Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of

Part 1 – Plan Showing Part of Lot 20, 107 Ridge Road, (Formerly Part of Lot 73, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, Geographic Township of King, York County), Now in the Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario

Prepared by:

17-Feb-25

MCM Archaeological Consulting License P354 (Jason Seguin)
MCM P.I.F. # P354-0092-2025

ORIGINAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AS&G Archaeological Consulting Inc. was contracted to conduct a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of Part 1 – Plan Showing Part of Lot 20, 107 Ridge Road, (Formerly Part of Lot 73, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, Geographic Township of King, York County), Now in the Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario.

The proposed development project was triggered by the *Planning Act* and the Archaeological Assessment was performed in advance of an official plan and zoning by-law amendment.

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment (background study) established there is potential for the recovery of archaeological materials within the property. To determine if the archaeological potential classification of the property is relevant, a desktop review of ground conditions was undertaken using contemporary satellite imagery and historical atlas maps.

The Stage 1 desktop review identified that the property retains archaeological potential. **Therefore, the report recommends that a Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the property is required.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Project Manager:	Mr. Jason Seguin (P354)
Project/Field Director:	Mr. Norbert Stanchly (R149)
Report Preparation:	Mr. Norbert Stanchly Mr. Alexander Moore (R1365)
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INTRODUCTION

The *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. O.18, requires anyone wishing to carry out archaeological fieldwork in Ontario to have a license from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM). All licensees are to file a report with the MCM containing details of the fieldwork that has been done for each project. Following standards and guidelines set out by the MCM is a condition of a licence to conduct archaeological fieldwork in Ontario. **AS&G Archaeological Consulting Inc. (AS&G)** confirms that this report meets ministry report requirements as set out in the *2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM 2011) and is filed in fulfillment of the terms and conditions an archaeological license.

1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

This section of the report will provide the context for the archaeological fieldwork, including the development context, the historical context, and the archaeological context.

1.1 Development Context

AS&G Archaeological Consulting Inc. was contracted to conduct a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of Part 1 – Plan Showing Part of Lot 20, 107 Ridge Road, (Formerly Part of Lot 73, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, Geographic Township of King, York County), Now in the Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario.

The proposed development project was triggered by the *Planning Act* and the Archaeological Assessment was performed in advance of an official plan and zoning by-law amendment. The proposed redevelopment for the subject property seeks to demolish the existing residential structure and construct five single-detached dwelling units.

Recent aerial imagery indicates that the property contains an existing one-storey dwelling with an associated garage and asphalt driveway in the northeast portion of the property (municipal address is 107 Ridge Road). The rest of the property is composed of manicured lawns and treed areas. The property is bound to the west and south by residential lots and to the north and east by Ridge Road and Glensteeple Trail respectively. There is a retaining wall present on the easternmost edge of the property near to Glensteeple Trail. The property measures approximately 0.4 hectares in size, measuring approximately 51 metres east to west and approximately 77 metres north to south.

1.2 Historical Context

Several sources were referenced to determine if features or characteristics indicating archaeological potential for Pre-Contact and Post-Contact resources exist within the property. These included contemporary satellite imagery and historical atlas maps.

1.3 Archaeological Context

In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database (O.A.S.D.), an inventory of the documented archaeological record in Ontario. Summary information on the known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the property was obtained from the MCM site database (MCM 2024).

There are eight (8) known archaeological sites within a one-kilometre radius of the property, none of which are located within 300 metres of the property limits (Table 1). There are no known sites located within the property or within 100 metres of the property.

Table 1: Known Archaeological Sites within 1-Km of Property

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type	Current Development Review Status
AlGu-493	Dunham Site (Yonge H1)	Post-Contact		homestead	No Further CHVI
AlGu-461	Harman Farms 2				
AlGu-449	AlGu-449 - P3	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	findspot	
AlGu-448	AlGu-448 - P2	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	findspot	No Further CHVI
AlGu-447		Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	findspot	
AlGu-207	McLeod	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	scatter	
AlGu-136	Bloomington Road	Archaic, Late	Aboriginal	findspot	
AlGu-134	Harman	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	homestead	AlGu-134

1.3.1 Physiography

The Study Area lies within the Schomberg Clay Plains physiographic region (Chapman and Putnam 1984:176-177). This plain comprises three topographic basin areas situated around Schomberg, Newmarket, and the north side of Lake Scugog, along the northern sloped of the Oak Ridges moraine. The Schomberg sediments are typically varved clays with annual layers of 2, 3, 4 or more inches in thickness. The portion of the plain situated around Newmarket and Auroa contains deep deposits of varved clay sediment from glacial Lake Schomberg that are fairly well drained and contain a relatively high silt content. The surface of the plain is gently rolling (Chapman and Putnam 1984:176-177).

Recent aerial imagery indicates that the property contains an existing one-storey dwelling with an associated garage and asphalt driveway in the northeast portion of the property (municipal address is 107 Ridge Road). The rest of the property is composed of manicured lawns and treed areas. The property is bound to the west and south by residential lots and to the north and east by Ridge Road and Glensteeple Trail respectively. There is a retaining wall present on the easternmost edge of the property near to Glensteeple Trail. The property measures approximately 0.4 hectares in size, measuring approximately 51 metres east to west and approximately 77 metres north to south.

AS&G is unaware of any previous findings and recommendations relevant to the current stage of work. There are no unusual physical features that may have affected fieldwork strategy decisions or the identification of artifacts or cultural features. There is no additional archaeological information that may be relevant to understanding the choice of fieldwork techniques or the recommendations of this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND STUDY

A Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment is a systematic qualitative process executed to assess the archaeological potential of a property based on its historical use and its potential for early Euro-Canadian (early settler) and pre-contact Indigenous occupation. The objectives of a Stage 1 Background Study are: 1) to provide information about the property's geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land condition; 2) to evaluate in detail the property's archaeological potential, which will support recommendations for Stage 2 Property Assessment for all or parts of the property if warranted; and 3) to recommend appropriate strategies for Stage 2 property assessment if warranted.

This Stage 1 Background Study was conducted in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists,* set out by the MCM (2011) pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.0.18.

The scope of work for the Stage 1 Background Study consisted of the following tasks:

- **AS&G** requested a Project Information Number (PIF) from the MCM VIA PastPort.
- Contacted the MCM to determine if recorded archaeological sites exist in the vicinity (1-km radius) of the property, through a search of the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database maintained by the MCM.
- Contacted the MCM to determine if there are any known reports of previous archaeological fieldwork within a 50 m radius of the property.
- Conducted a desktop review of the property's physical setting to determine its potential for both historic and pre-contact human occupation, including its topography, hydrology, soils, and proximity to important resources and historical transportation routes and settlements.
- Reviewed the potential for historic period occupation as documented in historical atlases.
- Prepared a report of findings with recommendations regarding the need for further archaeological work if deemed necessary.

