

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



March 18, 1998

PLANNING  
COMMISSION  
EXHIBIT # 81

Mr. Timothy Taylor  
Managing Partner  
The Preserve  
P.O. Box 4122  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

RE: Access Easement Request, Connecticut Valley Railroad State Park, Old Saybrook, A-97-101

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Property Management Review Team has evaluated your request for an easement for ingress and egress across Connecticut Valley Railroad State Park. As you are aware, the Review Team is made up of individuals representative of the DEP's many resource management disciplines. After careful consideration, the Review Team determined that granting an easement would not be beneficial to the natural resources of the State of Connecticut. Particular concern was noted regarding potential effects on state-listed threatened species. Connecticut General Statutes require that each state agency take all reasonable measures to conserve endangered and threatened species and their essential habitats. Each state agency is required to ensure that any action authorized, funded or performed by the agency does not threaten endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat designated as essential to identified species. State listed species have been identified in the area you propose to develop and access by the requested easement. The DEP cannot support a request that would directly result in an adverse impact on endangered or threatened species or their habitat.

Based on the recommendation of the Review Team and state statutes, we are unable to assist you with your request for an easement over state park land. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Steven Reviczky, Property Agent, at (860) 424-3016.

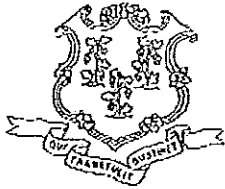
Sincerely,

Charles J. Reed  
Director  
Land Acquisition & Management

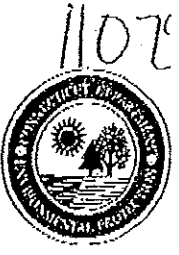
CJR:SKR:skr

c: Kenneth Metzler  
Elizabeth Varhue  
Steven K. Reviczky  
file A-97-101

6



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER  
79 Elm Street, Store Level  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127  
Natural Diversity Data Base



March 26, 2001

Mr. Robert C. Russo  
Environmental Planning & Soil Science  
49 Lytuz Road  
Ivoryton, CT 06442

Re: The Preserve LLC, Ingham Hill Road Site  
Essex, CT

Dear Mr. Russo:

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area and project that you referred to above. According to our information, there is a 1996 record of the Lily-leaved twayblade (*Liparis liliifolia*, State Endangered) from the vicinity of the parcel that you delineated on your map. We are currently unclear on the status of this plant; it was not relocated in 1997. Any information that you or your client could provide would be much appreciated.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biologic 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 substituted 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.

Please contact me if you have further questions regarding this information (424-3585). Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. 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.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Metzler  
Ecologist/Environmental Analyst III

KJM/md

11075

**Environmental Planning &  
Soil Science**

49 Lynn Road  
Ivoryton, Ct 08442  
860-787-8425

March 3, 2001

Dawn McKay  
CTDEP  
Bureau of Environmental Services  
Natural Resources Center  
Natural Diversity Data Base  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

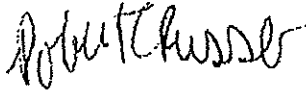
Dear Ms McKay:

Environmental Planning & Soil Science LLC has been retained by The Preserve LLC to assist in the local land use permitting process for a site located on Ingham Hill Road, in Essex CT (See enclosed locus map). A previous submittal to the CTDEP by the Preserve indicated that lily-leaved twayblade (*Liparis liliifolia*), is documented in Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (CTDEP) Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) as occurring in the vicinity of the site. This location is also shown on the enclosed graphic.

The Essex Inland Wetlands Commission has asked that we request an updated search of the NDDB. I ask that you please provide any additional information regarding the presence or absence of State or Federally protected species as soon as possible.

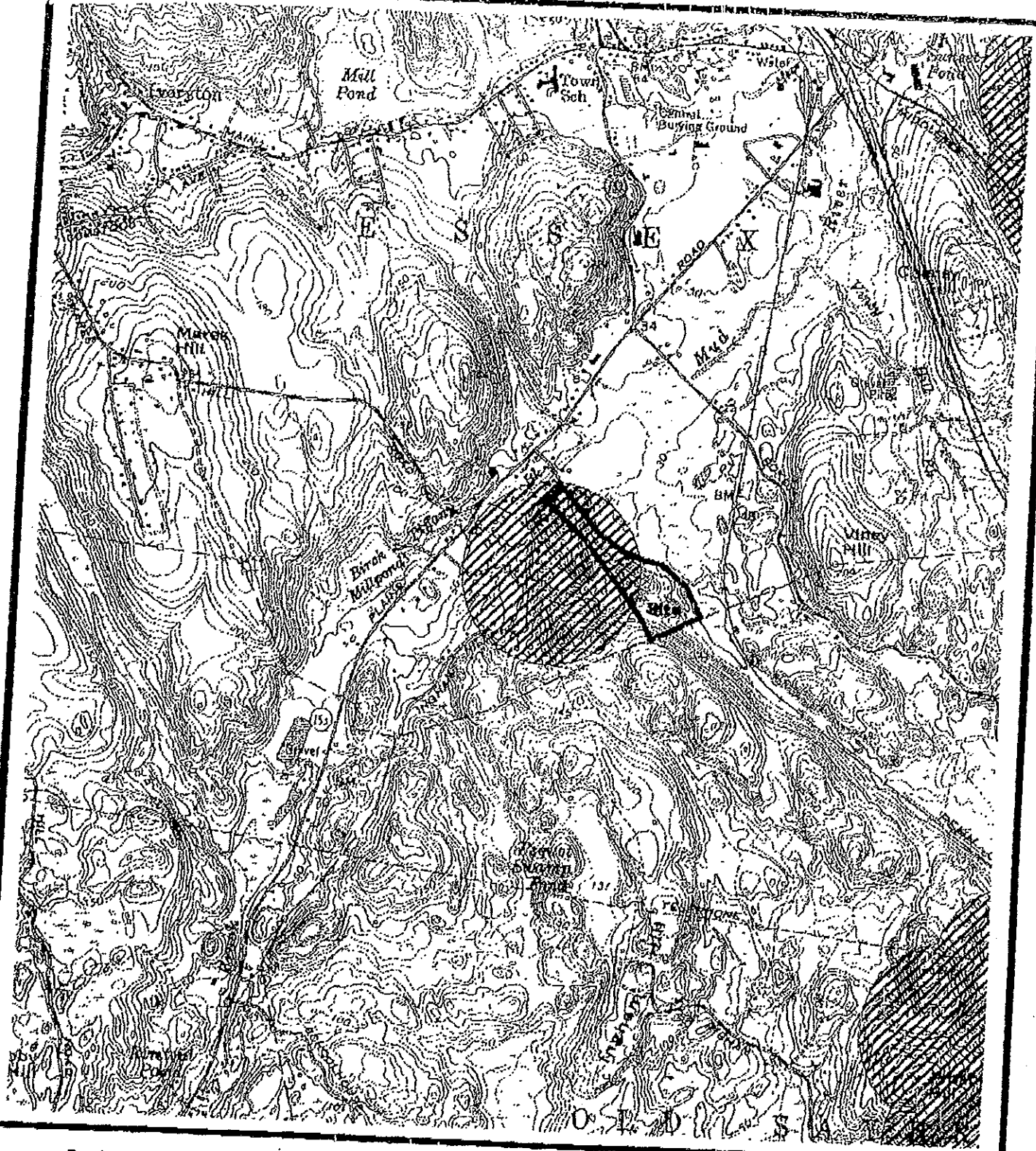
Thank you for your time and efforts. If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Russo  
Principal Scientist  
Member EP&SS LLC

