



**JOWETT PROPERTY STAGE ONE & TWO ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT
VACANT LOT (RLS-15), EAST OF 11168 CHURCHILL AVENUE,
(PART) LOT 11 CONCESSION 01 HISTORICAL TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET
COUNTY OF WELLAND, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

Prepared for

**MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP & MULTICULTURISM, CITIZEN INCLUSION
& HERITAGE DIVISION, HERITAGE BRANCH, 400 UNIVERSITY AVENUE,
5th FLOOR, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M7A 2R9**

On behalf of

**MR. RICHARD JOWETT (PRIVATE CITIZEN), 11157 CHURCHILL AVENUE
PORT COLBORNE, ONTARIO, L3K 5V4**

By

**THE FOSSIL HILL GROUP, ONE HUNTER STREET EAST, G-100,
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**Project PIF # P255-0026-2026
Municipal File: N/A
Original Report Submitted: June 04, 2026**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

The **Fossil Hill Group** was retained by the *Proponent, Richard Jowett (Private Citizen)*, to undertake a *Stage One and Two Archaeological Assessment* of the *Project Area* at **Vacant Lot RLS-15, located adjacent (east) of 11168 Churchill Avenue, Port Colborne, Ontario**. The property is a *0.045 hectare* plot located at *(Part) Lot 11, Concession 01, Historical Township of Wainfleet, Welland County, in the Province of Ontario*. The assessment was mandated by the *Township of Wainfleet Planning Office* under the *Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990)* as part of a site plan and *Minor Variance/Zoning By-Law Amendment* application process. Archaeological potential was also highlighted by criteria established by the *Niagara Region Archaeological Master Plan (2023)*.

The purpose of this archaeological study is to determine the potential for the discovery of archaeological resources within the proposed application limits to facilitate the approval process. Archaeological potential outlined in this report is determined by reviewing the **Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)** archaeological sites database (**PastPort**) for a radius of 01 km around the project area; by examining both recent and historical topographic maps, historical settlement maps, nearby commemorative plaques or monuments; by viewing recent and historical aerial photographs, geotechnical studies, title deeds and land registry documents. Also examined were historical land use and ownership records, primary and secondary historical document sources. Background research was undertaken at *Brock University Library, The Ontario Land Registry Database (LRO), Ontario Archives (OA)* and *Library Archives Canada (LAC)*.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Permission to enter the project area for the purpose of undertaking an archaeological assessment was provided by the owner, *Mr. Richard Jowett (Proponent)* on *Friday, February 13, 2026*. A **Provincial Information File (PIF) NO. P255-0026-2026** was assigned by the **Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)** on *Monday, April 20, 2026*. Licensed archaeologists from the **Fossil Hill Group** completed the *Stage One & Two Archaeological Assessment* on *Thursday May 21, 2026*. Weather conditions were conducive for a thorough investigation of the project area without hindrance. The weather was warm (Temp. +20 deg. Celsius), sunny with clear skies and good visibility at 10 km. The field conditions consisted of remnant orchard, trees, shrubs, and a gravel laneway. Subsurface soil redeposition (i.e. landscape activity) as well as nominal ground modification were both recognized on the property.

The *Stage One & Two Archaeological Assessment* was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990)*, the **Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Multiculturalism (MCM)**, former MTCS publication, *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011)*, and the *Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990)*.

A *Test Pit Survey* was conducted throughout the entire limits of the *0.045 hectare* property. Test pits measuring at least 33cm in diameter were placed at 5 metre intervals throughout the study area. These test pits were excavated to between 39cm and 43cm in depth and to least 07cm into subsoil and the earth screened through a 06mm steel screen mesh. Test pits were excavated to within one metre of property boundaries and other standing structures. As requested by the landowner, all sod layers were replaced after test pits were back filled. Further, the test pit units documented landscape activity around the property. Evidence of landscape activities and site remediation was associated with a laneway construction and installed subsurface utilities (i.e Septic Tank)

No archaeological resources were uncovered during the survey.

CONCLUSION

No artifacts (n=0) of cultural heritage value or interest were uncovered at the site. Both the use-related secondary and tertiary deposits observed on the site and the absence of any detectable subsurface features negate proceeding with any further archaeological study.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the physical assessment of the property, no significant archaeological resources of heritage value were encountered. Following this conclusion, the recommendations are,

- 1) The proposed property development be cleared from any further archaeological assessment.

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1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

The **Fossil Hill Group** was retained by the *Proponent, Richard Jowett (Private Citizen)*, to undertake a *Stage One and Two Archaeological Assessment* of the *Subject Property* at **Vacant Lot RLS-15, located adjacent (east) of 11168 Churchill Avenue, Port Colborne, Ontario**. The study area is a 0.045 hectare plot located at (Part) Lot 11, Concession 01, Historical Township of Wainfleet, Welland County, in the Province of Ontario. The assessment was mandated by the Township of Wainfleet Planning Office under the *Planning Act (R.S.O 1990)* as part of a site plan and *Minor Variance/Zoning By-Law Amendment* application process. Archaeological potential was also highlighted by criteria established by the *Niagara Region Archaeological Master Plan (2023)*.

The purpose of this archaeological study is to determine the potential for the discovery of archaeological resources within the proposed application limits to facilitate the approval process. Archaeological potential outlined in this report is determined by reviewing the **Ministry Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)** archaeological sites database (**PastPort**) for a radius of 01 km around the project area; by examining both recent and historical topographic maps, historical settlement maps, nearby commemorative plaques or monuments; by viewing recent and historical aerial photographs, geotechnical studies, title deeds and land registry documents. Also examined were historical land use and ownership records, primary and secondary historical document sources. Background research was undertaken at *Brock University Library, The Ontario Land Registry Database (LRO), Ontario Archives (OA)* and *Library Archives Canada (LAC)*.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

This *Stage One and Two Archaeological Assessment* has seven sections. The first section provides a general overview of the project area with a brief discussion about the physical setting, including past and present geomorphology, soils, vegetation, water sources, and climate. The second and third sections contain a brief discussion of the First Nations and Euro-Canadian cultural history of both the study area and surrounding region. The fourth section addresses archaeological site potential, survey, reconnaissance and test results for the study area. The fifth section makes recommendations based on these conclusions for further assessment should the *Stage One and Two Archaeological Assessment* warrant such action. The sixth and seventh sections provide supporting documentation.

This archaeological assessment was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990)*, the **Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Multiculturalism (MCM)**, Former MTCS, *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011)*, and the *Ontario Municipal Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990)*.

2.1 Location

The *Subject Property* is located in the *Township of Wainfleet* in an area historically known as *The Hamlet of Burnaby (Morgan's Point), Welland County*. Welland County itself is bounded by the Lake Erie to the South, the Niagara River to the East, Wentworth County to the West, and Lincoln County to the North. The site coordinates at *Lot RLS 15*, east adjacent to *11168 Churchill Avenue, Port Colborne, Ontario* are *UTM NAD83 ZONE 17T 6360035.8 EAST; 47648042.1 NORTH* (Appendix: Map 01; Map 02). The entire *Subject Property* shall be defined as the **Project Area** (Appendix: Map 02; Map 03)

2.2 Environmental Setting

Understanding the physical and environmental condition of a region, known as the *biome*, is necessary for understanding historic settlement behavior and interpreting cultural features on the landscape. Geomorphology, soils, water sources, climate, and vegetation of the *Study Area* are significant factors in understanding patterns in the landscape. Changes in the landscape over time may have an influence on the types of materials found during an assessment and subsequent visibility. The water courses are regulated by the *Niagara Conservation Authority* (Section 2.5). The *Project Area* is located within the *Township of Wainfleet Residential Lakeshore Zone - RLS.C15* (Appendix: Map 03).

