



Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment

Part 1, Registered Plan 59R-5392
Part of Lot 139
Geographic Township of Stamford
City of Niagara Falls
Regional Municipality of Niagara

Prepared for:
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PIF: P1037-0060-2021
Original Report



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December 21, 2021

Executive Summary

Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc. was retained to conduct a Stage 2 archaeological assessment of a 4.32 hectare area located on Part 1, Registered Plan 59R-5392, City of Niagara Falls, Regional Municipality of Niagara, historically part of Lot 139, Geographic Township of Stamford, Welland County, Ontario. The assessment was undertaken in support of a Plan of Subdivision Application and additional lands owned by the applicant, and was conducted as part of the requirements defined in Section 4.10 of the City of Niagara Falls Official Plan, which requires an archaeological assessment to be undertaken when a proposed development, site alteration, or redevelopment of lands has the potential to adversely affect archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential.

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the study area was conducted between October 6 and October 25, 2021, under PIF #: P1037-0060-2021, issued to Michael Golloher, M.Sc. (P1037). The weather during the survey was overcast and mild. At no time were weather or lighting conditions detrimental to the observation or recovery of archaeological material.

Approximately 70% of the study area was assessed through a test pit survey, with the remaining area not assessed due to Stage 1 recommendations indicating low archaeological potential or evidence of previous disturbance from the construction of a gravel driveway.

Test pits were spaced at maximum intervals of five metres apart. Each test pit was excavated by hand to 30 centimetres in diameter and was excavated into the first five centimetres of subsoil. Depth varied between 25 and 30 centimetres. Each test pit was examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill, and all soil was screened through wire mesh of 6 millimetre width. All test pits were backfilled. The subsurface stratigraphy consisted of a dark brown silty clay topsoil horizon over an orange clay subsoil. No archaeological material was identified during the course of the survey.

Based on the results of the Stage 2 test pit survey the study area is considered to be free of archaeological material, and no additional archaeological assessments are recommended.

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries is requested to review this report and provide a letter indicating their satisfaction that the fieldwork and reporting for this archaeological assessment are consistent with the Ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences, and to enter this report into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports.



Table of Contents

1.0	Project Context.....	1
1.1	Development Context	1
1.2	Historic Context	2
1.2.1	Pre-Contact Indigenous History	2
1.2.2	Post Contact Indigenous History	3
1.2.3	European Settlement History	3
1.2.4	Land Use History of Study Area	4
1.2.5	Historic Plaques	5
1.3	Archaeological Context	5
1.3.1	Current Conditions	5
1.3.2	Natural Environment	5
1.3.3	Known Archaeological Sites.....	6
1.3.4	Adjacent Archaeological Assessments	7
1.3.5	Previous Archaeological Assessments	7
2.0	Field Methods	9
3.0	Record of Finds	10
4.0	Analysis and Conclusions.....	11
5.0	Recommendations	12
6.0	Advice on Compliance with Legislation	13
7.0	References	14
8.0	Images	18
9.0	Maps	26



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1.0 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc. (Earthworks) was retained by SMJR Hospitality to conduct a Stage 2 archaeological assessment of a 4.32 hectare area located on Part 1, Registered Plan 59R-5392, City of Niagara Falls, Regional Municipality of Niagara, historically part of Lot 139, Geographic Township of Stamford, Welland County, Ontario (Map 1). The assessment was undertaken in support of a Plan of Subdivision Application and additional lands owned by the applicant (Map 2) and was conducted as part of the requirements defined in Section 4.10 of the *City of Niagara Falls Official Plan*, which requires an archaeological assessment to be undertaken when a proposed development, site alteration, or redevelopment of lands has the potential to adversely affect archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential (City of Niagara Falls 2019:3-25) (Map 2).

The objectives of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment, as outlined by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' (MHSTCI) *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011), are as follows:

- To document archaeological resources located on the property
- To determine whether any identified archaeological resources require further assessment
- To recommend Stage 3 assessment strategies for any archaeological sites determined to require additional assessment.

As part of this assessment, background research was conducted in Earthworks corporate library, the OnLand Registry Database, and the Federal Canadian Census located online at Library and Archives Canada.

