

16 December 2014

Mr Michael Kwok

DEXUS Quarry WEST Subtrust
DEXUS Property Group
PO Box R1822
Royal Exchange NSW 1255

Dear Michael,

**RE: STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE - HERITAGE INTERPRETATION - DEXUS
QUARRYWEST PROJECT (SSD 6801)**

This Statement has been prepared to confirm compliance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued in relation to Heritage Interpretation for the above project, outlined below:

- *heritage - demonstrate that the development is consistent with the Heritage Site Interpretation Strategy approved under the Greystanes Southern Employment Lands Concept Plan (MP06_0181).*

The proposal is for the complete redevelopment of the quarry floor to facilitate a new industrial and commercial estate. The concept plan for the project has previously been approved as part of Major Project No. 06_0181 (Greystanes Southern Employment Lands Concept Plan and Project Approval). The proposed works are for the Construction and operation of warehousing and distribution centres to be known as DEXUS Estate QuarryWEST. The proposed works involve construction of warehouse buildings, creation of new roads and accesses, and landscaping works. The QuarryWEST development proposes to build on the character of the neighbouring development of Quarry East, but with its own identity and framework of landscape.

This Statement of Compliance is limited only to Heritage Interpretation of the QuarryWEST site, as outlined in the SEARs. This statement does not address the Heritage Impact of the proposed development of the site generally which was considered as part of the *Greystanes Employment Lands Concept Plan (MP06_0181)*. It is noted that a separate assessment has been conducted by City Plan Heritage and provided to the Proponent. That assessment concluded that the development of the QuarryWEST project is generally consistent with that envisaged in the approved Greystanes Southern Employment Lands concept plan and that the proposed works will not result in any impact on the heritage values of the locality.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject site is located immediately west of Reconciliation Road in Greystanes, opposite Basalt Road. At the time of writing, the site was an active building area with only limited access possible due to construction activities.

The subject site comprises a vast flat landscape bounded by terraced exposed rock quarry walls. The quarry floor and walls have been rehabilitated facilitate development of the Southern Employment Lands, including the filling of the quarry floor and cross blasting of the walls to reduce the potential of rock fall.

The site is characterised by the walls of the former quarry form. The walls have been formed as a result of the quarrying process such that they now comprise a man-made terrace system (as shown in Figures 2 to 5). It appears that all debris and loose material associated with the former quarry has, or is in the process of being removed from the site.



Figure 1: Aerial view of Lot 18 of the DP 270644 in yellow. This area is owned by DEXUS and to be developed as part of the subject application. (Source: Six Maps, 2014).



Figure 2: Rehabilitated quarry floor and view of the exposed and rehabilitated quarry walls. Note the relatively undisturbed landscape and the ridgeline.



Figure 3: Rehabilitated quarry floor and view of the exposed and rehabilitated quarry walls. Note the relatively undisturbed landscape and the ridgeline.



Figure 4: View of the subject site from the ACR Shed (discussed in the following section), showing site context of development to the east of Reconciliation Road. The State Heritage Listing for Prospect Hill and One Tree Hill (associated with Greystanes House, discussed in Section 4.0) are

visible in the background. The developed area to the east of Reconciliation Road does not form part of the subject site



Figure 5: The ACR Shed to be demolished as part of previous approvals.



Figure 6: The Jaw Crusher, relocated to Quarry Floor and adjacent to Reconciliation Road.

HERITAGE STATUS

Part of the northern elevated portion' of Lot 18 of Deposited 270644 is listed on the State Heritage Register as *Prospect Reservoir* and surrounding area (SHR No. 01370) under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (see Figure 8). The primary development area (comprising of the quarry floor) is excluded from the subject listing. The site is also located in proximity to the Heritage Item Prospect Hill listed on both the SHR (Figure 9) and Holroyd LEP 2012 (Figure10).

Part of Lot 18 of DP 270644 is also listed on the *Holroyd Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013* as an item of State significance, *Prospect Reservoir and surrounding area* at 1 Picrite Close (see Figure 9). This does not include the subject area but is located immediately adjacent to it.

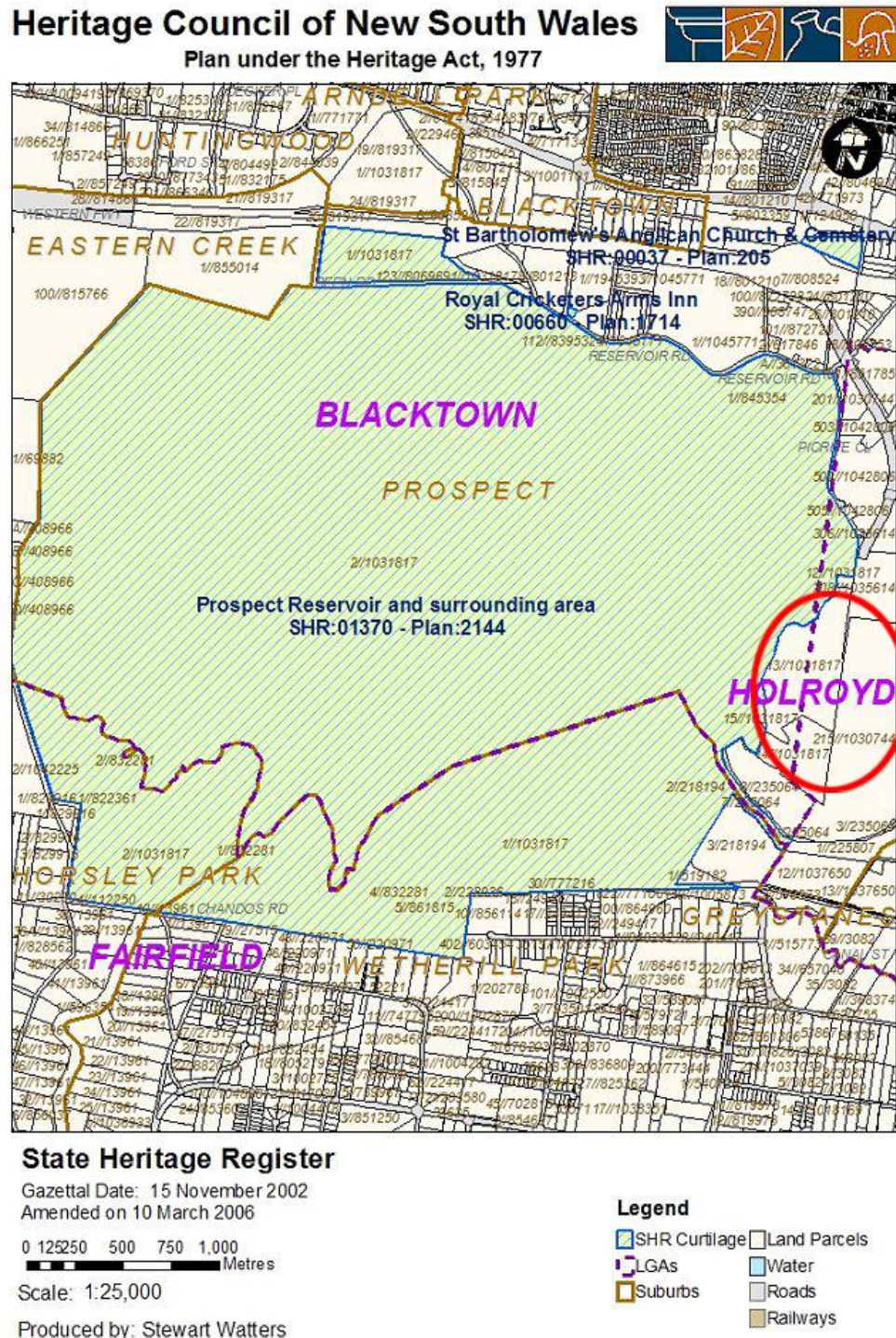


Figure 7: Plan of Prospect Reservoir and surrounding area. The approximate site of the subject area is to the far right circled in red (Source: NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, 2002, amended 2006)



Figure 8: Subject site in relation to SHR listings (shown in yellow) and the development area (shown in blue). Note the area overlapping area bounded in red. This portion of the subject site is within the curtilage for the SHR Prospect Reservoir Listing (Source: City Plan Heritage incorporating GIS overlay of the site area supplied by DEXUS and NSW Heritage Division State Heritage Register GIS Overlay)

