Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment
Alliston Woods Phase 2, Fort Erie

Part of Lots 1 and 2, Concession 3 Niagara River,
Geographic Township of Bertie, Historical County of Welland,
now the Regional Municipality of Niagara

Submitted to:

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ORIGINAL REPORT

November 27, 2024

Executive Summary

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by Ms. Jill Richards from Mountainview Homes (Niagara) Ltd. (the 'Proponent') to conduct a Stage 1 archaeological assessment on part of Lots 1 and 2, Concession 3, in the Geographic Township of Bertie, within the Historical County of Welland, now the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of Phase II of the Alliston Woods Development in Fort Erie. (the 'Study Area;' Figure 9).

This 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* (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 this condition, a Stage 1 assessment was conducted as part of the application phase of development under archaeological consulting license P389 issued to Dr. Walter McCall by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism ('MCM') and adheres to the archaeological license report requirements under subsection 65 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario, 1990b) and the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* ('*Standards and Guidelines*'; Government of Ontario, 2011).

Phase II Study Area encompasses two separate parcels measuring a combined 7.16 hectares ('ha'). The largest of the two is the eastern parcel, which measures approximately 6.81ha and covers most of a large ploughed field that occupies the eastern half of the proposed Alliston Woods development area (Figure 8). According to the current Development Plan (Figure 9), the eastern parcel will be divided into individual blocks separated by three internal roads and bound to the west by the limits of the proposed Alliston Avenue road allowance. The western parcel, the smaller of the two assessment areas, measures 0.35ha and occupies a ploughed field in the northwestern corner of the proposed development area (Figure 8). This area will be converted into four parcels, divided by the proposed Renville Avenue (Figure 9).

The area between the two constituent parcels, as well as additional land to the north and south (Figure 9), was included in Phase I of the Alliston Woods development, which was subject to a Stage 1-2 assessment by AMICK Consultants Ltd. ('AMICK') in 2011 (PIF# P038-396-2011; AMICK Consultants Ltd., 2011).

The Stage 1 assessment of the Phase II Study Area consisted of background research and a property inspection, as per Section 1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). Included as part of the background research was a review of recent and historic aerial imagery of the Study Area. According to recent aerial imagery, both parcels comprising Phase II Study Area, and all of the Phase I area, were once forested (Figure 5). The trees throughout the western half of the development lands were removed from the sometime after 2016, in preparation of developmental activities within Phase I (Figure 6). The trees in the eastern parcel were removed sometime between June, 2022 and April 2024 (Figure 7).

Additionally, Detritus reviewed the *Town of Fort Erie Official Plan* (Town of Fort Erie, 2011), which indicates that portions of the Study Area retain archaeological potential (Figure 4).

The Stage 1 property inspection of the Phase II Study Area was conducted on October 7, 2024, and involved spot-checking of the Study Area for confirmation of disturbances and deep land alterations. During the inspection, it was confirmed that there was an absence of disturbance throughout the Study Area as per Section 7.7.5, Standard 1 and Section 7.7.6, Standard 4 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). Although the eastern parcel had been ploughed (Figure 8 and Photos 1 to 7), the ground was covered with wood, bark, and other remnants associated with the trees that had been removed from the former woodlot, done as part of preparation for development of the registered subdivision (Photo 4). This field appeared to suffer from poor drainage as a result of tree removal resulting in low-lying, muddy areas. The western parcel had also been ploughed, but was covered with the grass debris (Photos 8 to 11).

Since trees had been removed from the western parcel earlier than the eastern parcel (Figure 6), no wood, bark, or wet areas were observed.

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment resulted in the determination that both parcels comprising the Phase II Study Area exhibited moderate to high potential for the identification and recovery of archaeological resources (Figure 8). Given the results of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment, **both parcels comprising the Phase II Study Area are recommended for Stage 2 archaeological assessment.**

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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Acknowledgments

Generous contributions by Ms. Jill Richards of Mountainview Homes (Niagara) Ltd. made this report possible.

1.0 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by Ms. Jill Richards from Mountainview Homes (Niagara) Ltd. (the 'Proponent') to conduct a Stage 1 archaeological assessment on part of Lots 1 and 2, Concession 3, in the Geographic Township of Bertie, within the Historical County of Welland, now the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of Phase II of the Alliston Woods Development in Fort Erie. (the 'Study Area;' Figure 9).

This 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* (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 this condition, a Stage 1 assessment was conducted as part of the application phase of development under archaeological consulting license P389 issued to Dr. Walter McCall by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism ('MCM') and adheres to the archaeological license report requirements under subsection 65 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario, 1990b) and the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* ('*Standards and Guidelines*'; Government of Ontario, 2011).

The purpose of the Stage 1 Background Study was 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 Stage 1 assessment were 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 licensee received permission from the Proponent to enter the land and conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities.

1.2.1 Post-Contact Aboriginal 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, 2022). 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, 2022). The name 'Neutral' was given to the Attawandaran by French explorers who began arriving in the 17th century. This new designation referred to the

community's status as peacekeepers between the warring Huron and Iroquois tribes (Niagara Falls Info, 2022).

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, 1978). It is believed that Brûlé first visited the future site of Niagara-on-the-Lake during this excursion (Niagara-on-the-Lake, 2016). 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, 1978).

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, 1978).

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, 1978). 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 to the 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 & Feest, 1978).

