

# Stage 1 - 2 Archaeological Assessment Report

**165 Lake St., and Abutting Vacant Land,  
Part of Lot 5, Concession 1 and Part of Road Allowance Between Concession the Broken Front  
and Concession 1 (closed by By-Law 77-15) (Geographic County of Lincoln, Township of North  
Grimsby), Town of Grimsby, Regional Municipality of Niagara**

## Original Report

### Project Information:

**Archaeological License:** P384 (Kayleigh MacKinnon MSc.)

**MHSTCI PIF#:** P384-0274-2021

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**Development Project Designation #:** N/A

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report describes the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of 165 Lake St., and Abutting Vacant Land, Part of Lot 5, Concession 1 and Part of Road Allowance Between Concession the Broken Front and Concession 1 (closed by By-Law 77-15) (Geographic County of Lincoln, Township of North Grimsby), Town of Grimsby, Regional Municipality of Niagara. The study was conducted under Professional Archaeological License P384 issued by the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (Ontario) to Kayleigh MacKinnon. The Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment was undertaken as a requirement under Ontario Regulation 544/06 under the Planning Act (RSO 1990) in support of a zoning by-law amendment, possible official plan amendment and plan of subdivision and plan of condominium application. This report confirms that all of the work conducted as part of this assessment conforms to the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MHSTCI 2011) and the Ontario Heritage Act (MCL 2005).

New Era Archaeology Inc. was contracted to complete the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of 165 Lake St. and abutting vacant land and was given permission to access the property to conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities. The Stage 1 field visit was completed concurrently with the Stage 2 Property Assessment. Prior to the field visit it was determined that the subject property had potential for both pre-contact and post-contact archaeological resources based on background research. The Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment was conducted on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 consisting of test pit survey at an interval of five meters between individual test pits and visual pedestrian survey at an interval of five meters along the shore.

As a result of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment one Indigenous lithic artifact was recovered. The cultural heritage value or interest of this isolated find has been completely documented, consequently it is recommended that no further archaeological assessment is required.

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## **PROJECT PERSONAL**

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## **1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT**

### **1.1 DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT**

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### **1.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

#### **1.2.1 General Historical**

##### **Southern Ontario Prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

As the glaciers that covered southern Ontario began to retreat approximately 12,500, they left the area habitable for the Paleo-Indian hunting bands arriving between 11,000 and 10,500 years ago to find large melt water lakes formed in the wake of the retreat. The lakes were accompanied by relatively barren tundra interspersed with areas of open boreal forest. The Paleo-Indian hunters focused on the large Pleistocene mammals including mastodon, moose, elk, and especially herds of caribou that roamed the area. As a result of their following the herds of animals, the Paleo-Indian groups traveled long distances and seldom stayed in one campsite for a significant length of time which resulted in little material culture remaining. Stone tools and by-products of their flaked stone industry are virtually all that remains, with large distinctive spear points that have a prominent channel or groove on each face being the hallmark of the period. Campsites from this period are frequently found adjacent to remnant shorelines of the large post-glacial lakes indicating that camping sites were set up along the shores of lakes to intercept migrating herds. Due to the water levels of the Lake Ontario basin falling in the early post-glacial period and subsequently rising again to modern levels resulted in camp sites now being situated more than a kilometer into the lake (Archaeological Services Inc. 2014).

The Archaic Period (7,000 B.C – 1,000 B.C) saw a mixed needle and broadleaf forest cover established in Ontario and nomadic hunter-gatherers hunted deer, moose, as well as other animals, fished and gathered plant

resources while moving relatively large distances over the landscape during the course of the year. From the archaeological record the technological and cultural change can be identified including a wide variety of tools produced which resulted in shifts in hunting strategies to adjust to a constantly evolving environment. During the Late Archaic period hunter-gatherer bands most likely settled into familiar hunting territories. Two types of sites evolved as a result of their hunting patterns, the small inland camps that were occupied by small groups of related families during the fall and winter where they could harvest nuts and hunt deer, and the larger spring and summer settlements that were located near river mouths where groups of families came together to trade, exploit spawning fish resources and to bury their dead. Many of the ground stone tools have both social and symbolic functions where they would have day-to-day uses, but their inclusion in burials ascribes to them a sacred intent (Archaeological Services Inc. 2014).

The Woodland period is distinguished from the previous Archaic period with respect to settlement patterns and subsistence pursuits and is most specifically marked by the introduction of ceramics into Ontario. Though the appearance of these ceramics provides a temporal marker for archaeologists their use does not seem to have profoundly changed the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of the previous period. The Iroquoian society flourished in the southern Great Lakes region in the Late Woodland period. Increasingly sophisticated burial ceremonies and increase in trade of exotic items developed which may have come out of the need for greater social solidarity as the population increased causing competition for resources. Trade with communities living south of the Great Lakes introduced maize and squash creating a transition to food production that then reduced reliance on naturally occurring resources and led to less movement as people tended to their crops. As sites were more intensively occupied the need for a greater degree of internal spatial organization came about which can be seen on the archaeological record. The ancestors of the Neutral, Huron, and Petun resided along the central north shore of Lake Ontario and the ancestral Iroquoians became the Five Nation Iroquois (Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk) occupied the south of Lake Ontario in what is now central New York State. Though there were most likely interactions between these Iroquoian-speaking groups it was not until the mid to late 17<sup>th</sup> century that the Five Nation Iroquois inhabited the Toronto area. The focus on agricultural practices led to a more sedentary lifestyle with larger communities coming together and forming alliances with separate villages. Some villages were fortified with palisade walls with land cleared around them for crops. By the time European explorers and missionaries arrived in Ontario at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the villages were under the direction of various chiefs elected from the principal clans and subsequently allied within powerful tribal confederacies (Archaeological Services Inc. 2014).

By 1600 most of the Lake Ontario north shore communities had moved northward joining communities in Simcoe County to form the Petun and Huron. Though the movement of these communities took place over many generations the conflict with the Five Nations Iroquois of New York State was the final impetus. The collapse and dispersal of the three Ontario Iroquoian confederacies (the Huron, the Petun, and the Neutral) during the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was caused by intertribal warfare with the Five Nations Iroquois and exacerbated by the intrusion of Europeans (Archaeological Services Inc. 2014).

After the 1783 defeat of the British in the American Revolutionary War large numbers of refugees from America began to arrive. Descendants of European and First Nations peoples were awarded land grants for their loyalty to Britain. The area of York Region was part of Montreal District in the province of Quebec in 1788, however, it was subsequently subdivided and the area became known as Nassau District. Though, in 1791 when the province of Quebec was divided into Upper Canada and Lower Canada the District became part of Upper Canada with most of what is now southern Ontario. The District was renamed Home District when in 1792 the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada divided Upper Canada into 19 Counties with a road system and subdivided the Counties into Townships with York being the fourteenth County created. York County at the time included much of present-day York Region, parts of Durham Region, and the City of Toronto. By 1815 British and European immigrants were arriving with skills that were in demand among the growing population for specialized services (Archaeological Services Inc. 2014).

