

## Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment

Part of Lot 14, Concession 2 on Lake Erie,  
Geographic Township of Bertie,  
Historical County of Welland,  
Niagara Region, Ontario

**Submitted to:**

JP Design Architects Inc.  
c/o Jason Pizzicarola

and

Ontario's Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

**Submitted by:**



**Detritus**

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**ORIGINAL REPORT**

October 16, 2019

## Executive Summary

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by Mr. Jason Pizzicarola of JP Design Architects Inc. ('the Proponent') to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment on part of Lot 14, Concession 2 on Lake Erie, Geographical Township of Bertie, Historical County of Welland, Region of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of proposed construction and severance of a vacant lot on Nigh Road, between Windmill Point Road North and Stonemill Road, in the Town of Fort Erie. The Study Area measures 4.87ha. At the time of the assessment, the majority of the lot comprised overgrown grass and weeds with trees throughout. The former ruins of a barn and a silo occupy the northwest corner of the Study Area. An unnamed tributary of Thunder Bay Creek flows through the Study Area.

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 proposed severance, under archaeological consulting license PO17 issued to Mr. Garth Grimes by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport ('MTCS') and adheres to the archaeological license report requirements under subsection 65 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b) and the MTCS' 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 April 29, 2019 and September 25, 2019. The second day of assessment was required because the approval authority requested that the entire subject property be assessed rather than just the parcel to be severed.

The assessment consisted of a standard test pit survey at five metre intervals across the entire Study Area. No archaeological resources were documented during the Stage 2 assessment of the Study Area therefore, **no further archaeological assessment is required for the Study**

*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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Generous contributions by the following individuals and agencies made this report possible.

- Mr. Jason Pizzicarola of JP Design Architects Inc.

## 1.0 Project Context

### 1.1 Development Context

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by Mr. Jason Pizzicarola of JP Design Architects Inc. ('the Proponent') to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment on part of Lot 14, Concession 2 on Lake Erie, Geographical Township of Bertie, Historical County of Welland, Region of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of proposed construction and severance of a vacant lot on Nigh Road, between Windmill Point Road North and Stonemill Road, in the Town of Fort Erie. The Study Area measures 4.87ha. At the time of the assessment, the majority of the lot comprised overgrown grass and weeds with trees throughout. The former ruins of a barn and a silo occupy the northwest corner of the Study Area. An unnamed tributary of Thunder Bay Creek flows through the Study Area.

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 proposed severance, under archaeological consulting license PO17 issued to Mr. Garth Grimes by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport ('MTCS') and adheres to the archaeological license report requirements under subsection 65 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b) and the MTCS' 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 the 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 was to provide an overview of any archaeological resources within the Study Area, and 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 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 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 earliest documented pre-European settlers arrived to the Niagara Peninsula from southwestern Ontario during the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake derives its name from the Onguiaahra village site on which it was founded. The name ‘Neutral’ was given to the Attawandaron by French explorers who began arriving in the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Aboriginal 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 enters the Euro-Canadian historic record on May 9<sup>th</sup> 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

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, Historical County of Welland, Region 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 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, 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 19<sup>th</sup> century. Structures and orchards are prevalent throughout the township, almost all of which front early roads an especially the Niagara River and Lake Erie.

According to the *Historical Atlas* map of Bertie Township, Lot 14 Concession 2 on Lake Erie was subdivided into two parcels. The Study Area is located in the northeast corner of the lot on the parcel owned by Henry Johnston, who also owned Lot 15 Concession 1 on Lake Erie and the northern half of Lot 15 on Concession 2 on Lake Erie. No structures or orchards are illustrated within the Study Area, however, a farmstead belonging to Henry Johnson on the neighbouring property to the west does show a farmstead. The southern portion of Lot 14 Concession 2 on Lake Erie was owned by Henry Baxter, a structure and an orchard are illustrated on Mr. Baxter's parcel south of the Study Area. The community of Ridgeway is located to the west of the Study Area and the Grand Trunk Railway can be observed south of the Study Area running east-west through the township (Page & Co 1876; Figure 2).

