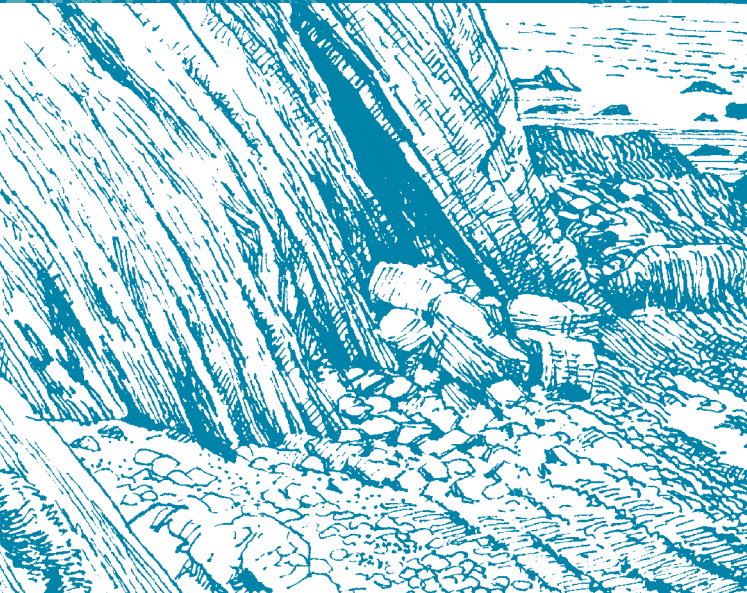


Hallett Cove Conservation Park



Healthy Parks
Healthy People



Location

This 51 hectare conservation park of outstanding geological interest is located 22 km south of Adelaide.

The park is accessible via Main South Road, Majors Road, Lonsdale Road and right into The Cove Road. There are four main entrances to the park all serviced by an interpretive walking trail. They are the eastern entrance off Dutchman Drive, the southern entrance off Heron Way and two northern entrances off South Avenue and Second Avenue.

For train travellers the northern entrance is in easy walking distance from the Hallett Cove railway station, and the southern entrance from the Hallett Cove Beach railway station.

Facilities



There is no vehicle access into the park but car parking is available at the northern, eastern and southern entrances. The walking trails are shown on the trailhead at each entrance and give a good perspective of Hallett Cove. The walk tracing the geological history along the cliff top gives excellent views of the coastline. Snorkelling and swimming are permitted along the beach in the south-western corner of the park. There is a cafe at the southern beach end.

Things to do

The interpretive walking trails provide an opportunity to explore the park's ecology, geology and cultural history. Visitors may enjoy swimming, snorkelling and photography.

Geology

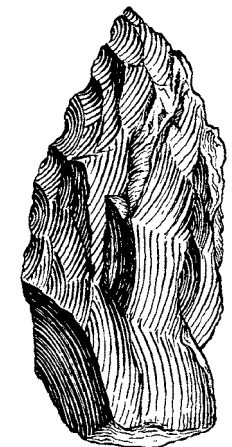
The glacial pavement at Black Cliff, and melt-water sediments, are recognised as the best record of Permian Age (280 million years ago) glaciation in Australia.

The Precambrian Age (600 million years ago) strata underlying the soft Permian sediments provided the resistant base upon which the excellent glacial features were imprinted.

