

**THE STAGE 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF THE LEWIS PIT P/N 2692 EXPANSION,  
PART OF LOT 15, CONCESSION 9,  
GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF VESPRA,  
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER,  
COUNTY OF SIMCOE**



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Prepared by

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Location of Archaeological Sites Supporting Documents

GPS Coordinates Supporting Documents

## **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of the Lewis Pit P/N 2692 Expansion, Part Of Lot 15, Concession 9, Geographic Township Of Vespra, Township Of Springwater, County Of Simcoe. The archaeological assessment was required under the Aggregate Resources Act R.S.O. 1990 prior to the proposed expansion of a quarry on these lands.

The 20.2 hectare subject property consists of a secondary growth forest and a former christmas tree farm. The Stage 2 physical assessment was conducted in June and July, 2013. All of the relatively level sections of the subject property were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals.

Two archaeological sites were located during the course of the Stage 2 assessment and have been registered as the Lewis I (BcGw-91) and the Lewis II (BcGw-92) sites. Both sites represent aboriginal campsites dating to the Middle to Late Iroquoian period (ca. A.D. 1250-1650). Both sites have cultural heritage value and will require a Stage 3 assessment prior to the development of these lands.

## **1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT**

This report details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of the Lewis Pit P/N 2692 Expansion, Part Of Lot 15, Concession 9, Geographic Township Of Vespra, Township Of Springwater, County Of Simcoe. The archaeological assessment was required under the Aggregate Resources Act R.S.O. 1990 prior to the proposed expansion of a quarry on these lands.

Permission for access to the property and to remove and curate artifacts was granted by the land owner. All fieldwork was conducted under archaeological consulting licence No. P361, issued to Chris Brown. The assessment was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act (Government of Ontario 1980), and with the technical guidelines for archaeological assessments formulated by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MTC 2010). Archaeological Assessments Ltd. accepts responsibility for the long term curation of any artifacts recovered or documents produced as a result of the assessment.

### **1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

The 20.2 hectare subject property is located northwest of Barrie, immediately northeast of the intersection of George Johnston Road and Seadon Road (Figure 1 and 2). The Stage 2 field assessment of the subject property was conducted under the supervision of Chris Brown (P361), Archaeological Assessments Ltd., between June 14 and July 26, 2013.

The majority of the subject property is comprised of tableland areas associated with a secondary growth mixed deciduous and coniferous forest. A former christmas tree farm is located in the southwestern corner of the property and is associated with a small disturbed area used for the temporary storage of farm equipment.

The topography within the study area is varied. The southern and eastern portions of the subject property are composed of elevated tablelands which are relatively flat, with only a gentle slope down to the west and subtle topographical variation. Much of the northern edge of the study area is composed of a steep break in slope, overlooking lower lying lands to the north. The northeastern portion is the most varied topographically, consisting of a number of small ridges and small ravines associated with relic springs.

The subject property is located along the northern edge of a large upland area associated with the Simcoe Uplands physiographic region (Figure 1). The Simcoe Uplands consist of a series of broad rolling till plains which were islands in glacial Lake Algonquin (Chapman and Putman 1984:182). The upland till plains stand 60 metres above the adjoining lowland lake plains. The upland areas are encircled by a series of bluffs, terraces and minor beaches which form steps down the hillsides. The main source of water on the uplands are the numerous springs which

issue from part way down the upland slopes and feed the permanent lowland streams. The dominant soils of the uplands are well drained sandy loams and loamy sands.

There are currently no registered archaeological sites located either on, or immediately adjacent to the subject property (Rob Von Bitter MTCS: personal communication). The background research determined that there are only two registered archaeological sites located within a one kilometre radius of the subject property. The closest registered site is the Initial site (BcGw-43), a indeterminate aboriginal campsite located 250 metres southwest of the subject property. This site was found as a result of a research project focused on the Middle to Late Iroquoian occupation of the region (Sutton 1991). The other previously registered site is the Ford site (BcGw-40), a isolated Middle to Late Iroquoian finds spot located 650 metres south of the subject property. A cultural chronology for Southern Ontario that also applies to the study area is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Cultural Chronology For Southern Ontario

