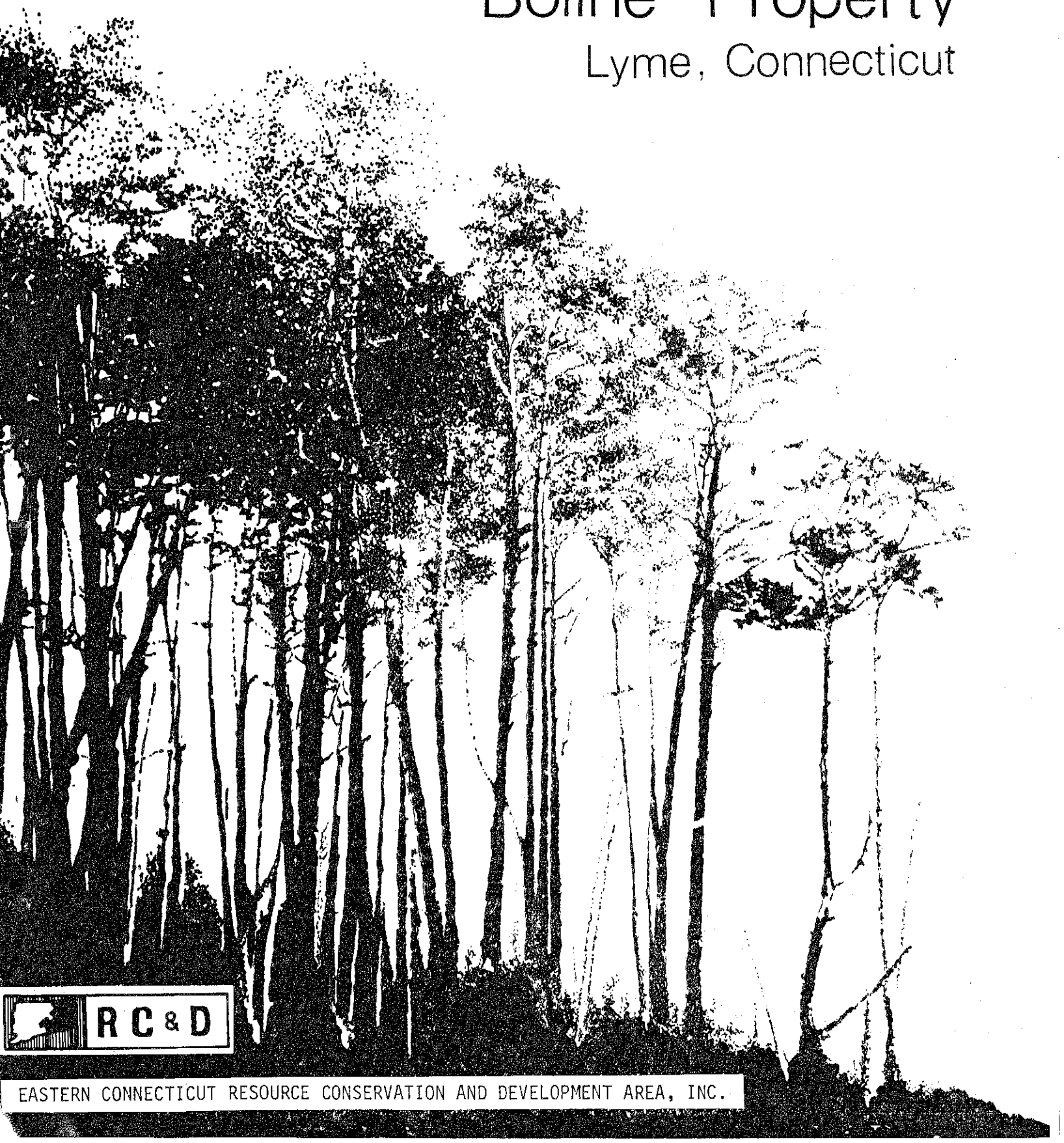
Environmental Review Team Report

Boline Property

Lyme, Connecticut



RC&D

EASTERN CONNECTICUT RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

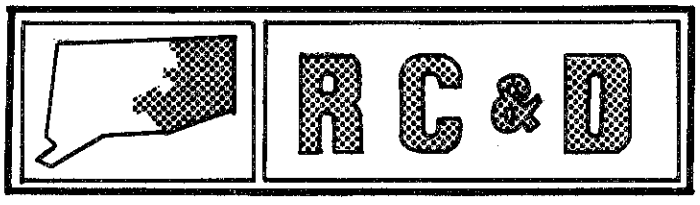
Environmental Review Team Report

on

Boline Property

Lyme, Connecticut

January 1980

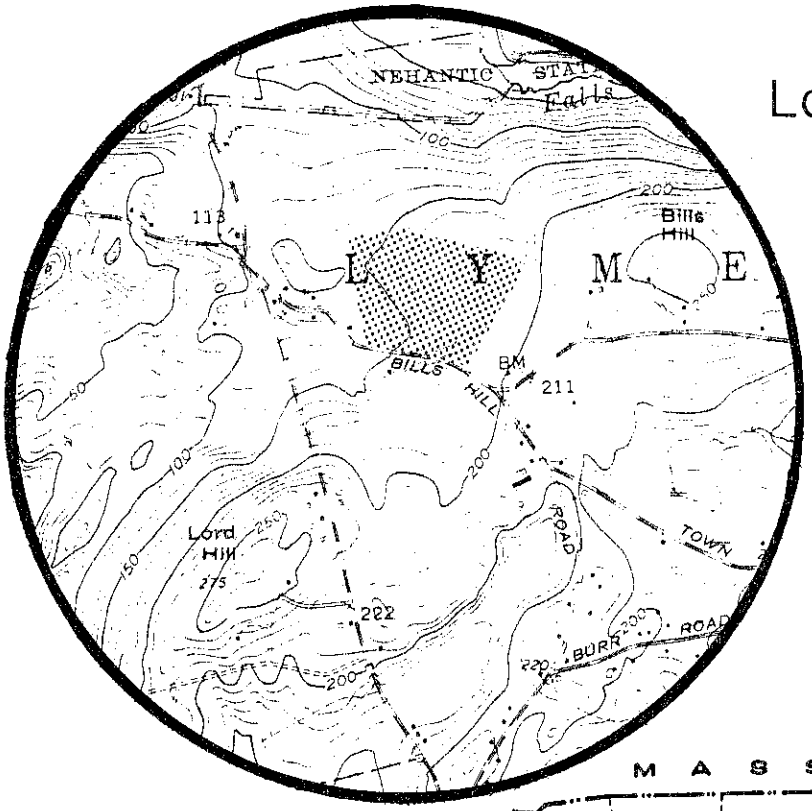


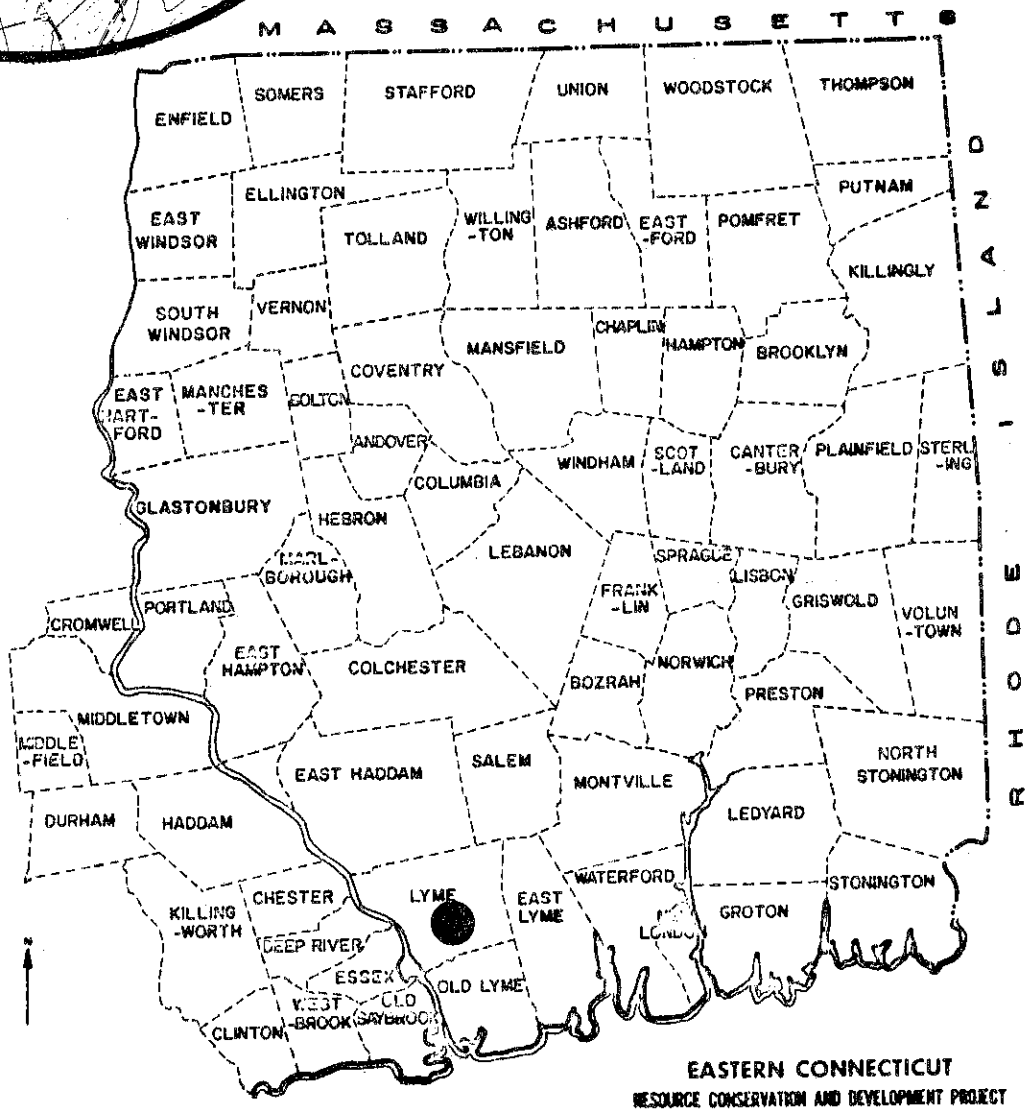
eastern connecticut resource conservation & development area

environmental review team
139 boswell avenue
norwich, connecticut 06360

Location of Study Site

BOLINE PROPERTY
LYME, CONNECTICUT





ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT
ON
BOLINE PROPERTY
LYME, CONNECTICUT

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the Lyme Conservation Commission to the New London 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 as a project measure. The request was approved and the measure reviewed by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The soils of the site were mapped by a soil scientist of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Reproductions of the soil survey map as well as a topographic map of the site were distributed to all ERT participants prior to their field review of the site.

