



ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST
— INSPIRING EXPLORERS —

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

SCOTT'S *TERRA NOVA* HUT

CAPE EVANS, ROSS ISLAND, ANTARCTICA

ASPA 155 — HSM 16 AND 17



SECOND EDITION 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Antarctic Heritage Trust (AHT) is a New Zealand-based charity with a vision of inspiring explorers. Through its mission to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration, AHT cares for the remarkable expedition bases of early Antarctic explorers including Carsten Borchgrevink, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and Sir Edmund Hillary.

It shares the legacy of exploration through outreach programmes and encourages the spirit of exploration through expeditions to engage and inspire a new generation.

AHT was established in 1987 and manages the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project (RSHRP), the world's largest cold-climate conservation project, which cares for five expedition bases in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica:

- Borchgrevink's Hut, Cape Adare
- Scott's Hut, Hut Point
- Shackleton's Hut, Cape Royds
- Scott's Hut, Cape Evans
- Hillary's Hut, Scott Base



The *Conservation Management Plan (CMP)* for Cape Evans sets out the policy framework for the long-term conservation and management of Scott's *Terra Nova* hut, its associated structures and features, and surrounding historic cultural landscape. The site lies within Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) 155, including two Historic Sites and Monuments (HSMs); Scott's *Terra Nova* hut (HSM 16) and Wind Vane Hill Memorial Cross (HSM 17).

This second edition, prepared in 2026, updates the 2004 *Conservation Plan*. It acknowledges the preservation work of early hut caretakers and conservation personnel and reflects nearly four decades of conservation work led by AHT, focussed in the latter two decades via the RSHRP. This *CMP* provides a basis for consistent decision-making as environmental conditions, visitation, and nearby operational activity continue to evolve.

Some of the many people involved in this project since the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project (RSHRP) was launched in 2002.

1 Antarctic Heritage Trust Executive Director Nigel Watson and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. 2002.

2 Project Architect Pip Cheshire 2014–2015.

3 Architect and Conservation Advisor Chris Cochran. 1987–1988.

4 L-R, Back: Heritage Carpenter Gord Macdonald, Heritage Carpenter Martin Wenzel, Sir Peter Blake Trust Antarctic Youth Ambassador Jamie Clarke, Heritage Carpenter Jaime Ward, Department of

Conservation Seconded John Taylor. L-R, Front: Programme Manager Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project Al Fastier, Programme Manager Artefacts Lizzie Meek, Conservator Diana Komejan, Conservator Cricket Harbeck, Heritage Carpenter Randy Churchill. 2010–2011.

5 Sir David Attenborough. 2009–10.

6 Heritage Carpenter Falcon Scott. 2011–2012.

7 Programme Manager Artefacts Lizzie Meek. 2012–2013.

PURPOSE AND CONSERVATION APPROACH

The *CMP* is AHT's principal guidance document for the care of the hut, its setting and its extensive artefact collection. It aligns with Antarctic Treaty System requirements, including the *ASPA 155 Management Plan*, and with recognised international conservation practice. Its evidence-led approach prioritises retention of authentic fabric, least possible intervention, and thorough documentation. The *CMP* is intended to be kept under review, with scheduled regular reviews so that policies and priorities remain responsive to new information and changing risks.

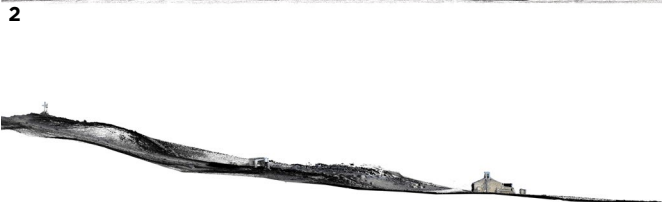
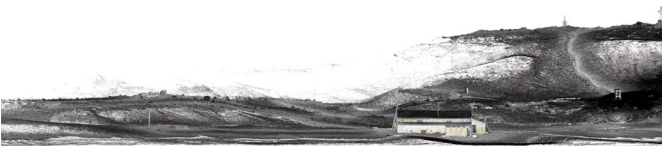


