

July 24, 2025
Microsoft Teams

Grey County Archaeological Management Plan

County Council



phone | 519-641-7222
website | www.tmhc.ca

Email: Grey_AMP@tmhc.ca

TMHC Inc.
1108 Dundas Street, Unit 105
London, ON | N5W 3A7

Presentation Agenda

- Archaeology in Grey County
- Goals of the Archaeological Management Plan
- Archaeological Potential Model
 - Methodology for Data Collection
 - Compilation of Archaeological Planning Layer
 - Use in a Planning Context
- Current Status and Next Steps



Archaeology in Grey County: Significance

- **199** registered archaeological sites in Grey County
 - Includes Indigenous and historic settler sites
 - **91** are Indigenous villages, camps, burial sites
 - Evidence of continuous Indigenous presence from at least the end of the last ice age to present day
- Some of the oldest and most significant sites in



Registering Archaeological Sites

Significant archaeological sites are registered in a provincial database and given a Borden number (e.g., BdGv-3) which identifies the site within a geographic block. There are over 37,000 registered sites in Ontario.

A sample of the 'Archaeological Site Record' form from the Ontario Ministry of Culture. The form is titled 'Archaeological Site Record' and 'Formule de renseignements - site archéologique'. It includes fields for Borden number (BoHe-7), Sequential number (7), and Researcher's site number (Site 1). It also has sections for Site Identification, Site Location, and Site Description. The form is in both English and French.

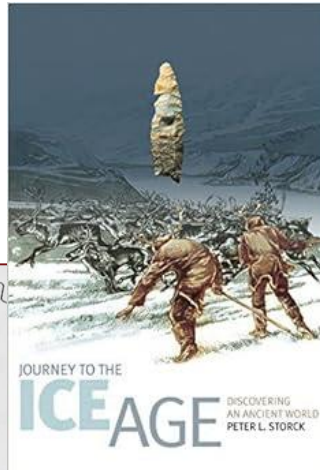
Early Archaeological Conservation

- Done by researchers, avocationals and concerned citizens, often under the umbrella of the provincial ministry responsible for archaeology
- No municipal framework at that time and no legislation to support the conservation of archaeological resources or requirement for archaeological assessment

