

## **Protection of Cultural Resources: Archaeological Assessment**

As part of the impact assessment of the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study, an assessment of the impacts of the archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential within the Area of Continued Analysis (ACA) is being undertaken.

Following the generation of Practical Alternatives for the crossing, plaza and access road, 'properties of interest' in the vicinity of these alternatives were identified for investigation. The archaeological assessment is ongoing. Many of the properties of interest have been investigated over the past several months.

### **How the Analysis was Done**

The archaeological assessment involves up to four stages of investigation:

Stage 1 – Evaluation of Archaeological Potential

Stage 2 -- Property Assessment

Stage 3 – Site-specific Assessment

Stage 4 – Protection and Avoidance, Excavation or Construction Monitoring.

To date, Stage 1 has been completed and the DRIC study team and their consultants are currently conducting Stage 2 archaeological fieldwork.

### **Stage 1: Evaluation of Archaeological Potential**

The tasks involved in the Stage 1 investigation include:

- detailed documentary research of the archaeological and land use history
- an inspection visit to the area to gain first hand knowledge of the area's geography, topography, and current conditions and to determine and map the potential for archaeological resources
- evaluate the area's potential to contain archaeological remains.

Based on the Ontario Ministry of Culture's criteria for determining archaeological potential (Ministry of Culture 2006), the following areas within the Area of Continued Analysis (ACA) were considered to have archaeological site potential, pending a determination of the likely integrity of any archaeological resources.

#### **For Aboriginal (Pre-contact and Contact Period) Archaeological Sites**

- Areas within 250 m (820 ft) of a known archaeological site, where location information for the site is relatively precise
- For sites with relatively imprecise location information, the area wherein such sites are likely to be located based on available descriptive information
- Areas within 300 m (980 ft) of a primary water source such as a lakeshore, river, or large creek
- Areas within 300 m (980 ft) of an ancient water source such as an ancient shoreline, relict beach features, or former watercourse as shown on historic mapping
- Areas within 200 m (656 ft) of a secondary water source such as a stream, spring, wetland, swale, or drain
- Areas within 200 m (656 ft) of the edge of the Ojibway Prairie.

#### **For Euro-Canadian Archaeological Sites**

- Areas within 250 m (820 ft) of a known archaeological site, where location information for the site is relatively precise
- For sites with relatively imprecise location information, the area wherein such sites are likely to be located based on available descriptive information
- Designated heritage properties and easements
- Cemeteries

- Core settlement areas (towns, villages) where it is possible to make a reliable determination based on analysis of period maps
- Areas within 100 m (328 ft) of the centreline of existing roadways that follow the approximate alignment of historic roadways, or within 100 m (328 ft) of the approximate alignment of no-longer-extant roadway corridors as determined by period map examination
- Areas within 250 m (820 ft) of the likely location of historic features (dwellings, mills, churches, cemeteries, etc.) as shown on more precise period maps.

During the Stage 1 assessment of the ACA, archaeological potential was determined to be present. As a result, the archaeological assessment proceeded to Stage 2 fieldwork.

### **Stage 2: Property Assessment (Survey)**

The Stage 2 assessment consists of the systematic field investigation of areas determined to have archaeological potential. This assessment was conducted on properties in the areas of interest impacted by or in proximity to the Practical Alternatives. Permission to Enter (PTE) from the property owner was obtained before the property of interest was investigated. This assessment involves the documentation and inventory of archaeological resources within those areas. Field methodology involves two types of survey - pedestrian and test pit.

Lands subject to Stage 2 archaeological field survey have been assigned priority levels (Priority 1 through Priority 5, with Priority 1 being the highest). The priority levels indicate the order in which lands are being surveyed and were determined based on criteria pertinent to the project: proximity to sensitive known Aboriginal sites, and critical to the evaluation and siting of the various Practical Alternatives.

**Pedestrian survey** is conducted on lands with open surface visibility (e.g. lands that are ploughed or with open, immature crops), and it involves the location, mapping and collecting of artifacts observed on the surface.

**Test pit survey** is conducted on lands with closed surface visibility (e.g. scrub farmland, windrows, lands within forest or valley floor, or with dense, mature crop), and it involves the location, mapping and collection of artifacts by test pitting using hand shovels.

### **Results to Date**

Sixteen Aboriginal and 14 Euro-Canadian archaeological sites have been located within the higher priority lands of interest that have been surveyed to date. No substantive finds are associated with any of these sites, with the exception of one find of pre-contact ceramic shards.

With respect to the Practical Alternatives for the access road, at this time, there is no notable difference among the alternatives in terms of potential to disturb archaeological features. No known sites of high to moderate significance are impacted. Additional investigations are being undertaken to verify the finds made and complete the field reviews.

Analysis of crossings and plazas are incomplete at this time. The majority of the lower priority lands are situated in these areas.

### **Remaining Activities**

The consultants are continuing Stage 2 archaeological assessment as follows:

#### **Priority 1 Lands**

- Over 95% of the available properties of interest have been surveyed to date within the ACA.
- Outstanding properties to survey: 3 small parcels outside of right-of-way lands at north-west quadrant of Huron Church Road and E.C. Row Expressway.

### **Priority 2 Lands**

- Over 95% of available properties of interest have been surveyed to date.
- Outstanding properties to survey must be ploughed prior to pedestrian survey.

### **Priority 3 Lands**

- Approximately 60% of the available properties of interest have been surveyed to date.
- Expect to complete Priority 3 lands by early December.

Once the fieldwork is complete, the Stage 2 assessment report will be produced. This report will make recommendations on further archaeological assessment where necessary. It is anticipated that Stage 2 archaeological assessment will continue in 2007 on Priority 4 and 5 lands within the ACA.

It is also anticipated that Stage 3 archaeological assessment (and possibly Stage 4 archaeological work) may be conducted on sites determined by the Stage 2 assessment to have archaeological interest, and this work would likely commence in 2007.