



**Report on the 2003-2004 Stage 1-3 Archaeological Assessment of the
Proposed Stone Ridge Phase II Subdivision,
Part of Lots 6, 7, 8 & 9 Concession 2,
Part of the Original Road Allowance between Concessions 2 & 3,
Geographic Township of Orillia (South Orillia),
Part of Blocks 107, 112 & 115, Plan 51m-613
All of Blocks 114 & 25, Plan 51m-613,
City of Orillia, Simcoe County.**

Submitted to

Charter Construction

&

The Ontario Ministry of Culture

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Executive Summary

This report describes the results of a Stage 1-3 Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Stone Ridge Phase II Subdivision, Part of Lots 6, 7, 8 & 9, Concession 2, Part of the Original Road Allowance between Concessions 2 & 3, Geographic Township of Orillia (South Orillia), Part of Blocks 107, 112 & 115, Plan 51m-613 and All of Blocks 114 & 25, Plan 51m-613, City of Orillia, Simcoe County conducted by AMICK Consultants Limited on behalf of Charter Construction. This study was conducted under Archaeological Consulting License #P038 issued to Ms. Marilyn Cornies by the Minister of Culture for the Province of Ontario. All work was conducted in conformity with the guidelines as stipulated within the Archaeological Assessment Technical Guidelines (OMCzCR 1993) and the Ontario Heritage Act (RSO 1980).

AMICK Consultants Limited was engaged by Charter Construction to undertake this assessment on April 10, 2003. The property was subjected to assessment by both test pit and pedestrian survey from May 3 - 23, 2003 and May 17 – 21. 2004. As a result of the archaeological assessment, one significant and two insignificant Woodland Period sites were documented. These sites were registered within the Archaeological Sites Database of the Ontario Ministry of Culture as the Alia Kendra II (BdGu-20), the Alia Kendra III (BdGu-25) and the Alia Kendra IV (BdGu-26) sites. The data produced during the assessment of the property suggested that these Woodland sites were likely Huron in origin, as one might anticipate in this area.

Stage 3 Test Excavations were recommended for each of the three sites found during the archaeological assessment in order to obtain further data which might assist in

establishing the cultural affinity of the material. In addition, Stage 3 Test Excavations were conducted in order to better define the limits of the sites and to determine if subsurface features were present within the sites.

Stage 3 Test Excavations were conducted from July 17 – 22, 2003 at the Alia Kendra II Site (BdGu-20); on May 17, 2004 at the Alia Kendra III Site (BdGu-25); and on May 18, 2004 at the Alia Kendra IV Site (BdGu-26).

The Alia Kendra II Site (BdGu-20) is a Late Woodland site which appears to be related to the Huron culture and precedes contact with Europeans. This inference is based on the lack of trade goods present on the site. The site is situated within a woodlot near the southeast corner of the subject property. The site produced 3 fragmentary pot sherds in a single test pit and a further 12 fragmentary sherds from a single one metre square during test excavations. All of these pieces are grit tempered and lack any evidence of decoration. A total of 28 one metre test squares were excavated at this site as depicted in Figure 4 of this report. No distribution of artifacts beyond one square metre was documented nor any subsurface remains encountered. No further work is recommended at this location.

The Alia Kendra III Site (BdGu-25) is a Late Woodland site which was found during the pedestrian survey of a field near the southeast corner of the subject property. A total of 10 artifacts were recovered from the surface of this site. These initial finds included: 1 utilized flake of Onondaga chert, 1 core fragment of Onondaga chert, 2 fragmentary rim sherds of indeterminate type, 1 plain neck sherd, 1 plain body sherd, and 4 fragmentary sherds. A total of 20 squares were dug as part of the Stage 3 investigations. A total of 37 additional artifacts were recovered as part of the Stage 3 and all of these finds came from 7 of the squares. No subsurface features were observed. No further hand excavations are recommended for this site. A plan of the site is included as Figure 5 of this report. It is unlikely that subsurface features are present at this site. However, the surface area of this site should be stripped of topsoil and the surface of the exposed subsoil should be shovel shined to ensure that no deeply buried and potentially significant deposits are located here. Any exposed features should be mapped, excavated and drawings made of plan and profile views. All excavated soils should be screened and soil samples collected for floatation.

