

APPENDIX A: Proposed Official Plan Policies

Archaeological sites are distributed in a variety of settings across the landscape, being locations or places that are associated with past human activities, endeavours, or events that are of cultural heritage value or interest. These sites may occur on or below the modern land surface (or water). The physical forms that these archaeological sites may take include: surface scatters of artifacts; subsurface strata which are of human origin or incorporate cultural deposits; the remains of structural features; or a combination of these attributes. As such, archaeological sites are both highly fragile and non-renewable.

An artifact is any object, material or substance that is made, modified, used, deposited or affected by human action and is of cultural heritage value or interest. Archaeological fieldwork is any activity carried out on, above or under land or water for the purpose of obtaining and documenting data, recovering artifacts and remains or altering an archaeological site and includes monitoring, assessing, exploring, surveying, recovering and excavating.

Goal:

To recognize, protect, and conserve archaeological sites within the City.

Policies:

Conservation of Archaeological Resources

The City will permit *development* and *site alteration* on lands containing *archaeological resources* or *areas of archaeological potential* if the significant *archaeological resources* have been *conserved* by removal and documentation, or by conservation on site. Where significant *archaeological resources* must be preserved on site, only development and site alteration which maintain the heritage integrity of the site may be permitted.

Required Studies

Upon receiving information that lands proposed for *development* may include *archaeological resources* or constitute an *area of archaeological potential*, Council will not take any action to approve the *development*, and the owner of such land will be requested to have studies carried out by qualified persons to:

- a) assess the property;
- b) assess the impact of the proposed *development*;
- c) indicate methods to mitigate any negative impact of the proposed *development* on any *archaeological resources*, including methods of recovery and preservation;
- d) comply with current Ministry of Culture standards and guidelines for consulting archaeologists; and,
- e) provide a compliance letter issued by the Province for any completed archaeological study.

Designation of Sites

The City intends to cooperate with the Provincial Government to designate archaeological sites in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The City's register of *cultural heritage resources* may include available archaeological site data and locations, and relevant mapping from the provincial archaeological database of the Ministry of Culture, under the provisions of a municipal-provincial data sharing agreement. These site data and locations will be maintained for the purpose of heritage conservation planning and development review. The mapping database will be updated regularly when appropriate, as new archaeological sites are identified.



Locations Confidential

It is the policy of the City to keep confidential the existence and location of archaeological sites to protect against vandalism, disturbance, and the inappropriate removal of resources, as per the Ministry of Culture and the City of Vaughan data sharing agreement.

Provincial Approval

All archaeological assessment reports must be reviewed and a compliance letter issued by the Ministry of Culture. A copy of the assessment report and the compliance letter will be provided to the City by the licensed archaeologist who completed the assessment. The City will maintain copies of all reports and compliance letters for information purposes.

Burial Sites

Where burial sites are encountered during any excavation or other action, the provisions of the Cemeteries Act and its regulations will apply. Where First Nations burials are discovered, consultation will occur with the nearest First Nation and the Nation with the closest cultural affiliation, if that can be determined.

Emergency Protection of Resources

A contingency plan will be prepared, with the advice of a licensed archaeologist and the Ministry of Culture and adopted by by-law, for emergency situations to protect *archaeological resources* that are accidentally discovered or are under imminent threat(s).

First Nations Village Sites

All First Nations village sites shall be considered as features to be removed from developable lands.

