



Archaeology in the Yukon

For more information on

Yukon archeology, heritage protection guidelines, the Historic Resources Act and the Yukon Archeological Sites Regulations, permits and reporting, contact:

Archaeology Programme
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-5983
Fax: (867) 667-5377
Toll free outside of Whitehorse:
1-800-661-0408.

Information on Yukon archaeological sites and heritage is also available on our Web Site:
www.tc.gov.yk.ca



Archaeological sites in the Yukon contain some of the earliest evidence of human occupation in the New World.

These sites preserve the history of the original people of the Yukon.



If You Find an Archaeological Site ...

Archaeological sites are often difficult to identify. If you find an exposed or eroding archaeological site that may need protection, note the location and contact the Yukon Archaeological Programme. On settlement land, contact the First Nation.

If you find an archaeological site in the course of a land development project stop work at the location and report the site to the Yukon Archaeology Programme. On settlement land, report the site to the First Nation.

Respect and Protect

Archaeological Sites and Artifacts are Protected ...

Archaeological sites are protected from disturbance under the Archaeological Site Regulation (Yukon Act) and the Yukon Historic resources Act. No artifacts may be removed from an archaeological site without a permit



Respect and Protect





Archaeology in the Yukon - Our Link to the Past

There are almost 3,000 known archaeological sites in the Yukon, spanning the years from the Ice Age to the construction of Alaska Highway. They may consist of simple scatters of stone chips, ancient hearths, Gold Rush artifacts or World War II aircraft wreck.



All Yukoners need to work together to preserve the fragile record of the past. These sites are often unique and new discoveries are made every year.

Recent research in the alpine of southwestern Yukon has recovered an exceptionally well preserved collection of ancient spears and arrows emerging from melting snow fields. These finds are unique in Canadian archaeology and have provided new and exciting insights into the hunting strategies of the past 8,000 years.



Can you keep what you find?

According to the Yukon Archaeological Sites Regulations, an artifact is an object of archaeological or historical interest that is older than 50 years and that has been abandoned. It is against the law to remove an artifact from an archaeological or historical site without a permit. Exclusive of First Nation lands and National Parks, archaeological and non-First Nation historical artifacts are owned by the Government of Yukon.



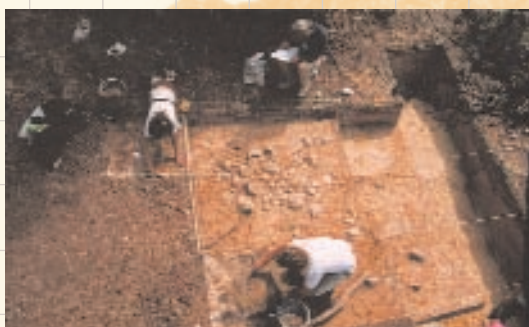
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Sites are Vulnerable

Archaeological sites are extremely vulnerable. The thin soils which are typical of the Yukon environment may contain up to 10,000 years of history compacted into only the upper 20 - 30 cm of ground. Any activity which disturbs the ground can destroy an archaeological site.

Artifacts and archaeological sites are the legacy of Yukon's past. Working together, we can ensure our history is preserved and protected for the benefit of all Yukoners.



Respect and Protect