

CURRENT RECREATION USE

The Audley Precinct is primarily a passive recreation area for day users. Visitor numbers can be very high on holiday weekends and public holidays.

Visitors to Audley are primarily extended family groups picnicking and barbecuing. Some active recreation occurs in open spaces by small groups for games such as bocce, cricket, volleyball etc. Rowing and paddling are also popular pastimes in the area. Bike riding has a particular significance in this area as Audley is an access point for cyclists on Lady Carrington Drive.

ALLAMBIE

The northern side of the confluence is associated with known Aboriginal occupation sites and Lord Audley's campsite and the initial development of Audley by the first Park Trustees. The area became known as "The Camp". This evolved into permanent accommodation from a modified public pavilion known as "The Rest" and ultimately to the construction of a major public facility known as "Allambie House".

ALR ALLAMBIE RIDGE AND SLOPES

Along Allambie Ridge and slopes are sites of the former Trustees cottage, post office cottage (in situ), former district office, terraces, car park (former stable site), lookout, war memorial, garage site, and many associated cultural plantings dating from the inter-war period (1920-1938).

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Conserve and adapt post office cottage, garden, street frontage, and footprint (c. late 1800's). Explore possible options including field study/research accommodation.
- Adapt former Trust and rangers administration office as a classroom/research/interpretation facility
- Interpret former upper stables site with seating and surface treatments
- Interpret post office cottage site
- Conserve lookout area and monument
- Relocate and conserve war memorial 'Roll of Honour' and maintain steps and track along ridge.
- Interpret former Audley Road and Bridle Track.
- Interpret former stables and garage site as lookout area.
- Interpret line of old road and military track.
- Interpret water tanks.
- Conserve and reuse former depot site north of former stables site.
- Interpret terraced rocky gardens. Encourage indigenous species and selectively remove invasive species.

Conservation

- Reconstruct an interpretation of 'The Rest' Pavilion as open pavilion structure.
- Interpret and provide linked access paths.
- Interpret former trustees' cottage site.
- Restore Honeymoon Track to inter-war period configuration.
- Reinstate significant views to river by selectively thinning of post-fire regrowth.
- Adapt fabric of ranger's cottage/former office to new use for interpretation of Audley Village and include a deck/viewing platform overlooking 'The Camp', and former Trustees cottage site.

New Works

- Install traffic calming and new surface treatment to Audley Road from Allambie Ridge entrance to Audley village to the southern extremity of Pavilion Slopes (Sir Bertram Stephens Drive).
- Entry statement on Audley Road north of Post Office Cottage
- Introduce traffic calming treatments associated with entry statement
- Short term parking areas and access to cottage and possible researcher's residence.
- Longer term parking area (with connecting pedestrian track) at former depot site.
- Upgrade furniture and signage facilities
- Connecting pedestrian access
- Relocate public telephone (to Dance Hall or other location)

ALF ALLAMBIE FLAT

Allambie Flat contains existing structures of the 1938 boathshed, timber wharf and ramp, stairways, stone and concrete retaining walls, toilets, constructed paths, and formed garden beds. The existing carpark was constructed on the area of the former bowling green, tennis court, vegetable garden, and orchard sites. The modified flat has a built up levy on the former bridge site to Kangaroo Flat. Exotic evergreen and deciduous plantings exist within Allambie Flat.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Adapt and conserve boathouse shed (1938), explore possible options for part of structure (such as restaurant, open pavilion, or boat building facility)
- Interpret former bowling green/tennis court/vegetable garden
- Conserve and adapt walking track along waters edge
- Conserve and adapt stairway to boathshed from road.

Conservation

- Conserve a balance of non invasive exotic and indigenous plantings.

New Works

- Reconstruct bridge to Currawong Flat, designed to withstand flooding.
- Provide pedestrian connections to Allambie Ridge, Currawong Flat and Pavilion Flat
- Improve existing pedestrian access with proposed steel mesh walkway across the weir.
- Roundabout for traffic calming and improve safe vehicular access to Allambie Flat
- Reconfigured carparking adjacent to boathshed
- Upgrade furniture, signage and facilities

KAF KANGAROO FLAT

Kangaroo Flat was accessible via a pedestrian bridge to Allambie Flat in the early to late 1900s. Kangaroo Flat is the site of a former dairy and aquatic bird breeding ground during the period of the Park Trust. Bridge and path access led to the Trustees bathing place in Kangaroo Creek. Access to Kangaroo Flat is today deliberately limited to protect sensitive water bird breeding areas.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation,

- Maintain/restore soft edges and encourage regeneration of water bird habitat.

