



December 30, 2021



Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of 726 Gorham Road, Ridgeway

Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment 726
Gorham Road, Part of Lot 24, Conc. 3, Formerly in
the Township of Bertie, now the Town of Fort
Erie, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario.

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ORIGINAL REPORT



Executive Summary

Seguin Archaeological Services (SAS) was contracted by Mr. Mark Spadafora (the Proponent) to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment at 726 Gorham Road, Part of Lot 24, Conc. 3, Formerly in the Township of Bertie, now the Town of Fort Erie, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1), now referred to as the Study Area.

This assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development, and severance, on a residential property located at 726 Gorham Road, in Ridgeway. The assessment property measures 0.68 hectares (1.68 acres). At the time of the assessment, the study area was comprised of a single house with a garage, an outbuilding, along with associated driveways and manicured lawns.

The assessment was triggered by the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) that is informed by the Planning Act (Government of Ontario 1990a), which states that decisions affecting planning matters must be consistent with the policies outlined in the larger Ontario Heritage Act (1990b). According to Section 2.6.2 of the PPS, “development and site alteration shall not be permitted on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential unless significant archaeological resources have been conserved.” To meet the condition, a Stage 1-2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted, during the pre-approval phase of the development, under archaeological consulting license P1018 issued to Matthew Seguin by the MHSTCI’s 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (‘Standards and Guidelines’; Government of Ontario 2011).

The Stage 1 background research indicated that the Study Area exhibited moderate to high potential for the identification and recovery of archaeological resources and was recommended for a Stage 2 assessment.

The subsequent Stage 2 archaeological assessment was conducted by SAS on November 7, 2021, in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. This investigation consisted of a typical test pitting survey at 5-meter intervals of the study area. No archaeological materials or features were located during the test pit survey.

Based upon the background research of past and present conditions, and the archaeological assessment, the following is recommended:

- No further archaeological assessment is required for the Study Area; and,
- Compliance legislation must be adhered to in the event of the discovery of deeply buried cultural materials or features



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	ii
1.0 Project Context	1
1.1 Development Context	1
1.2 Historical Context.....	2
1.2.1 Post-Contact Aboriginal Resources.....	2
1.2.2 Euro-Canadian Resources	3
1.3 Archaeological Context	5
1.3.1 Property Description and Physical Setting	5
1.3.2 Pre-Contact Aboriginal Land Use	6
1.3.3 Previously Identified Archaeological Work	7
1.3.4 Archaeological Potential	9
2.0 Field Methods	11
3.0 Record of Finds	12
4.0 Analysis and Conclusions	13
5.0 Recommendations	14
6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation	15
7.0 Bibliography and Sources	16
8.0 Figures.....	19
9.0 Images.....	23
9.1 Field Photos.....	23



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Acknowledgments

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Mr. Mark Spadafora



1.0 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

Seguin Archaeological Services (SAS) was contracted by Mr. Mark Spadafora (the Proponent) to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment at 726 Gorham Road, Part of Lot 24, Conc. 3, formerly in the Township of Bertie, now the Town of Fort Erie, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development, and severance, on a residential property located at 726 Gorham Road, in Ridgeway. The assessment property measures 0.68 hectares (1.68 acres). At the time of the assessment, the study area was comprised of a single house with a garage, an outbuilding, along with associated driveways and manicured lawns.

The assessment was triggered by the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) that is informed by the Planning Act (Government of Ontario 1990a), which states that decisions affecting planning matters must be consistent with the policies outlined in the larger Ontario Heritage Act (1990b). According to Section 2.6.2 of the PPS, “development and site alteration shall not be permitted on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential unless significant archaeological resources have been conserved.” To meet this condition, a Stage 1-2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted, during the pre-approval phase of the development, under archaeological consulting license P1018 issued to Matthew Seguin by the MHSTCI’s 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (‘Standards and Guidelines’; Government of Ontario 2011).

The purpose of a Stage 1 Background Study is to compile all available information about known and potential cultural heritage resources within the Study Area and then to provide specific direction regarding the protection, management and/or recovery of any resources which may be present. The objectives of the Stage 1 Background Study, as outlined by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries’ (MHSTCI) Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (Government of Ontario 2011), are as follows:

- To provide information about the Study Area’s geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land condition;
- to evaluate in detail, the Study Area’s archaeological potential which will support recommendations for Stage 2 survey for all or parts of the property; and
- to recommend appropriate strategies for Stage 2 survey.

SAS archaeologists employed the following research strategies to meet these objectives:

- A detailed documentary review of relevant archaeological, historic and environmental literature pertaining to the Study Area;
- a review of the land-use history, including pertinent historic maps; and



- an examination of the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database ('ASDB') to determine the presence of known archaeological sites in and around the Study Area.

