



**Archaeological Overview Assessment**  
**RPA 1716: Terra Nova National Park Utility Systems Recapitalization**  
**AMENDMENT: Recap Phase 3 (Well Pump House to TNNP Visitor Centre Watermain)**  
**Terra Nova National Park (Newfoundland and Labrador)**  
**Funding: To Be Determined**

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## 1.0 Purpose

Terra Nova National Park (NP) Utility Systems Recapitalization Project (RPA 1716). This large recapitalization project encompasses the following four large infrastructure projects: 1) Newman Sound Campground Underground Electrical Primary Recap; 2) Newman Sound Admin building to Maintenance Compound Water & Wastewater Recap; 3) Newman Sound Campground Water, Wastewater & Water Storage Tank Recap; 4) Malady Head Campground Wastewater Recap.

An archaeological impact assessment was recommended and subsequently undertaken by Parks Canada archaeologists, John Higdon and Marissa Homosits in 2019. See Higdon 2019 Archaeological Overview Assessment document for more details. Cultural resources of note were not found during the course of the impact assessment, thus work could proceed as planned, as long as the chance find and other recommendations were followed.

This amendment reviews the potential archaeological impact associated with the excavations associated with the **Recap Phase 3 (Well Pump House to TNNP Visitor Centre Watermain)**, as outlined in **Extracted pages from 1900387.10 - 60% Drawings - Feb 26 2021.pdf (Drawing Number VC-CW02) (Englobe 2021)**.

In addition to summarizing the objectives of each project, this assessment will take into account existing archaeological data and the archaeological potential of each area to determine potential impacts on surface and sub-surface cultural resources. It also contains feedback from questions posed to Project Manager, Tyson Simmonds.

## 2.0 Background

Terra Nova National Park is situated on the northern coast of the Island of Newfoundland and has a cultural history stretching back more than 5000 years. As of Sept 2017, thirty-two known archaeological sites have been documented within the park limits (Higdon *in progress*). They represent Maritime Archaic, Pre-Inuit [formerly Paleoeskimo], Recent Period [formerly Indian] occupations, as well as more recent European operations, including numerous 20th century forestry/sawmill related sites. While these sites are predominately located along the coast, recent surveys have shown they there are also numerous sites in the interior of the park, along its rivers and ponds. A lack of known archaeological sites in a particular area does preclude the



existence of archaeological sites in that area, it may simply be a function of whether or not that area had previously been systematically surveyed by an archaeologist.

### 3.0 Project Objectives

According to the available drawings (Englobe 2021), the project objective is to install a replacement water line between well pump house and the Terra Nova NP Visitor Center. The Visitor Center is located adjacent to Salton's Brook and a known archaeological site. The work requires excavation of a trench "6' to 8' [1.8m to 2.4m] wide at the top in order to reach the depth required for frost protection (1.8m or 6')." (Tyson Simmonds, pers. comm. April 23, 2021).

The water line will be installed within the footprint of the existing waterline. While the alignment of the waterline in the drawings indicates that the waterline follows along within a few meters north of the existing line. Project Manager, Tyson Simmonds confirmed that "The intent is to have the new waterline follow the same path as the old line. The new line is shown just to the north of the old so that both lines can be shown; the old and the new, it's just the way the AutoCAD Tech has it drawn." (Tyson Simmonds, pers. comm. April 23, 2021).

General Note 5 indicated that the contractor may "adjust the path location of new line in the field to avoid impacts to trees" (Englobe 2021: VC-CW01). Simmonds indicated that "we do not intend to cut any tree to install the new line. The only location where this a possibility is along the parking lot between the foot bridge and the VC. If the new line has to be rerouted it would be moved further towards the parking area which is already disturbed" pers. comm. April 23, 2021).

General Note 6) indicated that, In the event that the existing water line must remain live during the construction as determined by the departmental representative, the contractor must confirm the location of the live water line before working with 20m of it. The departmental representative shall determine how it will be connected, crossed or abandoned. (Englobe 2021: VC-CW01). "The intent is to carry out this work during the off season so that water can be turned off to the building while the new line is being installed. Either way we will not be deviating 20m from the location shown even if the old line is left live. The comment indicates the contractor must locate the old line if working within 20m of it, it doesn't indicate the contractor has to stay 20m away from it." (Simmonds, pers. comm. April 23, 2021).

