

## Chance Find Procedures for Archaeological Material

This document provides information on how a developer and/or their contractor(s) can manage for potential archaeological material discoveries while undertaking construction and/or maintenance activities. This document can provide assistance to in-field contractors in the identification of archaeological remains and the procedures to follow if a discovery is made. The discovery of human remains initiates a different course of action and is outlined separately.

Under the provincial *Heritage Conservation Act (HCA)*, archaeological sites that pre-date 1846 are automatically protected whether on public or private land. Protected sites may not be damaged, altered or moved in any way without a Section 12 or 14 Permit as issued through the *HCA*. It is illegal to collect or remove any heritage object from an archaeological site unless authorized to do so under permit.

### **1. Activities occurring outside of known Archaeological Sites:**

When archaeological material is encountered outside of known archaeological site areas work in the vicinity must stop immediately no matter what type of material or feature has been identified. Alteration to an archaeological site can only occur under a Section 12 (Site Alteration Permit) or Section 14 (Heritage Inspection Permit) *Heritage Conservation Act* permit. Such permit applications should be prepared by a professional archaeologist.

If archaeological material is discovered during the course of construction activities:

**1.1 Stop Work:** Halt all work in the area of the discovery and safely secure the area. Contact the project manager or site foreman.

**1.2 Contact an Archaeologist:** An archaeologist should be contacted as soon as possible. For a list of qualified archaeologists in the area, the proponent is directed to the BC Association of Professional Consulting Archaeologists website: [www.bcapa.ca](http://www.bcapa.ca). The proponent may also wish to contact the Ktunaxa Nation Council's Archaeology Technician Nathalie Allard for direction (1-250-426-9549; [nallard@ktunaxa.org](mailto:nallard@ktunaxa.org)).

**1.3 Archaeologist provides guidance:** The archaeologist will direct the proponent on the next courses of action, which will include notifying the Archaeology

Branch and First Nations with interest in the area.

## **2. Activities Occurring within Known Archaeological Site Boundaries:**

Land altering activity within a previously recorded archaeological site must be conducted under a Section 12 HCA Site Alteration Permit (SAP), in some cases with an onsite archaeological monitor. It is common for additional archaeological material and features to be encountered during activities occurring within previously recorded archaeological sites. Minor finds (lithic flakes, diffuse charcoal or fire altered rock) may not require work to stop, however significant finds require a level of assessment by a professional archaeologist, and it is up to the onsite project manager to determine the level of significance based on criteria presented below.

### **2.1 Significant Cultural Finds that Require a Professional Archaeologist (described in detail in Section 4)**

- Intact archaeological features, which can include but are not limited to hearths, cultural depressions (e.g. cache pits, house depressions) and rock alignments or forms (e.g. tipi rings, cairns, blinds)
- Significant archaeological materials, which include but are not limited to, the presence of formed lithic tools (e.g. projectile point, microblade core, scraper), a dense concentration of lithic waste flakes, or artistic items
- Human Remains (described in detail in Section 3)

### **2.2 Archaeological Site Management Options**

- 2.2.1 **Site Avoidance:** If the boundaries of a site have been delineated, redesign the proposed development to avoid impacting the site. Avoidance is normally the fastest and most cost effective option for managing archaeological sites. Site avoidance could also be achieved through minimizing ground disturbance by looking for alternative constructive methods.
- 2.2.2 **Mitigation:** If it is not feasible to avoid the site through project redesign, it is necessary to conduct systematic data collection and analysis within the site prior to its loss. This could include surface collection and/or excavation. This work can be time-consuming and therefore expensive to conduct.
- 2.2.3 **Protection:** It may be possible to protect all or portions of the site which will be impacted through installation of barriers during the development period and possibly for a longer period of time. Methods for barrier construction could include fencing around site boundaries or applying

geotextile to the ground surface and capping it with fill. The exact method used would be site-specific.

### **3. Chance Find Procedures for Identified Human Remains**

Procedures in the event of the discovery of human remains during construction are covered in depth by an Archaeology Branch Policy Statement, found on their website at [www.for.gov.bc.ca/archaeology](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/archaeology), and are summarized below.

- 3.1 Stop all construction activities immediately in the area of found or suspected human remains and contact the RCMP and/or Office of the Coroner.
- 3.2 The coroner must determine whether the remains are of contemporary forensic concern or archaeological/aboriginal.
- 3.3 If the remains are found to be of aboriginal ancestry then the next step involves the relevant First Nations collaboratively determining the appropriate treatment of those remains.

The key to respectfully dealing with ancient aboriginal remains is to involve the appropriate First Nations as early as possible in the process. However this must be done in a manner that does not interfere with the coroner's office ability to conduct their business in the manner that they see fit.

### **4. Site Identification Guide**

The following are characteristics typical to site types found within the Ktunaxa Traditional Territory.

#### **4.1 Artifact Scatters**

Lithic (stone) scatters from the production and maintenance of stone tools are the most common type of archaeological site found in the region. Other materials that may be represented in artifact scatters are Fire Broken Rock (FBR), bone, antler and tooth.

