

Archaeological Review of the Proposed Cascades Project, South Anderson River, BC

Final Report

**Similkameen
Consulting**

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Submitted to:

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Executive Summary

Similkameen Consulting has been contracted by the Spuzzum First Nation to conduct a high-level desktop review and participate in an on-site meeting for a proposed ski resort/recreation development at the headwaters of the south Anderson River (Figure 1).

Brenda Gould of Similkameen Consulting along with the Chief, Council, and staff of the Spuzzum First Nation and the project feasibility/development team participated in a group day trip to the study area and on-site meeting. It was beyond the scope of this project to undertake a pedestrian reconnaissance of the study area however a visual reconnaissance was conducted via an all-terrain vehicle of the proposed south option access road (Figures 4, 6, 7) from Spuzzum to the resort and recreation area in the headwaters of the South Anderson watershed on July 13, 2021.

There are eleven previously recorded archaeological sites within the study area generally and depending on future access decisions one or more of these archaeological sites will intersect with the project's footprint. Significant portions of the study area also have the potential to contain unrecorded archaeological sites.

Of particular significance, the study area may be intact sections of the abandoned Boston Bar trail from Hope to Boston Bar via the Coquihalla and Anderson River. The Hope-Boston Bar Trail was proposed by Governor Douglas and upgraded by a team of Royal Engineers in 1858-59 (Lempriere 1858-59). It appears to have been abandoned before it was ever used in favour of the Cariboo Wagon Road. Background research confirms that sections of this trail overlap probably overlap with the previously recorded archaeological sites DjRh-1 and DjRh-2 within the study area. This provides further evidence of a significant trail in use by indigenous travellers long before its documentation by the Royal Engineers.

There is the potential for both intact sections of this trail and the potential for unrecorded archaeological sites to be located within the proposed footprints for the resort and recreation area as well as along the variety of access routes from Spuzzum.

It is recommended that a rigorous Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) process be put in place consisting of the following components:

- 1. Non-permitted archaeological study of the Hope Boston Bar trail from Coquihalla Summit to the intersection with the Tikwalus Trail.***
- 2. Ground truthed archaeology overview assessment (AOA) of the proposed access roads (from Spuzzum and the Coquihalla) to identify areas of potential to be subjected to a more detailed and rigorous AIA process undertaken under a Heritage Conservation Act permit to prospect for archaeological sites within the finalized development footprint of the access roads to and from the resort/recreation area.***
- 3. Ground truthed AOA of all potential recreation developments (ski runs, trails, lifts, residential, commercial, etc.) to inform a more detailed and rigorous AIA process undertaken under Heritage Conservation Act permit to prospect for archaeological sites within the finalized development footprint.***

- 4. A full AIA is undertaken under Heritage Conservation Act permit by a qualified Archaeological Consulting Firm with experience in large projects and the Environmental Assessment Process. The AIA will be required for identified portions of all finalized access routes, recreation, residential, and commercial development areas.**

All archaeological sites, whether recorded or unidentified, are protected by legislation and may not be altered, damaged, moved, excavated in, or disturbed in any way without a permit issued under either Section 12.2 or Section 12.4 of the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

Credit Sheet

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Introduction

Background Information

The Spuzzum First Nation contracted Similkameen Consulting to undertake a high-level archaeological review of the proposed concept of an all-season resort at the headwaters of the South Anderson River. Westscapes (the proponent) is exploring the potential for an environmentally sustainable all-season resort located near the summit of the Coquihalla Pass in the headwaters of the Anderson River (see Figure 1). The Spuzzum First Nation is intimately involved in this project and is currently participating in the feasibility and initial design phase of the project.

The resort concept includes plans for a base village, ski lifts, spa, and conference centre centred around a system of trails for alpine and x-country skiing, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, and ecotourism activities. The resort infrastructure will have approximately 3000 dwelling units representing estimated 15,000-bed units. Several potential routes of access and egress are being explored including routes from Highway #1 east to the resort and routes west to the resort from the Coquihalla Highway.

Location Information

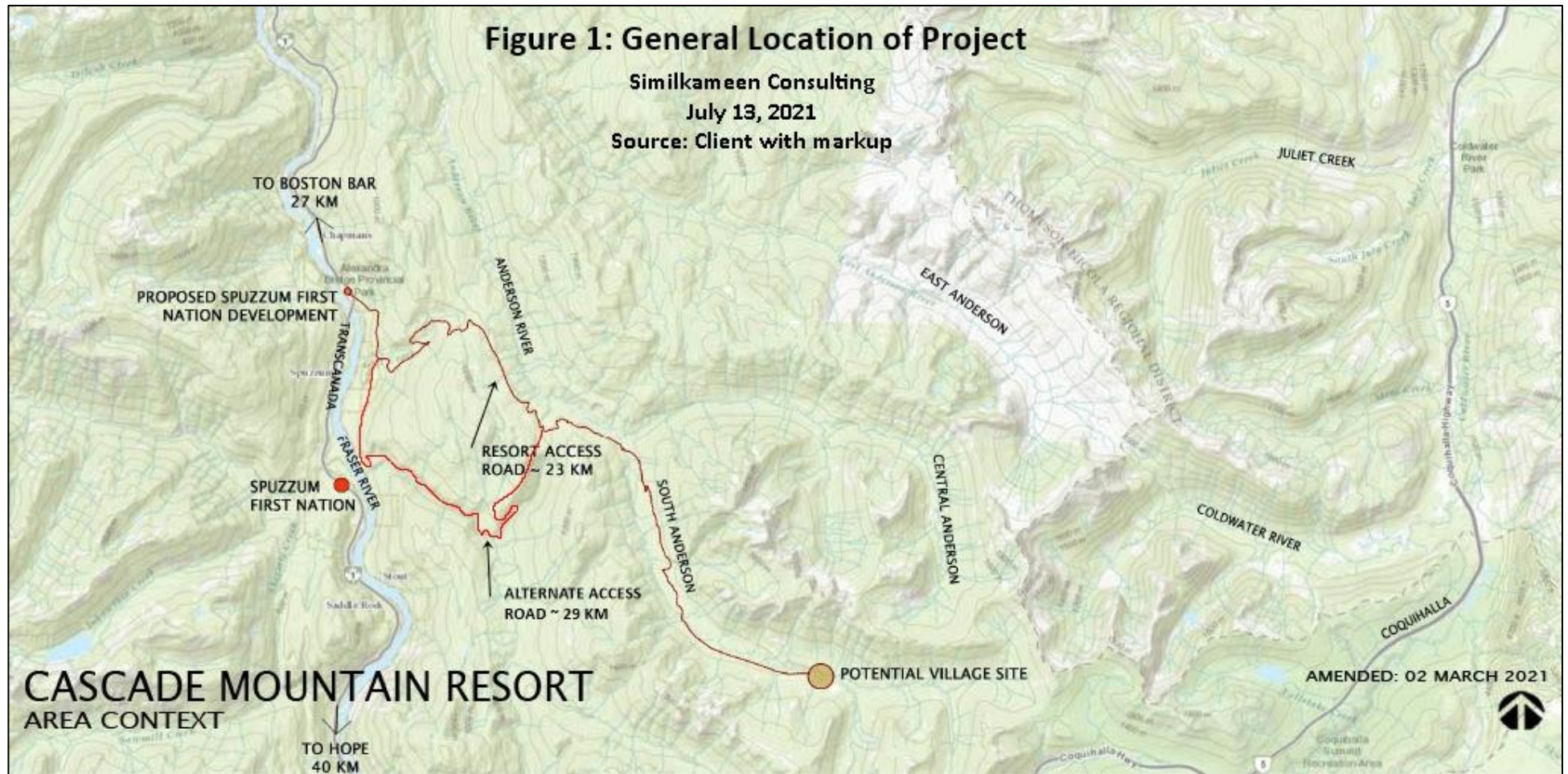
The project is located in the Anderson River watershed, specifically the South Anderson to its headwaters. Figure 1 is a map showing the general location of the project as well as potential access routes from Spuzzum.

Development Details

The proposed development will be a regional/destination all-season resort comparable to Sun Peaks, Big White, and Whistler/Blackcomb with an estimated carrying capacity of 10-12,000 skiers per day when fully developed. The following developments are proposed:

1. The mountain development will include two novice lifts, four detachable quad chair lifts, and an eight-passenger gondola.
2. The skiable terrain will be approximately 3,500 hectares and will target all skier abilities with approximately 15% allotted to novice, 50% to intermediate, and 35% to advanced/expert skiers.
3. The ski area will have a maximum vertical drop of approximately 700-900 meters.
4. The base area development will consist of approximately 400-500 hectares with 100 hectares being designated for the resort village and associated core facilities, including:
 - a. 600-700 hotel units,
 - b. 500-600 townhome units,
 - c. 600-800 single-family lots,
 - d. 50-100 estate lots, and
 - e. 50-60,000 sq. ft. of commercial space.

Figure 1. General Location of Study Area



Scope of Project

The scope of this project involved the following:

1. Background Research: A review of relevant background information of documented pre-contact/historic period occupation or use of this area. This will include discussions with the Spuzzum First Nation.
2. Analysis: Preliminary evaluation of the project's high-level plans concerning the potential to impact archaeological and traditional use resources.
3. A single field trip with members of the Spuzzum First Nation to the study area to discuss project planning, observe relevant landscape features.
4. A final report that will briefly indicate the nature and location of obvious heritage concerns, identify specific areas with archaeological site potential, outline details for further archaeological impact assessment (AIA) and traditional use and occupancy mapping study (TUS/UOMS) work required. Appropriate management/mitigative strategies if any obvious archaeological/heritage concerns are identified will also be presented.

