



Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment – Meritor – 150 Steeles Ave East, Part Lot 15, Concession 2, Town of Milton, Township of Trafalgar, Regional Municipality of Halton

Project number: PHC-2021-014

Report Type: Original

Report Date: 14 June 2021

Licensee: Dr. Carla Parslow P243

Parslow Heritage Consultancy Ltd. (PHC Inc.)

PIF Numbers: P243-0439-2021 and P243-0441-2021

Proponent: NEATT Communities

Address: 530 Kipling Ave Toronto, ON M8Z 5E3

Content

1. Executive Summary	1
P 1	
2. Project Personnel	2
3. Project Context.....	3
3.1 Development Context	3
3.2 Historical Context	3
3.2.1 Indigenous History	3
3.2.2 Euro-Canadian Settler History	5
3.3 Archaeological Context.....	7
3.3.1 Archaeological Sites and Assessments.....	7
3.3.2 The Natural and Physical Environment	8
4. Field Methods	9
4.1.1 Field Methods: Stage 1 – Property Inspection	9
4.1.2 Field Methods – Stage 2 Property Survey.....	9
5. Record of Documentation	12
6. Analysis and Conclusion.....	13
6.1 Archaeological Potential.....	13
6.1.1 Archaeological Potential for the Study Area.....	14
6.2 Results and Conclusion of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment	15
7. Recommendations.....	16
8. Advice on Compliance with Legislation	18
9. References	19
10. Stage 1 Images.....	21
11. Stage 2 Images.....	28
12. Mapping.....	38

List of Tables and Images

Table 1: Overview of the cultural chronology for southern Ontario.....	3
Table 2: Archaeological Sites Within 300 metres of the study area.	7
Table 3: Field Directors and Site Conditions During Assessment	10
Table 4: Record of Documentation.	12
Image 1: Entrance of 150 Steeles Ave East, Meritor Suspension systems building.	21
(View facing South-east).....	21
Image 2: Back of the building at 150 Steeles Ave East (View facing North-east).	21
Image 3: South end of the property. Low and wet area (View facing South).....	22
Image 4: Woodlot near the south boundary. Low and wet (View facing South-east).	22

Image 5: Gravel pathway in the woodlot (View facing North).	23
Image 6: Soil disturbance. Mound of fill (View facing South-east).	23
Image 7: Soil disturbance. Mound of fill, close up (View facing East).	24
Image 8: Heavily sloped area at the east of the building (View facing North).	24
Image 9: Small mounds of fill at the southern half of the property (View facing South-east).	25
Image 10: Cliff at the south-western edge of the property (View facing South-west).	25
Image 11: South-west woodlot, directly behind the back driveway (View facing South-west).	26
Image 12: Front lawn to the east of the parking lot and fence (View facing West).	26
Image 13: Open field in the south-east side of the property (view facing North-east).	27
Image 14: Disturbance at rear parking lot (View facing South-east).	27
Image 15: Test pitting disturbed area in northwest of study area (view facing southwest).	28
Image 16: Disturbed soils from test pit above (North is to the left).	28
Image 17: Test pit survey at 5m intervals along Steeles Ave. Note berm to the right (view facing North-east).	29
Image 18: Test pit profile showing removed topsoil layer and clear subsoil profile (Trowel is pointing north).	29
Image 19: View across manicured lawn running adjacent to Steeles Ave. Note berm to the left (view facing Southwest).	30
Image 20: Ditch in front portion of study area – disturbed. (View facing Southwest).	30
Image 21: Typical intact test pit profile in manicured lawn (Trowel is pointing North).	31
Image 22: Crew test pitting manicured lawn at 5 metre intervals (View facing North-east).	31
Image 23: Test pitting edge of manicured lawn. Note slope down to below grade gravel driveway in front of building (view facing Southeast).	32
Image 24: Crew test pitting manicured lawn at 5 m intervals (View facing Southwest).	32
Image 25: Test pitting disturbed area behind building at 10 metre intervals (view facing North).	33
Image 26: View across meadow in eastern portion of study area (View facing Northwest).	33
Image 27: Typical intact test pit profile in meadow (Trowel is pointing north).	34
Image 28: Crew test pitting meadow at 5 metre intervals (View facing East).	34
Image 29: Test pit showing low and wet conditions (Trowel pointing North).	35
Image 30: Crew test pitting meadow at 5 metre intervals (View facing Northeast).	35
Image 31: Disturbed test pit showing asphalt (Trowel is pointing North).	36
Image 32: Test pit survey of woodlot at eastern edge of meadow (View facing East).	36
Image 33: View across woodlot with manicured garden to the Southwest of warehouses (view facing North-east).	37
Image 34: Crew test pitting at 5 metre intervals in woodlot garden area (view facing North-east).	37

1. Executive Summary

Parslow Heritage Consultancy Inc. (PHC) completed a Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment of the Meritor lands, located at 150 Steeles Ave. East, Milton, Ontario (the study area) on behalf of NEATT Communities. The study area is located in Part Lot 15, Concession 2, Town of Milton, Township of Trafalgar, Regional Municipality of Halton. Map 1 illustrates the location of the subject area on a topographical map.

The objectives of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment are to gather information about the project location's geography, history, current land conditions as well as any previous archaeological research and listed archaeological sites on or within the vicinity. Methods to achieve these objectives include:

- ▶ Review of relevant historic and environmental literature pertaining to the study area;
- ▶ Review of an updated listing of archaeological sites within 1 km from the MHSTCI Archaeological Sites Database;
- ▶ Review of all archaeological assessments within 50 m of the study area;
- ▶ Consultation with individuals knowledgeable about the study area; and
- ▶ Review of historic maps of the study area.

Based on the features or characteristics of archaeological potential listed in Section 6.1, the following statements can be made for the study area:

Part Lot 15, Concession 2, Town of Milton, Township of Trafalgar, Regional Municipality of Halton:

1. There is a known water source within 300 metres of study area.
2. The property containing an elevated topography.
3. There are early transportation routes within 100 metres of the study area.

It was determined that there was both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological potential for the study area and a Stage 1 property visit was conducted in order to more closely determine areas of remaining archaeological potential prior to Stage 2 property survey. The Stage 1 assessment determined that several significant portions of the property had undergone extensive disturbance and no longer held archaeological potential, as well as several areas that were significantly sloped or low and wet. The remaining intact portions of the study area identified during the Stage 1 visit underwent Stage 2 test pit survey at five metre intervals per Section 2.1.2, Standards 1 through 9 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MHSTCI 2011). The objectives of the Stage 2 assessment are to determine if there are archaeological resources present on the property and to assess whether the identified resources have cultural heritage value or interest.

No cultural materials were recovered in any of the test pits, therefore the study area does not hold any further Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, and further work (Stage 3 or 4) is not recommended.

2. Project Personnel

Project Manager	Carla Parslow, Ph.D. (P243)
Field Directors:	Tina Kagi, H.B.A (R1173) Stg 1
	Adam Long, MSc (P1153) Stg 2
	Alexandra Mullan, MA (P1006) Stg 2
Field Technicians:	Alicia Yuan, BA
	Chiara Williamson, MA (R1298)
	Nicholas Berry, BA
	James Wright, BA
	Michael Grajner, BA
	Goncalo Bispo, MA
	Cristina McCoy, BA (R1255)
	L. Renee Hendricks, MA (R1229)
Report Writer	Tina Kagi
	Adam Long, MSc (P1153)
Graphics Preparation	James Wright, Carla Parslow

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Colin Rauscher, NEATT Communities.