William Fitzgerald

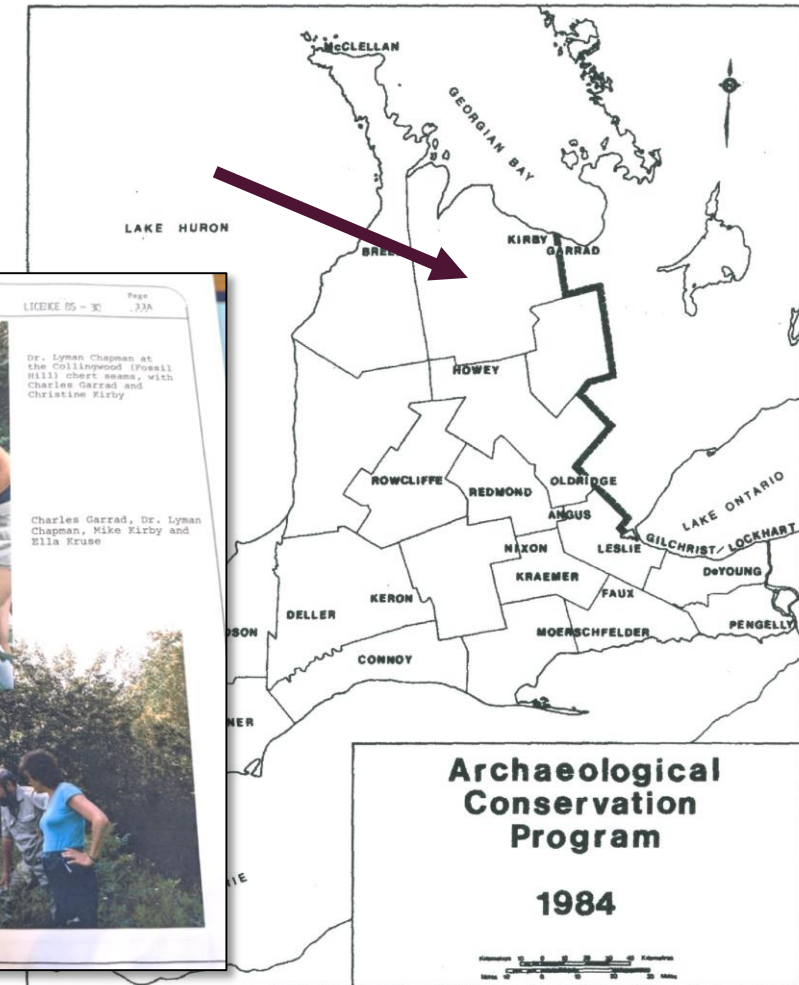


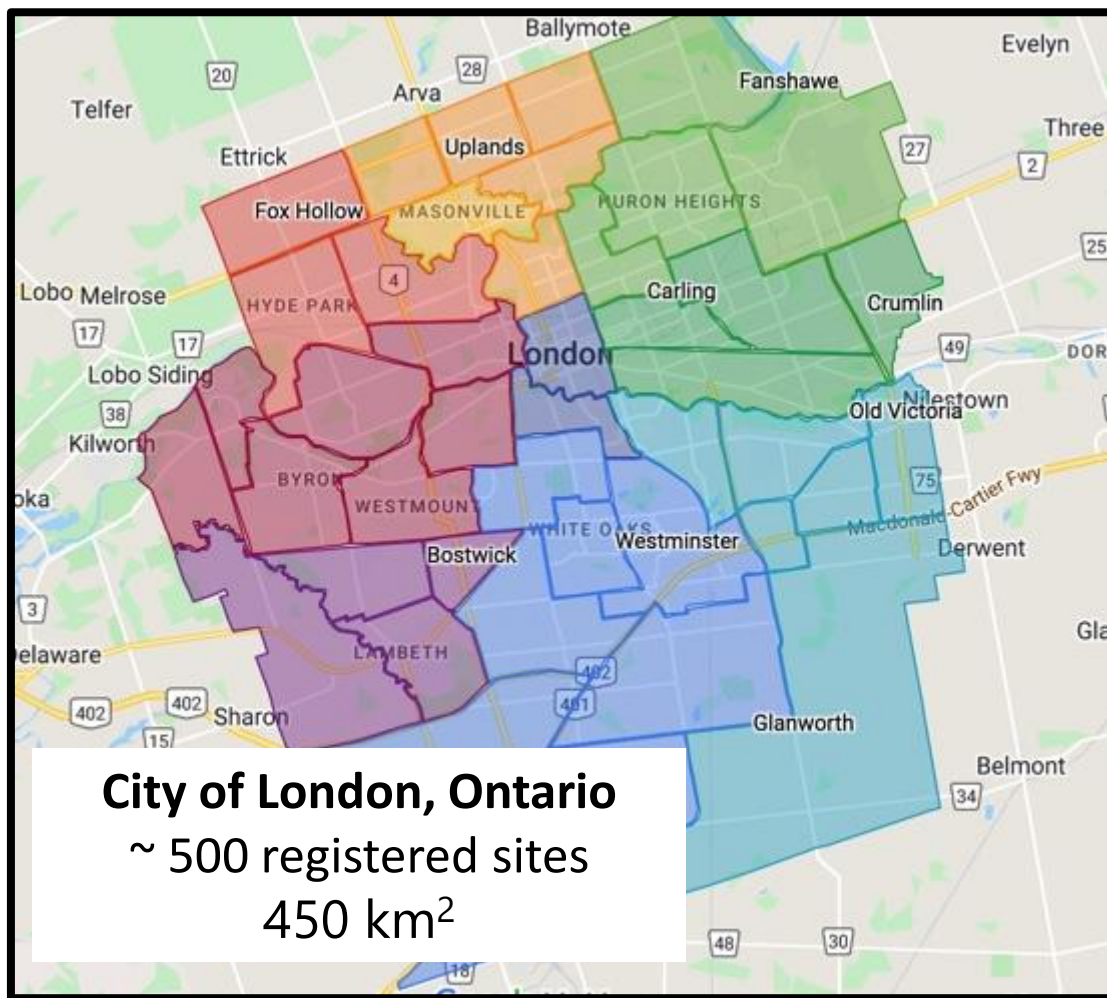
Peter Storck



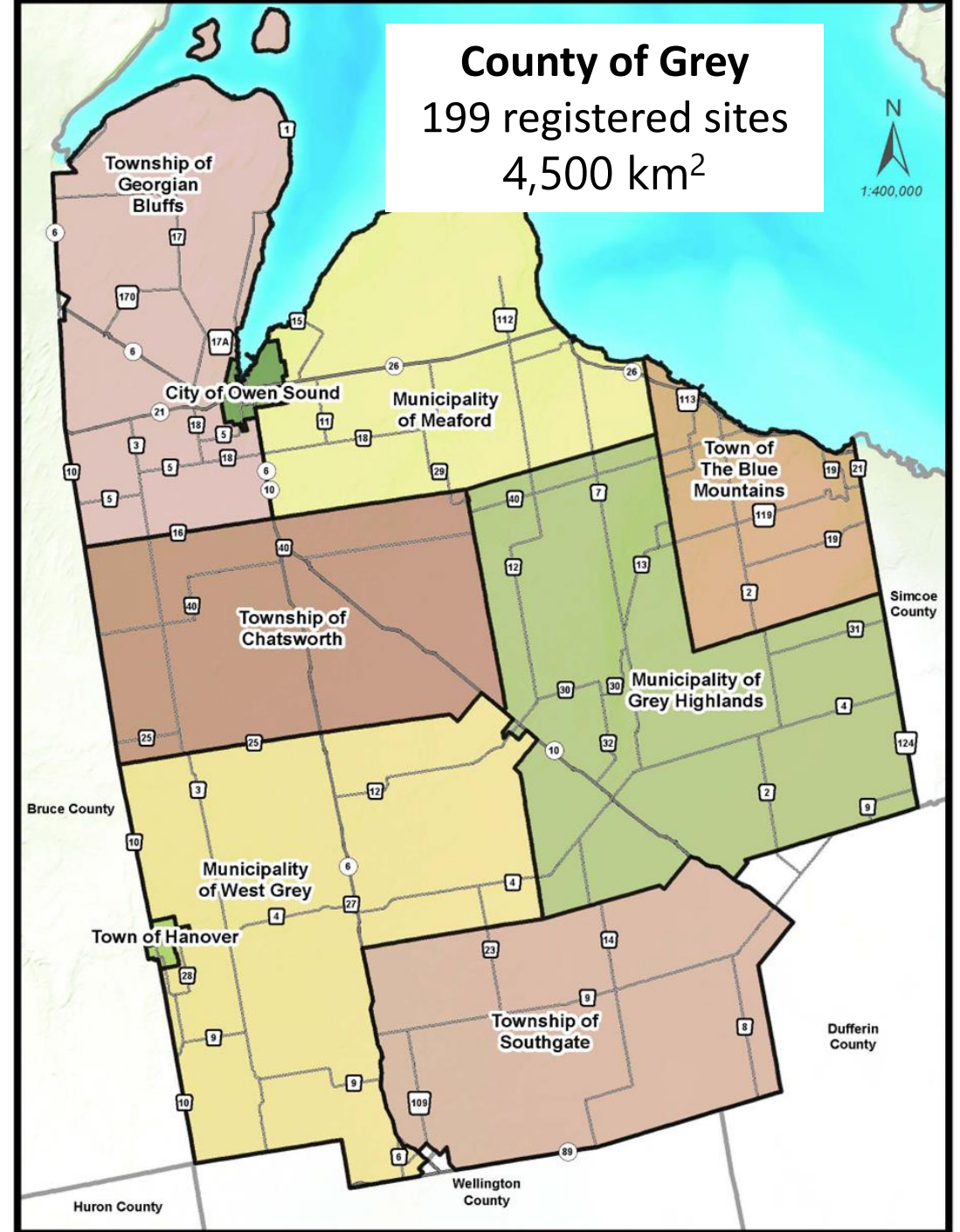
Charlie & Ella Garrad

Mike & Christine Kirby





Number of registered sites in Grey County is very small relative to the overall land mass and many attributed to early conservation efforts.



Registered Sites in Grey County

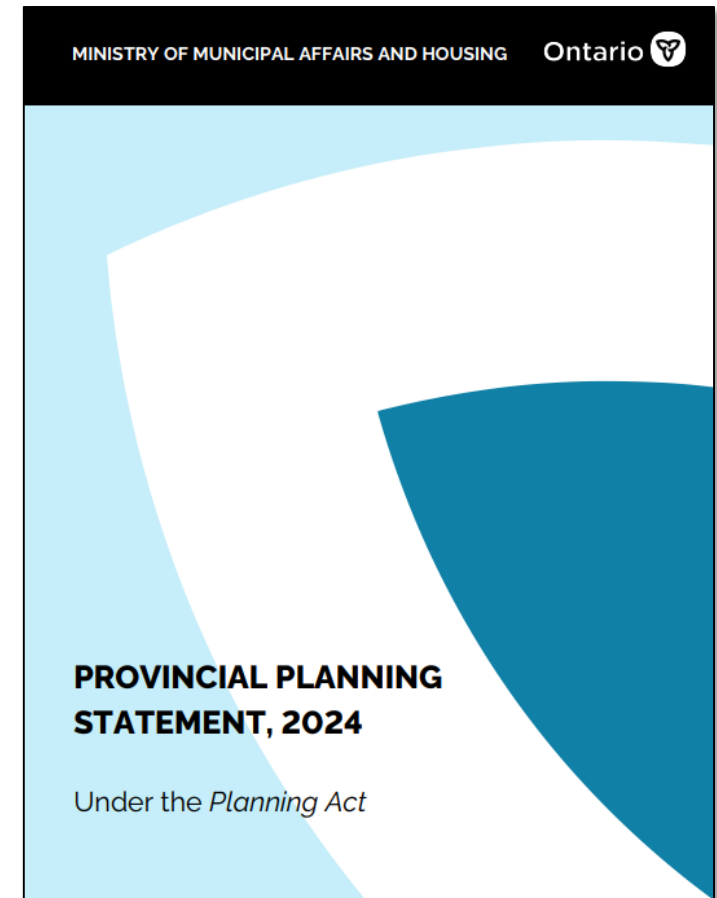
- Primarily in highly developed areas (e.g. Meaford, Thornbury) where archaeological sites have been most threatened or assessments required
 - Where archaeological studies have occurred (e.g., Beaver Valley) or been required and there was intensive Indigenous interaction with the land
 - Where Indigenous communities have expressed interest
- Some lower tier municipalities enact archaeological requirements more than others and there is uncertainty about when an assessment is required.



Current Municipal Responsibilities

Legislation since the late 1990s makes municipalities in Ontario responsible for archaeological conservation:

- *Provincial Planning Statement (PPS)*
- *Planning Act*
- *Ontario Heritage Act,*
 - Overseen by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism



Challenges in Managing Archaeology

- Identifying areas of interest – where are they?
 - Information is hard to access, not consistently updated, not consolidated in one place
- Uncertainty about when and where to require archaeological assessment
 - Approached differently by planners, lower and upper tier municipalities
 - Requirement varies based on type of application, legislative requirements
- Consequences can be difficult to navigate, particularly as Indigenous communities assert their treaty and territorial rights

Provincial Planning Statement 2024

*4.6.2 Planning authorities shall not permit development and site alteration on lands containing **archaeological resources** or **areas of archaeological potential** unless the significant archaeological resources have been conserved.*

Goals of the AMP

- Archaeological Management Plans (AMPs) help municipalities meet responsibilities under the *Planning Act* and *Provincial Planning Statement* (2024)
 - develop a good understanding of where archaeological resources are or could be located
 - create a clear process for addressing archaeological interests in the planning context
 - establish a consistent and transparent process for requiring archaeological assessments as part of *Planning Act* and other municipal projects and approvals
 - define a better process for engaging Indigenous communities when and where their heritage is affected by land use changes approved by the



County

Provincial Planning Statement 2024

4.6.4a Planning authorities are encouraged to develop and implement archaeological management plans for conserving archaeological resources.

Indigenous Interests in Archaeology

- Requirement for early engagement of Indigenous communities also identified in the *PPS* 2024

GREY COUNTY PLANNING

Planning authorities **shall engage early** with Indigenous communities and ensure their interests are considered when identifying, protecting and managing archaeological resources, built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.

Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



What is an Archaeological Management Plan?

- A planning tool for municipalities to manage (i.e., identify, conserve, protect) **archaeological resources** within their jurisdiction.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

artifacts, archaeological sites and marine archaeological sites, as defined under the Ontario Heritage Act. The identification and evaluation of such resources are based upon archaeological assessments carried out by archaeologists licensed under the Ontario Heritage Act. (PPS 2024)



Collaborative Process

- Engagement throughout data collection and development
 - Technical Advisory Committee
 - Indigenous and Descendant communities
 - Stakeholders
 - Museums
 - Local historical and archaeological organizations
 - Community groups
 - Local archaeologists



Components of an AMP



Archaeological Potential Model –
GIS-Based Map or Planning Layer



Policy, Planning, and
Implementation Framework



Responsibility:



Responsibility:



