

Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment of Part of 3525 Baseline Road, Part of Lot 23, Concession 5, Geographic Township of North Gwillimbury, County of York, now in the Town of Georgina, Regional Municipality of York

Original Report

Prepared for:

GEC Architecture Inc.

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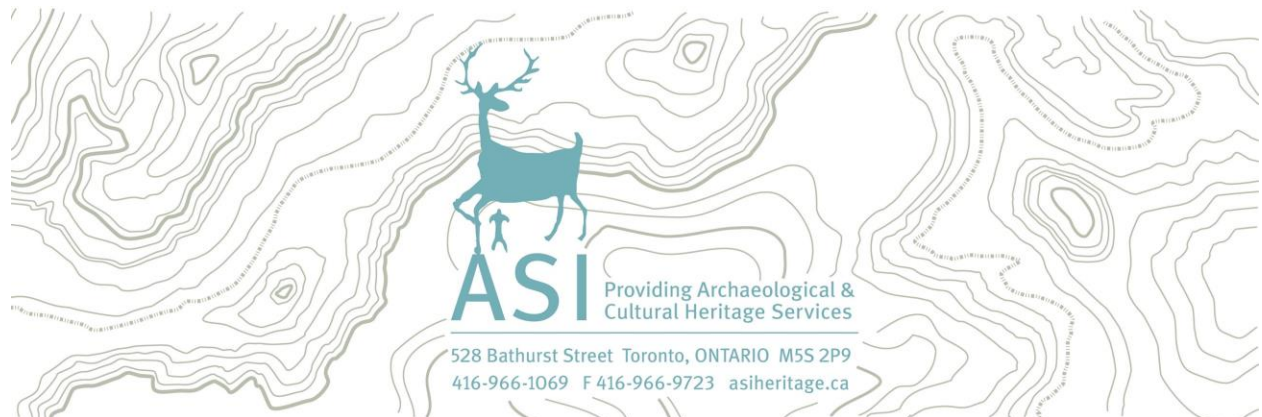
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7 October 2024



Executive Summary

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by GEC Architecture Inc. to undertake a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment of Part of 3525 Baseline Road, Part of Lot 23, Concession 5, Geographic Township of North Gwillimbury, County of York, now in the Town of Georgina, Regional Municipality of York. The development envelope (project area) is approximately 7.8 hectares and consists of a portion of the larger property limits of 3525 Baseline Road.

The previous Stage 1 assessment, completed earlier in 2024 (Archaeological Services Inc., 2024), entailed consideration of the proximity of previously registered archaeological sites and the original environmental setting of the project area, along with nineteenth- and twentieth-century settlement trends and a review of available aerial imagery. The guidance of the *Archaeological Management Plan for the Regional Municipality of York* (York Region, 2014) was also considered. Based on this research, it was determined that the project area retained the potential for the presence of both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources and a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment was recommended in all areas of potential.

The Stage 2 field assessment was conducted on July 3 and 4, 2024, by means of a combined test pit and pedestrian survey. Test pits were placed at five-metre intervals, increased to 10 metres when disturbance was encountered, and pedestrian survey was conducted at five-metre intervals.

Despite careful scrutiny, no archaeological materials were encountered during the Stage 2 survey. As such, it is recommended that the project area does not require further archaeological assessment. The balance of the 3525 Baseline Road property, comprising a York Regional Police District Headquarters in the east (approximately 5.8 hectares), was not assessed as part of this study. Should proposed impacts from any current or future developments extend beyond the limits of the assessed project area, as illustrated on Figure 7, a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment must be conducted in accordance with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.



Project Personnel

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- **Project Manager:** Christopher Brown, Master of Arts (P361), Associate Archaeologist, Project Manager, Planning Assessment Division
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1.0 Project Context

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by GEC Architecture Inc. to undertake a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment of 3525 Baseline Road, Part of Lot 23, Concession 5, Geographic Township of North Gwillimbury, County of York, now in the Town of Georgina, Regional Municipality of York. The development envelope (project area) is approximately 7.8 hectares and consists of a portion of the larger property limits of 3525 Baseline Road (Figure 1). The project area is currently in use as a maintenance facility for the York Region Roads Department.

1.1 Development Context

This assessment was conducted under the senior project management of Jennifer Ley (R376), the project management of Christopher Brown (P361), and the project direction of Robb Bhardwaj (P449) under Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (hereafter “the Ministry”) Project Information Form P449-0766-2024. All activities carried out during this assessment were completed as part of a proposed development application, as required by the Town of Georgina and the *Planning Act* (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 1990). All work was completed in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Ministry of Culture [now the Ministry], 1990) and the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (hereafter “the Standards”) (Ministry of Tourism and Culture, 2011 [now the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism]).

The work carried out for this assessment was also guided by the *Archaeological Management Plan for the Regional Municipality of York* (York Region, 2014), which provides further refinement with regard to potential buffers surrounding any noted features or characteristics that affect archaeological potential.

Permission to access the project area and to carry out all activities necessary for the completion of the assessment was granted by the proponent on December 18, 2023. Buried utility locates were obtained prior to the initiation of fieldwork.

Archaeological Services Inc. previously completed a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of the project area under Ministry Project Information Form P449-0759-2024 (Archaeological Services Inc., 2024). The Stage 1 Archaeological



Assessment determined that the project area had potential for the presence of archaeological resources. Background information pertinent to the current assessment has been excerpted from the Stage 1 report.

1.2 Historical Context

1.2.1 Pre-Contact Settlement

Southern Ontario has been documented to have been occupied by human populations since at least the retreat of the Laurentide glacier by approximately 11,000 years Before the Common Era (B.C.E.). Populations at this time would have been highly mobile, inhabiting a boreal parkland similar to the modern sub-arctic. By approximately 8000 B.C.E., the environment had progressively warmed (Edwards and Fritz, 1988) and populations now occupied less extensive territories (Ellis and Deller, 1990).

Between approximately 8000-3500 B.C.E., the Great Lakes basins experienced low-water levels, and many sites that would have been located on those former shorelines are now submerged. This period produced the earliest evidence of heavy woodworking tools, an indication of greater investment of labour in felling trees for fuel, to build shelter, and watercraft production, and indication of prolonged seasonal residency at occupation sites. Polished stone and native copper implements were being produced by approximately 6000 B.C.E.; the latter was acquired from the north shore of Lake Superior, which suggests extensive exchange networks throughout the Great Lakes region. The earliest evidence for cemeteries dates to approximately 2500-1000 B.C.E., which demonstrates increased social organization, investment of labour into social infrastructure, and the establishment of socially prescribed territories (Ellis *et alia*, 1990; Brown, 1995:13).