1 North-east corner of Scott's *Terra Nova* hut, Cape Evans. 2014. AHT/SUE BASSETT

SITE CONTEXT AND SETTING

Cape Evans is an ice-free coastal site on Ross Island, adjacent to the Barne Glacier and the lower slopes of Mount Erebus and bordered by McMurdo Sound. The site is remote but accessible, being regularly visited during the austral summer by personnel from nearby national programmes based at McMurdo Station and Scott Base, and by controlled tourism operating in the Ross Sea.

The heritage place comprises the *Terra Nova* hut and associated structures, artefacts and archaeological material encompassed within ASPA 155, and the Memorial Cross on Wind Vane Hill. It also forms part of a broader historic setting that encompasses historic routes, activity areas and the spatial relationships between features across the site.



1 Scott's *Terra Nova* hut viewed from North Bay. 2025. AHT/DANIEL BORNSTEIN

2 Scott's hut, longitudinal section through the site and west elevation of hut. HERITAGEWORKS

3 Scott's hut, longitudinal section through the site and north elevation of hut. HERITAGEWORKS

Although the wider Ross Island region contains modern infrastructure and operational activity, Cape Evans has largely retained its historic

character and setting. It continues to exhibit strong landscape and experiential continuity with heroic-era expedition records, including

key views, landforms and relationships between these and the hut.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The *Terra Nova* hut was erected in 1911 as the main base for Captain Robert Falcon Scott's British Antarctic Expedition, 1910–1913.

Prefabricated in the United Kingdom, its design drew on experience Scott had gained at nearby Hut Point during the National Antarctic Expedition, 1901–1904. The hut contained areas for scientific work, daily living, equipment storage, the stabling of ponies and mules, and for preparation for sledging journeys, including the expedition's attempt to reach the South Pole. Adjacent structures include the latrines building, the magnetic hut, and the remains of various weather and other scientific stations.

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The site later acquired an important additional layer of historic association through use by the Ross Sea Party of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914–1917, aboard the *Aurora*. Marooned after their supply vessel was blown from its moorings during a storm and never returned, the party occupied the hut for almost three years. From there they undertook depot-laying sledge expeditions towards Mount Beardmore with limited equipment and supplies.

Visitation resumed in the 1960s, followed by a succession of preservation and conservation programmes. Today, Cape Evans is an internationally recognised heritage place requiring planned conservation, specialist expertise and active management.

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- 1 Captain Scott in his cubicle. 1911. MITCHELL LIBRARY, STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES. REFERENCE: PXB 757/60
- 2 Scott's party on arrival at the Pole. 1912. CANTERBURY MUSEUM. REFERENCE: 1940.193.45
- 3 Members of the Ross Sea Party in the hut. AHT. REFERENCE: AHT8505.1

