

Built Heritage Management (Public Realm) Operating Guidelines

24 June 2025

administration

PARENT DOCUMENT: Built Heritage Management Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Operating Guideline is to provide for the conservation and management of unlisted historic elements of cultural heritage significance within the public realm of Adelaide, North Adelaide and the Adelaide Park Lands.

Significant historic public realm elements are detailed in **Appendix A** and include (but are not limited to):

- Archaeological deposits
- Historic road surfaces
- Kerbs and water tables
- Footpaths and driveway crossovers
- Kerb strapping
- Hawker stands
- Lighting
- Bus shelters
- Bollards / hitching posts
- Garden hoops
- Willow/twig benches
- Historic advertising signage
- Boot scrapers
- Street name plates
- Building-mounted signage
- Blue Plaques
- National Trust Plaque
- National Heritage Plaque
- Drinking fountains
- Benchmarks
- Public utilities
- Hydrants
- Memorials
- Ephemera

These elements are available as a GIS dataset. The data is as accurate as possible, but cannot be considered exhaustive. If previously unidentified elements are found within your work area, please seek further advice.

OPERATION

Application of this document

City of Adelaide will undertake to manage historic elements in the public realm in accordance with the following principles and considerations:

Conservation Principles

Public realm elements are important parts of the historical fabric of the City of Adelaide and any works to or affecting them must be undertaken in line with the conservation principles of *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013* that requires a cautious approach:

Conservation is based on a respect for the existing fabric, use, associations and meanings. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.

The City of Adelaide acknowledges the Kurna people as the Traditional Owners of the Country where the city of Adelaide is situated, and pays its respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

These general principles are to be considered in works that have the potential to impact Significant Historic Public Realm Elements and/or their setting as identified in

Appendix A:

- Reconsider the necessity of works that affect significant historic public realm elements and their context.
- Retain and conserve existing significant historic public realm elements in situ wherever possible.
- Ensure a consistent approach to public realm works and the inclusion/retention of significant historic public realm elements.
- Ensure new work does not negatively impact the visual setting of public realm elements.
- Reinstate altered/damaged public realm elements, that have not been laid in the traditional manner.
- Ensure that where new work is required, it is accurate to the original detail, materials and appearance of the original.
- Encourage new work to be identified as such, to distinguish it from historic fabric.
- Work should consider the likelihood of uncovering archaeological remains of significance and appropriately address this risk.
- New work completed to historic detail (eg reinstatement of public realm previously not laid in a traditional manner) is considered to be 'Significant' for the purposes of this Guideline.

Considerations

The following must be incorporated into scoping and delivery of projects affecting, or having the potential to affect Significant Historic Public Realm Elements:

- Works to Significant Historic Public Realm Elements should only be carried out by a contractor specialising in the required type of work, employing operators skilled and experienced in the required type of work.
- Only carry out the work outlined, retaining all existing original fabric wherever possible.
- Wherever possible works shall retain and protect these items in their original condition and location.
- Utilise City of Adelaide standard details for significant elements such as stone kerbing and water tables. Where non-standard, seek advice from the City of Adelaide's Heritage Advisors.
- Where these items are potentially impacted by proposed works (including proposed removal or demolition), advice shall be sought by the City of Adelaide as to an appropriate course of action and approval of any non-standard construction techniques.
- The removal or alternation of any original fabric beyond that documented must not occur without prior review by the City of Adelaide's Heritage Advisors and/or the relevant heritage authorities prior to undertaking any work.
- Some heritage features located within the public realm are attached to adjacent properties and may also require building owner consent to make any alterations. Examples include building mounted street signs.

- Before further work can take place, samples should be prepared of any work for approval by the City of Adelaide's Heritage Advisors and the relevant authorities. Further samples may be required if the initial samples are rejected or need adjustment. Once approved, all subsequent work must match the approved samples, which are to be marked indicating the particular location and remain to allow comparison with the remainder of the project.
- Where significant historic public realm items identified are for demolition or removal, construction hold points are required where requested by the City of Adelaide's Heritage Advisors.
- All salvaged materials shall be identified for transportation and stockpiling at the City of Adelaide's depot. Prior to any works commencing the depot must be contacted to confirm the storage of the materials.
- Storage of materials needs to be clearly recorded so that these are not inadvertently destroyed. The exact materials, types, quantities, end storage location and details of any subsequent transfers need to be recorded in the City of Adelaide records systems for easy retrieval and identification. These salvaged materials should be reused where possible for repair and reconstruction purposes under the supervision of the City of Adelaide's Heritage Advisors.

