

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Treatment Guidelines for Human Remains and Funerary Objects (Survey, Excavation, Laboratory/Analysis, and Curation Guidelines)

It is the wish of the EBCI that whenever possible, human interments be left *in situ*, unstudied, and protected from current and future disturbance. However, when these parameters cannot be met, the following guidance shall apply:

Archeological Surveys: The EBCI requests that in the event human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are encountered, no photographs of such items be taken. Detailed drawings are permissible, however.

Excavations: The EBCI requests that in the event human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are encountered, no photographs of such items be taken. Detailed drawings are permissible, however. Also, if after consultation with the SHPO and culturally affiliated, federally recognized tribes, the lead agency determines that the excavation of these items is required, the EBCI requests that only the lead archaeologist and a physical anthropologist participate in the removal of these items. The EBCI also requests that, in the case of full excavation of human remains, the entire burial matrix be removed and curated for future reburial. Lastly, EBCI requests to be sent the proposals and research designs that will be provided to the SHPO and State Archaeologist for review and approval prior to the initiation of any excavation activities.

Laboratory Treatment/Analysis: The EBCI requests that any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and/or objects of cultural patrimony not be unnecessarily washed or cleaned, and that only dry brushing be consistently used. Again, we request that no photographs be taken of such objects for documentation or curation purposes, however detailed drawings are acceptable. Furthermore, in terms of human remains, we require that no destructive analyses be permitted, and we would like to have discussions and agreements about the kind of analyses, if any, that will be permitted.

Curation: The EBCI requests that in all cases where it is remotely feasible, that human remains, associated funerary objects, and the burial matrix be stored together. Furthermore, we ask that these types of objects, as well as sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony, be removed from public viewing or public handling and that researchers not automatically be granted access to such items. Research requests should be submitted to the EBCI Cultural Resources office in the event someone wishes to study such items.

Avoidance/Preservation in Place/Excavation/Reburial: Remember, our preference is always avoidance/preservation in place. Unless there are very good reasons as to why this is not possible, we will not immediately enter into discussions of excavation, removal, study, reburial, etc. That being said, if remains must be moved, it is always our preference that they be out of the ground for only as long as it takes to move them to their new resting place, which should be as close to the original resting place as possible (within line of sight). Sometimes, we do allow minimal study of the remains, especially if it can be done with the remains *in situ*. If longer study is needed, we prefer a field lab to sending them off some distance to be studied in a lab. The bottom line is that the less time they are exposed to the air, the better it is for the people involved and the Tribe. If reburial is the only option, the most efficient/time sensitive reburial process is preferred. Also, capping of the burials is not typically problematic, especially if there is ample fill dirt between the individual and the foreign capping material.