	Type	Scope and Description	Considerations	Requirements
Regional	**Geographic Information System-Based Archaeological Overview Assessment (GIS-Based AOA)**	• Geospatial analysis to model the potential for archaeological sites within a region • Typically generated for broad regions (>100,000 ha) to support future land-use planning • Analyzes recorded site locations, Indigenous knowledge, and cultural and environmental variables to develop a predictive model • Results in a heat map identifying areas with high or low potential for protected archaeological sites	• **Benefits:** Can be used to assess proposed developments in different sectors; predictive performance can be evaluated against archaeological survey data; AOAs are available to qualified users via Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD); Informed Contributor Layer incorporates Indigenous knowledge • **Limitations:** Relies on high quality archaeological data; bias towards well-studied areas and most visible site types; older models may not incorporate Indigenous knowledge • **Risks:** Become outdated as technology advances and new sites are identified • **Costs and timing:** Typically requires several years; expensive (>$100,000)	• **Permit:** HCA s. 12.2 Heritage Investigation Permit (*new*) • **Consultation:** Permit applications are referred to First Nations for input; Nations may share information to enhance GIS-based models • **Deliverables:** Spatial files and report outlining background research, methods, and predictive performance are submitted to Branch and First Nations • **Guidance:** AOA Guidelines
Location-Specific	**Desktop Archaeological Overview Assessment (Desktop AOA)**	• Desktop review of relevant sites, Indigenous knowledge, and cultural and environmental variables to assess likelihood that unrecorded sites are present at a specific location • Typically used for areas <10,000 ha	• **Benefits:** Analyzes local data to assess archaeological potential of a specific location; it is recommended that First Nations be engaged • **Limitations:** No permit referral process to ensure First Nations engagement; may require subsequent field investigation (PFR or AIA) to confirm assessment • **Risks:** Desktop AOAs not associated with a subsequent HCA permit may not be subject to Archaeology Branch or First Nations review of qualifications, methods, deliverables, or recommendations; quality is dependent on expertise and experience of the researcher • **Costs and timing:** Relatively cost-effective and efficient way to determine the need for further archaeological work	• **Permit:** Not required • **Engagement:** First Nations have requested to be informed, involved, and receive results of AOAs • **Deliverables:** ○ Contracts should outline scope and assumptions ○ Reports for desktop AOAs supporting permitted work are submitted to Branch and First Nations ○ *Recommended:* submit all desktop AOA reports to Branch and First Nations • **Guidance:** AOA Guidelines; AIA Guidelines
	Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR)	• Field assessment to determine the need for further archaeological work • Limited to visual inspection and recording of surface features • ***Subsurface testing, screening, artifact collection, and site alterations are not authorized***	• **Benefits:** Effective for identifying certain site types (e.g., culturally modified trees; cultural depressions; exposed midden); supports cost estimates and planning when an AIA is required; it is recommended that First Nations be engaged • **Limitations:** No permit referral process to ensure First Nations engagement; not effective in identifying sub-surface archaeological sites • **Risks:** Not subject to review of qualifications, methods, deliverables, or recommendations; quality is dependent on expertise and experience of researcher; construction delays may result if PFR fails to identify protected sites • **Costs and timing:** Less costly and time-consuming than AIA; may require a subsequent AIA with increased costs and timelines	• **Permit:** Not required • **Engagement:** First Nations have requested to be informed, involved, and receive results of PFRs • **Deliverables:** ○ Contracts should outline scope and assumptions ○ Reports for PFRs supporting permitted work are submitted to Branch and shared with First Nations ○ Site forms for any new or revisited sites ○ *Recommended:* submit all PFR reports to Branch and First Nations • **Guidance:** AIA Guidelines; PFR Best Practices
	Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA)	• In-depth field assessment by a qualified archaeologist to identify and assess archaeological sites and evaluate potential impacts of proposed developments ○ **Inspections** identify and assess archaeological sites ○ **Investigations** support research or recovers information that might otherwise be lost due to site alteration or destruction • Subsurface testing and artifact collection are authorized • Results in management options to avoid or mitigate impacts	• **Benefits:** Most thorough and effective study to understand potential development impacts to sites; reports are available to qualified users via the Provincial Archaeological Report Library (PARL) • **Limitations:** An archaeologist makes management *recommendations*; Archaeology Branch provides management *direction* (requirements) to the proponent • **Risks:** Permitting timelines may impact project schedules; however, AIAs significantly lower risk of construction delays due to unanticipated impacts • **Costs and timing:** Significantly more costly and time-consuming than desktop AOAs and/or PFRs	• **Permit:** HCA s. 12.2 Heritage Inspection Permit (HIP) and/or s. 12.2 Heritage Investigation Permit • **Consultation:** Permit applications are referred to First Nations for input • **Deliverables:** • Reports, artifact analyses, and spatial files submitted to Branch and First Nations • Site forms for any new or revisited sites • Repository acceptance of collected material • **Guidance:** AIA Guidelines; HCA Permit Policy Guide
	Site Alteration	• Any alterations within a protected site require the authority of a s. 12.4 permit, including capping or removing any archaeological deposits or culturally modified trees • The Branch may require an AIA prior to authorizing alterations • Methods may include archaeological monitoring and artifact collection by a qualified archaeologist	• **Benefits:** Ensures any impacts to protected archaeological sites comply with the HCA • **Limitations:** Permit terms and conditions specify what alterations are authorized; project redesign may be required to minimize impacts • **Risks:** Permitting timelines may impact project schedules • **Costs and timing:** Costs are dependent on scope and nature of proposed impacts	• **Permit:** HCA s. 12.4 Alteration Permit (SAP) • **Consultation:** Permit applications are referred to First Nations for input • **Deliverables:** • Reports, artifact analyses, and spatial files submitted to Branch and First Nations • Site forms for any new or revisited sites • Repository acceptance of collected material • **Guidance:** AIA Guidelines; HCA Permit Policy Guide