



March 2012



Middleton Long Term Care Facility

Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment



Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited

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Heritage Research Permit A2012NS26

Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited

Project No. 12-005.2

Principal Investigator: April MacIntyre

Report Compiled by: April MacIntyre & Stephen Davis

Cover photo: Near the center of the study area looking north.

Executive Summary

Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited conducted an archaeological resource impact assessment of the proposed Middleton Long Term Care Facility expansion project. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the potential for archaeological resources in the development area. A previous background study was conducted by Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited in February 2012 which included consultation of historic maps, manuscripts, published resources and the Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory, as well as predictive modeling for First Nations resources. The desktop study concluded that the study area was of low potential for archaeological resources related to European or First Nations resources. However, a field reconnaissance is required by the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage in order to clear the study area for ground disturbance.

Consequently, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited conducted a field survey of the site in March 2012. The study area was shown to be wetland and, therefore, was determined to be of low potential for archaeological resources. No further mitigation is recommended at this time.

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1.0 Introduction

Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited was contracted by Maritime Testing (1985) Limited to conduct an archaeological resource impact assessment of the proposed expansion of the Middleton Long Term Care Facility owned by GEM Health Care Group. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the potential for archaeological resources within the study area and to provide recommendations for further mitigation, if necessary.

A previous desktop study of the development area was conducted by Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited in February 2012 under Heritage Research Permit A2012NS13. This was followed by a subsequent field reconnaissance, conducted under Category C Heritage Research Permit A2012NS26. This report conforms to the standards of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (Heritage Division) as required by the Special Places Protection Act.

2.0 Study Area

The Middleton Long Term Care Facility (known as the Heart of the Valley Long Term Care Facility) is located at 89 North Street in Middleton, Annapolis County. GEM Health Care Group plans to expand the existing facility to the eastward on an undeveloped wetland (Figures 2.0-1 and 2.0-2).

A detailed background study of the development area was provided by Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited under Heritage Research Permit A2012N13.¹ That assessment included consultation of historic maps and manuscripts as well as published literature. The Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory showed that there were no known archaeological resources present within the study area. Predictive modeling for First Nations resources was also conducted. The historic background study did not indicate any settlement in the study area during the historic period, which is logical given that the area is wetland. Likewise, predictive modeling for First Nations resources indicated that while aboriginal people were settled along the banks of the Annapolis and Nictaux Rivers, which is supported by previous archaeological finds in these areas, the study area itself is of low potential for such resources. The rivers to the east and west of the study area which flow down from North Mountain to drain into the Annapolis River have been determined to be of elevated potential for First Nations archaeological resources, but are located well outside the expected impact areas for this project.

¹ Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited, February 2012.

