

**Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessments
East Part Lot 156, Plan 529
Town of the Blue Mountains
Lot 20, Concession 2
Geographic Township of Collingwood
County of Grey**

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Original Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under a contract awarded in December 2024, Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) carried out Stage 1 and 2 assessments of lands in advance of a planned development located on the East part of Lot 156, Plan 529 in the Town of Blue Mountains, Geographic Township of Collingwood, Grey County. The assessment was triggered by the requirements set out in Section 2.6 of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2024 issued under Section 3 of the *Planning Act*. This report documents the background research and fieldwork involved in the investigation and presents conclusions and recommendations pertaining to archaeological concerns.

The Stage 1 and 2 assessments were conducted August 2025 under Project Information Form #P007-1644-2025. The investigation encompassed the entire property. Legal permission to enter and conduct all necessary fieldwork activities within the assessed lands was granted by the property owner. At the time of assessment, the assessed area consisted of a wooded area.

The Stage 1 assessment determined that the property comprised an area of archaeological potential. The Stage 2 assessment of the areas of archaeological potential did not result in the identification of any archaeological materials. It is recommended that no further assessment be required within the property.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ARA – Archaeological Research Associates Ltd.
MCM – Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)
PIF – Project Information Form
S&Gs – Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists

PERSONNEL

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Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation

Contacts: J.L. Porte and N. Charles

Field Representative: None

Chippewas of Rama First Nation

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Field Representative: None

Huron-Wendat Nation

Contacts: M Gendron

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Métis Nation of Ontario

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Field Representative: None

Saugeen Ojibway Nation

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Field Representative: None

1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

1.1 Development Context

Under a contract awarded in December 2024, Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) carried out Stage 1 and 2 assessments of lands in advance of a planned development located on the East part of Lot 156, Plan 529 in the Town of Blue Mountains, Geographic Township of Collingwood, Grey County. The assessment was triggered by the requirements set out in Section 2.6 of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2024 issued under Section 3 of the *Planning Act*. This report documents the background research and fieldwork involved in the investigation and presents conclusions and recommendations pertaining to archaeological concerns.

The area to be subject to the planned development ('study area') consists of irregularly-shaped parcels of land with an area of 1.3 ha (Map 1). This parcel is generally bounded by Highway 26 to the north, the Georgian trail to the south, a residential property to the east and an infrastructural property to the west. In legal terms, the study area falls on part of Lot 20, Concession 2, in the Geographic Township of Collingwood, Grey County. The Crown obtained these lands from the Chippewas as part of the Nottawasaga Purchase (Treaty 18) in 1818.

The Stage 1 and 2 assessments were conducted August 2025 under Project Information Form (PIF) #P007-1644-2025. The investigation encompassed the entire property. Legal permission to enter and conduct all necessary fieldwork activities within the assessed lands was granted by the property owner. In compliance with the objectives set out in Section 1.0 and Section 2.0 of the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (S&Gs)*, the investigation was carried out in order to:

- Provide information concerning the geography, history and current land condition of the study area;
- Determine the presence of known archaeological sites in the study area;
- Evaluate in detail the archaeological potential of the study area;
- Empirically document all archaeological resources within the study area;
- Determine whether the study area contains archaeological resources requiring further assessment; and
- Recommend appropriate Stage 3 assessment strategies, if any archaeological resources requiring further assessment are identified.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) is asked to review the results and recommendations presented herein and enter the report into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. A Record of Indigenous Engagement is included in the project report package in accordance with the requirements set out in Section 7.6.2 of the 2011 S&Gs. The additional directions provided in the 2011 *Conducting Archaeology within the Traditional Territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation* were considered throughout the investigation.

1.2 Historical Context

After a century of archaeological work in southern Ontario, scholarly understanding of the historical usage of the area has become very well-developed. With occupation beginning in the Palaeo period approximately 11,000 years ago, the greater vicinity of the study area comprises a complex chronology of Pre-Contact and Euro-Canadian histories. Section 1.2.1 summarizes the region's settlement history, whereas Section 1.2.3 documents the study area's past and present land uses. No previous archaeological reports containing relevant background information were identified during the research component of the study.

1.2.1 Settlement History

1.2.1.1 Pre-Contact

The Pre-Contact history of the region is lengthy and rich, and a variety of Indigenous groups inhabited the landscape. Archaeologists generally divide this vibrant history into three main periods: Palaeo, Archaic and Woodland. Each of these periods comprise a range of discrete sub-periods characterized by identifiable trends in material culture and settlement patterns, which are used to interpret past lifeways. The principal characteristics of these sub-periods are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Pre-Contact Settlement History
(Wright 1972; Ellis and Ferris 1990; Warrick 2000; Munson and Jamieson 2013)

Sub-Period	Timeframe	Characteristics
Early Palaeo	9000–8400 BC	Gainey, Barnes and Crowfield traditions; Small bands; Mobile hunters and gatherers; Utilization of seasonal resources and large territories; Fluted points
Late Palaeo	8400–7500 BC	Holcombe, Hi-Lo and Lanceolate biface traditions; Continuing mobility; Campsite/Way-Station sites; Smaller territories are utilized; Non-fluted points
Early Archaic	7500–6000 BC	Side-notched, Corner-notched (Nettling, Thebes) and Bifurcate traditions; Growing diversity of stone tool types; Heavy woodworking tools appear (e.g., ground stone axes and chisels)
Middle Archaic	6000–2500 BC	Stemmed (Kirk, Stanly/Neville), Brewerton Side- and Corner-Notched traditions; Reliance on local resources; Populations increasing; More ritual activities; Fully ground and polished tools; Net-sinkers common; Earliest copper tools
Late Archaic	2500–900 BC	Narrow Point (Lamoka), Broad Point (Genesee) and Small Point (Crawford Knoll) traditions; Less mobility; Use of fish-weirs; True cemeteries appear; Stone pipes emerge; Long-distance trade (marine shells and galena)
Early Woodland	900–400 BC	Meadowood tradition; Crude cord-roughened ceramics emerge; Meadowood cache blades and side-notched points; Bands of up to 35 people
Middle Woodland	400 BC–AD 600	Saugeen tradition; Stamped ceramics appear; Saugeen projectile points; Cobble spall scrapers; Seasonal settlements and resource utilization; Post holes, hearths, middens, cemeteries and rectangular structures identified
Middle/Late Woodland Transition	AD 600–900	Gradual transition between Saugeen and Algonquian lifeways; Princess Point tradition emerges elsewhere (i.e., in the vicinity of the Grand and Credit Rivers)
Late Woodland	AD 900–1600	Practice of maize horticulture spread beyond the western end of Lake Ontario; Algonquian-speaking peoples lived along the Georgian Bay littoral; Known historically as the Odawa/Ottawa/Ondatauauat Nation, these people are best understood from early 17 th century explorers; Primarily mobile hunters and gatherers who lived in small population groups; Bands began to build longhouses in some areas in the early 17 th century

