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**NAME: Drain & Culvert, corner of Main & Malpas Roads, WILLUNGA**

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| <b>CURRENT USE:</b>             | Drain & culvert                                                                          |
| <b>FORMER USE:</b>              | Drain & culvert                                                                          |
| <b>DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:</b> | Unknown (c.mid-19 <sup>th</sup> /mid-20 <sup>th</sup> centuries)                         |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>                | Corner of Main & Malpas Roads, Willunga (immediately north of Lot 1 Main Road, Willunga) |
| <b>LAND DESCRIPTION:</b>        | Unknown – Crown Lands? Located on public land                                            |
| <b>OWNER:</b>                   | City of Onkaparinga                                                                      |
| <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>          | Local Heritage Place                                                                     |



Drain & culvert, south-west corner of Malpas & Main Roads, Willunga (GGA, 2022)

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**DESCRIPTION:**

Substantial bookleaf slate culvert immediately south-west of the corner of Main & Malpas Roads, Willunga, consisting of two walls of approximately 20 metres and 12 metres in length to a depth of approximately 1.5 metres with several stepped falls. Construction recorded as continuing east-west under Main Road with concrete pipe. Slate construction culvert evident to the south-east corner of Main & Malpas Roads, currently covered by extensive foliage.

It is recommended that the Drain & Culvert, corner of Main & Malpas Roads, Willunga be included on the South Australian Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

A delineation of significant historic fabric is provided in the Extent of Listing.

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**STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Drain & Culvert, corner of Malpas and Main Roads, Willunga is of significance as a substantial and highly-intact example of Willunga slate 'bookleaf' constructed infrastructure, possibly dating to an early period for the Willunga township. The use of Willunga slate as a building material is of high significance to the Willunga township dating from its initial developments in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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**RELEVANT CRITERIA (As defined in Section 67(1) of the PDI Act 2016):**

- a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; being a substantial example of a culvert of 'bookleaf' construction made from Willunga slate, a highly significant local construction material strongly associated with the Willunga township. The theme of slate constructed engineering and infrastructure, particularly relating to drainage, is a significant theme for the township.
  - b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; being a significant local example of a culvert of 'bookleaf' slate construction. Much of the Willunga township's early infrastructure and buildings are constructed of this material in this manner, a construction method used from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - d) it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area; being a large drain and culvert constructed of Willunga slate using the 'bookleaf' construction technique, an important material and construction method for the township, dating from the town's initial developments during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.
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**RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:****Theme 2: Regional Life in the Southern Vales****2.3 Construction using local materials****Theme 8: Transportation and Human Movement****8.4 Early road and drainage infrastructure**

**BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

The Drain & Culvert, corner of Malpas & Main Roads, Willunga does not appear to have been identified or assessed as part of any previous heritage survey.

Very little historical information was available at the time of assessment. Consisting of two walls of approximately 20 metres and 12 metres in length to a depth of approximately 1.5 metres with several stepped falls, this substantial culvert is constructed of Willunga slate in the township's vernacular 'bookleaf' vernacular construction technique.

Mostly likely constructed for drainage purposes relating to the adjoining farmland at Lot 1 Main Road, Willunga, identified Lands Title records relating to this property date to 1942 when the site was acquired by George Howard Mitchell of Medindie, company director. While earlier Lands Title records have not been identified, it is likely the site was used for farming purposes well before this period, likely as early as the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

As little historical information relating to the culvert and adjoining sites have not been identified, an attributable builder or construction date could not be provided. The 'bookleaf' construction method of the Drain & Culvert suggest construction as early as the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century or as late as the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It is however, the usage of slate as construction material, construction method and the sheer size of the Drain & Culvert that contributes to its local heritage significance rather than the mere possibility of early construction.

Slate construction, particularly relating to water drainage, has been identified as an important vernacular feature of the Willunga township, where significant local infrastructure such as bridges, tanks, culverts, drains and even sheds, fences and houses have been constructed from locally-sourced slate from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century until approximately the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

While still somewhat obscured by dense foliage, the Drain & Culvert, corner of Malpas & Main Roads, Willunga presents as a significant example of local engineering and infrastructure constructed from Willunga slate, possibly dating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

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**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

The form and materials of all slate elements constructed in the 'bookleaf' manner are included in the listing, including both walls, steps and other masonry elements associated with the structure. All slate construction associated with both the south-east and south-west portions of the drain and culvert are included in the listing. It is recommended that excavation should occur to the south-east culvert portion to determine the current size and depth of construction to this portion of the structure.

All later elements, including the current concrete piping under Main Road, are not included in the listing.

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**REFERENCES:**

City of Onkaparinga, Local Heritage Nomination, 'Drain and Culvert on corner Malpas and Main Road, Willunga', Jan 15, 2021.  
CTs 1802/30; 2166/158; 2214/96; 3240/179; 3340/29; 3752/61; 4109/320; etc.

## SITE MAPPING:



Site of Drain & Culvert, corner of Main & Malpas Roads, Willunga. Left rectangle denotes fabric associated with the south-west portion of the culvert; right rectangle denotes fabric associated with the south-east portions, currently partially buried beneath foliage (Planning SA SAPPa)

## OTHER IMAGES:



Drain and Culvert, south-west corner of Main and Malpas Roads, Willunga, reaching approximately 1.5 metres in height, looking south (GGA, 2022).



Drain and Culvert, south-west corner of Main and Malpas Roads, Willunga, reaching approximately 1.5 metres in height, looking south-west (GGA, 2022).



Drain and Culvert, south-west corner of Main and Malpas Roads, Willunga looking north-west, drain continues under Main Road to the east (GGA, 2022).



Fabric associated with the south-east portion of the Drain & Culvert, partially buried under foliage, looking west (GGA, 2022)



Fabric associated with the south-east portion of the Drain & Culvert, partially buried under foliage, looking west (GGA, 2022)