

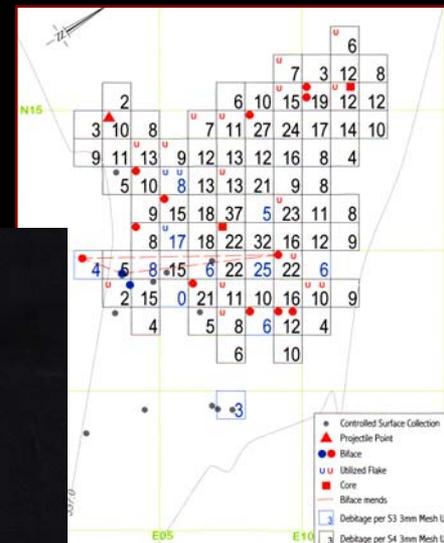


Artifact Documentation and Analysis

Implementing 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists

Culture Programs Unit
Programs and Service Branch
Ministry of Tourism and Culture

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Artifact Documentation and Analysis

Purpose of artifact documentation and analysis in assessment reports is to:

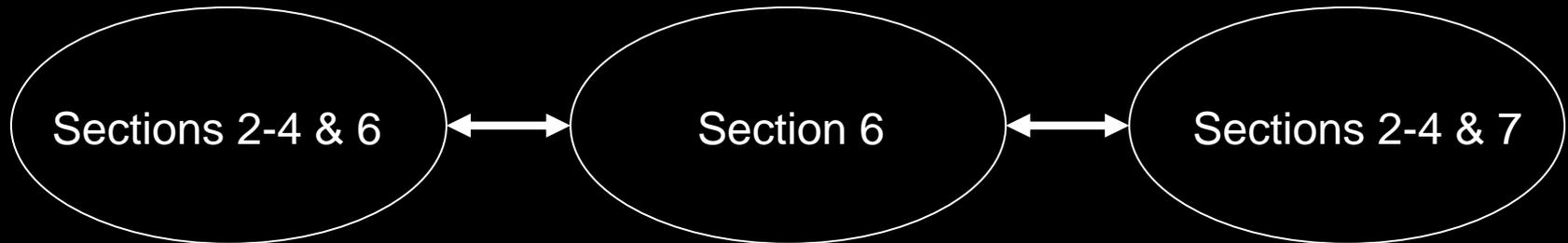
- Record findings and inform site interpretation
- Inform the recommendations for the site
- Provide information to future researchers

Artifact Documentation and Analysis

Artifact analysis and documentation are included in:

- Sections 2 - 4: Fieldwork requirements for Stage 2 through Stage 4
- Section 6: Artifact Documentation and Analysis
- Section 7.5: Reporting requirements for all reports
- Sections 7.8 - 7.11: Reporting requirements for specific stages and types of reports

Artifact Documentation and Analysis: Overview



Fieldwork Standards:

- Collection methods
- Field counts or yields
- In-field analysis to inform methods and recommendations

Lab Analysis Standards:

- Required analyses
- Specific Stage 4 standards
- Specialist Analyses

Reporting Standards:

- Translating analysis into interpretations;
- Determination of CHVI and site recommendations

Artifact Documentation and Analysis

Fieldwork Standards

Artifact Documentation and Analysis in Fieldwork

Standards for the documentation of artifacts during fieldwork are included in Sections 2, 3 and 4. These include:

- Collection methods
- Documentation of counts or yields
- In-field analysis to inform methods and extent of assessment or excavation

Section 2: Stage 2 Assessment

- **Artifact Collection: Pedestrian Survey**
 - All formal types and diagnostic categories (2.1.1, s8)
 - 19th century sites, includes all refined ceramic sherds (or, for larger sites, enough to form basis for accurate dating)
 - Achieve balance between collection and leaving some artifacts in field (2.1.1, s9)

(Note: for analysis and reporting, must provide description of artifacts left in the field)



Section 2: Stage 2 Assessment

- Artifact Collection: Test Pit Survey
 - All artifacts
 - Collect and record according to the associated test pit (2.1.2, s8)



Section 2:

Stage 2 Assessment

- Documentation and Analysis:
Determining field approach and nature of resource
 - Finds may suggest moving directly to Stage 3
 - Materials may not clearly indicate Stage 3, but may suggest need for intensification (2.1.3)
 - Artifact finds may indicate that levels of disturbance are less than indicated during Stage 1 (2.1.8)

Section 2: Stage 2 Assessment

- Documentation and Analysis:
Determining need for further work (2.2)
 - Standards identify specific artifact densities or diagnostics that require Stage 3 (2.2, s1)
 - If artifacts of special interest exist, Stage 3 is required (2.2, s2)
 - Guidelines allow for Stage 3 recommendations outside of these standards (2.2, g1-4)

Section 3: Stage 3 Assessment

- **Artifact Collection: Controlled Surface Pick-Up**
 - Requirements are similar to those for pedestrian survey (3.2.1, s5)
 - Large scatters - artifacts should be collected and catalogued by grid unit (3.2.1, s3)
 - All formal and diagnostic types, and a representative sample of non-diagnostic material (3.2.1, s6)



Section 3: Stage 3 Assessment

- Artifact Collection: Test Unit Excavation
 - All artifacts collected, unless options for sampling apply for specific artifact or site types (Section 4.2 and Section 6)
 - Record and catalogue according to associated grid unit designation (3.2.2, s8)



Section 3:

Stage 3 Assessment

- Documentation and Analysis:
Indicating extent of Stage 3 excavations
 - Location and number of test units are determined by site type, as indicated by findings (Table 3.1)
 - Site limits established through sterile units, or other yield cut-off based on professional judgement (3.2.3, g1)
 - Several characteristics may indicate site limits, and all must be clearly described and decisions articulated in the report
 - No specified yield cut-off (will vary depending on region, site type, physical characteristics, etc.)

Section 3:

Stage 3 Assessment

Artifact analysis: primary component for determining need for mitigation and recommended approach

- Certain diagnostic categories and types of sites require Stage 4 (3.4, s1; 3.4.2; and 3.4.5, table 3.2)
- For smaller sites, yields are an indication for Stage 4 (3.4.1)
- Finds will play a role in determining need for Aboriginal Engagement (3.4, s2; 3.5, s1)
- Analysis will inform the cultural heritage value or interest, and recommendations for Stage 4 strategies (3.4, 3.5)

Catalogue – a complete inventory, reflects the finds and determinations included in the report

Section 4:

Stage 4 Excavation

- All artifacts collected, recorded and catalogued according to grid unit designation (4.2.1, s8)
(unless otherwise specified in site specific requirements)
- In order to apply sampling strategies, following conditions must be met (4.2.1, g1):
 - MTC accepted strategy as part of the recommendation in the Stage 3 report
 - Only applied to large sites or sites with very high numbers of certain artifact class
 - Representation from all meaningful contexts must be ensured
- Specific requirements for artifact collection and analysis for certain site types

Section 4: Stage 4 Excavation

- Woodland Sites (4.2.4)
 - Record detailed artifact provenience, including feature identification
 - Middens and complex stratified features, retain artifacts according to strata
 - Discarding Artifacts
 - Certain artifacts can be discarded in the field
 - fire-cracked rock
 - undecorated ceramic micro sherds
 - must be counted and recorded according to Section 6.

Section 4: Stage 4 Excavation

- Large Lithic Quarries (4.2.6)
 - Collect all lithic debris from specific areas (single component or reduction sequence activities)
 - Discarding Artifacts
 - Based on professional judgement, lithic debris from other areas may be counted and discarded in the field

Section 4: Stage 4 Excavation

- 19th Century Sites (4.2.7)
 - Artifact analysis will play a key role in determining the age of the site (pre/post 1830), which will influence the excavation strategy used
 - Discarding Artifacts
 - Structural and fuel-related materials may be discarded in the field
 - Must be counted and documented according to Section 6

Section 4: Stage 4 Excavation

- Deeply Buried Sites (4.2.8)
 - Record recovered material according to feature and/or strata
- Undisturbed Sites (4.2.9)
 - Yields must be zero at 5m and 10m beyond outermost recorded find (if not part of Stage 3)
 - Piece-plot diagnostics and formal tools

Artifact Documentation and Analysis

Lab Analysis Standards

Section 6: Artifact Documentation and Analysis

- Detailed standards for the analysis and cataloguing of different artifact types
- Guidelines for different strategies or additional analysis where appropriate
- Direct connection to reporting:
 - Specific references to cultural and temporal affiliations
 - Determinations of cultural heritage value or interest
 - Comparisons to other research

Section 6: Artifact Documentation and Analysis

Photo Credit: Archaeological Services Inc.