The Alia Kendra IV Site (BdGu-26) is a probable Late Woodland site which appears to be related to the Huron culture and precedes contact with Europeans. This inference is based on the lack of trade goods present on the site. The site is situated within a ploughed field near the southeast corner of the subject property. The site produced 3 artifacts on the surface of the site within a 2 x 2 metre area which included: 1 fragmentary celt, 1 Onondaga core fragment, and one piece of Onondaga chert chipping detritus. A total of 17 one metre test squares were excavated at this site as depicted in Figure 6 of this report. No artifacts were documented nor any subsurface remains encountered during the Stage 3 Test Excavations. No further work is recommended at this location.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a Stage 1-3 Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Stone Ridge Phase II Subdivision, Part of Lots 6, 7 8 & 9, Concession 2, Part of the Original Road Allowance between Concessions 2 & 3, Geographic Township of Orillia (South Orillia), Part of Blocks 107, 112 & 115, Plan 51m-613 and All of Blocks 114 & 25, Plan 51m-613, City of Orillia, Simcoe County conducted by AMICK Consultants Limited on behalf of Charter Construction. The subject land consists of roughly 181.09 hectares at the southeast corner of Bass Lake Road and Line 15 North on the west edge of the City of Orillia (see Figure 1). The conduct of the archaeological assessment followed three phases: Background Research, Archaeological Field Assessment and Archaeological Test Excavations. This research was carried out on behalf of Charter Construction by AMICK Consultants Limited. All work was conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Ontario Heritage Act (RSO 1980) under Archaeological Consulting License #P038 issued by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation for the Province of Ontario to Ms. Marilyn Cornies.

2.0 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

This report describes the results of a Stage 1-3 Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Stone Ridge Phase II Subdivision, Part of Lots 6, 7 8 & 9 Concession 2, Part of the Original Road Allowance between Concessions 2 & 3, Geographic Township of Orillia (South Orillia), Part of Blocks 107, 112 & 115, Plan 51m-613 and All of Blocks 114 & 25, Plan 51m-613, City of Orillia, Simcoe County conducted by AMICK Consultants Limited on behalf of Charter Construction. The subject land consists of roughly 181.09 hectares at the southeast corner of Bass Lake Road and Line 15 North on the west edge of the City of Orillia (see Figure 1).

The subject property consists primarily of agricultural lands which were ploughed in advance of this assessment. In addition, four (4) areas of woodlot were subjected to test pit survey. The first area of woodlot is situated in the extreme southeast corner of the subject property. The second area of woodlot runs east to west across the south end of the western portion of the property. A third woodlot area subject to assessment by test pit methodology is associated with the large low-lying and wet area surrounding Lac du Castor in the north half of the subject property. This woodlot area runs around almost the entire wet area surrounding the lake. The fourth area of woodlot to be test pit surveyed lies immediately to the east of Lac du Castor and is surrounded by pedestrian surveyed ploughed fields. In general, tree lines dividing ploughed fields were not subject to test pit survey unless they were wider than 15 metres. Two such tree lines were subject to test pit survey: one is situated in the extreme northeast corner of the subject property and one is located near the southwest corner of the subject property. Finally, two existing and one former farm complexes were subject to assessment by test pit survey. One of the existing farm complexes is situated adjacent to Harvie Settlement Road on the east edge of the property. The second existing farm complex and the former farm complex are situated on the west edge of the property fronting onto Line 15 North. All of the above areas and methods of assessment are illustrated on Figure 3 of this report.

The subject property is situated within the Simcoe Uplands physiographic region. The Simcoe Uplands is composed of a series of rolling till plains which were formerly islands in glacial Lake Algonquin (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 183).

3.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

As part of the present study, background research was conducted in order to determine if any archaeological resources had been formerly documented within or in close proximity to the subject property and, if these same resources might be subject to impacts from the proposed undertaking. This data was also collected in order to assist in the assessment of the archaeological potential of the subject property and in order to establish the significance of any resources which might be encountered during the conduct of the present study. The requisite data was collected from the Archaeology Unit, Heritage Branch, Ontario Ministry of Culture (OMC) and the corporate research library of AMICK Consultants Limited.

Native Occupation:

The data gathered from the Archaeological Sites Database of the OMC was limited to a 2 km radius about the subject property. As a result, it was determined that 7 archaeological sites related to First Nations activity in the area had been formerly documented. These sites are briefly described below:

Site Name	Borden #	Site Type	Cultural Affiliation
BdGu-3	Little	Village	Woodland
BdGu-5	Birch	Cabin	Woodland
BdGu-7	Kennel	Campsite	Archaic
BdGu-9	Pern	Findspot	Archaic
BdGu-10	Holly	Village	Woodland
BdGu-11	Fowler	Campsite	Palaeo
BdGu-12	Standing Tree	Indeterminate	Woodland

Euro-Canadian Settlement:

The Illustrated Historical Atlas of Simcoe County (1878) indicates that no structures were situated on Lots 6, 7, 8 or 9 Concession 2 of South Orillia Township at that time.

Conclusion:

Background research indicates that the subject property exhibits high potential for significant archaeological resources of Native origins and relatively low potential for those of Euro-Canadian origins.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD ASSESSMENT

4.1 Methodological Approach

Figure 3 of this report illustrates the subject property and the survey methods used to complete the physical assessment of the subject property. Due to the proximity of Lac du Castor with a large associated wetland area and the numerous previously documented sites, the property was tested at a five metre interval.

