

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 420 and 468 South Service Road East, Part of Lot 12, Concession 3 South of Dundas Street (Geographic Township of Trafalgar, County of Halton), and Lots 113 and 114 Registered Plan 1009, Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton

Original Report

Prepared for:

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Executive Summary

The Stage 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment of 420 and 468 South Service Road East in the Town of Oakville has been carried out as a matter of due diligence on the part of the property owner. The assessment entailed consideration of the proximity of previously registered archaeological sites, the original environmental setting of the property, and its nineteenth- and twentieth-century development history.

This research has led to the conclusion that there is no potential for the presence of significant precontact Indigenous or Euro-Canadian archaeological resources that may be impacted by site preparation or construction activities necessitated by the proposed redevelopment. Accordingly, this report recommends that the undertaking be cleared of any further archaeological concern, with the proviso that the appropriate authorities must be notified should deeply buried archaeological or human remains be encountered during any future work on the property.



Project Personnel

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Project Personnel	3
1.0 Project Context	7
1.1 Development Context	7
1.2 Historical Context	7
1.2.1 Pre-Contact Settlement	7
1.2.2 Post-Contact Settlement	10
1.3 Archaeological Context	19
1.3.1 Registered Archaeological Sites	19
1.3.2 Physiography	20
1.3.3 The Predevelopment Landscape and Modelling Archaeological Potential	21
1.3.3 Existing Conditions	22
2.0 Analysis and Conclusions	26
2.1 Indigenous Archaeological Resource Potential	26
2.2 Euro-Canadian Archaeological Resource Potential	27
2.3 Summary	27
3.0 Recommendations	28
4.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation	28
5.0 Bibliography and Sources	30
6.0 Images	35
7.0 Maps	44



List of Images

Image 1: View across filled area in the southwest corner of the subject property.	35
Image 2: View northeast across the factory floor slab behind the former administration building.	35
Image 3: View southeast across the factory floor slab.	36
Image 4: View southwest to remnant unauthorized dumps of fill on the asphalt have been levelled.	36
Image 5: Irregular topography of fills in the southeast corner of the property.	37
Image 6: View southwest along the edge of the pavements at the rear of the property where unauthorized piles of fill have been levelled out.	37
Image 7: Exposure of fill and irregular topography in the northeast part of the property.	38
Image 8: View across the summit of the massive berm to the north of the former factory building footprints.	38
Image 9: Irregular topography created by the excavation of a drainage channel south of the massive berm.	39
Image 10: Irregular topography created through grading and filling in the northeast corner of the property.	39
Image 11: View northwest across the concrete and asphalt surfaces in the northwest corner of the property.	40
Image 12: Irregular topography resulting from cutting and filling north of the massive berm.	40
Image 13: View southwest across the South Service Road frontage to the former administration building.	41
Image 14: View northeast across the South Service Road frontage.	41
Image 15: View of the variable elevations of the concrete and asphalt surfaces in the central part of the subject property.	42
Image 16: View southwest across the factory floor slab behind the former administration building.	42
Image 17: View northwest along the road west of the drainage channel and berm.	43

List of Maps

Figure 1: Location of the subject property	45
Figure 2: The subject property on the 1858 Tremaine Map of the County of Halton	46
Figure 3: The subject property on the map of Trafalgar Township in the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton	46
Figure 4: The subject property on 1909 topographic mapping (Burlington sheet)	47
Figure 5: The subject property on 1954 aerial imagery	48
Figure 6: The subject property on 1964 topographic mapping (Oakville sheet)	49
Figure 7: The subject property on 1999 and 2007 aerial imagery	50
Figure 8: Subject property existing conditions	51
Figure 9: The topography of the subject property derived from Provincial Lidar data	52
Figure 10: Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 420-468 South Service Road East — existing conditions and evaluation of potential	53

List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of Geotechnical Data with Elevation Data	23
Table 2: Summary of Geotechnical Data with Depth Data	25



1.0 Project Context

Archaeological Services Inc. was retained by South Service Holding Corp. to undertake a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 420 and 468 South Service Road East in the Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton (Figure 1). The subject property is approximately 11.1 hectares and is located on the south side of the South Service Road/Queen Elizabeth Way between Chartwell Road and Trafalgar Road. The property formerly formed part of Lots 11 and 12, Concession 3, South of Dundas Street, Trafalgar Township, County of Halton.

1.1 Development Context

The subject property is not identified as exhibiting archaeological potential according to the Master Plan of Archaeological Resources of the Regional Municipality of Halton (Archaeological Services Inc., 1998, 2008) and no predevelopment archaeological condition has been applied to the proposed redevelopment application. The assessment was undertaken as a matter of due diligence on the part of the property owner and was conducted under the project management and direction of David Robertson (Project Information Form P372-0277-2024). The assessment was completed in accordance with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Ministry of Tourism and Culture, 2011).

Permission to access the subject property and to carry out all activities necessary for the completion of the assessment was granted by the proponent on September 4, 2024.

1.2 Historical Context

1.2.1 Pre-Contact Settlement

Southern Ontario has been occupied by human populations since the retreat of the Laurentide glacier approximately 13,000 years before present (B.P.). Populations at this time would have been highly mobile, inhabiting a boreal-parkland similar to the modern sub-arctic. By approximately 10,000 B.P., the



environment had progressively warmed (Edwards and Fritz, 1988) and populations now occupied less extensive territories (Ellis and Deller, 1990).

Between approximately 10,000-5,500 B.P., the Great Lakes basins experienced low-water levels, and many sites which would have been located on those former shorelines are now submerged. This period produces the earliest evidence of heavy woodworking tools, an indication of greater investment of labour in felling trees for fuel, to build shelter, and watercraft production. These activities suggest prolonged seasonal residency at occupation sites. Polished stone and native copper implements were being produced by approximately 8,000 B.P.; the latter was acquired from the north shore of Lake Superior, evidence of extensive exchange networks throughout the Great Lakes region. The earliest evidence for cemeteries dates to approximately 4,500-3,000 B.P. and is indicative of increased social organization, investment of labour into social infrastructure, and the establishment of socially prescribed territories (Ellis et alia, 1990; Ellis et alia, 2009; Brown, 1995:13).

Between 3,000-2,500 BP, populations continued to practice residential mobility and to harvest seasonally available resources, including spawning fish. The Woodland period begins around 2500 BP and exchange and interaction networks broaden at this time (Spence et alia, 1990:136, 138) and by approximately 2,000 BP, evidence exists for macro-band camps, focusing on the seasonal harvesting of resources (Spence et alia, 1990:155, 164). By 1500 B.P. there is macro botanical evidence for maize in southern Ontario, and it is thought that maize only supplemented people's diet. There is earlier phytolithic evidence for maize in central New York State by 2300 B.P. — it is likely that once similar analyses are conducted on Ontario ceramic vessels of the same period, the same evidence will be found (Birch and Williamson, 2013:13–15). Bands likely retreated to interior camps during the winter. It is generally understood that these populations were Algonquian-speakers during these millennia of settlement and land use.

From the beginning of the Late Woodland period at approximately 800 CE (Common Era), lifeways became more similar to that described in early historical documents. Between approximately 1000-1300 CE, the seasonal base camps



were replaced by villages focused on horticulture. Seasonal dispersal of the community for the exploitation of a wider territory and more varied resource base was still the norm (Williamson, 1990:317). By 1300-1450 CE, this episodic community dispersal was no longer the norm and populations now communally occupied sites throughout the year (Dodd et al., 1990:343). From 1450-1649 CE these developments continued with the coalescence of these small settlements into larger communities (Birch and Williamson, 2013). Through this process, the socio-political organization of the First Nations, as described historically by the French and English explorers who first visited southern Ontario, developed.