1.2.1.2 Post-Contact

The arrival of European explorers and traders at the beginning of the 17th century triggered widespread shifts in Indigenous lifeways and set the stage for the ensuing Euro-Canadian settlement process. Documentation for this period is abundant, ranging from the first sketches of Upper Canada and the written accounts of early explorers to detailed township maps and lengthy histories. The Post-Contact period can be effectively discussed in terms of major historical events; the principal characteristics associated with these events are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Post-Contact Settlement History
(Coyne 1895; Robertson 1906; Lajeunesse 1960; Cumming 1970; Ellis and Ferris 1990; Surtees 1994; AO 2015; BCMCC 2015)

Historical Event	Timeframe	Characteristics
Early Exploration	Early 17 th century	Brûlé explores southern Ontario in 1610/11; Champlain travels through in 1613 and 1615/1616, making contact with a number of Indigenous groups (including the Algonquin, Huron-Wendat and other First Nations); European trade goods become increasingly common and begin to put pressure on traditional industries
Increased Contact and Conflict	Mid- to late 17 th century	Conflicts between various First Nations during the Beaver Wars result in numerous population shifts; European explorers continue to document the area, and many Indigenous groups trade directly with the French and English; ‘The Great Peace of Montreal’ treaty established between roughly 39 different First Nations and New France in 1701
Fur Trade Development	Early to mid-18 th century	Growth and spread of the fur trade; Peace between the French and English with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713; Ethnogenesis of the Métis; Hostilities between French and British lead to the Seven Years’ War in 1754; French surrender in 1760
British Control	Mid- to late 18 th century	<i>Royal Proclamation</i> of 1763 recognizes the title of the First Nations to the land; Numerous treaties subsequently arranged by the Crown; First land cession under the new protocols is the Seneca surrender of the west side of the Niagara River in 1764; The Niagara Purchase (Treaty 381) in 1781 included this area
Loyalist Influx	Late 18 th century	United Empire Loyalist influx after the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783); British develop interior communication routes and acquire additional lands; John Collins acquires the northern part of the Toronto Carrying Place in 1785 (subject to a confirmatory surrender in the Williams Treaties of 1923); Constitutional Act of 1791 creates Upper and Lower Canada
County Development	Early to mid-19 th century	Nominally became part of Kent County in 1792; Eastern portion added to Simcoe County in 1798 and western portion added to Waterloo County in 1845; Land cessions included the Nottawasaga Purchase (Treaty 18) in 1818, the Saugeen Tract Purchase (Treaty 45 ½) in 1836, the Half-Mile Strip in 1851, the Saugeen Peninsula Treaty (Treaty 72) in 1854 and Treaty 82 in 1857; First surveyed townships were Alta and Zero (later Collingwood and St. Vincent); Grey County created after the abolition of the district system in 1849
Township Formation	Late 19 th century	Township surveyed by C. Rankin in 1833 and was initially named Alta; The survey party came across in boats from Penetanguishene; Many properties in Collingwood were obtained by land speculators/absentees; First settlers included Mr. Bazier and J. Maguire on Concession 11; Population mainly comprised Irish and Scottish immigrants; S.B. Olmstead was the first settler at Thornbury and operated a mill on the Beaver River
Township Development	Late 19 th and early 20 th century	Only 380 ha had been taken up in Collingwood by 1846, 32 ha of which were under cultivation; Traversed by the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron Union Railway/Northern Railway (1855); Population reached 1,492 by 1861 with 2,168 ha under cultivation; Four sawmills in operation by 1865; Population reached 8,932 by 1895; Prominent communities at Thornbury, Clarksburg, Williamstown/Heathcote, Craighleith, Ravenna, Banks, Red Wing and Gibraltar

1.2.2 Traditional Knowledge

The study area occupies lands that fall within the treaty, traditional and/or ancestral territories of numerous Indigenous peoples and communities. Indeed, this area was used and shared by many groups over the millennia; each with their own traditions as to how they arrived, how they lived and the major events that punctuated their time there. At the time of writing, the Chippewas of Rama First Nation and Huron-Wendat Nation have provided traditional knowledge for inclusion in archaeological reports. These contributions are reproduced in Table 3–Table 4 (ordered alphabetically). It should be noted that one group’s traditional knowledge does not necessarily reflect the views of other groups, or the consultant archaeologist.

Table 3: Chippewas of Rama First Nation History
(Provided by Chippewas of Rama First Nation)

Rama First Nation History
The Chippewas of Rama First Nation are an Anishinaabe (Ojibway) community located at Rama First Nation, ON. Our history began with a great migration from the East Coast of Canada into the Great Lakes region. Throughout a period of several hundred years, our direct ancestors again migrated to the north and eastern shores of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Our Elders say that we made room in our territory for our allies, the Huron-Wendat Nation, during their times of war with the Haudenosaunee. Following the dispersal of the Huron-Wendat Nation from the region in the mid-1600s, our stories say that we again migrated to our territories in what today is known as Muskoka and Simcoe County. Several major battles with the Haudenosaunee culminated in peace being agreed between the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee, after which the Haudenosaunee agreed to leave the region and remain in southern Ontario. Thus, since the early 18th century, much of central Ontario into the lower parts of northern Ontario has been Anishinaabe territory. The more recent history of Rama First Nation begins with the creation of the “Coldwater Narrows” reserve, one of the first reserves in Canada. The Crown intended to relocate our ancestors to the Coldwater reserve and ultimately assimilate our ancestors into Euro-Canadian culture. Underlying the attempts to assimilate our ancestors were the plans to take possession of our vast hunting and harvesting territories. Feeling the impacts of increasingly widespread settlement, many of our ancestors moved to the Coldwater reserve in the early 1830s. Our ancestors built homes, mills, and farmsteads along the old portage route which ran through the reserve, connecting Lake Simcoe to Georgian Bay (this route is now called “Highway 12”). After a short period of approximately six years, the Crown had a change of plans. Frustrated at our ancestors continued exploiting of hunting territories (spanning roughly from Newmarket to the south, Kawartha Lakes to the east, Meaford to the west, and Lake Nipissing to the north), as well as unsuccessful assimilation attempts, the Crown reneged on the promise of reserve land. Three of our Chiefs, including Chief Yellowhead, went to York under the impression they were signing documents affirming their ownership of land and buildings. The Chiefs were misled, and inadvertently allegedly surrendered the Coldwater reserve back to the Crown. Our ancestors, then known as the Chippewas of Lakes Simcoe and Huron, were left landless. Earlier treaties, such as Treaty 16 and Treaty 18, had already resulted in nearly 2,000,000 acres being allegedly surrendered to the Crown. The Chippewas made the decision to split into three groups. The first followed Chief Snake to Snake Island and Georgina Island (today known as the Chippewas of Georgina Island). The second group followed Chief Aissance to Beausoleil Island, and later to Christian Island (Beausoleil First Nation). The third group, led by Chief Yellowhead, moved to the Narrows between Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching and eventually, Rama (Chippewas of Rama First Nation). A series of purchases, using Rama’s own funds, resulted in Yellowhead purchasing approximately 1,600 acres of abandoned farmland in Rama Township. This land makes up the core of the Rama Reserve today, and we have called it home since the early 1840’s. Our ancestors began developing our community, clearing fields for farming and building homes. They continued to hunt and harvest in their traditional territories, especially within the Muskoka region, up until the early 1920’s. In 1923, the Williams Treaties were signed, surrendering 12,000,000 acres of previously unceded land to the Crown. Once again, our ancestors were misled, and they were informed that in surrendering the land, they gave up their right to access their seasonal traditional hunting and harvesting territories. With accessing territories difficult, our ancestors turned to other ways to survive. Many men guided tourists around their former family hunting territories in Muskoka, showing them places to fish and hunt. Others worked in lumber camps and mills. Our grandmothers made crafts such as porcupine quill baskets and black ash baskets, and sold them to tourists visiting Simcoe and Muskoka. The children were forced into Indian Day School, and some were taken away to Residential Schools. Church on the reserve began to indoctrinate our ancestors. Our community, along with every other First Nation in Canada,

