

# Historic Heritage

## 7. Historic Heritage

### Explanatory Statement

The history of pre and post European settlement within the District has provided a rich legacy of trees, buildings, objects and sites of historic heritage value to both Maori and non-Maori. Examples range from residential and commercial buildings of architectural and/or historic value through to trees of historic or botanical value and sites of sacred and cultural value to tangata whenua.

The identification and conservation of these identifiable elements of the District's historic heritage therefore is a primary means by which their distinct values can be safeguarded from disturbance, unsympathetic use or development, or outright destruction.

The District Plan includes a Schedule of Identified Significant Historic Heritage Features and Council may also implement Heritage Protection Orders. The latter type of protection is likely to be provided to items of national significance. In addition, Council has further information stored on the geographical information system and other records. This information is available to the public and may be referred to for resource and building consents. The information will also be available for use in public brochures.

The list of items has been prepared in consultation with Iwi, New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the community generally. Council aims to work with the wider community to identify additional sites and objects of cultural and natural significance. Additional trees can also be considered for addition to the District Plan.

Council wishes to encourage the continued reasonable use of scheduled buildings as a means of ensuring the ongoing preservation of the structure to the public's benefit. Reasonable and often alternative use of scheduled buildings is acceptable provided that there are no adverse effects and all interested persons and groups consent to the development.

Council will also be supportive of historic heritage protection and preservation using methods outside of the District Plan.

Council recognises the contribution of Iwi Management Plans to its planning processes. Council wishes to work jointly with tangata whenua to encourage the continued identification, assessment and inclusion of historic heritage items within the District Plan.

For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of this section apply to all 'historic heritage items' which are defined by the Historic Places Act as any type of historic place or area. It may include a historic building, historic site (including archaeological site), a place/area of significance to Maori, or heritage landscape and can also refer to any item within the schedule in Appendix 3.

## 7.1 Significant Issues

1. Many historic heritage features are under threat of destruction or deterioration, placing them at risk to irreversible loss to the wider community.
2. Interference with wahi tapu (sacred sites), wahi tupuna (ancestral sites) and other sites of importance to tangata whenua.
3. Provision of public access to historic heritage items can compromise their integrity.
4. There is a potential conflict between encouraging the use of heritage buildings, having regard to the owner's objectives and having regard to objectives relating to the development of the District's town centres.
5. There is a lack of public funding for the purchase and protection of Significant Historic Heritage Features particularly where the rights of individual property owners are unreasonably limited.
6. Each urban community within the District has prepared a community development plan that reflects the character of their area. Recognition needs to be given to the role historic heritage sites, buildings, items and features play in defining the unique character of the District's communities and the outcomes sought by these community development plans.

## 7.2 Objectives and Policies

### 7.2.1 Objectives

1. Protection and preservation of a unique or representative range of historic heritage items of value to the community and to the nation.
2. The protection and conservation of buildings and objects of historic heritage value to the District.
3. That the Kaitiakitanga of tangata whenua in relation to sites and objects of cultural and natural heritage is respected.
4. To identify and provide for the retention and protection of scheduled trees within the District.

### 7.2.2 Policies

1. Public awareness and appreciation of historic heritage resources should be increased so as to minimise adverse effects on the historic heritage feature or on the spirituality associated with the site or feature.
2. Public access to historic heritage sites should not jeopardise the integrity of the item, nor the reasonable operation of activities on the parent property.

3. The demolition of scheduled buildings and objects should be discouraged.
4. The effects of activities and development which could damage or destroy the historic heritage values associated with scheduled buildings and objects should be minimised.
5. The continued use or reuse of scheduled buildings while ensuring that their valued features are not damaged or destroyed should be encouraged.
6. Identified sites and objects of significant cultural and natural heritage value to tangata whenua should be protected
7. Tangata whenua should be consulted regarding the identification, protection and management of sites and objects considered to be of cultural and natural heritage value.
8. Ensure scheduled trees are removed only under exceptional circumstances, and where alternative options for the retention of the tree have been exhausted.
9. Ensure that the health, vigour and function of scheduled trees are not compromised by any development or activity.
10. Provide for the ongoing care and maintenance of scheduled trees.

## **7.3 Activity Lists**

These rules apply to Identified Significant Historic Heritage Features. Refer to the Planning Maps for location and Appendix 3 for further details.

