



South Head Master Plan

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service



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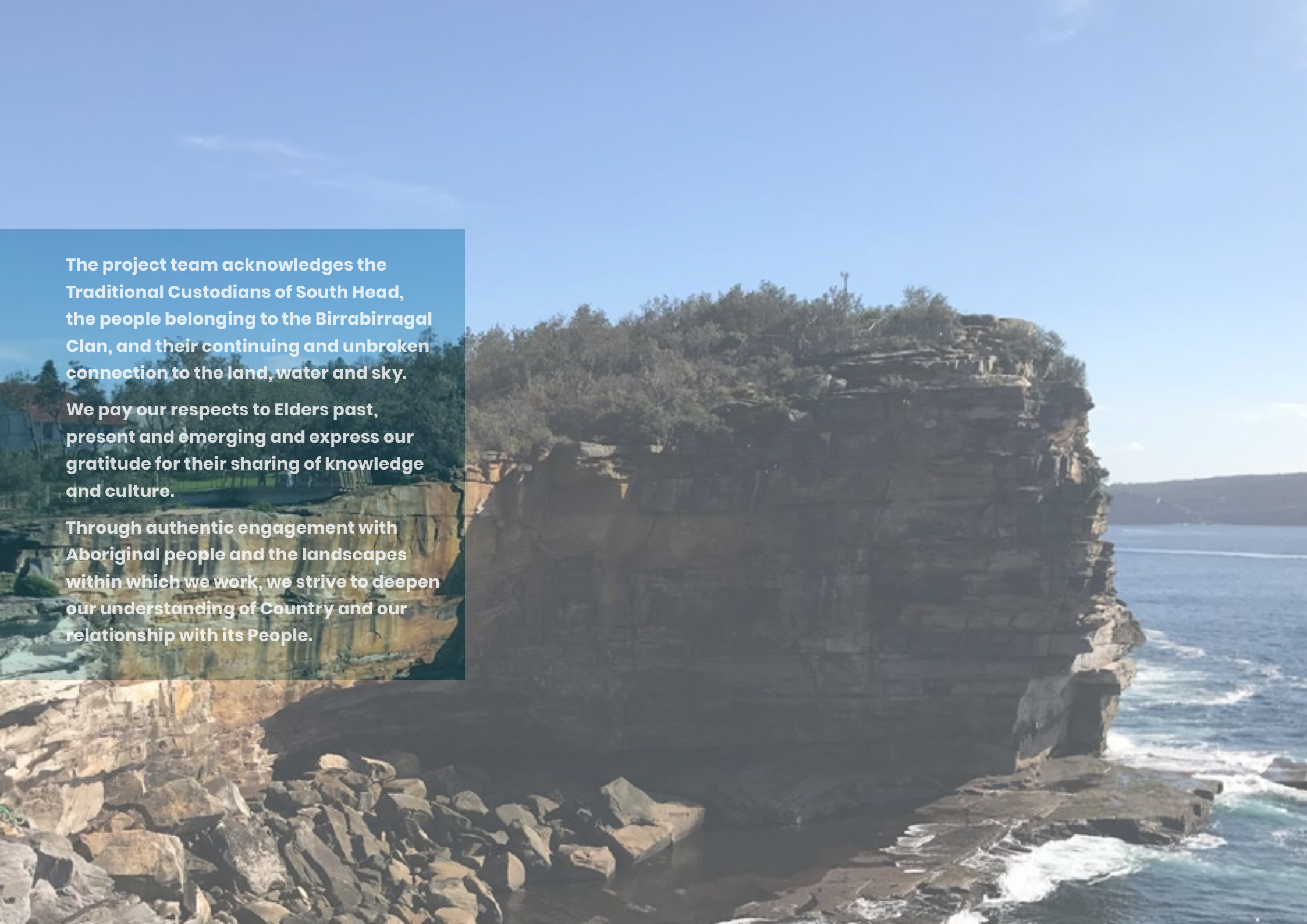
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A scenic view of a rocky coastline. The foreground is dominated by dark, jagged rocks. In the middle ground, a large, layered rock formation rises from the water's edge, topped with sparse vegetation. The ocean is a deep blue, with white waves crashing against the base of the rocks. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

The project team acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of South Head, the people belonging to the Birrabirragal Clan, and their continuing and unbroken connection to the land, water and sky.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and express our gratitude for their sharing of knowledge and culture.

Through authentic engagement with Aboriginal people and the landscapes within which we work, we strive to deepen our understanding of Country and our relationship with its People.

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Bondi to Bronte coast walk. Aspect Studios

Safety fencing close up. Guy Wilkinson

SWP tensile ATC bridge. Simon Wood Photography

Safety fencing. Guy Wilkinson

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Domain Trust

All other photos and artists' impressions in the document,
without a stated source or photographer, by Context
Landscape Architecture and TKD Architects.

1. Introduction



1.1 Project overview

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has developed a master plan for the South Head precinct of Sydney Harbour National Park (Watsons Bay).

South Head is a rich cultural landscape that forms an essential part of the story of Sydney. It encompasses aspects of Aboriginal culture and place, as well as narratives around journey and arrival for Europeans. Its strategic position has made it the site of protection and defence since the late eighteenth century.

The master plan creates a long-term framework to deliver a recreational precinct that celebrates its rich culture, heritage and natural landscape as well as future improvements across South Head, Sydney Harbour National Park.

The South Head Master Plan was prepared by a consultant team led by Tanner Kibble Denton (TKD) Architects and Context Landscape Architecture for NPWS:

- architecture – Tanner Kibble Denton Architects
- landscape architecture – Context Landscape Architecture
- consultation and community engagement – PlanCom
- Aboriginal cultural consultant – Gujaga Foundation
- tourism planning – SMA Tourism
- traffic analysis – ASON Group
- structural and civil engineering – Taylor Thompson Whitting (TTW).

1.1.1 Project timeline

The South Head Master Plan is based on original concept designs and has been developed through extensive site investigations, analysis and community and stakeholder consultation and feedback since it began in 2021.

Following exhibition of the draft South Head Master Plan, community and stakeholder feedback has been considered and incorporated into this final plan.

1.1.2 Site overview

South Head is a peninsula between Sydney Harbour and the Tasman Sea and forms the southern edge of the harbour entrance. It has high rocky cliffs at the tip falling to small headlands and beaches on the harbour.

Much of the area has been a national park since 1977, with Gap Bluff added in 1982. The site is a popular recreational area, has a relatively rich natural heritage and contains a number of Aboriginal sites.

The proposals in the master plan are guided by the Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management (Precinct 2: South Head, Camp Cove and Green Point; and Precinct 3: Gap Bluff) and Sydney Harbour National Park Conservation Management Plan.



1.1.3 The sub-precincts

The South Head precinct comprises the following sub-precincts as identified in the Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management:

- 1 – Gap Bluff
- 2 – Camp Cove
- 3 – Lady Bay
- 4 – Inner South Head
- 5 – Green Point.



Sub-precinct 1 - Gap Bluff

The Gap Bluff precinct is located south of HMAS Watson, immediately north of The Gap Lookout. The precinct has 2 distinct characters between its upper and lower areas, referred to as Upper Gap Bluff and Lower Gap Bluff.

Upper Gap Bluff – through which a series of walking trails pass – is now heavily vegetated with regenerating bushland, a few cultural plantings and weed infestation.

Lower Gap Bluff generally has cleared and grassed areas associated with the remaining defence buildings and archaeological sites, including the 1936 Officers Mess and Garden, the 1895 Former Workshop, the 1938 Armoury, and the 1912 Artillery Barracks (toilet block still standing and operational).



Sub-precinct 2 - Camp Cove

This precinct is immediately east and north of Camp Cove Beach.

There are several heritage items within the area, including Constables Cottage (built c.1895–1903) and various military installations such as rifle walls and gun emplacements.

There are other heritage elements in this area, although they are primarily outside the national park boundary. These are the Camp Cove slipway carved into the rock platform, the 1840s Water Police Landing Steps, and the 1931 Tide Gauge beside the remains of a timber jetty.



Sub-precinct 3 - Lady Bay

The Lady Bay precinct forms a narrow strip of land between the harbour and HMAS Watson. A walking track passes through the precinct, and a stairway provides access to Lady Bay Beach.

It was previously used for coastal defence and artillery training combined with adjacent land. The area is now partly revegetated with native bushland but still contains large turf areas. There are remnant defensive archaeological elements and structures from the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Lady Bay Beach is Sydney's first designated nudist beach. There is a modern toilet block immediately south of the beach and a wide bitumen access road from HMAS Watson to the toilet block.



Sub-precinct 4 - Inner South Head

Inner South Head is located at the northern end of the peninsula. The term 'Inner South Head' is used to distinguish the tip of the headland from the bluff adjacent to the Macquarie Lightstation to the south.

Cliffs characterise this precinct with rock platforms at sea level and a relatively level area on top. The plateau has grassland and low heath at the edges, rising to higher vegetation at the centre.

Inner South Head also includes a number of historic military structures and built elements relating to navigation including the Lightkeepers' Cottages and Hornby Light (which is managed by Port Authority of NSW).



Sub-precinct 5 - Green Point

Green Point is a low rounded headland at the south of Camp Cove Beach. The area is generally grassed, and there are rock platforms on the waterline.

The former c.1900 Officers Quarters is located adjacent to the rock outcrop at the top of the hill. There are many remnants of defence uses of the site, including the 1870s underground Submarine Miners Firing Station, and foundations and remains associated with the Torpedo Boom Net Winch House/Searchlight No. 4.

Green Point also contains an 1850s stone navigational obelisk, one of 4 around the harbour. The Arthur Phillip Monument symbolically links Green Point to the first European settlement of Sydney in 1788.

1.2 Process

The development of the South Head Master Plan was guided by three primary sources of information and input:

- planning and policy framework
- site analysis
- community and stakeholder consultation.

1.2.1 Planning and policy framework

Opposite is a summary of the key policy documents that were considered during the master plan process. The ideas, guidelines and principles represented in these documents all contributed to the development of the South Head Master Plan.

National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974)

The key objects of this Act are:

- the conservation of nature, including habitat, ecosystems, biological diversity, landforms of significance, landscapes, natural features and wilderness
- the conservation of objects, places or features of cultural value within the landscape, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
- fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation
- providing for the management of land reserved under this Act.

Fortifications of Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay – A Strategic Plan (2007)

This strategic overview of the fortifications around Sydney covers all sites managed by NPWS, establishes priorities, and develops a set of recommendations for ongoing development and management. The plan notes that:

- all sites are of state level heritage significance with a number of national heritage significant sites
- despite conservation work being undertaken there remains a high risk of the loss of heritage sites
- there is no overall thematic background history available to contextualise the fortifications
- site interpretation is minimal and, on most sites, does not occur.

The report makes a key recommendation to establish a conservation works program for the fortifications and a marketing strategy. This should identify common issues, looking for economies of scale in addressing specific and detailed problems and should address urgent stabilisation and make safe works to all sites.

In addition, it recommends a marketing strategy for tourism which provides enhanced public access, safety and interpretation.



South Head Conservation Management Plan (2008)

The main purpose of the conservation management plan (CMP) is to identify significance and provide guidelines for the conservation, use, interpretation and management of South Head to ensure that the heritage values of the place are maintained and, where appropriate, enhanced.

The CMP contains numerous policies to guide the investigation of master plan proposals in future stages of the project.

The CMP includes the following documents:

- Volume 1 – Assessment of Significance (2008)
- Volume 1B – Policy background, Conservation Policies and Implementation Strategy (2010)
- Volume 2A and 2B – Inventory of Heritage Items (2010).



Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management (2012)

The plan of management describes how NPWS will conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the park while providing unique and enriching experiences for visitors to Sydney Harbour.

The South Head Master Plan addresses 2 of the precincts of the Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management:

- Precinct 2: South Head, Camp Cove and Green Point
- Precinct 3: Gap Bluff



1.2.2 Guiding principles

The following guiding principles were developed to inform the Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management (2012).

The South Head Master Plan proposes to adopt these guiding principles and consider them in the context of the South Head precinct.

Within this section, the principles are reproduced together with a summary of key themes related to South Head that will be considered and incorporated within the project.

