

**Stage 3 Grave Search  
Alma Subdivision  
31 Church Street, Alma**

Part of Lots 1–8, 10, 11, 25–35 and  
Part of Lot 9, Registered Plan 134 and  
Lot 1, Concession 1 West of Grand River,  
Geographic Township of Pilkington,  
Township of Mapleton, County of Wellington

**Submitted to:**

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and

Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

**Submitted by:**



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**ORIGINAL REPORT**

January 18, 2024

## Executive Summary

Detritus Consulting Ltd. ('Detritus') was retained by Exact Construction Limited ('the Proponent') to conduct a Stage 3 Grave Search assessment on part of Lots 1–8, 10, 11, 25–35 and part of Lot 9, Registered Plan 134 and Lot 1, Concession 1 West of Grand River, Geographic Township of Pilkington, Township of Mapleton, County of Wellington (Figure 1). This investigation was conducted in advance of a proposed residential development that spans the entire property at 31 Church Street, Alma, Ontario (the 'Study Area'; Figures 1 and 7).

The Stage 3 Grave Search assessment was triggered by the by the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (Government of Ontario 2002). Provincial Policy Statement ('PPS') that is informed by the *Planning Act* (Government of Ontario 1990a), which states that decisions affecting planning matters must be consistent with the policies outlined in the larger *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b). According to Section 2.6.2 of the PPS, "development and site alteration shall not be permitted on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential unless significant archaeological resources have been conserved." In addition, the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act* ('FBCSA'; Government of Ontario 2002) prohibits development in areas where there is the potential for unmarked graves to exist such as adjacent to cemeteries. To meet the conditions of this legislation, the grave search was conducted during the pre-application stage of the development under archaeological consulting license P017 issued to Mr. Garth Grimes by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism ('MCM') and adheres to the archaeological license report requirements under subsection 65 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b) and the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* ('Standards and Guidelines'; Government of Ontario 2011).

The Stage 1-2 Study Area is an irregularly shaped parcel of land measuring 7.72 hectares ('ha'). At the time of the assessment, the majority of the Study Area comprised a large agricultural field. The southwestern edge of the Study Area contains a treed and overgrown strip that was once the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway ("T. G. & B"), now a disused railbed. A small portion of the Study Area overgrown with trees, tall grass, and bushes contained foundations of an old church, the former St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Alma, built in 1854. The congregation was moved to the present stone church at 8 Peel Street West, also in Alma, in 1894. The southeastern edge of the property is comprised of a small creek and manicured lawns. The northern most corner of the Study Area contains a small portion of manicured lawn. The property is accessed by Church Street and is bound to the south at a diagonal by an old rail line, to the southeast, east, and northeast by residential properties, and to the northwest by Peel Street West.

The Stage 1 background research indicated that the Study Area exhibited moderate potential for the identification and recovery of archaeological resources (Detritus 2023a). A Stage 2 field assessment was recommended for the large agricultural field, manicured lawns, and overgrown greenspace. The treed and overgrown strip of the disused railbed was evaluated as having no potential based on the identification of extensive and deep land alteration that has severely damaged the integrity of archaeological resources. The small creek and associated greenspace were determined to retain no archaeological potential due to the identification of a physical feature of low archaeological potential, in this case a permanently wet area. These permanently wet and disturbed areas, as confirmed during a Stage 2 property inspection, were mapped and photo documented only. in accordance with Section 2.1, Standard 6, and Section 7.8.1, Standards 1a and 1b of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011).

The subsequent Stage 2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted on July 7, 2022, and involved a standard pedestrian survey at a 5m interval of the agricultural field component of the Study Area and a typical test pit survey at a 5m interval of the manicured lawns, and overgrown greenspace. This investigation resulted in the identification of two archaeological sites identified as H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) (Detritus 2023a; Figure 4).

The Stage 2 assessment of H1 (AkHd-4) produced 130 Euro-Canadian artifacts scattered across an area of approximately 34m east to west and 38m north to south (0.11ha) located at the edge of the agricultural field to the west of and within the overgrown greenspace of the old church foundations (see Tile 4 of the Supplementary Documentation to this report). Analysis of the

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artifact assemblage suggested a period of occupation spanning the entire 19<sup>th</sup> century; H1 (AkHd-4) was deemed to retain further cultural heritage value or interest ('CHVI') and was recommended for a Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment.

The Stage 2 assessment of H2 (AkHd-5) produced 63 Euro-Canadian artifacts from 30 findspots scattered across an area of approximately 9m east to west by 66m north to south (0.06ha) located in the southeastern portion of the agricultural field (see Tile 4 of the Supplementary Documentation to this report). Analysis of the artifact assemblage suggested a period of occupation dating from the middle to late 19<sup>th</sup> century; H2 (AkHd-5) was deemed to retain further CHVI and was recommended for a Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment.

The Stage 3 Site Specific assessments of H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) were conducted between October 11, 2022, and November 7, 2022, under archaeological consulting license P389 issued to Dr. Walter McCall by the MCM. This investigation resulted in the recovery of 1,291 Euro-Canadian artifacts from the hand excavation of 29 Stage 3 1m test units at H1 (AkHd-4) and 468 Euro-Canadian artifacts from the hand excavation of 54 Stage 3 1m test units at H2 (AkHd-5) (Detritus 2023b).

Based on the available evidence, H1 (AkHd-4) was interpreted as a demolition event that occurred at the original church building, located at 31 Church St, prior to or around the time of its relocation in 1892 to 8 Peel Street. Some artifacts found at this site could also be related to the nearby occupations by the Pilkington, Sylec, McRae, and Thompson families, dumped at this location prior to the demolition event. Given the period of occupation represented within the Stage 3 assemblage, in addition to the presence of four possible subsurface cultural features, H1 (AkHd-4) met the criteria for a Stage 4 Mitigation of Developmental Impacts, as per Section 3.4, Standard 1g of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011).

Based on the available evidence, H2 (AkHd-5) was interpreted as a heavily dispersed 19<sup>th</sup> century assemblage in an area that incurs seasonal flooding (as shown by its designation as a stormwater management area in the development plans). Considering also the 20<sup>th</sup> century refuse recovered, it is possible that the assemblage's provenience had been significantly altered by seasonal flooding. H2 (AkHd-5) was deemed to retain no further CVHI and did not meet the criteria for a Stage 4 Mitigation of Developmental Impacts, as per Section 3.4, Standard 1g of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011).

The Stage 4 Mitigation of Impacts Assessment of H1 (AkHd-4) was undertaken between May 9 and September 14, 2023, and comprised the hand excavation of 19 1 metre ('m') units and the subsequent mechanical topsoil removal ('MTR') to the limit of the Stage 3 site. This resulted in the investigation and documentation of 8 subsurface cultural features. Reporting on the Stage 4 investigation remains underway at this time and no complete report is available for review.

A small cemetery is understood to have existed to the southeast of the former church, located on a block of land adjacent and inset into the northeast edge of the Study Area (Figures 5 and 6). This parcel of land is owned by the Presbyterian Church and the oral tradition within the church is that all interments were exhumed and moved to the Knox Presbyterian Church in Elora as part of the relocation of the St. Andrews congregation to its new Peel Street West (Alma) address. All church records were destroyed by fire in 1930, so no records of the reinterments nor a plot map of the original graveyard are known to exist (St. Andrew's Church board member J. Scott, personal communication, August 19, 2021).

According to the Registrar's Directive issued on March 1, 2019 by Carey Smith of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario ('BAO'), a Cemetery Investigation Authorization ('CIA') issued by the BAO is required whenever archaeological investigations are contemplated to verify and/or determine the boundaries of a cemetery or any similar situation where the records, maps, and plans of the cemetery cannot confirm the existence and exact locations of burials within that cemetery. In conversation with Michael D'Mello of the BAO, it was determined that since the Study Area was adjacent to an old cemetery whose boundaries are not clearly defined or known, a CIA was required. This CIA was received from Michael D'Mello via email on September 12, 2023 (see the CIA in the report package).

