

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES) POLICY ON HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

PREAMBLE

Archaeology is the study of the past using material evidence.

Historical Archaeology is the study of the past using material and documentary evidence.

Industrial Archaeology is the study of work in the past using material and documentary evidence, where available, with a focus on technology and the processes of industrialisation.

In Australia, Industrial Archaeology is regarded as a sub-set of Historical Archaeology which uses a particular way (or set of techniques) of studying material and documentary evidence. Industrial Archaeological techniques can also be applied to Aboriginal archaeological sites.

A distinction is drawn between archaeology which is the process of studying material evidence, and archaeological evidence which is the material evidence itself, both above and below ground. Typically this evidence consists of artefacts, features (such as walls, drains, paths) and matrices in which they exist and the spatial relationships between them. It is the archaeological evidence which forms the raw material that is to be identified and managed.

POLICY

1. The National Trust recognises both the importance of archaeology as one of the ways of understanding our past and the importance of identifying and managing archaeological evidence as part of our heritage.
2. The National Trust recognises that archaeological evidence can have a range of heritage values as well as those relating to archaeological research potential and that archaeological evidence can take a wide variety of forms and occur on most types of sites and landscapes.
3. The National Trust will advocate for the proper identification and management (including protection *in situ*) of archaeological evidence primarily through the Trust's Industrial Heritage Committee but acknowledges that the other Technical Committees may also have an interest in archaeological heritage.
4. The National Trust supports the existing provisions in the NSW Heritage Act that provide protection to archaeological evidence but recognises that there are issues with the definition of archaeological evidence and with thresholds of involvement that need to be addressed to achieve better outcomes.
5. The National Trust will liaise with relevant groups such as the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) and the Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) regarding general issues regarding archaeology and the protection of archaeological heritage.
6. The National Trust also acknowledges that there is a rich heritage of Indigenous Archaeology and Maritime Archaeology and will support the identification and management of our Indigenous Heritage and Maritime Heritage where it has the appropriate expertise and experience.

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Approved by National Trust (NSW) Board: 28 August 2013