PERIOD	GROUP	TIME RANGE	COMMENT
<b>PALEO-INDIAN</b>			
Early	Fluted	9000 - 8500 B.C.	Big Game Hunters and Small Nomadic Groups
Late	Non-fluted	8500 - 7500 B.C.	
<b>ARCHAIC</b>			
Early	Nettling	8000 - 7000 B.C.	Nomadic Hunters and Gatherers
	Bifurcate Based	7000 - 6000 B.C.	
Middle	Stemmed, Otter Creek and Brewerton	6000 - 2500 B.C.	Transition to Territorial Settlement
Late	Narrow Point	2500 - 1800 B.C.	More Diverse Resource Base
	Broad Point	1800 - 1500 B.C.	
	Small Point	1500 - 800 B.C.	
<b>WOODLAND</b>			
Early	Meadowood and Middlesex	1000 - 300 B.C.	Introduction of Pottery
Middle	Point Peninsula	300 B.C.- 700 A.D.	Long Distance Trade
Transitional	Princess Point	500 - 900 A.D.	Early Agriculture
Late	Early Iroquoian	900 - 1275 A.D.	Transition to Village Life
	Middle Iroquoian	1275 - 1400 A.D.	Large Villages and Dependence on Agriculture
	Late Iroquoian	1400 - 1650 A.D.	Tribal Development, Warfare, European Contact
<b>HISTORIC</b>			
Early	Odawa, Ojibwa, Mississauga	1700 - 1875 A.D.	Social Displacement
Late	Euro-Canadian	1800 A.D.- present	European Settlement

### **1.3 HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Information on potential Euro-Canadian archaeological planning concerns was derived from an examination of the 1881 Illustrated Historical Atlas of Simcoe County (Beldon 1881). The historic mapping indicates that the subject property was originally located on the West Half of Lot 15, Concession 9 in Vespra Township (Figure 3). Unfortunately, the historical atlas map for this region contains very little information regarding property ownership at that time or the approximate location of potential late 19<sup>th</sup> century homesteads or other buildings.

Vespra Township was first surveyed for settlement between 1820 and 1835 (Beldon 1881). The first settlers arrived in the early 1820's and slowly expanded from south to north through the township as some of the early roads were cleared. The early transportation roads in this area included the Sunnidale Road which was cleared in the 1830's, and the Minesing Road in the 1840's. The hamlet of Minesing which is located a little north of the subject property received its first settlers in the 1840's (Beldon 1881).

## **2.0 STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT**

### **2.1 FIELD METHODS**

The Stage 2 field assessment of the subject property was conducted under the supervision of Chris Brown (P361), Archaeological Assessments Ltd., between June 14 and July 26, 2013. All of the relatively level sections of the subject property were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals (Figure 4). The area which was shovel test pitted represents approximately 80% of the subject property. Each test pit measured more than 30 cm (one foot) in diameter and was excavated 5cm into the subsoil. The soil from each test pit was screened through 6mm mesh in order to look for artifacts. Each test pit was then backfilled. Shovel test pits were placed to within one metre of all building foundations and hard scaped areas

The sandy loam topsoil had depths ranging from 23-30cm in both the secondary growth forest and the former christmas tree farm on the property. Fairly typical ploughzone profiles were observed in both areas, indicating that the forested area had at one time been cultivated farmland.

Approximately 19% of the subject property was not shovel test pitted due to the presence of steep slopes which were considered to have no archaeological potential (Figure 4). One of the areas of steep slope was associated with a prominent break in slop down to lower lying lands in the northwestern section of the property. The other area of steep slope was associated with some small ravines and relic springs located in the western section of the property.

An area representing less than 1% of the subject property consisted of disturbed lands. The southwestern corner of the property is used for the temporary storage of farm machinery. Shovel test pitting of this area revealed the presence of disturbed soils composed of dark grey soil heavily mottled with sand and some gravel.

## **2.2 RECORD OF FINDS**

Two archaeological sites were located during the course of the Stage 2 assessment and have been registered as the Lewis I (BcGw-91) and the Lewis II (BcGw-92) sites. Both sites represent aboriginal campsites dating to the Middle to Late Iroquoian period (ca. A.D. 1250-1650). A map showing the location of the sites and their GPS coordinates are provided in the supporting documents which accompany this report.