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The Stage 3 Grave Search was undertaken to ascertain whether any graves might exist outside the cemetery boundaries and within the Study Area.

The strategy for the Stage 3 Grave Search - as determined by the MCM and presented in the Stage 2 assessment report (Detritus 2023a) – was for the mechanical removal of all topsoil, as per Section 2.1.7, Standard 3 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011), surrounding the property belonging to the Presbyterian Church (that is historically thought to be the location of the former cemetery) in order to reveal any associated subsurface graves. Following advice of the MCM, this Stage 3 Grave Search assessment would be undertaken subsequent to the completion of the two Stage 3 Site Specific assessments of H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) and any Stage 4 Mitigation of Impact assessments recommended following the Stage 3 assessments (see the Supplementary Documentation to this report).

The Stage 3 Grave Search assessment of the Study Area adjacent to the Presbyterian Church lot occurred on September 21, 2023. Prior to the MTR, the Presbyterian Church lot limits had been surveyed and staked. According to Section 2.1.7, Standard 3 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), backhoes or equivalent heavy excavating machinery may be used instead of shovels when deep subsurface excavation is necessary to verify the presence of, and to assess, deeply buried archaeological resources.

The Stage 3 Grave Search MTR was conducted in accordance with Section 4.2.3 and Table 4.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). Upon arrival at the property, the survey stakes marking the limits of the Presbyterian Church lot and the Study Area were still in place and visible. A Detritus Field Director used hand tapes to measure 10m from the western, eastern and southern sides of the Presbyterian Church lot. According to the Stage 1-2 recommendations (Detritus 2023a), this mechanical stripping began 10m away from the known cemetery limits along the northern and eastern sides, and continued towards them.

The mechanical stripping was completed using a Yanmar ViO 80 mini excavator provided by the Proponent, with a straight-edged ditching bucket that pulled the soil away from the exposed subsoil surface (Photos 1-2). The exposed subsoil surface was then shovel shined in small sections immediately following MTR and examined for evidence of grave shafts.

A single soil layer (topsoil) was observed during the MTR, measuring between 17 and 32cm in thickness and directly sealing the subsoil (Photo 6). The topsoil was a dark brown sandy soil. The subsoil below varied from patches of chalky off-white through light yellow and to tan-orange silty sand. Some staining caused by tree roots was also observed.

No human remains, shaft graves, or any other non-human burial indicators were observed during the MTR therefore no additional assessment methods were employed.

Based on the results of the Stage 3 Grave Search assessment, **no additional investigation is recommended for the Study Area.**

*The Executive Summary highlights key points from the report only; for complete information and findings, the reader should examine the complete report.*

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## Project Personnel

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- Michael D’Mello, Bereavement Authority of Ontario
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- Jeff Buisman, Van Harten Land Surveyors, Engineers

## 1.0 Project Context

### 1.1 Development Context

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The Study Area is an irregularly shaped parcel of land measuring 7.72 hectares ('ha'). At the time of the assessment, the majority of the Study Area comprised a large agricultural field. The southwestern edge of the Study Area contains a treed and overgrown strip that was once the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway ("T. G. & B"), now a disused railbed. A small portion of the Study Area overgrown with trees, tall grass, and bushes contained foundations of an old church, the former St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Alma, built in 1854. The congregation was moved to the present stone church at 8 Peel Street West, also in Alma, in 1894. The southeastern edge of the property is comprised of a small creek and manicured lawns. The northern most corner of the Study Area contains a small portion of manicured lawn. The property is accessed by Church Street and is bound to the south at a diagonal by an old rail line, to the southeast, east, and northeast by residential properties, and to the northwest by Peel Street West.

The Stage 3 Grave Search assessment was triggered by the by the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (Government of Ontario 2002). Provincial Policy Statement ('PPS') that is informed by the *Planning Act* (Government of Ontario 1990a), which states that decisions affecting planning matters must be consistent with the policies outlined in the larger *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b). According to Section 2.6.2 of the PPS, "development and site alteration shall not be permitted on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential unless significant archaeological resources have been conserved." In addition, the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act* ('FBCSA'; Government of Ontario 2002) prohibits development in areas where there is the potential for unmarked graves to exist such as adjacent to cemeteries. To meet the conditions of this legislation, the grave search was conducted during the pre-application stage of the development under archaeological consulting license P017 issued to Mr. Garth Grimes by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism ('MCM') and adheres to the archaeological license report requirements under subsection 65 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b) and the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* ('*Standards and Guidelines*'; Government of Ontario 2011).

Typically, the purpose of a Stage 3 assessment is to assess the cultural heritage value or interest ('CHVI') of an archaeological site documented during the previous Stage 2 assessment, through a controlled collection of material. This information is then used to support a determination of whether the site has been sufficiently documented or if further measures are required to protect or document it fully. Two archaeological sites requiring additional assessment were documented during the Stage 2 assessment (Detritus 2023a; Figure 4), sites H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5). These were subsequently investigated by Stage 3 Site Specific assessments (Detritus 2023b) as a result of which only H1 (AkHd-4) was deemed to still retain CHVI. The subsequent Stage 4 Mitigation of Impacts assessment of H1 (AkHd-4) (report in preparation) completed the archaeological investigation of the two sites documented during the Stage 2 assessment (Detritus 2023a). However, given the original 1832 St. Andrews Church cemetery was considered to have been located adjacent to the limits of the Study Area, a Stage 3 Grave Search assessment was recommended (Figures 5 and 6; see Section 1.3.4 below; Detritus 2023a).

As per the Stage 1-2 recommendations (Detritus 2023a), the Stage 3 Grave Search assessment was undertaken to ascertain whether any graves might exist outside the cemetery boundaries and within the Study Area.

The licensee received permission from the Proponent to enter the Study Area and conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities.

## 1.2 Historical Context

### 1.2.1 Post-Contact Aboriginal Resources

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, much of the central and southern Ontario was occupied by Iroquoian speaking linguistic groups that had united to form confederacies, including the Huron-Wendat, the Neutral (or Attawandaran), and the Petun in Ontario, as well as the Five Nations Iroquois Confederacy in Upper New York State (Birch, 2010; Warrick, 2013). Of these groups, the Huron-Wendat established themselves to the east of the Niagara escarpment and the Neutral, to the west (Warrick, 2000).

Throughout the middle of the 17th century, the Iroquois Confederacy sought to expand upon their territory and to monopolize the fur trade between the European markets and the tribes of the western Great Lakes region. A series of bloody conflicts followed known as the Beaver Wars or the French and Iroquois Wars, contested between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Algonkian speaking communities of the Great Lakes region. Many communities were destroyed including the Huron, Neutral, Susquehannock and Shawnee leaving the Iroquois as the dominant group in the region. By 1653 after repeated attacks, the Niagara peninsula and most of Southern Ontario had been vacated (Heidenreich, 1990).

At this same time, the Anishinaabeg Nation, an Algonkian-speaking community situated inland from the northern shore of Lake Huron, began to challenge the Haudenosaunee for dominance in the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay region in order to advance their own role in the fur trade (Gibson, 2006). The Algonkian-speaking groups that settled in the area bound by Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and Lake Huron were referred to by the English as the Chippewas or Ojibwas. By 1680, the Ojibwa began expanding into the evacuated Huron-Wendat territory, and eventually into Southern Ontario. By 1701, the Haudenosaunee had been driven out of Ontario completely and were replaced by the Ojibwa (Gibson 2006; Schmalz 1991).