3. Project Context

This section of the report provides the context for the archaeological assessment and covers three areas: development context, historical context and archaeological context.

3.1 Development Context

Parslow Heritage Consultancy Inc. (PHC) completed a Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment of the Meritor lands, located at 150 Steeles Ave. East, Milton, Ontario (the study area) on behalf of NEATT Communities. The study area is located in Part Lot 15, Concession 2, Town of Milton, Township of Trafalgar, Regional Municipality of Halton. Map 1 illustrates the location of the subject area on a topographical map.

The objectives of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment are to gather information about the project location's geography, history, current land conditions as well as any previous archaeological research and listed archaeological sites on or within the vicinity. Methods to achieve these objectives include:

- ▶ Review of relevant historic and environmental literature pertaining to the study area;
- ▶ Review of an updated listing of archaeological sites within 1 km from the MHSTCI Archaeological Sites Database;
- ▶ Review of all archaeological assessments within 50 m of the study area;
- ▶ Consultation with individuals knowledgeable about the study area; and
- ▶ Review of historic maps of the study area.

All archaeological work documented in this report was completed under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's (MHSTCI) *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.

3.2 Historical Context

This section describes the past and present land use and the settlement history, and any other relevant historical information gathered through the background research (MHSTCI Section 7.5.7 Standard 1).

3.2.1 Indigenous History

Indigenous peoples of southern Ontario have left behind archaeologically significant resources throughout the province which show continuity with past peoples, even if they were not recorded in historic Euro-Canadian documents. Table 1 illustrates this continuity demonstrating over 11,000 years of Indigenous occupation of southern Ontario (Ellis and Ferris 1990).

Table 1: Overview of the cultural chronology for southern Ontario.

Period	Characteristics	Time	Comments
Early Paleo	Fluted Points	9,000 – 8,400 BC	Caribou hunters
Late Paleo	Hi-Lo Points	8,400 – 8,000	Smaller but more

		BC	numerous sites
Early Archaic	Kirk, Nettling and Bifurcate Base Points	8,000-6,000 BC	Slow population growth
Middle Archaic I	Stanley/Neville, Stemmed Points	6,000-4,000 BC	Environment similar to present
Middle Archaic II	Thebes, Otter Creek Points	4,000- 3,000 BC	
Middle Archaic III	Brewerton Side and Corner Notched Points	3,000 – 2,000 BC	
Late Archaic I	Narrow Point (Lamoka, Normanskill)	2,000-1,800 BC	Increasing site size
	Broad Point (Genesee, Adder Orchard)	1,800-1,500 BC	Large chipped lithic tools
	Small Point (Crawford Knoll, Innes, Ace-of-Spades)	1,500-1,100 BC	Introduction of bow hunting
Terminal Archaic	Hind Points	1,100-950 BC	Emergence of true cemeteries
Early Woodland	Meadowood Points	950-400 BC	introduction of pottery
Middle Woodland	Dentate/Pseudo-Scallop Pottery	400 BC-AD 500	increased sedentism
	Princess Point	AD 550-900	Introduction of Corn
Late Woodland	Early Ontario	AD 900-1,300	Emergence of agricultural villages
	Middle Ontario	AD 1,300-1,400	Large longhouses (100m +)
	Late Ontario	AD 1,400-1,650	Tribal warfare and displacement
Contact Period	Various Algonkian & Iroquoian Groups	AD 1,700-1,875	early written records and treaties

The post-contact Indigenous occupation of Southern Ontario was heavily influenced by the dispersal of various Iroquoian-speaking peoples, such as the Huron, and the subsequent arrival of Algonkian-speaking groups from northern Ontario at the end of the 17th century and beginning of the 18th century (Schmalz 1991).

According to Euro-Canadian documentation, the study area first enters the historic record as part of Treaty Number 13A, 1805 also known as the Head of the Lake Purchase. The treaty was made between the Mississaugas and William Claus, Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs on August

2nd, 1805 for 1,000 pounds on behalf of His Majesty King George III. Treaty Number 13A is described as follows:

Commencing at the eastern bank of the mouth of the River Etobicoke, being in the limit of the western boundary line of the Toronto Purchase, in the year 1787; then north twenty-two degrees west, six miles; thence south 38 degrees west, twenty-six miles more or less, until it intersects a line on the course north 45 degrees west, produced from the outlet of Burlington Bay; then along the said produced line, one mile more or less to the lands granted to Captain Brant; then north 45 degrees east, one mile and a half; then south 45 degrees east, three miles and a half more or less to Lake Ontario; then north easterly along the waters edge of Lake Ontario to the eastern bank of the River Etobicoke being the place of the beginning.” Reserving to Ourselves and Mississague Nation the sole right of the Fisheries in the Twelve Mile Creek, the Sixteen Mile Creek, the Etobicoke River, together with the flats or low grounds on said creeks and rivere which we have heretofore, cultivated and where have our camps and also the sole right of the Fishery in the River Credit with one mile on each side of said river. This treaty comprises the fronts of the Townships of Toronto, Trafalgar and Nelson, except the 3,450 acres granted to Chief Brant in 1797.

(Morris 1943:22)

3.2.2 Euro-Canadian Settler History

Settlement History (Regional Municipality of Halton)

Halton County was named after Major William Halton, secretary of the Lieutenant Governor. Halton is an oblong, twenty miles long by about fifteen miles wide and is watered by several large streams, the Credit and its branches, the Twelve Mile Creek and the Sixteen Mile Creek (History of Halton County, 2021).

Halton contained Beverley, Dumfries, Esquesing, Flamborough (later east and west), Nelson, Nassagaweya and Trafalgar. In 1853, an Act of Parliament was passed to separate the Halton and Wentworth County. In 1854, Halton had its county buildings erected and separation had taken place (History of Halton County, 2021). Halton contained 229,555 acres, and in 1861, had an assessed value of \$6,702,993 with a population of about 22,794. The County Town was the Milton of Halton County (Warnock, 1862).

In 1973, Halton County was dissolved to form the Regional Municipality of Halton. Halton County now comprises seven municipalities, Townships of Nelson and Nassagaweya and the towns of Milton, Oakville, Georgetown, Burlington and Halton Heights (History of Halton County, 2021).

Township of Trafalgar (now Town of Milton)

Trafalgar contained about 68,613 acres and was bounded on the North of the Township of Esquesing. Trafalgar had 11 concessions and 716 lots but many of the lots were small (Warnock, 1862). Trafalgar Township began as a system of trails and trade routes created and used by the Indigenous People. The Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and other Indigenous Nations travelled the Red Hill trail, which ran along the original Lake Ontario edge across Trafalgar Township. The trail connected to the 16 and 12 mile creeks, culminating at Indigenous settlements in the area (Trafalgar Township Historical Society, 2021).

Trafalgar Township residents were largely of Loyalist stock — at the close of the American Revolution (1775-83), their families had fled from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania or Vermont

to Niagara or Atlantic Canada. They or their children then moved to Trafalgar Township when settlement began, and loyalist sentiments had substantial influence in the community (Town of Oakville, 2017).

As the Pioneers built log homes using wood gathered from their new properties, the Indigenous People were required to obtain permits to gather wood from the same land (Trafalgar Township Historical Society, 2021).

