



**MA Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Cultural Resources
Best Management Practices**

Quarries

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Goal: Avoid damaging resource; monitor for vandalism and illegal activity.

Guidelines

A quarry is an area where rock is excavated using digging, cutting or blasting. A quarry can be a single boulder (known as a “glacial erratic”), a surficial ledge outcrop, or a large subterranean complex. Tool or drill marks are often visible on the surface of these features.



Photo courtesy Friends of Upton State Forest

In archaeological terms, a quarry or mine site is where raw material – stone or metal ore – was mined for use as building material or tool construction. Elizabeth Bloxamⁱ identifies four data elements for the historical value of a quarry: the resource itself; the production remains; the logistics of removal; and the social infrastructure. Bloxam argues that quarries should be seen as complexes, fitting into the dynamic landscape where tradition, ancestry, memory, symbolism and information about territorial ownership coexist.

Mine sites and cave sites should follow the BMP for *Archaeological Features*.

General:

- Use of metal detectors is never allowed.
- Digging on state property is illegal.
- Removal of stone from Commonwealth property is illegal.
- Inspect feature periodically to make sure it is not a threat to your/public safety and has not been subject to vandalism. Filled with water, subterranean quarries may pose a danger to illegal swimmers from objects thrown into the water or toxins which may have leached into the water due to the manner the rock was extracted.
- Document any damage to the site. Report to DCR Archaeologist.
- If you locate any production remains (tools or equipment) please contact DCR Archaeologist.
- Prohibit any activities that disturb the integrity of historical sites and features.

ⁱ Bloxam, E. 2011. Ancient quarries in mind: pathways to a more accessible significance. *World Archaeology*, 43(2): 149-166.