



SKWLAX  
LITTLE SHUSWAP LAKE BAND  
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## **Cultural Heritage Department Archaeological Guidelines for Little Shuswap Lake Band Leaseholders**

Any proposed development of Little Shuswap Lake Band leased lands requires an archaeological assessment to be conducted prior to ground-altering construction activities. The type of assessment will be determined by the Cultural Heritage Protection Department. Best practices are to contact the Cultural Heritage Department prior to scheduling construction activities as each development is unique and requires ample notice to provide a cost estimate and coordinate a fieldwork schedule. The following steps are outlined below:

1. A permit and approval for your project from the Lands Department must be obtained prior to obtaining archaeological services.
2. Submit the proposed development plan drawings to the Cultural Heritage department via email, as well as kml/kmz map shapefile. Ensure all components of the development are included on the development plan (i.e., residential construction plans should include the proposed building and any associated utilities or other ground-disturbing activities).
3. The Cultural Heritage Department will provide you a proposal for the type of assessment that needs to be completed based on the proposed work and details provided.
4. Once we have received your authorization to proceed with the proposal, we will schedule the fieldwork.

As part of responsible development practices, an archaeological heritage assessment is required to be completed, prior to any construction or development, including residential buildings, mobile homes, boat ramps, pathways, gardens, garages, driveways, underground utilities, and septic components, including capped areas. Any development that may cause ground disturbance within a known archaeological site and/or an area with presumed archaeological potential will trigger the need for an assessment.

The archaeological heritage assessment serves to ensure potential impacts on Little Shuswap cultural heritage resources (e.g., ancient sites, culturally modified trees, cultural depressions, cache pits, trails, stone and bone artifacts) are assessed and if necessary mitigated, prior to any proposed development (ground-altering disturbances) on Little Shuswap lands. The types of archaeological heritage assessments required may include one or more of the following:

- 1) Archaeological Overview Assessment/Preliminary Field Reconnaissance;
- 2) Archaeological Impact Assessment;
- 3) Systematic Data Recovery; and/or,
- 4) Construction Monitoring.

**Archaeological Overview Assessments (AOA)** is a desktop background review of known archaeological sites, cultural heritage land use, or environmental variables. AOAs identify and assess the potential of an area for unrecorded archaeological and cultural heritage sites. This process identifies high potential landforms where sites may exist and is often combined with a visit to the project location (Preliminary Field Reconnaissance). The AOA will provide management action requirements if further archaeological work is required, such as an AIA.

**Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA)** are conducted by qualified archaeologists with Field Director and Permit Holder status in British Columbia. AIAs include a subsurface testing program (manual shovel tests) to discover and define the extent of buried archaeological sites. Where there is a likelihood of deeply buried cultural materials, mechanical procedures such as an auger or backhoe testing may be implemented. Generally, an evaluative unit (1m x 1m) is also excavated by hand dependent on the complexity of the site. All artifacts recovered are inventoried and stored in a secure repository at the Cultural Heritage Department. Site maps and site forms are submitted to the Archaeology Branch to obtain a Borden site number (i.e., EfQv-1). An AIA report is provided that includes detailed results of the subsurface testing program, artifacts recovered, archaeological site boundaries identified, and outlines management action requirements, for example, strategies that may include site avoidance, protection measures, and excavation programs (systematic data recovery, and/or controlled construction monitoring).

**Systematic Data Recovery (SDR)** programs are conducted for complex archaeological sites following an AIA, and prior to construction when the proposed development is unable to avoid impacting the site through project redesign. SDR programs are a large undertaking and expensive, requiring a higher level of investigative methods to record both scientific data and Indigenous knowledge before it is permanently destroyed by the proposed development. Ancient sites are finite and non-renewable, therefore, SDRs should be considered only as a last resort.

**Construction Monitoring** often occurs after an AIA and SDR and involves an archaeologist or archaeological monitor to be present during ground-altering construction activities to observe, record, and manage any artifacts, features (i.e., housepits, hearths) or ancestral remains that may be unearthed. There are specific archaeological methods applied during construction monitoring that can include, for example, observation, additional sample screening or controlled lifts of sediments, and the use of Hydrovac methods. Construction monitoring is also implemented when artifacts or the original ground surface are deeply buried and requires machine excavation to remove the modern overburden sediments.

All archaeological heritage-related assessments must be undertaken by Little Shuswap archaeologists, as determined by the Cultural Heritage Protection Department, and guided by the Little Shuswap Heritage

Permitting system, and Little Shuswap Lake *Draft* Heritage Policy. Heritage Sites including human remains must not be disturbed without the completion of a proper archaeological assessment<sup>1</sup>.

Failure to comply may result in a fine of no less than \$10,000.00 or greater depending upon the severity of the damage. A Stop Work Order will be implemented for any unauthorized construction in progress at the expense of the developer.

We look forward to assisting you with your archaeological requirements through the various stages of your development.

Sincerely,

**Nola Markey, M.A., RPCA**

Cultural Heritage Director

Archaeologist/Anthropologist

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<sup>1</sup>Protected areas include where previous disturbance has occurred and are also required to have an archaeological assessment. Disturbance does not eliminate the presence of an archaeological site.

