

Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment: Elora Battery Energy Storage System

Part of Lot 11, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Nichol, now Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, Ontario

June 25, 2024

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ORIGINAL REPORT

Limitations and Sign-off

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Executive Summary

Elora BESS LP retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) to complete a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment in support of the proposed Elora Battery Energy Storage System (BESS; the Project) in the Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, Ontario. The Project is subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (MTF Class EA) (Hydro One 2022), which has been approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (Government of Ontario 1990a). The study area for the Project is in part of Lot 11, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Nichol, now Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, Ontario. The study area is approximately 9.8 hectares and comprises agricultural lands.

The Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment of the study area was conducted on May 17, 2024, under Project Information Form number P390-0413-2024, issued to Ragavan Nithiyanantham of Stantec by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM).

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment evaluated the study area to have archaeological potential to support Stage 2 archaeological assessment. During the Stage 2 archaeological assessment, under the field direction of Andrew O'Shaughnessy (R497), the study area was subject to pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals. No archaeological resources were identified.

Based on Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment results presented in this report, Stantec recommends:

1. No further archaeological assessment for the study area

The MCM is asked to review the results presented and to enter this report into the *Ontario Public Register* of Archaeological Reports.

The Executive Summary highlights key points from the report only; for complete information and findings, the reader should examine the complete report.



Table of Contents

Limitat	tions and Sign-off	
Execut	tive Summary	
Projec	t Personnel	iv
Ackno	wledgements	i\
Acrony	yms / Abbreviations	٠١
1	Project Context	1
	1.1 Development Context	
	1.2.1 Pre-Contact Indigenous Resources 1.2.2 Post-Contact Indigenous Resources 1.2.3 Euro-Canadian Resources	2 8
	1.3 Archaeological Context	10 10 11
2	Field Methods	14
3	Record of Finds	15
4	Analysis and Conclusions	16
5	Recommendations	17
6	Advice on Compliance with Legislation	18
7	Bibliography	
8	Images	23
9	8.1 Photographs	
List of	Tables	
Table 1 Table 2 Table 3	Generalized Archaeological Chronology Related to the Study Area	14
List of	Figures	
Figure 2 Figure 3 Figure 4	Detailed Location of the Study Area Treaties and Purchases (Adapted from Morris 1943)	26
Figure 5	Portion of the 1879 Map of the County of Wellington	29
Figure 7		



Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment: Elora Battery Energy Storage System Table of Contents June 25, 2024

List of Photos

Photo 1:	Pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals, facing southeast	23
Photo 2:	Pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals, facing west	
Photo 3:	Pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals, facing southeast	
Photo 4:	Pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals, facing northwest	



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Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation Tanya Hill-Montour, Archaeological Supervisor



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June 25, 2024

Acronyms / Abbreviations

AMICK Consultants Ltd.

BESS Battery energy storage systems

BP Before Present

CAHP Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals

EA Environmental Assessment

GIS Geographic Information Services

MA Master of Arts

MCFN Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

MCM Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

MTF Minor Transmission Facilities

n.d. No date

Ph.D. Doctor of Philosophy

PIF Project Information Form

Stantec Stantec Consulting Ltd.



1 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

Elora BESS LP retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) to complete a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment in support of the proposed Elora Battery Energy Storage System (BESS; the Project) in the Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, Ontario (Figure 1). The Project aims to store excess energy from the Ontario power grid during off-peak periods and release it during peak periods. The Independent Electricity System Operator identified the need for energy storage projects, as Ontario is forecasted to continue to experience surpluses in baseload generation.

The Project is subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (MTF Class EA) (Hydro One 2022), which has been approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (Government of Ontario 1990a). The MTF Class EA is a streamlined process that provides transmission projects with a predictable range of effects to be planned and carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner and with feasible environmental mitigation and protection measures.

The study area for the Project is in part of Lot 11, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Nichol, now Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, Ontario. The study area is approximately 9.8 hectares and comprises agricultural lands (Figure 2).

1.1.1 Objectives

In compliance with the provincial standards and guidelines set out by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) in the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011), the objectives of Stage 1 archaeological assessment are to:

- Provide information about the study area's geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land conditions
- Evaluate the study area's archaeological potential, which will support recommendations for Stage 2 survey for all or parts of the property
- Recommend appropriate strategies for the Stage 2 survey.

To meet these objectives, Stantec archaeologists:

- Reviewed relevant archaeological, historical, and environmental literature pertaining to the study area
- Reviewed land use history of the study area, including pertinent historical maps
- Examined the *Ontario Archaeological Sites Database* to determine the presence of registered archaeological sites in and around the study area
- Queried the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports* to determine if previous archaeological assessments have occurred within the study area or 50 metres of the study area.



Further, in compliance with the provincial standards and guidelines set out in the MCM's 2011 *Standards* and *Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011), the objectives of Stage 2 archaeological assessment are to:

- Document archaeological resources within the study area
- Determine whether the study area contains archaeological resources requiring further assessment
- Recommend appropriate Stage 3 assessment strategies for archaeological resources identified.

Elora BESS LP provided access to the study area for the archaeological assessment.

1.2 Historical Context

"Contact" is typically used as a chronological benchmark when discussing Indigenous archaeology in Canada and describes the interaction between Indigenous and European nations. There is no definitive moment of contact, and the understanding of when Indigenous and European nations first began to influence one another is evolving with new studies of archaeological and historical evidence and from Indigenous oral tradition and history. Contact in what is now the Province of Ontario is broadly assigned to the 16th century (Loewen and Chapdelaine 2016).

1.2.1 Pre-Contact Indigenous Resources

It has been demonstrated that Indigenous people began occupying southern Ontario as the Laurentide glacier receded 12,000 years ago (Ellis and Ferris 1990, 13). Much of what is understood about the lifeways of pre-contact Indigenous peoples is derived from archaeological evidence and ethnographic analogy. In Ontario, Indigenous culture prior to contact with European peoples has been distinguished into archaeological periods based on observed changes in material culture. These archaeological periods are largely based on observed changes to formal lithic tools, separated into the Early Paleo, Late Paleo, Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, and Terminal Archaic periods. Following the advent of ceramic technology in the Indigenous archaeological record, archaeological periods are separated into the Early Woodland, Middle Woodland, and Lake Woodland periods, based primarily on observed changes in formal ceramic decoration.

It should be noted that these archaeological periods do not necessarily represent specific cultural identities but are a useful paradigm for understanding changes in Indigenous culture through time. The current understanding of Indigenous archaeological culture is summarized in Table 1, based on Ellis and Ferris (1990). The provided periods are based on the "Before Present" (BP) notation system, where the "present" was established in 1950.