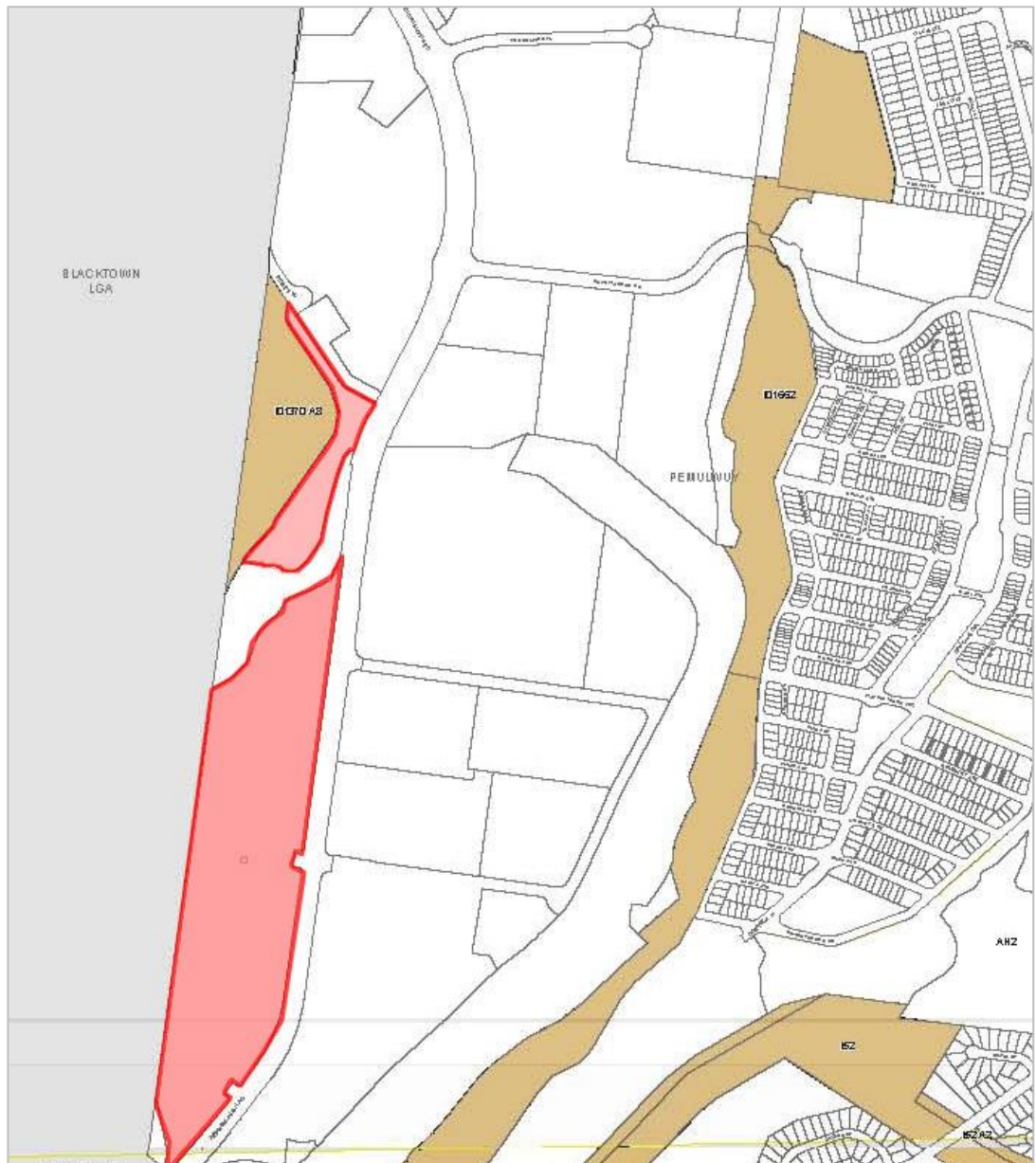


Figure 9: Extract from the Heritage Map with the Holroyd Council Lot 18/DP270644 (the Development Area) is highlighted in red (Source: Holroyd LEP 2012, Heritage Map, Sheet 002 and 003 merged together)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Quarrying commenced in the 1820s when its stone was used in paving for roads and convict chain-gangs were the principle work force.¹ In 1832, Charles Darwin mentioned his trip to Bathurst along William Cox's road from Emu Plains, and when just when he noticed the effect of chain-gangs of road building into the countryside as the keystone of Australian prosperity, "whinstone having been brought for the purpose from the distance of several

¹ Environmental Resources Management. *Southern Employment Lands Greystanes Estate*. Pyrmont: Environmental Resources Management, 2006. p 9.

miles.² Prospect Hill's dolerite thus not only provided a constant level of employment and local stimulus but also enabled the wider settlement of the Sydney Basin with its durable paving or road metal. The nearby Great Western Highway, connecting Parramatta to Penrith, was also undertaken by Cox and was probably at least partially paved with this same material. Written records of the site being referred to as a quarry date from 1866.³

A history of quarry ownership & operation at the Southern Employment lands and Prospect follows:⁴

Year	Event
1791	Governor Phillip Arthur grants 13 ex-convicts parcels of land about 50 acres in size in the land surrounding Prospect
1792	Joseph Morley received 50 acre land grant on prospect hill and established a farm to the South of prospect.
1808-1810	William Lawson receives 500 acres of land and builds Veteran Hall.
1883	Sperring and Partner became the first commercial quarriers on records.
1903	Lewis Litton and Arch Turnbull the Emu and Prospect Gravel and Road Metal Company. Ltd.
1919	Bought by New South Wales, Blue Metal Company., Ltd, reformed into public company, the New South Wales Associated Blue Metal Quarries Ltd. Leased land from Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board.
1926	The City and Suburban Blue Metal Quarries, Proprietary Ltd., formed and then established the Windemere Quarry on the Southern side of Prospect Hill.
1910	A short-lived branch railway line was added, connecting the site with the Prospect line (1901). It ran 5.2km and carried materials and workers, but was closed in 1926.
1930's	Over 2,000,000 tonnes being extracted annually, see aerial photographs below to garner a sense of the volumes of rock involved.
1935	Blue Metal and Gravel Proprietary Ltd, formed as a selling company.
1936	Blue Metal and Gravel Proprietary Ltd. bought 500 acres of freehold land, known as a Greystanes Estate from the Charley Family for 38,000 pounds.
1946	Styles Blue Metal Co Ltd., leased land to the west of Prospect Quarry from the Water Board, this quarry was later operated by Ready Mixed Concrete.
1951	BMG established a hot mix, bitumen plant called Bituminous Pavements at Prospect.
1952	Blue Metal Industries Ltd, formed as a holding company.
1982	Boral Ltd, took over BMI Ltd.
1992	Greystanes, administrative buildings used for a large number of Boral Companies. Prospect and Greystanes, sites hold the major quarry, 2 crushing plants and associated facilities, 2 asphalt plants, Boral Bricks, and Boral Besser Blocks plants and two laboratories.
2001	Last operative quarry owner Boral Ltd. initiates plans to close the quarry.
2007	Boral sells 66% of Boral's Greystanes Estate, 47.5acres named the Southern

² Darwin, Charles. *Voyage of the Beagle*. New York: P.F. Collier & Sons, 1909. p.456
Whinstone being a common name for Dolerite.

³ Wallace, Ian. *History of Boral's Greystanes Estate and Prospect Hill*. Boral: 1992. p 1.

⁴ Prospect Heritage Trust, *Quarries*, Accessed Online 27 November 2014:
<http://www.prospectheritagetrust.org.au/page26.html>

	Employment Lands, for \$157.7 million to DEXUS Property Group.
2014	DEXUS Property Group begins development of the Southern Employment Lands

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The subject site is demonstrative of the historical development of the local quarrying process and of the modifications to the local landscape brought about by those activities. The quarry supplied the Sydney construction industry with building aggregate for more than 100 years.

This industrial archaeological site comprising the landscaped form left after the quarrying process has the ability to demonstrate this significance to the local community.

The subject site is an early local representative of the industrial development of the quarrying process across NSW and as such has significance at the local level.

Despite extensive quarrying that occurred on the site throughout the late 19th and 20th Centuries, Prospect Hill retains important historical associations and significance as a unique landscape feature.

PROPOSED HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

The landscape master plan has been further developed by Site Image Landscape Architects, as indicated on the submitted plans. A key objective of the landscape design has been heritage interpretation with a focus on incorporating the Jaw Crusher. The proposed incorporation of the Jaw Crusher and associated stones is considered a positive response to the industrial quality of the precinct.

Jaw Crusher Landscape Integration

It is proposed to locate the Jaw Crusher into a landscape area in front of one of the potential/ commercial developments, so that it can be appreciated by a wider number of visitors.

The Jaw Crusher is to be placed at a key entry point of site. Integrating the heritage Jaw Crusher back into the landscape seeks to provide the development a chance to celebrate the site's former use as a quarry. The design seeks to include site rocks with bands of ground covers blanketing its surrounds as seen in the above simulation with the Jaw Crusher nested within a bed of Gazanias in flower.

