



EAGLE GOLD PROJECT
HERITAGE RESOURCE PROTECTION PLAN

Version 2013-01

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APRIL 2013

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Heritage Resource Protection Plan (HRPP) for the Eagle Gold Project (the Project) has been developed according to the Plan Requirements for Quartz Mining Licensing in Yukon published by Yukon Government Energy Mines and Resources Minerals Department, the *Yukon Historic Resources Act*, the *Yukon Archaeological Sites Regulation*, and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (FNNND) Final Agreement.

StrataGold Corporation (SGC) a subsidiary of Victoria Gold Corp. and the FNNND administer a Comprehensive Cooperation and Benefits Agreement (CCBA) signed on October 17, 2011. The CCBA includes a commitment to mitigate potential effects of the Project on Traditional Knowledge and heritage resources. This HRPP is consistent with the commitments of the CCBA and the FNNND Traditional Knowledge Policy.

The objective of the HRPP is to mitigate potential effects on heritage resources throughout the life of the Project.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

StrataGold Corporation (SGC), a directly held wholly owned subsidiary of Victoria Gold Corp., has proposed to construct, operate, close and reclaim a gold mine in central Yukon. The Eagle Gold Project ('the Project') is located 85 km from Mayo Yukon using existing highway and access roads. The Project will involve open pit mining at a production rate of approximately 10 million tonnes per year (Mt/y) ore, an average strip ratio (amount of waste: amount of ore) of 1.45:1.0 and gold extraction using a three stage crushing process, heap leaching, and a carbon adsorption, desorption, and recovery system over a 10 year mine life.

Aboriginal people have used the natural resources of this region for thousands of years. Members of FNNND continue to use traditional camps, trails, lookout sites, hunting and fishing areas, berry patches, and rivers in their territory.

Explorers, prospectors, traders and missionaries began to settle in the area in the late 1800s. The fur trade drove settlement and exploration of the area through this period, but mineral exploration and mining eventually became the dominant industry. Given the extent of ground disturbance for the Project and the historical use of the area by the FNNND, there is potential for heritage resources to be encountered.

1.2 DEFINITION OF A HERITAGE RESOURCE

Heritage resources refer to sites or objects of scientific or cultural value due to their archaeological, palaeontological, ethnological, prehistoric, historic, or aesthetic features.

There are three main components of heritage resources:

- Pre-contact archaeological sites: Pre-contact sites include remains (e.g., stone tools, butchered bones, and fire-cracked rock) resulting from the occupation of Yukon by Aboriginal people before contact with European traders. Pre-contact archaeological sites in Yukon contain some of the earliest evidence of occupation in North America.
- Historic archaeological sites (post-European contact but greater than 45 years old): Historic archaeological sites can be Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, and date from the time of European contact until 45 years ago. Historic period sites can include structures (e.g., homesteads, cabins, and forts), artifacts (e.g., industrial and folk-manufactured items made of metal, glass, ceramic, stone, and other materials), or features (e.g., trails, foundations, and campsites).
- Palaeontological sites: Palaeontological resources, or fossils, are remains that indicate the existence of extinct or prehistoric plants or animals discovered on or beneath land in the Yukon. They include body fossils (e.g., bones, shells, and plant remains), impressions (e.g., leaf imprints), and trace fossils (e.g., dinosaur track ways). Fossils may be hundreds to hundreds of millions of years old and are often the remains of extinct species. Fossil sites provide information on ancient forms of animals and plants, past ecosystems, evolution, natural climate change, and extinction.

The *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA)*, Section 2 (1), defines heritage resources as:

- A moveable work or assembly of works of people or of nature, other than a record only, that is of scientific or cultural value for its archaeological, paleontological, ethnological, prehistoric, historic, or aesthetic features;
- A record, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is of scientific or cultural value for its archaeological, palaeontological, ethnological, prehistoric, historic or aesthetic features, or;
- An area of land that contains a work or assembly of works referred to in (a) or an area that is of aesthetic or cultural value, including a human burial site outside a recognized cemetery.

The FNNND Final Agreement defines heritage resources as:

- Moveable heritage resources;
- Heritage sites, defined as an area of land which contains moveable heritage resources, or which is of value for aesthetic or cultural reasons; and

- Documentary heritage resources.

The Yukon *Historic Resources Act*, Part 6, provides the following definitions:

- “archaeological object” means an object that:
 - is the product of human art, workmanship, or use, and it includes plant and animal remains that have been modified by or deposited in consequence of human activities,
 - is of value for its archaeological significance, and
 - is or has been discovered on or beneath land in the Yukon, or is or has been submerged or partially submerged beneath the surface of any watercourse or permanent body of water in the Yukon;
- “ethnographic object” means an item of material culture relating to the history and traditional culture of an ethnic group;
- “historic object” is an object that is:
 - an archaeological object that has been abandoned,
 - a palaeontological object that has been abandoned,
 - an abandoned object that is designated under subsection (2) as a historic object;
- “palaeontological object” does not include human remains but does refer to the remains or a fossil or other object that indicates the existence of extinct or prehistoric plants or animals and that:
 - is of value for its historic or palaeontological significance, and
 - is or has been discovered on or beneath land in the Yukon, or is or has been submerged or partially submerged beneath the surface of any watercourse or permanent body of water in the Yukon.

The CCBA between Victoria Gold Corp. and FNNND defines historic resources as:

- Documentary heritage resources, which are public records or non-public records, regardless of physical form or characteristics, that are of heritage significance, including correspondence, memoranda, books, plans, maps, drawings, diagrams, pictorial or graphic works, photographs, films, microforms, sound recordings, videotapes, machine-readable records and any copies thereof;
- Moveable heritage resources, which are moveable non-documentary works or assemblies of works of people or of nature that are of scientific or cultural value for their archaeological, palaeontological, ethnological, prehistoric, historic or aesthetic features, including moveable structures and objects; and

- Heritage sites, which are areas of land which contain moveable heritage resources, or which are of value for aesthetic or cultural reasons.

The term “heritage resources” is a universal reference that includes “historic / historical resources” as defined by a number of acts and agreements. Definitions for each are provided in the preceding section. For the purposes of this HRPP, the terms are used interchangeably and are synonymous unless specifically stated otherwise.

1.3 PURPOSE

Historic (heritage) resources are protected under the *Historic Resources Act* and include any work or assembly of works of nature or of human endeavor that is of value for its archaeological, palaeontological, pre-historic, historic, scientific, or aesthetic features. Under the *Act*, no effect can occur to any historic resources site without approval of the Minister of Tourism and Culture.

The terms heritage resources, historic resources and historical resources are defined by a number of acts and agreements. Definitions are provided for each in the preceding section. For the purposes of this plan, the terms are used interchangeably and are synonymous unless specifically stated otherwise.

The HRPP provides methods for the protection of known heritage resources that include avoidance where possible, procedures for mitigation and recovery where avoidance is not feasible, and procedures to temporarily halt work for any newly discovered sites so that mitigation measures may be applied.

The HRPP was developed to ensure Project activities comply with the following legislation:

- The *Historic Resources Act* – specifically s. 64 (Destruction of historic objects or human remains) and Section 71 (Report of Findings);
- The Archaeological Sites Regulation (O.I.C. 2003-73) under the *Historic Resources Act* – specifically Section 4, regarding historic resources;
- The Placer Mining Regulation (O.I.C. 2003/59) – under the *Placer Mining Act* specifically Schedule 1 Operating Conditions, Section E regarding historic objects and burial grounds;
- The Quartz Mining Regulation (YOIC 2003/64) – under the *Quartz Mining Act* specifically Schedule 1 Operating Conditions, Section E regarding historic objects and burial grounds;
- The *Land Use Regulation under the Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* – specifically Section 9 (Prohibitions); and
- Chapter 13 (Heritage) of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement.

In addition, the HRPP has been developed in cooperation with the FNNND Heritage Department to ensure that SGC receives appropriate direction from the FNNND to protect heritage resources, to continue SGC’s commitment to the FNNND, and out of respect for the connection between FNNND

citizens and their culture. SGC has further consulted with Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture, Heritage Resources Unit and Historic Sites Unit during development of the HRPP.

The CCBA establishes and provides the means for an FNNND Environmental Monitor position to assist with the implementation of the CCBA over the life of the Project. The SGC Environmental Coordinator and the FNNND Environmental Monitor will be the key contact in the event of heritage resource discovery on site.

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2 HERITAGE RESOURCE PROTECTION POLICY

SGC has implemented a Heritage Resource Protection Policy for heritage resource protection throughout the life of the Eagle Gold Project. Together the Heritage Resource Protection Policy and this Heritage Resource Protection Plan applies to all SGC employees and contractors that engage in activities at the Eagle Gold Project site.

SGC recognizes the value of heritage resources and is committed to protection of them. SGC will comply with the Yukon *Historic Resource Act* and the Yukon Archaeological Sites Regulation, and honour its agreements with FNNND.