The Lewis I (BcGw-91) site consists of a single positive test pit containing a single aboriginal ceramic artifact. The site is located in the northern section of the subject property on level terrain in a secondary growth forest. The single ceramic artifact is grit tempered and has a smooth interior. This artifact appears to represent a exfoliated fractured ceramic sherd dating to the Middle to Late Iroquoian period (ca. A.D. 1250-1650). Due to the diagnostic nature of the artifact, no additional test pits were excavated at 2.5m intervals around the positive test pit. The positive test pit had a depth of 28cm suggesting that this area has been ploughed and cultivated in the past. Our firm's experience in working on other aboriginal sites located in forests in this area indicates that undisturbed forests generally have very shallow topsoil profiles in the 10-15cm range (AAL 2002). It is likely that the Lewis I site is located in an area that was cultivated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, after which time the secondary growth forest slowly became established.

The Lewis II (BcGw-92) consists of a two positive test pits located 5 metres apart. One test pit contained two aboriginal ceramics while the other contained one aboriginal ceramic. All of the ceramics were partially exfoliated although the presence of some smooth plain surfaces suggests that the site also dates to the Middle to Late Iroquoian period (ca. A.D. 1250-1650). The Lewis II (BcGw-92) is situated 80 metres southwest of the Lewis I (BcGw-91) site. The site is also located in the northern section of the subject property on relatively level terrain in a secondary growth forest. The ground gently slopes to the south in this area. The positive test pits had depths of 26-27cm, suggesting that this area has also been ploughed and cultivated in the past. Due to the diagnostic nature of the artifacts, no additional test pits were excavated at 2.5m intervals around the positive test pits.

**Table 2.** Artifact Catalogue

<b>Cat #</b>	<b>Site/Unit</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	BcGw-91 Test Pit #1	ceramic	fractured sherd	exfoliated exterior, plain smooth interior
2	BcGw-92 Test Pit #2	ceramic	fractured sherd	exfoliated interior, plain smooth exterior
3	BcGw-92 Test Pit #2	ceramic	fractured sherd	exfoliated on both sides
4	BcGw-92 Test Pit #3	ceramic	fractured sherd	exfoliated exterior, plain smooth interior

During the shovel test pit survey of the south-central section of the subject property a fieldstone and concrete house foundation was located. The foundation measures 7 metres east-west by 6 metres north-south. The foundation is open to a depth of 2 metres and is partially filled with twentieth century refuse (cinder blocks, bottles, tin cans, and wood). The shovel test pits placed in the general area of the building foundation all contained large quantities of twentieth century refuse and building debris, including screw-top bottles, tin cans, sections of tin eaves-troughs, metal bucket fragments and some wire nails. Approximately 80 metres north of the house foundation, a concrete barn foundation was also identified. A large quantity of building materials was also encountered in the area surrounding the barn, including wooden beams and sheet metal roofing. No potential 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts were associated with the farm building complex and it is obvious that it represents a 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation.

The documentary record for the Stage 1-2 assessment includes 22 digital photographs, one field map, 3 pages of field notes and four artifacts.

## **2.3 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Two archaeological sites were located during the course of the Stage 2 assessment and have been registered as the Lewis I (BcGw-91) and the Lewis II (BcGw-92) sites. Both sites represent aboriginal campsites dating to the Middle to Late Iroquoian period (ca. A.D. 1250-1650). As per the MTC's Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011: 21), sites which date to this period are considered to have cultural heritage value and require a Stage 3 assessment and Stage 4 mitigation if they cannot be avoided and protected from any proposed development project.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS & COMPLIANCE ADVICE**

### **3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Two archaeological sites were located during the course of the Stage 2 assessment and have been registered as the Lewis I (BcGw-91) and the Lewis II (BcGw-92) sites. Both sites represent aboriginal campsites dating to the Middle to Late Iroquoian period (ca. A.D. 1250-1650). As per the MTC's Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011: 21), sites which date to this period are considered to have cultural heritage value and require a Stage 3 assessment and Stage 4 mitigation if they cannot be avoided and protected from any proposed development project.

