

Aboriginal sites are a finite resource. They cannot be replaced. They are of importance to Aboriginal people as well as non-Aboriginal people. Tourists also value them.



It is important to be aware of the fact that all Aboriginal sites are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and it is an offence to damage or destroy them (includes collecting) without a permit.

Aboriginal Heritage Office

Ph: (02) 9976 1685

[aho@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aho@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

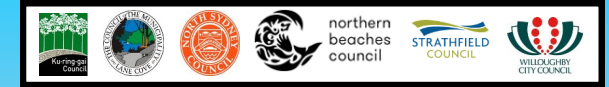
[www.aboriginalheritage.org](http://www.aboriginalheritage.org)



Paintings and drawings are fragile and irreplaceable. Please do not touch art in any way. Acids and oils from your fingers can permanently mark paintings and damage them.

If you see that art work is being impacted by water seepage, or where vandals have spray painted or used charcoal over art, please inform the Aboriginal Heritage Office so that appropriate management strategies can be carried out. Do not attempt to remove graffiti by yourself as this is likely to impact the art.

Art can be affected by changes in humidity (increases in visitor levels or drainage patterns), dust (disturbed by scuffing the floor deposit) and smoke (campfires or hot smokey fires near the shelter). It is best to keep any activity that could change the conditions of a shelter away as far as possible (eg pile burns, walking tracks etc).



## Bush Regeneration and Aboriginal Sites



**Bush regenerators spend a lot of time working in areas that may contain Aboriginal sites. It is fundamental that all bush regenerators are aware of the potential existence of sites and what to do if they come across a site.**

Bush regenerators are frequently in close contact with Aboriginal sites in their day to day work. If you are a bush regenerator it is important to be aware of the different types of Aboriginal sites and what to do in the situation where you may be working near or around a site. Ask your supervisor about being involved in an Aboriginal Sites Awareness Training Course if you have not already done so.

### Working in Potential Aboriginal Site Areas

If you are working in areas that may contain

Aboriginal sites ensure that you: -

1. Keep a Look out for surface shell material and/or bones. If you find either, let your supervisor know. Do not dig here, or poke around to see what you can find that will disturb and maybe damage the site. It's better to leave it as it is. Move away from the area and keep working. It is likely to be a midden or a burial. The supervisor should sketch its location on a site plan, and let the Aboriginal Heritage Office know.
2. Try to avoid digging or disturbing the soil surface. Small plants/weeds can be removed by the roots, but do not disturb the ground more than is necessary.

3. When you are tree planting, keep an eye out for shell/bone material. Avoid planting and digging in areas identified as shell midden.



Above: Warrigal Spinach growing over a shell midden.



Above: AHO Sites Awareness training.

## 10 Main Points to Site Protection and Preservation

1. Do not leave waste material on any part of the site.
2. Do not light fires without consultation and prior arrangements with appropriate department staff.
3. Where possible avoid leaving tracks that lead to sites.
4. Do not disturb rocks or features that may impact on the site.
5. Do not use chemicals near art sites or engravings without approval.
6. Do not walk on or touch engravings/art.
7. If any sites are found contact the appropriate staff and avoid disturbing them.
8. Do not plant in middens.
9. If you need to walk on sandstone, tread cautiously and be aware of possible engraving sites.
10. If you're not sure, then don't!