The Heritage Resource Protection Policy includes the following commitments:

- Where the FNNND provides Traditional Knowledge (TK) for consideration with respect to activities related to the Project, SGC will give full and fair consideration to the TK and , if appropriate, may alter or change its activities;
- Ensure all employees and contractors have reviewed and understand the Heritage Resource Protection Policy and the HRPP; and
- Following the protocols listed in the HRPP upon discovery of a heritage resource including stoppage of work that may disturb the resource, contacting appropriate parties depending on the resource identification, and compliance with the *Yukon Heritage Resources Act* and Regulations.

3 BACKGROUND

The Dublin Gulch area has a rich history of exploration and mining since 1898. Dublin Gulch is a watercourse that discharges to Haggart Creek which is a major tributary to the South McQuesten River. Exploration and placer mining began on Haggart Creek in 1895. In 1896, Thomas Haggart built cabins on the then Nelson Creek and in Dublin Gulch. Nelson Creek was renamed Haggart Creek in 1898. Haggart Creek and its tributaries near Dublin Gulch were prospected and mined by multiple claim owners using relatively small operations (pick and shovel and small placer workings) until the late 1930s when larger mechanized equipment was brought to the area (Mayo Historical Society 1999). Mining in the Dublin Gulch area was suspended in the early 1940s during World War II and restarted shortly after the war's end. Mining operations on Haggart Creek from 1953 – 1958 used heavy duty equipment including draglines. It was determined that much of the area was mined out in a few years for larger-scale placer operations, and smaller scale prospecting and mining resumed for the next several decades (Mayo Historical Society 1999). Dublin Gulch was placer mined from 1899 – 1978 by various placer operations using small and heavy duty equipment. Dublin Gulch was first placer mined in 1899 by John L. Suttles. In 1904, tungsten was identified in placer concentrates. Several hard rock mining claims were staked on Dublin Gulch in 1907 including the Carscallen, and the SGC claims. The Olive claim near the headwaters of Dublin Gulch was staked in 1908 by Robert Fisher. The Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) discovered *in situ* scheelite in Dublin Gulch in 1916 (Wardrop 2009), and during World War II, miners on Dublin Gulch received preferential treatment with respect to heavy equipment parts and road maintenance due to strong demand for tungsten for the manufacture of munitions. During the 1940s scheelite concentrate from Dublin Gulch was shipped to the Mines Branch in Ottawa. In 1942, a federal government grant enabled construction of the South McQuesten Road and the Bailey bridge over the South McQuesten River.

More recently, mineral exploration throughout the Dublin Gulch area has been carried out by numerous exploration companies. The "Dublin Gulch Project" was proposed by a New Millennium Mining Ltd. in the mid- to late-1990s and preceded to initial assessment and regulatory review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) as was required at the time. Since that time, environmental assessment and regulatory responsibilities in Yukon have changed significantly, due to Devolution of regulatory responsibilities to Yukon Government, and implementation of the YESAA process.

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

A review of background information gathered for the previous Dublin Gulch Project revealed that the proposed Project area had been assessed for heritage resources during 1995 – 1996 by Sheila Greer. The Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture confirmed that the studies undertaken were adequate, and confirmed that no further field study would be required for the currently proposed Project unless the Project footprint was expanded or altered. However, at the request of SGC a field

visit by the Project archaeologist was undertaken to confirm the nature of the terrain, existing disturbance, and archaeological/historic potential of the area.

A detailed description of baseline conditions for pre-contact and historic archaeological sites and palaeontological sites was completed as part of a Project Proposal submitted for YESAB review in 2011 (Eagle Gold Project Baseline Report: Historical Resources, 2011, provided in Appendix A).

The upland areas of the Project site are rugged, mountainous, generally un-fossiliferous, and are of low archaeological potential. Along Dublin Gulch and Haggart Creek, placer gold mining has extensively re-worked the valley deposits. These activities produced the only substantial collection of Pleistocene vertebrate fossils from the Mayo District (Harrington 1996). Field surveys determined that the source-site for these fossils in Dublin Gulch has been completely removed, along with most other high potential palaeontological deposits. Exceptions are a few un-mined pockets along Dublin Gulch and Ann Gulch.

Placer mining activities have also disturbed all high potential for pre-contact archaeological sites. Regarding historic structures, there are more than a dozen in the vicinity of Dublin Gulch. These buildings are more than 45 years old and qualify as historic sites in the Yukon. Along the access road, the South McQuesten portion of the road has three pre-contact and historic archaeological sites.

Further information is available in the Eagle Gold Project Palaeontological Assessment (FMA Heritage Inc. 2010) in Appendix B.

4 HERITAGE RESOURCE PROTECTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

4.1 HERITAGE RESOURCE PROTECTION

If a heritage resource is encountered, SGC employees and contractors will use the Heritage Resource Field Guidelines (Section 5) to ensure compliance and an appropriate response that is consistent with the FNNND Final Agreement and the relevant provisions of the *Historic Resources Act*. SGC employees and contractors will be required to participate in a mandatory site orientation that will include a definition of what a heritage resource is and the proper protocols to take if a heritage resource is discovered at the Project site.

4.2 FIRST NATION INVOLVEMENT

FNNND involvement is crucial to the success of the project. FNNND is involved in Project planning and execution through the CCBA and various other means. FNNND involvement in heritage resource protection will continue through implementation of this plan.

Heritage resources are culturally important to the FNNND and Chapter 13 of their Final Agreement provides various rights in relation to these resources. In particular, s13.3.2 states:

“Each Yukon First Nation shall own and manage ethnographic Moveable Heritage Resources and Documentary Heritage Resources that are not Public Records and that are not the private property of any Person, that are found in its respective Traditional Territory and that are directly related to the culture and history of Yukon Indian People.”

SGC will involve the FNNND in the monitoring and identification of heritage resources over the life of the Project. In August 2012, the FNNND hired, as part of the implementation of the CCBA an Environmental Monitor. The responsibilities of the FNNND Environmental Monitor include the participation in Project related monitoring and field studies (these would include heritage resource studies should they be conducted on site) and to act as the key FNNND contact in the event heritage resources are encountered at the Project site.

To date, four members of the FNNND have participated in the palaeontology field program, and also visited many of the standing historic structures. They expressed a strong interest in palaeontological resources, and in the disposition of the fossils previously recovered from Dublin Gulch. Participants also expressed interest in the historic structures, and were knowledgeable regarding the mining history of the area. No concerns were expressed by the participants regarding any specific pre-contact archaeological concerns related to the Project, with the understanding that any archaeological sites would either be avoided or would be subject to further study.

5 HERITAGE RESOURCE DISCOVERY PROTOCOL

The following Heritage Resource discovery protocol provides mandatory actions by employees or contractors in the event of heritage resource discovery at the Project site. By following the protocol, SGC and employees will comply with the Yukon *Historic Resources Act* and Archaeological Sites Regulation.

Archaeological and historical sites are protected from disturbance under the Yukon *Historic Resources Act* (Archaeological Site Regulations). No artifacts may be removed from an archaeological or historic site without a permit. According to the Yukon Archaeological Sites Regulations, an artifact is an object of archaeological or historical interest that is older than 45 years and has been abandoned.

The following actions are mandatory for all employees and contractors working at the Project site in the event of a field discovery, including human remains:

- **STOP** work immediately in area of find. A list of potential discovery types is provided in **Table 5.1**.
- **DO NOT DISTURB** the site.
- **NOTIFY** contacts listed below in **Table 5.1-1**.
- **RECORD** the site.
 - GPS location
 - Current date and time
 - Estimate size and feature
 - Brief description of setting and access
 - Photograph(s) if possible

If a heritage resource is confirmed by FNNND and the Yukon Archaeology Program, FNNND representatives may wish to contact and consult with other FNNND citizens to decide upon a suitable course of action and ensure interests under s. 13.3.2 of the FNNND Final Agreement are addressed. If the course of action proposed has the potential to alter the historic character, or includes searching for or excavation of the resource, the Yukon Archaeology Branch will determine how to meet regulatory requirements.

If human remains are discovered, the RCMP must be contacted immediately. SGC must report this find to the permitting authorities that have authorized the land use activities.

If the human remains are determined to be from a historic First Nation burial, SGC will work with the FNNND and Yukon Archaeology to ensure the remains are treated respectfully following the Guidelines Respecting the Discovery of Human Remains and First Nation Burial Sites in the Yukon.

CONTACT the Yukon Paleontologist via the Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture Archaeology Branch if fossil bones are discovered. The location of the bones is to be recorded and the bones set aside until further direction from the Yukon Paleontologist.

