



## **Report on the Examination of Disturbed Soils within the Site Boundaries of DfRu-9, Grace Islet, Salt Spring Island, BC**

**Heritage Conservation Act Amended Permit #2011 – 0343**

*for:*

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*by:*

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**March 19, 2013**

Dossier 13.0016

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Executed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013, by



Kira Kristensen, B.A., RPCA  
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## **CAVEAT**

The professional opinions expressed in this report are those of Madrone Environmental Services Ltd. and not those of any outside individuals or groups that were involved in the study. Madrone alone takes responsibility for the content of this report, including any errors or omissions.

## SUMMARY

The current assessment is in response to reports of unauthorized disturbance to a portion of archaeological site DfRu-9, located on Grace Islet, Salt Spring, BC. A permit amendment was issued by the Archaeology Branch on December 14, 2012 to allow for the examination of disturbed soils, to be followed by a report presenting the results of examination.

A visual examination of the islet was conducted on February 12, 2013 by Madrone archaeologists Kira Kristensen and Genevieve Hill and Bastion Group archaeologists Bjorn Simonsen and John Symogyi. The inspection of a stockpiled volume of disturbed soil was conducted on February 13 – 15 and 18 – 20, 2013 by Madrone archaeologists Kira Kristensen and Genevieve Hill, and two First Nation representatives, Adrian Underwood (Tsawout First Nation) and Brandon Wilson (Tsartlip First Nation). 100% of the disturbed soil was screened using 1/8 inch mesh. Two chipped stone points, a small faunal assemblage (at least a portion of which is determined to be historical in origin) and some historic debris was recovered.

Please be advised that all archaeological resources are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act. Any future ground altering activities, that might occur as a consequence of residential construction, landscaping activities or tree removal, must be conducted under a HCA Permit.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The study area is located on Grace Islet, 60 m offshore from Grace Point in Ganges Harbour, and immediately east of the community of Ganges, Salt Spring Island (Figure 1).

An archaeological impact assessment (AIA) study was conducted in 2010 by Bastion Group Archaeologists Bjorn Simonsen and John Symogyi and representatives of Tsartlip First Nation (Simon Smith), Tseycum First Nation (Jackie Jacks), Tsawout First Nation (Adrian Underwood), Cowichan Tribes (Philip Joe) and Eric McLay, archaeologist for the Hul'quimi'num Treaty Group. The 2010 assessment was preceded by an Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) to determine if the island had archaeological significance and, if so, what measures should be taken to protect and safeguard these cultural resources. The subsequent AIA study was conducted over three days and resulted in the recording of 15 cultural rock features and the recovery a single fragment of human femur. The femur fragment was reburied at the location in which it was found. In addition human remains (one rib and a mandible) discovered by kayakers in 2006 and held at the Ganges Detachments of the RCMP, were reburied at the location in which originally observed. Following the AIA field work recommendations were made which included avoidance of the 15 rock features and archaeological monitoring to be conducted in all areas of ground disturbance to be conducted under a Section 12 HCA permit (Simonsen and Symogyi 2010).

Following the AIA study, a Section 12 HCA permit was obtained by co-applicants Barry Slawsky (owner) and Kevin Twohig (Terra Archaeology). In mid-June 2012, reports of unmonitored machine disturbance was reported to the Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, Archaeology Branch. A site visit and subsequent report was conducted on July 9, 2012 by Ewan Anderson (Archaeology Branch), Bjorn Simonsen (Bastion Group), Kevin Twohig (Terra Archaeology), Paul Pasutto (Innocept Real Estate Outsourcing) and Barry Slawsky (property owner). The onsite inspection concluded that: (1) soil disturbance did occur, (2) that the 15 rock features had not been impacted, and (3) that no further work was to occur unless authorised by the Archaeology Branch (Simonsen 2012).

The current assessment, as being reported here, is in response to the July 2012 site visit. A permit amendment was issued by the Archaeology Branch on December 14, 2012 to allow for the examination of disturbed soils, to be followed by a report presenting the results of examination. A visual examination of the islet was





conducted on February 12, 2013 (Plate 1) by Madrone archaeologists Kira Kristensen and Genevieve Hill and Bastion Group archaeologists Bjorn Simonsen and John Symogyi. The inspection of the disturbed soil was conducted on February 13 – 15 and 18 – 20, 2013 by Madrone archaeologists Kira Kristensen and Genevieve Hill, and two First Nation representatives, Adrian Underwood (Tsawout First Nation) and Brandon Wilson (Tsartlip First Nation). 100% of the disturbed soil was screened using 1/8 inch mesh. Two chipped stone points, a small faunal assemblage and some historic debris was recovered.



