

**THE STAGE 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF THE OSPRINGE PROPERTY,  
PART OF LOT 13, CONCESSION 2,  
GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF ERIN,  
TOWN OF ERIN, WELLINGTON COUNTY**  
(original)

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Prepared by

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### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

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Field Director	Chris Brown (License P361)
Report Preparation	Rick Sutton (License P013), Chris Brown (License P361)
Field Assistants	Chris Bell, Ian Dutcher

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report details the rationale, methods and results of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment of the Ospringle Property, Part of Lot 13, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Erin, Town of Erin, Wellington County. An archaeological assessment was required by the Planning Act (1996) prior to the development of these lands.

The 3.4 hectare subject property is composed of agricultural lands, scrublands, meadowlands and a residential lot. The Stage 2 field assessment was conducted in November, 2017. The agricultural lands were ploughed for the assessment and were pedestrian surveyed at 5 metre intervals. All of the potentially undisturbed scrubland, meadowland and lawn areas were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals.

No archaeological sites were encountered during the course of the fieldwork portion of this study. Accordingly, there are no further concerns for impacts to archaeological resources on this 3.4 hectare property. No further archaeological assessment of this parcel of land is required.

## **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 Osprunge Property, Part of Lot 13, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Erin, Town of Erin, Wellington County. An archaeological assessment was required by the Planning Act (1996) prior to the development of 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. P013, issued to Rick Sutton. 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 2011). 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 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

#### ***Property Description***

The 3.4 hectare subject property is located in Osprunge, immediately northwest of the intersection of County Road 124 and Highway 125 (Figures 1 and 2). The Stage 2 assessment of the property was conducted under the supervision of Christopher Brown (P361), Archaeological Assessments Ltd., on November 3, 2017.

The subject property is composed of a mixture of ploughed agricultural lands, lawn areas, meadowlands and scrublands. The ploughed agricultural field covers most of the central and western section of the subject property. The northeastern section of the subject property contains a residential lot fronting onto Highway 125, identified as 5415 Highway 125. This lot features a one-half storey frame house surrounded by lawn and garden areas. Access to Highway 125 is provided by two gravel laneways on the southeast and northwest sides of the house. A garage is located to the southeast, also fronting onto Highway 125. The rear of this lot features lawn areas, in addition to a small scrubland area. The Knox Presbyterian Church is situated adjacent to the southern edge of the property. The church does not contain a cemetery. An area to the northeast of the church is composed of open scrublands, and lands to the southwest by a small grass covered parking area. A low lying poorly drained area is situated along the western edge of the property.

#### ***Archaeological Context***

In order to provide context for evaluating archaeological planning concerns, a study area was established which included all lands situated within a 1km metre radius of the subject property. Data on previously registered sites located within the study area was obtained from Pastport, which is the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's online digital data base. The on line search indicated that there are no previously registered archaeological sites located either on or immediately adjacent to the subject property. The background research indicated that there is only one previously registered archaeological site located within a one kilometre radius of the subject

property. The previously registered site is AkHa-22, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Euro-Canadian homestead located 150 metres southeast of the subject property on the south side of County Road 124. 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>			
<b>Early</b>	Fluted	9000 - 8500 B.C.	Big Game Hunters and Small Nomadic Groups
<b>Late</b>	Non-fluted	8500 - 7500 B.C.	
<b>ARCHAIC</b>			
<b>Early</b>	Nettling	8000 - 7000 B.C.	Nomadic Hunters and Gatherers
	Bifurcate Based	7000 - 6000 B.C.	
<b>Middle</b>	Stemmed, Otter Creek and Brewerton	6000 - 2500 B.C.	Transition to Territorial Settlement
<b>Late</b>	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>			
<b>Early</b>	Meadowood and Middlesex	1000 - 300 B.C.	Introduction of Pottery
<b>Middle</b>	Point Peninsula	300 B.C.- 700 A.D.	Long Distance Trade
<b>Transitional</b>	Princess Point	500 - 900 A.D.	Early Agriculture
<b>Late</b>	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>			
<b>Early</b>	Odawa, Ojibwa, Mississauga	1700 - 1875 A.D.	Social Displacement
<b>Late</b>	Euro-Canadian	1800 A.D.- present	European Settlement

### **1.3 HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The subject property is located in the northeastern section of Lot 13, Concession 2, in the Geographic Township of Erin, County of Wellington. The earliest Euro-Canadian settlers of the area known as Erin Township arrived in 1820. The surveying of the township began one year earlier in 1819 (Walker & Miles 1877). By 1830, the population of the Township totaled only 368 people, with assessable uncultivated lands outnumbering those which had been improved by 12,256 acres to 1,154. By 1850, 3035 people lived in Erin Township.

