

Aboriginal Heritage Consultation Information Pack

Onkaparinga Heights Application Area – Renewal SA

We seek your views on an application for authorisations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 (SA)* to impact Aboriginal heritage during proposed ground disturbance in part of the proposed residential development at Onkaparinga Heights



Figure 1 – Aerial Photograph of the Application Area, viewing south-east (Photo: Renewal SA)

Consultation Meeting: 5.00pm 24 June 2026
Neporendi Community Centre 13 McKinna Road
Christie Downs SA 5168.

This document may contain references to gender specific locations or heritage.



Government of South Australia
Attorney-General's Department

ONE PAGE APPLICATION SUMMARY		
Application name: Onkaparinga Heights Residential Development Application Area		
Topic	Page	Key information
Who is being consulted		All interested Aboriginal parties.
Native Title		The Application Area lies within the native title lands of the Kaurna People whose native title rights and interests are represented by the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (KYAC).
Overview of the project and Aboriginal heritage management	<u>4</u>	An application for authorisation under s21, s23 and s29 (1) (b) of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i> (SA) has been lodged by Renewal SA for ground disturbing works to develop 67.5ha of the new 200ha suburb of Onkaparinga Heights. Renewal SA seeks authority for ground disturbing works for themselves and their Development Partner to build approximately 1000 dwellings and associated infrastructure. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be developed in consultation with Traditional Owners by Renewal SA and their Development Partner.
Consultation	<u>11</u>	You are invited to provide a written or verbal submission and/or find out more at the Aboriginal Consultation Meeting at 5.00pm on Wednesday 24 June 2026 in the Neporendi Community Centre located at 13 McKinna Road Christie Downs . Please RSVP for catering. Closing date for submissions: Friday 10 July 2026
Contact for questions and submissions	<u>11</u>	Contact Maggie Moy, Senior Heritage Officer Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) Mail: GPO Box 464, ADELAIDE SA 5001 Email: aar.heritagesubmissions@sa.gov.au Telephone: (08) 7424 6520
Further information on Aboriginal Heritage	<u>13</u>	Isolated Aboriginal artefacts were found during cultural heritage surveys within the Application Area. The Onkaparinga Heights Application Area is, at its closest distance from the south-eastern boundary of the Application Area, 250m away from Ngangkiparri (Onkaparinga River), an important cultural and anthropological site.
Further information on the Application	<u>19</u>	The Applicant is the Urban Renewal Authority, trading as Renewal SA, the SA Government's urban development agency. The Application Area is located between Onkaparinga National Park and Main South Road at the intersection of the Southern Freeway.
Maps	A 1 A 2	Full size maps of the Application Area and the Aboriginal heritage can be found at the end of the document

Please note this document comes in two parts: the first part contains an overview of key information (pages 4 to 10), while the second part provides further detailed information (pages 13 to 22).

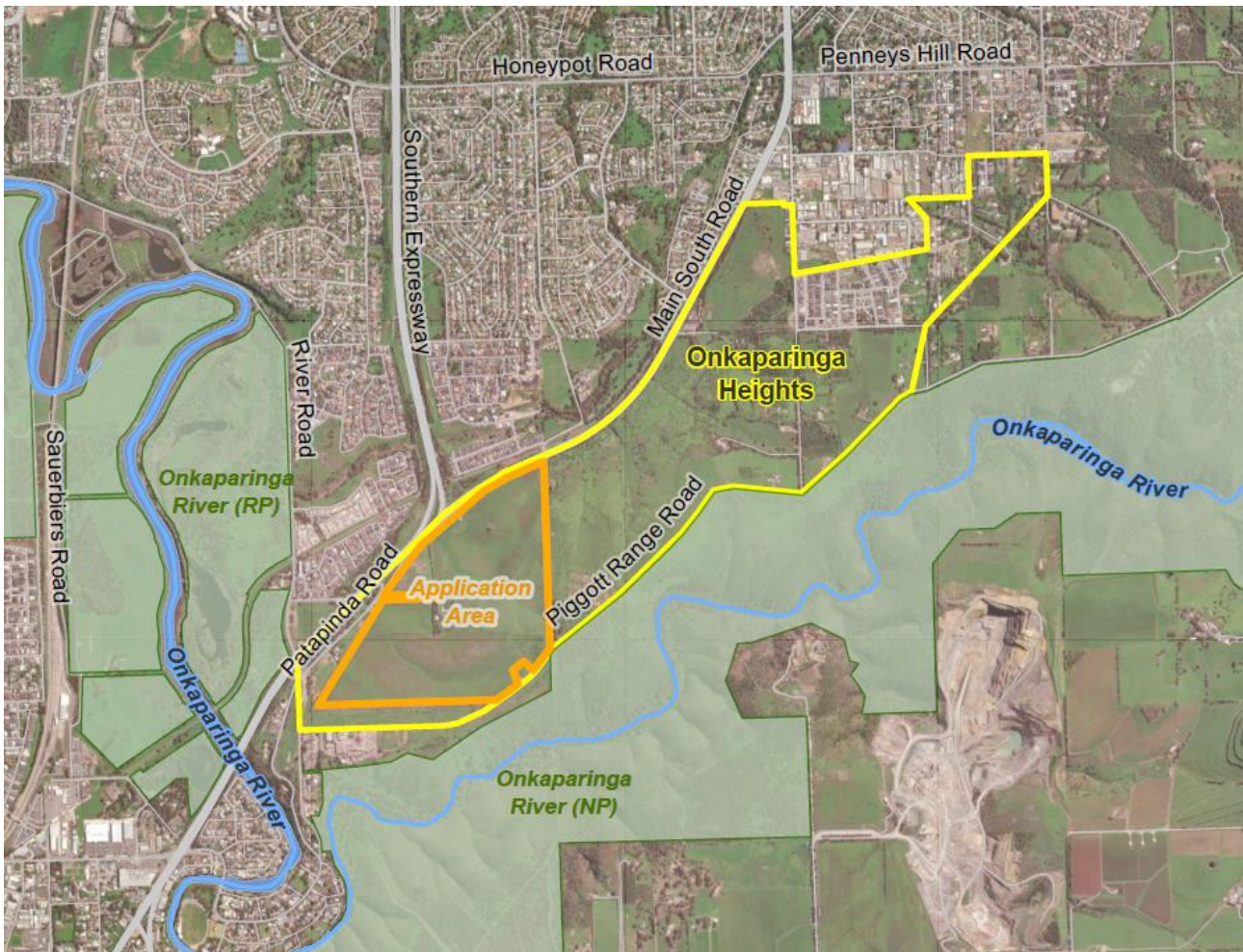


Figure 2 – Location of the Renewal SA's Application Area (orange) in relation to the new Onkaparinga Heights suburb (yellow) and the Onkaparinga River Recreational Reserve to the west and the Onkaparinga River National Park to the east, both in green.

