



## *OSAGE NATION*

### *HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE*

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#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BLOCK SURVEY STANDARDS**

The following archaeological survey standards are the minimum amount of work acceptable for archaeological surveys conducted on the Osage Nation Reservation/Osage County and throughout Osage Nation ancestral territory 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 area 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* (36 CFR Part 61; 48 FR 44716). At a minimum, all field surveyors must possess a BA or BS in anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology. At a minimum, the supervisor who is in the field and 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. Supervisors must accompany and oversee all field surveyors during the fieldwork. 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 SHPO's databases for previously recorded archaeological sites and historic properties, and previous archaeological work in the vicinity. For projects in Osage County, OK, the archaeologists would also include searches of the Osage Allotment Maps, 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.gloreCORDS.blm.gov](http://www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov)).

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

Archaeologists must assess the potential for deeply buried cultural deposits within the block area 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

block survey area, 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 SHPO review letters. For Oklahoma this would include review letters by the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

**Fieldwork:**

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

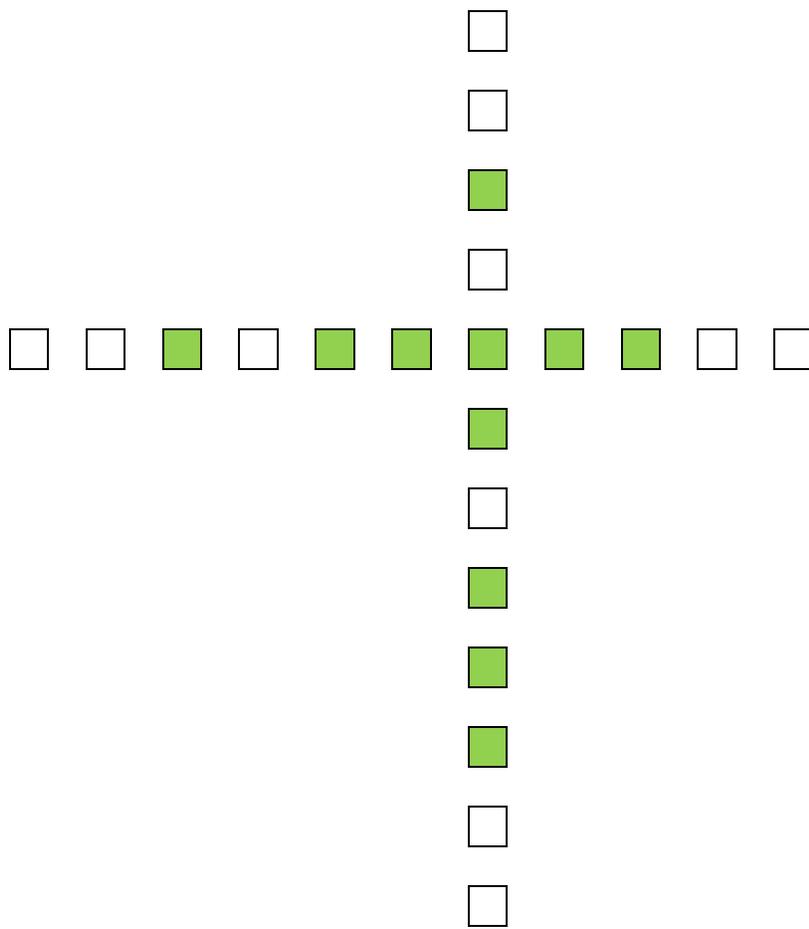
<sup>1</sup>Shovel tests must be dug, except on slopes greater than 20 percent. Shovel tests are 30 cm in diameter and are excavated to the bottom of Holocene deposits, if possible. They are dug in 10 cm levels with sediments screened through ¼-inch mesh unless high clay or water content requires that they be troweled through.

**Determining Site Boundary:**

Shovel testing is required to determine site boundaries.

A minimum of nine (9) shovel tests must be placed in a + pattern that is perpendicular extending from the center of the artifact discovery location.

A shovel test must be placed every five (5) meters until two (2) negative shovel tests are sequentially excavated.



-  Positive shovel test
-  Negative shovel test