Erin Village, in the eastern section of the Township, began surrounding a sawmill on the west branch of the Credit River operated by the Trout family by 1826. By 1851, the village was the home to around 300 people, and had two grist mills, two oat mills, a distillery, a carding and fulling mill, a tannery, a post office and a church (Erin Centennial Committee 1967). A road from Erin to Guelph (the County town) was completed in 1844 (Walker & Miles 1877), while the Credit Valley Railway was completed in 1880 and ran from the Forks of the Credit to Elora, through Erin (Walker & Miles 1877).

The Hamlet of Ospringle is situated along the old Guelph and Erin/Orangeville Road, located at its intersection with the Second Line in the southwestern section of Erin Township. The earliest settlers to this area arrived in 1832 (Erin Centennial Committee 1967). At the completion of the Guelph and Erin Road in 1844, a toll gate was established (Erin Centennial Committee 1967). Two blacksmith shops were known to have operated through the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup> in this area (Erin Centennial Committee 1967). Other businesses in Ospringle in the nineteenth century included a shoe-maker's shop; a general store and a post-office on the eastern corner (Erin Centennial Committee 1967).

The existing Knox Presbyterian Church building which is adjacent to the subject property was built in 1888. This church does not have a cemetery. The church began in the 1850s, when Congregationalist Reverend Enoch Barker began holding occasional services at the Anglo-American Hotel in Ospringle, located at the north corner of the crossroads. A permanent frame church structure was built beginning in 1862 and was located on lands belonging to the Webb family, southeast of the crossroads. In 1876, the congregation opted to affiliate with the Presbyterian Church in Erin, and soon afterward began to plan to replace the earlier building, which would come to be situated along Highway No. 24 at its present location. In 1888, plans were approved and construction began on the existing brick church building, while the earlier frame church was demolished (Thorning 2008).

School lessons in Ospringle were held in the upstairs of the Robertson home (Lot 13, Concession 1) beginning in the 1840s. A frame school building was soon built nearby, on the north side of the Erin-Guelph Road (Erin Centennial Committee 1967). A new Ospringle School (S.S #13) was constructed in 1871 immediately west of our subject property. This two-room brick schoolhouse survived until 1965, when it was replaced by a more modern building at a location on the Second Line. The earlier schoolhouse was removed after it had been purchased by the Ontario Department of Highways (Erin Centennial Committee 1967).

The 1877 Historical Atlas Map of Erin Township (Walker & Miles 1877) indicates that the subject property was situated on lands owned by G. Anderson within the Hamlet of Ospringle (Figure 3). A schoolhouse is shown to have been located immediately west of the subject property. This is likely the brick schoolhouse constructed in 1871.

The *1906 Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington* (Historical Atlas Publishing Co. 1906) shows that the subject property continued to be situated on lands belonging to George Anderson (Figure 4). The church situated adjacent to the subject property is the Knox Presbyterian Church, which still stands today. A schoolhouse is located west of the subject property on the 1906 map. That school has now been demolished

## **2.0 STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT**

### **2.1 FIELD METHODS**

The Stage 2 assessment of the subject property was conducted under the supervision of Christopher Brown (P361), Archaeological Assessments Ltd., on November 3, 2017. The weather was a mixture of sun and cloud with mild temperatures. The agricultural field on the property was ploughed for the assessment and was pedestrian surveyed at 5 metre intervals. The field was well weathered with good visibility at the time of the survey. The ploughed field covers approximately 80% of the subject property (Figure 5).

All of the potentially undisturbed scrubland, meadowland and lawn areas on the property were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals and represent approximately 17% of the subject property (Figure 5). 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. Test pits were placed to within one metre of all existing structures and hardscaped areas. Soils consisted of 20-25cm of dark brown silty loam overlying light yellow-brown silty subsoil and featured a typical ploughzone profile. During the course of test pit survey, a number of areas were found to have been previously disturbed. Lawn areas in front of the house at 5415 Highway 125 featured mottled soils and modern debris such as plastic. Areas to the rear of the house adjacent to the gravel laneways, were found to feature exposed or thinly covered gravel deposits.

