

Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of Part of 1891 Reidsville Road, Part of Lot 30, Concession 9, Township of North Dumfries, Former County of Waterloo, now Township of North Dumfries, Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Original Report

Prepared for:

The Proponent

Archaeological Licence: P449 (Bhardwaj)

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Executive Summary

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by the Proponent to undertake a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of Part of 1891 Reidsville Road, Part of Lot 30, Concession 9, Township of North Dumfries, in the former County of Waterloo, now in the Township of North Dumfries, Regional Municipality of Waterloo. The project area is approximately 0.48 hectare and forms part of the larger property at 1891 Reidsville Road.

The Stage 1 background research entailed consideration of the proximity of previously registered archaeological sites and the original environmental setting of the project area, along with nineteenth- and twentieth-century settlement trends. The evaluation of archaeological potential also took into consideration the general guidance from *The Regional Municipality of Waterloo Archaeological Facilities Master Plan* (Region of Waterloo, 1989). This research indicated there is potential for encountering both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources within the project area.

The Stage 2 field assessment was conducted by means of a test pit survey in all areas of archaeological potential. Despite careful scrutiny, no archaeological resources were encountered during the course of the survey. As such, it is recommended that no further archaeological assessment of the project area is required.

The balance of the larger property at 1891 Reidsville Road was not assessed as part of this project. Should any future development or related impacts to this area be proposed, a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment is required.



Project Personnel

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- **Project Manager:** Robb Bhardwaj, Master of Arts (P449), Associate Archaeologist, Project Manager, Planning Assessment
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1.0 Project Context

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by the Proponent to undertake a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of Part of 1891 Reidsville Road, Part of Lot 30, Concession 9, Township of North Dumfries, in the former County of Waterloo, now in the Township of North Dumfries, Regional Municipality of Waterloo (Figure 1). The project area is approximately 0.48 hectare and forms part of the larger property at 1891 Reidsville Road (Figure 2).

1.1 Development Context

This assessment was conducted under the senior project management of Jennifer Ley (R376) and the project management and direction of Robb Bhardwaj (P449); the work was completed under Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (hereafter referred to as the Ministry) Project Information Form P449-0865-2025. All activities carried out during this assessment were completed in support of a severance application, as required by the Township of North Dumfries and the *Planning Act* (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 1990). All work was completed in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Ministry of Culture, 1990; now the Ministry) and the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (hereafter the *Standards*) (Ministry of Tourism and Culture, 2011; now the Ministry).

The work carried out for this assessment was also guided by *The Regional Municipality of Waterloo Archaeological Facilities Master Plan* (Region of Waterloo, 1989), which provides further refinement regarding potential buffers surrounding any noted features or characteristics that affect archaeological potential.

Permission to access the project area and to carry out all activities necessary for the completion of the assessment was granted by the proponent on August 18, 2025. Buried utility locates were obtained prior to the initiation of fieldwork.



1.2 Historical Context

1.2.1 Indigenous Land Use and Settlement

Southern Ontario has been occupied by human populations since at least the retreat of the Laurentide glacier approximately 11,000 years Before the Common Era (B.C.E.). Populations at this time would have been highly mobile, inhabiting a boreal parkland similar to the modern sub-arctic. By approximately 8000 B.C.E., the environment had progressively warmed (Edwards and Fritz, 1988) and populations now occupied less extensive territories (Ellis and Deller, 1990).

Between approximately 8000-3500 B.C.E., the Great Lakes basins experienced low-water levels, and many sites that would have been located on those former shorelines are now submerged. This period produces the earliest evidence of heavy woodworking tools, an indication of greater investment of labour in felling trees for fuel, to build shelter, and watercraft production. These activities suggest prolonged seasonal residency at occupation sites. Polished stone and native copper implements were produced by approximately 6000 B.C.E.; the latter was acquired from the north shore of Lake Superior, evidence of extensive exchange networks throughout the Great Lakes region. The earliest evidence for cemeteries dates to approximately 2500-1000 B.C.E. and is indicative of increased social organization, investment of labour into social infrastructure, and the establishment of socially prescribed territories (Ellis *et alia*, 1990; Ellis *et alia*, 2009; Brown, 1995:13).

Between 1000-500 B.C.E., populations continued to practice residential mobility and to harvest seasonally available resources, including spawning fish. The Woodland period began around 500 B.C.E. and exchange and interaction networks broadened at this time (Spence *et alia*, 1990:136, 138). By the end of the first millennium B.C.E., evidence exists for macro-band camps, focusing on the seasonal harvesting of resources (Spence *et alia*, 1990:155, 164). By the year 500 in the Common Era (C.E.), there is macro botanical evidence for maize in southern Ontario. Although it is thought that maize only supplemented people's diet, there is phytolith evidence for maize in central New York State by 300 B.C.E., indicating that similar analyses conducted on Ontario ceramic vessels of the same period could result in the same evidence here (Birch and Williamson, 2013:13-15).



As is evident in detailed Anishinaabek ethnographies, winter was a period during which some families would depart from the larger group as it was easier to sustain smaller populations (Rogers, 1962). It is generally understood that these populations were Algonquian speakers during these millennia of settlement and land use.

From the beginning of the Late Woodland period at approximately 1000 C.E., lifeways became more similar to that described in early historical documents. Between approximately 1000-1300 C.E., the communal site is replaced by the village focused on horticulture. Seasonal dispersal of the community for the exploitation of a wider territory and more varied resource base was still the practice (Williamson, 1990:317). By 1300-1450 C.E., however, this episodic dispersal waned and populations now occupied sites throughout the year (Dodd *et alia*, 1990:343). Within the Toronto area, these communities represent the ancestors of the Wendat. From 1450-1649 C.E. this process continued with the coalescence of these small villages into larger communities (Birch and Williamson, 2013). The ancestral Wendat on the north shore of Lake Ontario gradually began to move northward during this period. Through this process, the socio-political organization of the First Nations, as described historically by the French and English explorers who first visited southern Ontario, was developed. By 1600 C.E., the Wendat were the northernmost of the Iroquoians, inhabiting the area between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay known historically as Wendake and forming a confederation of individual nations.

By 1600 C.E., the Confederation of Nations were encountered by the first European explorers and missionaries in Simcoe County. In the 1640s, devastating epidemics and the traditional enmity between the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat (and their Algonquian allies such as the Nippissing and Odawa) led to their dispersal from southern Ontario. Shortly afterwards, the Haudenosaunee established a series of settlements at strategic locations along the trade routes inland from the north shore of Lake Ontario (Williamson, 2013). By the 1690s, however, the Anishinaabeg were the only communities with a permanent presence in southern Ontario. From the beginning of the eighteenth century to the assertion of British sovereignty in 1763, there was no interruption to Anishinaabeg control and use of southern Ontario.



