May 21, 2015

Muncaster Environmental Planning Inc.

Mr. John Angelosante
Olympia Homes
1914 Merivale Road
Ottawa, ON
K2G 1E8

Dear Mr. Angelosante:

RE: Scissons Road
Tree Conservation Report and Environmental Impact Statement

This Tree Conservation Report and Environmental Impact Statement addresses the existing natural environment features, potential tree retention, Species at Risk utilization and potential impacts on the adjacent natural environment features on an approximately 0.7 hectare site along the west side of Scissons Road about 400 metres north of the intersection of Old Richmond Road and Stonehaven Drive. Three municipal addresses compose the site; 27 Scissons Road in the west portion of the site (PIN 047420823), 33 Scissons Road in the south (PIN 047425184) and 35 in the north portion of the site (PIN 047420824) Scissons Road. For the purposes of this report Scissons Road is assumed to be in a north-south orientation.

Cultural habitats, with mixed hedgerows dominate the site, with existing residences at 27 and 35 Scissons Road.

Background and Project Description

Sixteen free-hold residences are proposed for the urban site (Map 2). All but two of the residences will be two stories with two bungalow units in the southwest and northwest corners. The residences will be accessed via a crescent-shaped private street with two entrances off the west side of Scissons Road. The site will be on full municipal services, with stormwater directed to the municipal systems via existing catchbasins and an existing roadside ditch. The two existing residences, including foundations, will be removed. A six metre service easement will be in the rear yard of four residences in the north portion of the site. Existing retaining walls and board fencing are adjacent to the west and north edges of the site. These retaining walls and fencing were installed as part of Urbandale's urban residential community currently under construction immediately adjacent to this site. As part of this development additional retaining walls will be built along the west and south edges of the site where required to account for grade differentials greater than one metre.

The site is designated *General Urban Area* on Schedule B of the City of Ottawa Official Plan and is zoned Development Reserve (*DR*). The lands to the east of Scissons Road are designated *Natural Environment Area* and are mostly part of the candidate Natural Heritage System as shown on the Schedule L3 Overlay of the Official Plan. The *Natural Environment Area* lands

are part of the large Stony Swamp Natural Area, which is also a life science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest and contains many wetland parcels which are designated Provincially Significant Wetland. The closest wetland parcels are approximately 165 metres to the southeast of the southeast corner of the site, on the southeast side of Richmond Road, and approximately 450 metres to the northeast of the northeast corner of the site. No wetland habitat is present on or within 120 metres of the site. The portion of the Natural Area to the east of the site on NCC lands is referred to as the Stony Swamp Conservation Area. No Urban Natural Areas, as identified in the City's Urban Natural Areas Environmental Evaluation Study, are in the urban area in the vicinity of the site (Muncaster and Brunton, 2005).

Methodology

This EIS was prepared in accordance with Section 4.7.8 of the City's Official Plan, following the EIS Guidelines and the Guidelines for City of Ottawa Tree Conservation Report, found at http://ottawa.ca/en/development-application-review-process-0/environmental-impact-statement-guidelines and http://ottawa.ca/en/env_water/tlg/trees/preservation/guidelines/index.html,with guidance from the Natural Heritage Reference Manual (OMNR, 2010). This report includes the components of an Environmental Impact Statement as identified in Section 4.7.8.2 a) through h) of the City of Ottawa Official Plan (City of Ottawa, 2010).

The major objective of this EIS is to determine the features and functions of the on-site and adjacent natural environment conditions and to assess the anticipated impacts associated with the proposed urban residential development on these features and functions. To attain this objective, the draft concept plan was reviewed and mitigation measures developed as required based on field observations of the features and functions of the natural environment.

The following items were identified for particular attention in this EIS, recognizing that many of these issues are interrelated:

- what are the terrestrial habitat features of the site and adjacent lands and the associated sensitivities, including the Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east?
- is there any aquatic habitat potential on or adjacent to the site?
- as required what are the areas of tree retention and other mitigation measures to avoid unacceptable impacts on any significant natural heritage features? and,
- does the site support any other natural heritage features, including Species at Risk, that should be considered in development of the site?

Aerial photography (1965 - 2014) was used to assess the natural environment features in the general vicinity of the site. A field survey of the site was conducted on May 13th, 2015. The weather conditions were good for observations, including sunny skies, a light to moderate breeze and an air temperature of 13° C. In addition to inventories of the vegetation communities, observations were made on wildlife usage and potential for wildlife habitat.

The field survey and this report were completed by Bernie Muncaster, who has a Master's of Science in Biology and over twenty-seven years of experience in completing natural environment assessments. The purpose of the Tree Conservation Report component is to establish which vegetation should be retained and protected on the site. The owner of the site is

Olympia Homes (613-226-2424). It is proposed to remove the woody vegetation not to be retained in 2015 outside of the breeding bird season.