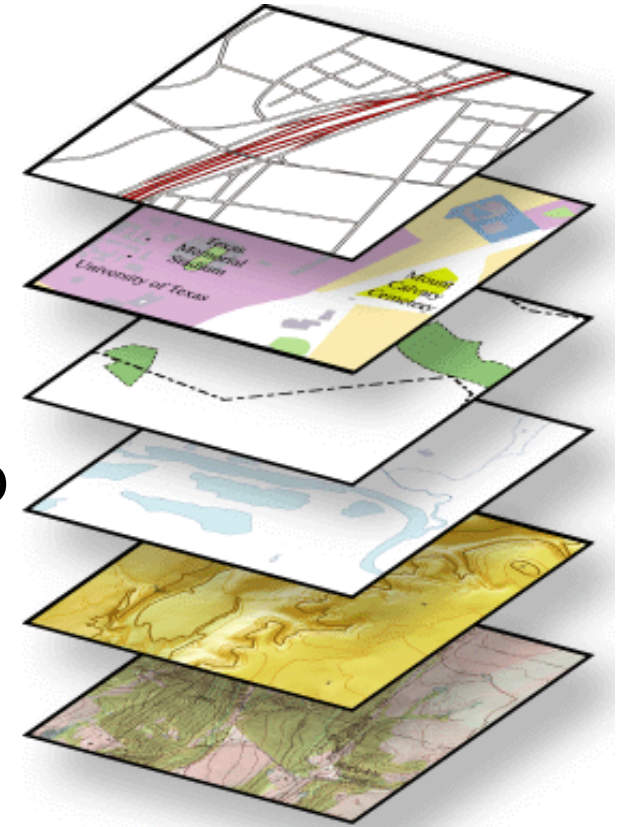


Grey County AMP Archaeological Potential Model: Methodology



Building the Archaeological Model

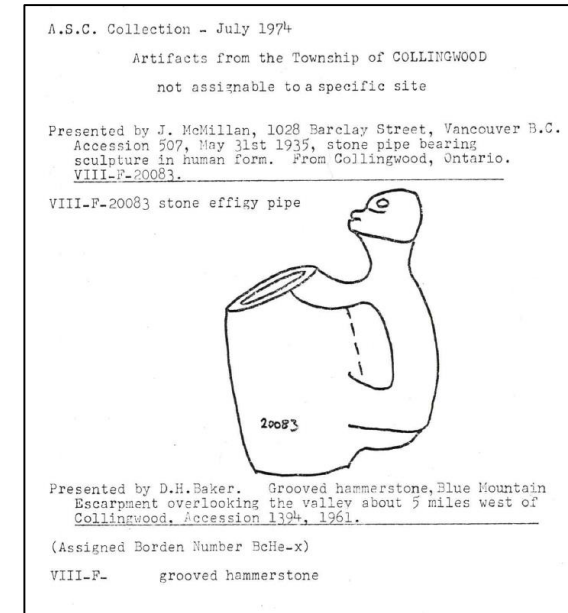
- **Step 1: Map archaeological sites in the County**
- Step 2: Map areas of archaeological potential
- Step 3: Map areas previously studied
- Step 4: Map and remove areas where there is no further archaeological interest
 - Cleared by previous studies OR where deep land impacts have removed the possibility for archaeological resources to be present



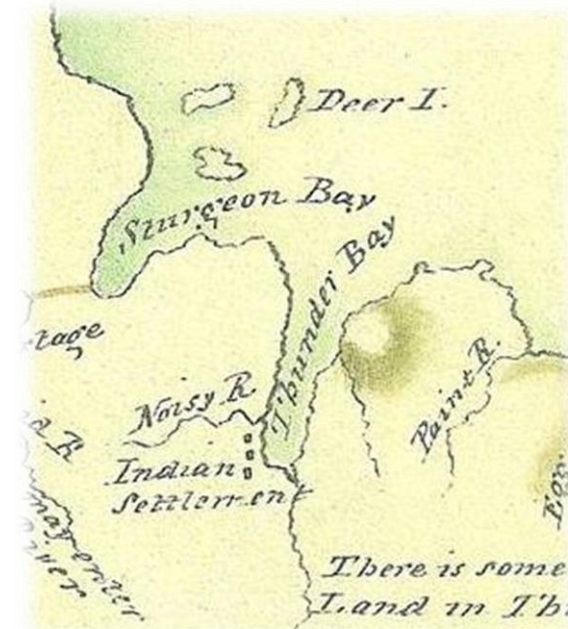
Map Archaeological Sites

- Map registered sites (confirmed by an archaeologist)
- Map known but unregistered sites
 - Unregistered finds by archaeologists
 - Potential sites described in historic records and museum collections (e.g., maps, newspapers, accounts yet verified by an archaeologist)

The Petun Project 1974
Charles Garrad



Close Up of 1788
Gother Mann
Sketch of Lake Huron



(United Kingdom National
Archives CO 700 CANADA 38E)



Survey and
Informant
Interviews

Informant: Mrs. Melba Croft
114 7th Street E.
Apt. 1
Owen Sound, Ontario
N4K 1H7
376-4725

Type of Source: secondary

Information: completed history of Owen Sound in
1962 for the period 1788-1900

- : in 1615 Champlain made reference to his
map of journeys "from Wabonosh to
Saugeen", and mentioned Indian villages
in the area
: Wabonosh was the modern Balmy Beach
- : from senior citizens she learned that an
early Indian ossuary lay in the region
of Wm. Morrison's modern day residence
on the west shore
: supposed to predate the 1840

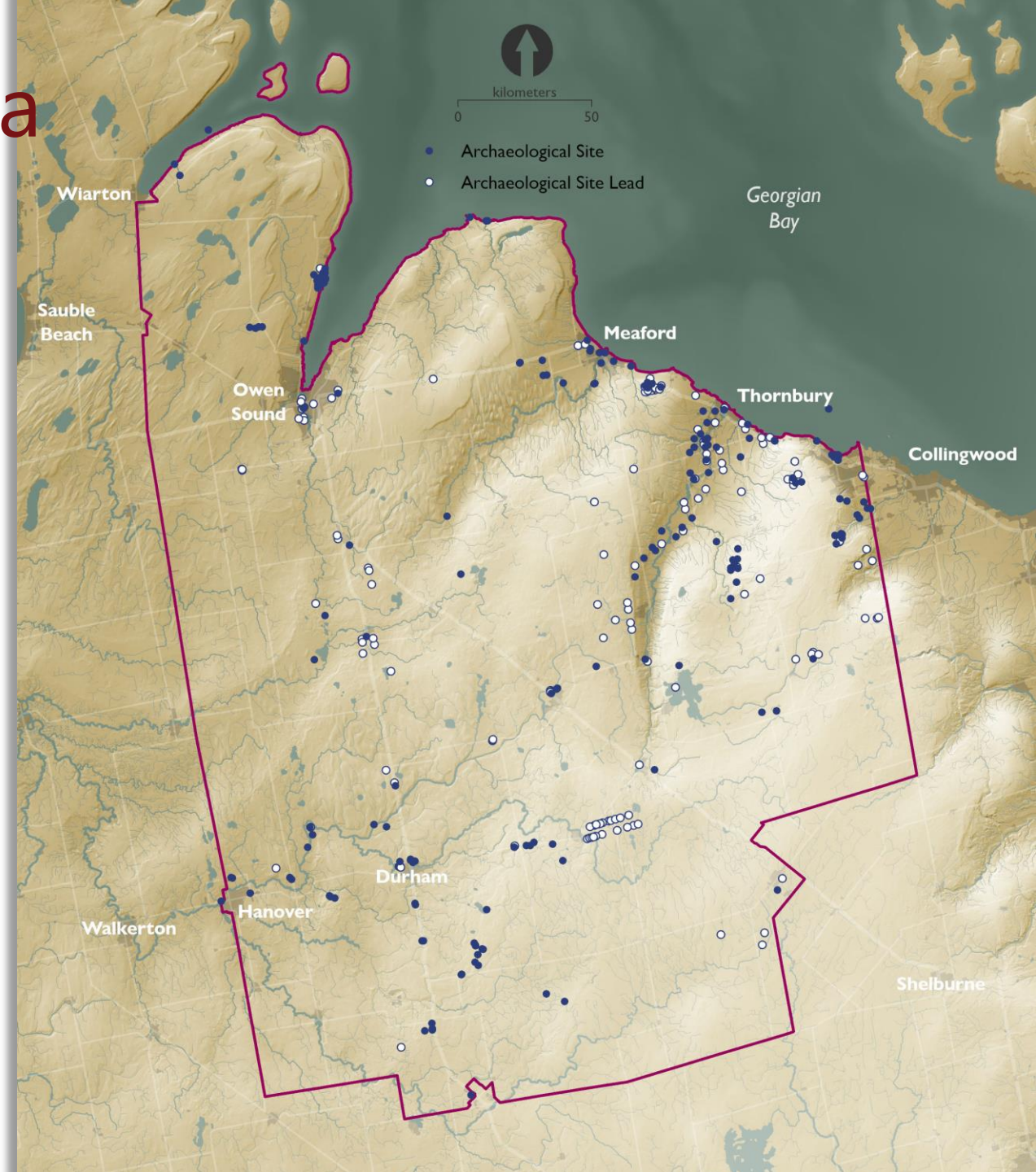
Archaeological Sites Data

Archaeological Sites	number
Received from Ministry	159
Added to Ministry data	40
Total	199
with Indigenous component	91
with historic component	101
unknown	19

Unregistered Sites, Findspots and Site Leads	number
Total	146
with Indigenous component	79
with historic component	85

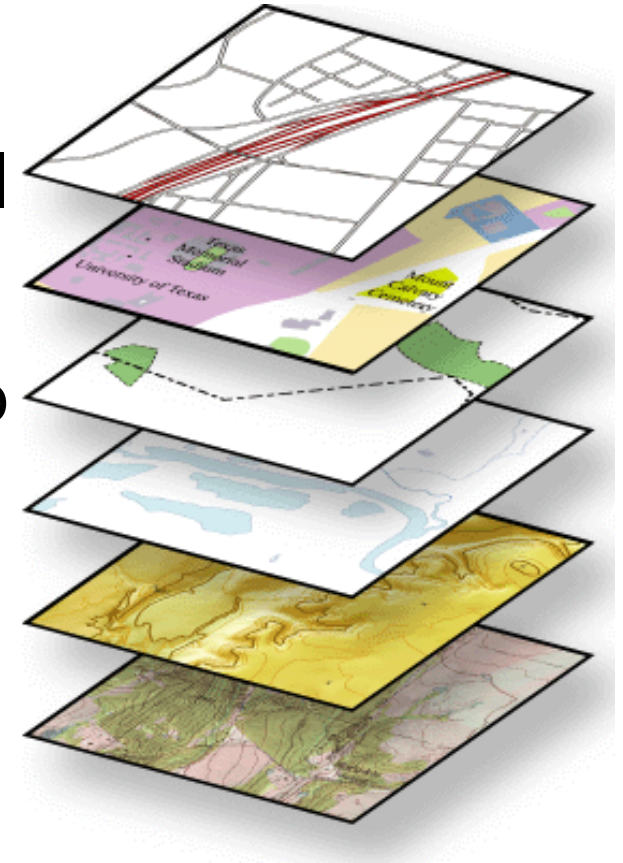


Site locations from provincial database were examined and corrected to most accurate mapping available.



