



MEMO

TO: Bohdan Wynnykyj, RPP, Manager of Development Services, Loyalist Township

FROM: Stephen Jarrett, M.A., Professional Archaeologist, WSP Canada Inc.

SUBJECT: Amherstview West Secondary Plan – Archaeological High-Level Review

DATE: April 16, 2021

WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) has been retained by Loyalist Township to complete a high-level archaeological review to inform the proposed Amherstview West Secondary Plan. In conjunction with the Amherstview West Secondary Plan, a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Master Plan process is being followed to identify municipal infrastructure improvements needed to service the Secondary Plan study area. Examples of potential required municipal infrastructure improvements may include new roads and/or road widenings, as well as extension of municipal water and wastewater services and new facilities.

Land use planning and development legislation in Ontario and Loyalist Township identifies the conservation of archaeological resources as a matter of provincial and local interest (MMAH, 2020: 31). Archaeological resources are the physical evidence of past human use or activity (e.g. artifacts, ruins etc.) that are determined to be of cultural heritage value or interest. These resources are governed in Ontario under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Archaeological assessments in Ontario are governed by the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) and requirements for the management of archaeological resources are outlined in the MHSTCI's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND POTENTIAL RISKS

The archaeological assessment process includes four stages of assessment as outlined by the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MHSTCI, 2011). The objective of a Stage 1 archaeological assessment is to assess the potential for the presence of archaeological material and to provide recommendations regarding further archaeological work, should it be required. Areas identified as retaining archaeological potential are recommended for Stage 2 archaeological assessment.

A Stage 2 archaeological assessment involves a field survey to identify archaeological resources that may be present within a given development area, an assessment of the degree of cultural heritage value or interest of identified archaeological sites, and to recommend the most appropriate strategies of to mitigate the impacts to significant sites.

A Stage 3 site specific excavation and Stage 4 mitigation of development impacts are conducted to better determine the extent and context of an archaeological site and to develop strategies for the avoidance/protection or full excavation of a site, respectively.

All archaeological assessments have the potential to result in the identification of one or more archaeological sites, including the discovery of human remains. The presence of archaeological sites and/or human remains may result in delays to project schedules. The length of project delays due to the mitigation of archaeological concerns can vary based on the size, nature, and context of identified archaeological and/or burial sites. As each archaeological site is unique, project delays can not be estimated until the analysis of artifacts and cultural features has been completed.

BACKGROUND REVIEW

The criteria for determining the level of archaeological potential of a given area is primarily focused on physiographic variables that include distance and nature of the nearest source/body of water, distinguishing features in the landscape, the agricultural viability of soils, resource availability, and other features which would have made the area more suitable for settlement and occupation. A more comprehensive list of features indicative of archaeological potential is outlined in the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MHSTCI, 2011) and includes:

- Previously identified archaeological sites.
- Water sources:
 - Primary water sources (lakes, rivers, streams, creeks).
 - Secondary water sources (intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps).
 - Features indicating past water sources (e.g. glacial lake shorelines, relic river or stream channels, 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, plateaux).
- Pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially near areas of heavy soil or rocky ground.
- Distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places, such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, and promontories and their bases.
- 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 early cemeteries.
- Early historical transportation routes (e.g. trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes).

- Property listed on a municipal register or designated under the Ontario Heritage Act or that is federal, provincial or municipal historic landmark or site.
- Property that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historic events, activities, or occupations

Based on several of the criteria for the determination of archaeological potential, the Amherstview West Secondary Plan area has high potential for the presence of both pre-contact Indigenous and historic Euro-Canadian archaeological resources. This conclusion is based on the area's proximity to Lake Ontario and Parrott's Bay, both of which served as significant transportation routes and resource areas for pre-contact populations and early European settlers. The presence of smaller creeks and other natural drainage areas that are present also support the potential for the presence of inland pre-contact resources.

The Secondary Plan area is located within the historic township of Ernestown. Ernestown Township was originally surveyed in 1783 and settled by members of the second battalion of the King's New York Royal Rangers in 1784 (LAHS 1964: 91). Between 1792 and 1814, the majority of Ernestown had been surveyed, patented, sold, and settled (Turner 1993). By 1811, rapid settlement increased the population in the township to 2,300, the largest population of any township in Upper Canada at that time (LAHS 1964:92). A review of historic maps from the nineteenth century illustrate that the villages of Bath, Odessa, and Violet, and the Switzerville Post Office had been established by 1878. These maps also illustrate that the Secondary Plan area had been well settled by this time with all lots being sold and presence of many homes and farmsteads (J.H. Meacham & Co., 1878).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Any proposed developments and municipal infrastructure projects on lands that have not been previously cleared of archaeological concerns by the MHSTCI must undergo an archaeological assessment(s) prior to disturbance. All archaeological assessments must be conducted in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the MHSTCI's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011).

This memo provides a high-level archaeological review only and does not constitute a Stage 1 archaeological assessment.



REFERENCES

Lennox and Addington Historical Society (LAHS)

1964 *Historical Glimpses of Lennox and Addington County*. Napanee: The Lennox and Addington County Council.

Meacham, J.H. and Co.

1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington County, Ontario*. Toronto: J.H. Meacham & Co.

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2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto.

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2020 *Provincial Policy Statement*. Available Online: <https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-provincial-policy-statement-2020-accessible-final-en-2020-02-14.pdf>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

Turner, Larry

1993 *Ernestown: Rural Spaces, Urban Places*. Dundurn Press, Toronto.