



Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

518 – 524 Tiffin Street
Part of Lot 25, Concession 7
Geographic Township of Vespra
City of Barrie
County of Simcoe

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Original Report



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Executive Summary

Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc. was retained to conduct a Stage 1 archaeological assessment of a 0.49 hectare property located at 518, 520, 522, & 524 Tiffin Street, Part of Lot 25, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Vespra, County of Simcoe. The assessment was undertaken in support of an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning Bylaw Amendment Application and was conducted as part of the requirements defined in Section 3.4.2.1 (g) of the *City of Barrie Official Plan*, which requires archaeological assessment of areas where identified archaeological resources exist or where the potential for such resources exist.

Section 1.3 of the *Standards & Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* details a list of features that indicate archaeological potential when making and evaluation for developing recommendations. As documented in Section 1.0 of this report, there are features documented during background research that indicate archaeological potential. These include:

- Location of the study area adjacent to Tiffin Street, which historical maps suggest functioned as a historic transportation route

As a result of the identification of these features, it is determined that the study area contains archaeological potential, and additional archaeological assessment is recommended.

It is determined that the study area cannot be ploughed, due to its nature as a commercial lot. Therefore, a test pit survey shall be required. Test pits shall be spaced at maximum intervals of five metres apart, and to within one metre of standing structures. Each test pit shall be excavated by hand to 30 centimetres in diameter, and excavated into the first five centimetres of subsoil. Each test pit shall be examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill, and all soil shall be screened through wire mesh of no greater than six-millimetre width. Any identified artifacts shall be collected according to their associated test pit. All test pits shall be backfilled.

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries is requested to review this report and provide a letter indicating their satisfaction that the fieldwork and reporting for this archaeological assessment are consistent with the Ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences, and to enter this report into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports.



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1.0 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc. (Earthworks) was retained to conduct a Stage 1 archaeological assessment of a 0.49 hectare property located at 518, 520, 522, & 524 Tiffin Street, Part of Lot 25, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Vespra, County of Simcoe (Map 1). The assessment was undertaken in support of an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning Bylaw Amendment Application and was conducted as part of the requirements defined in Section 3.4.2.1 (g) of the *City of Barrie Official Plan*, which requires archaeological assessment of areas where identified archaeological resources exist or where the potential for such resources exist (City of Barrie 2018:3-12).

The objective of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment, as outlined by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' (MHSTCI) *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011), are as follows:

- To provide information about the property's geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land condition
- To evaluate the property's potential for archaeological resources and to provide recommendations for Stage 2 assessment

As part of this assessment, background research was conducted in Earthworks corporate library, the Simcoe County Land Registry Office (LRO #51) and the Federal Canadian Census located online at Library and Archives Canada.

Permission to access the property was provided by the proponent.



1.2 Historic Context

1.2.1 Pre-Contact Indigenous History

Table 1 provides a summary of the general culture history of southern Ontario, as based on Ellis and Ferris (1990).

Table 1: Summary of Pre-contact Culture History of Ontario

| Culture Period | Diagnostic Artifacts | Time Span (Years B.P.) | Detail |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Early Paleo-Indian | Fluted Projectile Points | 11,000-10,400 | Nomadic caribou hunters |
| Late Paleo-Indian | Hi-Lo, Holcombe, Plano Projectile Points | 10,400-10,000 | Gradual population increase |
| Early Archaic | Nettling and Bifurcate Points | 10,000-8,000 | More localized tool sources |
| Middle Archaic | Brewerton and Stanly-Neville Projectile Points | 8,000-4,500 | Re-purposed projectile points and greater amount of endscrapers |
| Narrow Point Late Archaic | Lamoka and Normanskill Projectile Points | 4,000-3,800 | Larger site size |
| Broad Point Late Archaic | Genessee, Adder Orchard Projectile Points | 3,800-3,500 | Large bifacial tools. First evidence of houses |
| Small Point Late Archaic | Crawford Knoll, Innes Projectile Points | 3,500-3,100 | Bow and Arrow Introduction |
| Terminal Archaic | Hind Projectile Points | 3,100-2,950 | First evidence of cemeteries |
| Early Woodland | Meadowood Points, Cache Blades, and pop-eyed birdstones | 2,950-2,400 | First evidence of Vinette I Pottery |
| Middle Woodland | Pseudo-scallop shell | 2,450-1550 | Burial Mounds |
| | Princess Point pottery | 1550-1100 | First evidence of corn horticulture |
| Late Woodland | Levanna Point | 1,100-700 | Early longhouses |
| | Saugeen Projectile Points | 700-600 | Agricultural villages |
| | Nanticoke Notched Points | 600-450 | Migrating villages, tribal warfare |



