



ACC

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONSULTANTS CANADA

Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment

97 Bower Street, Acton, Part of Lot 28, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Esquesing, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton, Ontario.

Original Report

Prepared for:

Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

Prepared by:

Archaeological Licensee: Matthew Muttart, M.A., P1208

Archaeological Consultants Canada

PO Box 81045 Ancaster, RPO Fiddlers Green

Hamilton, ON L9G 4X1

www.onarch.ca

info@onarch.ca

289.683.7844

PIF #: P1208-0435-2024

Project No. 103-12-24

5 June 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological Consultants Canada (“ACC”) was contracted by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1 & 2 archaeological resource assessment, including background research and property survey, for future proposed development. An archaeological assessment was conducted during the pre-approval process and was required under the *Planning Act, R.S.O 1990*. The assessed area, or the “subject property”, is legally described as 97 Bower Street, Acton, Part of Lot 28, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Esquesing, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton, Ontario. The subject property measures 0.91 hectares (“ha”) in size (Figure 1).

The Stage 1 & 2 assessment and all fieldwork was conducted under Professional Archaeological License P1208, held by Matthew Muttart. The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (“MCM”) assigned Project Information Form (“PIF”) number P1208-0435-2024 to this project. The licensee of ACC received permission from the Proponent to access the property and to conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities including the removal of artifacts, as necessary. The property was accessed on April 10, 2024.

Stage 1 background research indicated that the subject property has general archaeological potential due to the following factors:

- The subject property is within close proximity to the historic town of Acton.
- The subject property is close to an historic roadway.
- The subject property is within 12 m of the Grand Trunk Railway.
- There is 1 archaeological site registered within 1 km of the subject property.

The subject property measures 0.91 ha. A visual property inspection determined that 0.03 ha of the subject property consists of a disturbed concrete driveway.

0.88 ha of the subject property retained archaeological potential and was recommended for Stage 2 assessment. 0.88 ha of the subject property consists of overgrown lawn and woodlot areas and was subject to test pit survey at 5 m intervals in accordance with Section 2.1.2 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. During testing parts of the subject property were found to contain a moderate degree of disturbance, which was confirmed through judgmental test pits excavated throughout the subject property.

The following recommendation is provided for consideration by the Proponent and by the MCM:

1. No artifacts or other archaeological resources were identified during the Stage 2 archaeological assessment. The subject property has now been fully assessed according to the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism’s 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. No further archaeological assessment of the property is required.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
PROJECT PERSONNEL	5
1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT	6
1.1 Development Context	6
1.2 Historical Context	7
1.2.1 Background Research	7
1.2.2 A Cultural Chronology for Southern Ontario	7
1.3 Archaeological Context	11
1.3.1 Natural Environment	11
1.3.2 Current Land Use	11
1.3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations	11
1.3.4 Potential for Archaeological Resources	13
2.0 FIELD METHODS	15
3.0 RECORD OF FINDS	16
3.1 Soils	16
3.2 Archaeological Resources	16
3.3 Documentary Record	16
4.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS	17
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS	18
6.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION	19
7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES	20
8.0 IMAGES	23
9.0 FIGURES	26

LIST OF TABLES

1. General Cultural Chronology for Southern Ontario	8
2. Registered Archaeological Sites within 1 km of the Subject Property	12
3. Inventory of Documentary and Material Record	16

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Location of the Subject Property on a 1:50,000 Scale Topographic Map
2. Location of the Subject Property on Tremaine's 1858 Historical County Map of Halton County
3. Location of the Subject Property on Pope's 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton, Ont.
4. Location of the Subject Property on a Map the Soils of Halton County
5. Aerial Imagery Showing the Current Land Use of the Subject Property
6. Aerial Imagery Showing the previous Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment by A.M. Archaeological Associates
7. Results of the Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment of the Subject Property, with Photograph Locations and Directions

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Project Manager:	Matthew Muttart, M.A., P1208
Professional License:	Matthew Muttart, M.A., P1208
Field Director:	Matthew Muttart, M.A., P1208
Assistant Field Directors:	Morgan Berg, B.A.
Report Preparation:	Morgan Berg, B.A.
Graphics:	Brianne McDonald, B.A.

Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment

97 Bower Street, Acton, Part of Lot 28, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Esquesing, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton, Ontario

1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

1.1 Development Context

Archaeological Consultants Canada (“ACC”) was contracted by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1 & 2 archaeological resource assessment, including background research and property survey, for future proposed development. An archaeological assessment was conducted during the pre-approval process and was required under the *Planning Act, R.S.O 1990*. The assessed area, or the “subject property”, is legally described as 97 Bower Street, Acton, Part of Lot 28, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Esquesing, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton, Ontario. The subject property measures 0.91 hectares (“ha”) in size (Figure 1).

The objective of a Stage 1 background study is to provide information about the subject property’s geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork, and current land conditions. A Stage 1 study evaluates the subject property’s archaeological potential in order to recommend appropriate strategies for the Stage 2 survey.

The objective of a Stage 2 property assessment is to document all archaeological resources present on the property and to make a determination about whether these resources, if present, have Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. Archaeological resources consist of artifacts (Indigenous stone tools, pottery and subsistence remains as well as Euro-Canadian objects), subsurface settlement patterns and cultural features (post moulds, trash pits, privies, and wells), and sites (temporary camps and special purpose activity areas, plus more permanent settlements such as villages, homesteads, grist mills and industrial structures). If any archaeological resources are present that exhibit Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, a Stage 2 survey will determine whether these resources require further assessment and, if necessary, recommend appropriate Stage 3 strategies for identified archaeological sites.

The Stage 1 & 2 assessment and all fieldwork was conducted under Professional Archaeological License P1208, held by Matthew Muttart. The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (“MCM”) assigned Project Information Form (“PIF”) number P1208-0435-2024 to this project. The licensee of ACC received permission from the Proponent to access the property and to conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities including the removal of artifacts, as necessary. The property was accessed on April 10, 2024.

All fieldwork and reporting were completed using MCM’s 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. This report documents the research, the field methods and results, and the conclusions and recommendations based on the Stage 1 & 2 archaeological assessment. All documents and records related to this project will be curated at the offices of ACC, in accordance with subsection 66(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

1.2 Historical Context

1.2.1 Background Research

Stage 1 background research was conducted to determine the potential for finding and identifying archaeological resources including sites within the current subject property and to determine the necessity of conducting a Stage 2 survey. This is done by reviewing geographic, archaeological, and historical data for the property and the surrounding area. The background research was conducted to:

- amass all the readily available information on any previous archaeological surveys in the area.
- determine the locations of any registered and unregistered sites within and around the subject property.
- develop an historical framework for assigning levels of potential significance to any new sites discovered during fieldwork.

