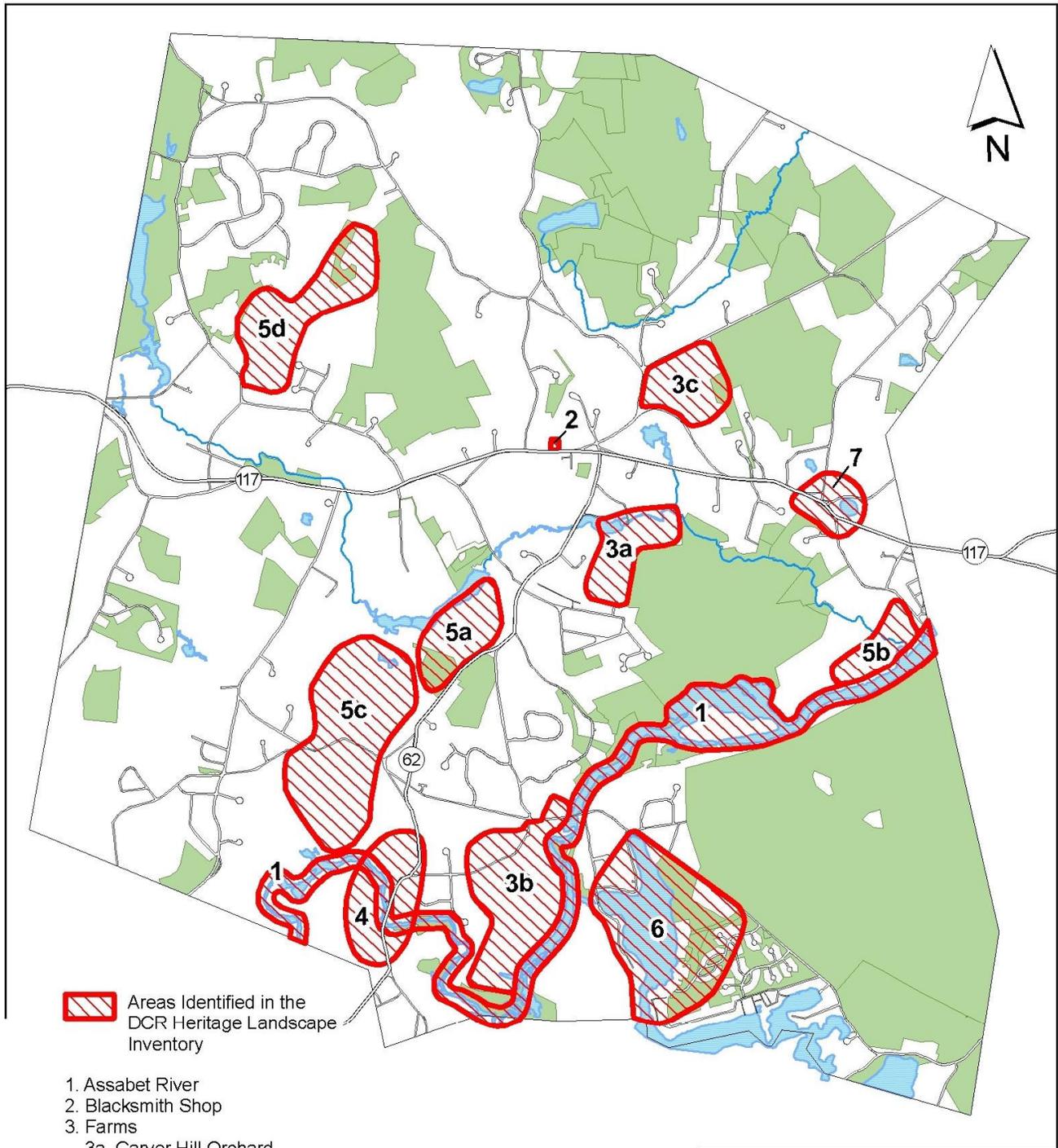


## Stow - Unique Areas as Identified in the Heritage Landscape Inventory



 Areas Identified in the DCR Heritage Landscape Inventory

- 1. Assabet River
- 2. Blacksmith Shop
- 3. Farms
  - 3a. Carver Hill Orchard
  - 3b. Honey Pot Orchard
  - 3c. Pilot Grove Farm
- 4. Gleasondale
- 5. Golf Courses
  - 5a. Butternut Farm Golf Course
  - 5b. Stowaway Golf Club
  - 5c. Stow Acres Country Club
  - 5d. Wedgewood Pines
- 6. Lake Boon & Cottage Neighborhood
- 7. Lower Village

 Protected Open Space Lands

 Water Bodies

0 1 Mile

Polygons based on the DCR Heritage Landscape Inventory (2006). Automated by The Trustees of Reservations. Base map features provided by MassGIS.

