

Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers

CAAO Research / Historian Committee



Covid-19 Home Inspection Survey Results Survey request October 1, 2020

The pandemic has altered the world in many ways and the inspection of property by assessors is no different. Show in this report is the result of a survey of Connecticut assessors and how they went about their field inspections for the October 2020 Grand List. **The survey is shown on the following 18 pages.** The CAAO Research / Historian Committee thanks Middlebury Assessor Chris Kelsey for helping with this report.

Copied as Presented

How much time lag was there in starting your fieldwork.

Town Name

Ansonia

Ashford None.
Beacon Falls 4 months
Bloomfield 4 months

Branford Several months

Burlington None

Canterbury 2-3 months

ColchesterNoneColumbiaNoneCromwell3 MonthsDarien6 weeks

Not much, not much field work to do because

East Hartford of Covid
East Haven None
East Lyme 3 months
Essex None
Franklin None at all
Glastonbury About 4 weeks

Greenwich 3 months
Guilford 4 weeks
Hampton 2 months
Hartland None
Hebron None
Killingly 30 days
Ledyard 2 months

Litchfield Would have been none but I broke my ankle.

Manchester 3.5 months

Manchester About three months

Manchester personal property None Mansfield 3 months

Marlborough We are in a revaluation year.
Meriden We started June 1, 2020

MiddleburyMonthsMiddlefield5 monthsMiddletown2 month

Milford About 2 months
Milford 6-7 Months
Naugatuck 3 months

Norwalk About 3 months

Plainfield None
Rocky Hill 3 months
Salisbury None
Seymour 5 months
Somers None
Southington 1 month

Stratford 3 months
Thompson 3 months
Tolland 2 months
Torrington 2 months
Vernon 3 months
Wallingford None

Warren and Roxbury A few months
Watertown Three months
Westport 3 months

Wethersfield Yes-have not started yet

Windham 2 months
Windsor 3 months
Wolcott 4 1/2 months

Woodbury Off by a few months didn't start in spring

Woodstock

Town Name What month did you start field inspection?

Ansonia September

Ashford July
Beacon Falls August
Bloomfield August

Branford Exteriors were mostly drive by's, August

Burlington September
Canterbury September
Colchester April
Columbia August

Cromwell June
Darien May 20th
East Hartford July
East Haven April
East Lyme July

Essex September Franklin August Glastonbury May Greenwich June

Guilford September

Hampton June Hartland July

Hebron September

Killingly May Ledyard May

Litchfield Normally August- September

Manchester July 20th Manchester June

Manchester personal

property May 2020 drive-by only

Mansfield May

Marlborough September

Meriden June 1, 2020 Middlebury August Middlefield September

Middletown April

Milford Late September
Milford September

Naugatuck July

Norwalk Late June early July

Plainfield September

Rocky Hill July
Salisbury August
Seymour August, 2020

Somers Sept
Southington May
Stratford July
Thompson August
Tolland September
Torrington June

Vernon Late July 2020
Wallingford October 19th
Warren and Roxbury September
Watertown September

Westport June

Wethersfield Have not started
Windham September
Windsor August
Wolcott August
Woodbury July
Woodstock May

Town Name When did you start interior inspections?

Ansonia September

Ashford July

Beacon Falls Only for new construction

Bloomfield August

Branford Not doing interiors.
Burlington Didn't - sent letters

Canterbury September

Colchester Never stopped completely; redefined when needed

Columbia September

Cromwell We didn't this year

Darien May 20th
East Hartford Never stopped
East Haven No specific date

East Lyme Did not do interior unless vacant
Essex Not going in because of COVID-19
Franklin Last two weeks in September

Glastonbury We do very few, most are new construction Greenwich Not doing interior inspections at this time

Guilford Haven't Hampton June

Hartland

Hebron September
Killingly Mid July
Ledyard June

Litchfield Have not done any

Manchester July 20th Manchester July

Manchester personal

property August 20th

Mansfield May

Marlborough No interior inspections.

