

Brief Environmental Summary

The study area is situated east of Aurora and Newmarket; the largest community within the study area is Stouffville, in the southeast corner of the study area. The north part of the study areas is situated within the Lake Simcoe watershed, while the south part of the study area is situated within the Lake Ontario watershed; the study area is crossed by numerous creek tributaries associated with these watersheds.

The study area is located in several physiographic regions: Schomberg Clay Plains to the north, Oak Ridges Moraine, South Slope physiographic region, with a small part of the study area in the south west corner as part of the Peel Plain physiographic region. Various soil complexes can be found within the study area, including predominately Wobourn Loam, Milliken Loam, Pontypool Sand, and Brighton Sandy Loam; these soils exhibit variable drainage characteristics, but generally would have been conducive to pre-contact Indigenous agricultural practices.

Distance to potable water sources and access to reasonably well-drained soils are considered to be key determinants of archaeological potential.

Brief Historical Summary

The study area is located entirely within the historical Geographic Township of Whitchurch. Whitchurch Township was established in 1792 as part of one of the original 19 counties of the province – the County of York – by John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Whitchurch Township was initially surveyed from 1800 to 1802 by John Stegman and this survey also established the network of concession roads (north-south) and sideroads (east-west) that still exist to this day. Settlers arrived in the late 18th to early 19th century and included homesteaders, squatters given legal rights, Quaker and Mennonite families and Hessian (German) soldiers granted land by the British for services rendered during the American War of Independence.

The 1878 Maps of Whitchurch Township illustrates the study area was heavily settled by this time, with homesteads throughout the area primarily along concession roads (Figure 2). Numerous sawmills, inns, stores, and school houses are also noted on the 1860 map within the study area.

Review of the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database

The presence of previously identified archaeological sites is an indicator of archaeological potential in an area. The Ontario Archaeological Sites Database (OASD), maintained by the MTCS was queried to identify known sites within the study area of the Township of Whitchurch-Stouffville (November 1, 2017). There are currently 160 archaeological sites registered within the study area: 91 pre-contact Indigenous sites, 57 historical Euro-Canadian sites, and 12 sites of unknown cultural affiliation.

Various factors would have contributed to the appeal of this area during pre-contact Aboriginal and historical times, including access to multiple water sources, soils conducive to pre-contact Aboriginal agricultural practices, and areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement along the 19th century road grid.

Information concerning specific site locations is protected by provincial policy, and is not fully subject to the Freedom of Information Act. 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 MTCS 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.

Any required Stage 1 (or subsequent) Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Water and Wastewater Master Study should include a detailed review of previously completed archaeological assessments adjacent to the areas of impact.