Quarried Rocks

Quarried rocks have been previously located on site and are associated with the earliest quarrying activities on site. It is proposed to incorporate these rocks into both vertical and seating elements. Adjacent to the seating area, a supplementary access footpath made of railway sleepers and crushed rock could be incorporated (as per the submitted plans) to reference the original railway that is part of the site's historic development.

Further use of crushed rock in the site is also proposed to be utilised from stockpiles from the Quarry West to form a base of these features.

RELATIONSHIP WITH PREVIOUS APPROVALS

The condition for Heritage Interpretation in MP 06_0181 is copied below:

A site interpretation strategy as committed to by the Proponent in Statement of Commitment No. 17 shall required the Proponent to retain a selected number of industrial heritage items (e.g. Jaw Crusher and cone crusher on the site in recognition of the site's past use as a quarry)

In response to the previous approval a Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) was prepared for the entire Southern Employment Lands by Turner Hughes Architects (on behalf of Boral) (hereafter the Boral HIP), annexed at Appendix 1.

The Boral HIP identified two key items within the subject site:

- Item B - Terraced Quarry Walls
- Item C- The P3 Stone Crusher (referred to in this report as the Traylor Jaw Crusher)

Of the five interpretation sites identified in the Boral HIP, only one is located within the subject site:

- Site No. 5 - Business Centre - Main hub of business Park with view line to One Tree Hill and both Quarry Walls.

As previously outlined, these concepts have been further developed by Site Image Landscape Architects. The key aspect is the location of the Jaw Crusher from *Site No 1 - Southern Entry* to the new commercial area. The siting of the Jaw Crusher in a prominent entry location is considered an important and positive contribution from a heritage perspective as it raises the visibility of the item and immediately conveys an industrial character to the site, furthering that already imposed by the quarry walls and branding of the site. This is considered appropriate as it provides all users of the site the opportunity to engage with this item. All visitors, workers, and other users of the site will access it through this entry way. Retaining this significant item at *Site No. 1 - Southern Entry* limited its audience only to a small number of users. As the site is not accessible, except for maintenance, this location would have reduced appreciation of the Jaw Crusher's historical role and value.

The relocation of Interpretation Site 5 to the new commercial area is considered acceptable as the retail area retains the same visual links previously identified in the Boral HIP (with One Tree Hill and the Quarry Walls).

The proposed seating in the 'breakout area' is also considered a positive use of the quarried stone located on site. The practical use of the stone in seating elements provides a space for both passive recreation as well as providing a pleasant landscape feature. The use of interpretative signs is also proposed which will further develop this concept.

Similarly, the use of materials such as gravels also positively, and subtly, references the site's former industrial use. This design quality links in well with the aforementioned bench seats.

Interpretative Signage

Indicative locations for estate entry and individual lot identification signage are shown on the Landscape plans. It is noted that no heritage interpretation signage text was previously proposed in previous signage strategies. As such, the proposed text has been annexed to this report at Appendix 2, and has been prepared in accordance the NSW Heritage Office *Heritage Interpretation Policy* (August 2005) and follows the following 'Ingredients for Best Practice in Heritage Interpretation' (annexed at Appendix 3).

COMPLIANCE WITH SEARS

As previously outlined, the SEARs contain the following Clause in relation to heritage:

Demonstrate that the development is consistent with the Heritage Site Interpretation Strategy approved under the Greystanes Southern Employment Lands Concept Plan (MP06_0181).

The proposed Heritage Interpretation works are considered consistent with this clause.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that the proposed Heritage Interpretation is consistent with the previous approvals for the subject site.

We trust the above Statement of Compliance will satisfy the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements in the assessment of the proposed works at Quarry West.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 8270 3500.

Yours Sincerely,



Kerime Danis
Director - Heritage



Appendix 1: Boral Heritage Interpretation Plan

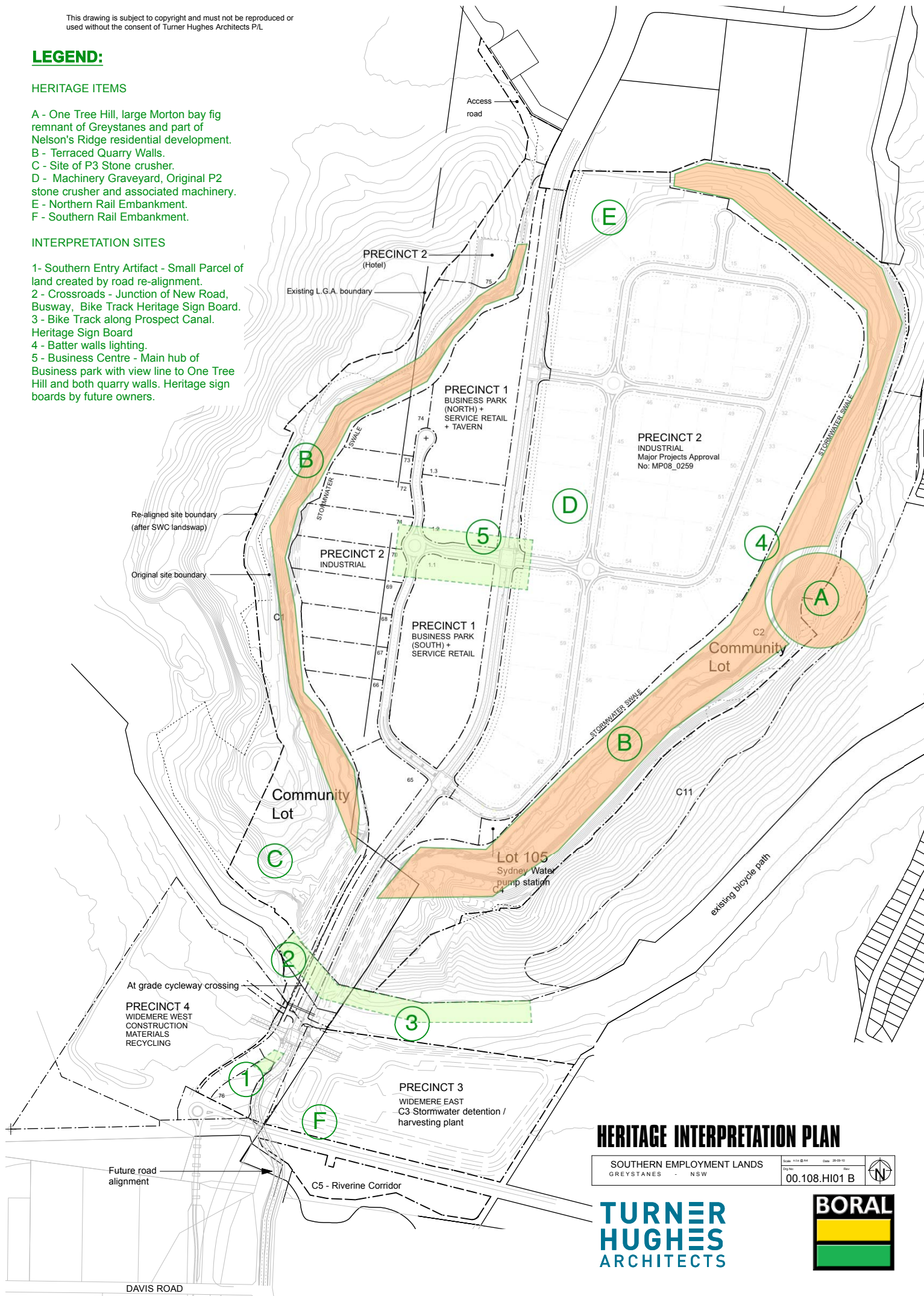
LEGEND:

HERITAGE ITEMS

- A - One Tree Hill, large Morton bay fig remnant of Greystanes and part of Nelson's Ridge residential development.
- B - Terraced Quarry Walls.
- C - Site of P3 Stone crusher.
- D - Machinery Graveyard, Original P2 stone crusher and associated machinery.
- E - Northern Rail Embankment.
- F - Southern Rail Embankment.

INTERPRETATION SITES

- 1- Southern Entry Artifact - Small Parcel of land created by road re-alignment.
- 2 - Crossroads - Junction of New Road, Busway, Bike Track Heritage Sign Board.
- 3 - Bike Track along Prospect Canal.
- 4 - Batter walls lighting.
- 5 - Business Centre - Main hub of Business park with view line to One Tree Hill and both quarry walls. Heritage sign boards by future owners.



HERITAGE INTERPRETATION PLAN

SOUTHERN EMPLOYMENT LANDS
GREYSTANES - NSW

Scale: 1:100 @ A4 Date: 28/05/15
Drawing: 00.108.H101 B



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SITE 1 GATEWAY ARTIFACT

Site 1 is created as the result of a road realignment and is not accessible, except for maintenance.

