ORIGINAL REPORT

Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment

South March Battery Energy Storage Site, 2555 Marchurst Road, Part Lot 25, Concession 1, Township of March, City of Ottawa, Ontario

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MCM PIF Number: P311-0387-2026

Submitted to:

Fitzroy BESS Inc.

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Report Abbreviations

TNAS	True North Archaeological Services Inc.
MCM	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
PIF	Project Information Form issued by the MCM
B.P.	Years Before Present
ASDB	Archaeological Sites Database maintained by the MCM
CHVI	Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
ha	Hectare
m	Metre
cm	Centimetre
AA	Archaeological Assessment

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary highlights key points from the report only; for complete information and findings, as well as the limitations, the reader should examine the complete report.

True North Archaeological Services Inc. (TNAS) was retained by Avaanz Ltd. (Avaanz) on behalf of Fitzroy BESS Inc. to undertake a Stage 2 archaeological assessment (AA) for the South March Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project, located within Part of Lot 25, Concession 1, Geographic Township of March, former Carleton County, now City of Ottawa, Ontario (Project Area; Maps 1 and 2). This Stage 2 archaeological assessment was completed as part of an Environmental Assessment process for Minor Transmission Facilities.

A previous Stage 1 AA has been completed for a larger study area which encompasses the current BESS Project Area which found that the Project Area retains archaeological potential (Stantec 2025). Based on the results of the Stage 1 background study, the Project Area retains potential for post-contact archaeological resources due historical records which depicts a homestead circa 1879 within the Project Area and its proximity to Marchurst Road, a historical transportation corridor. The Stage 1 background study also found that the Project Area retains potential for pre-contact archaeological resources due to a creek which is located within the Project Area and its proximity to the Carp Hill Wetland Complex.

The objectives of the Stage 2 property assessment were to assess the Project Area for archaeological resources and document any resources identified, and to determine whether any observed archaeological resources require further assessment, and, when required, recommend appropriate Stage 3 assessment strategies.

The Stage 2 property assessment was completed on 4 May 2026 under cloudy skies with a temperature of approximately 19˚C. All areas recommended for Stage 2 assessment from the Stage 1 report were subject to shovel test pitting at 5 metre intervals. No archaeological resources or sites were identified during the Stage 2 property assessment.

The results of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment documented within this report form the basis for the following recommendations:

1. There are no further archaeological concerns for the 2.88 ha Project Area as illustrated on Map 11.

2. In the event that future planning results in the identification of additional areas of impact beyond the limits of the Project Area, located in the Township of March, former Carleton County, now City of Ottawa, ON, not under assessment as part of the current study or the 2025 Stantec report, further Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessments may be required.

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1.0 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

True North Archaeological Services Inc. (TNAS) was retained by Avaanz on behalf of Fitzroy BESS Inc. (proponent) to undertake a Stage 2 archaeological assessment (AA) for the South March Battery Energy Storage System project (BESS), located within Part of Lot 25, Concession 1, Geographic Township of March, former Carleton County, now City of Ottawa, Ontario (Maps 1 and 2). This Stage 2 archaeological assessment (AA) was completed as part of a Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities Screening process.

The proposed BESS Project Area is bound to the northeast by Marchurst road and to the southeast by a hydro corridor, the remainder of the surrounding land is comprised of open fields and woodlots. The Project Area measures approximately 2.88 ha in size, with current land conditions consisting of areas of exposed bedrock, a small creek, a woodlot and open fields.

In 2025, Stantec completed a Stage 1 AA for a larger study area which encompassed the current project and a Stage 2 AA for a Project Area directly adjacent to the current Project Area. The Stage 1 AA found that the current Project Area retains potential, and the Stage 2 AA recovered no archaeological resources.

Stantec's (2025) original Stage 2 AA was focused on the BESS facility and known project infrastructure at the time of completion. As the project developed, the project proponent determined that additional Project Areas would be required for the point of interconnection with the existing Hydro-One transmission corridor as well as additional laydown areas associated with construction. The limits of the Project Area used for the completion of the Stage 2 AA were reviewed with the project proponent and confirmed to be accurate prior to undertaking the fieldwork.

Permission to access the site to conduct all required archaeological fieldwork, including the recovery of artifacts, was granted by Avaanz on behalf of the proponent, with no limitations or restrictions.

1.2 Objectives

This Stage 2 AA was completed to identify known archaeological resources within the Project Area. The objectives of a Stage 2 AA are based on principals outlined in the *Ontario Heritage Act* (consolidated 2007 and amended 2024) and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's (MCM) *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011).

More specifically, this Stage 2 AA was completed with the following objectives:

- To record observed archaeological resources present within the Project Area; and,
- To recommend appropriate strategies for Stage 3 AA should archaeological resources containing Cultural Heritage Value or Interest be identified within the Project Area.

2.0 Historic Context

2.1 Regional Indigenous Context

The Paleo Period (Before 9,000 B.P.)

The Paleo Period represents a temporal classification developed by archaeologists and does not reflect any inferences of initial human habitation. This period extends from around 13,000 years before the present (B.P.), when glacial ice began to recede within the modern-day area of the Ottawa Valley.

Following the period of deglaciation, the Ottawa Valley was inundated by the Champlain Sea, which is interpreted to have extended from Rideau Lakes in the south, along the Ottawa Valley and St. Lawrence areas and terminating around Petawawa in the west. The exact western boundary is undetermined as current elevation levels reflect the isostatic adjustment of the land following the melting of the glaciers and cannot be used to determine the exact location of the Champlain Sea at the time of its existence. The eastern portion of the sea extended into the Atlantic Ocean.

During the Paleo Period (13,000 – 9,500 B.P.) the Project Area would have remained inundated by the Champlain Sea, although as the Champlain Sea receded during the Late Paleo Period (9,500 – 9,000 B.P.) it is likely that people migrated along the changing waterfront landscape where vegetation was being re-established (Watson 1999a). The ridges and old shorelines of the Champlain Sea and early Ottawa River channels reflect areas most likely to contain evidence of Paleo Period land use in the region. Archaeological and geological investigations in the Ottawa Valley have indicated these early sites may be identified within the 550 ft (167.6 m) or higher contour topography, although additional research may be required to confidently assess this correlation (Kennedy 1976).

By the Late Paleo Period (9,500 - 9,000 B.P.), enclosed coniferous forests with some minor deciduous elements became established in eastern Ontario, with contemporary populations traversing large territories in response to seasonal resource fluctuations. The transition to the Late Paleo Period also included projectile points comprised of smaller unfluted projectiles along with lanceolate parallel flaked stemmed and non-stemmed Plano points, while hunting strategies may have transitioned from communal groups to more individualized pursuits (Ellis and Deller 1997).

The identification of Paleo Period sites in the Ottawa Valley region has been hindered by the erosion of accessible locations during the environmental changes associated with the transition from the Initial Holocene to the succeeding Archaic Period. The potential use of watercraft by Paleo Period inhabitants (Jodry 2005; Engelbrecht and Seyfert 1995) and evidence for the abundance of marine resources (Robinson 2012; Loring 1980) raises the possibility of occupation sites situated on accessible landforms such as those exposed as isolated islands above the 167 m elevation contours. As the Ottawa River delta prograded eastward during the regression of the Champlain Sea (Fulton et al 1987), these isolated exposed landscapes would have been impacted by periods of overflow from glacial Lake Agassiz. The inundation of flood waters from the glacial lake may have caused significant erosion, with another possibility being that the sediment transport facilitated by the moving water may have buried cultural materials within these potential occupation areas.

Evidence suggesting land use within the Ottawa Valley during the Paleo Period includes the recovery of two bi-facially fluted projectile points found near the Rideau Lakes that would have been situated near the contemporary Champlain Sea shoreline (Watson 1999b), with additional interpretations of Paleo Period material identified during archaeological investigations near Greenbank Road (Swayze 2003)

Albion Road and Rideau Road (Swayze 2004). The closest site with an interpreted Early Paleo Period component is situated just over 27 km southeast of the Project Area where several lithic artifacts interpreted to represent a cotemporary campsite have been recovered at the Holy Spirit site (registered as Borden Number BhFx-33) (MCM 2024).

Although the number of archaeologically investigated find locations dating to the Paleo Period is relatively small compared to modern-day south-western and south-central Ontario, the discoveries in the general Project Area vicinity confirm the presence of contemporary populations in the Ottawa Valley.

The Archaic Period (9,000 – 2,950 B.P.)

During the Early Archaic Period (9,000 – 8,000 B.P.), a gradual increase in atmospheric humidity in conjunction with warmer summers influenced the environmental landscape within the general Project Area vicinity. Fossil pollen and spore identification from sedimentation cores lifted from Lovesick Lake provide evidence of climate change, with jack pine forests becoming dominant during the beginning of the Early Archaic Period (Teichroeb 2007). Land use within the Ottawa Valley increased during this early environmental transition, with evidence of an Early Archaic Period Dovetail projectile point recovered in the Ottawa area (Pilon and Fox 2015) confirming contemporary land use within the regional landscape.

Concurrent with the environmental evolution were notable diagnostic technological changes including the appearance of side and corner-notched projectile points used for hunting. Other significant innovations included the introduction of ground stone tools such as celts and axes, which may reflect an emerging woodworking industry.

Populations in Ontario during this period primarily utilized maritime landscapes during the spring, summer and fall seasons with large base camps on islands, near river mouths, and on the shores of embayment's where a variety of flora, fish, and wild fowl resources could be obtained. Smaller hunting and specialized campsites were also established in the uplands and along smaller watercourses. The waterways were the preferred method of travel, and many burials are located along these waterways (Taylor 2015), as well as the traditionally visited islands. Access to islands and mainland shorelines would have been facilitated by a variety of contemporary watercraft such as bark canoes, skin boats and dugout canoes (Monk 1999).

Indigenous community members utilized watercraft to travel along navigable waterways such as the Ottawa, Gatineau and Rideau River systems to meet, trade and exchange information. These waterways represented the historical highways facilitating the movement of both people and materials through the general Project Area vicinity. Archaeological discoveries made in the area around the Ottawa River system and associated tributaries illustrate the existence of an extensive, continent-scale network of communication and trade with the discovery of a variety of raw materials used for stone tool production including Ramah chert from the tip of Labrador, Mistassini quartzite from the centre of Québec, Hudson's Bay Lowland chert from the region bordering Hudson Bay, abundant Onondaga chert obtained from the Onondaga Escarpment region south and west of Lake Ontario, as well as distinctive Mercer and Burlington Formation cherts from modern-day Ohio and Illinois (Pilon and Boswell 2015).

The Ottawa River and tributary waterways were also an important route for the movement of copper, either through direct trade between individual groups, or through expeditions to Lake Superior to access local copper deposits (Chapdelaine et al 2001). Copper artifacts similar to those documented on Allumette Island in the Ottawa River have been discovered in Wisconsin, Michigan, New York State and Manitoba (Kennedy 1970). This commodity, as well as other tradable goods, were presumably transported by canoes and other vessels along regional waterways.

The Ottawa Valley was also one of the primary corridors that facilitated the transmission of technological information and techniques (Kennedy 1970). Artifacts representative of the expanding trade network included "birdstones" which were small, bird-like effigies usually manufactured from green banded slate, as well as marine shell artifacts from the Mid-Atlantic coast that are frequently encountered in burial contexts (Ellis, Timmins and Martelle 2009; Ellis, Kenyon and Spence 1990).

