

Stage 1 - 2 Archaeological Assessment Report

2970 Fesserton Sideroad (Block 18, 51M-917), Part of Lot 6, Concession 11,
Geographic Township of Flos, County of Simcoe

Original Report

Project Information:

Archaeological License: P1024 (Sarah MacKinnon MSc.)

MHSTCI PIF#: P1024-0265-2020

Project File #: 129-2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of 2970 Fesserton Sideroad (Block 18, 51M-917), Part of Lot 6, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Tay, County of Simcoe. The study was conducted under Professional Archaeological License P1024 issued by the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (Ontario) to Sarah MacKinnon. The Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment was undertaken as a requirement under Ontario Regulation 544/06 under the Planning Act (RSO 1990) in support of development application as part of the pre-submission. This report confirms that all of the work conducted as part of this assessment conforms to the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MHSTCI 2011) and the Ontario Heritage Act (MCL 2005).

New Era Archaeology Inc. was contracted to complete the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of 2970 Fesserton Sideroad (Block 18, 51M-917) and was given permission to access the property to conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities. The Stage 1 field visit was completed concurrently with the Stage 2 Property Assessment. Prior to the field visit it was determined that the subject property had potential for both pre-contact and post-contact archaeological resources and is also noted as having archaeological potential according to the County of Simcoe *Archaeological Management Plan* (Map 6) (Archaeological Services Inc. 2019). The Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment was conducted on June 22-26, July 1-3, 2020 consisting of test pit survey at an interval of five meters.

As a result of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment no archaeological resources were encountered, consequently it is recommended that no further archaeological assessment is required.

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1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

1.1 DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

This report describes the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of 2970 Fesserton Sideroad (Block 18, 51M-917), Part of Lot 6, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Tay, County of Simcoe. The study was conducted under Professional Archaeological License P1024 issued by the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (Ontario) to Sarah MacKinnon. The Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment was undertaken as a requirement under Ontario Regulation 544/06 under the Planning Act (RSO 1990) in support of a re-zoning application. This report confirms that all of the work conducted as part of this assessment conforms to the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MHSTCI 2011) and the Ontario Heritage Act (MCL 2005).

New Era Archaeology Inc. was contracted to complete the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of 2970 Fesserton Sideroad (Block 18, 51M-917) and was given permission to access the property to conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities. The Stage 1 field visit was completed concurrently with the Stage 2 Property Assessment. Prior to the field visit it was determined that the subject property had potential for pre-contact archaeological resources and is also noted as having archaeological potential according to the County of Simcoe *Archaeological Management Plan* (Map 6) (Archaeological Services Inc. 2019). The Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment was conducted on June 22-26, July 1-3, 2020 consisting of test pit survey at an interval of five meters.

1.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1.2.1 General Historical

Simcoe County

Hunter-gatherer bands have occupied Simcoe County as early as 13,000 years ago. Early Paleo-Indian campsites have been found in compelling correlation with strandlines of glacial Lake Algonquin (ASI 2018). Possible use of watercraft by Paleo-Indians is suggested by the location of the Banting site, which is located on a drumlin surrounded by glacio-lacustrine deposits that would have been a small island within Lake Algonquin (ASI 2018). The landscape of Simcoe County comprised of open boreal woodlands would have sustained the substance practices of hunting and fishing as the primary means of survival of early Paleo-Indians. The interior hinterlands would have been used for game and possibly riverine fish by those with base camps situated close to Lake Algonquin. Quarries located with the Niagara Escarpment uplands made Fossil Hill chert, Paleo-Indians preferred tool, available to the west of Simcoe County (ASI 2018).

The shorelines of Lake Huron and Lake Simcoe had receded significantly from their modern day boundaries throughout the late Paleo-Indian period (ca. 12,500 - 11,000 Cal BP) and early Archaic period (ca. 11,000 - 9,000 Cal BP), and remained so until after 8,000 Cal BP. River mouths adjacent to these lakes are likely places for hunter-gatherer bands to establish base camps. These areas with resources such as spawning fish could have supported small communities of between 35-50 people. However, these sites now would be submerged within Lake Huron and Lake Simcoe. Ephemeral campsites situated along watercourses may be evidence of hunting parties journeying into the interior after large game (ASI 2018).

Seasonal macro-band camps would have still been established at river mouths during the Middle Archaic period (ca. 9,000 - 5,000 Cal BP), however, the creation of the northern mixed hardwood forest and wetlands as well as the accompanying wider range of plant and animal resources would have resulted in shifted settlement patterns. An increased importance would have begun to shift to major valleys where river terraces with well-drained soils and access to rich riparian habitat would have made ideal campsites. During the autumn the hardwood upland forest mast-producing trees would have been attractive to both Indigenous foragers and game animals. Though, the interior habitats continued to improve the ability to sustain hunter-gatherer bands through the warm season the reduced support capacity during the cold season would have required bands to spread their populations out into separate smaller groups, most likely nuclear family. This practice has continued until recent generations with Indigenous people of the boreal forest. The larger valleys may have been the focus of occupation during the winter period as they provided protection from storms and access to conifer groves with deer. In addition, the riparian wetlands and swamps would have provided building materials and fuel, as well as sustenance in the form of roots, tubers, and small game (ASI 2018).

As the waters of Lakes Huron and Simcoe rose from ca. 8,000 to 6,000 Cal BP the major lakeshores of Simcoe County were changed. The nodes where the mouths of major watercourses meet these lakes represent significant environmental and transportation networks that would have attracted settlement. Archaeological sites have been found along major hydrological features including large rivers, wetlands and the Atherley Narrows. Additional sites along smaller nodes throughout the shorelines and through the Nottawasaga, Lake Simcoe, Trent, and Severn drainage systems indicate the significance of proximity to navigable waterways as an increasing factor influencing Indigenous settlement patterns in Simcoe County (ASI 2018).