Archaeology

All efforts must be made to assess the likelihood of discovering archaeological sites through the design process. Initial advice can be sought from the City of Adelaide's Heritage Advisors, Reconciliation Team and/or Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation. Where appropriate, archaeologists should be engaged to provide advice and undertake further investigation.

The *Heritage Places Act 1993* (SA) includes statutory protections for the archaeological remains of non-Aboriginal origin. You must stop work and seek further advice from the City of Adelaide's Heritage Advisors if you:

- Have reasonable cause to suspect that the excavation or disturbance will or is likely to result in an archaeological artefact of heritage significance being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed.
- Have discovered or located an archaeological artefact of heritage significance.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) includes statutory protections for the archaeological remains of Aboriginal origin. You must stop work, not disturb the site and seek further advice from Council's Reconciliation Team and contact Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet if you:

- Discover an Aboriginal site or object.
- Discover anything that looks like skeletal human remains (police must be called first).

OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS

Related documents

- Built Heritage Management Policy
- Infrastructure Guidelines, Standards and Standard Drawings
- Asset Management Plans
- Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout National Heritage Management Plan
- *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013*
- David Jones, 2007, *Adelaide Park Lands & Squares Cultural Landscape Assessment Study*

Relevant legislation

- *Heritage Places Act 1993 (SA)*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 (SA)*
- *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)*

GLOSSARY

Throughout this document, the below terms have been used and are defined as:

Archaeological Deposit means known or undiscovered subterranean elements of potential historic significance

Built Heritage refers to purposely designed and/or constructed Places including, buildings and settlement patterns, historic streetscapes, historic areas, archaeology, designed landscapes and public realm elements.

Conservation as defined in The Burra Charter and for the purposes of the Guideline includes preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and stabilisation.

Cultural Heritage means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

Development is as defined in the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)*.

Historic-Character Streetscapes are those streets and areas of the City of Adelaide that are characterised by a cohesive historic character and identity.

Historic Character is a place that retains the physical form, style and features of an historic period but does not satisfy the criteria for Local Heritage listing.

Place means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

Significant Historic Public Realm Elements are those elements contained in Appendix A.

ADMINISTRATIVE

As part of the City of Adelaide's commitment to deliver the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan, services to the community and the provision of transparent information, all policy documents are reviewed as per legislative requirements or when there is no such provision a risk assessment approach is taken to guide the review timeframe.

This Policy document will be reviewed every **5** years unless legislative or operational change occurs beforehand. The next review is required in **2030**.

Review history:

Trim Reference	Authorising Body	Date/ Decision ID	Description of Edits
ACC2024/180106	Chief Executive Officer	TBD	First version of these guidelines. Supersedes North Adelaide Public Realm Operating Guidelines

Contact:

For further information contact the Park Lands, Policy and Sustainability Program

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APPENDIX A: SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC PUBLIC REALM ELEMENTS

The following table lists Significant Historic Public Realm Elements that are to be retained, protected and conserved.

If the item is not included on the following list, and there is reason to believe the element may be significant please seek further advice.

Example Image	Item	Significance
Roadway & Drainage Elements		
None Available	Macadamised and/or Jarrah woodblock road surfaces (may be present under bitumen)	Important historic element demonstrating early road construction.
	Stone kerbs and stormwater tables	Important historic element demonstrating early road construction from 1880 to 1920
	Brick kerbs and stormwater tables	Important historic element demonstrating early road construction from 1880 to 1920
	Composite brick/stone kerbs and stormwater tables	Important historic element demonstrating early road construction from 1880 to 1920

Example Image	Item	Significance
	Stone kerbing	Important historic element demonstrating early road construction from 1880 to 1920
	Granite kerbing	Important historic element demonstrating early road construction from 1880 to 1920
	Central stone and brick culverts/drains	Important historic element demonstrating early road construction from 1880 to 1920
	Stone and timber raised driveway culverts	Important historic element demonstrating early crossover construction from 1880 to 1920
	Metal kerb strapping	Important historic element demonstrating the protection of kerbing from damage from horse vehicle traffic.
	Hawker Stand - Kerb Markers (adjacent Adelaide Zoo entrance)	Important historic element demonstrating early commerce practices in the public realm 1850-1920, namely the demarcation of licenses for roadside hawkers to trade in a certain location

