Object Collection

1.1   Object Collection

An object collection component form must be included in an Aboriginal Place registration on ACHRIS when Aboriginal cultural material has been removed from an Aboriginal Place. This may include:

(a)   Aboriginal cultural heritage being stored for safekeeping after removal from an Aboriginal place. Examples include:

  (i)   the conditions of a cultural heritage permit (CHP)

  (ii)   a cultural heritage management plan (CHMP) assessment and subsequent salvage, if applicable

(b)   Aboriginal cultural heritage having been:

  (i)   repatriated to Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) or Traditional Owner (TO) groups

  (ii)   transferred between safekeeping places

  (iii) reburied

  (iv)   consolidated within an Aboriginal place extent

  (v)   redeposited in an area of imported fill (the fill deposit may usefully have a recorded extent; however, an area of cultural heritage sensitivity will not be applied). If cultural material has been removed from the fill deposit and is currently being stored for safekeeping, a second object collection component must be included within the registration to account for the collection's current location.

(c)   Aboriginal cultural heritage contained within:

  (i)   museum/institutional collections

  (ii)   private person collections.

1.1.1   Aboriginal Objects

Object collections are made up of Aboriginal objects. Under s.4 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (the Act), an Aboriginal object is defined as:

(a)   an object in Victoria or the coastal waters of Victoria that –

  (i)   relates to the Aboriginal occupation of any part of Australia, whether or not the object existed prior to the occupation of that part of Australia by people of non-Aboriginal descent; and

  (ii)   is of cultural heritage significance to Aboriginal people generally or of a particular community or group of Aboriginal people in Victoria; or

(b)   an object, material or thing in Victoria or the coastal waters of Victoria –

(i)   that is removed or excavated from an Aboriginal place; and

(ii) is of cultural heritage significance to Aboriginal people generally or of a particular community or group of Aboriginal people in Victoria –

but does not include –

(c) an object that has been made, or is likely to have been made, for the purpose of sale (other than an object made for barter or exchange in accordance with Aboriginal tradition); or

(d) Aboriginal Ancestral Remains.

N.B.: The object collection component form <u>must not</u> be used for the current location of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains that have been removed from the original burial location and are being temporarily housed for safekeeping. Where this has occurred, an Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (Reinterment) component form is required.

1.1.2 Secret or Sacred Objects

Secret or Sacred objects are Secret or Sacred according to Aboriginal tradition (see s.4 of the Act).

They may include objects:

▪ directly associated with a traditional Aboriginal burial
▪ created for ceremonial, religious or burial purposes
▪ used or seen only by certain people
▪ sourced from or containing materials that only certain members of the community can use or see.

Objects that are made for sale are not Secret or Sacred items.

Legal ownership of Secret or Sacred objects is held by the Aboriginal Person who is the rightful owner of the object, as outlined in Division 3 of the Act.

Anyone who suspects they have a Secret or Sacred object can contact the Ancestral Remains Unit in the Office of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (OVAHC) to assist with classification and to provide advice on the recording and registration process.

The Ancestral Remains Unit provides operational support to the OVAHC and work with Traditional Owners to ensure the safe return of their Secret or Sacred objects.

Aboriginal Traditional Owners are the people who can say what Aboriginal objects are Secret or Sacred.

Ancestral Remains Unit, OVAHC

Email: ancestral.remains.unit@dpc.vic.gov.au

N.B.: Under s.21A(3) of the Act, a person who has custody of an Aboriginal object that is Secret or Sacred must, as soon as practicable, take all reasonable steps to transfer the object into the custody of the VAHC.

1.1.3 Interstate Movement of Object Collections

An Aboriginal Place record may contain details of a collection of Aboriginal cultural heritage material that has been transferred or repatriated into or out of the state of Victoria.

Where cultural material originating from outside of Victoria is transferred or repatriated into the state, an object collection component must be completed with the Primary Grid Coordinates (PGC) of that component reflecting the current storage address of the collection. Details of the original location must be included in the record, with maps if available.

Where cultural material is transferred or repatriated out of the state of Victoria, an object collection component form must be completed with the Component Grid Coordinates (CGC) of that component reflecting the physical location of the VAHR (the Register), 1 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, 3002, E: 321738 N: 5812999 Z:55. Details of the interstate storage location must be included in the record, with maps if required.

1.1.4 Specific Requirements for Aboriginal Place Components

1.1.4.1 *Scarred Tree*

Object collection components are recorded for scarred trees where the trunk is not located at the known c, i.e., where the tree's root system was originally growing. For example, an object collection component form is required where a scarred tree trunk has:

(a) a known growth location, and the trunk is removed from the place extent.

N.B.: The Aboriginal place registration will maintain a scarred tree component for the known growth location of the scarred tree. The object collection component form is included in the registration and represents the current location of the trunk. The extent of the trunk must be included in the object collection component *Supporting Documentation* tab.

