

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
MAY LAKE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

PIF# P041-169-2012
Joubin Township, ON
City of Elliot Lake
District of Algoma
Original Report

Submitted to:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Horizon Archaeology Inc. was contacted by Elliot Lake Retirement Living to conduct a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of the proposed May Lake development in the Township of Joubin, City of Elliot Lake, District of Algoma (Map 1). This report describes the methodology and results of the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment of the May Lake property which is around the shores of May Lake in Joubin Township, City of Elliot Lake, Algoma District. This study was conducted under the Archaeological Consulting License P-041 issued to David J.G. Slattery by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport for the Province of Ontario. This assessment was undertaken in order to recover and assess the cultural heritage value of interest of any archaeological sites within the project boundaries. All work was conducted in conformity with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MTCS 2011), and the Ontario Heritage Amendment Act (SO 2005).

Horizon Archaeology Inc. was engaged by the proponent to undertake a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of the study area and was granted permission to carry out archaeological fieldwork by the owner's representative. The study area was subject to Stage 1 assessment over four days from October 21 to November 20, 2012. This included a property inspection to observe the topography, current land use, evidence of human activity and to collect any available sources of local information concerning its past. Historical research was conducted between February 13th and 14th, 2013. A review of the available documents, MTCS database, all available local sources and research at the Archives of Ontario and the property inspection identified several areas of archaeological/cultural concerns.

Based upon the information gathered, Horizon Archaeology Inc. is recommending that:

1. A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment is merited for the areas where the topography is conducive to past human activity. These areas are: the west quarter of Area 1, the majority of Area 2, the south-east section of Area 3b, the north half of Area 4, Areas 5 and the south-west portion of Area 6.
2. A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be conducted using the test-pit survey method at 5m intervals as detailed in section 2.1.5 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* which states that between 0 and 50 m from water test-pit survey will be done at a 5m metre interval and from 51 to 150 m the survey interval may be increased to 10 m.
3. No further archaeological assessment is required for those areas which have been previously disturbed by mine development or for which the topography does not permit archaeological assessment.

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1.0 Project Context

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, as outlined by the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011), are as follows:

- To provide information about the property's geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and evaluate current conditions;
- To evaluate in detail the property's archaeological potential, which will support recommendations for Stage 2 survey for all parts of the property; and
- To recommend appropriate strategies for Stage 2 survey

1.2 Development context

Horizon Archaeology Inc. was contacted by the proponent, Elliot Lake Retirement Living, to conduct a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of the proposed cottage development area on the shores of May Lake, Township of Joubin, City of Elliot Lake, District of Algoma (Map 1). Prior to the proposed development the subject property formed part of a buffer zone for several uranium mines in the vicinity of May Lake, but was not subject to archaeological survey.

This archaeological assessment has been triggered by the Environmental Assessment Act and the proposal to develop waterfront retirement living cottages. The City of Elliot Lake has taken precautions to conserve their cultural heritage in Section 4.3 of the Official Plan for the city, which includes archaeological sites, and conservation is to be considered prior to any development (City of Elliot Lake, Official Plan). The archaeological assessment will be performed prior to any ground being broken by the developer

The study area consists of 7 areas on the waterfront of May Lake (Map 2 and 3). The area includes proposed roads to access the properties running along the north shore of May Lake. Permission was granted by the proponent, Elliot Lake Retirement Living, to conduct the property inspection. This property inspection took place over four days between October 21 and November 20, 2012.

All records, documentation, field notes and photographs related to the conduct and findings of these investigations are held at the office of Horizon Archaeology Inc. in North Bay until such time as they can be transferred to an agency or institution approved by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) on behalf of the government and citizens of Ontario

1.3 Historical Context

1.3.1 Historical Documentation

Historic research could not be done in the Elliot Lake library because it was located in the mall that collapsed in spring 2012. Historical research was conducted at the Archives of Ontario on February 13th and 14th 2013.

1.3.2 Pre-Contact

Based upon the work of Kennedy (1970) and Ellis (1990) occupation of the area would not have been earlier than sometime between 5500-4500 B.P. as glaciers finally retreated and the drainage pattern currently in existence was created. This Shield Archaic culture, traditionally considered to be derived from more western areas (Wright, 1972) is manifested in North Eastern Ontario in the form of small seasonal/nomadic encampments. While contact with more southerly groups undoubtedly did occur, it is difficult to identify clearly imported influences in this area. Hunting and gathering of the available animals, fish and plants provided both food and clothing. The artifact assemblage typically reflects this economy with larger points and scrapers dominating.

Laurel Culture (700 B.C.-A.D. 1000)

Apparently a natural evolution within a northern context, this period is marked by little change in lifestyle (more highly developed hunter/gathering), and is most clearly defined by the introduction of pottery. This introduction is typically considered to have come from the south rather than being an internal development. Significantly larger numbers of Laurel sites have been found in comparison to those of the earlier period noted above. However, given the rather limited amount of research archaeology conducted in northern Ontario, coupled with the over-representation of CRM driven assessment (modern as versus traditional land-use/exploitation driven), caution must be noted. Yet, the tool assemblage does show the development of more specialized items (awls, net weights, points and scrapers of greater stylistic range and size) which appears to suggest that a wider range of food sources were exploited with a greater result (netting rather than simply harpooning fish, for example). The larger and more varied faunal range identified from Laurel as versus Archaic sites adds to this view; albeit age/preservation issues must form a caution. Still, in the main, the evidence suggests the ability to feed larger populations. The widespread and, apparently, fairly rapid development of a ceramic tradition implies a higher level of contact both within the northern zone and between it and the south.

