

MISCELLANEOUS FIELD STUDIES  
MAP MF-1030

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO LAND DEVELOPMENT IN  
THE PUGET SOUND REGION, WASHINGTON

Man has always been interested in his past, and not without reason. By understanding what has occurred before, man can better comprehend his present actions and predict his actions in the future. Archaeology provides a means to understand more about the human being -- not only his origins, but also the processes of cultural evolution itself. Unfortunately, the archaeological development of the past has been largely occupied by prehistoric cultures and those that contain irreplaceable evidence of the past. Archaeological resources, being generally fragile, often are inadvertently destroyed during such development or changes in land use.

This map is aimed at developers, planners, public officials, engineers, or geologists who are involved in guiding or directing land development. These people are in a position to request archaeological advice when development plans are beginning. The map and accompanying text show where archaeological resources are found and are intended to provide an understanding of when and why an archaeologist would be needed. This is a brief discussion of archaeological methods and of the ancient history of the Puget Sound region based on work done by other investigators. This is one of a series of maps and reports being prepared by the U. S. Geological Survey to provide information on the geology, and other information to assist land-use planning, resource development, and environmental protection in the Puget Sound region.

It is only recently that archaeological resources have been considered an important part of the environment. Several laws are now in effect that require an evaluation of an area's archaeology before the area is disturbed. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that a professional interpretation of an entire archaeological site. Rather than merely collect artifacts, an archaeologist needs to know their spatial relation to other features at the site. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), Antiquities Act (34 stat. 1226, June 8, 1906), the Moss-Bennett Act (Public Law 93-291, May 24, 1974), Washington State Museums and Historical Activities Act (SMHAA) (RCW 80.04.010-040), and the National Antiquities Act (Revised Code of Washington 90.58.100) all stress the need to recognize and protect the archaeological resources. This need is more explicitly stated in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Public Law 91-190, 90 Stat. Laws of 1975, 1st Extraordinary Session). This bill deems it unlawful for

"any person, firm, or corporation, to knowingly alter, dig into, or excavate, or to damage, deface or destroy any historic or prehistoric archaeological resource or site, American Indian or aboriginal artifact, including but not limited to, tools, weapons, ornaments, or tool-making site, or to remove from any such land, site or area...any skeletal remains, artifact or implement of stone, bone, wood, or any other material, including but not limited to, projectile points, arrowheads, knives, spearheads, bone or stone implements, bone matting, mauls, pestles, grinding stones, rock carvings or paintings or any other artifacts or portions or fragments thereof, without having obtained the written permission of the public or private landowner. Such activity shall be physically present and conducted while such activity is being conducted."

For the Puget Sound region there are three main sources of information and assistance in compliance with these laws (fig. 1). These are the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia; the Washington Archaeological Research Center, Washington State University, Pullman; and an office of the Washington Archaeological Research Center, the Office of Public Archaeology, University of Washington, Seattle. In addition, if a project involves Federal land or funding, the local office of the Federal agency should be contacted. Each agency has its own method of complying with the requirement for a cultural (including archaeological) resource survey.

Offices of the Washington Archaeological Research Center in eastern, central, and western Washington are geared to inform the public about the archaeological resources of the State and the numerous laws affecting archaeology. Specifically, their function is to maintain an up-to-date record of the locations of all known archaeological sites in Washington; maintain a library that contains information relating to the archaeology of Washington; keep an inventory of archaeological resources within the State; act as a resource center where agencies, schools, and individuals can obtain information about archaeology; sponsor archaeological research in the State; publish studies on the archaeology of Washington; and solicit and award grant funds for the study of the State's archaeology.

The coordinators' office for the Washington State Archaeological Research Center is located at Washington State University in Pullman. Inquiries to their office will be directed to the appropriate regional office or institution. The center for the Puget Sound region is called the Office of Public Archaeology and is located at the University of Washington in Seattle. This office is especially designed to develop and coordinate the various statements and reports and to provide excellent sources to call upon when the decision is made to develop an area. Archaeologists at the various colleges in the Puget Sound region are also sources of guidance.

few areas in the Puget Sound region can be casually dismissed as having no potential as archaeological sites. During the first stages of planning an excavation or building project, the State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, should be contacted to determine whether there are any archaeological sites in the proposed project area. The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation estimates that there are only about 5 percent of the possible sites in the State Historic Preservation Officer may recommend that a reconnaissance survey or an intensive archaeological survey can be carried out before any construction activities.

A reconnaissance survey is done by a professional archaeologist who walks a series of transects across the project area. It is an on-the-ground search for evidence of prehistoric human activity but does not involve any excavation. Information gathered on the reconnaissance survey may be enough to permit the construction project to start immediately or may influence the State Historic Preservation Officer's decision to recommend an intensive archaeological survey.

