Chapter 9
Archaeology Resources

> **Archaeology** is the study of human cultures through the physical remains. Archaeology is a field within **anthropology**.

Archaeological materials are physical evidence of traditional use and occupancy of a territory. Materials collected from village sites, hunting or fishing areas, or **midden** sites, for example, are the remains of the lives of your ancestors. For many Indigenous Peoples, this evidence can provide physical proof of what is known to be true at the community level: Indigenous People have lived in their traditional territories since time immemorial. House and settlement remains, artifacts of warfare, fortifications, trail locations, manufacturing sites, trade goods, and imported materials and objects are all physical evidence of occupancy.

As with other evidence, caution must be used when dealing with archaeological evidence. Archaeological studies are limited in scope to the interpretation of material remains. They can reveal only a small part of the picture of people and cultures. Archaeology is a potential piece of the foundation of information needed to support solid arguments. Archaeology should, if possible, be used to compliment other types of anthropological, geological, archival, historical, and oral historical data.

This chapter provides information on gathering archaeological information for research on the use of lands and resources in your traditional territory. It focuses on collecting existing reports and site information. If you are interested in conducting original archaeological field research see the discussion on that topic in the "Legislation and Field Research" section of this chapter.

Accessing Resources

Doing an inventory of the archaeological work that has been carried out in your territory can be as simple as copying and filing hard-copy records, or as complex as maintaining a **Geographical Information Systems** (GIS) database of heritage sites and studies. It is important to know what types of information to seek, where to find the information, and how to organize and store the information you find. The main repositories for archaeological site data and published studies are listed in this chapter. You will need to understand how to gain access to research materials in libraries, archives, and museums to make the best use of the information here. See Chapter 3: Research Institutions for information on access to records and how to contact the resource institutions listed here.

Museums, Archives, and Libraries

Materials from archaeological excavations are stored in libraries, museums, archives, and archaeology departments throughout the world. The public institutions that are most likely to have materials from BC are listed below by region. Be sure to ask the librarian or reference staff for help when you visit these institutions. They will be able to help you find relevant studies.

BC repositories:
- BC Archives
- Royal British Columbia Museum
- Vancouver Museum
- Simon Fraser University Museum of Archaeology
- University of British Columbia Laboratory of Archaeology

Canadian repositories:
- Library and Archives Canada (LAC)
- Archaeological Survey of Canada, Canadian Museum of Civilization

American Repositories:
- Smithsonian Institution
- American Museum of Natural History
- Field Museum of Natural History

Private Papers

You can also find information about archaeological excavations in the original field notes and personal papers of the professionals who were involved. Project directors and excavators' notes often include original excavation forms and general field observations. They can also include photographs and drawings of the site.

Academic researchers or consultants working on a project often retain their field notes and project documents at their offices. If you want to contact these people it will help to know what institution sponsored the project. The institutions with departments that are actively involved in archaeology in BC are the University of British Columbia Laboratory of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, the University of Northern British Columbia and local colleges (University College of the Caribou, and Douglas, Capilano, and Langara Colleges). The University of Toronto and McMaster University have also sponsored archaeology excavations in BC.

Government Resources

Both the federal and provincial governments have branches that maintain information from archaeological sites.

BC Archaeology Branch

The Archaeology Branch preserves archaeological site information in the form of BC Archaeological Site Inventory Forms (ASIF). ASIF are stored in a large computerized system called the Provincial Heritage Register Database (PHRD). For a detailed description of the Provincial Heritage Register Database see the entry on the Archaeology Branch website at http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/arch/policy/regist.htm.

You can gain access to AISF by either contacting the Branch or using the Remote Access Archaeological Data (RAAD) system. Both approaches are summarized below. For more information on access see the guide, *Access to Provincial Archaeological Site Information*. It is available under the heading "Agreements, Policies and Procedures" on the Branch's website: http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/arch.

1. Contacting Archaeological Branch: Complete a *BC Archaeological Site Data Request Form* and submit it in one of the following ways:

- In person at the office in Victoria (3rd Floor, 3400 Davidson Street, Victoria)
- Download a form from the Internet and submit it by fax (250-952-4188) or by mail (Archaeological Registry Section, Archaeology and Registry Services Branch at PO Box 9375, Stn Prov Gov Victoria, BC V8W 9M5).
- Fill out and submit the online form via the branch website: http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/arch.

