

**Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment,
5558 Drummond Road, City of Niagara
Falls**

Part of Lot 126, Geographic Township of Stamford,
Historical County of Welland, Regional Municipality of
Niagara, Ontario

Submitted to:

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and the

Ontario's Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture
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Submitted by:



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ORIGINAL REPORT

May 6, 2022

Executive Summary

Detritus Consulting Ltd. was retained by Robert Mills of Blythwood Homes to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment for lands on part of Lot 126, Geographic Township of Stamford, Historical County of Welland, now in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed development on a property located at 5558 Drummond Road, Niagara Falls (Figures 6 and 7).

An archaeological 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 1-2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted as part of the severance application under archaeological consulting license P017 issued to Mr. Garth Grimes 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 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* ('Standards and Guidelines'; Government of Ontario 2011).

The 'L' shaped Study Area measures 0.323 hectares ('ha'). The Stage 1 background research indicated that the Study Area comprised areas of grass with trees, a gravelled driveway and three buildings in April, 2017, according to aerial from that time (Figure 3). Subsequent aerial imagery captured in July, 2021, reveals that the three buildings had been demolished, most trees removed, and the western half of the site appeared to be used for storing piles of sand (Figure 4). At the time of the Stage 2 property assessment, much of the sand had been removed, but an area of sand visibly higher than the surrounding terrain remained, likely sitting atop the sod and native topsoil layer.

The background research and the Stage 2 property inspection indicated that the areas of grass, including those covered with overburden, retained medium to high potential for the recovery of archaeological resources. As such, a Stage 2 field assessment was recommended for the areas of grass, including excavating beneath the sand overburden to assess the intact topsoil layer beneath.

The subsequent Stage 2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted on April 29, 2022. The area of grass with isolated trees was assessed using a typical test pit survey at 5 metre intervals (Figures 5 and 6). No material culture was encountered during the test pit survey. The locations of the former buildings were judgmentally test pitted to confirm prior disturbance. These areas were determined to retain no archaeological potential based on the identification of extensive and deep land alteration that has severely damaged the integrity of archaeological resources. The disturbed areas were mapped and photo-documented.

The Stage 2 investigation resulted in the identification and documentation of no archaeological resources, 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. Robert Mills, Bythwood Homes
- Mr. William Heikoop, Upper Canada Consultants

1.0 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by Robert Mills of Blythwood Homes ('the Proponent') to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment for lands on part of Lot 126, Geographic Township of Stamford, Historical County of Welland, now in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed development on a property located at 5558 Drummond Road, Niagara Falls (Figures 6 and 7).

An archaeological 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 1-2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted as part of the severance application under archaeological consulting license P017 issued to Mr. Garth Grimes 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 *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 is 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 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 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 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 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). 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 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 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 1992:80; Noble 1978:161).

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

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

Morris 1943: 15-16

Throughout southern Ontario, the size and nature of the pre-contact settlements and the subsequent spread and distribution of Aboriginal 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 & Co. 1879; Weaver 1978; Tanner 1987). 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 ('MCFN'), in 1847 (Smith 2002).

Despite the 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 Study Area occupies part of Lot 126, Geographic Township of Stamford, Historical County of Welland, now in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1).

The Euro-Canadian history of the area began on July 24, 1788, when 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 2012-2015). Further change came in December 1791 when the former Province of Québec was rearranged into Upper Canada and Lower Canada under the Constitutional Act. Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed as Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (Coyne 1895:33). He initiated several initiatives to populate the province, including the establishment of shoreline communities with effective transportation links between them.

In July 1792, Simcoe divided Upper Canada into 19 counties 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. The current Study Area is situated in the historic Home District, which comprised lands obtained in the “Between the Lakes Purchases” of 1784 and 1792 (Archives of Ontario 2012-2015). This district would later be divided and the Study Area become part of the Niagara district.