The late 17th and early 18th centuries also mark the arrival of an Ojibwa band known as the Mississaugas into Southern Ontario and, in particular, the watersheds of the lower Great Lakes. 'The Mississaugas' is the name that the Jesuits had used in 1840 for the Algonquin community living near the Mississagi River on the northwestern shore of Lake Huron (Smith, 2022). The oral traditions of the Mississaugas, as recounted by Chief Robert Paudash and recorded in 1904, suggest that the Mississaugas defeated the Mohawk Nation, who retreated to their homeland south of Lake Ontario. Following this conflict, a peace treaty was negotiated between the two groups (Praxis Research Associates, n.d.).

From the beginning of the 18th century until the end of the Seven Year War in 1763, the Ojibwa nation, including the Mississaugas, experienced a golden age in trade holding no alliance with either the French or the British (Schmalz, 1991). At the end of the 17th century, the Mississaugas' settled permanently in Southern Ontario (Praxis Research Associates, n.d.). Around this same time, in 1722, the Five Nation Iroquois Confederacy adopted the Tuscarora in New York becoming the Six Nations (Pendergast, 1995).

H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) first entered the Euro-Canadian historical record on December 7th, 1792 as part of Treaty No. 3, which included land acquired in the 'Between the Lakes Purchase' dating to May 22, 1784. According to the terms of the treaty, the Mississaugas ceded to the Crown approximately 3,000,000 acres of land between Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario in return for trade goods valued at £1180.

The limits of the Treaty 3 lands are documented as comprising,

*Lincoln County excepting Niagara Township; Saltfleet, Binbrook, Pilkington, Glanford and Ancaster Townships, in Wentworth County; Brantford, Onondaga, Tusc[a]r[o]ra, Oakland and Burford Townships in Brant County; East and West Oxford, North and*

*South Norwich, and Dereham Townships in Oxford County; North Dorchester Township in Middlesex County; South Dorchester, Malahide and Bayham Township in Elgin County; all Norfolk and Haldimand Counties; Pelham, Wainfleet, Thorold, Cumberland and Humberstone Townships in Welland County.*

Morris, 1943, pp. 17-8

One of the stated objectives of the Between the Lakes Purchase was “to procure for that part of the Six Nation Indians coming into Canada a permanent abode” (Morris, 1943, pp. 17). Shortly after the transaction had been finalised in May of 1784, Sir Frederick Haldimand, the Governor of Québec, made preparations to grant a portion of land to those Six Nations who remained loyal to the Crown during the American War of Independence. More specifically, Haldimand arranged for the purchase of approximately 550,000 acres of land adjacent to the Treaty 3 limits from the Mississaugas. This tract of land, referred to as either the Haldimand Tract or the 1795 Crown Grant to the Six Nations, was provided for in the Haldimand Proclamation of October 25th, 1784 and was intended to extend a distance of six miles on each side of the Grand River from mouth to source (Weaver, 1978). By the end of 1784, representatives from each constituent nation of the Six Nations, as well as other allies, relocated to the Haldimand Tract with Joseph Brant (Weaver, 1978; Tanner, 1987).

Throughout southern Ontario, the size and nature of the pre-contact settlements and the subsequent spread and distribution of Aboriginal material culture began to shift with the establishment of European settlers. By 1834 it was accepted by the Crown that losses of portions of the Haldimand Tract to Euro-Canadian settlers were too numerous for all lands to be returned. Lands in the Lower Grand River area were surrendered by the Six Nations to the British Government in 1832, at which point most Six Nations people moved into Tuscarora Township in Brant County and a narrow portion of Oneida Township (Page, 1879; Weaver, 1978; Tanner, 1987). Following the population decline and the surrender of most of their lands along the Credit River, the Mississaugas were given 6000 acres of land on the Six Nations Reserve, establishing the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation, now the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, in 1847 (Smith, 2022).

Despite the encroachment of European settlers on previously established Indigenous territories, “written accounts of material life and livelihood, the correlation of historically recorded villages to their archaeological manifestations, and the similarities of those sites to more ancient sites have revealed an antiquity to documented cultural expressions that confirms a deep historical continuity to Iroquoian systems of ideology and thought” (Ferris, 2009, pp. 114). As Ferris observes, despite the arrival of a competing culture, First Nations communities throughout Southern Ontario have left behind archaeologically significant resources that demonstrate continuity with their pre-contact predecessors, even if they have not been recorded extensively in historical Euro-Canadian documentation.

### **1.2.2 Euro-Canadian Resources**

The Study Area is located within the Geographic Township of Pilkington, in the historical County of Wellington, now the Township of Mapleton (Figure 1).

The history of the area began on July 24, 1788, when Sir Guy Carleton, the Governor-General of British North America, divided the Province of Québec into the administrative districts of Hesse, Nassau, Mecklenburg and Lunenburg (Archives of Ontario, 2012-2015). Further change came in December 1791 when the former Province of Québec was rearranged into Upper Canada and Lower Canada under the *Constitutional Act*. Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed as Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (Coyne, 1895, p. 33) and he introduced several initiatives to populate the province including the establishment of shoreline communities with effective transportation links between them.

In July 1792, Simcoe divided Upper Canada into 19 counties stretching from Essex in the west to Glengarry in the east. Each new county was named after a county in England or Scotland; the constituent townships were then given the names of the corresponding townships from each original British county (Powell & Coffman, 1956, pp. 17-8).

Later that year, the four districts originally established in 1788 were renamed the Western, Home, Midland, and Eastern Districts. As population levels in Upper Canada increased, smaller and more manageable administrative bodies were needed resulting in the establishment of many new counties and townships. As part of this realignment, the boundaries of the Home and Western Districts were shifted and the West Riding District was established in 1798. Under this new territorial arrangement, H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) became part of the West Riding District; however, this district would undergo several realignments including the Gore and Wellington Districts, until 1849 when the districts were abolished (Archives of Ontario, 2012-2015).

Wellington County was originally created in 1837 as part the larger District of Wellington, which also contained Waterloo, Grey, and part of Dufferin Counties, and went through several administrative divisions before becoming its own county in 1854. The latest realignment of the boundaries of Wellington County, which give it its present size and shape, occurred in 1883 (Weaver, 1913, pp. 184). The county is a midland area of ideal agricultural land and includes the town of Guelph, which became the main seat of the county when it was settled by the Canada Company in 1827 (Middleton & Landon, 1927).

Pilkington Township was named in honour of Lieutenant Robert Pilkington, an engineer who accompanied Simcoe in Upper Canada. The town of Elora in neighbouring Nichol Township was the community centre. The Study Area lies just to the west of the town of Alma, which was settled as early as 1840 when pioneers began settling on the Elora Saugeen Road, now the main street of Alma. The newly formed village, originally called McCrae's Corners, was located at the junction of Nichol, Peel, and Pilkington townships. In 1854 it was renamed Alma in celebration of the Crimean War battle (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, n.d.).

The 1861 *Map of the County of Wellington, Canada West* ('*Map of Wellington County*') depicts Alma at the northeastern corner of Pilkington Township bordered by Nichol Township to the west and Peel township to the north (Leslie & Wheelock, 1861; Figure 2). At this time, Pilkington Township does not boast any other visible communities, but the Grand River and its tributaries flow through the majority of the central portion of the township. Landowners are listed for every lot within the township.

The *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington* ('*Historical Atlas*') demonstrates the extent to which Pilkington Township had been settled by 1877 (Walker & Miles, 1877; Figure 3). Changes are evident, including the lots that had been subdivided multiple times into smaller parcels to accommodate an increasing population. A new railway is also shown in the southern half of the township before it turns north into Nichol Township crossing Pilkington Township again in the northeast corner as it passes through Alma. This railway forms the southwestern border of the Study Area. Originally built as a part of the T. G. & B. Railway in 1849, it was built through Alma in 1870 before becoming a part of the Georgian Bay and Wellington (G. B. & W.) Railway in 1877 (Cooper, 2014).