Existing Conditions

The topography of the site is virtually level. The native soils on the site are primarily topsoil underlain by sand overlying glacial till (Morey, 2015). Weathered bedrock was encountered by Morey (2015) at a depth of about 0.6 metres below ground level in the northwest portion of the site. At this test pit refusal on bedrock was encountered by Morey (2015) at about 0.8 metres below ground surface. Bedrock or large boulders were encountered at between 1.5 and 3.5 metres below ground level at the other test pits on the site. Bedrock mapping indicates the bedrock underlying the site consists of limestone of the Ottawa Formation (Morey, 2015). No groundwater was observed by Morey (2015) in the test pits, completed on December 11th, 2012. No channels with potential aquatic habitat were observed on or adjacent to the site. There is no surface hydrological connection from the site to the Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east

The Stony Swamp Conservation Area is directly across from the site, separated by the 20 metre wide Scissons Road cleared right-of-way. In other directions the site is isolated from an environmental perspective due to the extensive urban residential developments of the Bridlewood area.

Terrestrial Features

The site includes two existing residences and is composed of cultural meadow and woodlands and mixed hedgerows (Map 1).

Cultural Meadow

Fill material has been added to the south-central and north portions of the site, representing the majority of 33 Scissons Road and the north portion of 35 Scissons Road. No vegetation remains in this area (Photos 1 and 2). Other cultural meadow habitats are associated with the lawns at 27 and 35 Scissons Road (Photo 3).

Cultural Woodland

Cultural woodlands in the northwest and southeast portions of 35 Scissons Road are dominated by Manitoba maple (Photo 4) and sugar maple, with white cedar and red maple common. Black cherry, white pine, apple and white spruce are also present. The largest trees are sugar maples and a white pine the range of 50 to 55cm dbh to the southeast of the residence on 35 Scissons Road, east of Scissons Road. These trees appear to be in good condition. Manitoba maple are dominant in the northwest cultural woodland, but many of the stems have broken limbs. Extensive yard waste was noted in the northwest cultural woodland.

Red raspberry, common buckthorn, black currant, staghorn sumac and common lilac shrubs are among the trees in the cultural woodlands. The ground flora is dominated by non-native and/or invasive flora including brome grass, bull thistle, wild carrot, common strawberry, common

burdock, ground ivy, colt's-foot, Canada goldenrod, wild grape, heart-leaved aster, wild carrot, yellow violet and ground ivy. The following table describes the trees in the cultural woodlands:

Trees in Cultural Woodlands	dbh Range	Distribution	Variability, Condition and other Comments
White cedar	26 - 45cm	15%	Some of the cedars in the northwest corner of the site are dead, but larger examples in apparently good condition are adjacent to the residence at 35 Scissons Road
Black cherry	18 – 38cm	5%	Tent caterpillars on some of the stems
Sugar maple	5 -50cm	30%	Larger examples along east portion of south property line of 35 Scissons Road
Manitoba maple	18 – 40cm	35%	Some examples coppice. Many with broken limbs Dominant in the northwest example of the cultural woodland
Apple	5 – 15cm	2%	
Red maple	8 – 30cm	8%	
White pine	55cm	2%	Mature tree appears to be in good condition on the south property line of 35 Scissons Road west of Scissons Road
White spruce	15 – 36cm	3%	

Mixed Hedgerows

Mixed hedgerows are along the south (Photo 5) and northwest edges of the site. White cedar is dominant in many areas, with apple, white elm and black cherry common. Basswood and Manitoba maple are also present. The largest trees are a 50cm dbh white cedar near the west edge of the site, along the south property line of 27 Scissons Road and coppice basswood and single stem white elm in the 32 – 36cm dbh range. The hedgerow trees appeared to be in generally good condition. Common buckthorn, red raspberry, tartarian honeysuckle and black currant shrubs are among the hedgerow trees.

The following table describes the trees in the mixed hedgerows:

Trees in Mixed Hedgerows	dbh Range	Distribution	Variability, Condition and other Comments
White cedar	3 - 50 cm	40%	Dominant in west portion of south mixed hedgerow and the northwest hedgerow
Black cherry	12 – 28cm	20%	Some examples coppice. Tent caterpillars on some of the stems
Basswood	24 – 42cm	10%	Most examples coppice
Manitoba maple	18 – 25cm	5%	Some examples coppice
Apple	14 – 20cm	5%	
White elm	12 - 34cm	20%	Some have reduced leaf-out

Adjacent Conservation Area

The Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east of the north portion of the site is represented by a dry-fresh maple deciduous forest (Photo 6). A mature sugar maple was noted approximately 10 metres east of the forest edge, with the trees closer to the forest edge in the range of 8 to 25cm dbh. In addition to sugar maple, basswood, white elm and green ash are common. The understorey included regenerating maple stems and common buckthorn, staghorn sumac and prickly ash shrubs.

Meadow habitat in the Stony Swamp Conservation Area is to the east of the central and south portions of the site (Photo 7). Brome grass and orchard grass were dominant in this dry habitat. Scattered white elm and basswood trees were up to 25cm dbh, with larger dead elm stems. Common buckthorn and red raspberry shrubs were scattered in the meadow habitat.