(b) an unknown growth location, and the trunk remains at the find location.

N.B.: Where the growth location is unknown, only an object collection component form is required for the current trunk location. However, the extent of the trunk must be included within the Extent Plan tab. While a scarred tree component is not included, details from the *Analysis* tab of the scarred tree component must be copied into the *Supporting Documentation* tab of the object collection component.

1.1.4.2 *Artefact Scatter (Introduced Fill)*

Object collection components are recorded for Aboriginal cultural heritage material when recorded within a defined area of introduced fill deposits. An Object collection component form is used to reflect the introduced context of the Aboriginal cultural heritage material as not *in-situ.*

N.B.: Where the registration is capturing an area of imported fill that contains cultural material and cultural heritage is removed from its 'find' location, two object collection component forms must be included in the registration. One object collection CGC must reflect the 'find' location of the imported fill, and the other object collection CGC must reflect the current location of the collection

1.1.4.3 *Retired Records*

Where a record has been retired and Aboriginal cultural material has been removed from that Aboriginal Place, the Object Collection form must be added to the current registered record, rather than the retired record.

1.1.5 Object Collection Extents

Object collections are primarily recorded by a single point rather than a polygon when stored within a building or reburied. Exceptions to this include:

(a) an area of imported fill containing Aboriginal cultural heritage with a clear basis for the extent that is constrained to a feature

(b) the extent of a fallen scarred tree.

1.1.6 Completing a New Object Collection Component Form

Where fields are mandatory, they have been marked with an asterisk (*).

1.1.6.1 *Name & Location tab*

Component Name

This field is an opportunity to specify a unique name for a component when there are two or more components, especially of the same component type. This is useful when multiple object collection components exist for a single Aboriginal place registration to distinguish one object collection from another easily.

Component Location

This section is composed of three fields that specify the location of the component:

Easting*   Northing*   Zone*

The system automatically pre-populates these fields based on the PGC for the place, but they may be changed if necessary.

Considerations:

(a) The component Easting and Northing (also referred to as Component Grid Coordinate or CGC) for one component of the Aboriginal place record must be the same as the PGC.

(b) Where there is more than one component, each subsequent component must have a unique Easting and/or Northing.

(c) The CGC must reflect the current location of the object or collection.

1.1.6.2 *Analysis tab*

Object Collection Details

Composed of eight fields, this tab requires details about the archival provenance of the collection including: location, custodian and content details.

Collection Name*

The collection name is the formal name of the collection and is recommended by the recorder. It may be used to include a longer, more detailed, or traditional language name.

Collection Type*

Record how the collection was formed:

▪ Cultural Heritage Management Plan – the cultural heritage material was collected as part of the CHMP assessment. When this option is selected, the context must be completed.

    – Context*:

        subsurface / excavation   surface   imported fill

N.B.: Where Aboriginal cultural heritage is exposed in a near vertical erosion profile, but is below the ground surface, *subsurface / excavation* is selected.

▪ Cultural Heritage Permit – the cultural heritage material was collected during the CHP process. When this option is selected, the context must be completed.

    – Context*:

        subsurface / excavation   surface   imported fill

N.B.: Where Aboriginal cultural heritage is exposed in a near vertical erosion profile, but is below the ground surface, *subsurface / excavation* is selected.

▪ Museum Collection – the cultural heritage material is located at a museum or historical society

▪ Private Collection – the cultural heritage material is located at a private residence

▪ Research Project – the object collection was collected as part of a research project (such as university or academic research)

▪ Donation – the cultural heritage material was donated to a person or business

▪ Unprovenanced – there is no information available as to where the cultural heritage material originated

Date Collected

Specify the date or date range when the cultural heritage was collected.

        Date From*:   DD/MM/YYYY   Date To: DD/MM/YYYY

N.B.: If only a general period is known, e.g. 1920s, or late 19th century, choose the closest date year and provide additional details in the *Supporting Documentation* tab.

N.B.: When an object collection component form is used for scarred trees removed from their growth location or an area of imported fill containing cultural heritage, use the date the cultural heritage was recorded.

Collection Address or Description*

Provide the physical address or describe where the collection is currently located.

N.B.: Post office boxes are inappropriate and are not accepted.

N.B.: When an object collection component form is used for the find location of scarred trees removed from their growth location or an area of imported fill containing cultural heritage, the address should reflect the find location.

Custodian Details*

Provide details for the collection custodian, including a postal address, if different to that provided in Collection Address or Description above.

Name*	Organisation	Postal address	Phone*	Email

N.B.: When an object collection component form is used for the find location of scarred trees removed from their growth location or an area of imported fill containing cultural heritage, the custodian details should be those of the Land Owner / Manager for the property where they were located.