1.2.2 Post-Contact Indigenous History

The study area enters the historic record in 1615, where Samuel de Champlain travelled through the area with soldiers on the way to attack the Ononondaga tribe of the Five Nations Iroquois. Early accounts by European explorers suggest the study area was considered part of a loosely defined hunting territory associated with the Huron Confederacy (Trigger 1994). European influence in the region was generally restricted to the beaver pelt trade, and Aboriginal groups practiced a way of life that did not differ significantly from the pre-Contact period. By the 1640's, the increasing scarcity of beaver pelts prompted the invasion of Huronia by the League of Five Nations Iroquois. By 1649, five Huron villages were destroyed and the remainder abandoned, resulting in the complete disintegration of the Huron Confederacy and its absorption into the Petun, Neutral and other groups (Stone and Chaput 1978). The study area remained virtually unpopulated as an Iroquoian hunting territory for the proceeding fifty years prior to the migration of the Ojibwa into the region in the early eighteenth century (Rogers 1978). There is little evidence to suggest a concentrated period of settlement in the region throughout the eighteenth century, with activities being largely restricted to hunting and fur trading. Following the War of 1812, settlement pressures prompted the British Government to enter into negotiations with the Odawa to purchase over five hundred thousand hectares of land south and west of Lake Simcoe. These negotiations were concluded with the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga purchase in 1818 (Surtees 1994:116)

1.2.3 European Settlement History

The study area is located within the historic township of Vespra. The history of the township dates back to 1818 when the Penetanguishene Road was cut through from Kempenfeldt Bay to Georgian Bay by the British government. By 1819, settlers began to locate along the road. Kempenfeldt, which is now part of Barrie, gained importance during the War of 1812 when it was the starting point of Nine Mile Portage, a link in the military supply route between Lake Simcoe and Lake Huron. Storehouses were built at either end of the Nine Mile Portage in 1819, with one being located at Willow Creek and the other at the head of the Bay. Kempenfeldt then became a stop-over for traders and settlers bound for neighbouring townships (Mika & Mika 1983). The township was opened in 1820 and centred about Barrie and the early Nine-Mile Portage, which was the most direct route used for many years from York to the Upper Lakes (Middleton 1927). Vespra remained fairly remote for several years. A mill was built at Willow Creek for lumber and flour in 1825. Between 1830 and 1831, a period of great settlement began. A town hall was erected in Midhurst at an early date and the community sprang up in 1830 with a free grant of two hundred acres and water-power rights on condition of building a flour mill and sawmill (Mia & Mika 1983). In 1833, the Government laid out the town lots and many of the first residents in the area were retired naval officers (Middleton 1927). The first Episcopalian mission was established under Rev. Mr. Ardagh in 1834. A post office was established at Barrie in 1835. The first school in Barrie was built in 1836. Vespra was at one point joined with Flos and Sunnidale townships, however it became a separate municipality in 1841 (Mika & Mika 1983). By 1982, population growth resulted in a portion of the township being amalgamated with the City of Barrie.

1.2.4 Land Use History of Study Area

The Crown Patent for the west part of Lot 25, Concession 7 was granted to James Austin of Toronto in 1873. Historic mapping from 1871 does not show the lot to be owned, nor are there any structures within the lot (Map 2). The records become nearly illegible for the 19th century;



however, it appears that in 1875 George Taylor purchased the entirety of the west part of the lot. In 1889, land was purchased by what appears to be a Francis Owens from Orillia. John Chessman of Barrie received a deed to the land in 1898. The lot is absent from agricultural records from the 19th century, therefore it is not likely that the land was farmed. Topographic mapping from the 20th century shows that the land was vacant and covered in a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees in 1924. By 1996, two structures are shown to be within the lot, one centrally located and the other along the western border (Map 3). There is no longer a structure along the western border of the study area.

1.2.5 Historic Plaques

As per Section 1, Standard 1.1 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, Earthworks consulted local historical plaques in order to inform archaeological potential and assessment strategies. No local plaques were found which related to the history of the current study area.

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Current Conditions

The property consists of a gravel driveway, gravel parking area enclosed by a wire fence, a shop, and a mixture of lawn and wooded area.

1.3.2 Natural Environment

The study area is located within a sand plain (Map 4) of the Simcoe Lowlands physiographic region of Ontario, an area that covers approximately 2,849 square kilometres. This area was at one time was part of the floor of glacial Lake Algonquin, resulting in soils of sand, silt, and clay (Chapman & Putnam 1984: 177-182). The surficial geology consists of very fine to medium grained sand, silt, and minor clay (Map 5). The 1962 soil survey of the region indicates that the soil within the study area consist of muck (Map 6; Hoffman et al.).

