STRIK BALDINELLI MONIZ
PLANNING • CIVIL • STRUCTURAL • MECHANICAL • ELECTRICAL

LONDON LOCATION
1599 Adelaide St. N., Unit 301
London, ON N5X 4E8
P: 519-471-6667

KITCHENER LOCATION
132 Queen St. S. Unit 4
Kitchener, ON N2G 1V9
P: 519-725-8093

www.sbmltd.ca
sbm@sbmltd.ca

VKS Sunset Plaza I
#206 -1670 North Service Road East
Oakville, Ontario
L6H 7G3

March 18, 2026
SBM-24-2689

Attn: Venkat Perugu

RE: Issues Scoping Report - 9784 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, ON

1 INTRODUCTION

Strik, Baldinelli, Moniz (SBM) Ltd. was retained by VKS Sunset Plaza Inc to undertake an Issues Scoping Report (ISR) for a proposed commercial development located at 9784 Sunset Drive in St. Thomas, Ontario (hereafter referred to as 'site') (Appendix A – Figure 1).

The ISR was required since the proposed development was adjacent (within 120m) to a natural heritage feature (wooded area). The purpose of the ISR is to assess the significance of existing natural heritage features and functions and define the need and scope of the Environmental Impact Study by identifying and describing the potential cumulative effects of development.

Field surveys focused on features within the site boundary while the desktop review and assessment of potential impacts included the lands approximately 120m adjacent to the site. The ISR was completed in accordance with the natural heritage policies of the City of St. Thomas Official Plan, and specifically Policy 8.3.4 of the official plan.

2 METHODS

2.1 BACKGROUND REVIEW

Various background information sources were reviewed to identify any existing designated areas, significant natural features, and records for Species of Conservation Concern that occur within or in proximity to the site. The background data was also used to supplement the field survey for the ISR.

Species of conservation concern are native plants and animals that are rare, declining, or at risk of extinction. This includes species listed under the Ontario Endangered Species Act (Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern), species considered rare in Ontario (ranked S1–S3) by the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC), and those identified as nationally vulnerable by COSEWIC.

Key background information sources reviewed included the following:

- City of St. Thomas and County of Elgin Official Plans

- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority Regulation Mapping
- DFO Aquatic Species At Risk Map
- NHIC Natural Heritage Mapping Web Application
- Wildlife atlases (e.g., OBBA, ORAA, AMO, OBA)
- Ontario GeoHub
- Citizen science databases (iNaturalist, eBird, eButterfly, FishNet 2, etc.)

2.2 FIELD WORK

A field survey was completed on 28 October 2025 to identify, map and inventory existing features on the site including vegetation, wildlife, surface hydrology and any rare, sensitive or significant species or natural features. Vegetation communities were defined according to the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) for Southern Ontario (Lee et al. 1998)[1]. A single season botanical inventory was completed to record plant species within the vegetation community polygon. A single season botanical inventory was considered sufficient for the site due to limited natural vegetation cover and absence of woodlands requiring surveys for spring ephemerals. Plant species nomenclature was based on the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) plant species and community lists (MNR 2025)[2].

3 RESULTS

3.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1.1 Designated Features and Areas

Designated features and areas exist in proximity to the site (Appendix A – Figure 2). The woodland west of the site (on the west side of Sunset Drive) is designated 'Natural Heritage System' in the County of Elgin Official Plan (OP). A watercourse and an area designated 'Significant Groundwater Recharge Area' is also mapped in this area based on the County OP. The woodland east of the site (on the other side of Major Line) is designated 'Natural Heritage' in the City of St. Thomas OP. The woodland and watercourse (Moody Drain) west of the site also falls within the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA) Regulated Area.

3.1.2 Species of Conservation Concern

There were no records of species of conservation concern specifically reported within or adjacent (120m) to the site based on the background review. There were however occurrence records of species of conservation concern within the NHIC 1x1km square (square 17MH8137) that overlaps with the site (MNRF 2026)[3] as well as an occurrence record of Monarch within a 10x10km atlas square (square 17MH83) overlapping the site (TEA 2024)[4]. Specific locations of species occurrences within each square are not provided in the records. Species of conservation concern occurrence records in proximity to the site obtained from the background data, including their rarity status, is presented in Table 1.