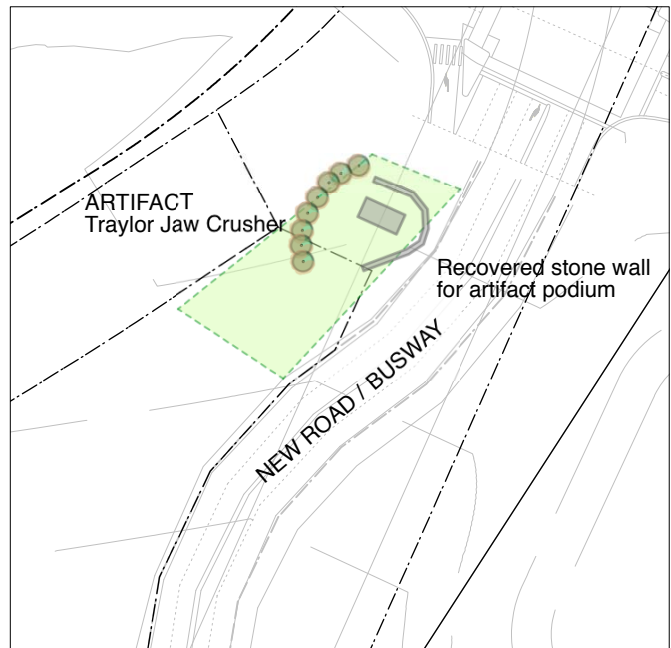
Both however provide a strong gateway point to the park. With future busway connection these sites will not only be a marker of the park but a way point to the general commuter journey.

It provides an opportunity to signpost the park with a strong heritage marker before passing traffic enters the quarry. Providing layers of story telling to suit the different speeds that the community will pass through the area.

These site would be a place for a single large artifact cleanly placed in a landscape designed to showcase the size and scale of equipment used in the operations of the past. the sweep and grade changes of these roads providing a changing view of the object.

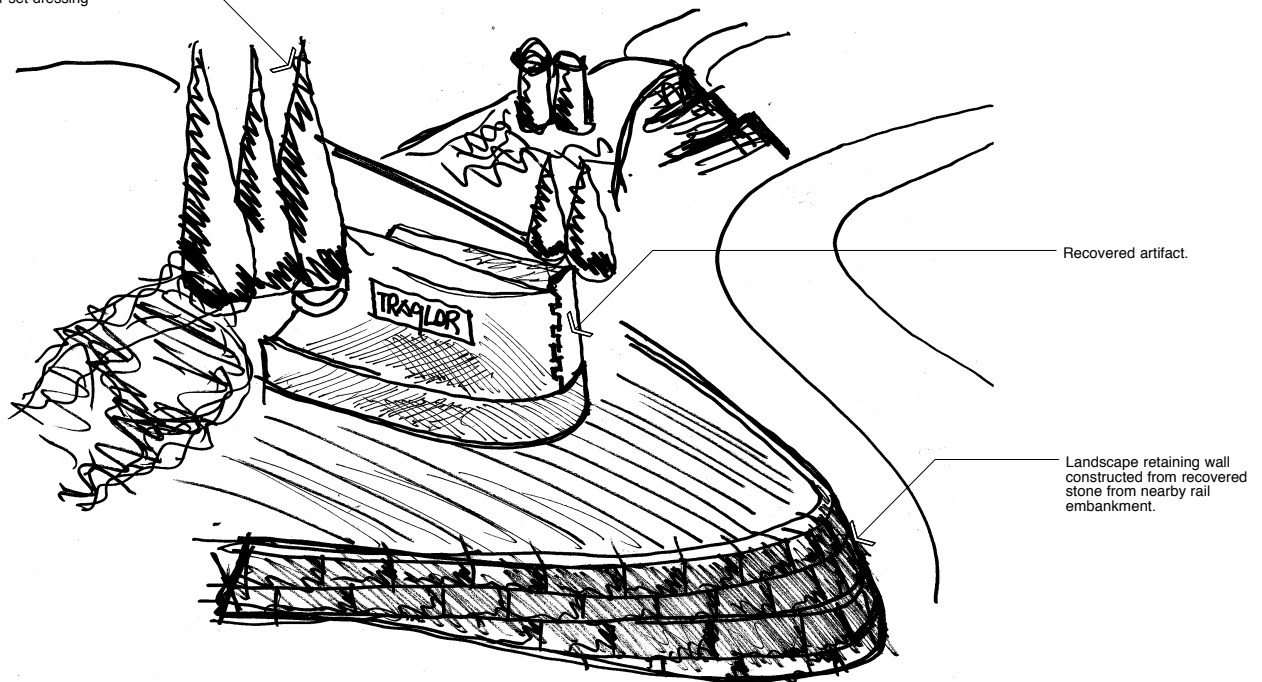
The site will make use of rock from the former rail embankment on site to form a platform for the artifact to site on level ground. Landscape planting behind with be used to dress the scene.

Future business park owners may incorporate a billboard type sign for park branding. This measure would be subject to a further DA



SITE 1 PLAN

Low maintenance planting and lighting for set dressing artifact



HERITAGE INTERPRETATION SITE 1

SOUTHERN EMPLOYMENT LANDS
GREYSTANES NSW

Scale: 1:1000
Date: 20/09/15
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SITE 2 QUARRY SIGN

Site 2 is at the crossroads of two regional transport systems being the bicycle track and the busway.

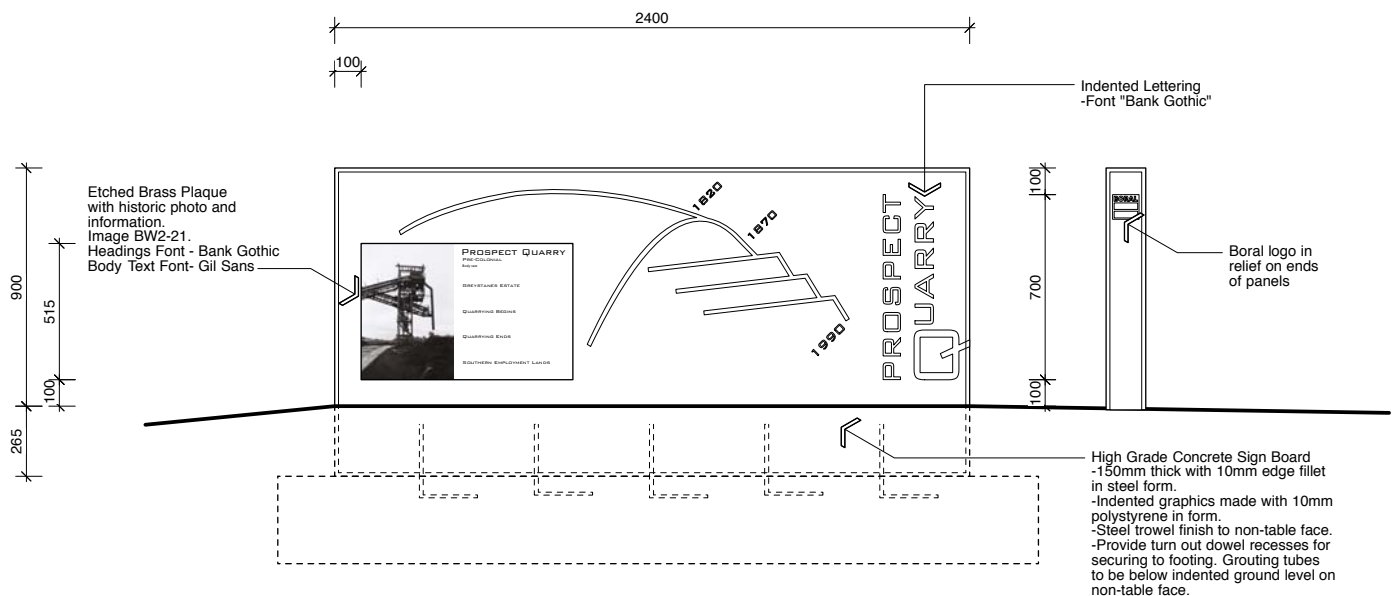
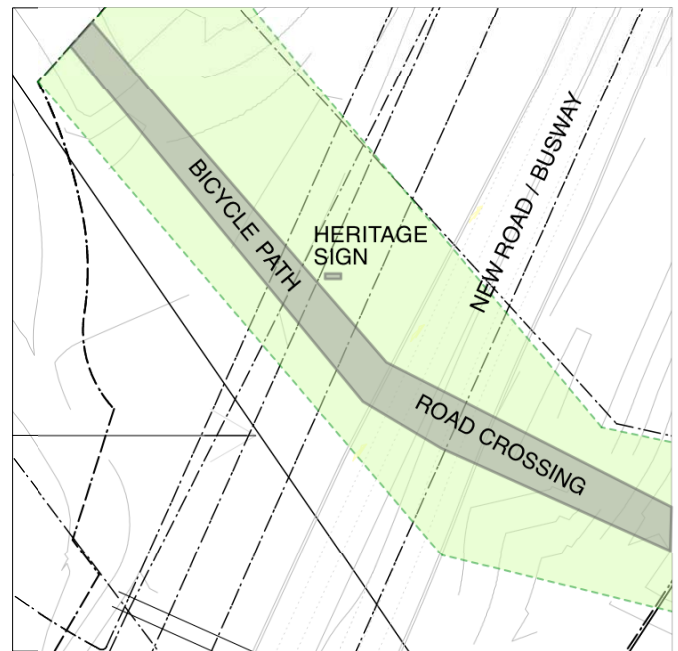
The bicycle track winds around the outer edge of the quarry from the nearby residential areas past the southern entrance to the quarry then round towards Prospect reservoir. Making it not only a means of transport and recreation, but a boarder story telling journey placing the quarry in it's local industrial past and future.

