

**Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment
Background Study**

**Bracebridge North Transportation Corridor
Class Environmental Assessment Study**

**Former Townships of Monck and Macaulay
Muskoka District**

District Municipality of Muskoka

Prepared for:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological Services Inc (ASI) was contracted by AECOM (Bracebridge) on behalf of the District Municipality of Muskoka to conduct a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (Background Study) as part of the Bracebridge North Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA). ASI completed a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment in 2003 for the west portion of the study area from Highway 118 East northerly to Highway 118. The current scope of work involves the northern section of the proposed road corridor from Highway 118 northerly to Highway 11.

The Stage 1 background study determined that four archaeological sites have been registered within 1 km of the study area. A review of the geography of the study area suggested that the study area has potential for the identification of Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources.

The *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (S&G)* list characteristics that indicate where archaeological resources are most likely to be found. Archaeological potential is confirmed when one or more features of archaeological potential are present within the study area. Per Section 1.3.1 of the *S&G*, the study area meets the following criteria used for determining archaeological potential:

- Previously identified archaeological sites (e.g. High Falls 1 *BgGt-1*)
- Water source: primary, secondary, or past water source (e.g. Muskoka River)
- Early historical transportation routes (e.g. Muskoka River, Naismith Road, Carlee Road)
- Areas of Euro-Canadian settlement (e.g. farmsteads)
- Distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places (e.g. High Falls, North Muskoka Canyon)
- Property that local historians or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations (e.g. High Falls; Upjohn Nature Reserve)

These criteria characterize the study area as having potential for the identification of Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian archaeological sites.

In light of these results to date, ASI makes the following recommendation:



1. A Stage 1 Property Inspection should be conducted in the Bracebridge study area in order to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological potential. The property inspection will be conducted according to Section 1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES INC.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DIVISION**

PROJECT PERSONNEL

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1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

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This assessment was conducted under the project management of Heidy Schopf and senior project management of Lisa Merritt, both of ASI; Ms. Merritt was also the licensee for the project (PIF P094-XXX-2012).

The objectives of this report are:

- To provide information about the geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land condition of the study area;
- To evaluate in detail the archaeological potential of the study area which can be used, if necessary, to support recommendations for Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for all or parts of the property; and
- To recommend appropriate strategies for Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, if necessary.

This report describes the Stage 1 assessment that was conducted for this project and is organized as follows: Section 1.0 describes the project context and summarizes the background study that was conducted to provide the archaeological and historical context for the project study area; Section 2.0 describes appropriate field methods; Section 3.0 provides an analysis of the assessment results and evaluates the archaeological potential of the study area; Section 4.0 provides recommendations for the next assessment steps; and the remaining sections contain other report information that is required by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's (MTCS) 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (S&G)*, e.g., advice on compliance with legislation, works cited, and mapping.

1.1 Development Context

All work has been undertaken as required by *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO (1990) and regulations made under the Act, and are therefore subject to all associated legislation. This project is being conducted under the Schedule C of the Municipal Class EA process.

All activities carried out during this assessment were completed in accordance with the terms of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (2005) and the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (S&G)*.

Permission to carry out all activities necessary for the completion of the assessment was granted by AECOM on February 15, 2012.



1.2 Archaeological Context

This section provides background research pertaining to previous archaeological fieldwork conducted within and in the vicinity of the Bracebridge study area, its environmental characteristics (including drainage, soils or surficial geology and topography, etc.), and current land use and field conditions. Three sources of information were consulted to provide information about previous archaeological research in the study area; the site record forms for registered sites housed at the MTCS; published and unpublished documentary sources; and the files of ASI.

1.2.1 Current Land Use

The zoning information for the Town of Bracebridge and the Township of Muskoka Lakes was examined to determine the current land use of the study area (Town of Bracebridge 2006; Township of Muskoka Lakes 2011). The zoning maps demonstrate that the majority of the study area is designated as rural land, with some pockets of residential development and open space/residential areas.