The cedar barn on the site had previously provided nesting habitat for Barn Swallow. A single nest was observed in the barn during the site survey in October, however the nest was aged and mouldy / mildewed and did not appear to be used during the recent nesting season. Suitable habitat for the remaining species of conservation concern listed in Table 1 is not present on the site.

Table 1: Species of Conservation Concern Occurrence Records in Proximity to Site

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	SARA[1]	ESA[2]	NHIC[3]
Birds	Eastern Wood-pewee	Contopus virens	SC	SC	S4B
Fish	Brindled Madtom	*Noturus miurus*	NAR	NAR	S2
Insects	American Burying Beetle	*Nicrophorus americanus*	EXP	EXP	SH
	Monarch	*Papilio plexippus*	END	SC	S4B
Plants	Lowland Bladder Fern	*Cystopteris protrusa*	-	-	S2S3
	Eastern False Rue-anemone	*Enemion biternatum*	SC	SC	S2
	Green Dragon	*Arisaema dracontium*	SC	SC	S3

[1] SARA (Federal Species At Risk Act): END - Endangered; THR - Threatened; SC - Special Concern; "-" - No Status
[2] ESA (Ontario Endangered Species Act): END - Endangered; THR - Threatened; SC - Special Concern; "-" - No Status
[3] NHIC (Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre): S1 - Extremely rare; S2 - Very rare; S3 - Rare to uncommon; S4 – Apparently Secure

3.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

3.2.1 Ecological Land Classification

The site is approximately 1.4 hectares in size and currently exists as a rural residential property. One ELC polygon (CVR1 - Low Density Residential) was identified on the site (Appendix A - Figure 3).

The ELC polygon contains a house, barn, a large expanse of mown grass, planted and adventive trees, some horticultural plantings as well as some fallow areas on the borders. Planted trees include black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), yew (*Taxus cuspidata*), smoketree (*Cotinus coggygria*) and a poplar cultivar (Populus sp.).

Adventive trees and shrubs include a mix of typical colonizing woody plants: Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*), white mulberry (*Morus alba*), white elm (*Ulmus americana*), red ash (*Fraxinus pensylvanica*), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), European buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*), and American currant (*Ribes americana*). A lone peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) sits along a shallow drainage ditch on the northeast site boundary.

Dominant herbaceous species include weedy turf and forage grasses like Kentucky blue grass (*Poa pratensis*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), and quack grass (*Elymus repens*). Dominant herbaceous forbs include a typical mix of native and non-native species of turf and fallow fields including asters (Symphyotrichum spp.), goldenrods (Solidago spp.), fleabanes (Erigeron spp.), plantains (Plantago spp.), ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), sow thistle (Sonchus sp.), thistles (Carduus sp. and Cirsium spp.), and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

3.2.2 Vegetation

A list of plant species inventoried on the site (CVR1 polygon) during the field survey is included in Appendix B. Definitions for the terms used in the plant list is provided at the end of the appendix. In total, sixty-eight (68) vascular plants were recorded on the site. Twenty-eight (28) plants were native and forty (40) were non-native. No plant species of conservation concern were identified on the site.

3.2.3 Wildlife

Incidental observations of wildlife during the field survey included blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) and dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Turkey vulture was observed flying low over the site. The timing of the field survey limited possible wildlife observations. However, wildlife that may be present on the site at different times of the year, include species commonly found in similar rural residential properties, such as eastern cottontail, raccoon, skunk, white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, deer mice, American robin, mourning dove, eastern gartersnake, milksnake, and American toad. No wildlife species of conservation concern were observed on the site. The old barn swallow nest found in the cedar barn does not appear to have been used for a number of years.

3.2.4 Wildlife Habitat

The site may be used intermittingly and / or provide general habitat for the wildlife described in the previous section, however there are no features present that would meet the habitat criteria for candidate significant wildlife habitat defined in the Significant wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for the Ecoregion (MNR 2015)[5]. The site may function as a minor ecological linkage for terrestrial wildlife moving between the woodlands east and west of the site.

3.2.5 Significant Features

As stated in the Provincial Policy Statement (2024), development and site alteration is not permitted in the following natural heritage features unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions:

- Significant wetlands in the Canadian Shield north of Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E;
- Significant woodlands in Ecoregions 6E and 7E (excluding islands in Lake Huron and St. Marys River);
- Significant valleylands in Ecoregions 6E and 7E (excluding islands in Lake Huron and St. Marys River);
- Significant wildlife habitat;
- Significant areas of natural and scientific interest; and
- Coastal wetlands that are not significant in Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E.