The Study Area first enters the Euro-Canadian historic record on May 9th, 1781, as part of the Niagara Treaty No. 381 with the Mississauga and Chippewa (Morris, 1943). 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 straight, 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, pp. 15-16

Throughout southern Ontario, the size and nature of the pre-contact settlements and the subsequent spread and distribution of Indigenous material culture began to shift with the establishment of European settlers. By 1834 it was accepted by the Crown that losses of portions of the Haldimand Tract to Euro-Canadian settlers were too numerous for all lands to be returned. 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, 1879; Tanner, 1987; Weaver, 1978). Following the population decline and the surrender of most of their lands along the Credit River, the Mississaugas were given 6000 acres of land on the Six Nations Reserve, establishing the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation, now the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, in 1847 (Smith, 2022).

Despite the 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, p. 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 on part of Lots 1 and 2, Concession 3, in the Geographic Township of Bertie, within the Historical County of Welland, now the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario.

In 1763, the Treaty of Paris brought an end to the Seven Years' War, contested between the British, the French, and their respective allies. Under the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the large stretch of land from Labrador in the east, moving southeast 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, 2012-2024). Further change came in December 1791 when the former Province of Québec was rearranged into Upper Canada and Lower Canada under the provisions of the Constitutional Act. Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed as Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada and he spearheaded 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 Welland County, stretching from Essex in the west to Glengarry in the east. Each new county was named after a county in England or Scotland; the constituent townships were then given the names of the corresponding townships from each original British county (Powell & Coffman, 1956).

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 the Niagara District (Archives of Ontario,

2012-2024). 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, of which Bertie Township was a part. The two counties would be amalgamated once again in 1970 to form the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Settlement within Bertie Township began in 1764, immediately following the end of the Seven Years' War. To help defend his newly acquired territory, King George III built a series of military forts along the Niagara River. Fort Erie was the first to be constructed and represents earliest permanent British Army Fort in Ontario. The Military Reserve around the fort was also set aside by the Crown at that time to demarcate the ordinance boundary for the garrison stationed there (Bradford, 1988).

During the American Revolutionary War, contested between 1775 and 1783, Fort Erie was used as a supply depot for British troops. In 1784, following the conflict, the land around the fort, later designated as the Town of Fort Erie, was granted to members of the disbanded Butler's Rangers. A number of Loyalist settlements emerged including the village of Ridgeway, which was named after the limestone ridge that passes through it from north to south (Niagara Parks, n.d.).

The earliest roads throughout the township followed existing Indigenous trails along the river and along the Onondaga Escarpment. Lakeshore Road connected Fort Erie and its occupants to growing community around it. The first survey of Bertie Township was completed in 1789 by Amos Chapman, who referred to the area as 'Quaker Township'; the name Bertie was not used until 1793 (Archaeological Services, Inc., 2003). Settlers continued to arrive throughout the remainder of the 18th and early 19th centuries, attracted by the fertile soil throughout the township, which was suitable for growing barley, wheat, oats amongst other crops (Niagara Parks, n.d.). In 1808, approximately 40 homes were located throughout the township. By 1812, the township boasted several mills, schools, and churches. Stevensville was the largest community at that time (Archaeological Services, Inc., 2003).

Following the winter of 1803, a new stone fort was constructed inland from the site of the original Fort Erie, which was made of wood and susceptible to ice damage. This new fort remained incomplete at the start of the War of 1812. American troops captured the new Fort Erie on two occasions during the War of 1812. In 1814, following a long, protracted siege by British forces, the Americans destroyed the fort before retreating back to Buffalo (Niagara Parks, n.d.).

In 1850, Bertie was officially incorporated as a township. By this time, the township, and in particular Bertie Hall, had become a major stopping point for the underground railroad (Calarco, 2011). Later, on June 2, 1866, between 1,000 and 1,350 Irish American invaders known as the Fenians crossed the Niagara River and defeated the local militia at the Battle of Ridgeway. The next day, as they were withdrawing back to America, the Fenian raiders met with another small force of Canadian volunteers and defeated them at the Battle of Fort Erie. Eventually, the Fenians retired back across the river and surrendered to American authorities. This conflict was the largest engagement of the Fenian raids and the only armed victory for the Irish during their battle for Irish Independence between 1798 and 1919 (Niagara Parks, n.d.).

Much of the development of Bertie Township during the second half of the 19th century can be attributed to the advancement of the railroad. In the 1850s, Ridgeway received an arm of the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway, the earliest railway to be built in southwestern Ontario. Later, in 1873, the Grand Trunk Railway built the International Railway Bridge, resulting in large population increases throughout the township and the establishment of a new town just north of the original settlement of Fort Erie. This town was originally called Victoria but would later be renamed Bridgeburg. By 1876, Victoria had three railway stations (Scrimgeour, 1990). The population of Fort Erie, meanwhile, had reached approximately 1,200 and the village of Ridgeway, 800. A decade later the population of Fort Erie had climbed to around 4,000 while Victoria boasted nearly 700 residents. Ridgeway, conversely, experienced a slight decrease in its growth, with a population of around 600 at that time. The following year witnessed the opening of a new amusement park at Crystal Beach. The park remained active for just over a century before closing its doors in 1989. In 1970, Bertie Township amalgamated with Fort Erie and Crystal Beach to form the Town of Fort Erie (Niagara Parks, n.d.).

