

D.G.F5

ARTHUR HEAD RESERVE STRATEGY PLAN

OBJECTIVE

To outline strategic planning for the continued retention and conservation of the Local Areas that make up the Arthur Head Reserve.

POLICY

The Council, at its meeting held 22 November, 1993, adopted the Arthur Head Reserve Strategy Plan.

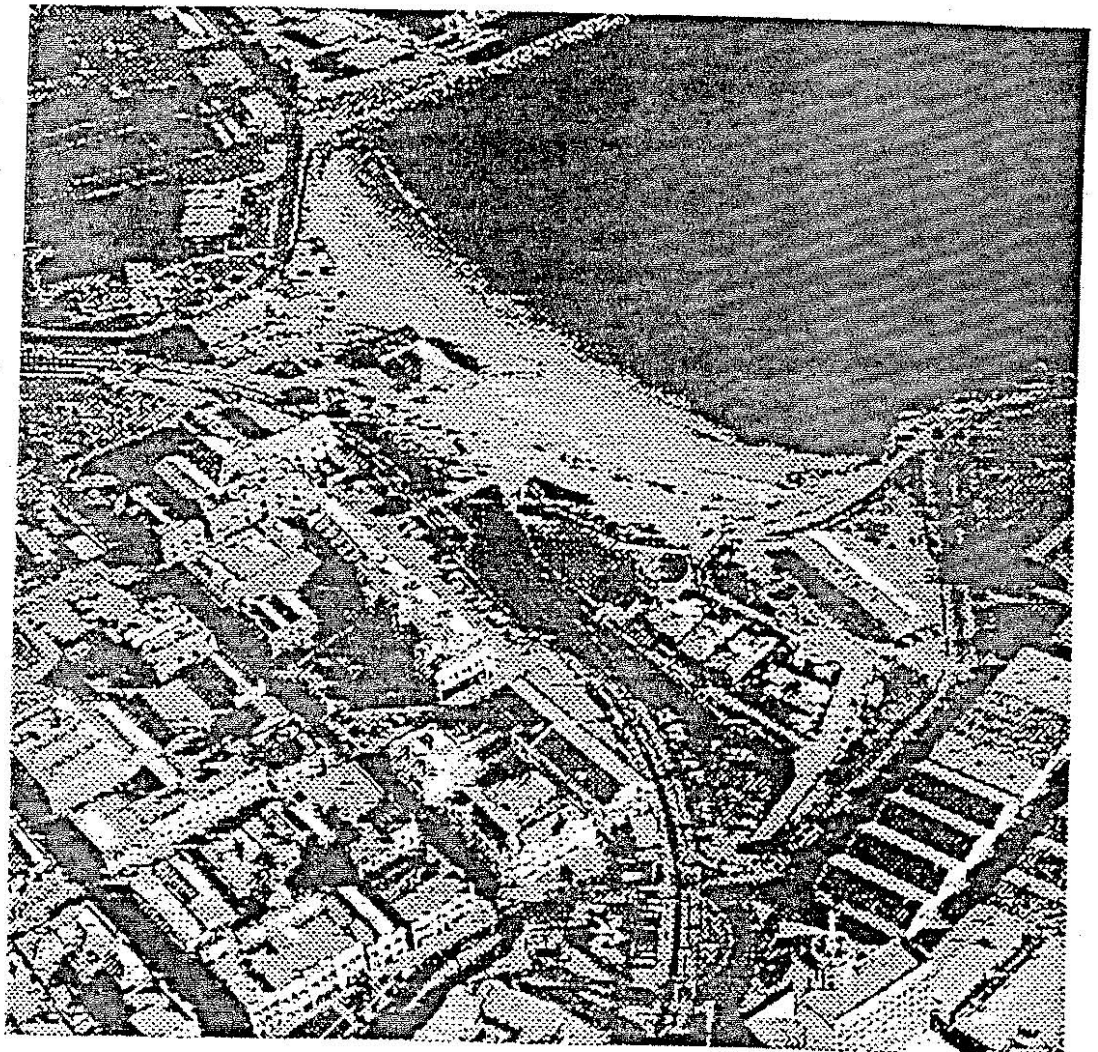
Adopted: 22/11/93



CITY OF
FREMANTLE

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

ARTHUR HEAD RESERVE STRATEGY PLAN



22 NOVEMBER 1993

ARTHUR HEAD RESERVE STRATEGY PLAN

Section A

Statement of Cultural Significance

1. ARTHUR HEAD RESERVE

1.1 RESERVE STATUS

Arthur Head is a Class "A" Reserve vested in the City of Fremantle for the purposes "historic buildings, recreation and community services".

1.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Arthur Head Reserve is one of the most significant historic sites for all West Australia because:

- it is the site where the Swan River colony was founded, one of the two first European settlements on the western side of the continent.
- its history reflects directly the history of Fremantle and those components of the history of Western Australia which relate to the settlement, colonial government administration, law and penal, early industrial development, port development, signalling, freight transport and handling and commonwealth defence.
- it is a memorial to historically significant figures, who had a major impact on the development of Fremantle and the State. These include:

The Beeliar Family - Yagan, the Aboriginal inhabitants and Aboriginal leader of the area at the time of European settlement;

Captain (later Lieut-Governor, Sir) James Stirling (1791-1865), the leader of an expedition which prepared the way for the Swan River colony, administered the Swan River settlement from 1829 to 1838 and became its first Governor;

Captain (later Admiral, Sir) Charles Howe Fremantle (1800-1869), Commander HMS Challenger in April 1829, when it arrived at the Swan River and took formal possession of "all that part of New Holland which is not included in the territory of New South Wales";

Surveyor General, John Septimus Roe (1797-1878), responsible for the first plan of Fremantle and Perth and influential in the early development of Western Australia;

Henry Willey Reveley (1788-1875), the Colony's Civil Engineer, responsible for the design and construction of the Round House and all public works at the time;

