

Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 154 (Specially Protected Area No. 25, Historic Sites No. 16 and 17)

Cape Evans, Ross Island (77°38'10"S, 166°25'04"E)

1. Description Of Values To Be Protected

This area was originally listed as Historic Sites 16 and 17 in Recommendation VII-9. The Terra Nova hut (Historic Site No. 16) is the largest of the historic huts in the Ross Sea region. It was built in January 1911 by the British Antarctic "Terra Nova" Expedition of 1910-1913 which was led by Captain Robert Falcoln Scott, RN. It was subsequently used as a base by the Ross Sea party of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-1917.

Another major feature of this area is the Cross on Wind Vane Hill (Historic Site No. 17) which was erected in the memory of three members of Shackleton's Ross Sea party who died in 1916. In addition to this, there are also the anchors of the ship *Aurora* from the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, an instrument shelter, several supply dumps and dog kennels, and numerous artefacts distributed around the site.

The Cape Evans site is one of the principal sites of early human activity in Antarctica. It is an important symbol of the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration, and as such, has considerable historical and cultural significance. Some of the earliest advances in the study of earth sciences, meteorology, flora and fauna are associated with the Terra Nova Expedition based at this site. The history of these activities and the contribution they have made to the understanding and awareness of Antarctica, give this Area significant scientific value.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aim of the management plan is to provide protection for the Area and its features so that its values can be preserved. The objectives of the plan are to:

- avoid degradation of, or substantial risk to, the values of the Area;
- maintain the historic values of the area through planned restoration and conservation work;
- allow management activities which support the protection of the values and features of the Area;
- prevent unnecessary human disturbance to the Area, its features and artefacts by means of managed access to the Terra Nova hut.

3. Management Activities

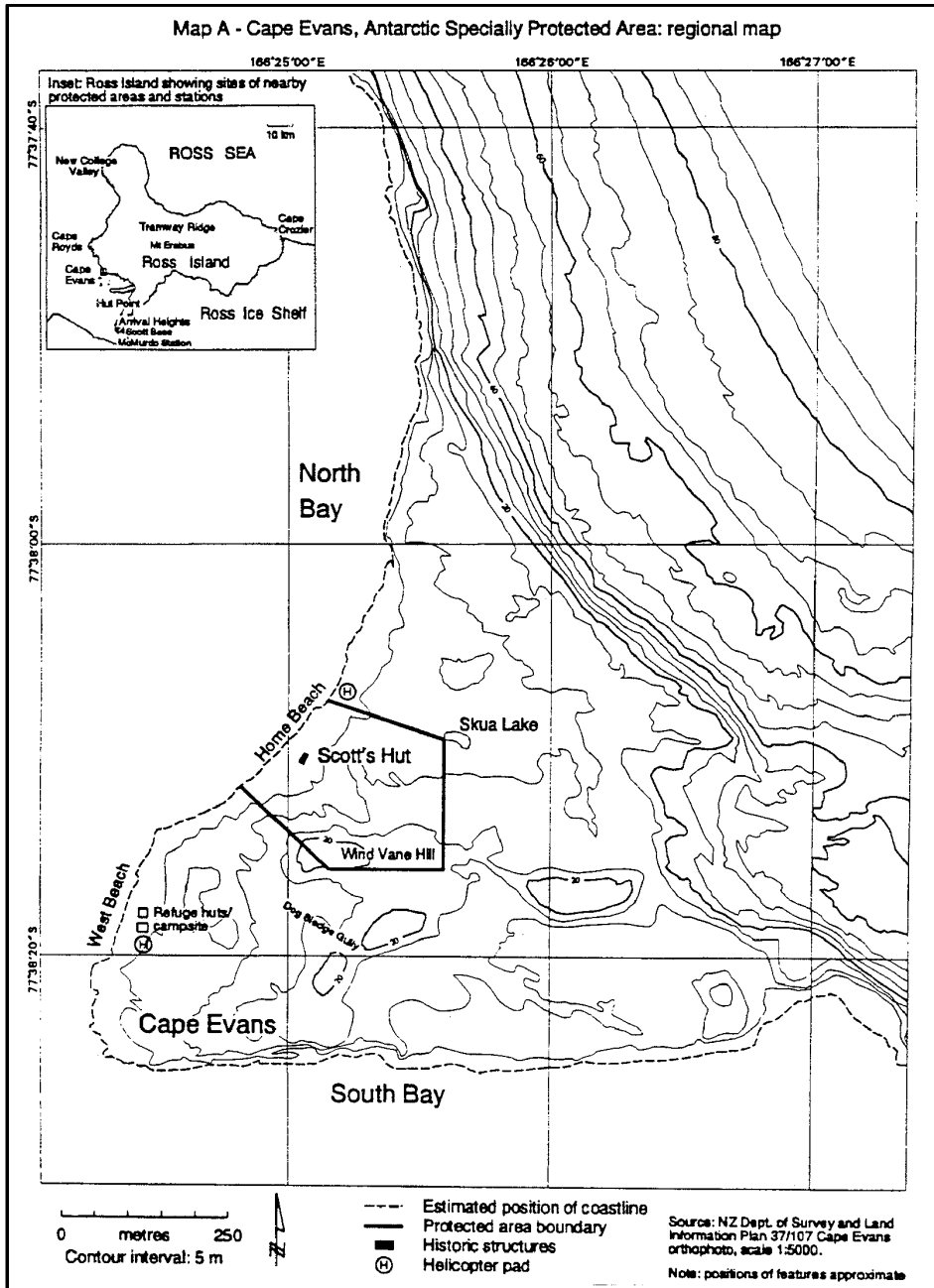
- a regular programme of restoration and preservation work shall be undertaken on the Terra Nova hut and associated artefacts in the Area;
- visits shall be made as necessary for management purposes;
- National Antarctic Programmes operating in, or those with an interest in, the region shall consul together with a view to ensuring the above provisions are implemented.