No significant natural heritage features were identified on the site.

4 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The current proposed development will consist of two (2) one-storey multi-unit commercial (food / store retail) buildings and two (2) one-storey restaurants with associated surface parking and landscaping (Appendix A – Figure 4). The commercial development will have access off Sunset Drive (Hwy 4) and Major Line. The development will be connected to municipal sanitary and drinking water services. Stormwater management (SWM) details were not available during preparation of the ISR. However, based on the Functional Servicing Brief prepared for the development (SBM 2026)[6], onsite SWM quantity controls are required to attenuate post-development flows to the allowable pre-development levels for the 2-year through 100-year design storms. Excess stormwater runoff from the site is proposed to be discharged to the Helkaa Drain that is routed through the site. Based on online

mapping, Helkaa Drain appears to connect to the Moody Drain west of the site that then connects with Dodd Creek located approximately 0.5 km downstream.

5 POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The proposed development will result in removal of all existing vegetation and built structures on the site. The vegetation on the site may be used by nesting birds, which are protected under the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. The cedar barn may be used as nesting habitat for barn swallow and possibly maternity roost habitat for little brown myotis, which is listed as Endangered and is protected under the Ontario Endangered Species Act. Other bats species, such as big brown bat and northern long-eared bat, could also use the trees and built structures on the site as summer roost sites. The barn and secondary buildings on the site may support foraging habitat for milksnake, which is a habitat generalist species frequently found around human-made structures, particularly old barns and sheds that could contain prey species (i.e. rodents).

As a contingency measure, avoidance of direct impacts to birds and their nests, little brown myotis (and other bat species), and milksnake can be achieved by scheduling removal of site vegetation and built structures outside of the active periods for these wildlife species. The active nesting period for open habitat birds in southwestern Ontario is typically from early April to early August. The summer roosting period for bats in southern Ontario is from April 1 to September 30. Most snakes in southern Ontario are typically active from April to October. Based on the combined active periods described above, the timing window for vegetation clearing and removal of built structures on the site is between October 1 and March 30 of any given year.

Significant impacts to the adjacent designated woodlands is not expected primarily because it will be physically separated from the woodlands by Sunset Drive and Major Line and the associated road rights-of-way. The new development could have minor interference with wildlife movement between the woodlands although this impact is not expected to be significant because the site likely provided minimal ecological linkage initially.

Stormwater discharge from the site into Helkaa Drain could have downstream impacts on aquatic habitat and species in Dodd Creek, which is part of the Kettle Creek watershed. Surface water quality in Dodd Creek is graded as ‘Poor’ and phosphorus loading continues to be the biggest issue impacting surface water quality in the Kettle Creek watershed (KCCA 2023)[7]. The proposed development is not expected to result in discharge of phosphates into stormwater and downstream surface water features. Potential contaminants (e.g., hydrocarbons, heavy metals, sediments) in surface runoff from the parking lot that could further degrade water quality in Dodd Creek can be mitigated with onsite water quality control measures (e.g., oil/grit separators, bioretention cells, etc.).

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No significant natural heritage features exist on the site. Significant natural features are in proximity to the site but potential significant impacts on these features is not expected to occur from the proposed development. Based on the results of the ISR, the proposed development can proceed without the need of an Environmental Impact Study. The following best management and mitigation measures are recommended to avoid potential harm to protected and other wildlife that may be on the site, and to minimize additional degradation of water quality downstream in Dodd Creek:

1. Vegetation clearing and removal of the cedar barn and secondary buildings is to occur between October 1 and March 30 of any given year. If these site works cannot be done during this time period, site surveys by a qualified environmental consultant will be required to confirm the absence of nesting birds, roosting bats, and snakes prior to clearing and removal activities. The site works are to commence within 48 hrs from the site survey.
2. Incorporate onsite water quality control measures (e.g., oil/grit separators, bioretention cells, etc.) into the site design to the extent feasible to pre-treat stormwater runoff before discharging to surface water features.