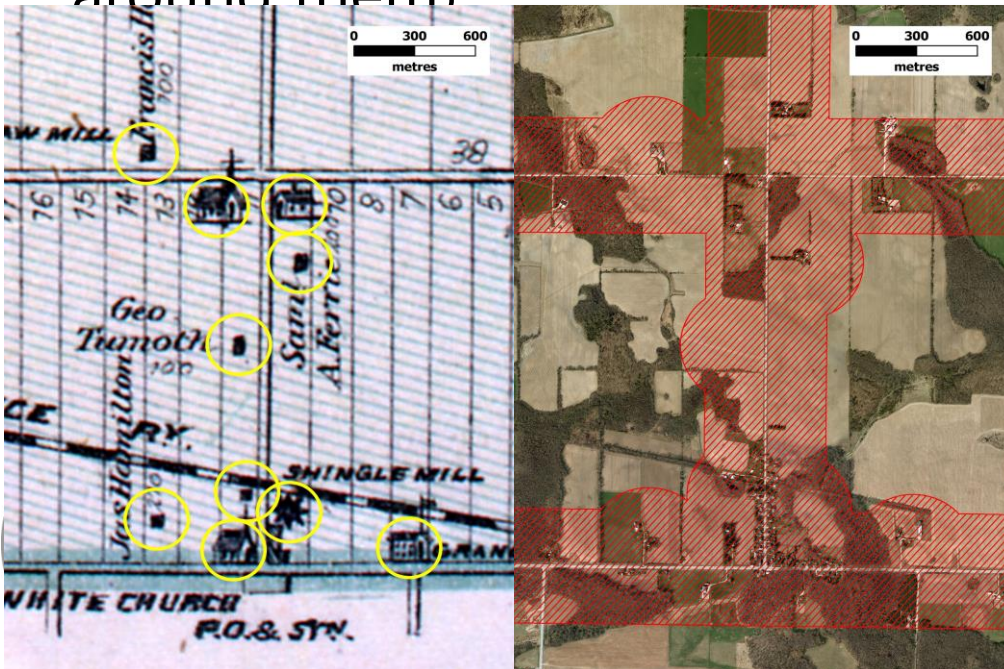
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Areas of Archaeological Potential

- Predict where archaeological sites might exist based on key features that influenced Indigenous and early Settler land use
- Baseline criteria established by regulatory Ministry
- Map features and add a distance buffer (e.g., 50 m, 300 m around them)



Example Criteria:

Watercourses

Wetlands

Glacial Shorelines

Historic Settlement Features and
Transportation Routes (e.g.,
roads, railways, churches, mills)

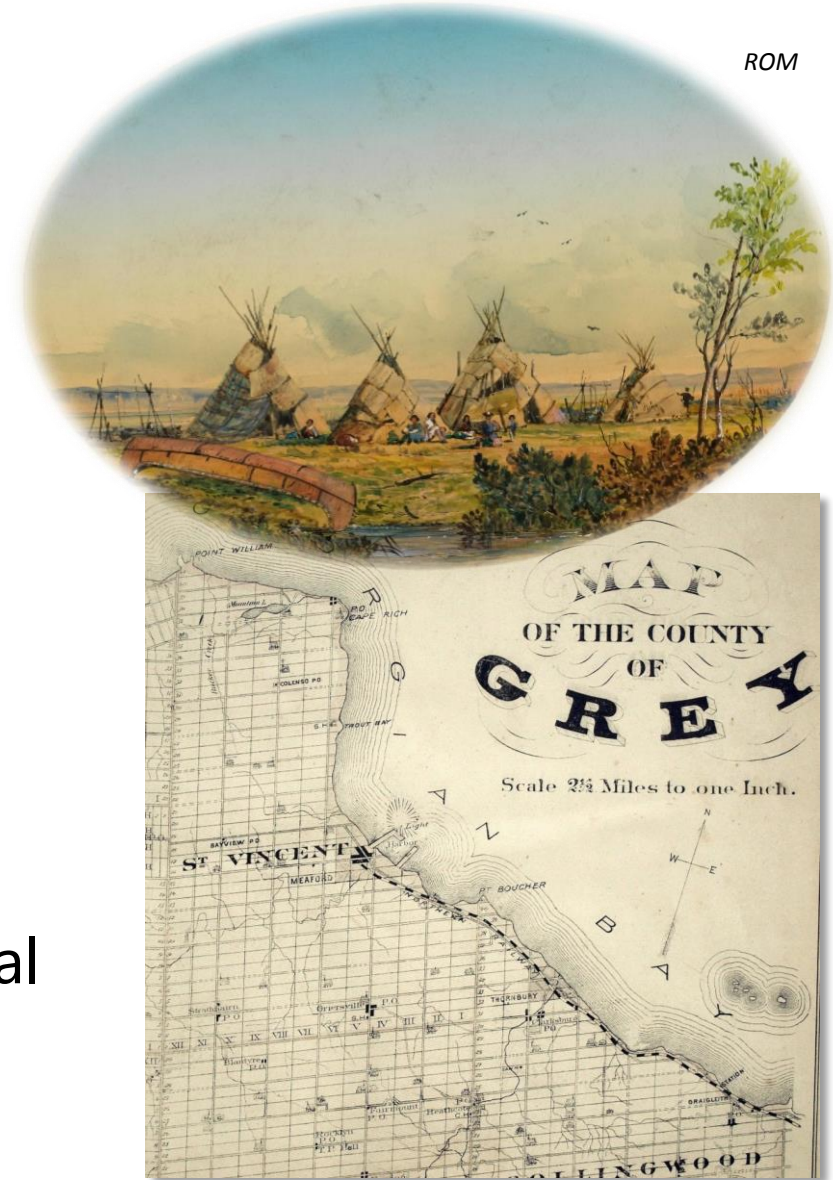
Indigenous Trails, Portages

Resource Areas



Layers of Archaeological Potential

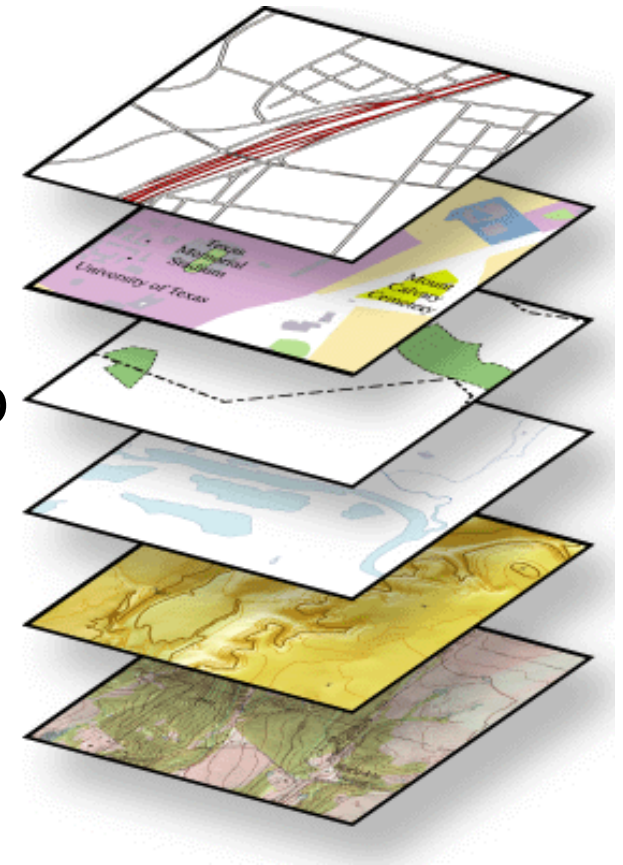
- Indigenous archaeological potential
 - Based on Indigenous traditional knowledge
 - Seasonal cycles oriented around resources (hunting, fishing, medicinal and edible plants)
 - Heavily centred on water (past and present) "water is life"
 - Indigenous archaeological sites
- Historic or municipal settlement era potential
 - Based on colonial land-based management
 - Settlement lots, early buildings, industry
 - Heavily centred on transportation routes (roads, railway)
 - Historic or municipal settlement era archaeological sites



