Figure 3-9: A photograph taken some time (possibly some decades) after the 1903 cave-in at the Boston-Richardson mine. It is not clear which, if any, of the five buildings visible in the distance have left archaeological traces of their presence on the surface. Courtesy the Goldboro Interpretive Centre.

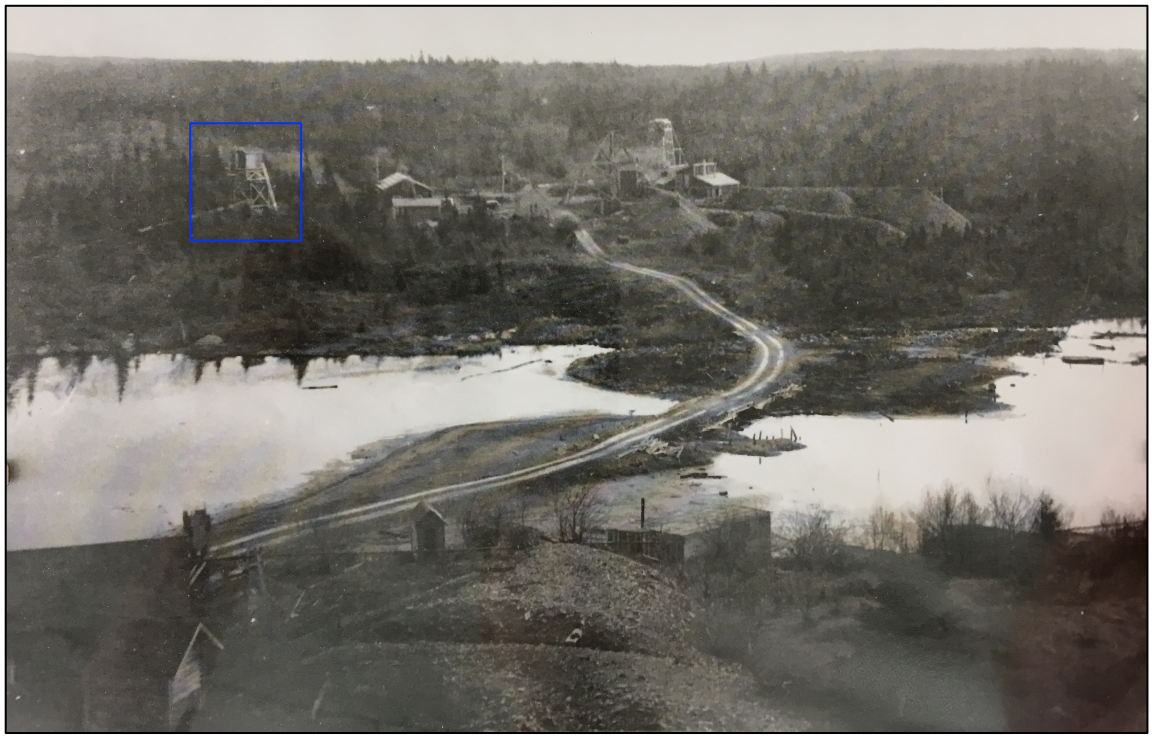

Figure 3-10: A 1930's view of the short-lived Gold Brook Lake and mine from the Boston-Richardson shaft (looking east). Note the possible engine/shaft house (blue) that appears to

correspond to one of the depressions encountered during the field survey (see Section 3.4 below). Courtesy the Goldboro Interpretive Centre, #26-01.

Figure 3-11: A panorama of the operations at the Boston Richardson Mine, 1936.[33]

Figure 3-12: Another view of the exterior of the plant at the Boston Richardson Mine. Date unknown.[34]