Between 1000-500 B.C.E., populations continued to practice residential mobility and to harvest seasonally available resources, including spawning fish. The Woodland period began around 500 B.C.E. and exchange and interaction networks broadened at this time (Spence *et alia*, 1990:136, 138). By end of the first millennium B.C.E., evidence exists for macro-band camps, focusing on the seasonal harvesting of resources (Spence *et alia*, 1990:155, 164). By the year 500



in the Common Era (C.E.), there is macro botanical evidence for maize in southern Ontario. Although it is thought that maize only supplemented people's diet, there is phytolithic evidence for maize in central New York State by 300 B.C.E., indicating that similar analyses conducted on Ontario ceramic vessels of the same period could result in the same evidence here (Birch and Williamson, 2013:13-15). Bands likely retreated to interior camps during the winter. It is generally understood that these populations were Algonquian-speakers during these millennia of settlement and land use.

From the beginning of the Late Woodland period at approximately 1000 C.E., lifeways became more similar to those described in early historical documents. Between approximately 1000-1300 C.E., the communal site was replaced by the village focused on horticulture. Seasonal dispersal of the community for the exploitation of a wider territory and more varied resource base was still the norm (Williamson, 1990:317). By 1300-1450 C.E., this episodic dispersal waned, and populations began to occupy sites throughout the year (Dodd *et alia*, 1990:343).

By the mid-sixteenth century, these small villages had coalesced into larger communities, and through this process, the socio-political organization of the First Nations, as described historically by the French and English explorers who first visited southern Ontario, developed (Birch *et alia*, 2021).

By 1600 C.E., the Confederation of Nations were encountered by the first European explorers and missionaries in Simcoe County. In the 1640s, devastating epidemics and the traditional enmity between the Haudenosaunee and the Attawandaron and the Huron-Wendat (and their Algonquian allies such as the Nippissing and Odawa) led to the dispersal of the Huron-Wendat from Southern Ontario. Shortly afterwards, the Haudenosaunee established a series of settlements at strategic locations along the trade routes inland from the north shore of Lake Ontario. By the 1690s, however, the Anishinaabeg were the only communities with a permanent presence in southern Ontario. From the beginning of the eighteenth century to the assertion of British sovereignty in 1763, there was no interruption to Anishinaabeg control and use of southern Ontario.



Michi Saagiig Oral History

This detailed Michi Saagiig oral history by Gitiga Migizi, a respected Elder and Knowledge Keeper of the Michi Saagiig Nation, has been provided to Archaeological Services Inc. for inclusion in this report ¹. The oral history of the Michi Saagiig relates that the Mississaugas had paddled away to their northern winter hunting grounds to wait out the disease and warfare of the mid-seventeenth century, before returning to their ancestral homeland of southern Ontario, where they remain to this day (Migizi, 2018:39-40, 117-122; Migizi and Kapyrka, 2015).

“The traditional homelands of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga Anishinaabeg) encompass a vast area of what is now known as southern Ontario. The Michi Saagiig are known as “the people of the big river mouths” and were also known as the “Salmon People” who occupied and fished the north shore of Lake Ontario where the various tributaries emptied into the lake. Their territories extended north into and beyond the Kawarthas as winter hunting grounds on which they would break off into smaller social groups for the season, hunting and trapping on these lands, then returning to the lakeshore in spring for the summer months.

“The Michi Saagiig were a highly mobile people, travelling vast distances to procure subsistence for their people. They were also known as the “Peacekeepers” among Indigenous nations. The Michi Saagiig homelands were located directly between two very powerful Confederacies: The Three Fires Confederacy to the north and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to the south. The Michi Saagiig were the negotiators, the messengers, the diplomats, and they successfully mediated peace throughout this area of Ontario for countless generations.

¹ There are various understandings of the histories and movements of communities based on study of different oral histories and written records and it is fair to say that there is no universally accepted narrative.



“Michi Saagiig oral histories speak to their people being in this area of Ontario for thousands of years. These stories recount the “Old Ones” who spoke an ancient Algonquian dialect. The histories explain that the current Ojibwa phonology is the 5th transformation of this language, demonstrating a linguistic connection that spans back into deep time. The Michi Saagiig of today are the descendants of the ancient peoples who lived in Ontario during the Archaic and Paleo-Indian periods. They are the original inhabitants of southern Ontario, and they are still here today.

“The traditional territories of the Michi Saagiig span from Gananoque in the east, all along the north shore of Lake Ontario, west to the north shore of Lake Erie at Long Point. The territory spreads as far north as the tributaries that flow into these lakes, from Bancroft and north of the Haliburton highlands. This also includes all the tributaries that flow from the height of land north of Toronto like the Oak Ridges Moraine, and all of the rivers that flow into Lake Ontario (the Rideau, the Salmon, the Ganaraska, the Moira, the Trent, the Don, the Rouge, the Etobicoke, the Humber, and the Credit, as well as Wilmot and 16 Mile Creeks) through Burlington Bay and the Niagara region including the Welland and Niagara Rivers, and beyond. The western side of the Michi Saagiig Nation was located around the Grand River which was used as a portage route as the Niagara portage was too dangerous. The Michi Saagiig would portage from present-day Burlington to the Grand River and travel south to the open water on Lake Erie.

“Michi Saagiig oral histories also speak to the occurrence of people coming into their territories sometime between 500-1000 A.D. seeking to establish villages and a corn growing economy – these newcomers included peoples that would later be known as the Huron-Wendat, Neutral, Petun/Tobacco Nations. The Michi Saagiig made Treaties with these newcomers and granted them permission to stay with the understanding that they were visitors in these lands. Wampum was made to record these contracts, ceremonies would have bound each nation to their respective responsibilities within the political relationship, and these contracts would have been renewed annually (see Gitiga Migizi and Kapyrka 2015). These visitors were extremely successful as their corn economy grew as well as their populations. However, it was understood by all nations involved that this area of Ontario were the homeland territories of the Michi Saagiig.



“The Odawa Nation worked with the Michi Saagiig to meet with the Huron-Wendat, the Petun, and Neutral Nations to continue the amicable political and economic relationship that existed – a symbiotic relationship that was mainly policed and enforced by the Odawa people.