The Rt. Hon. John Forrest (1847-1918), Minister for Home Affairs, principal Federal Government negotiator for the establishment of Commonwealth defence reserve, Fort Arthur's Head, one of two such reserves on the western side of the continent;

Hon. (Sir) Walter Hartwell James (1863-1943), Premier of Western Australia, principal State Government negotiator for the establishment of Commonwealth defence reserve, Fort Arthur's Head, one of two such reserves on the western side of the continent;

- it is one of the most significant sites for contact between Aborigines and settlers;
- it contains a substantial part of the original coastal environment including recently reconstructed natural features;
- it contains the State's oldest surviving public building which was, and still is, a major landmark of Fremantle and a key element in the City's layout plan and its historical townscape;
- at a more symbolic level it is a place where the City meets the sea.

2. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIVIDUAL PRECINCTS

2.1 THE OLD PORT (PRECINCT 1)

Anglesea Point was the first colonial port of the Swan River Colony, of which much the 19th Century infrastructure remains including the piles of the long jetty, the seaweed Kerosene Store and, across the railway line, the Commissariat Store and Custom House.

2.2 BATHERS BEACH (THE COAST) (PRECINCT 2)

It is the site of the earliest colonial development and at the same time a precious fragment of nature; a stretch of Indian Ocean coastline, in the midst of the City surrounded by urban waterfront. Its limestone cliffs, reef ledges in the sea, sand, coastal plants and Point Marquis retain to a considerable degree its original natural character. The recently reconstructed 1870's beach and its flora forming part of the foreshore heritage trail reinforces its natural significance.

The surviving archaeological remains of the first Whalers company, including the tunnel and the surviving evidence of the area's later uses by both the Mews family Boat Builders and Municipal and State Governments, add to the area's cultural significance.

2.3 J-SHED PRECINCT (PRECINCT 3)

The area is significant through its association with the former land promontory quarried in the mid 1960's to create flat ground and to provide fill and building material. Its association with the port through the presence of the old Cargo Shed (J-Shed) relocated here in 1970 from the 'H' Berth and restored by the City in 1992, adds to cultural significance.