Sites with Archaic Period components that demonstrate this expanding trade network include Morrison's Island and Allumette Island in the Outaouais region of the Ottawa River (Chapdelaine et al 2001; Clermont 1999), sites identified at Lake Leamy near the junction of the Gatineau and Ottawa Rivers, and also in the Rideau Lakes area (Watson 1982). Additional significant occupation sites with Archaic Period components along Ottawa Valley waterways that were likely influenced by these trade routes include Jessup Falls near the mouth of the South Nation River and at Spencerville near the source of the South Nation River (Daechsel 1980).

During the Middle Archaic Period (8,000 – 4,000 B.P.) the trend towards more diverse toolkits continued, as the presence of netsinkers and fish weirs reflect the importance of fishing within the contemporary subsistence strategy. It was also during this period that stone tools specifically designed for the preparation of wild plant foods were crafted and when 'bannerstones" were first manufactured, which are carefully crafted ground stone devices that served as a counterbalance for atlatls or spear-throwers.

The diverse trade relationships may have also influenced the transition from seasonal expeditions across large areas to more centralized occupation within smaller areas that provided the opportunity to facilitate interaction with those conducting trade, whether it was "down-the-line" or controlled by individuals interacting directly with different groups. Another noticeable attribute during the Middle Archaic Period is the increased reliance on local, often poorer quality, chert resources for manufacturing projectile points. While groups traversed larger territories during the Paleo Period and were able to visit primary outcrops of high-quality chert at least once during their seasonal round, during the Middle Archaic Period groups traveled within comparatively smaller territories that did not always possess a source of high-quality raw materials. In these instances, lower quality resources that had been previously deposited by the glaciers in the local till and river gravels were utilized.

Trade connections across vast territories continued into the Late Archaic Period (4,000 – 2,950 B.P.), when the trend towards decreased territory size and a broadening subsistence strategy continued. Late Archaic Period sites have been discovered in greater numbers compared to Early and Middle Archaic Period sites, suggesting the local population was rapidly expanding. It is during the Late Middle Holocene that the first defined cemeteries are identified, as prior to this period individuals were typically interred close to the location where they died. During the Late Archaic Period, when an individual died while their group was away from the territorial cemetery, the remains would be kept until the group returned to the home cemetery where they could be interred. Consequently, it is not unusual to find disarticulated skeletons, or even skeletons lacking minor elements such as fingers, toes or ribs, in Late Archaic Period burial pits.

The appearance of burial pits during the Late Archaic Period has been interpreted as a response to increased population densities and competition between local groups for access to natural resources. It has been theorized that cemeteries and burial grounds may have provided strong symbolic claims over a local territory and the surrounding resources. These burial grounds are often located within areas of elevated topography containing well-drained sandy and gravel soils adjacent to major watercourses or on exposed islands.

There are several archaeological sites with an Archaic Period component within the surrounding vicinity of the Project Area, including the Raven View Knolls (BiFx-11) and Raven View Stream (BiGa-12) sites. These sites are in the vicinity of the BiGa-13 site, another archaeological site, that included evidence of land use during the Early and Middle Archaic Period east of the Project Area, with a cluster of sites dating to the Archaic Period (BiGa-11 to BiGa-21) south of the Project Area, and another group of sites (BiGa-17, 18, 19 and 20) located west of the Project Area (MCM 2024). The Akandoo site (BhFx-62) was identified along the Carp River floodplain east of the Project Area and reflects distinct evidence of land use during the Archaic Period, with a recovered artifact assemblage comprising modified and utilized lithic debitage, biface thinning flakes, faunal fragments, utilized cores and biface fragments manufactured primarily from local chert material (NAA 2017).

The Woodland Period (2,950 – 400 B.P.)

The Early Woodland Period (2,950 – 2,200 B.P.) is distinguished from the Late Woodland Period primarily by the introduction of ceramic technology. The early ceramic containers were thick walled and friable, suggesting they may have been primarily used in the processing of nut oils by boiling crushed nut fragments in water and skimming off the oil (Spence, Pihl and Murphy 1990). These early vessels were not easily portable, and their fragile nature suggests they may have required regular replacement. There have also been numerous Early Woodland Period sites identified where ceramics were absent from the recovered assemblage, suggesting ceramic vessels may not have been completely integrated within the daily lives of Early Woodland Period populations.

Besides the addition of ceramic technology, the cultural affinity of Early Woodland Period inhabitants shows a great deal of continuity with the preceding Late Archaic Period. For instance, birdstones continued to be manufactured, although the Early Woodland Period varieties have "pop-eyes" that protrude from the sides of their heads (Spence, Pihl and Murphy 1990). Another example of general continuity from the terminal segment of the Archaic Period is represented by the thin, well-made projectile points, although the Early Woodland Period variants were side-notched rather than corner-notched, giving them a slightly altered and distinctive appearance (Spence, Pihl and Murphy 1990).

Middle Woodland Period inhabitants appear to have utilized ceramic technology more extensively, with vessels often decorated with impressed designs covering the entire exterior surface and upper portion of the vessel interior with styles incorporating elaborate decorative patterns and distinctive elements. Many of the decorative techniques are representative of specific regional populations as well as specific date ranges (Laliberté 1999) with vessels manufactured during the Middle Woodland Period often incorporating diagnostically distinctive features.

The evolution of artifact manufacturing during the Woodland Period is partially reflective of settlement patterns and provides additional insight into the transition of technological developments likely disseminated from the interaction between different communities and trade partners.

In terms of settlement and subsistence patterns, the Middle Woodland Period (2,200 - 1,100 B.P.) provides a demarcation point from the Archaic Period and Early Woodland Period. While Woodland Period inhabitants continued to rely on hunting and gathering to meet their subsistence requirements, an increased consumption of fish became an important component of the contemporary diet. Some Middle Woodland Period sites have produced thousands of bones from spring spawning species such as walleye and sucker. Food sources such as shellfish, tree nuts and a proliferation of plant greens and seeds were exploited, and the seasonal variety and relative dependability of these foods encouraged population increases in many areas.

The land use patterns reflected from archaeological investigations of Middle Woodland Period sites generally reflect densely occupied locations that appear on the valley floor of major rivers, often producing sites with extensive artifact deposits. Unlike earlier seasonally utilized locations, many Middle Late Holocene sites appear to have functioned as base camps, occupied periodically over the course of the year and situated to take advantage of the greatest number of resources. There are also numerous small upland Middle Late Holocene sites, many of which can be interpreted as special purpose camps where localized natural resources were exploited (MCR 1981).

The transition from the Middle to Late Woodland Period included the introduction of triangular projectile point styles and cord-wrapped stick decorated ceramics, which are associated with the Princess Point Complex (Martin 2004; Crawford et al 1997; Bursey 1995; Ferris and Spence 1995; Spence, Pihl and Murphy 1990; Williamson 1990; Ritchie 1971), although these attributes may not always reflect diagnostic components of specific Nations as many Communities interacted and shared cultural traits.

During the Late Woodland Period, the Ottawa Valley appears to have been a zone of interaction between Iroquoian speaking populations to the south who primarily relied on domesticated crops and Algonquian speaking groups to the north who continued a predominately hunter-gatherer lifestyle. The Huron peoples along the north shore of Lake Ontario had moved to the Lake Simcoe – Georgian Bay region, leaving the area of eastern Ontario, except for some small Algonquin groups, generally unoccupied by the time early French explorers arrived in the area around the beginning of the 17th century. Conversely, six St. Lawrence Iroquoian villages dating to ca. 1400 AD have been found in the Spencerville area reflecting the dichotomy in the settlement patterns between the Ottawa Valley and the St. Lawrence region to the south.

The increased population and semi-nomadic lifestyle prevalent within the Ottawa Valley during the Woodland Period are reflected in the distribution of sites documented along the Ottawa River and surrounding navigable waterways. The importance of the Ottawa River as a transportation route, as well as an area of resource and subsistence extraction, through this period is reflected in the number of known archaeological sites identified on both sides of the river.

Within close proximity to the Project Area, at least four sites reflecting Woodland Period land use have been documented less than two kilometres to the northeast around Constance Bay (MCM 2024). The location and distribution of these sites reflect the importance of this Ottawa River embayment during this time. The Constance Bay 1 site (BiGa-2), situated at the convergence of the Ottawa River and Constance Creek, included extensive diagnostic cultural material reflecting land use during the Woodland Period including lithics, ceramics, copper, animal faunal remains and a hearth feature, as well as evidence of a potential human burial along the beach shoreline (Watson 1972).

Early contact with European settlers at the end of the Late Woodland Period resulted in changes to the traditional lifestyles of many Indigenous populations, influencing settlement size, population distribution, and material culture. The introduction of European-borne diseases also significantly increased mortality rates, resulting in a drastic decrease in population size (Warrick 2000).

European Contact and Post-Contact Period

The Algonquin Nation had long been established along the Ottawa River and its tributary valleys when the French arrived in the area. Samuel de Champlain met with several Algonquin representatives in 1603 shortly after he established the first permanent French settlement on the St. Lawrence River at Tadoussac (AOO 2013), with Étienne Brûlé generally acknowledged as the first European to pass through what is now the Ottawa Valley area when he portaged at the Rideau Falls in 1610 and with the

aid of Algonquin guides proceeded to explore the interior of Canada (AOO 2013).

Another French expedition led by Nicholas de Vignau traveled along the Ottawa River through the Ottawa Valley area in 1611 (Pendergast 1999), followed by Samuel de Champlain in 1613 who led the French voyageurs from Montreal to Morrison Island along the Ottawa River (Croft 2006), which was commonly known as the Grand River (Kichi Sibi in Algonquin) or the River of the Algoumequin (Pilon 2005). Champlain again encountered Algonquin community members in the Ottawa Valley area in 1615, with many living in regional groups around the Madawaska River, Muskrat Lake, along the Ottawa River above and below Morrison Island, and also along the Mattawa River to Lake Nipissing (AOO 2013).

The French established a relationship with the Algonquin communities around the Ottawa Valley that provided an opportunity to monopolize the early fur trade as the two groups developed close relations throughout the 17th century (Trigger and Day 1994). The colonial economic wealth stimulated by the French fur trade in the early 17th century promoted the rapid expansion northward, with the Ottawa River providing the opportunity to transport goods to the western trading posts on the lakes by canoe, which could not be accomplished by the larger sailing vessels operating on Lake Ontario (Adney and Chapelle 2014).

Competition for furs increased existing tensions between the Algonquin communities and their Indigenous neighbours including the Haudenosaunee Nations, residing to the south around the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario areas. The 17th century saw a long period of conflict known as the Beaver Wars between the Algonquin and the Haudenosaunee communities that resulted in the significant disruption of trade. Mohawk raids against Algonquin villages in the Upper Ottawa and St. Lawrence Valleys resulted in the abandonment or destruction of many Algonquin villages (Trigger and Day 1994). Some Algonquin's found refuge in French settlements such as Trois-Rivieres, Quebec City, Sillery, and Montreal while others may have relocated to interior locations along the Ottawa River's tributaries (Holmes 1993). At the end of the 17th century, the Haudenosaunee were driven out of much of southern Ontario by the Mississauga though they continued to occupy areas within eastern Ontario on a seasonal basis.

In 1701, representatives from the Haudenosaunee and more than 20 Anishinaabeg Nations assembled in Montreal to participate in the Great Peace negotiations, sponsored by the French Governor Calliere (Johnston 2006; Johnston 2004). A peace treaty between the Anishinaabeg and the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) was agreed to once again share in the bounty of the territory as partners (One Dish, One Spoon), although this partnership was strained by the "Great Imbalance" represented by the fur trade with European capitalists (Monague 2022).