Information about the Project and the proposed heritage management measures stated in this document are based on information provided by Renewal SA.

THE ONKAPARINGA HEIGHTS APPLICATION OVERVIEW

This Aboriginal Consultation Information Pack (CIP) has been prepared by the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) Division of the Attorney-General's Department. The CIP is intended for Aboriginal people and groups with an interest in country around the Ngangkiparri (Onkaparinga River) area.

Renewal SA is proposing to construct a housing development as part of a new suburb called Onkaparinga Heights. As the proposed ground disturbing works may impact Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Application Area, Renewal SA have applied to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for authorisations to damage, disturb, interfere and uncover Aboriginal heritage under sections 21, and 23, and to remove Aboriginal heritage from the state for radiocarbon dating under section 29 (1) (b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) if requested by KYAC.

Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation is conducting consultation on the application on behalf of the Minister. This CIP, and associated consultation process, provides an opportunity for Aboriginal people with an interest in the Onkaparinga area to give views on the application and proposed management of heritage within the Onkaparinga Heights Residential Development Application Area. Your views will inform the Minister's decision regarding whether authorisation to impact Aboriginal heritage should be granted to Renewal SA by the Minister, and under what conditions.

To assist the Minister to decide the application please review this CIP and consider the following questions:

- 1. What are your views on this request for authorisations?**
- 2. If the authorisations were granted, would you seek that the authorisations be conditioned in any way? Please provide example conditions.**
- 3. What are your views on the project proceeding as proposed, including:**
 - o the impacts to Aboriginal heritage that are proposed?
 - o the proposed protection and management of Aboriginal heritage?
- 4. Do you have any other views you wish to share with the Minister before the application is decided?**

The Project – Onkaparinga Heights Residential Development

Under the SA Government's Housing Roadmap, a master planned community of approximately 2000 new homes is proposed to be built within the new suburb of Onkaparinga Heights. Renewal SA, and their Development Partner (the organisation that Renewal SA will contract to undertake the project), are to build 1000 of these homes including associated infrastructure and landscaping.

During this project various ground disturbing works will occur that may impact Aboriginal heritage. This includes soil and spoil relocation and disposal. These works include:

- trenches for sewer, telecommunications, stormwater, electrical and drinking water dug to a depth of 2.5m and connections of stormwater drains to a depth of 5m.
- removal of topsoil up to 0.5m where roads and housing allotments are to be located. The soil will be stockpiled for use during later landscaping.
- soil movement of up to 3m to flatten allotments and to create safe roads and landscapes that drain water towards stormwater drains and stormwater collection points.
- excavation of up to 1m to build roads, pavements and buildings during the construction phase.

Ground disturbing activities are proposed to start in late 2026 or early 2027 and delivered in stages over an estimated 10 years. The project is still in a preliminary design phase however further project details can be found from page 19.

These ground disturbing works have the potential to damage or uncover Aboriginal heritage.



Figure 3 – The Onkaparinga Heights Application Area (orange) is part of the new Onkaparinga Suburb (yellow). The Onkaparinga River Recreation Park is located to the west and Onkaparinga River National Park to the south-east. Main South Road and the Southern Expressway can be seen stretching from the south-west across to the north and north-east. See Attachment 1 for a larger map.

Known Aboriginal Heritage

Renewal SA's Onkaparinga Heights Application Area, at its closest distance from the south-eastern boundary, is located approximately 250m from Ngangkiparri (Onkaparinga River). The river is associated with increased levels of past Aboriginal habitation, ceremony and trade. The river's waterway, flood plain, tidal and upper reaches have a high cultural and anthropological significance to Aboriginal people. Ten artefacts, identified by the red dots in Figure 4, were found during Renewal SA's Cultural Heritage Assessments undertaken with representatives from KYAC and the Ramindjeri Heritage Association (RHA).

Outside the proposed residential development, but within a one-kilometre radius, there are six individual cultural heritage sites recorded with AAR. The sites include two burials, two archaeological sites, one shell midden and one recently discovered Culturally Modified Tree, emphasising past Aboriginal lifeways in the area. Further information on Aboriginal heritage can be found from Page 13.