Although it was the site of the former commonwealth battery and port facilities, much of the evidence was removed during quarrying.

2. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIVIDUAL PRECINCTS

2.4 THE HEADLAND (PRECINCT 4)

The area is significant because it contains major surviving evidence of the Reserve's history:

- the first Civic Administration Centre of the Swan River Colony (e.g., archaeological remains of Government Cottage and north-south wall)
- the first Law and Order Complex. (e.g. archaeological remains of the first and second courthouses).
- the original port installations (including at Federation, Pilots Cottages)
- the Commonwealth defence facilities (e.g. laboratory, Gunners Cottage, workshop)

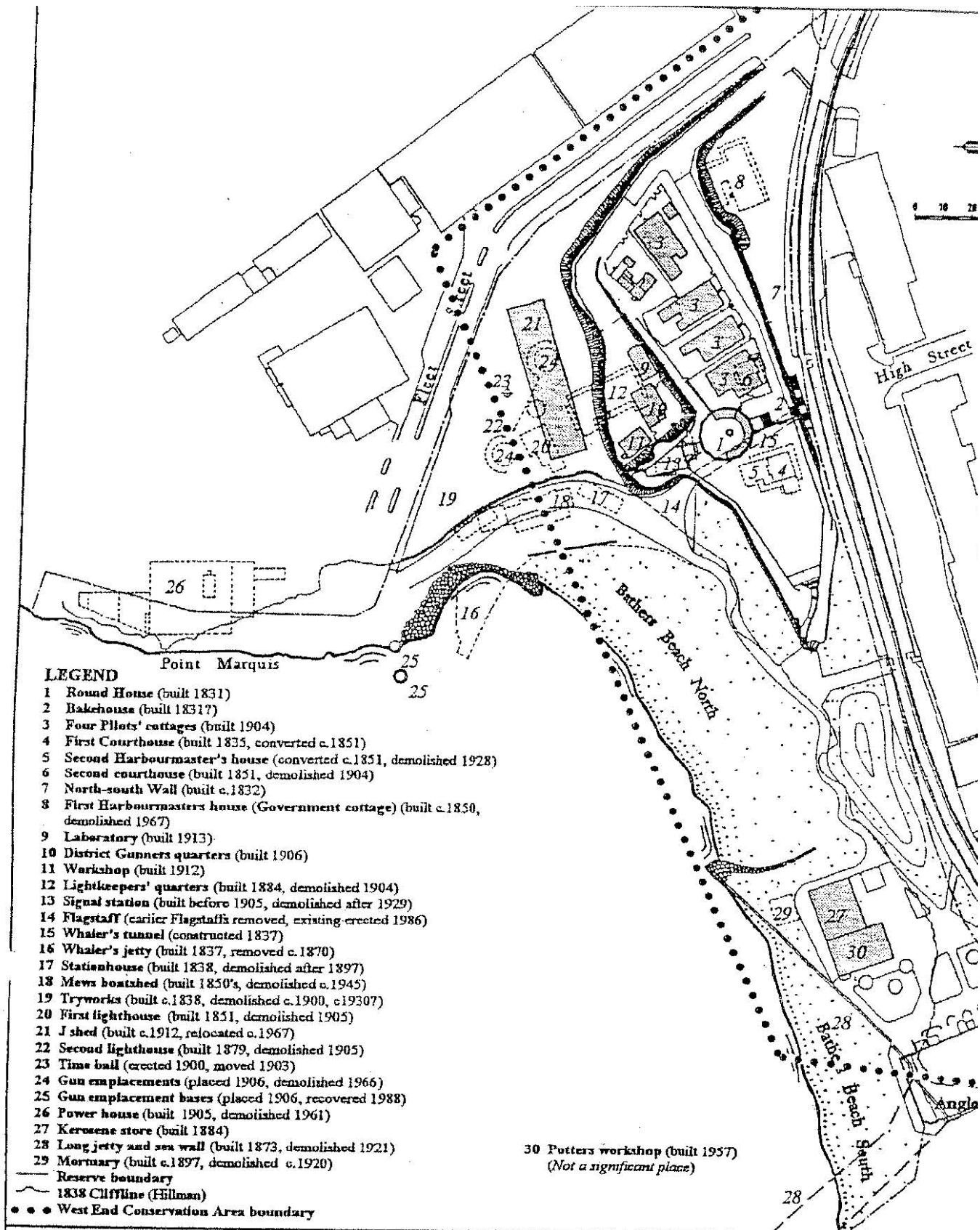
Surviving evidence also includes other archaeological remains and structures such as walls, anchor bolts and poles for camouflage netting.

