



Niagara Region

Niagara Escarpment Crossing
Comprehensive Environmental
Assessment
Proposed Terms of Reference

Appendix F
Built Heritage and Cultural
Heritage Landscapes Work Plan

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Establishment of Built Heritage and Cultural Landscape Conditions	2
2.1	Confirmation of the Preliminary Study Area	2
2.2	Review of Available Existing Information Sources	3
2.3	Proposed Field Investigations	4
3	Assessment of the Alternatives	6
3.1	Alternatives To the Project	6
3.1.1	Preliminary Criteria and Indicators	6
3.2	Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Project	6
3.2.1	Preliminary Criteria and Indicators	7
4	Impact Assessment of the Proposed Project.....	8
5	Documentation.....	9

List of Tables

Table 3-1: Preliminary Criteria and Indicators for Assessing the Alternatives To the Project	6
Table 3-2: Preliminary Criteria and Indicators for Assessing the Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Project.....	7

List of Figures

Figure 2-1: Preliminary Study Area	2
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1 Introduction

This document outlines the proposed work plan that will be carried out during the Niagara Escarpment Crossing Environmental Assessment (EA) to generate a more detailed description and understanding of the environment from a cultural heritage perspective, specifically built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes. Further, this document describes how that information will be used to assess the effects of the alternatives and proposed project on the environment through evaluation criteria and indicators. This work plan forms **Appendix F** to the proposed Niagara Escarpment Crossing Comprehensive EA Terms of Reference (ToR) and should be read in conjunction with it.

The ToR presently provides a preliminary description of the environment to gain a general understanding of the potential effects that should be examined in the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA based on the range of alternatives to the project currently anticipated. This description reflects all components included within the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act) definition of the environment: natural, social, built, economic and cultural.

Several investigative studies are proposed as part of the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA to expand on this preliminary description, including, but not limited to the following:

- Air Quality
- Agricultural
- Archaeology
- Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes
- Contaminated Property
- Groundwater
- Land Use
- Natural Heritage
- Noise and Vibration
- Surface Water
- Visual Impact

The details associated with the built heritage and cultural heritage landscapes investigation are provided in this document while details of the other investigative studies are provided as separate work plans. In addition to the investigative studies, the proposed ToR includes three other work plans: Traffic, Operations and Safety, Transportation Planning and Engineering and Financial all of which are included as separate appendices.

2 Establishment of Built Heritage and Cultural Landscape Conditions

2.1 Confirmation of the Preliminary Study Area

The preliminary study area provided in the ToR will be utilized as a starting point for establishing existing and future environmental conditions (**Figure 2-1**). This preliminary study area will be finalized during preparation of the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA when more detailed information has been obtained, the alternatives to the project have been confirmed, and the potential environmental effects are better understood.

