



PARTNERS IN
ENGINEERING, PLANNING &
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

January 25, 2022

Via Email: waybackfarm@nexicom.net

1090 4th Line Road South
Douro-Dummer, ON
K0L 3A0

Attention: Mr. Peter Smith and Mrs. Wendy Smith

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

**Re: Species at Risk Evaluation Report
1090 4th Line Road South, Lot 14, Concession 3,
Township of Douro-Dummer, County of Peterborough
D.M. Wills Associates Project No. 85104**

At the request of Peter and Wendy Smith (Client), D.M. Wills Associates Limited (Wills) has completed a Species at Risk (SAR) Evaluation (Evaluation) in support of the property severance for the property located at 1090 4th Line Road South, Lot 14, Concession 3 (Subject Property), in the Township of Douro-Dummer, County of Peterborough. See **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** for details on the location of the Subject Property and the location of the Proposed Severance Lot.

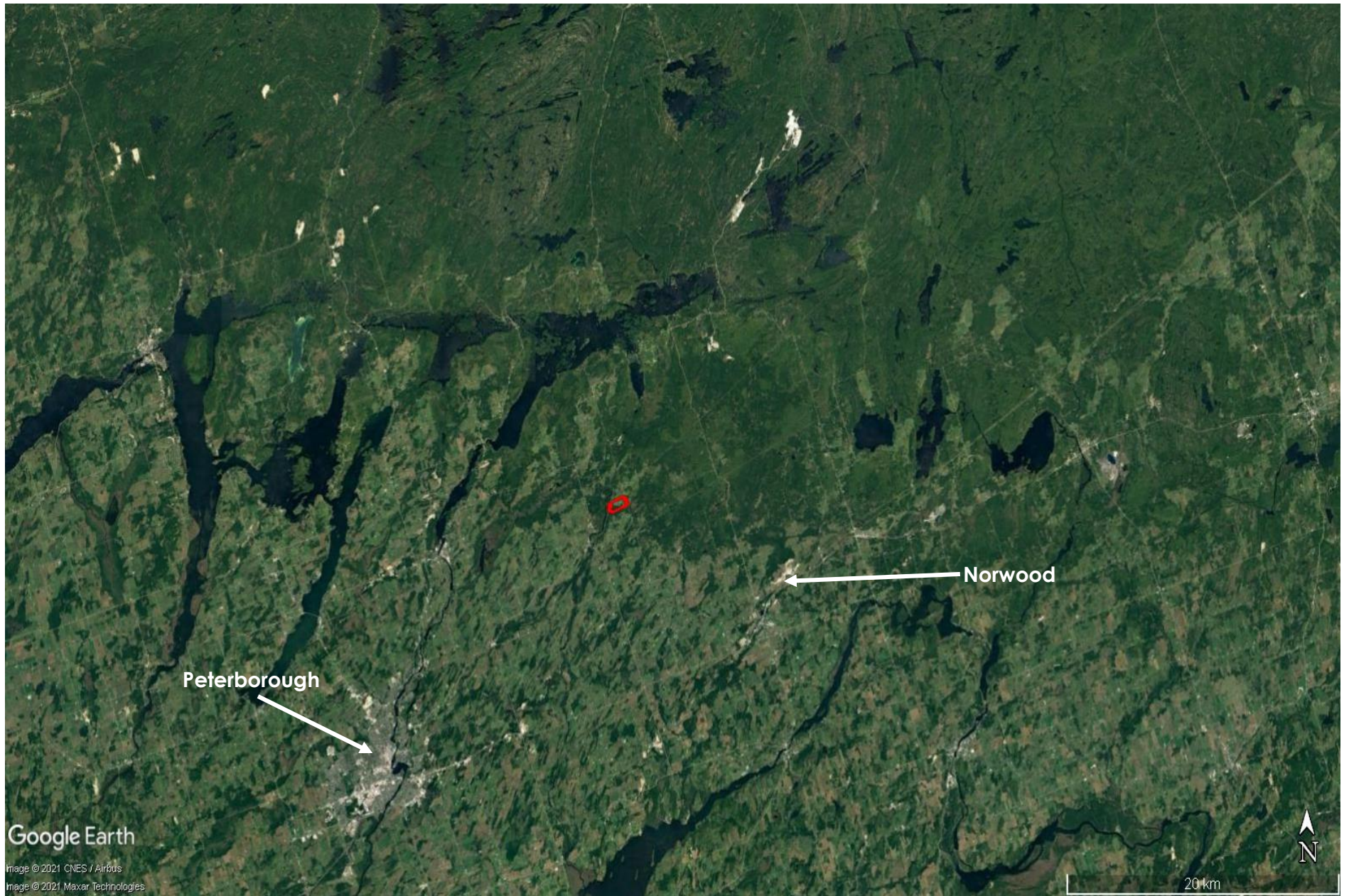
The purpose of this Evaluation is to identify any SAR or SAR habitat on and/or around the Subject Property. An assessment of these features will then be completed with respect to any constraints they may pose to development considering the *Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA, 2007)*.