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. The Township of Stamford was established in Welland County in 1792 and became part of Wentworth County in 1816. Settlement began to trickle into the region in 1786, with an influx of loyalist immigrants from New York State began immigrating to Upper Canada in the years following the Revolutionary War. After this war, Crown Patents were granted to United Empire Loyalists. The township remained agrarian and lightly populated for much of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Stamford Township was named after the English town of Stamford upon Humber in 1816. Settlement began to trickle into the region in 1790, with an influx of loyalist immigrants mainly from New York State immigrating to Upper Canada in the years following the Revolutionary War. The Township of Stamford included Hamilton and was laid out in eight concessions between Lake Ontario and the Township of Binbrook to the south. After the American Revolutionary War, Crown Patents were granted to United Empire Loyalists who initially settled at first below the escarpment before spreading south of the escarpment after the War of 1812 (Irwin 1883).

The Stamford Township map in the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland, Ont.* (*Historical Atlas*), demonstrates the extent to which Stamford Township had been settled by 1876 (H.R. Page 1876; Figure 2). Landowners are listed for every lot within the township. Structures and orchards are prevalent throughout the township, almost all of which front early roads.

The Crown patent for Lot 126 was to Thomas Millard in 1797. No record exists of the subsequent sale, but prior to 1816 the land became owned by Phillip Bender, who willed it at that time to Elizabeth Clark and Eleanor Burch, his daughters. In 1832, Elizabeth gave quitclaim on her share to Eleanor (now Hawkins). In 1852, Eleanor and her husband sold 50 acres in the south of the lot to George Rysdale. The *Historical Atlas* indicates that by 1876 George Rysdale owned the portion of Lot 126 that includes the Study Area. The Rysdale family continued to farm the land into the late 19th century. The Rysdale homestead is indicated in the centre of their farm, facing what is now Portage Road, some 390 metres east of the Study Area. No other buildings are indicated on the *Historical Atlas* map.

Although significant and detailed landowner information is available on the current *Historical Atlas*, 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 development property is rectangular and measures 0.323ha. At the time of the Stage 2 property assessment, it comprised areas of grass with isolated trees (including a large portion covered with an overburden of sand) and a gravelled driveway.

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 middle of the 19th century. Much of the region continues to be used for agricultural purposes today.

The Study Area is located within the Haldimand Clay Plain physiographic region. 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 soil with medium to high water-holding capacities. Surface runoff is usually rapid, but water retention of the clay-rich 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).

Stamford Township 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 century, Euro-Canadian settlers began to clear the forests for agricultural purposes.

Historical mapping (the *Historical Atlas*) suggests that a tributary of the Welland River once flowed northwest to southeast through the southwest corner of Lot 139, but this is not shown on 20th century maps and may well have been diverted or drained as part of the Welland Canal works. The current Hydro Canal is located some 760m northwest of the Study Area. No other water sources are recorded.

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 Stamford Township (Ellis and Ferris 1990).

Table 1: Cultural Chronology for Stamford 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

Time Period	Cultural Period	Comments
AD 1400 - 1650	Late Iroquoian	regional warfare and political/tribal alliances destruction of Huron and Neutral

1.3.3 Previous 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 AsGs.

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.

An examination of the ASDB has shown that there are 6 archaeological sites registered within a 1km radius of the Study Area (Table 2), 1 of which is a Euro-Canadian historical site¹ of which is a pre-contact Aboriginal site and 4 of which are multi-component sites.

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

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type
AgGs-408		Post-Contact		homestead
AgGs-407		Archaic, Early, Post-Contact, Woodland	Aboriginal, Euro-Canadian	Other refuse, camp / campsite
AgGs-405	Allendale Avenue	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	Unknown, scatter
AgGs-377	Barker Lundy	Post-Contact, Pre-Contact		Unknown
AgGs-203	Roaring River	Archaic, Early, Archaic, Middle	Aboriginal	scatter
AgGs-109	Drummond Hill Cemetery	Post-Contact, Pre-Contact	Aboriginal, Euro-Canadian	Battle site, cemetery, findspot

To the best of Detritus' knowledge, no assessments have been conducted adjacent to the Study Area, nor are any sites 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 MHSTCI to determine areas of archaeological potential within 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. As per Section 1.3.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), water sources may be categorized 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 noted above, historical mapping (the *Historical Atlas*) suggests that a tributary of the Welland River once flowed northwest to southeast through the southwest corner of Lot 126, but this is not shown on 20th century maps and may well have been diverted or drained as part of the Welland Canal works. The current Hydro Canal is located some 760m northwest of the Study Area. No other water sources are recorded.

