



ORIGINAL REPORT

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment:

375 Didsbury Road
Part Lot 3, Concession 1,
Geographic Township of March,
Former County of Carleton,
City of Ottawa, Ontario

Prepared For

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PIF: P378-0136-2025

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Report: MH1445-REP.01

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1.0 Executive Summary

Matrix Heritage, on behalf of First Capital Realty Inc, c/o Novatech Engineers, conducted a Stage 1 archaeological assessment at 375 Didsbury Road within Part Lot 3, Concession 1, in the Geographic Township of March, formerly within the County of Carleton, now the City of Ottawa, Ontario (Map 1). The objectives of the investigation were to assess the archaeological potential of the study area in support of a development application under the Planning Act as required by the City of Ottawa. A formal survey of the study area was used to delineate the study area (Map 2). This assessment is in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) (MCM 2011).

The City of Ottawa has an archaeological management plan which was developed in 1999, *The Archaeological Resource Potential Mapping Study of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton*. The management plan covers the Township of March (Archaeological Services Inc. and Geomatics International Inc 1999). According to the management plan, a portion of the subject property falls within an area of archaeological potential (Map 3).

The Stage 1 assessment included a review of the MCM archaeological sites database, a review of relevant environmental, historical, and archaeological literature, and primary historical research including: land registry records, census records, and historical maps.

This Stage 1 background assessment concluded that, based on criteria outlined in the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Section 1.3, 2011), the study area has both pre-contact Indigenous as well as historical Euro-Canadian archaeological potential.

Based on the results of this investigation it is recommended that:

1. A Stage 2 archaeological assessment be conducted by a licensed consultant archaeologist using the test pit survey method at 5 m intervals, as per Section 2.1.2 (MCM 2011) (Map 4).
2. The Stage 2 archaeological assessment follow the requirements set out in the 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM 2011).

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3.0 Project Personnel

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4.0 Project Context

4.1 Development Context

Matrix Heritage, on behalf of First Capital Realty Inc, c/o Novatech Engineers, conducted a Stage 1 archaeological assessment at 375 Didsbury Road within Part Lot 3, Concession 1, in the Geographic Township of March, formerly within the County of Carleton, now the City of Ottawa, Ontario (Map 1). The objectives of the investigation were to assess the archaeological potential of the study area in support of a development application under the Planning Act as required by the City of Ottawa. A formal survey of the study area was used to delineate the study area (Map 2). This assessment is in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) (MCM 2011).

At the time of the archaeological assessment, the study area was privately owned.

4.1 Historical Context

4.1.1 Historic Documentation

Notable histories of the Algonquins include Algonquin Traditional Culture (Whiteduck 1995) and Executive Summary: Algonquins of Golden Lake Claim (Holmes and Associates 1993a).

The subject property is within the Geographic Township of March, formerly within the County of Carleton. March Township was first surveyed in 1820 and the first settlers in 1819 included retired officers of the Napoleonic Wars, who received plots on the Broken Front along the Ottawa River. The early history of March is described in *March Past* (Burns et al. 1972), *Families and Heritage Homes of March Township: The Historical Project* (Senior Citizen's Club of March Township 1974), and *The Catholic Community of St. Isidore* (St. Isidore Parish 1987). Other useful resources include, *The Carleton Saga* by Harry and Olive Walker (1968), Courtney Bond's *The Ottawa Country* (1968), and Belden's *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Carleton County* (Belden & Co. 1879).

4.1.2 Pre-Contact Period

Early Human Occupation

Indigenous histories speak of the advance and retreat of glaciers and of their presence on the land from time immemorial. Presently, the earliest human occupation of the Americas has been archaeologically documented to predate 14,000 years ago. However, at that time much of eastern Canada was covered by thick and expansive glaciers and the Laurentide Ice Sheet of the Wisconsinian glacier blanketed southwestern Ontario until about 12,500 B.P. At this time the receding glacial terminus was at the southern edge of present-day Georgian Bay and melt water in the region created Early Lake Erie and Lake Iroquois (the basin of today's Lake Ontario).

The earliest archaeologically recovered evidence in northeastern North America dates from circa 11,000 B.P. and relates to groups archaeologically referred to as Paleo people. For Ontario the Paleo period is divided into the Early Paleo period (11,000 - 10,400 B.P.) and the Late Paleo period (10,500-9,400 B.P.), based on changes in tool technology (Ellis and Deller 1990). The Paleo people, who had moved into hospitable areas of southwest Ontario (Ellis and Deller 1990), likely consisted of small groups of exogamous hunter-gatherers relying on a variety of plants and animals who ranged over large territories (Jamieson 1999).

Archaic Period

As the climate continued to warm, the forests became dominated with white pine and some deciduous trees and the ice sheet receded further northwards, allowing areas to be travelled and occupied in what is known as the Archaic Period (9,500 – 2,900 B.P.). Archaic populations generally remained hunter-gatherers with an increasing emphasis on fishing. People began to organise themselves into small family groups operating in a seasonal migration, congregating annually at resource-rich locations for social, religious, political, and economic activities. Often sites from this time are located on islands, waterways, and at narrows on lakes and rivers where caribou and deer would cross, suggesting a common widespread use of the birchbark canoe that was so prominent in later history (McMillan 1995).

In the Boreal forests of the Canadian Shield, the Archaic period is referred to as the “Shield Archaic,” characterized by adaptations to a forested environment with a focus on hunting, fishing, and gathering, using stone tools made from locally available materials. In contrast, the mixed forests to the south are associated with the “Laurentian Archaic,” marked by a broader range of subsistence activities, including fishing with nets and woodworking using ground-stone tools such as axes and gouges.

Woodland / Pre-European Contact Period

Generally, the introduction of the use of ceramics marks the transition from the Archaic Period into the Woodland Period. Populations continued to participate in extensive trade networks that extended across much of North America. Social structure appears to have become increasingly complex with some status differentiation recognized in burials. Towards the end of this period domesticated plants were gradually introduced to the region. This coincided with other changes including the development of semi-permanent villages. The Woodland period is commonly divided into the Early Woodland (1000 – 300 B.C.), Middle Woodland (400 B.C. to A.D. 1000), and the Late Woodland (A.D. 900 – European Contact) periods.

The Early Woodland is typically noted via lithic point styles (i.e., Meadowood bifaces) and pottery types (i.e., Vinette I). The Middle Woodland period is identified primarily via changes in pottery style (e.g., the addition of decoration). The divides within the Middle Woodland and the shift into the period held as the Late Woodland are not well defined. There are general trends for increasingly sedentary populations, the gradual introduction of agriculture, and changing pottery and lithic styles. However, nearing the time of contact, Ontario was populated with somewhat distinct regional populations that broadly shared many traits. In the southwest, in good cropland areas, groups were practicing corn-bean-squash agriculture in semi-permanent, often palisaded villages which are commonly assigned to Iroquoian-speaking peoples (Wright 2004:1297–1304). Algonquian-speaking peoples, including the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga) and the Chippewa, inhabited the same or neighbouring areas, but their presence in the archaeological record is less visible owing in part to seasonal rounds of hunting, fishing, and gathering, relying on the waterways of the Keweenaw, Rice Lake, and Georgian Bay for subsistence and travel (Kapyrka and Migizi 2016:4–5). These waterways supported extensive trade networks, connecting Indigenous communities across the region.

European Contact

Archaeological information suggests that ancestral Anishinabe Algonquin people lived in the region of what is today eastern Ontario and western Quebec for at least 8,000 years before the Europeans arrived in North America. This traditional territory is generally considered to encompass the Ottawa Valley on both sides of the river, in Ontario and Quebec, from the Rideau Lakes to the headwaters of the Ottawa River. The region is dominated by the Canadian Shield which is characterized by low

rolling land of Boreal Forest, rock outcrops and muskeg with innumerable lakes, ponds, and rivers. This environment dictated much of the traditional culture and lifestyle of the Anishinabe Algonquin peoples. At the time of European contact, the Anishinabe Algonquin territory was bounded on the east by the Montagnais people, to the west by the Nipissing and Ojibwa, to the north by the Cree, and to the south by the lands of the Iroquois.

The addition of European trade goods to artifacts of native manufacture in archaeological material culture assemblages ushered in a new period of history. When the French arrived, there was already a long-standing and vast trade network extending from the Saguenay to Huronia. This route existed at least from the early beginnings of agricultural societies in Ontario around A.D. 1000 (Moreau et al. 2016). This trade increased rapidly after the arrival of the Europeans with the introduction of European goods and the demand for furs. The Huron held a highly strategic commercial location controlling the trade to the south and the west, and the Algonquin, Michi Saagiig, and Chippewa were their critical connection to goods from the east, including European products.