1.2.2 Post-Contact Settlement

Between the Lakes Purchase (Treaty 3) and the Haldimand Tract (Treaty 4)

The project area is within Treaty 3, the Between the Lakes Purchase, and Treaty 4, also known as the Crown Grant to the Six Nations, the Haldimand Tract, or the Simcoe Patent.

Following the American Revolutionary War, the British Crown needed to find lands on which to settle fleeing United Empire Loyalists, including approximately 2,000 members of the Six Nations confederacy who had fought alongside British troops. Due to their service to the Crown during this war and the dispossession of Indigenous lands in New York State by American forces, the English colonial government offered to protect Six Nations peoples and give them land within the boundaries of English territory in Upper Canada. On August 8, 1783, Lord North instructed the Governor of Quebec, Sir Frederick Haldimand, to set apart land for the Six Nations people and ensure that they carried on their hunting and fur trading with the British. The Crown initially planned to provide lands for Loyalist settlers in Quebec and southeastern Ontario, including providing land in the Bay of Quinte region for Six Nations peoples. This was not suitable for many of the members of Six Nations and a contingent of approximately 1,800 community members, led by Joseph Brant, requested land north of Lake Erie along the Grand River. Brant felt that the location in the Bay of Quinte was too isolated and that they could be better served by being closer to the Six Nations communities that chose to remain in the United States in western New York (Surtees, 1984).

Recognizing that under the terms of the Royal Proclamation the land needed to be purchased prior to settlement, Colonel John Butler was sent to negotiate with the Mississaugas of the Credit for lands east of Lake Ontario and north of Lake Erie. On May 22, 1784, the Mississaugas of the Credit agreed to cede approximately 3,000,000 acres (1,214,056 hectares) of land containing all or part of what are now Brant, Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, and Wellington Counties as well as the Regions of Haldimand-Norfolk, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, and Waterloo. In exchange for these lands, the Mississaugas received £1180.74 worth of trade goods (Government of Canada, 2016; Surtees, 1984). Of the 3,000,000



acres (1,214,056 hectares), approximately 650,000 acres (263,045 hectares) were set aside for the settlement of Six Nations people.

On October 25, 1784, Haldimand signed a proclamation that allotted land six miles (10 kilometres) on either side of the Grand River from its mouth at Lake Erie to its headwaters near Dundalk, Ontario. This land was to be used solely by the people of Six Nations, who were also granted the right to sell or lease the land within this territory providing the Crown was first offered to purchase the land (Filice, 2018; Surtees, 1984). Under the terms of the Haldimand Proclamation, Six Nations people were authorized to “settle upon the Banks of the River” and were allotted “for that Purpose six miles [10 kilometres] deep from each Side of [its] beginning at Lake Erie, [and] extending in the Proportion to [its] Head” (Filice, 2016; Johnston, 1964).

Due to inconsistencies with the description of the lands in the original surrender, Treaty 3 was renegotiated on December 7, 1792, to clarify what was ceded. The inconsistencies largely revolved around the northern boundary of the Treaty area, and in particular the area set aside for Six Nations settlement along the Haldimand Tract. The signees of the treaty on the side of the British included Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, John Butler, Robert Kerr, Peter Russell, John McGill, and Davie William Smith. The signees of the Treaty on the side of the Mississauga included Chiefs Wabakyne, Wabanip, Kautabus, Wabaniship, and Mottotow (Government of Canada, 2016; Surtees, 1984).

As part of the 1792 renegotiation of Treaty 3, the Crown also redefined the boundaries of the Haldimand Tract. Upon review of the Haldimand Proclamation, politician and Indian Department official Sir John Johnson noted an error involving the location of the northern boundary of the tract. Haldimand had mistakenly assumed in 1784 that the headwaters of the Grand River resided within the area negotiated under Treaty 3. However, the northern reach of the Haldimand Tract was within lands that were not negotiated until 1818 under Treaties 18 and 19 (Filice, 2016; Government of Canada, 2016; Surtees, 1984). In order to clarify the boundaries of the tract, the Crown appointed surveyor Augustus Jones to complete a survey of the Haldimand Tract in 1791. In so doing, Jones redefined the borders of the Six Nations’ land parcel. This included defining the northern



limit of the Haldimand Tract as Jones Baseline near the Town of Fergus in the Township of Centre Wellington. In addition, Jones established straight-lined boundaries, rather than sinuous boundaries following every curve in the river, which can still be seen in today's municipal boundaries. Six Nations and Joseph Brant were not in agreement with this new definition and petitioned the government for control over the tract. This eventually led to the 1793 Simcoe Patent, which defined the rules of land ownership and leasing within the revised 30,000 acres (12,141 hectares) of land provided to Six Nations. This 1793 patent did not address those lands northeast of the Jones Baseline and continues to be a source of dispute between Six Nations and the Crown.

The difference between the original land grant of the Haldimand Proclamation and the Simcoe Patent was significant. Not only did the new territory remove the upper 275,000 acres (111,289 hectares) of the tract north of Jones Baseline, Jones' redefinition of the boundaries along the portions of the Haldimand Tract within the Treaty 3 lands did not consistently provide six miles (10 kilometres) on either side of the Grand River. Six Nations of the Grand River contend that they were not involved in the renegotiation of this land and therefore the redefined territory is not consistent with the terms of the original land grant. In particular, it is the view of Six Nations of the Grand River that it was the responsibility of the Crown to provide the land that was agreed to in the Haldimand Proclamation (Six Nations of the Grand River, 2020).

Following the establishment of the Haldimand Tract, Six Nations of the Grand River began to negotiate leases within the Haldimand Tract as a means of generating income for the community. These transactions were made under the understanding that this would provide a continuous revenue stream for the Confederacy and that these represented long term leases rather than formal land sales (Six Nations of the Grand River, 2020). The Crown was responsible for administering these funds, which Six Nations of the Grand River argue they never received. Many of the leases were confirmed by the Crown in 1834-5, although unauthorized sales and squatting by settlers remained a significant issue (Johnston, 1964; Lytwyn, 2005). In 1841, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Samuel P. Jarvis, informed the Six Nations of the Grand River that the only way to keep white intruders off their land would be for the Crown to manage these lands



on behalf of the Nation, to be administered for their sole benefit. Under this plan, the Six Nations of the Grand River would retain lands that they actually occupied and a reserve of approximately 20,000 acres (8,094 hectares) near the present-day city of Brantford. This transfer of land to the Crown was made by the Six Nations in January 1841 (Johnston, 1964; Lytwyn, 2005).

This history and those surrenders are still contested by the Confederacy and there are numerous specific land claims that have been filed by the Six Nations of the Grand River with the federal government regarding lands within the Haldimand Tract.

