

USER'S GUIDE SUMMARY

Archaeological Sensitivity Maps for Arlington, Massachusetts

This guide is designed to assist persons who will be using the archaeological sensitivity maps for the Town of Arlington. These maps were compiled in 2022 as part of an Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the entire town of Arlington. The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) conducted the survey with funding provided by the Town of Arlington. The Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) provided oversight of and assistance with the survey. The reconnaissance survey collected valuable information about the archaeological resources located within Arlington and used this data to help predict where additional resources could be expected.

The archaeological sensitivity maps are intended to accommodate changing land use patterns and development in the town. The attached maps depict areas of probable pre-contact (ancient Native American) and post-contact (historic Native American and EuroAmerican) archaeological sensitivity. These maps will need to be periodically updated as cultural resources surveys occur and new sites are located and added to the town's inventory.

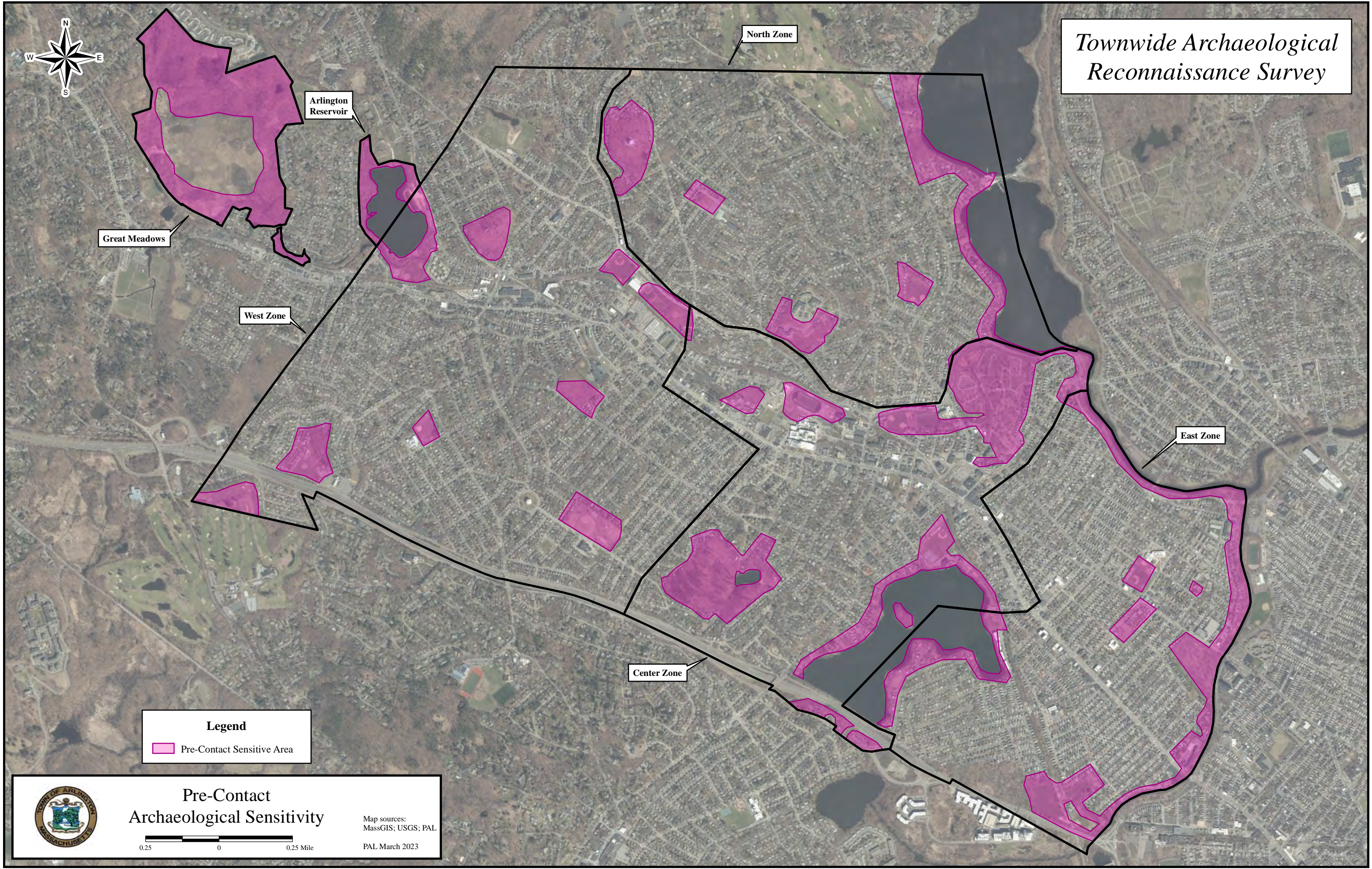
Archaeological resources provide a unique record of past human activity that is not always available in the written record. These resources are described by historians and archaeologists according to two main temporal divisions: the *prehistoric or pre-contact period*, from about 12,000 years ago when the first humans arrived in the Northeast up to about 500 years ago when the first European explorers arrived in North America; and the *historic or post-contact period*, which is more conventionally understood in the northeastern United States as the history from the arrival of the Pilgrims in the early 1600s up to modern times. Archaeological sites include the locations of Native American and Euro-American habitation and land use and the artifacts and structural remains left behind by past human populations.