The majority of the study area falls within the limits of the Town of Bracebridge. Zoning in this part of the study area is mainly rural including rural agricultural use (RU), rural residential (RR) rural commercial (RC) and rural industrial (RUI) (Town of Bracebridge 2006). In general, the rural residential, commercial, and industrial zones are concentrated along road corridors and the rural agricultural zones form the bulk of land in the centre of the study area. Residential zoning is also present along the Muskoka River in the form of shoreline residential (SR1) and shoreline narrow waterbody residential (SR3) zones. Open space zones (OS1) are also present along the Muskoka River.

The western limits of the study area along South Monck Drive partially fall within the limits of the Township of Muskoka Lakes (2011). The zoning designations in this part of the study area are similar to those of the Town of Bracebridge and include rural agricultural (RU3), rural residential (RUR), rural country residential (RU1), rural estate residential (RUE), open space private (OS2), and environmental protection (E1) zones. As with the Town of Bracebridge, the residential zoning designations are concentrated along road corridors with agricultural zones forming the bulk of open space.

1.2.2 Previous Archaeological Research

In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database (OASD) maintained by the MTCS. This database contains archaeological sites registered within the Borden system. Under the Borden system, Canada has been divided into grid blocks based on latitude and longitude. A Borden block is approximately 13 km east to west, and approximately 18.5 km north to south. Each Borden block is referenced by a four-letter designator, and sites within a block are numbered sequentially as they are found. The study area under review is located in Borden blocks *BgGu* and *BgGt*.

According to the OASD (email communication, Robert von Bitter, MTCS Data Coordinator, May 1, 2012), four identified archaeological sites are located within 1 km of the study area. Details of the registered archaeological sites are provided in Table 1.



Table 1: Details of archaeological sites registered within 1 km of the study area

Borden #	Site Name	Cultural Affiliation	Site Type	Researcher
BgGt-1	High Falls 1	Prehistoric	Camp	ASI (1993)
BgGt-2	High Falls 2	Prehistoric	Undetermined	ASI (1993)
BgGt-3	High Falls 3	Prehistoric	Undetermined	ASI (1993)
BgGu-1	The McIntosh	Euro-Canadian	Findspot	G. Dibb (1992)

Of the four sites registered within 1 km of the study area, three sites are located within the study area limits. These sites, and other work conducted within 50 m of the study area are discussed below.

The High Falls 1 (*BgGt-1*), High Falls 2 (*BgGt-2*) and High Falls 3 (*BgGt-3*) sites are all located within the study area boundaries. All three sites were researched by ASI in 1993 and were identified during the study conducted for the Master Plan of Archaeological Resources for the District Municipality of Muskoka (ASI 1993). All three sites are prehistoric with High Falls 1 being a camp and High Falls 2 and 3 being of undetermined site type. The report also determined that local residents identified the High Falls site location as a traditional meeting place for Aboriginal people in the area. The High Falls location is also a known portage route.

Archaeological Research Associated Ltd (ARA) conducted a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment along Highway 11 from Muskoka Road 117/Cedar Lane in 2010. The Stage 1 component found that archaeological potential existed in the study area and recommended that Stage 2 work be performed. Stage 2 assessment was conducted where permission to enter the property was granted. No archaeological materials were recovered during the Stage 2 property survey. The report recommended that the assessed lands be cleared of archaeological concern but the remaining properties should be subject to Stage 2 archaeological assessment (ARA 2010).

1.2.3 Geography

In addition to the known archaeological sites, the state of the natural environment is an important predictor of archaeological potential. Accordingly, a brief description of the physiography and soils for the study area are provided below.

Section 1.3.1 of the *S&G* stipulates that primary water sources (lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, etc.), secondary water sources (intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps, etc.), ancient water sources (glacial lake shorelines indicated by the presence of raised sand or gravel beach ridges, relic river or stream channels indicated by clear dip or swale in the topography, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes, cobble beaches, etc.), as well as accessible or inaccessible shorelines (high bluffs, swamp or marsh fields by the edge of a lake, sandbars stretching into marsh, etc.) are characteristics that indicate archaeological potential.