The purpose of a Stage 2 Property Assessment is to provide an overview of any archaeological resources within the Study Area, and to determine whether, or not, any of those resources might be archaeological sites which retain cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI), and then to provide specific direction regarding the protection, management and/or recovery of said resources. The objectives of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment, as outlined by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' (MHSTCI) Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (Government of Ontario 2011), are as follows:

- To document all archaeological resources within the Study Area;
- to determine whether the Study Area contains archaeological resources requiring further assessment; and
- to recommend appropriate Stage 3 assessment strategies for any archaeological sites determined to require additional assessment.

The licensee received permission from the Proponent to enter the land and conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities, including the recovery of artifacts.

1.2 Historical Context

1.2.1 Post-Contact Aboriginal Resources

The surrounding area enters the historic record in 1626, when Father La Roche Daillon, a French Jesuit missionary, spent three months in the Hamilton region attempting to conclude a trading alliance with the Neutral Confederacy. These negotiations ultimately failed due to opposition from Huron allies (White 1978:409). By 1638, the Neutral had expanded east to the Niagara River in response to a void left by the Wenro migrating to Huronia and the Erie migrating southwest. By the early 1640s, the Neutrals were engaged in large-scale warfare with the Assistaeronons to the west while maintaining a neutral stance between the Huron and the League of Five Nations Iroquois. European influence in the region was generally restricted to the beaver pelt trade, and Aboriginal groups practiced a way of life that did not differ significantly from the pre-Contact period. By the late 1640s, the increasing scarcity of beaver pelts prompted the invasion of the Neutral by the League of Five Nations Iroquois. By 1651, the Neutral Confederacy was destroyed and its members either moved west out of Ontario or were absorbed into the League of Five Nations (Trigger 1994:57).

The region appears to have been relatively unpopulated by permanent settlements in the latter half of the seventeenth century, with much of southern Ontario used as a hunting territory by the Iroquois. However, Ojibway groups previously thought to have settled along the northern shores of Georgian Bay and Lake Superior gradually migrated into southern Ontario, and by 1707 had settled in the Niagara region (Rogers 1978:761).



The Study Area enters the Euro-Canadian historic record on May 9th, 1781 as part of the Niagara Treaty No. 381 with the Mississauga and Chippewa. This treaty involved the surrender of ...

...all that certain tract of land situated on the west side of the said strait or river, leading from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, beginning at a large white oak tree, forked six feet from the ground, on the bank of the said Lake Ontario, at the distance of four English miles measured in a straight line, from the West side of the bank of the said strait, opposite to the Fort Niagara and extending from thence by a southerly course to the Chipewigh River, at the distance of four miles on a direct line from where the said river falls into the said strait about the great Fall of Niagara or such a line as will pass at four miles west of the said Fall in its course to the said river and running from thence by a southeasterly course to the northern bank of Lake Erie at the distance of four miles on a straight line, westerly from the Post called Fort Erie, thence easterly along the said Lake by the said Post, and northerly up the west side of the said strait to the said lake Ontario, thence westerly to the place of beginning.

Morris 1943: 15-16

By 1784, the British government had purchased over a million hectares of land between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie from the Mississauga, which became known as the Between the Lakes Purchase (Surtees 1994:102). The Mississauga eventually relocated to the Grand River at New Credit in 1847.

The size and nature of the pre-contact settlements and the subsequent spread and distribution of Aboriginal material culture in Southern Ontario began to shift with the establishment of European settlers. Lands in the Lower Grand River area were surrendered by the Six Nations to the British Government in 1832, at which point most Six Nations people moved into Tuscarora Township in Brant County and a narrow portion of Oneida Township (Page & Co. 1879; Tanner 1987; Weaver 1978). Despite the inevitable encroachment of European settlers on previously established Aboriginal territories, “written accounts of material life and livelihood, the correlation of historically recorded villages to their archaeological manifestations, and the similarities of those sites to more ancient sites have revealed an antiquity to documented cultural expressions that confirms a deep historical continuity to Iroquoian systems of ideology and thought” (Ferris 2009:114). As Ferris observes, despite the arrival of a competing culture, First Nations communities throughout Southern Ontario have left behind archaeologically significant resources that demonstrate continuity with their pre-contact predecessors, even if they have not been recorded extensively in historical Euro-Canadian documentation.

1.2.2 Euro-Canadian Resources

The current Study Area is located in the Geographical Township of Bertie, Former County of Welland, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario.



In July 1788, the government of the Province of Québec began creating new districts, hoping to better serve and administer at the local level. The first new divisions were the administrative districts of Hesse, Nassau, Mecklenburg and Lunenburg (Archives of Ontario 2009). Further change came in December 1791 when the province was rearranged into Upper Canada and Lower Canada under the Constitutional Act. Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed as Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada; he initiated several initiatives to populate the province including the establishment of shoreline communities with effective transportation links between them (Coyne 1895).