The scope of this report provides the following:

1. A review of background information
2. Consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).
3. A SAR Evaluation that outlines the results of the Breeding Bird Surveys, Ecological Land Classification (ELC), and SAR Assessment.
4. Necessary mitigation measures to offset any impacts to SAR or SAR habitat



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Legend	
Subject Property	

Site Location

SAR Evaluation Report

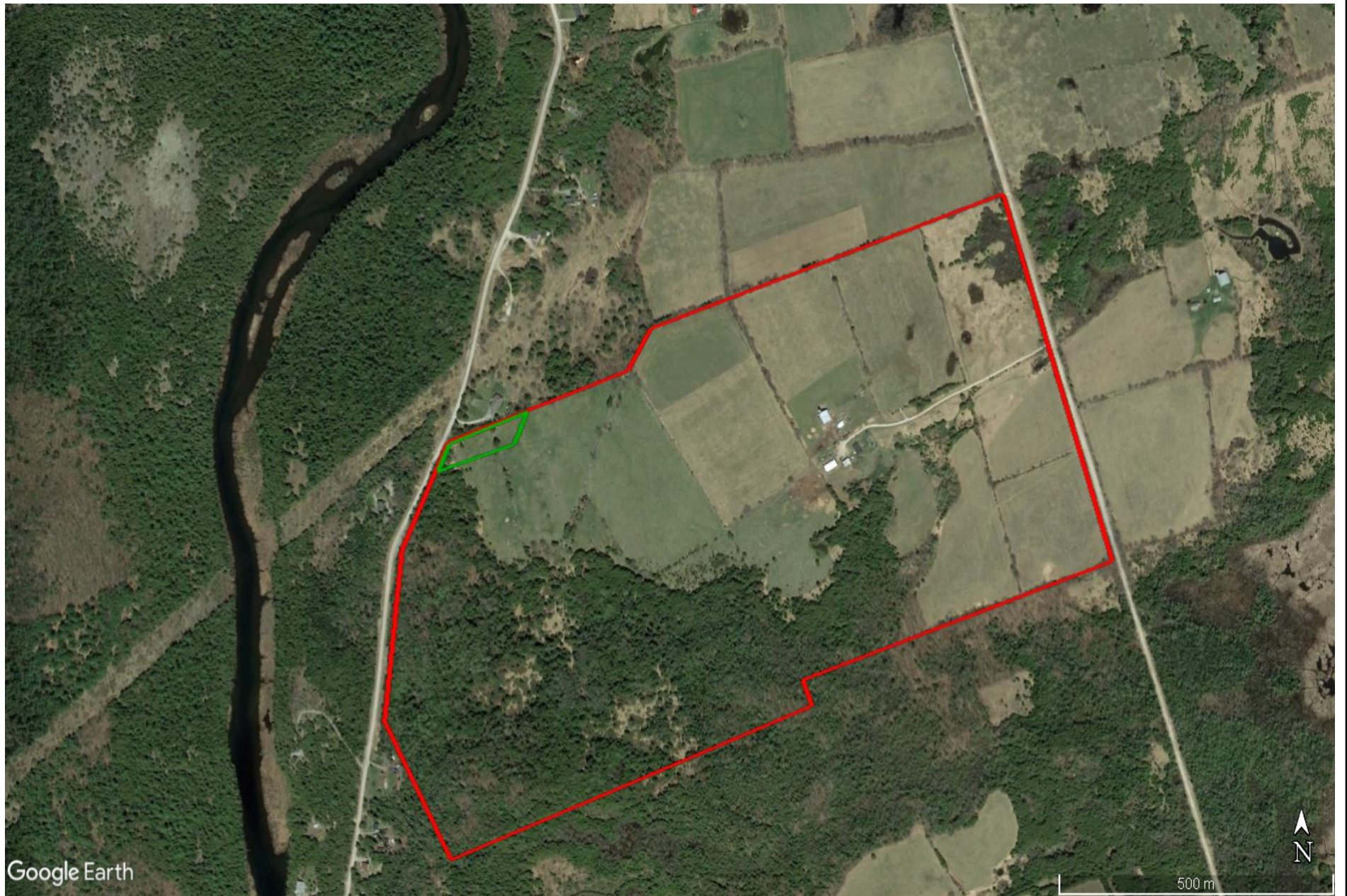
1090 4th Line Road South, Douro-Dummer



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Drawn By	BR	Scale	See Scale Bar
Checked	TJ	Date	July 2021
Project No.	85104	Drawing File No.	Figure 1



Google Earth

500 m



Legend

- Subject Property —
- Proposed Severance —

Subject Property

SAR Evaluation Report

1090 4th Line Road South, Douro-Dummer



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1.0 Policy Review and Relevance to the Subject Property

The *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been reviewed with respect to the Subject Property and the Proposed Development Site.

The following is a summary of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* and where it applies.

1.1 Endangered Species Act, 2007

The *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) was implemented to protect threatened and endangered species in Ontario. An independent body, the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO), was developed to classify native plants or animals into one (1) of four (4) categories of at risk status:

Extirpated: lives somewhere in the world, and at one time lived in the wild in Ontario, but no longer lives in the wild in Ontario;

Endangered: lives in the wild in Ontario but is facing imminent extinction or extirpation;

Threatened: lives in the wild in Ontario, is not endangered, but is likely to become endangered if steps are not taken to address factors threatening it; and,

Special Concern: lives in the wild in Ontario, is not endangered or threatened, but may become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) are provided by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) who administer the ESA regulations for SAR in Ontario. The ESA applies to native species that have been proven to be in danger of becoming extinct or extirpated from Ontario. The ESA provides protection of both the species and their habitat, as well as provides a recovery strategy and stewardship program for those SAR.

Section 9(1) of the ESA prohibits a person from killing, harming, harassing, capturing or taking a member of a species listed as endangered, threatened or extirpated on the SARO list. In addition, Section 10(1) of the ESA prohibits the damage or destruction of habitat of a species listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated on the SARO list.

A permit from MECP would be required under Section 17(2)(c) of the ESA for any proposed work to be completed within the habitat of species listed as threatened or endangered.