Township of Dumfries

The Township of Dumfries was sold as Block 1 of the Six Nations Iroquois Reserve (or the Haldimand Tract) by Colonel Brant to Mr. Philip Stedman on February 5, 1798 for £8841. This land equalled an area of approximately 38,164 hectares. Upon his death, the land passed to Mr. Stedman's sister, Mrs. Sparkman, who then sold the land to Honourable Thomas Clarke. By 1816, Clarke was unable to keep up with the payments, and as a result sold Block 1 to Honourable William Dickson for £24,000. Mr. Dickson originated from Dumfries, Scotland, before settling in Niagara or Newark. In 1816, along with the assistance of Mr. Absalom Shade, Mr. Dickson searched for suitable places to start a town, and had the land surveyed, calling it the Township of Dumfries after his place of birth. A suitable place to start a town was found at the junction of the Grand River and Mill Creek. Initial settlement and industry began later in 1816, with most settlement focused within the south of the township. By 1817, the township had a population of 38 families, amounting to 163 people. In 1820, Mr. Dickson paid a Mr. John Telfer to travel to Scotland and enlist more settlers and landowners in the township. In the same year, industries in the northern part of Dumfries included Shade's Grist Mill, a sawmill in modern day Cambridge, the Dumfries Mills, and a distillery (Waterloo Region Museum, 2021).

Settlement did not proceed with much vigour until *circa* 1825 when it saw an influx of Scottish immigrants, and by 1832 every plot of the tract was filled (Waterloo Region Museum, 2021). The first municipal meeting for the Township of Dumfries was held in 1819, and these meetings continued until 1836, at which



time the Provincial Legislature passed a new law that allowed taxpayers of the township to elect three Township Commissioners. In 1842, Alex Buchanan and Hiram Capron were elected as District Councillors, and by 1850, taxpayers were allowed to elect additional councillors to manage township business (The Township of North Dumfries, no date). In 1852, the Territorial Bill of the Hincks-Morin Government came into effect, and the township of Dumfries was divided into North Dumfries and South Dumfries. North Dumfries remained in the County of Waterloo, and South Dumfries became part of the County of Brant (Young, 1880). On January 1, 1973, as a result of the introduction of Regional Government Structure, the current form of the Township of North Dumfries was established (The Township of North Dumfries, no date; Waterloo Region Museum, 2021).

Reidsville

Reidsville was a small settlement located at the crossroads of present-day Reidsville Road and Alps Road in Dumfries Township. The settlement was named after John Reid, who purchased property there in 1831 and constructed a log house. By 1834, the log house became the meeting place of a Debating Society, members of which included John Reid, John Black, Thomas and James Dagiessh, William Vietch, Alex Turnbull, Thomas Ritchie, William Hastie, Andrew Mathieson, James Cunningham, Andrew Elliot, John Currie, John Johnston, George Cunningham, Alex Beckett, James Oliver, Thomas Cleghorn, and others. In 1857, the Reid family established a shingle and sawmill on a small stream feeding into Cedar Creek, known as the Reid Brothers, mill.

Early curling matches were played on a pond adjacent to the mill (Waterloo Region Museums, 2021).



REID BROTHERS,
Combination
STEAM SAW, PLANING AND CHOPPING MILLS,
North Dumfries, Lot 31, 10th Con.

Constantly on hand a full supply of **Lumber, Lath, and Shingles.**
All other building materials of best quality sold on reasonable terms.
Planing and Matching done at all times. Terms reasonable.

Ayr Post Office, - County of Waterloo.

**An advertisement for the Reid Brothers located in Reidsville, in the 1878
Waterloo County Directory (Waterloo Region Generations, no date).**

In 1885, John Reid's son, Walter Reid, constructed a Queen-Anne style brick home on his father's property in Reidsville, known as Harmony Grove. The house still remains to the present-day and is a designated heritage building (The Township of North Dumfries, 2025).



**A black and white photograph of Harmony Grove in Reidsville, date unknown
(Waterloo Region Generations, no date).**



Community of Ayr

The village dates to 1824, when Abel Mudge constructed a sawmill and grist mill at the junction of Smith's Creek (now the Nith River) and Cedar Creek. Historically, the Nith River was a prominent navigable waterway on the route from Brantford to Lake Erie via the Grand River; the village's situation on the Nith during this period aided its importance. The settlement was originally known as Mudge's Mills until 1840 when the name was changed to Ayr (Janusas, 1988). A few years later, Abel Mudge petitioned the County and had a road built between his establishment and Roseville to the north in an effort to open up the area to settlers and development. This road was built in 1826 and was called Northumberland Street (Rayburn, 1997; Watson, 1967).

Settlement in the area around Mudge's Mills began to increase significantly in the 1830s and 1840s, with a largely Scottish population, most farmers, settling in the area. To the east of Mudge's Mills was Jedburgh which featured a flour mill and distillery established by the Scottish immigrant John Hall. The location of this site is commemorated by Jedburgh Pond and Hall Street, located in the northeast part of Ayr. The third hamlet was known as Nithvale, located west of Mudge's Mills. A flour mill and two sawmills were established in the 1830s at Nithvale. These three settlements would eventually join to create the present limits of the Village of Ayr (Rayburn, 1997; Watson, 1967). Remnants of the mills remain to the present-day, and form cultural heritage landscapes within the village. A foundry was established by John Watson in 1840 near the junction of Stanley Street and the Nith River that originally produced cast iron pots and stoves and was later expanded to produce agricultural implements including high quality mowers, reapers, and threshing machines. It was a notable business given that its products were known throughout the Dominion of Canada and it was one of the largest employers in the township (Rayburn, 1997; Watson, 1967). By the early 1860s, Ayr included a grist mill, a fulling and carding mill, a tannery, two stores, one blacksmith, two tailors, a cooper and two carpenters, a library, a fire hall and a school (Rayburn, 1997; Simpson, 1975; Watson, 1967). By 1867, the population of Ayr had risen by 1,000, from 230 in 1846 (Janusas, 1988).



The Village of Ayr retains the majority of its nineteenth-century buildings and landscapes to the present-day.

Credit Valley Railway

The Credit Valley Railway Company was incorporated in 1871 to build a railway line between Toronto and Orangeville and the Credit River Valley (Heritage Mississauga, 2009a). The project was backed by George Laidlaw, a Scot who immigrated to Canada in 1855. Laidlaw was known as the “Prince of the Bonus Hunters” based on his ability to successfully find government agencies and municipalities willing to subsidize the construction of new railway lines (Boles, 2019). Survey work was completed in 1873, and construction began in 1874. Several branches were added to the line in subsequent years.

The first section of track from Parkdale in Toronto to the Town of Milton was opened in 1877. Construction on the railway reached the Forks of the Credit by 1879, with a station at the northern end of what was at the time the longest curved timber trestle bridge in the province, spanning 1,146 feet through the river valley at a height of 85 feet (Scheinmann, A. et alia, 2009). The line was completed in 1881, but its construction nearly bankrupted the company. The line was established in direct competition with the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railway in the hopes of stimulating trade and economic opportunities in the outlying areas. In 1883, the line was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway (Heritage Mississauga, 2009b; Scheinmann, A. et alia, 2009). The railway line remains in operation as part of the Canadian Pacific Railway Galt Subdivision and provides a passenger rail service.