The so-called St. Lawrence Iroquoians were the first Iroquoian people to be contacted by Europeans, when Jacques Cartier encountered villages around present day Québec City and Montréal in 1535. A few decades later, they had disappeared with various branches likely being subsumed by the more powerful Huron-Petun (Wendat-Tionontate) or Five Nations (Haudenosaunee) Iroquoian confederacies and others incorporated into Algonquian groups in the Ottawa Valley or further east (Wabanaki) (Warrick 2008:203). At this time, late in the 16th century, several changes occurred in the distribution of Iroquoian villages in southern Ontario as well. Prior to contact with Europeans, Iroquoian communities along the north shore of Lake Ontario and the Trent River Valley appear to have dispersed, likely relocating to Huronia. By the 17th century, missionaries and explorers collectively referred to these groups as the Hurons. This migration is generally attributed to increased participation in the fur trade.

The first recorded meeting between Europeans and Anishinabe Algonquin occurred at the first permanent French settlement on the St. Lawrence at Tadoussac in the summer of 1603. Samuel de Champlain came upon a party of Algonquins, the Kitchissipirini under Chief Tessouat, who were celebrating a recent victory over the Iroquois with their allies the Montagnais and Malecite (Hessel 1993). Champlain made note of the “Algoumequins” and his encounter with them, yet the initial contact between Champlain and the Algonquin people within their own territory in the Ottawa Valley was during his travels of exploration in 1613.

By the time of Champlain’s 1613 journey, the Anishinabe Algonquin people along the Ottawa River Valley were important middlemen in the rapidly expanding fur-trade industry. Champlain knew this and wanted to form and strengthen alliances with the Algonquins to further grow the fur-trade, and to secure guidance and protection for future explorations inland and north towards a potential northwest passage. Further, involving the Algonquins deeper in the fur trade promised more furs filling French ships and more Indigenous dependence on European goods. For their part, the French offered the promise of safety and support against the Iroquois to the south.

Early historical accounts note many different Algonquian speaking groups in the region at the time. Of note for the lower Ottawa Valley area were the Kichesipirini (focused around Morrison Island); Matouweskari (upstream from Ottawa, along the Madawaska River); Weskarini (around the Petite Nation, Lièvre, and Rouge rivers west of Montreal), Kinouchepirini (in the Bonnechere River drainage); and the Onontcharonon, (along the South Nation River) (Holmes and Associates 1993a; Morrison 2005; Pilon 2005). However, little archaeological work has been undertaken regarding Anishinabe Algonquin at the time of contact with Europeans (Pilon 2005).

Fur Trade, Early Contact with the French

Champlain understood that the Anishinabe Algonquin would be vital to his eventual success in making his way inland, exploring, and expanding the fur trade. This was partially due to their language being the key to communication with many other groups, as well as their dominance over trade routes surrounding the Ottawa River and the connection with the Huron in the west.

By the mid-17th century, the demands of the fur trade had caused major impacts to the traditional way of life including a change in tools, weapons, and a shift in diet to more European as hunting was more for furs and not for food. This dependence on European food, ammunition, and protection tied people to European settlements (McMillan 1995). The summer gathering sites shifted from prominent fishing areas to trading posts. This further spurred social changes in community structure and traditional land distribution and use.

The well-situated Anishinabe Algonquin, particularly the Kitchesipirini who controlled passage around Allumette Island, were originally reluctant to cede any of their dominance in fear of being cut out of their lucrative middleman role in the trade economy. However, an alliance with the French meant protection and assistance against the Iroquois. The French, as well as other Europeans like the Dutch and English, were able to align their own political and economic rivalries with those of the native populations. The competitive greed and obsession with expanding the fur trade entrenched the rivalries that were already in place, and these were intensified by European weapons and economic ambition. The trading policies of Europeans created an imbalance between these native rivalries as the Haudenosaunee were readily supplied muskets by their Dutch allies, while the French allied with the Huron and their trading partners the Algonquin, Nippissing, Michi Saagiig, and Chippewa only supplied guns to Christian converts (Lackenbauer et al. 2010:21–23).

Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Wars

Little information exists about inter-tribal warfare prior to European contact, however, there was existing animosity between the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinabe Algonquin when Champlain first arrived in the Ottawa Valley. Like his fellow Europeans, Champlain was able to use this existing rivalry to make a case for an alliance, thus gaining crucial access to the established trade networks and economic power of the Anishinabe Algonquin. Prior to European contact, the hostilities had been mainly skirmishes and raids, or formal battles that were often ritualized and organized to minimize casualties, but everything changed as European reinforcement provided deadlier weapons and higher economic stakes with the introduction of the fur trade (Lackenbauer et al. 2010:5–8).

Along with the French, the Anishinabe Algonquin were allied against the Haudenosaunee with the Huron, Nippissing, Michi Saagiig, and Chippewa. French records suggest that at the end of the sixteenth century the Algonquins were the dominant force and were proud to have weakened and diminished the Iroquois. The first Algonquin campaign the French took part in was a 1609 attack against the Mohawk. The use of firearms in this fight marked the beginning of the escalation of brutality between these old enemies. The Haudenosaunee corn stalk shields could stop arrows but not bullets or French swords (Hessel 1993).

Eventually the tide changed and as the Haudenosaunee exhausted the beaver population in their own territory they became the aggressors, pushing into the lands of the Anishinabe Algonquin, Michi Saagiig, Chippewa, and Huron, with the added strength of Dutch weaponry. Through the 1630s and 40s constant and increased raiding into Anishinabe Algonquin, Michi Saagiig, and Chippewa territory by the Haudenosaunee Nations had forced many multi-generational residents to leave their lands and seek protection from their French allies in places like Trois Rivières and Sillery while others fled to the north. By 1650 Huronia, the home of the long-time allies of the Anishinabe Algonquin and

traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewa, had been destroyed by the Haudenosaunee. The Anishinabe Algonquin of the Ottawa Valley had largely been scattered or displaced, reduced through war and disease to small family groups under the protection of the French missions only fifty years after the first Europeans had travelled the Ottawa River (Morrison 2005:26).

There is some evidence that the Anishinabe Algonquin did not completely abandon the Ottawa Valley but withdrew from the Ottawa River to the headwaters of its tributaries and remained in those interior locations until the end of the century. Taking advantage of the Anishinabe Algonquin absence, the Ottawa people, originally from the area of Manitoulin Island, used the river for trade during this time and their name became historically applied to the river.

Aftermath of War

As the Haudenosaunee push continued and the Anishinabe Algonquin sought refuge amongst their French allies, other factors came into play that significantly contributed to their displacement and near destruction. The introduction of European diseases, the devastating influence of alcohol, and the increasing pressure to convert to Christianity massively contributed to the weakening of the Anishinabe Algonquin people and their traditional culture.

The Anishinabe Algonquin thought of themselves as part of the natural world with which they must live in harmony. The traditional stories of Anishinabe Algonquin folklore contained lessons and guides to behaviour. The French missionaries regarded them as “heathens” and dismissed their religion as superstition (Day 2005). The missionaries believed it was their duty to convert these people to Christianity to save them from evil. Anishinabe Algonquin chief Tessouat had seen his Huron neighbours become ill and die after interactions with the European missionaries and had thus originally warned his people about abandoning their old beliefs and the dangers of conversion (Hessel 1993). Eventually the French imposed laws allowing only those converted to Christianity to remain within the missions and under French protection. This created divisions amongst the Anishinabe Algonquin themselves which weakened the social structure as some settled into a new religion and new territory.

Starting in the 1630s and continuing into the 1700s, European disease spread among the Anishinabe Algonquin groups along the Ottawa River, bringing widespread death (Trigger 1986:230). As disease spread through the French mission settlements the priests remained certain that the suffering was punishment for resisting Christianity. An additional threat lurking amongst the French settlements was alcohol which precipitated many issues.

The Long Way Back

After the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Wars, the remaining Anishinabe Algonquin people were generally settled around various French trading posts and missions from the north end of the Ottawa Valley to Montreal. A large settlement at Oka was the first mission established on Anishinabe Algonquin lands in 1720. This settlement included people from many groups who had been collected and moved around from various locations. It became a type of base camp; occupied during the summer while the winters were spent at their traditional hunting territories in the upper Ottawa Valley. This arrangement served the French well, since the Anishinabe Algonquin converts at Oka maintained close ties with the northern bands and could call upon the inland warriors to join them in case of war with the British or Iroquois League.