ROM

Building the Archaeological Map

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Archaeological Assessments in Grey

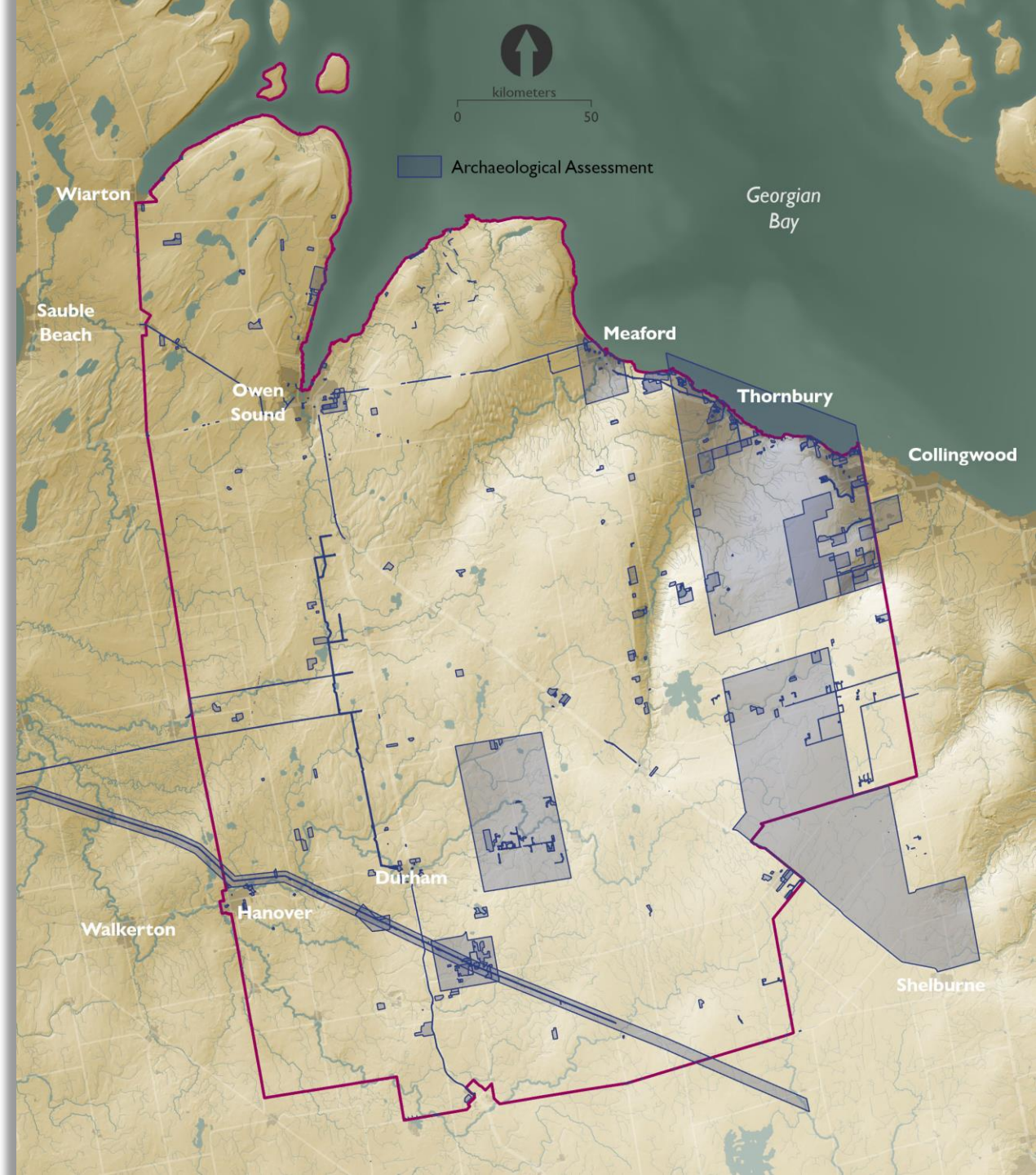
- Map location and status of previous work

Previous Archaeological Assessments	Number
Total	567
obtained and reviewed	551
could not be obtained	16

Previous Archaeological Assessments	Number
Total	567
Completed prior to 2011 S&Gs	231
Completed after 2011 S&Gs	336

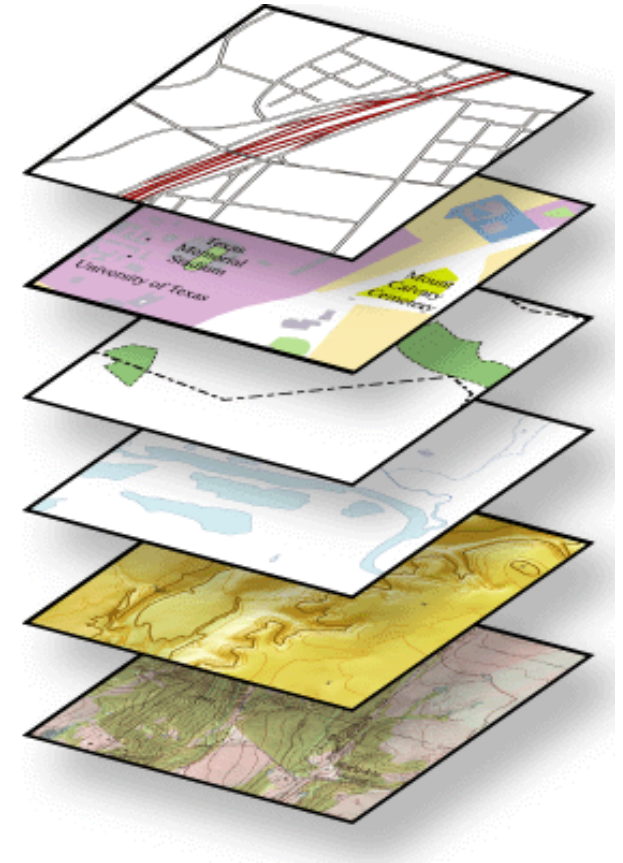


The 2011 *Standards & Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* created the current requirements for archaeological assessments. Pre-2011 assessments typically are non-compliant with current requirements.



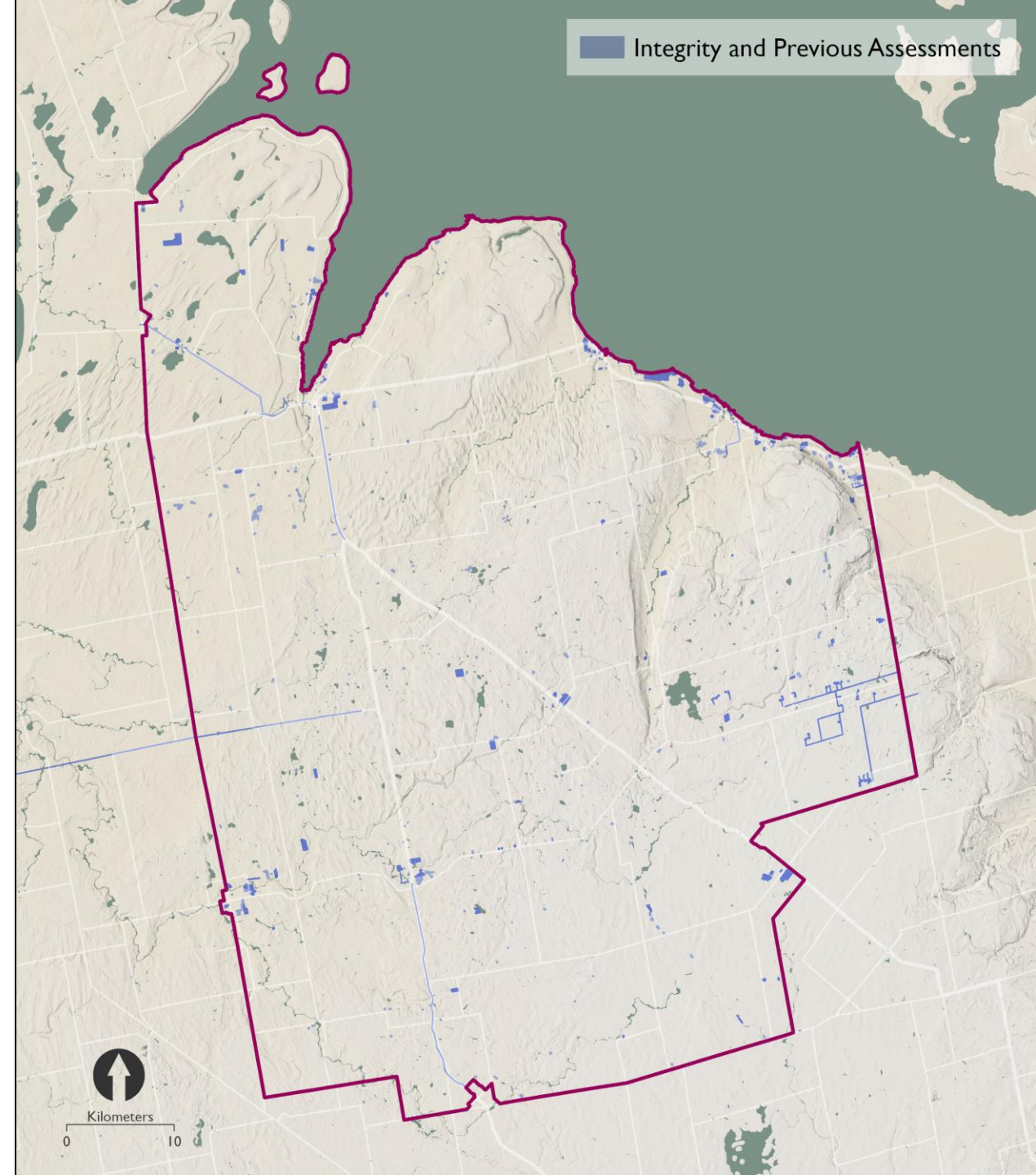
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Areas of No Further Interest