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 Plain physiographic region. As was discussed earlier, the soils within this region are suitable for pre-contact and post-contact Aboriginal agriculture. Given the length of occupation of Stamford Township prior to the arrival of Euro-Canadian settlers, the distance to potable water, and the pre-contact Aboriginal site and 4 multi-component sites registered within 1km of the Study Area, the pre-contact and post-contact Aboriginal 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 *Historical Atlas* (Figure 2) map of Stamford Township has revealed that the Study Area is close to a number of historical roads and the early community of Drummondville and Clifton Hill. Considering also the four Euro-Canadian sites and seven multi-component sites registered within 1km of the Study Area, the potential for Euro-Canadian historical 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, as outlined in Section 1.3.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). Recent aerial imagery (April 2017; Figure 3) identified areas of potential disturbance within the Study Area, which included three former buildings, demolished by 2021 (Figure 4). It is recommended that these areas be subject to a Stage 2 property inspection, conducted according to Section 2.1.8, Standard 1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), Section 1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), to confirm and document the degree and extent of the disturbance. In addition, the 2021 image (Figure 4) revealed that the eastern half of the Study Area contained mounds of sand. It is recommended that these be explored beneath to assess any buried topsoil layer.

2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 2 assessment was conducted April 29, 2022. During the Stage 2 field work, the weather was clear with a high of 8 degrees Celsius. Assessment conditions were excellent and at no time were the field, weather, or lighting conditions detrimental to the recovery of archaeological material. The limits of the Study Area were determined by property fences to the north, south and east, and by Drummond Road to the west (Photos 1-5).

Photos 1 to 6 demonstrate the land conditions at the time of the survey 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 5 illustrates the Stage 2 assessment methods, including all photograph locations and directions; Figure 6 illustrates the Stage 2 assessment methods in relation to the proposed development of the Study Area.

Approximately 81% of the Study Area comprised a grassed area with isolated trees; this area was deemed inaccessible to ploughing and was subject to a typical Stage 2 test-pit survey at 5m intervals in accordance with Section 2.1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). The test pit survey was conducted to within 1m of the built structures according to Section 2.1.2, Standard 4 of the *Standards and Guidelines*. Each test pit was at least 30 centimetres ('cm') in diameter and excavated 5cm into sterile subsoil. The soils were then examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill. All soil was screened through six-millimetre mesh hardware cloth to facilitate the recovery of small artifacts and then used to backfill the pit. Much of the eastern half of the Study Area included an overburden of sand. Consequently, test pit excavation required digging below the overburden to the native topsoil layer (Photos 7 and 8). No further archaeological methods were employed since no artifacts were identified during the test pit survey.

The remaining 19% of the Study Area comprised the gravelled driveway and the areas identified during the Stage 1 background research to have been the sites of buildings prior to 2021 (Figures 3, 4 and 5), and which were confirmed during the Stage 2 property assessment and judgemental test pit assessment to confirm the nature and extent of the disturbance. These areas 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 disturbance areas 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	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
12 Digital Photographs	Detritus' office	Stored digitally in project file

No archaeological resources were identified within the Study Area during the Stage 2 assessment; therefore, no artifacts were collected. As a result, no storage arrangements are required.

4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Detritus was retained by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment for lands on part of Lot 126, Geographic Township of Stamford, Historical County of Welland, now in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed development on a property located at 5558 Drummond Road, Niagara Falls (Figures 6 and 7).

The Stage 1 background research indicated that grass areas within the Study Area exhibited moderate to high potential for the identification and recovery of archaeological resources. As such, a Stage 2 field assessment was recommended for the grass areas. Areas identified from aerial imagery and confirmed through judgmental test pitting in the field were determined to retain no archaeological potential based on the identification of extensive and deep land alteration that has severely damaged the integrity of archaeological resources. The disturbed area was mapped and photo-documented.

The subsequent Stage 2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted on April 13, 2022. The area of grass was assessed using a typical test pit survey at 5m intervals. No material culture was encountered during the test pit survey. The Stage 2 investigation resulted in the identification and documentation of no archaeological resources.