“Problems arose for the Michi Saagiig in the 1600s when the European way of life was introduced into southern Ontario. Also, around the same time, the Haudenosaunee were given firearms by the colonial governments in New York and Albany which ultimately made an expansion possible for them into Michi Saagiig territories. There began skirmishes with the various nations living in Ontario at the time. The Haudenosaunee engaged in fighting with the Huron-Wendat and between that and the onslaught of European diseases, the Iroquoian speaking peoples in Ontario were decimated.

“The onset of colonial settlement and missionary involvement severely disrupted the original relationships between these Indigenous nations. Disease and warfare had a devastating impact upon the Indigenous peoples of Ontario, especially the large sedentary villages, which mostly included Iroquoian speaking peoples. The Michi Saagiig were largely able to avoid the devastation caused by these processes by retreating to their wintering grounds to the north, essentially waiting for the smoke to clear.

“Michi Saagiig Elder Gitiga Migizi (2017) recounts:

We weren't affected as much as the larger villages because we learned to paddle away for several years until everything settled down. And we came back and tried to bury the bones of the Huron but it was overwhelming, it was all over, there were bones all over – that is our story.

There is a misnomer here, that this area of Ontario is not our traditional territory and that we came in here after the Huron-Wendat left or were defeated, but that is not true. That is a big misconception of our history that needs to be corrected. We are the traditional people, we are the ones that signed treaties with the Crown. We are recognized as the ones who signed these treaties and we are the ones to be dealt with officially in any matters concerning territory in southern Ontario.



We had peacemakers go to the Haudenosaunee and live amongst them in order to change their ways. We had also diplomatically dealt with some of the strong chiefs to the north and tried to make peace as much as possible. So we are very important in terms of keeping the balance of relationships in harmony.

Some of the old leaders recognized that it became increasingly difficult to keep the peace after the Europeans introduced guns. But we still continued to meet, and we still continued to have some wampum, which doesn't mean we negated our territory or gave up our territory – we did not do that. We still consider ourselves a sovereign nation despite legal challenges against that. We still view ourselves as a nation and the government must negotiate from that basis.

“Often times, southern Ontario is described as being “vacant” after the dispersal of the Huron-Wendat peoples in 1649 (who fled east to Quebec and south to the United States). This is misleading as these territories remained the homelands of the Michi Saagiig Nation.

“The Michi Saagiig participated in eighteen treaties from 1781 to 1923 to allow the growing number of European settlers to establish in Ontario. Pressures from increased settlement forced the Michi Saagiig to slowly move into small family groups around the present-day communities: Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Scugog Island First Nation, New Credit First Nation, and Mississauga First Nation.

“The Michi Saagiig have been in Ontario for thousands of years, and they remain here to this day.”



History of the Nation Huronne-Wendat

This history of the Nation Huronne-Wendat was provided to Archaeological Services Inc. for inclusion in reports on lands in their ancestral territory (Nation Huronne-Wendat, 2022).²

“As an ancient people, traditionally, the Huron-Wendat, a great Iroquoian civilization of farmers and fishermen-hunter-gatherers and also the masters of trade and diplomacy, represented several thousand individuals. They lived in a territory stretching from the Gaspé Peninsula in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and up along the Saint Lawrence Valley on both sides of the Saint Lawrence River all the way to the Great Lakes. Huronia, included in Wendake South, represents a part of the ancestral territory of the Huron-Wendat Nation in Ontario. It extends from Lake Nipissing in the North to Lake Ontario in the South and Île Perrot in the East to around Owen Sound in the West. This territory is today marked by several hundred archaeological sites, listed to date, testifying to this strong occupation of the territory by the Nation. It is an invaluable heritage for the Huron-Wendat Nation and the largest archaeological heritage related to a First Nation in Canada.

“According to our own traditions and customs, the Huron-Wendat are intimately linked to the Saint Lawrence River and its estuary, which is the main route of its activities and way of life. The Huron-Wendat formed alliances and traded goods with other First Nations among the networks that stretched across the continent.

“Today, the population of the Huron-Wendat Nation is composed of more than 4000 members distributed on-reserve and off-reserve.

“The Huron-Wendat Nation band council (CNHW) is headquartered in Wendake, the oldest First Nations community in Canada, located on the outskirts of Quebec City (20 km north of the city) on the banks of the Saint Charles River. There is only

² There are various understandings of the histories and movements of communities based on study of different oral histories and written records and it is fair to say that there is no universally accepted narrative.



one Huron-Wendat community, whose ancestral territory is called the Nionwentsio, which translates to "our beautiful land" in the Wendat language.

"The Huron-Wendat Nation is also the only authority that have the authority and rights to protect and take care of her ancestral sites in Wendake South."

1.2.2 Post-Contact Settlement

Williams Treaty/Johnson-Butler Purchases

The project area is in the northwest part of the Johnson-Butler Purchases and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, including the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Scugog Island First Nation and the Chippewas of Beausoleil First Nation, Georgina Island First Nation and the Rama First Nation (Williams Treaties First Nations, 2017). The purpose of the Johnson-Butler Purchases of 1787/1788 was to acquire the Carrying Place Trail and lands along the north shore of Lake Ontario from the Trent River to Etobicoke Creek from the Mississaugas.

As part of the Johnson-Butler Purchases, the British signed a treaty, sometimes referred to as the "Gunshot Treaty", with the Mississaugas in 1787, covering the north shore of Lake Ontario, beginning at the eastern boundary of the Toronto Purchase, and continuing east to the Bay of Quinte, where it meets the Crawford Purchase. It was referred to as the "Gunshot Treaty" because it covered the land as far back from the lake as a person could hear a gunshot. Compensation for the land apparently included "approximately £2,000 and goods such as muskets, ammunition, tobacco, laced hats and enough red cloth for 12 coats" (Surtees, 1984:37–45). First discussions about acquiring this land are said to have come about while the land ceded in the Toronto Purchase of 1787 was being surveyed and paid for (Surtees, 1984:37–45). During this meeting with the Mississaugas, Sir John Johnson and Colonel John Butler proposed the purchase of lands east of the Toronto Purchase (Fullerton and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, 2015). Descriptions of the treaty differ between the British and Mississaugas, however, including the depth of the boundaries:



Rice Lake and Lake Simcoe, located about 13 miles and 48 miles north of Lake Ontario, respectively, were not mentioned as landmarks in the First Nations' description of the lands to be ceded. Additionally, original descriptions provided by the Chiefs of Rice Lake indicate a maximum depth of ten miles, versus an average of 15-16 miles in Colonel Butler's description (Fullerton and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, 2015).

