

This section applies to historical archaeological places in the Heritage Overlay. In addition to the Heritage Overlay, all historical archaeological sites in Victoria are protected under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1995*. Historical archaeological places of state significance may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

Refer also to the relevant Planning Scheme – including the State Planning Policy Framework, the Local Planning Policy Framework, and applicable Zones and Overlays (particularly the Heritage Overlay).

### 15.1 Objectives

To ensure the appropriate identification and Conservation of historical archaeological places

To ensure the appropriate management of archaeological places, in accordance with their level of significance

To encourage awareness of the provisions of the Heritage Act.

### 15.2 Rationale

Historical archaeological sites are a non-renewable resource that may contain significant information about the past. They are valuable because they contain physical remains that complement historical information and provide tangible evidence of past activities. These places often contain layers of artefacts from several periods of occupation at the same location. Not only are the artefacts themselves important, their position and arrangement in relation to other objects and features also helps to establish a detailed understanding of the place's history.

Historical archaeological places most commonly consist of the remains of domestic, civic or industrial structures, and abandoned or discarded objects. In some cases, the main features of a site may be located below the ground surface, and these places are particularly vulnerable to inadvertent disturbance. Historical research can be very useful for locating archaeological sites in cases where visible remains are limited.

Many historical archaeological places are recorded during Heritage Studies, and some councils have commissioned specific historical archaeological site identification projects to assist in the location, evaluation and management of significant sites. There will also be places in the Heritage Overlay (HO) where the potential for archaeology has not yet been assessed.

### 15.3 Matters for Consideration

In assessing a development which is likely to involve the disturbance of a Heritage Place with historical archaeological values, consideration should be given to whether:

- **the potential for archaeological deposits on the site has been assessed and, if so, whether the significance of those archaeological deposits (including archaeological, historical, scientific or social significance) has also been assessed; and**
- **a program of Conservation and management for the place is required, which may include test excavation work or a broader excavation strategy, monitoring requirements, the development of an interpretation plan, site avoidance or mitigation strategies, or other processes.**

### 15.4 Development Guidelines

The early consideration of issues relating to demonstrated or potential historical archaeological values is essential, as archaeological investigations and research can take time. Generally, it is preferred that places included in the Heritage Overlay for their archaeological significance be left undisturbed. In some cases, it may be necessary for construction plans to be altered to preserve areas of archaeological significance, and thought should be given to relocating development to avoid the disturbance of significant or potentially sensitive areas.

If disturbance is proposed for any historical archaeological site, it is likely that a process of archaeological excavation, investigation and either recording or monitoring will be required, and that consent will be required from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.



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If previously unrecorded historical archaeological sites are exposed or identified at any time, Heritage Victoria should be contacted.

Clause 43.01-6 of all planning schemes indicates that the requirements of the *Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* and the *Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* apply to Aboriginal Heritage Places. For further information, contact Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

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