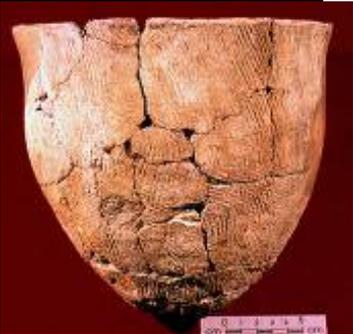
General Standards for Stages 2 – 4 (Section 6.0):

- Cite sources used for typologies
- Recording of unstable artifacts
- Artifact catalogue with the catalogue number, provenience information, quantity, and artifact classes to the level required in Tables 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3
- Sampling strategies under certain types and conditions (guidelines)

Stage 4 Only:

- Analysis of complete collection, including material from soil flotation
- Specialist analyses, as per Table 6.3, of complete collection

Table 6.1 Aboriginal Artifacts



Analysis:

- Wherever appropriate, use terminology established in literature
- Information to be included in artifact descriptions
- Classifications to be included in catalogue for each type
- Complete debitage analysis for Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic sites
- Guidelines for sampling strategies
- Guidelines for more detailed analysis

Photo Credit: D.R. Poulton & Associates

Table 6.2

Non-Aboriginal Artifacts

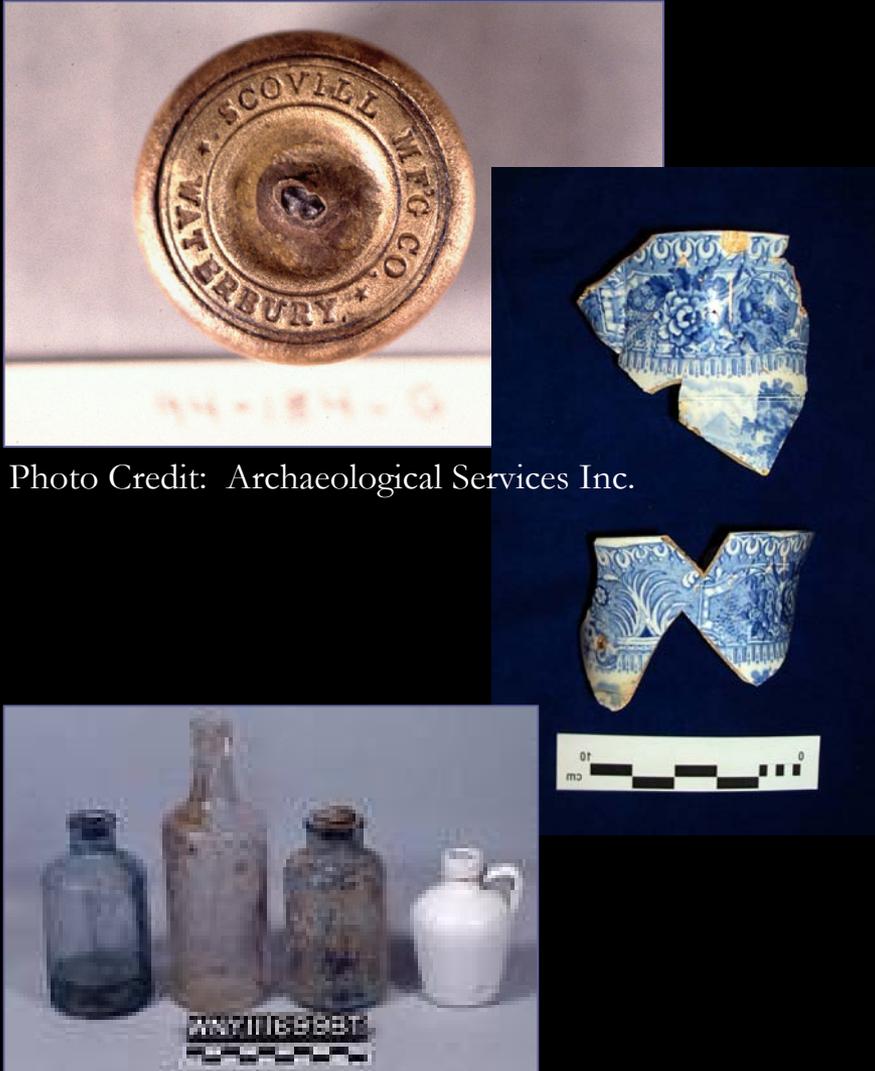


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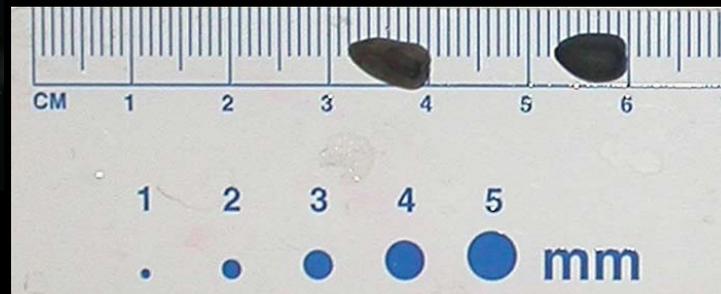
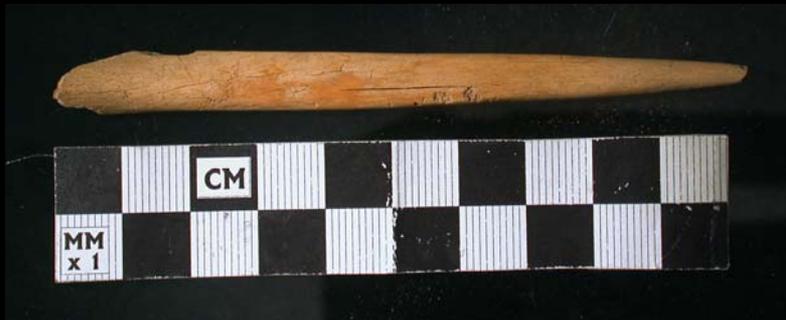
Analysis:

- Wherever appropriate, use terminology established in literature
- Information to be included in artifact descriptions
- Classifications to be included in catalogue for each type
- Section for sampled artifacts
 - Description and counts of all retained
 - For those left or discarded in field, description by category and estimated counts
- Guidelines for more detailed analysis

Table 6.3

Specialist Analyses