The means of transport provides a speed that allows for greater viewing time of the site while being fast enough to cover the ground that gives a sense to the scale of the work.

Riders would see the up disturbed side of One Tree Hill, the heavy cut of the quarry entrance before crossing the road via the level access and passing the old P3 crusher site then on the reservoir.

The Heritage signboard at this location will describe the visible aspects of the quarry including the entry cutting as a stylised graphic in relief in the concrete panel dates on each of the bench cuts to give a sense of the time scale.

A brass plate will be attached with a greater level of information on the site from pre-colonial to the end of quarrying and the areas future life as a business/industrial park. Including an image from the working quarry etched on the plate.



HERITAGE INTERPRETATION SITE 2

SOUTHERN EMPLOYMENT LANDS GREYSTANES - NSW		Scale: 1:100 @ A4 Date: 28/05/15 Page No: 00.108.H103 B	North Arrow
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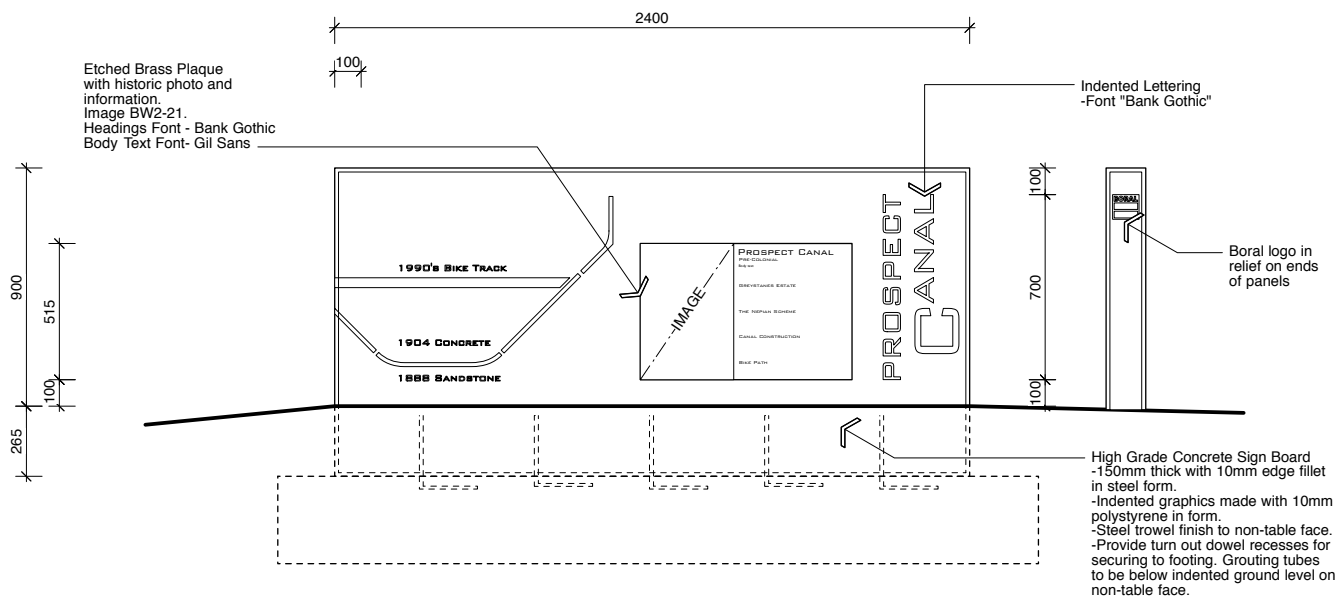
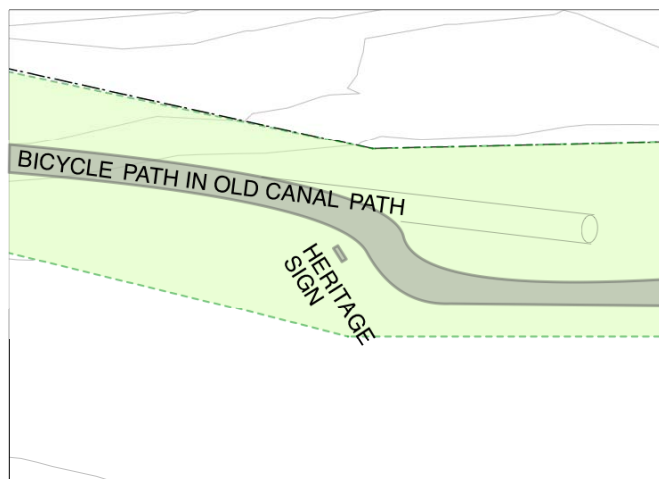
SITE 3 CANAL SIGN

Site 3 is located to the east at a point on the bike track at over looks the existing Prospect Canal.

The bicycle track winds around the outer edge of the quarry towards the nearby residential. Making it not only a means of transport and recreation, but a boarder story telling journey placing the canal and by association the reservoir in it's local industrial past and future.

The means of transport provides a speed that allows for greater viewing time of the site while being fast enough to cover the ground that gives a sense to the scale of the work.

Riders would see the reminisce of the canal cutting in to the landscape, the signboard will round out the story detailing the construction and material layering of canal.



HERITAGE INTERPRETATION SITE 3

SOUTHERN EMPLOYMENT LANDS
GREYSTANES - NSW

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Date: 28.08.15

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SITE 4 BATTER WALL LIGHTING

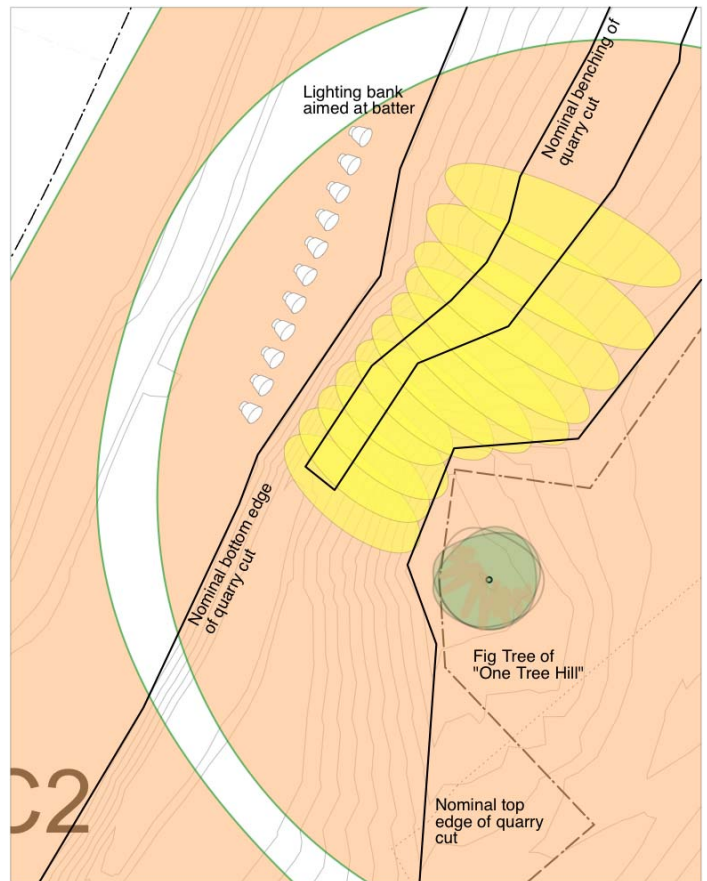
Site 4 is a series of uprights on the batter walls that define the extend of the old quarry.

The batter walls of the old quarry will always be a strong factor on the environment of the new business / industrial park. They will be strong remind or hint to the past life of the site. As such lighting is proposed to be installed to light up the batter during the night.

