

GN-01: Archaeological resources	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Back for the Future: Long-term Observations of Vegetation and Snowcover in the High Arctic
References	NIRB Notice of Screening
CONCERNS	
<p>The applicant is proposing to set up a temporary camp (2 people) to carry out research in order to understand environmental changes; specifically the relation between snow cover and Arctic vegetation.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there are thirty-four (34) recorded archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project area. A large concentration of sites is found along Iqaluktuuq (river) between Tahiryuaq (lake) and Wellington Bay. This however does not preclude the presence of unidentified sites or cultural features in the area. To this day, no systematic archaeological reconnaissance has been conducted in this area.</p>	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the accumulation of organic matter, archaeological sites generally provide rich substrates facilitating plant growth. Thus, caution must be exercised to ensure that vegetation observation plots are not located within archaeological features. • The camp location must be visually inspected to ensure that no archaeological features are located in the vicinity. • The applicant shall avoid 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 the Government of Nunavut Territorial Archaeology Office. • No person shall search, excavate, alter, or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove any artifact from an archaeological site without a Class 2 permit. • The building of inuksuit is not recommended. 	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
<p>All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected by law. The Proponent must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage resource sites are disturbed in the course of their activities.</p>	