The subject property consists primarily of agricultural lands which were ploughed in advance of this assessment. Ploughed areas were examined after numerous heavy rainfalls using pedestrian survey methodology. These ploughed fields were walked at a fixed interval of five (5) metres between individual transects. Artifacts were marked with nylon flags as encountered and every artifact location was examined intensively using one metre transects walked in a radius of 20 metres out from the find.

In addition, four (4) areas of woodlot were subjected to test pit survey. The first area of woodlot is situated in the extreme southeast corner of the subject property. The second area of woodlot runs east to west across the south end of the western portion of the property. A third woodlot area subject to assessment by test pit methodology is associated with the large low-lying and wet area surrounding Lac du Castor in the north half of the subject property. This woodlot area runs around almost the entire wet area surrounding the lake. The fourth area of woodlot to be test pit surveyed lies immediately to the east of Lac du Castor and is surrounded by pedestrian surveyed ploughed fields. In general, tree lines dividing ploughed fields were not subject to test pit survey unless they were wider than 15 metres. Two such tree lines were subject to test pit survey: one is situated in the extreme northeast corner of the subject property and one is located near the southwest corner of the subject property. Finally, two existing and one former farm complexes were subject to assessment by test pit survey. One of the existing farm complexes is situated adjacent to Harvie Settlement Road on the east edge of the property. The second existing farm complex and the former farm complex are situated on the west edge of the property fronting onto Line 15 North. All of the above areas and methods of assessment are illustrated on Figure 3 of this report.

Within areas subject to test pit methodology (as indicated in Figure 3), test pits measured roughly 30 cm in diameter and were dug to sterile subsoil. The excavated earth from these units was screened through 6 mm (1/4 inch) wire mesh to ensure that any artifacts would be recovered. All units were backfilled and the sod replaced to eliminate possible injury to users of the property. When artifacts were encountered during test pit survey an area measuring 2 metres from the artifact in all directions was examined at a higher intensity interval of 2.5 metres between individual test pits.

4.2 Results

As a result of the archaeological survey, three (3) sites were discovered. The Alia Kendra II Site (BdGu-20) was discovered in the largest of the woodlots which runs across the entire west side of the property from east to west. The Alia Kendra III & Alia Kendra IV Sites (BdGu-25 & 26) were discovered in the same ploughed field immediately to the southwest of the woodlot containing Alia Kendra II (BdGu-20) and west of the existing farm complex fronting onto Harvie Settlement Road. The locations of these sites are illustrated in Figure 3 of this report and detailed plans of each site are presented as Figures 4, 5 & 6. These plans include the distribution of surface finds/positive test pits as applicable.

5.0 ALIA KENDRA II (BdGu-20) TEST EXCAVATIONS

Methodology

The Stage 3 strategy for the Alia Kendra II site (BdGu-20) consisted of the excavation of a series of 29 one metre squares. The one metre excavation units are illustrated in Figure 4 of this report. The Alia Kendra II Site (BdGu-20) Site was discovered during the course of test pit survey within a woodlot. A single positive test pit produced three (3) fragmentary pot sherds. The intensification of test pit units to a 2.5 metre interval between units for a distance of 20 metres out from this positive test pit failed to produce any further finds. However, test pit survey is not a very reliable means of determining the nature of archaeological sites. The presence of three fragmentary pot sherds within a single test pit suggested that there was a good chance for a significant archaeological deposit to be present in this location. Accordingly, Stage 3 Test Excavations were conducted in order to determine if such a deposit was present and to document the nature and extent of such remains or to show, through rigorous testing that no such deposits were present.

Initially, a series of 9 one metre test squares spaced five metres apart were placed over the site with one square at the centre of this grid placed directly over top of the positive test pit. Excavation of these squares produced a further 12 fragmentary sherds. All of these artifacts were recovered from the square placed over the positive test pit. The results suggested that perhaps a small special purpose site was situated in the centre of the established grid and that the outlying squares were outside the limits of the artifact distribution. Accordingly, two perpendicular lines of a continuous series of one metre squares were established in an east-west and north-south line meeting at the central square of the established grid. The excavation of all of these 16 squares failed to produce any further artifacts. Finally, the remaining 4 unexcavated one metre squares surrounding the single positive one metre square were excavated. The excavation of these squares produced no finds. As a result, it was determined that the single positive test pit and the excavated one metre square placed over top of it, likely represented a single event deposition. Perhaps a single pot had been broken in this area and subsequent ploughing had accounted for the high degree of fragmentation. In any case, the lack of any further artifacts, nor any evidence of subsurface features, indicate that this site is not significant and that further work at this location is unwarranted.

