

Appendix R. Terrestrial Archaeological Resources Assessment - Falmouth Executive Summary for Public Release

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Appendix R Terrestrial Archeological Resources Assessment (Falmouth Phase 1A Report): Executive Summary

This Executive Summary includes the results of the archaeological reconnaissance survey conducted for terrestrial portions within the Falmouth Onshore Project Area of the SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC (SouthCoast Wind, formerly Mayflower Wind) Project (the Project). Submarine export cables may make landfall in Falmouth, MA via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) before delivering electricity to the regionally administered transmission system at a point of interconnection (POI) in Falmouth, MA, if utilized as the POI for Project 2. This Phase 1A survey included assessment of two landfall locations: one within the first block of Worcester Park between the two lanes of Worcester Avenue (Worcester Avenue Landfall), and another within Central Park in Falmouth. From there roughly ten miles of export cable and buried transmission line connect the landfall locations with potential substations and ultimately the anticipated POI at Falmouth Tap switching station. The preliminary area of potential effects (PAPE) encompassed these Project components (HDD entry pits at landfall, onshore export cable routes, and substation locations under consideration).

The Terrestrial Archaeological Resources Assessment (TARA) was conducted in order to meet the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) requirements and to meet its obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (36 CFR 800), the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The assessment was conducted consistent with the Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) guidelines for conducting archaeological reconnaissance surveys. A version of Appendix R has been submitted to the MHC which serves as the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office. Coordination is ongoing with the MHC who is administering compliance at the state level.

On behalf of SouthCoast Wind, AECOM conducted background research to situate the Project within its environmental and historical context. In addition to the assessment of the PAPE, SouthCoast Wind employed a one-mile buffer study area around the PAPE to broaden its scope. The assessment included an analysis of the local soils, flora and fauna, and hydrology. Similarly, it included a review of both scholarly and historic research to develop a history for the study area spanning the entirety of human occupation therein. Lastly, a review of previous archaeological studies within the study area facilitated an understanding of the potential for archaeological sites.

The results of the background research informed the development of an archaeological sensitivity model. The model incorporated several criteria that would make an area more likely to have been previously occupied, and not subsequently disturbed, thus potentially resulting in an archaeological site. In total, five criteria were considered:

- Soils and Topography
- Proximity to Waterbodies
- Historic Land Use
- Previously Identified Archaeological Sites
- Modern Disturbance

With the exception of disturbance (which would preclude the integrity and potential survivability of an archaeological site), proximity to certain features in these categories was understood to increase the sensitivity for archaeological resources. Each individual Project component was assessed with regards to the archaeological sensitivity, with the potential for specific site types explored.

The development of the sensitivity model was followed up with field reconnaissance surveys in order to verify the site-specific conditions and disturbance assumed by the model, as well as inspect the various Project

components for any visible historic remains at the surface. Archaeological reconnaissance of the Project components occurred in 2020 and 2021. This reconnaissance survey was conducted under a Permit to Conduct Archaeological Field Investigation # 4080 issued by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The surveying archaeologists met the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards and conducted the survey in accordance with the MHC's guidelines. Ultimately, the field reconnaissance affirmed the conclusions of the sensitivity assessment.

The results of the background research, archaeological sensitivity modeling, and field reconnaissance are presented in the TARA (Falmouth Phase 1A Report). Construction of the onshore Project components has the potential to impact subsurface archaeological deposits. Because of this, a regime of mitigation strategies will be employed. A Phased Identification Plan has been developed to capture any future intensive (locational) surveys in areas where subsurface archaeological resources are possible, as necessary and applicable based on final Project siting and design. .