



## ORIGINAL REPORT

### Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment

Blakeney Bridge  
Part Lots 25 and 26, Concession 9  
Geographic Township of Ramsay,  
Lanark County, Ontario

### Prepared For

Sean Derouin  
Lanark County  
99 Christie Lake Road  
Perth, Ontario K7H 3C6  
SDerouin@lanarkcounty.ca

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Ben Mortimer (License Number P369)

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Matrix Heritage Inc.  
6131 Perth Street  
Richmond, Ontario  
K0A 2Z0  
Tel: (613) 807-2071  
[www.MatrixHeritage.ca](http://www.MatrixHeritage.ca)

## **1.0 Executive Summary**

Matrix Heritage, on behalf of Lanark County, undertook a Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment of the Blakeney Bridge, straddling the Mississippi River on the edge of Lots 25 and 26, Concession 9 in the Geographic Township of Ramsay, Lanark County, Ontario (Map 1). The objectives of the investigation were to assess the archaeological potential of the study area in advance of proposed construction works along the bridge in accordance with standard Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements. Construction plans and mapping were not complete at the time of assessment. To ensure an appropriate area was assessed that encompasses construction impacts, a buffer of 10 m either side of the road centreline (a 20 m wide corridor) with 25 m long extensions beyond the ends of the bridge was created (Map 1). This encompasses any potential areas of construction impact as confirmed by the County of Lanark (proponent and approval authority). The assessment is in accordance with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's (MCM) *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011).

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment included a review of the updated MCM's archaeological site databases, a review of relevant environmental, historical literature, and primary historical research including: historical maps, land registry, and census records. The Stage 1 assessment determined that the subject property had pre-contact Indigenous archaeological potential due to the Mississippi River crossing the study area. The subject property has historical Euro-Canadian archaeological potential due to the early patent date of the lot, the ownership by the Snedden family, and the proximity to historical transportation routes, historical industry, and community buildings.

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment was planned to involve shovel testing, however the during field work all areas were determined to be of low archaeological potential due to being exposed bedrock, exposed bedrock in the river course, disturbed from road/bridge creation, or are steeply sloped and therefore all areas were excluded from testing as per Section 2.1, Standard 2.a.i., ii., iii. and Standard b. (MCM 2011). The fieldwork was undertaken on November 15, 2022. Weather conditions were sunny and cool with a temperature around -2° C. Ground conditions were excellent with no saturation or other excessive ground cover to impede visual assessment as per Section 2.1. Standard 3 (MCM 2011). Permission to access the property was provided by the owner.

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment resulted in no indication of archaeological remains with cultural heritage value or interest within the proposed development area.

Based on the results of this investigation it is recommended that:

1. No further archaeological study is required for the subject property as delineated in Map 1.

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### **3.0 Project Personnel**

Licensee	Ben Mortimer, MA (P369)
Field Director	Ben Mortimer, MA (P369)
Field Crew	Nadine Kopp, MA (P378)
Report Preparation	Andrea Jackson, MLitt (P1032)
Archival Research	Andrea Jackson, MLitt (P1032)
GIS and Mapping	Ben Mortimer, MA (P369)
Report Review	Ben Mortimer, MA (P369)

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## 4.0 Project Context

### 4.1 Development Context

Matrix Heritage, on behalf of Lanark County, undertook a Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment of the Blakeney Bridge, straddling the Mississippi River on the edge of Lots 25 and 26, Concession 9 in the Geographic Township of Ramsay, Lanark County, Ontario (Map 1). The objectives of the investigation were to assess the archaeological potential of the study area in advance of proposed construction works along the bridge in accordance with standard Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements. Construction plans and mapping were not complete at the time of assessment. To ensure an appropriate area was assessed that encompasses construction impacts, a buffer of 10 m either side of the road centreline (a 20 m wide corridor) with 25 m long extensions beyond the ends of the bridge was created (Map 1). The assessment is in accordance with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's (MCM) *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011).

The study area is within the road allowance and is under the ownership of Lanark County. Permission to access the study property was granted by the owner prior to the commencement of any field work; no limits were placed on this access.

### 4.2 Historical Context

#### 4.2.1 Historic Documentation

Notable histories of the Algonquins include: *Algonquin Traditional Culture* (Whiteduck 1995) and *Executive Summary: Algonquins of Golden Lake Claim* (Holmes and Associates 1993a). The subject property is located in the township of Ramsay, in the County of Lanark. There are a few publications of the early history of the county and township. Notable references include: *A Pioneer History of the County of Lanark* (McGill 1984); *In Search of Lanark* (McCuaig and Wallace 1980); *Lanark Legacy, Nineteenth Century Glimpses of an Ontario County* (Brown 1984), and; *Beckwith: Irish and Scottish Identities in a Canadian Community* (Lockwood 1991). Another useful resource is the Lanark Supplement in the *Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion of Canada* (Belden & Co 1880).

#### 4.2.2 Pre-Contact Period

Archaeological information suggests that ancestral Algonquin people lived in the region for at least 8,000 years before the Europeans arrived in North America. This traditional territory is generally considered to encompass the Ottawa Valley on both sides of the river, in Ontario and Quebec, from the Rideau Lakes to the headwaters of the Ottawa River. The region is dominated by the Canadian Shield which is characterized by low rolling land of Boreal Forest, rock outcrops and muskeg with innumerable lakes, ponds, and rivers. This environment dictated much of the traditional culture and lifestyle of the Algonquin peoples. At the time of European contact, the Algonquin territory was bounded on the east by the Montagnais people, to the west by the Nipissing and Ojibwa, to the north by the Cree, and to the south by the lands of the Iroquois.

#### Naming

The Algonquins' name for themselves is Anishinabeg, which means "human being." The word Algonquin supposedly came from the Malecite word meaning "they are our relatives", which French explorer Samuel de Champlain recorded as "Algoumequin" in 1603. The name stuck and the term "Algonquin" refers to those groups that have their traditional lands around the Ottawa Valley. Some confusion can arise regarding the term "Algonquian" which refers to the

broader language family, of which the dialect of the Algonquin is one. The Algonquian linguistic group stretches across a significant part of North America and comprises scores of Nations related by language and customs.

### Early Human Occupation

The earliest human occupation of the Americas has been documented to predate 14,000 years ago, however at this time much of eastern Canada was covered by thick and expansive glaciers. The Laurentide Ice Sheet of the Wisconsinian glacier blanketed the Ottawa area until about 11,000 B.P. when then the glacial terminus receded north of the Ottawa Valley, and water from the Atlantic Ocean flooded the region to create the Champlain Sea. This sea encompassed the lowlands of Quebec on the north shore of the Ottawa River and most of Ontario east of Petawawa, including the Ottawa Valley and Rideau Lakes. By 10,000 B.P. the Champlain Sea was receding and within 1,000 years has drained from Eastern Ontario (Watson 1990:9).

The northern regions of eastern Canada were still under sheets of glacial ice as small groups of hunters first moved into the southern areas following the receding ice and water. By circa 11,000 B.P., when the Ottawa area was emerging from glaciations and being flooded by the Champlain Sea, northeastern North America was home to what are commonly referred to as the Paleo people. For Ontario the Paleo period is divided into the Early Paleo period (11,000 - 10,400 B.P.) and the Late Paleo period (10,500-9,400 B.P.), based on changes in tool technology (Ellis and Deller 1990). The Paleo people, who had moved into hospitable areas of southwest Ontario, likely consisted of small groups of exogamous hunter-gatherers relying on a variety of plants and animals who ranged over large territories (Jamieson 1999). The few possible Paleo period artifacts found, as surface finds or poorly documented finds, in the broader Eastern Ontario region are from the Rideau Lakes area (Watson 1990) and Thompson's Island near Cornwall (Ritchie 1969:18). In comparison, little evidence exists for Paleo occupations in the immediate Ottawa Valley, as can be expected given the environmental changes the region underwent, and the recent exposure of the area from glaciations and sea. As Watson suggests (Watson 1999:38), it is possible Paleo people followed the changing shoreline of the Champlain Sea, moving into the Ottawa Valley in the late Paleo Period, although archaeological evidence is absent.

### Archaic period

As the climate continued to warm, the glacial ice sheet receded further northwards allowing areas of the Ottawa Valley to be travelled and occupied in what is known as the Archaic Period (9,500 – 2,900 B.P.). In the Boreal forests of the Canadian Shield this cultural period is referred to as the “Shield Archaic”. The Archaic period is generally characterized by increasing populations, developments in lithic technology (e.g., ground stone tools), and emerging trade networks.