In general, small pre-contact sites which clearly have cultural heritage value require a Stage 3 assessment which starts with the excavation of a series of one metre square test units at 10 metre intervals across the site (MTC 2011: 28). Additional units, amounting to 40% of the initial grid total, should also be excavated in areas of interest within the site. However, given the small size of these two sites and their location in a dense secondary growth forest, it is recommended that the Stage 3 assessment should consist of the excavation of a series of one metre square test units at 5

metre intervals across the entire area of each site. A Stage 3 assessment and Stage 4 mitigation will have to be conducted for both sites before the proposed expansion of the quarry proceeds.

### **3.2 COMPLIANCE ADVICE**

This report is submitted to the Minister of Tourism and Culture as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, 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.

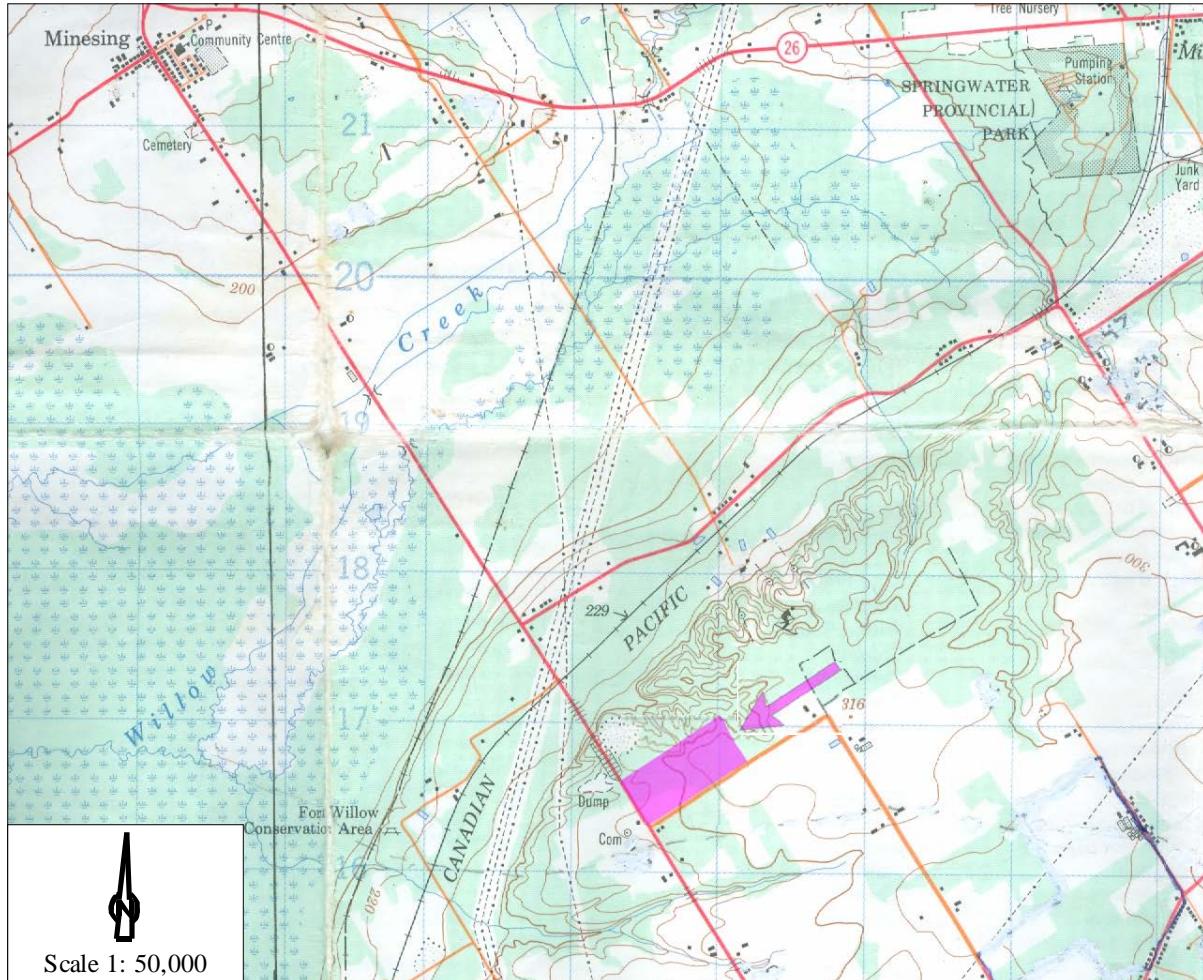
It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed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