Wildlife observed during the fields survey included American crow, red-winged blackbird, American goldfinch, mourning dove, song sparrow, chipping sparrow, blue jay, European starling, American robin, black-capped chickadee and grey squirrel. No cavity utilization by wildlife was observed. No snakes or turtles or associated specialized habitat such as wintering areas were noted.

Photo 1 – Cultural meadow and area of fill in east half of site (33 Scissons Road), with mature trees southeast of the residence at 35 Scissons Road in the background. View looking north

Photo 2 – Fill area in north portion of 35 Scissons Road. View looking west to cultural woodland and new residences to the west of the site

Photo 3 – Existing residence and mowed lawn at 27 Scissons Road, with fence and new residences to the west. View looking northwest

Photo 4 – Manitoba maple in the cultural woodland in the northwest portion of the site

Photo 5 – Mixed hedgerow along south edge of the site.

Photo 6 – Young dry-fresh deciduous forest in the Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east of Scissons Road and the north portion of the site.

Photo 7 – Cultural meadow habitat in the Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east of Scissons Road and the central and south portions of the site.

Species at Risk

No butternut, an Endangered species but relatively common in portions of Ottawa, were observed on or within 25 metres of the site. No other Species at Risk were observed during the field survey. The Ontario Ministry of the Natural Resources' Make a Map: Natural Heritage Areas website was reviewed (www.giscoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/web/MNR/NHLUPS/NaturalHeritage/Viewer/Viewer.html). This site allows for a search of Threatened and Endangered species covered by the 2008 *Endangered Species Act*, as well as other species of interest. A search was conducted on the 1 km squares including the site and adjacent area (18VR31-34 and -44). No Species at Risk were identified for these 1 km squares, with one provincially rare flora, ram's-head lady's-slipper, noted for both squares. The ram's-head lady's-slipper orchid is found in mature coniferous forests or coniferous fens and swamps, habitat not on or adjacent to the site.

The breeding birds listed in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas for the 10 km square 18VR31 identified barn swallow, bank swallow, eastern meadowlark and bobolink as Species at Risk in the overall 10 km square including the site. Bobolink and eastern meadowlark require larger areas of grasslands, including hayfields. The cultural meadow habitats on the site are too small to be used by these grassland Species at Risk. The meadow habitat to the east of the site in the Stony Swamp Conservation Area contains too much woody vegetation to be used by bobolink or eastern meadowlark. Barn swallow utilize barns and other structures with open rafters for nesting, while bank swallow is a colonial nester; burrowing in eroding silt or sand banks and sand pit walls. No suitable structures were observed on or adjacent to the site.

The potential Species at Risk reported for the overall City of Ottawa historically and in April 30th, 2015 correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Appendix A) and their habitat requirements were also reviewed. The potential species include butternut, American ginseng, eastern prairie fringed-orchid, wood turtle, spiny softshell, Blanding's turtle, musk turtle, Henslow's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, eastern meadowlark, barn swallow, bank swallow, bobolink, eastern whip-poor-will, bald eagle, golden eagle, least bittern, little brown myotis, northern long-eared bat, olive hickorynut, eastern cougar, common gray fox, lake sturgeon, cerulean warbler and American eel. The habitat requirements of these species along with those listed as special concern were reviewed. No wetland habitat for Blanding's turtle is in proximity to the site and given the urban residential development on three sides of the site there is no anticipation that Blanding's turtle would migrate through the site. The on-site and adjacent forests are too small and the understorey growth too thick to be used by eastern whip-poor-will. No cavity trees or structures were observed on the site that may be used by barn swallow, bank swallow, bats or chimney swift. The chimneys on the existing residences are vented and are not accessible for chimney swift.

In conclusion no utilization of the site by the potential Species at Risk is anticipated.

Stony Swamp Natural Area

The Stony Swamp Natural Area is a large 1,812 hectare natural area and is a core component of the National Capital Greenbelt (Brunton, 1997). Much of the Natural Area also represents a Provincially-significant Candidate Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, a Provincially-significant Wetland Complex and a Core Natural Area in the National Capital Commission's Greenbelt Master Plan (Brunton, 1995; NCC, 1996). However, as indicated above the closest wetland habitat is approximately 160 metres to the southeast of the site, across Scissons and Richmond Roads. The National Capital Commission's Greenbelt Master Plan did not identify any specific opportunities and constraints in the vicinity of the site.

The Stony Swamp Natural Area mapping completed in 1997 includes the site as shown on Map 1. However since the mapping was completed the Bridlewood urban residential community has been developed in the majority of the Natural Area that was originally mapped to the west of Scissons Road.

