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TOWN OF CALEDON  
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November 14, 2025

# Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

Proposed Wildfield Village Parcel 9 Residential Development

12319 Centreville Creek Road, Part of Lot 2, Concession 3, Former Geographic Township of Albion, Peel County, now the Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario

Original Report

Prepared for:

**Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism**

Prepared by:

Archaeological Licensee: Kristy O'Neal, M.A., P066

**Archaeological Consultants Canada**

1042 Garner Road West, Unit A101

Ancaster, ON L9G 3K9

[www.onarch.ca](http://www.onarch.ca)

[info@onarch.ca](mailto:info@onarch.ca)

289.683.7844

PIF #: P066-0462-2024

Project No. 389-12-24

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological Consultants Canada (ACC) was contracted by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1 background research archaeological assessment for the proposed Wildfield Village Parcel 9 residential development. An archaeological assessment was conducted during the pre-approval process and was required under the *Planning Act, R.S.O 1990*. The assessed area, or the “subject property”, is located at municipal address 12319 Centreville Creek Road, on Part of Lot 2, Concession 3, in the Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, in the former Geographic Township of Albion, Peel County, Ontario (Figure 1). The subject property measures 9.95 hectares (ha).

The Stage 1 assessment was conducted under Professional Archaeological License P066, held by Kristy O’Neal. The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) assigned Project Information Form (PIF) number P066-0462-2024 to this project. No fieldwork was completed for this study, therefore, no permission to enter the property was needed.

Stage 1 background research indicated that the subject property has general archaeological potential due to the following factors:

- The subject property is largely comprised of well-drained land that is suitable for human habitation.
- The subject property is located adjacent to an early historical transportation route, Centerville Creek Road.
- A tributary of the West Branch of the Humber River is located directly to the north the subject property.
- There are 11 registered archaeological sites within 1 km of the subject property.
- The subject property is located within an area of archaeological potential according to the Town of Caledon’s archaeological management plan (ASI, 2021).

Based on aerial imagery and background research, 0.79 ha of the subject property has been subject to extensive and intensive disturbance during construction of a farm complex. 9.16 ha of the subject property retains archaeological potential and requires Stage 2 survey. 7.39 ha of the subject property consists of agricultural fields that should be assessed by pedestrian survey at 5 m intervals. 1.77 ha of the subject property consists of manicured lawn surrounding extant structures and laneways and should be assessed by test pit survey at 5 m intervals.

The following recommendations are provided for consideration by the Proponent and by the MCM:

1. Aerial imagery and topographic mapping indicate that 0.79 ha of the subject property exhibits low to no potential for the recovery of archaeological resources due to previous disturbance, as shown in Figure 7 of this report. Stage 2 assessment should confirm the

presence and extent of these areas of low to no archaeological potential, and they should be mapped and documented by photography.

2. Stage 2 archaeological assessment in the form of a pedestrian survey should be conducted on all ploughable lands, which account for 7.39 ha of the subject property, as shown in Figure 7 of this report. All land to be assessed by pedestrian survey must be recently ploughed and must be disked after ploughing if the soil is heavy clay. Direction should be provided to the contractor undertaking the ploughing that the ploughing should be deep enough to provide total topsoil exposure, but not deeper than previous ploughing. The ploughed lands must be weathered by one heavy rainfall or several light rains to improve the visibility of archaeological resources. At least 80% of the ground surface must be visible to conduct a pedestrian survey. If the fields to be assessed do not meet the above conditions, then the land may need to be reploughed prior to survey. The ploughed lands should be surveyed at 5 m interval transects.

When archaeological resources are found, the survey intervals will be decreased to 1 m intervals over a minimum of 20 m radius around the archaeological find to determine if it is an isolated find or part of a larger scatter. The 1 m interval survey should continue until the full extent of the surface scatter has been identified.

3. Stage 2 archaeological assessment in the form of a test pit survey should be conducted in all areas where ploughing is not possible or viable, which accounts for 1.77 ha of the subject property, as shown in Figure 7 of this report. Test pits should be excavated by hand on a 5 m interval grid. Test pits should be at least 30 cm in diameter and should be dug into the first 5 cm of subsoil. Test pits should be conducted to within one m of any disturbances or until test pits show evidence of recent ground disturbance. Each pit should be examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill. Soils should be screened through wire mesh with an aperture no greater than 6 millimetres to facilitate artifact recovery. All artifacts should be collected according to their associated test pit. All test pits should be backfilled unless otherwise instructed.

When artifacts are found, the survey grid should be continued to determine whether there are further positive test pits. This may produce sufficient archaeological resources to meet criteria for requiring a Stage 3 archaeological assessment. When insufficient archaeological resources are found through continued grid survey to meet criteria for Stage 3 assessment, survey coverage around the positive test pit should be continued, by means of eight additional test pits and one or more 1 m by 1 m square test unit placed above the positive test pit.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following is a list of abbreviations and acronyms used throughout this report.

ACC	Archaeological Consultants Canada
Archeoworks	Archeoworks Inc.
CHVI	Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
cm	centimetre
ha	hectares
km	kilometre
m	metre
MCM	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
OASD	Ontario Archaeological Sites Database
PIF	Project Information Form
%	percent



## PROJECT PERSONNEL

Project Manager:	Matthew Muttart, M.A., P1208
Professional License:	Kristy O’Neal, M.A., P066
Report Preparation:	Zack Cousineau, B.A. A1335
Graphics:	Zack Cousineau, B.A. A1335



# Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

## Proposed Wildfield Village Parcel 9 Residential Development

12319 Centreville Creek Road, Part of Lot 2, Concession 3, Former Geographic Township of Albion, Peel County, now the Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario

### 1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

#### 1.1 Development Context

Archaeological Consultants Canada (ACC) was contracted by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 1 background research archaeological assessment for the proposed Wildfield Village Parcel 9 residential development. An archaeological assessment was conducted during the pre-approval process and was required under the *Planning Act, R.S.O 1990*. The assessed area, or the “subject property”, is located at municipal address 12319 Centreville Creek Road, on Part of Lot 2, Concession 3, in the Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, in the former Geographic Township of Albion, Peel County, Ontario (Figure 1). The subject property measures 9.95 hectares (ha). The Proponent verified the subject property limits as defined within this report.

The objective of a Stage 1 background study is to provide information about the subject property’s geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork, and current land conditions. A Stage 1 study evaluates the subject property’s archaeological potential in order to recommend appropriate strategies for the Stage 2 survey.

The Stage 1 assessment was conducted under Professional Archaeological License P066, held by Kristy O’Neal. The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) assigned Project Information Form (PIF) number P066-0462-2024 to this project. No fieldwork was completed for this study, therefore, no permission to enter the property was needed.

All fieldwork and reporting were completed using MCM’s 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. This report documents the research, the field methods and results, and the conclusions and recommendations based on the Stage 1 archaeological assessment. All documents and records related to this project will be curated at the offices of ACC, in accordance with subsection 66(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA).

#### 1.2 Historical Context

##### 1.2.1 Background Research

Stage 1 background research was conducted to determine the potential for finding and identifying archaeological resources including sites within the current subject property and to determine the necessity of conducting a Stage 2 survey. This is done by reviewing geographic,



archaeological, and historical data for the property and the surrounding area. The background research was conducted to:

- amass all the readily available information on any previous archaeological surveys in the area.
- determine the locations of any registered and unregistered sites within and around the subject property.
- develop a historical framework for assigning levels of potential significance to any new sites discovered during fieldwork.