Although significant and detailed landowner information is available on the current *Historical Atlas* map of Bertie Township (Page & Co 1876; Figure 2), it should be recognized that historical county atlases were funded by subscriptions 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 measures approximately 4.87ha and at the time of the assessment comprised overgrown grass and weeds with trees throughout along with a barn foundation, silo, creek, gravel lane and large metal storage container. The grade rises slightly toward the south and east with lower elevations occurring in the northwest. Elevations range from 179-188m a.s.l. 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-19<sup>th</sup> 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 soy beans 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 19<sup>th</sup>, Euro-Canadian settlers began to clear the forests for agricultural purposes.

The closest source of potable water is an unnamed tributary of Thunder Bay Creek, which runs through the western half of the Study Area. This area also contains the ruins of barn and silo.

### 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

In order to compile an inventory of archaeological resources, the registered archaeological site records kept by the MTCS were consulted. In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites stored in the ASDB (Government of Ontario n.d.) is maintained by the MTCS. 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 MTCS 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, two archaeological sites have been registered within 1km of the Study Area, AfGs-7 and AfGs-8. Both sites are pre-contact Aboriginal findspot; AfGs-7 dates to the Late Archaic period. The best of Detritus' knowledge, no other assessments have been conducted adjacent to the Study Area. No sites are registered within 50m.

### 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 MTCS (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 sites locations and types to varying degrees. The MTCS (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 an unnamed tributary of Thunder Bay Creek, which runs through the western half 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 two 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.

The *Historical Atlas* (Page & Co 1876) map of Bertie Township shows the Study Area in close proximity to historical roads, a mapped farmstead and the early community of Ridgeway. Considering also the proximity of the Study Area to the Grand Trunk Railway and 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 only the interior of the barn foundation and the gravel laneway show obvious signs of disturbance. The balance of the Study Area comprises overgrown grass and weeds with trees throughout. Given that no disturbance areas could be identified, Detritus determined that the entire Study Area demonstrated the potential for the recovery of pre-contact Aboriginal, post-contact Aboriginal, and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources, and was recommended for additional assessment.

## 2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the current Study Area was conducted on April 29, 2019 and September 25, 2019 under archaeological consulting license PO17 issued to Mr. Garth Grimes by the MTCS (PO17-0699-2019). The limits of the Study Area were surveyed and marked by the Proponent prior to the assessment.

The Stage 1 background research indicated that the entire Study Area exhibited moderate to high potential for the identification and recovery of archaeological resources (Section 1.3.4) and was recommended for Stage 2 assessment. On April 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 the weather was partly cloudy and cool, and the soil was dry and screened easily. On September 25, the weather was sunny and warm and the soil was dry and screened easily. Assessment conditions were excellent and at no time were the field, weather, or lighting conditions detrimental to the recovery of archaeological material. Photos 1 to 10 demonstrate the land conditions at the time of the survey throughout the Study Area. Figure 3 provide an illustration of the Stage 2 assessment methods, as well as photograph locations and directions.

The majority (97%) of the Study Area comprised overgrown grass and weeds with trees throughout, which was inaccessible for ploughing. This area was subject to a standard test pit survey at 5m intervals in accordance with Section 2.1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011; Photos 1 to 4). As per Section 2.1.2, Standard 4 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). 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. 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.

Approximately 1% of the Study Area was a creek which could not be test pitted. It was photographed as per Section 2.1, Standard 2. a. i.

The remaining 2% of the Study Area was determined to be disturbed. This comprised the gravel laneway and parking area as well as the barn and silo. The barn interior was shovel tested judgmentally to determine disturbance was found to be composed of loose fill, gravel and areas of concrete slab. This and gravel lane were photo documented as per Section 2.1 Standard 2. B.

### 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 2 below.

**Table 2: Inventory of Document Record**

<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Current Location of Document Type</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
1 Page of Field Notes	Detritus Consulting Ltd. office	Stored digitally in project file
1 Map provided by the Proponent	Detritus Consulting Ltd. office	Stored digitally in project file
1 Field Map	Detritus Consulting Ltd. office	Stored digitally in project file
24 Digital Photographs	Detritus Consulting Ltd. office	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 Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment on part of Lot 14, Concession 2 on Lake Erie, Geographical Township of Bertie, Historical County of Welland, Region of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of proposed construction and severance of a vacant lot on Nigh Road, between Windmill Point Road North and Stonemill Road, in the Town of Fort Erie. The Study Area measures 4.87ha. At the time of the assessment, the majority of the lot comprised overgrown grass and weeds with trees throughout. The former ruins of a barn and a silo occupy the northwest corner of the Study Area. An unnamed tributary of Thunder Bay Creek flows through the Study Area.