According to the *Map of Wellington County*, the southeast corner of the town of Alma occupied roughly one third of Lot 1, Concession 1 (Leslie & Wheelock, 1861). No names are listed for the lots within the town, but the remaining two thirds of the lot were owned by Joseph Thompson. with a small portion at the western end is now occupied by Alexander McRae. The Study Area is almost entirely within the portion belonging to J. Thompson, although some of the irregular portions in the northwest corner on the Study Area overlap with some of the lots within Alma.

The former St. Andrews Presbyterian Church was built on the south side of Church Street, noted as constructed from white brick from the nearby Trask farm. In 1892, the new minister had the church rebuilt at 8 Peel Street to meet the demands of the growing congregation (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, n.d.). A cairn was erected on the site of the former church in 1993, which is still present today and is inscribed with "Dedicated to the early pioneers of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Alma, 1854-1894". A second sign is also present on the site at the corner of Church and Alexander Street that reads "Peel Historical Site, Alma Presbyterian Church".

Although significant and detailed landowner information is available on the current historical maps of Pilkington Township, it should be recognized that historical county atlases were funded by subscriptions fees and were produced primarily to identify factories, offices, residences and landholdings of subscribers. Landowners who did not subscribe were not always listed on the

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maps (Caston, 1997, p. 100). Moreover, associated structures were not necessarily depicted or placed accurately (Gentilcore & Head, 1984).

### 1.2.3 Land Registry Record

According to the records maintained by the Ontario Lands Registry Office, the original patent for all 200 acres of Lot 1, Concession 1 West of the Grand River was granted by the Crown to William Wallace in 1798. The records for the transactions are legible and there are no gaps in the chain of title (Table 1).

**Table 1: Land Registry Data for Lot 1, Concession 1 West of the Grand River, Alma**

Instrument	Date of Instrument	Grantor	Grantee	Lands
Patent	5 February 1798	The Crown	William Wallace	86078 acres
Bargain and Sale	10 May 1799	William Wallace	Robert Pilkington	15000 acres
Will	15 May 1834	Robert Pilkington	<i>ill.</i> Edward Sylec George Sylec and Hannah Pilkington <i>ill.</i>	15000 acres
Power of Attorney	26 August 1861	Edward Sylec	Frederick John Lapontierre	to sell and <i>ill.</i>
Bargain and Sale	19 October 1861	Edward Sylec by his attorney F. J. Lapontierre	Alexander McCrae	100 acres all
Bargain and Sale	5 May 1862	Alexander McCrae and wife	Joseph Thompson	50 acres SW 1/2
Bargain and Sale	30 August 1870	Alexander McCrae wife and William House	Wellington County and Bruce Railway	Part of NE 1/4
Bargain and Sale	11 Nov 1870	Joseph Thompson wife	Wellington County and Bruce Railway	part of SE 1/4
Will	29 August 1871	Joseph Thompson	Joseph Thompson	W 1/2
Bargain and Sale	19 June 1893	Alexander McCrae and wife	John McGowan	NE 1/2 except part of village lots and ??
Bargain and Sale	19 June 1893	John McGowan and wife	Hannah McCrae	NE 1/2 except part of village lots and <i>ill.</i>
Quit Claim	3 October 1893	Alexander McCrae and wife	Hannah McCrae	called PR lots 6,7,8. Alma
Pro Will	28 March 1902	Hannah McCrae, widow	Antoniette McCrae	called PR lots 6,7,8. Alma
Quit Claim	01 May 1903	Various <i>ill.</i>	Joseph A McCrae	SW 1/2 50 acres
Quit Claim	01 May 1903	Various <i>ill.</i>	Antoniette McCrae	SW pt 76 acres
Bargain and Sale	01 February 1904	Various <i>ill.</i>	George Beudu (sp?)	all except NE pt laid out in village lots and part sold to of G & B railway

As indicated in the above table, a Crown Patent for 86078 acres in Wellington County, as well as neighbouring Woolwich Township in Waterloo County, was issued to William Wallace in 1798. Wallace subsequently sold 15000 acres to Robert Pilkington in 1799, which became Pilkington Township. Upon Pilkington's death in 1834, the land was willed to Edward Sylec, George Sylec, and Hannah Pilkington, who had previously been mortgaging the land. After several additional mortgages the land equivalent to Lot 1 (100 acres) was sold to Alexander McRae in 1861. In 1862, McRae and his wife sold the southwestern half of the lot, containing H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5), to Joseph Thompson, which was then inherited by his son also named Joseph Thompson in 1871.

Throughout the first half of the 19th century Lot 1 was owned by the Pilkington and Sylec families; in the latter half of the 19th century, Lot 1 was owned by the Thompson and McRae families. The portion of the lot containing H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) was owned by Pilkington (1799), Sylec (1834), McRae (1861), and Thompson (1862).

A small portion of the lot was sold to the Wellington County and Bruce Railway in 1870. Portions in the northeast of the lot were owned and subdivided by the village of Alma or the railway from the middle of the 19th century onwards. The railway and station began operating in 1870. From 1893, the northeastern portion of Lot 1 was subdivided many times and the names become increasingly difficult to discern.

### 1.2.4 Recent Reports

The Study Area was subject to an earlier Stage 1-2 assessment and the subsequent Stage 3 Site Specific assessments of site H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) conducted by Detritus and documented in the following assessment reports;

*Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment Alma Subdivision, 31 Church Street, Alma Part of Lots 1–8, 10, 11, 25–35 and Part of Lot 9, Registered Plan 134 and Lot 1, Concession 1 West of Grand River, Geographic Township of Pilkington, Township of Mapleton, County of Wellington.* Report on file with the MCM.

*Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment Alma Subdivision, 31 Church St, Alma H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) Part of Lots 1–8, 10, 11, 25–35 and Part of Lot 9, Registered Plan 134 and Lot 1, Concession 1 West of Grand River, Geographic Township of Pilkington, Township of Mapleton, County of Wellington.* Report submitted to the MCM.

In addition, site H1 (AkHd-4) was subject to a Stage 4 Mitigation of Impacts assessment. The reporting for this completed assessment remains underway at this time and no complete report is available for review.

The results of these investigations will be discussed in greater detail below in Section 1.3.4.

## 1.3 Archaeological Context

### 1.3.1 Property Description and Physical Setting

The Study Area is an irregularly shaped parcel of land measuring 7.72 hectares ('ha'). At the time of the Stage 1-2 assessment, the majority of the Study Area comprised a large agricultural field. The southwestern edge of the Study Area contains a treed and overgrown strip that was once the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway, now a disused railbed. A small portion of the Study Area overgrown with trees, tall grass, and bushes contained foundations of an old church, the former St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, built in 1854. The southeastern edge of the property consists of a small creek and manicured lawns. The northernmost corner of the Study Area contains a small portion of manicured lawn. The property is accessed by Church Street and is bound to the south at a diagonal by an old rail line, to the southeast, east, and northeast by residential properties, and to the northwest by Peel Street West.

The majority of the region surrounding the Study Area has been subject to European-style agricultural practices for over 100 years, having been settled by Euro-Canadian farmers by the mid-19th century. Much of the land today continues to be used for agricultural purposes.

The Study Area is situated within the Stratford Till Plain physiographic region. According to Chapman and Putnam the region is a

*...broad clay plain of 1,370 square miles, extending from London in the south to Blyth and Listowel in the north with a projection toward Arthur and Grand Valley. It is an area of ground moraine interrupted by several terminal moraines. The moraines are more closely spaced in the southwestern portion of the region; consequently, that part resembles the Mount Elgin Ridges. Throughout the area the till is fairly uniform, being a brown calcareous silty clay whether on the ridges or the more level ground moraine. It is a product of the Huron ice lobe. Some of the silt and clay is calcareous rock flour,*

*probably a good deal of it coming from previously deposited varved clays of the Lake Huron Basin.*

Chapman & Putnam, 1984, pp. 133

The Stratford Plain rarely has summer droughts and the soils tend to be well drained and are naturally fertile. If proper drainage systems are in place, cultivation will thrive, making it one of the more productive agricultural regions in the province (Chapman & Putnam, 1984, pp. 134).

