

17 October 1986

## NOTES ON THE TREATMENT OF HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT OPEN SPACES

It is necessary to obtain as much historic information as possible before doing anything and the following applies:

- . If a history of the area has not been prepared dealing specifically with the garden, have one commissioned.
- . Prepare a Conservation Analysis (employ a consultant if necessary) - this surveys the existing conditions of the resource and the important historical issues, selecting those factors that are of importance from an historic point of view. Incorporated in the analysis is the statement of Cultural Significance setting out the important factors.
- . Prepare a Conservation Policy and Plan based partly on the Conservation Analysis, the limitation or restrictions if any imposed by other inputs, and the resources which are available to implement the Plan.
- . Prepare a Master Plan with a staged program which will clearly set out work to be undertaken and what the priorities are.
- . Perhaps a major difficulty is reconciling what the individual curator/superintendent thinks is the right plant, or the right colour to paint say a bandstand.

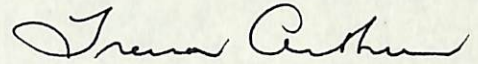
If it is to be historically accurate and the information is available, the Conservation Plan will set out clearly what is to be done and, which may not be the preferences of the current generation.

Simply stated, a Conservation Plan is a document setting out what is culturally significant in a place and therefore, what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development. The Plan is formulated in two distinct parts:

- 1 Establishment of Cultural Significance
- 2 Conservation Policy

The first part, the establishment of Cultural Significance is essentially the gathering and analysing of evidence, both documentary and physical, on which the assessment of Cultural Significance is based. This part must be undertaken by practitioners skilled in such investigation and assessment and it is their responsibility to derive the Statement of Cultural Significance from the evidence. This must be seen as an independent assessment based on their professional training and experience, and to be judgement unbiased by external factors or pressures. This first part takes the formal form of a Conservation Analysis Report.

The second part, the Conservation Policy, examines the implications of the previously established significance, and considers how the retention and recovery of that significance can be best achieved considering any limitations imposed by the owner's requirements, resources and proposed uses, the physical condition of the property, security and any other external constraints and requirements.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. Arthur".

T ARTHUR