7 LIMITATIONS

This letter report was prepared by SBM for VKS Sunset Plaza. Use of this report by any third party, or any reliance upon its findings, is solely the responsibility of that party. SBM accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by a third party as a result of decisions made or actions undertaken as a result of this report. Third party use of this report, without the express written consent of SBM, denies any claims, whether in contract, tort, and/or any other cause of action in law, against SBM.

All findings and conclusions presented in this report are based on site conditions during the site visit and as they appeared in the information presented to SBM and related to in this document. This report is not intended to be exhaustive in scope, or to imply a risk-free development. It should be recognized that the passage of time may alter the opinions, conclusions, and recommendations provided herein. Any recommendations presented in this report are based on the information available at the time of preparation of this report. SBM accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided by others. This document is deemed to be the intellectual property of SBM in accordance with Canadian copyright law.

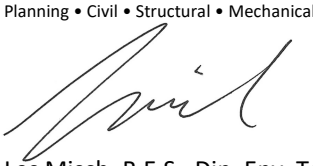
8 CLOSURE

We trust this letter report meets your satisfaction. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

Strik, Baldinelli, Moniz Ltd.

Planning • Civil • Structural • Mechanical • Electrical



Les Misch, B.E.S., Dip. Env. Tech.
Senior Ecologist, Sci V

[1] Lee, H.T, W.D. Bakowsky, J.L. Riley, J. Bowles, M. Puddister, P. Uhlig, and S. McMurray. 1998. Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario: First Approximation and its Application. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southcentral Region, Science Development and Transfer Branch. Technical Manual ELC-005.

[2] MNR. 2025. Species Lists (created March 2025). https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-natural-heritage-information, accessed 16 April 2025.

[3] MNRF (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry). 2026. Make-a-Map: Natural Heritage Areas. Queen's Printer for Ontario. https://www.ontario.ca/page/make-natural-heritage-area-map (accessed March 11, 2024).

[4] TEA (Toronto Entomologist Association). 2024. Ontario Butterfly Atlas. https://www.ontarioinsects.org/ (Accessed: July 2, 2024).

[5] MNR 2015. Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E. 2015. Addendum to Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Peterborough, Ontario.

[6] SBM (Strik, Baldinelli, Moniz Ltd). 2026. Feasibility Servicing Brief - Proposed Commercial Development, 9784 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, ON

[7] KCCA (Kettle Creek Conservation Authority). 2023. Kettle Creek Conservation Authority Watershed Report Card 2023.

APPENDIX A

Figures



S:\2024 Jobs\SBM-24-2689 CRU Development - 9784 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas\04 dDocs\12 Eco\03 Figures\00 Base Information\SBM-24-2689 CRU Development - 9784 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas.qgz