The Late Archaic period (ca. 5,000 - 3,000 Cal BP) and Woodland period (ca. 3,000 - 300 Cal BP) hunter-gatherers maintained the relatively unchanged lifestyle practice of their ancestors though, with the addition of some technological advancements including the advent of pottery in the form of vessels during the Early Woodland Period (ca. 3,000 to 2,300 Cal BP). Based on ethnographic analogues as well as general continuity in environmental and cultural practices after 5,000 14C BP it is understood that the land-use patterns of the Middle Archaic periods continued with only local variation to the end of the Middle Woodland Period (2,300 - 1,500 Cal BP) (ASI 2018).

The Late Woodland period (1,500 – 250 Cal BP) saw the adoption of maize agriculture and therefore the need for suitable farmland. Like any change to cultural practice, the addition of agriculture began as planned gardening adjacent to macro-band camps most likely located outside of Simcoe County near the Lake Ontario shore. As full-scale farming took effect the more secure food supply provided better nutrition community populations grew and as a result settlements moved up-stream in order to expand their catchment areas for hunting, gathering, and fishing (ASI 2018).

The Contact Period marks the introduction of Europeans to Canada and the start of major trade with the French and British. It also marks the dispersion of the Huron out of Huronia, followed by the movement of the Iroquoian to the area who were subsequently pushed back out of the area by the Anishnaabe who settled in the area taking over the care of the fishing weirs at the Narrows. The Anishnaabe would become major traders with the first Europeans who set up trading posts in the area of the Narrows.

Tay

The estuary between Christian Island and the rocky Muskoka shore was known as Gloucester Bay, and was regarded as an important branch of the route to Lake Huron. The first settlers in Tay township were drawn to the area with connections to Indigenous trading. The earliest settler, Michael Macdonnell, was in the employment of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1816. He advanced to the roll of officer in the same company and acted as a

private secretary for Lord Selkirk and for three years was connected to Lord Selkirk and the Red River Settlement. The first settlers to the southern parts of Tay came from Durham county during the late 1860s and 70s. The township contained comparatively few settlers until the Midland Railway was built. The township of Tay was connected with township of Tiny for municipal purposes until 1869 when it became a separate municipality (Hunter, 124-133).

Two village settlements on Penetanguishene Bay were there two and a half centuries before the establishment of the town of Penetanguishene. One called Wenrio located near the foot of the hill at its south-east extremity, and the other Ihonatiria located just back of the Northwest Basin and immediately opposite the site of the Provincial Reformatory (H. Belden 1881).

Delightfully situated on the shore of one of the most picturesque bodies of inland water on the American continent – its streets rising in terraced beauty and mathematical regularity, the one above the other; from the water which have the lowest, to the hill (we had almost said the mountain) top which is traversed by the highest – by summer bathed in the glorious and mellow sunlight peculiar to its own latitude; in winter covered with snows which rival Labrador, and bring back to the fertile soil, during its season of repose, that vigour required to perpetuate a healthy growth – we behold in Penetanguishene a landmark in history, whose early experiences are now dim memories of the past, whose origin and subsequent development were the results of a devotion, elsewhere unknown, on the part of the missionaries who bore the banner of the Cross from the French monasteries to the forest primeval of the Western Hemisphere, and made this spot a link in the chain of civilizing, Christianizing and subduing influences which, commencing at Quebec and ending at New Orleans, gave to France a vast empire in the New World.

(H. Belden 1881)

The first connection to the harbour of Penetanguishene was obtained when Governor Simcoe made his trip to Georgain Bay in 1793 (Hunter, 124-133). Immediately after Lieut. Governor Simcoe moved the capital of the province from Newark (now Niagara) to York (Toronto) a number of plans for internal improvement of the Province were devised, including opening up of a waggon road to connect Lakes Ontario and Huron. The regiment of the ‘Queen’s Rangers’ were assigned to open up Yonge Street from York to Holland Landing, which was accomplished about 1796. The route was then continued by water to Kempenfeldt Bay, on the north shore of the Government reserve of ‘Kempenfeldt’ which was just east of the Town of Barrie. From there a direct line ran between that point and Penetanguishene Bay. Supplies to the North-West Government posts were taken of this route using beasts of burden in the summer time. However, the road was not used in the wintertime as there was no official post at Penetanguishene Bay, and bateaux were used to meet the supply trains at the shore (H. Belden 1881).

About the beginning of the war of 1812-15 the route was abandoned for the one via Willow Creek and the Nottawasaga River where the Military Post of Nattawasaga was established at the mouth. The post at Nottawasaga was abandoned in 1817 and the post was moved to Penetanguishene Bay in 1818. The first civilians who came to Penetanguishene with the military post in 1818 were the families of Asher Mundy and Robert Smith, both ran little stores for the troops at Nottawasaga and followed them to their next post (H. Belden 1881).