Since records of the acquisition were not clear regarding the extent of lands agreed upon (Surtees, 1984:37–45), in October and November of 1923, the governments of Canada and Ontario, chaired by A.S. Williams, signed treaties with the Chippewa and Michi Saagiig for three large tracts of land in central Ontario and the northern shore of Lake Ontario. This was the last substantial portion of land in southern Ontario that had not yet been ceded to the government (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, 2013).

In 2018, the Government of Canada reached a Settlement Agreement with the Williams Treaties First Nations reaffirming the recognized Treaty harvesting rights of the seven First Nations in all pre-Confederation treaty areas (Treaty 20, Treaty 27, Treaty 27 1/4, the Crawford Purchase, the Gunshot Treaty, Treaty 18, Treaty 16, and Treaty 5).

Geographic Township of North Gwillimbury

Historically, the project area was located in the east half of Lot 23, Concession 5, in the Geographic Township of North Gwillimbury, County of York.

The Town of Georgina is on the south shore of Lake Simcoe, encompassing the former Townships of North Gwillimbury (west) and Georgina (east). Both were originally part of a larger Township of Georgina, named in 1818 after King George III by Sir Peregrine Maitland (Georgina Pioneer Village and Archives, no date). Due to its location at the north limit of the County of York, and following the War of 1812, the township was initially only open to settlement to men with a military background to protect York from further American aggression. One of the first settlers was William Bouchier, who had served in the British Royal Navy. Along with his brother, James, he built the first grist mill in 1819 in the north part of the township, at the boundary of North Gwillimbury and Georgina. Two years later,



James opened the first general store. Over time, a settlement, called Bouchier's Mills, developed. At some point in the mid-nineteenth century, however, the settlement's name changed to Sutton. It is believed this came about during a night of gambling between Bouchier and another settler, William Kingdom Raines, when the name of the settlement was wagered. Raines clearly won and the name was changed to Sutton for his childhood home in Wales, Sutton Lodge. Due to the requirement of military connection for settlers in Georgina, the demographic of the region grew to be different than other parts of the County of York. Most settlers were wealthy merchants, English landholders, and military officers (Newmarket Era, 2007). As a result, many of the first settlers built stately, landscaped homes and the region became known for culture and more wealthy living. By the late nineteenth century, it had become a holiday destination for the city elite.

In 1826, the Township of North Gwillimbury was separated from the larger Township of Georgina. North Gwillimbury, with an area of 31,755 acres, is bounded by Cook's Bay to the west and the Township of East Gwillimbury to the south (Middleton, 1927:1242). North Gwillimbury is thought to have been named after Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Gwillim, the father of Elizabeth (Gwillim) Simcoe (1762-1850) (Rayburn, 1997:248). Elizabeth, an orphan, grew up with her aunt (Margaret) and uncle (Adam Samuel Graves) and eventually married their godson, John Graves Simcoe.

In 1839, there were three sawmills listed in the Township, all within the fourth Concession (Town of Georgina, 2018b). In 1879, a post office was established in Keswick (Newmarket Era, 2007). Through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Township of North Gwillimbury was quieter and more rural than Georgina. In 1826, North Gwillimbury had a population of 273 and within a century, this had grown to 1,272 (Middleton, 1927:1242). In 1971, the Townships of North Gwillimbury and Georgina were unified again as the Town of Georgina and governed as a single entity. By 2016, the population of the Town was 45,418 (Town of Georgina, 2018a).



1.2.3 Review of Map Sources

The following review of historical mapping was completed as part of the previous Stage 1 assessment (Archaeological Services Inc., 2024) in order to determine if these sources depict any historical Euro-Canadian settlement features that may represent potential historical archaeological sites within or adjacent to the project area.

On both the 1860 Tremaine *Map of the County of York* (Tremaine, 1860) (Figure 2) and the 1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York* (Miles and Company, 1878) (Figure 3), the project area is illustrated in the eastern half of Lot 23, Concession 5. The 1878 atlas mapping has the project area extending to the south, into Lot 22, however this a result of an error in the original map. Both maps indicate the entirety of Lot 23 to have been owned by Caleb Mann. An early settlement road (present-day Baseline Road) aligns with the northern limit of the project area. No settlement features are illustrated within the project area on either map.

Early topographic mapping was also reviewed for the presence of potential historical features. Land features such as waterways, wetlands, woodlots, and elevation are clearly illustrated on this series of mapping, along with roads and structure locations. Figure 4 displays the project area on the 1929 Beaverton topographic map (Department of National Defence, 1929) on the 825-foot (251-metre) elevation contour, within a cleared area. Two houses fronting present-day Baseline Road (depicted as a first class metalled road) are illustrated immediately to the west of the northwest corner, with a woodlot to their south extending along the west side of the project area.

1.2.4 Review of Aerial and Satellite Imagery

In order to further understand the previous land use within and adjacent to the project area, twentieth- and twenty-first-century aerial imagery was reviewed. Figure 5 displays aerial images spanning 1954 to 2016 (York Region, no date; Google Earth Pro, 2022). In the 1954 image, the project area overlies parts of two cultivated fields, with a central field boundary. The farm complex and woodlot from the topographic map are visible to the west. In the image from 1999, there is a paved driveway extending into the project area from Baseline Road along the



northeast boundary. The image from 2002 shows the driveway now extended to the south of the project area, which is being developed into the existing maintenance complex. Much of the southern portion has been graded in advance of this development, in which two structures are visible. An intermittent watercourse can be seen in the northern half of the project area, running in a general southwest-to-northeast direction, before connecting with an artificial pond. The adjacent York Regional Police complex is visible immediately east of the project area, accessed by the shared driveway. By 2016, three new structures have been added to the maintenance complex in the south, which are now surrounded by a paved parking area. A stockpiling area has been extended further north into the centre of the project area, bounded by additional landscaped features. An area of grading and soil stockpiling is visible along the north limit of the project area, accessible directly from Baseline Road.

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Registered Archaeological Sites

According to the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database, six archaeological sites have been registered within a one-kilometre radius of the project area (Ministry, 2024; last accessed March 27, 2024). A summary of nearby sites is available in Table 1. Of these, the closest is BbGu-56, a mid- to late-nineteenth-century Euro-Canadian homestead located approximately 730 metres to the east.

