



Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment

Oxbow Lake Development
Lot 3, Concession 6
Geographic Township of Finlayson
Township of Lake of Bays
District Municipality of Muskoka

Prepared for:
Muskoka Lakeside Properties Inc.
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Licensee: Shane McCartney
PIF: P321-0184-2020
Original Report



Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
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September 16, 2020

Executive Summary

Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc. was retained to conduct a Stage 1 & 2 archaeological assessment of a 9.88 hectare area located on Lot 3, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Finlayson, Township of Lake of Bays, District Municipality of Muskoka, Ontario. The assessment is undertaken in support of a Plan of Subdivision Application and is conducted as part of the requirements defined in Section D.142 of the Township of Lake of Bays Official Plan, which requires an archaeological impact assessment as a condition of development where areas of moderate to very high archaeological potential, as identified in the District Municipality of Muskoka Archaeological Master Plan, would be affected

The study area contains evidence of archaeological potential. The location of the study area at the edge of Oxbow Lake indicates the potential for locating Pre-Contact Indigenous archaeological material. In summary, a Stage 2 archaeological assessment was determined to be required in order to identify and document any archaeological material that may be present. The heavy forest of the study area precluded the possibility of ploughing for a pedestrian survey, and as a result, a test pitting survey was determined to be required.

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the study area was conducted on August 20 & 21, 2020 under PIF #: P321-0184-2020 issued to Shane McCartney (P321). The weather during the survey was a mix of sun and cloud and warm. At no time was weather or lighting conditions detrimental to the observation or recovery of archaeological material. The entire study area and its periphery was inspected, and no additional areas of archaeological potential aside from those recorded in the background research and mapping were identified.

Due the location of the study area in northern Ontario, the test pit strategy followed Section 2.1.5 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. As a result, a 50 metre zone bordering the edge of Oxbow Lake, accounting for 56% of the study area, was test pitted at maximum intervals of 5 metres apart. Approximately 49% of the surveyed area was not assessed due to the presence of steep slope in excess of 20°.

Each test pit was excavated by hand to 30 cm in diameter and were excavated into the first 5 centimetres of subsoil. Test pit depth averaged 20 cm. Each test pit was examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill, and all soil was screened through wire mesh of 6 millimetre width. All test pits were backfilled. The soil consisted of a light brown sand topsoil horizon over an orange sand subsoil. No archaeological material was identified during the course of the survey.

Based on the results of the Stage 1 background investigation and the subsequent Stage 2 test pit survey, the study area is considered to be free of archaeological material. Therefore, no additional archaeological assessments are recommended.

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries is requested to review this report and provide a letter indicating their satisfaction that the fieldwork and reporting for this archaeological assessment are consistent with the Ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences, and to enter this report into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports.



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Project Personnel

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Licensed Archaeologist:	Shane McCartney, M.A. (P321)
Licensed Field Director:	Michael Golloher, M.Sc. (R1037)
Field Technician:	Brian Ellis (A1220)
	Michelle Gowan, B.A.
Report Production:	Shane McCartney, M.A. (P321)



1.0 Project Context

1.1 Development Context

Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc. (Earthworks) was retained by Muskoka Lakeside Properties Inc. to conduct a Stage 1 & 2 archaeological assessment of a 9.88 hectare area located on Lot 3, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Finlayson, Township of Lake of Bays, District Municipality of Muskoka, Ontario (Map 1). The assessment is undertaken in support of a Plan of Subdivision Application (Map 2) and is conducted as part of the requirements defined in Section D.142 of the *Township of Lake of Bays Official Plan*, which requires an archaeological impact assessment as a condition of development where areas of moderate to very high archaeological potential, as identified in the District Municipality of Muskoka Archaeological Master Plan, would be affected (Township of Lake of Bays 2016:D-35)

The objectives of the Stage 1 & 2 archaeological assessment, as outlined by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' (MHSTCI) *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Government of Ontario 2011), are as follows:

- To provide information about the property's geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land condition
- To evaluate the property's archaeological potential.
- To document archaeological resources located on the property
- To determine whether any identified archaeological resources require further assessment
- To recommend Stage 3 assessment strategies for any archaeological sites determined to require additional assessment.

As part of this assessment, background research was conducted in Earthworks corporate library, the Ontario OnLand database, and the Federal Canadian Census located online at Library and Archives Canada.

Permission to access the property was provided by John Gallagher of John P. Gallagher & Associates on behalf of Muskoka Lakeside Properties Inc.



1.2 Historic Context

1.2.1 Pre-Contact Indigenous History

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the general culture history of northern Ontario, as based on Munson and Jamieson (2013)

Table 1 Pre-Contact Culture History of northern Ontario

Culture Period	Archaeological/Material Culture	Calibrated Dates
Early Paleo-Indian		>11,500 BCE
		10,500 BCE
Late Paleo-Indian		9,500 BCE
		8,500 BCE
Early Archaic	Lakehead Complex	8,500 BCE 7,500 BCE 6,500 BCE
Middle Archaic	Shield Archaic	6,500 BCE
		5,500 BCE
		4,500 BCE
		3,500 BCE
Late Archaic		2,500 BCE
		1,500 BCE
		1,000 BCE
Early Woodland		600 BCE 200 BCE
Middle Woodland	Laurel	200 BCE 1 CE 200 CE 600 CE 1,000 CE
Late Woodland	Blackduck/Selkirk, Sandy Lake	1,000 CE 1,400 CE
European Contact	Algonqian	1,400 CE 1,800 CE