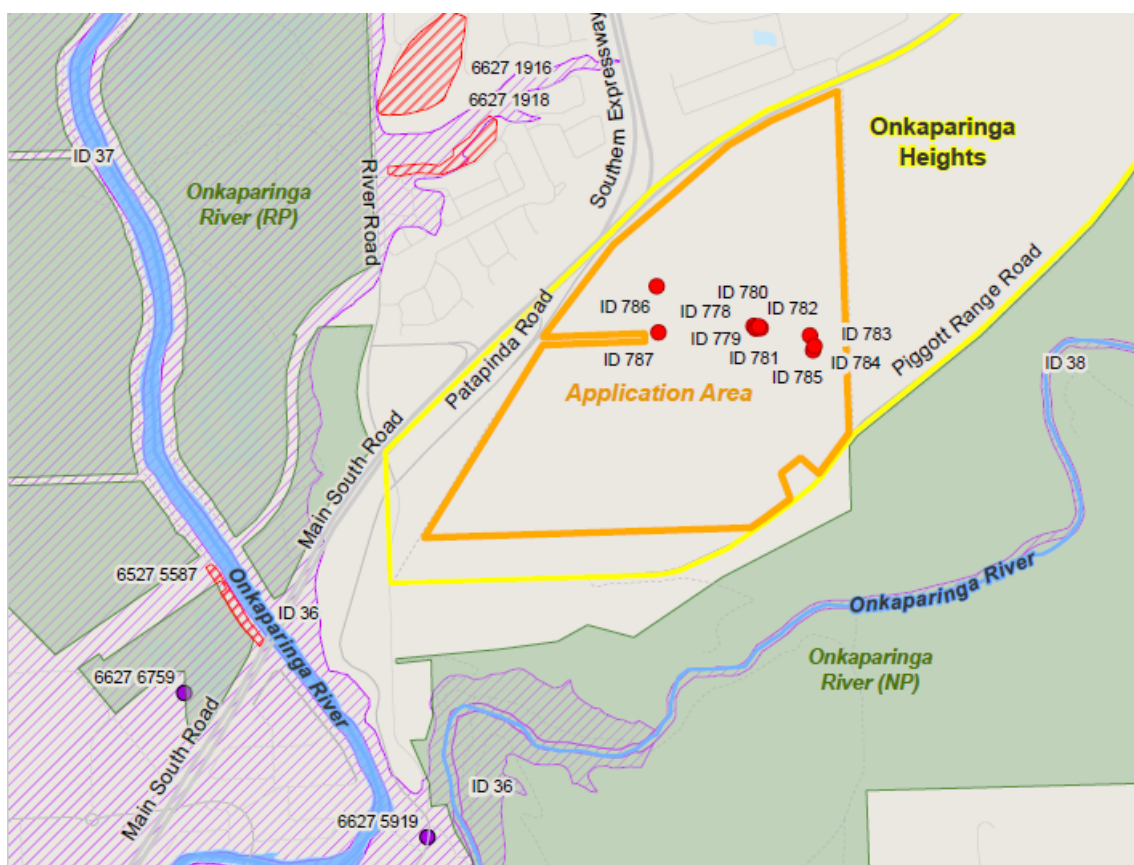


Figure 4 - Aboriginal heritage within the Application Area found during the survey (red dots) and known Aboriginal heritage (purple and red). Further information about Aboriginal heritage and the sites above can be found from page 13 onwards. See Attachment 2 for a larger map.

Consultation

Two separate cultural heritage assessments were commissioned by Renewal SA and undertaken by Australian Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd (ACHM) consultants with representatives from KYAC and Ramindjeri Heritage Association. The results of the surveys are described on page 13. A sensitivity analysis of the Application Area was included in the Kaurna Cultural Heritage Assessment provided as per Figure 5.

The KYAC Board endorsed the Kaurna Cultural Heritage Assessment on the 5th of February 2025.

Figure 5 - Archaeological sensitivity of the Onkaparinga Heights Application Area. Yellow areas were assessed as having a low - moderate likelihood of further heritage being found, and red areas as having moderate - high likelihood. Image: ACHM



Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP)

Renewal SA advise that an Onkaparinga Heights specific Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) will be co-developed before activities commence between Renewal SA, the Development Partner, a qualified heritage consultant and KYAC. Endorsement will be sought from the KYAC Board. This is in acknowledgement that the Application Area lies within the native title lands of the Kurna People whose native title rights and interests are represented by KYAC.

Renewal SA advise that the following, subject to the views of KYAC, will be addressed in the final CHMP:

- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of KYAC, Traditional Owners, the Applicant, landowners, contractors, consultants and any staff for the life of the Project.
- Cultural awareness and general heritage management training (including legislative awareness and artefact identification) induction, approved by AAR, for workers involved in any ground disturbance activities for the project areas.
- Define how KYAC and Kurna Traditional Owners will be engaged for ground disturbance works in areas of 'Moderate-High' archaeological sensitivity (as defined in Figure 2) requiring monitoring and/or inspection to help identify and manage discoveries and cultural sensitivities.
- Outline clear protocols relative to the specific heritage risk determined.
- Outline clear management and/or mitigation measures and the implementation of these for ground disturbance works in areas identified as 'Moderate-High archaeological sensitivity', including how the KYAC and Kurna Traditional Owners will be involved; and
- Determination and assessment of discoveries; including a stop works in close proximity of discoveries, sectioning off a radius around discovery with hi-vis bunting, reporting to SAPOL in the case of suspected remains, consultation with KYAC and Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, and agreement on heritage management methodologies to relocate (if unavoidable) to an agreed area if authorised.
- Preferred relocation for discoveries, as guided by KYAC could include a nearby location, on government owned environmental land (Onkaparinga National Park, Onkaparinga Wetlands), re-interred on site, or an agreed location within planned open space or a discrete reflection area.

Renewal SA state that it will comply with AAR's Aboriginal Heritage Discovery Protocols and incorporate these into the final CHMP, together with any conditions of the authorisation, if granted.

Renewal SA advise that it has recently re-engaged with KYAC now that it is ready to proceed with development of the CHMP alongside its Development Partner.

Visit agd.sa.gov.au/heritage-applications for a copy of AAR's Aboriginal heritage discovery protocols. If you would like a hard copy posted to you, please contact AAR.