In July 1792, Simcoe divided Upper Canada into 19 counties, including Lincoln County, stretching from Essex in the west to Glengarry in the east. Later that year, the four districts originally established in 1788 were renamed the Western, Home, Midland and Eastern Districts. As population levels in Upper Canada increased, smaller and more manageable administrative bodies were needed resulting in the establishment of many new counties and townships. As part of this realignment, the boundaries of the Home and Western Districts were shifted and the London and Niagara Districts were established. Under this new territorial arrangement, the Study Area became part of Lincoln County in the Niagara District (Archives of Ontario 2009). In 1845, after years of increasing settlement that began after the War of 1812, the southern portion of Lincoln County was severed to form Welland County (the two counties would be amalgamated once again in 1970 to form the Regional Municipality of Niagara).

Bertie Township was settled in 1784 by United Empire Loyalist and others from American colonies. The soil of the township was a large attraction to early settlers as it was suitable for growing barley, wheat, and oats, amongst other things. Ridgeway is located in the southern portion of the township and was described as a thriving village in 1876. At this time, the village had 800 inhabitants as well as three hotels, 20 different stores and the Buffalo and Goderich division of the G.T. Railway (Page & Co 1876).

The Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland (Historical Atlas), demonstrates the extent to which Bertie Township had been settled by 1876 (Page & Co 1876; Figure 2). Landowners are listed for every lot within the township, many of which had been subdivided multiple times into smaller parcels to accommodate an ever-increasing population throughout the late 19th century. Structures and orchards are prevalent throughout the township, almost all of which front onto early roads. According to the Historical Atlas map of Bertie Township, Lot 24, Concession 3 was subdivided into two parcels. Most of the lot, east and north of the unnamed tributary of Beaver Creek, belonged to Isaac Lown. A much smaller portion, located in the southwest corner of the lot and west of the unnamed tributary of Beaver Creek, was the property of William Anger Jr. The Study Area is located in the smaller southwestern portion of the lot by William Anger Jr. A single structure and an orchard are visible on Mr. Anger's property. The structure is located to the south of the Study Area and the orchard is located within the Study Area. The community of Ridgeway and the Grand Trunk



Railway are located to the south of the Study Area. Although there is significant and detailed information available about the landowners on the current Historical Atlas map of Bertie Township, it should be recognized that not all features of interest were mapped systematically in the Ontario series of historical atlases, given that they were financed by subscription, and subscribers were given preference about the level of detail provided on the maps, while nonsubscribers were not always listed on the maps (Caston 1997:100). Moreover, not every feature of interest would have been within the scope of the atlases, and structures or features of interest that were within scope, may not have been depicted or placed accurately (Gentilcore and Head 1984).

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Property Description and Physical Setting

The Study Area occupies the residential property located at 726 Gorham Road, in the community of Ridgeway. The assessment property measures 0.68 hectares (1.68 acres). At the time of the assessment, the study area was comprised of a single house with a garage, an outbuilding, along with associated driveways and manicured lawns.

Most of the region surrounding the Study Area has been subject to European-style agricultural practices for over 100 years, having been settled by Euro-Canadian farmers by the mid-19th century. Much of the region today continues to be used for agricultural purposes.

The Study Area is situated within the Haldimand Clay Plain, a 3,500 square kilometre area of parallel clay belts deposited during the time of glacial Lake Warren. According to Chapman and Putnam

...although it was all submerged in Lake Warren, the till is not all buried by stratified clay; it comes to the surface generally in low morainic ridges in the north. In fact, there is in that area a confused intermixture of stratified clay and till. The northern part has more relief than the southern part where the typically level lake plains occur.

Chapman and Putnam 1984:156

The study area consists of Welland clay, a mainly reddish-hued lacustrine heavy clay that is poorly drained with medium to high water-holding capacities (Kingston and Presant 1989). The soil is suitable for corn and soybeans in rotation with cereal grains as well as alfalfa and clover (Huffman and Dumanski 1986).

The Niagara Region as a whole is located within the Deciduous Forest Region of Canada, and contains tree species that are typical of the more northern Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Biotic zone, such as beech, sugar maple, white elm, basswood, white oak and butternut (MacDonald



& Cooper 1997:21). During pre-contact and early contact times, the land in the vicinity of the Study Area comprised a mixture of hardwood trees such as sugar maple, beech, oak and cherry. This pattern of forest cover is characteristic of areas of clay soil within the Maple-Hemlock Section of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Province-Cool Temperate Division (McAndrews and Manville: 1987). In the early 19th, Euro-Canadian settlers began to clear the forests for agricultural purposes.

The closest source of potable water is an unnamed tributary of Beaver Creek, which runs approximately 20m to the east of the Study Area.

1.3.2 Pre-Contact Aboriginal Land Use

This portion of southwestern Ontario has been demonstrated to have been occupied by people as far back as 11,000 years ago as the glaciers retreated. For the majority of this time, people were practicing hunter-gatherer lifestyles with a gradual move towards more extensive farming practices. Table 1 provides a general outline of the cultural chronology of Bertie Township, based on Ellis and Ferris (1990).