Table 1: Sites Located Within a One-kilometre Radius of the Project Area

Borden Number	Site Name	Temporal/Cultural Affiliation	Site Type	Researcher
BbGu-46	Marsden	Euro-Canadian	Middle	Dibb, 1993
BbGu-52		Euro-Canadian	Homestead	Mayer, 1993
BbGu-53		Euro-Canadian	Homestead	Mayer, 1993



Borden Number	Site Name	Temporal/Cultural Affiliation	Site Type	Researcher
BbGu-54		Euro-Canadian	Homestead	Mayer, 1993
BbGu-55		Euro-Canadian	Homestead	Mayer, 1993
BbGu-46	Marsden	Euro-Canadian	Middle	Dibb, 1993

The paucity of documented archaeological sites in the general vicinity of the project area is likely related to the rural nature of the area and general lack of archaeological investigation under provincial legislation. It does not necessarily reflect the intensity of Indigenous settlement or land use prior to Euro-Canadian colonization, nor the absence of early Euro-Canadian settlement, and thus should not be taken as an indicator of any lack of Indigenous or Euro-Canadian land use or occupation.

1.3.2 Previous Assessments

During the course of the background research for the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, no previous archaeological assessments were identified on nor within 50 metres of the project area. With the exception of the previous Stage 1 report, no additional archaeological assessments have become known.

1.3.3 Physiography

The project area is within the drumlinized till plains of the Simcoe Lowlands physiographic region. The Simcoe Lowlands physiographic region consists of low-lying belts of sand plain, which cover an area of 280,000 hectares, bordering Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe. The area was once inundated by the waters of glacial Lake Algonquin, inland of the present-day shorelines. Remnant shoreline features (such as, beaches, shorecliffs, and bars) mark the former water level of Lake Algonquin. Topography is generally flat and subsoil consists of variable sand, gravel, silt and clay deposits as formed on the lake bottom (Chapman and Putnam, 1984). Sand plains and beach ridges are glaciolacustrine features and are products of the Late Wisconsin glacial stage (circa 25,000-10,000 years Before



Present). Sand plains are formed in shallow waters and beach ridges mark the former shorelines (Karrow and Warner, 1990).

There is a drumlin located approximately 340 metres west of the project area, and a drumlinoid feature approximately 330 metres to the southeast. A shorecliff extends in a general southwest-to-northeast direction, approximately 450 metres to the north.

The surficial geology of the majority of the project area consists of stone-poor, sandy silt to silty sand-textured till on Paleozoic terrain (Ontario Geological Survey, 2018). The southeast corner of the project area is underlain with fine-textured glaciolacustrine deposits of silt and clay, minor sand and gravel that is massive to well-laminated.

The project area is within the Lake Simcoe watershed (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020). An intermittent watercourse runs through the northern half of the project area, draining a wetland area identified approximately 75 metres to the west. Another unnamed watercourse begins to the south of the project area, and flows northeast, passing approximately 115 metres to the southeast as it meanders to empty into Lake Simcoe near Jackson's Point.

1.3.4 Existing Conditions

The Stage 2 field assessment was completed on July 3 and 4, 2024. The project area is approximately 7.8 hectares, currently occupied by a York Region Roads Department facility (Figure 6). This complex consists of five structures surrounded by parking lots, storage, and stockpiling areas in the south, accessed by a driveway that extends south from Baseline Road, along the east side of the project area. The northern portion of the project area is mainly composed of former agricultural lands (now maintained lawn), with an artificial pond in the northeast corner. A York Regional Police complex abuts the project area to the east, a cultivated field bounds the project area to the south, there is a woodlot and former residence now used as an outdoor boat storage area to the west, and Baseline Road is to the north.



2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 2 field assessment was conducted to inventory, identify, and describe any archaeological resources extant within the project area prior to development. All fieldwork was conducted under the field direction of Poorya Kashani (P1133) and was carried out in accordance with the *Standards*. The weather conditions were appropriate for the completion of fieldwork, permitting good visibility of the land features.

Representative photos documenting the field conditions during the Stage 2 fieldwork are presented in Section 8.0 of this report, and photo locations and field observations have been compiled on project mapping (Images 1-22; Figure 7). Field observations and photographs were recorded with a Trimble Catalyst Global Navigation Satellite System Global Positioning System unit using World Geodetic System 1984.

2.1 Areas of No Potential

The previous Stage 1 report determined that approximately 59% of the project area had been disturbed (Archaeological Services Inc., 2024). The Stage 2 assessment was initiated by conducting a visual review to confirm all areas of no archaeological potential. During this review, areas with previous ground disturbance, now representing approximately 62.3% of the total area, were identified in the centre, south, and along the northeast limit of the project area. The disturbances consist of the paved driveway and drainage ditches leading from Baseline Road (Image 1), the structures making up the maintenance complex (Images 2-11), and the hardscaped areas surrounding them, used for parking and the stockpiling of materials (Images 12-15). Additional areas of disturbance were identified in the locations of artificial pond features (Image 16) and extensively landscaped linear berms (Images 2, 17), all created during the development of the existing maintenance complex, beginning in the early twenty-first century. In accordance with the *Standards*, Section 2.1, Standard 2b, these areas have no archaeological potential due to deep and extensive land alteration.



2.2 Test Pit Survey

Approximately 13.3% of the project area, consisting of closed lands that could not be ploughed, was subject to test pit survey initiated at five-metre intervals. Test pits were placed around the roadworks facility in the centre and south of the project area, along sections of the driveway in the centre-east, and in the northwest of the project area adjacent to Baseline Road (Figure 7; Image 18). In accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Standards*, Section 2.1.2, Standard 2, the test pit survey was initiated at five-metre intervals and increased to 10 metres when disturbance was encountered. All test pits were excavated stratigraphically by hand to no less than five centimetres into subsoil, and all soil was screened through six-millimetre wire mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. All test pits were at least 30 centimetres in diameter and excavated within approximately one metre of all disturbances and/or structures where possible. Each test pit was examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, and evidence of fill. Test pits were backfilled upon completion of the survey.

Undisturbed test pit soil profiles were encountered along the south and northwest limits of the project area and south of the driveway at the east boundary. Test pits in these areas, which represent approximately 7.3% of the project area were placed at five-metre intervals. Soil profiles were consistent and uniform, comprising approximately 25-30 centimetres of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey sandy loam A-horizon, overlying yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clayey sand B-horizon (Image 19).

