

**Archaeological Overview Assessment  
FII Project: Protection Mountain Campground Rehabilitation (RPA # 910)  
Banff National Park (BNP), Alberta**

Brian Smith (FII)  
Terrestrial Archaeology, IACHD  
May, 2016

## **Introduction**

The Lake Louise, Yoho & Kootenay Field Unit (LLYKFU) is planning to undertake a campground rehabilitation project at Protection Mountain Campground located approximately 16 km south of Lake Louise, Banff National Park (BNP) (RPA # 910) in order to replace aging 1970's era infrastructure in support of visitor experience (Figure 1). The purpose of the project is to increase visitor satisfaction by providing safe and comfortable and up to date camping and RV amenities; project activities slated for summer 2016 are as follows:

- Road and trail refurbishment; may include compacted fine gravel trail mix, surface hardening admixture, or asphalt paving.
- Refurbish kitchen shelters, and washroom buildings in tent camping area.
- Provide wheelchair access to two washroom buildings.
- Create two wheelchair accessible campsites near an accessible washroom.
- Implement a vegetation restoration plan including the planting of shrubs and saplings for privacy screening, and hydroseeding areas that need reclamation.
- Remove stumps from 2011 tree clearing that exist in the 2m offset of new and existing roads and within alignment of proposed roads and camping pads.
- Replace kitchen shelter roofing from cedar shakes to seam metal roofing material.
- Add grey water sinks to washrooms on the outside of the building
- Refurbish existing potable water standpipes and provide drainage for greywater disposal.
- Provide new signage.
- Convert all tenting loops to RV camping, with approximately 15 tent pads remaining. The old tent sites and access roads not used will be scarified and hydroseeded.
- Renovate all three kitchen shelters.
- Upgrade the culverts on the campground access road.
- Remove the dead and dying immature trees remaining from the 2011 tree clearing and transplant white spruce and lodgepole pine saplings from nearby sites.
- Planting of shrub islands between the sites to add privacy screening
- Decommissioning of overhead electrical lines and installation of buried electrical transmission lines.
- Decommissioning the septic field at the staff accommodation

The scope of this project does not increase the footprint of the campground/facility and does not increase the current infrastructure (that is, no added water, sewer, electricity or facilities).

This Archaeological Overview Assessment will evaluate the archaeological potential of the project area and the potential for the proposed work to impact cultural resources. It will determine if an Archaeological Impact Assessment, or like mitigation measures and any specific archaeological requirements are necessary prior to, or in conjunction with, these rehabilitation project activities in order to protect BNP's cultural resources.

## **Protection Mountain Campground Rehabilitation Project, Banff NP: Brief Contextual and Archaeological Overview**

Protection Mountain Campground was established in 1970's in an area formerly occupied by a logging camp, (Site 129R), that likely operated in the first decades of the twentieth century. The campground was first

archaeologically surveyed in 1982 (Steer and Porter 1982) when remains of the logging operation / camp were initially recorded and noted as being disturbed by campground construction. This was followed by another site visit in 2008 (Soucey 2008) when the site was noted to have moderate historical significance and low archaeological significance. Periodic monitoring was recommended at that time. Langemann (2012) revisited, surveyed and tested the site area in 2010 reporting that:

*In 2010, there was a panabode staff house on the north side of the clearing. The berm in the clearing is there, but it is a subtle feature. There is another faint berm visible much nearer to the junction of the entrance road and the parkway, in the trees. It is not clear if this is the one that Soucey mapped, as the berm on her computer generated site map is much closer to the corner than the one on the Fedje site map. However, they both show only one berm. Fig. 71[Figure 3 in this document] shows the known features at the site.*

Langemann made the following recommendations:

*Recommendations: the open well is a hazard, and should be either filled in or securely fenced off. Archival research might uncover the story of the previous historic occupation here; it is likely related to early logging camps in the area. There are no concerns with building the new trailer camping loop. In 2011, an aggressive tree clearing and thinning programme in the campground removed a great many of the trees from inside the camping area and loops. Because I had just been out to the site in 2010, I saw no need to monitor the campground or the archaeological sites.*

#### **Previous Archaeological Work and Archaeological Potential**

The Protection Mountain Campground area has been the subject of three archaeological site visits, and while one site, 129R, has been recorded, investigations that included subsurface testing, indicated that there is little potential for additional archaeological remains to be recovered, particularly in an undisturbed context as the site has been subjected to logging, campground construction, and tree clearing operations over the years.