Permission to access the property was provided by the proponent.



1.2 Historic Context

1.2.1 Pre-Contact Indigenous History

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the general culture history of southern Ontario, as based on Ellis and Ferris (1990).

Table 1: Pre-Contact Indigenous Culture History of Southern Ontario

Culture Period	Diagnostic Artifacts	Time Span (Years B.P.)	Detail
Early Paleo-Indian	Fluted Projectile Points	11,000-10,400	Nomadic caribou hunters
Late Paleo-Indian	Hi-Lo, Holcombe, Plano Projectile Points	10,400-10,000	Gradual population increase
Early Archaic	Nettling and Bifurcate Points	10,000-8,000	More localized tool sources
Middle Archaic	Brewerton and Stanly-Neville Projectile Points	8,000-4,500	Re-purposed projectile points and greater amount of endscrapers
Narrow Point Late Archaic	Lamoka and Normanskill Projectile Points	4,000-3,800	Larger site size
Broad Point Late Archaic	Genessee, Adder Orchard Projectile Points	3,800-3,500	Large bifacial tools. First evidence of houses
Small Point Late Archaic	Crawford Knoll, Innes Projectile Points	3,500-3,100	Bow and Arrow Introduction
Terminal Archaic	Hind Projectile Points	3,100-2,950	First evidence of cemeteries
Early Woodland	Meadowood Points, Cache Blades, and pop-eyed birdstones	2,950-2,400	First evidence of Vinette I Pottery
Middle Woodland	Pseudo-scallop shell	2,450-1550	Burial Mounds
	Princess Point pottery	1550-1100	First evidence of corn horticulture
Late Woodland	Levanna Point	1,100-700	Early longhouses
	Saugeen Projectile Points	700-600	Agricultural villages
	Nanticoke Notched Points	600-450	Migrating villages, tribal warfare



1.2.2 Post Contact Indigenous History

The surrounding area enters the historic record in 1626, when Father Daillon, a French missionary, spent three months in the Hamilton region attempting to conclude a trading alliance with the Neutral Confederacy. These negotiations ultimately failed due to opposition from Huron allies (White 1978:409). By 1638, the Neutral had expanded east to the Niagara River in response to a void left by the Wenro migrating to Huronia and the Erie migrating southwest. By the early 1640s, the Neutrals were engaged in large scale warfare with the Assistaeronons to the west while maintaining a neutral stance between the Huron and the League of Five Nations Iroquois. The City of Niagara Falls was located within the territory of the Onguiarahronon tribe, with the village of Onguiaahra located on the east side of the Niagara River (Noble 1978). European influence in the region was generally restricted to the beaver pelt trade, and Aboriginal groups practiced a way of life that did not differ significantly from the pre-Contact period. By the late 1640's, the increasing scarcity of beaver pelts prompted the invasion of the Neutral by the League of Five Nations Iroquois. By 1651, the Neutral were destroyed and either moved west out of Ontario or were absorbed into the League of Five Nations (Trigger 1994:57).

The region appears to have been relatively unpopulated by permanent settlements in the latter half of the seventeenth century, with much of southern Ontario used as a hunting territory by the Iroquois. However, Ojibway groups previously thought to have settled along the northern shores of Georgian Bay and Lake Superior gradually migrated into southern Ontario, and by 1707 had settled in the Niagara region (Rogers 1978:761).

In 1764, British need to control the Niagara portage route in order to supply Detroit led to the forced surrender from the Seneca of a three kilometre strip west of the Niagara River. The overlapping Mississauga claim was addressed in 1781, when increased settlement pressure from refugees of the American Revolutionary War led to the British to purchase a six and half kilometre strip of land along the full length of the west bank of the Niagara River for 300 suits of clothing, in what became known as the Niagara Purchase (Surtees 1994:97). The Mississauga eventually relocated to the Grand River at New Credit in 1847.