**Table 1: General Indigenous History Throughout Ontario**

Period	Date Range	Cultural Group	Diagnostic Material	Period Details
<b>Paleo-Indian – ca. 11,000-7,500 BC</b>				
Early	ca. 11,000-8,500 BC	Clovis, Plano	Fluted projectile points	The continental glacier covering Ontario continued to recede north exposing more habitable land for flora and fauna attracting the nomadic hunters from the south-west. These hunter-gatherers set up sites along shorelines, with fish a main dietary staple and would periodically gather into larger groups typically during the summer months. The Clovis culture remained in Southern Ontario where the Plano culture moved into Northern Ontario
Late	ca. 8,500-7,500 BC		Plano, Holxombe, Hi-Lo projectile points	
<b>Archaic – ca. 7,800-1,000 BC</b>				
Early	ca. 7,800-6,000 BC	Shield Archaic, Laurentian Archaic	Bifurcate, netting projectile points	Small nomadic hunter-gatherer bands slowly transition to small territorial camps. There continues to be a periodical gathering into larger groups during the warmer months and a dispersal in the late fall into smaller family groups. There is an increase in the use of localized material and the re-purposing of stone tools. Local and long distance trade networks appear leading to an influx of exotic material and goods, including natural copper and conch shells, often used as grave offerings. The bow and arrow is adopted towards the end of the period, which was already in use on the east coast. Plano cultural group is the ancestors of the Shield Archaic and the Clovis are ancestors of the Laurentian Archaic.
Middle	ca. 6,000-2,000 BC		Brewerton, Stanly, Side-notched projectile points	
Late	ca. 2,500-1000 BC		Lamoka, Adder Orchard, Genesee, Lamoka, Innes, Crawford Knoll, Innes, Hind projectile points	
<b>Woodland – ca. 1,000 BC – AD 1600</b>				
Early	ca. 1000-400 BC	Meadowood, Middlesex	Birdstones, Cache blades, Kramer, Meadowood projectile points	Hunter-gatherer groups continue to come together in the warmer months and disperse in the fall occupying the margins of Southern Ontario. Both large and small campsites have been identified. The same trade networks are maintained. One distinguishing characteristic of this period is the introduction of pottery. Burial ceremonialism is also practiced. Late Archaic ancestors. The Meadowood culture is changed or absorbed by Point Peninsula.
Middle	ca. 400 BC - AD 700	Point Peninsula, Saugeen	Vanport, Snyder, Saugeen projectile points	Hunter-gatherers, but evidence of increased sedentism and seasonal site reuse and emergence of horticulture. Diets expanded to include the collection of wild fruits and wild rice. More intricate burial ceremonialism adopted from Hopewell culture to the south, as a result of trade networks, including the use of burial mounds. More decorative pottery techniques appear including stamped and scalloped techniques. Items from the Ohio Valley also start to appear for the first time including stone platform pipes, copper ear spools and copper panpipes. Point Peninsula sites in the Toronto, Quebec and New York areas. Saugeen sites found in the area between Lake Huron and Lake Erie west of Toronto.
Transitional	ca. AD 600 - 1000	Princess Point, Laurel	Princess Point pottery, Triangular projectile points	Princess Point sites remain smaller in size located along the north shore of Lake Erie and the west end of Lake Ontario. They are the first to adapt corn in Ontario, which spread north east from Mexico. Princess Point pottery decorative techniques include cord-wrapped stick and punctuates. The Shield Archaic are ancestors of the Laurel culture who occupied Northern Ontario, Western Quebec and areas to the west and received their pottery knowledge from Point Peninsula and Saugeen cultures. The Laurel also created some of the largest burial mounds.



Late - Early	ca. AD 900 - 1300	Glen Meyer, Pickering	Glen Meyer Tanged- Triangular projectile point	The Pickering culture developed out of the Point Peninsula culture and occupied an area between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay to Lake Nipissing. The Glen Meyer culture developed out of the Princess Point culture and occupied southwestern Ontario between Long Point and Lake Huron. Small single family houses change to larger multi-family longhouses within small village sites with the appearance of palisades at some. There is an increase in corn agriculture. Pottery vessels are thinner walled with improved manufacturing. There is a switch in burial ceremonialism to the use of burial pits, a precursor to large ossuaries. Towards the end of the period a portion of Pickering expands and conquers the Glen Meyer, merging the two cultures. Additionally, towards the end of the period pipes become more common.
Late - Middle	ca. AD 1300 - 1400	Uren, Middleport, Lalonde	Middleport projectile points	Increase in village size and reliance on agriculture including corn, beans and squash. Decrease in decorated pottery vessels and an increase in decorative pipes including effigy pipes. Some sites still include a palisade.
Late - Late	ca. AD 1400 - 1600	Ontario Iroquoian	Nanticoke, Daniels Triangular projectile points	Village size increased and locations were strategically pick, to ensure enough arable land, with diets heavily dependent on agriculture, proximity to wood for both heating and building, proximity to water and a location which would be easily defendable. The need for defendable lands resulted from the emergence of tribes and territories, which led to an increase in warfare. Dogs were domesticated and large ossuaries become common. Towards the end of the period the first Europeans goods appear periodically in Ontario through trade networks with groups further east who where in contact with the first French explorers who had reached the St. Lawrence.
<b>Contact-Historic – ca. AD 1600-1800</b>				
European Contact	AD 1600-1650	Huron, Neutral, Petun, Odawa, Ojibwa	Minimal European items	Establishment of the fur trade. Increase in warfare resulted in tribal disbursement leaving much of the area between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe with no permanent large villages. Many villages move north of Lake Simcoe further away from the Iroquois. The French arrive in Ontario with an increase in Jesuit missionaries and European goods. Continued warfare from the Iroquois to the south resulted in the dispersal of the remaining Huron-Wendat and abandonment of their remaining villages and resettlement in Quebec at the closing of this period.
Late	AD 1650- ca. 1800	Algonquian, 6 Nations Iroquois,	Mixture of Indigenous and European items	The Iroquoian continued to use their conquered land of Southern Ontario as mainly hunting grounds with a few settlements located along the shoreline of Lake Ontario. The Iroquoian were then challenged and pushed out of the region by the Anishinaabeg (Ojibway, Chippewa, Odawa). Trade with both English and French. Numerous migrations and resettlements. The end of this period there saw an influx of European and American settlers transitioning to the historic period.

## **Niagara Region**

The Niagara Region was one area traveled by early French explorers including Samuel de Champlain first in 1615. Following Champlain's exploration other explorers, missionaries and traders frequented the area often visiting Indigenous villages in the area and while doing so mapped the entire region (Exploring Niagara 2014). It was the French explorers who first encountered the Neutrals on the west side of the Niagara River. The environment of the region was ideal to support the Neutral peoples. The mild winters and warmer summers supported a number of different wild plants including berries and grapes and also extended the growing season. The numerous waterways provided natural resources as well as an efficient mode for travel and communication. Tensions between Nations rose as a result of the fur trade and in the 1640s the Neutrals were dispersed by the Iroquois (Ascenzo 2019).

In an attempt to thwart trade between the British, Dutch and Iroquois the French set out to establish a fort near the mouth of the Niagara River in 1687. Their own efforts were thwarted only two years later when most of the garrison posted there fell ill with scurvy and died. This would later become the location of Fort Niagara, which was built by the French and finished in 1727. The French occupied the Fort until the British captured it in 1759 (Robinson 1933). It was during their efforts to capture Fort Niagara that the British first established their presence on the Niagara River's west bank (Dunnigan 1996). Once captured the British immediately began utilizing the portage supply route previously established by the French. This however caused tensions and hostilities with the Seneca Nation who had been part of the portage network, working with the French. The Seneca Nation attacked the British supply trains on several occasions. One attack in 1763 named "The Massacre at Devils Hole" resulted in the death of over 80 soldiers. Fort Demler was constructed at Lewiston in 1762 followed in 1764 by a series of military outposts along the portage in an effort to reduce the hostilities (Niagara Falls Info 2021).

Following the Seven Years War the British set out to build a series of Forts, one of which was "old" Fort Erie in 1764. This Fort, built at the junction of the Niagara River and Lake Erie, was to serve as a fortified depot at which vessels would be supplied (Niagara Falls Info 2021). One of the first treaties negotiated in the province was the Niagara Purchase for lands 2 miles deep along the Niagara River between the Lakes for the purpose of communication and the supply route. The later construction of the Welland Canal system in the 1820s provided a more direct and secure route between the two Lakes (Exploring Niagara 2014). The Niagara Purchase was signed in 1764 between the British (Sir William Johnson) and the Seneca Nation. Additional lands were surrendered between 1764 and 1783 to gain more protection over the trade route. The treaty was amended in 1781 between the British and the Mississaugas, whose traditional territory was along the west bank, to allow for agricultural settlement within the tract of land to supply the growing military. (Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada 2013). Many merchants were attracted to set up shop at the Fort, as they were able to extend their trading network further throughout the Upper Great Lakes region. The Fort, having been built too close to the water on marshy and unstable land, would not stand the test of time and was severely damaged during winter storms causing irreparable damage by 1803. The following year the second Fort Erie was built close by on higher ground. This second Fort would not be completed due to the onset of the War of 1812 (Niagara Parks 2021).

Prior to the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 the British and Indigenous groups signed treaties for land with the primary focus of defense and military supply not colonization. After the American Revolutionary War the British set out to acquire additional lands, which would be used to settle the thousands of refugee United Empire Loyalists including members of the Six Nations. Negotiations for land resulted in the ceding of land in 1784 between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie by the Mississaugas including the Haldimand Tract, six miles on either side of the Grand River, specifically for the Six Nations (Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada 2013). Chief Joseph Brant played a prominent roll in negotiating the location of the lands to be purchased, particularly the Haldimand Tract.

Many of the Townships in the Niagara Region were first surveyed and laid out shortly after the 1784 treaty in order to provide land grants to Loyalists and as a result 629 people were settled in the area. The first capital of Upper Canada was established by Lieutenant Governor Simcoe at Newark in 1792 but would be moved to York the following year for fear of another attack by the United States (Niagara Falls Info 2021).

