

Archaeological Society of Alberta Annual Conference

May 1st, 2021



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

Self-Guided Field Trips Organized By

ASA Edmonton Centre

ASA Red Deer Centre

ASA Bodo Centre

ASA Calgary Centre

ASA Lethbridge Centre

ASA Southeastern Centre



The six centres of the Archaeological Society of Alberta are pleased to offer you self-guided field trips for the afternoon portion of the 2021 ASA Annual Conference, held virtually this year.

In lieu of the traditional field trip organized by the hosting centre, each centre has organized a self-guided walking or driving tour of local archaeological and historical sites for members to visit.

You are invited to participate in the field trip at your own leisure. If you wish to visit field trips provided by the other centres, they are available for downloading on the Archaeological Society of Alberta website (www.arkyalberta.com). Information on the tours provided by all the centres is provided on the next page.

Happy and safe travels!

The Archaeological Society of Alberta would like to acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the lands we share and call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures. This is the ancestral and unceded territory of the people of Treaty 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10 as well as the Métis homeland. Their histories, languages, and cultures have enhanced and continue to enrich our province and our organization. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and consider how we can move forward in a spirit of truth, reconciliation, and collaboration.



Field Trip Overview by Centre

ASA Edmonton Centre

Walk along the river valley and in downtown Edmonton to explore where archaeological excavations took place and then learn about historic residential and commercial buildings.

ASA Red Deer Centre

Spend the day exploring Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park, as the area is rich in archaeological and palaeontological materials.

ASA Bodo Centre

Tour geologic sites formed during the last ice age, and the the ‘nose’ of the bison that forms the western extent of the Neutral Hills.

ASA Calgary Centre

Drive between Calgary and Cochrane to experience both archaeological and historical sites, including Big Hill Springs Provincial Park and the Cochrane Ranch Park.

ASA Lethbridge Centre

Take a short hike to see the Sundial Medicine Wheel, and then spend the rest of the time learning about an iconic ghost town, Retlaw.

ASA Southeastern Centre

Visit the Ross Glen site, considered one of the most important stone circle sites in all of Alberta.

ASA Bodo Centre Self-Guided Tour of Monitor Mud Buttes, Consort Chert Quarry, and the 'Nose' of the Buffalo



Directions

Note: Please plan your trip accordingly as the trip is approximately 288 km roundtrip from Provost. You are free to choose which sites you wish to visit and may do so over several days. Before starting, please ensure you have enough fuel to complete the trip as there are limited facilities along the route. Consort, approximately halfway through the trip, is a good place to refuel, use the facilities and grab a refreshment.

Provost or Bodo to Monitor Mud Buttes:

From Highway 899, drive south to Highway 12, approximately 65 km from Provost and 31 km from Bodo. At junction with Highway 12, turn west towards Monitor, approximately 33 km. Drive through Monitor to the west side of town, then turn south onto Range Road 50 for approximately 14 km. The Mud Buttes will be to the east and there will be signage.

Note: From Provost, you can take Highway 600 towards Cadogan, then turn south onto Range Road 45A and drive past Sounding Lake straight into Monitor. This route has more gravel roads.

Monitor Mud Buttes to Consort Pebble Chert Quarry:

Continue south on Range Road 50 for 2.7 km, then turn west onto Township Road 332 for 13 km. Continue until junction with Highway 886, turn south onto Highway 866, for approximately 6 km. Follow the curve in the highway as you head west, but before the road turns south again, exit onto Township Road 330 to continue driving west. Follow Township Road 330 for approximately 1 km. The Chert Quarry is located on private land but can be seen from the road.

Note: Do not trespass on private land, do not pick up or collect any artifacts or archaeological materials, and do not disturb the site.