George Tremaine's Map of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland, Canada West ('*Tremaine Map*') demonstrates the extent to which the region had been settled by 1862 (Tremaine, 1862). The Study Area occupies Lots 1 and 2, Concession 3, Niagara River. According to the *Tremaine Map*, the lots containing the Study Area were owned by Mr. A Cruckshank (Figure 2). There are no structures located within the Study Area according to the map, but there is a structure in the southeast corner of the southern parcel. The Buffalo and Lake Erie Railway is located approximately 2.1km southeast of the Study Area. The Study Area is also approximately 1.5km west of the historic town of Fort Erie.

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). 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 (Figure 3). Structures and orchards are prevalent throughout the township, almost all of which front early roads and waterways, especially the Niagara River and Lake Erie.

According to the *Historical Atlas* map, the Lots 1 and 2, Concession 3 are now owned by Ms. Margaret Cruckshank. The Structure within Lot 1, Concession 3 is now joined by an orchard, both of which are outside the Study Area.

Although significant and detailed landowner information is available on the *Historical Atlas* map of Bertie Township discussed here, 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, p. 100). Moreover, associated structures were not necessarily depicted or placed accurately (Gentilcore & Head, 1984).

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Property Description and Physical Setting

Phase II Study Area encompasses two separate parcels measuring a combined 7.16 hectares ('ha'). The largest of the two is the eastern parcel, which measures approximately 6.81ha and covers most of a large ploughed field that occupies the eastern half of the proposed Alliston Woods development area (Figure 8). According to the current Development Plan (Figure 9), the eastern parcel will be divided into individual blocks separated by three internal roads and bound to the west by the limits of the proposed Alliston Avenue road allowance. The western parcel, the smaller of the two assessment areas, measures 0.35ha and occupies a ploughed field in the northwestern corner of the proposed development area (Figure 8). This area will be converted into four parcels, divided by the proposed Renville Avenue (Figure 9).

According to recent aerial imagery, trees throughout the western half of the development lands were removed from the sometime after 2016, in preparation of developmental activities within Phase I of the registered subdivision (Figure 6). The trees in the eastern parcel were removed sometime between June, 2022 and April 2024 (Figure 7).

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 located within Haldimand Clay Plain physiographic region (Chapman & Putnam, 1984). During pre-contact and early contact times, this area comprised a mixture of deciduous trees and open areas. In the early 19th century, Euro-Canadian settlers began to clear the forests for agricultural purposes, which have been ongoing in the vicinity of the Study Area for over 100 years.

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 & Presant, 1989). 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 & Putnam, 1984, p. 156

Huffman and Dumanski add that the soil within the region is suitable for corn and soybeans in rotation with cereal grains as well as alfalfa and clover (Huffman & 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). 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 & 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 Frenchman's Creek, which runs approximately 590m northwest of the Study Area.

1.3.2 Pre-Contact Indigenous Land Use

This portion of southern Ontario was 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 (Ellis & 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 MCM were consulted. In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites stored in the ASDB (Government of Ontario, n.d.) is maintained by the MCM. 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 13 kilometres ('km') 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 lies within block AfGr.

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 MCM 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, four archaeological sites have been registered within a 1km radius of the Study Area (Table 2). All four sites are post-contact sites with Euro-Canadian affinities.

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

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type
AfGr-13	AfGr-13	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	house
AfGr-103	H1	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	scatter
AfGr-104	H3	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	scatter
AfGr-105	H2	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	scatter

The post-contact Euro-Canadian archaeological site AfGr-13 was identified during a test pit survey conducted by Archaeologix Inc in 2000. The Stage 2 assessment consisted of test pit survey, which resulted in the documentation 38 Euro-Canadian artifacts including 26 ceramic sherds, 10 wire nails, and 2 faunal remains. Archaeologix Inc. determined the site retained no further CHVI, and did not recommend AfGr-13 for additional assessment (Archaeologix Inc., 2000).

Three archaeological sites, H1 (AfGr 103), H2 (AfGr-104), and H3 (AfGr-105) were identified during a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment conducted by Detritus in 2021 on a parcel located south of the Queen Elizabeth Way in Fort Erie (PIF# P017-0882-2020; Detritus Consulting Ltd., 2022). The Stage 2 field assessment consisted of a pedestrian survey at 5m intervals across a ploughed field, and a test pit survey along the southern extent of the Study Area, which was determined to be previously disturbed.

H1 (AfGr 103) comprised 34 Euro-Canadian artifacts, including 25 ceramic sherds, 8 household artifacts, and 1 structural artifact. The majority of the ceramic sherds were identified as refined white earthenware ('RWE') featuring transfer print decoration. H2 (AfGr 104) comprised 24 Euro-Canadian artifacts including 21 ceramic pieces and 3 household artifacts. Many of the ceramic sherds were identified as RWE fragments. H3 (AfGr 105) comprised 35 Euro-Canadian artifacts, including 25 ceramic sherds, most of which were identified as RWE fragments. An additional ten household artifacts were identified in association with the site. As a result of the Stage 2assessment, H1 (AfGr 103), H2 (AfGr-104), and H3 (AfGr-105) were interpreted as small, late 19th to early 20th century domestic trash scatters and were recommended for Stage 3 archaeological assessment (Detritus Consulting Ltd., 2022).