[33] NSDNR File # 205915
[34] NSDNR File # 206000

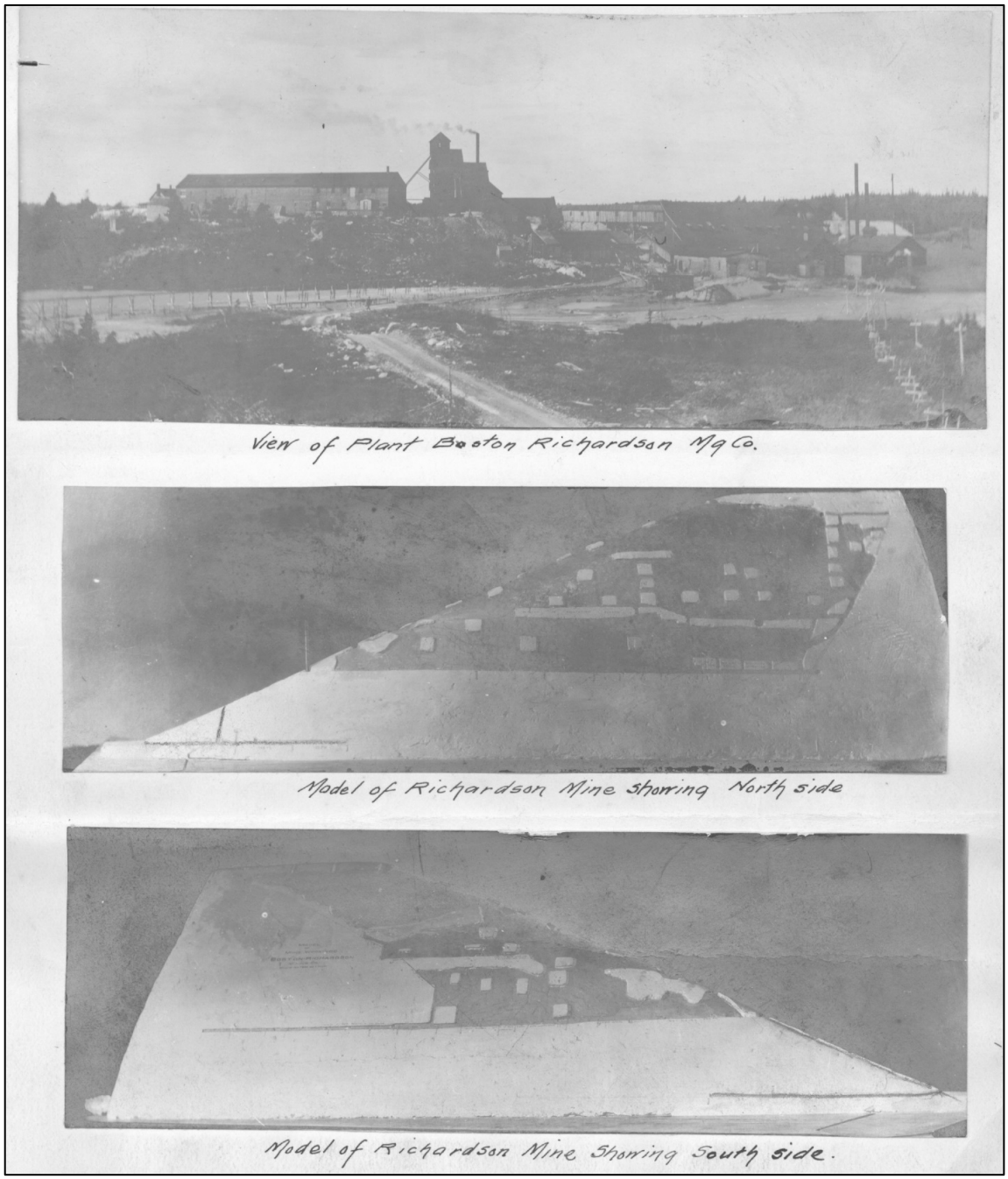

Figure 3-13: A view of the plant operations at the Boston Richardson Mine showing models of the north and south sides. Date unknown[35]

[35] NSDNR File # 205940

Figure 3-14: Richardson Mine office with plant in the background. Date unknown.[36]

[36] NSDNR File # 206010

Figure 3-15: A truck loads at the Richardson Mine, 1936.[37]

[37] NSDNR File # 206020

Figure 3-16: A 1987 painting of the shaft house and mill entitled "Goldborough," presumably a conceptual painting of the Boston-Richardson mine and mill viewed from the east side of Gold Lake Brook.[38]

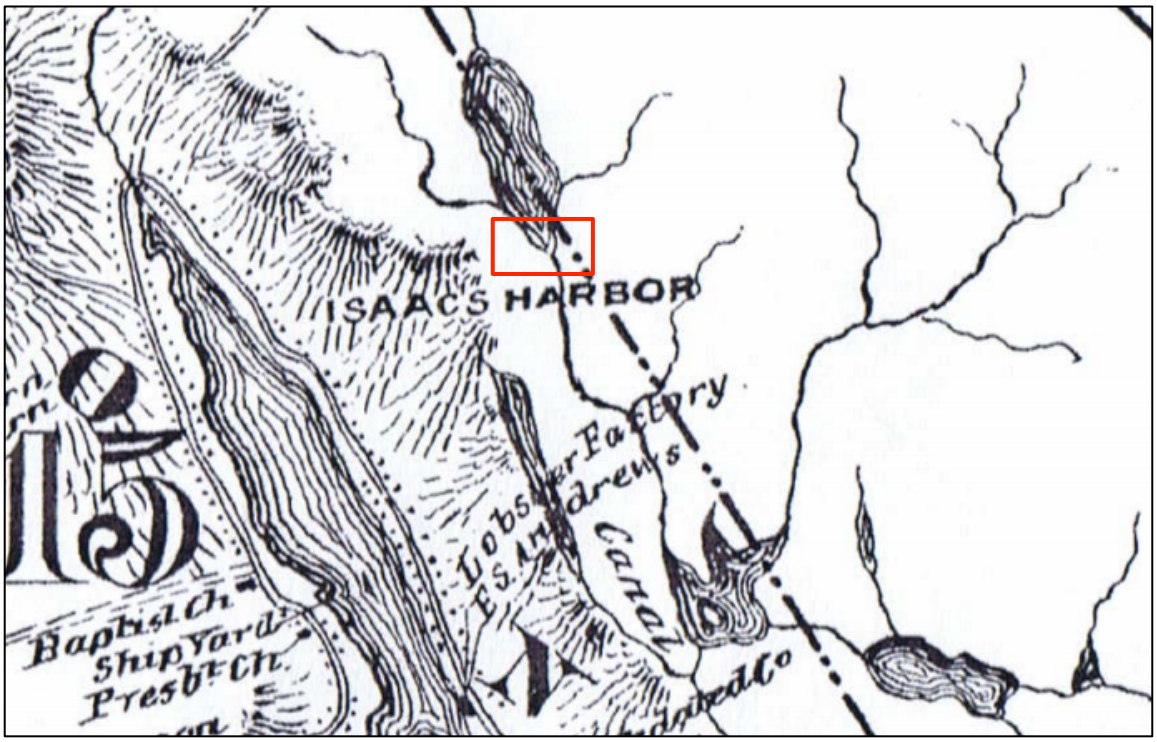

Figure 3-17: Ambrose Church's 1876 map of Isaac's Harbour. The study area at the bottom of Goldboro lacks roads and development. Outlined in red.

[38] Purcell 1987.

Aerials from 1939 depict the extent of the mining operations at the southernmost portion of Gold Brook lake (Figure 3-18). Structures can be faintly seen to the west of the lake. These are presumably the cellars found in Lavoie's 1988 field surveys. The causeway that crosses the southern portion of Gold Brook Lake is present connecting the Boston-Richardson Mine to the East Gold Brook Mine on the eastern shore of the lake. A network of roads can be seen in several areas throughout the study area. These have fallen out of use through the examination of subsequent aerials and are nearly non-existent in modern satellite images.