Rama First Nation History
entered a dark period of attempted genocide at the hands of Canada and the Crown. Somehow, our ancestors persevered, and they kept our culture, language, and community alive.
Today, our community has grown into a bustling place, and is home to approximately 1,100 people. We are a proud and progressive First Nations community.

**Table 4: Huron-Wendat Nation History
(Provided by Huron-Wendat Nation)**

History of the Nation Huronne-Wendat
As an ancient people, traditionally, the Huron-Wendat, a great Iroquoian civilization of farmers and fishermen-hunter-gatherers and also the masters of trade and diplomacy, represented several thousand individuals. They lived in a territory stretching from the Gaspé Peninsula in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and up along the Saint Lawrence Valley on both sides of the Saint Lawrence River all the way to the Great Lakes. Huronia, included in Wendake South, represents a part of the ancestral territory of the Huron-Wendat Nation in Ontario. It extends from Lake Nipissing in the North to Lake Ontario in the South and Île Perrot in the East to around Owen Sound in the West. This territory is today marked by several hundred archaeological sites, listed to date, testifying to this strong occupation of the territory by the Nation. It is an invaluable heritage for the Huron-Wendat Nation and the largest archaeological heritage related to a First Nation in Canada.
According to our own traditions and customs, the Huron-Wendat are intimately linked to the Saint Lawrence River and its estuary, which is the main route of its activities and way of life. The Huron-Wendat formed alliances and traded goods with other First Nations among the networks that stretched across the continent.
Today, the population of the Huron-Wendat Nation is composed of more than 4000 members distributed on-reserve and off-reserve.
The Huron-Wendat Nation band council (CNHW) is headquartered in Wendake, the oldest First Nations community in Canada, located on the outskirts of Quebec City (20 km north of the city) on the banks of the Saint Charles River. There is only one Huron-Wendat community, whose ancestral territory is called the Nionwentsïo, which translates to “our beautiful land” in the Wendat language.
The Huron-Wendat Nation is also the only authority that have the authority and rights to protect and take care of her ancestral sites in Wendake South.

1.2.3 Past and Present Land Use

1.2.3.1 Overview

During Pre-Contact and Early Contact times, the vicinity of the study area would have comprised a mixture of coniferous trees, deciduous trees and open areas. Indigenous communities would have managed the landscape to some degree. During the early 19th century, Euro-Canadian settlers arrived in the area and began to clear the forests for agricultural and settlement purposes. The study area was located northwest of the historical community of Collingwood. The land use at the time of assessment can be classified as vacant green space.

1.2.3.2 Mapping and Imagery Analysis

In order to gain a general understanding of the study area’s past land uses, two historical settlement maps, one topographic map and one aerial images were examined during the research component of the study. Specifically, the following resources were consulted:

- *Map of Collingwood Township* (1880) (OHCMP 2019);
- The Collingwood Township Patent Plan (No Date) (AO 2015)

- A topographic map from 1945 (OCUL 2022); and
- Aerial images from 1954 (Simcoe County 2022; U of T 2022).

The limits of the study area are shown on georeferenced versions of the consulted historical resources in Map 2–Map 5.

The *Map of Collingwood Township* (1880) does not identify any occupants for the subject lands, and no buildings are illustrated in the immediate vicinity. The Northern Grey Railroad is depicted nearby (Map 2). Though this map does not depict any private structures, this should not be taken as evidence that the area was unimproved. The Collingwood Township Patent Plan indicates the names of the patentee for the property, however the writing on the map is illegible (Map 3).

The topographic map from 1945 indicates that the study area consisted primarily of forested lands (Map 4). The 1954 aerial photo demonstrates that the local roadways were well-established, but the poor resolution precludes any other meaningful interpretations (Map 5).

1.3 Archaeological Context

The Stage 1 and 2 assessments were conducted concurrently on August 1, and August 8, 2025, under PIF #P007-1644-2025. ARA utilized a Samsung Galaxy Tab A with a built-in GPS/GNSS receiver during the investigation (UTM17/NAD83). The limits of the study area were confirmed using project-specific GIS data translated into GPS points for reference in the field, in combination with aerial imagery showing physical features in relation to the subject lands.

The archaeological context of any given study area must be informed by 1) the condition of the property as found (Section 1.3.1), 2) a summary of registered or known archaeological sites located within a minimum 1 km radius (Section 1.3.2) and 3) descriptions of previous archaeological fieldwork carried out within the limits of, or immediately adjacent to the property (Section 1.3.3).

1.3.1 Condition of the Property

The study area lies within the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence forest region, which is a transitional zone between the southern deciduous forest and the northern boreal forest. This forest extends along the St. Lawrence River across central Ontario to Lake Huron and west of Lake Superior along the border with Minnesota, and its southern portion extends into the more populated areas of Ontario. This forest is dominated by hardwoods, featuring species such as maple, oak, yellow birch, white and red pine. Coniferous trees such as white pine, red pine, hemlock and white cedar commonly mix with deciduous broad-leaved species, such as yellow birch, sugar and red maples, basswood and red oak (MNDMNRF 2022).

In terms of local physiography, the subject lands fall within the Simcoe Lowlands. This region consists of the Nottawasaga basin in the west, transverse valleys and the Lake Simcoe basin in the east. Both the lowlands and transverse valleys were flooded by Lake Algonquin and are bordered by shorecliffs, beaches and bouldery terraces. The study area is located within the Nottawasaga basin, which is limited to the broad flats bordering the Nottawasaga River. For the most part, this basin comprised the floor of Lake Algonquin and its surface beds therefore comprise deposits of deltaic and lacustrine origin rather than glacial outwash (Chapman and Putnam 1984:177–180). The study area would have been submerged by these waterbodies.

Although the recession of the Laurentide Ice Sheet began ca. 14,000 BP in the south, it was not until ca. 12,000 BP that it had withdrawn from the vicinity of the study area. As the ice melted, the majority of the Bruce Peninsula was submerged by the various phases of Lake Algonquin (Kor et al. 2012:Figure 3). The Main Lake Algonquin shoreline would have been located approximately 80 km southeast of the study area. This lake began to drain ca. 10,500 BP, resulting in the formation of Lakes Stanley and Hough ca. 10,000 BP. The Bruce Peninsula would have been exposed at this time, although the westernmost parts were again submerged during the Nipissing Transgression between ca. 6000 and 4500 BP (Kor et al. 2012:579). The study area would have been underwater during this time. Declining water levels would eventually result in the formation of Lake Huron and its modern shoreline ca. 4000 BP.