HERITAGE COMPONENTS: BUILT FABRIC, COLLECTIONS, AND SETTING

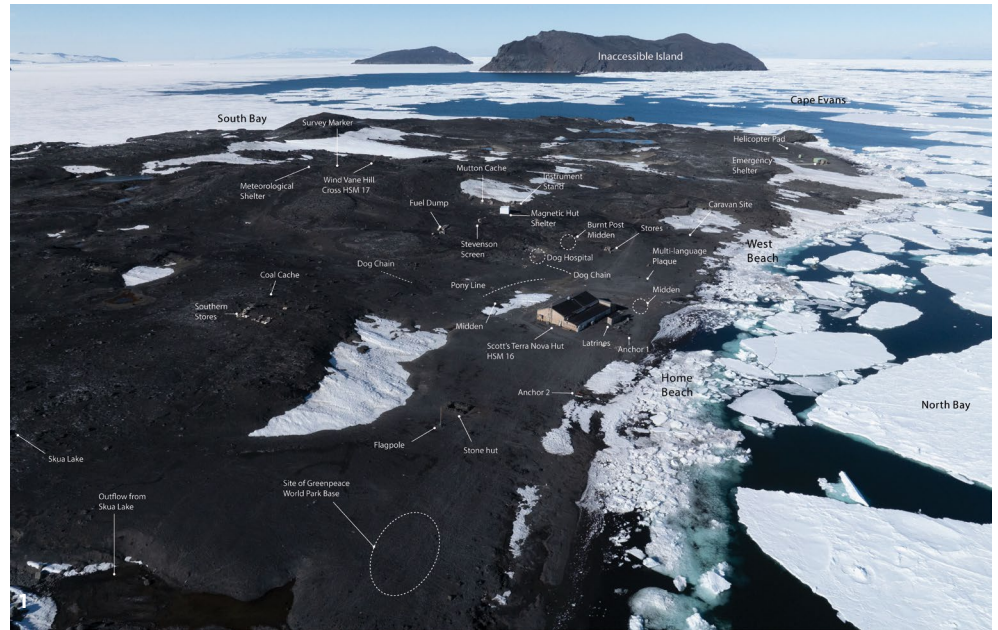
The site's principal heritage components include the prefabricated timber hut and annexes, together with their associated fixtures and fittings, including three heating stoves and an acetylene lighting plant. Associated structures include the latrines, magnetic hut, and Wind Vane Hill Memorial Cross. The extensive in situ collection of approximately 12,000 expedition-era artefacts remains central to the significance and meaning of the place, with a small number of artefacts held off-site in the Reserve Collection managed by AHT in partnership with the Canterbury Museum.

Across the site, additional historic features include scientific instrument stands and shelters, the remains of fuel and food caches, pony

and dog lines and a rich landscape of archaeological deposits. Together, these features and the broader landscape setting are integral to the place, contributing both

to its significance and to how the site is experienced.

1 Cape Evans site layout. HERITAGEWORKS



CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND KEY RISKS

The hut and collection are generally stable following the principal conservation programmes undertaken through the RSHRP (2007–2014), supported by subsequent monitoring and maintenance procedures. However, Cape Evans faces increasing risks associated with climate-driven change, including warmer temperatures, increased periods of thaw, and increased precipitation, plus stronger and more frequent storm events. These processes are affecting snow and water movement around and beneath the hut, thawing permafrost, contributing to corrosion and increasing biodeterioration within the buildings and collection. Coastal erosion is currently

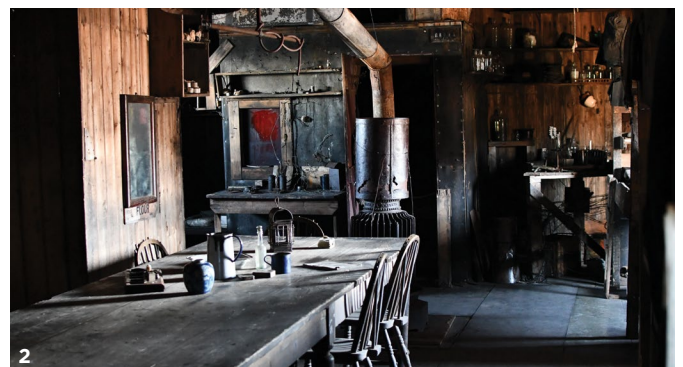
one of the most significant threats to the site.

Changing ground conditions are also affecting the hut's foundations and are expected to remain an ongoing management challenge. In addition, some earlier RSHRP repairs are approaching the end of their service life; for example, the roofing is now 15 years old.

Increased visitation from nearby stations and from Ross Sea tourism also creates cumulative impacts that require ongoing management. These include wear, inadvertent disturbance of artefacts and archaeological material, and short-term changes to environmental conditions inside the hut.



