

## 3.5 Cultural Resources

The purpose of this section is to identify any potential significant historic or pre-historic features on the project site and in the immediate surrounding area. If any significant historic or prehistoric features are found on or adjacent to the project site, this section will evaluate potential impacts as a result of the proposed project, as well as identify mitigation measures where necessary.

### 3.5.1 Existing Conditions

Evidence indicates that prior to European settlement, the Town of Amenia was frequented by Native Americans drawn to the region for its plant and animal resources. The earliest European settlement was in the mid-1700's with the settlement of Dutch, German, and Puritan farmsteads and a mission to preach to the local Mohegan Indian tribes.

To investigate the site's cultural and historic past, the Applicant commissioned a Phase IA and IB Archaeological Survey of the site to identify any significant historical or archaeological sites within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed Silo Ridge Resort Community (see Appendix 9.2). The APE is the portion of the project site that includes the footprints of the proposed improvements, as well as any areas subject to ground disturbance during their construction. The Phase IA portion of the Survey included a search of published and unpublished sources of historic and pre-historic information in the files of the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the Dutchess County Historical Society, and the New York State Library to determine known historical development and documented cultural resources.

#### *Phase IA Survey*

The Phase IA Survey of the site did not uncover the presence of any unique features or documented historic or pre-historic sites located on the project area. However, the literature review did identify a total of eight recorded archaeological sites within a two-mile radius of the project site (see Table 3.5-1, "Archaeological Sites"). The closest documented site is located approximately 0.2 miles from the project area.

**Table 3.5-1 Archaeological Sites**

Site Number	Distance from Project Site	Time Period	Artifacts / Features
<b>OPRHP</b>			
A027.01.0005 "Wassaic Charcoal Kilns"	1.1± mile	Historic / 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Charcoal Kilns
A027.01.000052 "The Nook Site B"	1.8± mile	Archaic	Bifaces, scrapers
A027.01.000053	0.2± mile	Archaic to Woodland	Bifaces, drillsalts, scrapers, hammerstones
A027.01.000055	2.0± mile	Archaic to Woodland	Bifaces, drills, celt
<b>New York State Museum (NYSM)</b>			
3135	0.6± mile	Prehistoric / Burial Site	No Information
6835	1.8± mile	Prehistoric	Traces
8206	0.3± mile	Prehistoric / Burial Site	No Information
9226 "Jobes"	2.0± mile	Late Archaic to Late Woodland	No Information

The literature review of the OPRHP files also revealed the presence of four buildings on the National Register of Historic Places in the project vicinity, which are identified below.

**Table 3.5-2 National Register Buildings**

National Register Site Number	Site Name
02NR01903	Beth David Synagogue
02NR01896	Indian Rock Schoolhouse
04NR05250	St. Thomas Episcopal Church
90NR00292	Winegar, Hendrick House

In addition, historical cartographic research illustrates that the property was home to two iron mines in the mid- to late nineteenth Century: the "Squabble Hole," operated by the Peekskill Iron Company, and Wheelers Ore Bed (refer to Appendix 9.2 for the locations of the former mines).

*Phase IB Survey*

After conducting the Phase IA literature review of the site, a Phase IB subsurface investigation was performed to determine whether archaeological deposits and/or historic or Native American artifacts are present on the project site. Archaeological surveys were conducted in February and March of 2006 by The Louis Berger Group, Inc. The archaeological fieldwork consisted of extensive field reconnaissance and subsurface testing through the excavation of 95 shovel test pits (STPs).

A pedestrian reconnaissance was conducted over the APE on the project site to determine which portions were suitable for subsurface testing, based on degree of disturbance and slope, and also to look for any surficial evidence of cultural remains. The subsurface testing methodology consisted of standard shovel testing at 50-foot intervals. The STPs were 50 centimeters in diameter and were excavated into the glacial soils. All soils removed from the STPs were passed through a 0.64-centimeter mesh hardware cloth to recover artifacts. Any artifacts recovered were bagged and a field number was assigned. Modern artifacts recovered were noted and then discarded in the field. The shovel test data was recorded, including stratum depth, soil texture, soil color according to Munsell soil color charts, and artifact content.