An intensive archaeological survey is a detailed search for, and evaluation of, archaeological resources in the project area. It usually involves the excavating, to a degree dependent on the physical characteristics of the project area. The intensive results in a comprehensive description of the resources: representative collections of specimens; and maps, photographs, and other documents. It thus provides a broad inventory of archaeological resources, including an evaluation of the relation of the site to those in other areas.

Much more extensive work needs to be carried out for the Puget Sound region before a complete culture history can be deciphered. Research is especially scanty in the southern part of Puget Sound and the eastern side of the Olympic Peninsula. Most of the previous archaeological work has been devoted toward salvage operations concerned with the building of dams and roads and other construction. This kind of work tends to yield information from scattered sites rather than a systematic knowledge of the region. However, a tentative culture history can be drawn from this knowledge and from some of the work done in southern British Columbia. A summary of this prehistory is shown in the box to the right.



Seeking archaeological advice as early as possible in the planning process and allowing time in the development schedule for field surveys will greatly aid in the reconstruction of Puget Sound prehistory, will help to preserve it for posterity, and will keep you in compliance with the law.

Figure 3. General location of sites found during survey of Island County and vicinity.

#### SELECTED REFERENCES

- Bryan, A. L., 1964. An archaeological survey of northern Puget Sound: Idaho State University Museum, Occasional Papers, No. 11, 92 p.
- Greengo, R. E., and Houston, Robert, 1970. Excavations at the Marymoor Site: University of Washington, Reports in Archaeology, No. 4, 81 p.
- Kidd, R. S., 1964. A synthesis of western Washington prehistory from the perspective of three occupation sites: Seattle, University of Washington, Ph. D thesis, 365 p.

### MAP EXPLANATION

-  Area likely to contain greatest abundance of sites
-  Boundary of Puget Sound region