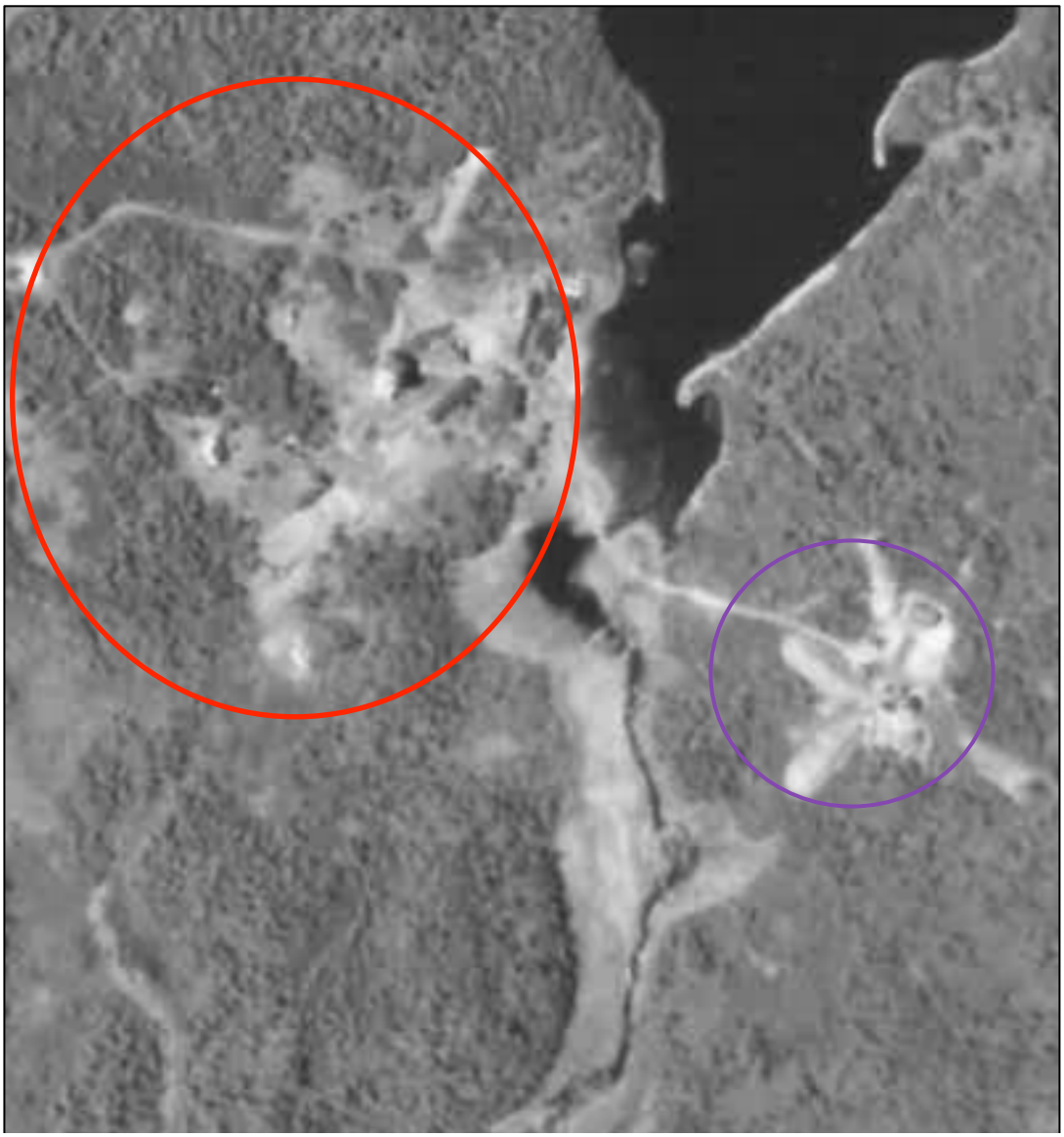

Figure 3-18: A 1939 DNR aerial of the mining operations on the southern portion of Gold Brook Lake. The Boston-Richardson Mine is outlined in red, East Gold Brook in purple.

3.3 Previous Archaeological Assessment

An archaeological assessment of a portion of the 2017 study area was assessed in 1988 by archaeologist Marc Lavoie for Groupe Ecotone Inc. de Montréal and Orex Exploration Inc. (HRP# A1988NS12). During this assessment, Lavoie identified a series of historic archaeological features, and registered them under a single Borden number, BhCj-2 (Figure 3-19).[39]