Guiding principle 1

Conserve natural and cultural heritage

Key themes to explore in the plan

- Vegetation management and ecological rehabilitation
- Adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings to celebrate their unique history and maximise public access
- Interpretation embedded within the design of walks and places (e.g. the First Landing Place at Camp Cove)

Guiding principle 2

Manage sustainability

Key themes to explore in the plan

- Vegetation management and ecological rehabilitation
- Adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings to generate revenue for their ongoing care and management



Guiding principle 3

Improve accessibility

Key themes to explore in the plan

- Provide infrastructure and other services to meet visitor needs and maximise opportunities to enjoy the natural and cultural heritage of the park
- Adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings to celebrate their unique history and heritage value



Guiding principle 4

Welcome all visitors

Key themes to explore in the plan

- Adaptive reuse of buildings to ensure current and future generations have access to the precinct's unique heritage
- Explore opportunities for people to stay and dwell within the park and provide facilities that encourage a variety of enjoyable park experiences



Guiding principle 5

Improve transport linkages

Key themes to explore in the plan

- Accessibility and connectivity issues relating to how people access the park, from Watsons Bay Ferry Wharf, as well as on foot or by bike
- Address issues between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, including primary access and entry points to the park



Guiding principle 6

Conserve for the future

Key themes to explore in the plan

- Interpretation and education of South Head's unique Aboriginal, navigation, military and defence heritage
- Inclusive consultation with stakeholders and the community to ensure support for the ongoing management of the park, incorporated within the project



Guiding principle 7

Partnerships and collaboration

Key themes to explore in the plan

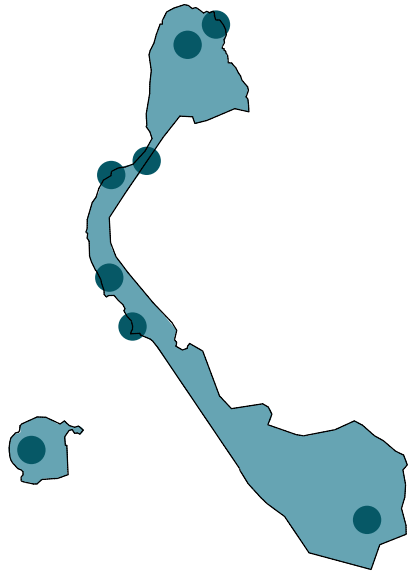
- Potential partnerships with stakeholders to ensure the successful ongoing stewardship of the park
- Looking 'beyond the boundary' of the park to explore opportunities for improving the visitor experience in collaboration with stakeholders and adjoining landowners



1.2.3 Site analysis

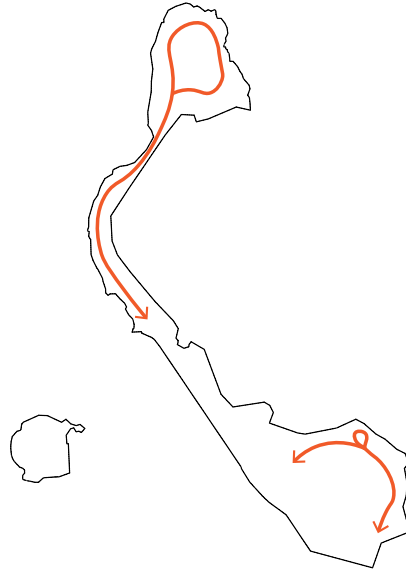
Below is a summary of the site analysis, including opportunities and constraints.

Aboriginal culture and heritage



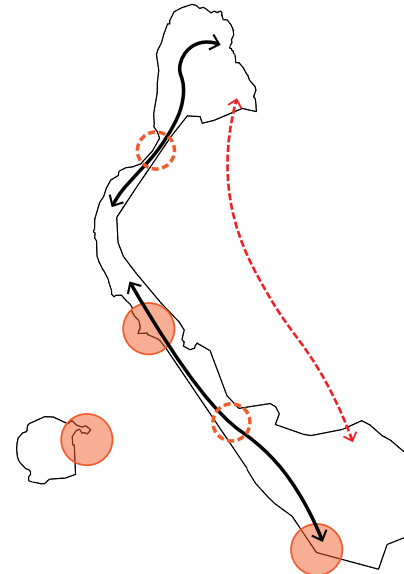
- Several sites across the park have been identified as being of cultural significance.
- The opportunity exists to provide interpretation of these sites integrated within the South Head Heritage Trail and gathering areas.

Non-Aboriginal heritage



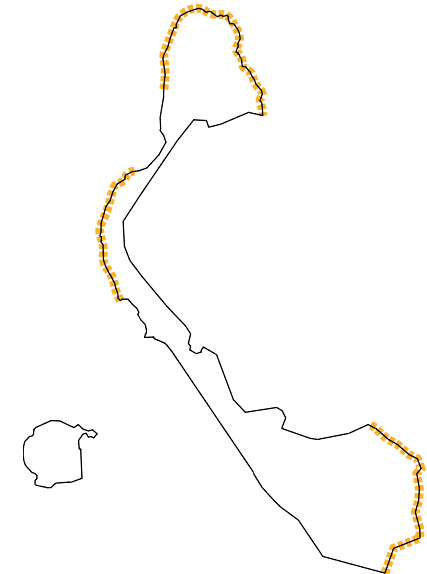
- The existing South Head Heritage Trail is disconnected and lacks signage and wayfinding.
- The opportunity exists to extend the South Head Heritage Trail through Gap Bluff and Green Point to integrate other heritage items and points of interest.

Access and connectivity



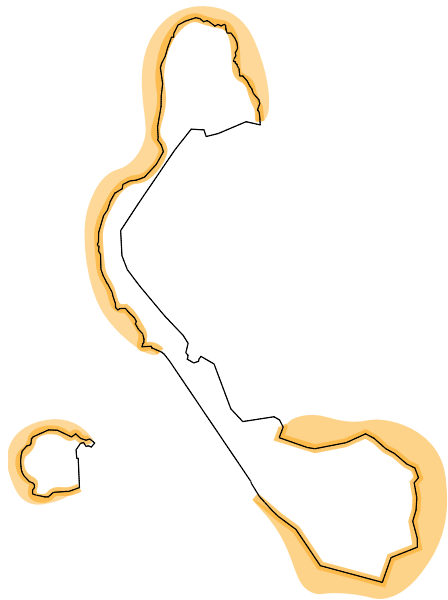
- The existing pedestrian route through the park lacks legibility and connectivity.
- Key areas of the park are difficult to access due to poor accessibility and degraded infrastructure.
- The path network lacks consistency of size and materials.
- Existing park entries lack legibility and universal access.
- Connectivity to surrounding public and active transport is poor and lacks wayfinding.

Safety



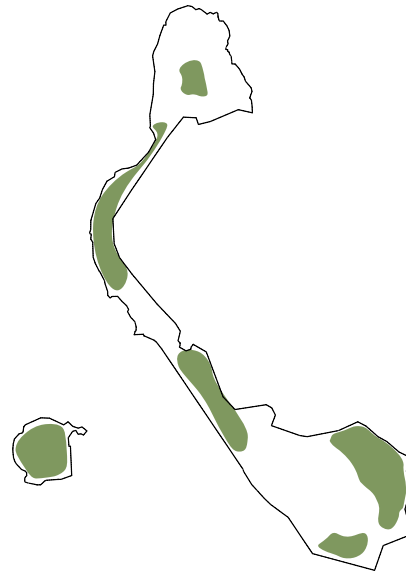
- Several locations across the headland and Gap Bluff are identified as high-risk edges.
- The opportunity exists to enhance the visitor experience and protect park users through a safe, appropriate, and responsive fencing strategy.

Significant views



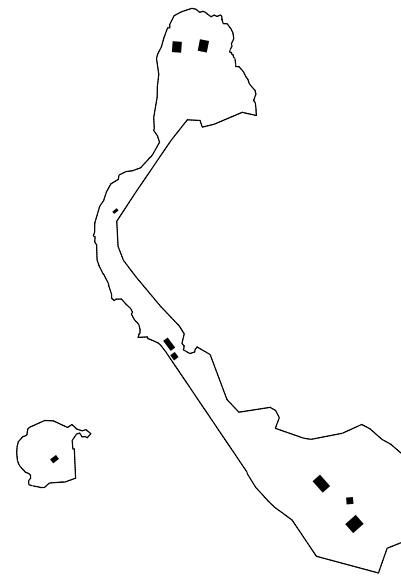
- Many locations across the park have been identified as key viewing locations.
- The opportunity exists to enhance the scenic values of the park by providing improved and safer lookouts which celebrate the headland and sensitively integrate with their surroundings.
- High scenic value locations offer the opportunity to become areas of amenity and passive recreation.

Vegetation and ecology



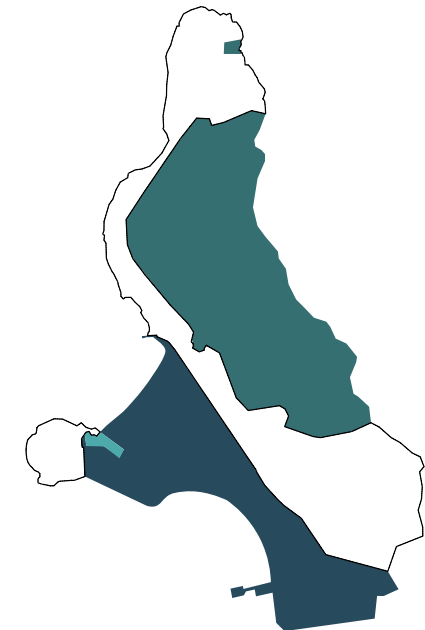
- The area behind Camp Cove is dominated by introduced vegetation including large coral trees and noxious weeds.
- Overgrown vegetation on Inner South Head requires an ongoing maintenance strategy to improve patches of native vegetation.
- Green Point is dominated by low value and weed infested vegetation.
- Several locations have been identified as priority areas for rehabilitation and revegetation.

Buildings and uses



- A number of buildings within the park lend themselves to adaptive reuse and refurbishment.
- The historical values and character of the buildings establish a sense of place and provide the opportunity to be celebrated and interpreted.

Landowners



- The national park sits between the land of HMAS Watson to the east and Woollahra Municipal Council (Woollahra Council) to the west with a small portion between Green Point and Camp Cove belonging to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.
- Connectivity between the park and adjacent publicly accessible areas is disjointed and sometimes illegible, which leads to users intruding upon private land (HMAS Watson).

1.2.4 Community and stakeholder consultation

South Head Master Plan was informed by a process of consultation with the local community, stakeholders and relevant agencies.

This occurred at 3 key project stages:

- during the design of the master plan
- during exhibition of the draft master plan
- finalising the master plan.

Community consultation during design of the master plan took the form of an online survey (24 September – 29 October) with a total of 479 respondents and 2 online workshops with 25 attendees at each (11 and 16 October 2021).

In response to the exhibition of the draft master plan (26 April 2022 – 30 May 2022) there were 135 responses to the online survey and 27 written submissions from a range of individuals, visitors, local government representatives, park stakeholder groups and local action groups. Written submissions generally supported the results of the survey but expanded upon the reasoning.

For a more detailed overview of the community and stakeholder consultation please refer to the *South Head Master Plan Community Consultation Summary* and the *South Head Master Plan – Exhibition submissions report*.

A stakeholder reference group was established to be a key consultative body for the project and to assist in delivering it by providing input and advice to NPWS. The group, which met at each of the 3 key project stages, consisted of representatives from government, industry and local community groups.

Key South Head precinct stakeholders that participated in the consultation process included:

- HMAS Watson
- La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council
- NPWS Greater Sydney Regional Advisory Committee
- Office of The Hon. Gabrielle Upton
- Sydney Game Fishing Club
- Sydney Harbour Federation Trust
- Sydney Harbour Association
- Watsons Bay Association
- Woollahra Council.