CUF CURRAWONG FLAT

Currawong Flat has formerly been associated with zoological experimentation. It was the site where fauna research, acclimatisation and species introduction occurred including an aviary (later relocated onto Pavilion Flat). At this time Araucaria tree species were planted around the entry to the aviary and have cultural significance. Varney Bridge (Built 1935 and rebuilt 1993) connects Currawong Flat to Pavilion Flat and Lady Carrington Drive.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Interpret site of former aviary as part of earlier acclimatisation attempts and encourage 'wildlife encounters' with emphasis on birds.
- Conserve parkland character
- Conserve existing edges and provide suitable access to water body.

Removal Works

- Continue to remove invasive weed species.

Conservation

- Conserve and maintain Varney Bridge
- Redefine former track to proposed bridge to Allambie Flat, link and use as walking track.
- Integrate all walking tracks flats and roads within Audley to Heathcote, Waterfall, Wattle Forest, and Robertson Knoll/Roundabout.
- Conserve Araucaria plantings and replace senescent specimens with same or similar species.

New Works

- Install interpretation structure for former Aviary site.
- Reconfigure car park
- Upgrade furniture and signage facilities
- Reconstruct footbridge to Allambie Flat
- New gas barbecues.

WTF & FTF WILLOW TREE FLAT AND FIG TREE FLAT

These Flats were planted with exotic vegetation of which the Willows and Figs are remnants. Willow Tree Flat and Fig Tree Flat contain a pavilion structure, gravel car park, open grassed areas with mature predominantly native trees, views to Hacking River, wood barbecues, and a toilet block. Willow Tree Flat is now the pedestrian entry to Lady Carrington Drive (9.6kms), the original road which winds its way south along the river. The northern part of Willow Tree Flat contributes to the visual and spatial structure of the Audley Core area.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Maintain/restore soft edges to water and harden naturally bare areas for better access to water

Conservation

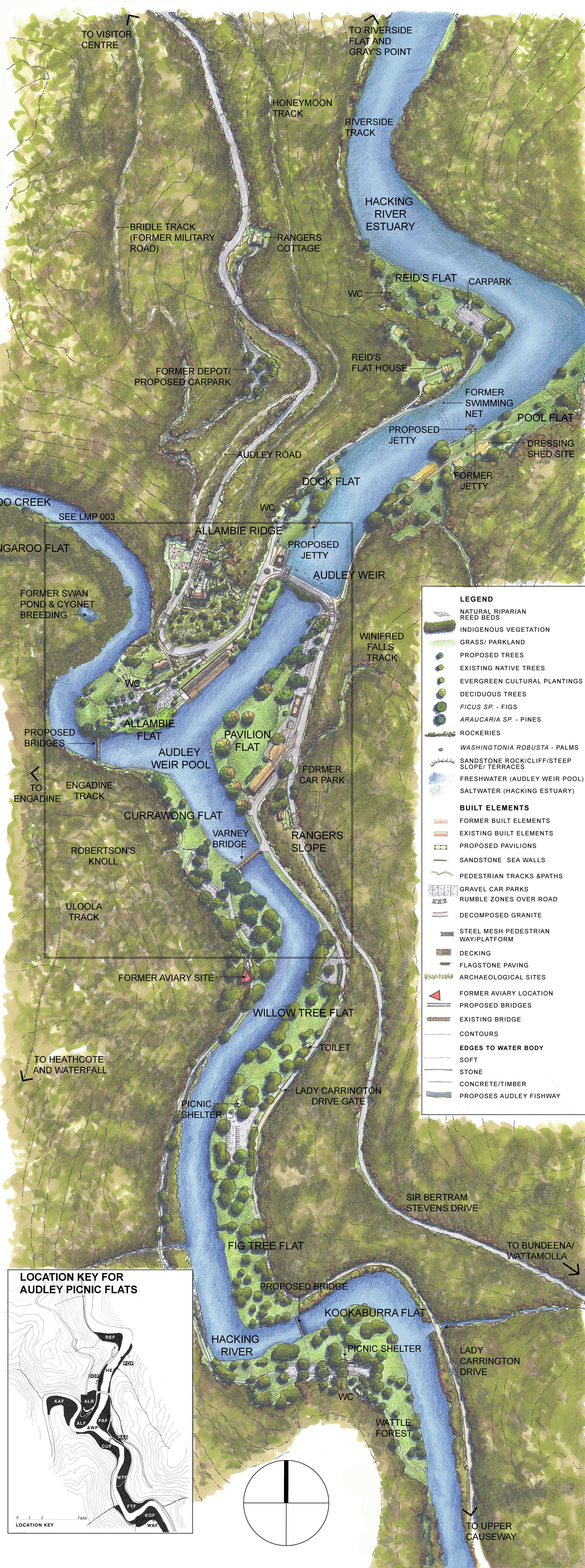
- Adapt 'Parkland' quality of formed flats to reduce ponding and drainage issues by grading landform and improving soil quality where possible

