

Archaeology

Storage and Handling Instructions

Any archaeological artefact found (depending on size) should be handled with care and placed in plastic bags (e.g. zip lock bags) or wrapped in bubble wrap. These should be clearly labelled with the completed 'Finds Record' included or attached so this information is not lost.

Cleaning

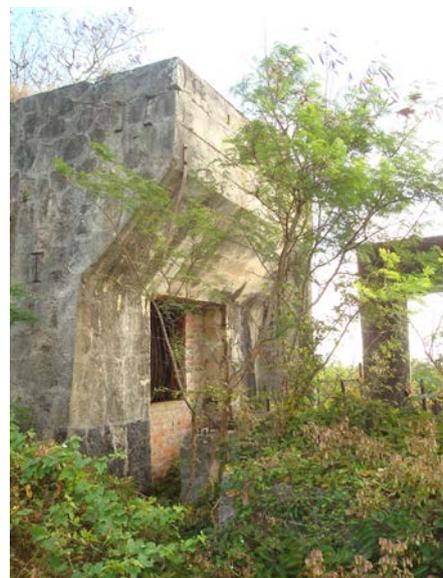
- Only use water for artefact cleaning. Do not use detergents or solvents. Dirt can be removed from metal artefacts by lightly dusting with a dry brush.
- Unstable artefact surfaces should not be cleaned e.g. corroded metal, wood, cork, textile, leather, paper or other organic materials.
- Do not wash interiors of bottles.
- Shell, bone or metal should not be cleaned with water. Used toothbrushes are suitable for cleaning the surfaces of these types of materials.
- Seek advice for fragile items or damp or waterlogged artefact (contact the WA Museum or Museums Australia; resources can also be found online).

Labels

- Archival quality materials and labels should ideally be used however normal paper will be suitable.
- No staples or paperclips should be used (particularly if there's potential for contact with the object); no sticky tape should be used to attach labels and artefact should not be written on.
- If artefacts are kept in zip-lock bags, the 'Finds Record' can be included within the bag with some basic identifying information written on the bag if required.
- Larger artefact should have labels attached using cotton string; ensure the information contained on the label/Find Record is protected.

Artefact packing and sorting

- Artefacts should be sorted by material so non-compatible materials are kept separately, e.g. rusting metal should be kept away from fabric.
- Pack in transparent polyethylene bags (i.e. zip-lock bags) and bubble wrap if the object is fragile. Material should not be folded but laid flat.
- Bags should be placed in rigid cardboard or plastic boxes with additional padding (bubble wrap) if required and be clearly labelled.
- Boxes should not be over-packed and lids should fit securely.



CONTACT

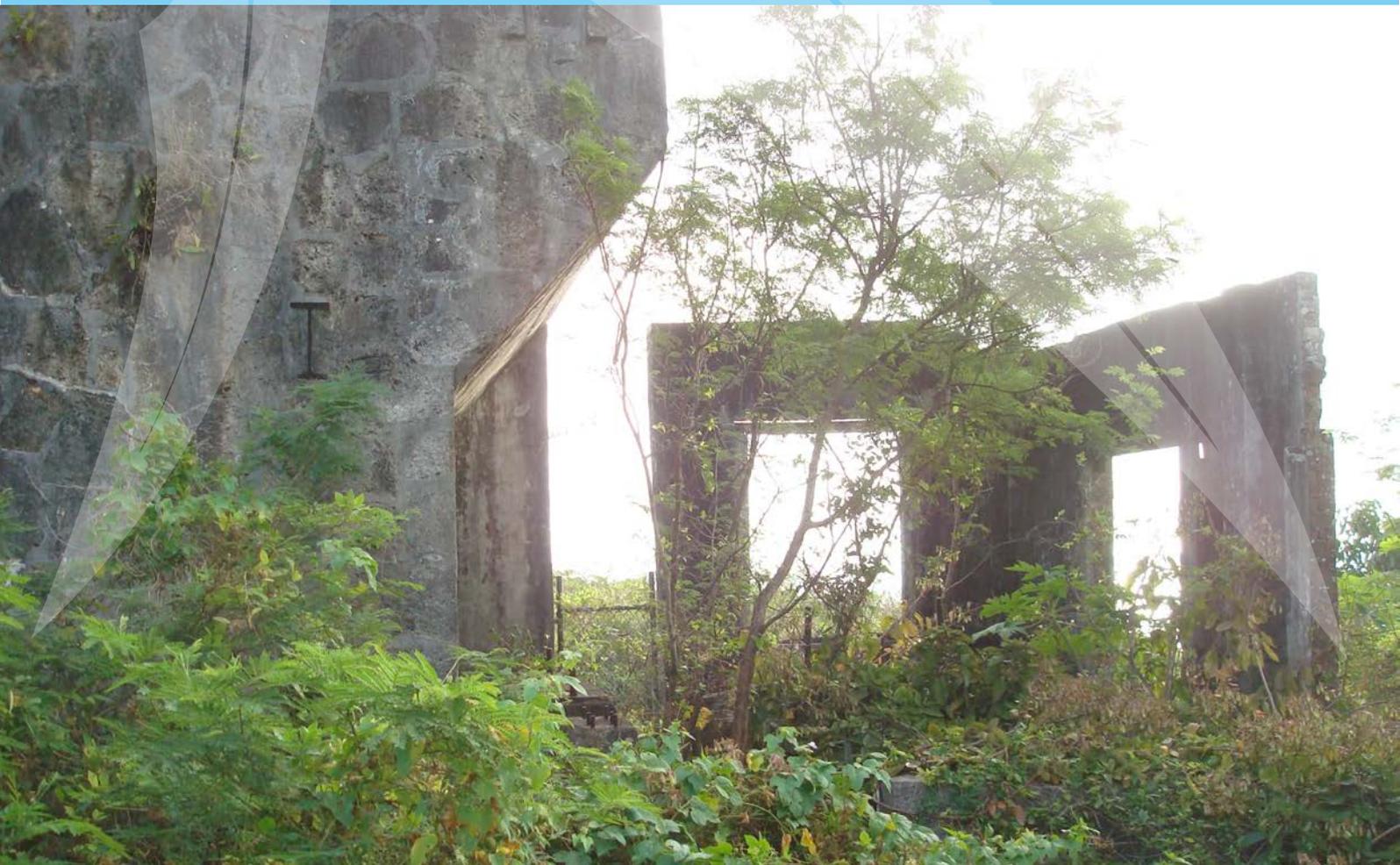
National Trust
of Western Australia

The Old Observatory
4 Havelock Street, West Perth

t 08 9321 6088
e trust@ntwa.com.au

PO Box 1162
West Perth WA 6872

www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa



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