Square numbers were assigned based on the position of the southwest corner of each of the one metre squares along the imposed grid plan. All squares were excavated to the bottom of the topsoil layer. All excavated material was screened through ¼ inch wire mesh in order to ensure that any artifacts contained within the topsoil were recovered. No artifacts were recovered from any of the excavated squares.

Results

As a result of the Stage 3 Test Excavations of the Alia Kendra II site (BdGu-20) a total of 15 artifacts were recovered. The following analysis includes the Stage 2 & 3

results. The artifacts recovered consisted of 15 fragmentary sherds. These artifacts are nondiagnostics.

It is primarily through ceramics and more specifically rim sherds that we recover data relating to each individual site. The ceramics of the Alia Kendra II site account for roughly 100% (N=15) of the total artifact assemblage. Fragmentary sherds are those sherds which are lacking either the interior or exterior surface, are smaller than a quarter and cannot be classified as a fragmentary rim sherd. All of the fragmentary sherds from this site are fragments of body sherds. Smoothed over exteriors predominates the assemblage. All examples are grit tempered.

The Alia Kendra II site is a Late Woodland site which appears to be related to the Huron culture and precedes contact with Europeans. This inference is based on the lack of trade goods present on the site. As all of the artifacts recovered came from an area less than one square metre in area, although 29 square metres were excavated, the site is not considered to be significant and no further investigations are considered necessary.

6.0 ALIA KENDRA III (BdGu-25) TEST EXCAVATIONS

Methodology

The Stage 3 strategy for the Alia Kendra III site (BdGu-25) consisted of the excavation of a series of 20 one metre squares. The squares were placed at a 5 metre interval to pass through the area of artifact concentration and to connect outlying finds. The one metre excavation units are illustrated in Figure 4 of this report. Square numbers were assigned based on the position of the southwest corner of each of the one metre squares along the imposed grid plan. All squares were excavated to the bottom of the topsoil layer. All excavated material was screened through ¼ inch wire mesh in order to ensure that any artifacts contained within the topsoil were recovered. Artifacts were recovered from 7 of the excavated squares.

Results

As a result of the Stage 3 Test Excavations of the Alia Kendra III site (BdGu-25) a total of 37 artifacts were recovered from squares in addition to the 10 artifacts collected from the surface of the site during the CSP. The following analysis includes the Stage 2 & 3 results. The artifacts recovered consisted of the following categories: 32 fragmentary sherds; 6 body sherds, 2 fragmentary rim sherds; 4 neck sherds; 1 rim sherd; 1 utilized flake; 1 chert nodule; and 1 complete celt was found on the surface of the site during the excavation of squares. As in most artifact assemblages, the vast majority of the artifacts are nondiagnostics.

It is primarily through ceramics and more specifically rim sherds that we recover data relating to each individual site. The ceramics of the Alia Kendra III site account for roughly 93.75% (N=45) of the total artifact assemblage (N=48). Fragmentary sherds are those sherds which are lacking either the interior or exterior surface, are smaller than a

quarter and cannot be classified as a fragmentary rim sherd. In contrast, body sherds possess an interior and exterior and are larger than a quarter. Most fragmentary sherds are fragments of body sherds. Smoothed over exteriors predominates the assemblage.

The bulk of decoration on ceramics or pottery is on the rim. It is through the decoration present on rim sherds that much of our cultural and temporal information is derived. In order to be truly analyzable, a rim sherd must exhibit sufficient portions of the interior, lip, collar, and neck to determine the decorative motif and technique employed. A sherd in which any of these traits is absent is classified as a fragmentary rim sherd. The single rim sherd recovered from this site can all be typed as Lawson Incised within the ceramics typology as defined by R. MacNeish (1952).

The Alia Kendra III site is a Late Woodland occupation site which appears to be related to the Huron culture and precedes contact with Europeans. This inference is based on the lack of trade goods present on the site. As a result, the site is significant as an early occupation of the Huron Confederacy in the Orillia area. However, the very limited numbers of artifacts produced through the conduct of both a CSP and Test Excavations suggest that there is little data contained within the topsoil of the site. Data from the test excavations also suggests that there is unlikely to be any evidence of subsurface features at this site. However, a Stage 4 should be conducted at this site as there remains the possibility for deeply buried significant deposits. The site should be topsoil stripped, the exposed subsoil shovel shined, and any exposed features mapped. If any features are found they should be excavated with plan and profile drawings and photographs taken, all excavated earth should be screened through 6 mm wire mesh, and soil samples should be collected for floatation.

