

Archaeological Resources: Chance Find Management Guidelines



Chipped stone flakes and core artifacts



Obsidian flake artifact

INTRODUCTION

The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is committed to the responsible management of heritage sites and resources and has prepared this document for Projects with the potential to disturb provincially protected archaeological resources. This document, in addition to SS 165.20 of the MOTI Standard Specifications for Highway Construction, provides contractors and other personnel working on MOTI Projects with guidelines for the appropriate response to the discovery of unanticipated and suspected archaeological resources and human remains during construction activities. This document:

- 1) Describes the provincial heritage regulatory framework;
- 2) Presents step-by-step guidelines for archaeological chance find management, including a procedure for the identification, treatment and management options for human remains;
- 3) Identifies the limitations of the Chance Find Management Guidelines; and,
- 4) Provides a list of MOTI environmental coordinators and a heritage management contact to be notified in the event that suspected archaeological resources are encountered during construction activities.

The discovery of archaeological resources and/or human remains during construction activities could result in changes to the Project design, scope, schedule, and cost and should be reported as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary delays and costs.

BC REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Heritage sites in British Columbia are managed in accordance with the *Heritage Conservation Act* (RSBC 1996, c. 187). Section 13 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) specifies that an individual (or corporation) must not “damage, excavate, dig in or alter, or remove any heritage object” from a heritage site, except in accordance with a Permit issued by the Minister pursuant to Sections 12 and 14. The HCA confers automatic protection upon sites that pre-date A.D. 1846 and sites of unknown antiquity that could pre-date A.D. 1846, regardless of their condition (i.e., intact or disturbed). Certain sites, including human burials and rock art sites with heritage value, are protected regardless of their antiquity. Post A.D. 1846 historical heritage sites can be protected under the HCA by Provincial Ministerial Order or Designation by an Order-in-Council.

Historical sites that are not protected by the HCA may be protected by municipal by-law, under the Local Government Act, and included in Municipally-administered Community Heritage Registers (CHRs). A CHR provides a degree of recognition for these sites; however, without municipal legislation (such as a heritage designation by-law, heritage revitalization agreement by-law, and/or heritage restrictive covenant), inclusion on a CHR does not provide protection for these sites.

GUIDELINES FOR HERITAGE SITE CHANCE FIND MANAGEMENT

- 1) If suspected heritage objects or features (either intact or disturbed) are encountered, stop all ground disturbing work within 30 metres of the suspected heritage resource and secure the area;
- 2) Do not undertake further work that could disturb the find site. This includes moving soil and/or spoil;
- 3) Inform the MOTI site representative or environmental coordinator of the discovery; and,
- 4) The MOTI representative will contact a professional archaeologist. (S)he will advise on next steps. A field visit to examine suspect soils or artifacts may be appropriate. The archaeologist will contact the Archaeology Branch (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) if necessary.



Ground stone bowl



Hearth

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MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

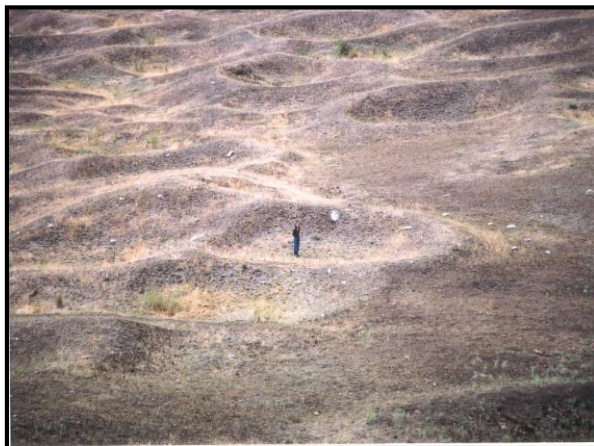
In the event that a HCA-protected archaeological site is confirmed, the archaeologist will coordinate discussions between the Archaeology Branch, First Nations, and the MOTI in order to select the appropriate management option. Options could include:

- 1) Site avoidance through Project redesign or relocation. An archaeological impact assessment may be required to define the site limits under a HCA permit;
- 2) Implementation of site protection measures under the authority of a HCA Permit (e.g., fencing) or more permanent means (e.g., capping with soil). Archaeological monitoring may be required to verify the effectiveness of protective measures;
- 3) Archaeological data recovery through controlled excavations or archaeological construction monitoring by a professional archaeologist. A site alteration permit may be required for this approach.