In 1793 the Government of Upper Canada passed legislation that would lead to the abolishment of slavery attracting many fugitive slaves, as well as those who were already free. The Niagara Region's location close to the boarder with the United States saw an increase in black settlements. St. Catharines, one of the stops along the Underground Railroad, had a flourishing black community and offered more job opportunities. The region started to attract more tourists and in some cases slaves who were brought on vacation and sent on an errand would not return. Many often found work initially in one of the many hotels that were being built for the expanding tourism industry (Exploring Niagara 2014).

Starting in 1795 the Crown began to give out patents for land to non-Loyalists, which saw an increase in families emigrating from the United States until the War of 1812 (Wilson 1981). The Niagara Region saw many battles and looting during the course of the War of 1812. Emigration from the United States significantly decreased as a result of tensions between the two sides. Attention then shifted to encouraging emigration from England, Scotland and Ireland, which continued well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Turner 1994).

Life was not easy during the early years when markets and goods were not easily accessible. Goods were often hard to get and when they were available their price was inflated. Many families turned to homemade products including linens, which were produced from the flax seed grown on individual farmsteads in the area. Benchmarks would have to be met over the initial years, including clearing land for planting, to obtain a sufficient and profitable farm. Once established and profitable many families built better homes than the initial log cabin or shanty and were able to purchase more luxury items (Exploring Niagara 2014). Supporting industries such as grist and saw mills were also important to the early development and were established along many of the waterways throughout the region. Early villages were often centered around these mills.

The weather of the Niagara Region is well suited for the growing of a variety of vegetables and fruits compared to other Counties. The earliest planting of fruit trees in the area is unknown. It is possible that the French planted some fruit trees along the west bank of the Niagara River, where they farmed crops to supply the garrison stationed at the Fort. Another possibility was that a few Loyalists brought trees from their own gardens when they were resettling in the Niagara Area (Ascenzo 2019). "...in the diary of Elizabeth Simcoe, wife of John Graves Simcoe, Lt. Governor of Upper Canada (1792-96), while they were stationed in Newark (NOTL), was an entry written in 1792: "We have 30 large May Duke cherry trees behind the house and three standard peach trees." These cherry trees were quite large which might suggest that they were possibly the trees that the French had planted many years before" (Ascenzo 2019).

Lieutenant Governor Simcoe knew the importance of the region for farming and established the first Agricultural Society in Upper Canada in 1792. Importation of fruit trees started to take off and the importation of grape vines started as early as 1811. In the early 1800s efforts shifted to concentrate on growing the fruit industry. By the 1880's the Region was growing more fruit than anywhere else in Ontario, and still does today. Canning and manufacturing industries to support the fruit industry began to flourish (Ascenzo 2019).

## **Grimsby Township**

Grimsby Township is located along the southern shore of Lake Ontario and was first inhabited by the Neutrals, who resided in the area until the mid 1600s (Nelles Manor Museum 2016). The location and environment offered the Neutrals many natural resources and modes of communication.

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The Township was first laid out to provide land grants to refugee Loyalists in the late 1700's. Lieutenant Governor Simcoe named the Township after Grimsby England. The Township has a number of primary and secondary watercourses, which support the abundance of plant and animal life and was beneficial to the early settlers, especially those setting up mills. The topography of the Township with the Niagara Escarpment running through can cause different weather conditions between the areas above and those below the escarpment (Exploring Niagara 2014).

The first Township meeting was held in April 1790, during which a number of officials were elected. Later in 1833 the Township was divided up into North and South.

Forty Mile Creek is located in the North and attracted many early settlers including the Nelles, Walker, Hixon, Anderson, Beamer, Smith, Petit, Woolverton, Lewis, Moore and Lawrason families, all of which contributed to the development of what would become the Town of Grimsby (Exploring Niagara 2014). The head of Forty Mile Creek offered a natural and protected harbour for ships and became a busy shipping port attracting many industries and manufacturers to the area.

“Some of the first settlers to South Grimsby Township were the families of Bell, Hill, Griffin, Harris, Lounsbury, North, Meredith, Myers, Nelson, Adam, and Merritt” (Exploring Niagara 2014). Smithville became the head of South Grimsby Township (Exploring Niagara 2014).

Originally know at The Forty, having been founded around the Forty Mile Creek, the Village of Grimsby was incorporated in 1876 and then gained official Town status in 1922. The location and climate of Grimsby was well suited for fruit crops, making them a popular crop. The shoreline of Lake Ontario runs along the northern boundary of Grimsby, this beach area has attracted tourist since the 1850s. Located along the beach was the site of the Ontario Methodist Camp Meeting Ground, which many families attended each year. It was centered around a unique temple where families across the region could come for fellowship opportunities and religious growth. Considered to be the Chautauqua of the North during this period with an emphasis on adult education with sharing of arts, culture, and literature to enhance and educate communities. After the area was transformed into an amusement park in the 1910s visitors were attracted from all over North America, including a gathering in each August to celebrate the abolition of slavery at the Emancipation Day Picnic (Town of Grimsby 2018).

### **Nelles Family**

The project area was once owned by Peter Nelles. The Nelles families were not only prominent and well known in the Grimsby area, owning a number of lots between Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment over the generations, but also in the Grand River area spending many of their early years in Canada there.

*The Nelles family emigrated from France to Germany to England, and then were originally given land in the New Jersey area by the Queen of England at the time, Queen Anne Stuart. After hard times there they were able to purchase land in the Mohawk Valley – upstate New York. Being loyal to the British trouble arose for them at the time of the American Revolutionary War, so they were forced to flee from this land to Upper Canada in 1783. It was at this time that Joseph Brant graciously provided them with land, and they could start settling into their new home in Upper Canada.*

*As with many families at the time of the American Revolutionary War, the Nelles family was split into factions, with some in strong support of the Crown, others in strong support of the new American effort and eventual government. Henry Nelles and most of his immediate family felt strong support and affinity for the Crown (the British Empire). Henry fought with and for the British during the war, along with his son Robert, just a teenager when the American Revolution started. These efforts in the war led to a break with many parts of their family in*

*New York, but also led to some very strong ties to the Crown and to many of the native groups and peoples, including a strong friendship with native leader Joseph Brant.*

*After the war, Henry and son Robert, who had fought directly for the British during the American Revolution, were not allowed to return to New York State. Due to their wartime activities, their property and holdings in New York State were confiscated. With the rest of the Nelles family staying in the Mohawk Valley, Henry decided to move his family to the British territory of Upper Canada. Henry and Robert had received land grants from the Crown as compensation and reward for their efforts in the war. The Nelles family became what are now known as United Empire Loyalists (UEL). This led directly to the settlement and building of the Nelles House at The Forty – later changed to Grimsby. Even though the 1700s seems like ancient history to some, the Nelles family was considered to be immigrants when they first came to the area. They were fortunate to be connected to and respected by the Mohawk tribe, so were also given land on the Grand River by Joseph Brant, Chief of the Mohawk.*

*After crossing the Niagara River at modern day Queenston, Ontario, Robert and his brothers boated along the edge of Lake Ontario from the mouth of the Niagara River to find a place to settle. They explored until they came to Forty Mile Creek. The name derived from the thought it was forty miles from the mouth of the Niagara River. Here they built a small cabin for shelter. From here they were able to make a trail to the land given to them on the Grand River near present day York, Haldimand Region. The whole family moved to York but the lands of The Forty called to Robert and his brothers.*

*The Nelles Manor was built from 1788 until 1798 by the Nelles family and ship builders, who would've been contracted by Robert Nelles himself. He and his brothers also built mills and other family homes. Their land holdings were quite extensive from the escarpment to the lake. Overtime they were divided among family members or sold to new settlers.*

*The Nelles Manor was built after the Nelles' settled at The Forty, but well before the American invasions in the War of 1812. The house was fully built and lived in by the Nelles family by the time the Americans declared war on the British. The Niagara Peninsula became a gateway for American fighting forces to work their way from the American frontier on the East side of the Niagara River as they reached for Burlington, York, and eventually Kingston. Thus, Nelles Manor actually was occupied by British and local militia during the War of 1812, but on at least two occasions were also occupied by American forces that had moved up from Niagara. Robert was away fighting and the Elizabeth and family were left in at the Manor.*

(Nelles Manor Museum 2016)

## **1.2.2 Historical Mapping**

Tremaine's map (Map 2) of the Township of Grimsby illustrates the location of the project area and environs as of 1862 (Tremaine 1862). The project area is illustrated on the southern shore of Lake Ontario outside of the early settlement of Grimsby. The project area is located within the Lot owned by P.B. (Peter Ball) Nelles J.P.. No structures are illustrated within the lot, however, the Great Western Railway runs through the center of the Lot to the Grimsby Station. Chestnut Park is also illustrated within the Lot and an unopened roadway is illustrated along the eastern and southern boundaries of the Lot. This map not only illustrates that the surrounding Lots were owned but that a number of them had been subdivided up by the time this map was compiled, suggesting the popularity of this area. This map also illustrates the extensive land ownership by the Nelles family. Only a few scattered structures are illustrated in the surrounding area. As inclusion of such information often required a subscription payment the lack of illustrated structures is not necessarily an accurate representation of the structures existing at this time.