Table 1: Cultural Chronology for Bertie Township

Time Period	Cultural Period	Comments
9500 – 7000 BC	Paleo Indian	first human occupation hunters of caribou and other extinct Pleistocene game nomadic, small band society
7500 - 1000 BC	Archaic	ceremonial burials increasing trade network hunter gatherers
1000 - 400 BC	Early Woodland	large and small camps spring congregation/fall dispersal introduction of pottery
400 BC – AD 800	Middle Woodland	kinship based political system incipient horticulture long distance trade network
AD 800 - 1300	Early Iroquoian (Late Woodland)	limited agriculture developing hamlets and villages
AD 1300 - 1400	Middle Iroquoian (Late Woodland)	shift to agriculture complete increasing political complexity large palisaded villages
AD 1400 - 1650	Late Iroquoian	regional warfare and political/tribal alliances destruction of Huron and Neutral



1.3.3 Previously Identified Archaeological Work

To compile an inventory of previously identified archaeological resources, the registered archaeological site records kept by the MHSTCI were consulted. In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Archaeological Sites Database (ASDB) (Government of Ontario n.d.) which is maintained by the MHSTCI. This database contains archaeological sites registered according to the Borden system. Under the Borden system, Canada is divided into grid blocks based on latitude and longitude. A Borden Block is approximately 13km east to west and approximately 18.5km north to south, and each Borden Block is referenced by a four-letter designator and sites within a block are numbered sequentially as they are found. The Study Area under review is within Borden Block AfGs.

According to the ASDB, a total of eleven archaeological sites have been registered within 1km of the Study Area (Table 2). Five have been identified as pre-contact Aboriginal scatters, five have been identified as pre-contact Aboriginal findspots, and one as a pre-contact Aboriginal hunting loss.

Table 2: Registered Archaeological Sites within 1km of the Study Area

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type
AfGs-111	Nigh Road 1	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	scatter
AfGs-112	Nigh Road 2	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	scatter
AfGs-113	Nigh Road 3	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	scatter
AfGs-114	Nigh Road 4	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	scatter
AfGs-115	Nigh Road 5	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	findspot
AfGs-116	Nigh Road 6	Archaic, Late	Aboriginal	findspot
AfGs-117	Nigh Road 7	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	findspot
AfGs-118	Nigh Road 8	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	findspot
AfGs-119	Nigh Road 9	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	findspot
AfGs-121	Dominion 1	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	scatter
AfGs-142	N/A	Archaic, Middle	Aboriginal	Hunting loss

Nine of the eleven sites (AfGs-111 – AfGs-119) were documented during a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment conducted by Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI) in 2004. A summary of each site in question is detailed below (ASI 2004).

- AfGs-111 was a small scatter, 4 total artifacts were recovered including a side/end scraper and chipping detritus. All of the assemblage was manufactured from Onondaga



chert. The scatter was determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment.

- AfGs-112 was a small scatter, determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment.
- AfGs-113 was a small scatter, 3 pieces of Onondaga chert chipping detritus were recovered, determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment.
- According to the site record form for AfGs-114, 14 total artifacts were recovered including, a biface and a scraper and chipping detritus. The majority of the assemblage was manufactured from Onondaga chert; a single Selkirk chert artifact was recovered. The site was determined to retain further CHVI and was recommended for additional assessment.
- AfGs-115 was a projectile point tip manufactured from Onondaga chert. The findspot was determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment.
- AfGs-116 was a projectile point tip manufactured from Onondaga chert. The findspot was determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment.
- AfGs-117 was a biface tip manufactured from Onondaga chert. The findspot was determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment.
- AfGs-118 was an Onondaga chert biface. The findspot was determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment.
- AfGs-119 was an Onondaga chert projectile point base. The findspot was determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment.

The tenth site, AfGs-121, known as Dominion 1, was documented initially during the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment of the Dominion Woods Subdivision by Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. in 2005. Three artifacts were recovered during test pitting (Mayer Heritage 2005). AfGs-121 was further investigated and documented in a Stage 3 archaeological assessment by Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. in 2006 where an additional 16 artifacts were recovered from the test units. At this point, the site was determined to retain no further CHVI and was not recommended for additional assessment (Mayer Heritage 2006).

The final site, AfGs-142, was documented during the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment 1141 Ridge Road North, Ridgeway Lot 1, Concession 11 Niagara River, Geographic Township of Bertie, Former County of Welland, now the Town of Fort Erie, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario, in 2019. AfGs-142 was an isolated Brewerton projectile point manufactured on Onondaga chert. The findspot was determined to retain further CHVI and was recommended for additional assessment (Detritus 2019).



To the best of SAS's knowledge, no other assessments have been conducted or within 50m of the Study Area.

1.3.4 Archaeological Potential

Archaeological potential is established by determining the likelihood that archaeological resources may be present on a subject property. SAS applied archaeological potential criteria commonly used by the MHSTCI (Government of Ontario 2011) to determine areas of archaeological potential within the Study Area. These variables include proximity to previously identified archaeological sites, distance to various types of water sources, soil texture and drainage, glacial geomorphology, elevated topography, and the general topographic variability of the area.