All archaeological sites whether they are previously recorded or not, intact, or disturbed are automatically protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act* and the provisions of this legislation apply whether the archaeological sites are located on Crown or privately held lands. Archaeological sites are automatically protected under Section 12.1 of the legislation and must not be altered or changed in any manner without a permit issued by the Province of British Columbia under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

Other cultural heritage resources not protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act* are equally important to the Spuzzum First Nation but not automatically protected. Cultural heritage resources may or may not be associated with archaeological sites or areas exhibiting archaeological potential and can include specific traditional use areas, sites or features on the landscape. Examples include resource gathering areas, spiritual sites, culturally modified trees (CMT's), and/or ceremonial sites. These examples are part of a broader concept that considers not only the sites themselves but also the things that connect these areas - trails, legends, hunting and gathering areas, water, etc. Cultural Heritage Resources are provided for in Section 10 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, Forest, and Range Practices Act*.

Archaeological Potential Assessment

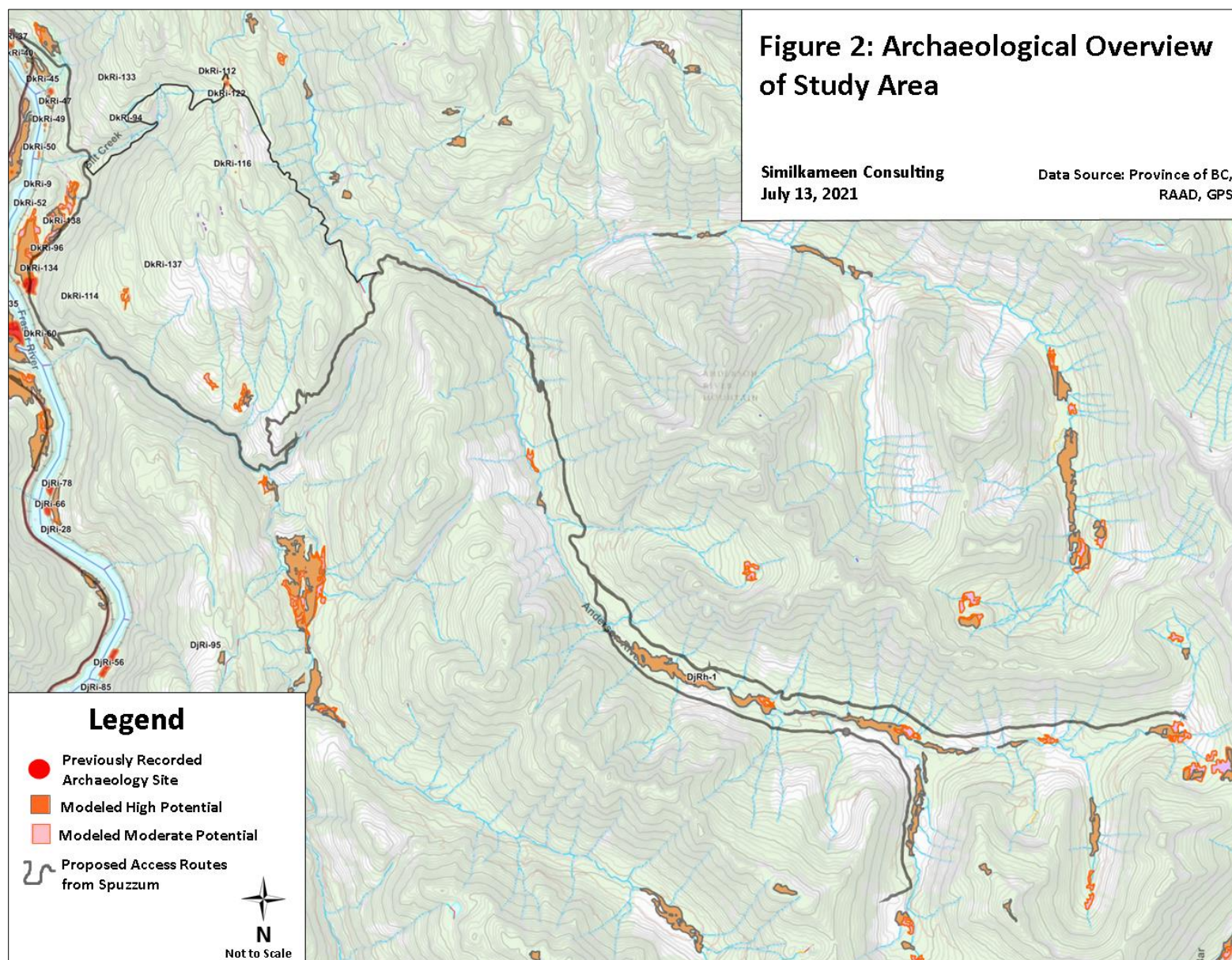
A predictive model layer for the study area is available on the Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) website and was consulted during the desktop review and background research and is illustrated in Figures 2 to 7.

Archaeological predictive modelling is calculated based on a set of variables including slope, distance to water, aspect, proximity to known archaeological sites, proximity to existing settlement (towns), ungulate winter range, biogeoclimatic zone and old-growth forests.

It should be mentioned that the intent of the modelling is not to replace archaeology, nor is it intended to capture all areas of archaeological potential, predict new site types or further research-oriented goals. The model is only intended to impose archaeological potential on the modern landscape (about the past 5,000 years) and does not consider the period between 5,000 and 12,000 years ago when the landscape and its associated resources were establishing and evolving during fluctuating environments and would have been much different.

For this project, the model does not adequately predict areas of a higher or lower likelihood of finding some archaeological sites. Although it is partially useful in identifying areas of cultural heritage significance as they are often associated with archaeological sites. Not so useful in that many of these sites are also found in other areas such as potato patches on steep slopes with nil archaeological potential. As such, modelling is simply a useful tool for land-use planners to have a “heads” up where archaeological potential may occur.

Figure 2: Archaeological Overview of Study Area



Methodology

Background Research

Background research included a review of all previously recorded archaeological sites, their associated collections, and archaeological reports as available for the entire study area. The results of this review are presented in the sub-sections following. Background research also included an internet search and scan of available literature for the study area.

A predictive model layer for the study area was available on the Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) website and was consulted during the desktop review and background research but found to be unreliable.

Archaeological predictive modelling is calculated based on a set of variables including slope, distance to water, aspect, proximity to known archaeological sites, proximity to existing settlement (towns), ungulate winter range, biogeoclimatic zone and old-growth forests. Not all models use the same variables and not all models were developed using GIS as such not all models are of the same calibre or reliability.

It should be mentioned that the intent of modelling is not to replace archaeology, nor is it intended to capture all areas of archaeological potential, predict new site types or further research-oriented goals. Modelling is merely intended to impose archaeological potential on the modern, currently mapped landscape (about the past 5,000 years). Modelling does not consider the early Holocene when the post-glacial landscape and its associated resources were establishing and evolving during fluctuating environments and would have been much different.

Archaeological predictive models also only predict areas of a higher or lower likelihood of finding some types of archaeological sites. Modelling can be useful in identifying areas of cultural heritage significance as these areas are almost always associated with archaeological sites however many of these sites are also found in other areas where there is no archaeological potential such as huckleberry patches and CMTs on steep slopes).

In summary, predictive models can be a useful tool for land-use planners to have a “heads” up where archaeological potential may occur. The archaeological predictive model layer is also used along with other cultural heritage data to provide background information and assist the field crew in ensuring that areas with archaeological and cultural heritage potential are prioritized in the fieldwork.

An office review of the study area was undertaken to search for potential features of archaeological interest such as proximity to known archaeological sites, proximity to water, slope, aspect, forest cover, ungulate winter range and other variables known about the area specifically.

For the results section of this report, the access road and study area has been divided into several sections. The first section to be addressed is the background research followed by the resort location, recreation and ski areas, access from Spuzzum and access from the Coquihalla.

Spatial Data

Topographic data and imagery available from Google Earth Pro were utilized along with spatial data from previous archaeological assessments and from previously registered archaeological sites were available through the Remote Access to Archaeology Data Application maintained by the BC Archaeology Branch. As well, GPS data was collected during the field trip to assist in the discussion of archaeological site distribution and potential within the study area.

Google Earth Pro was utilized to examine aerial imagery of the study area before the field trip to observe visible disturbances, forest cover, previous logging and other industrial activities, and to assess the area for access. The vehicular survey was used to confirm the observed disturbances identified through the desktop review.

Field Reconnaissance

A field trip to the study area from Spuzzum was undertaken on July 13, 2021, by Brenda Gould of Similkameen Consulting along with Dimitri Hatzidimitriou of the Spuzzum First Nation. In attendance were also representatives from Westscapes, the Chief and Council and key staff of the Spuzzum First Nation, and environmental specialists.