- Previous assessments
 - Lands fully investigated and no further archaeological interest exists
- Prior substantial and deep disturbance
 - Where no integrity exists and no likelihood of finding intact archaeological resources (e.g., aggregate pits)



Area Removed due to Archaeological Assessment
Area Removed due to Extensive Disturbance

Integrity

- Determined through careful analysis of aerial imagery
 - Focussed on aggregate areas
 - Urban lands outside of historic settlement areas
 - Cautious approach



COMPONENTS OF THE GREY COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL LAYER

Indigenous Archaeological Potential

+

Historic Archaeological Potential

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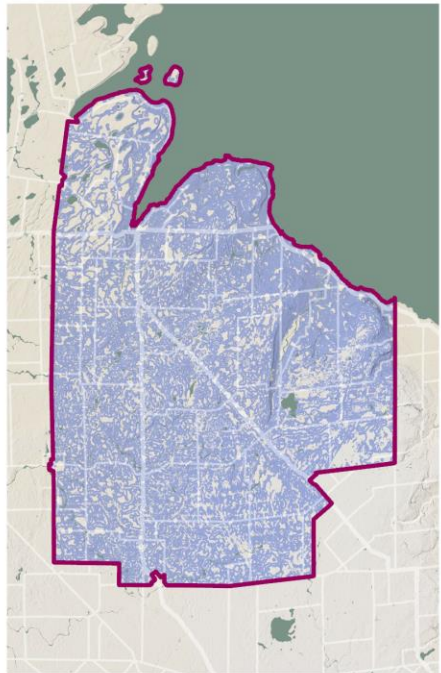
Integrity and Previous Assessment Layer

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Lands Outside of County Jurisdiction

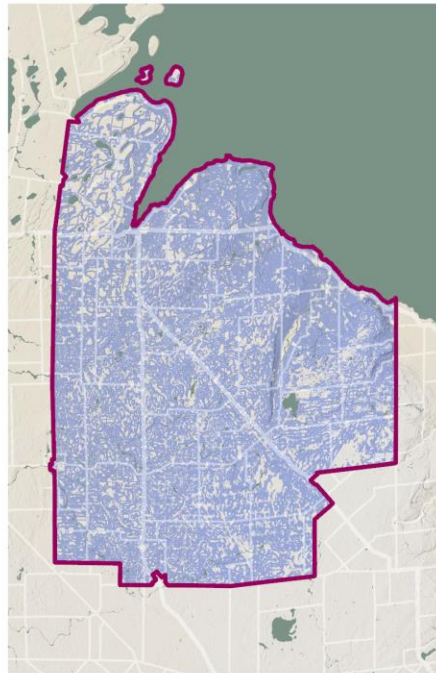
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Composite Archaeological Potential



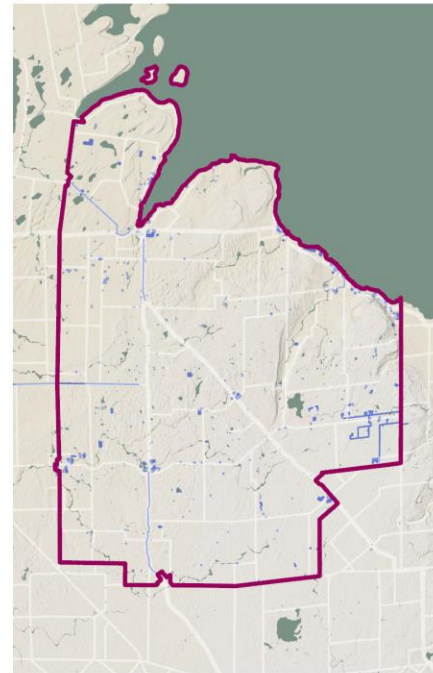
Includes:

- registered Indigenous archaeological sites and site leads;
- burial sites;
- lands encompassing or surrounding physical and environmental features that may have influenced Indigenous land use
 - o water sources (e.g., lakes, rivers, wetlands);
 - o glacial shorelines and beaches;
 - o eskers, ridges; and
- trails and portages.



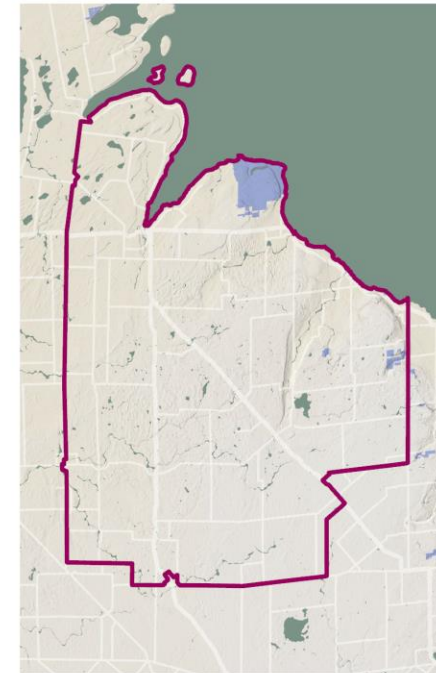
Includes:

- registered historic archaeological sites and site leads;
- cemeteries;
- early buildings, settlement areas, mills and industrial sites;
- early transportation routes
 - o trails and portages;
 - o roads; and
 - o railways.



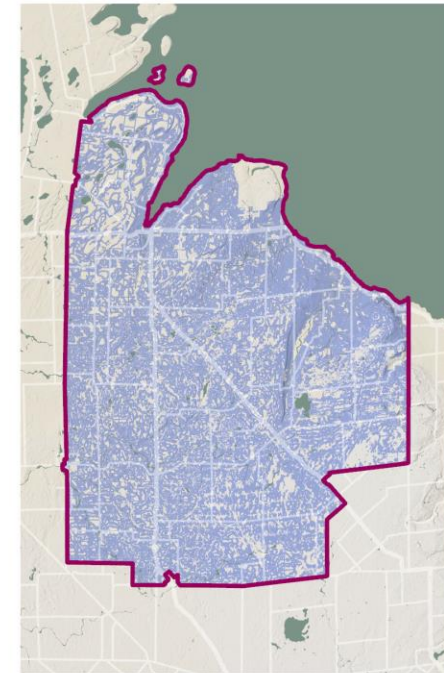
Removes lands:

- that have been subject to archaeological assessment and of no further concern; and
- where extensive and deep prior land disturbance has removed the possibility of finding intact archaeological resources.



Removes:

- Federal lands; and
- Provincial lands.