The resulting treaty document signed at Montreal was not the only record made of the Peace between the Anishinaabeg and the Haudenosaunee. At a council held at Lake Superior, the Haudenosaunee secured peace by delivering a wampum belt to the Anishinaabeg. This belt was carried by successive generations of leaders who were charged with remembering the meaning of symbols worked upon the shell beads and each generation had a responsibility to renew the peace forged by their ancestors (Johnston 2006).

Between 1712-1716, Algonquin communities continued to utilize the Ottawa Valley and were also observed along the Gatineau River with the primary Haudenosaunee occupation located south of the St. Lawrence River (Holmes 1993).

Following the Seven Years' War in the mid-18th century, the defeat of the French, Algonquin, and their allies by the British and the Haudenosaunee resulted in the further loss of Algonquin hunting territories in

southern Quebec and eastern Ontario as the British seized former French colonies. Shortly after the French abandonment around the Great Lakes, English merchant Alexander Henry ventured into the Great Lakes area where he communicated with Anishinaabeg leader Minavanana in September 1761. Henry was informed that the English would suffer retaliation for Anishinaabeg war losses unless the English King made peace with them, with many of the former French forts in the Great Lakes region within Anishinaabeg control. In response, King George III issued a Royal Proclamation on 7 October 1763 acknowledging that Indigenous Nations residing on all lands outside the boundaries of the settled colonies “not having been ceded to or purchased by Us, are reserved to them, or any of them, as their Hunting Grounds” (Reimer 2019:38). The territory reserved for Indigenous Nations encompassed the entire Great Lakes region and peace was secured following discussions between the British and more than 1,500 Anishinaabeg leaders at Niagara Falls in July 1764 where the alliance was sealed by two magnificent wampum belts (Johnston 2006).

The extension of Quebec’s boundaries in 1774 through the Quebec Act and the use of the Ottawa River as the boundary between Upper and Lower Canada following the 1791 Constitution Act separated the traditional Algonquin lands between two colonial government administrations (AOP 2012). This legislative act does not seem to have negatively influenced trade between the British and local Indigenous communities as the recovery of European trade goods (e.g., iron axes, copper kettle fragments and glass beads) from Indigenous sites throughout the Ottawa River drainage basin provides evidence of the extent of contact between the Indigenous communities and the European explorers traversing the Ottawa River during this period.

2.2 Land Treaties

Britain’s colonial policy differed from the French, with the British much more interested in securing land surrenders from the Indigenous populations for settlement by Europeans rather than establishing communal relationships. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 issued by King George III enabled the Crown to monopolize the purchase of Indigenous lands west of Quebec and although the proclamation recognized Indigenous rights to their land and hunting grounds, it also included stipulations where these rights could be taken away (Surtees 1994).

Land cession agreements between Indigenous groups and the Crown increased following the War of 1812 as a new wave of settlers arrived in Upper Canada primarily from Britain. The British implemented annuity systems in the purchase of lands from Indigenous peoples where the interest payments of settlers on the land were intended to cover the cost of the annuity rather than pay a one-time lump sum.

The Project Area is situated within the land encompassed by the Rideau Purchase (Treaty 27 and 27¼), which extended from the western boundary of the earlier Crawford Purchases and south of the Ottawa River. Alderville First Nation maintains longstanding cultural and historical associations with lands encompassed by the Treaty 27 and 27¼ territory which were established in 1819 and confirmed in 1822. Furthermore, Treaty 27 and 27 ¼ was re-affirmed in the Williams Treaties Settlement Agreement 2018. While the Algonquin Nation may have an Agreement-in-Principle, the land on which this project takes place is within an already established treaty recognized by both Ontario and Canada.

At a council held on 13 May 1819, British government agent John Ferguson met with representatives of the Mississaugas of the Bay of Quinte and Kingston regions, who claimed rights to the area of the Rideau land purchase. Although the Ottawa and Madawaska River valleys were generally known to be the hunting grounds of the Iroquois and Algonquin communities, they were not invited to the discussions

and the Mississauga representatives indicated they controlled the Ottawa Valley, and that “the Nipissings and Algonquins do not cross the Ottawa River” (Surtees 1982).

The land included in the Rideau Purchase comprised almost 2.75 million acres, which the Mississaugas agreed to sell for an annuity of £642.10. It was stipulated that this sum would be distributed at the rate of 50s per person. This provisional agreement was approved by the British Treasury, but due to delays in making some of the annuity payments, a confirmatory land transfer did not follow until 26 April 1825. At that time, the per capita annuity was raised to £2.10, but stipulated that payment must be confined to 257 people, which represented the number claiming the land at the time of the original agreement (Surtees 1982).

The Algonquin communities within the Rideau Purchase area were not only excluded from the treaty discussions but were also not included in the allocation of payment for the “transfer” of land (Surtees 1994). In 1839, the Crown denied the Algonquin and Nipissing communities the right to lease portions of their land, including islands in the Ottawa River, to settlers with whom they had previously been collecting rent payments (Holmes 1993). Furthermore, the British did little to prevent additional encroachments by settlers on Indigenous lands. By the 1850s, Indigenous groups had become cautious of these agreements and began to demand the retention of reserved land and preservation of hunting and fishing rights (Surtees 1994).

A reserve was purchased for use by the Algonquins in Golden Lake in 1873, now known as Pikwàkanagàn (AOO 2013; Holmes 1993). Additional reserves and settlements for the Algonquin community members were also established in Quebec during the mid-20th century, although these reserves only secured a small fragment of what once had been the original homeland of the Algonquins (AOO 2013).

The Algonquin never surrendered their territory by treaty, sale or conquest and petitions to remove settlers from their lands and to have their title recognized date back to 1772. The Algonquin of Pikwàkanagàn set in motion the ongoing land claims process in 1983 when they presented their comprehensive claim to the Government of Canada and, in 1985, to the Government of Ontario. It was not until 1991 and 1992 that the land claim was accepted by the provincial and federal governments, respectively. In 1994, the three parties signed a Framework for Negotiations Agreement, outlining shared objectives (Tomiak 2016).

An agreement-in-principal was finalized in December 2012 and has since been subject to community consultations. According to the agreement-in-principal, 117,500 acres of land administered by the Crown within the land claim area will be selected for transfer to the Algonquins of Ontario in fee simple title (Tomiak 2016; Tasker 2016). While this represents an important step in the negotiations, the talks are ongoing.

2.3 Contextual Project Area History

An extensive historical overview of the surrounding area is outside the current scope of work. The following is included to provide a general historical overview in relation to the potential archaeological resources that may be located within the current Project Area.

First Nations have utilized land within the Project Area vicinity since time immemorial, which has been recorded through oral histories, previous archaeological assessments and contextual research reports. Archaeological evidence of this land use dates at least to the Early Archaic Period, and extends through

the Late Woodland Period, representing material culture residues and land use over a period of around 9,500 years prior to the arrival of Europeans to the area.

When assessed within the context of the contemporary landscape, the documentation of these archaeological sites reflects the intensified activity and the preference for land use within proximity to the Ottawa River shoreline in the Project Area vicinity. Although previous archaeological investigations have not documented land use within 20 km of the Project Area prior to 9,000 B.P., the Ottawa River watershed has witnessed an Indigenous presence since time immemorial (Luckasavitch 2019) and the absence of registered archaeological sites within 20 km of the Project Area pre-dating the Early Archaic Period may be a result of environmental transitions and landscape disturbances following the arrival of Europeans that have influenced the propensity of earlier Paleo Period sites to survive within the archaeological record. Based on interpreted geological data, the Project Area was also likely inundated by the Champlain Sea until around 9,500 B.P., with land use occurring soon after the recession of the water.

Land occupation by Euro-Canadians significantly increased following the Rideau Purchase land transaction negotiated between 1819 and 1825. The riverfront of March Township was settled by military officers, with the interior of the township primarily settled between the 1820s and 1840s by Irish farmers, tradesmen, and lower ranking soldiers. The soils of March Township were noted as the poorest in Carleton County as exposed bedrock was common. By 1823, the first census recorded a total of only 207 residents in March Township (Belden 1879; Walker & Walker 1968). In 1827 the first school was opened in the home of Mrs. Thomas Read for wealthier families (Burns et al. 1972). The first public school was erected on John Armstrong's land on Lot 11, Concession 3 with the first school teacher being John Younghusband who lived on the south half of Lot 12 Concession 4 (Belden 1879). By 1861, the population of March Township had grown to 1,454 and included a mixture of farmers and tradesmen. In the summer of 1870, a great fire destroyed much of March Township engulfing homes, crops, and livestock. The fire changed the composition of the land as it cleared trees and soil was lost from erosion which altered the drainage system. This was fortuitous for farming as it led to the draining of several swampy areas and the creation of more good land for agriculture. A railway did not pass through the area until the Ottawa, Arnprior and Renfrew line in 1888 which was built to connect the lumber trade in Carleton County to Vermont (Burns et al. 1972).

The Crown Patent for the 200 acres of Lot 25, Concession 1, March Township, to Canada Company in 1846. On the 1863 H.F. Walling map for Carleton County, no one is depicted as a landowner on Lot 25 or any of the adjacent lots (Map 3). The 1879 H. Belden and Co. map of March Township depicts Canada Company as the owners of the west half of the lot and a P. Scott as the landowner of the east half of the lot with a homestead fronting Marchurst Road (Map 3). In 1891, Canada Company is listing as having sold the east half of the lot to Patrick Scott, likely the same man listed as a landowner on the 1879 map. In 1906 Patrick's family divide the east half further by selling the southeast 50 acres to Thomas Caroll. Later that year Patrick M. Scott, likely the son of Patrick Scott, sold the rest of the lot to Carroll.

A 1929 topographic map of the Arnprior area depicts a building marker fronting Marchurst Road in the same general area as the Scott homestead. The remainder of the Project Area is depicted as a woodlot (Map 4). An aerial image taken in 1954 does not depict any buildings within the Project Area, it is therefore likely that the building had since been demolished. The Project Area is depicted as an open grassy field with scattered trees. An aerial image taken in 1991 now depicts the hydro corridor which traverses the southeast corner of the Project Area, evidenced by two hydro towers visible in the image. A farmers laneway runs through the Project Area and connects to Marchurst Road. There is now a

sizable woodlot at the center of the Project Area (Map 5). Based on the reviewed imagery and the contemporary site conditions, the open fields encountered have remained as pasture since at least 1954. No evidence of ploughing nor any typical field divisions commonly associated with cultivation was observed in the review of the background aerial imagery.

3.0 Archaeological Context

3.1 Project Area Environment and Landscape

The Project Area is located within the Ottawa Valley Clay Plains physiographic region, which includes shallow till and rock ridges within the Project Area and clay plains to the northeast and southwest (Map 6). The segment of the region north of the City of Ottawa, where the Project Area is situated, generally consists of deep silty clay beds in a valley surrounded by rocky Laurentian uplands on either side. Within the valley bedrock uplifts are common with calcareous limestone blocks appearing above clay beds (Chapman & Putman 1984).

From a surficial geology perspective, the Project Area is comprised of Precambrian bedrock in the east with glacial till in the center and glaciomarine offshore deposits of clay, silty clay and silt along the western border (Map 7). The eastern and southeastern border of the Project Area consists of the Anstruther silty loam soil complex, and the Dalhousie fine sandy loam soil complex throughout the remainder (Map 8).