Archaic populations remained hunter-gatherers with an increasing emphasis on fishing. People began to organise themselves into small family groups operating in a seasonal migration, congregating annually at resource-rich locations for social, religious, political, and economic activities. Sites from this period in the Ottawa Valley region include Morrison's Island-2 (BkGg-10), Morrison's Island-6 (BkGg-12) and Allumette Island-1 (BkGg-11) near Pembroke, and the Lamoureux site (BiFs-2) in the floodplain of the South Nation River (Clermont 1999). Often sites from this time are located on islands, waterways, and at narrows on lakes and rives where caribou and deer would cross, suggesting a common widespread use of the birchbark canoe that was so prominent in later history (McMillan 1995). It is suggested that the Algonquin peoples in the Ottawa Valley area developed out of this Shield Archaic culture.

## Woodland / Pre-European Contact Period

Generally, the introduction of the use of ceramics marks the transition from the Archaic Period into the Woodland period. Populations continued to participate in extensive trade networks that extended across much of North America. Social structure appears to have become increasingly complex with some status differentiation recognized in burials. Towards the end of this period domesticated plants were gradually introduced to the Ottawa Valley region. This coincided with other changes including the development of semi-permanent villages. The Woodland period is commonly divided into the Early Woodland (1000 – 300 B.C.), Middle Woodland (400 B.C. to A.D. 1000), and the Late Woodland (A.D. 900 – European Contact) periods.

The Early Woodland is typically noted via lithic point styles (i.e., Meadowood bifaces) and pottery types (i.e., Vinette I). Early Woodland sites in the Ottawa Valley region include Deep River (CaGi-1) (Mitchell 1963), Constance Bay I (BiGa-2) (Watson 1972), and Wyght (BfGa-11) (Watson 1980). The Middle Woodland period is identified primarily via changes in pottery style (e.g., the addition of decoration). Some of the best documented Middle Woodland Period sites from the region are from Leamy Lake Park (BiFw-6, BiFw-16) (Laliberté 1999). On the shield and in other non-arable environments, including portions of the Ottawa Valley, there seems to remain a less sedentary lifestyle often associated with the Algonquin groups noted in the region at contact (Wright 2004:1485–1486).

The Woodland Period Algonquin peoples of the Ottawa Valley area had a social and economic rhythm of life following an annual cyclical pattern of seasonal movements. Subsistence was based on small independent extended family bands operating an annual round of hunting, fishing, and plant collecting. Families returned from their winter hunting camps to rejoin with other groups at major fishing sites for the summer. The movements of the people were connected with the rhythm of the natural world around them allowing for efficient and generally sustainable subsistence (Ardoch Algonquin First Nation 2015). Their annual congregations facilitated essential social, political, and cultural exchange.

The Woodland Period Algonquin peoples in the Ottawa Valley also established significant trade networks and a dominance of the Ottawa River (in Algonquian the “Kitchissippi”) and its tributaries. The trade networks following the Ottawa River connected the Algonquins to an interior eastern waterway via Lake Timiskaming and the Rivière des Outaouais to the St. Maurice and Saguenay as well as the upper Great Lakes and interior via Lake Nipissing and Georgian Bay. From there their Huron allies would distribute goods to the south and west. The Iroquois and their allies along the St. Lawrence River and the lower Great Lakes dominated the trade routes on those waterways to the south thus leading to a rivalry that would escalate with European influence (Moreau et al. 2016).

## European Contact

The addition of European trade goods to artifacts of native manufacture in archaeological material culture assemblages’ ushers in a new period of history. Archaeological data shows that European goods penetrated the Canadian Shield as early as 1590 and the trade was well entrenched by 1600 through the trade routes established by the Algonquin peoples along the Ottawa River (Moreau et al. 2016) and their neighbouring allies the Michi Saagiig and the Chippewa nations.

The first recorded meeting between Europeans and Algonquins occurred at the first permanent French settlement on the St. Lawrence at Tadoussac in the summer of 1603. Samuel de Champlain came upon a party of Algonquins, the Kitchissipirini under Chief Tessouat, who were celebrating a recent victory over the Iroquois with their allies the Montagnais and Malecite

(Hessel 1993). Champlain made note of the “Algoomequins” and his encounter with them, yet the initial contact between Champlain and the Algonquin people within their own territory in the Ottawa Valley was during his travels of exploration in 1613.

By the time of Champlain’s 1613 journey, the Algonquin people along the Ottawa River Valley were important middlemen in the rapidly expanding fur-trade industry. Champlain knew this and wanted to form and strengthen alliances with the Algonquins to further grow the fur-trade, and to secure guidance and protection for future explorations inland and north towards a potential northwest passage. Further, involving the Algonquins deeper in the fur trade promised more furs filling French ships and more Indigenous dependence on European goods. For their part, the French offered the promise of safety and support against the Iroquois to the south.

Early historical accounts note many different Algonquian speaking groups in the region at the time. Of note for the lower Ottawa Valley area were the Kichesipirini (focused around Morrison Island); Matouweskari (upstream from Ottawa, along the Madawaska River); Weskarini (around the Petite Nation, Lièvre, and Rouge rivers west of Montreal), Kinouchepirini (in the Bonnechere River drainage); and the Onontcharonon, (along the South Nation River) (Holmes and Associates 1993a; Morrison 2005; Pilon 2005). However, little archaeological work has been undertaken regarding Algonquins at the time of contact with Europeans (Pilon 2005).

#### Fur Trade, Early Contact with the French

Champlain understood that the Algonquins would be vital to his eventual success in making his way inland, exploring, and expanding the fur trade. This was partially due to their language being the key to communication with many other groups, as well as their dominance over trade routes surrounding the Ottawa River and the connection with the Huron in the west.

When the French arrived, there was already a vast trade network in place linking the Huron and the Algonquins, the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa, extending from the Saguenay to Huronia. This route existed at least from the very early beginnings of agricultural societies in Ontario around A.D. 1000 (Moreau et al. 2016). This trade increased rapidly after the arrival of the Europeans with the introduction of European goods and the demand for furs. The Huron held a highly strategic commercial location controlling the trade to the south and the west, and the Algonquin, Michi Saagiig, and Chippewa were their critical connection to goods from the east, including European products.

By the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, the demands of the fur trade had caused major impacts to the traditional way of life including a change in tools, weapons, and a shift in diet to more European as hunting was more for furs and not for food. This dependence on European food, ammunition, and protection tied people to European settlements (McMillan 1995). The summer gathering sites shifted from prominent fishing areas to trading posts. This further spurred social changes in community structure and traditional land distribution and use.

The well-situated Algonquin, particularly the Kichesipirini who controlled passage around Allumette Island, were originally reluctant to cede any of their dominance in fear of being cut out of their lucrative middleman role in the trade economy. However, an alliance with the French meant protection and assistance against the Iroquois. The French, as well as other Europeans like the Dutch and English, were able to align their own political and economic rivalries with those of the native populations. The competitive greed and obsession with expanding the fur trade entrenched the rivalries that were already in place, and these were intensified by European weapons and economic ambition.

## Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Wars

Little information exists about inter-tribal warfare prior to European contact, however, there was existing animosity between the Haudenosaunee and the Algonquins when Champlain first arrived in the Ottawa Valley. Like his fellow Europeans, Champlain was able to use this existing rivalry to make a case for an alliance, thus gaining crucial access to the established trade networks and economic power of the Algonquin. Prior to European contact, the hostilities had been mainly skirmishes and raids, but everything changed as European reinforcement provided deadlier weapons and higher economic stakes with the introduction of the fur trade.

Along with the French, the Algonquin were allied against the Haudenosaunee with the Huron, Nippissing, Michi Saagiig, and Chippewa. French records suggest that at the end of the sixteenth century the Algonquins were the dominant force and were proud to have weakened and diminished the Iroquois. The first Algonquin campaign the French took part in was a 1609 attack against the Mohawk. The use of firearms in this fight marked the beginning of the escalation of brutality between these old enemies. The Haudenosaunee corn stalk shields could stop arrows but not bullets or French swords (Hessel 1993).

Eventually the tide changed and as the Haudenosaunee exhausted the beaver population in their own territory they became the aggressors, pushing into the lands of the Algonquin, Michi Saagiig, Chippewa, and Huron, with the added strength of Dutch weaponry. Through the 1630s and 40s constant and increased raiding into Algonquin, Michi Saagiig, and Chippewa territory by the Haudenosaunee nations had forced many multi-generational residents to leave their lands in seek protection from their French allies in places like Trois Rivieres and Sillery while others fled to the north. By 1650 Huronia, the home of the long-time allies of the Algonquin and traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewa, had been destroyed by the Haudenosaunee. The Algonquins of the Ottawa Valley had largely been scattered or displaced, reduced through war and disease to small family groups under the protection of the French missions only fifty years after the first Europeans had travelled the Ottawa River (Morrison 2005:26).

There is some evidence that Algonquins did not completely abandon the Ottawa Valley but withdrew from the Ottawa River to the headwaters of its tributaries and remained in those interior locations until the end of the century. Taking advantage of the Algonquin absence, the Ottawa people, originally from the area of Manitoulin Island, used the river for trade during this time and their name became historically applied to the river.