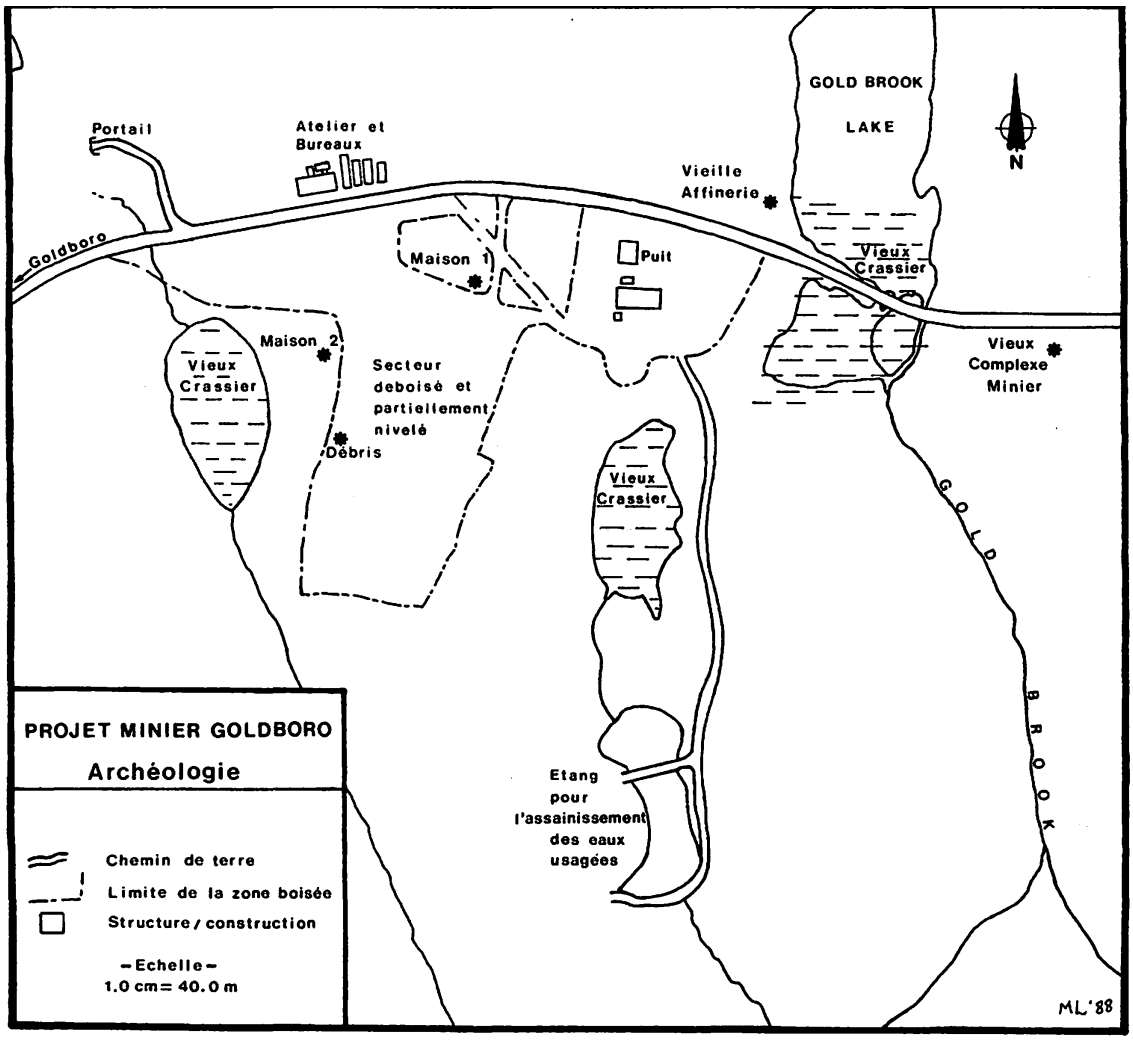

Figure 3-19: A 1988 site plan showing archaeological features in relation to the mine facilities and natural landscape. After Lavoie 1991:212.

House #1 (Maison No. 1) was south-east of the mine office and workshop, and west of the mine pit. The L-shaped cellar was approximately 7.7m x 10.3m, with the stone walls

[39] Lavoie 1991.

being dry-laid about two or three stones thick. The remains of a chimney in the form of moulded bricks with mortar were also present.[40]

A shovel test unit was excavated a meter north of the foundation, down to culturally sterile soil. Approximately 28m southeast of House #1, Lavoie encountered the midden or refuse pile associated with the house. Twenty-seven artifacts from the house site were retained for analysis, including ironstone and other wears consistent with a late nineteenth to early twentieth century date range, and pharmaceutical bottle glass fragments ranging up until at least 1935. [41]

House #2 (Maison No. 2) was located approximately 100m south of the mine office and workshop. The L-shaped cellar was smaller than House #1, being about 7.0m x 8.0m, with no visible foundation stones. Farther south on a gentle slope, a second foundation in the form of an L-shaped stone wall approximately 6.0m x 6.3m was identified, though it had been partially impacted by a bulldozer. South of this wall, additional stone and fragments of ceramic and glass were observed, presumed to be a midden associated with House #2. Twenty-five artifacts were retained for analysis, dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. [42]

The 1988 survey also identified the remains of the old mill facility associated with the Boston-Richardson Gold Mine, abandoned in 1934 (Figure 3-20). Six metres north of the mill foundations, a pile of brick included “Gartcraig” firebrick from Scotland as well as moulded brick thought to have been manufactured at a brickworks in Nova Scotia. On the shore of the lake, a scatter of ceramic and glass was present, related to the era of mine activity. [43]

[40] Lavoie 1991:197.
[41] Lavoie 1991:198.
[42] Lavoie 1991:204.
[43] Lavoie 1991:206-207.

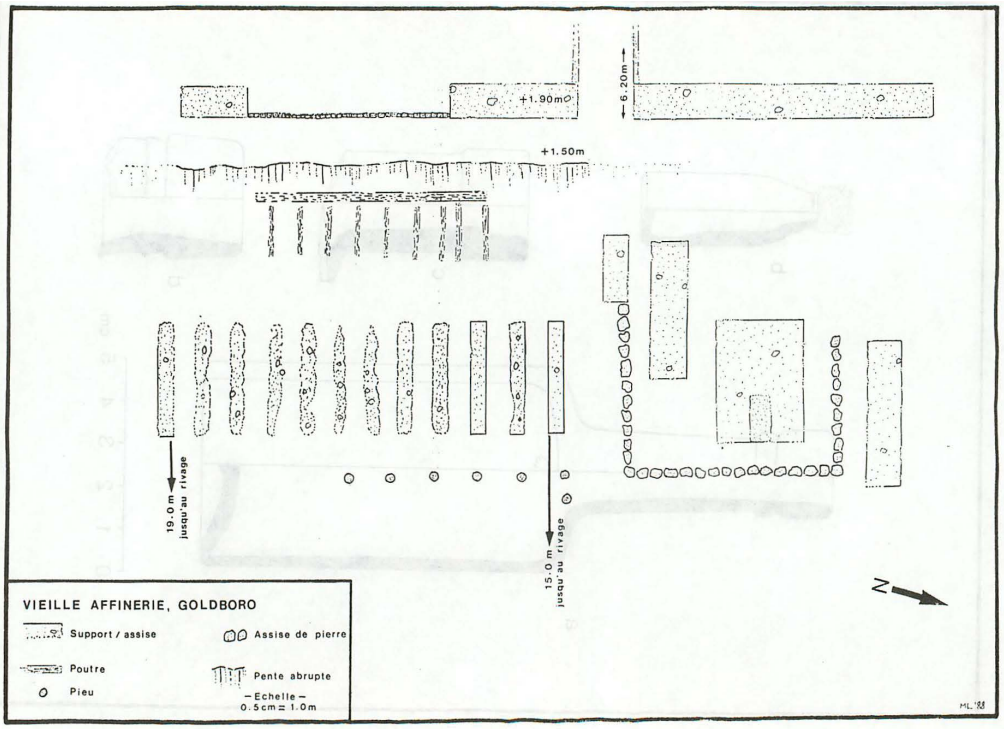

Figure 3-20: A plan of the various foundations and bases associated with the old mill. After Lavoie 1991:216.

