

RAAD HELP FILE V2.0

This help file provides assistance with functions specific to archaeological content and activities. For instructions on how to use basic mapping and GIS functions (e.g., navigation, Area of Interest (AOI) construction, data import/export, basic geoprocessing) please see the [Common Web Map \(CWM\) help page](#) instead.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS	2
USING RAAD FEATURES.....	2
Quick Search	2
Site Data Export	3
Selecting Archaeological Sites.....	3
Exporting Archaeological Data	3
Exporting AOA Data	4
Areas of Interest (AOIs).....	4
Changing the Basemap	5
Changing Shapefile Projections in your GIS Software.....	6
Querying the AOA Layer.....	6
Advanced Selections for Archaeological Sites	7
Using the Feature Search Tool	7
DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL LAYERS IN RAAD	8
Archaeological Sites Layer.....	9
Historic Places – All Sites Layer	11
Archaeological Site Buffers (50 m) Layer	12
Unreviewed Site Record Updates Layer	13
Archaeological Culture Areas Layer	14
Borden Grid Layer	14
Historic Trails Layer	14
Informed Contributors Layer	14
AOAs – Provincial Layer	15
AOAs – CMTs Layer	15
Areas of Potential Layer	15
Subsurface Test Areas Layer	16
Archaeological Study Areas Layer	16
TROUBLESHOOTING	17
Access Issues	17
Use Issues.....	18
HELP CONTACTS.....	20

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AOA: Archaeological Overview Assessment. AOAs are studies, often using a GIS-based analysis, that identify locations of increased archaeological risk within a study region. AOAs accepted by the BC Archaeology Branch are available as a layer on RAAD.

AOI: Area of Interest. AOIs are shapes drawn, captured, or imported to RAAD that can be used to interact with other spatial objects of interest.

CWM: Common Web Mapping. A web mapping framework developed for various browser-based applications for BC government ministries, and the core software platform that RAAD is built on.

Markup: Markup is used to annotate the web map with text and drawings for illustrative use.

RAAD: Remote Access to Archaeological Data. A web-based application that enables authorized users to view, select, and download information about archaeological sites in British Columbia. Users can perform various searches and export spatial and tabular data in a variety of formats.

USING RAAD FEATURES

This section contains instructions for using functions specific to RAAD.

[Quick Search](#)

[Borden Number](#)

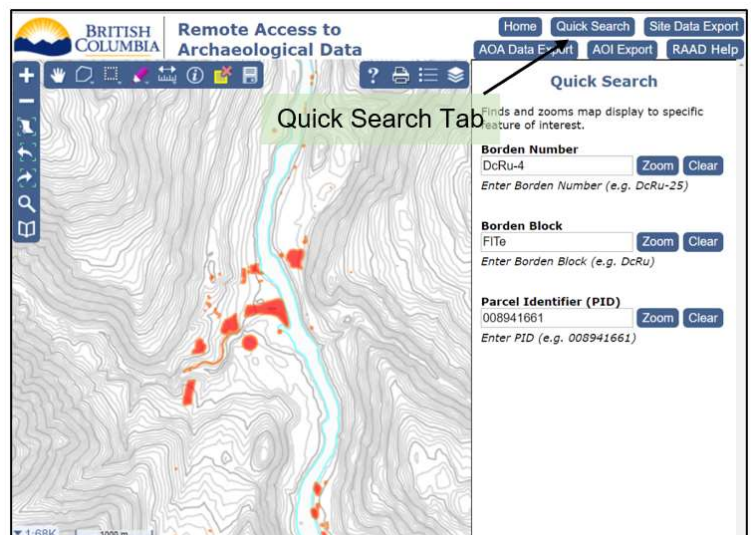
Enter the four-letter Borden Block (e.g., DcRu), followed by the number separated by a dash (e.g., DcRu-4). Do not enter leading zeroes. The Borden Block is not case sensitive. Once the Borden Number has been entered, click 'zoom' to pan and zoom to the archaeological site location.

[Borden Block](#)

Enter the four-letter Borden Block (e.g., FITe) and click 'zoom' to pan and zoom to the extent of the Borden Block. The Borden Block is not case sensitive.

[Parcel Identifier \(PID\)](#)

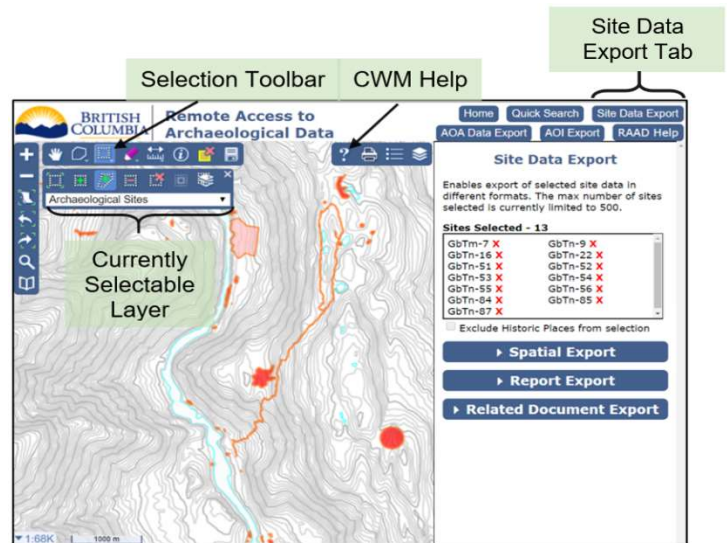
Type in the 9-digit Parcel Identifier without dashes (e.g., 008941661) and click 'zoom' to pan and zoom to the extent of the cadastral lot boundaries. It will take several seconds for RAAD to identify and zoom to the requested property. Currently, this feature only works for IDIR users. However, a PID search can be achieved using an attribute features search, see page 9 for specific instructions.