Archaeological sensitivity is the probability for cultural resources to be present in a given area. This probability is based on a number of variables and categories of information about where sites are located across the region and refined to reflect the patterns unique to Arlington. Areas sensitive for pre-contact sites are based on favorable environmental conditions like level well-drained soils, proximity to fresh water, and areas of high-quality of bedrock outcrops for raw material for stone tools. Post-contact sensitivity is largely based on historic maps and records, as well as areas where waterpower was used for industry.

Archaeologically Sensitive Zones contain known archaeological sites, or favorable combinations of natural resources and landscape. Generally, the areas of highest sensitivity have been minimally affected by development, erosion, landscaping, and mechanical disturbance. Sensitive areas are also those that have minimal to moderate degrees of disturbance and have some favorable environmental and landscape attributes but may not contain known archaeological sites. Areas of archaeological sensitivity have some potential to contain intact archaeological deposits, based on pre-contact and post-contact settlement patterns seen in Arlington and elsewhere in the region. It is considered probable that significant archaeological resources that have not yet been identified or documented exist within Arlington's sensitive areas.

Non-Sensitive Zones are typically poorly drained or have saturated soils (swamps, bogs), excessively steep slopes, extremely rocky soils, and/or have been extensively altered by residential, commercial, or industrial development or other forms of modern land use. Exceptions to these non-sensitive environmental variables include wetlands that have been modified (e.g., dammed, channeled) for industrial use and rock outcrops that were a source of raw material for stone tools. It is considered unlikely that significant archaeological resources are located or remain in non-sensitive areas.