The field trip was conducted via all-terrain vehicle on only one possible access route to the proposed village site. There was limited time to conduct any sort of pedestrian reconnaissance of the proposed development was beyond the scope of this high-level review. The proposed retreat location at Inkawthia Lake was systematically assessed in the field to determine the potential for archaeological materials and features and traditional use areas based on access in and around the study area.

Any archaeological sites or cultural features identified during the field trip were marked with a handheld GPS. Archaeological sites containing cultural material were not labelled in the field with flagging to not draw attention to the area. Cultural features, such as CMT's cultural depressions and/or hearths, were marked with a handheld GPS and not labelled as well.

The expected site types of archaeological within the study area include habitation features (i.e., house pits), subsistence features (i.e., roasting pits or cache pits), hunting blinds, trails, rock art, culturally modified trees, human remains (i.e., rock cairn burials, talus slope burials, subsurface burials), and surface and subsurface scatters composed of lithic, faunal, or fire altered rock. Traditional use sites expected within the study area include place names, sacred locations, resource gathering and processing locations, and transportation routes.

Results

The results of this study are largely derived from the background research and a single day spent in the field with other project consultants however, where appropriate, information derived from this single day will be presented to support the findings of the background research.

Background Research

Cultural Setting

The following is by no means an exhaustive account of Nlaka'pamux cultural history but rather a snapshot in time of the Nlaka'pamux culture and heritage within the confines of the geographic area of the Spuzzum Nation territory within the Anderson River watershed to attempt to provide a limited understanding of the relationship between the people and this particular part of the territory. Sources relied upon include published and unpublished information available digitally and, in some cases, in paper format by both indigenous and non-indigenous scholars and institutions.

The study area lies within the Anderson River portion of the traditional territory of the Spuzzum First Nation (see Figure 1). The Spuzzum Nation is the southernmost group of Nlaka'pamux and is often considered the guardians or gatekeepers of Nlaka'pamux territory being strategically located in the lower reaches of the Fraser canyon. James Teit (1900:171) described the people of the Fraser Canyon as the Lower Thompson branch of the Nlaka'pamux and recognized this division noting that the upper and lower Thompson doesn't have much in common with each other due to the extreme differences in environment. The Nlaka'pamux of Spuzzum has lived in the study area since the land was first habitable after the last of the glacial retreat at least 9,000 years ago.

James Teit (1900:169) documented four Spuzzum villages including: "Spozem ("little flat") Spuzzum on the west side of the river, Ti'kwalus (Chapman's Bar) on the east side of the Fraser, Skoxwa'k on the west side of the river, and Tce'tawe on the east side of the river." In 1900 Teit records the largest lower Thompson village at Spuzzum. Teit (1900:169) also mentions a village near the confluence of the Anderson and Fraser Rivers named "Koia'um ("to pick berries") near present-day Boston Bar which he reported as the largest lower Thompson village in 1858. While not a Spuzzum village, early maps show the Anderson River as being called Quaome which is an anglicised version of Koia'um recorded by Teit (see Plates 2-3). Between 1858 and 1900 James Teit reports that the population of the lower Thompson villages went from around 2000 to just 700 due to the ravages of smallpox (Teit 1900:170).

While others (Teit 1900, Smith, Sneed, and Simonsen 1977, Pegg 2017) describe in detail the cultural characteristics of the Nlaka'pamux people a synthesis of this information is beyond the scope of this short overview however there are a few cultural characteristics that set the lower Thompson and specifically, the Spuzzum nation apart from the other Nlaka'pamux people such as the use of coiled cedar twig basketry, goat and black bear hair blanket weaving, and owl sole snowshoes specifically adapted for travel on steep mountains (Teit 1900:179).

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Previous archaeological investigations within the core study area are limited to studies conducted on behalf of either forestry activities or large linear infrastructure projects like the BC Hydro Interior to Mainland Transmission Project. Unfortunately, forestry activities and power line construction that predate the 1990s were largely undertaken without any attention to archaeological or other heritage resources. For example, archaeological site DjRh-1 is a significant, large, and very obvious pictograph site that was unrecorded until 1996 during forestry cut-block surveys. From a quick review of Google Earth's historical imagery, it can be seen that sometime during the 1980s this site was logged.

More broadly speaking significant research has been undertaken on the archaeology of the Fraser Canyon but not in the mountainous areas flanking the Fraser River. It is well known from the ethnography that the Spuzzum Nation members were not tied to the Fraser and exploited many and numerous resources in the mountainous environments which flanked the river.

The predictive modelling for the study area is not sufficient to be used for this study as areas of potential are much more difficult to ascertain in mountainous environments and little research has been conducted here. Figure 2 illustrates the archaeological potential of the study area in general while Figures 3 to 7 provide additional details regarding archaeological site distribution along the access roads, proposed retreat location, and recreation areas. Identified archaeological sites are presented for each section.

Table 1 summarizes the results of the background search of previously recorded archaeological sites within the vicinity of the study area and along the access road highlighting those which have the potential to intersect with the access road or future upgrades to the access road.

Table 1: Previously recorded archaeological sites which intersect or are near the study area.

Borden #	Intersects with Study Area	Site Type	Date Recorded	Comments
DjRh-1	Yes, potential recreation area	Rock Art, Lithic Scatter	1996, 2021	Pictograph recorded because of an AIA for Cattermole Logging in 1996 (Oliver 1996); west-facing, numerous images, superpositioning present, Plateau Horizon Projectile Point (ca. 2400-1200 BP) observed in 2021.
DjRh-2	Yes, the recreation area	Lithic Scatter	2019	Lithic scatter was observed on the surface of the escarpment overlooking the recreation area; diagnostic artifacts suggest occupation to at least 2400 B.P. (Cameron, 2020)
DkRi-6	Yes, potential intersection with access road	Rock Art, historic trail	1927, 1941, 1977, 1987, 1988, 2006, 2008	The large petroglyph site was first documented in 1927 (Smith 1927) and reported to the National Museum of Canada. The site has since been negatively impacted by the construction of logging roads as well as BC Hydro Transmission lines.

DkRi-53	Yes, bisected by the south option access road	Cultural Depression, Lithic Scatter	1986, 2008	The archaeological site consists of a lithic scatter and at least three cultural depressions, likely cache pits. It is bisected by the access road as well as the BC Hydro transmission line and will be impacted by any upgrading or potentially maintenance activities.
DkRi-94	Yes, bisected by Gilt Creek FSR option access	Lithic Scatter	2012	Discovered on ROW during the BC Hydro ILM project (Mason and Campbell 2012). The site consisted of a single fragment of chert lithic material on the transmission line access road.
DkRi-95	Yes, bisected by the south option access road	Lithic Scatter	2012	Discovered on ROW during the BC Hydro ILM project (Mason and Campbell 2012). The site consisted of a single fragment of fine-grained volcanic lithic material on the transmission line access road.
DkRi-96	Yes, bisected by the south option access road	Lithic Scatter	2012	Discovered on ROW during the BC Hydro ILM project (Mason and Campbell 2012). The site consisted of a single fragment of fine-grained volcanic lithic material on the transmission line access road.
DkRi-112	No	Lithic Scatter	2013	Discovered on ROW during the BC Hydro ILM project (Mason and Campbell 2012). The site consisted of a single fragment of fine-grained volcanic biface fragment on the transmission line access road.
DkRi-122	No	Lithic Scatter	2014	Discovered on ROW during the BC Hydro ILM project (Mason and Campbell 2012). The site consisted of two mudstone lithic flakes on the transmission line access road.
DkRi-134	No	Lithic Scatter	2015	Discovered on ROW during the BC Hydro ILM project (Mason and Campbell 2012). The site consisted of three fine-grained volcanic flakes on the transmission line.
DkRi-138	Yes, bisected by the south option access road	Lithic Scatter	2015	Discovered on ROW during the BC Hydro ILM project (Mason and Campbell 2012). The site consisted of a single fine-grained volcanic flake on the transmission line. This site is also associated with an unregulated trail and group of CMTs

Ancient Trails

Background research confirms that the Anderson River watershed was an important pre-contact transportation route between Hope and Boston Bar via the Coquihalla River, Boston Bar Creek, and Anderson River. Archaeological sites have been recorded in proximity to the location of the trail including archaeological sites DjRh-2 located in the alpine and DjRh-1, a rare high elevation pictograph complex. In addition, Annie York (in Laforet and York 1998) confirms a trail network up the Anderson River connecting to trails to Washington and the Similkameen Valley. York also highlights Anderson

Mountain as being one of four places of principle importance to the Spuzzum people where the people hunted mountain goats (Laforet and York 1998:66). She describes the Anderson valley as a place where the people gathered mushrooms and blueberries in the fall (ibid:69). In particular York mentions an individual named Paul Youla who had a special hunting place in the Anderson Mountain area.

Archaeological site DjRh-1 is located at the base of Anderson Mountain along the old trail which connects the Spuzzum people to the Similkameen and Skagit.

During the early historic period, the portion of the Fraser River between Hope and Boston Bar was unnavigable by the fur traders and long portages were common along the precipitous cliffs that flanked the river many of which were unsuitable for pack trains. In 1846 A.C. Anderson of the Hudson's Bay Company was tasked with exploring routes between the Thompson and Fraser Rivers around the time the Nlaka'pamux were forcing early American miners to retreat from the Canyon. Blackeye the Similkameen is well known for guiding Anderson across the Tulameen Plateau but was also instrumental in showing him the route to Spuzzum over the Tikwalus Trail which would be the beginnings of the new brigade trail (Anderson 2022) from Yale to Boston Bar. At the time of Anderson's journey, the river that now bears his name was referred to as the Quayome or Coquaome which was also the name of the Indian village on the Fraser at its mouth near present-day Boston Bar.

