

October 31, 2018

Project No. 1776275

### Mr. Jim Burghout, Planner Claridge Homes Corporation 2001 - 210 Gladstone Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0Y6

#### ADDENDUM TO THE PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROPOSED MAPLE GROVE ROAD SUBDIVISION, PART LOT 1, CONCESSION 1, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF HUNTLEY, OTTAWA, ONTARIO

Mr. Burghout,

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Golder Associates Ltd. (Golder) was retained by Claridge Homes Corporation (Claridge) to complete a preliminary Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and Tree Conservation Report (TCR) for the draft plan of subdivision for the roughly 7.75 ha lot located in Part Lot 1, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Huntley, City of Ottawa, Ontario (the Site) (Figure 1). The preliminary EIS was completed in March 2018 and was based on a partial field-season of data (2017 late-season). This addendum report has been prepared to present the results of the 2018 early-season data collected at the Site, and any associated changes to the conclusions of the EIS or the TCR, if any.

### 1.1 Vascular Plants

Butternut trees (*Juglans cinerea*), endangered under the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA; Ontario, 2007), were documented to be located on, and directly adjacent to, the Site during the 2017 surveys (Figure 1). The preliminary EIS recommended that formal butternut health assessments (BHA) be undertaken.

### 1.2 Amphibians and Potential Significant Wildlife Habitat

The preliminary EIS indicated that some small pockets of wetland on the Site may meet the size criteria (25m diameter) for consideration as significant amphibian breeding habitat (woodland or wetland) (including ELC Code: MAM2-2 and other wetland inclusions too small to map according to ELC protocols) and recommended that additional studies be undertaken to assess for presence of amphibian breeding.

## 1.3 Breeding Birds and Potential Significant Wildlife Habitat

Cerulean warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) and eastern whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) (both threatened under the ESA), and a number of species of special concern under the ESA, were identified in the preliminary EIS as potentially present on the Site, the presence / absence of which should be confirmed as part of the 2018 surveys.

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Claridge Homes Corporation

One bird species observed during the 2017 studies is identified as a forest interior breeding bird habitat indicator species [ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)], and a single species of special concern [wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)] was also observed. The preliminary EIS recommended that additional studies be undertaken to determine the continued presence of these species and the associated implications to the proposed project, if any.

In addition, the preliminary EIS noted that, based on the plant communities present, the Site does not meet the size criteria for shrub/early successional or open country breeding bird habitat, but that additional studies should be undertaken to confirm absence of indicator species.

### 2.0 METHODS

Table 1 outlines the surveys that were completed during the 2018 field season, as recommended in the preliminary EIS. Methods employed during each survey type is provided below.

Year	Date	Type of Survey		
2018	April 24	Amphibian Call-county Survey		
	May 22	Amphibian Call-count Survey; Eastern		
	May 23	Whip-poor-will Survey		
	May 29	Eastern Whip-poor-will Survey		
	June 2	Breeding Bird Survey; Butternut Health		
		Assessment; Spring Botanical Survey		
	June 27	Eastern Whip-poor-will Survey		

Table 1: Additional Surveys Undertaken on the Site in 2018

## 2.1 Botanical Surveys

A single early-season botanical survey was completed, with the intention of identifying any early-flowering species not captured during the 2017 surveys, as well as any plant SAR. This survey was performed by searching each habitat type on the Site on foot.

A butternut health assessment (BHA) was performed in 2018 for the one on-Site tree. It was determined that two off-Site trees had previously been assessed as part of the studies associated with the proposed development of 195 Huntmar Avenue, and all associated registration / compensation / permits for those off-Site trees will be completed as part of that development. The BHA for the on-Site tree was performed by a certified Butternut Health Assessor, according to standardized MNRF protocols (MNRF, 2013a) and using the methods as outlined in Butternut Health Assessment Guidelines (MNRF, December 2014a) and Butternut Health Assessment in Ontario (FGCA, August 2010), with all relevant information entered into the standard Butternut Data Collection Forms (1 and 2). The calculations and analysis were performed using the Butternut Retainable Tree Analysis electronic table, updated by the MNRF in 2013.

## 2.2 Amphibian Call-count Surveys

Two amphibian call-count surveys were conducted in spring 2018 using a point count methodology (Bird Studies Canada, 2003). A third survey (June) was not recommended in the preliminary EIS as the habitats at the Site do not persist long enough for late-breeding amphibian species. Two stations were located on the Site (Figure 1), based on the locations of potential breeding habitat, as defined in the preliminary EIS, and following spacing requirements in the methodology. Surveys were conducted between 30 minutes after sunset and midnight. At each station, a three-minute survey was completed with amphibian species identified by vocalization.