The Stony Swamp Natural Area was considered to have a high overall significance in the evaluation summary performed as part of the former Region of Ottawa-Carleton's Natural Environment System Strategy (Brunton, 1997). The Natural Area includes large amounts of both upland and wetland habitat, including sugar maple forests, small alvar clearings, bog wetlands and regenerating pasture land. High significance was given to all of the eight evaluation criteria except landscape attributes and seasonal wildlife concentration. The summary report notes that the Natural Area maintains a high level of natural biodiversity despite internal and adjacent disturbances. Site fragmentation, degree of human disturbance and impact of alien species were all considered low, while there is a high number of plants with high coefficients of conservatism. The total of 530 native vascular plant species recorded in the Stony Swamp Natural Area, which includes both limestone and sandstone bedrock, is unmatched in the regional landscape (Brunton, 1997). The headwaters of many watercourses are in Stony Swamp including the Carp River (Brunton, 1982). Other important functions of the wetland and adjacent habitats are over forty kilometres of nature appreciation trails including boardwalks, a wild bird care centre and interpretative and environmental education programs. Hydrological features in the Natural Area include seeps, springs, moderate-sized waterbodies and headwaters of large creeks (Brunton, 1997). Brunton (1995) concludes that no other natural area in Site District 6-12 offers as many natural habitats and features. The significant natural features and functions are not within the portion of the Natural Area that is opposite the site on the east side of Scissons Road.

It is not anticipated that a linkage function will occur on the site due to the disturbed nature of the site with two existing residences and the presence of urban residential developments on three sides of the site.

Impact Analysis and Recommendations

No natural heritage features, as identified in the Provincial Policy Statement and OMNR (2010), were observed on the site which is disturbed by two residences and cleared open areas. Larger trees are present in the cultural woodlands in the north portion of the site.

Indirect Impacts on the Stony Swamp Conservation Area

Although the natural condition of the Stony Swamp Conservation Area east of Scissons Road will not be directly impacted through the removal of vegetation by the construction of the residential units, there is the potential for indirect impacts on the vegetation, moisture regime, wildlife and recreational users of the Conservation Area during both the construction and operation of residences.

There is no surface hydrological connection from the site to the Stony Swamp Conservation Area, and as the closest wetland parcel of Stony Swamp is approximately 160 metres to the southeast of the site, there is no anticipated potential for changes in the moisture regime on the site impacting wetland vegetation within the Conservation Area. Scissons Road is raised and the topography of the site results in current surface runoff flowing to the west. Brunton (1982) identified the portion of Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east of the site as part of the Carp River watershed, and as such the site is down gradient of the Conservation Area to the east. As the site does not contribute to the hydrology of Stony Swamp, the capture of surface flows by the municipal system and increases in impervious surfaces will not impact the moisture regime of the Conservation Area.

The right-of-way for Scissons Road, which is twenty metres in width and contains an asphalt public road, will not be altered except for installation of a culvert. Thus a buffer is provided between the site and Stony Swamp Conservation Area and the National Capital Greenbelt to the east.

An important part of the analysis was the current condition of the west edge of the Conservation Area. I saw no evidence of the above indirect impacts although extensive housing exists adjacent to the west edge of the Scissons Road allowance to the north of the site. To the east of the site, the Conservation Area communities are of relatively low sensitivity: a younger dry-fresh deciduous forest and open meadow habitat.

Construction fencing should be established along the east edge of the work area to isolate any work activity from the edge of the Scissons Road right-of-way. No refuelling or maintenance of machinery should take place within 10 metres of the east edge of the site. An erosion and sediment control plan will outline the erosion and sediment controls to be undertaken during construction, including measures to avoid sediment and other contaminant inputs into the storm sewer network. Following the City of Ottawa's wildlife protocol, the construction should be phased so tree removal and other site disturbances begin on the west portion of the site and move to the east. This will facilitate relocation of wildlife to the Stony Swamp Conservation Area and avoiding trapping wildlife.

Other potential indirect impacts on the natural vegetation to the east could occur as a result of the increase human presence in the area. The Conservation Area in general should already be less sensitive to these impacts as a result of the recent developments adjacent to the site. It is anticipated that potential impacts from this site will be negligible relative to the overall urbanization of the area.

Although surface runoff, potentially contaminated with fertilizers and pesticides, will not be directed towards Stony Swamp Conservation Area, residents should be advised of the potential impacts pets and yard waste can have on natural systems. At no time should unattended pets, including cats, be permitted within the Conservation Area. All yard waste should be disposed of in the municipal collection system or composted. Yard waste deposited at the edge of natural areas is an important avenue for the spread of invasive non-native vegetation.

On-Site Vegetation

Mature trees are present in the central-east portion of the site, southeast of the existing residence at 35 Scissons Road. Unfortunately a review of the Grading Plan (Sheet GP-1 prepared by Olympia Homes, revised April 14th, 2015) indicates that up to 1.7 metres of fill will be required in this area, eliminating the potential for tree retention. The proposed density of the urban site, fill requirements to achieve urban servicing and proposed retaining walls along much of the property boundaries will prohibit tree retention elsewhere on the site.

Once grading and wall installation is completed, plantings of native trees and shrubs of local stock should be completed, including along the edges of the site. This will provide some screening for adjacent residences and provide a diversity of natural environment and aesthetic features. Potential native species to plant include nannyberry, elderberry and dogwood shrubs along with sugar maple, red maple, basswood, balsam fir, white cedar, bur oak, red oak and white spruce trees. Sourcing native species from local seed sources is strongly recommended to ensure adaptability and longevity. Due to the clay soils tree planting should be limited to trees with lower water demand. Trees species to avoid in this situation include poplars, willows and Manitoba maple.