The Establishment, as it was known, was conducted on a limited scale for ten years until a sudden expansion occurred as a result of the removal of the military post from Drummond Island with the soldiers being followed by French and Metis boatmen, traders and pensioners after 1818. The Establishment as the early town was called, was two miles beyond the center of the present town of Penetanguishene, closer to the entrance of the harbour. The military depot was reduced starting in 1832 when the naval stores were put up for auction (Hunter 124-133). The civilians bought up the stores but the 14 vessels were unsold and four of them were ended up sinking in the bay (Historical Sketch of Simcoe, VIII) and reductions continued until the early 1850s when enrolled pensioners were the last stationed there. The Ordnance and Admiralty lands in various parts of Canada were transferred to the province by an act of the Canadian parliament on June 19, 1856. Penetanguishene, at 5,396 acres, was the largest military reserve in Upper Canada and it was soon transformed into a Juvenile Reformatory Prison. The Reformatory was fully established in 1859 and by October of 1860 it housed 60 boys from various parts of the province. The old military barracks was used as the main building for the prison until a new and imposing structure was erected between 1862-6 and was immediately occupied as the Reformatory. 150 boys were housed within the new building by 1866. Officers from Drummond Island and those working for the Government Indian Department settled in the area after getting their discharge papers. A census of Penetanguishene was taken in June of 1875 in a view to incorporate as a village. The population was found to be 841 to the proposed limits of the new corporation and the County Council passed a By-law incorporating it as a village. The Ontario Legislature passed an Act on March 10, 1882 to incorporate it as a town (Hunter, 124-133).

1.2.2 Historical Mapping

Map 2 illustrates the location of the project area and environs as of 1871. *Hogg's Map of Simcoe County* (Hogg, 1871) illustrates the project area just to the west of Matchedash Bay and south of Sturgeon Bay (Georgian Bay). The lot is not shown to be owned by anyone and no structures are illustrated within the lot. Surrounding the project area quite a number of the lots are shown to be owned. The majority of the lots shown to be owned are located to the north east, east and south of the project area. Structures and businesses are not illustrated on this map. An unnamed historic road is illustrated within close proximity to the western boundary of the project area and corresponds to the current County Road 16.

Map 3 illustrates the location of the project area and environs as of 1881. The *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Simcoe County* (H. Belden & Co. 1881) illustrates the project area just to the west of the historic settlement of Fesserton. The lot is not shown to be owned by anyone and no structures are illustrated within the lot. The project area is located within 300 meters of two road allowances corresponding to the present County Road 16 (partly opened) which runs to the east of the project area and Fesserton Sideroad which is located adjacent to the southern boundary. The historic railway is illustrated to the east of the project area running through Fesserton. The project area is also located within 400-500 meters of Matchedash Bay, which was used to access Georgian Bay and from there the Great Lakes. The larger area surrounding the project area shows very few of the lots to be owned as well as have a structure erected. However, as this information was often based on subscription the lack of information for be reflective of the true settlement in the Township by the time the map was compiled.

The project area is in close proximity to early historic roads and historic settlement of Fesserton, therefore this suggest that there is potential for Euro-Canadian occupation or land use within the project area in the past.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

1.3.1 Previously Registered Sites

According to the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' Archaeological Site Database (ASD) there are four sites located within 1km of the project area and no previous reports document archaeological fieldwork conducted within or adjacent to the limits of the project area.

Table 1: Summary of Registered Archaeological Sites within 1km

| Borden Number | Site Name | Cultural Affiliation | Type |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| BeGw-16 | Cronin | Archaic, Woodland | Aboriginal |
| BeGw-15 | Alonso | Post-Contact | Huron-Wendat (Village) |
| BeGw-14 | Beighton | Archaic, Woodland, Early | Aboriginal |
| BeGw-13 | Zielder | Post-Contact | Euro-Canadian, Huron-Wendat |

Map 6 illustrates the archaeological potential within the project area. The Simcoe County *Archaeological Management Plan* (Archaeological Services Inc. 2019) shows the entire project area has archaeological potential.

1.3.3 Current Land Use and Field Conditions

The project area is approximately 10.23 hectares in size and consists of open space and wooded area. The project area includes areas of low-lying and wet area within the southern portion, steep slope running the length of the project area and branching into two within the northern portion, as well as a stream course with multiple branches. The slopes within the project area represent former shorelines. The eastern branch of the slope within the northern portion in particular is more prominent creating a distinct plateau above the area below. The project area is bounded on the north by existing rural residential as well as wooded area, on the east and west by rural residential, and on the south by residential and Fesserton Sideroad. Map 7 illustrates the current land use.

1.3.4 Physiographic Region

The study area is situated within the Simcoe Uplands physiographic region. The Simcoe Uplands region consists of broad, rolling, tills plains that are separated by steep-sided flat-floored valley encircled by ancient shorelines, suggesting they were islands within glacial Lake Algonquin. The region covers approximately 1036 square km between Georgian bay and Lake Simcoe north of Kempenfelt Bay. The uplands were submerged in Lake Algonquin on the Penetang Peninsula resulting in boulder pavement, sand, and silt appearing at the surface in the area. Precambrian rock is contained within the till, compared to the limestone till east of Lake Simcoe, which is a gritty loam and boulder becoming sandy in the north with some heavier calcareous till occurring near Lake Simcoe and near Midland (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 182-183).

1.3.5 Water Resources

The project area is located within 300 meters of water. Located within the project area is a stream course with multiple branches. The project area is also located approximately 540 meters west of an inlet of Sturgeon Bay and 400-500 meters west of Matchedash Bay. These Bays would have been used for water borne trade and communication as part of the trail to Georgian Bay. Glacial Lake Algonquin would have once covered the project area and during the receding period would have been a shoreline adjacent to the project area. Subsequently the rising of North Bay outlet re-flooded Lake Huron causing the Late Nipissing Great Lake to extend covering the project area or been adjacent to the project area. The slopes within the project area represent the shorelines a these former Glacial Lakes. These shore cliff's would have been used a physical land markers by the Indigenous groups traveling throughout the area. The proximity of water to the project area suggest potential for First Nations occupation and land use in the area in the past.

