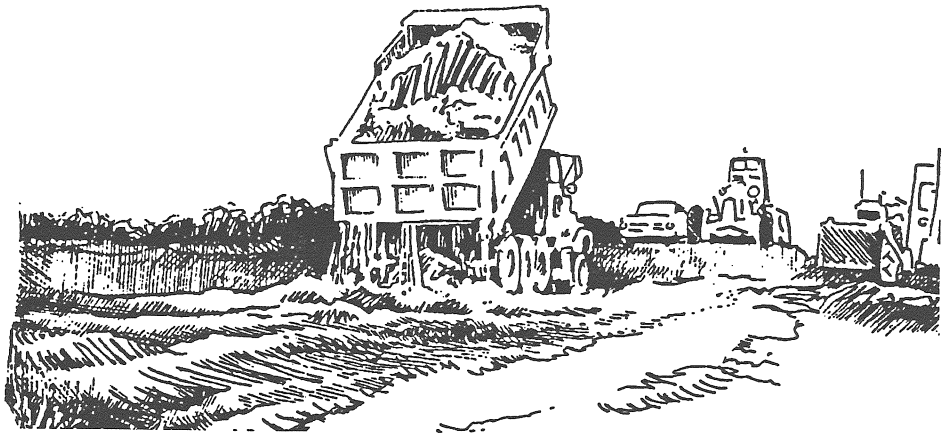
Foster Construction Gravel Excavation

East Lyme, Connecticut

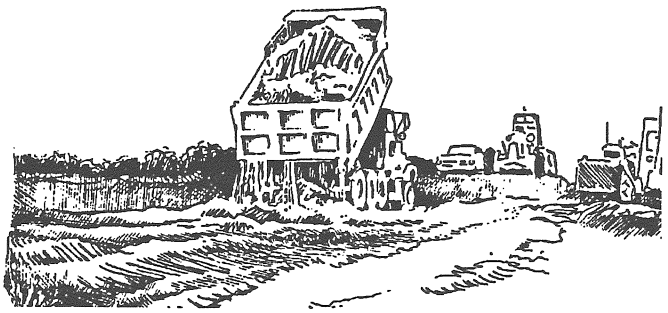


EASTERN CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.

Foster Construction Gravel Excavation

East Lyme, Connecticut



Environmental Review Team Report

Prepared by the
Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team
of the Eastern Connecticut
Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

for the

Conservation Commission
East Lyme, Connecticut

May 1996

CT Environmental Review Teams
1066 Saybrook Road
P.O. Box 70
Haddam, CT 06438
(860) 345-3977

Acknowledgments

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the East Lyme Conservation Commission to the New London County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The SWCD referred this request to the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) Executive Council for their consideration and approval. The request was approved and the measure reviewed by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Elaine Sych, would like to thank and gratefully acknowledge the following Team members whose professionalism and expertise were invaluable to the completion of this report.

The field review took place on Thursday, May 9, 1996.

Mark Edmonds	Resource Conservationist USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (860) 887-3604
Doug Hoskins	Wetland Specialist/Environmental Analyst III DEP - Inland Water Resources Division (860) 424-3903
Dawn McKay	Biologist/Environmental Analyst DEP - Natural Resources Center (860) 424-3592
Brian Murphy	Fisheries Biologist DEP - Eastern District (860) 295-9523
Randolph Steinen	Geologist UCONN - Department of Geology and Geophysics (860) 486-4435

I would also like to thank Corinne Kreklau, East Lyme Conservation Enforcement Officer and Bob Foster, the applicant, for their cooperation and assistance during this environmental review.

Prior to the review day, each Team member received a summary of the proposed project, location and soils maps. During the field review the Team members were able to view additional maps and information at the parks and recreation department offices. The Team met with and were accompanied by a city official. 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 project - all final decisions rest with the Town. 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 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 Council hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in making your decision this gravel excavation application.

If you require additional information please contact:

Elaine A. Sych, ERT Coordinator
CT ERT Programs
P.O. Box 70
Haddam, CT 06438
(860) 345-3977

Introduction

An environmental review was requested by the East Lyme Conservation Commission for Environmental Review Team assistance in reviewing a proposed gravel excavation.

The ±61 acre is located on Flanders Road north of I-95 at Interchange 74.The Pattagansett River flows through a portion of the site and an existing gravel pit is adjacent to this new site. The proposed project is to extract approximately 118,000 cubic yards of gravel to form two ponds.

The ERT was asked to describe the natural resources present, and to address potential impacts and mitigation measures to the wetlands, river and a downstream town water supply well.

The Environmental Review Team Process

Through the efforts of the East Lyme Conservation Commission and the Eastern Connecticut ERT, this environmental review and report was prepared for the town. This report primarily provides a description of certain on-site natural resources and presents planning, management, land use guidelines. The review process consisted of 4 phases:

1) Inventory of the site's natural resources (collection of data);
2) Assessment of these resources (analysis of data);
3) Identification of resource problem areas, and
4) Presentation of planning, management, land use guidelines.

The data collection phase involved both literature and field research. The ERT field review took place on May 9, 1996. Mapped data or technical reports were also perused, and specific information concerning the property was collected. Being on-site allowed some Team members to verify information and identify other resources.