General Notes 12) indicated that, "Unless indicated to remain live on the drawings, existing water infrastructure being replaced will be removed where encountered when installing new infrastructure. However, existing infrastructure that is outside of the new trench shall remain abandoned in place" (Englobe 2021: VC-CW01). Correct. We do not know for sure the depth of the old line. The old line may be deeper than the new line has to be installed. If this is the case the old line can remain under the new one but if the old line is at a shallower depth than the new one it will need to be removed as they go along installing the new one. (Simmonds, pers. comm. April 23, 2021).

Drawing, VC-CW02 notes the replacement of an existing culvert. The impact of this on the subsurface is not of concern, as it is contained within the existing roadway (Englobe 2021).



## 4.0 Archaeological Potential of Area

The project area is located on the northern side of Salton's Brook. Historical and archaeological evidence show that there used be a historic sawmill along the shores of Newman Sound, to the southeast of the mouth of the brook. The site's Parks Canada provenience number is 34A.

*Salton's Brook was the site of the Turner sawmilling operation from 1915 to 1950 (Major 1988:50). Archaeological survey and excavation in 2011 yielded artefacts that conformed to the period of operation, representing both milling and settlement functions that included machinery parts, stove parts, household ceramics, and glass (Hudson and Curtis 2011).*

*Stopp 2013:16-17*

A sketch map of the area outlining the location of the sawmill in relation to the topography, also notes the location of various houses and other structures associated with the families who lived on site (Curtis 2007:5). This includes some structures located to the north of the brook, potentially intersecting with the proposed water line trench. Artifacts have also been observed eroding out of the bank edge, but primarily to the south of the brook (Stopp 2013:17)

Given the project areas location next to where Salton's Brook empties into Newman Sound, this area may have also been used by indigenous groups in the past. This may include camping and practicing subsistence activities on either side of the brook and/or stopping in this location temporarily, as they made their way inland. These sites are more nuanced than historic sites and may include tent rings, hearths, artifact scatters and other ephemeral features.

As such, the Salton's Brook area is of moderate archaeological potential.

### 4.1 Potential of Impacts on Cultural Resources

While the area has archaeological potential due to its proximity to the known sawmill site, Salton's Brook and Newman Sound, the potential of negatively impacting cultural resources is low because the proposed project footprint falls largely within previously disturbed areas, namely the existing roadway and existing waterline. That being said, park's and contractor staff should be aware of the archaeological potential of the area.

## 5.0 Archaeological Recommendations

With the proposed work being conducted largely within previously disturbed areas, an **Archaeological Impact Assessment is not required for the installation of the replacement waterline.** Work can proceed as planned, with the following caveats:

- A. Project activities are restricted to areas presented in the provided engineering document (Englobe 2021). If landscaping is required beyond these excavation limits, consult with Parks Canada's Terrestrial Archaeology section to determine if an additional AOA is required for these activities. Based on the AOA, an AIA and/or additional mitigation measures may be required prior to the continuation of excavation activities. This includes if the trench needs to be rerouted during the course of the work.



- B. Staging for the excavation and related equipment should take place on previously disturbed areas, such as road side or perhaps within the day use area parking lot to minimize impact on undisturbed areas. Impact to surface and subsurface, while accessing the project areas should be kept at a minimum.
  
- C. There could be a chance, however low, that cultural resources, such as features (i.e. tent rings, fire pits, remains of wooden structures) or artifacts (i.e. stone tools, glass, ceramic, etc.) may be encountered during construction activities. **If cultural resources, are encountered, work should cease in the immediate area.** Any artifacts and/or cultural features should be kept in place, unless there is immediate danger of it being lost or damaged by the excavation equipment. The work area in relation to the findings photo documented and geo-referenced, and the Parks Canada project manager informed. The project manager should then contact Parks Canada's Terrestrial Archaeology section for advice and assessment of significance, which will in turn determine what will be required to mitigate the chance find.

## 6.0 Contacts

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## 7.0 References

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**J Higdon (May 2021)**

Englobe

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## 8.0 Figures

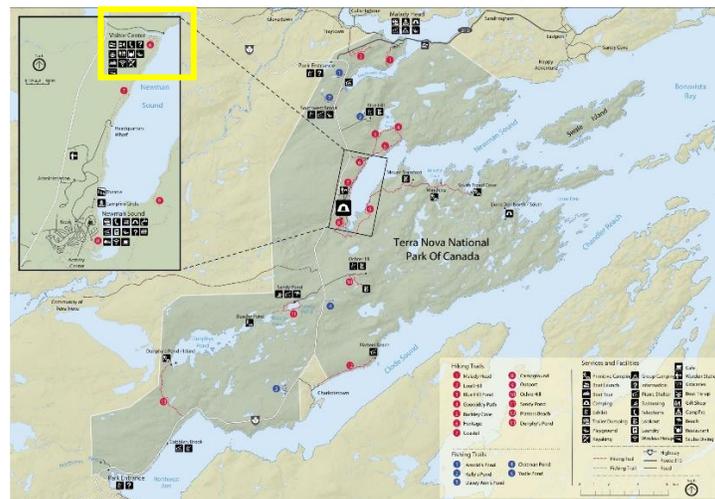


Figure 1: Map of Terra Nova National Park showing locations of Visitor Centre. Indicated by Yellow Rectangle.