1.2.2 A Cultural Chronology for Southern Ontario

Over their thousands of years of occupation in the general region, Indigenous peoples have left behind, to a greater or lesser degree, physical evidence of their lifeway activities and settlements at many locations. Based upon a published synthesis of Indigenous cultural occupations (Wright, 1968). Table 1 is a general outline of the cultural history of southern Ontario that is applicable to the subject property. Ellis and Ferris (1990) provide greater detail of the distinctive characteristics of each time period and cultural group.

It is likely that Ontario was occupied soon after the retreat of the Ice Age glaciers. The earliest known human occupation in the area was during the Paleoindian period (between 12,000 and 9,500 years ago) wherein small groups of nomadic peoples hunted big game such as caribou in a cool sub-arctic climate. Sites are typically found near glacial features such as the shorelines of glacial lakes or kettle ponds which would have allowed access to the low-lying environments that were favoured by caribou and other wildlife. These people were few and their small, temporary campsites are relatively rare. Paleoindian sites are recognized by the presence of distinctive artifacts such as fluted projectile points, beaked scrapers, and graters and by the preference for light colored chert, such as Collingwood chert. The Paleoindian Period is divided into two sub-periods, Early Paleoindian, and Late Paleoindian.

Table 1: General Cultural Chronology for Southern Ontario

Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment
97 Bower Street
Town of Halton Hills, Halton, ON

PERIOD	SUBDIVISION I	SUBDIVISION II	YEARS BEFORE PRESENT	COMMENTS
PALEOINDIAN	Early Paleoindian	Fluted Point Horizon	12,000-10,500	big game hunters
	Late Paleoindian	Holcombe & Hi-Lo Horizons	10,500-9,500	small nomadic groups
ARCHAIC	Early Archaic	Side Notched Horizon	10,000-9,700	nomadic hunters and gatherers
		Corner-Notched Horizon	9,700-8,900	
		Bifurcate Horizon	8,900-8,000	
	Middle Archaic	Middle Archaic I/Stemmed Horizon	8,000-5,500	territorial settlements
		Middle Archaic II	5,500-4,500	polished ground stone tools
	Late Archaic	Narrow Point Horizon	4,500-3,500	
		Broad Point Horizon	4,000-3,500	
		Small Point Horizon (including Haldimand and Glacial Kame Complexes)	3,500-2,800	burial ceremonialism
	WOODLAND	Early Woodland	Meadowood Complex	2,900-2,400
Middlesex Complex			2,500-2,000	
Middle Woodland		SW Ontario: Saugeen	2,300-1,500	long distance trade networks
		Western Basin: Couture	2,300-1,500	
Transitional Woodland		SW Ontario:		
		Princess Point	1,500/1,400-1,200	incipient agriculture
		Western Basin:		
Late Woodland: Ontario Iroquois Tradition		Riviere au Vase	1500/1400-1200/1100	
		Early: Glen Meyer	1200/100-750/700	transition to village life
		Middle I: Uren	720/700-710/670	large villages with palisades
		Middle II: Middleport	710/670-670/600	wide distribution of ceramic styles
Late Woodland: Western Basin Tradition		Late: Neutral	600-450	
		Younge Phase	1200/1100-800	
		Springwells Phase	800-600	
HISTORIC	European Contact	Wolf Phase	600-450	
		Historic Neutral	450-350	tribal warfare
		Initial Contact	380-300	tribal displacement
		European Settlement	200 >	European settlement
		First Nations Resettlement	200 >	

(Compiled from Adams, 1994, Ellis *et al.*, 1990, Wright, 1968)

People during the Archaic period (*circa* 10,00 to 500 years ago) were still primarily nomadic hunters, but they adapted to a more temperate climate. Groups were dispersed during winter months and converged around watercourses from the spring to fall in large fishing campsites. The Archaic period is characterized by the appearance of ground stone tools, notched, or stemmed projectile points. The Archaic Period is divided into three sub-periods, Early, Middle, and Late Archaic. During the Archaic Period, groups began to establish territorial settlements and introduce burial ceremonialism. There is a marked increase in the number and size of sites, especially during the Late Archaic period.

The Woodland period is distinguished by the introduction of pottery vessels for storage and cooking. Sites of the Woodland period (*circa* 3000 to 400 years ago) are usually the most numerous because the population levels in southern Ontario had significantly increased, especially along the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario. The Woodland Period is also marked by the establishment of complex long distance trading networks. The Woodland Period is divided into three sub-periods, Early, Middle and Late Woodland. During the Late Woodland Period, there is increasing sedentarism and the establishment of horticulture, a reliance on tribal warfare, and the introduction of semi-permanent villages with large protective palisades. The Late Woodland period also envelops the emergence of Iroquoian tribes and confederacies.

The historic period (from A.D. 1650 to 1900) begins with the arrival of Euro-Canadian groups. Sites of this period document European exploration, trade, and the displacement and devastation of native groups caused by warfare and infectious disease. The most common sites of this period include Euro-Canadian homesteads, industries, churches, schools, and cemeteries. .

While North America had been visited by Europeans on an increasing scale since the end of the 15th century, the first European to venture into what would become southern Ontario was Étienne Brûlé. Brûlé was sent by Samuel de Champlain in the summer of 1610 to consolidate an emerging friendship between the French and the First Nations, and to learn their languages and customs. Other Europeans would subsequently be sent by the French to train as interpreters. These men played an essential role in communications with the First Nations (Gervais, 2004:182).

The late 17th and early 18th centuries saw the growth and spread of the fur trade, with the establishment and maintenance of trading posts along the Great Lakes. In 1754, hostilities over trade and the territorial ambitions of the French and the British led to the Seven Years' War, which ended when the French surrendered in 1760 (Smith, 1987:22). In addition to cementing British control over the Province of Quebec, the British victory over the French also proved pivotal in catalyzing the Euro-Canadian settlement process.

During pre-contact and early contact times, the vicinity of the subject property would have contained a mixture of deciduous trees, coniferous trees, and open areas. In the early 19th century, Euro-Canadian settlers arrived via easily accessible colonization routes and began to clear the forests for agricultural purposes. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the subject property and surrounding land were primarily used for agricultural purposes, Mixed farming was common, with wheat crops and beef cattle dominating the landscape (Chapman and Putnam, 1984:177).

The subject property was historically located on Lot 28, Concession 3, in the Township of Esquesing North, County of Halton, Ontario. In 1791, the provinces of Lower Canada and Upper Canada were created from the former province of Quebec by a British parliamentary act. Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and was tasked with governing and directing its settlement, as well as establishing a constitutional government based on Britain's model (Coyne et al, 1895:33).