The closest source of potable water is an unnamed tributary of the Grand River that runs through the southeast corner of the Study Area.

### 1.3.2 Pre-Contact Aboriginal Land Use

This portion of southwestern Ontario has been occupied by people as far back as 11,000 years ago as the glaciers retreated. For the majority of this time, people were practicing hunter gatherer lifestyles with a gradual move towards more extensive farming practices. Table 1 provides a general outline of the cultural chronology of Pilkington Township, based on Ellis and Ferris (1990).

**Table 1: Cultural Chronology for Pilkington Township**

Time Period	Cultural Period	Comments
9500 – 7000 BC	Paleo Indian	first human occupation hunters of caribou and other extinct Pleistocene game nomadic, small band society
7500 - 1000 BC	Archaic	ceremonial burials increasing trade network Hunter gatherers
1000 - 400 BC	Early Woodland	large and small camps spring congregation/fall dispersal introduction of pottery
400 BC – AD 800	Middle Woodland	kinship based political system incipient horticulture long distance trade network
AD 800 - 1300	Early Iroquoian (Late Woodland)	limited agriculture developing hamlets and villages
AD 1300 - 1400	Middle Iroquoian (Late Woodland)	shift to agriculture complete increasing political complexity large palisaded villages
AD 1400 - 1650	Late Iroquoian	regional warfare and political/tribal alliances destruction of Huron and Neutral

### 1.3.3 Previous Identified Archaeological Work

In order to compile an inventory of archaeological resources, the registered archaeological site records kept by the MCM were consulted. In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites stored in the ASDB (Government of Ontario n.d.) is maintained by the MCM. This database contains archaeological sites registered according to the Borden system. Under the Borden system, Canada is divided into grid blocks based on latitude and longitude. A Borden Block is approximately 13km east to west and approximately 18.5km 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 within Borden Block AkHd.

Information concerning specific site locations is protected by provincial policy, and is not fully subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Government of Ontario 1990c). The release of such information in the past has led to looting or various forms of illegally conducted site destruction. Confidentiality extends to all media capable of conveying location, including maps, drawings, or textual descriptions of a site location. The MCM will provide information concerning site location to the party or an agent of the party holding title to a property, or to a licensed archaeologist with relevant cultural resource management interests.

According to the ASDB, no sites have been registered within 1km of the Study Area. Furthermore, to the best of Detritus' knowledge, no assessments have been conducted on lands adjacent to the Study Area.

### 1.3.4 Summary of Previous Investigations

The Stage 1 background research indicated that the Study Area exhibited moderate potential for the identification and recovery of archaeological resources (Detritus 2023). A Stage 2 field assessment was recommended for the large agricultural field, manicured lawns, and overgrown greenspace. The treed and overgrown strip of the disused railbed was evaluated as having no potential based on the identification of extensive and deep land alteration that has severely damaged the integrity of archaeological resources. The small creek and associated greenspace were determined to retain no archaeological potential due to the identification of a physical feature of low archaeological potential, in this case a permanently wet area. These permanently wet and disturbed areas, as confirmed during a Stage 2 property inspection, were mapped and photo documented only. in accordance with Section 2.1, Standard 6, and Section 7.8.1, Standards 1a and 1b of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011).

According to the Registrar's Directive issued on March 1, 2019 by Carey Smith of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario ('BAO'), a Cemetery Investigation Authorization ('CIA') issued by the BAO is required whenever archaeological investigations are contemplated to verify and/or determine the boundaries of a cemetery or any similar situation where the records, maps, and plans of the cemetery cannot confirm the existence and exact locations of burials within that cemetery. In conversation with Michael D'Mello of the BAO, it was determined that since the Study Area was adjacent to an old cemetery whose boundaries are not clearly defined or known, a CIA was required. This CIA was received from Michael D'Mello of the BAO.

The subsequent Stage 2 assessment of the Study Area was conducted on July 7, 2022, and involved a standard pedestrian survey at a 5m interval of the agricultural field component of the Study Area and a typical test pit survey at a 5m interval of the manicured lawns, and overgrown greenspace. This investigation resulted in the identification of two archaeological sites identified as H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) (Detritus 2023a).

The Stage 2 assessment of H1 (AkHd-4) produced 130 Euro-Canadian artifacts scattered across an area of approximately 34m east to west and 38m north to south (0.11ha) located at the edge of the agricultural field to the west of and within the overgrown greenspace of the old church foundations (see Tile 5 of the Supplementary Documentation to this report). Analysis of the artifact assemblage suggested a period of occupation spanning the entire 19<sup>th</sup> century; H1 (AkHd-4) was deemed to retain further CHVI and was recommended for a Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment.

The Stage 2 assessment of H2 (AkHd-5) produced 63 Euro-Canadian artifacts from 30 findspots scattered across an area of approximately 9m east to west by 66m north to south (0.06ha) located in the southeastern portion of the agricultural field (see Tile 5 of the Supplementary Documentation to this report). Analysis of the artifact assemblage suggested a period of occupation dating from the middle to late 19<sup>th</sup> century; H2 (AkHd-5) was deemed to retain further CHVI and was recommended for a Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment.

The Stage 3 Site Specific assessments of H1 (AkHd-4) and H2 (AkHd-5) were conducted between October 11, 2022, and November 7, 2022, under archaeological consulting license P389 issued to Dr. Walter McCall by the MCM. This investigation resulted in the recovery of 1,291 Euro-Canadian artifacts from the hand excavation of 29 Stage 3 1m test units at H1 (AkHd-4) and 468 Euro-Canadian artifacts from the hand excavation of 54 Stage 3 1m test units at H2 (AkHd-5) (Detritus 2023b; see Tile 6 of the Supplementary Documentation to this report).

Based on the available evidence, H1 (AkHd-4) was interpreted as a demolition event that occurred at the original church building, located at 31 Church St, prior to or around the time of its relocation in 1892 to 8 Peel Street. Some artifacts found at this site could also be related to the nearby occupations by the Pilkington, Sylec, McRae, and Thompson families, dumped at this location prior to the demolition event. Given the period of occupation represented within the Stage 3 assemblage, in addition to the presence of four possible subsurface cultural features, H1

(AkHd-4) met the criteria for a Stage 4 Mitigation of Developmental Impacts, as per Section 3.4, Standard 1g of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011).

Based on the available evidence, H2 (AkHd-5) was interpreted as a heavily dispersed 19<sup>th</sup> century assemblage in an area that incurs seasonal flooding (as shown by its designation as a stormwater management area in the development plans). Considering also the 20<sup>th</sup> century refuse recovered, it is possible that the assemblage's provenience had been significantly altered by seasonal flooding. H2 (AkHd-5) was deemed to retain no further CVHI and did not meet the criteria for a Stage 4 Mitigation of Developmental Impacts, as per Section 3.4, Standard 1g of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011).

The Stage 4 Mitigation of Impacts Assessment of H1 (AkHd-4) was undertaken between May 9 and September 14, 2023, and comprised the hand excavation of 19 1 metre ('m') units and the subsequent mechanical topsoil removal ('MTR') to the limit of the Stage 3 site. This resulted in the investigation and documentation of 8 subsurface cultural features. Reporting on the Stage 4 investigation remains underway at this time and no complete report is available for review.

Given that artifacts were recovered during the Stage 2 assessment, the strategy for the Stage 3 Grave Search was determined by the MCM and presented in the Stage 2 assessment report (Detritus 2023a). The Stage 3 Grave Search assessment must include the mechanical removal of all topsoil, as per Section 2.1.7, Standard 3 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011), surrounding the property belonging to the Presbyterian Church, not assessed, between the agricultural field and the overgrown greenspace of the old church, in order to reveal any associated subsurface graves. As per Section 4.3, Standard 1, Table 4.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011), MTR must extend a minimum of 10m beyond uncovered cultural features. According to the MCM's FAQ#12 for Stage 3 assessments, this standard applies also to MTR adjacent to cemetery limits.

