CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

Author: Alexandra Williams-Larson

Title of Report: Predetermination for 34135 NW Pacific Highway

Date of Report: October 11, 2019

County: Clark   Section: 33  Township: 5 North  Range: 1 East

Quad: Ridgefield, WA, 7.5-minute, 2017      Acres: Approx. 1

PDF of report submitted (REQUIRED) ☒ Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) Found or Amended? ☐ Yes ☒ No

TCP(s) found? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Replace a draft? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement? ☐ Yes # ☒ No

Were Human Remains Found? ☐ Yes DAHP Case # ☒ No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:
CITY OF LA CENTER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PREDETERMINATION REPORT

Property Owner:   Alisa Faust    Telephone:  (360) 521-5014
Mailing Address:  902 N 15th Court
                  Ridgefield, WA 98642
Applicant:   Same as above
Mailing Address:  Same

Property Address:  34135 NW Pacific Highway, La Center, WA, 98629
Tax Lots #258755000 and 258640000

Legal description:  SE ¼ of Section 33, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian.

Parcel Acreage:  Approx. 1 acre    Disturbance Area Acreage:  Approx. 1 acre
Maps showing property location are attached (Figures 1 and 2).

General Physical Description of Site, including current uses:

The project area is at 34135 NW Pacific Highway in La Center, Clark County, Washington, approximately 0.5 kilometer (km) (0.31 mile [mi]) north of the East Fork Lewis River (Figure 1). The project area includes approximately 1 acre of land where improvements are proposed on portions of two undeveloped, wooded parcels (tax lot numbers 258755000 and 258640000). An existing two-track road extends across the southern portion of the project area. Residential properties border the parcels to the north, southeast, and southwest. Undeveloped, forested land is northwest of the project area.

Description of proposed activity:  The applicant plans to build a single family residence, driveway, and a septic drain field.

Predetermination Trigger:

☑️ Under Matrix, Potential for Impact trigger with Predictive Model Probability Level Low–Moderate to High

☑️ High potential impact project located within ¼ mile of a recorded site

☐ Moderate through high potential impact project located within 500 feet of known archaeological site

☐ Discovery during development

☐ Other
BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Detail all background research:

Records available on the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) online database and in Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.’s (AINW’s) library were reviewed to determine if archaeological resources have been recorded in the project area and to determine if surrounding areas have been previously surveyed. Records and historical maps on file at AINW were also reviewed to assess the potential for archaeological resources. The Clark County Archaeological Predictive Model shows the project area as having a moderate-high to high probability for archaeological resources.

Previous Archaeological Studies

The project area has not been previously surveyed for archaeological resources. Six archaeological studies, mostly at the predetermination level, have been conducted within 0.4 km (0.25 mi) (Bryant 2006; Cooper 2001; Easton 2007; Holschuh 2006; Hudson 2008; Pattee and Roulette 2017). Two of these studies were completed immediately adjacent to the project area.

- A predetermination for a subdivision project was conducted immediately northwest of the project area (Holschuh 2006). One pre-contact isolate (45CL680), a cryptocrystalline silicate (CCS) flake, was identified approximately 480 meters (m) (1,575 feet [ft]) northwest of the project area during shovel testing.

- A predetermination for the installation of a fiber optic line along NW Pacific Highway occurred immediately southwest of the project area (Cooper 2001). No archaeological resources were encountered as a result of the study, which included a pedestrian survey and shovel testing.

Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites

Eleven archaeological resources have been recorded within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area. Most of these resources are pre-contact lithic scatters located along the East Fork Lewis River and its tributaries. These resources consist predominantly of CCS debitage, though other raw materials, such as basalt and quartzite, have been recorded at several sites. Three archaeological resources have been identified within 0.4 km (0.25 mi) of the current project.

- Site 45CL1235 is approximately 180 m (590 ft) south of the project area. Initially identified during a predetermination, the site was delineated during a subsequent cultural resource survey (Pattee and Roulette 2017). The site consists of CCS, basalt, and quartzite debitage encountered during shovel test excavations.

- Two pre-contact archaeological resources, sites 45CL692 and 45CL693, were identified during shovel testing for a predetermination completed approximately 100 m (330 ft) east of the current project area (Bryant 2006). Located 240 m (787 ft) east of the project area, 45CL692 is a lithic scatter consisting of CCS and rhyolite flakes. Isolate 45CL692, a CCS flake, is approximately 180 m (590 ft) northeast of the project area.
BACKGROUND RESEARCH, continued

Historic Maps

The 1854 and 1863 General Land Office maps for Township 5 North, Range 1 East, do not show development within Section 33, where the project area is located (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 1854, 1863). The surrounding area is described as hilly with forests of fir, cedar, maple, and alder trees and dense undergrowth. The East Fork Lewis River is referred to as the “South Fork of the Cattlepoolet River” (BLM 1854).

By 1869, the project area was within the Donation Land Claim granted to John U. Banzer (BLM 1869). The 1888 Map of Clarke County, Washington Territory shows the project area as belonging to J.P. Ward. Metsker maps dating between the early and mid-twentieth century show that the project area was owned by members of the Troxel family (Metsker Maps 1929, 1943, 1961).

Historical maps and aerial photographs do not depict any development within the project area between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries, with the exception of a two-track road in the southern portion of the project area (Clark County 2019; BLM 1854, 1863; USGS 1941, 1954, 1990). The road first appears on a 1955 aerial photograph as intersecting with NW Pacific Highway and continuing eastwards to NW 9th Avenue (Clark County 2019). Aerial photographs show that the surrounding area has remained largely rural with few residential and agricultural developments (Clark County 2019).