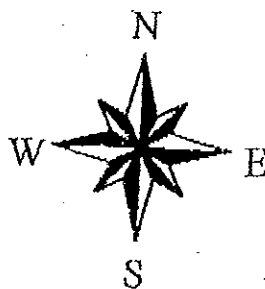
Nancy -  
The closest I can find is one I did 10, 952 but is not in file. I'm not sure if it is same or not because it is missing (?)  
I guess not  
you or  
Kim must  
have  
done the  
one  
before?



Scale: 1"=2000'

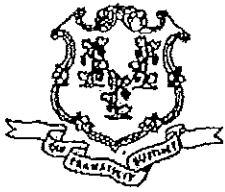
EP&SS LLC  
49 Lynn Road  
Ivoryton CT

Sources: USGS Essex, 1977  
CTDEP NDDB 2000



The Preserve  
Essex East  
Essex, CT  
State/Federal  
Protected Species

9561



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER  
79 Elm Street, Store Level  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127  
Natural Diversity Data Base

April 14, 1999

Ms. Alison Guinness  
Acting ERT Coordinator  
The Connecticut Environmental Review Team  
P.O. Box 70  
Haddam, CT 06438

Re: The Preserve -  
Old Saybrook/Essex/Westbrook

Dear Ms. Guinness:

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map that you provided and referred to above. According to our information, we have records for a number of State-Listed plant species on the far eastern portion of this property and within the adjacent wetland draining into Ingham Pond. These include *Platanthera ciliaris* (Yellow-fringed orchid, State Threatened) and *Polygala cruciata* (Marsh milkwort, State Special Concern) on the referred property, and *Carex oxillis* (Coast sedge, State Endangered) within the downstream wetland. Since all of these plants are adapted to a moist, nutrient-poor substrate, any input from storm water discharge may have a negative impact on both the plants and their habitat. In this regard, any discharges into this wetland should be avoided.

We also have a 1996 record for *Liparis liliifolia* (Lily-leaved twayblade, State Endangered) from the northwest perimeter of the property. This plant should be searched for in adjacent habitat prior to establishing a final site plan design.

Natural diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biologic resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Environmental & Geographic Information 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 substituted 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.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this information (424-3585). Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted s part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Metzler  
Ecologist/Environmental Analyst III

KJM/md

# The Connecticut Environmental Review Teams

956  
Name



Eastern Connecticut

Eastern Connecticut and King's Mark  
1066 Saybrook Road - Mailing Address: P.O. Box 70  
Haddam, CT 06438  
Tel. (860) 345-3977 - Fax (860) 345-9175  
Elaine Sych - Coordinator



King's Mark

## Memorandum

**Date:** March 9, 1999

**From:** Alison Guinness, Acting ERT Coordinator

**To:** ERT Team Members and Project Participants

**Re:** *The Preserve, A Residential and Golf Course Community  
Old Saybrook, Essex, & Westbrook, CT*

**Review Dates:** *March 29 and 30, 1999 with March 31 reserved if needed*

**Meet At:** *Essex Town Hall  
29 West Avenue  
Essex, CT  
9:30 am*

*Field review takes place rain or shine (see bad weather policy), please dress appropriately and be prepared to walk the site. You may want to bring a snack or lunch. Due to the size of the parcel the field review will be split into two days.*

### Background

The Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area Council has approved a request from the First Selectmen of Old Saybrook, Essex and Westbrook for assistance in reviewing a large residential golf course community proposed for property located in the three towns.

The Preserve is a 1,000 acre parcel located in northern Old Saybrook and encompassing land within the neighboring towns of Essex and Westbrook. The landscape features three main ridges and the Pequot Marsh. The land previously was used for limited logging activities.