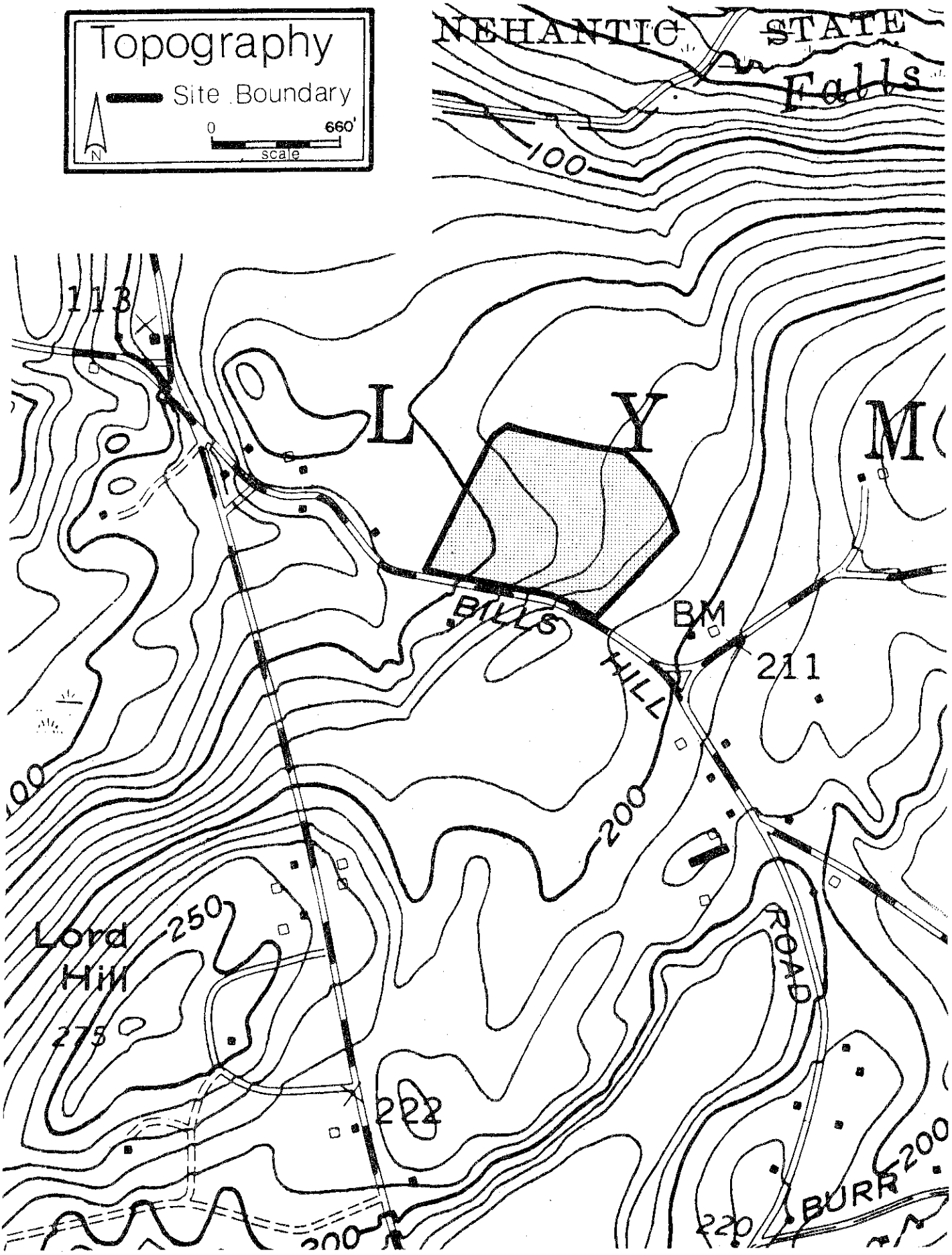
The ERT that field checked the site consisted of the following personnel: Gary Domian, District Conservationist, SCS: Michael Zizka, Geologist, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Rob Rocks, Forester, DEP; Don Capellaro, Sanitarian, State Department of Health; Ed Meehan, Regional Planner, Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency; Jeanne Shelburn, ERT Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area.

The Team met and field checked the site on Thursday, November 29, 1979. Reports from each Team member were sent to the ERT Coordinator for review and summarization for the final report.

This report is not meant to compete with private consultants by supplying site designs or detailed solutions to development problems. 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 of Lyme. The results of this Team action are oriented toward the development of a better environmental quality and the long-term economics of the land use.

The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Project Committee hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in making your decisions on this particular site.

If you require any additional information, please contact: Ms. Jeanne Shelburn, Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, 139 Boswell Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360, 889-2324.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INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team was asked to review a 17± acre parcel proposed for subdivision in the town of Lyme. The parcel is currently owned by Loren and Charlotte Boline, who have their present residence on one of the proposed lots. The property is located on the northern side of Bill Hill Road, between Blood Street and Route 156.

Preliminary subdivision plans have been prepared by Angus McDonald and Associates. These plans show the area divided into five lots of two or more acres each. Three lots have frontage on Bill Hill Road. Access for two rear lots would be provided by a "private lane". All lots would be served by on-site wells and on-site septic systems. It should also be noted that this site falls into Lyme's proposed Sewer Avoidance Zone, which if adopted, would encourage future exclusive use of on-site septic systems for waste disposal.

The site consists of open and wooded terrain which slopes to the center of the property and in an east to west direction. Approximately 8 acres of the total parcel are found to be regulated wetland soils under Public Act 155. This area also has an associated seasonal watercourse. Other soils on the site are found to have a seasonal high water table. Slow percolation rate, wetness and susceptibility to frost action are their primary limitations to development.