Areas of obvious disturbance occupied by the house, garage and driveways no longer have any archaeological potential and were not shovel test pitted. A low lying poorly drained area along the western edge of the property has a low archaeological potential and was not test pitted. The disturbed and poorly drained areas cover 3% of the property (Figure 5).



## **2.2 RECORD OF FINDS**

No archaeological material or sites were located during the course of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the subject property. The documentary record for this project includes 12 digital photographs, one field map and one page of field notes.

## **2.3 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS**

No archaeological material or sites were located during the course of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the subject property.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS & COMPLIANCE ADVICE**

### **3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

As detailed in this report, the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment of the subject property determined that there are no archaeological resources present on these lands. No archaeological sites were encountered during the course of the fieldwork portion of this study. Accordingly, there are no further concerns for impacts to archaeological resources on this 3.4 hectare property. No further archaeological assessment of this parcel of land is required.

### **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.

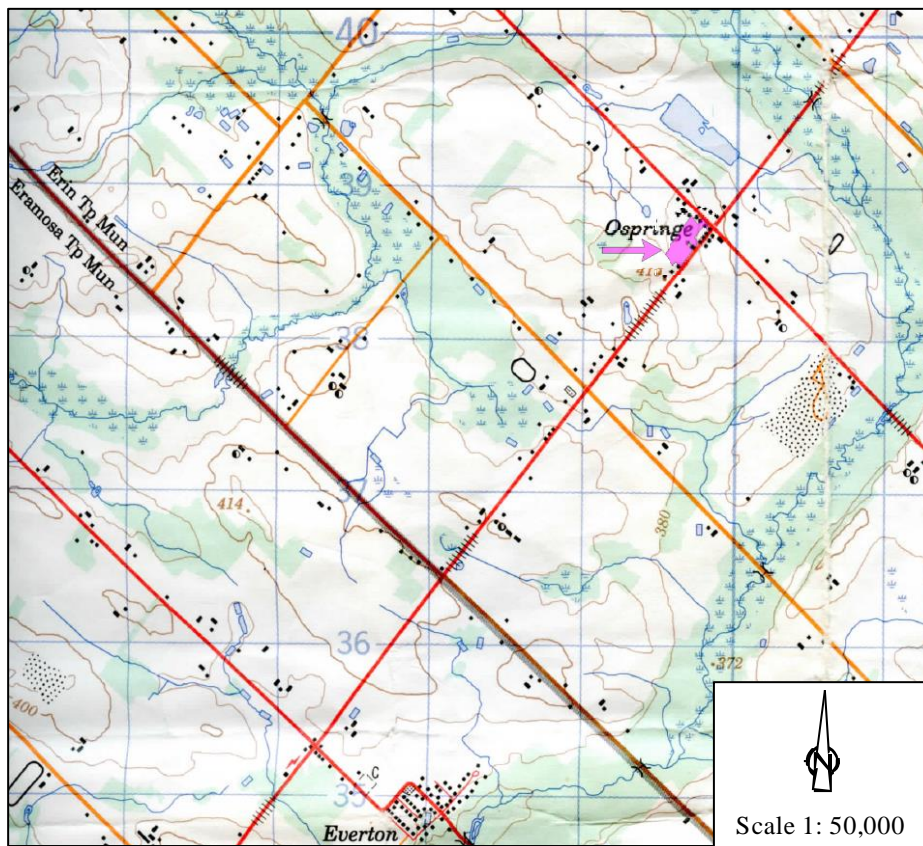
It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed 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 1990 Guelph 40 P/9)