2.3 Geomorphology & Physiography

The *Upper Niagara Escarpment* landscape surrounding the *Project Area* is composed primarily of alluvium and lacustrine sediments of Pleistocene *Pro-Glacial Lake Warren* (Chapman and Putman 1973: 255). The resulting deposits, known as the *Haldimand Clay Plain*, extend throughout the upper Niagara Escarpment and extend south to Lake Erie. The *Study Area* is also located within sediment parameters of the *Vinemount moraine and esker system*. The primary soil within the study area is defined as *gleyed luvisols* overlying *gleysolic clays* (Appendix: Cat 03, Image 12; Cat. 04).

This combination of clay soil results in moderate drainage with either permanent or intermittent water logging, especially on the surface. Overlying these deposits is a sandy clay alluvium soil formed from the *Pro-Glacial Lake Whittlesey Phase* (14,000 years BP). Glacial sediments were then deposited after the *Vinemount lobe* of the *Laurentide Glacier* retreat when river channels began (again) flowing north into *Glacial Lake Iroquois*. The *Study Area* is located adjacent to the mouth of these sub-glacial riverine environments. *This sandy clay alluvium represents the subsoil for the study area*. This soil consists of a sandy buff to reddish brown sandy clay with some coarse grained sand, pebbles and smooth water rolled stones. These sediments represent a remnant beach and river delta. Underlying this is a light grey compact clay (Chapman and Putman 1973: 255).

The *Study Region* contains a number of small rivers and tributaries that descend both into the *Niagara River Basin* and the *Lake Ontario Watershed*. These include the Welland River (Chippewa), the Upper Twelve Mile Creek, the Coyle Creek, Drapers Creek, and the Miller's Creek; all which make up the *Niagara Watershed Zone*. **The Project Area is less than 250 metres from the Lake Erie shoreline** (Appendix: Map 01; Map 02).

These diverse topographies are the result of glacial-fluvial processes that occurred during *Wisconsin* and *Laurentide interstadials* and subsequent post-glacial deposition which occurred at the end *Pleistocene* and the *Early Holocene Period* (21,000 – 9,600 BP). During this period, colossal ice sheets, up to one kilometre in height, advanced and retreated over the ground surface during several periods, scrapping off much of the unconsolidated material and redepositing these fluvial based sediments to produce many of the soils and landforms observed within the study region.

2.4 Historical Logging Patterns

Historically, the Niagara Peninsula was part of a larger ecotone; a biome where two overlapping ecosystems transition between the *Carolinian Biotic Province* and the *Canadian Biotic Province*. This region contained relatively dense forest interspersed with open park-like woodland. Also referred to as the *Northern Hardwood Forest*, it is located within the *Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest Region* (de Blij and Muller 1999:25; Kricher and Morrison 1998:60). This transitional forest is dominated by southern broad-leaved deciduous trees and produces a mosaic of various vegetative communities controlled by local climate and soils which are quite unique to the Hamilton, Halton and Niagara regions.

The historical forest type was dominated by sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), yellow birch (*Betula lutea*), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) on upland surfaces (Kershaw 2001:20). Dryer stretches of land commonly exhibited white spruce (*Picea glauca*), which replaced the earlier red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) and white pine niches.

In the Hamilton Wentworth – Niagara Peninsula forest district, there are very low frequencies of species normally associated with northern forests such as scrubby stands of jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) and paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*). The latter attained their maximum growth here, providing First Nations groups with bark in such large pieces that canoes could be easily constructed.

Modern Arboreal Patterns

The *Northern Hardwood Forest* now reflects the remnant *United Empire Loyalist* settlement policies of the late 18th and early 19 centuries. Indicator trees of *United Empire Loyalists* (UEL) settlement include American beech and sugar maple in well drained loamy areas; American elm (*Ulmus americana*), eastern white cedar, and willow (*Salix sp.*) on wet soils; and, eastern white and red pine in well-drained regions. Shrubs common to the region are comprised of striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), hobble bush (*Viburnum alnifolium*), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), mountain holly (*Nemopanthus mucronata*), fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*) (Kricher and Morrison 1998:72; Soper and Heimburger 1994).

Also included in the common vegetation are wildflowers such as snow trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), common blue-eyed grass *Sisyrinchium montanum*), and meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) (Kershaw 2002; Kricher and Morrison 1998:72). Long grasses include green foxtail (*Setaria viridis*), wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*), bottle-brush grass (*Hystrix patula*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), three-way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*), and horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) (Brown 1979).

2.5 Water Sources

The *Study Region* contains a number of small rivers and tributaries that descend both into the *Niagara River Basin* and the *Lake Ontario Watershed*. These include the Welland River (Chippewa), the Upper Twelve Mile Creek, the Coyle Creek, Drapers Creek, and the Miller's Creek; all which make up the *Niagara Watershed Zone*. **The Project Area is approximately 250 metres from Lake Erie Shoreline** (Appendix: Map 01; Map 02).

2.6 Climate

Modern climatic variation depends almost entirely upon location and human impacts on the environment. The Niagara Peninsula is heavily influenced by the modifying factor of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes tend to add moisture to the air in the autumn and winter in conjunction with protecting the region from the worst of the cold during the winter months, and during the spring and summer they act to moderate the temperature of the region. This produces an ideal environment for agricultural practices as the growing season tends to be longer and the cold months not severe as other locations of similar latitude.

2.7 Site Catchment

Although the study area has been subject to a significant amount of recent disturbance, the water, vegetation, climate and soils present in *Wainfleet Township* prior to Euro-Canadian settlement were highly productive and were utilized by pre-contact First Nations communities. for food, health and healing, and spiritual purposes (Angiers 1978; MacKinnon et al. 2009; Vogel 1970). Indeed, archaeological and historical literature confirms that historic *Welland County* could sustain a very sizable aboriginal population (see below)

3.0 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.1 First Nations History and Land Use

Paleo-Indian Period (13,700 BP – 9,600 Years BP)

The Paleo-Indian period is a widespread term used to describe early hunter- gatherers who inhabited North America at the end of the last glacial period. In general, the Paleo-Indian peoples of southwest and central Ontario fit the typical type cast of that time period.

Archaeological research of the Palaeo-Indian period reveals three separate cultural traditions: *Clovis*, *Plano* and *Hardaway*. The earlier *Clovis Tradition* represents the presumed first movement of people into Ontario. While debates centre on the earliest dates for this arrival, most archaeologists use the time frame of 12,500 years ago as the most suitable origin. Fluted points are the typical indicator of this time frame. These early fluted points, called Clovis points have been established in southwestern Ontario around 11,000 years ago (Ellis and Deller 1990:37-39). The Late Paleo-Indian Period is generally distinguished from the early Paleo-Indian by changes to projectile point styles.

The points are generally the same lanceolate shape in both time periods. However, the late Palaeo-Indian point types are typically unfluted. This replacement technology, known as the *Plano Tradition*, emerges around 10,400 years ago in southwestern Ontario, a time when *Glacial Lakes Algonquin and Iroquois* drained and lake levels were drastically lower than they are today (Ellis and Deller 1990:54). The *Hardaway Tradition*, highlighted by Kirk-Palmer, Dalton and Kirk-Corner notched points in Ontario, is a contemporary lithic industry with Clovis and is dated around 9,500BP in Ontario but the industry is dated earlier in the United States (Gramly and Funk 1990; Nicholas 1987).

