gneiss interleaved with another rock unit called Canterbury Gneiss and a biotite-muscovite schist.





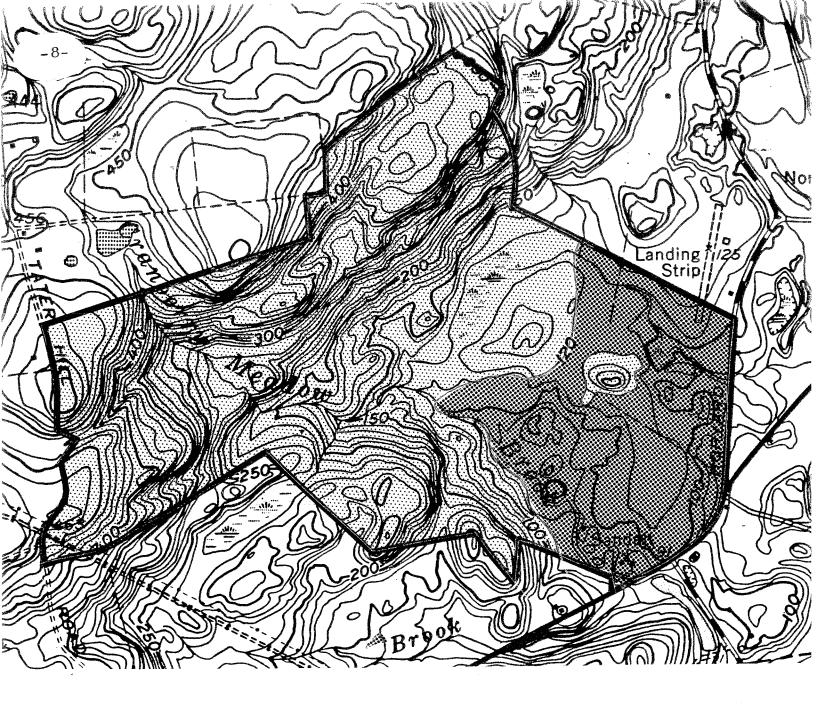
Tatnic Hill Formation - upper part of the formation consists of mostly gray biotite-muscovite schist; lower part consists of biotite schist containing abundant garnet or sillimanite.

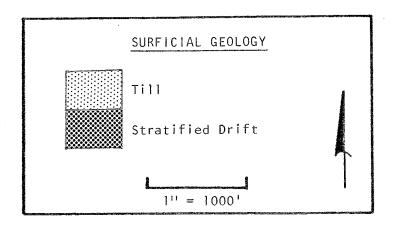


Approximate location of the Honey



Monson Gneiss - a light to dark gray medium gneiss which is comprised of the minerals quartz, horneblende, biotite and feldspar and a dark gray to greenish black amphibolite.





Once the layout of lots has been completed and septic systems engineered and approved by the proper authority (i.e., state and local health departments), it is important that the systems be installed properly according to design specifications and also be properly maintained (e.g., pumped regularly (3-5 years) by the homeowner).

Interior roads or house foundations constructed in shallow bedrock areas may require some blasting. In view of the moderate to very steep slopes found in these areas and the chance of blasting, there is a potential for erosion and sedimentation. For this reason, it is recommended that a detailed erosion/sediment control plan be formulated and implemented prior to any development. Every effort should be made to protect Cranberry Meadow Brook and inland wetland areas within the site.

Based on the subdivision plan, it seems likely that roads and/or driveways may need to cross some of the wetland areas within Wetland crossings are generally feasible provided the parcel. they are properly designed (e.g., culverts are properly sized and installed, permeable road base fill material is used). roads should be constructed at least 1.5 feet and preferably 2 feet above the surface elevation of the wetlands. This will allow for better drainage of the roads and decrease the frost heaving potential of the road. It is recommended that any road construction through wetland areas be done during the dry time of the year with adequate provisions for effective erosion and sediment control. Detailed plans for any proposed road crossings through wetlands should first be submitted to the proper Town authorities and commissions for their review, comment and final approval prior to beginning any constructions.

### D. HYDROLOGY

The entire site lies within the Eightmile River watershed. Surface water and probably to a large extent groundwater, drains downslope to either Cranberry Meadow Brook, Malt House Brook or the unnamed streamcourse in the northern part of the site. Once surface and subsurface water discharges to these watercourses, it is routed to Eightmile River.

Development of the site would be expected to increase the amount of runoff shed from the site. The amount of the increases will depend upon the extent of development, the amount of impervious surfaces created and the amount of vegetation removed or preserved.

