

Woodlands Historic Park

January 1997



Management Plan



This Management Plan for Woodlands Historic Park is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management until the Plan is reviewed. A Draft Gellibrand Hill Park Management Plan was published in July 1993. Seven submissions were received.

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Cover: Woodlands Homestead from the south-west, about 1860. This photo is one of the main pieces of evidence which can be used for the restoration of the 1840s vegetation to the Park. Note the dense cover of Drooping Sheokes on the hill behind the homestead. Sheokes became rare in the Park, presumably because grazing by stock and rabbits prevented their regeneration. (Photo courtesy Dr A Roberts.).

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FOREWORD

Woodlands Historic Park is an important conservation and recreation resource on the north-western fringe of Melbourne's metropolitan area and forms an important part of the region's network of parks.

The Park, established in the 1970s, contains a landscape that has changed little since pioneering pastoral settlement in the 1840s. The Park contains areas of little-disturbed grassy woodland vegetation that provides habitat for the recently re-introduced Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Eastern Barred Bandicoot. This Approved Plan establishes a management framework to protect and enhance these important vegetation communities and habitats.

A major feature of the Park is the historic Woodlands Homestead. Originally imported and erected by the Greene family in 1842, and extended by later owners, the homestead is a unique example of design, construction and decoration from that era. The 'Woodlands' property also has strong associations with the establishment of the Victorian horse racing industry and pioneering families that helped shape the State's agricultural development.

The Park's location in proximity to Melbourne provides an excellent opportunity for history and nature-based tourism. Whether walking along the Moonee Ponds Creek beneath majestic River Red Gums, horse riding around Woodlands Hill or learning about the rich history of the homestead, the Park offers a wide range of recreation opportunities.

The Plan provides directions for protecting the Park's important cultural heritage values and providing opportunities for visitors to enjoy its outstanding features. Key actions include the management of the Woodlands Homestead complex for heritage tourism, the restoration of the 1840s landscape and the provision of improved recreational facilities, including an expanded system of trails linking the Park to the regional parks network.

I look forward to the community's support for the management of this very important cultural landscape, which is a significant part of Victoria's parks system.

Hon Marie Tehan MP
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
and LAND MANAGEMENT

APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This approved Management Plan has been prepared under the provisions of Section 18 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) and is approved for implementation.

The Plan provides the basis for future management of Woodlands Historic Park. It was finalised after considering seven submissions on the Draft Plan.

Mark Stone
Director
National Parks

Jeff Floyd
Chief Executive
Parks Victoria

SUMMARY

Woodlands Historic Park (704 ha; previously known as Gellibrand Hill Park) lies 20 km north-west of the City of Melbourne and immediately north of Melbourne Airport on the north-western fringe of the metropolitan area.

The Park is an undulating rural landscape containing significant remnant native woodlands and grassland together with historic structures dating from the 1840s pastoral settlement. Its natural and cultural significance is recognised by its inclusion on the Register of the National Estate.

The historic Woodlands Homestead is the major cultural attraction and represents a rare and possibly unique remnant of an early prefabricated building imported into Victoria. The homestead is also significant because of its association with the pioneering families in the Port Phillip District.

The Park has endured many changes resulting from Melbourne's urban expansion. It is likely to become increasingly an 'island of open space' adjacent to residential development. Over 80 000 people visited the Park in 1996-97.

The Park will be protected and sensitively developed to provide improved opportunities for informal recreation. The major management directions for the Park are outlined below.

- The Woodlands Homestead, including the outbuildings and gardens and the other European and Aboriginal cultural sites in the Park, will be monitored and conserved.
- The landscape will be managed to reflect the pastoral and settlement related theme. Significant and fragile elements, such as mature Eucalypts, will be protected or restored.
- Wildlife re-introduction and restoration programs will continue to be concentrated in the back paddock.
- Invasive exotic species will be controlled, particularly weeds, rabbits, cats and foxes.
- The Park will provide high quality visitor experiences for a wide range of visitors, giving an insight into the lifestyles of the 1840s and the social changes since then.
- The main visitor facilities and developments will be provided at the Woodlands Homestead complex and the Moonee Ponds Creek picnic area; and cycling and walking paths will provide visitor access linking all sections of the Park.
- The Woodlands Homestead will be promoted as a significant visitor and tourist facility.
- Community based park use will be encouraged; and the activity and involvement of the Friends of Woodlands Historic Park will be supported.
- Opportunities for involvement of the private sector in developing and providing services based on the Homestead complex will be investigated.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and planning area

Woodlands Historic Park (known until June 1995 as Gellibrand Hill Park) is situated in the City of Hume, 20 km north-west of the centre of the City of Melbourne and immediately north of Melbourne Airport (figure 1).

The Park lies on the north-western fringe of the Melbourne metropolitan area, close to the western edge of the suburbs of Greenvale and Westmeadows. The Park is immediately surrounded by rural residential properties and forms part of the open space buffer for the Airport.

The planning area is shown in figure 2 and includes the Park and adjacent areas that are currently, or may in the future, be managed as part of the Park. Specifically, the planning area includes:

- 704 ha reserved as Woodlands Historic Park, under Schedule 3 of the National Parks Act;
- approximately 45 ha leased from the Federal Airports Corporation;
- approximately 20 ha of the western portion of the Crown land reserve (formerly part of the Greenvale Sanatorium and now managed by the Department by agreement with the North West Hospital);
- approximately 1 ha of Crown land (part of CA 16 Parish of Tullamarine), which was the original site of St Marys Church and is classified by the National Trust;
- approximately 35 ha, known as the Mitchell-Lasry Quarry, compulsorily acquired in 1995 and managed by the Department of Infrastructure (future use and inclusion in the Park is to be considered when the quarry has been rehabilitated); and
- Oaklands Common, managed by the City of Hume.

The terms ‘Woodlands Historic Park’ and ‘the Park’ where used in the Plan do not refer to the Mitchell Lasry Quarry or Oaklands Common.

1.2 Regional context

The Park has significant cultural and natural values that have endured time despite changes resulting from Melbourne’s urban expansion. In the future, it is likely to become an ‘island of open space’ adjacent to residential development. As it is the only significant area of natural vegetation between Melbourne and the forests of the Macedon Range, the Park will become increasingly important in maintaining regional biodiversity.

The population of Melbourne is expected to grow by approximately 15 per cent over the next 20 years and over 40 per cent of this growth is expected to occur in the north-western fringe suburbs. Accordingly, the recreational demands and pressures on the Park are likely to dramatically increase, as will its significance within the regional open space network.

1.3 Significance of the Park

The Park is listed on the Register of the National Estate, in recognition of the area’s outstanding values and its importance as part of our heritage.

The historic Woodlands Homestead complex dating from the 1840s, is a major cultural attraction in the Park and is listed on the Historic Buildings Register.

The setting of the homestead is also important with gardens that reflect their evolution until the 1920s and surrounding grassy woodland that has changed little for over 150 years.

Conservation of the woodland and grassland vegetation was an important reason for establishing the Park. It contains valuable remnants of the southern-most extent of grassy woodlands and open forests, which were extensive at the beginning of European settlement in Victoria.

Significant features of the Park are summarised below:

Natural values

- The diversity of vegetation arises from the intersection of basalt and granodiorite and the presence of the Moonee Ponds Creek, which flows for approximately eight kilometres along the northern, western and southern boundaries.
- The granodiorite flora exhibits an unusual mixture of Eucalypt species including Yellow Box, Manna Gum, Grey Box and River Red Gum, as well as Drooping Sheoke.
- The remnant Grey Box and River Red Gum woodland character has for the most part been retained.

Cultural values

- Woodlands Homestead represents a rare and possibly unique example of an early prefabricated building. It was imported into Victoria in 1842. The Homestead is also important because of its association with the pioneering families in the Port Phillip District.
- The homestead reflects the social conditions that prevailed in the new colony when resources to build efficiently and cheaply were still scarce. Its structural system has elements that are common in later prefabricated buildings.
- The 1849 hand-painted internal wall decoration of the west wing of the homestead is extremely rare if not unique in Victoria.
- The gardens reflect their evolution until the 1920s. The surviving courtyard garden within the Homestead contains the earliest recorded planting of Magnolia in Victoria.
- The Park contains ruins of two other homesteads, and a number of Aboriginal scar trees.

Tourism and recreation values

- The Park's location on the northern edge of an expanding urban environment enhances its strategic value.
- In association with adjacent public lands, the Park has the potential to provide extensive recreation and conservation opportunities.

1.4 Creation of the Park

Woodlands Historic Park was progressively established between 1975 and 1983. The land was compulsorily acquired by the State Government in two separate blocks, one the property formerly known as 'Woodlands', the other the Attwood family property containing Gellibrand Hill. Other public land in the area to the north of these properties has been added to the Park in recent years, and consolidation is continuing in this area.

The then Shire of Bulla had a long-standing commitment from the 1960s to bring about the preservation of Gellibrand Hill and the 'Woodlands' property as parkland. In 1972, the Shire proposed to the State Government that 'Woodlands' and the Gellibrand Hill summit area be acquired and developed as 'metropolitan parkland'. In support of this, the former National Parks Service prepared a preliminary statement on proposed uses and management for the area in October 1973, and published a Plan of Management for the proposed Park in 1974.

The former National Parks Service took possession of the 'Woodlands' property in November 1977. An initial area of 265 ha including 'Woodlands' was proclaimed as Gellibrand Hill Park under Schedule 3 of the National Parks Act on 19 May 1981, as a result of the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1981* (Vic.). The Park was increased in size to 658 ha in 1986, with the addition of the block including Gellibrand Hill itself, and to 704 ha in 1995 with the addition of Crown land adjacent to Somerton Road. It was renamed Woodlands Historic Park on 3 August 1995.

More of the Park's history is provided in *Red Gums and Riders. A History of Gellibrand Hill Park* (CNR 1993).

1.5 Legislation and guidelines

The Land Conservation Council (LCC 1987) recommended that the Park be managed as a Regional Park to:

- provide opportunities for informal recreation for large numbers of people;
- conserve, protect and enhance the natural ecosystem to the extent that this is consistent with the above;
- protect the historical values of the Woodlands Homestead.

Woodlands Historic Park is managed under provisions of the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Director to preserve and protect the natural and cultural features of the Park and, subject to this, to provide for the use of the Park by the public for enjoyment, recreation and education.