The Attawandaron or Neutral Nation

In 1626, the Recollet missionary Joseph de la Roche Daillon recorded his visit to the villages of the Attawandaron, an Iroquoian-speaking people who were called the “Neutral Nation” (Gens Neutres) by the French in reference to the fact that this group took no part in the long-term conflicts between the people of the Wendat Confederacy of Simcoe County and the Haudenosaunee in New York. Like the Wendat (Huron), Tionontaté (Petun), and the Haudenosaunee (the Five Nations Iroquois of the state of New York), the Attawandaron people were settled village horticulturalists. The Attawandaron territory included the Grand River area, but discrete settlement clusters also extended southeast into the Niagara peninsula, and north to the Hamilton area (Lennox and Fitzgerald 1990).

The supposed neutrality of these communities did not protect them from the conflicts of the seventeenth century that were exacerbated by the intrusion of Europeans, resulting in the dispersal of the three Ontario Iroquoian confederacies (the Wendat, Tionontaté, and Attawandaron). By 1650, the Attawandaron were involved in a full-scale conflict with the Seneca, who were assisted by the Mohawk. The villages of the Attawandaron were destroyed by 1651.

The Mississaugas

The Mississauga, Ojibwa and other Algonquian groups, collectively known as the Anishnaubeg, expanded into southern Ontario from the Upper Great Lakes in



the late seventeenth century, occupying the former territories of the Huron-Wendat and Attawandaron.

Individual bands were politically autonomous and numbered several hundred people and were highly mobile with their subsistence economy based on hunting, fishing, gathering wild plants and growing garden crops (Rogers 1978:760). Mississauga communities established themselves at various locations, including Lake Saint Clair east of Detroit, on the Niagara Frontier, along the north shore of Lake Ontario, in particular at the mouth of the Credit River, but long continued their highly mobile way of life, dispersing into smaller groups to regional settlements in the summer to hunt, gather, and garden, then moving to interior family hunting grounds in late fall-winter, then regathering again in May to their main sites to harvest spawning fish, collect maple syrup, and carry on traditional ceremonies. The lands that would become Halton County were part of this broad seasonal territorial round, particularly on the part of the Credit River Mississauga. However, with European settlement ever expanding in the nineteenth century the Mississauga's ability to pursue their traditional way of life was increasingly constrained and their seasonal use of lands within their wider territory had largely ended by the 1840s, while at the same time their Credit River territory was experiencing major encroachment. In 1847, the Credit River Mississauga accepted an offer from the Six Nations Haudenosaunee to share their land and create the New Credit Reserve near Hagersville (Schmalz 1991:145-146).

1.2.2 Post-Contact Settlement

The Head of the Lake Purchase (Treaty 13A/14)

Treaty 13a was signed between the Mississaugas and the British Crown on August 2, 1805 in Port Credit at the Government Inn. A provisional agreement was reached in which the Mississaugas ceded 70,784 acres of land bounded by the Toronto Purchase of 1787 in the east, the Brant Tract in the west, and a northern boundary that ran six miles back from the shoreline of Lake Ontario. The Mississaugas also reserved the sole right of fishing at the Credit River and were to retain a one-mile strip of land on each of its banks, which became the Credit Indian Reserve.



On September 5, 1806, the signing of Treaty 14 confirmed the Head of the Lake Purchase between the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Crown for lands along the north shore of Lake Ontario southwest of the Toronto Purchase to what is now Oakville (Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation, 2001; Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, 2017).

Trafalgar Township

Dundas Street, the baseline survey road in Trafalgar Township, had been surveyed in 1793, as a military road connecting Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron, as well as a road to aid Loyalist settlement and deter expansionist claims in Upper Canada. After the concessions south of Dundas St. were laid out by Samuel Wilmot in 1806, two new east-west concession line access roads, the Upper Middle Road and the Lower Middle Road, were surveyed. These early east-west roads were later complemented in 1832, by the Lakeshore Road, which was constructed nearby and parallel to an aboriginal Indigenous pathway skirting Lake Ontario. The concession roads of the 1806 survey, and the line roads running perpendicular, blocked out the township in areas a mile and quarter square with five 200-acre lots to a square. Between every five lots ran a line road (Mathews, 1953).

At first, Trafalgar was simply known as Township Number 2, but was subsequently renamed Alexander Township in honour of Alexander Grant, who was President and Administrator of the Province of Upper Canada (Mathews, 1953). Shortly thereafter, when news reached Upper Canada of Lord Nelson's victorious sea battle off the coast of Spain, the names of two townships in the county were changed to Nelson and Trafalgar.

Trafalgar Township originally formed part of the West Riding of York in the Home District and following 1816, it became part of the Gore District, with Hamilton as the administrative District seat. Although the old Districts of Upper Canada were abolished by legislation in May 1849, the area which was to subsequently become Halton remained as part of the United Counties of Wentworth and Hamilton until it was finally separated and elevated to independent County status by an act of legislature in June 1853.



William Smith noted that the settlement of Trafalgar commenced about 1807, and the price for wild land at the time was valued at £7/6- per acre (Smith, 1850). By 1817, the population had increased to 548, and the township contained one grist mill and four sawmills. The value of land had increased to 22 shillings per acre. In 1846, the township was described as “well settled... containing numerous well cleared and cultivated farms, most which have good orchards” (Smith, 1846). By 1850, the population had increased to 4,513, and the township contained three grist and nineteen sawmills (Smith, 1850). The timber cover in the township was described as “principally hardwood with a little pine intermixed” (Smith, 1850). By 1871 the population had reached 5,027 and the township was noted for its “well-tilled farms, beautiful residences, and everything that constitutes a thriving and well-to-do community” (Pope, 1877:59; Smith, 1846:197–198; Smith, 1851: 261, 263, 267–268; Sutherland, 1869:67). The principal crops grown in Trafalgar in 1849-50 included wheat, barley, rye, oats, peas, maize, potatoes, buckwheat, turnips, hay, and mangel wurzel. Other important agricultural farm products included: maple sugar, butter, cheese and wool. Livestock included “neat cattle,” horses, sheep and pigs (Smith, 1851: 267–268).

Great Western Railway

The subject property lies to the immediate north of the original Hamilton and Toronto branch line of the Great Western Railway, which acquired possession of this section of its right-of-way in October of 1853.

The Great Western was originally incorporated in 1834 as the London and Gore Railroad Co. and changed its name to the Great Western in 1853. It received considerable promotion by Allan Napier MacNab, Isaac and Peter Buchanan, R.W. Harris and John Young. Aided by government guarantees and supported by foreign American and British investment, the Great Western opened its mainline (Windsor-London-Hamilton-Niagara Falls) in 1854. The connection from Hamilton to Toronto along the Lake Ontario shore was in operation by 1855. By 1882, it was operating throughout southwestern Ontario and even into Michigan. In 1882 it merged with the Grand Trunk Railway in an attempt to



compete with rival American railways for American through-traffic between Michigan and New York states (Andreae, 1983; Baskerville, 2015).

Lot 11, Concession 3, South of Dundas Street, Trafalgar Township

The Trafalgar Township “Township Papers” show that Lot 11 Concession 3 was a “Crown Reserve” lot that, shortly after the township was surveyed, was leased to John Hill “of Trafalgar, yeoman” by an Order-in-Council dated November 3, 1807. The Attorney General’s fiat was not issued until one year later, on November 17, 1808. Little else is known about Hill (Upper Canada Land Petitions, no date).

The actual Crown patentee for Lot 11 was King’s College, now part of the University of Toronto, on January 3, 1828.

An annotation in a later hand on the “patent plan” for Trafalgar Township shows that Lot 11 was held under a lease granted to John Hall. However, correspondence and a petition in the Trafalgar Township Papers concerning this lot were from James Hall, a Toronto merchant with an address at 72 King Street, Toronto. The city directories show that Hall was the owner of a “British, foreign, and American dry goods warehouse” at or near the corner of King and Church streets. His private residence was on Adelaide Street East (Rowell, 1850:55).

