



Heritage Strategy

Definition

Heritage Resources	Are people, practices, places, spaces, objects, artefacts, plants and animals which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have lasting value and can be appreciated in their own right;• Teach us about the past and the cultures of those who came before us;• Provide a context for community identity whereby people can relate to the land, and to those who have gone before;• Provide variety and contrast in the modern world and a measurement against which we can compare the achievements of today;• Provide evidence of the continuity between the past, present and future.
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Introduction

Every generation has in its power the opportunity to either cherish or to destroy the heritage it has received, to either provide or deny future generations a satisfactory heritage legacy. Heritage links the past with the future, but the essence of heritage lies in the present, and it is dependent for its meaning, and for its existence, on decisions that are made today.

Many groups and individuals are currently involved with the preservation of Marlborough's heritage legacy. Besides central and local government, community organisations, societies, companies, individuals and tangata whenua undertake the vast majority of this work. Council acknowledges the enormous amount of work undertaken and believes that the sustainable management of Marlborough's heritage resources can only be achieved through the combined efforts of all these parties working according to their own means and capabilities.

Council's role in the preservation of Marlborough's heritage resources is derived from various pieces of legislation, as well as a desire to maintain Marlborough's heritage legacy. Marlborough District Council considers that:

- Marlborough's heritage resources are essential to the health and well-being of the Marlborough community, including tangata whenua, and (subject to appropriate protective controls and relevant tikanga) should be accessible to all residents.
- Marlborough's heritage resources are a central feature of its character and identity and provide a sense of place.
- Heritage resources enrich the lives of people and create opportunities for enterprise and employment.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) Council is required to:

- Recognise and provide for the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;
- Recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga; and
- Have particular regard to recognition and protection of the heritage values of the sites, buildings, places or areas.

The Marlborough Regional Policy Statement and the Marlborough Sounds and Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plans are the main instruments by which Council meets its obligations under the RMA. These documents contain policies, rules, standards, strategies and methods of implementation to give effect to the community's objectives for heritage management.

The relevant policies can be summarised as:

- Recognise and protect the heritage resources identified in the plan.
- Research and assess additional items of heritage value.
- Provide incentives for the preservation of all heritage resources.
- Consider favourably alternative uses for scheduled heritage resources where appropriate.
- Give regard to heritage preservation with all subdivision, use and development.

The methods of implementation of these policies include:

- Scheduling significant heritage resources in the Plans;
- Regulatory Methods (rules in the Plans); and
- Incentives.

Responsibilities Under Other Legislation

Council also has important responsibilities in heritage management under other various pieces of legislation, notably the Historic Places Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2002. The Historic Places Act 1993 assigns local authorities a role in the protection of historic places and waahi tapu, while the Local Government Act 2002 defines the purposes of local government as including “to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future”. Waitangi claim settlement legislation can also impose responsibilities.

Subsequently Council believes it has the following roles in managing Marlborough’s heritage resources:

A custodian and manager of Marlborough’s heritage resources and assets.

An architect and planner of Marlborough’s physical form.

A provider of information and resources that promote heritage opportunities and facilities.

An enabler, facilitator, supporter and partner of groups and individuals actively involved in the management of heritage in Marlborough, including tangata whenua, who have unique responsibilities of kaitiakitanga over their waahi tapu and other taonga Maori.

An advocate for heritage and for Marlborough’s heritage custodians.

A promoter of Marlborough’s heritage resources to its communities and to its visitors.

Purpose of the Heritage Strategy

The Council developed the *Heritage Strategy* (which follows) to provide guidance to Councillors and staff in the day-to-day actions within their heritage management roles, and to convey its commitments to the community, and to future generations.

The *Heritage Strategy* is to be taken account of in:

- The planning and delivery of Council’s services and significant activities, including grants and work programmes under the Annual Plan process.
- Consideration of requests outside of the Annual Plan process for support by other groups involved in the preservations and management of heritage resources.
- The development or review of Council’s planning tools and processes, including the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement, Proposed Wairau/ Awatere and Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plans.
- Council’s relationships with tangata whenua.
- Council’s relationships with the entire Marlborough community.

Marlborough District Council's Heritage Strategy

Principal Outcome

Marlborough's heritage resources will be acknowledged, valued and enjoyed by present and future generations.

For the purpose of achieving the principal outcome in this strategy Marlborough's heritage resources have been grouped into four Heritage Resource Groups with specific objectives and policies for each group. The boundaries between the groups are not fixed and individual heritage resources may fall into more than one group.

Note: The objectives and policies of the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement, Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan and the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan continue to apply, in addition, and complementary to the following objectives and policies.

Heritage Resource Group 1: People and Practices

All heritage resources are in some way defined by the actions and attitudes of people. Heritage resources in this group include cultural practices, living treasures, cultural groups and tangata whenua who keep alive and preserve Marlborough's cultural heritage.

Objective 1: The preservation and perpetuation of Marlborough's heritage culture.

Policy 1.1: Support the promotion, preservation and perpetuation of Marlborough's cultural heritage

Policy 1.2: Ensure that people have the opportunities to enjoy, participate and perpetuate Marlborough's cultural heritage.

Policy 1.3: Support those organisations that are working towards outcomes consistent with this strategy.

Objective 1 seeks to ensure that cultural heritage, for example the traditions, songs, dance and stories that are handed down across generations remain accessible, and are treasured and preserved and carried into the future. The policies seek to achieve the objective by supporting the valuable work undertaken in promoting, preserving and perpetuating Marlborough's cultural resources by community groups and tangata whenua. Policy 1.3 may encompass support in respect of both capacity (governance, resourcing) and/or activities (projects and programmes).