Table 1 Generalized Archaeological Chronology Related to the Study Area

Archaeological Period	Characteristics	Time Period	Comments
Early Paleo	Fluted Projectiles	10,950 – 10,350 BP	Spruce parkland/caribou hunters



June 25, 2024

Archaeological Period	Characteristics	Time Period	Comments
Late Paleo	Hi-Lo Projectiles	10,350 – 9,950 BP	Smaller but more numerous sites
Early Archaic	Kirk and Bifurcate Base Points	9,950 – 7,950 BP	Slow population growth
Middle Archaic	Brewerton-like Points	7,950 – 4,450 BP	Environment similar to present
	Narrow Points	4,450 – 3,750 BP	Increasing site size
Late Archaic	Broad Points	3,750 – 3,450 BP	Large chipped lithic tools
	Small Points	3,450 – 3,050 BP	Introduction of bow hunting
Terminal Archaic	Hind Points	3,050 – 2,900 BP	Emergence of true cemeteries
Early Woodland	Meadowood Points	2,900 – 2,350 BP	Introduction of pottery
Middle Mare diese	Dentate/Pseudo-Scallop Pottery	2,350 – 1,400 BP	Increased sedentism
Middle Woodland	Princess Point Pottery	1,400 – 1,050 BP	Introduction of corn
	Early Late Woodland Pottery	1,050 – 650 BP	Emergence of agricultural villages
Late Woodland	Middle Late Woodland Pottery	650 – 550 BP	Long longhouses (100+ metres)
	Late Late Woodland Pottery	550 – 350 BP	Tribal warfare and displacement

Between 10,950 and 9,950 BP, Indigenous populations were sustained by hunting, fishing, and foraging and lived a relatively nomadic existence across an extensive geographic territory. Despite these wide territories, social ties were maintained between groups. One method was through gift exchange, evident through exotic lithic material documented on many sites (Ellis 2013, 35-40).

By approximately 9,950 BP, evidence existed and became more common for producing ground-stone tools such as axes, chisels, and adzes. These tools themselves are believed to be indicative specifically of woodworking. This evidence can be extended to indicate an increased craft production and, arguably, craft specialization. This latter statement is supported by evidence dating to approximately 8,950 BP of ornately carved stone objects, which would be laborious to produce and have explicit aesthetic qualities (Ellis 2013, 41). This indirectly indicates changes in the social organization, which permitted individuals to devote time and effort to craft specialization. Since 9,950 BP, the Great Lakes basin experienced a low-water phase, with shorelines significantly below current lake levels (Stewart 2013, Figure 1.1.C). It is presumed that most human settlements would have been focused along these former shorelines. At approximately 6500 BCE, the climate had warmed considerably since the recession of the glaciers, and the environment had grown more similar to the present day. By approximately 6,450 BP, evidence exists from southern Ontario for using native copper, i.e., naturally occurring pure copper metal (Ellis 2013, 42). The recorded origin of this material along Lake Superior's north shore suggests extensive exchange networks across the Great Lakes basin.



At approximately 5,450 BP, the isostatic rebound of the North American plate following the melt of the Laurentide glacier had reached a point that significantly affected the Great Lakes basin watershed. Prior to this, the Upper Great Lakes had drained down the Ottawa Valley via the French River and Mattawa River valleys. Following this shift in the watershed, the drainage course of the Great Lakes basin changed to its present course. This also prompted a significant increase in water-level to approximately current levels (with a brief high-water period); this change in water levels is believed to have occurred catastrophically (Stewart 2013, 28-30). This change in geography coincides with the earliest evidence for cemeteries (Ellis 2013, 46). Between 4,850 and 4,450 BP, the earliest evidence exists for constructing fishing weirs (Ellis et al. 1990, Figure 4.1). However, the construction of fishing weirs could have occurred as early as 6,650 BP (Stevens 2004). Regardless, the construction of fishing weirs would have required a large amount of communal labour and indicates the continued development of social organization and communal identity. The large-scale food procurement at a single location also has significant implications for the permanence of settlement within the landscape. This period is also marked by further population increase, and by 3,450 BP, evidence exists for substantial permanent structures (Ellis 2013, 45-46).

By approximately 1,400 BP, the earliest evidence exists for populations using ceramics. Populations are understood to have continued to exploit natural resources seasonally. However, this advent of ceramic technology correlated with the intensive exploitation of seed foods such as goosefoot and knotweed as well as mast such as nuts (Williamson 2013, 48). The use of ceramics implies changes in the social organization of food storage, cooking, and diet. Fish also continued to be an important facet of the economy at this time. Evidence continues to exist for the expansion of social organization (including hierarchy), group identity, ceremonialism (particularly in burial), interregional exchange throughout the Great Lakes basin and beyond, and craft production (Williamson 2013, 48-54).

By approximately 1,400 BP, evidence emerged for the introduction of maize into southern Ontario. This crop would have initially only supplemented Indigenous people's diet and economy (Birch and Williamson 2013, 13-14). Maize-based agriculture gradually became more important to societies. By approximately 1,050 BP, permanent communities emerged primarily focused on agriculture and the storage of crops, with satellite locations oriented toward procuring other resources such as hunting, fishing, and foraging. By approximately 700 BP, evidence exists for the common cultivation of historical Indigenous cultigens, including maize, beans, squash, sunflower, and tobacco. The extant archaeological record demonstrates many cultural traits similar to historical Indigenous nations (Williamson 2013, 55).

1.2.2 Post-Contact Indigenous Resources

Broadly, the post-Contact Indigenous occupation of southern Ontario was heavily influenced by the dispersal of various Iroquoian-speaking communities by the New York State Iroquois and the subsequent arrival of Algonkian-speaking groups from northern Ontario at the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century (Konrad 1981; Schmalz 1991). Numerous Indigenous groups and communities are associated with the post-Contact occupation of southern Ontario and the general area of the Project.



June 25, 2024

At the turn of the 17th century, the region of the study area was occupied by Iroquoian populations who are historically described as the *Neutre* (by the French), *Neutral* (by the English), or the *Atawandaron* (by the Huron-Wendat); their autonym is not conclusively known (Birch 2015). This group may be ancestral Haudenosaunee as they had similar culture, language, and ceremonies and were considered under the Great Law governance by the Haudenosaunee. In 1626, French Recollet Father Daillon reportedly travelled the length of the Grand River and counted 28 Neutral villages (White 1978, 410). This initial survey of the Grand River and the adjacent lands demonstrates the significance of the area and its resources to Indigenous peoples and their communities. To the north was the territory occupied by the Wendat-Tionontati (Huron-Petun) (Heidenreich 1978). The Five Nations Iroquois (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca), located in present-day upstate New York, failed to convince the Wendat-Tionontati to join them in an alliance (Warrick 2013).

In 1649, the Seneca and the Mohawk led a campaign into southern Ontario, dispersed the Atawandaron and the Wendat-Tionontati, and established regional dominance (Heidenreich 1978; Konrad 1981). During this period, some Odawa populations dispersed from the Bruce Peninsula and moved to the lands around the Straits of Mackinac. In 1667, surviving Huron-Wendat warriors joined an alliance with the French-allied Ojibwa and Mississaugas to counterattack the Iroquois who had settled along the north shore of Lake Ontario. In 1670/1671, some Odawa and some Mississauga (an Ojibway nation) moved to Manitoulin Island (Feest and Feest 1978, 772-773; Rogers 1978, 761). The Pottawatomi, Ojibway, and Odawa constituted a political confederacy known as the Three Fires (Feest and Feest 1978, 777).