Fifty metres west of the mill, two stone ramps parallel to each other were identified facing the lake, one 12m long and 3.5m wide, the other 9.6m long and 4.4m wide. These were likely bases for rail tracks that ran to the mill.

3.4 Field Reconnaissance

A field reconnaissance was conducted by Laura de Boer and Vanessa McKillop in July 2017. The reconnaissance was assisted by a hand-held GPS unit, which had been programmed with study area data as well as a GIS layer showing known abandoned mine entrances in the region. Findings are also illustrated on Figure 3-13.

The proposed east dump area was the first to be explored. North of the main woods road (Goldbrook Road), a very large portion of the area was found to be low and wet, with vegetation indicative of poor drainage including moss, spruce trees, pitcher plants, and marsh grasses (Plate 1). The landscape undulates heavily in some spots, rising up to become rhodora barrens dotted with spruce and scrub hardwood (Plate 2).

South of the Goldbrook Road, much of the terrain in the east dump is consistent with the north side of the road. Immediately east of a woods road that branches southeast from Goldbrook Road, the landscape is somewhat smoother and drier, covered by moss and a moderately mature spruce forest. The entirety of the proposed east dump area,

however, contained no significant signs of human activity beyond a few overgrown woods roads and some limited twentieth century logging activity.

Southeast of the proposed east dump area is the eastern mining area, which encompasses three major areas of old tailings, the south end of Gold Brook Lake and its outlet, the core shack, an area of old stockpiles of quartz and slate, and two of the most recently used mine entrances, both now covered. The lake and brook, and Goldbrook Road, divide this area into rough quadrants which are convenient for descriptive purposes.

In the northeast quadrant, an overgrown mining road runs northward, passing a deep depression approximately 5m x 5m to the west (possibly a mine entrance or something related to a building seen in historic photos), which opens out westward into the lower and wetter landscape bordering Gold Book Lake. The northbound road is also dotted with discarded core samples from previous testing programmes (Plate 3). Near the northern edge of the proposed mining area, the road appears to terminate where it cuts into a steep hillside. Although modern mapping layers suggest the road once continued northwards, heavy overgrowth transitions into the rhodora and spruce barrens seen in the east dump area, and the road is no longer discernable. At least one steel pipe was observed embedded in the ground near the road's visible end, presumably relating to earlier core sampling (Plate 4).

