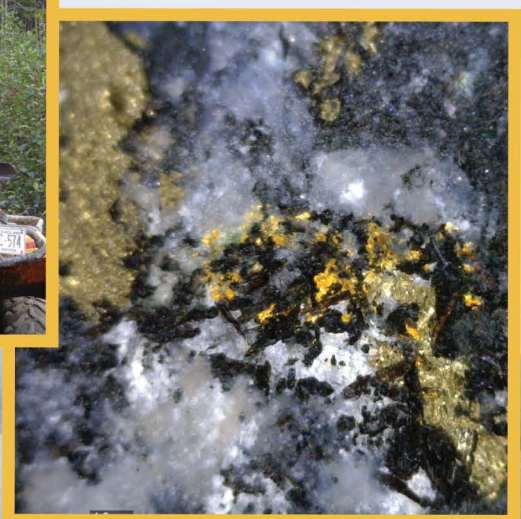


# MARATHON GOLD

## Valentine Gold Project Baseline Study Appendix 10: Historic Resources

September 2020





**Valentine Gold Project  
Environmental Impact Statement**

Final Report

Baseline Study Appendix 10: Historic  
Resources (BSA.10)



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September 25, 2020

## Table of Contents

**ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS** ..... ii

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**..... 1

**2.0 SUMMARY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES BSA ATTACHMENTS** ..... 3

### LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1 BSA.10: Historic Resources ..... 1

Table 2.1 Summary of Historic Resources BSA Attachments ..... 3

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 Project Area ..... 2

### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 10-A Valentine Lake Project: Historic Resources Baseline Study (2017)

Attachment 10-B Valentine Gold Project: Historic Resources Baseline Study 2020 Update (2020)



## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ARD/ML	Acid Rock Drainage / Metal Leaching
BSA	Baseline Study Appendix
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
km	kilometre
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
Marathon	Marathon Gold Corporation
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
NLDECCM	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities
NLEPA	Newfoundland and Labrador <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>
PAO	Provincial Archaeology Office
SAR	Species At Risk
SOCC	Species Of Conservation Concern
Stantec	Stantec Consulting Inc.
TMF	Tailings Management Facility
VC	Valued Component



# VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Introduction  
September 25, 2020

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Marathon Gold Corporation (Marathon) is planning to develop an open pit gold mine south of Valentine Lake, located in the Central Region of the Island of Newfoundland, approximately 60 kilometres (km) southwest of the town of Millertown, Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) (Figure 1-1). The Valentine Gold Project (the Project) will consist primarily of open pits, waste rock piles, crushing and stockpiling areas, conventional milling and processing facilities (the mill), a tailings management facility, personnel accommodations, and supporting infrastructure including roads, on-site power lines, buildings, and water and effluent management facilities. The mine site is accessed by an existing public access road that extends south from Millertown approximately 88 km to Marathon's existing exploration camp. Marathon will upgrade and maintain the access road from a turnoff approximately 8 km southwest of Millertown to the mine site, a distance of approximately 76 km.

The Minister of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities (NLDECCM) has determined that the Project will require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the provincial *Environmental Protection Act* (NLEPA). The Provincial EIS Guidelines require the preparation of a number of baseline studies to describe and provide data on specific components of the environment; to address baseline data requirements to support the assessment of one or more Valued Components (VCs); and to support the development of mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring programs. Each has been prepared as a stand-alone Baseline Study Appendix (BSA) to the EIS:

- BSA.1: Dam Safety
- BSA.2: Woodland Caribou
- BSA.3: Water Resources
- BSA.4: Fish, Fish Habitat and Fisheries
- BSA.5: Acid Rock Drainage / Metal Leaching (ARD/ML)
- BSA.6: Atmospheric Environment
- BSA.7: Avifauna, Other Wildlife and Their Habitats
- BSA.8: Species at Risk / Species of Conservation Concern (SAR / SOCC)
- BSA.9: Community Health, Services and Infrastructure / Employment and Economy
- BSA.10: Historic Resources

Table 1.1 outlines the organization for BSA.10: Historic Resources.

**Table 1.1 BSA.10: Historic Resources**

Number	Baseline Study Appendix	Attachment Number	Attachment Name
BSA.10	Historic Resources	10-A	Valentine Lake Project: Historic Resources Baseline Study (2017)
		10-B	Valentine Gold Project: Historic Resources Baseline Study 2020 Update (2020)



# VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Introduction  
September 25, 2020

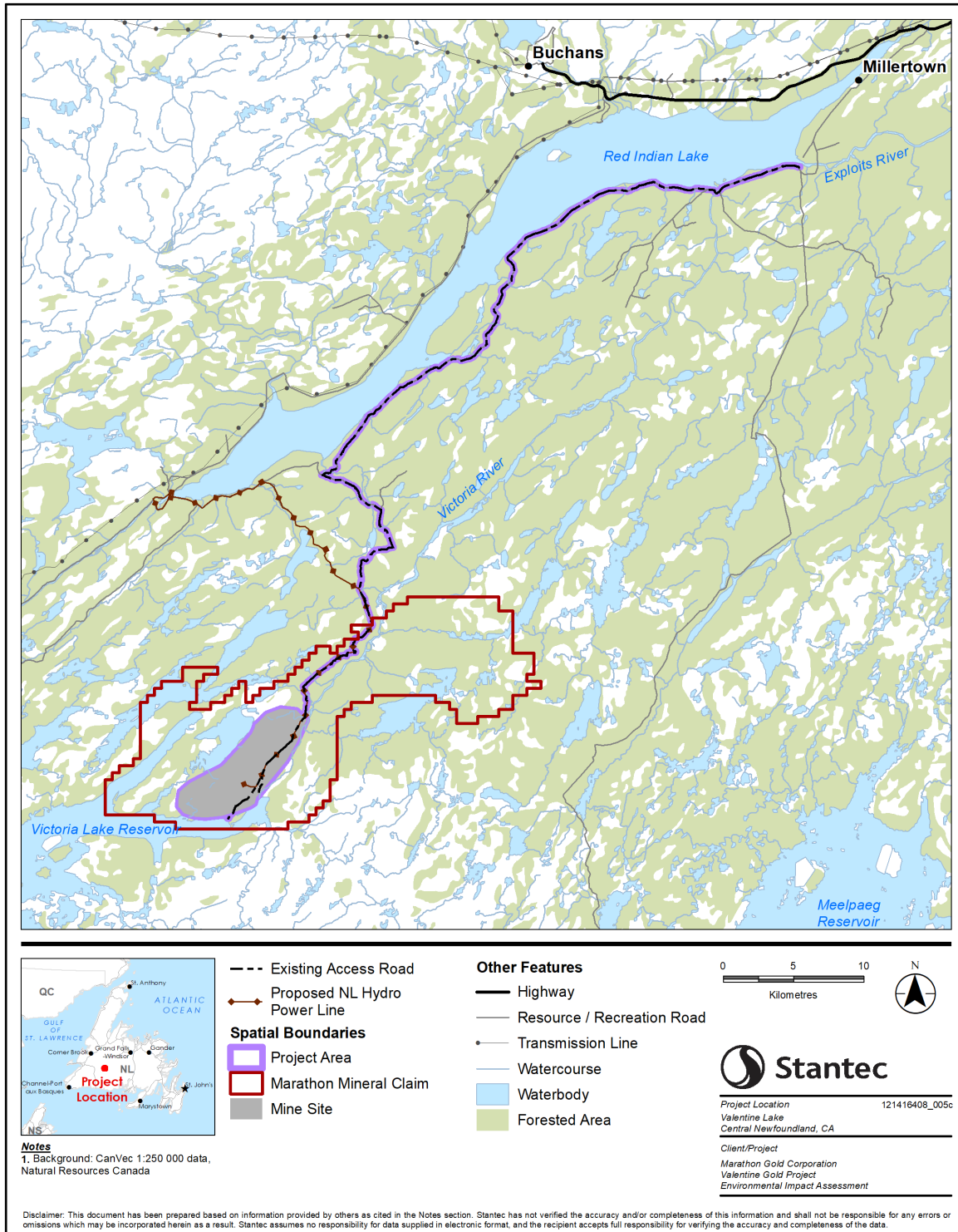


Figure 1-1 Project Area



# VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Summary of Historic Resources BSA Attachments  
September 25, 2020

Note that the BSAs consist of data reports that have been prepared for Marathon over several years (i.e., 2011 to 2020), during which the Project has gone through a series of refinements. The study areas and Project references in these data reports reflect the Project description at the time of preparation of these reports. The current Project description for the purposes of environmental assessment is found in Section 2 of the EIS.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES BSA ATTACHMENTS

Stantec Consulting Inc. (Stantec) completed a desktop assessment of archaeological potential in the vicinity of the Project in 2017 and submitted the report to the Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO). In response to feedback from the PAO, a revised report was prepared in 2020. Table 2.1 provides a summary of the objectives, study area, methods and results of each of these studies.

**Table 2.1 Summary of Historic Resources BSA Attachments**

Rationale / Objectives and Study Area	Methods	Results
<b>Attachment 10-A - Valentine Lake Project: Historic Resources Baseline Study (2017)</b>		
<p><b>Objectives</b> - The Historic Resources Overview Assessment was a desk top exercise intended as a preliminary assessment of the archaeological potential of the property, to assist in Project planning and to determine possible requirements for archaeological field assessment of the Project Area.</p> <p><b>Study Area</b> – The Study Area was the Marathon Mineral Claim Area (Figure 1-1).</p>	<p>The assessment consisted of review of archaeological, historic and ethnohistoric literature, along with reports and site record forms provided by the PAO pertaining to known archaeological sites near the Project Area. Aerial (Google Earth) imagery and topographic maps were reviewed for preliminary identification of specific locations of elevated archaeological potential.</p>	<p>Although no known archaeological sites have been inventoried within the Project Area, review of regional archaeological data indicates the Project Area has broad theoretical potential for archaeological remains, particularly those pertaining to the precontact period (especially late precontact), and the historic Beothuk and Mi'kmaq occupations of the southwestern Newfoundland interior. This potential may have been reduced, but not eliminated, by the previous impacts of flooding for commercial logging and hydroelectric development. Potential may be particularly high on points of land and constrictions in waterways, stream mouths and confluences, falls and rapids. Review of aerial imagery identified 24 locations within the Project Area with potential to yield archaeological remains.</p>



**VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Summary of Historic Resources BSA Attachments  
 September 25, 2020

**Table 2.1 Summary of Historic Resources BSA Attachments**

Rationale / Objectives and Study Area	Methods	Results
<b>Attachment 10-B - Valentine Gold Project: Historic Resources Baseline Study 2020 Update (2020)</b>		
<p><b>Objectives</b> – The objective of the 2020 study was to update the 2017 study in consideration of two additional resources not available for the 2017 assessment. The overall objective is the same as 2017.</p> <p><b>Study Area</b> – The Study Area was the Project Area (Figure 1-1) and surrounding area.</p>	<p>Two additional resources (not available for the 2017 assessment) were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A series of ten potential archaeological sites identified in 2018 by the PAO based on review of an historic map of the Victoria River believed to have been drawn or annotated in the 1800s</li> <li>• Review of LIDAR imagery of the Project Area flown in 2019</li> </ul>	<p>LiDAR imagery indicates that level, potentially habitable terrain is present within the previously identified high-potential areas. Similar suitable terrain is also present in locations along Victoria River, outside the Project Area. This includes the reach of the river south of the confluence of the river draining Quinn Lake, the approximate location of the Victoria River 7 site (DcBg-01). Review of LiDAR imagery did not directly reveal evidence for actual historic features, such as Beothuk housepits. It is recommended that archaeological ground assessment be undertaken prior to construction activities at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locations of ground-breaking construction wherever the Project Area has potential to interact with identified areas of high potential for archaeological resources, or at locations of future construction that may interact with locations of high archaeological potential, in the event that the location of Project Area expands.</li> <li>• The approximate locations of the archaeological sites registered by the PAO (DcBg-01, DcBg-02, and DcBg-03) to confirm their precise locations and confirm that the Project will not interact with these sites</li> </ul>





# **ATTACHMENT 10-A**

**Valentine Lake Project: Historic Resources Baseline Study  
(2017)**

**Valentine Lake Project:  
Historic Resources Baseline  
Study**



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**File No: 121414740**

**Final Report**

August 22, 2017

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## Table of Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Historic Resources Overview .....	3
<b>2.0 NEWFOUNDLAND CULTURE-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 The Precontact Period .....	4
2.2 The Historic Period .....	5
<b>3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PROJECT AREA AND SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND.....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Historic Beothuk and Precontact Sites on Red Indian Lake.....	10
3.2 Archaeological Sites south and Southwest of the Project Area.....	11
3.3 Miscellaneous 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Sites in Locations Surrounding the Project Area .....	12
<b>4.0 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE VALENTINE LAKE PROPERTY .....</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1 Quinn Lake .....	15
4.2 Red Cross Lake .....	15
4.3 Valentine Lake .....	15
4.4 Long Lake .....	15
4.5 Victoria Lake .....	15
4.6 Victoria River .....	15
<b>5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6.0 REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	
Figure 1-1 Valentine Lake Project Site Plan – May 2017 .....	2
Figure 3-1 The Distribution of Known Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of the Project Area.....	9
Figure 4-1 The Marathon Gold Project Area, Indicating Areas of Enhanced Archaeological Potential .....	14



## **Executive Summary**

Stantec Consulting Ltd. was retained by Marathon Gold Corporation to assess the potential for Historic Resources to be present within the Project Development Area. The Historic Resources Overview Assessment is a desk top exercise intended to serve as a preliminary assessment of the archaeological potential of the property, to assist in Project planning and to determine possible requirements for archaeological field assessment of the Project Area, at the Valentine Lake Project Site.

