



AGNICO EAGLE

HOPE BAY MINE

Heritage Resources Protection Plan

SEPTEMBER 2025
VERSION 4

REVISIONS

Revision #	Date	Section	Changes Summary	Author
0	November 2003	Original	Original Document	Miramar
1	May 2005	Throughout	Revisions to reflect comments received during permitting of the Doris Project	HBML
2	December 2016	Throughout	General updates, consideration of the Phase 2 Project, and conversion to TMAC management plan format	TMAC
3	November 2017	Throughout	Revisions to include 2017 field results and to comply with GN-CH technical review comments	TMAC
4	September 2025	Throughout	Revisions made to Agnico Eagle formatting and to reflect accurate site procedures	Agnico Eagle

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hope Bay Mine Heritage Resources Protection Plan is intended to provide a framework for ongoing protection and management of heritage resources relative to Hope Bay Mine development activities. The Protection Plan outlines the nature of and need for protection of heritage resources, summarizes previous studies and known archaeological sites, and provides guidance for ongoing avoidance and/or mitigation/supplemental studies to continue to manage heritage resources as project development progresses. Comments on the Discovery Protocol and Education Programs are also included.

A separate document has been prepared as part of a data gap assessment for the Hope Bay Mine, titled *Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment*. That data gap assessment contains confidential details regarding known archaeological site locations and site status, as well as detailed information on archaeological assessment locations. As such, the *Data Gap Assessment* document forms the basis for the Archaeological Site and Assessment portions of this Heritage Resources Protection Plan. The *Data Gap Assessment* will be updated on an annual basis with new information on archaeological sites and archaeological assessment.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Hope Bay is a gold mining and exploration project located on a property approximately 20 km by 80 km along the south shore of Melville Sound in Nunavut, Canada. It is owned and operated by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle).

In February 2022, Agnico Eagle made the decision to maintain the suspension of production activities and enter into Care and Maintenance, which includes the suspension of ore extraction & milling operations.

This Heritage Resources Protection Plan is intended to update the 2017 Heritage Resources Protection Plan prepared in support of the 2017 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared by TMAC Resources (TMAC Resources 2017).

The intent of the Heritage Resources Protection Plan is to provide a framework for ongoing protection and management of heritage resources relative to Hope Bay Mine development activities. The plan outlines the nature of and need for protection of heritage resources, summarizes previous studies and known archaeological sites, and provides guidance for ongoing avoidance and/or mitigation/supplemental studies to continue to manage heritage resources as project development progresses. Comments on the Discovery Protocol and Education Programs are also included

This Heritage Resources Protection Plan is organized into the following sections:

- Protection and Nature of Heritage Resources
- Previous Archaeological Investigations
- Known Archaeological Sites
- Mitigation Measures and Supplemental Investigations
- Heritage Resources Site Discovery Protocol and Education Program

A separate document has been prepared as part of a data gap assessment for the Hope Bay Mine, titled *Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment* (Tischer 2025). That data gap assessment contains confidential details regarding known archaeological site locations and site status, as well as detailed information on archaeological assessment locations. As such, the *Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment* document forms the basis for the Archaeological Site and Assessment portions of this Heritage Resources Protection Plan. The *Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment* will be updated on an annual basis with new information on archaeological sites and archaeological assessment.

2. PROTECTION AND NATURE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

2.1. Legislation and Guidelines

Heritage resources are identified by the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations* (Government of Nunavut [GN] 2001) and consist of archaeological artifacts and sites more than 50 years old and fossils including natural casts, preserved tracks, coprolites, and plant remains as well as shells, exoskeletons of invertebrates, and vertebrate remains.

In addition to the *Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations* (GN 2001), other relevant documents include the *Nunavut Act* (1993), and the *Guidelines for Applications and Holders of Nunavut Territory Archaeology and Palaeontology Permits* (GN 2003). In Nunavut, the Department of Culture and Heritage of the GN is responsible for the protection of heritage resources.

2.2. Nature of Heritage Resources

Heritage resources are non-renewable and are susceptible to alteration, damage, and destruction by construction and development activities. Precontact archaeological sites are composed of artifacts, features, and residues of Indigenous origin. They predate the arrival of Europeans and are typically characterized by modified animal bone and stone, and stone structures such as tent rings, hunting blinds and caches. Historic sites are characterized by structures, features, and objects of European influence, and may be identified as Historic or Indigenous Historic. Sites less than 50 years old are generally associated with contemporary land use and reflect continued use and occupation of an area to the present time. Palaeontological sites contain fossils of plants or animals or fossilized evidence of their existence.

3. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

3.1. Summary of Previous Investigations

Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) studies have been undertaken relative to the Hope Bay Mine since 1995, with 25 investigations occurring under archaeological permits between 1995 and 2024. Investigations in the 1990s consisted mainly of preliminary studies to determine overall potential for archaeological sites to be present, along with archaeological survey of the mine components proposed for earliest development. More intensive footprint-specific investigations were undertaken starting in 2000, with ongoing annual assessment relative to various types of planned development such as mine pits, roads, quarries, infrastructure and relative to mineral exploration. In addition to assessment (i.e. ground survey to identify archaeological sites) some mitigative investigations (i.e. detailed mapping and archaeological excavation) were also undertaken at archaeological sites proposed for impact from development.