7.0 ALIA KENDRA IV (BdGu-26) TEST EXCAVATIONS

Methodology

The Stage 3 strategy for the Alia Kendra IV site (BdGu-26) consisted of the excavation of a series of 17 one metre squares. The one metre excavation units are illustrated in Figure 4 of this report. The Alia Kendra IV Site (BdGu-26) Site was discovered during the course of pedestrian survey within a ploughed field. Three stone artifacts were recovered from the surface of this site within a 2 x 2 metre area. These finds included: 1 celt fragment, 1 Onondaga chert nodule, and 1 Onondaga chert piece of chipping detritus. The presence of three artifacts within such a limited area suggested that there was a good chance for a significant archaeological deposit to be present in this location. Accordingly, Stage 3 Test Excavations were conducted in order to determine if such a deposit was present and to document the nature and extent of such remains or to show, through rigorous testing that no such deposits were present.

A series of 17 one metre test squares arranged in two perpendicular lines of continuous squares were placed over the site with one square at the centre of this grid placed directly over the centre of the artifact concentration. Excavation of these squares produced no further artifacts.

Square numbers were assigned based on the position of the southwest corner of each of the one metre squares along the imposed grid plan. All squares were excavated to the bottom of the topsoil layer. All excavated material was screened through ¼ inch wire mesh in order to ensure that any artifacts contained within the topsoil were recovered. No artifacts were recovered from any of the excavated squares.

Results

As a result of the Stage 3 Test Excavations of the Alia Kendra IV site (BdGu-26) no further artifacts were recovered.

The Alia Kendra IV site is most likely a Late Woodland site which appears to be related to the Huron culture and precedes contact with Europeans. This inference is based on the lack of trade goods present on the site. As all of the artifacts recovered came from an area less than 4 square metres, although 17 square metres were excavated, the site is not considered to be significant and no further investigations are considered necessary.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the archaeological assessment of this property, a significant site relating to the Huron substage of the Iroquoian cultural complex has been identified. In addition, two other sites related to the Huron were documented which are not considered to warrant further investigation. The Alia Kendra III Site (BdGu-25) represents a potentially significant archaeological resource which will require mitigation in advance of development.

Given the locations of the Alia Kendra III Site (BdGu-25) within the proposed development, avoidance does not appear to be an option. The Alia Kendra III Site (BdGu-25) is situated within an area of single detached residences, including an associated road allowance. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Alia Kendra III Site (BdGu-25) be subject to Stage 4 Mitigative Excavations. No additional hand excavations are recommended prior to topsoil stripping. The site should be stripped of topsoil using a gradall or other machine fitted with a straight edge bucket (no teeth). The area exposed should then be subject to shovel shining to ensure that all subsurface features or disturbances are visible. The subsurface features will then have to be mapped, photographed, excavated and profiled. Soil samples must be collected for the purpose of floatation and, if possible, three carbon samples collected for the purpose of radiocarbon dating.

It is further recommended that the balance of the subject property be conditionally cleared of any further concerns related to archaeological resources and that development activities be permitted to proceed in unaffected areas of the subject property.

However, it must be noted at this time that no archaeological survey, regardless of its intensity, can entirely negate the possibility of deeply buried cultural material, notably human interments. In consequence, it is further recommended that should any such remains be encountered during construction activities, the Regulatory Operations Group, OMC and/or the Cemeteries Regulation Group of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and AMICK Consultants be contacted immediately.

9.0 REFERENCES CITED

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Table 1 Cultural Chronology for South-Central Ontario

PERIOD	GROUP	DATE RANGE	TRAITS
Palaeo-Indian			
	Fluted Point Hi-Lo	9500-8500 B.C. 8500-7500 B.C.	Big Game hunters small nomadic groups
Archaic			
Early		8000-6000 B.C.	hunter-gatherers
Middle	Laurentian	6000-2000 B.C.	territorial divisions arise
Late	Lamoka	2500-1700 B.C.	ground stone tools appear
	Broadpoint Crawford Knoll Glacial Kame	1800-1400 B.C. 1500- 500 B.C. ca. 100 B.C.	elaborate burial practices
Woodland			
Early	Meadowood Red Ochre	1000-400 B.C. 1000-500 B.C.	introduction of pottery
Middle	Point Peninsula Princess Point	400B.C.-500 A.D. 500-800 A.D.	long distance trade horticulture
Late	Pickering Uren Middleport Huron	800-1300 A.D. 1300-1350 A.D. 1300-1400 A.D. 1400-1650 A.D.	villages & agriculture larger villages warfare
Historic			
Early	Odawa, Ojibwa	1700-1875 A.D.	social displacement
Late	Euro-Canadian	1785 A.D. +	European settlement

