

Stage 1 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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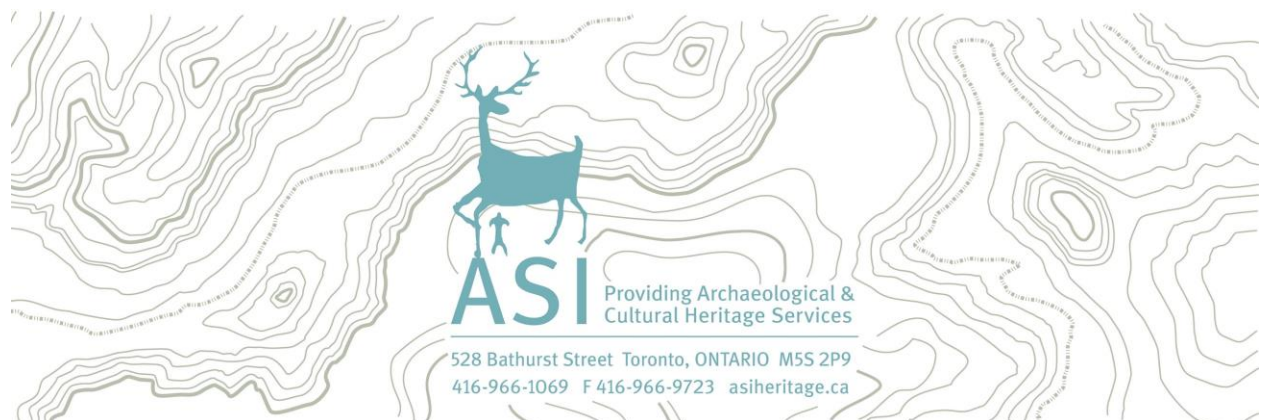
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5 February 2024



Executive Summary

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by GEC Architecture Inc. to undertake a Stage 1 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 Stage 1 background research 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. This research has suggested that there is potential for the presence of both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources within the project area. It is recommended that a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment be conducted in accordance with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* prior to any future development.

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. As such, this area may retain archaeological potential. Should future development of this area be proposed, an archaeological assessment is required in accordance with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.



Project Personnel

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1.0 Project Context

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by GEC Architecture Inc. to undertake a Stage 1 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 (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 Christopher Brown (P361), and the project direction of Robb Bhardwaj (P449), under Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (hereafter “the Ministry”) Project Information Form P449-0759-2024. 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, 2011).

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.



1.2 Historical Context

The purpose of this section is to describe the past and present land use and settlement history, and any other relevant historical information gathered through the Stage 1 background research. First, a summary is presented of the current understanding of the Indigenous land use of the project area. This is followed by a review of historical Euro-Canadian settlement trends.

1.2.1 Pre-Contact Settlement

Southern Ontario has been occupied by human populations since the retreat of the Laurentide glacier approximately 13,000 years before present (B.P.). Populations at this time would have been highly mobile, inhabiting a boreal parkland similar to the modern sub-arctic. By approximately 10,000 B.P., the environment had progressively warmed (Edwards and Fritz, 1988) and populations now occupied less extensive territories (Ellis and Deller, 1990).

Between approximately 10,000-5,500 B.P., the Great Lakes basins experienced low-water levels, and many sites that would have been located on those former shorelines were 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 8,000 B.P.; 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 4,500-3,000 B.P., 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 3,000-2,500 B.P., populations continued to practice residential mobility and to harvest seasonally available resources, including spawning fish. The Woodland period began around 2,500 B.P. and exchange and interaction networks broadened at this time (Spence *et alia*, 1990:136, 138). By approximately 2,000 B.P., evidence exists for macro-band camps, focusing on



the seasonal harvesting of resources (Spence *et alia*, 1990:155, 164). By 1,500 B.P., there is macro botanical evidence for maize in southern Ontario. Although it is thought that maize only supplemented people's diet, phytolithic evidence for maize in central New York State by 2,300 B.P. suggests 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). It is probable that these bands, most likely Algonquian speakers, retreated to interior camps during the winter.