In 1858 Governor Douglas called the Royal Engineers to assist with policing the colony and upgrading existing trail to navigable wagon roads. He ordered the upgrading of the trail between Hope and Boston Bar by the Royal Engineers and Lieutenant Lempriere was tasked with this job. The historical documentation clearly illustrates the upgrading of this trail but it is likely that it was abandoned before it was even used or possibly completed in favour of the Cariboo Wagon Road.

The only known journal of a Royal Engineer is that of Lieutenant Lempriere (Lempriere 1858-1859) which discusses the upgrading of this trail in detail along with draft maps of sections of the trail and his indigenous labour who assist with the location and updating of this trail into a mule road. Plates 2 to 4 are maps which illustrate this trail.

In 2007 a hiker relocated a portion of this trail and posted the information on a local hiking blog along with a section of TRIM map showing that section of the trail where it enters the Anderson River watershed from Box Canyon on Boston Bar Creek (Plate 5). This is also close to the location of archaeological site DjRh-2 which is located at the height of land between Box Canyon and the headwaters of Anderson River. It can be assumed that the trail would have come down into the Anderson River in approximately the location where the proposed resort is planned, crossing the river and following the north side past the pictograph (DjRh-1) till near the junction with the trail to Spuzzum which according to information in Laforet and York (1998) may be near the gulley leading up Gilt Creek to the Spuzzum petroglyph (archaeological site DkRi-6) where she also reports a source for stone.

Plate 2: Image of 1860 Royal Engineers map showing location of Boston Bar Trail

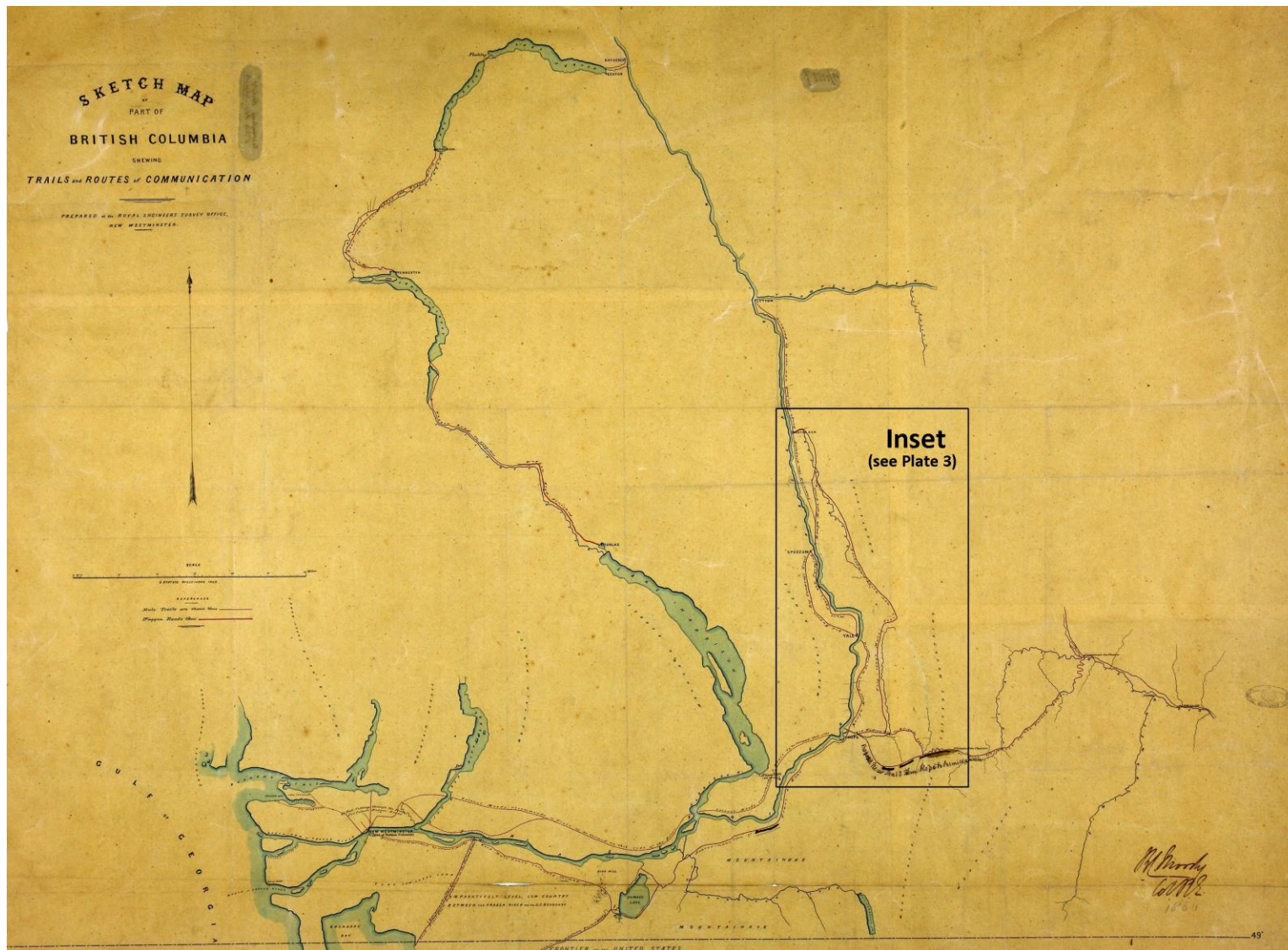


Plate 3: Marked up Inset from Figure 2 showing trail location on Anderson River

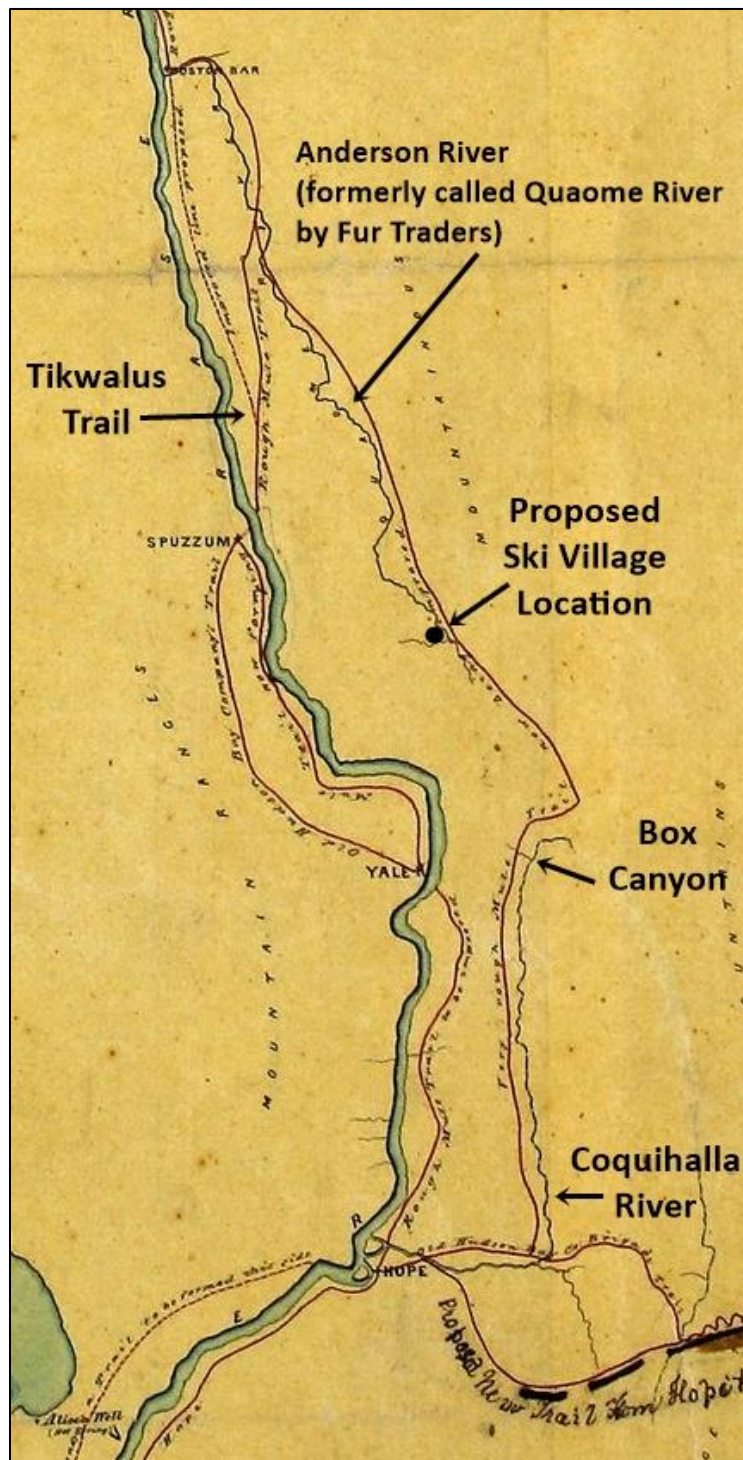


Plate 4: Hand-drawn map from Lemprière's journal showing Coquihalla section of Hope-Boston Bar Trail