Other legislation of particular relevance to the Park includes the:

- *Historic Buildings Act 1981* (Vic.)
- *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* (Cwlth.)
- *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* (Vic.)
- *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic.)
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.)
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic.)
- *Water Act 1989* (Vic.)
- *Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994* (Vic.).

The Park is managed in accordance with guidelines for the management of parks and LCC recommendations, and with other plans and guidelines.

Previous management plans were prepared for the Park in 1974 and 1982. The 1982 Development Plan needs review because of changes including the development of other regional parks, changes in park visitation and improved understanding of the Park's cultural and natural heritage values.

Other plans operating in conjunction with this Plan include:

- Woodlands Historic Park Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996);
- Eastern Barred Bandicoot Action Statement (DCE 1991);
- Fire Protection Plan, Port Phillip Area (Former Melbourne Region) (CNR 1996);
- Draft Conservation Program for Native Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands in Victoria (DCE 1992);
- Remnant Native Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands of the Melbourne Area Action Plan (DCE 1990);
- A Guide to Priorities for Melbourne's Open Space Network, Northern Tributaries (Melbourne Parks and Waterways 1995).

1.6 Park management aims

Section 4 (Objects) and Section 18 of the National Parks Act provides the generic basis for managing the Park. Parks declared under this section have a more diverse character than is usually associated with National Parks. A wider diversity of land uses is often catered for. Conservation of natural areas, while still important, is not as pre-eminent above other uses as it is in National Parks. The following broad management aims, derived from the legislation, set the framework for long-term park management.

Natural resource conservation

- As far as is consistent with other aims, protect and conserve natural ecosystems and the natural environment.
- Manage natural processes towards an outcome combining sustainability with improvement in natural values.

Heritage resource conservation

- Conserve features of archaeological, historical, cultural and scenic significance.

Park protection

- Protect and if possible improve the quality and naturalness of water catchments and stream systems.
- Control and if possible eradicate exotic plants, animals and diseases.
- Protect human life, park values, facilities and adjacent land from injury by fire.
- Rehabilitate and where possible restore the natural character of disturbed areas.

The Park visit

- Provide opportunities for appropriate recreation and tourism in a range of natural and modified settings.
- Promote an appreciation and understanding of the Park's cultural, agrarian and natural values.

- Promote appropriate park use and visitor behaviour and foster a conservation ethic in visitors and an understanding of minimal impact behaviour.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure visitor safety.

Other

- Provide for and encourage scientific research, surveys and monitoring that will contribute to a better understanding and management of the Park.
- Co-operate with local, State and interstate government authorities, the community and other interested organisations to assist in the management of the Park.

2 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

2.1 Park vision

A future visitor to Woodlands Historic Park will find an important remnant of open space in the north-western fringe of Melbourne. The Park's values derive from its significant remnants of natural woodland and grassland, significant fauna habitat and biodiversity value, rural character and pastoral areas, and the culturally significant Woodlands Homestead complex. The Park is maintained and sensitively developed to achieve its recommended use as an area to provide opportunities for informal recreation for large numbers of people.

The Park has been restored as near as practical to the general character, appearance, landforms and flora and fauna habitats as it is understood to have had in the 1840s, at the beginning of European settlement.

Visitors enjoy a remnant of 1840s European pastoral settlement with a representative woodland and grassland landscape, reflecting:

- surviving remnants of communities of flora and fauna little-disturbed by European land use;
- supplanting Aboriginal culture and land use with European patterns and practices;
- surviving the social and environmental changes brought about by the progression of settlement and the development of the Melbourne metropolitan area;
- Anglo-Irish gentry and their influence on Victoria's cultural development;
- more recent cultural changes, such as extensions and modifications to the Woodlands Homestead complex up to the 1920s and the radar tower constructed on Gellibrand Hill.

The Park is widely recognised as a cultural and natural heritage area that symbolises pastoral settlement of the Port Phillip area, and as an important tourism, educational and recreational resource.

2.2 Management directions

The major directions for management are:

Natural resource conservation

- The landscape will be managed to reflect the pastoral and settlement related theme. Significant and fragile elements, such as mature Eucalypts, will be protected or restored.
- The dynamics of growth and aging will be recognised, with tree replacements, new plantings and fencing styles sympathetic to the evolved 1840s landscape.
- Wildlife re-introduction and restoration programs will continue to be concentrated in the 'back paddock'.

Heritage resource conservation

- The Woodlands Homestead including the outbuildings and gardens and the other European and Aboriginal cultural sites in the Park will be conserved.
- The fabric of the Woodlands Homestead and out-buildings will be monitored for signs of deterioration and maintained but does not require restoration.
- Maintenance programs will be established and maintained.

Park protection

- Invasive exotic species will be controlled, particularly weeds, rabbits, cats and foxes.
- Research and monitoring programs will be established and maintained.

The Park visit

- The main visitor facilities and developments will be provided at the Woodlands Homestead complex and the Moonee Ponds Creek picnic area.
- The Woodlands Homestead will be promoted as a significant visitor and tourist facility and part of a range of

significant heritage assets across Melbourne.

- Future development of adoption of the Homestead will be in accordance with conservation guidelines (appendix II)
- Cycling and walking paths will provide visitor access linking all sections of the Park.
- The Park will provide high quality visitor experiences for a wide range of visitors.
- Interpretation of the historic features will give an insight into the lifestyles of the 1840s and the social changes since then
- Opportunities for enhanced tourist visits, including commercially operated tours, will be supported.

Community awareness and involvement

- Community based park use will be encouraged.
- The activity and involvement of the Friends of Woodlands Historic Park will be supported.

2.3 Zoning

Zoning is often used as a means to guide managers in determining the way different parts of a Park will be managed, by indicating the levels and types of use appropriate throughout the Park. For Woodlands Historic Park the landscape is recognised as a single entity. The Park is relatively small in size and management focuses on the vision of creating an 1840s landscape. In this situation zoning is not considered useful. For cross reference to other Parks, the whole of the Park can be regarded as within the Conservation and Recreation Zone.

The Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996) prescribes revegetation zones and resource maps to facilitate the restoration of the natural resources of the Park.

An area surrounding the Woodlands Homestead, shown on figure 2, is defined as an Historic Buildings Precinct overlay. Within this precinct all building works and alterations to structures are subject to approval by the Historic Buildings Council under provisions of the Historic Buildings Act and conservation guidelines (appendix II).

3 NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

3.1 Geological and landform features

The Park lies on the conjunction of Devonian Granodiorite hills and the western basalt plains that run extensively to the south and west from the Park.

The important landform features of the Park include Gellibrand and Woodlands Hills, the Moonee Ponds Creek and other drainage lines.

Due to changes in the upstream catchment and consequential changes in water volumes and sediment loads, the channel of Moonee Ponds Creek is deeply incised to bedrock and bears little resemblance to its 1840s appearance, which is reported to have been a chain of shallow ponds. Restoration of the creek will need to accommodate the modified flows, high sediment load and reduced water quality that is likely to continue to characterise the creek. An upstream catchment management program has been established.

Aim

- Restore and protect geological and other landform features in the Park which assist in achieving a characteristically 1840s landscape and environmental setting.

Management strategies

- *Stabilise disturbed granitic slopes in the Park, particularly the gravel scrapes on Gellibrand Hill in accordance with the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996).*
- *Prepare a Creek Management Plan to stabilise the banks of the Moonee Ponds Creek, Greenvale Creek and other major drainage lines in the Park. Control bank erosion through subtle engineering works designed to control stream flow rates, where possible creating a series of small rock-walled weirs designed to recreate the original 'pond' character of the creek.*

3.2 Vegetation

There are 173 vascular plant species currently recorded for Woodlands Historic Park. The original flora is considered to have contained approximately 343 species (Carr et al. 1996).

The Park's flora reflects the conjunction of rock and soil types, and a history of disturbance. The remnant Grey Box and River Red Gum woodland have for the most part been retained, but some understorey associations are very disturbed or have been replaced by pasture.

The eastern part of the Park around Gellibrand Hill contains remnants, in good condition, of an open forest dominated by an unusual mixture of Eucalypt species including Yellow Box, Manna Gum, Grey Box and River Red Gum. The shrub layer of Hedge Wattle and a few Drooping Sheoke is in moderate condition. The grassy ground layer is a mixture of native and exotic grasses. In places the understorey is in a reasonably natural condition, but other areas have been severely degraded by introduction of weeds and exotic grasses. To the west the forest grades into an open woodland of older River Red Gum and Grey Box specimens set in a pasture of mixed exotic and native grasses. River Red Gums dominate the riparian zone of Moonee Ponds Creek, where some native shrubs remain, but woody weeds still form a major component of the vegetation.

The native plant communities in the Park form the major remnant of native woodland in the region. They are important to maintenance of regional biodiversity. The Park offers a secure site for the re-introduction of threatened flora to supplement communities on sites not reserved for conservation and that may be developed.

Records (Watts 1993) indicate that Narrow-leaf Peppermint, Cherry Ballart and Silver Banksia were growing in the Gellibrand Hill area in the 1840s but no longer occur in the Park.

The Austral Moonwort is the only rare and threatened species recorded, but is no longer considered to occur in the Park.

Aims

- Maintain biodiversity; provide the greatest possible protection to unique, sensitive, rare or endangered vegetation.
- Restore, protect and, where financially and technically feasible, re-introduce viable communities of indigenous flora which reflect a characteristically 1840s landscape and environmental setting.
- Concentrate on maintaining and enhancing sites containing high quality vegetation communities, particularly grasslands and grassy understorey remnants.

Management strategies

- *Restore the characteristically 1840s vegetation associations in accordance with the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996) including species mix, density, structure and geographic variation of the various associations, revegetation methods, landscape management techniques and habitat conservation, including links to adjacent areas.*
- *Investigate the re-introduction of the suitable species identified in the Restoration Plan.*
- *Continue to collect and safely store seed from locally indigenous species in and around the Park with assistance from volunteer groups.*
- *Encourage continuing ecological and botanical research to help refine understanding of the 1840s vegetation associations and practical means of restoring these communities.*

3.3 Fauna

There is currently 15 mammal, 150 bird, nine amphibian, six reptile and three fish species recorded for Woodlands Historic Park and surrounding areas (Carr et al. 1996). A number of these species are rare, threatened or otherwise significant (appendix I).

These records include species from habitats no longer found in the Park. As an example,

Moonee Ponds Creek was reported to have been a chain of shallow ponds which would have held water for all or most of the year in the 1840s (CNR 1993). The stream has since become deeply incised and these wetland habitats have been lost.