In Ontario, the framework for determining the presence of archaeological potential is taken from the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM 2011, Sections 1.3.1 & 1.3.2). Characteristics indicating archaeological potential include the near-by presence of previously identified archaeological sites, primary and secondary water sources, features indicating past water sources, accessible or inaccessible shoreline, pockets of well-drained sandy soil, distinctive land formations that might have special or spiritual places (such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, promontories and their bases, as well as resource areas that include food or medicinal plants, or scarce raw materials), early Euro-Canadian industry, areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, early historical transportation routes, properties listed on a municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* as a federal, provincial, or municipal historic landmark or site; as well as properties that local histories or informants have identified as important locations for historical events, activities, and/or occupations.

Archaeological potential can be determined not to be present for the entire property or a part of it when the area under consideration has been subjected to extensive and deep land alterations that have severely damaged the integrity of any archaeological resources. This is commonly referred to as 'disturbed' or 'disturbance', and it may include quarrying, major landscaping involving grading below topsoil, building footprints, and sewage or infrastructure development. Archaeological potential is not removed where there is documented potential for deeply buried intact archaeological resources beneath land alterations, or where it cannot be clearly demonstrated through background research and property inspection that there has been complete and intensive disturbance of an area.

When complete disturbance cannot be demonstrated in Stage 1, it will be necessary to undertake a Stage 2 Assessment.

The Background Study determined that the following features or characteristics indicate archaeological potential for the property:

- The property is located within an area of early Euro-Canadian settlement.
- The historic lot on which the subject property is situated adjacent to a historic transportation route.
- The property is situated within the Schomberg Clay Plains physiographic region of southern Ontario (Chapman and Putnam 1984).
- There are 8 known archaeological sites within a one-kilometre radius of the property.

2.1 Indigenous Settlement History

The property is situated in an area of Ontario that has a rich and diverse cultural history that extends back at least 11,000 years ago. To provide context for this report, the settlement history is summarized below.

2.1.1 Pre-Contact Indigenous Period

Drawn from Ellis and Ferris (1990), Table 2 provides a general outline of the pre- and post-contact cultural history of Northumberland County, Ontario. The Study Area is situated in an area of Ontario that has evidence of extended periods of human settlement, dating back at least 11,000 years.

Table 2: General Archaeological Chronology for South-Central Ontario

Period	Archeological/Material Culture	Date Range	Comments
PALEO			
Early	Gainey, Barnes, Crowfield, Fluted Points	11,000-10,500 BP	Big game hunters, i.e., caribou
Late	Holcombe, Hi-Lo, Lanceolate	10,500-9,500 BP	Paleo Point Technology
ARCHAIC			
Early	Bifurcate-base, Nettling, Side Notched	9,800-8,000 BP	Nomadic hunters/gathers
Middle	Stanley, Kirk, Brewerton, Laurentian	8,000-4,000 BP	Focused seasonal resource areas
Late	Lamoka, Genesee, Innes, Crawford Knoll	4,500-2,500 BP	Polished/ground stone tools Burial ceremonialism
	Hind	3,000-2,600 BP	
WOODLAND			
Early	Meadowood, Middlesex	2,800-2,000 BP	Introduction of pottery, elaborate burials
Middle	Princess Point, Saugeen, Point Peninsula	2,000-950 BP	Long-distance trade, burial mounds, horticulture

Table 2: General Archaeological Chronology for South-Central Ontario			
Period	**Archeological/Material Culture**	**Date Range**	**Comments**
Late	Pickering, Uren, Middleport (Anishinabek/Iroquois), Algonkian-Wendat Alliance	950-300 BP	Emergence of agricultural villages Large, palisaded villages Trade, alliances, and warfare
HISTORIC			
	Huron, Neutral, Petun, Odawa, Ojibwa Six Nations Iroquois, Ojibwa, Mississauga	350 BP-Present	Mission villages and Reserves
	Euro-Canadian		European settlement

2.1.1.1 Paleo

Archaeological evidence demonstrates that people inhabited South-central Ontario just after the end of the Wisconsin Glacial Period, approximately 11,000 years ago. This early settlement period is known as the Paleo Period (Ellis and Deller 1990). Based upon current archaeological knowledge, Indigenous groups originally living south of the Great Lakes migrated to the area. The settlement patterns of Early Paleo peoples consisting of small bands, i.e., less than 35 individuals, maintained a seasonal pattern of mobility over vast territories. For example, the most studied groups appeared to migrate seasonally between Chatham, Ontario, to the Horseshoe Valley north of Barrie, Ontario (Ellis and Deller 1990).

These Early Paleo sites are typically located in elevated locations, with well-drained loamy soils, with many known sites found on former beach ridges, associated with glacial lakes (Ellis and Deller 1990). These sites were likely formed when they were occupied for short increments, over the course of many years, possibly as communal hunting camps. Their locations appear conducive to hunting migratory mammals, such as caribou (Ellis and Deller 1990).

During the Late Paleo Period (10,500-9,500 BP), the south-central Ontario environment started to become dominated by closed coniferous forests, with only some minor deciduous elements. The hunting landscape had also changed, as many of the large game species that had been hunted in the early part of the Paleo Period either migrated further north, or in some cases, had become extinct, i.e., mastodons and mammoths (Ellis and Deller 1990). Comparable to the early Paleo peoples, late Paleo peoples covered large territories as a response to seasonal resource fluctuations. In Ontario, Late Paleo Period inhabitation appears more frequently in the archaeological record, comparable to the Early Paleo Period. Thus, it has been suggested that migratory populations had increased in size (Ellis and Deller 1990).

2.1.1.2 Archaic Period

During the Early Archaic Period (9,800-8,000 BP), the jack and red pine forests that characterized the Late Paleo environment, were replaced by forests of white pine, with a few correlated deciduous trees (Ellis et al. 1990). Based on material culture, the Early Archaic Period is recognized by the shift to side and corner-notched projectile points (Ellis et al. 1990). Other notable innovations, include the introduction of ground stone tools such as celts and axes. These tools suggest that there was a woodworking industry. Additionally, the presence of these, often large and not easily portable tools, suggests that there may have been a reduction in seasonal movement. However, the current understanding of the Period suspects that population densities were still low, and seasonal territories were still large (Ellis et al. 1990).

During the Middle Archaic Period (8,000-4,000 BP), it is speculated that there was an increase in regional population growth, which precipitated a decrease in overall seasonal migration territory. Additionally, as a consequence of population growth, a shift in subsistence patterns occurred, as more people needed to be supported from the resources contained within the smaller area (Ellis et al 1990). Thus, the Middle Archaic is characterized by the diversification of toolkits and diets, with the introduction of net-sinkers and bannerstones, as well as stone tools specifically designed for the preparation of wild plant foods. The appearance of net-sinkers suggests that fishing was becoming an important aspect of the subsistence economy. In contrast, bannerstones were carefully crafted ground stone devices that served as a counterbalance for *atlatls* or spear-throwers, used in hunting game (Ellis et al 1990).