The historic County of Halton was named after Major William Halton, secretary to Francis Gore, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada from 1806-1817. Euro-Canadian settlement here began in the 1780s when United Empire Loyalists began to take up land. By 1817, the county consisted of the townships of Esquesing, Trafalgar, Nelson, and Nassagaweya (Mika & Mika, 1981).

Esquesing Township was initially surveyed in 1818 and opened for settlement in 1819. Its name likely originates from the Mississauga word *ishkwessin*, meaning “that which lies at the end,” which was the original name for Bronte Creek (Gardiner, 1899). The township’s first meeting was held in 1821 with a population of 424. By 1846, 57,347 acres were taken up, with 19,622 acres under cultivation (Smith, 1846). The principal road to Lake Ontario in the township was Trafalgar Road, which saw the development of several settlements along this route.

The Crown Patent for 200 acres in Lot 28, Concession 3, Esquesing Township was granted to the Canada Company in 1829. Then, on July 5, 1848, The Canada Company sold all 200 acres to Rufus Adams. In his will, Rufus Adams imparted a portion of the lot to his wife, Maria Adams, on August 20, 1856. After his passing, the lot transferred solely into Maria’s name in 1863. (Ontario Land Registry Access, 1999).

Historical records and mapping were examined for evidence of early Euro-Canadian occupation within and near the subject property. Figure 2 and 3 represents the Euro-Canadian settlement in and around the current subject property in the late 19th century. Tremaine’s 1858 *Historical County Map of Halton County* indicates that Lot 28, Concession 3, was owned by Maria Adams. There are no structures depicted within the subject property (Figure 2), and the image shows the subject property being a part of the town of Acton. The Grand Trunk Railway is depicted as approximately 12 metres (“m”) from the subject property. In addition, the subject property is located merely 105 m from an historic major transportation route. An unnamed body of water is also shown as being in close proximity to the subject property.

J.H. Pope’s 1877 *Illustrated Historic Atlas of the County of Halton* lists Lot 28, Concession 3, as not having specified ownership. There are no structures depicted in the subject property (Figure 3), however it depicts the subject property as being a part of the town of Acton. It shows the Grand Trunk Railway being 13 m from the subject property, and that the subject property is located 106 m from a major historic roadway. An unnamed body of water is also shown as being in close proximity to the subject property.

It should be noted that while no structures are illustrated within the subject property on the historical atlas maps, it does not necessarily mean that one or more structures were not present at that time, earlier or later. Not all features of interest were mapped systematically on the Ontario series of historical maps and atlases, given that they were financed by subscription, and subscribers were given preference regarding the level of detail provided on the maps (Caston, 1977:100). Given that the subject property is in extremely close proximity to the Grand Trunk Railway, as very close to major transportation roads, and is a part of the town of Acton, there is the potential for 19th century buildings to be present, depending on the level of disturbance.

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Natural Environment

The subject property is located within the Horseshoe Moraines physiographic region (Chapman and Putnam, 1984:113). The Horseshoe Moraine forms a horseshoe-shaped region above and west of the highest portions of the Niagara Escarpment. The two major landforms associated with this area are irregular stone knobs and ridges as well as pitted sand and gravel terraces and valley floors filled with swamps (Chapman and Putnam, 1984).

The Soil Survey of Simcoe County (Matthews, Richards, and Wickland 1957) indicates that there are two types of dominant soil types within the subject property (Figure 4). Donnybrook (Dk) is a Gray Brown Luvisol, made up of gravelly loam. It is made up of coarse gravel, and is well drained. The second soil type within the subject property is Killean (Kl), which is another Gray Brown Luvisol made up of loam. It contains a stony loam till and is imperfectly drained.

Water has been identified as the major determinant of site selection and the presence of potable water is the single most important resource necessary for any extended human occupation or settlement. Primary water sources include, among others, lakes, rivers, creeks, and streams. Secondary water sources include intermittent streams, creeks, springs, marshes, and swamps. Past water sources, such as raised beach ridges, relic water channels, and glacial shorelines are also considered to have archaeological potential. Swamps and marshes are also important as resource extraction areas, and any resource areas are considered to have archaeological potential. There is a tributary stream of Fairy Lake running through the west of the subject property.

1.3.2 Current Land Use

Figure 5 provides the current land use of the subject property. The subject property does not have a primary purpose. The property consists mostly of overgrown lawn and woodlot and did at one time contain a modern residential building which has since been removed. Currently the subject property is not in use.

Fieldwork for the project was conducted on April 10, 2024.

1.3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

1.3.3.1 Registered Archaeological Sites

Previously registered archaeological sites can be used to indicate archaeological potential. To determine if any previous assessments have yielded archaeological sites, either within or surrounding the current subject property, two main sources were consulted. These include the *Ontario Archaeological Sites Database* (“OASD”) and the *Public Register of Archaeological Reports*, both of which are maintained by MCM.

The OASD contains archaeological sites registered within the Borden system (Borden, 1952). The Borden system divides Canada into 13 km by 18.5 km blocks based on longitude and latitude. Each Borden block is designated with a four-letter label and sites identified within the

block are numbered sequentially as they are registered. The subject property is located within the *AjHa* Borden block.

According to the OASD, no archaeological sites have been registered within the subject property, however, 1 site has been registered within 1 km of the subject property (MCM, 2024a). The nearest of these sites is over 1 km from the current subject property. The site is of Euro-Canadian cultural affiliation, with an unknown site type.

Table 2 lists the sites within 1 km along with the current Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (“CHVI”) for each site. CHVI is a term used by MCM and consultant archaeologists to describe archaeological resources that meet one or more criteria that recommend further fieldwork in MCM’s *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. Under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and its regulations, archaeological resources that have been determined to possess CHVI are protected as archaeological sites under Section 48 of the act. Information in Table 2 is provided by MCM through the OASD (MCM, 2024a).

Table 2: Registered Archaeological Sites within 1 km of the Subject Property

REG. #	NAME	TIME PERIOD	CULTURAL AFFILIATION	SITE TYPE	STATUS
AjHa-29	Lasby	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Unknown	N/A

Information concerning specific site locations is protected by provincial policy and is not fully subject to the *Freedom of Information Act*. The release of such information in the past has led to looting or various forms of illegally conducted site destruction. Confidentiality extends to all media capable of conveying location, including maps, drawings, or textual descriptions of a site location. MCM will provide information concerning site location to the party or an agent of the party holding title to a property, or to a licensed archaeologist with relevant cultural resource management interests.