The proposed development consists of 308 single family homes on lots ranging in size from 1.0 to 3.0 acres. 238 lots will be in Old Saybrook and 25 lots will be in Essex.

99  
67 Lippins  
hill field  
70 white cedar  
swamp

An 18 golf course is proposed with an 18,000 SF clubhouse, 4 guest cottages, 5 tennis courts, a swimming pool and parking for 200 cars. 506.2 acres will be open space including 240 acres for the golf course, 102.5 acres as open space for the public in the form of a greenway trail and nature preserve, and 100 acres will be turfgrass. The golf course will occupy the lower elevations of the property and will incorporate existing trees as feasible. The golf course will be designed to minimize the need for fertilizer and pesticide applications through the use of IPM.

The main access will be from Route 153 in Westbrook (over 90% of all traffic) with access to the Essex homes from Ingham Hill Road in Essex and access to eleven of the Old Saybrook homes from Ingham Road in Old Saybrook. There will be no through connections except for emergency vehicles.

Construction is planned in three phases. Phase One: the roadway and infrastructure improvements, the golf course facility, and 144 residential building sites (25 in Essex and 119 in Old Saybrook); Phase Two: 50 residential lots in Old Saybrook in the southern portion of the site and Phase Three: completion of all roadways and infrastructure improvements and 114 residential home sites in the eastern portion of the Old Saybrook site.

Water requirements of The Preserve for both the golf course, country club and residential lots will be provided by the Connecticut Water Company. All sewage generated will be disposed of on-site via a community system. The system will consist of a network of collection sewers, a treatment facility and a leaching area for treated effluent.

### Concerns and Reason for Request

The three towns are requesting assistance in identifying site resources and factors which should be included in the evaluation of the proposed development. The ERT is asked to suggest measures which could be included to minimize adverse impacts on site resources and the surrounding area. Early concerns have focused on the suitability for on-site sewage disposal in light of the towns' strong sewer avoidance efforts; traffic circulation and impact on Route 153; creation and linkage of open space; maintenance of town character; and management practices for golf courses. Other concerns and information requested include:

- soils - suitability for houses, septic systems, golf course
- topography - amount of earth moving needed for golf course, trails, roads
- geology - basic discussion of limitations
- E&S - impact on watershed, BMP's
- Hydrology - property is a major part of the Oyster River watershed
- stormwater - impacts downstream (quality and quantity)
- water quality - non-point pollution, BMP's
- water supply - public water anticipated, impact of golf course.



sewage disposal - suitability and alternatives  
wetlands - design to minimize impacts on-site and off, impacts to Pequot Marsh Pond  
Coastal Resources - impacts downstream on Oyster River wetlands  
fisheries - aquatic resource and impacts  
wildlife - resources and impacts  
vegetation/forestry - resources, concerns and recommended practices  
recreation - maximizing public access and linkages  
land use/site design - intensity and overall design recommendations  
traffic and access - circulation internally and off-site impacts  
archaeology and historic significance - resources and impacts  
golf course - mitigation

### Materials Enclosed

Please find enclosed a general location map (1" = 2000'), a soils map (scale 1" = 1320'), a reduced copy of the Master Plan, the Open Space Plan, and the Clubhouse Master Plan. Additional information such as engineered plans for Phase I and the environmental assessment report will be available on the review day.

### Procedures

A brief meeting at the town hall building will precede the field walk to discuss the plans and concerns. Representatives of the towns and the applicant will be present on the review days to answer any questions and discuss the project.

**Team Members** - if you cannot attend the field meeting please call to make other arrangements.

**Requesting Agencies** - it is your responsibility to have representation at this meeting and to notify any officials that you wish to have attend this meeting and field walk.

**Team Members** - You are asked to please submit your reports to this office by April 23, 1999.

**Requesting Agencies** - The report will be completed as expeditiously as possible.

Team Members

Pete Bogue	DEP, Wildlife
Fred Borman	DEP, Forestry
Wayne DeCarli	DOT, Transportation Planner
Norman Gray	UCONN, Geology
Warren Herzig	DEP, Subsurface Sewage Disposal
Doug Hoskins	DEP, Wetlands
Robert Hust	DEP, Planning & Standards
Julie Shane Kiritsis	DEP, Stormwater
Linda Krause	CRERPA, Director
Leslie Lewis	DEP, Greenways Assistance Center
Brian Murphy	DEP, Fisheries
Judy Singer	DEP, Pesticides
Stephanie Shakofsky	MCSWCD, Executive Director & Hydrogeologist

cc: Nancy Murray, DEP-NRC  
Nick Bellantoni, Office of State Archaeology  
Dave Poirier, State Historical Commission  
Deborah Lee, EC RC&D Member  
Mary Beth Hart, DEP, Office of Long Island Sound Programs  
Susan Townsley, First Selectman, Old Saybrook  
Peter Webster, First Selectman, Essex  
Frank Lusk, First Selectman, Westbrook  
Sarahjane Pickett, Consulting Planner, Old Saybrook  
Don Lucas, Sanitarian, Old Saybrook  
Chet Sklodosky, Building Official, Old Saybrook  
Larry Gilliam, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Essex  
Carol Spear, Sanitarian, Essex  
Beth Jennings, Planner, Westbrook  
Timothy Taylor, Managing Partner, The Preserve, LLC