### 1.2.2 A Cultural Chronology for Southern Ontario

Over their thousands of years of occupation in the general region, Indigenous peoples have left behind, to a greater or lesser degree, physical evidence of their lifeway activities and settlements at many locations. Based upon a published synthesis of Indigenous cultural occupations (Wright, 1968). Table 1 is a general outline of the cultural history of southern Ontario that is applicable to the subject property. Ellis and Ferris (1990) provide greater detail of the distinctive characteristics of each time period and cultural group. This general outline uses longstanding labels that are used to describe the archaeological record in North America. Archaeological terms like Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland, are used here as a way to divide time and should be treated as such.

It is likely that Ontario was occupied soon after the retreat of the Ice Age glaciers. The earliest known human occupation in the area was during the Paleoindian period (between 12,000 and 9,500 years ago) wherein small groups of nomadic peoples hunted big game such as caribou in a cool sub-arctic climate. Sites are typically found near glacial features such as the shorelines of glacial lakes or kettle ponds which would have allowed access to the low-lying environments that were favoured by caribou and other wildlife. These people were few and their small, temporary campsites are relatively rare. Paleoindian sites are recognized by the presence of distinctive artifacts such as fluted projectile points, beaked scrapers, and graves and by the preference for light colored chert, such as Collingwood chert. The Paleoindian Period is divided into two sub-periods, Early Paleoindian, and Late Paleoindian.

During the Archaic period (*circa* 10,000 to 2,800 years ago) people were still primarily nomadic hunters, but they adapted to a more temperate climate. Groups were dispersed during winter months and converged around watercourses from the spring to fall in large fishing campsites. The Archaic period is characterized by the appearance of ground stone tools, notched, or stemmed projectile points. The Archaic Period is divided into three sub-periods, Early, Middle, and Late Archaic. During the Archaic Period, groups began to establish territorial settlements and introduce burial ceremonialism. There is a marked increase in the number and size of sites, especially during the Late Archaic period.

The Woodland period is distinguished by the introduction of pottery vessels for storage and cooking. Sites of the Woodland period (*circa* 3,000 to 400 years ago) are usually the most numerous because the population levels in southern Ontario had significantly increased,



especially along the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario. The Woodland Period is also marked by the establishment of complex long distance trading networks. The Woodland Period is divided into three sub-periods, Early, Middle and Late Woodland. During the Late Woodland Period, there is increasing sedentarism and the establishment of horticulture, a reliance on tribal warfare, and the introduction of semi-permanent villages with large protective palisades. The Late Woodland period also envelops the emergence of Iroquoian tribes and confederacies.

Table 1: General Cultural Chronology for Southern Ontario

PERIOD	SUBDIVISION I	SUBDIVISION II	YEARS BEFORE PRESENT	COMMENTS
PALEOINDIAN	Early Paleoindian	Fluted Point Horizon	12,000-10,500	big game hunters
	Late Paleoindian	Holcombe & Hi-Lo Horizons	10,500-9,500	small nomadic groups
ARCHAIC	Early Archaic	Side Notched Horizon	10,000-9,700	nomadic hunters and gatherers
		Corner-Notched Horizon	9,700-8,900	
		Bifurcate Horizon	8,900-8,000	
	Middle Archaic	Middle Archaic I/Stemmed Horizon	8,000-5,500	territorial settlements
		Middle Archaic II	5,500-4,500	polished ground stone tools
	Late Archaic	Narrow Point Horizon	4,500-3,500	
		Broad Point Horizon	4,000-3,500	
		Small Point Horizon (including Haldimand and Glacial Kame Complexes)	3,500-2,800	burial ceremonialism
WOODLAND	Early Woodland	Meadowood Complex	2,900-2,400	introduction of pottery
		Middlesex Complex	2,500-2,000	
	Middle Woodland	SW Ontario: Saugeen	2,300-1,500	long distance trade networks
		Western Basin: Couture	2,300-1,500	
	Transitional Woodland	SW Ontario:		
		Princess Point	1,500/1,400-1,200	incipient agriculture
		Western Basin:		
		Riviere au Vase	1500/1400-1200/1100	
	Late Woodland: Ontario Iroquois Tradition	Early: Glen Meyer	1200/100-750/700	transition to village life
		Middle I: Uren	720/700-710/670	large villages with palisades
		Middle II: Middleport	710/670-670/600	wide distribution of ceramic styles
		Late: Neutral	600-450	
	Late Woodland: Western Basin Tradition	Younge Phase	1200/1100-800	
		Springwells Phase	800-600	
		Wolf Phase	600-450	
HISTORIC	SW Ontario Iroquois	Historic Neutral	450-350	tribal warfare
	European Contact	Initial Contact	380-300	tribal displacement
		European Settlement	200 >	European settlement
		First Nations Resettlement	200 >	

(Compiled from Adams, 1994, Ellis *et al.*, 1990, Wright, 1968)



The historic period (from A.D. 1650 to 1900) begins with the arrival of Euro-Canadian groups. Sites of this period document European exploration, trade, and the displacement and devastation of native groups caused by warfare and infectious disease. The most common sites of this period include Euro-Canadian homesteads, industries, churches, schools, and cemeteries.

While North America had been visited by Europeans on an increasing scale since the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the first European to venture into what would become southern Ontario was Étienne Brûlé. Brûlé was sent by Samuel de Champlain in the summer of 1610 to consolidate an emerging friendship between the French and the First Nations, and to learn their languages and customs. Other Europeans would subsequently be sent by the French to train as interpreters. These men played an essential role in communications with the First Nations (Gervais and Rothe, 2004:182).

The late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries saw the growth and spread of the fur trade, with the establishment and maintenance of trading posts along the Great Lakes. In 1754, hostilities over trade and the territorial ambitions of the French and the British led to the Seven Years' War, which ended when the French surrendered in 1760 (Smith, 1987:22). In addition to cementing British control over the Province of Quebec, the British victory over the French also proved pivotal in catalyzing the Euro-Canadian settlement process.

During pre-contact and early contact times, the vicinity of the subject property would have contained a mixture of deciduous trees, coniferous trees, and open areas. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Euro-Canadian settlers arrived via easily accessible colonization routes and began to clear the forests for agricultural purposes. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the subject property and surrounding land were primarily used for agricultural purposes. Mixed farming was common, with wheat crops and beef cattle dominating the landscape (Chapman and Putnam, 1984:177).

The subject property was historically located on Part of Lot 2, Concession 3, in the Geographic Township of Albion, Peel County. Formerly part of the Home District, Peel County was formed in 1854 and was named after British Parliamentarian Sir Robert Peel (Mika & Mika, 1983:177). With increased pressure for settlement lands, the British Crown purchased what is referred to as the Mississauga Tract in 1805, from the Mississaugas. In 1818 the remainder of the Mississauga Tract was purchased, extending the northern boundary of Peel County to include what are now the townships of Albion, Caledon and Chinguacousy. Settlement of the area began in the early 1800s but came to a standstill during the War of 1812. In 1819, an influx of Irish immigrants arrived and from then on, settlement continued to grow at a steady pace. Peel County became the Regional Municipality of Peel on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1973 (Mika & Mika, 1983:180).

Albion Township was first surveyed for settlement in 1819, with the earliest settlers arriving shortly after. Many of the early inhabitants traveled along Yonge Street into the newly opened townships. The first settler in Albion Township is believed to be William Downey, who purchased lands near Castlederg (Walker & Miles, 1877). By 1820, all the lots in Albion Township had been patented and by 1821, all the Crown and Clergy Reserve lots were leased. According to census data the population of Albion Township in 1821 was 110 persons, with 62



acres of land cultivated. By 1848 the population had increased to 3,567 and by 1871 it was estimated to be 4,857 (Walker & Miles, 1877).