Another characteristic of the Middle Archaic Period is an increased reliance on local, often poor-quality chert resources, for the manufacturing of projectile points. Unlike earlier periods, when nomadic groups occupied vast territories, at least once in their seasonal migration it was possible for them to visit a primary outcrop of high-quality chert. However, during the Middle Archaic Period, groups inhabited smaller territories, which usually did not contain a source of high-quality raw material, and were forced to use the locally sourced, poorer quality resources (Ellis et al. 1990). It was also during the latter part of the Middle Archaic Period, that long-distance trade routes began to develop, which spanned the northeastern part of the continent. For instance, copper tools, which were manufactured from a source located northwest of Lake Superior, were being widely traded (Ellis et al. 1990).

The trend towards a decreasing territory size and a broadening subsistence economy continued during the Late Archaic Period (4,500-2,500 BP). Similarly, archaeologically Late Archaic sites are more numerous than Early or Middle Archaic sites, which is correlated to an increasing population (Ellis et al. 1990). With

the trend towards larger groups, the first cemeteries have also been dated to the Late Archaic Period. Prior to this, individuals were interred close to the location where they died. Furthermore, during the Late Archaic Period, if an individual died while away from their home territory, the bones would be kept until they could be placed in the group cemetery. Therefore, it is not unusual to find disarticulated skeletons, and/or skeletons lacking minor elements, i.e., fingers, toes and/or ribs (Ellis et al. 1990).

The appearance of cemeteries during the Late Archaic Period has been interpreted as a response to increased population densities. The increased populations also demonstrated evidence of regionalized variation in Late Archaic projectile point styles (Ellis et al. 1990). The differences were likely indicative of the different relationships the people had to the land and waters they inhabited. Additionally, trade networks established during the Middle Archaic continued to flourish. For instance, copper native to northern Ontario and marine shell artifacts from as far away as the Mid-Atlantic coast, are frequently encountered as grave goods. Other artifacts such as polished stone pipes and banded slate gorgets, also appear on Late Archaic sites. One of the more unusual and interesting of the Late Archaic artifacts is the *birdstone*. Birdstones are small, bird-like effigies usually manufactured from green banded slate (Ellis et al. 1990).

2.1.1.3 Woodland Period

For archaeologists, the Early Woodland Period (2,000-2,000 BP) is distinguished from the Late Archaic Period primarily by the addition of ceramic technology. The first pots were crudely constructed, had undecorated thick walls, and were friable. Spence et al. (1990) suggests they were used in the processing of nut oils, which required boiling crushed nut fragments in water and skimming off the oil. As these vessels were not easily portable, individual pots were likely not used for extended periods of time. Additionally, as there are many Early Woodland sites where no pottery was recovered, it has been suggested that these poorly constructed vessels were not utilized by all Early Woodland peoples (Spence et al. 1990).

Other than the limited use of ceramics, there were other subtle differences between the Late Archaic and the Early Woodland Periods. For example, 'pop-eyes', a protrusion from the side of the head, was added to birdstones. Similarly, a slight modification was made to the thin, well-made projectile points made during the Archaic Period, i.e. Early Woodland variants were side-notched rather than corner-notched (Spence et al. 1990). The trade networks which were established in the Middle and Late Archaic Periods, continued to flourish; however, there appeared to be a decrease in the trade of marine shell during the Early Woodland Period. Projectile points crafted from high quality American Midwest materials, began to be found on southwestern Ontario sites, dated towards the end of the Early Woodland Period (Spence et al. 1990).

The Middle Woodland (2,000-950 BP) is characterized by rich, densely occupied sites, which are usually found bordering major rivers and lakes. While these locations were inhabited periodically by earlier peoples, Middle Woodland sites are significant as they represent long periods of continuous occupations, i.e., hundreds of years (Spence et al. 1990). The shift in settlement pattern created large deposits of artifacts, as the sites appear to have functioned as home bases that were occupied throughout the year. Numerous smaller Middle Woodland sites have been found inland, and likely functioned as specialized camps, for the exploitation of local resources (Spence et al. 1990).

The shift to a more sedentary lifestyle also resulted in a shift in subsistence patterns, comparable to the Early Woodland Period. Although they still relied on hunting and gathering, fish became a predominant diet staple, to meet their growing subsistence needs (Spence et al. 1990). Additionally, the people of the Middle Woodland relied more on ceramic technology, with many being heavily decorated with impressed designs covering the entire exterior surface, and the upper portion of the interior of vessels (Spence at al. 1990).

Material culture changes that occurred in the early portion of the Late Woodland (950-300 BP), include the appearance of triangular projectile point styles, first seen with the Levanna form, and a change to more intricate design patterns on ceramics. Designs included cord-wrapped stick decorated ceramics, which were created using the paddle and anvil forming technique (Bursey 1995; Ferris and Spence 1995; Spence et al. 1990; Williamson 1990).

The Late Woodland Period is marked by an increasing reliance on corn (*Zea mays*) horticulture (Crawford et al. 1997; Fox 1990; Martin 2004; Smith 1990; Williamson 1990). Although corn was possibly introduced into southwestern Ontario from the American Midwest as early as 2,500 BP, it was not considered a dietary staple until at three to four hundred years later. From there, corn cultivation gradually spread into south-central and southeastern Ontario. Thus, the Late Woodland Period is widely accepted as the beginning of a reliance on agriculture, for subsistence. Researchers have suggested that a warming trend, which increased the number of frost-free days, was likely a catalyst for the spread of maize into southern Ontario (Stothers and Yarnell 1977). Additionally, sites have been identified in a wider variety of environments, including riverine, lacustrine and wetlands (Dieterman 2001).

In southern Ontario, the first agricultural villages have been dated to approximately 1,200 BP to 700 BP. These sites are typically found on elevated areas, with well-drained sandy soils. These early villages share many characteristics with Iroquoian settlements that were recorded at the time European contact, including longhouses and/or palisades (Dodd et al. 1990; Williamson 1990). However, the scale is much smaller, with early longhouses only averaging 12.4 m in length. Furthermore, the excavation and exposure of cultural features archaeologically

indicate that there were possibly overlapping structures. This has been interpreted as evidence of long-term occupation, as it indicates that the structures were present long enough to require them to be re-built (Dodd et al. 1990; Williamson 1990).