Late Woodland Period (A.D. 800-Contact (17th century))

While essentially an internal evolution, during the Late Woodland Period marked differences can be observed between the cultures of the west and the east within northern Ontario. By the dates traditionally used for the Contact Period (Mid 16th C), defined trade routes, their jurisdiction and a general political/trade relationship had been clearly formed. Little evidence of a similar situation exists along East-West lines. Pottery, the importation of corn and, perhaps, sacred traditions (dog burials, pipes et al.) all appear to have been heavily influenced from the south with the exception of some aspects of western "Black Duck" traditions evidenced, especially in the early phases, in the pottery. Interestingly, the tool assemblage remains somewhat more

traditional and probably reflects little change in the economic base of the area. The distinction between Late Woodland and Contact remains open to interpretation in this part of northern Ontario. While it can be defined by the introduction of trade items, until the establishment of actual trading “posts” in the north, the significance of these items as cultural influences is limited.

1.3.3 Contact (1650-1890)

By the time of historic contact, two distinct Algonkian groups inhabited northern Ontario. The Cree generally were to be found in the James Bay drainage system and were more in contact with the traders associated with the Hudson’s Bay Company operations to the north. The Ojibwa appear to have been resident in the area of this project and continued their traditional North-South orientation in terms of trade. The Ojibway presence in this area is corroborated as Elliot lake lies within the area covered by treaty number 61, Robinson-Huron for the Ojibways signed on September 9th 1850, as shown on the 1930 Department of Surveys map Combined Plan of the Main Indian Treaties and Purchases in the Province of Ontario (Archives of Ontario, 1930).

1.3.4 Study Area Specific History

The name “Elliot Lake” is first recorded on a 1910 Dominion map, but Elliot Lake was not established as a community until 45 years later in 1955 after the discovery of a huge ore body of uranium in 1953. Previous to the boom caused by the uranium find the history of the area is characterized by fur trading and extensive logging operations which lasted up until 1950. Tourist outfitters catering to the hunting and fishing industries have also been active in the area since the turn of the 20th century. The area in which the city of Elliot Lake and May Lake are located in is in the territory of the Ojibway Nation and pictographs have been found on Quirke Lake, located to the North of May Lake. (City of Elliot Lake, 2011)

Past land use for the proposed development falls within the buffer zone for the decommissioned uranium mines of the area, but the land for this development was never directly mined. Maps for this area are too large of a scale to discern the property area in order to gain any further insights about the property area specifically. In the vicinity of the project area there were eleven uranium mines, all of which were located to the north of May Lake.

1.3.5 Summary of Historical Contents

Historical research has shown that the documentation of this region is limited. Development in Elliot Lake and the surrounding townships since 1955, up until the closure of the uranium mines, has almost exclusively revolved around mining. Since the closure of the uranium mines Elliot Lake has become a retirement community and most development beyond the core of the city has ceased.

1.4 Archaeological Context

1.4.1 Current Conditions

The study area consists of Canadian Shield with forest cover. All of the property is located on the waterfront along the shores of May Lake as well as an island in the eastern portion of the south section of May Lake (Map 2 and 3). Access to the development areas involves the use of an all terrain vehicle (ATV) and then either by foot or by boat. Each area allotted for development was assigned a number so that they could be referenced easily both in writing and verbally as can be seen on Map 3. Areas 1 and 7 can be reached by a combination of ATV and by foot and areas 2 through 6 are reached through the combination of ATV and boat. The current land use for the property lies within the buffer zone of decommissioned uranium mines and has been, by law, reforested to its pre-mine condition, as much as possible. In proximity to the project area, running approximately north-south along the western edge of May Lake there is a well maintained ATV trail, which provides access to May Lake. The topography of the project area is characterized by narrow shorelines leading up to broken hilly terrain with areas of exposed bedrock (Plate 1).

1.4.2 Physiography

The property area is located on the Canadian Shield which is composed of gneiss and granite bedrock dating to the late Precambrian Age. The topography varies from the Algonquin highlands to rocky knolls and ridges. The soil of this area is generally high in clay values. In terms of the soil the majority of the project area sits in a soil area defined as rock land, with its characteristics being less than 10 centimetres of soil material overlying bedrock and areas of exposed bedrock (Baldwin, Desloges, and Band 2000: 3). Both conifers and hardwoods dominate the area. In the case of the development areas on May Lake, the forest is the result of reforestation after the closure of the uranium mines in the vicinity of the project area.

1.4.3 Previous Archaeological Assessments

There have been no previous archaeological assessments performed on the property.