1.3.3.2 Previous Archaeological Reports

A review of archaeological reports within the *Public Register of Archaeological Reports* indicated that there is one archaeological report detailing previous archaeological fieldwork within the subject property filed with the MCM at the time this report was written. Figure 6 shows the location of the assessments in relation to the current subject property. Reports were searched based on registered site information, historic lots and concessions, and nearby streets.

THE STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 7 AT MAIN STREET, TOWN OF HALTON HILLS, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON (PART LOTS 28-30, CONCESSIONS 2 AND 3, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF ESQUESING). A. M. Archaeological Associates. Report dated January 8, 2019. PIF P035-0289-2018.

In 2019, A. M. Archaeological Associates conducted background research, including visual inspection, as part of a stage 1 archaeological assessment of approximately 78 ha within a 500 m radius of the intersection of Highway 7 and Main Street. They concluded that the subject property held archaeological potential due to its proximity to historic transportation routes and a water

source, as well as houses and industrial buildings. They recommended that, should any work be conducted in the subject property area, further Stage 2 assessment by method of test pit excavation would be required for the 38% of the subject property deemed testable. The remaining 62% of the property was considered too disturbed to hold archaeological potential.

1.3.4 Potential for Archaeological Resources

Archaeological potential is defined as the likelihood of finding archaeological sites within a subject area. For planning purposes, determining archaeological potential provides a preliminary indication that significant sites might be found within the subject area, and consequently, that it may be necessary to allocate time and resources for archaeological survey and mitigation.

The framework for assigning levels of potential archaeological significance is drawn from provincial guidelines found in the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM, 2011: Sections 1.3.1 and 1.3.2). The following are features or characteristics that can indicate archaeological potential:

- previously identified archaeological sites
- water sources (It is important to distinguish types of water and shoreline, and to distinguish natural from artificial water sources, as these features affect site locations and types to varying degrees.)
 - primary water sources (e.g., lakes, rivers, streams, creeks)
 - secondary water sources (e.g., intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps)
 - features indicating past water sources (e.g., 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)
 - accessible or inaccessible shoreline (e.g., high bluffs, swamp or marsh fields by the edge of a lake, sandbars stretching into marsh)
- elevated topography (e.g., eskers, drumlins, large knolls, plateaus)
- pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially near areas of heavy soil or rocky ground
- distinctive land formation that might have been special or spiritual places, such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, and promontories and their bases. There may be physical indicators of their use, such as burials, structures, offerings, rock paintings or carvings.
- resource areas, including:
 - food or medicinal plants (e.g., migratory routes, spawning areas, prairie)
 - scarce raw materials (e.g., quartz, copper, ochre or outcrops of chert)

- early Euro-Canadian industry (e.g., fur trade, logging, prospecting, mining)
- areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement. These include places of early military or pioneer settlement (e.g., pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches and cemeteries. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local provincial, or federal monuments or heritage parks
- early historical transportation routes (e.g., trails, passes, roads, railways, portages)
- property listed on a municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* or that is in a federal, provincial, or municipal historic landmark site
- property that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations

Archaeological potential can be determined not to be present for either the entire property or parts of it when the area under consideration has been subject to extensive and deep land alterations that have severely damaged the integrity of any archaeological resources. This is commonly referred to as “disturbed” or “disturbance” and may include:

- quarrying
- major landscaping involving grading below topsoil
- building footprints
- sewage and infrastructure development
- activities such as agricultural cultivation, gardening, minor grading, and landscaping do not necessarily affect archaeological potential.

Several factors can be used to assess the potential for recovery of Euro-Canadian archaeological resources on a property. Historical documentation indicates that the general area was used for early settler agriculture and residential areas. Historical mapping indicates that the subject property was within very close proximity to the town of Acton (Tremaine, 1862). The subject property is located close to an early historical roadway, now known as Main Street North/Concession Road 25 and located 12 m away from the Grand Trunk Railway. There is one site of Euro-Canadian cultural affiliation located within 1 km of the subject property (Table 2).

Several factors can be used to assess the potential for recovery of Indigenous archaeological resources on a property. The subject property is comprised of land that is suitable for human habitation. An unnamed tributary stream of Fairy Lake runs through the west of the subject property.

Given the above, background archival research indicates that the subject property exhibits general archaeological potential for the discovery of both pre/post-contact Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources therefore, a Stage 2 archaeological assessment is required.

2.0 FIELD METHODS

The subject property measures 0.91 ha. The Stage 1 & 2 assessments were conducted on April 10, 2024, with advance permission to enter the subject property obtained from the Proponent. Weather conditions during the assessment were excellent.

The Stage 1 assessment of the subject property began with an on-site property inspection to gain first-hand knowledge of the geography, topography, and current condition of the property. The entirety of the subject property was accessible and was inspected. Appropriate photographic documentation was taken during the visual inspection. Coverage of the property was sufficient to identify the presence or absence of features of archaeological potential, meeting the requirements of Section 1.2 Standard 1 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists.

Areas of low to no archaeological potential include lands that have been previously disturbed, lands that have steeply sloping topography, and lands that are low-lying and permanently wet. During the Stage 2 assessment, approximately 0.03 ha of the subject property was observed as previously disturbed, holding no archaeological potential.

The remainder of the subject property, totalling 0.88 ha, was determined to have archaeological potential and require Stage 2 archaeological assessment. 0.88 ha of the subject property consists of overgrown lawn and woodlot areas and was subject to test pit survey at 5 m intervals in accordance with Section 2.1.2 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. During testing parts of the subject property were found to contain a moderate degree of disturbance, which was confirmed through judgmental test pits excavated throughout the subject property. As no artifacts were observed during the test pit assessment, no intensified survey was conducted.

There were no weather, ground, or lighting conditions detrimental to the recovery of artifacts. As such, it is confirmed that the assessment met Section 1.2 Standard 2 and Section 2.1 Standard 3 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists regarding weather and lighting.

The results of the Stage 1 & 2 assessment are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Images of the assessment are provided in Section 8.0.

3.0 RECORD OF FINDS

3.1 Soils

The average test pits on the subject property consisted of 20-25 cm of medium brown topsoil with some rock/stone inclusions, above a reddish subsoil. In the southern portion of the subject property, test pits contained disturbance including gravel, concrete, and modern debris (Image 6).

3.2 Archaeological Resources

No artifacts or other archaeological resources were observed during the Stage 1 & 2 assessment of the subject property.

3.3 Documentary Record

All fieldwork-related activities were documented and kept, including field notes and observations and detailed maps. Appropriate photographic records were kept of the assessment and all image descriptions were recorded in a photo log.

A detailed list of field records is presented in Table 3. All digital items have been duplicated and all paper items have been scanned and stored as digital documents. All items are housed in the corporate offices of ACC.