2.0 SAR Screening Assessment

2.1 Ecological Land Classification

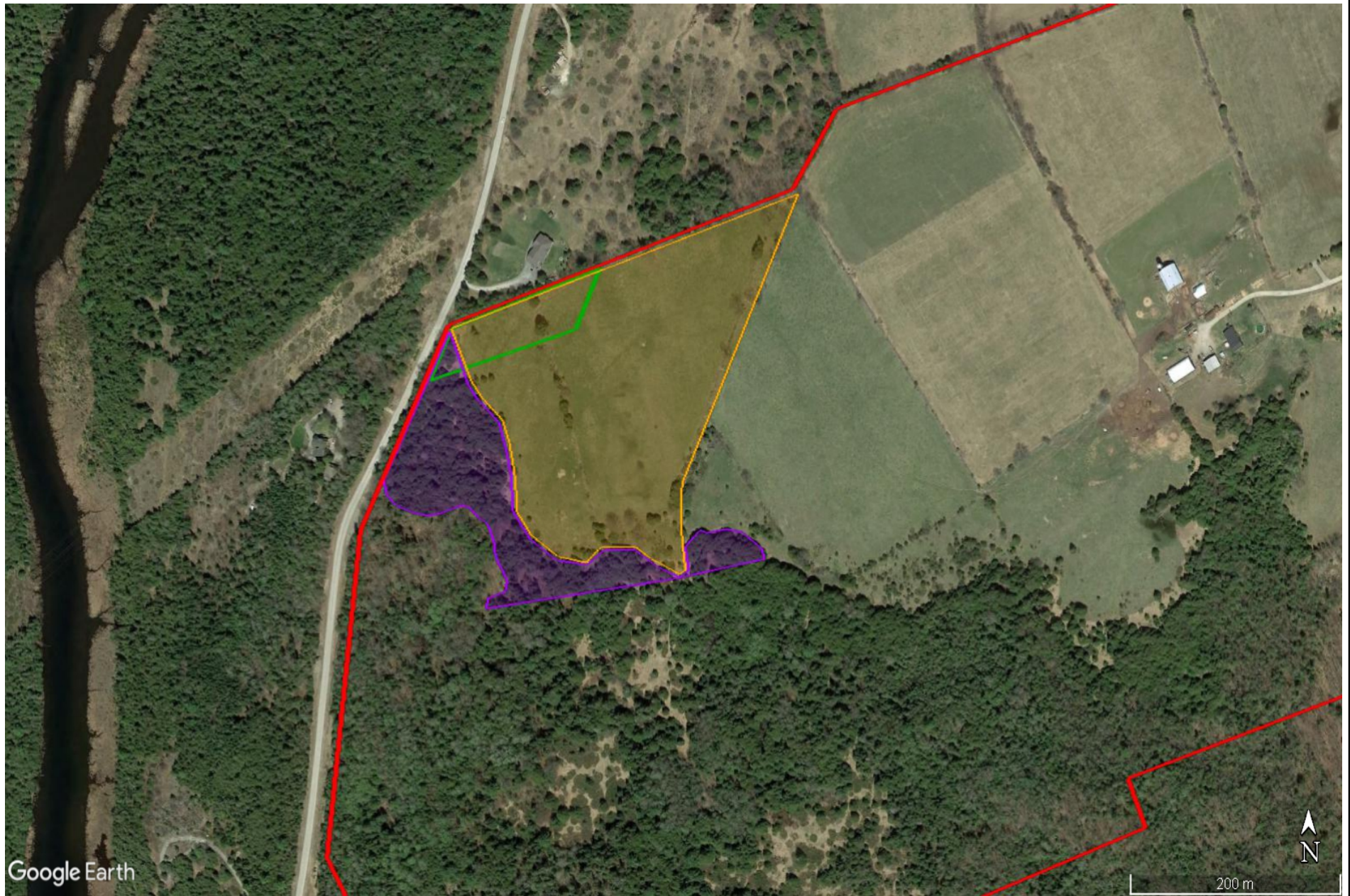
In order to accurately identify potential SAR habitat on the Subject Property, the area surrounding the Proposed Severance Lot was assessed to determine Ecological Land Classification (ELC) communities using the *Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario* (Lee, 1998). From this, two (2) ELC units were identified.

1. Cultural Meadow (CUM)
2. Dry – Fresh Cedar Coniferous Forest (FOC2)

See **Figure 3** for details on the ELC communities surrounding the Proposed Severance Lot.

2.2 Breeding Bird Surveys

As part of the Evaluation, target surveys for SAR avifauna were completed on the Subject Property, with a focus on the Proposed Severance Lot. These surveys took place on June 4 and June 23, 2021. See **Figure 4** for the point count locations used during the surveys. See **Table 1** for the results of the surveys. Surveys were completed in general accordance with the *Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas*.