Meriden Didn't' really stop just used safety measures

Middlebury August Middlefield N/A Middletown April

Milford Late September
Milford September

Naugatuck July

Did a few for the BAA when the owner requested an inspection

mostly because of a pending sale. For the most part we

Norwalk accepted photos.

Plainfield September

Rocky Hill July Salisbury August

Seymour August, 2020

Somers

Southington June Stratford Have not

Thompson Only doing interior prior building occupied

Tolland September

Torrington June

Vernon None with the exception of crumbling foundations

Wallingford October 19th
Warren and Roxbury September
Watertown September

Westport July

Wethersfield Will not be doing interior in person Windham Currently not doing them. Only exterior

Windsor None. - Info at door

Wolcott August

Woodbury Not doing interior unless the homeowner requests

Woodstock May

Continued next page

Town Name How did you conduct interior inspections?

Ansonia No appointment Ashford With a mask on.

Interior inspections were only done on finished

Beacon Falls new constructions at the time the CO issued

Required the wearing of face masks and the

Bloomfield building to be empty except for the owner

Letters requesting pictures/video. Pictures via email,

videos are submitted to a Drop box file set up by our IT department specifically for our inspections.

Sent letters that would be adding value by plans

submitted. Told them they could call or send

Burlington pictures if they would like.

Canterbury In person

Colchester With owners permission & amp; ALL wearing masks

Asked for pictures and videos but did in person

Columbia when necessary

Cromwell Based interior on best available information

Utilized the detail received by our building dept.

Darien (land use software) and the MLS

Some by MLS listings, some by Building dept.

East Hartford pictures, and going to the property.

East Haven On request only

Offered to do zoom or Face Time. Used Realtor. com for many interior photos used listings as

East Lyme virtual inspections

Verbal information at the door if absolutely

Essex necessary

Some through Face Time and photos of

Franklin completed work.

Glastonbury

Manchester

Branford

Greenwich N/A
Guilford N.A.

Hampton Masked, distanced and quickly

Hartland Phone call and mailers

Sent a letter to owner; if they felt comfortable with me coming in I did, if not they sent video or pictures. I also have access to the Building Dept. system so I'm able to follow the Building

Hebron Inspector's progress.

Prior to entering a home I would verify that the person(s) who live there did not have any Covid symptoms or had been in contact with anyone who has or potentially has Covid in the

Killingly past 30 days

Ledyard Mask and distancing

Litchfield In person

I ask for homeowner permission to enter their property with my mask on to do property with my mask on to do interior inspection. They generally allow me in. A handful did not. They either give me the information at the door or send me pictures by email.

Manchester Case by case basis

Manchester

personal property From shop window

> Made appointments, wore mask, practiced social distancing between property appraiser and homeowner, and inspections conducted as

Mansfield quickly as possible.

Marlborough Letters, Skype, questions at door Meriden Walked through the property

As normal, with a mask, depending on

Middlebury homeowner

Middlefield n/a

Usually verbally at the door, unless it was new

Middletown inspections.

Milford Cold calls, wearing a mask

Milford By appt only

Naugatuck Asking owners to leave

Norwalk

Plainfield In person or through pictures/videos

Rocky Hill Normal way

Salisbury As always but with masks Seymour Routine. Rarely wore a mask

> Wrote a letter requesting inspections. Went in with a mask on. If something insignificant just

Somers interviewed them on the phone

> At first at the door, then inside with mask, not touching anything, door knobs as well - if the

homeowner allowed which most did Southington Face Time or videos sent to us. Stratford

Thompson We are utilizing zoom

Tolland With masks, limited time inside the home

Torrington Letters & amp; Phone calls

Vernon New construction inspections in October, other wise none.

> When Covid hit in mid March of 2020 we suspended interior inspections and switched to taking information from the door with social

distancing or by phone interviews.

We continued to conduct exterior inspections

Wallingford and measures.

Warren and

Roxbury By phone, email, info from the building inspector

Watertown Full interior as normal

Westport Video/Face Time/Android Video

Wethersfield Would maybe consider zoom? Not there yet

Windham N/A

Windsor

Only in vacant properties or by owners request Wolcott

Mostly by interview with Building Inspector and

Woodbury homeowner

Woodstock Physical inspection with a mask Town Name How did the public react to interior inspections?

