

Reporting the Discovery of Archaeological Sites in the NWT

Human occupation in the NWT spans at least the past 7,000 years. Much of this human history is documented only in archaeological and historic sites. Archaeological sites in the NWT and the heritage information that they contain constitute a unique resource, which is of considerable cultural and scientific value to the people of the NWT, Canada, and indeed, the world. Heritage resources are fragile, and because of their cultural and scientific importance they are protected under legislation. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre manages heritage resources throughout the Northwest Territories on behalf of the territorial and federal governments. Archaeological sites are protected by law, and as such are subject of land use review whenever a project is proposed anywhere in the NWT. Only qualified archaeologists holding a valid NWT Archaeologists Research Permit can undertake archaeological research. Sometimes however, archaeological sites are discovered during the course of other activities. By reporting these finds you will help ensure that the heritage resources of the NWT are properly documented and protected.

What should you do if you find an archaeological site during the course of your work?

- Do not disturb or collect any of the artifacts. Leave them where you found them.
- Take two or three representative photographs of the site
- Describe the nature and extent of the site and any artifacts noted
- Take a GPS reading of the location (noting the datum used)
- Mark the location on a 1:50,000 scale map
- Record the date of your discovery

Please send this information to:

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For more information visit our web site at <http://www.pwnhc.ca>