5.0 Recommendations

The Stage 2 assessment of the Study Area resulted in the identification of no archaeological resources, therefore **no additional archaeological assessment of the Study Area is recommended.**

6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

This report is submitted to the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns 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*.

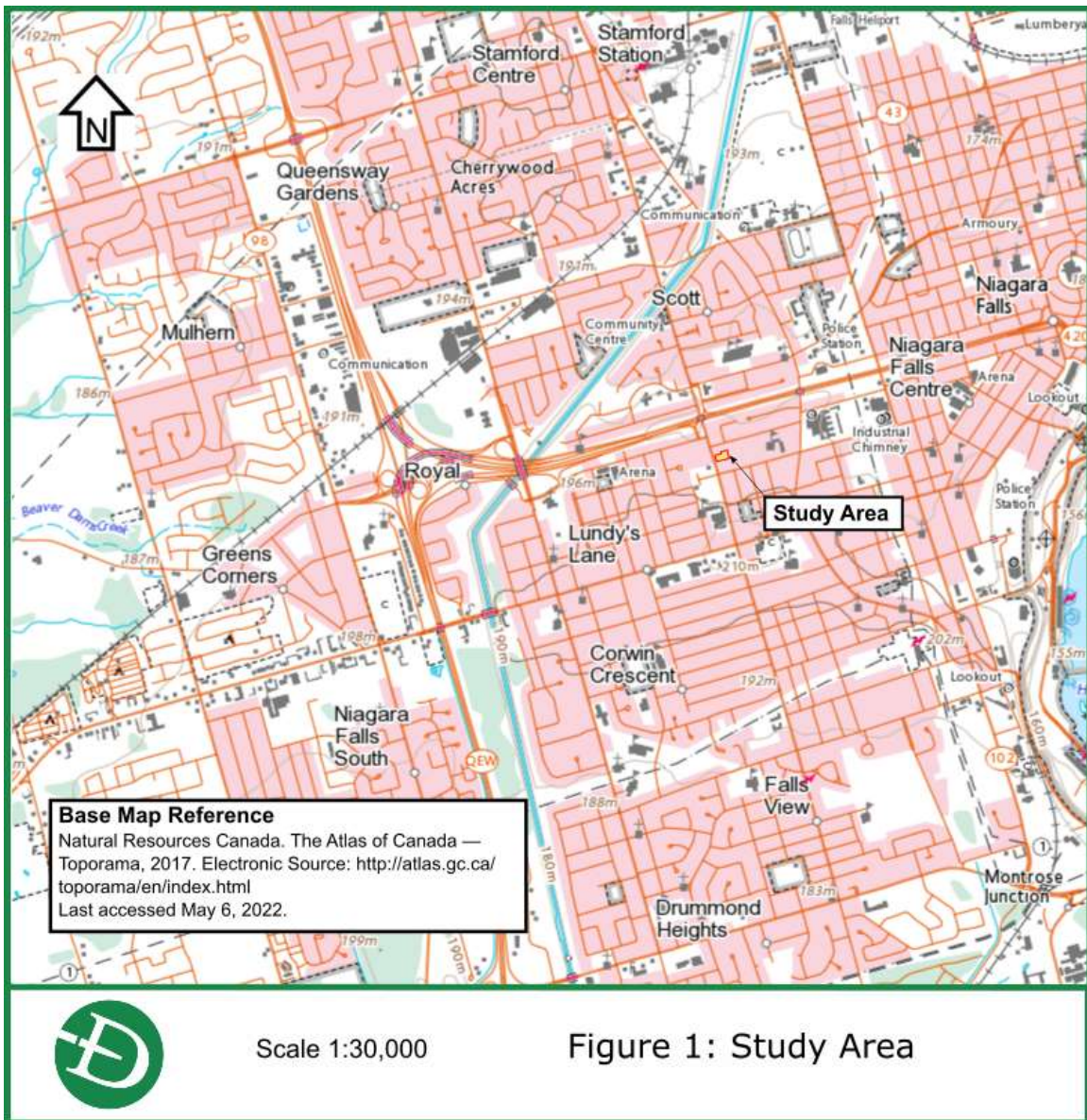
The *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. C.4 and the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.