Distance to modern or ancient water sources is generally accepted as the most important determinant of past human settlement patterns and considered alone, may result in a determination of archaeological potential. However, any combination of two or more other criteria, such as well-drained soils or topographic variability, may also indicate archaeological potential. When evaluating distance to water it is important to distinguish between water and shoreline, as well as natural and artificial water sources, as these features affect site locations and types to varying degrees. The MHSTCI (Government of Ontario 2011) categorizes water sources in the following manner:

- Primary water sources: lakes, rivers, streams, creeks;
- secondary water sources: intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes and swamps;
- past water sources: glacial lake shorelines, relic river or stream channels, cobble beaches, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes; and
- accessible or inaccessible shorelines: high bluffs, swamp or marshy lake edges, sandbars stretching into marsh.

As was discussed above, the closest source of potable water is the unnamed tributary of Beaver Creek, which runs approximately 20m to the east of the Study Area.

Soil texture is also an important determinant of past settlement, usually in combination with other factors such as topography. The Study Area is situated within the Haldimand Clay Plain physiographic region. As was discussed earlier, the primary soils within the Study Area, meanwhile, have been documented as being suitable for pre-contact Aboriginal practices. Add to this discussion the presence of eleven pre-contact Aboriginal sites within 1km of the Study Area and the Aboriginal archaeological potential is judged to be moderate to high.

For Euro-Canadian sites, archaeological potential can be extended to areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, including places of military or pioneer settlements; early transportation routes; and properties listed on the municipal register or designated under the Ontario



Heritage Act (Government of Ontario 1990b) or property that local histories or informants have identified with possible historical events.

As was discussed above, the Historical Atlas map (Page & Co. 1876; Figure 2) demonstrates the extent to which Bertie Township had been settled by 1876. Landowners are listed for most of the lots within the township, many of which had been subdivided multiple times into smaller parcels to accommodate an increasing population throughout the late 19th century. The Study Area occupied part of Lot 24, Concession 3, near historical roads, and the early community of Ridgeway and the Grand Trunk Railway thus, the potential for post-contact Euro-Canadian archaeological resources is judged to be moderate to high.

Finally, despite the factors mentioned above, extensive land disturbance can eradicate archaeological potential within a Study Area (Wilson and Horne 1995). Within the current Study Area, approximately 12.5% displays visible disturbance. However, the remaining 87.5% of the Study Area comprises manicured lawns, and does not demonstrate any visible disturbance. Given all of the above SAS has determined that the Study Area has demonstrated the potential for the recovery of pre-contact Aboriginal, post-contact Aboriginal, and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources, and as a result a Stage 2 test pit survey was determined to be required.



2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment was conducted on November 7, 2021, under PIF#: P1018-0022-2021, issued to Matthew Seguin (P1018) by the MHSTCI. Weather conditions were cool and overcast during the assessment. Soil conditions and visibility were ideal for conducting the assessment and recovering archaeological material.

Approximately 12.5% of the Study Area consisted of modern disturbances: a pre-existing house, two paved driveways, a driveshed/garage, a standing outbuilding, and a collapsed outbuilding, and a raised septic area (Photos 3 – 5). All of which determined have had their archaeological potential removed and were not assessed but were instead photo-documented.

The remaining 87.5% of the Study Area was subject to a standard Stage 2 test pitting survey at 5-meter intervals. All soils were screened through a six-millimetre mesh screen. Test pits were a minimum of 30cm in diameter and were excavated a minimum of 5cm into sterile subsoil. Some additional areas of disturbance were encountered during the test pitting survey, accounting for approximately 12.5% of the total Study Area. One area appeared to be a previously buried concrete cistern and well (Photo 6). The majority of the surveyed disturbance was made up of buried heavy gravel and asphalt (Photos 7 and 8), which lead from the driveway behind the septic mound and to the outbuilding (Figure 3). Test pitting intervals were maintained at 5m intervals through these areas disturbed areas. No cultural materials or features were detected during the assessment, and all of the test pits were backfilled upon completion. No further archaeological methods were employed since no archaeological material was identified during the course of the survey.

The remaining areas were test pitted at 5-meter intervals, by hand, with a shovel. All soils were screened through a six-millimetre mesh screen. Test pits were a minimum of 30cm in diameter and were excavated a minimum of 5cm into sterile subsoil. No cultural materials or features were detected during the assessment, and all of the test pits were backfilled upon completion. The results of the Stage 2 archaeological survey are presented in Figure 3.



3.0 Record of Finds

No archaeological resources (materials or features) were encountered during the course of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the 726 Gorham Road study area.

Table 3 illustrates an inventory of the documentary record which was generated by the Stage 2 fieldwork and is provided below.

