

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Honoring the Oldest Living Culture on Earth

Aboriginal cultural heritage includes the places, objects, knowledge, and stories that hold significance for Aboriginal people and their history, such as but not limited to:

- Stone tools
- Jewelry
- Weapons
- Ceremonial sites
- Fish traps
- Scar trees
- Ring trees
- Weapons
- Middens
- Baskets

Do Not Disturb, Touch or Remove

If you discover something that might be an Aboriginal site or object - do not disturb it.

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, it is illegal to harm an Aboriginal object or place which includes destroying, defacing, damaging, or moving it.

Record What You See Without Interfering

- Note the location, GPS location and the date.
- Take a photo or sketch from a distance if possible.
- Note the surrounding landscape features.

But do not touch, clean, or shift anything, and avoid walking over sensitive areas such as rock art or middens.

Report

If you suspect an item or place may be of Aboriginal cultural heritage, you should report it so it can be assessed by the proper authorities.

Who to contact:

- Environment and Heritage NSW on 131 555. Heritage NSW manages Aboriginal cultural heritage and can determine whether an object or place needs protection.
- The local Aboriginal organisations or people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to the area.

Land Rights

In NSW, Aboriginal people cannot take private land. Land claims under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 apply only to unused Crown land as compensation for past dispossession, while private property remains fully protected. Native Title also cannot override valid private ownership.