From the beginning of the Late Woodland period at approximately 1,000 B.P., lifeways became more similar to that described in early historical documents. Between approximately 1000-1300 Common Era (C.E.), the communal site was replaced by the village focused on horticulture. Seasonal disintegration 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 community disintegration waned, and populations began to occupy sites throughout the year communally (Dodd *et alia*, 1990:343).

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 Nipissing and Odawa) led to their dispersal 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.

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

A review of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mapping was completed to determine if these sources depict any nineteenth-century Euro-Canadian settlement features that may represent potential historical archaeological sites within or adjacent to the project area. Historical map sources are used to reconstruct/predict the location of former features within the modern landscape by cross-referencing points between the various sources and then georeferencing them in order to provide the most accurate determination of the location of any project area from historical mapping sources. The results can be imprecise (or even contradictory) because sources of error, such as the vagaries of map production, differences in scale or resolution, and distortions caused by the reproduction of the sources, introduce error into the process. The impacts



of this error are dependent on the size of the feature in question, the constancy of reference points on mapping, the distances between them, and the consistency with which both are depicted on historical mapping.

In addition, not all settlement features were depicted systematically in the compilation of these historical map sources, given that they were financed by subscription, and subscribers were given preference with regards to the level of detail provided. Thus, not every feature of interest from the perspective of archaeological resource management would have been within the scope of these sources.

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

This section provides background research pertaining to previous archaeological fieldwork conducted within and in the vicinity of the project area, its environment characteristics (including drainage, soils, surficial geology, and topography), and current land use and field conditions.

1.3.1 Registered Archaeological Sites

In order that an inventory of archaeological resources could be compiled for the project area, three sources of information were consulted: the site record forms for registered sites housed at the Ministry, published and unpublished documentary sources, and the files of Archaeological Services Inc.

In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database, which is maintained by the Ministry. This database contains archaeological sites registered within the Borden system. The Borden system was first proposed by Doctor Charles E. Borden and is based on a



block of latitude and longitude. Each Borden block measures approximately 13 kilometres east-west by 18.5 kilometres north-south and is referenced by a four-letter designator. Sites within a block are numbered sequentially as they are found. The project area is located in the north of the BbGu Borden block.

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 January 23, 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
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, no previous archaeological assessments were identified on nor within 50 metres of the project area.

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 B.P.). 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 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.

1.3.5 Review of Archaeological Potential

The *Standards*, Section 1.3.1 stipulates that primary water sources (such as lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks), secondary water sources (intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, and swamps), as well as ancient water sources (glacial lake shorelines indicated by the presence of raised sand or gravel beach ridges, relic river or stream channels indicated by clear dip or swale in the topography, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes, and cobble beaches) are characteristics that indicate archaeological potential. Geographic characteristics also indicate archaeological potential and include distinct topographic features and soils.

Potable water is the single most important resource necessary for any extended human occupation or settlement. Since water sources have remained relatively stable in south central Ontario after the Pleistocene era, proximity to water can be regarded as a useful index for the evaluation of archaeological site potential. Indeed, distance from water has been one of the most used variables for predictive modelling of site location.

Other geographic characteristics can indicate pre-contact archaeological potential, including elevated topography (eskers, drumlins, large knolls,



plateaux), pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially near areas of heavy soil or rocky ground, and distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places for indigenous populations, such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, and promontories and their bases. There may be physical indicators of their use by indigenous peoples, such as burials, structures, offerings, rock paintings or carvings. Resource areas, including food or medicinal plants (migratory routes, spawning areas, prairie), and scarce raw materials (quartz, copper, ochre, or outcrops of chert) are also considered characteristics that indicate pre-contact archaeological potential.

The generic distance to water potential model has been refined for the *Archaeological Management Plan for the Regional Municipality of York* (York Region, 2014). According to the modelling criteria, undisturbed land within 250 metres of major rivers and their tributaries, in addition to the Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe shorelines has potential for the presence of Indigenous archaeological sites. This 250-metre potential zone is also extended to the lands above glacial lake strands, while 200 metre buffers are applied to the lands below glacial lake strands. The *Management Plan* also identifies potential for Indigenous resources within 100 metres of registered Indigenous sites. The *Archaeological Management Plan for the Regional Municipality of York* also includes an Ossuary Potential Model, which places a 1,000 metre buffer around Late Woodland village sites for which an ossuary has not been identified, in lands which are located within 300 metres of a current or former water source.