Google Earth

200 m



Legend

- Subject Property —
- Proposed Severance —
- CUM —
- FOC2 —

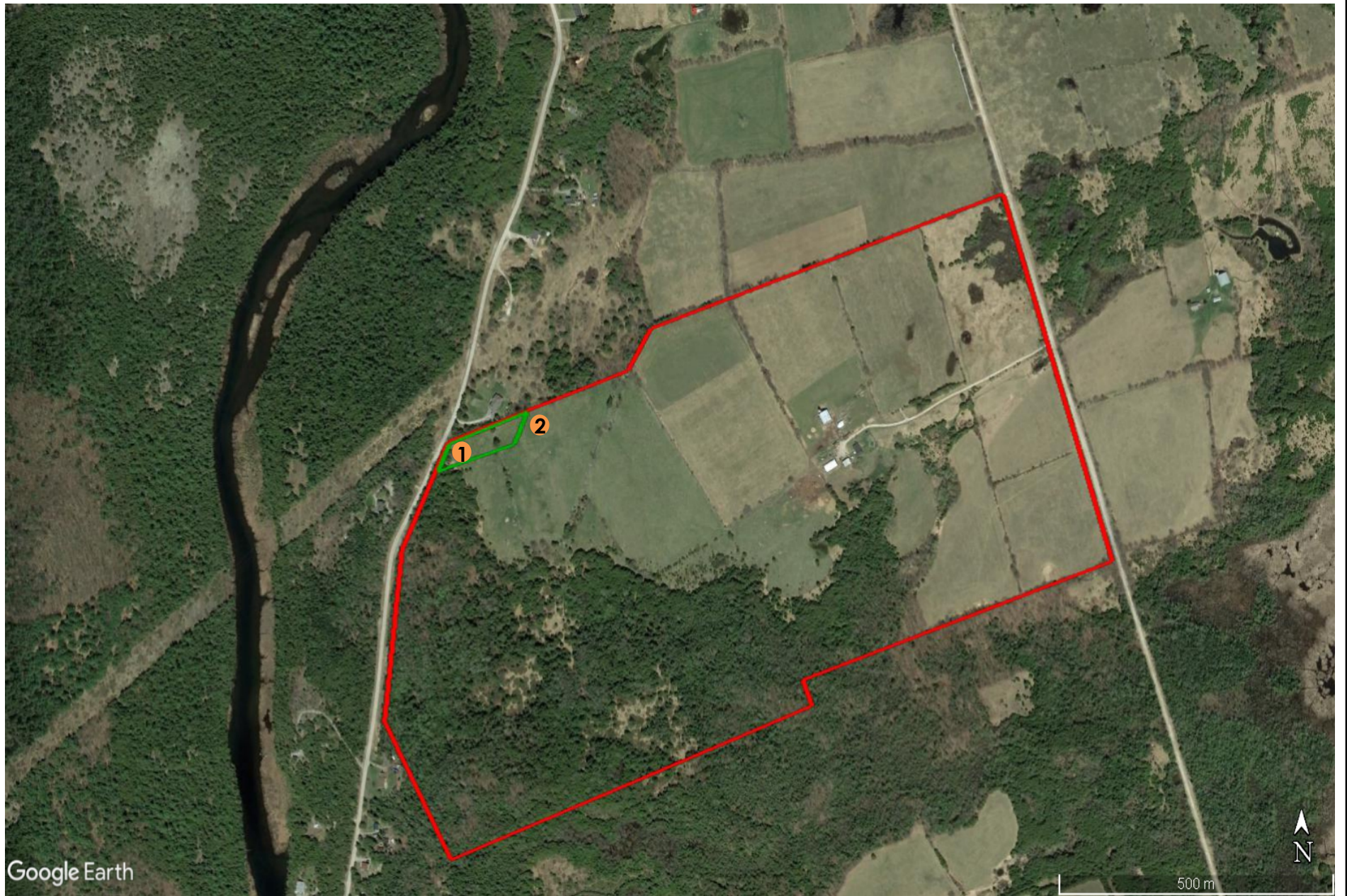
ELC Communities Map
 SAR Evaluation Report
 1090 4th Line Road South, Douro-
 Dummer






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Drawn By	BR	Scale	See Scale Bar
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Legend	
Subject Property	
Proposed Severance	
Bird Survey Location	

Breeding Bird Survey Locations
 SAR Evaluation Report
 1090 4th Line Road South, Douro-Dummer



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Table 1 – Breeding Bird Survey Results

Species	June 4, 2021		June 23, 2021	
	BB01	BB02	BB01	BB02
Brown-headed Cowbird (<i>Molothrus ater</i>)			X	X
American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee (<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>)			X	
Field Sparrow (<i>Spizella pusilla</i>)		X		
American Redstart (<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>)		X		
Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)	X		X	X
American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	X	X		
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>)	X			
American Goldfinch (<i>Spinus tristis</i>)	X			
White-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>)	X			
Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)			X	
European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)			X	X
Black-and-White Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)			X	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>)			X	
Red-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>)				X
Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)		X		



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Species at Risk Evaluation Report

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2.3 SAR Screening Assessment

Table 2 outlines the likelihood of SAR to be found on the Subject Property, based on their specific habitat needs and the habitat that is found on the Subject Property. The results of the Breeding Bird Surveys are also incorporated into

Table 2. A preliminary SAR list was sent to MECP on January 22, 2021 that was to be confirmed. To date, no response has been received.

See **Appendix A** for correspondence records.