This mechanical excavation will be conducted in accordance with Section 4.2.3, Section 4.2.7, and Table 4.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario, 2011). All portions of the Study Area recommended for MTR during the Stage 3 assessment will be subjected to mechanical excavation down to the topsoil/subsoil interface, employing a straight-edged ditching bucket that pulls the soil away from the exposed surface. The subsoil surface will then be immediately shovel-shined and examined for any evidence of graves. If features identified as graves begin to appear within the Study Area, all field work will cease.

### 1.3.5 Archaeological Potential

Archaeological potential is established by determining the likelihood that archaeological resources may be present on a subject property. Detritus applied archaeological potential criteria commonly used by the MCM (Government of Ontario 2011) to determine areas of archaeological potential throughout Study Area, focusing on the portion surrounding the Ryckman Family Cemetery. These variables include proximity to previously identified archaeological sites, distance to various types of water sources, soil texture and drainage, glacial geomorphology, elevated topography, and the general topographic variability of the area.

Distance to modern or ancient water sources is generally accepted as the most important determinant of past human settlement patterns and, when considered alone, may result in a determination of archaeological potential. However, any combination of two or more other criteria, such as well-drained soils or topographic variability, may also indicate archaeological potential. When evaluating distance to water it is important to distinguish between water and shoreline, as well as natural and artificial water sources, as these features affect sites locations and types to varying degrees. The MCM (Government of Ontario 2011) categorizes water sources in the following manner:

- Primary water sources: lakes, rivers, streams, creeks;
- secondary water sources: intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes and swamps;
- past water sources, glacial lake shorelines, relic river or stream channels, cobble beaches, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes; and

### Stage 3 Grave Search, Alma Subdivision

- accessible or inaccessible shorelines: high bluffs, swamp or marshy lake edges, sandbars stretching into marsh.

As was discussed above, the closest source of potable water to the Study Area is an unnamed tributary of the Grand River that runs through the southeast corner of the Study Area.

Soil texture is also an important determinant of past settlement, usually in combination with other factors such as topography. The Study Area is situated within the Stratford Till Plain physiographic region. As was discussed earlier, the primary soils within the Study Area tend to be well drained and are naturally fertile. If proper drainage systems are in place cultivation will thrive. Considering also the length of occupation in the area prior to the arrival of European settlers, the potential for pre-contact and post-contact Indigenous artifacts is judged to be moderate to high.

For Euro-Canadian sites, archaeological potential can be extended to areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, including places of military or pioneer settlements; early transportation routes; and properties listed on the municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario, 1990b) or property that local histories or informants have identified with possible historical events.

The *Map of Wellington County* (Figure 2) and the *Historical Atlas* map (Figure 3) demonstrate that Pilkington Township was occupied by Euro-Canadian farmers by the late 19th century (Leslie & Wheelock, 1861; Walker & Miles, 1877). Much of the established road system and agricultural settlement from that time is still visible today. The Study Area adjacent to the early town of Alma, and the T. G. & B Railway borders the southeastern edge of the Study Area. Accordingly, the Euro-Canadian archaeological potential is judged to be moderate to high.

Finally, despite the factors mentioned above, extensive land disturbance can eradicate archaeological potential within a Study Area, as per Section 1.3.2 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario, 2011). Current aerial imagery of the Study Area identified an area of potential disturbance within the Study Area, in the form a treed and overgrown strip of the disused railbed. No other disturbance areas were documented during the previous stages of assessment of the Study Area.

## 2.0 Field Methods

The Stage 3 Grave Search assessment was conducted on September 21, 2023, under archaeological consulting license PO17 issued to Mr. Garth Grimes by the MCM. This investigation began with a review of all relevant reports of previous fieldwork on the property as per Section 3.2, Standard 1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011).

According to the Registrar's Directive, issued by Carey Smith of the BAO on March 1, 2019 (see Section 2.0 of the Supplementary Documentation), an Investigation Authorization issued by the BAO is required whenever archaeological investigations are contemplated to verify and/or determine the boundaries of a cemetery or any similar situation where the records, maps and plans of the cemetery cannot confirm the existence and exact locations of burials within that cemetery. In conversation with Michael D'Mello of the BAO, it was determined that since the Study Area was adjacent to an old cemetery whose boundaries are not clearly defined or known, a CIA was required. This CIA was received from Michael D'Mello via email on September 12, 2023 (see the CIA in the report package).

The Stage 3 Grave Search was undertaken to ascertain whether any graves might exist outside the cemetery boundaries and within the Study Area.

The weather at the time of assessment was a mix of sun and cloud with a high of 20° Celsius. At no time during the investigation were field or weather conditions detrimental to the identification of archaeological features or material culture, as per Section 3.2, Standard 2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). Photos 1 to 5 illustrate field conditions at the time of the assessment and confirm that lighting and soil conditions were suitable and visibility was excellent, as per Section 7.9.1, Standard 1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). The results of the Stage 3 grave search are provided in Figure 5, including photograph locations and directions.

The Stage 3 Grave Search MTR was conducted in accordance with Section 4.2.3 and Table 4.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). Upon arrival at the property, the survey stakes marking the limits of the Presbyterian Church lot and the Study Area were still in place and visible. A Detritus Field Director used hand tapes to measure 10m from the western, eastern and southern sides of the Presbyterian Church lot. According to the Stage 1-2 recommendations (Detritus 2023a), this mechanical stripping began 10m away from the known cemetery limits along the northern and eastern sides, and continued towards them.

The mechanical stripping was completed using a Yanmar ViO 80 mini excavator provided by the Proponent, with a straight-edged ditching bucket that pulled the soil away from the exposed subsoil surface (Photos 1-2). The exposed subsoil surface was then shovel shined in small sections immediately following MTR and examined for evidence of grave shafts.

A single soil layer (topsoil) was observed during the MTR, measuring between 17 and 32cm in thickness and directly sealing the subsoil (Photo 6). The topsoil was a dark brown sandy soil. The subsoil below varied from patches of chalky off-white through light yellow and to tan-orange silty sand. Some staining caused by tree roots was also observed.

No human remains, grave shaft stains, or any other non-human burial indicators were observed during the MTR therefore no additional assessment methods were employed.

### 3.0 Record of Finds

The Stage 3 Grave Search assessment of the old St. Patrick’s Presbyterian Church cemetery was conducted employing the methods described in Section 2.0 above. An inventory of the documentary record generated by the fieldwork is provided in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Inventory of Document Record**

<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Current Location of Document Type</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
1 Page of Field Notes	Detritus office	stored digitally in project file
1 Map provided by the Proponent	Detritus office	stored digitally in project file
1 Field Map	Detritus office	stored digitally in project file
10 Digital Photographs	Detritus office	stored digitally in project file

No material culture collected during the Stage 3 monitoring; therefore, no storage arrangements were required.

## 4.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Detritus was retained by the Proponent to conduct a Stage 3 Grave Search on part of Lots 1–8, 10, 11, 25–35 and part of Lot 9, Registered Plan 134 and Lot 1, Concession 1 West of Grand River, Geographic Township of Pilkington, Township of Mapleton, County of Wellington (Figure 1). This investigation was conducted in advance of a proposed residential development that spans the entire property at 31 Church Street, Alma, Ontario (the ‘Study Area’; Figures 1 and 7).

A small cemetery is understood to have existed to the southeast of the former church, located on a block of land adjacent and inset into the northeast edge of the Study Area (Figures 5 and 6). This parcel of land is owned by the Presbyterian Church and the oral tradition within the church is that all interments were exhumed and moved to the Knox Presbyterian in Elora as part of the relocation of the St. Andrews congregation to its new Peel Street West (Alma) address. All church records were destroyed by fire in 1930, so no records of the reinterments or a plot map of the original graveyard are known to exist (St. Andrew’s Church board member J. Scott, personal communication, August 19, 2021).