The *Illustrated Historic Atlas of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland* (Map 3) illustrates the location of the project area and environs as of 1876 (H.R. Page & Co., 1876). The project area is shown to still be owned by Peter Nelles. A second owner, William Book, is noted along the eastern boundary where the unopened road

allowance is no longer illustrated. Two structures and two orchard/vineyards are illustrated within the Lot to the south of the project area in addition to the railway. In contrast to the 1862 map this map illustrates a number of historic structures and associated orchard/vineyards as well as the Niagara Escarpment. The settlement of Grimsby has grown expanding outward from Forty Mile Creek.

National Topographic Survey maps from 1907 (Map 4), 1929 (Map 5), 1934 (Map 6), 1938 (Map 7), 1964 (Map 8) and 1973 (Map 9) illustrate the topographic environment surrounding the project area and provide more details including built structures and infrastructure. The nature of the area between 1907 and 1929 remains relatively static. Settlement in Grimsby, on the north side of the Niagara Escarpment, is concentrated around Forty Mile Creek and Main St. An unfenced/minimally used road is illustrated between the project area and Main St., crossing the Grand Trunk Railway line. Between 1929 and 1934 there were a number of significant changes to the landscape including the installment of an electrical power line on steel towers along the railway corridor running through Grimsby. Additional structures and roads were also established between Main St. and Lake Ontario. The road leading to the project area is no longer illustrated, possible as it was more of a lane established by the property owner than a road. Settlement along these newly established roads as well as the original road system significantly increases by 1938. Settlers were attracted to this area for its prosperous vineyards, as evident on the 1938 map, which illustrates much of the Grimsby area covered by vineyards including the project area. Many of these vineyards were well established before 1938 as Map 10, an areal from 1934, clearly shows the vineyards. The 1938 map also illustrates that the QEW was under construction at this time just south of the project area on the north side of the railway line. An unnamed watercourse is also illustrated on this map just west of the project area flowing into Lake Ontario. A structure along with the vineyard appears on the 1964 map along with additional structures in the immediate vicinity of the project area. The structure and vineyard within the project area can also be seen on an areal image from 1954/55 and 1965 (Maps 11 and 12). The vineyard within the project area is no longer illustrated on the 1973 NTS map, however, the structure remains and an unnamed road branches off Baker Rd and proceeds west and north to the corner of the project area.

The project area's proximity to historic structures suggest potential for Euro-Canadian occupations within the project area.

### **1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

#### **1.3.1 Previously Registered Sites**

According to the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' Archaeological Site Database (ASD) there are thirteen sites located within 1km of the project area including. Table 2 below provides a summary of each site. There are no previous report documenting archaeological fieldwork conducted within or adjacent to the project area.

**Table 2: Registered Archaeological Sites within 1km of the Project Area**

Site Name	Borden Number	Time Period	Site Type
Lakeview Terrace II	AhGv-10	Archaic, Middle	Other camp/campsite
Lakeview Terrace III	AhGv-11	Archaic, Late	Unknown
-	AhGv-24	Woodland	Other camp/campsite
P1	AhGv-27	Pre-Contact	scatter
P2 & P3	AhGv-28	Pre-Contact	scatter
	AhGv-29	Other	
Nelles Beach 2	AhGv-30	Other	Other camp/campsite
	AhGv-35	Archaic, Late	
AhGv-41	AhGv-41	Pre-Contact	findspot, scatter
AhGv-42	AhGv-42	Pre-Contact	findspot, scatter
	AhGv-5		
Nelles	AhGv-53	Post-Contact	homestead
Lakeview Terrace I	AhGv-9	Archaic, Late	Other camp/campsite

Map 13 is a segment of the draft Niagara Region Archaeological Management Plan (pending council endorsement) illustrating areas of archaeological potential. No portions of the project area are shown to have archaeological potential (ASI 2021).

### 1.3.3 Current Land Use and Field Conditions

The project area is approximately 1.29 hectares in size and consists of two properties, 165 Lake St. and abutting vacant land. A shed and gravel storage area are located on the vacant property along with a landscaped drainage channel. A house, garage, pool and gravel laneway with asphalt parking area are located on the residential property. The shoreline of Lake Ontario runs along the northern boundary of the project area. The project area has been subject to previous disturbances, not including the construction of structures, in-ground pool and associated features, including the removal of the vineyard, large tree removal, drainage installation and shore erosion maintenance.

The project area is bounded on the north by Lake Ontario, on the east by residential, on the south by Lake Street and on the west by residential. Maps 14, 15 and 16 illustrated the current and past land use.

### 1.3.4 Physiographic Region

The project area is located within the Iroquois Plain physiographic region. The lowland area bordering Lake Ontario was inundated by water when the last glacier was receding, though still within the St. Lawrence Valley, and was called Lake Iroquois. This glacial lake emptied eastward at Rome, New York State. The old shorelines with its cliffs, bars, beaches, and boulder pavements are still identifiable features with the undulating till plains above are contrasted by the wave smoothed lake bottom. The area of the Iroquois plain extends some 190 miles around the western part of Lake Ontario, from the Niagara River to the Trent River, with varying width from about eight miles to only a few hundred yards. A large area is located in the Trent River valley. Due to the varying conditions within the old lake plain the region has been divided into a number of sub-sections including Niagara Fruit Belt, Ontario Lakehead, Hamilton to Toronto, Toronto, Scarborough, Scarborough to Newcastle, Newcastle to Trenton, and Trent Embayment (Chapman and Putnam 1984).

## **Niagara Fruit Belt**

This area lies between Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment and extends eastward from Hamilton to the Niagara Rivers. Although most of this lowland lies within the Iroquois Plain it also includes higher terraces adjacent to the escarpment. A number of small streams cross the plain towards Lake Ontario including Twelve Mile, Sixteen Mile, Twenty Mile, Stoney, and Redhill Creeks. The lower courses are drowned in areas producing lagoons and marshes that are cut off from Lake Ontario by a barrier beach.

Areas of sandy soil are found from Grimsby eastward, which has allowed the area to become an outstanding fruit-growing region with farms specializing in grapes, peaches, cherries, pears, and other small fruits. The shallow sand beds often overlie clay at a depth of two to three feet, with wet subsoils that are usually tile-drained (Chapman and Putnam 1984).

To the west of Grimsby, the underlying Queenston Formation influences the red clay that is found beneath the soil. The soil in this area is heavy in texture with low permeability, which allows it to shed water easily, and dries out rapidly. The resulting acidic soil has retained very little organic matter, with a lack of grass in the clean cultivated orchards and vineyards, which has created a difficult soil to work. Broad gravel ridges are found from Stoney Creek to Hamilton that are well-drained loams.

While at one time there were about 35,000 acres of soil in the Niagara Peninsula suitable for growing peaches, it has been noted that perhaps the climate of the area is of the most benefit for growing. Not only is the Niagara Peninsula in demand for agriculture, its location is strategic for industry and the accompanying housing, as well as transportation and related facilities. While fruit acreage surpassed other crops during the early years in the area, by 1956 non-agricultural land uses has been overtaking the fruit growing ground. As such the City of Hamilton has spread toward the east engulfing former fruit land while the expansion of St. Catharines has caused the annexation of part of Grantham Township resulting in cutting the fruit belt in two (Chapman and Putnam 1984).

### **1.3.5 Water Resources**

The project area is located on the shore of Lake Ontario. This area would have once been under the Glacial Lake Iroquois and within close proximity to its shoreline during the receding period. Two watercourses and Forty Mile Creek are located within close proximity to the western boundary of the project area. The proximity of water to the project area suggest potential for First Nations occupation and land use in the area in the past.