The lighting will make the batter walls visible to all means of transport including early morning and evening commuters on the new busway, as well, as providing a point of interest to the areas workers who are there in to the evening.

The lighting location has been selected to highlight feature as the old fig tree and it's effects on the shape of quarry. As well, as highlighting the section of wall in line with the main street of the business park. The height of the walls will mean that the lights will generally visible from the public spaces of the park.

The natural cut off effects of the cut wall will shield the neighbouring residential area from light spill.



HERITAGE INTERPRETATION SITE 4

SOUTHERN EMPLOYMENT LANDS GREYSTANES - NSW		Scale: 1:1000 Date: 20/09/10	
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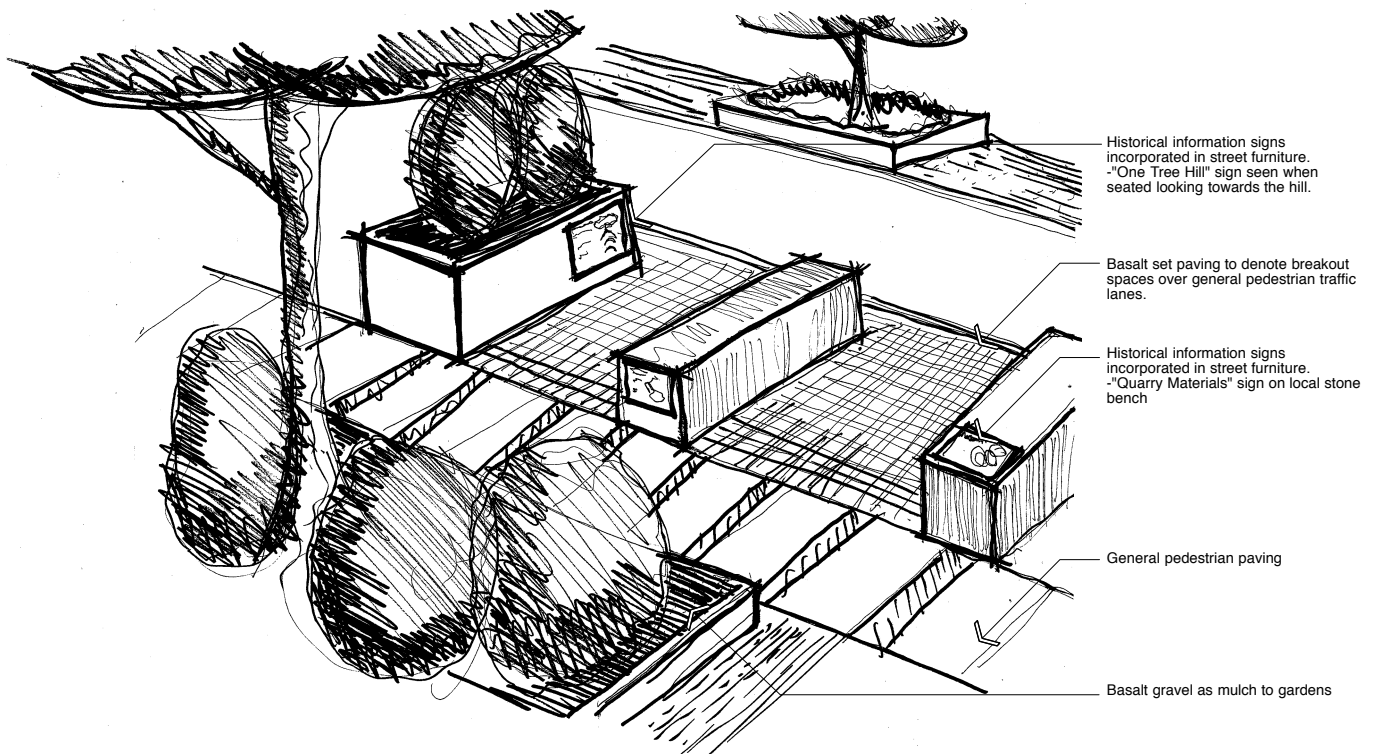
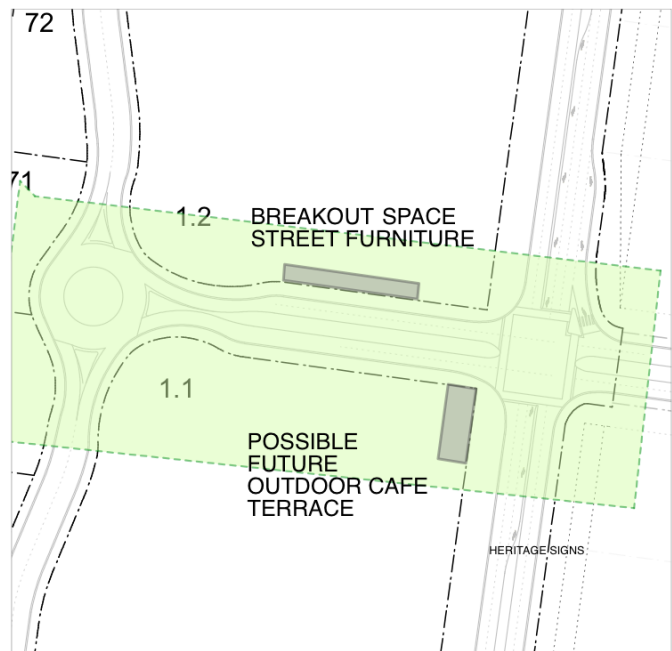
SITE 5 CONCEPT ONLY TO BE DEVELOPED BY FUTURE PARK OWNER

Site 3 is the main street of the Business Park. The developer of this precinct would provide within the development further Historic Interpretation items suitable to the use. They will be provided with a wealth of existing information to help them with this. The following is provided as a guide to how this maybe addressed with in the park, final interpretation strategy will be developed by the purchaser.

This main street is on axis with One Tree Hill and will a view in both directions of the quarry batter walls, and will be the center of the activity hub.

Items in the area should be aimed at pedestrian level movement. Possibly incorporated into break out and staff recreation spaces of the development. Ideally these would be discovery elements, instead of a fixed bay of information, In which case they can include detailed text and imagery, incorporated with the general street furniture, landscaping or commercial operations like a Cafes' outdoor terrace.

Consideration should be given to incorporating less literal elements, like use of materials with a local connection such as the gravel for mulching garden beds and a grey stone similar to the one that lend Greystanes house it name for street furniture, benches or paving.



HERITAGE INTERPRETATION SITE 5

SOUTHERN EMPLOYMENT LANDS
GREYSTANES NSW

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Appendix 2: Signage Text

A. 1919 Traylor Jaw Crusher

This Jaw Crusher was an important part of the quarrying activities at this location from the 1800s. Jaw Crushers were used to reduce the size of quarried materials for their final use. At the Prospect Quarry, crushed stone was generally used for road base.

This Jaw Crusher remains at this location to provide us with a reminder of this place's importance to the industrial heritage of NSW.

Location



Figure 10: Jaw Crusher Landscape Integration. The proposed plaque shall be installed on the larger rocks located adjacent to the machinery itself.

B. Prospect Quarry

This site is the former Prospect Quarry, which quarry supplied the Sydney construction industry with building aggregate for more than 100 years. You will notice many stones have been included in QuarryWEST. These stones were all quarried from the site and provide us with a reminder of this place's importance to industry in NSW.

Location

It is recommended this plaque be installed on the timber tops of the proposed seating. This will balance a high level of visibility with design subtly, so as to avoid visual cluttering throughout the precinct by signage.



Appendix 3: Heritage Interpretation Policy (NSW Heritage Division)

HERITAGE INFORMATION SERIES

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION POLICY

Heritage Council

of New South Wales



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION POLICY

This policy was endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW in August 2005.

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HERITAGE INTERPRETATION POLICY

The aim of this policy is to sustain and protect the heritage of NSW through interpretation and to encourage best practice in interpretation.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

The heritage of New South Wales is identified and protected as a means of securing and maintaining landscape, places and objects valued as part of Australian culture. Heritage is a cultural asset, part of the identity of NSW, its regions and communities. Natural and cultural heritage are linked with other aspects of culture such as literature, music, dance, art, food and other creative works and are part of the environment and community life.

Heritage conservation seeks to sustain the values of heritage landscapes, places and objects, individually and collectively, so that the community and visitors can continue to appreciate, experience and learn from them and about them, and so that they can be passed on to future generations.

Heritage interpretation is a means of sharing Australian culture and history within communities and with other communities, new citizens, visitors, and people overseas. It is also a means of passing on the knowledge and appreciation of Australian culture to new generations.

Interpretation is an integral part of the experience of significant heritage places.

Why interpret?

The significance of some heritage items is easy to understand; but for others the values are not obvious and require interpretation. Many items have values that are better understood through interpretation.