## Aftermath of War

As the Haudenosaunee push continued and the Algonquin sought refuge amongst their French allies, other factors came into play that significantly contributed to their displacement and near destruction. The introduction of European diseases, the devastating influence of alcohol, and the increasing pressure to convert to Christianity massively contributed to the weakening of the Algonquin people and their traditional culture.

The Algonquins thought of themselves as part of the natural world with which they must live in harmony. The traditional stories of Algonquin folklore contained lessons and guides to behaviour. The French missionaries regarded them as “heathens” and dismissed their religion as superstition (Day 2005). The missionaries believed it was their duty to convert these people to Christianity to save them from evil. Algonquin chief Tessouat had seen his Huron neighbours become ill and die after interactions with the European missionaries and had thus originally warned his people about abandoning their old beliefs and the dangers of conversion (Hessel 1993). Eventually the French imposed laws allowing only those converted to Christianity to remain within the missions and under French protection. This created divisions amongst the

Algonquin themselves which weakened the social structure as some settled into a new religion and new territory.

Starting in the 1630s and continuing into the 1700s, European disease spread among the Algonquin groups along the Ottawa River, bringing widespread death (Trigger 1986:230). As disease spread through the French mission settlements the priests remained certain that the suffering was punishment for resisting Christianity. An additional threat lurking amongst the French settlements was alcohol which precipitated many issues.

### The Long Way Back

After the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Wars, the remaining Algonquin people were generally settled around various French trading posts and missions from the north end of the Ottawa Valley to Montreal. A large settlement at Oka was the first mission established on Algonquin lands in 1720. This settlement included peoples from many groups who had been collected and moved around from various locations. It became a type of base camp; occupied during the summer while the winters were spent at their traditional hunting territories in the upper Ottawa Valley. This arrangement served the French well, since the Algonquin converts at Oka maintained close ties with the northern bands and could call upon the inland warriors to join them in case of war with the British or Iroquois League.

As the British gained control of Canada from the French in 1758-1760 they included in the Articles of Capitulation a guarantee that the Indian allies of the French would be maintained in the lands they inhabited. Many of the Algonquin and other native groups that had been living on French mission settlements were shuffled around to new reserves while others began to migrate back to their traditional territories. Those who had remained on the land and continued to be active in the fur trade, now did so with the English through companies in Montreal like the North West Company, and in the north with the Hudson Bay Company.

Some Algonquin people began to return to their traditional territory to join those groups who had remained in the lower Ottawa Valley and continued their traditional lifeway through to the influx of European settlement in the late 1700s and early 1800s. This included bands noted to be living along the Gatineau River and other rivers flowing into the Ottawa. These traditional bands maintained a seasonal round focused on harvesting activities into the 1800s when development pressures and assimilation policies implemented by the colonial government saw Indigenous lands taken up, albeit under increasing protest and without consideration for Indigenous claims, for settlement and industry. Algonquin lands began to be encroached upon by white settlers involved in the booming lucrative logging industry or having been granted the land as Loyalist soldiers or through other settler groups.

As some Algonquins had been redistributed to lands in Quebec, their traditional territory within the Ottawa Valley was included in multiple land transfer deals, agreements, and sales with the British Crown beginning in the 1780s and continuing till the 1840s. The Algonquin were not included in these transactions and numerous petitions and inquiries on behalf of their interests were often overruled or ignored (Holmes and Associates 1993a; Holmes and Associates 1993b; Sarazin). The Constitution Act of 1791 divided Quebec into the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada with Ottawa River as the division line, thus the lands claimed by the Algonquins fell under two separate administrations creating more confusion, exclusion, and oversight.

Two “protectorate” communities were eventually established in the nineteenth century for the Algonquin people at Golden Lake in Ontario and River Desert (Maniwaki) in Quebec. One of the last accounts of the Algonquins living traditionally was from 1865. The White Duck family was

living just west of Arnprior when they were forced to leave their wigwams as surveyors arrived to tell them the railway was being expanded through their land (Hessel 1993).

Algonquin people continue to live in the Ottawa Valley and there are still many speakers of several Algonquian dialects. Outside of the officially recognized bands there are an unspecified number of people of Algonquin descent throughout the Ottawa Valley unaffiliated with any reserve. Today there are ten Algonquin communities that comprise the Algonquins of Ontario: The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, Antoine, Kijicho Manito Madagouskarini, Bonnechere, Greater Golden Lake, Mattawa/North Bay, Ottawa, Shabot Obaadjiwan, Snimikobi, and Whitney and area.

Struggles to officially secure title to their traditional land, as well as fight for hunting and fishing rights have continued into modern times. The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) and the Governments of both Canada and Ontario are working together to resolve this land claim through a negotiated settlement. The claim includes an area of 9 million acres of unceded territory within the watersheds of the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers in Ontario including the city of Ottawa and most of Algonquin Park. The signing of the Agreement-in-Principle in 2016 by the AOO and the provincial and federal governments, signifying a mutual intention for a lasting partnership, was a key step towards a final agreement to clarify the rights and nurture new economic and development opportunities in the area.

#### 4.2.3 Post-Contact Euro-Canadian History

The area that is now Lanark County was originally part of the Johnstown District, which was formed in 1798 when the new Parliament of Upper Canada subdivided the territory of the Eastern District. In 1822, the Johnstown District territory was reduced with the creation of the Bathurst District, the northernmost portion of the former district. The Bathurst district contained Carleton County. In 1824, Lanark County was created from part of Carleton County, which originally comprised ten townships and the remainder of unsurveyed lands within the Bathurst District including what would become Renfrew County. In 1838, Carleton County was withdrawn to create the Dalhousie District, and the Bathurst District was reorganized. Renfrew County was removed from the remaining portion of Lanark County, but the two remained united for electoral purposes. In 1850, the Bathurst District was abolished, and the "United Counties of Lanark and Renfrew" replaced it for municipal and judicial purposes. The United Counties were dissolved in 1866 (Smallfield and Campbell 1914:191).

The area was first settled by European settlers when British authorities prompted immigration to Lanark County in the early 19th century. The county was formed from the southern part of the old Bathurst District. Many of the settlers who came to Lanark County in the early 1800s came from Lanarkshire, Scotland, thus giving the county its name. Most European settlement in the County began in 1816 when Drummond, Beckwith, and Bathurst Townships were first surveyed. In the summer of 1821, a large influx of settlers arrived from an organized settlement society (Mississippi Mills 2020). These settlers were collectively known as the Lanark Society Settlers that belonged to approximately forty settlement societies from the Glasgow area of Scotland that organised and managed the assisted emigration of a large number of Scottish families to Lanark County, Upper Canada. The immigrants were granted undeveloped land in the townships of Dalhousie, Lanark, North Sherbrooke, and Ramsay. Many of the families that emigrated were weavers from the Glasgow area. In 1823, a second major influx of settlers arrived in an organized emigration of mostly Irish Roman Catholics from the County Cork area of Ireland.

## Community of Blakeney

The first settlers to the Blakeney area arrived in 1821 and included the Snedden family lead by James and Christina. The community had various names through the years beginning with “Pine Falls”, named after the thick pine forest that originally covered the area. The area then became “Snedden’s Mills”, after the prominent family and the main industry of milling, then “Rosebank”, which was changed to “Blakeney” in 1874 upon the opening of the post office. In 1865, the Brockville and Ottawa Railway was extending towards Almonte and passed near the village, greatly increasing economic opportunities. The railway stop for Blakeney was called Snedden Station as the flour shipped from the A & D Snedden Flour Mills was a large part of the train freight. The railway brought prosperity and growth to the community, and by the late 1800s multiple businesses were operating in the village, many around either side of the rapids. Through the late 19<sup>th</sup> and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries businesses and community buildings in the area were numerous and included: a flour mill, gristmill, sawmill and timber slide, woolen mill, tannery, cooperage, cheese factory, general store, Presbyterian church, manse, Orange hall, Inn, brewery, livery stables, general store, post office, cobbler shop, and a blacksmiths shop. The largest mill in the community was the three-story woolen mill built by Peter McDougall in 1873. The mill employed 25 people and produced 100,000 yards of tweed per year during the 1880s (Figure 1) (Snedden 2018) . The existing bridge at Blakeney was built in 1918 to replace a timber bridge that had been in use since the 1830s (Figure 2) (Ramsay Women’s Institute 2010).

### 4.2.4 Study Area Specific History

The study area consists of the bridge crossing the Mississippi River and sits on Lots 25 and 26, Concession 9, in the Geographic Township of Ramsay. The study area lies largely within Lot 25, extending only slightly into Lot 26 to the north. The historic Walling map from 1863 depicts a busy area with a hotel, tannery, and multiple houses around the rapids and the bridge (Map 2). The home of A. Snedden is shown on the lot, with another A. Snedden on the lot to the north. J. Snedden is depicted living in a house further to the west. The historic Belden map from 1880 depicts the subdivision of the lots and the streets within the village around the rapids (Map 2). Some of the larger mill buildings are depicted and the bridge is clearly visible. The community is labeled as “Rosebank”, the post office is listed as “Blackeney”, and Snedden train station is depicted just to the southeast. Alex Snedden is listed as the owner of Lot 25, and his brother James is shown living on the lot to the west.