1.4.4 Registered Archaeological Sites

Reference to the MTCS data base yielded no indications of archaeological sites within a 1 kilometre radius of the property.

2.0 Field Methods

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment included a site inspection, but no ground was disturbed. The inspection systematically covered the entire area of the proposed development on May Lake

(Map 2). No restrictions were placed on the work, as the archaeological assessment was carried out during the preliminary/planning stage of the development process. Maps have been provided by the proponent and they are at a scale of 1:45,000. Detailed maps of where each lot will be situated are not available at this stage in the development process. The maps and plans contained in this report represent the best available. The subject property was divided into seven areas for ease of description and communication. Additionally, Area three was divided into 3a and 3b and consists of two islands (Map 3).

Area 1 was found to be a mix of slope and relatively flat areas. The west quarter consisted of relatively flat areas (Plate 2), whereas the remainder of Area 1 consisted of very steep slope, and low lying and wet areas. Several bedrock outcroppings were also observed (Plate 3). The west quarter of Area one requires further assessment.

Area 2 consisted of a long peninsula which juts out into the lake (Map 3). The south-west corner as well as the south-east corner were found to be steeply sloped. A strip of land, running along the north from east to west (Map 4) was also found to be steeply sloped (Plate 4). These areas do not require further archaeological assessment. The remainder of Area two has slope, but with a large flat area on top of the slope, and flat areas near the water. These areas require further archaeological assessment (Plate 5)

Area 3 was subdivided into two section 3a and 3b (Map 3). Both were small islands close together. Area 3a was found to be a small rocky island, which sloped from a small single point down towards the water's edge (Plate 6). Area 3a does not require further archaeological assessment. Area 3b was found to mostly consist of steep slope and bedrock outcroppings with the exception of the south-east section. The south-east section of Area 3b requires further archaeological assessment (Plate 7)

Area 4 consists of a south half which is steeply sloped with bedrock outcropping (Plate 8). The north half consisted of a relatively flat area (Plate 9) which will require further archaeological assessment

Area 5 was found to be relatively flat (Plate 10) and without rocky outcroppings or steep slope. This area will require further archaeological assessment.

Area 6 consisted of some fairly flat, broad areas as well as fairly steep areas. The North half of Area 6 consisted of narrow steep ridges with equally narrow gullies. The eastern section was found to be steeply sloping bedrock hills along the shore (Plate 11). The south-west portion is fairly flat and broad (Plate 12) extending to the west where it meets a bedrock outcropping. This south-west portion requires further assessment.

Area 7 was steeply sloped in most parts away from the lake. It consisted of steep slope, with small narrow flat tops (Plate 13). The areas between the steep slopes were found to be low lying and wet. Several areas consisted of exposed bedrock. Area seven does not require further assessment.

3.0 Analysis and Conclusions

A number of factors are employed in determining archaeological potential. Criteria for pre-contact archaeological potential are focused on physiographic variables that include distance from the nearest source of water, the nature of that source; distinguishing features in the landscape (e.g. ridge, knolls, eskers, wetlands); the types of soils found within the areas of assessment and resource availability. Also considered are known archaeological sites within or in the vicinity of the study area.

Land registry records, assessment rolls, historic maps and aerial photographs as well as a property inspection all assist in determining historic archaeological potential. Additionally, the proximity to historic transportation corridors such as roads, rail and water courses also affect the historic archaeological potential.

Based on these findings, portions of the property has archaeological potential. As detailed in Section 2.0 there are areas within May Lake that meet the criteria for requiring further archaeological assessment. As stated in section 1.3.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011) archaeological potential is indicated by accessible shorelines, proximity to water and some elevated topography. The west quarter of Area 1, the majority of Area 2, the south-east section of Area 3b, the north half of Area 4, Area 5 and the south-west portion of Area 6 (Map 4) meet these requirements and will require Stage 2 assessment.

All the other areas, detailed in Section 2.0, were found to be steeply sloped, low lying and wet or consist of bedrock outcroppings. These areas do not meet the criteria for further archaeological assessment. As such these areas are cleared and do not require further archaeological assessment (Map 4).

4.0 Recommendations

As detailed in Section 2.0 there are areas within May Lake that meet the criteria for requiring further archaeological assessment. As stated in section 1.3.1 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011) archaeological potential is indicated by accessible shorelines, proximity to water and some elevated topography. The west quarter of Area 1, the majority of Area 2, the south-east section of Area 3b, the north half of Area 4, Area 5 and the south-west portion of Area 6 (Map 4) meet these requirements and will require Stage 2 assessment. The remaining areas are cleared of further archaeological concern. For Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment it recommended that:

1. A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment be completed for the west quarter of Area 1, the majority of Area 2, the south-east section of Area 3b, the north half of Area 4, Area 5 and the south-west portion of Area 6 see Map 4.

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2. A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be conducted using the test pit survey method at 5 m intervals as stated in section 2.1.5 in the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* which states that between 0 and 50 m from water test-pit survey will be done at a 5m metre interval and from 51 to 150 m the survey interval may be increased to 10 m.
3. No further archaeological assessment is recommended for those areas which the topography does not permit archaeological investigation or there is exposed bedrock present.

