

Miséricorde substation, site BjFj-251

Archaeological potential and supervision study

Summary

As part of the preliminary studies for the construction of a new 315-kV substation, Hydro-Québec hired Arkéos to conduct an archaeological potential study of the site of the former Hôpital de la Miséricorde. The study defined three types of archaeological potential on the site: former Indigenous (zones A-01 to Z-03), Euro-Canadian (zones E-01 to E-04) and sepulchral (zone S-01). In addition to the usual documentary research, Arkéos monitored ground-penetrating radar surveys and the excavation of five test pits for geotechnical characterization. These field surveys were conducted in November and December 2025, following the issuance of archaeological research permit 25-ARKE-18.

Analysis of the ground-penetrating radar data revealed 16 anomalies with moderate archaeological potential, likely related to renovations done to the hospital in the 20th century, as well as 18 anomalies with high archaeological potential, primarily associated with possible building vestiges. Of these, two indeterminate anomalies (Nos. 37 and 43), suggest sepulchral potential in the southern portion of the site.

Archaeological monitoring during the excavation of the five environmental characterization test pits commissioned by WSP revealed archaeological contexts in four of them. These discoveries led the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications to identify the “Îlot de l’Hôpital de la Miséricorde” as archaeological site BjFj-251. Surveys also suggest that many remnants of the buildings that once stood on lots 413 through 415 of the original cadastre are still preserved beneath the parking lot.

Observations carried out on the site also led to a review of the site’s archaeological potential and the issuing of specific recommendations for its various sectors and the anticipated archaeological potential. In light of the preserved archaeological contexts and the heritage value attributed to the Îlot de l’Hôpital de la Miséricorde site (BjFj-251), further archaeological interventions are recommended before any development work requiring excavations.

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