Map produced March 2008.

### ***Cultural, Archeological and Historic Areas***

Although there are a large number of historic sites and homes in Stow, only the most prominent are mentioned here. A more complete listing of historical sites and places has been compiled by the Stow Historical Commission and is available to the public at Stow's Randall library. Pilot Grove Farm and Hill are again of central historic significance. The Stow West School is a restored one room school house on Harvard Road which is opened to the public during the summer. The Town recently funded a project to create a small parking area and other access enhancements at the West School site using Community Preservation funds. The Gleasondale Mill area has a number of structures dating back to its operation as a woolen mill. The Town Center has a number of old homes and structures (e.g. old Town Hall, blacksmith shop, First Parish Church etc.) which make the area both culturally and historically important to preserve.

### ***Unique Environments***

Stow currently has no designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). Other areas with significant or unique resources include the Assabet River and Lake Boon, and the rare species and BioMap Core habitat areas described above. At present, there are no plans to seek ACEC designation for any of these areas.

## **4G. Environmental Challenges**

### ***Hazardous waste sites***

Many of the hazardous waste sites in Stow as well as some broader hazardous waste problems noted in the 1997 Open Space Plan have been rectified. The specific sites included the Fort Devens Sudbury Annex, the Stow Shopping Plaza, and a contamination plume moving from GenRad in Bolton into a northwestern portion of Stow. The Fort Devens site has two classification areas:

- A1-A12 areas include demolition grounds, old waste dumps (general refuse, solvents etc.), buried contaminated test clothing (from Army Natick Labs), and a PCB spill area.
- P1-P56 areas include clothing burial sites, chemical, waste and drum storage, burn sites, rocket and pyrotechnic test sites; a number of the P areas are NOT contaminated but are listed as tested.

The Stow Shopping Plaza is designated as a cleanup site as is the old Gleasondale Mill area. Center School has been using bottled water for a few years because due to elevated levels of lead in the water. Studies have not been able to pinpoint the source. All of these specific sites are in the process of being analyzed and addressed in terms of clean-up. Recently, test wells have indicated that there is a plume of contamination moving from GenRad in Bolton into Stow. This site is presently under investigation.

More generalized hazardous waste problems include underground fuel tanks many of which have been replaced in the Town although it is not a requirement to do so. The Board of Health strongly recommends that such tanks be tested after 20 years. The fuel tank at the Pompositticut Elementary School was found to be leaking. Replacement of the tank has been completed, but the clean up process is continuing. Bioremediation has been chosen as the method to remove the oil on the site and adjacent properties.

There are three landfills in Stow: the old site on Harvard Road which was closed a couple of decades ago, Fletcher's dump on South Acton Road on the Acton line (closed and sealed in the early 1980s)

and the more recent site mostly located in Hudson off of Hudson Road at the Stow-Hudson line. Recent analysis of the test wells at the current site have indicated that there may be some leachate escaping the landfill. Several illegal dumps have been identified in some of the wooded areas in Stow that have vehicle access.

A complete list of the reported sites available from DEP as of the end of 2004 follows:

