

Risk Assessment based on Proximity to Known Fossils

Risk to fossils is assessed based on proximity of a project to known fossil sites and to the degree of ground disturbance:

1. **Fossil site(s) occurs locally at the proposed development site:** This category indicates that locally known significant fossil resources occur within the footprint of the proposed development site, or within 1 km of the site boundary. Known finds indicate a good chance of making new discoveries in the same strata or sediment.
2. **Fossil site(s) known in the region:** This category includes a known fossil site in similar geological conditions, but greater than 1 km away from the development site. Only a small fraction of fossil sites in BC have been recorded, and if fossils have been found in similar geological conditions nearby it indicates there may be unrecorded sites within the development area.
3. **No record of overlap:** This category indicates that significant fossil resources have not been recorded within 1 km of the development nor in nearby similar geological units, but this does not discount the possibility that fossils could occur in the area.

The level of disturbance of the planned project combined with fossil potential can then be used to determine risk:

Proximity to Significant Fossil Resources	Surface use only (if vegetated)	Minor Surface Disturbance (< 30 cm deep) (if vegetated)	Significant Surface Excavation (>30 cm deep) or directly on sediment exposure
Fossil Site(s) Known Locally	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
Fossil Site(s) Known in Region	Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Medium Risk
No Record of Overlap	Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk

The risk levels are defined as:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Risk: Sedimentary deposit with known fossil resources within proposed development or locally (< 1 km from proposed development site)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Risk: Sedimentary deposit with known significant fossil resources regionally (>1 km from proposed development site) or where surface disturbance will be minor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Risk: Sporadic fossil resources with no local and few regional fossil resources or where there are known fossils but a project has surface use only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Low Risk: Non-fossiliferous formations (including metamorphic or igneous) with no known fossil resources or where a project has surface use only

See Fossil Impact Assessment (FIA) Guidelines for more detailed information on assessing risk and the Fossil Impact Assessment process.