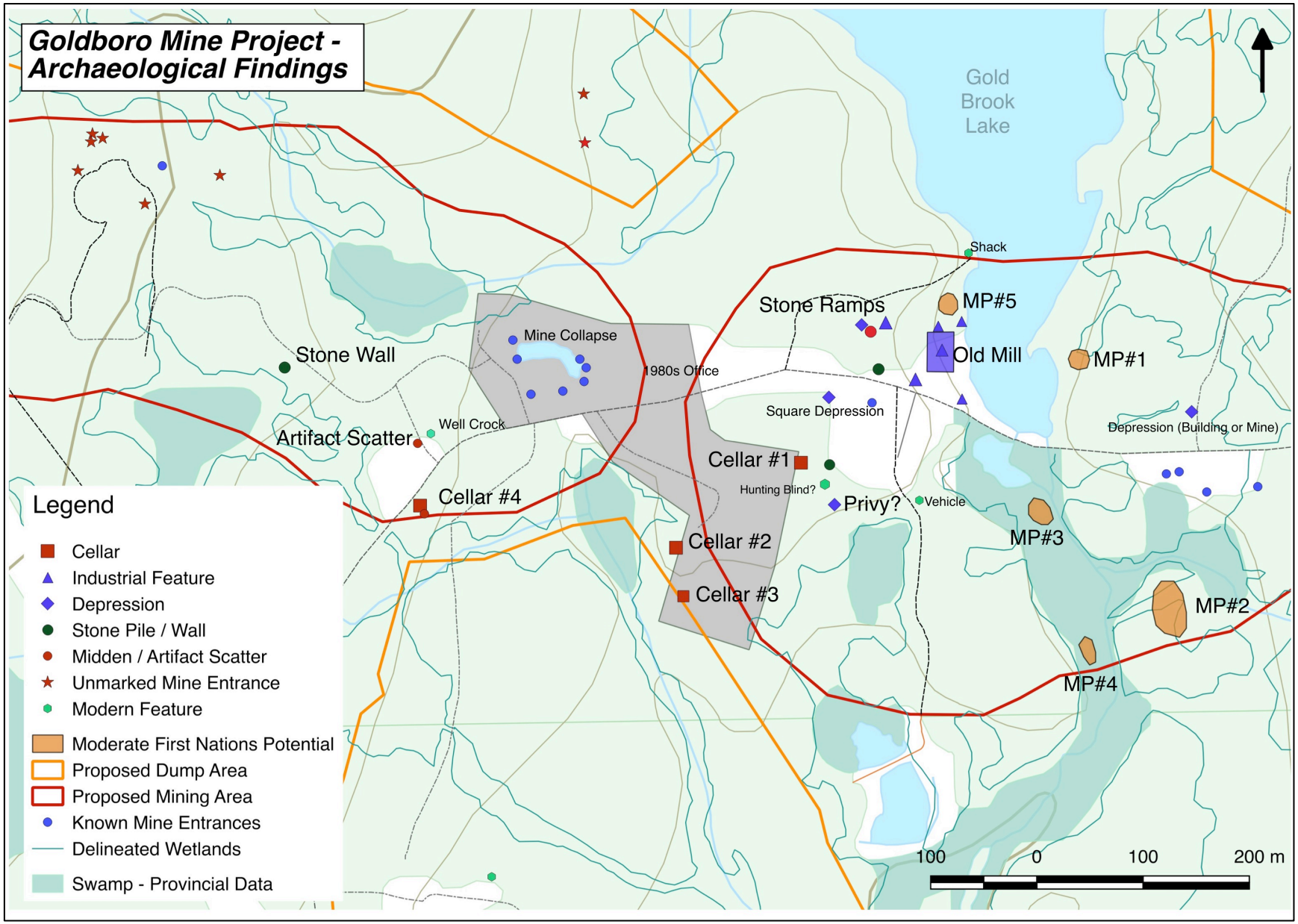

Figure 3-21: A map showing archaeological findings during the field survey.

Along the east edge of Gold Brook Lake, the spruce trees are taller and more mature, but much of the landscape is low and wet. A small “island” of relatively dry and smooth ground was identified in this area, and would be suitable for First Nations encampment by the side of the lake. The area is fairly small (roughly 20m x 20m), and for the purposes of this assessment has been labelled Moderate Potential (MP) #1 (Plate 5).

In the southeast quadrant, the landscape has been very heavily altered by mining activity. The available government GIS layer for mining activity shows four abandoned mine entrances, most of which are now discernable as depressions or wet areas with some creosote-treated wood and machinery scattered nearby, and strongly iron-stained water seeping up from the ground. A very large area of discarded core samples is present near these entrances, and to the south, wide stretches of old tailings are clearly visible in a low, wet region (Plate 6). A notable “island” in this area again rises up from the wet soil and tailings, bordering Gold Brook (Plate 7). A rough road leads south from the core samples over the tailings and up onto this “island,” which includes some exposed soil and is not comprised of tailings. Though no archaeological material was visible, this elevated and dry region would be suitable for First Nations encampment beside the brook, and as such it has been designated as Moderate Potential #2. The area is approximately 30m east-west by 60m north-south.

In the southwest quadrant, mining activity has heavily impacted much of the landscape. A road runs south from Goldbrook Road past the core shack and along the east edge of more tailings, reaching two “polishing ponds” (settling ponds for discarded water from the mine processing) just beyond the defined mining area (Plate 8). Between this road and Gold Brook, the remains of a discarded vehicle were observed in a moderately mature spruce forest. Although the landscape along this edge of the brook was likely cleared and somewhat impacted by the historic mine based on historic photos, to what purpose and extent is no longer evident in the forest.

Farther south, more recent logging activity has created a more open but undulating landscape with some minor regrowth in poor soil. The shore of Gold Brook shows signs of having deposited tailings from upstream, with some moss and low vegetation gradually growing to cover it (Plate 9). Two small “islands” that appear to be formed of a more natural soil on a slightly higher elevation were identified, the northern one approximately 20m x 30m (MP#3), the southern approximately 15m x 20m (MP#4). Both may have been suitable for First Nations encampment prior to mining activity in the area.

Farther west of the core shack, moderately mature forest covers an area of historic activity, which includes a cast iron pipe that runs to the polishing ponds (Plate 10), some overgrown roads, and an area with two large concrete bases (possibly moved from elsewhere)(Plate 11) and a small square feature of unknown function but presumably relating to the twentieth century mine (Plate 12).

Most notably, on the eastern edge of the stockpile area in the southwest quadrant, a large stone-lined cellar with a stone sill for an extension or porch and the remains of a brick chimney was encountered (Cellar #1) (Plate 13). This site likely represents “House #1” as located by Marc Lavoie in 1988, and is almost certainly the mine office seen in multiple photographs taken during the operation of the Richardson Mine.

A pile of large stones was noted to the east of the cellar, and the remains of a wooden frame to the southeast, possibly an old hunting blind (Plate 14). At the southeastern edge of the area that contains the cellar and other features, a deep rectangular depression overlooks a drop down to a low, wet area near the polishing ponds (Plate 15). It is possible that this represents an exploratory prospector’s pit, but given its location it seems more likely that it is the remains or a privy or other outbuilding.

The northwest quadrant of the eastern mining area is dominated by the remains of the mill foundation by the western shore of Gold Brook Lake. The foundation includes a series of stone and concrete bases for various machines, including the stamps that would crush stone from the mine to allow for extraction of the gold (Plate 16).

Along the shore of the lake, bricks (including “Gartcraig” fire bricks from Glasgow), iron, and copper alloy objects can be seen on the surface, all likely relating to the mill and mining activity (Plate 17). North of the mill, two piles of nineteenth century brick were also noted.

In the moderately mature forest north of the mill, a fifth and final area overlooking Gold Brook Lake was noted as being suitable for First Nations encampment. The terrace may be the result of industrial activity rather than a natural formation, but due to forest cover it is difficult to be certain. This area (MP#5) is approximately 20m x 20m in size (Plate 18).

Uphill and west from the mill remains, smaller signs of historic activity include a discarded iron object (Plate 19), an abandoned cook stove (Plate 20), a pile of stone, a depression that may represent a prospector’s exploratory excavation or a mine building foundation as it has a timber with large bolts on one side (Plate 21), and two side-by-each, slightly offset stone ramps (Plate 22). These ramps were also identified during the 1988 survey as relating to railway approaches to the mill. A woods road runs through this area and terminates by the shore of the lake, where a shack made from oriented strand board containing a sunken well crock is located at the edge of the proposed mining area (Plate 23).

Farther west, overgrown roads and the cast iron pipe leading to the polishing ponds were the only clear signs of human activity. The area is covered in a young mixed-wood forest.