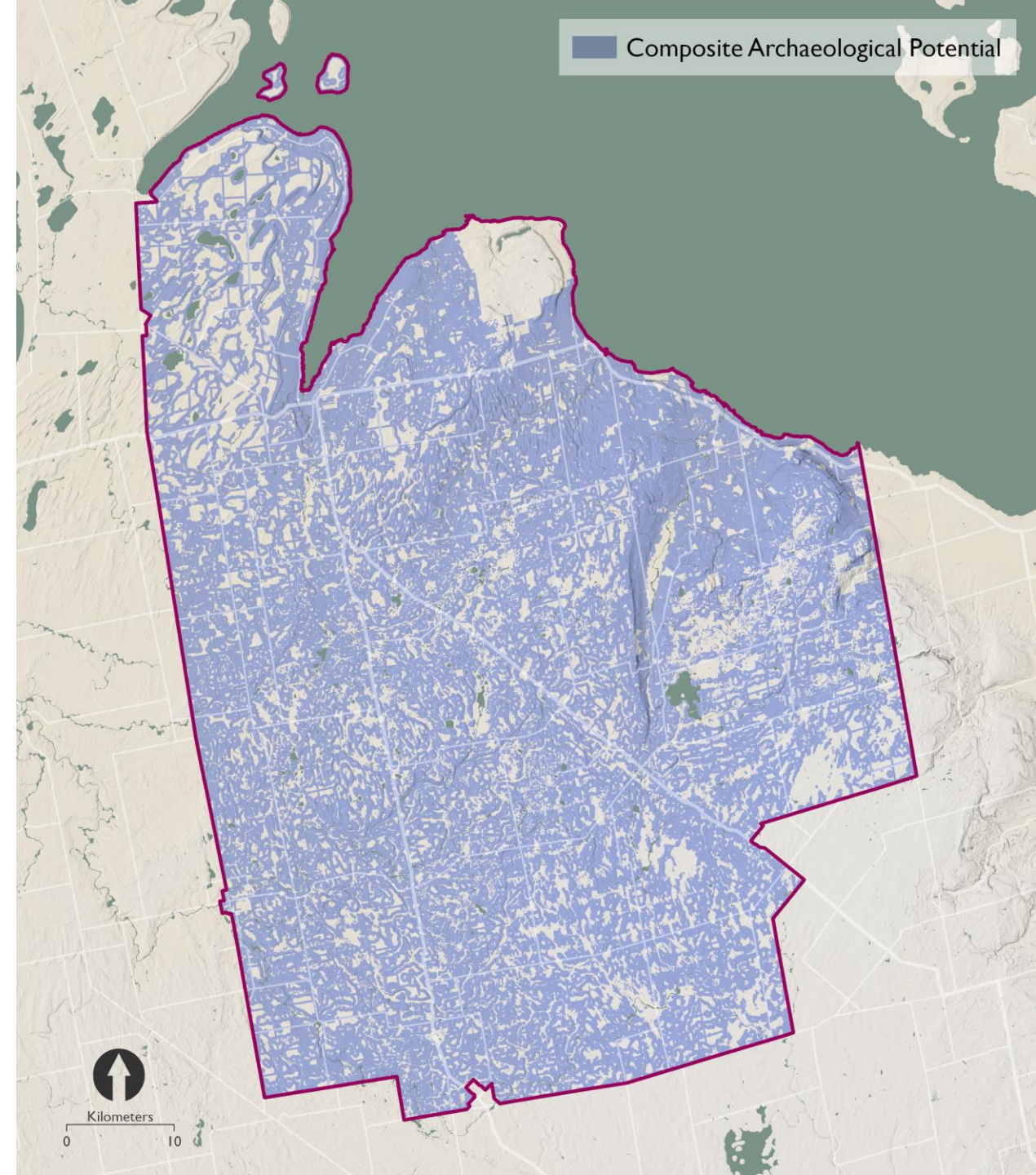


GIS layer to be used by Planning staff when determining whether or not an archaeological assessment will be required as part of the approval of a planning application or during municipal infrastructure and development projects.

Archaeological Potential Model – Planning Tool

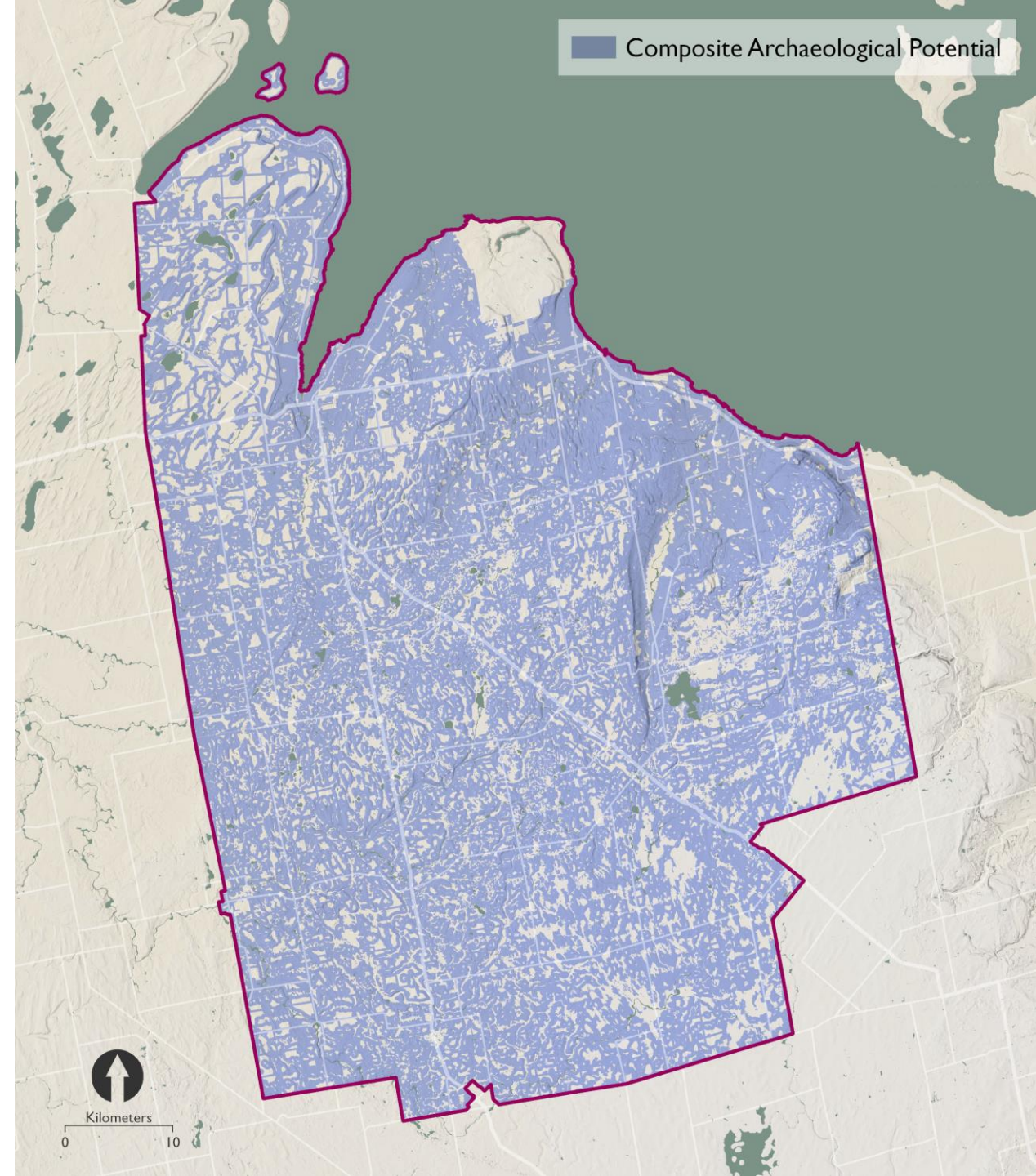
- Composite map of all layers
 - Planning tool that indicates where archaeological assessments should happen to fulfill provincial requirements
 - Effectiveness measured against archaeological site data

Model	Locations Captured		Municipal Area	
	Count	Percent	Area Included	Percent
Indigenous	92 of 96	96%	318,501 ha	70%
Historic	117 of 131	90%	324,262 ha	72%
Combined	200 of 216	93%	329,024 ha	72%



