

**To:** Bradley W. Russell, Ph.D.  
Historic Preservation Specialist - Archaeology  
Division for Historic Preservation  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

**From:** Joseph Kwiatek, Archaeology Project Manger  
Moira Magni, Project Archaeologist  
EDR

**Date:** March 18, 2024

**Reference:** Hoffman Falls Wind Project  
Revised Archaeological Site Avoidance Plan

**NYSHPO No:** 21PR03978

## Introduction

On behalf of Hoffman Falls Wind LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Renewables Inc. (the Applicant), Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, and Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) conducted Phase IB archaeological survey for the proposed Hoffman Falls Wind Project (the Facility), located in the Towns of Eaton, Fenner, Nelson, and Smithfield, Madison County, New York. The proposed Facility is an approximately 100-megawatt wind-powered electric generating facility and will consist of up to 24 wind turbines and supporting infrastructure, which will include access roads, collection lines, an aircraft detection lighting system, a meteorological tower, temporary laydown yards, a collection substation, and an associated point-of-interconnection (POI), as well as other Facility components.

This Revised Archaeological Site Avoidance Plan (the Plan) summarizes the archaeological resources identified by the Phase IB survey that are currently located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), and the proposed Avoidance Measures for these resources which, if not avoided could be potentially impacted by the Facility layout. In comments dated February 9, 2024, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP) requested a more detailed explanation of avoidance procedures and objected to proposed grading within the 50-foot avoidance buffer around site **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** < [REDACTED] > **END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** In response to these comments, EDR and the Applicant have updated the Plan to include:

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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
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### Phase IB Survey Results

The Phase IB archaeological survey was conducted within all areas categorized as elevated archaeological sensitivity that overlapped with areas that were considered for development. Phase IB archaeological survey fieldwork occurred during multiple mobilizations between October 2021 and December 2023 that were concurrent with Facility design to inform the ongoing design and facilitate the avoidance or minimization of potential impacts to sensitive archaeological resources identified by the survey. The results of the Phase IB survey detailed in the *Phase IB Archaeological Survey* report (EDR, 2023a) and *Phase IB Archaeological Survey Addendum Memorandum* (EDR, 2023b) are summarized here:

- Pedestrian survey of 43.9 acres and excavation of 2,447 shovel tests

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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
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- [REDACTED]

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### Archaeological Sites Recommended for Avoidance

The Phase IB report recommended that **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION <** [REDACTED] **>END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** be avoided by significant ground disturbance during Facility construction, or completion of Phase II investigations if avoidance is not possible. In an effort to avoid impacts to all unevaluated archaeological sites identified in the Phase IB survey,