For the post-contact period, Section 1.3.1 of the *Standards* stipulates that those areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, including places of early military pioneer settlement (pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches, and early cemeteries, are considered to have archaeological potential. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local, provincial, or federal monuments or heritage parks. Early historical transportation routes (trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes), properties listed on a municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* or a federal, provincial, or municipal historical landmark or site, and properties that local histories or



informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations are also considered to have archaeological potential.

The majority of early nineteenth century farmsteads, which are arguably the most potentially significant resources and whose locations are rarely recorded on nineteenth century maps, are likely to be captured by the basic proximity to the water model, since these occupations were subject to similar environmental constraints. An added factor, however, is the development of the network of concession roads and railroads through the course of the nineteenth century. These transportation routes frequently influenced the siting of farmsteads and businesses. Accordingly, undisturbed lands within 100 metres of an early historical transportation route are also considered to have potential for the presence of Euro-Canadian archaeological sites.

The *Archaeological Management Plan for the Regional Municipality of York* (York Region, 2014) considers a similar suite of criteria or indicators. There is potential for historical sites within 100 metres of registered or designated historical sites, cemeteries, and features illustrated on historical maps. There is also potential within 200 metres of settlement roads and within 50 metres of early railways.

An intermittent watercourse runs through the northern half of the project area, associated with a wetland area identified approximately 75 metres to the west. The project area is also situated approximately 115 metres northwest of another unnamed watercourse. Historical mapping indicates that present-day Baseline Road was an important early settlement corridor from at least the mid-nineteenth century. As a result, there is potential for the presence of both Indigenous and historical Euro-Canadian archaeological materials remaining *in situ* on the subject property, depending on the degree of subsequent land alteration.

2.0 Field Methods

The optional field review was not required as part of this assessment, as per the *Standards*, Section 1.2. In order to provide images to support the analysis, conclusions, and recommendations of this report, current orthographic imagery



and images available through Google Earth Street View were reviewed (Figure 7; Images 1-7). The Google Earth Street View images were taken in September 2014 and May 2023 and are presented in Section 7.0 of this report.

2.1 Findings

The project area comprises an area of open, maintained lawn in the north (Images 1-4) and a road maintenance facility in the south, consisting of several structures surrounded by paved parking lots and staging areas (Images 5-6). The facility is accessed by a paved driveway that extends along the east side of the project area (Image 7).

A review of aerial imagery indicates that approximately 59% of the project area has been disturbed by prior activities. These areas of disturbance include the footprints of the road maintenance facility buildings in the south and the associated driveway, paved parking areas and small, landscaped lawn areas as well as an artificial pond feature in the northeast. Aerial imagery from 2016 also identifies an area that has been previously disturbed during grading and soil stockpiling activities along the northern limits of the project area (Figure 5). In accordance with the *Standards*, Section 1.3.2 and Section 2.1, Standard 2b, these areas are considered to have no potential to warrant further survey due to deep land alteration (Figure 7). However, in the absence of a Stage 1 field review, the nature and limits of the disturbance associated with these areas which may have removed archaeological potential will have to be confirmed and documented during the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment.

The balance of the project area, approximately 41%, however, comprises former agricultural lands currently composed of maintained lawn, as well as smaller, peripheral lawn areas. These areas are considered to have archaeological potential and will require a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment (Figure 7).

3.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by GEC Architecture Inc. to undertake a Stage 1 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 Region of York.

The Stage 1 background research 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. This research determined that there remains archaeological potential within the project area and a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be necessary ahead of future development.