Table 5.1: Heritage Resource Checklist and Notification Requirements by Type of Discovery

Discovery Type	Features	Required Contacts	Comments
Prehistoric: remains resulting from the traditional occupation of the Yukon by Aboriginal people before contact with European traders			
Habitation	Housepit, cave, rock shelter	SGC Environmental Coordinator (on-site) ↓ SGC Environmental Manager ↓ Archaeologist, Department of Tourism and Culture	
Trail	Visible, bent trees, trail markers		
Campsite	Fire-cracked rock, calcined bone, stone tools, artificial cobble concentration, culturally modified trees (stone axe-cut stump, old bark stripping)		
Cache	Ground cache (depression), boulder cache		
Subsistence	Caribou fence (wood/stone), rock hunting blind, fish trap, net sinker stones)		
Burial Sites	Ground depression, mound, grave offerings, cremation site		
Human Remains	Partial skeletons, bones, cremated remains, complete human bodies,	SGC Environmental Coordinator (on-site) ↓ SGC Environmental Manager ↓ RCMP	Based on the information, the RCMP will notify: (1) Coroner's office if the site is of forensic or criminal in nature, or (2) both the FNNND and the Archaeologist, Department of Tourism and Culture
Fossils	Leaves, seeds, nests, dinosaur tracks, fish, invertebrates, mammoth tusks, etc.	SGC Environmental Coordinator (on-site) ↓ SGC Environmental Manager ↓ Palaeontologist, Department of Tourism and Culture	Eagle Gold Project Fossil and Artifact Discovery Record

Eagle Gold Project

Heritage Resource Protection Plan

Section 5: Heritage Resource Discovery Protocol

Discovery Type	Features	Required Contacts	Comments
Historic:	these can be Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, and date from the time of European contact until 45 years ago		
Structure	Brush camp, tent frame, log building	SGC Environmental Coordinator (on-site) ↓ SGC Environmental Manager ↓ Archaeologist, Department of Tourism and Culture	
Structural traces	Building outline, berm, foundation (log, stone or concrete), depressions		
Cultural material	Tin cans, bottles, axe-cut stumps, culturally modified trees (bark stripping, ringed)		
Subsistence feature	Deadfall trap, hunting blind, fish wheel, fish net, net sinker stones, animal traps (leg hold and 'houses', snares)		
Mining	Placer workings, 'glory holes', mine adits (entrances)		
Travel	Trail, blazed trees, wagon road, watercraft		
Burial Sites	Grave house, grave fence, cross, unmarked or ground disturbed, depression		
Human Remains	Partial skeletons, bones, cremated remains, complete human bodies	SGC Environmental Coordinator (on-site) ↓ SGC Environmental Manager ↓ RCMP	Based on the information, the RCMP will notify: (1) Coroner's office if the site is of forensic or criminal in nature, or (2) both the FNNND and the Archaeologist, Department of Tourism and Culture
Fossils	Leaves, seeds, nests, dinosaur tracks, fish, invertebrates, mammoth tusks, etc.	SGC Environmental Coordinator (on-site) ↓ SGC Environmental Manager ↓ Palaeontologist, Department of Tourism and Culture	See Eagle Gold Project Fossil and Artifact Discovery Record

(listed from Yukon publications: Handbook for the Identification of Heritage Sites and Features, 2007 (<http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/heritagehandbook.pdf>); and Guidelines Respecting the Discovery of Human Remains and First Nation Burial Sites in the Yukon, 1999)

6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Immediately after a heritage resource discovery the Eagle Gold Project Fossil and Artifact Discovery Record (Appendix C) will be completed by the individual who made the discovery and the onsite manager or Environmental Coordinator. FNNND Environmental Monitor will receive copies of any completed Fossil and Artifact Discovery Records to fulfill the intent of Chapter 13 of the FNNND Final Agreement.

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7 HERITAGE RESOURCE CONTACT LIST

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8 EMPLOYEE AND CONTRACTOR AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Project site orientation will be mandatory for all new employees and contractors working at the Eagle Gold Project. The Heritage Resource Protection Plan component of the site orientation will cover the following information:

- Definition of a heritage resource
- SGC's Heritage Resource Protection Policy
- Background of existing heritage resource knowledge
- Objective of heritage resource protection
- Heritage Resource Field Guidelines
- Reporting requirements and contacts

Site orientation materials will include the 2007 publication "Handbook for the Identification of Heritage Sites and Features" found at <http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/heritagehandbook.pdf>.

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9 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A
Environmental Baseline Report: Historic
Resources

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EAGLE GOLD PROJECT

Environmental Baseline Report: Historical Resources

FINAL REPORT



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June 2011





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stantec was retained by Victoria Gold Corporation to prepare an environmental baseline report to characterize historical resources in the vicinity of the Eagle Gold Project area. A field programs was conducted in 2009; following a review of current regulatory requirements and of data from consultant reports written in 1995 and 1996. This report presents background information, methods, and results for baseline historical resources studies.

A review of existing information regarding historical resources in the Project area included a review of previous archaeological studies undertaken for the previously proposed Dublin Gulch Project, the South McQuesten Road upgrade, and other relevant studies in the area. The Yukon Heritage Branch confirmed that the scope of previous historical resources impact assessments of the area was sufficient for the current Project, and therefore no further field study was required by the regulators. However, at the request of Victoria Gold, field observations were made by the Project's senior archaeologist, who accompanied the Project palaeontologist into the field. This archaeological field visit was not intended to be a Historical Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA), given that such an assessment was not required by regulators, but allowed the Project archaeologist to confirm the nature of the terrain, existing disturbance, and archaeological/historic potential of the area.

During the field visit, several structures dating over 45 years in age were observed and site information provided to the Yukon Heritage Branch. Abandoned structures dating older than 45 years are considered by the Yukon Heritage Branch to constitute historic period sites, and as such, three different sites were identified as historic period sites. One site contained multiple structures, while the remaining two sites each consisted of a single structure.

The Yukon Heritage Branch's Historic Sites office reviewed the information provided by the Project archaeologist regarding each of the three historic period sites observed, and advised that the sites should be recorded as historic period sites. Official site recording forms will be completed by the Project archaeologist and submitted to the Yukon Heritage Branch. The Branch also indicated that if avoidance of the sites is not possible during Project activities, additional recording will be required prior to impact. If required additional studies would include more detailed photography; detailed description of building construction and condition; provision of UTM locations of each structure/feature; site plans; photos and descriptions of all machinery, equipment and features associated with the structures or site; and other relevant information based on archival sources or interviews.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

HRIA.....	Historical Resources Impact Assessment
LSA	Local Study Area
NNDFN.....	Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents results of the baseline Historical Resources studies completed by Stantec in 2009 for the Eagle Gold Project proposed by Victoria Gold Corporation. The Eagle Gold Project is a proposed open pit gold mine within the Dublin Gulch watershed located 85 km northeast of the Village of Mayo, Yukon Territory.

Stantec was contracted by the Stratagold Corporation to begin environmental baseline studies in 2007. In 2009, Stratagold Corporation was acquired by Victoria Gold Corporation. During this time, the project was renamed from Dublin Gulch to Eagle Gold and the local study area was updated to reflect any changes to the geographic extent of the proposed Eagle Gold Project.

Historical resources include precontact archaeological sites and post contact historic period sites. Archaeological and historic period sites are protected in the Yukon under the *Historic Resources Act*. Precontact archaeological sites in the Yukon contain some of the earliest evidence of occupation in North America. Examples include stone tool flaking stations, campsites, and animal kill sites. Historic period sites in the Yukon generally date to the past 150 years, and may include cabins, trails, and structures. Any site that is over 45 years old and abandoned is of potential historic interest (Gotthardt and Thomas 2007).

Because the cultural milieu in which historical resources functioned no longer exist, these resources are non-renewable. Although the cultures responsible for depositing historical resources cannot be observed, the preserved context and associations related to the remains can reveal much about past human behaviour, adaptations, and relationships. Many facets of these resources—particularly patterns of cultural deposition (observable in an undisturbed context)—are fragile, ephemeral, and the product of unique processes and conditions of preservation. Therefore, site integrity (e.g., an undisturbed state) is important for interpreting the remains. Once a site is disturbed, context cannot be replaced, recreated, or restored.

A review of background information gathered for the previous Dublin Gulch Project revealed that the proposed Project area had been assessed during 1995 – 1996 (Greer 1995, 1996). Ruth Gotthardt of the Yukon Heritage Branch confirmed that the studies undertaken were adequate, and confirmed that no further field study would be required for the currently proposed Project unless the Project footprint was added to or altered. However, at the request of Victoria Gold Corp., a field visit by the Project archaeologist was undertaken to confirm the nature of the terrain, existing disturbance and archaeological/historic potential of the area.

2 METHODS

Four components were included in the 2009 Historical Resource studies: 1) a review of the existing literature; 2) determination of study areas; 3) a field visit to the Project location; and 4) data analysis.

2.1 Review of Existing Literature

Relevant to the Project, existing literature was reviewed to provide archaeological and historical context, to determine the nature of the study area, and to review the area's existing archaeological/historic sites database. Existing literature related to previous archaeological and historical assessments in the Project area was provided by the Yukon Heritage Branch. Reports reviewed included the:

- Archaeological and Historic Sites Impact Assessment Dublin Gulch Mine Property Final Report (Greer 1995)
- Archaeological and Historic Sites Impact Assessment, South McQuesten Road Upgrading. (Greer 1996)
- Archaeological Reconnaissance in the Greater Mayo Area, Central Yukon Final Report (Thomas 2005).