Water has been identified as the major determinant of site selection and the presence of potable water is the single most important resource necessary for any extended human occupation or settlement. Since water sources have remained relatively stable in Ontario after the Pleistocene era, proximity to water can be regarded as a useful index for the evaluation of archaeological site potential. Indeed, distance from water has been one of the most commonly used variables for predictive modeling of site location.



Section 1.3.1 of the *S&G* also lists other geographic characteristics that can indicate archaeological potential including: elevated topography (eskers, drumlins, large knolls, plateaux), pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially near areas of heavy soil or rocky ground, distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places, such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, and promontories and their bases. Physical indicators of use may be present, such as burials, structures, offerings, rock paintings or carvings. Resource areas, including; food or medicinal plants (migratory routes, spawning areas) are also considered characteristics that indicate archaeological potential.

The study area is located in the Algonquin Highlands and Number 11 Strip physiographic regions of southern Ontario. The Algonquin Highlands is underlain by granite and other hard Precambrian rocks and covers approximately 9,934 acres of land (Chapman and Putnam 1984:211). This region is broadly dome shaped, with the crown standing at 1600-1800 feet above sea level (asl) and sloping down to approximately 900 feet in the west and 600 feet in the east. The local relief is rough and includes rounded knobs and ridges. There are frequent outcrops of bare rock but they do not amount to more than 5% of the total surface area. The soils in this region are generally shallow but thickness over the bedrock can vary greatly over short distances.

Part of the study area falls within the Number 11 Strip physiographic region. The Number 11 Strip runs from Gravenhurst to North Bay and follows a narrow strip of sand, silt, and clay deposits that occupy a series of hollows (Chapman and Putnam 1984:214). This strip of land was situated just below the shoreline of glacial Lake Algonquin. Upland streams entering Lake Algonquin dropped sand as deltas and the silt and clay settles out in the deeper water offshore. An esker also flowed along this same strip from Bonfield to Gravenhurst, which deposited additional sediments in the Number 11 Strip region. The deep soils stand in stark contrast with the bare rock ridges and poor, shallow soil of the adjacent high ground (Chapman and Putnam 1984:14). Historically, the majority of farm operations in the Muskoka and Parry Sound fall within this region.

Soils in the study area include Wendigo loamy sand, Magnetawan silt loam, and Monteagle sandy loam (Hoffman, Matthews, and Wicklund 1964). Wendigo loamy sand is a dominantly coarse textured soil formed on sand and gravel. It has hilly topography and good drainage. Magnetawan silt loam is a dominantly fine textured soil that was formed on till or lacustrine sediments. The topography for this group is rolling and hilly and it has good drainage. Finally, Moneagle sandy loam is a dominantly coarse textures soil with Precambrian rock at one foot or less from the soil surface. This soil group has hilly topographic characteristics and good drainage.

In terms of water sources, the study area is located in the Muskoka River Watershed (Muskoka Heritage Foundation 2012). The watershed is approximately 120 km long and drains an area of 4660 km². The Muskoka River descends over 345 m in elevation along its course to Georgian Bay. The Muskoka River is comprised of two main branches, the North Branch and the South Branch, which meet at Bracebridge.

The north branch of the Muskoka River runs through the southeastern portion of the study area. High Falls, commonly referred to as the “Niagara of the North,” is also located in the southeast corner of the study area where High Falls Road meets Highway 11. In addition to the Muskoka River, numerous unnamed creeks and streams run through the study area. Hillman Lake and another unnamed lake are both located approximately 200 m west of the study area.