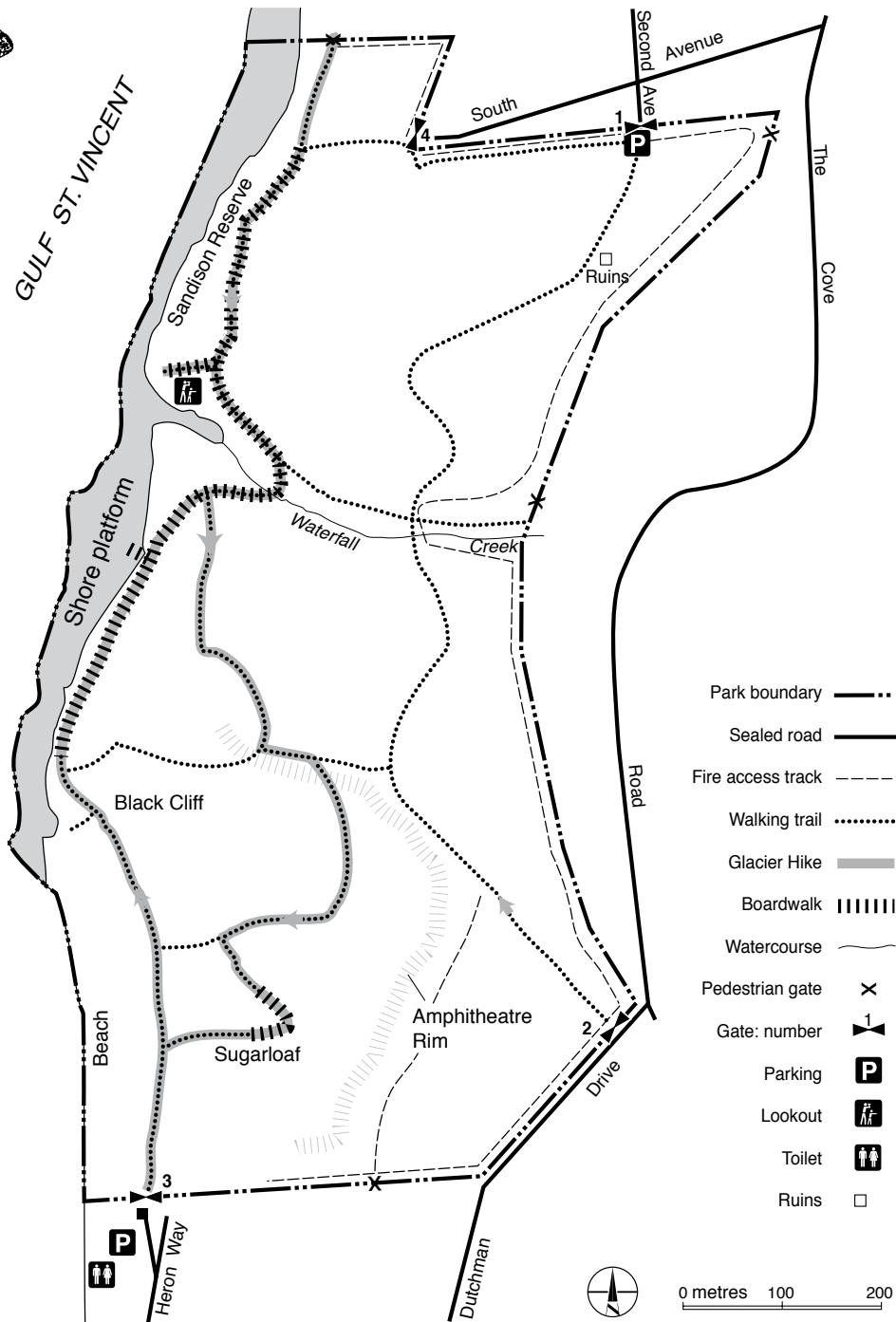
The dark coloured Precambrian rocks made of siltstone and sandstone were originally deposited in layers on the bottom of a shallow sea. This sea covered the (new) Adelaide and Flinders Ranges region about 600 million years ago. The layers slowly became compressed under their own weight and consolidated into rock. About 500 million years ago the region was squeezed by massive earth movements. The rocks were folded and uplifted to form a mountain range.

Subsequent erosion has exposed the rocks we see today. The folds are clearly seen at the southern foot of Black Cliff and along the shore platform to the north.

The features of Permian age glaciation and associated rocks of Hallett Cove are recorded as Geological Monuments of South Australia.



Archaeological stone implement drawings, courtesy of the South Australian Museum, Adelaide



History

This area was proclaimed as a conservation park in 1976 primarily to conserve its geological features. These features are of worldwide significance particularly as a record of an ice age about 280 million years ago. Four main periods of geological history in the Hallett Cove area are described on the trailheads at the entrances and along the trails. The park also conserves native flora and fauna.