The nearest historical community was the hamlet of Wildfield, located at the corner of The Gore Road and Mayfield Road. In the 1830s the community was named Grantsville after Simon Peter Grant, an early settler. By the 1850s it was named Gooseville. A post office opened here in 1873, and it was named Gribblin. Finally, in 1891 it was renamed Wildfield after the estate of James A. Ellis (Rayburn, 1997:374).

Historical records and mapping were examined for evidence of early Euro-Canadian occupation within and near the subject property in the mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> century. Tremaine's 1859 *Map of the County of Peel, Canada West* lists Timothy McCarty as the owner of the portion of Lot 2, Concession 3 that includes the current subject property. There are no structures shown within or near the subject property; however, an early concession road, Centerville Creek Road, is located southwest of the subject property (Figure 2).

Walker & Miles' 1877 map of Albion Township in the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peel County* lists Thomas McCarty as the owner of the subject property lands. There are no structures shown within or near the subject property; however, Centerville Creek Road, is still illustrated to the southwest of the subject property (Figure 3).

It should be noted that while no structures are illustrated within the subject property on the historical atlas maps, it does not necessarily mean that one or more structures were not present at that time, earlier or later. Not all features of interest were mapped systematically on the Ontario series of historical maps and atlases, given that they were financed by subscription, and subscribers were given preference regarding the level of detail provided on the maps (Caston, 1977:100). Given that the subject property fronts two historic concession roads there is the potential for 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings to be present, depending on the level of disturbance.

## 1.3 Archaeological Context

### 1.3.1 Natural Environment

The subject property is located within the South Slope physiographic region of Ontario (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 113). This region includes the southern strip of the Peel Plain and the southern slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine (Chapman and Putnam 1984:172). The South Slope lies across limestone made up of the Verulam and Lindsay Formations and shales made up of the Georgian Bay and Queenston Formations. The region contains a variety of soils, some of which are excellent for agriculture. The dominant physiographic landform within the subject property is drumlinized till plain (Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, 2007).

The *Soils of Peel County* (Hoffman and Richards, 1953) indicates that there is one dominant surface soil type within the subject property, Chinguacousy clay loam (Figure 4). This soil is a dark greyish-brown clay loam that is characterized by few stones, smooth, gently sloping topography, and imperfect drainage.

Water has been identified as the major determinant of site selection and the presence of potable water is the single most important resource necessary for any extended human occupation or settlement. Primary water sources include, among others, lakes, rivers, creeks, and streams. Secondary water sources include intermittent streams, creeks, springs, marshes, and swamps. Past water sources, such as raised beach ridges, relic water channels, and glacial shorelines are also considered to have archaeological potential. Swamps and marshes are also important as resource extraction areas, and any resource areas are considered to have archaeological potential. The nearest water source is a stream that runs just north of the subject property. The West Humber River is located 900 metres (m) to the east of the subject property.

### 1.3.2 Current Land Use

Figure 5 provides the current land use of the subject property. The subject property largely consists of agricultural field, with a residential home and farm complex buildings located to the northeast of Centreville Creek Road. currently used for agricultural purposes and include a. Surrounding properties are comprised of agricultural fields and rural residential homes.

### 1.3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

#### 1.3.3.1 Registered Archaeological Sites

Previously registered archaeological sites can be used to indicate archaeological potential. To determine if any previous assessments have yielded archaeological sites, either within or surrounding the current subject property, two main sources were consulted. These include the *Ontario Archaeological Sites Database* (OASD) and the *Public Register of Archaeological Reports*, both of which are maintained by MCM.

The OASD contains archaeological sites registered within the Borden system (Borden, 1952). The Borden system divides Canada into 13 kilometre (km) by 18.5 km blocks based on longitude and latitude. Each Borden block is designated with a four-letter label and sites identified within the block are numbered sequentially as they are registered. The subject property is located within the *AkGw* Borden block.

According to the OASD, no archaeological sites have been registered within the subject property, however, 11 sites have been registered within 1 km of the subject property (MCM, 2024). The nearest of these sites is *AkGw-570*, located 250 m from the current subject property. Four sites are of Euro-Canadian cultural affiliation and include homesteads and a house. Seven sites are of Indigenous cultural affiliation and include findspots and a campsite.

Table 2 lists the sites within 1 km along with the current CHVI for each site. CHVI is a term used by MCM and consultant archaeologists to describe archaeological resources that meet one or more criteria that recommend further fieldwork in MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. Under the OHA and its regulations, archaeological resources that have been determined to possess CHVI are protected as archaeological sites under Section 48 of the act. Information in Table 2 is provided by MCM through the OASD (MCM, 2024).

Table 2: Registered Archaeological Sites within 1 km of the Subject Property

REG. #	NAME	TIME PERIOD	CULTURAL AFFILIATION	SITE TYPE	STATUS
AkGw-69	Avery	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	findspot	unknown
AkGw-70	Dennis	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	findspot	unknown
AkGw-188		Pre-Contact	Indigenous	findspot	unknown
AkGw-189		Pre-Contact	Indigenous	findspot	unknown
AkGw-303	-	Archaic, Middle	Indigenous	camp/campsite	No Further CHVI
AkGw-454	AkGw-454	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	house	No Further CHVI
AkGw-460	Dusty Rose P1	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	findspot	No Further CHVI
AkGw-483	-	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	homestead	No Further CHVI
AkGw-503	-	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	homestead	No Further CHVI
AkGw-570	H1	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	homestead	Further CHVI
AlGw-124	Solmar P2	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	unknown	unknown

Information concerning specific site locations is protected by provincial policy and is not fully subject to the *Freedom of Information Act*. The release of such information in the past has led to looting or various forms of illegally conducted site destruction. Confidentiality extends to all media capable of conveying location, including maps, drawings, or textual descriptions of a site location. MCM will provide information concerning site location to the party or an agent of the party holding title to a property, or to a licensed archaeologist with relevant cultural resource management interests.

### 1.3.3.2 Previous Archaeological Reports

A review of archaeological reports within the *Public Register of Archaeological Reports* indicated that no archaeological reports detailing previous archaeological fieldwork within the subject property have been entered into MCM's register at the time this report was written (MCM, 2024b). There are two reports detailing previous fieldwork within 50 m of the subject property within the register. Reports were searched based on registered site information, historic lots and concessions, and nearby streets. Figure 6 shows the location of this assessment in relation to the current subject property.

***Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment for the Proposed Development of Two Parcels: 1) A 40-Hectare (98.8-Acre) Parcel at 12494 The Gore Road and, 2) A 10.8-Hectare (26.7-Acre) Parcel to the Southwest Within Part of Lots 2 and 3, Concession 3 In the Geographic Township of Albion Historic Peel County Now in the Town of Caledon Regional Municipality of Peel Ontario. Archeoworks Inc. PIF P029-1136-2023.***

Archeoworks Inc, (Archeoworks) conducted a Stage 1 archaeological assessment of two properties, one of which is located directly to the northeast of the current subject property. Archeoworks determined that the entirety of their project area retained archaeological potential and required Stage 2 assessment (Archeoworks, 2023).

***Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for the Proposed Development of a 10.8-Hectare (26.7 Acre) Parcel Within Part of Lot 2, Concession 3 In the Geographic Township of Albion,***





***Historic Peel County, now in the Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario. Archeoworks Inc. PIF P029-1159-2024.***

Archeoworks conducted a Stage 2 archaeological assessment on a 10.8 ha property located directly to the northeast of the current subject property. The property was assessed by pedestrian survey at 5 m intervals. Euro-Canadian site AkGw-570 was documented during Archeoworks' Stage 2 assessment. This site is located 250 m from the current subject property. A total of 144 19<sup>th</sup> century Euro-Canadian artifacts were recovered from the site. Archeoworks determined the site had further CHVI and recommended a Stage 3 site-specific assessment (Archeoworks, 2024).

#### 1.3.4 Historical Plaques and Monuments

MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM, 2011:17) stipulates that areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement (including places of early military pioneer settlement, pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes, early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches, and early cemeteries) are considered to have archaeological potential. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local, provincial, or federal monuments, plaques, cairns, or heritage parks. Early historical transportation routes (trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes), properties listed on a municipal register or designated under the OHA or a federal, provincial, or municipal historic landmark or site, and properties that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations are also considered to have archaeological potential.

There are no plaques or commemorative markers within or near the subject property (Ontario Provincial Plaques, 2025).

#### 1.3.5 Archaeological Management Plan

Sections 6.3.2 and 6.4.3 of the *Future Caledon Official Plan* indicate that the Town of Caledon requires an archaeological assessment on lands proposed for development that contain archaeological sites or areas of archaeological potential (Town of Caledon, 2024).

As part of their official plan review process, the Town of Caledon has developed an *Archaeological Management Plan*. The document provides information about the archaeological history of the region, the Ontario archaeological assessment process, and sets out the process for archaeological resource conservation and management policies and guidelines (ASI, 2021). The document also includes an Archaeological Potential Model for the Town of Caledon, which highlights known archaeological sites and provides an archaeological site potential model specific to the town. A review of the Archaeological Management Plan indicates that the entirety of the current subject property is in a zone considered to have archaeological potential (ASI, 2021: Figure 6).

#### 1.3.6 Cemeteries

A search of the subject property and surrounding area determined that there were no cemeteries located within or near the subject property. The Bereavement Authority of Ontario's Public Register does not list any cemeteries within the subject property (Bereavement Authority of Ontario, 2025).



## 2.0 FIELD METHODS

The subject property measures 9.95 ha. An optional visual property inspection was not completed as part of this Stage 1 assessment. However, the entirety of the property was assessed and documented through background research of the geography, topography, and current condition of the property. This research was sufficient to identify the presence or absence of features of archaeological potential, and to make recommendations regarding further fieldwork.





## 3.0 RECORD OF FINDS

### 3.1 Documentary Record

All fieldwork-related activities were documented and kept, including field notes and observations and detailed maps. Appropriate photographic records were kept of the assessment and all image descriptions were recorded in a photo log.

A detailed list of field records is presented in Table 3. All digital items have been duplicated and all paper items have been scanned and stored as digital documents. All items are housed in the corporate offices of ACC.

Under Section 6 of Regulation 881 of the OHA, ACC will keep in safekeeping all objects of archaeological significance that are found under the authority of the license and all field records that are made in the course of the work authorized by the license, except where the objects and records are donated to His Majesty the King in right of Ontario or are directed to be deposited in a public institution under subsection 66 (1) of the Act.

Table 3: Inventory of Documentary and Material Records

PROJECT INFORMATION		
ACC project number	389-12-24	
Licensee	Kristy O’Neal	
MCM PIF numbers	P066-0462-2024	
DOCUMENT/MATERIAL	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
maps	1	aerial imagery of subject property



## 4.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Characteristics Indicating Potential for Archaeological Resources

Archaeological potential is defined as the likelihood of finding archaeological sites within a subject area. For planning purposes, determining archaeological potential provides a preliminary indication that significant sites might be found within the subject area, and consequently, that it may be necessary to allocate time and resources for archaeological survey and mitigation.

The framework for assigning levels of potential archaeological significance is drawn from provincial guidelines found in the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM, 2011: Sections 1.3.1 and 1.3.2). The following are features or characteristics that can indicate archaeological potential:

- previously identified archaeological sites
- water sources (It is important to distinguish types of water and shoreline, and to distinguish natural from artificial water sources, as these features affect site locations and types to varying degrees.).
  - primary water sources (e.g., lakes, rivers, streams, creeks)
  - secondary water sources (e.g., intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps)
  - features indicating past water sources (e.g., 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 the topography, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes, cobble beaches)
  - accessible or inaccessible shoreline (e.g., high bluffs, swamp or marsh fields by the edge of a lake, sandbars stretching into marsh)
- elevated topography (e.g., eskers, drumlins, large knolls, plateaus)
- pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially near areas of heavy soil or rocky ground
- distinctive land formation 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.
- resource areas, including:
  - food or medicinal plants (e.g., migratory routes, spawning areas, prairie)
  - scarce raw materials (e.g., quartz, copper, ochre or outcrops of chert)
  - early Euro-Canadian industry (e.g., fur trade, logging, prospecting, mining)



- areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement. These include places of early military or pioneer settlement (e.g., pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches and cemeteries. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local provincial, or federal monuments or heritage parks
- early historical transportation routes (e.g., trails, passes, roads, railways, portages)
- property listed on a municipal register or designated under the OHA or that is in a federal, provincial, or municipal historic landmark site
- property that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations

Archaeological potential can be determined not to be present for either the entire property or parts of it when the area under consideration has been subject to extensive and deep land alterations that have severely damaged the integrity of any archaeological resources. This is commonly referred to as “disturbed” or “disturbance” and may include:

- quarrying
- major landscaping involving grading below topsoil
- building footprints
- sewage and infrastructure development
- activities such as agricultural cultivation, gardening, minor grading, and landscaping do not necessarily affect archaeological potential.

## 4.2 Discussion

### 4.2.1 Factors Indicating General Archaeological Potential

Section 1.3.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM, 2011) lists criteria indicative of archaeological potential. Stage 1 background research indicated that the subject property has general archaeological potential due to the following factors:

- The subject property is largely comprised of well-drained land that is suitable for human habitation.
- The subject property is located adjacent to an early historical transportation route, Centerville Creek Road.
- A tributary of the West Branch of the Humber River is located directly to the north the subject property.
- There are 11 registered archaeological sites within 1 km of the subject property.



- The subject property is located within an area of archaeological potential according to the Town of Caledon's archaeological management plan (ASI, 2021).

Given the above criteria, background archival research indicated that the subject property exhibits general archaeological potential for the discovery of both pre/post-contact Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources therefore, a Stage 2 archaeological assessment is required.

The subject property measures 9.95 ha. An optional on-site property inspection was not completed as part of this Stage 1 assessment.

#### 4.2.2 Areas of No to Low Archaeological Potential

Areas of low to no archaeological potential include lands that have been previously disturbed, lands that have steeply sloping topography, and lands that are low-lying and permanently wet.

Based on aerial imagery and background research, no low-lying and permanently wet areas or areas of steeply sloping topography, characterized by slopes in excess of 20 degrees, were observed within the subject property. 0.79 ha, 8 percent (%), of the subject property has been subject to extensive and intensive disturbance during construction of a residence, barn, outbuildings, and laneways related to a farm complex on the subject property.