The Rise of Trans-Egalitarian Societies: The Archaic (10,000 – 2800 BP)

The Archaic period is a widely used term to define the time period which predates the use of ceramics and postdates the Paleo-Indian period. Based on these criteria, the general time frame spans from 10,000 to 2,800 years ago. The general description of Archaic period sites reflects broad-based subsistence strategies such as fishing, plant-processing, hunting, and gathering (Ellis 2013; Ellis et al 1990). Other characteristics of the Archaic period include the use of more materials in stone tool manufacture. Materials such as quartz, quartzite, greywacke, and slate are often found. Moreover, ground stone and polished-stone technology appears, indicating the processing of plants. Copper and bone artifacts are also present in the tool assemblage. In addition, less-portable, large wood-working tools such as axes, gouges, and adzes are used. These artifacts coincide with the rise of semi-permanent or permanent villages in the northeast including Ontario (Ellis 2013; Ellis et al. 1990).

Late Archaic sites, from 4,500 to 2,800 years, include various types of sites in central and southwestern Ontario. Much more is known about this time period than previous time periods described above. The increase in the number of archaeological sites may be based on various factors including the sea level changes of the Great Lakes, which resulted in lakeshore levels close to modern-day levels.

The Laurentian Tradition

The Late Archaic represents a shift in both the sociology and cosmology of its people. A distinct treatment of the dead is observed. Grave offerings indicate that certain individuals are treated differently, essentially being granted more social status in death than might otherwise be ascribed. Also, archaeologists begin to observe elements of ritual and ceremonial patterns that are similar, if not congruent, to behaviours documented by the early European observers of First Nations peoples. At the Bruce Boyd site, for example, archaic period grave offerings include projectile points, red ochre, copper beads, a copper awl, a copper celt, a copper bracelet, iron pyrites, beaver teeth, and various chert preforms and tools. In addition, a ritual cache was found at the Bruce Boyd site composed of red ochre and chert bifaces. The *Glacial Kame Mortuary Aspect* is also represented in southwestern Ontario. This complex is represented by the presence of exotic grave goods. Marine shell, green clay deposits, paired copper adzes, red ochre, birdstones, bear masks, stone pipes, and centre gorgets are all part of the *Glacial Kame Mortuary Aspect* (Ellis et al. 1990:115). These social elements are also observed both in Woodland Period (600 – 1600 AD) and Proto-Historic Period (1400 – 1650 AD) assemblages.

Woodland Period (2800 – 500 BP): Potsherds, Politics, and Agricultural Societies

The Adena Tradition

The early Woodland period is marked by the appearance of cord-marked and dentate decorated pottery, ceramics manufactured by a *coiling method*. The Early Woodland Phase can be broken down into two distinct phases or complexes: *Meadowood* and *Middlesex*. The Meadowood complex is often associated with the *Adena Tradition*, derived from the earlier Glacial Kame mortuary aspect of the late and terminal Archaic periods. Meadowood artifacts, consisting of a distinct type of cache blade, side-notched points, Vinette I pottery, trapezoidal gorgets, and birdstones with protuberant eyes can be found at sites such as Liahn II, Wyoming Rapids, Neeb, Welke-Tonkonoh, Bruce-Boyd, and Boyd Lakefront (Spence et al 1990:128-129). Bruce-Boyd is a mortuary site located near Long Point. This site supports the idea that this early Woodland mortuary aspect was largely derived from Glacial Kame. Moreover, two caches at the burial site were never used for the interment of human remains, but instead were used to deposit sacred items such as gorgets, broken bifaces, points, drills, iron pyrites and slate pendants into the ground (Spence et al. 1990:132-133). This supports the idea of the continued social evolution towards a ranked society (see Wright 1995).

The Laurel Tradition

During the Middle Woodland Phase (500BC – 800 AD) distinct ceramic stamp technology appears and this craft is used until approximately A.D. 700. Three complexes from this time period involve the *Couture*, *Saugeen*, and *Point Peninsula*. *Point Peninsula* and *Saugeen* overlap in the area of interest to this study. Not very much is known from this time period, and only a handful of sites have been found in the Niagara Peninsula. Local sites include Couture, Point aux Pins, Battlefield Site, Wyoming Rapids, and Port Maitland. However, it is notable that these complexes show distinct connections with both the *Hopewell* and *Adena* traditions to the south (Spence et al. 1990:142-143).

Warfare, Migration and Exodus

Late Woodland (A.D. 800/1000-1615) period archaeology in central and southwestern Ontario involves a highly complex degree of interaction and settlement. This may be due to the number of groups locating into the region at the time. Groups which later become historically known such as *Huron*, *Neutral Confederacy*, *Central Algonquian*, and *Northern Algonquian*, all likely subsisted in central and southwestern Ontario during the Late Woodland period (Fox 1990:171). This point is highlighted by the extremely diverse ceramic motifs observed on Late Woodland pottery. The Late Woodland period is typified by highly sedentary groups, village settlements, a network of roads or pathways, the intensification of agriculture, and sudden population increases (Rogers 1994; Schmaltz 1991).

The Ontario Iroquois Tradition

The *Glen Meyer Phase or Complex* (900 - 1300AD) represents the beginning of Ontario Iroquois Tradition in southwestern Ontario. The houses of the *Glen Meyer* phase were small and elliptical and are believed to have evolved in situ into the typical Iroquoian longhouse. In addition, maize, beans, squash, sunflower and tobacco become the most prominent crops during this time period (Williamson 1990:293, 304, 306). Many *Glen Meyer* sites are located in close proximity to the study area, including mortuary and habitation sites. Late Woodland Period sites are later divided into the *Uren* and *Middleport Complexes* (ca. A.D.1300-1400) (Dodd et al.1990:321-323). Population increase, trade, warfare and political developments controlled the movement of many Late Woodland people to dense group settlements around A.D. 1400-1500. Iroquoian-speaking groups divided into the Huron, Neutral, and Petun Confederacies settled around Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Lake Simcoe, and Lake Huron. In addition, the 'historically known' Iroquoian longhouse first appears in the fourteenth century A.D (Dodd et al. 1990:349).

The *Project Area* falls into traditional territories of the historical *Mississauga First Nation* as well as the eastern periphery of the *Neutral Confederacy*. The latter country, referred to as the *Attawandaronhron*, occupied the area south to Lake Erie, west and northwest of Lake Ontario with lands extending north to the modern-day city of Guelph, west to London, and bordered on the Upper Grand River. The eastern frontier extended east to the Niagara River. The *Attawandaronhron Confederacy* was a sophisticated socio-political network of regional nations linked by a series of roads, pathways, and settlements (Noble 1984). Between 1647 and 1651, both the *Huron* and *Neutral Confederacies* of southwestern Ontario were dispersed by the *Five Nations Iroquois* (Lennox and Fitzgerald 1990:405). The previous villages within the Niagara Region were occupied by the *Attawandaronhron* nation, also known as the *Onguiaarha*, or “people near the big waters” (Kackes 2009). *Haudenosaunee* peoples would later settle and occupy these abandoned villages. These western settlements were to create a buffer zone between the dispersed *Hurons* and *Neutrals* as well as control the trade between the northern nations and the European settlers to the south (Rogers 1994; Tooker 1994). Alliances with many Algonquian nations set in motion a massive counter offensive against the *Haudenosaunee*. These three pronged military campaigns would drive out all League Villages by 1704 (Schmalz 1991). Southern Ontario would be reclaimed by the *Mississauga* and their allies.