Removal Works

- Remove selected invasive and senescent foreshore trees and shrubs.

New Works

- Reconfigure carparking to maximize open space and screen car parking areas as seen from Allambie Flat and Slopes.
- Upgrade entrance and signage for bicycle and pedestrian access to Lady Carrington Drive.
- Upgrade furniture, facilities and signage.
- New gas barbecues.
- Construct footbridge linking FTF to KOF.



REF REID'S FLAT AND SLOPES

Reid's Flat and Slopes contain two culturally significant house sites, open grass, car parking, formed sandstone seawalls and rubble sea walls, a track to Gray's Point, gas barbecues, and toilet facilities. It previously contained various boatsheds and a public jetty. Reid's Flat is currently a popular picnic area and provides good access for upstream kayak paddles, boats, and a popular walking track to Wants Beach.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Adapt existing cottage for short stay accommodation. Explore other uses

Conservation

- Conserve parkland character
- Consider reconstruction of jetty
- Interpret and consider reconstructing former jetty
- Interpret former cottage sites

New Works

- Stabilise beach and sea walls
- Upgrade signage, furniture and picnic facilities

POF POS POOL FLAT AND SLOPES

Pool Flat is the earliest developed flat prior to the establishment of the National Park. During the late 1800s Pool Flat contained many house sites. The creek from Pool Slopes was dammed, waiting sheds constructed, a fish ladder to the freshwater installed as were toilet facilities, a number of jetties, a formed beach, sandstone sea walls, open grassland, a bridge to Reid's Flat, and a netted swimming enclosure. Today Pool Flat is most popular for people arriving by boat, for fishing, picnics, and walks.

Actions:

Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Interpret archaeological sites including former dressing sheds, cottage sites and existing dam on Pool Slopes

Reconstruction and Restoration

- Reconstruct pontoon for watercraft access
- Reconstruct stone seawall
- Reconstruct beach area
- Reconstruct swimming enclosure

Removal Works

- Remove and replace senescent trees

New Works

- Improve pedestrian access from weir
- Upgrade signage, furniture and picnic facilities

HE HACKING ESTUARY

Hacking Estuary comprises the saltwater body downstream of the Weir. Audley is a popular destination for kayaking and estuary fishing.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Interpret former weir (link with Dock Flat)
- Restore sea walls to stabilise bank erosion (including Pool and Reids Flat)
- Construct training walls 'beyond Riverside Flat and interpret.

New Works

- Interpret netted swimming enclosure
- Reconstruct jetties
- Reinststate and interpret fishway
- Install interpretive and directional signage along waters edge visible from land, road and water.

DOF DOCK FLAT (CAUSEWAY/FLAT/BUS STOP FLAT)

Dock Flat, modified significantly since the late 1800's, was formerly a ferry dock (later filled in) and formed one of the early landing points to access Audley and a popular place for short stay visitors, picnics, and fishing activities. Sandstone sea walls, sandstone stairs and platforms, and evidence of retaining walls suggest this area was highly modified particularly following storm and flood damage. A bus stop/waiting shed structure was located on the northern edge of Audley Weir. This flat also contained a boatshed at its eastern extremity. The Honeymoon Track, leading to National Park Rail Station (formerly Lotus Heights Station) also gives access to this area. Cultural plantings are mainly indigenous with one London Plane Tree - Platanus x hybrida.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Interpret former Dock and Bus Stop waiting shed/pavilion
- Conserve sandstone seawall and stairs