Table 1 What we heard from the community during exhibition of the draft master plan and the changes made to the master plan in response

What we heard (summary)	Master plan response
Conserve and enhance native animal and plant diversity	Rehabilitate and revegetate native bushland.
Highlight, celebrate and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage	Provide opportunities for Indigenous interpretation and storytelling. Provide the framework for continuous and evolving Indigenous interpretation and storytelling.
Tell the history of the site	Extend the heritage trail and explore historical interpretation.
Provide safe and legible access to the park	Improve existing tracks and create new accessible connections. The logic of connections is to be refined and improved, in terms of both accessibility and legibility. Incorporate appropriate barriers and fencing designs.
Protect scenic values and views	Enhance views to and from significant locations.
The adaptive reuse of the buildings should not over-commercialise the site	Explore commercial uses appropriate for a national park that can help sustain the life of each building. Retain as much of the original fabric of the buildings as possible.
Desire for visitor and community amenity in the buildings at South Head	Ensure interventions to buildings allow for holistic and flexible community uses. Many buildings and their surroundings are to have an improved public interface.

1.2.5 Community responses and key themes

The key themes that emerged throughout community and stakeholder consultation include a passion for preserving the beauty of the park and a strong desire to acknowledge, respect, celebrate and learn more about Aboriginal culture and history. There was strong support for NPWS to work with Woollahra Council and others to address safety concerns. The inclusion of interpretation and signage would improve education and enjoyment of the park's nature and history. Most people thought paths and viewing areas should be improved for accessibility.

'Conserve native animal and plant diversity'

'Highlight Aboriginal cultural heritage'

'Provide areas to relax and enjoy nature'

'Mixed feelings about building uses with support for a visitors centre/museum; bookable community spaces; cafe/kiosk uses; short-term and NPWS accommodation, but some opposition to commercial uses'

'Improve accessibility, safety and walking tracks'

'Create an inviting place that connects people to Sydney'

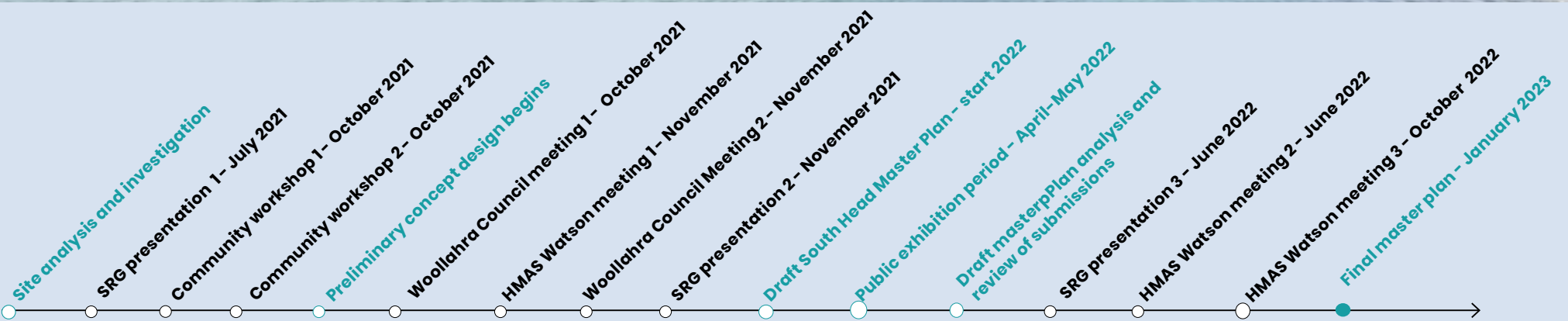
'Provide opportunities to explore cultural, navigation, military and historical features'

'Enhance the scenic values and views to the harbour and coast'

'Identify and enhance opportunities for bushwalking, fitness and exercise in the park'

'Provide easy and safe access into and within the national park'

'Improve the quality of bushland'



1.3 Aboriginal culture and heritage

Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management recognises the primary role of Aboriginal people in determining how their heritage should be managed. As part of the master planning process, the Gujaga Foundation has communicated the layers of identity and significance of South Head to the Aboriginal community and the ongoing and changing culture embedded in their connection to Country.

Layers of Aboriginal identity

To understand the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and coastal Sydney, it is necessary to understand the layers of identity which apply to the traditional owners of this region. Layers of identity include:

- clan or family group, e.g. Gadigal, Birrabirragal, Gweagal, Bidjigal
- region where they were born and grew up, e.g. Gamayngal people/clan groups belonging to Botany Bay
- environmental, e.g. Gadhungal (Saltwater People)
- the clans within this region were part of a broader, Dharawal speaking, nation, which extended from Sydney Harbour down to the Shoalhaven.

These layers of identification have linked Aboriginal people on a personal, local, regional and spiritual basis for thousands of years. The clans, or large family groups, which occupied the area prior to the arrival of the British were the Birrabirragal, a smaller clan with a connection to the South Head and Bondi area, and the Gadigal clan, who were responsible for the land to the west towards the current CBD area.

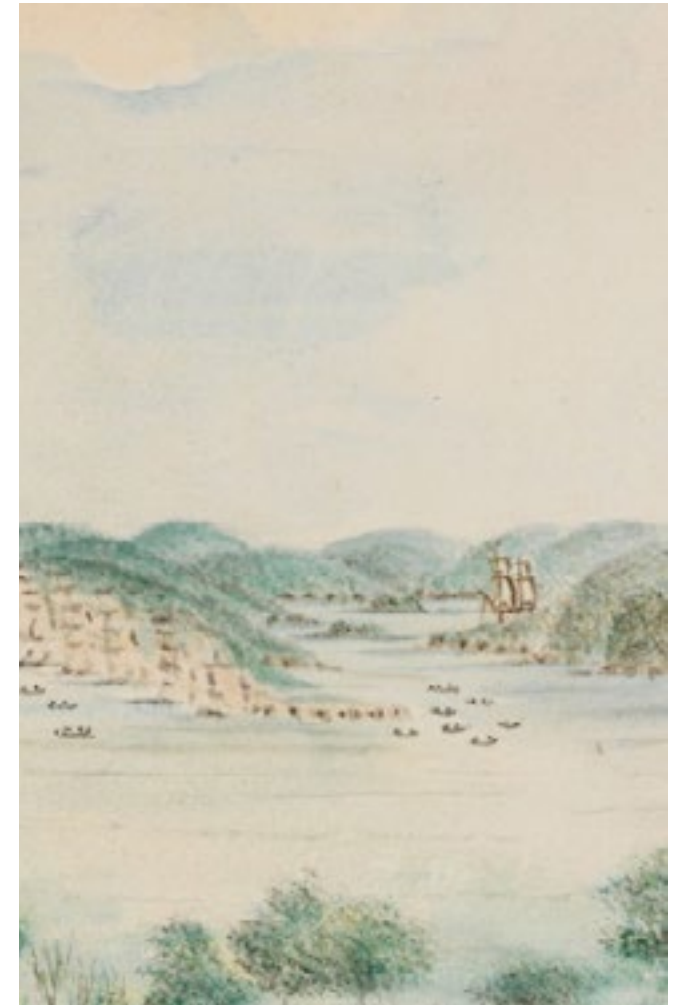


Image sources:

1 - View west over Camp Cove to Vaucluse in the 1870s. AAPC 1870–1875. Gun emplacement and 2 artillerymen, Camp Cove and Watsons Bay (SLNSW ON 4 Box 57 No 268)

2 - South Head in 1788 with Aboriginal people in bark canoes fishing from South Head leading up to Sydney; supply and sailing in Bradley 1786–1792 [1969], opp. P.123

1.4 Heritage timeline of South Head

Below is a summary timeline of South Head. Significant timeframes include occupation of the Birrabirragal people, European settlement, navigation, defence and military throughout WWII, HMAS Watson land and the current Sydney Harbour National Park management.

Pre-European settlement

The Birrabirragal people occupied South Head managing the vegetation, fishing, and collecting shellfish from the surrounding rock platforms and waters.

European settlement

The first European settlement of Sydney in 1788 with Governor Arthur Phillip's first landing within the harbour believed to be at Camp Cove.

When Europeans settled in 1788, South Head was the meeting place of a number of groups of Birrabirragal and Europeans, and more sustained interaction took place after the establishment of the signal station at Outer South Head in 1790.

Navigation

The South Head peninsula became important in the first decades of the colony for signalling and observation, and regulation of harbour traffic with the water police station at Camp Cove in 1840. Following the Dunbar wreck in 1857 was the establishment of the Hornby Light and the navigation obelisk at Green Point.

Pre-1788

1788

1840



Drawings of South Head rock carvings in the 1840s

Source: W. A. Miles, c.1850. 'Drawings (pencil and watercolour) of Aboriginal carvings at Middle Head, South Head and Point Piper' (SLNSW A610)



Picture of Queen Cora Gooseberry in 1845 at Camp Cove.

Source: G. F. Angas, 1845. Old Queen Gooseberry, Widow of Bungaree. Sydney, 18 Image AA 8/4/2/3



Painting portraying South Head in 1788, First Nations people are depicted fishing in park. Canoes from South Head leading to Sydney

Source: Bradley 1786-1792



Detail from a historic photograph dating to c.1890s showing Green Point in the distance. The whitewashed navigation obelisk can be seen at the tip of the point

Source: Mitchell Library, SPF/749



Hornby lighthouse from between heads shows open ground between house and location of toilet block between

Source: Mitchell Library GPO1 No. 25100

Defence and military

South Head military features including gun emplacements and fortifications were positioned on the perimeter of the headland. Emplacements were constructed for the defence of Sydney from the mid-1850s until the close of WWII. They share a history with fortifications now within HMAS Watson.

Defence structures

Defensive structures at Inner South Head include the Hornby Battery partially quarried into the bedrock from 1876 and consisting of a number of gun emplacements, underground facilities such as an Engine Room and a Shell Store.

Military activity and defence training

The School of Artillery operated at Gap Bluff from 1895 to the beginning of WWII. Gap Bluff has been further subdivided into Lower Gap Bluff and Upper Gap Bluff to reflect the different characters of these areas. Lower Gap Bluff defence buildings and archaeological sites include the 1936 Officers Mess and Garden; the 1895 Former Workshop (now a cottage); the 1938 Armoury (now function centre); and the site of 1912 Artillery Barracks.

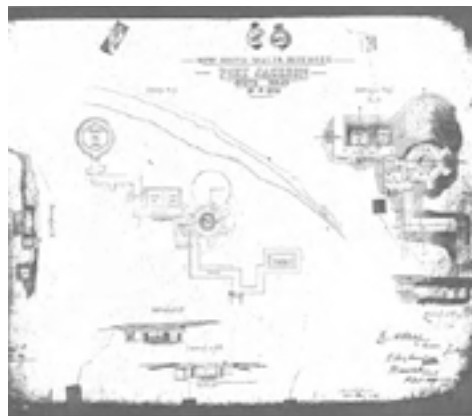
1850



View of the South Head fort 1900–1910, showing the 2 1876–77 gun emplacements

Source: State Library of NSW, Star Photo Co. – Unmounted views of New South Wales, (chiefly 1900–1910) ML PXE

1876



Plans showing alterations to the NO2 gun at the Hornby Battery, 1889

Source: Plan cabinet, Greycliffe House.
Note that these works were either not carried out exactly as shown in this plan or there were later modifications

1895



Gap Bluff Officers Mess and junior officers barracks c.1955–60.

Source: HMAS Watson Library



View of the boom net. Green Point is on the far side of harbour and net.

Source: AVNP03338005

Post-WWII

Post-WWII the Military Reserve at Inner South Head was taken over by the Royal Australian Navy and is now identified as HMAS Watson.

Sydney Harbour National Park

South Head became part of Sydney Harbour National Park, managed by NPWS, transforming it into a recreational area.

1945



View of South Head and HMAS Watson, 1967

Source: Royal Australian Navy

1977



View of South Head, 2012

Source: DPE

Sources:

The NPWS Fortifications of Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay – A Strategic Plan (2007)

South Head Conservation Management Plan (2008)

South Head Sydney and The Origins of Watsons Bay, Robin Derricourt (2011)

2. Vision



2.1 Vision

The South Head Master Plan is founded on a vision that acknowledges the significance of the place, embracing Aboriginal culture, post-1788 history and the natural values that make it a unique part of the Sydney Harbour National Park.

The South Head Master Plan will progressively deliver a series of transformative initiatives over the next 20 years to revitalise the visitor experience, focusing on:

- heritage landscapes
- adaptive reuse
- storytelling.