The PRESERVE

S.R. 153

S.R. 154

Bolquin Road

Route 9

Connecticut Turnpike

Interstate 95

Exit 66

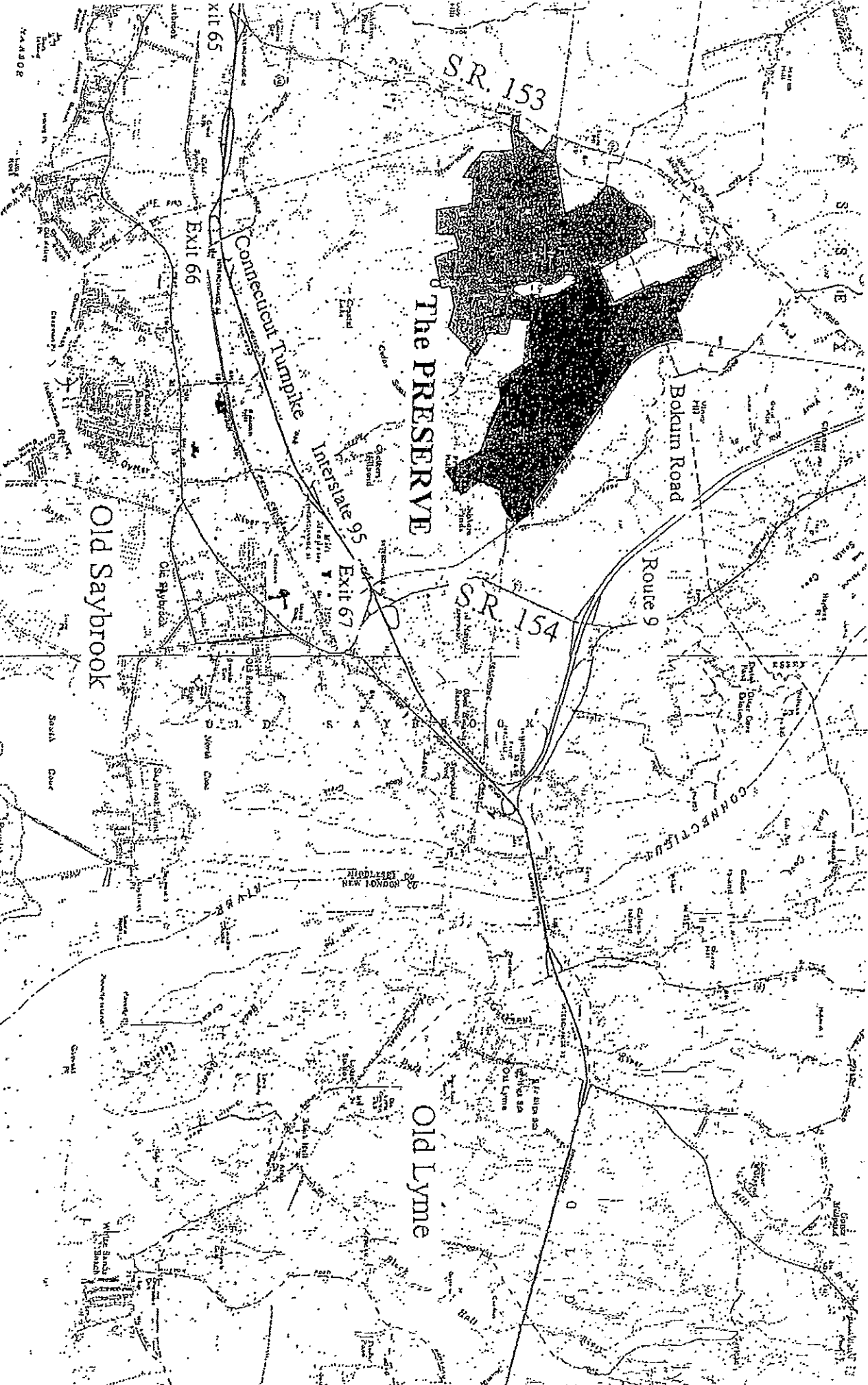
Exit 67

Old Saybrook

Old Lyme

Scale 1"=4000'