The Eastern Barred Bandicoot and the Swift Parrot are the only rare and threatened species listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act that currently occur in the Park (appendix I).

In 1989, as part of a statewide recovery program, the Eastern Barred Bandicoot was re-introduced into the back paddock (Dufty et al. 1994). The species has established a self-sustaining population within the confines of the back paddock, where it is protected from predation. The breeding program has now been relocated to the Melbourne Zoo.

The re-introduction of potentially suitable indigenous fauna (appendix I) that have become locally extinct or threatened since the 1840s is identified and detailed in the Restoration Plan.

Vegetation is the most important determinant of faunal habitat, and restoration of the 1840s flora will be the most important step in habitat enhancement for the establishment of the 1840s fauna.

Eastern Grey Kangaroos were introduced within the back paddock enclosure shortly after the construction of the perimeter fence in the early 1980s. The early population of Eastern Grey Kangaroos was less than 25 animals. This population now exceeds 1000 individuals. A detailed study of the suitability of the Park for the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (Robertson 1985) indicated that one kangaroo per hectare would be the upper limit for a population in the Park. The population is presently increasing well beyond this recommended number, and the back paddock shows evidence of heavy grazing in comparison to adjacent areas.

Aims

- Protect the diversity and viable populations of indigenous species within the Park.
- Re-introduce indigenous fauna in accordance with the Park's theme.

Management strategies

- *Investigate the re-introduction of the suitable species identified in the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996).*
- *Focus fauna restoration and management in the back paddock, where the electrified fence affords considerable protection from predation by cats, dogs and foxes.*
- *Manage Flora and Fauna Guarantee listed fauna (appendix I) according to approved action statements.*
- *Continue to monitor the re-established Eastern Barred Bandicoot population in the back paddock, maintain and enhance the habitat provided for bandicoots by indigenous vegetation and ensure ongoing effective predator control.*
- *Prepare an Eastern Grey Kangaroo Management Plan which addresses the monitoring and maintenance of the population at a level appropriate to achieve the objectives for management of Eastern Barred Bandicoots, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and indigenous vegetation.*
- *Encourage appropriate institutions to conduct research to further understanding and ability to restore and manage fauna populations in general, and the Eastern Grey Kangaroo population in particular. Investigate funding sources and consider joint submissions for funding/sponsorship with interested universities and institutions.*
- *Improve the design and alignment of the back paddock fence to exclude foxes, cats and dogs. Relocate the length of this fence to the alignment shown on figure 3 to remove Moonee Ponds Creek from the back paddock; as needed, erect fences to prevent stock, including horses, entering the Creek.*
- *Consider removing the pens built as Eastern Barred Bandicoot enclosures, except where of value as vegetation grazing exclosures.*

3.4 Landscape

Changes over time to property and park management have left a legacy of internal fences that bear little relevance to present management patterns. Some fences have historical value, others unnecessarily obstruct pedestrian access. An active fence rationalisation program is in progress.

Three former bluestone (basalt) quarries near Moonee Ponds Creek pose considerable problems for restoration of the 1840s landscape. They also represent hazards to public safety and require careful management. Two large water filled quarry holes created during the 1950s and 1960s are enclosed by a two metre high cyclone fence to exclude public access, and are further enclosed within the back paddock perimeter fence.

A third much larger dry quarry hole, of approximately 35 ha, known as the Mitchell-Lasry Quarry, is partly on land compulsorily acquired by the Government in 1995 and partly in the Park. Parts of the quarry perimeter are fenced but access to the site is not prevented. The quarry site is derelict, with heavy weed infestations, relic quarrying equipment (which may be of historical interest) and a severely disturbed land surface. The long-term future use of this site requires further consideration. During proceedings for compulsory acquisition extensive environmental studies were undertaken and these should form the basis for any future use or restoration work on the site (Beverage Williams & Co. 1994).

Aim

- Integrate management of the Park's natural and cultural resources.

Management strategies

- *In conjunction with the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996), rationalise fencing, giving due consideration to the separation of horse riders and walkers. In particular rationalise fencing around Gellibrand Hill and provide a gate for walkers and riders at the southern end of the Sugar Gum plantation.*
- *As far as possible, use styles of fencing which would not be incongruous in an 1840s landscape.*

- *Investigate and adopt measures to reduce the visual impact of the back paddock electric fence, particularly at the main public entry gates.*
- *Prepare Quarry Restoration Plans for all three quarries, directed to future use and the restoration of the quarries, in context with the remainder of the Park. Erect appropriate fences and public safety signs at all three quarries.*

4 HERITAGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION

4.1 Woodlands Homestead complex

The Park's cultural resources include archaeological and historic elements (appendix II). Their significance is recognised by listings on the Register of the National Estate and the State Register of Historic Buildings, as well as a National Trust Classification. These resources are significant in their own right, but more importantly, because they remain in their original landscape setting.

The Conservation Guidelines (appendix II) will conserve and protect the original fabric of the complex of buildings, while enabling the significance and later additions to the complex to be interpreted to the public.

Although the Guidelines identify potential options for further restoration, within the time frame of this Plan the complex will not undergo any further major restoration works unless the opportunity arises as a consequence of the involvement of private enterprise partners (section 6.4).

Protection and maintenance of the Woodlands Homestead complex (figure 5), within the precinct shown on figure 2, is also subject to requirements of the Historic Buildings Act. This Act requires all works on the building fabric to be approved by the Historic Buildings Council.

Aims

- Conserve the remnant European and Aboriginal cultural sites.
- Provide access to and interpret selected historic sites.
- Develop the cultural tourism potential of the Woodlands Homestead complex.

Management strategies

- *Conserve and maintain the Woodlands Homestead complex (figure 5) in accordance with the Conservation Guidelines (appendix II) and Historic Buildings Council approvals.*

- *Review and where necessary improve house management and curation for Woodlands Homestead.*
- *Stabilise the fabric of the Homestead and out buildings; inspect regularly for signs of weathering and deterioration.*
- *Monitor visitor numbers and their impacts and ensure the protection of fragile timber structures.*
- *Promote Woodlands Homestead as a significant visitor and tourist facility and part of a range of significant heritage assets across Melbourne (sections 6.1 and 6.2).*

4.2 Other cultural features

The Park contains a number of Aboriginal cultural artefacts predating European settlement of the area and other sites of historic and cultural significance including Cumberland and Dundonald homestead ruins and St Marys Church site. Conservation guidelines for the remainder of the Park are also listed in appendix II.

Aims

- Conserve the remnant European and Aboriginal cultural sites.
- Provide access to and interpret selected historic sites.

Management strategy

- *Protect and manage cultural elements outside of the Woodlands Homestead complex in accordance with the Conservation Guidelines (appendix II) and the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996).*

4.3 Historic landscape

Major components of the 1840s landscape remain in the Park, including substantial cultural elements and remnant native plant and animal communities.

Complete restoration of the 1840s landscape is not possible. There are no photographs or detailed sketches to give a clear understanding of what the area looked like at that time. Moreover, irreversible changes have occurred to both cultural remnants and the environmental setting. Retention of some change is essential to the community e.g. the Civil Aviation Authority radar installation on Gellibrand Hill. Other change, such as removal of all the exotic grasses, would not be technically feasible. Furthermore, artefacts from other times in the Park's past have importance in their own right, such as additions to the Woodlands Homestead complex. These elements of different ages raise the problem of which to reserve or restore to allow future generations to look back and interpret Victoria's past.

The Restoration Plan for the Park (Carr et al. 1996) is based on all available knowledge of the landscape and environment from the 1840s onwards. Comparative analysis of similar remnant floral and faunal communities, soils, and land types elsewhere in the region have helped draw conclusions about the 1840s landscape.

Grazing and pasture management

Woodlands Historic Park was a grazing property, although it is now managed under National Parks legislation. Since initial settlement the property has been run as a pastoral concern.

Stock can add to the appearance of the 1840s landscape. Integrated planning and management of rural properties for historic, conservation and farming purposes is now a well established concept.

Horses formed an important part of the stock on the property. Currently horses from the neighbouring Police stables complex are being depastured in the Park.

Cattle and horses may be a disincentive to visitors using paddocks surrounding the Homestead; sheep may be preferred in some areas.

Aims

- Restore and manage the general character, appearance, flora, fauna, landforms, and habitat of the Park, as it is understood to have been in the 1840s at the beginning of European pastoral settlement, accepting changed elements where this is unavoidable or appropriate to heritage conservation.
- Retain cultural elements which reflect the sequence of occupation, use and environmental change since settlement.
- Manage grazing and agistment in the Park in accordance with the vision of an 1840s pastoral settlement.

Management strategies

- *Implement the Restoration Plan for the Park (Carr et al. 1996) to restore and maintain the 1840s landscape in accordance with the specific actions in chapter 3.*
- *Protect individual trees forming significant but fragile elements of the landscape, including mature Eucalypts, particularly those scarred by Aborigines. Adopt tree surgery methods where appropriate.*
- *Manage grazing and agistment in accordance with the recommendations of the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996). In general restrict grazing to those areas which are currently grazed, mostly around the Woodlands Homestead.*
- *Manage stock primarily to achieve landscape objectives, with income generation and profitability a secondary concern.*
- *Stock the property with 1840s breeds, such as Durham cattle.*
- *Continue stock management primarily by contract. Develop a strong co-operative basis for management with the contractor.*

- *Seek to establish stocking arrangements with graziers sympathetic to the Park vision and who will manage stocking accordingly; in particular, explore possibilities with the adjacent Agriculture Victoria Research Institute.*

5 PARK PROTECTION

5.1 Fire management

The sloping terrain, grassy woodland vegetation, seasonal grass growth and exposure to drying northern and westerly winds in summer represents a significant fire hazard. Under moderately high fire danger conditions a fire can move rapidly through the Park's grasslands.

Fire management in the Park is in accordance with the Fire Protection Plan, Port Phillip Area (former Melbourne Region) (CNR 1996).

Fire risk relates mostly to traffic on adjacent roads and the high numbers of visitors. Fire protection concentrates on providing strategic fuel reduced areas (through a combination of burning, slashing, ploughing and grazing), control of the use of fire by visitors, provision of fire danger signs and liaison with the City of Hume and local CFA brigades on road side fuel reduction works. Priority is given to Woodlands Homestead, visitor congregation areas and the back paddock to protect fauna populations.