Ansonia Work was contracted out

Ashford No problem.

Beacon Falls Did not interact with the public for interior inspections

Bloomfield No issues

Some people asked us to come in anyway, but many found it quick and easy to submit requested info. Then we could ask for more via email if needed, which was very helpful. Some people didn't respond to the letters, so I went and knocked on doors and asked in person

Branford for detailed info, pics/vids, or left a door hanger and card.

Didn't ask. Our Building Inspector is having his interior inspections

Burlington done by residents sending photos.

Canterbury OK with precautions in place

If they refused, we were ok with it. Many said yes and allowed it

Colchester

Columbia Mostly good. Some did not want anyone in house.

Cromwell Understood why we didn't inspect.

Darien Very positive- we have no public contact

East Hartford 50/50
East Haven Fine
East Lyme Mixed
Essex No reaction

Franklin Understandable but I preferred not to go inside

Glastonbury We have not attempted many

Greenwich N/A

Guilford

Hampton Public was less concerned than me

Hartland Did not want them

Hebron I had a few that did not want me entering.

Killingly Most were fine with it

Ledyard They were only by appointment, with their permission only

Litchfield No answer

Manchester Their reactions were generally calm.

Manchester Better than expected

Manchester

personal property N/A

Interior inspections pertained to crumbling foundations, with the

homeowner anticipating an assessment reduction, so response

Mansfield was favorable.

Marlborough No problems

Meriden They didn't

Middlebury Most were ok, some just gave info at the door Middlefield Some were a bit leery of letting anyone in

Middletown Fine. No problem So far, very well

Milford Ok for the most part, some said no.

Naugatuck Some good some bad

I have not encountered any taxpayer that was willing to let me in

Norwalk to do an interior inspection without a prior appointment.

Plainfield Very low response, about 25%

Rocky Hill Hit or miss

Salisbury Fine

Seymour No problem.

Somers Mostly accommodating

I only did the interior with their ok, most were fine, elderly were

Southington the only folks who did not allow

Stratford Fine

Thompson Zoom works well Tolland With some resistance

Torrington Fine

Vernon Foundations, stayed upstairs.

Before Covid the public was okay with inspections. People were relieved when we suspended interior inspections and switched to taking information from the door. There were some complaints after

Wallingford Covid hit but not many.

Warren and

Roxbury Not receptive

A few wanted Face Time inspections, others allowed walk thru

Watertown with masks

Westport Those that responded were ok with the video tour.

Wethersfield Have not asked

Windham N/A

Windsor

Wolcott Interior inspections are only by owners request

Woodbury A lot do not want anyone inside

Woodstock Welcoming

Town Name Did you use any video for inspections?

Ansonia No
Ashford No.
Beacon Falls No
Bloomfield No
Branford Yes

Burlington No. Building Inspector advised against... Too cumbersome.

Canterbury No

Colchester Not yet, but we are talking about it.

Columbia If taxpayer sent one then yes

Cromwell No

Darien Only exterior photos

East Hartford No
East Haven No
East Lyme No
Essex No

Franklin Yes Face Time when applicable

Glastonbury No Greenwich No Guilford Photos & amp; Video

Hampton I offered virtual tours and viewed online listings

Hartland No

Hebron Yes, for those that preferred I did not go into their homes.

Killingly No
Ledyard No
Litchfield No
Manchester No
Manchester No

Manchester personal

property No

Mansfield Video recordings were not done by any Town Departments.

Marlborough Not that I know of so far

Meriden No
Middlebury No
Middlefield No
Middletown No
Milford No
Milford No
Naugatuck No

So far just photos were sent in. I am willing to accept

Norwalk videos as well.