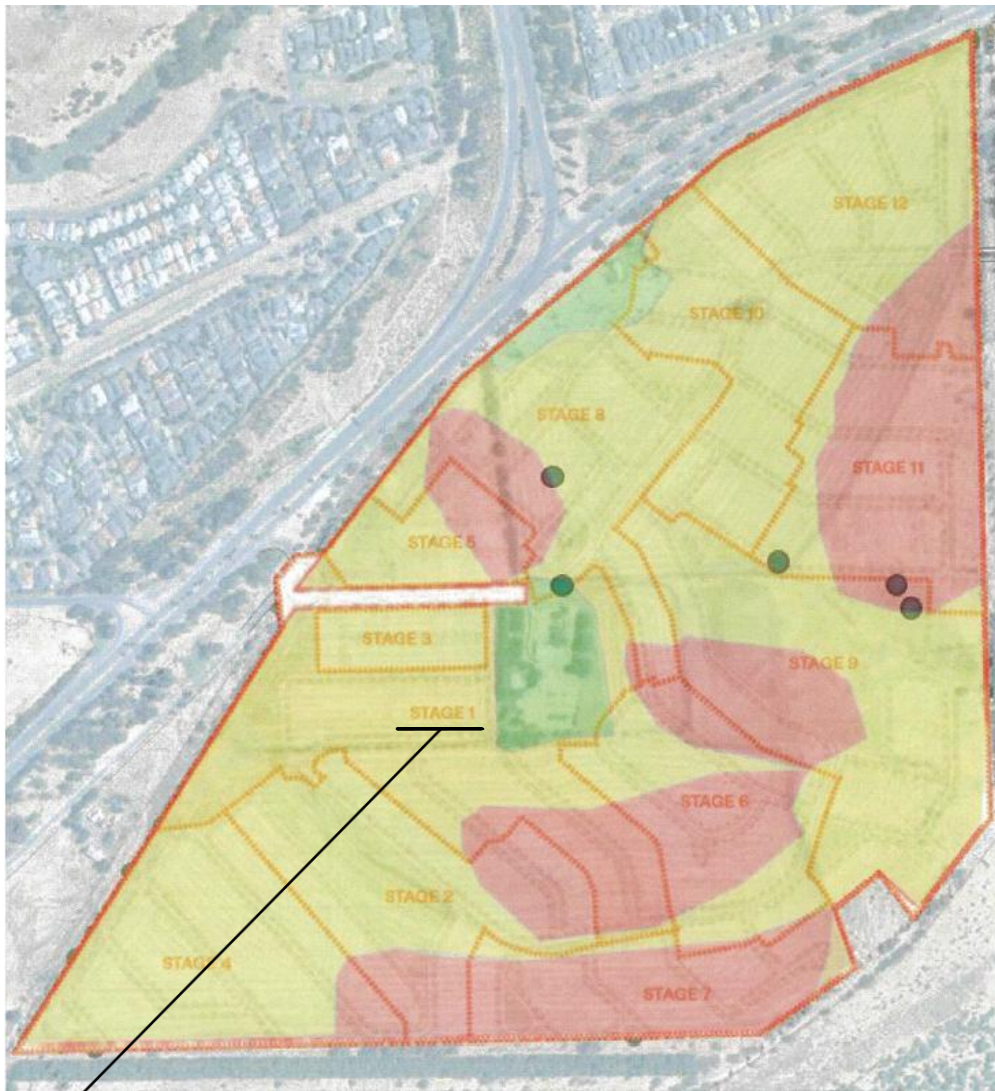


Figure 6 – Onkaparinga Heights Concept Plan of Proposed Project overlaid with Archaeological sensitivity (green has low sensitivity, yellow is low - moderate and red is moderate - high). Known Aboriginal Object locations are green dots. Stage 1 is located centre - left and has some moderate - high archaeological sensitivity.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

Before considering whether or not to grant an authorisation, the Act requires the Minister to understand and consider the views of a range of interested Aboriginal parties. Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) undertake this consultation on the Minister's behalf, seeking the views of Traditional Owners, the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee (Committee), and other Aboriginal parties that the Minister considers may have an interest in the matter.

Please feel free to contact AAR to ask any questions, seek further information, or if you would like to make a submission. You may also give your views at the Aboriginal Community Consultation meeting. This consultation will close on 10 July 2026.

Where and when can I attend an Aboriginal Community Consultation Meeting?

To find out more an Aboriginal Community consultation meeting will be held to discuss this application for Traditional Owners and any other interested Aboriginal parties from **5:00 pm** on Wednesday **24 June 2026** at the **Neporendi Community Centre located at 13 McKinna Road, Christie Downs SA, 5168.**

Please RSVP for catering purposes by calling (08) 7424 6520 or emailing aar.heritagesubmissions@sa.gov.au

How can I provide a written or verbal submission?

The Minister and the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee (Committee) would like to hear your views. Questions and submissions are invited from all interested Aboriginal parties about this application. Any Aboriginal party with an interest may make a submission to AAR in person, or by phone, letter, or email to:

Maggie Moy
Senior Project Officer (Heritage)
Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR)
Mail: GPO Box 464, ADELAIDE SA 5001
Email: aar.heritagesubmissions@sa.gov.au
Telephone: (08) 7424 6520

Susan Penfold
Senior Project Officer (Heritage),
Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR)
Mail: GPO Box 464, ADELAIDE SA 5001
Email: aar.heritagesubmissions@sa.gov.au
Telephone: (08) 7322 7984

Please share this CIP with other Aboriginal parties who may have an interest. This document is also available online at agd.sa.gov.au/heritage-applications

AAR is available to answer questions or provide further information about the Application at any time before consultation closes.

When will this consultation close?

Consultation closes on FRIDAY 10 JULY 2026.

What happens after the consultation closes?

All submissions will be forwarded to Renewal SA for a response unless you request that any cultural information you have provided be kept confidential.

Where possible, AAR will accommodate that request; however, procedural fairness considerations may require Renewal SA be provided with as much information as possible so that it can respond.

AAR will discuss with you any request you may make for your submission to be considered on a confidential basis.

Submissions from Aboriginal parties, and Renewal SA's responses to them, will be given to the Committee, and the Committee's advice will be sought.

Your views, and any recommendations that you make, will be considered by both the Committee, and by the Minister.

AAR will collate all submissions, Renewal SA's responses to them, the Committee's advice, and its own recommendations for the Minister to decide on the Application. If you make a submission, or otherwise indicate your interest in being notified, AAR will advise you of the outcome of this application.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

A map of heritage within and near the Application Area can be found at Attachment 2.

Heritage Assessments in the Application Area

Renewal SA commissioned Australian Cultural Heritage Management (ACHM) to undertake a desktop analysis and on-ground Cultural Heritage Assessments with Aboriginal parties with interests in the area.

In preparation ACHM conducted a search of the Central archives, maintained by AAR on behalf of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The search results identified KYAC and RHA as interested Aboriginal organisations in the area. Renewal SA states that surveys were undertaken with both groups in good faith on this basis. The search results indicated no previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the search area but identified five Aboriginal sites and a culturally sensitive landscape within 1km described in detail below at page 15. ACHM further undertook a search of the South Australian Museum database, but no records of Aboriginal heritage were found. ACHM reported that the Application area and surrounding landscape has had significant ground disturbance due to a long history of European use and assessed there is a moderate to high potential for Aboriginal Heritage, objects and burials to remain in certain areas.