In addition, the local history prepared for the Village of Mayo, *Gold and Galena* (Mayo Historical Society 1999), was also reviewed to provide background history for the area, particularly the history of mining in the Dublin Gulch area.

2.1.1 Site Designation

Identified archaeological sites are referred to by a Borden Number which consists of a four letter symbol accompanied by a number (e.g., LdNs-11). Within this system and north of latitude 62°, the upper case letters represent major blocks 2 by 4° in size (e.g., L = 64° to 66° latitude; N = 104° to 112° longitude) and the lower case letters denote 10' and 20' units within the major block (e.g., d = 30' to 40' latitude; s = 0' to 20' longitude). The numbers are assigned sequentially by the appropriate regulatory agency and refer to specific sites within each Borden Block unit.

Historic period sites may or may not be assigned Borden Numbers by the regulators depending on the nature of the site.

2.2 Study Area Boundaries

Study area boundaries are based on the potential for Project effects to historical resources. For this study, a local study area (LSA) was defined as the Project footprint (Figure 2-1). This is the area in which Project effects on archaeological and historic period sites could occur. Note that the field visit was not conducted relative to a specific Project footprint, as the field studies were not intended to represent an impact assessment; however, the Project footprint (LSA) is relevant to the site-specific recommendations/requirements issued by the Yukon Heritage Branch.

2.3 Field Programs

The gap analysis conducted as part of the current study determined that field studies were not required, as previous studies at the mine (Greer 1995) and along the South McQuesten Road upgrade (Greer 1996) were sufficient for the currently proposed Project (Ruth Gotthardt, personal

communication). However, a field visit by the Project's senior archaeologist was conducted as part of the palaeontological assessment. This visit was not planned as an archaeological impact assessment, and no archaeological permit was obtained. Rather, areas of archaeological and historic interest were observed fortuitously when encountered. No shovel testing was conducted but exposures with the potential to contain archaeological materials were examined when encountered. Structures were photographed and any potential historic period sites sketched when encountered, but detailed photography, inspection, or recording were not undertaken at any structures/sites.

The Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation (NNDNFN) was notified of the palaeontological impact assessment studies in August, 2009 and was invited to participate in the field component of the studies. Four citizens of the NNDNFN participated in the palaeontology and historical resources field studies in September 2009.

2.4 Data Analysis

Project activities can affect historical resources by altering a site's contents or context. To assess potential effects of the Project on historical resources, the scientific significance of identified sites must be determined. Factors affecting site significance include site integrity, size, complexity, presence of diagnostic or uncommon artifacts, and age. Recommendations are subsequently formulated as to the need for further work based on the perceived significance of the identified archaeological and historic period sites as determined by the Project archaeologist based on the above listed factors. Actual requirements for additional study, however, are issued by the regulator (Yukon Heritage Branch).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Literature Review

During the 1995 assessment for the then-proposed Dublin Gulch Mine, Greer (1995) conducted an archaeological and historical impact assessment on a large Project area that encompassed the proposed mine location as well as the several possible locations of leach facilities (Figure 3-1). The area was roughly bounded by Haggart Creek on the west, Lynx Creek on the south, the Potato Hills on the east, and Dublin Gulch on the north. During the studies, no archaeological or historic period sites were identified. All areas favourable for precontact human occupation had been destroyed by the extensive placer mining activity in the area, and all structures identified in the Project area were determined to be related to mining activities over the past 50 years.

During the 1996 assessment for the South McQuesten Road Upgrading, archaeological and historic period sites along two possible routes were inventoried by Greer (1996) (Figure 3-2). No sites were identified along the Haggart Creek portion of the road; three sites of potential concern were located along the South McQuesten river valley portion of the road, and one site was identified along the Haldane alternate route. Subsequent to completion of those studies, the client indicated that

avoidance of all of these sites would be implemented during road design and construction. Sites identified along the South McQuesten routing (which corresponds to the current proposed routing) include “Big Dave Lookout” (KITx-2) which contains both precontact archaeological and historic deposits, as well as a subsurface precontact archaeological site (KITx-3) and a historic cabin site (KITw-1).

The study conducted by Thomas (2005) included several sections along the South McQuesten River, and thus the report was provided to FMA Heritage Inc. by Ruth Gotthardt of the Yukon Heritage Branch for review. During Thomas’s study, two of the above sites (KITx-2 and KITx-3) were revisited, and two sites (KITx-4, a precontact archaeological site, and KIVa-1, a collapsed cabin) were newly recorded.

Gold and Galena, the local history prepared for the Village of Mayo, contains information specific to the mining history in the Dublin Gulch area. Mining in Dublin Gulch started in 1899 and has been largely continuous up to the present. The earliest claim was made by John Suttles, who conducted placer mining successfully for a number of years, followed by the Cantin brothers in 1915. The Cantins, who also mined areas of Haggart Creek, were much less successful in Dublin Gulch, and abandoned Dublin Gulch in the 1920s. Hardrock mining also took place during the early 1900s in Dublin Gulch, including the Carscallen claim, the Victoria claim, and the Oilve claim. By the 1930s, Fred Taylor was mining Dublin Gulch. Taylor mined successfully for over 20 years and left his mark on the gulch; several of the buildings observed during the current field studies are the same buildings pictured and described by Fred Taylor in *Gold and Galena*. The Dublin Gulch property was sold and in 1978 became the property of the Canada Tungsten Mining Corp. Ltd.

3.2 Field Visit

The field visit was conducted in September 2009. As mentioned above, the field visit was not an impact assessment, as the 1995 and 1996 studies conducted by Greer were determined by the regulator to be sufficient. However, during the September 2009 field visit, observations made by Greer in 1995 regarding the archaeological potential of the area were confirmed—those areas that would have had the potential to contain archaeological sites, such as the areas within proximity of Dublin Gulch and Haggart Creek, have been extensively reworked by the placer mining that has been ongoing since 1899. No undisturbed areas were observed in any locations that would have had moderate to high archaeological potential. Upland areas where the actual Eagle Gold mining will take place are rugged and mountainous, and are of low archaeological potential. The South McQuesten Road was also observed during mobilization to and from the Project area. The road has not changed since it was assessed by Greer in 1996.

During the field visit, several buildings perceived to be older than 45 years in age were observed at three separate locations (Figure 3-1). Site 1 consists of over 10 structures of varying ages located part way up Dublin Gulch; Site 2 consists of a single log structure located in Dublin Gulch downstream of Site 1; and Site 3 consists of a single collapsed structure located on Haggart Creek near its confluence with Dublin Gulch. Each of these sites is described in more detail below.

3.2.1 Site 1

Over 10 structures and features were observed on the north side of Dublin Gulch approximately one km upstream of the confluence of Dublin Gulch with Haggart Creek (Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-3; note that the numbers in square brackets below correspond to the Figure 3-3 sketch map features). The site is located along an existing access road; most structures are on the south side of the road, between the road and Dublin Gulch. The structures and equipment observed range widely in terms of age and condition. Although some of the structures observed at Site 1 are related to mining activities from the 1970s, several of these structures are over 45 years in age, making them potential historic period sites. The site contains two main areas: the first consists of a number of structures oriented generally in rows and was clearly the industrial portion of the camp in the 1970s; the second is located 50 m up the road and consists of a house and associated habitation structures and debris.

Within the “industrial” portion of the site, three log cabins or structures were identified. These log structures were used in the 1970s for storage of cores and equipment, as evidenced by the current presence of these items. However, these log structures are interpreted as being of some antiquity, clearly well over 45 years in age. The first cabin structure [2] is of some antiquity and currently contains cores and equipment (Plates 1-3). A more recent metal-roofed core shack is located adjacent to this, and cores in core boxes were observed lying around the general area. A large piece of metal equipment [1] assumed to be from the 1970s is located between the log structure and the road. The structure may be the same as that shown in *Gold and Galena* (page 324); the photo dates to 1955 and, as such, if this is the same structure, the structure predates 1955. A second log structure [5] appears to be of similar antiquity (Plates 4-7). This structure has a roof extension over the front of the building that appears to have been added subsequent to construction of the original structure, possibly in the 1970s to shelter cores/equipment (currently situated beneath this roof extension). This structure currently contains cores that date to the 1970s (there are dates on many of the core boxes), but the structure is clearly much older. The third log structure identified [7] is also of some antiquity, and again currently contains cores and various equipment (Plates 8-10). Portions of this structure's roof are partially collapsed.

In addition to the log structures which are of some antiquity, there are also several structures that are interpreted as being more recent due to the construction techniques, although the ages of each of these structures varies. Structures that may also be over 45 years in age include two plank structures [4] that contain equipment and cores related to the 1970s use of the site (Plates 11-14). Numerous cores and core boxes are also stacked adjacent to these structures. The taller of the two structures has a tar paper roof; the smaller structure has a roof covered with flattened metal containers.