Plainfield It was an option but no one used it

Rocky Hill No, not as of yet

Salisbury No Seymour No

Somers No
Southington For one
Stratford Yes
Thompson Zoom

Tolland No, lots of pictures though
Torrington Don't have that available to us

Vernon No
Wallingford No
Warren and Roxbury No
Watertown Yes
Westport Yes

Wethersfield Would consider video/photos

Windham N/A Windsor No

Wolcott We are setting up a video inspection process

Woodbury No Woodstock No Town Name Did you use data mailers or like forms?

Ansonia No
Ashford N/A
Beacon Falls No
Bloomfield No

Branford Not for permit inspections.

Burlington Mail merged letters. Canterbury Not for permits

Colchester No.
Columbia No
Cromwell No
Darien No
East Hartford No

East Haven Relied on info from the Building dept.

East Lyme No
Essex No
Franklin No
Glastonbury No
Greenwich No
Guilford No

My practice is to send property cards to all inspections with changes to review with

Hampton owners Hartland Yes

Yes I generated data mailers for specific

Hebron improvements

Killingly No
Ledyard Yes
Litchfield No
Manchester No
Manchester No

Manchester

personal property No

Mansfield No data mailers or forms were utilized.

Marlborough Yes Meriden No Middlebury No Middlefield No Middletown No Milford No Milford No Naugatuck No

Norwalk

Plainfield Yes, if no one response

Rocky Hill No Salisbury Yes Seymour No

Somers We are doing a revaluation this year so yes Southington We are in Reval. Reval did use data mailers

Stratford No 11

Thompson No
Tolland No
Torrington No
Vernon No
Wallingford Yes

Warren and

Roxbury Field cards

Watertown No Westport Yes

Wethersfield i send letters to get in touch with owners

Windham Yes Windsor No

We will be using them for uninspected

Wolcott properties

We always use sales verification forms, did

Woodbury some questions by mail

Woodstock No

Somers We are doing a revaluation this year so yes Southington we are in Reval. Reval did use data mailers

Stratford no

Town Name What personal protective equipment (PPE) did you use

Ansonia Work was contracted out

Ashford Mask Beacon Falls Mask

Bloomfield Masks, gloves

Branford Mask, baby wipes, hand sanitizer

Burlington Wore a mask. Canterbury Mask, gloves

Colchester Masks, wipes, sanitizer

Columbia Mask only Cromwell Masks

Darien Masks and sanitizers
East Hartford Mask and hand sanitizer.

East Haven Mask East Lyme Masks

Essex Mask, hand sanitizer, sanitizing spray, gloves

Franklin Face mask and hand sanitizer

Glastonbury Masks Greenwich Facemasks

Guilford Masks/hand sanitizer
Hampton Mask or cloth face cover
Hartland Gloves, sanitizer and mask

Mask, gloves, hand sanitizer and wipes; also, I did not touch any area of a property owners home - I would ask them to

open and close doors.

Killingly Face mask and latex gloves

Ledyard Mask

Hebron

Litchfield Mask, sanitizer

Manchester Mask and gloves

Manchester Masks, gloves, hand sanitizer

Manchester personal

property Face mask Mansfield Mask.

Marlborough All PPE equipment Meriden Mask and gloves

Middlebury Mask

Middlefield Mask, when needed

Middletown Masks & amp; hand sanitizer

Milford Mask

Milford Face mask & mp; hand sanitizer

Naugatuck Mask, gloves Norwalk Just a mask Plainfield Masks

Rocky Hill Face covering

Salisbury Masks

Once I had to wear a mask. Other interior inspections,

Seymour no problem Somers Masks

Southington Mask and at first gloves, sanitizer

Stratford Masks
Thompson Mask
Tolland Mask only
Torrington Mask

Vernon Masks and gloves Wallingford Masks and gloves

Warren and Roxbury Mask and gloves measuring

Watertown Mask
Westport Mask
Wethersfield N/A
Windham Mask
Windsor Mask

Wolcott Masks, gloves, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer

Woodbury Mask Woodstock Mask

Town Name If you are doing a revaluation, how are they doing

Ansonia N/A

Ashford

We are starting our revaluation in February 2021. We hope to do interior inspections for all properties during this revaluation but if the Governor has not lifted restrictions we will use data mailers instead of interior inspections. Each property will have an exterior inspection

Beacon Falls with verification of measurements done by the reval company.

