



## Existing Conditions Fact Sheet: Archaeology

Issued: October 2023

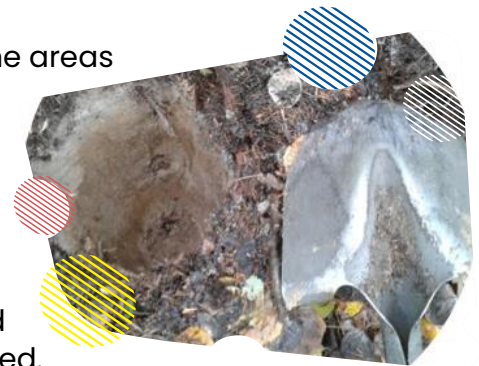
### Stage 1 Studies

The archaeological field program operated from September 24 to October 4, 2019. During this time, we completed the Stage 1 field review by helicopter, in order to narrow down areas of archaeological potential that had been identified during desktop background research. Documentary sources, Anishinaabe Knowledge (AK), detailed mapping and satellite imagery were analyzed in order to evaluate the archaeological potential found within the study area.

### Stage 2 Studies

In addition to completing the Stage 1 field fly over, we also began the Stage 2 fieldwork during the same period in 2019. Our Stage 2 strategy consisted of concentrating primarily on the alternatives for the major river crossings and any specific locations identified by the community. In discussion with community it was agreed that we would survey the areas one kilometre upstream and one kilometre downstream from each of the proposed crossing locations currently under consideration. The AECOM Archaeology team surveyed two river crossings at this time – the Albany River crossing WA-15 and Ogoki River crossing WA-01.

The Stage 2 survey consisted of physically inspecting the areas identified as retaining archaeological potential within both river crossings. This was completed by walking within the areas identified as retaining potential, which included beach survey and test pit survey where possible. The beach survey of exposed shorelines consisted of the archaeology team examining the beach surface for artifacts. In areas that were not found to be wet or steeply sloped, test pit survey was conducted.



## Study Areas

Study areas identify the geographic limit where potential effects of the road may occur. The existing conditions are documented for three study areas:

- Project Development Area (PDA): the area of direct disturbance
- Local Study Area (LSA): the area where direct effects of the road are likely to take place
- Regional Study Area (RSA): the area where indirect effects are likely to occur





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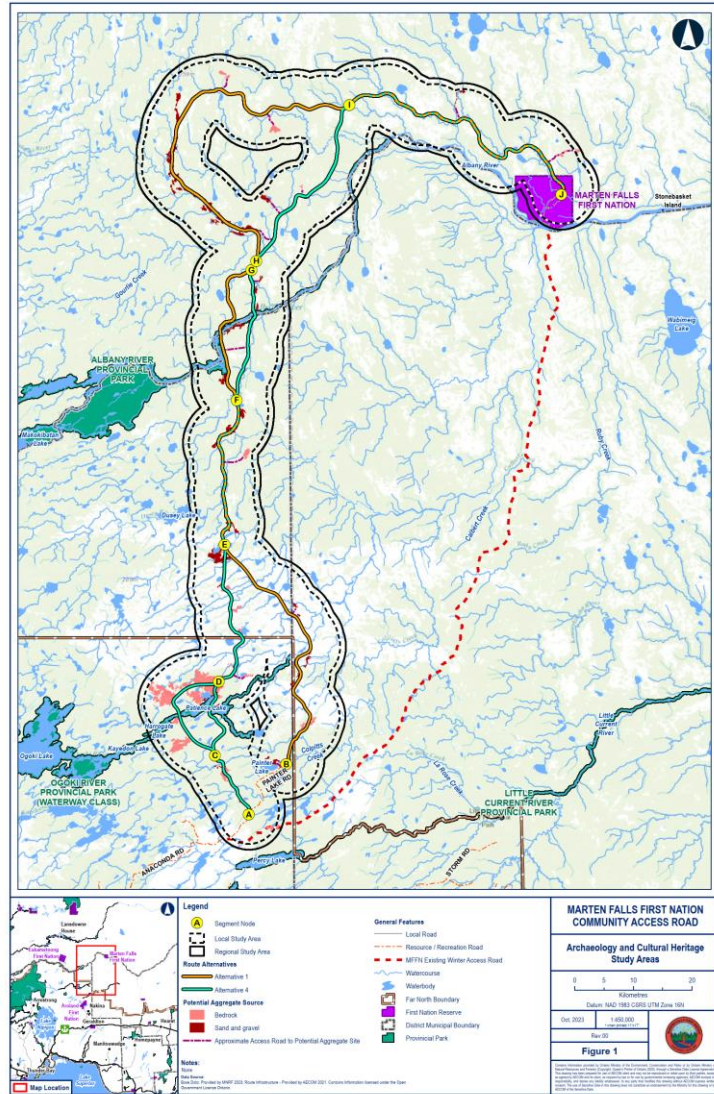
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Test pit intervals ranged from 2.5 m to a maximum of 5 m apart, which were decided based on professional judgement in each area. Each test pit was approximately 30 cm in diameter and all soil was screened through hardware mesh 6 mm in size to facilitate the recovery of cultural material.

## Items of interest

A total of five areas of interest were identified during the Stage 2 survey of the two river crossings. At the Albany River crossing WA-15, two locations containing archaeological material were identified; Location 1 was found to consist of an isolated primary flake found during the beach survey; and Location 2 is a campsite near some exposed bedrock. Visible contents of the campsite included a can and bottle dump, an outhouse structure, cooking areas/hearths and utensils, and remnants of tent structures and boat tie ups. GPS coordinates were recorded for all archaeological features. In addition to the campsite, a chert biface (stone tool) was found on an exposed tree throw.

After consultation with Aroland First Nation, the AECOM Archaeology team moved to the Ogoki River crossing WA-01, where three locations containing artifacts were identified (Locations 3, 4 and 5).





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All three areas were noted on the surface of exposed bedrock adjacent to the rapids located at the west end of the 1 km study area. Artifacts recovered include modified pieces of chert (i.e., stone tool flakes) that were recovered from areas where rocks and pebbles had collected. This suggests that the area around the rapids was utilized for the creation of stone tools, as vast amounts of cobble chert is available along the shoreline. However, it is unlikely that the stone tool flakes the team identified were found in their original context, considering the low water levels this fall and the area in which they were found among other river pebbles. A more likely scenario is that stone tool manufacture was occurring somewhere upriver, these pieces were discarded into the river, and were eventually exposed with other river pebbles because of low water levels. All land suitable for test pitting in the immediate area of the Locations were test pitted with no results.

A future Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment will be completed on the proposed aggregate sites identified for the project. The results of the Stage 1 report indicate that a number of areas require a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, in addition to the partial Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment completed in 2019. This assessment will be conducted in a future project planning phase following the refinement of the road corridor. As a component of this program the Stage 1 and Partial Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments were shared with Indigenous communities for their review and comment. Currently these reports are with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for review and acceptance.

## Contact Information

You are welcome to contact the Project Team at any time with questions or comments.

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