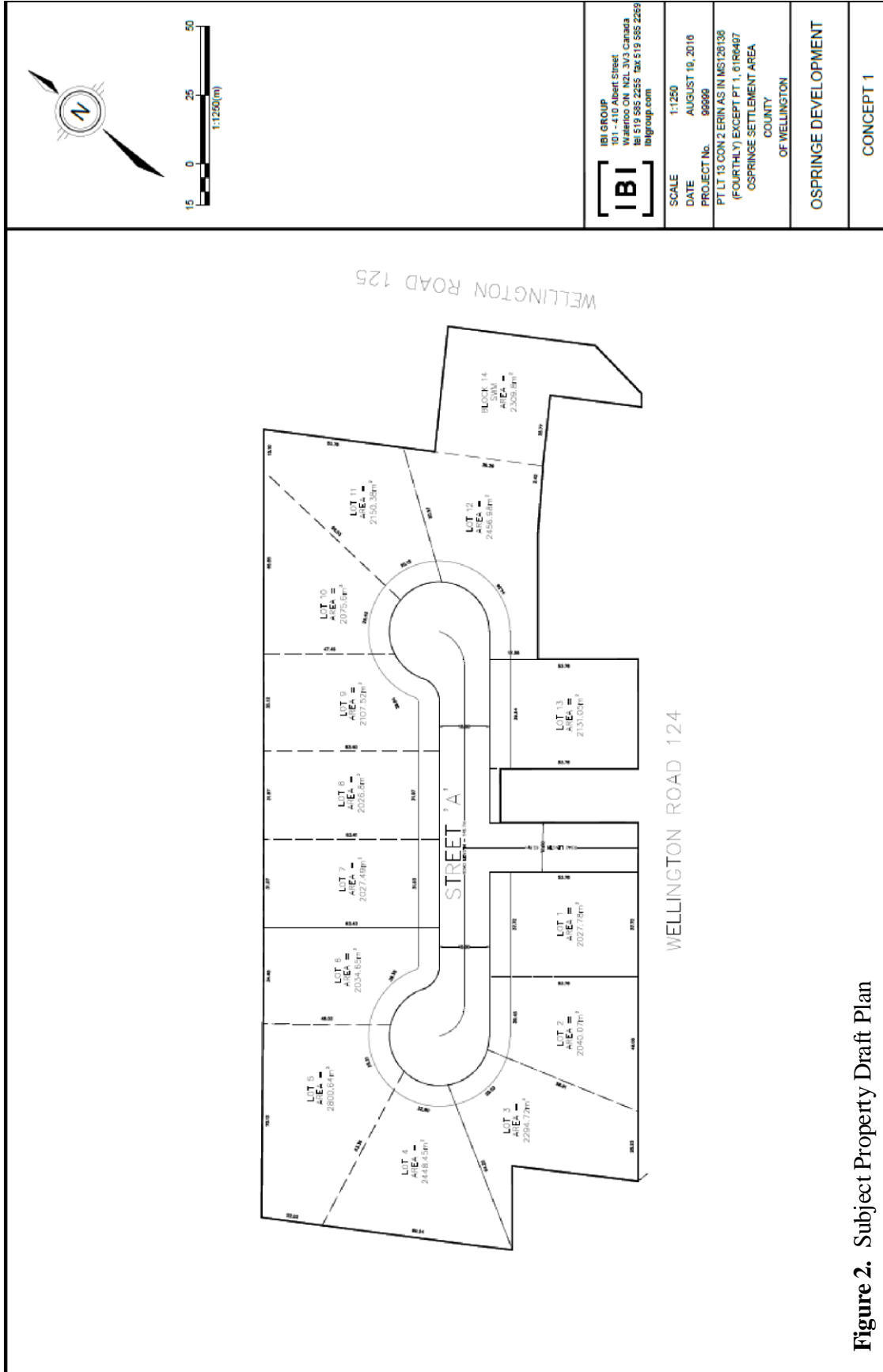


Figure 2. Subject Property Draft Plan



Figure 3. 1877 Historical Atlas Map of Erin Township (Walker & Miles 1877)



Figure 4. 1906 Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington (Historical Atlas Publishing Co. 1906)