According to the Ontario Soil Survey, the study area consists of Granby Sand. Granby Sand soils are a dark grey, well sorted sand or sandy loam with poor drainage, and have a smooth, gently sloping topography (Hoffman and Richards 1954).

At the time of assessment, the assessed area consisted of a wooded area. Soil conditions were ideal for the activities conducted. No unusual physical features were encountered that affected fieldwork strategy decisions or the identification of artifacts or cultural features (e.g., dense root mats, boulders, rubble, etc.).

1.3.2 Registered or Known Archaeological Sites

The Ontario Archaeological Sites Database and the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports were consulted to determine whether any registered or known archaeological resources occur within a 1 km radius of the study area. The available search facility returned four registered sites located within at least a 1 km radius (the facility returns sites in a rectangular area, rather than a radius, potentially resulting in results beyond the specified distance). In terms of other known resources (e.g., Isolated Non-Diagnostic Find Spots, Leads or unreported deposits), no unregistered sites were identified within a 1 km radius.

Table 5: Registered or Known Archaeological Sites

Borden No. / ID No.	Site Name / Identifier	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type	Distance from Study Area
BdHb-8	P3/P4/P5/P6/P7/P8	Woodlan, Late	-	Unknown	300 m–1 km
BdHb-7	P2	Pos Contact, Woodland, Middle	-	Unknown	300 m–1 km
BdHb-6	P1	Woodland, Middle	Aboriginal	Camp/Campsite	300 m–1 km
BdHb-1	Plater-Martin	Post-Contact	-	Village	300 m–1 km

This previously identified sites are not located within or immediately adjacent to the subject lands; accordingly, they have no potential to traverse the study area and represent distant archaeological resources beyond 300 m distance of the subject lands.

1.3.3 Previous Archaeological Work

Reports documenting assessments conducted within the subject lands and assessments that resulted in the discovery of sites within adjacent lands were sought during the research component of the study. In order to ensure that all relevant past work was identified, an investigation was launched to identify reports involving assessments within 50 m of the study area. The investigation determined that there are two available reports documenting previous archaeological fieldwork within the specified distance.

1.3.3.1 Trailhead Eden Oak – Amick Consultants Ltd.

In 2011 Amick conducted a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment in advance of a development application under PIF# P058-784-2011. This assessment is located to the south of the study area addressed in this report. One archaeological site (BdHb-1) was noted within the Trailhead Eden Oak subject property and mitigation measures were recommended.

1.3.3.2 Blue Mountains Water Distribution System Master Plan – Golder Associates Ltd.

In 2017 Golder conducted a Stage 1 archaeological assessment on behalf of J.L. Richards & Associates Ltd. in advance of a proposed water distribution system master plan under PIF #P243-0380-2017. The assessment found that the study areas comprised a mix of areas of archaeological potential and no archaeological potential, including the determination that the property reported on in this document had archaeological potential.

2.0 STAGE 1 BACKGROUND STUDY

2.1 Background

The Stage 1 assessment involved background research to document the geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land condition of the study area. This desktop examination included research from archival sources, archaeological publications and online databases. It also included the analysis of a variety of historical maps and aerial imagery. The results of the research conducted for the background study are summarized below.

With occupation beginning approximately 11,000 years ago, the greater vicinity of the study area comprises a complex chronology of Pre-Contact and Post-Contact histories (Section 1.2.1). Artifacts associated with Palaeo, Archaic, Woodland and Early Contact traditions are well-attested in Bruce County, and Euro-Canadian archaeological sites dating to pre-1900 and post-1900 contexts are likewise common. The presence of four previously identified sites in the surrounding area demonstrates the desirability of this locality for early settlement (Section 1.3.2). Background research identified one previous assessment within the study area (Section 1.3.3).

The natural environment of the study area would have been attractive to both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian populations as a result of proximity to Georgian Bay and its associated tributaries and wetlands. The study area was submerged by Main Lake Algonquin and the Nipissing Great Lakes, however, which would have resulted in the destruction of many Indigenous sites dating prior to the Late Archaic period. The nearby areas of well-drained soils would have been ideal for agriculture, and the diverse local vegetation would also have encouraged settlement throughout Ontario's lengthy history.

In summary, the background study included an up-to-date listing of sites from the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database (within at least a 1 km radius), the consideration of previous local archaeological fieldwork (within at least a 50 m radius), the analysis of historical maps (at the most detailed scale available) and the study of aerial imagery. ARA therefore confirms that the standards for background research set out in Section 1.1 of the 2011 *S&Gs* were met.

2.2 Field Methods (Property Inspection)

Since the Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessments were carried out concurrently, a separate property inspection was not completed as part of the Stage 1 background study. Instead, the visual inspection was conducted over the course of the Stage 2 property survey, in keeping with the

concepts set out in Section 2.1 Standards 2a–b of the 2011 *S&Gs*. The specific field methods utilized during the visual inspection and the weather and lighting conditions at the time of assessment are summarized in Section 3.1 (Stage 2).

2.3 Analysis and Conclusions

In addition to relevant historical sources and the results of past archaeological assessments, the archaeological potential of a property can be assessed using its soils, hydrology and landforms as considerations. Section 1.3.1 of the 2011 *S&Gs* recognizes the following features or characteristics as indicators of archaeological potential: previously identified sites, water sources (past and present), elevated topography, pockets of well-drained sandy soil, distinctive land formations, resource areas, areas of Euro-Canadian settlement, early transportation routes, listed or designated properties, historic landmarks or sites, and areas that local histories or informants have identified with possible sites, events, activities or occupations.

The Stage 1 assessment resulted in the identification of several features of archaeological potential in the vicinity of the study area (Map 6). The closest and most relevant indicators of archaeological potential (i.e., those that would directly affect survey interval requirements) include multiple primary water sources (Georgian Bay and its tributaries), one secondary water source (Silver Creek Wetland Complex), and two historical transportation routes (Highway 26 and North Grey Railway). Background research did not identify any features indicating that the study area had potential for deeply buried archaeological resources.

Although proximity to a feature of archaeological potential is a significant factor in the potential modelling process, current land conditions must also be considered. Section 1.3.2 of the 2011 *S&Gs* emphasizes that 1) quarrying, 2) major landscaping involving grading below topsoil, 3) building footprints and 4) sewage/infrastructure development can result in the removal of archaeological potential, and Section 2.1 states that 1) permanently wet areas, 2) exposed bedrock and 3) steep slopes ($> 20^\circ$) in areas unlikely to contain pictographs or petroglyphs can also be evaluated as having no or low archaeological potential. Areas previously assessed and not recommended for further work may also require no further assessment.