Conservation

- Redefine connection to Honeymoon Track

New Works

- Construct steel mesh cantilevered platform near former bus stop, designed to withstand flooding
- Install roundabout at road junction
- Introduce paving treatment for pedestrian crossing points on Audley Road.
- Upgrade toilet block facilities including pathway connections
- Upgrade furniture, signage and facilities
- Install a steel mesh viewing/fishing/interpretation/pedestrian crossing site at former bus stop platform.
- Construct ferry wharf associated with former Dock

AWP AUDLEY WEIR POOL

Audley Weir Pool constitutes the freshwater body upstream (i.e. behind) the weir incorporating water from Kangaroo Creek Catchesments and Hacking River. It is the focus of freshwater boating at Audley and forms the water body 'view' of Audley.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Formalise and stabilise boat landing points along river edge.

Conservation

- Conserve natural soft edge habitat at non landing points.

Removal Works

- Dredging - to maintain adequate boating activity
- Selected bank vegetation removed to maintain access for boating activity.

New Works

- Consider permissibility and practicality of fishing in this precinct.

PAF PAVILION FLAT

Pavilion Flat was originally known as 'the paddock' and was first used as a horse paddock and has been a major focus of public recreation for Audley since the establishment of the weir. This Flat was later named 'Bradley's Flat', then 'Pavilion Flat' and more recently as 'Ironbark Flat'. Commonwealth Pavilion (built 1907) and the Dance Hall/Kiosk (1945-48) are culturally significant as built elements and the formed landscape contains culturally significant exotic and indigenous tree species such as Platanus sp., Washingtonia sp., and Eucalyptus sp. Grey Ironbark trees have been introduced from the late 19th Century and their presence led to the more recent naming of the Flat.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Conserve and interpret Commonwealth Pavilion (1907)
- Modify earthworks and thin out selected plantings to reinstate views to water from Dance Hall, Commonwealth Pavilion, grassed areas, and road.
- Modify road and parking around southern edge of the Commonwealth Pavilion to improve curtilage and pedestrian circulation
- Conserve Winifred Falls Track and crossing
- Conserve remnants of former weir fabric and fish ladder and incorporate new fish ladder proposals
- Adapt and conserve Dance Hall to accommodate cafe/kiosk and adapt external pavement for new uses.
- Consider adaptive reuse potential of Dance Hall (for example: restaurant/ functions/conferences/workshops/stalls and fairs/theatre performance space/indoor classroom/displays/exhibitions).
- Modify angle parking to parallel, east of the toilet block for safer access

Removal Works

- Remove temporary kiosk as part of relocation to Dance Hall
- Modify earthworks of native plantings to reinstate views to water and open grassed areas.
- Remove senescent poplars and replace with relevant deciduous species.
- Consider adaptive reuse and partial removal of existing toilet block to open up views to water from road. Provide toilet facilities in this structure.

New Works

- Car parks reconfigured to include bus and disabled access.
- Paving treatments for pedestrian and vehicle safety
- Steel mesh pedestrian walkway across weir.
- Upgrade signage/entry markers on Artillery Hill ascent on Sir Bertram Stevens Drive.
- Upgrade furniture and facilities
- Shift kiosk/cafe to Dance Hall.
- Promote new uses for Dance Hall.

RAS RANGERS SLOPE

Rangers Slope contains indigenous bushland, a cottage and a shed, cultural tree plantings and fencing associated with its nineteenth century setting. Rangers Slope has steep landform and access is limited.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

- Conserve cottage and garden setting

Conservation

- Conserve and reconstruct fencing, retaining walls and plantings
- Conserve remnant cultural plantings
- Conserve bushland character beyond cottage curtilage.
- Interpret garden setting for cottage

Removal Works

- Consider removal of shed

New Works

- Reduce visual impact of shed
- Reconstruct fencing and retaining walls.

KOF WAF KOOKABURRA FLAT AND WATTLE FOREST

Kookaburra Flat, Audley's southern most recreational Flat is of an informal parkland character that contains a toilet block, wood barbecues, picnic tables, car parking, a picnic shelter, and open space along Hacking River. At Wattle Forest an informal path is formed along the river within a Cabbage Tree Palm forest. Kookaburra Flat is popular for large groups in the picnic shelter with informal games on the flat grassy area, and smaller, quieter picnics along the riverbanks.