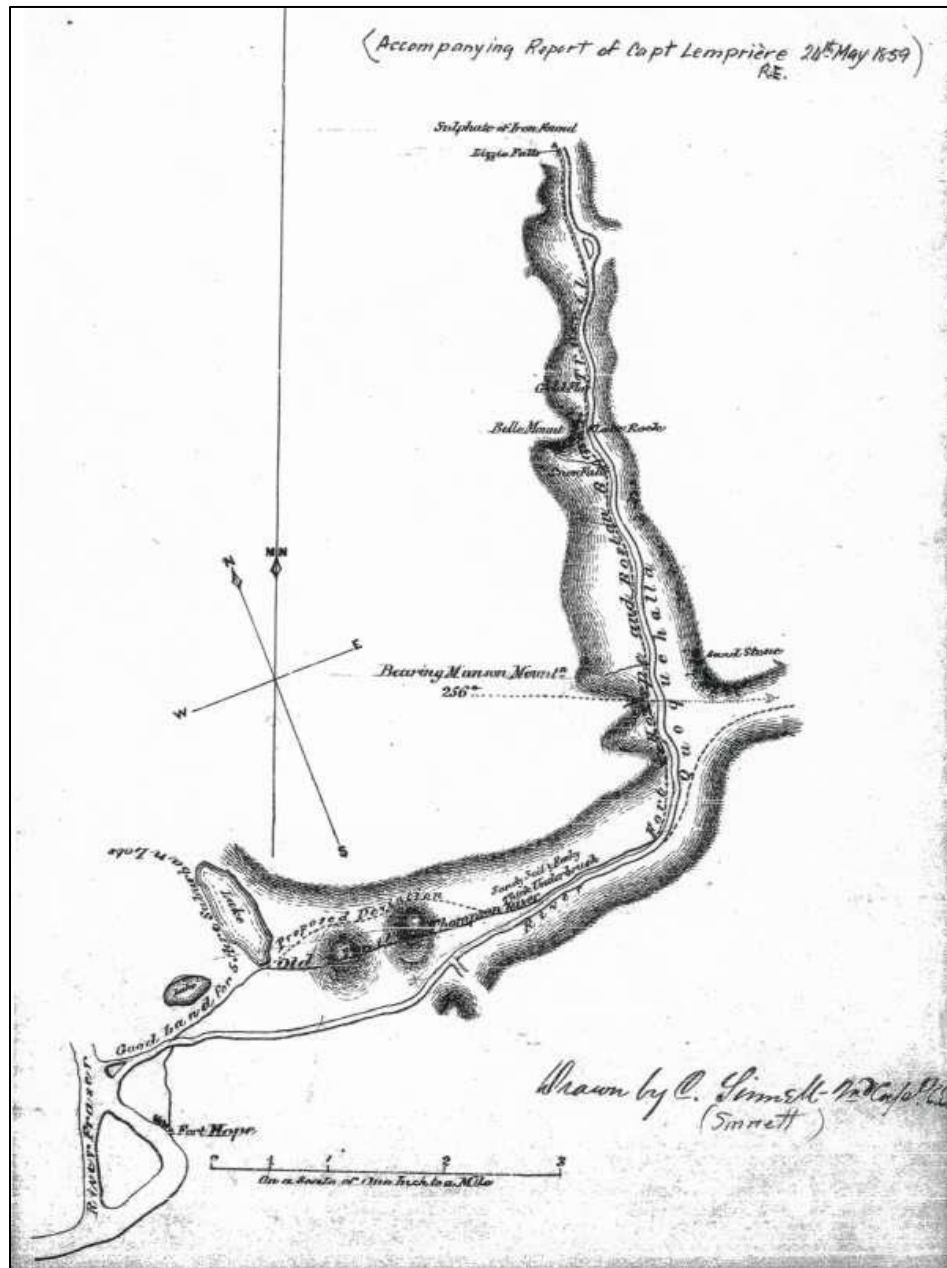
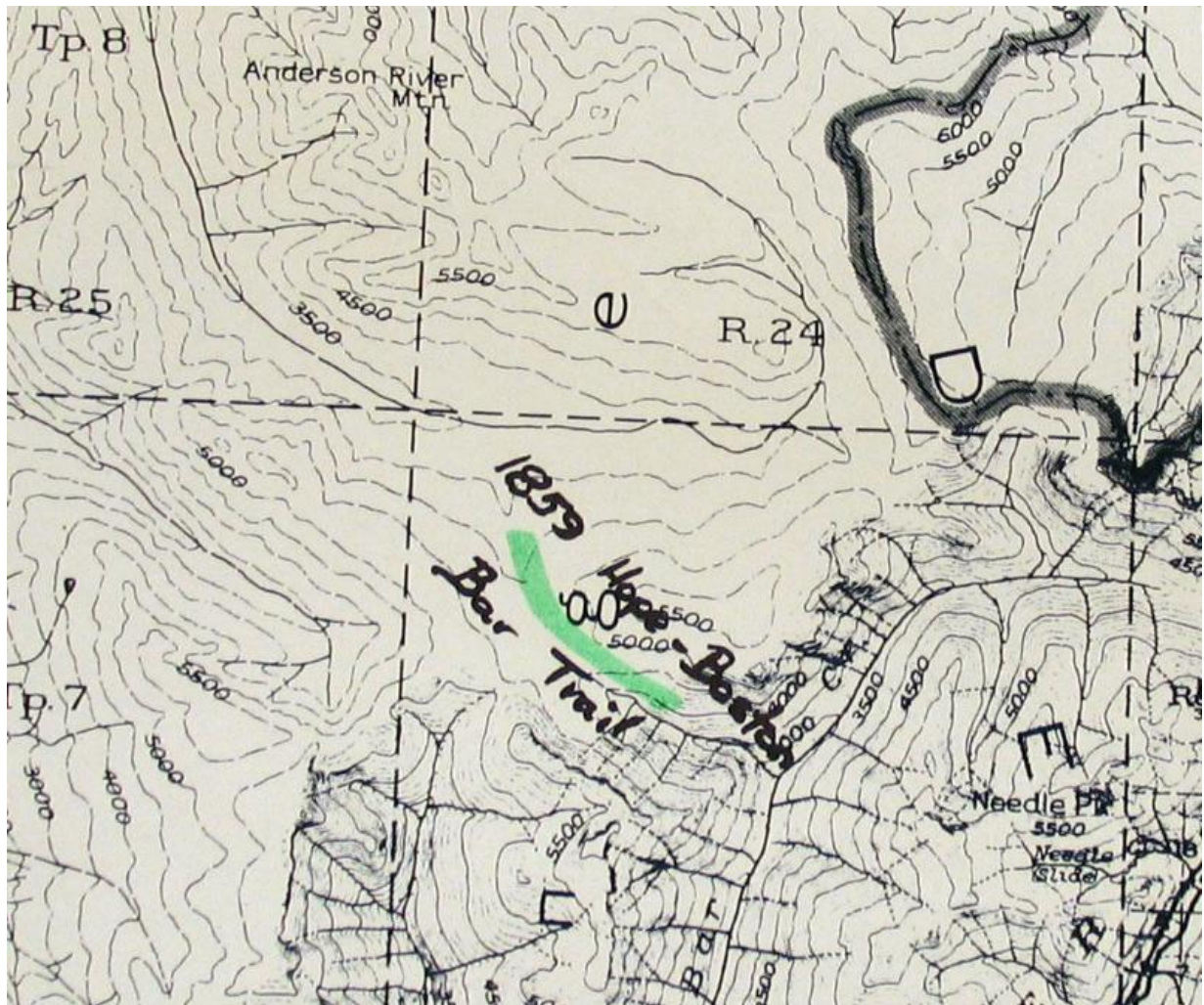


Plate 5: Excerpt from TRIM map showing Boston Bar Trail Segment from Boston Bar Creek to Anderson River Headwaters