Although no known archaeological sites have been inventoried within the Project Area, review of regional archaeological data indicates that the Project Area does have broad theoretical potential for archaeological remains, particularly those pertaining to the precontact period (especially late precontact), and the historic Beothuk and Mi'kmaq occupations of the southwestern Newfoundland interior. This potential may be reduced, but not eliminated, by the previous impacts of flooding for commercial logging and hydroelectric development. Potential may be particularly high on points of land and constrictions in waterways, stream mouths and confluences, falls and rapids.

Review of aerial imagery allowed for the identification of 24 locations within the Project Area with potential to yield archaeological remains. It should be noted that this list is preliminary and based on a desktop review of the Project Area only. Ground-truthing may indicate lower-than-expected potential at any of these locations, while overflight may identify additional locations of elevated potential not apparent in aerial imagery. It is recommended that as the Project further progresses, direct communication with the Provincial Archaeology Office be initiated to determine the required next steps, which are likely to include an archaeological overflight survey along the lake and river shorelines within the Project Area to identify high-potential locations not otherwise evident in aerial imagery, and that this be followed by ground-truthing and testing at these locations to verify potential.

# VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

## INTRODUCTION

August 22, 2017

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) was retained by Marathon Gold Corporation (Marathon) to conduct environmental surveys at the Valentine Lake Project site, including an assessment of the potential for Historic Resources to be present within the Project Development Area. The Historic Resources Program was conducted to characterize the potential for historic resources at the Valentine Lake site mine development (the Project). The results of the baseline surveys will be used to support the Environmental Assessment (EA) Registration for the Project.

At the time of this study (summer 2017), Marathon's Valentine Lake Project includes four near-surface, mainly pit-shell constrained, gold deposits: Marathon Deposit, Leprechaun Deposit, Sprite Deposit, and Victory Deposit (Figure 1-1). Additional gold-mineralized zones have been identified immediately to the southwest of the Leprechaun deposit (J. Frank zone) and approximately 1 km northeast of the Victory deposit. The overall site includes a gold system approximately 20 km long and 240 km<sup>2</sup> in central Newfoundland, approximately 57 km south of Buchans.

# VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

INTRODUCTION  
August 22, 2017

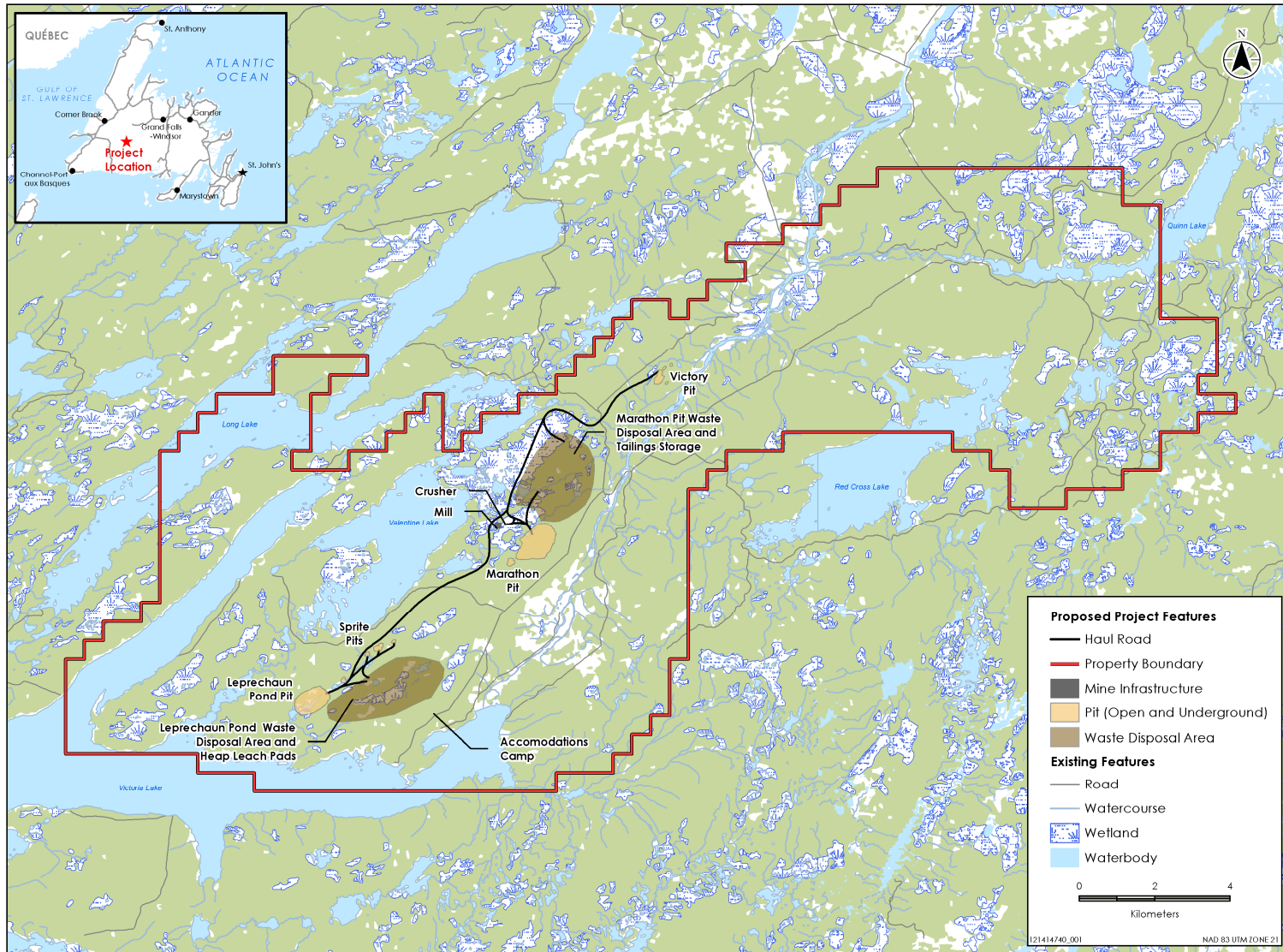


Figure 1-1 Valentine Lake Project Site Plan – May 2017

## **1.2 Historic Resources Overview**

The following Historic Resources Overview Assessment of the Marathon Gold Valentine Lake Property is intended to serve as a preliminary assessment of the archaeological potential of the property, to assist in Project planning and to determine possible requirements for archaeological field assessment of the Project Area, defined as the Property Boundary (Figure 1-1).

No field assessment has yet been undertaken. Previous archaeological assessment of the Project Area has been extremely limited. As a result, the desktop assessment of archaeological potential depends on a broader review of archaeological work previously conducted in Newfoundland, and specifically within a broader Study Area encompassing the interior of southwestern Newfoundland.

At this stage, assessment consisted of review of archaeological, historic, and ethnohistoric literature, along with reports and site record forms provided by the Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO), pertaining to known archaeological sites near the Project Area. Resources consulted included the following:

- General archaeological, historic, and ethnohistoric literature pertaining to the broad culture-historical framework of precontact and historic-period settlement in Newfoundland, with particular reference to settlement in the interior of the Island;
- Specific archaeological, historic and ethnohistoric literature bearing on the archaeology of the southwestern interior of the Island;
- Literature and other information on environmental factors pertinent to archaeological potential within the Project Area, such as caribou abundance, lakeshore characteristics, and the impacts of previous developments (most notably, the diversion and flooding of waterways in the 1960s for the Bay D'Espoir Hydroelectric Development); and
- Aerial (Google Earth) imagery and topographic maps reviewed for preliminary identification of specific locations of elevated archaeological potential.

In addition, the overview assessment was informed by photographs and observations recorded by Stantec wildlife biologist during helicopter overflight of the Project Area on June 6, 2017 (S. Camus pers. comm).



## 2.0 NEWFOUNDLAND CULTURE-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

### 2.1 The Precontact Period

Archaeological investigations in Newfoundland, particularly over the last forty years, have provided us with a clear, if not yet complete, understanding of the Island's long-term culture-history. The initial occupation of the Island appears to have occurred late in the Maritime Archaic period, ca. 5000-3200 B.P. (Before Present), although one site in the Deer Lake area may potentially be older (Reader 1999). Nearby southern Labrador shows clear evidence for occupation much earlier in the Maritime Archaic period, by 7,500-8,000 B.P. (McGhee and Tuck 1975; Schwarz 2010), and insular Newfoundland was theoretically habitable by this time as well (Macpherson 1981). The scarcity of evidence for an early Archaic occupation of the Island, and the apparent delay in the expansion of Archaic hunters from Labrador to Newfoundland, has never been satisfactorily explained. The Maritime Archaic occupation is followed, after a hiatus of several centuries, by an Early Palaeo-Eskimo (Groswater) occupation, dating to 2800-2000 B.P. This in turn is followed by a distinct Late Palaeo-Eskimo (Middle Dorset) occupation beginning ca. 1900 B.P. Dorset sites in Newfoundland are both larger and more numerous than those of any other period, and although absolute population estimates are not possible, the Dorset occupation appears to have been the most extensive, and its population levels the highest, in the Island's prehistory. Perhaps because of the large size and number of sites, it has proved possible to recognize regional variation in Newfoundland Dorset artifact styles; it has been suggested that the Dorset population of Newfoundland may be divided into at least three distinct regional groups (Robbins 1986), an intriguing pattern given what we know - or think we know - about residential mobility and fluidity in circumpolar hunter-gatherer bands. While it may have seen the most extensive occupation, the Dorset period was also the briefest, apparently ending by ca. 1100 B.P. The "Recent Indian" occupation began with an early "Cow Head Complex" occupation, coeval with the Dorset, indicating shared occupation of the Island by both Amerindian and Palaeo-Eskimo peoples (Hartery 2007), and ended with the historically-documented extinction of the Beothuk early in the nineteenth century. Beothuk sites of the early contact period (A.D. 1500-1700) have been identified on the Avalon Peninsula, Bonavista Bay, and Notre Dame Bay. Later historic Beothuk sites (A.D. 1700-1829) are limited to the Exploits Valley, including Red Indian Lake, among the final refuges of the Beothuk prior to their extinction in 1829 (Devereux 1965; 1970; LeBlanc 1973).

It is important to note that most archaeological work on the Island has been concentrated on the coast. Archaeologists have tended to regard Newfoundland's marine resources as rich and stable, in contrast to an interior resource base which is limited, impoverished, and prone to periodic fluctuations in abundance (cf. Tuck and Pastore 1985). In consequence, archaeologists have tended to concentrate their efforts on investigating coastal sites, assuming that the archaeological potential of the interior is generally low. It has long been recognized that the archaeological potential of one interior region - the Exploits River - has been high, but this has been viewed as exceptional. The historic resources of the Exploits Valley are dominated by the remains of the Beothuk, a people forced into a deep interior caribou-hunting adaptation by

## VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

NEWFOUNDLAND CULTURE-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

August 22, 2017

spreading European settlement along the coast. Pre-Beothuk remains are relatively scarce along the Exploits. This historic Beothuk interior adaptation, of course, ended ultimately in extinction, and the Beothuk have thus been regarded as the exception that proves the rule: successful hunter-gatherer adaptation to the deep interior is impossible over the long term, and would never have occurred without competition from expanding European settlement.

