### Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment Dorchester Road at Oldfield Road, Niagara Falls

Part of Lot 197 and
Part of the Road Allowance Between Lots 196 & 197,
Geographic Township of Stamford,
Historical County of Welland,
now Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario

#### Submitted to:

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> > **ORIGINAL REPORT**

5 May 2024

## **Executive Summary**

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by William Heikoop of Upper Canada Planning & Engineering Ltd. on behalf of Milica Kovacevich of 14456335 Canada Inc. ('the Proponent') to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment on part of Lot 197 and part of the road allowance between Lots 196 & 197, in the Geographic Township of Stamford, in the historical County of Welland, now the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed multi-family residential development located southwest of the intersection of Dorchester Street and Oldfield Road, to the south of 7825 Dorchester Road in Niagara Falls; given that the development area extended slightly outside the property boundaries in the northeastern corner, Detritus also assessed a portion of the right-of-way ('ROW') (the 'Study Area'; Figure 6).

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 1-2 assessment was conducted as part of the application phase of development under archaeological consulting license P1263 issued to Mr. Jonathan M. Peart 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 Study Area comprises an irregularly shaped parcel and a portion of the ROW measuring approximately 2.7 hectares. At the time of assessment the Study Area included primarily a woodlot in the southern half; a gravel laneway and storage area in the northern half; and manicured grass along the northwestern and southwestern edge (Figure 4). The Study Area is bound to the northwest by Dorchester Street, to the east and south by a woodlot, to the west by woodlot and an overgrown area.

The Stage 1 background research indicated that the a portion of the Study Area is located within an area of archaeological potential as indicated by *NEW NIAGARA OFFICIAL PLAN Niagara Region Archaeological Management Plan: Phase 5 Report – DRAFT* (Archaeological Services Inc. and Letourneau Heritage Consultings Inc., 2001). Given the archaeological potential of the Study Area, the location of a portion of the Study Area within an area of archaeological potential, a Stage 2 assessment was recommended for the woodlot and grass components of the Study Area.

The subsequent Stage 2 field assessment was conducted on April 26th, 2023 and May 12th, 2023. The Stage 2 field assessment began with a property inspection conducted as per Section 2.1.8. which is informed by Section 1.2 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011), complete with judgemental test pitting as per Standard 2 of this section. According to the results of this inspection, a portion of the Study Area comprises a gravel laneway and storage area, which was identified on the current aerial imagery of the Study Area. This gravel area was subject to judgemental test pitting conducted according to Section 2.1.8, Standard 2 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011) to confirm the limits of disturbance. The gravel laneway and storage area was 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). Additionally, a review of the concept plan (Figure 6) indicated that the southern most portion of the woodlot is an existing wetland. The Stage 2 property inspection revealed that a portion of the woodlot was in fact permanently wet and therefore was determined to retain no archaeological potential due to the identification of a physical features of low archaeological potential, in this case a permanently wet area as per Section 2.1, Standard 2.a(i) of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011). The previously disturbed and permanently wet areas observed within the Study Area were mapped and photo documented in accordance with Section 2.1,

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Standard 6 and Section 7.8.1, Standard 1a and 1b of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011).

The Stage 2 investigation of the woodlot and grass areas comprised a typical test pit survey conducted at 5m intervals. No artifacts were encountered during the test pit survey.

Given the results of the Stage 2 investigation and the identification and documentation of no archaeological resources, **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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### **Project Personnel**

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### **Acknowledgments**

Generous contributions by William Heikoop of Upper Canada Planning & Engineering Ltd. and Milica Kovacevich of 14456335 Canada Inc. made this report possible.

## 1.0 Project Context

### 1.1 Development Context

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by William Heikoop of Upper Canada Planning & Engineering Ltd. on behalf of Milica Kovacevich of 14456335 Canada Inc. ('the Proponent') to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment on part of Lot 197 and part of the road allowance between Lots 196 & 197, in the Geographic Township of Stamford, in the historical County of Welland, now the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1). This assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed multi-family residential development located southwest of the intersection of Dorchester Street and Oldfield Road, to the south of 7825 Dorchester Road in Niagara Falls; given that the development area extended slightly outside the property boundaries in the northeastern corner, Detritus also assessed a portion of the right-of-way ('ROW') (the 'Study Area'; Figure 6).