#### **Northeast Half Lot 25**

The original Crown patent for the northeastern portion of Lot 25 was granted to William McEwan in 1826. A decade later, McEwan sold part of the property to Alexander Snedden. The property was subdivided and sold multiple times to various parties through to the turn of the century. There are 36 sale transactions recorded in the land registry records between 1846 and 1900. The Snedden name is prominent in many of these transactions and present in the land registry records until 1985. In 1873, there were two plans recorded laying out the Village of Rosebank, one for Alexander Snedden and the other for John MacIntosh. In 1891 there was a by-law passed by the Municipal Council of Ramsay Township closing a public road. In 1906 and again in 1917 land within the lot was sold to The Blakeney Woollen Company (OLR, (27)).

James Snedden was born in Scotland in 1762. His wife was Christina Montgomery, and while it is unclear when they arrived in Canada, they are credited with being some of the first settlers to the Blakeney area arriving around 1821 (Snedden 2018). Their son, Alexander, was born in 1795 when the family was still in Scotland. Alexander married Mary Whyte and together they had six children, Mary, William, James, Christina, Alexander, and David (Ancestry.com 2012).

The 1861 census lists the households of brothers James and William side-by-side. James is recorded as living with his wife Catherine, their three-year-old daughter, James's widowed mother Mary, aged 50, and Sophia Lalonde, a 19-year-old domestic worker. William's house consisted in 1861 of his wife Eliza, their four young children between the ages of two and seven, Memora Mantel, an 18-year-old domestic worker, and Archibald White, aged 60. James and William's mother Mary's maiden name was "Whyte" and thus Archibald was likely a family relation. The census lists both families living in one-story frame houses (Statistics Canada 1861).

The 1871 census tells a similar story of the brothers and their families living beside each other. William's household consisted of his wife and 8 children, ages 1 through 17, with Archibald White, aged 69. James, aged 40, was living with his wife, their two daughters, and Mary Collins, a 40-year-old domestic worker (Statistics Canada 1871). Not much changed through the following decade, and the 1881 census lists James and Catherine, both aged 50, living with their two daughters, Mary (22), and Matilda (19). The household of William and Eliza at that time included 8 children between the ages of 6 and 24, 2 of their daughters having already married and moved out (Statistics Canada 1881).

By the time of the 1901 census William was widowed, aged 69, and living with his 38-year-old daughter Matilda (Statistics Canada 1901). Interestingly, a decade later, in the 1911 census, James was listed as 80 years old, a widower, and living with his 47-year-old daughter, who was named Matilda as well (Statistics Canada 1911). James died of stomach cancer in 1917 at the age of 86 (Ancestry.com 2010).

### **East Half of Lot 26**

The original Crown patent for the eastern half of Lot 26 was granted to Gerard Nagle in 1836. Due to a default in taxes by Nagle, the land was sold through the Sherriff John Powell to Alexander Snedden in 1839. As with Lot 25 the land was subdivided and passed through multiple transactions and owners through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Snedden family played a prominent role in this lot as well, remaining in the land registry records until 1985 (OLR, (27)). It is unclear which Alexander Snedden is referred to in the land registry as William named one of his sons after his father. Based on the dates, the land could have been passed from grandfather to grandson at some point.

## **4.3 Archaeological Context**

### **4.3.1 Current Conditions**

The study area (0.3 ha) encompasses the road allowance of the Blakeney Bridge, some areas slightly beyond, 25 m of the approaches on either end of the bridge (Figure 3 and Figure 4), the embankments and supports of the bridge (Figure 5 to Figure 8), and substantial bedrock outcrops upon which the bridge is built. The bridge sits on part Lots 25 and 26, Concession 9, in the Geographic Township of Ramsay, northwest of the town of Almonte, in Lanark County (Map 3). The study area is bounded on all sides by forested Canadian Shield and the Mississippi River flows through the centre (Figure 9 and Figure 10).

### **4.3.2 Physiography**

The study area lies within the Ottawa Valley Clay Plains (Map 4). The region is characterized by poorly drained topography of clay plains interrupted by ridges of rock or sand that offer moderately better drainage. This topography was influenced by the post glacial sequence

Champlain Sea (ca. 10,500 to 8,000 B.C.) that deposited these clay soils and were subsequently covered by sand deposits from the emerging freshwater drainage. Some of these sands were eroded to the underlying clay deposits by later channels of the developing Ottawa River. The sections to the north and south of the Ottawa River are characteristically different. On the Ontario side there is a gradual slope, although there are also some steep scarps (Chapman and Putnam 2007:205–208).

The soil in the study area consists of the Snedden series on the eastern side of the bridge and the Monteagle series on the western side (Map 4). The Snedden series are imperfectly drained soils that have developed on grayish brown silty clay loam materials. Water movement is slow through the fineness of the clay and runoff is slow due to the slight slopes of the gently undulating topography. Snedden soils are used for livestock raising, dairying, pasture, and the main crops grown are cereal grains and hay. The Monteagle soils are typically well drained and have a rolling topography that are often associated with rock outcrops and steeply sloping ravines. The parent material is a gravelly sandy loam glacial till with large stones and boulders while the soils are composed of an organic layer atop light grey and dark reddish-brown horizons. These soils often have the texture of sandy loam which has limited value for agricultural purposes due to its stony nature (Gillespie and Wicklund 1964:29–30).

The surficial geology of the study area consists of Precambrian rock (Map 4). Also known as the Canadian Shield, this geology is characterised by mainly bare, hummocky, rolling, or hilly rock knob upland, including areas thinly veneered by unconsolidated sediments up to 2 metres thick.

A natural water source in the vicinity of the study area is the Mississippi River which the study area straddles at the Blakeney Rapids.

#### 4.3.3 Previous Archaeological Assessments

No previous assessment of the study area or adjacent property has been completed.

#### 4.3.4 Registered Archaeological Sites and Commemorative Plaques

A search of the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database indicated that there are no registered archaeological sites located within 1 km of the study area.

There is a commemorative plaque near the western side of the study area within the Blakeney Park maintained by the Almonte Fish & Game Association. The plaque summarizes the history of the village of Blakeney and provides a map of the historic buildings. The plaque was erected by the Ramsay Women's Institute with permission from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in 2010.

### 4.4 Archaeological Potential

Potential for pre-contact Indigenous sites is based on physiographic variables that include distance from the nearest source of water, the nature of the nearest source/body of water, distinguishing features in the landscape (e. g. ridges, knolls, eskers, and wetlands), the types of soils found within the area of assessment and resource availability. The study area has potential for pre-contact Indigenous archaeological resources due to the Mississippi River crossing through study area.

Potential for historical Euro-Canadian sites is based on proximity to the historical transportation routes, historical community buildings such as schools, churches, and businesses, and any

known archaeological or culturally significant sites. The subject property has historical Euro-Canadian archaeological potential due to the early patent date of the lot, the ownership by the Snedden family, and the proximity to historical transportation routes and multiple historical industrial and community buildings.

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## 5.0 Field Methods

Construction plans and mapping were not complete at the time of assessment. To ensure an appropriate area was assessed that encompasses construction impacts, a buffer of 10 m either side of the road centreline (a 20 m wide corridor) with 25 m long extensions beyond the ends of the bridge was created (Map 1). The study area (0.3 ha) consists of the bridge (crossing the Mississippi River), embankments on either end to support the bridge that sit on substantial bedrock outcrops, and the approaches.

The study area extends over the water course of the Mississippi River. The Blakeney Bridge construction project which triggered this archaeological assessment includes no in-water impacts and therefore a Marine Archaeological Assessment was not required by the approval authority.

The entire 0.3 ha study area was excluded from Stage 2 testing as per Section 2.1, standards 2.a.i, ii, iii, and b (MCM 2011) (Map 3). The study area is a mix of:

- 0.16 ha, 53% - Permanently wet areas (river and a small wet area) (Figure 11)
- 0.02 ha, 7% - Exposed bedrock (Figure 12)
- 0.01 ha, 3% - Steep slopes (Figure 13 and Figure 14), and
- 0.11 ha, 37% - deep disturbances from previous road and bridge work and construction (Figure 15 and Figure 16)

All field activity and areas were mapped using a handheld BadElf Surveyor GPS with WAAS and DGPS enabled, paired to an iPhone with ArcGIS Field Maps. Average accuracy at the time of survey was approximately 2 m horizontal. Study area boundaries were determined in the field using the road allowance with 25 m extensions on the approaches, digitized and overlaid in ArcGIS Field Maps on an iPhone providing real-time positioning.

