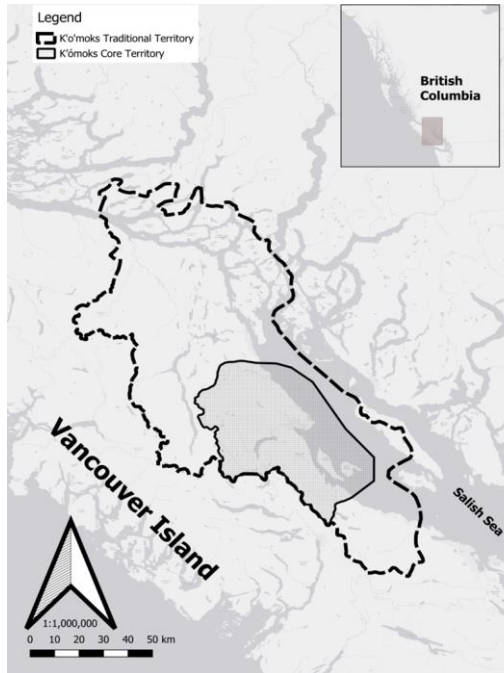


Things to Know About Archaeology

Archaeology is the study of human history through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artifacts and other physical remains.

In BC cultural sites/artifacts are considered archaeological if they are related to human occupation and predate 1846.

- There are over 62,000 archaeological sites recorded in B.C.'s Provincial Heritage Register which may date anywhere from recent times to 14,000+ years ago.
- Archaeological sites on both public and private land are protected under the provincial legislation of the BC Heritage Conservation Act, whether they are recorded or not, and must not be altered without proper permits.
- The Archaeology Branch as well as the K'ómoks Cultural Heritage Investigation Permits (CHIP) are responsible for deciding if permits can be issued to allow development to take place within protected sites and high potential areas. The CHIPs will inform the best culturally appropriate way of moving forward with development in these culturally significant sites.



Contact Information

Permit Information:

Tel. 250-339-4545 Ext. 120

Email. archpermits@komoks.ca

Staff

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K'ómoks First Nation

Archaeology
and Referrals
Department

2024

Cultural Heritage Investigation Permit (CHIP)

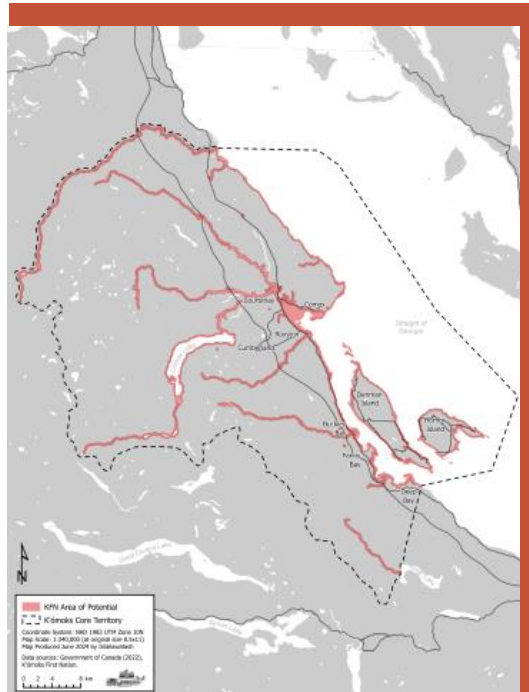
KFN Cultural Heritage Investigation Permits is a permitting system created by KFN in response to the gaps in the protection of archaeological sites and cultural heritage that the British Columbia Heritage Conservation Acts fails to provide.

The purpose of the CHIP system is to manage and mitigate impacts to KFN's Cultural Heritage in KFN Core Territory (Deep Bay to Oyster River, including Denman and Hornby Island).

The CHIP system is a step towards reconciliation that gives KFN the ability to further document and protect Cultural Heritage. The CHIP increases awareness of archaeology and KFN Cultural History and decreases the number of destroyed sites. It allows KFN to move forward in developing pathways to site protection, community stewardship, and co-management.

When is it needed?

A CHIP is needed when your project development is situated within a registered archaeological site AND in areas of high potential (AOP) where development is going to cause greater than 100 square feet of ground alteration.



Area of Potential (AOP)

KFN created the AOP by buffering known archaeological sites, KFN Guardian surveys, and major waterbodies (coastline, rivers, & lakes) by 200 m. We use this buffer zone to determine the level of archaeological investigation required by KFN for local development projects.



Archaeology and Referrals Department
3330 Comox Road, Courtenay, BC, V9N 3P8

What to do When You Find an Artifact

When an artifact is found without an HCA (Heritage Conservation Act) permit or CHIP there are procedures that must be taken to ensure that the artifact is not damaged, and information is not lost.

- Do not move or disturb the artifact.
- Take a photo and make note of your GPS points to determine the exact location.
- Call the K'ómoks Archaeology Department at 250-339-4545 (Ext.120) and/or the BC Archaeology Branch at 250-953-3334 where additional guidance will be provided before removing any cultural material.

KFN also accepts artifacts that were collected in the past if they are from K'ómoks Territory.

The BC Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) clearly explains that digging in an archaeological site is in contravention to the provincial legislation. Doing so can lead to stop work orders, fines, and jail time. To report a contravention, call the Natural Resource Officers at 1-877-952-7277 and KFN 250-339-4545 (Ext. 120).