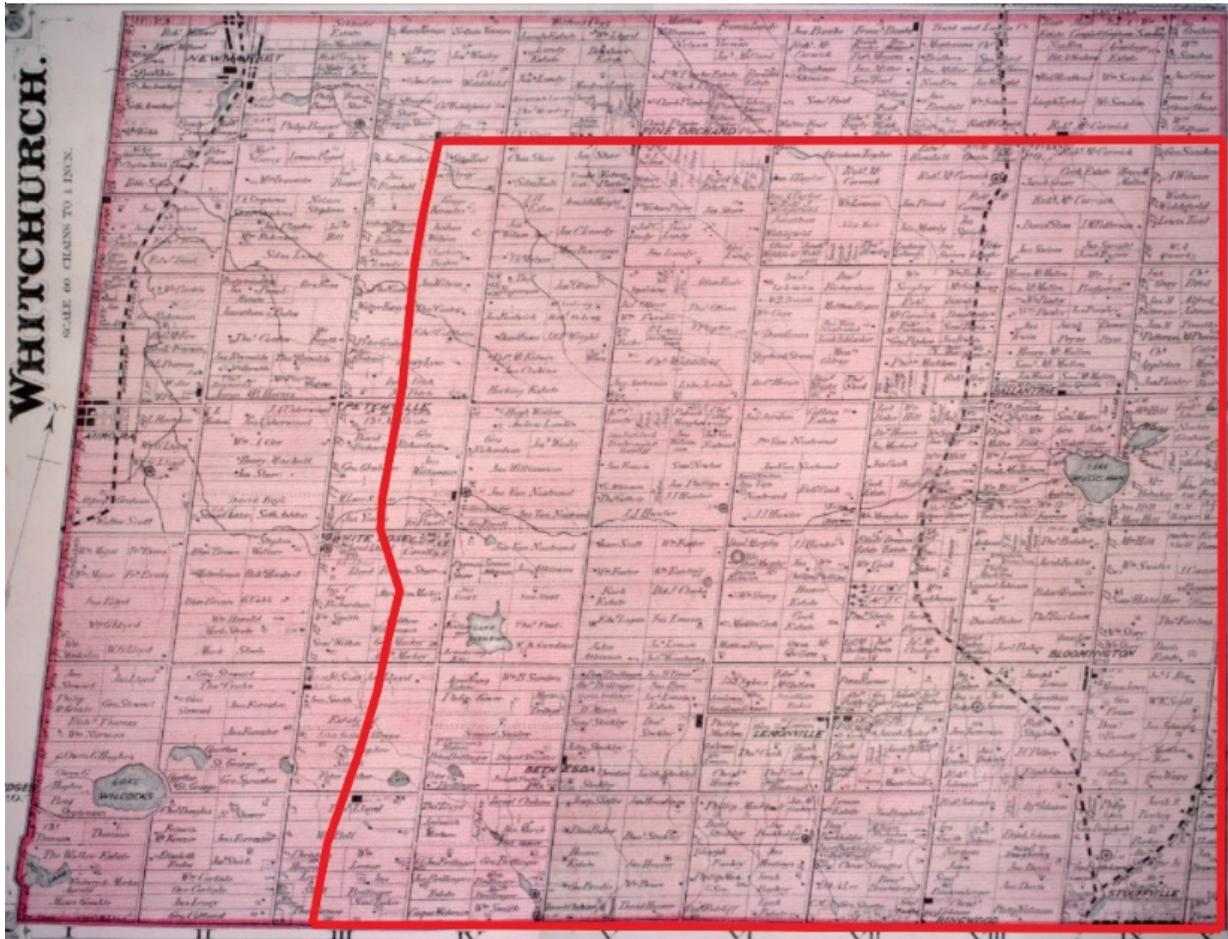


Figure 2: Whitchurch-Stouffville Water and Wastewater Master Study Area – Segment of the 1878 Map of the Township of Whitchurch.

Review of the York Region's Archaeological Potential Model

A review of the York Region's Archaeological Potential Model (updated 2015) indicates much of the study area has been identified as exhibiting archaeological potential for the identification of pre-contact Indigenous and historical Euro-Canadian archaeological resources (Figure 3). This potential model uses key features such as distance to potable water, soil drainage characteristics, slope attributes and area of early European settlement (residential, commercial, industrial and transportation development) as indicators of archaeological potential. It is important to note that once a conceptual or preliminary design for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Water and Wastewater Master Study is in place, subsequent Stage 1 archaeological assessment may determine an increased area of archaeological potential, based on a review of property-specific history.

