



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLANS



WHAT IS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

An Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) is a document designed to provide for the identification, assessment and management of the archaeological components of a place according to its archaeological potential, level of significance and any statutory requirements.

Depending on the archaeological potential and level of significance of a site, certain archaeological management procedures are more appropriate than others.

An AMP determines what procedures are most appropriate for the site, and provides guidance as to how these should be executed according to management recommendations and policies.

An AMP is applicable for sites where archaeological potential has been recognised in a heritage assessment, Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and/or in consultation with an archaeologist.

RIGHT: Fremantle Prison, Western Australia. Archaeological excavation, convict built sewer (c1856)



PURPOSE OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An AMP provides guidelines for the appropriate management of archaeological sites. In addition, a comprehensive AMP will serve to limit delays that might occur should significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the development of a site. In the absence of an AMP, work would need to stop while notification was made, possible actions were discussed, and necessary approvals sought from consent authorities.

An AMP is not intended to be restrictive and can be adapted to suit the particular place. It should be compiled prior to the commencement of any works that may adversely impact the archaeological potential of a place. The plan provides a comprehensive 'prediction' of archaeological potential, zones of significance that the management or policy recommendations will apply to, and provides guidance for what to do in the event of encountering unanticipated archaeological material. It may outline different actions for different zones. An AMP should also include guidelines for assessing the significance of finds, and appropriate artefact conservation and storage.

Archaeological Management Plans are useful documents when there is a high likelihood that significant archaeological remains are present at a site. They are also helpful when development bodies require information about archaeological resources

for planning and management purposes, or when information about potential archaeological sites is required to be included in a heritage study or similar. A local council or a government agency that wishes to communicate some level of certainty of the archaeological potential of a site to the owners, developers and potential purchasers may also compile an AMP.



ABOVE: Barrack Square (Elizabeth Quay), Perth Western Australia. Remains of finger wharf (c1890)

OBJECTIVES OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

- To develop an account of the study area and its history that will help with developing an understanding of the place and identifying possible avenues of archaeological enquiry.
- To explore the archaeology of the place in order to develop a research strategy.
- To develop an archaeological management process that guides investigations, ensures adequate protection of the resource and produces maximum research benefits from the archaeological resource.
- To outline how archaeological sites should be managed.
- To outline how archaeological evidence will be handled.

LEFT: Fremantle Prison,
Western Australia.
Archaeological excavation,
convict built sewer (c1856)



EXECUTION OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An Archaeological Management Plan should only be completed by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist, guided by established archaeological processes. It should be informed by relevant statutory frameworks and appropriate resources. An Archaeological Management Plan Brief is provided in the following pages.

Case Study – Warders’ Cottages

In 2015, the Heritage Works branch of the Department commissioned a study to guide the archaeological aspects of the conservation works at the Warders’ Cottages. The resulting document provided a clear evaluation of the archaeological potential and significance for the site, and a series of management strategies. This allowed Department staff to provide timely advice to the contractors as works progressed which resulted in limiting delays, and a good result for the archaeological resource.



ABOVE: Archaeological salvage underway at Warders’ Cottages

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN BRIEF

Archaeological sites are irreplaceable resources that provide important information about Australia's past. The following Archaeological Management Plan Brief recognises the importance of this resource and provides a guide to the completion of an AMP. It presents those who commission, prepare and use AMPs with a resource to help identify, assess and manage archaeologically significant sites.

This AMP Brief directly relates to places for which the Heritage Council of WA has input into planning decisions, ie those that are on the State Register of Heritage Places and have been recognised as being of State significance. However, this brief also represents good general practice for places with archaeological potential recognised by other heritage bodies, in other reports and in research papers.

The following outlines the information that should be included in an AMP, and how this might be organised. It is not intended to be prescriptive and can be adapted according to the particular project and purpose. However, an informed assessment of the site's archaeological potential and significance (with the results presented graphically) are essential, as are the management policies that draw on this. AMPs can vary in length from a substantial comprehensive document for complex places with a high degree of archaeological potential and significance, to a relatively short report for less complex places. All AMPs should include a contents page, table of figures/images cross referenced in text, and any references used should be cited appropriately.

INTRODUCTION

The introduction should include:

Aims and definitions

- What is an AMP?
- What does the AMP aim to achieve for the subject site?