Summary

The project area has a moderate-high to high probability for archaeological resources according to the Clark County Archaeological Predictive Model. The project area is on a terrace similar to those where other pre-contact archaeological sites have been recorded nearby. Three pre-contact sites have been recorded within 0.4 km (0.25 mi) of the project area. A review of these resources suggests that archaeological materials, if present, would likely consist of CCS debitage.

The likelihood of encountering historic-period archaeological resources is low. Although the project area belonged to several different owners beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, no development is depicted within the current project area on historical maps, with the exception of a two-track road that was established after 1955.

SURFACE INSPECTION

Date of inspection: October 3, 2019

Time of Day: Morning

Weather conditions at time of inspection: Overcast and cool

Describe soil visibility: over 50% visible × less than 50% visible
Description of proposed project’s locational characteristics:

The project area includes portions of two undeveloped parcels located along NW Pacific Highway in La Center, Clark County (Figure 1). The project area is on a terrace approximately 0.5 km (0.31 mi) north of the East Fork Lewis River. The project area slopes down to the southeast, towards an unnamed tributary of the East Fork Lewis River located approximately 40 m (120 ft) south of the project area.

A two-track road extends through the southern portion of the project area (Photo 1). It cuts into the natural slope of the landform to the north and is supported by fill to the south. An existing culvert allows an ephemeral stream to drain under the road. The project area is wooded with maple, alder, and hawthorn trees. The understory includes snowberry, western sword fern, wild rose, and Himalayan blackberry. Tall grasses, Queen Anne’s lace, and Himalayan blackberry grow in a small clearing where the residence is proposed (Photo 2).

Three soils—Gee silt loam, Hillsboro silt loam, and Washougal loam—are mapped for the project area. These deep, moderately to somewhat excessively drained soils formed in alluvium on terraces and terrace escarpments (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service [USDA-NRCS] 1998, 2002a, 2002b).

Describe surface investigation procedures:

AINW staff archaeologist V. Joey Veysey, B.A., and supervising archaeologist Alexandra Williams-Larson, M.A., R.P.A., conducted a pedestrian survey of the project area, walking transects spaced no more than 10 m (33 ft) apart (Figure 2). The archaeologists carefully examined the ground surface for evidence of archaeological materials and to assess the potential for buried archaeological deposits or features.

Mineral soil visibility varied throughout the project area due to vegetation cover. Throughout the majority of the project area, dense vegetation and leaf litter limited surface visibility to less than 10%. Soil visibility was greatest along the two-track road, where up to 20% of the ground surface could be examined.

Describe any artifacts found:

No pre-contact or historic-period archaeological resources were found during the pedestrian surveys.

Subsurface Inspection

Describe and quantify amount of subsurface probing and manual surface exposing activities that were carried out, if any:

Two shovel tests were excavated to determine if subsurface archaeological deposits were present (Figure 2). The shovel tests were excavated in areas with poor mineral soil visibility where ground disturbances are planned (Photos 3 and 4). The shovel tests were cylindrical, 30 centimeters (cm) (12 inches [in]) in diameter, and excavated to depths of 50 cm (20 in) below the surface. Sediments from the shovel tests were manually screened through nested 6.4- and 3.2-millimeter (¼- and ⅛-in) mesh hardware cloth. Shovel tests were backfilled immediately upon completion.
The soils encountered in the shovel test excavation were consistent with those of the Hillsboro and Gee series mapped for the project area (USDA-NRCS 2002a, 2002b). The soils consisted of a grayish brown silt loam that was slightly plastic, slightly sticky, and friable with a granular to subangular blocky structure. In shovel test ST-1, the soil transitioned to a mottled silt loam at 45 cm (18 in) below the surface. No archaeological resources were identified during the shovel test excavations.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

State findings and conclusions:

No evidence of pre-contact or historic-period archaeological resources was identified during AINW’s archaeological study. As a result of the field investigation and background review, it is AINW’s professional opinion that an archaeological resource is unlikely to be present within the project area. Therefore, AINW recommends no additional archaeological work is needed for the proposed development.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation:

- [ ] An archaeological resource survey is necessary.
- X An archaeological resource survey is not necessary.
- [ ] Monitor during construction.
CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

I certify that I am a:

☐ qualified archaeologist, as defined by RCW 27.53.030(9).
☒ professional archaeologist, as defined by RCW 27.53.030(8) and WAC 25-48 020(4).

Signature of Archaeologist:             Date:  October 11, 2019

Alexandra Williams-Larson

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REFERENCES

Bryant, Peter

Bureau of Land Management

Clark County
Cooper, Jason  
2001  *Clark County Archaeological Predetermination Survey of NW La Center Road, NW Pacific Highway, NW 21st Avenue, La Center.* Jones & Stokes, Bellevue, Washington.

Easton, Krey  

Holschuh, Dana  

Hudson, Andrew  

Metsker Maps  

Pattee, Donald D., and Bill Roulette  

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)  

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
Figure 1. Project area at 34135 NW Pacific Highway in La Center, Clark County, Washington.
Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the project area at 34135 NW Pacific Highway showing pedestrian transects and shovel test locations. Each transect represents two archaeologists walking no more than 10 m (33 ft) apart.
Photo 1. A two-track road extends through the southern portion of the project area. The view is towards the west.

Photo 2. Overview of a small clearing where a residence and septic field are planned. The project area slopes down towards the southeast. The view is towards the east.

Photo 3. Overview of the excavation of shovel test ST-1 in progress, where a portion of the driveway is planned. The view is towards the east.

Photo 4. Overview of the excavation of shovel test ST-2 in progress, where the residence and septic field are planned. The view is towards the east.