Fire management tracks and water supply dams are maintained at strategic locations. In addition, specific hydrant and extinguishing facilities are installed at the Woodlands Homestead complex.

Fire is also an important element in managing and restoring native plant communities.

Aims

- Protect life, property and resources from fire in a manner consistent with the park values and the Restoration Plan.
- Institute an ecological burning regime which will assist in achieving a characteristically 1840s landscape.

Management strategies

- *Continue to maintain fire breaks in line with the Fire Protection Plan, Port Phillip Area (former Melbourne Region) (CNR 1996). As far as is practical, use a range of methods to construct these breaks in order to minimise both the visual and environmental impact.*

- *Establish special provisions for public safety in the back paddock:*
 - *close the back paddock to public access on days when the Grassland Fire Danger Index (FDI) is expected to reach 30 or more;*
 - *negotiate with the Federal Airports Corporation and Australian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation to install a public fire alert siren on the radar tower facility on Gellibrand Hill;*
 - *prepare a brochure targeted at adjoining residents to explain the fire siren, once installed;*
 - *slash the edges of walking tracks to protect visitors from fire.*
- *Review current grazing of the paddocks around Woodlands Homestead for fire protection purposes in accordance with the recommendations of the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996) (section 4.3).*
- *Do not burn or slash breaks in the back paddock enclosure where fuel levels remain below two tonnes per hectare.*
- *Provide improved fire protection services at Woodlands Homestead.*
- *In accordance with the Restoration Plan, undertake a small scale experimental program of ecological burning (section 3.2).*
- *Monitor the impact of any burning program on the distribution and abundance of fauna and flora species; refine the program as required (sections 3.2 and 3.3).*
- *Encourage and assist ongoing fire related ecological research to help refine our understanding of the 1840s vegetation associations and practical means by which an ecological burning program could be used to restore these communities (sections 3.2 and 3.3).*

5.2 Pest plants and animals, and diseases

Both environmental and noxious weeds occur in the Park. In some areas noxious weeds such as Gorse, African Box-thorn and Sweet Briar dominate the landscape. Grasses such as Serrated Tussock and Chilean Spear-grass are major potential invaders of grassland and pasture with capacity to spread rapidly. In places they require urgent control.

Pasture grasses present a different problem. They are well established in both the Homestead paddocks and the back paddock, where they compete against native grasses. Control of pasture grasses in native grasslands is a difficult challenge and may prove to be impractical.

Rabbit control is critical to success in restoring a characteristically 1840s landscape and environmental setting, and for biodiversity maintenance and good property management generally. Rabbits effect the survival of River Red Gums and other remnant vegetation, and warrens have caused considerable erosion, particularly along Moonee Ponds Creek.

By the summer of 1993 rabbits had reached high numbers, causing significant soil disturbance, restricting the ongoing regeneration of indigenous flora and allowing weeds to more easily invade the area. Wildlife biologists involved in the Eastern Barred Bandicoot Recovery Program also believed that rabbits reduced grass cover for Bandicoots and that increased control was essential. An ongoing rabbit control program has since reduced numbers considerably.

Experience indicates that rabbit control can be carried out sensitively so that the impact on non-target species, including Bandicoots, is minimised.

Predator control programs are essential if populations of re-introduced native fauna are to be maintained. To be effective, cat control programs must operate on a community basis.

Aim

- Control pest plants and animals not supporting the 1840s landscape theme so they are no longer prominent or a threat to the ecosystem.

Management strategies

- *Implement the strategies for integrated pest plant and animal control as outlined in the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996).*
- *Continue an integrated rabbit control program, involving warren and harbour removal, biological control, fumigation and shooting.*
- *Control foxes, feral dogs and cats, particularly in the back paddock to allow fauna re-introductions under the Restoration Plan.*
- *In conjunction with the rabbit control program, institute an extensive weed program using integrated control strategies (fire, hand pulling, spraying, slashing mulching and replanting desirable species) to control the following species:*
 - *Gorse;*
 - *African Box-thorn;*
 - *Sweet Briar;*
 - *Serrated Tussock;*
 - *Chilean Spear-grass;*
 - *One-leaf Cape Tulip;*
 - *Patersons Curse;*
 - *Toowoomba Canary-grass;*
 - *Artichoke Thistle;*
 - *St Johns Wort.*
- *Develop strategies to maintain existing high quality native grasslands as weed free areas and restrict the spread of pasture grasses.*
- *Maintain an awareness of research into methods for native grassland management and associated weed and pasture grass removal. Trial any new methods before using on a widespread basis, and monitor effectiveness and side effects.*

- *Prepare and implement a ‘Pets and Park Neighbours’ Education Program which:*
 - *is targeted at residents owning pets, especially cats, within one kilometre of the Park boundary;*
 - *has messages aimed at achieving responsible pet ownership and behavioural changes which will advance the park landscape and environmental restoration efforts;*
- *includes a strategy for measuring the performance of the program.*
- *Liaise with the City of Hume on cat controls adjacent to the Park.*

6 THE PARK VISIT

6.1 The Park visitor

The Park vision identifies a requirement ‘*to provide opportunities for informal recreation for large numbers of people*’. To achieve this vision the Park’s open space, natural and cultural resources will be utilised to provide a diversity of recreation experiences for visitors with a wide variety of interests.

Based on limited market research undertaken to assist in preparing this Plan (Thorpe 1992) most visitors to the Park fall within one or more of the following categories:

- heritage appreciation group;
- sightseeing group;
- tour package group;
- education group;
- leisure group;
- fitness group.

The categories have been defined on the basis of their size, interests, differing service and facility requirements and potential impact on the Park. It may be necessary to refine them based on further management experience and in light of the market segments which are currently being developed by Parks Victoria.

Each group seeks a different experience from the Park and will be targeted in Park promotion and management. Visitor services and facilities (section 6.2) are based on their needs which are reflected in visitor information and interpretation (section 6.3). Not all visitors will want to experience the whole Park and these variations are catered for.

Dogs on a leash are currently permitted in the Park in accordance with the *Park Regulations 1992* (Vic.), except at the Woodlands Homestead and surrounds and in the back paddock.

Marketing

Over 80 000 people visited the Park in 1996-97. The Park is widely recognised as a cultural and natural heritage area which symbolises pastoral settlement of the Port

Phillip area, and as an important tourism, educational and recreational resource.

A clear and concise image is fundamental to successfully marketing of the Park. An appropriate crest or logo is a basic marketing tool.

Some names in the Park also require revision. The area enclosed by the electric fence was initially called the ‘fauna paddock’ and later the ‘nature reserve’. Reference to a ‘reserve’ within a park is misleading and makes it difficult for the public to gain an overall perspective and appreciation of the Park. Historical records indicate that former owners referred to this area as the ‘back paddock’. This name has been used throughout this Plan, as it integrates the area with the theme and image for the Park, enhancing visitor appreciation of the Park and its values.

Aims

- Create a clear and concise park image as a basis for strategic marketing and promotion.
- Promote Woodlands Historic Park both regionally and in the metropolitan area as a cultural tourism asset and an important relic of the settlement of Melbourne.

Management strategies

- *Develop pre-visit information based on visitor needs and interests, including a clear and concise guide to the Park.*
- *Adopt a sign plan and colour scheme appropriate to the Park.*
- *Erect signs which stimulate interest in, and direct visitors to Woodlands Historic Park, on all approaches to the Park.*
- *Improve information and signage regarding the exclusion of dogs in specific areas and the need to keep dogs on leashes in the remainder of the Park.*
- *Cross-market the Park with other metropolitan heritage areas, regional parks and regional tourist attractions.*

6.2 Visitor recreation activities and facilities

6.2.1 Vehicle access

Access to the Park is excellent, the main access being via the Tullamarine Freeway and Sunbury Road from Melbourne. Major sealed roads surround the Park and provide access from adjoining suburbs and lead to the main Park entrances.

Within the Park, a limited network of 2WD tracks provides adequate vehicular access for visitors, leading to the main visitor nodes, and for management purposes (figure 3).

Aims

- Provide and maintain vehicular access within the Park for visitors and management purposes.
- Minimise the impact of vehicle use and track management on park values.

Management strategies

- *Maintain the current 2WD vehicular track network.*
- *Use granitic sand on all vehicle tracks within the Park to blend in with the natural and cultural features.*

6.2.2 All visitor groups

Visitors seeking the whole park experience will appreciate the sense of completeness of the remnant 1840s landscape - an historic property in a largely intact setting. No other park or historic property in the region has this attribute. The Woodlands Homestead complex, with its prefabricated homestead structure and detailed historic chronologies, reinforces this impression.

Other important attributes of the overall park experience are:

- the cultural changes post-dating the 1840s, particularly additions to the Woodlands Homestead complex, which indicate the changes experienced by an interesting and important section of Victorian society;

- the diversity of the remnant landscape which includes both pastures and little disturbed areas more characteristic of the pre-European period;
- leisurely-paced recreation in an uncrowded, open landscape including activities such as sightseeing, wildlife viewing, walking (short and long distance), pleasure cycling, photography, jogging, horse riding and picnicking.

Aims

- Improve the Park's facilities and the range of recreational, interpretative and educational opportunities for visitors including disadvantaged visitors.
- Avoid conflicts between visitor activities and between visitor and management activities. As far as possible, separate vehicular access from other access (pedestrian, cycling).
- Encourage better use of Park facilities and services, rather than developing new facilities and services.

Management strategies

- *Prepare a Woodlands Homestead Complex Action Plan, containing detailed guidelines for implementing visitor facilities, programs and services consistent with the Park vision and the physical limitations of the structure.*
- *Develop the visitor access and other facilities shown in figures 3 and 4, including information displays, walking tracks, multi-purpose paths and bridle paths.*
- *Ensure developments are in keeping with the Park's theme.*
- *Permit recreational activities in accordance with table 1.*
- *Develop a booking and reservation system to schedule major group and package tour visits.*

- *Establish appropriate fees for visitor groups using the Park.*

6.2.3 Heritage appreciation group

Group members actively seek to enhance their knowledge of the Park's natural and cultural values as the main purpose of their visit. Members of this relatively small group are strong supporters of heritage stewardship and park values, and can assist in spreading knowledge of the Park.

This is likely to be the most receptive group visiting the Park. There are two identifiable sub-groups within this market segment, 'experience enthusiasts' and 'family groups'. Both groups seek quality opportunities and a challenging learning experience, but adults in the family group are keen to share experiences with their children.

