

3.2 HERITAGE VALUES

3.2.1 INTRODUCTION

Many places, buildings, features and trees have cultural, historic, spiritual, scientific or other special interest to residents, both Maori and non-Maori, and to visitors to these areas. These include archaeological sites, historic buildings, notable trees and waahi tapu (sacred places) of special significance to the Tangata Whenua.

Resources of heritage value contribute to the present and future environment in many ways:

- a sense of place, identity and continuity;
- a pleasant environment for people's activities;
- a record of human activity maintaining a link with the District's history as it develops;
- contribution to the character of an area;
- basis for community well-being and understanding;
- interest for visitors and associated economic opportunities;
- in the case of trees, grandeur and visual amenity, contributing to community health and well-being.

The heritage inventory contained in Appendix B lists those items and trees which have been recognised to date. These resources will always be in a state of flux as new items are identified and development occurs.

3.2.2 ISSUE - Protection of Heritage Resources

Heritage values need to be maintained or enhanced for future generations.

Explanation

The people of the District and the Council want to see historic and special places and buildings maintained or enhanced so that residents, visitors and future generations can enjoy them. Much of the District's heritage is in private ownership and therefore a balance is required between the desire of owners to alter their properties and community interest in retaining and preserving its heritage.

3.2.2.1 Objective

The conservation and enhancement of the heritage values, including historic places and areas, waahi tapu sites and areas, archaeological sites and notable trees, in order to preserve the character and history of the District.

3.2.2.2 Policies

1. *To use the District Plan as a means of identifying and drawing to public attention important heritage buildings, objects, places and sites, in consultation with the Historic Places Trust, Historical Societies within the District, and the local community.*
2. *To ensure that, through the implementation of appropriate procedures within the Council's administration, all development and building proposals in the vicinity of recorded waahi tapu and archaeological sites are notified to the Tangata Whenua and to the Historic Places Trust, in accordance with the Historic Places Act, in order to enable the implementation of the archaeological authority provisions of that Act.*

3. *To encourage public participation in the identification and protection of heritage values through education and increased public awareness.*
4. *To encourage the use of protected buildings appropriate to their heritage values.*
5. *To encourage the practice of planting trees on public land and protect notable trees identified on Council land from unnecessary interference or destruction.*

3.2.2.3 Implementation Methods

To achieve policies 1 - 5 through:

1. including an inventory of heritage items in the District Plan;
2. consultation with owners and occupiers of properties where additional heritage buildings, objects, places, sites (including recorded waahi tapu and archaeological sites), and notable trees are identified;
3. continuing to liaise with the Historic Places Trust, local historical societies and Tangata Whenua to promote public awareness of the importance of heritage values;
4. informing the Historic Places Trust, local historical societies, or the Tangata Whenua when an alteration or destruction of an heritage item may occur; and
5. continuing to plant and maintain trees, including trees of substantial size, on public reserves, roads and other public land.

3.2.2.4 Explanation and Reasons

Council is obliged to recognise and protect heritage values. The Plan identifies certain buildings, groups of buildings, objects, places and trees on Council land as being significant. Such items are listed in the "Schedule of Heritage Items or Notable Trees" (Appendix B) and are identified on the Planning Maps. They have been listed for a number of reasons, including:

- historical and social significance;
- cultural and spiritual significance to Tangata Whenua;
- architectural significance;
- group significance;
- landmark significance;
- technological significance.

Council has an accepted role in identifying and facilitating a level of protection for heritage values. Council will ensure that negotiations take place before any historic item is altered or destroyed. The Council will promote the understanding of the District's heritage resources. The same process shall apply to any notable trees identified on Council land.

Archaeological sites are protected under Part I of the Historic Places Act 1993. Any modification or destruction of a site can only be undertaken with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust's permission. The Planning Maps show archaeological sites that are listed in the NZ Archaeological Association's register, most of which are middens and terraces (refer also to Appendix F). Upon receiving notification for any work that might affect these sites, the Council will inform where relevant the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Department of Conservation, and Tangata Whenua.

A large number of these archaeological sites are also of particular cultural significance to Tangata Whenua. Refer to Sections 3.1, 3.6 and Appendix C of the Plan.

3.2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS ANTICIPATED

- The conservation of a representative range of resources of heritage and cultural values important to present and future generations of the District's residents and visitors.
- The productive use of heritage buildings and sites.
- Maintenance and enhancement of heritage items to enable their continued use and enjoyment, whilst not detracting from their heritage values.