By 1690, Ojibwa (Anishinaabe) speaking people had begun moving south into the lower Great Lakes basin (Konrad 1981; Rogers 1978). Mississauga oral traditions, as related by Chief Robert Paudash and recorded in 1905, indicate that after the Mississauga defeat of the Mohawk, the Mohawk retreated to their homeland south of Lake Ontario, and a peace treaty was negotiated between those groups around 1695 (Paudash 1905). By the turn of the 18th century, the Ojibway people had become established across southern Ontario. From the turn of the 18th century, the Indigenous economy has focused on fishing and the fur trade, supplemented by agriculture and hunting (Rogers 1978).

Throughout the 1700s and 1800s, the Mississauga returned to Ontario and inhabited a large area along the north shore and at the western end of Lake Ontario. Between 1695 and the mid-1820s, the Mississauga followed a yearly resource harvest and movement cycle throughout their southern Ontario territory (Praxis Research Associates no date [n.d.]).

With the end of the American Revolutionary War in 1783, the British needed to provide a place for the Six Nations for their loyalty during the war and to compensate for the land they had lost in their traditional homeland (Six Nations Lands & Resources Department 2015). To secure those lands, the Crown entered into Treaty Number 3 (marked as 'D' in Figure 3), also known as the Between the Lakes Treaty, with the Mississaugas on December 2, 1792. Due to the terms of the Royal Proclamation of 1763, this land needed to be purchased from the Mississaugas before the lands could be transferred to the Six Nations. Colonel John Butler was sent to negotiate with the Mississaugas for approximately 3,000,000 acres (1,214,00 hectares) of land located between Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie to the Crown (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation [MCFN] 2024). The Between the Lakes Treaty describes an area:



June 25, 2024

... lying and being between the lake Ontario and Erie beginning at Lake Ontario four miles southwesterly from the point opposite to Niagara fort known by the name of Messisague Point and running from thence along the said lake to the creek that falls from a small lake known by the name of Washquarter into the said Lake Ontario, and from thence north forty-five degrees, west fifty-miles; thence south forty-five degrees, west twenty-miles; and thence south until it strikes the River La Tranche; then down the stream of the said river to that part or place where a due south course will lead part of place of the aforesaid River La Tranche following the south course to the mouth of the said Catfish Creek; thence down Lake Erie to the lands heretofore purchased from the said nation of Messissague Indians; and from thence along the said purchase to Lake Ontario at the place of beginning as above mentioned, together belonging

(Government of Canada 2023)

Of those lands, some 550,000 acres (222,577 hectares), known as the Haldimand Tract, were later granted to the Six Nations of the Grand River (Six Nations) in the Haldimand Proclamation of October 25, 1784, with the remainder to be utilized for the settlement of other Loyalists. The land grant to the Six Nations was to extend six miles (9.7 kilometres) on both sides of the Grand River from its mouth to its source. The largest group settled in the Grand River valley near Brantford, Ontario, to become the Six Nations of the Grand River.

This original Haldimand Tract comprised approximately 384,400 hectares and occupied an approximately 10-kilometre-deep tract on either side of the Grand River from mouth to source (Six Nations Lands & Resources Department 2015). The Crown granted this tract to the Mohawks "...and others of the Six Nations Indians as wish to settle in that quarter" (Government of Canada 1905). The original Six Nations (Haudenosaunee) settlers were also accompanied by several Delaware, Nanticoke, Tutelo, Creek, and Cherokee who had previously settled with the Haudenosaunee before the beginning of the war. Initial controversy existed over the sovereignty of the Haudenosaunee, with the Crown asserting that the lands granted were non-transferrable. The assertion was made in 1792 with the Simcoe patent, stipulating that all land transactions required Crown approval. The Haudenosaunee rejected this patent, and more than 142,000 hectares were subsequently leased or sold to Euro-Canadian inhabitants. In 1834, a Crown investigation was held; however, the Crown concluded that removing the Euro-Canadian settlers would be too costly, and the leases were confirmed as legal (Weaver 1978, 525).

Further controversy existed over the description of the extent of the tract, specifically regarding the headwaters of the Grand River beyond Nichol Township (in present-day Wellington County). Despite the Grand River headwaters extending beyond, the Crown asserted that the tract ended at Nichol Township based on the description of the extent of land purchased in 1784 from the Mississauga (Weaver 1978, 525). The inconsistency between the description of the Haldimand Tract in the 1784 treaty and the surveyed extent of the tract asserted by the Crown continues into the modern day to be a grievance (Six Nations Lands & Resources Department 2015).

The Haudenosaunee and accompanying Indigenous peoples settled in villages along the Grand River; initially, no Indigenous groups settled north of Brantford. In the area around Brantford, villages were occupied by the Mohawk, (Upper) Cayuga, Oneida, Tutelo, and Tuscarora. In the late 1820s and 1830s, itinerant Christian missionaries became increasingly active across the Haldimand Tract and many



June 25, 2024

Haudenosaunee who had settled upriver converted to Christianity. While clan and lineage affiliations under the Longhouse social organization had been important aspects of Haudenosaunee society, this affiliation became rare among Christians, for whom the nuclear family became the primary social and economic unit (Weaver 1978, 525-527).

From 1830 onward, the Crown pursued an active assimilation policy, such as in 1869 with the statutorily enacted patrilineal kinship, contrary to traditional matrilineal kinship. Despite these policies, Longhouse traditionalism persisted into the late 19th century. By the late 1830s, most of the Haudenosaunee population had left the original villages and settled farms along the Tract. The Haudenosaunee economy in the 19th century was comparable to that of neighbouring Euro-Canadian inhabitants, cultivating maize only on a small scale, with larger-scale cultivation of cash crops such as wheat, oats, hay, and peas. With the continued piecemeal sales of lands, in 1841, the remaining approximate 89,000 hectares of the Haldimand Tract was surrendered to the Crown and the Six Nations reserve was established (Weaver 1978, 525-526). While it is difficult to delineate treaty boundaries today exactly, Figure 3 provides an approximate outline of the Haldimand Tract, identified by the letter "E," based on a compilation by Morris (1943).

Despite the differentiation among these groups in Euro-Canadian sources, there was a considerably different view by Indigenous groups concerning their self-identification during the first few centuries of European contact. These peoples relied upon kinship ties that cut across European notions of nation identity (Bohaker 2006, 277-283). Many of the British-imposed nation names such as Chippewa, Ottawa, Potawatomi, or Mississauga artificially separated how self-identified Indigenous peoples' classified themselves; these groups were culturally and socially more alike than contemporary European documentation might indicate (Bohaker 2006, 1-8).

The expansion of the fur trade led to increased interaction between European and Indigenous people, and ultimately intermarriage between European men and Indigenous women. During the 18th century the progeny of these marriages began to identify as Métis, and no longer identified directly with either their paternal or maternal cultures. The ethnogenesis of the Métis progressed with the establishment of distinct Métis communities along the major waterways in the Great Lakes of Ontario. Métis communities were primarily focused around the upper Great Lakes and along Georgian Bay, however Métis people have historically lived throughout Ontario (Métis Nation of Ontario 2024; Stone and Chaput 1978, 607-608).