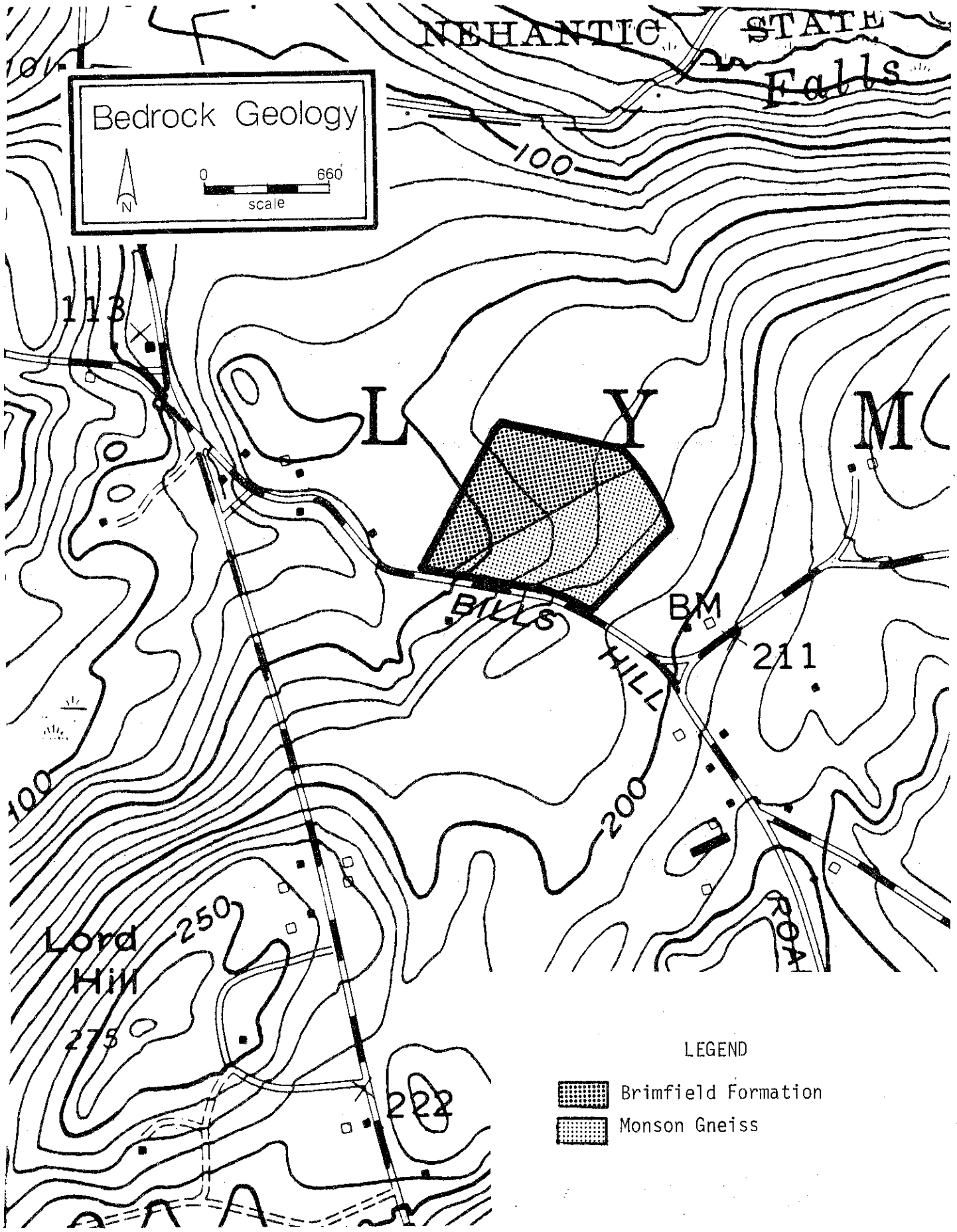
The Team is concerned with the effect of this proposed subdivision and subsequent development on the natural resource base of this site. As previously mentioned many of the development limitations of this site are caused by the natural soil characteristics. These soils were formed from compact glacial till, in which ground water movement is very slow. This compact soil layer also causes the water table to be close to the surface during much of the year. (See Geology and Soils sections of this report.) Although development limitations are rated "severe" in these soils, many areas such as these can be developed successfully using proper engineering techniques. These measures, however, are quite costly in some instances, thus making a project economically unfeasible for a developer.

The most serious concerns in this development proposal, relate to remedial engineering design for the established "private lane" and culvert into the wetland, need for curtain drains around house foundations, and proper installation and functioning of septic systems. The Team sanitarian discusses these needs in the waste disposal section of this report. In addition to these recommendations, the Team also suggests reduction of the number of lots proposed for this site. Elimination of proposed lot 1, due to severe development limitations would seem prudent.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

GEOLOGY

The Boline property is located within the Old Lyme topographic quadrangle. The Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey has published a bedrock geologic map (Quadrangle Report No. 21, by L. Lundgren, Jr., 1967) and a surficial


Bedrock Geology
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ROA
LEGEND
Brimfield Formation
Monson Gneiss

geologic map (Quadrangle Report No. 31, by R.F. Flint, 1975) of that quadrangle. The bedrock map indicates that the site is underlain by two types of rock: the Brimfield Formation and the Monson Gneiss (see accompanying illustration). The Brimfield Formation consists largely of rusty-weathering, coarse-grained, biotite-rich schist and gneiss. "Schist" and "gneiss" are terms referring to the prominent alignment of minerals into thin layers within the rocks. The layers are more distinct, leaf-like, and easily separated in schist than in gneiss. Major minerals in the rock, other than biotite, are quartz, feldspar, sillimanite, and garnet. Minor minerals include graphite and pyrite. The Monson Gneiss consists of light to dark gray, medium-grained, plagioclase-quartz gneiss with subordinate thin layers of hornblende-rich rock and granitic rock. The gneiss also contains abundant biotite and hornblende. No outcrops of bedrock were observed on the site.

The surficial geologic material on the site is till. Till is a glacial sediment consisting of rock fragments of widely varying shapes and sizes. These fragments were incorporated into an ice sheet as it spread over southern New England, and were redeposited from the ice directly, without substantial sorting by meltwater. Sandsized and finer particles form the bulk of the till on the site, although pebbles, cobbles, and boulders are common. Textures range from friable (generally in the upper 2 to 3 feet) to compact. Test hole data supplied by Angus McDonald & Associates indicates that the till is at least 8 feet thick throughout the site.

HYDROLOGY

The Boline property is characterized by flat to gently sloping terrain. Because the surficial geologic material on the site is principally a compact glacial till, groundwater movement through the property is probably very slow. The water table may therefore lie relatively close to the land surface during much of the year. The central section of the property, a regulated wetland, is essentially a broad, shallow swale that widens toward the western boundary of the site. During those parts of the year when the water table rises, groundwater seeps into this swale, producing swampy conditions. During periods of little or no precipitation, the water table may drop entirely below the surface of the swale, essentially drying it out. The presence of seasonally high water table conditions in much of the land adjacent to the property is suggested by the existence of extensive wetlands to the south and to the east of the site.