Finally, the area between the two constituent parcels within the Phase II Study Area, as well as additional land to the north and south (Figure 9), was included in Phase I of the Alliston Woods development, which was subject to a Stage 1-2 assessment by AMICK Consultants Ltd. ('AMICK') in 2011 (PIF# P038-396-2011; AMICK Consultants Ltd., 2011). At the time of the assessment, the Phase I area consisted entirely of woodlot, which was mostly low lying and wet and could not be ploughed. No disturbances or evidence of prior structures or development existed within the Study Area. While 90% of the study area was determined to be permanently wet, 10% of the study area was subject to test pit survey at 5m intervals. No archaeological resources were encountered, and the study area was not recommended no further archaeological assessment (AMICK Consultants Ltd., 2011)

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.

2.0 Field Methods

A Stage 1 property inspection was conducted on October 7, 2024, under archaeological consulting license P389 issued to Dr. Walter McCall by the MCM. The limits of the Study Area were determined using shapefiles uploaded to a handheld Global Positioning System ('GPS').

The property inspection was conducted in accordance with Section 1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011), and involved spot-checking of the Study Area for confirmation of disturbances and deep land alterations. The entire Study Area was mapped and photo documented during the Stage 1 property inspection as per Section 7.7.5, Standard 1 and Section 7.7.6, Standard 4 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). The photography from the property inspection is presented in Section 9 below and confirms that the requirement for a Stage 1 property inspection of the Study Area was met, as per Section 1.2 and Section 7.7.2 Standard 1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). Figure 7 illustrates the Stage 1 assessment results, as well as photograph locations and directions all in relation to the proposed development of the Study Area.

During the property inspection, the weather was sunny and 12°Celsius; visibility of land features was excellent. At no time were field or weather conditions detrimental to the identification of features of archaeological potential. This property inspection revealed that the eastern parcel had been ploughed (Figure 8 and Photos 1 to 7), but the ground was covered with wood, bark, and other remnants associated with the trees that had been removed from the former woodlot (Photo 4). This field appeared to suffer from poor drainage as a result of tree removal resulting in low-lying, muddy areas. The western parcel had also been ploughed, but was covered with the grass debris (Photos 8 to 11). Since trees had been removed from the western parcel earlier than the eastern parcel (Figure 6), no wood, bark, or wet areas were observed. No areas of previous disturbance were identified.

3.0 Record of Finds

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment of the Study Area was conducted employing the methods described in Section 2.0 above. 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	Additional Comments
1 Page of Field Notes	Detritus office	Stored digitally in project file
1 Map provided by the Proponent	Detritus office	Stored digitally in project file
1 Field Map	Detritus office	Stored digitally in project file
9 Digital Photographs	Detritus office	Stored digitally in project file

4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Detritus was retained by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1 archaeological assessment in advance of Phase II of the Alliston Woods Development in Fort Erie .

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 MCM to determine areas of archaeological potential within a study area. According to Section 1.3.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011), 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, when 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 MCM (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.
- The closest source of potable water is a tributary of Frenchman's Creek, which runs approximately 590m northwest 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 soils within this region are imperfectly drained, but suitable for pre-contact and post contact Indigenous agricultural. Considering also the length of occupation of Bertie Township prior to the arrival of Euro-Canadian settlers, the pre-contact and post-contact Indigenous archaeological potential of the Study Area 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 *Tremaine Map* from 1862 and the *Historical Atlas* map of Bertie Township from 1876 show the Study Area in close proximity to historical infrastructure, including the Buffalo and Lake Erie Railway. Considering the location of the Study Area to historical infrastructure and the four post-contact Euro-Canadian sites registered within 1km, the potential for post-contact Euro-Canadian archaeological resources is judged to be moderate to high.

Additionally, the *Town of Fort Erie Official Plan* (Town of Fort Erie, 2011) indicates that portions of the development property retain archaeological potential (Figure 4).

Despite the factors mentioned above, extensive land disturbance can eradicate archaeological potential within a Study Area, as outlined in Section 1.3.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011a). No areas of disturbance were identified within either constituent property on recent aerial imagery of the Phase II Study Area, nor were any disturbance areas observed during the Stage 1 property inspection.

The property inspection did reveal, however, low-lying, muddy areas in the eastern parcel that occurred as a result of poor drainage following tree removal. According to Section 2.1, Standard

2.a.i of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), permanently wet areas are evaluated as having low or now potential, and are excluded from a Stage 2 field survey. Therefore, it is recommended that the eastern parcel within the Phase II Study Area be subject to a Stage 2 property inspection to confirm whether or not the low lying pockets represent areas are permanently or seasonally wet.

5.0 Recommendations

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment resulted in the determination that both parcels comprising the Phase II Study Area exhibited moderate to high potential for the identification and recovery of archaeological resources (Figure 8). Given the results of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment, **both parcels comprising the Phase II Study Area are recommended for Stage 2 archaeological assessment.**

As was noted above, it is recommended that the Stage 2 assessment begin with a Stage 2 property inspection, conducted according to Section 2.1.8 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). Any areas determined to be permanently wet will be excluded from the Stage 2 field assessment as per Section 2.1, Section 2ai of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). The remainder of the Study Area will be subject to a Stage 2 field assessment.