The nature of Indigenous settlement size, population distribution, and material culture shifted as European settlers encroached upon their territory. However, despite this shift, "written accounts of material life and livelihood, the correlation of historically recorded villages to their archaeological manifestations, and the similarities of those sites to more ancient sites have revealed an antiquity to documented cultural expressions that confirms a deep historical continuity to...systems of ideology and thought" (Ferris 2009, 114). As a result, Indigenous peoples have left archaeological resources throughout Ontario, which show continuity with past peoples, even if they have not been recorded in Euro-Canadian documentation.



1.2.3 Euro-Canadian Resources

In 1791, the Provinces of Upper Canada and Lower Canada were created from the former Province of Quebec by an act of British Parliament (Craig 1963, 17). At this time, Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and was tasked with governing the new province, directing its settlement, and establishing a constitutional government modelled after that of Britain (Coyne 1895). Upper Canada was only sparsely settled at its inception, and its land had not been officially surveyed to any great extent. Thus, by the then Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, John Graves Simcoe, it was urgent to survey the region to establish military roads and prevent settlers from clearing and settling land not legally belonging to them. In 1792, Simcoe divided Upper Canada into 19 counties consisting of previously settled lands, new lands opened for settlement, and lands not yet acquired by the Crown. These new counties stretched from Essex in the west to Glengarry in the east.

1.2.3.1 Wellington County

Originally belonging to the District of Wellington, formed in 1838, Wellington County was named after Arthur Wellesley, the First Duke of Wellington. In 1854, Wellington County became an individual entity incorporating 12 townships and towns, including the Township of Guelph and the Township of Puslinch, now the City of Guelph (Mika and Mika 1983).

Original Euro-Canadian and Afro-Canadian settlements in Wellington County included Pierpoint Settlement (near modern-day Fergus), a colony of Black loyalists established in the 1820s, La Guayrans, a settlement of Highland Scots who had tried to settle in Venezuela prior to coming to the area of Guelph, and Queen's Bush Settlement (Wellington County Branch 2023).

Positioned in parts of Peel, Maryborough, Arthur, and Wellesley townships, the Queen's Bush Settlement community was predominately Black settlers, many of whom were escaped enslaved people (i.e., Freedom Seekers) (Wellington County Branch 2023). The settlement began in the 1830s, and within 10 years, the total population was estimated at around 2,500 inhabitants, of which more than half were Black (Wellington County Branch 2023). These inhabitants, however, held no title or deed to the lands and were viewed as squatters (Wellington County Branch 2023). In the 1840s, land agents began to sell land within the Queen's Bush Settlement. While the inhabitants could purchase the land, many could not afford it and were forced to vacate it. By the early 1850s, the Queen's Bush Settlement had essentially disappeared (Wellington County Branch 2023).

1.2.3.2 Nichol Township

Nichol Township was originally part of the Reserve granted to Six Nations. On February 5, 1798, Chief Joseph Brant sold Block No. 4, comprising Nichol Township, to Colonel Thomas Clarke; however, there is no record of this transfer occurring (Lloyd 1906, 6). On April 17, 1807, records indicate Clarke leased the lands from William Claus, Crown Trustee for Six Nations, for 999 years (Lloyd 1906; Middleton and Landon 1927, 1236).



June 25, 2024

The township was opened for Euro-Canadian settlement in 1822 and named after Colonel Robert Nichol of Norfolk, who served in the War of 1812 (Middleton and Landon 1927, 1236). In 1832, William Giklison bought 13,816 acres, encompassing the south half of the township, while Adam Ferguson and James Webster purchased 7,367 acres in the northern portion of the township, on either side of the Grand River (Lloyd 1906, 6). In 1832, land in Nichol township was sold for \$2.50 an acre, increasing to over \$3.50 by 1933 (Lloyd 1906, 6). The 1834 census of Nichol Township indicates a total population of 134 individuals (Lloyd 1906, 6). By 1927, the population of Nichol Township was 1,375 (Middleton and Landon 1927, 1236).

In 1999, portions of the townships of Nichol, Pilkington, West Faragraxa, and Eramosa, along with the Town of Fergus and Village of Elora, were amalgamated into the Township of Centre Wellington (Centre Wellington 2024).

1.2.3.3 Historical Map Review

The study area is in part of Lot 11, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Nichol, now Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, Ontario.

The 1861 *Map of the County of Wellington* (Leslie and Wheelock 1861) demonstrates that the county was well settled, with numerous settlements, rail lines and established roadways. Lot 11, Concession 3 was divided into two halves, with the north half owned by J. A. Ironside and the south half owned by N. Murphy (Figure 4). Established roadways are located in proximity to the study area, including present-day Tower Street South to the east, 2nd Line to the north, and Guelph Road to the west (Figure 4). The villages of Elora, Aboyne, Kinnettles, and Fergus are located north of the study area.

The 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Wellington County* (Belden and Co. 1879) indicates that the north half of Lot 11, Concession 3, was owned by J. Lindsay and the south half owned by W. Murphy; no structures are indicated on either property (Figure 5). The villages north of the study area have grown, and the established roads visible in the 1861 map remain present in 1879 (Figure 5).

When examining 19th century historical mapping, it is important to note that numerous county atlases from that era were primarily created to identify the subscribers' factories, offices, residences, and landholdings who financially supported their production through subscription fees. Consequently, landowners who chose not to subscribe were often omitted from the maps, leading to their absence in the depicted information (Caston 1997, 100). As a result, the depiction and accuracy of structures on these maps were not always reliable (Gentilcore and Head 1984). Further, a review of historical mapping has inherent inaccuracy due to potential errors in georeferencing. Georeferencing is conducted by assigning spatial coordinates to fixed locations and using these points to spatially reference the remainder of the map. Due to changes in "fixed" locations over time (e.g., road intersections, road alignments, shorelines, etc.), errors/difficulties of scale and the relative idealism of the historical cartography, historical maps may not translate accurately into real space points. This may provide obvious inconsistencies during historical map review.



1.2.3.4 20th Century Topographic Maps

Topographic maps from the 20th century were reviewed to identify recent changes to the study area. Topographic maps from 1935, 1952, 1980, and 2000 indicate that the study area is located in agricultural fields (Department of National Defence 1935, Natural Resources Canada 1952; 1980; 2000). By 1980, a gas line had run through the southeastern portion of the study area, but no other changes had been noted in its vicinity.

1.2.3.5 Heritage Properties

The Township of Centre Wellington maintains an interactive map identifying listed and designated heritage properties within the township (Township of Centre Wellington n.d.). A review of the map indicates no heritage properties within 300 metres of the study area. Additionally, no registered heritage properties within 300 metres of the study area according to the Ontario Heritage Trust (2024).