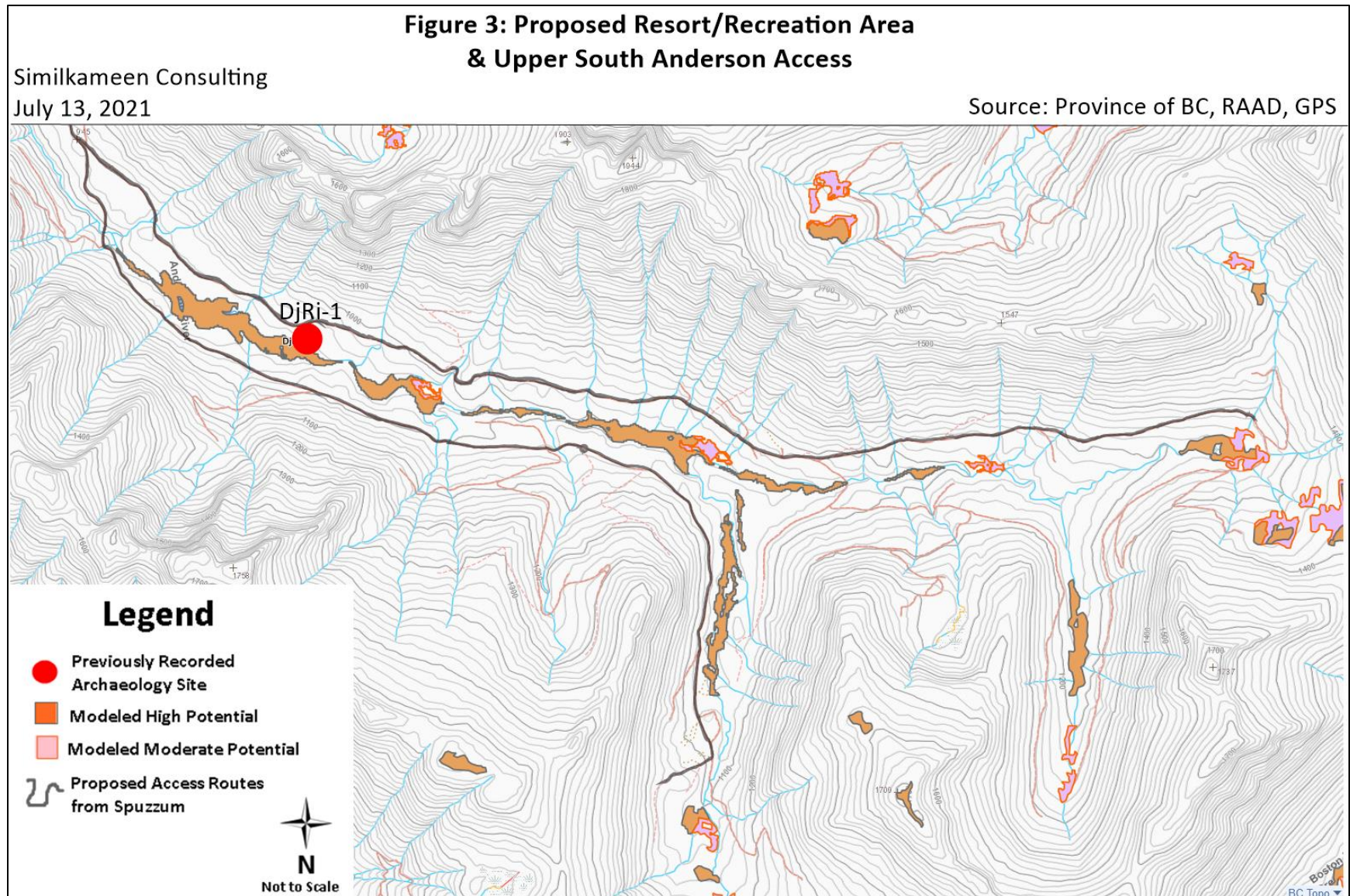
Field Observations

Field observations were undertaken over a single day on July 13, 2021. Much of the day was spent travelling to and from Spuzzum to the headwaters of the Anderson River along various deactivated Forest Service Roads. Not all areas covered below were accessed during the brief field trip on July 13, however, are included in this section as they have all been considered, in one context or another, to be either resort/recreation area opportunities or various access routes in and out of the study area. As this project is in the very early stages it is prudent to examine as many potential development areas as possible.

Potential Resort and Recreation Area

This is a large area (see Figure 3) which has seen little in the way of archaeological work with the exception of a single forestry related study (Cameron 2020) which recorded archaeological site DkRh-2 as a lithic scatter and remnants of wooden beams. Unfortunately, the background research for this study failed to pick up information on the historic and precontact Anderson River trail. It is quite possible that remnants of this trail can be found in alpine areas or areas where no logging has taken place.

Figure 3: Map of Potential Resort Location & Upper South Anderson Access



Archaeological site DjRh-1 was revisited by the team on July 13, 2021 (Plate 6). This site is significant in that there are numerous images with many instances of superpositioning where one painting has been painted over another. The complex panels show zoomorphic, anthropomorphic, linear, and geometric images. Teit (1912) refers to an origin story of the Spuzzum people where coyote was followed deep into the mountains where there was many caves full of ice. York (Laforet and York 1998) describes a similar origin story indicating that there were many caves just east of Anderson Mountain.

This pictograph site is significant in that it may correlate to an origin story but also that it is located in an area where a Spuzzum ancestor spent a significant amount of time overwintering and it is located on a major trail linking Spuzzum with the Similkameen and Skagit valleys and beyond. A single projectile point was discovered in close proximity to the rock art panel in an area of erosion (Plate 7).

Plate 6: Chief James Hobart showing pictograph complex at DjRh-1



Plate 7: Projectile point observed at DjRh-1 on July 13, 2021.



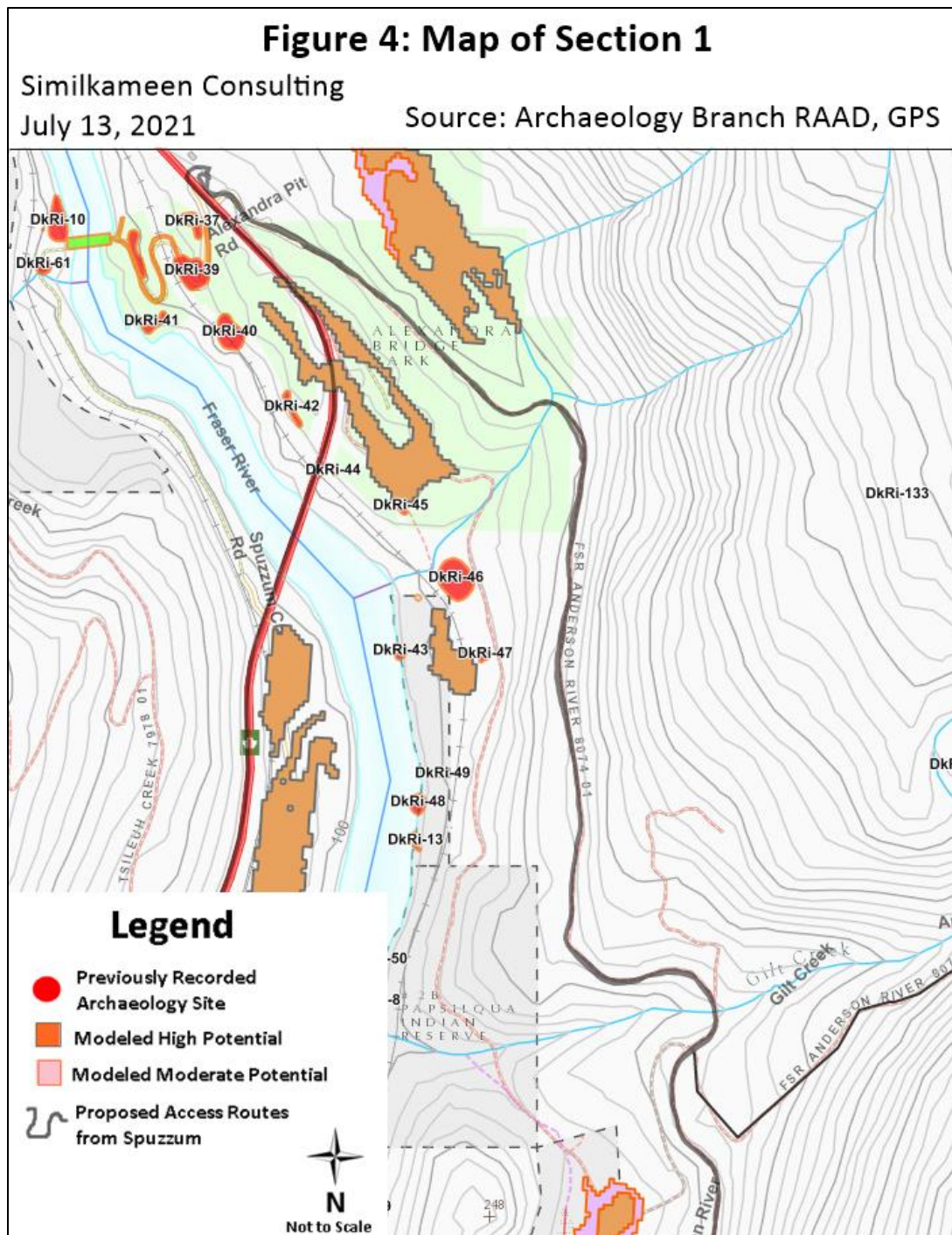
Access Road from Spuzzum

For the project to be of benefit to the Spuzzum First Nation, there must be an access route from Highway 1 (Hobart, Pers. Comm.). At the time of writing, there have been two proposed access options from Highway #1 and Spuzzum with access from Spuzzum potentially taking two different routes. The original road location as provided by the proponent showed the access road following the Gilt Creek Forest Service Road while the field trip undertaken on July 13, 2021 followed a more southerly route. Each of these options is discussed briefly along with a map showing the location in relation to previously recorded archaeological sites as well archaeological potential.

Section 1: Alexandra Provincial Park to Gilt Creek

This first section of access from Spuzzum is fairly straight forward on an existing maintained Forest Service Road that is in decent condition. The road passes through the Alexandra Provincial Park in a southerly direction upslope from Spuzzum First Nation reserves. This section of road is unlikely to change or require major upgrading. There are no previously recorded archaeologica sites in direct conflict with this section of proposed access road but this is probably more likely a case of no one has looked yet. Significant archaeological sites are located downslope and to the west and the majority of these sites were recorded as part of a study for the railway (Arcas 2008). This section of road is illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Map of Section 1



Section 2: Gift Creek to Anderson River

Section 2 is that section of Road from Gift Creek over to Anderson River. There are two different options with the south option being the one traveled on July 13, 2021.