3.2 European Contact & Settlement

The Niagara Tract

At the end of the American Revolution, the British authorities were left with the task of settling thousands of refugees from the former American Colonies who stayed loyal to the Crown and disbanded British regular army, militia, and mercenary units. The legal ownership of the territory west of Montreal and Fort Frontenac (Kingston) had not been established. Under “The New Purchase,” the British Government purchased from the *Mississauga*, at one-tenth of a penny per acre, in 1784, all the Niagara to the Head-of-the-Lake.

In 1788, four administrative districts were created. The region encompassing the future *Wainfleet Township* was in the *District of Nassau*, which stretched from the mouth of the Trent River to Long Point on Lake Erie. Land boards were established to process the petitions for land by the arriving refugees. The Land Board at Newark, now Niagara-on-the-Lake, processed the applications for United Empire Loyalist seeking land within and in the vicinity of the future Canada West. In 1792, the *District of Nassau* was divided into two, with the future *Wainfleet Township* being placed in the *Home District*. Governor John Graves Simcoe appointed Augustus Jones of Stoney Creek as his Provincial Land Surveyor and was ordered to begin surveying townships, beginning at the Niagara River and working westwards. Most of the survey was completed during the following years.

Local First Nations

The First Nations group historically residing in the study region were members of the *Anishinabeg* (“human beings”) *Confederation* and other *Three Fires Confederacy* groups who stayed in Ontario after the *Beaver Wars* (Schmalz 1991; Smith 1987). The early settlers in southern Ontario mistakenly referred to these *Ojibwe* speaking people as Mississauga. The word was first recorded by Jesuits on the Missisagi River, located on the north shore of Lake Huron, in 1640. The pronunciation of *Oumissagai* (Mississauga) would later be wrongly applied by French and later English settlers to all *Algonquian* speaking peoples on the shores of Lake Ontario. The word *Chippewa* would also be spoken to refer to these people. Eastern *Ojibwe* groups would refer to the southern Ontario First Nations as *Minzeshgeeg*, meaning “persons living where there are many mouths of rivers.” Western *Ojibwe* peoples, having a slightly different dialect, believed the word actually referred to *Masesagee*, which is the Ojibwe word for Eagle Totem or Clan. The Eagle Clan, usually portrayed as an Eagle on top of a pine tree or post, was the dominant clan on the western end of Lake Ontario (Smith 1987: 90-91). The *Mississauga* traditional territory extended eastward from Long Point on the north shore of Lake Erie to the Niagara River, down the river to Lake Ontario, past the Credit River past the Humber and Don Valley to the Rouge River valley (Surtees 1994: 99-104).

Between the Lakes Purchase (1792)

Of interest to this study is a land purchase which transferred title from the *Mississauga* to the *Crown*. With the 1792 “*Between the Lakes Purchase*”, the British purchased from the *Mississauga* a large tract from six miles west of the Niagara River encompassing the Niagara Peninsula including the north shore of Lake Erie to the Grand River. The western limit extends northwest along the east shore of the Grand River and south along a major First Nations road (Old Guelph Road). The *Mississauga* would later move to the village at the mouth of the Credit River. Until 1837, the New Credit Village and the Mission was quite successful. However, growing population pressures, non-native encroachment and harassment would plague the mission for another ten years. In 1847, the Crown would relocate the *New Credit Mississauga* to a 4800 acre site along the Grand River (Surtee 1995; Smith 1987; OA: film M7746).

Geographic History of Wainfleet Township

The *Township of Wainfleet*, which belongs to the *County of Welland*, is bounded on the north by the *Township of Pelham*, *Lincoln County*; on the east by the *Township of Bertie*, *Humberstone*, and later Port Colborne. The township was initially part of *Lincoln County* before a severance created the *County of Welland* in 1845.

The construction of the Welland feeder canal, completed in 1832, allowed for drainage of the land as well as the construction of a grid of roads through the low-lying sandy regions. The completed feeder canal was large enough to accommodate schooners loaded with cargo and horse drawn barges, giving those near the canal banks better access to shipping facilities. By 1850, the population of the township had increased to 1,500 from 460 in 1817 (Craig 1963: 28; Murphey 1887: 138 - 143).

In that same year, the *Grand Trunk Railway* was built between Detroit and Buffalo which allowed *Wainfleet* residents passenger service between the two cities. By 1851, the *Buffalo Lake Huron Railway* would later link with the *Grand Trunk* allowing a northwest route to Brantford, Paris, and multiple stops terminating at Goderich. This railway allowed for the *Marshville Station* to be constructed to include both local freights and passengers. The *Buffalo & Lake Huron Railway* passes through *Lot 11 Concession 01 north of the Study Area*, north of the *Project Area*. *Wainfleet Township* remains an agricultural community to this day (Murphey 1887: 128 - 143; Appendix: Map 05).

Morgan's Point & The Burnaby Hamlet

The small peninsula located on *Galveston Bay*, known as *Morgan's Point*, was named after *Colonel James Morgan (UEL)*. Morgan arrived from Pennsylvania with his son David in 1788 and settled on what was then named *Point Industry* by Lord Simcoe until it was changed to *Morgan's Point* in 1840. After his father's death in 1819, David Morgan inherited 2200 acres granted to him by the Crown. That same year, David Morgan died of pneumonia while visiting a friend in Maldon.

The log cabin and granted lands were transferred to his son David Morgan (Jr.). *David Morgan (b. 1808 - d. 1885)* and his wife *Elizabeth (Zavitz) (b. 1816 - d. 1864)*, divided the 2200 acres of land grant to their 11 adult children. These *Morgan Point* settlements with their proximity to both *Wainfleet Station* and the *Henry Zavitz Mill* near *Sugar Loaf Point* became informally known as the *Hamlet of Burnaby*. This Postal Address was initiated by the three earliest settlers on the point: *David Morgan*, *Abraham Minor*, and *Jacob Ott* (Murphey 1887: 375).

3.3 Archaeological Potential

Lot History

The earliest land records indicate that *David Morgan (b. 1808 - d. 1885)* was settled on the *Project Area* between 1819 and 1862. David and his wife *Elizabeth Morgan (nee Zavitz b. 1816 - d. 1864)* inherited the property from David's father, *David Morgan Sr. (b. 1762 - d. 1842)*. *William Fares (b. 1814 - d. 1893)* had purchased the land, which included **Concession 01, Lot 11**, Lot 10, from *David Morgan (Jr.)* in 1843. By 1862, 100 acres of Lot 11 was sold to *William M. Ellsworth (b. 1827 - d. 1905)*. The land encompassing the *Project Area*, including, *a Two Storey Stone House and 10 acres* was transferred back to Fares via marriage according to land registry records. Census records also indicate that Ellsworth and Fares were *farmers*, both owning a residence, barns, outbuildings, and small orchards. A *two storey frame house and later stone house* is listed as being on the '*south property*'. This structure is located *southwest of the Project Area* (LAC: Film C-13253; C-140227; Appendix: Cat. 01 - Image 01). Between 1851 and 1881, the agricultural census and land registry records indicate no significant changes to the land except for the construction of new roadways and the alteration of Lakeshore Road; once before 1875, followed by another set of alterations at the beginning of the 20th century (LAC: Film C-1080 C-1086; C-9919; C-9920; C-13253; LRO 59: R0478780, PIN 64020-0065).

Review of Historical Maps

The early census records indicate no title to the land before 1797. An examination of the *1862 Tremaine Map of Wainfleet Township* shows no structures south of the *Project Area* despite the Land Registry and Census Data indicating a frame house (see above). The later *1876 H. R. Page Wainfleet Township Map* indicates a structure south of the *Project Area*. This is likely the two storey stone house indicated in the historical record (see above). The *Project Area* itself is located within an area identified as orchard. *No historical building structure is shown within the Project Area* (Appendix: Map 05; Map 05).

