

Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment 436-440 Ridge Road

Part of Lot 23 Concession 2 On Lake Erie,
Geographic Township of Bertie, Historical County of Welland,
Regional Municipality of Niagara

Submitted to:

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ORIGINAL REPORT

Jan 11th 2022

Executive Summary

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by Mr. Stephen Fischer ('Proponent') to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment in advance of a proposed residential development on three in-town parcels located at 436-440 Ridge Road North, in Ridgeway. At the time of the assessment, the property comprised primarily manicured grass with scattered trees and four outbuildings with their respective driveways and walkways. The Study Area is an irregular shaped parcel that measures 1.33ha and is made up of three subdivided parcels in the block between Ridge Road North to the west, Dominion Road to the south, Hazel Street to the north and Prospect Point Road North to the east.

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 P462 issued to Mr. Michael Pitul 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 entire Study Area exhibited moderate to high potential for the identification and recovery of archaeological resources and was recommended for a Stage 2 assessment.

The Stage 2 assessment of the study area was conducted on November 17, 2021, and consisted of a standard test pit survey at five metre intervals across the manicured and unkempt lawn. The assessment resulted in the identification and documentation of no archaeological resources.

No archaeological resources were documented during the Stage 1-2 assessment of the Study Area; therefore, **no further archaeological assessment of the Study Area is recommended.**

The Executive Summary highlights key points from the report only; for complete information and findings, the reader should examine the complete report.

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- Mr. Stephen Fischer of ePrime Construction Management

1.0 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

An archaeological investigation of the Study Area 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* (Government of Ontario 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 conditions of this legislation, a Stage 1-2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted during the application stage of the development under archaeological consulting license PO462 issued to Mr. Michael Pitul by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries ('MHSTCI') and adheres to the archaeological license report requirements under subsection 65 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b) and 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 the known and potential archaeological heritage resources within a Study Area, and to provide specific direction for the protection, management and/or recovery of these resources. In compliance with the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), the objectives of the following Stage 1 assessment are as follows:

- To provide information about the Study Area's geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land conditions;
- 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.

To meet these objectives Detritus archaeologists employed the following research strategies:

- A 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; to determine whether any of the resources might be archaeological sites with cultural heritage value or interest ('CHVI'); and to provide specific direction for the protection, management and/or recovery of these resources. In compliance with the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), the objectives of the following Stage 2 Property Assessment 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 archaeological sites identified.

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

1.2 Historical Context

1.2.1 Post-Contact Indigenous Resources

The earliest documented pre-European settlers arrived to the Niagara Peninsula from southwestern Ontario during the 14th century AD, at the peak of Iroquois culture. By 1400, the majority of the region was occupied by an Iroquoian speaking tribe referred to as the Attawandaran (aka the Atiquandaronk or Attouanderonks), who exploited the fertile land and abundant water sources throughout the region for fishing, hunting and agriculture (Niagara Falls Info 2019). This moniker was given to the community by the neighbouring Wendat as a slur against their unusual dialect. Those Attawandaran tribes who settled along the Niagara River were referred to as the Onguiaahra (later the Ongiara), which has been loosely translated as one of “the Straight,” “the Throat,” or “the Thunder of Waters” (Niagara-on-the-Lake 2016; Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty 2019). The name ‘Neutral’ was given to the Attawandaron by French explorers who began arriving in the 17th century. This new designation referred to the community’s status as peace keepers between the warring Huron and Iroquois tribes (Niagara Falls Info 2019).

The earliest recorded European visit to the Niagara region was undertaken by Étienne Brûlé, an interpreter and guide for Samuel de Champlain. In June 1610, Brûlé requested permission to live among the Algonquin people and to learn their language and customs. In return, Champlain agreed to take on a young Huron named Savignon and to teach him the language and customs of the French. The purpose of this endeavour was to establish good relations with Indigenous communities in advance of future military and colonial enterprises in the area. In 1615, Brûlé joined twelve Huron warriors on a mission to cross enemy territory and seek out the Andaste people, allies of the Huron, to ask for their assistance in an expedition being planned by Champlain (Heidenreich 1990). The mission was a success, but took much longer than anticipated. Brûlé returned with the Andaste two days too late to help Champlain and the Hurons, who had already been defeated by the Iroquois (Heidenreich 1990).