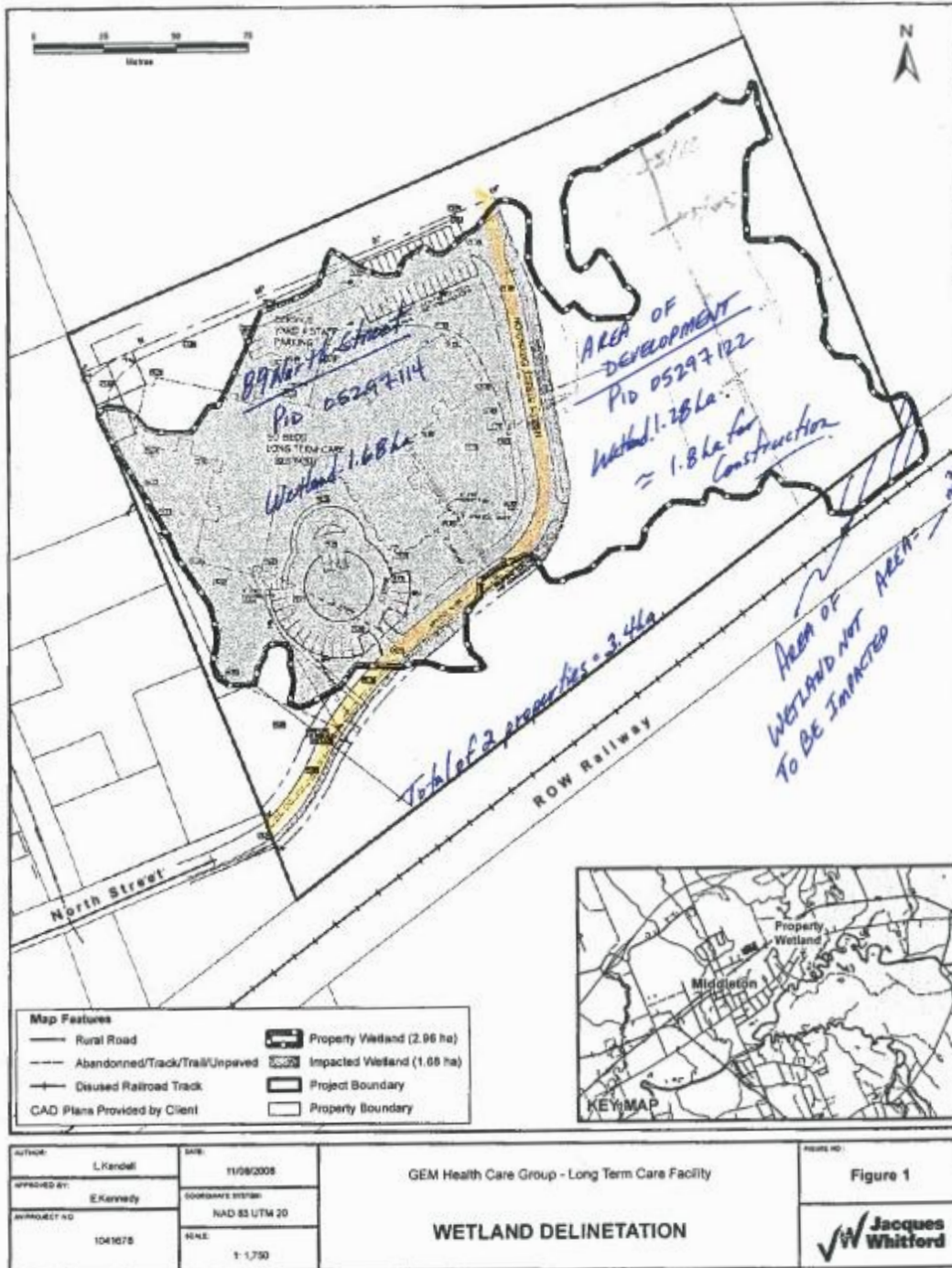


Figure 2.0-1: Map of the surrounding area showing the existing facility on the west (left) as well as the wetland to be developed on the east (right) (map courtesy Maritime Testing (1985) Ltd.).