The Project Area is located within the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Forest Region, more specifically the Upper St. Lawrence subregion. The boundary of this region is marked by the transition from predominantly deciduous forest to mixed deciduous and coniferous forest. Prior to European agricultural practices and the removal of woodlots for agricultural purposes, the forest cover would have consisted of sugar maple and beach, red maple, yellow birch, basswood, white ash, largetooth aspen, white elm and red and bur oaks (Rowe 1972).

The Project Area is currently a mixture of woodlots and open pasture fields with a small creek running north-south through its west half. The topography gently rises to the southwest from 100 masl to 105 masl. The Project Area is located 300 m northeast of the Carp Hill Wetland Complex, 4.4 km east of the Carp River, 3.9 km west of Constance Lake and 8 km west of the Ottawa River.

3.2 Previously Completed Archaeological Assessments Within 50 Metres of Project Area

The primary source of information regarding previously completed archaeological studies is the MCM Past Portal Database. Based on the information provided by this database, which was accessed on 27 April 2026, there has been two archaeological assessments previously completed within 50 m of the Project Area. As previously stated, the draft Stage 1 AA report (Stantec 2025a; PIF#: P415-0525-2024) forms the basis for this Stage 2 AA, Stantec also completed a Stage 2 AA (Stantec 2025b; PIF#: P415-0566-2025) directly adjacent to the current BESS Project Area and no other previous AA are known to have been completed within 50 m of the Project Area (Map 9).

The Stantec Stage 1 AA recommended further work within the larger study area due to its proximity to a number of water sources such as tributaries to Constance Lake and the Carp Hills Wetland Complex (Stantec 2025a). The Stage 2 AA largely consisted of shovel test pit survey at 5 m intervals across all areas retaining potential. Approximately 17.6% of the study area was determined to have low potential due to exposed bedrock and was not tested in accordance with Section 7.8.6 Standard 1.b of the MCM's 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. A further 2.4% of the study area was determined to have low potential due to permanently saturated soils and was not tested (Stantec 2025b).

Specifically, the draft Stage 1 AA report included the following recommendations (Stantec 2025):

1. *Stage 2 archaeological assessment is required for any portion of the Project's anticipated construction which impacts an area of archaeological potential;*

2. *Stage 2 archaeological assessment is not required for any portion of the Project's anticipated construction which impacts an area of low to no archaeological potential.*

The draft Stage 2 AA report included the following recommendation (Stantec 2025):

1. *No archaeological resources were identified during the Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the BESS footprint. Thus, in accordance with Section 2.2 and Section 7.8.4 of the MCM's 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (Government of Ontario 2011), no further archaeological work is recommended for the study area.*

3.3 Registered Archaeological Sites Within One Kilometre of Project Area

The primary source of information regarding previously recorded archaeological sites within the Province of Ontario is the MCM Archaeological Sites Database. Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of previously recorded archaeological sites, the MCM database is accessible only by Licensed Archaeologists within the Province of Ontario. The ASDB was accessed on 27 April 2026 and a 1 km buffer around the project was applied with no previously recorded archaeological sites present.

3.4 Assessing Archaeological Potential

Several factors are employed when assessing archaeological potential within a particular area. In addition to the proximity to known archaeological sites, factors for determining archaeological potential for Indigenous and Euro-Canadian historical resources include distance from primary and secondary watercourses, distance to potable water, drainage patterns, identification of historical water sources (e.g. beach ridges, river beds, relic creeks, ancient shorelines, etc.), elevated topography, identification of significant physiological and geological features (e.g. knolls, drumlins, eskers, plateaus, etc.), soil geomorphology, distinctive land formations (e.g. mounds, caverns, waterfalls, peninsulas, etc.), known burials sites and cemeteries, ecological features (e.g. distribution of food and animal resources before European colonization), features identifying early Euro-Canadian settlements (e.g. monuments, structures, etc.), historical transportation routes (e.g. historical roads, trails, portages, rail corridors, etc.) and properties designated and/or listed under the *Ontario Heritage Act.*

Local knowledge from Indigenous communities and heritage organizations, as well as consultation of available historical and archaeological literature and cartographic resources, aids in the identification of

features denoting archaeological potential.

Archaeological potential criteria are based on the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011) and were used to assess the potential for archaeological resources within the Project Area. In recommending a Stage 2 property survey based on specific attributes denoting archaeological potential for a Project Area, the MCM stipulates that:

- no areas within 300 metres of a previously identified archaeological site; water sources; areas of early Euro-Canadian Settlement; or locations identified through local knowledge or informants can be recommended for exemption from further assessment

- no areas within 100 metres of early transportation routes can be recommended for exemption from further assessment

- no areas within the property containing an elevated topography; pockets of well-drained sandy soil; distinctive land formations; or resource areas can be recommended for exemption from further assessment

A large scale archaeological masterplan was created by ASI in 1999, the technical report identified portions of the Project Area as retaining potential. The 2025 Stantec Stage 1 AA found that the Project Area retained Pre-Contact archaeological potential due to the small creek which crosses the Project Area and its proximity to the Carp Hill Wetland Complex. The Stage 1 AA also identified archaeological potential for Post-Contact archaeological due to its proximity to Marchurst road and a recorded 19th century homestead within the Project Area. Following a property inspection completed by Stantec portions of the Project Area have been designated as low to no potential areas due to exposed bedrock and shallow soils, or permanently saturated soils (Map 10).

4.0 Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment Methodology and Results

Based on the results of the Stage 1 AA, it was determined that the Project Area retained archaeological potential and a Stage 2 AA was recommended at 5 m intervals (Stantec 2025) (Map 10). The Stage 2 AA was completed on 4 May 2026 under archaeological license P311-0387-2026 issued to Bradley Drouin of True North Archaeological Services Inc. All Stage 2 AA work was completed in accordance with the MCM's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM 2011). Test pits were excavated in 5 m intervals, were at least 30 cm in diameter and at least 5 cm into subsoil or until bedrock was encountered. Soil from each test pit was screened through 6-mm mesh with each individual test pit examined for stratigraphy and the presence of cultural features and artifacts. Each test pit was backfilled upon completion.

Representatives from the Algonquins of Ontario and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation were present during the Stage 2 AA and provided valuable insight into local knowledge and land use.

Stantec's (2025) original Stage 2 AA was focused on the BESS facility and known project infrastructure at the time of completion. As the project developed, the project proponent determined that additional Project Areas would be required for the point of interconnection with the existing Hydro-One transmission corridor as well as additional laydown areas associated with construction. The limits of the Project Area used for the completion of the Stage 2 AA were reviewed with the project proponent and confirmed to be accurate prior to undertaking the fieldwork.

At the time of the Stage 2 AA, the weather consisted of cloudy skies and temperature ranging between 15˚C and 19˚C. At no time did conditions hinder the completion of the Stage 2 AA or the ability of the field archaeologists to identify potential archaeological resources.

Spatial data was collected in the field using QField GIS software on a Samsung TAB S9 tablet, including the collection of waypoints and polygons of archaeological interest. The Stage 2 Project Area was uploaded to the field tablet to accurately locate the boundaries of the Project Area in the field, with the GPS unit integrated within the tablet providing +/- 3 m accuracy on average. The integration of the QField program on the tablet allowed landscape features and photograph locations to be mapped in the field, using georeferenced aerial imagery as the base plan. Spatial data collected during the field assessment referenced the UTM coordinate system (Zone 18) and the NAD83 datum with each observation recorded as six digit easting and seven digit northing coordinates. Following the Stage 2 field investigation, the field data was downloaded as SHP files and integrated into the Project GIS database.

Permission to access the Project Area to complete the Stage 2 field assessment was provided by Avaanz on behalf of the project proponent. No restrictions or limitations were placed on accessing the property to complete the archaeological assessment.

As per the *Terms and Conditions for Archaeological Licenses in Ontario*, all project photographs, field notes, and field maps generated during the Stage 2 component of the AA will be maintained and curated by TNAS and stored at their office. Table 2 provides details on the curated documentation.

Table 1. Inventory of the Stage 2 Documentary Record

Document Type	Description	Number of Records	Locations
Photographs	Digital photographs taken during Stage 2 AA	16 digital images	Digitally stored in TNAS file 2025105 project file
Field Notes	Hand written field notes taken during Stage 2 AA	2 pages	Digitally stored in TNAS file 2025012 project file; Hard copy stored in physical file 2025105
Mapping	Spatial data collected during Stage 2 AA using Samsung tablet	2 shapefiles	Digitally stored in TNAS file 2025105 project file

4.1 Record of Finds

The stage 2 test pit survey was conducted in areas identified by Stantec (2025) as retaining archaeological potential. Soils across the Project Area were natural if partially variable, as such intervals remained at 5 m throughout the Project Area (Images 1-4). In elevated areas soil stratigraphy consisted of 10 to 12 cm of brown silty loam topsoil over bedrock (Images 5 & 6). In lower areas soil stratigraphy consisted of between 10 to 15 cm of brown silty loam topsoil, over 20 to 30 cm of beige orange brown silty sand subsoil, over bedrock (Image 7). Given the shallow nature of the soils, the Stage 2 AA progressed more quickly than similar areas with deeper stratigraphy.

No archaeological resources were recovered as a result of the stage 2 test pit survey.

5.0 Analysis and Conclusions

True North Archaeological Services Inc. (TNAS) was retained by Avaanz on behalf of Fitzroy BESS Inc. to undertake a Stage 2 archaeological assessment (AA) for the South March Battery Energy Storage System project, located within Part of Lot 25, Concession 1, Geographic Township of March, former Carleton County, now City of Ottawa, Ontario (Maps 1 and 2). This Stage 2 archaeological assessment was completed as part of an Environmental Assessment process for Minor Transmission Facilities.

The results of the draft Stage 1 AA (Stantec 2025) identified that the Project Area retained archaeological potential due to its proximity to Marchurst Road, the Carp Hill Wetland Complex, and the presence of an 19th century homestead within the Project Area. As a result, a Stage 2 property assessment of the Project Area was undertaken to assess areas identified as retaining archaeological potential.

The Stage 2 component was completed on 4 May 2026 under clear skies and a high of 19˚C. The Stage 2 AA was completed employing 30 cm diameter hand excavated shovel test pits at 5 m intervals where natural soils were encountered. All shovel test pits were hand excavated a minimum of 5 cm into subsoil where encountered with all back dirt screened through 6 mm mesh to facilitate the recovery of potential artifacts.

No artifacts or features or archaeological interest were identified within the limits of the Stage 2 Project Area as confirmed by the project proponent and as outlined on Map 11. It should be recognized that although no archaeological material was identified during the Stage 2 AA, the overall Project Area is part of the broader landscape traditionally occupied by Anishinaabe and Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial.

Archaeological assessment and Indigenous consultation are separate components of project planning. While the archaeological assessment evaluates potential impacts to archaeological resources, it does not satisfy or replace broader consultation with Algonquin communities regarding Aboriginal rights, cultural values, or areas of traditional importance.

6.0 Recommendations

The results of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment documented within this report formed the basis for the following recommendations:

1. There are no further archaeological concerns for the 2.88 ha hectare Project Area as illustrated on Map 11.

2. In the event that future planning results in the identification of additional areas of impact beyond the limits of the Project Area, located in the Township of March, former Carleton County, now City of Ottawa, ON, not under assessment as part of the current study or the 2025 Stantec report, further Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessments may be required.

7.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

This report is submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the Project Area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the 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.

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.

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 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 Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement.

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 licence.