Background research did not identify any previously assessed areas of no further concern within the study area. ARA's visual inspection, coupled with the analysis of historical sources and digital environmental data, resulted in the determination that the entirety of the study area had archaeological potential and required further assessment.

3.0 STAGE 2 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

3.1 Field Methods

The Stage 2 assessment involved visual inspection to evaluate archaeological potential, and test pit survey in all areas of archaeological potential. Environmental conditions were ideal during the investigation, permitting good visibility of land features and providing an increased chance of finding evidence of archaeological resources. Specifically, the assessment was conducted under clear skies with bright lighting and a temperature of 24 °C on August 1, 2025, and partially overcast skies with bright lighting and a temperature of 25 °C on August 8, 2025. ARA therefore confirms

that fieldwork was carried out under weather and lighting conditions that met or exceeded the requirements set out in Section 1.2 Standard 2 and Section 2.1 Standard 3 of the 2011 *S&Gs*.

The study area was subjected to a systematic visual inspection (at an interval of 5 m) in accordance with the requirements set out in Section 1.2 of the 2011 *S&Gs*. The inspection confirmed that all surficial features of archaeological potential were present where they were previously identified and did not result in the identification of any additional features of archaeological potential not visible on mapping (e.g., relic water channels, patches of well-drained soils, etc.).

The visual inspection did not result in the identification of any clear areas of disturbance within the property. No other natural features (e.g., sloped lands, overgrown vegetation, heavier soils than expected, etc.) or significant built features (e.g., heritage structures, landscapes, plaques, monuments, cemeteries, etc.) that would affect assessment strategies were identified.

The test pit survey method was utilized to complete the assessment because ploughing was not possible or viable. Using this method, ARA crewmembers hand excavated small regular test pits with a minimum diameter of 30 cm at prescribed intervals in accordance with Section 2.1.2 of the 2011 *S&Gs*. Since the areas to be tested were located less than 300 m from any feature of archaeological potential, a maximum interval of 5 m was warranted (Image 1–Image 6). Each test pit was excavated into at least the first 5 cm of subsoil, and the resultant pits were examined for stratigraphy, potential features and/or evidence of fill. Most test pits contained dark brown sandy loam topsoil with heavy compaction and stone inclusions over yellow-grey sand subsoil. All soils were screened through mesh with an aperture of no greater than 6 mm and examined for archaeological resources. No locations of archaeological materials were encountered during the test pit survey. The test pits were backfilled upon completion.

The utilized field methods are presented in Map 8. The area to be subject to the planned development (‘study area’) is depicted as a layer in these maps. A breakdown of field methods appears in Table 6.

Table 6: Field Methods

Category	Assessed Area
Property assessed by pedestrian survey at an interval of 5 m	100.00% (1.3 ha)
Property assessed by test pit survey at an interval of 5 m	0.00% (0.26 ha)
Property assessed by test pit survey at an interval of 10 m	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Property assessed by combination of visual inspection and test pit survey to confirm permanently wet	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Property assessed by combination of visual inspection and test pit survey to confirm disturbance	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Property assessed with a modified survey interval due to a physical or cultural constraint	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Property not assessed due to physical constraint	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Property not assessed because of permanently wet areas	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Property not assessed because of exposed bedrock	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Property not assessed because of sloped areas	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Property not assessed because of disturbed areas	0.00% (0.00 ha)
Total	100.00% (1.3 ha)

3.2 Record of Finds

The investigation did not result in the discovery of any archaeological materials. The inventory of the documentary record, which includes a quantitative summary of the field notes, photographs and mapping materials associated with the project, appears in Table 7.

Table 7: Documentary Record

Field Documents	Total	Nature	Location
Photographs	15	Digital	On server at 50 Nebo Road, Unit 1, Hamilton
Notes	2	Digital	On server at 50 Nebo Road, Unit 1, Hamilton
Maps	2	Digital	On server at 50 Nebo Road, Unit 1, Hamilton

3.3 Analysis and Conclusions

No archaeological sites were identified within the assessed lands.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Stage 1 assessment determined that the property comprised an area of archaeological potential. The Stage 2 assessment of the areas of archaeological potential did not result in the identification of any archaeological materials. It is recommended that no further assessment be required within the property.

5.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

Section 7.5.9 of the 2011 *S&Gs* requires that the following information be provided for the benefit of the proponent and approval authority in the land use planning and development process:

- 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 MTCS, 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 requires that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar at the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery.

6.0 IMAGES



Image 1: Test Pit Survey
(August 8, 2025; Facing West)



Image 2: Test Pit Survey
(August 8, 2025; Facing South)



Image 3: Test Pit Survey
(August 1, 2025; Facing West)



Image 4: Test Pit Survey
(August 1, 2025; Facing North)