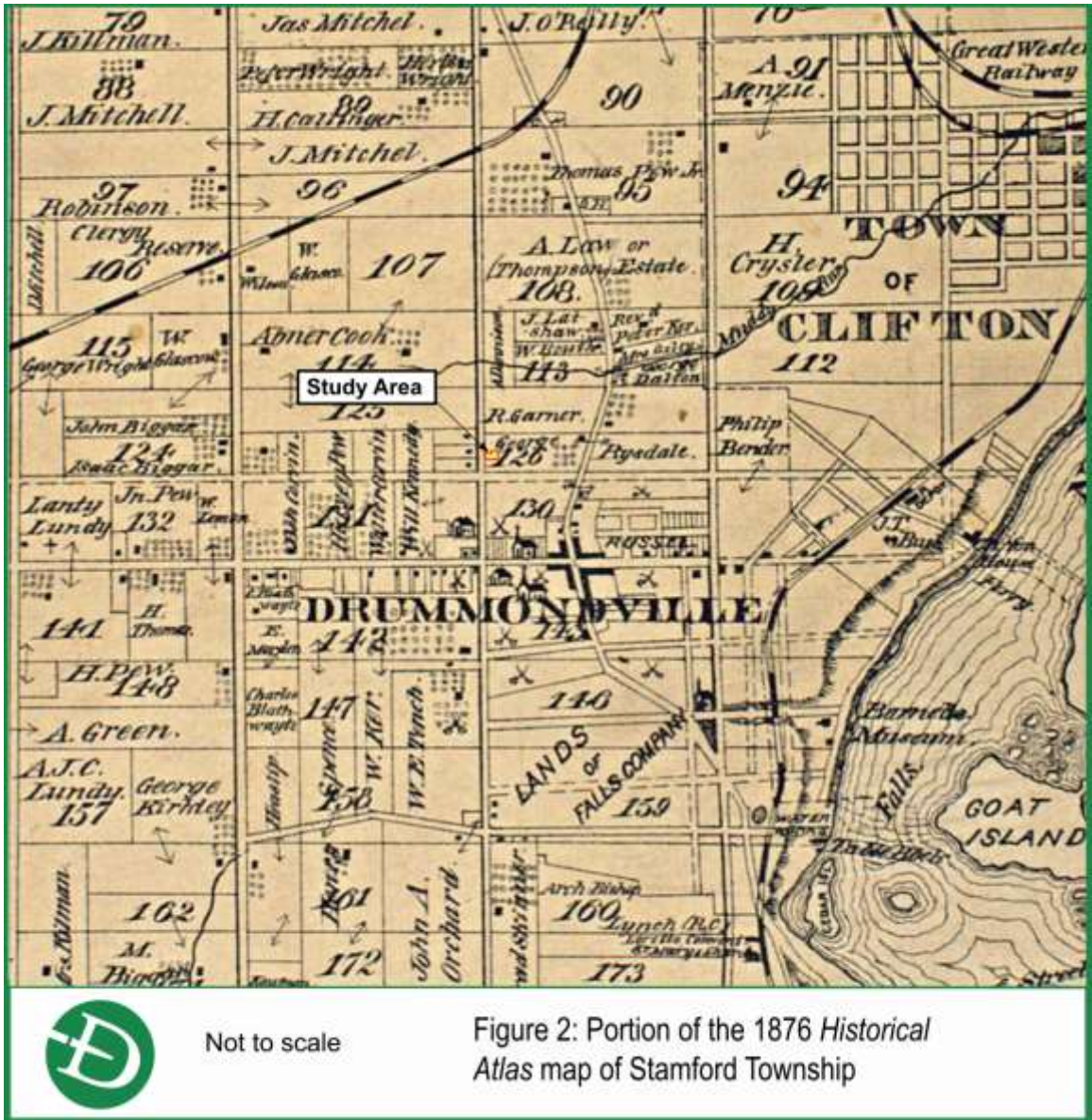
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8.0 Maps





