

Archaeology in BC

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

In BC, there are more than 62,000 archaeological sites recorded in B.C.'s Provincial Heritage Register dating from 1846 to 14,000+ years ago

- The provincial **Heritage Conservation Act (HCA)** legally protects archaeological materials on **both public and private lands**
- **It is illegal to disturb archaeological materials without provincial HCA permits**, whether the site has been previously registered (in the “red zone”) or not
- If you dig in an archaeological site without HCA permits, **you can be prosecuted under the Heritage Conservation Act**

The **K'ómoks First Nation Cultural Heritage Investigation Permit (CHIP)** is a **risk management tool** that prevents unauthorized damages to cultural heritage, and associated prosecution.

More Information

Full CHIP Info Guide & FAQs:

www.komoks.ca/chip

Do I Need Permits? Address Search:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ca0b4dc5051240c6826b2c0eab545eb5/>

Low Impact Construction:

www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/archaeology/forms-publications/low_impact_construction_recommendations.pdf

General Inquiries:

chipinfo@komoks.ca

Permit Applications:

archpermits@komoks.ca



K'ómoks **First Nation**

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| K'ómoks
: First Nation



Archaeology Permits



Cultural Heritage Investigation Permit (CHIP)

The KFN Cultural Heritage Investigation Permit (CHIP) system was created in response to shortcomings in provincial protection of archaeological sites that result in unintentional damage to archaeological sites, and associated prosecutions of property owners, developers, contractors, and realtors. Shortcomings include:

- Incomplete/inaccurate provincial records of archaeological sites (most sites were mapped by boat in the 1970s)
- Multi-year backlogs in site map updates
- Lack of public awareness of archaeological site locations

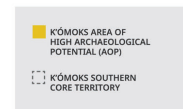
The CHIP is also a form **Reconciliation in Action:** allowing KFN to manage and mitigate impacts to our cultural heritage, reducing unintentional destruction of culturally significant sites, and ensuring KFN stewardship of our cultural heritage.

When do you need a CHIP?

If your project is:

- In KFN's **Southern Core Territory** (Deep Bay to Oyster River, including Hornby and Denman Islands);
- Within a **registered archaeological site** or KFN's **area of high potential (AOP)** and;
- Will cause **greater than 100 square feet of ground alteration.**

K'ómoks Southern Core Territory



Area of Potential (AOP)

KFN created our Area of High Archaeological Potential map (above) by buffering known archaeological sites and major water bodies (i.e., coastlines, bays, rivers, and lakes): which are known travel routes and occupation areas.

CHIP vs HCA Permits

If you are developing within a registered archaeological site, you require **BOTH** a provincial Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) permit **AND** a KFN Cultural Heritage Investigation Permit (CHIP).

KFN's CHIP Permit conditions apply **in addition to, not instead of**, provincial Heritage Conservation Act permit requirements.

Provincial permits can take 18 months for issuance.

Working with KFN in advance to avoid and mitigate impacts through the CHIP permit system can expedite provincial permit issuance.

Unauthorized digging in an archaeological site is in contravention of the provincial Heritage Conservation Act and can lead to stop work orders, fines, and jail time.

To report a contravention, call the BC Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Branch at 1-877-952-7277, and email archpermits@komoks.ca.