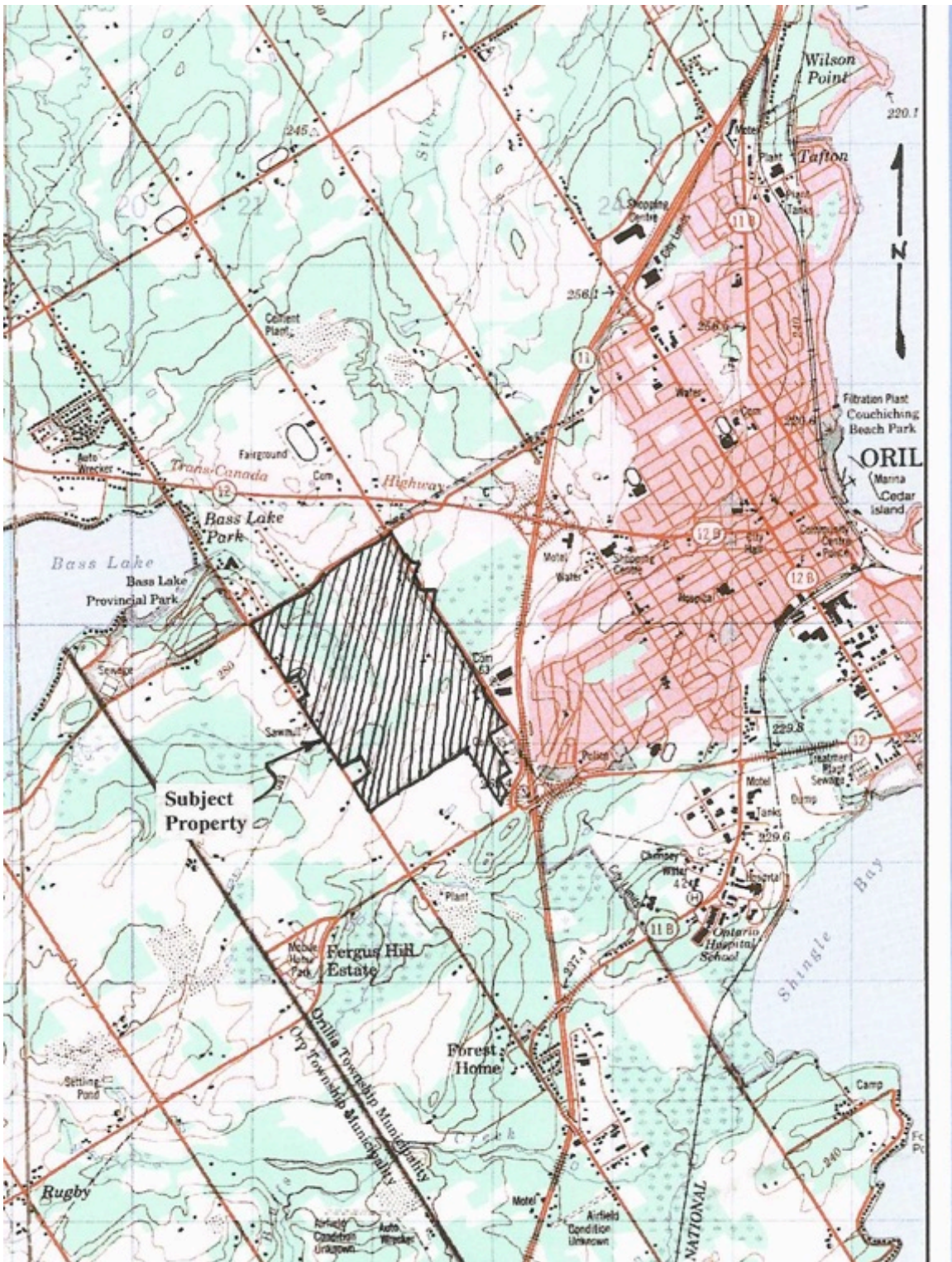


Figure 1 Location of the Subject Property (1:50,000)