Given that both parcels comprising Phase II are accessible to ploughing, the portions of the Study Area retaining archaeological potential will be subject to a typical Stage 2 pedestrian survey at a 5m interval, conducted according to Section 2.1.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). The field will be ploughed until 80% surface visibility is attained, then allowed to weather prior to assessment. As per Section 2.1.1, Standard 7 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011), if archaeological resources are found, the survey transects will be decreased to 1m intervals over a 20m radius around each find to determine whether it is an isolated find or part of a larger scatter. All formal artifact types and diagnostic categories will be collected for laboratory analysis and cataloguing, including all refined ceramic sherds for 19th century archaeological sites

Any areas recommended for Stage 2 assessment that are determined to be previously disturbed, steeply sloped, or permanently wet during the course of the Stage 2 assessment, they will be photo documented as per Section 2.1, Sections 2a and 2b and Section 6 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011).

6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

This report is submitted to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism 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 Citizenship and Multiculturalism, 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

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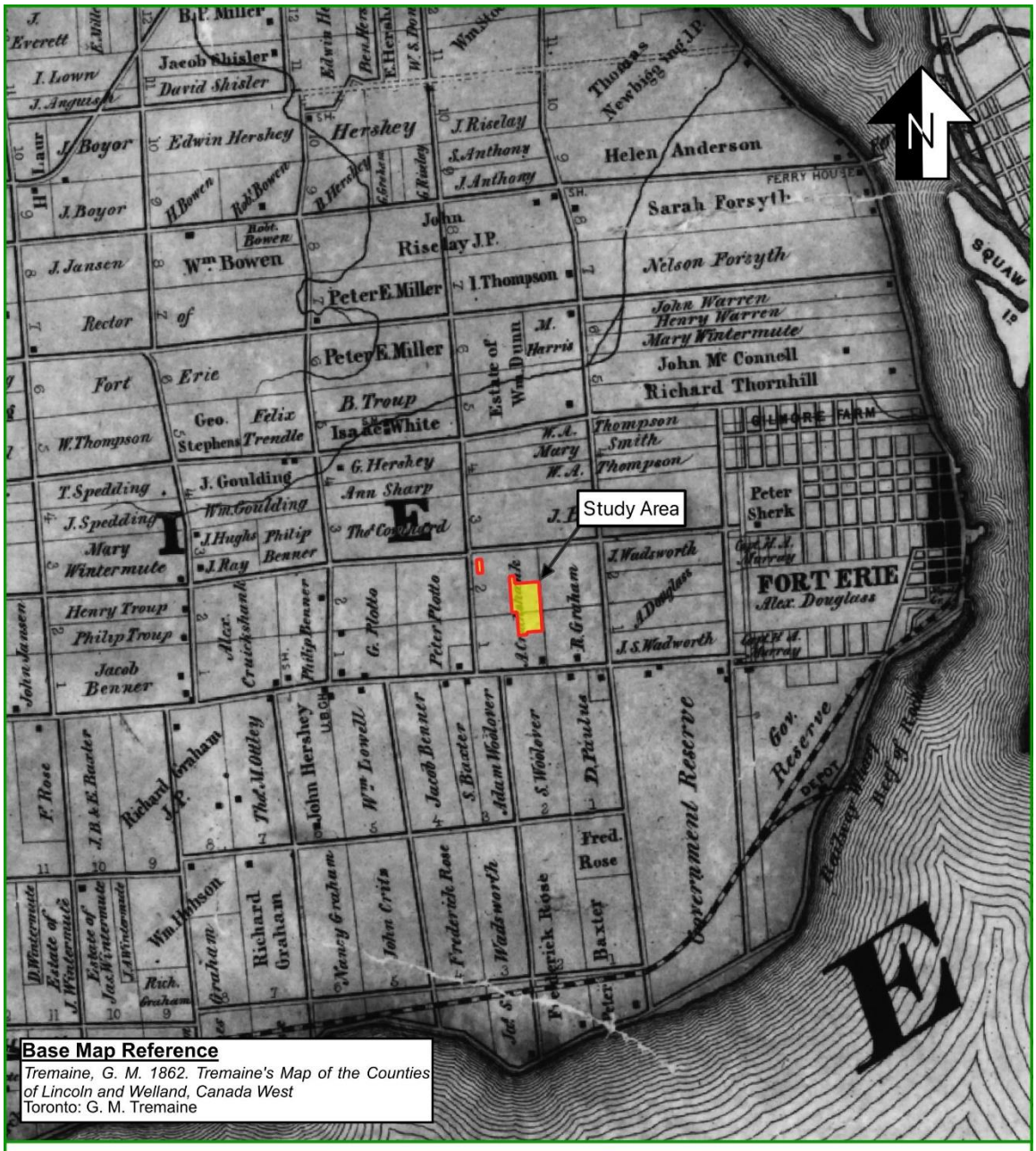
8.0 Maps

Figure 1: Study Area Location

Figure 2: Historic Map Showing Study Area Location



Not to Scale

Figure 2: Portion of Tremaine's Map of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland, Canada West