Field notes and photographs of the property were taken during the visit to document the current land conditions as per Standard 1.a., Section 7.8.6 (MCM 2011). Locations of all photos included in this report are shown on Map 3, identified by figure number. Site photograph, document, and map catalogues appear in Appendices A, B, and C.

The fieldwork was undertaken on November 15, 2022. Weather conditions were sunny and cool with a temperature around -2° C. Ground conditions were excellent with no excessive ground cover to impede assessment as per Section 2.1. Standard 3 (MCM 2011). Permission to access the property was provided by the owner without restrictions.

## **6.0 Record of Finds**

The study area consists of a bridge crossing the Mississippi River and embankments on either end to support the bridge that sit on substantial bedrock outcrops. The Stage 2 archaeological assessment found the entire area to be of no or low archaeological potential due to a combination of disturbance, steep slope, bedrock, and permanently wet conditions.

Despite Stage 1 research finding the area to have archaeological potential, no archaeological potential is present in the study area. No remains, artifacts, or cultural soil profiles were encountered during the Stage 2 investigations of the study area.

Photograph record, maps, and field notes are listed in Appendix A to C.

## **7.0 Analysis and Conclusions**

This Stage 1 background assessment concluded, that based on criteria outlined in the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Section 1.3, 2011), the study area had both pre-contact Indigenous as well as historical Euro-Canadian archaeological potential.

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment found the entire area to be of no or low archaeological potential as per Section 2.1, Standards 2.a. and b. (MCM 2011) and the entire area was excluded from assessment.

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## **8.0 Recommendations**

The Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment resulted in no indication of archaeological potential or remains with cultural heritage value or interest within the study area.

Based on the results of this investigation it is recommended:

1. No further archaeological study is required for the subject property as delineated in Map 1.

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## 9.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

- a. This report is submitted to the *Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism* as a condition of licencing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. 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 Citizenship and Multiculturalism, 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.
- b. It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licenced 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*.
- c. 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 licenced consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- d. 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.

## 10.0 Closure

Matrix has prepared this report in a manner consistent with the time limits and physical constraints applicable to this report. No other warranty, expressed or implied is made. The strategies incorporated in this study comply with those identified in the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011) however; archaeological assessments may fail to identify all archaeological resources.

The present report applies only to the project described in the document. Use of this report for purposes other than those described herein or by person(s) other than Lanark County or their agent(s) is not authorized without review by this firm for the applicability of our recommendations to the altered use of the report.

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This report is pending Ministry approval.

If you have any questions or we may be of further assistance, please contact the undersigned.

Matrix Heritage Inc.



Ben Mortimer, M.A., A.P.A.  
Senior Archaeologist



Andrea Jackson, M.Litt.  
Staff Archaeologist

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12.0 Images



Figure 1: Remains of Blakeney Woollen Mill, to the east of the study area, 1925.

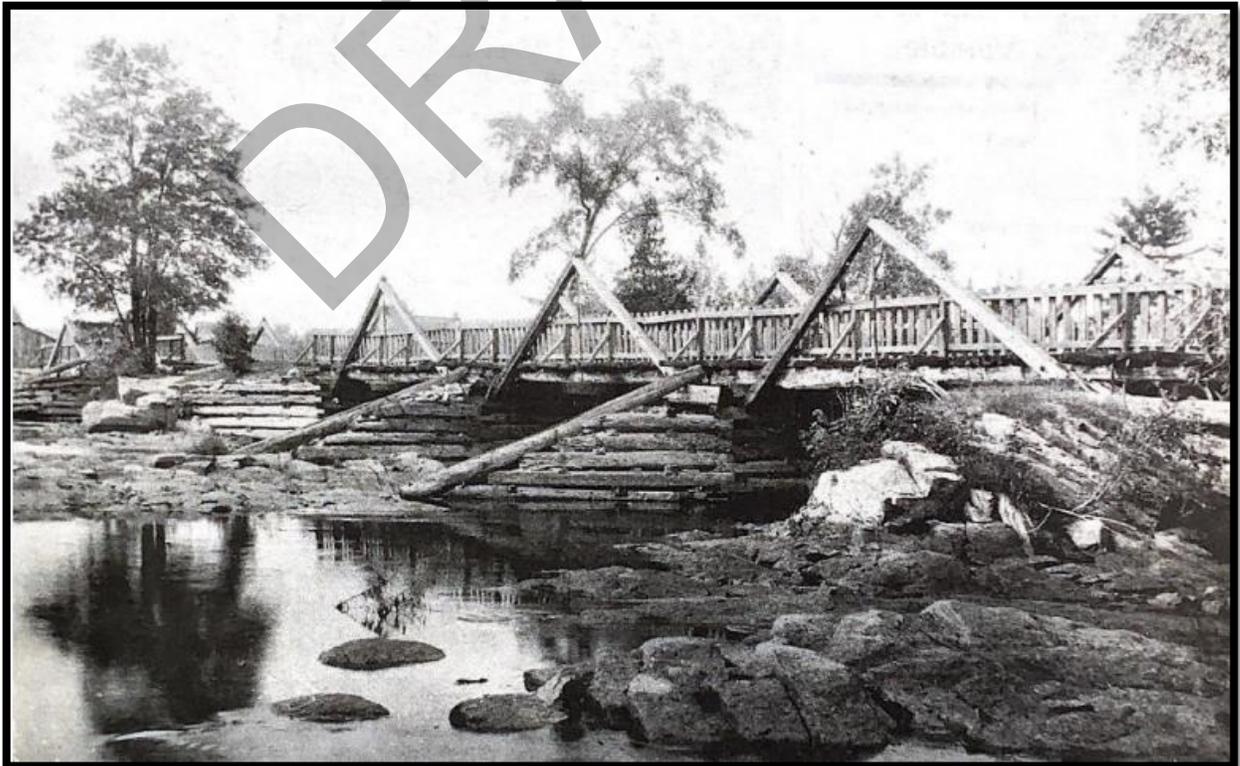


Figure 2: Timber bridge at Blakeney, 1910.



**Figure 3: Eastern side approach to the bridge. (MH1149-D003)**



**Figure 4: Western approach to the bridge. (MH1149-D014)**



**Figure 5: Bridge supports and previous disturbances. (MH1149-D006)**



**Figure 6: Embankments and bridge support abutments on bedrock. (MH1149-D009)**



**Figure 7: Bridge support on western side. (MH1149-D011)**



**Figure 8: Embankment for road construction on edge of bridge. (MH1149-D012)**



Figure 9: Centre of study area, bridge crossing the Mississippi River. (MH1149-D010)



Figure 10: General view of study area from the western side with wet area along river edge. (MH1149-D016)



**Figure 11: General view of the study area, bridge crossing the Mississippi River, with marshy area along river in foreground. (MH1149-D017)**