Figure 3 Detailed Plan of the Archaeological Assessment

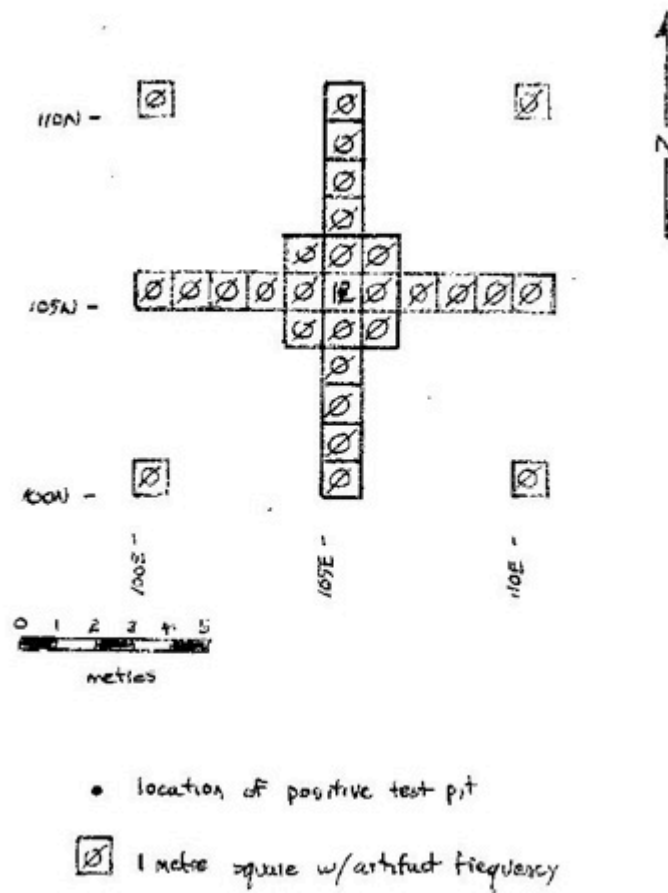


Figure 4 Detailed Plan of the Alia Kendra II Site (BdGu-20)

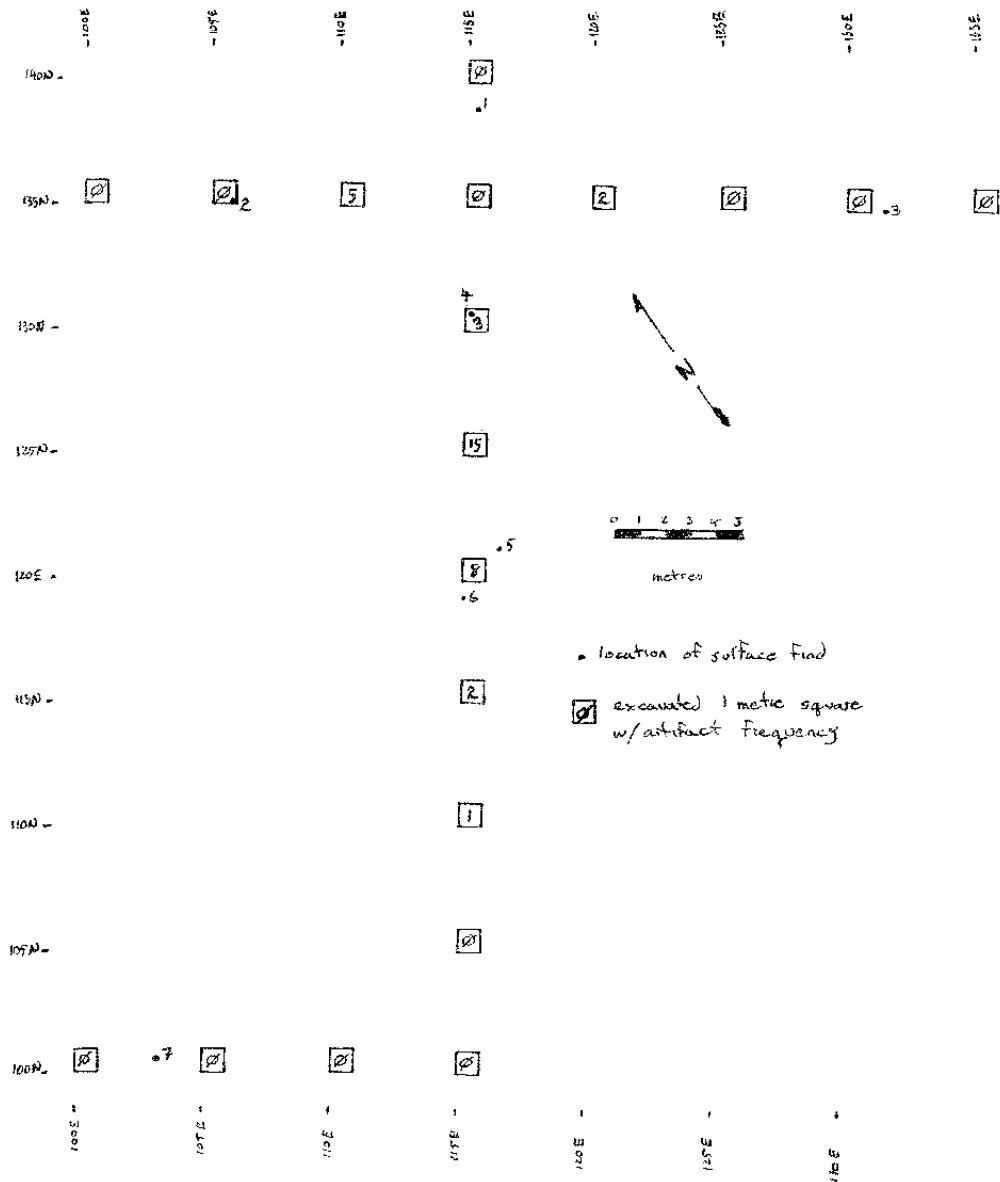


Figure 5 Detailed Plan of the Alia Kendra III Site (BdGu-25)