8.0 Report Limitations

This report has been prepared for the specific site, development objective, and purpose as requested by the client and outlined in the original proposal, and subsequent agreed changes, for this project. The specific results, factual data, interpretations, and recommendations, outlined in this report are for the sole use of the client, and applicable only to this project and site location. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made. No other party may rely on all, or portions, of this report without True North Archaeological Services Inc.'s express written consent. The Client and Approved Users may not give, lend, sell, or otherwise make available the report or any portion thereof to any other party without the express written permission of True North Archaeological Services Inc. The Client acknowledges the electronic media is susceptible to unauthorized modification, deterioration and incompatibility and therefore the Client can only rely upon the electronic media versions of this True North Archaeological Services Inc. report or other work products at their discretion.

True North Archaeological Services Inc. prepared this report in a manner consistent with the level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by other members of the archaeological consulting community currently practicing within the Province of Ontario, in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's (MCM) 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*, and all the subsequent MCM bulletins.

There are special risks whenever an archaeological assessment is completed, whether they be solely desktop assessments or in-field assessments, and even a thorough background study, comprehensive field investigation or sampling and testing program may fail to detect all archaeological resources present within the Project Area. The desktop review, field strategies and subsequent interpretations utilized for this report comply with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's (MCM) 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*, and all the subsequent MCM bulletins.

All artifacts collected as part of this archaeological assessment, when applicable, will be housed and curated by True North Archaeological Services Inc. until such time that the collection may be transferred to an appropriate MCM approved repository or repatriated to an appropriate First Nation. As part of Licensing obligations, this report, along with pertinent written information will be uploaded to the MCM Past Portal website and reviewed for compliance with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.

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1999a *The Paleo-Indian Period in the Ottawa Valley*. In J. L. Pilon (ed.), **Ottawa Valley Prehistory**. Imprimerie Gauvin, Hull, Quebec, p. 28-41.
1999b *The Early Woodland of the Ottawa Valley*. In J. L. Pilon (ed.), **Ottawa Valley Prehistory**. Impremerie Gauvin, Hull Quebec, 56-76.
1982 *Prehistoric Peoples in the Rideau Waterway*, **Archaeological Historical Symposium, Rideau Ferry, Ontario**, F.C.L. Wyght, Lombardy, Ontario, pp. 24-55.
1972 *A Woodland Indian Site at Constance Bay, Ontario*. **Ontario Archaeology**, 18:1-24.

Williamson, Ronald F.
1990 *The Early Iroquoian Period of Southern Ontario*. **The Archaeology of Southern Ontario to A.D. 1650**.C.J. Ellis and N. Ferris (eds), Ontario Archaeology Society, p. 291-320.

10.0 Images



Image 1. View of field crew completing test pits survey at 5 m intervals in north end of the Project Area.



Image 2. View of field crew completing test pit survey at 5 m intervals in an area of exposed bedrock.



Image 3. View of field crew completing test pit survey at 5 m intervals at the south end of the Project Area.



Image 4. View of field crew completing test pit survey at 5 m intervals at the center of the Project Area.

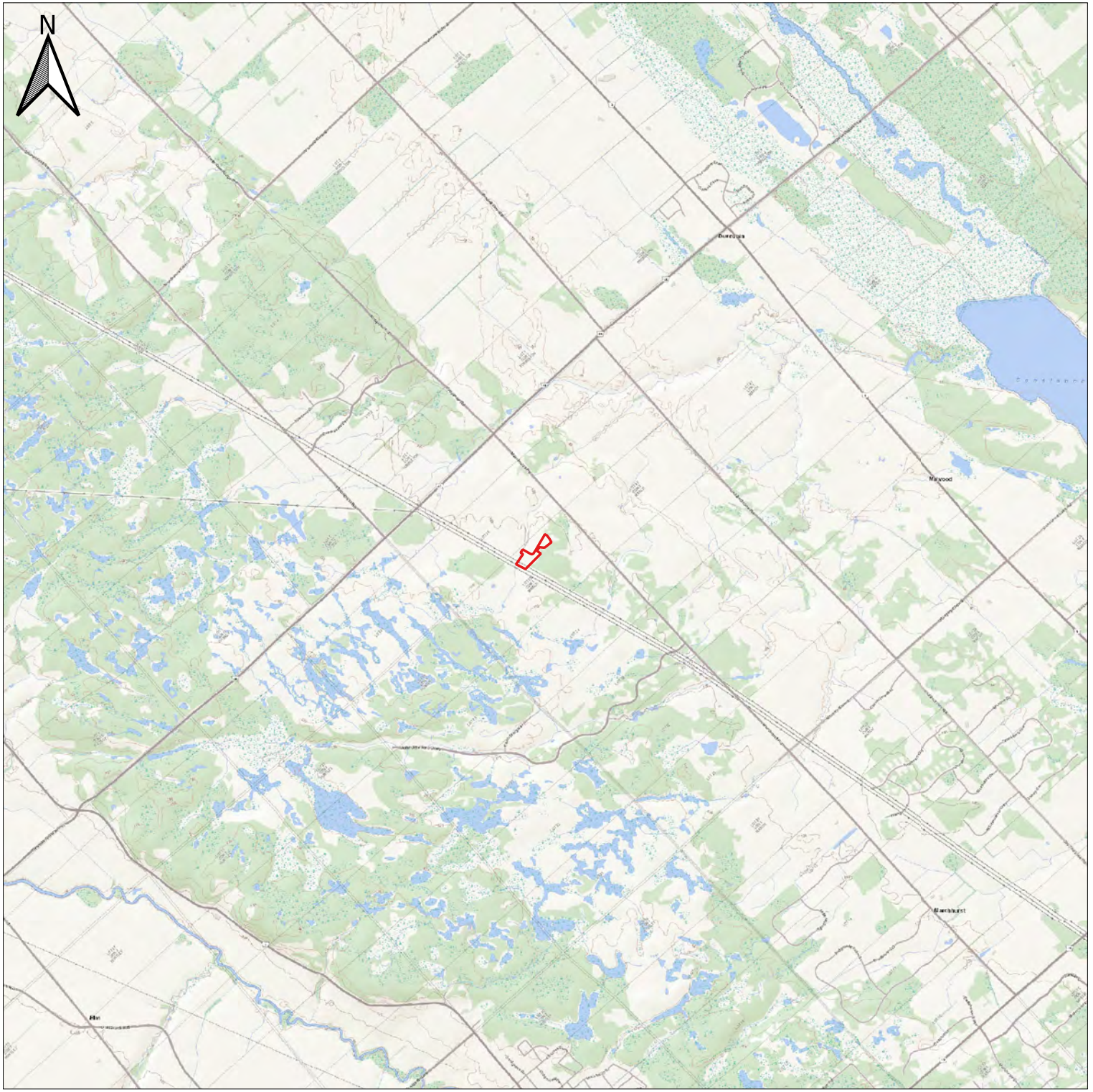


Image 5. Sample test pit excavated within the center of the Project Area showing shallow soil profiles over bedrock.



Image 6. Sample test pit dug at the south end of the Project Area showing shallow soil profiles over bedrock.

11.0 Maps



LEGEND

Project Area

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. BASE PLANs: LIO TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 km

SCALE 1:50,000

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

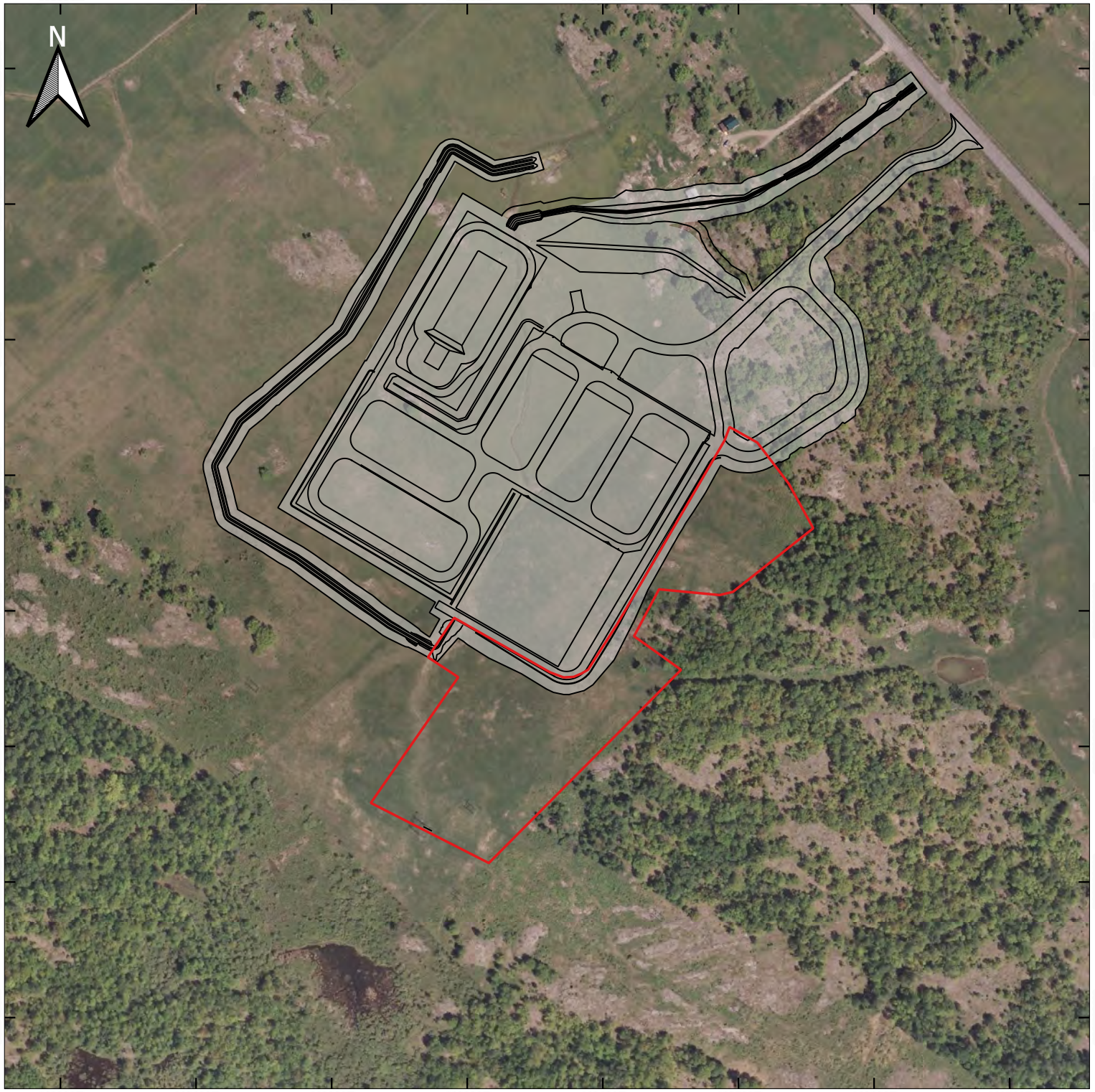
KEY PLAN

CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

YYYY-MM-DD	2026-08-05
PREPARED	GKB
REVIEWED	BD
APPROVED	BD

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KEY MAP



SCALE 1:100,000

LEGEND

- Project Area
- Development Plan
- Infrastructure
- Clearing Limits

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83,
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. BASE PLANS: LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO (LIO) OPEN DATA DRAPE 2025 AND LIO TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