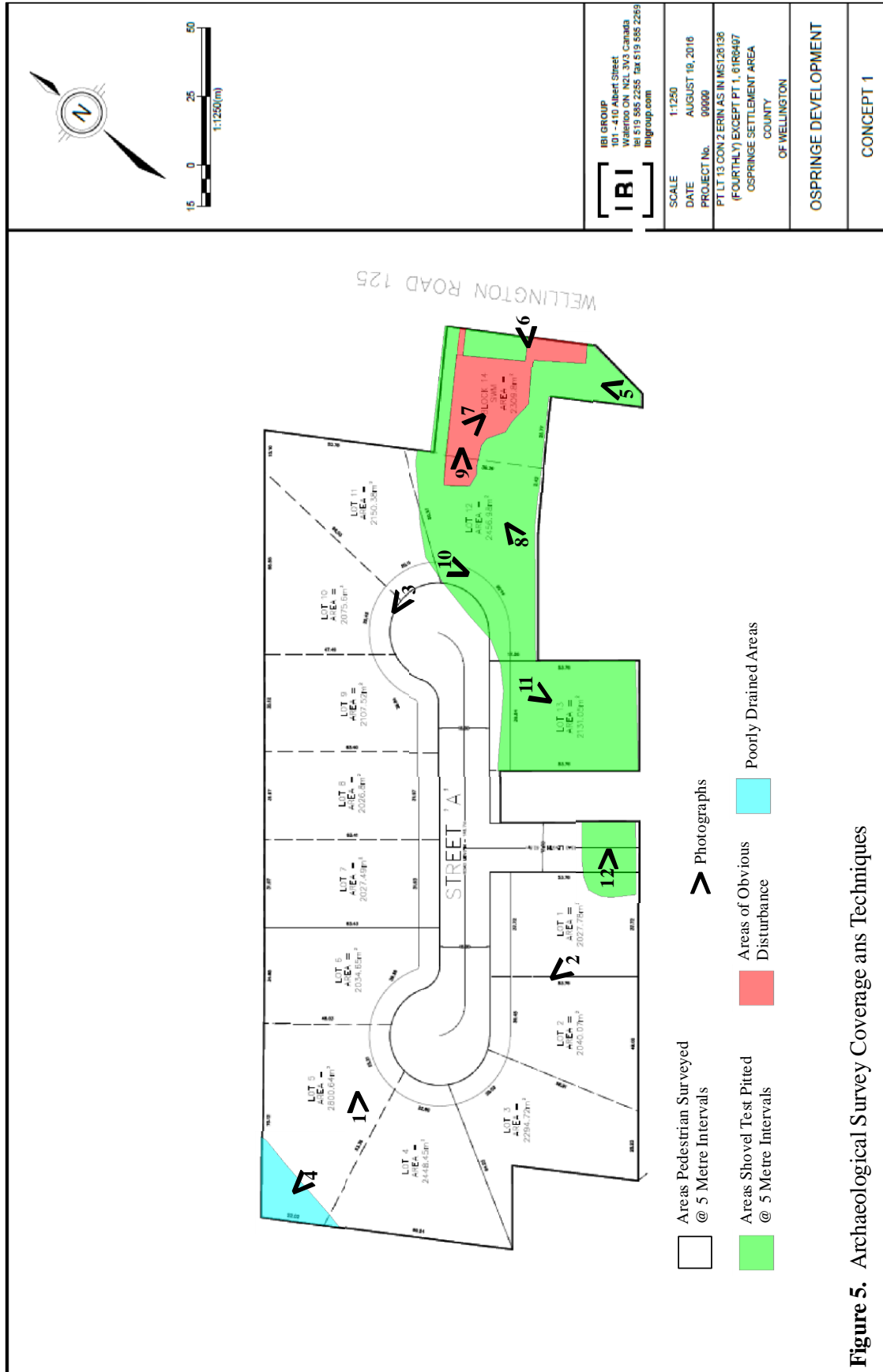


Figure 5. Archaeological Survey Coverage and Techniques

## 5.0 IMAGES



**Plate 1.** Agricultural Field  
(view northeast)



**Plate 2.** Agricultural Field  
(view west)



**Plate 3.** Agricultural Field  
(view west)



**Plate 4.** Southwest Poorly Drained Lands  
(view west)



**Plate 5.** 5414 Hwy. 125 (Side & Garage)  
(view northwest)



**Plate 6.** 5414 Hwy. 125 & Laneway (Front)  
(view southwest)



**Plate 7.** 5414 Hwy. 125 & Laneway (Rear)  
(view northeast)



**Plate 8.** Rear Lawn Area  
(view north)



**Plate 9.** Exposed Gravel  
(view northeast)



**Plate 10.** Scrubland Area  
(view southeast)



**Plate 11.** Meadowland Area  
(view southeast)



**Plate 12.** Grass Covered Church Parking Area  
(view northeast)

## 6.0 REFERENCES CITED

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