Due to soil depletion resulting from farming, and the scarcity of easily accessible firewood, the Jesuits reported that the Huron moved their villages every 10-15 years (Pearce 2010). Since the more sedentary sites were occupied for considerably longer amounts of time, it is hypothesized that the Indigenous communities relied less heavily on corn. Furthermore, small seasonally occupied sites have been documented, which relate specifically to nut collection, deer procurement, and fishing activities. Thus, the smaller demand on resources within close proximity to the settlement, coupled with the smaller reliance on crops, indicates that they maintained a considerably smaller population size (Pearce 2010).

Around 700-600 BP, the size of villages increased from approximately 0.6 hectares, to approximately 1 to 2 hectares. Correspondingly, the size of longhouses also significantly increased in size to an average of 30 m, with some longhouses being documented as 45 m in length (Dodd et al. 1990; Smith 1990). Although the increase in longhouse size can be explained by the significant increase in overall population within villages, other possible hypotheses include changes to the socio-political and economic structure of the communities (Dodd et al. 1990). For instance, Dodd et al. (1990) has suggested that several smaller communities may have merged to increase protection and defense from neighboring tribes. This hypothesis is supported by the presence of a few sites with up to seven rows of palisades, which indicates the potential need for strong protective measures (Dodd et al. 1990).

With the increase in population and village sizes, it is postulated that there was increased community planning and organization. Whereas longhouses were originally haphazardly placed, the increase in population required more organization. For instance, archaeologists have documented the organization of two or more discrete groups of parallel, tightly spaced longhouses on several sites. It has been hypothesized that the organization and grouping of different habitations may indicate the initial development of clans, a characteristic historically attributed to the Iroquoian peoples (Dodd et al. 1990).

Towards the end of the Late Woodland (approximately 600 BP), village sizes continued to increase, as did longhouse lengths i.e., an average length of 62 m. However, around approximately 500 BP, longhouse lengths become significantly shorter, with an average length of only 30 m (Lennox and Fitzgerald 1990). The significant decrease in the overall length of longhouses in a short amount of time, is not well understood; however, it has been hypothesized that it is directly correlated to introduction of European diseases, i.e., smallpox, which caused a steep reduction in Indigenous population sizes (Lennox and Fitzgerald 1990).

Even with the decrease in the length of longhouses, archaeologists have noted that some village populations continued to grow, with periodic expansions visually documented. With an increase in disease and subsequently a rise in warfare between communities, it is postulated that the expansion was the result of the amalgamation of smaller villages. These sites also appeared to be heavily fortified with many rows of wooden palisades, again supporting the hypothesis that smaller villages united for defensive purposes (Anderson 2009).

2.2 Post-Contact Settlement History

2.2.1 Early Euro-Canadian History

At the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th century, the dispersal of several Iroquoian-speaking peoples by the New York State Iroquois, coupled with the return of the Algonkian-speaking groups from Northern Ontario, formed the post-contact Indigenous occupation landscape of southern Ontario (Schmalz 1991). As European settlers encroached on traditional Indigenous territories, settlement sizes, populations, and material culture shifted. Despite this shift, there remains a continuity from ancient Indigenous groups to the communities written about in historical accounts (Ferris and Spence 2009). Thus, it should be noted that the Indigenous peoples of southern Ontario have deposited archaeologically significant resources throughout the province, demonstrating a shared traditional and continuing history, regardless of whether their presence is recorded in historic Euro-Canadian documents.

The Williams Treaties also had broad implications for the First Nation Communities in Ontario. The Treaties were signed on October 31 and November 15, 1923, by: Commissioner Angus Seymour Williams, representing the Dominion of Canada; Robert Victor Sinclair and Uriah McFadden, representing the Province of Ontario; the Anishinaabe Chippewa of Simcoe (First Nation Communities of Beausoleil, Georgina Island, and Rama); and the Anishinaabe Michi Saagig of the north shore of Lake Ontario (First Nation Communities of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, and Scugog Island) (Government of Canada 1923). The two treaties encompass 12,944,400 acres of land, separated into three distinct tracts. Tract 1 is between the Etobicoke and Trent Rivers, bounded by Lake Ontario's Northern Shore, which then extends north to Lake Simcoe to create Tract 2. Tract 3 includes the area between the Ottawa River and Lake Huron, which is delineated in the North by the Mattawa River-Lake Nipissing and French Line (Government of Canada 1923; Manners 2022). The Williams Treaties were the culmination of almost sixty years of the Chippewa and Mississauga (Michi Saagig) lobbying the Ontario and Canadian governments for protection and respect of their rights to harvest, hunt, fish, and trap on their traditional lands (Manners 2022).

The Williams Treaties were originally designed by the Crown to quell the complaints put forth by the various First Nation communities regarding settlers interfering and encroaching on their traditional lands. Instead, the Williams Treaties effectively obtained large tracts of unceded lands held by the First Nation communities, and removed their rights to harvest, hunt, fish, and trap outside of Reserve lands. Thus, the Treaties led to long-standing disputes between the First Nation Communities and the government, regarding compensation, land, harvesting, and access to traditional lands used for hunting, fishing, and trapping (Government of Canada 2018ab). In 1992, the Chippewa and the Mississaugas filed a lawsuit against the Crown, under the claim that the Crown had not met their financial and legal obligations set forth in the Williams Treaties (Manners 2022). The matter would remain before the courts until 2018, when the Canadian and Ontario Governments formally settled the matter with the First Nation Communities, by including a billion dollars in compensation, the ability to add up to 11,000 acres to their respective reserve land base(s), and the recognition of the First Nation Communities to hunt, fish, harvest, and trap on their traditional lands. Additionally, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, issued a formal apology on behalf of the Government of Canda, in recognition of the negative impacts the Williams Treaties had on the Chippewas and the Mississaugas (Government of Canada 2018ab; Manners 2022).

In 1791, the Provinces of Upper Canada and Lower Canada were created from the former Province of Quebec by an act of British Parliament. At this time, Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and was tasked with governing the new province, directing its settlement, and establishing a constitutional government modelled after that of Britain's (Coyne 1895). In 1792, Simcoe divided Upper Canada into 19 counties consisting of previously settled lands, new lands opened for settlement, and lands not yet acquired by Crown. These new counties stretched from Essex in the west, to Glengarry in the east. By 1798, population levels in Upper Canada had increased to a point where it was desirable to create smaller administrative regions and thus, the Home District was created that comprised the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, York, and Simcoe.

2.2.2 Post-Contact History of York County

The following information is derived from a previous report conducted by AS&G Archaeological Consulting Inc. (AS&G 2024: 16-17):

York County

York County was first purchased by the British in 1783 from the Mississauga people and became the Province of Upper Canada in 1791. One year later the first lieutenant-governor, Colonel John Graves Simcoe, formed 19 counties including York County which originally comprised modern day York Region, Peel Region,

Halton Region, Toronto, parts of Durham Region and the City of Hamilton. Eleven townships formed York County and included East Gwillimbury, East York, Etobicoke, Georgina, King, Markham, North Gwillimbury, North York, Scarborough, Vaughan, Whitchurch and York.