On the western edge of the stockpile area, which is located between the eastern mining area and the proposed south dump, two more probable house foundations have been located. The northern-most is a distinct and deep cellar, most likely House #2 discovered and tested by Marc Lavoie in 1988 (Cellar #2) (Plate 24). The second, more southerly feature is a shallow rectangular depression that could represent the crawlspace below a house or other building, but would require archaeological testing to confirm the nature of the feature (Cellar #3 – probable) (Plate 25), which is likely the same as the bulldozer-impacted debris and L-shaped stone foundation (now presumably overgrown) identified in 1988.

Like the eastern dump area, the southern dump exhibits very little evidence of human activity. Much of the area is wetland, and many of the slightly drier areas show signs of logging activity but little else, with light regrowth in poor soil. The proposed dump area is bordered on the west side by the Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline corridor and Gold Brook Road, and roughly on the east side by a small stream draining from wetlands to the north. Branching east from Gold Brook Road into the proposed dump area is an overgrown roadbed, which disappears into alder growth on a broad, flat rock and gravel pad that was likely a staging area. Dumped material from the late twentieth century is found along the northeast edge of this artificially created pad (Plate 26), including household appliances, food containers, a furnace oil tank, and a construction hard hat manufactured in 1998, indicating this material likely relates to the last phase of mining exploration under OREX.

The proposed western mining area broadly spans a mixed-wood forest that is indicative in many areas of old field that has since grown up. A probable cellar (Cellar #4 – possible)(Plate 27) and early twentieth century midden (including a machine-made bottle and a few scallop shells)(Plate 28) are located within this area immediately southeast of Gold Brook Road. Like one of the cellars located in the eastern mining area, this feature would require archaeological testing to confirm that it is a domestic cellar and to help determine a date range associated with its occupation.

North of Gold Brook Road, a few pieces of ironstone ceramic (not collected) along with some tattered fabric were observed in the mud of a rough machine track that was created during recent geological testing in the mixed-wood forest to the north (Plate 29). The ceramic was on the rear or northwest slope of a broad bulldozed pad that appears to have served as an office or staging area during the last phase of mining in the 1990s. A concrete well crock was observed near the ceramic, at the northern corner of this pad (Plate 30).

To the east, a large collapsed mine entrance (shown in the available GIS layer as 7 abandoned entrances) is represented by an oblong pond with rough, rocky shores (Plate 31). The immediate vicinity of this entrance was not disturbed given the heavy twentieth century impact to the area coupled with the risk of any mine entrances that are not easily visible or improperly sealed.

Moving west within the western mining area, a rough woods road weaves through the mixed-wood and old field. A low rocky berm or wall was noted on the south side of this road in one location (Plate 32), likely representing the edge of a historic field. South of the rock wall, the landscape becomes too low and wet to be used for pasture or farming.

Much of the western half of this mining area appears to have been impacted either by exploratory prospecting, or by historic mining that is no longer clearly recorded. A total of six unrecorded mine entrances were observed (Plate 33), of which only one had the remnants of a sign (a wood post and blank wood board)(Plate 34). The entrances were identified visually as holes approximately 3m to 4m in diameter, roughly circular but sometimes oblong, filled with black or opaque water to nearly the level of the surrounding ground. Seven other mine entrances are marked in the available GIS layer, though some (closer to the road and the M&NE pipeline corridor) have been blocked with rock and gravel in recent years.

The western-most end of the western mining area is located on the far side of the M&NE pipeline, and is comprised of a large floating bog with moss, rhodora, and pitcher plants throughout (Plate 35).

Like the other proposed dump areas, the proposed north dump is predominantly untouched by human cultural activity, with the exception of logging activity in most of the eastern half, and some exploratory trails and pits from geological testing in the last few decades in the southeast end. The area includes large sections of wetland, some moderately mature mixed-wood forest with a few ATV trails and some signs of minor selective tree cutting, and a broad swath of logged forest that has regrown thickly in young spruce and a few other shrub species.

It is notable that two additional unmarked mine entrances were encountered in this logged area (Plates 36 and 37). It is very possible that additional mine entrances exist in close proximity to these two, as the density of the forest regrowth – approximately 2m high and with minimal ground visibility between the trees – mean that the entrances are just barely visible from even 1m away. This area was not covered by close-lying transects by the archaeological team, as the minimal signs of cultural activity, frequency of wetlands, and hazard of the mine entrances meant that the team was unlikely to encounter significant archaeological resources.

4.0 RESOURCE INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

The features identified in the course of this assessment range from low to high archaeological significance, depending upon their estimated age and function. Many features are of unknown significance, and would require limited archaeological testing or monitoring to determine their significance, if any.

Feature	Coordinates (UTM WGS84)	Significance
Mill & Mining Activity		
Old Mill	20 T 606991 5006417	Moderate to High
Brick Pile	20 T 606987 5006439	Unknown
Brick Pile	20 T 607009 5006443	Unknown
Iron Object - Mine Mechanism?	20 T 606966 5006389	Unknown
Rock Pile – Old Stockpile or Refuse?	20 T 606931 5006399	Unknown
Stone Ramps	20 T 606938 5006442	Unknown
Abandoned Mine Entrance	20 T 606241 5006554	Low
Abandoned Mine Entrance	20 T 606178 5006585	Low
Abandoned Mine Entrance	20 T 606654 5006658	Low
Abandoned Mine Entrance	20 T 606655 5006612	Low
Abandoned Mine Entrance	20 T 606311 5006581	Low
Abandoned Mine Entrance	20 T 606201 5006616	Low
Abandoned Mine Entrance	20 T 606191 5006620	Low
Abandoned Mine Entrance	20 T 606190 5006613	Low
Domestic and Agricultural Activity		
Cellar #1 (House #1)	20 T 606858 5006310	Moderate to High
Cellar #2 (House #2)	20 T 606740 5006230	Moderate to High
Cellar #3 - Probable ("Debris")	20 T 606747 5006185	Unknown
Cellar #4 - Probable	20 T 606500 5006270	Unknown
Cellar #4 Midden	20 T 606504 5006262	Unknown
Artifact Scatter - Ironstone	20 T 606497 5006329	Low
Stone Wall	20 T 606372 5006400	Low
Cook Stove	20 T 606924 5006434	Low
Unknown Function		
Depression - Mine Entrance or Building	20 T 606915 5006440	Unknown
Depression - Mine Entrance or Building	20 T 607226 5006358	Unknown
Depression - Possible Privy for Cellar #1	20 T 606890 5006271	Unknown
Depression - Unidentified Square Feature	20 T 606884 5006372	Unknown
Areas of Archaeological Potential - First Nations		
Moderate Potential Area 1	20 T 607121 5006408	Unknown
Moderate Potential Area 2	20 T 607205 5006192	Unknown
Moderate Potential Area 3	20 T 607085 5006269	Unknown
Moderate Potential Area 4	20 T 607127 5006140	Unknown
Moderate Potential Area 5	20 T 607002 5006464	Unknown