1.2.3 Review of Map Sources

A review of nineteenth-century mapping was completed to determine if these sources depict any nineteenth-century Euro-Canadian settlement features that may represent potential historical archaeological sites within or adjacent to the project area. Historical map sources are used to reconstruct/predict the location of former features within the modern landscape by cross-referencing points between the various sources and then georeferencing them in order to provide the most accurate determination of the location of any property from historical



mapping sources. The results can be imprecise (or even contradictory) because sources of error, such as the vagaries of map production, differences in scale or resolution, and distortions caused by the reproduction of the sources, introduce error into the process. The impacts of this error are dependent on the size of the feature in question, the constancy of reference points on mapping, the distances between them, and the consistency with which both are depicted on historical mapping.

In addition, not all settlement features were depicted systematically in the compilation of these historical map sources, given that they were financed by subscription, and subscribers were given preference with regards to the level of detail provided. Thus, not every feature of interest from the perspective of archaeological resource management would have been within the scope of these sources.

On the 1861 *Tremaine Map of the County of Waterloo* (Tremaine, 1861) (Figure 3), the project area is located within the north half of Lot 30, Concession 9. The project area is under the ownership of Andrew Mathison with a residence located within the centre of the parcel, approximately 250 metres to the northeast. The project area fronts an early settlement road, present-day Reidsville Road. A watercourse, Cedar Creek, is illustrated as approximately 50 metres to the east.

The 1881 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Waterloo* (Parsell and Co., 1881)(Figure 4) focuses on presenting the layout of lots and concessions, as well as transportation routes and watercourses. Only key settlements features and certain residences are mapped. As was noted above, subscribers were often given preference when illustrating residences – the 1881 *Atlas* lists at least 625 residents as settled within the Township of North Dumfries, and only a very small number of residences are illustrated, despite this number. Cedar Creek is illustrated approximately 75 metres east of the project area, and the Credit Valley Railway, approximately 175 metres east.

A small crossroads settlement is illustrated to the north of the project area on both maps, known as Reidsville, established in the 1830s (Section 1.2.2). Given the lack of a store and post-office, Reidsville does not appear labelled as such on



nineteenth century mapping, however, mill and factories, as well as a school building are indicated in this location.

Early nineteenth century topographic mapping was reviewed for the presence of potential historical features. Land features such as waterways, wetlands, woodlots, and elevation are clearly illustrated on the topographic map series, along with roads and structure locations. On the 1916 Galt Topographic Sheet (Department of Militia and Defence, 1916) (Figure 5), the project area is illustrated within a cleared area of land, within close proximity to a woodlot on the west side of Cedar Creek. The woodlot is illustrated approximately 75 metres to the east, and Cedar Creek is approximately 100 metres to the east. As previously, there are no structures illustrated within the project area limits. The project area continues to front Reidsville Road, which now has a curved diversion to the south, which remains to the present-day. The former Credit Valley Railway, now Canadian Pacific Railway, is illustrated approximately 250 metres to the east.

On the 1994 Cambridge Topographic Sheet (Natural Resources Canada, 1994) (Figure 5) was also reviewed to understand more modern changes to the landscape. The project area is almost enclosed by woodlot on the north and east sides with two waterbodies within close proximity, located close to Cedar Creek, the course of which is now mapped approximately 50 metres to the east. A branch of the creek further east is now also flanked by wetland. The project area is vacant, but a major gas main is depicted traversing the south end.

Contour lines across both topographic sheets indicate an elevation of between approximately 975-1,000 feet (297-304 metres) above sea level.

1.2.4 Review of Aerial and Satellite Imagery

In order to further illustrate the land use of the project area, twentieth-century aerial imagery and twenty-first-century satellite imagery was reviewed (Google Earth Pro, 2025; Hunting Survey Corporation Limited, 1954)(Figure 6).

On aerial imagery dated to 1954, the project area is located within a rural agricultural landscape, overlaying part of an agricultural field. The woods associated with the Roseville Swamp - Cedar Creek Wetland Complex are clearly



shown adjacent to the east. A clearing in the woodlot to the north appears to be related to access for building to the northeast. As previously, no structures are shown within the project area.

On satellite imagery dated to 2006, the project area remains within a rural agricultural landscape. A linear scar for the buried gas main is shown on the south side of the project area, with a clearing extending eastward through the trees. A residence is now shown further to the northeast, with an access driveway from Reidsville Road located approximately 15 metres to the north. The woods forming part of the Roseville Swamp - Cedar Creek Wetland Complex is immediately adjacent to the east, along with a rectangular pond on Cedar Creek, approximately 25 metres to the northeast.

1.3 Archaeological Context

This section provides background research pertaining to previous archaeological fieldwork conducted within and in the vicinity of the project area, its environment characteristics (including drainage, soils, surficial geology, topography), and current land use and field conditions.

1.3.1 Registered Archaeological Sites

In order that an inventory of archaeological resources could be compiled for the project area, three sources of information were consulted: the site record forms for registered sites housed at the Ministry, published, and unpublished documentary sources, and the files of Archaeological Services Inc.

In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database, which is maintained by the Ministry. This database contains archaeological sites registered within the Borden system. The Borden system was first proposed by Dr. Charles E. Borden and is based on a block of latitude and longitude. Each Borden block measures approximately 13 kilometres east-west by 18.5 kilometres north-south and is referenced by a four-letter designator. Sites within a block are numbered sequentially as they are found. The project area is located within the AhHc Borden block.



According to the Archaeological Sites Database, 12 archaeological sites have been registered within a one-kilometre radius of the project area (Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, 2025). The closest registered site is the Cressman (AhHc-19) site, a Late Woodland/Middle Archaic midden, located approximately 598 metres to the east of the project area. A detailed summary of nearby sites is available in Appendix A.

1.3.2 Previous Assessments

During the course of the background research, no previous archaeological assessments were identified within 50 metres of the project area.

1.3.3 Physiography

The project area is situated within the kame moraines of the Waterloo Hills physiographic region of southern Ontario. The rolling terrain of ridges and hills in the region was formed as till and kame moraines. Flowing southward through the moraines is the Grand River spillway comprised of level alluvial terraces (Chapman and Putnam, 1984).

Soil deposits within the project area comprise clay to silt-textured till derived from glaciolacustrine deposits or shale (Ontario Geological Survey, 2025).

The closest watercourse is Cedar Creek, a regulated creek located approximately 48 metres to the northeast of the project area (Grand River Conservation Authority, no date). A regulated pond is also located within the immediate vicinity of the project area. The creek forms part of the Roseville Swamp - Cedar Creek Wetland Complex, a Provincially Significant Wetland (Grand River Conservation Authority, no date; Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2026; Region of Waterloo, 2023).