More recent structures include another building [6] manufactured from planks, boards, and plywood (Plates 15-16), and some metal and wood structures [3] designed to hold cores (Plate 17). These structures are assumed to date to the 1970s. A small structure [11] situated across the road from this portion of the site is also likely more recent in nature and may represent a small storage shack (Plate 18).

The habitation portion of Site 1 is located up the road (east) of the industrial portion of the site. This portion of the site, located approximately 50 m away from the industrial portion of the site at its

closest point, represents Fred Taylor's home during his occupation of this area, and also appears to have been used for habitation and storage in the 1970s. The main structure in this area is a house [8] which originally belonged to Fred Taylor (Plates 19 – 22). This house structure is plank construction, although the interior has likely been altered more recently for use during more recent mining operations. The structure contains rock samples, furniture, and household debris. House of Commons proceedings dating to 1960s were observed during the field visit; Victoria Gold staff members have also indicated that they observed magazines dating to the 1940s in the attic/second level of the house. Numerous bottles, papers, and other time-diagnostic materials were observed in the house during the current studies, and indicate a number of different occupations of the house. The house consists of an entry room and three other main rooms plus an attic. Various types of equipment and debris were also observed outside of the house, especially at the back of the house. The house appears in a photo dated to 1955 in *Gold and Galena*; as such, the house pre-dates 1955, but a date of construction is not provided.

Immediately to the north of the house is a steep rise to a level hill top, on which another structure and other features related to the house are present. A small shack with metal roof [10] is currently tipped on its side; the structure is roughly two by two meters in size (Plates 23 – 25). The structure is plank construction and is screened on three sides. It has a metal roof that has been created by flattening metal containers; the containers had an impressed "sun" motif. It has been suggested that this may represent a smoke house; Greer calls it a meat cache. A photo in *Gold and Galena* (page 323) shows that this shack was originally raised off the ground, and the wooden remains of the base of the structure are still visible in the vicinity of the structure.

Adjacent to the small shack, a rectangular rock outline [9] was observed on the ground surface (Plate 26). The rectangular outline is somewhat sodded but rocks are still visible and the outline appears to be a complete rectangle. The rocks are tightly spaced. This feature may represent the outline of a garden. Fred Taylor mentions a garden in *Gold and Galena*, but does not describe the location. This feature does not appear to represent a foundation of a structure, and no structure is visible in the photo in *Gold and Galena*. At the west end of the rock outline a "table" made of flat stones is located just below the crest of the hill. The table is low and small (child size?), made of a flat stone slab, and three upright stones (Plate 27).

3.2.2 Site 2

Site 2 consists of a single standing structure observed along the access road between the current camp and Site 1 (Figures 3-1 and 3-4; Plates 28 – 32). The cabin is situated very close to the existing access road but is very difficult to see from the road due to the heavy vegetation surrounding the cabin. A trail overgrown with young poplars is located on the west side of the cabin and runs towards the northwest. The cabin is constructed of logs which have a heavily weathered appearance on the outside but appear considerably less weathered on the inside. Two windows may have been a more recent addition. No glass is present, but the frames are in very good condition. The cabin has a plank floor. Wire drawn nails were observed on the interior walls. The cabin currently has bags of samples inside, but is not being used by the current mining operations on site; the samples likely also date to the 1970s. The cabin may be over 45 years in age.

3.2.3 Site 3

Site 3 consists of a single partially collapsed structure on a low bench just above Haggart Creek, north of the Dublin Gulch confluence (Figures 3-1 and 3-5). The building is made of sawn logs and planks that have a very weathered appearance (Plates 33 – 38). The structure has a door facing the creek (west) and a window opening (no glass observed) facing south. The structure appears to have had a sod roof. Wire drawn nails were observed on the interior walls. Some rusted cans/containers were observed around the cabin. The area around the cabin is heavily overgrown and the cabin is nearly impossible to see from the creek. No trail leading to the cabin was observed. Although the cabin is on a low bench, the area around the cabin is not very well drained, so the cabin may have been constructed in the winter. The cabin appears to be well over 45 years in age.

3.3 Analysis and Summary

Requirements for studies on identified historical resources sites are set by the Yukon Heritage Branch. Requirements for additional studies are issued by the regulators to mitigate the effects of the Project on the sites and structures prior to any impact.

At the request of the Yukon Heritage Branch, photographs, preliminary descriptions, and site sketch maps of each site were provided by FMA Heritage Inc./Stantec. Based on a review of this preliminary information, the Historic Sites office of the Heritage Branch indicated that each of these sites is considered to be a heritage resource under the *Historic Resources Act*. As such, these sites are deemed to be of significance and further study is required to mitigate impacts to the sites if the sites cannot be avoided.

The Yukon Heritage Branch has provided a preliminary set of requirements for further study at each of these sites if it is determined that the Project may have an effect on the sites. Avoidance is the preferred option, but if not feasible, the Yukon Heritage Branch requires the following:

- Additional photography, typically eight photos per building, except for smaller buildings for which one photograph per side will be required
- Description of building construction and materials
- Description of building condition
- UTM locations (taken with GPS technology) of each building/feature
- Site plan drawn to scale showing site layout, building orientation, and dimensions
- Photos and description of all equipment/machinery and features associated with structures or site
- Other relevant information based on archival sources or interviews.
- The Yukon Heritage Branch expressed appreciation that these sites were recorded despite the fact that historical resources studies were not required as part of this Project.

4 CLOSURE

On behalf of Stantec, FMA Heritage Inc. has prepared this report for the sole benefit of Victoria Gold for the purpose of documenting baseline conditions in anticipation of an environmental assessment under the Yukon Territory *Environmental Assessment Act*. The report may not be relied upon by any other person or entity, other than for its intended purposes, without the express written consent of Stantec and Victoria Gold. Any use of this report by a third party, or any reliance on decisions made based upon it, are the responsibility of such third parties.

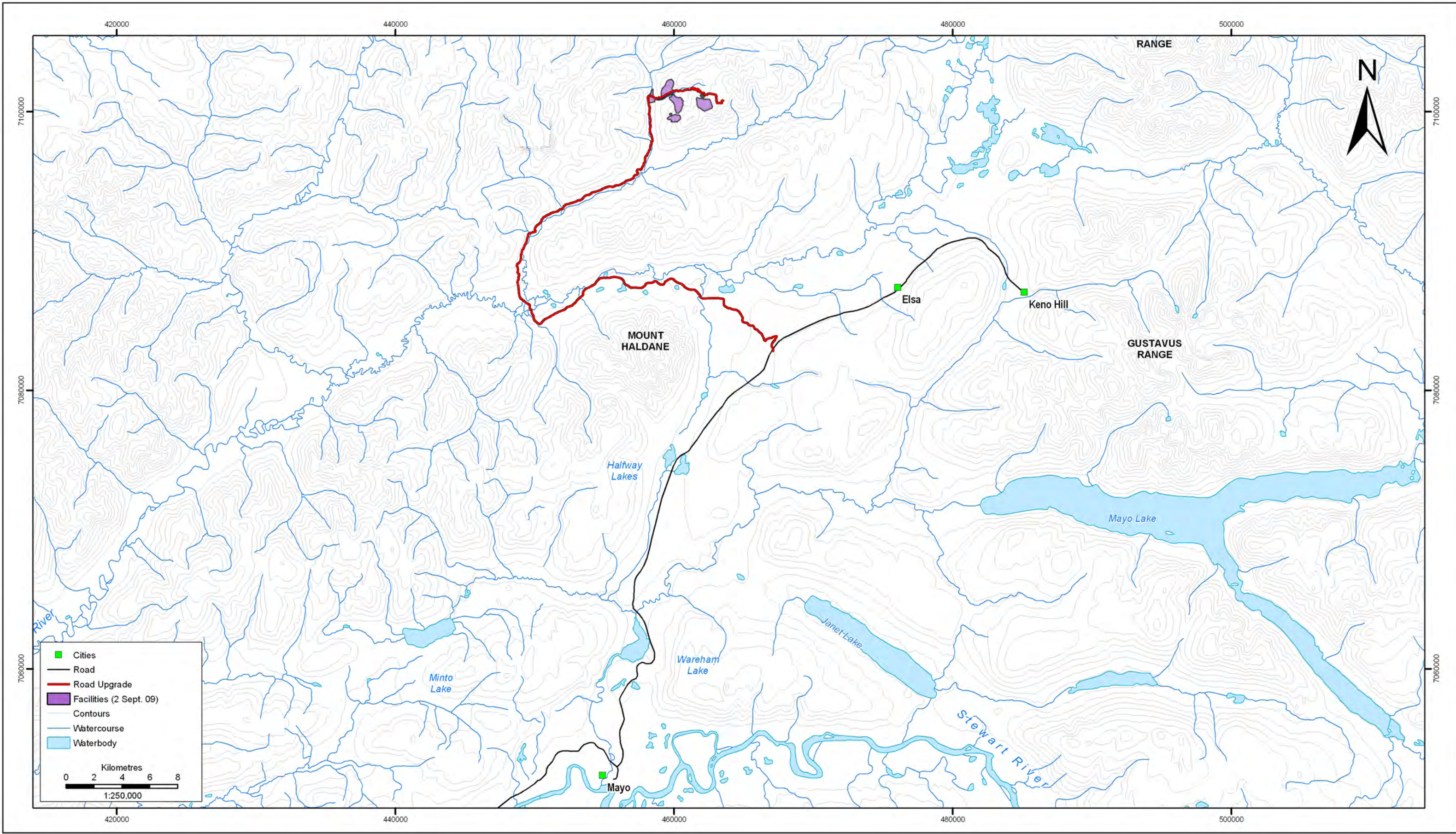
The information provided in this report was compiled from existing documents and data provided by Victoria Gold, field data compiled by FMA Heritage Inc., and by applying currently accepted industry standard mitigation and prevention principles. This report represents the best professional judgment of our personnel available at the time of its preparation. Stantec reserves the right to modify the contents of this report, in whole or in part, to reflect any new information that becomes available. If any conditions become apparent that differ significantly from our understanding of conditions as presented in this report, we request that we be notified immediately to reassess the conclusions provided herein.