King Township

The Township of King was surveyed under John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (now southern Ontario) in 1800. The township was named in honour of Major John King, English Under-Secretary of State. King remained sparsely settled until the building of roads in the 1820s greatly improving travel. A number of the earliest land grants of 200 acre lots were to Quakers from Pennsylvania and other United Empire Loyalists. Early settlement started along Yonge Street then moved west where mills were located along the streams of the Oak Rigdes Moraine. From a population of 20 residents in 1800, to 160 in 1809, 394 in 1823 and then by 1850 there were 5,754. As the settlement grew, services and trades such as blacksmiths, coopers, cordwainers, as well as general stores, hotels, inns, taverns, churches and schools (King Township Heritage Planning 2024)

Town of Aurora

Aurora is located on Yonge Street in York County. Part of the town is in King Township and the other is in Whitechurch. The town was formerly known as Machell's Corners and was incorporated as a village in 1863 (Miles & Co. 1878).

The town, as noted was originally known as Machell's Corners, as Richard Machell, a merchant, acquired the corner at Yonge and Wellington in 1804. A settlement developed in the area and, in 1806 the Quakers established a school. The first post office opened in 1846, and by 1854 the village was officially named Auora. In 1853, the Ontario, Huron and Simcoe railroad arrived. With the arrival of the railroad came hotels (built near the tracks), the timber industry increased through the area and 'stage routes' – merchants standing on the corner of Yonge bidding for product – came to an end as the railroad allowed for quicker travel and transportation of good (Johnston, 1972). By the time of the arrival of the railway many of the larger lots had been subdivided in order to provide small building plots. This was especially true for Lot 80, "in both King and Whitechurch, immediately south of Wellington Street" (Aurora Heritage Committee 1984:3 in ASI 2014).

In 1885, Aurora was described as a 'good market' with "nearly all the farm produce of the county consumed in Toronto or… shipped thence to eastern and western markets" (Adam, 1885). The village continued to grow throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. When The Regional Municipality of York was founded (January 1st, 1971) Aurora's boundaries were extended and today continues to remain a thriving community.

2.3 Past Land Use of the Property

The property is located within Part of Historic Lot 73, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, Geographic Township of King, York County.

2.3.1 Historic Atlas Maps

Tremaine's 1860 Historical Atlas Map of the County of York, Canada West, indicates that Lot 73, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, Geographic Township of King, York County, including the current property limits, was owned by a "James Lloyd". The map does not depict any structures within the limits of the property but illustrates that the Northern Railway passed through the westernmost portion of the lot.

The *Walker & Miles 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario* indicated that Lot 73, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, Geographic Township of King, York County, including the current property limits, was owned by a "Jas McCoy" and depicts a single structure and an orchard within the historic lot.

In discussing 19th century mapping, it must be remembered that historical county atlases were produced primarily to identify factories, offices, residences, and landholdings of subscribers, and were funded by subscription fees. Landowners who did not subscribe were not always listed on the maps. As such, all structures were not necessarily depicted or placed accurately. Regardless of these limitations, the property depicted on these maps was illustrated directly adjacent to historical transportation routes.

In summary, the Stage 1 background study indicates that there is the potential for the recovery of Pre-Contact or Post-Contact early Euro-Canadian archaeological resources within the property associated with the current development project. Therefore, the property retains archaeological potential.

An inventory of the documentary record generated is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Inventory of the Documentary Record

Document Type	Description
Field Notes	• This report constitutes the field notes for this project
Images	• Not applicable
Maps	• The report figures represent all of the maps generated in the field.

3.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

Section 1.3.1 of the *2011 MCM Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* outlines features and characteristics of a property which indicate archaeological potential. Based on the research outlined in the preceding sections of this report, these criteria are addressed as follows:

Previously identified archaeological sites: No previously identified archaeological sites are recorded in the MCM Archaeological Sites Database within the property limits, however there are 8 known sites within a one-kilometre radius of the property.

Water sources: There are no primary water sources located within 300 metres of its limits.

Elevated topography: The property does not contain any examples of elevated topography.

Pockets of well-drained sandy soil: The property is located withing the Schomberg Clay Plains, a physiographic region charactered by deposits of clay sediment that are fairly well drained (Chapman and Putnam 1984:176-177).

Distinctive land formations: No distinctive land formations are identified within the property.

Resource areas: No resource areas are identified within the property.

Areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement: The property is within an area of early Euro-Canadian settlement.

Property that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations: We are not aware of any such property.

In summary, the archaeological potential of the property is supported by the following factors:

- The property is located within an area of early Euro-Canadian settlement.
- The historic lot on which the property is situated is located in close proximity to historic transportation routes.
- The Study Area lies within the Schomberg Clay Plains physiographic region (Chapman and Putnam 1984:176-177). This plain comprises three

topographic basin areas situated around Schomberg, Newmarket, and the north side of Lake Scugog, along the northern sloped of the Oak Rigdes moraine. The Schomberg sediments are typically varved clays with annual layers of 2, 3, 4 or more inches in thickness. The portion of the plain situated around Newmarket and Auroa contains deep deposits of varved clay sediment from glacial Lake Schomberg that are fairly well drained and contain a relatively high silt content. The surface of the plain is gently rolling (Chapman and Putnam 1984:176-177).

- There are 8 known archaeological sites within a one-kilometre radius of the property.

Section 1.3.2 of the 2011 MCM Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists outlines features that may indicate the removal or disturbance of archaeological potential. Such features may include quarrying, major landscaping involving grading below topsoil, building footprints, sewage and infrastructure development, etc.

The Stage 1 background study concludes that portions of the property proposed for development do not exhibit archaeological potential due to previous deep and extensive disturbances (i.e. the location of the existing residential structure and associated asphalt driveway), however, the remaining portion of the property still possess archaeological potential. Therefore, the report recommends that the property requires a Stage 2 archaeological assessment.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The report makes recommendations only regarding archaeological matters.

The Stage 1 archaeological background study determined there is potential for the recovery of archaeologically significant materials within portions of the property proposed for development. **Therefore, the report recommends that a Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the property is required.**

As ploughing is not possible or viable within the property the recommended strategy is test pit survey at intervals of five meters. The test pit strategy must follow standards as outlined in Section 2.1.2 of the 2011 MCM Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. More specifically,

1) Test pits must be spaced at maximum intervals of 5 metres in areas less than 300 m from any feature of archaeological potential.
2) Test pit to within 1 metre of all built structures (both intact and ruins), or until test pits show evidence of recent ground disturbance.