Throughout the middle of the 17th century, the Iroquois of the Five Nations sought to expand upon their territory and to monopolise the local fur trade as well as trade between the European markets and the tribes of the western Great Lakes. A series of bloody conflicts followed known as the Beaver Wars, or the French and Iroquois Wars, were contested between the Iroquois and the French with their Huron and other Algonquian speaking allies of the Great Lakes region. Many communities were destroyed during this protracted conflict including the Huron, Neutral, Erie, Susquehannock, and Shawnee leaving the Iroquois as the dominant group in the region. By 1653 after repeated attacks, the Niagara peninsula and most of Southern Ontario had been vacated. By 1667, all members of the Five Nations had signed a peace treaty with the French and allowed their missionaries to visit their villages (Heidenreich 1990).

Ten years later, hostilities between the French and the Iroquois resumed after the latter formed an alliance with the British through an agreement known as the Covenant Chain (Heidenreich 1990). In 1696, an aging Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac et de Palluau, the Governor General of New France, rallied the Algonquin forces and drove the Iroquois out of the territories north of Lake Erie, as well as those west of present-day Cleveland, Ohio. A second treaty was concluded between the French and the Iroquois in 1701, after which the Iroquois remained mostly neutral (Jamieson 1992; Noble 1978).

Throughout the late 17th and early 18th centuries, various Iroquoian-speaking communities had been migrating into southern Ontario from New York State. In 1722, the Five Nations adopted the Tuscarora in New York becoming the Six Nations (Pendergast 1995). This period also marks the arrival of the Mississaugas into Southern Ontario and, in particular, the watersheds of the lower Great Lakes (Konrad 1981; Schmalz 1991). The oral traditions of the Mississaugas, as told by Chief Robert Paudash suggest that the Mississaugas defeated the Mohawk nation, who retreated to their homeland south of Lake Ontario. Following this conflict, a peace treaty was negotiated and, at the end of the 17th century, the Mississaugas settled permanently in southern Ontario (Praxis Research Associates n.d.). Around this same time, members of the Three Fires Confederacy (the

Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi) began immigrating from Ohio and Michigan into southwestern Ontario (Feest and Feest 1978:778-779).

The Study Area entered 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 Chipeweigh 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

The size and nature of the pre-contact settlements and the subsequent spread and distribution of Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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.

During the Seven Years War, the British undertook several military campaigns against the French at Fort Niagara. Following this conflict, the British took control of the fort, under the provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1763. Under the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the large stretch of land from Labrador in the east, moving southwest through the Saint Lawrence River Valley to the Great Lakes and on to the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers became the British Province of Québec (Niagara Historical Society and Museum 2008).

On July 24, 1788, Sir Guy Carleton, the Governor-General of British North America, divided the Province of Québec into 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 as 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 Loyalists 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, 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 increasing population throughout the late 19th century. Structures and orchards are prevalent throughout the township, almost all of which front early roads and especially the Niagara River and Lake Erie.

According to *Tremaine's Map of Welland County* (Tremaine 1862; Figure 2), Lot 23 Concession 2 was owned by A. Wilson, who owned the entire lot; however, by 1876 was engulfed by the village of Ridgeway with no single or subdivided owner, but rather town lots. No structures are visible on either map within the bounds of the Study Area. The Grand Trunk Railway is located to the south of the Study Area.

Significant and detailed landowner information is available on the current *Historical Atlas* (1976; Figure 3) map of Bertie Township, however, it should be recognized that historical county atlases were funded by subscription fees and were produced primarily to identify factories, offices, residences and landholdings of subscribers. Landowners who did not subscribe were not always listed on the maps (Caston 1997:100). Moreover, associated structures were not necessarily depicted or placed accurately (Gentilcore and Head 1984).

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Property Description and Physical Setting

The Study Area at the time of the assessment comprised primarily manicured grass with scattered trees and several outbuildings with their respective driveways and walkways. The Study Area is an irregular shaped parcel that measures 1.33ha and is made up of three subdivided parcels in the block between Ridge Road North to the west, Dominion Road to the south, Hazel Street to the north and Prospect Point Road North to the east.

The majority 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. 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

Haldimand clay is slowly permeable, imperfectly drained with medium to high water-holding capacities. Surface runoff is usually rapid, but water retention of the clayey soils can cause it to be droughty during dry periods (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 which 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 a tributary of Beaver Creek, which runs approximately 750m to the northwest of the Study Area. Lake Erie is located 1.8km to the southeast.