Criteria for Stage Two Archaeological Assessment

The former *Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)* published **Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011)** which has laid out ten criteria for assessment of archaeological resources in the Province of Ontario. For determining whether *Stage One Archaeological Assessment* warrants more investigation, the criteria are,

- 1) "There are previously identified archaeological sites.
- 2) There are water sources: Primary water sources (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams, creeks); secondary water sources (intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps); features indicating past water sources (glacial lake shorelines indicated by the presence of raised sand or gravel beach ridges, relic river or stream channels indicated by clear dip or swale in topography, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes, cobble beaches); accessible or inaccessible shoreline (high bluffs, swamp or marsh fields by the edge of a lake, sandbars stretching into marsh.)
- 3) Elevated topography (eskers, drumlins, large knolls, plateaus.)
- 4) Pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially near areas of heavy soil or rocky ground.
- 5) Distinctive landforms that might have been special or spiritual places, such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, and promontories and their bases. There may be physical indicators of their use, such as burials, structures, offerings, rock paintings or carvings.
- 6) Resource Areas, including food or medicinal plants (migratory routes, spawning areas, prairie), raw source materials (quartz copper, ochre, or outcrops of chert), and early Euro-Canadian industry (fur trade, logging, prospecting, mining).
- 7) Areas of Euro-Canadian settlement. These include places of military or pioneer settlement (pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches and early cemeteries. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local, provincial, or federal monuments or heritage parks.
- 8) Early historical transportation routes (trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes).
- 9) Property listed on a municipal register or designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990) or that is a federal, provincial or municipal historic landmark or site.
- 10) Property that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations." (MTCS 2011: 17 - 18)

3.4 Summary

The *Project Area* is considered *Medium to High Potential* for archaeological resources. The *Stage One Archaeological Assessment* indicates that the *Project Area* requires a *Stage Two Archaeological Assessment*. Six (n=6) criteria, previously highlighted by the former MTC, *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011)* for proceeding to *Stage Two Archaeological Assessment*, have been confirmed by the *Stage One Archaeological Assessment*.

These include that:

- 1) *The Project Area resides in an area of early Euro-Canadian settlement – Section.3.3;*
- 2) *The Project Area is located close to historic transportation routes.- Section 3.3; Appendix: Map 04; Map 05*
- 3) *The Project Area is informed by local history and historical sites. - Section 3.2; Section 3.3;*
- 4) *There are distinct cultural or natural landforms linked to known past human behavior- Section 3.2*
- 5) *There are Primary Water sources in close proximity to the Project Area.- Section 2.3; Section 2.5; Appendix: Map 02*
- 6) *There are Registered Archaeological Sites within 1000 metres of the Project Area - Appendix: Table 1.0.*

3.5 Review of Archaeological Sites & Previous Assessments

Archaeological potential in this report is determined by examining the *Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Archaeological Sites Database (PASTPORT)* for a radius of 01 km around the project area, recent and historical topographic maps, historical settlement maps, and the presence of nearby historical plaques or monuments. Also examined are reports of previous archaeological fieldwork within a 01 km radius of the *Project Area*, recent and historical aerial photographs, geotechnical studies, primary and secondary historical document sources, and informant interviews. The results of this archaeological site search are presented in *Table 1.0* of the *Appendix*. The search of the **Ontario Archaeological Sites Database** returned a result of eight (n=08) sites within 01 kilometre of the *Project Area*.

There are no Registered Archaeological Sites located within 50 metres of the Project Area. Furthermore, there are no previous Archaeological Studies conducted within 50 metres of the Project Area.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT: STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The purpose of a *Stage Two Archaeological Assessment* is to provide an overview of archaeological resources within the study area and to determine whether any of these resources might be archaeological sites of *Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI)*. In compliance with provincial requirements, set out in the former MTC, *Standards & Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011)*, the objectives of the *Stage Two Archaeological Assessment* are to:

- 1) *Document all archaeological resources within the defined Study Area;*
- 2) *Determine whether the Study Area contains archaeological resources requiring further assessment;*
- 3) *Recommend appropriate Stage Three Archaeological Assessment strategies for any archaeological site identified*

Permission to enter the project area for the purpose of undertaking an archaeological assessment was provided by the owner, Mr. Richard Jowett (*Proponent*) on Friday, February 13, 2026. A **Provincial Information File (PIF) NO. P255-0026-2026** was assigned by the **Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)** on Monday, April 20, 2026. Licensed archaeologists from the **Fossil Hill Group** completed the *Stage One & Two Archaeological Assessment* on Thursday May 21, 2026. Weather conditions were conducive for a thorough investigation of the project area without hindrance. The weather was warm (Temp. +20 deg. Celsius), sunny with clear skies and good visibility at 10 km. The field conditions consisted of remnant orchard, trees, shrubs, and a gravel laneway. Subsurface soil redeposition (i.e. landscape activity) as well as nominal ground modification were both recognized on the property.

4.1 Methods

A *Test Pit Survey* was conducted throughout the entire limits of the *0.045 hectare* property. Test pits measuring at least 33cm in diameter were placed at 5 metre intervals throughout the *Project Area*. These test pits were excavated to between 39cm and 43cm in depth and to least 07cm into subsoil and the earth screened through a 06 mm steel screen mesh. Test pits were excavated to within one metre of property boundaries. As requested by the landowner, all sod layers (if any) were replaced after test pits were backfilled. Further, the test pit units documented landscape activity around the property. Evidence of erosion control and construction fill material was also associated with laneway construction and installed subsurface utilities (Appendix: Map 06; Map 07; Cat. 01 - Cat. 03).

4.2 Results

Twenty-four (n=24) test pits were excavated during the field study. The test pit depth ranged from 39cm to 43cm in depth. Lithofacies reveal varying degrees of soil re-deposition. The field conditions consisted of residential lawns and paved laneway. Property profiles consists of a thin topsoil (10 cm) overlying a very fine uniform red, buff to brown colored sandy clay B-Horizon (subsoil). Underlying this was a compacted layer of reddish buff to light grey colored *clay* subsoil with low frequencies of rolled pebble sized stones (Appendix: Map 07; Cat. 04; Section 2.3). There were three types of deposits observed during the *Test Pit Survey*. These are reported in Map 07 (Appendix). Included are locations within the *Project Area* that revealed nominal disturbance [coded yellow]; areas showing significant subsurface disturbance (i.e. landscape modification) but were still testable [coded orange]; and those areas with built obstructions [coded grey]. *No archaeological resources were uncovered during the survey.*

4.3 Analysis & Record of Finds

No archaeological resources of significant cultural heritage value or interest were uncovered during this assessment of the property. No analysis was conducted.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Both the use-related secondary and tertiary deposits observed on the site and the absence of any detectable subsurface features negate proceeding with any further archaeological study. Furthermore, *no archaeological resources of significant cultural heritage value or interest were uncovered during this assessment of the property.* The results of this study indicate that the designated property (*Project Area*) at **Lot RLS-15, east of 11168 Churchill Avenue, Port Colborne, Ontario** does not meet the conservation criteria established to warrant a *Stage Three Archaeological Assessment* as defined under the Government of Ontario, *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MTCS 2011; Standard 2.2.1).

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the physical assessment of the property, no significant archaeological resources were encountered¹. Following this conclusion, the recommendations are,

- 1) That the proposed property development be cleared from any further archaeological assessment.