Under Section 6 of Regulation 881 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, ACC will keep in safekeeping all objects of archaeological significance that are found under the authority of the license and all field records that are made in the course of the work authorized by the license, except where the objects and records are donated to His Majesty the King in right of Ontario or are directed to be deposited in a public institution under subsection 66 (1) of the Act.

Table 3: Inventory of Documentary and Material Records

PROJECT INFORMATION		
ACC project number	103-12-24	
Licensee	Matthew Muttart	
MCM PIF numbers	P1208-0435-2024	
DOCUMENT/MATERIAL	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
field notes & photo logs	1	pages (paper, with digital copies)
maps	1	aerial imagery of subject property
photographs	7	digital colour photographs

4.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

Stage 1 background research indicated that the subject property has general archaeological potential due to the following factors:

- The subject property is within close proximity to the historic town of Acton.
- The subject property is close to an historic roadway.
- The subject property is within 12 m of the Grand Trunk Railway.
- There is 1 archaeological site registered within 1 km of the subject property.

The subject property measures 0.91 ha. A visual property inspection determined that 0.03 ha of the subject property consists of drainage and low-lying wet areas, ditches, and residential space.

0.88 ha of the subject property retained archaeological potential and was recommended for Stage 2 assessment. 0.88 ha of the subject property consists of overgrown lawn and woodlot areas and was subject to test pit survey at 5 m intervals in accordance with Section 2.1.2 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. During testing parts of the subject property were found to contain a moderate degree of disturbance, which was confirmed through judgmental test pits excavated throughout the subject property.

No artifacts or other archaeological resources were identified during the Stage 2 archaeological assessment. According to the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM, 2011), the subject property has now been completely assessed and does not require any additional fieldwork.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Subject to acceptance of the results and approval of the recommendations, MCM is requested to deem this report compliant with ministry requirements for archaeological fieldwork and reporting and to issue a letter accepting this report into the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports*.

The following recommendation is provided for consideration by the Proponent and by the MCM:

1. No artifacts or other archaeological resources were identified during the Stage 2 archaeological assessment. The subject property has now been fully assessed according to the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. No further archaeological assessment of the property is required.

6.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

The following advice on compliance with current legislation is provided for consideration:

- a. This report is submitted to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 2005, c O.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.
- b. 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 a time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- c. 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*.
- d. The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 requires that any person discovering human remains must notify the local police or coroner and the Registrar, Burials Unit, at the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery.

7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES

Adams, Nick

1994 *Field Manual for Avocational Archaeologists in Ontario*. Publication No.16,
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.

A.M. Archaeological Associates.

2019 *THE STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 7 AT MAIN STREET, TOWN OF HALTON HILLS, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON (PART LOTS 28-30, CONCESSIONS 2 AND 3, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF ESQUESING)*. Report in Register. PIF P035-0289-2018.

Borden, Charles E.

1952 A Uniform Site Designation Scheme for Canada. *Anthropology in British Columbia*, No. 3, 44-48.

Belden, H. & Co.

1881 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Simcoe, Ontario*. Reprinted 1975.
Cumming Atlas Reprints, Port Elgin.

Chapman, L.J. and D.F. Putnam

1984 *The Physiography of Southern Ontario*. 3rd ed. Ministry of Natural Resources

Caston, Wayne

1997 Evolution in the Mapping of Southern Ontario and Wellington County.
Wellington County History. 10:91-106.

Coyne, James, C. O. Ermatinger, K. W. McKay

1895 *Historical Sketches of the County of Elgin*. Elgin Historical and Scientific Institute, St. Thomas.

Ellis, Chris & Neal Ferris

1990 *The Archaeology of Southern Ontario to A.D. 1650*. Occasional Publication No. 5. London Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.

ESRI

2022 World Topographic map

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=30e5fe3149c34df1ba922e6f5bbf808f>
[accessed May 9, 2024]

Gervais, G.

2004 Champlain and Ontario (1603-35). In *Champlain: The Birth of French America*, edited by R. Litalien and D. Vaugeois, pp. 180-190. Montreal: McGill-Queen's Press.

Matthews, B.C. & N.R. Richards & R.E. Wicklund

1957 *The Soil Survey of Halton County*. Report No. 18 of the Ontario Soil Survey. Experimental Farms Service, Canada Department of Agriculture, and the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Mika, Nick and Helma Mika

1981 *Places in Ontario: Their Name Origins and History. Part II, F-M*. Mika Publishing Company, Belleville.

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (“MCM”)

2005 *The Heritage Act, R.S.O. 2005*. Queen's Printer, Toronto.

2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. Toronto.

2024a Sites within a 1 km radius of the subject property. Provided from the *Ontario Archaeological Sites Database*.

2024b Archaeological assessments completed within the subject property or within 50 m of the subject property. Provided from the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports*.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

2019 Topographic Map, Land Information Ontario

https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/MakeATopographicMap/index.html?viewer=Make_A_Topographic_Map.MATM&locale=en-CA

[Accessed May 8, 2024]

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (“MNDM”)

2007 Physiography of Southern Ontario. Chapman, L.J. and D.F. Putnam, authors. GIS map data layer distributed by the Ontario Geological Survey as Miscellaneous Release – Data (MRD) 228. Queen’s Printer for Ontario.

<http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/en/mines-and-minerals/applications/ogsearth>

[Accessed May 8, 2024]

Ontario Land Registry Access

1999 *Halton Count (20), Esquesing, Book 711*. Concession 3; Lot 1 to 32.

<https://www.onland.ca/ui/20/books/23253/viewer/404365738?page=367>.

[Accessed April 11, 2024].

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (“OMAFRA”)

2012 *GIS Layers for Soils and Physiography in the Province of Ontario*.

<http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/publications/surveys/on/index.html>

[Accessed May 8, 2024]

Pope, J.H.

1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton, Ont.* Walker & Miles: Toronto.

Smith, D. B.

1987 *Sacred Feathers: The Reverend Peter Jones (Kahkewaquonaby) and the Mississauga Indians*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Smith, W. H.

1846 *Smith's Canadian Gazetteer*. H. & W. Rowsell.

Tremaine, George R

1858 *Tremaine's Map of the County of Halton County*. George C. Tremaine, Publisher.

Wright James V.

1968 *Ontario Prehistory: an eleven thousand-year archaeological outline*. Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa.

8.0 IMAGES

Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment
97 Bower Street
Town of Halton Hills, Halton, ON



Image 1: Subject property from the southern edge, facing north.



Image 2: Subject property from the southeast, facing northeast.



Image 3: Subject property from the west corner, facing southeast.



Image 4: Subject property from the northern edge, facing south.