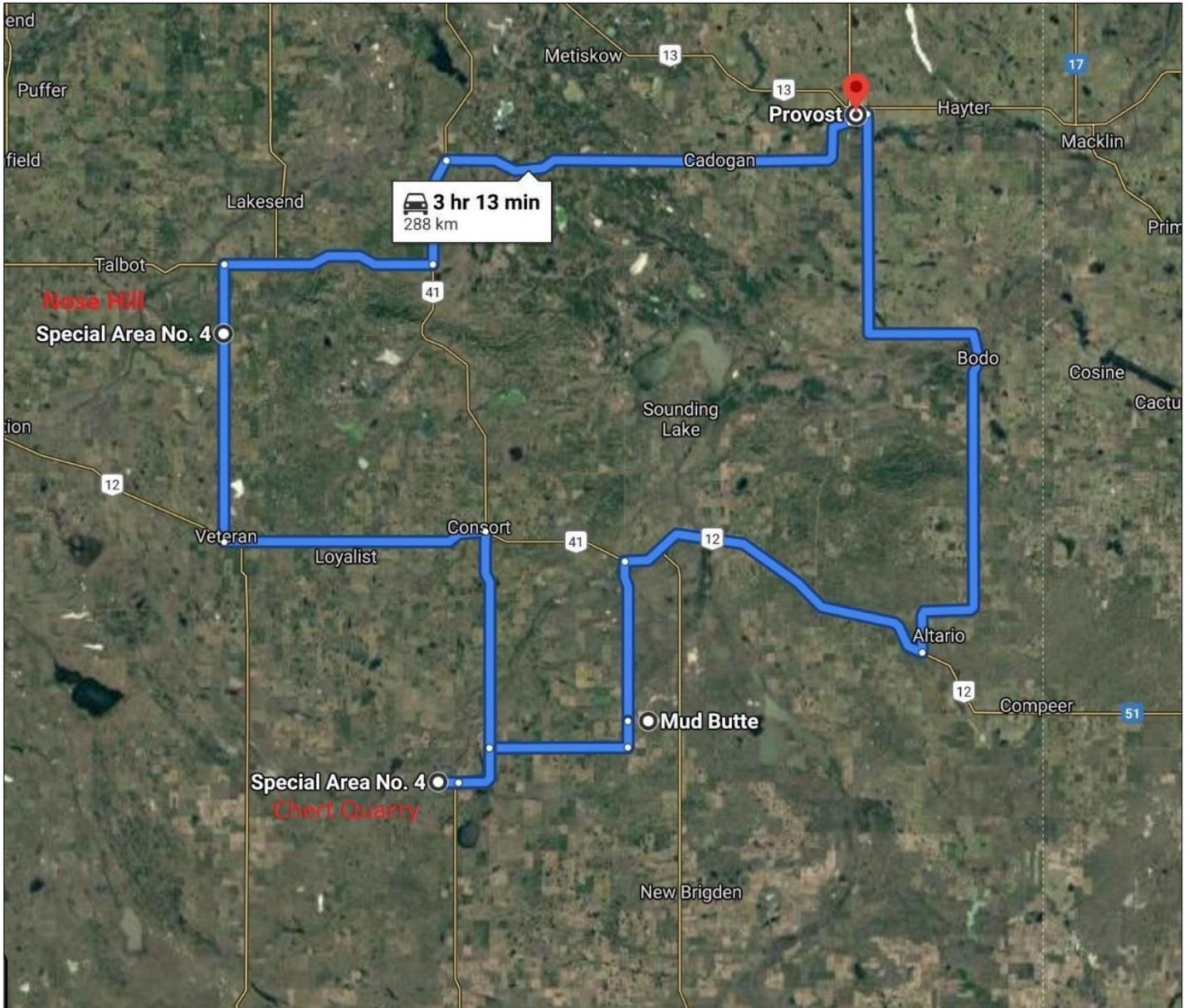
Consort Pebble Chert Quarry to the 'Nose' of the Buffalo:

Take Township Road 330 back east to Highway 866, travel north for 26 km to Consort. From Consort, travel west on Highway 12 for 25 km to Veteran. Turn north onto Highway 884 and drive until you can see the tower on the hill, approximately 18 km. Pull in near the tower where it is safe and possible to do so and look for the 'nose' of the buffalo. This is the most westerly extent of the Neutral Hills.

'Nose' of the Buffalo to Provost

From Highway 884, travel north for approximately 8 km to junction with Highway 599. Turn east onto Highway 599 and drive for approximately 20 km, past Neutral Hills, until junction with Highway 41. Turn north onto Highway 41 and travel for approximately 10 km, then turn east onto Highway 600 for 43 km through Cadogan until Provost.