According to the Registrar’s Directive issued on March 1, 2019 by Carey Smith of the BAO, a CIA issued by the BAO is required whenever archaeological investigations are contemplated to verify and/or determine the boundaries of a cemetery or any similar situation where the records, maps, and plans of the cemetery cannot confirm the existence and exact locations of burials within that cemetery. In conversation with Michael D’Mello of the BAO, it was determined that since the Study Area was adjacent to an old cemetery whose boundaries are not clearly defined or known, a CIA was required. This CIA was received from Michael D’Mello of the BAO.

The Stage 3 Grave Search was undertaken to ascertain whether any graves might exist outside the cemetery boundaries and within the Study Area.

The Stage 3 Grave Search assessment of the Study Area adjacent to the Presbyterian Church lot occurred on September 21, 2023. Prior to the MTR, the Presbyterian Church lot limits had been surveyed and staked. According to Section 2.1.7, Standard 3 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011), backhoes or equivalent heavy excavating machinery may be used instead of shovels when deep subsurface excavation is necessary to verify the presence of, and to assess, deeply buried archaeological resources.

The Stage 3 Grave Search MTR was conducted in accordance with Section 4.2.3 and Table 4.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (Government of Ontario 2011). Upon arrival at the property, the survey stakes marking the limits of the Presbyterian Church lot and the Study Area were still in place and visible. A Detritus Field Director used hand tapes to measure 10m from the western, eastern and southern sides of the Presbyterian Church lot. According to the Stage 1-2 recommendations (Detritus 2023a), this mechanical stripping began 10m away from the known cemetery limits along the northern and eastern sides, and continued towards them.

The mechanical stripping was completed using a Yanmar ViO 80 mini excavator provided by the Proponent, with a straight-edged ditching bucket that pulled the soil away from the exposed subsoil surface (Photos 1-2). The exposed subsoil surface was then shovel shined in small sections immediately following MTR and examined for evidence of grave shafts.

A single soil layer (topsoil) was observed during the MTR, measuring between 17 and 32cm in thickness and directly sealing the subsoil (Photo 6). The topsoil was a dark brown sandy soil. The subsoil below varied from patches of chalky off-white through light yellow and to tan-orange silty sand. Some staining caused by tree roots was also observed.

No human remains, grave shaft stains, or any other non-human burial indicators were observed during the MTR therefore no additional assessment methods were employed.

## 5.0 Recommendations

Based on the results of the Stage 3 Grave Search, and the absence of any evidence of human burials, **no additional investigation is recommended for this Study Area.**

## 6.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

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 o.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.

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 license.

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.

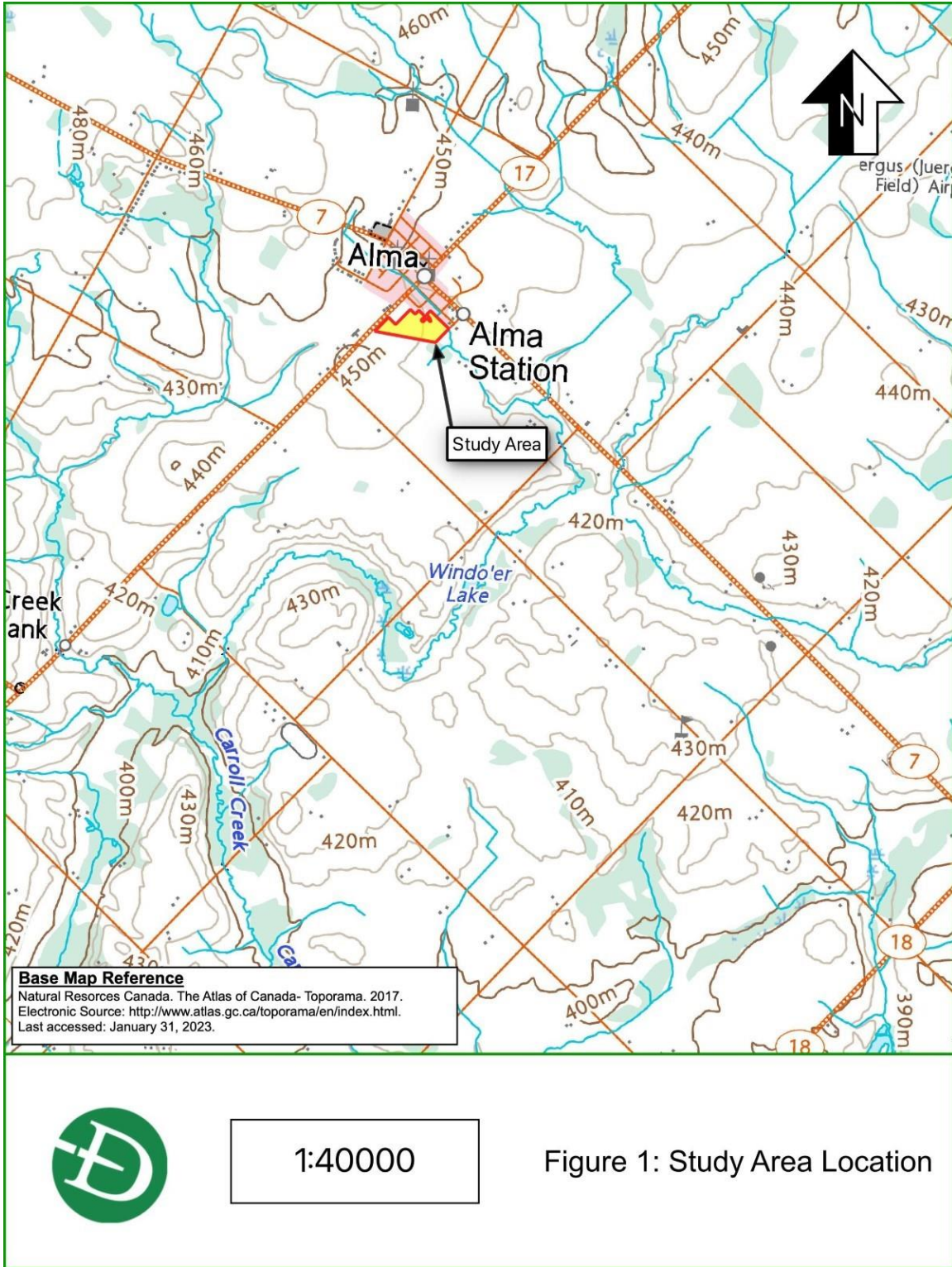
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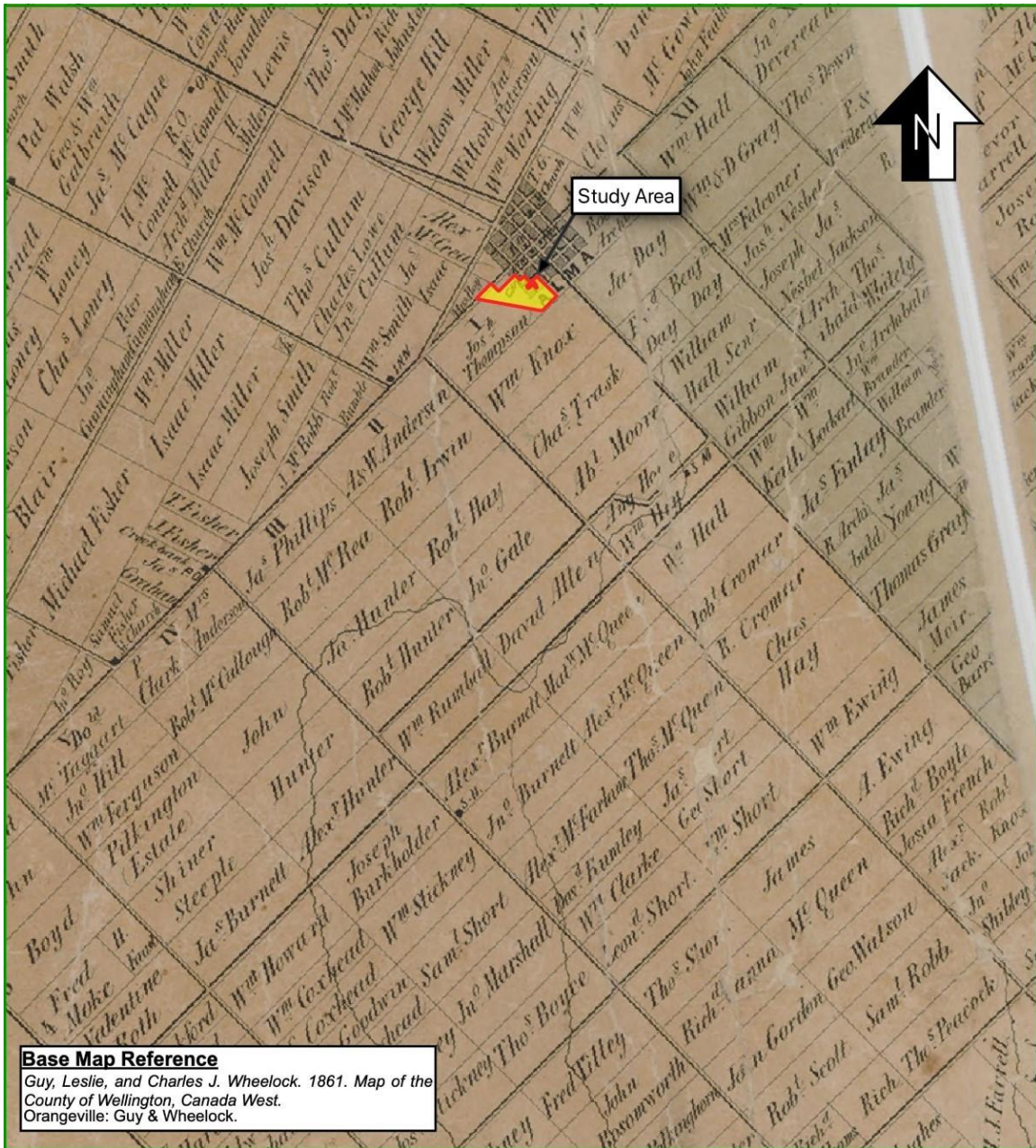
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## 8.0 Maps