Archaeological work since the 1980s, however, has somewhat modified this pessimistic view of the Newfoundland interior resource base. Investigations of the interior by several investigators (for an overview, see Schwarz 1994) have confirmed the archaeological potential of the Newfoundland interior, for precontact sites, particularly on near-coastal interior lakes, and along the major SW-NE-oriented river systems (most notably the Exploits River) which offer travel routes into the deep interior and strategic locations from which to intercept migrating caribou. Most the interior sites identified to date pertain to the Recent Indian period, but Maritime Archaic sites have also been identified, and, increasingly, evidence for Early Palaeo-Eskimo occupations is being recovered, even from deep-interior locations, such as Birch Lake and the Exploits River (see Erwin and Holly 2006). Late Palaeo-Eskimo (Dorset) sites in the interior remain relatively rare. In terms of micro-local attributes, precontact interior sites appear to be particularly associated with points of land and constrictions in waterways, as well as with stream mouths and falls or rapids (see Schwarz 1992; 1994).

## 2.2 The Historic Period

Newfoundland has had a long history of European settlement, and historical archaeology in Newfoundland has, not surprisingly, tended to focus on the province's unusually early European remains, and on the archaeology of the historic Beothuk.

The earliest known historic European site in the Island is the Norse site at L'Anse aux Meadows, dated ca. 1000 B.P. (Ingstad 1969), a period archaeologists still generally regard as "prehistoric" in Newfoundland. The intensive European migratory fishery which developed and expanded through the sixteenth century is documented by the Basque remains at Red Bay (Tuck and Grenier 1989). The seventeenth century has recently become a focus of investigation; outside of the Avalon, this century is still sparsely-documented archaeologically, though there are likely many sites of this period along the coast, pertaining to the English, French, and Basque migratory fisheries; Possible seventeenth-century Basque material has been recovered in survey on the west coast, for instance (Schwarz 1994b). The eighteenth century, a period which saw significant growth in the resident population of Newfoundland, is well-represented at archaeological sites across the Island. As with prehistoric archaeology, and for many of the same reasons, research in historic archaeology has been strongly focused on the coast. Historic European activities in the interior, such as trapping (Pastore 1987; Schwarz 1995) have not been investigated archaeologically, although archaeological research into European near-coastal interior "winterhousing;" (Smith 1987) has recently begun (see Venovcevs 2016).

For the Beothuk, the only indigenous group in Canada to become extinct, the centuries from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century to the death of Shanadathit, the last-known Beothuk, in 1829, were years when

## VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

### NEWFOUNDLAND CULTURE-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

August 22, 2017

English, Portuguese, Basque and French fishermen encroached upon not only the coast and its rich resources but also upon salmon-fishing rivers (for reviews of this period, see Howley 1915, Marshall 1996). Mi'kmaq settlement from the mainland also deprived the Beothuk of hunting and fishing locations. The Beothuk rarely traded with Europeans, and their need for metal led to raiding of seasonal fishing stations during the winters and retaliation by Europeans. This hostility, coupled with Europeans excluding the Beothuk from the coastline and from favourite salmon-fishing spots, contributed to the decline of the Beothuk. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the remaining Beothuk were largely confined to the Exploits River and Red Indian Lake, along with the lakes in the interior hinterland of western Notre Dame Bay.

By this time, the Beothuk were not the only Aboriginal people inhabiting the central Newfoundland interior. Mi'kmaq from Cape Breton had been travelling to Newfoundland to hunt by at least the early-middle 17<sup>th</sup> century. Through the 18<sup>th</sup> century, their favoured destinations on the Island included Placentia, Cape Ray, and Bay D'Espoir. Initially, Mi'kmaq in Newfoundland regularly returned to Cape Breton, but by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Mi'kmaq families were settling permanently in southern and southwestern Newfoundland, hunting caribou, trapping, and later, serving as guides for European explorers and sportsmen (see Pastore 1978b).

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was little territorial overlap between the Mi'kmaq and the Beothuk: Mi'kmaq settlement and harvesting being focused on the southern and southwestern interior from St. George's Bay to Placentia Bay, while the Beothuk ranged to the north, principally along the Exploits and Red Indian Lake (Pastore 1978b). In 1822, William Epps Cormack and his Mi'kmaq guide Joseph Sylvester, walked across the Newfoundland interior from Trinity Bay to St. George's Bay, including the country between Meelpaeg, Granite Lake and George IV lake south of the Marathon Gold Project Area (for a complete transcript of Cormack's journal, see Howley 1915). The Mi'kmaq families they encountered along their route informed them that at that time, the southern border of Beothuk territory lay some 15-25 km north of the Mi'kmaq camp on King George IV lake (Marshall 1994: 156). King George IV lake marked the approximate eastern limit of Mi'kmaq canoe travel inland from St. George's Bay (see Penney 1987).

Through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, following the demise of the Beothuk, the Mi'kmaq extended their range to encompass most of the central and western Newfoundland interior, as far north as the Bay of Exploits and Gander Bay. Although there was some competition with white trappers in the hinterlands of the northeast coast, through the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Mi'kmaq had the interior of the Island largely to themselves (Pastore 1978a: 170). In 1914, the anthropologist Frank Speck mapped the hunting and trapping territories of individual Mi'kmaq families across the Newfoundland interior. For example, the large territory extending from Sandy Lake down through Red Indian Lake, Victoria River and Lake, and Lloyd's River, as far east and Meelpaeg, and as far south as the northern end of King George IV Lake was at that time the territory of Frank Joe, a hunter and trapper of mixed Mi'kmaq and Innu descent (Speck 1922).

Archaeologically, the historic Mi'kmaq occupation of the Newfoundland interior is attested by a number of recorded 20<sup>th</sup> century tilt sites (see Section 3.0 below). Two historic Mi'kmaq sites, both

## VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

NEWFOUNDLAND CULTURE-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

August 22, 2017

situated on Middle Ridge east of the Bay d'Espoir Highway, have been excavated (Penney and Nicol 1984). Burnt Knaps 1 (DbAv-01) yielded the remains of a rectangular wigwam dating to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Burnt Knaps 2 (DbAv-02), appeared to be slightly older, dating to the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century,

In summary, previous archaeological work on the Island indicates approximately 5,000 years of precontact Aboriginal occupation in four distinct periods: two Palaeo-Eskimo and two of Amerindian affiliation. Aboriginal occupation was demonstrably intensive along the coast. Interior occupation, primarily by Amerindian groups, but increasingly including some evidence for Palaeo-Eskimo occupation, appears to have been focused on near-coastal interior lakes, and major NE-SW-oriented lakes and rivers traversing the deep interior. Along these waterways, specific site locations tend to be associated with sandy coves and points of land, prominent constrictions in major waterways, stream confluences and stream mouths, and above or below falls and rapids. Historic European archaeological sites are known primarily from coastal areas until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but historic Mi'kmaq and Beothuk sites have been recorded, and may be anticipated, in deep interior settings on the Island.

Within the Project Area, ethnohistoric evidence indicates that important caribou migration corridors approach and traverse the Project Area, and that there is theoretical potential for precontact sites of all periods, particularly for sites of Maritime Archaic and late precontact Amerindian peoples, but also, to a lesser extent, potential for Palaeo-Eskimo sites. Turning to the historic sites potential, the Project Area lies within the territory of the Beothuk prior to the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so there is potential for historic Beothuk sites, and for historic Mi'kmaq sites dating to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PROJECT AREA AND SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND**

No archaeological sites have been recorded to date within the Project Area. In fact, only one archaeological survey has previously been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area, this being a canoe survey of Victoria Lake, George IV Lake and the Lloyds River System in the 1970s (Madden 1975). The survey was brief, executed rapidly, and did not identify archaeological sites, although the negative results should not be considered indicative of actual archaeological potential.

Consequently, assessment of the archaeological potential must be based on a review of the twenty archaeological sites recorded to date from a broader area surrounding the Project Area in west-central and south-central Newfoundland. These sites may be classified into three main groupings:

- the important cluster of historic Beothuk and precontact sites on Red Indian Lake, northeast of the Project Area;
- a widely-dispersed group of sites recorded on various interior lakes south and southwest of the Project Area; and
- miscellaneous sites of 20<sup>th</sup> century date recorded in locations surrounding the Project Area.

# VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PROJECT AREA AND SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND  
 August 22, 2017

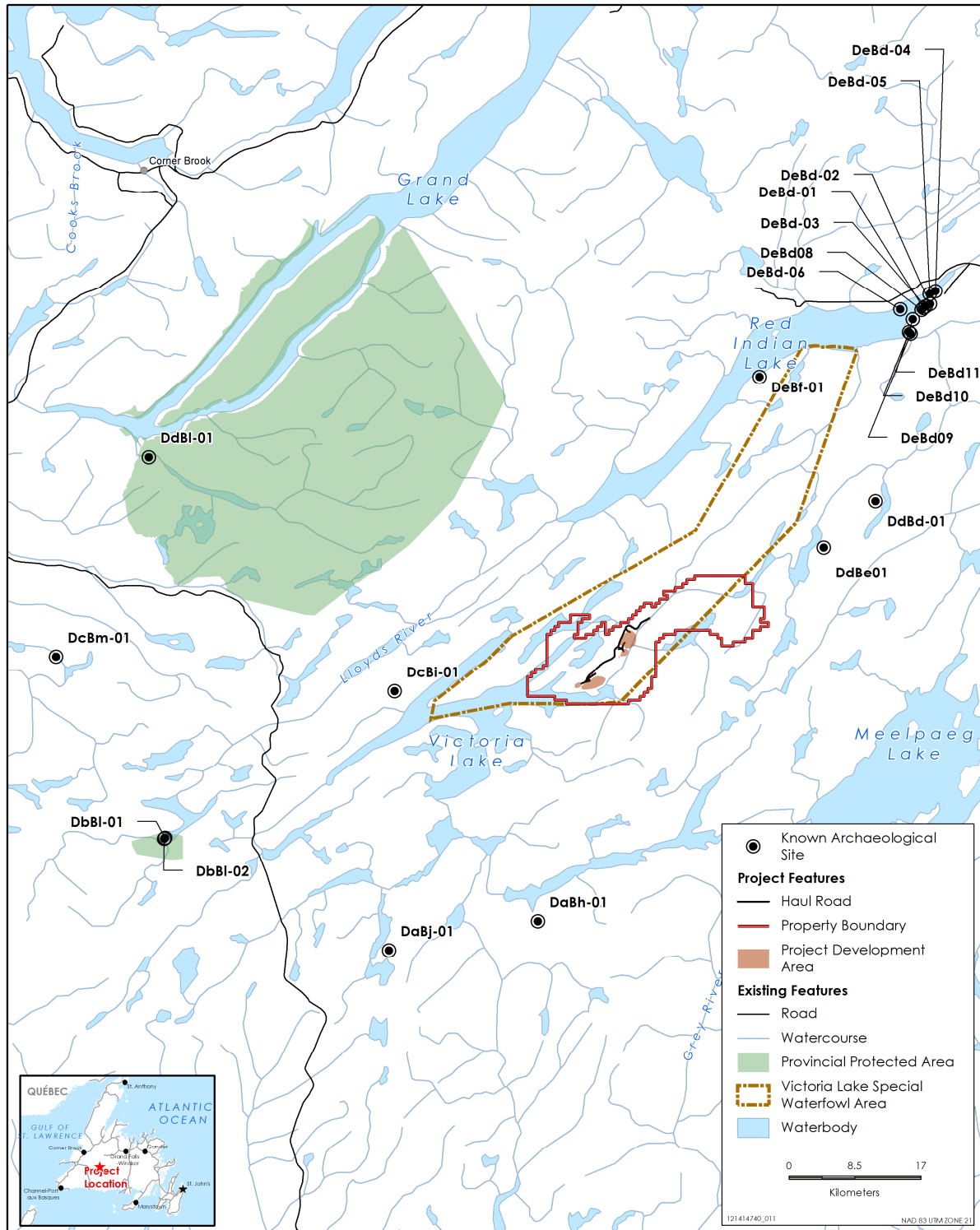


Figure 3-1 The Distribution of Known Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of the Project Area

### **3.1 Historic Beothuk and Precontact Sites on Red Indian Lake**

Ten precontact and/or Beothuk archaeological sites have been recorded on Red Indian Lake. One, Red Indian Lake South 1 (DeBf-01) consisted of a single purple rhyolite Maritime Archaic biface fragment surface-collected from a beach on the south side of Red Indian Lake. The remaining nine sites are situated on the northeast arm of the lake, most on the south side of the arm, between the Red Indian Lake dam and Buchans Junction. These include two precontact sites on a point near the former outflow of the lake: Tacamahacca Point (DeBd-09) and Tacamahacca Point 2 (DeBd-10). On another point to the north along the shore of the arm is a Beothuk housepit site at Sabbath Point (DeBd-08), and a precontact site (Sabbath Point 2: DeBd 11) which yielded surface-visible lithic artifacts on the beach and also in test pits behind the beach. Two sites on the north side of the arm are Red Indian Lake North 1 (DeBd-04), an historic and possibly precontact Beothuk site, and the site of the "Nonosabasut and Demasduit Burial Hut" (DeBd-05), a Beothuk gravesite visited by Cormack in 1827; the precise location of this site has not been verified on the ground.