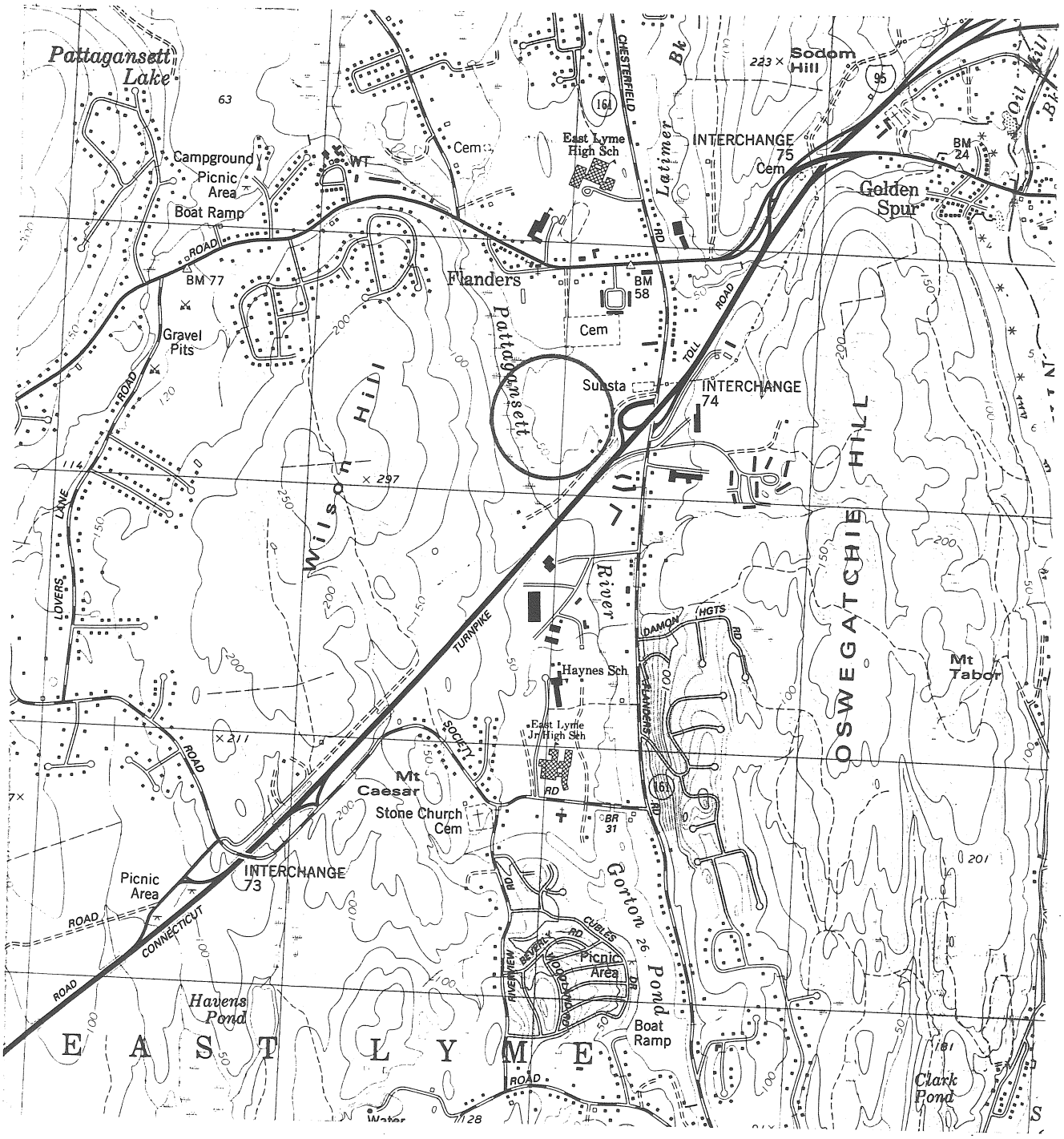
Once Team members had assimilated an adequate data base, they were able to analyze and interpret their findings. Results of this analysis enabled Team members to arrive at an informed assessment of the property's natural resource opportunities and limitations. Individual Team members then prepared and submitted their reports to

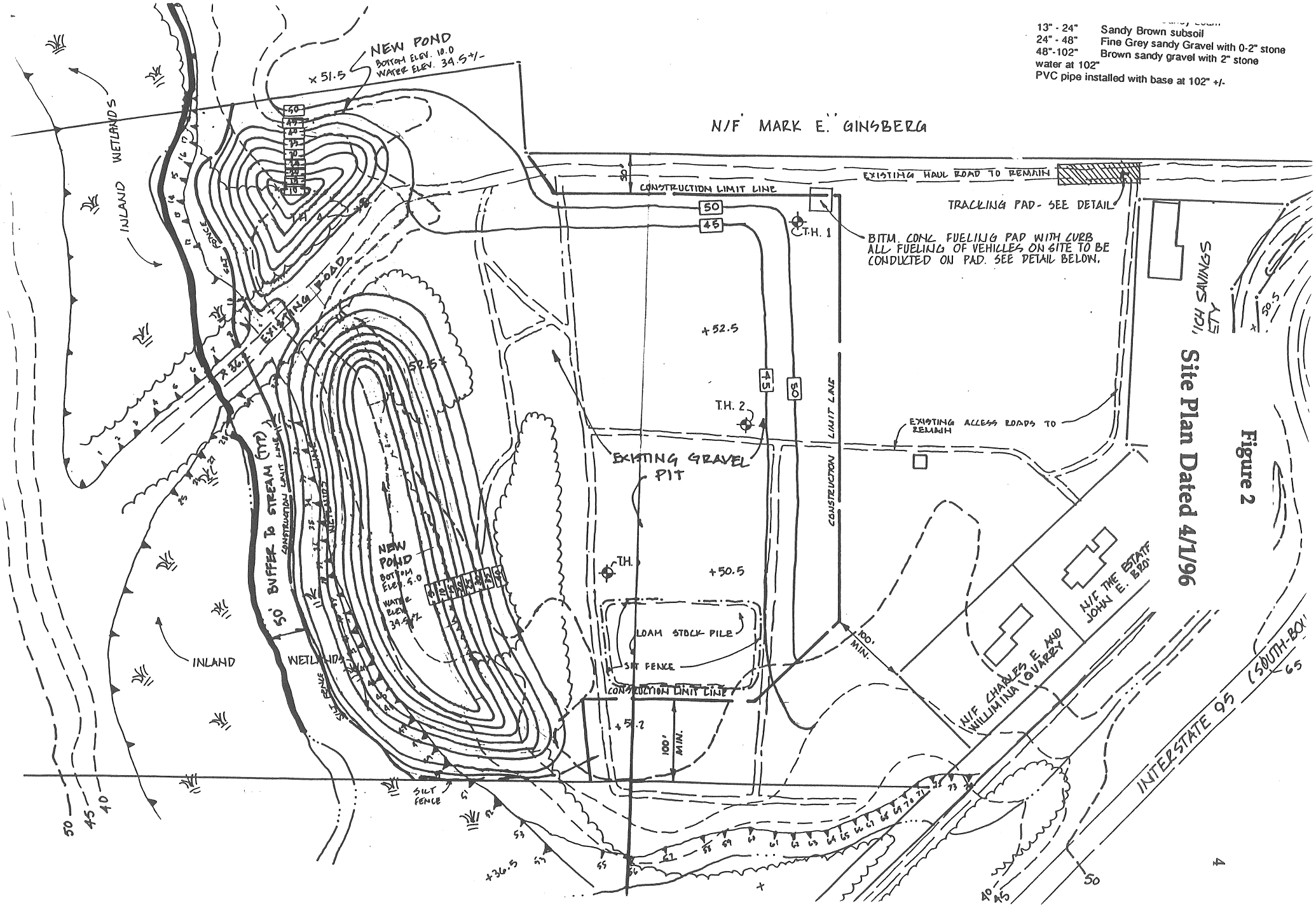
the ERT coordinator for compilation into this final ERT report.