Any trees and shrubs to be retained are to be protected with sturdy orange construction fencing at least 1.3 metres in height installed from the tree trunk a minimum distance of ten times the retained tree diameter, where servicing and other site constraints permit. Signs, notices or posters are not to be attached to any tree. No grading, heavy machinery traffic, stockpiling of material, machinery maintenance and refueling or other activities that may cause soil compaction to occur within five metres of the critical root zone of the trees to be retained and protected. The root system, trunk or branches of the trees to be retained are to be protected and not damaged. If any roots of trees to be retained are exposed during site alterations, the roots shall be immediately reburied with soil or covered with filter cloth, burlap or woodchips and kept moist until the roots can be buried permanently. A covering of plastic should be used to retain moisture during an extended period when watering may not be possible. Any roots that must be cut are to be cut cleanly to facilitate healing and as far from the tree as possible. Exhaust fumes from all equipment during construction will not be directed towards the canopy of the retained trees to the south.

All of the supports and bracing for the protective fencing should be placed outside of the protected area and should be installed in such a way as to minimize root damage. Also, since the desired effect of the barrier is to prevent construction traffic from entering the trees critical root zone, the barrier should be kept in place until all site servicing and house construction has been completed.

To protect breeding birds, the tree or shrub removal should not occur between April 15th and August 15th, unless a breeding bird survey conducted within five days of the woody vegetation removal identifies no active nests in the trees or shrubs. No stick nests or other evidence of raptor utilization on the site was observed. A tree cutting permit will be required from the City of Ottawa before trees can be removed.

Other Mitigation Measures

The extent of exposed soils is to be kept to a minimum at all times. Re-vegetation of exposed, non-developed areas is to be achieved as soon as possible. The objective with respect to erosion and sediment controls will be to ensure that the surface water runoff leaving the site is not degraded with respect to water quantity or quality. Erosion and sediment control will focus on best management practices such as grassed swales with a reduced slope and direction of roof and rear yard runoff to the vegetated rear of the lots.

Additional recommended mitigation measures for sediment and erosion control and general environmental protection include:

- Where groundwater must be removed from work areas, the groundwater will be pumped into a proper filter mechanism such as a sediment trap or filter bag prior to release to the environment;
- Seepage barriers such as silt fencing, straw bale check dams and other sediment and erosion control measures will be installed as required to OPSD requirements in any temporary drainage ditches and around disturbed areas during construction and stockpiles of fine material. These control measures must be properly maintained to maximize their function during construction;
- Silt fencing is also required along all work areas. The fencing must be properly keyed in to filter runoff and maintained as required including repair of broken panels and removal of accumulated sediment;
- Municipal by-laws and provincial regulations for noise will be followed and utilities will be located as required in the vicinity of the site prior to construction; and,
- Waste will be managed in accordance with provincial regulations. The contractor will have a spill kit on-hand at all times in case of spills or other accidents.

Schedule of Proposed Works

It is proposed to remove the on-site woody vegetation in 2015 outside of the breeding bird season. City of Ottawa staff (Forester – Planning) is to be contacted at least two business days prior to any tree removal so that staff have the opportunity to verify that the protective fencing has been properly constructed.

Agency Contact

Date	Name	Agency	Subjects
January 27, 2015	Birgit Isernhagen, Sami Rehman and other City of Ottawa staff	City of Ottawa	pre-consultation meeting

Cumulative Effects

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) defines cumulative effects as…"*the effects on the environment caused by an action in combination with other past, present, and future human actions*…" They occur when two or more project-related environmental effects, or two or more independent projects, combine to produce an augmented effect. These cumulative effects may be positive or negative.

There are no significant natural heritage features on the site, with the Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east of the site, east of Scissons Road. With proper implementation of the mitigation measures described in this report it is anticipated that the construction and operation of the urban residential subdivision will not increase the potential for cumulative effects in the general landscape, including impacts on the Stony Swamp Conservation Area.

Conclusion

Sixteen free-hold residences and an associated crescent-shaped private street with two entrances of the west side of Scissons Road are proposed for the urban site.

No Species at Risk, aquatic habitat, significant woodlands, rare communities, flora or fauna, significant wetlands, steep slopes or valleys were observed on the site, with the Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east of Scissons Road.

Cultural woodlands, including some mature maple and coniferous trees, and mixed hedgerows are on the site. Extensive grade raises and proposed retaining walls along much of the property boundaries where existing trees are present will make tree retention impractical. Once grading and wall installation is completed, plantings of native trees and shrubs of local stock should be completed, including along the edges of the site. This will provide some screening for adjacent residences. No tree removal should occur during the breeding bird season and the site alterations should be phased so that activity occurs on the east portion of the site last.

There is no surface hydrological connection from the site to the Stony Swamp Conservation Area. Scissons Road will provide a buffer between the edge of the Conservation Area and the development. Providing the mitigation measures identified in this report are properly implemented, it is anticipated that any impact from the proposed residential development on the Stony Swamp Conservation Area to the east will be negligible. Wetland habitat and older forests associated with the Conservation Area are not in proximity to the site. An existing page fence along the west edge of the Conservation Area will prevent access into the Conservation Area.