In May 1838, King’s College sold the north half (100 acres or 40.47 ha) of Lot 11, which includes the subject property, to John Foreman (Ontario Land Registry Access, no date: Deed #31N). Foreman is shown as the owner of the lot on the 1858 Tremaine *Map of the County of Halton* (Figure 2).

Foreman (Sept. 21, 1800-after 1875) was a native of Stepney, London, England, and the son of Peter and Sophia (Brett) Foreman. He was married at Trafalgar in December 1828 to Margaret Eliza Griggs (1811-Dec. 26, 1873). Margaret was a native of Ancaster and the daughter of George William and Mary Ann (McCarthy) Griggs. They raised a family of at least eight children (two sons and six daughters) who were born between 1834 and 1853. The family was described in the 1851 census as being “Millerites,” and in later censuses as



“Second Adventists.”¹ Foreman owned two farms in Halton County, one was in Esquesing Township (Lot 28 Concession 7) and the other was the lot including the subject property in Trafalgar. The family residence in Trafalgar was described as a one-storey frame house, although this is not shown on the 1858 Tremaine map. In 1851 they employed one farm hand named John Plump (born circa 1828). Margaret Foreman served as the postmistress for part of Esquesing Township (Library and Archives Canada, 1851; Sutherland, 1869:46, 70; Library and Archives Canada, 1871).

The 1871 Trafalgar agricultural census shows that the family’s Trafalgar and Esquesing farms amounted to 200 acres (81 hectares) in all, and they owned two houses, three barns/sheds, one carriage, three wagons, one plough, reaper, horse rake, and fanning mill. Their Trafalgar farm included an acre of garden/orchard. Their land produced spring wheat (16 bushels), fall wheat (100 bushels), barley (30 bushels), oats (60 bushels), turnip (60 bushels), peas (35 bushels), buckwheat (7 bushels), corn (10 bushels), potatoes (12 bushels), apples (100 bushels), and 20 tons of hay (from 12 acres/4.85 ha). The farm livestock included horses (2), colts/fillies (1), milch cows (4), horned cattle (9), sheep (18), and pigs (1). Additional farm produce included barrels of cured beef, mutton, and pork, butter (250 lbs/113 kg), wool (40 lbs/18.14 kg), and homemade cloth/flannel (30 yards/27 m). No wood was cut on the lot (Library and Archives Canada, 1871).

The house and barns on the Trafalgar farm appear to have located on the south part of the north half of the lot, south of the subject property and fronting the concession road between Lots 10 and 11, as shown on the map of Trafalgar

¹ The Millerites were followers of an American Baptist preacher, William Miller, which flourished between 1839 and 1844. Miller believed that Christ would be resurrected (a “Second Advent”) during the year between the spring of 1843 and the spring of 1844 and that the world would then come to an end. Christ failed to appear as prophesied by others on October 22, 1844, which gave rise to “The Great Disappointment,” after which many of the Millerites became Adventists or formed other denominations.



Township in the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton* (Figure 3).

Two years before this map was published, John Foreman had sold most of his Lot 11 property to Cornelius Slattery and Andrew Reynolds. The 1877 map identifies “C. Slattery” and “T. Reynolds” as the owners. The latter is a cartographic error. Andrew Reynolds is the name recorded in the abstract index to deeds for Lot 11.

Cornelius Slattery (born circa 1838 or 1848) was a native of Co. Tipperary, Ireland, and the son of Patrick and Norah Slattery. The family emigrated from Ireland to Canada West sometime between 1850 and 1853. In 1871, they were tenant farmers who lived on Lot 20 Concession 1 (North of Dundas Street) in Trafalgar Township. The family then consisted of Patrick Slattery (a widower, born circa 1820), five sons (aged between 18 and 32), and a daughter aged 16, who belonged to the Roman Catholic Church. The family owned various carriages, wagons, ploughs, and a fanning mill. There were no crops or livestock enumerated in the agricultural census for that year (1871 Trafalgar Census, division B2, p. 8). Cornelius Slattery, who was a single man, died intestate on September 24, 1876.

Andrew Reynolds (born circa 1819) was a native of Ireland. The 1871 census shows that he was employed as a “labourer,” and was a single man who resided in Oakville with his older brother Thomas, who was a merchant and his nephew, Thomas. The men belonged to the Roman Catholic Church (Library and Archives Canada, 1871).

In January 1878 Andrew Reynolds and Slattery’s heirs, sold this land to Robert Duncan Storey. (Trafalgar deeds #2436). The lands subsequently passed through many owners but retained their agricultural character into the twentieth century (Figure 4).

Lot 12, Concession 3, South of Dundas Street, Trafalgar Township

The early records for Lot 12 are largely illegible. The east three-quarters of the lot, which includes the subject property, was patented by Samuel Fraser



(Fraser), on February 15, 1808. Since the east part of the lot did not make up Fraser's full allotment, due to the encroachment of the boundary line between the Mississauga Indian Reserve and his property, he was also granted 50 acres/20.23 hectares in Lot 11 Concession 4 (Broken Front), as restitution. At the date of the patent, Fraser and two of his neighbours attested that five acres (2.02 ha) was cleared and fenced, a house 18' x 24' (5.48 x 7.31 m) had been erected on the property, and that half of the road allowance between Concessions 3 and 4 had been cleared (Ontario Land Registry Access, no date:925).

Fraser was an American settler in Vaughan Township. At the outbreak of the War of 1812, he left the province to join the American forces.

In April 1810, Fraser sold the northeast part of Lot 12 to Charles Anderson, a farmer from Grimsby. The abstract index appears to state that the deed was for 100 acres (Ontario Land Registry Access, no date: deed #433F[?]). Anderson (1760-1829) was a native of County Antrim, Ireland, who settled at Grimsby in 1788. He was a farmer and innkeeper.

In April 1813, Fraser sold another part of the east half of the lot to Mary Joset Content (Bassell) Gugin. The abstract index does not state the amount of the land sold, nor is there a part lot thumbnail description in the remarks column (Ontario Land Registry Access, no date: deed #2205F [?]).

In March 1821, the Hon. James Baby "and others" as "Commissioner for the estates of Traitors and Aliens" deeded 140 acres of this lot to Charles Anderson. The 'remarks' column appears to state "NE part" (Ontario Land Registry Access, no date: deed#144G [?]).

In December 1829, Joseph Brant Anderson inherited the estate lands of his father. It was described as "Lot 12 plus other lands." This was followed by a deed dated January 1830 [?] from Charles to Joseph Anderson for "200 acres, Lot 12" (Ontario Land Registry Access, no date: deeds # 45G [?], #145G [?]). Anderson is shown as the owner of the lot on the 1858 Tremaine map (Figure 2).



Anderson and his family were enumerated in the 1851, 1861, and 1871 censuses for Oakville. The family belonged to the Congregationalist Church. The family residence was a one-storey frame dwelling in 1851, and a one-and-one-half-storey frame house in 1861. The agricultural census data appears to be missing for 1851 and is only partly extant for 1861. The census indicates that Anderson owned 138 acres (55.84 ha), of which 50 acres (20.23 ha) was under cultivation (12 acres/4.85 ha crop, 35 acres/14.16 ha pasture, three acres/1.21 ha garden/orchard) and the remaining 88 acres/35.6 ha was “wild or wooded.” In 1860 the Anderson farm produced spring wheat (60 bushels), barley (30 bushels), peas (30 bushels), oats (50 bushels), buckwheat (40 bushels), and potatoes (50 bushels). There is no schedule detailing livestock or additional farm produce. The value of the farm was estimated at \$11,000 with an additional \$100 in farm tools/equipment (Library and Archives Canada, 1851, 1861).

