



Marten Falls First Nation
Marten Falls Community Access Road
H378016

Chance Find Protocol
October 15, 2026

Chance Find Protocol

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) is a remote First Nation community in northwestern Ontario located at the confluence of the Albany and Ogoki Rivers, approximately 430 km northeast of Thunder Bay. The Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) Project consists of the pre-construction and construction of approximately 184 km all-season access road connecting the community to the Ontario provincial highway network (Figure 1-1).

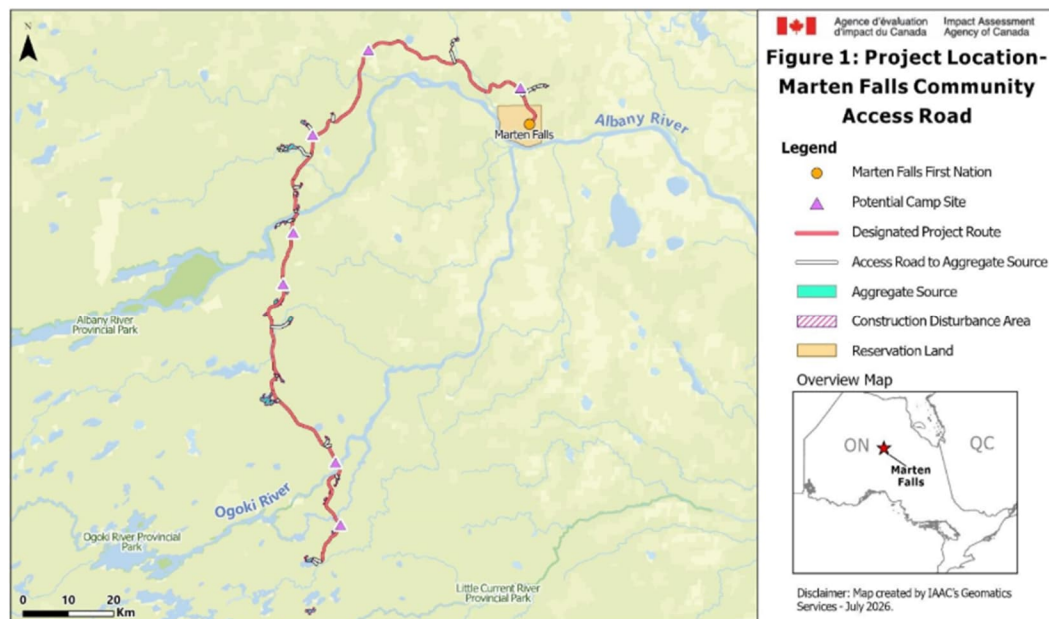


Figure 1-1: Project Location and Key Components

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Chance Find Protocol is to establish the process for identifying, protecting, assessing, and managing previously unidentified archaeological, historical, cultural, paleontological, or architectural resources encountered during Project activities. The Chance Find Protocol has been established in accordance with Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Decision Statement Condition 7.2 as outlined below.

7.2 The Proponent shall develop, prior to construction, and implement, during construction, a chance-find protocol to mitigate adverse federal effects on structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, or paleontological significance for any previously unidentified



structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance discovered within the Local Study Area. The Proponent shall provide the protocol to the Agency prior to implementation. As part of the chance-find protocol, the Proponent shall:

- 7.2.1 immediately halt work at the location of a discovery;*
- 7.2.2 delineate an area around a discovery as a no-work zone;*
- 7.2.3 notify Indigenous groups and the Agency within 24 hours of a discovery and allow Indigenous groups to monitor archaeological works; and*
- 7.2.4 develop mandatory training on chance finds, which includes the identification of sensitive locations within the Local Study Area and the implementation of conditions 7.2.1, 7.2.2 and*
- 7.2.3, and deliver this training to all employees and contractors associated with the Designated Project.*

This protocol applies to all Project personnel, contractors, subcontractors, environmental monitors, and Indigenous monitors and is intended to:

- Protect cultural heritage resources from damage or disturbance.
- Ensure compliance with Project conditions, commitments, permits, approvals, and applicable legislation.
- Ensure timely notification of Indigenous communities and regulatory authorities.
- Provide opportunities for Indigenous participation in archaeological investigations and monitoring.
- Establish clear requirements for stop work, site protection, assessment, mitigation, and authorization to resume work.

1.3 Scope

This protocol applies to all construction and ground-disturbing activities within the Project area.