Figure 1

Location Map

Scale 1" = 2000'




13" - 24" Sandy Brown subsoil
24" - 48" Fine Grey sandy Gravel with 0-2" stone
48"-102" Brown sandy gravel with 2" stone
water at 102"
PVC pipe installed with base at 102" +/-
N/F MARK E. GINSBERG
NEW POND
BOTTOM ELEV. 10.0
WATER ELEV. 39.5+/-
INLAND WETLANDS
EXISTING ROAD
50' BUFFER TO STREAM (TYP)
CONSTRUCTION LIMIT LINE
EXISTING HAUL ROAD TO REMAIN
TRACKING PAD - SEE DETAIL
BITM. CONC. FUELING PAD WITH CURB
ALL FUELING OF VEHICLES ON SITE TO BE
CONDUCTED ON PAD. SEE DETAIL BELOW.
T.H. 1
T.H. 2
T.H.
EXISTING GRAVEL PIT
EXISTING ACCESS ROADS TO REMAIN
NEW POND
BOTTOM ELEV. 5.0
WATER ELEV. 39.5+/-
LOAM STOCK PILE
SILT FENCE
100' MIN.
N/F THE ESTATE OF JOHN E. BEO
N/F CHARLES E. AND WILLIMINA QUAREY
INTERSTATE 95 (SOUTH-BOU
SIMMS HILL
+52.5
+50.5
+51.2
+36.5
Site Plan Dated 4/1/96
Figure 2

Topography and Geology

The site is located just north of I-95 on a glacial stream terrace along the Pattagansett River. The terrace formed by deposition (outwash) from glacial meltwater streams that were fed by the melting glacier at the end of the last Ice Age. Areal topography consists of fairly low elevation hills (maximum about +250') and generally terraced valley floors. The hills have moderate to steep slopes, especially if south and easterly facing. Upland surfaces are covered by a thin veneer of till except locally steep slopes where metamorphic bed rock (high grade granite gneiss and schist) may be exposed. No rock exposures were noted in the site area. Numerous linear boulder fields are found across upland areas that are interpreted as recessional morains that formed during temporary still stands or minor re-advances of the glacial ice as it melted. The site topography is greatly disturbed by gravel removal, which is on-going. Pre-disturbance topography was a broad flat terrace at an elevation of just greater than 50 feet above sea level. The terrace is slightly wider than one half mile and merges abruptly to the east with steeper upland slopes and drops abruptly to the west into a wetland-floodplain of the Pattagansett River (see accompanying cross-section). The river elevation is approximately 35 feet above sea level at the site. The gravel terrace is part of a larger sequence that fills the valleys of both the Pattagansett River to the northwest and Latimer Brook to the north. The gravel terrace of the valley fill rises to an elevation of 120 feet about two miles north of the site where the sequence ends (Goldsmith, 1962). The upstream head of the outwash-terrace is interpreted as recessional still stand of the valley portion of the glacial ice as it melted back. The terrace sequence appears graded to a surface at about 50 feet (Goldsmith, 1962) to south of Gorton Pond about two miles from the site.

The terrace is composed of stratified sand and sandy, pebbly gravel. Pebbles comprise generally less than 50% of the gravelly layers. Maximum size of the pebbles is two inches or less. Sand layers and the sand component of the gravel layers are generally medium- and coarse-grained. Neither a silt component nor silt beds were observed. Fresh cuts into the bank display a well stratified deposit, generally cross-bedded, that is typical of sediment deposited from a stream of low to moderate gradient. Lack of fine-grained material provides a deposit that is both porous and permeable and very well drained.

The existing gravel removal permit specifies a finished level surface 6 or more feet above the water table (which has an elevation between 34.5 - 36 feet). The new plans request a permit to excavate two ponds near the boundary with wetlands to the west. The ponds will be dug with a drag line to a bottom elevation of +5-10 feet, removing approximately +180,000 cubic yards of gravel. The excavation will fill with water when the grade falls below the water table. Excavated material will be placed on the ground to drain prior to being sold. Although most of the water will soak into the well drained gravel, several shallow channels observed in the existing gravel surface suggest run-off may occur. Thus the following controls are warranted to protect the adjacent wetland from sedimentation (including siltation).