<b>Release Tracking Number(RTN)</b>	<b>Release Address</b>	<b>Site Name/Location Aid</b>	<b>Notification Date</b>	<b>Chemical Type</b>
0013899	11 ASSABET ST	JANE MACCLELLAN	07/11/2001	Oil
2-0000722	FT DEVENS	FORT DEVENS TRAINING ANNEX	01/15/1990	Oil
2-0000427	501 GLEASONDALE	FAHEY EXHIBITS BUILDING	01/15/1989	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0000280	124 GREAT RD	MOBIL SERVICE STATION 01 JEJ	04/15/1988	Oil
2-0000364	147 GREAT RD	STOW SHOPPING CTR	02/17/1988	Hazardous Material
2-0000316	155 GREAT RD	DATAHECKER DTS	01/15/1988	
2-0010438	511 GREAT RD	POMPOSITTICUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	08/07/1994	Oil
2-0012504	626 GREAT RD	SERVICE STATION	11/18/1998	Oil
2-0014651	626 GREAT RD	COMMUNITY CONVENIENCE TRUST	01/31/2003	Hazardous Material
2-0012413	875 GREAT RD	ET AND L CONSTRUCTION	09/22/1998	
2-0010789	GREAT RD	AT INTERSECTION OF HUDSON RD	05/23/1995	Oil
2-0014665	26 HERITAGE LN	WASTE MGT INC ROADWAY RELEASE	02/10/2003	Oil
2-0013499	47 MARLBOROUGH	RESIDENCE	09/27/2000	Oil
2-0010012	150 NORTH SHORE DR	RESIDENCE	10/06/1993	Oil

2-0012639	PNE STOW	SMITH PROPERTY	02/02/1999	Oil
2-0013979	58 RANDALL RD	STOW ACRES CC	09/06/2001	Oil
2-0012145	STATE RD	NEAR SUDBURY RD	03/16/1998	Oil
2-0014565	10 WHEELER RD	WASTE MANAGEMENT INC	11/25/2002	Oil
2-0013854	45 WHITE POND RD	NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS	05/17/2001	Oil
2-0014741	45 WHITE POND RD	ASTRO CRANE SERVICES INC	04/23/2003	Oil
2-0015271	45 WHITE POND RD	ASTRO CRANE SERVICES, INC	05/19/2004	Hazardous Material
2-0010279	77 WHITE POND RD	J MELONE & SONS INC	04/21/1994	Oil
2-0010347	77 WHITE POND RD	J MELONE & SONS INC	06/21/1994	Oil
2-0013851	15 WOODMAN PL	WETLAND BEHIND PROPERTY	05/14/2001	Oil
3-0014656	ACCESS RD	BOSTON SAND & GRAVEL	12/23/1996	Oil

### ***Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding***

Lake Boon has several areas where steep banks are susceptible to erosion in heavy storm and from ice, and as a result of wash from power boats and inappropriate recreational use of the shoreline. Agricultural fields which are plowed regularly can be vulnerable to erosion, but there are few of these fields that are on significant slopes so this problem is minimal. The only other erosion which occurs in Stow is transient as a result of disturbance of the soils during development. Within 100 feet of wetlands, the Conservation Commission has been conscientious in requiring erosion mitigation and control measures.

Agricultural run-off from Stow's farms and orchards and from the golf courses in Stow is considered by some to be a possible source of ground and surface water pollution. However, a more likely source is the unregulated and uncontrolled application of fertilizer and pesticides to lawns and the incremental impact of nutrients from septic systems. A plume of organic chemical pollutants was identified at the Stow Shopping Center on Route 117, and another plume has been identified arising from GenRad in Bolton on Route 117. Groundwater problems have been identified at the closed dump on Hudson Road on the Stow/Hudson line.

Areas subject to chronic flooding include Heath Hen Meadow Brook, Elizabeth Brook (mostly due to the beaver dams), the Hiley Brook area, and portions of the Assabet River in Gleasondale just below the dam and at the Sudbury road crossing. Flooding also occurs regularly in a low wetlands area on Maple St. near the Hudson/Bolton Town line.

### ***New Development***

More recent development has caused minimal pollution in Stow because the Town has been relatively vigilant in upholding its health and conservation regulations and its zoning by-laws. However this development is gradually fragmenting Stow's forest lands and wildlife habitat, reducing opportunities to provide trail linkages between protected lands and affecting the town's rural and historic character. Particularly noticeable is the fact that new residential developments tends to consist of large homes that are intrusive on the landscape and out of character with much of the existing development in Stow, particularly when they require extensive grading and clearcutting. The Planning Board has worked diligently to revise and modify zoning bylaws and regulations to encourage low impact development and retention of a roadside buffer, and has succeeded in convincing applicants to revise plans to reduce required clearing and grading.



New Development on Harvard Road