Figure 7 shows the areas that have been identified during background research as having low to no archaeological potential. As no visual property inspection has been completed for this assessment, the Stage 2 assessment must confirm, document, and map all areas of low to no archaeological potential identified during this Stage 1 archaeological assessment

#### 4.2.2 Areas of Archaeological Potential

Areas of archaeological potential include undisturbed and well-drained lands such as agricultural fields, wooded areas, and manicured greenspaces. Based on aerial imagery and background research, 9.16 ha, 92%, of the subject property retains archaeological potential.

According to Section 2.1.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM, 2011), pedestrian survey is required in actively or recently cultivated fields, or open space that can be ploughed. Stage 2 archaeological assessment in these areas should be conducted by pedestrian survey at 5 m intervals. 7.39 ha, 74%, of the subject property consists of agricultural fields that should be assessed by pedestrian survey at 5 m intervals.

According to 2.1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM, 2011), test pit survey is required on terrain where ploughing is not viable, such as wooded areas, properties where existing landscaping or infrastructure would be damaged, overgrown farmland with heavy brush or rocky pasture, and narrow linear corridors up to 10 m wide. These portions meet the requirements of Section 2.1.2 1e of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*, that ploughing or cultivation is not viable. Because these portions of the property cannot be ploughed, the Stage 2 assessment of these areas should be completed by test pit survey at 5 m grid intervals. 1.77 ha, 18%, of the subject property consists of manicured lawn

surrounding the existing structures and laneways. This area requires Stage 2 assessment by test pit survey at 5 m intervals.

Figure 7 shows the areas that have been identified during background research to retain archaeological potential and require Stage 2 property survey by either test pit survey or pedestrian survey, as appropriate, at 5 m intervals.



## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Subject to acceptance of the results and approval of the recommendations, MCM is requested to deem this report compliant with ministry requirements for archaeological fieldwork and reporting and to issue a letter accepting this report into the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports*.

The following recommendations are provided for consideration by the Proponent and by the MCM:

1. Aerial imagery and topographic mapping indicate that 0.79 ha of the subject property exhibits low to no potential for the recovery of archaeological resources due to previous disturbance, as shown in Figure 7 of this report. Stage 2 assessment should confirm the presence and extent of these areas of low to no archaeological potential, and they should be mapped and documented by photography.
2. Stage 2 archaeological assessment in the form of a pedestrian survey should be conducted on all ploughable lands, which account for 7.39 ha of the subject property, as shown in Figure 7 of this report. All land to be assessed by pedestrian survey must be recently ploughed and must be disked after ploughing if the soil is heavy clay. Direction should be provided to the contractor undertaking the ploughing that the ploughing should be deep enough to provide total topsoil exposure, but not deeper than previous ploughing. The ploughed lands must be weathered by one heavy rainfall or several light rains to improve the visibility of archaeological resources. At least 80% of the ground surface must be visible to conduct a pedestrian survey. If the fields to be assessed do not meet the above conditions, then the land may need to be reploughed prior to survey. The ploughed lands should be surveyed at 5 m interval transects.

When archaeological resources are found, the survey intervals will be decreased to 1 m intervals over a minimum of 20 m radius around the archaeological find to determine if it is an isolated find or part of a larger scatter. The 1 m interval survey should continue until the full extent of the surface scatter has been identified.

3. Stage 2 archaeological assessment in the form of a test pit survey should be conducted in all areas where ploughing is not possible or viable, which accounts for 1.77 ha of the subject property, as shown in Figure 7 of this report. Test pits should be excavated by hand on a 5 m interval grid. Test pits should be at least 30 cm in diameter and should be dug into the first 5 cm of subsoil. Test pits should be conducted to within one m of any disturbances or until test pits show evidence of recent ground disturbance. Each pit should be examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill. Soils should be screened through wire mesh with an aperture no greater than 6 millimetres to facilitate artifact recovery. All artifacts should be collected according to their associated test pit. All test pits should be backfilled unless otherwise instructed.

When artifacts are found, the survey grid should be continued to determine whether there are further positive test pits. This may produce sufficient archaeological resources to



meet criteria for requiring a Stage 3 archaeological assessment. When insufficient archaeological resources are found through continued grid survey to meet criteria for Stage 3 assessment, survey coverage around the positive test pit should be continued, by means of eight additional test pits and one or more 1 m by 1 m square test unit placed above the positive test pit.



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## 6.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

The following advice on compliance with current legislation is provided for consideration:

- a. This report is submitted to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c O.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 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 a 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 *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) requires that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar, Burials Unit, at the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement.
- e. Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and may not be altered, or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological license.



## 7.0 CLOSURE

This report was prepared for the exclusive use of the Proponent, unless otherwise expressly stated in the report or contract. This report documents work that was performed in accordance with the accepted professional standards at the time and location in which the services were provided.

The report is based solely on data and information collected during the archaeological assessment as described in this report. All information received from the Proponent or third parties in the preparation of this report has been assumed by ACC to be factual and accurate. ACC assumes no responsibility for any deficiency, misstatement, or inaccuracy in information received from others. ACC disclaims any obligation to update this report for events or information that becomes available to ACC after the assessment has been completed.

Conclusions made within this report consist of ACC's professional opinion as of the time of the writing of this report and are based solely on the scope and extent of work described in the report, the limited data available, and the results of the work. The conclusions are based on the conditions encountered by ACC at the time the work was performed. Due to the nature of archaeological assessment, which consists of systematic sampling, it is possible that unforeseen and undiscovered archaeological resources may be present within the assessed area. ACC does not warrant against undiscovered environmental liabilities nor that the sampling results are indicative of the condition of the entire property. No other representations, warranties, or guarantees are made concerning the accuracy or completeness of the data or conclusions contained within this report, including no assurance that this work has uncovered all potential archaeological resources associated with the identified property.

Any use of this report by any third party is prohibited. This report is not to be given over to any third party, for any purpose whatsoever, without the written permission of ACC, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any use which a third party makes of this report, in whole or in part, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on any information and conclusions in the report, are the responsibility of the third party. ACC assumes no responsibility for losses, damages, liabilities or claims of any kind whatsoever, howsoever arising, from third party use of this report.

ACC makes no other representations whatsoever, including those concerning the legal significance of the report's findings, or as to other legal matters touched on in this report, including, but not limited to, ownership of any property, or the application of any law to the facts set forth herein.

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## 9.0 FIGURES

See the following pages for detailed assessment mapping and figures.