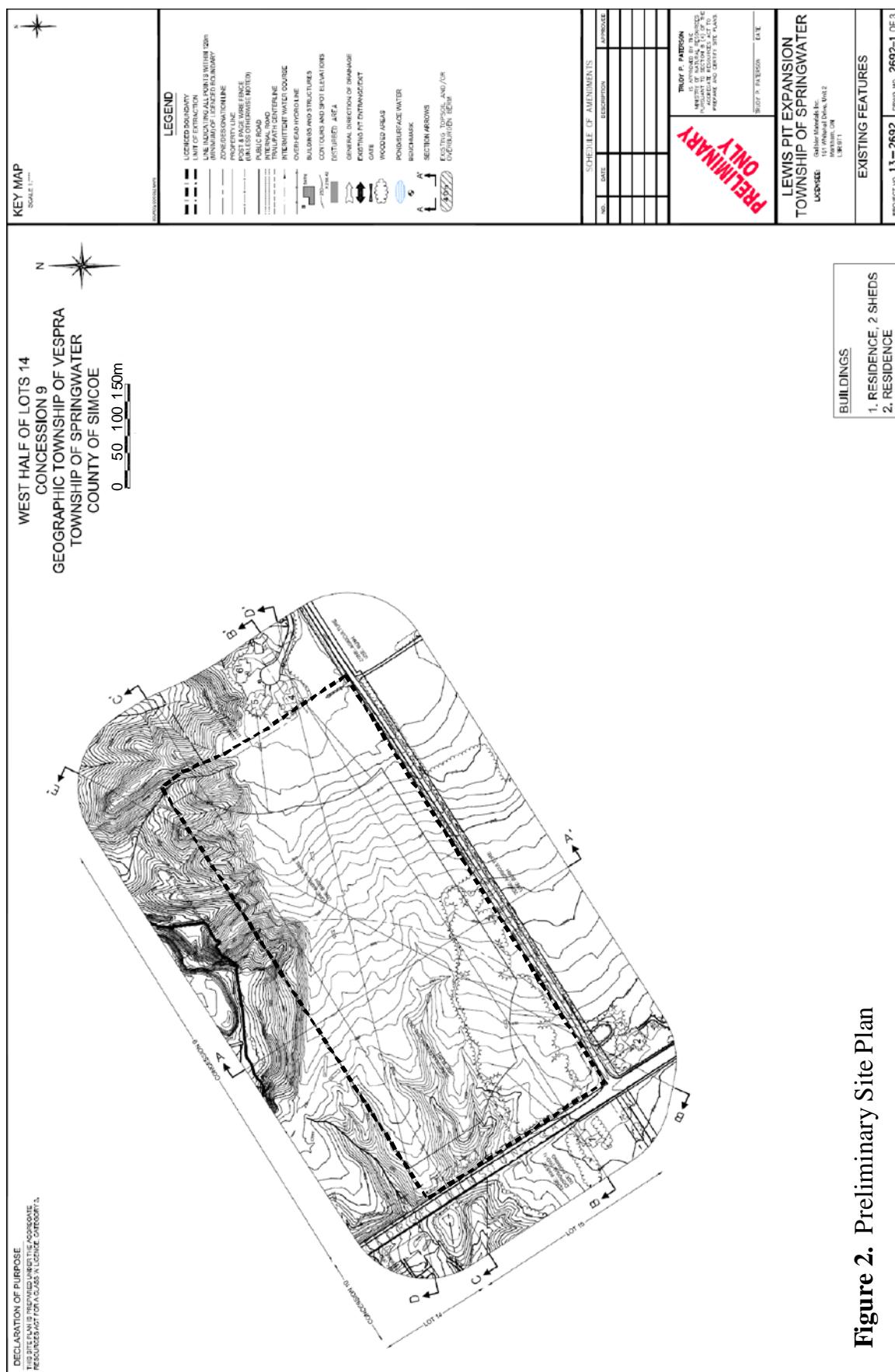
The *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. C.4 and the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.

Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and may not be altered, or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological licence.

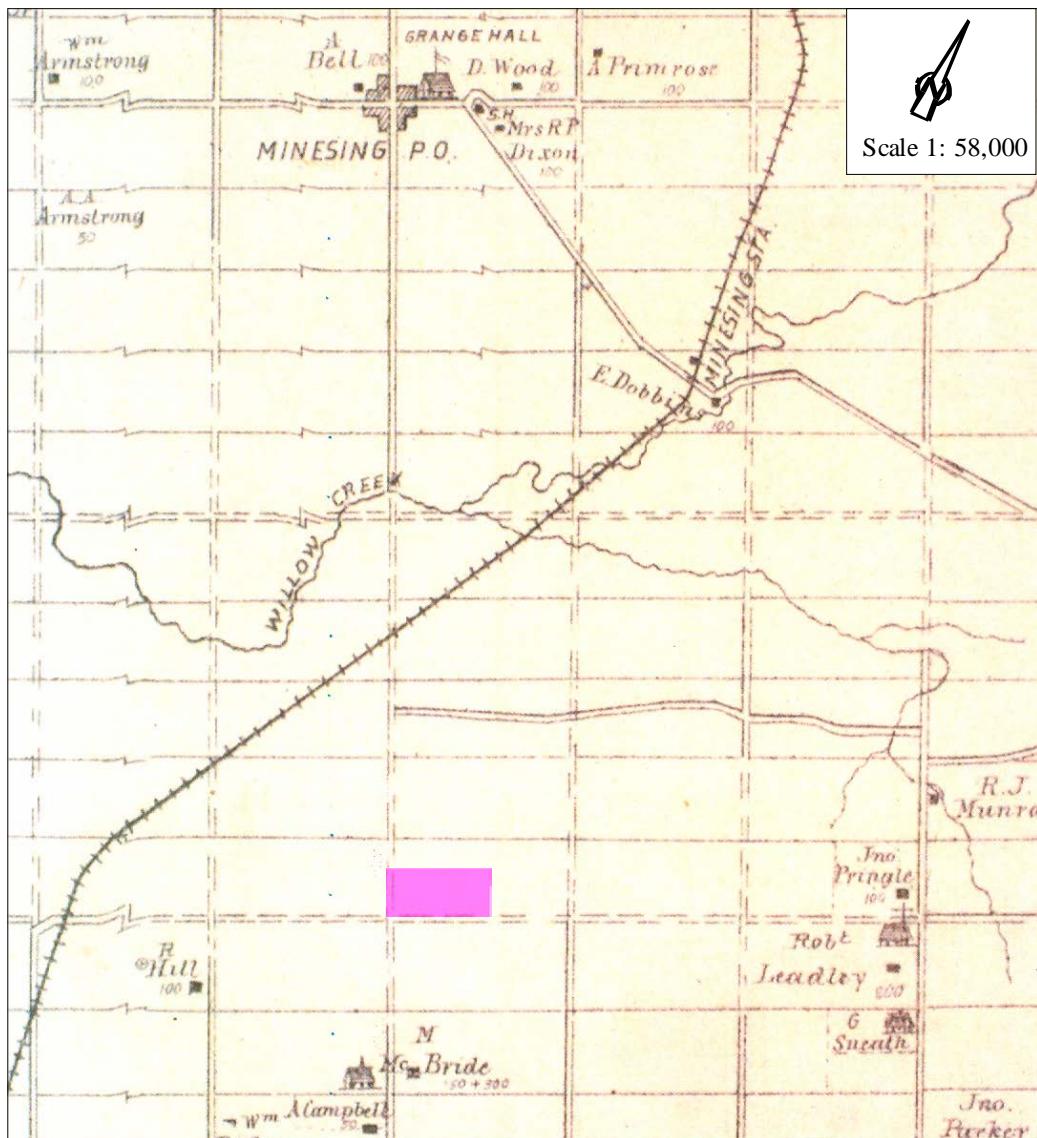
## 4.0 MAPS



**Figure 1.** General Location of the Subject Property  