50 0 50 100 150 m

SCALE 1:4,000

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

SITE PLAN

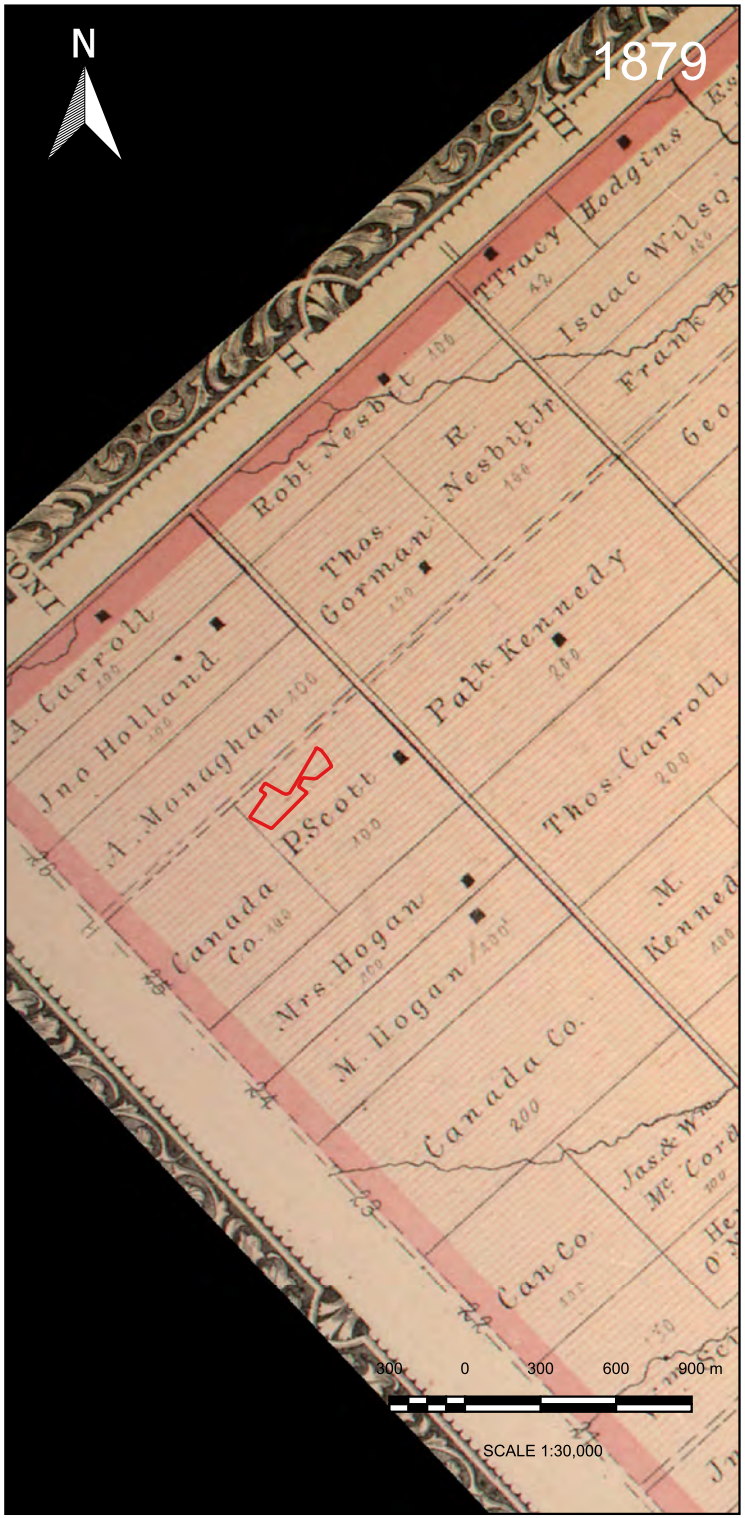
CONSULTANT

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REVIEWED	BD
APPROVED	BD

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LEGEND

Project Area

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. 1863 PLAN OF MARCH TOWNSHIP, CARLETON COUNTY, H.F. WALLING

3. 1879 PLAN OF MARCH TOWNSHIP, CARLETON COUNTY, H. BELDEN & CO.

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

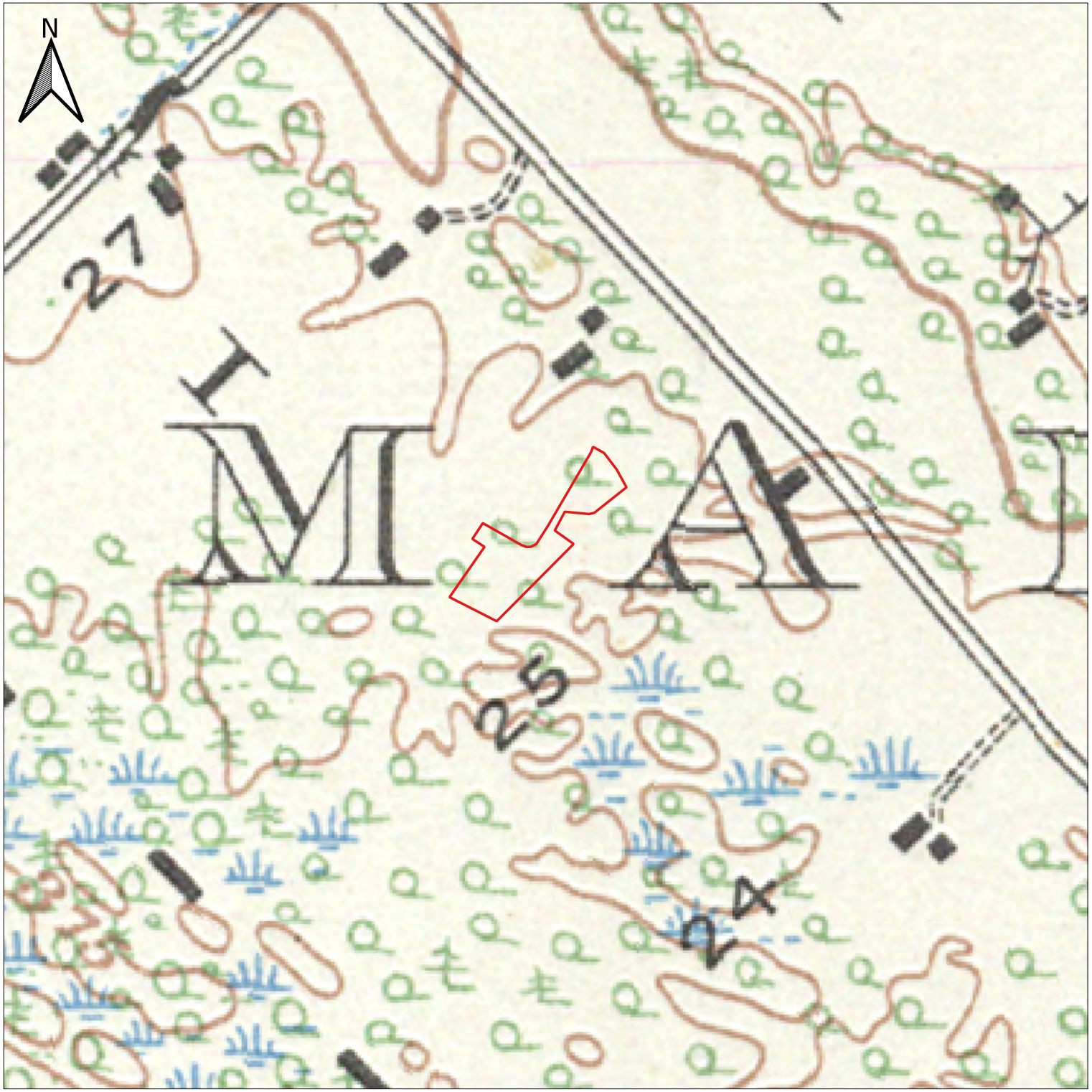
1863 AND 1879 HISTORIC MAPS, MARCH TOWNSHIP

CONSULTANT

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APPROVED	BD

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LEGEND

Project Area

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, ARNPRIOR SHEET, 31F8, 1929

0.1 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 km

SCALE 1:10,000

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

1929 TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING

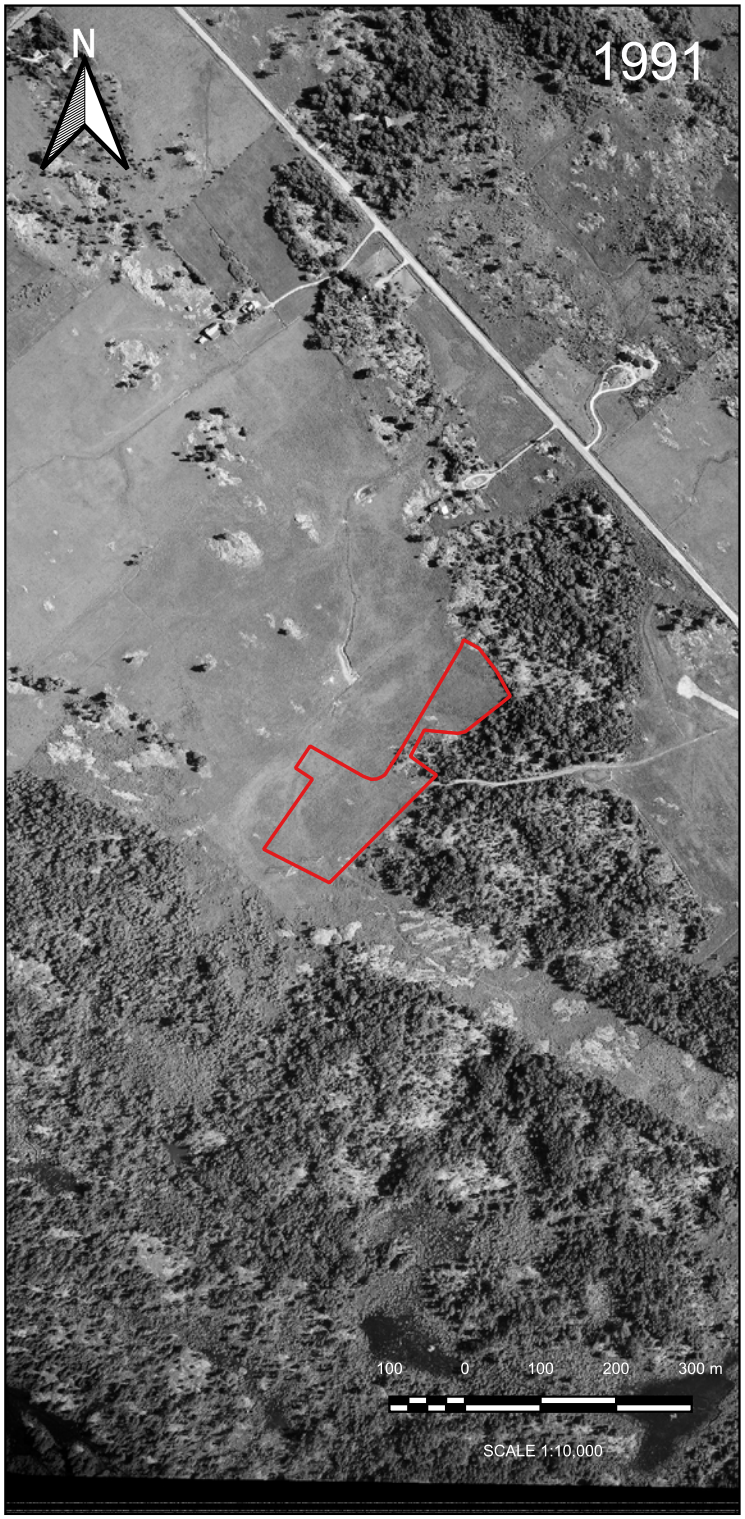
CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

YYYY-MM-DD	2026-08-05
PREPARED	GKB
REVIEWED	BD
APPROVED	BD

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LEGEND

Project Area

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLL# 4526, IMAGE#26_24, 1954

3. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLL#4518, IMAGE#15_62, 1991

