

Island County Public Health Archaeology Guide



How does archaeology effect the permitting of my on-site septic system?

Septic installation is a ground disturbing activity that could lead to finding or disturbing archaeological objects. In Washington, archaeology is handled by the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP). DAHP advocates for the preservation of historic and cultural resources.

Site Registration

If your parcel is located partially or entirely within an archaeology buffer, your septic designer will be notified. They will need to schedule an archaeologist to be on site during the site registration.

Permitting

Island County Public Health is required to route septic permit applications to DAHP if there will be any ground disturbance inside any archaeological buffers. Since this information is confidential, we will identify this for you during application review. We will notify your designer of any requirements that DAHP may have.

Following review, DAHP may require one of these:

- A DAHP Permit: For more information on DAHP permitting, please visit <https://dahp.wa.gov/archaeology/archaeological-permitting>
- Site survey by an archaeologist
- Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP)

For more information on DAHP including permitting and applicable laws, please visit their website at:



<https://dahp.wa.gov>

