

## **ENCOUNTERING HUMAN REMAINS OR BURIAL SITE MARKERS BEYOND CEMETERY GROUNDS**

In the event that land-disturbing activities uncover unmarked human remains, excavation must be discontinued, and the local police notified. The police will call in the county medical examiner who will make an investigation to determine whether the remains require a criminal investigation or an archaeological investigation.

In the latter case, the county medical examiner will notify the State Archaeologist who has, in most cases, 48 hours to arrange with the landowner for the protection or removal of the remains. The State Archaeologist oversees the removal and analysis of the remains and has the responsibility of attempting to consult with individuals who may have an interest in them, next of kin and/or appropriate Native American groups. If located, next of kin or Native American groups will have the right to determine what happens to the remains after they have been analyzed.

In the case of privately funded, non-commercial land-altering activities, the NH Division of Historical Resources will fund the work. For privately funded commercial land alteration, the land owner will bear the cost of archaeology.

In the event that land-disturbing activities uncover burial site markers or stones, excavation must be discontinued and the Trustees notified. The Trustees will attempt to ascertain whether the markers or stones were placed in conjunction with a burial site or otherwise. The Trustees shall consult with the State Archaeologist as necessary in making this determination.

State Archeologist  
Division of Historical Resources  
P.O. Box 2043  
Concord, NH 03302-2043  
(603) 271-3483 or 271-3558

Gilmanton Board of Cemetery Trustees  
Post Office Box 119  
Gilmanton, NH 03237-0119  
e-mail: <mailto:cemeteries@gilmantonnh.org>  
webpage: <https://www.gilmantonnh.org/cemetery-trustees>