The area is also significant because it contains elements of the original topography of the coast such as the cliffs, capstone surfaces of the rocky promontory and remnants of the indigenous plants.

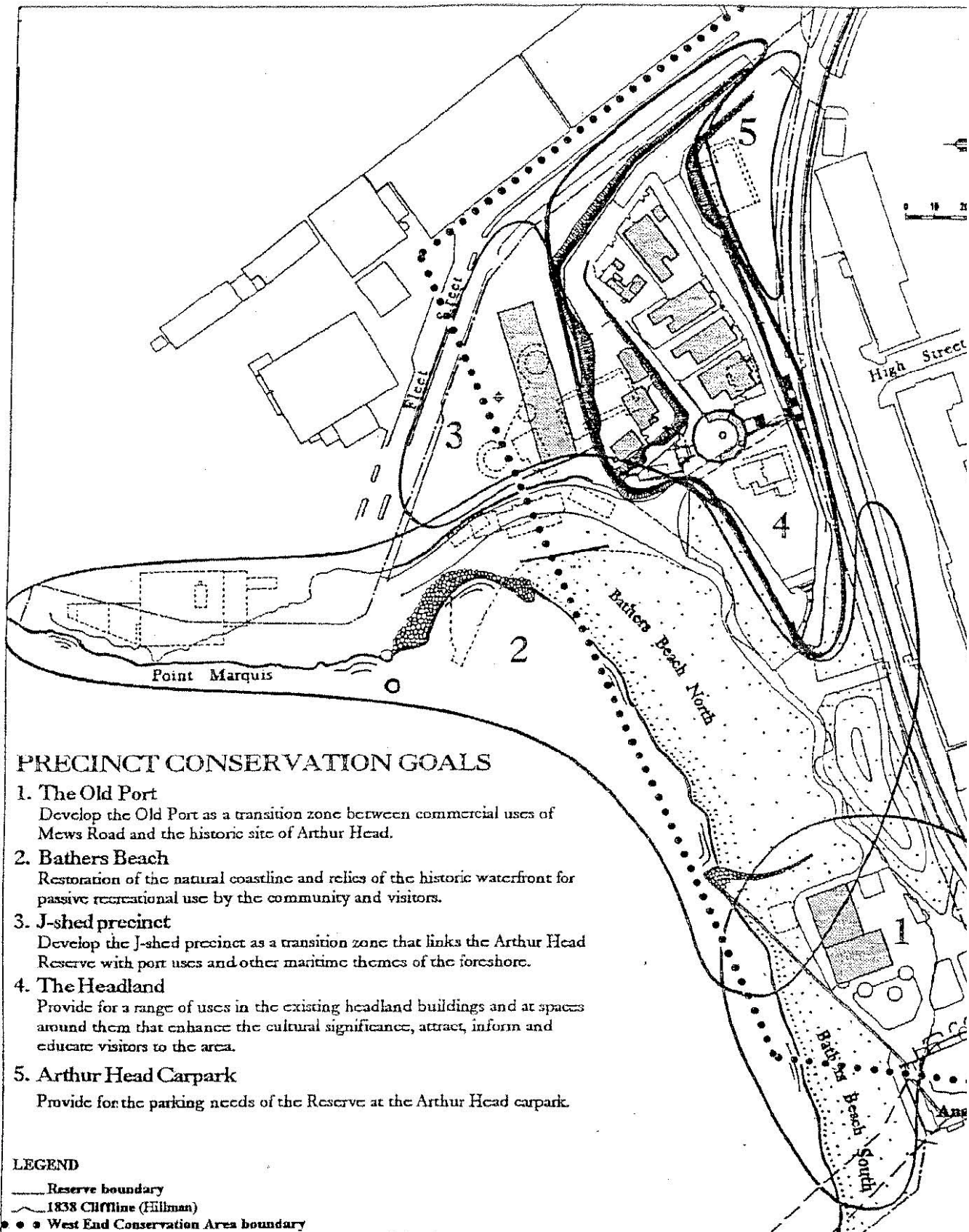
In townscape terms its significance is reinforced by the landmark quality of the colony's first public building, a gaol, now known as the Round House, carefully placed as a landmark on the hill, at the end of the street to terminate the most important vista of the port town.