1.3.2 Pre-Contact Indigenous 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

In order to compile an inventory of archaeological resources, the registered archaeological site records kept by the MHSTCI were consulted. In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites stored in the ASDB (Government of Ontario n.d.) 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. 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.

Information concerning specific site locations is protected by provincial policy, and is not fully subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Government of Ontario 1990c). The release of such information in the past has led to looting or various forms of illegally conducted site destruction. Confidentiality extends to all media capable of conveying location, including maps, drawings, or textual descriptions of a site location. The MHSTCI will provide information concerning site location to the party or an agent of the party holding title to a property, or to a licensed archaeologist with relevant cultural resource management interests.

According to the ASDB, 10 archaeological sites have been registered within 1km of the Study Area (Table 2). Nine have been identified as pre-contact Indigenous including two campsites, three findspots, and four lithic scatters. The pre-contact sites all date to the middle to late archaic period. One Euro-Canadian post-contact farmstead site was also recorded.

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

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type
AfGs-141		Pre-Contact		scatter
AfGs-137	Block 80	Archaic, Middle	Indigenous	camp / campsite
AfGs-136	Lot 34 Site	Archaic, Late	Indigenous	camp / campsite
AfGs-134		Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	farmstead
AfGs-121	Dominion 1	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	scatter
AfGs-119	Nigh Road 9	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	findspot
AfGs-117	Nigh Road 7	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	findspot
AfGs-116	Nigh Road 6	Archaic, Late	Indigenous	findspot
AfGs-113	Nigh Road 3	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	scatter
AfGs-111	Nigh Road 1	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	scatter

To the best of Detritus' knowledge, no other assessments have been conducted adjacent to the Study Area, and no sites are registered 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. Detritus applied archaeological potential criteria commonly used by the MHSTCI (Government of Ontario 2011) to determine areas of archaeological potential within 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 a site's location

and type 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 a tributary of Beaver Creek, which runs approximately 750m to the northwest of the Study Area. Lake Erie is located 1.8km to the southeast.

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 Indigenous practices. Add to this discussion the presence of three pre-contact Indigenous sites within 1km of the Study Area and the Indigenous 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 Lot 1, Concession 11 Niagara River, in close proximity to 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, the existing buildings, driveways, and walkways were evaluated as having no potential based on the identification of extensive and deep land alteration that has severely damaged the integrity of archaeological resources, as per Section 2.1, Standard 2b of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). These previously disturbed areas were confirmed during a Stage 2 property inspection, conducted as per Section 2.1.8 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011).

Given that no additional disturbance areas could be identified, Detritus determined that the manicured lawn component of the Study Area demonstrated the potential for the recovery of pre-contact Indigenous, post-contact Indigenous, and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources, and was recommended for additional assessment.

2.0 Field Methods

The current Stage 2 archaeological assessment was conducted on November 17, 2021 under archaeological consulting license P462 issued to Mr. Michael Pitul by the MHSTCI. The limits of the Study Area were surveyed by the Proponent prior to assessment.

During the Stage 2 field work, assessment conditions were excellent and at no time were the field, weather, or lighting conditions detrimental to the recovery of archaeological material. The weather during the assessment was 10 °C and overcast. Photos 1 to 26 demonstrate the land conditions throughout the Study Area, including areas that met the requirements for a Stage 2 archaeological assessment, as per Section 7.8.6, Standards 1a and b of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). Figure 4 provides an illustration of the Stage 2 assessment methods as well as photograph locations and directions and an illustration of the Stage 2 assessment methods in relation to the proposed development.

Approximately 90% of the Study Area consists of a combination of unkempt and manicured lawn with scattered trees throughout the entire property, which was inaccessible for ploughing. These areas were subject to a typical test pit survey at 5m intervals in accordance with Section 2.1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011; Photos 1-3, 9-10, 12-16, 18-20). All test pits were approximately 30 centimetres (cm) in diameter and were excavated 5cm into sterile subsoil. The soils were then examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill. A single brown topsoil layer was observed over an orangish brown subsoil layer. All soil from the test pits was screened through six-millimetre (mm) hardware cloth to facilitate the recovery of small artifacts and then used to backfill the pit. No further archaeological methods were employed since no artifacts were identified during the test pit survey.

