



## **Sellicks Beach Master Plan: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Desktop Study**

**Associate Professor Neale Draper**  
***Neale Draper & Associates Pty Ltd.***

August 2020

### **Executive Summary**

The City of Onkaparinga Council engaged Neale Draper & Associates Pty Ltd (ND&A) to undertake a desktop-only study of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage relating to areas proposed for rezoning within the broader area of the Sellicks Beach Structure Plan. The land concerned is located within the Kurna Native Title determination area.

The scope of the study includes:

- undertake relevant desktop investigations and assessment of the subject area
- provide council with preliminary report for review and feedback
- provide council with the final report and documentation

The project brief specifies the following deliverables:

- provide council with the results of a desktop study of any relevant cultural history for the areas identified for future urban development identified in Attachment C. The desktop study will include a search of the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) Register to determine if there are any previously registered sites or objects on the project site.
- identify any archaeological, anthropological or historical sites, or sites of significance according to Aboriginal tradition that have been previously reported for the subject land. If there are any sites or objects identified, a map and description of the site(s) must be provided as part of the final report with associated digital spatial (GIS data).
- provide advice on the significance of any previously reported Aboriginal sites, whether any reported significant sites are affected by the project and any recommendations for their management.
- identify the Aboriginal traditional Owners and Native Title holders who must be engaged and consulted for any cultural heritage survey and assessment to be conducted in relation to the subject land, and the required process associated with this engagement.
- Conduct a predictive desktop assessment of the possible Aboriginal heritage sites, objects, remains and values that might be associated with the subject land, based upon the recorded cultural heritage of the surrounding area where previous heritage surveys and assessments have been undertaken.
- Provide council with a preliminary report on the findings of the desktop study for review and feedback
- Provide council with the final report and documentation

The purpose of the project is to provide baseline information on the type, extent, and significance of any Aboriginal cultural heritage values or places that may have relevance to the conditions of the Structure Plan being developed. The structure plan will provide high-level policy and direction in relation to future land zoning and development, which requires some certainty of knowledge with respect to any significant guiding or limiting factors, such as significant cultural heritage places and values (AHA). There are practical

limitations attached to the conduct of a desktop study without Kurna involvement towards achieving this aim (see below).

The work conducted for the project has included the conduct of background cultural heritage and GIS research as well as heritage register searches. The report provides heritage advice on the significance of any previously-reported Aboriginal sites that may be affected by the project and recommendations for conducting a comprehensive cultural heritage assessment of the land in conjunction with KNCHA, before the land is rezoned or developed, to avoid potential offences in relation to both the SA Aboriginal Heritage and Planning Acts.

The desktop study by definition does not include any field survey or Kurna consultation component. A desktop study alone will not provide any certainty for strategic planning purposes of the cultural heritage status of the subject land. This only can be achieved when a cultural heritage survey and associated anthropological consultation is conducted with the Kurna Aboriginal Traditional Owners (SA Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988, 2016 - AHA) and Native Title Holders of the Adelaide Region (Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993).

The report concludes that there are no previously reported Aboriginal heritage sites recorded for the study area. The study area has not been subject to previous cultural heritage survey or Kurna consultation (Section 2). There is no record of any cultural heritage surveys, assessment, or consultation occurring for any of the previously-developed residential areas at Sellicks Beach apart from Section 652 (Draper and Knight 1998) and the site of a proposed Buddhist Temple south of Cactus Canyon (Wood 1997).

Previous cultural heritage research has identified a significant number of Aboriginal sites along the coastal beach and cliff zone in Sellicks Beach. This includes a Tjirbruki/Tjilbruke Dreaming Track spring mythological site marked by a large stone cairn.

In nearby locations there are Aboriginal sites recorded as far inland as the distance from the coast to the study area. However, the test pits excavated across adjacent Section 652 by Draper and Knight (1998) revealed only shallow, agriculturally-disturbed soil above heavy clay, with no archaeological inclusions.

Based upon this available information, the land within the study area has a moderate potential to contain surface archaeological sites or shallow archaeological deposits. Because of its proximity to an important cultural heritage site complex, this moderate archaeological potential should be investigated further through a Kurna cultural heritage survey of the study area before any land-use changes are approved.

The study area is located exclusively within the traditional country of the Kurna people, represented for cultural heritage purposes by KNCHA.

On the basis of this desktop review of previous research and results for cultural heritage in the vicinity of the study area, the following recommendation is made.

A full cultural heritage survey (archaeology and anthropology) of the study area should be conducted with the Kurna traditional owners before any land-use changes are approved, in order to identify if any significant cultural heritage sites are present.