### **7.3.1 Permitted Activities**

- (a) Routine maintenance, restoration or repair to the exterior of any scheduled building or object to the same design as and using the same or equivalent materials and appearance to those originally used.
- (b) Internal alteration of any scheduled building, excluding those buildings listed in Appendix 3 as having a significant interior.
- (c) Removal of broken branches, deadwood or diseased vegetation, or minor trimming or maintenance of any scheduled tree or group of trees in order to maintain their state of health.
- (d) The removal of branches interfering with buildings, structures, overhead wires and electrical lines or utility networks, but only to the extent that they are touching those buildings, or structures, or interfering with those overhead wires or utility networks.
- (e) Destruction or removal of any scheduled tree by the Council or a recognised utility operator where this is required:
  - (i) As an emergency work to maintain or restore existing power or telecommunication links; or

- (ii) For the purpose of containing the spread of disease
- (f) Any activity within the dripline of a scheduled tree except for:
  - (i) The destruction, removal or partial removal of the scheduled tree;
  - (ii) The alteration of existing ground levels by excavation or deposition of soil including thrust boring and directional drilling;
  - (iii) The covering of the ground by erection of any building or structure or the storage of goods, including the parking of vehicles;
  - (iv) The laying of any impervious surface;
  - (v) The discharge of any toxic substance unless certified by a person with an appropriate level of expertise that the health of the tree will not be adversely affected.
  - (vi) Any earthworks

**Explanatory Notes:**

- (a) For the purposes of Rule 7.3.1(a) 'repair' of an historic building means restoration of the building, or part of the building to good or sound condition. Maintenance means the protective care of the building. Any repair and maintenance work on a historic heritage building shall be guided by the Best Practice Guidelines of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.
- (b) For the purposes of Rules 7.3.1(d) and (e) responsibility for the cost of such works associated with electricity utilities shall be guided by the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.

### **7.3.2 Controlled Activities**

- (a) External alterations and additions to Category B Scheduled Buildings not complying with 7.3.1(a)
- (b) Internal alteration of any scheduled building listed in Appendix 3 as having a significant interior.

### **7.3.3 Discretionary Activities**

- (a) Relocation of scheduled buildings and objects (not including scheduled trees).
- (b) External alterations and additions to Category A Scheduled Buildings not complying with 7.3.1(a).
- (c) Excavation, alteration, or reconstruction of any scheduled historic heritage feature.
- (d) Destruction or removal, in whole or in part, of any scheduled tree.
- (e) Within the dripline of a scheduled tree

- (i) The destruction, removal or partial removal of the scheduled tree;
  - (ii) The alteration of existing ground levels by excavation or deposition of soil including thrust boring and directional drilling;
  - (iii) The covering of the ground by erection of any building or structure or the storage of goods, including the parking of vehicles;
  - (iv) The laying of any impervious surface;
  - (v) The discharge of any toxic substance unless certified by a person with an appropriate level of expertise that the health of the tree will not be adversely affected.
  - (vi) Any earthworks.
- (f) Excavation, construction or any other work on or within a 20m radius of the scheduled feature including the use of heavy machinery and the planting of trees on or adjoining an archaeological site. Land for which historic heritage issues have already been assessed and consent granted shall be exempt from this rule.
- (g) Subdivision of land on which exists any scheduled Historic Heritage Feature where the new lot boundary will come within 20m of that scheduled feature.

### **7.3.4 Non Complying Activities**

The demolition of any scheduled historic heritage feature.

## **7.4 Matters of Control - Controlled Activities**

### **7.4.1 External alterations and additions to Category B Scheduled Buildings not complying with 7.3.1(a)**

Matters over which Council will exercise control are limited to those relating to external design and appearance, including the following:

- (a) Whether the works are compatible with the original historic heritage fabric of the scheduled building, but visually distinct enough to be recognised as new work.
- (b) Whether the alterations and additions reflect the architectural style and character of the scheduled building.
- (c) Whether the alterations or additions respect the scale of the scheduled building and will not be visually dominant.
- (d) Whether alterations to street elevations are minimised.

#### **7.4.2 Internal alteration of any schedule building listed in Appendix 3 as having a significant interior**

Matters over which Council will exercise control are limited to those relating to internal design and appearance, as follows:

- (a) That the work does not alter, obscure or remove significant historic heritage fabric and fixtures;
- (b) That modern services such as smoke detectors and sprinkler heads are installed using concealed methods;
- (c) That engineering work is discreetly installed, for example seismic bracing should not be visible through prominent windows.