Image 5: Subject property from the eastern corner, facing west.



Image 6: Example of disturbed test pit - sloping concrete within test pit.



Image 7: Example of undisturbed test pit.

9.0 FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of the Subject Property on a 1:50,000 Scale Topographic Map

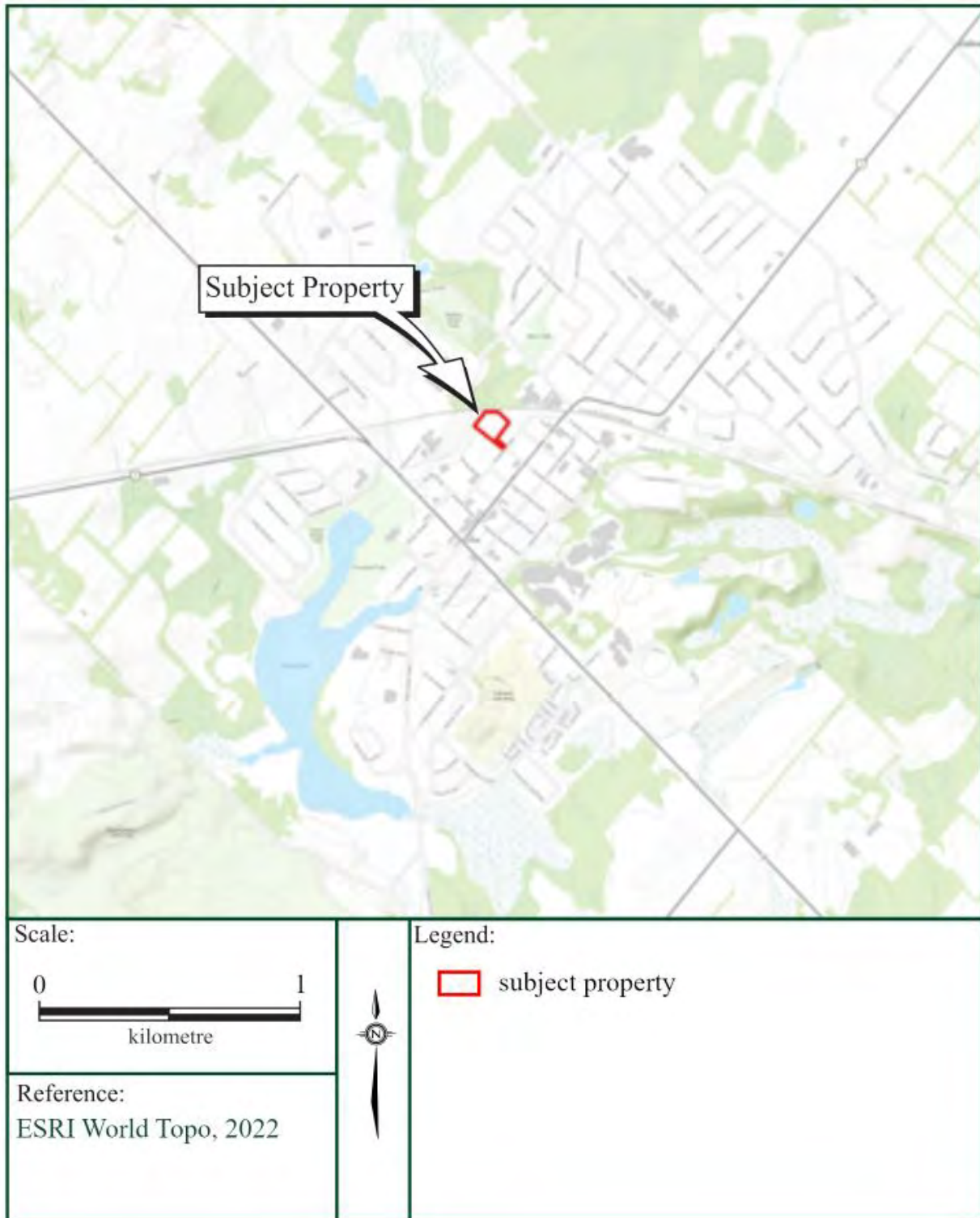


Figure 2: Location of the Subject Property on Tremaine's 1858 Historical County Map of Halton County