4. Period of Designation

Designated for an indefinite period.

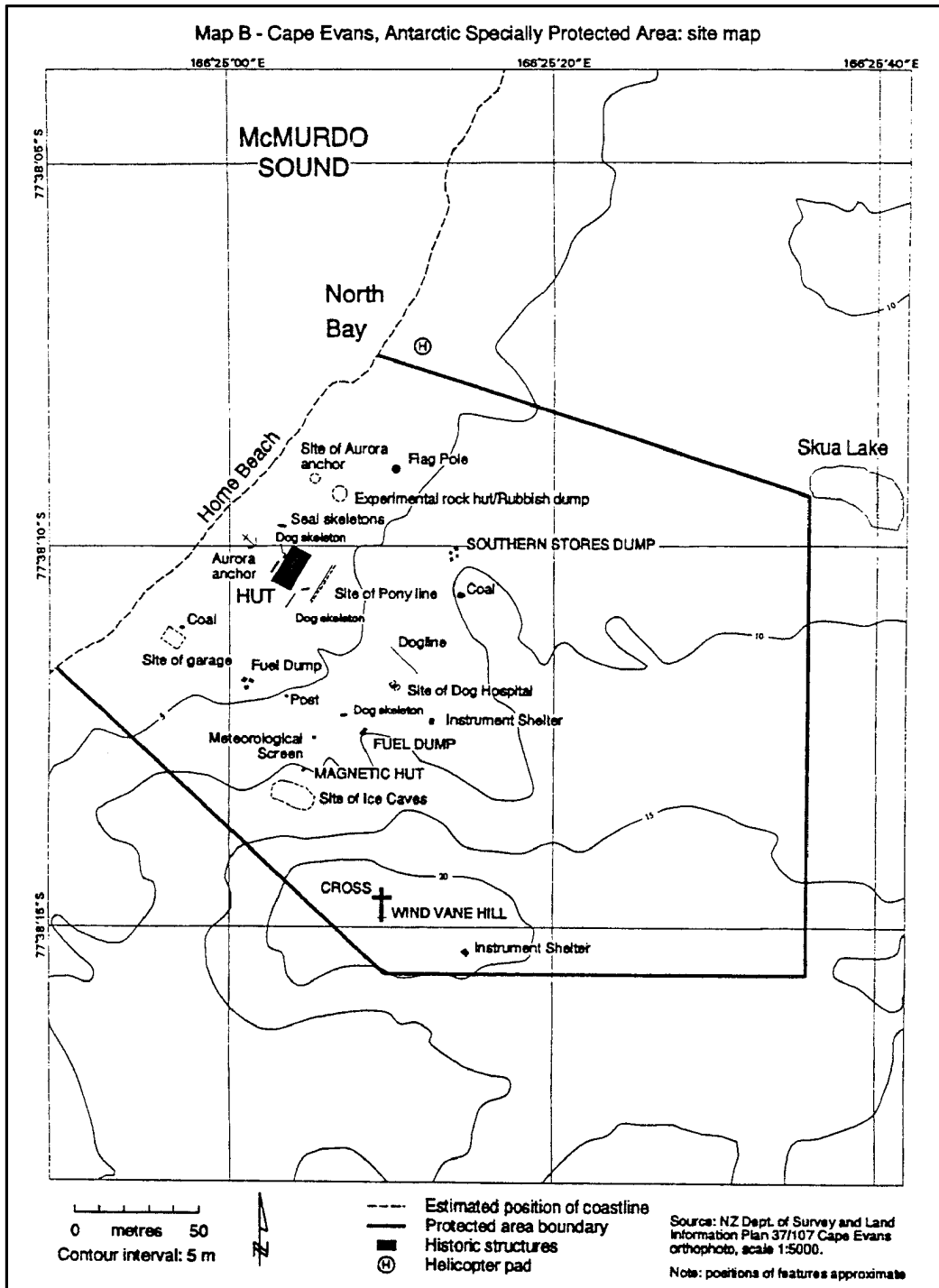
5. Maps

Map A: Cape Evans regional map. This map shows the boundaries of the proposed Antarctic Specially Protected Area with significant topographical features, approaches, field camp sites and helicopter landing sites. It also shows the approximate location of significant historical items within the area. Inset: Ross Island showing sites of nearby protected areas and stations.



ASPA 154
Map A*

Map B: Cape Evans site map. This map shows the approximate location of specific historic artefacts and sites within the Area.



ASPA 154
Map B*

6. Description of the Area

6(i) Geographical coordinates, boundary markers and natural features

Cape Evans is a small, triangular shaped, ice-free area in the south west of Ross Island, 10 kilometres to the south of Cape Royds and 22 kilometres to the north of Hut Point Peninsula on Ross Island. The ice-free area is composed of till-covered basalt bedrock. The designated Area is located on the north western coast of Cape Evans adjacent to Home Beach and centred on Scott's Terra Nova hut. The boundaries of the proposed ASPA are:

- South: a line extending east from a point at 77 degrees 38' 15.47" S. 166 degrees 25' 9.48" E - 20 metres south of the cross on Wind Vane Hill;
- South/west: a line from the reference point above extended to follow the crest of the small ridge descending in a north westerly direction to the shoreline at 77 degrees 38' 11.50" - 166 degrees 24' 49.47";
- North/west: by the shoreline of Home Beach;
- North/east: by the line of the outlet stream from Skua Lake to Home Beach at 77 degrees 38' 4.89" - 166 degrees 25' 13.46";
- East: by the line extending south from the western edge of Skua Lake at 77 degrees 38' 5.96" - 166 degrees 25' 35.74" - to intersect with the southern boundary at 77 degrees 38' 15.48" - 166 degrees 25' 35.68".