It should be noted that the North Muskoka Canyon borders the southeast portion of the study area near High Falls. This valley is situated along the North Branch of the Muskoka River between High Falls and Wilson Falls. Just below High Falls, the valley is flanked by two large outcroppings of Canadian Shield Bedrock. The valley provides shelter and habitat for a number of wildlife and plant species. The North Muskoka Canyon has been recommended for status as a Heritage Site (Muskoka Heritage Areas n.d.).

1.3 Historical Context

This section provides a brief summary of historic research for the study area. A review of available primary and secondary source material was undertaken to produce a contextual overview, including a general description of settlement and historic land use. Historically, the study area is located in the following lots and concessions in the former Townships of Monck and Macaulay, Muskoka District:

Monck Township

- Lots 5 and 6, Concession 3
- Lots 5 and 6, Concession 4
- Lots 3-6, Concession 5
- Lots 3-6, Concession 6
- Lots 3-6, Concession 7
- Lots 3-6, Concession 8
- Lots 3-6, Concession 9
- Lots 8-16, Concession A

Macaulay Township

- Lots 1 and 2, Concession 5
- Lots 1-5, 9 and 10, Concession 6
- Lots 1-10, Concession 7
- Lots 1-10, Concession 8
- Lots 1-11, Concession 9
- Lots 9 and 10, Concession 10

1.3.1 Contact Period and Aboriginal History

Before the arrival of Europeans in Ontario in the early 17th century, extensive exchange systems had developed in the Muskoka Region between the Odawa, Ojibwa and Cree of northcentral and northeastern Ontario and the Huron and other Iroquoian groups to the south. The Odawa, in particular appear to have played an important role in this trade through dominating traffic in goods on the upper Great Lakes.

Archaeological sites from this period (1200-1650) are numerous when compared with earlier pre-contact periods, and follow a pattern of large seasonal settlements, which had been established from the Middle Woodland period (200 BC-800 AD). Some of these sites resembled the large villages of the Huron who were situated a short distance to the south in Simcoe County. It is probable that Iroquoian speaking peoples established sizable communities in the study area. These people were



horticulturalists and the southern fringe of Muskoka, in the area of Beausoleil Island and Sparrow Lake, contains suitable soils for horticulture.

The Algonquin were the first recorded inhabitants of the Muskoka region (Mika and Mika 1981:705). The Algonquin were nomadic and traded meat and furs with the Huron-Wendat for agricultural products. In 1649 the Huron-Wendat were annihilated by the New York Iroquois and the Algonquin moved southward to occupy the Muskoka area. By 1763, when the British arrived, an Ojibwa band was located in the Muskoka District.

European trade goods began to make an appearance in Aboriginal sites towards end of the Late Woodland period in the District of Muskoka (A.D. 1620). During the fur trade which was to subsequently develop, the Ojibwa continued to play an important intermediary role in this region. Maintaining this role became increasingly difficult due to the disruption caused by the dispersal of the Ontario Iroquoian groups by the Five Nation Iroquois from New York State and increasing conflict with central Algonkian "Fire Nation" of the southern Lake Huron Basin.

1.3.2 Township Survey and Settlement

The Muskoka District came to be after the Ojibwa ceded an ill-defined area to the British in a treaty signed in 1850 (Mika and Mika 1983:706). The Muskoka District was joined to Simcoe County in 1851 but later became a separate district in 1888 (Rayburn 1997: 234). The name Muskoka is said to be derived from the Chippewa chief Nesqua Ukee, whose name meant "not easily turned back in battle."

John Beal is thought to have been the first settler in the Muskoka District and is noted as the first settler to build a dwelling in the Township of Macaulay in 1860. Two other early settlers, James Cooper and McCabe, are credited with building wooden boats in the early 1860s, which were used to carry passengers and freight to various points in the Muskoka Lakes system.