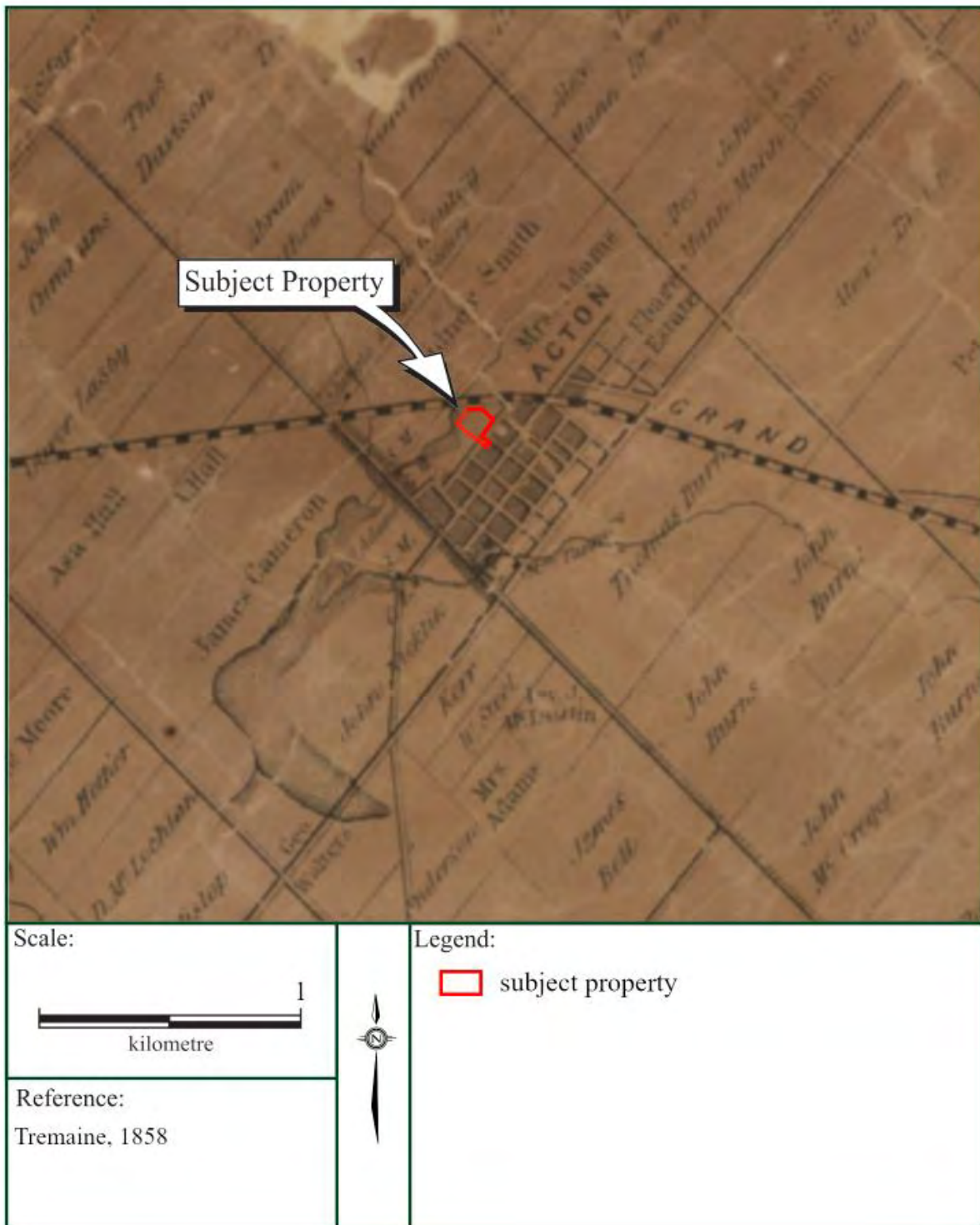


Figure 3: Location of the Subject Property on Pope's 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton, Ont.