2.5 ARTHUR HEAD CARPARK (PRECINCT 5)

The cultural significance of this site relates to its original use and landform. A part of the original land promontory and the site of the first Harbour Master's residence, later called 'Government Cottage', the site was quarried in the mid 1960's to create the present flat ground for parking. Thus the area's cultural significance relative to other areas of the Reserve has been reduced by the removal of the physical evidence of its history.



Arthur Head Reserve SIGNIFICANT PLACES



Arthur Head Reserve CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CONSERVATION GOALS

ARTHUR HEAD RESERVE STRATEGY PLAN

Section B

1. MISSION STATEMENT

Arthur Head is one of the State's most significant historic sites for all Western Australians, being the first settlement site of the Swan River Colony. It is also, therefore, an area of national importance as the focal point of European settlement of the western side of the continent.

The long term management plan for the area will:

- give expression to that local, state and national significance
- contain measures to protect it for present and future generations
- realise the recreational and educational potential of the Reserve for the community and visitors to the City
- recognise the heritage values and integrity of the Reserve as a commercial asset to the economy of Fremantle and a critical element in the City's visitors strategy

The philosophical basis for the strategy shall be the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter) and the Guidelines for the Burra Charter and the recommendations of the report "An investigation into the Aboriginal Heritage of Arthur Head, Fremantle" prepared by the Centre for Prehistory of the University of Western Australia, 1984.

2. VISION STATEMENT

ARTHUR HEAD:

An integral part of today's city centre where the community responds to the place in a number of ways while finding more about their own past;

a place where visitors are welcome but become aware of its underlying historical significance simply by the inherent presence of the place itself and by carefully selected uses of the area's buildings rather than by means of interpreting the place as a tourist attraction.

3. GENERAL STRATEGIES

- In liaison with the relevant authorities rectify the current discrepancy between the western boundary of the West End Conservation Area and that of the Arthur Head 'A' Class Reserve;
- Seek external funding to implement a conservation strategy for the area to ensure a stable funding base;
- Develop and implement a long term plan to investigate, reveal, conserve and interpret archaeological sites of the reserve;
- Develop and implement a long term overall landscaping plan in light of the policy objectives for individual precincts;
- Ensure that only developments which comply with the strategy plan and Arthur Head signage policy are implemented;
- Develop and maintain an up-to-date portfolio of information and interpretative and promotional materials for public use;
- Initiate registration process of entering the reserve on the Register of the State heritage places;

4. PRECINCT STRATEGIES

1. THE OLD PORT

Goal 1

Develop this area as a transition zone between commercial uses of Mews Road and the historic site of Arthur Head.

Objective 1.1

Enhance the area as a shopfront for the fishing industry and service to visitors.

Strategies

1.1.1 In co-operation with the tenants maintain and enhance an attractive outdoor uses of the 5.0 metre wide strip of land along the former Fishermen Co-Operative Building. Such outdoor uses should in each case require relevant approval and licences of the Council.