## **2.0 FIELD METHODS**

### **2.1 TEST PIT SURVEY**

No portion of the project area was viable to be ploughed. Consequently, test pit survey was conducted throughout the entire project area on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at an interval of five meters between individual test pits and within one meter of the all structures where possible. The shoreline was subject to visual pedestrian survey inspection at 5 meters as test pits filled with water due to proximity to the water. Due to the time of the year the weather was closely monitored to ensure the proper conditions for the fieldwork. The ground was free of snow and frost and the soil was not too wet and was easily screened. All test pits measured 30 cm in diameter and were excavated by hand into the first 5cm of subsoil and their profiles examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or fill before being filled back in to grade. All excavated soil was screened through mesh with an aperture no larger than six millimeters and examined for any artifacts. The project area included intermittent and varying depth of disturbance mainly in the vacant lot but also around the built features in the residential lot. Given the intermittent nature of the disturbance the test pitting interval remained at 5 meters. The soil throughout the project area was a medium brown sandy clay, with higher amounts of clay towards the southern portion of the project area. Maps 16 and 17 illustrated the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment.

Approximately 75% of the project area was subject to test pit survey at a five meter interval and approximately 5% of the project area was visually inspected at a 5 meter interval and approximately 20% of the project area was not viable to assess.

### **2.2 INTENSIFIED SURVEY**

The distance between test pits was reduced to 2.5 meters around the positive test pit to determine if it was an isolated find or if additional artifacts were present in order to determine if the requirements for Stage 3 would be met. A total of eight test pits were excavated around the positive test pit at an interval of 2.5 meters. The eight excavated intensified test pits measured 30 cm in diameter and were excavated by hand into the first 5cm of subsoil and their profiles examined. No artifacts were recovered from the intensified test pits. Upon completion of the intensified test pits a 1x1 meter square unit was excavated over the positive test pit. The test unit was excavated by hand into the first 5cm of subsoil, the bottom cleaned and examined for the presence of any subsurface cultural features and all excavated soil was screen and examined for artifacts. The depth of the test unit was 31cm. No additional artifacts were recovered from the test unit and no cultural features were identified.

## **3.0 RECORDS OF FINDS**

### **3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

As a result of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment one archaeological resource was recovered from one positive test pit. The artifact recovered is a primary flake of onondaga chert with no evidence of heat alteration. The primary flake is non-diagnostic, therefore the cultural affiliation is indeterminate.

### **3.3 DOCUMENTARY RECORD INVENTORY**

**Table 2: Documentary Record Inventory**

<b>Type of Documentation</b>	<b>Description</b>
Field Notes	1 digital file field notes describing the daily site activities, weather, personal
Maps	1 digital map showing the project activities
Photographs	45 digital photographs showing the current conditions encountered during the field work, crew and work, all types of activities undertaken as part of the field work, and all notable features
Weather	Ideal for archaeological assessment

## **4.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **4.1 STAGE 1 BACKGROUND RESULTS**

As a result of the background study it was determined that the project area has potential for Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources based on its historical environment, proximity to previously identified archaeological sites and its close proximity to water. As a result Stage 2 test pit survey at an interval of 5 meters between individual test pits is recommended for the entire project area.

### **4.2 STAGE 2 SURVEY RESULTS**

As a result of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment one archaeological resource was recovered from one positive test pit representing an isolated find spot, not constituting an archaeological site. Due to the non-diagnostic nature of the artifact a cultural affiliation could not be determined.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

As a result of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment one isolated artifact was recovered during the test pit survey; consequently the following recommendation is made:

1. The Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI) of the isolated artifact has been completely documented.
2. No further archaeological assessment of the project area is recommended.

## **6.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION**

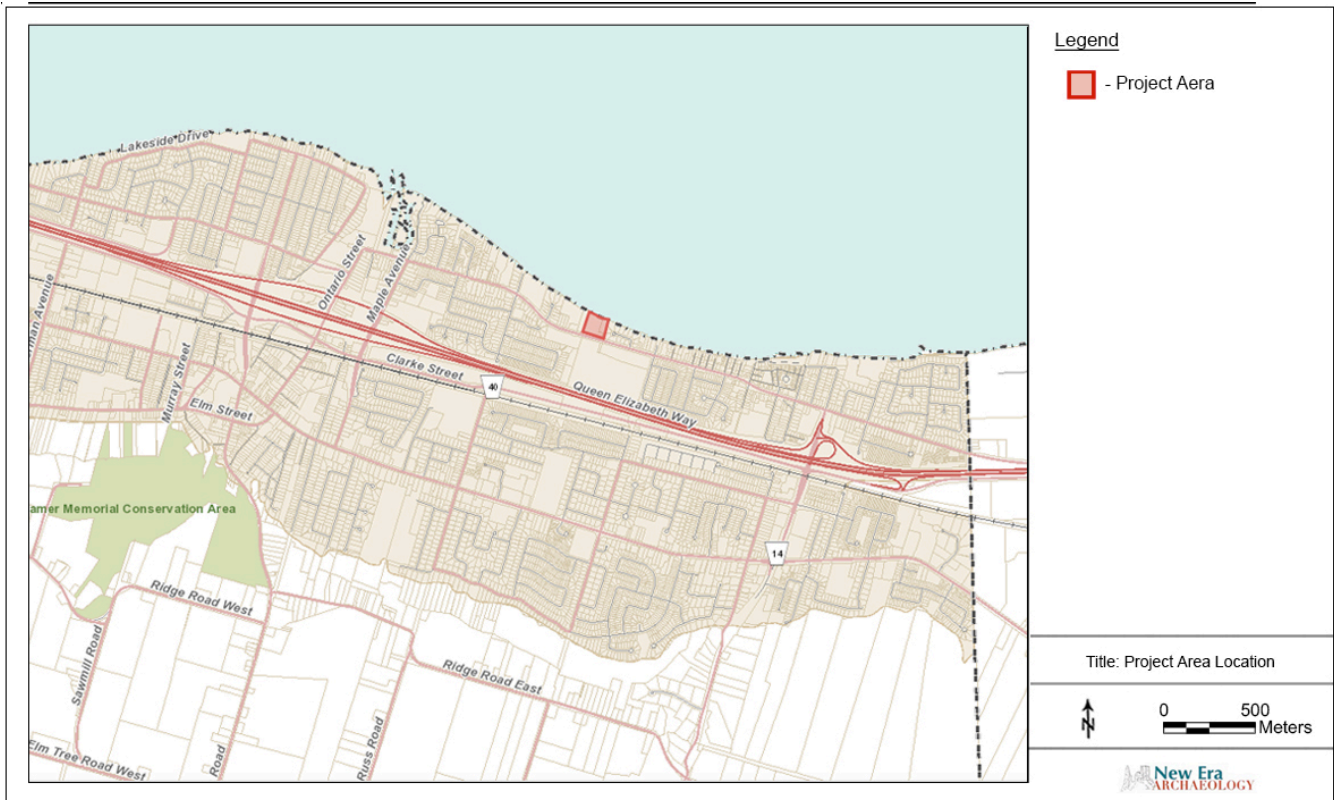
- a. This report is submitted to the Minister of Tourism and Culture as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that 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 Minister 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.
- 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 Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.
- 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.

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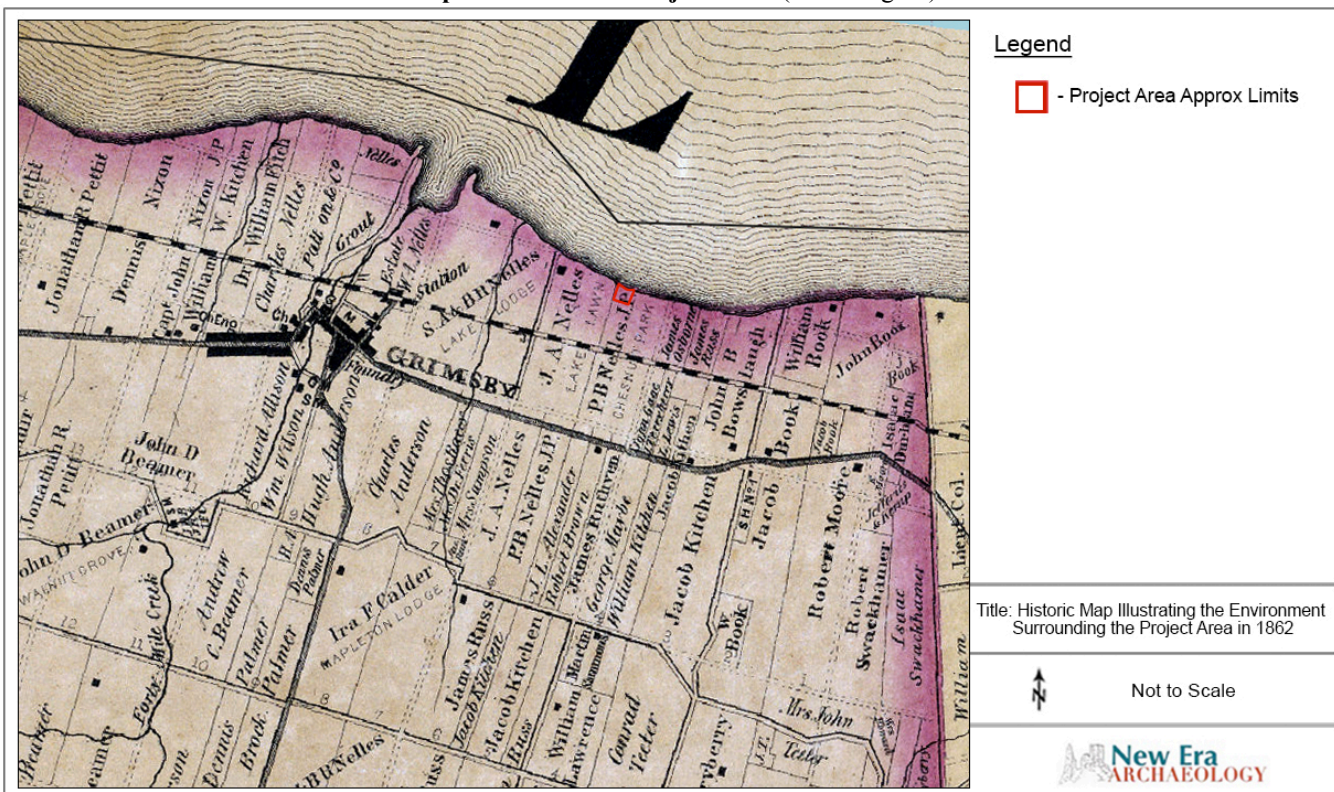
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## 8.0 MAPS