Current Status*

Select one of the following eight categories for the current status of the collection and provide a date or date range, in the format DD/MM/YYYY:

analysed	left at find location	reburied	retained by owner
stored	transferred to Museum Victoria	transferred to RAP/Aboriginal community	other (specify)

When dates are input for "Other", a mandatory text box to specify the collection status appears.

Previous History*

Select from the following eight categories for previous activities of the collection and provide a date or date range, in the format DD/MM/YYYY.

analysed	left at find location	reburied	retained by owner
stored	transferred to Museum Victoria	transferred to RAP/Aboriginal community	other (specify)

When dates are input for "Other", a mandatory text box to specify the collection status appears.

Collection Contents*

Identify the types of material within the collection.

Stone	Faunal Remains	Other Organic	Other Inorganic	Other (specify)
Flaked Stone	Bone	Charcoal	Ceramics	(free text box)
Ground Stone	Bone Artefacts	Netting / Basketry	Clay	
Pitted Stone	Eggshell	Plant Fibre	Glass	
Unspecified Stone	Feather	Seeds	Kopi/Gypsum	
Unworked Stone	Hair	Wax / Resin / Bitumen	Metal	
	Midden Shell	Wooden Artefacts	Ochre	
	Shell Artefacts		Soil	
	Skin / Sinew			

NB: Where the Object Collection component form relates to scarred trees removed from their growth location or Secret or Sacred objects, details should be included in the free text field when Other (specify) is selected.

1.1.6.3 *Supporting Documentation tab*

Non-spatial attachments

Files of various types may be uploaded using the *Choose file to upload* tool.

N.B.: For each attached file, indicate the presence of sensitive material.

The following files **must** be included (where applicable, and when not included in other areas within the record):

(a) a catalogue of the cultural material that is included in the collection.

(b) tree and scar analysis detail of a fallen scarred tree

(c) photos of the cultural material that is included in the collection

(d) transfer receipt where there has been a transfer of custodianship (e.g. Heritage Advisor repatriating material to the RAP)

(e) Where the collection has been reburied, a plan depicting the location of the reburial

(f) Supporting documentation such as articles, reports, etc., that relate directly to the objects and support their provenance.

N.B.: When a catalogue or photos of Secret or Sacred objects are attached, select *Yes* to the *Sensitivity* prompt. Selecting *Yes* will restrict access to these sensitive non-spatial attachments.

Spatial Attachments

Types of spatial data that may be uploaded include:

(g) a dataset containing a polygon feature of the component extent (e.g. fallen scarred tree or imported fill)

(h) a dataset containing a point feature of the component grid coordinates

(i) a dataset containing point features for the location of each artefact recorded within the imported fill

(j) a dataset or datasets containing polygon or point features showing the locations where artefact samples were taken within the imported fill.

N.B.: All spatial data must be provided in either ESRI shapefile or MapInfo.TAB file formats, with a GDA94 projection.

Additional Information

This is a free text field that can be used to describe any other details about the component which cannot be recorded elsewhere.

This may include a summary of the component including its overall dimensions in square metres, and a note of any other associated components for multi-component Aboriginal places.

1.2 Component Glossary- Object Collection

aboriginal object: (see s.4 of the Act).

cgc: Component Grid Coordinate refers to the coordinates (E/N) of a specific component of an Aboriginal Place. For Aboriginal Places with multiple components, each component requires a unique CGC.

kopi/gypsum: hydrated calcium sulphate is an evaporative mineral, generally a colourless or white crystal. When heated (over 200°C) gypsum loses some water and becomes plaster of Paris. Gypsum flats occur in northwest Victoria in association with calcareous dune systems. The material was sometimes used in the manufacture of ceremonial objects.

secret or sacred object: Secret or Sacred objects are Secret or Sacred according to Aboriginal tradition (see s.4 of the Act).

ochre: haematite, a soft red to yellow mineral (iron oxide; Fe_2O_3) found distributed widely in a variety of rocks and soils. Used as a pigment for decoration, ceremonial activities and rock art. Ochre is not considered a lithic artefact for the purposes of LDAD registrations.

1.3   Object collection registration checklist

Table 1. Object collection registration checklist

	Registration Detail	Completed?
1	a) Check the component name is correct	☐
	b) Check the location co-ordinates	☐
2	Choose the collection type:	☐
	for CHMPs and CHPs, choose collection context	☐
	Museum Collection	☐
	Private Collection	☐
	Research Project	☐
	Donation	☐
	Unprovenanced	☐
3	Select date collected range	☐
4	Provide the current collection address	☐
5	Provide custodian details:	
	name	☐
	phone	☐
6	State the current status of the collection and the date for this status	☐
7	Provide the status history of the collection and enter the date range for each status	☐
8	Indicate the collection contents	☐
9	Include any relevant:	☐
	non-spatial attachments (e.g. catalogues, photos, etc)	☐
	spatial attachments	☐