As the British gained control of Canada from the French in 1758-1760 they included in the Articles of Capitulation a guarantee that the Indian allies of the French would be maintained in the lands they inhabited. Many of the Anishinabe Algonquin and other native groups that had been living on French

mission settlements were shuffled around to new reserves while others began to migrate back to their traditional territories. Those who had remained on the land and continued to be active in the fur trade, now did so with the English through companies in Montreal like the North West Company, and in the north with the Hudson Bay Company.

Some Anishinabe Algonquin people began to return to their traditional territory to join those groups who had remained in the lower Ottawa Valley and continued their traditional lifeway through to the influx of European settlement in the late 1700s and early 1800s. This included bands noted to be living along the Gatineau River and other rivers flowing into the Ottawa. These traditional bands maintained a seasonal round focused on harvesting activities into the 1800s when development pressures and assimilation policies implemented by the colonial government saw Indigenous lands taken up, albeit under increasing protest and without consideration for Indigenous claims, for settlement and industry. Anishinabe Algonquin lands began to be encroached upon by white settlers involved in the booming lucrative logging industry or having been granted the land as Loyalist soldiers or through other settler groups.

As some Anishinabe Algonquin had been redistributed to lands in Quebec, their traditional territory within the Ottawa Valley was included in multiple land transfer deals, agreements, and sales with the British Crown beginning in the 1780s and continuing till the 1840s. The Anishinabe Algonquin were not included in these transactions and numerous petitions and inquiries on behalf of their interests were often overruled or ignored (Holmes and Associates 1993a; Holmes and Associates 1993b; Sarazin). The Constitution Act of 1791 divided Quebec into the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada with Ottawa River as the division line, thus the lands claimed by the Algonquins fell under two separate administrations creating more confusion, exclusion, and oversight.

Two “protectorate” communities were eventually established in the nineteenth century for the Anishinabe Algonquin people at Golden Lake in Ontario and River Desert (Maniwaki) in Quebec. One of the last accounts of the Anishinabe Algonquin living traditionally was from 1865. The White Duck family was living just west of Arnprior when they were forced to leave their wigwams as surveyors arrived to tell them the railway was being expanded through their land (Hessel 1993).

Anishinabe Algonquin people continue to live in the wider Ottawa Valley and there are still many speakers of several Algonquian dialects. Outside of the officially recognized bands there are an unspecified number of people of Anishinabe Algonquin descent throughout the Ottawa Valley unaffiliated with any reserve. Today there are ten Anishinabe Algonquin communities that are collectively represented by the Algonquins of Ontario: The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, Antoine, Kijicho Manito Madagouskarini, Bonnechere, Greater Golden Lake, Mattawa/North Bay, Ottawa, Shabot Obaadjiwan, Snimikobi, and Whitney and area.

Struggles to officially secure title to their traditional land, as well as fight for hunting and fishing rights have continued into modern times. The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) and the Governments of both Canada and Ontario are working together to resolve this land claim through a negotiated settlement. The claim includes an area of 9 million acres of unceded territory within the watersheds of the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers in Ontario including the city of Ottawa and most of Algonquin Park. The signing of the Agreement-in-Principle in 2016 by the AOO and the provincial and federal governments, signifying a mutual intention for a lasting partnership, was a key step towards a final agreement to clarify the rights and nurture new economic and development opportunities in the area.

4.1.3 Euro-Canadian Colonial History

Although the French exerted some influence in the region that would become eastern Ontario and western Quebec through the 17th and 18th centuries, with permanent settlements established to the

east and west on the Island of Montreal and Cataraqui (present day Kingston), permanent European settlement did not occur until the end of the 18th century. Despite having gained control of Canada at the end of the Seven Years' War (1754–1763), the British did not express interest in establishing settlements until the end of the American Revolution, when United Empire Loyalists left the newly established Republic.

The Governor of Quebec, General Frederick Haldimand, sought to make lands available for settlement for the Loyalists in what would become Upper Canada. Early Euro-Canadian land divisions into districts, counties, townships, etc. and the expansion of settlement were facilitated by the Indigenous Nations who agreed to enter formal treaty relationships with the newcomers to share the land and resources. Today, the study area is recognized as lying on the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin, within the lands of the Rideau Purchase.

The unceded Anishinabe Algonquin territories encompass nine million areas of land across much of Eastern Ontario. Treaty negotiations between the Algonquin Anishinaabeg (collectively represented by the Algonquins of Ontario) and the Crown (Ontario and Canada), reached an Agreement-in-Principle in 2016. The Agreement-in Principle is a key step toward a Final Agreement clarifying the rights of all parties and demonstrates a building of respect between the Crown and the Indigenous communities.

The Rideau Purchase was negotiated between the Crown and the Michi Saagiig for a three-million-acre tract of land along the south shore of the Ottawa River between Pembroke and Ottawa, extending south and west. With the Rideau Purchase the Crown sought to alleviate disputes regarding previously unceded lands north of the poorly defined limits of the Crawford Purchase (1783). This was largely to facilitate increasing demands for settlement in the Rideau Corridor and throughout the watersheds of the Ottawa valley and the Madawaska and Mississippi rivers.

The township of March was named after Charles Gordon-Lennox, the Earl of March, who was the son of the Governor General of British North America, Charles Lennox, the Duke of Richmond (Bond 1968). The area that would become March Township was originally part of the Johnstown District, and then in 1822, it became part of the Bathurst District. The township was incorporated into Carleton County in the 1840s.

Settlement in March Township began in 1819 when Colonel Lloyd, a veteran of the British Army against Napoleon in Egypt in 1802, and other half pay officers from the Napoleonic wars, were influenced to settle along the Ottawa River rather than in the military settlements of Richmond or Perth. The township was first surveyed in 1820 and in the following decades the interior of the township was settled by civilians, mainly Irish farmers and tradesmen, along with some lower ranking soldiers (Burns et al. 1972).

In the summer of 1870, a great fire passed through Carleton County and destroyed much of March Township, although the hamlets of March Corners and Horaceville escaped the flames. Crops, homes, and livestock were burned, and many inhabitants took refuge in rivers and wells. The fire significantly changed the composition of the land by clearing trees and drying out marshy areas, with soil lost from erosion altering the drainage system (Burns et al. 1972).

4.1.4 Study Area Specific History

The study area is within the northeastern corner of Lot 3, Concession 1 in the Geographic Township of March, east of the Carp River. The Crown patent for the northern 100 acres of Lot 3 was granted to William McCurdy in 1864 (LRO (04)). Historic mapping from 1863 shows William McCurdy was already occupying the lot prior to being granted the patent. His house is depicted in the northwestern

portion of the lot, well outside the current study area, while the homes of Thomas Wiggins and T. Allen are depicted just within the southeastern portion of the lot to the southwest of the study area (Map 5).

William McCurdy was born in Ireland around 1831 and by the time of the 1871 census he was listed living on the northern 100 acres of Lot 3 with his wife Ann and six children aged from newborn to 16 years (Statistics Canada 1871). Historic mapping from 1879 lists William as the owner of the northern portion of the lot with Henry Allen as the owner of the southern portion (Map 5). McCurdy's house is depicted in the southwestern corner of his property with Allen's shown along the eastern side, both well outside of the study area. In 1888, William sold the property to his son Alexander (LRO (04)). Only 12 years later, in 1900, Alexander died of pneumonia at the age of 42 (Ancestry.com 2010), leaving the property to his wife and four children (LRO (04)). Two decades later, in 1920, the executors of Alexander's estate granted the property to Henry McCurdy, and it remained within the McCurdy family well into the middle of the 20th century (LRO (04)).

4.2 Archaeological Context

4.2.1 Current Conditions

The study area (6.9 ha) falls within the northeastern corner of Lot 3, Concession 1, in the Geographic Township of March, formerly within the County of Carleton, now the City of Ottawa. The study area consists of an open scrub field with some marshy areas (Map 4). The eastern side of the study area is defined by Didsbury Road, beyond which are commercial properties. The southern side is defined by Campeau Drive, beyond which are similar open scrub parcels with some commercial properties. To the west and to the north of the study area are recreational trails and the Carp River within a similar landscape of scrub and marshy open fields.