The site assessment report with KYAC was finalised on the 28 November 2024 and it was endorsed by KYAC on 5 February 2025. Ramindjeri Heritage Association's assessment was finalised on 13 January 2025.

Bradshaw, A and A. Ziesing 2025 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the proposed Onkaparinga Heights residential subdivision, Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation. Report prepared for Renewal SA.

On 13 November 2024, a pedestrian survey of the Application Area was undertaken by Kurna representatives nominated by KYAC and ACHM. The survey resulted in locating eight isolated stone artefacts reported and described as sandstone mullers. Mullers are typically used for grinding seeds.

KYAC representatives recommended that monitoring should occur during the removal of the top layer of vegetation. KYAC requested a limited programme of targeted test excavations in areas of high archaeological sensitivity (especially near the Onkaparinga River and hill crests) to occur in conjunction with KYAC representatives. An unanticipated find procedure was

included in the report. During the construction phase, if any unexpected heritage is found, the procedure states a 10-metre exclusion zone should be placed around the location of the discovery, with KYAC monitors to be informed, to visit and inspect the site and advise the next steps to go forward. If ancestral remains are found KYAC requested that additional archaeological test excavations occur around the 10-metre exclusion zone.

Bradshaw, A and A. Ziesing 2025 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the proposed Onkaparinga Heights residential subdivision, Ramindjeri Heritage Association. Report prepared for Renewal SA.

On 28 October 2024, a pedestrian survey was undertaken within the Application Area in conjunction with Ramindjeri representatives, nominated by RHA, and ACHM. During the survey two isolated artefacts were found described as sandstone mullers. These are in addition to the eight artefacts discovered during the Kurna survey.

Four additional isolated items were found; they included a kangaroo bone, a quartz concentration and two cockle shells. Whilst these objects are not definitively archaeological, RHA requested that they be recorded as they may retain some cultural value.

Ramindjeri participants recommended that they monitor during and post vegetation removal when there is improved visibility to identify surface artefacts. They also requested that limited test excavations are undertaken with Ramindjeri representatives in areas to assess subsurface heritage.

Figure 7 – Current protections to flag artefacts on site to prevent unlawful damage, disturbances and interference to identified artefacts – all 10 artefacts are protected with the same measures, pending a decision on the authorisation. Photos – Renewal SA.



What heritage is known by AAR within the Application Area?

Prior to the Cultural Heritage Assessments conducted by ACHM for Renewal SA in 2024, AAR had no records of any reported Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Application Area. AAR acknowledges that the records are non-exhaustive and that further Aboriginal cultural heritage may exist within the Application area.

Since European colonisation the natural landscape within the Application Area has been disturbed, the result of land clearing, farming, grazing, cropping and horticulture activities since the mid-1800s. A check of State Heritage records show that two farmhouses within the Application area have been heritage listed.

Lot 28 Main South Road reports a 'former farmhouse' (State Heritage 5298) and 35 Patapinda Road reports a 'dwelling and outbuilding, former farm complex' (State Heritage 5299). Both farm buildings and complexes date from the mid-1800s indicating European disturbance to the land for over 170 years. During this time Aboriginal surface artefacts present may have been disturbed by ploughing, resulting in being buried, altered, or destroyed. The possibility of uncovering sub-surface heritage during the Project is consequently considered moderate to high.

What Aboriginal heritage is known by AAR within 1km?

The Onkaparinga Heights Application Area, at its closest distance from the south-eastern boundary, is located approximately 250 metres from Ngangkiparri (Onkaparinga River). The river has high and sensitive cultural significance to Aboriginal people. The Ngangkiparri and its surrounds have been inhabited by Aboriginal people for thousands of years for campsites, hunting, fishing, basketry making, burials, ochre mining, ceremony and intertribal connections and trade. The river system was a well-used travel route from the deep past as evidenced from culturally modified trees along its length. Traditional songlines and stories are also associated with the area.

The entire length of Ngangkiparri / Onkaparinga River is recorded as the Ngangkiparri Site Complex, its estuary system, river mouth, tidal reach (ID 37), and upper reach (ID 38) are areas of cultural and anthropological significance. The site complex also extends to the edges of the river's historical floodplain zone (ID 36). The name Ngangkiparri comes from 'Ngangki' meaning women and 'Parri' meaning river (women's river). Traditional owners wishing to know more about the site are asked to contact AAR.

AAR has records of five Aboriginal sites within one kilometre of the Application area:

Burial Ground, Old Noarlunga Township, site 6627-5919

This site was first reported in the SA Register on 14 March 1851. Multiple burials were located under Patapinda Road outside the now ruin of the Horseshoe Inn. The burial site was accidentally exposed in 1851 by action of drays wearing away the crown of the road. The number and the extent of the burials were unknown. Comparison with early photographs confirm the road is still located in-situ but may have been raised slightly with fill before being bituminised. The burials remain beneath (see Harris 2001 report below).

Old Noarlunga Culturally Modified Tree 1, ID 857

In October 2025 during AAR's Cultural Mapping Project of Mt Terrible, a CMT was recorded by AAR at Market Square, Old Noarlunga. The scar was in the shape of a vessel. Market Square is recorded as a women's ceremonial area.

Old Noarlunga Artefact Site, 6527-5587

In 1991 during a survey for the proposed storm water wetland basins in the Onkaparinga Estuary an archaeological site extending 80 metres along the riverbank between the South Road bridge and the railway bridge was reported. Artefacts included quartz and quartzite flakes with evidence of ash and charcoal along with burnt cobbles from campfires to a depth of 1.2 metres (see Draper 1991 report below).

Seaford Meadows Burial, site 6627-6759

In October 2004, during gardening work installing fence posts around a private dwelling a burial was located. The remains were reburied close by with the approval of Kaurna representatives, within a stand of eucalypt trees.

River Road Artefact Scatter, site 6627-1918

In May 1996, 500 metres northwest from the Application Area an artefact scatter containing quartz, quartzite flakes and flint along with glass and pottery fragments was recorded. The location is east of River Road at the point where the creek discharges into the Onkaparinga River. The site sits on land that has been disturbed by pastoral and agricultural activity as well as natural erosion.

