

Appendix D-6

Agnico Eagle Hope Bay Project Archaeological Site
Status Report 2022



AGNICO EAGLE

HOPE BAY 2022 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Nunavut Archaeologist Permit 2022-28A

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In early July, 2022, a team from Points West Heritage Consulting Ltd. continued archaeological investigations on the Hope Bay project on behalf of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited. We were ably assisted by Joseph Tikhak, Jr. of Cambridge Bay. This project is located on the central Arctic coast of Melville Sound east of Bathurst Inlet, approximately 140 km southwest of Cambridge Bay and 685 km northeast of Yellowknife. The Hope Bay project consists of a narrow 15 to 20 km wide band extending south from Roberts Bay inland for about 80 km, encompassing much of the Koignuk River and a large water body known as Aimaokatalok.

Archaeological studies of the Hope Bay project area first began in 1995. Since then, field work has been completed for ongoing exploration activities as well as development of mining facilities as plans have been approved. The 2022 Hope Bay archaeological field program involved ground surveys of proposed exploration zones, revisiting nine known sites to record more accurate GPS coordinates and update site content information, and completion of detailed plan mapping at three sites that are likely to be affected by proposed development in the near future.

Five archaeological sites were newly recorded in 2022. Three are in the vicinity of Patch Lake, one is north of the main body of Aimaokatalok, and one is east of Aimaokatalok. One of these sites has a tent ring and marker stones, one has a trap (possible double), one has an upright marker stone and possible stone circle, one has three or four caches, and one is an isolated chert flake. The latter artifact is probably related to a previously recorded site of an isolated tool find that likely dates to Arctic Small Tool tradition times, as much as 3000 years ago. Some additional white chert artifacts were found this year in the vicinity of that site; two of these artifacts are unifacially flaked fragments that were probably part of a knife. One of those pieces was collected for detailed study. This site was originally thought to be a single lost artifact, but based on this season's new finds, it is now considered to be a tool making site. Another interesting find at a previously recorded site is what looks like a child's bow, with bits of cotton twine still in the notches at the ends.

Over the 20+ years of field investigations on the Hope Bay project, more than 340 archaeological sites have been recorded. These numerous archaeological sites have provided important information about how people used the land during the past 3500 years of human history in this part of the Arctic. This must have been an area with plentiful resources that drew people here repeatedly over the many centuries. All archaeological remains will continue to be carefully considered during project planning, avoided and monitored wherever possible, and thoroughly investigated when unavoidable.



Photo 1 Mapping a tent ring.



Photo 2 Probable child's bow.