Figure 1: Location of the Subject Property on a 1:50,000 Scale Topographic Map

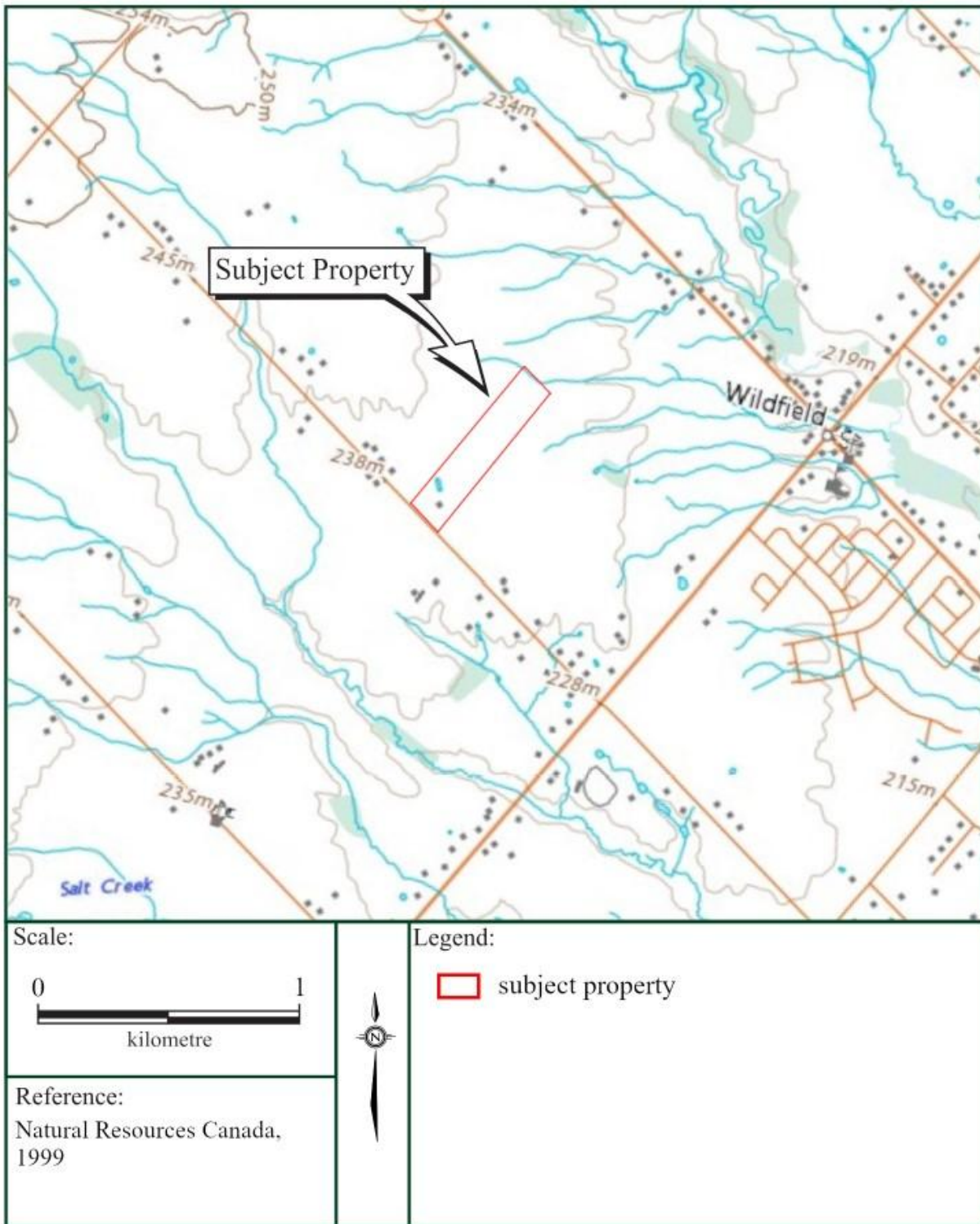




Figure 2: Location of the Subject Property on Tremaine's 1859 Historical Map of Peel County, Canada West

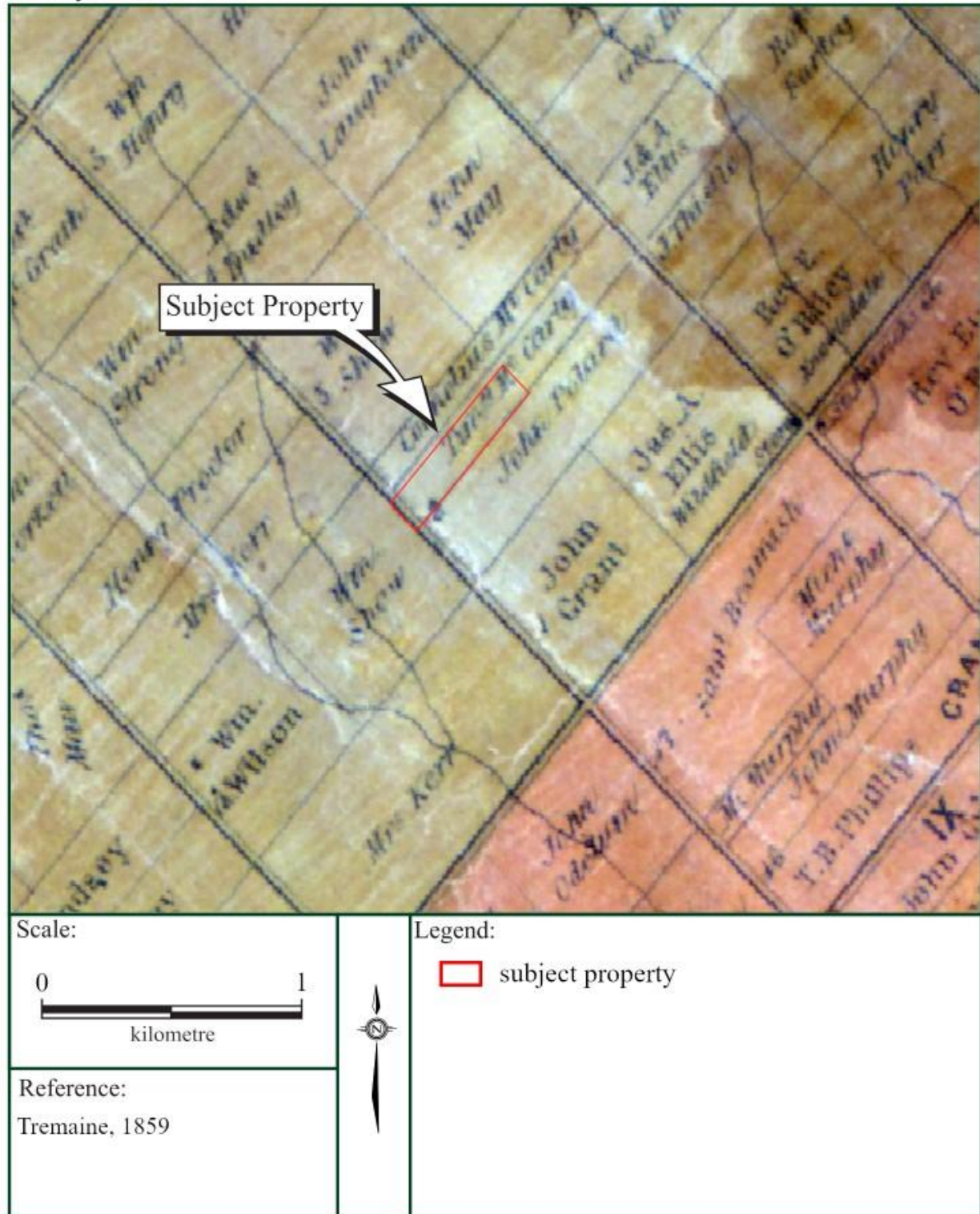


Figure 3: Location of the Subject Property on Walker & Miles 1877 Historical Atlas Map of Albion Township, Peel County