Bloomfield N/A

Branford Not a reval year

Burlington N/A

Canterbury HAD TO FOREGO INSPECTIONS FOR DATA MAILERS

We are a 2021 town who contracted for data mailers. Its too early

Colchester to determine if we will need to go into anything.

Columbia Not until next year

Cromwell N/A
Darien N/A
East Hartford N/A

East Haven Data mailers

East Lyme

Essex N/A Franklin No

Glastonbury

Greenwich N/A Guilford N.A.

Hampton

Hartland Same as above

Hebron N/A
Killingly N/A
Ledyard Excellent

Litchfield No

Manchester No interior inspection at the moment, just exterior inspection.

Manchester 2021 reval, exterior only inspections by Vision

Manchester

personal property

Mansfield N/A

Marlborough All answers above

My revaluation is for 2020. Executive order 7s only refers to the 2020 reval. So inspections as usual. However we are sending data mailers to kick off the reval rather than as a last resort for an inspection. We are kicking off the revaluation this month with the

Meriden form and will begin boots on the ground November 1, 2020

Middlebury N/A

Middlefield Haven't started collecting any field data

Middletown N/A

Milford

Milford

Naugatuck N/A Norwalk N/A Plainfield N/A

Rocky Hill

Salisbury FINE, USED DATA MAILERS

Seymour Suspended. Make any changes during informal hearings.

Interior inspections were suspended...measuring outside of

Somers building and interviewing at the door for interior

Once Covid started - they stopped interior inspections, done

Southington at the door or over the phone

Stratford

Thompson N/A
Tolland N/A
Torrington N/A

Vernon 2021 REVALUATION, WILL USE DATA MAILERS

Wallingford Already answered

Warren and Roxbury Watertown

THEY ARE PROCEEDING AS PLAN WITHT HE SAME RESTRICTIONS

Westport I AM OPERATING UNDER

Wethersfield N/A Windham N/A Windsor N/A

We will be starting inspections for a 2021 revaluation. The reval

company will be taking information at the door. Assessor's office

Wolcott will conduct any virtual or in person interior inspections.

Woodbury N/A

Woodstock

What precautions did you take to make sure the vehicle

Town Name you use for field work was sanitized

Ansonia Work was contracted out
Ashford Nothing besides hand sanitizer.
Beacon Falls I use my personal vehicle
Bloomfield Only one person per vehicle

I was the only one using it, didn't touch my face, washed and

Branford santized my hands before and after inspections.

Burlington I just used my own car. No one else was in it but me.

Canterbury NONE

Colchester We use our own personal vehicles and take mileage reimbursement.

Columbia None used personal car only

Cromwell None

Darien We use our own East Hartford Use my own.

East Haven None

East Lyme Only used by myself and my clerk

Essex Personal vehicle

Franklin Used my private vehicle

Glastonbury

Greenwich Using Town vehicles
Guilford USED SANITIZING WIPES

Hampton There are sanitary wiped and hand santizer in my vehicle

Hartland Its my personal vehicle

Hebron I have a designated vehicle for the Assessor's Office only

I was the only one using the vehicle and I always sanitized after

Killingly each use

Ledyard Sanitizing wipes after use

Litchfield Haven't done any

I am mostly the only one that use the vehicle for field work.

Manchester I use hand sanitizer frequently.
Manchester Masks, gloves, hand sanitizer

Manchester

personal property ITS MY PERSONAL VEHICLE NOT TOWN VEHICLE

The property appraiser used a town vehicle of which, she was the only one to drive said vehicle. No other driver from our department

used the vehicle during this time and she drove with the

Mansfield windows open.

Marlborough Data Collectors used their own cars. Not sure what they did

We sanitized and wiped down all tools and vehicles before

Meriden exiting the vehicle

Middlebury I am the only one using the car, no issue

Middlefield it's my own car

Middletown None. Car was only used by one person

Milford I have both wipes and liquid sanitizer in my car

Milford We do not share cars

Naugatuck

Norwalk

Plainfield Sanitized hands

Rocky Hill Disinfected vehicle prior to use Salisbury NONE, MY PERSONAL CAR IS USED

Seymour none Somers None

Southington it is only used by 2 people in our office. wipes are in the car.