1.3.4 Existing Conditions

The fieldwork was conducted on November 27, 2025, beginning with a review of the physical features of the subject property. The approximate 0.48-hectare project area comprises a grassed and treed area fronting Reidsville Road. The south portion of the property forms part of a clearly marked Enbridge gas



easement (Figure 2). The project area is bound by Reidsville Road to the west, a grassed area and trees to the north, a woodlot and wetland to the east and agricultural fields to the south.

1.3.5 Review of Archaeological Potential

The *Standards*, Section 1.3.1 stipulates that undisturbed lands within 300 metres of primary water sources (lakes, rivers, streams, creeks), secondary water sources (intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps), ancient water sources (glacial lake shorelines indicated by the presence of raised sand or gravel beach ridges, relic river or stream channels indicated by clear dip or swale in the topography, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes, cobble beaches), and accessible and inaccessible shorelines (bluffs, swamps or marsh fields by the edge of a lake, sandbars stretching into marsh) are considered, at a generic level, to exhibit archaeological potential.

Potable water is the single most important resource necessary for any extended human occupation or settlement. Since water sources have remained relatively stable in south-central Ontario after the Pleistocene era, proximity to water can be regarded as a useful index for the evaluation of archaeological site potential. Indeed, distance from water has been one of the most common variables used for predictive modelling of site location.

Other geographic characteristics that can indicate pre-contact archaeological potential include elevated topography (eskers, drumlins, large knolls, plateaux), pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially near areas of heavy soil or rocky ground, and distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places for Indigenous populations, such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, and promontories and their bases. There may be physical indicators of their use by Indigenous peoples, such as burials, structures, offerings, and rock paintings or carvings. Resource areas, including food or medicinal plants (migratory routes, spawning areas, prairie) and scarce raw materials (quartz, copper, ochre, or outcrops of chert), are also considered characteristics that indicate pre-contact archaeological potential.



Under the refined criteria outlined in the *Regional Municipality of Waterloo Archaeological Facilities Master Plan* (Region of Waterloo, 1989), areas of high archaeological potential within the Region of Waterloo are defined by buffers of 150 metres around physiographic, geological, and soil features, registered and unregistered Indigenous sites, and watercourses or waterbodies. The project area is adjacent to the Roseville Swamp - Cedar Creek Wetland Complex.

For the post-contact period, Section 1.3.1 of the *Standards* stipulates those areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, including places of early military or pioneer settlement (pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches, and early cemeteries, are considered to have archaeological potential. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local, provincial, or federal monuments or heritage plaques. Also considered to have archaeological potential are early historical transportation routes (trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes), properties listed on a municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* or a federal, provincial, or municipal historical landmark or site, and properties that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations.

The majority of early nineteenth-century farmsteads, which are arguably the most potentially significant resources and whose locations are rarely recorded on nineteenth-century maps, are likely to be captured by the basic proximity to water model, since these occupations were subject to similar environmental constraints. An added factor, however, is the development of the network of concession roads and railroads through the course of the nineteenth century. These transportation routes frequently influenced the siting of farmsteads and businesses. Accordingly, the *Standards* considers undisturbed lands within 100 metres of early settlement roads or railroads to have potential for the presence of Euro-Canadian archaeological sites.

The Regional Municipality of Waterloo Archaeological Facilities Master Plan considers a similar suite of criteria or indicators (Region of Waterloo, 1989). Under the refined criteria, there is potential for historical sites within 150 metres



of settlement roads. The project area fronts an early settlement road, present-day Reidsville Road.

Due to the proximity of a wetland complex and an early settlement road, the project area retains potential for encountering Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources.

2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 2 field assessment was conducted in order to inventory, identify, and describe any archaeological resources extant within the project area prior to development. All fieldwork was conducted under the field direction of Igor Naumov (R1385) and was carried out in accordance with the *Standards*. The weather conditions were appropriate for the completion of fieldwork, permitting good visibility of the land features.

Representative photographs documenting the field conditions during the Stage 2 fieldwork are presented in Section 8.0 of this report, and photo locations and field observations have been compiled on project mapping (Images 1-5; Figures 7 and 8). Field observations and photographs were recorded with a Trimble Catalyst Global Navigation Satellite System receiver using World Geodetic System 1984.

2.1 Areas of No Potential

The presence of an Enbridge gas easement traversing the south portion of the project area was confirmed by roadside signage (Image 1), with public locates, where the three buried gas lines were cleared marked (Image 2), and project mapping prior to fieldwork, accounting for approximately 63% of the project area. This area would have been entirely disturbed during the construction of the various gas lines. In accordance with the *Standards*, Section 1.3.2, and Section 2.1, Standard 2b, these areas of deep and extensive land disturbance do not retain archaeological potential and were not tested.



2.2 Test Pit Survey

The remainder of the project area, approximately 37%, comprising maintained lawn with trees in the north, was assessed by means of a test pit survey (Images 3-4). In accordance with the *Standards*, Section 2.1.2, Standard 2, the test pit survey was conducted at five-metre intervals. Test pits were hand excavated at least five centimetres into the subsoil, and all soil was screened through six-millimetre mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. Test pits were examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, and evidence of fill. All test pits were at least 30 centimetres in diameter and excavated within one metre of all disturbances where possible. Upon completion, all test pits were backfilled.

Intact test pit soil profiles were encountered across the test pit area. The typical intact soil profile comprised approximately 29 centimetres of a very dark brown (10YR 2/2) loamy sand A-horizon, overlying a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand (Image 5). As the survey progressed closer to the easement, gravel was found in the test pits.

3.0 Record of Finds

Despite careful scrutiny, no archaeological resources were found during the Stage 2 field assessment. Written field notes, annotated field maps, Global Positioning System logs, and other data related to the archaeological assessment of the study corridor are located at Archaeological Services Inc.

The documentation and materials related to this project will be curated by Archaeological Services Inc. until such a time that arrangements for their ultimate transfer to His Majesty the King in right of Ontario, or other public institution, can be made to the satisfaction of the project owner(s), the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and any other legitimate interest groups.

4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by the Proponent to undertake a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of Part of 1891 Reidsville Road, Part of Lot 30, Concession 9, former Township of Dumfries, County of Waterloo, now in



the Township of North Dumfries, Regional Municipality of Waterloo. The project area is approximately 0.48 hectare and forms part of the larger property at 1891 Reidsville Road.

The Stage 1 background research entailed consideration of the proximity of previously registered archaeological sites and the original environmental setting of the project area, along with nineteenth- and twentieth-century settlement trends. The evaluation of archaeological potential also took into consideration the general guidance from *The Regional Municipality of Waterloo Archaeological Facilities Master Plan* (Region of Waterloo, 1989). This research indicated there is potential for encountering both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources within the project area.