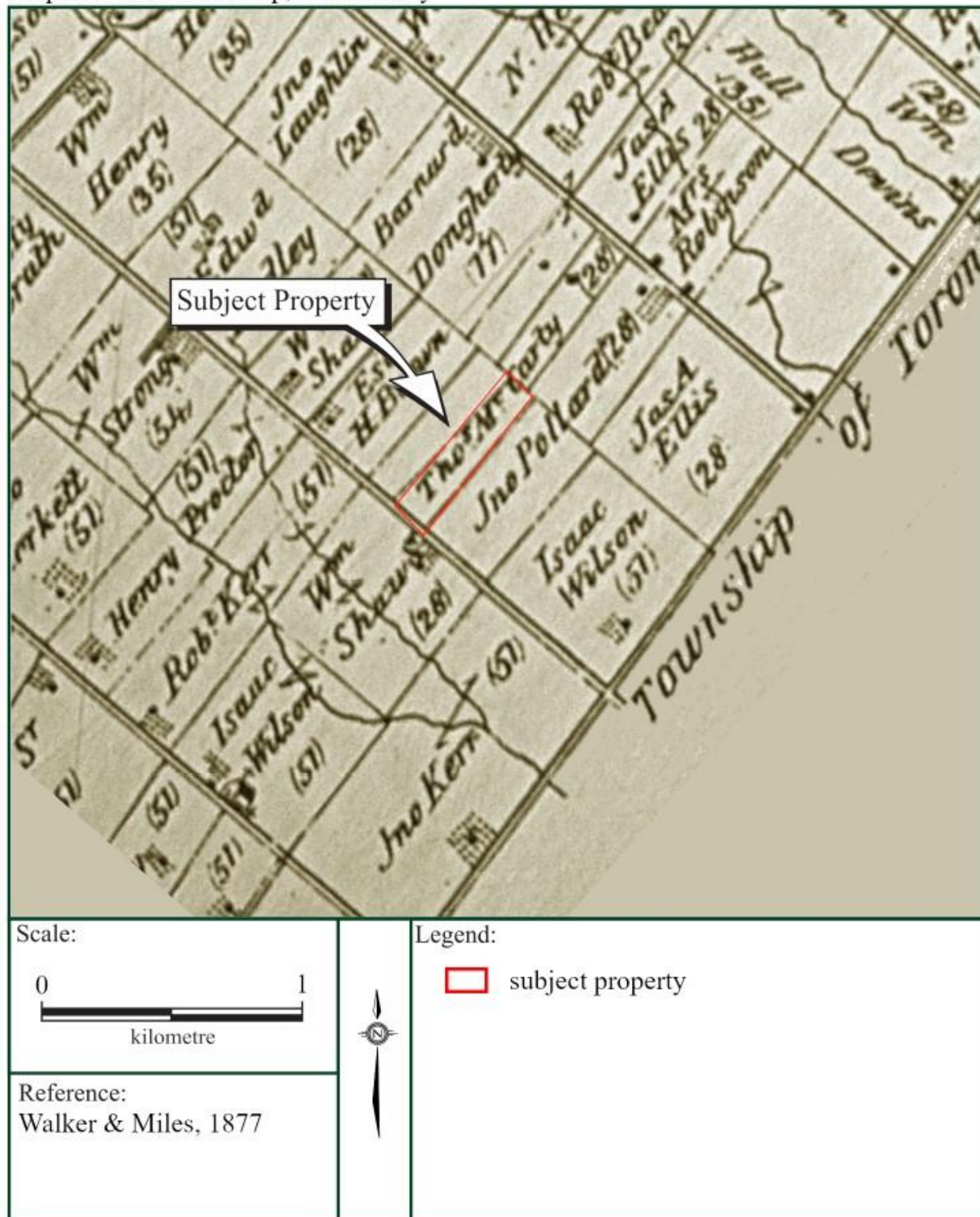




Figure 4: Location of the Subject Property on a Map of the Soils of Peel County

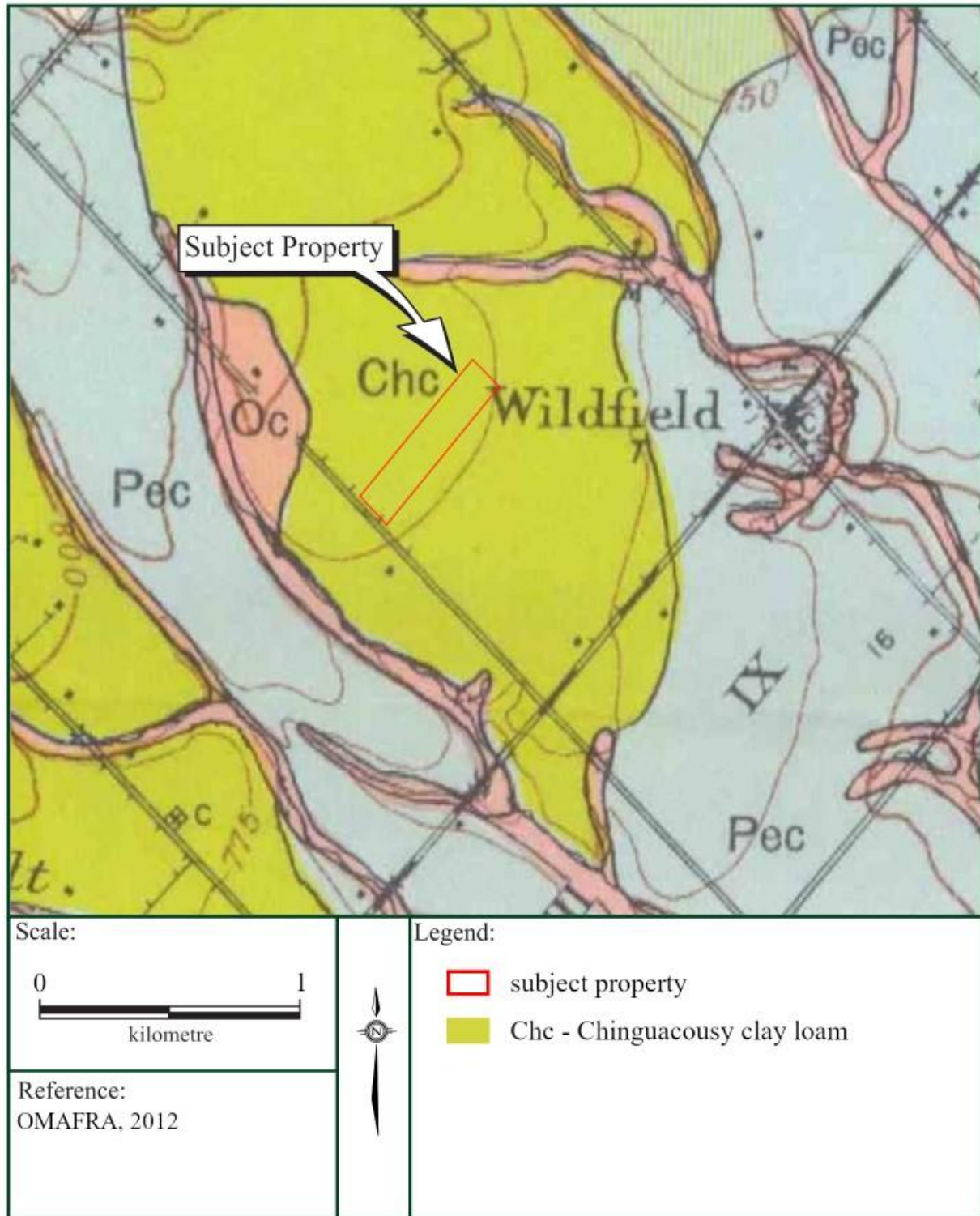


Figure 5: Current Land Use of the Subject Property

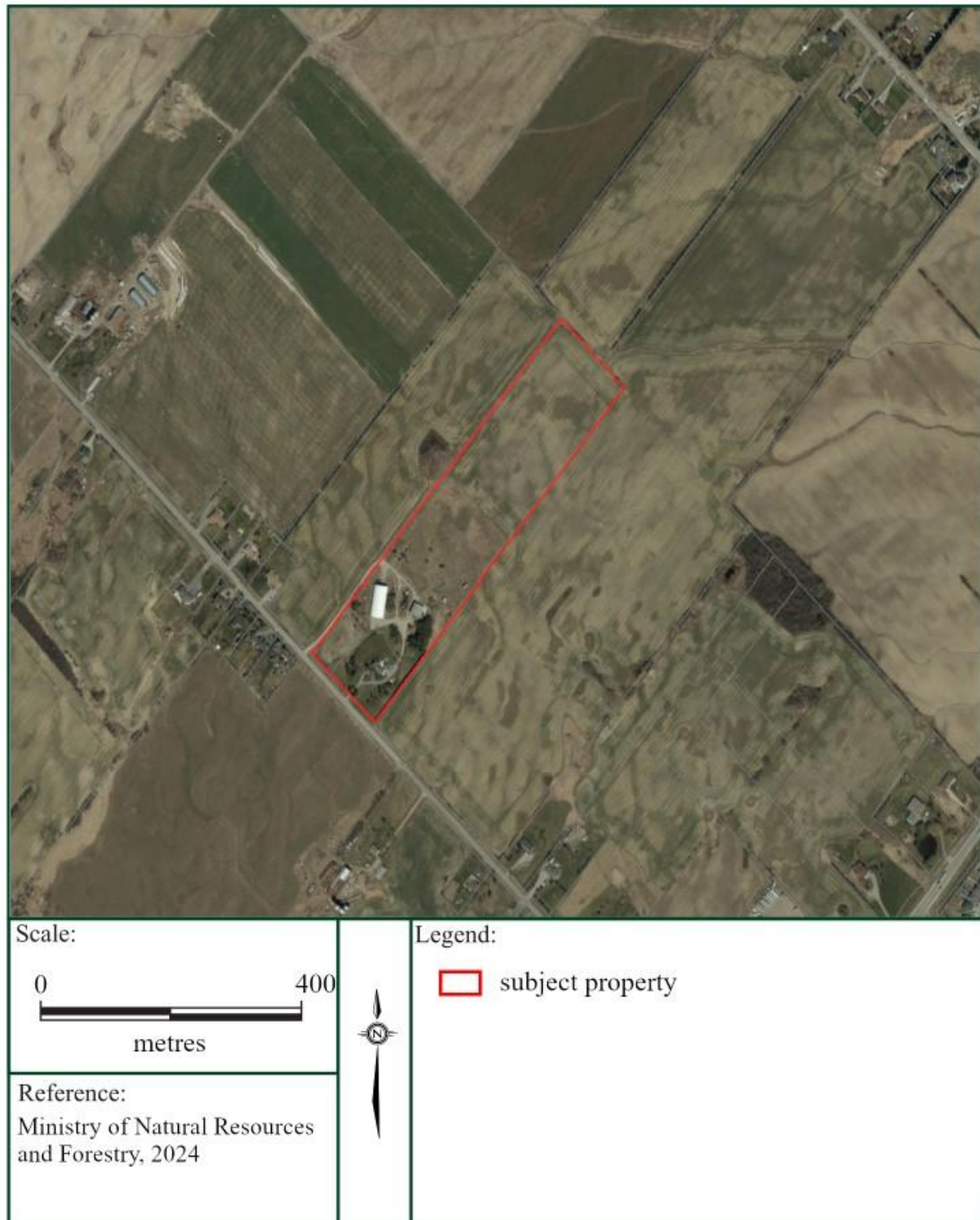