The largest and best-known site on the northeastern arm of Red Indian Lake is Indian Point (DeBd 01). The site was excavated in the 1960s (Devereux 1970) and found to include substantial Beothuk housepit remains, possibly including "longhouses" or communal feasting structures with linear hearths. In addition, the site yielded evidence for precontact occupation in the Dorset and late precontact Amerindian periods. Unfortunately, this highly-significant site has been subjected to a variety of destructive impacts, including the flooding of Red Indian Lake for hydroelectric power generation. Nevertheless, revisits to this site by numerous researchers since the 1960s has confirmed that despite flooding, portions of the site remain intact above the high-water mark (see PAO site inventory record form). Indian Point is flanked by smaller outliers that may belong to the same site complex. These include the historic Beothuk "Three Wigwam Site" (DeBd-02), and June's Cove 1 (DeBd-03), a multi-component precontact and historic Beothuk site which is normally inundated but occasionally re-emerges in dry years when lake levels are low.

The Red Indian Lake sites are relatively distant from the Project Area, but the archaeological resources from Red Indian Lake do have implications for the archaeological potential of the Project Area:

- the association of archaeological sites with points of land projecting out into lakes and waterways, generally evident in the Newfoundland interior, is repeated in other areas around the Project;
- Palaeo-Eskimo components are less abundant than those of the precontact and historic Beothuk in deep interior settings, but nevertheless are present; and
- previous impoundment of lakes for hydroelectric development severely impacts archaeological resources, but may not eliminate the potential for archaeological sites, or portions of sites, to survive intact.

### 3.2 Archaeological Sites south and Southwest of the Project Area

Archaeological work in the southwestern interior of Newfoundland has been limited, but even the limited surveys undertaken to date have yielded archaeological sites of the precontact and historic periods. Four sites have been recorded on lakes south and southwest of the Project Area.

An archaeological survey of King George IV lake (Penney 1987) led to the discovery of two sites at the delta of Lloyd's River at the southwest end of the lake. At one site, DbBI-01, two hearths were identified. One contained lithic artifacts pertaining to the late precontact period, and the other an assemblage of historic artifacts, including clay tobacco pipes, nails, gunflints and the decayed remains of a spruce-bough floor. This latter hearth was attributed to a Mi'kmaq occupation of the site ca. 1920. The second site, DbBI-02, included the remains of a fallen Mi'kmaq square wigwam with artifacts indicating a date of occupation ca. 1940.

In 1989, Gerald Penney (Penney 1990) surveyed the lake known to Newfoundland Mi'kmaq as "Temagen Gospen," situated southwest of Burnt Pond, which had been surveyed with negative results. Unlike Burnt Pond, Temagen Gospen had not been flooded by the diversion of Spruce Pond, Victoria Lake, and Burnt Pond into Granite Lake. One site, DaBj-01, located at a prominent constriction midway along the lakeshore, yielded evidence for a late precontact site, along with a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Mi'kmaq hunting camp. Two additional modern Mi'kmaq camps were also recorded at the southern end of the lake.

One unusual site has been recorded on a small lake high in the Long Range Mountains in the near-coastal interior (i.e., less than 30 km from salt water) hinterland of Flat Bay (see Penney 1980). This site, Long Pond (DcBm-01), yielded surface finds of precontact (Dorset Palaeo-Eskimo) lithic artifacts along the beach at a constriction between Long Pond and Cross Pond. The original site appears to have been destroyed when the pond was flooded in the early 1950s for power generation.

Finally, a fourth site was recorded during archaeological assessment of Little Grand Lake, near the southwest end of Grand Lake, in 1984 (Northland Associates 1989). This site, Little Grand Lake 1 (DdBI-01), consisted of a cluster of four low rock mounds of indeterminate function, cultural affiliation or date.

The implications for archaeological assessment of the Project Area are similar to those noted on Red Indian Lake:

- the association of archaeological sites with points of land and constrictions in lakes and waterways is repeated, although river mouth deltas also have potential for archaeological sites;
- Palaeo-Eskimo components are less abundant than those of the late precontact period in deep interior settings, but nevertheless are present;
- although many the recorded sites in the Newfoundland interior are situated on major lakes or rivers, even small ponds (as at DcBm-01) have potential to yield archaeological sites;

## VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PROJECT AREA AND SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

August 22, 2017

- previous impoundment of lakes for hydroelectric development severely impacts archaeological resources, and may in fact destroy those sites, although there remains potential for identifying the deflated remains of sites which were formerly present; and
- Historic Mi'kmaq sites are anticipated in the southwestern interior.

### 3.3 Miscellaneous 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sites in Locations Surrounding the Project Area

The PAO inventory references five sites near the Project Area that are known, or inferred, to be of relatively recent, 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

One is situated in proximity to the cluster of Beothuk sites on Red Indian Lake. This site, Millers Point Wharf (DeBd-08), consists of the remains of wooden crib works, ballast piles, and artifacts across a beach, attesting to early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial logging in central Newfoundland.

The Granite Lake site (DaBh-01) similarly consists of abandoned machinery and possible remains of a milling operation of 20<sup>th</sup> century date (CRM Group 2011, Penney, Temple and Cuff 2015).

Another, quite unique site situated on a small pond northeast of the Project Area, is the Rogerson Lake Site (DdBe-01). This consists of the wreck of a tug believed to be "Alligator Annie," an Alligator Warring Tug (a paddle steamer), one of two such tugs used on Red Indian Lake in the logging industry in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. If this wreck is indeed that of "Annie," then it was originally purchased in 1900 (see PAO site inventory record form).

Site DcBi-01, located northwest of Victoria Lake, is the site of a World War II aircraft wreck. The site contains the remains of a Lockheed Hudson A-28 BW 719, which was lost on 18 December 1943 (Deal and Hillier 2007).

Finally, site DdBd-01 ("Gerald Coomb's Shoe") is the site of a stray find of a leather shoe or boot collected between Beaver and Ambrose Lakes (see PAO site inventory record form). The exact provenience of the find is unknown, as is the precise age and cultural affiliation.

The implications of these finds for archaeological assessment of the Project Area are difficult to specify. In some cases, the general locations of such sites may be elucidated by further archival or oral history research, but the precise locations are difficult to model or predict.

## **4.0 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE VALENTINE LAKE PROPERTY**

Although no known archaeological sites have been inventoried within the Project Area, review of regional archaeological data indicates that the Project Area does have potential for archaeological resources, particularly those pertaining to the precontact and historic Beothuk and Mi'kmaq occupations of the southwestern Newfoundland interior. While this potential may have been reduced by the impacts of flooding for commercial logging and hydroelectric development, it has not been eliminated. Potential may be particularly high on points of land and constrictions in waterways, stream mouths and confluences, falls and rapids.

Review of aerial imagery allows for the identification of 24 locations within the Project Area with potential to yield archaeological resources. It should be noted that this list is preliminary. Ground-truthing may indicate lower-than-expected potential at any of these locations, while overflight may identify additional locations of elevated potential not apparent in aerial imagery. These 24 locations (Figure 4-1) are described below.



# VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE VALENTINE LAKE PROPERTY  
 August 22, 2017

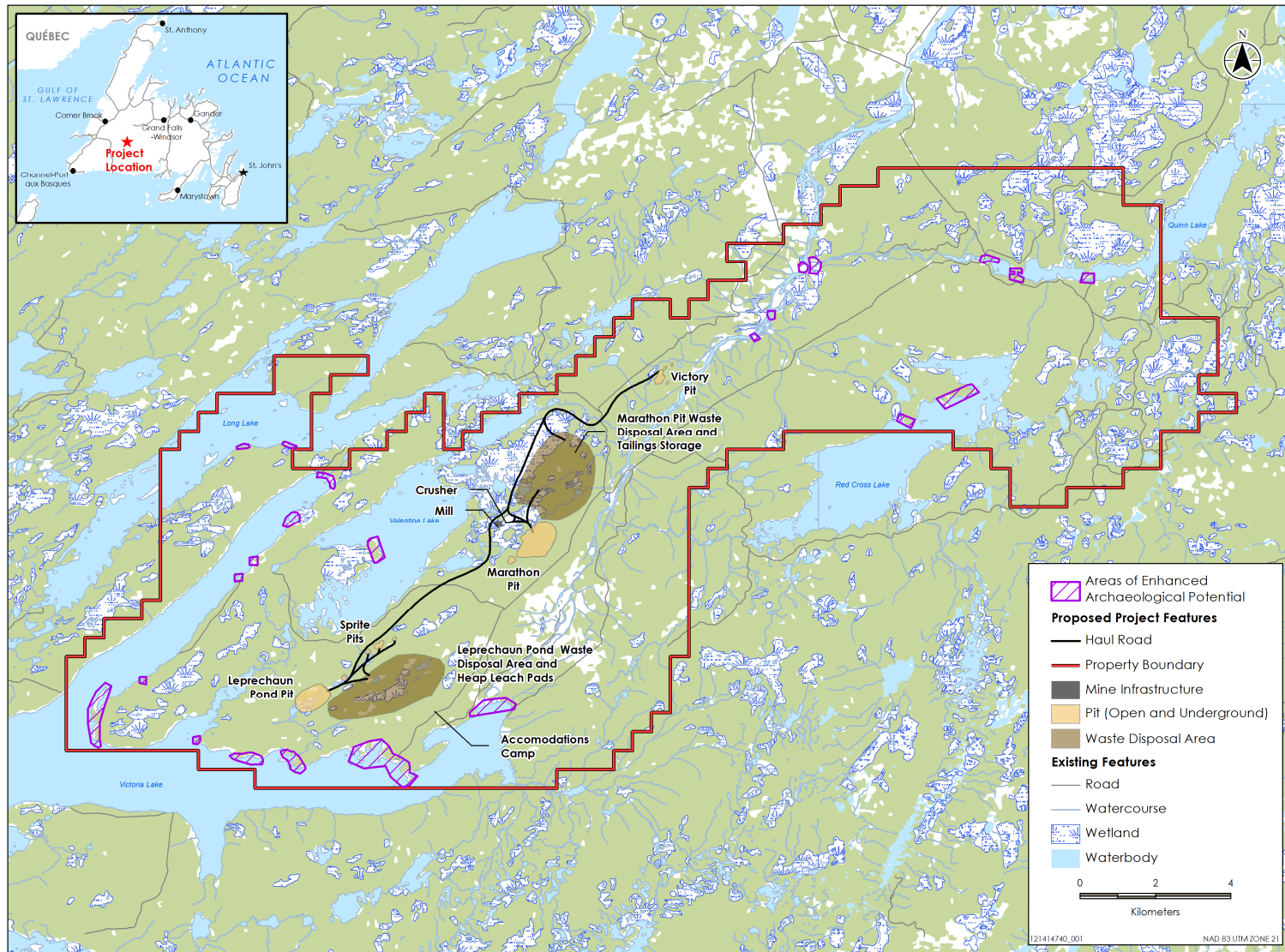


Figure 4-1 The Marathon Gold Project Area, Indicating Areas of Enhanced Archaeological Potential

## **VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY**

ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE VALENTINE LAKE PROPERTY  
August 22, 2017

### **4.1 Quinn Lake**

Quinn Lake appears to be characterized by rocky shorelines, with widespread impacts resulting from cabin construction and use, and from commercial logging. Three locations on Quinn Lake appear to have enhanced archaeological potential because of association with points of land and constrictions at rapids.

### **4.2 Red Cross Lake**

Red Cross Lake appears to be characterized by generally rocky shorelines. Two locations on points of land and constrictions within the Claim Block may have elevated archaeological potential.

### **4.3 Valentine Lake**

Valentine Lake appears to be characterized by rocky shorelines, and few locations of likely archaeological significance. However, one prominent constriction in the lake may have elevated archaeological potential.

### **4.4 Long Lake**

Long Lake appears to be characterized by generally rocky shorelines, with some sandy stretches. Two points of land within the Claim Block may have elevated archaeological potential.