#### **Assessment of Potential Impact to Archaeological Resources: Protection Mountain Campground Rehabilitation Project in Banff NP**

The project work does include surface and subsurface disturbance in the way of road work, grading, scarifying, tree stump removal and utility line replacement / installation, but these occur within the present campground footprint and no new areas are going to be developed at this time. Previous archaeological work has demonstrated that the campground area is largely disturbed, and no evidence was found of buried archaeological deposits; some surface historic period features were recorded, but are assessed as having limited archaeological potential. Therefore there is likely a very low potential for the Protection Mountain Campground rehabilitation project, as described, to impact on archaeological resources.

#### **Archaeological Requirements: Protection Mountain Campground Rehabilitation Project in Banff NP**

It has been determined from this Archaeological Overview Assessment that the Protection Mountain Campground rehabilitation project, as described, will have a very low to nil potential to negatively impact on archaeological / cultural resources. **Therefore no Archaeological mitigation measures prior to work commencing will be required.** However, the following requirements will still apply.

#### **Change of Scope**

Any changes to the proposed plans must be submitted to Terrestrial Archaeology for review.

### Accidental Finds Protocol

There could be a chance, however low, that features or artifact concentrations are encountered during construction activities. If significant features (i.e., previously unknown structural remains and/or high artifact concentrations) or human remains are encountered, work should cease in the immediate area, the work area in relation to the findings photo documented and geo-referenced, and the Parks Canada project manager informed. The project manager should then contact Parks Canada's Terrestrial Archaeology section for advice and assessment of significance that will in turn determine what will be required to mitigate the chance find.

### Additional Comments: Site 129R Well Feature

In 2012 Langemann stated that an archeological feature located at site 129R was a potential hazard / a safety concern: *the open well is a hazard, and should be either filled in or securely fenced off*. The site and the position of the well has been recorded (Figure 3) so any safety measures implemented to protect the public and Parks Canada Agency staffs should proceed without any further archaeological concerns.

### References

Langemann, Gwyn

2012 Final Report, 2010 Banff National Park Archaeological Programme,  
Permits BAN-2010-5916, KHP-2010 6515, Parks Canada Agency, Calgary.

Parks Canada

2016 Protection Mountain Campground Rehabilitation, CRIA # 910 Project Descriptions supplied by Lake Louise,  
Yoho & Kootenay Field Unit and on file with Parks Canada Agency.