Site Data Export

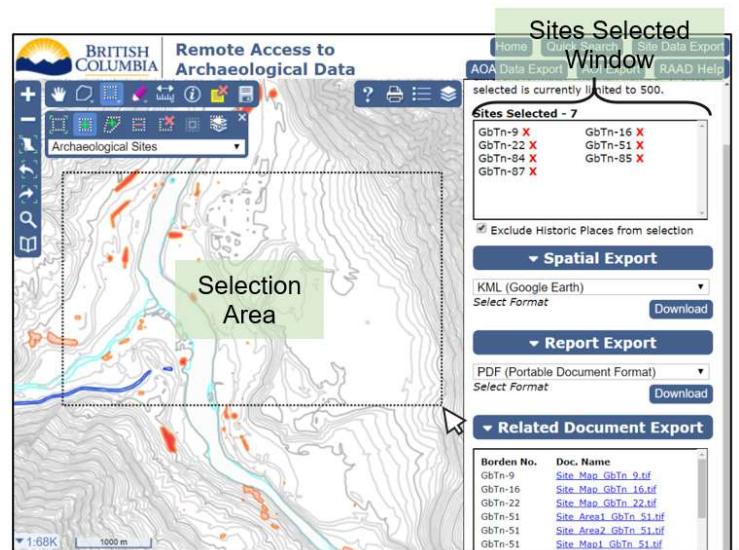
Archaeological site data can be exported from RAAD's Site Data Export tab in a variety of formats, including archaeological site reports (PDFs and CSVs), site boundary polygons, and related documents (PDFs and picture files).

After you've made your site selections, navigate to this tab and choose your export options.



Selecting Archaeological Sites

1. Click on the  Selection Toolbar and ensure that 'Archaeological Sites' has been chosen in the Currently Selectable Layer.
2. Choose 'Select by Rectangle' or 'Select by Polygon' and draw the selection area over the location of interest.
3. Using the selection tool additional times will add additional new sites to the selection. For additional selection tools see [CWM Help](#).



Exporting Archaeological Data

Selected archaeological sites can be viewed in the Sites Selected window of the Site Data Export tab:

1. After a selection has been made, archaeological site information can be exported as spatial data, reports, or documentation related to the site(s).
2. Spatial data capturing the polygonal extent of the site boundaries can be downloaded using RAAD. To do this, click on the Spatial Export box, then select the export format of choice using the Select Format dropdown menu (ESRI shapefile or Google Earth), then click download.

NOTE: To prevent location discrepancies due to spatial data transformation, please see [Changing Shapefile Projections in your GIS Software](#).

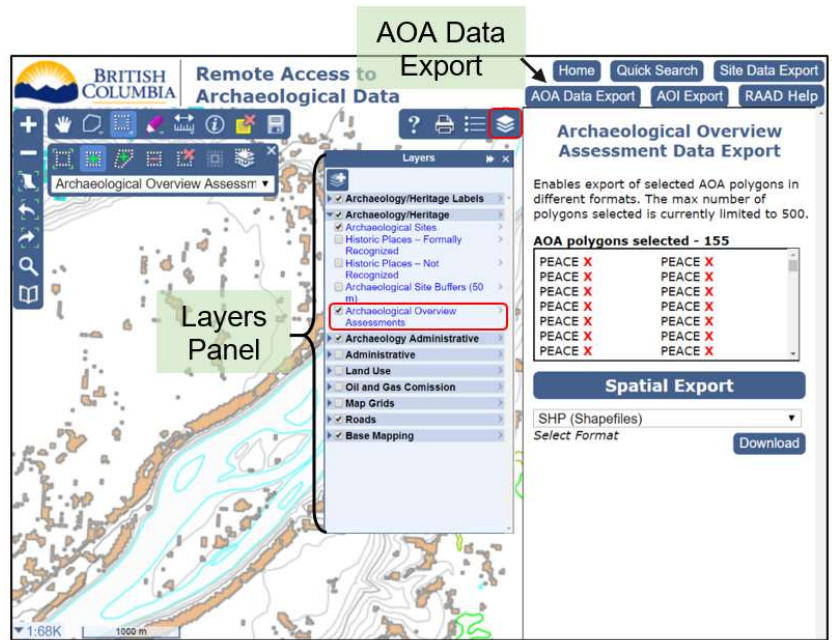
3. Archaeological site reports can be viewed and downloaded in PDF and CSV formats. CSV reports will be downloaded immediately, while PDF reports will first appear in a separate tab where they can be downloaded and saved locally.
4. Related documents, including site forms, maps, photographs, feature tables, and artifact catalogues can be viewed and downloaded in their original formats by clicking on the hyperlinks in the Related Document

Export box. Formats that can be viewed in-browser will appear in a separate tab, otherwise they will be downloaded.

Exporting AOA Data

Archaeological Overview Assessments (AOAs) model the potential for a location to hold an archaeological site. AOA layers that have been accepted by the Archaeology Branch can be exported from RAAD as spatial data.

1. Select the 'AOA Data Export' tab.
2. Turn on the Archaeological Overview Assessments layer in the Layers panel under the 'Archaeology' section.
3. Change the Currently Selectable Layer in the selection tool bar to "Archaeological Overview Assessments" and make a selection at the location of interest.
4. AOA polygons can be exported via the Spatial Export tool in both ESRI shapefile and Google Earth formats. To do this, click on the Spatial Export box, then select the export format of choice using the Select Format dropdown menu (ESRI shapefile or Google Earth), then click download.



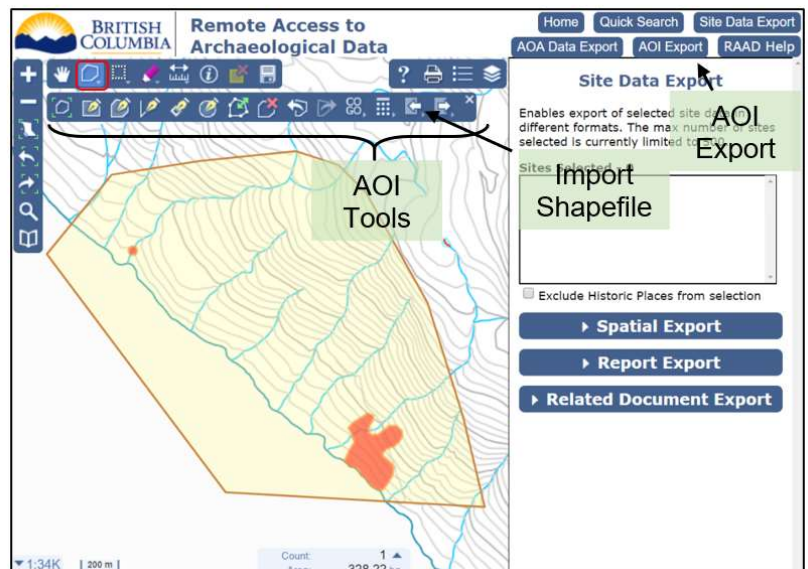
NOTE: To prevent location discrepancies due to spatial data transformation, please see [Changing Shapefile Projections in your GIS Software](#).

Areas of Interest (AOIs)




AOIs, or 'Areas of Interest,' are shapes drawn, captured, or imported to RAAD that can be used to interact with other spatial objects of interest.

