

## HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Matrix continues to expand the services we offer with our newest addition: Historic Resources Management. Matrix is proud to provide this service for our clients to facilitate obtaining Historical Resources Act Clearance (HRAC) from the provincial government. Clearance is required for all development on public land and is often granted on the basis of monitoring, Statement of Justification, impact assessment and mitigation work.

To ensure thorough historic resource management, Matrix personnel provide support at every stage of a project.

- Pre-development planning, based on map and record reviews, is used to identify areas of archaeological potential. This information is compiled on a constraints map showing areas of low and high potential within the project development area. This information is submitted to the client to be incorporated into the site and route selection process such that high potential areas can be avoided or disturbance can be minimized.
- Development of a Statement of Justification (SoJ; formerly a Historic Resources Overview or HRO) is often the first step in the assessment for historic resources. This task involves a desktop study of previously recorded archaeological and historic sites, their locations, content and geographic context, as well as an overall assessment of the archaeological potential of the area. Should the archaeological potential of the area be determined to be low, the SoJ is submitted to Alberta Culture and Community Spirit (ACCS) along with a HRAC form requesting clearance for the project. If all, or portions of, the development area are considered to be of high potential, the SoJ is submitted to ACCS, who then issues a Schedule A detailing the scope of assessment that is required.
- The most common requirement issued in a Schedule A is for the conduct of a historic resource impact assessment (HRIA). This is a field survey conducted on the proposed development footprint, and includes a visual reconnaissance for surface features or artefacts and shovel testing to test for buried historic resources.

For any historic resources identified during the HRIA, the preferred method of mitigation is always avoidance. This can usually be accomplished through minor reroutes to the development or through applying alternate construction techniques to narrow down the footprint. If avoidance cannot be achieved, then mitigation of the site can range from simple site documentation (photographs, mapping and completion of an Archaeological Resource Site Data Form), construction monitoring to complete archaeological site excavations.



### What are Historic Resources?

Historic resource sites are non-renewable resources defined under the Historical Resources Act as “works of nature or of man which are valued for their palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific, or aesthetic interest.”

### Why are assessments for Historic Resources required?

Historic resource assessments are a requirement under the Historical Resources Act, which is administered by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit (ACCS).

### Reporting Results

Our experience and innovative approaches to Historical Resource Management allow us to obtain Historical Resource Clearance for our clients with savings in time and cost.