

**Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)**

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**Ministère des Affaires civiques et du Multiculturalisme (MCM)**

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Nov 12, 2024

Helen Haines (P124)  
AS&G Archaeological Consulting Inc.  
16 Clanwilliam Scarborough ON M1R 4R2

**RE: Review and Entry into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports: Archaeological Assessment Report Entitled, "Stage 3 Site-Specific Archaeological Assessments Of Site AgGv-148 and Site AgGv-149, Part of Lot 5, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Grimsby, County of Lincoln, Community of Smithville, Township of West Lincoln, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario", Dated Jul 29, 2024, Filed with MCM on Aug 11, 2024, MCM Project Information Form Number P124-0233-2023, P124-0235-2023, MCM File Number 0015820**

Dear Dr. Haines:

This office has reviewed the above-mentioned report, which has been submitted to this ministry as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18.<sup>1</sup> This review has been carried out in order to determine whether the licensed professional consultant archaeologist has met the terms and conditions of their licence, that the licensee assessed the property and documented archaeological resources using a process that accords with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* set by the ministry, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations are consistent with the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario.

The report documents the assessment of the study area as depicted in Maps 10 and 11 of the above titled report and recommends the following:

The results of the Stage 3 Site-Specific Assessment, combined with the artifact analysis and detailed archival research, indicate that the AgGv-148 Site retains further cultural heritage value or interest. As avoidance and protection is not an option for the proponent, the report recommends that the site requires Stage 4 mitigation through excavation.

More specifically, for the Site AgGv-148 the report recommends that:

1. Further Archaeological Assessment of the AgGv-148 Site is warranted.
2. Salvage excavation is the preferred approach to Stage 4 Mitigation of Development Impacts to the site, as it was determined through discussion with the proponent that avoidance and protection of the AgGv-148 Site was not viable in the context of their development plans.
3. A Stage 4 Mitigation of the AgGv-148 Site must be completed in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists for small or diffuse lithic scatters as per Section 3.4.1.
4. The Stage 4 Excavation should follow Section 4.2 Approach 2: Excavation (Section 7.9.4, Standard 3) of

the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM 2011).

5. Stage 4 mitigative excavation will be conducted, minimally, in accordance with Section 4.2.2 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM 2011). More specifically this will include the continuous excavation of one-metre square units around high yielding Stage 3 test units related to archaeological site AgGv-148 and a minimum of two metres around any identified cultural features. All units must be excavated five centimetres into subsoil. All soils excavated from the test units should be screened through 6-millimetre wire mesh to facilitate the recovery of artifacts that may be present. The sides and bases of each unit should be carefully inspected by shovel and trowel for subsurface settlement pattern features (e.g. pits or post moulds). The recovered artifacts should be tagged in the field by their provenience unit and returned to the laboratory for washing, cataloguing and analysis.

6. Stage 4 salvage excavation must follow the methodology outlined in the Standards and Guidelines, Section 4.3, Table 4.1 for small pre- and post- contact Indigenous sites (MCM 2011). Stage 4 block excavation will begin around the test units related to archaeological site AgGv-148, i.e., Units 510-280 and 515-280 (see Map 14), which were the two (2) units with artifact yields of ten (10) or higher. Block excavation will continue until a cut-off of less than 10 artifacts is reached or a unit contains at least two of the following: diagnostic artifacts, formal tools, fire-cracked rock, bone or burnt artifacts. In addition, the cultural feature will be fully exposed, documented and excavation will extend two metres beyond the uncovered feature.

7. If excavation uncovers a cultural feature, all exposed subsoil surfaces will be cleaned by shovel or trowel to aid in identifying the feature. Excavations will extend, regardless of yield, 2 metres beyond any cultural features uncovered. Cultural features will be excavated only when it has been completely exposed, and will be photographed, mapped, and excavated stratigraphically, and artifacts recorded and collected by context. Soil samples will be collected when required by Section 4.4 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM 2011).

The report recommendations for Site AgGv-149:

1. The results of the Stage 3 test unit excavations, artifact analysis, and detailed archival research, indicate that the AgGv-149 Site has been fully documented and does not retain further cultural heritage value or interest (as per Section 7.9.4 Standard 5 (MCM 2011), and as per Section 48(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act). Therefore, the AgGv-149 Site requires no further Archaeological Assessment.

The report recommendations for P7, P8, P11 and P12:

1. Isolated findspots P7, P8, P11 and P12 have been fully documented and retain no further cultural heritage value or interest (as per Section 7.9.4 Standard 5 (MCM 2011), and as per Section 48(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act). Therefore, it is recommended that P7, P8, P11 and P12 do not require any additional archaeological fieldwork.

Based on the information contained in the report, the ministry is satisfied that the fieldwork and reporting for the archaeological assessment are consistent with the ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences. This report has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. Please note that the ministry makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy or quality of reports in the register.

Should you require any further information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Heather Tulloch  
Archaeology Review Officer

cc. Archaeology Licensing Officer  
Enzo Prato, Prato Developments Inc.

Gerrit Boerema, West Lincoln Heritage Committee  
Pat Bunesllo, Niagara Region

<sup>1</sup>*In no way will the ministry be liable for any harm, damages, costs, expenses, losses, claims or actions that may result: (a) if the Report(s) or its recommendations are discovered to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent; or (b) from the issuance of this letter. Further measures may need to be taken in the event that additional artifacts or archaeological sites are identified or the Report(s) is otherwise found to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent.*