5.0 Advice On Compliance With Legislation

This report is filed with the Minister of Culture as a condition of licensing 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 Tourism and Culture, 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.

It is an offence under Section 48 and 69 of the Ontario Heritage Act for any party other than a licensed 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.

Should previously unknown or deeply buried archaeological resources be uncovered during development, 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 licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

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.

Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to Section 48 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act and may not be altered, or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological license.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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- 2011 Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*
- 2011 The City of Elliot Lake “City of Elliot Lake Official Plan”
http://www.cityofelliottlake.com/en/cityservices/resources/ConsolidatedOfficialPlan98-2206Oct19_app.pdf , pp. 9,
The City of Elliot Lake “History of Elliot Lake”,
<http://www.cityofelliottlake.com/en/cityhall/history.asp>

7.0 Images



Plate 1: Shoreline of May Lake, East.



Plate 2: Terrain in western portion of Area 1, north.

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Plate 3: Eastern portion of Area 1, East.



Plate 4: The northern portion of Area 2, south.

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Plate 5: Part of Area 2 requiring further assessment, north.



Plate 6: Area 3a, west.

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Plate 7: South-east section of Area 3b, north-west.



Plate 8: South portion of Area 4, north.

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Plate 9: Terrain in north half of Area 4, west.



Plate 10: Area 5, south.

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of May Lake Property Development, Joubin Township, City of Elliot Lake, Algoma District



Plate 11: North half of Area 6, south.



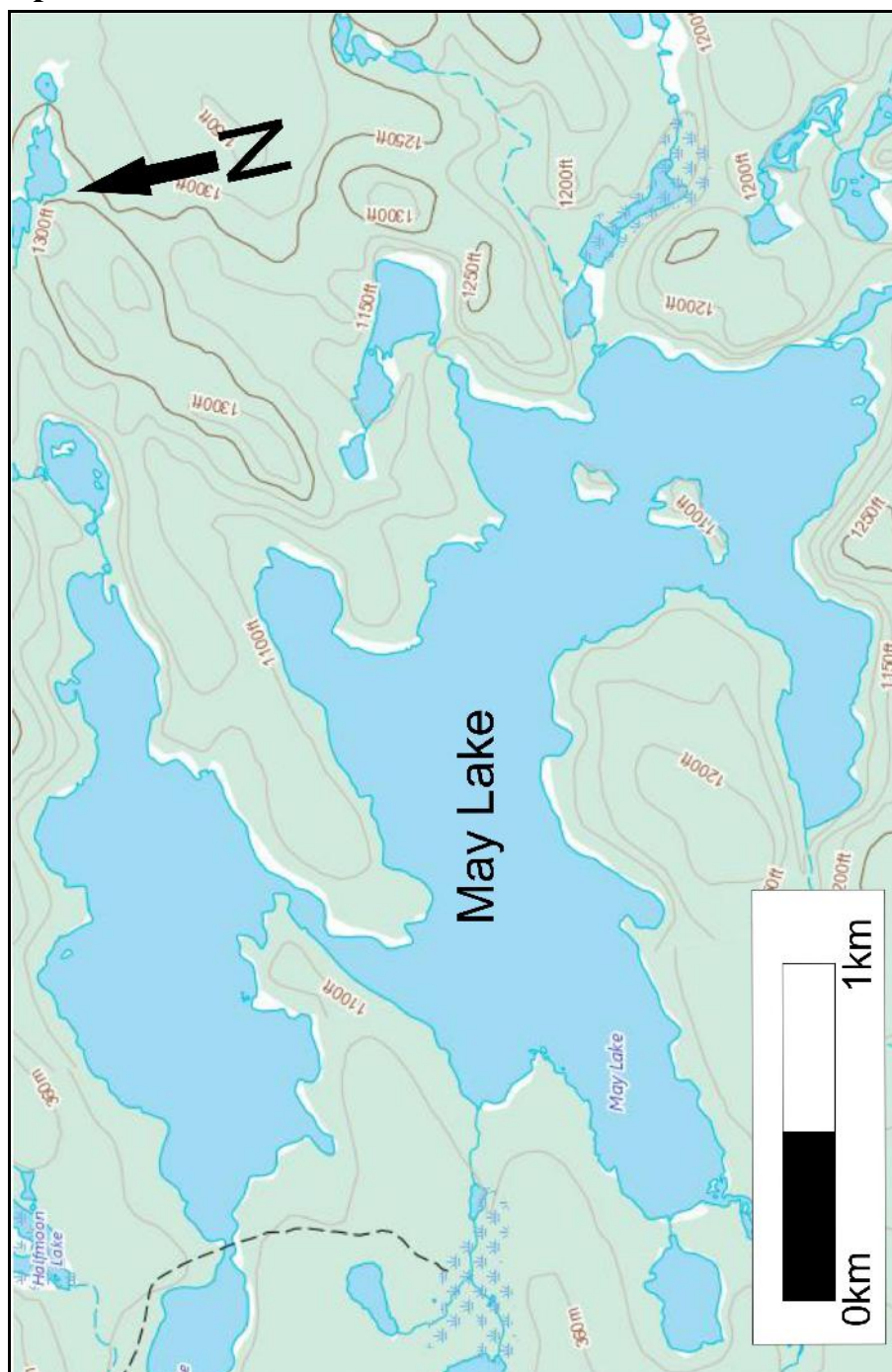
Plate 12: South half of Area 6, west.

