



Listing of Historic Resources: Instructions for Use

Introduction

In accordance with Section 37(2) of the *Historical Resources Act (HRA)*, the Minister responsible for administering the *Act* may require that any proposed activity that is likely to threaten the integrity of a historic resource be preceded by a [Historic Resources Impact Assessment](#).

The Listing of Historic Resources (Listing) is a tool that may assist land owners, developers, industry representatives, and municipalities (hereafter referred to as proponents) in determining if a proposed project might affect historic resources. The Listing identifies lands that contain or have high potential to contain historic resources, including archaeological sites, palaeontological sites, Indigenous traditional use sites of a historic resource nature (burials, ceremonial sites, etc.), and/or historic structures.

While the Listing can provide proponents with advance notification of possible historic resource concerns, **it is not the sole indicator of the need to obtain written HRA approval** prior to the onset of development activities. Large-scale projects and those with a high level of impact always require HRA approval. (See *When and how to using the Listing* on page 2 for more details.)

The Listing does not yet include all lands that may contain historic resources. When previously unknown historic resources are discovered or high potential areas are identified, their locations are added to the Listing.

The Listing can be searched using the Online Permitting and Clearance ([OPaC](#)) system or the Listing [web map application](#) and is available for download in PDF, Excel and ArcGIS formats [here](#). It is updated every April 1 and October 1. Users of the Listing are responsible for ensuring that they consult the current edition.

Historic Resource Value (HRV) and historic resource category

Each land parcel in the Listing has been assigned a Historic Resource Value (HRV) of 1, 3, 4 and/or 5. The highest level of protection (HRV 1) is afforded to lands that have been designated under the HRA as Provincial Historic Resources. An HRV of 1 is also used to identify World Heritage Sites and lands owned by the Ministry¹ for historic resource protection and promotion purposes.

¹ Refers to the Ministry responsible for administration of the *Historical Resources Act*.

Definitions

HRVs are defined as follows:

HRV 1: contains a World Heritage site or a site designated under the HRA as a Provincial Historic Resource

HRV 2: deactivated (formerly used to designate a Registered Historic Resource²)

HRV 3: contains a significant historic resource that will likely require avoidance

HRV 4: contains a historic resource that may require avoidance or assessment

HRV 5: high potential to contain a historic resource

Road allowances have the same HRV as lands immediately adjacent (to the south for east-west roads and to the west for north-south roads). This has been calculated into the Listing.

Each entry in the Listing also includes a letter that describes the **primary** historic resource category of concern, as follows:

- a archaeological
- c cultural
- gl geological
- h historic period
- n natural
- p palaeontological

Activities proposed for lands in the Listing are assessed by staff of the Ministry for their potential to affect **any** category of historic resource. For example, an activity proposed for a parcel listed as “p” may also be assessed for its potential to affect archaeological sites.

When submission of a Historic Resources (HR) Application is triggered by the Listing, and only a portion of a proposed development area lies within lands contained in the Listing, the **entire** project area is subject to review and must be included in the application. In such cases, *Historical Resources Act* requirements may be issued for lands not previously included in the Listing.

When and how to use the Listing

The Listing provides a list of lands with possible historic resource concerns, but it is only one of several sources of information used by the Ministry to determine the potential threat to historic resources. The process to obtain *Historical Resources Act* approval can vary depending on the project type, so the Ministry has produced industry-specific [Land Use Procedures Bulletins](#) to assist proponents in determining the correct procedure. Proponents should refer to the Bulletins to determine application requirements.

² The category of Registered Historic Resource was eliminated with the passing of Bill 48, *Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act*, 2019.

In the absence of a Land Use Procedures Bulletin specific to the proposed project type, industry or activity, the proponent is required to submit a Historic Resources Application using the [OPaC system](#).

In addition, when directed to obtain HRA approval by another regulator – municipal, provincial or federal – this direction must be followed regardless of Listing information. This type of direction may be issued as part of a project-specific response (e.g., condition attached to a subdivision or development approval) or may be the result of another regulatory application process (e.g., Public Lands Disposition LAT report).

The following types of projects **always** require the submission of an HR Application:

- projects that require the completion of an Environmental Assessment
- projects that require approval by the Canadian Energy Regulator or Alberta Utilities Commission
- projects that are subject to Green Zone historic resource predictive modelling under supervision of the Ministry (primarily forest harvest activities)
- all developments requiring conservation and reclamation approval by Alberta Environment and Parks or the Alberta Energy Regulator
- projects located within Historic Resource Management Areas, which currently include Dinosaur Provincial Park and World Heritage Site area, Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park area, Fort George Buckingham House area and Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel area.
- class I or equivalently sized pipelines, and other pipelines at the discretion of the Minister
- transmission lines and alternative power projects
- transportation developments
- water distribution and diversion projects
- coal and oil sands mines, including related components
- industrial facilities

It is recommended that municipalities and/or developers submit all long-term planning documents, such as Area Structure Plans and Area Redevelopment Plans, for review in an HR Application. The outcome of the review of an application submitted for this purpose can provide the applicant with information about historic resource concerns in the planning area and may offer guidance for developing strategies to address these concerns.

Indigenous Heritage

All projects to be located all or partly within lands identified as HRV 4c in the Listing require the submission of an HR Application. Lands classified as HRV 4c contain, or are in close proximity to, Indigenous traditional use sites. The Ministry routinely requires applicants to avoid these sites or notify First Nations about potential impacts.

In cooperation with other provincial ministries, the Ministry has implemented the commitments made in the Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2013. In the Pre-consultation Assessment stage administered by the [Aboriginal Consultation Office](#) (ACO), applicants will be notified if their project intersects with Indigenous traditional use sites of a historic resource nature that are included in the Listing. If any such sites are present, ACO Approvals Specialists will direct applicants to contact staff of the Indigenous Heritage Section. Applicants should be aware that the Ministry's decisions regarding the adequacy of consultation on Indigenous traditional use sites of a historic resource nature are issued independently of the ACO. Projects that intersect with Indigenous traditional use sites may require approval from both the ACO and the Ministry prior to proceeding.

Specific procedures for Indigenous Heritage are available at <https://www.alberta.ca/indigenous-heritage-section.aspx/>.

Applying for *Historical Resources Act* approval for development projects

The flow of information and conduct of development project reviews are managed primarily through the OPaC system. HR Applications submitted by proponents or their representatives are reviewed by staff of the Ministry to determine if the development can proceed immediately or if additional studies are required prior to approval. The Minister has delegated the authority for issuing requirements and approvals under Section 37(2) of the *Historical Resources Act* to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Heritage Division. Required studies may take a variety of forms, which will be outlined in a response to the HR application, issued via the OPaC system. *Historical Resources Act* requirements may be multi-phased, but complying with the requirements ultimately moves the project towards approval. This approval, whether provided at the outset or after studies are completed, also is issued directly through OPaC.

Questions?

If you require additional information or have any questions about how to use the Listing of Historic Resources, please contact the Historic Resources Management Branch at HRA.team@gov.ab.ca.