The remaining 10% of the Study Area is an area of disturbance noted in the Stage 1 assessment of the current aerial imagery that includes the existing structures and their respective driveways and walking paths along the western boundary of the Study Area. Also included in the existing disturbance is a large surface foundation (Photos 16-17) and a small square excavation into subsoil (Photos 4 & 8), bound by construction fencing. Following the Stage 2 property inspection, conducted according to Section 2.1.8, Standard 1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), the existing developments were evaluated as having no potential based on the identification of extensive and deep land alteration that has severely damaged the integrity of archaeological resources, as per Section 2.1, Standard 2b of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). All of the visibly disturbed areas documented within the Study Area were mapped and photo documented in accordance with Section 2.1, Standard 6 and Section 7.8.1, Standard 1b of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011).

3.0 Record of Finds

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment was conducted employing the methods described in Section 2.0. An inventory of the documentary record generated by fieldwork is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Inventory of Document Record

Document Type	Current Location of Document Type	Additional Comments
1 Page of Field Notes	Detritus	Stored digitally in project file
1 Map provided by the Proponent	Detritus	Stored digitally in project file
1 Field Map	Detritus	Stored digitally in project file
26 Digital Photographs	Detritus	Stored digitally in project file

No archaeological resources were identified within the Study Area; therefore, no material culture was collected. As a result, no storage arrangements were required.

4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Detritus was retained by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment in advance of a proposed residential development on three in-town parcels located at 436-440 Ridge Road North, in Ridgeway. At the time of the assessment, the property comprised primarily manicured grass with scattered trees and four outbuildings with their respective driveways and walkways. The Study Area is an irregular shaped parcel that measures 1.33ha and is made up of three subdivided parcels in the block between Ridge Road North to the west, Dominion Road to the south, Hazel Street to the north and Prospect Point Road North to the east.

The Stage 1 background research indicated that the entire Study Area exhibited moderate to high potential for the identification and recovery of both pre-and-post-contact Indigenous and post contact European archaeological resources and was recommended for a Stage 2 assessment.

The Stage 2 assessment of the study area was conducted on November 17, 2021, and consisted of a standard test pit survey at five metre intervals across the manicured and unkempt lawn. The assessment resulted in the identification and documentation of no archaeological resources.

5.0 Recommendations

No archaeological resources were documented during the Stage 1-2 assessment of the Study Area; therefore, **no further archaeological assessment of the Study Area is recommended.**

6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

This report is submitted to the Minister of Tourism and Culture 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 with regard 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 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 *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. C.4 and the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require 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

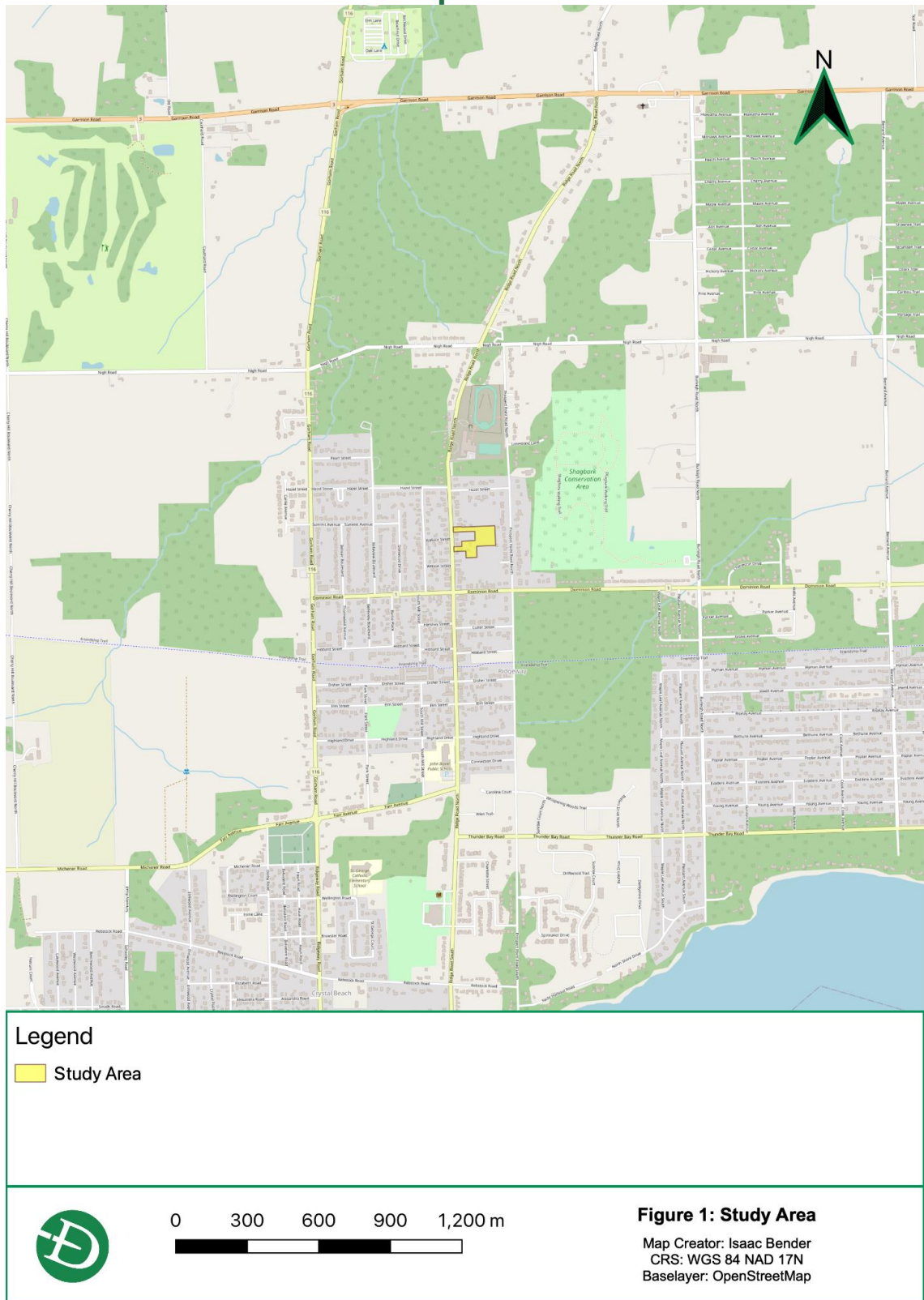
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8.0 Maps