Aims

- Develop high quality, historically authentic, challenging educational experiences which:
 - meet knowledge and experience needs through a multi-faceted, multi-media approach, including the use of art, drama and music;
 - communicate in an enjoyable and inspirational manner;
 - foster a strong sense of stewardship for the Park's heritage values.
- Develop personal, entertaining and safe learning experiences for children of various ages and levels of development which incorporate parental interaction and control in understanding the activity.

Management strategies

- *Use the Park information displays as the focus for heritage appreciation programs.*
- *To provide for this group:*
 - *refine the Park holiday program to better serve the needs for knowledge, challenging experiences and parental interaction desired by this group; and promote the running of programs throughout the year rather than*

confining them to school holidays provided this can be done by the private sector;

- *investigate the development of self guided tours, including audio tours and brochures targeting specific age groups;*
 - *develop a series of self guiding tour booklets for later teens and adults, providing more detail on various aspects of the Park;*
 - *foster a core of volunteers or joint venture co-operatives to run programs (guided tours, story telling, demonstrations etc.) to portray the character of the Park;*
 - *encourage local theatre companies, art groups, music societies, heritage associations etc. to develop suitable programs which assist visitors to appreciate park heritage values.*
- *Encourage appropriate heritage research and information sharing between researchers, members of this visitor group and park management.*

6.2.4 Sightseeing group

Sightseers come to look at and enjoy the features of the Park, such as the homestead, the open woodland and grassland landscapes, the views from Gellibrand and Woodland Hills, wildlife (particularly the kangaroos) and the cultural artefacts. Walking and strolling are their most common activities and horse riding and cycling are less common. While most visitors engage in some sightseeing during their visit, this group comprises those whose primary aim in visiting the Park is to sightsee.

This group, together with the leisure group, account for most of the Park's visitors. They

TABLE 1 SPECIFIC RECREATION ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONDITIONS*/COMMENTS
Picnicking	Visitors are encouraged to picnic anywhere in the Park.
Barbecues	Portable barbecues may be used in the Moonee Ponds Creek picnic area and the Twin Dams picnic area, when developed (electric barbecues are provided).
Informal ball games and other informal, unstructured play activities	The northern Moonee Ponds Creek picnic area, the Twin Dams picnic area and the Park’s grazed open spaces may be used.
Dog walking and exercising	Dogs are permitted on leash in all areas of the Park except the back paddock, where the presence of dogs may conflict with wildlife, and the Homestead Garden.
Horse riding	Access is unrestricted on bridle paths and in the open riding area (figure 4). The open riding area will be extended in conjunction with the relocation of the back paddock fence. In other areas limited use only by permit, and only where the style of use is compatible with other management objectives.
Walking and jogging	Visitors are free to walk or jog anywhere in the Park except in the Eastern Barred Bandicoot enclosure, the former quarry sites and areas set aside for habitat restoration. Visitors are encouraged to use paths and tracks (figure 3).
Cross country running, orienteering etc.	Permitted in the Park, except in the Eastern Barred Bandicoot enclosure and other areas set aside for habitat restoration. Permits are issued by the park manager.
Cycling	Permitted on the multi-purpose path and roads and tracks (figure 3) except walking tracks not designated as part of the multi-purpose path.
Off road driving and motorbike riding	Not permitted.

* These conditions apply in addition to any general control indicated in sections 6.2.1 to 6.2.8. They will form the basis for a determination of areas for specific uses under the Parks Regulations 1992.

will be supportive of the wildlife, landscapes and heritage resources they see and enjoy in the Park.

A proportion of sightseers come to the Park only to view air traffic movements at Melbourne Airport.

Aims

- Provide a quality park experience which:

- offers a range of convenient and secure opportunities to view park heritage features, landscapes, flora and fauna;
- satisfies curiosity about the heritage values of the Park;
- motivates visitors to experience and appreciate the Park’s heritage values at a more detailed level.

- Provide high quality information services.

Management strategies

- *Improve sightseeing opportunities and integrate sightseeing with other park opportunities, particularly picnicking.*
- *Develop information on sightseeing opportunities categorised by interpretative themes, to enable visitors to better match opportunities to their requirements e.g. walks that can be done in particular time periods (i.e. ½ hour, 1 hour, 3 hours etc.), dawn and dusk walks, walks to see wildlife, walks to see relics and the Park's cultural history.*
- *Ensure pre-visit information describes sightseeing opportunities.*
- *Provide picnicking and interpretation facilities at the Woodlands Homestead to meet the needs of the sightseeing group.*
- *Improve opportunities for sightseers by providing parking bays that allow for access to the Park outside the normal opening times.*

6.2.5 Tour package group

This diverse group includes coach tours, small conference groups, wedding ceremonies, wedding photography, large picnic parties etc.

The group gives varied reasons for visiting the Park and attaches great importance to facilities, time schedules and the way elements are packaged together. Opportunities for socialising or some form of intra-group interaction are generally very important. The Park itself may be of secondary importance to this group.

The group has good potential to provide income for the Park but meeting the expectations of organisers and participants is demanding.

Promotion and marketing of the Park as part of a tour package will be an important aspect in catering for this group.

Aim

- Work with, and encourage the private sector and leaders of groups intending to visit the Park to provide experiences which:
 - are consistent with the character and strategic direction of the Park;
 - comfortable, enjoyable, secure and convenient;
 - promote awareness and appreciation of the Park's natural and cultural heritage values;
 - ensure that activities of this group do not conflict with the enjoyment of the Park by other visitor groups.

Management strategies

- *Develop Park tour packages suitable for regional and metropolitan bus and coach tours. Give consideration to:*
 - *convenient booking and scheduling arrangements;*
 - *adequate parking and bus access;*
 - *provision of refreshments and toilets to quickly and conveniently cater for a bus load of 55 visitors;*
 - *enjoyable, entertaining park experiences providing for social interaction;*
 - *innovative means for communicating the park experience to the group;*
 - *encouraging mid-week use of the Park;*
 - *encouraging full day stays in the Park;*
 - *providing thematic links to other regional attractions and destinations.*
- *Investigate fee structures for package and commercial tour groups for special use of the Park, on a fee for service basis.*

6.2.6 Education group

This group uses the Park's natural and heritage resources in school and tertiary curricula. It is quite a varied group, but principally includes primary and secondary schools in the north-west of Melbourne and selected tertiary groups.

The Park has the potential to become an important educational resource. With encouragement, groups and organisations interested in heritage restoration, landcare and

related fields could use the Park for workshops and short-term study courses.

Aims

- Promote Woodlands Historic Park as an educational resource.
- Work with schools and institutions to develop infrastructure and compile resources to host integrated education programs and academic research on a user pays basis.
- Encourage use of the Park as a demonstration showcase in heritage restoration, sound land management practices and other related fields.

Management strategies

Primary and secondary schools

- *Promote the Park's cultural and natural values as an Australian studies teaching resource, targeting the schools in the north-west of Melbourne via the Parks Victoria internet site.*
- *Develop liaison with north-west Melbourne schools to encourage Park based educational programs and contribute to Parks Victoria's teaching resource packages for differing curriculum needs to be offered on the Internet.*
- *Develop a schools activity area in the Homestead complex, initially using the tank sheds; consider adapting the 'single man's quarters' for schools use, if required.*

Tertiary institutions

- *Facilitate academic research in the Park; develop a list of desired research projects; provide access to remote areas of the Park, and to available knowledge; address mechanisms for sponsorship or joint venture funding.*
- *Develop and maintain an archive repository for information on the Park.*

Interest groups

- *Document all management decisions and develop photo-plots and other means of monitoring and recording all development and restoration works in the Park.*

6.2.7 Leisure group

This group comes to the Park primarily for relaxation and enjoyment, seeking opportunities for social interaction, entertainment, fresh air and a sense of escape from the home and daily routines.

Many of this group's activities could easily take place in other regional parks. However the Park's woodland setting has a particular appeal, adding to regional recreation opportunities for this group. Its open spaces lend themselves to use for a wide range of leisure activities. Picnicking is a favourite activity and visitors can picnic virtually anywhere in the Park.

This group tends not to be aware of the Park's cultural and natural values, but may respond to light-hearted, entertaining experiences. This could include periodic special events or Park programs with a strong leisure or recreation component.

Although it is large, this visitor group has only a moderate impact on the Park, as it tends to concentrate at the Moonee Ponds Creek picnic ground and adjoining area.

Aims

- Provide park experiences that:
 - are relaxing, convenient, secure and provide for social interaction;
 - are consistent with the Park's uncrowded, leisurely-paced, small scale and open character;
 - relate to the park experience;
 - develop a broad appreciation of the Park's heritage values and motivate visitors to learn more about the Park.
- Provide opportunities in the Park complementing those provided elsewhere in the region.

Management strategies

- *Work with the City of Hume to ensure a co-ordinated regional provision of recreation opportunities, and ensure park developments complement those offered elsewhere in the region.*
- *Retain the Moonee Ponds Creek picnic area and undertake the following improvements:*
 - *develop a cul-de-sac style picnic area on the south bank of the Moonee Ponds Creek to cater for small groups (approximately 2-8 people) with a relatively isolated, peaceful area to escape and relax (figure 3);*
 - *redevelop the existing northern picnic area to cater for medium size groups (approximately 10-25 people) and retain and enhance the well maintained grass setting to provide for unstructured play and relaxation;*
 - *redevelop the existing horse float access area to cater for a large group (25 or more people) picnic and function site (figure 3), when horse float access has been relocated (section 6.2.8).*
- *Develop a new picnic and ancillary activity area on the Twin Dams paddock (figure 3) allowing for recreation and outdoor community uses for large groups, including booked activities not related to the Park theme.*
- *Extend the Moonee Ponds Creek Walk (figure 3) to entice visitors to explore more of the Park.*
- *Place seating at the following sites to facilitate picnics: the billabongs, Cumberland dam and the south-west slopes of Woodlands Hill near the Woodlands Homestead complex.*

6.2.8 Fitness group

This group seeks experiences requiring skill, physical effort, co-ordination and expertise. The Park provides only limited opportunities for this group, the main activities being horse riding, orienteering, jogging and cross-country

running. Cycling will become increasingly important as the Moonee Ponds Creek cycling track is developed, linking to Westmeadows and beyond.