Given proper implementation and maintenance of the important mitigation measures outlined in this EIS and TCR it is anticipated that the proposed urban residential development will not impact the Stony Swamp Conservation Area or the other natural environment features in the general landscape.

References

Brunton, D.F. 1982. An Ecological Inventory of the Stoney Swamp Conservation Area, National Capital Commission Greenbelt, Nepean, Ontario. NCC Greenbelt Division Conservation Studies 5, Ottawa

Brunton, D.F. 1995. Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest in Site District 6-12. 225 pp.

Brunton, D.F. 1997. Summary: Natural Area Reports for Natural Areas West of Rideau River (500 series). Prepared for the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Planning and Development Approvals Department. 164 pp.

City of Ottawa. 2010. City of Ottawa Official Plan. As adopted by City Council, May, 2003 and Updated 2010. Publication: 1-28. 227 pp & Sched.

Morey Assocaites Ltd. 2015. Geotechnical Investigation. Proposed Residential Development. 27, 33 and 35 Scissons Road, Kanata South Ward, Ottawa, Ontario. April 15th, 2015. Project 015121. 16 pp & append.

Muncaster, B.W. and D.F. Brunton. 2005. Urban Natural Areas Environmental Evaluation Study. Prepared for the City of Ottawa.

National Capital Commission. 1996. Greenbelt Master Plan. NCC/CCN P-79-96. 112 p & append.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2010. Natural Heritage Reference Manual for Natural Heritage Policies of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005. Second Edition. March 2010. 233 pp.

Please call if you have any questions on this TCR and EIS.

Yours Sincerely,
MUNCASTER ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INC.

Bernie Muncaster, M.Sc.
Principal

\scissons15

Legend

Site

Stony Swamp Natural Area (per 1995 mapping)