You will need to know something about the Branch's system for recording archaeological sites before you make your request. It is called the Borden system. The system divides the country into blocks, each block identified by a sequential and specific series of letters designating individual Borden Grid Units (such as "DiSi"). Sites within a unit are recorded sequentially. For example, if the last site within a certain block was number 121, the next site to be discovered and recorded will be assigned the number 122. A Borden site designation or Borden number for an archaeological site in BC looks like DiSi 1 or EeQw 48. The site record information is not very useful without a reference map, so you will need a corresponding 1:50,000 scale National Topographic System (NTS) map. You can find these master map sheets at the provincial Archaeology Branch, where they are called "archaeological site form maps." If you do not have the Borden number or a NTS map you will need to contact the Archaeology Branch before you make your request.

If the area you are studying is relatively small, it is recommended that when you fill in the BC Archaeological Site Data Request Form, you attach a photocopy of a federal NTS map with your area of interest clearly outlined. If it is a large area, it may be simplest to define it by identifying the complete Borden block or reference map grids (such as 92G/6). For more information on the Borden system, see the entry "Archaeological Survey of Canada" under "Archaeology" at: http://www.civilization.ca.

2. Using Remote Access Archaeological Data (RAAD): If your community will require frequent access to archaeological site information you may consider applying for access to the RAAD website. This is an online system that enables authorized users to view, select, and download information about archaeological sites. Access is granted to Indigenous community governments, not individual users. For more information about this system check the RAAD section on the Archaeology Branch website. You will likely need to obtain some training

from the Archaeology Branch or an experienced RAAD user to learn how to use the system.

The sites plotted on this system, while known to be somewhat inaccurate, are relatively up to date and provide a good starting point for tracking down more site-specific information. Older versions of some of the forms are maintained by the Royal BC Museum. Consulting original site forms and the associated data and maps is a good way to lay a solid foundation of basic site-specific information.

Tips for requesting information from the Archaeology Branch:
- Ask for an electronic database (Access or Excel) of site form information for all the sites in the Borden units that interest you.
- Do not ask for hardcopies all of the archaeological site forms in your entire territory because there could be hundreds and they might not all be from sites with Indigenous cultural materials or resources. Instead, select which site forms you actually need based on your review of the database and/or the RAAD system.
- Try to be as precise as possible and make sure the Archaeological Data Site Request Form information is accurate.
- If you require information from the Archaeology Branch for GIS or database purposes, contact staff to discuss which information formats are appropriate for your project.
- If you are doing a large-scale project covering your entire traditional territory, start by requesting the records for the sites within the applicable Borden blocks or reference map grids.
- See an Archaeology Branch publication called the *British Columbia Archaeological Site Inventory Form Guide* (Victoria: Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, 2003) for more information.

If you still have questions you can call the staff at the Branch. One of their roles is to assist you in obtaining the information you require.

Parks Canada

Parks Canada records archaeological information for large-scale sites, such as historic forts. If your research involves federal archaeological sites, you should start by checking the archaeological information page on the Parks Canada website (http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/pfa-fap/index_E.asp) for information.

Databases

The list of secondary sources in Chapter 8: Anthropology Research includes databases and resource collections where you can find information on archaeological studies. Databases that are specific to archaeology include:

- ArchNet. This is a virtual library housed by the Archaeological Research Institute at Arizona State University. ArchNet provides access to archaeological resources from around the world. Information is categorized by geographic region and subject. The database is available on the Internet at: http://archnet.asu.edu.
- Coast Salish Collections. Archaeology and Ethnology of the Gulf of Georgia, Canada's Digital Collection, Industry Canada. This website has a searchable database of Coast Salish archaeological materials from two excavation sites: Kosapsom and Xa:ytem. The database is available on the Internet at: http://collections.ic.gc.ca/salish/index.htm

Legislation and Field Research

There are two additional topics that may be relevant to your research project: provincial legislation regarding archaeological sites and tips for coordinating archaeological fieldwork.

Protection of Archaeological Sites Under the *Heritage Conservation Act*

Archaeological sites in BC are protected by the *Heritage Conservation Act* (RSBC 1996, Chapter 187). The Act protects sites containing archaeological or cultural material. This legislation applies to archaeological sites predating 1846, underwater sites more than two years old, and all burial and rock sites located on provincial Crown or private land. Protection is afforded to both recorded and yet-undocumented archaeological sites. Under the legislation, it is illegal to damage, change or remove the following without a provincial permit:

- Objects from a provincial heritage site
- Anything of historical or archaeological value, including human remains, from a burial place
- Indigenous rock painting or carving
- Any heritage object from an archaeological site pre-dating 1846.