The Stage 2 field assessment was conducted on November 27, 2025, by means of a test pit survey. Despite careful scrutiny, no archaeological resources were encountered during the course of the survey.

5.0 Recommendations

In light of these results, and in accordance with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*, the following recommendation is made:

1. No further archaeological assessment of the project area is required.
2. The balance of the larger property at 1891 Reidsville Road was not assessed as part of this project (Figure 9). Should any future development or related impacts to this area be proposed, a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment is required.

NOTWITHSTANDING the results and recommendations presented in this study, Archaeological Services Inc. notes that no archaeological assessment, no matter how thorough or carefully completed, can necessarily predict, account for, or identify every form of isolated or deeply buried archaeological deposit. In the event that archaeological remains are found during subsequent construction activities, the consultant archaeologist, approval authority, and the Archaeology Program Unit of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism must be immediately notified.



The above recommendations are subject to Ministry approval, and it is an offence to alter any archaeological site without Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism concurrence.

6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

Archaeological Services Inc. advises compliance with the following legislation:

- This report is submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 2005, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, a letter will be issued by the Ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.
- It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeology Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.



- The Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) requires that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.
- Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and may not be altered, or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological license.

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8.0 Images



Image 1: An Enbridge sign marking the presence of the Enbridge gas easement within the property.



Image 2: Public locate stakes marking the presence of three gas lines within the Enbridge gas easement.



Image 3: Field crew conducting a test pit survey.



Image 4: Field crew conducting a test pit survey.

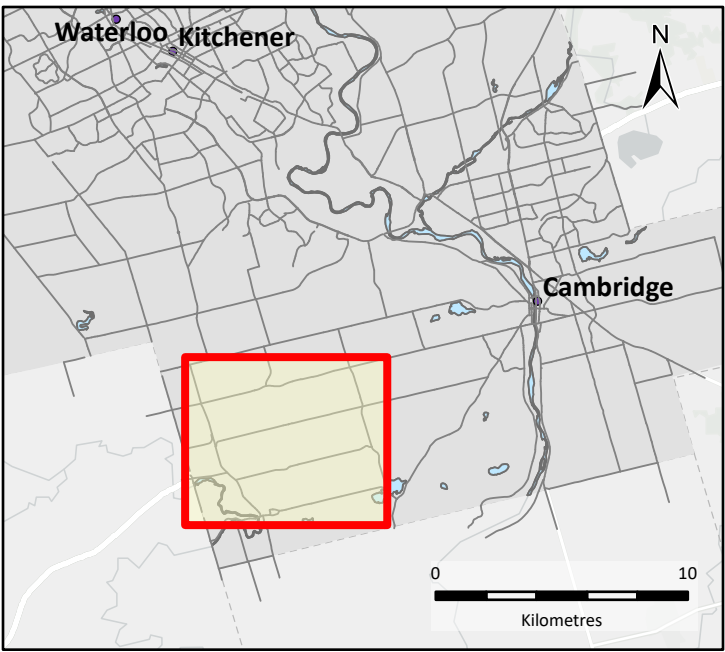


Image 5: Intact test pit on the north side of the project area.

9.0 Maps

See following pages for detailed assessment mapping and figures.





SUBJECT PROPERTY

Sources: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri

Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 Scale: 1:25,000
 Scale Inset: 1:300,000
 Page Size: 11 x 17



ASI Project No: 25PL-142
 Date: 11/4/2025 9:47 PM

Drawn By: aclish
 File: 25PL142_Fig1



Figure 1: Location of the Subject Property







	 PROJECT AREA	Source: Region of Waterloo - Information Technology Services (GIS), Region of Waterloo, Microsoft, Vantor	 0 35 Metres	
	 1891REIDSVILLE ROAD PROPERTY BOUNDARY		 LIMIT OF ENBRIDGE GAS EASEMENT WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA	Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:1,100 Page Size: 11 x 17
	 PROPERTY PARCEL			