- Only required for Stage 4 excavation
- Includes faunal, floral, and radio carbon studies
- Can include other specialist studies as deemed appropriate
- Detailed sampling guidelines are provided for faunal and floral analyses



Artifact Documentation and Analysis

Reporting Standards

Artifact Documentation and Analysis in Reporting

- Requirements for reporting on artifacts are found in sections 7.5, 7.8 - 7.11
- All Reports (7.5)
 - Images of a representative sample of all categories of diagnostics and formal tools. This includes:
 - Representation from all components of the site
 - Any artifacts critical to identifying age or cultural affiliation
 - Representation of all 19th century ceramic types
 - Any unusual artifacts

Section 7.8: Stage 2 Reports

- Record of Finds (2.8.2)
 - General description of the types of artifacts found
 - Catalogue and description of all artifacts retained
 - Description of all artifacts left in the field
(note: provides support for methods of collection and what was left for relocation)

Section 7.8: Stage 2 Reports

- Analysis and Conclusions (7.8.3)
 - Artifacts are one component for providing:
 - Preliminary determination of age and cultural affiliation
 - Comparison of criteria to determine whether further work is needed

Section 7.8: Stage 2 Reports

- Recommendations (7.8.4)
 - Determinations of cultural heritage value or interest will be informed by artifact analysis
 - Recommendations for Stage 3 strategies will be connected to artifact concentrations and analysis
- Maps (7.8.6)
 - All find locations, including surface artifacts and individual positive test pits

