A number of sites of archaeological significance have been identified on the Main and South Campuses of the University of Vermont. As part of the State of Vermont Act 250 regulations, all capital projects are reviewed in relation to the historic preservation and archaeological assessments. The University is committed to identifying specific archaeologically sensitive areas when evaluating plans for a proposed development site. If the site is determined to be archaeologically sensitive, the University will conduct an archaeological evaluation and proceed as appropriate. The evaluation will follow the general procedures contained within the Guidelines for Archaeological Studies (1989).

Archaeologically significant sites on campus include: a native American settlement in the parking lot of Centennial Field, which is thought to be 3000 years old; an early nineteenth-century farmhouse located at the southern end of the University Historic Green; a prehistoric site at the UVM Horticultural Research Complex between Spear Street and Shelburne Road that contains evidence of at least two periods of occupation, one dating to within 1,000 years and the second to roughly 5,000 years ago. Additionally, what appears to be an early beach line of the Champlain Sea was identified near the fountain on the University Historic Green. University Archaeologists report that very old Native American sites could be associated with such an environmental feature.

Note that all site locations are proximate and not exact boundaries of the identified archaeological sites.
The University of Vermont’s hilltop location and its natural setting between Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains frame a sequence of landscape views that are one of the most memorable features of the University’s campus. The Campus Master Plan defines key viewsheds from roadways, buildings, and walkways to protect them from being obscured by future development, and to encourage new buildings that frame key views.

The Campus Viewsheds are divided into four broad categories: Regional Views establish the University in its broader natural and urban setting and are the backdrop to the life of the University; Historic Views are the foreground and middle-ground views that include distinguished or iconic buildings and open spaces. They establish the University’s visual identity, and function as wayfinding aids. Views from Buildings and Walkways note important views of the surrounding landscape from the windows of buildings. Viewsheds Needing Improvement are those on-campus or off-campus views that are compromised by unsightly buildings, utilities or signage.

The Campus Landmarks are those architectural features that are highly-visible throughout the campus that serve to orient the visitor. The pre-eminent landmarks on campus are the steeple of the Ira Allen Chapel, the belfry of Old Mill, Converse Hall, the Watertower adjacent to the Given Building, the Redstone Watertowers, Redstone Hall and the Historic Redstone Green. The pedestrian tunnel under Main Street and the fountain at the heart of the University Historic Green represent a less prominent class of landmarks that function as navigational aids, even though they are not highly visible. The Gateway District Watertower is a regional and campus landmark.

The analysis of viewsheds and landmarks structures the future development of infill landbanks and connective open spaces as described in Chapter 4.2: Frameworks for Campus Planning and Chapter 4.3: District Design Guidelines.
CHAPTER 4.1 – Main campus: Existing Conditions

REGIONAL VIEWS

1. Lake Champlain from Main Street
2. Mount Mansfield from Main Street
3. Camel’s Hump from Main Street
4. Green Mountains from Tupper Hall
5. Camel’s Hump from behind Patrick Gym
HISTORIC VIEWS

6. University Place from Colchester Avenue

7. University Place from University Green

8. University Place towards Old Mill

9. UVM Redstone Green from South Prospect Street

10. Old Mill from College Street
CHAPTER 4.1 – MAIN CAMPUS: EXISTING CONDITIONS

VIEWS FROM BUILDINGS AND WALKWAYS

11. Lake Champlain from Old Mill
12. Lake Champlain from Williams Building Fire Escape
13. View towards Lake Champlain from Waterman Terrace
14. Camels Hump from Dudley H. Davis Center
15. Looking south from Redstone Walkway
16. View of the Redstone Pine Grove from Redstone Walkway
VIEWSHEDS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT

17. Colchester Avenue looking towards Lake Champlain, Trinity on right

18. Colchester Avenue looking towards Fleming Museum

19. Looking through University Historic Green from Main Street

20. Main Street looking towards future site of Student Center

21. C-B-W Quad towards Colchester Avenue
EXISTING OPEN SPACE

For the purpose of analysis of existing conditions and potential future use, the Campus Master Plan divides open spaces across campus into five categories that broadly define visual and qualitative aspects of the University of Vermont’s landscape. The Existing Open Space analysis diagram looks at spaces that are working well as elements of an overall campus landscape. They contribute significantly to the social or recreational life, or green setting of the campus. The subsequent analysis diagram, Transitional Spaces with Potential (next page), looks at those open spaces, including parking lots that are not primary elements of the overall fabric of the campus that could benefit from improvement or serve as sites for future development. These two analysis diagrams are aligned with the designations and criteria for developable land as defined in the 1997 Campus Land Use Plan.