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Example Image	Item	Significance
	<p>Basement Light Tiles</p>	<p>Important historic element demonstrating the approach to providing lighting to basements using trafficable glass tiles set in cast-iron frames</p>
<p>Lighting</p>		
	<p>Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) poles</p>	<p>Important historic element demonstrating the elements of the former Municipal Tramways Trust system from 1909</p>
	<p>'Adelaide' Light Fitting</p>	<p>Important historic element demonstrating style of public lighting preferred by the Corporation in the 1930s</p>

Example Image	Item	Significance
	Union Hotel Gas Lights	Important historic elements demonstrating the evolution of historic lighting fuels and fittings, particularly the style of gas light fitting c1866
Street Furniture		
	Willow 'Twig' Benches	Important historic elements relating to early street furniture in the City and Park Lands from c1900
	Former Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) seating	Important historic element demonstrating the elements of the former Municipal Tramways Trust system
	Reconstructed Bus Shelter (former Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) Tram shelter)	Important reconstructed element demonstrating the elements of the former Municipal Tramways Trust system
	Cast Iron Bollards	Important historic elements demonstrating early street furniture typical of the c1900 period

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Example Image	Item	Significance
		
	<p>Cast iron hitching posts</p>	<p>Important historic elements demonstrating the types of general amenities provided for community typical of the c1900 period</p>
	<p>Timber hitching posts</p>	<p>Important historic elements demonstrating the types of general amenities provided for community c1900</p>

Example Image	Item	Significance
	<p>Boot Scrapers at St John’s Church and Mortlock Library</p> <p>Boot Scrapers located in the façade of Buildings</p>	<p>Important historic elements demonstrating the types of general amenities provided for the community to clean their shoes before entering community buildings</p>
	<p>Rundle Mall Fountain (Former 1887 Exhibition Building Fountain)</p>	<p>Important element relating to 1887 Jubilee Exhibition</p>
	<p>Drinking Fountains (also within Park Lands)</p>	<p>Important historic elements demonstrating the types of general amenities provided for community</p>

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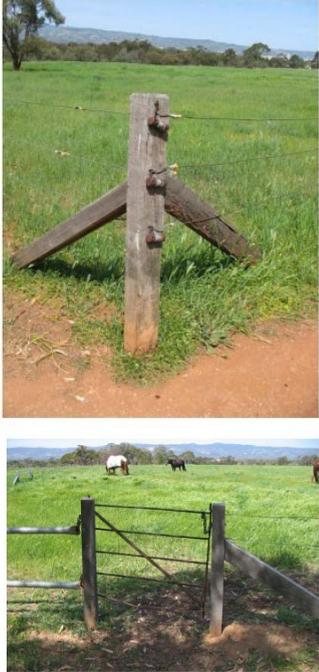
Example Image	Item	Significance
	<p>McCallum Fountain</p>	<p>Important historical element originally from Glenelg area, kept in safekeeping by City of Adelaide</p>
	<p>Early hitching post (Forwood Down Co.) Wakefield Street.</p>	<p>Important historic elements demonstrating the types of general amenities provided for community in the 1870s</p>
	<p>Cast iron, enamel or timber painted street name plates affixed to buildings</p>	<p>Important historic elements demonstrating the historic wayfinding provided for the road system</p>

Example Image	Item	Significance
Interpretive		
	Blue enamel house number plates with white numbering	Important public realm element providing consistency for house numbering from 1942 onwards
	Blue Heritage Plaques	Important public realm element provided by the City of Adelaide to enhance the interpretation of the historic context of the public realm
	National Trust Brass markers	Important public realm element demonstrating the advocacy of the National Trust in South Australia and the history of heritage listing
	National Heritage Marker (Light Square)	Important element to commemorate the National Heritage listing of Adelaide's colonial grid plan and encircling Adelaide Park Lands in 2008
	First Bridge over the Torrens Marker (River Bank)	Important element to recognize the location of the first bridge over the River Torrens in 1839

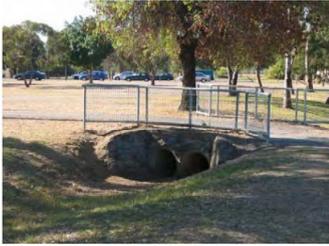
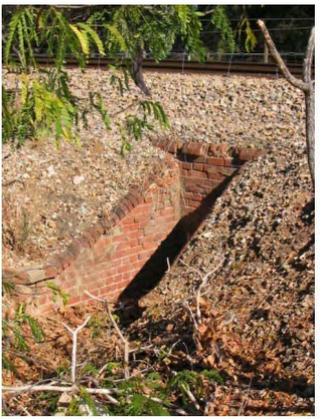
Example Image	Item	Significance
	<p>Light's Survey Marker (North Terrace)</p>	<p>Important element to commemorate the commencement of surveying of the City of Adelaide in the 1830s</p>
	<p>Trigonometrical Survey Station A marker (Cnr North Terrace/West Terrace)</p>	<p>Important element to commemorate the commencement of surveying of the City of Adelaide in the 1830s</p>
	<p>Historic Building signage in the public realm and not already protected by heritage listing (East End Market signage shown for reference)</p>	<p>Important elements interpreting the uses and purposes of historic places</p>
<p>Services</p>		
	<p>Cast-iron benchmarks</p>	<p>Important historic element demonstrating the 1870s survey points relating to the installation of the City's Deep Drainage system</p>