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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APPROVED	BD

PROJECT NO.	REV.	MAP
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LEGEND

- Project Area

Physiographic Feature

- Clay Plains
- Shallow Till And Rock Ridges

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. CHAPMAN, L.J. AND PUTNAM, D.F. 2007. PHYSIOGRAPHY OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO; ONTARIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MISCELLANEOUS RELEASE-DATA 2008

0.35 0 0.35 0.7 1.05 km

SCALE 1:30,000

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

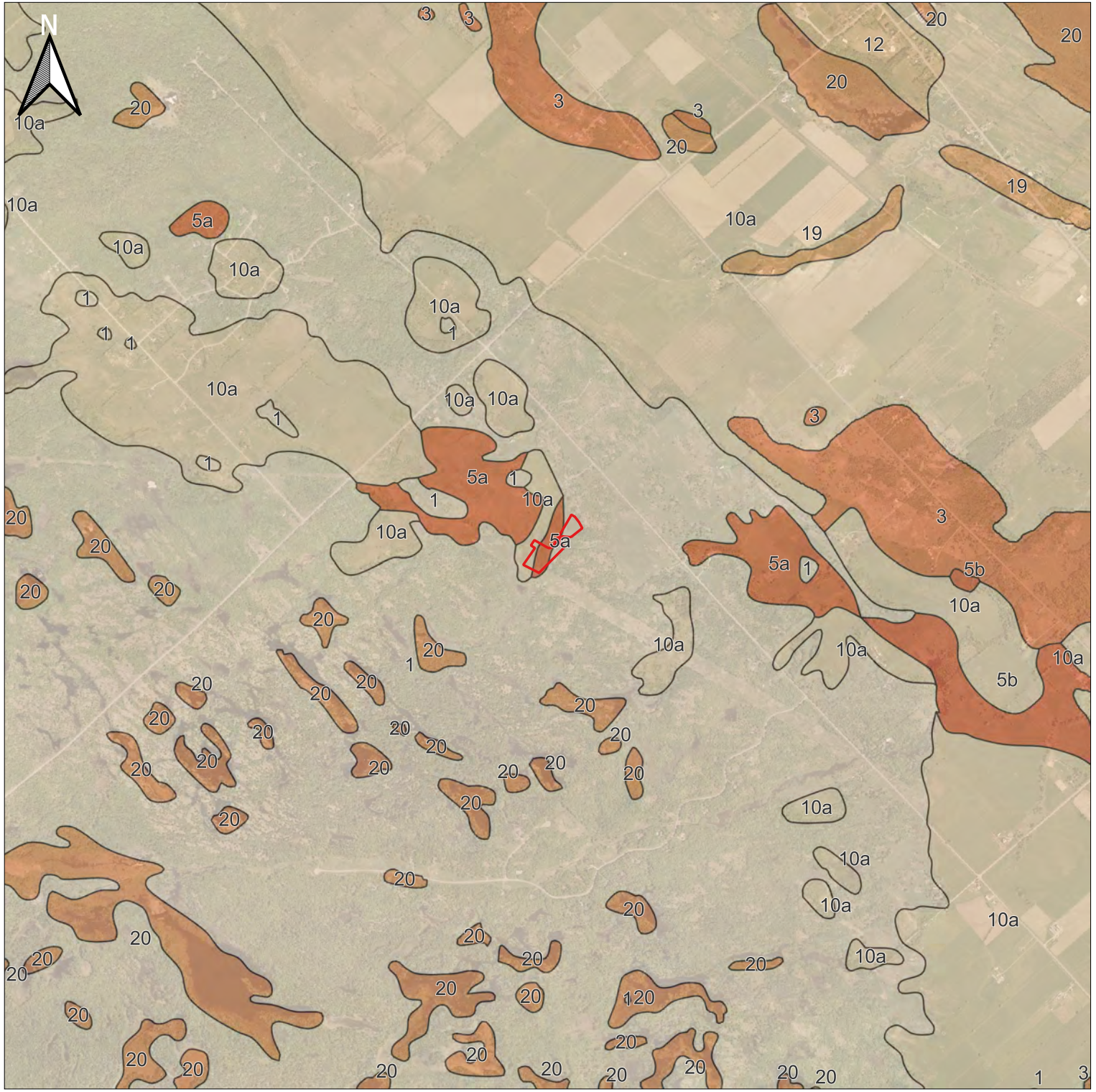
PHYSIOGRAPHY

CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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PREPARED	GKB
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APPROVED	BD

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LEGEND

Project Area

Surficial Geology

1	Precambrian Bedrock
10a	Offshore Glaciomarine Deposits of Clay, Silty Clay, and Silt.
12	Abandoned Floodplain Deposits of Sand and Silt
19	Modern Floodplain Deposits of Silty Sand, Silt, Sand and Clay
20	Organic Deposits of Muck and Peat in Bogs, Fens, Swamps and Poorly Drained Areas
3	Paleozoic Bedrock
5a	Glacial Till
5b	Glacial Till

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. ONTARIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2010. SURFICIAL GEOLOGY OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO; ONTARIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MISCELLANEOUS RELEASE-DATA 128-REV

0.35 0 0.35 0.7 1.05 km

SCALE 1:30,000

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

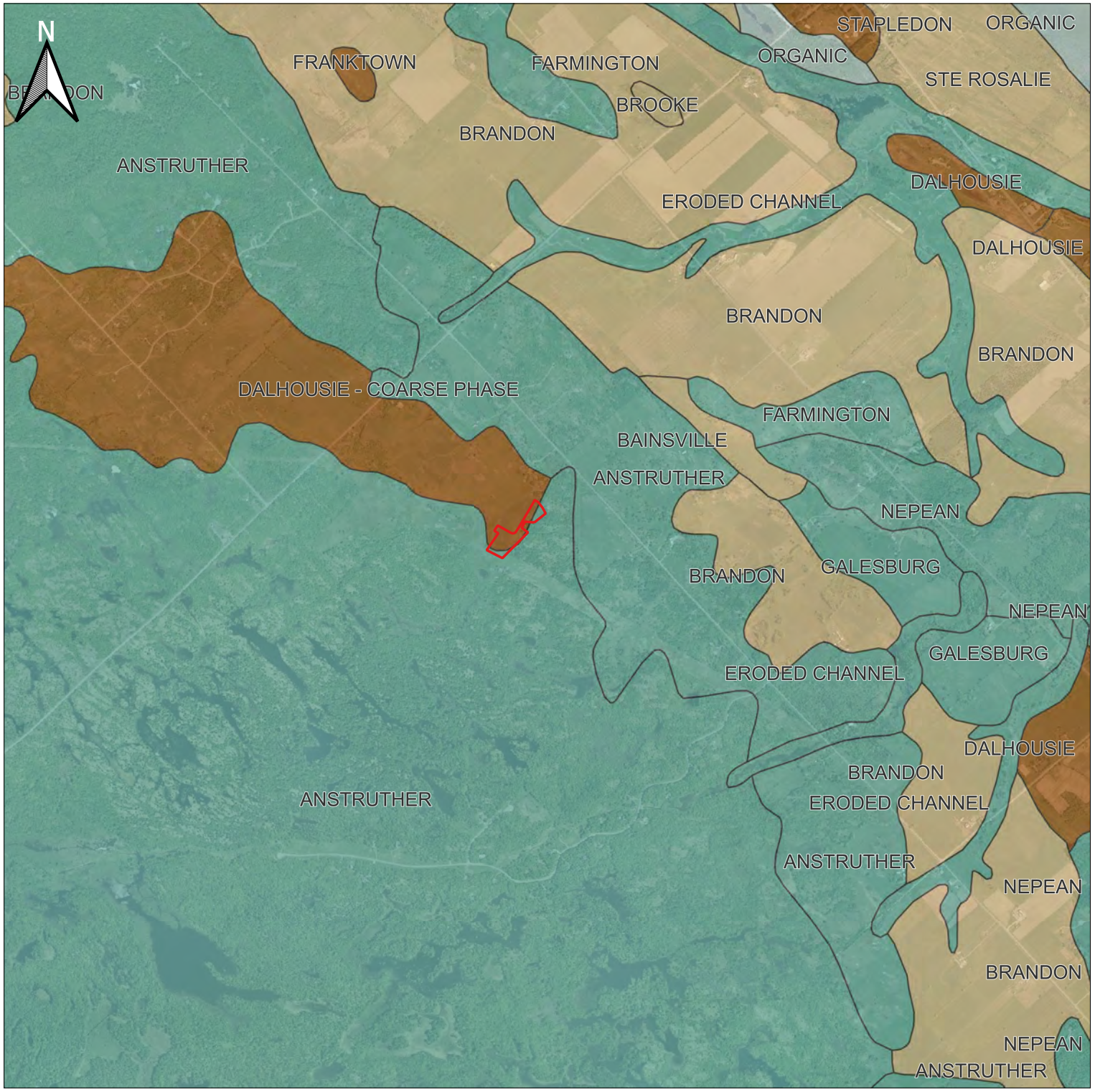
SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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REVIEWED	BD
APPROVED	BD

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LEGEND

- Project Area

Soil Survey Complex

- Imperfectly Draining Soils
- Poorly Draining Soils
- Very Poorly Draining Soils
- Water

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83. COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. SOIL SURVEY COMPLEX, ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS, 2019-11-06

