

## **Map 16**

### **Wheeler's Surprise (3 Overlays) Proposed Sites, Artifacts and Escape Route**

Map 16 demonstrates with great detail the proposed site of Wheeler's Surprise, located in New Braintree. The path the militia traveled to meet the Indians, and some actions that occurred. With both overlays raised, you will see the topographical geography with elevations of the earth where Wheeler's Surprise occurred. Also shown is Slein Road. With only one overlay raised you will see the low area labeled with blue, symbolizing swamp, and the high areas labeled with green, symbolizing dry land. The strip of land not labeled with a color is the area of land where the militia traveled. With all of the overlays down you can see a very narrow strip with arrows labeled "Choke Point" and "Pinch Point". When the militia was located just to the right of those arrows, the Indians ambushed from both sides. The militia had no place to go. The Indians squeezed the militia using this narrow piece of land and strategic Choke and Pinch points. As you can see with the contour lines, the land on the right was too steep to travel directly up (especially with horses and equipment). The only way to escape was to travel at a diagonal direction up the hill (labeled with the other arrows), which the militia did with the help of Indian brothers Sampson and Joseph Robin as guides. After escaping from the Indian ambush, the militia returned to Brookfield from the east back to Foster Hill. To prove that Wheeler's Surprise occurred here we have artifacts such as three musket balls, two horseshoes and a buckle.

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