1.2.2 Post-Contact Indigenous History

The surrounding area enters the historic record in 1615, when Samuel de Champlain arrived at the western boundary of Muskoka, who recorded the inhabitants of the area as Algonquin Aboriginals and who travelled with them in the area to the Nipissing and the Huron (Coombe 1976:6, Page & Co. 1879:15). Early accounts by European explorers suggest the study area was considered part of a loosely defined overlapping hunting territory associated with the Huron Confederacy and the Nipissing, who inhabited Lake Nipissing approximately 143 kilometres north of the study area (Trigger 1994, Trigger & Day 1994). European influence in the region was generally restricted to the beaver pelt trade, and Indigenous groups practiced a way of life that did not differ significantly from the Pre-Contact period. By the 1640's, the increasing scarcity of beaver pelts prompted the invasion of Huronia by the League of Five Nations Iroquois. By 1649, five Huron villages were destroyed, and the remainder abandoned, resulting in the complete disintegration of the Huron Confederacy and the absorption of their members into the Petun, Neutral and other groups (Stone and Chaput 1978). Additionally, the Nipissing were defeated in a skirmish with the Mohawk in 1653 and relocated west to Lake Nipigon (Day 1978:789). The Nipissing returned to the area in 1667 following a peace agreement between the French and the Mohawk. There is little evidence to suggest a concentrated period of settlement in the region during the eighteenth century, with Anishnabeg groups known to traverse through the area practicing traditional hunting and fishing and the Matouweskarini band located approximately 70 kilometres east of the study area in the Madawaska Valley (Day & Trigger 1978:793).

Following their defeat of the French at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759, the British began purchasing large tracts of land in Ontario through treaties with the Aboriginal communities in the region. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 asserted British sovereignty over the region while declaring the land to be in possession of the Indigenous people who occupied it and establishing the policies for Crown purchase of these lands (Surtees 1994:93). These purchasing efforts were intensified following the conclusion of the American Revolutionary War in 1783 and the War of 1812 in 1814, which saw successive waves of migration of United Empire Loyalists and British settlers into Upper Canada. The current study area forms part of a large block of land north of Lake Ontario that was initially purchased by Sir John Johnson and Col. John Butler in 1788. Irregularities in the original treaty documents lead to them being declared invalid under the terms of the Royal Proclamation, and a formalized cession of these lands was concluded under the Williams Treaties in 1923 (Surtees 1994:107).

1.2.3 European Settlement History

The study area is located in the Geographic Township of Finlayson, which was first surveyed by James Dickson in 1879 (ODLF 1959). Due to its remote location, the township was the last to be settled in Muskoka, with little in the way of dedicated historical research. The early European immigrants in Muskoka began settling along the western edge bordering Georgian Bay, and was spurred by passage of the Free Grant and Homestead Act of 1868, which granted land to applicants who cleared and cultivated at least 15 acres of their holdings. The Bobcaygeon Road started construction in 1856 and was designed to encourage settlement of



the Muskoka interior. The poor, sandy soils of the region excluded establishing self sufficient agriculture, and the region was used primarily by the logging industry. Eventually the area became more popular as a cottage destination, and the township was amalgamated into the Township of Lake of Bays in 1971 (Mika & Mika 1981:480)

1.2.4 Land Use History of Study Area

The study area consists of the entirety of Lot 3, Concession 6 in the Geographic Township of Lake of Bays. Land registry records were not available for the township, and the earliest mapping suggests the study area was originally Crown Land that has been uninhabited to the present day (Maps 3 & 4).

1.3 Archaeological Context

1.3.1 Current Conditions

The study area consists of a sloped woodlot bordering Oxbow Lake on the eastern edge (Images 1 thru 16).

1.3.2 Natural Environment

The study area is situated within shallow till and rock ridge (Map 5) of the Algonquian Highlands, a physiographic region overlaying Precambrian bedrock and granite (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 211). It mostly consists of a shallow horizon of acidic, sandy and stony soil, with frequent valleys floored with outwash sand and gravel or covered in swampland. The only exceptions are minor till plains located in north Hastings and southwest Haliburton, at a distance far removed from the current study area.

The soil of the study area consists of Monteagle Sandy Loam, a well-drained Podzol which developed on glacio-fluvial outwash sand. This dominantly coarse textured soil lays on Precambrian rock at one foot or less (Hoffman et al. 1964; MacDonald et. al 1994:27).

These usually form on acidic, iron-rich, non-calcareous materials and are characterized by podzolic B horizons high in iron and aluminum colloids and low in organic matter. Humic A horizons are thin and eluvial Ae horizons are highly bleached. Parent materials are typically coarse, frequently stony, glacial till, outwash, or glaciofluvial sand deposits. Loamy textured parent materials are less common. Podzolic soil development usually occurs on gently to steeply rolling lands. The productivity of Podzolic soils is generally not great, owing to fertility limitations as well as local constraints, including stoniness, shallowness to bedrock, and imperfect drainage due to topography.

(MacDonald et al. 1994:28)



Surficial geology within the study area consists of a thin drift of till cover with numerous bedrock outcrops (Map 6).

The nearest potable water source is Oxbow Lake, located on the eastern edge of the study area. It connects through the Oxtongue River and Lake of Bays to the Muskoka River, which drains into Georgian Bay approximately 91 kilometres to the southwest.