2016 Site files, Parks Canada Agency, on file Calgary, AB.

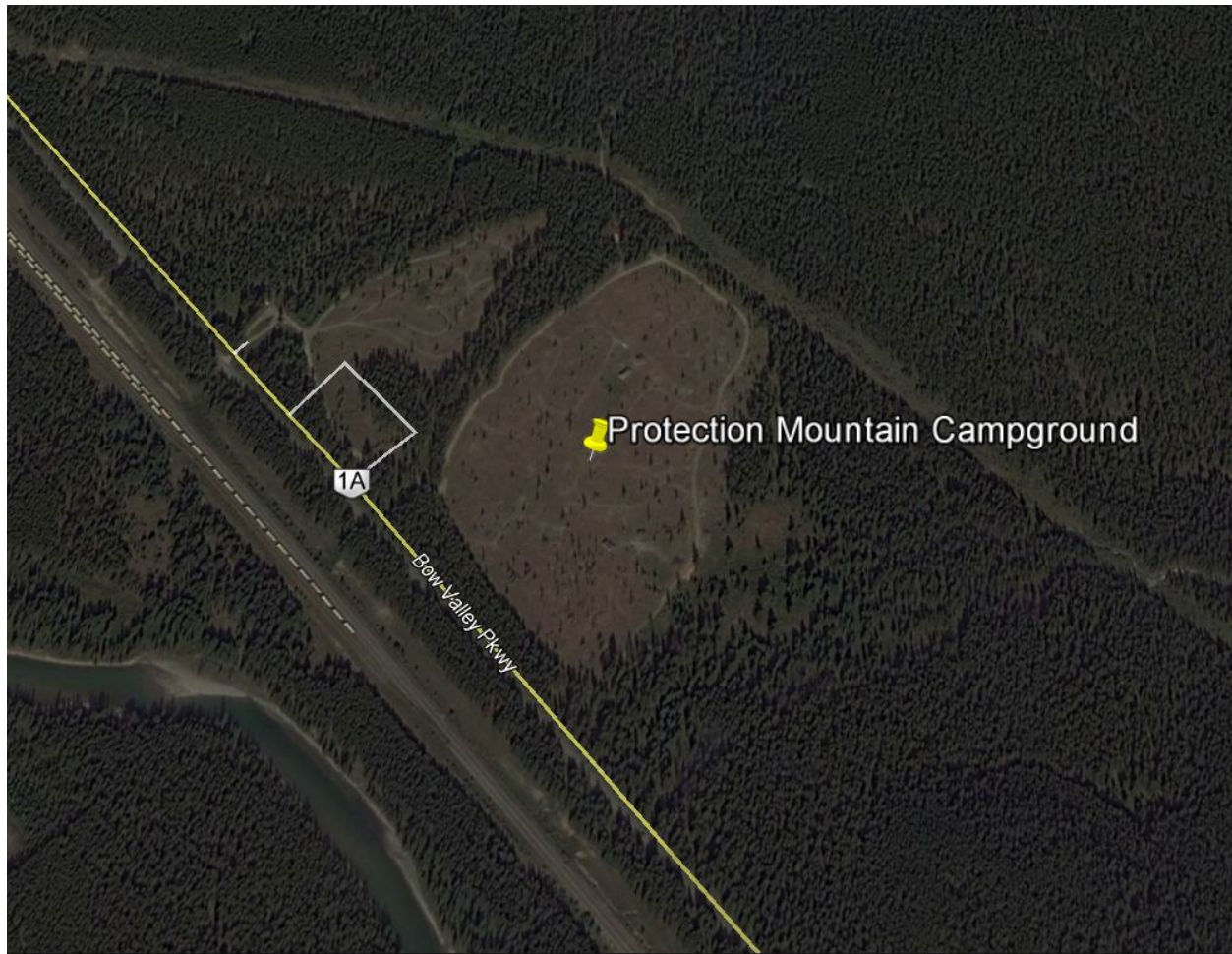


Figure 1: Location of Protection Mountain Campground on the east side of the Bow Valley Parkway (Hwy 1A).