Townwide Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey



Great Meadows

Arlington Reservoir

North Zone

West Zone

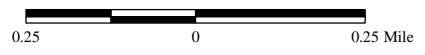
East Zone

Center Zone

Legend
Pre-Contact Sensitive Area

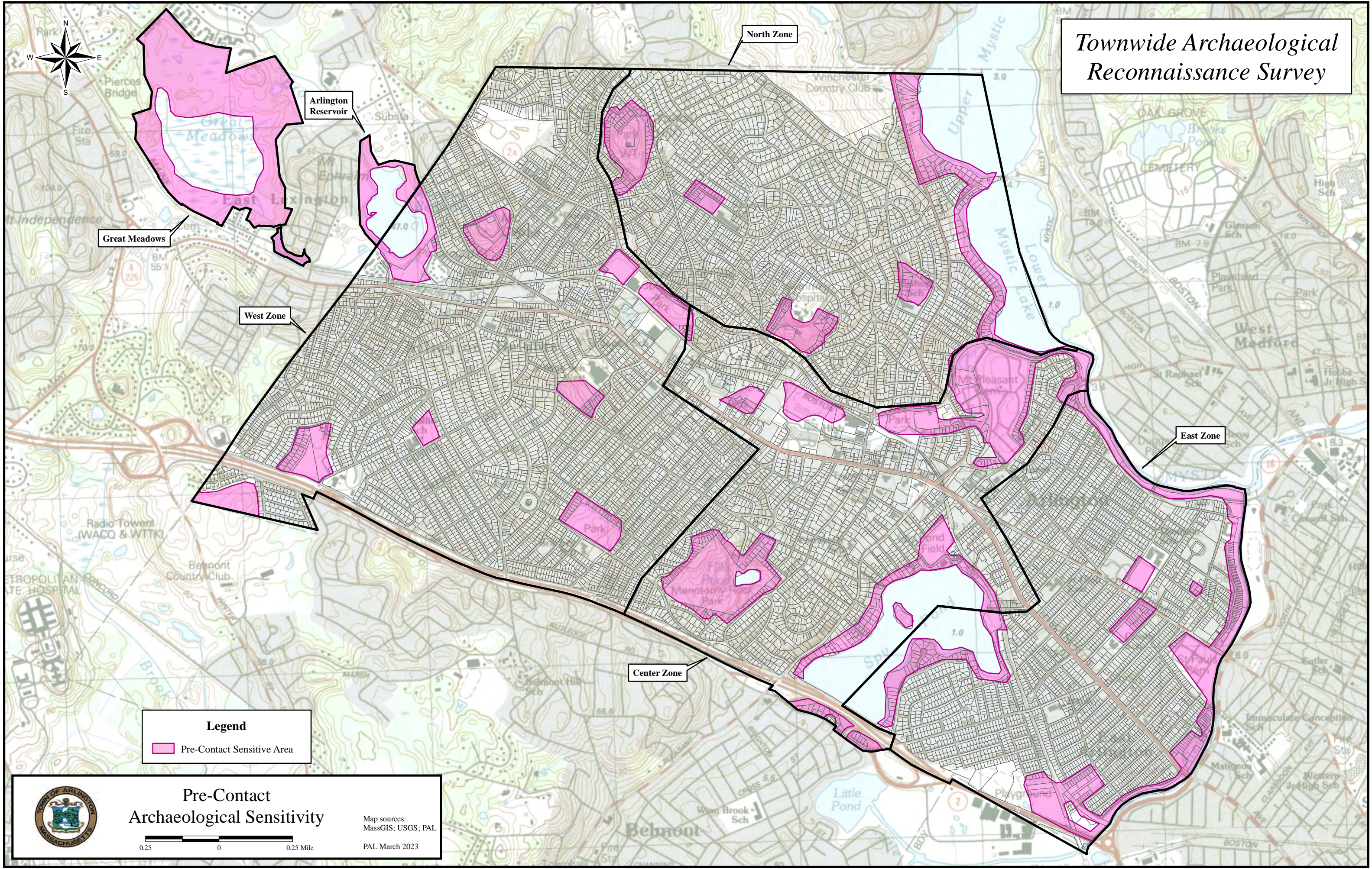


Pre-Contact Archaeological Sensitivity



Map sources:
MassGIS; USGS; PAL
PAL March 2023

Townwide Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey



North Zone

Arlington Reservoir


Great Meadows

West Zone

East Zone

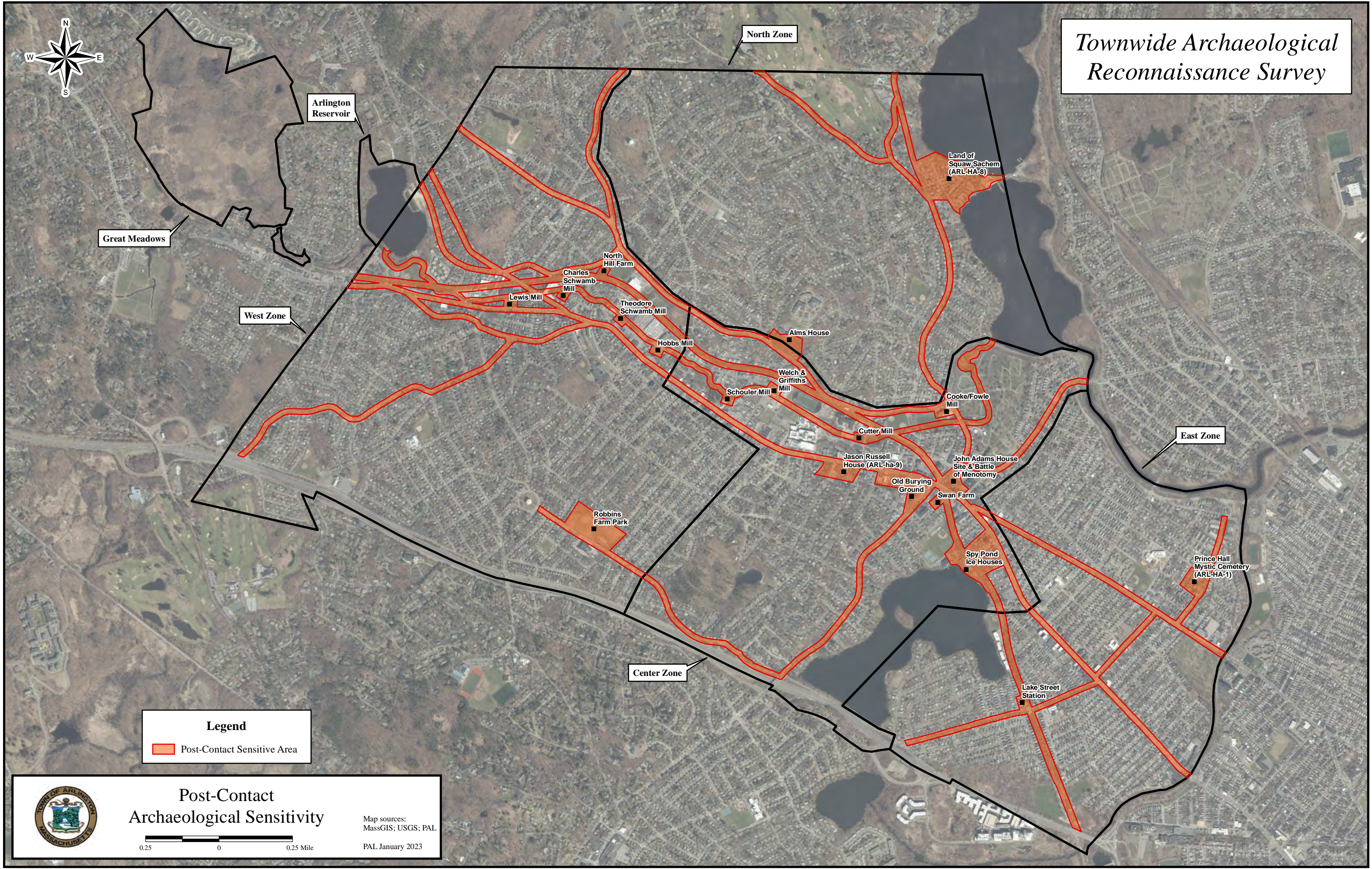
Center Zone

Legend
Pre-Contact Sensitive Area

 **Pre-Contact Archaeological Sensitivity**
Map sources: MassGIS; USGS; PAL
PAL March 2023

0.25 0 0.25 Mile

Townwide Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey



Legend

 Post-Contact Sensitive Area