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 The Natural Environment

The study area is within the Guelph Drumlin Field physiographic region of southern Ontario (Chapman and Putnam 1984, 133). The Guelph Drumlin Fields consist of a general landform pattern containing drumlins or groups of drumlins fringed by gravel terraces and separated by swampy valleys in which slow moving tributaries of the Grand River are located (Chapman and Putnam 1984, 138). The till in these drumlins is loamy and calcareous, containing fragments of underlying red shale (Chapman and Putnam). Moreover, "[T]he soils of the drumlins are classed in the Guelph catena which contains the predominant, well-drained Guelph loam...it is fertile, easily worked, and adaptable to many crops" (Chapman and Putnam 1984, 138).

Potable water is the most important resource for any extended human occupation or settlement. Since water sources in southwestern Ontario have remained relatively stable over time, proximity to drinkable water is regarded as a useful index for evaluating archaeological site potential. Distance to water is one of Ontario's most used variables for predictive modelling of archaeological site location. An unnamed tributary of Swan Creek is located approximately 130 metres southwest of the study area. The Grand River is approximately two kilometres northwest of the study area.

Soils within the study area are defined as Harriston loam, part of the Grey-Brown Podzolic Group, which exhibits a gently rolling topography with good drainage (Hoffman et al. 1963). The soils are among the best agricultural soils in southern Ontario, typically used for hay, pasture, mixed grains and oats, as well as winter wheat, barley, corn, and turnips (Hoffman et al. 1963)

1.3.2 Registered Archaeological Sites and Surveys

In Canada, archaeological sites are registered within the Borden system, a national grid system designed by Charles Borden in 1952 (Borden 1952). The grid covers the entire surface area of Canada and is divided into major units containing an area that is two degrees in latitude by four degrees in longitude.



Major units are designated by uppercase letters. Each major unit is subdivided into 288 basic unit areas, each containing an area of 10 minutes in latitude by 10 minutes in longitude. The width of basic units reduces due to the earth's curvature as one moves north. In southern Ontario, each basic unit measures approximately 13.5 kilometres east-west by 18.5 kilometres north-south. In northern Ontario, adjacent to Hudson Bay, each basic unit measures approximately 10.2 kilometres east-west by 18.5 kilometres north-south. Basic units are designated by lowercase letters. Individual sites are assigned a unique, sequential number as they are registered (Borden 1952). The MCM issues these sequential numbers and maintains the *Ontario Archaeological Sites Database*. The study area is located within Borden block AkHc.

Information concerning specific site locations is protected by provincial policy and is not fully subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b). The release of such information in the past has led to looting or various forms of illegally conducted site destruction. Confidentiality extends to media capable of conveying location, including maps, drawings, or textual descriptions of a site location. The MCM will provide information concerning site location to the party or an agent of the party holding title to a property or a licensed archaeologist with relevant cultural resource management interests.

An examination of the MCM's *Ontario Archaeological Sites Database* did not identify any registered archaeological sites within one kilometre of the study area (Government of Ontario 2024a).

A query of the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports* identified one previous archaeological survey within 50 metres of the study area (Government of Ontario 2024b). In 2021, AMICK Consultants Ltd. (AMICK) completed a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment for lands located north of the current study area under Project Information Form (PIF) number P058-1931-2020 (AMICK 2021). The Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment by AMICK (2021) included a pedestrian and test pit survey and photo documentation. No archaeological resources were identified, and no further archaeological assessment was recommended by AMICK (2021).

1.3.3 Existing Conditions

The study area is part of Lot 11, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Nichol, now Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, Ontario. The study area is approximately 9.8 hectares and comprises active agricultural lands.

1.3.4 Archaeological Potential

Archaeological potential is established by determining the likelihood of archaeological resources on a subject property. Stantec applied archaeological potential criteria commonly used by the MCM (Government of Ontario 2011) to determine areas of archaeological potential within the region under study. Features and characteristics that indicate the potential for archaeological resources are defined within Section 1.3.1 of the MCM's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011, 17-18) and include:



June 25, 2024

- Previously identified archaeological sites.
- Water sources:
 - o 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, plateau).
- 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. These include places of early military or pioneer settlements (e.g., pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches and early cemeteries. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local, provincial, or federal monuments or heritage parks.
- Early historical transportation routes (e.g., trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes).
- Property listed on a municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990c) or site.
- Property that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations.

Many of the above features of archaeological potential have a buffer assigned to them, extending the zone of archaeological potential beyond the physical feature. Section 1.4 of the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011, 20-21) employs the following buffers:



June 25, 2024

- 300-metre buffer for previously identified archaeological sites, water sources, areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, or locations identified through local knowledge or informants
- 100-metre buffer for early historical transportation route

If no buffer is present, the potential is restricted to the physical limits or the feature: elevated topography, pockets of well-drained sandy soil, distinctive land formations, and resource areas.

The closest water source is an unnamed tributary of Swan Creek, located approximately 130 metres southwest of the study area. The Grand River, an important waterway in pre- and post-contact times, is approximately two kilometres northwest of the study area.

The soil in the study area is identified as Harriston Loam, which belongs to the Grey-Brown Podzolic Group, has a gently rolling topography, and good drainage (Hoffman et al. 1963). The soils are among the best agricultural soils in southern Ontario, typically used for hay, pasture, mixed grains and oats, as well as winter wheat, barley, corn, and turnips (Hoffman et al. 1963). Consequently, the lands would have been suitable for past agricultural land use.

An examination of the MCM's *Ontario Archaeological Sites Database* did not identify any registered archaeological site in or within 300 metres of the study area (Government of Ontario 2024a).

An examination of historical mapping, specifically the 1861 *Map of the County of Wellington* (Leslie and Wheelock 1861) and *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington, Ontario* (Belden & Co. 1880), indicate that the property was owned by Euro-Canadian settlers, although no structures were indicated. Additionally, the maps identified historical transportation routes, including present-day Tower Street South to the east, 2nd Line to the north, and Guelph Road to the west of the study area.

Topographic maps from the 20th century demonstrate no significant changes to the study area, with the exception of a gas line installed before 1980 beneath its southeastern limit (Figure 6).

When the above-listed criteria are applied, the entirety of the study area (100.0%) is evaluated to have archaeological potential.



2 Field Methods

The Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment of the study area was conducted on May 17, 2024, under PIF number P390-0413-2024 issued to Ragavan Nithiyanantham, MA, CAHP, of Stantec by the MCM. The study area is approximately 9.8 hectares and comprises active agricultural lands.

Before the start of Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment, Elora BESS LP provided mapping which defined the limits of the study area. These files were geo-referenced by Stantec's Geographic Information Services (GIS) team, and a digital file (i.e., a shape file) was created for the study area. The digital file was uploaded to handheld devices for use in the field and the extent of the previous archaeological assessment, not requiring further work.

During the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment, field, weather, and lighting conditions were suitable for identifying and recovering archaeological resources. At no time was the archaeological assessment conducted when the field, weather, or lighting conditions were detrimental to the recovery of archaeological material (Table 2). Photographic documentation in Section 8 of this report confirms that field conditions met the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment requirements, per the MCM's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Section 7.8.6 Standard 1.a; Government of Ontario 2011). Figure 7 illustrates the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment methods, results, and photograph locations and directions.