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 consisted of a test pit survey at five metre intervals across the Study Area excepting small areas of disturbance and the creek. No archaeological resources were documented during the Stage 2 assessment of the Study Area.

## 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 Tourism, Culture and Sport, 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.

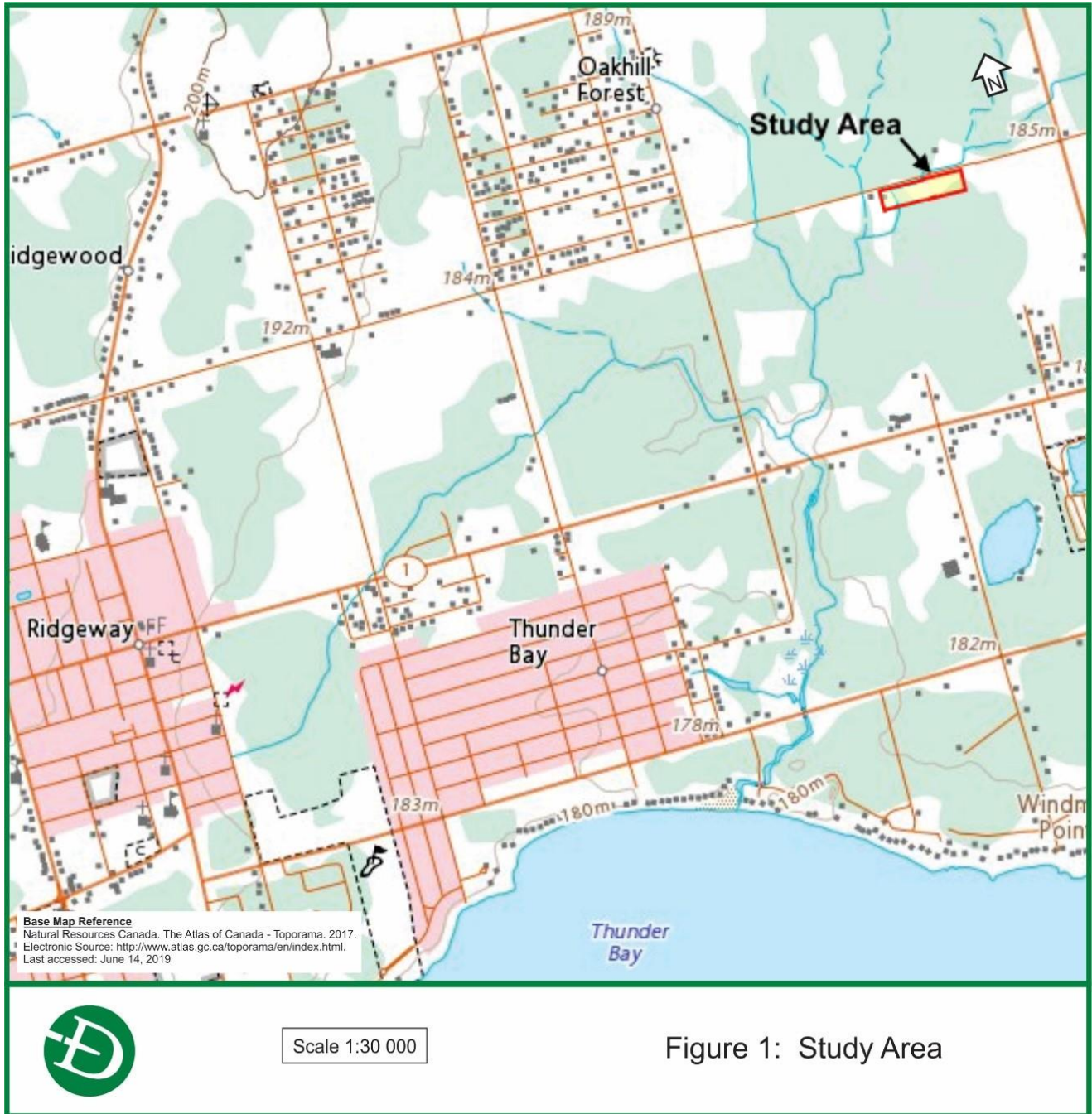


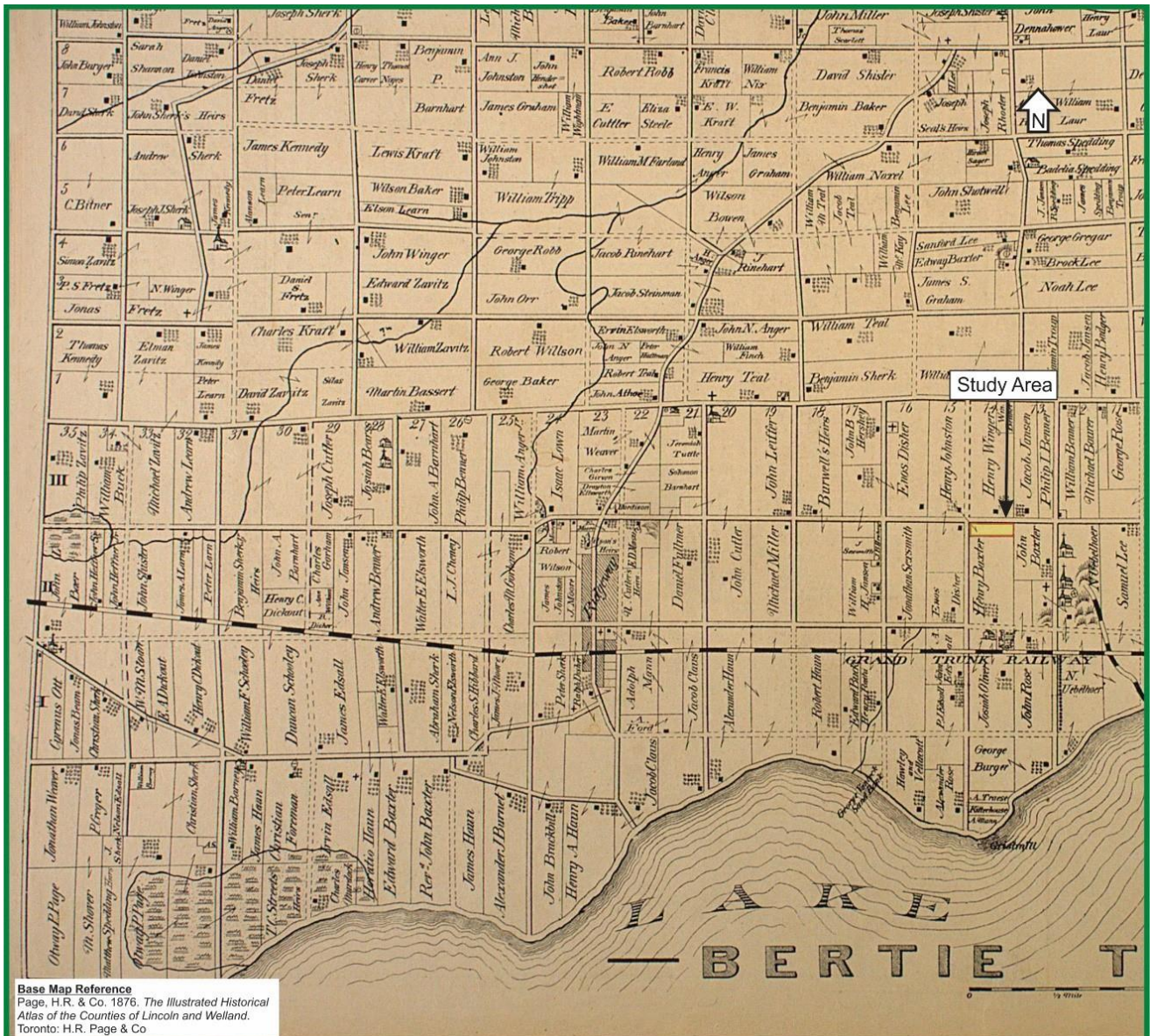
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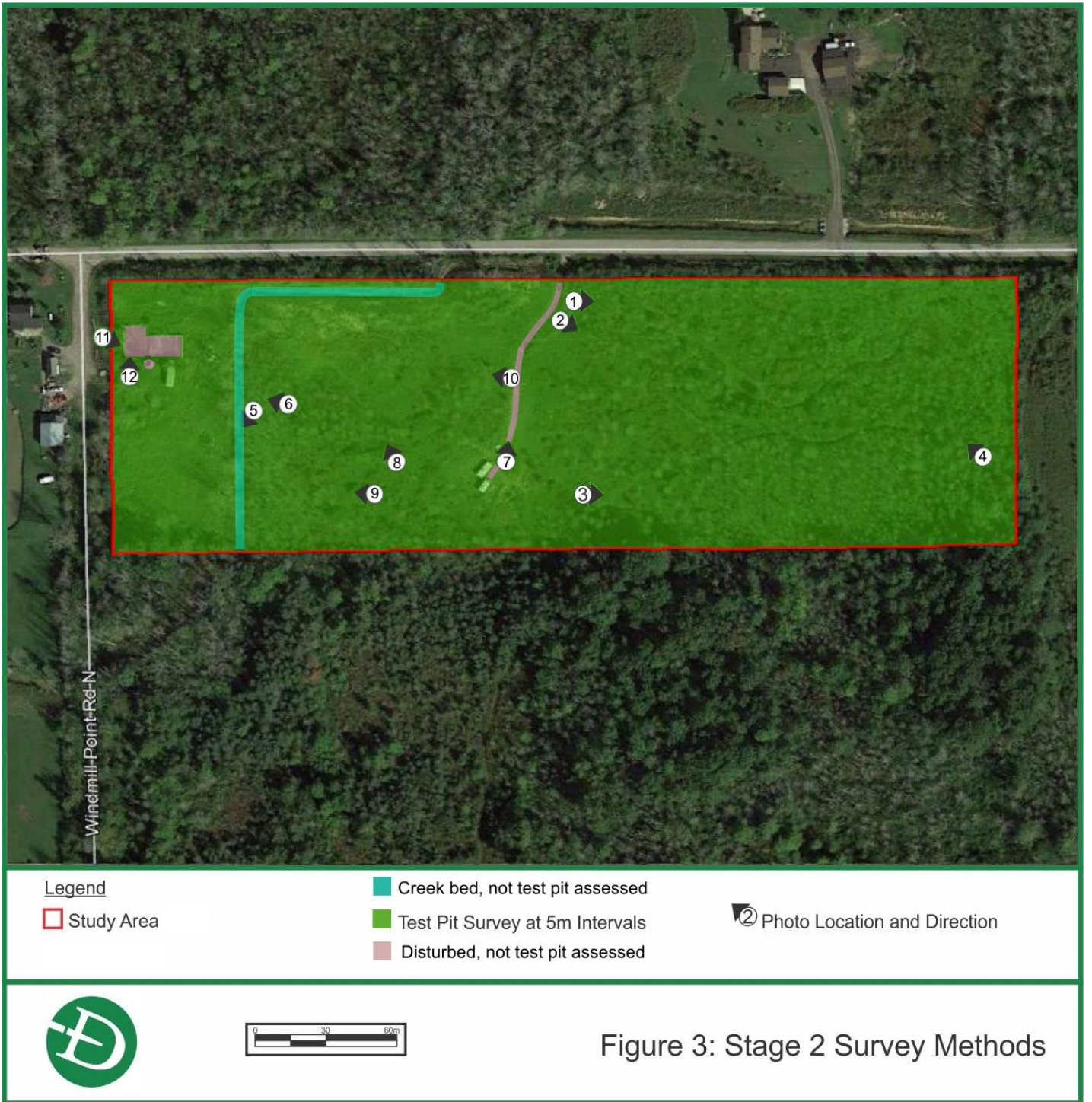
## 8.0 Maps