Disturbed contexts were encountered in test pits placed in the south and centre of the project area, along the west and north sides of the roadworks facility and west of the driveway. Test pits in these areas, which represent approximately 6.0% of the project area, were placed at 10 metre intervals. Soil profiles along the southwest limit of the project area consisted of light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) clay mixed with gravel and asphalt construction fill to the limit of excavation (120 centimetres) (Image 20).

The area in the centre of the project area, along the north limit of the roadworks facility and west of the driveway, contained soil profiles of approximately 50



centimetres of light brownish grey (10YR 6/2) construction sand and gravel, overlying yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clayey sand subsoil B-horizon (Image 21).

2.3 Pedestrian Survey

The remaining 24.4% of the project area, consisting of former agricultural lands, now composed of open, maintained lawn areas, was assessed by means of a pedestrian survey at five-metre transects (Figure 7; Image 22). In accordance with the *Standards*, Section 2.1.1, these areas were ploughed and allowed to weather appropriately prior to survey, and ploughing was deep enough to provide total topsoil exposure but not extend beyond the depth of previous ploughing. Ground surface visibility was greater than 80%. Ploughzone soils consisted of clayey sandy loam.

3.0 Record of Finds

Despite careful scrutiny, no archaeological resources were found during the course of the Stage 2 field assessment. Written field notes, annotated field maps, Global Positioning System logs and other archaeological data related to the project area are located at Archaeological Services Inc.

The documentation and materials related to this project will be curated by Archaeological Services Inc. until such a time that arrangements for their ultimate transfer to His Majesty the King in right of Ontario, or other public institution, can be made to the satisfaction of the project owner(s), the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and any other legitimate interest groups.

4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by GEC Architecture Inc. to conduct a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment of Part of 3525 Baseline Road, Part of Lot 23, Concession 5, Geographic Township of North Gwillimbury, County of York, now in the Town of Georgina, Regional Municipality of York. The development envelope (project area) is approximately 7.8 hectares and consists of a portion of the larger property limits of 3525 Baseline Road. The project area is currently in use as a maintenance facility for the York Region Roads Department.



The previous Stage 1 assessment, completed earlier in 2024 by Archaeological Services Inc., entailed consideration of the proximity of previously registered archaeological sites, the original environmental setting of the project area, along with nineteenth and twentieth-century settlement trends and a review of available aerial imagery. The guidance of the *Archaeological Management Plan for the Regional Municipality of York* (York Region, 2014) was also considered. This research determined that the project area retained archaeological potential and a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment would be required ahead of future development.

The Stage 2 field assessment was conducted by means of a combined pedestrian and test pit survey in all areas of archaeological potential and was completed on July 3 and 4, 2024. Approximately 62.3% of the project area was identified as being disturbed. Approximately 13.3% of the project area was assessed by means of test pit survey conducted at five-metre intervals and increased to 10 metres when disturbance was encountered. The remaining 24.4% of the project area was assessed by means of a pedestrian survey conducted at five-metre intervals. Despite careful scrutiny, no archaeological materials were identified during the survey.

5.0 Recommendations

In light of these results and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011)*, the following recommendations are made:

1. No further archaeological assessment of the project area, as illustrated on Figure 7, is required.
2. The balance of the larger 3525 Baseline Road property was not assessed as part of this study. Should proposed impacts from any current or future developments extend beyond the limits of the assessed project area, as illustrated on Figure 7, a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment must be conducted in accordance with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.



NOTWITHSTANDING the results and recommendations presented in this study, Archaeological Services Inc. notes that no archaeological assessment, no matter how thorough or carefully completed, can necessarily predict, account for, or identify every form of isolated or deeply buried archaeological deposit. In the event that archaeological remains are found during subsequent construction activities, the consultant archaeologist, approval authority, and the Cultural Programs Unit of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism must be immediately notified.

The above recommendations are subject to Ministry approval, and it is an offence to alter any archaeological site without Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism concurrence. No grading or other activities that may result in the destruction or disturbance of any archaeological sites are permitted until notice of Ministry approval has been received.

6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

Archaeological Services Inc. advises compliance with the following legislation:

- This report is submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 2005, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological field work and report recommendations ensure the conservation, preservation, and protection of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, a letter will be issued by the Ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regards to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.
- It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological field work on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further



cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

- Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- The Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33, requires that any person discovering or having knowledge of a burial site shall immediately notify the police or coroner. It is recommended that the Registrar, *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, Ministry of Public and Business Services Delivery is also immediately notified.
- Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological field work or protection remain subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and may not be altered, nor may artifacts be removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological license.

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8.0 Images



Image 1: View of the paved access driveway along the east limit of the project area, with adjacent drainage ditches.



Image 2: View of paved access driveway and landscaped berm on the central-east limit of the project area.



Image 3: View of hardscaped areas and structures in the north of the maintenance complex.



Image 4: View of hardscaped areas and structures in the central-west part of the maintenance complex.



Image 5: View of paved areas and maintenance complex administration building (right) and large storage structure (centre) in the south of the project area.



Image 6: View of paved areas and maintenance complex administration building in the south of the project area.



Image 7: View of paved areas and structures in the centre of the maintenance complex.



Image 8: View of paved areas and structures in the southwest of the maintenance complex.



Image 9: View of paved area and structure with equipment storage in the southwest corner of the project area.



Image 10: View along the west boundary of the project area. Narrow, peripheral scrubland areas are visible on the left.



Image 11: View of paved areas and structures in the southeast of the project area.



Image 12: View of paved areas and stockpiled materials in the central-east part of the project area, in the northeast corner of the maintenance complex.



Image 13: View of stockpiled materials along the west boundary of the project area at the northwest corner of the maintenance complex.



Image 14: View of asphalt and stockpiled materials in the south of the project area. Narrow, peripheral scrubland areas are visible on the left.



Image 15: View of paved area and stockpiled materials in the southeast corner of the project area.



Image 16: View of artificial stormwater management pond in the northeast corner of the project area.



Image 17: View of western end of landscaped berm and artificial low and wet area in the central-west part of the project area



Image 18: View of field crew test pitting in the east of the project area.



Image 19: View of typical undisturbed test pit soil profile in the north of the project area.



Image 20: View of typical disturbed test pit soil profile along the southwest limits of the project area.