4.0 Recommendations

In light of these results, the following recommendation is made:

1. Prior to any land-disturbing activities within the project area, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment must be conducted on all undisturbed lands within the project area, in accordance with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.
 - a) All agricultural or open lands within the project area must be assessed by means of a pedestrian survey. The fields/open areas must be ploughed in advance of survey and allowed to weather for at least one substantial rainfall. Ploughing must be deep enough to provide total topsoil exposure, but not deeper than previous ploughing. The pedestrian survey must be completed at five-metre intervals, as outlined in Section 2.1.1 of the *Standards*.
 - b) All undisturbed lands that cannot be ploughed within the project area must be assessed by means of a test pit survey. All test pits must be excavated at least five centimetres into sterile subsoil, with all soils being screened through six-millimetre mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. All test pits must be at least 30 centimetres in



diameter and excavated within one metre of all structures and/or disturbance when possible. Upon completion, all test pits must be backfilled. Test pits must be excavated at five-metre intervals but this interval may be adjusted in light of considerations of disturbance, topography, and drainage as outlined in the *Standards*, Section 2.1.2.

- c) The nature and limits of those areas of disturbance identified in the Stage 1 background research must be reviewed and confirmed during the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment.

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 of Citizenship and Multiculturalism approval has been received.

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.

5.0 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*, RSO 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 also is 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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7.0 Images



Image 1: View along the west limit of the project area from the northwest corner (May 2023).



Image 2: View of the north part of the project area from Baseline Road, with artificial pond on the left (May 2023).



Image 3: View of the north limit of the project area from the northeast corner, with artificial pond in the foreground (September 2014).



Image 4: View of the north of the project area (September 2014).



Image 5: View of the road maintenance facility and driveway in the south of the project area (September 2014).



Image 6: View of the road maintenance facility and driveway in the centre of the project area, prior to further expansion to the north (September 2014).

