

# Working Together

# Natural Resources Workshop

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# Heritage and Archaeology

- Heritage – traditions or ways of a people which have no fixed time line.
- Archaeology - study of the human past.
- There can be a disconnect between archaeology and contemporary culture
  - Ancient Maya, Ancient Egypt, Anasazi
- In B.C., anything that predates 1846 is considered archaeological, after 1846 is the historic period

# Perspectives on the Past

Multiple perspectives – not a search for the truth

- western science using tools from archaeology

- indigenous voices with a continuity between the past and the present

- the archaeological record is not complete

- not everything preserves and we offer interpretation of the data recovered

- current issues affect the practice of archaeology

- archaeology is a study of culture and it must be adaptable because culture adapts

# St'at'imc Heritage

- The Territory is a living landscape and there is continuity from the past to the present
- The use and occupation of the land has been continuous
- Hunting-gathering-fishing people
- Tool use may have changed or adapted but all cultures change and adapt
- Use of the term heritage removes the Provincial 1846 focus

# Artifacts



any item created or modified by human activity

- stone, bone, antler tools

- stone bowls

- baskets, cradle

- spears, bows

- ceramic vessels

- Portable objects



# Features



Result of past human activities, but they cannot be removed intact from an archaeological deposit without altering the original form

- hearths, roasting pits
- burials
- rock art
- hunting blinds
- storage pits (cache pit)

Significance is observable through patterning of artifacts



# Ecofacts



- not necessarily artifacts
- material remains that provide info about past environments
  - food remains
  - pollen
  - sediments

Understand vegetation, climate, deforestation at the site.



# Archaeological Sites

Any location where past human activity resulted in some physical remains of that behaviour.

Spatial concentrations of artifacts and/or features.

Sites can vary in size, form, and content.

They can consist of a single artifact or feature, or be as complex as a settlement.

All archaeological sites in BC are protected by Provincial Legislation. HCA does not apply to Federal Lands.

# St'at'imc Heritage Resources

- You can expect to encounter:
  - Stone, bone and antler tools
  - Cultural Depressions: cache, house, mat lodge and roasting pits
  - Pictographs and Petroglyphs
  - Cultural Modified Trees – cambium extraction, message trees, trail markers, blazes, knotted
  - Trails
  - Hunting Blinds
  - Stone quarries, resource extraction areas
  - Burials