In the 1830's, Trafalgar Township became a busy stagecoach stop from Hamilton to York (Toronto). Roads had to be planked to support the heavy traffic flow. In the 1850's, the agricultural industry prospered with the creation of new technology, and the high demand for wheat (Trafalgar Township Historical Society, 2021).

The political boundaries of Trafalgar Township ceased to exist with the amalgamation of the Township, the Village of Bronte and the Town of Oakville in 1962. However, the geographic boundaries remain with Trafalgar Township extending from Lake Ontario on the south, Winston Churchill Blvd to the east, Burloak Drive to the west, and extending north, over rich farmland, to Steeles Avenue (Trafalgar Township Historical Society, 2021).

The town of Milton was named in honor of the English poet John Milton, a favorite author of the Martin family. The Martin family were one of Milton's most influential families, they left England to immigrate to Canada in 1821. The Martins' started a gristmill using power from the 16 Mile Creek, the mill drew other settlers to the area, which allowed Milton to grow into a thriving agricultural community centered around the mills (Milton Historical Society, 2021).

After The first post office was built in 1836, development was rapid in the 1850s and 1860s. The first library was organized, the first newspaper appeared. The Martins' also built the large stone Town Hall and Market House (Milton Historical Society, 2021).

In 1853 the village of Milton was designated the County Town of the new County of Halton. County buildings were built and in 1857 the town was formally incorporated and an election was held to form a Town Council and George Brown was chosen as the first Mayor of Milton (Milton Historical Society, 2021).

Part Lot 15, Concession 2

To understand the history of Euro-Canadian settlement, earlier mapping was consulted. The *1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton, Ontario* illustrates that Lot 15 was owned by W. Dempsey. The property has a building and an orchard located in the north-west part of his property and another building in the north-east corner of the lot. There are also two railroad tracks running through the property. One track runs through the south-west corner and another track travels through the north-east to south-central section of the lot.

Based on the 1858 *George Tremaine Map of Halton County*, Lot 15 was previously owned by John. Dempsey and T. Dempsey. The study area resides on John Dempsey's property, which is the left portion of the lot. John's property has a small river running through the north-west of the lot to the south-west corner of the lot.

Map 3 illustrates the location of the study area in 1858. Map 6 illustrates the location of the study area in 1877.

Past and Current Land Uses

The land was historically used for agricultural purposes and that continued all the way towards the 19th century. In the 20th and 21st century, the land starts changed from an agricultural area into more of an industrial and residential area. The aerial images illustrate an increasing amount of industrial buildings appearing throughout the years around the outside boundaries of the subject area according to the aerial images of 1954 and 2021 (See Map 5 & 2).

3.3 Archaeological Context

3.3.1 Archaeological Sites and Assessments

For an inventory of archaeological resources to be compiled, the registered archaeological site records kept by the MHSTCI were consulted. In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database maintained by the MHSTCI. This database contains archaeological sites registered according to the Borden system. Under the Borden system, Canada is divided into grid blocks based on latitude and longitude. A Borden block is approximately 13 km east to west and approximately 18.5 km north to south. Each Borden block is referenced by a four-letter designator and sites within a block are numbered sequentially as they are found. The study area is located within Borden block AjGx.

In accordance with Section 7.5.8, Standard 1 of the Standards and Guidelines, all registered or known archaeological sites within a minimum one-kilometre distance from the study area are to be listed. A search concluded that there are 2 registered archaeological sites within a kilometre of the study area – a Euro-Canadian and Indigenous site, AjGx-292, and a Post-Contact Euro-Canadian site AjGx-223. One factor determining archaeological potential is the distance of archaeological sites to the study area. An archaeological site within 300 metres of an area of interest is a feature of archaeological potential.

In reviewing the archaeological sites that are registered within 1 km of the study area, a total of 2 sites are within 300 metres. Sites AjGx-292 and AjGx-223 are located within 300 metres of the study area. Table 2 provides a listing of all archaeological sites within 300 metres of the study area.

Table 2: Archaeological Sites Within 300 metres of the study area.

Borden No.	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type	Current Status
AjGx-292	~	Post-contact; pre-contact	~	Unknown, cemetery	Further CHVI
AjGx-223	Harrison Site	~	~	~	~

There is one archaeological assessment conducted within the limits of, or immediately adjacent (50 m) to the study area (MHSTCI Section 7.5.8 Standard 4).

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Steeles Avenue (Regional Road 8) Transportation Corridor Class Environmental Assessment Study from Industrial Drive to Regional Road 25 (Martin Street) Town of Milton, Regional Municipality of Halton, Ontario. [PIF #P057-409-2007] (ASI 2007)

The Stage 1 Assessment was done by ASI in 2007 for a long corridor between Industrial Drive and Martin Street in the town of Milton. The assessment was conducted for Hatch Mott MacDonald, the proposed change for the road widening was to change the two-lane road into a four-lane road. The result of the Stage 1 property inspection was that the study corridor was disturbed by previous construction work and that the study area contained no areas of archaeological potential, thus the study corridor did not require any further archaeological work (New Directions Archaeology Ltd, 2019).

3.3.2 The Natural and Physical Environment

The study area is situated within the “Peel Plain” physiographic region (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 174-176).

“The Peel plain is a level-to-undulating tract of clay soils (Photo 70) covering 300 square miles across the central portions of the Regional Municipalities of York, Peel, and Halton. The general elevation is from 500 to 750 feet a.s.l. and there is a gradual and fairly uniform slope toward Lake Ontario. Across this plain the Credit, Humber, Don, and Rouge Rivers have cut deep valleys, as have other streams such as the Bronte, Oakville, and Etobicoke Creeks.”

Chapman and Putnam, 1984:174

The soil for study area has one soil material type, Chinguacousy, a clay loam soil. This soil type belongs to the Gray Brown Luvisol group. The parent material is clay loam till, the drainage class for this soil is imperfect and the stoniness class is slightly stony (Gillespie et al, 1971).

4. Field Methods

4.1.1 Field Methods: Stage 1 – Property Inspection

The Stage 1 archaeological property inspection was conducted under archaeological consulting license P243 issued to Dr. Carla Parslow by the MHSTCI (P243-0439-2021). Field director duties were delegated to PHC archaeologist Ms. Tina Kagi (R1173). The field director delegated the responsibility of undertaking the archaeological fieldwork at the study areas as per Section 12 of the *MHSTCI 2013 Terms and Conditions for Archaeological Licences*, issued in accordance with clause 48(4)(d) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Stage 1 property inspection was conducted on March 11th, 2021. During the Stage 1 property inspection, the weather was overcast and cloudy and the temperature was approximately 18 degrees Celsius. Assessment conditions were excellent and at no time were the field, weather, or lighting conditions detrimental to the recovery of archaeological material. The entire property was inspected.

Images 1 and 2 demonstrate the current land conditions throughout the study area.

The current use of the study area is where Meritor Suspension System still operates their business, they are a supplier for commercial vehicle manufacturers, the area consists of a industrial building, a parking lot, a front lawn and two driveways in the front. The rest of the property to the south and east consists of woodlots, an open field and mounds of fill. The front lawn north of the property around the driveway and parking lot, the medium sized woodlot area in the south behind the 150 Steeles building and the open field in the east behind the 150 Steeles building are areas recommended for a Stage 2 Test Pit survey (Images 11 - 13).