Reference Map



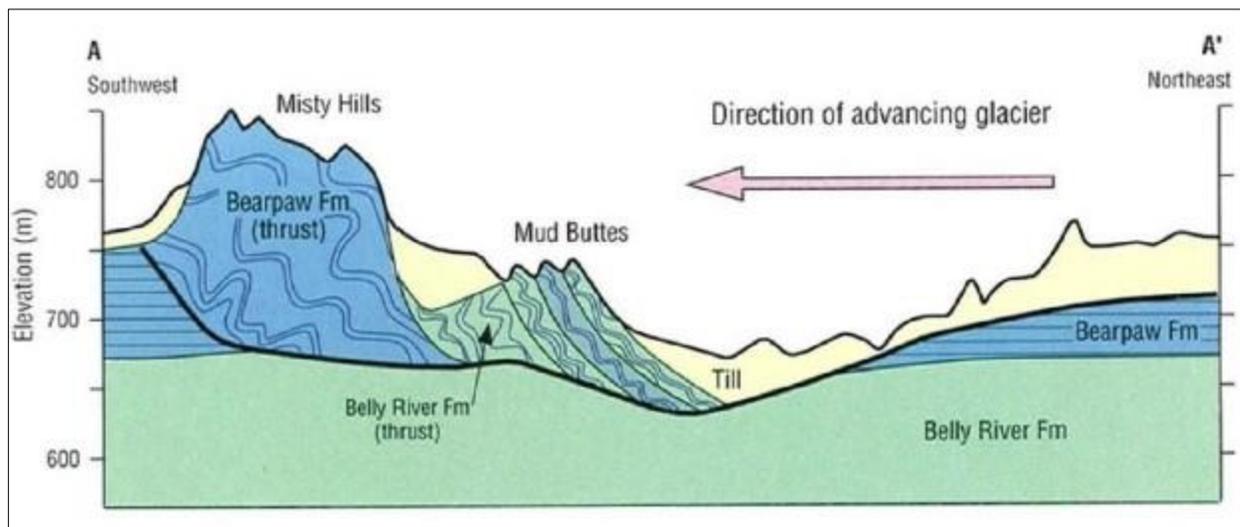
Monitor Mud Buttes

Located approximately 14 km south of Monitor, these low hills are a unique geological feature formed by the Laurentide Ice Sheet. The Mud Buttes are one of North America's most well known sites of glacially deformed bedrock.

They are an isolated pocket of badlands approximately 2 km long and 800 m wide. They are considered one of North America's largest and best exposed site of glacially deformed bedrock. The spectacular folds and faults seen here were formed by the push of advancing glaciers and provide important information of the direction of the glaciers during the last ice age.



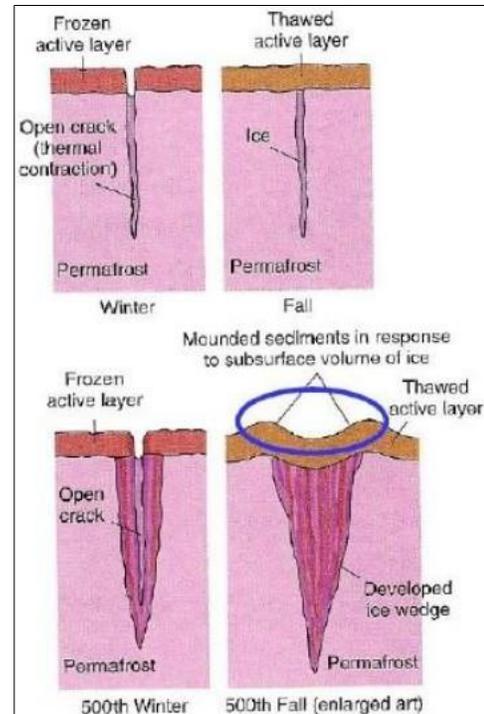
The Neutral Hills, located north of Consort, are approximately 15 km long and 3 km wide. They were also formed due to advancing action of the glacier. They have been described by geologists as a "hill-hole pair." The continental glacier scooped out a large block of soft bedrock, creating the large depression. Further south, along the direction of the glacier's movement, the bedrock was deposited as a series of concentric, lobe-shaped ridges.



Consort Pebble Chert Site

The Consort Pebble Chert Quarry site (EkOr-8) is located south of the Village of Consort. Despite knowledge of the site's existence by local farmers, it was only in 1999 that it was first recorded as an archaeological site. Covering a large area, the landscape is dominated by the presence of marked depressions that vary in size from less than a metre in depth and diameter to well over three metres in depth and diameter. The presence of pebble chert on the ground surface made this area an attractive location for collecting unmodified lithic material in order to fashion stone tools.

Note: information for this site has been sourced and modified from K. Steuber's M.A. thesis



From K. Steuber M.A. Thesis

Who/ What Made those Holes in the Ground? Some Theories:

1. Formed by a meteorite shower
2. Bison wallows
3. Holes dug to extract pebble cherts
4. Glacial Phenomena: ice lens collapse, ice block burials ('kettle hole depressions'), ice wedging

Current evidence supports the hypothesis of glacial phenomena, which would have exposed the pebble chert to be quarried.

Other artifacts found at the Consort Pebble Chert Quarry site include:

Top Left: Pebble Chert, Top Right: Duncan Projectile Point

Centre Left: Stone Anvil, Centre Right: Stone Cairn

Bottom: Stone Arc



The 'Nose' of the Buffalo (Nose Hill)

The hill, which is the westernmost extension of the Neutral Hills, comes from the same geological formation as the Misty Hills. Not to be confused with Nose Hill in Calgary, the 'Nose' of the Buffalo has a long history for both Cree and Blackfoot people. The nose refers to this singular, prominent location in the Neutral Hills. The hill occurs on the 1802 *Kioocus* Blackfoot map, and later was given a Cree name as well: *Oskewunachio*; *Oskewun* means nose.



The hill was used as a camping and chert pebble extraction area. Parts of the hills were first surveyed in 1977 by Mike Quigg, who recorded 15 pebble chert collection sites, one of which was the 'nose'. Quigg noted the region was dominated by bipolar pebble technology and wanted to name this phenomena the Neutral Hills Pebble Industry. In 1986, Bruce Ball, from the Archaeological Survey of Alberta, collected chert samples from the hill which formed the basis for a publication on chert pebble extraction in this part of Alberta.



This graph demonstrates the dominance of chert as a material in the area compared to areas further east (Hardisty and the Edmonton area).