4.2.2 Physiography

The study area lies within the Ottawa Valley Clay Plains physiographic region (Map 6). This region is characterized by poorly drained topography of clay plains interrupted by ridges of rock or sand that offer moderately better drainage. This topography was influenced by the post glacial sequence Champlain Sea (ca. 10,500 to 8,000 B.C.) that deposited these clay soils and were subsequently covered by sand deposits from the emerging freshwater drainage. Some of these sands were eroded to the underlying clay deposits by later channels of the developing Ottawa River. The sections to the north and south of the Ottawa River are characteristically different. On the Ontario side there is a gradual slope, although there are also some steep scarps (Chapman and Putnam 2007).

The soil of the study area is mainly of the North Gower Soil Series (Map 6). This soil type is a poorly draining, non-stony clay loam developed on nearly level topography. Streams are few and poorly developed, thus the natural drainage of the soil is dependant on that which can seep through. As the soils are a clay texture, the water moves slowly and therefore the soil is wet for a large part of the year. Cultivated surface soil has a granular structure and neutral reaction. North Gower soils are among the most productive in the Ottawa Valley region. They are particularly adapted to oats, hay, and fodder corn and this dairy production does well in the area. There is limited use for other agricultural crops (Schut and Wilson 1987). The remaining soils of the study area are part of an eroded channel from the Carp River.

The surficial geology of the study area is massive to well laminated, fine-textured glaciomarine deposits of silt, clay, minor sand, and gravel (Map 6).

There are no primary water sources within the study area, however Carp River a tributary of the Ottawa River, is about 30 m to the east of the study area.

4.2.3 Previous Archaeological Assessments

There have been no previous archaeological assessments of the current study area. Multiple assessments have been undertaken within, and adjacent to, Lot 3, Concession 1. Table 1 outlines previous projects that have been conducted within Lots 2 to 4 of Concessions 1 and 2 in the Geographic Township of March, and within Lots 2 to 4 of Concession 1 in the neighbouring Geographic Township of Huntley. Projects in **bold** are immediately adjacent to the current study area.

PIF Number	Date	Project	Company
P1077-0078-2025	2025	Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment, 475 Terry Fox Drive, Part of Lots 4 and 5, Concession 1, Geographic Township of March, Carleton County, now the City of Ottawa	True North Archaeological Services Inc.
P051-0213-2021	2023	Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Huntmar Drive Widening (Campeau Drive to Maple Grove Road) and Stittsville Main Street Extension (Maple Grove Road to Robert Grant Avenue) Environmental Assessment (EA) Study; Parts Lot 1-3, Concession 1 and 2 in Geographic Township of Huntley; Parts of Lot 1-3, Concession 1 in Geographic Township of March and Parts of Lots 25, Concession 12 in Geographic Township of Goulbourn; Historic County of Carleton, in the City of Ottawa, Ontario	LHC Heritage Planning & Archaeology
P1066-0143-2020	2021	Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Ottawa Patrol Yard (GWP 4018-18-01) Part of Lots 2 and 4, Concession 1 (Former Township of Huntley) Lot 2 Concession 2 (Former Township of March) Lot 1 Concession 2 on Ottawa River and Lot 11 Concession 1 on Ottawa River (Former Township of Nepean) County of Carleton City of Ottawa, Ontario	Archaeological Services Inc (ASI)
P025-0498-2015	2019	Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment of BhFx-62, Lot 3, Concession 1, Geographic Township of March, City of Ottawa, Ontario	Northeastern Archaeological Associates Ltd
P1077-0043-2018	2018	Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment, 20 Frank Nighbor Place, Part of Lot 2, Concession 1, March Township, Carleton County, City of Ottawa, Ontario.	Golder Associates Ltd
P025-0494-2015	2017	Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment of BhFx-62, Lot 3, Concession 1, Geographic Township of March, City of Ottawa, Ontario	Northeastern Archaeological Associates Ltd
P025-0482-2014	2015	Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of Part Lot 3, 4, and 5, Concession 1, Geographic Township of March, City of Ottawa, Ontario. Carp River Floodplain Restoration Project	Northeastern Archaeological Associates Ltd
P002-254-2011	2015	Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, Proposed Campeau Drive Extension, Lot 3, Concession 1 Township of March and Lot 3, Concession 1 Township of Huntley, City of Ottawa, ON	Stantec Consulting

PIF Number	Date	Project	Company
P031-035-2011	2014	Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessments of the proposed West Transitway Connection from Terry Fox Drive to Fernbank Road, located in Part Lots 1, 2 & 3, Concession 1, and Part Lots 2 & 3, Concession 2, Geographic Township of March, and Part Lot 28, Concessions 10, 11 & 12, Geographic Township of Goulbourn, now in the City of Ottawa, Ontario	Past Recovery Archaeological Services
P1077-0064-2021	2021	Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment, Burroughs Farmstead (BhFx-40), Part of Lot 3, Concession 1, Huntley Township, Carleton County, City of Ottawa, Ontario	Golder Associates Ltd
P1084-0021-2016	2018	Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Palladium Auto Park Upgrade Lot 2, Concession 1, former Huntley Township, City of Ottawa, Carleton County, ON	Stantec Consulting
P003-0400-2014	2015	Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment Kanata Lands Development Area Part Lots 1 & 2, Concession 1 Geographic Township of Huntley City of Ottawa	Adams Heritage
P003-0398-2014	2014	Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Kanata Lands Development Area Part Lots 1 & 2, Concession 1 Geographic Township of Huntley City of Ottawa	Adams Heritage
P003-232-2009, P003-232-2009-STG3	2009	An Archaeological Assessment (Stage 1 to 3) of the Proposed "Kanata West Business Park" (Terrace Lands) Part of the North Half, Lot 3, Concession 1 Geographic Township of West Carleton (formerly Township of Huntley) City of Ottawa, County of Carleton	Adams Heritage

Table 1: Previous Archaeological Assessments in the vicinity of the study area.

4.2.4 Registered Archaeological Sites, National Historic Sites, Commemorative Plaques

A search of the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database indicated that there are eight registered archaeological sites within 1 km of the study area (Table 2).

Three of these registered sites are located within the western portion of Lot 3: The Allen Site (BhFx-26) a Euro-Canadian farmstead; the Corelview Site (BhFx-27) a Middle Archaic campsite along the eastern edge of the Carp River; and the Akandoo Site (BhFx-62) a large lithic scatter attributed to the Archaic period along the Carp River. Four of the remaining five sites within a 1 km radius of the study area are all located to the northwest of the study area, the remainder is to the west.

There are no commemorative plaques near the study area.

Borden	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type	Status	
BhFx-62	Akandoo	Archaic	Aboriginal	Unknown	Further CHVI	
BhFx-35	Robertson Site	Post-Contact, Pre-Contact	Aboriginal, Euro- Canadian	Agricultural, findspot	No Further CHVI	
BhFx-31	Richardson Farm	Early Archaic	Aboriginal	campsite, quarry		
BhFx-30		Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Farmstead, outbuilding campsite, quarry		
BhFx-29	Broughton Lands	Early Archaic	Aboriginal			
BhFx-28		Middle Archaic	Aboriginal	campsite		
BhFx-27						
BhFx-26		Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Farmstead		

Table 2: Registered Archaeological Sites Within 1km of Study Area

4.3 Archaeological Potential

The City of Ottawa has an archaeological management plan which was developed in 1999, *The Archaeological Resource Potential Mapping Study of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton*. The management plan covers the Township of March (Archaeological Services Inc. and Geomatics International Inc 1999). According to the management plan, the western portion of the subject property falls within an area of archaeological potential due to the proximity to the Carp River (Map 3).

Potential for pre-contact Indigenous sites is based on physiographic variables that include distance from the nearest source of water, the nature of the nearest source/body of water, distinguishing features in the landscape (e.g., ridges, knolls, eskers, wetlands), the types of soils found within the area of assessment, and resource availability. The study area has pre-contact archaeological potential due to the Carp River located less than 50 m to the west and the registered pre-contact archaeological sites within 1 km.

Potential for historical Euro-Canadian sites is based on proximity to historical transportation routes, historical community buildings such as schools, churches, and businesses, and any known archaeological or culturally significant sites. The study area has potential for historical Euro-Canadian archaeological sites due to the early patent date and the proximity to a historical road appearing on the 1879 Belden map (Belden & Co. 1879).

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

Matrix Heritage, on behalf of First Capital Realty Inc, c/o Novatech Engineers, conducted a Stage 1 archaeological assessment at 375 Didsbury Road within Part Lot 3, Concession 1, in the Geographic Township of March, formerly within the County of Carleton, now the City of Ottawa, Ontario (Map 1). The Stage 1 assessment included a review of the MCM archaeological sites database, a review of relevant environmental, historical, and archaeological literature, and primary historical research including: land registry records, census records, and historical maps.

