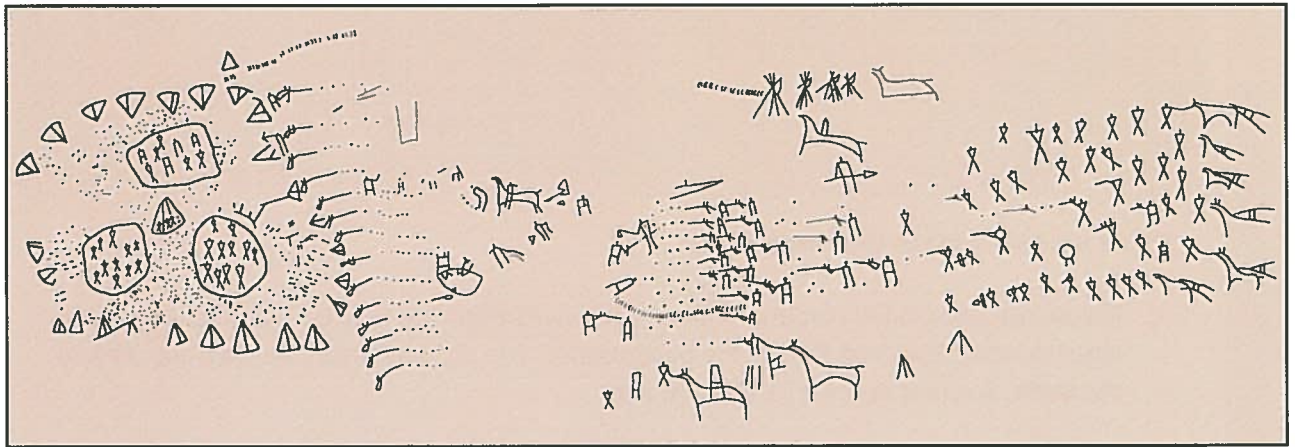


BATTLE SCENE

Carved on a cliff overlooking the Milk River, the Battle Scene is one of the most spectacular Native petroglyphs found at Writing-On-Stone. To help you understand this significant petroglyph site, take this brochure with you when you visit the Battle Scene. To find this rock art site, follow the directions at the end of this brochure.

THE BATTLE SCENE The Battle Scene is one of the most elaborate rock art carvings found on the North American great plains. It depicts a large force of warriors attacking an encampment of tipis, defended by a line of guns. Most of the attacking figures are on foot, but eleven horses are also shown, some dragging travois. On the left, a circle of tipis surrounds several groups of human figures. Note the small figures found inside the central tipi and the two figures in the centre of the carving, one striking the other with a hatchet.

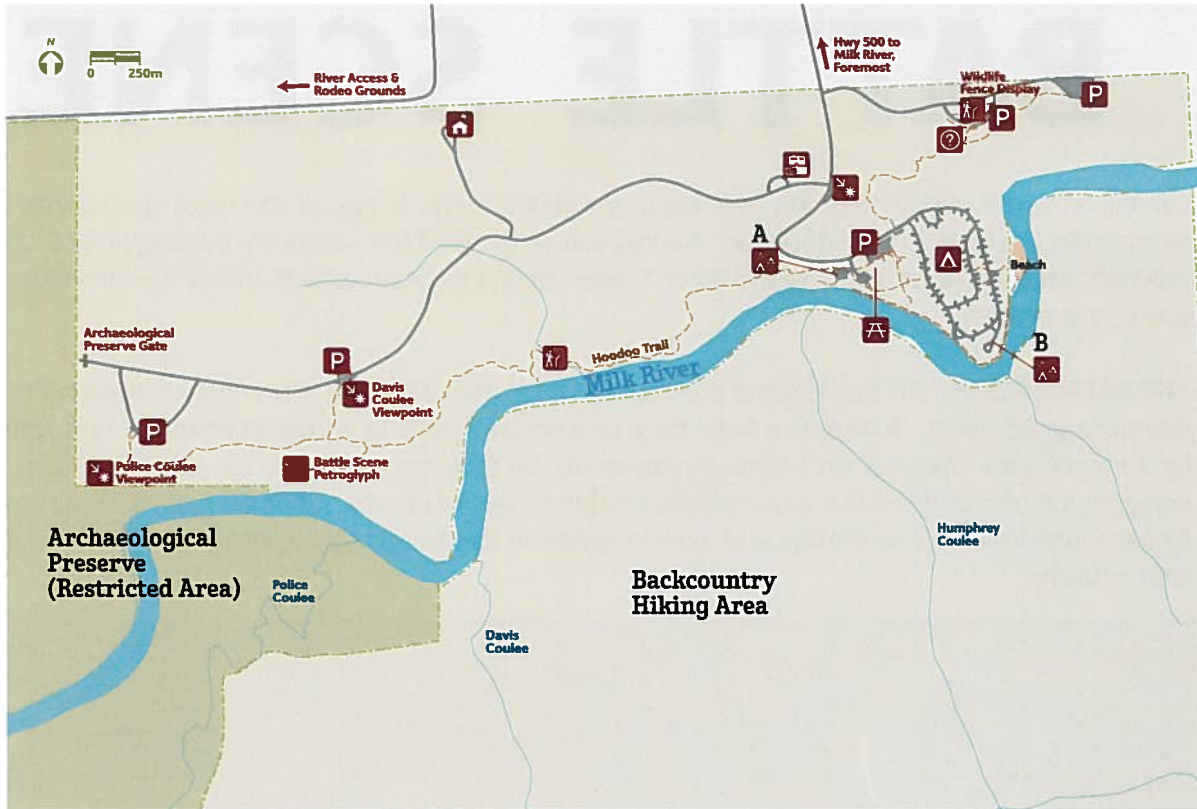


The visibility of the details in these petroglyphs can vary with the light conditions, the time of day and the time of year.



A PAGE FROM HISTORY Both the gun and horse were introduced to the Northwestern Plains about the year 1730. The large number of guns and horses in this scene indicate that it was carved some time after this date. The scene may represent an actual battle described by an Aamsskáápipikáni (South Peigan or Blackfeet) elder named Bird Rattle. He directly linked the rock art of Writing-On-Stone to the "Retreat up the Hill" battle, fought somewhere along the Milk River in 1866. It was one of the most decisive of Aamsskáápipikáni victories. They defeated a combined war party of Gros Ventre, Crow and Plains Cree who lost more than 300 warriors. Bird Rattle described this battle during a visit he made to Writing-On-Stone in 1924 (Michael A. Klassen & James D. Keyser, 2000). The drawing was likely carved in the late 1800's.

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE Although the true origin of the Battle Scene will always remain a mystery, it dramatically symbolizes the dynamic horse period in the history of the Plains Native People. To protect the Battle Scene from vandalism, it has been necessary to construct a fence around this very significant historical record.



There are two ways to the Battle Scene:

1. Follow the self-guided Hoodoo Trail which leaves from the Day Use area. Look for the large Hoodoo Trail sign beside the playground. The distance from the Day Use area to the Battle Scene is about 2½ km **one way**.
2. From the Davis Coulee Viewpoint follow the Battle Scene Trail signs. It is a short 10-15 minute walk down to the Battle Scene.



HELP SAVE A TREE!

If you no longer require this brochure, please return it to park staff so it can be recycled or reused.

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