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 1-2 assessment was conducted as part of the application phase of development under archaeological consulting license P1263 issued to Mr. Jonathan M. Peart 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 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; 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, 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 Realty, 2022; Niagara-on-the-Lake, 2016). The name 'Neutral' was given to the Attawandaran by French explorers who began arriving in the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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, 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 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, 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 (Jameison, 1992).

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 & Feest, 1978).

The Study Area first 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 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 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. 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 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, 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 Study Area occupies part of Lot 197 and part of the road allowance between Lots 196 & 197, in the Geographic Township of Stamford, in the historical County of Welland, now the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario.

During the Seven Years' War, the British undertook several military campaigns against the French at Fort Niagara, located at the mouth of the Niagara River on the American side. 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, 2012-2015). 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 began 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. Simcoe also changed the name of Newark to Niagara-on-the-Lake (often appearing as just 'Niagara') and appointed it as the first capital of Upper Canada; the first provincial parliament was convened at Navy Hall in 1792 (Niagara Historical Society and Museum, 2008).

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, Niagara-on-the-Lake became part of Lincoln County in the Niagara District (Archives of Ontario, 2012-2015).

The Township of Stamford was first surveyed in 1776 and was the second township to be surveyed within Welland County. It was originally referred to as Township #2 or Mount Dorchester, after Sir Guy Dorchester, the Governor for the Province of Québec from 1768 to 1778 and again between 1785 and 1795. The initial survey covered a portion of the county adjacent to the west side of the Niagara River for a distance of 12 miles (Page & Co, 1876). This area was initially granted to United Empire Loyalists, primarily from New York State, as compensation for losses suffered during the American Revolutionary War. Stamford Village was founded in 1783 and was the largest community within the township, although it received no official status. The name derived from Stamford Village in Delaware County, New York State, from which many of the settlers had arrived (Berketa, 2017).

A second survey was completed in 1787, following the Revolutionary War, at which time the township was renamed Stamford Township by John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. As part of this survey, the first meeting house was constructed in Stamford Village next to a local cemetery referred to by the locals as God's Half Acre. In 1844, this meeting house would become the Stamford Presbyterian Church, the first Presbyterian Church in Upper Canada. Lots along the river were among the first to be granted in the 1780s and 1790s as Governor Simcoe sought to develop the area quickly in the tense atmosphere between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. After the land near the Niagara River and Niagara Falls was divided up, farmsteads were situated as far from the river as possible (Berketa, 2017).

In 1845, after years of increasing settlement throughout the region as a whole, the southern portion of Lincoln County was severed to form Welland County (the two counties would be amalgamated in 1970 to form the Regional Municipality of Niagara). In 1856, Lincoln County was reorganised into seven townships. A new County Council was established comprising a representative from each constituent township (Powell & Coffman, 1956).

The *Tremaine Map of Lincoln and Welland Canada West* (the *'Tremaine Map'*; Tremaine, 1862) demonstrates the extent to which Stamford Township had been settled by 1862 (Figure 2). Landowners are listed for almost 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 are prevalent throughout the township, almost all of which front early roads and especially the Niagara River. On the *Tremaine Map*, the majority of the Study Area is situated within Lot 197, which was owned by Henry Spence (Tremaine, 1862). The early community of Drummondville is shown to the northeast of the Study Area.

The *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland* ('Historical Atlas'), demonstrates the extent to which Niagara Township had been settled by 1876 (Page & Co, 1876; Figure 3). 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 and waterways. According to the 1876 *Historical Atlas* map of Stamford Township Lot 197 was owned by J. Walch. A single structure and an orchard are visible in the western half of the lot, to the west of the Study Area. Looking further afield to the northwest of the Study Area are Drummondville and the Town of Clifton, which are both now a part of the City of Niagara Falls. Additionally, the Niagara River is locates along the eastern border of the township running north-south.