**Map 1: Location of Project Area (York Region)**



**Map 2: Historic Map Illustrating the Environment Surrounding the Project Area in 1862 (Tremaine 1862)**



**Map 3: Historic Map Illustrating the Environment Surrounding the Project Area in 1876 (H.C. Miles & Co. 1881)**



**Map 4: 1907 National Topographic Series Map (National Resources Canada 1907)**



Map 5: 1929 National Topographic Series Map (National Resources Canada 1923)

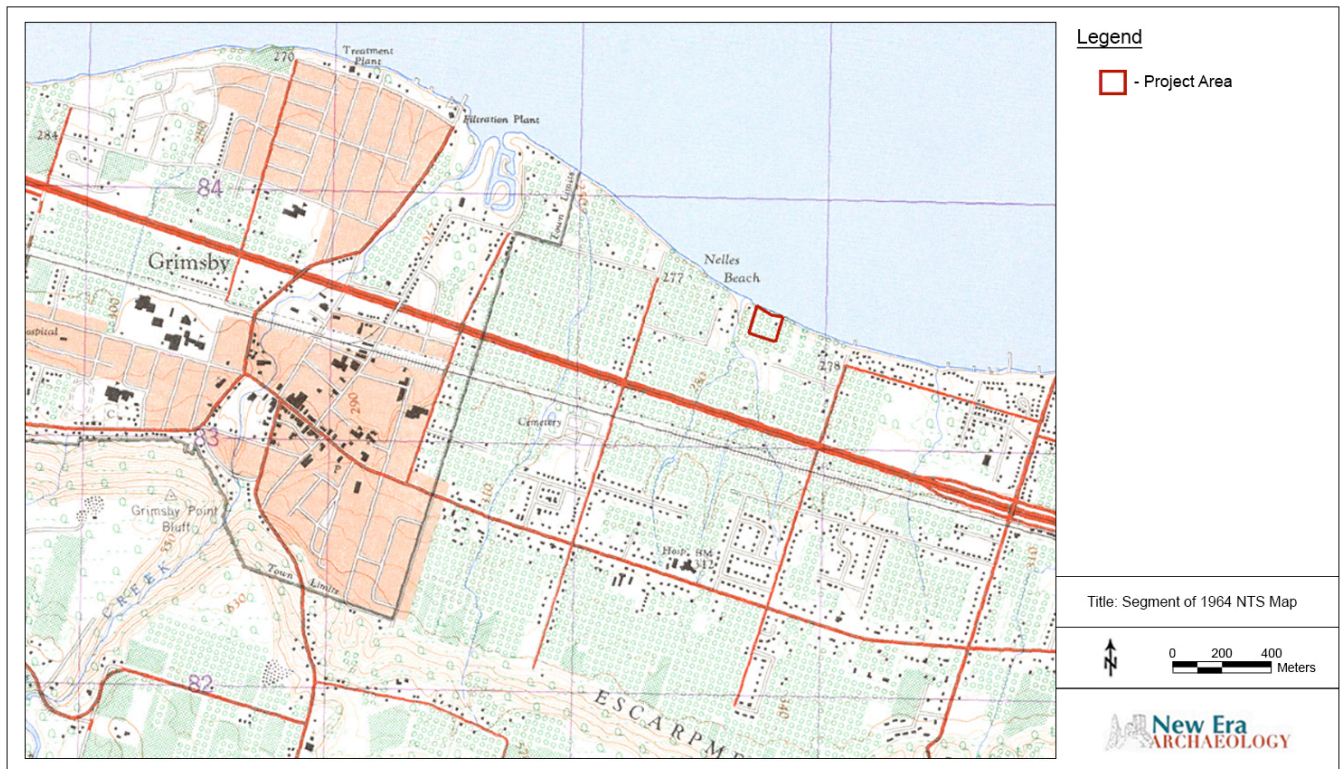


Map 6: 1934 National Topographic Series Map (National Resources Canada 1934)