Objective 1.2

Provide access to Arthur Head

Strategies

1.2.1 Provide for and maintain emergency and service vehicular access to the Reserve.

1.2.2 Co-operate with relevant agencies to improve direct pedestrian access from Marine Terrace including potential links with the Maritime Museum across the railway.

Objective 1.3

Provide for public recreational uses that express the area's 19th Century function as a port and natural environment.

Strategies

1.3.1 Assist in the implementation of Joan Campbell's proposal for a recreational sculptural environment, which relates to the long jetty.

1.3.2 Conserve and express surviving relics of the port and maintain the use of the Kerosene Store for compatible, low profile public/commercial uses.

1.3.3 Ensure that adequate funds are allocated to maintain the beach, landscaping, paving, signage and public showers and other essential public facilities in good order.

1.3.4 Support replacement of the existing shed by a sympathetic, similar structure that would both assist in leasing out the Kerosene Store and enhance public uses of the area.

2. BATHERS BEACH

Goal 2

Restoration of the natural coastline and relics of the historic waterfront for passive recreational use by the community and visitors.

Objective 2.1

Protect the reconstructed beach and nurture its flora to reinstate the natural characteristics of the headland and beach frontage.

Strategies

- 2.1.1 Implement necessary measures to protect the new sandhill and recently introduced indigenous coastal and dune vegetation until it is well established;
- 2.1.2 Periodically replace damaged or dead plants and plant communities;
- 2.1.3 Develop and implement a conservation plan to stabilise cliffs, vegetation, dune and the tunnel.

Objective 2.2

Express surviving evidence of historic uses of the area as a waterfront.

Strategies

- 2.2.1 Over a period of time reveal, conserve and express the archaeological site of the Whaling Station Complex including the tunnel, surviving elements of the Power Station Complex and gun emplacements.
- 2.2.2 Seek State and Commonwealth Government financial assistance for archaeological projects.

Objective 2.3

Facilitate passive recreational use of the beach while protecting the natural and historic character of the area.

Strategies

- 2.3.1 Ensure that adequate resources are made available to periodically repair:
 - the crushed limestone path following the 1870's shore line (part of foreshore heritage trail).
 - repair and refill the groynes.
 - clean the beach.
 - repair damage done by vandals and;
 - continue necessary maintenance work to keep the environment in good order.

2. BATHERS BEACH

Objective 2.3 (Continued)

Facilitate passive recreational use of the beach while protecting the natural and historic character of the area.

Strategies (Continued)

2.3.2 In preparing plans for public usage the beach ensure that only essential elements are introduced to facilitate the following range of uses:

- walking;
- lunch;
- swimming;
- sunbathing;
- climbing rocks;
- watching the sun go down;
- fishing;
- and other passive recreation uses.

Ideally such essential elements should be restricted to lighting and interpretation of archaeological sites only. Public facilities involving the installation of rubbish bins, seating, ablution blocks etc. if considered essential for the protection of the area should be contained in Precinct 1.

2.3.3 Ensure that in the long term this precious tiny 'wilderness' of sea, sand and coastal scrub remains tidy but undeveloped.

3. J-SHED PRECINCT

Goal 3

Develop this area as a transition zone that links the Arthur Head Reserve with port uses and other maritime themes of the foreshore.

Objective 3.1

Provide a northern access to the Reserve.

Strategies

- 3.1.1 Provide and maintain vehicular emergency and service access off Fleet Street
- 3.1.2 Develop and maintain disabled and restricted side parking along Fleet Street including drop off bus bay.
- 3.1.3 Develop and maintain tenant and visitors parking north of J-Shed.
- 3.1.4 Provide for and maintain unrestricted pedestrian walkway behind (east of, and around J-Shed.

Objective 3.2

Encourage low profile commercial uses of J-Shed reflective of and compatible with the history and maritime themes of Arthur Head and the foreshore.