6.0 COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

- A) This report is submitted to the *Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism* as a condition of licensing in accordance and 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 Tourism and Culture, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.
- B) It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- C) Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- D) The *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. C.4 and the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of the *Cemeteries Group* of the Ontario Ministry of **Ontario Consumer and Commercial Relations (MCCR)** and the *Regulatory Operations Group*, **Ontario Ministry Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)**. Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to *Section 48(1)* of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (R.S.O 1990) and may not be altered or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological license.

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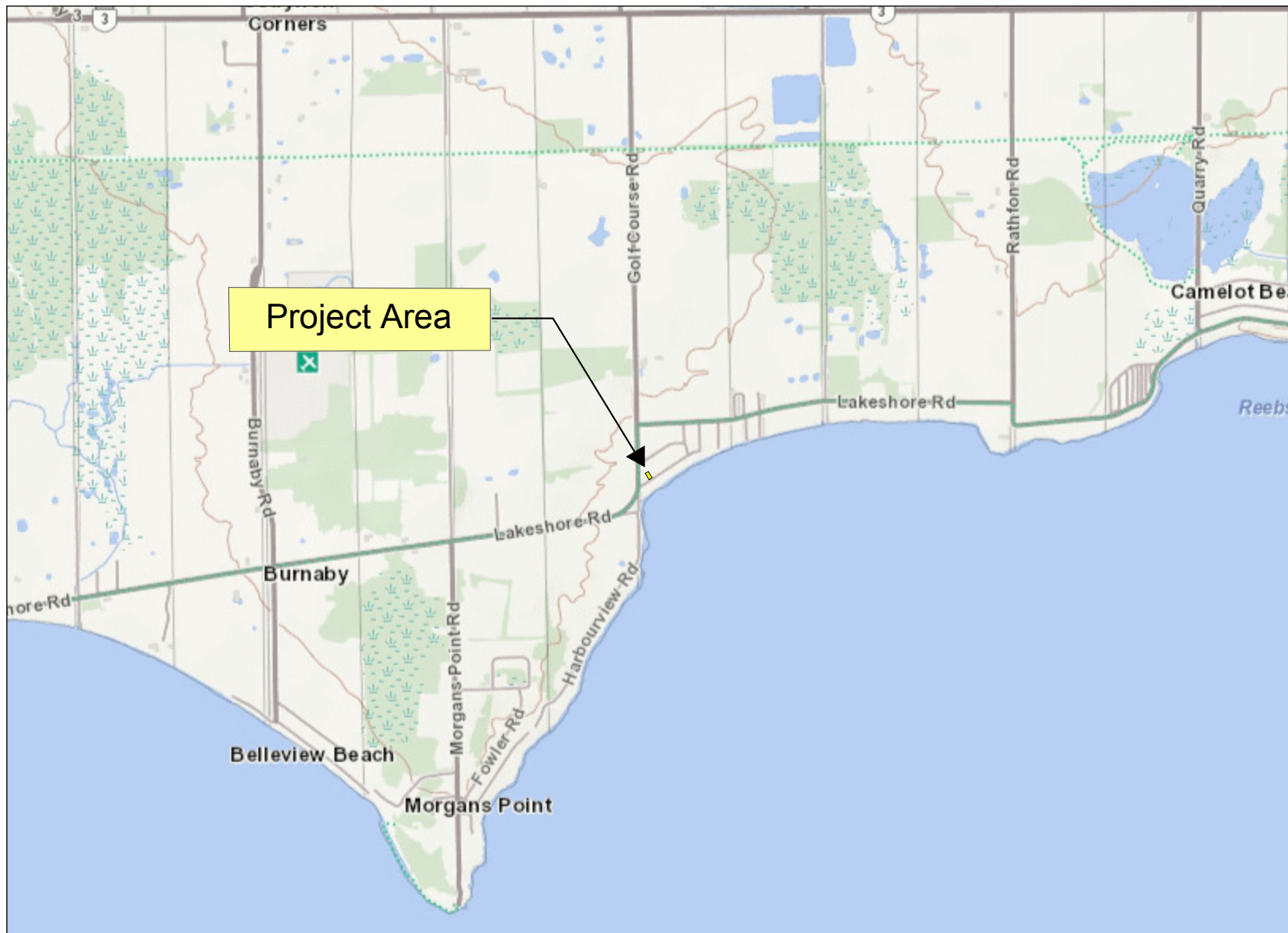
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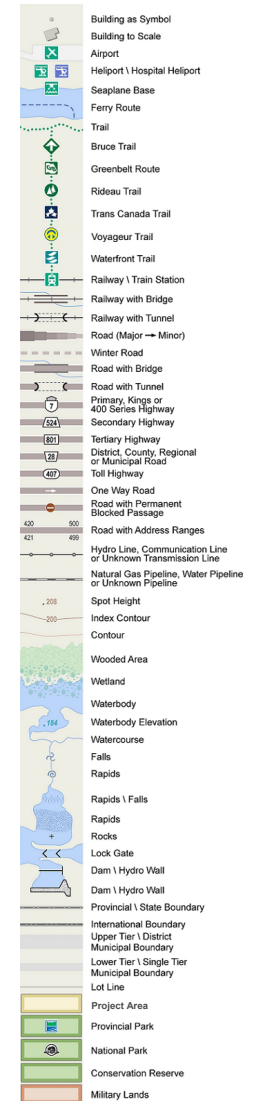
7.0 APPENDIX: TABLES, MAPS & IMAGE CATALOGUES

Table 1.0 - Registered Archaeological Sites - 01 km Radius

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type	Distance (Meters)
AfGu-2	Bonisteel	Late Woodland	Glen Meyer	Camp / Burial / Other	➤ 200 m
AfGu-94		Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	camp / campsite	➤ 250 m
AfGu-53	Harbourview 01	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	Lithic Scatter	➤ 200 m
AfGu-54	Harbourview 02	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	Lithic Scatter	➤ 200 m
AfGu-55	Harbourview 03	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	Lithic Scatter	➤ 250 m
AfGu-56	Harbourview 04	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	Lithic Scatter	➤ 250 m
AfGu-57	Harbourview 05	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	Lithic Scatter	➤ 250 m
AfGu-58	Harbourview 06	Pre-Contact	Aboriginal	Lithic Scatter	➤ 250 m



Legend



0 1.3 km

The Fossil Hill Group
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Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3W1

