

STAGE THREE: SIGNIFICANCE/CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This stage involves assessment of the OUV (if it has not been done already), of other values and attributes that manifest those values and the authenticity and integrity of those attributes. (The following step will be condition assessment and identifying key management issues.)

Value assessment

Assessing significance (see Part 3) should include assessing values that will describe the potential OUV and other values that may not be part of the OUV but should be retained. This can be done in two steps: (1) assessing the OUV and developing the SOUV that identifies attributes that carry OUV and their authenticity and integrity; and (2) assessing other values and identifying the attributes that carry those values. Assessment should be done together with the relevant stakeholders.

As mentioned above, assessing OUV uses the values-led approach to the conservation and management of heritage (for assessment of OUV, see the *Nomination Manual*).

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

If not already adopted, a 'Statement of Outstanding Universal Value' must be drawn up, based on the OUV and conditions of authenticity and integrity. This will be the key reference for the effective protection and management of the property in the future, as described in Part 3 of this manual and in the *Nomination Manual*. A SOUV identifies the attributes that convey the OUV and the conditions of authenticity and integrity that need to be maintained.

Other values and the statement of significance

The SOUV is based on the OUV but properties invariably carry other values, both heritage values and others (such as economic, social, environmental) that are of importance at local, regional or even national levels. It is not practical to manage attributes that carry OUV in isolation from those carrying other values, and can lead to values being prioritized where there is potential conflict between them. As for social and economic values, if the property has ongoing land use, for example, the concerns of farmers need to receive sufficient attention in order to manage agriculture. While the emphasis of this manual is on the protection of OUV, authorities preparing management plans should formulate a comprehensive Statement of Significance (see above) which captures OUV and these other values and use it as the basis for managing the property.

Condition assessment

Now that we have identified the attributes, authenticity and integrity, the next step is to assess the various factors affecting them, both positively and negatively. This exercise has come to be known as a 'condition assessment'. Its purpose is to understand the various factors impacting attributes, authenticity and integrity, with a view to managing them in the long term. Another purpose is to identify and deliver benefits that can be derived from heritage and other associated values by local communities and society at large. Condition assessments identify the issues that will emerge and help in defining future management objectives (sometimes known as 'policies') and actions.