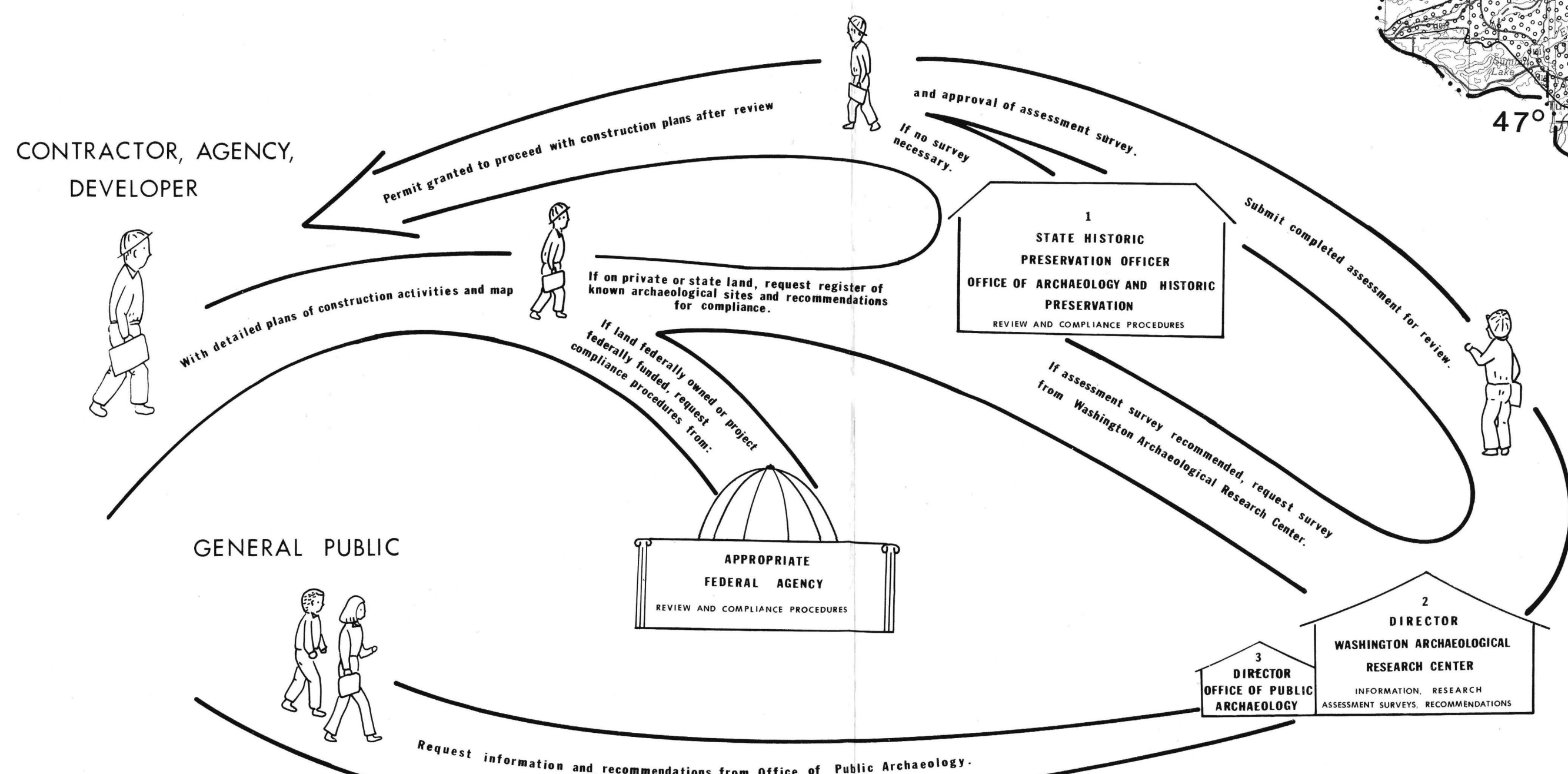
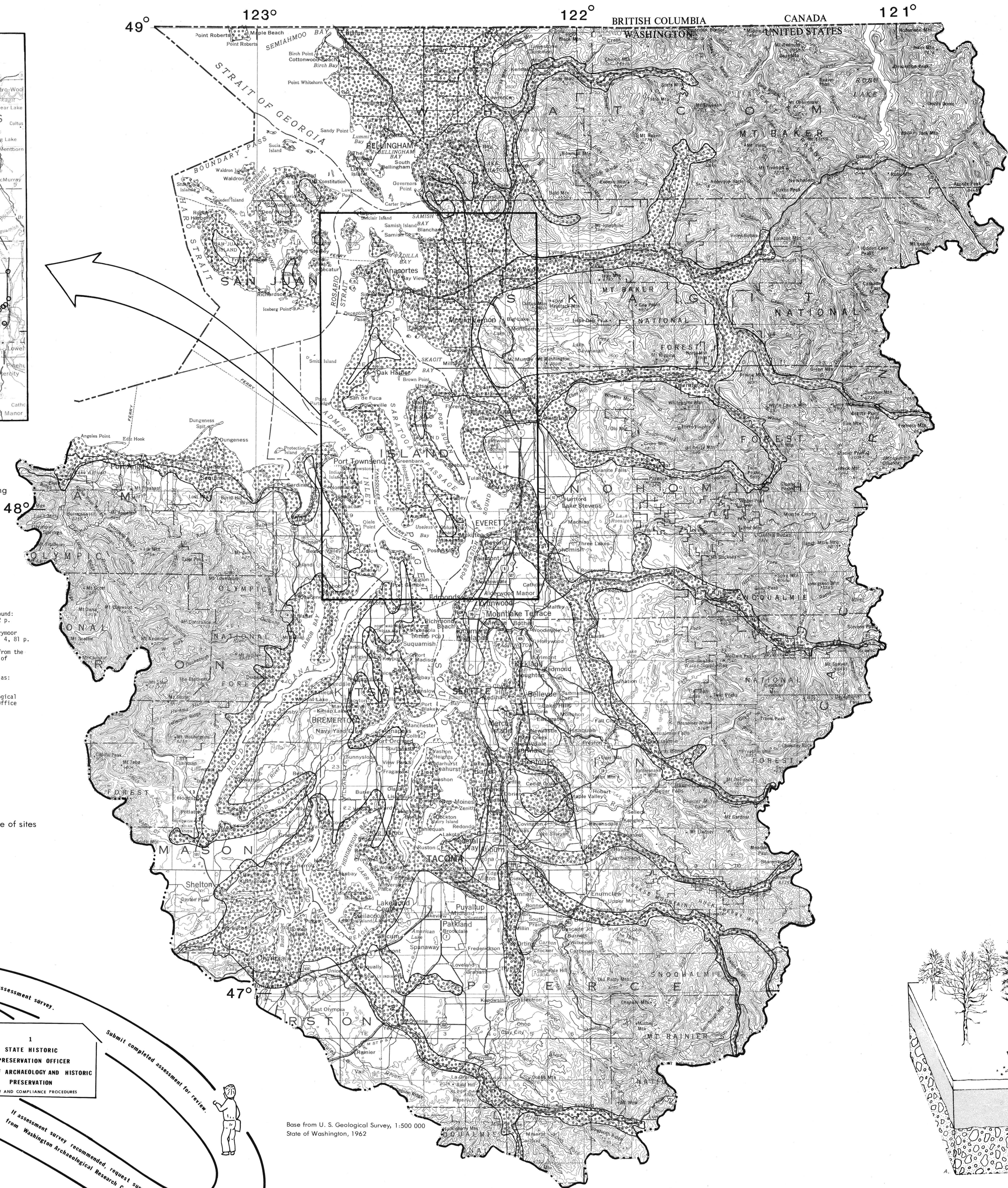


Figure 1 Flow chart showing procedure to be followed when contacting an archaeologist.