This Stage 1 background assessment concludes that, based on criteria outlined in the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Section 1.3, 2011), the study area has both pre-contact Indigenous as well as historical Euro-Canadian archaeological potential.

Based on the results of this investigation it is recommended that:

1. A Stage 2 archaeological assessment be conducted by a licensed consultant archaeologist using the test pit survey method at 5 m intervals, as per Section 2.1.2 (MCM 2011).
2. The Stage 2 archaeological assessment follow the requirements set out in the 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM 2011).

6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

- a. This report is submitted to the *Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism* as a condition of licencing 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.
- b. It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licenced archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest , and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeology Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 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 licenced 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.

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.

7.0 Closure

Matrix Heritage has prepared this report in a manner consistent with the time limits and physical constraints applicable to this report. No other warranty, expressed or implied is made. The sampling strategies incorporated in this study comply with those identified in the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011) however; Archaeological Assessments may fail to identify all archaeological resources.

The present report applies only to the project described in the document. Use of this report for purposes other than those described herein or by person(s) other than First Capital Realty Inc. c/o Novatech or their agent(s) is not authorized without review by this firm for the applicability of our recommendations to the altered use of the report.

This report is pending Ministry approval.

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

Matrix Heritage Inc.



Nadine Kopp, M.A., A.P.A., C.A.H.P.
Senior Archaeologist

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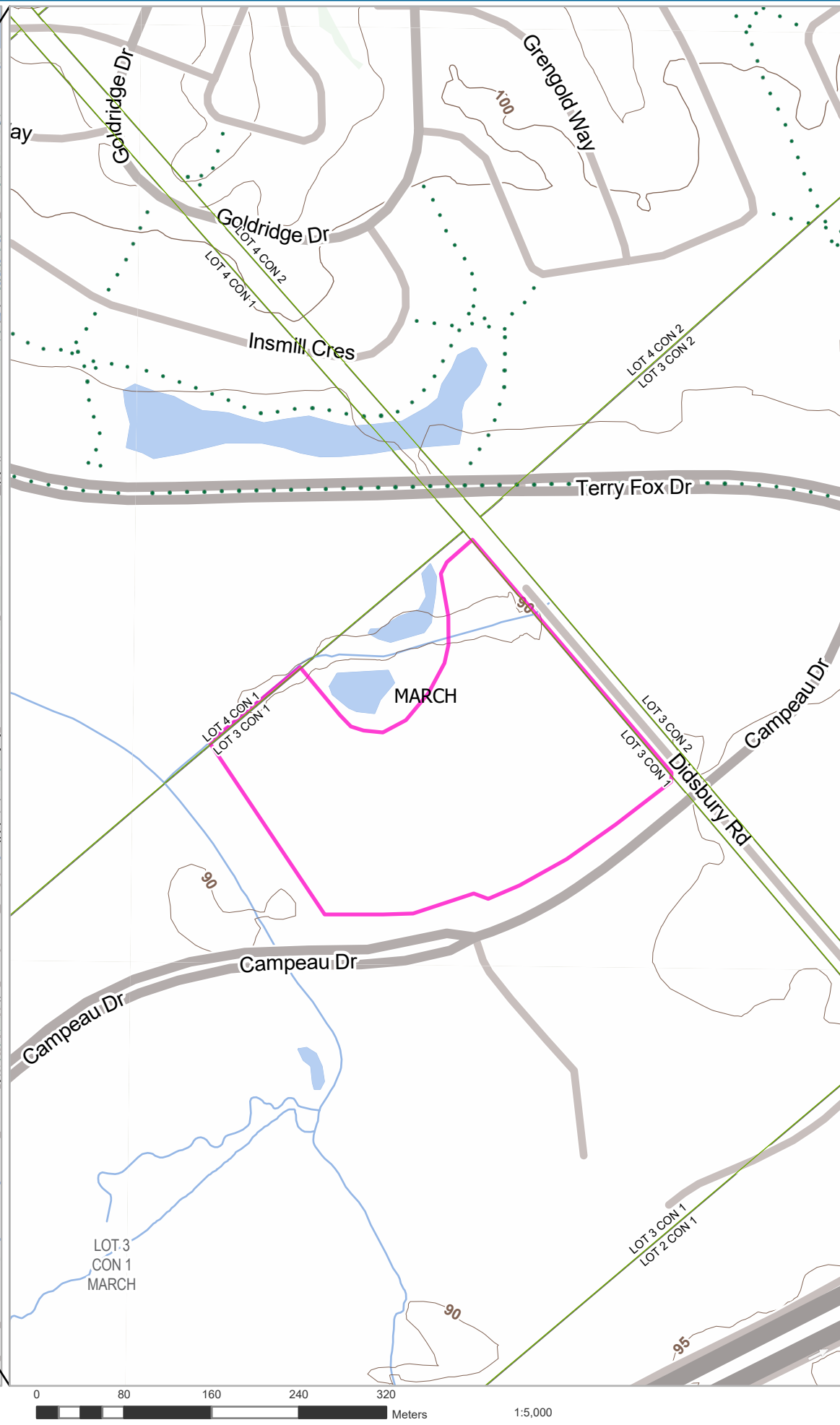
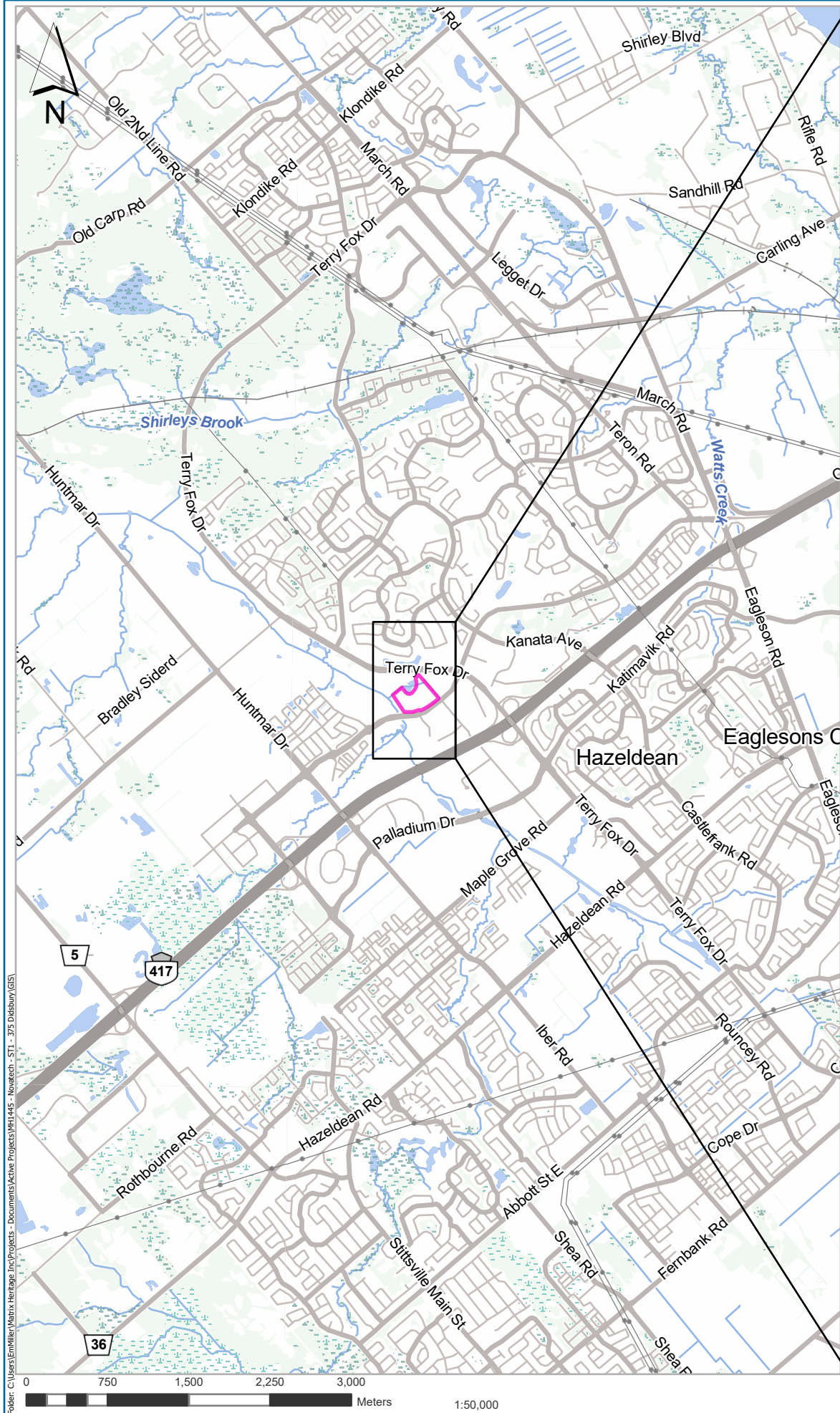
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9.0 Maps