Heritage landscapes

Central to the unique history of South Head is the fusion of its Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage.

South Head falls within the lands of the Birrabirragal, who witnessed the arrival of the First Fleet as Governor Phillip stepped ashore at Camp Cove. Recognised as an important position in Sydney Harbour by the British settlers, the area contains several navigation and military installations that, along with the headland's heritage buildings, reinforce the unique history of South Head.

To best recognise this history, the South Head Master Plan proposes to build on the existing South Head Heritage Trail to improve its legibility and recreational offering. The Trail will be supplemented with a Country-led approach to acknowledge the complete history of the headland. A new layer of wayfinding, signage and interpretation, in conjunction with improvements to access and circulation, will provide a multi-layered journey through the headland's history.



Adaptive reuse

A key component of the South Head Master Plan involves establishing the adaptive reuse potential of the existing buildings in a way that responds to their historic presence and the opportunity for inclusive and engaging connection to the place.

The buildings at South Head have an engaging story that explains how the place was used at different times and while modest, these buildings together show how important South Head has been to the evolution of Sydney.

Through investigation of the architectural character of each building, the South Head Master Plan presents opportunities for intervention to enable new uses that are informed by their place or historic theme.

The adaptive reuse of the buildings on South Head will be a positive and logical transition that does not over-commercialise or lead to significant intervention that is irreversible, however without a bold approach there may not be a viable use for some elements.



Storytelling

Interpretation of South Head's unique history will go beyond the provision of signage, to embed the stories of this rich cultural landscape deeply within the design of its precincts.

The South Head Master Plan identifies a broad strategy for interpretation of key themes that are critical to understanding the place. This approach will be developed with careful renewal and replacement of damaged landscape and the purposeful revealing of a built element that leads to a deeper questioning of why something is there.

Key themes that form part of this interpretation strategy include:

- Aboriginal culture and place
- maritime accommodation and uses
- military and wartime uses
- natural landscapes and their rehabilitation.

2.2 Design drivers

The South Head Master Plan design drivers reflect the culmination of project team site visits, analysis, background documentation review, and consultation with stakeholders and the community.

The design drivers succinctly summarise key pathways forward for the master plan, bridging the gap between project investigations and design proposals.



Healing Country

Consultation and collaboration with the local Aboriginal community and knowledge holders underpin the design and storytelling across the site.

The South Head Master Plan aims to heal Country through the rehabilitation and revegetation of native vegetation and staged removal of weeds and exotic plant species.

A significant place that is cared for and shows a deep understanding of Country will demonstrate that one of the key markers for entry and exit from Sydney Harbour is valued.

Layers of identity

The site's heritage has shaped the South Head landscape that we know today.

The layers of identity and significant heritage will be reflected across the site and expressed through interpretation, views, and materiality.

The South Head Heritage Trail provides a journey from Gap Bluff to Inner South Head which reveals and celebrates the layers of culture and heritage that make up South Head.



An accessible headland

The South Head Master Plan aims to improve the accessibility, legibility, and pedestrian networks to ensure that South Head visitor experiences and facilities are promoted for all visitors.



Holistic sustainability

The approach to adaptive reuse of the buildings needs to appreciate the importance of supporting environmentally sustainable practices with principles that are equally socially and financially sustainable.

The adaptive reuse of the buildings on South Head should therefore:

- be a positive and logical transition that does not over-commercialise or lead to significant intervention that is irreversible
- respond to operational need but also reveal the former uses in a way that engages and excites
- enhance and improve the buildings and their connection to the park, harbour and ocean.



A continuing story

The story of South Head is not a static one. The South Head Master Plan aims to support and encourage the continuation of its story and the creation of new ones by supporting opportunities for the place, its visitors, and the natural environment to thrive.

3. South Head Master Plan



3.1 South Head Master Plan

- 1 First Landing Place
- 2 New park entry (Meeting Place)
- 3 Gap Bluff east circuit
- 4 Lower Gap Bluff open space
- 5 Accessible cliff walk
- 6 Camp Cove entry and adaptive reuse of Constables Cottage
- 7 Lady Bay walkway
- 8 Access to Hornby Lightstation
- 9 Reinterpret the parade ground as a bushland education area
- 10 Connection to Country and extension of the South Head Heritage Trail



3.1.1 Key initiatives

1 First Landing Place

Create a new entry plaza and paved turning circle to provide a safe and legible arrival point for visitors to Green Point. The entry plaza includes the First Landing Place, an interpretive element within the plaza that acknowledges the arrival of Governor Phillip at Camp Cove and the local Birrabirragal people. Introduce a pedestrian path around Green Point as an extension to the South Head Heritage Trail with interpretation and wayfinding signage of existing heritage items.

2 New park entry (Meeting Place)

Provide a new entry to the headland at the intersection of Military Road and Cliff Street adjacent to the existing carpark. The plaza will serve as a meeting place for visitors arriving by ferry, car, bike or on foot. Interpretation and wayfinding signage will welcome visitors and provide information about the park before leading to an accessible walkway through rehabilitated bushland to Gap Bluff Road.

3 Gap Bluff east circuit

Upgrade the existing walking track, fencing, balustrades and lookouts to provide a safe and accessible visitor experience while protecting and enhancing the rugged beauty of Gap Bluff. Undertake rehabilitation and revegetation to restore the Sydney Coastal Heath vegetation community and native habitat for local fauna. An integrated interpretation strategy will reveal the layered heritage and culture of the headland.

4 Lower Gap Bluff open space

Reduce the extent of asphalt around the heritage Canary Island date palms to increase the open lawn space with views across Sydney Harbour. Additional tree planting provides shade for visitors in this scenic rest area.

5 Accessible cliff walk

Introduce an accessible walkway from the pedestrian crossing at the corner of Gap Bluff Road and Hornby Light Road to provide a pedestrian connection from Gap Bluff to Camp Cove that bypasses Cliff Street. The walkway will weave through the revegetated escarpment, allowing visitors to immerse themselves amongst the trees, sandstone outcrops and heritage rifle walls.

6 Camp Cove entry and adaptive reuse of Constables Cottage

Provide an accessible entry to the park via the regraded driveway to Constables Cottage. This new entry and access will divert visitors away from walking across the sand at Camp Cove Beach and reduce conflict with the kiosk and outdoor dining area. Adaptive reuse of Constables Cottage, relocated toilet block, interpretation, signage, upgraded access and rest areas will improve the visitor experience and amenity at this scenic location within the park.

7 Lady Bay walkway

Provide an accessible elevated walkway to replace the existing path at Lady Bay to improve access to the beach and beyond to Inner South Head. The alignment of the walkway will respond to existing trees and new vegetation will be established to maintain views to Sydney Harbour while filtering views to the clothing optional beach below.

8 Access to Hornby Lightstation

Provide an accessible connection from the Lady Bay walkway to Hornby Lightstation behind the existing Lightkeepers' Cottages.

9 Reinterpret the parade ground as a bushland education area

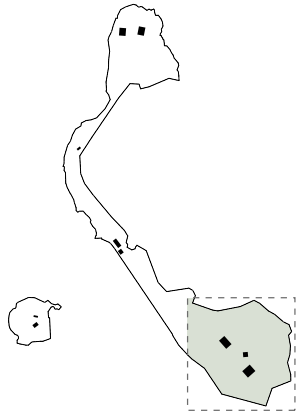
Remove existing waste and rubble to create an open gathering area set within rehabilitated bushland for passive recreation and educational activities for school and tour groups. Surrounding vegetation will highlight indigenous plant species and their cultural uses.

10 Connection to Country and extension of the South Head Heritage Trail

Enhance the rich culture and heritage of South Head by incorporating interpretation of local Aboriginal culture and additional signage of natural, maritime and military heritage items. Adaptive reuse of Lightkeepers' Cottages for short-stay accommodation, educational and interpretation opportunities.

3.2 Gap Bluff

3.2.1 Gap Bluff detailed plan and legend



1 Park entry plaza

Establish a new park entry from Military Road for visitors arriving on the ferry. Provide a paved entry plaza with sandstone seating walls and new access to adjacent carpark. Establish a sense of arrival through planting of cabbage tree palms, Aboriginal interpretation and entry signage.

2 Accessible walkway into park

Create a new accessible walkway through existing bushland to Gap Bluff Road.

3 Gap Bluff Road pedestrian improvement

Improve the pedestrian environment along Gap Bluff Road through a change of materiality that prioritises pedestrians and mitigates vehicular traffic. Controlled vehicle access will continue for Gap Bluff Road.

4 The Armoury arrival point

Provide wayfinding signage and park information at the Armoury. Establish an accessible connection into the Armoury and additional verandah terracing and lawn break-out space.

5 The Officers Mess

Adaptive reuse of the Officers Mess. Rationalise driveway to provide additional green space and pedestrian connection between Gap Bluff Lookout and the Armoury. Selective pruning to open views from the Officers Mess Garden to Sydney Harbour.

6 Gap Bluff Lookout

Weed removal, revegetation and additional planting of banksias in open lawn area for gathering and extension of rest area adjacent to existing lookout.

7 Gap Bluff open lawn area

Removal of existing asphalt to provide expansive open lawn area maximising views to the harbour. Additional fig tree planting for shade as key rest area before reaching South Head Heritage Trail.

8 Decomposed granite vehicle access into Gap Bluff.

9 Practice Battery School of Gunnery

Provide decomposed granite access path behind heritage wall and interpretation signage.

10 Upgraded safety fencing within landscape.

11 Upgrade carpark to include water sensitive urban design elements. Complete a parking assessment to inform parking and congestion solutions (options may include timed parking fees).

12 Retention and minor upgrade of existing lookout with panoramic views to the ocean.

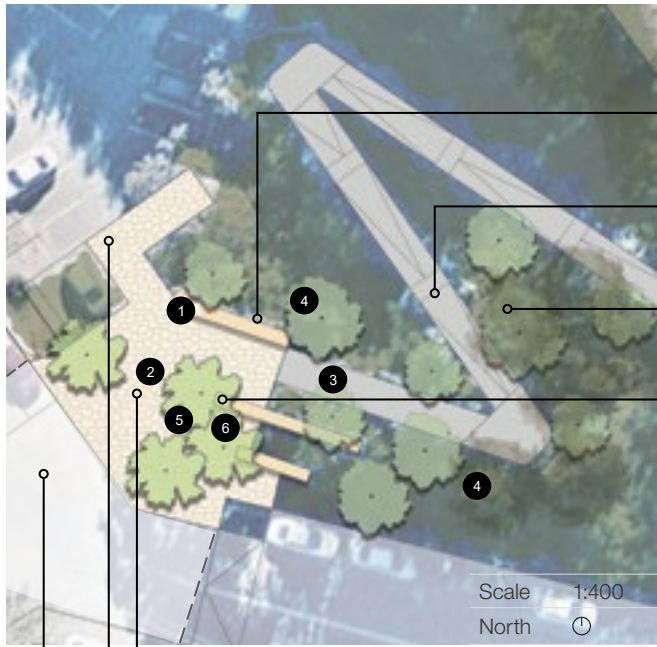
13 Pathway connection and steps integrated within the landscape between Gap Bluff walking track and Gap Bluff Road.

3.2.2 Gap Bluff interpretation concepts

The Gap Bluff precinct harnesses a rich and diverse array of cultural and natural character and history including rare ecology, Indigenous culture, maritime and European history, and significant views to the harbour and the ocean.

The following are examples of the interpretation strategies that could be included at Gap Bluff in the zones highlighted in the image below.