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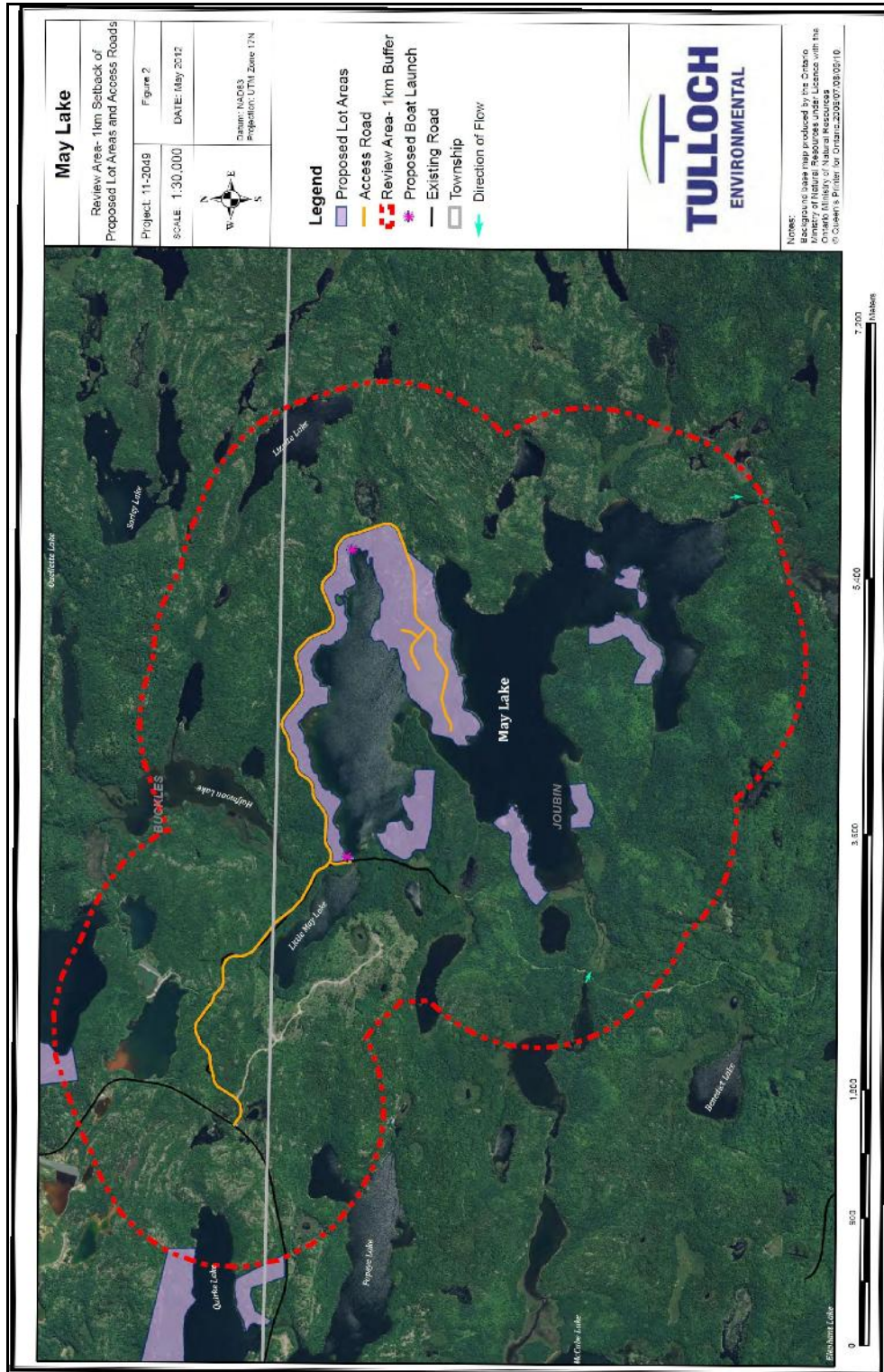
Plate 13: Area 7, west.