The 1871 agricultural census data is nearly identical to that recorded in the previous census, but this census also shows that Anderson also grew apples (100 bushels), “pears, plums, or other fruit” (10 bushels), and 12 tons of hay. The livestock included horses (2), milch cows (4), “horned cattle” (4), sheep (9), and pigs (3). Additional farm produce included barrels of cured beef, butter (400 lbs/kg), and wool (35 lbs/kg). The Anderson family owned two houses, two barns/sheds, four carriages/sleighs, one wagon, two ploughs, one reaper, and one fanning mill (Library and Archives Canada, 1871).

Upon Anderson’s death in 1879, the lands passed to his son, William Cyrus Anderson. The Anderson family retained their interest in the property until the early twentieth-century Ontario Land Registry Access, no date).

General Electric

GE Canada (or General Electric Canada) was preceded by the company Canadian General Electric (CGE), a Canadian manufacturer of various electrical products acting as the Canadian counterpart of the American company General Electric. The company was formed in 1892 through a merger of the Edison Electric Light Company of Canada, based in Hamilton, and the Thomson-Houston Electric Light Company of Canada, based in Montreal. The headquarters of the Canadian branch of the company was located at 212 King Street West in Toronto. In 1989,



CGE became wholly owned by General Electric and was named General Electric Canada and is now known as GE Canada.

The lands for the General Electric manufacturing facility at Oakville were purchased in phases, beginning with the 1946 acquisition of the 6.5-hectare 420 South Service Road East property. Construction of the plant, to produce incandescent lamps, took place in 1946-1947 and the factory opened in 1948. The plant on the 420 South Service Road East property was expanded on several occasions between 1954 and 1966. The site was serviced by a spur from the railway line to the south, which appears to have been built some time between 1954 and 1962 (Figures 5 and 6). It was apparently decommissioned prior to 1999, although faint traces of the railbed east of the subject property can be seen on an aerial photograph of that year and less clearly on aerials dating to the early 2000s (Figure 7). On the subject property, the railbed was removed when the lands to the immediate southeast of the main factory buildings were paved over.

In 1961 General Electric purchased the 468 South Service Road East portion of the subject property. This 2.9-hectare parcel had been developed as a gas station and service garage some 20 years previously, although this business had apparently ceased operation before General Electric's acquisition. Following the demolition of the service station, this part of the property was used for warehousing and storage.

In the 1990s, the electric lamp operations of the Oakville factory gradually transferred to plants in Warren, Ohio, and in Winchester, Virginia. Most of the fluorescent tube operations ceased by the late 1990s. By 2009, incandescent lamp production stopped, with the operations moving to Mexico and China, and the plant was closed in 2010.

The production buildings south of the office building were demolished to floor level in 2011. The office building is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act due to its architectural significance as an example of the "Art Moderne" style (Town of Oakville By-law 2011-096).



1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Registered Archaeological Sites

In order that an inventory of archaeological resources could be compiled for the subject property, three sources of information were consulted: the site record forms for registered sites housed at the Ministry, published and unpublished documentary sources, and the files of Archaeological Services Inc.

In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database, which is maintained by the Ministry. This database contains archaeological sites registered within the Borden system. The Borden system was first proposed by Doctor Charles E. Borden and is based on a block of latitude and longitude. Each Borden block measures approximately 13 kilometres east-west by 18.5 kilometres north-south and is referenced by a four-letter designator. Sites within a block are numbered sequentially as they are found. The subject property is located in the AiGw Borden block.

A search of the database revealed that no sites have been registered within a kilometre of the subject property. The nearest site is a Euro-Canadian farmstead (AiGw-262) located approximately 1.5 kilometres to the southeast near the intersection of Trafalgar Road and Sumner Avenue. The site was documented in 1994 and subject to Stage 2-3 assessments (Golder Associates Limited, 1994).

The paucity of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the subject property is attributable to the area's development prior to the implementation of systematic archaeological assessments under provincial legislation. Accordingly, the absence of registered archaeological sites should not be taken as an indicator of any lack of Indigenous or early Euro-Canadian land use or occupation.

No record of any property-specific archaeological assessments carried out within 50 metres of the subject property were found during this study. A high-level Stage 1 assessment in support of the Midtown Oakville Transportation Network and Municipal Storm Water Municipal Class Environmental Assessment considered portions of the subject property, characterizing the built-upon lands



as being disturbed, while some of the greenspaces or naturalized areas were considered to retain potential (Archaeological Services Inc., 2014:Figure 8).

Various other large-scale assessments have also been carried out in support of improvements to the railway corridor south of the property, now operated by GO Transit/Metrolinx, but they incorporate lands beyond 50 metres of the subject property and are not relevant to this study.

1.3.2 Physiography

The subject property is situated within the Iroquois Plain physiographic region of southern Ontario (Chapman and Putnam 1984), which is the former bed of glacial Lake Iroquois. In the vicinity of the subject property, the Lake Iroquois strand is situated approximately 3.1 km inland from the current Lake Ontario shore. Below the strand, the Quaternary sediments are dominated by outwash sands typical of nearshore deposits. The balance of the plain, towards the modern lake shore, is dominated by fine sediments of silt and clay, typical of offshore deposits, overlying till (Gravenor, 1957; Chapman and Putnam, 1984). Consistent with this characterization, the soils in the area of the subject property are mapped as coarse-textured glaciolacustrine sands, gravels with minor silts and clays (Ontario Geological Survey, 2000). These deposits overlie silty to clayey Halton Till, which in turn formed on Georgian Bay Formation shale bedrock, the upper levels of which are usually weathered.

Glacial Lake Iroquois came into existence by about 12,000 B.P., as the Ontario lobe of the Wisconsin glacier retreated from the Lake Ontario basin. Isostatic uplift of its outlet, combined with blockage of subsequent lower outlets by glacial ice, produced a water plain substantially higher than modern Lake Ontario. Beginning around 12,000 B.P., water levels dropped stepwise during the next few centuries in response to sill elevations at the changing outlet. By about 11,500 B.P., when the St. Lawrence River outlet became established, the initial phase of Lake Ontario began, and this low water phase appears to have lasted until at least 10,500 B.P. At this time, the waters stood as much as 100 m below current levels. However, isostatic uplift was already raising the outlet at Kingston so that by 10,000 B.P., the water level had risen to about 80 m below present. Uplift since then has continued to tilt Lake Ontario upward to the



northeast, propagating a gradual transgressive expansion throughout the basin, flooding the mouths of the creeks and rivers that rim the basin (Karrow, 1967:49; Anderson and Lewis, 1985; Karrow and Warner, 1990).

The subject property falls within the Lower Morrison Creek watershed, which drains an area of approximately 1,462 acres (Conservation Halton, 2015). Tributary branches of the creek are, or were, located approximately 60 metres to the northeast of the property and 260 metres to its south and west. The creek to the northeast has been heavily engineered through industrial and residential development of the area, while those to the southwest no longer exist as surface features north the Canadian National rail corridor; they have been incorporated into the local storm sewer system.

1.3.3 The Predevelopment Landscape and Modelling Archaeological Potential

Water is arguably the single most important resource necessary for any extended human occupation or settlement. Since water sources have remained relatively stable in southern Ontario after the Pleistocene era, proximity to water can be regarded as the primary indicator of archaeological site potential. Accordingly, distance to water is one of the most commonly used variables for predictive modelling of archaeological site location, particular with respect to Indigenous occupations and land use patterns.

The Provincial *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Ministry of Tourism and Culture, 2011) stipulate that undisturbed lands within 300 metres of primary water sources (lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, etc.), secondary water sources (intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps, etc.), ancient water sources, and the shorelines of extant or former waterbodies are considered, at a generic level, to exhibit archaeological potential. A variety of other criteria that may indicate potential are also identified in the *Standards and Guidelines*, however, they are not relevant to the subject property or cannot be reconstructed given the urban context in which the property occurs.

