

POLICY ON ACCESS TO SITE RECORDS

Because of the Department's responsibility to protect and preserve archaeological resources, it is necessary to restrict access to locational information regarding most archaeological sites.

Unfortunately, earlier reports which were made available to the general public often gave detailed instructions and/or maps on how to find specific sites. Because of an increase in vandalism, grave robbing, and other forms of recreationally-oriented activity, it has been the policy of this Department in recent years to omit site locations from archaeological reports and to maintain a "need-to-know" policy on access to site locations. This policy has legal backing in an exclusion from the state Freedom of Information Act.

Only those who have a legitimate need should be given access to or be supplied with information on site locations unless such locations, as in the case of state parks, etc., are already a matter of public record.

The individuals who qualify for access are professional archaeologists with a research interest, developers who must know of the existence of a site in order to avoid it, federal, state, county, or municipal officials who must know of locations for management reasons, or landowners who have an interest in the preservation of sites which they own.