River Road Midden, site 6627-1916

In February 1998 a thin 3-4cm dense layer of shellfish, approximately 2 metres below the surface, were exposed during construction of River Road. The shells were mainly mussel and oyster with no other archaeological material visible. The site extends for approximately 20 metres and lies 200 meters away from the River Road Artefact Scatter Site.

What other information relates to Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Onkaparinga Heights area?

Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation has undertaken a non-exhaustive search of reports, and the following was found to be the most relevant.

Czerwinski, P 2002 Archaeology along the Onkaparinga River, South Australia. South Australian Geographical Journal vol.101:31–42

The Onkaparinga River has numerous Aboriginal sites along its 60 km length, from its source in the Mt Lofty Ranges to the river mouth which empties into the Gulf of St. Vincent at Port Noarlunga. From the Onkaparinga Gorge to the mouth, archaeological records show a continuity of Aboriginal land use and travel routes.

The gorge provided sheltered campsites and permanent freshwater holes and the bark of the River Redgums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) along its banks have been used by Aboriginal people for vessels, shields, and canoes. The estuary which extends 10.5 km from Old Noarlunga to the river mouth has four distinct bio-geographical zones: river, flood plain, samphire mud flats and sand dunes.

The estuary has a rich ethnographic history including campsites, burial and ceremony sites, trade routes for different language groups trading in ochre, stone tools, and possum skin rugs. The area was abundant for food procurement with important areas for fresh and sea water fishing, gathering of shellfish, game hunting, seed, and plant collection areas. Evidence of stone tools, shell middens, cooking ovens, charcoal, and burial grounds are found in the archaeological record throughout the Onkaparinga River, estuary and dune systems.

Harris, R 2001 Aboriginal Heritage Survey, Old Noarlunga Township. Report prepared for United Water.

In 2001 United Water requested an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey of the Old Noarlunga township because of plans to install an underground sewerage system with three pumping stations within the township and the horseshoe shaped area. The sewerage system was to be constructed under existing roads to replace individual septic tank systems. Rhonda Harris undertook the survey in consultation with Kurna Meyanna Inc.

Pump Station number one was to be situated in a wetland area near Main South Road and the Trunk Sewer Line. Harris reported that the entire area had previously been altered with the construction of wetland basins (see Draper report below) and ground visibility was poor due to vegetation cover. However, one isolated stone artefact was located, a quartzite hammerstone.

Pump Station number 2 is to be situated in the township of Old Noarlunga. Historically the town has been referred to as both the Horseshoe and Noarlunga. The town's Market Square area is known ethnographically for being an Aboriginal camping and ceremonial ground and nearby on the river, where the fresh water meets the saltwater, it is known to be an important mythology area.

In her report, Harris brought attention to an 1851 newspaper article describing the accidental exposure of an Aboriginal burial ground under Patapinda Road near the Old Horseshoe Inn. The burial was exposed by the movement of drays along the unsealed road. Harris described the newspaper article as 'precise' in pinpointing the exact location of the exposed burial and that the proposed sewer lines will need to avoid this and other areas close by. No other archaeology was discovered during the survey, and the recommendation was that Kaurna monitors to be present during construction work near the known burial area and for work along Onkaparinga Drive near the river. There were no constraints under *The South Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) to the proposed construction of sewage lines going ahead.

Draper, N 1991 An archaeological survey of Aboriginal Sites in the vicinity of Proposed Storm Water Wetland Basins, Onkaparinga River Estuary. Report prepared for E&WS.

In August 1991 Neil Draper conducted an archaeological survey to identify Aboriginal sites in the Onkaparinga Estuary that would be affected by the construction of storm water wetland basins. The report was prepared for the E&WS and the survey conducted by Draper, students and volunteers from Visual Arts and Archaeology Discipline at Flinders University of SA.

The fieldwork involved a survey of the seven proposed wetland basins. Basin number two is the closest to the Application Area of Onkaparinga Heights and sits between two transport corridors of the railway and South Road bridges. The area has been cleared, farmed, and revegetated with trees and shrubs in the past.

An extensive archaeological site was recorded extending along the riverbank between the two bridges for approximately 80 metres. The site also ran along the margins of the proposed basin area. Artefact types varied with quartz and quartzite flakes, mudstone/schist, charcoal, ash and burnt and broken cobble. The artefact density was between 5 to 50 per square metre with 10 artefacts per metre on average. Quartz artefacts were observed 30 centimetres below the top of the riverbank with deposits of ash and charcoal visible to a depth of 1.2 metres and a broken quartzite cobble at a 2-metre depth.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION

Detailed description of the proposed ground disturbing works at Onkaparinga Heights

Under the SA Government's Housing Roadmap, a master planned community of approximately 2000 new homes is to be built at Onkaparinga Heights, of which up to 1000 are to be built by the Renewal SA. Some of the land, anticipated to be under 15%, will also be developed for aged care, childcare, commercial and/or community services.

Ground disturbing works are required across the whole Application Area. The concept plan includes fixed elements such as key intersections, stormwater basins, and infrastructure trenches however there is flexibility around the location of roads, allotments and open spaces. Renewal SA anticipates that it is likely that some activities will encounter heritage and in some cases impacts to heritage will be unavoidable. Renewal SA states however there may be the ability to avoid ground-disturbing works if heritage is discovered in some areas where there is more flexibility. KYAC has requested that these areas remain public open spaces.



Figure 8 – Onkaparinga Heights Concept Plan of proposed Project. Note: this plan is the current plan for the Project and some elements are subject to change, however it reflects an outcome very close to the likely future outcome of the project. Image: Renewal SA.

The Project will include ground disturbing works that are typical for a residential subdivision, soil and soil relocation and disposal will be undertaken following guidelines in the yet to-be-developed CHMP.

The proposed preconstruction phase of ground disturbing works include:

- service infrastructure trenching for sewer, water mains, stormwater drainage, electrical, and telecommunications cabling. Trenches will be approximately 1.2m-2.5m deep and 0.6m-1.2m wide, with major stormwater pipework and sewer connection points dug up to 5m to create fall for water drainage.
- topsoil stripping (depends on depth of topsoil but potentially up to 0.5m) from areas where roads and housing allotments are to be constructed. The soil will be stockpiled for later use during landscaping works.
- bulk earthworks of up to 3m, depending on what is required. These works may include cutting away high points and filling low points to flatten allotments, creating roads that are appropriately graded, and moulding water basins to retain stormwater.

