

How long will it take?

Most archaeological assessments can be completed within weeks. However, some field survey methods (walking ploughed fields) can only be done at certain times of the year. For that reason, developers should consult with the Building & Development Department's staff early in the development approval process.

Will it hold up the development of my property?

Once the Ministry of Culture has been satisfied that the site has been mitigated by either avoidance (retention or preservation of the resource) or documentation (excavation and recording of the resource) - there are no further archaeological constraints on development. For that reason, developers should fulfill their archaeological requirement as early as possible in the approval process.

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

If you have any questions about how your property in Windsor will be affected, please contact a staff planner at:

Building & Development Department
City Hall, 4th floor
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, ON N9A 6S1
Tel: (519) 255-6267
Fax: (519) 255-6680
E-mail: planning@city.windsor.on.ca

For other inquiries please contact:
Regional Archaeologist
Southwestern Archaeological Field Office,
Ontario Ministry of Culture
900 Highbury Avenue, London, ON N5Y 1A4
Telephone: (519) 675-6898
FAX: (519) 675-7777

For general City of Windsor information,
telephone 311

For specific inquiries:
*The Corporation of
The City of Windsor*
Building & Development Department
350 City Hall Square West
City Hall 4th floor
Windsor, ON N9A 6S1

Tel: (519) 255-6267
Fax: (519) 255-6680

Email:
buildingdept@city.windsor.on.ca

Web site:
www.citywindsor.ca

This pamphlet is intended to provide preliminary information only.

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Archaeological Sites

Building & Development
Department

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The Corporation of
The City of Windsor



What are Archaeological Resources?

Archaeological resources consist of both individual objects (artifacts) and cultural features (settlement patterns) created as a result of the past habitation and activities carried out by the people who occupied a specific place. Because of the passage of time, most archaeological resources are below the surface of the land or water.

Why are they important?

Archaeological resources help us to understand the history of a people or place. Windsor's archaeological heritage extends back some 10,000 years and documents the rich and culturally diverse heritage of our Aboriginal communities, as well as the non-Aboriginal peoples who arrived and settled here in the past 300 years.

How do we know where they are located?

Since archaeological sites are below the ground, they are not readily visible, but we do know that sites were not left randomly. Geographic features influenced past peoples and where they decided to live - proximity to water courses, marshes and on high sandy ridges. To help us determine those areas of the city with the highest potential, the City of Windsor undertook an "Archaeological Master Plan." Areas of high archaeological potential are identified on a map that can be viewed at www.citywindsor.ca - search the key word "maps." This information is also available on the City's geographic information system. Please contact the City of Windsor's Building & Development Department at 255-7910 for site-specific information.

What agencies have responsibility for preserving archaeological resources?

While the Ontario Ministry of Culture is responsible for protecting archaeological resources throughout the province, in 1997 the responsibility for evaluating site-specific development applications

for their potential impact on archaeological resources was transferred to the local approval authority, i.e. the City of Windsor.

How does the City of Windsor integrate the preservation of archaeological resources into the development approval process?

If you make application for municipal approval for a plan of subdivision or condominium, an amendment to the zoning by-law, or a site plan control, severance, minor variance or part lot control approval, your proposal will be reviewed to see if it has the potential to have an impact on archaeological resources. If it does, you will be required to hire a registered archaeologist to do an archaeological assessment of your property as a condition of the planning approval.

Do only private developers have to do archaeological assessments?

No. They are also required of public bodies as well (City, utility companies, etc.). Archaeological assessments are an integral part of environmental assessment reports.

What is an Archaeological Assessment?

An archaeological assessment is the survey of a parcel of land by a licensed archaeologist for the purpose of locating all the archaeological resources present. There are four basic components to the process:

- **Stage 1 - Background Research** - The archaeologist will determine if there is reason (high potential, undisturbed land) to proceed to stage 2.
- **Stage 2 - Field Assessment** - The archaeologist will conduct a surface survey of the development property, for example by walking a ploughed field, looking for artifacts or by shovel-testing undisturbed areas and screening fill to identify artifacts.

- **Stage 3 - Site Assessment** - If archaeological resources are discovered in stage 2, the archaeologist will undertake additional digging in stage 3.

- **Documentation - The Assessment Report** - The archaeologist will generate a report for the consideration of the Ministry of Culture, which will confirm that the archaeologist has satisfied the provincial interest in this particular archaeological resource.

Will I have to do an archaeological assessment on my property?

The Archaeological Master Plan sets out policies for staff planners to use to determine which development application will require an archaeological assessment as a condition of approval.

Generally your site would have to be an area of high potential as defined in the Archaeological Master Plan, would entail soil grading or ground disturbance in an area that is presently undisturbed, and would have an impact on the land greater than the development of one residential building. Special requirements are in place for those areas of very high potential, i.e. along waterways, in historic districts, and adjacent to known archaeological sites.

Who does the work?

An archaeological assessment can only be undertaken by firms or individuals holding valid archaeological consulting licenses. For a list of practicing archaeologists in Ontario, please see the web site of the Association of Professional Archaeologists of Ontario at www.apaontario.ca

How much will it cost?

Archaeologists bid on jobs like other consulting firms. Costs will depend on the size of the property and whether Stage 3 assessments are necessary.