Figure 2: Existing Conditions of Project Area

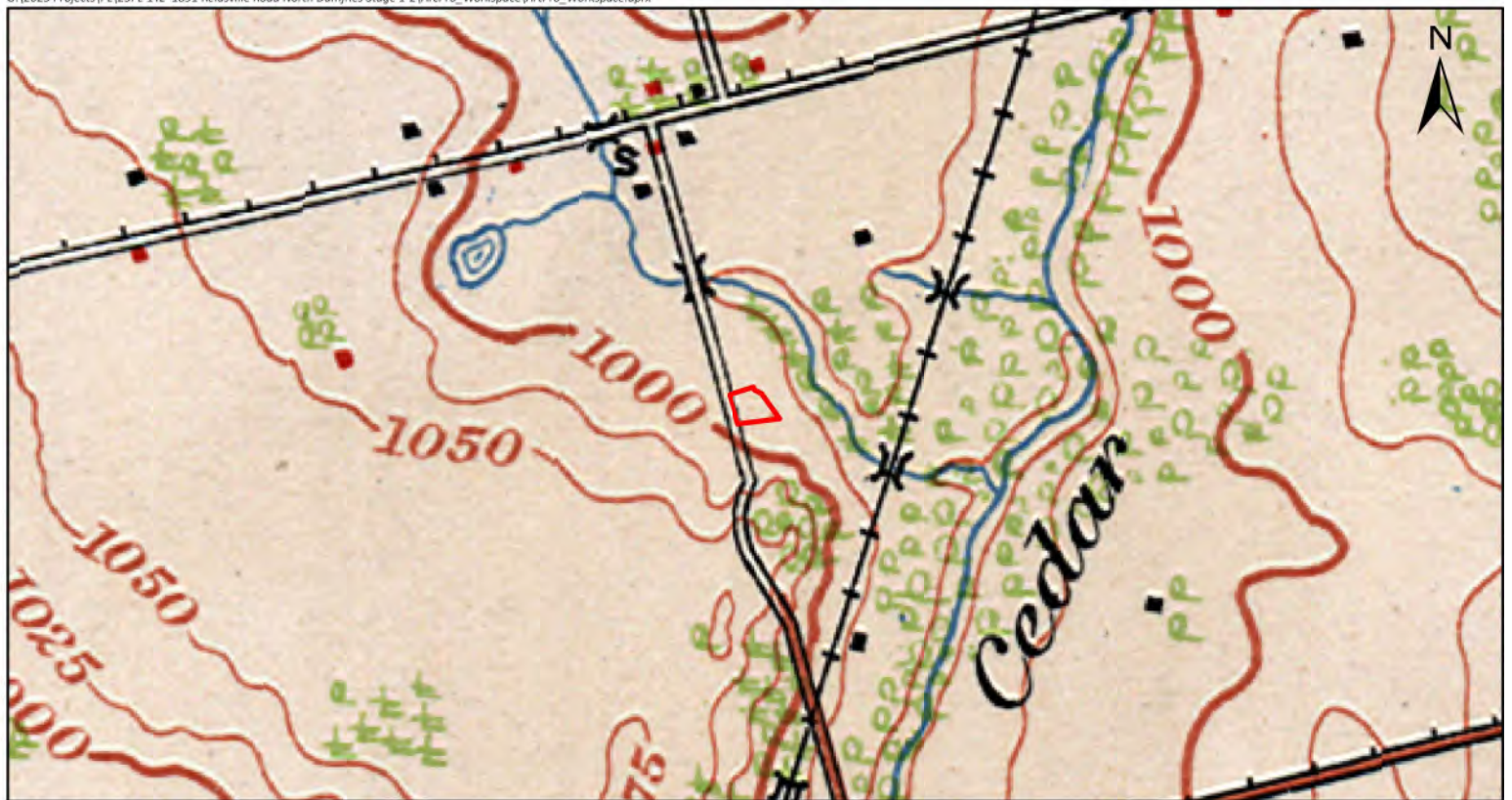


Figure 2: Project Area located on the 1861 Tremaine Map of the County of Waterloo

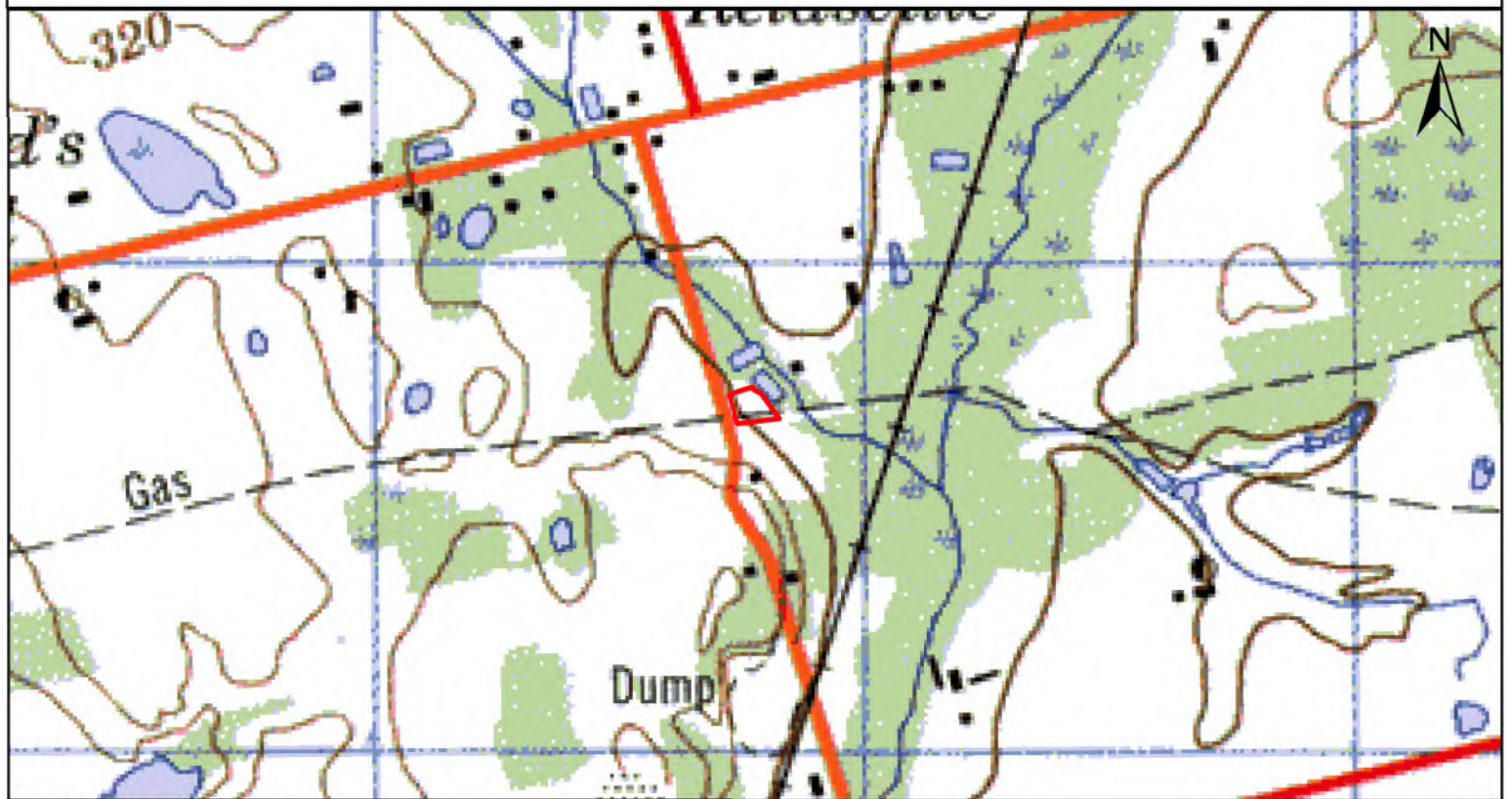


Figure 3: Project Area located on the 1881 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Waterloo

	 PROJECT AREA	Source: Tremaine Map of the County of Waterloo (1861); Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Waterloo (1881)	0 500  Metres	
			Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:15,000 Page Size: 8.5 x 11	ASI Project No.: 25PL-142 Date: 11/5/2025



1916 Galt Topographic Sheet



1994 Cambridge Topographic Sheet



 PROJECT AREA

Source:
Department of Militia and Defence, 1916
(Galt Sheet); National Topographic Service,
1994 (Cambridge Sheet)

0 500



Metres

Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Scale: 1:15,000
Page Size: 8.5 x 11

ASI Project No.: 25PL-142

Drawn By: pbikouliis
File: 25PL142_Fig4

Date: 11/5/2025

Figure 5: Project Area located on Twentieth Century Topographic Mapping



1954



2006

	 PROJECT AREA	Source: Ontario Aerial Survey; Google Earth (2006)	 0 150 Metres	
		Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:5,000 Page Size: 8.5 x 11	ASI Project No.: 25PL-142 Date: 11/5/2025	Drawn By: pbikoulis File: 25PL142_Fig5

Figure 5: Project Area located on Twentieth-Century Aerial Imagery and Twenty-First Century Satellite Imagery