The nearest water source is a wetland that historic topographic mapping indicates was located approximately 330 metres south of the study area

The study area is located within the Barrie District of the Lake Simcoe – Rideau Ecoregion, which itself is situated within the Mixedwood Plains Ecozone. This region encompasses 6,311,957 hectares, and contains a diverse array of flora and fauna. It is characterized by diverse hardwood forests dominated by sugar maple, American beech, white ash, eastern hemlock, and numerous other species are found where substrates are well developed on upland sites. Lowlands, including rich floodplain forests, contain green ash, silver maple, red maple, eastern white cedar, yellow birch, balsam fir, and black ash. Peatlands (some quite large) occur along the northern edge and in the eastern portion of the ecoregion, and these contain fens, and rarely bogs, with black spruce and tamarack:

Characteristic mammals include white-tailed deer, Northern raccoon, striped skunk, and woodchuck. Wetland habitats are used by many species of water birds and shorebirds, including wood duck, great blue heron, and Wilson's snipe. Open upland habitats are used by species such as field sparrow, grasshopper



sparrow, and eastern meadowlark. Upland forests support populations of species such as hairy woodpecker, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, and rose-breasted grosbeak. Reptiles and amphibians found in this ecosystem include American bullfrog, northern leopard frog, spring peeper, red-spotted newt, snapping turtle, eastern gartersnake, and common watersnake. Characteristic fish species in the ecoregion include the white sucker, smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, rainbow darter, emerald shiner, and pearl dace.

(Crins et al. 2009:48-49)

1.3.3 Known Archaeological Sites

A search of registered archaeological sites within the MHSTCI Archaeological Sites Database was conducted. Seven archaeological sites were identified within a one-kilometre radius of the study area. None of these sites are within 300 metres of the study area. A summary of these sites is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Registered Archaeological Sites within 1 kilometre of the Study Area

| Borden # | Site Name | Time Period | Affinity | Site Type |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| BcGw-76 | Bear Creek West Subdivision | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| BcGw-73 | Stapleton | Paleo-Indian | Aboriginal | N/A |
| BcGw-72 | Bear Creek | Early Paleo-Indian, Paleo-Indian | Aboriginal | Camp/Campsite |
| BcGw-64 | Fowler | Late Paleo-Indian | Aboriginal | Cache |
| BcGw-63 | Standing Tree | Early Paleo-Indian | Aboriginal | Other Camp/Campsite |
| BcGw-62 | N/A | Post-Contact | Euro-Canadian | Homestead |
| BcGw-61 | Asparagus | Middle Woodland | Aboriginal | Scatter |

1.3.4 Adjacent Archaeological Assessments

A Stage 1 & 2 archaeological assessment within part of Lot 2, 3, & 5, Con. 14, Geographic Township of Innisfil & Part of Lot 25, Con. 7, Geographic Township of Vespra was conducted in 2000 by Archaeologix Inc. under PIF #: 2000-002-085. Requests to the MHSTCI to retrieve a copy of the report were not fulfilled up to the date of this report, and could not inform any archaeological potential.



2.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Section 1.3 of the *Standards & Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* details a list of features that indicate archaeological potential when making and evaluation for developing recommendations. As documented in Section 1.0 of this report, there are features documented during background research that indicate archaeological potential. These include:

- Location of the study area adjacent to Tiffin Street, which historical maps suggest functioned as a historic transportation route

As a result of the identification of these features, it is determined that the study area contains archaeological potential, and additional archaeological assessment is required.



3.0 Recommendations

Based on the results of the Stage 1 background investigation, the study area contains archaeological potential, and a Stage 2 archaeological assessment is recommended.

It is determined that the study area cannot be ploughed, due to its nature as a commercial lot. Therefore, a test pit survey shall be required. Test pits shall be spaced at maximum intervals of five metres apart, and to within one metre of standing structures. Each test pit shall be excavated by hand to 30 centimetres in diameter, and excavated into the first five centimetres of subsoil. Each test pit shall be examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill, and all soil shall be screened through wire mesh of no greater than six-millimetre width. Any identified artifacts shall be collected according to their associated test pit. All test pits shall be backfilled.

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries is requested to review this report and provide a letter indicating their satisfaction that the fieldwork and reporting for this archaeological assessment are consistent with the Ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences, and to enter this report into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports.



4.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

This report is submitted to the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.

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

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.



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6.0 Maps