A.P. Cockburn, a Beaverton businessman, had a significant role in the development of the Muskoka District. Cockburn became interested in the Muskoka region after he and some companions explored the region by canoe in 1865 (Mika and Mika 1981:706). After receiving petitions from settlers in the Muskoka area, Cockburn built a line of boats to navigate the lakes after the government offered to support the construction of a canal and locks system in 1869. The paddleboat *Wenonah* was launched in 1869 and the *Wabamik* followed soon after. The fleet was increased again in 1871 when the *Nipissing* was added, followed by the *Simcoe*, the *Muskoka*, and later, the *Kenozha*. These lake steamers helped to move people and goods around the lake system and ultimately facilitated the settlement of the Muskoka District.

The land in the Muskoka District was made available under the *Public Lands Act* of 1860. Later, the *Free Grant and Homestead Act* was created in 1868 to help encourage settlement of northern Ontario. Under the act, 160 acres of free land was given to settlers who could clear at least 15 acres and cultivate at least two acres, build a habitable house at least 16 by 20 feet in size, and reside continuously on the land for five consecutive years (Rand McNally and Company 1902). Once these conditions were met then a patent for the land was issued to the settler. The first townships opened for settlement under the act were Cardwell, Macaulay, Watt, Brunel, Draper, McLean, Muskoka, and Stephenson (Mika and Mika 1981:707). In terms of population, in 1862



the Muskoka District boasted six people, in 1865, 45; and in 1871, 300 (Kirkwood and Murphy 1878:77).

Much of Muskoka was not suited for early settlement activities and many farms were abandoned after the thin layer of soil on the underlying bedrock was depleted (Mika and Mika 1981:707). In effect, many areas in the Muskoka District are covered with new forest and reforestation plantings since much of the old growth forest had been cut and cleared by pioneer families and lumbermen who later abandoned their holdings.

In 1970, Muskoka was reorganized as Ontario's only district municipality, with six area municipalities divided among three towns and three municipal townships (Rayburn 1997:234). Muskoka is a popular resort and cottage destination and experiences dramatic fluctuations in population between the summer and winter months.

Monck Township

Monck Township was named in 1864 after Charles Stanley Monck, 4th Viscount Monck, who was the governor general of Canada from 1861-1868 (Rayburn 1997:225). Monck Township was one of the earliest settled townships in the Muskoka District (H.R. Page & Co. 1879). It was noted as having 27,835 acres of land, 483 acres of water, and an excellent agricultural industry. Monck Township is bordered by Lake Muskoka on the west and includes part of the Muskoka River.

Macaulay Township

The Township of Macaulay was named in 1857 after Sir James Buchanan Macaulay, who was the chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas of Upper Canada from 1849 to 1856 (Rayburn 1997:201). Macaulay Township is noted as having 38,639 acres of land and 1341 acres of water (H.R. Page & Co. 1879: 20). Several important roads are included in the township, which radiate out of the town of Bracebridge. In addition to the early road network, both Lake Muskoka and the Muskoka River were used as a means of transit by early settlers. A large number of private boats navigated the river system in addition to Mr. Cockburn's fleet of steamers. Macaulay Township contains a number of significant waterfalls (Bracebridge Falls, Willson's Falls, High Falls, South Falls, and Tretheway Falls), which served as points for the establishment of water powered industry such as grist mills, wool mills, and saw mills (H.R. Page & Co. 1879:20).

The major settlement in Macaulay Township was the Town of Bracebridge. The historical sketch of Bracebridge provided in the *Guide Book & Atlas of Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts* notes that the town benefited from its ideal location along the Muskoka River and had developed into the economic centre of the township and greater Muskoka District (H.R. Page & Co. 1879:20). Bracebridge was incorporated as a village in 1875 and by the 1880s it had become a thriving lumbering, manufacturing, and tourist centre with two large tanneries, a grist mill, wool mill, flour mill, and a saw mill (Mika and Mika 1977:245). In 1887 the population had reached 1600 and by 1889 Bracebridge had become a town.



1.3.3 Historic Map Review

The 1879 *Guide Book & Atlas of Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts* was reviewed to determine the potential for the presence of historic archaeological resources within the study area during the nineteenth century (Figure 3). It should be noted, however, that not all features of interest were mapped systematically in the Ontario series of historical atlases, given that they were financed by subscription, and subscribers were given preference with regard to the level of detail provided on the maps. Moreover, not every feature of interest would have been within the scope of the atlases.

