

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES



Photo Source: PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.

PART 1: PURPOSE AND DEFINITION

All Vancouver Park Board led construction projects should ensure compliance with the BC Heritage Conservation Act (HCA). The purpose of the act is to encourage and facilitate the protection and conservation of heritage property in British Columbia and to facilitate the respectful and appropriate treatment of human remains or artifacts. No known archaeological site may be disturbed or altered without a Provincial Alteration Permit, and explicit conditions in the permit must be followed. Particularly critical sites will include Coast Salish traditional lands, most especially ocean and river fronts. Within this context it is very important to consult with and coordinate relevant plans with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh. Each of these nation's own chance find processes must be taken into account.

PART 2: APPLICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

This BMP applies to all worksites with excavation work. The HCA identifies the types of artifacts and remains that may not be damaged, desecrated, altered, covered or excavated. This includes pre-contact (prior to 1846) heritage objects, artifacts, features, materials or other physical evidence of human habitation and post-contact items such as bottles and boats. Certain and differing procedures should be followed for the project planning phase and in the event of a chance discovery during the construction phase. Additionally, different procedures should be followed if the discovery is suspected to be human remains or material of archaeological significance.

PART 3: GUIDELINES

- **Project planning phase.** The project manager will consult with the City of Vancouver's Provincial Heritage Sites Map (as shown on VanMap) to determine if the work site is within or near a Pre-contact Designated Heritage Site (DHS). The map layer is based on the Provincial Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) application data and is updated every 5 years.
- If found to be **in or within 50m of a DHS**, area of significant archaeological potential, or if the project has a site area of over 10 hectares, the Project Manager will review alternative design options and/or engage an archaeologist to

conduct an archaeological review and obtain Provincial Permits in accordance with the HCA. An Archaeologist may need to be contracted to monitor activities during construction. If a permit is deemed necessary and obtained, further procedures shall follow the conditions outlined in the permit. If a permit is not obtained the procedures listed below shall apply.

- If found to be **between 50m and 200m from a DHS** or area of significant archaeological potential, a “Chance Find Procedure” shall be implemented. An archaeologist should be contracted to conduct a brief archaeological assessment and prepare a project specific “Chance Find Procedure” if an applicable, acceptable and up-to-date neighbourhood specific “Chance Find Procedure” does not already exist. (contact the Director of Parks for clarification of existing chance find procedures). Excavation crews shall be briefed on the “Chance Find Procedure” during the pre-job meeting and/or daily crew talks. Completed project specific “Chance Find Procedures” shall be filed with the Vancouver Parks Board as a resource for future projects.
- If found to be outside of the areas described above, no special procedure is required. However, if unrecorded archaeological sites are encountered during construction, activities must be halted and crews should follow the “Typical Chance Find Procedure” outlined below.
- **Construction phase.** If archaeological sites are encountered during work on projects that are not being completed under provincial archaeological permits or do not have a project specific “Chance Find Procedure” then the “Typical Chance Find Procedure” outlined below must be followed.
- **General Archaeological Sites Chance Find Procedure.** If materials known or suspected to be of archaeological significance are encountered:
 - Stop all construction activity in the immediate vicinity of the suspected archaeological site.
 - Contact the Project Manager and/or Director of Parks for further direction.
 - The Project Manager will contract an Archaeologist to review the site and provide

further direction.

- **Human Remains Chance Find Procedure.** If materials known or suspected to be human remains are encountered:
 - Stop all construction activity in the immediate vicinity of the remains. Do not move soil from the vicinity of the remains, including adjacent spoil material.
 - If the remains appear to be recent, immediately contact the Vancouver Police Department (VPD).
 - After contacting the VPD, or if the remains appear to be historical or archaeological in nature, contact the Project Manager and/or the Director of Parks for further direction.
 - The Project Manager and/or the Director of Parks will contact the Vancouver Police Department and the Coroner’s Office (if they were not contacted previously). If the remains are not of forensic concern, the Project Manager will contract an Archaeologist to review the site and provide further direction as necessary.

END OF BMP