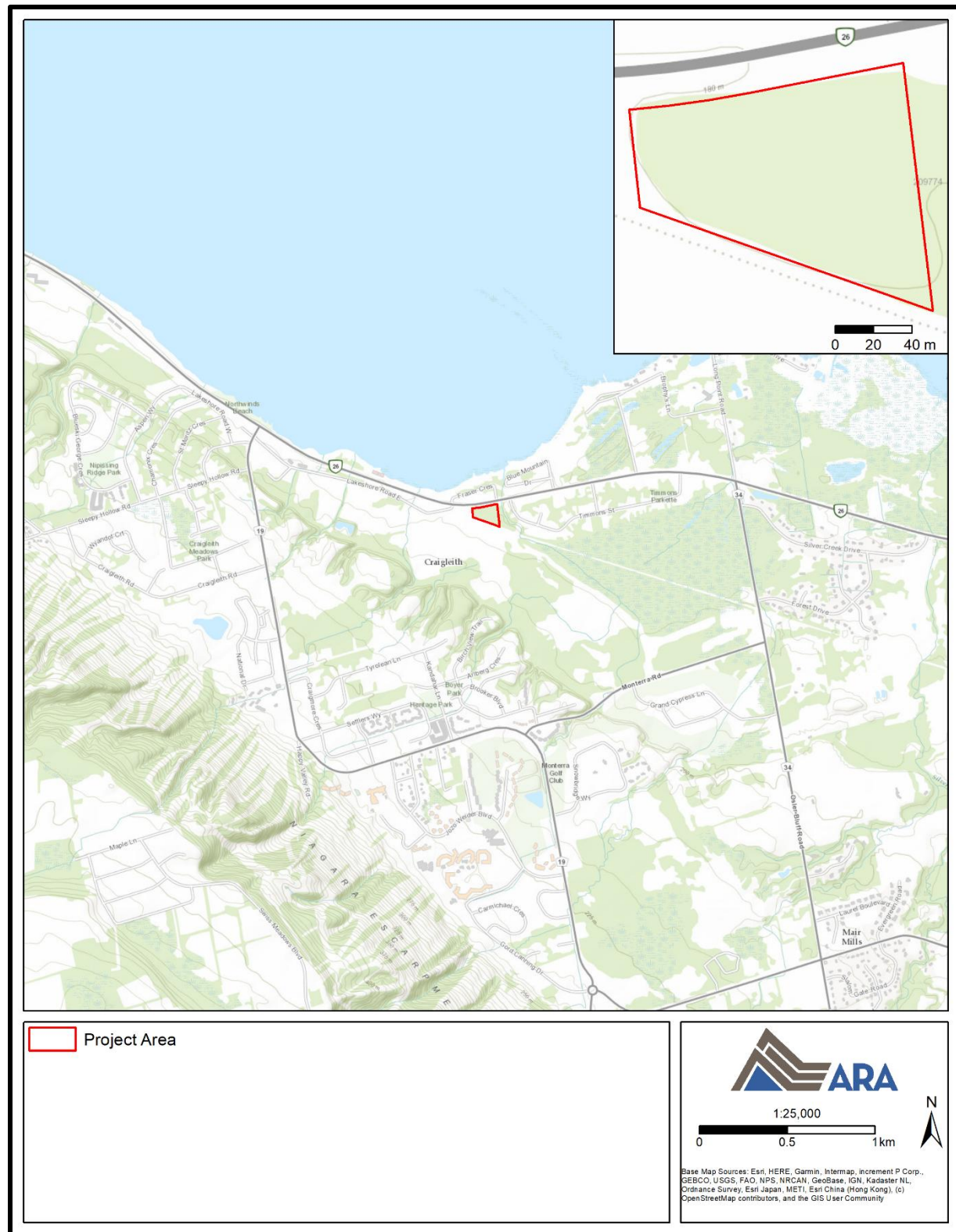


Image 5: Test Pit Survey
(August 8, 2025; Facing North)

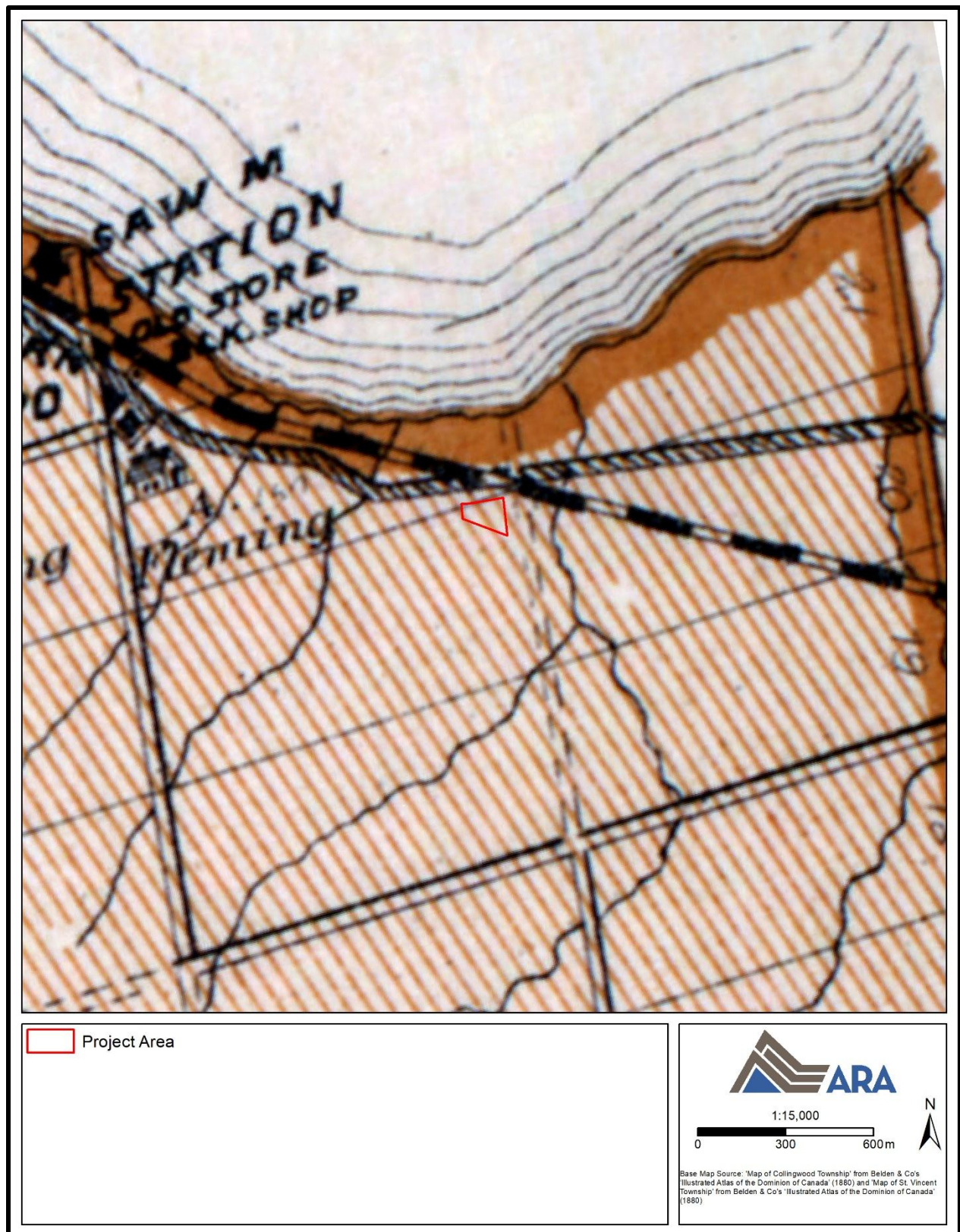


Image 6: Test Pit Survey
(August 8, 2025; Facing North)