The study area is located within the Huntsville District of the Georgian Bay Ecoregion, which itself is situated on the southern part of the Ontario Shield Ecozone. This region encompasses 7,447,869 hectares, and contains a diverse array of flora and fauna. It is characterized by a mix of eastern white pine, red pine, eastern hemlock, and yellow birch, in addition to sugar maple, American beech, wild black cherry, American basswood, and white ash in the southern part of the region.

Representative fauna include little brown bat, American black bear, moose, fisher, North American river otter, beaver, common loon, osprey, broad-winged hawk, ruby-throated hummingbird, pileated woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, winter wren, veery, Blackburnian warbler, black-throated blue warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, red-spotted newt, northern two-lined salamander, four-toed salamander, gray treefrog, pickerel frog, American bullfrog, snapping turtle, smooth greensnake, and northern ring-necked snake. In the numerous lakes and rivers, fish such as lake trout, brook trout, lake whitefish, yellow perch, walleye, bluegill, rock bass, brown bullhead, bluntnose minnow, northern redbelly dace, and golden shiner are found.

(Crins et al. 2009:40-41)

1.3.3 Known Archaeological Sites

A search of registered archaeological sites within the MHSTC Archaeological Sites Database was conducted. No archaeological sites were identified within a one kilometer radius of the study area. No archaeological assessments have been carried out within 50 meters of the study area.

1.4 Summary

As documented in Section 1.0, the study area contains evidence of archaeological potential. The location of the study area at the edge of Oxbow Lake indicates the potential for locating Pre-Contact Indigenous archaeological material. In summary, a Stage 2 archaeological assessment was determined to be required in order to identify and document any archaeological material that may be present. The heavy forest of the study area precluded the possibility of ploughing for a pedestrian survey, and as a result, a test pitting survey was determined to be required.



2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the study area was conducted on August 20 & 21, 2020 under PIF #: P321-0184-2020 issued to Shane McCartney (P321). The weather during the survey was a mix of sun and cloud and warm. At no time was weather or lighting conditions detrimental to the observation or recovery of archaeological material. The entire study area and its periphery was inspected, and no additional areas of archaeological potential aside from those recorded in the background research and mapping were identified.

Due the location of the study area in northern Ontario, the test pit strategy followed Section 2.1.5 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. As a result, a 50 metre zone bordering the edge of Oxbow Lake, accounting for 56% of the study area, was test pitted at maximum intervals of 5 metres apart (Image 17). Approximately 49% of the surveyed area was not assessed due to the presence of steep slope in excess of 20°.

Each test pit was excavated by hand to 30 cm in diameter and were excavated into the first 5 centimetres of subsoil. Test pit depth averaged 20 cm. Each test pit was examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, or evidence of fill, and all soil was screened through wire mesh of 6 millimetre width. All test pits were backfilled. The soil consisted of a light brown sand topsoil horizon over an orange sand subsoil (Image 18). No archaeological material was identified during the course of the survey.

The results of the Stage 2 archaeological survey are presented in Map 7.



3.0 Record of Finds

Table 2 provides an inventory of the documentary record generated in the field.

Table 2: Information Inventory of Documentary Records

Document	Location	Description
Field Notes	Earthworks Office Project File	1 page of notes
Photographs	Earthworks Office Project File	45 digital photographs,
Field Map	Earthworks Office Project File	1 page



4.0 Analysis and Conclusion

A Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment was conducted on a 9.88 hectare area located on Lot 3, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Finlayson, Township of Lake of Bays, District Municipality of Muskoka, Ontario. A Stage 2 test pit survey was conducted on August 20 & 21, 2020.

The Stage 2 archaeological survey did not yield any evidence of archaeological material. As a result, no additional archaeological assessments are required.



5.0 Recommendations

Based on the results of the Stage 1 background investigation and the subsequent Stage 2 test pit survey, the study area is considered to be free of archaeological material. Therefore, no additional archaeological assessments are recommended.

The MHSTCI is requested to review this report and provide a letter indicating their satisfaction that the fieldwork and reporting for this archaeological assessment are consistent with the Ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences, and to enter this report into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports..



6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

This report is submitted to the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries 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 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* 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 Archaeology Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (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.



7.0 References

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8.0 Images



Image 1: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southeast.



Image 2: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southeast.





Image 3: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southwest.



Image 4: Study Area Conditions. Facing Northwest.





Image 5: Study Area Conditions. Facing West.



Image 6: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southeast.





Image 7: Study Area Conditions. Facing Northeast.



Image 8: Study Area Conditions. Facing Northeast.





Image 9: Study Area Conditions. Facing South.



Image 10: Study Area Conditions. Facing East.





Image 11: Study Area Conditions. Facing East.



Image 12: Study Area Conditions. Facing Southwest.





Image 13: Study Area Conditions. Facing South.



Image 14: Study Area Conditions. Facing West.





Image 15: Study Area Conditions. Facing Northwest.



Image 16: Study Area Conditions. Facing North.





Image 17: Test Pit Survey in Progress. Facing Southwest.