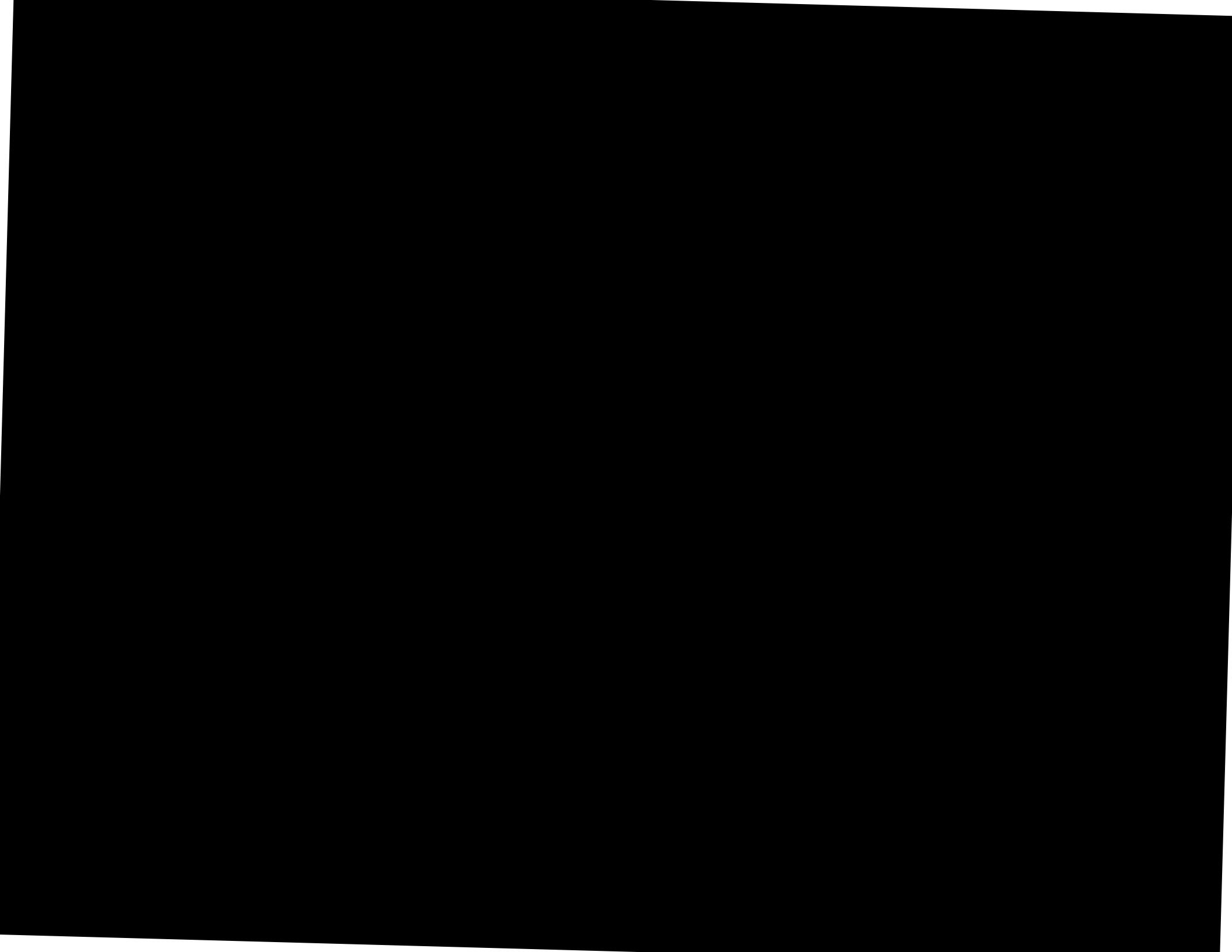


proposed to partially overlap the southwestern portion of the site’s 50-foot avoidance buffer. The Applicant has redesigned the access road within the 50-foot avoidance buffer to eliminate all proposed grading and committed to the use of timber matting to avoid all ground disturbance. As such, EDR considers site **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION <[REDACTED]> END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** fully avoided.

Recommendation: Use of timber matting where portions of the LOD overlap with the 50-foot avoidance buffer of site **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION <[REDACTED]> END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** Erect construction fencing along the edge of the APE facing site **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION <[REDACTED]> END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** clearly marking the area as environmentally sensitive and “no access”.

EDR is requesting concurrence from OPRHP that by redesigning the access road to remove proposed grading and by utilizing timber matting, significant ground disturbance within the 50-foot avoidance buffer of site **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION <[REDACTED]> END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** has been fully avoided.

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**>END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION****Unanticipated Cultural Resources Discoveries Protocol**

The Applicant recognizes that it is possible that unanticipated buried or aboveground archaeological features and/or artifacts may be encountered during Facility construction. Therefore, to provide additional safeguards against the possibility that the proposed Facility might impact unidentified archaeological resources, EDR, on behalf of the Applicant, will prepare an Unanticipated Cultural Resources Discovery Protocol (UDP). The UDP will outline the steps for dealing with unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources which may be encountered during construction of the proposed Facility. This protocol will include stopping work, notifying the appropriate personnel (e.g., ORES, NYSHPO, Indigenous Nations), and photographing the finds. A site visit by an archaeologist to further investigate and document the discovery may be necessary, and appropriate mitigation measures will be determined. This process will occur in consultation with NYSHPO and Native American Nation representatives as appropriate. UDPs are written to provide construction contractors guidance and protocols for identifying possible archaeological material and/or human remains uncovered during construction, and similar protocols will be followed by archaeological crews during Phase II work.