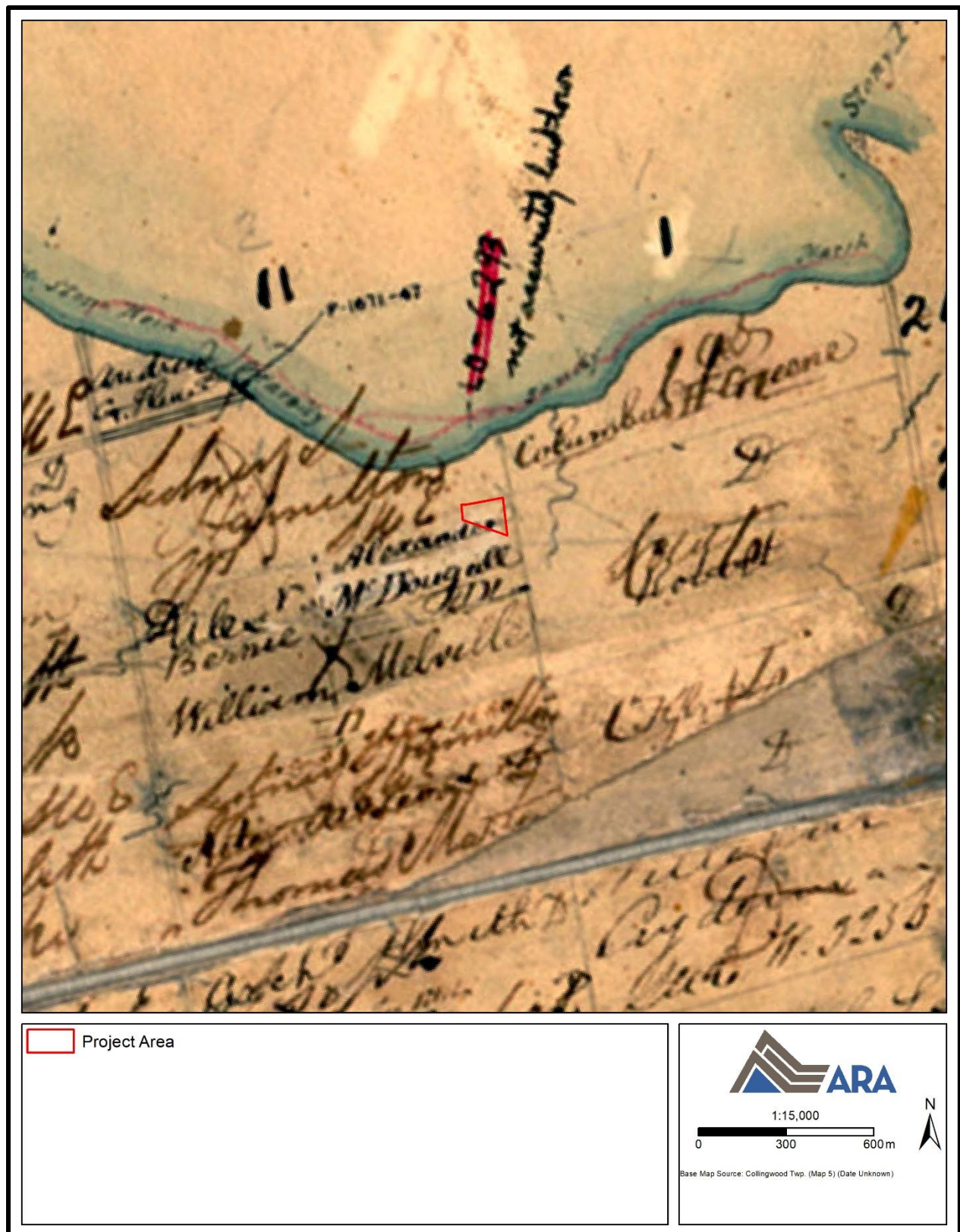
7.0 MAPPING



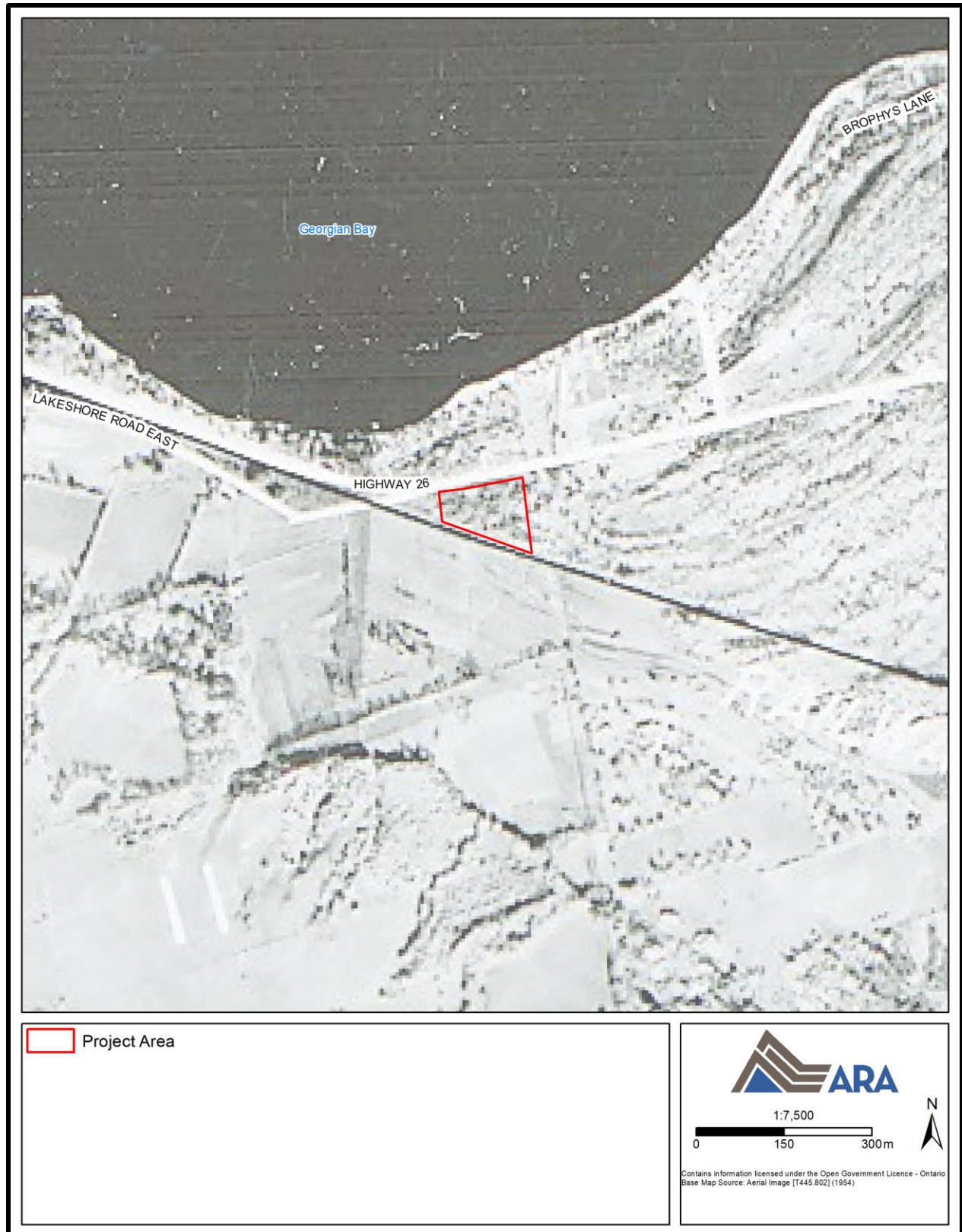
Map 1: Location of the Study Area
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri)