The generic Provincial distance to water potential model has been refined for the Regional Municipality of Halton, as part of the, as part of the Region's



Master Plan of Archaeological Resources of the Regional Municipality of Halton (Archaeological Services Inc., 1998, 2008). According to the modelling undertaken for the master plan, undisturbed lands within 200 metres of an extant or formerly mapped river or creek or the break in slope associated with such watercourses have potential for the presence of Indigenous archaeological sites, before considerations of landscape integrity or development disturbance.

For the post-contact period, Provincial *Standards and Guidelines* state that those areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, including places of early military or pioneer settlement (pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches, and early cemeteries, are considered to have archaeological potential. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local, provincial, or federal monuments or heritage parks. Also considered to have Euro-Canadian archaeological potential are early historical transportation routes (trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes), properties listed on a municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* or a federal, provincial, or municipal historical landmark or site, and properties that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations.

In terms of the historical archaeological site modelling for the Halton Archaeological Master Plan, potential areas were defined as 50-100 metre zones around settlement features that appear on nineteenth- and early twentieth-century maps.

1.3.3 Existing Conditions

Approximately 70% of the subject property is occupied by a combination of remnant factory concrete floor slabs, asphalted or concrete parking areas, bulk storage yards, and circulation routes, as well as zones of unauthorized soil dumping and stockpiling (Figure 8). These heavily altered lands also include the extant General Electric office building.

The balance of the property consists of landscaped greenspaces and naturalized areas of various types that exhibit less obvious surficial indications of previous



alterations on current aerial photography (Figure 8), but the extent of modifications is apparent on digital terrain modelling (Figure 9), with berms, former building footings or excavations, drainage ditches and irregular cuts, pits and mounds clearly evident throughout these parts of the property.

A review of the extensive soil and groundwater sampling and testing data available for the subject property (AECOM, 2014; Pinchin Environmental, 2015; EXP Services Inc., 2023), focusing on the greenspace and naturalized areas, has been undertaken to further evaluate their integrity.

Records for 17 boreholes and monitoring wells advanced across the open or naturalized portions of the property (Tables 1 and 2, Figure 10) were reviewed, revealing a general stratigraphic sequence of surface landscaping topsoil or granular over a layer, or layers, of fills to depths of up to three metres laid on the natural silty clay till (i.e., the Halton Till geological substrate). The fill may be characterized as either material from other sources brought to the site, or “reworked native soil” (i.e., deposits created through cutting, demolitions and grade levelling, remediations, etc.). The records note variable inclusions of gravel, asphalt, concrete and brick rubble and other debris within the fills. Three boreholes encountered a layer peat and sandy silt formed on, or incorporated by, the glacial till.

Table 1: Summary of Geotechnical Data with Elevation Data (AECOM, 2014)

Identifier	Soils	Elevation (m ASL)
MW313	Surface Granular	105.37-105.2
	Silty Clay Fill	105.2-102.9
	Silty Clay Till	102.9-102.3
	Shale Bedrock	102.3
MW323	Surface Topsoil	102.54-102.5
	Silty Clay Fill	102.5-101.6
	Silty Clay Till	101.6-100.4
	Sandy Silt	100.4-100.2
	Silty Clay Till	100.2-99.0
	Shale Bedrock	99.0
MW326	Surface Granular	105.34-105.3
	Silty Clay Fill	105.3-102.3
	Silty Clay Till	102.3-101.7
	Bore Hole Terminated	
MW328	Surface Topsoil	103.67-103.6



Table 1: Summary of Geotechnical Data with Elevation Data (AECOM, 2014)

Identifier	Soils	Elevation (m ASL)
	Silty Clay Fill	103.6-102.9
	Silty Sandy Clay Till	102.9-100.4
	Shale Bedrock	100.4
MW125	Surface Topsoil	102.3-102.2
	Clay Silt Fill	102.2-99.8
	Clay Silt Till	99.8-99.2
	Weathered Shale	99.2
MW 138	Sand and Gravel Fill	105.3-102.4
	Clay Silt Till	102.4-102.1
	Weathered Shale	102.1
MW150D	Surface Topsoil	101.4-101.2
	Clay Silt Fill	101.2-100.3
	Peat	100.3-100.1
	Sandy Silt	100.1-99.4
	Clay Silt Till	99.4-98.6
	Weathered Shale	98.6
MW150S	Surface Topsoil	101.4-101.3
	Clay Silt Fill	101.3-100.3
	Peat	100.3-100.1
	Sandy Silt	100.1-99.4
	Clay Silt Till	99.4-98.7
	Bore Hole Terminated	
MW152	Surface Topsoil	100.95-100.8
	Clay Silt Fill	100.8-100.3
	Clay Silt Till	100.3-98.7
	Weathered Shale	98.7
MW153	Surface Topsoil	101.8-101.7
	Clay Silt Fill	101.7-99.4
	Clay Silt Till	99.4-99.3
	Weathered Shale	99.3-99.2
MW149	Surface Topsoil	103.25-103.2
	Clay Silt Fill	103.2-101.2
	Peat	101.2-100.8
	Clay Silt Till	100.8-100.2
	Weathered Shale	100.2-99.9
MW133	Silt and Clay Fill	106.13-106.0
	Clay Silt Till	106.0-104.6
	Weathered Shale	104.6-101.4
MW132S	Surface Topsoil	105.6-105.5
	Clay Silt Till	105.5-104.0



Table 1: Summary of Geotechnical Data with Elevation Data (AECOM, 2014)

Identifier	Soils	Elevation (m ASL)
	Weathered Shale	104.0-102.4

Table 2: Summary of Geotechnical Data with Depth Data (Pinchin Environmental, 2015)

Identifier	Soils	Depth (m)
BH209	Surface Topsoil	0.40
	Sandy Silty Clay (Fill)	0.76
	Silty Clay (Till)	1.52
	Bore Hole Terminated	
BH218	Surface Topsoil	0.20
	Clay (Till)	0.76
	Bore Hole Terminated	
BH219	Surface Topsoil	0.20
	Clay (Till)	0.76
	Bore Hole Terminated	
BH220	Surface Topsoil	0.20
	Clay (Fill)	0.76
	Sand (Fill)	1.07
	Silty Clay (Till)	1.83
	Bore Hole Terminated	
MW201	Surface Topsoil	0.30
	Silty Sand (Fill)	0.76
	Sandy Clay (Fill)	1.52
	Sand (Fill)	1.98
	Clay Silt (Till)	2.74
	Bore Hole Terminated	

A property inspection was conducted on September 27, 2024. The property (Figure 10) was inspected when weather and lighting conditions permitted satisfactory visibility of features, under a clear sky.

The entire subject property (Images 1-17) has been affected by extensive cutting, filling and grading works related to the original construction of the General Electric factory and expansions or changes to the operations and physical plant, as well as its services (including, but not limited to stormwater and sanitary sewers, water and power supplies, and underground storage tanks). The demolition of the buildings, decommissioning of services and the various environmental remediations that occurred both during the life of the



factory and following its closure further contributed to the formation the site's irregular topography of mounds, ridges, depressions, and linear cuts. Areas of soil exposure within the open landscaped and naturalized areas reveal these surface deposits to be fills incorporating large quantities of industrial debris, asphalt and concrete rubble, tabular pieces of shale, and trash (e.g., Images 1, 5, 7, 8, 12). These observations are entirely consistent with the findings of the previous geotechnical investigations (Tables 1 and 2).

2.0 Analysis and Conclusions

The evaluation of the possibility for the survival of any archaeological resources of potential cultural heritage value must take into account a number of taphonomic considerations in addition to the basic historical sequence of developments, demolitions, and general patterns of change in property use outlined in Sections 1.2 and 1.3.