Stratford None we all have are own car

Thompson None

Tolland wipe down shared town vehicle every time accessed

Torrington Sanitizing wipes Vernon CLOREX WIPES

That was left to the reval company to monitor. We required that

field personnel must wear a mask and sanitary gloves.

Wallingford Warren and

Warren and

Roxbury I used my own vehicle for exterior inspections
Watertown Used my own vehicle and was paid mileage
Westport I AM THE ONLY USER SO I JUST WIPE IT DOWN

Wethersfield n/a

Windham TOWN VEHICLE/ONLY USER

Windsor Wipes, spray & mask & mp; Personal vehicle

Wolcott Used personal vehicle Woodbury I use my own vehicle

Woodstock My own personal vehicle was used

Other information that could

Town Name be helpful?

Ansonia

There have been zero objections from

property owners.

Ashford Beacon Falls Bloomfield Branford Burlington Canterbury Colchester

We are asked symptom questions and temperature taken when

Columbia come in and when leave for the day

Cromwell None

Using the Building department and Planning departments land

use software we ride their inspection coat tails as all building projects

Darien are ever changing.

East Hartford East Haven East Lyme

My inspections are contracted out. I am relying

Essex heavily on the building permit files this year.

Franklin only had four interior inspections that

Franklin needed to complete for 2020 GL.

In some cases we ask the owner to call us to discuss their project, rather than have an interior inspection. This works out very well.

Glastonbury Greenwich

CHECKED BLDG INSPECTIONS & amp;

Guilford PLANS, MADE NOTES IN CAMA

Hampton has very little construction activity I made a lot of calls and discussed construction with building dept. Used building plans and followed up with exterior inspections. Homeowners were happy to send photos if they did not know how to use a live stream app or

Hampton Face Time option

Hartland Hebron Killingly Ledyard Litchfield

I believe it also has to do with how we approach the homeowner. If we respect their space they will be comfortable to allow you to do

Manchester your job.

I hope we get past this

Manchester pandemic soon

MUCH OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FIELDWORK IS DRIVEN BY...EITHER THEY ARE HERE OR NOT....IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHETHER BUSINESS IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED OR PERMANTLY CLOSED...

Manchester

personal property

MANY TIMES PP WAS STILL THERE BUT BIZ IS NOT OPEN..OUR TAKE

IS WE WILL FIND OUT WHEN DECLARATIONS ARE RETURNED

The Assessor Department has access to the Magnet Software System that the Building Department utilizes to record and track building permits, inspections and plans. In tandem, the building inspector would take photographs of the property during their permit inspections,

which enabled our office to update our property records virtually

Mansfield for the most part.

Marlborough

Safety measures were taken at each property. An interior was

necessary; initially we told them we would call back in the fall. As time went on and phasing in of restrictions were reduced we asked for

Meriden interiors and only went in if the environment was safe and the

property owner was comfortable.

I was home for almost a month March/April then i was part time

till June, my clerk never came back, didn't get office help

Middlebury until august

Any real estate web site is very helpful for interior and exterior information

Middlefield

Middletown Milford

Milford

Inspection letters were sent and if no response they have been notified that someone will go to the property as time allows.

Naugatuck Norwalk Plainfield Rocky Hill Salisbury

> We will do interior inspections if, at the informal hearing, story sounds

Seymour fishy

Somers

Most folks were okay when I said I would not touch anything,

Southington keep the mask on and stand far away (which I do routinely anyway)

Stratford Thompson

Several homeowners have refused inspections, while other have been

resistant to interior inspections due to COVID

Torrington Vernon

Tolland

We ran a news article and sent letters explaining that

Wallingford we were following CDC protocols

Warren and Roxbury Watertown Westport

Wethersfield

Windham Windsor Wolcott Woodbury Woodstock N/A