

**STAGE 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF  
SITE AhHa-209, SEVERANCE APPLICATION AN/B-05:63,  
PART OF LOT 32, CONCESSION 4,  
TOWN OF ANCASTER, CITY OF HAMILTON, ONTARIO**

Prepared for

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## PROJECT PERSONNEL

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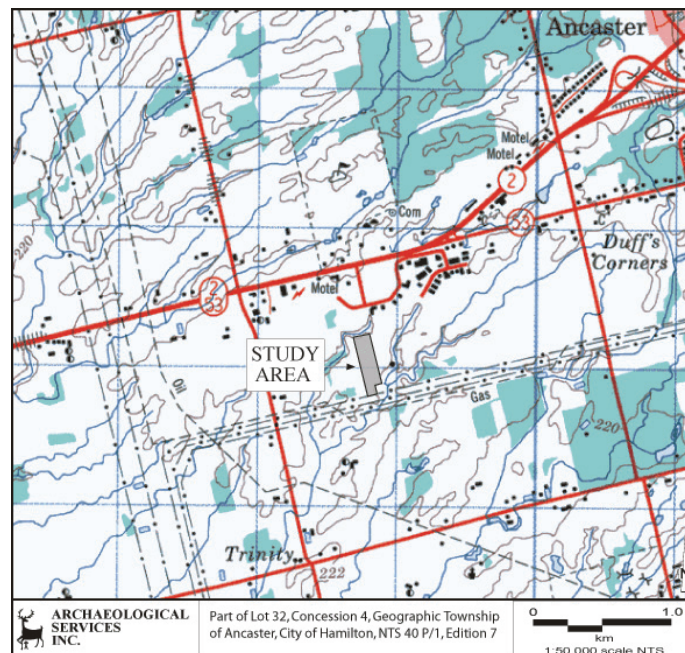
## 1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI) was contracted by Valery Homes to conduct a Stage 3 archaeological investigation of Site AhHa-209, located on Lot 32, Concession 4, Town of Ancaster, City of Hamilton, Ontario (Figure 1). This site was discovered in 2005 during a Stage 1 & 2 archaeological assessment of Phase 1 of the proposed Valery Business Park (ASI 2005).

The assessment was conducted under the overall project direction of Dr. Shaun Austin, pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act* (R.S.O. 1990) and in partial fulfilment of conditions imposed in compliance with the *Ontario Planning Act* (R.S.O. 1990). Stage 3 fieldwork was undertaken between July 10 and 11, 2006, under professional archaeological license P141 (PIF#P141-055-2006) issued to Dr. Shaun Austin. The Field Director was Ms. Cara Howell. Permission to access the land and to carry out all activities necessary for the purpose of this assessment was granted by Mr. Paul Valeri on June 29, 2006.

The following report provides the study background, method, conclusions and recommendations of this investigation.

**Figure 1: Location of Subject Property**



## **2 REVIEW OF STAGE 2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Site AhHa-209 was identified in the course of a Stage 2 archaeological survey of Phase 1 of the proposed Valery Business Park, located on Lot 32, Concession 4, Town of Ancaster, City of Hamilton, Ontario. This lithic scatter site, designated in the field as P2 (17T 578806/4781751 [NAD27]), was encountered near the southeastern corner of the property. It comprised 21 flakes of Onondaga chert found within a 15 metre by 25 metre area on the high, flat terrain alongside Tradewind Drive. Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid coordinates were recorded by means of a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit reading to five metres. This allowed for the finds to be accurately plotted on a geo-referenced, digital base map. Twelve of these artifacts are pieces of shatter or distal flake fragments. Five are secondary knapping flakes, one of which is thermally altered, and the remaining four are secondary retouch flakes. This locality, is interpreted as a pre-contact Aboriginal camp or chipping station.

Site AhHa-209 had been inadvertently graded by a bulldozer immediately prior to the Stage 2 field survey, with various depths of plough zone topsoil pushed into a large pile. Nevertheless, in spite of its reduced archaeological integrity, the site was deemed to represent a potentially significant archaeological resource, it was recommended for Stage 3 assessment in order to further clarify its extent, archaeological integrity, artifact density, and significance (ASI 2005:9-10).

## **3 STAGE 3 INTENSIVE TESTING**

### **3.1 Methodology**

Stage 3 investigations were conducted under the field direction of Ms. Cara Howell on July 10 and 11, 2006. Weather conditions on both days of the investigation were overcast with a light rain. Fieldwork began with an intensive re-survey of the site at one-metre intervals in order to facilitate a controlled surface collection using an optical transit and measuring tapes (Figure 2). Although there had been some weed growth over the site area in the period after it had been ploughed, surface visibility was considered good.