Interpretation media including activities and events, signs, publications, audio, video, artworks and trails, can enhance understanding and enjoyment by appealing to different levels of experience and knowledge, as well as to different learning styles

Interpretation can strengthen and sustain the relationships between the community and its heritage.

When to interpret?

Interpretation may be undertaken at any stage in the life of a place or heritage item. Interpretation is an essential part of the experience of a place.

For some heritage items, interpretation is an occasional opportunity, often linked with open days or other community celebrations.

For items which attract visitors, interpretation is an integral component of conservation and management and is undertaken for both educational and recreational purposes.

For other items, the opportunity for interpretation is provided when the use changes or when works are undertaken.

For industrial, places, archaeological sites and agricultural or other landscapes undergoing significant change, interpretation provides a way for people to appreciate the significance of the place before its use changes.

In some places, such as national parks or historic sites and precincts, interpretation has many uses and dimensions in education, recreation, tourism, visitor management and conservation.

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION POLICY STATEMENT

The interpretation of New South Wales' heritage connects the communities of New South Wales with their heritage and is a means of protecting and sustaining heritage values.

Heritage interpretation is an integral part of the conservation and management of heritage items and is relevant to other aspects of environmental and cultural management and policy.

Heritage interpretation incorporates and provides broad access to historical research and analysis.

Heritage interpretation provides opportunities to stimulate ideas and debate about Australian life and values, and the meaning of our history, culture and the environment. The Heritage Office, Department of Planning, is committed to encouraging imaginative, inclusive and accurate interpretation of the heritage of New South Wales and to establishing and sustaining best practices in content, methodology, implementation and evaluation of heritage interpretation.

The Heritage Office aims to:

- promote the interpretation of the heritage of New South Wales;
- acknowledge the associations and meanings of heritage to the community;
- integrate heritage interpretation in environmental and cultural planning in state and local government organisations;
- encourage high standards and skills in heritage interpretation.

DEFINITIONS

These definitions are adapted from definitions in heritage charters and guidelines for use with terms in the NSW Heritage Act.

Aboriginal people(s) with cultural association means Aboriginal people(s) with a cultural or historical association with an area not necessarily deriving from descent from original inhabitants. Consideration must also be given to Aboriginal people who reside in an area where there are no identified traditional owners or Aboriginal people who have traditional association to that country. (see also Traditional owner)

Aboriginal Culture means the culture of a group of people or groups of peoples comprising of the total ways of living built up and passed on from one generation to the next, and evolving over time.

Aboriginal Heritage means the heritage of a group of people or groups of peoples is represented in all that comes or belongs to them by reason of birth and includes their spirituality, language and relationship to land.

Associations mean the special connections that exist between people and an item.

Conservation management plan (CMP) means a document that identifies the heritage significance of an item and sets out policies for retaining that significance and is prepared in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines.

Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) means a document that identifies the impact an activity may have on a heritage significance of an item and sets out measures to minimise the impact of a proposed activity on the heritage significance of the item and is prepared in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines.

Environmental heritage means those places, buildings, works, relics, infrastructure, movable objects, landscapes and precincts, of State or local heritage significance.

Fabric means the physical material of the item including components, features, objects and spaces.

Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) means a document that records the heritage significance of an item by using a Heritage Data form and sets out broad strategies for retaining that significance and is prepared in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines.

Heritage significance refers to meanings and values in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic importance of the item. Heritage significance is reflected in the fabric of the item, its setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Items may have a range of values and meanings for different individuals or groups, over time.

Interpretation means all the ways of presenting the significance of an item. Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment and fabric of the item; the use of the item; the use of interpretive media, such as events, activities, signs and publications, or activities, but is not limited to these. See 7, page 4.

Interpretation plan is a document that provides the policies, strategies and detailed advice for interpreting a heritage item. It is based on research and analysis and plans to communicate the significance of the item, both during a conservation project and in the ongoing life of the item. The plan identifies key themes, storylines and audiences and provides recommendations about interpretation media. It includes practical and specific advice about how to implement the plan.

Interpretation policy consists of clauses and guidelines that provide an intellectual and conceptual framework for communicating the significance of an item. Policies may deal with fabric, setting, history, archaeology audiences and other people, contents, related places and objects, disturbance of fabric, research, records.

Meanings denote what an item signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.

Media means the tools, techniques and technologies used to convey the interpretation. These can include signs, orientation, notices, guided and self guided walks, audio guides, installations, displays, models, dioramas, exhibitions, lighting, street naming,

holograms, films, video, soundscapes, oral history, maps, brochures, books and catalogues, public art, writers and artists in residence programs, events, activities, role play, demonstrations, educational programs, websites, CD ROM programs, reconstructions, sets, and replicas and other means of communication.

Traditional owner means an Aboriginal person directly descendant from the original inhabitants of an area who has cultural association with the area deriving from traditions, observances, customs, beliefs or history of the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the area. Authorisation to obtain or document information about Aboriginal heritage may be obtained from an Aboriginal person or people who have traditional association to country; these may include traditional owners.

INGREDIENTS FOR BEST PRACTICE IN HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

Best practice in the interpretation of all types of heritage (Aboriginal, built, movable and natural) will include each of the following ingredients.

(1) PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Respect for the special connections between people and items

People and their stories are the vital elements in heritage interpretation, which is in essence the sharing of culture. Interpretation is only undertaken within the cultural traditions of which it is part, and respecting the culture of the audience. The need for this approach is easy to recognise and appreciate in relation to Aboriginal heritage, but it also applies to non-Aboriginal heritage.

Aboriginal culture and heritage is a central element in Aboriginal identity, history, spirituality and customary law. For Aboriginal cultural heritage, interpretation is undertaken to share information among family, kin and other Aboriginal people and with non-Aboriginal people. It is only undertaken with the approval and direct involvement of a traditional owner or an Aboriginal person/s with cultural association. Community protocols apply as to who may have access to places and knowledge, in accordance with traditional laws and customs.

Aboriginal people's culture and heritage may not always be confined to traditional country. Many Aboriginal people may also have connections through relocation and removal from traditional country. Aboriginal people have the primary role in interpreting these places, and non-Aboriginal people can assist. Aboriginal people may also have links with the same range of items as other people.

For non-Aboriginal people, the conventions about cultural ownership of heritage, and the related responsibilities, are not clearly defined. Heritage professionals should not assume that they have either the right to obtain and document information about items of Aboriginal heritage value or the skills required to interpret them.

Over the past decade, interpreters and other heritage practitioners have, through working with communities, developed a better appreciation of the connections between people and heritage. New conventions are evolving about participation in interpretation by people for whom an item has special meanings. Protocols have developed about oral

history, the use of photographs and objects, and some intellectual property, and these may also be relevant to other material knowledge and its use in interpretation.

The links between people and natural and cultural heritage are often expressed through other cultural traditions –such as art, literature, music, food and other creative works and traditions. These works are traditional forms of interpretation.

A collaborative approach is appropriate, with heritage interpreters providing opportunities for people to participate. **The first step is to identify all the people who should be involved.** This may have been done in a conservation management plan, but if not, it should be included in interpretation planning.

Local communities have a proprietary/custodial interest in their heritage and may be able to collaborate in interpretation.

Some heritage items are associated with more than one cultural group, and may have a variety of meanings, some of which may appear to be conflicting. It is then desirable to interpret a variety of meanings rather than present the values of one group and exclude others.

Professionals involved with interpretation are now approaching their role as one of facilitating the community interpretation of heritage.

(2) SIGNIFICANCE

Understand the item and convey its significance

Heritage interpretation should communicate the significance of the place or item. It should answer the question: “why and for whom is this item important?”. Understanding the importance of an item, and the associated information, is essential for heritage interpretation. Heritage registers and reports (such as conservation management plans or plans of management) are key references for information about the significance of an item. For Aboriginal heritage, traditional owners or Aboriginal people who have traditional association to the country in question are the primary source.

The significance of a heritage item may change over time, as new information is discovered.

Interpretation may require further research, such as contextual history, oral history and images. This research may also prompt new understandings of an item's significance.

Understanding the characteristics of the place or object, people's memories and stories about it, its condition, how its fabric and use relate to its significance, its suitability for access, and the facilities available for visitors are all important elements in planning for interpretation.

(3) RECORDS AND RESEARCH

Good research is at the heart of effective interpretation.

Use existing records of the item, research additional information, and make the records and research publicly available (subject to security and cultural protocols)

Interpretation should be based on the most accurate historical research and analysis available and on their faithful representation in all interpretive media and programs. This basis should be clearly documented in interpretation planning.

Records and research are essential for interpretation. In many cases further research may be required to identify and document people's stories, images, objects and ideas, all of which inform the interpretation. A comprehensive research report including extended excerpts from primary sources, images, maps, copies of documents and detailed bibliography will assist the ongoing interpretation of a place or object.