### **7.5 Matters of Discretion**

#### **7.5.1 General Assessment Criteria for all Discretionary Activities**

In considering an application for any Discretionary Activity, Council shall have regard to but not limited to considering the following matters:

- (a) The nature of the item and the reasons why the item is scheduled.
- (b) The nature, form, character and extent of the alteration, addition, reconstruction, excavation, construction or work.
- (c) The effect of the proposed activity on the character and integrity of the scheduled item.
- (d) The removal, significant pruning or inappropriate planting of trees or vegetation associated with and on the site of a scheduled item will generally be discouraged.
- (e) The reasons why the activity is necessary.
- (f) Comments and recommendations from tangata whenua (for features which are significant to them) and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.
- (g) The conservation principles contained within the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter (1993) and any amendments or additions for the conservation of places of historic heritage value.
- (h) Any relevant objectives and policies of the Plan.
- (i) In addition to the foregoing, Council may consent to the redevelopment of scheduled historic heritage items (except trees) not in conformity with the District Plan's performance standards but consistent with the objectives and policies for the zone in the following circumstances:
  - (i) Where conformity with the zone standards and terms would change the intrinsic value and character of the historic heritage item, and

- (ii) The proposed activity will positively encourage the protection and preservation of the scheduled item.

### **7.5.2 Discretionary Activity Criteria for External Alterations and Additions to Category A Scheduled Building**

- (a) Whether the external alterations and additions will be compatible with the original fabric of the scheduled building, but visually distinct enough to be recognised as new work.
- (b) Whether any alterations and additions reflect the architectural style and character of the scheduled building.
- (c) Whether any alterations and additions respect the scale of the scheduled building and are not visually dominant.
- (d) Whether alterations to street elevations are minimised.
- (e) Whether any alteration or additions will respect the setting in which the scheduled building is located.
- (f) Any other relevant assessment criteria covered in 7.5.1.

### **7.5.3 Discretionary Activity Criteria for the Relocation of Scheduled Buildings and Objects**

- (a) Whether relocation is the only means of saving the building.
- (b) Whether the new site will provide a setting compatible with the significance of the building or object.
- (c) Whether the relocation will enable the continuation and appreciation of the historic heritage values associated with the building or object.
- (d) A conservation plan prepared by a historic heritage professional, should inform and guide any proposal that involves relocation
- (e) Any building that will be removed should be fully recorded and documented both prior to, and during the removal process
- (f) Any other relevant assessment criteria covered in 7.5.1.

**Explanatory Note:** With regard to the relocation of any pre-1900 building, the archaeological authority process under the Historic Places Act 1993 may be relevant.

### **7.5.4 Discretionary Activity Criteria for Scheduled Trees**

- (a) The extent that the proposed works will affect the root system of the scheduled tree.
- (b) The extent that the proposed activity will affect the longevity, health, vigour and stability of the scheduled tree.

- (c) Whether the proposed activity or works can occur in an alternative location that will reduce any actual or potential effects on the scheduled item.
- (d) The extent to which any proposed substitute or compensating tree planting or landscaping will mitigate the loss of the amenity or character.
- (e) Any other relevant assessment criteria covered in 7.5.1.

## **7.6 Other Methods**

### **7.6.1 Council Fees and Advice**

- (a) Application fees shall be waived for resource consents for works on scheduled historic heritage items including applications to trim, poll or surgically treat any scheduled tree and Council shall apply a 50% reduction on building and other fees associated with preservation works on scheduled historic heritage sites.
- (b) Council shall provide technical advice on the maintenance of scheduled trees.

### **7.6.2 Archaeological Sites**

Archaeological sites are subject to a separate consent process under the Historic Places Act 1993. The Historic Places Act 1993 makes it unlawful for any person to destroy damage or modify the whole or any part of an archaeological site without the prior authority of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

This is the case regardless of whether the land on which the site is located is designated, or the activity is permitted under the District or Regional Plan or a resource or building consent has been granted. The Act also provides for substantial penalties for unauthorised destruction, damage or modification.

### **7.6.3 Building Act Flexibility**

Council may consider more creative solutions to building consent issues through Section 47 of the Building Act.

### **7.6.4 Education and Information**

- (a) In addition to those features identified on the Planning Maps, other features that have been identified and documented are contained on Council's Geographic Information System. This data base will be maintained and referred to for resource consents, monitoring, and land information systems.
- (b) Council in conjunction with agencies may produce and distribute pamphlets on the District's historic heritage.
- (c) Council shall provide information plaques in conjunction with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for all Registered Historic Heritage Items.