



Kingston, Norfolk Island
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Research Projects and Kingston

Policy and Procedure

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Research Projects and Kingston

Background

Kingston is an historic site, a cultural landscape, administrative centre and place of community recreation and cultural tradition, located on Norfolk Island in the Pacific Ocean. It is managed by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the Department), and is a major focal point on the island for both Norfolk Islanders and tourists.

The World, National, Commonwealth and local heritage values for Kingston confirm that it is a place of heritage significance, recognised by multiple listings and legislative obligations. As the home of the Norfolk Island community, including those of Pitcairn descent, the place is a distinct living heritage site which has meaning in the daily lives of Norfolk Islanders. As part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property, Kingston tells a unique aspect of the internationally significant convict story, combining with ten other places to express Outstanding Universal Value. Because Kingston is part of a globally important heritage site, the management of Kingston's heritage significance must meet and demonstrate international heritage best practice. The heritage significance of Kingston gives rise to a range of requirements, the most fundamental of which is to ensure Kingston is managed in accordance with its heritage values, and that the heritage values of the place are protected and conserved for future generations.

In addition to being part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property, Kingston is included on Australia's National Heritage List, the Commonwealth Heritage List, and the Norfolk Island Heritage Register.

The Department also has responsibility for other Commonwealth heritage sites associated with Norfolk Island, including the *HMS Sirius* wreck site (National and Commonwealth listed) and the Longridge Arches and Cascades Reserve (both on the Commonwealth Heritage List). These three sites have a strong historical connection with Kingston.

Research Policy

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) is a primary legislative instrument for managing and protecting Kingston's significant heritage values, and those of other Commonwealth heritage sites.

1. The EPBC Act provides that a Heritage Management Plan must be prepared and approved by the Minister responsible for heritage. The [Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Heritage Management Plan](#) (HMP) is the principle guiding document for all activities associated with Kingston, including research.
2. The HMP and research activity will be supported by other plans, the most important being:
 - [KAVHA Cultural Landscape Management Plan 2019](#) (CLMP)
 - KAVHA Archaeological Zoning and Management Plan 2020 (AZMP) [Volumes 1 and 2](#)
3. Research activity will be aligned with the key objectives of the HMP, including:
 - to provide an understanding of Kingston through investigation of its context, history, physical fabric, and research potential;
 - to provide an integrated practical management plan for the heritage values of the Kingston site at World, National, Commonwealth and Norfolk Island levels;

- to provide direction to assist in the conservation, protection, management, continuation and transmission of all heritage values of the Kingston site to benefit current and future generations.
4. The HMP should be referenced to provide context for any proposed research activities relating to Kingston.
 5. The management of Kingston places equal emphasis on the heritage related to the pre- and post-convict histories of the site, that is, the earlier Polynesian settlement and the post-1856 Pitcairn settlement of Norfolk Island. All components of Kingston's heritage provide valuable opportunities for research programs.
 6. Research programs that involve archaeological investigation are encouraged, however, it is anticipated that projects will contribute to current heritage management or interpretation needs and priorities.
 7. All archaeological research projects must be endorsed by the Department's Kingston site management and undertaken in accordance with an archaeological research design that sets out an agreed methodology and demonstrates how the proposed research will benefit current and future generations.
 8. Proposals for research activities are progressed in consultation with the KAVHA Advisory Committee and the KAVHA Community Advisory Group.

Procedures for Research Expressions of Interest

All research projects require the support of the Department Director with responsibility for KAVHA, on advice from relevant KAVHA heritage staff and the KAVHA Advisory Committee.

In the first instance all queries relating to research at Kingston, the HMS Sirius wreck site, the Longridge Arches or Cascade Reserve should be directed to KAVHASecretariat@infrastructure.gov.au.

1. Research Project Expressions of Interest should be submitted at least three months before the proposed start date and in line with best-practice consultation and engagement, will include:
 - I. Outline of the project with clearly defined research outputs.
 - II. If the project is part of broader academic thesis, a summary of the thesis proposal.
 - III. A letter of support from the hosting academic body or other relevant agency.
 - IV. If appropriate, a document from the above providing proof of Ethics Approval.
 - V. A biography of the researcher(s) detailing relevant experience.
 - VI. Time frame of the proposed project.
 - VII. Requirements for support and input from KAVHA personnel.
 - VIII. Identification of how the project relates to the World, National or Commonwealth Heritage values of KAVHA and whether it needs to be referred under the EPBC Act.
 - IX. Identification of other statutory permits or permissions that may be required.
 - X. Identification of how the project can directly engage with and involve the Norfolk Island community.
 - XI. Identification of how the project can engage with the heritage management goals of KAVHA.
2. If the project involves archaeological excavation, the application must also include:
 - I. How the proposal is consistent with the guidelines contained in key KAVHA heritage plans, most importantly the HMP, AZMP and CLMP.
 - II. An excavation program and methodology.

- III. A methodology for artefact cataloguing and short and long-term conservation, including anticipated costs.
- IV. If any archaeological materials will need to be removed from the island for analysis, an explanation of why the materials need to be removed, an estimation of the amount of materials to be removed, a description of the on-island stakeholders that will be consulted to gain permission for the removal, and a clear timeframe for when the materials will be returned to the island.

The Department has limited resources in all areas, including staff and equipment availability. All resourcing requirements and costs of the project, including any statutory applications, are to be met by the applicant.

It is requested that a copy of the final research report be provided to KAVHA on completion.

Due to processing timeframes, local holidays, and local works activities around KAVHA, we recommend that any accommodation or flights not be finalised until a research project EOI has been approved. The three-month timeframe is a minimum.