Option 1: Gilt Creek Route (not travelled)

The Gilt Creek Route was highlighted as a possible route on materials provided by the proponent as well as a fieldtrip undertaken by the proponent and the Spuzzum First Nation in 2020. This route follows Gilt Creek to the height of land then turns south high above the west side of the Anderson River travelling downslope to the Anderson River. Figure 5 illustrates the Gilt Creek option for access and its relationship to previously recorded archaeological sites.

The route is in conflict with several archaeological sites including DkRi-6, the Spuzzum Petroglyph and DkRi-94, a lithic scatter. The Spuzzum petroglyph (DkRi-6) is a well known site while DkRi-94 and others close by were all recorded as part of the BC Hydro Interior to Mainland transmission corridor project.

The portion of the route leading up to the height of land has seen a fair amount of archaeological work with the BC Hydro project but the south portion has not. It is likely that there will be several small areas of archaeological potential along this proposed route in addition to the mitigative requirements to ensure preservation of the Spuzzum petroglyph (DkRi-6). As well, it is almost certain that an indigenous pre contact trail would have been in the vicinity.

Option 2: South Route

The south route was travelled by the team on July 13, 2021. This route travels south beyond Gilt Creek to the steep and narrow valley of an unnamed stream where it turns east and continues up the steep valley until it intersects with the Gilt Creek route near the Anderson River (see Figure 6).

This route is in conflict with four archaeological sites. Archaeological site DkRi-53 is a cultural depression while archaeological sites DkRi-95, 96, and 138 are all lithic scatters. All of the sites in conflict with or in proximity to this section of the access road were all recorded as part of the BC Hydro Interior to Mainland transmission corridor project.

Over half of this option has not been subjected to any archaeological work and it possible for one or two small areas to contain archaeological potential. As well a source of fine stone is reported to be in a narrow canyon like area across from Spuzzum (Laforet and York) and this treacherous stretch of road may be the steep gully talked about. Like the Gilt Creek option there is also the potential for an ancient trail to be located along this route as several were described in the literature search (Laforet and York 1998).

Figure 5: Map of Section 2 Option 1

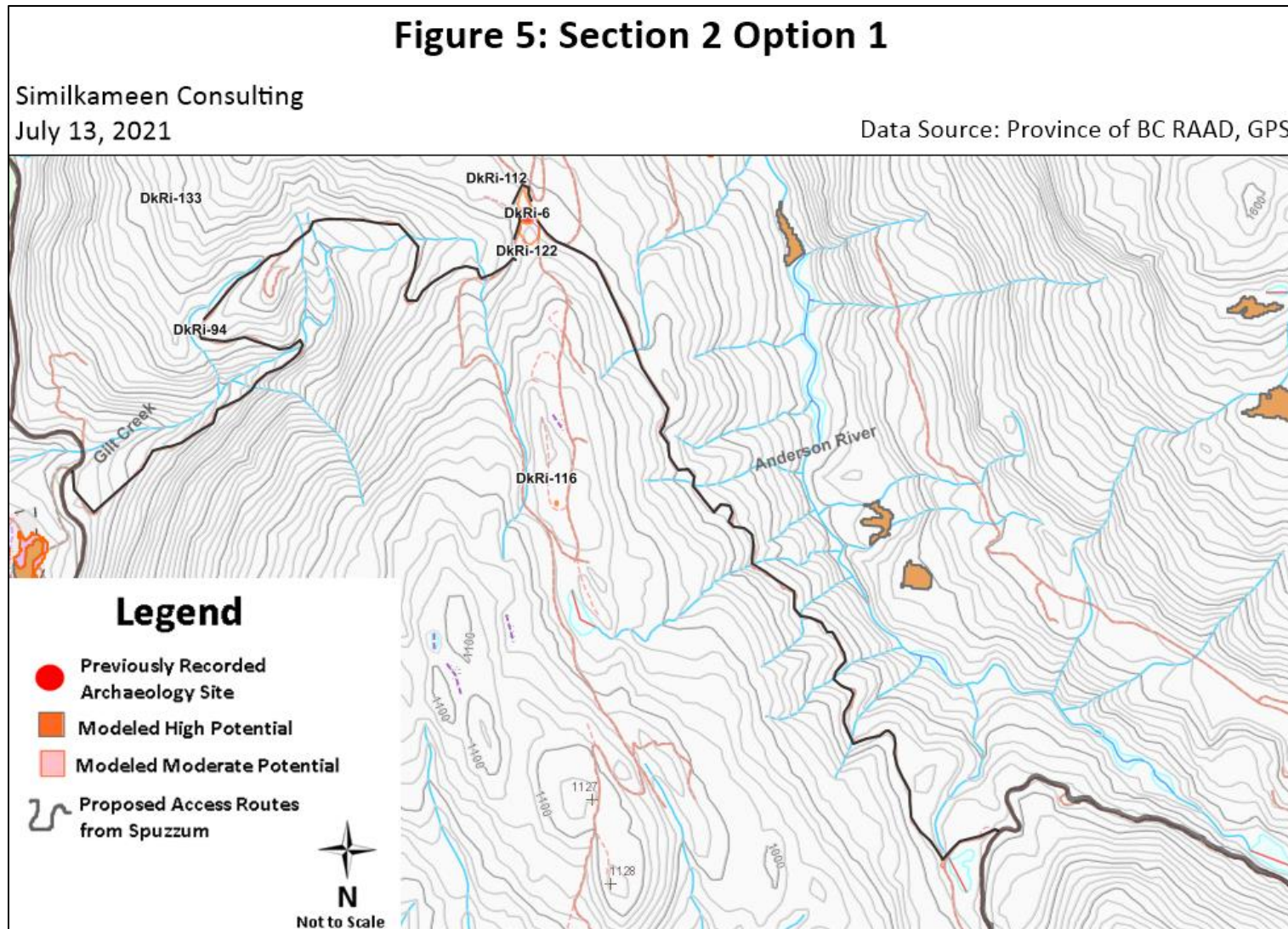
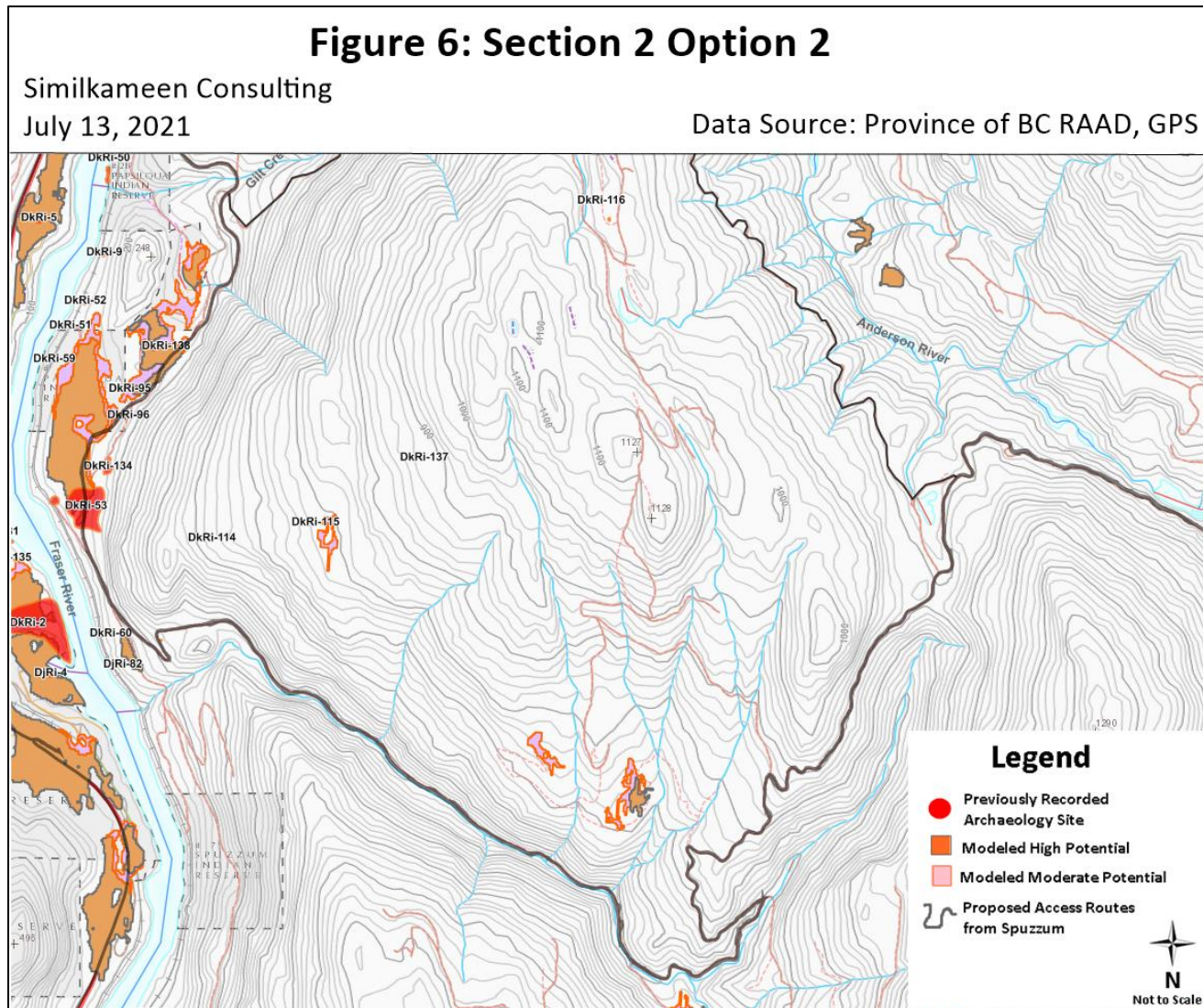