Figure 3: Additional Historic Map Showing Study Area Location

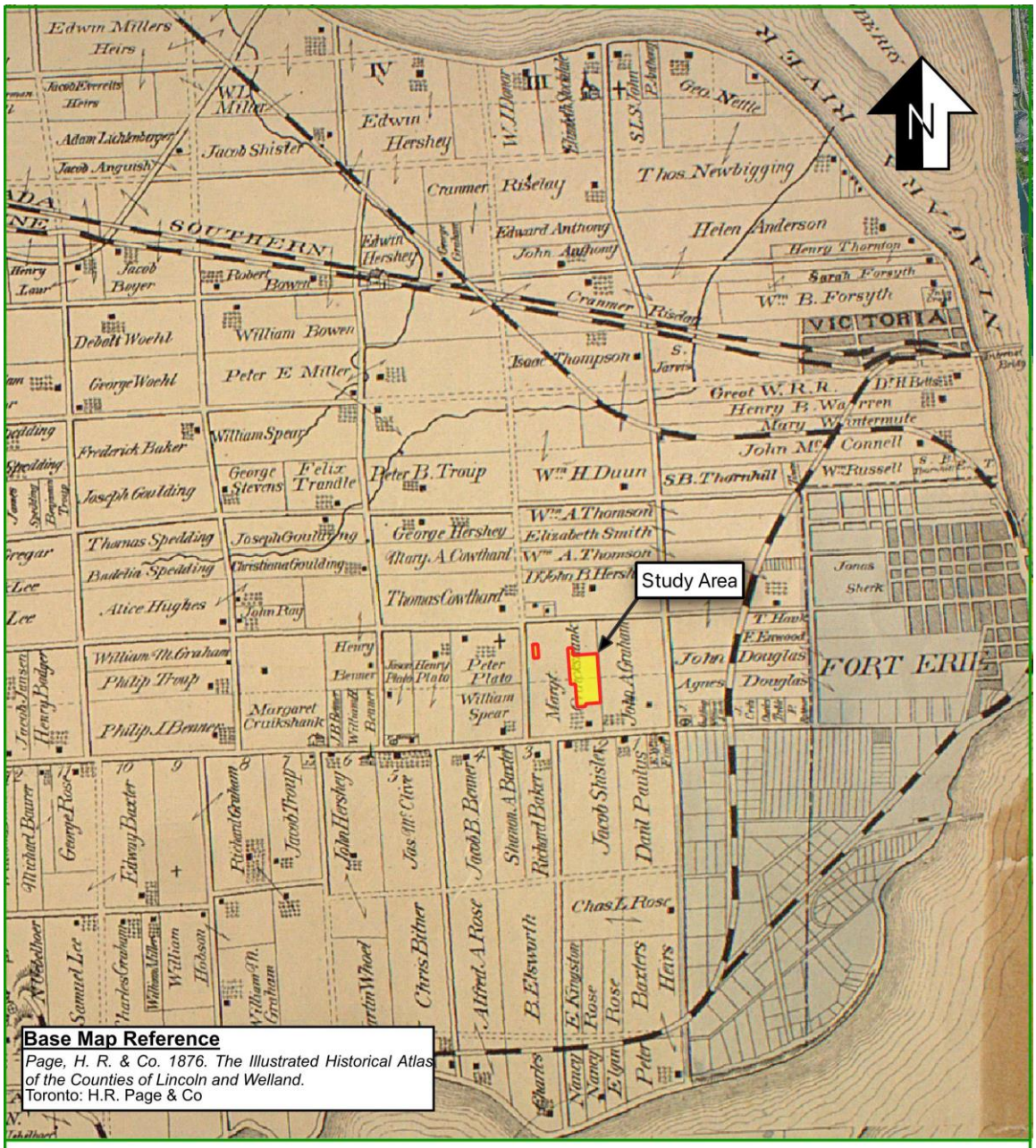


Figure 4: Fort Erie Archaeological Potential Map