• **A cloth fence be installed as depicted on plans (dated 4/96) but located along the wetland boundary on the uphill side.**

• **A berm shall be maintained between the pond and wetlands at all times so that the pond may act as a siltation pond during construction.**

• **A grade be maintained behind the pond at the area where saturated dug material will be placed such that any overland drainage will flow into one of the ponds, either completed or under construction.**

A final recommendation results from the lack of identification of the deeper material that may be excavated. The existing plans only indicate composition of materials above the water table (+36'). Study of the topography adjacent to the area shows two interesting things. 1) Latimer Brook makes a sharp bend and goes down a narrow valley to Niantic Bay. The streams that deposited the sand and gravel did not. The ancestral Latimer Brook was a tributary to the Pattagansett. Stagnant ice must have blocked that valley during the deposition of the sand and gravel. 2) The Pattagansett River itself travels through a narrow valley (just south of Gorton Pond). The terrace sequence terminates just north of the narrow part of the valley (Goldsmith, 1964). This suggests a possible blockage of the drainage prior to or during early phases of deposition of the terrace sequence. It seems possible that ponded conditions existed with an outflow near the present elevation of 50 feet. The deeper layers at the pond site may be fine-grained deposits from the hypothesized pond and are today saturated with water. Fine-grained water-saturated materials have a low shear strength and thus are susceptible to slumping. The contractor could lose equipment if the above scenario exists.

• **Samples be obtained of the materials to be excavated. If fine grained materials are present, engineering assurances about the slope stability should be obtained and the plans modified if necessary.** A benefit of this procedure is that the contractor will gain

knowledge about the materials he will recover.

References Cited:

Goldsmith, Richard, 1962, Surficial Geology of the Montville Quadrangle, CT. U.S. Geological Survey, Map GQ-148.

Goldsmith, Richard, 1964, Surficial Geology of the Niantic Quadrangle, CT. U.S. Geological Survey, Map GQ-329.

Figure 3

Topographic Map

Scale 1″ = 2000′

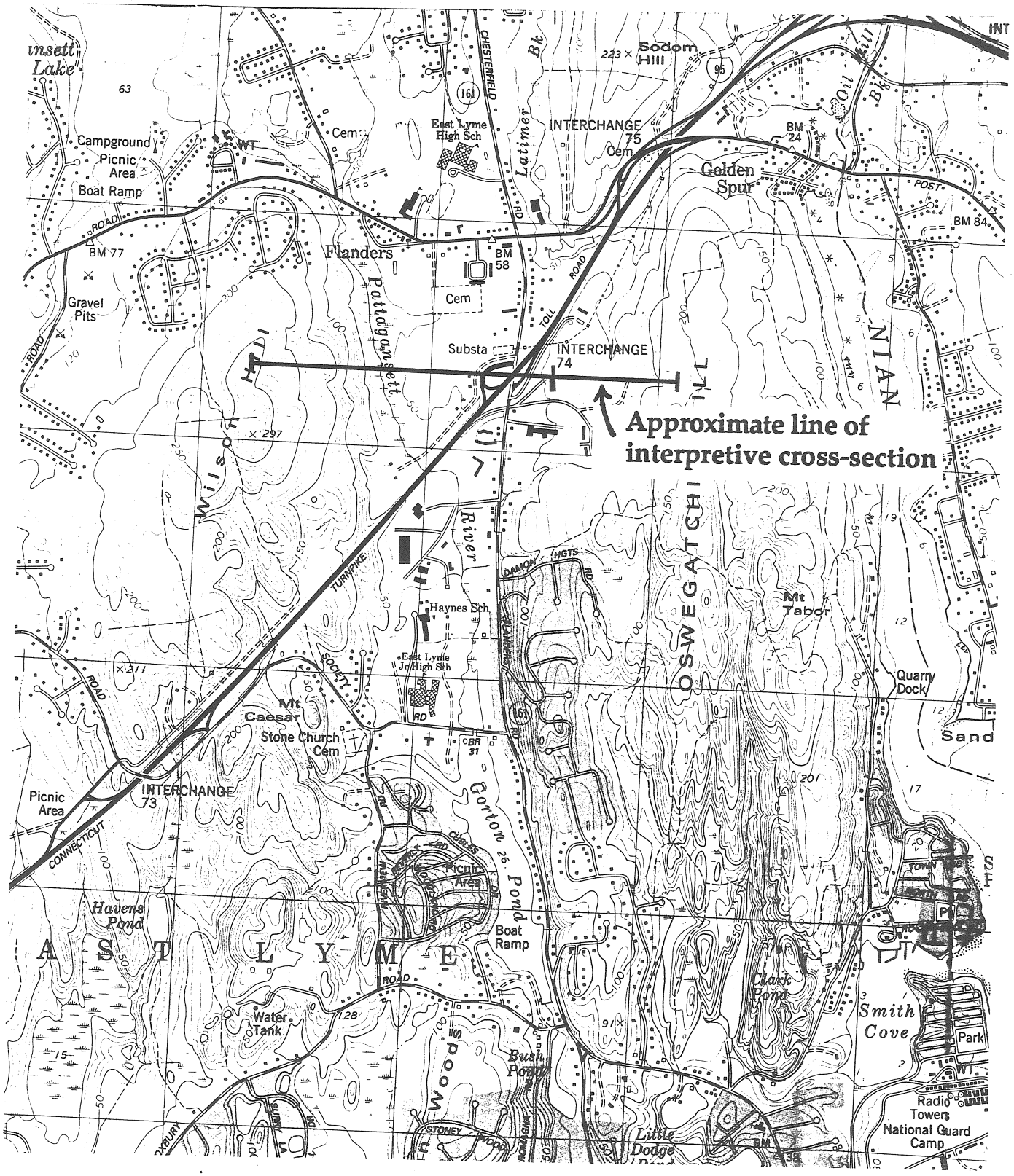
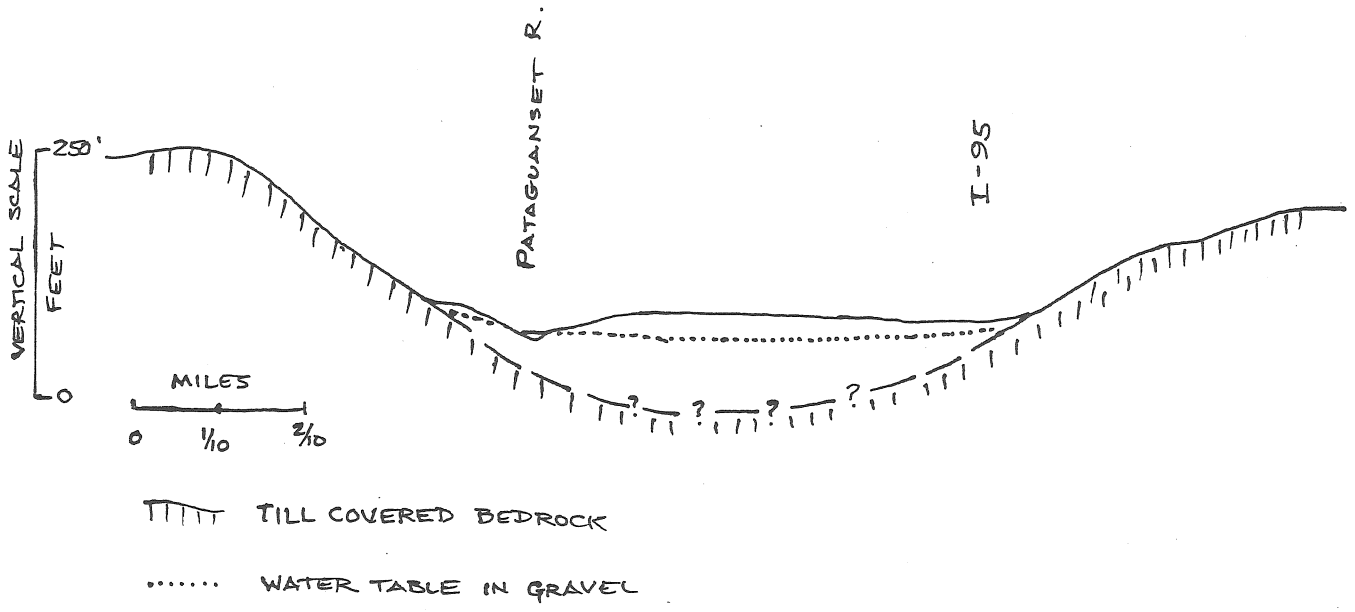


