

**Archaeological Summary, Island Grown Farm Master Plan Phase 1 project**  
**Updated January 7, 2022**

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**The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.**

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) is assisting South Mountain Company and its client The Island Grown Initiative Ltd. With cultural resource management services at the proposed Island Grown Farm Master Plan Phase 1 project area on Stoney Hill Road in Tisbury, Massachusetts. PAL conducted a desktop cultural resources Due Diligence for the general project area in 2020, prior to the development of specific site improvement plans (PAL 2020). The results of the desktop study indicated that a previously identified ancient archaeological site is located in or near the project area. PAL recommended that portions of the general project area were archaeologically sensitive and that once project plans were developed, additional study may be warranted in archaeologically sensitive areas.

In November 2021, PAL prepared a Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Project Notification Form (PNF) and State Archaeologist's permit application to conduct an intensive (locational) archaeological survey of archaeologically sensitive areas proposed for ground disturbance within the approximately 6-acre building envelope. The PNF and permit application were submitted to the MHC together with a technical proposal detailing the project background, fieldwork and laboratory methodologies; existing conditions and proposed construction plans; and a schedule for the completion of project tasks. The MHC approved the methodology and issued State Archaeologist's Permit No. 4147 for the intensive survey.

PAL staff conducted the intensive survey fieldwork in December 2021 utilizing the methodology outlined in the technical proposal. The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/Aquinnah Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Bettina Washington was provided a copy of the proposal, and THPO Cultural Resource Monitor Randy Jardin was present on-site for the fieldwork portion of the survey.

The survey resulted in the collection of both pre-contact (ancient Native American) and post-contact (eighteenth through twentieth century) cultural materials. The majority of these materials was collected in previously disturbed and/or plowed soils, and because they are not in their original soil context lack the potential to provide additional information about Native American land use. One possible pre-contact shell feature was identified within the general area proposed for the new dwellings, and this area also contained natural/undisturbed subsoils. Based on the results of the survey, PAL recommended that machine-assisted topsoil excavation be completed within the areas proposed for ground disturbance at the locations of the two new dwellings. The purpose of this activity is to expose one hundred percent of the ground surface in that area to locate and map any archaeological features. If any features are located in areas that cannot be avoided, additional consultation and archaeological investigation may be necessary. PAL also recommended that no additional archaeological investigations are necessary within the remainder of the project impact areas.

PAL submitted a management memorandum to MHC on December 22, 2021 summarizing the intensive survey results and recommendations and requesting an amendment to State Archaeologist's permit no. 4147 to conduct the machine-assisted excavation. The MHC reviewed the memorandum and concurred with PAL's recommendations in a letter to PAL dated December 27, 2021. The letter also amended and extended the State Archaeologist's permit to allow for the completion of the machine-assisted excavation in the new dwelling area.

PAL is tentatively scheduled to complete the machine-assisted excavation the week of January 17 using the methodology approved by the MHC. The results and recommendations of the additional investigations will be provided to the MHC for review and comment and to facilitate project review by the MVC.

PAL will continue to consult with MHC on behalf of the proponent and any additional written comments received by the MHC will be forwarded to the MVC.