**Figure 12: Steep bedrock outcrop with no soils in the middle of the river that the bridge is built on. (MH1149-D007)**



**Figure 13: Steep embankment on the approach to the bridge on the eastern side leading to study area. (MH1149-D002)**



**Figure 14: Artificial berm on southern side of the road, approach to the eastern side of the bridge. (MH1149-D004)**



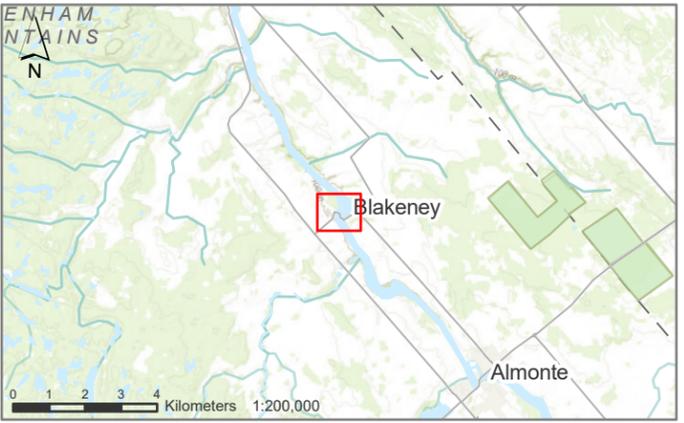
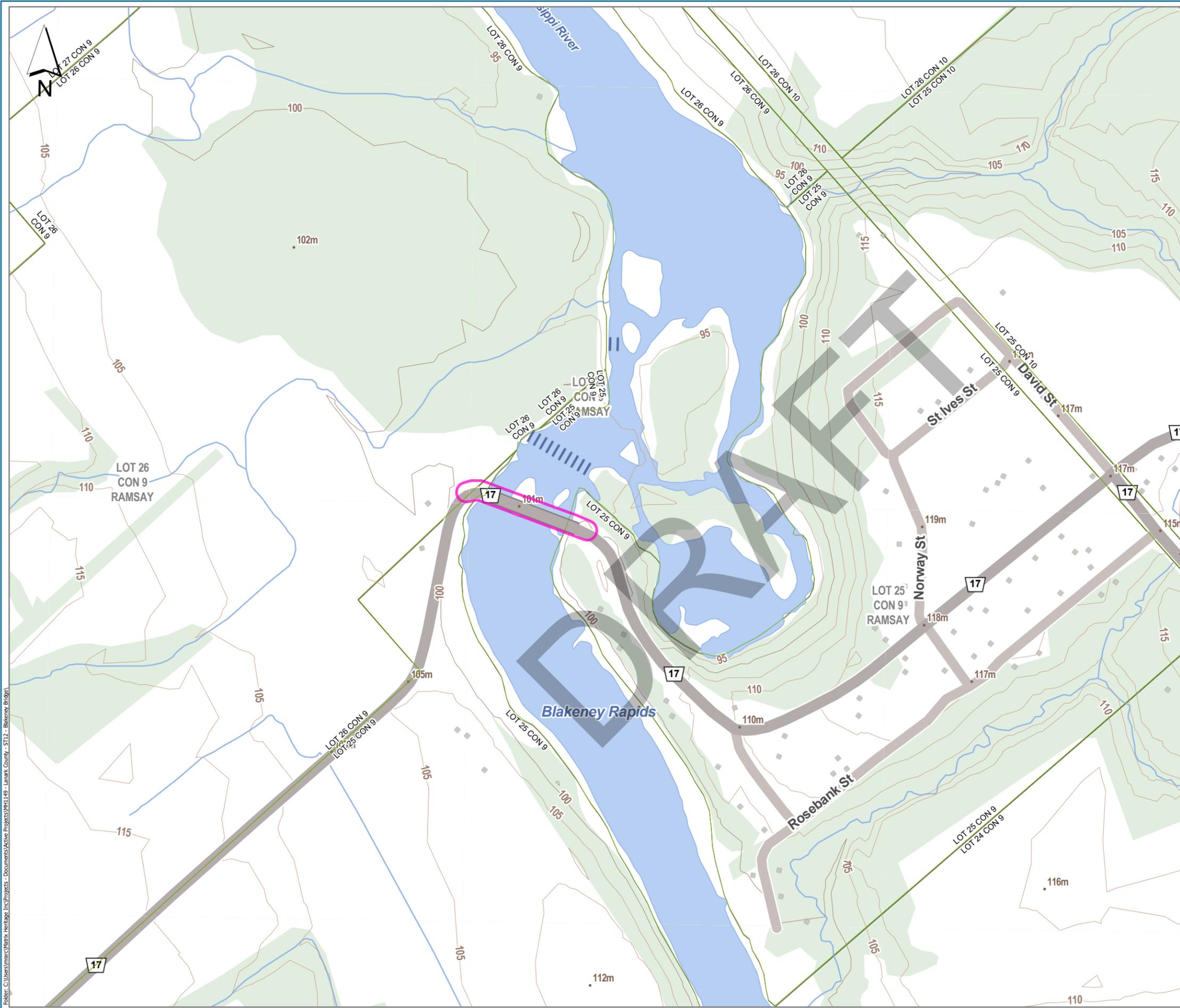
**Figure 15: Gravel driveway disturbance beside bridge. (MH1149-D005)**



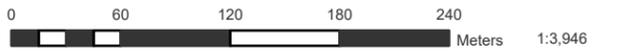
**Figure 16: Gravel driveway into park on the western side of the bridge. (MH1149-D013)**

**13.0**Maps

DRAFT



LEGEND  
 STUDY AREA



REFERENCES:  
 ESRI, NASA, NGA, USGS, CITY OF OTTAWA, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, ESRI CANADA, ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, SAFEGRAPH, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, NRCAN, PARKS CANADA

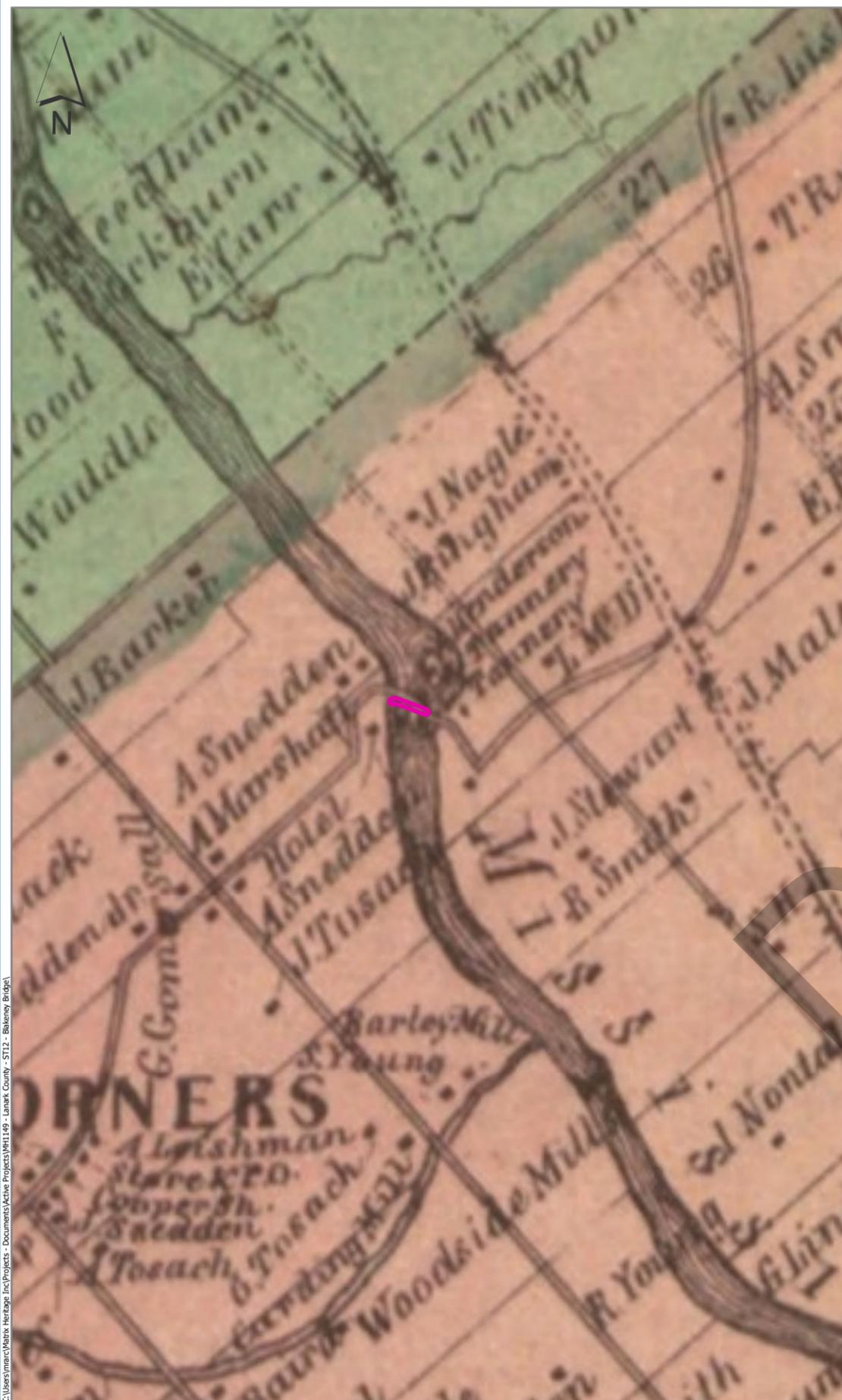
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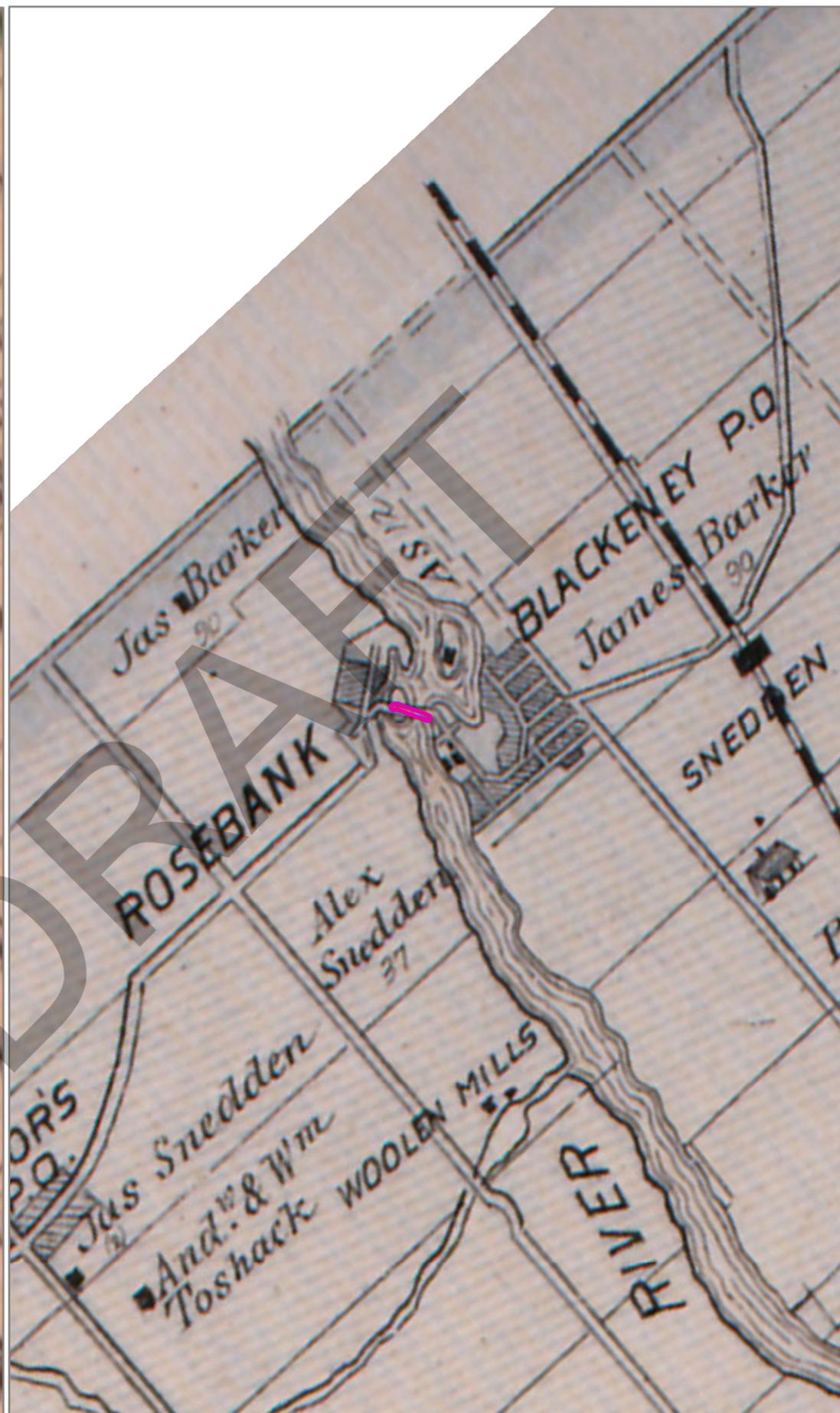
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 BLAKENEY BRIDGE, ONTARIO