# Formal Stone Tools

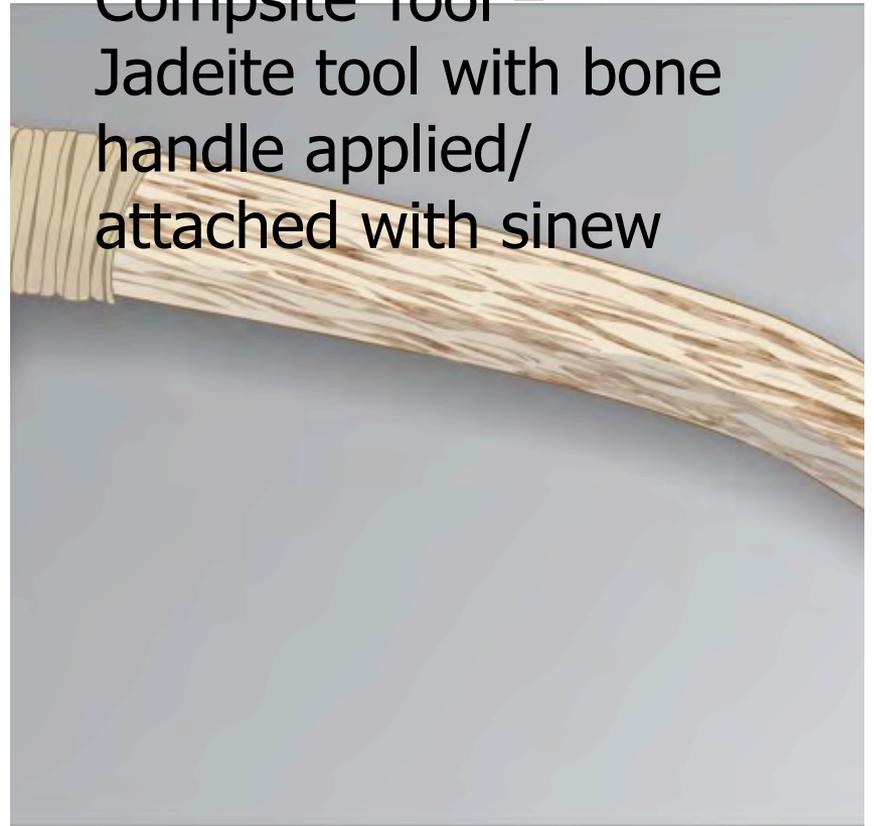




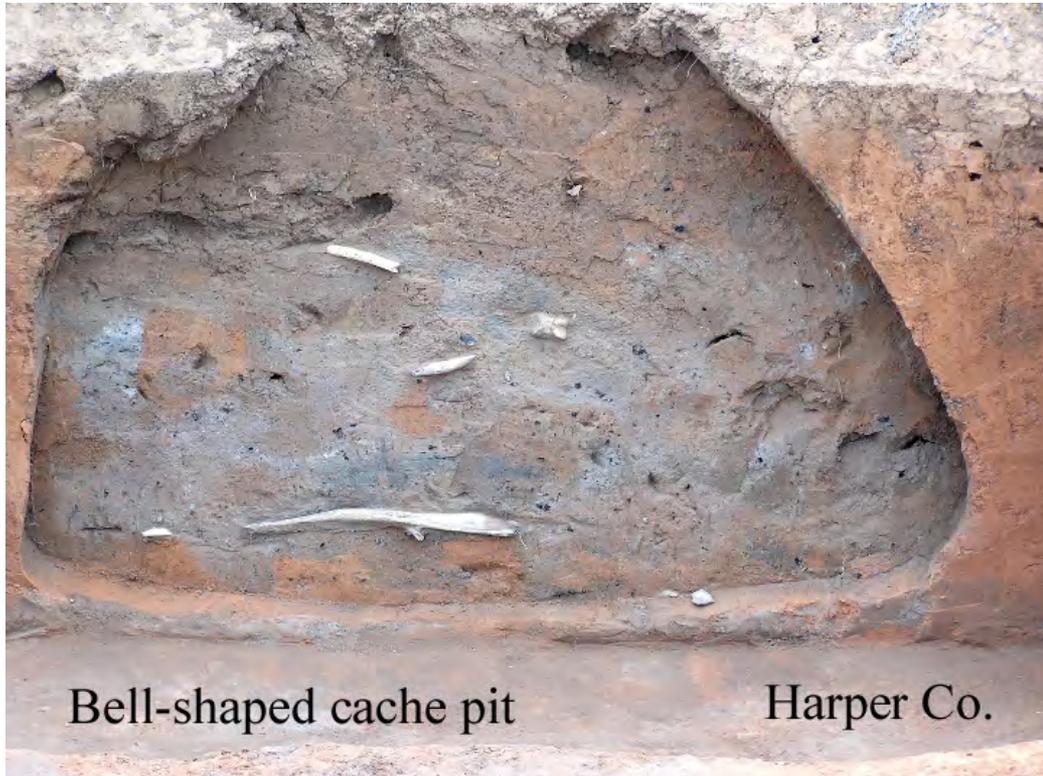
Modified Bone Tools

## Preservation

Composite Tool –  
Jadeite tool with bone  
handle applied/  
attached with sinew



# Cultural Depressions – Storage/Cache



- Rim or berm
- Small depression @ 1-3m
- location on ridges, near water, extraction areas
- single or multiple pits can occur
- may not be other visible indicators on the land

# Cultural Depressions – Housepits



# Roasting Pits



# Culturally Modified Trees



Can be hard to distinguish from fire scars

Look for the healing lobes, bark buttons, cut marks at top or bottom of scar

# How do we collect data?

Preservation of the past is one of our goals

- collect data through careful and detailed recording
- archaeological work is often destructive so we must be comprehensive in our data collection
- You can only excavate a feature once
- Knowing the context of the data is key

# Archaeological Context

- The most important information about the archaeological record is **context**
- Archaeological context has three components:
- 1) **Provenience**- the precise location of the archaeological data in space (region, site, sector, unit, feature, artifact).
- 2) **Association**- what other archaeological data are found in close proximity.
- 3) **Matrix**- the material surrounding the item (clay, gravel, sand, water).
- The interpretation of archaeological context tells us about the cultural context.