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PROJECT No: SBM-24-2689	

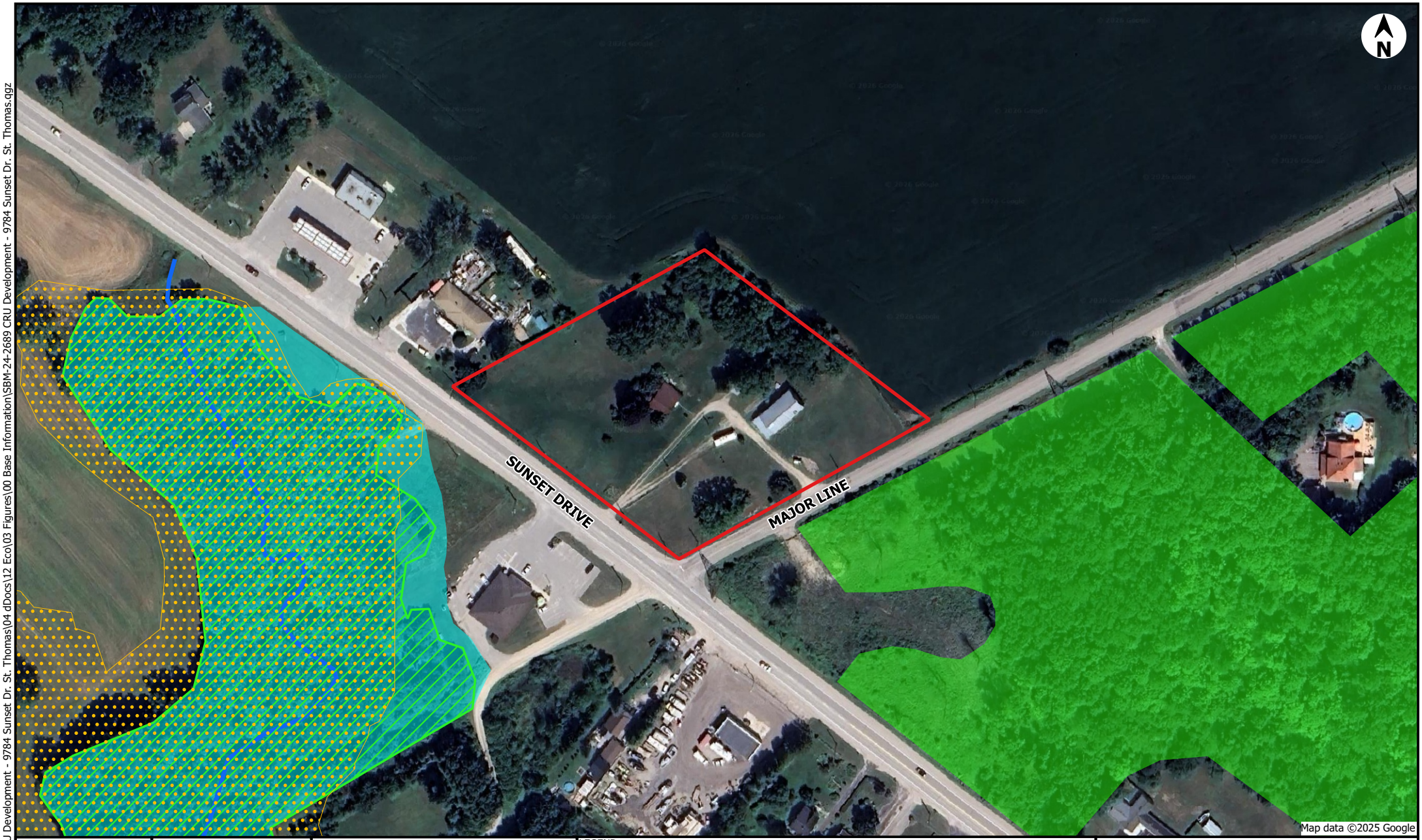
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LEGEND:
SITE BOUNDARY

PROJECT
9784 SUNSET DRIVE, ST. THOMAS
ISSUES SCOPING REPORT

TITLE
SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 1



S:\2024 Jobs\SBM-24-2689 CRU Development - 9784 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas\04 dDocs\12 Eco\03 Figures\00 Base Information\SBM-24-2689 CRU Development - 9784 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas.qgz

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DATE: March 2026	
SCALE: 0 20 40 60 80 m	
PROJECT No: SBM-24-2689	

STRIK BALDINELLI MONIZ
sbm
PLANNING · CIVIL · STRUCTURAL · MECHANICAL · ELECTRICAL

LEGEND:
- SITE BOUNDARY
- NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM (ELGIN COUNTY)
- SIGNIFICANT GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AREA (ELGIN COUNTY)
- NATURAL HERITAGE (ST. THOMAS)
- REGULATION LIMIT (KCCA)

PROJECT
9784 SUNSET DRIVE, ST. THOMAS
ISSUES SCOPING REPORT

TITLE
DESIGNATED FEATURES AND AREAS

FIGURE 2



S:\2024 Jobs\SBM-24-2689 CRU Development - 9784 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas\04 dDocs\12 Eco\03 Figures\00 Base Information\SBM-24-2689 CRU Development - 9784 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas.qgz

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CHECKED BY:	LM
DATE:	March 2026
SCALE:	0 20 40 60 80 100 m
PROJECT No:	SBM-24-2689

STRIK BALDINELLI MONIZ
PLANNING · CIVIL · STRUCTURAL · MECHANICAL · ELECTRICAL

LEGEND:

- SITE BOUNDARY
- ELC BOUNDARY

CVR1 - LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

PROJECT
9784 SUNSET DRIVE, ST. THOMAS
ISSUES SCOPING REPORT

TITLE
ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

FIGURE 3



S:\2024 Jobs\SBM-24-2689 CRU Development - 9784 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas\04 dDocs\12 Eco\03 Figures\00 Base Information\SBM-24-2689 CRU Development - 9784 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas.qgz