1.2.3 European Settlement History

The most famous early description of Niagara Falls was made by Louis Hennepin, who was part of a French expedition to discover North America and which ultimately staked a claim on the Niagara River between 1678 and 1681 (Revie 2003:21). However, French settlements were restricted to the St. Lawrence River and Maritime provinces, and settler immigration did not begin in earnest until 1783, when the Treaty of Paris was signed ending the American Revolutionary War and the British government began offering free land grants to United Empire Loyalists (Hancocks 1984)

The Township of Stamford was first surveyed in 1788, although settlement had begun approximately five years earlier (Hughes 1994). Economic activity centred around tourism and agricultural production due to the presence of fertile, easily worked soils and the proximity to the Niagara Falls. The War of 1812 impacted population growth, but immigration surged following



the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814. The study area is located approximately equidistant from the historic settlements of Drummondville and Clifton. The village of Drummondville was named in honour of Sir Gordon Drummond, the leader of the British forces in the Battle of Lundy's Lane in 1814. It was incorporated as a village in 1831, and renamed to the village of Niagara Falls South in 1882 (Petrie 1967:36,44). The village of Clifton was first laid out in 1832 by Captain Ogden Creighton, and amalgamated with the village of Elgin in 1856 following the construction of Great Western Railroad which connected Hamilton to Niagara Falls, New York in 1855 (Petrie 1967:38). The Town of Elgin was renamed to the Town of Niagara Falls in 1881, and both the town and village were amalgamated into the City of Niagara Falls in 1904. In 1970, the township was merged with the City of Niagara Falls as part of the larger establishment of the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

1.2.4 Land Use History of Study Area

The Crown for lot 139 patent was awarded to Ebenezer Skinner in 1798, but he owned and occupied the land at least a year prior to the patent grant. A 1797 map of the area notes Ebenezer Skinner as owning lot 139 in what would become the Township of Stamford (modern day Niagara Falls) (Jones 1797). In 1807 Ebenezer Skinner sold the lot to Benjamin Skinner. Benjamin Skinner sold the lot to David Skinner in 1830 and in 1850 David Skinner sold the lot to James Oswald. In 1851 the lot appears to have been farmed by either Adam Farlack, who is not present in the 1851 personal census, or John Smith who was an Irish Roman Catholic with no listed occupation (Government of Canada 1853:35, 67). By 1858 however the land is seized after the owner, James Oswald is unable to pay property taxes and granted to multiple men, including Richard Miller. Richard Miller, who is not listed on any personal census data of the area, is depicted as occupying the lot in a 1862 Map of the County (Tremaine 1862). No structures are noted on the property but a historic creek that leads to the Chippawa Creek does run adjacent to the study area.

John Law, a farmer from Scotland is listed in the 1861 agricultural census as farming part of Lot 139 (Government of Canada 1863:34, 39). He farmed wheat, barley, rye and a number of other crops and lived in a two storey frame home. The cash value of the farm, which included lot 140, was \$7800. In 1871, John Law is listed as still being a Presbyterian Farmer who lived with his children (Government of Canada 1871:39). In 1869 Richard Miller sold the lot to John Brown, an Irish Catholic farmer who lived with his family, according to the 1871 personal census. John Brown is the owner of the lot past 1870, with the only other occupant being C. Shafer, a tenant farmer of German descent.

By 1880 the surrounding towns have seen significant development but the lot and study area have remained dominantly rural, with only one structure in the Northeast corner of the lot (Page 1880). With the exception of the northwest corner, John Brown is depicted as the owner of the lot in the 1880 historical atlas of the county.

A topographic map from 1937 shows lot 139 still being rural, with no permanent structures of note (Putnam 1937). This continues for most of the 20th century until urban sprawl and development results in the surrounding area being developed and absorbed into the Town of Niagara Falls, and the study area remained as vacant land.



1.2.5 Historic Plaques

As per Section 1, Standard 1.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*, Earthworks consulted local historical plaques in order to inform archaeological potential and assessment strategies. No local plaques were found which related to the history of the current study area.

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Current Conditions

The study area consists of an overgrown lot with heavy vegetation (Images 1 thru 12).