As discussed above, the Village of Drummondville is located to the northwest of the Study Area on Lot 143 and Lot 130. The village grew following the War of 1812 and the Battle of Lundy's Lane. Between 1814 and 1861 various observation towers were built as tourist attractions, to over look the battlefield. In 1831, Niagara saw its first settlement with a dozen houses built at what is now the intersection of Lundy's Lane/Ferry Street and Main Street. Drummondville was named after Sir Gordon Drummond, a Major in the British Army at the Battle of Lundy's Lane. The initial population was approximately 150 citizens, which grew to 500 by 1850. At that time the village included a hotel, a tannery and four churches. On March 13<sup>th</sup> 1882 the Village of Drummondville was incorporated and became known as the Village of Niagara Falls. In October of 1881 the former Town of Clifton received permission from the government to change its name to the Town of Niagara Falls (Niagara Falls Info 2023).

Although significant and detailed landowner information is available on the historical maps discussed here, it should be recognized that historical county at lases 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). 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

The Study Area comprises an irregularly shaped parcel and a portion of the ROW measuring approximately 2.7 hectares. At the time of assessment the Study Area included primarily a woodlot in the southern half; a gravel laneway and storage area in the northern half; and manicured grass along the northwestern and southwestern edged (Figure 4). The Study Area is bound to the northwest by Dorchester Street, to the east and south by a woodlot, to the west by woodlot and and overgrown area.

Prior to the urbanization of the City of Niagara Falls 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 19<sup>th</sup> century. Much of the region 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). 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 19<sup>th</sup>, Euro-Canadian settlers began to clear the forests for agricultural purposes.

The closest source of potable water is the Welland River, which is located approximately 340 metres ('m') to the west of the Study Area.

#### 1.3.2 Pre-Contact Aboriginal 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 Stamford Township (Ellis and Ferris 1990).

Table 1: Cultural Chronology for Stamford Townsh			
	Time Period	Cultural Period	Comments

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
		ceremonial burials
7500–1000 BC	Archaic	increasing trade network hunter gatherers
		large and small camps
1000-400 BC	Early Woodland	spring congregation/fall dispersal
		introduction of pottery
400 BC-AD	Middle Woodland	kinship based political system
800 800		incipient horticulture
800		long distance trade network
AD 800-1300	Early Iroquoian	limited agriculture
AD 800-1300	(Late Woodland)	developing hamlets and villages
	Middle Iroquoian (Late Woodland)	shift to agriculture complete
AD 1300-1400		increasing political complexity
	(Late Woodland)	large, palisaded villages
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 known archaeological resources in the vicinity of the Study Area, Detritus consulted the ASDB. The ASDB, which is maintained by the MCM (Government of Ontario, n.d.), contains information concerning archaeological sites that have been 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 lies within block AgGs.

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, three archaeological sites have been registered within a 1km radius of the Study Area (Table 2). Of these registered sites, two are pre-contact Aboriginal sites, dating to the early Archaic and Late Woodland periods, and one is a Euro-Canadian site.

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

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type
AgGs-292	-	Woodland, Late	Aboriginal	findspot
AgGs-298	-	Archaic, Early	Aboriginal	camp / campsite
AgGs-387	AgGs-387	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	homestead

To the best of Detritus' knowledge, no assessments have been conducted adjacent to the Study Area, and no sites are registered within 50m of the Study Area.

#### 1.3.4 Archaeological Potential

Detritus applied archaeological potential criteria commonly used by the MCM to determine areas of archaeological potential within the 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 was discussed above, the closest source of potable water is the Welland River, which is located approximately 340m to the west 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 well drained and suitable for pre-contact and post-contact Aboriginal agricultural. Given this, the distance to potable water and the length of occupation of Stamford Township prior to the arrival of Euro-Canadian settlers, the pre-contact Aboriginal archaeological potential, as evidence by the two pre-contact Aboriginal sites registered within 1km 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* (Tremaine, 1862; Figure 2) and the *Historical Atlas* map of Stamford Township (Page & Co. 1876; Figure 3) shows the Study Area in close proximity to historical roads, as well as the early communities of Drummondville and the Town of Clifton, both will later form the City of Niagara Falls.

#### Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment, Dorchester Road at Oldfield Road, Niagara Falls

NEW NIAGARA OFFICIAL PLAN Niagara Region Archaeological Management Plan: Phase 5 Report – DRAFT (Archaeological Services Inc. and Letourneau Heritage Consultings Inc., 2001) archaeological potential mapping was consulted and indicates that a portion of the Study Area is located within an area of archaeological potential.