Image 21: View of typical disturbed test pit soil profile, along the north limit of the maintenance complex.



Image 22: View of field crew conducting pedestrian survey.

9.0 Maps

See following pages for detailed assessment mapping and figures





 PROJECT AREA

Sources: Map data ©
OpenStreetMap
contributors, Microsoft,
Facebook, Inc. and its
affiliates, Esri Community
Maps contributors, Map

Projection: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 17N
Scale: 1:25,000



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Figure 1: Location of the Project Area

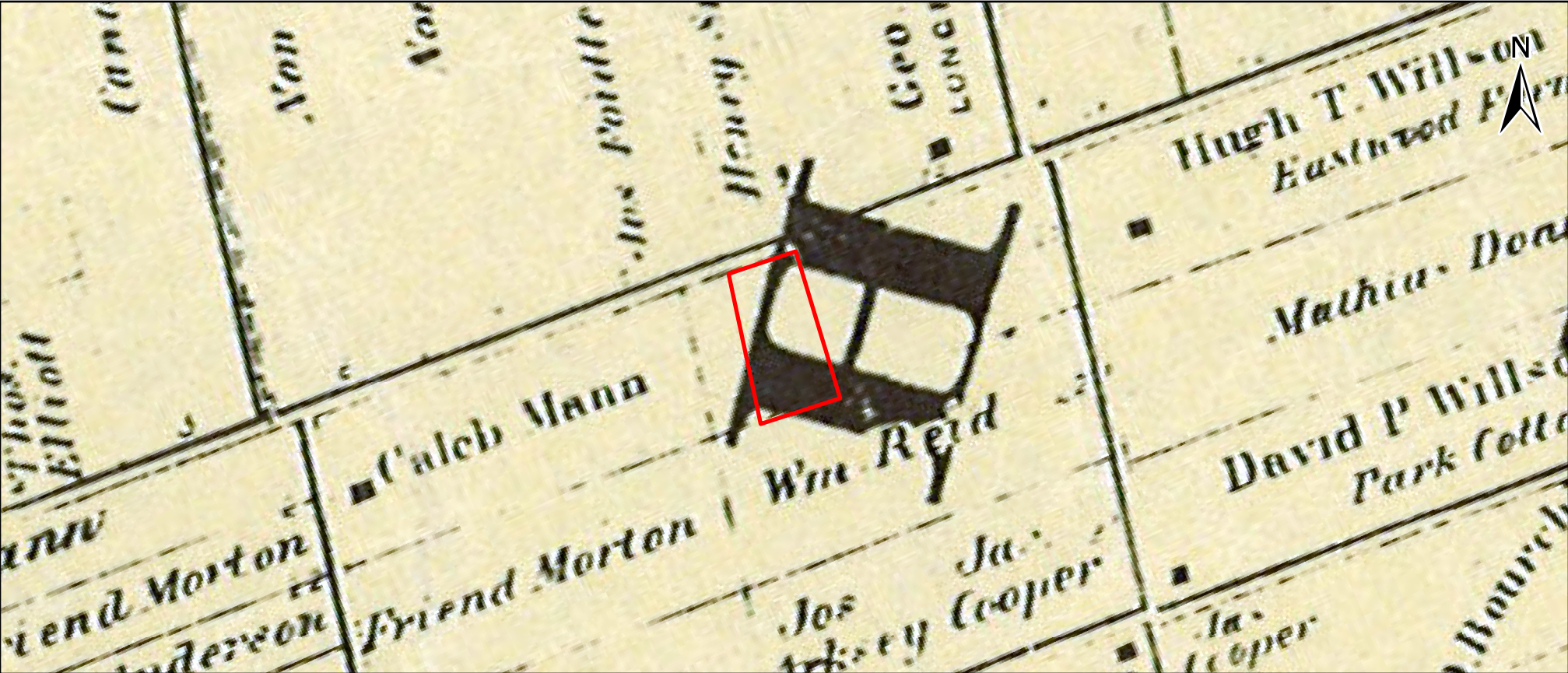


Figure 2: Project Area located on the 1860 Tremaine Map of the County of York

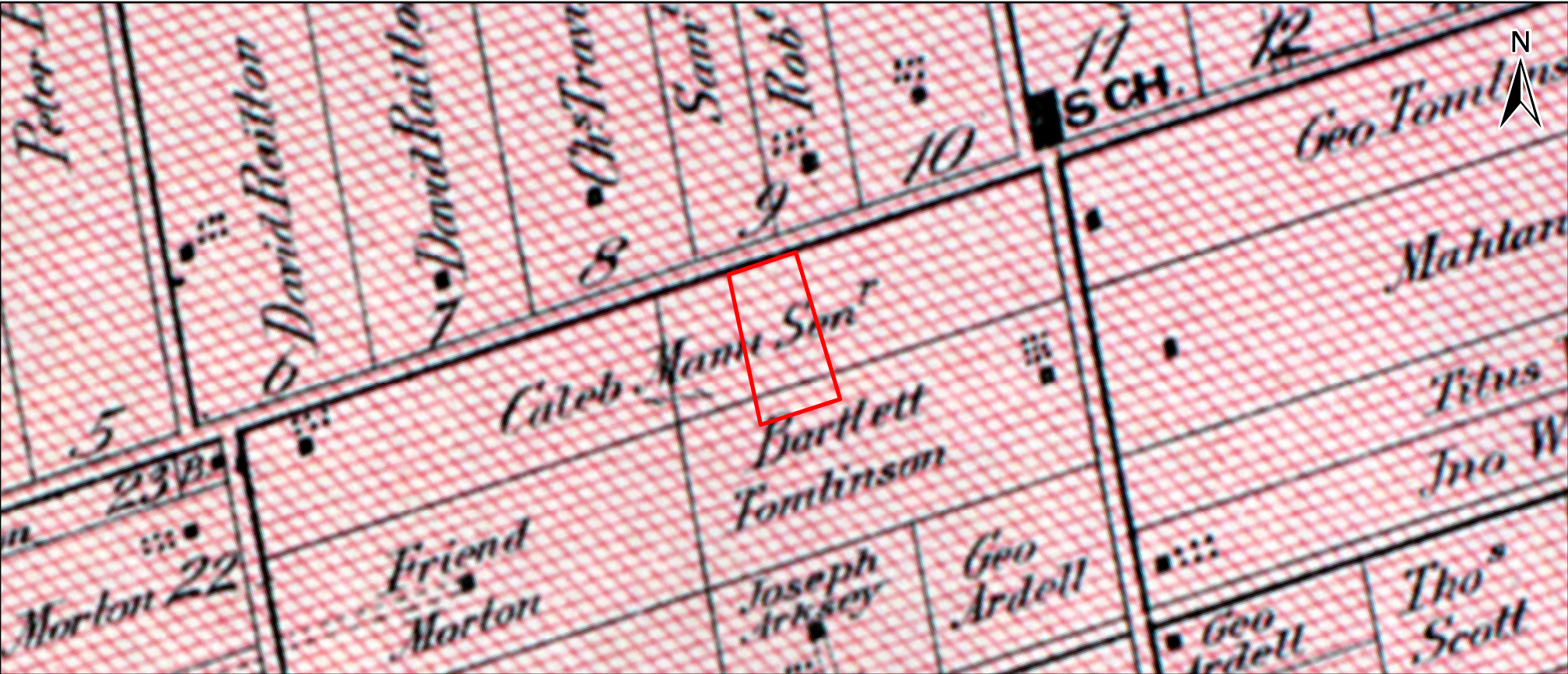


Figure 3: Project Area located on the 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York

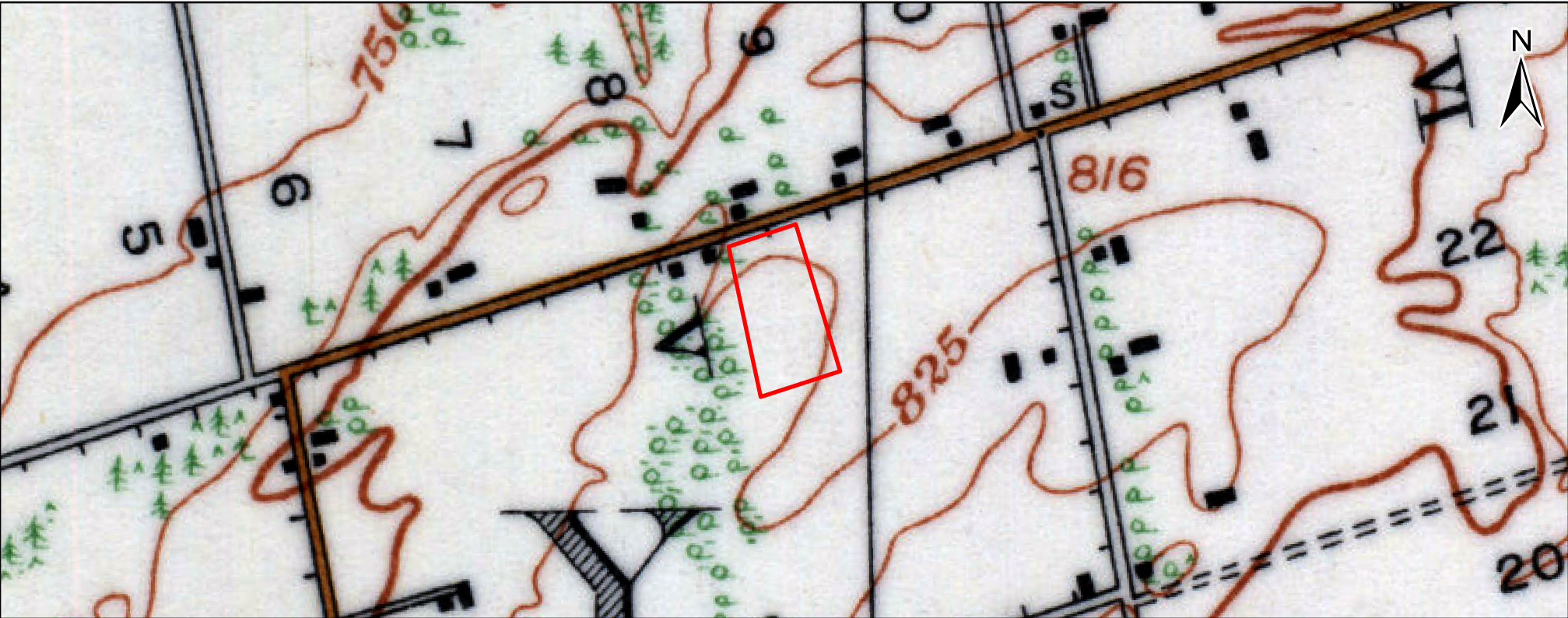


Figure 4: Project Area located on the 1929 Beaverton Topographic Map