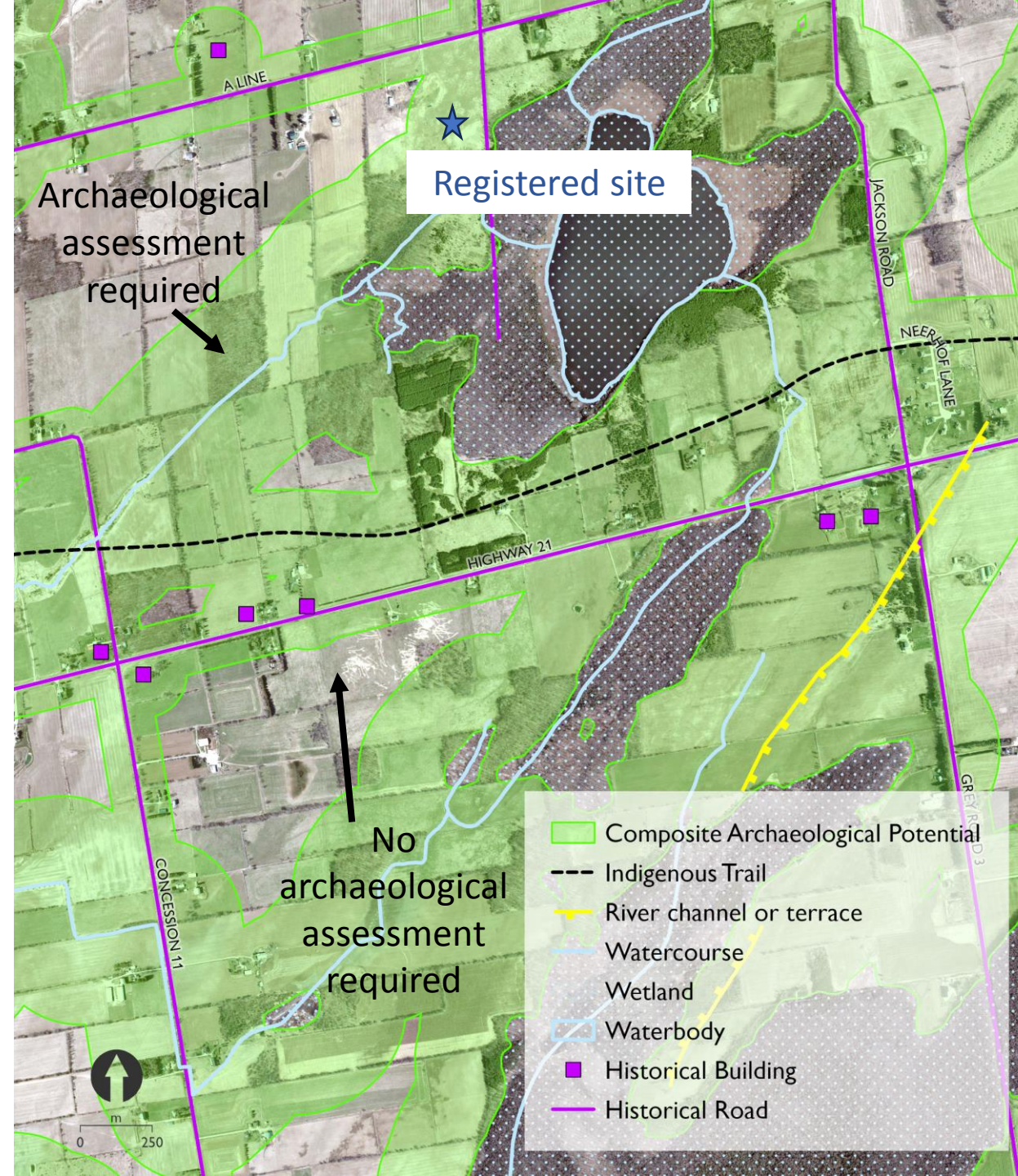
County Coverage

- Large percentage of lands with archaeological potential will likely never see development (e.g., rural farmlands and natural or conservation lands away from settlement areas) or be subject to a planning application
- Map is specifically applicable to circumstances and applications where archaeological assessments are triggered



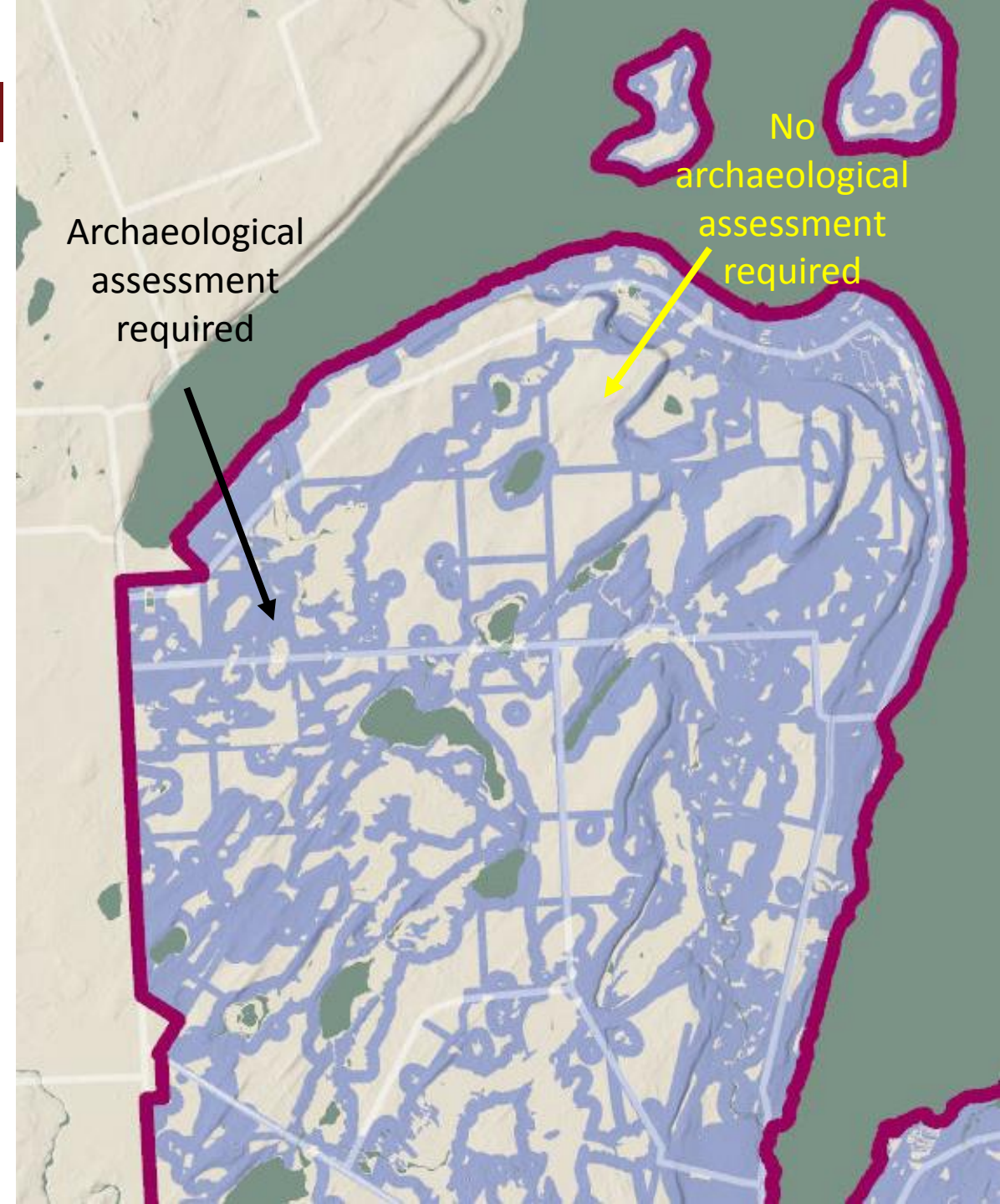
The Planning Tool

- Map and data layers consulted when a planning application is received or municipal project planned
- If the proposal includes an area of archaeological potential, archaeological assessment will be required
- Underlying data also alerts planners to presence of archaeological sites immediately, to pass along to proponent to assist in planning



Next Steps – Potential Model

- Continue to get feedback from Indigenous and Descendant communities, stakeholders
- Making recommendations for a process and time period for updating the data and keeping information current



Next Steps – Policy, Planning and Implementation

- Establish a process for how the map will be used within the planning context
 - What types of projects and planning applications it is used for (e.g., plans of subdivision, rezoning)
 - When Indigenous and Descendant community engagement is required
 - What and how requirements for archaeological assessment are communicated back to proponents
- Set out a plan for staff training
- Establish a process for addressing inadvertent discoveries
- Establish a process for maintaining the database of sites and reports
 - Incorporating new finds and new information

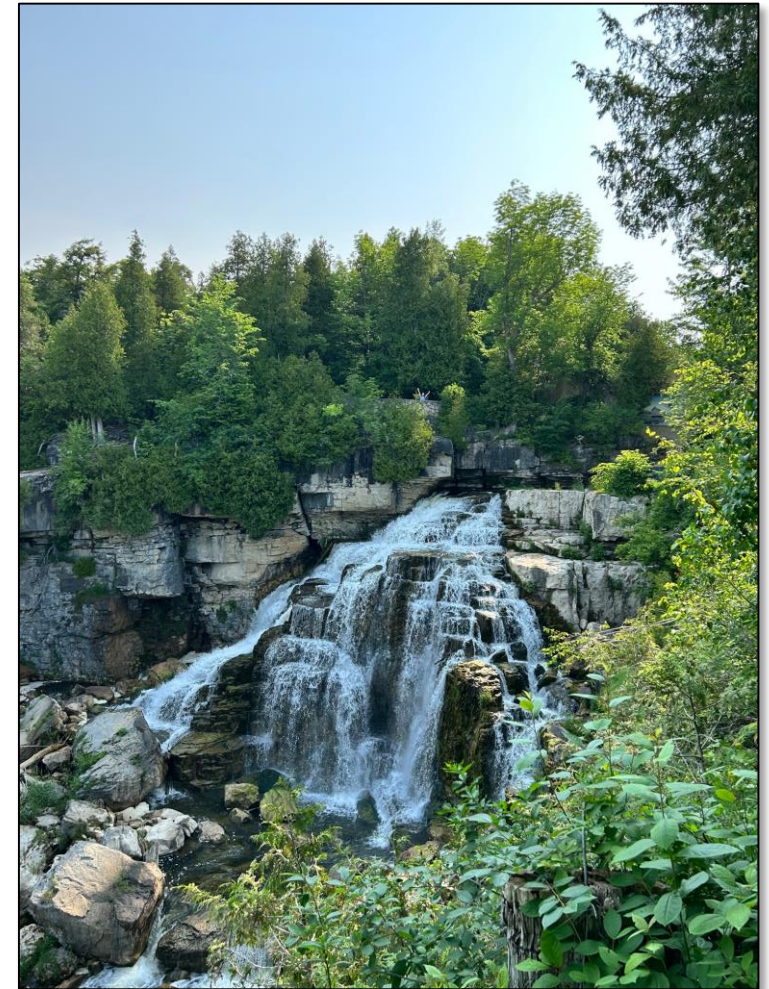


Benefits

- Increase efficiency, consistency, predictability
 - Current process is subjective and ad-hoc
 - Process will be established to keep information current and accurate
- Reduce risk to the County
 - Ensure responsibilities and requirements are met as they may not have been in the past
 - Requirements exist whether the AMP is in place or not
 - Reduces delays and uncertainty to proponent and municipal projects
 - Reduces the number and likelihood of unanticipated finds and work stoppages where archaeological assessment or Indigenous engagement was not done in advance



Thank
You



Grey County