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1 The second anchor from the Aurora, north-east of Scott's Terra Nova hut. 2021–2022. AHT/NICOLA STEWART

2 Looking east in Scott's hut over the Wardroom table, towards Gurney's Patent stove and Ponting's Darkroom. AHT/ZACK BENNETT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Scott's 1911 *Terra Nova* hut and the surrounding cultural landscape at Cape Evans, including the area now protected as ASPA 155, are a place of exceptional beauty and cultural heritage significance. Surviving in an authentic condition, the site provides an outstanding evocation of the heroic era of Antarctic exploration. Established as the base for Scott's British Antarctic Expedition, 1910–1913 and later occupied by the Ross Sea Party of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914–1917 associated with *Aurora*, Cape Evans is directly associated with internationally significant and famous achievements in exploration, science, and technology. These include the renowned race to the South Pole, in which Scott and four companions perished on the return journey after being beaten there by Roald Amundsen. The extensive publications of scientific observations and research which followed the expedition cover a range of topics from meteorology to ice physics. Around the site and built into the building remain evidence of the latest technologies of the day, including motor tractors, electric power and phone lines.

The significance of Cape Evans extends to its later extensive occupation by the Ross Sea Party and their extraordinary efforts to lay



depots under challenging conditions with limited equipment and supplies. Successive generations of hut caretakers and conservation practitioners have recognised and protected the site's heritage values, leading to formal protection in 1972 and continuing stewardship to the present day.

The hut, associated structures, artefacts, and archaeological deposits provide evidential value and insight into often-undocumented aspects of the daily lives, technologies, social practices, and adaptation of early Antarctic explorers. As one of only a small number of surviving heroic era expedition huts, the site remains an irreplaceable resource for ongoing historic, archaeological, scientific, and conservation research.

Cape Evans also possesses outstanding aesthetic value.

Its largely unaltered landscape and dramatic setting beneath Mount Erebus, with views to the Barne Glacier, Inaccessible Island and across McMurdo Sound to the Transantarctic Mountains, create a place of remarkable natural beauty. The weathered materials of the buildings and artefacts, preserved in their original context, create a powerful and evocative sense of place. Set against the harsh Antarctic environment, they provide a vivid reminder of the challenges of human endeavour in Antarctica. The nearby skuary at the lake behind the hut, and the frequent visitation of penguins and seals to the beach around the hut, as well as passing whales and orcas in the bay, contribute further to the site's visual appeal and sense of fascination.

The site holds great communal value for

1 Northwest elevation of Scott's hut viewed from North Bay. AHT/JOHN EVANS

Antarctica's international heritage community and for the wider public. Through expedition journals and publications, including *The Worst Journey in the World*, together with photographs and film, particularly those of Herbert Ponting, then later conservation activity and ongoing stewardship, Cape Evans has become highly symbolic of early Antarctic exploration. Its association with Robert Falcon Scott and Edward Wilson, two figures who captured the public imagination, and the enduring stories of the expeditions, ensure that Cape Evans continues to inspire international interest and support to protect the place.

DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK AND OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

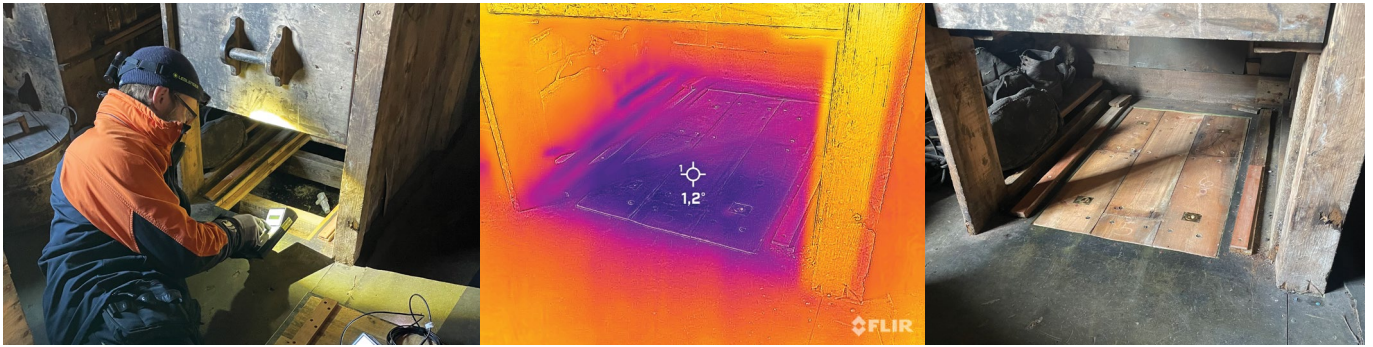
Conservation and management at Cape Evans are governed by the Antarctic Treaty System, particularly the requirements of the *ASPA 155 Management Plan*, and the responsibilities associated with the designated HSMs. The Antarctic environment imposes strict operational