Construction of houses on the Boline site may influence the wetland or be influenced by the seasonally high water table. Lot development increases runoff by covering parts of the soil with impermeable surfaces, such as roofs and driveways, and by removing tall vegetation, which otherwise would lessen the impact of rain upon soil particles, break up compact soil zones by the extension of root systems, and absorb some of the precipitation. Because the lot sizes currently planned are large and the total number of houses to be built is small, the wetland should be able to handle increased runoff volume with few ill effects. The relatively flat terrain should help to minimize erosion problems and siltation in the wetland, although a detailed sediment and erosion control plan should be prepared and carefully followed at least through the construction phases. The most serious problem foreseen is the effect of the high water table. This condition may cause difficulties in adequately locating and designing septic systems and in establishing water-supply wells on each lot. Rising water tables may flood leaching trenches, cause backups in sewage disposal lines, or lead to surfacing of effluent. Although water levels

recorded in test pit results submitted by the developer's engineer ranged from 4 feet to 8 feet, these data reflect conditions in early July, 1979, and therefore may not be representative of high water table periods, which usually occur during the early spring.

VEGETATION

The 17± acre tract proposed for subdivision consists of 8 acres of hardwood swamp, 5 acres of mixed hardwood forest, and 4 acres of field or cleared land. (See Vegetation Map). Potential hazards include windthrow in the hardwood swamp and cat briar in the mixed hardwood stand. The trees in both the hardwood swamp and the mixed hardwood stand are crowded and declining in health and vigor. Fuelwood thinnings in these areas will reduce the crowded condition and improve tree health and vigor over time.

Vegetation Type Descriptions

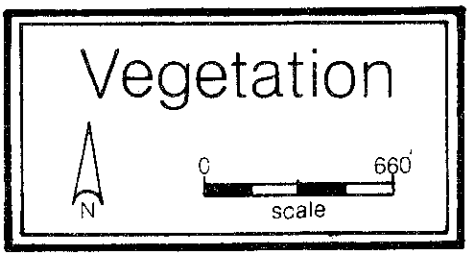
Type A (Hardwood Swamp). This 8-acre over-stocked stand is dominated by poor quality pole to sawlog-size red maple with scattered white ash, sycamore, black-gum and yellow birch. Total volume ranges between 11 and 14 cords per acre. There is a wide transition zone where this stand blends into higher quality mixed hard-woods. Including black oak and shagbark hickory. Spice bush, cat-brier, blue beech and highbush blueberry form a dense understory throughout this area. Ground cover consists of sedges, sphagnum moss, skunk cabbage, cinnamon fern and Christmas fern.

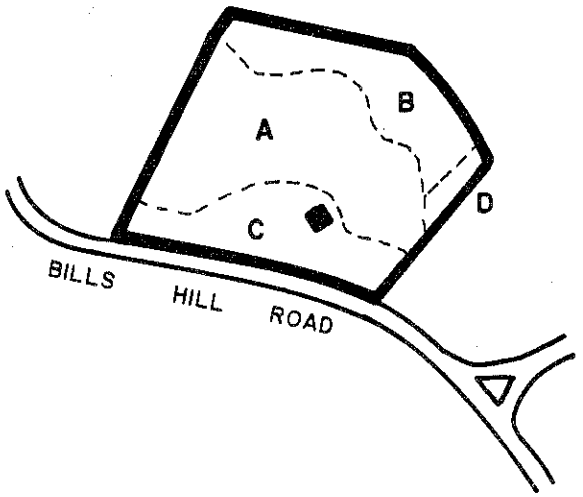
Type B (Mixed hardwoods). Pole and occasional sawlog-size red maple, tuliptree, white oak, black oak, shagbark hickory and scattered bigtooth aspen are present in this 4-acre overstocked stand. Total volume in this stand ranges between 12 and 16 cords per acre. Understory vegetation is dominated by cat-brier and blue-beech with occasional highbush blueberry. Club moss, royal fern and cinnamon fern form the ground cover in this stand.

Type C (Open field). This 4-acre area is dominated by grasses. The western-most acre of this area was recently cleared of sapling and pole-size red maple. Red maple sprouts will dominate this area unless mechanically or chemically controlled.

Type D (Mixed hardwoods). This one-acre stand is identical to vegetation Type B, however, it has received a fuelwood thinning and is no longer over-stocked. Trees that have been left in the residual stand, should respond to the thinning by im-proved growth. At the time of review the majority of the cat brier had been mechanically removed.

No unusual or exceptionally valuable vegetation types or conditions were ob-served on this tract. As with other subdivisions in forested areas, the high qual-ity trees, (trees without damage or excessive defects), have high value for aesthet-ics and should be preserved to the greatest extent possible. Trees are very sensi-tive to the condition of the soil within their drip lines. The drip line zone cor-responds to the entire area under a tree's crown. Disturbances which disrupt the balance between soil aeration and soil moisture in this zone may cause a decline in tree health and vigor, potentially resulting in tree mortality within three to five years. Mechanical injury to trees may cause the same results. Soil distur-bances and mechanical injuries caused by construction practices near trees to be





LEGEND

Road

Property Boundary

Vegetation Type Boundary

Residence

VEGETATION TYPES*

Type A Hardwood swamp, over-stocked pole to sawlog-size, 8 acres

Type B Mixed hardwoods, over-stocked pole to sawlog-size, 4-acres

Type C Open field, 4-acres

Type D Mixed hardwoods, fully stocked pole to sawlog-size, 1 acre.

* seedling-size trees = 1 inch and smaller in diameter at breast height (d.b.h.)
sapling-size trees = 1 to 5 inches in d.b.h.
pole-size trees = 5 to 11 inches in d.b.h.
sawlog-size trees = 11 inches and greater in d.b.h.

preserved, should be minimized to maintain tree health and vigor. Recent research has shown that trees on a house lot may enhance the value of that lot as much as twenty percent.

