



Tłıchǫ All-season Road Archaeological Site Chance Find Protocol

Insert applicable LWB project numbers

March 2016

Version 1

Government of
Northwest Territories



REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Notes/Revisions
1	March 2016	Original version of plan



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DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
DOT	Department of Transportation, GNWT
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
NWT	Northwest Territories
PDR	Project Description Report
PWNHC	Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
TASR	Tłıchq All-season Road
WLWB	Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Typically, major DOT infrastructure projects will be preceded by an archaeological impact assessment (AIA). The AIA will identify archaeological sites at risk of impact from the project and the project footprint will be re-aligned to avoid the archaeological site or the site will be mitigated through systematic data recovery prior to construction. However, there is always a chance that an archaeological site that was missed during an AIA will be encountered during ground disturbing operations.

The purpose of this Archaeological Site Chance Find Protocol is to provide guidance to Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) employees and contractors on what to do if they come across or expose an archaeological site while conducting ground disturbing operations. This document provides a framework for recognizing archaeological artifacts and avoiding unforeseen disturbance to them. The Protocol, consisting of two parts, (1) ensures employees and contractors understand the regulations that protect archaeological sites from disturbance and what archaeological sites look like and (2) what procedural steps should be followed if a suspected archaeological or heritage resource is encountered during ground disturbing activities.

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Tłıchq All-season Road (TASR) involves changing the location of the existing Tłıchq Winter Road System between Highway 3 and the community of Whatı to the overland all-season alignment illustrated in Map 1. The proposed TASR is defined as an all-season road approximately 94 km in length and 60 m in width with a cleared driving surface of approximately 8.5 m in width to accommodate a two lane gravel road with culverts and/or two lane bridges over water crossings as necessary.

The project is located within Mqwhı Gogha Dè Nıttıèè, the traditional territory of the Tłıchq Dene. The proposed TASR is intended to provide improved service to the Tłıchq community of Whatı, which is currently serviced by the existing winter road.

The route is within the Taiga Plains and is within the zone of discontinuous permafrost (ECG 2007). The region provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife, fish and vegetation species. A description of environmental conditions within and surrounding the proposed TASR corridor is included in the Project Description Report (PDR).

The location of the 94 km all-season road begins at KM 196 along Highway 3 and continues in a northwesterly direction to the community government boundary of Whatı. The alignment is situated within the geographic coordinates 62°28'54" to 63°10'37" N latitude and 116°29'07" to 117°00'05" W longitude. The proposed footprint is entirely contained within the Wek'èezhıı area and begins