Horse riders have a long association with the Park. They are a small, local visitor group which is very supportive of the Park, although, this tends to be more as a place to pursue desired activities than an appreciation of cultural and natural values. Special events which re-enact or enhance appreciation of past events, giving meaning to the Park, would help to maintain the support of this group.

There is potential for conflict between this group and other users, particularly in regard to horse riding.

Aims

- Provide recreational opportunities which:
 - are consistent with the theme;
 - offer a degree of challenge and physical exertion;
 - offer opportunities to develop and/or demonstrate skill and expertise;
 - foster an understanding and appreciation of the Park's cultural and natural values;
 - do not adversely affect Park resources;
 - do not adversely affect the experiences of other Park visitors.
- Develop creative means of communicating the park experience and management guidelines to the group.
- Manage potential conflicts and use impacts through awareness, pre-visit and on-site communication programs and good site design rather than by regulation and enforcement.

Management strategies

- *Provide opportunities for horse riding, cycling, jogging and other fitness related activities to enhance opportunities in the region, in conjunction with other recreation providers.*
- *Improve access and opportunities for horse riding in the Park as shown in figure 4.*

- *Liaise with the City of Hume to consolidate horse float access in the City's reserve adjoining Section Road as part of the City's plans for developing that reserve. If this is achieved, close the horse float car park near the Moonee Ponds Creek picnic area and redevelop as a picnic site (section 6.2.7).*
- *Liaise with the City of Hume to provide an information shelter with orientation information in the adjacent reserve and encourage horse riders to make full use of the range of opportunities provided in both the Park and City reserve.*
- *Develop bridle paths and open, free riding areas which provides a range of riding experiences; minimise the potential for conflict with other visitors and impacts on the Park's resources.*
- *Liaise with the North West Hospital, Greenvale to allow cyclists and horse riders access to the Sugar Gum plantation.*
- *Develop the multi-purpose paths shown in figure 3 for cyclists; connect these to any regional bicycle network constructed to the Park's boundary.*
- *Ensure visitors are aware of fitness opportunities and the measures necessary to ensure they enjoy their Park visit whilst minimising impacts on Park resources and conflict with other visitor activities.*
- *In conjunction with the Oaklands Hunt Club and other interested local groups, develop special events and other creative means of communicating the park experience and relevant management guidelines to members of the group.*
- *Request group sizes larger than 15 engaged in active sports such as running, orienteering, horse riding and cycling to obtain permission; direct this use to minimise conflicts with other users and impacts on park values.*

6.3 Visitor information and interpretation

The following themes form the basic interpretation and education programs which communicate the park experience to visitors.

Primary themes

Cultural and environmental remnant and symbol of European pastoral settlement:

- Woodlands Historic Park is a remnant of 1840s European pastoral settlement in a representative woodland and grassland environment evolved from that which was prevalent during the era;
- the settlement of Woodlands portrays the transition from Aboriginal culture and land use to European patterns and practices;
- the current setting of the Park reflects the continuous sequence of change throughout recent history. These changes are evident in such elements as the Homestead additions and the ruins of Dundonald and Cumberland.

Secondary themes

Architecture, lifestyles and homestead setting:

- Woodlands Homestead has a complex architectural history, its origins being a prefabricated kit home imported to Australia in 1842;
- the lifestyles and characters of those who have occupied Woodlands prior to it being reserved as a Park, are interwoven with the history and cultural influences of the early Anglo-Irish gentry in Victoria;
- the story of the servants and worker's lives offers a contrasting perspective on life at Woodlands. This story is perhaps unique in that there are few early heritage sites with records which provide an insight into the personalities of the servants and working folk;
- 'The sport of kings' - horses, hunting and racing was a part of Woodlands since its establishment;

- the history of the innovative use of irrigation systems on the property reinforce the continuous change theme.

Restoration of the Park setting:

- restoring a characteristically 1840s environment, including indigenous flora and fauna communities;
- the lessons to be learnt from 150 years of settlement;
- natural values and fauna and flora management and re-introductions;
- Moonee Ponds Creek: changes relating to catchment management; 1840s setting and restoration; and its value as a recreational link to other areas.

Aim

- Provide all visitors with opportunities to experience, understand and appreciate all aspects of the park themes and park protection activities, and to develop a sense of stewardship for the Park.

Management strategies

Visitor orientation

- *Provide inviting entry environments with information shelters at the main entries, to provide general orientation information and encourage visitors to visit the Homestead.*
- *Provide orientation through personal (staff or volunteer) contact at the Homestead.*
- *If there is private sector interest, develop a high quality information facility at the Woodlands Homestead complex (figure 3), which may include:*
 - *a small gallery stocking a limited range of quality saleable items;*
 - *a refreshment facility providing a range of quality light refreshments reinforcing the park experience (e.g. High teas, Tutors morning tea, Groomsman's lunch).*
- *Encourage visitors to the Homestead to also explore other parts of the Park.*

Visitor programs

- *Encourage the private sector to provide diverse interpretative and community education programs based on the Park's interpretative themes e.g. nature walks might be interpreted from the perspective of what the Greenes (the original settlers of Woodlands) might have seen as they first arrived at their new home.*
- *Emphasise the identification and deciphering of clues to the original environment in interpretative and educational programs.*
- *Provide, or where cost effective, encourage others to provide, targeted programs which use a diverse range of media, including art, drama and music, consistent with the park experience.*
- *Develop a calendar of special activities and events e.g. pioneer skills day, a country fair, a show of horse drawn equipment and a pioneer picnic, which:*
 - *provide entertaining, interactive experiences;*
 - *encourage repeat park visitation;*
 - *are consistent with the park themes and compatible with protection of the Park's cultural and natural values, and reinforces its image.*

6.4 Commercial tourism operations

The Park's natural and cultural values provide excellent opportunities for nature-based and culture-based tourism. Well organised commercial tour operations can help minimise impacts and interpret park values.

Aims

- Provide and promote opportunities for commercial tourism operations where it is consistent with park values.
- Support and complement broader tourism opportunities and activities in the region.

Management strategies

- *Identify and promote potential itineraries, events, themes and experiences for tourism and make local tourism bodies aware of these.*
- *Seek opportunities for sponsorships and partnerships to assist with community projects and visitor services, including involvement of the private sector in providing visitor facilities and services in the Woodlands Homestead complex.*
- *Monitor commercial tourism use of the Park to ensure impacts are not detrimental to the Park's natural and cultural values.*
- *Assess the potential for touring links between the Park and other tourism features in the area (driving routes, bike trails, walking trails, walking tracks etc.) and liaise with local tourism bodies regarding their implementation.*

6.5 Public safety

All natural areas and recreation activities pose a risk to visitors and participants, which may increase with distance from emergency services.

Although the Victoria Police is responsible for search and rescue, the Woodlands Historic Park staff also have a direct role in finding lost visitors.

The Park has been involved in occasional air safety incidents. Park staff could be the first on the scene at such incidents.

Aim

- Promote and encourage safety awareness and safe practices among staff and visitors.

Management strategies

- *Undertake regular inspections of facilities to ensure that they are maintained in a safe condition.*
- *Liaise with airport safety personnel to ensure Park staff are aware of air safety emergency procedures and requirements.*
- *Maintain and regularly monitor fencing and signage around the quarries to ensure restricted public access.*

7 COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

7.1 Friends and volunteers

Woodlands Historic Park is an environmental and cultural resource to be enjoyed by the whole community.

The Park is located in an area and region containing cosmopolitan communities which hold a wide spectrum of values, opinions and perspectives. It is appropriate that these communities be given opportunities to participate in managing the Park and to have their interpretation of the Park theme reflected in park visitor programs.

There will also be considerable scope for ongoing participation in implementation of the Plan by volunteers, community groups, local government, lease holders and sponsors.

The role of volunteers will depend on their interests and expertise. Currently volunteer groups are co-ordinated by the Friends Group. Volunteers serve as guides at the Woodlands Homestead and help with a wide range of tasks to improve the appearance and values of the Park. Volunteer participation is a rewarding experience and volunteer programs make a highly valued contribution to park management.

There is considerable potential for involving volunteers, local schools and community groups in research projects which contribute information critical to effective and efficient management of the Park.

Aim

- Encourage and foster community participation in park restoration, protection, research and visitor programs.

Management strategies

- *Support the Friends of Woodlands Historic Park and encourage this group to play a co-ordinating role in community and volunteer programs.*
- *Identify the range of volunteer activities and develop park volunteer programs, in consultation with the Friends Group.*

- *Develop strategies to promote involvement in park volunteer programs.*
- *Support and facilitate volunteer programs including organising training as required.*
- *Consider involving private enterprise and volunteers in providing orientation services.*
- *Actively seek sponsorship for the development and implementation of park promotional events, programs and facilities.*
- *Co-ordinate and assist academic institutions, community groups and volunteers to undertake research programs which could assist park management.*
- *Encourage local and regional communities to participate in research projects which broaden their appreciation of the history of the local area and the region.*

7.2 Community awareness and Park neighbours

Woodlands Historic Park has many neighbours, being surrounded on three sides by rural residential areas. Park management should be aware of the needs and concerns of neighbours. It can take the lead by setting an example in responsible land management practices and in developing community based land management programs.

For their part, members of local communities should be made aware of how their activities impact on the Park, and encouraged to co-operate with park management. Co-operation of neighbours in the vicinity of the Park is essential to resolving a number of park management problems, including the following:

- unrestrained pets (dogs and cats) which, along with foxes, are a major threat to fauna and an impediment to the re-introduction of indigenous fauna;

- pest plants and pest animals in the area, which are a threat to the indigenous flora and fauna.

Aims

- Be a good neighbour within the local community.
- Encourage community co-operation in tackling local land management problems.
- Provide leadership in land management to the local and regional communities.

Management strategies

- *Liaise with local community groups and land owners, and as appropriate, involve them in relevant aspects of planning and managing the Park.*
- *Apply, and encourage the application of, the Good Neighbour Policy to management issues on or near the boundary of the Park.*

- *Expand dialogues with neighbouring land owners and managers to promote mutual understanding of park values, management objectives, resource protection and restoration programs.*

- *Support initiatives in establishing a local Landcare or catchment management group which complements and supports the park restoration program.*

- *Demonstrate to the local and regional community the mutual benefits of working co-operatively on land management problems.*

- *Develop effective and efficient land management techniques and demonstrate excellence in land management practice.*

- *Promote the Restoration Plan (Carr et al. 1996) through workshops and field days targeted at regional landholders and special interest groups.*

8 OTHER ISSUES

8.1 Authorised uses

A number of public utility installations occur in or pass through the Park. These include:

- the radar tower on Gellibrand Hill (Federal Airports Corporation (FAC));
- navigation light towers and services (Federal Airports Corporation);
- telephone cables (Telstra);
- electricity mains (Solaris);
- water mains (Macedon Ranges Water Authority).