Historically Significant Open Spaces are those places that embody earlier moments in the University’s institutional past. These open spaces foster a unique sense of place, and are a link between the modern life of the University and its collective memory. These are iconic places that form an image of the University for the visitor.

Recreational Informal Gathering Spaces include places that provide open space for informal recreational use and function as gathering spots, outdoor classrooms and/or important intersections. Recreational Informal Gathering Space is designed space with clear spatial definition and may be paved plazas, traditional quadrangles, spaces with lawns and paths, and open green spaces that allow passive and active recreation.

Transitional Pedestrian Spaces are those parts of the campus that have some open space presence, but lack spatial definition. This includes the spaces in between and around buildings—the front yards and back yards—and spaces at the campus edges. Typically, these spaces are not considered gathering places, but they contribute significantly to the impression made by the campus’ green setting. The areas of campus with the most surface paving have the least amount of transitional pedestrian space.

Athletic Open Space consists of campus playing fields located at the Athletic District and Centennial Field, and the running track at the Athletic District. These open spaces contribute to the green setting of the campus and provide for active recreation, but they do not foster social gatherings or passive recreation.

Natural Areas are significant natural spaces that the University has undertaken to preserve as an ecological, recreational and educational resource. The Centennial Woods Natural Area which is a portion (66 acres) of the overall Centennial Woods parcel, has been set aside in perpetuity easement as a forested preserve both to protect the unique Natural Area characteristics, including the Centennial Brook watershed and to serve as a resource for non-intrusive passive recreational uses and education.

Most of the Natural Areas within Chittenden County are open to the general public for natural history related activities and non-intrusive passive recreational use. Non-intrusive passive recreational uses include hiking, wildlife watching, and natural area study.
Transitional Spaces with Potential are those parts of the University of Vermont that have the potential to play a greater role in the cohesiveness of the overall fabric of the University campus.

Transitional spaces are largely parking lots that offer great opportunities for improvement and facilities expansion. Smaller forgotten spaces in between buildings, or areas impacted by negative environmental conditions such as noise or heavy traffic also have a great deal to offer in terms of overall campus image and connectivity. These transitional spaces are identified as sites for potential landscape improvement, or locations for potential building land banks.

A concentration of smaller transitional spaces occurs within the University’s Central District, where dense use and fine architecture are wonderful opportunities to create livable and stimulating spaces. Similarly, the approach to the campus on Main Street from Interstate-89 is another transitional landscape bounded by parking and access roads that needs a stronger University image and gateway to the University.
Full accessibility for all buildings and open spaces continues to be a guiding principle for all development at the University of Vermont and all proposed pedestrian path systems will accommodate the physically challenged by providing barrier free access in all major connective open spaces. Additionally, minimizing vehicular traffic on-campus, while benefiting all pedestrians in terms of safety and comfort, will be an even greater benefit to the physically challenged user.

The combination of a naturally hilly topography and a large concentration of historic buildings have created a number of challenges for disabled path of travel and access to facilities. The network of pedestrian walkways largely meets requirements for disabled path of travel in terms of maintaining a 5% or less grade. Inaccessible points on walkways are largely concentrated along the periphery of the University Historic Green, the grade change between the C-B-W Quad and the Bailey/Howe Quad.

For a complete listing of the locations with numbers of parking spaces for the physically challenged refer to the Joint Institutional Parking Plan, December 2005 available through Campus Planning Services. Refer to the map in the Parking Inventory by Campus Architectural Districts section within this chapter (4.1) that highlights the existing locations of these parking areas.
The University’s present standard of campus lighting presents a consistent and secure level of illumination at night along recommended walkways and around building entrances, parking lots, and bike parking areas. This current standard is the result of a comprehensive review and upgrade of campus lighting that began in 1987 to ensure best energy efficiency along with public safety. Exterior light levels throughout campus now meet the standards recommended in the American National Standard for Safety, “Practice for Industrial Lighting”, and the “Illuminating Engineering Standards” (IES).

The University’s current standard fixture, a Lumec Octagonal Streetlight (refer to Chapter 8 – Design Goals & Strategies for more details) provides adequate illumination for walkways, while also being “dark skies friendly” in not contributing to urban light pollution. The Octagonal Streetlights mimic the form of a classic 19th century fixture and harmonize well with much of the campus’ historic architecture. The University’s commitment to this standard creates a highly readable and visually appealing structure for the campus walkway network.

Campus pathways are also lit by “Code Blue” Voice Interactive Pedestals (blue lights), which are located throughout the campus, and provide emergency voice communication with the University Police Services at all times (also refer to Chapter 8: Procedures, Design Goals & Strategies). This network of blue light pedestals also does a great deal to establish a sense of safety and security on the campus walkway network at night.