Figure 4

Interpretive cross-section extending across the Pattagansett River Valley and through the existing gravel operation using pre-excavation topography. Bedrock surface beneath the valley extrapolated using adjacent hill slopes.



Soil Resources

The plans presented at the meeting of the ERT field review (5/9/96) had been substantially revised from the initial proposal, resulting in a significant reduction in impacts to the Pattagansett River and the adjacent wetlands. In the new proposal excavation will end at the flagged wetland line, or 50 feet from the river, whichever is further. The wetland - upland edge will be converted to wetland - open water edge.

Detailed elevations are not shown on the plan. The edge of the south pond (at edge of wetlands) is at an elevation of approximately 39 feet. The 50 year flood elevation in this area is about 39.5 feet, thus the pond will be inundated by floodwater for this and larger storm events. This could introduce sediment, debris and nutrients into the ponds.

Silt fences should be installed according to the CT Guidelines for Erosion and Sediment Control. Some of the silt fences on the site had leaves pushed against the bottom instead of being buried in the ground. Overlap, where two lengths of fence are joined, should not have open gaps where water and sediment can run through.

It is anticipated that the future use of the area adjacent to the ponds will be commercial development. During final grading consideration should be given to the flow of surface water such that runoff from future parking lots, etc. does not negatively impact the water quality of the ponds. This should be considered in future development plans as well.

It would be beneficial to include lime, fertilizer, mulch, and seed types and rates on the plan. The plans state that inactive areas will not be left unprotected more than three weeks. Areas seeded during the summer months may require irrigation. Temporary mulching may be required during winter months.

The plans do not include a disposal procedure for cleared material.

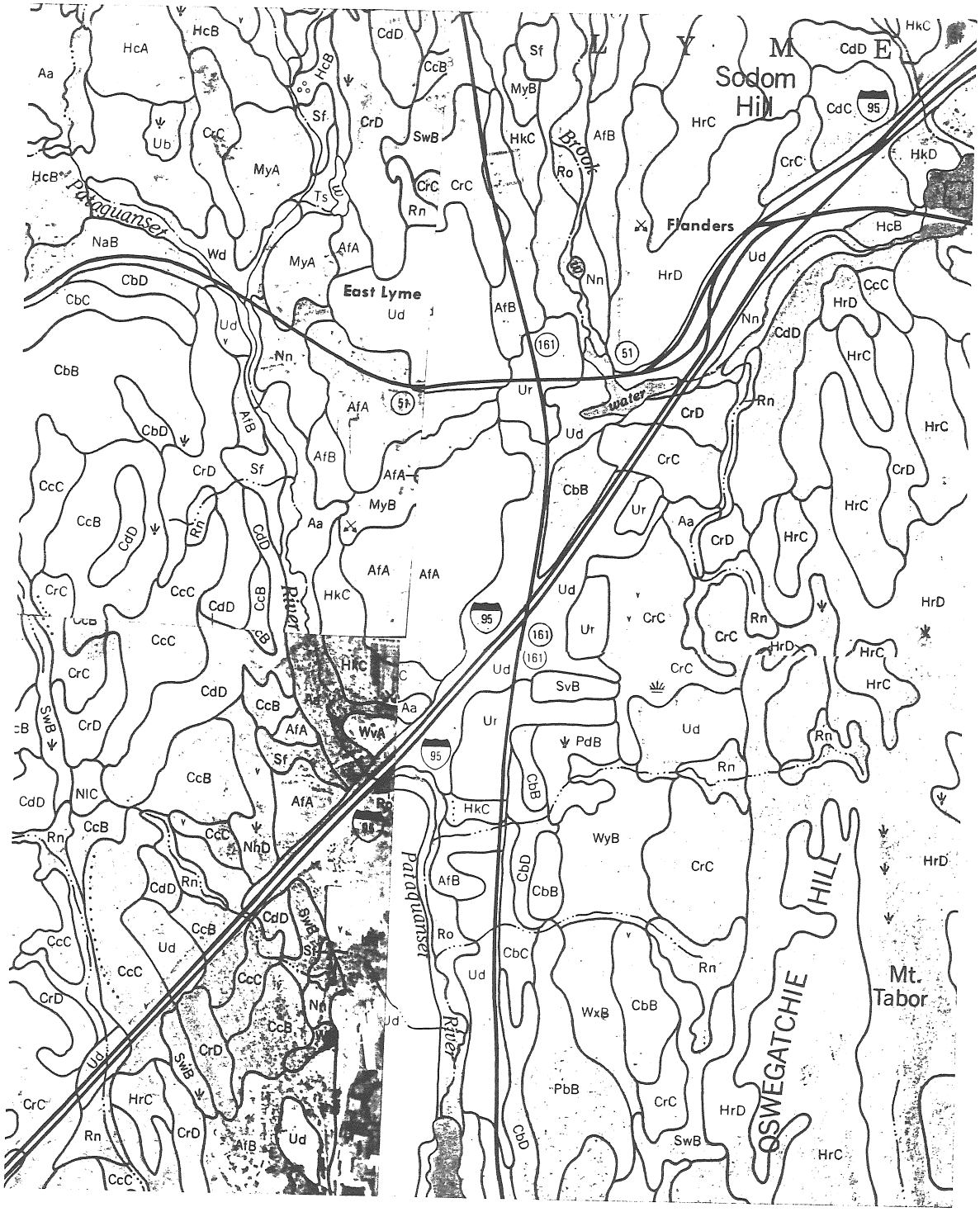
Work should be done such that runoff will remain in the disturbed area instead of running toward the wetland areas.

