

LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

HERITAGE RESOURCES

Includes artifacts and features of cultural, archaeological, and paleontological significance, including human remains

Environmental Impact Statement—Summary by Valued Component (VC)

Why is Heritage Resources a VC?

A Heritage Resources is a VC because, as the Historic Resources Branch (HRB) of Manitoba Sport, Culture, and Heritage states: “Manitobans have inherited a rich legacy from the past. The reminders range from our natural landscapes, heritage sites, and landmark buildings to the historic objects and documents in our museums and archives, as well as the knowledge, ideas, and traditions of our ancestors”

In addition, Indigenous people and communities have indicated, through engagement, concern for cemeteries and unmarked graves as well as traditional travel ways.

What is the current state of Heritage Resources?

Indigenous peoples likely began to occupy the area 7,000 to 8,000 years ago, soon after Glacial Lake Agassiz drained. A 2019 review of heritage resources revealed 15 archaeological

sites (all but one in a disturbed context) and three paleontological sites. There are no recorded sites in the Project area.

The Interlake was well known to European traders by the early 18th century. Traders used the Fairford Trail to travel to and from fur trade posts south through the Interlake. Homestead settlement began in the early 1900s with a wave of Swedish immigrants whose names influenced place names in the region.

Several churches and cemeteries are located close to the Project, such as the Bayton St. Thomas Lutheran Cemetery, and a cemetery site identified by the Dauphin River First Nation.

What effects might the Project have on Heritage Resources?

Heritage resources may be disturbed or damaged during construction activities such as vegetation clearing and initial earthworks, development of temporary construction camps and staging areas.

The Project will pass through a portion of the Fairford Trail and would disturb any artifacts potentially located there.

Cemeteries may be affected through noise and dust and exposure of unmarked burials adjacent to cemeteries during ground disturbing construction activities.

Unmarked graves may be affected through alteration of subsurface flows during construction and operation, causing grave shaft collapse and headstone disturbance.

Valued components (VCs) are components of the natural and human environment that are considered by the proponent, public, Indigenous Peoples, scientists and other technical specialists and government agencies involved in the assessment process to have scientific, ecological, economic, social, cultural, archaeological, historical, or other importance.



How will effects to Heritage Resource be addressed?

- Develop a Cultural and Heritage Resources Protection Plan that described protocols for addressing Heritage Resources issues
- Complete a pre-construction Heritage Resources Impact Assessment for the HRB that will involve a detailed examination of the areas to be disturbed and measures to address any findings
- Inform the HRB immediately if any heritage resources, or objects thought to be heritage resources, are discovered during site preparation and construction
- Clearly mark and protect any heritage resource sites that are inadvertently disturbed during construction, so the area can be protected
- Leave all heritage resources discovered during site preparation and construction in their original position until the Project Archaeologist is contacted and provides instruction
- Include heritage resource awareness and training in the orientation for Project staff working in construction areas

Cemeteries and Unmarked Graves

- Efforts will be made to notify the St. Thomas Lutheran Church of construction and maintenance schedules to facilitate avoiding noise and dust nuisances
- Burials at the Bayton St. Thomas Lutheran Cemetery will be periodically checked for evidence of tilting headstones and monitoring may include a baseline photographic survey that is used to compare any movements
- A pre-construction visit to the cemetery site reported on Sturgeon Bay with Dauphin River First Nation Knowledge Holders has been offered to facilitate avoidance by an appropriate distance

FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING

Follow-up and monitoring for heritage resources will include a pre-construction Heritage Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) and construction monitoring of areas of high heritage resource potential based on the results of the HRIA. Manitoba Infrastructure and its construction contractors will abide by requirements issued by the regulator for site avoidance, excavation or heritage resource monitoring.

CONCLUSIONS

A pre-construction Heritage Resources Impact Assessment will be submitted for approval by the HRB.

The Project has a low potential to remove a known or inadvertently expose a heritage resource. It is also concluded that potential changes to existing cemeteries or unmarked burials adjacent to existing cemeteries will be negligible.

With the proposed mitigation measures, it is anticipated that potential impacts to heritage resources will be negligible.

For more information or if you would like to share your concerns:

Visit www.gov.mb.ca/mit/wms/lmblsmoutlets/ or email outletchannel@gov.mb.ca