Considering the location of the Study Area in close proximity to City of Niagara Falls, in an area partially identified on the *NEW NIAGARA OFFICIAL PLAN Niagara Region Archaeological Management Plan: Phase 5 Report – DRAFT* (Archaeological Services Inc. and Letourneau Heritage Consultings Inc., 2001) as having archaeological potential and within 1km of a single registered Euro-Canadian site, 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, as outlined in Section 1.3.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). Current aerial imagery of the Study Area identified a potential disturbance area within the Study Area, including a gravel laneway and storage area. Additionally, a review of the concept plan (Figure 6) indicates that the southern most portion of the woodlot is existing wetland. It is recommended that these areas be subject to a Stage 2 property inspection, conducted according to Section 2.1.8, which is informed by Section 1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), to confirm and document the disturbed and permanently wet areas.

### 2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 under archaeological consulting license P1263 issued to Jonathan M. Peart by the MCM. Buried utility locates were obtained prior to initiating fieldwork.

During the Stage 2 field work assessment conditions were excellent and at no time were the field, weather, or lighting conditions detrimental to the recovery of archaeological material as per Section 2.1, Standard 3 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). Table 3 details the weather and field conditions during each day of fieldwork. Photos 1 to 20 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 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). Figure 4 provides an illustration of the Stage 2 assessment methods, as well as photograph locations and directions. Figure 5 provides an illustration of the Stage 2 assessment methods in relation to the concept plan.

**Table 3: Field and Weather Conditions** 

Date	Field Director	Activity	Weather	Soil Conditions
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Michael Pitul,	Test Pit Survey	Cloudy 5° Celcius	Soil dry and
	P462		('C')	screened easily
May 12th, 2023	Maria Cecchini,	Test Pit Survey	Sunny, high of 25°C	Soil dry and
	R1356			screened easily

The limits of the Study Area were established in the field using a georeferenced shapefile produced using QGIS and uploaded to a hand-held GPS device running QField software.

The Stage 2 field assessment began with a property inspection conducted as per Section 2.1.8, of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), complete with judgemental test pitting as per Standard 2 of this section. According to the results of this inspection, approximately 40% of the Study Area comprised the possible disturbance area identified on the current aerial imagery of the Study Area (see Section 1.3.4 above). This gravel area was subject to judgemental test pitting according to Section 2.1.8, Standard 2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011) to confirm its limits. No traces of the original topsoil were encountered across the gravel area and no artifacts were encountered. The gravel laneway and storage area (Photos 1, 12-14 to 20) was 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). The area of previouse disturbance observed within the Study Area was 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).

Additionally, it was confirmed that 20% of the Study Area comprised permanently wet woodlot identified on the concept plan (see Section 1.3.4 above). The wet portions of the woodlot were evaluated as having no potential, as per Section 2.1, Standard 2.a.i of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). This permanently wet area was mapped and photo documented in accordance with Section 2.1, Standard 6 and Section 7.8.1, Standard 1a of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011; Photos 2, 3 and 8).

The remaining 40% of the Study Area comprised woodlot and manicured grass, which was deemed inaccessible for ploughing. The woodlot and grass areas were subject to a typical test pit survey at 5m intervals in accordance with Section 2.1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). The test pit survey was conducted to within 1m of the built structures or until test pits show evidence of recent ground disturbance, as per Section 2.1.2, Standard 4 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). Each test pit was at least 30 centimetres ('cm') in diameter and excavated 5cm into sterile subsoil as per Section 2.1.2, Standards 5 and 6 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011; Photo 4-7, 9-14). The soils were 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, as per Section 2.1.2, Standards 7 and 9 of the *Standards and* 

 $\it Guidelines$  (Government of Ontario, 2011). No further archaeological methods were employed since no artifacts were identified.

### 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 4 below.

**Table 4: Inventory of Document Record** 

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

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 were required.

## 4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Detritus was retained by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment in advance of a proposed multi-family residential development located southwest of the intersection of Dorchester Street and Oldfield Road, to the south of 7825 Dorchester Road in Niagara Falls.

The Stage 1 background research indicated that the a portion of the Study Area is located within an area of archaeological potential as indicated by NEW NIAGARA OFFICIAL PLAN Niagara Region Archaeological Management Plan: Phase 5 Report – DRAFT (Archaeological Services Inc. and Letourneau Heritage Consultings Inc., 2001). Given the archaeological potential of the Study Area, the location of a portion of the Study Area within an area of archaeological potential, a Stage 2 assessment was recommended for the woodlot and grass components of the Study Area.