constraints: work is limited to short summer periods; weather frequently disrupts programmes; and the remote setting limits transport, specialist labour and materials. The hut remains an uncontrolled environment because conventional powered environmental

systems carry high fire risk and are impractical to install and maintain. Nor is the site managed as a conventional museum. Conservation decisions must balance practicality, risk, conservation ethics and permitting requirements. AHT's approach emphasises compatible,

like-for-like repair, minimal disturbance to archaeological deposits, controlled access and visitor supervision, and comprehensive recording to support accountability and continuity in decision-making.

CONSERVATION POLICY DIRECTION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



The *CMP* recognises that the current phase of stewardship requires adaptive planning and risk-based decision-making. Being cognisant of and responsive towards unexpected weather events, or changes in logistics support are key to providing timely and effective conservation interventions.

This adaptive approach is supported by sustained maintenance, monitoring, and planned retreatment of both building elements and artefacts. Policies prioritise

retention of authentic material and evidence across the full period of significance and require any change to be justified by assessed significance and the principle of least intervention. Where repairs are necessary, materials and techniques are selected for compatibility and durability in polar conditions, and new work is identifiable on close inspection without being artificially aged.

The collection is managed as integral to the hut's significance and visitor

experience, with ongoing attention to corrosion, moisture-related risks, and inherently unstable materials. Visitor access is managed through guided entry, strict limits consistent with ASPA requirements, and monitoring to manage cumulative impacts.

The *CMP* identifies future priorities for mitigating the effects of coastal erosion and delivering the next tranche of major building repairs. Priorities include maintaining structural integrity and

1 Moisture mapping inside Scott's hut. 2025-2026. AHT

replacing earlier conservation treatments as they reach the end of their service life. Collection priorities include conservation of archaeological material as appropriate, on mould and dust mitigation and on the canned collection items, many of which still hold contents with ongoing deterioration issues.

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND REVIEW

Implementation is delivered through an annual cycle of planning, fieldwork, reporting, and review, acknowledging the variable constraints of weather, logistics, and permitting. Monitoring and documentation are central to management. They include environmental data logging, periodic spatial surveys, condition assessments, and visitor records, supported by AHT manuals, databases, and specialist procedures developed through the RSHRP. Independent technical oversight is maintained for significant decisions and quality assurance.

The *CMP* has an intended 20-year life with scheduled reviews aligned with the ASPA review cycle. It also recognises



that the hut and artefacts have finite lives and that future reviews must address the implications of ongoing change. Effective delivery relies on clear responsibilities among agencies and operators, sustained resourcing for routine maintenance and periodic

retreatment, and ongoing support from donors, partners, sponsors, government agencies, and the wider global community.

1 Memorial cross on Wind Vane Hill. 2010-2011. AHT/ LIZZIE MEEK

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF SCOTT'S HUT

The explorer bases of the Ross Sea region hold global significance.

By giving to Antarctic Heritage Trust, you are investing in the ongoing conservation of these important cultural heritage sites so that future generations can learn about Antarctica and its history of exploration and science. Your donation will ensure the stories of Antarctica's legendary explorers continue to inspire people around the globe.

Thank you for playing a part in the future of the historic huts of the Ross Sea region.

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Conservation
Management Plans for
the historic huts of the
Ross Sea region are
available online at

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Scott's hut. Physical laboratory and
bunks.
2024-2025. AHT/Zack Bennett