Historically, the study area is located in the former Townships of Monck and Macaulay, Muskoka District. The historic mapping demonstrates that numerous property owners and farmsteads were present in the study area. The 1879 map also depicts part of South Monck Drive, Nichols Road, High Falls Road, Falkenburg Road, Old Falkenburg Road, Naismith Road, and Carlee Road as historically surveyed roads. Details of the property owners and historic features found in the study area are provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Historic property owners and features in the study area

Concession	Lot	Property Owner(s)	Historic Feature(s)
<i>Monck Township</i>			
3	5	William Holditch	Farmstead
	6	Patrick Fitzmaurice	Farmstead
4	5	Jonathan Speedie	Farmstead
	6	Jas Kay	Farmstead
5	3	Henry Pervical	-
	4	William Payne	Farmstead
	5	William Holman	-
	6	Martha Lovatt	Farmstead
6	3	Jas Forester	-
	4	David Gray	-
	5	Geo. McLean	-
	6	Geo. McLean	-
7	3	Jas Forester	-
	4	David Gray	-
	5	Jas Yeoman	-
	6	-	-
8	3	N. Keroy	-
	4	W. Parker	-
	5	W. Holditch	Farmstead
	6	Mrs. Ross	Farmstead
9	3	N. Kerby	-
	4	Jno. Conn	Farmstead
	5	Robert Harper	-
	6	R.B. Perry	-
A	8	Jos. McKay	Farmstead
	9	William Tait	Farmstead
	10	Jonathan Coulson	Farmstead
	11	T.H. Pope	-
	12	R. Whipp	-
	13	William Burton	-
	14	David Lowe	-
	15	W. Brown	-
	15	W. Brown Jr	-
	16	N. Kerby	-



Concession	Lot	Property Owner(s)	Historic Feature(s)
<i>Macaulay Township</i>			
5	1	Samuel Willis	-
	2	Samuel Willis	-
6	1	Samuel Willis	Farmstead
	2	Geo. S. Yearly	-
	3	T. Armstrong	Farmstead
	4	T. Keel	Farmstead
	5	T. Myers	-
	9	J. Wardlaw	High Falls (natural feature)
	10	Jas. Zimmerman	-
7	1	W. Burnton	Farmstead
	2	Jonathan Forester	Farmstead
	3	V. Nichols	Farmstead
	4	Jonathan Keel	Farmstead
	5	G. Yearly	Farmstead
	6	R. Hurst	Farmstead
	7	W. Tatt	-
	8	S. Taylor	-
	9	S. Taylor	Farmstead
	10	J. Haw	-
8	1	R. Stinson	-
	2	R. Stinson	Farmstead
	3	-	-
	4	Jonathan Keele	-
	5	Jas. Cartwright	-
	6	J. Goggin	Farmstead
	7	W. Goggin	Farmstead
	8	J. Perry, V.R.	-
	9	W. Goggin	-
	10	J. Taylor	Farmstead
9	1	Jas. Cartwright	Church
	2	Jas. Cartwright	Farmstead
	3	J. Forester	Farmstead
	4	J. Forester	-
	5	William Devor, N.R.	-
	6	William Devor, N.R.	Farmstead
	7	W. Brown, N.R.	-
	8	T. Peacock	Farmstead
	9	A. Hay	Farmstead
	10	William Hay	-
10	11	William Hay	-
	9	L. Ollimer	Farmstead
	10	R. Tabot, N.R.	Farmstead

It should be noted that part of Lots 4 and 5, Concession 7 in Monck Township has been donated to the Muskoka Heritage Trust as a nature reserve (Muskoka Heritage Trust 2012.). Now known as the Upjohn Nature Reserve, the property was acquired from the Crown in 1882 and was partially cleared for agriculture. Farming initiatives were abandoned in the 1950s and the land has since regenerated naturally. The owner of the property noted that the property once contained a wooden house, which was replaced with a stone building in the 1880s.