Aboriginal stone implements were first discovered at Hallett Cove in 1934 and over a period of 30 years, more than 1700 artefacts were collected, and are now part of the South Australian Museum collection.

In 1875 Professor Ralph Tate found the smoothed and striated 'glacial' pavement at Black Cliff and was the first person to realise that South Australia had been subjected to an ice age. But which one?

The age of the glaciation was debated until in 1895 Professor Walter Howchin suggested that it was of Permian-Carboniferous age, that is about 280 million years old.

Subsequent geological work has demonstrated that at that time Australia was much closer to Antarctica and was part of the ancient land mass called Gondwana. During that time the south-western two-thirds of Australia, including much of South Australia, was covered by an ice cap and glaciers, similar to present day Antarctica.

In 1957 Professor AR Alderman from the University of Adelaide wrote to the National Trust recommending that the excellent glacial pavements along the coastal cliff tops of Hallett Cove be preserved. For the 19 years following this letter, conservationists fought to preserve these valuable geological sites against housing development. Finally, in 1976 the park was dedicated for the protection of features of scientific (geological) and historic interest in the Hallett Cove area.

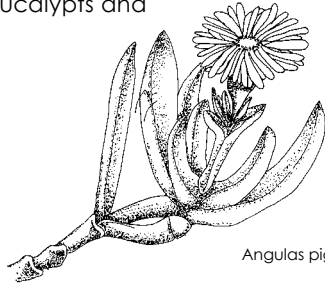
The park is partly bounded to the west by the Sandison Reserve (National Trust Land).

Plants

Many local native species have been planted by Friends Group in an ongoing effort to restore the native vegetation. The coastal zone is colonised by local salt-tolerant plants including ruby saltbush, common boobialla, flax-lilies, angular pigface, cushion fanflower and numerous native grass species.

The slopes of the Amphitheatre are covered by a coastal heath of great diversity, including pale turpentine bush, coast twinleaf and sea box.

The areas beyond the coast and Amphitheatre are gradually being returned to an open scrubland of melaleucas, eucalypts and pittosporums.



Angular pigface

Animals

Along Waterfall Creek there are a number of species of frogs. Across the park are small lizards, legless lizards, skinks, eastern brown snakes and possums. Many species of birds have been sighted in the park. You might see colourful superb fairy-wrens, honeyeaters and kestrels as well as a variety of shore-wading and sea birds.



Australian Kestrel

Friends of Hallett Cove Conservation Park

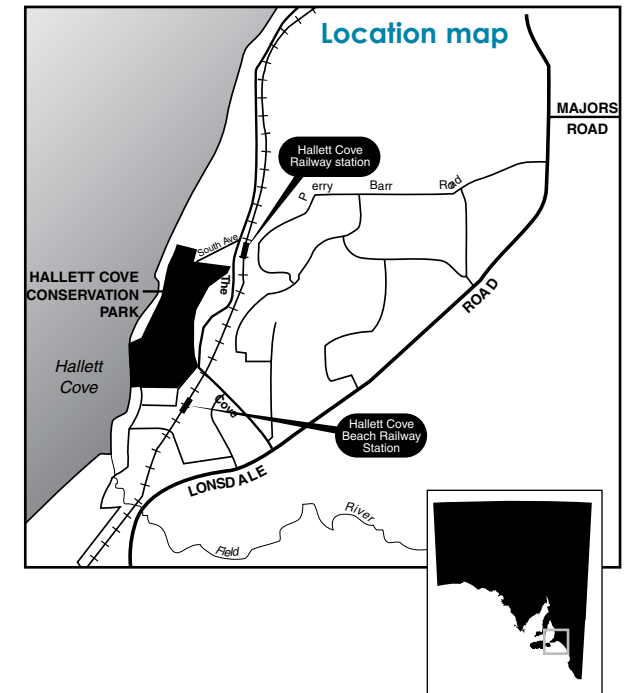
The Friends of Hallett Cove Conservation Park assist with the maintenance of the environment and facilities within this reserve. New members always welcome.

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions, usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- All fires including gas barbecues are prohibited.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep our wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.

Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.



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Phone 1300 650 411 and quote
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