

Metadata for the Archaeology Sites Government Users Layer (WHSE_ARCHAEOLOGY.RAAD_TFM_SITES_SVW)

The Archaeology Sites Government Users layer contains the locations of known archaeological sites within British Columbia. There are approximately 40,000 known archaeological sites in the province and this number grows by about 1,500 sites per year.

The Province maintains records for known archaeological sites. Site records dating to the 1950s and 1960s are primarily the work of academic researchers. Site records dating to the 1970s resulted mostly from large-scale inventories. For site records dating from the 1980s to the present, the majority of information is a result of industrial activities, with an emphasis on large projects in the 1980s and forestry and petroleum extraction-related activities from the mid 1990s onwards. Today, archaeological site information is collected largely through archaeological resource management activities by qualified consulting archaeologists.

The quality and quantity of information varies through time and by author, but there has been a general trend towards greater and more accurate information.

Symbology



Known Archaeological Sites

The majority of known archaeological sites are represented by irregular red polygons denoting location, shape and size of the site. However, a few are represented by circles of varying sizes. These circles are in the approximate site location and represent sites that are protected but that could not be accurately located or measured.

There are over 1000 archaeological sites within the Archaeology Sites Government Users layer that fall under federal jurisdiction. These sites are represented by the same symbols as sites located on provincial Crown or private land, but they are not protected by legislation. They are labelled “Federal Jurisdiction” within the Identify tool window.



Legacy Sites

There are over 1000 archaeological sites within the Archaeology Sites Government Users layer classified as Legacy sites. Legacy sites are sites that have been recorded but that are not protected by legislation. Examples include post-1846 CMTs, non-designated historic sites (e.g., wagon roads, trapper cabins), and sites that have been completely destroyed. Many of these sites are symbolised as 1 m² red polygons. The remainder of the Legacy sites are shown as 5 m circles, 5 m triangles, 25 m circles, or irregular polygons. Given the multiple symbols representing Legacy sites, the layer attribute table or the Identify tool should be used to determine if the site is a Legacy site or a site protected by legislation.



Isolated Finds

A 5 m circle often represents an isolated find. This could be anything from a small unmodified lithic flake to a human seated figure bowl.



CMT Sites

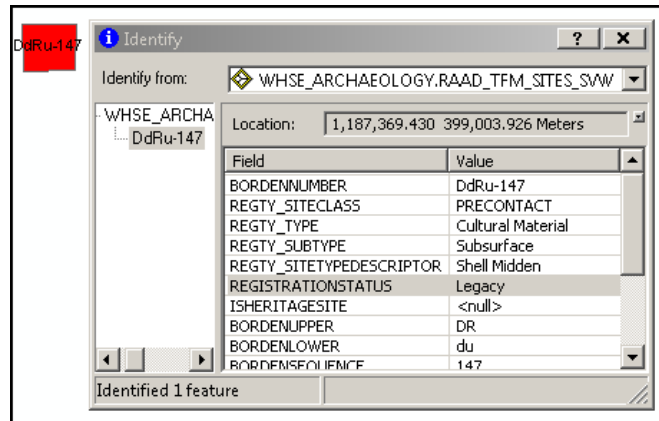
A single CMT is represented by a 20 m circle.

Using the Identify Tool



Use the Identify tool to check whether an archaeological site is protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

First click on the site to see a quick list of site attributes:



Then check the Registration Status and use the table below to determine whether the site is protected. If the site is protected, then any disturbance to the site will require a heritage permit.

Registration Status	Protected	Comments
Registered	Yes	Registered sites are usually historic places or heritage buildings that have been formally designated and are protected under provincial or local government legislation. They also include designated trails and a small number of formally designated archaeological sites.
Registry Candidate	Yes	Most Registry Candidate sites are archaeological sites that are automatically protected under the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> . They include archaeological sites that pre-date AD 1846, burial places, rock art, plane wrecks, and ship wrecks.
Decision Pending	Yes	Same as Registry Candidate. All pre-1846 CMT sites have Decision Pending status.
Legacy	No	Legacy sites are not protected. Examples include post-1846 CMTs, non-designated historic sites (e.g., wagon roads, trapper cabins), and sites that have been completely destroyed.
Federal Jurisdiction	No, but...	Federal Jurisdiction sites are located on federal land (e.g., DND, Indian Reserves, National Parks). Therefore, they are not protected under any provincial legislation. However, to help preserve the archaeological record, federal authorities should be contacted prior to any potential impacts to archaeological sites on federal land.

Currency

The Archaeology Sites Government Users layer is updated weekly.

Known Errors

Site Location Accuracy: Approximately 15% of the sites were originally entered using a different base map than is seen in the BCGW, therefore these sites do not line up with displayed features (such as lakes and rivers).

Inconsistent Symbology: Legacy sites are represented by a variety of symbols: 1 m² polygons, 5 m and 25 m circles and irregular polygons.

Additional Information

The Archaeology Sites Government Users Layer contains information about archaeological sites only. There are over 3,000 historic places in British Columbia that are recognized or protected under local, provincial or federal government legislation. For information on historic places in British Columbia and their protection status, please refer to the Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) application or contact the BC Heritage Branch at 250-356-1432 or heritage@gov.bc.ca.