Subsequent to the controlled surface collection, the transit and tapes were used to set up a five-metre grid. During this process, a datum (arbitrarily labelled 500-200) was established at the GPS coordinates obtained during the Stage 2 assessment for the centre of the artifact scatter.

Following the completion of the controlled surface collection, a series of one-metre square test units were hand excavated on a checkerboard throughout the site area in order to assess further the density and distribution of artifacts within the ploughzone (Plate 1). The placement of the test units was primarily guided by the surface distribution of artifacts and was intended to establish the limits of the site and the character and density of its constituent deposits. Throughout this

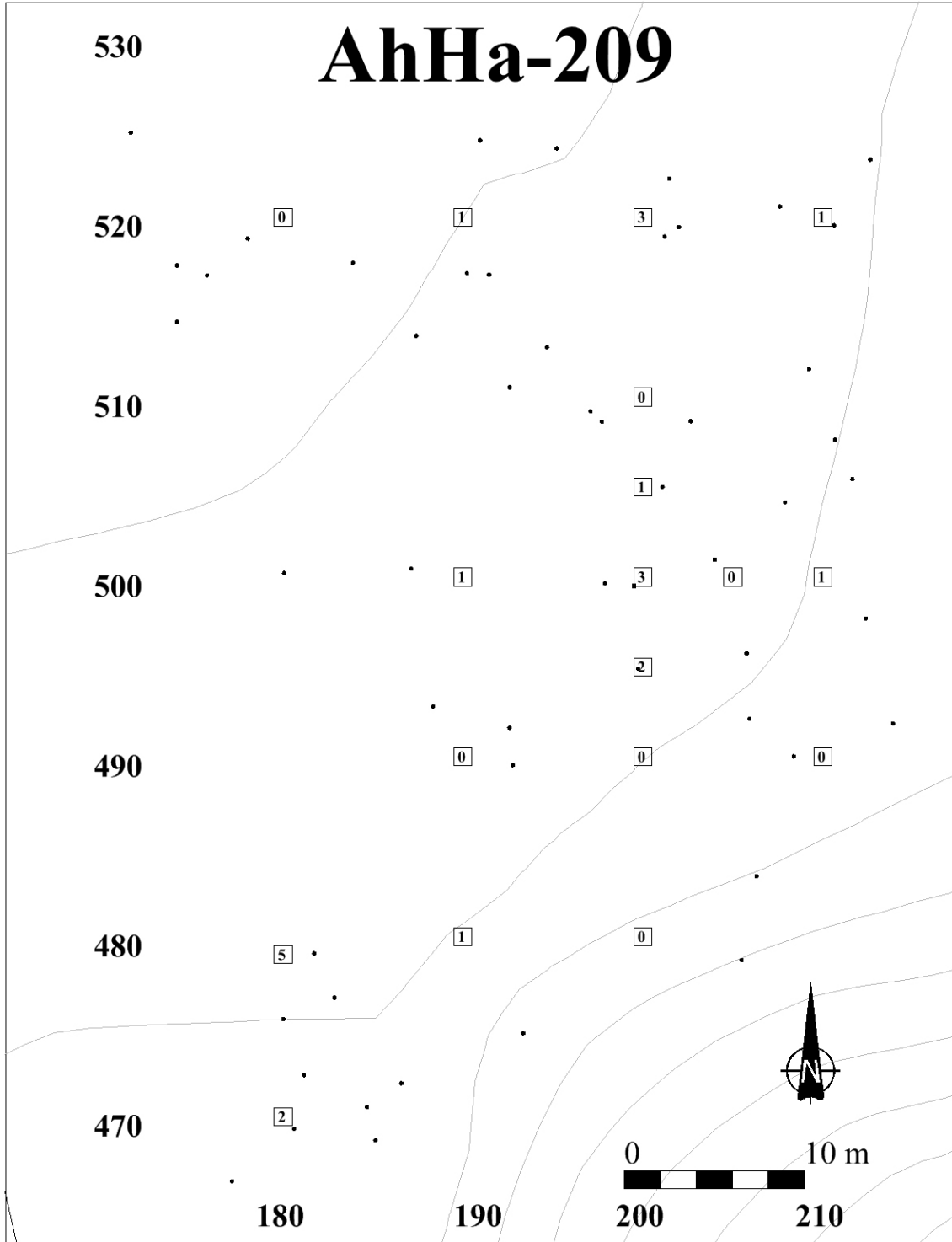


Figure 2: Site AhHa-209 Surface Scatter and Test Unit Yields



**Plate 1: Commencing the Excavation of One-Meter Test Units**

process, the ploughzone soil from each unit was hand-excavated to sterile subsoil. The ploughzone soils, which largely consisted of compact, silty clay loams, were screened through six-millimetre wire mesh in order to facilitate the recovery of artifacts. Each test unit was then backfilled. As the site had been bulldozed, the topsoil depth varied considerably, from less than 5 cm to approximately 25 cm.

