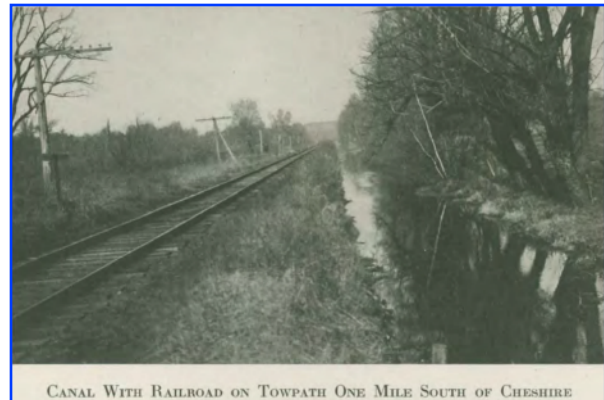


# FARMINGTON CANAL HERITAGE TRAIL

Connecticut Department of Transportation



The Farmington Canal conjures an iconic image of historic Connecticut, and remains an important transportation conduit. The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and Greenway is an 84-mile long corridor that stretches from New Haven, Connecticut to Northampton, Massachusetts. It runs along the route of the nineteenth-century Farmington Canal and Farmington Railroad. The Farmington Canal is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over half of the Greenway has been developed as a pedestrian and cycling path under the oversight of the Connecticut DOT (ConnDOT).



In 2013 and 2014, Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) conducted archaeological studies for sections of the Greenway development in both Cheshire and Farmington, Connecticut as part of federal and state regulations for cultural resources, including Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. Initial work consisted of a Cultural Resource Assessment, which revealed a Native American sensitivity for both locations. The significant historic period sensitivity at the sites focused on the early corridor transportation – the canal embankments in Cheshire and the railroad berm and water markers in Farmington.



Archaeological field testing included a range of techniques, from Phase I hand-excavated shovel testing, to use of non-invasive Ground Penetrating Radar to ascertain the presence of former railroad resources. Phase II excavations were necessary in Cheshire but Phase III Data Recovery excavations were avoided through a simple redesign of the Greenway parking lot to shift all construction impacts away from the sensitive loci.

HPI worked closely with ConnDOT's Office of Environmental Planning and the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology to complete these required cultural studies.