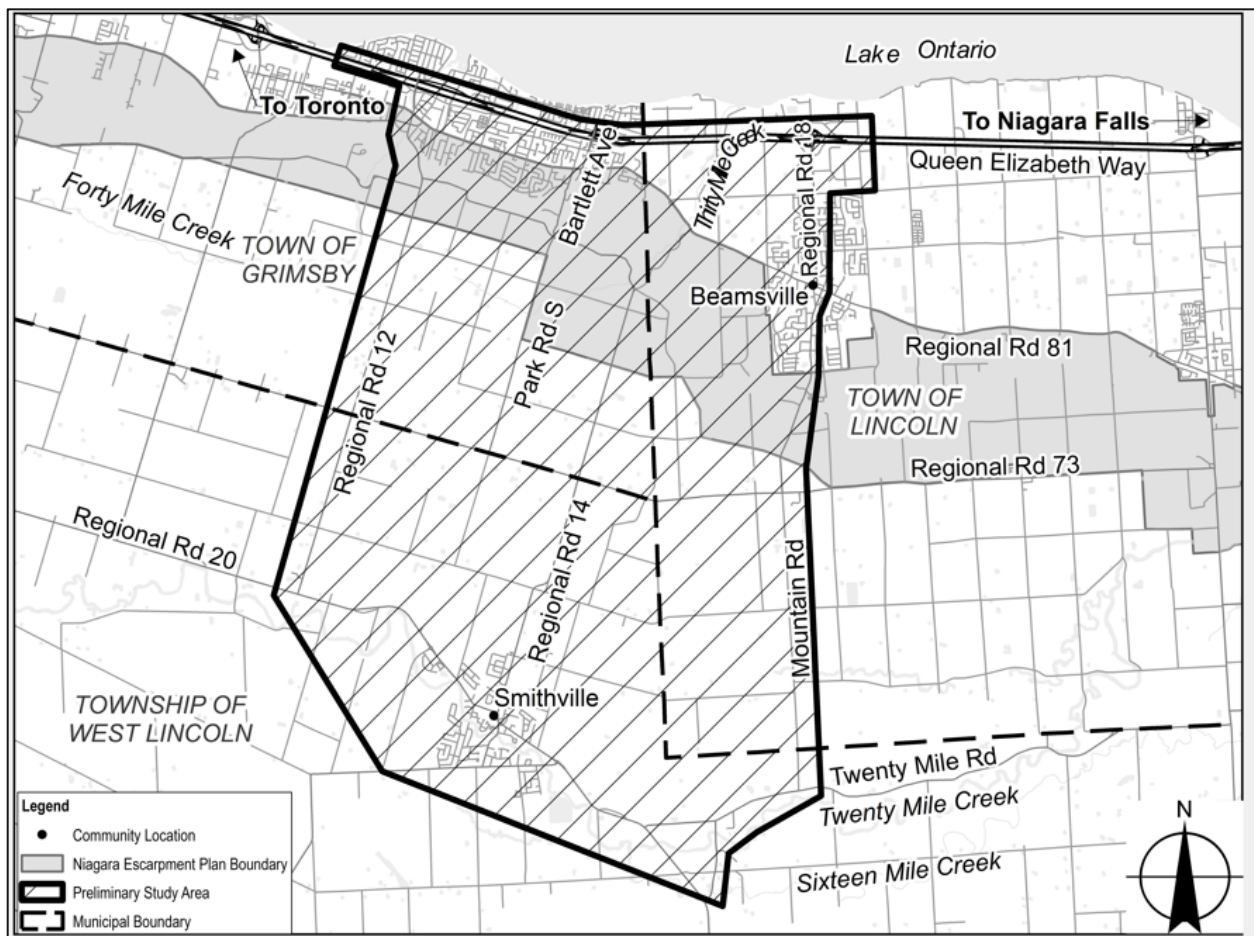


Figure 2-1: Preliminary Study Area

2.2 Review of Available Existing Information Sources

Available existing sources of information will be collected and reviewed to determine existing and future environmental conditions, including any data gaps that need to be addressed through subsequent work (e.g., field investigations, modeling, etc.).

Presently, the list of existing information sources that will be collected and reviewed as part of the proposed Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes Work Plan includes, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Parks Canada Directory of Federal Heritage Designations;
- Canada's Historic Places;
- Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC);
- Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP);
- The Great Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map;
- Greenbelt Plan;
- Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) Conservation Easement Properties;
- OHT Plaque Database;
- Bereavement Authority of Ontario Public Register;
- Ontario Ancestors: Niagara Peninsula Branch Cemetery Map of Niagara;
- Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) List of Provincial Heritage Properties;
- Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Ontario Heritage Bridge List;
- Heritage Bridges Identification and Assessment Guide Ontario 1945-1965;
- Niagara Region Official Plan;
- Niagara Region Complete Streets Design Guidelines;
- Town of Grimsby Official Plan;
- Grimsby List of Designated Heritage Properties, Buildings, Landmarks, and Structures;
- Grimsby Municipal Heritage Register;
- Grimsby's Special Places: Significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes in the Town of Grimsby;

- Downtown Grimsby Master Plan;
- Downtown Grimsby Community Improvement Plan;
- Downtown Grimsby Design Guidelines;
- Town of Lincoln Official Plan;
- Town of Lincoln Heritage Register;
- Designated Heritage Properties in Lincoln (designating by-laws);
- Beamsville Commercial Core and Ontario Street Corridor Community Improvement Plan;
- Ontario Street Urban Design Vision and Streetscape Master Plan;
- Township of West Lincoln Official Plan;
- Township of West Lincoln Municipal Heritage Register;
- Smithville Trails and Corridors Master Plan;
- Township of West Lincoln Sustainable Downtown Smithville Community Improvement Plan;
- Township of West Lincoln: Smithville Urban Design Manual; and
- Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions – Smithville Master Community Plan and Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

The Preliminary Study Area also includes the potential Main Street East Heritage Conservation District (HCD) in Grimsby. If the Town of Grimsby proceeds to designate the area under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)*, the HCD's plan should be reviewed as part of this work plan.

It should also be noted that the listed municipal heritage registers will likely undergo significant change until January 2027 because of recent amendments to the Ontario OHA. These changes may include significant numbers of newly designated properties and heritage conservation districts as well as the eventual removal of properties listed before January 2023 (if not designated by January 2027).

2.3 Proposed Field Investigations

Field investigations are proposed to supplement and enhance available existing sources of information so that additional data is generated to assess each alternative (i.e., identifying potential environmental effects, developing appropriate impact management

measures for addressing potential adverse environmental effects, and describing net effects). The need for field investigations will be based on the level of detail associated with the existing information sources collected and reviewed, accessibility of the final study area, and comments received from review agencies, Indigenous communities, and the public.

The need for an increased level of detail and collection of field data is expected as the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA progresses. While the assessment of alternative(s) to the project can be completed based on existing source data, the assessment of alternative methods of carrying out the project will be based on more site-specific information generated through subsequent work (e.g., field investigations, modeling, etc.).

