

Archaeological Assessment Report

What is the purpose of this?



An *archaeological assessment report* identifies and evaluates the presence of archaeological resources and outlines measures to mitigate the impact of development on these resources.

These reports will be requested prior to any site alteration works where development is proposed in areas of archaeological potential and where there is the likelihood of the presence of previously uncovered, deeply buried artefacts of cultural significance.

Who should prepare this?



The report is to be prepared by a consultant archaeologist who is licensed in the province of Ontario and is qualified to prepare an archaeological assessment report.

When is this required?



An *archaeological assessment report (stage 1)* is required at the time of submission of a development application. Should the findings from a stage 1 assessment lead to further archaeological review (stages 2, 3, & 4), work shall not commence on any additional stages which involve site alteration without consultation with the environmental impact study/statement author and/or local agencies/municipalities (if necessary).

Applications where the County is the approval authority that may require an *archaeological assessment report* include, but are not limited to:

- Official Plan Amendment
- Plan of Subdivision / Condominium

Other municipal/provincial level applications that may require an *archaeological assessment report* include:

- Official Plan Amendment (local)
- Zoning By-law Amendment
- Consent
- Development Permits (Niagara Escarpment Commission Development Permits are a Provincial requirement. Study requirements must be scoped to adhere to the policies of the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) (2017) and any applicable guideline which may be more restrictive than municipal standards).

Why do we need this?



Archaeological assessment reports are required on lands that hold archaeological potential in order to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological resources. If these resources are present, the *archaeological assessment report* should evaluate the significance of these resources and outline measures to mitigate the impact of development on these resources.

The authority to request this assessment arises from the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)*, the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the *Aggregate Resources Act*, the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) (s. 2.6.2), the *Planning Act* (s.

2(d)), the *Niagara Escarpment Plan* (2017) (part 2.10.2), the County Official Plan (s. 4.5.1(1)) and in some instances, local official plans.

The request for such a study should be made by the responsible land use planning authority in consultation with municipalities and partner agencies. In the area of Niagara Escarpment Commission Development Control (O.Reg. 826/90, as amended), the Niagara Escarpment Commission is the responsible land use planning authority.

How should this be prepared?



An *archaeological assessment report* is divided into 4 Stages (1-4), as per the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. As the need to undertake the different stages of work is identified on a case by case basis, the applicant is strongly encouraged to discuss the specifics of any proposal with County planning staff prior to preparation of the *archaeological assessment report*.

Stage 1 background study and property inspection: consists of background research and is the pre-survey phase of the assessment. (*required prior to issuing draft approval for sub/condo applications)

Stage 2 property assessment: consists of actual field examination and may require either a surface or pedestrian survey or test pit surveys of the subject property. (*required prior to issuing draft approval for sub/condo applications)

Stage 3 site-specific assessment: consists of field activities conducted when archaeological resources are encountered during a Stage 2 survey. The purpose of the Stage 3 work is to gather more detailed information which will be used to delineate and evaluate the significance of the site under examination, in order to determine appropriate mitigation measures. (*can be considered as condition of draft approval for sub/condo applications)

Stage 4 mitigation of development impacts: involves mitigating the impacts of development on archaeological sites, through either site excavation or site avoidance. Determining the best approach for conserving the site may include discussing possible strategies with the development proponent, the municipality (or other approval authority), indigenous communities and other heritage stakeholders. (*can be considered as condition of draft approval for sub/condo applications)

The list may be modified in pre-submission consultation with the review agencies and not all stages will be necessary for all projects. An Archaeological Assessment Report should not be completed in isolation from other technical development studies/reports. Efforts should be made by the qualified professional(s) to integrate and interpret key findings and mitigation measures from other supporting studies/reports related to the proposed development with the Archeological Assessment Report.

What else should we know?



Archaeological resources (sites) include the physical remains and contextual setting of any structure, event, place, feature, or object which, because of the passage of time, is on or

below the surface of the land or water and is important to understanding the history of a people or place.

While a Stage 1 background study is primarily a desktop study, the remaining phases are studies which require on-site investigations in certain seasons (e.g. a stage 2 assessment cannot be done in winter). Alongside an environmental impact study, the archaeological assessment can be the most time-sensitive and time-consuming to complete.

Where sites have been heavily disturbed (e.g. the re-development of a previous site), the need for an archaeological assessment may be waived.

County staff recommend pre-submission consultation with local First Nations and Metis peoples prior to completing an archaeological assessment. Traditional knowledge housed with First Nations and Metis elders or staff may inform such archaeological assessments beyond information that is available at the provincial, county or municipal levels.

County planning staff intend to undertake an *Archeological Management Plan* in order to identify and conserve the County's archaeological heritage (section 4.5.1(2) of the County OP). There is no current mapping identifying the County's archaeological resources.

Where an archaeological assessment would require any tree removal please be aware of municipal and county tree-cutting or forest management by-laws. Prior to any tree removal on-site there may be a need for municipal or county permits. Works in Regulated Areas (as regulated by local Conservation Authorities) should also be considered. Consultation with the County, local municipalities, and conservation authorities should occur prior to any site disturbance related to site investigations.

What other resources are available?



Grey County Forest Management By-law - <https://www.grey.ca/forests-trails>

Grey County Planning and Development - <https://www.grey.ca/planning-development>

Historic Saugeen Metis - <http://saugeenmetis.com/land-resources/>

Metis Nation of Ontario – Lands, Resources & Consultations - <http://www.metisnation.org/programs-and-services/lands-resources-consultations/>

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries – Archaeology <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/archaeology/archaeology.shtml>

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries – Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists - http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/archaeology/archaeology_standards.shtml

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries – Archaeological Assessments - http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/archaeology/archaeology_assessments.shtml

Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act - <https://escarpment.org/LandPlanning/NEPDA>

Saugeen Ojibway First Nation Consultation Process and Archaeology Standards and Guidelines - <https://www.saugeenojibwaynation.ca/about/resources/>



DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

*This document is intended to be used for guideline purposes only. It will not be applied as a means of approving or rejecting development proposals, but rather it will be used to provide technical direction throughout the planning and development process.