For the Euro-Canadian period, the majority of early nineteenth century farmsteads (i.e., those which are arguably the most potentially significant resources and whose locations are rarely recorded on nineteenth century maps) are likely to be captured by the basic proximity to the water model outlined in Section 1.2.2 of this report since these occupations were subject to similar environmental constraints.

Section 1.3.1 of the *S&G* stipulates that areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement (pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches and early cemeteries, are considered to have archaeological potential. 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 historic landmark or site are also considered to have archaeological potential.

2.0 FIELD METHODS

No field work was undertaken for this Stage 1 background study to date; a property inspection will be conducted for the Bracebridge study area once preferred route alternatives have been developed.

3.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological and historical context was analyzed to help determine the archaeological potential of the study area. A summary of the archaeological potential of the Bracebridge study area is presented in Section 3.1 of this report and an archaeological potential model is presented in Section 3.2.

3.1 Analysis of Archaeological Potential

Section 1.3.1 of the *S&G* lists characteristics that indicate where archaeological resources are most likely to be found, and archaeological potential is confirmed when one or more features of archaeological potential are present. Accordingly, the Bracebridge study area meets the following criteria used for determining archaeological potential:

- Previously identified archaeological sites (e.g. High Falls 1 *BgGt-1*)
- Water source: primary, secondary, or past water source (e.g. Muskoka River)
- Early historical transportation routes (e.g. Muskoka River, Naismith Road, Carlee Road)
- Areas of Euro-Canadian settlement (e.g. farmsteads)
- Distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places (e.g. High Falls, North Muskoka Canyon)
- Property that local historians or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations (e.g. High Falls; Upjohn Nature Reserve)



These criteria characterize the study area as having potential for the identification of Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources.

3.2 Archaeological Potential Model

An archaeological potential model is developed as a tool to assist land-use planners and policy makers in evaluating the threat to archaeological resources that might occur through proposed land-development projects. Since the majority of archaeological sites have not yet been documented or registered with the OASD, the only alternative is to use archaeological science to partition the landscape into zones that exhibit archaeological potential versus those that do not. The result is an archaeological potential map against which the footprint of proposed development alternatives can be evaluated.

Using the information from known archaeological sites and historic features, GIS mapping was reviewed to determine if archaeological potential is present within the study area. The mapping of archaeological site potential confirmed that archaeological potential exists in the study area due to the close proximity of water sources and historic roads. Archaeological potential mapping is presented in Figure 5.

It should be noted that the purpose of an archaeological potential model is to identify areas with archaeological potential based on the indicators outlined in Section 1.3.1 of the *S&G*. It is important to recognize that the model is a predictor of archaeological potential only and cannot be used to eliminate archaeological potential from lands included in the model since recent developments and disturbances are not taken into account. Accordingly, the current archaeological integrity of the Bracebridge study area cannot be fully assessed and a Stage 1 property inspection is required to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological potential in the study area.

3.3 Conclusions

The Stage 1 background study was conducted to assist with the Bracebridge North Transmission Corridor Class EA. The assessment determined that four archaeological sites have been registered within 1 km of the study area. A review of the geography of the study area suggested that the study area has potential for the identification of Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the results of the background research undertaken for the Stage 1 archaeological assessment of the Bracebridge study area, ASI makes the following recommendation:

1. A Stage 1 Property Inspection should be conducted for the Bracebridge study area once a preferred alternative is identified in order to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological potential. The property inspection will be conducted according to Section 1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.



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 Tourism, Culture and Sport should be immediately notified.

5.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

ASI advises compliance with the following legislation:

- This report is submitted to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 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, Culture and Sport, 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 sec. 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and
- 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.