For the purposes of this protocol, a chance find may include:

- Archaeological artifacts.
- Archaeological sites or features.



- Historical resources.
- Cultural heritage resources.
- Indigenous cultural materials.
- Paleontological resources.
- Architectural remains.
- Any previously unidentified structure, site, object, or feature of cultural, archaeological, historical, paleontological, or architectural significance.

Suspected human remains are not addressed under this protocol and shall be managed in accordance with the Human Remains Discovery Procedure.

2. Discovery Response Protocol

While archaeological assessment forms an important component of the Chance Find Protocol, discoveries may also have cultural, spiritual, historical, or Indigenous Knowledge significance. The following section describes the engagement, notification, and decision-making processes that will be used to ensure chance finds are considered within their broader cultural and community context, rather than as a purely technical or archaeological exercise.

2.1 Stop Work

Any person discovering a potential chance find shall immediately stop work in the vicinity of the discovery. Upon discovery:

- Work shall cease immediately.
- Equipment shall be safely shut down.
- No object, artifact, feature, or material shall be moved, collected, altered, or disturbed.
- The area shall be protected from further disturbance.
- The discovery shall be reported to the supervisor and Environmental Manager.

Delineate the area around a discovery as a no-work zone. Additional exclusion zones or protective buffers may be established based on the nature and significance of the discovery.

2.2 Documentation

The individual making the discovery shall document, where safe and appropriate to do so:



- Date and time of discovery.
- Name of observer.
- Location of discovery (GPS coordinates, if available).
- Description of the resource.
- Construction activity occurring at the time of discovery.
- Photographs of the discovery and surrounding area, to be validated with MFFN.
- Any actions taken to protect the site.

Documentation shall be provided to the Environmental Manager as soon as practicable.

2.3 Notification

Upon confirmation of a potential chance find, the Environmental Manager shall notify:

- Project Management.
- The Qualified Archaeologist.
- The Community and Indigenous Relations Lead.
- Indigenous communities identified through Project commitments.
- The IAAC.

Indigenous communities and IAAC shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery, consistent with Project commitments and IAAC Condition 7.2.3.

2.4 Assessment

A Qualified Archaeologist shall assess the discovery to determine:

- The nature of the resource.
- Its potential significance.
- Applicable regulatory requirements.
- Whether mitigation measures are required.
- Whether the discovery may represent human remains.

If the discovery is suspected to be human remains, all activities shall immediately transition to the Human Remains Discovery Procedure.



3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 All Personnel

This Protocol applies to all Project personnel, including employees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, Indigenous monitors, and visitors authorized to work within the Project area.

All personnel are responsible for:

- Participating in mandatory chance finds training.
- Remaining vigilant for potential cultural heritage resources.
- Immediately stopping work upon discovery of a potential chance find.
- Protecting the discovery from disturbance.
- Promptly reporting discoveries to their supervisor.

3.2 Contractors and Supervisors

Contractors and supervisory personnel are responsible for:

- Ensuring work is stopped immediately in the vicinity of the discovery.
- Securing the area and preventing unauthorized access or disturbance.
- Ensuring the discovery is reported to the Project Environmental Manager without delay through established reporting channels.
- Coordinating with Project personnel and specialists during investigations and implementation of mitigation measures.

3.3 Environmental Manager (Project Representative)

The Environmental Manager is responsible for:

- Coordinating response actions.
- Initiating notification requirements.
- Coordinating with qualified specialists.
- Maintaining records of the discovery and response.
- Authorizing resumption of work when appropriate.

The Environmental Manager shall provide incident and site information, and the Qualified Archaeologist shall provide technical information required to support informed participation.



3.4 **Qualified Archaeologist (Project Representative)**

Where a response action could affect a known or suspected cultural heritage or archaeological resource, the Environmental Manager shall immediately notify the Qualified Archaeologist and implement the Chance Find Protocol, as applicable.

The Qualified Archaeologist is responsible for:

- Evaluating the discovery.
- Determining significance and potential regulatory requirements.
- Recommending mitigation measures.
- Supporting engagement with Indigenous communities regarding archaeological investigations.

3.5 **Indigenous Communities and Monitors**

Indigenous communities and Indigenous monitors may participate in archaeological investigations, monitoring activities, and development of mitigation measures in accordance with Project commitments and community protocols.