Windthrow is a potential hazard in the hardwood swamp (vegetation type A). As a result of the high water table and saturated soils, the trees present are shallow rooted and unable to become securely anchored. The crowded condition of the trees in this stand increase the potential for windthrow if disturbances occur. At present these trees rely on each other for stability. If linear openings are made in, or along side, this stand, the windthrow hazard may be increased. Any openings which would allow wind to pass through rather than over this stand will increase the windthrow hazard and should be avoided. A light fuelwood thinning in this stand will help to increase tree stability over time, by stimulating crown and root growth in residual trees.

It should be noted that changes in the water table depth in the hardwood swamp area, caused by blocking or restricting natural drainage flows may cause trees and shrubs in this area to die. Alterations which may raise the water table in this area, drowning vegetation, should be avoided.

The dense growth of cat-brier located in vegetation type B is a potential hazard to future lot owners. The thorny nature of this vegetation restricts the use and therefore the enjoyment received from the property. Cat-brier also has the capacity to lower the quality of the supporting vegetation through intense competition. Control of the unwanted cat-brier is difficult. Mechanical control in conjunction with the cautious application of herbicides has proven to be the most effective method of eradication.

Suggested Management Practices

The trees in the hardwood swamp (type A) and mixed hardwood stand (type B) are over crowded. As a result they are declining in health, vigor and stability. A fuelwood thinning in these stands will reduce competition between residual trees for sunlight, space, and nutrients. These thinnings will stimulate growth and increase tree stability over time.

The thinning in the hardwood swamp should remove no more than one-fourth of the total volume. This will be approximately 3 cords per acre. This thinning should focus on removing very poor quality trees and damaged trees. It should also favor species other than red maple. Harvesting operations should be restricted to months when the ground is frozen or months when the ground is dry to avoid severe environmental damage.

The thinning suggested for the mixed hardwood stand (type B) should follow the "Crop tree selection method". For the purposes of this thinning, 100 of the highest quality trees in each acre should be identified (trees spaced about 20' x 20' will equal 100 trees per acre), and one, two, or three trees that are in direct competition with each of those identified should be removed. The 100 trees per acre that are selected as crop trees dhould be healthy, large crowned, and show little or no signs of damage. Trees which are not competing with the 100 selected trees should not be removed, unless they are severely damaged. This thinning, if implemented, will provide between 4 and 6 cords of fuelwood per acre.

A publicly employed service forester or consultant forester should be contacted to assist the owner in marking trees to be removed and selecting crop trees, if either of the thinnings are wanted.

SOILS

The soils on the Boline property occupy a west facing slope, and have a firm subsoil formed from compact glacial till, referred to as a fragipan. A drainage area is located near the middle of the property and water entering this area flows west.

The low lying, nearly level areas along drainageways on the property are occupied by Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams. These soils are designated by the mapping unit symbol 43M. The Ridgebury and Whitman soils formed in compact glacial till; the Leicester soils formed in friable glacial till. The Ridgebury and Leicester soils are poorly drained and the Whitman soil is very poorly drained. The Ridgebury and Whitman soils have moderate to moderately rapid permeability in the surface layer and subsoil, and slow or very slow permeability in the surface layer and subsoil, and slow or very slow permeability in the substratum (fragipan). The Leicester soils have moderately rapid permeability throughout. The seasonal highwater table for Ridgebury and Leicester soils is at or near the surface 7 to 9 months of the year. The Whitman soil has a highwater table at or near the surface 9 to 10 months of the year. Whitman soils have high runoff potential. Runoff is slow to medium in Ridgebury soils and slow in Leicester soils. This soil is designated as a wetland soil and is regulated under Public Act 155.

The nearly level to gently sloping landforms found at elevations higher on the property are occupied by Woodbridge fine sandy loam and Woodbridge very stony fine sandy loam. The soils are designated by the mapping unit symbols 31A, 31B and 31xB. The symbol "x" denotes very stony. The Woodbridge soils formed in compact glacial till. The soils are moderately well drained. Woodbridge soils have moderate permeability in the surface layer and subsoil, slow to very slow permeability in the substratum (fragipan). The soils have a seasonal highwater table at 18 to 24 inches. Woodbridge soils range from slow to rapid surface runoff.

The soils limitations on the property are rated severe for most urban uses, primarily due to seasonal highwater tables, slow percolation rates, and wetness. The area mapped as wetlands is a regulated area and use is subject to local commission approval.

On site sewage systems will have to be designed to accommodate the characteristics of Woodbridge soil i.e. fragipan and perched seasonal highwater tables. Buildings with basements should have foundation drains installed around the perimeter of the basement. The installation of streets and home parking lots will not be a serious problem, as long as proper drainage, land grading and proper roadbed materials are used. Frost heaving will be the major problem with these facilities.

A sediment and erosion control plan has been submitted to the New London County Soil and Water Conservation District by Angus L. McDonald and Associates, Inc. Erosion and sediment caused by construction on this site will be minimal, primarily because of the gentle slopes. The sediment and erosion control plan submitted adequately accounts for preventing sediment from entering into the regulated wetlands area.

On the east end of the regulated wetlands area, a culvert and road crossing is planned. The culvert size should be computed so that an adequately sized culvert can be installed to handle runoff from the watershed. The entrance to the culvert on the east side of the access road should have a headwall constructed around the culvert and facing the drainage ditch so that the water is deflected into the culvert. The outlet end should also have a stone headwall and a shallow stone lined pool for the culvert water to enter before going into the wetlands. The headwalls and splash pool will reduce the amount of sediment entering into the wetlands.

When the road is constructed across this small piece of wetland, the embankments should be covered with, topsoil, seeded and mulched. This will also help eliminate sediment from entering the regulated area.