Importing Spatial Data


Google Earth (.kml), GPS Exchange (.gpx), and ESRI Shapefiles (.shp) formats can all be imported to RAAD as AOIs. Spatial data can be added as an AOI by using the Import Shapefile tool. See [CWM Help](#) for additional information regarding the manipulation of AOI objects.



Creating AOIs from DataBC layers

First, turn on the desired DataBC layer in the  Layers panel. Using the  Identify tool, click on the desired object on the map, the identify pane will then be visible. In the Identify pane, click  to copy the feature as an AOI geometry.

Selecting Archaeological Data using an AOI

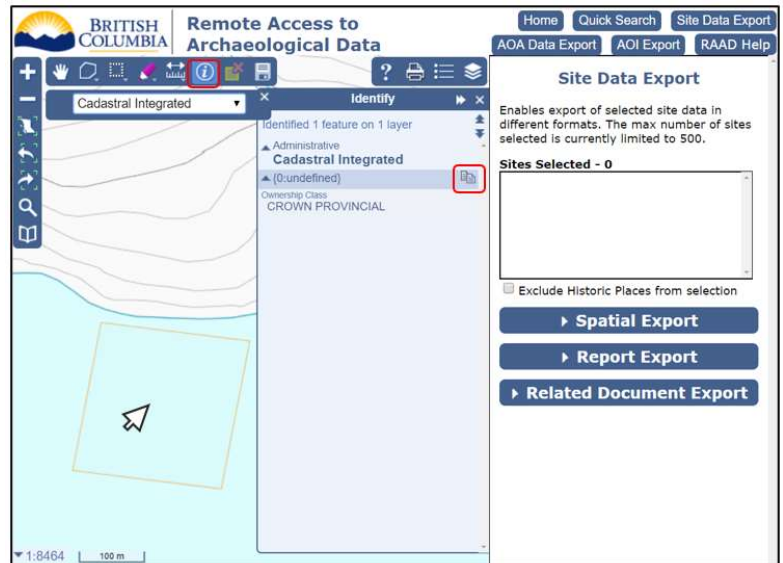
In the Selection Toolbar, use the  Select by AOI tool to select all currently selectable objects that intersect with the AOI. Only the Primary AOI (coloured orange) will be used for the selection. Multiple AOIs can be combined into the Primary AOI by using the Combine-Merge tool in the Geometry Calculator.

Exporting an AOI

AOIs can be exported as ESRI shapefiles using the AOI export tool. The export will contain all points, lines, and polygons currently in the session.


Measuring an AOI

When measuring an AOI, open the measuring tool before importing the AOI. Importing the AOI prior to opening the measuring tool will stop the tool from appearing.

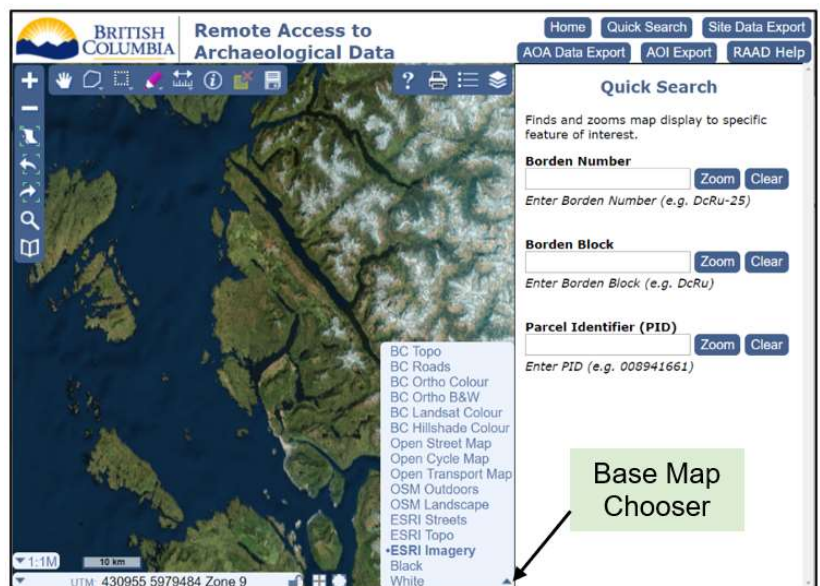


Changing the Basemap

Multiple map types can be selected as a background for RAAD data.

To do so, click the  button located in the bottom right corner of the map screen to select available base maps, which include:

- BC Topo
- BC Roads
- BC Ortho Colour
- BC Ortho B&W
- BC Landsat Colour
- BC Hillshade Colour
- Open Street Map
- Open Cycle Map
- Open Transport Map
- OSM Outdoors
- OSM Landscape
- ESRI Streets
- ESRI Topo
- ESRI Imagery
- Black




- White

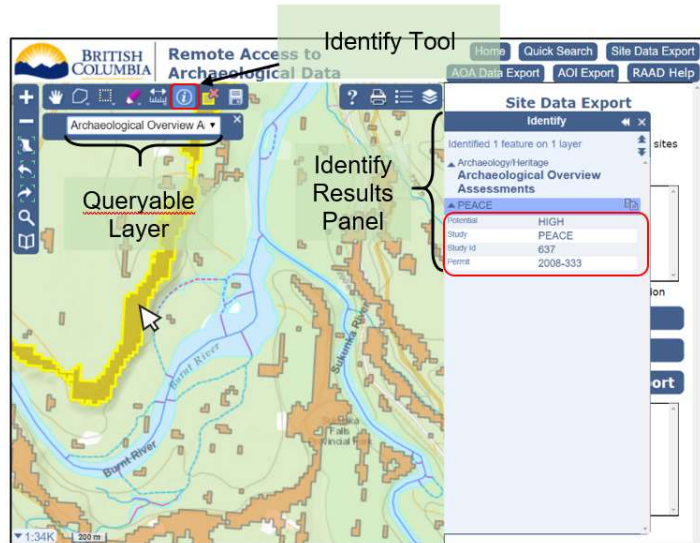
[Changing Shapefile Projections in your GIS Software](#)

Spatial downloads may be offset when viewing in your GIS software if its transformation settings are not configured as follows. When changing the projection of the exported ESRI Shapefile from WGS 84 into NAD 1983 BC Albers (EPSG: 3005) projection, use the following geographic transformation: **NAD_1983_To_WGS_1984_1 (EPSG:1188)**. The transformation listed is not default in all GIS software projection tools.

[Querying the AOA Layer](#)

To query the AOA layer for archaeological potential at specific locations or for more information about the study that produced it, the Identify Tool .