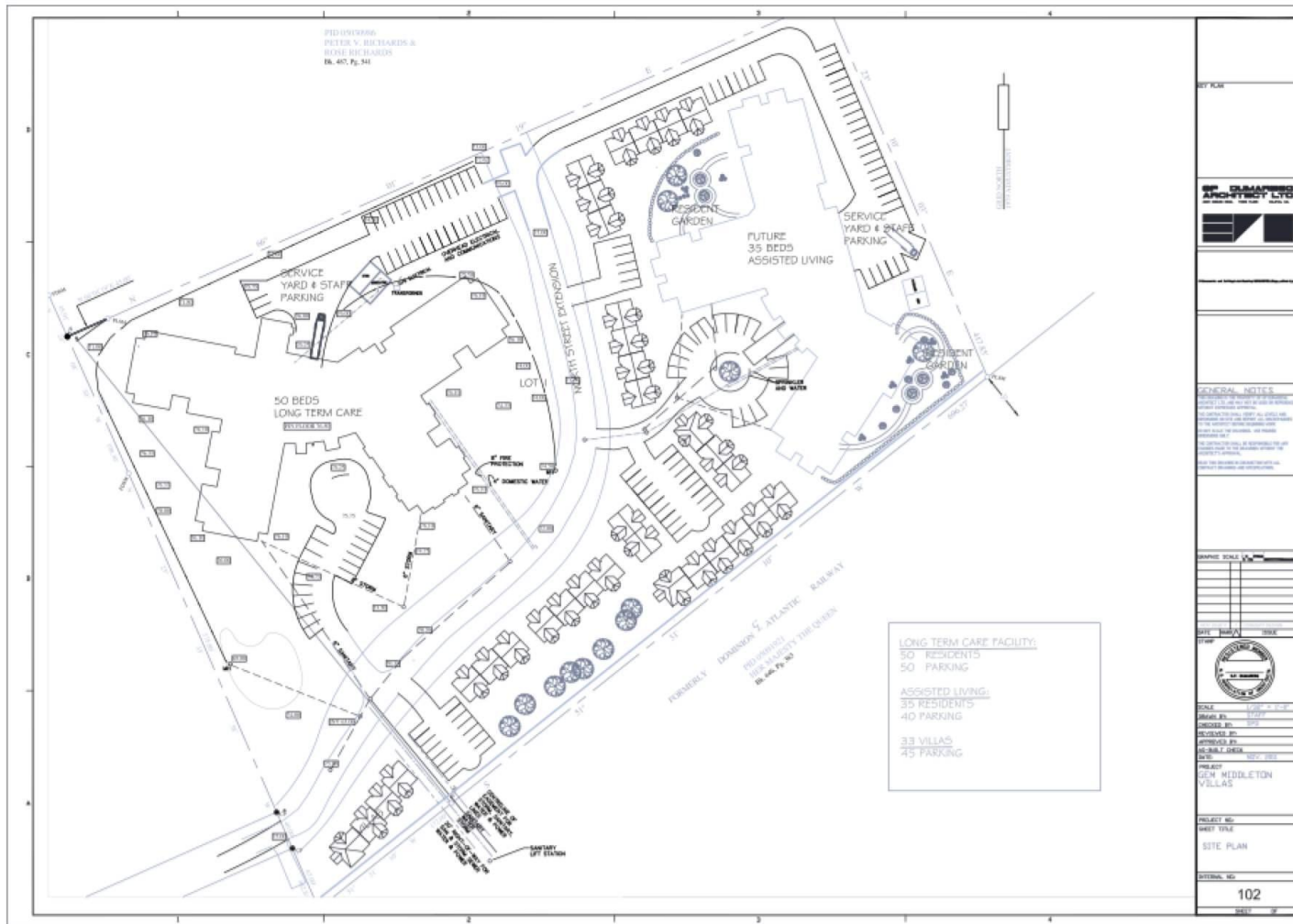


Figure 2.0-2: Map of the surrounding area showing the existing facility on the northwest side of North Street Extension, as well as the proposed development on the south and east sides of the road (map courtesy Maritime Testing (1985) Ltd.).

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Field Reconnaissance

A field reconnaissance was conducted by April MacIntyre & Stephen Davis in March 2012. The study area was approached from the west side via the North Street extension, east of the existing Long Term Care Facility. The study area was shown to be entirely composed of black spruce swamp and wetland, some of which had standing water exposed at the surface (Plate 1). Other areas were moss-covered marshland (Plate 2). An old roadway leads into the south end of the study area on the west side (at the end of the North Street extension) (Plate 3). It leads northeast and then cuts abruptly to the north, into a black spruce swamp at the north end of the study area (Plate 4). Asphalt and other industrial material have been dumped along the roadway. The south end of the study area is primarily covered in alders while the northern portion is mainly black spruce.

4.0 Results and Discussion

The historic background study did not indicate any settlement in the study area during the historic period. Likewise, predictive modeling for First Nations resources indicated that while aboriginal people were settled along the banks of the Annapolis and Nictaux Rivers, which is supported by previous archaeological finds in these areas, the study area itself is of low potential for such resources.

The field reconnaissance verified that the study area is indeed wetland with low potential for archaeological resources relating to First Nations or Euro-Canadian land use.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

It has been determined through historic research, predictive modeling, and field reconnaissance that the study area is of low potential for both European and First Nations resources. Therefore, no further mitigation is recommended at this time.

Avoidance is always the preferred method of mitigation in those instances where archaeological resources are present. In the unlikely event that such resources are encountered during ground disturbance, it is recommended that all activity cease and the Coordinator of Special Places, Ms. Laura Bennett (902-424-6475) be contacted immediately regarding a suitable method of mitigation.

6.0 References Cited

Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited. February 2012. Middleton Long Term Care Facility: Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment. Heritage Research Permit A2012NS13. Manuscript on file: Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage; Heritage Division.

Appendix A: Heritage Research Permit



Heritage Research Permit (Archaeology)

Special Places Protection Act, R.S.N.S. 1989

(Original becomes Permit when approved by the Executive Director of the Heritage Division)

Office Use Only
Permit Number:

A2012NS026

<i>Greyed out fields will be made publically available. Please choose your project name accordingly</i>	
Surname MacIntyre	First Name April
Project Name Middleton Long Term Care Facility	
Name of Organization Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited	
Representing (if applicable)	
Permit Start Date 20 February 2012	Permit End Date 31 March 2012
General Location: North Street, Middleton	
Specific Location: <i>(cite Borden numbers and UTM designations where appropriate and as described separately in accordance with the attached Project Description. Please refer to the appropriate Archaeological Heritage Research Permit Guidelines for the appropriate Project Description format)</i> PID 05297122	
<p>Permit Category: Please choose one:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Category A - Archaeological Reconnaissance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Category B - Archaeological Research</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category C - Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that I am familiar with the provisions of the <i>Special Places Protection Act</i> of Nova Scotia and that I have read, understand and will abide by the terms and conditions listed in the Heritage Research Permit Guidelines for the above noted category.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I currently hold a treasure trove license or pending application for a licence related to this Heritage Research Permit.</p>	
Signature of applicant <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 07 February 2012
Approved by Executive Director <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>March 21 / 2012</i>

Plates



Plate 1: Looking northwest from an old roadway. The land in the foreground (just beyond the roadbed) has standing water in an alder swamp. The existing Long Term Care Facility building can be seen in the rear left.



Plate 2: Looking west toward a moss-covered marshland near the center of the study area. The tree line of the black spruce swamp can be seen in the background.



Plate 3: Roadway at the end of the North Street extension, extending into the center of the study area (looking northeast).



Plate 4: The roadway leading north into the black spruce swamp (looking north).