### **4.5 Victoria Lake**

Victoria Lake, the largest water body within the Project Area, is characterized by generally rocky shorelines, but with more extensive stretches of sandy shoreline than other lakes within the Project Area. The impact on archaeological potential by diversion of the outflow for hydroelectric development is uncertain, although the extensive beaches evident in aerial imagery may indicate less flooding at this headwater lake, or alternatively, that there has been relatively high drawdown after impoundment.

Twelve locations on Victoria Lake may have elevated archaeological potential. One is a stretch of sandy beach, five are points of land, four exhibit a combination of points flanked by sheltered coves, and one is a series of points of land at a prominent constriction in the lake. The twelfth location, the historic outflow to Victoria River, has high theoretical potential although it may have been impacted by dam construction.

### **4.6 Victoria River**

The uppermost reaches of Victoria River include important waterfowl habitat (S. Camus pers. comm.) and may have elevated archaeological potential as a result. However, this section appears to have become bushed-in following the diversion of the outflow from Victoria Lake, making identification of specific high-potential locations from aerial imagery difficult.

## **VALENTINE LAKE PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY**

ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE VALENTINE LAKE PROPERTY

August 22, 2017

Further downstream, two points of land form constrictions in the river and may have elevated archaeological potential. Two additional locations derive their potential from the association with the confluence of the river draining Quinn Lake.

## **5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Although no known archaeological sites have been inventoried within the Project Area, review of regional archaeological data indicates that the Project Area does have broad theoretical potential for archaeological remains, particularly those pertaining to the precontact period (especially late precontact), and the historic Beothuk and Mi'kmaq occupations of the southwestern Newfoundland interior. This potential may be reduced, but not eliminated, by the impacts of flooding for commercial logging and hydroelectric development. Potential may be particularly high on points of land and constrictions in waterways, stream mouths and confluences, falls and rapids.

Review of aerial imagery allows for the identification of 24 locations within the Project Area with potential to yield archaeological remains. It should be noted that this list is preliminary and based on a desktop review of the Project Area only. Ground-truthing may indicate lower-than-expected potential at any of these locations, while overflight may identify additional locations of elevated potential not apparent in aerial imagery. It is recommended that as the Project further progresses, direct communication with the PAO be initiated to determine the required next steps, which are likely to include an archaeological overflight survey along the lake and river shorelines within the Project Area to identify high-potential locations not otherwise evident in aerial imagery, and that this be followed by ground-truthing and testing at these locations to verify potential and to assess the impact on archaeological potential of historic logging and hydroelectric development.

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# **ATTACHMENT 10-B**

**Valentine Gold Project: Historic Resources Baseline Study  
2020 Update (2020)**

**Valentine Gold Project:  
Historic Resources Baseline  
Study 2020 Update**



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**File No: 121416408**

**Final Report**

July 9, 2020

## Table of Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Background.....	2
1.2	Historic Resources Overview Approach.....	2
<b>2.0</b>	<b>NEWFOUNDLAND CULTURE-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	The Precontact Period.....	5
2.2	The Historic Period .....	6
2.3	Summary .....	8
<b>3.0</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PROJECT AREA AND SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND .....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1	Historic Beothuk and Precontact Sites on Red Indian Lake.....	11
3.2	Archaeological Sites south and Southwest of the Project Area .....	12
3.3	Miscellaneous 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Sites in Locations Surrounding the Project Area.....	13
3.4	Archaeological Sites Recently Registered on Victoria River .....	13
<b>4.0</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>19</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Valentine Gold Project Area .....	4
Figure 3.1	Distribution of Known Archaeological Sites in Vicinity of the Project Area .....	10
Figure 4.1	Identified Areas with Archaeological Potential .....	16
Figure 4.2	LiDAR Hillshade Imagery of the Project Area .....	18

### Executive Summary

Stantec Consulting Ltd. was retained by Marathon Gold Corporation to assess the potential for Historic Resources to be present within the Project Area. This Historic Resources Overview Assessment is a desktop exercise intended to serve as a preliminary assessment of the archaeological potential of the property, to assist in Project planning and to determine possible requirements for archaeological field assessment of the Project Area, at the Valentine Gold Project Site.

Although no known archaeological sites have been inventoried within the Project Area, review of regional archaeological data indicates that the Project Area does have broad theoretical potential for archaeological remains, particularly those pertaining to the precontact period (especially late precontact), and the historic Beothuk and Mi'kmaq occupations of the southwestern Newfoundland interior. This potential may be reduced, but not eliminated, by the previous impacts of flooding for commercial logging and hydroelectric development. Potential may be particularly high on points of land and constrictions in waterways, stream mouths and confluences, falls and rapids.

In 2017 (Stantec 2017), a review of aerial imagery led to the identification of 24 locations within the Marathon Mineral Claim with potential to yield archaeological resources. Only one of these locations overlaps the Project Area, and it does not overlap with the current footprint of Project infrastructure. This updated overview assessment includes consideration of two additional resources not available for the 2017 assessment:

- A series of ten potential archaeological sites identified in 2018 by PAO based on review of an historic map of the Victoria River believed to have been drawn or annotated in the 1800s
- Review of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) imagery of the Project Area flown in 2019

LiDAR imagery indicates that level, potentially habitable terrain is present within the previously identified high-potential areas, including the high-potential zone in the vicinity of the existing exploration camp. Similar suitable terrain is also present in locations along Victoria River, within the claim block but outside the Project Area. This includes the reach of the river south of the confluence of the river draining Quinn Lake, the approximate location of the Victoria River 7 site (DcBg-01). Review of LiDAR imagery did not directly reveal evidence for actual historic features, such as Beothuk housepits.

It is recommended that archaeological ground assessment be undertaken prior to construction activities at:

- Locations of ground-breaking construction wherever the Project Area has potential to interact with identified areas of high potential for archaeological resources, or at locations of future construction that may interact with locations of high archaeological potential, in the event that the location of Project Area expands

# VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

## INTRODUCTION

July 9, 2020

- The approximate locations of archaeological sites registered by the PAO in 2018 (DcBg-01, DcBg-02, and DcBg-03) in order to confirm their precise locations and confirm the Project will not interact with these sites

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) was retained by Marathon Gold Corporation (Marathon) to conduct a number of environmental baseline studies for the Valentine Gold Project (the Project). The results of the baseline surveys serve to support the environmental assessment (EA) for the Project. Figure 1-1 shows the current Project Area for the purposes of the EA.

A historic resources program was conducted in 2017 to characterize the potential for historic resources at the Project site. At the time of the original study (summer 2017), the Project included four near-surface, mainly pit-shell constrained, gold deposits: Marathon Deposit, Leprechaun Deposit, Sprite Deposit, and Victory Deposit. The Project has since been refined to no longer include development of the Sprite or Victory deposits, and thus the Project Area has been modified / reduced since 2017.

### 1.2 Historic Resources Overview Approach

This report serves as an update to the HROA completed in 2017. The following Historic Resources Overview Assessment (HROA) of the Project is intended to serve as a preliminary assessment of the archaeological potential of the property, to assist in Project planning and to determine possible requirements for archaeological field assessment of the Project Area. The original assessment (Stantec 2017) included the entirety of the Marathon Mineral Claim.

This HROA update and the work in 2017 have been desktop exercises. The desktop assessment of archaeological potential depends on a broader review of archaeological work previously conducted in Newfoundland, and specifically within a broader Study Area encompassing the interior of southwestern Newfoundland. Resources included:

- General archaeological, historic, and ethnohistoric literature pertaining to the broad culture-historical framework of precontact and historic-period settlement in Newfoundland, with particular reference to settlement in the interior of the Island
- Specific archaeological, historic and ethnohistoric literature bearing on the archaeology of the southwestern interior of the Island
- Literature and other information on environmental factors pertinent to archaeological potential within the Project Area, such as caribou abundance, lakeshore characteristics, and the impacts of previous developments (most notably, the diversion and flooding of waterways in the 1960s for the Bay d'Espoir Hydroelectric Development)



## VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

### INTRODUCTION

July 9, 2020

- Aerial (Google Earth) imagery and topographic maps reviewed for preliminary identification of specific locations of elevated archaeological potential
- In addition, the overview assessment was informed by photographs and observations recorded by Stantec wildlife biologist during helicopter overflight of the Project Area on June 6, 2017 (S. Camus, pers. comm. 2017)

This updated overview assessment includes consideration of two additional resources not available for the 2017 assessment:

- A series of ten potential archaeological sites identified in 2018 by the Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) based on review of an historic map of the Victoria River believed to have been drawn or annotated in the 1800s
- Review of LiDAR imagery of the Project Area flown in 2019

# VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

## INTRODUCTION

July 9, 2020

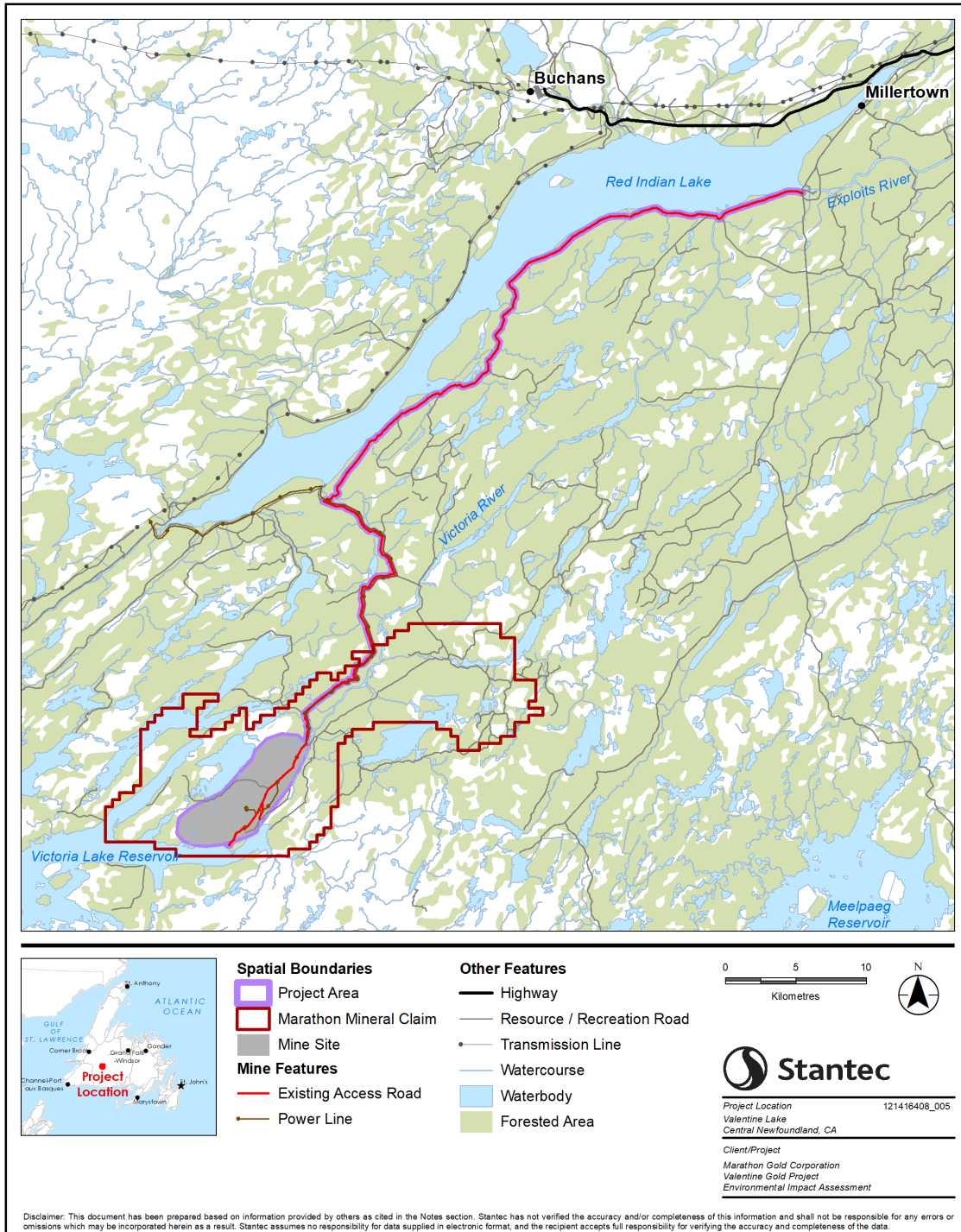


Figure 1.1 Valentine Gold Project Area

## 2.0 Newfoundland Culture-Historical Overview

### 2.1 The Precontact Period

Archaeological investigations in Newfoundland, particularly over the last forty years, have provided us with a clear, if incomplete, understanding of the Island's long-term culture-history. The initial occupation of the Island appears to have occurred late in the Maritime Archaic period, ca. 5000-3200 B.P. (Before Present), although one site in the Deer Lake area may potentially be older (Reader 1999). Southern Labrador shows clear evidence of occupation much earlier in the Maritime Archaic period, by 7,500-8,000 B.P. (McGhee and Tuck 1975, Schwarz 2010), and insular Newfoundland was theoretically habitable by this time as well (Macpherson 1981). The scarcity of evidence for an early Archaic occupation of the Island, and the apparent delay in the expansion of Archaic hunters from Labrador to Newfoundland, has never been satisfactorily explained.