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7.0 MAPS

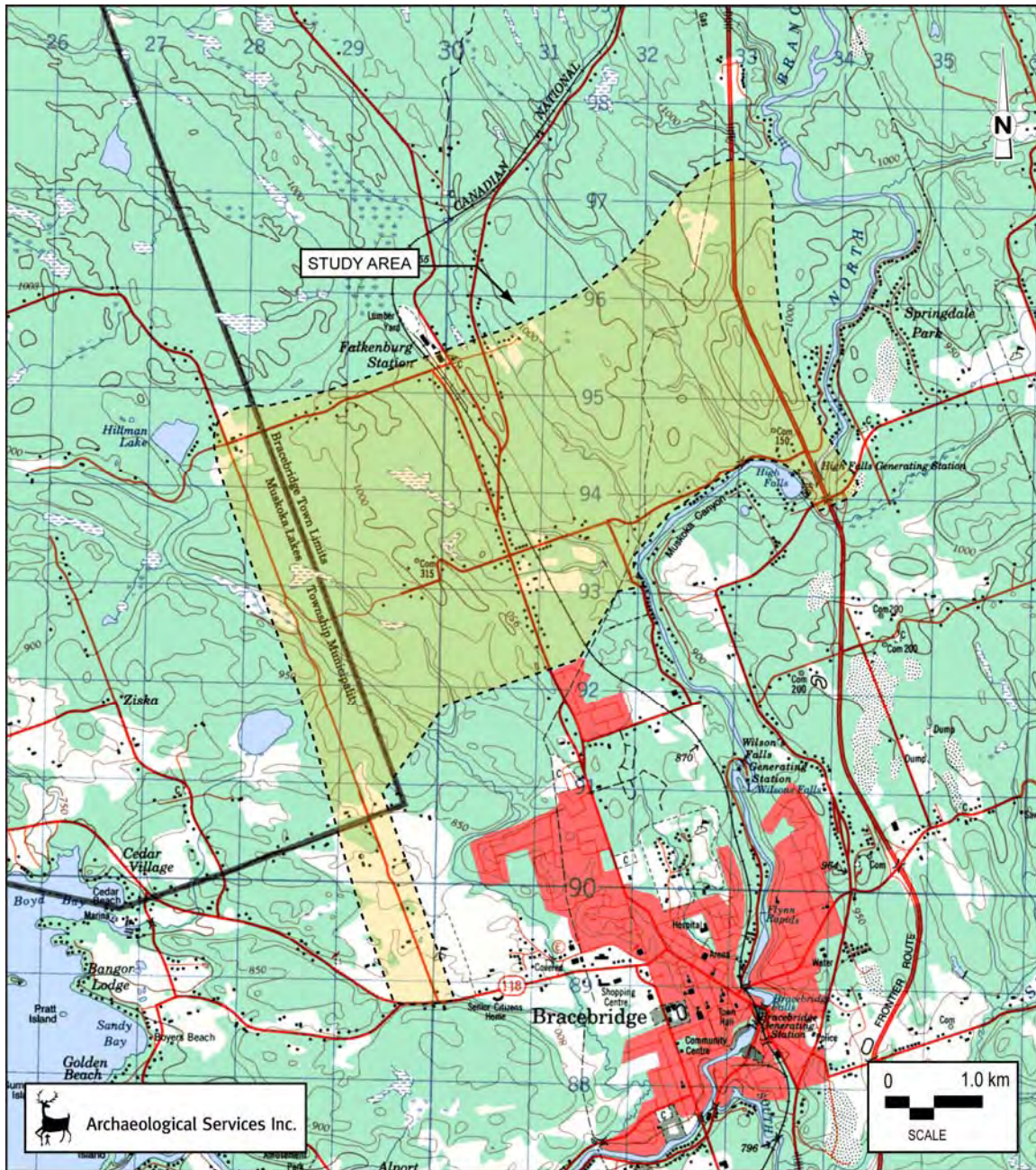


Figure 1: Location of the study area

Base Map: NTS Sheet 30 E/03