Not to Scale

Figure 2: Portion of Guy Leslie's 1861 Map of the County of Wellington, Canada West

Stage 3 Grave Search, Alma Subdivision



Not to Scale

Figure 3: Portion of Walker and Miles 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington, Ont.



Legend

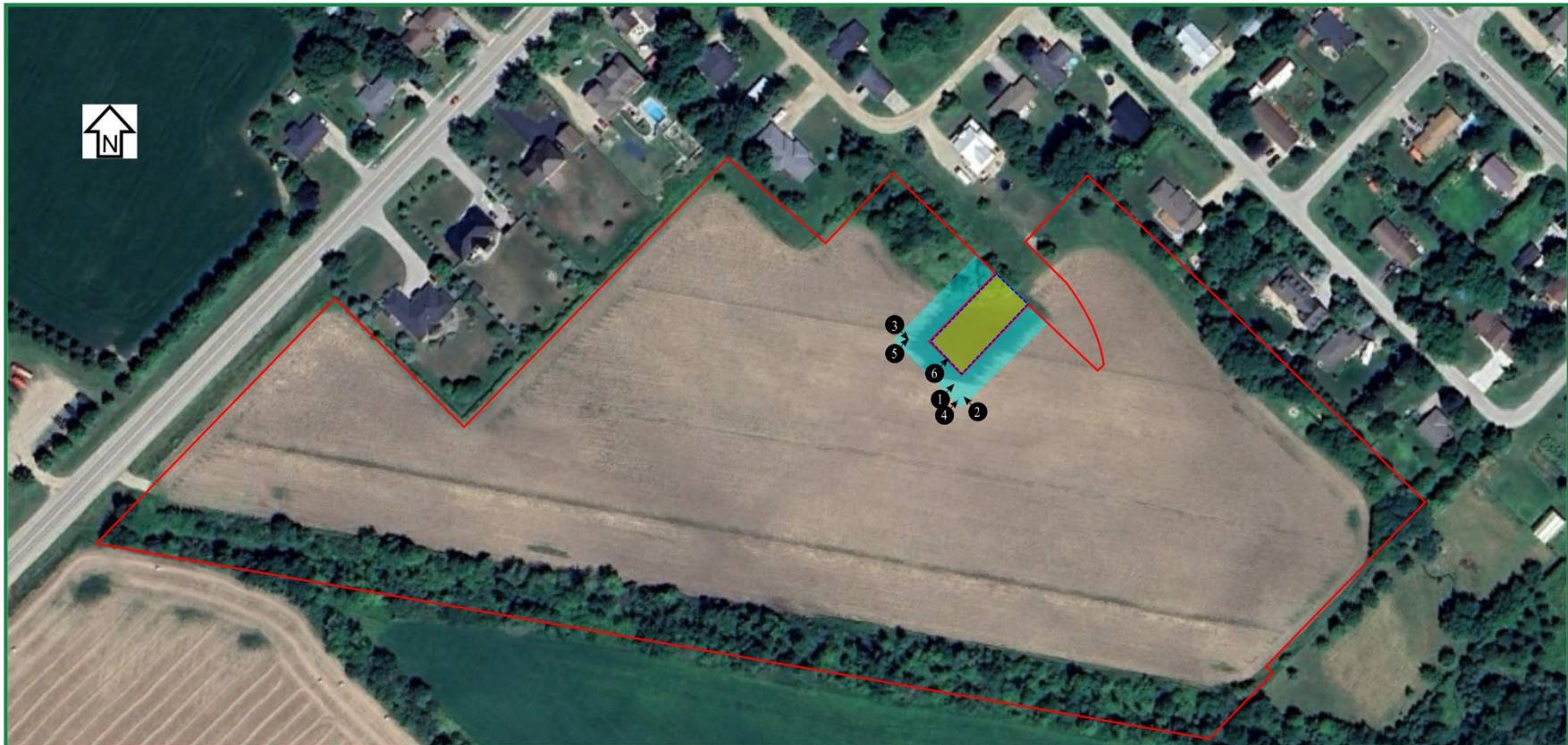
 Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment (Detritus 2023)



**Figure 4: Previous Archaeological Assessment**

Map Creator: Isaac Bender  
CRS: WGS 84 NAD 17N  
Baselayer: Google Satellite Imagery

### Stage 3 Grave Search, Alma Subdivision



Legend    Study Area    Area subject to MTR    Surveyed limit of Presbyterian Church lot    Photo location & direction



Figure 5: Stage 3 Grave Search Results

Stage 3 Grave Search, Alma Subdivision



Legend     Study Area     Area subject to MTR     Surveyed limit of Presbyterian Church lot



Figure 5: Stage 3 Grave Search Results with Development Map Overlay

Stage 3 Grave Search, Alma Subdivision

Figure 7: Development Map



## 9.0 Images

### 9.1 Photos

**Photo 1: Stage 3 Grave Search MTR, facing northeast**



**Photo 2: Stage 3 Grave Search MTR with Shovel Shining, facing northeast**



**Photo 3: Stage 3 Grave Search MTR completed surface, facing southeast**



**Photo 4: Stage 3 Grave Search MTR completed surface, facing northeast**



**Photo 5: Stage 3 Grave Search MTR completed surface, facing northeast**



**Photo 6: Sample of Straigraphy, facing north**