Excavation unit with a hearth feature. The provenience of this hearth is significant because it tells us about the use of space within a house. Removing the hearth understanding what is associated with this feature would mean we lose context. Goal is to provide a complete, holistic, perspective on the use of the house.

# Archaeological Context

- If the provenience, matrix and association are lost, the information about an artifact is lost.
- Looting, the unsanctioned and nonscientific destruction of sites, prevents archaeologists and cultural descendants from ever knowing the context of some materials.



# Context

-relationship in space & time

-understand the pattern

-place data in context

Context is key

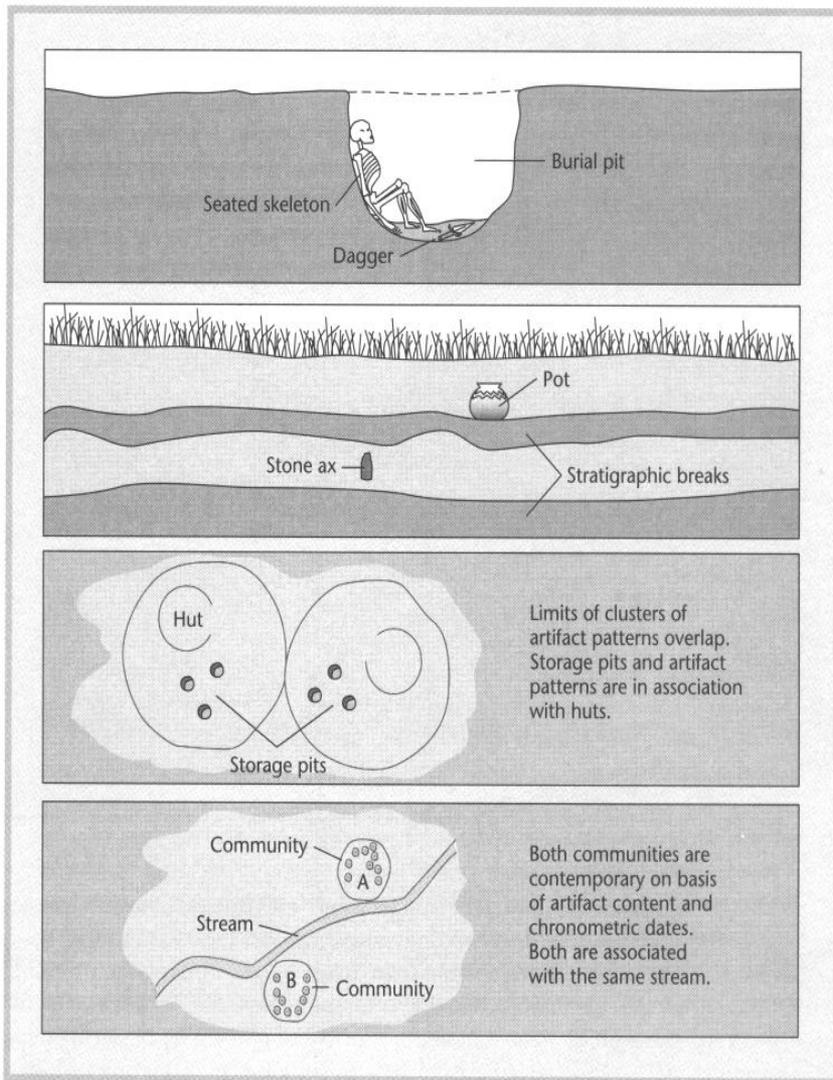
-primary context

-secondary context

knowing the *associated*

artifacts means you get

the entire picture



**FIGURE 1.6b** Some archaeological associations. **(a)** The burial pit, dug from the uppermost layer, contains not only a skeleton but also a dagger that lies close to its foot. The dagger is associated with the skeleton, and both finds are associated with the burial pit and the layer from which the grave pit was cut into the subsoil. **(b)** In contrast, a pot and a stone ax are found in two different layers, separated by a sterile zone, a zone with no finds. The two objects are not in association. **(c)** Two different household clusters with associated pits and scatters of artifacts. These are in association with one another. **(d)** An association of two contemporary communities.

# Accidental Discovery

- If you suspect you have located a site, report it and check it out, don't pack it out
  - Remember context and association are important to understanding the site
  - You may be missing associated data because people tend to recognize formal tools or the most obvious features
- Data collection - details notes, GPS, photo
- Archaeology Site form is a good guide

# BC Archaeology Branch

- <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/archaeology/index.htm>

# Archaeology Branch

- Concerned with the protection, conservation and public appreciation of B.C.'s archaeological resources
- Resources defined as the physical remains of past human activities
- Main source of public contact is their webpage
  - Laws, policies and procedures for protecting the archaeological sites and artifacts
  - website is easily laid out for various parties (public, developers, First Nations and archaeologists)

# Heritage Conservation Act

- Establishes 1846 as the distinction between historic and archaeological time
- Protection is offered to a heritage object or site that pre-dates 1846
- Except when authorized by permit (Section 12), a person must not remove or attempt to remove any object that is protected or which has been removed from a site protected