(Department of Energy, Mines and Resources 1986 Barrie 31D/5)

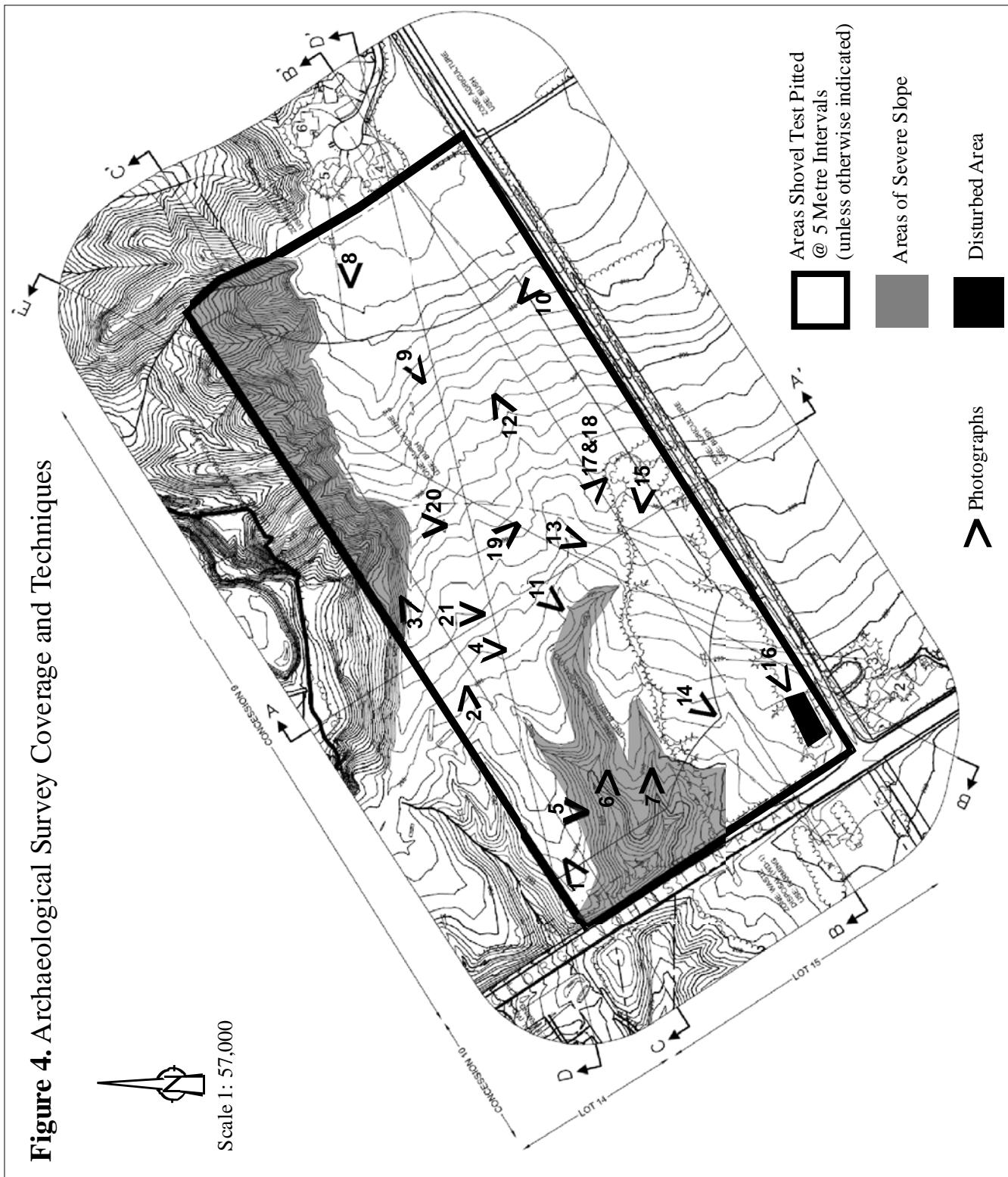


**Figure 2. Preliminary Site Plan**



**Figure 3.** 1881 Historical Atlas Map of Vespra Township Showing Location of the Subject Property (Beldon and Company 1881)