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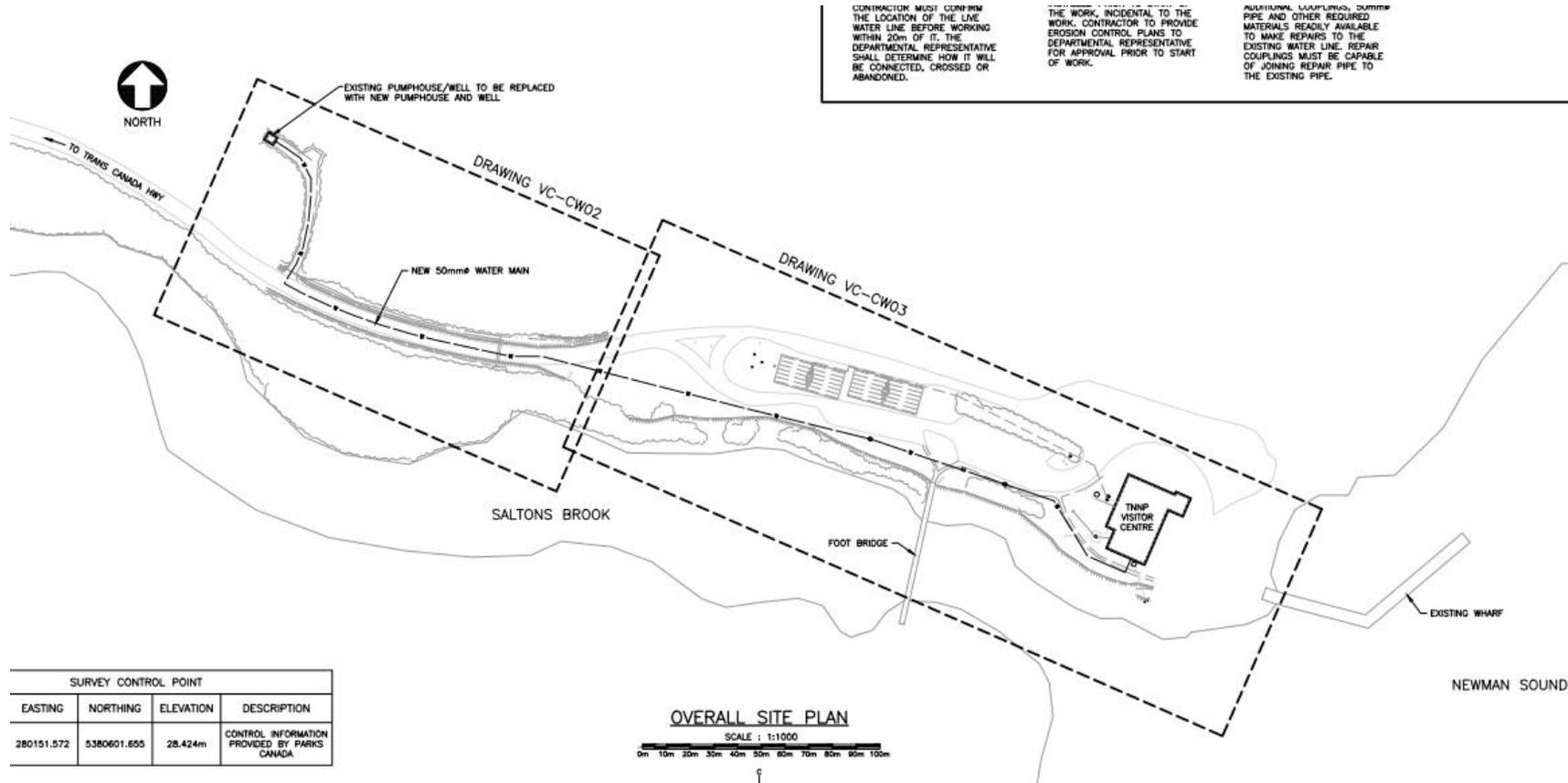


Figure 2: Project Location in relation to existing infrastructure (excerpt from Englobe 2021:VC-CW01).