Actions:

Existing Facilities - Conservation, Interpretation and Adaptation

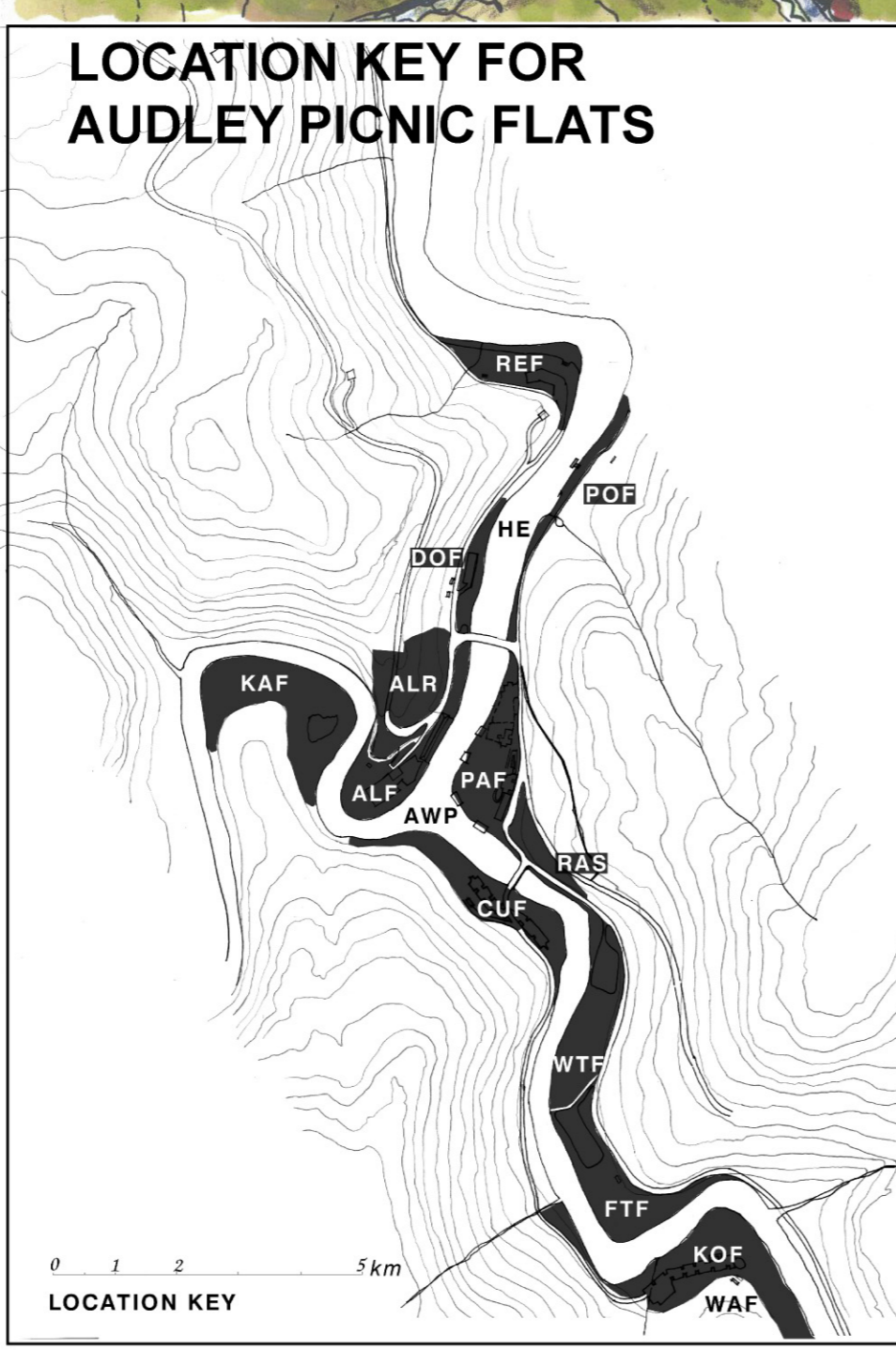
- Reduce car parking at entrance to Kookaburra Flat to provide further recreational space.

Conservation

- Conserve woodland character adjacent to flats

New Works

- Upgrade furniture, facilities, and signage
- Consider new pavilion/toilet facilities
- Reconfigure car parking areas to increase scenic amenity.
- Significant interpretation for bird watching activities.



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AUDLEY MASTERPLAN
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