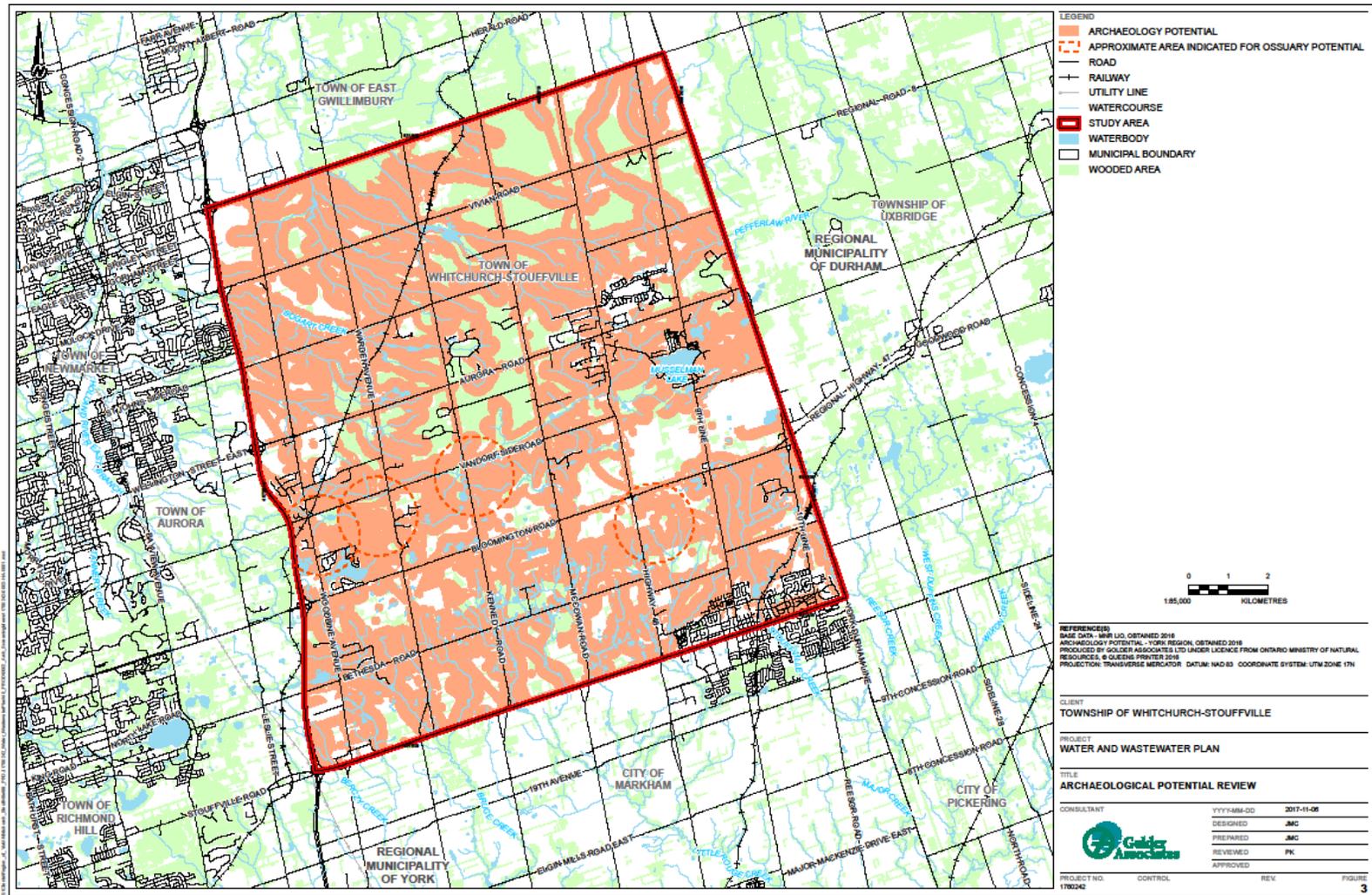


Figure 3: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Water and Wastewater Master Study Area – York Region Archaeological Potential Model

Conclusions and Recommendations

The archaeological screening memorandum has identified that there is continuous occupation of the study area from the pre-contact Indigenous through to the historical Euro-Canadian period. A review of York Region's Archaeological Potential Mapping indicates that the study area exhibits archaeological potential for the identification of sites. It is recommended that following the completion of the Master Plan Study any further studies required to fulfill individual project Class EA requirements should undertake a Stage 1 archaeological assessment to support preliminary design. A Stage 1 archaeological assessment will expand on the current background research, confirm the archaeological potential as illustrated on York Region's Archaeological Potential Mapping, and provide further recommendations as needed



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