Vegetation Communities

1. Cultural meadow
2. Cultural woodland
3. Mixed Hedgerow

Approx. Scale 1:900

0 10 20 30 METRES

May 17, 2015

FILE: 14-24

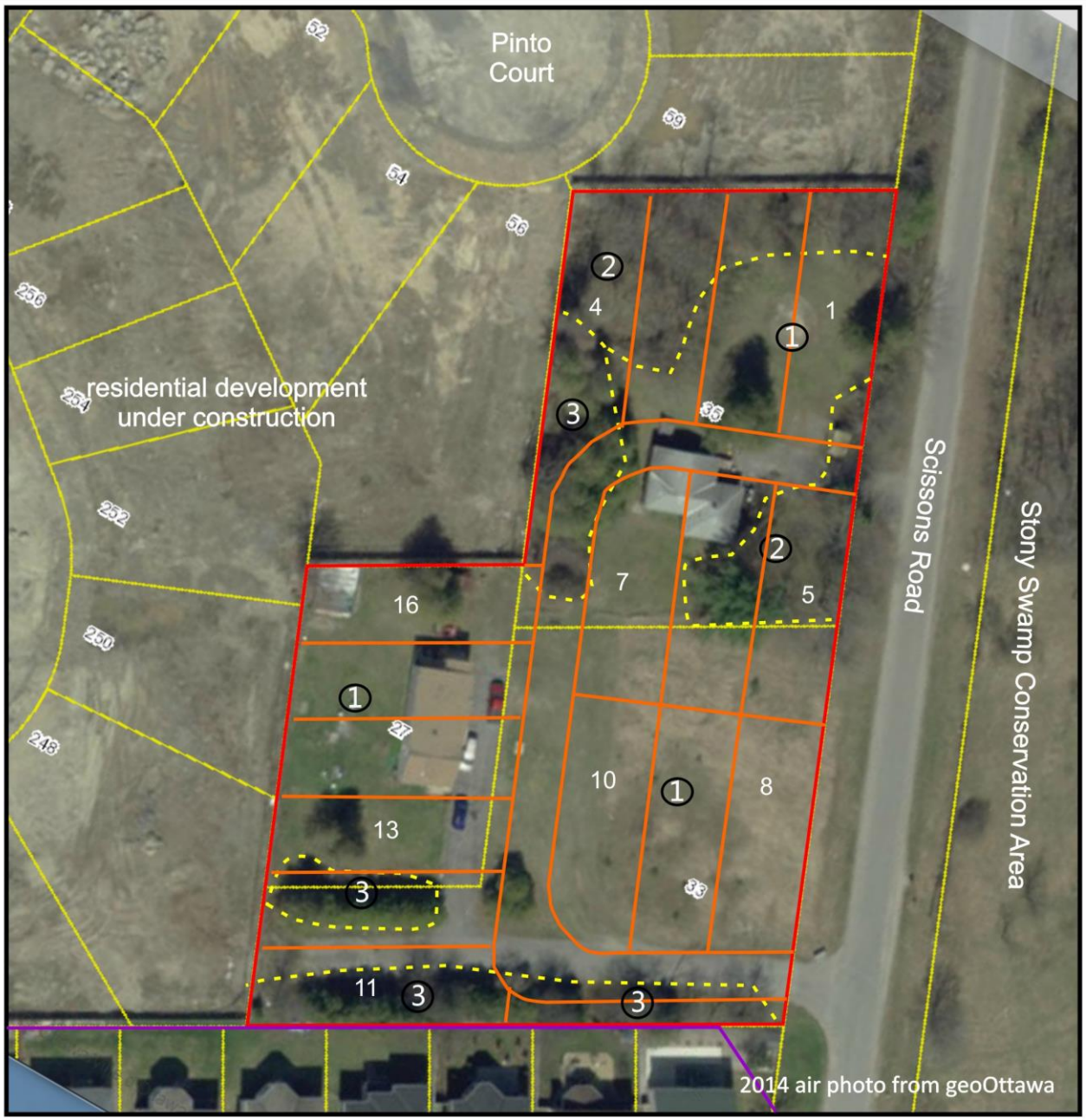
Map 1

Prepared for: Olympia Homes

Prepared by: Muncaster Environmental Planning Inc.

CURRENT VEGETATION

27, 33 and 35 Scissons Road
Cumberland, City of Ottawa



Legend

- Site
- Stony Swamp Natural Area (per 1995 mapping)
- 1 Unit Numbers

Vegetation Communities

1. Cultural meadow
2. Cultural woodland
3. Mixed Hedgerow

Approx. Scale 1:900

0 10 20 30 METRES

Note: No Potential Tree Retention Areas Shown due to Grading and Retaining Walls

May 17, 2015

FILE: 14-24

Map 2

Prepared for: Olympia Homes

Prepared by: Muncaster Environmental Planning Inc.

PROPOSED CONSERVED VEGETATION

27, 33 and 35 Scissons Road
Cumberland, City of Ottawa

APPENDIX A

MINISTRY of NATURAL RESOURCES and FORESTRY

CORRESPONDENCE

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

Kemptville District
P.O. Box2002
10 Campus Drive
Kemptville, ONK0G 1J0

Tel.: (613) 258-8204
Fax.: (613) 258-3920

Ministère des Richesses naturelles

District de Kemptville
CP 2002
10 Campus Drive
Kemptville, ONK0G 1J0

Tél.: (613) 258-8204
Téléc.: (613) 258-3920

Thu. Apr 30, 2015

Bernie Muncaster
Muncaster Environmental Planning Inc
491 Buchanan Crescent
Ottawa
K1J 7V2
(613) 748-3753
bmuncaster@rogers.com

Attention: Bernie Muncaster

Subject: **Information Request - Developments**
Project Name: **Proposed Urban Residential Development (Bridlewood)**
Site Address: **33 and 35 Scissons Rd., Kanata**
Our File No. **2015_NEP-3028**

Natural Heritage Values

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Kemptville District has carried out a preliminary review of the area in order to identify any potential natural resource and natural heritage values.

The MNR works closely with partner agencies and local municipalities in order to establish concurrent approval process and to achieve streamlined and efficient service delivery. The MNR strongly encourages all proponents to contact partner agencies (e.g. MOE, Conservation Authority, etc.) and appropriate municipalities early on in the planning process. This provides the proponent with early knowledge regarding agency requirements and approval timelines.

Natural heritage features and values contribute to the province's rich biodiversity and provide habitat for a variety of species. The following Natural Heritage values were identified:

- Evaluated Wetland, Stony Swamp Wetland Complex (Evaluated-Provincial)
- Unevaluated Wetland (Not evaluated per OWES)

Municipal Official Plans contain additional information related to natural heritage features. Please see the local municipal Official Plan for more information such as specific policies and direction

pertaining to activities which may impact natural heritage features. For planning advice or Official Plan interpretation, please contact the local municipality.

Where natural values and natural hazards exist (e.g., floodplains), there may be additional approvals and permitting required from the local Conservation Authority. The MNR strongly recommends contacting the local Conservation Authority for further information and approvals. Please see the MNR Kemptville Information Guide (2012) for contact information pertaining to Conservation Authorities located within the Kemptville District area.

For additional information and online mapping tools, please see the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC), where additional data and files can be downloaded in both list and digital format. In addition sensitive species information can be requested and accessed through the NHIC at NHICrequests@ontario.ca.

As per the Natural Heritage Reference Manual (Section 13; OMNR 2010) the MNR strongly recommends that an Ecological Site Assessment be carried out to more thoroughly determine the presence of natural heritage features, and Species at Risk and their habitat located on site. The MNR can provide survey methodology for particular species at risk and their habitats. In addition, the local planning authority may have more details pertaining to the requirements of the assessment process, which will allow for the municipality to make planning decisions which are consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (2005).