The two (2) major concerns related to increased runoff are 1) flooding and 2) erosion. Therefore, it is strongly suggested prior to approval of the subdivision, that the applicant submit a storm water management plan for the project which includes

detailed drainage calculations. This plan should be carefully reviewed by appropriate Town officials. Special care will be needed in sizing culverts along proposed roads and driveways to assure that flooding problems will not arise. Also, all offsite culverts, which are located on the watercourses draining the site, should be carefully examined.

The other concern related to increases in runoff from the site is the potential for erosion. Because of the steep slopes that characterize the western parts of the site, the potential for erosion problems is high and should be of concern. For this reason, it is strongly urged that a sound erosion/sediment control plan accompany the storm water management plan. All erosion and sediment control measures, including potential detention and/or sediment basins should be shown on the subdivision plan. Once the control devices have been installed, Town officials should inspect them for proper installation and effectiveness.

# E. WATER SUPPLY

Each lot in the proposed subdivision will be served by individual on-site water supply wells. The water will be derived from drilled wells which tap the underlying metamorphic bedrock. A well drilled no more than 200-250 feet into the underlying bedrock should be capable of yielding a few gallons of water per minute (gpm), but there is at least a slight chance that drilling in any particular location will result in a very low yield (i.e., less than one (1) gpm) or a very high yield (i.e., greater than ten (10) gpm). A yield of 2 to 3 gpm is usually sufficient for residential demands.

In order to ensure that water quality throughout the parcel and off-site is adequately protected, all wells will need to be installed in accordance with all applicable Town regulations, the Public Health Code, and the State Well Drilling Board. The Town Sanitarian will need to inspect all well locations before the wells are drilled. Also, all wells will need to be properly cased into the underlying bedrock.

The natural water quality should be generally adequate, but because of the particular mineralogy of the bedrock underlying the western half of the parcel, there is a chance that the water will have elevated concentrations of iron or manganese, which will discolor the water and cause a metallic taste. Depending upon the ultimate concentrations of these minerals, there may be a need for filtration devices.

Groundwater in the area is classified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as GA, which means that it is suitable for private drinking water supplies without treatment.

### E. SOILS

The attached soil map will indicate the approximate areas of various soils over this 560 acre tract of land. The map is only a duplicate of map sheet number 30 in the Middlesex County Soil Survey Report.

The landscape at this site is mostly sloping with steep hills and ridges. Bedrock is at or near the surface over most of the western and northwestern part of the property. Also, areas of rock outcrop are common on steep slope breaks. Slopes of 15 to 45 percent are average ranges in slope throughout this part of the parcel.

Smoother landscapes are along the eastern and southeastern parts of the proposed area. The slopes are gently sloping to sloping. These soils were formed from glacial outwash and are mostly deep sands and gravels. A large part of this area is used to grow corn silage and hay. Some of the soils are important farmland soils.

A number of wetland soils dissect the property along streams and along topography breaks. Many wetlands areas noted in the field are not depicted on the accompanying soil survey map. It is impossible to show these areas on the map because of scale and limitations in size of mappable areas. It is recommended that wetlands are flagged on-site and their boundaries subsequently plotted on any final plans of development submitted for this project. Wetland soils are found along many of the small drainageways even though they are not shown on the soils map.

The main soil limitations on this site are steep slopes, rock outcrops and shallow depths to bedrock. Particular attention should be given to selecting potential house sites as well as sites for septic systems. It is recommended that all lots are tested with deep test pits to determine their suitability for use. The soils in the eastern part of the parcel have rapid permeability rates and may be considered areas of special concern by the health officer. A reference to the soil potential study of Middlesex County may be of some assistance on further evaluating this site.

Listed below are soil map symbols with their interpretive names.

#	Aa	Adrian Muck
	СсВ	Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes
	CdC	Canton and Charlton extremely stony fine sandy loams, 3 to 15 percent slopes
	CdD	Canton and Charlton extremely stony fine sandy loams, 15 to 35 percent slopes



Soil Conservation Service Middlesex County USDA-SCS Middlesex County Extension Center Haddam, CT 06438 345-3219



Scale 1" = 1320'

---- Approximate Property Boundary



	CrC	Charlton-Hollis very stony fine sandy loams, 3 to 15 percent slopes
	HkC	Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes
	HmE	Hinckley and Manchester soils, 15 to 45 percent slopes
	НрЕ	Hollis-Charlton extremely stony fine sandy loams, 15 to 40 percent slopes
	HsE	Hollis-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 40 percent slopes
#	LG	Leicester, Ridgebury, and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams
*	MyA	Merrimac sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
*	MyB	Merrimac sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
	Pr	Pîts, gravel
*	SgA	Sudbury sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes
#	Wd	Walpole sandy loam
	WzC	Woodbridge extremely stony fine sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes

For detailed soil map unit descriptions of each of the above named soils, please refer to the published Soil Survey Report of Middlesex County Connecticut.