The proposed ground disturbing works during the construction phase include:

- up to .5-1m of localised excavation of building allotments for concrete slabs and building footings.
- up to 1m of soil excavation to construct structurally sound and suitable roads and accessways.

The project is targeting 25% overall tree canopy with 12.5% of the land being developed as parks, parklands, and natural areas with walking trails and walking paths. Renewal SA confirms that Onkaparinga National Park will not be impacted and that access to it will be improved. Native trees within the Application Area will be retained and gullies revegetated to assist with stormwater and trails. Renewal SA states that it is collaborating with Green Adelaide and the City of Onkaparinga to create flora selection and planting strategies to increase biodiversity and support water quality.

Renewal SA says it, and its Development Partner, intend to collaborate with Renewal SA's Work Program, a Jobs Skills and Employment Program to provide employment opportunities for local young people, including young Aboriginal people specifically.

Renewal SA aim to start ground disturbing activities in late 2026 or early 2027 and deliver the development in stages over the next approximately 10 years.

Who is applying?

Renewal SA is the state government's property development agency, tasked with delivering projects of state significance across South Australia. The Applicant's key focus areas include increasing the supply of affordable housing, creating community spaces, and developing industrial and commercial precincts.

Project authorisations are sought for:

- Renewal SA and its employees, agents, advisors, contractors, and subcontractors.
- the future developers of the housing estate, known in this document as the Development Partner and its employees, agents, advisors, contractors, and subcontractors.
- South Australian Water Corporation, SA Power Networks, the City of Onkaparinga and its employees, agents, advisors, contractors, and subcontractors.

The Project is in its preliminary stages and Renewal SA's Development Partner is still finalising their plans and intended start date for the construction phase of the Onkaparinga Heights project to commence. Authorisation is sought to include all future construction elements of the proposed residential development.

Where are they applying?

The Application Area is entirely within the native title lands of the Kaurna People whose native title rights and interests are represented by the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (KYAC). AAR is aware that Ramindjeri also have traditional heritage interests in the area.

The application area is partly vegetated and partly cropped with undulating hills and elevated flat land bounded by Main South Road to the north-west, Piggott Range Road and Onkaparinga River National Park to the south-east. Further information on Onkaparinga Heights can be found at [Renewal SA • Onkaparinga Heights](#)

The area owned by the Applicant is approximately 67.5ha of the suburb and consists of:

- Lot 1 Patapinda Rd
- 222 Patapinda Rd
- 256 Patapinda Rd
- Lot 28 Main South Rd

With the following certificate of titles:

- CT5742/224 F151804 A28
- CT6188/77 D113604 A1
- CT5745/169 F40008 A22

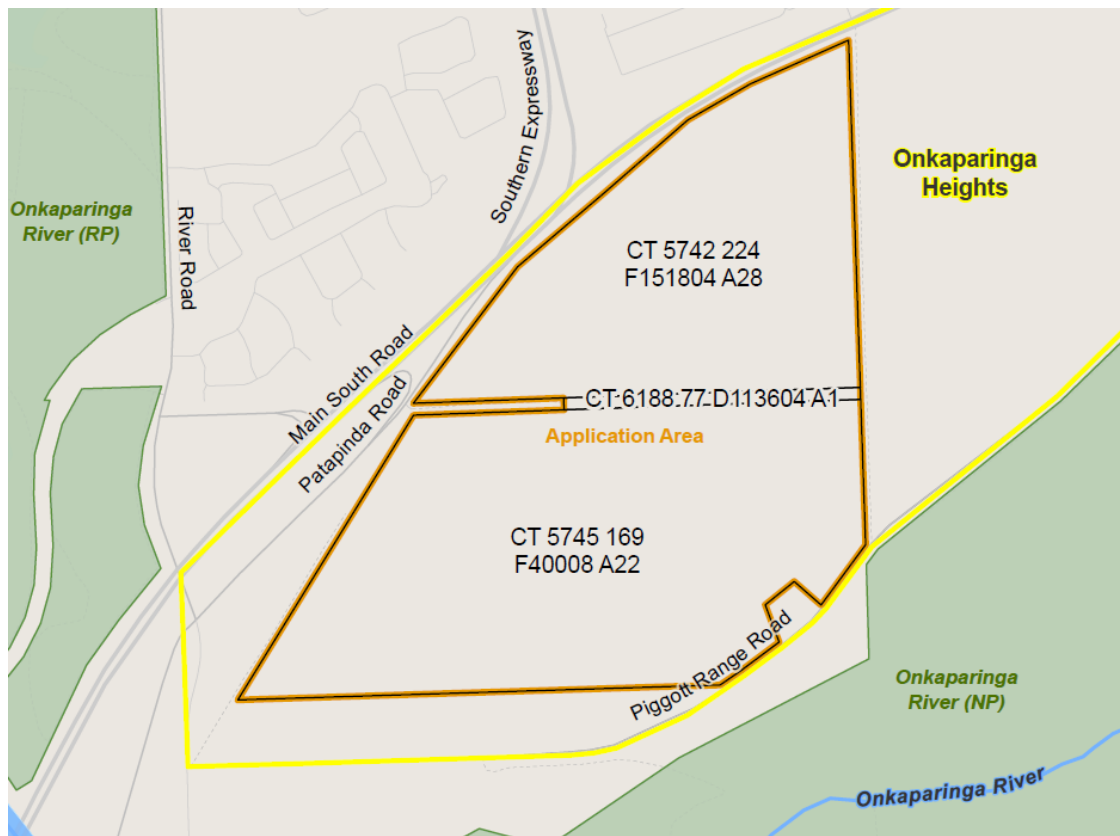


Figure 9 - Aerial view of the Onkaparinga Heights suburb (yellow) in relation to the land parcels (black) and Application Area (orange).

What are they are applying for?