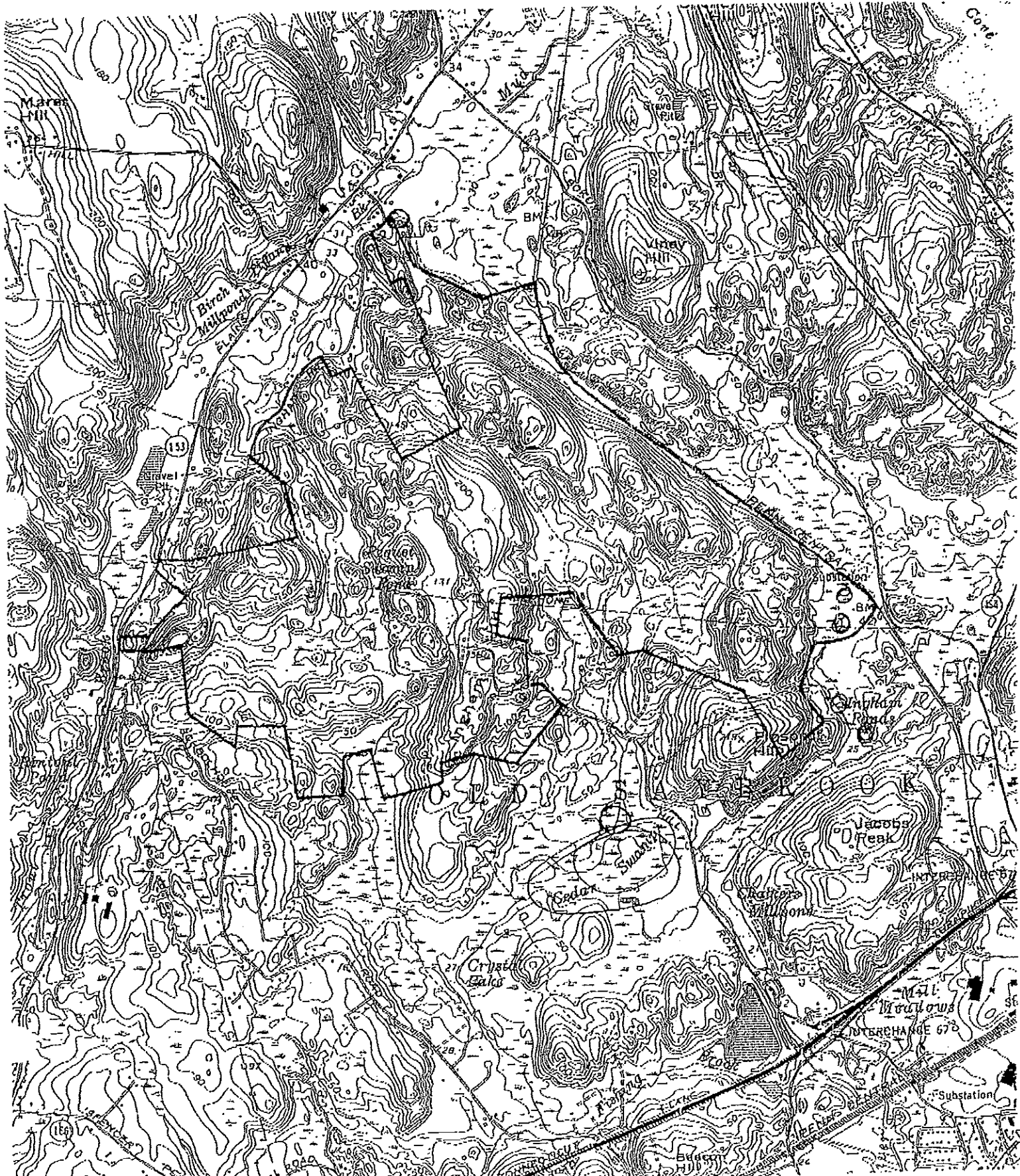
ISLAND SOUND



# Topographic Map



Scale 1" = 2000'



additional large scale  
maps not copied but  
they should be in EPT  
report.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Reviczky  
DEP-Land Acquisition and Management, 6th Floor

FROM: Ken Metzler  
DEP-NRC Natural Diversity Data Base, Store Level

DATE: March 4, 1998

SUBJ: "The Preserve", Old Saybrook

There has been much discussion about the request to increase the right-of-way over DEP land for access to the property known as "The Preserve" in Old Saybrook. My concerns have been addressed in a previous memo.

As a clarification to those comments, I offer the following:

- 1) According to the "Ecological Assessment" prepared by Valley Environmental Services for the applicant, "no rare species listed by Connecticut DEP were observed on the site." They then list marsh milkwort (*Polygala cruciata*), Connecticut Special Concern, as a plant found in a moist, open sandy area adjacent to the powerline corridor on the extreme eastern edge of the property. This verifies our observation of this plant seen in 1996. This is also the site where a few individuals of yellow-fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), Connecticut Threatened, were observed in 1996 as well. In 1997, the milkwort was observed again at this site, but the orchid was not seen. This is possibly due to drought or to the marked decline of this plant documented at this site due to changing site conditions. In 1987, 60+/- plants were observed and documented at this site. Yellow-fringed orchid also has been documented to the east of this location and marsh milkwort and a sedge (*Carex exilis*, State Endangered) have been documented to the south. Since the seeds of yellow-fringed orchid survive in the soil for long periods, there is high potential for habitat modification (e.g. fire) to restore this population to a viable state.
- 2) Connecticut State Statute Section 26-303 "declares it is a policy of the state to conserve, protect, restore and enhance any endangered or threatened species and essential habitat". Section 26-310 further states that each state

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Al Levere, Environmental Analyst III  
DEP-Natural Resources Center, Store Level

FROM: Ken Metzler  
DEP-Natural Resources Center, Store Level

DATE: February 13, 1998

SUBJ: Land Exchange & Property Management Activity Review Team  
#A-97-101 "The Preserve", Old Saybrook

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map provided and listed above. According to our information, there is a population of yellow-fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), State Threatened in the immediate vicinity of the requested easement. Although this population has declined dramatically during the past few years, there is a very good potential for restoration with proper site management. However, an access road through this area can significantly reduce the suitable habitat for this wetland orchid. In this respect, granting an easement for an access road to the developer may be contrary to the DEP policy of protecting Endangered/Threatened species.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biologic 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. Consultation with the Data Base should not be substituted 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.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this information (424-3585). Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base.

KJM/dmd

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Allan Williams, Acting Director  
DEP-Natural Resources Center, Store Level

FROM: ~~Ken Metzler~~  
DEP-Natural Resources Center, Store Level

DATE: March 10, 1998

SUBJ: "The Preserve", Old Saybrook

At the request of Assistant Commissioner Leff I have been asked to address alternatives to the requested easement over the Valley Railroad State Park Trail for future road access to property known as the Lyons Tract and the potential effects of granting this easement to state-listed species. My comments are follows:

After careful consideration, discussion with our contract botanist most familiar with the site, and clarification of the Endangered Species Act from legal council, Anne Rapkin, my professional judgement strongly opposes granting an easement through this land, as it will most likely have a significant impacts to state-listed species on or adjacent to the site. Furthermore, DEP legal staff concur that granting this easement and the resulting impacts, either direct or indirect, would violate the provisions of Section 26-310 of the CGS. Details of my concerns have been addressed in previous memos.