Table 3: Inventory of Documentary and Material Record

Document Type	Amount	Location	Comments
Page of Field Notes	1 Page	SAS office	Stored digitally in project file
Proponent Mapping	1 Map	SAS office	Stored digitally in project file
Field Map	1 Map	SAS office	Stored digitally in project file
Digital Photographs	142 photos	SAS office	Stored digitally in project file



4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

SAS was contracted by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment in advance of a proposed residential development and severance on a residential property located at 723 Gorham Road, in Ridgeway, Part of Lot 24, Conc. 3, Formerly in the Township of Bertie, now the Town of Fort Erie, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario. The Study Area is approximately 0.68 hectares (1.68 acres).

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment was conducted using a test pit survey at five-metre intervals across all portions of the Study Area considered to have archaeological potential. Approximately 87.5% of the Study Area was determined to have retained archaeological potential. This portion of the Study Area includes the manicured lawn surrounding the extant house, attached garage and driveway. The Stage 2 survey of the Study Area was conducted by test pitting methodology at five-metre intervals as the area is an existing residential lot. Test pitting was conducted to within one metre of the existing house and driveway.

Approximately 25% of the Study Area has been subject to deep and extensive disturbance. The disturbed portions of the Study Area with low archaeological potential include the existing house and attached garage, an existing outbuilding, as well as a collapsed one, the existing driveways, a buried cistern and capped well as well as a raised or mound septic system. Figure 3 illustrates the methodologies used to assess the Study Area.

No cultural materials or features were detected during the Stage 2 archaeological assessment. Based on Section 2.2 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (Government of Ontario 2011), no further archaeological assessment is required for the Study Area.



5.0 Recommendations

Based on the results of the Stage 1 background investigation and the subsequent Stage 2 archaeological assessment, the following is recommended:

No further archaeological assessment is required for the Study Area; and,

Compliance legislation must be adhered to in the event of the discovery of deeply buried cultural materials or features.

The MHSTCI is asked to review the results and recommendations presented in this report and provide a letter indicating their satisfaction that the fieldwork and reporting for this archaeological assessment are consistent with, and in compliance with, the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011), as well as the terms and conditions for archaeological licenses, and to enter this report into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports.



6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

SAS advises compliance with the following legislation:

This report is submitted to the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, 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 fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation 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 Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns about 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 a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork 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 Archaeology 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 human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.



7.0 Bibliography and Sources

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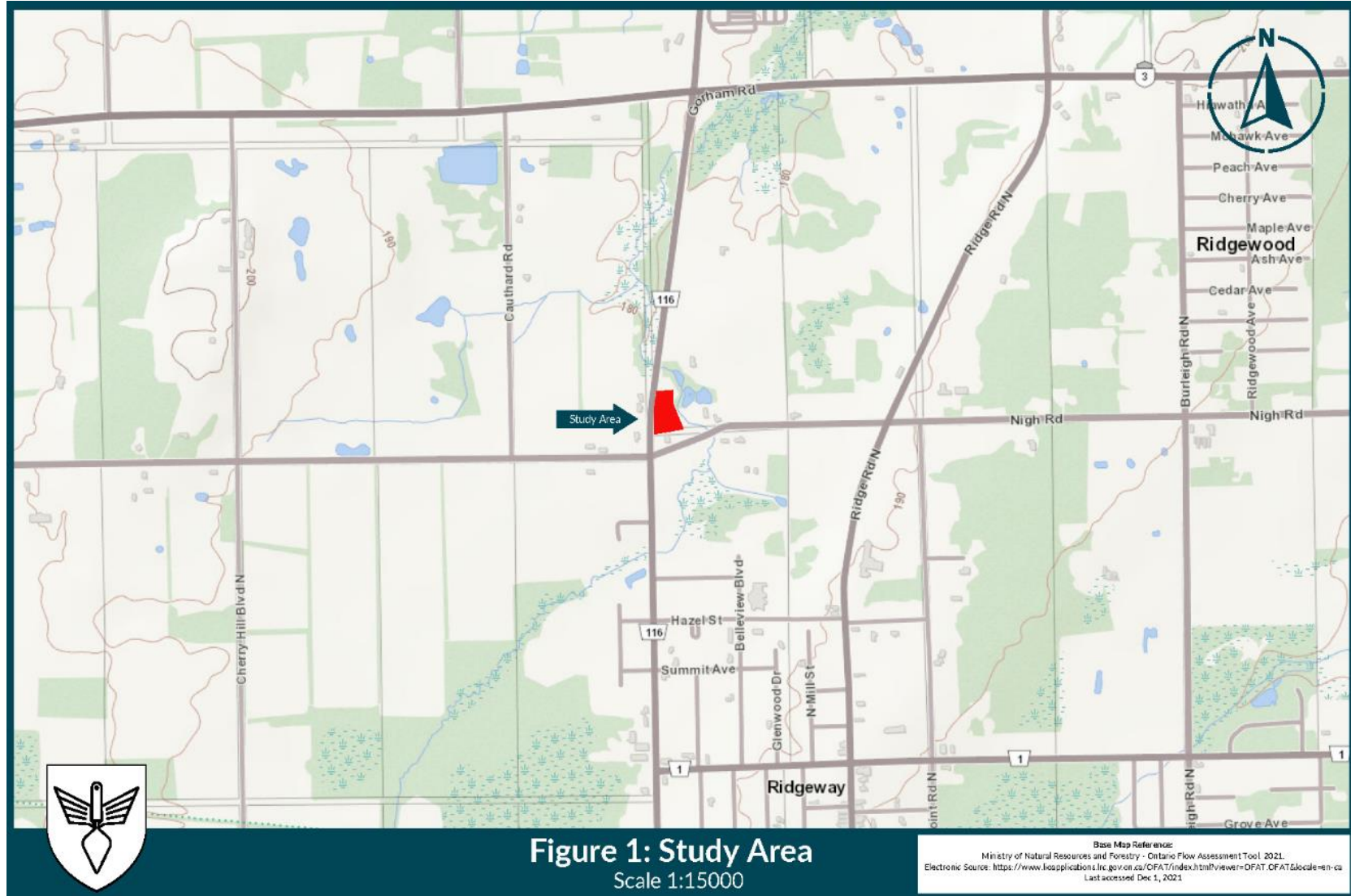
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8.0 Figures