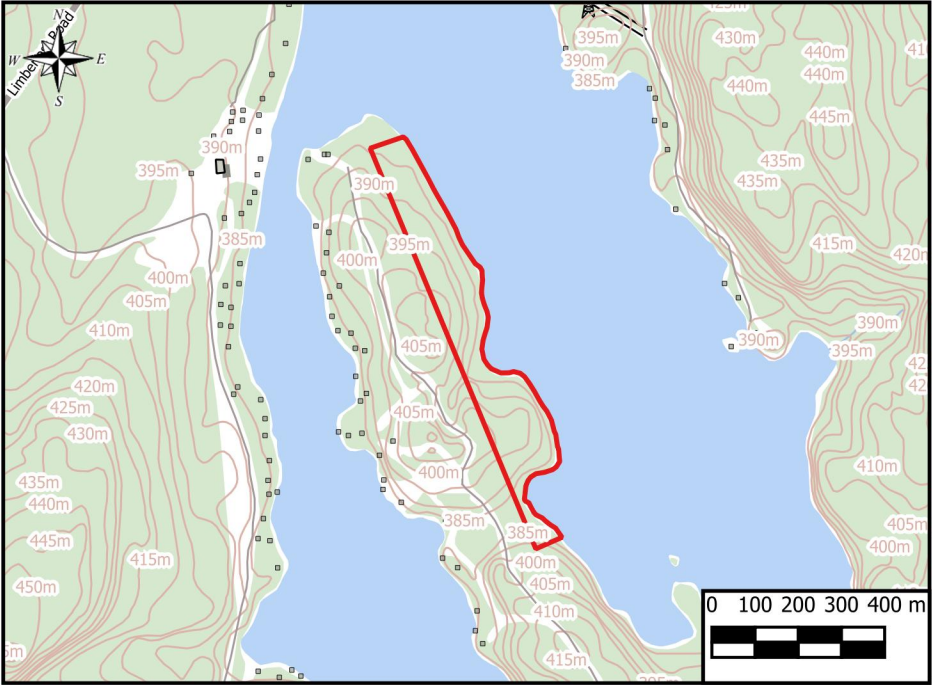
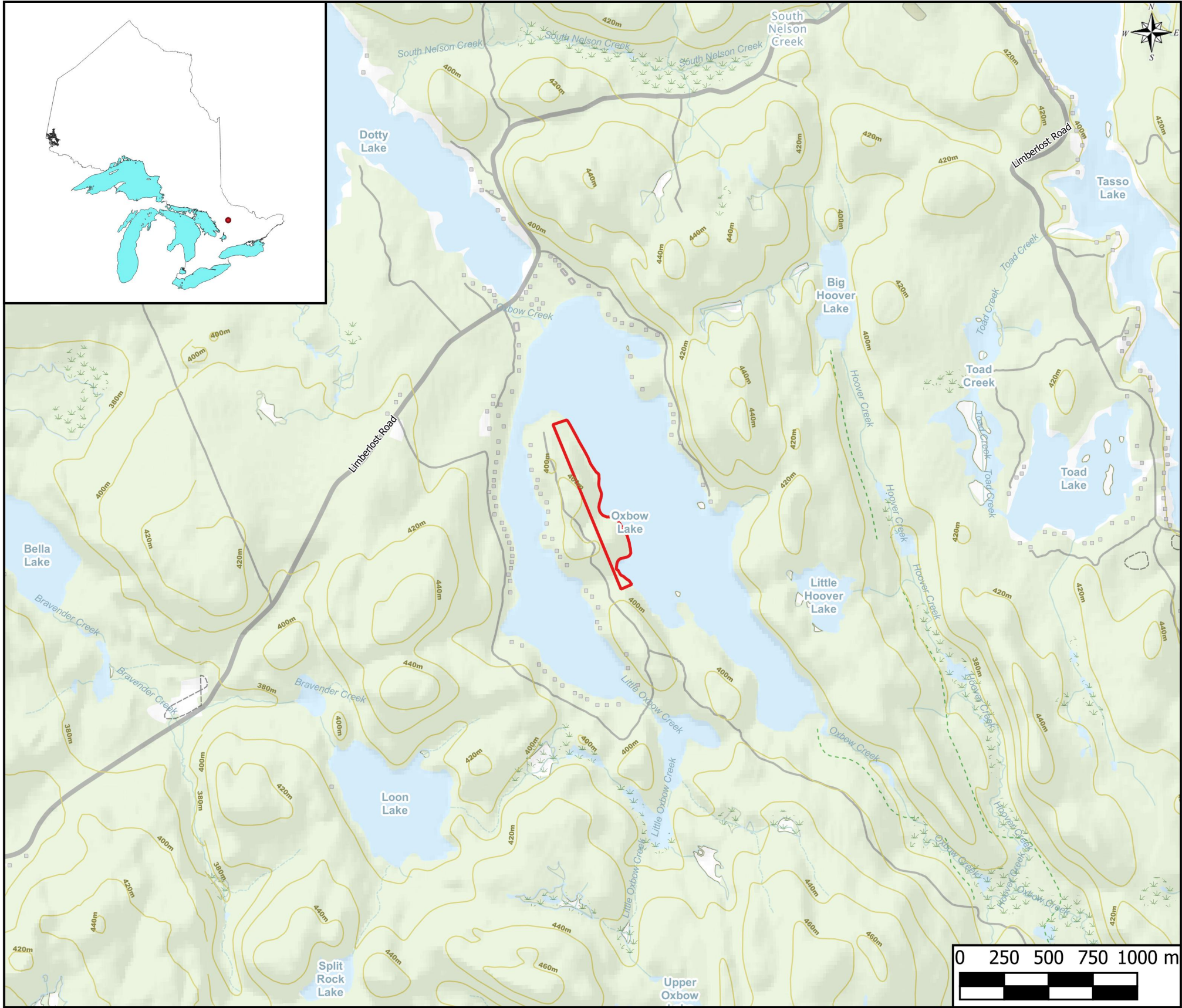
Image 18: Open Test Pit showing Subsurface Stratigraphy.