Table 2 – SAR Screening Assessment

Species	Provincial ESA Status	COSEWIC* Status	Federal SARA** Status	Habitat Requirements	Source	Likelihood of Occurrence	Site Area Suitability/ Observations
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Special Concern	Not at Risk	Not at Risk	Bald Eagles nest in a variety of habitats and forest types, almost always near a major lake or river where they do most of their hunting. While fish are their main source of food, Bald Eagles can easily catch prey up to the size of ducks, and frequently feed on dead animals, including White-tailed Deer. They usually nest in large trees such as pine and poplar. During the winter, Bald Eagles sometimes congregate near open water such as the St. Lawrence River, or in places with a high deer population where carcasses might be found (MNRF, 2019).	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened	Bank swallows nest in burrows in natural and human-made settings where there are vertical faces in silt and sand deposits. Many nests are on banks of rivers and lakes, but they are also found in active sand and gravel pits or former ones where the banks remain suitable. The birds breed in colonies ranging from several to a few thousand pairs.	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened	Terrestrial open and man-made structures. Barn Swallow nesting sites include the use of a variety of artificial structures (e.g. beams, posts, light fixtures, ledges over windows and doors) that provide either a horizontal nesting surface or a vertical face, often with some sort of overhang that provides shelter. Often nesting sites are associated with open barns, sheds, garages, and docks.	OBBA	Moderate	Open feeding habitat is present on the Subject Property. No nesting structures were observed at the location of the Proposed Severance Lot.
Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>)	Special Concern	Not at Risk	Not listed	Nests on inland marsh complexes, ponds, mouths of rivers and shores of large lakes.	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Blanding's Turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>)	Threatened	Endangered	Threatened	Blanding's Turtles live in shallow water, usually in large wetlands and shallow lakes with lots of aquatic plants. It is not unusual, though, to find them hundreds of metres from the nearest water body, especially while they are searching for a mate or traveling to a nesting site. Blanding's Turtles hibernate in the mud at the bottom of permanent water bodies from late October until the end of April (MNRF, 2018).	iNaturalist	Moderate	The Indian River is located approximately 350 m west of the Subject Property. The potential for Blanding's Turtles to move onto the Subject Property for nesting purposes exists, but no Blanding's Turtles were observed.
Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>)	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened	Bobolink prefers tall grass prairies, but is also known to nest in forage crops (e.g. hayfields and pastures dominated by a variety of species such as clover, Timothy, Kentucky Bluegrass, and broadleaved plants).	OBBA	Low	While habitat conditions are present on the Subject Property, no Bobolink were observed during the Breeding Bird Surveys. Bobolink are not anticipated to be present at the Proposed Severance Lot.



Species	Provincial ESA Status	COSEWIC* Status	Federal SARA** Status	Habitat Requirements	Source	Likelihood of Occurrence	Site Area Suitability/ Observations
Canada Warbler (<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>)	Special Concern	Threatened	Threatened	The Canada Warbler breeds in a range of deciduous and coniferous, usually wet forest types, all with a well-developed, dense shrub layer. Dense shrub and understory vegetation help conceal Canada Warbler nests that are usually located on or near the ground on mossy logs or roots, along stream banks or on hummocks. It winters in South America.	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Common Five-lined Skink (<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>)	Special Concern (Southern Shield population)	Special Concern	Special Concern	Common Five-lined Skinks like to bask on sunny rocks and logs to maintain a preferred body temperature (28-36°C). During the winter, they hibernate in crevices among rocks or buried in the soil. The Southern Shield population can be found underneath rocks on open bedrock in forests (MNRF, 2019).	iNaturalist	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>)	Special Concern	Special Concern	Threatened	Traditional Common Nighthawk habitat consists of open areas with little to no ground vegetation, such as logged or burned-over areas, forest clearings, rock barrens, peat bogs, lakeshores, and mine tailings. Although the species also nests in cultivated fields, orchards, urban parks, mine tailings and along gravel roads and railways, they tend to occupy natural sites.	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Eastern Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella magna</i>)	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened	Native grasslands, pastures and savannahs. Eastern meadowlark also uses a wide variety of other anthropogenic grassland habitats, including hayfields, weedy meadows, young orchards, golf courses, restored surface mines, grassy roadside verges, young oak plantations, grain fields, herbaceous fencerows, and grassy airfields. Eastern Meadowlarks occasionally nest in crop fields such as corn and soybean, but these crops are considered low-quality habitat.	OBBA	Low	While habitat conditions are present on the Subject Property, no Eastern Meadowlark were observed during the Breeding Bird Surveys. Eastern Meadowlark are not anticipated to be present at the Proposed Severance Lot.
Eastern Musk Turtle (<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>)	Special Concern	Special Concern	Special Concern	Eastern Musk Turtles are found in ponds, lakes, marshes and rivers that are generally slow-moving have abundant emergent vegetation and muddy bottoms that they burrow into for winter hibernation. Nesting habitat is variable, but it must be close to the water and exposed to direct sunlight. Nesting females dig shallow excavations in soil, decaying vegetation and rotting wood or lay eggs in muskrat lodges, on the open ground or in rock crevices (MECP, 2020).	iNaturalist	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>)	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened	The Eastern Whip-poor-will is usually found in areas with a mix of open and forested areas, such as savannahs, open woodlands or openings in more mature, deciduous, coniferous and mixed forests. It forages in these open areas and uses forested areas for roosting (resting and sleeping) and nesting. It lays its eggs directly on the forest floor, where its colouring means it will easily remain undetected by visual predators (MNRF, 2018).	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.