2.1 Indigenous Archaeological Resource Potential

As noted in Section 1.3.2, the nearest source of water is a small , highly modified tributary of Lower Morrison Creek, approximately 60 metres northeast of the subject property. Other tributaries formerly lay approximately 260 metres to the south and west of the property. These have been absorbed into the local storm sewer system.

Therefore, the property would normally be considered to fall within an area of potential for the presence of precontact or early contact period Indigenous archaeological resources according to the Halton Archaeological Master Plan potential model, in the case of the nearest watercourse. The generic Provincial distance to water criteria would also extend to the more distant creeks.

Regardless, the mid-twentieth-century industrial development of the subject property on the part of General Electric, extensively altered the original topography through cutting, grading, filling, servicing, construction, demolitions and remediations. These were long-term processes, and included periods of reworking the existing fabrics as the production processes at the plant were modified. Any archaeological resources dating to the precontact and early



contact periods that may have been present will not have survived these activities. This reality, recognized in the Halton Archaeological Master Plan potential modelling, which excluded the subject property from further consideration as an area of archaeological potential given the complete lack of landscape integrity (Archaeological Services Inc., 1998, 2008) is confirmed by the findings of this study.

2.2 Euro-Canadian Archaeological Resource Potential

The subject property forms part of a lot brought into agricultural production beginning in the early 1800s before the Crown granted the patents for Lots 11 and 12, South of Dundas Street to King's College in 1828 and Samuel Fraser in 1808, respectively. Receipt of the patent depended on the applicant demonstrating that he had performed the requisite settlement duties in terms of land clearance, construction of a dwelling and road work. In the case of the King's College patent this work was done by a tenant or tenants. The subsequent ownership history of both lots was complicated, but it is apparent that the subject property lands formed part of an arable field system north of the Great Western Railway right-of-way, with no definitive indications of any other permanent settlement features, such as farmhouses, on these parts of the lots.

Nevertheless, the twentieth-century development of the subject property has been equally destructive in terms of any potential remains of the initial Euro-Canadian settlement period.

2.3 Summary

The subject property retains no integrity and no potential for the survival of any archeological resources of cultural heritage value or interest. This conclusion is consistent with the statements concerning the removal of archaeological potential ("disturbance") outlined in Section 1.3.2 of the 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists.



3.0 Recommendations

Given the findings of the Stage 1 assessment research, the following recommendation is made:

1. The 420 and 468 South Service Road East subject property may be considered free of further archaeological concern. No further archaeological assessment is required.

NOTWITHSTANDING the results and recommendations presented in this study, Archaeological Services Inc. notes that no archaeological assessment, no matter how thorough or carefully completed, can necessarily predict, account for, or identify every form of isolated or deeply buried archaeological deposit. In the event that archaeological remains are found during subsequent construction activities, the consultant archaeologist, approval authority, and the Cultural Programs Unit of the Ministry of Multiculturalism and Citizenship must be immediately notified.

The above recommendations are subject to Ministry approval, and it is an offence to alter any archaeological site without Ministry of Multiculturalism and Citizenship concurrence. No grading or other activities that may result in the destruction or disturbance of any archaeological sites are permitted until notice of the Ministry of Multiculturalism and Citizenship approval has been received.

4.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

Archaeological Services Inc. advises compliance with the following legislation:

- This report is submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the Ontario Heritage Act, RSO 2005, 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 field work and report recommendations ensure the conservation, preservation and protection of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal



have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, a letter will be issued by the Ministry stating that there are no further concerns with 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 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 field work on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeology Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
- Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act.
- The Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33, 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, Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, Ministry of Public and Business Services Delivery is also immediately notified.
- Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological field work or protection remain subject to Section 48(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act and may not be altered, nor may artifacts be removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological license.



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6.0 Images



Image 1: View across filled area in the southwest corner of the subject property.



Image 2: View northeast across the factory floor slab behind the former administration building.



Image 3: View southeast across the factory floor slab.



Image 4: View southwest to remnant unauthorized dumps of fill on the asphalt have been levelled.



Image 5: Irregular topography of fills in the southeast corner of the property.



Image 6: View southwest along the edge of the pavements at the rear of the property where unauthorized piles of fill have been levelled out.



Image 7: Exposure of fill and irregular topography in the northeast part of the property.



Image 8: View across the summit of the massive berm to the north of the former factory building footprints.



Image 9: Irregular topography created by the excavation of a drainage channel south of the massive berm.



Image 10: Irregular topography created through grading and filling in the northeast corner of the property.



Image 11: View northwest across the concrete and asphalt surfaces in the northwest corner of the property.



Image 12: Irregular topography resulting from cutting and filling north of the massive berm.



Image 13: View southwest across the South Service Road frontage to the former administration building.



Image 14: View northeast across the South Service Road frontage.



Image 15: View of the variable elevations of the concrete and asphalt surfaces in the central part of the subject property.



Image 16: View southwest across the factory floor slab behind the former administration building.

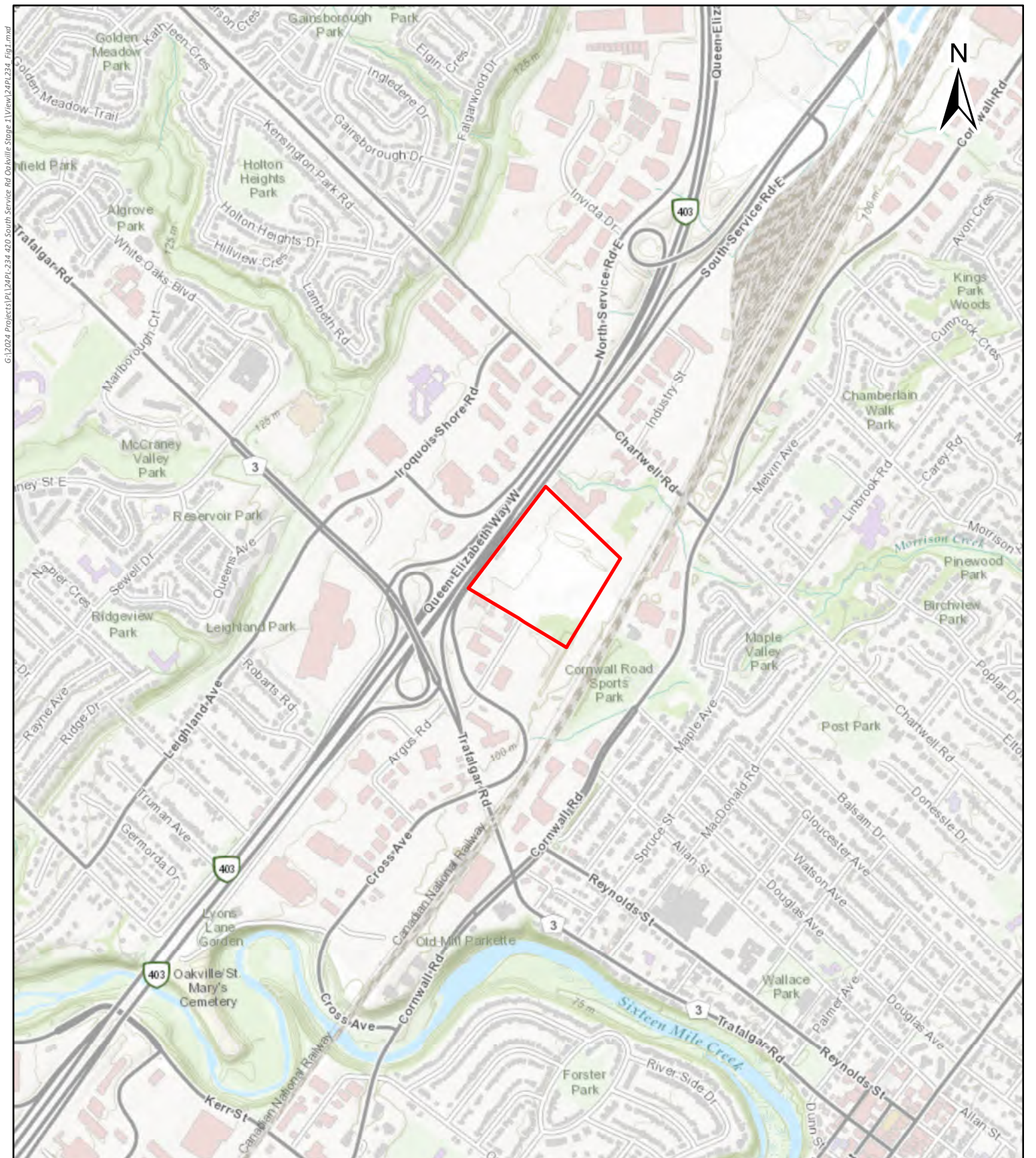


Image 17: View northwest along the road west of the drainage channel and berm.