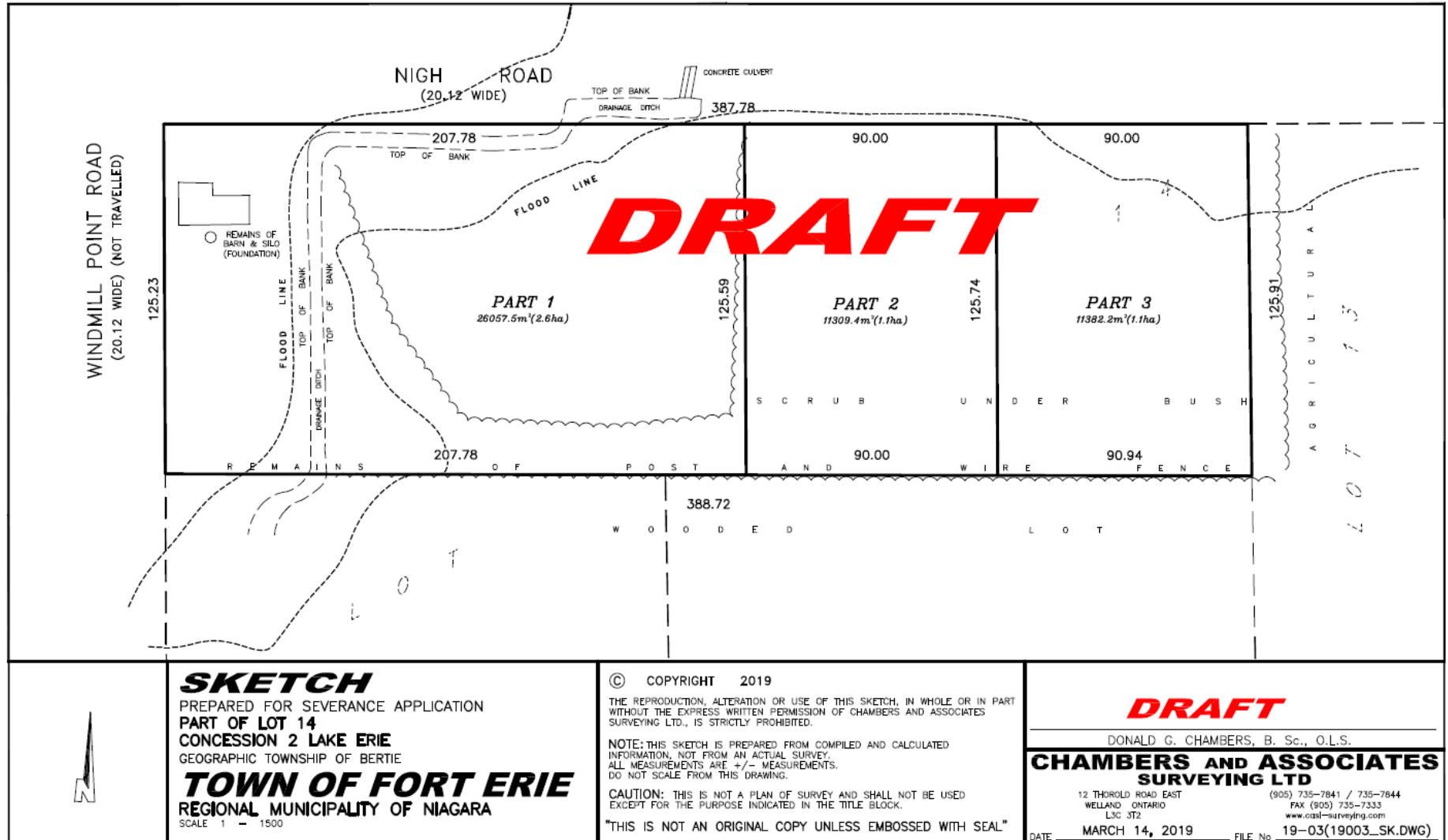
Not to Scale

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



Stage 1-2, Part of Lot 14 Concession 2 on Lake Erie

Figure 4. Development Map



## 9.0 Images

### 9.1 Photos

**Photo 1: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals, facing east**



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



**Photo 3: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals, facing east**



**Photo 4: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals, facing northwest**



**Photo 5: Creek crossing Study Area facing southwest**



**Photo 6: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals, facing northwest**



**Photo 7: Disturbed gravel lane facing north**



**Photo 8: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals, facing northwest**



**Photo 9: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals, facing west**



**Photo 10: Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals, facing west**



**Photo 11: Barn foundation interior facing southeast**



**Photo 12: Barn interior facing north**