Table 2 Weather and Field Conditions

Date	Field Director	Weather	Field Conditions
May 17, 2024	Andrew O'Shaughnessy (R497)	Warm, cloudy	Greater than 80% ground visibility

The entirety of the study area (100.0%) comprises actively or recently cultivated agricultural fields that were subject to pedestrian survey. The fields were ploughed deep enough to provide total topsoil exposure but not deeper than previous ploughing. The fields were also allowed to weather appropriately prior to the pedestrian survey. The ground surface visibility during the pedestrian survey was greater than 80%, and the fields were surveyed at five-metre intervals, per Section 2.1.1 of the MCM's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011) (Photo 1 to Photo 4). No archaeological resources were identified, and no further archaeological methods were required.

Representatives from interested Indigenous communities participated in Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment alongside Stantec archaeological field staff. Additional information on the Indigenous Engagement practices conducted by Stantec during the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment is provided under a separate cover, *Record of Indigenous Engagement*. The *Record of Indigenous Engagement* is a separate document submitted to the MCM, which may include who was engaged, engagement procedures, dates of engagement, strategies to incorporate community input, and processes for providing results to the community. Per the *Freedom of Information and Protection Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31 (Government of Ontario 2002), the *Record of Indigenous Engagement* is a separate document and does not form a part of the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports*.



3 Record of Finds

The Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment was conducted employing the methods described in Section 2. An inventory of the documentary record generated by fieldwork is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Inventory of Documentary Record

Document Type	Inventory	Location
Field notes	Two pages of field notes	Stored digitally on Stantec's network servers
Field maps	One digital map	Stored digitally on Stantec's network servers
Photographs	Ten digital photographs	Stored digitally on Stantec's network servers

No archaeological resources were identified during the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment; consequently, no storage arrangements are required.



4 Analysis and Conclusions

To facilitate the proposed construction and operation of the Project, Elora BESS LP retained Stantec to conduct a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment for a study area in part of Lot 11, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Nichol, now Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, Ontario. The study area is approximately 9.8 hectares.

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment evaluated the study area to have archaeological potential to support Stage 2 archaeological assessment.

During the Stage 2 archaeological assessment, the study area was subject to pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals. No archaeological resources were identified.



5 Recommendations

Based on Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment results presented in this report, Stantec recommends:

1. No further archaeological assessment for the study area

The MCM is asked to review the results presented and enter this report into the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports*.



6 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

In accordance with Section 7.5.9 of the MCM's 2011 <u>Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists</u> (Government of Ontario 2011a), the following standard statements are a required component of archaeological reporting and are provided from the MCM's 2011 <u>Standards and Guidelines</u> for Consultant Archaeologists (Government of Ontario 2011).

This report is submitted to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c O.18 (Government of Ontario 1990c). The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.

It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990c) for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports* referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990c).

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* (Government of Ontario 1990c). 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* (Government of Ontario 1990c).

The Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (Government of Ontario 2002), 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 Business and Public Delivery Services is also immediately notified.



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8 Images

8.1 Photographs

Photo 1: Pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals, facing southeast



Photo 2: Pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals, facing west



Photo 3: Pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals, facing southeast



Photo 4: Pedestrian survey at five-metre intervals, facing northwest



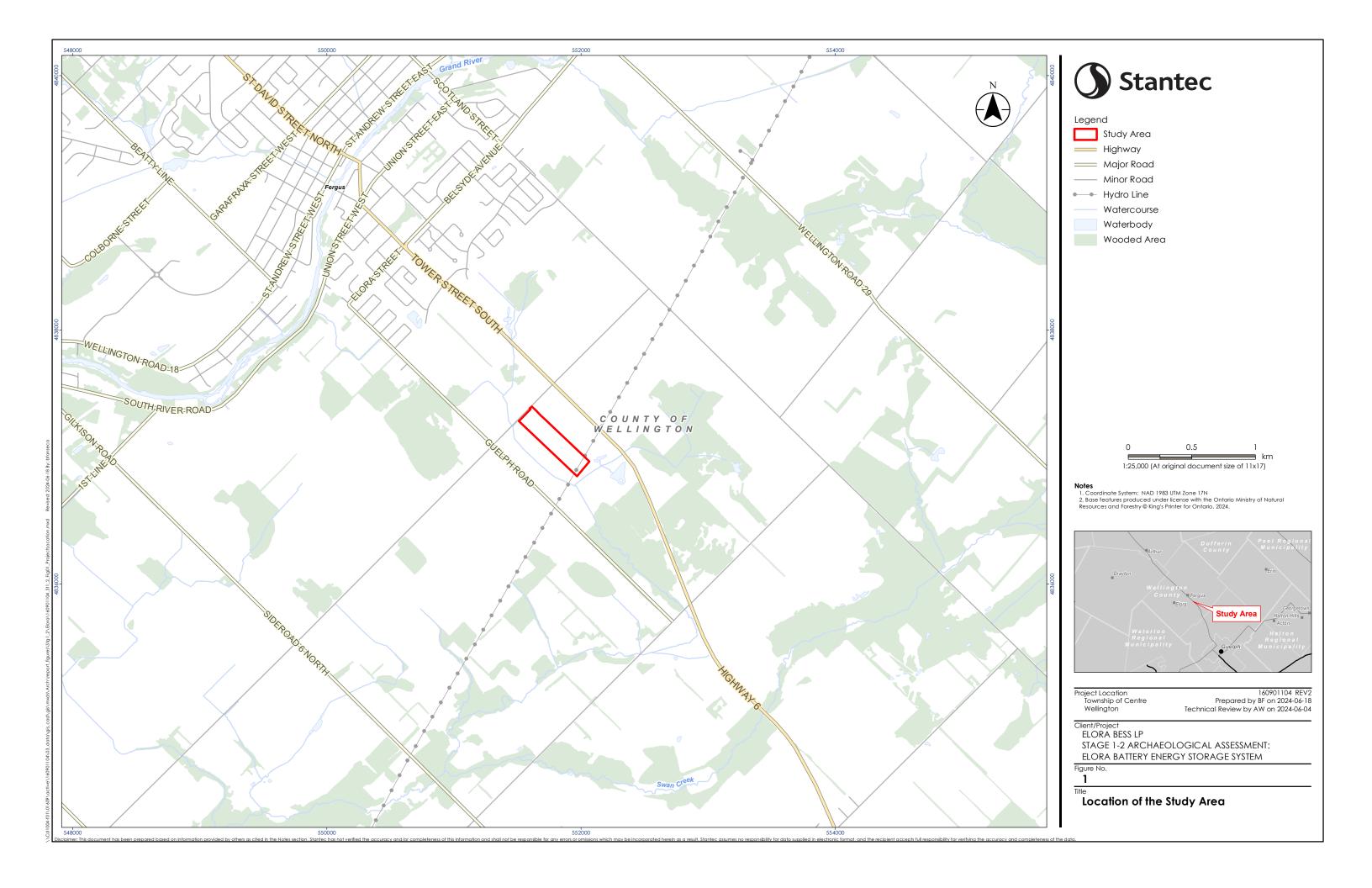
Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment: Elora Battery Energy Storage System Maps

June 25, 2024

9 Maps

Maps of the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment of the study area follow on succeeding pages.