7.0 Maps

See following pages for detailed assessment mapping and figures.



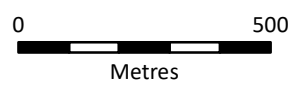


G:\2024 Projects\24PL-234-230 South Service Rd Oakville Stage 1\View\24PL234_Fig1.mxd



SUBJECT PROPERTY

Sources: ESRI and GIS User Community



Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 Scale: 1:15,000
 Page Size: 8.5 x 11

ASI PROJECT NO.: 24PL-234
 DATE: 2024-09-17
 DRAWN BY: A.C.
 FILE: 24PL234_Fig1




Figure 1: Location of the Subject Property

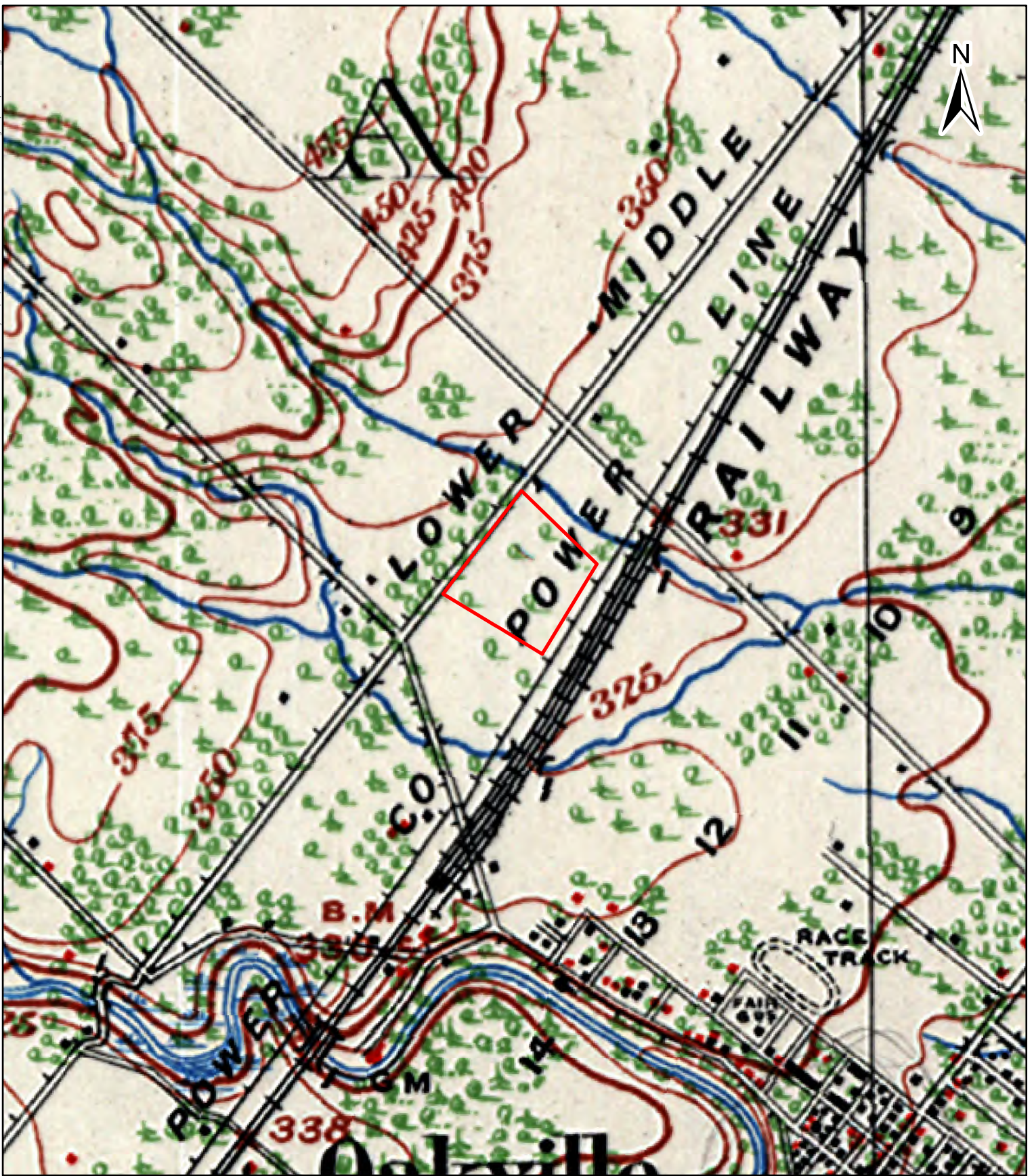


Figure 2: The Subject Property on the 1858 Tremaine Map of the County of Halton



Figure 3: The Subject Property on the map of Trafalgar Township in the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton

	 SUBJECT PROPERTY	Sources: Tremaine's Map of the County of Halton Geo. C. Tremaine 1858. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton Walker & Mills, Toronto Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:20,000 Page Size: 8.5 x 11	 0 500 Metres ASI PROJECT NO.:24PL-234 DRAWN BY: A.C. DATE: 2024-09-17 FILE: 24PL234_Fig2-3
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Figure 4: The Subject Property on 1909 Topographic Mapping (Burlington Sheet)



