

Porter Creek Bench - Design Charrette Background Information Heritage Resource Assessments Briefing Notes

Thomas Heritage Consulting has proposed to complete a heritage potential mapping study (HPMS), also known as an overview assessment, for the area known as the Porter Creek Bench. The purpose of the study will be to present land planners with an overview map that can be used to either avoid conflicts between future urban developments and heritage sites or to conceptualize phase-by-phase schedules for the initiation of heritage assessments. The final product will include a general history of the bench area, a summary of traditional land use and summary of archaeological sequences. The final report will also include a map(s) depicting areas where sites are known to exist and areas where heritage sites are likely to exist.

The HPMS will entail the gathering of background data regarding the known location of heritage resources in the study area, those being archaeological and historic sites as well as First Nations traditional land use data, for the purpose of developing observable human land use patterns in the bench area. The consultant will then apply observations developed from historic land use patterns to a study of orthographic photos and topographic maps where analogies between known heritage site locations and similar geographic settings will be identified. Areas where analogous settings exist will be depicted on the overview map as localities with elevated (moderate or high) potential for the presence of historic or archaeological sites.

This project is important because it allows the proponent to develop urban design and layout concepts with the aid of a planning tool that will help predict where conflicts may arise between heritage sites and future developments. As a planning tool the Heritage Potential Map can be used to

1. avoid conflicts during the planning stage of the project,
2. reduce the scope of pre-development assessments, and
3. mitigate the cost of the heritage assessments through time by implementing assessments on a phase-by-phase basis.

The implementation of the work plan will ultimately ensure that the development will proceed in a manner that is mindful of historically, culturally and scientifically important sites in the bench area while allowing for unique opportunities to incorporate historic interpretation into the urban development plan.