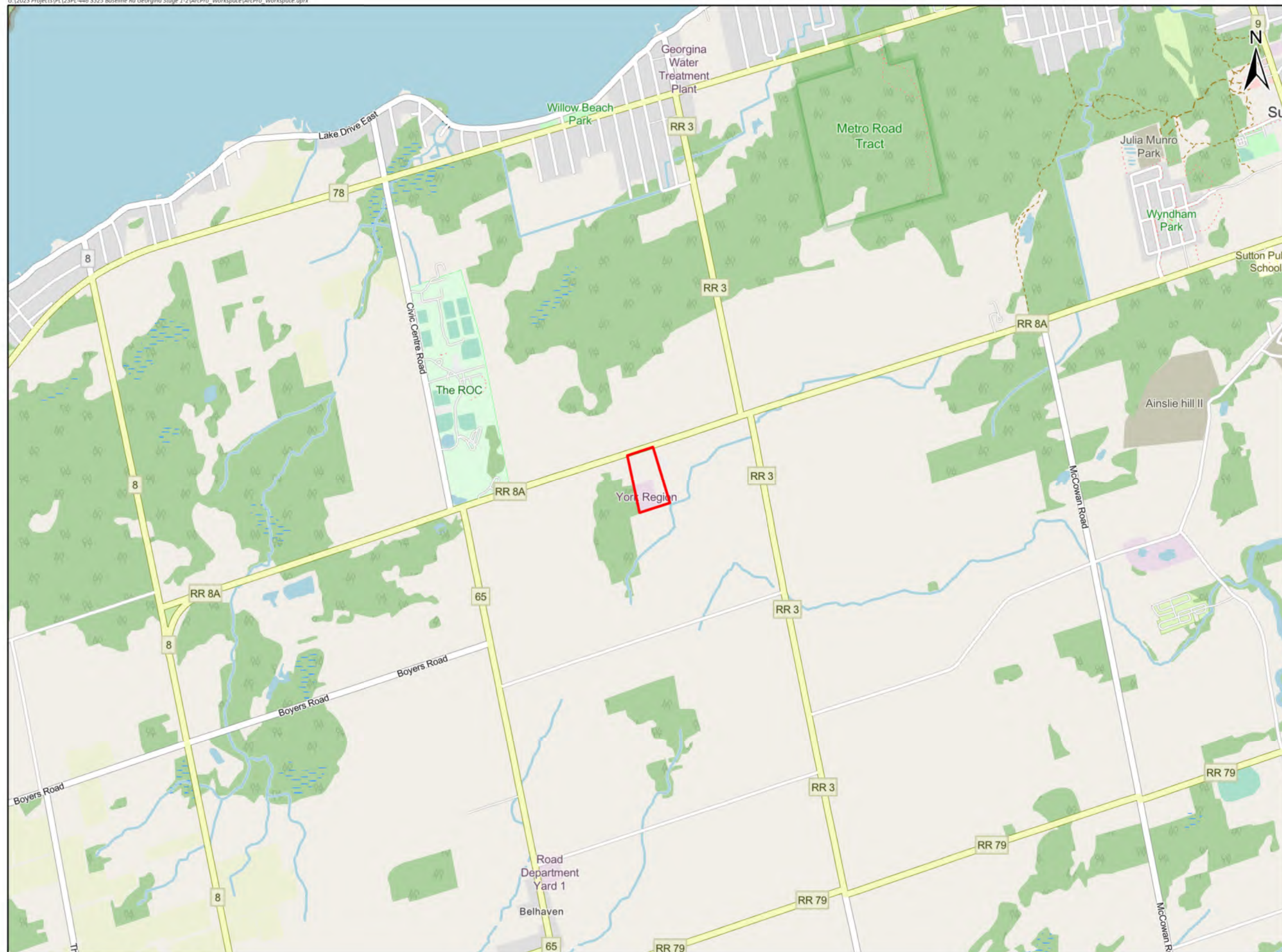


Image 7: View of the driveway along the east side of the project area and the structures located in the southeast corner (May 2023).

8.0 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

0 1
Kilometres

ASI Project No: 23PL-446
Date: 1/11/2024 2:45 PM

Drawn By: cnettleton
File: 23PL446_Fig1

 Providing Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Services
528 Bathurst Street Toronto, ONTARIO M5S 2P9
T 416-966-1069 F 416-966-9723 asiheritage.ca