It is Anne's view that because the purpose of the proposed easement is solely to facilitate a private commercial venture without, in the words of Section 26-310(c), "regional or statewide significance" and without a public benefit outweighing the financial benefit for Mr. Taylor, an exemption from Section 26-310(c) would be entirely inappropriate.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend that we do not approve this request.

KJM/dmd

cc: David Leff  
Steve Reviczky  
Anne Rapkin



Sep. 2. 2004 3:40PM

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. No. 0263 P. 18

Transportation  
Land Development  
Environmental Services



54 Tuttle Place  
Middletown  
Connecticut 06457  
860 632 1500  
FAX 860 632 7879

March 18, 1998

Ref: 40196

Ken Metzler  
Botanist  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06103

Re: The Preserve

Dear Mr. Metzler,

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) has been retained by the Preserve LLC for environmental consulting services for a residential, golf course, and open space development in Old Saybrook, Essex, and Westbrook CT. As you know, The Preserve has requested a right of way over the railroad immediately west of Bokum Road in Old Saybrook from CTDEP. The CTDEP Natural Diversity Database has records indicating the presence of state protected species at, or in the vicinity of the crossing location requested by The Preserve. Per my conversations of March 17, 1998 with you and Nancy Murray, VHB is providing this written request for data concerning the protected species. We understand the sensitive nature of these data and will maintain the strict confidentiality all data that you provide to us. We ask that you please forward data concerning the exact location, population size and extent, and copies of the CTDEP Element Occurrence forms for all protected species in proximity of the requested crossing.

The requested crossing is a key element for this project, and we ask that this information be provided as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC.

Robert C. Russo  
Senior Environmental Scientist

cc: Nancy Murray CTDEP NDD  
Charles Reed CTDEP Land Acquisition and Management  
Timothy Taylor The Preserve LLC

Position Paper Abstract

On Habitat and Preservation: An Applied Management Approach

**The PRESERVE, Old Saybrook, CT**

By Timothy S. Taylor, Landscape Architect, Managing Partner, The PRESERVE L.L.C.

Working definitions:

1. **Habitat** – 1. Includes the physical, biological, and chemical environment of an organism, plus the ecological processes that occur within this environment. ( See Gordon Thayer Et al. 1996. The Habitat Research Plan of the National Marine Fisheries Services.)  
2. The natural home of an animal or plant. ( Harper Collins Dictionary on Environmental Science.)  
3. The sum of the environmental conditions that determine existence of a community in a specific place. The habitat is the result of interaction of edaphic (soil) factors, anthropogenic factors, and biotic factors. ( Harper Collins Dictionary on Environmental Science.)

*The fundamental question this position paper raises is not one of what characterizes habitat but how do we implement management regimes which preserve and enhance habitat. The mission of this management approach is to provide a funding source which energizes and provides financial means for the continued research of and greater access to our collective understanding of habitat and how habitat can be preserved through public and private partnerships. The basic premises are as follows:*

- To create educational centers whose mission enhances bio-diversity through public outreach.
- To disseminate knowledge (and greater public awareness) of endangered species through an ever expanding network of greenway trails and open space networks with interpretive values.
- To provide habitat protection through continued long term monitoring.
- To foster a pro-active stance on habitat protection (rather than being left up to happenstance.)
- To promote greater flexibility in land use development patterns which promote sound ecological development to occur around our natural resources.
- To provide integrated systems of open space which unite habitat and foster carrying capacity for wildlife and plant life dissemination rather than fragmentation.

Sep. 2. 2004 3:40PM

No. 0263 P. 21

Approximately 13,500 S.F.

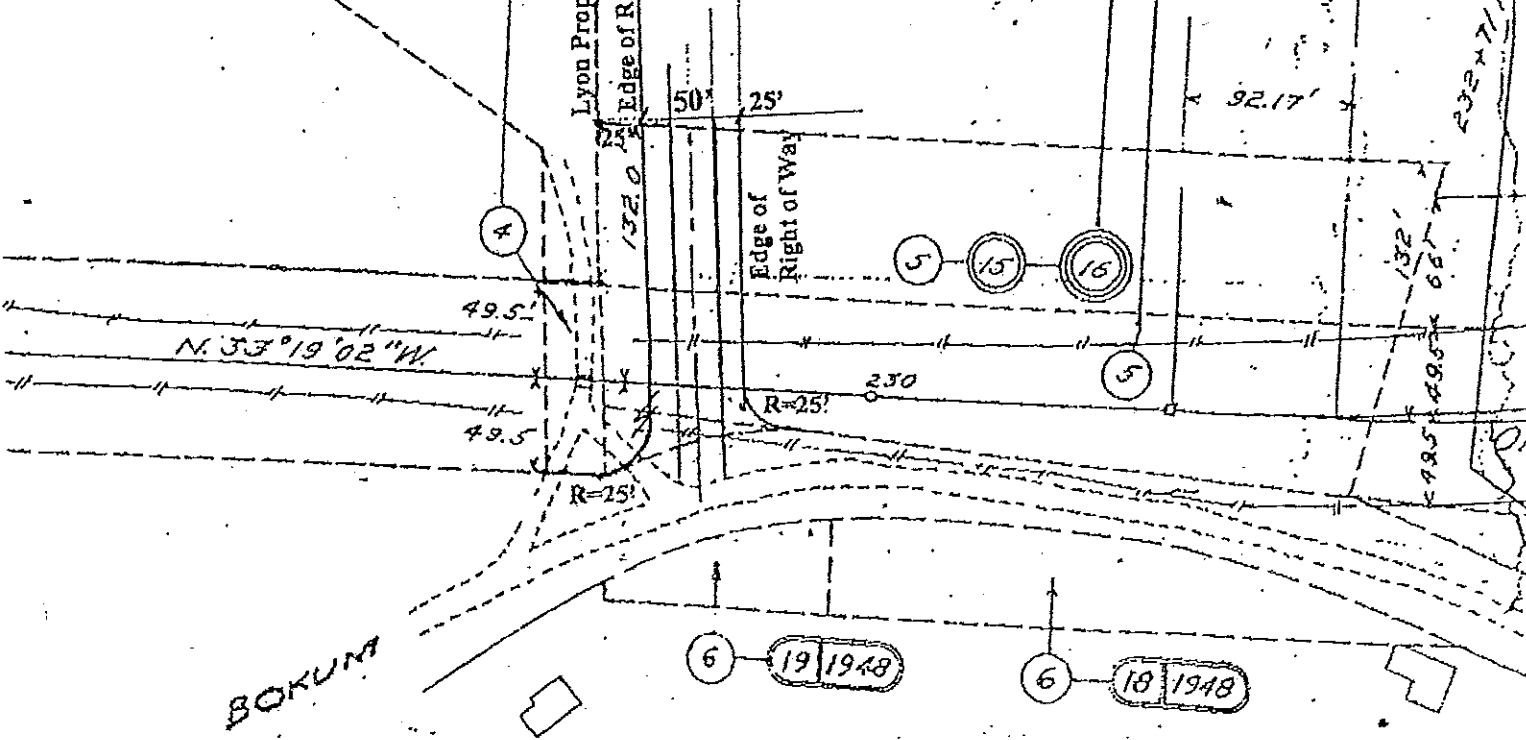
Lyon Property Corner  
Edge of Right of Way

P.C. 231+07.02  
MONUMENT

Original P.T.

92.17'

232+71.1'



BOKUM

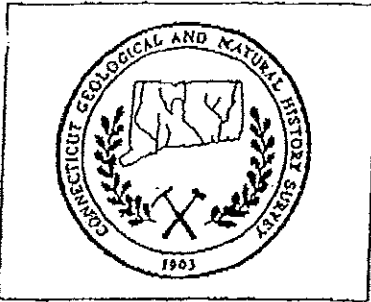
6 19 1948

6 18 1948

Right of Way and Track Map  
 The New York New Haven and Hartford R.R. Co.  
 Operated by  
 The New York New Haven and Hartford R.R. Co.  
 From Fenwick to Hartford  
 Station 205+20 to Station 258+00  
 Town of Old Saybrook State of Connecticut  
 Scale 1"=100' Date: June 30, 1916  
 Office of Valuation Engineer

SAYBROOK TO MIDDLETOWN  
**ABANDONMENT**  
 ABANDONED UNDER ORDER OF U.S. COURT  
 FINANCE DOCKET No. 24485

230



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
CONNECTICUT GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL  
HISTORY SURVEY  
79 ELM STREET, BASEMENT  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127  
(860) 424-3550 (v)  
(860) 424-4058 (fax)



### FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE : 2 Sept 04  
TO : Roger Reynolds  
: 203 787 0246  
FROM : Nancy Murray  
(860) 424-3589 or nancy.murray@po.state.ct.us

Roger, I will mail the information on the NDDC requests related to The Preserve that you requested. Here is the general info on the NDDC Program.

Let me know if you have questions. I am back in the office on Tuesday.

*Nancy*

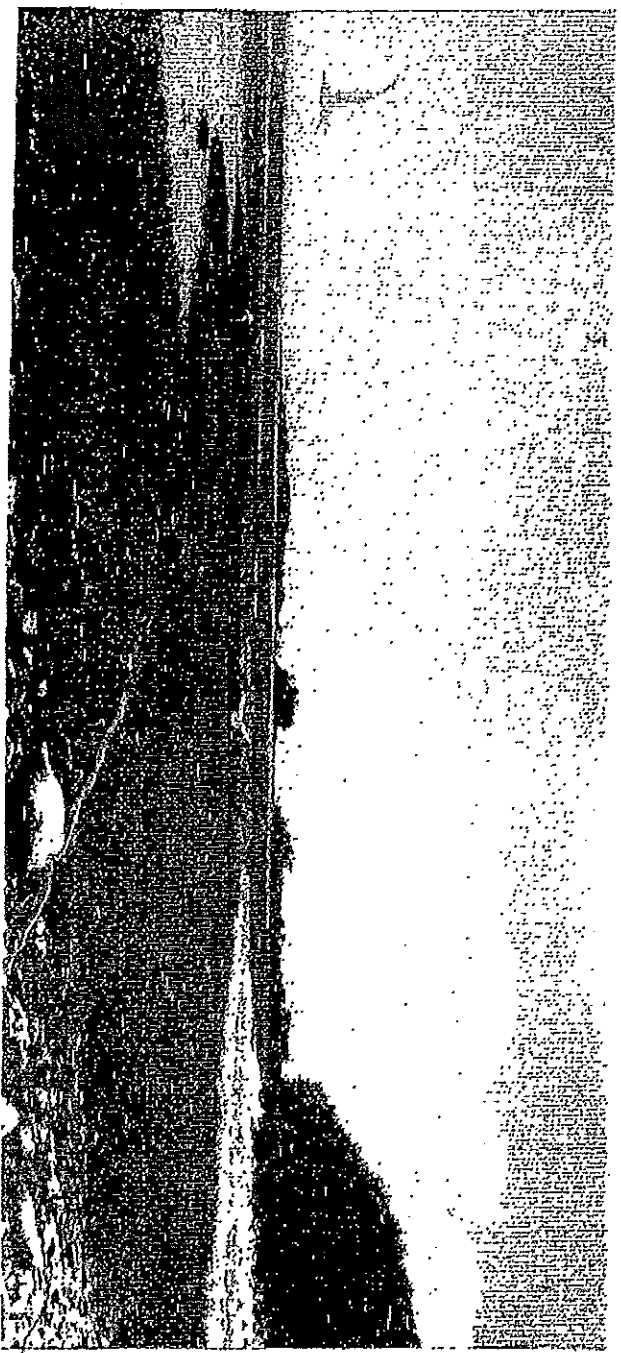
"We have a duty to identify, preserve and protect our natural resources. We cannot continue to alter our environment without affecting its stability and ultimately, the quality of our lives. The Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Data Base greatly assists us in our preservation efforts."

William A. O'Neill  
Governor

2920-02

### WHAT IS NATURAL DIVERSITY?

All components of our biologic and physical world constitute "natural diversity": plants, animals and their habitats, geologic formations, and hydrologic features. Together they make up complex and interrelated ecosystems. Connecticut's natural diversity ranges from salt marshes to trap rock ridges, rocky summits to floodplain forests, ravines and waterfalls.



Channon Island, Norwalk

### WHAT IS THE CONNECTICUT NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE?

Fortunately, Connecticut is well aware of its dependence upon a healthy and varied natural environment. It has shown this commitment to preserving it by establishing a computerized information system designed to organize, store, and make available natural resource information collected during the past eighty years. This centralized inventory, known as the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base, is continually being updated. Information is received from universities, museums, naturalists and libraries, and new information is gathered from on-going field research.

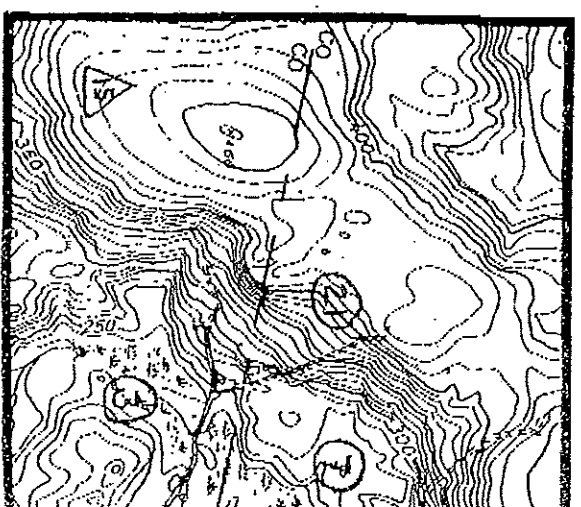
### FEATURES OF THE DATA BASE

1) Site-Specific Information - The Data Base organizes a wealth of information about specific locations of rare and endangered species on population size, source of the ownership, management needs, and the population. All of the information is stored in a computerized, as well as stored in manually cross-referenced system in maps and atlases to be added, updated, and

2) Comprehensive Maps - The Data Base Survey topographic maps have been prepared for rare and endangered species habitats. These maps are the nucleus of the Data Base, and provide site-specific information for early planning of any land or water proposal. Upon request they are prepared by a member of the staff who prepares an inventory of their findings.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DATA BASE?

The Data Base is designed to help improve the quality of all of the State's land and water decisions, principally by making available information about rare and endangered species and critical habitats. Some species are on the decline; others are becoming extinct at an ever-increasing rate. Over-collection and pollution have hastened the pace of this natural progression. Furthermore, habitat destruction remains one of the most significant factors contributing to the increasing pace which species are being lost.



Example

## HOW DOES THE INFORMATION GET INTO THE DATA BASE?

The Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey has been conducting biologic inventories of the state's species and habitats for over eighty years, with a concentrated effort during the last decade. Much of this historical information has been incorporated into the Data Base. Today, cooperation from universities, biologists, naturalists, and conservation groups aid in accumulating extensive new information. Ongoing research continues to update historic records and reveal new data.

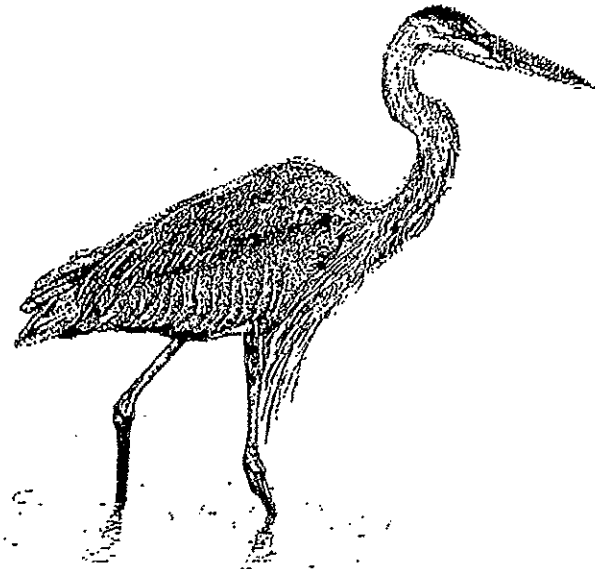


Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING THE DATA BASE?

At a time of continued population increase and economic growth, sound environmental planning and management is needed to protect our irreplaceable and rapidly declining biologic resources. By incorporating this information in the early stages of environmental review, development needs may be satisfied while avoiding damage to the resources in greatest need of protection. Thus, significant areas can be identified, sound environmental planning can be encouraged, and protection efforts by public and private conservation organizations can be assisted.

The Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base is a cooperative project of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Natural Resources Center, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Audubon Society.



Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*

For additional information:

Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base  
Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey  
Natural Resources Center  
Department of Environmental Protection  
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 553  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(203) 566-3540

Publications on rare and endangered species are available for purchase from:

Natural Resources Center  
Map Sales and Publications (203) 566-7719

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