### 2.3 Breeding Bird Surveys

A single breeding bird point count survey was conducted at three stations for songbirds and other diurnal birds (Figure 1). Surveys followed protocols adapted from Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario (Cadman *et al.*, 2007). Point count stations were established at the Site, at least 250 m apart, where possible. Surveys were conducted in the period between 30 minutes before sunrise and 10:00 am to encompass the period of maximum bird song.

Three specific surveys for eastern whip-poor-will were conducted on the Site at two survey stations (Figure 1), according to standard protocols (MNRF, December 2014b). These surveys were conducted at twilight or after dark.

## 3.0 RESULTS

### 3.1 Botanical

Two additional vascular plant species, that were not documented in the preliminary EIS, were observed on the Site during the 2018 surveys, neither of which are considered SAR or regionally / locally rare. An updated list of vascular plants observed on the Site is provided in Attachment A.

The BHA for the on-Site butternut was submitted to the MNRF. Through the BHA, it was determined that the on-Site tree is Category 2, therefore online registration for its removal, compensation (2 butternut seedlings and 2 companion plantings) and monitoring is required and must be undertaken according to Ontario Regulation 242/08 (Ontario, 2015).

### 3.2 Amphibians

The results of the amphibian call-count surveys identified the presence of a single spring peeper on the Site during the May survey, with no amphibian calls heard during the April survey. Based on this, no significant wildlife habitat for breeding amphibians is present on the Site.

### 3.3 Breeding Birds

No additional bird species, beyond what was documented in the preliminary EIS, were observed on the Site during the 2018 surveys. No eastern whip-poor-will were observed during the targeted surveys. Both ovenbird and wood thrush were again observed on the Site during the 2018 surveys. This confirms that the forested portions of the Site likely provide or contribute to interior bird forest habitat and provide habitat for species of special concern (wood thrush). Recent development on lands to the north of the Site has greatly reduced the amount of forested habitat in the vicinity of the Site. The preliminary EIS concluded that the woodlands on-Site were not significant, and that habitat for these species is abundant and widespread in the planning area, particularly in more rural areas of the City. For these reasons, the conclusion that no significant wildlife habitat is present on the Site is confirmed.

## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the preliminary EIS and the results of the 2018 surveys, no natural environment monitoring of the Site during, or post-construction, is necessary. All conclusions and recommendations made in the preliminary EIS have been supported by the findings of the 2018 surveys, and Golder has no additional mitigation measures or recommendations.

As noted in the preliminary EIS, an Information Gathering Form relating to the potential presence of Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) is being prepared and will be submitted to the MNRF for review. All compensation relating to the butternut trees on the Site must be undertaken according to O.Reg. 242/08.

Sincerely,

Golder Associates Ltd.

G. Weeks

Gwendolyn Weeks, H.B.Sc.Env. *Ecologist* 

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https://golderassociates.sharepoint.com/sites/16628g/deliverables/natural environment/eis addendum report\_2018/1776275\_claridge maple grove\_eis addendum\_october 2018\_final.docx

CC: Greg Winters, Novatech

Attachments: Figure 1 – Survey Stations and Significant Findings Attachment A – Updated Vascular Plant List

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Bromus inermis Smooth brome I GNR SNA – – –	-
Carex communis     Common sedge     N     G5     S5     -     -     -	-
Chenopodium album Lamb's-quarters I G5T5 SNA – –	-
Circaea lutetiana Enchanter's nightshade N G5 S5 – – –	-
Cirsium arvense Canada thistle I GNR SNA – –	-
Clavtonia carolinian Spring beauty N G5 S5	-
Convza canadensis Horseweed N G5 S5 – –	-
Corrus alternifolia Alternate leaved dogwood N G5 S5 – –	-
Corrus stolonifera Red osier dogwood N G5 S5 – –	-
Dactylis glomerata Orchard grass I GNR SNA – –	-
Daucus consta Vide carrot I GNR SNA – –	-
Dichapthelium grumingtum Small nanic grass N G5T5 S455 – –	-
Drvanteris intermedia Evergreen wood fern N G5 S5 – –	-
Dryonteris marginalis Marginal wood fern N G5 S5 – –	-
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Frazina nensylvanica Green ach N G5 S5 – –	_
Galium mollugo White bedstraw I GNR SNA – –	-
Galium verum Vellow bedstraw I GNR SNA – –	-
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Interiordus dubu white sweet clover I G5 SNA – –	-
Preperu cultura Catring I GNNK SINA – – –	-
Octrva virainiana Ironwood NI 65 55 – – –	_