9.0 Maps



Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment
Oxbow Lake
Muskoka



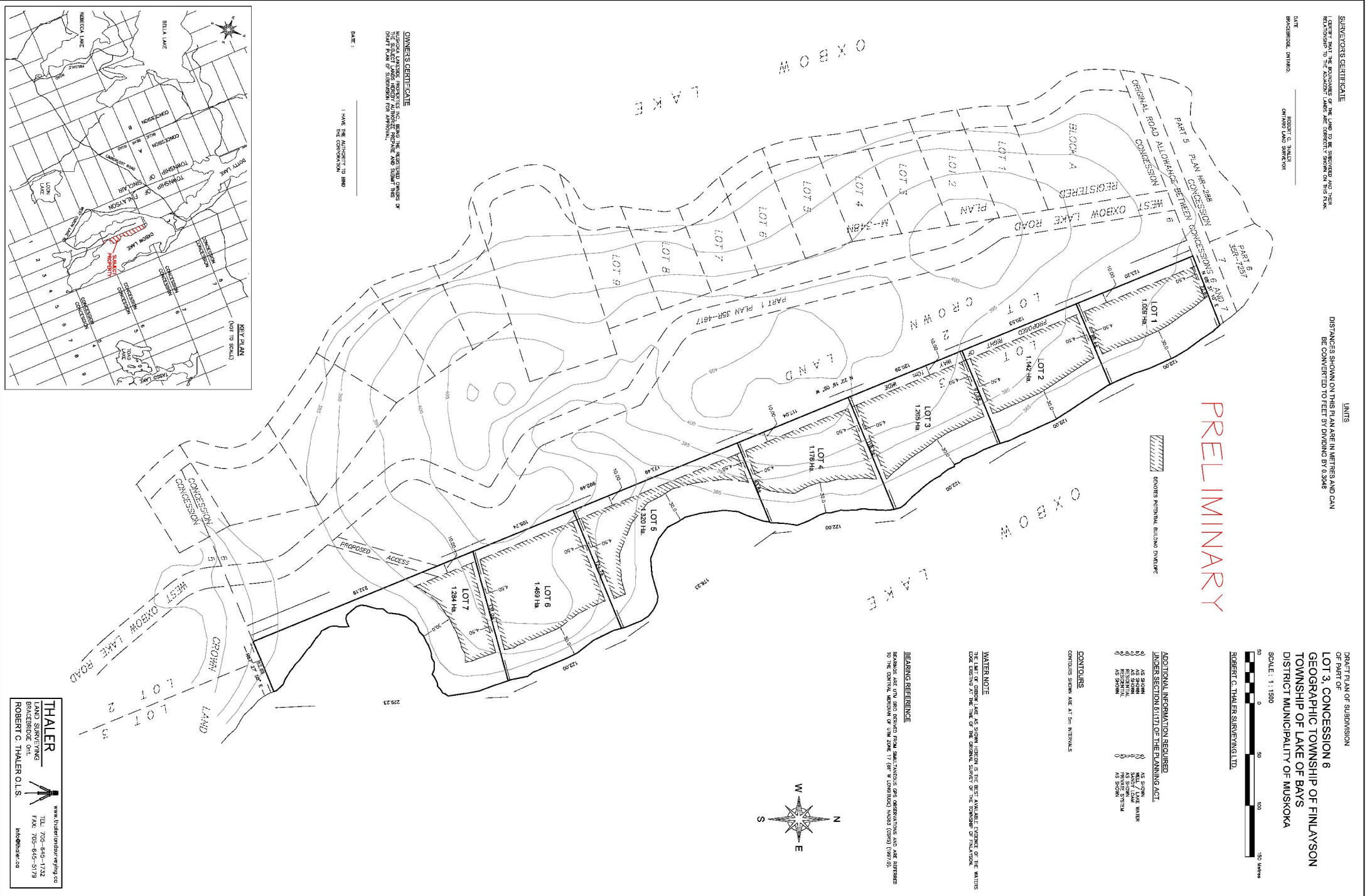
Legend

Study Area

Reference:
Canvec Data. Scale 1:50000
Ontario Basic Mapping. Scale 1:10000
Esri Basemap