Soil in the southern woodlots were mostly disturbed with mounds fill dirt, they are mostly located at the center of the property stretching to the south-east (Image 6 and 7). The site also had a significant amount low and wet areas especially around the edges of the property line near the south-west boundary near the cliff and the south and south-east boundary lines (Image 3, 4 and 10). There are multiple woodlots scattered around the subject area, however they are either too densely vegetative or situated on uneven ground (mounds) and slopes to perform an excavation (Image 8 and 9). In the south-central area, there is a gravel trail that starts at the south-east property line of the study area and continues through the center to the north towards the 150 Steeles building (Image 5).

Overall, the total study area is heavily disturbed in the woodlots and near the back of the building, as it seems to have been a dumping ground (Image 14). There are only three areas that retain archaeological potential in the study area. These are outlined on Map 7 and will undergo test pit survey.

Map 7 illustrates the results of the Stage 1 property inspection as well as the location and direction of photos.

4.1.2 Field Methods – Stage 2 Property Survey

The Stage 2 property survey was conducted under archaeological consulting license P243 issued to Dr. Carla Parslow by the MHSTCI (P243-0441-2021). Field director duties were delegated to PHC

archaeologists Mr. Adam Long (P1153) and Ms. Alexandra Mullan (P1106). The field director delegated the responsibility of undertaking the archaeological fieldwork at the study areas as per Section 12 of the *MHSTCI 2013 Terms and Conditions for Archaeological Licences*, issued in accordance with clause 48(4)(d) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Stage 2 property survey was conducted between April 27th and May 11th 2021. The weather during the assessment ranged from sunny to partly cloudy, with temperatures between 6 and 15 degrees Celsius. Table 3 illustrates the daily weather conditions, and outlines field directors for each day of the property survey. **Images 15-25** photo document the site, lighting and weather conditions, as well as survey methods for the test pit survey of the manicured lawn portion of the study area, while **Images 26-34** photo document the test pit survey of the meadow and woodlot sections of the property.

Table 3: Field Directors and Site Conditions During Assessment

Date	Field Director	Weather	Temperature
April 27, 2021	Adam Long (P1153)	Sunny	6 degrees C
April 28, 2021	Adam Long (P1153)	Overcast, light rain	12 degrees C
May 10, 2021	Alexandra Mullan (P1006)	Sunny	15 degrees C
May 11, 2021	Adam Long (P1153)	Sunny	15 degrees C

The Stage 2 test pit survey began on April 27th, starting with test pit survey at 5 metre intervals of the northwestern portion of the manicured lawn adjacent to Steeles Avenue. This portion of the property appeared to be recently disturbed due to realignment of the driveway into the property (**Image 20**) and test pits were placed to confirm disturbance (**Images 15 and 16**). As per Section 2.1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011) all test pits were approximately 30 cm in diameter and excavated by hand 5 cm into subsoil. The stratigraphy was examined for the presence of cultural features and all soils screened through 6 mm mesh to facilitate the recovery of archaeological materials. All test pits were backfilled upon completion. Moving further northeast it was determined that a significant portion of the manicured lawn had undergone previous extensive landscaping, with the removal of topsoil from certain portions and the creations of large berms with slopes greater than 20 degrees using this displaced soil (**Image 19**); these areas were photo documented but test pits were not placed on them. Test pits placed at the base of these berms did not contain any topsoil and only exhibited the orangey brown sandy loam subsoil layer (**Image 17 and 18**), suggesting that the topsoil had been stripped and piled up to build up the berms.

Test pits placed closer to the northeastern corner of the study area showed a more intact stratigraphic profile with a medium brown sandy loam topsoil ranging from 20-45 cm in depth, followed by an orangey brown sandy loam subsoil (**Images 21 and 22**). Disturbance in the form of mottled top and subsoil layers was found in several pockets throughout the manicured lawn, indicating potential disturbance and redistribution of soil (grading) had occurred in the past, however intact subsoil lines were still identified in these pits. Test pit intervals were increased to 10 metres in these portions until more intact soil profiles were observed (**Images 24 and 25**); these areas are highlighted on **Map 8.1**. The variation in depth of the topsoil layer also appears to be related to grading and landscaping activities rather than original surface topography. The

manicured lawn surrounding the building structures and parking areas was also determined to have been significantly disturbed and not hold any archaeological potential as they are around 1 metre lower than the intact subsoil level observed in the intact test pits of the manicured lawn and therefore are significantly below grade (**Image 23**). For this portion of the study area a total of 0.22 ha (0.56 ac) was found to be heavily sloped and was not assessed, 1.05 ha (2.61 ac) was found to be intact and underwent test pit survey at 5 metre intervals, 0.30 ha (0.76 ac) was found to be disturbed and underwent test pit survey at 10 metre intervals, with 0.76 ha (1.89 ac) being +1 metre below original grade and not assessed due to removal of archaeological potential during prior construction of these structures. No archaeological materials were recovered from any of the test pits placed throughout this portion of the study area. See **Map 8.1** for assessment results, photo locations and directions for this portion of the study area.

The second portion of the study area deemed to retain archaeological potential during the Stage 1 was a small woodlot/garden located just to the southwest of the main warehouse complex that is approximately 0.49 ha (1.22 ac) in size and is located between the main access road through the property, a steep slope leading to a wetland area, and the rear of the neighbouring industrial complex. This portion of the study area is illustrated on **Map 8.2**. Though this area appeared to be visually disturbed based on surface topography and recent landscaping, it underwent test pit survey at 5 metre intervals due to its confined nature in order to ascertain if there were pockets that had been undisturbed; **Images 33 and 34** photo document topography and survey methods for this portion of the study area. All test pits placed throughout this portion exhibited disturbed stratigraphic profiles including imported garden soil, wood mulch, and gravels. No archaeological materials were recovered.

Test pit survey of the eastern meadow and woodlot portions of the study area took place on May 10 and 11, 2021. The meadow appears to have been previously ploughed agricultural fields that has been left fallow for 30+ years and has overgrown into a meadow (**Image 26**); it is approximately 1.75 ha (4.34 ac) in size. The central portion of the meadow was low and wet, constituting approximately 0.17 ha (0.42 ac) of the area (**Image 29**), with an additional 0.04 ha (0.1 ac) being disturbed with gravel fill and test pit at 10 metre intervals. The remaining 1.54 ha (3.82 ac) of the meadow underwent test pit survey at 5 metre intervals (**Images 28 and 30**); stratigraphy of test pits in this intact portion matched those seen in the intact portions of the manicured lawns at the front of the property with a medium brown sandy loam topsoil approximately 25 cm in depth, followed by an orangey brown sandy loam subsoil (**Image 27**). The very southeastern edge of the meadow forms a small woodlot adjacent to the gravel pathway; this portion of the study area also underwent test pit survey at 5 metre intervals (**Image 32**). A small portion of the area deemed disturbed during the Stage 1 was also test pitted to confirm disturbance of this area as superficially it appeared to be an extension of the meadow; test pits showed an immediate asphalt layer underneath the overgrown surface (**Image 31**), test pits were continued at 5 metre intervals until reaching the gravel pathway which delineated a portion of the border of the greater disturbed area during the Stage 1 inspection. See **Map 8.3** for assessment results, photo locations and directions for this portion of the study area.

5. Record of Documentation

The purpose of this section is to document all finds according to the standards (MHSTCI Section 7.8.2). An inventory of the documentary record generated by the property Inspection is provided in Table 3 (MHSTCI Section 7.8.2 Standard 2).