**Plate 1.** Looking southeast at area of soil disturbance Grace Islet.



## 1.1 Project Objectives

Site alteration permits allow archaeological sites to be altered or removed. These permits are issued under Section 12 of the B.C. Heritage Conservation Act with permission from the Minister or designate following the completion of a heritage inspection or investigation. The current permit amendment was issued to allow for the examination of disturbed soils by a qualified archaeologist and for that archaeologist to provide conclusions in the form of a written report regarding the presence or absence of archaeological materials or human remains in the soil. The current report addresses the inspection of disturbed soils only. At the time of the current examination the 15 previously recorded rock features and two previously recorded burial locations were observed to be present, but not subject to further investigation.

Please note that this study does not address potential impacts to traditional use sites within or near the study area. While this report is provided without prejudice toward Aboriginal Rights and Title to any affected First Nation groups, it should not be used to fulfill First Nation consultation requirements.

## 1.2 Proposed Project

A private residence, dock and associated landscaping are anticipated to be constructed on Grace Islet. Final development plans are still being worked on and no firm development start-up date has been determined at the time of writing.

## 1.3 Archaeological Site DfRu-9

Archaeological site DfRu-9, is known as the Ganges village. The site was first recorded in the 1950s, though no formal studies were conducted at the site until 2010. A 1976 archaeological survey of the Gulf Islands area reported that the main portion of site DfRu-9, which was situated within the developed area of Ganges, was largely destroyed, though a note in the provincial registry indicated that some areas of intact deposits were still present in 1998 (Detailed Site Report- DfRu-9). Grace Islet was included in the original site record as being part of the larger site. Very few cultural materials have been collected from the Ganges Village part of the site. These include a jade celt, a ground slate point and a polished slate bowl, all held in private collections. The ground slate bowl may likely be a Chinese inkwell (Pers. Comm. Grant Keddie February 21, 2013). As already mentioned above, a 2010 archaeological impact assessment was conducted on Grace Islet by The Bastion Group Heritage Consultants (Simonsen and Symogyi 2010) resulted in 15 rock features and two areas associated with human remains being reported.



## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

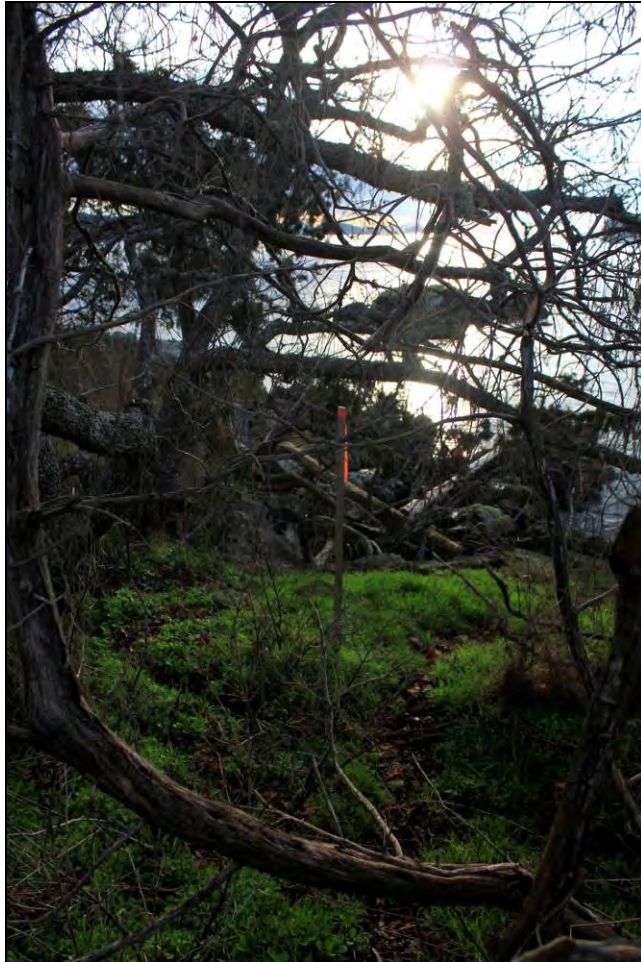
The objectives of the study were to locate any archaeological resources that were impacted by machine activity on the islet. This included a visual examination of the study area and the screening of 100% of the disturbed soil through 1/8 inch mesh. Soil volume was controlled by using a standardized 8 quart bucket size and keeping an accurate tally of total buckets screened.

Prior to conducting the assessment a detailed review was completed of related documents for DfRu-9, specifically the permit report for permit 2007-0041 was reviewed in detail.