1. First, turn on the Archaeological Overview Assessments layer in the Layers Panel under Archaeology/Heritage.
2. Click on the Identify Tool, and select Archaeological Overview Assessments as Queryable Layer.
3. An AOA polygon can be queried by clicking on it. This will open the Identify Results Panel.
4. The Identify Results Panels shows four attributes of the AOA polygon:



use

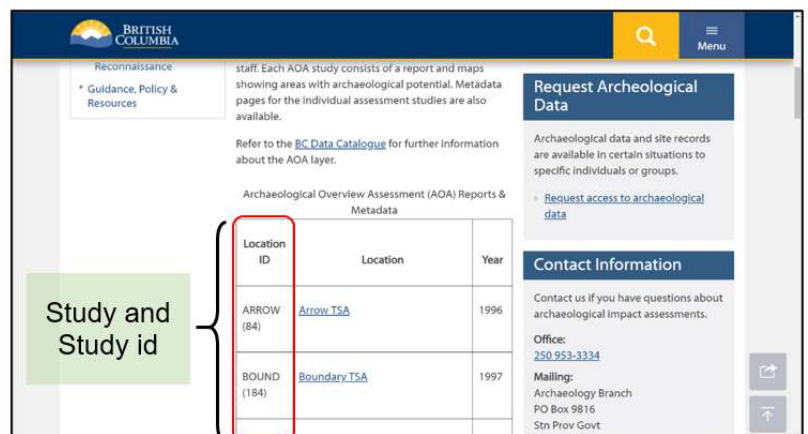
the

Potential. The ordered risk of encountering archaeological sites at that location. Presently, Potential only contains 'MOD' or 'HIGH' values. Areas without polygons within the boundaries of a given AOA are presumed to be low potential. Ensure that the queried location is within the AOA's study area (via the [AOA Metadata](#)) before making this assumption.

Study. This is the abbreviated name of the AOA project that created the queried layer.

Study id. A unique identifier for the AOA project that created the layer.

Permit. The permit number as issued under the Heritage Conservation Act.








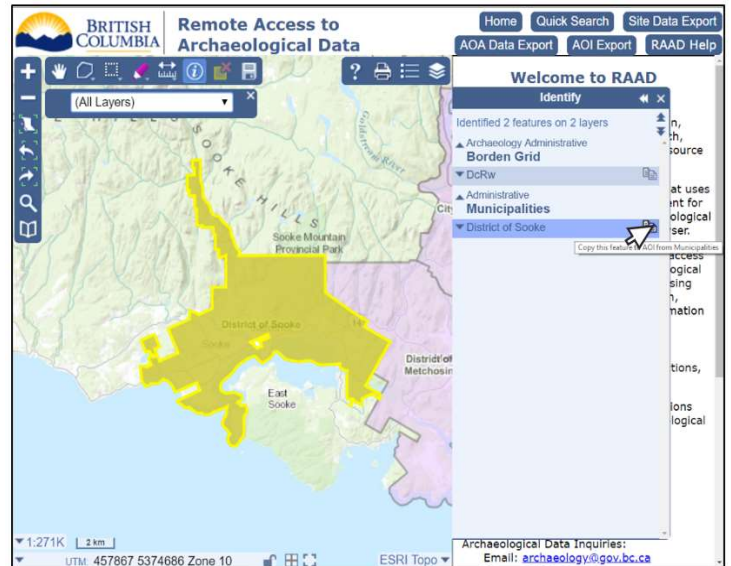
Location ID	Location	Year
ARROW (84)	Arrow TSA	1996
BOUND (184)	Boundary TSA	1997





The AOA report for a queried potential polygon can be accessed through the [AOA Metadata](#) section of the BC Archaeology website. The relevant study can be identified by the Study name and Study id. Within each Study is a metadata entry with a summary of the AOA and its results, and a detailed AOA report.

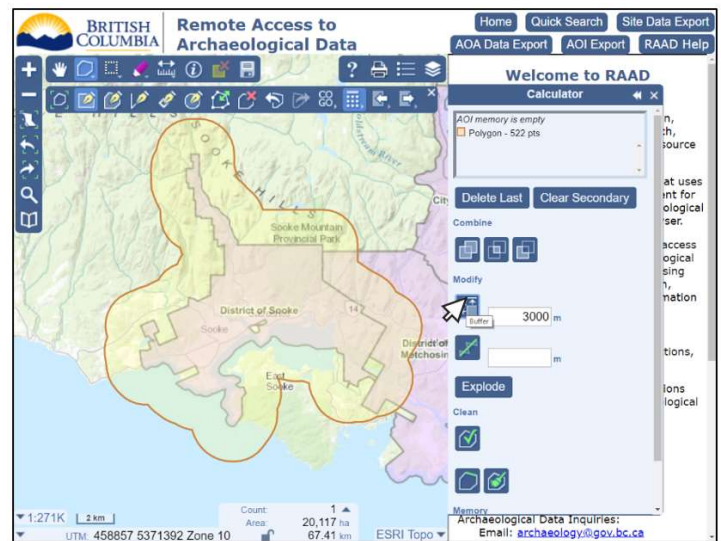
Advanced Selections for Archaeological Sites

In addition to using the rectangle and polygon selection tools, sites can be selected using custom AOIs.

- To add data from visible Layers to an AOI, use the Identify  tool, followed by  to copy the feature as an AOI geometry.
- To select all sites within 3 km of the AOI:
 1. First, open the Geometry Calculator  in the AOI Tools menu.
 2. Next, enter “3000” metres for the specified buffer under Modify and click the Buffer tool  to create a new shape. This will replace the original shape.
 3. Select all sites within 3 km of the original AOI by using Select by AOI  in the Selection Tools.




- More complex selections can be made using combinations of the Union , Intersect , Subtract , and Buffer  tools.
 - Only the Primary AOI (coloured orange) will be used for the selection. Multiple AOIs can be combined into the Primary AOI by using the Combine-Merge tool in the Geometry Calculator.