Table 4: Record of Documentation.

Document Type	Location of Document	Additional Comments	Quantity
Field Notes	PHC Office	2 lined sheets, 1 photo log	6 pages
Maps Provided by Client	PHC Office	In project file (Site Map)	10 maps in project file.
Digital Photographs	PHC Office	Stored digitally in project file	54 images

6. Analysis and Conclusion

6.1 Archaeological Potential

Archaeological potential is established by determining the likelihood that archaeological resources may be present on a subject property. In accordance with the MHSTCI's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* the following are features or characteristics that indicate archaeological potential:

- ▶ 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 indicated by the presence of raised gravel, sand, or beach ridges; relic river or stream channels indicated by clear dip or swale in the topography; shorelines of drained lakes or marshes; and cobble beaches);
 - Accessible or inaccessible shoreline (e.g. high bluffs, swamps or marsh fields by the edge of a lake; sandbars stretching into marsh);
- ▶ Elevated topography (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 (there may be physical indicators of their use, such as burials, structures, offerings, rock paintings or carvings);
- ▶ Resource areas including:
 - Food or medicinal plants;
 - Scarce raw minerals (e.g. quartz, copper, ochre or outcrops of chert);
 - Early Euro-Canadian industry (fur trade, mining, logging);
- ▶ Areas of Euro-Canadian settlement; and,
- ▶ Early historical transportation routes.

Archaeological Integrity

A negative indicator of archaeological potential is extensive land disturbance. This includes widespread earth movement activities that would have eradicated or relocated any cultural material to such a degree that the information potential and cultural heritage value or interest has been lost.

Section 1.3.2 of the MHSTCI' 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists states that:

Archaeological potential can be determined not to be present for either the entire property or a part(s) 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 (MHSTCI 2011:18)

The types of disturbance referred to above includes, but is not restricted to, quarrying, sewage and infrastructure development, building footprints and major landscaping involving grading below topsoil.

6.1.1 Archaeological Potential for the Study Area

In recommending a Stage 2 property survey based on determining archaeological potential for a study area, MHSTCI stipulates the following:

- ▶ No areas within 300 metres of a previously identified site; water sources; areas of early Euro-Canadian Settlement; or locations identified through local knowledge or informants can be recommended for exemption from further assessment.
- ▶ No areas within 100 metres of early transportation routes can be recommended for exemption from further assessment.
- ▶ No areas within the property containing an elevated topography; pockets of well-drained sandy soil; distinctive land formations; or resource areas can be recommended for exemption from further assessment.

Based on the features or characteristics of archaeological potential listed in Section 6.1, the following statements can be made for the study area:

Part Lot 15, Concession 2

1. There is a known water source within 300 metres of study area.
2. The property contains an elevated topography.
3. There are early transportation routes within 100 metres of the study area.

Potential Indigenous Archaeological Resources

Following the criteria outlined above to determine Indigenous archaeological potential, there are factors to be considered. While there is a wetland within close vicinity of the study area, and there is a registered Indigenous archaeological site within 300 metres of the study area.

When the above noted archaeological potential criteria were applied to the study area, the study area exhibits archaeological potential for Indigenous sites.

Potential for Euro-Canadian Archaeological Resources

Following the criteria outlined above to determine Euro-Canadian archaeological potential, it is understood that the property is close several important historical routes of transportation, and is tied closely with early Euro-Canadian settlement of the Region.

When the above noted archaeological potential criteria were applied to the study area, the study area exhibits archaeological potential for historical Euro-Canadian sites.

6.2 Results and Conclusion of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment

Stage 1 property assessment resulted in the identification of a large degree of disturbance to the greater study area in the form of extensive landscaping, structures or paved areas, as well as dumping and storage of fill throughout the property. Areas deemed to retain potential during the Stage 1 inspection were subject to Stage 2 test pit survey at 5 metre intervals per Standards 2.1.2.1 – 2.1.2.8 of the MHSTCI *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011). This survey did not result in the identification of any cultural materials or remains, but did identify several further areas of disturbance across the study area. The paucity of finds across the study area is no doubt due to the extensive prior land disturbance, however the historical mapping also indicated a lack of structures within the property during much of the 19th century, suggesting that it was primarily agricultural land and would likely not contain any archaeological resources. The lack of resources found during the Stage 2 assessment indicates that the study area is clear of archaeological resources and therefore does not require further work. Stage 3 or 4 is not recommended.

7. Recommendations

Based on the results of the combined Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment of the study area it has been determined that it does not hold further Cultural Heritage Value or Impact and is not recommended for further (Stage 3 or 4) work.

It is requested that this report be entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports, as provided for in Section 65.1 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

STUDY LIMITATIONS: All information, recommendations and opinions provided in this report are for the sole benefit of the Client. No other party may use or rely on this report or any portion thereof without the Client's or PHC's express written consent. Unless otherwise stated, the suggestions, recommendations and opinions given in this report are intended only for the guidance of the Client in the design of the specific project. Special risks occur whenever archaeological investigations are applied to identify subsurface conditions and even a comprehensive investigation, sampling and testing program may fail to detect all or

certain archaeological resources. The sampling strategies incorporated in this study, if any, comply with those identified in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists.¹

¹ **STUDY LIMITATIONS:** All information, recommendations and opinions provided in this report are for the sole benefit of the Client. No other party may use or rely on this report or any portion thereof without the Client's or PHC's express written consent. Unless otherwise stated, the suggestions, recommendations and opinions given in this report are intended only for the guidance of the Client in the design of the specific project. Special risks occur whenever archaeological investigations are applied to identify subsurface conditions and even a comprehensive investigation, sampling and testing program may fail to detect all or certain archaeological resources. The sampling strategies incorporated in this study, if any, comply with those identified in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists.

8. Advice on Compliance with Legislation

Advice on the compliance with legislation is not part of the archaeological record. However, for the benefit of the proponent and approval authority in the land use planning and development process, the report must include the following standard statements:

- ▶ This report is submitted to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport 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 Tourism, Culture and Sport, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regards 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 licenced 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 licenced archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating 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 representative of a new archaeological site or sites 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, requires that any person discovering or having knowledge of a burial site shall immediately notify the police or coroner. It is recommended that the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services is also immediately notified.

9. References

Chapman, Lyman John and Donald F. Putnam

- 1984 The Physiography of Southern Ontario. 3rd edition. Ontario Geological Survey Special Volume 2. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources: Toronto.

Ellis, Chris J. and Neal Ferris (editors)

- 1990 The Archaeology of Southern Ontario to A.D. 1650. Occasional Publication of the London Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society, Number 5.

Gillespie, J.E., R.E. Wicklund and M.H. Miller

- 1971 The Soils of Halton County. Report No. 43 of the Ontario Soil Survey. Ottawa: The Research Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture and the Ontario Agriculture College.

Government of Ontario

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

Hooks, J.

- 2021 *History of Halton County*. [online] Available at: <https://haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2018/05/Halton-County-History-by-Joan-Hooks.docx> [Accessed 5 Mar. 2021].

Milton Historical Society

- 2021 *A Brief History of Milton*. [online] Available at: <http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca/about-us/the-town-of-milton/> [Accessed 11 Mar. 2021].

Morris, J.L.

- 1943 Indians of Ontario. 1964 reprint. Department of Lands and Forests, Government of Ontario.

New Directions Archaeology Ltd.