**Figure 4.** Archaeological Survey Coverage and Techniques



## 5.0 IMAGES



**Plate 1.** Northwest Woodlot  
(view northeast)



**Plate 2.** Northwest Woodlot  
(view east)



**Plate 3.** Northeast Break in Slope  
(view northeast)



**Plate 4.** North Central Woodlot  
(view south)



**Plate 5.** Northwest Woodlot (sloping area)



**Plate 6.** Northwest Woodlot (sloping area)

(view southwest)



**Plate 7.** West Woodlot (sloping area)  
(view east)

(view east)



**Plate 8.** Northeast Woodlot and Break in Slope  
(view west)



**Plate 9.** East Woodlot  
(view southwest)



**Plate 10.** Southeast Woodlot  
(view northwest)



**Plate 11.** Central Woodlot (sloping area)  
(view southwest)



**Plate 12.** East Woodlot  
(view northeast)



**Plate 13.** Central Woodlot  
(view south)



**Plate 14.** Southwest Former Christmas Tree Farm  
(view southwest)



**Plate 15.** Southwest Former Christmas Tree Farm  
(view west)



**Plate 16.** Disturbed Southwest Area  
(view southwest)



**Plate 17.** Central Structure Foundation  
(view southeast)



**Plate 18.** Central Structure Foundation (interior)  
(view southeast)



**Plate 19.** Central Concrete Barn Foundation  
(view southeast)



**Plate 20.** Lewis I Site (BcGw-91)  
(view south)



**Plate 21.** Lewis II Site (BcGw-92) (view south)

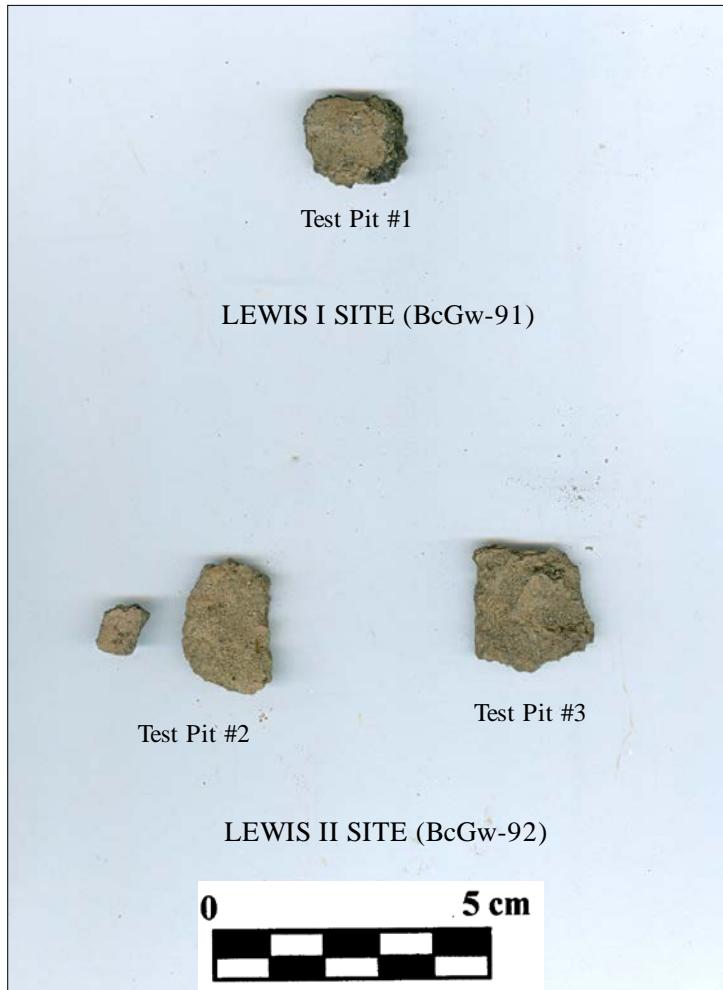


Plate 22. Lewis I and Lewis II Sites Artifacts

## **6.0 REFERENCES CITED**

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