Figure 1: Location of the Project Area

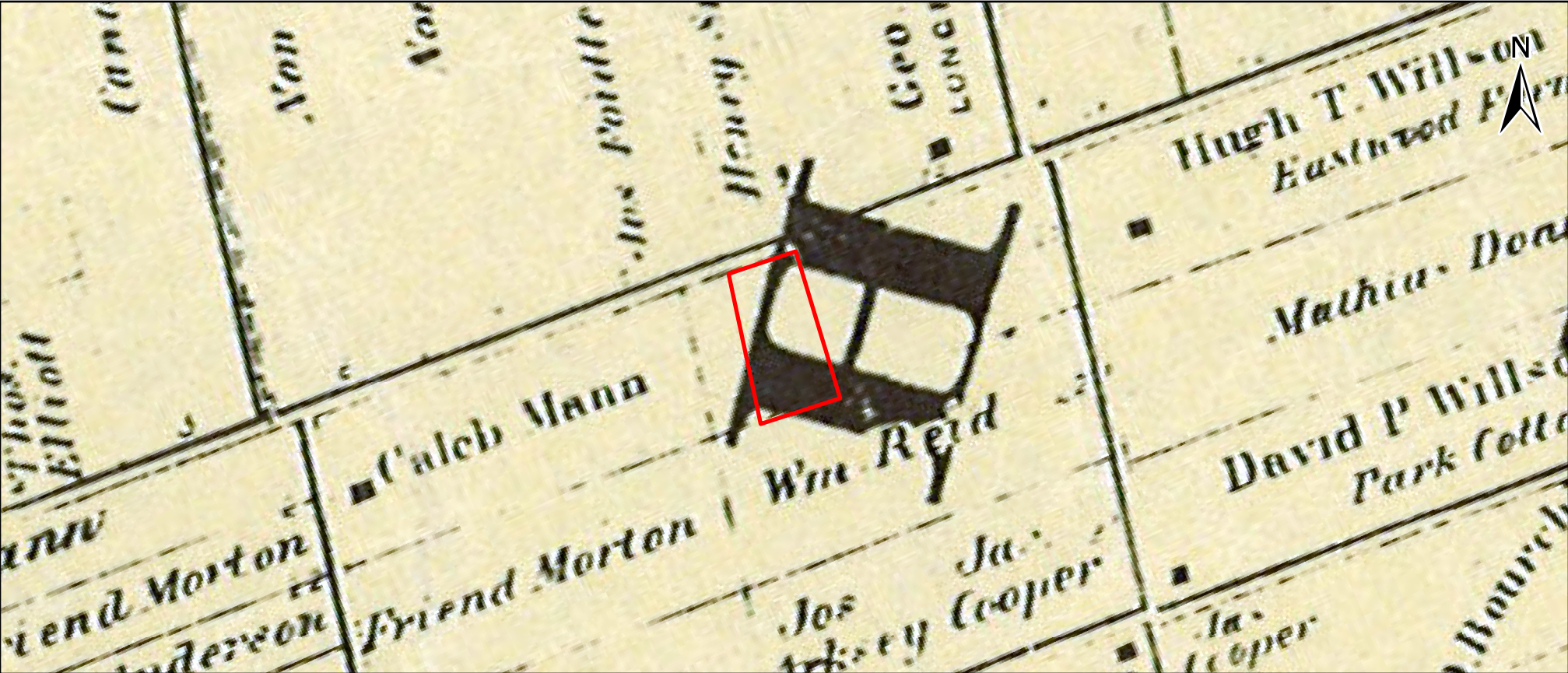


Figure 2: Project Area located on the 1860 Tremain Map of the County of York

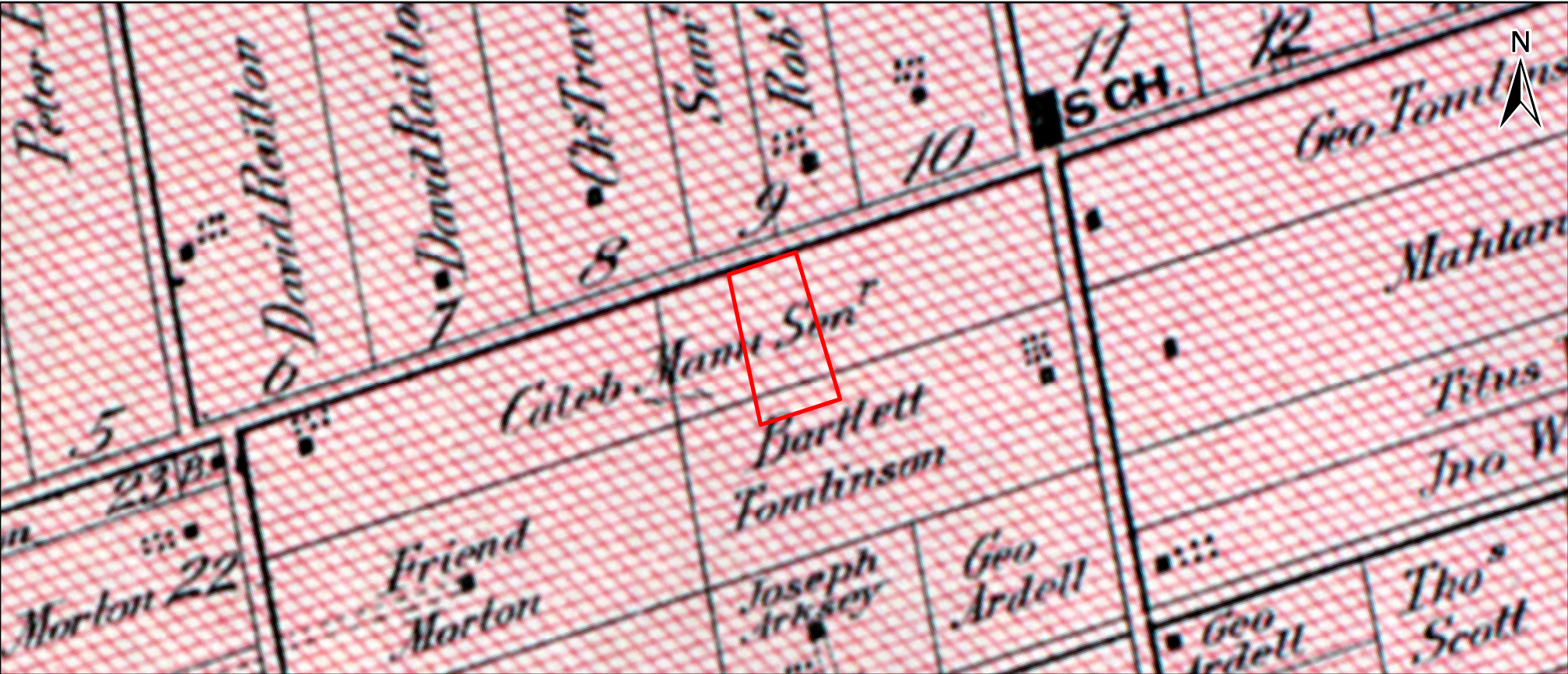


Figure 3: Project Area located on the 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York