3.2. Ground Assessment Coverage

Not all AIA technical reports are available for review due to limitations on access to archaeological data imposed by the Department of Culture and Heritage. However, information on previous investigation locations and assessment coverage of terrain has been compiled based on available reports and data.

The available data on previous assessment coverage is presented in the Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment (Tischer 2025). The report provides a list of previous studies and a summary of the investigations that were undertaken each year, as well as mapped data (figures) in Appendix B illustrating areas previously subject to archaeological assessment. The data has also been digitized into a working 'Master' digital data set (GIS shape files) suitable for use in digital platforms such as ArcGIS; this dataset (which must remain confidential but can be used for project planning) is available to relevant Agnico Eagle personnel for use in planning and for development design purposes.

The data set associated with the Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment will be updated on an annual basis after the completion of archaeological studies in each season of work.

4. KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

During the AIA studies conducted since 1995, over 350 archaeological sites have been investigated. Sites are distributed across the general Hope Bay Mine area, with higher densities of sites in coastal, lakeshore and river settings, but sites are associated with a diverse range of terrain features. Sites vary in size from single stone features with limited interpretive value to very large sites extending over large areas and representing multiple occupations. Feature types include habitation features such as tent rings and shelters, hearths, caches where meat or equipment was stored, animal traps, inuksuit, kayak stands and other propped rock features, and possible graves, as well as artifact finds. Some archaeological sites have been subject to mitigative investigations (such as archaeological excavation) if the sites were proposed for impact from development and avoidance was not possible. Most sites, however, remain undisturbed and ongoing avoidance or further investigations are still needed should the sites be proposed for impact.

The Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment (Tischer 2025) provides a list (table) of sites investigated including the nature of each site, year of investigation, relevant AIA technical report, relationship to development, and the need for ongoing avoidance and/or mitigative investigations that have been completed (Tischer 2025, Appendix A). Digital datasets containing this information suitable for use in digital platforms such as ArcGIS and an excel spreadsheet have also been prepared and will be updated/maintained on an annual basis.

Note that reconciliation of archaeological site data is still being undertaken as the archaeological investigations are being transferred from the previous archaeological consultant to the Nunami Stantec archaeological team. As discrepancies between the various data sets are resolved, and as new data is added during ongoing field programs, the Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment will be updated on an annual basis.

5. MITIGATION MEASURES AND SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

5.1. Supplemental Assessment

Areas considered to have been subject to comprehensive archaeological assessment are illustrated in the Hope Bay Archaeological Desktop Data Gap Assessment (Tischer 2025) and in the associated digital data files. If development (including mine and infrastructure development but also activities associated with mineral exploration, i.e. drilling) are proposed in areas that have not been subject to prior archaeological assessment, supplemental investigation will need to be undertaken by the archaeological team prior to development activities taking place. Note that archaeological investigations must take place under snow-free, unfrozen conditions (typically late June to early September).

5.2. Archaeological Sites

Archaeological sites that are listed in Appendix A of Tischer (2025) and in the associated digital data files as 'Avoid' indicates that these sites require ongoing avoidance or additional investigation before they can be impacted by disturbance activities. The exact nature of additional archaeological investigations will need to be determined in consultation with the Nunami Stantec archaeological team and the Department of Culture and Heritage, GN, but may include detailed site/features mapping, systematic collection of artifacts and/or archaeological excavation. Note that avoidance of archaeological sites/features by minimally 30 m is a requirement as per the Guidelines for Developers section (Appendix H) of the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations* (GN 2001).

Sites listed as 'None – site has been mitigated' in Appendix A of Tischer (2025) have been previously subject to sufficient archaeological mitigative investigations and do not warrant ongoing avoidance or further investigation; these sites can be impacted by development activities.

6. DISCOVERY PROTOCOL AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

6.1. Discovery Protocol

Archaeological Impact Assessment field studies are intended to represent comprehensive ground coverage to identify archaeological sites; however, complete investigation of an entire development footprint relative to archaeological resources is not typically feasible given the size of development footprints and the small size and nature of archaeological sites, which are often difficult to identify until the field archaeologist is in immediate proximity to the site. As such, archaeological sites that were not previously identified can be present within assessed areas, and archaeological sites could be identified or exposed during ongoing planning and design and during the construction phase of activity. Any chance discoveries of archaeological features or artifacts, historic objects, or palaeontological resources (fossils) must be reported.

As a general practice, if archaeological, historic, or palaeontological resources are encountered during exploration, pre-construction, construction or post-construction activities, field workers should:

- Stop work in the immediate area
- Notify the construction manager or on-site environment personnel as appropriate
- Photograph the site or item of concern
- Take a location of the site or find with GPS if possible, or a screen shot of the location on phone
- Contact the archaeological consultant for advice (Nunami Stantec contact information is provided below).

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6.2. Education Program

Implementation of Education Programs for field workers is recommended on an annual or as-needed basis. Education programs can consist of the following:

- Presentation on site by the Senior Archaeologist during the annual archaeological field program. The presentation is typically relatively informal (power point presentation and open discussion) and is intended to educate workers as to the nature of heritage resources, how to identify sites (including providing photo examples of archaeological artifacts and features), and what to do if a suspected archaeological site is observed (Discovery Protocol).
- Presentations prepared by the archaeological team and Agnico Eagle to allow for education of new workers during onboarding (new hires), or as annual training.
- Posters and educational material at worksites/camp accommodation.

7. REFERENCES

Government of Nunavut. 2001. Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations. Nunavut Act, SOR/2001-220.

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