3) Test pits must be at least 30 cm in diameter.
4) Each test pit must be excavated by hand, into the first 5 cm of subsoil and examine the pit for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill.
5) Test pit soils must be screened through mesh no greater than 6 mm.
6) If artifacts are encountered, they must be collected according to their associated test pit.
7) If artifacts are encountered the consultant archaeologist must follow Section 2.1.3 of the 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists to determine if a Stage 3 archaeological assessment is necessary.
8) All test pits will be backfilled unless instructed not to by the landowner.

5.0 ADVICE ON COMPLICANCE WITH LEGISLATION

Section 7.5.9, Standard 1a
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.

Section 7.5.9, Standard 1b
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 Archaeological Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Section 7.5.9, Standard 1c
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*.

Section 7.5.9, Standard 1d
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.

Section 7.5.9, Standard 2

Not applicable.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES

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2024 Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment 511, 521, 531 & 543 Wellington Street West Part of Lot 1 and Part of the 40 Acre Reserve Registered Pan 102 Formerly Part of Lot 80, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, Geographic Township of King (South), York County Now in the Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario

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2018a Williams Treaties First Nations Settlement Agreement. Electronic Document: https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1542370282768/1542370308434

2018b Statement of Apology for the Impacts of the 1923 Williams Treaties. Speaking Notes for the Honourable Carolyn Bennett. Electronic Document: https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1542393580430/1542393607484

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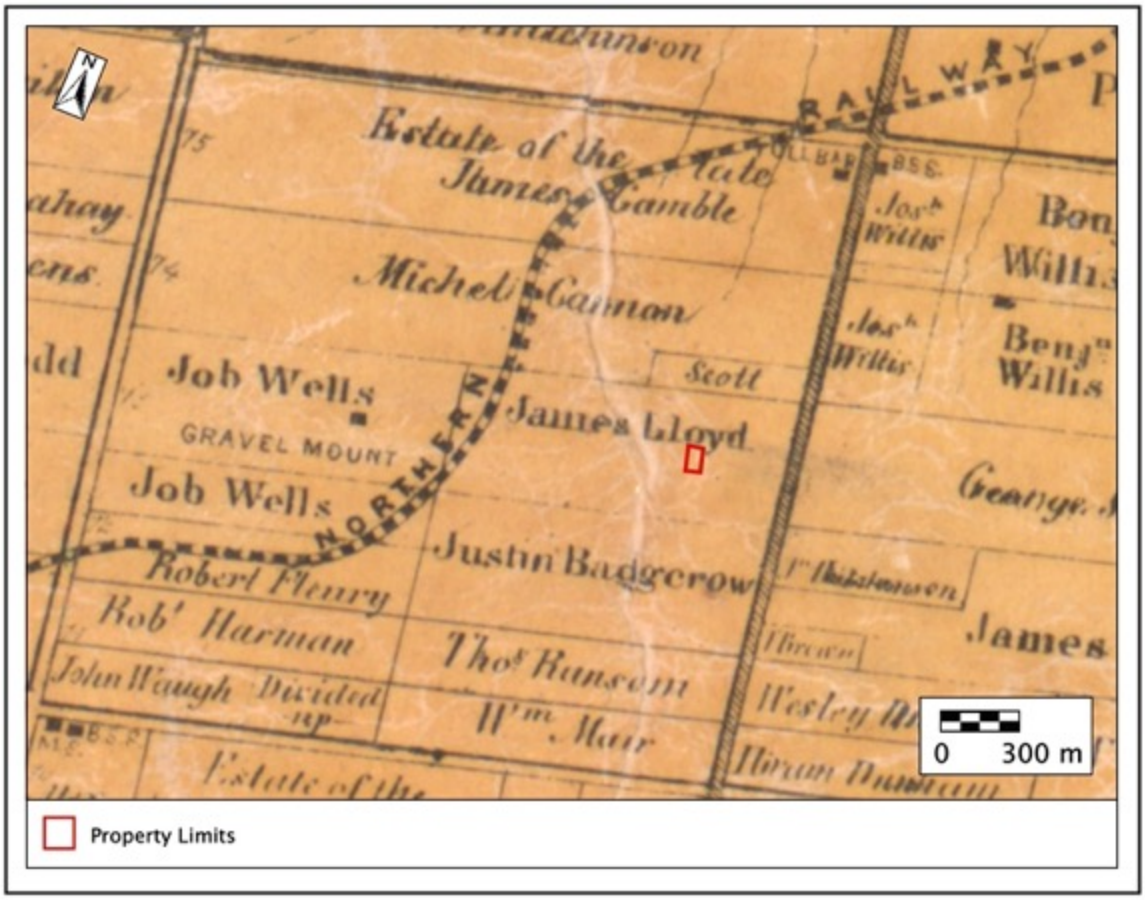
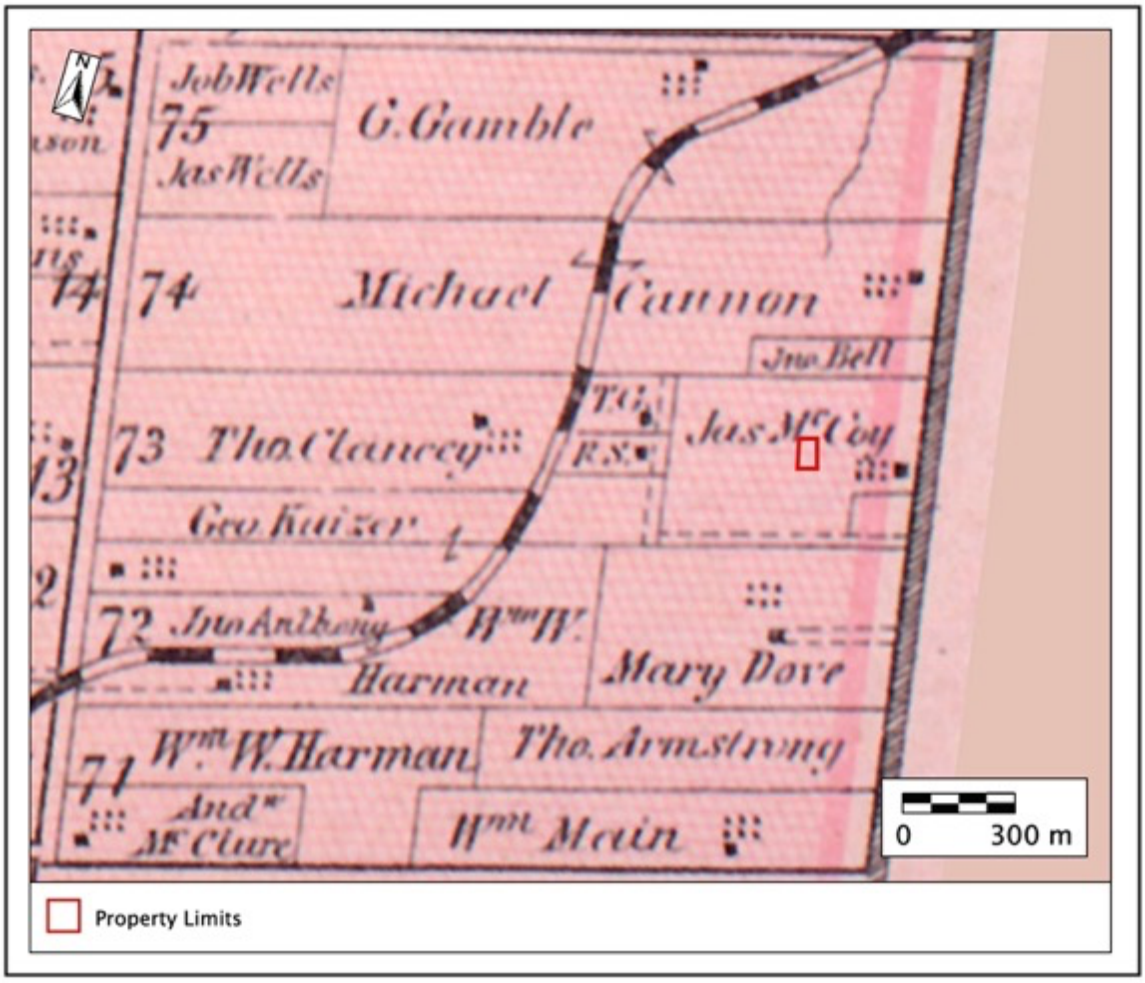
8.0 MAPS