	<div><div><div></div></div><div>PROJECT AREA</div></div>	<div>Sources: Tremaine's Map of the County of York (1860); Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York (1877); Department of Militia and Defence, 1929 (Beaverton Sheet)</div> <div>Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:15,000 Page Size: 11 x 17</div>	<div><div>0500</div><div><div></div></div><div>Metres</div></div> <div>ASI Project No.: 23PL-446 Date: 1/12/2024 3:53 PM</div>	<div>Drawn By: pbikoulis File: 23PL446_Fig2-4</div>
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1954



1999



2002



2016

	 PROJECT AREA	Source: Maxar; Google Earth (2016)		0  200 Metres	
		Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:7,000 Page Size: 8.5x11		ASI Project No.: 23PL-446 Date: 1/15/2024 11:14 AM Drawn By: pbikoulis File: 23PL446_Fig5	

Figure 5: Project Area located on 1954, 1999, 2002, and 2016 Aerial Imagery



Figure 6: Existing Conditions of the Project Area

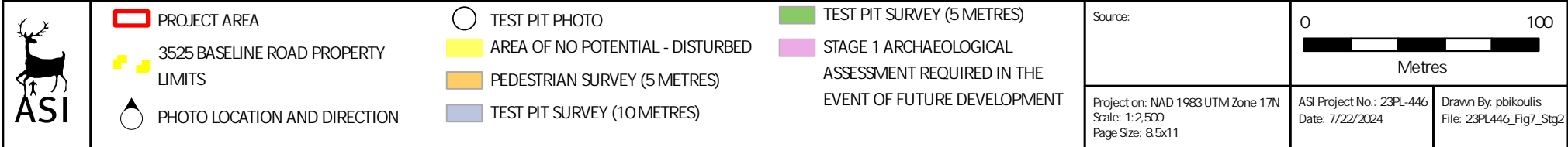


Figure 7: Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment Results