0.35 0 0.35 0.7 1.05 km

SCALE 1:30,000

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

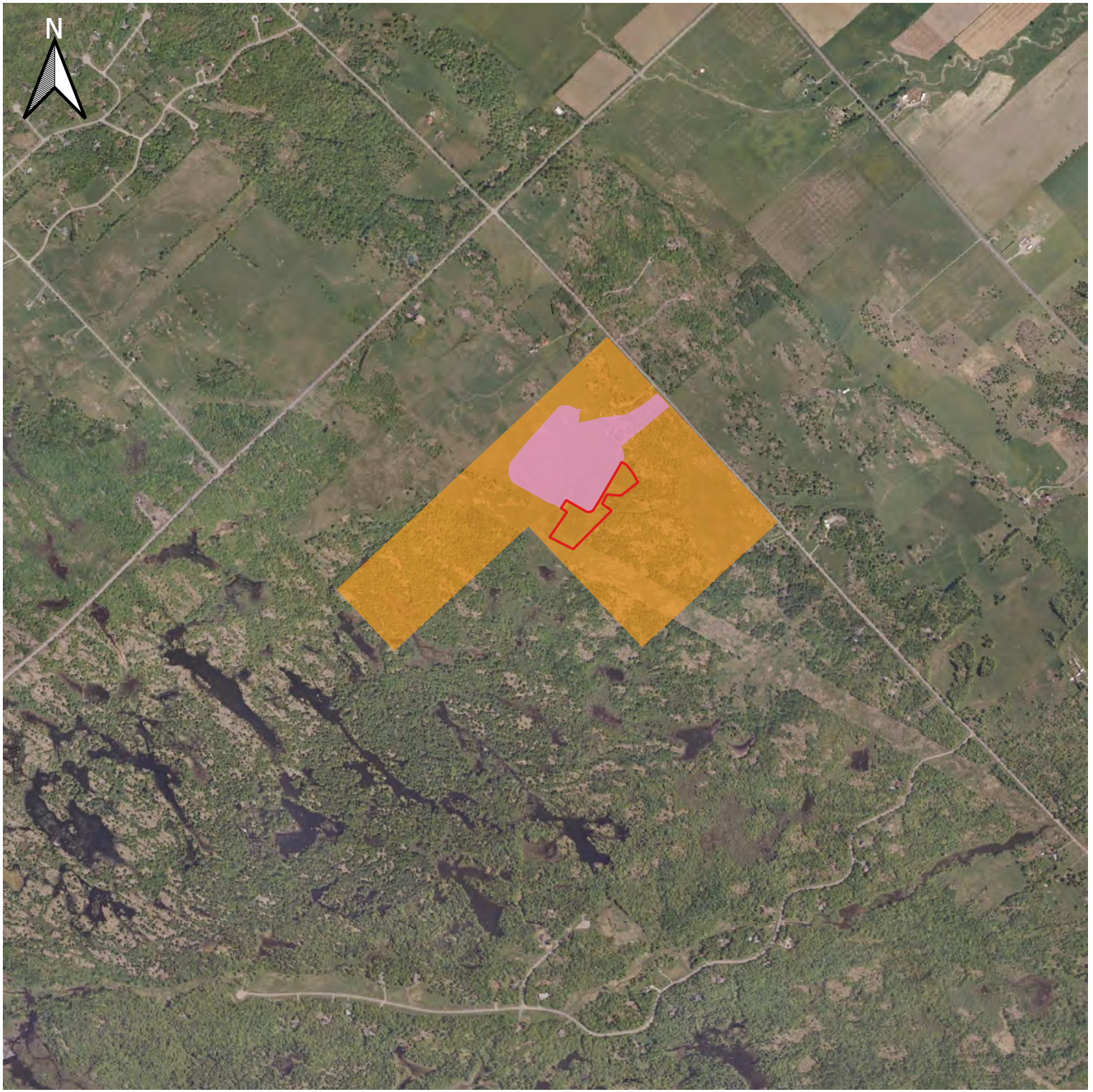
SOIL SURVEY COMPLEX

CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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LEGEND

Project Area

Previous Assessments Within 50 m

Stantec 2025 (PIF#: P415-0566-2025)

Stantec 2025 (PIF#: P415-0525-2025)

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. BASE PLAN: LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO (LIO) OPEN DATA, DRAPE 2025

3. SPATIAL INFORMATION FOR ALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS DEPICTED ON THIS MAP ARE REFERECNED FROM AVAILABLE REPORTS AND INFORMATION MAINTAINED BY THE MCM

250 0 250 500 750 m

SCALE 1:20,000

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

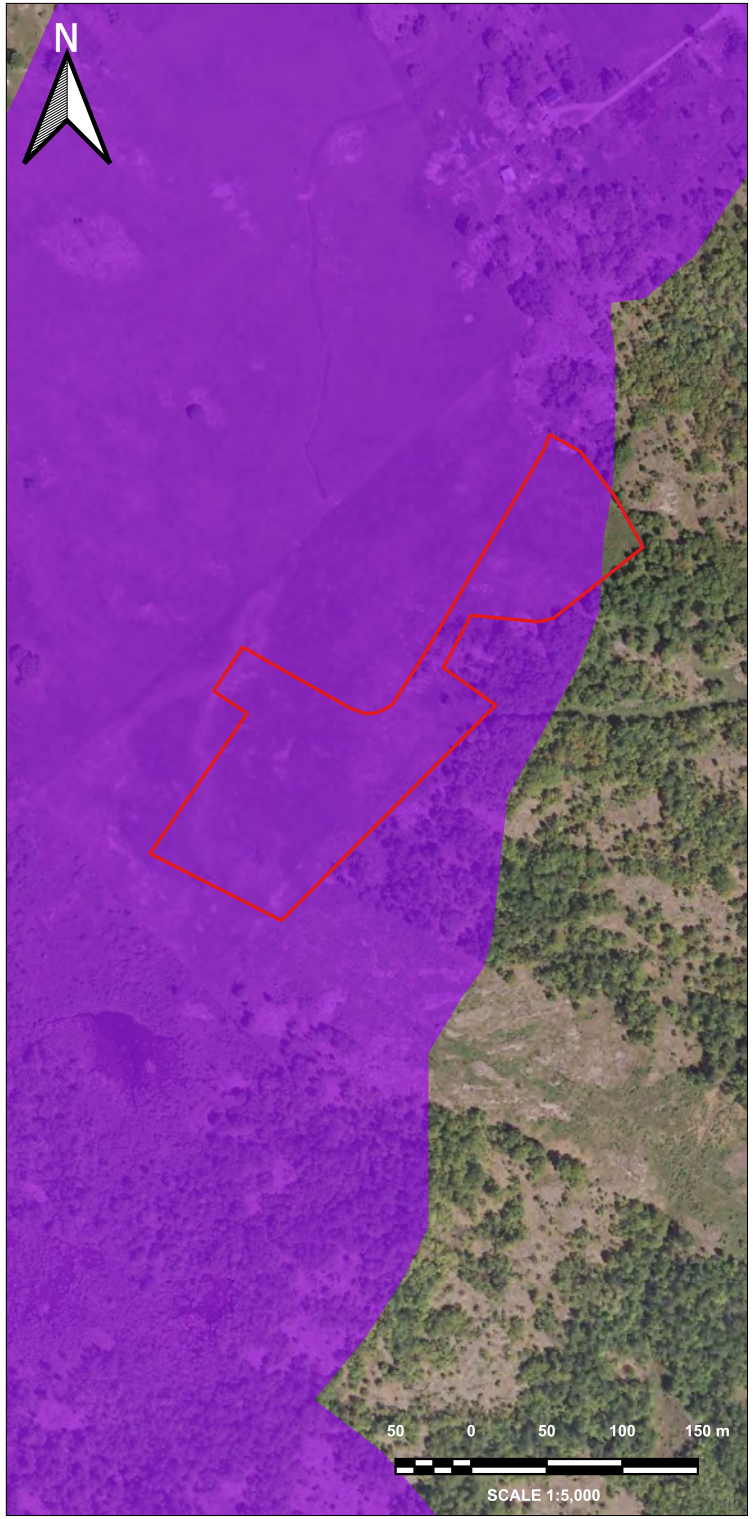
PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS WITHIN 50 METRES OF STUDY AREA

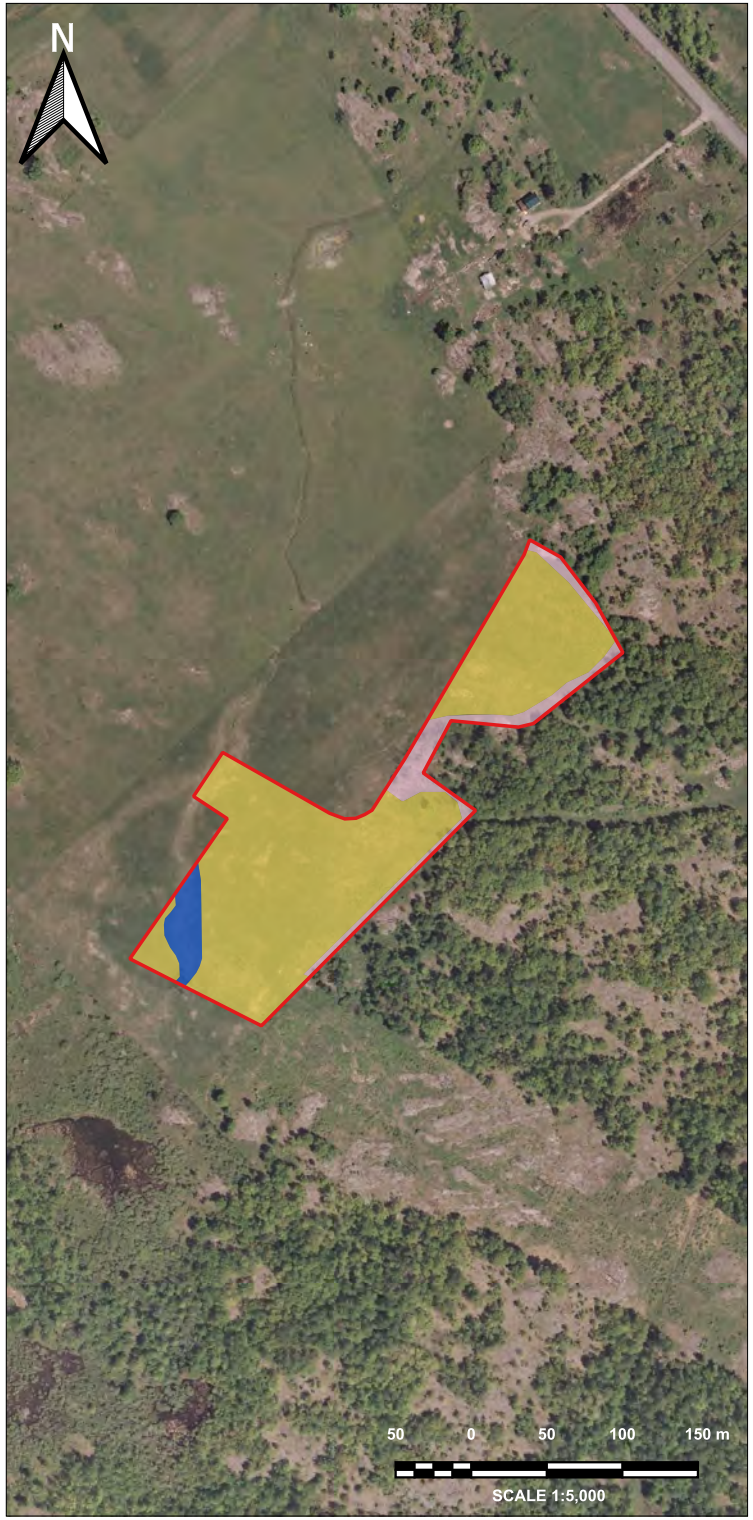
CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

YYYY-MM-DD	2026-08-05
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REVIEWED	BD
APPROVED	BD

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LEGEND

Project Area

Archaeological Potential

- Area of Archaeological Potential (ASI 1999)
- Low and Permanently Wet Area, Low to No Archaeological Potential - No Further Archaeology Recommended (Stantec 2025)
- Area of Archaeological Potential - Further Archaeological Work Required (Stantec 2025)
- Area of Exposed or Shallowly Buried Bedrock - No Further Archaeological Work Required (Stantec 2025)

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 17, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2.BASE PLAN: LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO (LIO) OPEN DATA DRAPE 2025

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

YYYY-MM-DD	2026-08-05
PREPARED	GKB
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LEGEND

Project Area

Stage 2 Recommendations

Test Pit Survey at 5 m Intervals - No Further Archaeology Recommended

Location and DIrection of Field Photographs with Corresponding Report Image #

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, DATUM: NAD 83.
COORDINATE SYSTEM: UTM ZONE 18, VERTICAL DATUM: CGVD28

2. BASE PLAN: LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO (LIO) OPEN DATA DRAPE 2025

50 0 50 100 150 m

SCALE 1:4,000

CLIENT

FITZROY BESS INC.

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SOUTH MARCH BESS, 2555 MARCHURST ROAD, PART OF LOT 25, CONCESSION 1, TOWNSHIP OF MARCH, CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TITLE

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSULTANT

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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12.0 Signature Page

We trust that this report meets with your current needs. If you have any questions, or if we may be of further assistances, please contact either of the undersigned.

TRUE NORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES INC.

Gabryell Kurtzrock Belyea

Gabryell Kurtzrock Belyea, M.A.
Project Archaeologist

Bradley Drouin

Bradley Drouin, M.A.
Principal, Senior Archaeologist