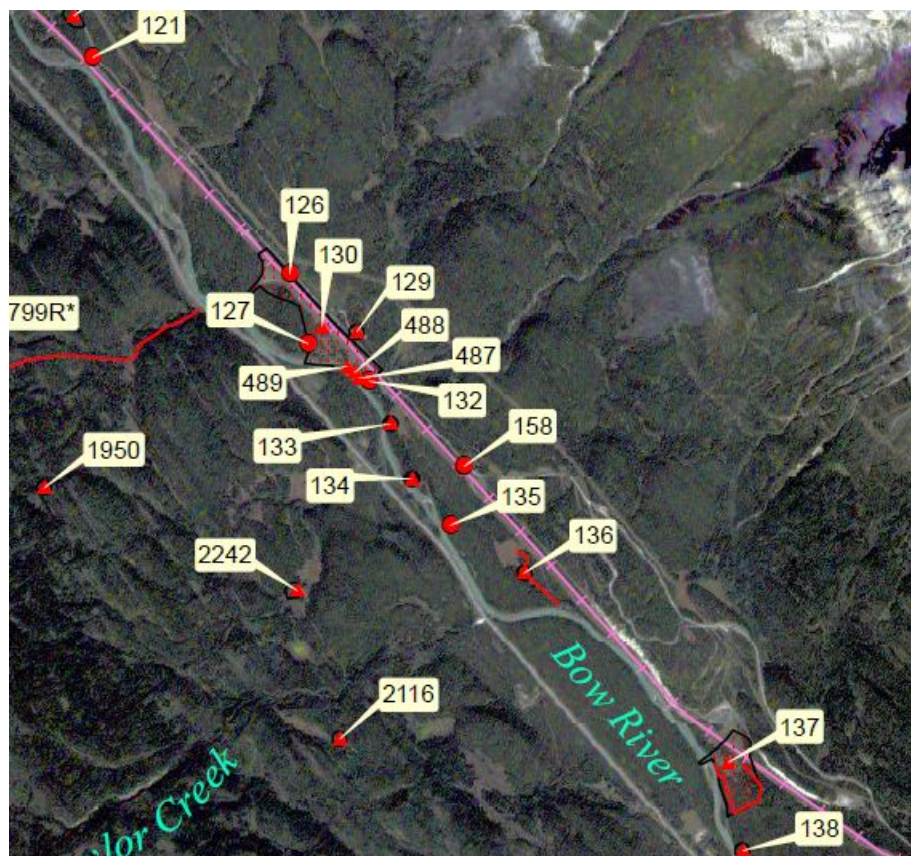


Figure 2: Archaeological sites in the vicinity of Protection Mountain Campground, site 129R is located on the west side of the Protection Mountain campground entrance road, in a clearing between the parkway and the staff housing.

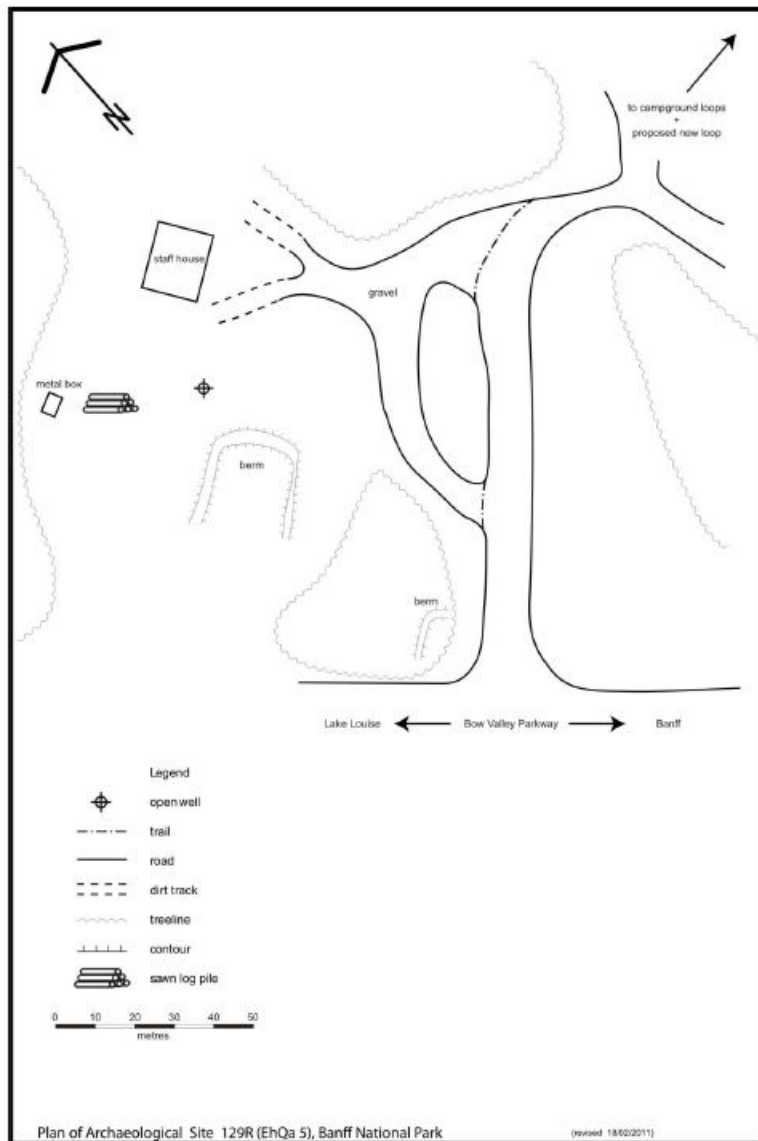


Figure 3: Langemann's (2012) Figure 71: Plan of site 129 R illustrating old cabin/building berms, log piles and the well feature that may pose a safety risk if it is not in-filled or fenced off during campground rehabilitation works.