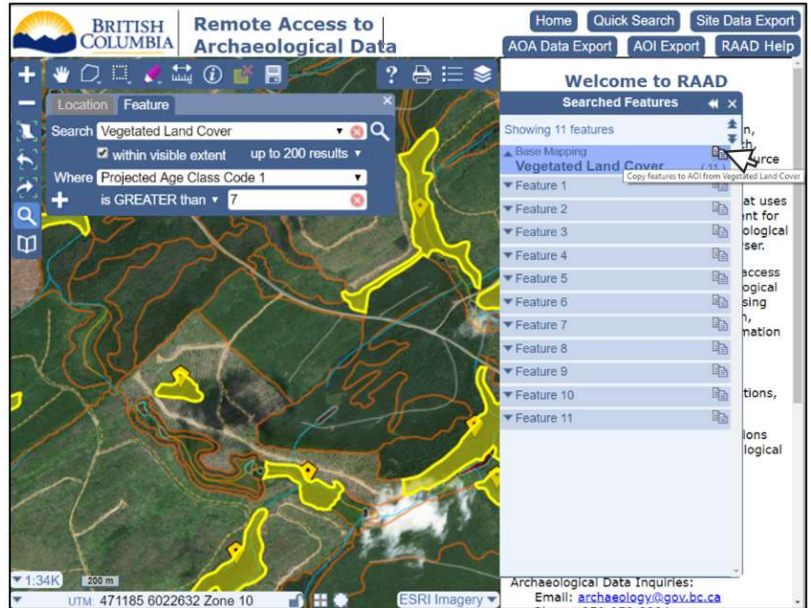
Using the Feature Search Tool


Attributes within layers can be searched directly to assist research for a new area, to create AOIs to make site selections, or to directly query sites themselves for certain criteria.

1. First, click on the search tool  in the upper left-hand menu, and select the Feature Search tab.
2. Select the relevant layer from the drop-down menu under Search (e.g., Vegetated Land Cover).
3. Select the maximum number of results to capture, either 20, 100, or 200.

- Select whether to constrain the search results to the present map extent under “within visible extent”. If the number of searched items exceeds the maximum number, only a portion of the results will be retained.
- Choose the variable to search using the drop-down menu under Where (e.g., Project Age Class Code 1).

- For numeric attributes, “is GREATER than”, “is EQUAL to”, and “is LESS than” are appropriate search operators.
- For text-based attributes, “CONTAINS”, “STARTS with”, and “ENDS with” are appropriate search operators. These search entries are case-sensitive.



- After entering the search term, press enter to begin searching. To add the search results to a new AOI, click the copy features  button in the Searched Features panel.

For users who cannot access the Quick Search for PIDs:

- Select the “Cadastral Integrated” or “ParcelMap BC” layer from the Search picklist.
- Choose “Pid” or “PID” from the Where picklist.
- Enter the full 9-digit PID and perform the search using the “is EQUAL to” operator.

DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL LAYERS IN RAAD

Click on the layer name below for information about the layer content:

Archaeology Layers

- [Archaeological Sites](#)
- [Archaeological Site Buffers \(50 m\)](#)
- [Unreviewed Site Record Updates](#)

Heritage Layers

- [Historic Places – All Sites](#)

Archaeology Administrative Layers

- [Archaeological Culture Areas](#)
- [Borden Grid](#)
- [Historical Trails](#)

Archaeological Overview Assessment Layers

[Informed Contributors](#)

[AOAs – Provincial](#)

[AOAs – CMTs](#)

Archaeological Survey Data

[Areas of Potential](#)

[Subsurface Test Areas](#)

[Archaeological Study Areas](#)

[Archaeological Sites Layer](#)

The **Archaeological Sites** layer in RAAD contains all sites in the Provincial inventory that are managed by the Archaeology Branch. This includes sites that are automatically protected under Section 12.1 of the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA), as well as legacy sites and archaeological sites under federal jurisdiction. As of 2024, there are 62,000+ sites recorded in the Provincial inventory.

This RAAD layer is a filtered subset of source layer [Archaeological Sites and Historic Places \(Limited Attributes\)](#).

Currency

The **Archaeological Sites** layer is updated weekly from the Provincial database.

Origin of Provincial Archaeological Site Data

In the **Archaeological Sites** layer, most site records from the 1950s and 1960s resulted from academic research. In the 1970s, the Provincial government resourced large scale archaeological inventories that produced many site records in that decade. From the 1980s to present, many site records have been generated by industrial activity, with an emphasis on large projects in the 1980s, and forestry and petroleum extraction-related activities from the mid-1990s onward. Today, archaeological site information is collected largely from archaeological resource management surveys relating to industrial activities and private development.

Key Attributes

The following key attributes are included with the **Archaeological Sites** layer:

Borden Number

A Borden number is a unique identifier assigned to each site in the Provincial inventory composed of 4 letters and up to 4 digits (e.g., DcRu-354, HcRt-2).

Approval Flag

The Approval Flag indicates whether a site record has been reviewed and approved by the Archaeology Branch.

APPROVAL FLAG STATUS	DEFINITION
Approved	Site record has been reviewed and approved (but note that errors may exist).

NEW	Site record has been entered into the database by a remote user but has not been reviewed or approved by the Branch.
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Registration Status

The Registration Status indicates whether a site is protected under the Heritage Conservation Act. The following table provides definitions of each Registration Status value.

REGISTRATION STATUS	DEFINITION
Registered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected or formally recognized under HCA or other legislation. • Includes sites designated under Section 9 and Section 11.1 of the <i>HCA</i> and sites protected or formally recognized under other legislation (e.g., <i>Land Title Act</i>, <i>Local Government Act</i>, <i>Municipal Act</i>, <i>Vancouver Charter</i>). • Most are the responsibility of the Heritage Branch and will be found in the <i>Historic Places – Formally Recognized</i> layer.
Registry Candidate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected under HCA. • Includes archaeological sites protected under Section 12.1 of the <i>HCA</i>.
Decision Pending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected under HCA. • Includes archaeological sites protected under Section 12.1 of the <i>HCA</i>. • Is most often applied to CMT sites and older site records that have not been updated in several years.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not protected under HCA. • Includes sites that were once protected/registered and that are no longer protected/registered. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Archaeological sites: Legacy sites are 100% collected or destroyed with no cultural materials remaining. ○ Historic places: Legacy sites are physically destroyed, de-designated, or otherwise no longer have reason to be on the official register. • CMT sites have legacy status when there is confirmation that no feature-bearing stumps remain following harvesting. • Some legacy sites may no longer meet current legacy standards; for example, legacy status used to be applied to sites that were heavily disturbed, when in fact these sites are still protected under the <i>HCA</i>. The Archaeology Branch will re-instate the protected status of these site records as they are identified. Please verify the currency of Legacy status sites with the Branch.
Recorded/Unprotected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not protected under HCA. • Includes sites that are not protected under the <i>HCA</i>, but are in the database for information purposes only.
Cancelled Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not protected under HCA. • Used for administrative Borden number cancellations (e.g., record is obsolete; information has been moved to another record; site moved from one Borden block to another).
Federal Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not protected under HCA. • Used for sites on federal land (e.g., IR lands, DND, national parks).