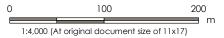


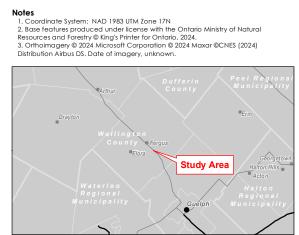




Legend

Study Area





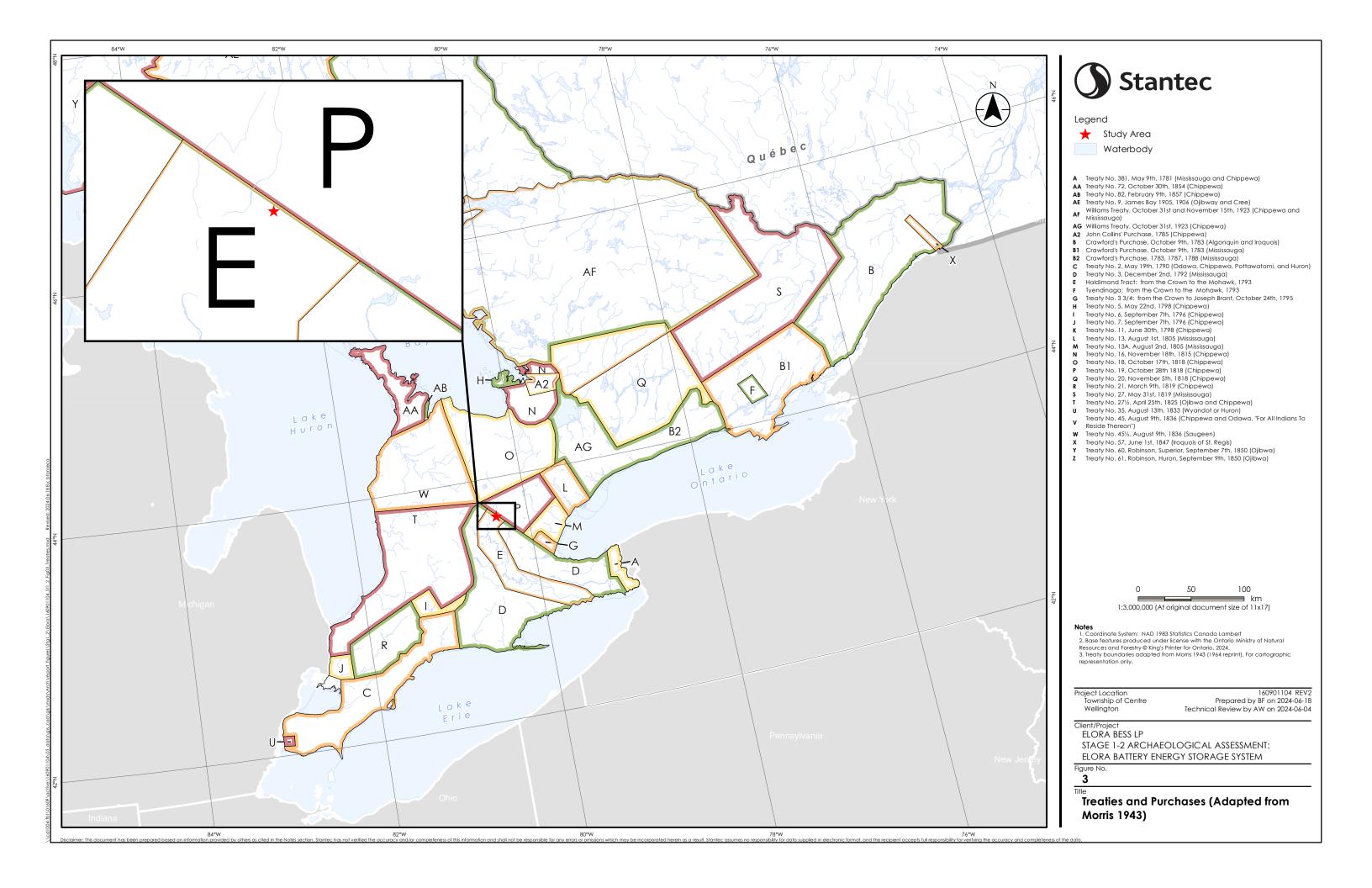
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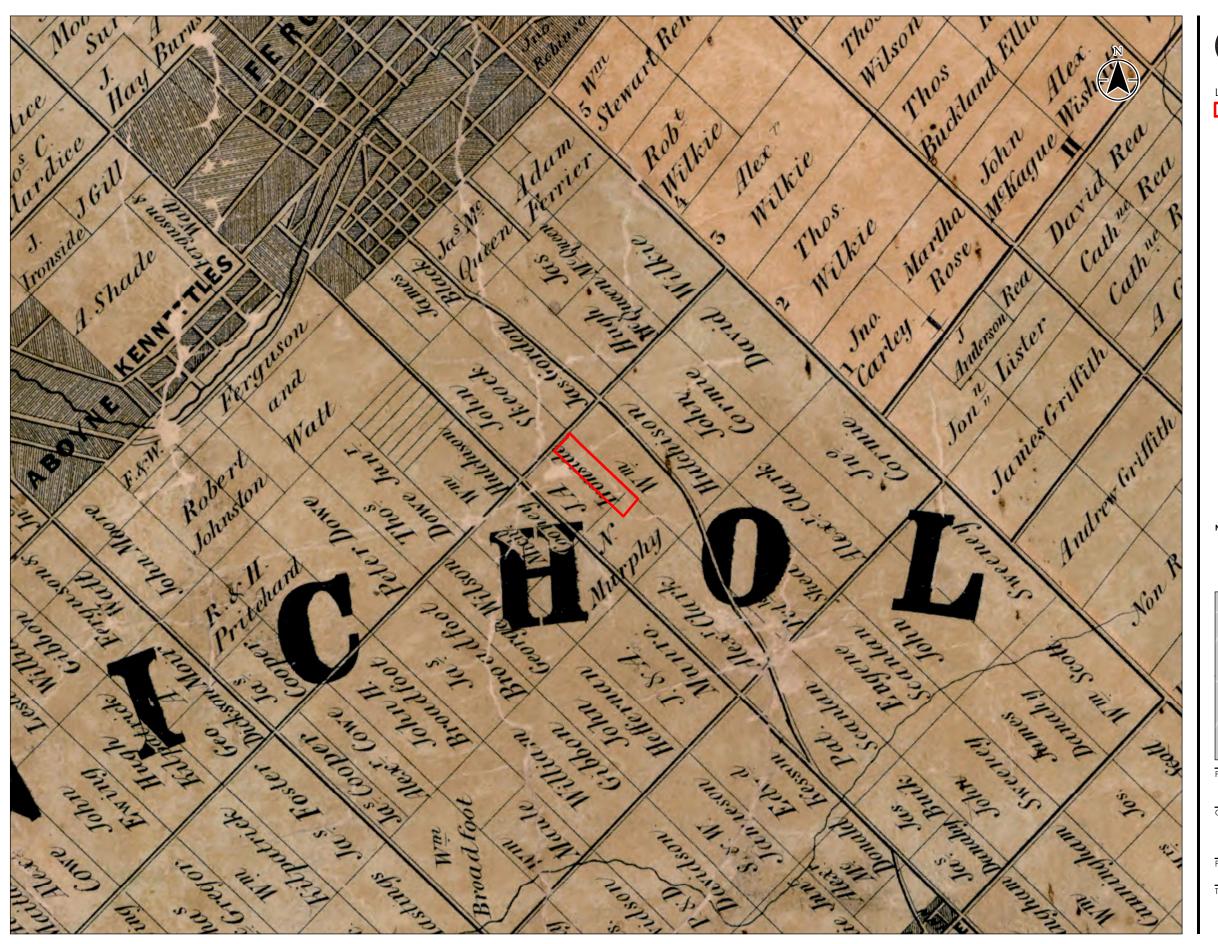
160901104 REV2 Prepared by BF on 2024-06-18 Technical Review by AW on 2024-06-04