Strategies

- 3.2.1 Maintain a maximum of 5 years for leasing J-shed tenancies.
- 3.2.2 When the new leases become available seek as a matter of priority expressions of interest from traditional maritime traders, craftsmen and artists.
- 3.2.3 Provide and maintain an area in front (west) of J-Shed for one-off, temporary displays of the tenants work. Any such outdoor use of the area should in each case require relevant approvals of the Council.

Objective 3.3

Extend the coastal landscape of Barbers Beach in a way that expresses the original landform and defines the northern edge of the Reserve.

Strategies

- 3.3.1 Develop and implement a long term landscape plan for establishing indigenous plants and plant colonies that originally grew on top of the rocky promontory of the headland;
- 3.3.2 Ensure the nurturing of the recently planted Norfolk Pines along Fleet Street and maintenance of the limestone wall along the former southern edge of the cliff;
- 3.3.3 Pave trafficable display areas with crushed limestone or a similar surface which reflects and amplifies the materials and form of the headland.

4. THE HEADLAND

Goal 4

Provide for a range of uses in the existing buildings and at spaces around them that enhance the cultural significance, attract, inform and educate visitors to the area.

Objective 4.1

Protect the integrity of the Round House, associated steps and walls, as a monument.

Strategies

- 4.1.1 Develop and implement a long term conservation programme for the Round House.
- 4.1.2 Seek government funds to implement the conservation programme.
- 4.1.3 Ensure that the Round House will not be used in any way which tends to lessen its significance.

Objective 4.2

Ensure a long term conservation/maintenance for all existing historic buildings, sites and structures in the area.

Strategies

- 4.2.1 Ensure that adequate funds are allocated for the ongoing maintenance/conservation programmes of the buildings by encouraging compatible uses from the following range:
 - Residential, including tenants involved in the security and maintenance of the site.
 - Guest accommodation.
 - Art studios/offices.
 - Education/information.
 - Low profile commercial uses reflective of the history or maritime themes of the foreshore.
- 4.2.2 Implement a long term plan to reveal, conserve and interpret archaeological sites, walls and other surviving relics in accordance with the overall archaeological strategy for the Reserve.
- 4.2.3 Seek government funds to assist in implementation of the above.

4. THE HEADLAND (Continued)

Objective 4.3

Attract and cater for visitors to the Reserve while protecting its cultural significance.

Strategies

- 4.3.1 Develop and implement a plan to adapt Cottage 9 as an information centre/gallery, shop, and cafe to serve visitors and their needs for information, refreshment and souvenirs.
- 4.3.2 Maintain convenient public access to as many parts of the area as practicable. Maintain and periodically upgrade signage in the area in accordance with the signage policy for Arthur Head.
- 4.3.4 Name the path in front of the Pilot cottages: Captains Lane.

Objective 4.4

Reveal and express the original landscape while maintaining the more recently introduced grassed areas, pathways, steps and hard surfaces for public convenience.

Strategies

- 4.4.1 Ensure that adequate funds are allocated to maintain the exposed capstone of the rear path and to nurture the remnants of templetoetoria and other indigenous bushes on the cliffs.
- 4.4.2 Develop and implement a long term plan to plant indigenous seedlings in the holes in the rocks.
- 4.4.3 Maintain and nurture cottage garden in front of the Pilots Cottages and the surviving planting of the rear gardens.
- 4.4.4 Develop and implement a plan to repair, conserve and protect the cliff face

5. ARTHUR HEAD CARPARK

Goal 5

Provide for the parking needs of the Reserve.

Objective 5.1

An enhanced carpark reflective of the significance of the area.

Strategies

- 5.1.1 Develop and implement a landscaping plan in light of both the Council's policy for central Fremantle and that for Arthur Head.
- 5.1.2 Develop and implement a plan for the protection and maintenance of the cliff face.
- 5.1.3 Reveal, conserve and express any surviving elements of the former Government cottage.