1.3.2 Natural Environment

The study area is situated within a clay plain of the Haldimand Clay Plain physiographic region, a 3500 square kilometre area consisting of a series of parallel clay belts deposited during the time of glacial Lake Warren and includes dunes, cobble, clay, and sand beaches, limestone pavements, and back-shore wetland basins (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 156-157).

The surficial geology consists of glaciolacustrine deep water deposits of clay and silt, and soil mapping of the area indicates the study area consists of Malton Clay, a reddish hued silty clay over clay loam till (Kingston and Presant 1989).

The nearest water source is a tributary of the Welland River that once ran through the southwest corner of the study area.

The study area is located within the Niagara District of the Lake Ontario – Lake Erie Ecoregion, which itself is situated within the Mixedwood Plains Ecozone. This region encompasses 2,185,845 hectares, and contains a diverse array of flora and fauna. It is characterized by a mix of Carolinian forest remnants of tulip-tree, black gum, sycamore, Kentucky coffee-tree, pawpaw, various oaks and hickories, and common hackberry, in addition to the more widespread sugar maple, American beech, white ash, eastern hemlock, and eastern white pine:

Typical mammals inhabiting this ecoregion include white-tailed deer, northern raccoon, striped skunk, and the Virginia opossum which has increased its distribution and abundance since the latter half of the 20th century. Characteristic birds include green heron, Virginia rail, Cooper's hawk, eastern kingbird, willow flycatcher, brown thrasher, yellow warbler, common yellowthroat, northern cardinal, and savannah sparrow. Wild turkey has been re-introduced into the ecoregion. Herpetofauna, is diverse, including several provincially rare species (e.g., spiny softshell turtle), as well as more frequent species such as eastern red-backed salamander, American toad, eastern gartersnake, and Midland painted turtle. Longnose gar, channel catfish, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, walleye, northern hogsucker, banded killifish, and spottail shiner are among the fish species found in the lakes and rivers in this ecoregion.

Crins et al. 2009:52



Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Garner Road Development
Niagara Falls

1.3.3 Known Archaeological Sites

A search of registered archaeological sites within the MHSTCI Archaeological Sites Database was conducted. A total of 37 archaeological sites are located within one kilometre of the study area and are summarized in Table 2. Additionally, AgGs-316 is located within 300 metres of the study area.

Table 2: Registered Archaeological Sites located within one kilometre of Study Area

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type
AgGs-113	James A. House 1	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Otherbuilding, homestead
AgGs-114	James A. House 2	Post-Contact, Pre-Contact	Aboriginal, Euro-Canadian	homestead, scatter
AgGs-305		Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	homestead
AgGs-306				
AgGs-307				
AgGs-308		Other		Otherunknown_, Unknown
AgGs-309		Other		Otherunknown_, Unknown
AgGs-310		Archaic, Middle	Aboriginal	scatter
AgGs-311		Other		Otherfindspot_
AgGs-312		Other		Otherfindspot_
AgGs-313	Deerfield 1	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	homestead, midden
AgGs-314	Deerfield 3	Archaic, Early	Aboriginal	findspot
AgGs-315	Deerfield 7	Other		Otherunknown_, Unknown
AgGs-316	Deerfield 2	Other		Otherunknown_, Unknown
AgGs-317	Deerfield 6	Other		Othercamp/campsite_
AgGs-318	Deerfield 5	Other		Otherunknown_, Unknown
AgGs-319	Deerfield 4	Other		Otherunknown_, Unknown
AgGs-345	AgGs-345-P8	Pre-Contact		
AgGs-346	AgGs-346-P10	Archaic, Late	Aboriginal	
AgGs-347	AgGs-347-P15-P24	Archaic, Late, Paleo-Indian, Late		
AgGs-351	AgGs-351-P50-p52	Pre-Contact		
AgGs-352	AgGs-352-P68			
AgGs-353	AgGs-353-P69			
AgGs-354	AgGs-354-P71	Woodland, Middle	Aboriginal	
AgGs-355	AgGs-355-P74			
AgGs-356	AgGs-356-P76	Archaic, Late	Aboriginal	



**Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Garner Road Development
Niagara Falls**

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type
AgGs-357	AgGs-357-P78	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	
AgGs-358	AgGs-358-P82			
AgGs-359	AgGs-359-P84			
AgGs-360	AgGs-360-P86,P111,P113-P115			
AgGs-362	AgGS-362-P106	Archaic, Early	Aboriginal	
AgGs-363	AgGS-363-P107	Archaic, Late	Aboriginal	
AgGs-364	AgGs-364	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	
AgGs-365	AgGs-365-P109	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	
AgGs-386		Post-Contact, Pre-Contact		scatter
AgGs-411	Walker XI	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	homestead
AgGs-429	Walker XXIII	Archaic, Early	Aboriginal	findspot

1.3.4 Adjacent Archaeological Assessments

No archaeological surveys within 50 metres of the study area were identified.

1.3.5 Previous Archaeological Assessments

A Stage 1 archaeological assessment of the study area was undertaken in 2017 under PIF #:P066-0275-2017. Historic background research and a property inspection indicates the study area contained evidence of archaeological potential, and a Stage 2 archaeological assessment was recommended. The recommendations are cited below:

- 1) *A Stage 2 archaeological should be conducted on all portions of the subject property that exhibit high archaeological potential as shown in Appendix A: Figure 7. Within the current subject property this includes areas of scrubland (3.01 hectares in size). As these areas cannot be ploughed, assessment using the standard hand-shovel test pit method is required. Test pits should be excavated by hand at regular five-metre intervals in a grid-pattern and to a depth of 5 cm into the subsoil. The stratigraphy of soils excavated during test pitting should be examined in order to detect cultural soil horizons. In addition, excavated soils are to be screened through 6-mm mesh in order to facilitate the recovery of archaeologically significant artifacts. The pattern and intensity of test pit placement may be altered due to changes in archaeological potential in different parts of the study area and/or the presence of disturbed soils. Any areas of 'disturbance' should be evaluated and photodocumented. If archaeological resources are found their exact distribution should be documented and any diagnostic artifacts recovered and inventoried. Upon discovery of cultural materials, the survey grid should be continued to*



determine whether there are enough archaeological resources to meet the criteria for making a recommendation to carry out a Stage 3 assessment. In the event that insufficient archaeological resources are recovered, eight additional test-pits are to be dug in a 2 to 2.5 metre radius around the positive test-pit, followed by the excavation of a 1 x 1 m unit over the positive test pit. Cultural artifacts encountered are to be collected and bagged according to provenience.

- 2) *The remainder of the study area, including permanently wet and previously disturbed areas as shown in Appendix A: Figure 7 do not require further archaeological assessment.*

(AFW 2017:15)



2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the study area was conducted between between October 6 and October 25, 2021, under PIF #: P1037-0060-2021, issued to Michael Golloher, M.Sc. (P1037). The weather during the survey was overcast and mild. At no time were weather or lighting conditions detrimental to the observation or recovery of archaeological material.

Approximately 70% of the study area was assessed through a test pit survey (Images 13 and 14), with the remaining area not assessed due to Stage 1 recommendations indicating low archaeological potential or evidence of previous disturbance from the construction of a gravel driveway.

Test pits were spaced at maximum intervals of five metres apart. Each test pit was excavated by hand to 30 centimetres in diameter and was excavated into the first five centimetres of subsoil. Depth varied between 25 and 30 centimetres. Each test pit was examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill, and all soil was screened through wire mesh of 6 millimetre width. All test pits were backfilled. The subsurface stratigraphy consisted of a dark brown silty clay topsoil horizon over an orange clay subsoil (Images 15 and 16). No archaeological material was identified during the course of the survey.

The results of the Stage 2 archaeological survey are presented in Map 3.



3.0 Record of Finds

Table 3 provides an inventory of the documentary record generated in the field.

Table 3: Information Inventory of Documentary Record

Document	Location	Description
Field Notes	Earthworks Office Project File	1 page of notes
Photographs	Earthworks Office Project File	132 digital photographs
Field Map	Earthworks Office Project File	1 page



4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment was conducted on a 4.32 hectare area located on Part 1, Registered Plan 59R-5392, City of Niagara Falls, Regional Municipality of Niagara, historically part of Lot 139, Geographic Township of Stamford, Welland County, Ontario. The Stage 2 test pit survey was conducted between October 6 and October 25, 2021.