WATER SUPPLY

Water would be supplied to homes in the proposed subdivision by individual on-site wells. Although water-supply wells are occasionally based in glacial till, the very slow percolation rates and seasonal variations in groundwater levels generally cause till to be an unsatisfactory and unreliable source. Bedrock is more likely to prove to be an adequate water-supply aquifer. Wells drilled into bedrock usually produce small but reliable yields. Nevertheless, it is virtually impossible to predict the yield of such a well at a given location because these yields depend upon the number and size of water-bearing fractures that are intersected and because the spacing and density of fractures in bedrock is irregular. Studies of other bedrock wells in Connecticut suggest that there is at least an 80-percent chance of achieving a yield of 3 gallons per minute or more (enough to meet most needs of an average family) upon drilling through no more than 200 feet of bedrock.

Wells in the southeastern half of the site are likely to yield groundwater of good quality. The Brimfield Formation, which underlies the northwestern half of the site, commonly yields water with undesirably high concentrations of iron and/or manganese. If such concentrations are present, however, they may often be reduced or eliminated by means of special filters. The seasonal rise of the groundwater table is another source of concern for the establishment of water-supply wells; these concerns are discussed more fully in the Hydrology section of this report.

Each well should be located in a relatively high portion of a site as ground water movement generally follows the natural contours or slope of the land surface. Of course, natural flows are sometimes affected or changed by underlying bedrock or modified by the quantity of water removed (pumped) from the aquifer surrounding the well(s) or at times by deep drains. Wells also need to have proper separating distances from pollution sources such as: Sewage disposal systems; underground fuel oil storage tanks; barnyards (manure piles); road drainage which at times can be elevated in salt and likewise from back wash water generated from household water softeners.

Natural water quality can generally be expected to be satisfactory. However, in areas where excessive iron and/or manganese are found in ground water, concern over their presence is related to problems of coloration of the water, staining of laundry and fixtures and to possible taste problems. Appropriate treatment for the

removal and control of these minerals is one of necessity.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Lyme, like most of our rural towns in the state, does not have or expect to have public sewerage facilities within the foreseeable future, sewage disposal will need to be by means of on-site subsurface septic systems.

This site is within Lyme's Sewer Avoidance Zone, which means the installation of on-site septic systems will be relied upon. The Lyme's Sewer Avoidance Plan (Preliminary Report--not adopted) encourages proper operation and maintenance of on-site systems. Pumping of septage and inspection of tanks at two to four year intervals to remove sludge that can impair tank and system longevity is recommended.

Visual observations, soil mapping data, and the engineer's deep test pit information, indicate that a substantial portion of the property is wetland and the soil towards the outer, higher perimeter has a seasonal, perched water table due to the compact nature of the underlying soil (substratum). It can be expected that this relatively impervious soil strata would yield a slow or minimum percolation rate and any design consideration should take this into account. In general the area, due to these limitations, is not particularly suitable for sewage disposal purposes. It is, however, recognized that several possible lots have more favorable aspects than the others. It would seem desirable to combine the two proposed rear lots into one larger and more favorable site.

It was also noted that along the upper east side of the property, where a driveway from Bill Hill Road to the rear portion of the land had been constructed, surface drainage from the adjoining upper terrain tends to collect behind the driveway. Apparently there is a pipe underneath the driveway to allow for cross-drainage, however, it is not low enough or has some blockage which restricts flow. It would be important to have adequate drainage from Bill Hill Road to this cross-drain as the ground surface of the adjoining lower land (proposed lot 3) was spongy and wet at the time of review. A ground water intercepting drain along the high side of the lot may help to alleviate ground water movement on the underlying compact (fragipan) soil.

Overall conditions will warrant the preparation of detailed engineered plans for individual sewage disposal systems. Major areas to be addressed are the basis of design (soil conditions and percolation rates) ground water elevations, both original and finished surface contours and elevations, watercourse including drains and wetlands, and well locations. As there would be a need for maintaining adequate elevations, each site, near the area of the sewage disposal system, should have a clearly designated bench mark from which construction and installation elevations are set.

PLANNING CONCERNS

The proposed subdivision of the 17.5± acre Boline property into four new additional building lots is typical of the development activity that has been occurring in the Estuary Region. The site has frontage on Bill Hill Road, a Town Road in Lyme. The land is characteristic of Lyme, i.e. severe limitation for higher density development. The proposed site plan/lot layout meets the design criteria of Lyme's Zoning

and Subdivision Regulations; however, due to the extensive inland wetland acreage of this parcel it would seem prudent to reduce density and at least eliminate proposed lot #1 because of its severe development limitations.

Lyme is a low density rural/residential community. Public services are limited. The incremental demands created by the development of four new homes in this subdivision could be accommodated by Lyme's existing public services and facilities.

ROADS/UTILITIES

The proposed subdivision would be served by Bill Hill Road. This is an existing Town Road which has sufficient capacity, at present, to provide access to the additional four new building lots.