The following field investigation is currently proposed as part of the Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes Work Plan:

- A built heritage and cultural landscape survey of all known and potential built heritage resources (BHRs) and cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs) within the final study area.
 - Known BHRs and CHLs are properties with recognized cultural heritage value or interest and may include properties that have been listed or designated at the municipal, provincial, or federal level.
 - Potential BHRs and CHLs are properties that have the potential for cultural heritage value or interest, based on the MCM's Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes and the professional judgement of a professional member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP).

Documentation

The results of reviewing available existing information sources and carrying out the proposed field investigations will be documented in the existing conditions portion of a conventional Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment (CHRECPIA).

3 Assessment of the Alternatives

3.1 Alternatives To the Project

Following confirmation of the preliminary list of alternatives to the project, they will be assessed and comparatively evaluated leading to a recommended alternative(s) to the project. The recommended alternative(s) will be presented to review agencies, Indigenous Communities, and the public for a defined period to receive comments, following which a preferred alternative(s) will be identified. The assessment of the alternatives to the project (through the application of evaluation criteria) will be based on available existing information sources contained in the Baseline Conditions Reports.

3.1.1 Preliminary Criteria and Indicators

The preliminary evaluation criteria and indicators that will be used for assessing the alternatives to the project from a cultural heritage perspective include, but may not be limited to, those set out in **Table 3-1**. The preliminary evaluation criteria and indicators will be finalized based on comments received during the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA and documented in the EA Report.

Table 3-1: Preliminary Criteria and Indicators for Assessing the Alternatives To the Project

Category	Criterion	Indicator
Cultural Environment	- Effect on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes	- Number of known and/or potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes impacted

3.2 Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Project

Following the identification of the preferred alternative(s) to the project, alternative methods of carrying out the project will be generated, possibly screened, assessed, and comparatively evaluated leading to a recommended method(s). The recommended method(s) will be presented to review agencies, Indigenous communities, and the public

for a defined period to receive comments, following which a preferred method(s) will be identified.

The generation and possible screening of the alternative methods will be based on available existing information sources contained in the Baseline Conditions Reports. The assessment of the alternative methods of carrying out the project (through the application of evaluation criteria) will be based more on the information provided through subsequent work (e.g., field investigations, modelling, etc.) contained in the Baseline Conditions Reports, as appropriate.

3.2.1 Preliminary Criteria and Indicators

The preliminary evaluation criteria and indicators that will be used for assessing the alternative methods of carrying out the project from a built heritage resource and cultural heritage landscapes perspective include, but may not be limited to, those set out in **Table 3-2**. The preliminary evaluation criteria and indicators will be finalized based on comments received during the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA and documented in the EA Report.

Table 3-2: Preliminary Criteria and Indicators for Assessing the Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Project

Category	Criterion	Indicator
Cultural Environment	- Effect on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes	- Number of known and/or potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes impacted

4 Impact Assessment of the Proposed Project

Once selected, the preferred method(s) of carrying out the project (i.e., proposed project) will be further developed at a preliminary design level of detail so that the potential environmental effects can be identified with more certainty, more site-specific impact management measures (i.e., avoidance, mitigation, and compensation measures) can be developed for application, net environmental effects can be identified with more certainty, appropriate monitoring requirements can be clearly defined, and specific approval/permitting requirements for constructing the proposed project can be identified.

In concert with preparing the preliminary design level of detail, it may be necessary to undertake additional work (e.g., field investigations, modelling, etc.) at the impact assessment stage of the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA. The additional work proposed as part of the Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes Work Plan could include the following subject to preparation of the EA:

- An updated Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscape survey for known and potential BHRs and CHLs within 50 m of the proposed project (if required in response to comments received, changes to the final study area, and/or significant changes to existing conditions (e.g., demolition of a built heritage resource or heritage designation of a property during the EA, etc.).

Documentation

The results of the impact assessment including any additional work will be documented in the preliminary impact assessment portion of the CHRECPIA (Impact Assessment Report). The CHRECPIA will reference the archaeological assessments carried out as part of the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA (see the proposed Archaeological Work Plan).

As required, the CHRECPIA will include a discussion of the alternatives (i.e., alternatives to the project, alternative methods of carrying out the project, and the preferred method). In addition, the report will also include specific recommendations to avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts to known and potential BHRs and CHLs. The proposed mitigation measures are to inform the next steps of project planning and design.

5 Documentation

As mentioned, the results of implementing this work plan will be documented in a Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment (CHRECPIA) during the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA as follows:

- **Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions** – will describe the existing baseline cultural heritage conditions within the study area by identifying all known or potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, including a historical summary of the study area.
- **Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment** – will document the finalized existing conditions content of the Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and will identify potential project-specific impacts on the known and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes that have been identified. The report will Recommend measures to avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts to known or potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.

Upon completion, each report will be made available during the Niagara Escarpment Crossing EA to review agencies including municipal heritage committees, Indigenous Communities, and the public for their information via the project website and upon request. The CHRECPIA will become either a reference or supporting document to the submitted EA Report. The EA Report will be based on and reflect the information contained in the CHRECPIA.