The Stage 2 archaeological survey did not yield any evidence of archaeological material. As a result, no additional archaeological assessments are required



5.0 Recommendations

Based on the results of the Stage 2 test pit survey the surveyed area is considered to be free of archaeological material, and no additional archaeological assessments are recommended.

The MHSTCI is requested to review this report and provide a letter indicating their satisfaction that the fieldwork and reporting for this archaeological assessment are consistent with the Ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences, and to enter this report into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports



6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

This report is submitted to the Ministry of Heritage Sport Tourism and Culture Industries as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Heritage Sport Tourism and Culture Industries, 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 fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeology Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.



7.0 References

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**Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Garner Road Development
Niagara Falls**

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**Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Garner Road Development
Niagara Falls**

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**Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Garner Road Development
Niagara Falls**

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8.0 Images



Image 1: Study Area Conditions. Facing Northeast.



Image 2: Study Area Conditions. Facing South.



Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Garner Road Development
Niagara Falls



Image 3: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southeast.



Image 4: Study Area Conditions. Facing East.



Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Garner Road Development
Niagara Falls



Image 5: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southwest.



Image 6: Study Area Conditions. Facing West.



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Image 7: Study Area Conditions. Facing North.



Image 8: Study Area Conditions. Facing South.



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Image 9: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southeast.



Image 10: Study Area Conditions. Facing North.



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Image 11: Study Area Conditions. Facing Northwest.



Image 12: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southwest.



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Image 13: Stage 2 Test Pit Survey in Progress. Facing North.



Image 14: Stage 2 Test Pit Survey in Progress. Facing South.





Image 15: Open Test Pit showing Subsurface Stratigraphy.