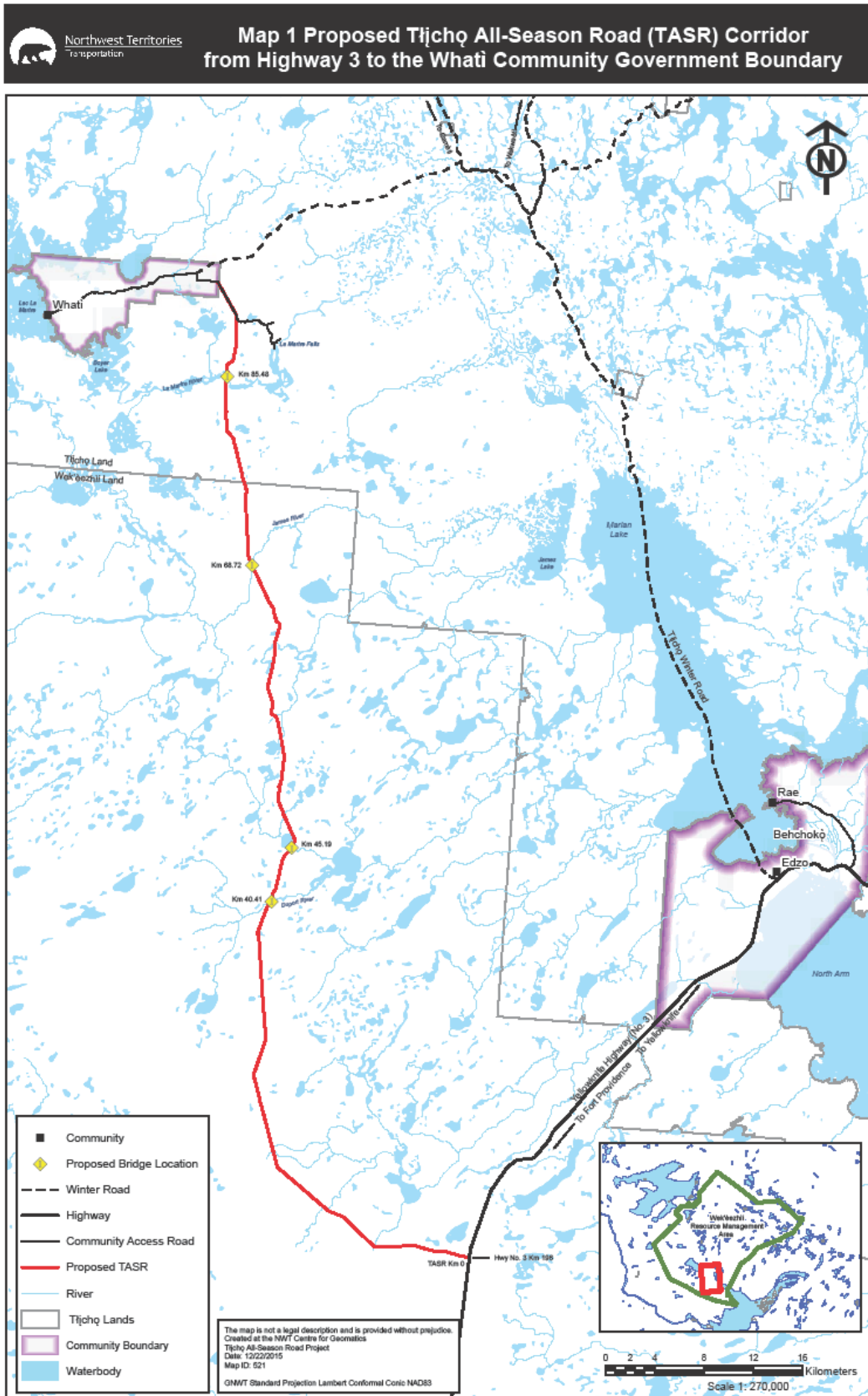


approximately 40 km southwest of Behchokò off Highway 3. Approximately 17 km of the road is located on Tłıchq lands.

Map 1 currently indicates the proposed TASR corridor, major bridges, waterbodies, nearby communities, and roads, while archaeological sites and significant traditional knowledge sites are included in the PDR. Further maps indicating final borrow source and access road locations will only be available after funding for the project has been procured and geotechnical investigations have been completed.

1.3 PROJECT CONTACTS

Main DOT Contact	Tłıchq Government Contact
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2 EDUCATION

This section ensures employees are aware that archaeological sites are protected by law, provides examples of what archaeological sites look like and how they can be identified.

2.1 LEGISLATION

Archaeological Sites Regulations:

4. No person shall search for archaeological sites or archaeological artifacts, or survey an archaeological site, without a Class 1 or Class 2 permit.
5. No person shall excavate, alter or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove an archaeological artifact from an archaeological site without a Class 2 permit.

Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations:

6. (a) Unless expressly authorized by a permit or in writing by an inspector, no permittee shall conduct a land use operation within 30 m of a known monument or a known or suspected historical, archaeological site or burial ground; and
12. Where, in the course of a land use operation, a suspected historical or archaeological site or burial ground is discovered,
 - (a) the permittee shall immediately suspend operations on the site or burial ground and notify the Board or an inspector; and
 - (b) the Board or inspector shall notify any affected first nation, the Tłıchq Government if the operation is taking place in the part of Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njłtłèè that is in the Northwest Territories, and the department of the Government of the Northwest Territories responsible therefor of the location of the site or burial ground and consult them regarding the nature of the materials, structures or artifacts and any further actions to be taken.

Definition of Archaeological Sites from the *Archaeological Sites Regulations:*

“archaeological artifact” means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old, in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession cannot be demonstrated; and

“archaeological site” means a site where an archaeological artifact is found.

2.2 ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION

Artifacts that might be common to find surrounding the TASR corridor include items such as: stone rings (tipi rings and hearths), stone tools and scatters, fenced graves, log cabins, stoves, toboggans, snowshoes, etc. The photos below help in illustrating these items.



Photo 1 Stone ring



Photo 2 Log cabin



Photo 3 Snowshoe



Photo 4 Stone hearth



Photo 5 Toboggan



Photo 6 Stove



Photo 7 Stone tool scatter



Photo 8 Stone tool





3 DISCOVERY PROTOCOL

This section describes the necessary steps required when a suspected archaeological site is identified by an employee or contractor in the field.

If materials are encountered during the course of development that could be archaeological or heritage resources, the following steps will be taken, as outlined by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) website:

1. Cease all forms of ground disturbance in the immediate vicinity of the find and leave all possible archaeological or heritage materials in place.
2. Establish a protective buffer of at least 30 m around the extent of the find area and demarcate the buffer in a highly visible and clear manner (e.g., with “No Work Zone” flagging).
3. Record the GPS location of the found materials and fill out the attached form.
4. Inform the Project Manager of the possible archaeological site and submit the associated form and photos.
5. Project Manager will contact PWNHC and all personnel will await further instruction. If required by the Land Use Permit, the Project Manager will inform the WLWB and/or the Inspector of the situation. PWNHC may need to attend the site to document and recover the item.



3.1 FORM

General Information		
Date of Discovery:		
Discovery Made By:		
Other Parties Present:		
Location (UTM and Datum):		
Site Description		
What is the closest waterbody (or other identifying feature – KM marker, etc.):		
Describe the Site Characteristics:		
Provide a Sketch of the Site with Appropriate Measurements:		
Photograph Summary		
Picture #:	Direction:	Description:
Picture #:	Direction:	Description:
Picture #:	Direction:	Description:
Picture #:	Direction:	Description:
Picture #:	Direction:	Description:
Picture #:	Direction:	Description:
Forward all information, pictures, maps and communications to Project Manager:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date:
Contact PWNHC Archaeologist: (867) 873-7688 www.pwnhc.ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date:



4 REFERENCES

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