Background and site location

- Location/curtilage map showing subject site/study area
- Scope of the plan
- Method used to compile plan

Legislative context and listings

- Relevant statutory heritage listings and constraints
- Relevant planning constraints
- Other relevant heritage listings (statutory and non-statutory)

Structure and format

- Explanation of the layout of the plan
- A guide to the use of the plan
- Terminology
- Limitations

Authorship

- Recognition of who prepared the plan, including their qualifications, and for whom.
- Recognition of who commented on the plan, who reviewed the plan, who revised the plan and who approved the plan.

Acknowledgements

- Recognition of those who assisted with the preparation of the plan including community, local historical society, local and state government agencies.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Site history

This section is to provide an account of the study area and its history to assist with the understanding of the place. This includes both current and former uses, and should draw on available sources for the site eg Conservation Management Plan and/ or Heritage Council Assessment. In the absence of these resources, or if they are inadequate for the purpose of assessing the archaeological resource, additional historical research into the site should be undertaken.

Other resources that should be used where available include previous archaeological management documents and excavation reports, historical maps, plans and images (including aerial imagery), post office directories, rate books, heritage and local history studies, heritage, property and archaeological inventories, geotechnical surveys, geological and soil data, statutory authority records.

Maps

A map showing the study area boundary with a north point and general scale should be provided as a minimum requirement. Ideally, relevant historical maps and plans that identify potential features, particularly any features used in the production of a Geographic Information System zoning plan should also be included in this section.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PLACE

Preamble

This section should include a brief explanation of the statutory framework within which the archaeology of the place is being defined and assessed. For example, the definition of a 'place' in the *Heritage Act 2018* includes archaeological remains or 'sites'. As [*place name*] is entered in the State Register, a condition for development was that an Archaeological Management Plan be completed to guide works.

Types of archaeological evidence

- Provide a summary and general discussion of archaeological features and areas of archaeological potential identified as a result of research and site surveys.

Past archaeological work at the site

- This section should present, analyse, review and synthesise data collected from previous archaeological studies and isolated investigations.

Development sequence

- This should briefly summarise events, cultural or environmental, that created and affected the archaeological site after its formation. These are defined as site formation processes and provide important insight into the development of significant archaeological resources. These may include clearance of land for farming, levelling a site for demolition, or application of hardstand to create a carpark.

Evaluation of Archaeological Potential

- General discussion of the site's archaeological potential.
- Include an archaeological potential zoning plan using the terminology convention 'high', 'moderate' and 'low' archaeological potential. That is, provide an evaluation of the degree to which the place, through the use of archaeological techniques, is likely to reveal further information.

ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Assess the site's archaeological significance by using the standard assessment criteria.
- Identify a potential research design and research questions appropriate for the specific region or area.

- Address the way in which the archaeology of the place (and research design) is able to demonstrate the values identified in the Register Entry/Assessment documentation, or other heritage assessment.
- Include an archaeological significance zoning plan using the terminology convention 'high', 'moderate' and 'low' significance. That is, the areas of archaeological potential should also be evaluated for their degree of significance, or ability to address important research questions for the site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

- This section should discuss contextual and site-specific conservation and management issues that affect the archaeological management policies.
- Policies should be provided to ensure that the archaeological resources of the place are appropriately dealt with in light of the assessed archaeological potential and significance, and that the AMP can be successfully executed.
- Policies should include consideration of an appropriate repository for any material recovered from the site in the future, and note that a framework for the assessment of the significance of any collections should be compiled to inform decision making.

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

- Discuss further research required and obligations of owners/developers/local council/archaeologist.
- A revision date for the AMP should be included.
- Other recommendations and conclusions as appropriate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

All references should be appropriately cited in the AMP and then included in the bibliography

APPENDICES

Should include the following:

Appendix A – Scope of work for the project.

Appendix B – Links to associated information sources or include copy of the heritage assessment or other relevant document.

Appendix C – Glossary
(if deemed necessary)



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FRONT COVER: Stone House (c1890s), the Mainland, Lake Austin Western Australia. Photo: Stafford Smith

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Perth WA 6001

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website: www.dplh.wa.gov.au
email: corporate@dplh.wa.gov.au

tel: 08 6551 8002
fax: 08 6551 9001
National Relay Service: 13 36 77
infoline: 1800 626 477

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