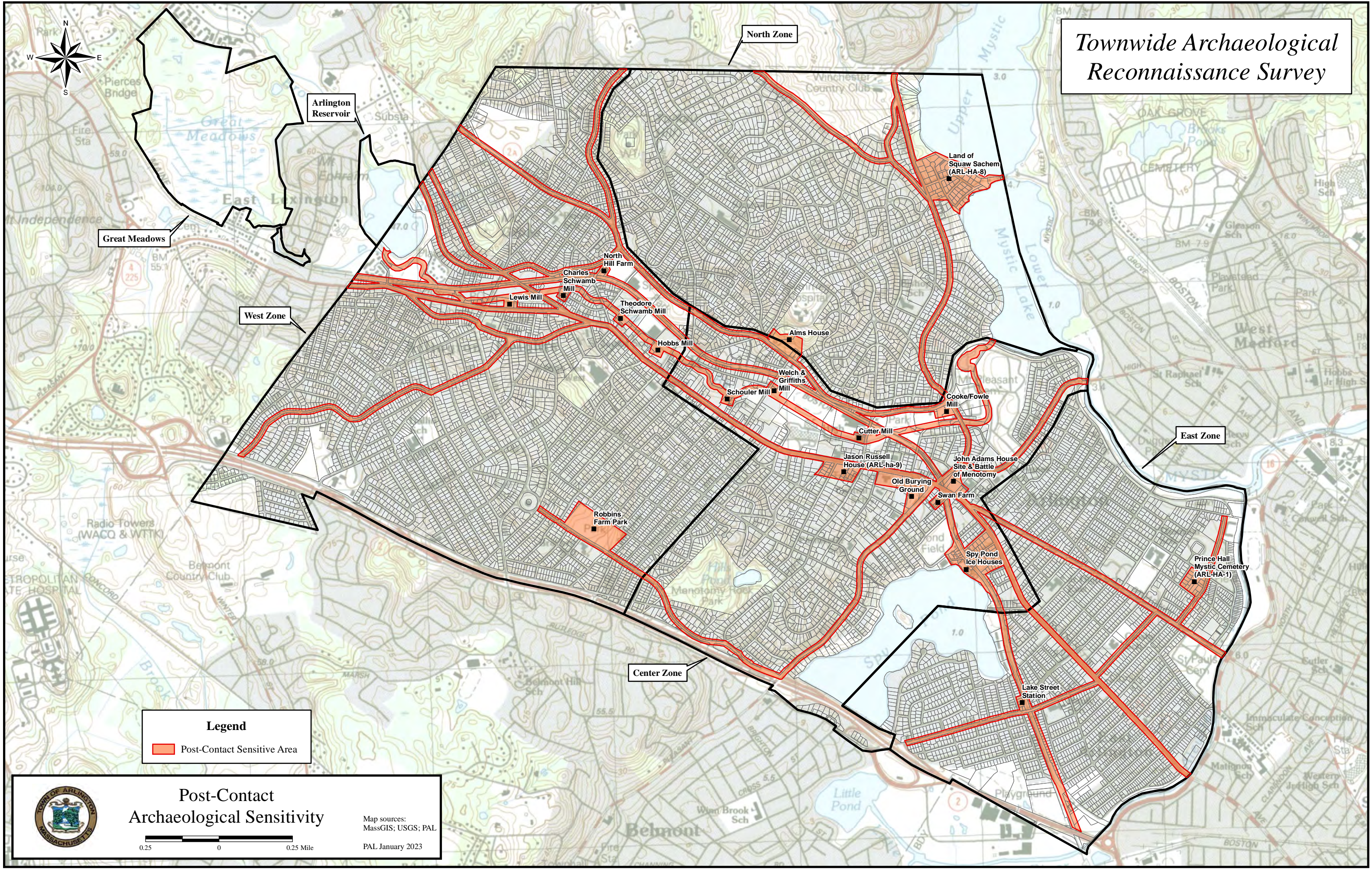
 **Post-Contact Archaeological Sensitivity**

Map sources: MassGIS; USGS; PAL

PAL January 2023

0.25 0 0.25 Mile

Townwide Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey



Legend
Post-Contact Sensitive Area

 **Post-Contact Archaeological Sensitivity**
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PAL January 2023

0.25 0 0.25 Mile