5 REFERENCES

- Gotthardt, R. and C. Thomas. 2007. *Handbook for the Identification of Heritage Sites and Features*. Yukon Tourism and Culture, Whitehorse, YT.
- Greer, S. 1995. Archaeological and Historic Sites Impact Assessment Dublin Gulch Mine Property Final Report. Report prepared for Hallam Knight Piésold Ltd. on behalf of First Dynasty Mines Ltd. by Sheila Greer, Consulting Anthropologist and Archaeologist, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Greer, S. 1996. Archaeological and Historic Sites Impact Assessment, South McQuesten Road Upgrading. Report prepared for New Millenium Mining Ltd. Dublin Gulch Mine Development by Sheila Greer, Consulting Anthropologist and Archaeologist, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Mayo Historical Society. 1999. *Gold and Gelena*. Compiled by Linda E.T. MacDonald and Lynnette R. Bleiler, Second Printing with Addendum. Mayo, YT.
- Thomas, C.D. 2005. Archaeological Reconnaissance in the Greater Mayo Area, Central Yukon Final Report. Report prepared for First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Historic Resources Unit Cultural Services Branch Department of Tourism and Culture Government of Yukon by Christian D. Thomas of Thomas Heritage Consulting, Whitehorse, YT.

6 FIGURES

Please see the following pages.




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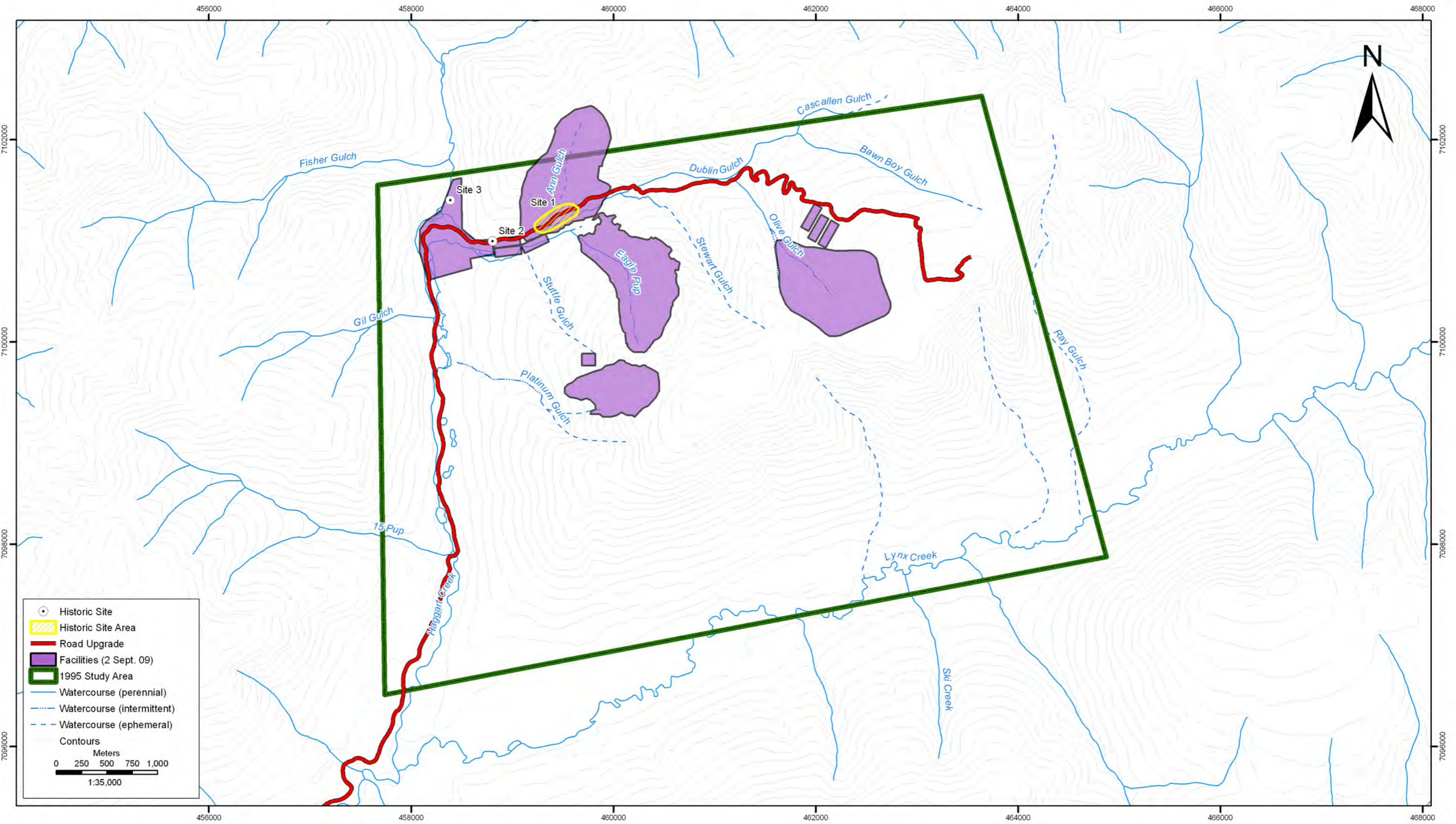


Victoria
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FIGURE 2-1
PROJECT LOCATION
 EAGLE GOLD PROJECT
 YUKON TERRITORY

PROJECTION	UTM - ZONE 8	DRAWN BY	EF
DATUM	NAD 83	CHECKED BY	JT
DATE	01-Mar-10	FIGURE NO.	x

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- Historic Site
- Historic Site Area
- Road Upgrade
- Facilities (2 Sept. 09)
- 1995 Study Area
- Watercourse (perennial)
- Watercourse (intermittent)
- Watercourse (ephemeral)
- Contours