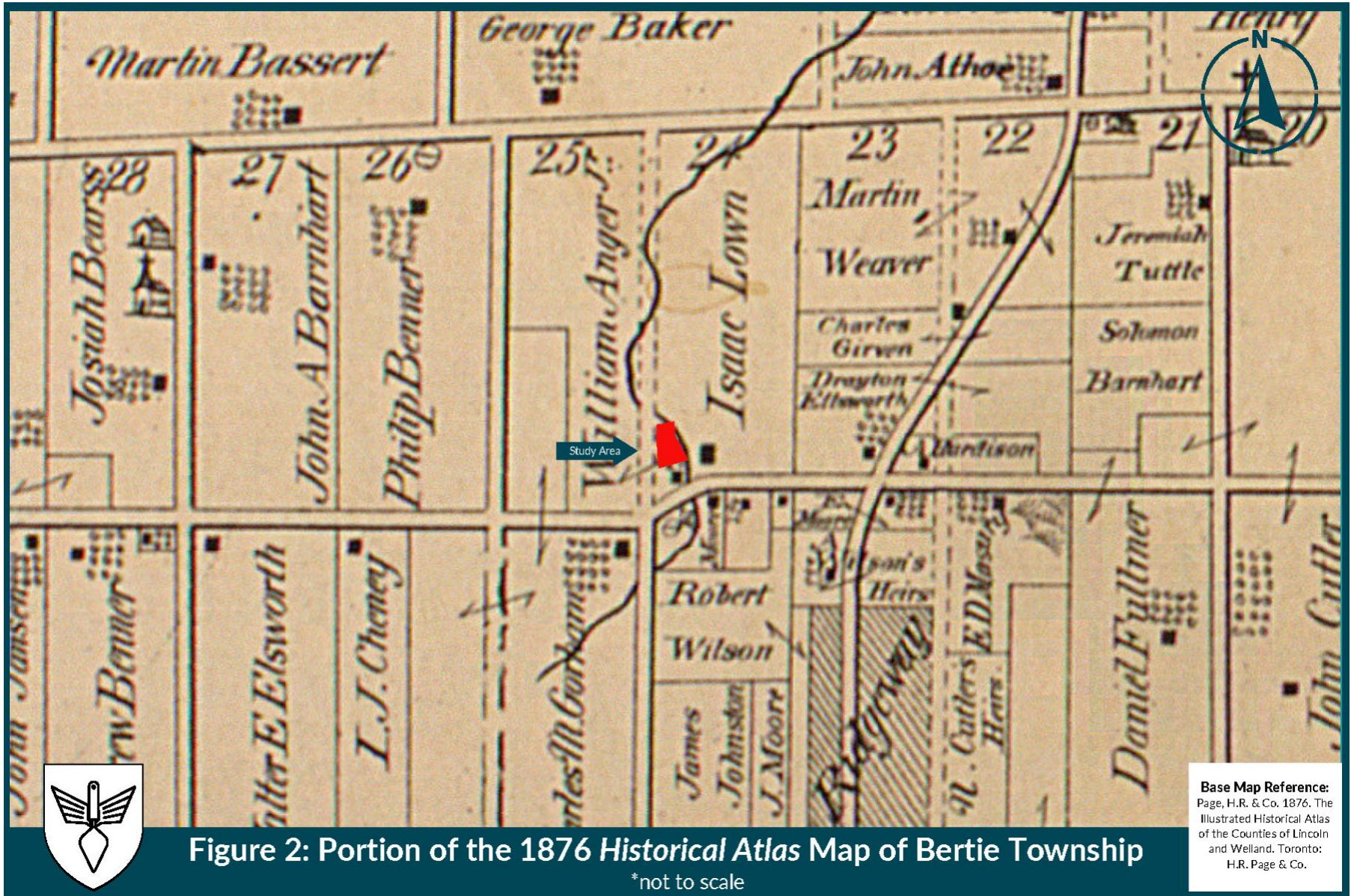


Figure 2: Portion of the 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Bertie Township