2.0 FIELD METHODS

2.1 TEST PIT SURVEY

No portion of the project area was viable to plough, therefore test pit survey was conducted throughout the entire project area on June 22-26, July 1-3, 2020. The majority of the project area was subject to test pit survey at a five meter interval. A small area of disturbance along the southern boundary was subject to test pit survey at an interval of ten meters to confirm and delineate the area of disturbance. All test pits measured 30 cm in diameter and were excavated by hand into the first 5cm of subsoil and their profiles examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or fill before being filled back in to grade. All excavated soil was screened through mesh with an aperture no larger than six millimeters and examined for any artifacts. The soil throughout the project area was a medium brown sandy loam. The areas that were not viable to assess included the steep slope and the low-lying and wet areas. The large low-lying and wet area in the southern portion of the project area was previously disturbed as can be seen on Map 5. Maps 7 and 8 illustrate the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment. The project area was delineated through mapping, survey markers, and GPS.

Approximately 70% of the project area was subject to test pit survey at an interval of five meters, approximately 5% of the project area was subject to test pit survey at an interval of ten meters, and the remaining 25% of the project area was not viable to assess due to low-lying and wet conditions and steep slope.

3.0 RECORDS OF FINDS

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

No archaeological resources were encountered during the Stage 2 Test Pit Assessment.

3.2 DOCUMENTARY RECORD INVENTORY

Table 2: Documentary Record Inventory

| Type of Documentation | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Field Notes | 8 page of field notes describing the daily site activities, weather, personal |
| Maps | 1 map showing the project activities |
| Photographs | 26 digital photographs showing the current conditions encountered during the field work, crew and work, all types of activities undertaken as part of the field work, and all notable features |
| Weather | Ideal for archaeological assessment |

4.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 STAGE 1 BACKGROUND RESULTS

As a result of the background study it was determined that the project area has potential for both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources based on its proximity to water, historic settlement and historic roadways. As a result Stage 2 test pit survey was recommended for the entire project area.

4.2 STAGE 2 SURVEY RESULTS

As a result of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment no archaeological resources were encountered.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological resources were encountered during the Stage 2 test pit survey of 2970 Fesserton Sideroad (Block 18, 51M-917), consequently the following recommendations are made:

1. It is recommended that no further archaeological assessment is required of the project area.

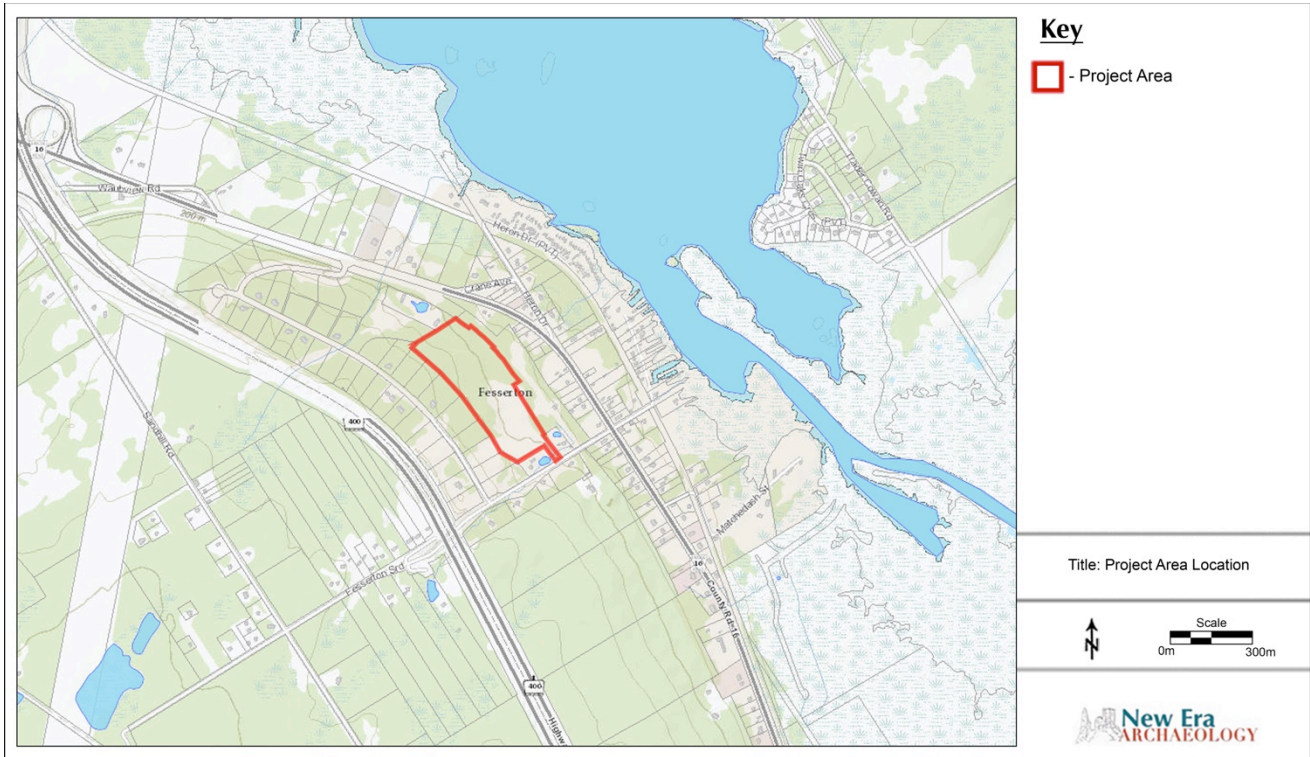
6.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

- a. This report is submitted to the Minister 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.
- 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 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 *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. C.4 and 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.
- e. Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and may not be altered, or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological license.