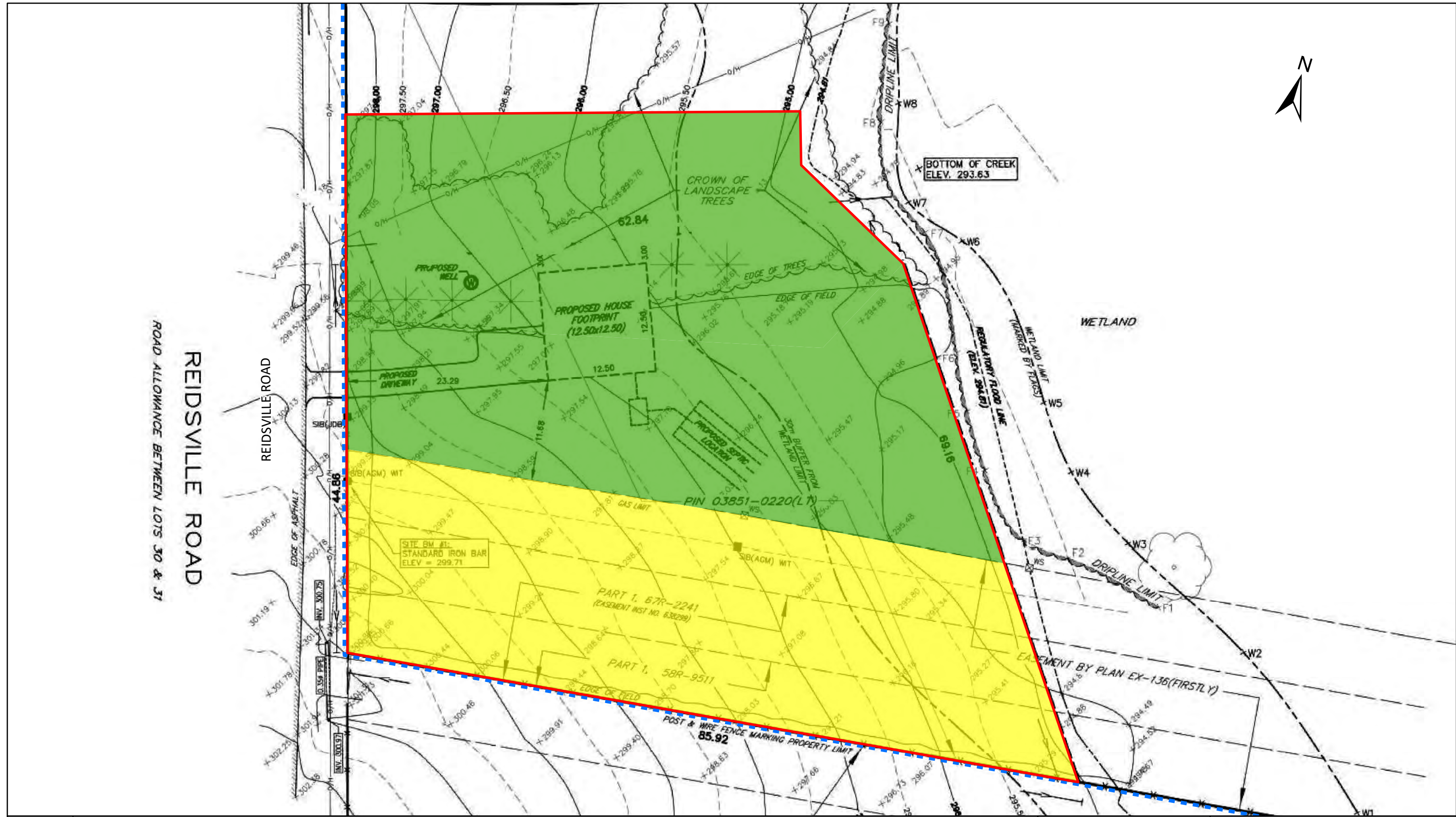
	 PROJECT AREA	 TEST PIT SURVEY - 5 METRE INTERVALS	 PHOTO LOCATION AND DIRECTION	Source: Region of Waterloo, Microsoft, Vantor		
	 1891REIDSVILLE ROAD PROPERTY BOUNDARY	 DISTURBED - NO POTENTIAL	 TEST PIT PHOTO	Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:500 Page Size: 11 x 17	ASI Project No.: 25PL-142 Date: 3/18/2026 3:15 PM	Drawn By: aclish File: 25PL142_Fig8

Figure 8: Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment Results




	 PROJECT AREA	 TEST PIT SURVEY - 5 METRE INTERVALS
	 1891REIDSVILLE ROAD PROPERTY BOUNDARY	 DISTURBED - NO POTENTIAL
Source: McKechnie Surveying Ltd. Ontario Land Surveyors		0  25 Metres
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:400 Page Size: 11 x 17		ASI Project No.: 25PL-142 Date: 3/18/2026 3:15 PM Drawn By: aclish File: 25PL142_Fig9

Figure 9: Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment Results overlaid on Concept Plan










	 PROJECT AREA	Source: Region of Waterloo, Vantor, Region of Waterloo - Information Technology Services (GIS)	 0 50 Metres	
	 STAGE 1-2 ASSESSMENT COMPLETE - NO FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONCERN		Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:1,500 Page Size: 11 x 17	ASI Project No.: 25PL-142 Date: 12/2/2025 12:02 PM
	 STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REQUIRED IN THE EVENT OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE THE PROJECT AREA LIMITS			
	 1891REIDSVILLE ROAD PROPERTY BOUNDARY			
	 PROPERTY PARCEL			

Figure 9: Status of Archaeological Assessment

Appendix A: Registered Sites Within One-Kilometre of the Project Area

Where possible, the relevant site information missing from the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database records has been supplemented from other sources.

Borden	Site Name	Temporal/Cultural Affiliation	Site Type	Researcher
AhHc-5	Lisso	Late Woodland	Unconfirmed Site	MacDonald, 1961
AhHc-12	Fluit	Unknown	Unconfirmed Site	Smith, 1973
AhHc-19	Cressman	Late Woodland, Middle Archaic	Midden	Toronto Region Conservation Authority, 1978; D.R Poulton & Associates Inc., 2002
AhHc-23	Forrest	Unknown	Unconfirmed Site	Nixon, 1979
AhHc-26	Van Oostveen	Late Archaic	Campsite	Nixon, 1981

Borden	Site Name	Temporal/Cultural Affiliation	Site Type	Researcher
AhHc-163	Bromberg Pit	Indigenous	Campsite	Golder Associates Ltd., 2007
AhHc-164	Bromberg Pit	Indigenous	Campsite	Golder Associates Ltd., 2007
AhHc-392	Indigenous	Indigenous	Campsite	Golder Associates Ltd., 2024*
AhHc-393	Indigenous	Indigenous	Campsite	Golder Associates Ltd., 2024*
AhHc-394	Location 6	Late Archaic	Campsite	Golder Associates Ltd., 2024*, 2025*
AhHc-397	Location 15	Indigenous; Euro-Canadian	Camp, Cabin; Farmstead	Golder Associates Ltd., 2024*, 2025*
AhHc-398	Location 16	Early Archaic/Kirk-Nettling	Short term	Golder Associates Ltd., 2024*, 2025*