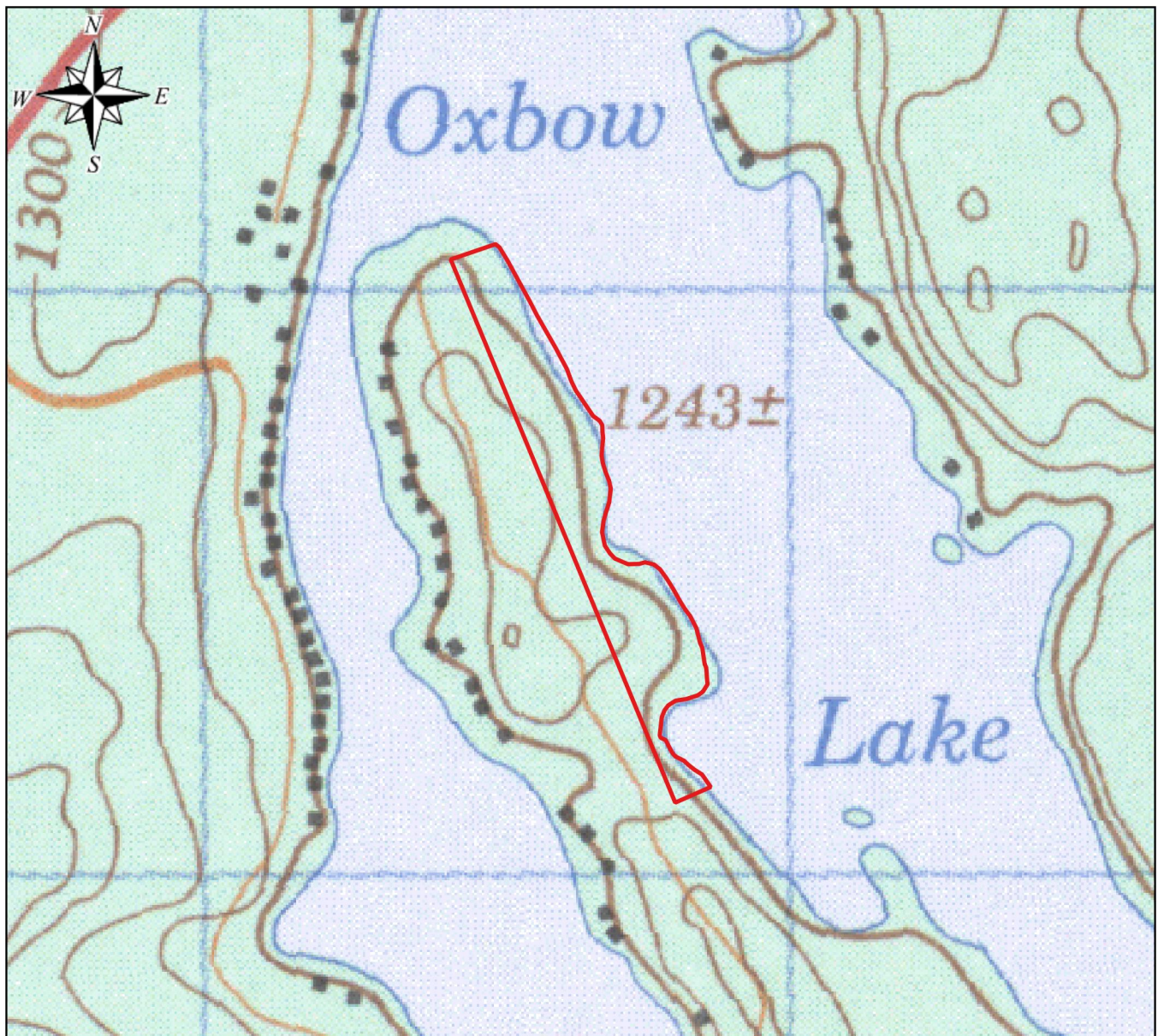
Map 1: Regional Map

Earthworks Archaeological Services Inc.
Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment
Oxbow Lake
Muskoka