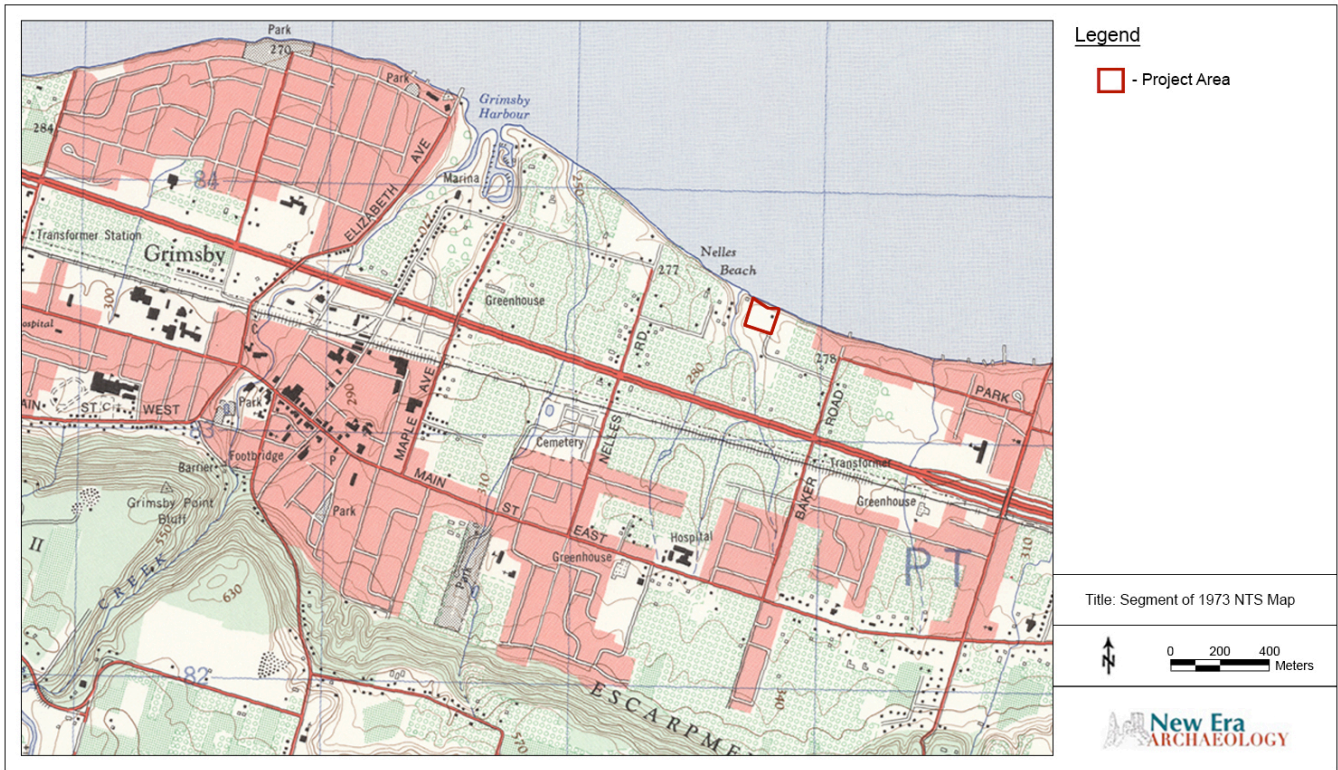




**Map 7: 1938 National Topographic Series Map (National Resources Canada 1938)**



**Map 8: 1964 National Topographic Series Map (National Resources Canada 1964)**



**Map 9: 1973 National Topographic Series Map (National Resources Canada 1973)**



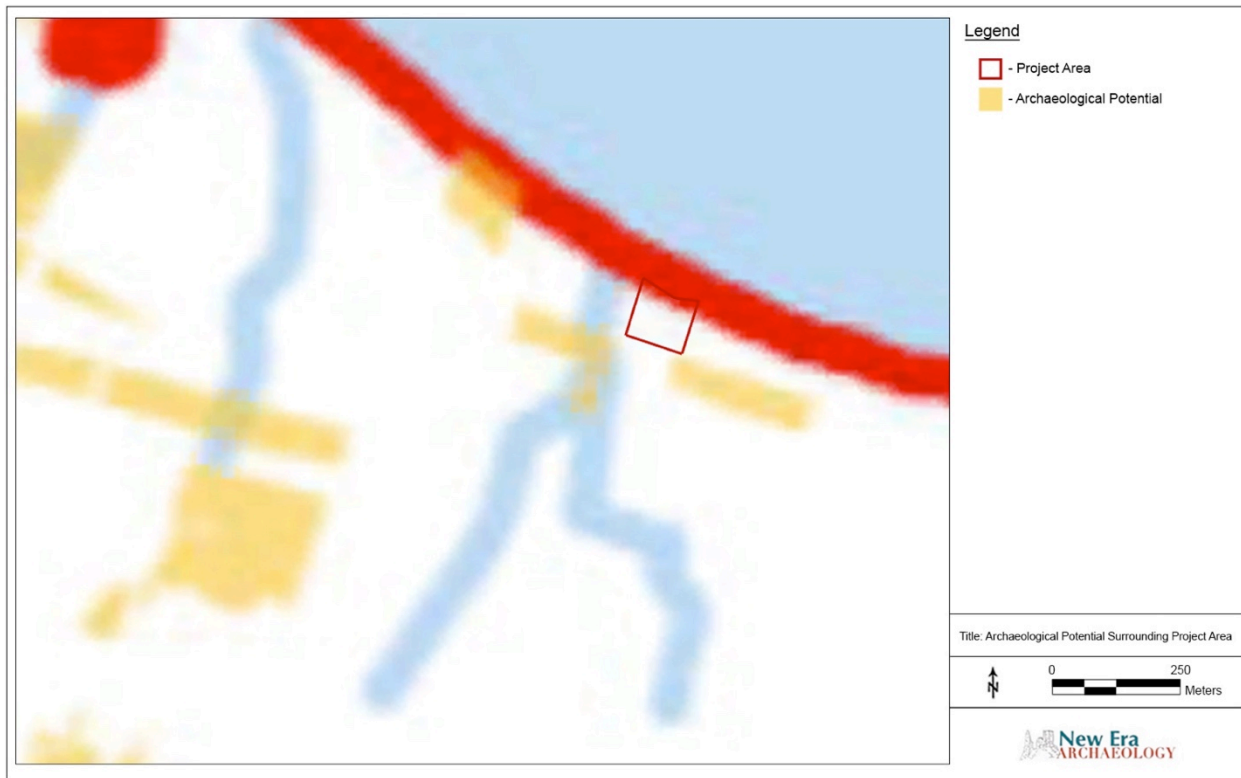
**Map 10: Historic Aerial of the Project Area in 1934 (Niagara Region 2021)**



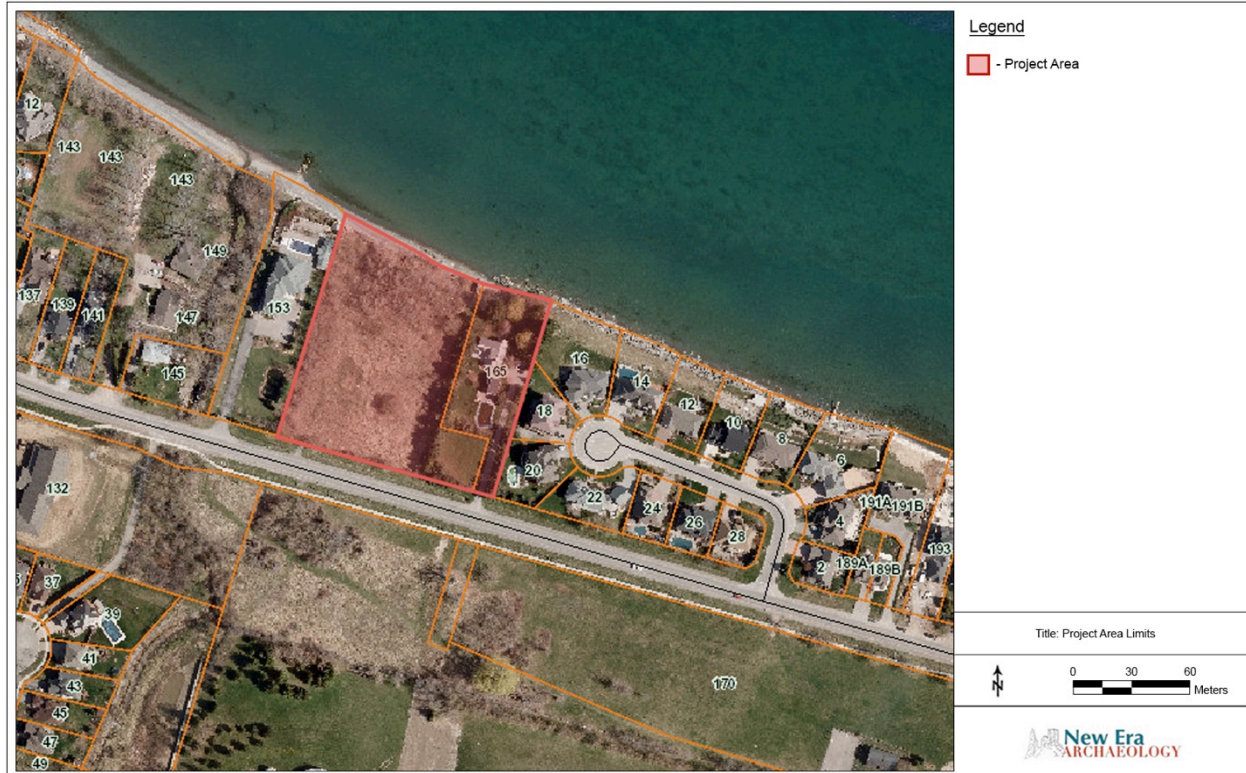
**Map 11: Historic Aerial of the Project Area in 1954/55 (Niagara Region 2021)**