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Scale 1:36,000

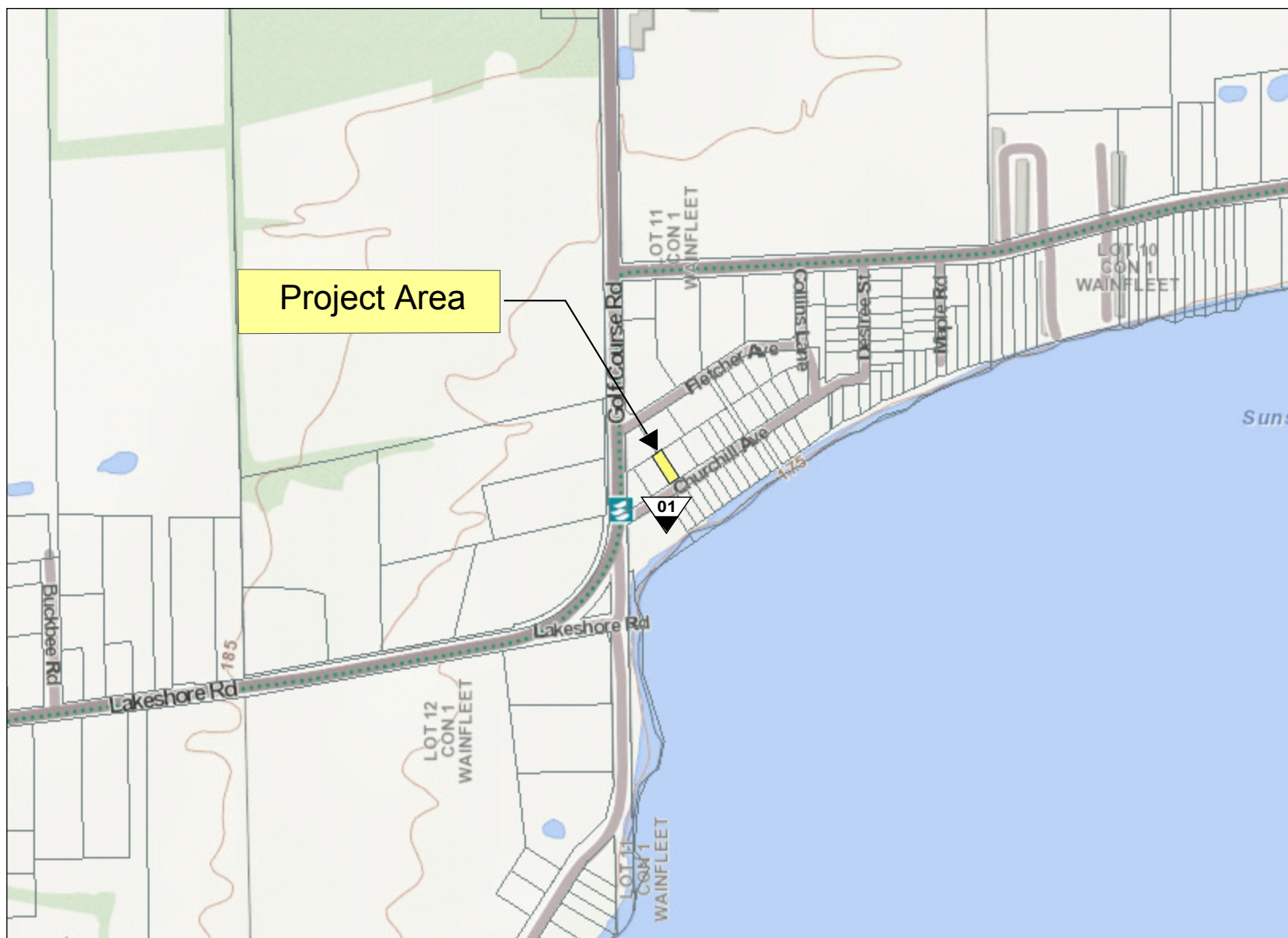
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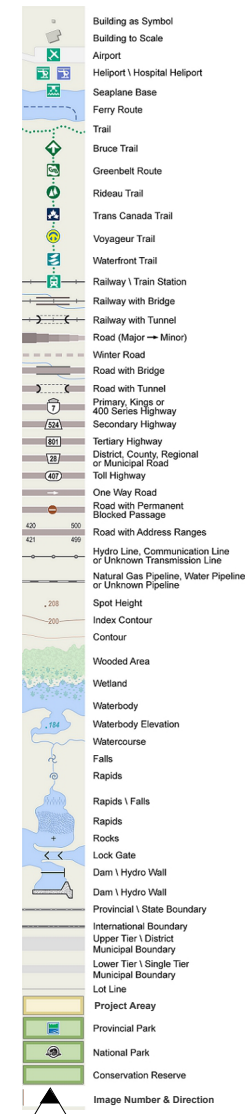
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Legend



0 0.25km

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Scale 1:10,000

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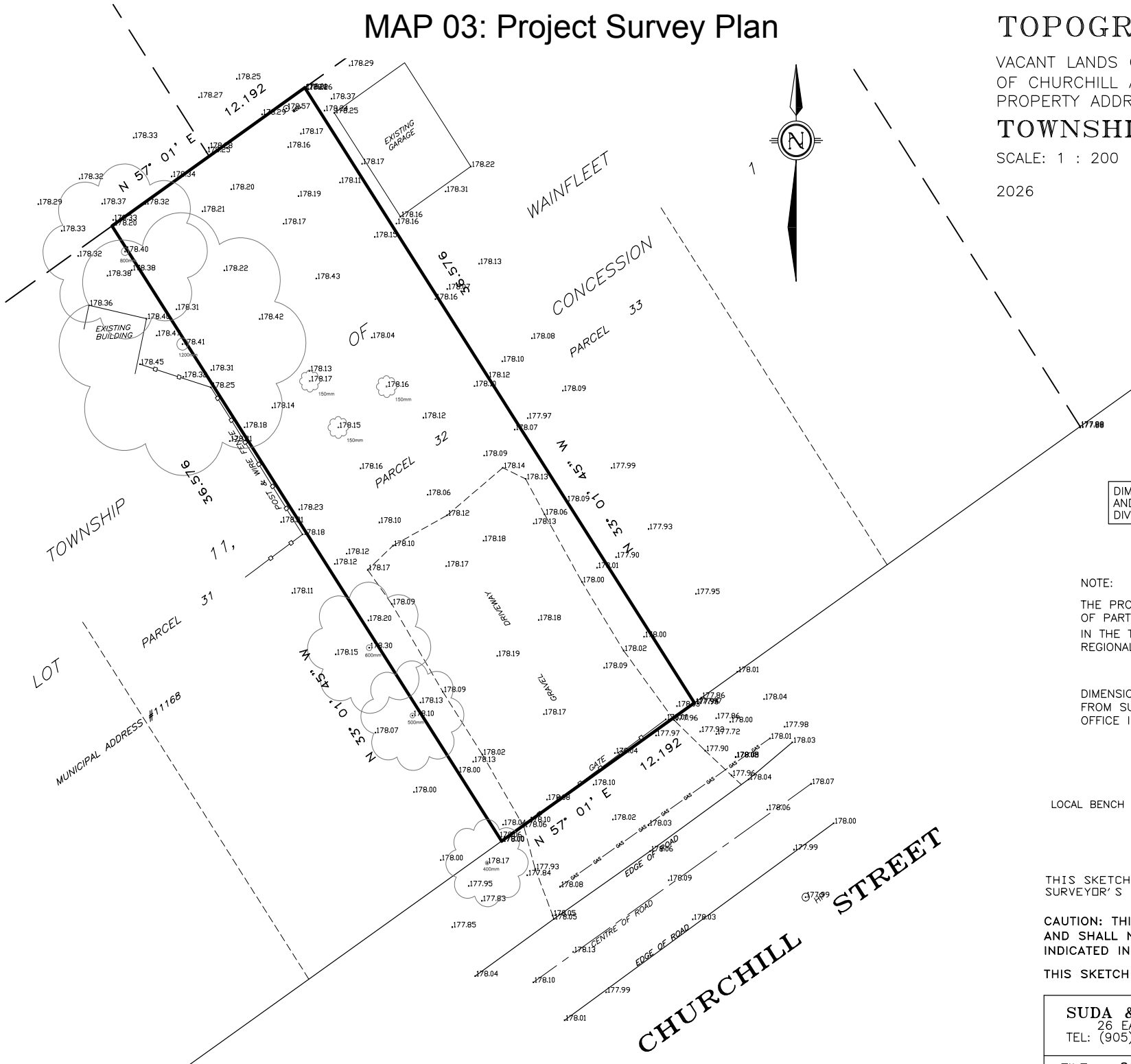


MAP 03: Project Survey Plan

TOPOGRAPHIC OF VACANT LANDS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CHURCHILL AVENUE ADJOINING MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ADDRESS #11168 TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

SCALE: 1 : 200

2026



DIMENSIONS SHOWN HEREON ARE IN METERS
AND CAN BE CONVERTED TO FEET BY
DIVIDING BY 0.3048.