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Species	Provincial ESA Status	COSEWIC* Status	Federal SARA** Status	Habitat Requirements	Source	Likelihood of Occurrence	Site Area Suitability/ Observations
Eastern Wood-pewee (<i>Contopus virens</i>)	Special Concern	Special Concern	Special Concern	In Canada, the Eastern Wood-pewee is mostly associated with the mid-canopy layer of forest clearings and edges of deciduous and mixed forests. It is most abundant in forest stands of intermediate age and in mature stands with little understory vegetation. During migration, a variety of habitats are used, including forest edges, early successional clearings, and primary and secondary lowland (and submontane) tropical forest, as well as cloud forest. In South America in the winter, the species primarily uses open forest, shrubby habitats, and edges of primary forest. It also occurs in interior forests where tree-fall gaps are present. (COSEWIC, 2012)	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Grasshopper Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>)	Special Concern	Special Concern	Special Concern	It lives in open grassland areas with well-drained, sandy soil. It will also nest in hayfields and pasture, as well as alvars, prairies and occasionally grain crops such as barley. It prefers areas that are sparsely vegetated. Its nests are well-hidden in the field and woven from grasses in a small cup-like shape. The Grasshopper Sparrow is a short-distance migrant and leaves Ontario in the fall to migrate to the southeastern United States and Central America for the winter (MNRF, 2018).	OBBA	Moderate	While habitat conditions are present on the Subject Property, no Grasshopper Sparrows were observed during the Breeding Bird Surveys. Grasshopper Sparrow are not anticipated to be present at the Proposed Severance Lot.
Least Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>)	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened	In Ontario, the Least bittern is found in a variety of wetland habitats, but strongly prefers cattail marshes with a mix of open pools and channels. This bird builds its nest above the marsh water in stands of dense vegetation, hidden among the cattails. The nests are almost always built near open water, which is needed for foraging. This species eats mostly frogs, small fish, and aquatic insects (MNRF, 2019).	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Northern Map Turtle (<i>Graptemys geographica</i>)	Special Concern	Special Concern	Special Concern	The Northern Map Turtle inhabits rivers and lakeshores where it basks on emergent rocks and fallen trees throughout the spring and summer. In winter, the turtles hibernate on the bottom of deep, slow-moving sections of river. They require high-quality water that supports the female's mollusc prey. Their habitat must contain suitable basking sites, such as rocks and deadheads, with an unobstructed view from which a turtle can drop immediately into the water if startled (MNRF, 2019).	iNaturalist	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	Special Concern	Special Concern	Threatened	The Olive-sided flycatcher is most often found along natural forest edges and openings. It will use forests that have been logged or burned, if there are ample tall snags and trees to use for foraging perches. Olive-sided flycatchers' breeding habitat usually consists of coniferous or mixed forest adjacent to rivers or wetlands. In Ontario, Olive-sided flycatchers commonly nest in conifers such as White and Black Spruce, Jack Pine and Balsam Fir (MNRF, 2019).	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.