 SUBJECT PROPERTY

Sources:
University of Toronto Libraries

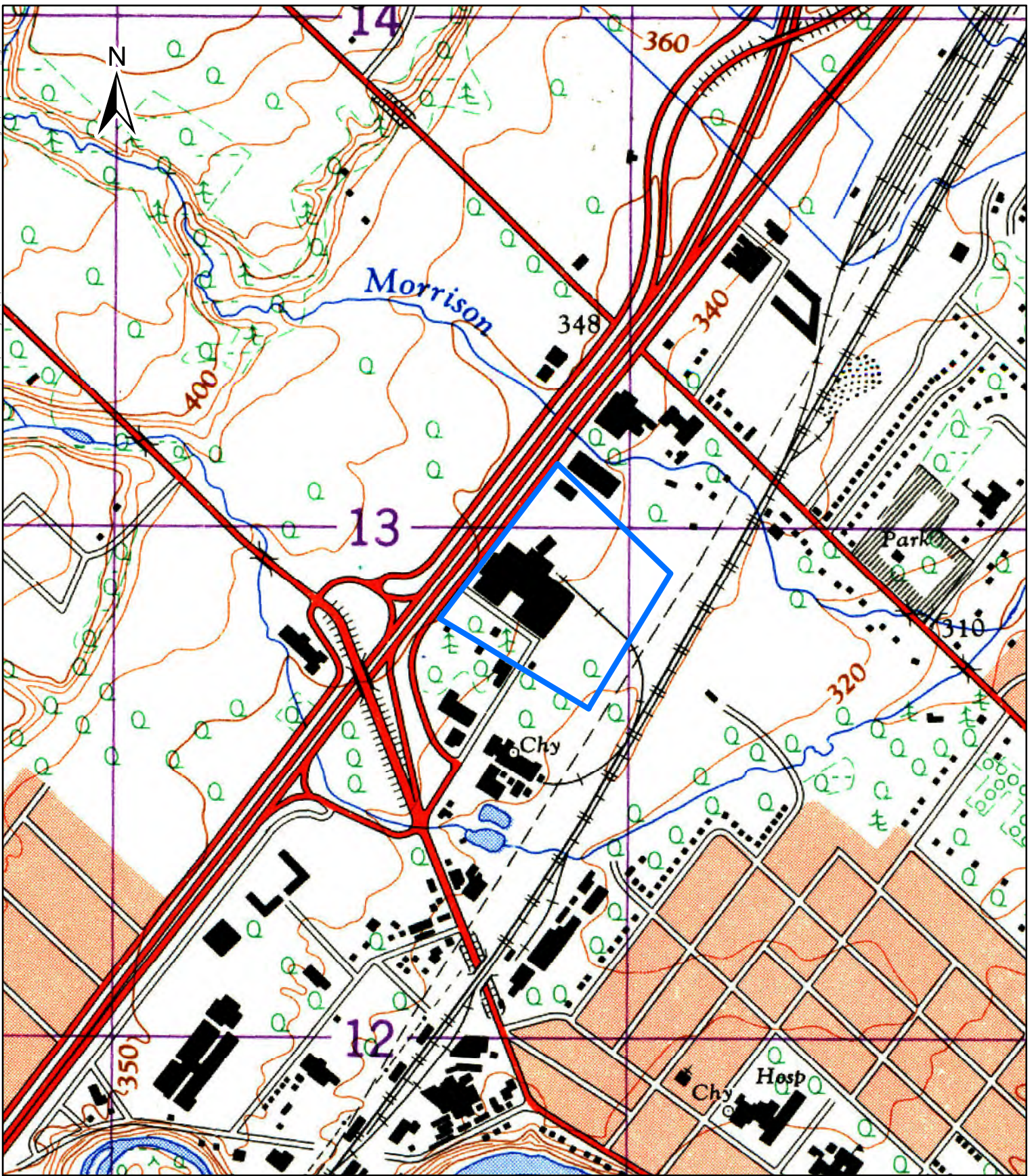
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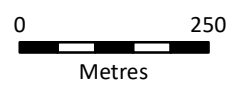
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Figure 5: The Subject Property on 1954 Aerial Imagery



 SUBJECT PROPERTY

Sources:
Army Survey Establishment



Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Scale: 1:10,000
Page Size: 8.5 x 11

ASI PROJECT NO.: 24PL-234
DATE: 2024-09-17

DRAWN BY: A.C.
FILE: 24PL234_Fig6

Figure 6: The Subject Property on 1964 Topographic Mapping (Oakville Sheet)



1999



2007

	 SUBJECT PROPERTY	Sources: Town of Oakville, Google Earth Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:7,000 Page Size: 8.5 x 11	 <p>0 250 Metres</p> <p>ASI PROJECT NO.: 24PL-234 DRAWN BY: A.C. DATE: 2024-09-17 FILE: 24PL234_Fig7</p>
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Figure 7: The Subject Property on 1999 and 2007 Aerial Imagery





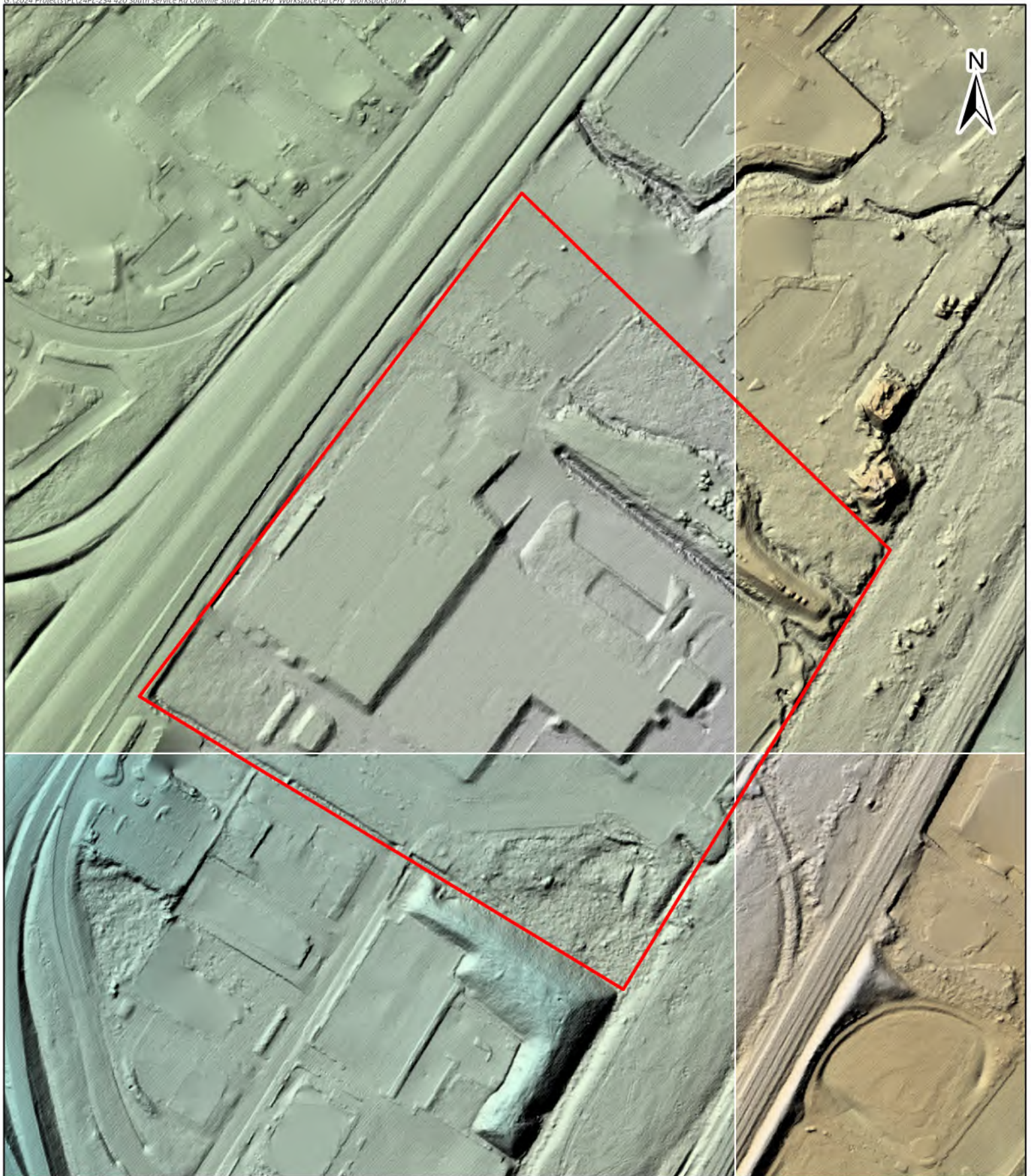
	 SUBJECT PROPERTY	Sources: Google Earth Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Scale: 1:4,000 Page Size: 8.5 x 11	<div style="text-align: center;">  0 100 Metres </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> ASI PROJECT NO.: 24PL-234 DATE: 2024-09-17 DRAWN BY: A.C. FILE: 24PL234_Fig8 </div>
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Figure 8: The Subject Property Existing Conditions



 SUBJECT PROPERTY

Source: Ontario Government



Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Scale: 1:3,000
Page Size: 8.5x11

ASI Project No.: 24PL-234
Date: 9/26/2024 6:00 PM

Drawn By: aclish
File: 24PL234_Lidar

Figure 9: The topography of the subject property derived from Provincial Lidar data



Figure 10: Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 420-468 South Service Road East — existing conditions and evaluation of potential