- 2019 *Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of Steeles Avenue – Tremaine Road to Industrial Drive Municipal Class EA, On Parts of Lot 1 Concessions 1 And 2, In the Geographic Township of Esquesing, and Part of Lot 15 and Concession 2, in the Geographic Township of Trafalgar, Former Halton County, Town of Milton, Regional Municipality of Halton*

Schmalz, Peter S.

- 1991 The Ojibwa of Southern Ontario. University of Toronto Press.

Town of Oakville

2017 *The Roots of Trafalgar Township*. [online] Available at: <https://www.oakville.ca/culturerec/is-towntownship.html> [Accessed 5 Mar. 2021].

Trafalgar Township Historical Society

2021 *Our History*. [online] Available at: <https://tths.ca/our-history> [Accessed 5 Mar. 2021].

Tremaine, G.

1858 Tremaine's Map of the County Halton. Oakville.

Walker and Miles

1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton. Toronto.

Warnock, R.

1862 A sketch of the county of Halton, Canada West. Toronto.

10. Stage 1 Images



**Image 1: Entrance of 150 Steeles Ave East, Meritor Suspension systems building.
(View facing South-east).**



Image 2: Back of the building at 150 Steeles Ave East (View facing North-east).



Image 3: South end of the property. Low and wet area (View facing South).



Image 4: Woodlot near the south boundary. Low and wet (View facing South-east).



Image 5: Gravel pathway in the woodlot (View facing North).



Image 6: Soil disturbance. Mound of fill (View facing South-east).



Image 7: Soil disturbance. Mound of fill, close up (View facing East).



Image 8: Heavily sloped area at the east of the building (View facing North).



Image 9: Small mounds of fill at the southern half of the property (View facing South-east).



Image 10: Cliff at the south-western edge of the property (View facing South-west).



Image 11: South-west woodlot, directly behind the back driveway (View facing South-west).



Image 12: Front lawn to the east of the parking lot and fence (View facing West).



Image 13: Open field in the south-east side of the property (view facing North-east).



Image 14: Disturbance at rear parking lot (View facing South-east).

11. Stage 2 Images



Image 15: Test pitting disturbed area in northwest of study area (view facing southwest).



Image 16: Disturbed soils from test pit above (North is to the left).



Image 17: Test pit survey at 5m intervals along Steeles Ave. Note berm to the right (view facing North-east).



Image 18: Test pit profile showing removed topsoil layer and clear subsoil profile (Trowel is pointing north).



Image 19: View across manicured lawn running adjacent to Steeles Ave. Note berm to the left (view facing Southwest).



Image 20: Ditch in front portion of study area – disturbed. (View facing Southwest).



Image 21: Typical intact test pit profile in manicured lawn (Trowel is pointing North).



Image 22: Crew test pitting manicured lawn at 5 metre intervals (View facing North-east).



Image 23: Test pitting edge of manicured lawn. Note slope down to below grade gravel driveway in front of building (view facing Southeast).



Image 24: Crew test pitting manicured lawn at 5 m intervals (View facing Southwest).



Image 25: Test pitting disturbed area behind building at 10 metre intervals (view facing North).



Image 26: View across meadow in eastern portion of study area (View facing Northwest).



Image 27: Typical intact test pit profile in meadow (Trowel is pointing north).



Image 28: Crew test pitting meadow at 5 metre intervals (View facing East).



Image 29: Test pit showing low and wet conditions (Trowel pointing North).



Image 30: Crew test pitting meadow at 5 metre intervals (View facing Northeast).



Image 31: Disturbed test pit showing asphalt (Trowel is pointing North).



Image 32: Test pit survey of woodlot at eastern edge of meadow (View facing East).



Image 33: View across woodlot with manicured garden to the Southwest of warehouses (view facing North-east).

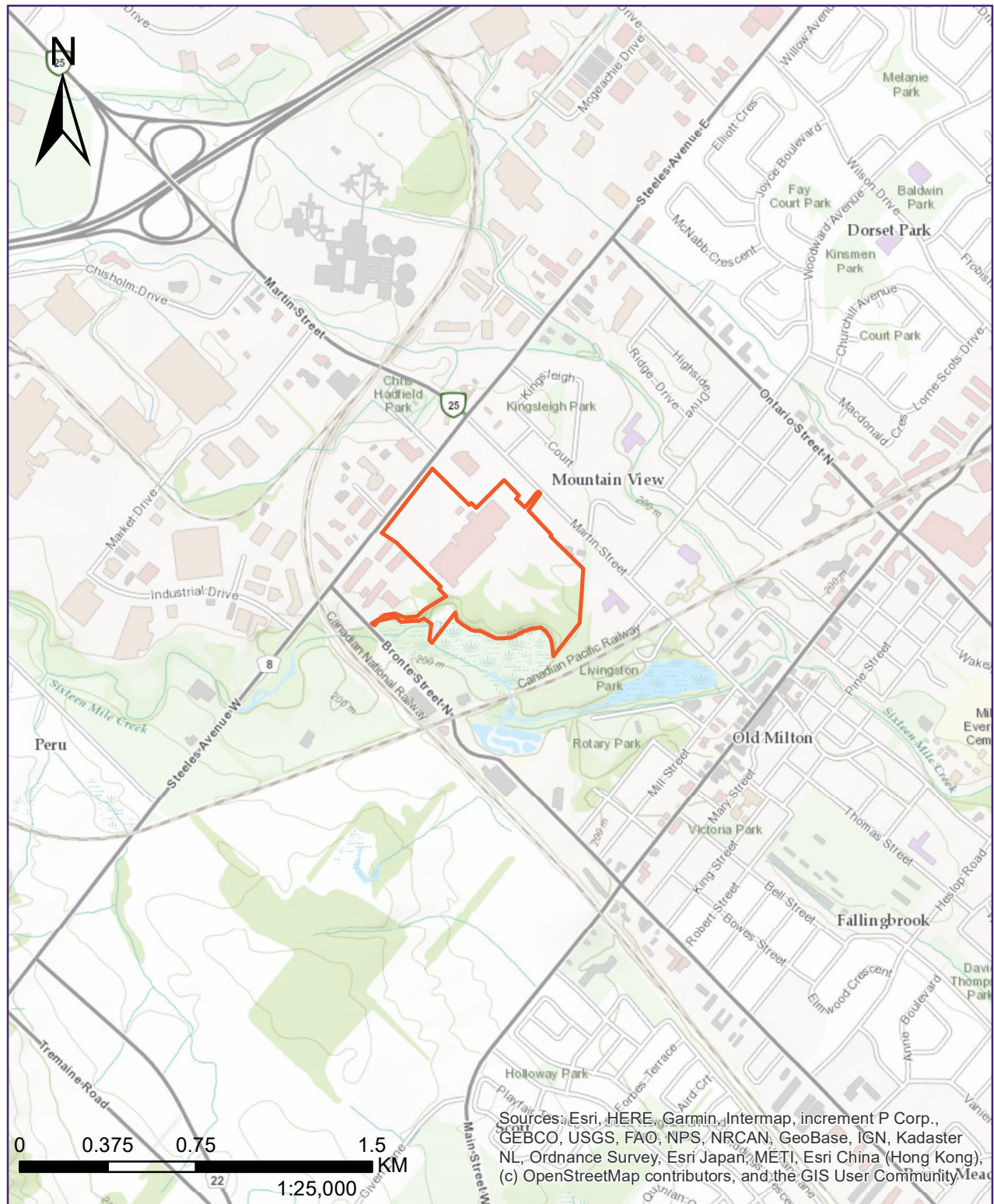


Image 34: Crew test pitting at 5 metre intervals in woodlot garden area (view facing North-east).