Map 2: Site Plan





Legend

 Study Area

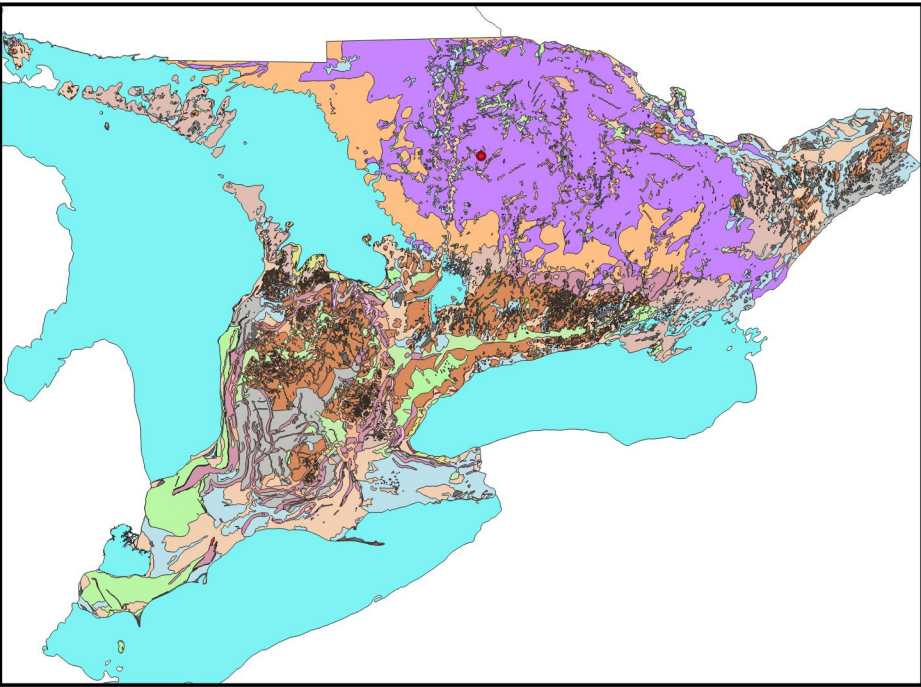
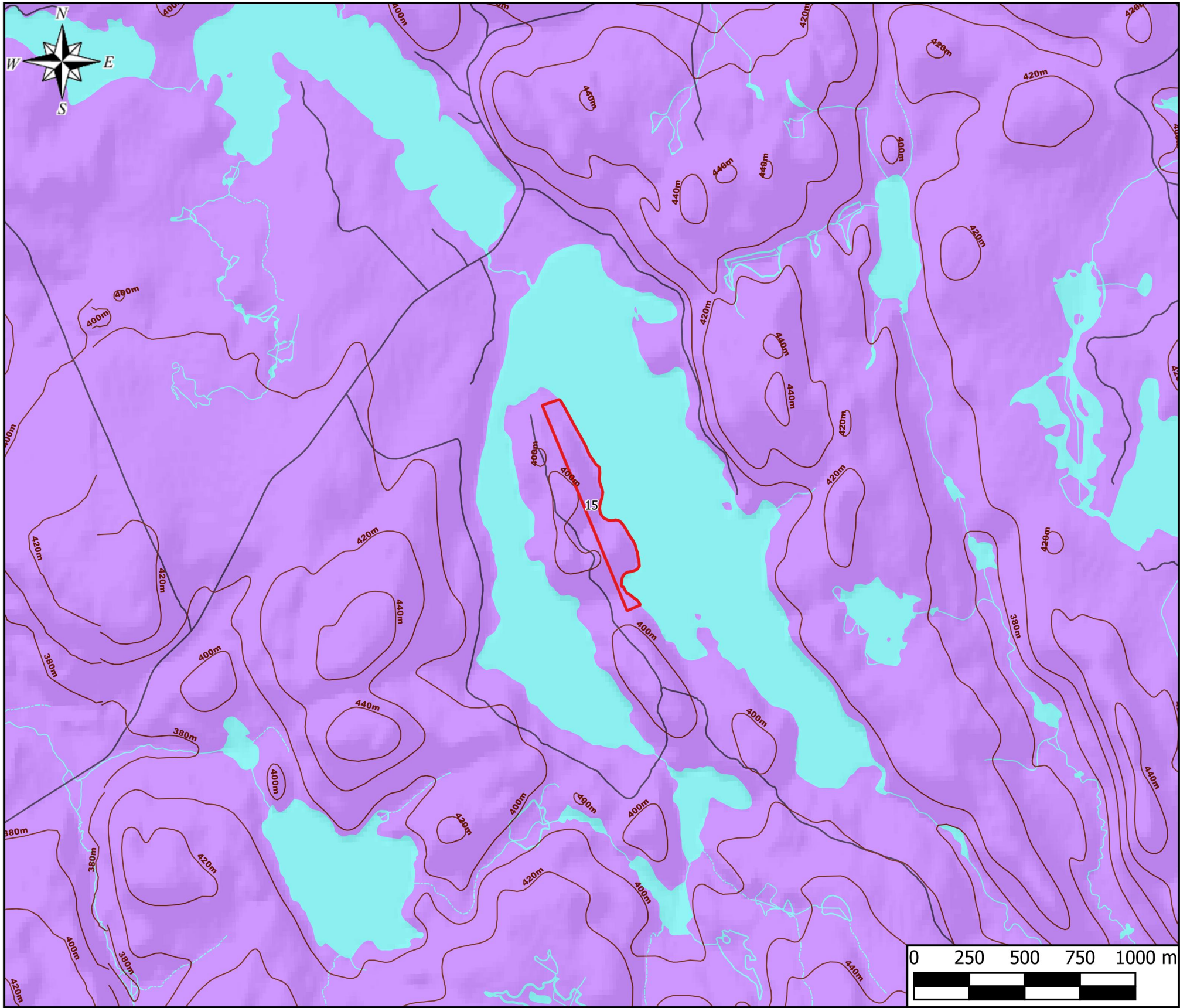
Canada, Natural Resources
Canada. Kawagama Lake, Ontario.
1:50,000. Map Shet 31 E/7, ed. 5,
1996.