Meters

0 250 500 750 1,000

1:35,000

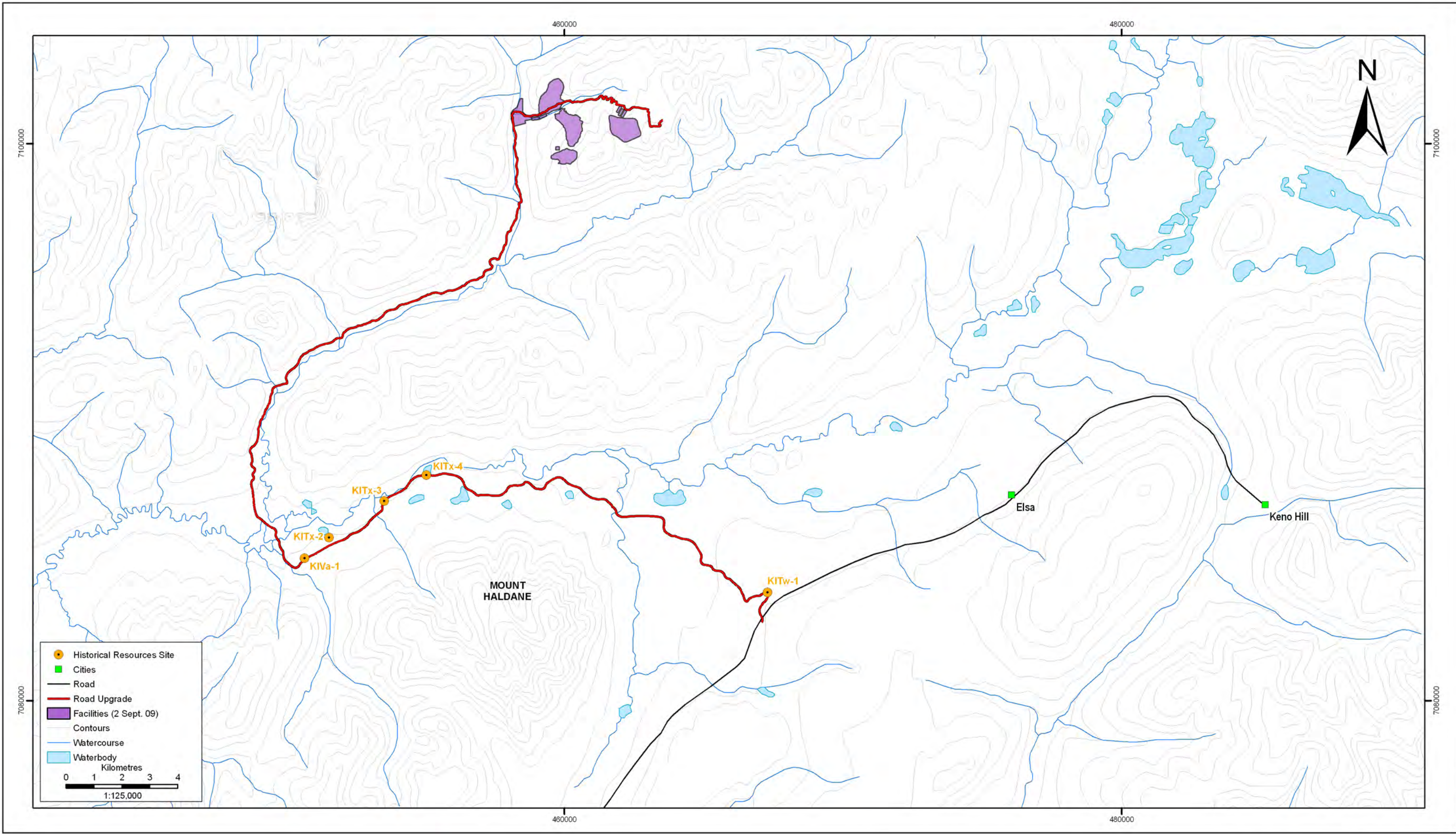
FIGURE 3-1
HISTORIC SITE LOCATIONS - MINE
 EAGLE GOLD PROJECT
 YUKON TERRITORY

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DATUM	NAD 83	CHECKED BY	JT
DATE	01-Mar-10	FIGURE NO.	x

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- Historical Resources Site
- Cities
- Road
- Road Upgrade
- Facilities (2 Sept. 09)
- Contours
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

Kilometres
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1:125,000

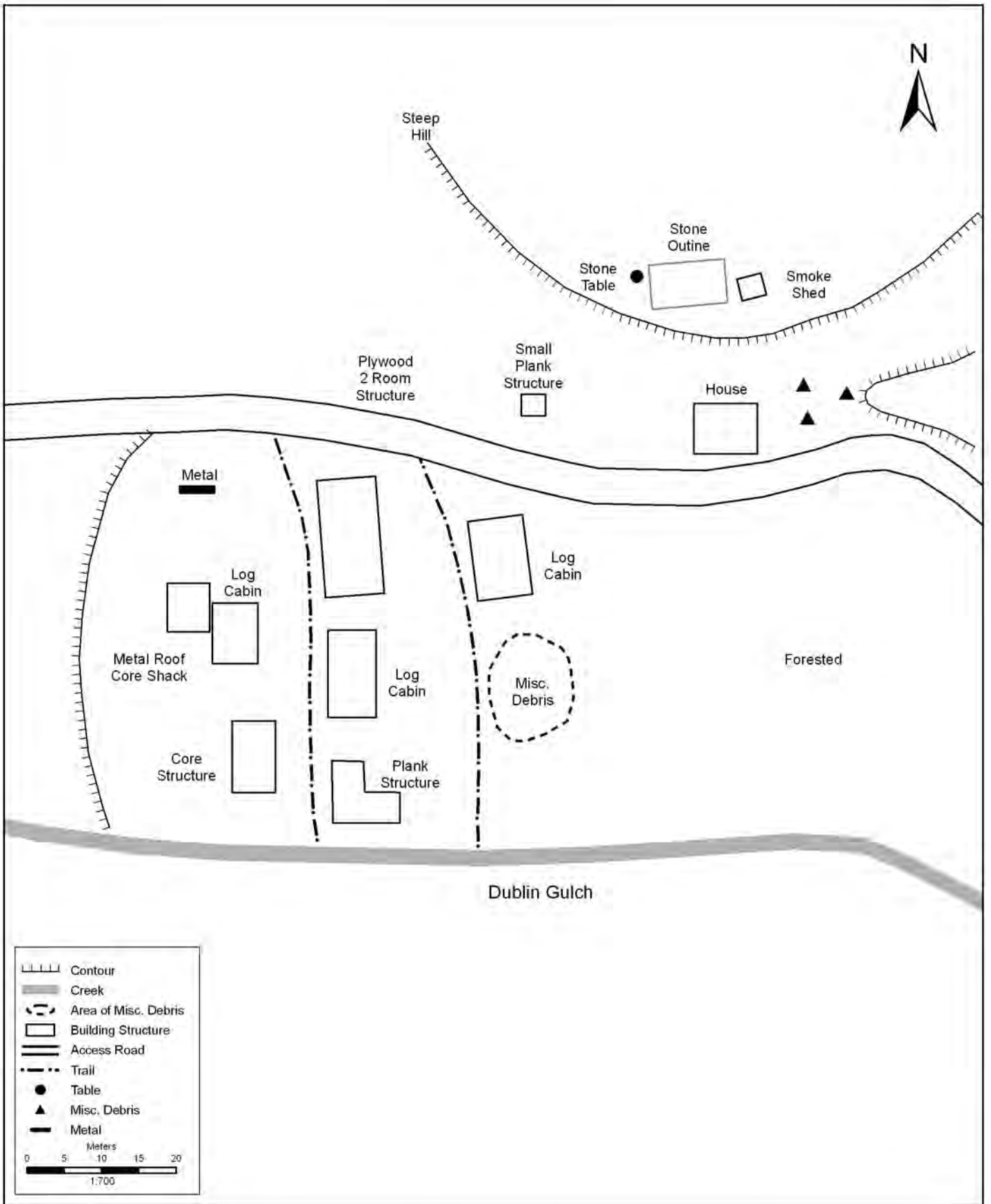
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FIGURE 3-2
HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE LOCATIONS - ROAD
EAGLE GOLD PROJECT
YUKON TERRITORY

PROJECTION	UTM - ZONE 8	DRAWN BY	EF
DATUM	NAD 83	CHECKED BY	JT
DATE	01-Mar-10	FIGURE NO.	x

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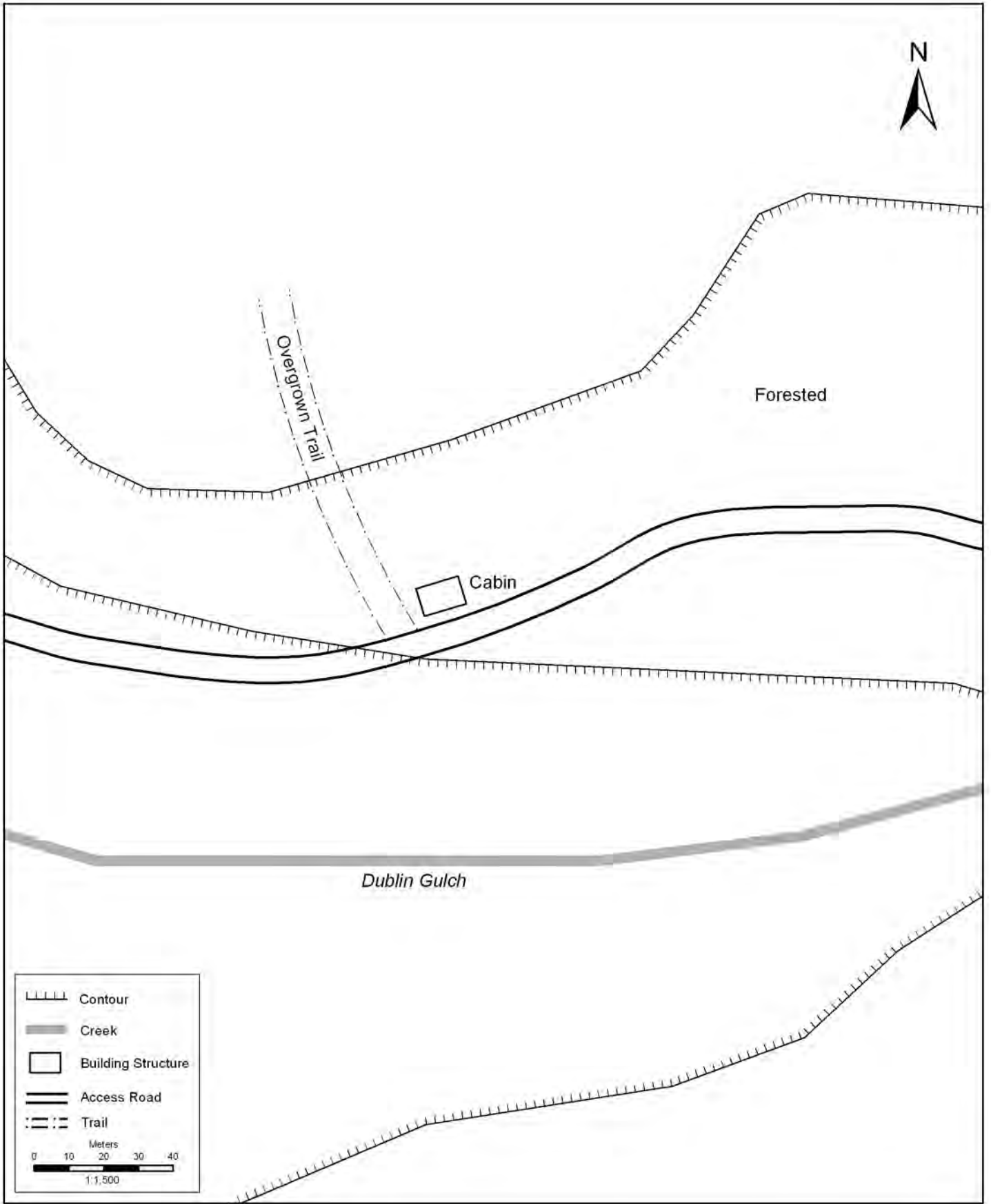