Figure 5

N

Soils Map

Scale 1" = 1320'



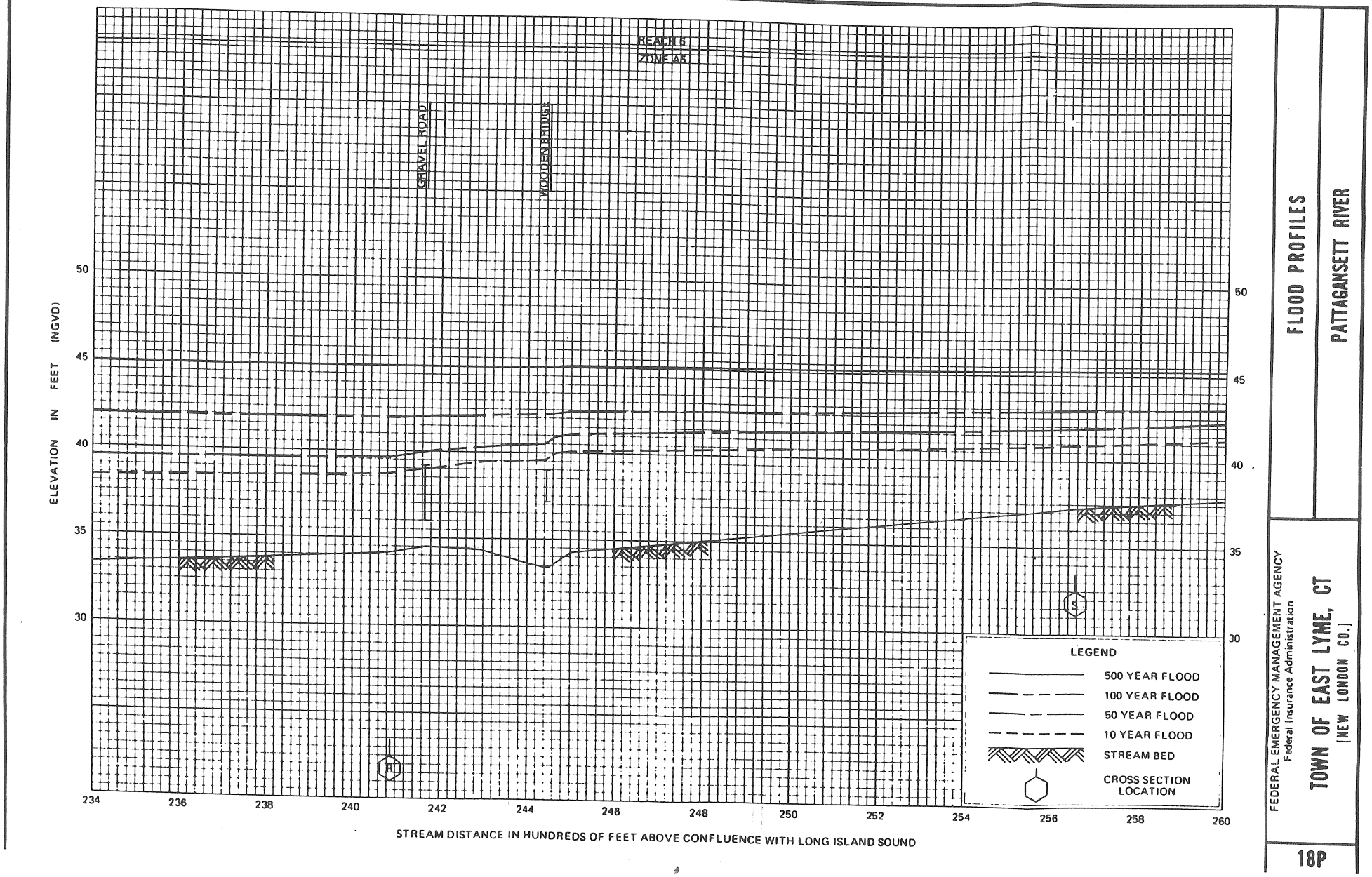


Figure 6

FEMA Flood Profiles

Wetland Resources

Included in this section are observations of the wetland resources, the impacts that the proposed activities may have on those resources and recommendations for future development of this parcel given these possible impacts.