### **3.2 Discussion**

A total of 49 artifacts was recovered during the Stage 3 investigation (Table 1): 28 from the controlled surface collection and the balance from the ploughzone units. Among the surface collected artifacts is a thermally altered Late Archaic Innes projectile point base of an unknown exotic chert (Plate 2a).

The only artifacts not made from Onondaga chert are: the projectile point mentioned above, a biface base (Plate 2b) and side scraper (Plate 2c) of Haldimand/Bois Blanc chert, and one shatter fragment of Lockport chert.

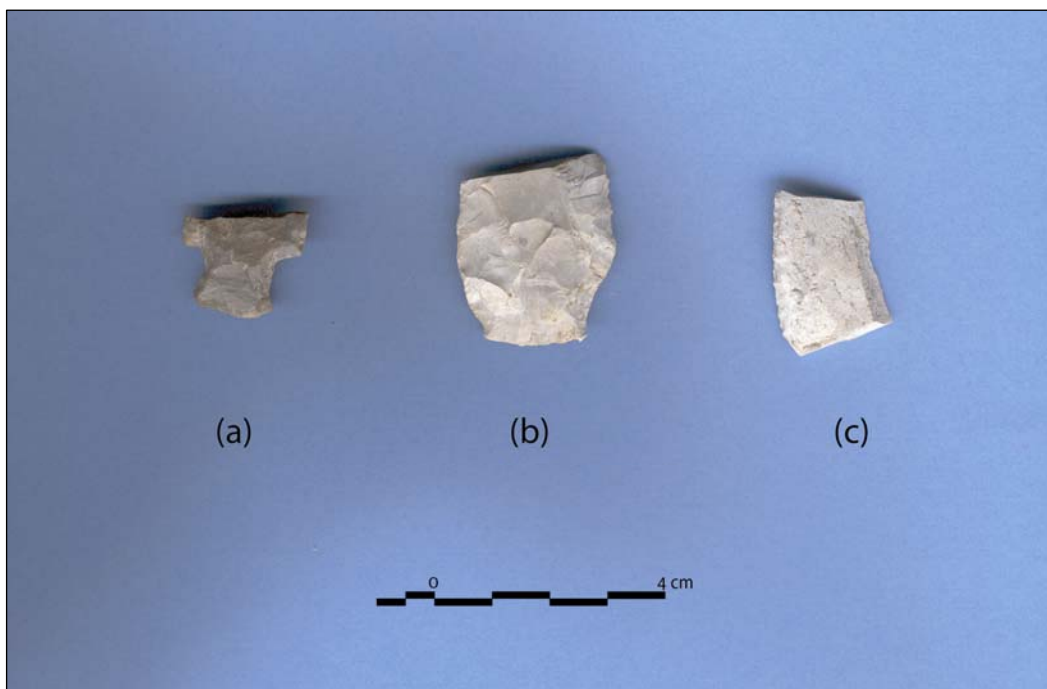
Only one shatter/flake fragment displays evidence of utilization or retouch, and the only thermally altered specimen in this assemblage is the Innes projectile point.

**Table 1: Stage 3 Lithic Assemblage from Site AhHa-209**

<b>Artifact Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Shatter and Distal Flake Fragments	28	57.1
Secondary Knapping Flakes	13	26.5
Secondary Retouch Flakes	3	6.1
Biface Fragment	2	4.1
Primary Thinning Flakes	1	2
Side Scraper	1	2
Projectile Point Fragment	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>99.8</b>

Nineteen units were excavated throughout the surface scatter, resulting in the recovery of 21 Onondaga chert artifacts. No one unit yielded more than five artifacts (Figure 2) and no subsurface settlement features were encountered.

Given that the integrity of Site AhHa-209 has been seriously compromised by agricultural ploughing and by bulldozer grading, it is difficult to interpret the nature and function of the site with certainty. Nevertheless, the artifacts recovered suggest that it was a seasonal campsite associated with the Small Point tradition of the Late Archaic period (ca. 2,800 B.P.).



**Plate 2: a) Cat. L29 Innes Projectile Point; b) Cat. L28 Biface Base; c) Cat. L5 Side Scraper**



#### 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by Valery Homes to conduct a Stage 3 archaeological investigation of Site AhHa-209 located on part of Lot 32, Concession 4, Town of Ancaster, City of Hamilton. This site was discovered in 2005 during a Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment of the proposed Valery Business Park (ASI 2005). It initially presented as a scatter of 21 flakes of Onondaga chert within a 15 metre by 25 metre area on the high, flat terrain alongside Tradewind Drive.