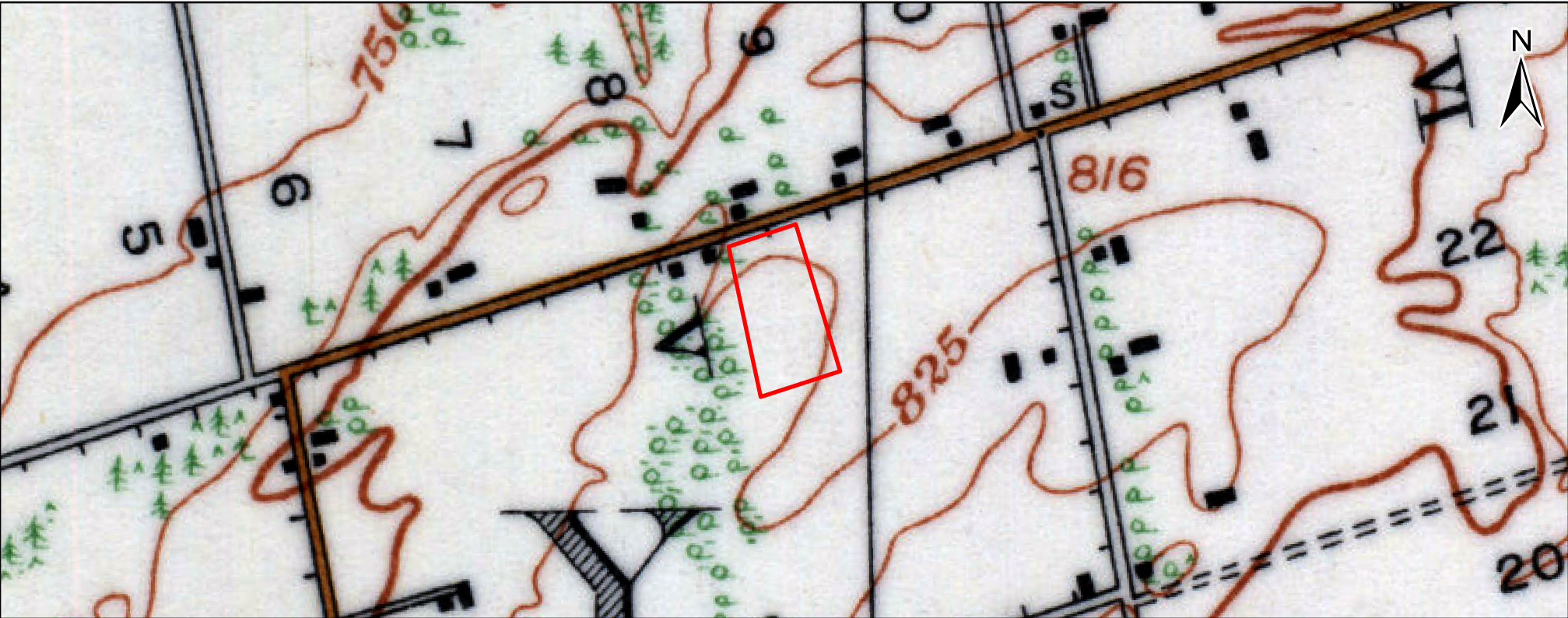


Figure 4: Project Area located on the 1929 Beaverton Topographic Map

	<div><div><div></div></div><div>PROJECT AREA</div></div>	<div>Sources: Tremain'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: pbikouli File: 23PL446_Fig5	

