

GN-01: Archaeological and Paleontological Sites	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	TTMG Project
References	NIRB Notice of Screening 22EN007
CONCERNS	
<p>The proponent intends to carry out a multi-year (2021-2027) drilling program on various gold occurrences located on the Turner and Ted claims. The project is located approximately 180 km from Cambridge Bay. The proposed land use activities include drilling and the use of helicopter to transport crew. The Bathurst Inlet Lodge will be used for accommodations.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there are no recorded archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed prospecting areas. This however does not preclude the presence of unidentified sites or cultural features as to this day no systematic archaeological reconnaissance has been conducted in this specific area. Several archaeological sites are reported on exploration properties nearby.</p> <p>The project area may potentially yield significant archaeological/cultural resources as it geographically overlaps the core area of the Bathurst Caribou range. With its interconnecting system of rivers and lakes and extensive network of hunting and travelling routes the area was and still is being extensively used by the Kitikmeot Inuit. Thus, the Department of Culture and Heritage considers that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there could be sites of archaeological significance on the lands affected by the current project (NA 33.5.12).</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>On the basis that no archaeological surveys have been conducted in the proposed exploration areas and that the potential for the presence of archaeological sites is high, the Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that a field archaeological assessment program be initiated prior to any land disturbance activities.</p> <p>CH recommendations are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A qualified archaeologist must apply for a Class 2 permit in order to conduct a field archaeological assessment of any areas subject to ground disturbance activities; (2) Assessment of any drilling locations (50 m radius) and water-hose route to the closest water intake; 	

- (3) The Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that the applicant avoids conducting activities in the vicinity (50 m buffer zone) of archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities should immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to our office.

All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected by law. The applicant must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage resource sites are disturbed in the course of their activities. No person shall alter, or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove any artifact from an archaeological site. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

An Archaeology Class 2 permit is required.