

Newport Forest

Newport Forest is a 45-ha (110 acre) closed conservation area in the Municipality of West Elgin in Elgin county. The property lies along the south bank of the Thames River 2 km downstream of Wardsville in SW Middlesex and is about a 40-minute drive southwest of London. The site lies within the Skunk's Misery Natural Area, identified by the Nature Conservancy of Canada as one of the best remaining examples of Carolinian Forest in southwestern Ontario. It lies 1km to the west of Blain Farm, another TTLT property. Newport Forest was secured by the TTLT in 2007 through a generous donation from TTLT member A.K. (Kee) Dewdney of London, who purchased the property from the Newport family in 2000. The previous owners had farmed, pastured and logged the property for many years.



The main vegetation communities include lowland-, ravine-slope and bluff forests (mostly in a mid-successional condition), upland meadow and meadow-thickets, and floodplain. Over 180 plant species, of which 75% are native species, including some rare Carolinian species, are present. The meadows and adjacent scrub provide habitat for grassland species such as Savanna Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark. The lowland forest and floodplain attract a wide variety of migrating and resident bird species. Several uncommon molluscs, several herpetofaunal species, including the Spiny Soft-shell Turtle are recorded here. Adjacent landowners and visitors have reported Southern Flying Squirrel, Badger, Eastern Cougar and Coyote within the past five years. In addition to its intrinsic ecological significance, the riverine forest at Newport Forest serves as a wildlife connection to the core forested area of Skunk's Misery on the north side of the River.

A stewardship plan is in place to guide the management of the Newport Forest. Conservation goals include allowing the existing hardwood areas to reach maturity, improving aquatic habitat and reducing erosion along the waterways, enhancing connectivity to forested areas surrounding Newport Forest. The site has a well-maintained trail system but is closed to the general public. As with all Land Trust properties, the recreational use of motorized vehicles, hunting and other forms of destructive activity are not permitted at Newport Forest.

Thames Talbot Land Trust

Subject Property:
Newport Forest
Lot 9, Con. BF and 1
Municipality of West Elgin
Elgin County

Legend

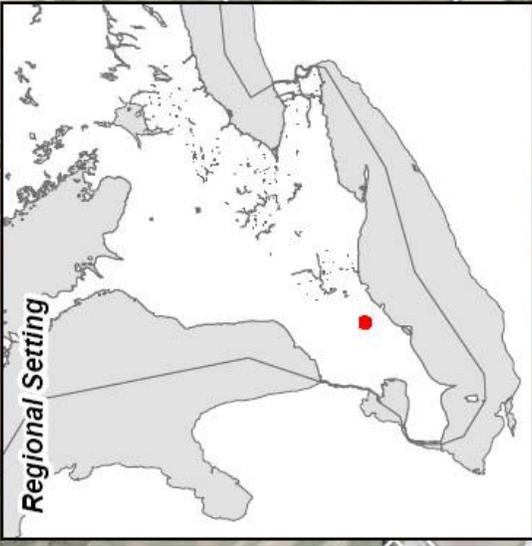
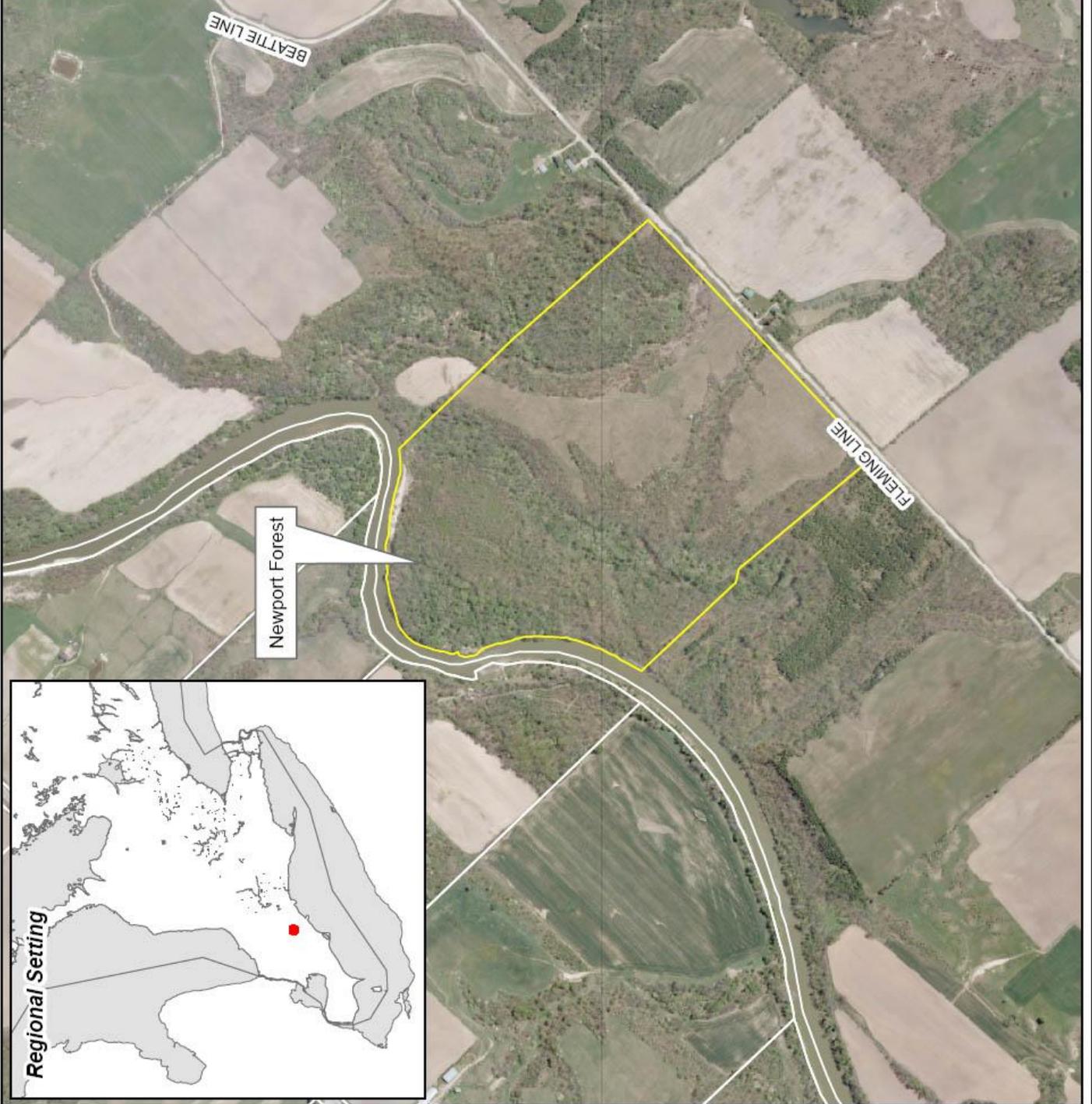
-  Subject Property
-  Teranet ownership layer



1:10,000



This map is for illustrative purposes only.
Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator
of routes, locations or features nor as a guide
to navigation.



Regional Setting