- Sandstone seating walls with interpretation and park entry signage
- Accessible raised walkway with handrails
- Revegetation and new native feature planting along walkway
- Cabbage tree palms feature planting in pavement

- Threshold entry paving and integrated interpretive elements
- Paved level entry to carpark with bollards
- Work with Woollahra Council on the design and installation of a pedestrian crossing linking existing footpaths to proposed new entry

Meeting Place

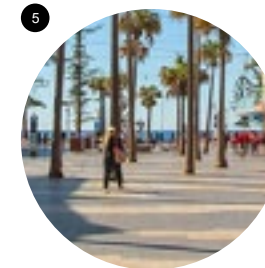
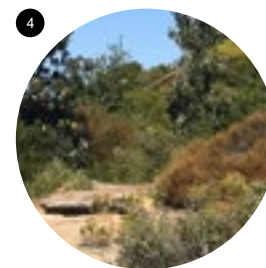
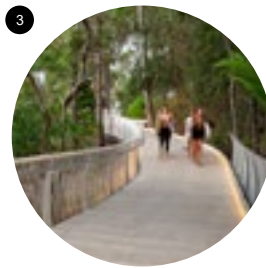
The new park entry will be a significant meeting place which welcomes visitors to South Head, Sydney Harbour National Park and acknowledges the Birrabirragal Clan through interpretive elements embedded within the materials of the entry plaza. Dual naming of place can be integrated within the paving and seating walls. Native vegetation including new feature plantings of cabbage tree palm (*Livistona australis*) will be included in the plaza space, representative of one of the many layers of identity of those connected to South Head.

The new park entry will be a large paved area to allow groups to gather, meet and acknowledge the significant connection to the land, water and sky through the interpretation provided.

Dharawal (cabbage tree palm)

The Dharawal (cabbage tree palm) is of great cultural significance and forms part of the identity of the Aboriginal peoples who lived at and are connected to South Head.

Recognition and celebration of the significance of the Dharawal will be achieved through new plantings of the palms in key areas across the site with interpretation signage. Key locations identified include the new entry, Camp Cove and near the Armoury at Gap Bluff.



Rare ecology

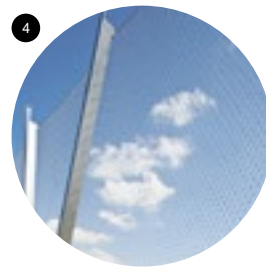
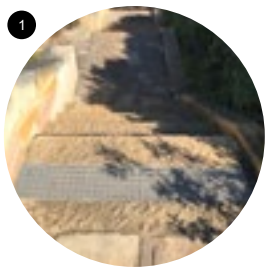
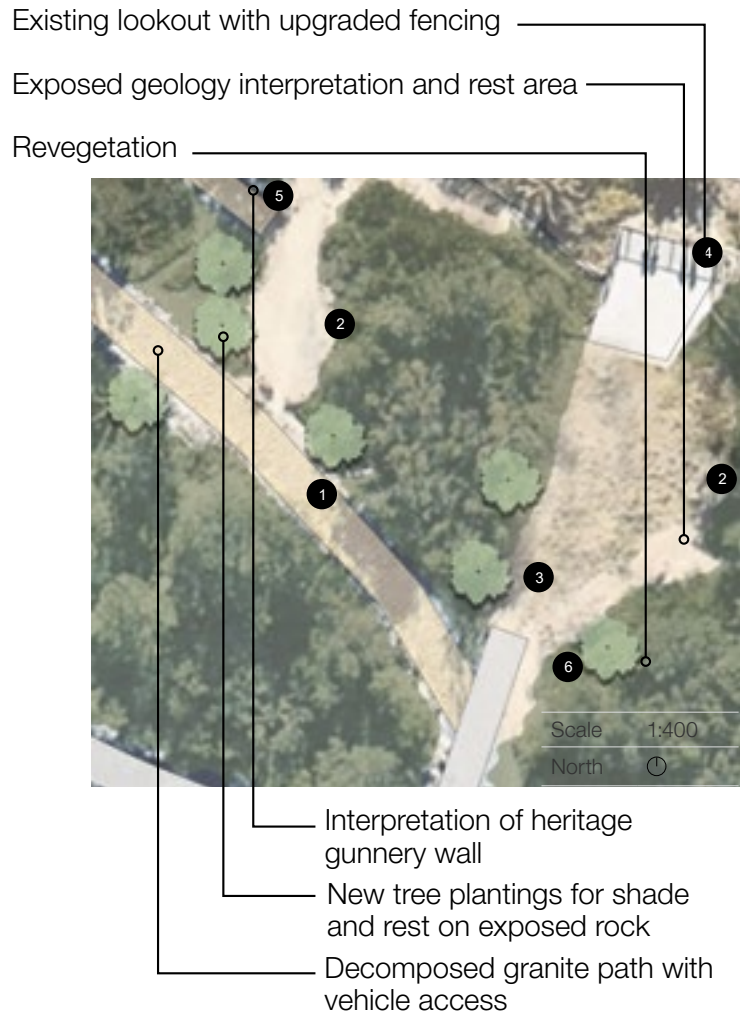
South Head is one of 7 terrestrial precincts that comprise Sydney Harbour National Park. Its floristic abundance and natural beauty have been acknowledged and appreciated for generations. The park encompasses some remnant natural vegetation on Sydney's harbour foreshores and coastal headlands. Hawkesbury Sandstone and Coastal Banksia Heath characterise South Head's landscape; exposed sandstone rock platforms are covered by a thin layer of infertile soil but inhabited by a richness of flora and fauna around Sydney Harbour.

As part of the park, South Head plays a vital role in demonstrating the value of conservation management and protecting the diversity of Sydney's natural landscapes. Past clearing for suburban development has removed significant vegetation stands in the Sydney metropolitan area, particularly in the Eastern Suburbs. Threats to remaining stands arise from Phytophthora infection, inappropriate fire regimes, environmental weeds, and recreational impacts.

Previously, vegetation in South Head has been cleared, leaving highly disturbed vegetated areas. Vital to the success of the master plan will be to ensure this precious asset is carefully managed and respectfully enhanced for future generations.

The process includes:

- balancing the removal of weed and reduction of non-indigenous plant species with the availability of resources for rehabilitation and revegetation
- implementing a staged approach for rehabilitation informed by the master plan and developed by NPWS
- exploring educational opportunities such as those run by the Royal National Park Environmental Education Centre. These educational opportunities will be supported by interpretive signage and information on the local flora and fauna. Awareness, understanding and, ultimately, appreciation of South Head's ecology is vital to the long-term sustainability of this precious natural asset.

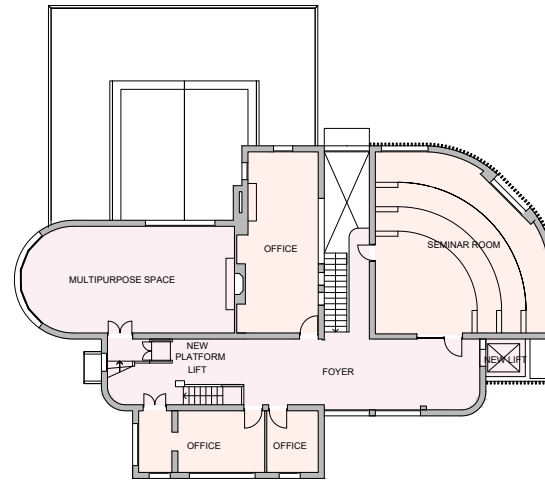


3.2.3 Gap Bluff buildings



Buildings in Gap Bluff

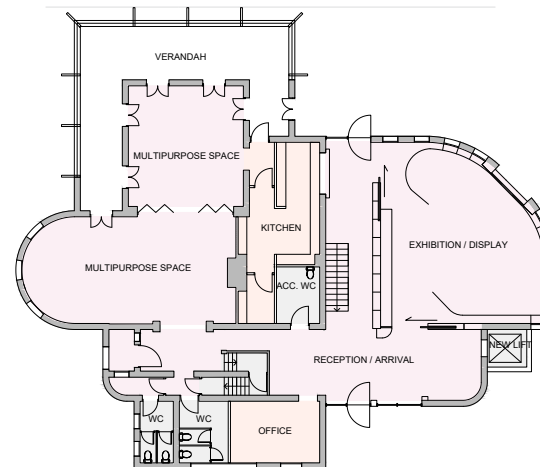
- 1 Officers Mess
- 2 The Armoury
- 3 Gap Bluff Cottage
- 4 Gap Bluff toilet block



The Officers Mess (level 01)

Scale 4m

North



The Officers Mess (ground floor)

Scale 4m

North



Officers Mess

The Officers Mess is an anchor building of the Gap Bluff precinct. The 1990s addition to the rear could be substantially altered if required. The building's size and varied spatial conditions make it flexible and suitable for many permissible uses.

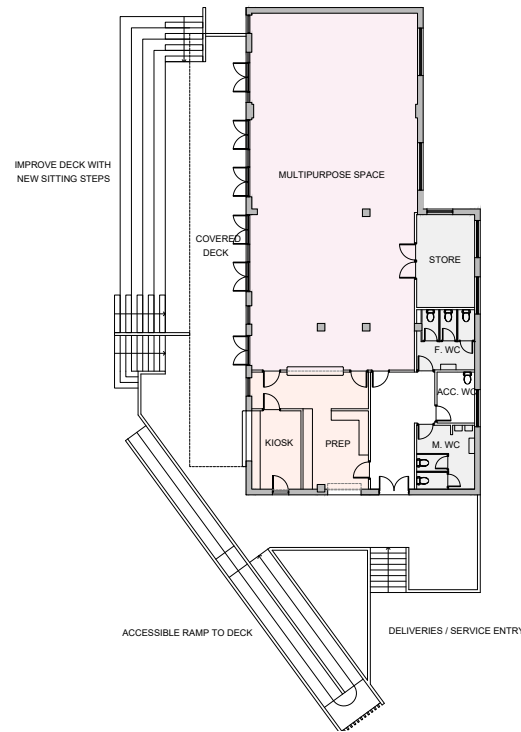
Suggested uses:

1. Aboriginal cultural centre/museum
2. Museum/art gallery and studio
3. Education centre
4. Visitor information centre
5. Bookable (limited hours) community spaces
6. Community uses including wellness
7. Tourism related activities
8. Park management.



Buildings in Gap Bluff

- 1 Officers Mess
- 2 The Armoury
- 3 Gap Bluff Cottage
- 4 Gap Bluff toilet block



The Armoury

Scale 4m

North

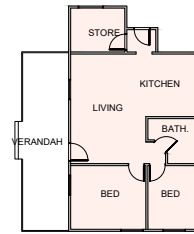


The Armoury

Substantially altered over time, this building lends itself to various uses.

Suggested uses:

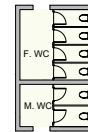
1. Aboriginal cultural centre/museum
2. Museum/art gallery and studio
3. Education centre
4. Visitor information centre
5. Bookable (limited hours) community spaces
6. Food and drink, cafe or kiosk.



Gap Bluff Cottage

Scale 4m

North



Gap Bluff toilet block

Scale 4m

North



Gap Bluff Cottage

Suggested use:

1. Retain as NPWS staff residence or for operational needs.



Gap Bluff toilet block

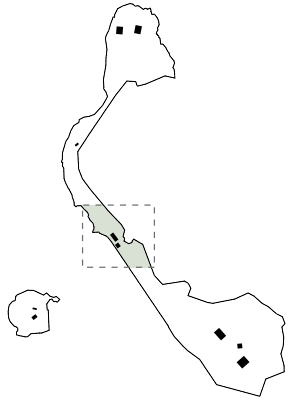
Retain and refurbish toilet block.

