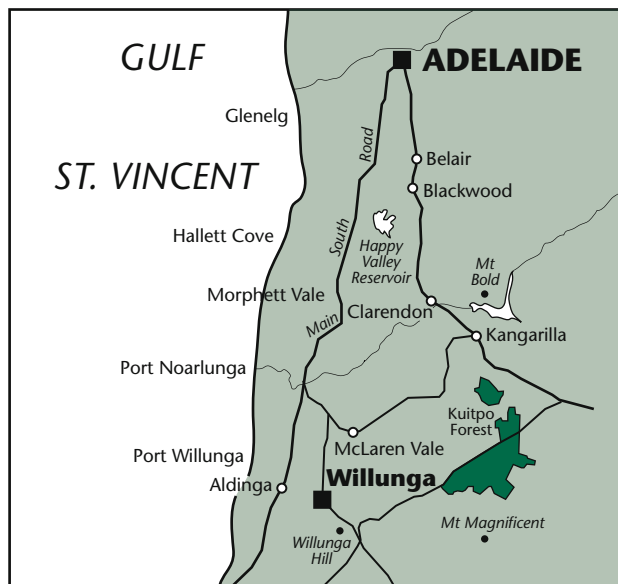


10. The large gum trees with dark bark are grey box trees (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*). Grey box grassy woodland is uncommon in the Mount Lofty Ranges and is listed as a threatened vegetation type to be conserved and protected. Small grey box saplings have come up naturally following the removal of weeds. Fallen branches are left on the ground to provide homes for lizards, skinks and other small creatures that are part of the biodiversity of the reserve.
11. Site of a wooden Government Hut, built in 1840 to provide accommodation for officials visiting Willunga or passing through to Encounter Bay. More information is available in the Courthouse Museum. On the left of the path is an area of native wallaby-grass (*Austrodanthonia* species) commonly grazed by kangaroos and wallabies before crops and pasture grasses were introduced.
12. This large dead eucalyptus tree has not been identified, nor do we know the cause of its death. Was it struck by lightning or did it die of old age?
13. From the nearby seat take time to appreciate the grey box woodland and the outlook to Port Willunga and St. Vincent's Gulf.
14. Enjoy this grove of drooping sheoak trees (*Allocasuarina verticillata*). Their seed cones are popular with parrots, galahs and cockatoos.
15. Turning left, in the distance is the former home of John Atkinson whose family settled in Willunga from 1839 and established a brickyard, the first Old Bush Inn, and Atkinson's General Store and Bakery in the High street. From here the trail completes its loop and returns to the bridge.



Since its formation in 1955, the National Trust of South Australia has established a network of over 29 nature reserves which contain:

- a valuable diversity of plant communities
- significant wildlife habitat
- a number of rare and threatened species and
- sites of geological and Aboriginal significance.

The management of these reserves is overseen by the natural heritage section through a volunteer network and is funded by

- membership subscriptions to NTSA
- donations and bequests
- State and Federal Government Grants and
- sponsorship

Please do not remove any material from this nature reserve.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk. If you have suggestions about this pamphlet, or would like to become a volunteer, contact the National Trust of South Australia:

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NATIONAL TRUST
 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Willunga Courthouse Nature Reserve

61 High Street Willunga



'A pocket of grassy woodland'

Willunga Courthouse and Police Station

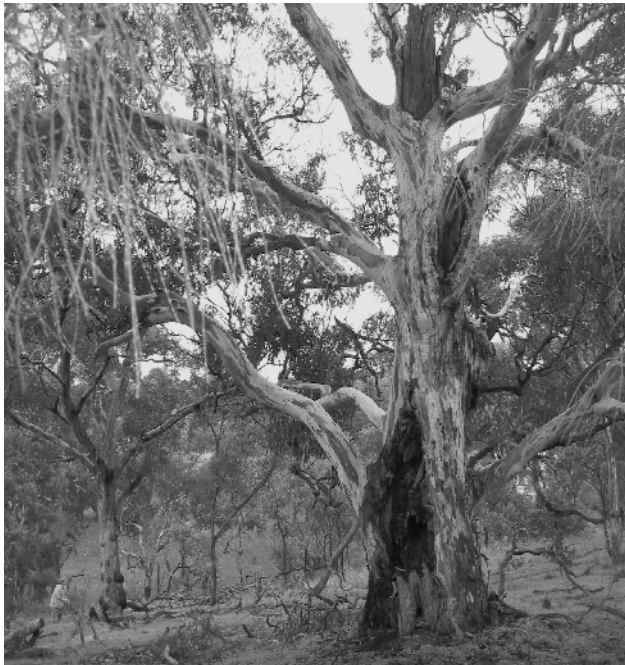


Introduction

Welcome to the Courthouse Nature Reserve, a pocket of grassy woodland in the foothills of Willunga.