Data Quality

Spatial errors (location, shape, size) exist in the **Archaeological Sites** layer, particularly for older site records. Always verify digital site locations against related site maps before making land-use decisions or attempting to relocate sites in the field. Spatial errors are corrected as they are identified and reported.

Until 2001, archaeological site locations were noted by red triangles transferred onto paper 1:50,000 NTS maps. Spatial accuracy was very low. In 2001 – 2006, the Archaeology Branch reviewed approximately 20,000 older site records to refine the digital location and extent of each site. Despite this work, spatial errors persist, largely due to the lack of reliable spatial data at the time of digital correction, as well as a large number of old site “sketch” maps that are difficult to reconcile to TRIM data or orthophotographic imagery.

Today, the Archaeology Branch requires a greater standard of locational accuracy for newly reported sites. However, handheld GPS units and geospatial data (e.g., orthophotography, TRIM, cadastral boundaries) are subject to inaccuracies that can still result in location error.

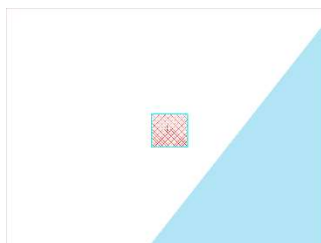
Polygon Conventions



Most sites in the **Archaeological Sites** layer are displayed as polygons that represent the known location and extent of the archaeological site.



Since all sites are represented in RAAD by polygons (not points or lines), single-point sites are displayed as circles. Most isolated finds are displayed as a 5 m diameter circle, and a single CMT is displayed as a 20 m circle. For older site records, arbitrary 25 m or 50 m circles are sometimes used to map sites where exact location and/or size is unknown due to lack of detail on the original site map.



Approximately 2000 archaeological sites in the Provincial inventory are Legacy sites, meaning they are no longer protected under the HCA. A large percentage of Legacy site polygons have been reduced to 1 x 1 m squares. The Archaeology Branch discontinued this practice in 2016, but many 1 x 1 m Legacy squares remain and are only reverted to their original size on a case-by-case basis.

Historic Places – All Sites Layer

The **Historic Places – All Sites** layer in RAAD contains all post-1846 historic places in B.C. that are recorded and registered on the BC Register of Historic Places.

Historic places include residential and commercial buildings, neighbourhoods, trails, agricultural sites, industrial sites, cultural landscapes, etc. Some examples of historic places in this layer include Barkerville Historic Town, Kamloops Chinese Cemetery, the Dewdney Trail, Pilot Bay Lighthouse, etc.

The layer includes:

- 1) **Registered** historic places that have been officially recognized for their heritage values at the local government, provincial, and/or federal level through heritage conservation legislation. Registered sites include provincially designated sites, provincially heritage recognition project sites, local government designated historic places and local government community heritage register sites.
- 2) **Recorded/Unprotected** historic places that are not formally recognized or protected by the province or local governments. Many of these are post-1846 evidence sites such as trappers' cabins, construction camps, refuse piles, and other sites identified usually through various thematic studies or surveys.
- 3) **Legacy** historic places that are no longer formally recognized. Legacy historic places include sites that have had their designation repealed or have been lost to fire or otherwise destroyed.

The source layer is [Historic Places Spatial Layer \(Internal View\)](#) available for BC Government users. If you would like access to the dataset contact the Heritage Branch.

For public use, the [Historic Places Spatial Layer \(Public View\)](#) contains only the **Registered** historic places.

Contact the [Heritage Branch](#) for more information and guidance about historic places. The most current information on local government historic places is available from the local government directly.

Viewing Historic Site Information

- Ensure the **Historic Places – All Sites** layer is selected to be visible in the layers menu.
- Zoom to the historic site on the map
- Click the **identify features tool** in the toolbar. A drop-down menu should appear. Select **All Layers** or the **Historic Places – All Sites layer** in the drop-down menu.
- Click the historic site polygon on the map
- The feature information should appear in the **Identify** box. Expand the arrows to view the site information.

Note: The Recognition Type displayed for each historic place represents the highest government level of formal recognition (Provincial, Federal, Municipal). A Historic place may have more than one type of formal recognition. Please contact the [Heritage Branch](#) for further information about specific listings.

Currency

The **Historic Places – All Sites** layer is updated daily from the BC Register of Historic Places database.

[Archaeological Site Buffers \(50 m\) Layer](#)

The **Archaeological Sites – 50 m Buffer** layer contains polygons representing 50 m buffers applied to known archaeological sites and historical cemeteries in British Columbia. The 50 m buffer zone represents an area of significant archaeological potential. Buffers are not included for legacy sites or historic places.

This layer is provided mainly as a tool to help non-archaeologists engaged in land and resource management decisions to identify areas of significant archaeological potential. The Archaeology Branch advises users of archaeological site data that any area within 50 m of a known archaeological site has significant potential to contain protected archaeological material that has not yet been identified or recorded. To assist users in identifying these areas, the Archaeological Site Buffers (50 m) layer provides a clear visual representation of the 50 m archaeological potential zone.

Professional consulting archaeologists are expected to apply their expertise to further assess and refine the presence of archaeological potential as suggested by the 50 m buffer.

Currency

The **Archaeological Sites – 50 m Buffer** layer is updated weekly from the Provincial database.

Data Quality

Please note the following data accuracy and completeness issues:

1. The **Archaeological Site Buffers (50 m)** layer only shows buffers, not the known site boundaries; therefore, it must be viewed conjunction with a layer that displays known site boundaries.
2. The layer is updated every Saturday.
3. All known archaeological sites and cemeteries in the Provincial Inventory have been buffered by 50 m for archaeological potential. The 50 m buffer is arbitrary and may not represent the true extent of archaeological potential in all cases. The buffering does not take into account archaeological site type, previous archaeological study, or topographic surroundings. A professional archaeologist should be engaged to review and confirm archaeological potential.
4. Archaeological potential buffers are included for historical cemeteries because some cemeteries are known to contain old unmarked graves outside of cemetery boundaries.

Unreviewed Site Record Updates Layer

The **Unreviewed Site Record Updates (USRU)** layer contains spatial updates to previously recorded archaeological site boundaries that have been submitted to the BC Archaeology Branch but remain unreviewed, unapproved, and absent from other archaeological datasets. The polygons in this layer represent areas where a change to a previously recorded archaeological site boundary has been submitted but has not been confirmed by the Branch or incorporated into the Provincial Heritage Register (PHR).

