

GN-01: Cultural Resources	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Cultural Resources
References	NIRB Notice of Screening for Geological Survey of Canada's "Mapping Pearya Terrane" project proposal, distributed February 26, 2024
CONCERNS	
<p>The Proponent intends to conduct field work to study the origin, evolution and the opening of the Arctic Ocean and the distribution of oceans, lands and mountain ranges. The project area is located approximately 400km of Grise Fiord. The Proponent plans to setup camp at Yelverton Inlet.</p> <p>Project activities include: establishment of a temporary camp (9 person); the use of a helicopter to transport personnel and material; the collection of rocks and peat samples (palaeontological samples).</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there are several archaeological sites recorded within the proposed study areas: twenty-eight (28) sites are located within the northern research area; sixty-two sites (62) are in the southern research area, for a total of ninety (90) sites. 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 area. The department of Culture and Heritage has concerns with the presence of several archaeological sites in the study areas, as peat is often associated with archaeological features such as Thule/Inuit sodhouses.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>Based on the presence of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Research Areas and that no systematic archaeological survey has been conducted in these areas, the Department of Culture and Heritage (CH) 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). Moreover, the proponent intends to collect palaeontological samples.</p> <p>CH recommendations are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A Class 2 Palaeontological Permit is required. The proponent has been proactive, and a Palaeontological Permit has been submitted for the 2024 field season; (2) The paleontologist permit holder shall contact the Territorial Archaeology Office with regards to peat collection; 	

- (3) The proponent must exercise caution in their movements to avoid archaeological sites, specifically with regards to helicopter landings and the placement of the temporary camp site. It is recommended that landing areas (including fuel caches) be visually inspected prior to landing and takeoff;
- (4) Temporary camp location and associated components must be visual assessed for archeological resources;
- (5) 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 during 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