7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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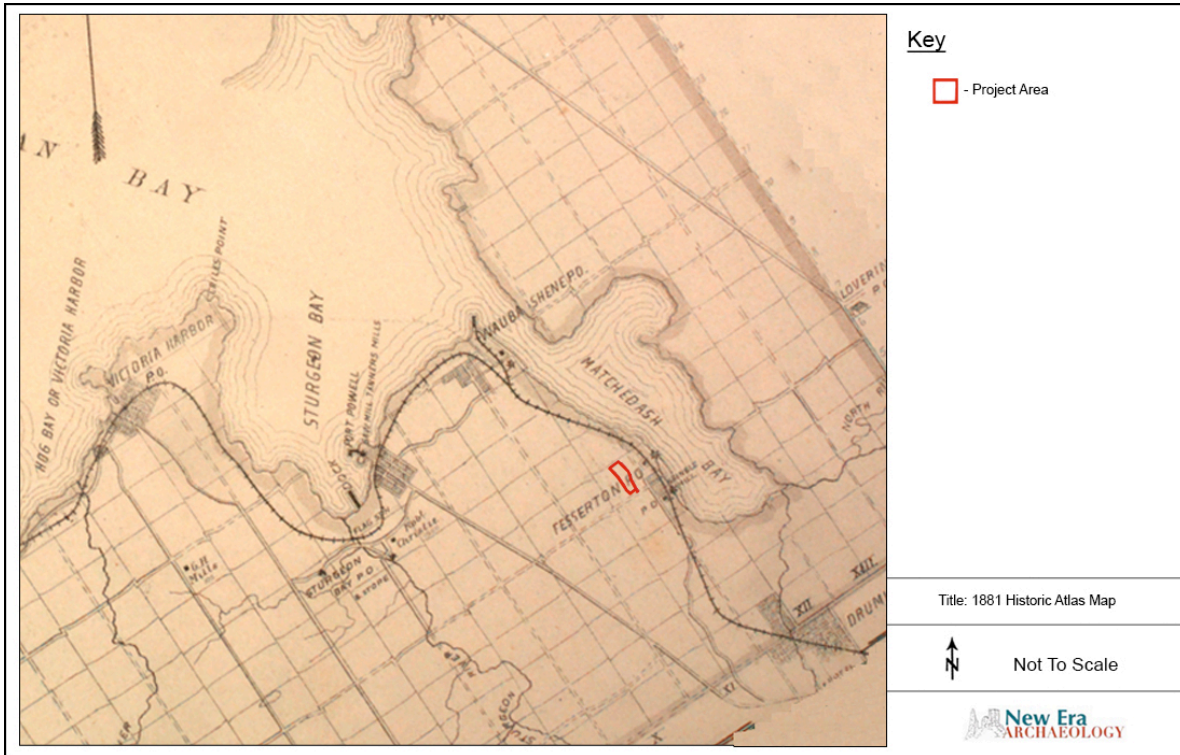
8.0 MAPS



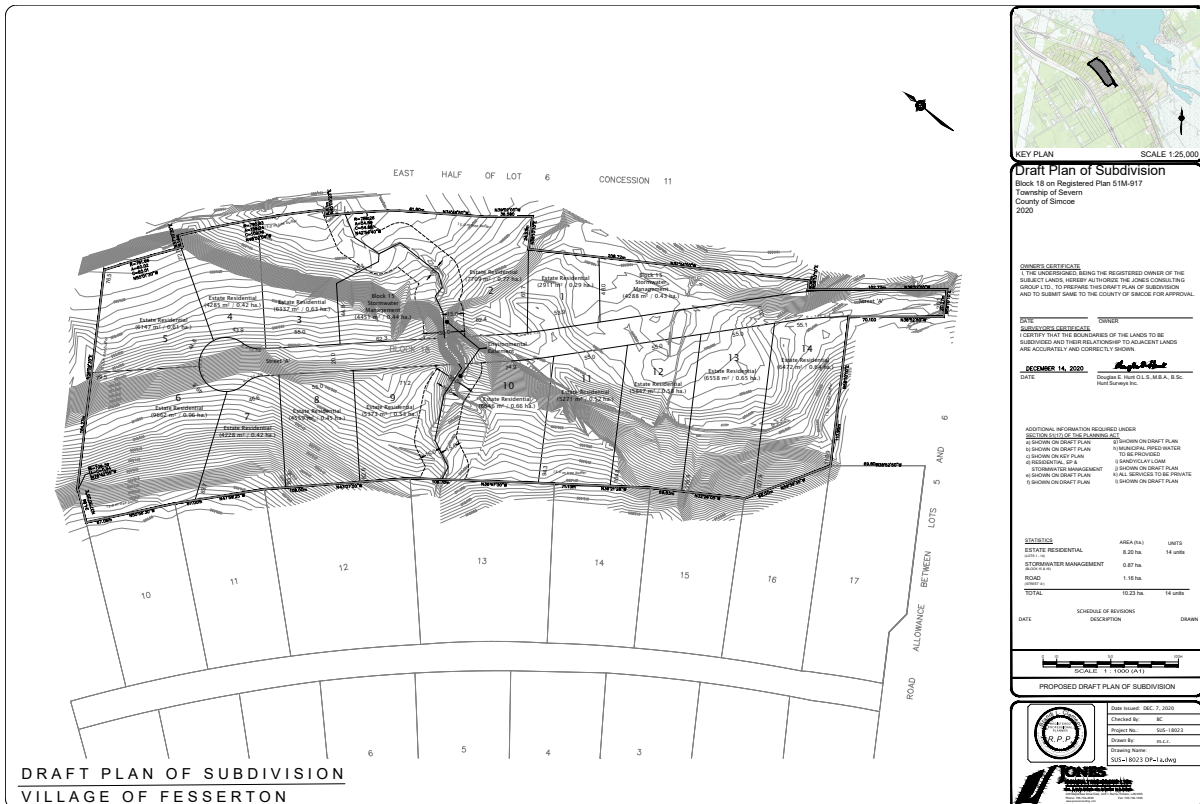
Map 1: Location of Project Area (Simcoe County)