The subsequent Stage 2 field assessment was conducted on April 26th, 2023 and May 12th, 2023. The Stage 2 field assessment began with a property inspection conducted as per Section 2.1.8, which is informed by Section 1.2 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011), complete with judgemental test pitting as per Standard 2 of this section. According to the results of this inspection, a portion of the Study Area comprises a gravel laneway and storage area, which was identified on the current aerial imagery of the Study Area. This gravel area were subject to judgemental test pitting conducted according to Section 2.1.8, Standard 2 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011) to confirm the limits of disturbance. The gravel laneway and storage area was 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). Additionally, a review of the concept plan (Figure 6) indicated that the southern most portion of the woodlot is an existing wetland. The Stage 2 property inspection revealed that a portion of the woodlot was in fact permanently wet and therefore was determined to retain no archaeological potential due to the identification of a physical features of low archaeological potential, in this case a permanently wet area as per Section 2.1, Standard 2.a(i) of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011). The previously disturbed and permanently wet areas observed within the Study Area were mapped and photo documented in accordance with Section 2.1, Standard 6 and Section 7.8.1, Standard 1a and 1b of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011).

The Stage 2 investigation of the woodlot and grass areas comprised a typical test pit survey conducted at 5m intervals. No artifacts were encountered during the test pit survey.

### 5.0 Recommendations

Given the results of the Stage 2 investigation and the identification and documentation of no archaeological resources, **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 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.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

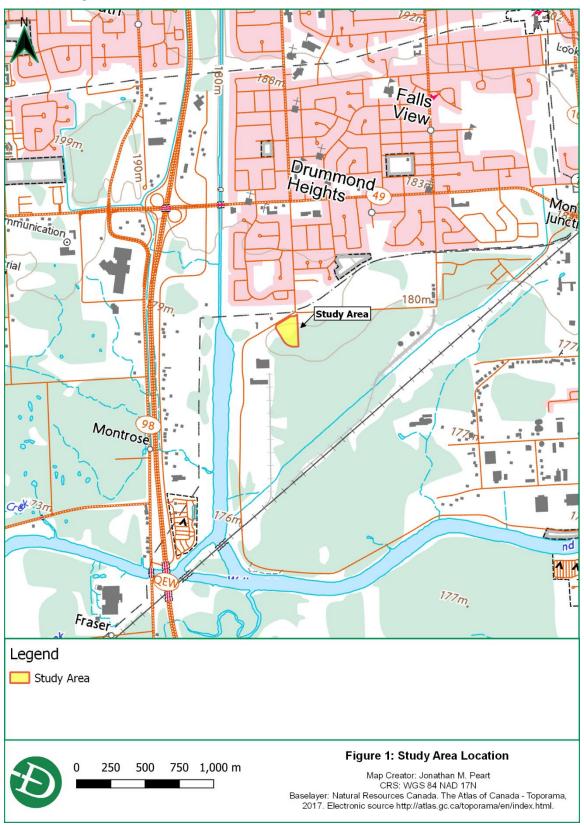
The *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. C.4 and the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.