Existing Conditions

Wetlands on this property border the Pattagansett River and are categorized as Palustrine/Forested/Deciduous/Seasonally saturated on the National Wetlands Inventory of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These wetlands also could be categorized as "riparian" wetlands in that they are directly associated with a watercourse. Its riparian nature and location within a documented 100-year floodplain (see FEMA Floodway Map, Town of East Lyme, panel 9 of 15) gives this wetland a relatively high value for its flood protection function. Vegetation within this wetland appeared to be a healthy mix of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants which should reflect a high level of wildlife diversity. Depending on the area of influence of a Town water supply well located approximately 0.5 miles downstream of this site, its function as current and certainly future groundwater supply may also be significant. This parcel is located within a "favorable groundwater area" as indicated in the Water Resources Inventory of Connecticut/Part 3/Lower Thames and Southeastern Coastal River Basins.

Proposed Activities

Two ponds are proposed to be built on the site as part of an on-going gravel extraction operation. According to the plan entitled "Proposed Topsoil and Gravel Extraction on the Land of ... Bower/Flanders Road, East Lyme, Connecticut, sheet 1 of 1, dated 4/01/96; the ponds encroach on the east side of the wetland corridor which runs north to south, directly impacting 0.5 acres of the wetland. However, verbal indications by Mr. Robert Foster, the applicant, during the ERT review meeting are that the proposed plan will be revised so that there is no direct impact (excavation or filling) to the wetland area.

Impact of Proposed Activities on Watercourses and Wetlands

Given that there will be no direct impact to wetlands, the focus should be on reducing the possibility of any indirect impacts such as erosion/sedimentation, de-watering, pollution (including thermal pollution) and negative effects on wildlife. An additional concern raised was the impact this activity may have on the downstream drinking water supply well.

A statement should be included on the plan that Connecticut's Guidelines for Soil and Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control will be used as a general reference on E&S matters. Given that these are "dug ponds" with no embankments, inlets or outlets, the possibility of severe erosion and sedimentation (E&S) is significantly reduced. It is recommended that excavation take place so that water will drain into the middle of the developing ponds at all times. The silt fence should be placed approximately 10 feet "up slope" of the wetland limit to allow room for installation and maintenance of these barriers. Mention of the process for de-watering of the excavated pond sediments should be included on the plan as well as methodology for de-watering the pond during construction (if planned).

The 100-year flood boundary and floodway boundary should be included on the plan, with reference as to their source and accuracy. It appears that the excavation will take place outside of the floodway, where higher velocities and volumes are conveyed during flood events, but well inside of the 100-year floodplain. Pond perimeters should be designed to withstand expected velocities during flooding events.

Given the thickness of saturated sediments at this location, the possibility that the construction of the pond may de-water wetlands, effecting its hydrology and vegetation for the long-term appears to be minimal. There may be a short term diversion of water from the wetland/watercourse into the pond as groundwater initially fills the pond, however, after the pond fills, a new equilibrium should soon be created. To avoid any negative impact in the short-term, construction could be planned for Spring or Fall when groundwater levels are at their highest.

The presence of open water (lakes and ponds) within a riparian area introduces the possibility of "thermal" pollution. Open water bodies allow for the increase of water temperatures as a result of incoming solar radiation. Many of the chemical and

biological processes occurring in wetlands and watercourses are influenced by changes in water temperature. The fact that these ponds are constructed "off-line" out of the watercourse should minimize any of these negative influences. To further minimize this influence, an intentional effort to leave the existing trees along the western edges of the pond to provide shading would be helpful. The planting of trees along the eastern edge would be a further benefit.

The other obvious source of pollution would be a release of fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, etc. from the excavating equipment. The plans call for a refuel pad and one was observed in the field, however it was not completed according to plan detail, with curbing. Additionally, it appears that the pitch of the pad would allow spilled fuel to flow past the uncurbed portion of the pad. The applicant also indicated that major equipment repair does not occur at this site. This condition should be placed on the plan as well as a short "spill contaminant response plan."

Long-term effects of the pond construction upon wetland wildlife should primarily be due to the conversion of the wetland buffer area (the upland area immediately adjacent to the wetlands) to a less biologically diverse open-water ecosystem. A forested wetland buffer provides an extension of the adjacent wetland, diversifying its vegetative make-up and habitat. A more productive ecosystem is the benefit of an intact upland buffer.

Two options could serve to offset this possible negative impact. First, a conservation easement or restriction on land-use offered by the landowner which would be applied to the undisturbed western wetland buffer area. This easement would include conditions which would preserve the upland forest ecosytem adjacent to the wetland. This would not only provide habitat benefits, but also serve as a control for non-point source pollution if and when the western portion of the property is developed. The second mitigative measure recommended could be the creation of a "littoral shelf" or shallow bench area on the western edge of the ponds. This shallow area, if properly constructed would allow for the growth of emergent vegetation (cattail, lilypads, arrowroot, pickeral weed, etc.), significantly diversifying the pond's habitat.

The effect of the pond construction on downstream public supply wells should be minimal, given that an effective spill containment response plan is available and other extraction best management practices are adhered to. Of more concern should be the final use of the property and its compatibility to an aquifer protection area (if this site

does fall within the "zone of influence" of the well). For example, open space or a serviced residential development would be a preferred land use to heavy industrial or automotive service.

Additional Recommendations

The need for emergency spillways, planned inlets and a hydraulic connection for the two ponds could be debated. Given that these ponds are groundwater supported and at roughly the same elevation as the surrounding wetlands, it could be argued that as the ponds filled to capacity, so would the surrounding floodplain and the energy of any water leaving the ponds during high flow conditions would quickly dissipate into the floodplain without any erosion occurring. However, how surface water will behave during flooding events is difficult to determine given the lack of a more detailed contour interval on the plan. If further use of the pond will include deposition of stormwater from developed upland areas, it is possible that the ponds would fill before the floodplain does and therefore may be in need of a planned outlet to the wetland area. Accurate mapping of the 100-year floodplain, floodway and more precise contours in the vicinity of the ponds may be helpful in this regard.