0 100 200 300 400 m



Map 4: Topographic Map



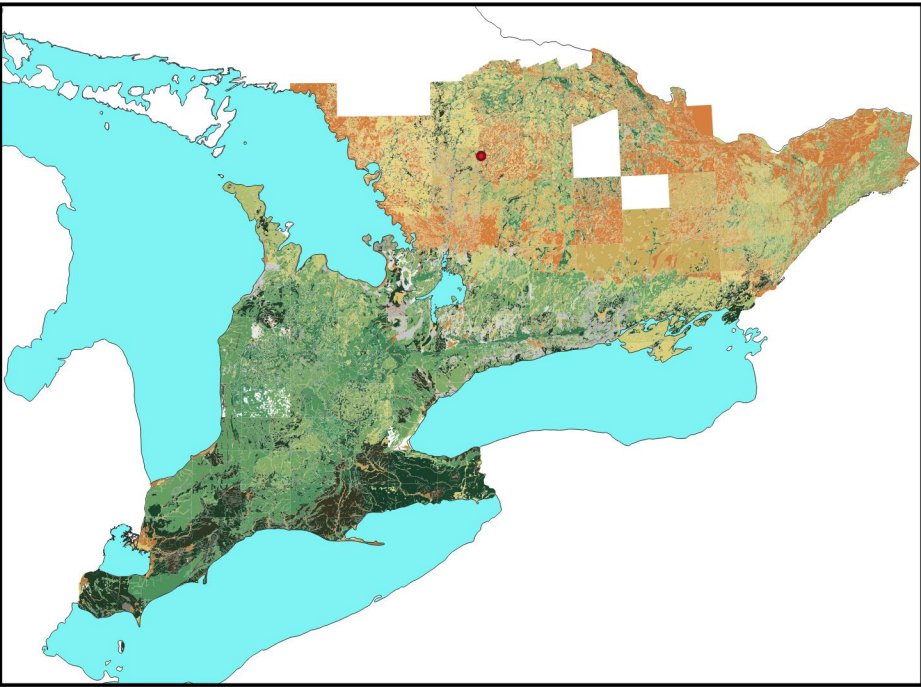
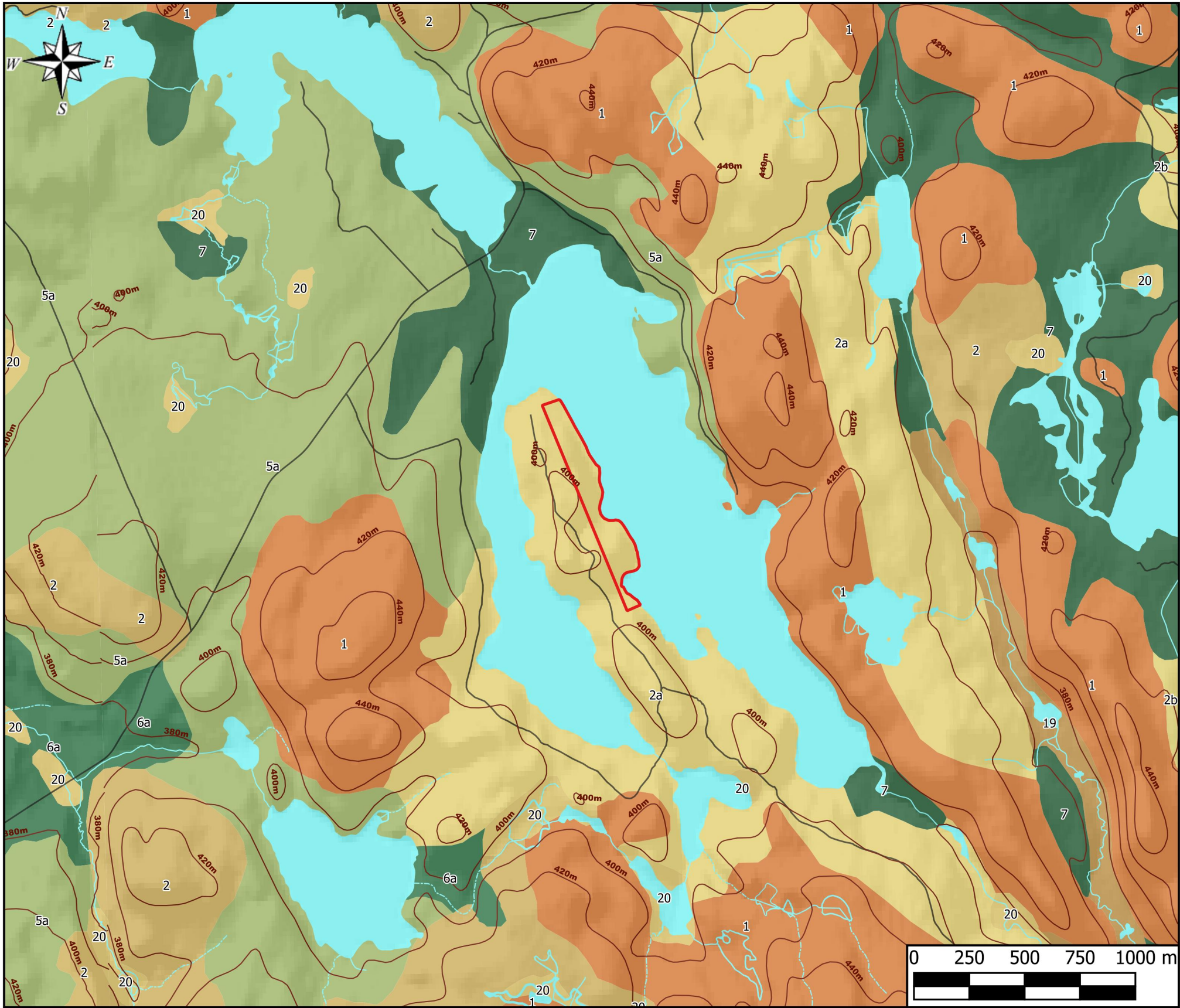


Legend

- Study Area
- Road Network
- 15 - Shallow Till And Rock Ridges

Base Data:
Chapman, L.J. and Putnam, D.F. 2007. Physiography of southern Ontario; Ontario Geological Survey, Miscellaneous Release—Data 228.

Map 5: Physiographic Landforms



Legend

- Study Area
- Road Network
- 1 - Bedrock knobs, ridges, in places with very thin, discontinuous drift
- 2 - Thin drift with numerous outcrops; mainly till covered
- 2a - Thin drift with numerous outcrops; mainly till covered
- 2b - Thin drift with numerous outcrops; mainly sand and gravel
- 5a - Sandy silt to sand, stoney till; compact to subcompact, silty
- 6a - Boulders, sand and gravel; Kames, kame terraces, stags
- 7 - Sand and gravel; unsubdivided
- 19 - Fine sand, silt, organics, muck
- 20 - Peat And Muck

Base Data:
Ontario Geological Survey 2010. Surficial geology of Southern Ontario; Ontario Geological Survey, Miscellaneous Release--Data
128-REV ISBN 978-1-4435-2483-4

Map 6: Surficial Geology



Legend

- Study Area
- 50 Metre Zone of Archaeological Potential
- Area Subject to Test Pit Survey at 5 metre intervals
- Area of Steep Slope - Not Assessed
- Area of Low Archaeological Potential (Northern Standards) Not Assessed
- # Photo Location and Direction

Reference:
Esri Basemap

**Map 7: Stage 2
Assessment Results**