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin <sup>a</sup>	Global Rarity Status <sup>b</sup>	Ontario Rarity Status <sup>b</sup>	SARA <sup>c</sup>	ESA <sup>d</sup>
Parthenocissus inserta	Virginia creeper	N	G5	S5	-	_
Pastinaca sativa	Parsnip	I	GNR	SNA	-	-
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed canary grass	N	G5	S5	-	-
Phleum pratense	Timothy	I	GNR	SNA	-	-
Picea glauca	White spruce	N	G5	S5	-	-
Pinus strobus	White pine	N	G5	S5	-	-
Poa compressa	Canada bluegrass	I	GNR	SNA	-	-
Poa pratensis	Kentucky bluegrass	I	G5T5?	SNA	-	_
, Populus tremuloides	Trembling aspen	N	G5	S5	-	_
Potentilla norveaica	Rough cinquefoil	1	G5	S5	_	_
Potentilla simplex	Old-field cinquefoil	N	G5	S5	_	_
Prunus serotina	Black cherry	N	G5	S5	_	_
Prunus virainiana	Choke cherry	N	G5	\$5	_	_
Ouercus macrocarpa	Bur oak	N	G5	S5	_	_
Quercus rubra	Red oak	N	G5	S5	_	_
Rhamnus cathartica	Common buckthorn	1	GNR	SNA	_	_
Bhamnus franqula	Glossy buckthorn	-	GNR	SNA	_	-
Rhus radicans	Poison-ivy	N	G5T5	\$5	_	-
Rhus typhing	Staghorn sumac	N	G5	\$5	_	-
Ribes cynosbati	Prickly gooseberry	N	65	\$5	_	_
Ribes lacustre	Bristly black currant	N	65	\$5	-	_
Rorinna nalustris	Marsh vellow-cress	N	6515	\$5	-	_
Rubus idaeus	Red raspherry	N	G5T5	55	_	_
Rubus occidentalis	Black raspberry	N	65	55	_	_
Rudheckia hirta	Black-eved susan	N	65	55	_	_
Salix discolor	Pussy willow	N	65	55	_	_
Sedae	Carey sp	N	3	35		
Setaria numila	Vellow fortail	N I	: GNP	: SNA		
	Charlock	1	GNR	SNA	_	-
Siliupis ul vensis	Canada goldonrod	N	GINK		_	-
Solidago canadonsis		IN N	GSTS	55	_	_
Solidago iunoga		IN N	6515	35	-	-
	Early goldenrod	IN N	GS	35	-	-
		IN I	GD	35	-	_
Sonchus asper	Spiny sow-thistie	I	GNR	SNA	-	_
Symphyotrichum ciliolatum	Blue aster	N	GS	55	-	_
Symphyotrichum cordifolium	Heart-leaved aster	N	GS	55	-	-
Symphyotrichum lanceolatum		N	6515	55	-	_
Symphyotrichum laterifiorum	Callco aster	N	G51?	55	-	-
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	New England aster	N	GS	55	-	_
Tanacetum vulgare	Common tansy		GNR	SNA	-	_
Taraxacum officinale	Common dandellon	I	GS	SNA	-	_
	Lastern white cedar	N	GS	55	-	_
Trifolium campestre	Large nop-clover		GNR	SNA	-	-
Trifolium pratense	Red clover		GNR	SNA	-	-
Trijolium repens	white clover		GNR	SNA	-	-
russilago jarjara			GNR	SNA	-	-
Ulmus americana	white elm	N	65?	55	-	-
Veronica officinalis	Common speedwell		G5	SNA	-	_
	Cow-vetch		GNR	SNA	-	-
Vincetoxicum sp.	Swallowwort		GNR	SNA	-	-
Viola pubescens	Yellow violet	N	G5T5	S5	-	-
Viola labradorica	Labrador violet	N	G5	S4S5	-	-
Vitis riparia	Riverbank grape	N	G5	S5	-	-

Notes:

 $^{\rm a}$  Origin: N = Native; (N) = Native but not in study area region; I = Introduced

<sup>b</sup> Ranks based upon determinations made by the Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre

G = Global; S = Provincial; Ranks 1-3 are considered imperiled or rare; Ranks 4 and 5 are considered secure

SNA = Not applicable for Ontario Ranking (e.g. Exotic species)

<sup>c</sup> Canada Species at Risk Act (Schedule 1; checked July 2015)

<sup>d</sup> Ontario Endangered Species Act