Section 7.9: Stage 3 Reports

- Field Methods (7.9.1)
 - Provide rationale for artifact collection methods and extent of collection during CSP
 - (note: provides support for professional judgement used in the field)*
- Record of Finds (7.9.2)
 - Description of artifact distributions and frequencies, including specific activity areas or patterning and single-component areas
 - Catalogue of all artifacts collected (according to Section 6)
 - Description of any unusual or unexpected findings

Section 7.9: Stage 3 Reports

- Analysis and Conclusions (7.9.3)
 - Artifact documentation and analysis is key support for:
 - Determination of age and cultural affiliation for each site
 - Correlations between field findings and historical documentation
 - Comparison of findings with current archaeological knowledge

Section 7.9: Stage 3 Reports

- Recommendations for Stage 4 (7.9.4)
 - Artifact analysis and clear documentation informs and supports recommendations, including:
 - Avoidance and protection strategies
 - Stage 4 excavation strategies
 - Determinations of no further concerns
- Maps (7.9.7)
 - All surface finds and unit yield counts (where relevant, indicating different classes of artifacts and counts by stratum)

Section 7.10: Stage 4 Reports Avoidance and Protection

- Report Content (7.10.1)
 - If new resources are uncovered, or if a site is accidentally disturbed, during monitoring :
 - Report must include a description of artifacts identified
 - Artifacts inform the cultural heritage value or interest, and whether any additional assessment or mitigation is required
 - Report must include photo documentation of activities, including any resources uncovered
 - Locations of all additional or disturbed resources must be mapped

Section 7.11: Stage 4 Reports

Excavation

- Field Methods (7.11.1)
 - Describe decisions made regarding placement and extent of excavations, will relate to yield counts and types of finds
 - Describe methods used for recording and mapping artifact contexts
- Record of Finds (7.11.2)
 - When artifacts are piece-plotted, describe the extent and distribution
 - Catalogue and describe all artifacts collected, including any records of cross mends for diagnostic fragments

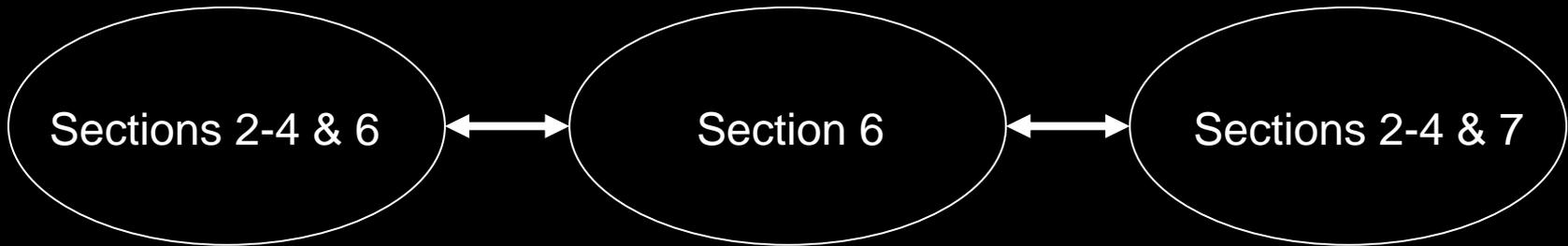
Section 7.11: Stage 4 Reports Excavation

- Analysis and Conclusions (7.11.3)
 - Artifact analysis and clear documentation will inform and support:
 - Full analysis and conclusion of the site's cultural history
 - Full analysis of development and land use history of the site
- Maps (7.11.6)
 - Relationship of all finds from all stages
 - All artifacts in counts of yields

Section 7.11.8: Preliminary Excavation Reports

- Reporting requirements for artifact documentation and analysis in Preliminary Excavation Reports (PER)
 - Recommendations – supported by minimum degree of artifact analysis needed to inform brief interpretations and conclusions for the site
 - PER must include a brief summary of findings
 - Images of representative artifacts (as per all reports – 7.5)
 - Maps showing relation of all finds from all stages and artifact counts in yields per unit

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