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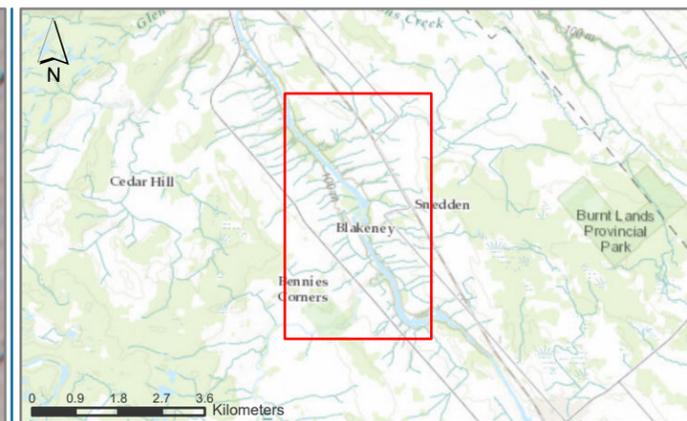
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WALLING 1863



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LEGEND

 STUDY AREA



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REFERENCES:  
CITY OF OTTAWA, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, ONTARIO MNR, ESRI CANADA, ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS, AAFC, NRCAN

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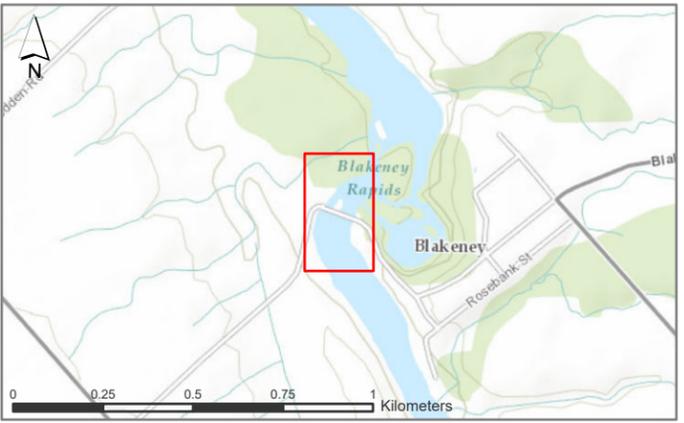
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PROJECT  
STAGE 1 & 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
BLAKENY BRIDGE, ONTARIO

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**LEGEND**

STUDY AREA

**METHODOLOGY**

EXCLUDED - LOW TO NO POTENTIAL

DEEPLY DISTURBED

PERMANENTLY WET

STEEP SLOPES (>20 DEGREES)