DRAWN BY: HM	CHECKED BY: LM
DATE: March 2026	
SCALE: 0 20 40 60 80 m	
PROJECT No: SBM-24-2689	

STRIK BALDINELLI MONIZ
PLANNING · CIVIL · STRUCTURAL · MECHANICAL · ELECTRICAL

LEGEND:
- SITE BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT
9784 SUNSET DRIVE, ST. THOMAS
ISSUES SCOPING REPORT

TITLE
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

FIGURE 4

APPENDIX B

Plant List

PLANT SPECIES LIST*

#	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rarity / Status[2]			CC[4]	WETNESS[3]	ELC Polygon[1]	
			National	Provincial				1	2
			SARA	ESA	NHIC				
1	Acer negundo	Manitoba Maple			S5	0	0	O	
2	Acer platanoides	Norway Maple			SNA		5	O	
3	Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard			SNA		0	O	
4	Ambrosia artemisiifolia	Common Ragweed			S5	0	3	O	
5	Arctium minus	Common Burdock			SNA		3	O	
6	Bromus inermis	Smooth Brome			SNA		5	A	
7	Carduus nutans	Nodding Thistle			SNA		3	R	
8	Carex blanda cf.	Woodland Sedge			S5	3	0	R	
9	Carex tenera cf.	Tender Sedge			S5	4	0	R	
10	Cichorium intybus	Wild Chicory			SNA		5	R	
11	Cirsium arvense	Canada Thistle			SNA		3	O	
12	Cirsium vulgare	Bull Thistle			SNA		3	O	
13	Cornus racemosa	Grey Dogwood			S5	2	0	O	
14	Cornus sericea	Red-osier Dogwood			S5	2	-3	O	
15	Cotinus coggygria	European Smoketree			SNA		5	O	
16	Dactylis glomerata	Orchard Grass			SNA		3	A	
17	Datura stramonium	Jimsonweed			SNA		5	O	
18	Daucus carota	Wild Carrot			SNA		5	O	
19	Dipsacus fullonum	Common Teasel			SNA		3	O	
20	Elymus repens	Quackgrass			SNA		3	D	
21	Epilobium hirsutum cf.	Hairy Willowherb			SNA		-3	O	
22	Eragrostis cilianensis	Stinkgrass			SNA		3	O	
23	Erigeron annuus	Annual Fleabane			S5	0	3	O	
24	Erigeron canadensis	Canada Horseweed			S5	0	3	O	
25	Fragaria virginiana	Wild Strawberry			S5	2	3	O	
26	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Red Ash			S4	3	-3	O	
27	Geum canadense cf.	Canada Avens			S5	3	0	O	
28	Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy			SNA		3	A	
29	Juglans nigra	Black Walnut			S4?	5	3	O	
30	Juniperus sp. (planted cultivar)	Cultivated Juniper			SNA			O	
31	Leonurus cardiaca	Common Motherwort			SNA		5	O	
32	Lolium arundinaceum	Tall Ryegrass			SNA		3	O	
33	Lonicera tatarica cf.	Tatarian Honeysuckle			SNA		3	O	
34	Melilotus albus	White Sweet-clover			SNA		3	O	
35	Nepeta cataria	Catnip			SNA		3	O	
36	Oenothera biennis	Common Evening-primrose			S5	0	3	O	
37	Paeonia officinalis	Common Peony			SNA			R	
38	Panicum capillare	Common Panicgrass			S5	0	0	O	
39	Philadelphus coronarius cf.	European Mock-orange			SNA		5	O	
40	Picea pungens	Blue Spruce			SNA		3	O	
41	Picris hieracioides	Hawkweed Oxtongue			SNA		5	O	
42	Plantago lanceolata	English Plantain			SNA		3	A	
43	Plantago major	Common Plantain			SNA		3	A	
44	Poa pratensis	Kentucky Bluegrass			S5	0	3	D	
45	Populus sp. (hybrid)	Poplar			SNA			O	
46	Rhamnus cathartica	European Buckthorn			SNA		0	O	
47	Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac			S5	1	3	O	
48	Ribes americanum	American Black Currant			S5	4	-3	O	
49	Rubus occidentalis	Black Raspberry			S5	2	5	O	
50	Rumex crispus	Curled Dock			SNA		0	O	
51	Salix amygdaloides	Peach-leaved Willow			S5	6	-3	R	
52	Setaria sp.	Foxtail			SNA			O	