Finally it is recommended that the following items be added to the plan:

- an erosion and sedimentation control narrative including the basic principles to be followed and discussion of any potentially serious erosion and sedimentation problems,

- a locus map of the project at the scale of 1" = 2000', including project limits, north arrow, street names, major drainage ways and watershed limits (if any),

- a signature of the soil scientist certifying the accuracy of the wetland boundary,

- references for the horizontal and vertical control, property lines, floodplain boundaries, inland wetland boundaries, etc.,

- location, size and variety of notable trees,

- maintenance requirements of temporary measures during the construction period

including the name and phone number of the person responsible for this maintenance.

Fish Resources

Site Description

The proposed gravel excavation is situated adjacent to the Pattagansett River, an eastern coastal drainage that empties into Long Island Sound. The river in this area is low gradient being bordered by riparian wetlands. Instream habitat is best characterized as slow moving pool and run habitat. Instream substrate is comprised of fine sands with a heterogeneous mixture of gravels. This section will address all potential impacts to aquatic resources expected from the development and delineate mitigation measures required to minimize impacts.

Fish Population

The Pattagansett River was last sampled in this area during June 1993. The fish community can best be described as warmwater. The following fish species were documented: largemouth bass, chain pickerel, pumpkinseed sunfish, yellow perch, brown bullhead, and American eel. Also, the river supports a run of anadromous river herrings which include alewife and blueback herring. A fish ladder at Gorton Pond provides herrings unrestricted passage to Gorton Pond and stretches of river above the pond.

Surface waters of the Pattagansett River are classified by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as "Class B/A." The goal for this classification is "Class A." Designated uses for this classification are: potential drinking water supply, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational use, agricultural and industrial supply, and other legitimate uses.

Impacts

The following impacts to aquatic resources can be expected if proper mitigation measures are not implemented:

• **Site soil erosion and sedimentation of the Pattagansett River from mining areas.** Without careful long-term planning, sand/gravel mining activities may introduce

sediments to local waters creating extreme turbid conditions. If not properly contained, turbid waters will cause stream degradation in downstream areas. Excessive sediment deposition could damage the aquatic ecosystem in the following ways:

(1) Sediment reduces the survival of resident fish eggs and hinders the emergence of newly hatched fry. Adequate water flow, free of excess sediment particles is required for fish egg respiration and successful hatching.

(2) Sediment reduces the survival of aquatic macro-invertebrates. Since aquatic insects are important food items in fish diets, reduced insect population levels in turn will adversely affect fish growth and survival. Fish require an excessive output of energy to locate preferred prey when aquatic insect levels decrease.

(3) Sediment reduces the amount of usable habitat required for spawning purposes. Excessive fines can clog and even cement gravels and other desirable substrate together. Resident fish may be forced to disperse to other areas not impacted by siltation.

(4) Sediment reduces stream pool depth. Pools are invaluable stream components since they provide necessary cover, shelter, and resting areas for resident fish. A reduction of usable fish habitat can effectively limit fish population levels.

(5) Turbid waters impair gill functions of fish and normal feeding activities of fish. High concentrations of sediment can cause mortality in adult fish by clogging the opercular cavity and gill filaments.

(6) Sediment encourages the growth of filamentous algae and nuisance proportions of aquatic macrophytes. Eroded soils contain plant nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen. Once introduced into aquatic habitats, these nutrients function as fertilizers resulting in accelerated plant growth.

(7) Sediment contributes to the depletion of dissolved oxygen. Organic matter associated with soil particles is readily decomposed by microorganisms thereby effectively reducing oxygen levels.

Recommended Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures should be considered by the Town of East Lyme to mitigate impacts to aquatic resources.

• **It is highly recommended that at a minimum, a 100 foot open space buffer zone be maintained along the Pattagansett River.** This buffer can be an effective mitigation measure at this development location. No construction and alteration of existing

habitat should be allowed in this zone. Research has shown that 100 foot buffer zones help to prevent damage to wetlands and stream ecosystems that support diverse fish and aquatic insect life. Impacts such as soil erosion can be more effectively minimized if these areas are left in their natural condition. These buffers will absorb surface runoff and other pollutants before they can enter aquatic ecosystems.

• **Develop an aggressive and effective erosion and sediment (E&S) control plan.** Install and maintain proper erosion and sedimentation controls, this includes such mitigative measures as filter fabric barrier fences, staked hay bales, and sediment catch basins. All stockpile material should be enclosed with appropriate E&S controls. Land disturbance and clearing should be kept to a minimum and all disturbed areas should be stabilized as soon as possible. Exposed, unvegetated areas should be protected from storm events. The applicant and the East Lyme wetland enforcement officer should be responsible for checking this development on a periodic basis to ensure that all soil erosion and sediment controls are being maintained. In addition, the applicant should post a performance bond with the town to protect against future soil erosion violations.

• **It is recommended that the developer devise and submit a site closure plan to the local planning commissions.** This will ensure proper stabilization and development of the area after sand and gravel activities have been completed. The Team's fisheries biologist can provide future technical guidance relative to stocking the ponds with finfish and utilizing the area for recreational purposes.

The Natural Diversity Data Base

The Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files have been reviewed for the property. According to the information, there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species that occur at the site in question.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

ABOUT THE TEAM

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of professionals in environmental fields drawn together from a varety of federal, state and regional agencies. Specialists on the Team include geologists, biologists, foresters, soil 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 region.

The services of the Team are 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, landfills, commercial and industrial developments, sand and gravel excavations, 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 official 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 and the ERT Coordinator. A request form should be completely filled out and should include the required materials. 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 and request forms regarding the Environmental Review Team please contact the ERT Coordinator: 860-345-3977, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, P.O. Box 70, Haddam, Connecticut 06438.