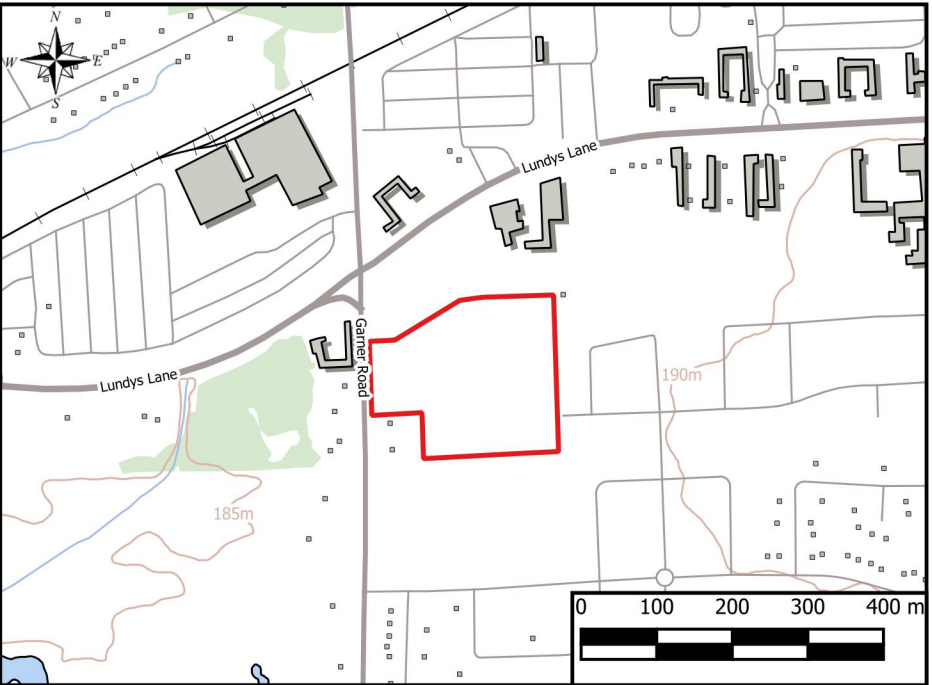
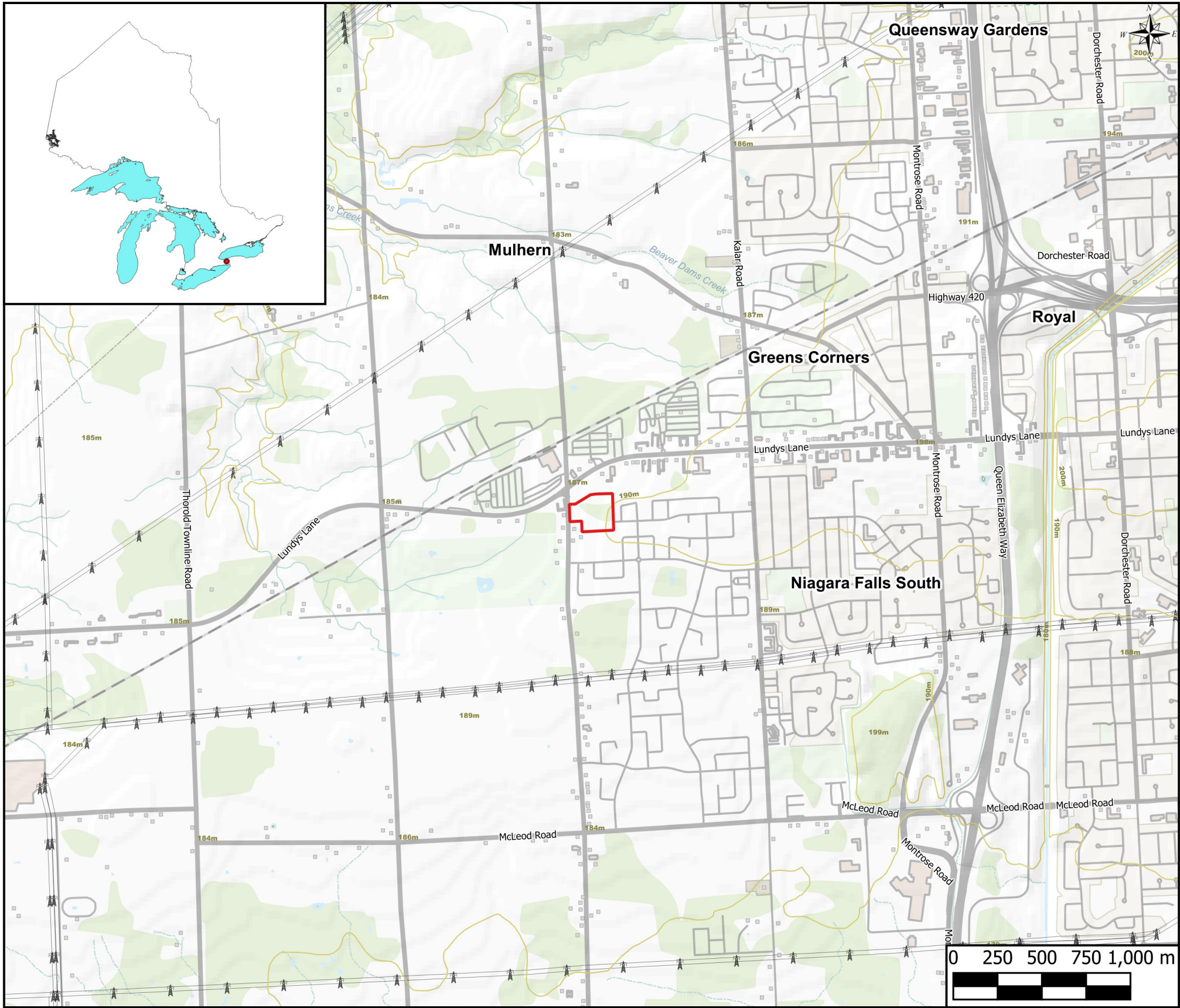
Image 16: Open Test Pit showing Subsurface Stratigraphy.