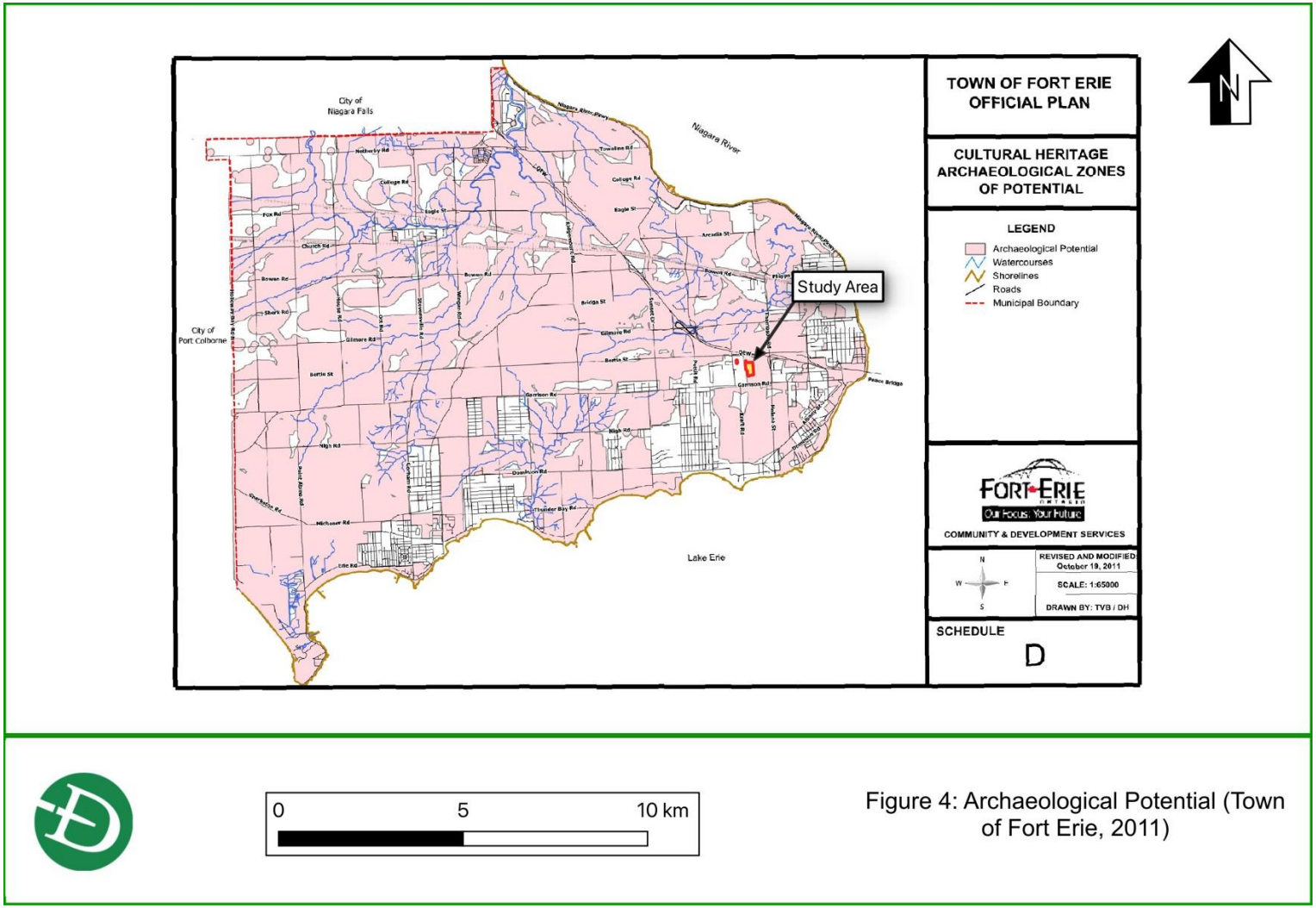


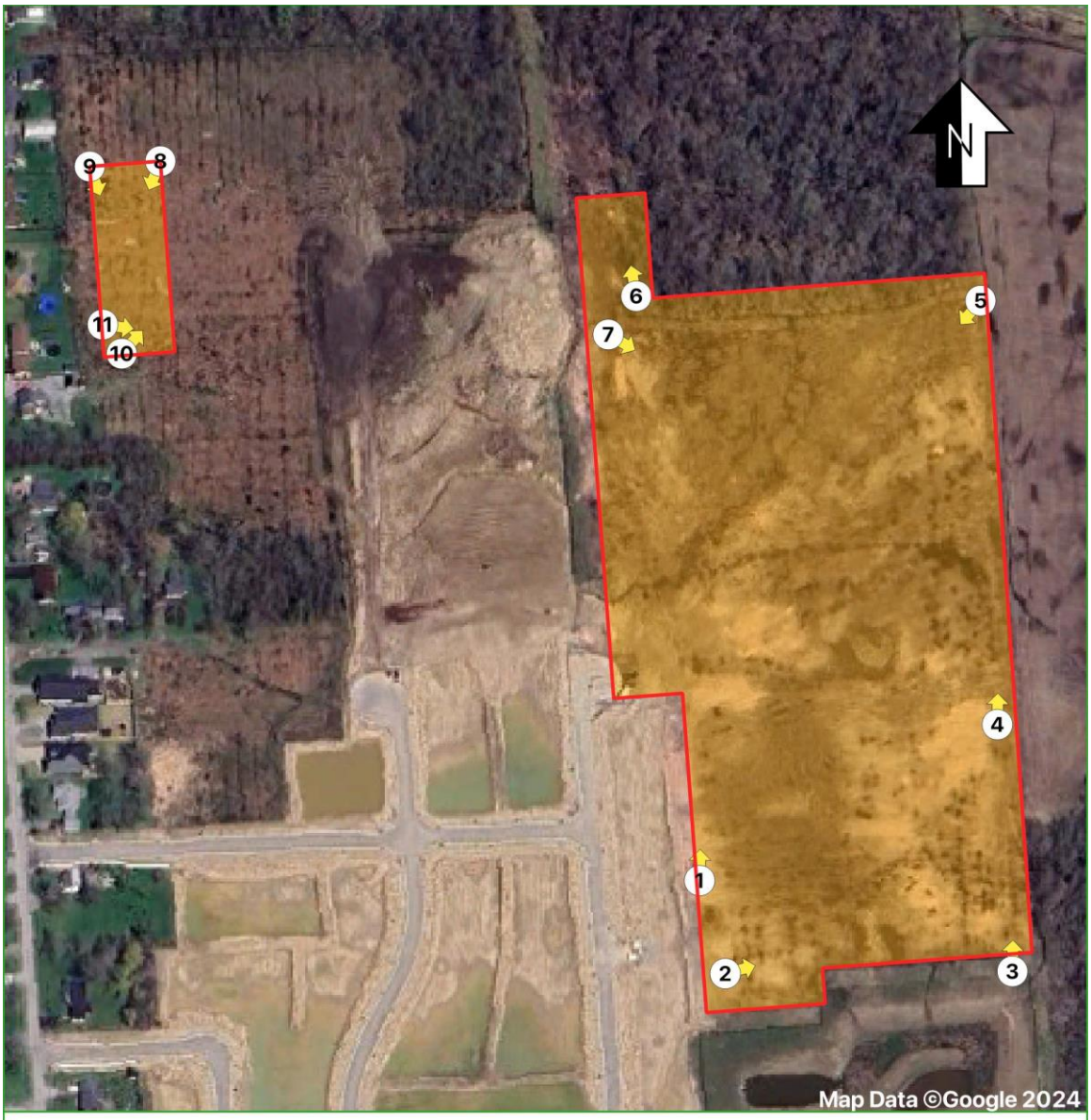
Figure 4: Archaeological Potential (Town of Fort Erie, 2011)