Figure 6: Previous Archaeological Assessments Conducted Within 50 metres of the Subject Property

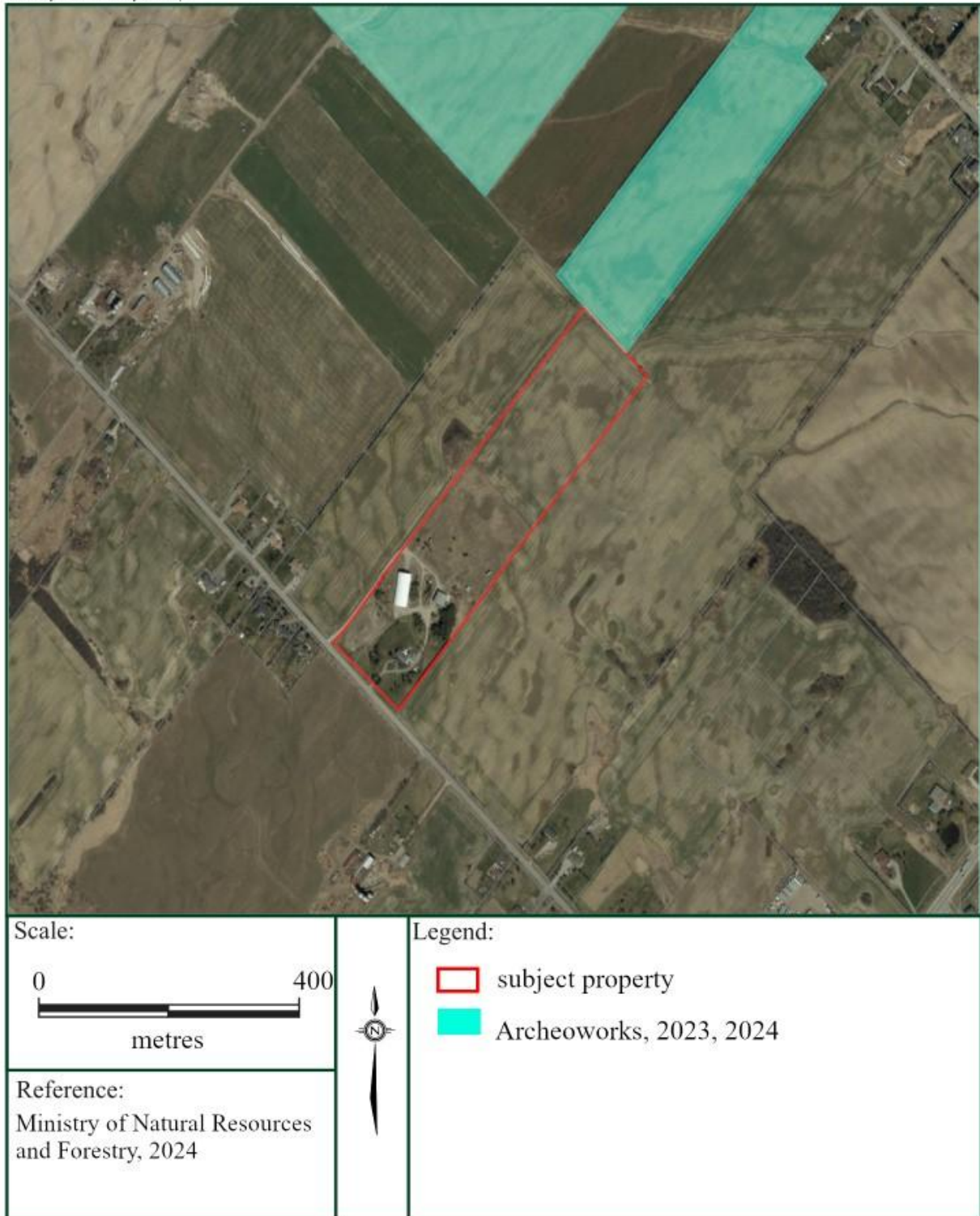


Figure 7: Results of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of the Subject Property