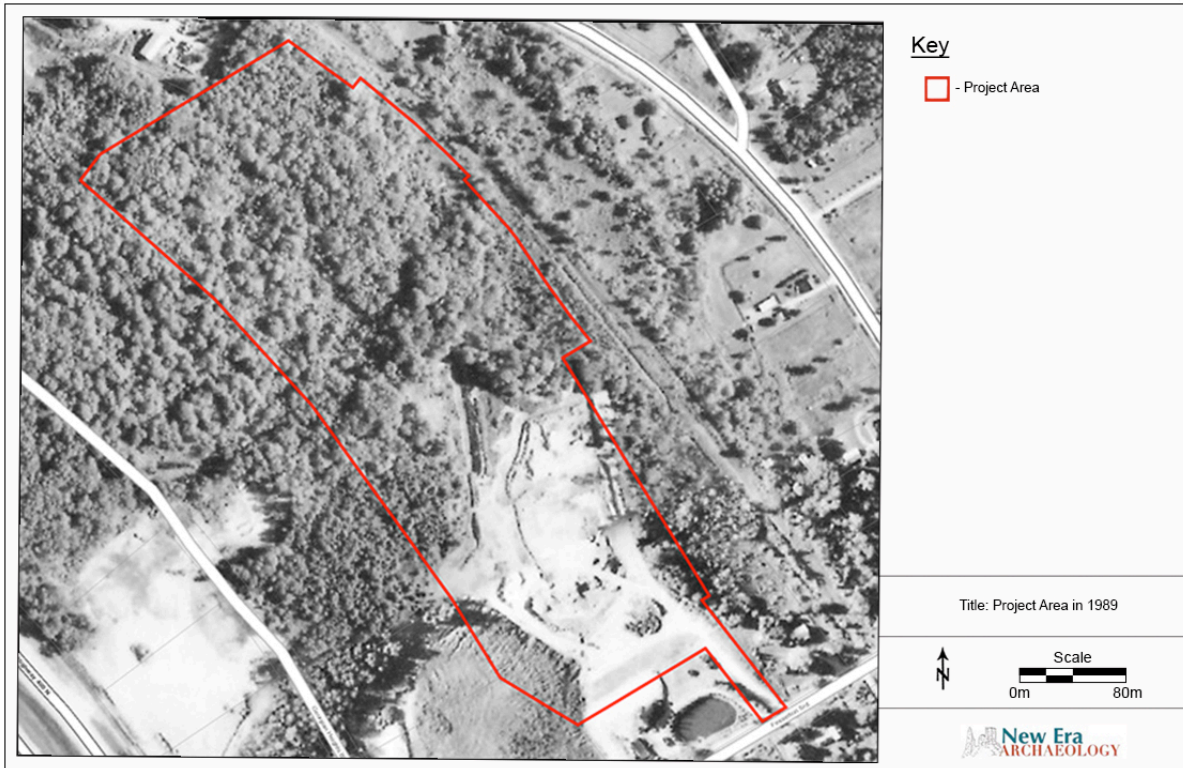
Map 2: Historic Map Illustrating the Environment Surrounding the Property Area in 1871 (Hogg, 1871)



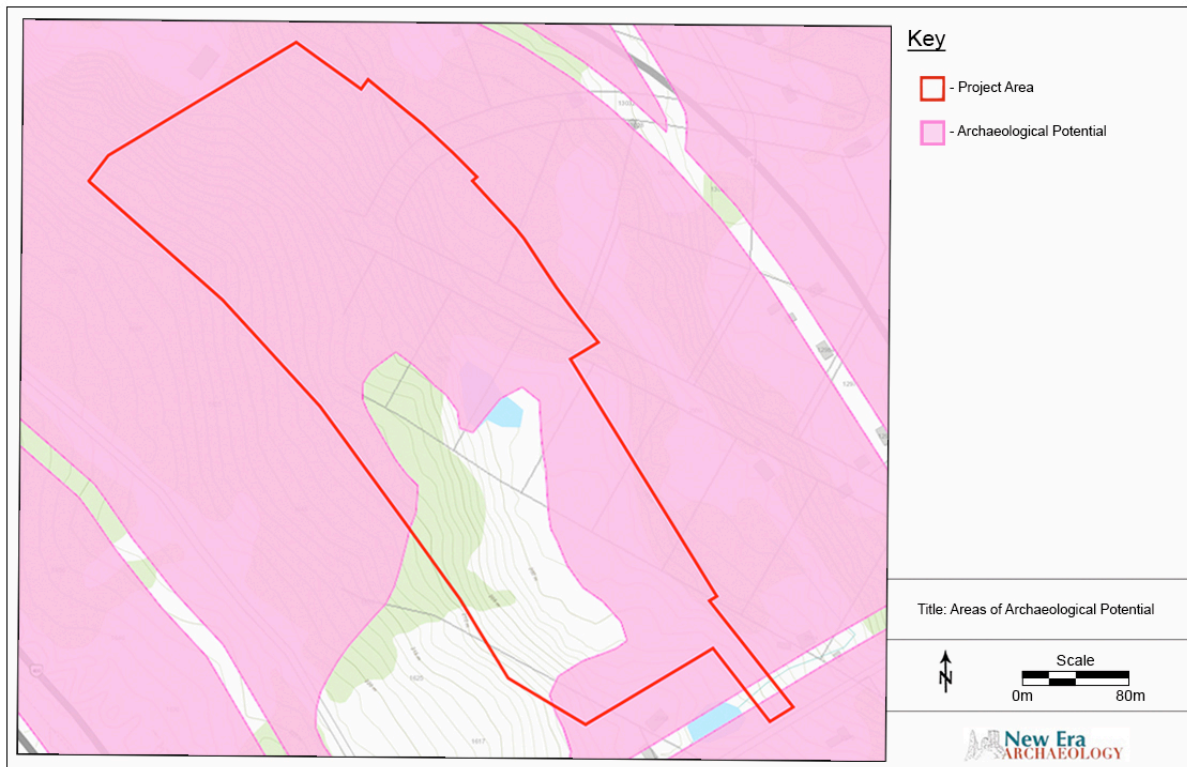
Map 3: Historic Map Illustrating the Environment Surrounding the Property Area in 1881 (H. Belden & Co. 1881)