12. Mapping

All mapping on the following pages

Map 1 - Topographical Representation of the Study Area



Legend

Study Area

Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment 150 Steeles Avenue East, Milton, ON



Map 2 - Aerial Representation of the Study Area



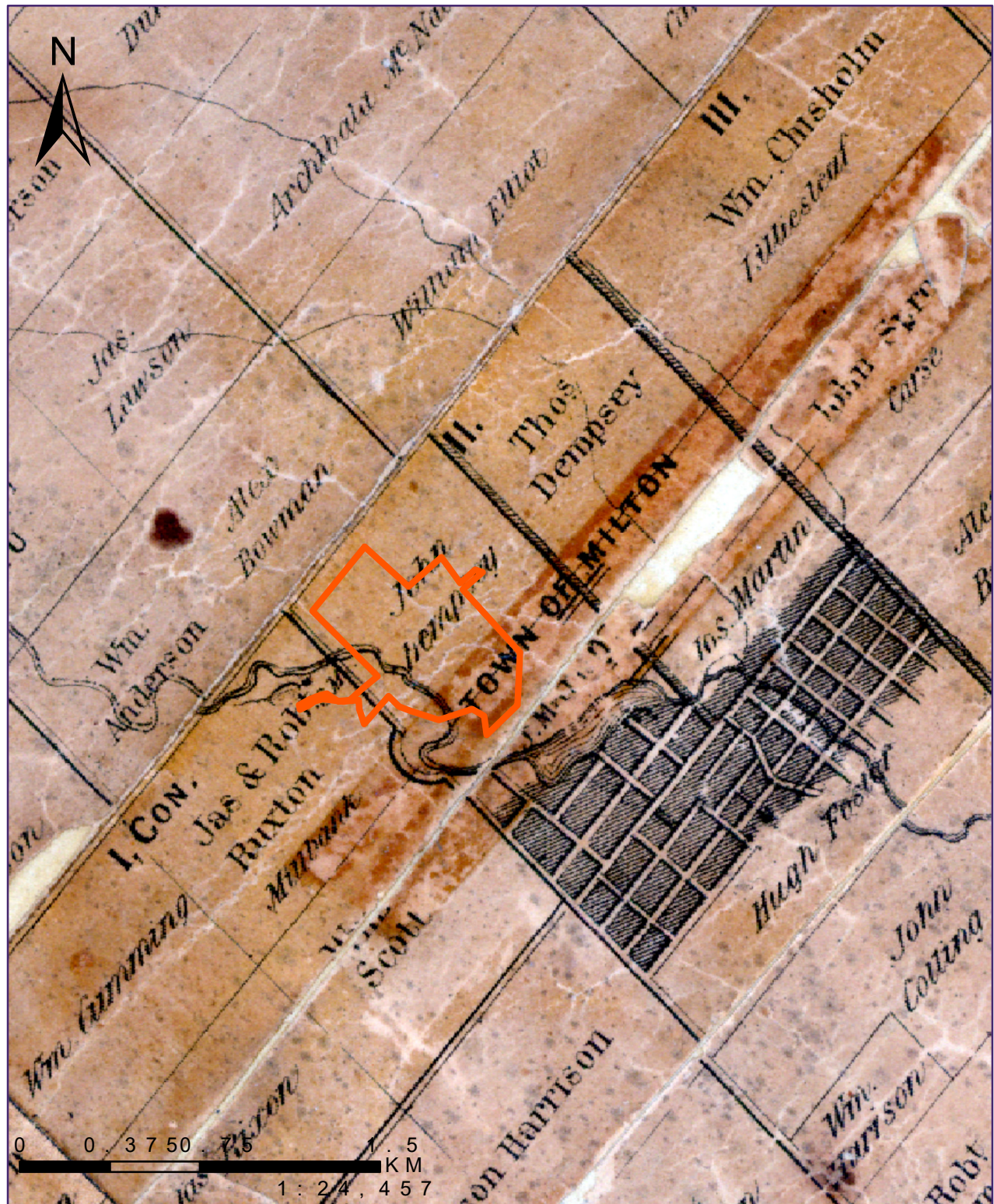
Legend

 Study Area

Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment 150 Steeles Avenue East, Milton, ON