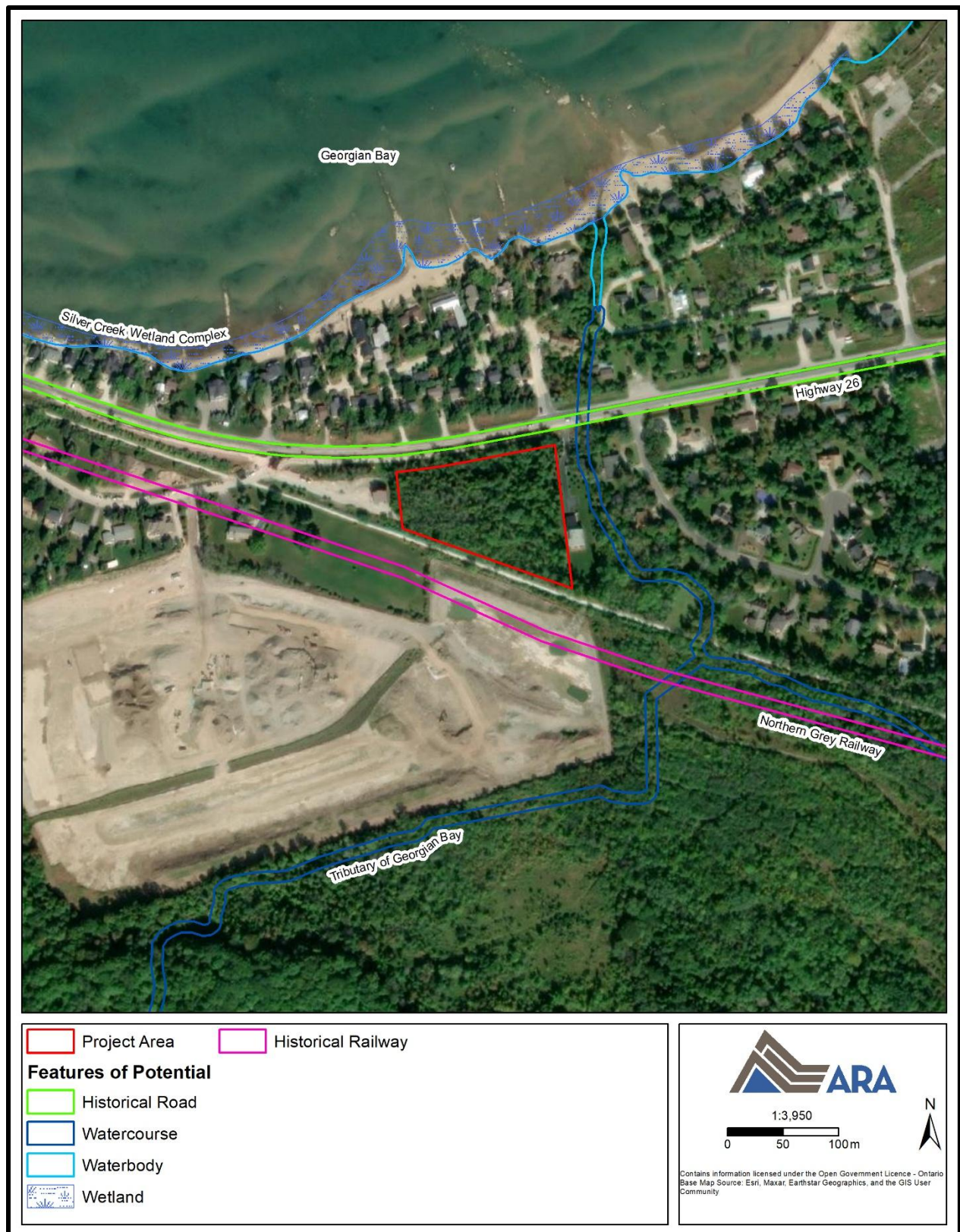
Map 2: Map of Collingwood Township (1880)
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; MU 2001)



Map 3: Patent Plan (No Date)
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; MU 2001)



Map 5: Aerial Image (1954)
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; U of T 2022)



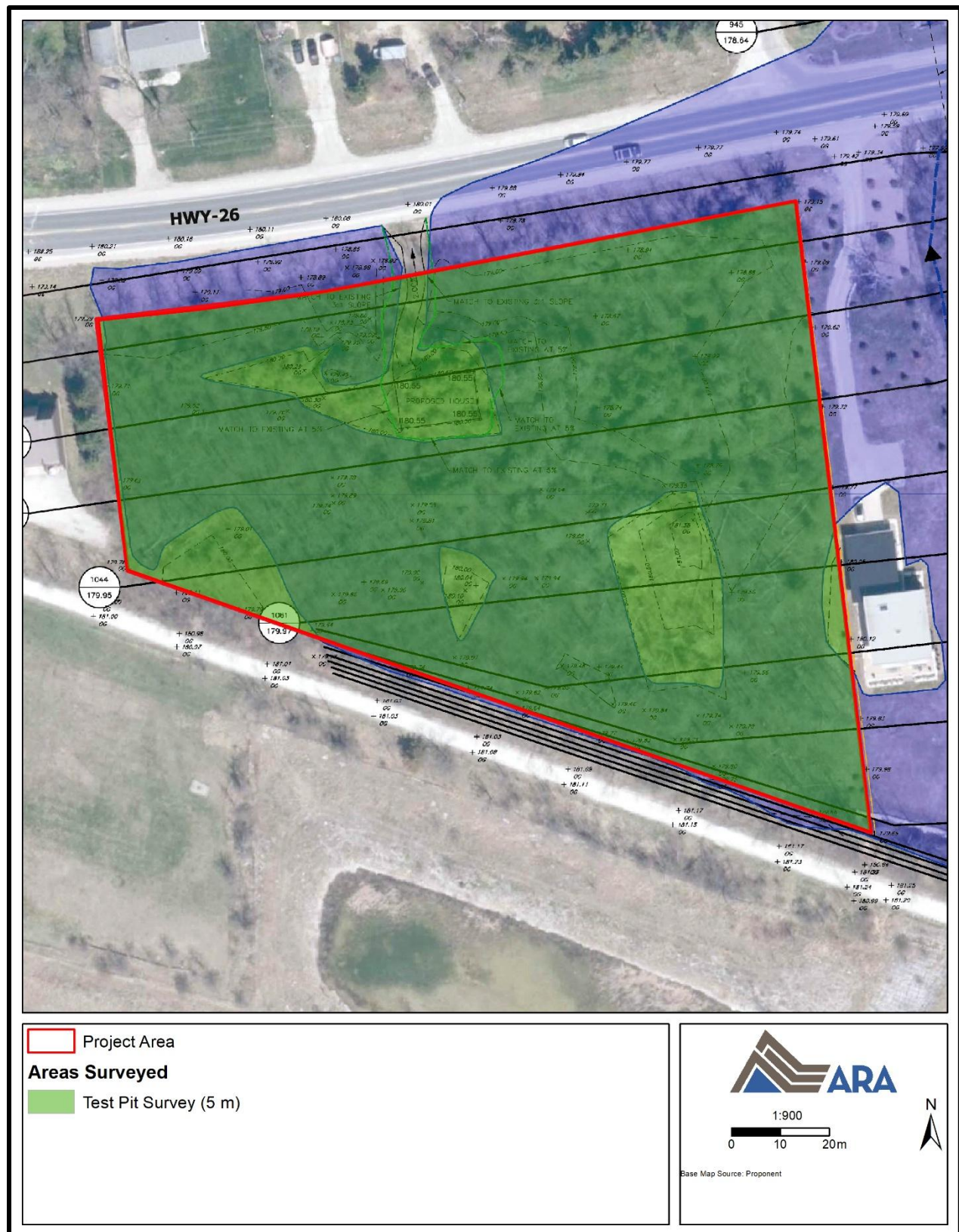
Map 6: Features of Potential
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri)



Map 7: Previous Assessments
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri)



Map 8: Assessment Results
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri)



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