The purpose of the Stage 3 investigation was to evaluate the nature, extent, integrity and significance of the site. Stage 3 testing was accomplished by performing a controlled surface collection followed by excavation of a series of one-metre square test units on a checkerboard within the area of the surface scatter.

The locations of 28 pieces of primarily Onondaga debitage were recorded on the surface of Site AhHa-209. The majority of this material was distributed within an area measuring 40 metres from north to south by 20 metres from east to west. Nineteen units were excavated throughout the surface scatter, resulting in the recovery of an additional 21 Onondaga chert artifacts. No unit yielded more than five artifacts and no subsurface settlement features were encountered. The integrity of the site would appear to have been seriously compromised by agricultural ploughing and bulldozer grading. The artifacts recovered suggest that Site AhHa-209 was a seasonal campsite associated with the Small Point tradition of the Late Archaic period (ca. 2,800 B.P.).

Given that Site AhHa-209 has now been appropriately documented, it is recommended that:

1. Site AhHa-209 should now be considered free of any further archaeological concern.
2. **The above recommendation is subject to Ministry of Culture approval, and it is an offence to alter any archaeological site without Ministry concurrence.** No grading or other activities that may result in the destruction or disturbance of any of the archaeological sites documented by this assessment are permitted until notice of Ministry of Culture approval has been received.
3. Should deeply buried archaeological remains be found on the property during construction activities, Ministry of Culture should be notified immediately.
4. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction, the proponent should immediately contact both the Ministry of Culture and the Registrar or Deputy Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation Unit of the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services, (416) 326-8404.

The documentation related to the archaeological assessment of the subject property shall be curated by Archaeological Services Inc. until such a time that arrangements for their ultimate transfer to Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario, or other public institution, can be made to the satisfaction of the landowner, the Ontario Ministry of Culture, and any other legitimate interest groups.

## **5 REFERENCES CITED**

Archaeological Services Inc.

2005 *Revised Report Stage 1&2 Archaeological Assessment of the Valeri Business Park (Stage 1 Parcel) Severance Applications AN/B-05:62, AN/B-05:63, Part of Lot 32, Concession 4 Town of Ancaster, City of Hamilton, Ontario.* Report on File at Archaeological Services Inc., Burlington, Ontario.

**6 APPENDIX A: ARTIFACT CATALOGUE**

Layer	Unit	Cat. #	Qty	Artifact Type	Material	Retouch/Utilized	Comments
Surface		L4	1	Shatter	Lockport		
Surface		L5	1	Side scraper	Haldimand		
Surface		L6	2	Shatter	Onondaga		
Surface		L7	3	Secondary retouch flake	Onondaga		
Surface		L8	5	Secondary knapping flake	Onondaga		
Surface		L9	14	Shatter	Onondaga		Distal flake fragments
Surface		L28	1	Biface	Haldimand		Base, refined
Surface		L29	1	Projectile point	Unknown		Base, Innes, therm alt
Plough zone	470-180	L10	1	Shatter	Onondaga		flake fragment
Plough zone	470-180	L11	1	Secondary knapping flake	Onondaga		
Plough zone	479-180	L12	1	Biface fragment	Onondaga		
Plough zone	479-180	L13	2	Secondary knapping flake	Onondaga		
Plough zone	479-180	L14	2	Shatter	Onondaga		flake fragment
Plough zone	495-200	L15	1	Secondary knapping flake	Onondaga		
Plough zone	495-200	L16	1	Shatter	Onondaga		flake fragment
Plough zone	500-190	L17	1	Shatter	Onondaga		flake fragment
Plough zone	500-200	L18	1	Primary thinning flake	Onondaga		
Plough zone	500-200	L19	1	Secondary knapping flake	Onondaga		
Plough zone	500-200	L20	1	Shatter	Onondaga		flake fragment
Plough zone	500-210	L21	1	Secondary knapping flake	Onondaga		
Plough zone	505-200	L22	1	Shatter	Onondaga	Yes	flake fragment
Plough zone	510-190	L23	1	Shatter	Onondaga		flake fragment
Plough zone	520-190	L24	1	Shatter	Onondaga		flake fragment
Plough zone	520-200	L25	2	Secondary knapping flake	Onondaga		
Plough zone	520-200	L26	1	Shatter	Onondaga		flake fragment
Plough zone	520-210	L27	1	Shatter	Onondaga		