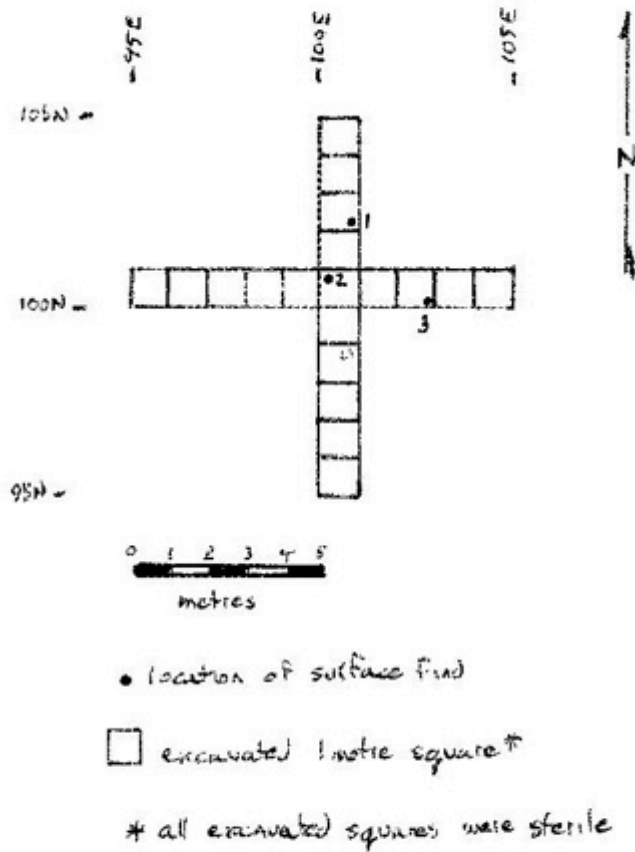


Figure 6 Detailed Plan of the Alia Kendra IV Site (BdGu-26)



Plate 1 Pedestrian Survey Conditions



Plate 2 Test Pit Survey Conditions



Plate 3 Low-Lying and Wet Area Surrounding Lac du Castor



Plate 4 Disturbed Area of Former Buildings



Plate 5 The Alia Kendra II site (BdGu-20)



Plate 6 The Alia Kendra III site (BdGu-25)



Plate 7 The Alia Kendra IV site (BdGu-26)

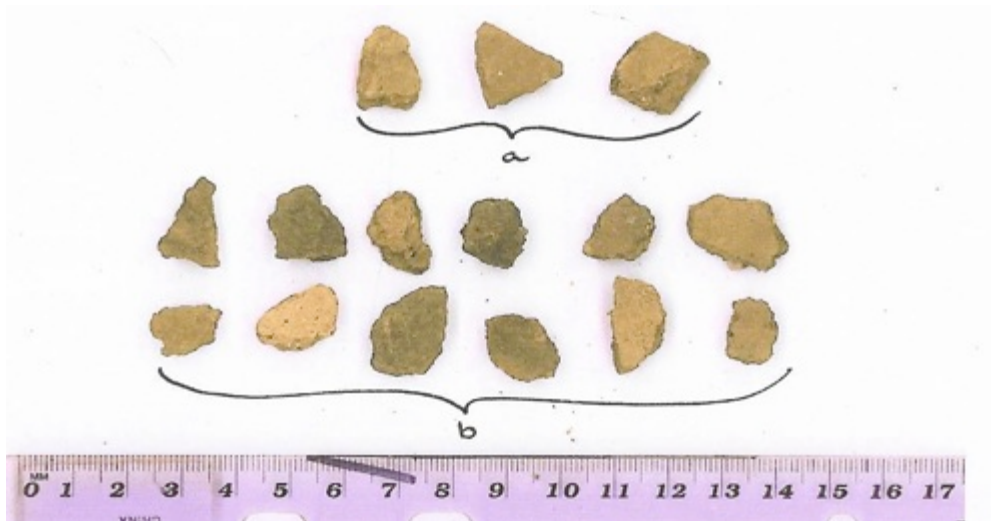


Plate 8 Artifacts of the Alia Kendra II Site (BdGu-20)

a) Positive Test Pit Finds; b) Artifacts from Square 105E-105N



Plate 9 Artifacts of the Alia Kendra III Site (BdGu-25)
a) Onondaga Chert Flake (CSP #2); b) Fragmentary Rim Sherd (CSP# 6);
c) Rim Sherd from Square 115E-125N; Celt (CSP#12)



Plate 10 Artifacts of the Alia Kendra IV Site (BdGu-26)
a) Onondaga Chert Nodule (CSP#1); b) Onondaga Chert Flake (CSP#2); c) Celt
Fragment (CSP#3)