When an area of interest overlaps with an USRU polygon, assume an archaeological site is present and contact the Branch's Archaeological Site Inventory Section at ArchSiteForm@gov.bc.ca for confirmation and access to the unreviewed site record information. To help the Branch locate the correct record, use the Identify tool to find the USRU polygon's Message ID:

Message Id __20150213_121839_122257__
--

Currency

The **Unreviewed Site Record Updates (USRU)** layer is periodically refreshed to include the most recently backlogged site record updates and to remove those that have been processed. *The layer currently includes site record updates submitted from 2012 up to **October 6, 2023**. Site record updates submitted after October 6, 2023 have not been added yet.*

Data Quality

The **Unreviewed Site Record Updates (USRU)** layer is incomplete. Some spatial updates may be excluded. Non-spatial site record updates are excluded. Updates submitted recently may not yet be shown.

[Archaeological Culture Areas Layer](#)

The **Archaeological Culture Areas** layer presents the boundaries of Interior Plateau, Northwest Coast, and Subarctic/Boreal Forest “culture areas” in British Columbia, as defined by the Archaeology Branch. This layer is solely for operational purposes to do with assessing the relevancy of field experience for archaeologists seeking to be Field Directors or Permit Holders.

The intent is to define areas that have broad archaeological criteria in common so that the Archaeology Branch can be comfortable that experience obtained on one project is comparable and transferrable to that needed on another project. These “culture area” polygons are based loosely on the Culture Areas defined in the Handbook of North American Indians with exceptions occurring in border areas of those maps, most often in the northern parts of the Interior Plateau.

[Currency](#)

The **Archaeological Culture Areas** layer is subject to change as the Archaeology Branch monitors the utility of these boundaries for their stated purpose.

[Borden Grid Layer](#)

The **Borden** site designation grid is a map index system used to track and uniquely identify archaeological sites throughout Canada. In British Columbia, each archaeological site name (e.g., DhRo-3) in the Provincial Heritage Register consists of a Borden block and a number corresponding to the order in which that site was admitted into the Register, for that Borden block.

Borden blocks consist of two upper case and two lower case letters (e.g., EaSe, DhRo). The first capital letter (e.g., EaSe) corresponds to grid lines laid out in increments of 2 degrees latitude, while the second capital letter (e.g., EaSe) corresponds to lines laid out in increments of 4 degrees longitude. Two lowercase letters subdivide these initial blocks into smaller increments of 0° 10' latitude for the first lowercase letter (e.g., EaSe), and 0° 10' longitude for the second (e.g., EaSe).

[Historic Trails Layer](#)

The **Historic Trails** layer contains spatial and tabular data on non-archaeological historic trails in B.C. Some of these trails, or sections of trail, are defined or protected under provincial legislation such as the *Heritage Conservation Act*. Other trails or trail segments are recorded but not legally protected.

For further information about trails featured in this layer, please contact:

- [Heritage Branch](#) (if trail has a Borden number)
- [Recreation Sites and Trails BC](#) (if trail does not have a Borden number)

[Polygon Conventions](#)

Note that all trails in this layer are displayed in red, which normally indicates a protected site. Trails in this layer may or may not be protected.

[Informed Contributors Layer](#)

The **Informed Contributors layer (ICL)** contains areas with the potential for archaeological or cultural heritage resources, provided by informed contributors. The ICL provides a place for indigenous communities and other informed parties to identify areas of concern as “high potential” alongside existing and in-development archaeological predictive models. These identified locations of potential are intended to supplement archaeological predictive models with information that was not available when AOA's were developed, or for areas where no AOA has been created yet.

Currency

IMPORTANT NOTE: The ICL is still under development and only contains limited data.

AOAs – Provincial Layer

Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) studies compile existing knowledge about recorded archaeological site locations, historical First Nations' land use, and cultural and environmental constants that are likely to affect potential for site location. This information is used to build a model of where archaeological sites are expected to be located. The **Archaeological Overview Assessments** layer in RAAD contains the results of studies from several sources:

- AOA's completed under Forest Renewal BC in the 1990's;
- AOA's funded by the Forest Investment Account that are of general applicability;
- AOA's conducted by local governments since 2007; and,
- An AOA used by the Oil and Gas Commission (Northeast AOA).

Reports, maps, and metadata for individual AOA studies can be found on the [AOA Metadata](#) page on the Archaeology Branch website. To find additional information about a particular AOA study visible in RAAD, point identify the AOA layer, and use the Study Id number to find the corresponding study on the [AOA Metadata](#) page.

Currency

The **Archaeological Overview Assessments** layer was last substantially updated in 2011 with minor corrections in 2021 and 2023.

AOAs – CMTs Layer

The **AOAs – CMTs** layer represents Culturally Modified Tree (CMT) Archaeology Overview Assessment (AOA) potential polygon data that is currently specific to the Campbell River Forest District (DCR) at the time of initial loading (February 2009). CMT AOA potential polygons are the result of a GIS modeling process that defines areas where there is a low, moderate, or high likelihood of finding CMTs. More data from other forest districts may be loaded in future.

Areas of Potential Layer

The **Areas of Potential** layer contains polygons representing areas that were identified during in-field archaeological assessments as having elevated potential for archaeological deposits but were not subjected to subsurface testing or thorough investigation. This information supports future in-field assessments and archaeological overview assessments.

Currency

The **Areas of Potential** layer is updated regularly as new data is submitted.

Data Quality

Please note the following data accuracy and completeness issues:

1. Data received prior to the release of the Mapping and Shapefile Requirements V.4 (June 23, 2021) may be missing attribute data (e.g., AOP name).
2. Areas of Potential are not always verified for accuracy during the upload process. Please report any errors to the Archaeology Branch.

Subsurface Test Areas Layer

The **Subsurface Test Areas** layer contains polygons representing areas subjected to archaeological subsurface testing with negative results (i.e., an archaeological site was not identified). This information supports future in-field assessments and archaeological overview assessments.

Currency

The Subsurface Test Areas layer is updated regularly as new data is submitted.

Data Quality

Please note the following data accuracy and completeness issues:

1. Data received prior to the release of the Mapping and Shapefile Requirements V.4 (June 23, 2021) may be missing attribute data (e.g., STA name, Number of tests, etc.).
2. Subsurface Test Areas are not always verified for accuracy during the upload process. Please report any errors to the Archaeology Branch.

Archaeological Study Areas Layer

The **Archaeological Study Areas** layer contains polygons representing archaeological study areas that have been assessed by a professional archaeologist. The Archaeological Study Areas layer is a reference tool used to aid in the identification of previous archaeological studies that have taken place in a given area. Assessment by a professional archaeologist may include the following:

- Desktop assessment of the location to evaluate archaeological potential (e.g., an Archaeological Overview Assessment);
- Pedestrian survey of the area enclosed within the study area polygon;
- Subsurface testing to inspect an area for evidence of archaeological materials or features;
- Systematic data recovery at a known archaeological site for the purposes of salvage or academic inquiry; and,
- Alteration of an archaeological site under a permit issued by the Archaeology Branch.