Legend

 Study Area



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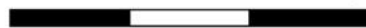


Figure 2: Tremaine's 1862 Atlas

Map Creator: Isaac Bender

CRS: WGS 84 NAD 17N

Baselayer: Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Niagara Township

Source: Tremaine



Legend

- Photo Location and Direction
- Study Area
- Test Pit Photo Location
- Foundation
- Test Pit Survey at 5m Interval - Manicured and Unkempt Grass
- Not Assessed - Previous Disturbance

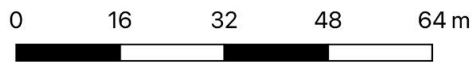
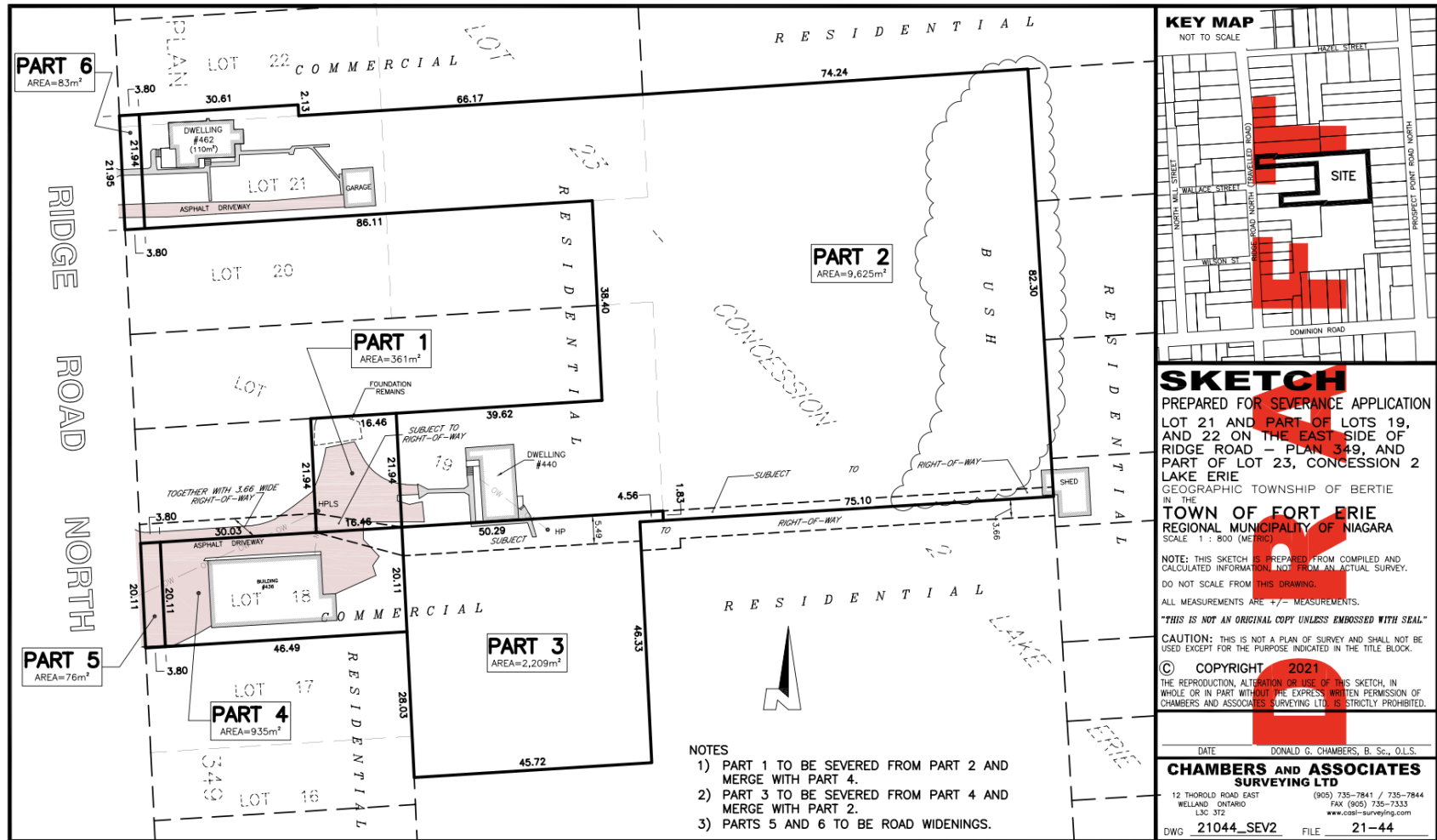