Should the authorisation be given, Renewal SA will have permission to excavate, damage, disturb or interfere with Aboriginal heritage. Authorisation is also sought to undertake radiocarbon dating interstate with the approval of the KYAC board. The relevant sections of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) are:

- Section 21 which makes it an offence to excavate land for the purposes of uncovering Aboriginal sites, objects and remains (together, heritage) without ministerial authorisation.
- Section 23 which makes it an offence to damage, disturb or interfere with Aboriginal heritage without ministerial authorisation.
- Section 29(1)(b) which makes it illegal to remove an Aboriginal object from the state without ministerial authorisation.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this document. If you are an interested Aboriginal party, AAR encourages you to make a submission about this application. AAR is available to assist you if you have difficulty recording a submission.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Map of Application Area

Attachment 2: Map of Application Area with heritage



Onkaparinga Heights

Application Area

Renewal SA

Suburb

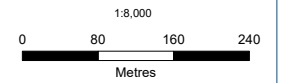
Onkaparinga Heights

Watercourse

Onkaparinga River

National Park & Reserve

Onkaparinga River (NP, RP)

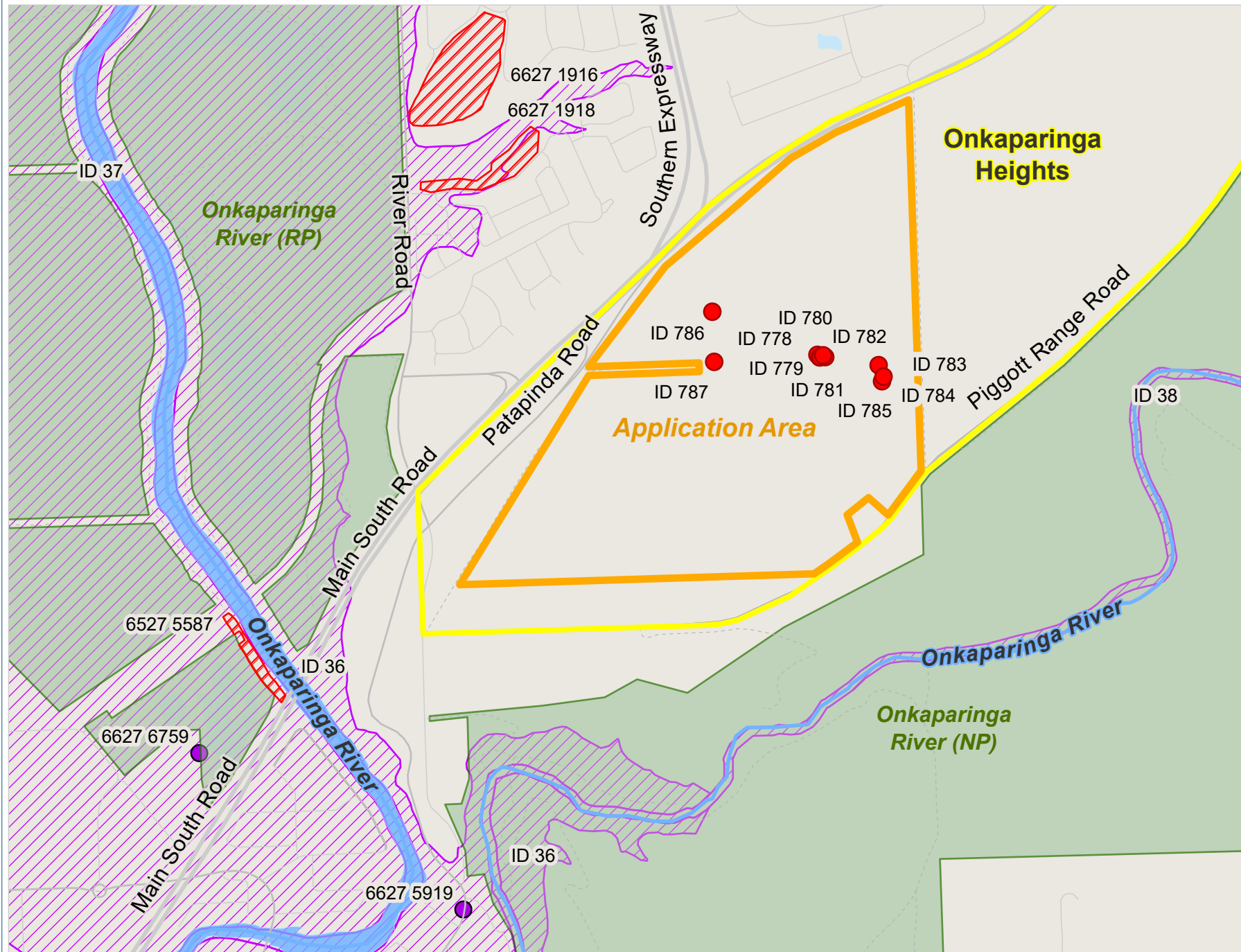


Produced by: Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR)
 Data sources: Aboriginal heritage - AAR
 Topographic / cadastral - Location SA
 Aerial imagery - Lambert Conformal Conic | GDA2020
 Projection | Datum: Lambert Conformal Conic | GDA2020
 Job No: 2026205_ApplicationArea
 Compiled: 11/05/2026

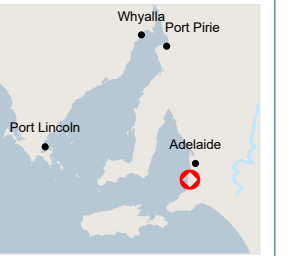
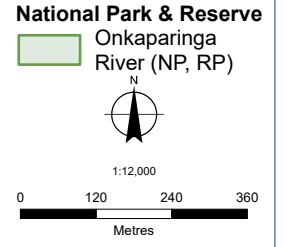
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- Onkaparinga Heights**
- AAR Heritage Sites**
- Burial
 - Archaeological
 - ▨ Archaeological
 - ▨ Flood plain
- Application Area**
- ▭ Renewal SA
- Suburb**
- ▭ Onkaparinga Heights
- Watercourse**
- ▬ Onkaparinga River
- National Park & Reserve**
- ▨ Onkaparinga River (NP, RP)



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