Map 3 - 1858 Historical Representation of the Study Area



Legend

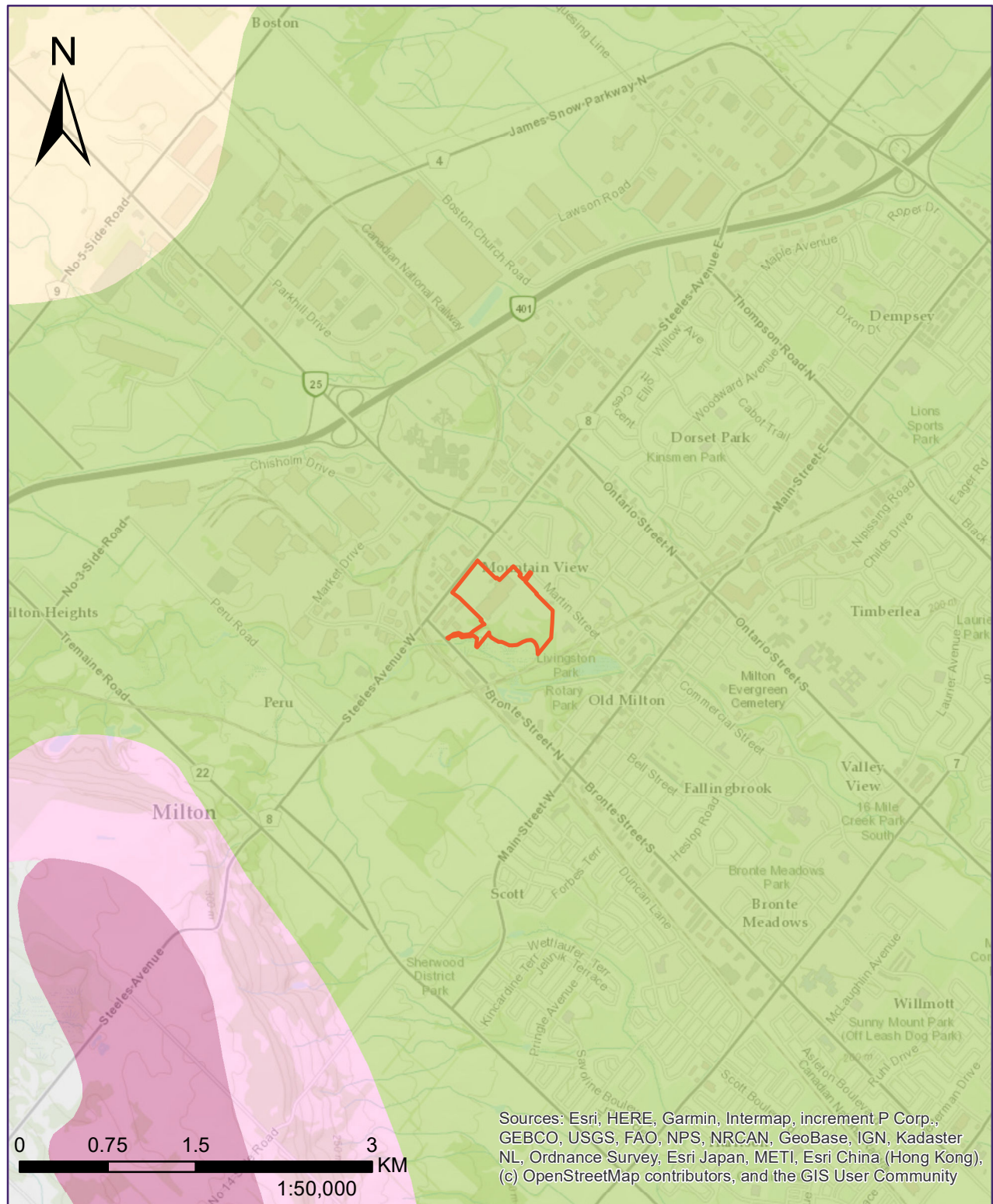
Study Area

Stage 1 AND 2 Archaeological Assessment 150 Steeles Avenue East, Milton, ON

Tremaine, G. R.
1858 Tremaine's Map of the County of Halton, Canada West.
Toronto: Published by G. R. & G. M. Tremaine



Map 4 - Physiographic Representation of the Study Area



Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment 150 Steeles Avenue East, Milton, ON

Legend

	Study Area		9: Limestone Plains		2: Till Moraines
			8: Bevelled Till Plains		1: Escarpments
			6: Till Plains (Drumlinized)		



Map 5 - 1954 Aerial Representation of the Study Area



Legend

 Study Area

**Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment150
Steeles Avenue East, Milton, ON**



0 0.25 0.5 1 KM

Scale: 1/25000

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

 Study Area

Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment - 150 Steeles Ave East, Town of Milton



Map 7 - Stage 1 Recommendations



Legend

Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment 150 Steeles Ave East, Town of Milton

Name

-  Photo Directions
-  Study Area
-  Disturbed - Stage 2 Not Recommended
-  Archaeological Potential - Test Pit Survey at 5m Intervals Recommended



Map 8.3 - Results of Stage 2 Assessment



Legend

- Stage 2 Photo Directions
- Stage 2 Ground Shots
- Disturbed - Test Pit at 5m
- Slope - Not Assessed
- Intact - Test Pit at 5m
- Wet - Not Assessed
- Disturbed - Test Pit at 10m

Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment 150 Steeles Ave East, Town of Milton



Map 8.2 - Results of Stage 2 Assessment



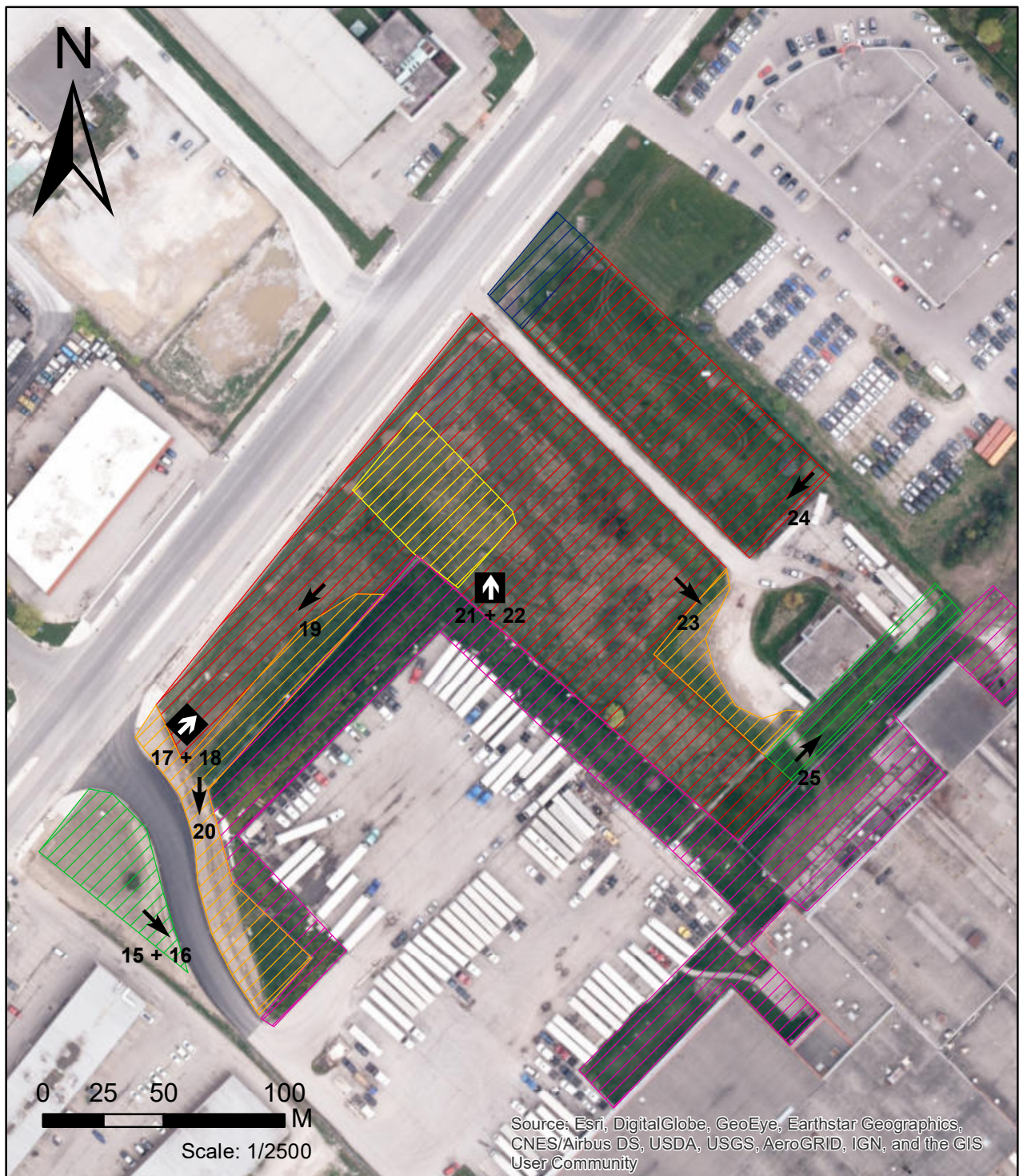
Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment 150 Steeles Ave East, Town of Milton

Legend

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|  | Stage 2 Photo Directions |  | Slope - Not Assessed |
|  | Stage 2 Ground Shots |  | Intact - Test Pit at 5m |
|  | Disturbed - Test Pit at 5m |  | Wet - Not Assessed |
| | |  | Disturbed - Test Pit at 10m |



Map 8.1 - Results of Stage 2 Assessment



Legend

- Disturbance - TP at 5m
- Disturbed - +1m below original grade
- Disturbed - No Potential
- Disturbed - TP at 10m
- Intact - TP at 5m
- Sloped - not assessed
- Stage 2 Photo Directions
- Stage 2 Ground Shots

Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment 150 Steeles Ave East, Town of Milton



© Parslow Heritage Consultancy Inc.

883 St. Clair Ave. West, Rear, Toronto, ON, M6C 1C4

Telephone: 647-348-4887

Email: admin@phcgroup.ca

Website: www.phcgroup.ca