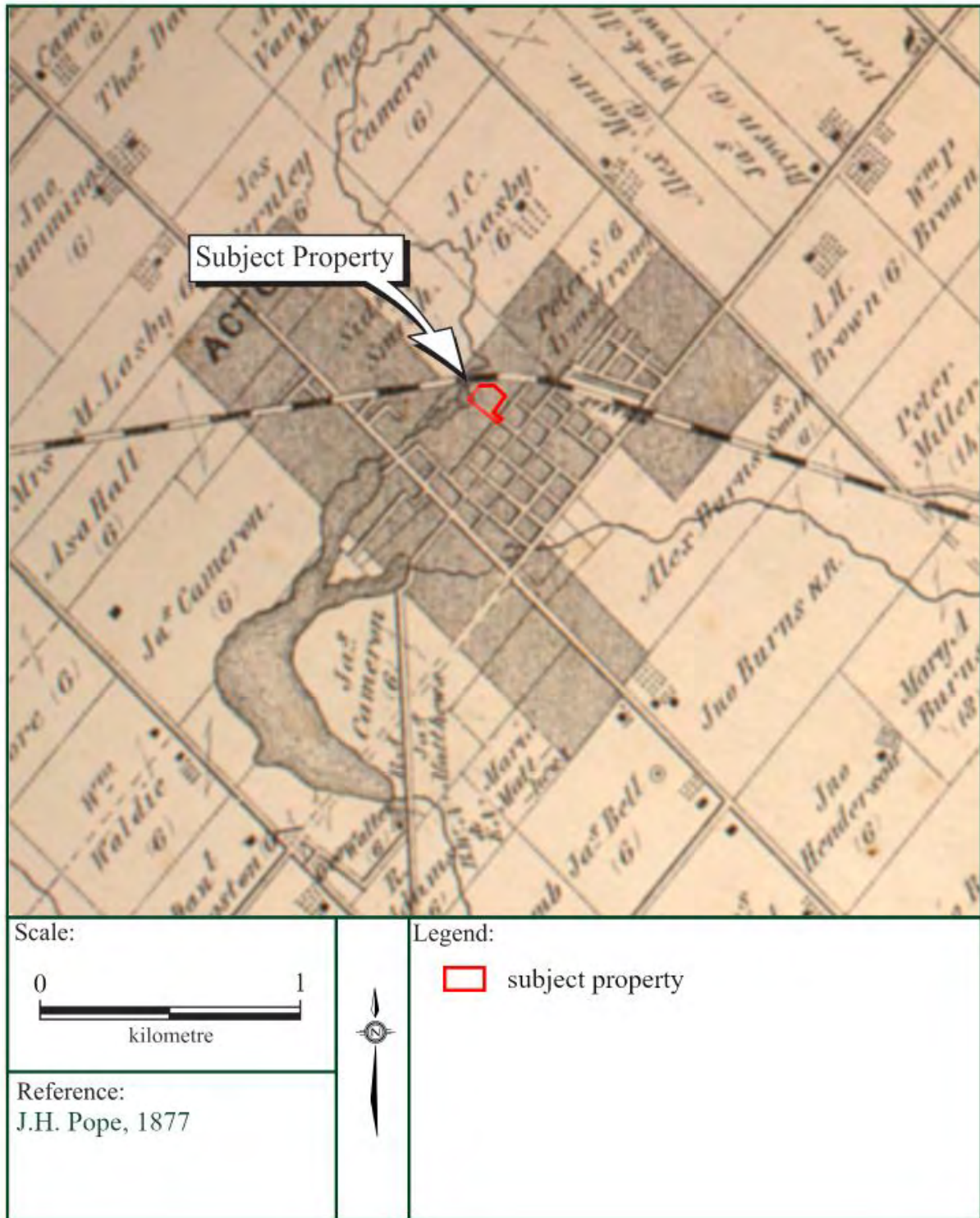


Figure 4: Location of the Subject Property on a Map the Soils of Halton County

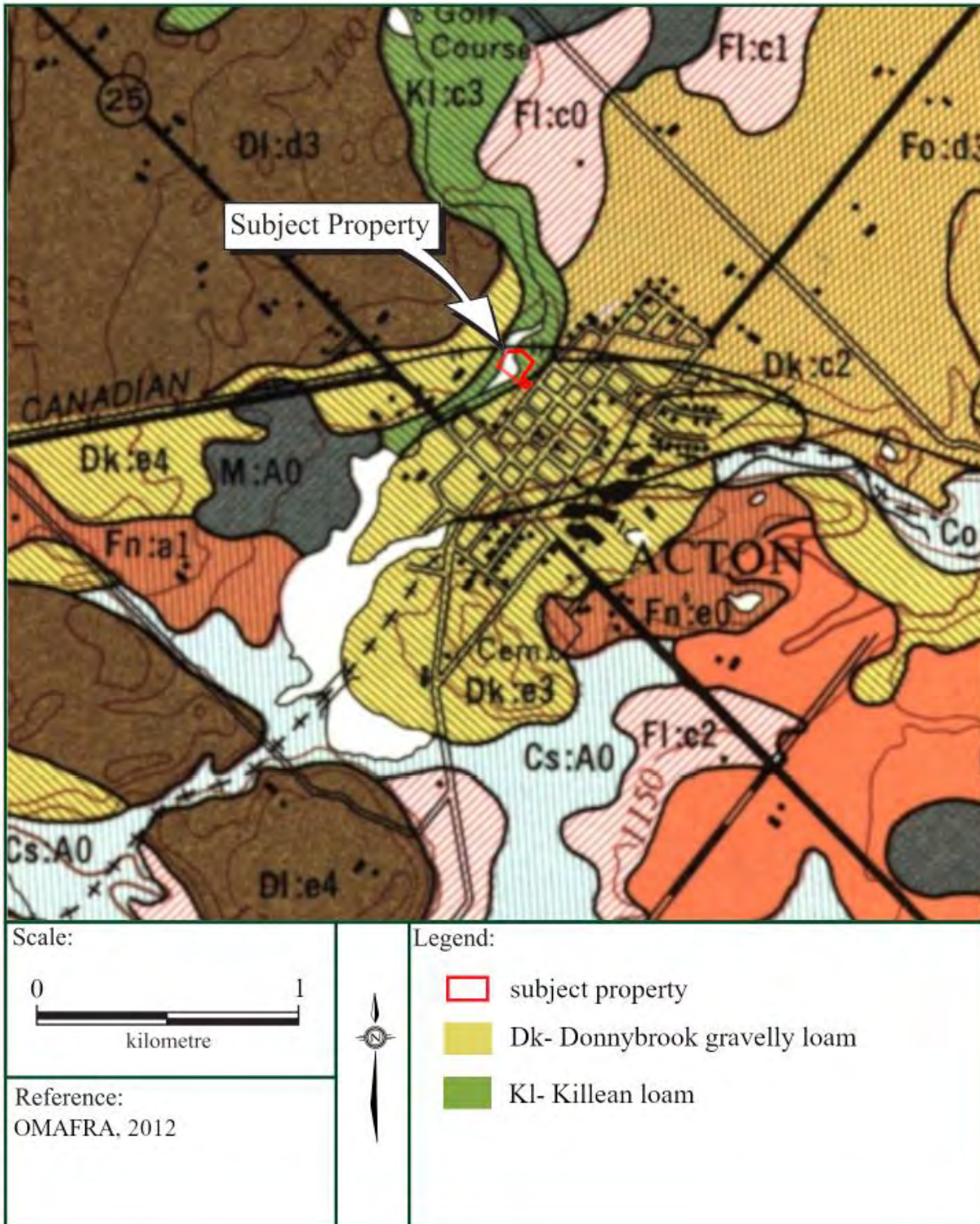


Figure 5: Aerial Imagery Showing the Current Land Use of the Subject Property



Figure 6: Aerial Imagery Showing the previous Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment by A.M. Archaeological Associates

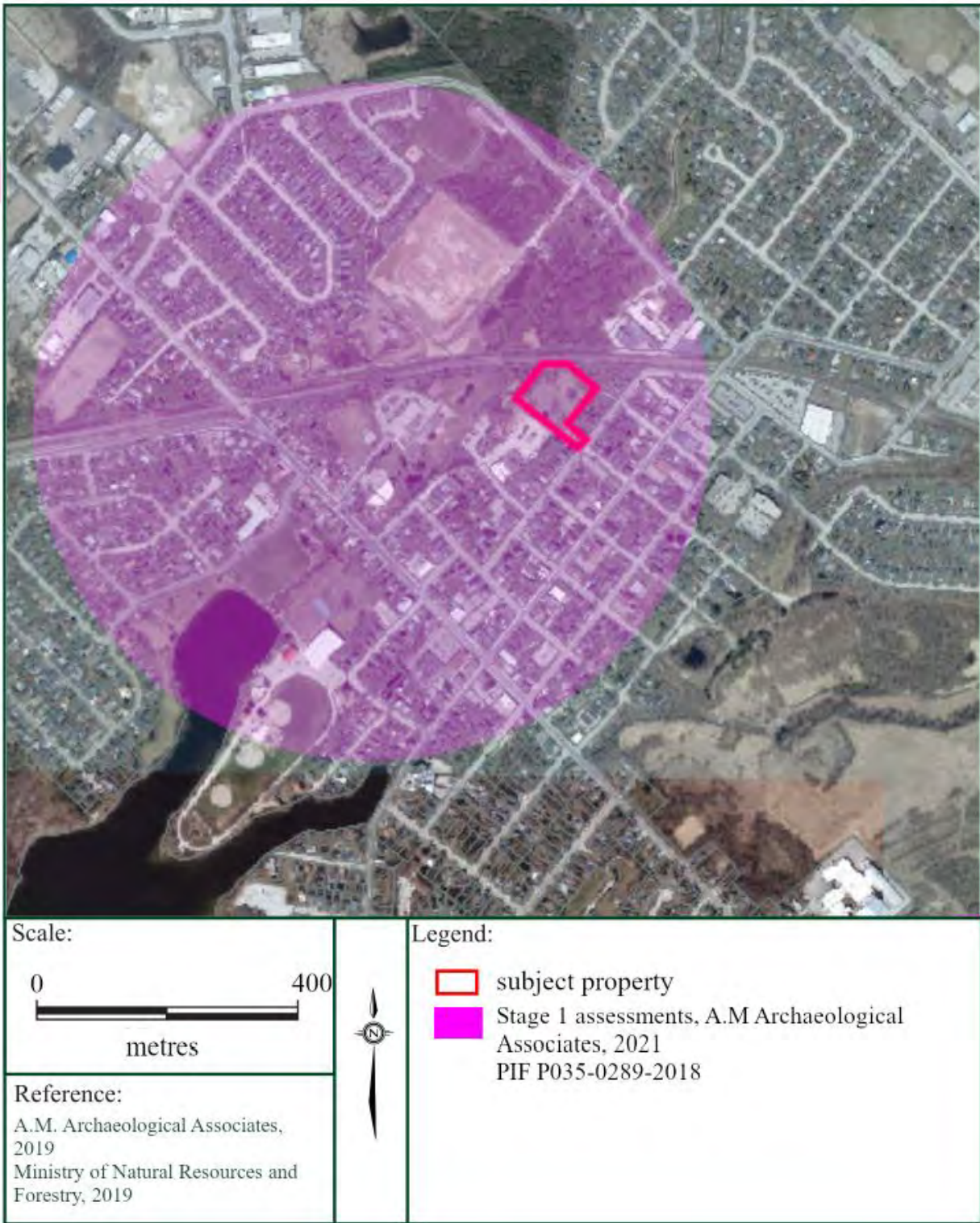


Figure 7: Results of the Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment of the Subject Property, with Photograph Locations and Directions

