

Maine Coast Heritage Trust staff uses this document in its land conservation efforts. It is designed for internal MCHT use and is provided here as a reference or guide. Each land trust has its own mission, priorities, and organizational characteristics that should direct how it does its work and what documents it uses. Please feel free to use the ideas, processes, and even specific text contained in this document, but be sure to tailor them for your organization. Land trusts should always consult a lawyer and exercise due diligence in cases of legal significance. MCHT does not guarantee or provide advice as to the tax consequences of any project or action.

MCHT POLICY ON HISTORIC SITES AND ARTIFACTS ON MCHT LANDS (APPROVED BY THE BOARD 11-18-2016)

Occasionally, MCHT acquires land that may contain prehistoric and historic cultural sites and resources. MCHT acknowledges that at this time, while we can manage archeologically significant sites, the organization is not qualified to curate, store or display significant archeological artifacts. This policy outlines the process used to determine an outcome for these sites and artifacts.

When dealing with a property that has been identified as containing a significant prehistoric or historic site, MCHT staff will follow these procedures:

1. Consult with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) and other, knowledgeable stakeholders, i.e. tribal experts, University archeologists, etc. to determine next steps, if any.
2. Determine whether the preferred method for protecting the resources is by preserving them in place so as to maintain the archaeological context, or to do a full or partial excavation. If the former;
3. Determine and implement methods to control public use and/or to protect the resource, such as re-routing a trail, developing educational materials, providing barriers to the site, etc.
4. Consider conducting a Phase 1 archeological survey to determine the extent, integrity and significance of the site.
5. If the Phase 1 survey uncovers artifacts of significance, staff will:
 - a. Confer with appropriate stakeholders such as MHPC, Native American tribes, other likely descendants, knowledgeable archeologists, state agencies or museums to determine the appropriate disposition of any artifacts.
 - b. If it is determined that the artifacts should be transferred into the care of another organization, staff will obtain approval by the President, who will report to the Board.