

Executive Summary

Archaeological sites throughout the Regional Municipality of Niagara (hereafter Niagara Region) are the physical remains of the 13,000-year settlement history. They represent a fragile and non-renewable cultural heritage resource that must be conserved and protected. This Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) is a planning tool intended to be used by Niagara Region, Local Area Municipalities, development proponents, and the public. It brings a consistent policy-based approach to the conservation of archaeological resources across the Niagara Region. This AMP includes a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based Archaeological Potential Map.

This AMP presents planning and management guidelines and an archaeological potential model that are consistent with provincial legislation and policy. In Canada, the conservation of cultural heritage resources—including archaeological resources—is a matter of **Indigenous, Provincial, and National interest**. This AMP addresses archaeological resource planning within the Provincial, Regional, and Local context.

The AMP has three major objectives:

- To outline policy, process, and implementation tools for managing archaeological resources in the planning approvals and environmental assessment processes consistent with provincial legislation and policy and reflecting best-practice archaeological management.
- To compile detailed, reliable inventories of registered and unregistered archaeological sites within Niagara Region; and,
- To develop an archaeological site potential model specific to the Niagara Region, based on known site locations, past and present land uses, environmental and cultural-historical data, and assessment of the likelihood for the survival of archaeological resources in various contexts.

The role of the Niagara Region and the Local Area Municipalities in the conservation of cultural heritage resources is crucial. Implementation of matters of provincial interest, planning, and land use control are predominantly municipal responsibilities and the impact of municipal land use decisions on archaeological resources is substantial. Municipally approved developments constitute most land-disturbing activities in Ontario. The primary means by which these resources may be protected is through the planning and development approvals process.

The AMP provides a series of policy and process recommendations within the planning and development approvals process that will ensure the conservation of archaeological

resources within the Region. Some of these recommendations have already been integrated into Niagara Region's new Official Plan. The AMP policy recommendations and process are consistent with the [Provincial Policy Statement](https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020) (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020>) (2020) and the [Ontario Heritage Act](http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/heritage_act.shtml) (http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/heritage_act.shtml) (2005). This AMP includes recommended policies, processes and standard clauses for Niagara Region and local municipalities.

Through its GIS mapping of known archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential, the AMP allows the planning staff at Niagara Region, the Local Area Municipalities, property owners, developers, and prospective land buyers, to know if and where archaeological investigations are necessary prior to land disturbing activities. The AMP aims to reduce the risk of unexpected discovery of archaeological remains during land altering activities (such as disturbing an Indigenous burial site or a nineteenth century building foundation) and enhance public awareness of archaeological resources. The AMP also allows residents to know and celebrate their community's history more completely.

The archaeological potential model was developed based on an inductive and deductive approach that predicts where pre-contact Indigenous sites are most likely situated and utilizes detailed historical research to map archaeological potential. The pre-contact Indigenous archaeological site potential layer is based on data from the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database maintained by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) as of September 2, 2020. The identification of areas in the historical archaeological site potential layer involved the digitization of residential, commercial, and industrial features and transportation routes from historical mapping and cemeteries. The historic archaeological potential layer captures all the historical archaeological sites previously discovered in the Region.

In addition to the 13,000 years of Indigenous settlement, the history of Niagara Region is fundamentally linked to early historical relations and treaties between the Crown and First Nations. Niagara Region was included in the scope of the Nanfan Treaty signed by the British and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (Five Nations) in 1701. Later, the colonial period was ushered in by the acquisition of settlement lands by the British crown through the Treaty at Niagara in 1764 (renegotiated 1781) and the Between the Lakes Treaty #3 of 1792, both signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. It is therefore appropriate that development of Niagara Region's AMP benefitted from engagement with descendant Indigenous communities. The AMP recommends continued engagement with Indigenous communities in Niagara Region's archaeological review and planning application processes in accordance with Section

2.6.5 of the Provincial Policy Statement (2020), and appropriate policies have been incorporated into the Region's new Official Plan.

In having developed this archaeological management plan, the Regional Municipality of Niagara joins with other major municipalities in Ontario in adopting the best approach available to ensuring archaeological site conservation within its jurisdiction.