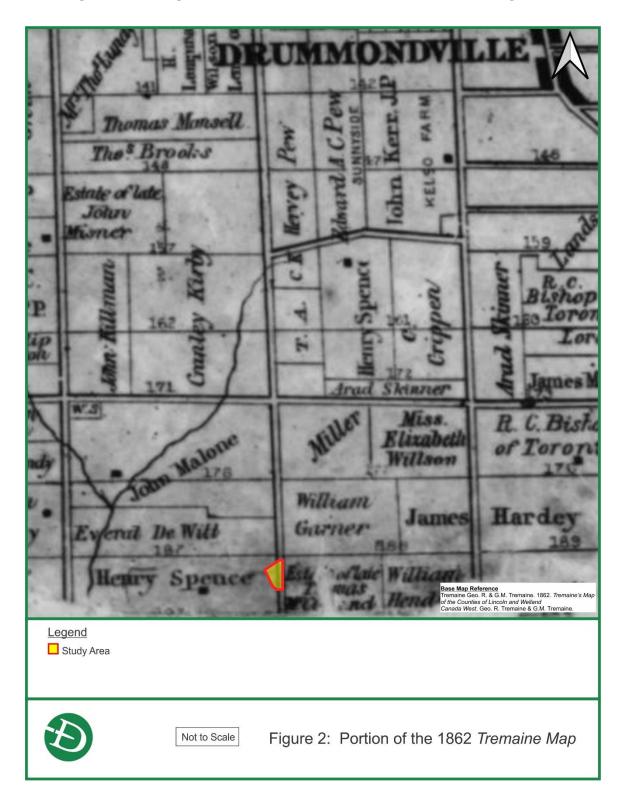
## 7.0 Bibliography and References

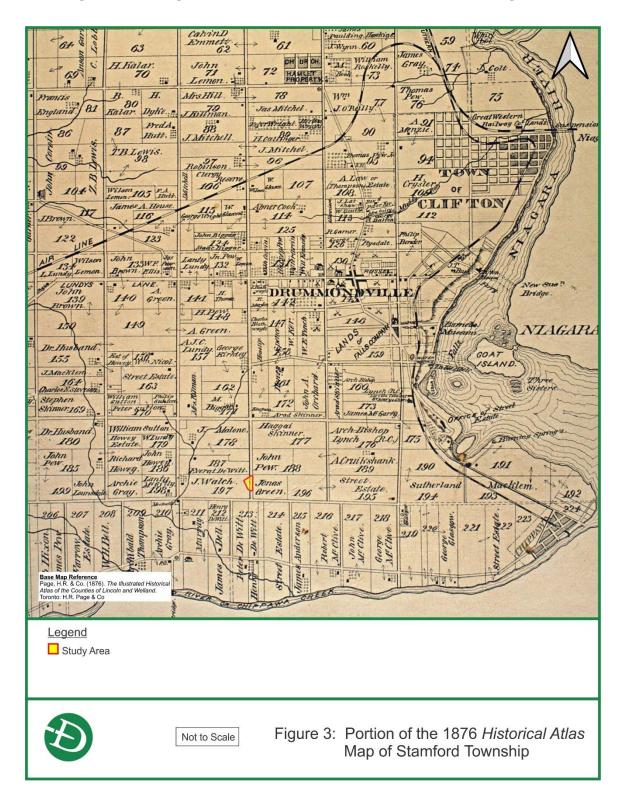
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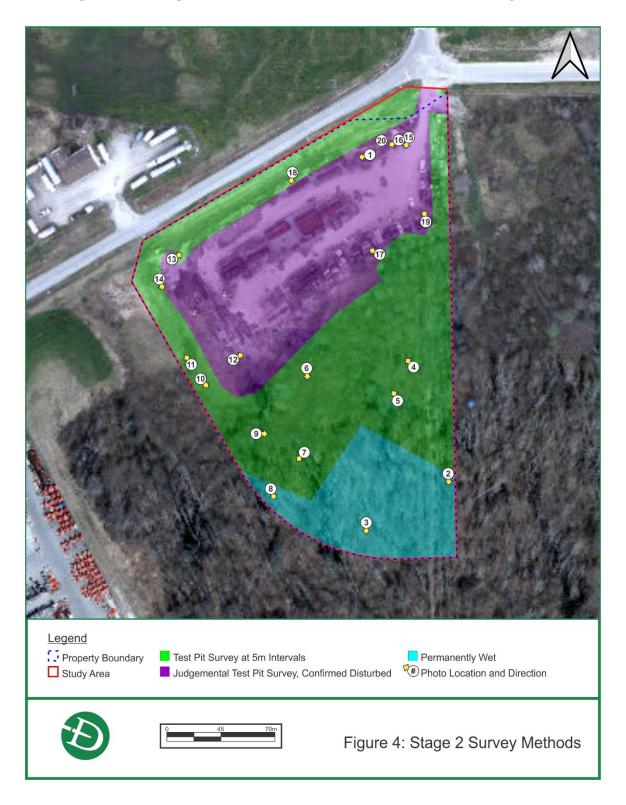
## 8.0 Maps







Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment, Dorchester Road at Oldfield Road, Niagara Falls



