

ARCHAEOLOGY FACT SHEET

Heritage Places Act 1993



Fact Sheet No. 6

What are designated places of archaeological significance?

The **Heritage Places Act 1993** (the Act) allows for the designation of State Heritage Places as places of archaeological significance (designated places).

State Heritage Places (SHPs) that contain human-made cultural deposits (archaeological artefacts) that are assessed as having state heritage significance can be designated.

Under the Act, *only* SHPs can be designated; however, designation can be achieved through two avenues:

- an existing SHP can be recommended for designation
- an area of land that is not a SHP, but contains a significant archaeological deposit, can be nominated as both a SHP and a designated place.

SHPs can be designated when a SHP contains, or has potential to contain, archaeological deposits that satisfy state significance criteria. The Act does not require that the SHP is *known* to contain intact significant archaeological deposits; however, to be designated, it must be demonstrated that archaeological deposits are likely to be present (that is, through an archaeological assessment).

Under the Act, any significant geological, paleontological, speleological or archaeological deposits are collectively referred to as **objects**, which are defined as:

natural or manufactured objects including geological, palaeontological or speleological specimens, and archaeological artefacts.

Like SHPs in general, places can only be designated where the deposits or objects are assessed as being of state significance. To find out what this means, see [Fact Sheet No. 3: What are significant objects?](#)



Image : DEW

Glenloth Gold Battery Site (SHP 14642), at Lake Harris, Kingoonya, has been a designated place of archaeological significance since 2011

How do you know if objects you own are from a designated place?

Designated places are entered into the South Australian Heritage Register like any other SHP, except the listing also specifies that they are designated places. To find out if an object may be from a designated place, undertake a search on the [South Australian Heritage Places Database](#) (see inset box overleaf).

Example: Brompton Gasworks

The South Australian Gasworks Company (SAGASCO) facility at Brompton was established in 1862, and various phases of construction over the subsequent century reflect the changing methodologies, technologies and natural resources used for gas production. Various structures at the site were demolished from 1972 onwards, and the site was finally closed as a gasworks in the early 2000s. Elements of the remaining structures were entered into the SA Heritage Register in 2011 (SHP 11823), with additional elements listed on the [Charles Sturt Council development plan](#) as contributory heritage items.

The land was acquired in 2010 by Renewal SA with the intention to redevelop it as part of the Bowden development. In 2014, the Charles Sturt Council nominated more than half of the original gasworks site for further registration on the South Australian Heritage Register. Assessment of the nomination found that the 'site has archaeological significance as it is likely that it will yield information that will inform a better understanding of these gas production processes and the significant periods of development of the Brompton Gasworks.

On 23 October 2018 the site was entered into the South Australian Heritage Register as a designated place of archaeological significance (SHP 26449).



Subsurface remains of early structures at the Brompton Gasworks uncovered during development works

Finding out if your object is from a designated place

You can easily find out if the area from where your object was collected is a designated place:

- Open the [South Australian Heritage Places Database](#)
- Under 'Search by Keyword', enter 'Designated' AND 'Places', and press enter.

A list of all current designated places will appear.

If the address and details of a designated place appear to match the area you know your object came from:

- Click on the 'Heritage No.' hyperlink and check the description
- On the Heritage Place details page, click 'Show Map', which will bring up an aerial image and the boundary of the designated place
- Check whether your object was collected within this boundary.

Permits

A permit issued by the South Australian Heritage Council under the Act is required for impacts, or potential impacts, to significant objects, including objects that were removed from designated places. Download permit application forms from Heritage South Australia's [Historical Archaeology Permits](#) webpage.

You can find further information on permits from [Fact Sheet No. 5: When do I need a permit?](#)

More information

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