# G. SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL CONCERNS

A detailed sediment and erosion control plan should be prepared for the development to supply information required by Town regulations. The plan should follow standards established in the 1985 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.

In the western third of the parcel there are very steep slopes. Extensive cuts and fills will be needed if this area is developed as proposed. The bedrock outcrops and shallow to bedrock soils which occur throughout this area will make grading difficult and costly. Lots 22, 28, 34, 37, 39, 42, 56, 57, 58 and 62 are of particular concern.

Whenever extensive grading is needed, the risk of erosion increases. Cut and fill slopes are difficult to stabilize; consequently, extra care is needed in the planning and implementation of sediment and erosion controls.

<sup>\*</sup>Prime Farmland Soil #Designated inland wetland soil

There are several wetlands and watercourses on the site, some of which are not shown on the preliminary plan but will be delineated on the final plans. There will be road and driveway crossings of these areas. Special planning and staging of erosion control measures will be needed to protect the wetlands during construction of these crossings.

Surface runoff should be controlled to prevent erosion on and off the site. Diversions may be necessary on some lots to direct surface flows around homes and septic systems.

Assistance in preparation and review of sediment and erosion control plans is available upon request from the Middlesex County Soil and Water Conservation District, Extension Center, Route 154, Haddam, Connecticut, 345-3219.

# H. THE NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE

The Data Base maps and files have been reviewed regarding the East Haddam site, Cranberry Meadow Brook.

The Data Base currently has no information on this area. According to the maps and fites, there are no known extant populations of Federally Endangered or Threatened species, Connecticut Species of Special Concern or critical habitats at or near the site in question.

The following species have been reported from adjacent areas: Empidonas virescens, Acadian Flycatcher-deciduous floodplain forests. (last observed 1982)

Dendroica cerulea, Cerulean Warbler-deciduous woods near streams. (last observed 1977)

Podostemum ceratophylla, Riverweed-aquatic plant growing on rocks, stones, and gravel in clear fast flowing waters of rivers and streams. (last observed 1982)

Asplenium montanum, Mountain Spleenwort--a fern that grows on moist, wooded talus slopes and ravines. (last observed 1985)

Aristolochia serpentaria, Virginia Snakeroot--grows in dry, rocky, generally rich woods.

These species have great potential for occurring at the site in question because of their close proximity.

The Natural Diversity Data Base contains the most current biologic data available to us at the time of the request. Ongoing research continues to locate additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern as well as updating existing data.

# I. PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCERNS

#### Access

The proposed subdivision plan has access on three (3) roads; Tater Hill Road, Babcock Road and Hopyard Road (State Highway 434). Only Hopyard Road is currently accessible by car. Tater Hill and Babcock Roads are in very unimproved states and utilization of these roads by residential traffic would call for extensive road improvements.

The average daily traffic on Hopyard Road is 300 vehicles (source: ConnDOT traffic log). The proposed subdivision of 75 lots for construction of single family dwellings will roughly triple the average daily traffic on the roadway, which in its present state has about a 17 foot pavement width. Such an increase utilizes a trip generation figure of 10 trips per dwelling per day (source: Institute of Transportation Engineers Information Report) and multiplies it by 75 dwellings and assumes primary access to the site will be from Hopyard Road. There also is some concern over site line distances at the intersection of the proposed road and Hopyard Road.

The road network on the site makes available an optimum number of lots, but as evidenced through topographic information, such a network will require extensive cuts and fills in some areas, in order to maintain the Town's 12% maximum grade.

#### Open Space

The proposal offers +75 acres of open space, which accounts for 13% of the total land area of the site. The prominent features of the proposed open space is that of excessive slopes and inland wetland. Utilization of the open space for any use other than for preservation purposes or passive recreation, would require substantial improvements.

#### Inland Wetlands

According to the plan, the site contains +51 acres (9 of total area) of inland wetlands. About half of these areas are in the designated open space. A number of lots are cut by these soils, but due to the size of the lots, development may occur with a minimum impact on these areas.