CHANCE FIND MANAGEMENT – HUMAN REMAINS

- 1) If suspected human remains are encountered (either intact or disturbed) stop construction activities within 30 metres of the suspected remains and secure the area;
- 2) Do not undertake further work that could disturb the remains. This includes moving soil and/or spoil;
- 3) Inform the MOTI site representative or environmental coordinator of the discovery;
- 4) The MOTI representative will contact a professional archaeologist. (S)he will notify the Archaeology Branch, which will in turn contact the local policing authority and the Office of the Coroner;
- 5) MOTI or the project archaeologist will contact all First Nations with traditional interests in the area;
- 6) The archaeologist or designate with physical anthropology training will visit the site as soon as possible with MOTI and First Nations representatives;
- 7) If it is determined that the human remains are not archaeological in nature (i.e., forensic), the local policing authority and Office of the Coroner will provide guidance;
- 8) Discussions between the Archaeology Branch, First Nations, archaeologist/physical anthropologist, and MOTI will identify appropriate next steps. Next steps for ancestral remains could include avoidance or controlled removal of the interment(s) followed by analysis and placing recovered remains in an appropriate resting place.

In the absence of a Project-specific protocol for found ancestral remains, general practices will comply with the Archaeology Branch's 1999 *Found Human Remains* policy.



Cultural depressions – pithouse village. Person is standing in centre of a single pithouse

LIMITATIONS

Consistent with the intent of the *Heritage Conservation Act*, workers are advised that if unanticipated cultural materials or features are encountered during Project activities, all work within the immediate area should cease, and the guidelines for archaeological site chance find management, as presented in this document, should be implemented.

Should workers have any concerns about potential heritage resources, deposits, or human remains, they should contact the MOTI site representative for further direction.

CONTACTS

MOTI

Senior Environmental Coordinator: Kathryn Graham

Tel: (250) 565-7024 (office)

Cell: (250) 981-1339

Environmental Coordinator: Eileen Laframboise

Tel: (778) 349-1550

Environmental Coordinator: Kristine Lamble

Tel: (250) 565-4190 (office)

Cell: (250) 617-8292

Environmental Coordinator: Raylene Otto

Tel: (250) 565-7054 (office)

Cell: (250) 613-7096

Archaeology Branch

Reception: Tel: (250) 953-3334

Project Officer: Tal Fisher

Tel: (250) 953-3331

Archaeologist: Adrienne Marr, Golder Associates Ltd.

Tel: (250) 641-1337

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ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE TYPES



Rectangular bark-stripped cedar culturally modified tree (CMT)



Hemlock CMT



Lodgepole pine CMT



Fish weir stake alignment



Test hole cedar CMT



Stone cairns



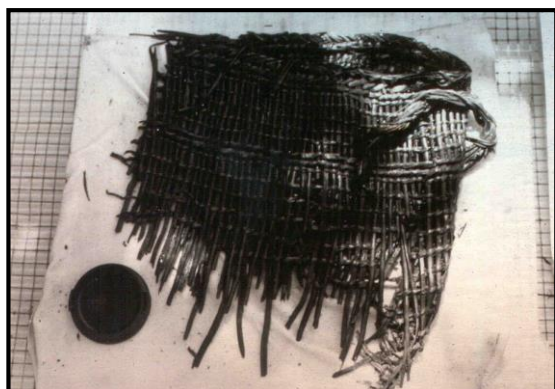
Pictographs (rock art)



Aboriginal trail



Fire cracked rock



Waterlogged basketry



Shell midden