- Section 14 deals with the Heritage Inspection or Heritage Investigation

# Heritage Conservation Act - 1996

- HCA guides all archaeological work (research, development, current issues) in the province
- Archaeological sites in BC are protected under the HCA including those on public and private land
- Protected through the designation as
  - “provincial heritage sites” (S. 9)
  - being of particular historical or archaeological value (S. 13)

# Heritage Inspection/Heritage Investigation Permits

- Heritage Inspection – assess the archaeological significance of land or other property
  - Record the presence of sites which warrant protection or are already protected
- Heritage Investigation – undertaken in order to recover information which might otherwise be lost as a result of site alteration or destruction
  - Requires an alteration permit (removal of residual deposits once the inspection or investigation are complete)

## Who can apply for an Archaeology Permit?

- Generally issued to professional archaeology consultants
- Qualifications are reviewed on a case by case basis
- M.A. in archaeology or anthropology with a specialty in archaeology
- Demonstrate ability, compliance with all conditions of previous permits
- Facilities to carry out fieldwork, analysis and report preparation
- Repository for curation of recovered materials

# Archaeology Inspection Permit

- Detailed document which outlines all aspects of the archaeological work to be undertaken
- A summary of this document is sent to First Nations for review
  - Comments can be made regarding methodology, unrecorded sites in the vicinity
  - Review is done by FN in the traditional territory where the work is planned as well as other FN's who have no territorial claims/use of said area
  - FN's may also have their own permit process

# Consultation Process

- Each permit has a provincial permit officer who FN's can contact for Title and Rights concerns
- Permit applicants can address questions about the project and the proposed methodology
- Archaeologist may be contracted to:
  - review archaeological work
  - develop an arch mgmt plans for various projects
  - Large companies may retain archaeologists for specific projects or have a contract with a CRM for a season/years
- Regardless of the client, archaeologists have an ethical obligation to preserving the archaeological record

# Considerations

- Archaeology should be conducted prior to development projects which have the potential to impact archaeological resources
- Archaeology is a skilled profession, it is more than being able to identify an artifact
  - Experience (minimum of 360 days, 40 days supervising under a permit, 60 days excavation under permit)
  - Ability to make professional recommendations
  - Knowledge of the culture area & HCA
  - Field and Office skills

# Questions/ Comments

Contact Email: [gwrheritage@gmail.com](mailto:gwrheritage@gmail.com)