

ARCHAEOLOGY

Information Bulletin 23: Recording Archaeological Study Areas (revised June 2011)

Permit holders (HCA Section 14 inspection and investigation permits only) are required to submit study area shapefiles to the Archaeology Branch. Professional archaeologists are also encouraged to submit study area shapefiles for work conducted under HCA Section 12 alteration permits. The collection of study area spatial data at the Archaeology Branch will help professional archaeologists determine where previous work has been conducted.

What is a “study area”?

For the purposes of this permit requirement, archaeological study areas have the following criteria:

- They are locations that have been assessed for archaeological sites or archaeological potential.
- Their boundaries are defined and mapped in the final permit report.
- In most cases they will have been visually inspected. However, they may also include areas that were part of the study area but were not ground-truthed due to low archaeological potential—this must be addressed in the final permit report.
- Study areas typically take the following forms:



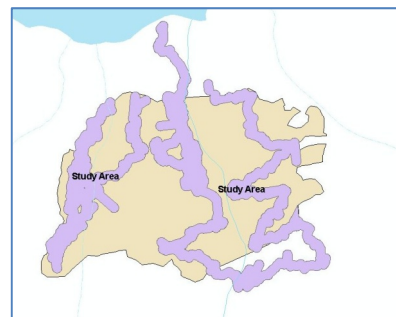
Individual parcels



Specific project areas



Cut blocks where entire blocks
have been assessed



GPS routes where partial areas
have been assessed

What about study areas for blanket permits?

Study area shapefiles submitted under blanket permits should *not* encompass the total area covered under the blanket permit. They should only include the specific areas assessed under the blanket permit. This may require multiple study area submissions to the Branch over time.

How do I submit the study area shapefiles?

Study area shapefiles should be attached to an email and sent directly to the [Archaeological Inventory Section](#) of the Branch. Include the permit number in the email.

Study area shapefiles are submitted to Inventory at the same time that you submit the final permit report to Permitting and Assessment. This reduces the potential for additions or amendments to the study area boundaries. Study areas under blanket permit may be submitted throughout the duration of the permit as individual projects are completed.

What spatial data is required?

- Study area boundaries must be sent to the Branch as ESRI shapefiles. Anyone can create ESRI shapefiles—if you do not have the software to create ESRI shapefiles, skip the rest of this section and read about using iMap below.
- At least four file extensions are required: .shp, .shx, .dbf, and .prj.
- Attribute data (.dbf file) is not required for single polygon study areas or multiple polygons where there is no significant distinction (e.g., two sections of the same parcel that are separated by a road).
- Attribute data (.dbf file) should be included if you are submitting multiple polygons under a single permit where each polygon has unique identification data (e.g., cut block numbers).
- Study area boundaries must be submitted as polygons (not points or lines).
- Files must be in the proper projection (.prj file). The .prj file must be in the provincial standard BC Albers projection. BC Albers projection values are:

Alias:	Geographic Coordinate System:
Abbreviation:	Name: GCS_North_American_1983
Remarks:	Alias:
Projection: Albers	Abbreviation:
Parameters:	Remarks:
False_Easting: 1000000.000000	Angular Unit: Degree (0.017453292519943295)
False_Northing: 0.000000	Prime Meridian: Greenwich (0.000000000000000000)
Central_Meridian: -126.000000	Datum: D_North_American_1983
Standard_Parallel_1: 50.000000	Spheroid: GRS_1980
Standard_Parallel_2: 58.500000	Semimajor Axis: 6378137.000000000000000000
Latitude_Of_Origin: 45.000000	Semiminor Axis: 6356752.314140356100000000
Linear Unit: Meter (1.000000)	Inverse Flattening: 298.257222101000020000

Using iMapBC to Create Shapefiles

For archaeologists without access to GIS software, shapefiles can be created using [iMapBC](#).

Module 7 of the video [tutorials](#) demonstrates how to use the markup tools to create (Module 7-1) and download (Module 7-2) ESRI shapefile polygons.

The shapefiles created in iMapBC will include four separate files (.shp, .shx, .dbf, and .prj). Send all four files by email to the Archaeological Inventory Section.

Access to the Archaeological Study Areas Layer

Study area boundaries are loaded into the provincial database and identified by permit number in a Study Areas layer. The Study Areas layer is currently available to Archaeological Data Import Facility (ADIF) users and will be available to Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) users in the future. It is not available to the general public.

Study areas are identified by permit number. Users can use the Identify tool  to obtain the permit number for a study area polygon. The corresponding permit report can then be accessed in the Provincial Archaeological Report Library.

The Study Areas layer contains study areas for permits issued since July 2009. At this time it does not contain earlier studies. Caution should therefore be taken when using the Study Areas layer to identify previous work as studies predating July 2009 will not be displayed.