After a hiatus of several centuries, the Maritime Archaic occupation was followed, by an Early Palaeo-Inuit (Groswater) occupation, dating to 2800-2000 B.P. This in turn was followed by a distinct Late Palaeo-Inuit (Middle Dorset) occupation beginning ca. 1900 B.P. Dorset sites in Newfoundland are both larger and more numerous than those of any other period, and although absolute population estimates are not possible, the Dorset occupation appears to have been the most extensive, and its population levels the highest in the Island's prehistory. Perhaps because of the large size and number of sites, it has proved possible to recognize regional variation in Newfoundland Dorset artifact styles; it has been suggested that the Dorset population of Newfoundland may be divided into at least three distinct regional groups (Robbins 1986). While it may have seen the most extensive occupation, the Dorset period was also the briefest, apparently ending ca. 1100 B.P.

The "Recent Indian" occupation began with an early "Cow Head Complex" occupation, coeval with the Dorset, indicating shared occupation of the Island by both Amerindian and Palaeo-Inuit peoples (Hartery 2007), and ended with the historically-documented extinction of the Beothuk early in the nineteenth century. Beothuk sites of the early contact period (A.D. 1500-1700) have been identified on the Avalon Peninsula, Bonavista Bay and Notre Dame Bay. Later historic Beothuk sites (A.D. 1700-1829) are limited to the Exploits Valley, including Red Indian Lake, among the final refuges of the Beothuk prior to their extinction in 1829 (Devereux 1965, 1970; LeBlanc 1973). It is important to note that most archaeological work on the Island has been concentrated on the coast. Archaeologists have tended to regard Newfoundland's marine resources as rich and stable, in contrast to an interior resource base which is limited, impoverished, and prone to periodic fluctuations in abundance (cf. Tuck and Pastore 1985).

In consequence, archaeologists have tended to concentrate their efforts on investigating coastal sites, on the assumption that the archaeological potential of the interior is generally low.

July 9, 2020

It has long been recognized that the archaeological potential of one interior region - the Exploits River - has been high, however this has been viewed as unique. The historic resources of the Exploits Valley are dominated by the remains of the Beothuk, a people forced into a deep interior caribou-hunting adaptation by spreading European settlement along the coast. Pre-Beothuk remains are relatively scarce along the Exploits River. This historic Beothuk interior adaptation ended ultimately in extinction, and the Beothuk have thus been regarded as the exception that proves the rule: successful hunter-gatherer adaptation to the deep interior is impossible over the long term, and would not have occurred without competition from expanding European settlement.

Archaeological work since the 1980s, however, has somewhat modified the traditional view of the Newfoundland interior resource base. Investigations of the interior by a number of investigators (Schwarz 1994) have confirmed the archaeological potential of the Newfoundland interior, for precontact sites, particularly on or near-coastal interior lakes, and along the major SW-NE-oriented river systems (most notably the Exploits River) which offer travel routes into the deep interior and to strategic locations from which to intercept migrating caribou. The majority of the interior sites identified to date pertain to the Recent Indian period, although Maritime Archaic sites have also been identified, and, increasingly, evidence for Early Palaeo-Inuit occupations is being recovered, even from deep-interior locations, such as Birchy Lake and the Exploits River (Erwin and Holly 2006). Late Palaeo-Inuit (Dorset) sites in the interior remain relatively rare. In terms of micro-locational attributes, precontact interior sites appear to be particularly associated with points of land and constrictions in waterways, as well as with stream mouths and falls or rapids (Schwarz 1992, 1994).

## 2.2 The Historic Period

Newfoundland has had a long history of European settlement, and historical archaeology in Newfoundland has tended to focus on the province's unusually early European remains, and on the archaeology of the historic Beothuk.

The earliest known historic European site on the Island is the Norse site at L'Anse aux Meadows, dated ca. 1000 B.P. (Ingstad 1969), a period that archaeologists still generally regard as "prehistoric" in Newfoundland. The intensive European migratory fishery, which developed and expanded through the sixteenth century, is documented by the Basque remains at Red Bay (Tuck and Grenier 1989). The seventeenth century has recently become a focus of investigation; outside of the Avalon, this century is still sparsely-documented archaeologically, though there are likely many sites of this period along the coast, pertaining to the English, French, and Basque migratory fisheries. For example, possible seventeenth-century Basque material has been recovered in survey on the west coast (Schwarz 1994). The eighteenth century, a period which saw substantial growth in the resident population of Newfoundland, is well-represented at archaeological sites across the Island.

As with prehistoric archaeology, and for many of the same reasons, research in historic archaeology has been strongly focused on the coast. Historic European activities in the interior, such as trapping (Pastore 1987, Schwarz 1994) have not been investigated archaeologically,

## VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

### NEWFOUNDLAND CULTURE-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

July 9, 2020

although archaeological research into European near-coastal interior “winterhousing” (Smith 1987) has recently begun (Venovcevs 2016).

For the Beothuk, the only indigenous group in Canada to become extinct, the period from the late 15th century to the death of Shanawdithit, the last-known Beothuk, in 1829, were years when English, Portuguese, Basque and French fishermen encroached upon not only the coast and its rich resources, but also upon salmon-fishing rivers (Howley 1915, Marshall 1996). Mi'kmaq settlement from the mainland also deprived the Beothuk of hunting and fishing locations. The Beothuk rarely traded with Europeans, and their need for metal led to raiding of seasonal fishing stations during the winters and retaliation by Europeans. This hostility, coupled with Europeans excluding the Beothuk from the coastline and from favoured salmon-fishing spots, contributed to the decline of the Beothuk. By the 19th century, the remaining Beothuk were largely confined to the Exploits River and Red Indian Lake, along with the lakes in the interior hinterland of western Notre Dame Bay.

By this time, the Beothuk were not the only Indigenous people inhabiting the central Newfoundland interior. Mi'kmaq from Cape Breton had been travelling to Newfoundland to hunt by at least the early-middle 17th century. Through the 18th century, their favoured destinations on the Island included Placentia, Cape Ray, and Bay d'Espoir. Initially, Mi'kmaq in Newfoundland regularly returned to Cape Breton, but by the end of the 18th century or early 19th century, Mi'kmaq families were settling permanently in southern and southwestern Newfoundland, hunting caribou, trapping, and later, serving as guides for European explorers and sportsmen (see Pastore 1978b).

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, there was little territorial overlap between the Mi'kmaq and the Beothuk: Mi'kmaq settlement and harvesting being focused on the southern and southwestern interior from St. George's Bay to Placentia Bay, while the Beothuk ranged to the north, principally along the Exploits and Red Indian Lake (Pastore 1978b). In 1822, William Epps Cormack and his Mi'kmaq guide, Joseph Sylvester, walked across the Newfoundland interior from Trinity Bay to St. George's Bay, including the country between Meelpaeg, Granite Lake and George IV Lake south of the Project Area (see Howley 1915). The Mi'kmaq families they encountered along their route informed them that at that time, the southern border of Beothuk territory lay 15 to 25 km north of the Mi'kmaq camp on King George IV Lake (Marshall 1994: 156). King George IV Lake marked the approximate eastern limit of Mi'kmaq canoe travel inland from St. George's Bay (Penney 1987).

Through the 19th century, following the demise of the Beothuk, the Mi'kmaq extended their range to encompass most of the central and western Newfoundland interior, as far north as the Bay of Exploits and Gander Bay. Although there was some competition with white trappers in the hinterlands of the northeast coast, through the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the Mi'kmaq had the interior of the Island largely to themselves (Pastore 1978a: 170). In 1914, the anthropologist Frank Speck mapped the hunting and trapping territories of individual Mi'kmaq families across the Newfoundland interior. For example, the large territory extending from Sandy Lake down through Red Indian Lake, Victoria River and Lake, and Lloyd's River, as far east and Meelpaeg, and as far south as the northern end of King George IV Lake was

at that time the territory of Frank Joe, a hunter and trapper of mixed Mi'kmaq and Innu descent (Speck 1922).

Archaeologically, the historic Mi'kmaq occupation of the Newfoundland interior is attested by a number of recorded 20<sup>th</sup> century tilt sites (see Section 3.0 below). Two historic Mi'kmaq sites, both situated on Middle Ridge east of the Bay d'Espoir Highway, have been excavated (Penney and Nicol 1984). Burnt Knaps 1 (DbAv-01) yielded the remains of a rectangular wigwam dating to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Burnt Knaps 2 (DbAv-02), appeared to be slightly older, dating to the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 2.3 Summary

In summary, previous archaeological work on the Island as a whole indicates approximately 5,000 years of precontact Indigenous occupation in four distinct periods: two Palaeo-Inuit and two of Amerindian affiliation. Indigenous occupation was demonstrably intensive along the coast. Interior occupation, primarily by Amerindian groups, but increasingly including some evidence for Palaeo-Inuit occupation, appears to have been focused on near-coastal interior lakes, and major NE-SW-oriented lakes and rivers traversing the deep interior. Along these waterways, specific site locations tend to be associated with sandy coves and points of land, prominent constrictions in major waterways, stream confluences and stream mouths, and locations above or below falls and rapids. Historic European archaeological sites are known primarily from coastal areas until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although historic Mi'kmaq and Beothuk sites have been recorded, and may be anticipated, in deep interior settings on the Island.

Within the Project Area, ethnohistoric evidence indicates that important caribou migration corridors approach and traverse the Project Area, and that there is theoretical potential for precontact sites of all periods, particularly for sites of Maritime Archaic and late precontact Amerindian peoples, but also, to a lesser extent, potential for Palaeo-Inuit sites. Turning to the historic sites potential, the Project Area lies within the territory of the Beothuk prior to the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so there is potential for historic Beothuk sites, and also for historic Mi'kmaq sites dating to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



### 3.0 Archaeology of The Project Area And Southwestern Newfoundland

At the time of the 2017 overview assessment, no archaeological sites had been recorded within the Project Area. Only one archaeological survey has previously been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area, this being a canoe survey of Victoria Lake, George IV Lake and the Lloyds River System in the 1970s (Madden 1975). The survey was brief, executed rapidly, and did not identify archaeological sites, although the negative results should not be considered indicative of low archaeological potential.