1. State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 1128, Olympia, Wa. 98501
2. Director, Washington Archaeological Research Center, Washington State University, Pullman, Wa. 99164
3. Director, Office of Public Archaeology, FM-12, University of Washington, Seattle, Wa. 98195

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EXPLANATION

- \* Stone flake
- △ Projectile point
- ⊞ Cobble chopper
- ⊞ Midden material

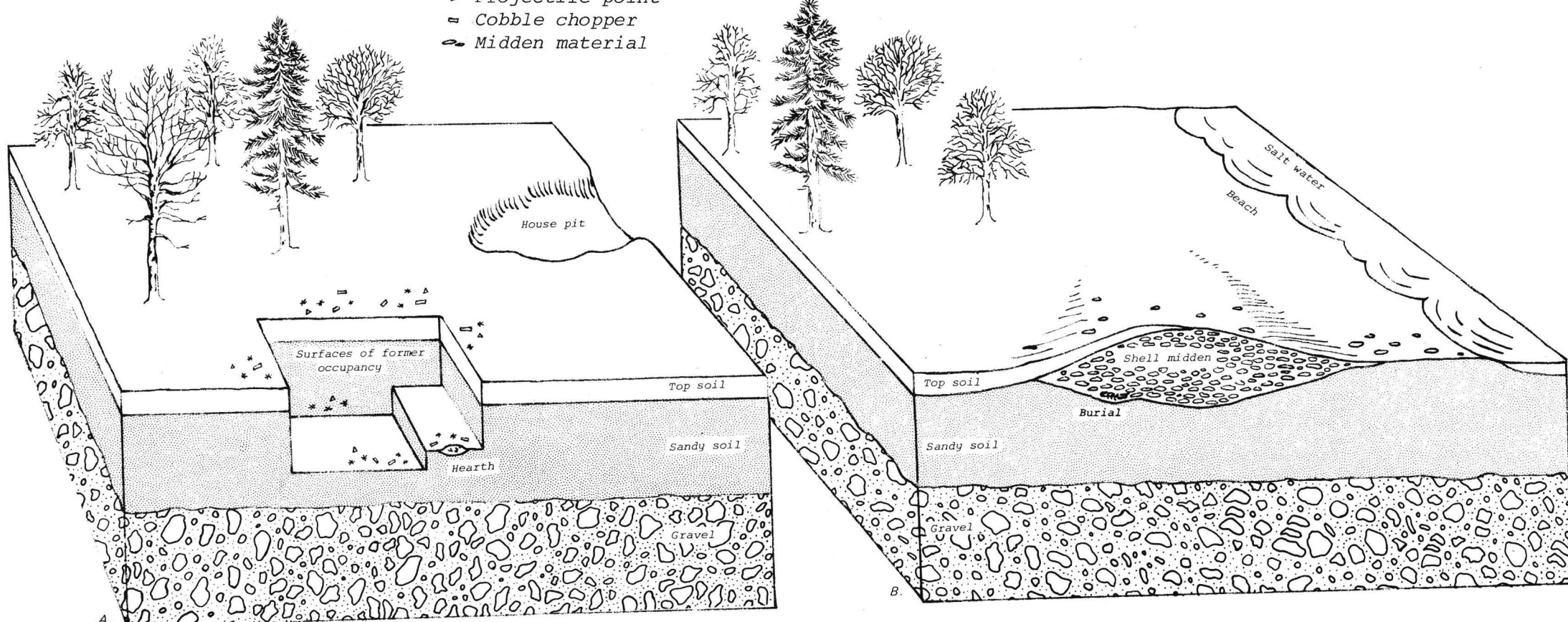


Figure 2. Examples of typical archaeological evidence at inland sites and sites near salt water in the Puget Sound region.

- A. At an inland site, commonly on a flood plain or stream terrace, land-surface features usually do not indicate site location. The only evidence of ancient occupancy likely to be found on the inland site surface is commonly in the form of stone flakes, projectile points, and similar artifacts. These artifacts are exposed at the present land surface by frost heave, erosion, plowing or other such disruption of the soil by man. Where such evidence is found, excavation is needed to evaluate the site further. The excavation (shown schematically above) commonly is started as a 1-m<sup>2</sup> test pit and is expanded in same-size increments as such expansion is warranted.

- B. At sites near the salt-water coast, the shell midden is the most common type of evidence found. It is composed largely of shell and bone fragments. The midden may be observed as a mound above the ground or it may have been leveled to the general ground surface, depending on the original size of the midden and its exposure to erosional forces. Some shell middens were utilized for burial.

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