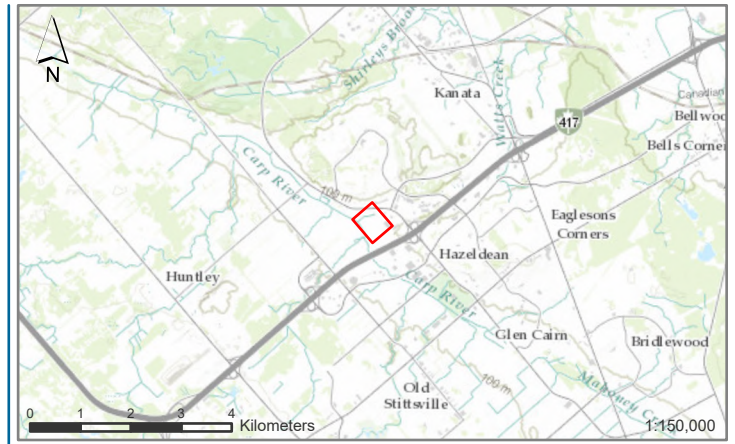
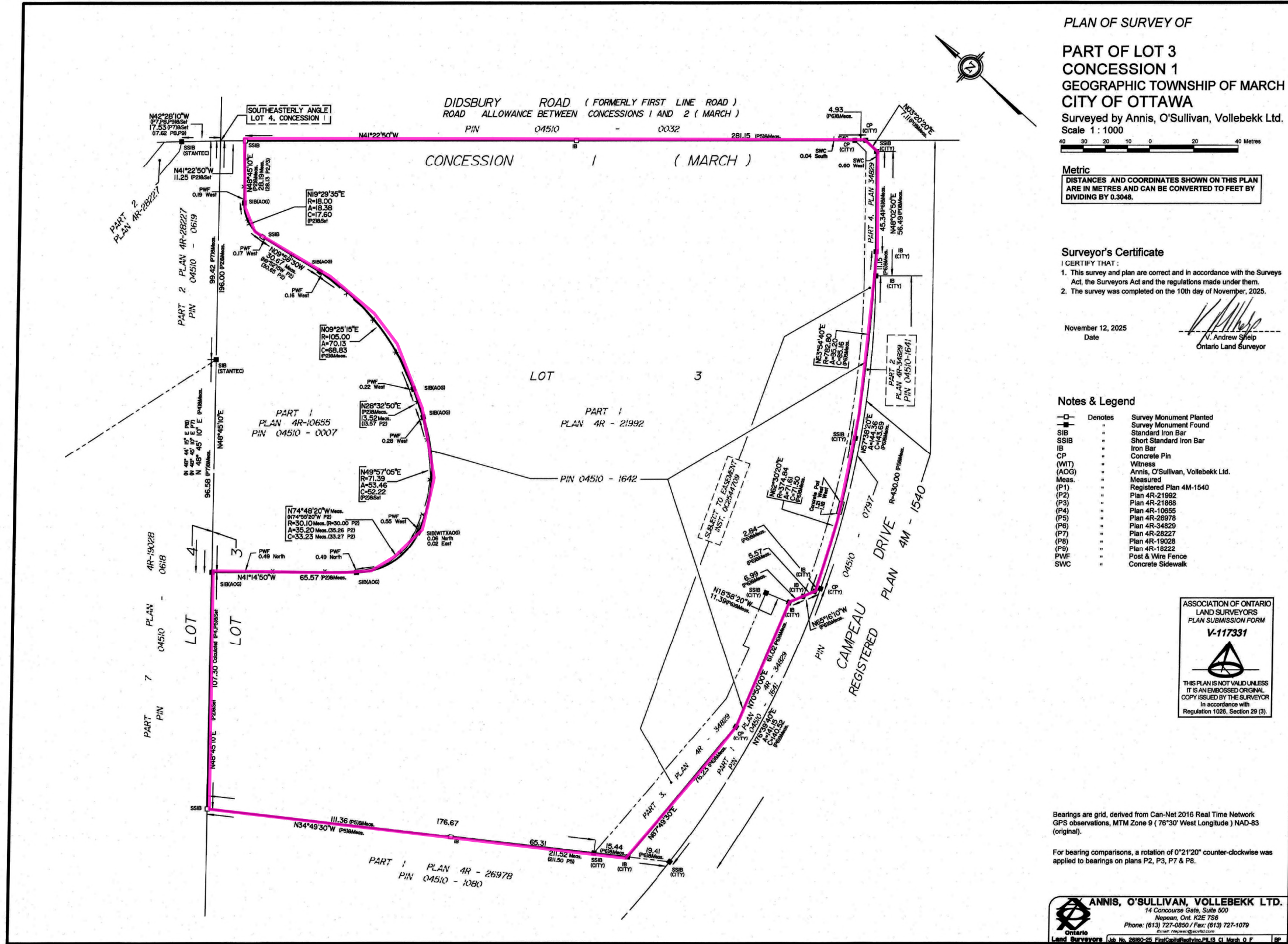
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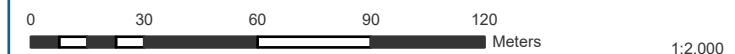
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FILE MH1445 DATE 2025-12-16
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PROJECT CHECKED BY: NK
STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
375 DIDSBURY ROAD, KANATA, ON

TITLE MAP
LOCATION 1



LEGEND
STUDY AREA



REFERENCES:
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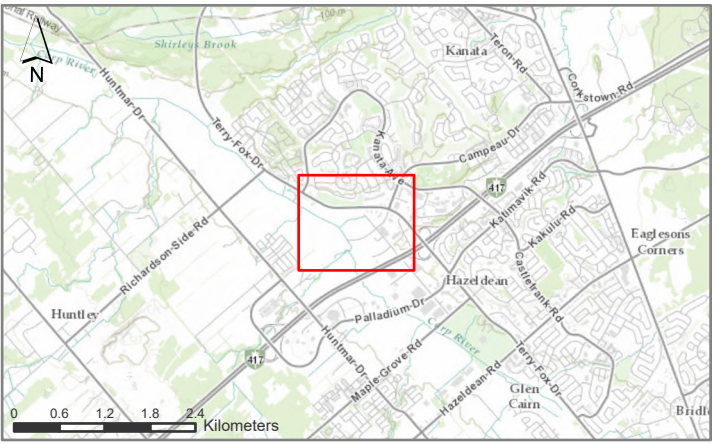
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STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
375 DIDSBURY ROAD, KANATA, ON

TITLE PARCEL MAP MAP 2



LEGEND

- STUDY AREA
- 1999 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL MAP


Matrix

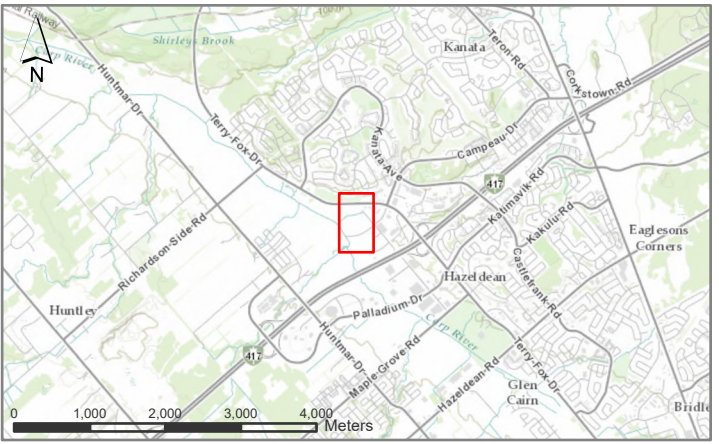


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1999 POTENTIAL MAPPING FROM GEOOTTAWA

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PROJECT	STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT		
	375 DIDSBURY ROAD, KANATA, ON		
TITLE	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	MAP	3

1999 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

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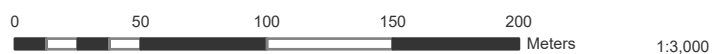