Map 1: General Location of Property Limits (MNRF 2024).

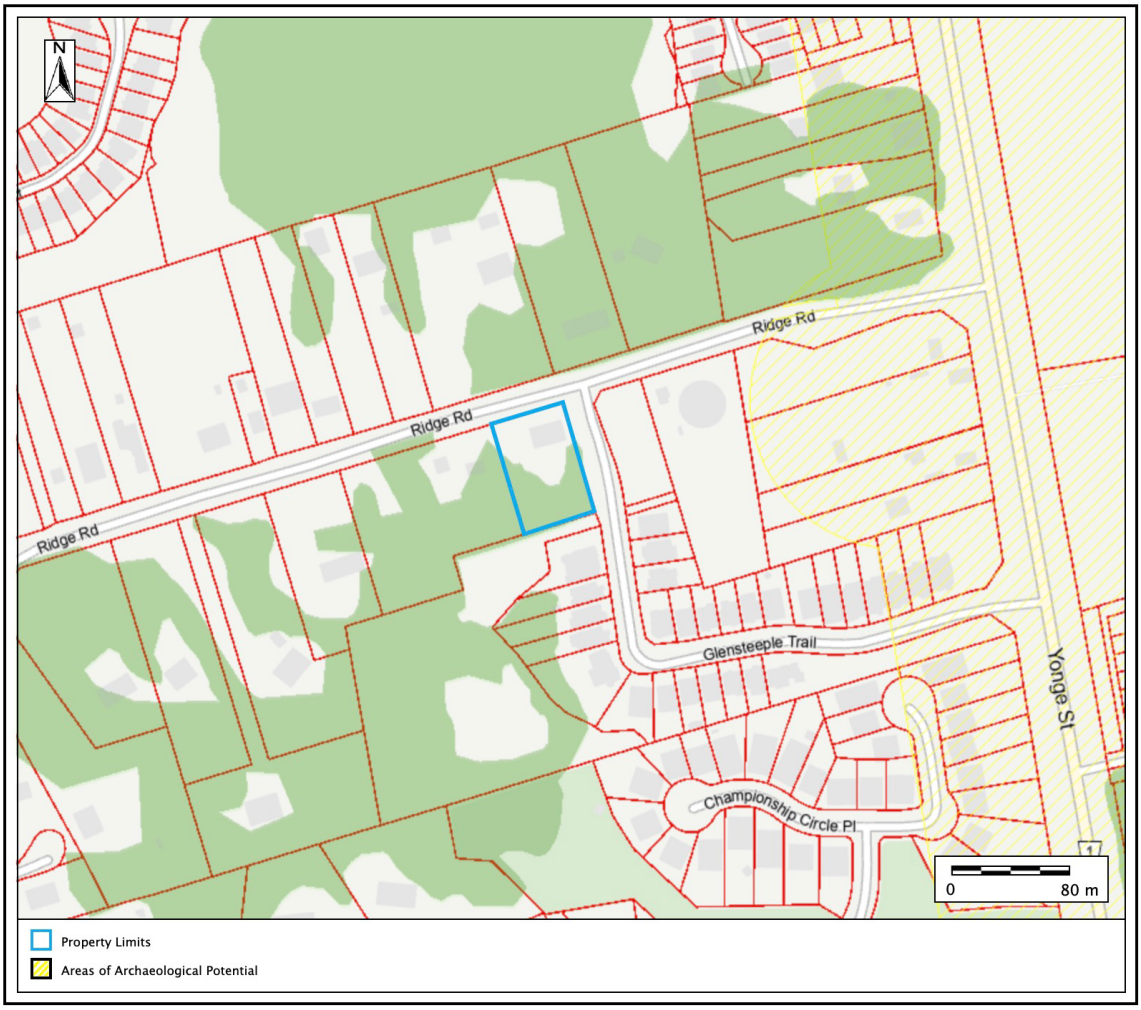
Map 2: Property Limits Overlaid on Recent Aerial Imagery (MNRF 2024).