Heritage Resource Group 2: Places and Spaces

Heritage places and spaces include both natural and built environments, for example, Horahora Kakahu Island and the Blenheim Railway Station. Heritage places and spaces are often appreciated in their own right and provide a context for community identity. Heritage places and spaces provide variety and contrast in the modern world and may offer measures against which we can compare the achievements of today.

Objective 2: The preservation and perpetuation of heritage places and spaces that are important to the community and tangata whenua.

Policy 2.1: Progressively identify the extent and condition of Marlborough's heritage places and spaces.

Policy 2.2: Support the documentation of the history, and relative significance of Marlborough's different heritage places and spaces.

Policy 2.3: Promote and support the sustainable use and enjoyment of Marlborough's heritage places and spaces.

Policy 2.4: Support and facilitate the preservation, retention and restoration of heritage resources, which are important to the community and tangata whenua.

The main threat to heritage places and spaces is the intensification of activity, which results in demand for land. Land is a finite resource, and in order to meet present and future needs, it is often necessary to build on areas of earlier occupation. This objective seeks to support the retention and non-destructive use of heritage places and spaces, particularly those of importance to the community and tangata whenua.

The policies seek to achieve the objective by documenting and evaluating the heritage resource and promoting the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Marlborough's heritage places and spaces. Council's ability to financially support the retention of special heritage places and spaces is limited, however, Council has a significant role in supporting and facilitating community initiatives to preserve special heritage resources. It is acknowledged that it is sometimes necessary to redevelop heritage places and spaces.

Heritage Resource Group 3: Objects and Artefacts

Heritage objects and artefacts are things that have been made by the hands of people. Whether they are the tools and implements used in day-to-day life, or objects of art or craft, they provide an insight into the values and the practicalities of life in the past.

Objective 3: The preservation, retention and return of Marlborough’s heritage objects and artefacts, which are important to the community and tangata whenua.

Policy 3.1: Progressively identify the extent and condition of Marlborough’s heritage objects and artefacts.

Policy 3.2: Support the documentation of the history, and relative significance of Marlborough’s different heritage objects and artefacts.

Policy 3.3: Support the preservation, restoration, retention, and return of heritage objects and artefacts within and to the district, where they are of special value to the community and tangata whenua.

Policy 3.4: Recognize the need to preserve objects whilst, at the same time, enabling opportunities to fully appreciate their meaning.

Rare and highly sought-after heritage objects and artefacts are freely bought and sold and often removed from their community of origin. The objective recognises that some objects are important to community and tangata whenua and should be retained or returned to the district, if possible. The policies seek to achieve the objective by documenting and evaluating the heritage resources and supporting the preservation, restoration, retention and return of heritage objects and artefacts of importance to the district. Policy 3.4 acknowledges that by their nature, most objects are not designed to endure, and where appropriate, objects should be conserved and protected. This may sometimes entail limiting access - balancing the need to conserve and protect fragile items against the general desirability of providing opportunities for the community to have access to their heritage.

Heritage Group 4: Plants and Animals

Human life is dependant upon the plants and animals that we share the planet with. The indigenous and introduced plants and animals that our ancestors relied upon, or that formed a part of their landscape, are also part of our heritage. Indigenous and introduced heritage plants and animals are valued for inherent and physical values, the biodiversity they provide and the links they represent with past practices and ways of life. Many indigenous plants and animals are considered to be taonga, providing an especially valued heritage resource that cannot be replaced by modern equivalents.

Objective 4: The preservation, protection and propagation of heritage plants and animals that are important to the community and tangata whenua.

Policy 4.1: Progressively identify the extent and condition of Marlborough's heritage plants and animals.

Policy 4.2: Support the documentation of the history, and relative significance of Marlborough's different heritage plants and animals.

Policy 4.3: Facilitate and support the preservation, protection and propagation of heritage plants and animals of importance to Marlborough, on privately owned land.

Policy 4.4: Develop and enhance the populations of heritage plants and animals within publicly owned land, managed by the Council.

Heritage plants and animals located in publicly owned reserves and parks around Marlborough receive some level of protection. However, the remainder of Marlborough's heritage plants and animals, located on private land, are reliant on the landowners' interest, commitment and ability for protection. Other plants and animals are reliant on enthusiastic members of the community for their continued propagation and spread. The policies seek the documentation, evaluation and continued protection of heritage plants, trees and animals on Council managed land, as well as supporting the endeavours of private landowners and community groups in preserving valued indigenous and introduced heritage plants and animals.

Heritage Group 5: Taonga Maori

Maori heritage encompasses the first four groups, and Maori share with other New Zealanders a commitment to preserving heritage resources for future generations. At another level, indigenous plants and animals, artefacts, sites of settlement or activity, and natural landscapes may have special significance for a particular Iwi, hapu or whanau. In this context, the appropriate treatments of such taonga and waahi tapu, including decisions about access, are best determined by the relevant Iwi, hapu or whanau.

Objective 5: The establishment of protocols for the preservation and protection of taonga Maori.

Policy 5.1: Progressively explore the needs and interests of Iwi, hapu, and whanau concerning their taonga and waahi tapu.

Policy 5.2 Develop agreements and protocols with Iwi, hapu and whanau for the preservation and protection of their taonga and waahi tapu.

Policy 5.2: Where it is considered appropriate, support the documentation of the history and significance of taonga and waahi tapu.

Some taonga and waahi tapu receive protection under other legislation, or will be considered in the policies and objectives associated with the other heritage groups. The policies for the Taonga Maori Heritage Group reflect the principle that the ultimate responsibility for guardianship of taonga Maori and waahi tapu rests with particular whanau, hapu, or iwi. Council will therefore work with these groups to find acceptable and practicable ways of achieving the principal outcome.

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