



# OSAGE NATION

## ***HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE***

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### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY STANDARDS WITHIN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

The following archaeological survey standards are the minimum amount of work acceptable for archaeological surveys as determined by the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office (ONHPO). Additional archaeological work (i.e. more shovel tests or transects) or methods (backhoe trenches) can always be incorporated into the research design to help locate and identify archaeological sites depending on the characteristics of the undertaking or potential for encountering significant cultural resources.

#### **Professional Qualifications:**

Archaeological investigations must be conducted by an archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualification Standards for Archeology* (48FR 22716 or 36 CFR Part 61). At a minimum, the field surveyors must possess a BA or BS in anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology. At a minimum, the individual who supervises the field survey, interprets the results of the field survey, determines the cultural resource recommendation, and produces the cultural survey report must possess an MA or MS in anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology. With the first cultural resource survey report, include curriculum vitae for all project archaeologists and identify work performed.

#### **Background Research:**

Archaeologists must conduct a background literature search prior to field investigations. At a minimum this shall include searches of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and the Oklahoma Historical Society databases for previously recorded archaeological sites and historic properties, and previous archaeological work in the vicinity. In addition, the archaeologists would also include searches of the Oklahoma Geological Survey Archives (Norman, Oklahoma) for early USGS 7.5 and 15-minute topographic maps and aerial photographs, plus the GLO map archive available online ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)).

#### **Deeply Buried Cultural Deposits:**

Archaeologists must assess the potential for deeply buried cultural deposits within the area of potential effect (APE) prior to starting field investigations. At a minimum, this shall include a review of the USDA soil surveys and geologic maps. If there is a potential for deeply buried cultural deposits within the APE, deeper subsurface investigations (to be determined in consultation with the ONHPO) will be required.

**Survey Report:**

Archaeologists must submit the results of their investigation in a report to the ONHPO that follows the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for Archeological Documentation*. The ONHPO will complete its review within 30 days of receipt of the archaeology survey report and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office review letters by the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

**Fieldwork:**

<b>MINIMUM SURVEY STANDARDS</b>		
<b>Transect Interval<sup>1</sup></b>		
<b>Project Areas</b>	<b><u>Size</u></b>	<b><u>Interval width</u></b>
	0-20 acres	Not greater than 15 meters
	>20 acres	Not greater than 30 meters
<b>Shovel Tests<sup>2</sup></b>		
<b>Project Areas</b>	<b><u>Size</u></b>	<b><u>Shovel test density</u></b>
	0-2 acres	3 per acre
	>3-10 acres	2 per acre
	>11-100 acres	1 every 2 acres
	>101-200 acres	1 every 3 acres
	>201 acres	1 every 4 acres
<b>Linear Projects</b>	≤100' (30 m) wide corridor	16 per mile
<b>Number of Shovel Tests required to define site boundaries</b>		minimum 6 – more for larger sites

<sup>1</sup>The width of transect intervals may be less than is required in cases of dense foliage or in areas with a high potential for encountering significant cultural resources.

<sup>2</sup>Shovel tests must be dug, except on slopes greater than 20 percent. Shovel tests are 30 cm in diameter and are excavated to the bottom of Holocene deposits, if possible. They are dug in 10 cm levels with sediments screened through ¼-inch mesh unless high clay or water content requires that they be troweled through.