Figure 4: Stage 2 Methodology

Map Creator: Isaac Bender
 CRS: WGS 84 NAD 17N
 Baselayer: Google Earth Satellite Imagery

Figure 5: Development Map



9.0 Images

9.1 Field Photos

Photo 1: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing northwest



Photo 2: Scattered trees and unkempt grass; facing northeast



Photo 3: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in unkempt grass; facing west



Photo 4: Existing building and paved driveway; facing west



Photo 5: Existing building and paved driveway; facing east



Photo 6: Existing building and paved driveway; facing east



Photo 7: Corner of existing building and paved driveway; facing southwest



Photo 8: Excavated square, permanently disturbed; facing southeast



Photo 9: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing northeast



Photo 10: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing northwest



Photo 11: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing east



Photo 12: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing south



Photo 13: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing west

Photo 14: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing northwest



Photo 15: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing west



Photo 16: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass showing disturbed foundation; facing south



Photo 17: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass showing disturbed foundation; facing southeast



Photo 18: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass showing disturbed foundation; facing southwest



Photo 19: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in manicured grass; facing west



Photo 20: Manicured grass with outbuilding and stone pathway; facing east



Photo 21: Manicured grass with house and paved driveway; facing northeast



Photo 22: Manicured grass between property line and existing house; facing west



Photo 23: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in unkempt grass with scattered trees; facing west



Photo 24: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in unkempt grass with scattered trees; facing west



Photo 25: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in unkempt grass with scattered trees; facing east

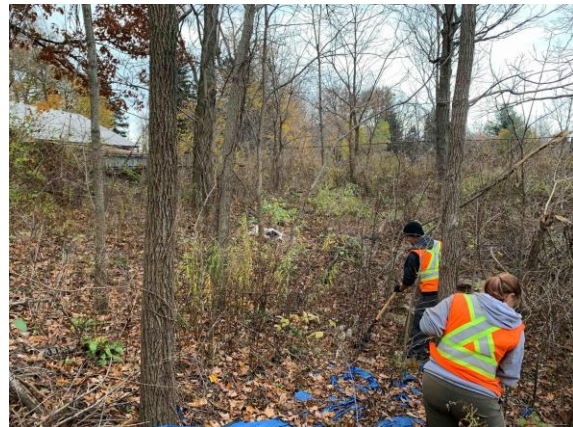


Photo 26: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals in unkempt grass with scattered trees; facing south



Photo 27: Typical Test Pit in Manicured Grass



Photo 26: Typical Test Pit in Manicured Grass

