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## Ancient paintings found at mine site

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KRABI : The discovery of what are thought to be ancient paintings in two caves at a proposed mining site has led to calls for the mining project to be scrapped, the Royal Forest Department said Wednesday.

Yanyong Lekavijit, director of the department's Permission Bureau, said the paintings, discovered in the Manora and Khao

Khao caves, are believed to be 3,000 years old.

As well as the paintings, tools and human skeletons believed to be prehistoric were also discovered in a recent survey of the caves carried out by academics, Mr Yanyong said.

He said his bureau will inform the Department of Primary Industries and Mines about the discoveries. It will ask the department to consider cancelling the mining concession granted to a company in the area where the caves are located.

Surachet Nuanum, who lives in Moo 2 in tambon Ban Klang of Ao Luk district, said most locals are opposed to mining in the area because it would hurt the environment.

The villagers have been fighting the proposed mining project in court, he said.

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