

# Summary of Updates to the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists

**Note:** The Section, Subsection and Standard numbers referenced below are consistent with the *2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. This numbering has been updated in the draft *2026 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and may not correspond to that below.

## Glossary and Terms:

- “Aboriginal” changed to “Indigenous” throughout (except where referencing the title of a document)
- “Ministry of Tourism and Culture” changed to “Ministry” throughout (exception cover page updated to “Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism”)
- “GPS” to “GNSS” throughout
- “property” changed to “project area” in most cases throughout
- “evaluate” changed to “assess” (in the context of “evaluating archaeological potential”)
- “archaeological resources” changed to “archaeological sites”
- Glossary updates

## General:

- Sections with “guidelines” but no standards have been removed from the document (see below)
- Some “guidelines” are now “standards” (see below)

## Archaeology in the Context of Land Use Planning and Development

- Removal of “Health and Safety”
- “Uncovering human remains”: “Cemeteries Act” has been replaced with “Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act”

## Stage 1: Background Study and Optional Property Inspection (Section 1)

- Removal of Section 1.2 “Property inspection (optional) – all applicable standards moved to Section 2 “Stage 2 Project Area Assessment”
- New standards added for defining “project area”
- Section 1.1 “Background Study”
  - o Guideline 1 (some bullets) have become standards. For example, bullets related to aerial photographs and geotechnical studies.
  - o New standard added to require research related to cemeteries/burials that are within or adjacent to the project area.
- Section 1.3 “Analysis and Recommendations: Evaluating Archeological Potential”
  - o New standard added to require a Stage 1 assessment of the entire property in cases where Stage 2 will be an assessment of limited small-scale impacts.
- Removal of Section 1.4 “Stage 2 recommendations under special conditions”, including:
  - o 1.4.1 “Recommending reduction of stage 2 test pit survey coverage”
  - o 1.4.2 “Municipal archaeological management plans”
  - o 1.4.3 “Forest management plans” (Forestry Bulletin continues to apply)

## Stage 2: Property Assessment (Section 2)

- Added inspection standards (previously in Stage 1, Section 1.2 “Property Inspection (optional)”)
- Section 2.1 “Property Survey”
  - o Removal of Standard 2e)
  - o Updates to Standard 2f) to improve clarity
- Section 2.1.1: “Pedestrian Survey”
  - o Removal of Standard 9 (modernization update)
- Removal of Section 2.1.4: “Alternative strategies for special survey conditions: Test pit survey where archaeological management plans exist”, including Guideline 1
- Section 2.1.9 “Property survey of undisturbed forest floors”: all guidelines in this section are now standards.
- New Section: “Limits of archaeological sites” (New Section 2.2.1)
- New Section: “When archaeological sites are identified” (New Section 2.3)

## Stage 3: Site Specific Assessment (Section 3)

- Section 3.2.1 “Controlled surface pick-up (CSP)”

- Updates to Standard 4, consistent with removal of Section 2.1.1, Standard 9
- New Section: “Continuing temporary avoidance and protection of archaeological sites”
  - New Standard added requiring temporary avoidance and protection of an archaeological site(s)

#### Stage 4: Mitigation of Development Impacts (Section 4)

- Removal of Section 4.1.3 “Alternative Strategies for special conditions: Temporary avoidance prior to full excavation”, including Standard 1

#### Using the Global Positioning System (GPS) (Section 5)

- Title of Section 5 has been updated to “Geospatial Data Documentation”
- All standards related to the use of GPS have been updated to require the use of the Global Navigation Satellite System [GNSS]
- New Sub-sections 5.1 “Use of GNSS”
- New Sub-section 5.2 “Verification of project area in the field”, including new Standards added to require a description of how the project area was defined in the field.

#### Reporting Archaeological Fieldwork (Section 7)

- Removal of cover letter requirement:
  - Removal of Section 7.3.1 “Cover Letter”
  - Removal of Section 7.4 “Project Report Package Cover Letter”, including Standards 1-5
- Section 7.1 “Project Information Forms (PIF)”
  - New Standard added to require separate Stage 1 and Stage 2 PIFs for assessments of limited small-scale impacts
- Section 7.3 “Project report package”
  - New sub-section: “Site forms”
  - New sub-section: “Spatial data”
- Section 7.5.6 “Project Context: Development Context”
  - Standards updated to require more detail in the description of a project area
  - New standard added for defining project areas
- Section 7.5.9 “Advice on compliance with legislation”,
  - Standard 1d: “Cemeteries Act” has been replaced with “Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act”

- Section 7.6 “Project Report Package: Supplementary Documentation”
  - o New subsection “Other correspondence and supporting documents”
  - o New Standards added to require correspondence and other supporting documents be included in supplementary documentation
- Removal of Section 7.7.2 “Property Inspection”, including Standard 1
- New Standard added in Section 7.7.3 “Analysis and conclusions” to require a description of how the results of the background study support analysis and conclusions
- New Standard: Section 7.7.6 “Map”
  - o New standard added to require location of archaeological sites located within 50m of the project area be mapped
- Section 7.8.1 “Field methods”
  - o New Standards added to require:
    - documentation of lands being transferred to a public land holding body.
    - documentation of the percentage or hectares of the property included in the project area for small-scale impact assessments
    - information required by Sections 5.1, Standard 1 and Section 5.2
  - o Removal of Standard 1e
- Section 7.8.4 “Recommendations: General”
  - o New Standards added to prescribe specific language for recommendations following Stage 2 assessments of small-scale impacts and for protecting archaeological sites while development proceeds in other parts of the project area
- Section 7.8.7 “Maps”
  - o New Standard added to require mapping that differentiates between any archaeological sites being protected and the parts of a project area where development can proceed.
  - o New Standard added to require mapping of small-scale impact project areas
- Section 7.9.4 “Recommendations for Stage 4”
  - o New Standards added to prescribe specific language for recommendations for the protection of archaeological sites
- Removal of Sub-section 7.9.5 “Recommendations for special conditions: partial clearance”
- Section 7.12 “Site forms”
  - o New standard added to require a site update form be submitted following Stage 2 inspection

- New standard added to require a site update form be submitted regardless of whether a known site has been successfully relocated during Stage 2 fieldwork