Buildings in Gap Bluff

- Officers Mess
- The Armoury
- Gap Bluff Cottage
- Gap Bluff toilet block

3.3 Camp Cove

3.3.1 Camp Cove detailed plan and legend



Scale 1:1200

North 

- 1 Adaptive reuse or removal of 33 Cliff Street

- 2 Provide an accessible cliff walk connection from Hornby Light Road behind Constables Cottage to meet Lady Bay Drive. Provide stair and lift access to Constables Cottage and Camp Cove from boardwalk

- 3 Provide a paved entry plaza with wayfinding signage. Pursue with Woollahra Council possibility of removing the existing kiosk to further strengthen the entry to the park and views to the harbour. Provide an accessible walkway to Constables Cottage

- 4 Paved curtilage treatment around Constables Cottage and new toilet block

- 5 Adaptive reuse of Constables Cottage

- 6 Spill out lawn and sandstone bleaches in front of Constables Cottage

- 7 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal interpretation and signage along South Head Heritage Trail and at entry to Camp Cove and Constables Cottage

- 8 Work with Woollahra Council to explore opportunities for landscape improvements at Camp Cove Beach to strengthen access to South Head and Constables Cottage

- 9 Stone paving spill out area

- 10 Passive lawn and shaded rest area

- 11 Upgrade carpark with the inclusion of water sensitive urban design elements. Complete a parking assessment to inform parking and congestion solutions (options may include timed parking fees)

Interpretation opportunities

- a Constables Cottage c.1900

- b 33 Cliff Street

- c Camp Cove gun emplacement and rifle wall

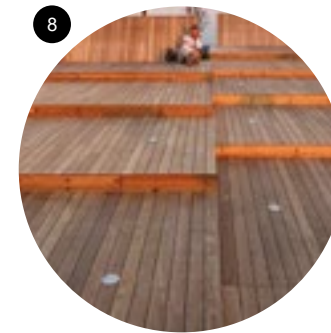
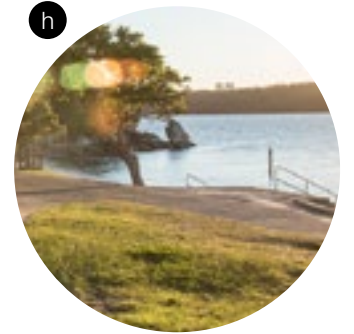
- d Rifled muzzle-loading cannon

- e Cobblestone road

- f Heritage wall

- g Rock engraving sites

- h Living places/middens

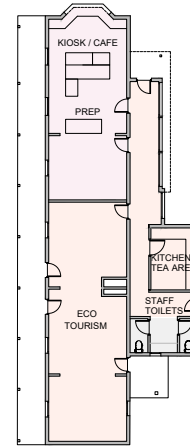
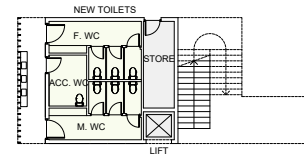


3.3.2 Camp Cove buildings



Buildings at Camp Cove

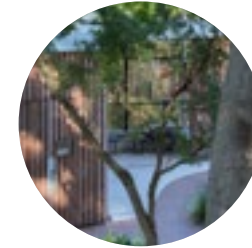
- 1 Camp Cove amenities
- 2 Constables Cottage
- 3 33 Cliff Street



Camp Cove Amenities and Constables Cottage

Scale 4m

North



Camp Cove amenities

Demolish, replace and relocate Camp Cove amenities.

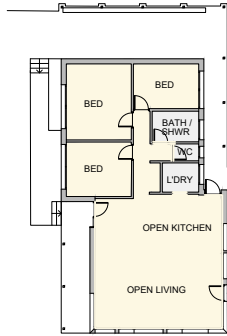


Constables Cottage

The recent addition of the northern wing provides a good interface for potential kiosk location. As a prominent point of arrival to the park, the cottage could be used as an office space for tour operators.

Suggested uses:

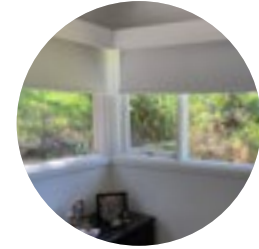
1. Kiosk and/or cafe. Pursue with Woollahra Council possibility of removing the existing kiosk to further strengthen the entry to the park and views to the harbour
2. Cultural and/or ecological tours.



33 Cliff Street

Scale 4m

North



33 Cliff Street

The 1950s residence is in good condition; it requires minor improvements to be suitable as short-stay rental accommodation.

Suggested uses:

1. Short-stay accommodation
2. Additional support space for tourism activities
3. Potential removal of the building.

Buildings at Camp Cove

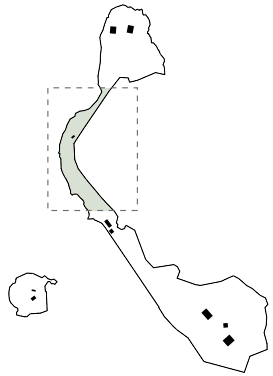
- 1 Camp Cove amenities
- 2 Constables Cottage
- 3 33 Cliff Street

3.3.3 Artist's impression of the vision for Camp Cove



3.4 Lady Bay

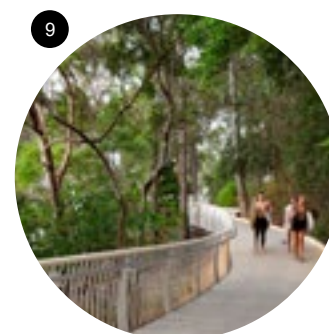
3.4.1 Lady Bay detailed plan and legend



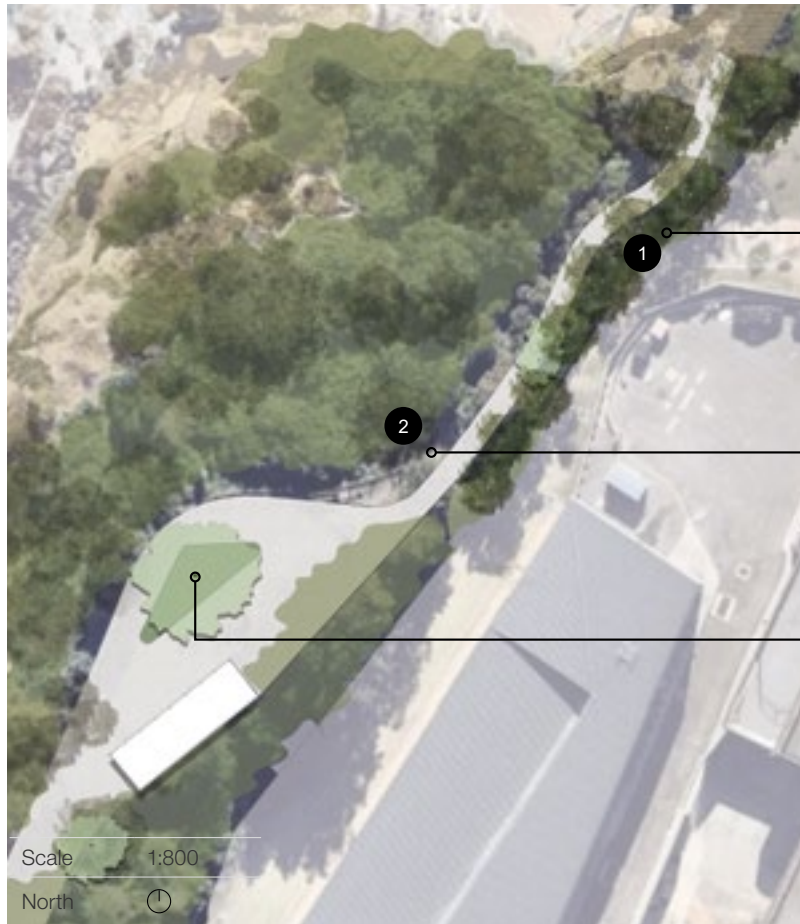
- 1 Upgrade Lady Bay Drive walkway. Replace asphalt with concrete and give back some room either side for planting and turf areas
- 2 Provide new tree plantings on the edge of Lady Bay Drive to create shaded rest areas with informal sandstone seating and turf
- 3 Revegetate either side of Lady Bay Drive and boardwalk and maintain current bird habitat
- 4 Upgrade amenities building with ancillary/ support space added
- 5 Provide a key node at the end of Lady Bay Drive including a raised planting bed with seating and planting of a Port Jackson fig and inclusion of interpretation
- 6 Construct new accessible boardwalk over Lady Bay Beach within existing canopy. Revegetate and plant new trees with the intent of screening Lady Bay Beach
- 7 Enhance visitor experience by providing signage and interpretation of key cultural elements and native bushland
- 8 Improved wayfinding and signage across journey to Inner South Head circuit
- 9 Fencing and landscaping along cliff edge to improve visitor safety

Interpretation opportunities

- a Living places/middens
- b Rock engraving
- c Baan Baan – coastal tea tree
- d Namaraag – Sydney golden wattle
- e Port Jackson fig



3.4.2 Lady Bay interpretation concepts



1 Baan Baan coastal tea tree along edge of Lady Bay boardwalk. Interpretation and dual naming of its cultural uses

2 Namaraag Sydney golden wattle in bush regeneration area. Interpretation and dual naming of its cultural uses

Fig tree feature planting for shade and rest. Aboriginal interpretation and plant identification explaining fig tree traditional uses and Aboriginal naming



Port Jackson fig

Port Jackson figs are of cultural significance to Sydney Harbour and were planted by the Aboriginal women as they moved along the coast. The figs were planted for uses such as shelter as well as the fruit they produce.

Figs are still planted today for their shade and shelter qualities.

This node will be a key rest area along the South Head Heritage Trail with feature planting of the fig including interpretive signage elements explaining the tree's significance and cultural uses.

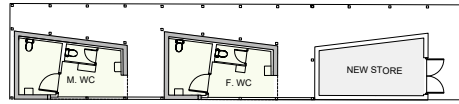


3.4.3 Lady Bay buildings



Buildings at Lady Bay

- 1 Lady Bay amenities



Lady Bay Amenities

Scale 4m

North

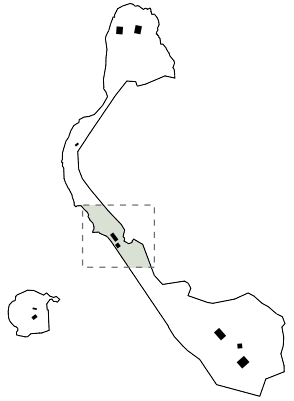


Lady Bay amenities

Upgrade and reconfigure Lady Bay amenities with additional storage module.

3.5 Inner South Head

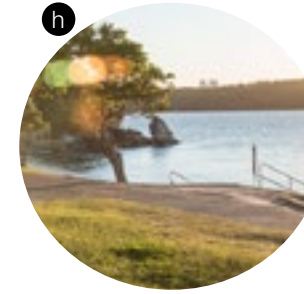
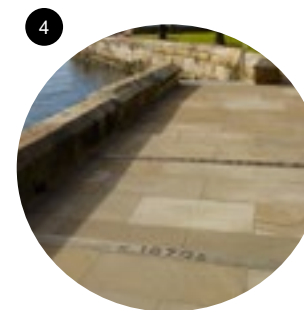
3.5.1 Inner South Head detailed plan and legend



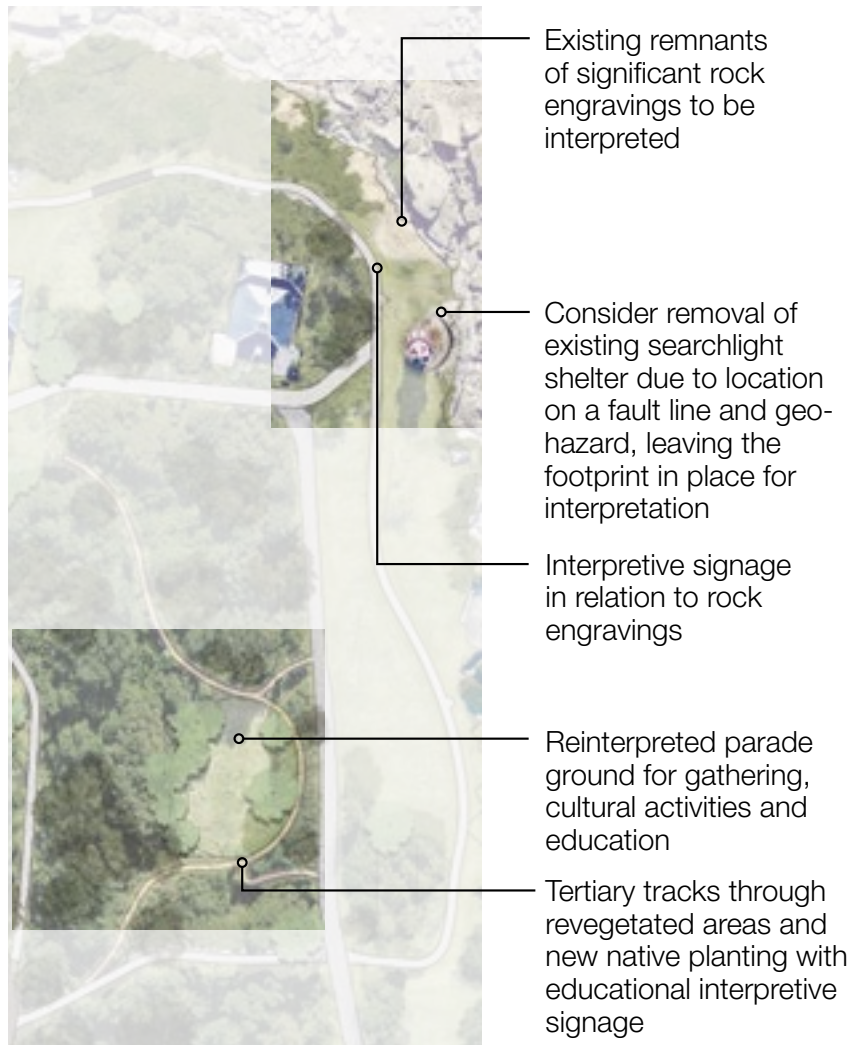
- 1 Provide new accessible pathway across Inner South Head to Hornby Light
- 2 Revegetate priority areas and provide new planting on cliff edges with sufficient soil depths
- 3 Reinterpret old parade ground to provide clearing for gathering. Implement interpretation and educational signage for significant native plantings
- 4 Upgrade South Head Heritage Trail by increasing width of path and incorporating both Aboriginal and military heritage interpretation along circuit
- 5 Provide low vegetation for landscaping along cliff edge and implement low key fencing to reduce users accessing unsafe cliff edges
- 6 The Aboriginal community will be consulted and guided how best to identify and interpret engravings across the site and located adjacent to the South Head Heritage Trail
- 7 Provide balustrades around gun emplacements to keep visitors safe from cliff edges whilst enhancing viewing opportunities
- 8 Tertiary tracks through bushland and around parade ground to provide the opportunity to explore native fauna and flora
- 9 Consider removal of searchlight shelter due to instability of cliff edge