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FIGURE 3-3
SITE 1 SKETCH MAP
 EAGLE GOLD PROJECT
 YUKON TERRITORY

PROJECTION UTM - ZONE 8	DRAWN BY EF
DATUM NAD 83	CHECKED BY
DATE 05-Mar-10	FIGURE NO. 3-3

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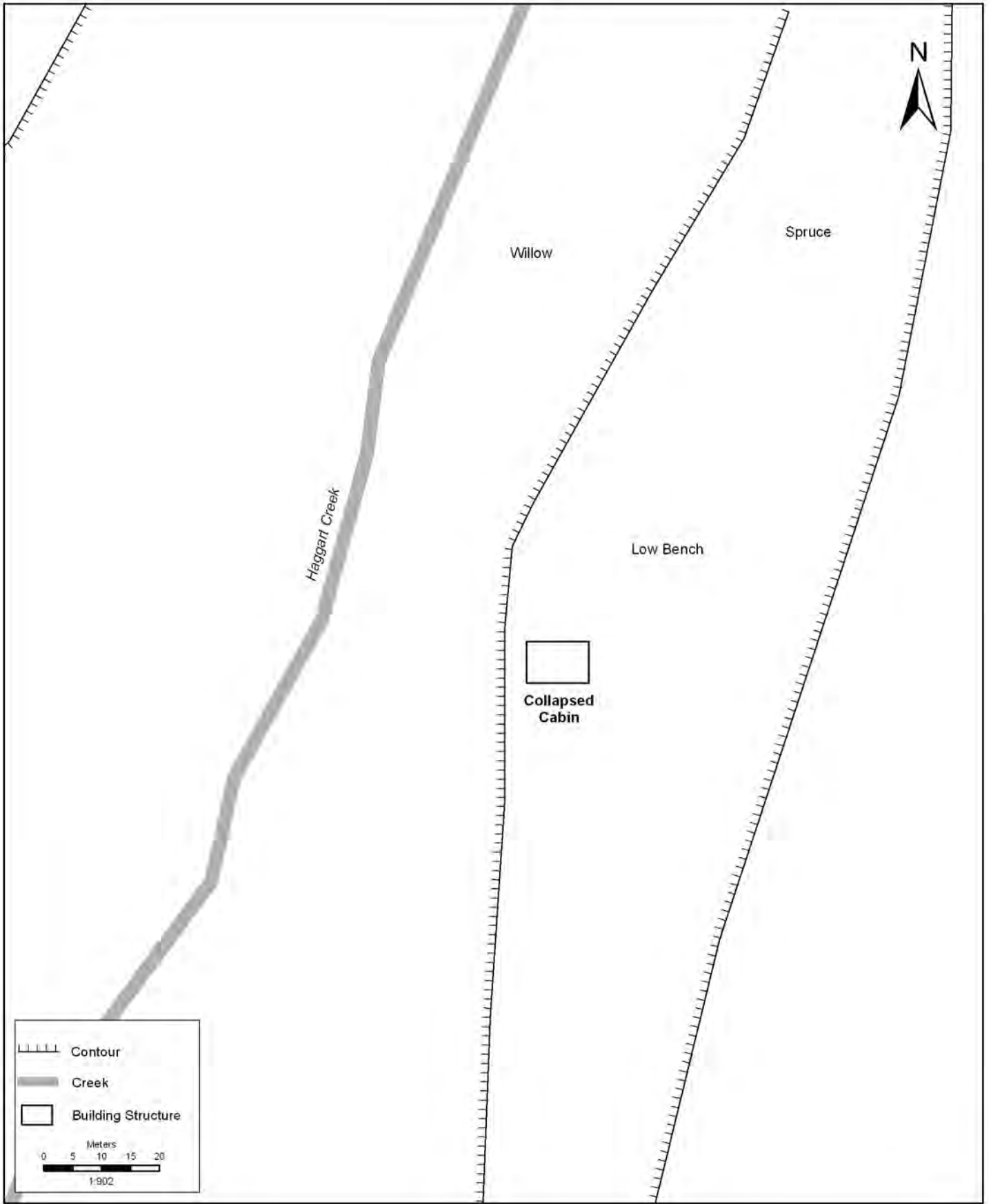


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FIGURE 3-4
SITE 2 SKETCH MAP
 EAGLE GOLD PROJECT
 YUKON TERRITORY

PROJECTION UTM - ZONE 8	DRAWN BY EF
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DATE 05-Mar-10	FIGURE NO. 3-4

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FIGURE 3-5
SITE 3 SKETCH MAP
 EAGLE GOLD PROJECT
 YUKON TERRITORY

PROJECTION UTM - ZONE 8	DRAWN BY EF
DATUM NAD 83	CHECKED BY
DATE 05-Mar-10	FIGURE NO. 3-5

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7 PLATES



Plate 1: Site 1, back of log structure [2], view southwest, and more recent structure



Plate 2: Site 1, front of log structure [2], view northwest



Plate 3: Site 1, close view of log structure [2] construction, view southwest of back corner



Plate 4: Site 1, view northwest of log structure [5]; note more recently constructed roof extension over front of the structure



Plate 5: Site 1, back side of log structure [5], view southwest



Plate 6: Site 1, log structure [5], view northwest at structure details



Plate 7: Site 1, interior view of log structure [5], showing recent (1970s) use of the cabin as a core shack



Plate 8: Site 1, view south of back side of log structure [7]

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Plate 9: Site 1, view south of the east exterior wall of log structure [7] showing construction detail



Plate 10: Site 1, view southeast of the interior of log structure [7], showing collapsed roof and recent (1970s) use of the cabin for core storage



Plate 11: Site 1, view southeast of plank shacks [4]



Plate 12: Site 1, view southwest showing the back side and partial metal roof of the plank structures [4]



Plate 13: Site 1, view east showing interior view of the larger of two plank shacks [4]



Plate 14: Site 1, view east showing detail of the interior of the larger of two plank shacks [4]



Plate 15: Site 1, plank/board/plywood structure [6], view northwest



Plate 16: Site 1, interior view west of structure [6]



Plate 17: Site 1, view west at core structures [3]



Plate 18: Site 1, small structure [11], view west



Plate 19: Site 1, house [8], view southeast



Plate 20: Site 1, house [8] interior, main floor, back room



Plate 21: Site 1, house [8] interior, attic/second floor



Plate 22: Site 1, equipment observed behind the house [8], view east



Plate 23: Site 1, small shack [10], view west



Plate 24: Site 1, small shack [10], view east



Plate 25: Site 1, metal roof of small shack [10], view north

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Plate 26: Site 1, stone outline [9] view west along the south wall of the stone rectangle; note stone table at west end of rock outline



Plate 27: Site 1, stone table just west of the rock outline [9], view northeast; west side of the rectangular rock outline can be seen just to the east of the table

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Plate 28: Site 2 structure, view west of the front of the structure; note porch with extended overhanging roof



Plate 29: Site 2 structure, view northwest of roof and exterior wall detail at front of building



Plate 30: Site 2 structure, interior view of north wall



Plate 31: Site 2 structure, exterior view of north wall



Plate 32: Site 2 structure, exterior view of back (west) wall



Plate 33: Site 3 structure, view east showing the front (door) of the cabin



Plate 34: Site 3 structure, view south; note the sod roof



Plate 35: Site 3 structure, view west



Plate 36: Site 3 structure, view southwest; note window opening on south wall



Plate 37: Site 3 structure, view northeast showing construction detail of west wall and southwest corner



Plate 38: Site 3, view southeast from Haggart Creek to the structure located on a low bench in heavily overgrown vegetation

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