Aims

- Minimise the impact of public utilities on the Park.
- Ensure appropriate use and licensing of existing and any new public utilities.

Management strategy

- *Ensure that each public utility is covered by a Section 27 consent, with conditions to minimise operational impacts.*

8.2 Boundaries and adjacent uses

Areas of the adjoining Greenvale Sanatorium Reserve, of conservation and strategic significance, were identified for possible addition to the Park as far back as 1982. Part of the land, which carries a Sugar Gum plantation and a forest woodland along its northern boundary, is currently managed by Parks Victoria under an agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the North West Hospital Board (figure 2). The future use of the Reserve by the North West Hospital is under review.

An area of 20 ha, abutting the Park and the access road to the Park from Providence Road, is reserved partly as the Weeroona Resting Place for Aboriginal cemetery purposes and partly for conservation purposes as a buffer to the cemetery (figure 2). The management objectives of the two reserves relate to resource

conservation and are compatible with those of the Park. The Koori Cemetery Trust which is the Committee of Management for the reserves, is preparing a plan for the management of the reserves in conjunction with Parks Victoria.

The former Mitchell-Lasry Quarry of approximately 35 ha was acquired by the Department of Infrastructure in 1995 (figure 2) and may become part of the Park when the site has been rehabilitated. The site has strategic value as a link between the Park and extended regional open space along Moonee Ponds Creek (Melbourne Parks and Waterways 1995).

The 45 ha strip of land between Sunbury Road and the old alignment of Moonee Ponds Creek provides a buffer between the Park proper and Melbourne Airport, and is part of an important wildlife corridor along the Creek. This area is currently leased to Parks Victoria by the Federal Airports Corporation.

The City of Hume manages Oaklands Common adjacent to the western boundary of the Park along Oaklands Road and Crown land between Section and Somerton Roads which is utilised by the Greenvale Equestrian Centre (figure 4). Both these reserves compliment the conservation and recreation values of the Park.

Road proposals

A number of road developments are proposed which would have an impact on the Park.

Current VicRoads proposals for the Bulla Bypass include a section of four lane divided road along Moonee Ponds Creek in the south-western corner of the Park. The City of Hume has a proposal for upgrading sections of Somerton Road which would involve road widening along the Park's northern boundary, and excision of an area of the Park.

The City of Hume is also seeking to realign a part of Section Road to within the eastern boundary of the Twin Dams Paddock (figure 2). The realignment would replace the existing very dangerous intersection of Section and Somerton Roads. A stand of mature trees is located within and close to the western boundary of the Greenvale Recreation Reserve.

Parks Victoria has discussed with the City possible closure and restoration of the northern section of Providence Road, in exchange for Crown land proposed for the new alignment of Section Road.

Aims

- Seek to include suitable adjacent public land in the Park to consolidate its boundary.
- Foster co-operation between park management and the managers of adjacent reserves on issues that could also affect the Park.
- Minimise the deleterious impacts of construction and operation of main roads on the Park.
- Where possible secure leased areas as permanent additions to the Park.

Management strategies

- *Continue to investigate incorporation into the Park appropriate areas of strategic and conservation significance in the Greenvale Sanatorium Reserve should the area be vacated by the North West Hospital. Liaise with the City of Hume and North West Hospital regarding uses on the remainder of the site that are compatible with the Park.*

- *Maintain liaison with the Koori Cemetery Trust to ensure co-operation between management of the Park and reserves in respect of conservation of natural and cultural resources and the interpretation of Aboriginal culture.*
- *Liaise with the City of Hume to:*
 - *ensure that the management of Oaklands Common and the Greenvale Equestrian Centre remain compatible with the conservation and recreation values of the Park;*
 - *further consider the land exchange involving Section Road and the closure of part of Providence Road.*
- *Liaise with the Department of Infrastructure to address the future use of the Mitchell-Lasry Quarry and implement any agreements arising from the land acquisition process.*
- *Explore possible future addition of the FAC land between Moonee Ponds Creek and Sunbury Road to the Park.*
- *Continue to liaise with VicRoads and the City of Hume on any road proposals that could affect the Park.*

9 IMPLEMENTATION

An implementation program will be prepared for the Park to ensure efficient implementation of the Plan. Priorities for management are identified in table 2 as an initial step in this process.

TABLE 2 PRIORITY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	SECTION IN PLAN
Natural resource conservation	
Implement the Restoration Plan to restore the environmental setting of the 1840s landscape where practical.	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3
Prepare a Creek Management Plan to stabilise the watercourses.	3.1
Continue to collect and store seed from locally indigenous species.	3.2
Prepare a kangaroo management plan for the Park.	3.3
Continue to monitor the Eastern Barred-Bandicoot population.	3.3
Improve the design and alignment of the back paddock fence.	3.3
Prepare Quarry Restoration Plans for all three quarries.	3.4
Cultural resource conservation	
Conserve and maintain the Woodlands Homestead complex.	4.1
Conserve other significant cultural features.	4.2
Restore the 1840s landscape.	4.3
Monitor visitor impacts.	4.1
Park protection	
Establish provisions for fire safety in the homestead and back paddock.	5.1
Undertake a small scale experimental ecological burning program.	5.1
Monitor the impact of burning on flora and fauna.	5.1
Implement an integrated pest plant and pest animal control program.	5.2
Develop strategies to maintain and manage native grassland.	5.2
Prepare and implement a Pets and Park Neighbours Education Program.	5.2
The Park visit	
Develop pre-visit information for the Park.	6.1
Adopt a sign plan and colour scheme appropriate to the Park.	6.1
Improve picnic areas.	6.2.7
Develop a new picnic area on the Twin Dams paddock.	6.2.7
Extend the Moonee Ponds Creek walk.	6.2.7
Improve access and opportunities for horse riding and cycling in the Park.	6.2.8
Seek private sector partners in providing visitor facilities and services.	6.4
Community involvement	
Encourage volunteer and community involvement.	7.2
Other issues	
Formalise Section 27 consents for authorised uses in the Park.	8.1

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APPENDIX I EXTINCT AND THREATENED FAUNA

This table lists extinct and threatened fauna of Woodlands Historic Park including their conservation status in Victoria and Australia, FFG listed species and species considered potentially suitable for re-introduction (Carr et al. 1996).

SPECIES	CONSERVATION STATUS IN VICTORIA	FFG LISTED ^A	CONSERVATION STATUS IN AUSTRALIA	STATUS AT WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK	POTENTIAL FOR RE-INTRODUCTION
Pied Cormorant	C			VV	
Swift Parrot	V	Y	V	RM	
Plains-wanderer	V	Y	V	X(1948)	
Lewin's Rail	R			RV	
Ballon's Crake	I			RV	
Australian Pelican	C			VV	
Royal Spoonbill	C			VV	
Little Egret	C			VV	
Great Egret	C			VV	
Rufous Night Heron	C			RV	
Little Bittern	R			VV	
Plains Wanderer	V	Y		X(1948)	
Bush Stone-curlew	V	Y		X	✓
Emu				X ¹	✓
Grey-crowned Babbler	V	Y		X ¹	✓
Eastern Barred Bandicoot	E	Y	V	Re	
Brush-tailed Phascogale	R	Y		X(1860)	
Spot-tailed Quoll	V	Y	V	X(1883)	
Eastern Quoll	E	Y	V	X(1907)	✓
Fat-tailed Dunnart				X(1907)	✓
Sugar Glider				X(1907)	✓
Dingo				X(1849)	
Antechinus				X ¹	
Eastern Pygmy-possum				X ¹	✓
Feathertail Glider				X ¹	
Rabbit-eared Tree-rat	X			X ¹	
Striped Legless Lizard	V	Y	V	X(1979)	
Southern Lined Earless Dragon	E	Y	E	X(1884)	
Tree Goanna	I			X	
Eltham Copper Butterfly	V	Y		X(1920)	
Golden Sun Moth	E			X(1906)	

^a Listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Y = yes)

Conservation status
Victoria and Australia

E - Endangered

V - Vulnerable

R - Rare

I - Insufficiently known

C - Colonial breeding species

Status at Woodlands Historic Park

1st Letter

V - Very rare

R - Rare

Re - Re-introduced

U - Uncommon

X - Extinct Year of last record

¹ - no record but possibly occurred in the Park.

2nd Letter

V - Visitor

M - Winter migrant

APPENDIX II CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

Woodlands Homestead complex

1. *Homestead - External*

Retain the external appearance of the Homestead to the date 1918, when it was subject to the last major alteration by the addition of the massive granite piered front verandahs and the relocation of the front trellis style verandah to the back (east) verandah. Maintain the 1918 colour scheme.

Interpret the structural changes in the external building fabric.

2. *Homestead - Internal*

Conservation

Retain and conserve the significant fabric of the Homestead and conserve the integrity of the existing species (see details below).

Interpretation

Within the house more clues could be exposed to illustrate the structural evolution of the building (e.g. pine lining over the prefabricated timber uprights). These will be documented but may not be interpreted.

Consider reconstruction of missing sections of decoration, as well as further uncovering of later over-painted sections. Interpret the changing use of the kitchen area.

(a) West Wing

Preserve all of the original fabric of this prefabricated structure of five rooms with interconnecting hallway, which was the first section of the Homestead to be constructed and which contains the 1849 wall decoration, some of the oldest in Victoria.

(b) North Wing

Maintain the historic fabric in its current state pending further analysis. This wing may be adapted to accommodate new uses following further documentation of its values.

(c) East Wing

Maintain the dairy room, kitchen and laundry in their current restored condition. This wing may be adapted to accommodate new uses or interpretative activities.

(d) South Wing

Maintain the restored Chaffey breakfast /smoking room and continue its use as a meeting room.

Maintain and interpret the 1840s bakehouse, *although* adaptation may be applicable.

Maintain the 1960s kitchen; further adaptation for catering purposes is feasible.

3. *Gardens*

Implement the conservation and management guidelines for the garden (Patrick 1996).

Emphasis will be placed on conservation and restoration of garden elements dating from the period up to and including the 1920s.