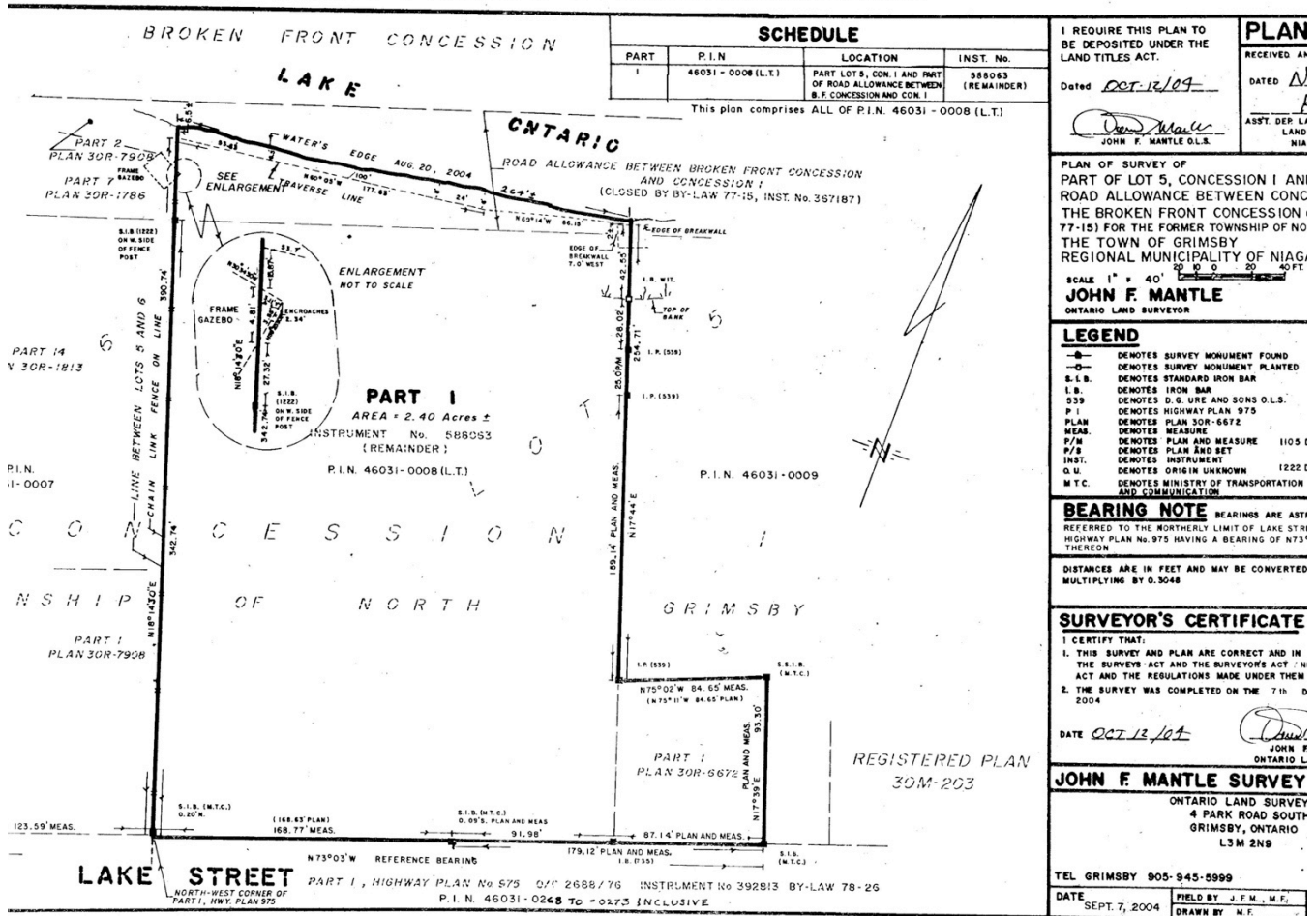
**Map 12: Historic Aerial of the Project Area in 1965 (Niagara Region 2021)**



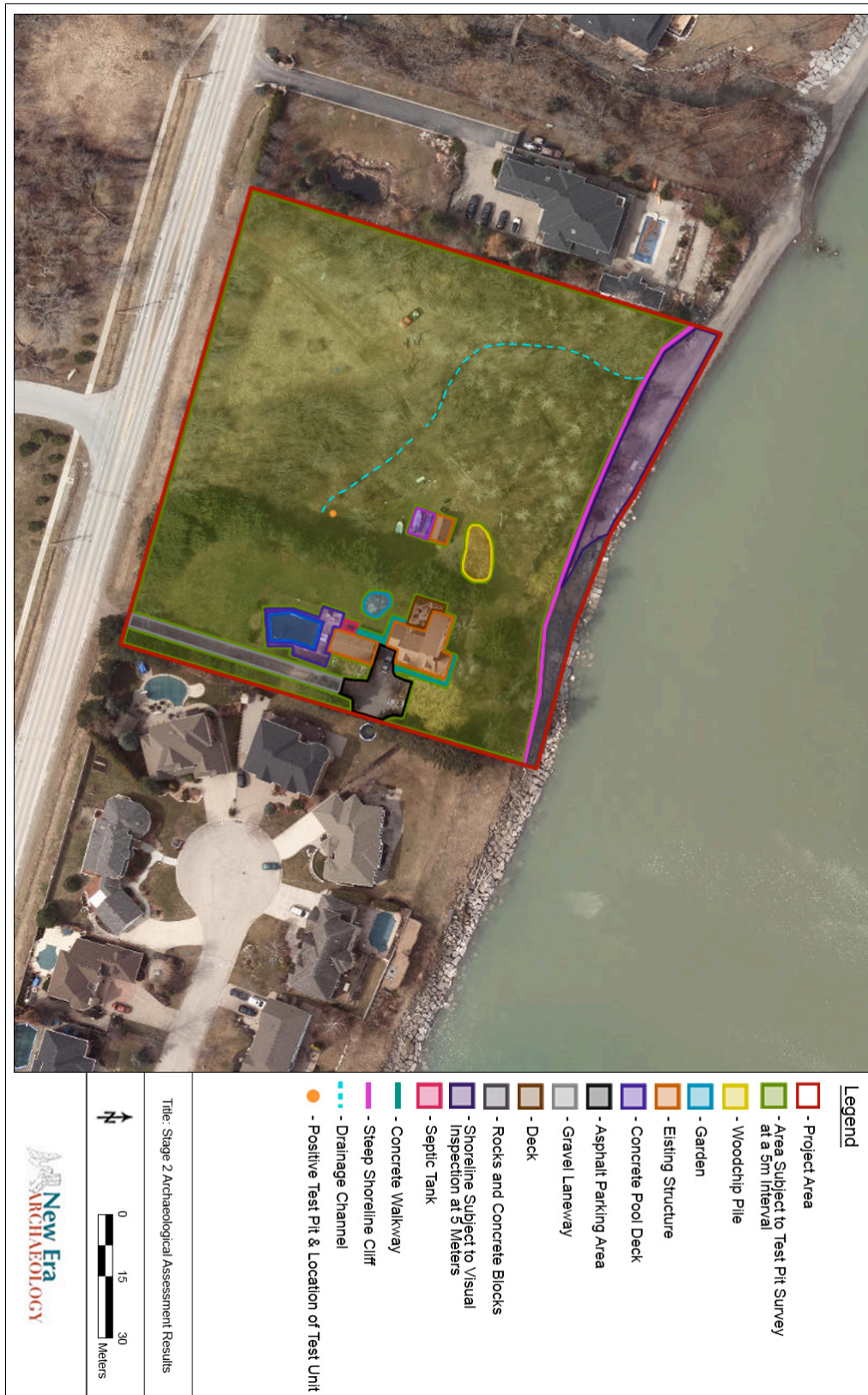
**Map 13: Area of Archaeological Potential** (Archaeological Services Inc. 2021)



**Map 14: Project Area Limits** (Niagara Region 2021)



Map 15: Plan of Survey (John F. Mantle Surveying Ltd 2004)



**Map 16: Results of Stage 2 Assessment (Niagara Region 2021)**



**Map 17: Results of Stage 2 Assessment with Plate Locations (Niagara Region 2021)**

## 9.0 PLATES



**Plate 1:** Test Pit Survey Conditions



**Plate 2:** Shoreline below Steep Slope



**Plate 3:** Rocks and Concrete Blocks for Shoreline Erosion Prevention



**Plate 4:** Landscaped Drainage



**Plate 5:** Landscaped Drainage Channel



**Plate 6:** Test Pit Survey Conditions





**Plate 7:** Test Pit Survey Conditions



**Plate 8:** Test Pit Survey Conditions



**Plate 9:** Gravel Storage Area



**Plate 10:** House



**Plate 11:** Test Pit Survey Conditions



**Plate 12:** Woodchip Pile



**Plate 13:** Gravel Laneway



**Plate 14:** Test Pit Survey Conditions



**Plate 15:** Pool House and Garden



**Plate 16:** Deck



**Plate 17:** Shed



**Plate 18:** Concrete Walkway



**Plate 19: Septic Tank**



**Plate 20: In-Ground Pool with Concrete Pool Deck**



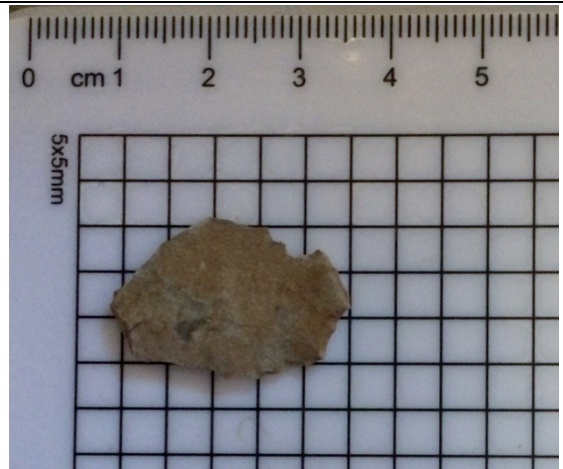
**Plate 21: Asphalt Parking Area**



**Plate 22: Concrete Walkway**



**Plate 23: 1x1 Meter Square Excavation in Progress**



**Plate 24: Recovered Artifact (Primary Flake)**