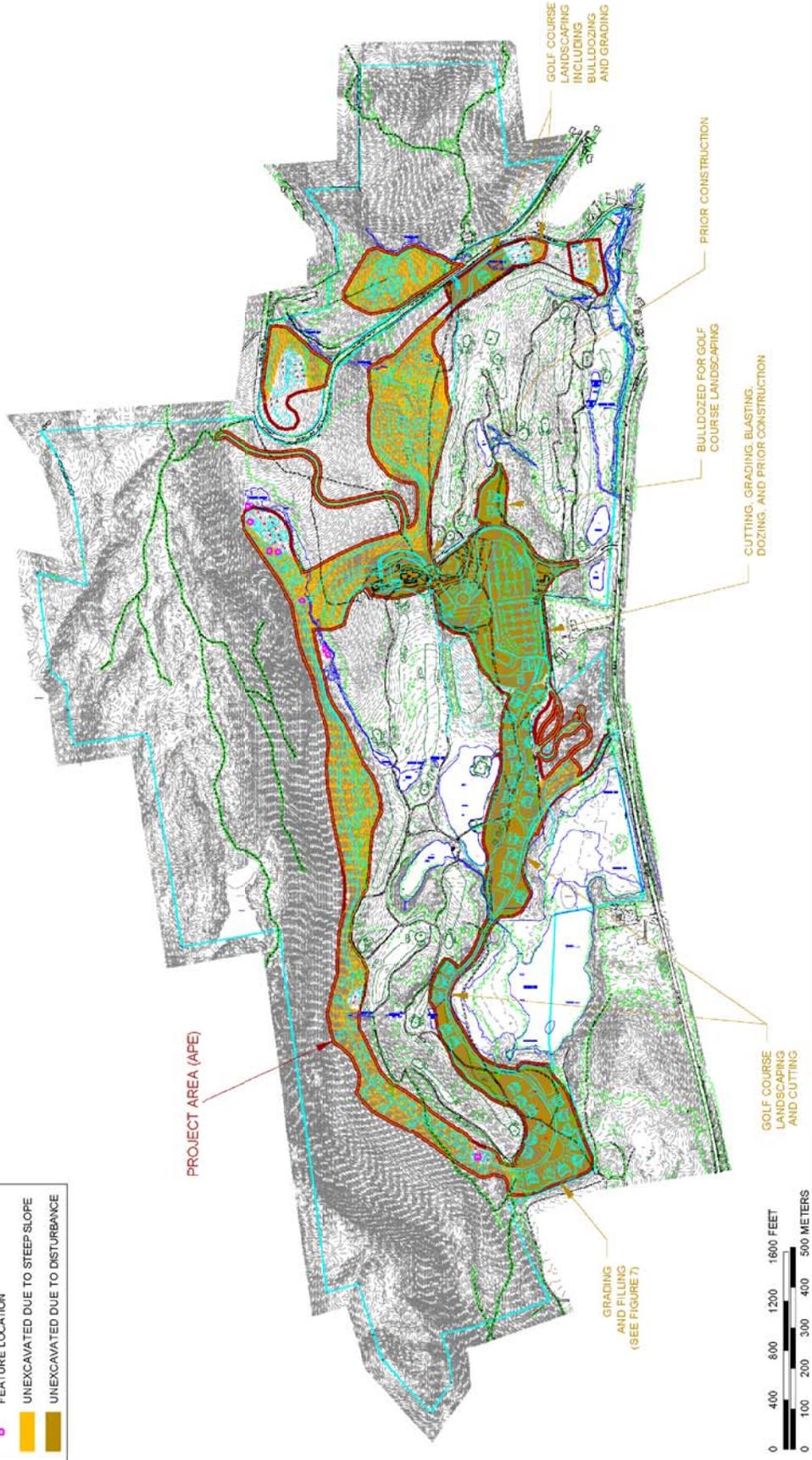
As a result of these investigations, eight historic charcoal production features were identified and 149 historic/modern artifacts were uncovered in two separate locations. These discoveries resulted in the identification of two historic archaeological sites within the project area. Temporary Site 3662-01 consists of the eight charcoal production features, which are generally located at the base of the hillside in the western portion of the project site. Temporary Site 3662-02 consists of the collection of historic and modern artifacts and is located along West Lake Amenia Road between NYS Route 22 and US Route 44. Figure 3.5-1 illustrates the APE and the general locations of the STPs and feature locations. Please refer to large-scale colored mapping on pages 7 to 11 of the Phase I Archaeological Survey in Appendix 9.2 for detailed locations of these sites.