Example Image	Item	Significance
	Bricks and stone etched with a benchmark on private property	Important historic element demonstrating the 1870s survey points relating to the installation of the City's Deep Drainage system
	Historic fire hydrants	Important historic element demonstrating the development of early infrastructure
Image unavailable – Archaeological/ subterranean elements	Archaeological/subterranean elements, including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artefacts & organic compounds • Burial sites • Decommissioned infrastructure • Remnant structures or ruins 	Important historic elements that can assist in providing a greater understanding of the history of Adelaide, North Adelaide and the Park Lands

Example Image	Item	Significance
Adelaide Park Lands		
Remnant Fencing, Fence Posts & Gates		
	<p>Galvanised steel fence post embedded in tree: Strangways Terrace</p>	<p>Important historic element relating Park Lands fencing from 1890-1910</p>
	<p>Galvanised steel "Simpson" fence posts</p>	<p>Important historic element relating Park Lands fencing from 1890-1910</p>
	<p>Cast iron "Francis Morton & Co, Liverpool" fence posts</p>	<p>Important historic element relating to the early fencing system installed by Council between 1900-1930</p>
	<p>Glover Playground type fencepost</p>	<p>Important historic element relating to the uses and infrastructure of the Adelaide Park Lands</p>

Example Image	Item	Significance
	<p>Perimeter timber post fences & metal gates (particularly to Horse Paddocks)</p>	<p>Important historic elements relating to the early fencing of the horse paddocks from 1880</p>
	<p>Former Reservoir fencing (South Terrace)</p>	<p>Important historic element relating to the protection of the former Glenelg Reservoir from livestock</p>
<p>Watercourses and water infrastructure</p>		
	<p>Former Reservoir (earth mound)</p>	<p>Important historic element relating to infrastructure of the Adelaide Park Lands namely the 1881 reservoir supplying water to Adelaide and Glenelg</p>
	<p>Stone lined watercourses/drains</p>	<p>Important historic elements relating to the uses and infrastructure of the Adelaide Park Lands</p>

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Example Image	Item	Significance
	Footbridges over watercourses	Important historic elements relating to the uses and infrastructure of the Adelaide Park Lands
	Culverts	Important historic elements relating to the uses and infrastructure of the Adelaide Park Lands
	Wells (Emigration Square Well shown)	Important historic element relating to the 1837-1849 holding facility for newly arrived settlers named 'Emigration Square'
Park furniture and ornamentation		
 	Sundials and drinking fountains	Important historic elements relating to ornamental/functional elements in the park lands installed in the interwar and post war periods to improve the amenity of the Park Lands

Example Image	Item	Significance
		
	<p>Concrete Planter, Victoria Park Racecourse</p>	<p>Important historic element relating to a designed garden at the centre of the former stables area</p>
	<p>Colonial bollards</p>	<p>Important historic element recycled from Adelaide's streets and used within the Park Lands for various purposes</p>

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Example Image	Item	Significance
	Creswell Garden Cast Iron Sign	Important historic element relating the improvements made by City Gardener August Wilhelm Pelzer in 1899, and the memory of John ('Jack') Creswell an Adelaide businessman and notable contributor to cricket and Australian Rules football
	Victorian Fountain (Pennington Gardens)	Important element relating to 1887 Jubilee Exhibition
	Thebarton Council Ward Marker	Important historic element relating to the denoting of the edge of the historic Thebarton wards in 1883
	Timber fenced Tennis Court: Mills Terrace	Important historic element relating the 1927 improvements of the Adelaide Park Lands by City Gardener, August Wilhelm Pelzer
Structures		
	Kingston Bandstand	Important historic element relating to Council improvements of the western Park Lands in 1909

Example Image	Item	Significance
	Valve House	Important remaining historic element of the 1857 Kent Town waterworks demonstrating the early uses and infrastructure of the Adelaide Park Lands