Lithics: What to look for

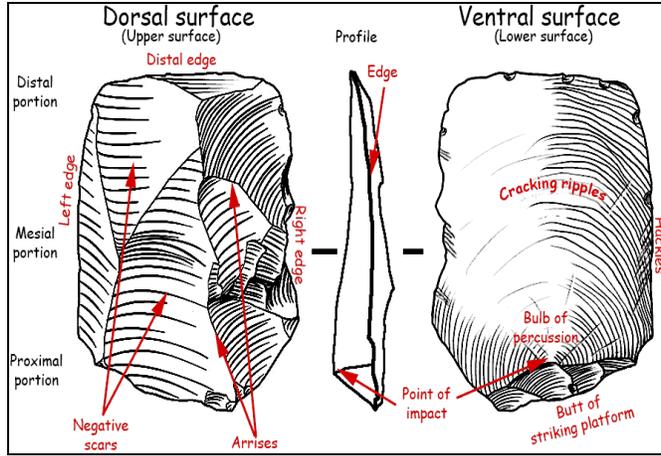


Image 1: Basic flake morphology



Image 2: Examples of lithic flakes

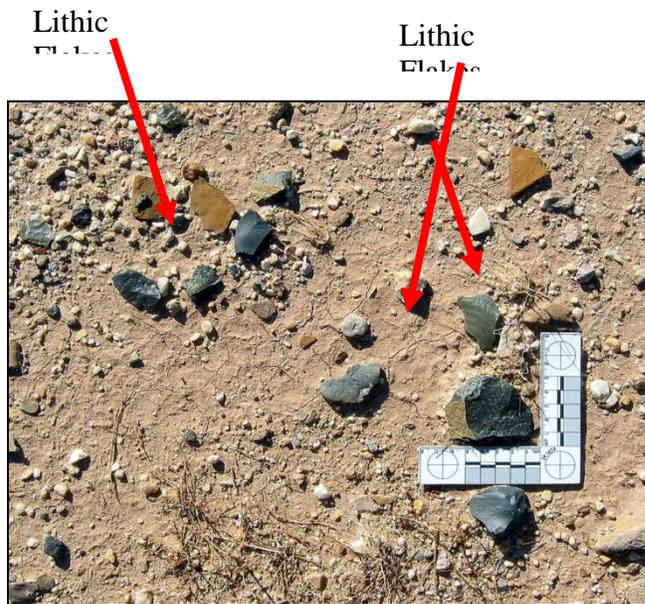


Image 3: Example of lithic scatter found on ground surface



Image 4: Example of formed lithic artifacts

*Zakōqnuuk*

*Zaqam*

*Lower Kootenay*

*Tobacco Plains*

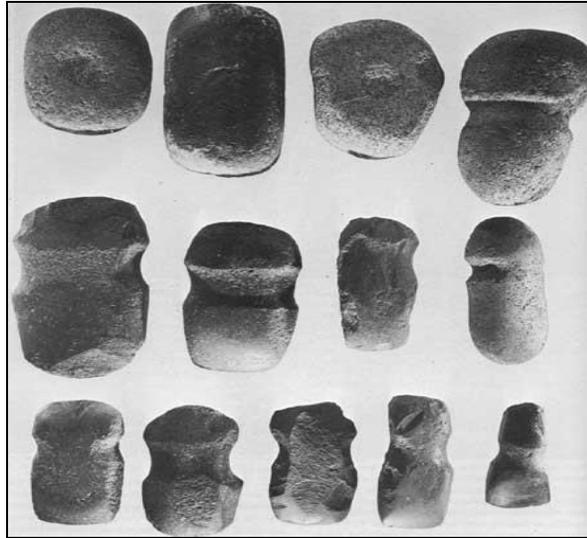


Image 5: Ground stone artifacts

Bone, Tooth and Antler Artifacts: What to Look For

- Obvious shaping
- Incising
- Unnatural holes



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*Lower Kootenay*

*Tobacco Plains*

## Image 6: Bone and Antler artifacts

### 4.2 Fire Broken Rock and Hearths

Fire-broken rock (FBR) results from the use of fire during cooking, heating and processing activities. FBR is often associated with other features including hearths and cultural depressions, but can also be thinly scattered in concentrations away from the features with which they were first associated.

When looking for FBR, note concentrations of roughly fractured rock from rapid heating and cooling, rock showing signs of burning or oxidation and/or reddening or blackening of surrounding matrix.



Image 7: Example of FBR; note the zig/zag pattern of breakage common to FBR. A hearth feature is evidence of a fire pit or other fireplace feature of any period. Hearths were used for cooking, heating, and processing of some stone, wood, faunal, and floral resources and may be either lined with a wide range of materials like stone or left unlined. Occasionally site formation processes (e.g., farming or excavation) deform or disperse hearth features, making them difficult to identify without careful study.

Hearths: What to look for

- FBR
- reddening or blackening of the associated soil/sediment
- charcoal
- layering of FBR and charcoal, and
- depressions in the earth associated with FBR, reddened or blackened matrix and charcoal.



Image 8: Example of a hearth uncovered along the wall of an excavation unit

#### 4.3 Cultural Depressions

Any depression seen on the ground surface that appears to have been excavated by man can be a cultural depression and have archaeological significance. These “pits” were dug for a variety of reasons such as for food storage, cooking or as a base for a dwelling.

They can range in size from 1m across to 7-10m across, and are usually found associated with other artifacts such as FBR and lithic scatters.

To identify a cultural depression, look for:

- Subtle to deep scours on the ground surface that are circular to rectilinear in shape
- A raised rim along the edge of a depression
- Depressions associated with artifacts and FBR
- Depressions associated with fire reddening and blackening of the matrix



Image 9: Example of a large cultural depression in a natural setting

#### 4.6 Rock Alignments

There are several types of rock alignments that occur within the culture area, which include tipi rings, medicine wheels, cairns and blinds. When attempting to identify rock alignments, look for a group of rocks that look purposefully placed as in a circle, pile or line; isolated groups of rock that do not seem to belong to that landscape; and/or rocks which form a pattern.



Image 10: Example of a Cairn or piling of rocks



Image 11: Example of a tipi ring in a natural setting

*Takisóqnuuk*

*Taqam*

*Lower Kootenay*

*Tobacco Plains*