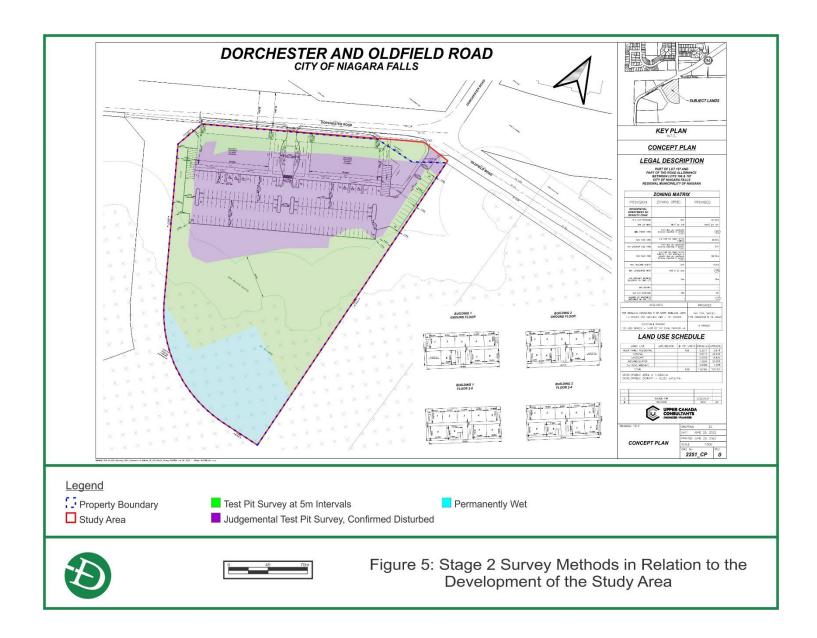
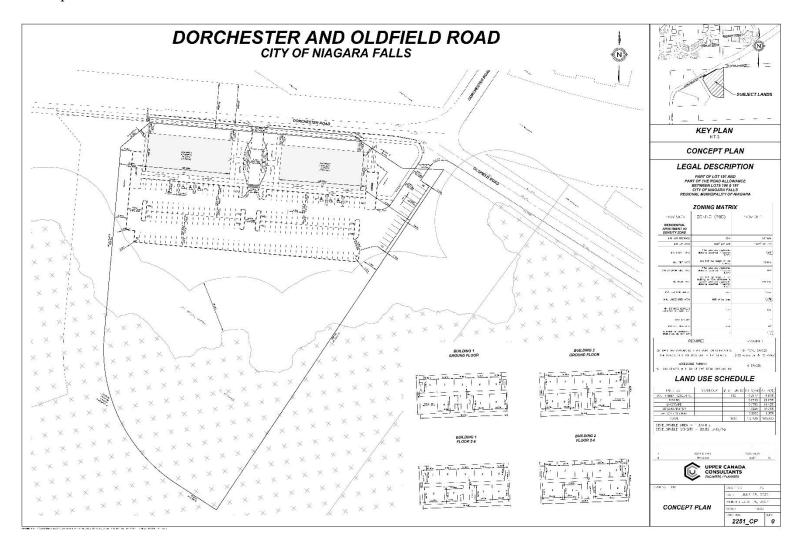


Figure 6: Development Plan



## 9.0 Images

Photo 1: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance, facing southwest



Photo 3: Portion of the Woodlot Confirmed to be Permanently Wet, facing south



Photo 5: Woodlot Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing northwest



Photo 2: Portion of the Woodlot Confirmed to be Permanently Wet, facing south



Photo 4: Woodlot Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing northwest



Photo 6: Woodlot Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing south



Photo 7: Woodlot Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing southwest



Photo 9: Woodlot Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing east



Photo 11: Grass Area Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing northwest



Photo 8: Portion of the Woodlot Confirmed to be Permanently Wet, facing southeast



Photo 10: Woodlot Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing southeast



Photo 12: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance, facing northeast



Photo 13: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance; Grass Area Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing northeast



Photo 15: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance, facing southeast



Photo 17: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance, facing northwest



Photo 14: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance; Grass Area Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing southeast



Photo 16: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance, facing west



Photo 18: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance; Grass Area Test Pit Surveyed at 5m Intervals, facing south



Photo 19: Gravel Storage Area Judgemental Test Pit Survey to Confirm Disturbance, facing north



Photo 20: Sample Disturbed Test Pit