Interpretation opportunities

- a 1890s searchlight emplacement north
- b Head Lightkeeper's Cottage
- c Assistant Lightkeeper's Cottage
- d Hornby Battery
- e Hornby Engine Room and collection
- f Hornby Light
- g Rock engravings
- h Living places/middens
- i Searchlight shelter



3.5.2 Inner South Head Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation concepts



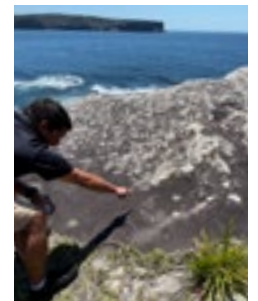
Bushland education and interpretation

There is opportunity to collaborate with the Aboriginal community to provide educational workshops within the old parade ground at Inner South Head. The old parade ground is reinterpreted as an open lawn gathering space with low key seating bordered by areas of revegetation. These areas of bushland offer the opportunity to include educational signage with Aboriginal names for indigenous plant species and cultural uses.



Multiple rock engraving sites have been recorded across South Head with depictions of the various marine and coastal fauna of the area.

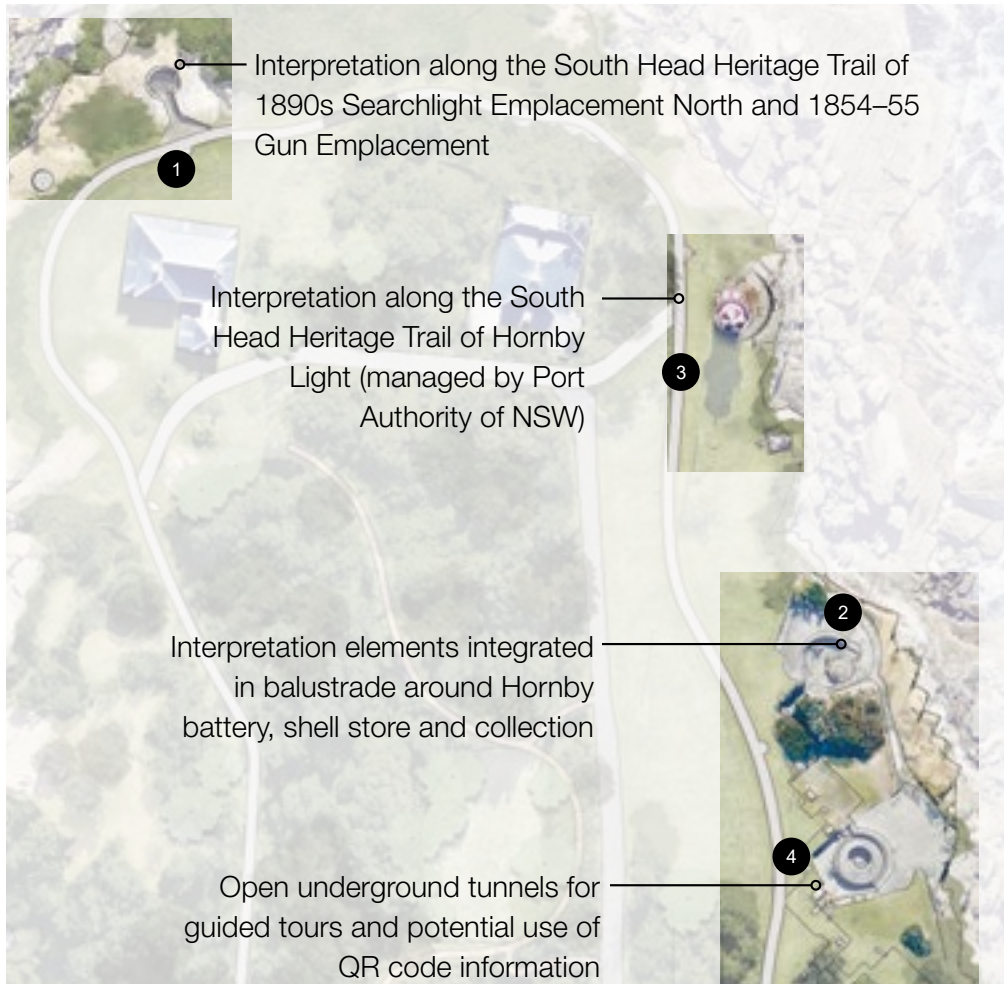
Remnant rock engravings can be seen at the northern edge of Inner South Head. The Aboriginal community will be consulted and will guide how best to identify and interpret engravings across the site and located adjacent to the South Head Heritage Trail.



Drawings of South Head rock carvings in the 1840s. Source: W. A. Miles, c.1850. 'Drawings (pencil and watercolour) of Aboriginal carvings at Middle Head, South Head and Point Piper' (SLNSW A610)

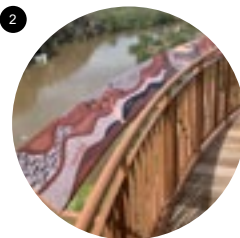
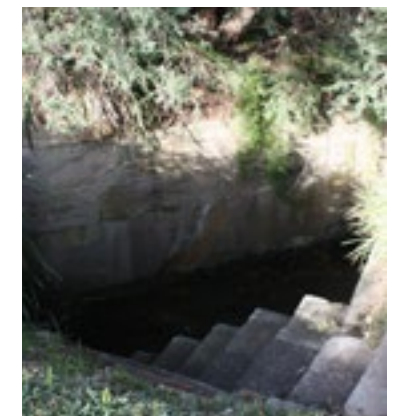


3.5.3 Inner South Head historical heritage interpretation concepts



The headland has a range of navigational and defensive buildings and structures. The most prominent, the Hornby Light built in 1858, is outside the national park; however, along with the Lightkeepers' Cottages built 1858-60, they are part of the historic Hornby Light complex.

Defensive structures at Inner South Head include the Hornby Battery, partially quarried into the bedrock from 1876 and consisting of several gun emplacements, underground facilities such as an engine room and a shell store. Other structures and archaeological remains date from 1894 (gun emplacement); the 1890s (Searchlight Emplacement No 2); and from WWII (Searchlight Shelter).

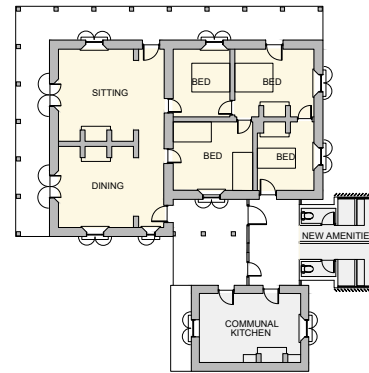


3.5.4 Inner South Head buildings



Buildings at Inner South Head (and Lady Bay)

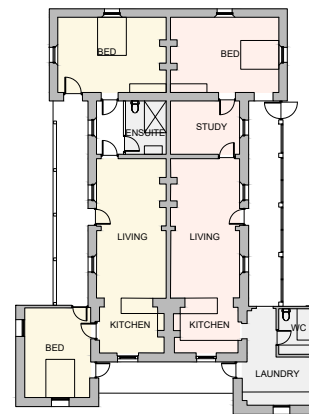
- 1 Head Lightkeeper's Cottage
- 2 Assistant Lightkeeper's Cottage



Head Lightkeeper's Cottage

Scale 4m

North



Assistant Lightkeeper's Cottage

Scale 4m

North



Head Lightkeepers' Cottage

The unoccupied Lightkeeper's Cottage requires comprehensive internal restoration. A walking only access to an urban yet isolated and natural setting could be a very special and low key short-stay accommodation experience for visitors to be able to experience the headland as the lightkeepers once did.

Suggested uses:

1. Short-stay accommodation
2. Cultural tourism and education activities.



Assistant Lightkeepers' Cottage

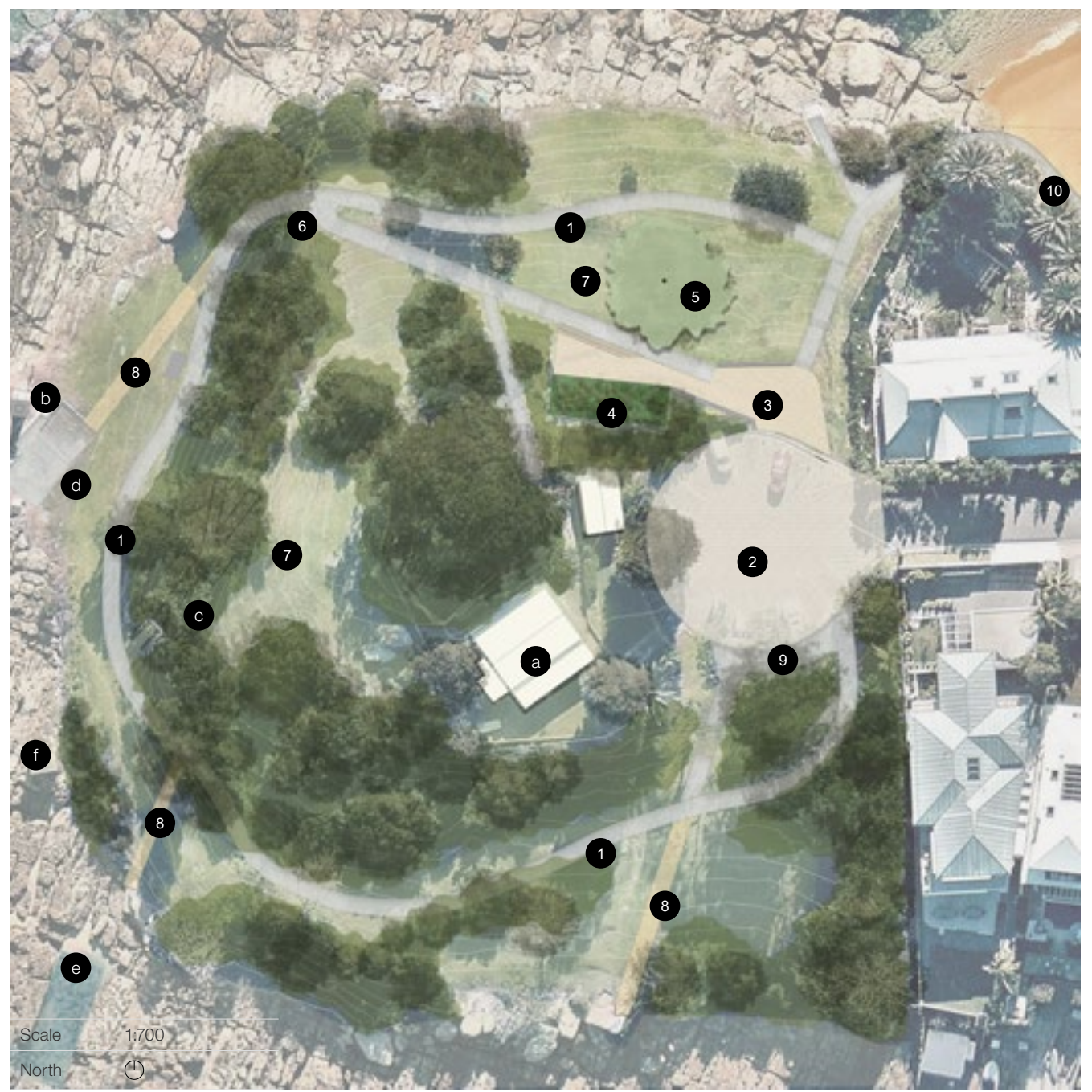
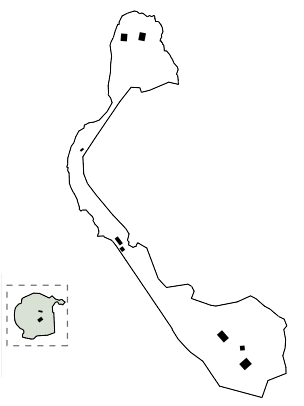
Similar to the Head Lightkeeper's Cottage, its isolation comes with unique experiential opportunities for the public. The split occupancy allows for support staff residence.