A major feature of the Area is Scott's Terra Nova hut located on the north western coast of Cape Evans at Home Beach. The hut is surrounded by many historic relics and include the anchors from the Aurora, dog skeletons, instrument shelters, dog line, meteorological screen, fuel dump, magnetic hut, coal, stores, rubbish dumps and flag pole. A memorial cross to three members of Shackleton's Ross Sea party of 1914-1917 stands on West Vane Hill. All these features are included within the boundaries of the Area.

Skuas (*Catharacta maccormicki*) nest on Cape Evans and Adelie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) from the rookery at Cape Royds may occasionally transit the Area. Weddel seals have also been seen hauled up on Home Beach.

6(ii) Restricted Zones within the Area

None.

6(iii) Structures within the Area

All structures located within the Area are of historic origin, although a temporary, modern protective enclosure around the magnetic hut remains in place.

6(iv) Location of other Protected Areas within close proximity

SSSI No. 1 Cape Royds is 10 kilometres north of Cape Evans; SSSI No. 2 Arrival Heights, Hut Peninsula is 22 kilometres south of Cape Evans; and SSSI No. 11 Tramway Ridge is approximately 20 kilometres east of Cape Evans. All sites are located on Ross Island.

7. Permit Conditions

Entry to the Area is prohibited except in accordance with a Permit.

Permits shall be issued only by appropriate national authorities and may contain both general and specific conditions. A Permit may be issued by a national authority to cover a number of visits in a season. Parties operating in the Ross Sea Area shall consult together and with groups and organizations interested in visiting the site to ensure that visitor numbers are not exceeded.

General conditions for issuing a Permit to enter the site may include:

- activities related to preservation, maintenance, research and/or monitoring purposes;
- management activities in support of the objectives of the Plan;
- activities related to tourism, educational or recreational activities providing they do not conflict with the objectives of this plan.

7(i) Access to and Movement within the Area

Control of movement within the Area is necessary to prevent damage caused by crowding around the many vulnerable features within the Area. The maximum number in the Area at any time (including those within the hut) is 40 people.