Temporary Site 3662-01 consists of eight historic cultural features, which are interpreted as historic-era charcoal manufacturing areas referred to as charcoal pits, hearths, circles, or kilns. Based on an interview with Town of Amenia Historian Kenneth Hoadley (see Appendix 9.2), these features are common in wooded areas throughout the Town and are directly related to iron furnaces, of which there were at least 10 operating within a distance of 12 miles from the project area during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. There is documentary evidence that the Amenia ore beds were being mined on a large scale by 1843; however, this reference seems to refer to the Amenia Mining Company and their operations located north and west of the project site. Based on historic mapping, iron mining and the operation of iron furnaces on the project site was conducted by the Peekskill Iron Company and took place by 1867.

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**LEGEND**

- SHOVEL TEST LOCATION
- FEATURE LOCATION
- UNEXCAVATED DUE TO STEEP SLOPE
- UNEXCAVATED DUE TO DISTURBANCE



Silo Ridge Resort Community  
**Reconnaissance Results & Subsurface Testing**  
 Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York

Not to Scale  
**Figure 3.5-1**



Shovel testing at Temporary Site 3662-02 revealed a concentration of historic/modern artifacts, including creamware, pearlware, and oriental porcelain, as well as broad/crown glass, machine-cut nail, redware, and brick. These artifacts date this location to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; however, the soils and topography within the immediate area of these findings appear to have been landscaped and graded, resulting in the pushing and re-depositing of natural soils. According to the Phase I report, the integrity of this site is presently unclear.

Based on the Phase I survey findings, the Louis Berger Group recommended the avoidance of Temporary Sites 3662-01 and 3662-02. If avoidance was not possible, Berger recommended a Phase II site evaluation designed and conducted in consultation with the OPRHP. As currently proposed, the project would involve disturbance to both of these features; residential homes are proposed in the area of Temporary Site 3662-01, and the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is proposed in the location of Temporary Site 3662-02.

### *Phase II Survey*

In a letter dated June 20, 2006, OPRHP concurred with the recommendation for Phase II evaluations of these sites along with site-specific historical research to develop a context within which to evaluate these resources. In light of the results of the Phase I assessment, the Applicant conducted a Phase II investigation of Temporary Site 3662-01 (historic charcoal features), which included mapping and photographic documentation of features as well as background research. The Phase II archaeological fieldwork consisted of extensive field reconnaissance and subsurface testing through the excavation of two test units (slot/silt trenches) designed to characterize the structure of the charcoal production features, which make up the site. The test units produced no artifacts. However, charcoal samples were retained, and a wide-ranging field reconnaissance led to the discovery of three additional historic charcoal production features. Afterwards, site-specific background research was conducted to develop a historic context describing the importance of charcoal productions to the region. No evidence suggestive of remains of remains of the Peekskill Iron Company was identified, with the exception of one pond that does appear to be a flooded mine pit.

### 3.5.2 Potential Impacts

As currently proposed, the Proposed Action development plan would involve the disturbance of both Temporary Site 3662-01 and Temporary Site 3662-02 (the proposed location of the WWTP). The comprehensive Phase I survey findings together with the site-specific documentary research and Phase II site evaluation of the charcoal hearth features demonstrate that Temporary Site 3662-01 is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and no further work is

warranted. Therefore, based on these findings, no impact to cultural resources is expected to occur in the location of Temporary Site 3662-01.

For Temporary Site 3662-02, it was recommended that either a Phase II investigation should be conducted or the site should be avoided. As a result of this recommendation, the Applicant has identified another suitable location for the WWTP on the opposite side of US Route 44 that would allow for avoidance of Temporary Site 3662-02 and eliminate the need for a Phase II investigation of this site. This new location has been included in evaluation of the Traditional Neighborhood Alternative and is discussed in detail in Section 5.0. The location is shown on Sheet SP4-A, "Overall Wastewater Master Plan" for the Traditional Neighborhood Alternative, included at the end of this DEIS. As described in Section 5.0, a Phase I archaeological survey that was conducted for the new location failed to produce any prehistoric or historic artifacts; therefore, no significant impacts to cultural resources would occur.

### 3.5.3 Proposed Mitigation Measures

As previously stated, Phase I and Phase II investigations of Temporary Site 3662-01 demonstrated that no impact to cultural resources is expected to occur in association with the Proposed Action. Regarding Temporary Site 3662-02, the Applicant is pursuing a new site across US Route 44 for the location of the proposed WWTP, which would avoid impacts to the site and eliminate the need for a Phase II investigation. No mitigation is necessary.