Modern Activity		
Possible Hunting Blind	20 T 606881 5006290	Low
Boulder Pile	20 T 606885 5006309	Low
Vehicle Remains	20 T 606970 5006275	Low
Well Crock	20 T 606510 5006338	Low
Late 20th Century Dump	20 T 606567 5005921	Low
Pipe To Polishing Ponds - Point	20 T 606764 5006429	Low
Pipe To Polishing Ponds - Point	20 T 606803 5006393	Low
Pipe To Polishing Ponds - Point	20 T 606887 5006344	Low
Shack with Crock	20 T 607016 5006508	Low

5.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Archaeological field findings during this assessment are consistent with a nineteenth century gold mine, consisting of a key mill complex, a variety of mine shafts and other areas of supporting industrial activity, and some limited domestic activity relating to the mine workers and their families. Although some late twentieth century mining activity is present and has impacted some archaeological features, the isolated nature of the site complex has resulted in relatively good preservation of the archaeological landscape. Dense vegetation throughout poses a difficulty in locating and interpreting archaeological sites, and it appears that vegetation has become much denser than it was during an initial survey in 1988. However, it is clear that almost all of the historic activity in the study area has clustered tightly around known gold seams within the two proposed mining areas, with little activity farther afield where the rough, wet, and heavily overgrown landscape would likely have been inhospitable in the nineteenth century, as it is today.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The historic mill complex by Gold Brook Lake is the most notable archaeological feature within the study area. This large complex is obviously industrial in nature, and given the size and the known date range of the site, it is unlikely that archaeological testing in this location would be an efficient means of learning more about the site. As such, if soil disturbance – including mechanical clearing of the trees – is proposed within approximately 50m of the provided GPS coordinate for the site, it is required that an archaeologist be contracted to monitor mechanical ground disturbance to ensure that the site is properly mitigated. The same is true of the two stone ramps, which lie approximately 60m northwest of the mill's centre. At the ramp location, a buffer of only 10m is recommended, and if disturbance encroaches upon this buffer, archaeological monitoring is similarly required. The isolated iron object nearby is of unknown function and age. As such it has not been collected for curation, but it would be recommended

that prior to ground disturbance this object be more closely examined and the Museum of Industry in Stellarton be consulted to determine if the object is desirable for curation.

It is required that a 20m buffer zone be established around Cellar #1 and Cellar #2, both of which were confirmed as late nineteenth to early twentieth century archaeological features in 1988. If a buffer zone is not feasible, further archaeological testing and recording is recommended to collect valuable information about these features before they are destroyed. This would likely take the form of formal test units (50cm x 50cm) spaced closely around and inside the features, or a series of trench-like excavation units designed to cross-section the features.

Cellars #3 and #4 are smaller and less distinct, and may represent outbuildings or other historic activity of lower significance. As such, archaeological testing at these two locations is recommended prior to ground disturbance within 20m of both features. If these areas will not be impacted by the development, then a 20m buffer would be sufficient to avoid disturbing any archaeological resources that they contain.

The artifact scatter identified near the former office site (gravel pad) does not appear to be associated with any intact archaeological feature. It is possible that a cellar or other feature once existed under the gravel pad, or that the area was simply a semi-modern dump area. As such, it is not currently a location of high concern. However, if during ground disturbance a large quantity of additional artifacts is encountered, it is required that ground disturbance activity should cease and an archaeologist be contracted to assess and possibly monitor the area.

The two depressions of unknown function appear most likely to be related to mining activity, and as such it is unlikely that archaeological testing would be helpful in these locations. As such, it is required that if soil disturbance is likely to take place within 10m of these two depressions, and archaeologist should be contracted to monitor the disturbance and mitigate any significant archaeological resources.

The probable privy associated with Cellar #1 would similarly be unlikely to benefit from archaeological testing unless a test unit was placed directly inside it, which may be a difficult undertaking given the slope of the depression itself. It is therefore required that a 10m buffer be established around this feature, or if this is not possible, professional archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance at this location should b undertaken.

In all five areas identified as having moderate potential for First Nations archaeological resources, archaeological shovel testing should be undertaken to determine whether any archaeological deposits exist at these locations. Testing would consist of a 40cm x 40cm shovel test unit placed every 5m on a grid in areas smaller than 20m x 20m, and every 10m on areas larger than this. As all of these locations border Gold Brook Lake and Gold Brook itself, they may be protected by a buffer zone or set-back area related

to other parts of the project's environmental assessment. If this is the case and these areas shall not be disturbed, then testing need not be undertaken.

No mitigation is required for the modern activity areas as indicated in Section 4.0 above.

Finally, in the unlikely event that archaeological resources are encountered that have not been recorded above, it is required that any ground-disturbing activity be halted and the Coordinator of Special Places (902-424-6475) be contacted immediately regarding a suitable method of mitigation.

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