EXPOSED BEDROCK

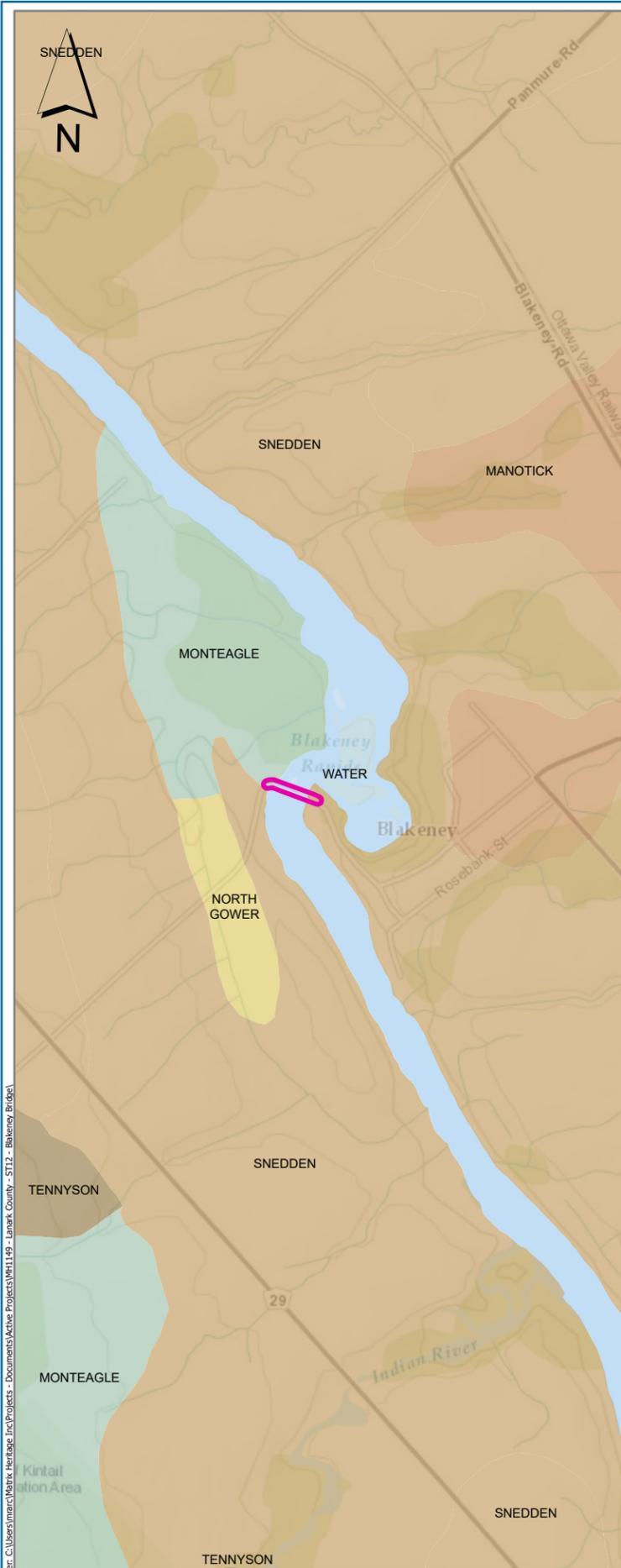
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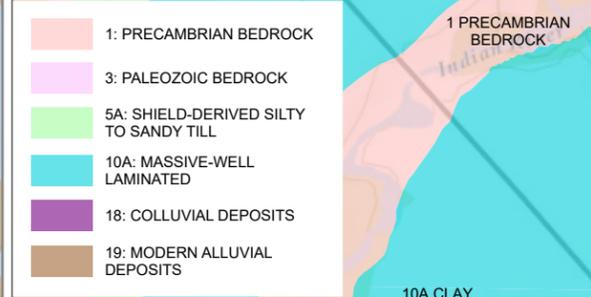
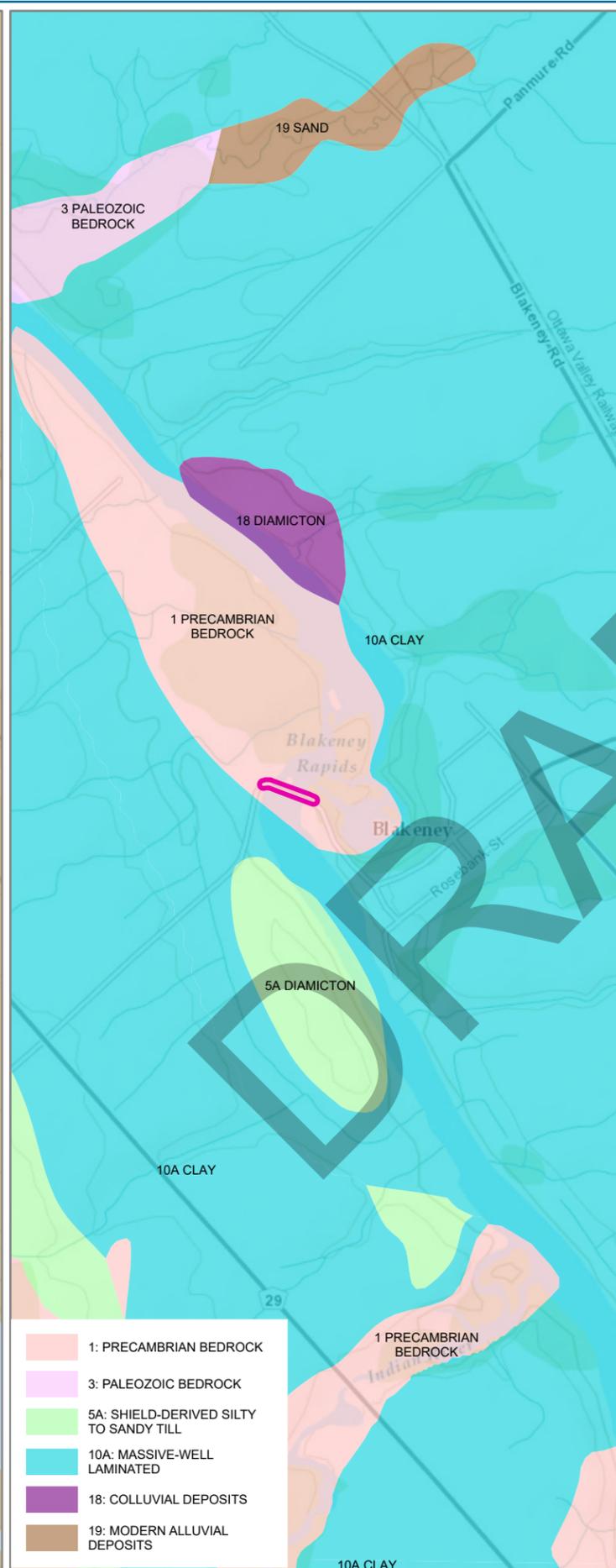
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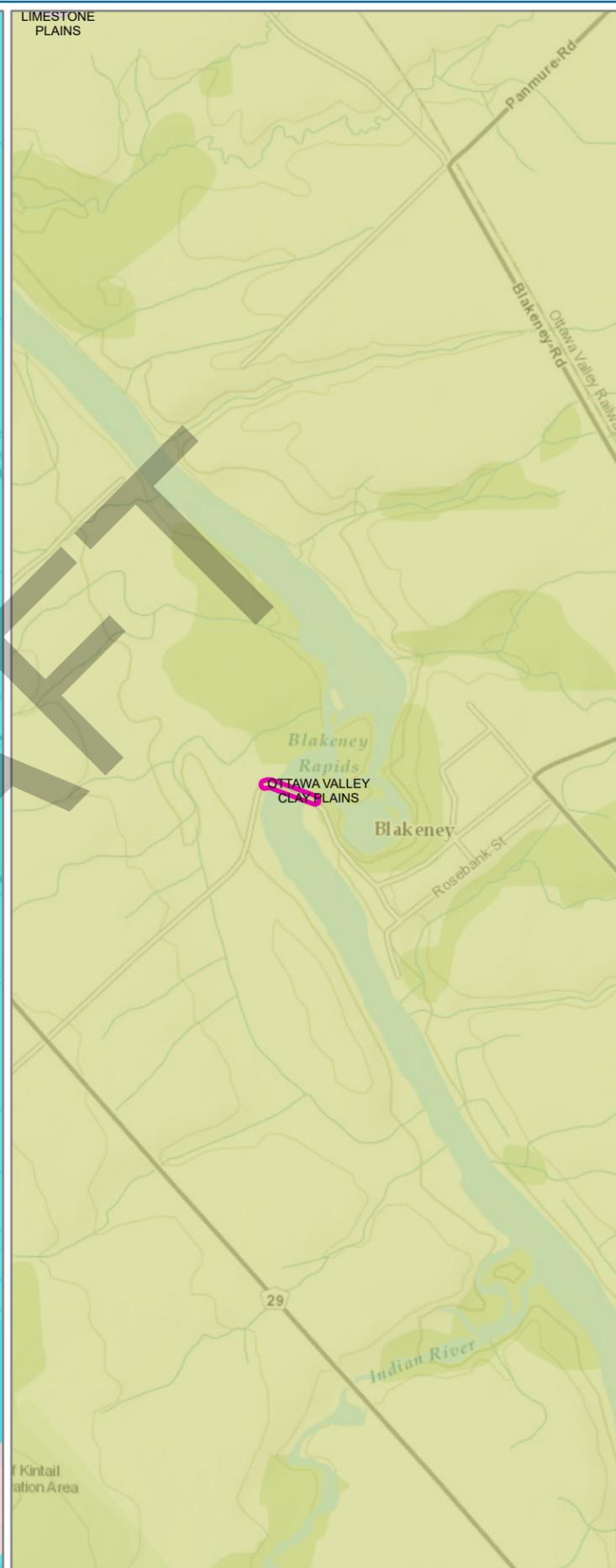
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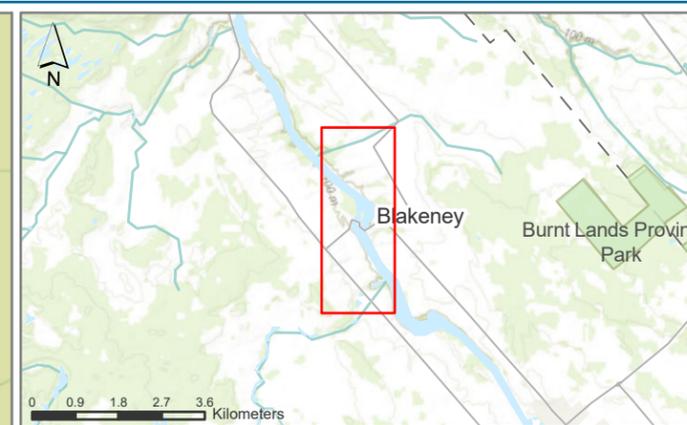
SOIL SURVEY COMPLEX



SURFICIAL GEOLOGY



PHYSIOGRAPHY



LEGEND  
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PROJECT  
 STAGE 1 & 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
 BLAKENEY BRIDGE, ONTARIO

TITLE MAP  
**SOILS AND GEOLOGY** 4

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### Appendix A: Photo Catalogue

Photo Number	Description	Bearing	Photographer	Date
MH1149-D001	Embankment on eastern side of bridge	24	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D002	Embankment on eastern side of bridge	13	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D003	Eastern approach of bridge	306	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D004	Embankment on eastern side of bridge	284	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D005	Small driveway and edge of eastern approach of bridge	273	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D006	Eastern edge of bridge, showing steep embankment and footing	335	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D007	Eastern edge of bridge, showing steep embankment and footing, bedrock	75	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D008	View of the bridge from the eastern side	300	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D009	Northern side of the bridge, small island in the middle	348	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D010	Northern side of the bridge, facing east	91	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D011	Western end of the bridge, showing supports	169	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D012	Embankment at western side of the bridge	268	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D013	Western approach to the bridge	202	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D014	Western approach to the bridge	129	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D015	View of the bridge from the western side	98	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D016	View of the bridge from the western side	97	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D017	View of the bridge from the western side	123	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D018	View of the bridge from the western side	140	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22
MH1149-D019	River overview	79	B. Mortimer	2015-11-22

### Appendix B: Map Catalogue

Map Number	Description	Created By
1	Location/Development Map	B. Mortimer
2	Historic	B. Mortimer
3	Conditions, Methods, and Photo Key	B. Mortimer
4	Soils and Geology	B. Mortimer

### Appendix C: Document Catalogue

Project Number	Description	Created By
MH1149	Blakeney Bridge – Stage 12 Field Notes (One Note File)	B. Mortimer