Control of numbers within the hut is necessary to prevent damage caused by crowding around the many vulnerable features within the hut. The maximum number within the hut at any time (including guides) is 12 people.

Avoidance of cumulative impacts on the interior of the hut requires an annual limit on visitor numbers. The effects of the current visitor level (approximately 1,000 per calendar year (1995)) suggest that an increase of more than 100 percent could cause significant adverse impacts. The annual maximum number of visitors is 2,000 people.

These limits have been set based on current visitor levels and on the best advice available from conservation advisory agencies (which include conservators, archaeologists, historians, museologists and other heritage protection professionals). The limits are based on the proposition that any significant increase in the current level of visitor numbers would be detrimental to the values to be protected. An ongoing monitoring programme of the effects of visitors is in place. This will provide the basis for future reviews.

Helicopter landings are prohibited within the area as they have the potential to damage the site by blowing scoria and ice particles and to accelerate the abrasion of the hut and surrounding artefacts. Landings may be made at the existing designated landing sites (see Maps 1 and 2). One site is approximately 150 metres to the north of the hut outside the Area. Another designated site is located adjacent to the field shelters erected approximately 200 metres beyond the south western boundary of the Area.

Vehicles are prohibited within the Area. Landings from the sea by boat may be made by visitors directly in front of the hut at Home Beach.

7(ii) Activities which may be conducted within the Area

Activities which may be conducted within the area include:

- visits for restoration, preservation and/or protection purposes;
- educational and/or recreational visits including tourism;
- scientific activity which does not detract from the values of the Area.

7(iii) Installation, modification and removal of structures

No new structures are to be erected in the Area, or scientific equipment installed, except for conservation activities as specified in 7(ii). No historic structure, relic or artefact shall be removed from the Area, except for the purposes of restoration and/or preservation and then only in accordance with a Permit.

7(iv) Location of field camps

Use of the historic hut for living purposes is not permitted.

Camping is prohibited in the Area under any circumstances. An existing field camp site is located approximately 300 metres beyond the south western boundary of the area (see Map 2). Two Antarctica New Zealand (New Zealand Antarctic Institute) field shelters are located at this site and should be used by all parties intending to camp in this area. The helicopter pad has been relocated away from the immediate vicinity of Scott's hut inside the Area, to a point immediately outside the Area near the north east boundary. To the north east of Scott's hut is the site of the Greenpeace year-round World Park Base which was removed in 1991-92. The plaque which marked this site was removed in January 1996.

7(v) Restrictions on materials and organisms which may be brought to the Area

No living animals or plant material shall be introduced to the Area.

No poultry products, including food products containing uncooked dried eggs, shall be taken into the Area.

Chemicals which may be introduced for management purposes shall be removed from the Area at or before the conclusion of the activity specified in the plan.

Fuel, food or other materials are not to be left in depots in the Area, unless required for essential purposes connected with the protection and conservation of the historic structures or associated relics. All such materials are to be removed when no longer required.

Smoking, or the use of any naked flame including lanterns, is not permitted in the hut under any circumstances.

7(vi) Taking or harmful interference with native flora and fauna

This activity is prohibited except in accordance with a Permit. Where animal taking or harmful interference is involved, this should, as a minimum standard, be in accordance with the SCAR Code of Conduct for the Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes in Antarctica.

7(vii) Collection or removal of anything not introduced by visitors

Material may be collected and removed from the Area only for restoration, preservation or protection reasons and only in accordance with the management activities detailed as necessary to protect the values of the area in a Permit. Visitors must remove objects, substances, and waste produced by them during their time in the Area. Samples from or specimens of fauna, flora and soil may be removed for scientific purposes only in accordance with an appropriate Permit.

7(viii) Disposal of waste

All human waste and grey water shall be removed from the Area. Waste generated by work parties shall be removed from the Area.

7(ix) Measures that may be necessary to ensure that the aims and objectives of the management plan continue to be met

1. the Permit, or an authorised copy, must be carried within the Area;
2. provision of information for visitors;
3. development of skills and resources, particularly those related to conservation and preservation techniques, to assist with the protection of the Area's values.

7(x) Requirements for Reports

Parties should ensure that the principal holder for each Permit issued submit to the appropriate authority a report describing the activities undertaken. Such reports should include, as appropriate, the information identified in the Visit Report suggested by SCAR. Parties should maintain a record of such activities and, in the Annual Exchange of Information, should provide summary descriptions of activities conducted by persons subject to their jurisdiction, in sufficient detail to allow an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Management Plan. Parties should wherever possible deposit originals or copies of such reports in a publicly accessible archive to maintain a record of usage, to be used both for review of the Management Plan and in organising the use of the site.