### 3.0 RESULTS

A visual examination was conducted on February 12, 2013 by Kira Kristensen and Genevieve Hill (Madrone) and Bjorn Simonsen and John Symogyi (Bastion Group). Please refer to Figure 2 for locations of features and disturbed soil pile. The previously recorded rock features were found to be present and undisturbed, though they were no longer clearly marked in the field as most of the wood tripods erected previously at the request of the property owner and the B.C. Archaeology Branch, had been removed by persons unknown. The location of Burial 1, the human remains collected by the RCMP and reburied under HCA permit 2007-0041, was observed and noted to be unmolested. The location of Burial 2, recorded under HCA permit 2007-0041, was also observed and remains intact (Plate 2).



**Plate 2.** Showing undisturbed location of Burial 2.



FIGURE 2: Grace Islet Survey Map

LOCATION:

Grace Islet, Salt Spring Island, B.C.

NTS MAP:

092B/06

CLIENT:

Barry Slawsky

MAP DATE:

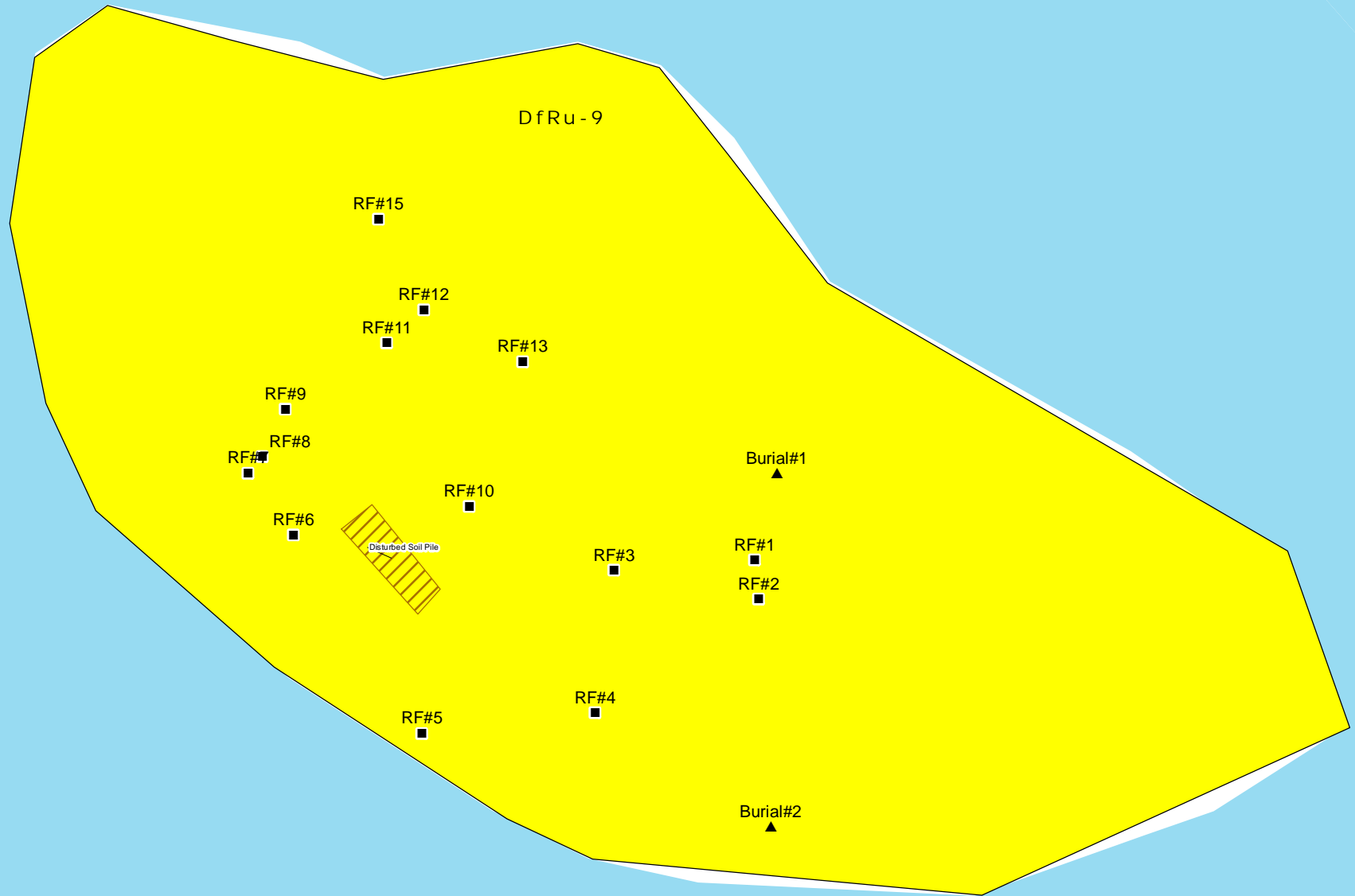
February 22, 2013


DRAWN BY:

Erin Philip


Dossier:

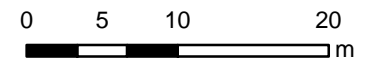
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 Archaeological Site

 Rock Formations

 Disturbed Soil Pile



1: 500



**Plate 3.** Looking south at pile of disturbed soil.

The soil disturbance occurred in the central portion of the islet and the disturbed soil was observed in a large pile on the west side of the islet within a footprint measuring 7 m north/south x 4 m east/west to an approximate height of 1.5 m (Plate 3). In addition a large pile of stone was observed immediately south of the soil pile (Plate 4) and pile of woody debris (Plate 5) was observed on the east side of the islet. No soil was included in either of these piles.