The presence of an archaeological study area polygon does not negate the need for further archaeological work at that location. For more information about study area assessment results, check the corresponding report in the Provincial Archaeological Report Library (PARL) or submit an information request to the Archaeology Branch at www.archdatarequest.nrs.gov.bc.ca.

Data Quality

Please note the following data accuracy and completeness issues:

1. The **Archaeological Study Areas** layer includes:
 - Study areas for heritage inspection and heritage investigation permits issued by the Archaeology Branch since July 2009.
2. This layer may sometimes include (but largely excludes):
 - Study areas for permits pre-dating July 2009
 - Study areas for alteration permits
 - Non-permitted study areas
3. It may take several months for recently submitted study areas to be uploaded to the layer.
4. Study area locations are not always verified for accuracy during the upload process. Please report any errors to the Archaeology Branch.

TROUBLESHOOTING

These issues have also been documented on the branch's [RAAD webpage](#).

Access Issues

I can't log in with my BCeID or IDIR credentials anymore.

If you have switched companies or discontinued your former work email address, you will have to contact your company's [BCeID administrator](#) or the [BCeID helpdesk](#) to create a new Business BCeID and then [request access from us again](#). When you do this, you **MUST** choose a Business BCeID Username that is different from your previous usernames. If you do not, we will reject your application with instructions to reapply when you have done so.

If you have a different Business BCeID than the one you were initially approved for access with, you will have to [request access from us again](#) so that we can confirm you are still eligible and relink your permissions.

For IDIRs, the same applies only in the rare case that you have had to change your IDIR username or email address (not just your password).

If you haven't been active for several years but have the same valid Business BCeID or IDIR, you may be locked out because both PARL and RAAD have been upgraded and require our users to accept different terms and conditions than they did previously. If you haven't used our systems since January 2019, you will have to [request access from us again](#).

If none of these are the case, please contact your company's [BCeID administrator](#), or the [BCeID helpdesk](#). If they are unable to fix it and instead create a new Business BCeID to remedy the situation, you will have to submit a new Archaeological Information Sharing Agreement for us to reissue your permissions.

The branch has granted me RAAD access, but when I try to log in, I still get a message asking me to submit an Information Sharing Agreement.

Sometimes your web browser will hold onto the last version of a page you tried to visit in its cache. Please press the F5 button, or hold down the Fn button while you press F5 to force your web browser to refresh the page.

Use Issues

A layer from a different layer set is obscuring the information of a layer below it.

The issue may be that the layer is set to solid and not opaque. To resolve this, click on the layer group that is obscuring the view, and move the transparency slider.

Can I view the consultation areas for Indigenous organizations in RAAD?

Consultation area geometries are not viewable in public map services. Consultation areas contain information that may be considered sensitive to First Nations.

However, there is a public map service called [Contacts for First Nation Consultation Areas](#) that enables the public to retrieve First Nation contact information for a selected geographic area. [This user guide \(PDF 303 KB\)](#) explains how to use the service.

Please contact the First Nation directly for further information about their consultation area.

I can't find the information I need in RAAD.

If you're looking for information on an area and can't find everything you need in RAAD (e.g., AIAs, AOAs), you can submit an online [Archaeological Information Request Form](#). Before you do, please review [these 10 conditions](#) that explain who you can legally share the information with, and what the data can be used for.

This service is free of charge, and a response will typically be returned within 1-3 weeks. For faster service, a [professional consulting archaeologist](#) can also provide you with the information you require.

I can't download large numbers of sites, but I can see them.

Please [submit an information request](#) for your area of interest if you are unable to download a large number of sites. Please include a shapefile set or kmz/kml with your request.

I can't download documents but I don't know why.

Sometimes, the internet browser that you are using can block downloads for a variety of reasons.

1) **Make sure that you are not using the Internet Explorer (IE) browser.** IE is no longer a supported browser and should no longer be used to access RAAD.

2) **If you are trying to do a bulk download in Chrome**, a popup may appear asking if you allow Chrome to download multiple files. Click the 'Allow' button and the rest of your downloads should start. If the window has closed or you accidentally closed it, hit the download button again and it will reappear.

3) **See if you can download the files using another web browser like Chrome, Edge, or Firefox.**

4) **If you can't download them in any browser, check if you're using an ad blocker or popup blocker in your browsers.** If you are, disable them for the RAAD page and try again.

5) **If disabling your ad blockers and popup blockers didn't work, check the [Systems News page](#)** for any work that may be in progress.

6) **If none of the above solutions have worked**, please email archaeology@gov.bc.ca with a description of the issue, and the answers to the following questions:

- a) Are you on a Mac or a PC?
- b) What internet browser are you using?
- c) What other browsers have you tried to download files in?
- d) What happens when you try to download them? If there is an error message, include a screenshot.
- e) Do you have popup blockers or ad blockers installed?

I can't see all of the sites that I know are in the data file that I downloaded / received from the branch.

In the top-right corner of the RAAD map window, click on the icon that shows three stacked layers. Expand the "Archaeology/Heritage" section. Make sure the boxes next to Archaeological Sites, and both Heritage Site layers are checked.

I don't know how to use RAAD. What kind of help, tutorials, and training options are available?

A user guide is available in the RAAD application itself. It is called "RAAD Help" and is located in the top-right corner of your screen when you are logged into RAAD. Detailed solutions are available in-application through this help file, and instructions about who to contact if you can't find a solution are available there too.

The Archaeology Branch is also currently taking the names of users that may be interested in future RAAD training. If you are, please email archdatarequest@gov.bc.ca with:

- the subject line "RAAD Training Request"
- your full name
- your company or affiliation
- your contact information
- your level of experience with RAAD (beginner, intermediate, expert)

I don't see any site labels on my downloaded shapefile(s).

A fix for this bug was released April 26, 2022. If you continue to experience this issue, please report it to archaeology@gov.bc.ca.

Downloaded shapefiles can be fixed by using the ArcGIS Repair Geometry Tool:

HELP CONTACTS

If you encounter unexpected layer or program behaviours, please check the [Systems News webpage](#) for announcements about known issues or outages.

For Technical Assistance, contact the NRM Business Service Desk:

Email: nrmenquiries@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250-952-6801

For Data Inquiries and Data Issue Reporting, contact the Archaeology Branch:

Email: archaeology@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250-953-3334