#	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rarity / Status[2]			CC[4]	WETNESS[3]	ELC Polygon[1]	
			National	Provincial				1	2
			SARA	ESA	NHIC				
53	Solidago altissima	Tall Goldenrod			S5	1	3	O	
54	Solidago gigantea	Giant Goldenrod			S5	4	-3	O	
55	Sonchus arvensis	Field Sow-thistle			SNA		3	O	
56	Spiraea japonica cf.	Japanese Meadowsweet			SNA		5	O	
57	Symphyotrichum lanceolatum	Panicled Aster			S5	3	-3	R	
58	Symphyotrichum lateriflorum	Calico Aster			S5	3	0	O	
59	Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	New England Aster			S5	2	-3	O	
60	Symphyotrichum urophyllum	Arrow-leaved Aster			S4	6	5	O	
61	Syringa vulgaris	Common Lilac			SNA		5	O	
62	Taraxacum officinale	Common Dandelion			SNA		3	A	
63	Taxus cuspidata (cultivar)	Japanese Yew			SNA			O	
64	Thuja occidentalis	Eastern White Cedar			S5	4	-3	O	
65	Trifolium repens	White Clover			SNA		3	A	
66	Ulmus americana	White Elm			S5	3	-3	R	
67	Verbascum thapsus	Common Mullein			SNA		5	O	
68	Vitis riparia	Riverbank Grape			S5	0	0	O	

* See end of appendix for definition of terms and acronyms used in plant species list

PLANT SPECIES LIST DEFINITIONS:

[1] RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF PLANT SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH EACH VEGETATION COMMUNITY*

D - dominant	Represented by large numbers of individuals or clumps; visually more abundant than other plant species
A - abundant	Represented in the vegetation community by large numbers of individuals or clumps
O - occasional	Present as scattered individuals or represented by one or more large clumps of many individuals
R - rare	Represented in the vegetation community by less than three to five individuals or small clumps

** Based on Ecological Land Classificaton for Southern Ontario (Lee et al. 1998)*

[2] RARITY / POPULATION STATUS

National	Provincial		Regional (if applicable)
SARA	ESA	NHIC	
END - Endangered	**END** - Endangered	**S1** - Critically imperiled	Rare or uncommon in the county or region
THR - Threatened	**THR** - Threatened	**S2** - Imperiled	
EXP - Extirpated	**EXP** - Extirpated	**S3** - Vulnerable	
SC - Special Concern	**SC** - Special Concern	**S4** - Apparently secure	
NAR - Not at Risk	**NAR** - Not at Risk	**S5** - Secure	
DD - Data Deficient	**DD** - Data Deficient	**SE** - Exotic (non-native)	
		? - uncertain about status	

[3] WETNESS*

-5	Obligate Wetland	occurs almost always in wetlands under natural conditions (>99% probability)
-2 to -4	Facultative Wetland	usually occurs in wetlands, but occasionally found in non-wetlands (67-99% probability)
1 to -1	Facultative	equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (34-66% probability)
2 to 4	Facultative Upland	occasionally occurs in wetlands, but usually occurs in non-wetlands (1-33% probability)
5	Obligate Upland	occurs alomost never in wetlands under natural conditions (<1% probability)

** Values and definitions derived from Floristic Quality Assessment System (MNR 1995)*

[4] CC (COEFFICIENT OF CONSERVATISM)*

0 - 3	Plants found in a wide variety of communities, including disturbed sites
4 - 6	Plants typically associated with a specific plant community, but tolerate moderate disturbance
7 - 8	Plants associated with a community in an advanced successional stage that has undergone minor disturbance
9 - 10	Plants with a high degree of fidelity to a narrow range of specific habitats or ecological conditions

** Values and definitions derived from Floristic Quality Assessment (MNR 1995)*

[5] WEEDINESS*

-1	Non-native plants with little or no impact on natural areas
-2	Non-native plants that sometimes cause problems, but only infrequently or in localized areas
-3	Non-native highly invasive plants that can become serious problems in natural areas by displacing native flora

** Values and definitions derived from Floristic Quality Assessment (MNR 1995)*