**Plate 4.** Looking south at stone pile.



**Plate 5.** Looking north at pile of woody debris.

Examination of the disturbed soil was conducted on February 13 – 15 and 18 – 20, 2013 by Madrone archaeologists Kira Kristensen and Genevieve Hill, Adrian Underwood of Tsawout First Nation and Brandon Wilson of Tsartlip First Nation.



100% of the soil pile was screened. The soil matrix was comprised of dark to medium brown loam, quite dry and friable, with 25% fragmented angular bedrock. The largest of these fragments were approximately 1 m diameter, and much of the bedrock was separated and piled on the periphery of the disturbed soil pile. In total 14.5 yards or 11.1 cubic meters of soil was screened (Plate 6). Two artifacts, a small faunal assemblage and some historic debris were recovered. It is noted here, that no human remains were found in the course of the screening of soils from the stockpiled fill. The historic debris included a brown stubby bottle and cap, 2 nickels and 2 pennies, 2 bullet casings, fragments of an old turquoise glass bottle and fragments of an old clear glass bottle (partially melted in fire). Both glass bottles were of thick glass with imperfections (bubbles) in the glass indicating that they were manufactured prior to 1930.



**Plate 6.** Looking south at the soil pile after screening. Note that rocks are piled at the back (south) end of pile, to the right and left (west and east) of the screen tripods, and in forefront of the former pile (base of tripod leg). Mounds of the screened soil are on the north side of the former pile (forefront of photo) and between the two trees on the right side of the photo (west side of islet).

### 3.1 Artifact Analysis

Two chipped stone projectile points were recovered (DfRu-9:1 and DfRu-9:2). Chipped stone projectile points were used for a variety of subsistence activities along the Northwest Coast. These are artifacts that have been worked on both surfaces and

tend to be flaked along one or both sides or edges. Artifacts such as these may have been used to arm spears for fishing and hunting, or could also be used as cutting implements in association with activities such as fish processing.

DfRu-9:1 and DfRu-9:2 are both classified as medium sized foliate with contracting parallel-sided stem (Plate 7). This type of projectile dates between 5,400 to 1,500 BP, though it is most common between 3,300 and 4,500 BP and often associated with sea hunting equipment (Carlson 2008). The metric attributes of these artifacts are shown in Table 1.



Plate 7: Artifacts DfRu-9:1 and DfRu-9:2

Table 1. Artifact Attributes

Artifact #	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness		Weight (g)	Comments
				(mm)		
DfRu-9:1	72	28		7	14.6	Complete
DfRu-9:2	61	34		12	25.3	Missing tip

### 3.2 Faunal Analysis

A small faunal assemblage was collected and included mammal (likely cow), bird, fish and shellfish species (Plate 8). Very little shell was present in the disturbed soils and may represent natural inclusions as opposed to cultural midden. Observed was dog



winkle, butter clam and little neck clam. Two elements of fish bone were recovered of unknown species. A total of 13 bird bones were recovered and include 2 vertebrae and 11 long bone fragments of various sizes. A total of 7 mammal bones were collected, all of which are believe to be cow, and therefore not of prehistoric origin. Of the 7 mammal bones, 2 are large rib fragments with historical saw marks present (Plate 9), 3 are small fragments of rib, and 2 are vertebra fragments with historic made saw marks present (Plate 10) (Becky Wigen Pers. Com March 1, 2013).



**Plate 8.** Collected faunal assemblage. Mammal bone upper left, bird bone upper right, fish lower left and shellfish on the lower right.



**Plate 9.** Mammal vertebrae showing historical saw marks.



**Plate 10.** Mammal ribs showing historical saw marks.

#### **4.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

During the examination of disturbed soils cultural materials in the form of two artifacts and a small faunal assemblage was recovered. The faunal assemblage is at least in part of historical origin. Please be advised that all archaeological resources are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act. Any future ground altering activities, that might occur as a consequence of residential construction, landscaping activities or tree removal, must be conducted under a HCA Permit.



## 5.0 REFERENCES CITED

Carlson, Roy L.

2008 Projectile Points from the Gulf and San Juan Islands. In Projectile Point Sequences in Northwest North America. Eds. Roy Carlson and Martin P.R. Magne. Simon Fraser University Press. Burnaby BC.

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