

Original 10 October 2022 Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of 372 Grey County Road 21, Craigeleith, Part of Lot 24, Concession 4 (Geographic Township of Collingwood), Town of the Blue Mountains, County of Grey

Ministry of Heritage, Sport Tourism and Cultural Industries (MHSTCI) PIF P038-1123-2021

Project Area: 3.30 hectares (8.15 acres) of 372 Grey County Road 21, Town of the Blue Mountains, Grey County

Project Nature: proposed 36-lot residential subdivision

Project Proponent: not identified

Archaeological Consultant: Amick Consultants Limited (ACL) (Exeter)

MTCS Assessment Stages: Stage 1 background study (evaluation of archaeological potential);
Stage 2 property inspection and assessment

Date of Fieldwork: October 18, 2021

Stage 2 Field Personnel: 1 field director, 8 field assistants

Original Report Date: October 10, 2022

Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Review (William R. Fitzgerald, Ph.D.): November 16, 2022

Amick Consultants Limited state that the archaeological assessment conforms to requirements in the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and Ministry of Tourism and Culture Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011).

ACL Stage 1 Background Study

- an evaluation of the potential for the presence of archaeological resources within the study area based on a review of the broader area's landscape, Indigenous and Euro-Canadian culture history, and past archaeological investigations

ACL Stage 1 Assessment Results and Recommendation

- background research determined that the study area has potential for "Pre-Contact" First Nations occupation and "Post-Contact" settlement
- a Stage 2 Property Assessment is required

ACL Stage 2 Property Assessment

- a property inspection was conducted across the 3.30-hectare (8.15-acre) study area to facilitate the Stage 2 Property Assessment
 - based on landscape and field conditions, the property investigative strategy adhered to
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Ministry Stage 2 archaeological assessment standards:

- the entirety of the 3.30-hectare (8.15-acre) study area was wooded forest, subjected to shovel test-pitting at five-metre intervals along transects spaced at five-metre intervals

ACL Stage 2 Assessment Result and Recommendations

- no archaeological sites or resources were encountered
- no further archaeological assessment of the study area is warranted
- the Provincial interest in archaeological resources with respect to the proposed undertaking has been addressed
- the proposed undertaking is clear of any archaeological concern

SONEO (Fitzgerald) Comments

The 2021 archaeological Stage 1 and Stage 2 assessment is consistent with others produced by Amick Consultants Limited.

Indigenous Engagement

The Province's Provincial Policy Statement (2020) [Policies 1.2.2, 2.6.2, 2.6.5, 4.3], Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011) [Section 1.1 Guideline 1, Section 1.4 Guideline 1, Section 2.2 Guideline 1], and Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology (2011) [Guideline 1.2] clearly state the importance of engagement with Indigenous communities at early assessment stages is wise practice and encouraged on planning and archaeological matters that may affect their rights and interests.

Despite the Province's stipulations, neither the proponent or Amick Consultants Limited engaged with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation prior to or during the 2021 archaeological Stage 1 Background Study or Stage 2 Property Assessment. The SON Environment Office was only contacted by the proponent after the Stages 1 and 2 assessment report had been completed.

Stage 1 Background Study

ACL's Stage 1 Background Study is a tortuous read, being deficient and error-filled in content, and padded with irrelevant material and unnecessary repetition – including exhaustive and verbatim passages of Ministry archaeological standards. ACL displays a complete ignorance of local Indigenous history and archaeology, presenting but one outdated (1972), non-local culture chronology.

Stage 2 Property Inspection and Property Assessment

Amick Consultants Limited reports that all Stage 2 fieldwork was conducted following Ministry standards with a field contingent of nine in one day – October 18, 2021.

In one day the wooded 3.30-hectare (8.15-acre) study area would have been visually inspected and shovel test-pitted at five-metre intervals along transects spaced five metres apart. That potentially would have required the excavation, screening and examination of approximately 1320 shovel test-pits (400 test-pits/hectare).

While there are several photographs of the crew shovel test-pitting and shovel test-pits, there is no description in the report of shovel test-pit depths, contents, or stratigraphy.

The ACL Field Director, Dylan Morningstar, has the confidence of the SONEO. The photodocumented closed, wooded field conditions suggest that a rigorous shovel test-pitting regimen of five-metre intervals (1320 shovel test-pits) likely could not be accomplished. Under these challenging conditions a field crew of nine could reasonably be expected to undertake the Stage 2 assessment in one day.

Result and Recommendations

Amick Consultants Limited reports that no archaeological resources – Indigenous or Euro-Canadian, were found in the study area.

Despite the notable Stage 1 shortcomings, the Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environment Office accepts that the reported Stage 2 fieldwork was adequately conducted and concurs that no further archaeological assessment is required.

Future Amick Consultants Limited archaeological assessment reports would benefit greatly from a more organized and streamlined format that would eliminate unnecessary repetition and extraneous fill. Also desperately needed is an up-to-date and accurate presentation of local Indigenous history.