This tiny 1.8 hectare reserve represents the natural, pre-European landscape of Willa-ungga (place of green trees) no doubt well known to the Kaurna people who are today acknowledged as the traditional owners. It is part of a larger Government Reserve on which a survey depot was set up in 1839, followed by police and postal huts and, subsequently, the heritage-listed Courthouse and Police Station buildings (from 1855). The property is leased and maintained by the Willunga Branch of the National Trust of South Australia, with the support of the present owner The City of Onkaparinga.

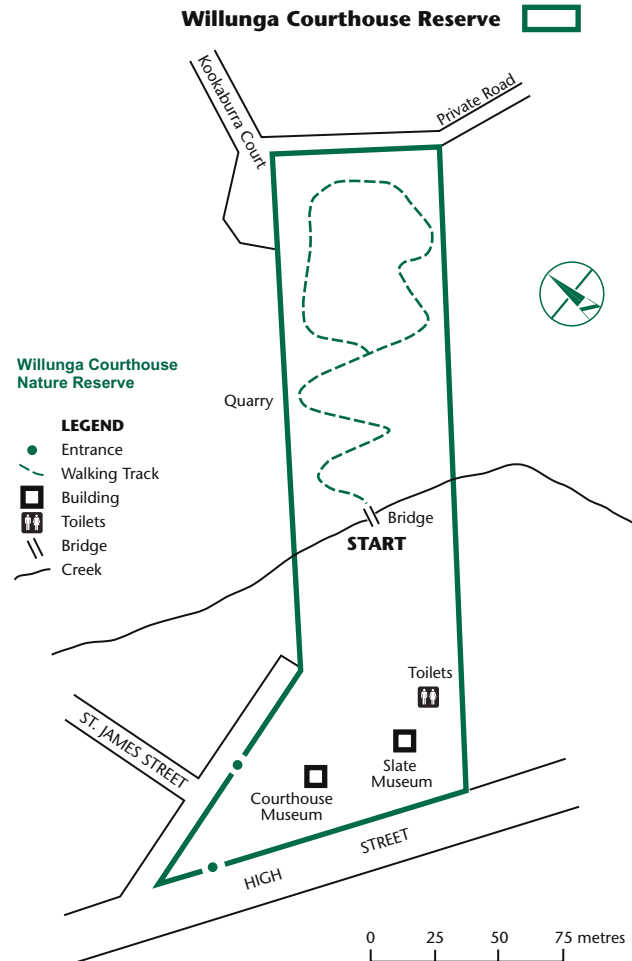
The Nature Reserve Trail can be enjoyed by crossing the bridge below the Courthouse and following the circular walking trail through the woodland to the top of the hill and back. The walk of approximately 30 minutes is best enjoyed in late spring or early summer. Plan to also visit the Slate Museum and Courthouse Museum (phone 08 8556 2195 for opening times).



Points of Interest (shown by numbered posts)

1. Approaching the creek you see a variety of eucalypt and sheoak trees planted in the late 1960s by Edwin Vickery, head teacher at Willunga Primary School from 1961 until 1970 and an advocate of planting native trees and shrubs.

Take care as you walk down to the creek. It can be slippery. The permanent spring-fed creek enters the sea at Maslin Beach. Water quality is monitored by school children participating in the Waterwatch program.



2. The Reserve is a significant remnant of grassy woodland which escaped clearance, possibly because it was the Government Reserve on which police horses were grazed. Over the last 15 years, weedy shrubs such as broom and olive have been removed by National Trust volunteers.
3. Photographs are taken regularly from this marker to monitor the condition of the reserve and note any regeneration that occurs after weed removal.
4. This magnificent South Australian blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) is hundreds of years old and provides food and shelter for many animals, birds and small creatures, including rosellas, honeyeaters and possums.
5. Here you overlook the early Government Quarry (1840-1903), which provided stone for many local buildings, including the Courthouse and Police Station.
6. These spiky black-anther flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*) have small blue flowers in spring. Honeyeaters and lizards eat the ripe fruits.
7. In spring you will see scattered violet flowers of the dainty vanilla lily (*Arthropodium strictum*) which once covered the entire hillside. Now it survives among clumps of native spear-grass (*Austrostipa* species) aptly named because the seeds penetrate soil or animal fur with a spear-like action. Native lilies and grasses regenerate quickly once weeds are removed.
8. Another fine old South Australian blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) - take time to appreciate it, and think of how many creatures may depend on it.
9. Here you pass through an area of broad-leaf raspwort (*Gonocarpus mezianus*) an ankle-high native herb which dies back in summer. Notice also the golden wattle tree (*Acacia pycnantha*) with naturally dark trunks and on the right a large area of spear-grass (*Austrostipa* species).