9.0 Maps



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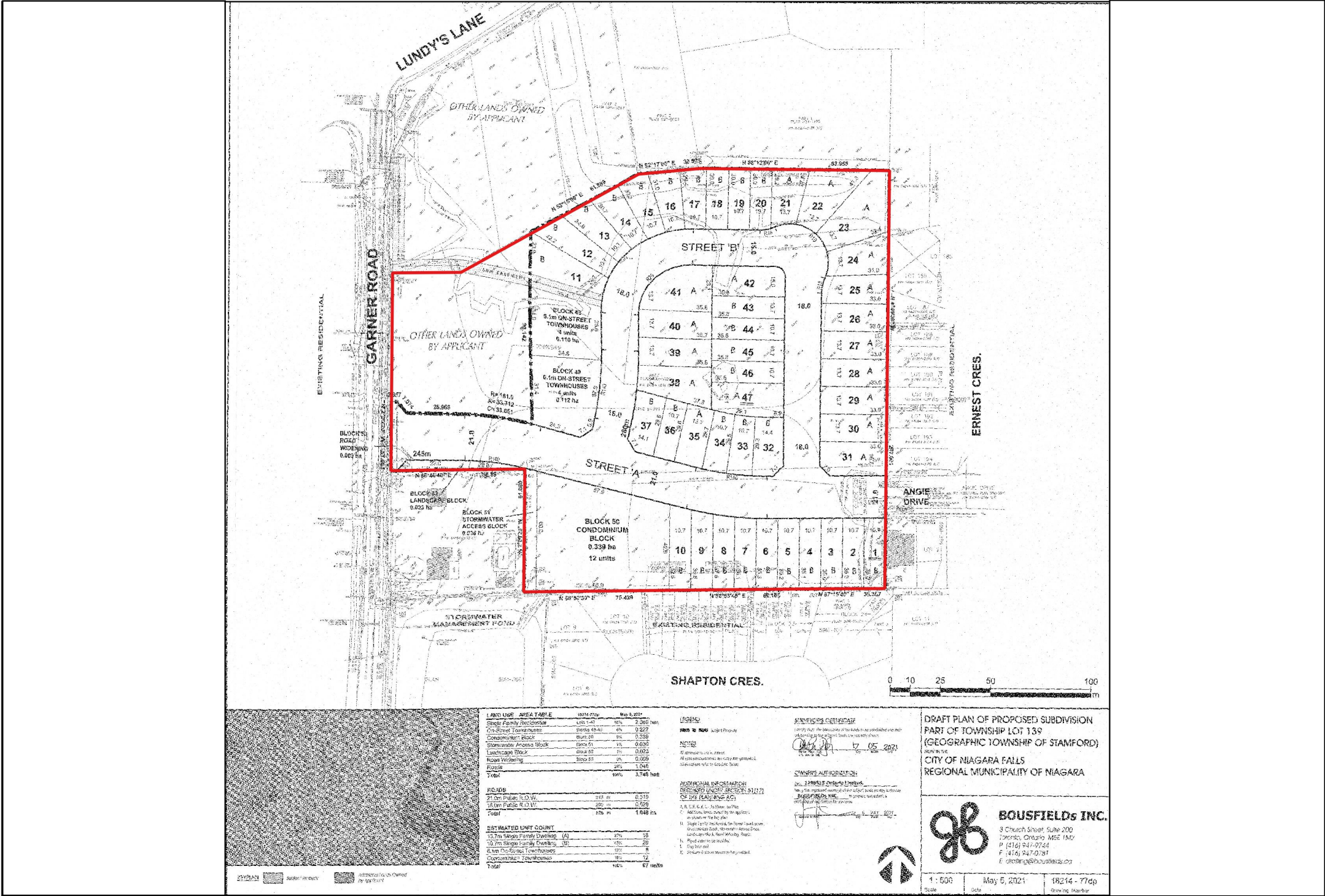
Legend

Study Area

Reference:
Canvec Data. Scale 1:50000
Ontario Basic Mapping. Scale 1:10000
Esri Basemap

Map 1: Regional Map

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Map 2: Site Plan



Legend

- Study Area
- Area Subject to Stage 2 Test Pit Survey at 5 metre intervals
- Area Not Recommended for Archaeological Assessment
Not Assessed
- Area of Subsurface Disturbance - Not Assessed
- Photo Location and Direction

Reference:
Esri Basemap

**Map 3: Stage 2
Assessment Results**