

Procedures during Construction Pertaining to Cultural Resources

The Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources chapter (456) of the WSDOT Environmental Manual provides compliance procedures and policy guidance pertaining to discovery and treatment of historic and cultural resources. Visit the [WSDOT Environmental Permits and Approvals](#) site for information on federal and state permit requirements pertaining to cultural resources. Also refer to the WSDOT Construction Manual, Section 1-1.10. The Cultural Resources Policies and Procedures site provides guidance documents for the treatment of historic bridges, preconstruction planning for cultural resources and cultural resources compliance during construction, visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/technical/disciplines/cultural-resources/policies-procedures>.

Areas used for WSDOT Projects

Material sources, storage areas, pit sites, staging areas, and other areas used for WSDOT projects are subject to Section 106 compliance, if federal funds, permits or lands are involved. Capitol Construction Funded projects are subject to the Governor's Executive Order 05-05 (GEO 05-05) review and compliance.

State Owned Sites	The Project Engineer should coordinate with the region to ensure that material sources have been surveyed and cleared for cultural resources, so that known archaeological resources may be avoided.
Contractor Owned Sites	The contractor is required to obtain all necessary permits to operate the site. This will have included addressing historic and cultural preservation in the SEPA environmental checklist.

Special Provisions to the Standards Specifications

If there is a known probability of encountering cultural resources, the contract will most likely have included provisions for archaeological recovery. The special provision will usually define any potential sites and outline any recognized recovery procedures or required recovery provisions. See the [General Special Provisions 071604.GR1- Archaeological and Historical Objects](#) for more information.

If there is no special provision for recovery of archaeological resources encountered during construction in the contract, *Section 1-07.16(4) Archaeological and Historical Objects* of the [Standard Specifications](#) manual requires the contractor to (1) notify the Project Engineer and (2) take action to preserve the objects or ruins.

Once the archaeological or historical object has been sufficiently protected, the Project Engineer should immediately notify the (1) Region Construction Manager and (2) [WSDOT Cultural Resources Program Manager](#) to provide any necessary initial assistance to the Project Engineer.

Where the region determines appropriate, the Project Engineer will contact and inform, through existing region contacts and region affiliations, the (1) State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), (2) Indian tribes, and the appropriate (3) Federal Agency of the discovery.

The project engineer will also help facilitate any onsite meetings for the appropriate parties should either WSDOT, SHPO, or the appropriate Federal Agency believes it necessary.

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Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains

If human skeletal remains are encountered by the Contractor, they shall not be further disturbed. The Contractor shall immediately (1) notify the Project Engineer of any such finds, and (2) shall cease all work adjacent to the discovery in an area adequate to provide for the total security and protection of the integrity of the skeletal remains.

The Project Engineer may require the Contractor to suspend work in the vicinity of the discovery until final determinations are made and removal of the skeletal remains is completed. See *Section 1-07.16(4A) Inadvertent discovery of Human Skeletal Remains* of the [Standard Specifications](#) manual for more detailed information on procedures.

Unanticipated Discovery

All WSDOT projects that involve ground disturbance operate under an Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) that describes what will be done if archaeological materials or human remains are discovered during project activities. The WSDOT UDP template is available online at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/technical/disciplines/cultural-resources/policies-procedures>. Work with your regional [Cultural Resources Specialist](#) to prepare a project specific UDP.