#### Lots

The site is divided by two (2) zoning districts, R-2 and R-4 (2 acre and 4 acre minimum lot sizes). Some of the lots appear to be undersized, but the majority are in excess of the particular zone requirement. The soil compositions on these lots are such that they provide severe constraints for development. Thus special engineering concerns must be addressed for the construction of roads, basements and septic systems.



### J. SUMMARY

NOTE: This is a brief summary of the major points, concerns and recommendations of the Team. You are strongly urged to read the entire report and to refer back to specific sections in order to obtain all the information about a certain topic.

- --Cranberry Meadow Brook in the western parts of the site forms a spectacular waterfall over terraced bedrock, every effort should be made to protect this area from any disturbance or modification.
- --In terms of the proposed development, the major limitations are: 1) areas where bedrock is at or near the ground surface; 2) areas of moderate to steep slopes; 3) the presence of till based soils which may have seasonally high groundwater tables and slow percolation rates and 4) areas of seasonal and permanent wetness.
- --Individual lot testing will provide the necessary information to determine whether or not each of the proposed lots has a suitable area for leaching purposes. Thorough soil testing, percolation tests and determination of a bedrock profile will be required, especially for lots in the western and central parts.
- --It seems likely that detailed soil testing will be required before an accurate assessment of the overall density can be determined.
- --Blasting may be required in some areas of shallow bedrock in order to build roads or foundations. A detailed Erosion and Sediment Control Plan is necessary.
- --Wetland crossings for roads and/or driveways are feasible provided they are properly engineered.
- --It is strongly suggested that prior to approval the applicant submit a storm water management plan for the project which includes detailed drainage calculations.
- --Special care is needed in the sizing of culverts both on-site and off-site.
- --Groundwater in the area is classified GA by the DEP, which means that it is suitable for private drinking water supplies without treatment.
- -- It is recommended that wetlands be flagged on-site and their boundaries plotted onto the final plans.

- --Wetland soils are found along many of the small drainage ways even though they are not found on the soils map.
- --A reference to the soil potential study of Middlesex County may be of assistance in evaluating this site for septic systems.
- --A detailed erosion and sediment control plan should be prepared supplying all the information required by the Town and following standards established in the 1985 Guidelines.
- --Lots 22, 28, 34, 37, 39, 42, 56, 57, 58 and 62 are of particular concern because of the very steep slopes.
- --Assistance and review of erosion and sediment control plans is available upon request from the Middlesex County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- --The Natural Diversity Data Base currently has no information on this area, but five (5) species of plants of concern have been reported from adjacent areas. These species have great potential for occurring at the project site because of their close proximity.
- --Tater Hill and Babcock Roads are in very unimproved states and will require extensive road improvements to be used by new residential traffic.
- --Traffic will roughly triple on Hopyard Road with the new subdivision. Presently the road has a seventeen (17) foot pavement width, and there is some concern over site line distances at the intersection of the proposed road and Hopyard Road.



# About The Team

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of professionals in environmental fields drawn together from a variety of federal, state, and regional agencies. Specialists on the Team include geologists, biologists, foresters, climatologists, soil scientists, landscape architects, archeologists, recreation specialists, engineers and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the supervision of the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area--an 86 town area.

The Team is available as a public service at no cost to Connecticut towns.

# PURPOSE OF THE TEAM

The Environmental Review Team is available to help towns and developers in the review of sites proposed for major land use activities. To date, the ERT has been involved in reviewing a wide range of projects including subdivisions, sanitary landfills, commercial and industrial developments, sand and gravel operations, elderly housing, recreation/open space projects, watershed studies and resource inventories.

Reviews are conducted in the interest of providing information and analysis that will assist towns and developers in environmentally sound decision-making. This is done through identifying the natural resource base of the project site and highlighting opportunities and limitations for the proposed land use.

# REQUESTING A REVIEW

Environmental reviews may be requested by the chief elected officials of a municipality or the chairman of town commissions such as planning and zoning, conservation, inland wetlands, parks and recreation or economic development. Requests should be directed to the Chairman of your local Soil and Water Conservation District. This request letter should include a summary of the proposed project, a location map of the project site, written permission from the landowner allowing the Team to enter the property for purposes of review, a statement identifying the specific areas of concern the Team should address, and the time available for completion of the ERT study. When this request is approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Executive Council, the Team will undertake the review on a priority basis.

For additional information regarding the Environmental Review Team, please contact Elaine A. Sych (774-1253), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, P.O. Box 198, Brooklyn, Connecticut 06234.