

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Chapter 6 – Section 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

SUMMARY

An Archaeological Management Plan (“AMP”) is a planning tool for conserving and protecting fragile archaeological resources.

The AMP is to be used by the Region, local municipalities, development proponents and the public in screening and identifying areas with archaeological resource potential in advance of municipal development approvals.

An AMP is a proactive planning approach to archaeological resource management that is consistent with Provincial policy. The Province reports that site disturbance from land development remains one of the greatest threats to our shared, non-renewable archaeological resources. Proactive and coordinated municipal planning approaches to protecting the physical remains of our past histories and cultures is paramount

- The Region has retained Archaeological Services Inc. (“ASI”), an industry-leader in archaeological management plans, to develop the first Region-wide AMP for Niagara. ASI has developed more than thirteen AMPs for local and Regional municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area, including Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Town of Fort Erie.
- An AMP helps municipal planners screen planning applications for archaeological potential using a predictive modelling based map which shows areas of archaeological potential. This is a first step in the archaeological review process to be completed prior to any *Planning Act* application submission. The AMP helps planners make consistent decisions about when to request an archaeological assessment by a licensed archaeologist in support of a development application under the *Planning Act*.
- An AMP provides a “How to Guide” for municipal planners, outlining how and when to engage Indigenous communities as part of the archaeological review process, requirements under the Provincial Standards and Guidelines for Consulting Archaeologists, and the stages of archaeological assessment necessary to support approval of a development application.
- Consultation on the AMP with local municipalities, stakeholders, the public and Indigenous partners is a critical component in the AMP’s development. Consultation is invaluable in identifying, conserving and managing the Region’s cultural heritage resources. Niagara Region will continue to engage on the AMP using a variety of consultation activities and formats.
- The AMP will be complete in Q3 and endorsed by Council in September, 2021.



- In addition to the AMP as a planning tool, the AMP will include policy directions for inclusion in the Official Plan.

Integration Guide for Sub-sections Reported in PDS 17-2021	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> SABR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aggregates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Heritage incl.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Systems Options
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District/Secondary Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change

- The above integration table will be completed at the policy development stage.

OVERVIEW

The Archaeological Management Plan's key purpose is to ensure a more coordinated and consistent system for accurately screening *Planning Act* applications for significant archaeological resources prior to development occurring.

The AMP is an industry-leading planning tool in archaeological resource conservation and developed with current best science in the field of predictive modelling, providing accurate and timely data for land use planners and decision-makers regarding areas of archaeological resource potential. The use of advance screening with science-based predictive modeling reduces the threat to unearthed archaeological artifacts and sites that connect the community to our past histories and cultures.

The *Provincial Policy Statement* (2020) promotes municipal archaeological management plans for the conservation of archaeological resources.

Policy 2.6.4 sets out that:

Planning authorities should consider and promote archaeological management plans and cultural plans in conserving cultural heritage and archaeological resources.

Language promoting municipal AMPs is included in other Provincial Plans, including *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, the *Greenbelt Plan* and the *Niagara Escarpment Plan*.

From the outset of Official Plan preparation, cultural heritage resource conservation was a key priority. Specifically, development of an Archaeological Management Plan for

enhanced conservation and protection of Niagara's fragile, non-renewable resources was identified as an opportunity to improve the planning service.

Regional Planning staff have been responsible for archaeological review as part of the transfer of development review function by the Province in the early 1990s. As part of the delegation of responsibility, the Province has continued to maintain oversight of the archaeological review process by prescribing provincially-approved screening criteria in check-box form for municipal planning staff's screening of *Planning Act* applications.

Since the 1990s, archaeological consultants specializing in AMPs have been developing modelling techniques that combine environmental reconstruction with provincially-established archaeological screening criteria, registered archaeological sites, and burial and cemetery data to produce maps of areas of archaeological potential. These maps and visual representation of areas of archaeological potential are an invaluable tool for conserving and protecting archaeological resources.

In April 2019, the Region retained Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI) to complete the first Region-wide AMP for the Official Plan. As an industry-leader, ASI has developed more than thirteen AMPs for local and Regional municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area, including Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Town of Fort Erie.

As a planning tool, an AMP helps municipal planners screen planning applications for archaeological potential using a predictive modelling generated map which shows areas of archaeological potential. The AMP then helps planners make consistent decisions about when to request an archaeological assessment by a licensed archaeologist in support of a development application under the *Planning Act*. In this way, the AMP is a kind of "How to Guide" for municipal planners, which outlines how and when to engage Indigenous communities as part of the archaeological review process, requirements under the Provincial Standards and Guidelines for Consulting Archaeologists, and the stages of archaeological assessment necessary to support approval of a development application.

Consultation on the AMP with local municipalities, stakeholders, the public and Indigenous partners is a critical component in the development of the AMP and is invaluable in identifying, conserving and managing the Region's cultural heritage resources.

The Region will continue to engage on the AMP using a variety of consultation activities and formats. The AMP project will continue to host virtual open houses, post information on the new Niagara Official Plan Sharing Portal for Indigenous partners, meet with Indigenous communities, engage in stakeholder sessions, as well as meet with local

municipalities and provincial ministry representatives to gain valuable feedback on the AMP project.

Key project deliverables of the AMP include:

- AMP Background Report – Complete
- AMP Consultation Report – Q2 2021
- Draft AMP, including draft mapping Q3 2021
- Final AMP – Q3 2021

Staff will bring forward the final AMP with mapping for Council endorsement in Q3 2021. The AMP will offer future recommended policy directions for inclusion in the draft consolidated Niagara Official Plan anticipated for Q4 2021.