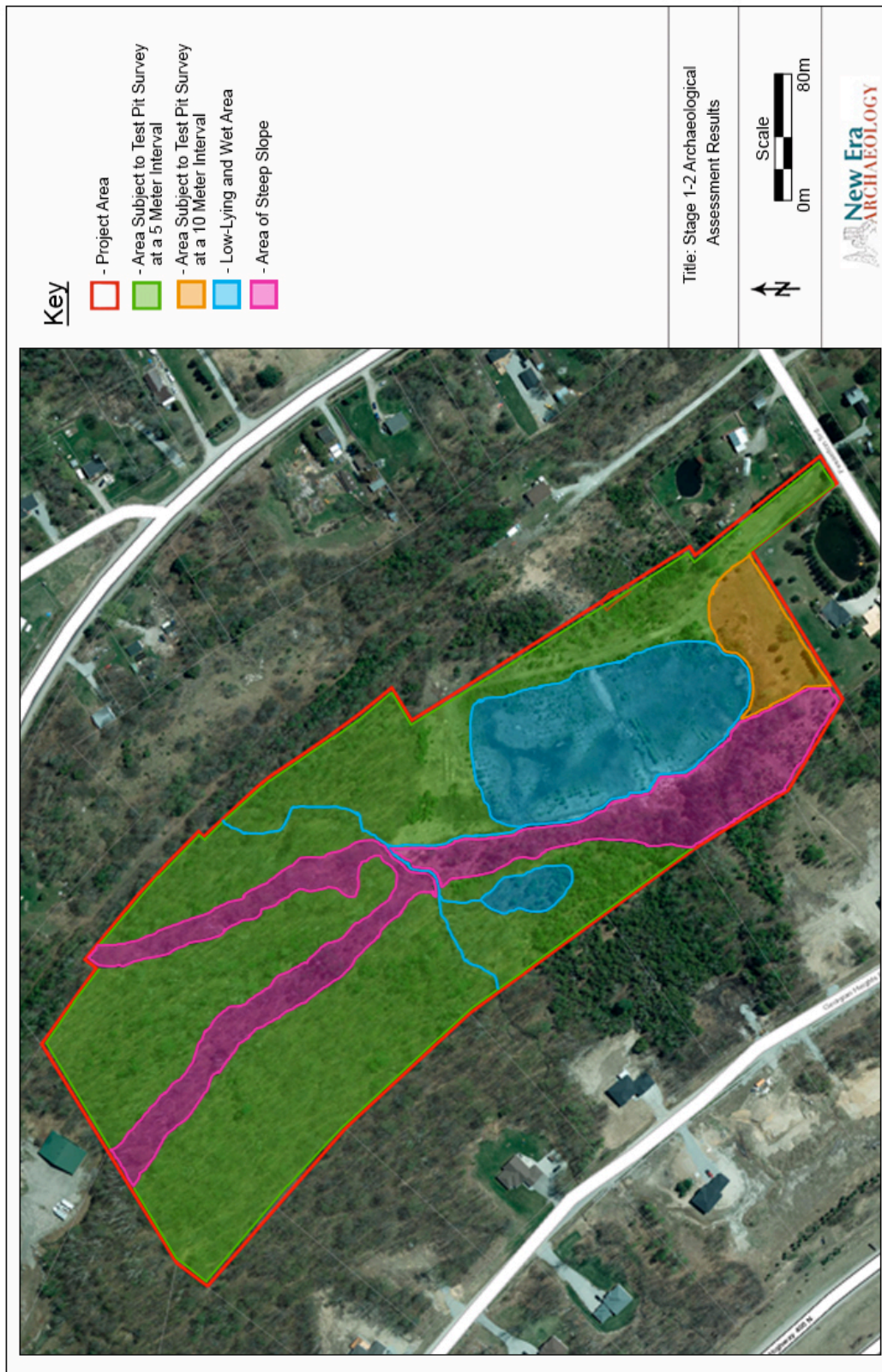
Map 4: Plan of Subdivision (Jones Consulting Group Ltd. 2020)