8.0 Maps

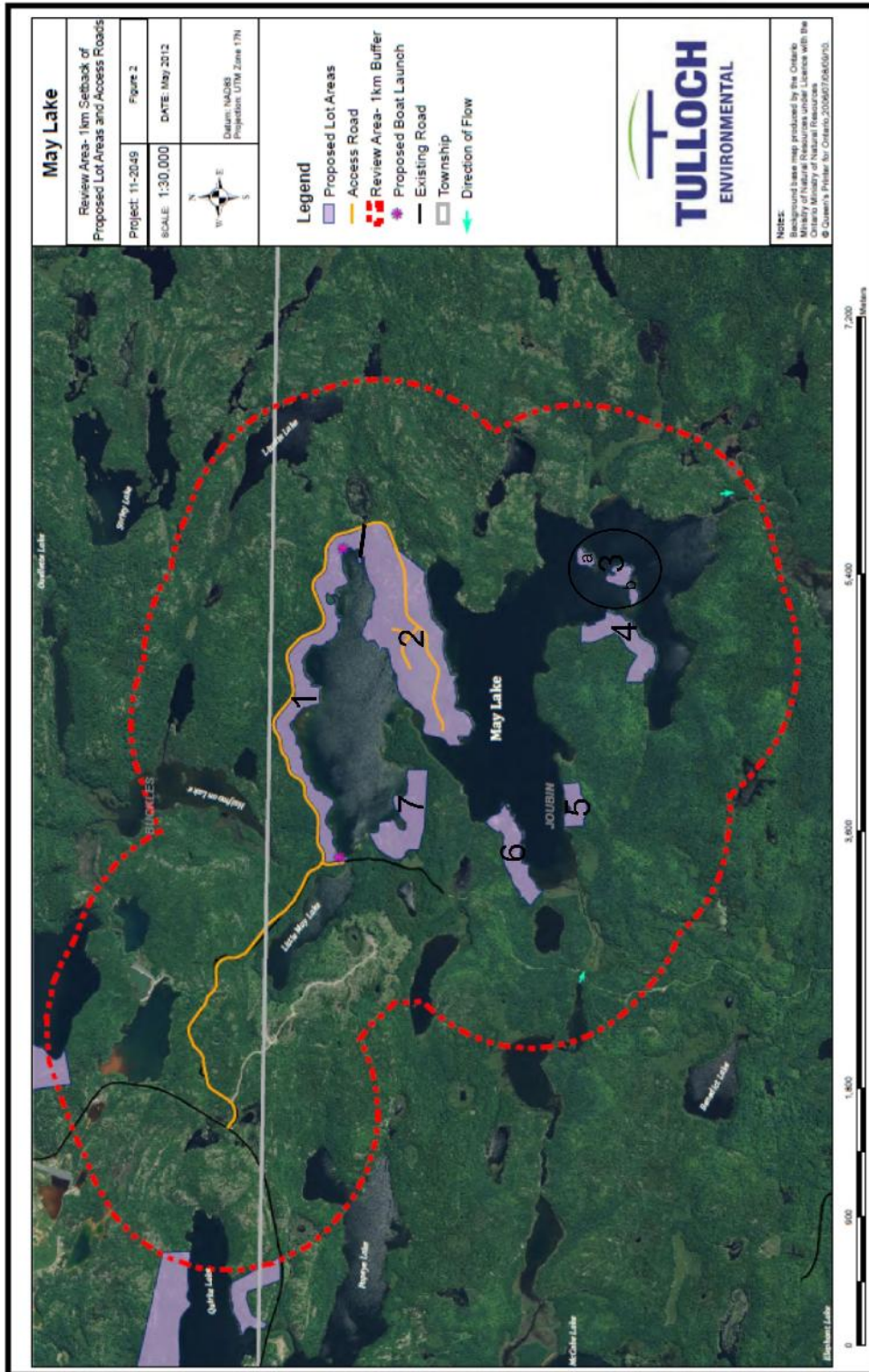


Map 1: Property Area (NTS Map 41J7 and 41J8)