Species	Provincial ESA Status	COSEWIC* Status	Federal SARA** Status	Habitat Requirements	Source	Likelihood of Occurrence	Site Area Suitability/ Observations
Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	Special Concern	Endangered	Threatened	The Red-headed Woodpecker lives in open woodland and woodland edges, and is often found in parks, golf courses and cemeteries. These areas typically have many dead trees, which the bird uses for nesting and perching. The Red-headed Woodpecker is found across southern Ontario, where it is widespread but rare (MNRF, 2019).	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Snapping Turtle (<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>)	Special Concern	Special Concern	Special Concern	Snapping Turtles spend most of their lives in water. They prefer shallow waters so they can hide under the soft mud and leaf litter, with only their noses exposed to the surface to breathe. During the nesting season, from early to mid summer, females travel overland in search of a suitable nesting site, usually gravelly or sandy areas along streams. Snapping Turtles often take advantage of man-made structures for nest sites, including roads (especially gravel shoulders), dams and aggregate pits (MNRF, 2019).	iNaturalist	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.
Wood Thrush (<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>)	Special Concern	Threatened	Threatened	During the breeding season, the Wood Thrush is found in moist, deciduous hardwood or mixed stands, often previously disturbed, with a dense deciduous undergrowth and with tall trees for singing perches (Gauthier and Aubry 1995; Friesen et al. 1999; Holmes and Sherry 2001; Friesen 2007; Evans et al. 2011; Suarez-Rubio et al. 2011). It is noted that in southern Ontario, the Wood Thrush prefers second-growth over mature forests (Peck and James, 1987).	OBBA	Low	Habitat conditions are not found on the Subject Property.

*Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)

**Species at Risk Act (SARA)

3.0 Conclusions

The area of the Proposed Severance Lot contained dense ground cover vegetation, representative of a pasture for grazing cattle. No Eastern Meadowlark or Bobolink were observed at the time of the Breeding Bird Surveys, indicating that they do not utilize the agricultural fields for breeding and nesting purposes. No other SAR were observed at the Proposed Severance Lot at the time of the field investigations and Breeding Bird Surveys.

In order to ensure no bird species are impacted during future construction, it is required that any vegetation removal must take place outside of the breeding bird-timing window of **April 15 to July 31**. If work cannot be done outside of the timing window, a professional biologist should complete a nest sweep of the property prior to any vegetation removal.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ben Radford, B.Sc.
Project Biologist



Shawn Filteau, B.Sc.
Project Manager

Reviewed by,



Tyler Jones, B.Sc.
Senior Biologist

BR/avg

Appendix A

Correspondence Records



From: [Ben Radford](#)
To: ["Species at Risk \(MECP\)"](#)
Subject: 1090 4th Line - Douro SAR Information Request
Date: January 22, 2021 3:36:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[85104 Consent Sketch 60 Frontage-Layout2.pdf](#)

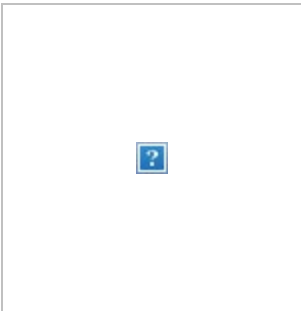
Good afternoon,

My name is Ben Radford from D.M. Wills Associates in Peterborough. We have been contracted to complete a SAR assessment on a parcel of land located at 1090 4th Line in Douro (see attached figure). Through background research, the following SAR have the potential of being found on the Subject Property:

- Least Bittern (Threatened)
- Black Tern (Special Concern)
- Common Nighthawk (Special Concern)
- Eastern Whip-poor-will (Threatened)
- Red-headed Woodpecker (Special Concern)
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (Special Concern)
- Eastern Wood-pewee (Special Concern)
- Bank Swallow (Threatened)
- Barn Swallow (Threatened)
- Wood Thrush (Special Concern)
- Grasshopper Sparrow (Special Concern)
- Eastern Meadowlark (Threatened)
- Canada Warbler (Special Concern)
- Bald Eagle (Special Concern)
- Bobolink (Threatened)
- Snapping Turtle (Special Concern)
- Northern Map Turtle (Special Concern)
- Eastern Musk Turtle (Special Concern)
- Blanding's Turtle (Threatened)
- Common Five-lined Skink (Special Concern)

If you could please confirm/add to this list, that would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,
Ben



Ben Radford, B.Sc. · Project Biologist

D.M. Wills Associates Limited

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