Suggested uses:

1. Short-stay accommodation
2. NPWS staff accommodation or other support.

3.6 Green Point

3.6.1 Green Point detailed plan and legend



Scale 1:700

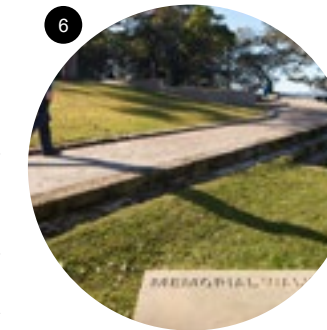
North 

- 1 Upgrade path network to create a rationalised circuit around Green Point
- 2 Create a shared environment. Establish a sense of arrival through pavement treatments such as cobble stone and stone kerbs. Complete a parking assessment to inform parking and congestion solutions (options may include timed parking fees). Provide the opportunity for interpretation and celebration
- 3 First landing place entry plaza. Establish a sense of arrival through a paved entry plaza at the top of Green Point. Enhance views down to Camp Cove and implement Aboriginal and colonial interpretation into edging walls and paving details
- 4 Replace existing toilet block with a new building which sits within the landscape accessible from turning circle. Provide generous building curtilage
- 5 Plant new Port Jackson fig for shade and rest on grass slope
- 6 Replace existing stairs with stone steps in decomposed granite incorporating interpretation details

- 7 Sloping lawns for passive recreation
- 8 Enhance the unique geology and character of Green Point. Follow the existing geology with decomposed granite links to key edges and heritage items
- 9 Create a secondary entrance with a new pathway and stairs to access the southern side of Green Point
- 10 Potential future connection across beach and connection to the former marine biological station park in collaboration with Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and Woollahra Council

Interpretation opportunities

- a Green Point cottage
- b Navigation obelisk
- c Submarine Miners Firing Station
- d Searchlight no.4/WWII boom net winch house
- e Rectangular pen cut
- f WWII observation post



3.6.2 Green Point interpretation concepts



Entry plaza space overlooking Camp Cove with integrated Aboriginal interpretation elements

Sandstone feature walls with integrated interpretation of Arthur Phillip's first landing at Camp Cove

Create a shared environment. Establish a sense of arrival through pavement treatments such as cobble stone and stone kerbs. Provide the opportunity for interpretation and celebration

South Head Heritage Trail and character of Green Point

Green Point is also known as Laing Point, after Edward Laing, the first landowner in the area who was granted 20 acres in the Watsons Bay area in 1793. Laing was a surgeon in the NSW Corps which overthrew Governor Bligh in the Rum Rebellion.

Green Point is a low rounded headland into Sydney Harbour. The grassy parkland is circled by a shelved rocky reef. The most prominent surviving feature at Green Point is the former c.1900 Officers Quarters sited adjacent to the rock outcrop at the apex of the hill. Elsewhere there is a wealth of archaeological remains of defence uses of the site in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries including the 1870s underground Submarine Miners Firing Station and the foundations of the WWII Anti-Submarine and Torpedo Boom Net/Searchlight No. 4. Green Point also contains an 1850s stone navigational obelisk, one of 4 around the harbour.

First Landing Place

Camp Cove is of cultural significance to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians as the site of the first landing of Governor Arthur Phillip in the harbour in 1788 and his meeting with the Aboriginal peoples living there at the time. Green Point currently commemorates the landing of Governor Phillip with a monument. A new paved entry plaza will enhance the views across to Camp Cove and offer space for people to gather and read about the first landing in replacement of the existing Governor Phillip Monument. The story of the first landing and meeting with the local Aboriginal peoples will be incorporated through signage embedded in sandstone walls and within the pavement.

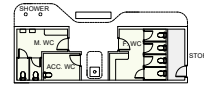


3.6.3 Green Point buildings



Buildings at Green Point

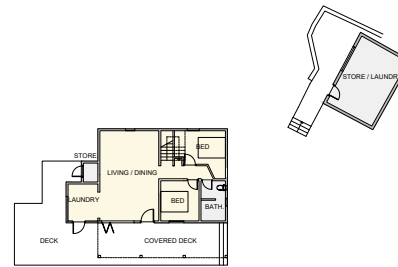
- 1 Green Point amenities
- 2 Green Point Cottage



Green Point Amenities

Scale 4m

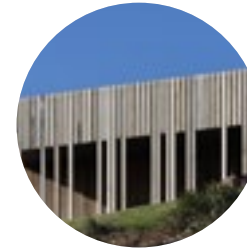
North



Green Point Cottage

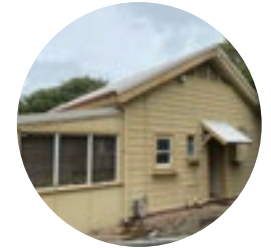
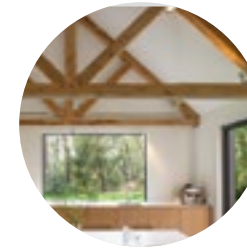
Scale 4m

North



Green Point amenities

Demolish and replace existing amenities building. New building to be set into the landscape and with a green roof.



Green Point Cottage

Continue to use as short-stay accommodation, with some refurbishment, reconfiguration, and new deck to enhance visitor experience for the guests.

Suggested use:

1. Short-stay accommodation.

3.6.4 Artist's impression of the vision for Green Point



3.7 Fencing

3.7.1 Site-wide fencing strategy



Inner South Head

- Low key in the landscape
- Stainless steel balustrade with timber handrail
- Stainless steel balustrade



Gap Bluff

- - - Existing HMAS Watson fence
- Existing 2.1 metre high black chain wire fence
- New 2.3 metre high stainless steel webnet mesh safety barrier
- - - Existing 1.2 metre high balustrade



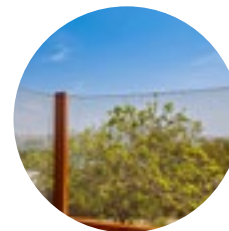
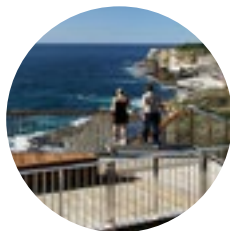
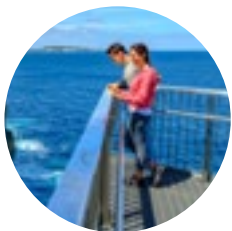
Balustrade with timber handrail



Low key in the landscape



Porous lookout points using webnet mesh



3.8 Vegetation and ecology

3.8.1 Existing vegetation conditions

Vegetation across the peninsula comprises 3 main vegetation communities.

The dominant community is Sydney Coastal Heath, which is characterised by open heath on exposed coastal sandstone plateaus with infertile, shallow, moderately damp soils. Key species include heath-leaved banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*) and scrub she-oak (*Allocasuarina distyla*).

A portion of vegetation in the Camp Cove precinct is made up of Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forest – an open forest of smooth-barked apple (*Angophora costata*), coast banksia (*Banksia intergrifolia*) and cheese tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi*) with a diverse shrub understorey, and open groundcover of sedges.

The third vegetation community is seagrass meadows located in the harbour of Camp Cove.

Issues and considerations include areas of weed infestation especially on the inaccessible cliffs, and Camp Cove Beach being dominated by introduced vegetation including mature coral trees.

Camp Cove and Gap Bluff are heavily impacted by weeds due to past disturbance. Weed removal and revegetation will be prioritised to focus on areas with greatest reliance and visitor amenity.



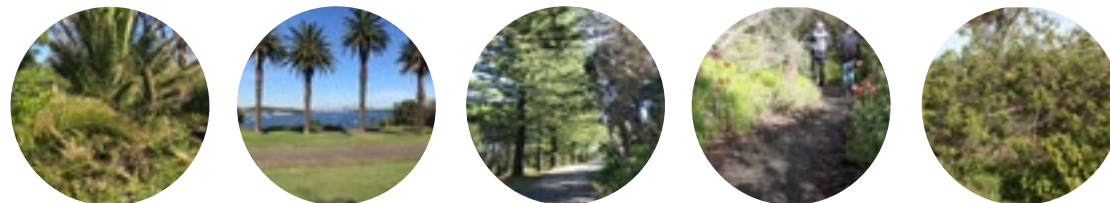
Restore and protect native vegetation and maintain lawn areas at Inner South Head

Green point is mostly dominated by coastal heath with some significant melaleucas and fig trees. Maintain the shade trees on the lawn for amenity for users. Progressively remove non-native tree species and replace with native shade trees

A portion of vegetation in the Camp Cove precinct is made up of Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forest

Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) cultural planting on Gap Bluff Road. The planting of these trees for cultural purposes may result in them spreading to other areas within the site. Self-seeded specimens should be managed and removed

Existing cultural plantings of Norfolk Island pines along Gap Bluff Road



3.8.2 Site-wide vegetation and ecology strategy



- 1 New entry native revegetation and cultural planting of cabbage tree palms
- 2 Native revegetation of coastal heath cliff scrub throughout Gap Bluff east and cliff top marsh vegetation in damper areas of bushland
- 3 Removal of existing asphalt carpark beside Canary Island date palms, replace with lawn and native shade trees
- 4 Coastal foreshore forest extended throughout Camp Cove and revegetation along Military Road
- 5 Revegetation and increased canopy cover along Lady Bay Drive of native shade trees
- 6 Revegetation of coastal headland banksia heath and manage staged removal of lantana to support small bird habitat
- 7 Revegetation of exposed headland edges with low vegetation to act as barrier and maintain views
- 8 Revegetation around parade ground with coastal headland banksia heath



Melaleuca armillaris
(bracelet honey myrtle)



Baeckea imbricata
(heath myrtle)



Allocasuarina distyla
(scrub she-oak)



Banksia ericifolia
(heath-leaved banksia)



Leptospermum laevigatum
(coastal tea tree)



Acacia longifolia
(Sydney golden wattle)



Angophora costata
(smooth-barked apple)



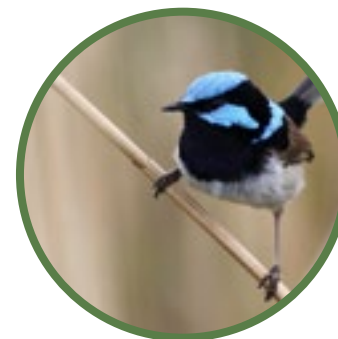
Eucalyptus piperita
(Sydney peppermint)



Livistona australis
(cabbage tree palm)



Ficus rubiginosa
(Port Jackson fig)



Malurus cyaneus
(superb fairy-wren)



Dacelo novaeguineae
(laughing kookaburra)

3.8.3 Vegetation and ecology typologies