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STUDY AREA

RECOMMENDATIONS

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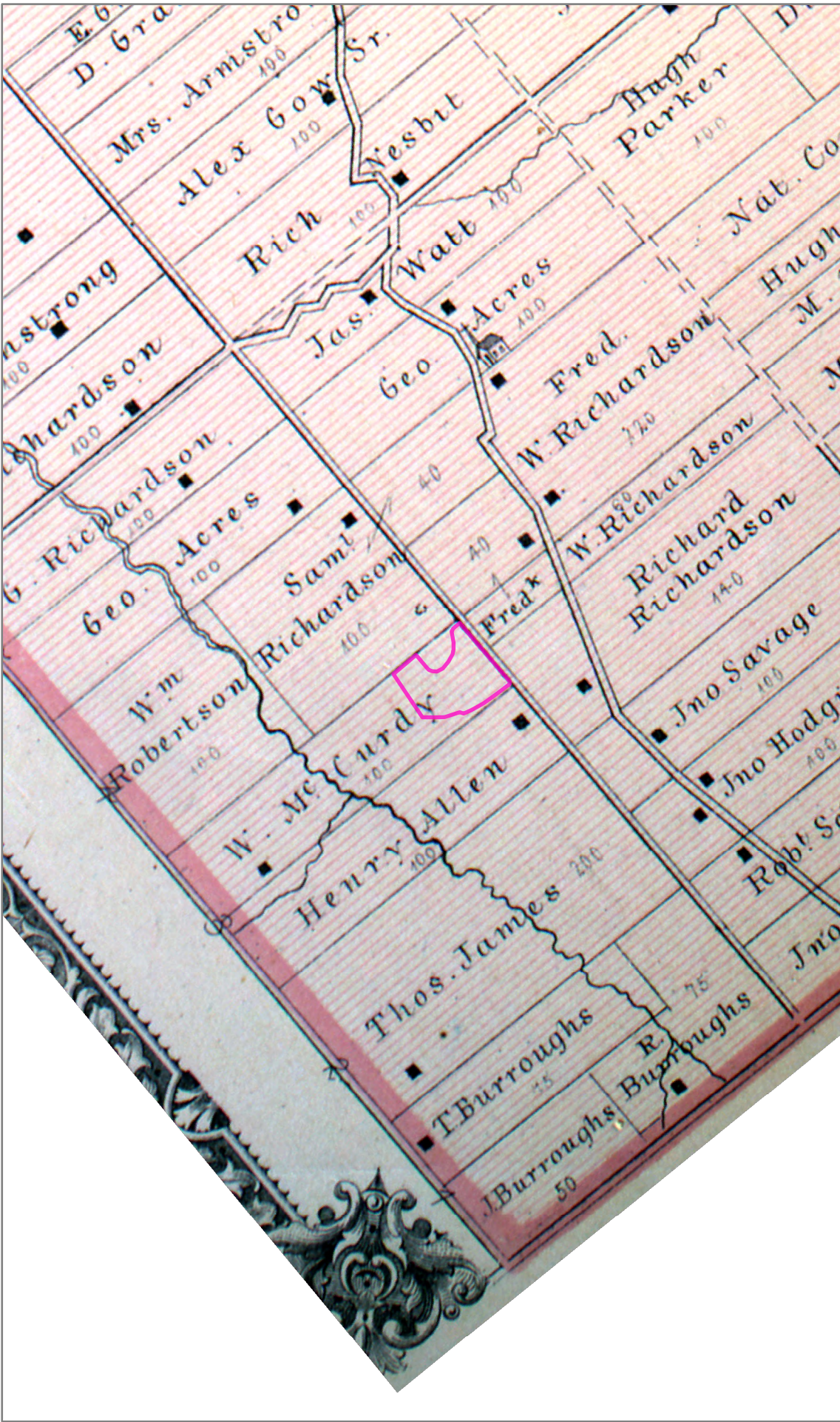


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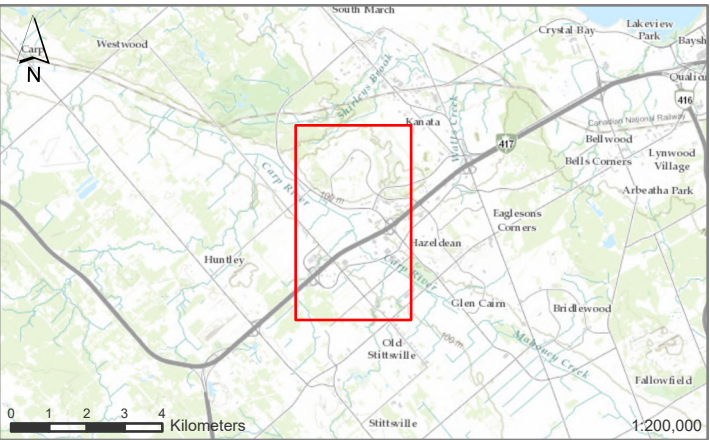
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	375 DIDSBURY ROAD, KANATA, ON		
TITLE	CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	MAP	4



WALLING 1863



BELDEN 1879



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SEGMENT OF WALLING 1863 MAP OF THE COUNTY OF CARLETON, CANADA WEST FROM ACTUAL SURVEYS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF H.F. WALLING

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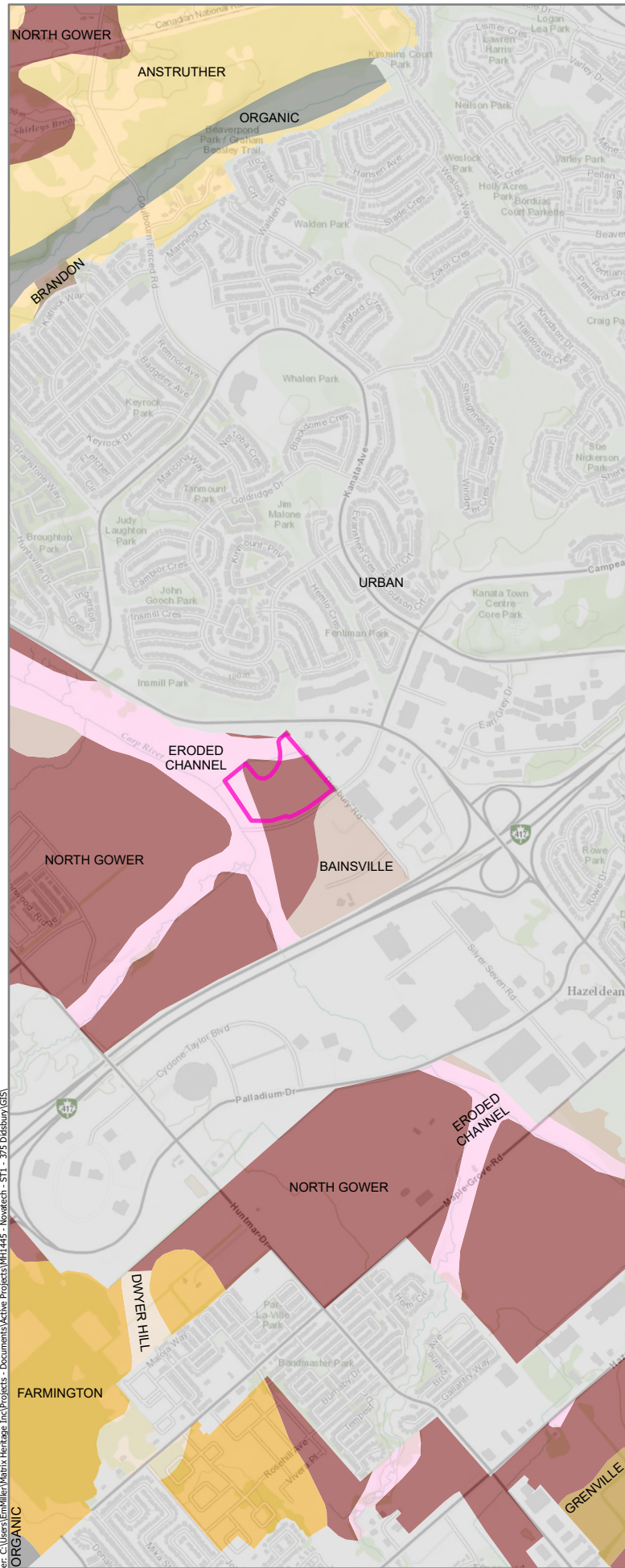
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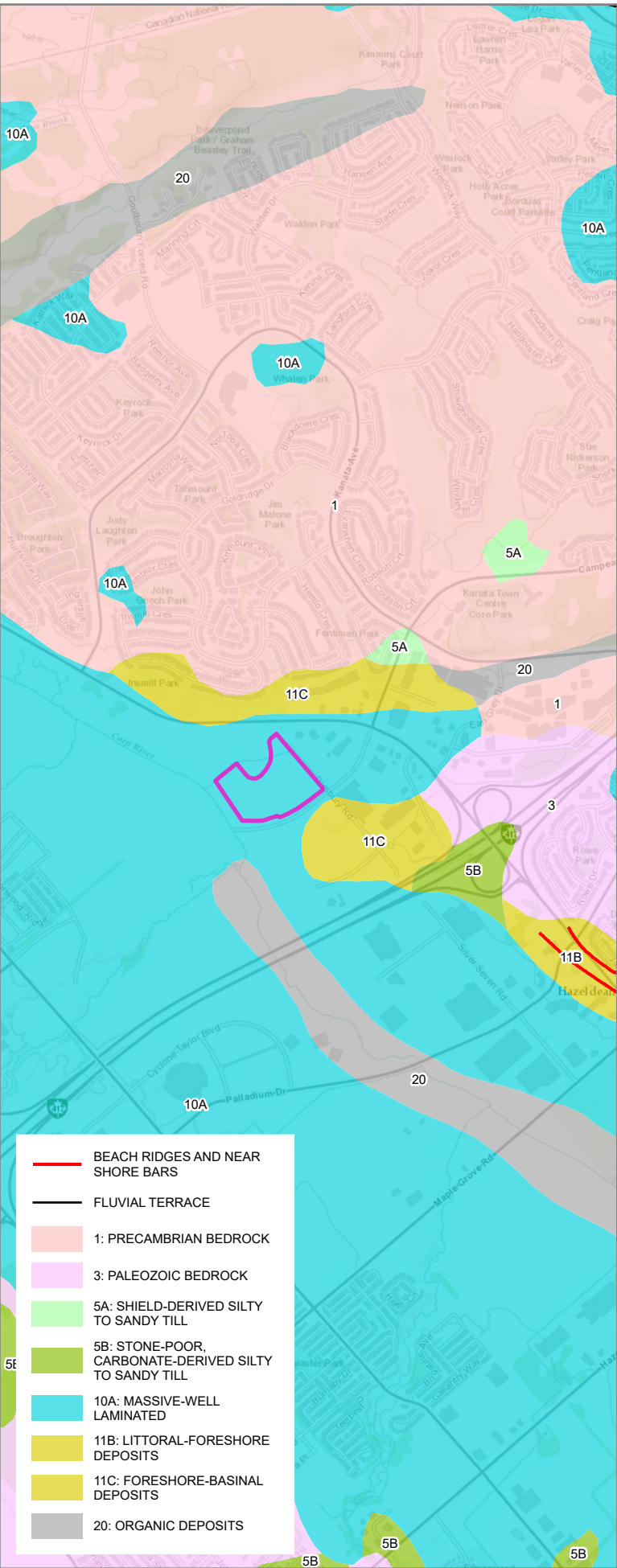
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PROJECT
STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
375 DIDSBURY ROAD, KANATA, ON