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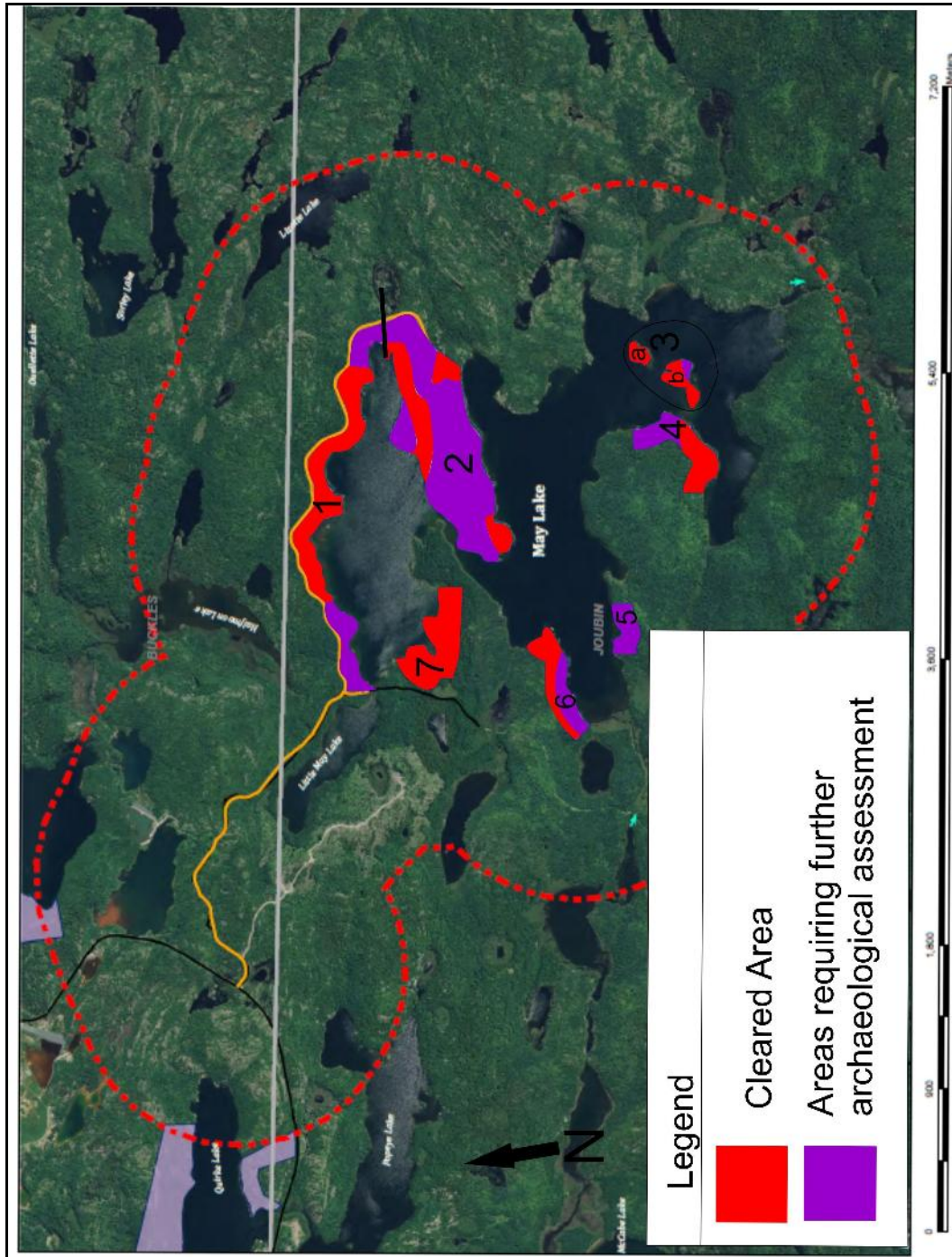


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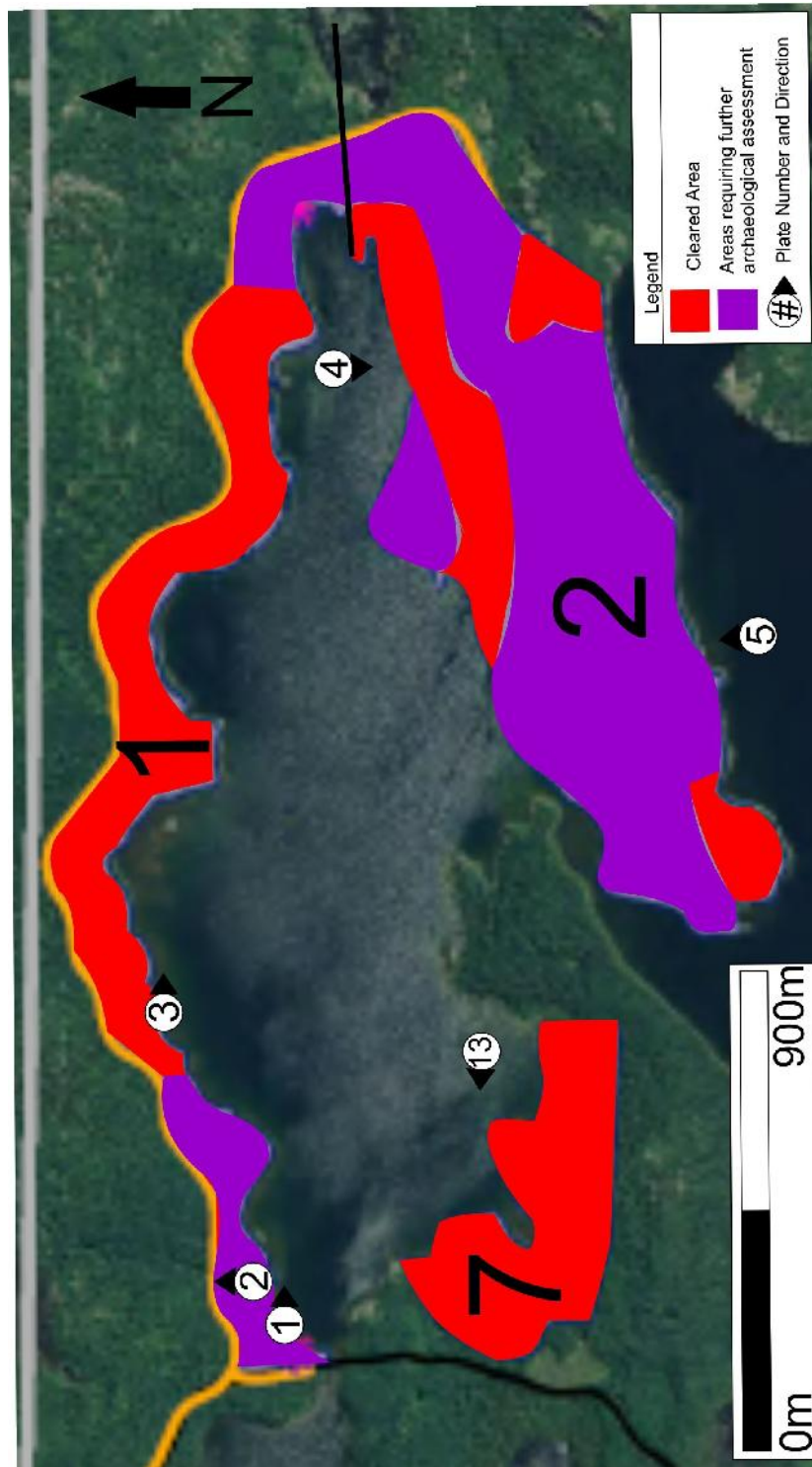
Map 3: Map showing Areas 1 to 7.

