



SAN JUAN COUNTY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW

Background

Cultural resources, such as archaeological and historic sites, are prevalent in the San Juan Islands. Both Indian and early settler sites abound!

To protect these sites and avoid code enforcement actions and costly fines, applicants are encouraged to have the property reviewed by Department of Community Development (DCD) staff for potential cultural resources and critical areas. This should be done prior to any ground disturbing activity or submittal of a permit application. To do this, please complete and submit the **“Critical Area and Archaeology Map Review”** request form. There is no fee for this service.



Advance review alleviates a delay in the processing of your permit application if the proposed development is located in an area that may contain cultural resources. Permit applications received without the necessary cultural resources report are put on hold until the report is submitted. No excavation or development activity is allowed until the site is evaluated by an archaeologist.

If cultural resources are found, a cultural resource report is required to complete your permit application (San Juan County Code (SJCC) 18.60.210 and 18.50.050 and State law). No site work is allowed until this report is submitted to DCD and the permit is issued.

DCD staff coordinates with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and the Lummi and Samish Nations to ensure compliance with local and state law. If a permit application is approved by the County, conditions may be attached that reflect recommendations of the archaeologist, DAHP and the Tribes.

Tips

- ▶ Find out early if you have cultural resources near your property.
- ▶ Submit a **“Critical Area and Archaeology Map Review” request form** to DCD:
 - * Prior to buying;
 - * When you begin project planning; and
 - * Months prior to permit submittal.
- ▶ Properties along or near shorelines often require a cultural resources report.
- ▶ DCD will inform you what reports are required with your permit application.

Questions?

Call:

(360) 370-7586 or 7576

Email:

dcd@sanjuanco.com

Critical Area/Archaeology Map Review request form:

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/1301/Pre-Application-Assistance>



SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PO Box 947
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

What happens after I submit a permit application?

Staff reviews it for completeness. If it does not include all submittal items including critical area and cultural resource reports, they will notify you that the application is incomplete. The land use review process will be delayed until the submittal is made complete.

How does the County work with DAHP and the Tribes?

DCD sends a copy of the cultural resource report prepared by the archaeologist to DAHP for review.

How long does it take DAHP to complete their review?

- ▶ DAHP has two weeks to review the submittal and respond with their recommendations to DCD.
- ▶ DCD includes any DAHP recommendations as permit conditions.

What happens if I observe archaeological materials during land disturbing activity or construction?

- ▶ All work in the immediate vicinity shall stop immediately.
- ▶ Contact DCD immediately (360-378-2354).
- ▶ DCD will send you the protocols for complying with an inadvertent discovery.

For More Information See:

<https://dahp.wa.gov/>

Examples of archaeological materials:

- ▶ Bones
- ▶ Shells
- ▶ Stone tools
- ▶ Human remains
- ▶ Archaeological artifacts



Contact Us

Department of
Community
Development

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Visit us on the web at
www.sanjuanco.com/dcd