TITLE
HISTORIC MAP
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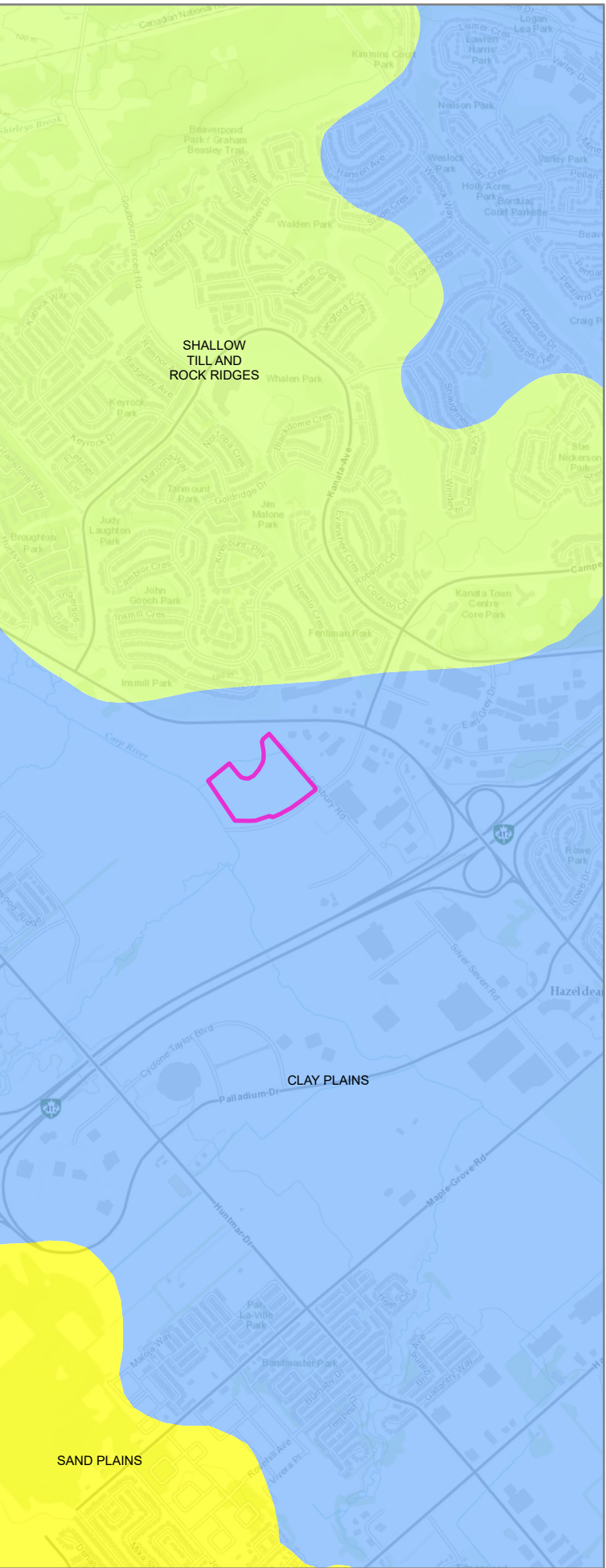


SOIL SURVEY COMPLEX

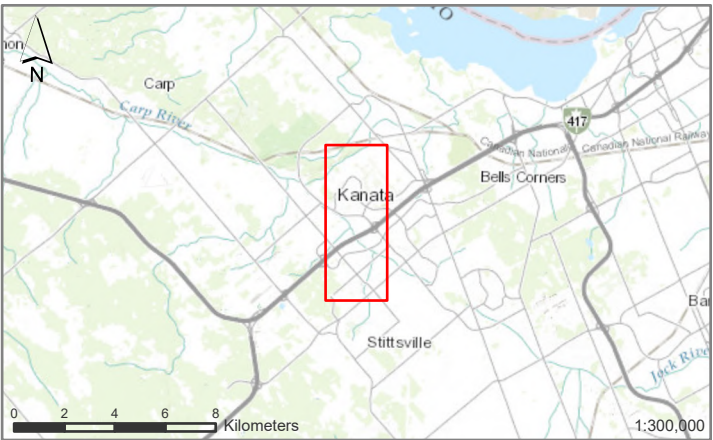


- BEACH RIDGES AND NEAR SHORE BARS
- FLUVIAL TERRACE
- 1: PRECAMBRIAN BEDROCK
- 3: PALEOZOIC BEDROCK
- 5A: SHIELD-DERIVED SILTY TO SANDY TILL
- 5B: STONE-POOR, CARBONATE-DERIVED SILTY TO SANDY TILL
- 10A: MASSIVE-WELL LAMINATED
- 11B: LITTORAL-FORESHORE DEPOSITS
- 11C: FORESHORE-BASINAL DEPOSITS
- 20: ORGANIC DEPOSITS

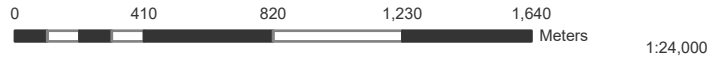
SURFICIAL GEOLOGY



PHYSIOGRAPHY



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PROJECT
STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
375 DIDSBURY ROAD, KANATA, ON

TITLE MAP
SOILS AND GEOLOGY 6

Appendix A: Map Catalogue

Map Number	Description	Created By
1	Location	E. Miller
2	Development Plan	E. Miller
3	Potential	E. Miller
4	Conditions and Recommendations	E. Miller
5	Historic	E. Miller
6	Soils and Geology	E. Miller