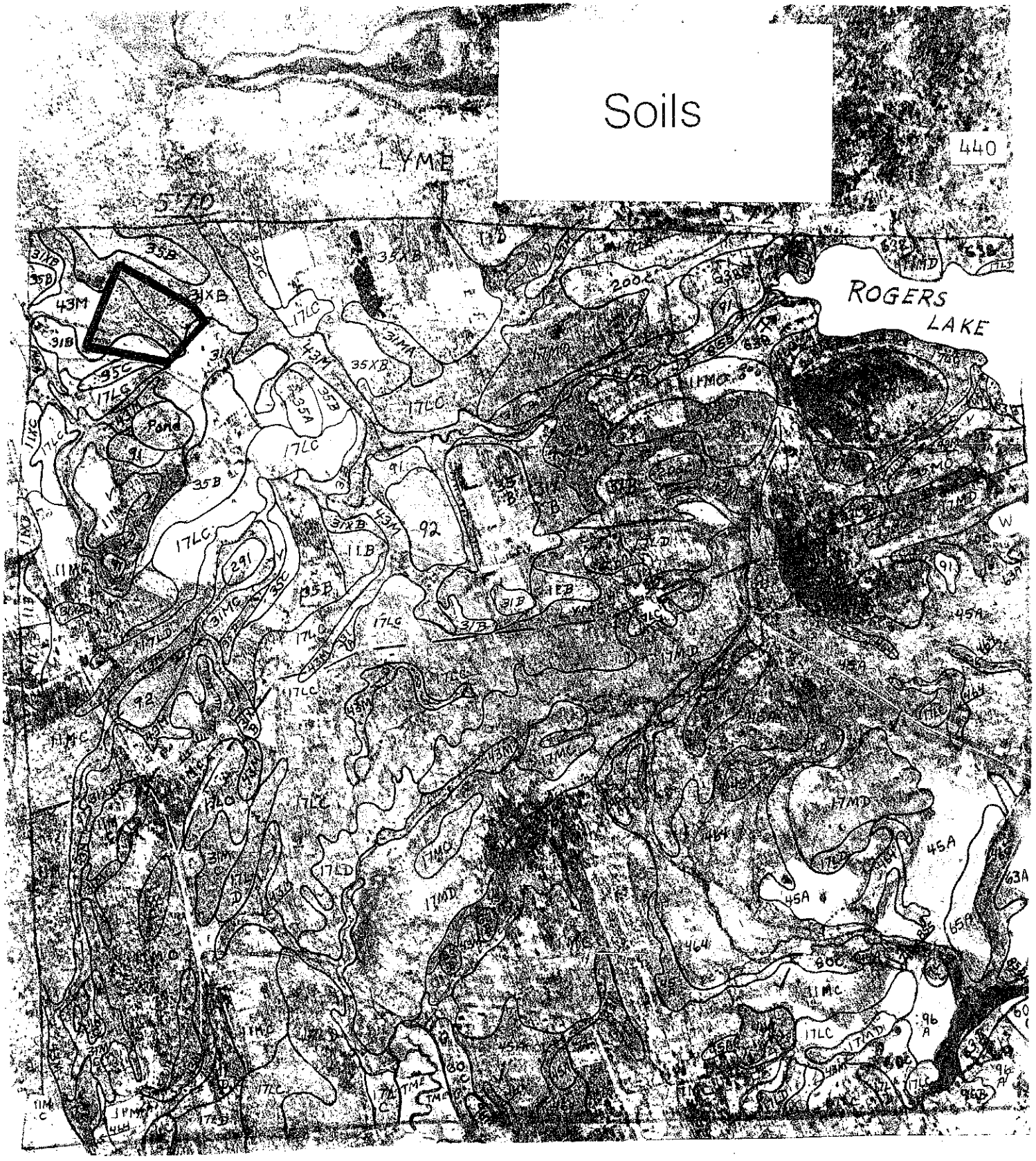
The proposed subdivision shows lots #1 and #2 served by private 50' R.O.W.s. Proposed lots #3 and #5 would have direct frontage on Bill Hill Road. Section 3.5 of the Lyme Zoning Regulations permits the design of lots with frontage of at least 50' on a public street. The Team inspected an existing dirt drive into lot #2. This drive crosses through a wetland area. Team members observed that improvements to the drainage ditch and culvert should be made to permit better flow of water.

NATURAL HAZARDS

The most significant natural hazard of this site is its inland wetlands. All of the four new lots, and the rear portion of existing lot/building #4, have extensive wetland areas. These wetlands will pose problems for waste disposal, drainage, foundations and even the future enjoyment of potential home buyers because of dampness and unuseable yard area.

Appendix

Soils



NEW LONDON COUNTY, CONNECTICUT
Advance Soil Survey, Subject to change
Scale 1"=1320'
USDA-SCS, Lanham, MD 3/79

BOLINE SUBDIVISION
LYME, CONNECTICUT

PROPORTIONAL EXTENT OF SOILS AND THEIR LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN LAND USES

Soil Series	Soil Symbol	Approx. Acres	Percent of Acres	Principal Limiting Factor	Urban Use Limitations*			
					On-Site Sewage	Buildings with Basements	Streets & Parking	Land-Scaping
**Ridgebury, Leicester Whitman	43M	8	40	Percs slowly, wetness, frost action, large stones	3	3	3	3
Woodbridge	31A	2	10	Percs slowly, wetness, frost action	3	3	3	1
Woodbridge	31B	4	20	Percs slowly, wetness, frost action	3	3	3	1
Woodbridge	31XB	6	30	Percs slowly, wetness, frost action	3	3	3	2

Limitations: 1=slight, 2=moderate, 3=severe

** Regulated wetland soil under PA 155.

SOIL INTERPRETATIONS FOR URBAN USES

The ratings of the soils for elements of community and recreational development uses consist of three degrees of "limitations:" slight or no limitations; moderate limitations; and severe limitations. In the interpretive scheme various physical properties are weighed before judging their relative severity of limitations.

The user is cautioned that the suitability ratings, degree of limitations and other interpretations are based on the typical soil in each mapping unit. At any given point the actual conditions may differ from the information presented here because of the inclusion of other soils which were impractical to map separately at the scale of mapping used. On-site investigations are suggested where the proposed soil use involves heavy loads, deep excavations, or high cost. Limitations, even though severe, do not always preclude the use of land for development. If economics permit greater expenditures for land development and the intended land use is consistent with the objectives of local or regional development, many soils and sites with difficult problems can be used.

Slight Limitations

Areas rated as slight have relatively few limitations in terms of soil suitability for a particular use. The degree of suitability is such that a minimum of time or cost would be needed to overcome relatively minor soil limitations.

Moderate Limitations

In areas rated moderate, it is relatively more difficult and more costly to correct the natural limitations of the soil for certain uses than for soils rated as having slight limitations.

Severe Limitations

Areas designated as having severe limitations would require more extensive and more costly measures than soils rated with moderate limitations in order to overcome natural soil limitations. The soil may have more than one limiting characteristic causing it to be rated severe.

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.

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, and a statement identifying the specific areas of concern the Team should address. 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 Jeanne Shelburn (889-2324), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, 139 Boswell Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360.