Figure 6: Map of Section 2 Option 2

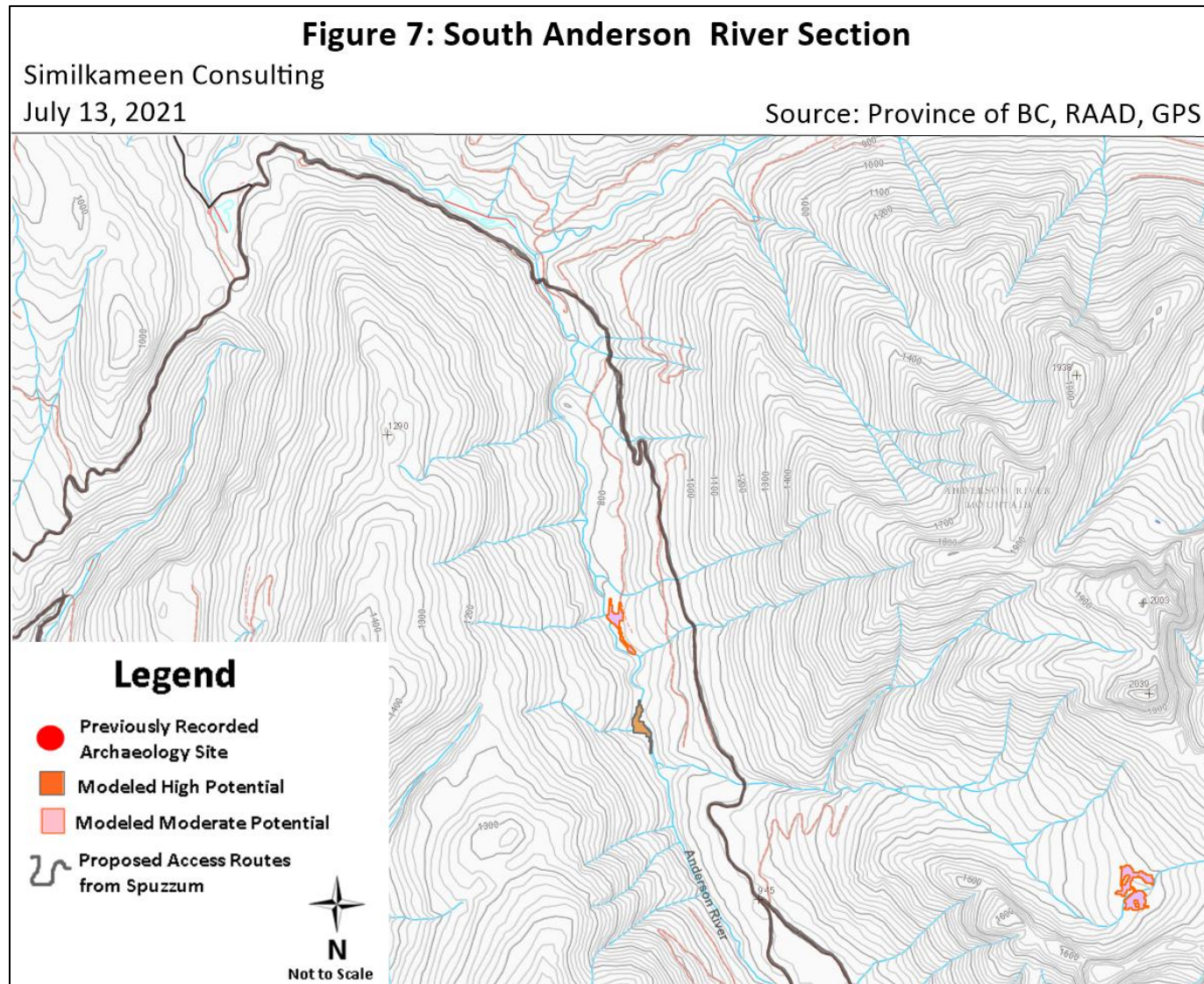


Section 3: South Anderson River

This section of proposed access road starts on the west side of the Anderson River but quickly crosses over to the east side. The road generally follows the steep terrain along the west side of the River (see Figure 7).

There are no previously recorded archaeological sites in this section of the proposed access route from Spuzzum. There are several areas of potential which would require closer examination and more rigorous archaeological work in this section of access road.

Figure 7: Map of South Anderson River Access Route



Access Roads from the Coquihalla (not travelled)

Access options from the Coquihalla summit have also been discussed; at the time of this report, these access points/routes had not yet been mapped or travelled but will require a significant amount of tunnelling through from the Coquihalla Highway. Depending on the routing of any potential access from the Coquihalla will have the potential to impact as yet undiscovered archaeological sites, including the ancient trail along the west side of Boston Bar Creek and in the headwaters of the Anderson River drainage.

Discussion and Recommendations

The archaeological record as well as the oral information provided in place names and other culturally significant data is important in site and landscape identification and interpretation but even more important in terms of the preservation of language and cultural identity.

It is evident from the background research that the study area holds the potential to contain significant prehistoric as well as historic archaeological remains. The potential for the entirety of the Anderson River watershed to be an important prehistoric as well as little known historic transportation route is significant with evidence of its upgrades by the Royal Engineers from 1858 to 1859. Its role in the ethnography and origins of the Spuzzum people is worthy of significant further research.

There are eleven previously recorded archaeological sites within the study area generally and depending on future access decisions one or more of these archaeological sites will intersect with the project's footprint. As well, significant portions of the study area have the potential to contain unrecorded archaeological sites. Of particular significance may be intact sections of the abandoned Boston Bar trail from Hope to Boston Bar via the Coquihalla and Anderson River. The Hope-Boston Bar Trail was proposed by Governor Douglas and upgraded by a team of Royal Engineers in 1858-59 (Lempriere 1858-59). It appears to have been abandoned before it was ever used in favour of the Cariboo Wagon Road. Background research confirms that sections of this trail overlap probably overlap with the previously recorded archaeological site within the study area. This further confirms that the trail was in use by indigenous travellers long before its documentation by the Royal Engineers. There is the potential for both intact sections of this trail and the potential for unrecorded archaeological sites to be located within the proposed footprints for the resort area and access from Spuzzum is addressed in further detail within this report.

It is recommended that a rigorous Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) process be put in place consisting of the following components:

- 1. Non-permitted archaeological study of the Hope Boston Bar trail from Coquihalla Summit to the intersection with the Tikwalus Trail.***
- 2. Ground truthed archaeology overview assessment (AOA) of the proposed access roads (from Spuzzum and the Coquihalla) to identify areas of potential to be subjected to a more detailed and rigorous AIA process undertaken under the Heritage Conservation Act permit to prospect for archaeological sites within the finalized development footprint of the access roads to and from the resort/recreation area.***
- 3. Ground truthed AOA of all potential recreation developments (ski runs, trails, lifts, residential, commercial, etc.) to inform a more detailed and rigorous AIA process undertaken under Heritage Conservation Act permit to prospect for archaeological sites within the finalized development footprint.***
- 4. A full AIA is undertaken under Heritage Conservation Act permit by a qualified Archaeological Consulting Firm with experience in large projects and the Environmental Assessment Process. The AIA will be required for identified portions of all finalized access routes, recreation, residential, and commercial development areas.***

All archaeological sites, whether recorded or unidentified, are protected by legislation and may not be altered, damaged, moved, excavated in, or disturbed in any way without a permit issued under either Section 12.2 or Section 12.4 of the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

Closure

This report was prepared for the exclusive use of the Spuzzum First Nation and Westcapes. Any use or reliance on decisions made by third parties based on this report is the responsibility of such third parties.

The information contained in this report is not to be considered conclusive or all-encompassing as it relates to archaeological, cultural heritage or traditional use-values. Rather, it reflects the data collected within the time, budget and terms of reference provided. Archaeological and cultural heritage assessments rely upon an understanding of the past, present and anticipated future exercise of Aboriginal Title and Rights which depends upon an evolving and developing information base.

This information is communicated in good faith however First Nations still claim title to the un-ceded lands and resources of British Columbia. By this First Nations have made it abundantly clear that they have not discharged the governments of British Columbia or Canada from their fiduciary obligations as the title to the land and resources is not yet settled. Recent court decisions such as the Tsilqot'in land claim have now proven aboriginal title exists on the land and that adequate consultation and accommodation of Aboriginal Title and Rights in the land and resources must be taken into consideration.

This study has been undertaken without prejudice to Aboriginal Title and Rights.

It is important to note that this assessment is intended to identify physical archaeological evidence of past human activity protected under the Heritage Conservation Act. The data contained herein does not address traditional land use or other concerns of First Nations.

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