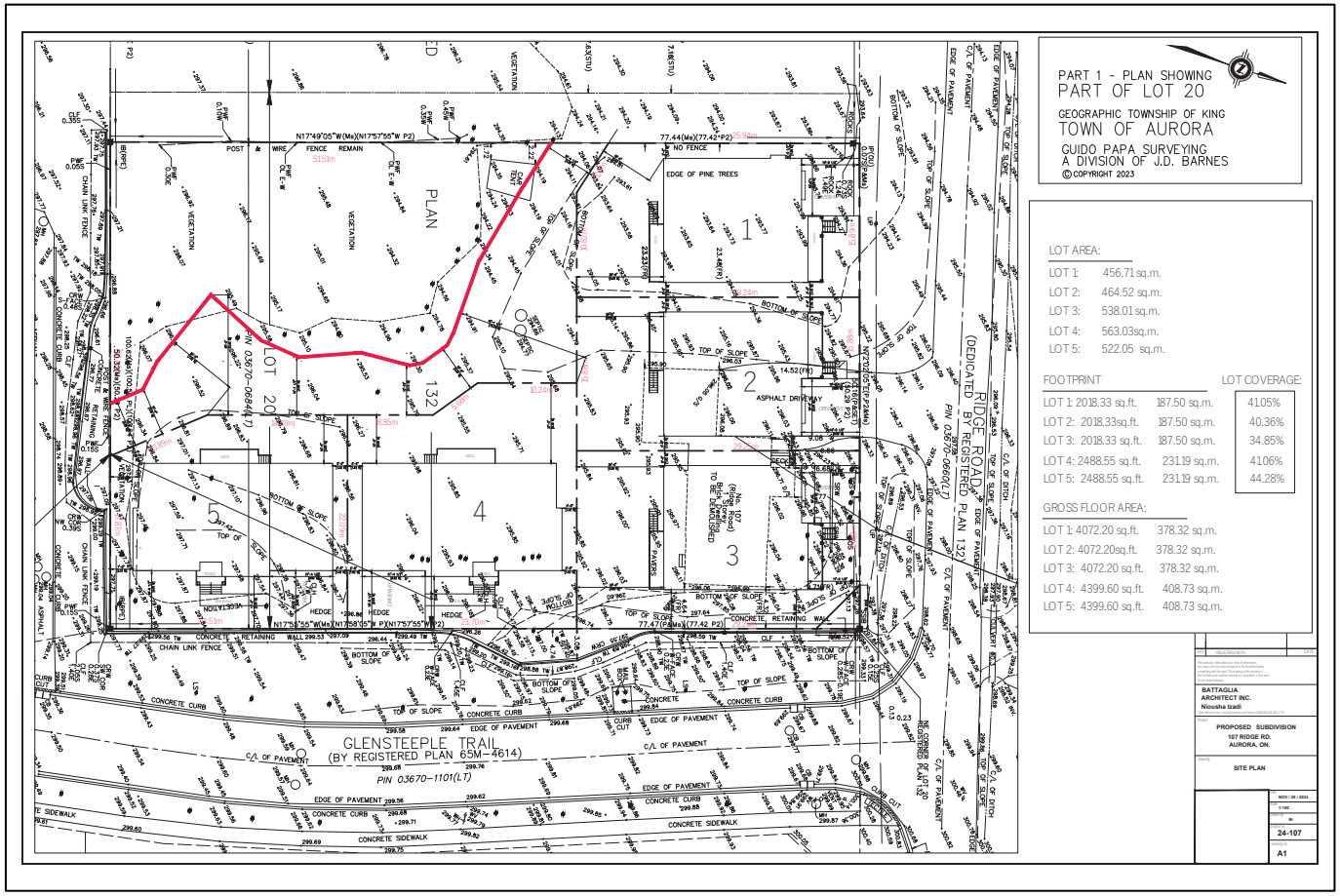
Map 3: Property Limits Overlaid on 1860 Historical Atlas Map (Tremaine 1860).



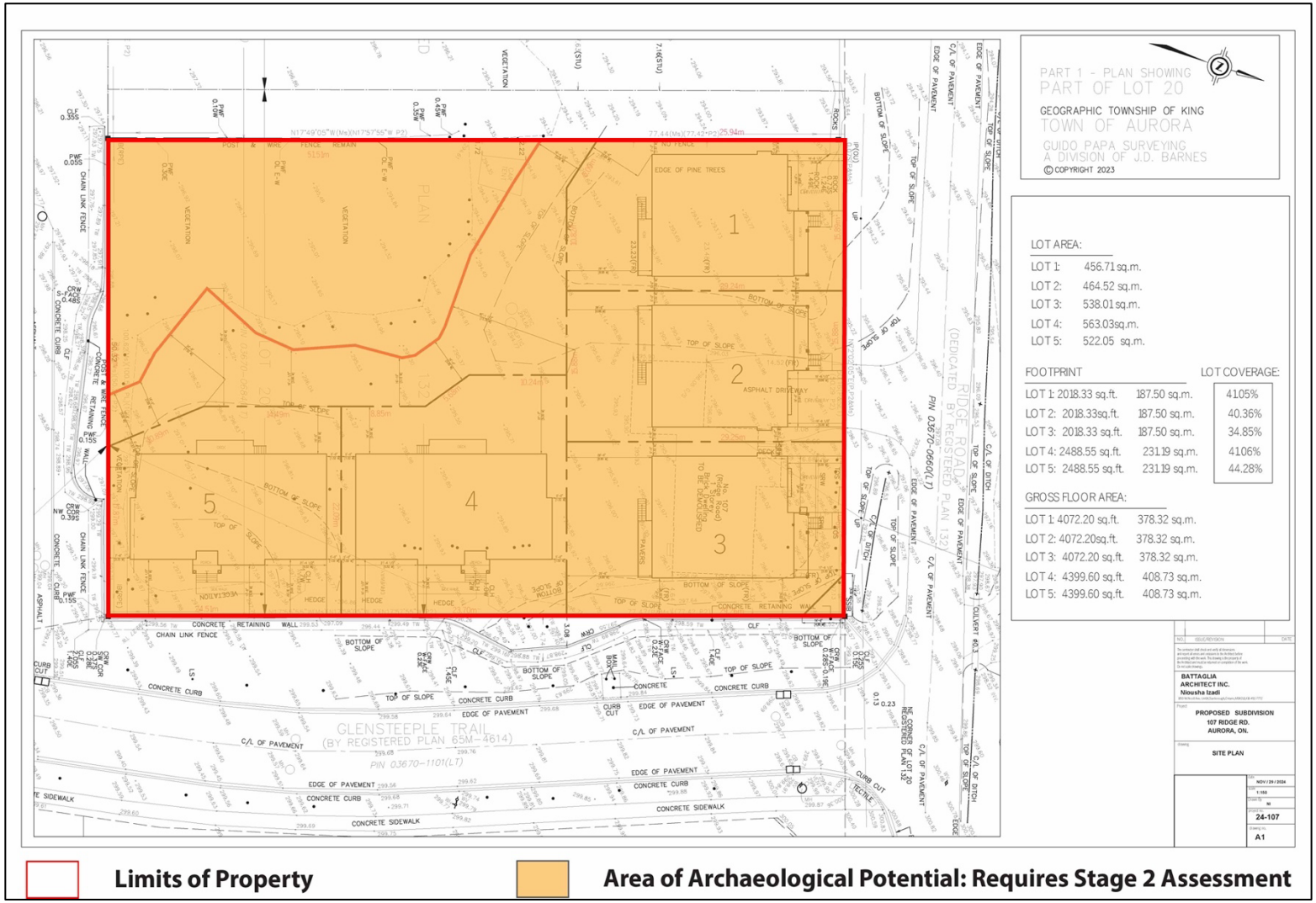
Map 4: Property Limits Overlaid on 1878 Historical Atlas Map (Walker & Miles 1878).



Map 5: Property Limits in Relation to Areas of Archaeological Potential (York Region 2024.)



Map 6: Site Plan provided by proponent.



Map 7: Results of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment