

# **New York State Historic Preservation Office**

## **Guidelines for Wind Farm Development Cultural Resources Survey Work**

The New York State Historic Preservation Office has established the following guidelines for the assessment of historic and cultural resources associated with the development of wind farm projects in New York State.

### **Survey for Historic Buildings**

1. Establish a five-mile Area of Potential Effect (APE) around the project site.
  - i. Establish boundary of APE using topographic survey to determine where project may be visible from.
2. Conduct field survey within the positive visual APE as defined by topographic study.
3. Using NYSHPO data, the survey will initially identify all buildings/sites within the study area that were previously determined eligible for inclusion in or are already listed in the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.
4. The survey will assess all buildings 50 years old or older within the study area. Surveyors will determine potential State and National Register eligibility of each resource using the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.
  - i. Surveyor will schedule a meeting with NYSHPO staff prior to undertaking survey work to verify the APE.
  - ii. Surveyor will schedule a meeting with NYSHPO staff after completion of survey of mile-1 “ring” of study area to verify eligibility determination methodology. Meeting will review properties determined eligible and will provide a sampling of resources determined not-eligible.
  - iii. After evaluation methodology is verified by the NYSHPO, survey of remaining APE area will be completed.
  - iv. All properties previously listed in the State and/or National Registers in addition to all properties determined eligible prior to the survey and as part of the project survey are to be marked using a single GPS point. The single point should be taken at the edge of the property generally at the mid-point of the property’s street frontage.
  - v. The GPS data will be linked to the street address and/or SHPO Unique Site Number (if one already exists).
  - vi. All survey data will be provided to the NYSHPO in a standardized format that will be discussed at the initial pre-survey meeting.

## Archaeological Survey

1. Phase I Archaeological Survey is recommended for all wind farm project areas.
2. Archaeological Survey will be limited to the *Archaeological* Area of Potential Effect (APE) associated with the construction of the project. This smaller core of the project APE is composed of areas that will experience ground disturbing activity during the construction phase of the project. These areas include but are not limited to:
  - i. Turbine sites
  - ii. Construction staging areas
  - iii. Borrow pits
  - iv. New/Access Roads
  - v. Utility corridors
  - vi. New building locations
  - vii. Other areas where the current ground surface may be modified as a result of the project.
3. Phase I survey will be conducted by sampling Environmental Zones. Necessary steps in this process include:
  - i. Determining the total acreage of the *Archaeological* APE.
  - ii. Determining the total number of shovel tests recommended for the *Archaeological* APE by multiplying the acreage by 16 shovel tests per acre.
  - iii. Identifying the various environmental zones within the *Archaeological* APE following Robert E. Funk's 1993 work, *Archaeological Investigations in the Upper Susquehanna Valley, New York State* (Chapter 5).
4. Once the zones are defined, the archaeological consultant will divide up the total number of shovel tests previously determined and apply an equal percentage of tests to each defined environmental zone. Any previously identified archaeological site(s) or map documented structure (MDS) must be included in the Phase IB testing.
5. Within each zone shovel testing will be conducted using a five meter interval or other acceptable methods such as plowing/disking for previously plowed farm land.
6. Prior to implementing a proposed testing methodology the project consultant will schedule a meeting with SHPO staff to consult on the proposed plan. A copy of the plan will be provided for SHPO staff review in advance of the meeting.
7. Sites, identified as part of the survey process will be documented using standard practices (such as site forms or approved data bases) and will all be located using a single GPS point.
8. Once the Phase I survey is completed a report will be provided to the SHPO using the established New York SHPO Phase I Archaeological Report Format Requirements and the Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections in New York State.

## Electronic Survey Data

1. Project sponsors will provide the following data sets to the SHPO as part of their submission. Sponsors or their consultants should contact the SHPO staff to verify specific data requirements.
  - i. GIS data coverage defining the five-mile survey area.
  - ii. GIS data locating (as best as practical) each of the proposed tower locations.
  - iii. GPS data locating by single point each building, structure, object or site identified as being eligible for or listed in the New York State and/or National Registers of Historic Places.
  - iv. GIS data locating the boundary of all archaeologically tested areas.
  - v. Final archaeological reports should be provided in bound format (see New York SHPO Phase I Archaeological Report Format Requirements) as well as in PDF format on CD.
  
2. Project's consultant should contact SHPO staff to determine exact format of data to be submitted.

For more information about the New York State Historic Preservation Office, please call us at 518-237-8643 or visit our web site at <http://nysparks.state.ny.us> then select **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**. Select the **On Line Resources** option to find specific information regarding historic and cultural resources in any community in the state.