

# Government of Ontario: Ministry of Tourism and Culture

Programs & Services Branch  
401 Bay Street, Suite 1700  
Toronto ON M7A 0A7

## Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential

### A Checklist for the Non-Specialist

“Archaeological potential” is a term used to describe the likelihood that a property contains archaeological resources. This checklist is intended to assist non-specialists screening for the archaeological potential of a property where site alteration is proposed.

Note: for projects seeking a Renewable Energy Approval under Ontario Regulation 359/09, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has developed a separate checklist to address the requirements of that regulation.

Project Name   
Project Location   
Proponent Name   
Proponent Contact Information

### Known Archaeological Sites

1. Known archaeological sites within   
300 m of property

Yes  Unknown  No

### Known Archaeological Sites

2. Body of water within 300 m of property If yes, what kind of water?

a) Primary water source (lake, river, large creek, etc.)

Yes  Unknown  No

b) Secondary water source (stream, spring, marsh, swamp, etc.)

Yes  Unknown  No

c) Past water source (beach ridge, river bed, relic creek, ancient shoreline, etc.)

Yes  Unknown  No

3. Topographical features on property (knolls, drumlins, eskers, or plateaus)

Yes  Unknown  No

4. Pockets of sandy soil (50 m<sup>2</sup> or larger) in a clay or rocky area on property

Yes  Unknown  No

5. Distinctive land formations on property (mounds, caverns, waterfalls, peninsulas, etc)

Yes  Unknown  No

## Cultural Features

6. Known burial site or cemetery on or adjacent to the property (cemetery is registered with the Cemeteries Regulation Unit)

Yes  Unknown  No

7. Food or scarce resource harvest areas on property (traditional fishing locations, agricultural/berry extraction areas, etc.)

Yes  Unknown  No

8. Indications of early Euro-Canadian settlement within 300 m of property (monuments, cemeteries, structures, etc)

Yes  Unknown  No

9. Early historic transportation routes within 100 m of property (historic road, trail, portage, rail corridor, etc.)

Yes  Unknown  No

## Property-specific Information

10. Property is designated and/or listed under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (municipal register and lands described in Reg. 875 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*)

Yes  Unknown  No

11. Local knowledge of archaeological potential of property (from aboriginal communities, heritage organisations, municipal heritage committees, etc.)

Yes  Unknown  No

12. Recent deep ground disturbance† (post-1960, widespread and deep land alterations)

Yes  Unknown  No

† Archaeological potential can be determined not to be present for either the entire property or a part(s) of it when the area under consideration has been subject to widespread and deep land alterations that have severely damaged the integrity of any archaeological resources. Deep disturbance may include quarrying or major underground infrastructure development. Activities such as agricultural cultivation, gardening, minor grading and landscaping are not necessarily considered deep disturbance. Alterations can be considered to be extensive or widespread when they have affected a large area, usually defined as the majority of a property.

### Scoring the results:

If **Yes** to **any** of **1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 6, 10, or 11** high archaeological potential – assessment is required

If **Yes** to **two or more** of **3, 4, 5, 7, 8, or 9** high archaeological potential – assessment is required

If **Yes** to **12** or **No** to all of **1 - 10** **low** archaeological potential – assessment is not required

If 3 or more **Unknown** an archaeological assessment is required (see note below)

† Note: If information requested in this checklist is unknown, a consultant archaeologist licensed under the *Ontario Heritage Act* should be retained to carry out at least a Stage 1 archaeological assessment to further explore the archaeological potential of the property and to

prepare a report on the results of that assessment. The Ministry of Tourism and Culture reviews all such reports prepared by consultant archaeologists against the ministry's Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. Once the ministry is satisfied that, based on the available information, the report has been prepared in accordance with those guidelines, the ministry issues an acceptance letter to the consultant archaeologist and places the report into its registry where it is available for public inspection.

0478E (2011/07) © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2011

Disponible en français