3.6 **Community and Indigenous Relations Lead (Project Representative)**

The Community and Indigenous Relations Lead is responsible for:

- Coordinating notification of affected Indigenous communities in accordance with Project commitments and community protocols.
- Serving as the primary liaison between the Project team and Indigenous community representatives regarding chance find discoveries.
- Facilitating opportunities for Indigenous participation in site inspections, investigations, monitoring activities, and mitigation planning, where requested.
- Supporting consideration of Indigenous Knowledge, cultural concerns, and community-specific protocols during assessment and management of the discovery, where appropriate and authorized.
- Supporting implementation of cultural safety measures and communication with Indigenous communities throughout the response process.

4. **Training and Awareness**

Prior to commencing construction activities, all Project personnel, including employees, contractors, and subcontractors, will receive mandatory chance finds training.



Training materials will be developed by the Project Environmental Manager in consultation with a Qualified Archaeologist and, where applicable, Indigenous communities. Training will be tailored to the Project area and include descriptions and representative photographs or illustrations of archaeological, cultural heritage, paleontological, historical, and architectural resources that may reasonably be encountered during Project activities.

Training will include:

- Identification of potential archaeological, cultural heritage, paleontological, historical, and architectural resources.
- Examples of resources that may be encountered within the Project area.
- Locations of known culturally sensitive areas, where appropriate.
- Stop work requirements and site access restrictions.
- Site protection and avoidance measures.
- Notification and reporting requirements, including contractor reporting responsibilities.
- Indigenous participation, consultation, and monitoring commitments, as applicable.
- Refresher training will be provided as required, including for new personnel joining the Project after initial training has been completed.

Training records, including attendance logs and training materials will be maintained by the Project Environmental Manager (or designate) for the pre-construction and construction phases of the Project.

5. Indigenous Participation

Affected Indigenous communities will be provided the opportunity to participate in archaeological investigations and monitoring activities associated with a chance find.

The Project Environmental Manager, in consultation with the Qualified Archaeologist and Community and Indigenous Relations Lead, will coordinate Indigenous participation and ensure notification and engagement commitments are implemented in accordance with applicable Project requirements and community protocols.

Where requested by Indigenous communities, Indigenous monitors may participate in:

- Site inspections.
- Archaeological investigations.



- Development of mitigation measures.
- Verification that agreed-upon measures have been implemented.

Following the Indigenous Knowledge Validation Process, the Project Environmental Manager, supported by the Qualified Archaeologist and Community and Indigenous Relations Lead, will facilitate consideration of Indigenous Knowledge and community-specific protocols during assessment and mitigation planning, where such information is shared by Indigenous communities and where its use is authorized by the knowledge holders.

6. Mitigation and Management Measures

Following assessment of the discovery, site-specific mitigation measures shall be developed as required.

Potential mitigation measures may include:

- Avoidance and protection of the resource.
- Modification of construction activities.
- Establishment of permanent protective buffers.
- Additional archaeological investigations.
- Archaeological salvage or recovery.
- Documentation and recording.
- Site-specific management measures developed in consultation with Indigenous communities and applicable regulatory authorities.

All mitigation measures shall be implemented prior to resumption of activities within the affected area.

7. Cultural Safety Stop Work Protocol

Where a chance find raises cultural concerns, uncertainty regarding the significance of a resource, or concerns expressed by Indigenous community representatives, Elders, Knowledge Holders, monitors, workers, or other participants, work may be suspended in accordance with the Project's Cultural Safety and Stop Work Protocol. The detailed process for initiating, communicating, assessing, and resolving cultural safety concerns is provided within the Respectful Workplace, Harassment, and Violence Prevention Policy. No work shall resume within the affected area until the concern has been reviewed and appropriate



direction has been provided by authorized Project representatives in consultation with affected Indigenous communities, as applicable.

8. Work Resumption

Work may only resume within the affected area when:

- The discovery has been assessed by a Qualified Archaeologist.
- Required notifications have been completed.
- Indigenous communities have been provided an opportunity to participate in the assessment process.
- Any required mitigation measures have been implemented.
- Written authorization has been provided by the Environmental Manager.
- Where regulatory approvals, permits, or direction are required, work shall not resume until those requirements have been satisfied.

9. Records Management

The Environmental Manager shall maintain records relating to:

- Discovery reports.
- Photographs and field documentation.
- Notifications.
- Indigenous Knowledge and participation activities.
- Archaeological assessments.
- Mitigation measures.
- Authorizations to resume work.

Records shall be retained in accordance with Project document management and Indigenous Knowledge Validation Process requirements.