

## Protecting the Past for the Future

For more than 11,000 years, humans have been using the area now known as Indiana. Many groups have come and gone, but hints of their past remain on our landscape. Indiana has more than 58,000 known archaeological sites. Because only a fraction of the state has been surveyed by a professional archaeologist, it likely there are ten-thousands of more sites still to be studied. As a landowner, you have an important role and responsibility to help protect archaeological resources on your property.

Indiana law (IC 14-21-1) provides protection to archaeological sites and cemeteries on both private and public land. It also requires reporting to the DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA) if



A 100 foot buffer around a cemetery is required when doing a ground-disturbing activity unless you have a plan provided DHPA to do otherwise.

archaeological resource found. Reporting such finds is required by law and helps protect the records of the past for future generations.



Collecting artifacts from the ground surface is allowed on your property, but digging for artifacts is illegal.

archaeological artifacts (defined as an object made or modified before 1870), features (defined as non-portable evidence of human occupation, such as a well), or human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities.

When planning a timber harvest, new road or trails, or other ground-disturbing activity, contact your district forester. Your district forester will put in a request to have the Division of Forestry's archaeologist check the database of known archaeological sites. If there is a known site on your property, you will receive a letter letting you know what was found. You will then need to take that area into consideration when planning your management activities.

If you know of or find archaeological sites on your property, contact the Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology at 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W274, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-1646, [dhpa@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:dhpa@dnr.IN.gov). The DHPA will document the information and let you know if additional steps are required. The nature of any additional steps will depend on the