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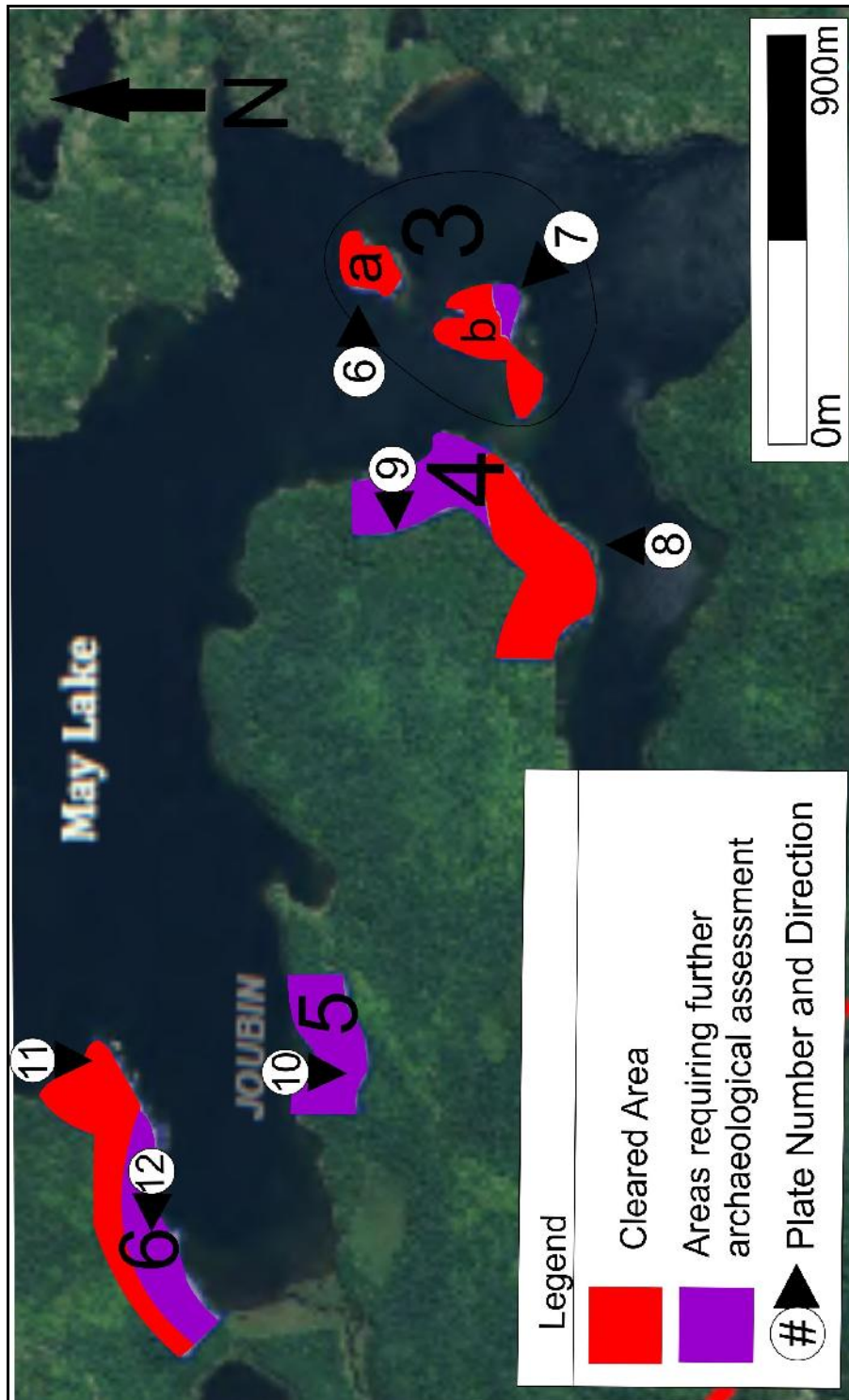


Map 4: Map showing cleared areas and areas requiring further archaeological assessment

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of May Lake Property Development, Joubin Township, City of Elliot Lake, Algoma District



Map 5: Map showing plate location and direction, northern portion of Map Lake



Map 6: Map showing plate location and direction, southern portion of May Lake