Conducting Archaeological Projects in Nunavut

Deborah Kigjugalik Webster
George Qulaut (speaking), Deborah Webster, and Gary Baikie address the Elders Conference participants.
The Nunavut Archaeology Program administers the archaeology and palaeontology permitting process for Nunavut and undertakes archaeological research. These activities involve the development of policies, technical standards and guidelines, and general information on archaeological and palaeontological research. Close working relationships are maintained with the professional archaeology and palaeontology communities.
6.1.1 Class 1

A Class 1 Permit authorizes only the documentation of an archaeological or palaeontological site, including preparing a site map, recording of the site's geographic location, and the number, type and distribution of features present. Under no circumstance can the holder of a Class 1 Permit collect artifacts or specimens, or alter or disturb a site in any manner.
In order to obtain a Class 2 Permit, an individual must have advanced training in archaeology or palaeontology and extensive field experience, which is appropriate to their proposed permitted activities. This level of expertise is required in order to ensure that excavations of archaeological and palaeontological sites, treatment and analysis of artifacts and specimens, and the publication of the results are undertaken according to professional standards.
Agreement Between
the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area
and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada
as amended

CONSOLIDATED VERSION
(amendments included herein are up to January 29, 2009)

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33.5.4 Upon receipt of the copy, the Trust shall have a reasonable number of calendar days, as determined by the Designated Agency in consultation with the Trust, to object to the application in writing.

33.5.5 If the Designated Agency is in receipt of such written objections within the specified number of calendar days, it shall:

(a) withhold the issuance of any permit;

(b) investigate the objections; and

(c) provide the Trust with a copy of the report prepared on the basis of the investigation.

33.5.6 Where the objections referred to in Section 33.5.5 are reasonably founded on

(a) inadequate efforts to secure Inuit participation and benefits or inadequate performance of commitments to provide such participation and benefits under permits issued at an earlier date, or

(b) disturbance of a site of Inuit religious or spiritual significance, as such significance is defined by the Trust in consultation with the Designated Agency,

the Designated Agency shall reject the application for the permit.
33.5.7 The Designated Agency shall, upon reasonable request by the Trust, attach as a condition to the grant of a permit, a requirement that upon completion of each season’s field work, the permit holder shall, to the extent practicable:

(a) attend at a location identified by the Trust, in the community closest to the site, to explain and discuss the work carried out; and

(b) provide an opportunity for residents of the community to examine any specimen removed from the site.

33.5.8 Notwithstanding Section 33.5.6, where the application before the Designated Agency is associated with a proposed land use requiring a land use permit, the Designated Agency may, instead of rejecting the application, issue a permit with terms and conditions that adequately deal with the reasonably founded objections.

33.5.9 The legislation and policy referred to in Part 3 shall provide that every permit holder shall submit a report to the Designated Agency and the Trust. Upon reasonable request, the Agency shall provide the Trust with an Inuktut summary of the report.

33.5.10 The Designated Agency shall make available Inuktut translations of its publications that are aimed at informing the Canadian public about archaeology in the Nunavut Settlement Area.
Archaeological Research Permitting

Parks Canada’s Management Bulletin 2.3.2: Archaeological Research Permitting requires that all individuals conducting archaeological research, survey, inventory or excavation in lands and lands underwater under Parks Canada’s administration obtain a permit from the FUS. The Director of the appropriate Service Centre (through a designated archaeologist) must review and advise the FUS on permit matters. All research and/or collection applications for archaeological, natural, and social sciences permits should be submitted through the Parks Canada on-line Research and Collection Permit System (RCPS). A Research Coordinator, associated with each Heritage Area, administers the research permitting process within the RCPS and assures that the advice and recommendations of specialist reviewers are taken into account at all stages of the permitting process.

In order to obtain approval for the permit, the archaeologist must submit the project design to the Field Unit’s environmental assessment specialist (or through the Research Coordinator responsible for the Heritage Area). The environmental assessment specialist will determine if an assessment is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Management Directive 2.4.2: Impact Assessment, or another applicable regime. The Research Coordinator will also ensure that other mandatory reviews take place (SARA or other) and that health and safety issues are taken into consideration according to Management Bulletin 2.3.2: Archaeological Research Permitting.

Parks Canada managers and other federal land managers do not require provincial or territorial archaeological permits for research on lands that they administer. However, it is recommended as good archaeological practice to inform the provincial or territorial authorities about any archaeological work conducted. All Parks Canada archaeological sites will receive Borden site numbers from the Canadian Museum of Civilization or as appropriate, from provincial or territorial authorities (see Appendix 5).
Aerial view of Hubbard Point. Note the tent rings. Photo credit: Virginia Petch
Inuit Nunangat
In the Footsteps of Abraham
Matna, thank you!

Questions?