NOTE:

THE PROPERTY SHOWN HEREON IS COMPRISED
OF PART OF LOT 11, CONCESSION 1
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

DIMENSIONS AND INFORMATION SHOWN OBTAINED
FROM SURVEY FIELD DATA AND LAND REGISTRY
OFFICE INFORMATION

LOCAL BENCH MARK: STANDARD IRON BAR AT THE SOUTHEAST
CORNER OF MUNICIPAL ADDRESS
#11168 CHURCHILL AVENUE
ELEVATION= 178.00 METERS

THIS SKETCH IS NOT VALID UNLESS EMBOSSED BY A
SURVEYOR'S SEAL.

CAUTION: THIS IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY
AND SHALL NOT BE USED EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE
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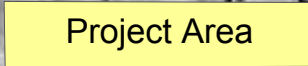
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TEL: (905) 732-7651 FAX: (905) 732-7660

FILE: 26-04

JOB No: 7109

Legend

 Project Area Project Area

Scale: 1: 40,000

Projection: MapMaker Gratis

Sources: Ontario Archives (OA) www.archives.ontario.ca
Tremaines Map of the Counties of Lincoln & Welland
Canada West 1862
Toronto: Geo. R. & G. M. Tremaine



0 1.5 km

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One Hunter Street East, Suite G100,
Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3W1

Legend

 Project Area

Project Area



0 1.0 km

Scale: 1: 25,000

Projection: MapMaker Gratis

Sources: Ontario Archives (OA) www.archives.ontario.ca
Herbert Russel Page Illustrated Map of the Counties
of Lincoln & Welland, Ontario 1876.
Toronto: H. R. Page



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Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Gravel Driveway,
-  Image Number
& Direction

0 18 metres

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Scale 1: 400

Projection: MapMaker_Gratis



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MAP 07: Archaeological Survey Results of Project Area

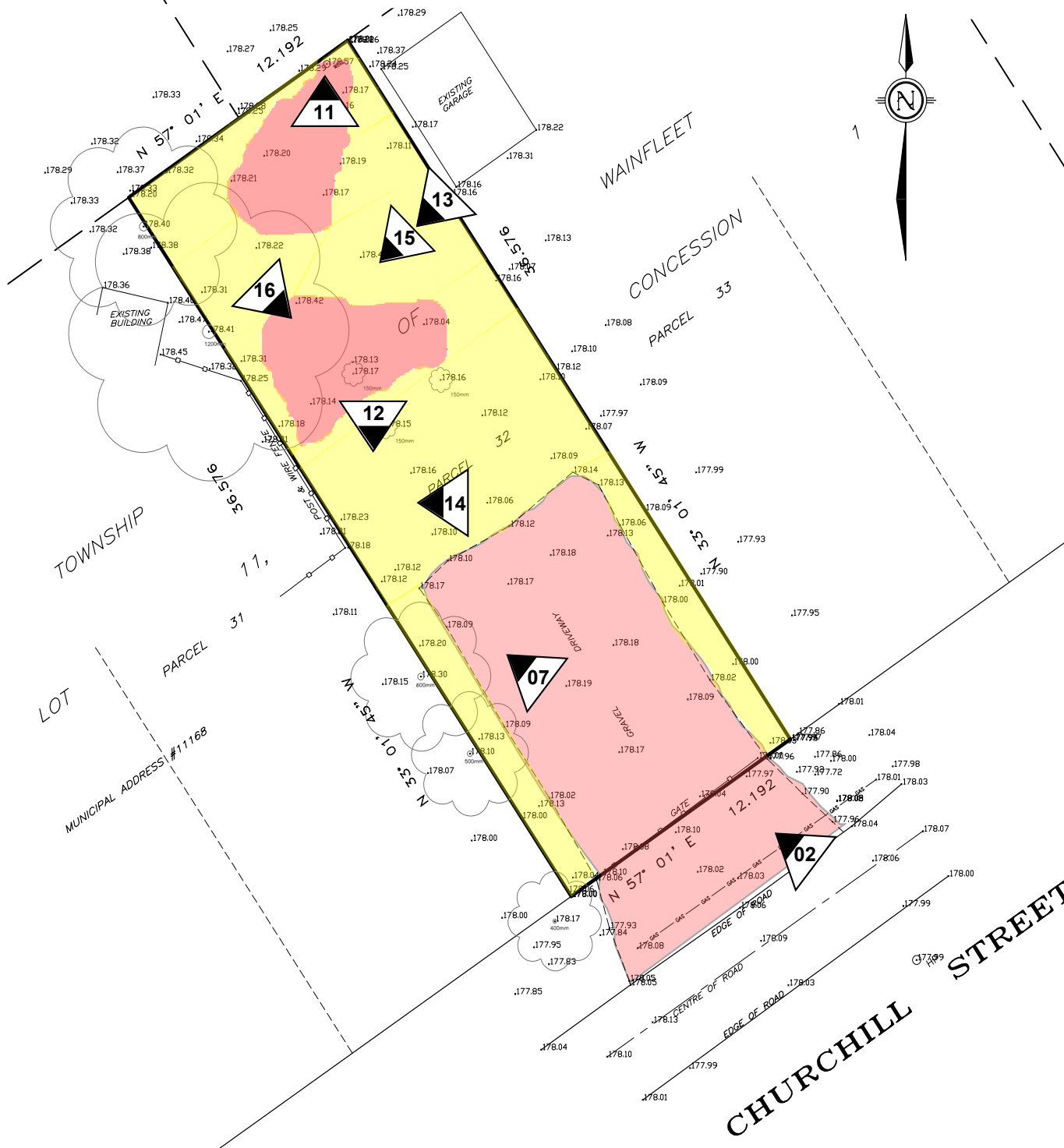
TOPOGRAPHIC OF

VACANT LANDS ON THE NORTH SIDE
OF CHURCHILL AVENUE ADJOINING MUNICIPAL
PROPERTY ADDRESS #11168

TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

SCALE: 1 : 200

2026



Legend

- Test Pit Survey at 05m interval. Nominal disturbances. Lithofacies conform to Standard Profile. Depth: 39 - 43 cm
- Test Pit Survey at 05m interval. Lithofacies detect disturbance at subsurface.
- Image Number & Direction

LOCAL BENCH MARK: STANDARD IRON BAR AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF MUNICIPAL ADDRESS #11168 CHURCHILL AVENUE ELEVATION= 178.00 METERS

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CATALOGUE 01



**Image 01: Ellsworth
Fare House (SE)**



**Image 02: Study Area
South Boundary (NNW)**



**Image 03: Study Area
East Boundary (N)**



**Image 04: Study Area
West Boundary (S)**

CATALOGUE 02



**Image 05: Study Area
East Boundary (S)**



**Image 06: Study Area
Southeast Corner (E)**



**Image 07: Test Pit Survey
05 metre interval - Disturbance (NW)**



**Image 08: Test Pit Survey
05 metre interval (NNE)**

CATALOGUE 03



**Image 09: Test Pit Survey
05 metre interval Southeast
Quad. (SE)**



**Image 10: Test Pit Survey
05 metre interval. Sod
replacement (NNW)**



**Image 11: Subsurface Disturbance
Northeast Quad (N)**



**Image 12: Test Pit Diameter
>35 cm (S)**

CATALOGUE 04



**Image 13: Test Pit Depth
>39 cm (SW)**



**Image 14: Soil Screened
through 6 mm sieve (W)**



**Image 15: Standard Profile
Ref. Image 13 (SW)**



**Image 16: Disturbance
Surface & Subsurface (SE)**