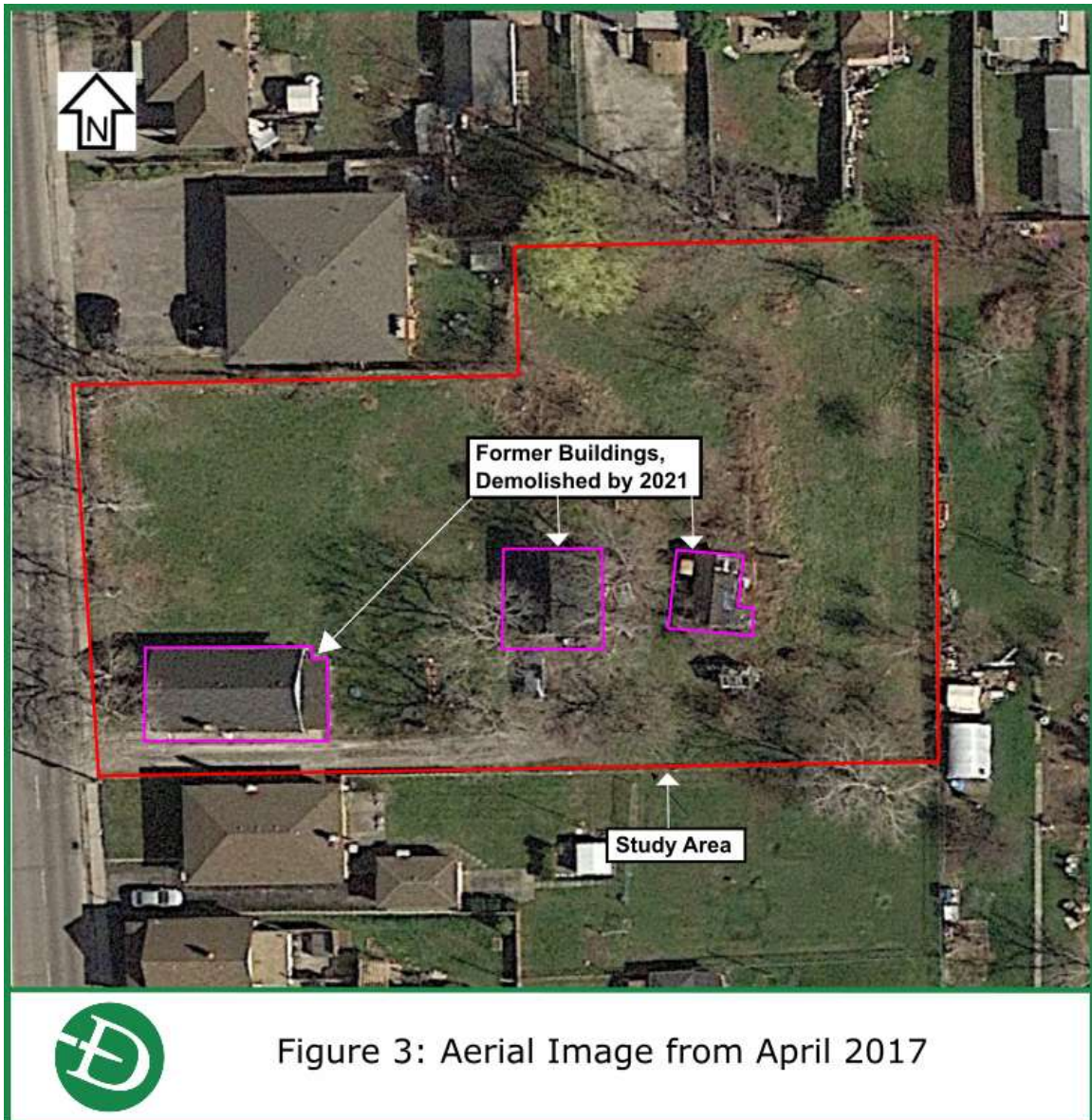


Figure 3: Aerial Image from April 2017

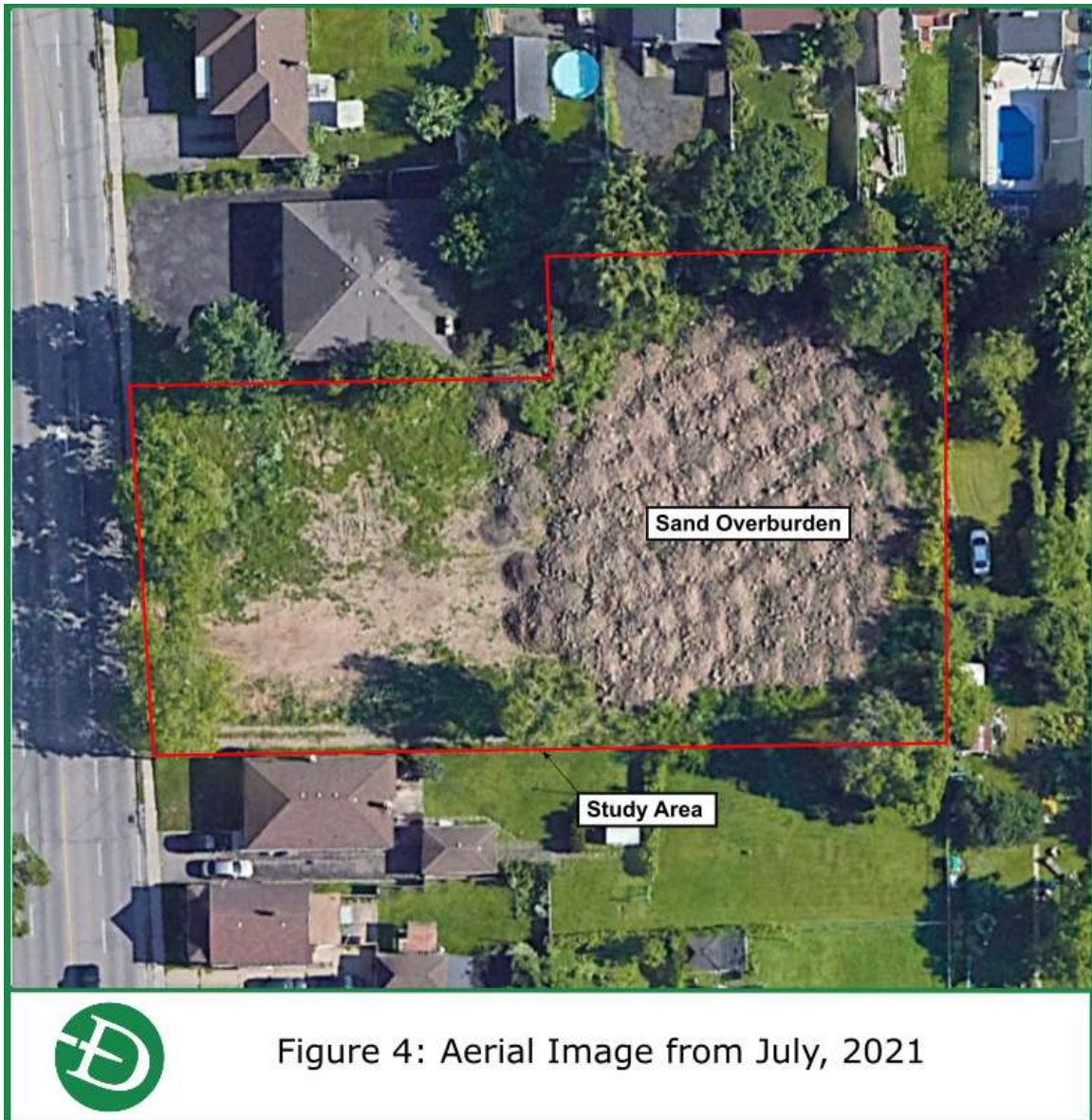
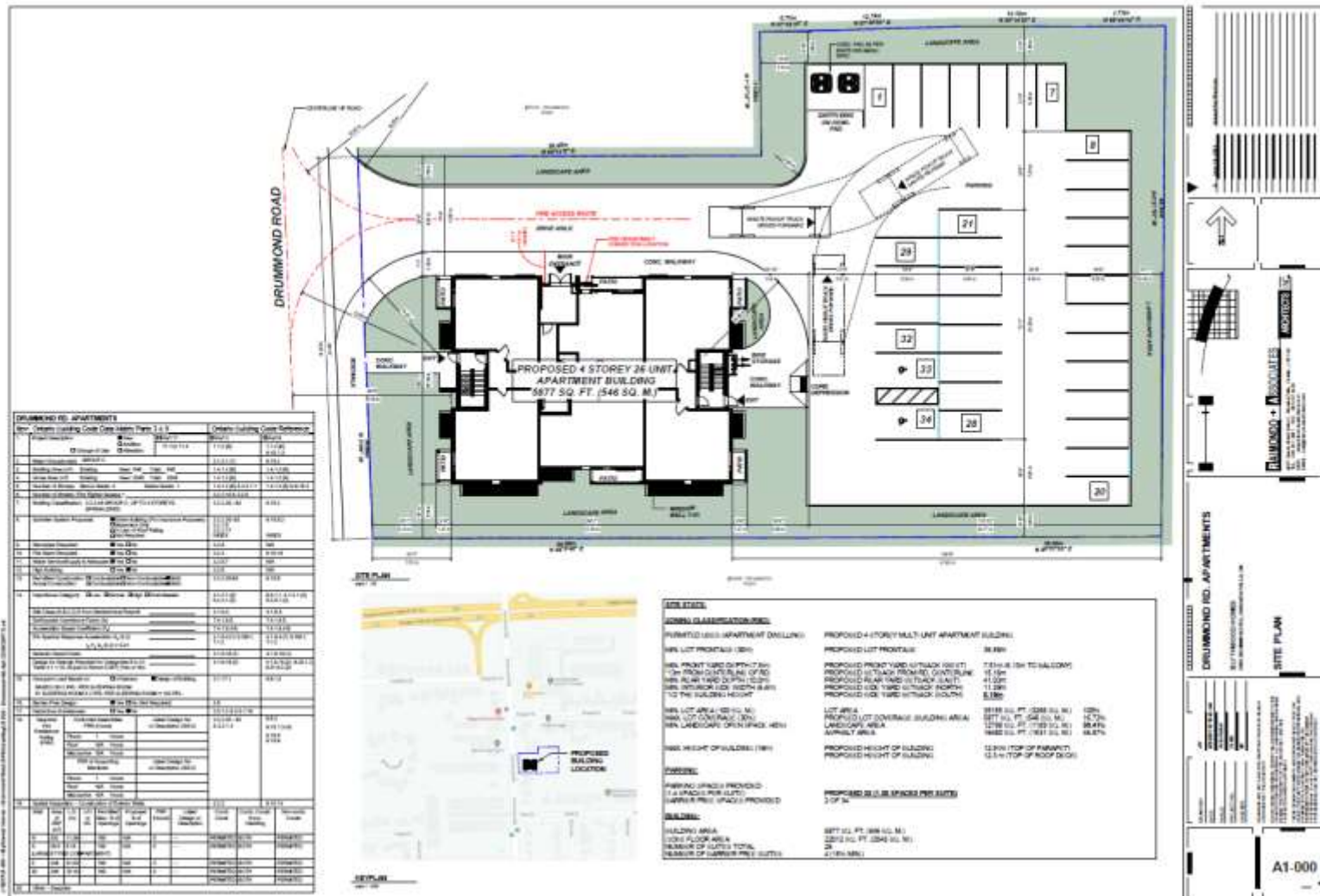






Figure 5: Development Plan



9.0 Images

9.1 Photos

Photo 1: Gravel driveway and grass with isolated trees, facing east



Photo 2: Grass, isolated trees and sand overburden, facing northeast



Photo 3: Grass, isolated trees, gravel driveway and sand overburden, facing west



Photo 4: Grass and isolated trees with sand overburden, facing north



Photo 5: Grass with isolated trees and sand overburden, facing west



Photo 6: Grass and sand overburden with test pit survey, facing east



Photo 7: Sample test pit showing intact soil layer beneath sand overburden



Photo 8: Sample test pit in grass area with no overburden



Photo 9: Sample disturbed test pit