This research resource should be kept in a form that can be added to over time as new information comes to light.

In planning interpretation, provide for the safekeeping of, and future access to, the research, maps, images and conservation reports, by depositing the material in libraries or archives.

Access to certain information may be restricted for cultural or legal reasons, or for the security of the item itself. For example, knowledge and understandings about Aboriginal heritage may be restricted to protect significance. For some heritage items, information about ownership, or other details, should only be included in reports or public documents with the consent and acknowledgement of owners, traditional owners or cultural custodians.

(4) AUDIENCE

Explore, respect and respond to the identified audience

Audience research and feedback are essential for relevant and effective interpretation. This involves identifying the expectations, preconceptions, physical requirements, cultural, demographic and behavioural characteristics of the audience, planning to meet their needs, and respecting their cultural values. The audience may include users of the item, workers, regular visitors, passers by and those who visit the place because of its heritage values. Another audience can be those at a distance from the item. Evaluating the audience response to interpretation, and the interpretation's effectiveness, is an essential part of the management of a heritage item that is permanently or regularly open to visitors.

(5) THEMES

Make reasoned choices about themes, ideas and stories

The significance of many places is multi-faceted, and it is often impracticable to communicate every facet. To identify themes and stories for interpretation, and strategies for communicating them, research needs to include the characteristics of the item, existing interpretation media, the audience, the potential media, and serendipitous opportunities for enhancing understanding. Not all themes and stories are necessarily appropriate or relevant to the identified audience, and reasoned choices need to be made explicit following investigation and consultation.

Storytelling is an important dimension of interpretation. Conveying a lot of information and facts about a place is not the purpose of interpretation.

The themes and stories that relate the fabric/physical characteristics of the item to the audience's experience, and that link cultural with natural values are often appropriate. For heritage places with complex stories and values, the interpretation may be implemented over some years, with a staged program of events, displays and activities exploring different aspects of the significance of the place. Over time, opportunities to explore and develop further stories or aspects of significance may arise, for example, by linking with current issues and events. Long term planning and budgeting to take advantage of such opportunities is a necessary part of conservation management.

(6) ENGAGING THE AUDIENCE

Stimulate thought and dialogue, provoke response and enhance understanding

Interpretation reveals meanings and encourages audience response using imagination, creativity, ideas and stories. Interpreters look for hooks or angles that will help visitors relate to the place. Interpretation creates a bridge between the place and the audience.

Providing an enjoyable and stimulating experience is one of the objectives of heritage interpretation.

Communicating significance is not limited to providing information; it also involves enabling the audience to appreciate the related circumstances and values that have made the item the way it is. Interpretation engages the senses, the imagination and the emotions.

(7) CONTEXT

Research and understand the physical, historical, spiritual and contemporary context of the item and related items; and respect local amenity and culture

Context is often an important aspect of significance. This may have changed over time, and explanation of an earlier context – physical, historical, or spiritual – may be needed to explain a present situation.

Relationships between places or objects may not be immediately obvious and require research and interpretation. A heritage place may have important associations and links with other places beyond the boundaries of site ownership. These connections to related places and activities may be an important aspect of its significance.

Understanding these links and connections can enrich the experience of a place and encourage further exploration of the district.

Interpretation policies and programs may need to consider interpreting spatial and functional relationships, and links with related places outside the immediate boundaries of the site. Local amenity and character should not be compromised or obscured by interpretation media or associated new works. The presentation of a place, and any accompanying facilities and their use, should not overwhelm or displace local culture.

(8) SUSTAINING SIGNIFICANCE

Develop interpretation that strengthens and sustains the significance of the item, its character and authenticity

Interpretation should transmit meanings without compromising heritage values. Interpretive media or infrastructure should not interfere with or change the item or its context, or put it at risk. When new structures or works are introduced they should be reversible without damage or risk to significant fabric. Access to part or whole of a place may need to be limited because of fragility or security, or its meaning to its cultural custodians. Good interpretation also contributes to conservation by encouraging appropriate visitor behaviour.

(9) CONSERVATION PLANNING

Integrate interpretation in conservation planning, and in all subsequent stages of a conservation project

Planning for interpretation should start at the beginning of a conservation project and then be integrated into each stage: in investigations leading to the preparation of a conservation management plan, and before, during and after completion of works. Policies for interpretation should be included in the conservation management plan (or plan of management), integrated with other policies e.g. about the care of the item itself, its use, access to it, and research about it. (See NSW Heritage Office, *Conservation Management Documents*.)

(10) MAINTENANCE, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Include interpretation in the ongoing management of an item; provide for regular maintenance, evaluation and review

Interpretation planning includes consideration of the management of the place and its interpretation. Identify who will implement the plan and manage the interpretation.

Maintenance, refurbishment and review of interpretation media and programs are part of ongoing heritage management and should be provided for in recurrent budgets.

Maintenance includes such actions as the repair or replacement of weathered or damaged signs, renewing dilapidated displays or reprinting brochures.

Review involves the assessment of the interpretive media and content using visitor and peer group feedback and any new research and understandings. It may involve changes to the type of media, its content or the preparation of new media. A review may involve the revision of the interpretation plan, or the preparation of a new plan, especially for items where visitor access is a major use.

A formal, documented review of the interpretation plan, its programs and media should be undertaken at regular intervals. The interpretation plan may be reviewed in conjunction with the review of the item's conservation management plan. This will ensure that any new information about the significance of the item is reflected in a revised interpretation.

Interpretation programs at complex sites may be implemented in stages over a number of years and include events, activities and short term or temporary displays, and the commemoration of any associations between people and the object or place.

(11) SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

Involve people with relevant skills, knowledge and experience

People knowledgeable about the item, or with expertise and experience in interpretation, historic research and analysis, or skills in the preparation of conservation management plans, should be involved in planning for, or participating in, interpretation. This includes people associated with the place. Historians and archaeologists who have been involved in documenting the item should be consulted where possible. As interpretation is now a requirement of heritage management, inclusion of experienced interpretation practitioners, from the beginning, will help to ensure that the ingredients of best practice interpretation are embedded in the project, and its ongoing management. A multi disciplinary team provides opportunities for mutual learning and skill sharing.

(12) COLLABORATION

Collaborate with organisations and the local community

Community, professional and government organisations have skills, resources, insights and interests which can make a valuable contribution to interpretation. Collaborations provide opportunities to link lines of research, and to develop partnerships and joint projects. Collaborations can develop their own synergy, leading to further opportunities for heritage interpretation or related action.

STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING INTERPRETATION

The NSW Heritage Office/Heritage Council adopts these strategies for heritage interpretation and recommends their adoption and use by other organisations – state, local, business, professional and community

Strategy 1 Undertake and support heritage interpretation

- » Provide interpretation for items for which they are owners or custodians
- » Adopt and implement NSW Heritage Office Guidelines about interpretation
- » Provide funding and grant programs to encourage interpretation and community interest in heritage

Strategy 2 Encourage integration of heritage interpretation in environmental management, in community and cultural development and the arts, museums and tourism

- » Include heritage interpretation policies and proposals in cultural plans and other relevant planning documents prepared by local governments and other organisations

- » Include the preparation and implementation of heritage interpretation plans as indicators in local government State of Environment Reports
- » Include reporting on heritage interpretation and heritage interpretation plans in State of the Environment reporting by State and Commonwealth governments
- » Include heritage interpretation in community development projects.

Strategy 3 Apply the ingredients for best practice interpretation

- » Promote the application and use of the best practice ingredients in the management of all heritage items.

Strategy 4 Encourage programs that link the interpretation of items to their historical and social contexts

- » Develop and undertake programs that link interpretation between places and objects, and combine natural and cultural values, e.g. through thematic studies and exhibitions and within regions
- » Develop and undertake programs that integrate heritage interpretation within regions and link with other community activities in culture and the arts
- » Encourage museums to interpret heritage places and themes.

Strategy 5 Recognise the importance of records and research

- » Encourage the lodgment of research about heritage places, conservation reports and records and interpretation plans based on these resources in publicly accessible but secure collections, such as local studies libraries.

Strategy 6 Improve standards and skills in interpretation

- » Integrate interpretation into conservation planning, implementation, and item management
- » Facilitate training for staff and community to develop skills in commissioning, assessing and implementing interpretation plans and projects.

Strategy 7 Work collaboratively

- » Collaborate with other people and organisations. Share information, skills and other resources through partnerships
- » Encourage joint ventures in interpretation among museums, heritage organizations, and communities
- » Coordinate and link the interpretation of heritage assets across the state through regional and/or state-wide strategies
- » Encourage councils to prepare heritage interpretation strategies for their whole local government area.