Species at Risk

With the new Endangered Species Act (ESA, 2007) in effect, it is important to understand which species and habitats exist in the area and the implications of the legislation. A review of the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) and internal records and aerial photograph interpretation indicate that there is a potential for the following Threatened (THR) and/or Endangered (END) species on the site or in proximity to it:

- Barn Swallow (THR)
- Blanding's Turtle (THR)
- Bobolink (THR)
- Butternut (END)
- Eastern Meadowlark (THR)
- Eastern Small-footed Myotis (END)
- Little Brown Bat (END)
- Northern Long-eared Bat (END)
- Whip poor will (THR)

All Endangered and Threatened species receive individual protection under section 9 of the ESA and receive general habitat protection under Section 10 of the ESA, 2007. Thus any potential works should consider disturbance of possible important habitat (e.g. nesting sites). Please note that as of June 30, 2013 general habitat protection applies to all Threatened and Endangered species. The habitat of these listed species is protected from damage and destruction and certain activities may require authorization(s) under the ESA. Please keep this date in mind when planning any species and habitat surveys

Species receiving General Habitat protection:

- Barn Swallow (THR)
- Blanding's Turtle (THR)
- Bobolink (THR)
- Butternut (END)
- Eastern Meadowlark (THR)
- Little Brown Bat (END)
- Northern Long-eared Bat (END)
- Whip poor will (THR)

If the proposed activity is known to have an impact on the species mentioned above or any other SAR, an authorization under the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) may be required. It is recommended that MNR Kemptville be contacted prior to any activities being carried out to discuss potential survey and mitigation measures to avoid contravention of the ESA.

Habitat has been identified within the project area that appears suitable for one or more species listed by SARO as Special Concern (SC). In Addition, one or more Special Concern species has been documented to occur either on the site or nearby. Species listed as Special Concern are not protected under the ESA, 2007. However, please note that some of these species may be protected under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. Species of Special Concern for consideration:

- Common Nighthawk (SC)
- Milksnake (SC)
- Monarch (SC)
- Snapping Turtle (SC)

If any of these or any other species at risk are discovered throughout the course of the work, and/or should any species at risk or their habitat be potentially impacted by on site activities, MNR should be contacted immediately and operations be modified to avoid any negative impacts to species at risk or their habitat until further direction is provided by MNR.

Please note that information regarding species at risk is based on documented occurrences only and does not include an interpretation of potential habitat within or in proximity to the site in question. Although this data represents the MNR's best current available information, it is important to note that a lack of information for a site does not mean that additional features and values are not present. i.e.: Species at Risk (SAR) or their habitat could still be present at the location or in the immediate area. It is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that species at risk are not killed, harmed, or harassed; or their habitat is not damaged or destroyed through the activities carried out on the site. The MNR continues to strongly encourage ecological site assessments to determine the potential for SAR habitat and occurrences. When a SAR or potential habitat for a SAR does occur on a site, it is recommended that the proponent contact the MNR for technical advice and to discuss what activities can occur without contravention of the Act. If an activity is proposed that will contravene the ESA (such as Section 9 or 10), the proponent must contact the MNR to discuss the potential for a permit (Section 17). For specific questions regarding the Endangered Species Act (2007) or SAR, please contact a district Species at Risk Biologist at sar.kemptville@ontario.ca. For more information regarding the ESA (2007), please see attached ESA Information Sheet.

As of July 1, 2013, the approvals processes for a number of activities that have the potential to impact SAR or their habitat were changed in an effort to streamline approvals processes while continuing to protect and sustainably manage Ontario's natural resources. For those activities that require registration with the Ministry, businesses and individuals will be able to do so through a new online system. The online system will also include information to help guide individuals and businesses through the new processes. For further information on which activities are authorized through this new online registration process and how to apply, please refer to the following website: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/About/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_104342.html. General inquiries may be directed towards Kemptville District MNR, while questions and comments involving the new online forms can be directed to the Registry Approvals Service Centre (RASC) at 1-855-613-4256 or mnr.rasc@ontario.ca.

Please note: The advice in this letter may become invalid if:

- The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) re-assesses the status of the above-named species OR adds a species to the SARO List such that the section 9 and/or 10 protection provisions apply to those species.
- Additional occurrences of species are discovered.
- Habitat protection comes into force for one of the above-mentioned species through the creation of a habitat regulation (see general habitat protection above).

This letter is valid until: Fri. Apr 29, 2016

MNR is streamlining and automating its approvals processes for natural resource-related activities. Some activities that may otherwise contravene the ESA may be eligible to proceed without a permit from MNR provided that regulatory conditions are met for the ongoing protection of species at risk and their habitats. There are regulatory provisions for projects that have attained a specified level of approval prior to, or shortly after, the specified species or its habitat became protected under the ESA. Their requirements include registering the activity with the Ministry of Natural Resources, taking steps to immediately minimize adverse effects on species and habitat, and developing a mitigation plan. Anyone intending to use this regulatory provision is strongly advised to review Ontario Regulation 242/08 under the Endangered Species Act, 2007 for the full legal requirements.

For more information please check out the following link http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/development-and-infrastructure-projects-and-endangered-or-threatened-species

The MNR would like to advise, by way of this letter, that we continue to be circulated on information with regards to this project. If you have any questions or require clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Erin Seabert
Resource Management Tech