In the event of an unanticipated discovery of potential human remains and/or funerary objects during the Phase II investigation, all work in the immediate vicinity will stop until further notice and the NYSHPO, the county coroner/medical examiner, local law enforcement, and all consulting parties identified in the Protocol will be contacted. The potential remains/funerary objects will be treated with respect, left *in situ* by on-site personnel, and protected from further disturbance. If human remains or funerary objects are determined to be Indigenous, a treatment plan will be developed in consultation with the NYSHPO and the appropriate Nations, consistent with established protocols and guidance. These will include NYSHPO's Human Remains Discovery Protocol (2021), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's *Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains and Funerary Objects* (ACHP, 2023), and the *Haudenosaunee Policy on Human Remains* (Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee, 2014).

The NYSHPO, ACHP, and Haudenosaunee human remains protocols all require temporary suspension of activity in the vicinity of the discovery, protection of discovered remains, notification of NYSHPO and Indigenous representatives, and consultation regarding treatment of remains. The coroner and local law enforcement will make the official ruling on the nature of the remains, being either forensic or archaeological. A decision concerning avoidance or hand excavation of the burial and final disposition of the remains shall be made by consulting parties.

**Conclusion**

To avoid impacts to unevaluated archaeological sites identified in the Phase IB survey, the Applicant has moved or modified a number of Facility components. **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** <[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]> **END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** have been completely avoided by the Facility’s APE. One site, **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** <[REDACTED]> **END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** is located within 50 feet of the Facility’s APE. Since the submission of the Phase IB survey report, the Facility’s proposed APE was modified to include an access road in row cropland within 50 feet of site **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** <[REDACTED]> **END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**. In a previous version of this Plan, the Applicant had proposed limited grading within the 50-foot avoidance buffer. As a response to OPRHP comments, the Applicant has redesigned the access road and removed all grading from within the site’s 50-foot avoidance buffer. In addition, the Applicant has committed to the use of timber matting within that area to fully avoid ground disturbance. As such, EDR recommends that site **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** <[REDACTED]> **END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** as well as the other nine unevaluated sites, have been fully avoided by the proposed Facility and is requesting concurrence from OPRHP on this recommendation.

To provide additional safeguards against the possibility that the proposed Facility might impact unidentified archaeological resources, EDR, on behalf of the Applicant, will prepare an UDP which will outline the steps for dealing with unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources which may be encountered during construction of the proposed Facility.

If you have any questions/concerns or would like to discuss the information described herein, please contact me at [jkwiatek@edrdpc.com](mailto:jkwiatek@edrdpc.com) or (908) 295-5284 and/or Doug Pippin at [dpippin@edrdpc.com](mailto:dpippin@edrdpc.com) or (585) 752-6147.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Joseph Kwiatek  
 EDR Archaeology Project Manager



**Attachments:**

Attachment A

**Archaeological Sites Avoided by** Archaeological Sites Avoided by Facility Construction**References**

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). 2023. *Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects*. Available at <https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/policies/2023-07/PolicyStatementonBurialSitesHumanRemainsandFuneraryObjects30June2023.pdf> (Accessed October 2023).

Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, and Environmental Service, D.P.C. (EDR). 2023a. *Phase IB Archaeological Survey, Hoffman Falls Wind Project, Towns of Eaton, Fenner, Nelson, and Smithfield, Madison County, New York*. Report prepared for Hoffman Falls Wind LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Renewables, Inc.), by EDR, Syracuse, NY. December 2023.

Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, and Environmental Service, D.P.C. (EDR). 2023b. *Hoffman Falls Wind Project, Towns of Eaton, Fenner, Nelson, and Smithfield, Madison County, New York, Phase IB Archaeological Survey Addendum Memorandum*. Prepared for Hoffman Falls Wind LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Renewables, Inc.), by EDR, Syracuse, NY. December 2023.

Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee. 2014. *Haudenosaunee Policy on Human Remains*. Grand Council of Haudenosaunee. Available at <https://www.indiantime.net/story/2014/06/26/culture/cultural-corner/14470.html> (Accessed October 2023).

New York Archaeological Council (NYAC). 1994. *Standards for Cultural Resources Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections in New York State*. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Waterford, NY.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSHPO). 2005. *New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Phase I Archaeological Report Format Requirements*. On file, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Waterford, NY. Available at <https://cris.parks.ny.gov/>.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSHPO). 2021. *New York State Historic Preservation Office Human Remains Discovery Protocol*. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Waterford, NY.

**Attachment A**

**Archaeological Sites Avoided by Facility Construction**

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AVAILABLE REPORT BECAUSE IT CONTAINS  
PROTECTED/CONFIDENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE  
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