Figure 5: 2016 Aerial Image of the Study Area

Figure 6: 2018 Aerial Imagery of Study Area

Figure 7: 2022 Aerial Imagery of Study Area

Figure 8: Stage 1 Results



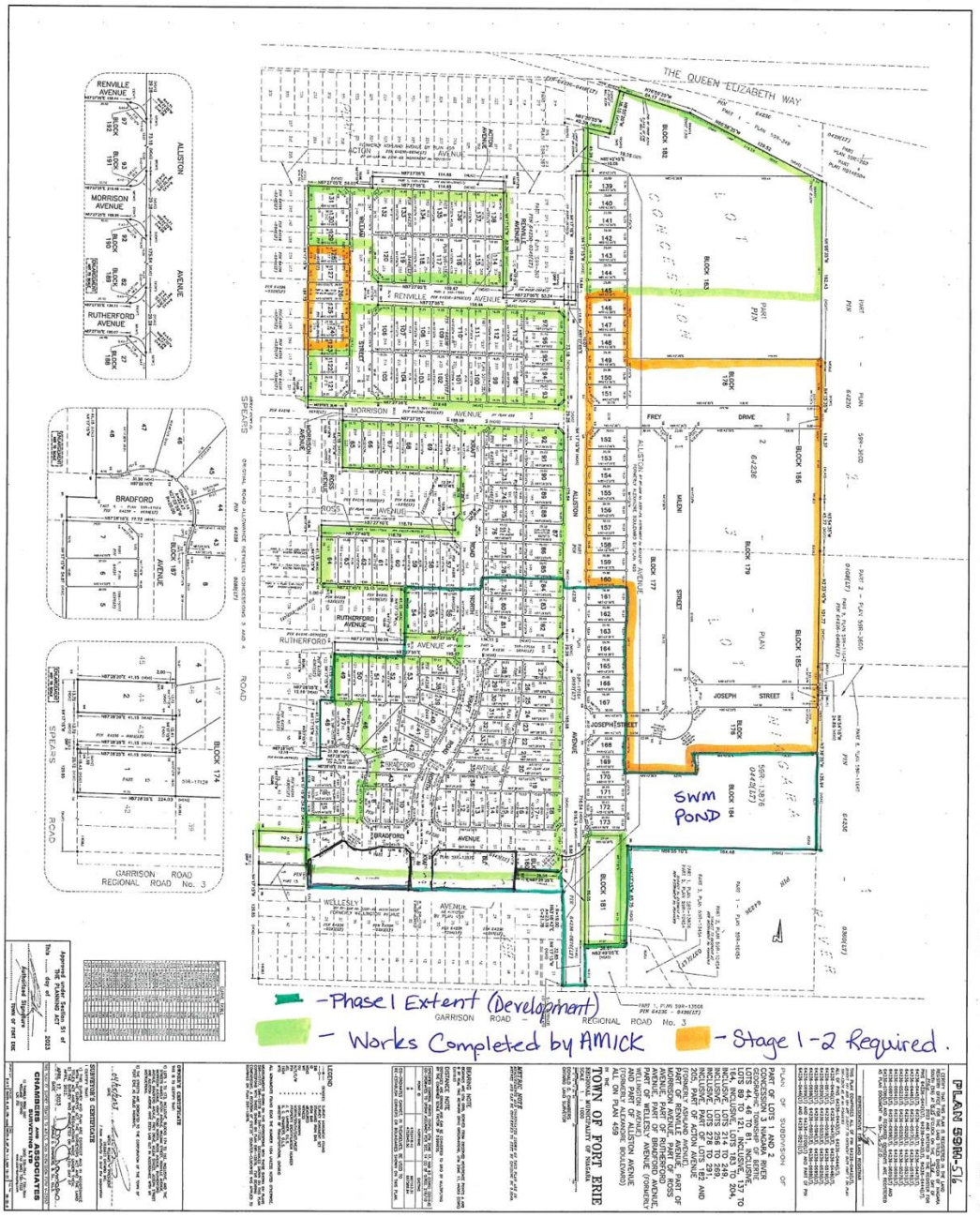
Legend

- Study Area
- Moderate to High Archaeological Potential
- Photo Direction and Location

0 50 100 m

Figure 8: Stage 1 Property Inspection Results

Figure 9: Development Plan



9.0 Photos

Photo 1: Larger Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking north

Photo 2: Larger Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential; looking east

Photo 3: Larger Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking north

Photo 4: Larger Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking north

Photo 5: Larger Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking southwest

Photo 6: Larger Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking northwest

Photo 7: Larger Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking southeast

Photo 8: Smaller Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking southwest

Photo 9: Smaller Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking southeast

Photo 10: Smaller Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking northeast

Photo 11: Smaller Study Area parcel, ploughed after tree removal, Retains Archaeological Potential, looking east