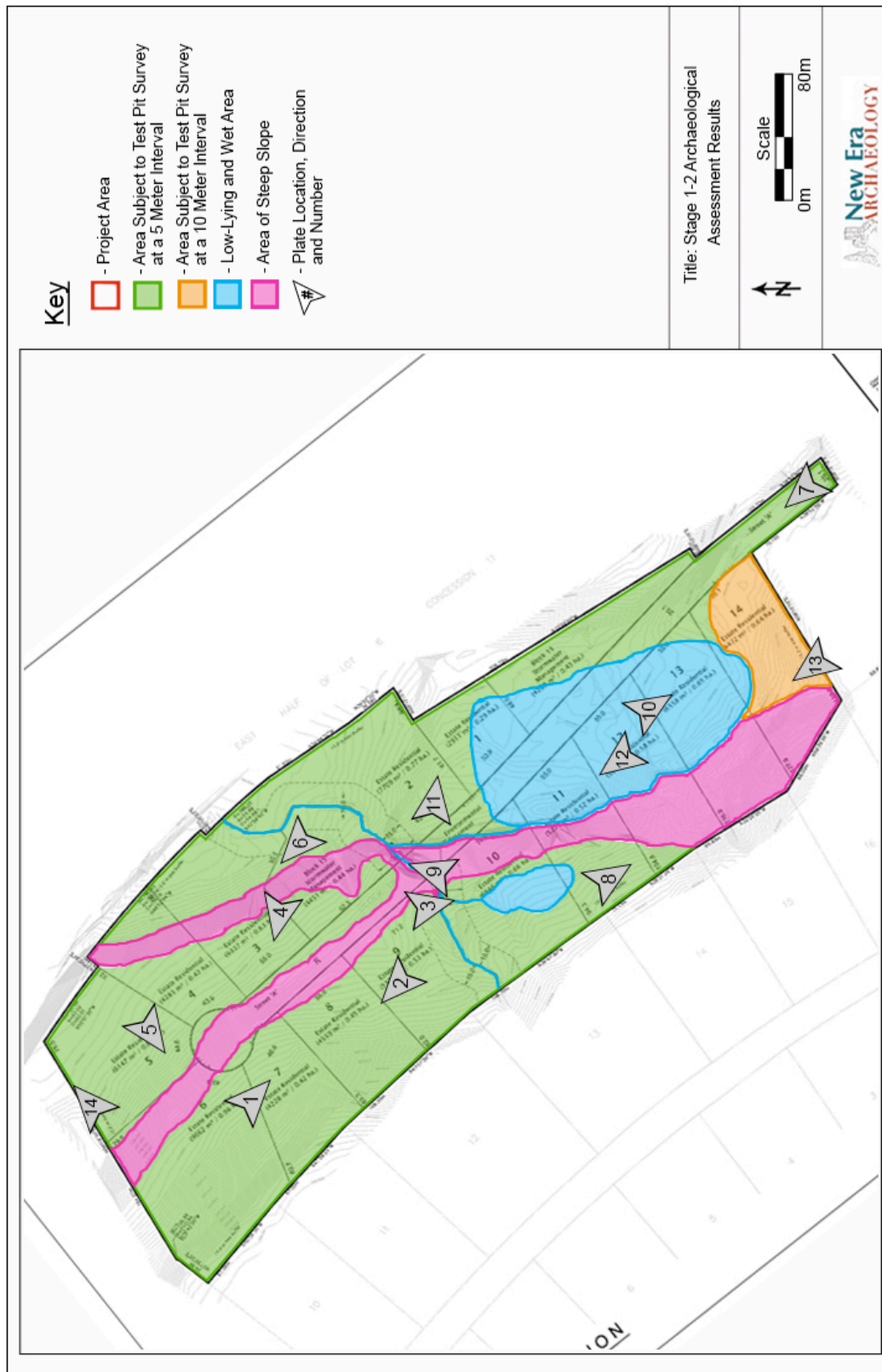
Map 5: Study Area in 1989 (Simcoe County)



Map 6: Area of Archaeological Potential (Simcoe County)



Map 7: Results of the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment



Map 8: Results of the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment

9.0 PLATES







| | |
|--|---|
|  A photograph showing a dense forest with many thin, light-colored tree trunks. The ground is covered with a thick layer of brown, fallen leaves and some green plants. |  A photograph of a forest floor with a large, fallen log in the foreground. The ground is covered with brown leaves and green plants. The trees are thin and light-colored. |
| <p>Plate 1: Test Pit Survey Conditions</p> | <p>Plate 2: Test Pit Survey Conditions</p> |
|  A photograph of a small stream flowing through a forest. The water is shallow and clear, surrounded by rocks and lush green vegetation. |  A photograph of a forest floor with a steep slope. The ground is covered with a dense layer of green plants and ferns. The trees are thin and light-colored. |
| <p>Plate 3: Stream Course with Low-Lying and Wet</p> | <p>Plate 4: Test Pit Survey Conditions with Steep Slope</p> |
|  A photograph of a forest floor with a steep slope. The ground is covered with a dense layer of green plants and ferns. The trees are thin and light-colored. |  A photograph of a forest floor with a steep slope. The ground is covered with a dense layer of green plants and ferns. The trees are thin and light-colored. |
| <p>Plate 5: Steep Slope and Crew at Work</p> | <p>Plate 6: Test Pit Survey Conditions with Steep Slope</p> |



Plate 7: Test Pit Survey Conditions



Plate 8: Test Pit Survey Conditions



Plate 9: Stream Course with Sloped Banks



Plate 10: Low-Lying and Wet Area



Plate 11: Test Pit Survey Conditions



Plate 12: Low-Lying and Wet Area



Plate 13: Test Pit Survey Conditions



Plate 14: Test Pit Survey Conditions