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



Figure 6: Existing Conditions of the Project Area

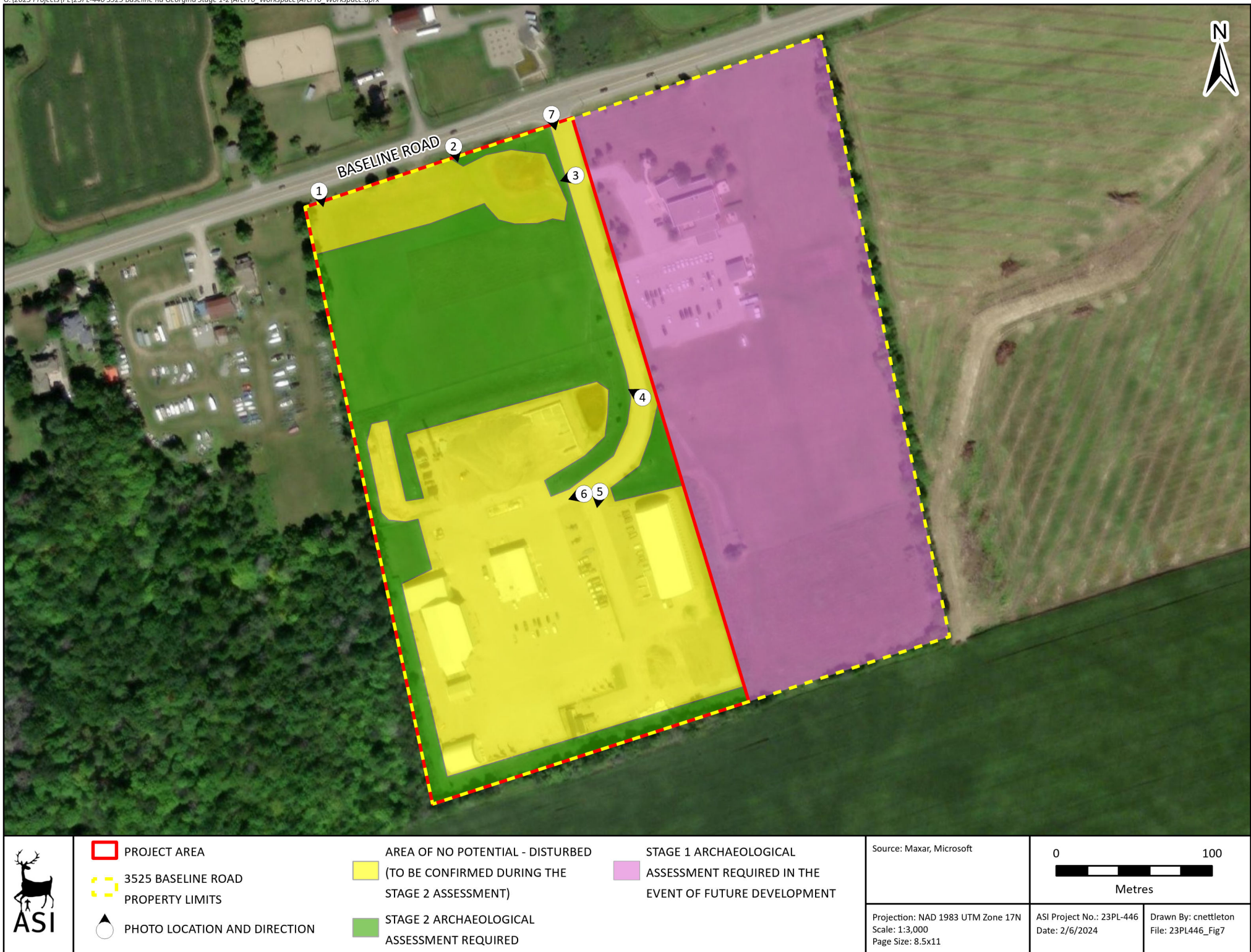


Figure 7: Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Results