Client/Project ELORA BESS LP

STAGE 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: ELORA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Detailed Location of the Study Area







Study Area (Approximate)

Historic image not to scale.
 Reference: Leslie, Guy, and Charles J. Wheelock. 1861. Historical County Map of Wellington County.



Project Location Township of Centre Wellington

160901104 REV2 Prepared by BF on 2024-06-18 Technical Review by AW on 2024-06-04

ELORA BESS LP

STAGE 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: ELORA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Figure No.

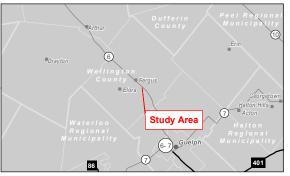
Portion of the 1861 Map of the County of Wellington





Study Area (Approximate)

- Historic image not to scale.
 Reference: Belden, H., and Co. 1879. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington, Ontario. Toronto, H. Beldon & Co.



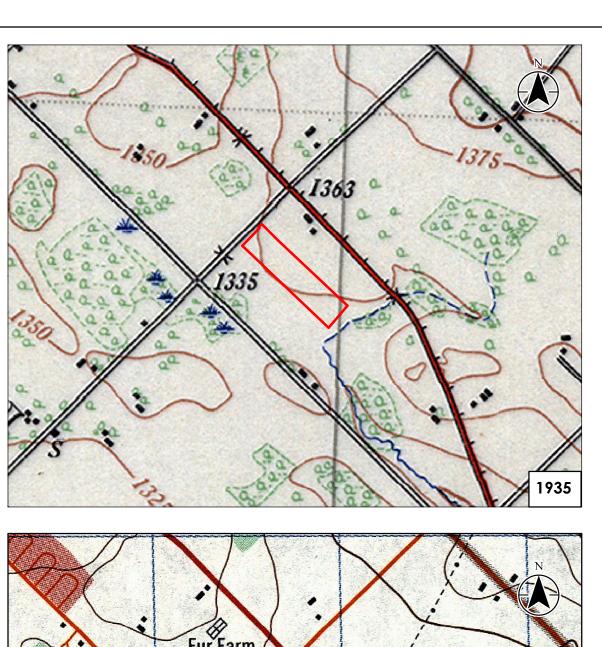
Project Location Township of Centre Wellington

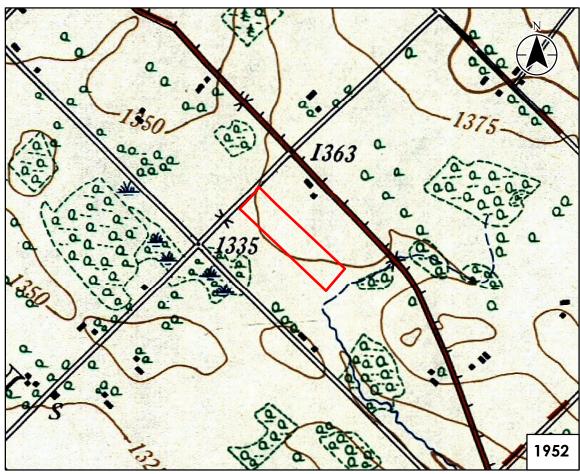
160901104 REV2 Prepared by BF on 2024-06-18 Technical Review by AW on 2024-06-04

ELORA BESS LP

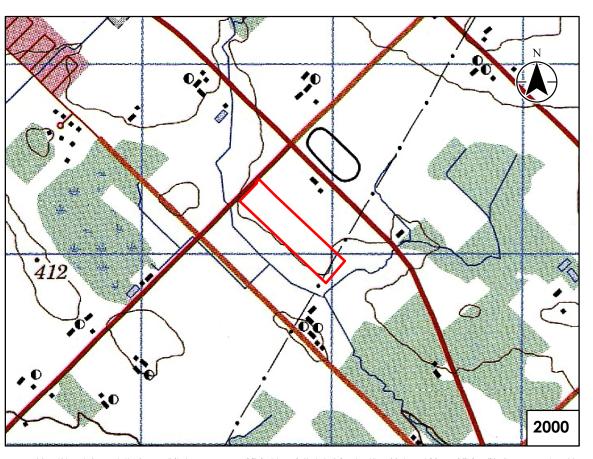
STAGE 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: ELORA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Portion of the 1879 Map of the County of Wellington











Study Area (Approximate)

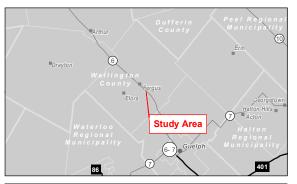
Notes
1. Historic image not to scale.
2. Department of National Defence. 1935. Guelph, Ontario. 1:63,360. Map Sheet 040P0y. [Ed.1] 1935. Geographical Section, General Staff, Department of National

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Project Location Township of Centre Wellington

160901104 REV2 Prepared by BF on 2024-06-18 Technical Review by AW on 2024-06-05

ELORA BESS LP

STAGE 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: ELORA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

20th Century Topographic Maps





Photo Location & Direction

Pedestrian Survey at 5 m Intervals, No Further Archaeological Assessment Recommended

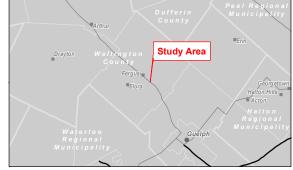


- Notes

 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

 2. Base features produced under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry © King's Printer for Ontario, 2024.

 3. Ortholmagery © 2024 Microsoft Corporation © 2024 Maxar ©CNES (2024) Distribution Airbus DS. Date of imagery, unknown.



Project Location Township of Centre Wellington

160901104 REV2 Prepared by BF on 2024-06-18 Technical Review by AW on 2024-06-04

STAGE 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: ELORA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment **Methods and Results**