*not to scale

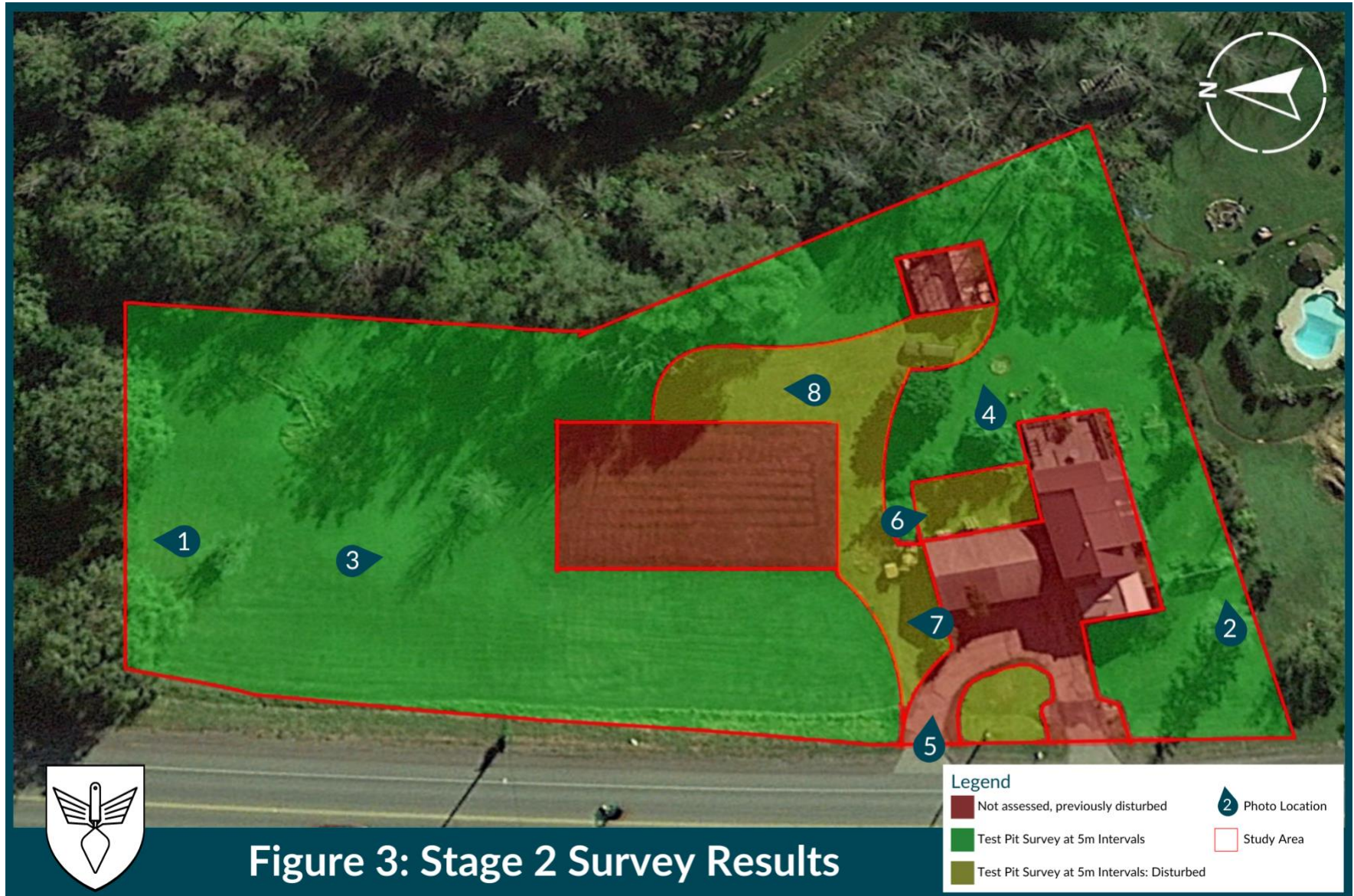


Figure 3: Stage 2 Survey Results



Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment - 726 Gorham Road, Ridgeway



Figure 4: Development Map



9.0 Images

9.1 Field Photos

Photo 1: Test Pit Survey at 5m intervals, facing north



Photo 2: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals, facing east



Photo 3: Typical Conditions, with disturbance
Pre-existing house and raised septic, facing south



Photo 4: Disturbance, outbuilding, facing east





Photo 5: Disturbance, driveway and garage, east



Photo 6: Disturbance, well and cistern, facing south



Photo 7: Disturbed Test Pit, gravel filled



Photo 8: Disturbed Test Pit, buried asphalt