The unique 1840s Magnolias will be monitored closely and cuttings taken from them for eventual replacement of the now mature plants.

Replant the main driveway with Yellow Box and with Cootamundra Wattle in its original form.

4. *Stables/Coach house*

Monitor cracks in the masonry walls of the restored pre-gold rush building complex.

Continue to use the stables for horses if possible, but it may be adapted to another use.

Interpret the mystery of the origins and use of the lower shingled rendered rubble stone building.

5. *Men's quarters*

Maintain this restored building, but it may be adapted to a new use including use by education groups (section 6.2.6).

6. *Tutor's cottage*

Maintain the reconstructed cottage as the caretaker's residence.

Erection of ancillary structures for contemporary use such as garages or garden sheds is not appropriate.

7. *Top stables and piggery*

Maintain this stabilised structure.

Re-use as a stables if possible, but adaptation to a new use may occur.

8. *Fowl pens*

Maintain this reconstructed structure and continue its use as a domestic fowl house if possible.

9. *Chaffey garage*

Maintain this externally restored structure.

Re-use for its original purpose of storing vehicles if possible, but it may be adapted for other uses.

10. *Tank sheds*

If justified, further adapt this structure for use by visitors.

11. *Ancillary farm features*

Document, stabilise and retain features beyond the homestead fence which were part of the Croker, Chaffey, Kellow periods i.e. the horse shelters, windmills, troughs and in-built horse jumping rails.

Consider the opportunities to recreate the vineyard, kitchen gardens and ploughed breaks as part of interpreting pastoral self-sufficiency.

Other cultural features

1. *Cumberland and Dundonald Homestead ruins*

Stabilise the building foundations, but do not undertake any reconstruction.

Maintain the garden remnants, in particular the Lemon-scented Gum and Aloes at *Cumberland* and the Norfolk Island Pines and Moreton Bay Figs at *Dundonald*, but do not replace or reconstruct.

Provide discrete interpretative signs near these sites.

2. *St Marys Church site*

Maintain the native plant species recorded on this uncultivated plot.

Erect an interpretative sign linking the church site and the adjacent property of its donor, and noting rare plants.

3. *Other paddocks*

Interpret the changing use of the back paddock, the extension of the quarries over 140 years and the previous creek crossings/homestead access roads from the Old Bulla Road, now under the airport.

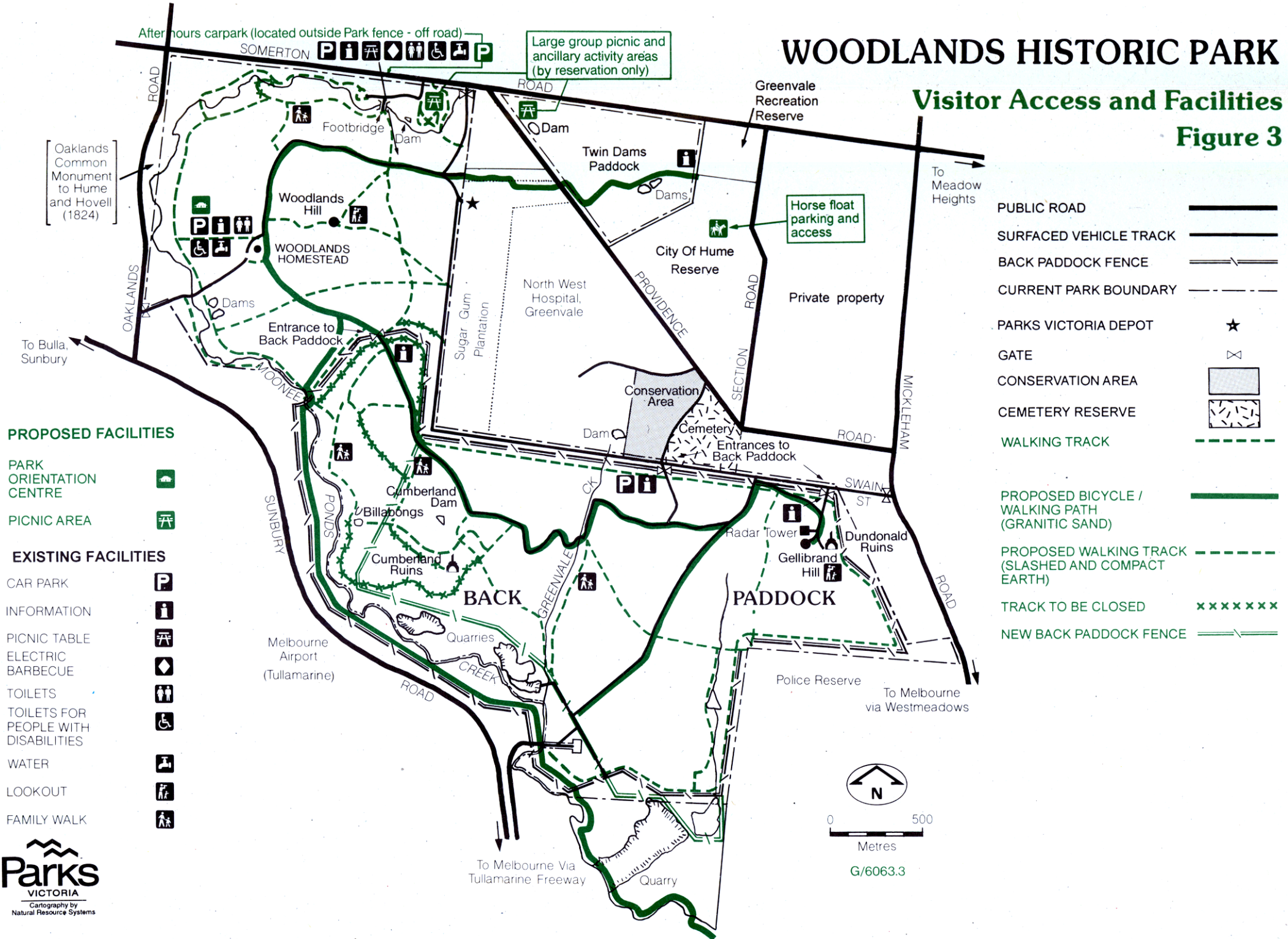
4. *Aboriginal relics*

Protect the eight scar trees recorded in the Park, in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

Encourage descendants of the local peoples to interpret their cultural relics and the settlement of 'Woodlands' from their own perspective.

WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK

Visitor Access and Facilities Figure 3



WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK

Horse Riding Areas and Bridle Paths

Figure 4

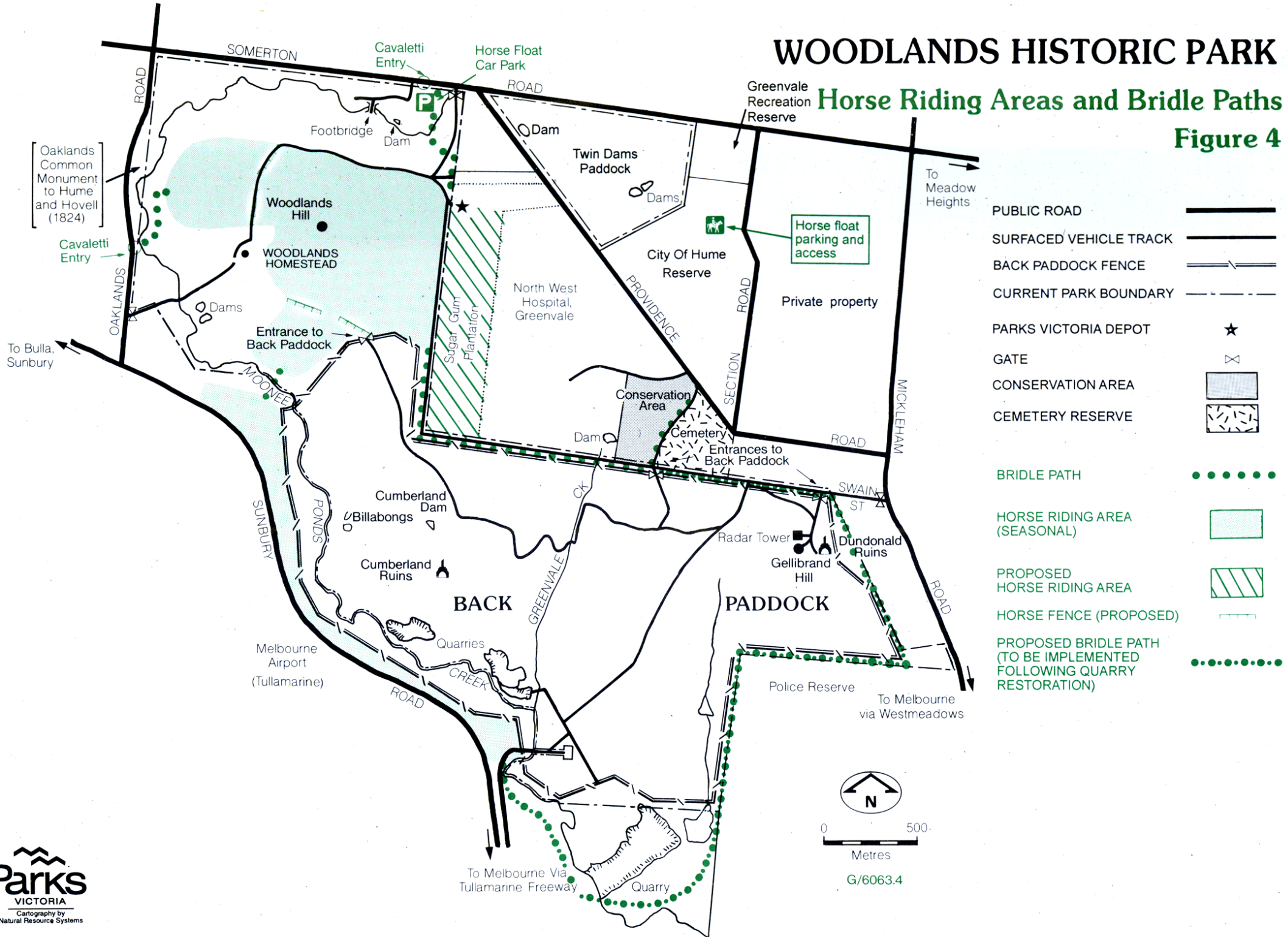






Figure 5
**WOODLANDS
 HOMESTEAD**

-  Fences
-  Buildings
-  Roads & Paths
-  Trees