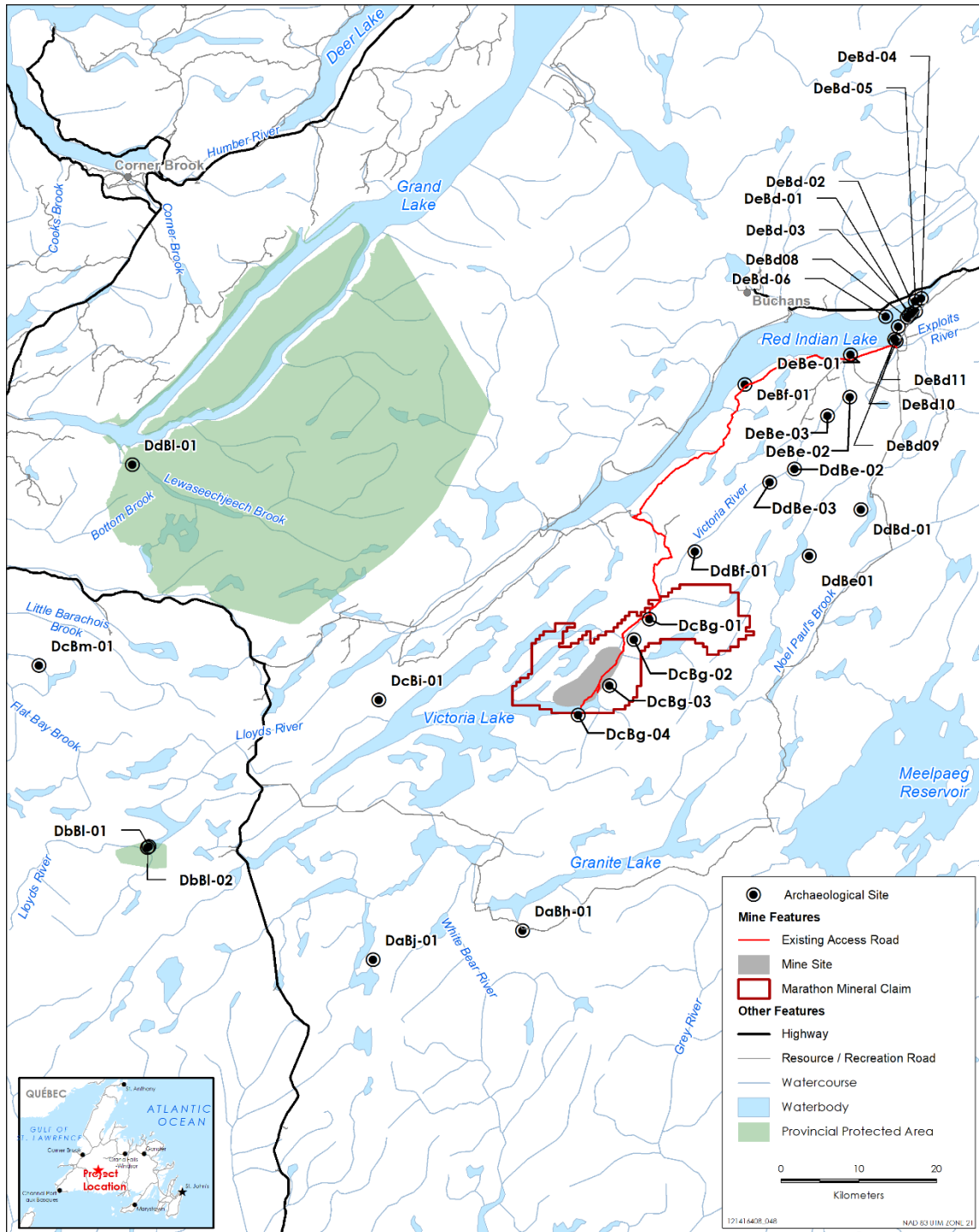
Consequently, assessment of the archaeological potential was initially based on a review of the twenty archaeological sites recorded to date from a broader area surrounding the Project Area in west-central and south-central Newfoundland (Figure 3-1). These sites can be classified into three main groupings:

- The important cluster of historic Beothuk and precontact sites on Red Indian Lake, northeast of the Project Area
- A widely-dispersed group of sites recorded on various interior lakes south and southwest of the Project Area
- Miscellaneous sites of 20<sup>th</sup> century date recorded in locations surrounding the Project Area

In 2018, PAO identified and registered a series of ten archaeological sites identified on an 1875 map of Victoria River, believed to have been drawn and/or annotated by geologist J.P. Howley. Three of these sites potentially lie in the vicinity of the Project Area and are discussed in Section 3.4.

**VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE**

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PROJECT AREA AND SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND  
 July 9, 2020



**Figure 3.1 Distribution of Known Archaeological Sites in Vicinity of the Project Area**

### **3.1 Historic Beothuk and Precontact Sites on Red Indian Lake**

Ten precontact and/or Beothuk archaeological sites have been recorded on Red Indian Lake. One site, Red Indian Lake South 1 (DeBf-01) consisted of a single purple rhyolite Maritime Archaic biface fragment surface-collected from a beach on the south side of Red Indian Lake. The remaining nine sites are situated primarily on the south side of the northeast arm of the lake, between the Red Indian Lake dam and Buchans Junction. These include two precontact sites on a point near the former outflow of the lake: Tacamahacca Point (DeBd-09) and Tacamahacca Point 2 (DeBd-10). On another point to the north along the shore of the arm is a Beothuk housepit site at Sabbath Point (DeBd-08), and a precontact site (Sabbath Point 2: DeBd-11), which yielded surface-visible lithic artifacts on the beach and also in testpits behind the beach. Two sites on the north side of the arm are Red Indian Lake North 1 (DeBd-04), an historic and possibly precontact Beothuk site, and the site of the "Nonosabasut and Demasduit Burial Hut" (DeBd-05), a Beothuk gravesite visited by Cormack in 1827; the precise location of this particular site has not been verified on the ground.

The largest and best-known site on the northeastern arm of Red Indian Lake is Indian Point (DeBd-01). The site was excavated in the 1960s (Devereux 1970) and found to include substantial Beothuk housepit remains, possibly including "longhouses" or communal feasting structures with linear hearths. In addition, the site yielded evidence for precontact occupation in the Dorset and late precontact Amerindian periods. Unfortunately, this highly archaeologically significant site has been subjected to a variety of destructive impacts, including the flooding of Red Indian Lake for hydroelectric power generation. Nevertheless, revisits to this site by numerous researchers since the 1960s have confirmed that despite flooding, portions of the site remain intact above the high-water mark (see PAO site inventory record form). Indian Point is flanked by smaller outlier sites that may belong to the same site complex. These include the historic Beothuk "Three Wigwam Site" (DeBd-02), and also June's Cove 1 (DeBd-03), a multi-component precontact and historic Beothuk site which is normally inundated though occasionally re-emerges in dry years when lake levels are low.

The Red Indian Lake sites are relatively distant from the Project Area, however the archaeological resources from Red Indian Lake do have implications for the archaeological potential of the Project Area:

- The association of archaeological sites with points of land projecting out into lakes and waterways, generally evident in the Newfoundland interior, is repeated in the Study Area around the Project
- Palaeo-Inuit components are less abundant than those of the precontact and historic Beothuk in deep interior settings, although are present nevertheless
- While previous impoundment of lakes for hydroelectric development may have impacted archaeological resources, this does not necessarily eliminate the potential for archaeological sites, or portions of sites, to survive intact

### **3.2 Archaeological Sites south and Southwest of the Project Area**

Archaeological work in the southwestern interior of Newfoundland has been limited, however even the limited surveys undertaken to date have yielded archaeological sites of the precontact and historic periods. Four sites have been recorded on lakes south and southwest of the Project Area.

An archaeological survey of King George IV Lake (Penney 1987) led to the discovery of two sites at the delta of Lloyd's River at the southwest end of the lake. At one site, DbBI-01, two hearths were identified. One contained lithic artifacts pertaining to the late precontact period, and the other an assemblage of historic artifacts, including clay tobacco pipes, nails, gunflints and the decayed remains of a spruce-bough floor. This latter hearth was attributed to a Mi'kmaq occupation of the site ca. 1920. The second site, DbBI-02, included the remains of a fallen Mi'kmaq square wigwam with artifacts indicating a date of occupation ca. 1940.

In 1989, Gerald Penney (Penney 1990) surveyed the lake known to Newfoundland Mi'kmaq as "Temagen Gospen," situated southwest of Burnt Pond, which had been previously surveyed with negative results. Unlike Burnt Pond, Temagen Gospen had not been flooded by the diversion of Spruce Pond, Victoria Lake, and Burnt Pond into Granite Lake. One site, DaBj-01, located at a prominent constriction midway along the lakeshore, yielded evidence for a late precontact site, along with a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Mi'kmaq hunting camp. Two additional modern Mi'kmaq camps were also recorded at the southern end of the lake.

One unusual site has been recorded on a small lake high in the Long Range Mountains in the near-coastal interior (i.e., less than 30 km from salt water) hinterland of Flat Bay (Penney 1980). This site, Long Pond (DcBm-01), yielded surface finds of precontact (Dorset Palaeo-Inuit) lithic artifacts along the beach at a constriction between Long Pond and Cross Pond. The original site appears to have been destroyed when the pond was flooded in the early 1950s for power generation.

Finally, a fourth site was recorded during archaeological assessment of Little Grand Lake, near the southwest end of Grand Lake, in 1984 (Northland Associates 1989). This site, Little Grand Lake 1 (DdBI-01), consisted of a cluster of four low rock mounds of indeterminate function, cultural affiliation or date.

The implications for archaeological assessment of the Project Area are similar to those noted on Red Indian Lake:

- The association of archaeological sites with points of land and constrictions in lakes and waterways is repeated again, although river mouth deltas also have potential for archaeological sites
- Palaeo-Eskimo components are less abundant than those of the late precontact period in deep interior settings, although are present nevertheless
- Although the majority of the recorded sites in the Newfoundland interior are situated on major lakes or rivers, even small ponds (as at DcBm-01) have potential to yield archaeological sites

July 9, 2020

- Previous impoundment of lakes for hydroelectric development severely impacts archaeological resources, and may in fact destroy those sites, although there remains potential for identifying the deflated remains of sites which were formerly present
- Historic Mi'kmaq sites are anticipated in the southwestern interior

### 3.3 Miscellaneous 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sites in Locations Surrounding the Project Area

The PAO inventory references five sites in the vicinity of the Project Area that are known, or inferred, to be of relatively recent, 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

One site is situated in proximity to the cluster of Beothuk sites on Red Indian Lake. This site, Millers Point Wharf (DeBd-08), consists of the remains of wooden cribworks, ballast piles, and artifacts across a beach, attesting to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century industrial logging in central Newfoundland.

The Granite Lake site (DaBh-01) similarly consists of abandoned machinery and possible remains of a milling operation of 20<sup>th</sup> century date (CRM Group 2011, Penney et al. 2015).

Another unique site situated on a small pond northeast of the Project Area, is the Rogerson Lake Site (DdBe-01). The site consists of the wreck of a tug believed to be "Alligator Annie," an Alligator Warping Tug (a paddle steamer), one of two such tugs used on Red Indian Lake in the logging industry in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. If this wreck is indeed that of "Annie," then it was originally purchased in 1900 (see PAO site inventory record form).

Site DcBi-01, located northwest of Victoria Lake Reservoir, is the site of a World War II aircraft wreck. The site contains the remains of a Lockheed Hudson A-28 BW 719, which was lost on 18 December 1943 (Deal and Hillier 2007).

Finally, site DdBd-01 ("Gerald Coomb's Shoe") is the site of a stray find of a leather shoe or boot collected between Beaver and Ambrose Lakes (see PAO site inventory record form). The exact provenience of the find is unknown, as is the precise age and cultural affiliation.

The implications of these finds for the archaeological assessment of the Project Area are difficult to specify. In some cases, the general locations of such sites may be elucidated by further archival or oral history research, however the precise locations are difficult to model or predict.

### 3.4 Archaeological Sites Recently Registered on Victoria River

The PAO inventory now includes ten registered sites identified by PAO in 2018 on the basis of an 1875 map of Victoria River, believed to have been drawn and/or annotated by geologist J.P. Howley. These sites include both observed Beothuk wigwams dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the locations of Howley's own campsites. These sites have not been ground-truthed, but they have been registered as archaeological sites, with approximate coordinates, in the PAO site

## VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PROJECT AREA AND SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

July 9, 2020

inventory. Three of these sites (Victoria River 7, Victoria River 8, Victoria River 9) potentially lie in the vicinity of the Project.

Victoria River 1 (DeBe-01), situated on a low sandy point at the mouth of Victoria River, consisted in 1875 of the remains of three circular housepits likely pertaining to an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century Beothuk occupation (see Lloyd 1876). The precise location has not been confirmed and it is unclear whether the site survives above the present level of Red Indian Lake.

Victoria River 2 (DeBe-02) appears to be situated on the north side of Victoria River. On the 1875 map, it is noted as "RR Camp July 15<sup>th</sup>" and this site may pertain in some way to a railway survey. The precise location has not been confirmed, but the site may survive above the present low levels of Victoria River, if it has not been destroyed by decades of log driving in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Victoria River 3 (DeBe-03) appears to be situated on the north side of Victoria River near a series of rapids and falls. The site consisted in 1875 of a single 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, likely Beothuk, housepit. The precise location has not been confirmed, but the site may survive above the present low levels of Victoria River, if it has not been destroyed by decades of log driving in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Victoria River 4 (DdBe-02), noted on the 1875 map as a "winter wigwam" (presumably an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century Beothuk structure), appears to be situated on the north side of Victoria River, south of Red Indian Lake near a steady. The precise location has not been confirmed but the site may survive above the present low levels of Victoria River, if it has not been destroyed by decades of log driving in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Victoria River 5 (DdBe-03), noted on the 1875 map as a "winter wigwam" (presumably an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century Beothuk structure), appears to be situated on the north side of Victoria River, south of Red Indian Lake. The precise location has not been confirmed but the site may survive above the present low levels of Victoria River, if it has not been destroyed by decades of log driving in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Victoria River 6 (DdBf-01), noted on the 1875 map as a "wigwam" (presumably an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century Beothuk structure), appears to be situated on the north side of Victoria River, south of Red Indian Lake at the western end of Harmsworth Steady. The precise location has not been confirmed but the site may survive above the present low levels of Victoria River, if it has not been destroyed by decades of log driving in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Victoria River 10 (DcBg-04), noted on the 1875 map as "Camp Oct 15<sup>th</sup>" (presumably one of J.P. Howley's own 1875 campsites), appears to be situated on the south side of Victoria Lake Reservoir, some 5 km south of Valentine Lake. The precise location has not been confirmed but the site may now be inundated under the present high levels of Victoria Lake Reservoir.

## VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

### ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

July 9, 2020

Victoria River 7 (DcBg-01), noted on the 1875 map as a “wigwam” (presumably an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century Beothuk structure), appears to be situated on the north side of Victoria River, 3.5 km south of the mouth of the brook from Quinn Lake, west of Red Cross Lake. This places the site in the vicinity of the Project, but outside of the Project Area. A line on the map that may represent a trail runs from this site on Victoria River to another wigwam site on Costigan Lake (DdBg-01). The precise location has not been confirmed, but the site may survive above the present low levels of Victoria River, if it has not been destroyed by decades of log driving in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Victoria River 8 (DcBg-02), noted on the 1875 map as “Camp Oct 17<sup>th</sup>” (presumably one of J.P. Howley’s own 1875 campsites), appears to be situated on the south side of Victoria River, 1 km from the mouth of the brook from Valentine Lake, west of Red Cross Lake. This places the site in the vicinity of the Project, but outside the Project Area. The precise location has not been confirmed, but the site may survive above the present low levels of Victoria River, if it has not been destroyed by decades of log driving in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Victoria River 9 (DcBg-03), noted on the 1875 map as “Camp Oct 16<sup>th</sup>” (presumably one of J.P. Howley’s own 1875 campsites), appears to be situated on the south side of Victoria River, 4 km west of Valentine Lake. This places the site in the general vicinity of the Project, but outside the Project Area. The precise location has not been confirmed but the site may survive above the present low levels of Victoria River, if it has not been destroyed by decades of log driving in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 4.0 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Although no known archaeological sites have been inventoried within the Project Area, review of regional archaeological data indicates that the Project Area does have potential for archaeological resources, particularly those pertaining to the precontact and historic Beothuk and Mi’kmaq occupations of the southwestern Newfoundland interior. While this potential may have been reduced by the impacts of flooding for commercial logging and hydroelectric development, it has not been eliminated. Potential may be particularly high on dry, level, habitable terrain, particularly on points of land and constrictions in waterways, stream mouths and confluences, falls and rapids.

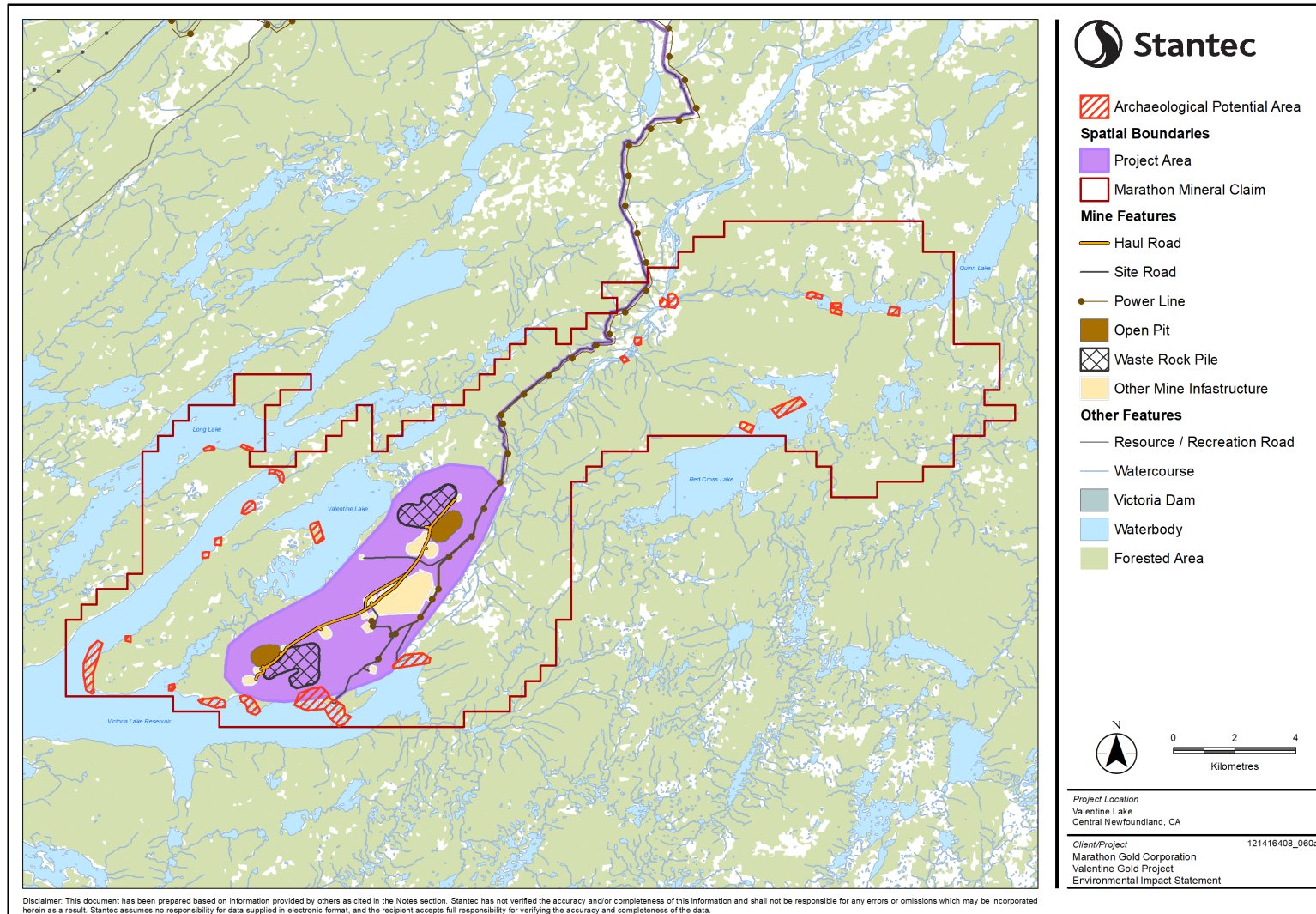
In 2017 (Stantec 2017), review of aerial imagery led to the identification of 24 locations within the Marathon claim block with potential to yield archaeological resources. It should be noted that although these areas all lie within the claim block, only one of these locations (in the vicinity of the existing exploration camp) lies within the Project Area and may potentially interact with the Project. While this area of potential is within the Project Area, it does not overlap with the current footprint of Project infrastructure (Figure 4.1).



# VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

## ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

July 9, 2020



**Figure 4.1 Identified Areas with Archaeological Potential**

## VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

July 9, 2020

In 2019, LiDAR imagery became available for the site (Figure 4.2) and this was reviewed to identify additional high-potential areas.

LiDAR imagery indicates that level, potentially habitable terrain is present within the previously identified high-potential areas, including the high-potential zone in the vicinity of the existing exploration camp. No additional high-potential areas were identified through review of LiDAR.

Similar suitable terrain is also present in locations along Victoria River, within the claim block but outside the Project Area. This includes the reach of the river south of the confluence of the river draining Quinn Lake, the approximate location of the Victoria River 7 site (DcBg-01). Review of LiDAR imagery did not directly reveal evidence for actual historic features, such as Beothuk housepits.

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although no known archaeological sites have been inventoried within the Project Area, three historic sites (two European and one presumably Beothuk) may potentially be situated in the vicinity of the Project. Moreover, review of regional archaeological data indicates that the area in the vicinity of the Project does have broad theoretical potential for archaeological remains, particularly those pertaining to the precontact period (especially late precontact), and the historic Beothuk and Mi'kmaq occupations of the southwestern Newfoundland interior. This potential may be reduced, but not eliminated, by the impacts of flooding for commercial logging and hydroelectric development. Potential may be particularly high on points of land and constrictions in waterways, stream mouths and confluences, falls and rapids. Review of aerial imagery has identified 24 locations within the Marathon mineral claim with potential to yield archaeological remains. Presently, only one of these overlaps with the Project Area, but is outside of the proposed footprint of Project infrastructure.

It is recommended that archaeological ground assessment be undertaken prior to construction activities at:

- Locations of ground-breaking construction wherever the Project Area has potential to interact with identified areas of high potential for archaeological resources, or at locations of future construction that may interact with locations of high archaeological potential, in the event that the location of Project Area expands
- The approximate locations of archaeological sites registered by the PAO in 2018 (DcBg-01, DcBg-02, and DcBg-03) in order to confirm their precise locations and confirm the Project will not interact with these sites



# VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

July 9, 2020

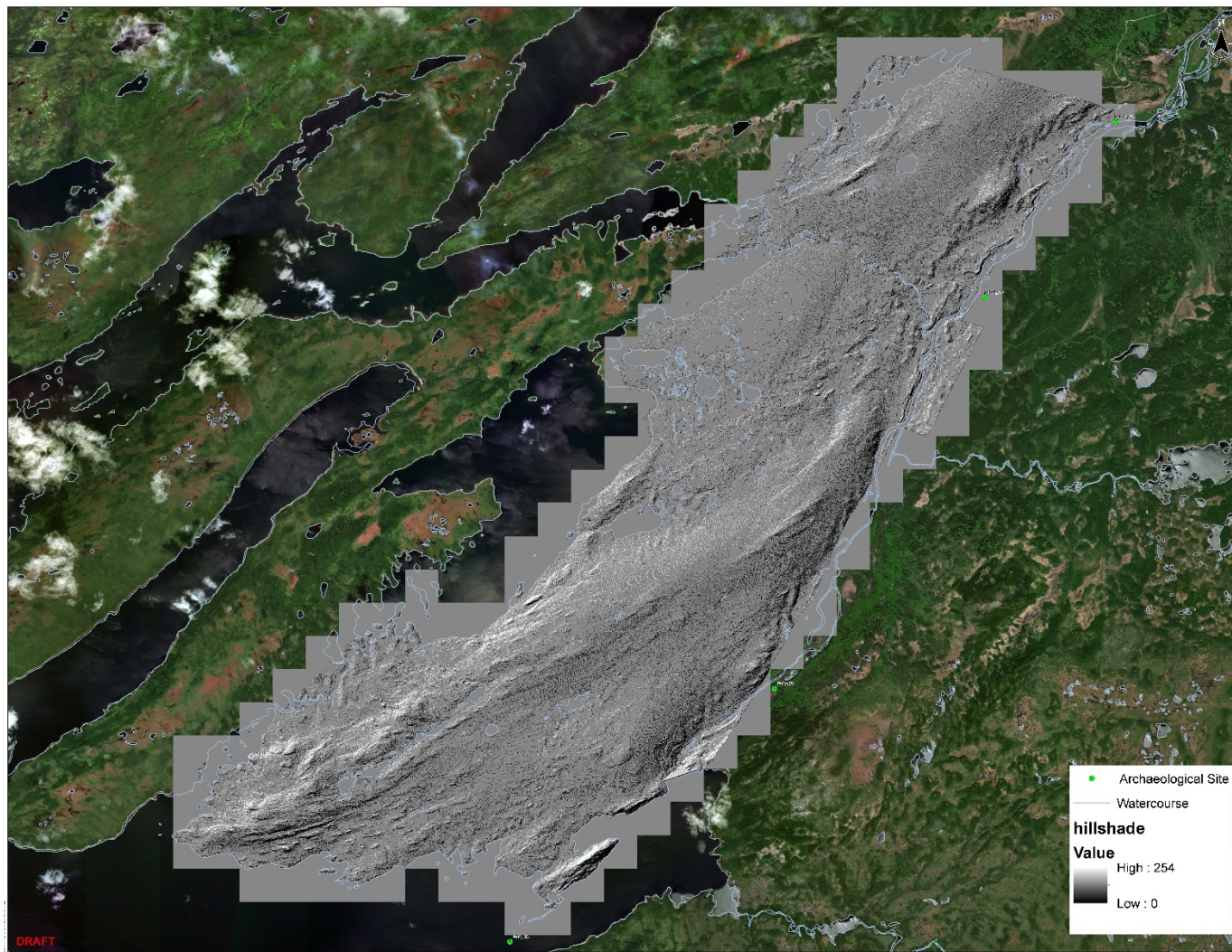


Figure 4.1 LiDAR Hillshade Imagery of the Project Area

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July 9, 2020

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## VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

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## VALENTINE GOLD PROJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY 2020 UPDATE

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