To obtain a copy of the act, see the section on BC Statues in Chapter 11: Legal Resources. You can find information on the administration of the Act at the Archaeology and Registry Services Branch. You may also want to look at the *Municipal Act* and *Local Government Act* since municipalities and regional districts are also able to make heritage designations within municipal and district boundaries. You may also want to check the *Canadian National Parks Act* (2000) for information on National Historic Sites on federal parkland Search on the Department of Justice main website: http://canada.justice.gc.ca.

Archaeological Field Research

If you wish to do archaeological field research, you will need some professional archaeological training or assistance. If you are seeking the latter, contact the BC Association of Consulting Archeologists (http://www.bcapca.bc.ca) for referrals and advice. It is also

an excellent idea to contact other Indigenous organizations and communities for their advice and recommendations. If you cannot hire someone through a referral, obtain the services of independent archaeological consultants or local university archaeologists rather than consultants hired by governments or **third parties**. Funds for this research should be part of your project budget. You might also consider partnering with research institutions that could help you carry out your archaeological research. If you involve a research institution, make sure that you communicate your expectations clearly and try to maintain good relations.

If your community is managing archaeological fieldwork and maintaining archaeological materials it is important to develop a **research protocol**, an ethical code of conduct that determines the focus and nature of the research. A clearly defined protocol will help to make sure that any outside parties involved in the research respect the community's cultural relationship to archaeological materials, research methodology, recommendations, and intellectual property rights. See Chapter 2: Research Methods for information on research protocols.

Rock carvings such as this one at Sproat Lake are important sources of archaeological information. (Vancouver Public Library 9301)

Resources

Ames, Ken and Herbert Maschner. 1998. *Peoples of the Northwest Coast: Their Archaeology and Prehistory.* New York: Thames and Hudson.

Carlson, Roy [Ed.]. 2003. *Archaeology of Coastal British Columbia: Essays in Honour of Professor Philip M. Hobler.* Burnaby: Simon Fraser University, Archaeology Press.

Carlson, Roy and Luke Dalla Bona. 1996. *Early Human Occupation in British Columbia.* Vancouver: UBC Press.

Cybulski, Jerome S. [Ed.]. 2001. *Perspectives on Northern Northwest Coast Prehistory.* Mercury Series, Archaeological Survey of Canada: 160. Ottawa: Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Fladmark, K.R. 1997. *Names & Dates: A Bibliography of BC Archaeology.* Burnaby: Simon Fraser University, Archaeology Press.

Matson, Richard and Gary Coupland. 1995. *The Prehistory of the Northwest Coast.* San Diego: Academic Press.

McMurdo, John and Ian Wilson. 1989. *Archaeological Field Research in British Columbia: An Annotated Bibliography.* Victoria: Resource Information Services Program, Archaeology and Outdoor Recreation.

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. 2003. *British Columbia Archaeological Site Inventory Form Guide* (revised edition)*.* Victoria: Archaeological Registry Section. Available on-line at: http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/arch/publications.html

Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture. 2000. British Columbia Archaeological Inventory Guidelines. Victoria: Archaeological Branch. Available on-line at: http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/arch/publications.html

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. 1998. *British Columbia Archaeological Resource Management Handbook* (revised edition). Victoria: Archaeology and Forests Branch. Available on-line at: http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/arch/publications.html

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn. 2000. *Archaeology - Theories, Methods and Practice.* London, England: Thames and Hudson, Inc.

[Various Authors], Smithsonian Institution. [Various dates]. *Handbook of North American Indians – (Vols. 4, 6, 7 and 12* in particular*).* Washington: Smithsonian Institute.

Websites

Archaeological Survey of Canada, Canadian Museum of Civilization
http://www.civilization.ca/archeo/archeoe.asp

BC Association of Consulting Archeologists
http://www.bcapca.bc.ca

Canadian Archaeological Association
http://www.canadianarchaeology.com

Geological Survey of Canada
http://gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/offices_e.php

Revised Statutes of BC
http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/H/96187_01.htm

Secwepemc Cultural Education Society
http://www.secwepemc.org

Society for American Archaeology
http://www.saa.org/

XÁ:YTEM Longhouse Interpretive Centre
http://www.xaytem.museum.bc.ca