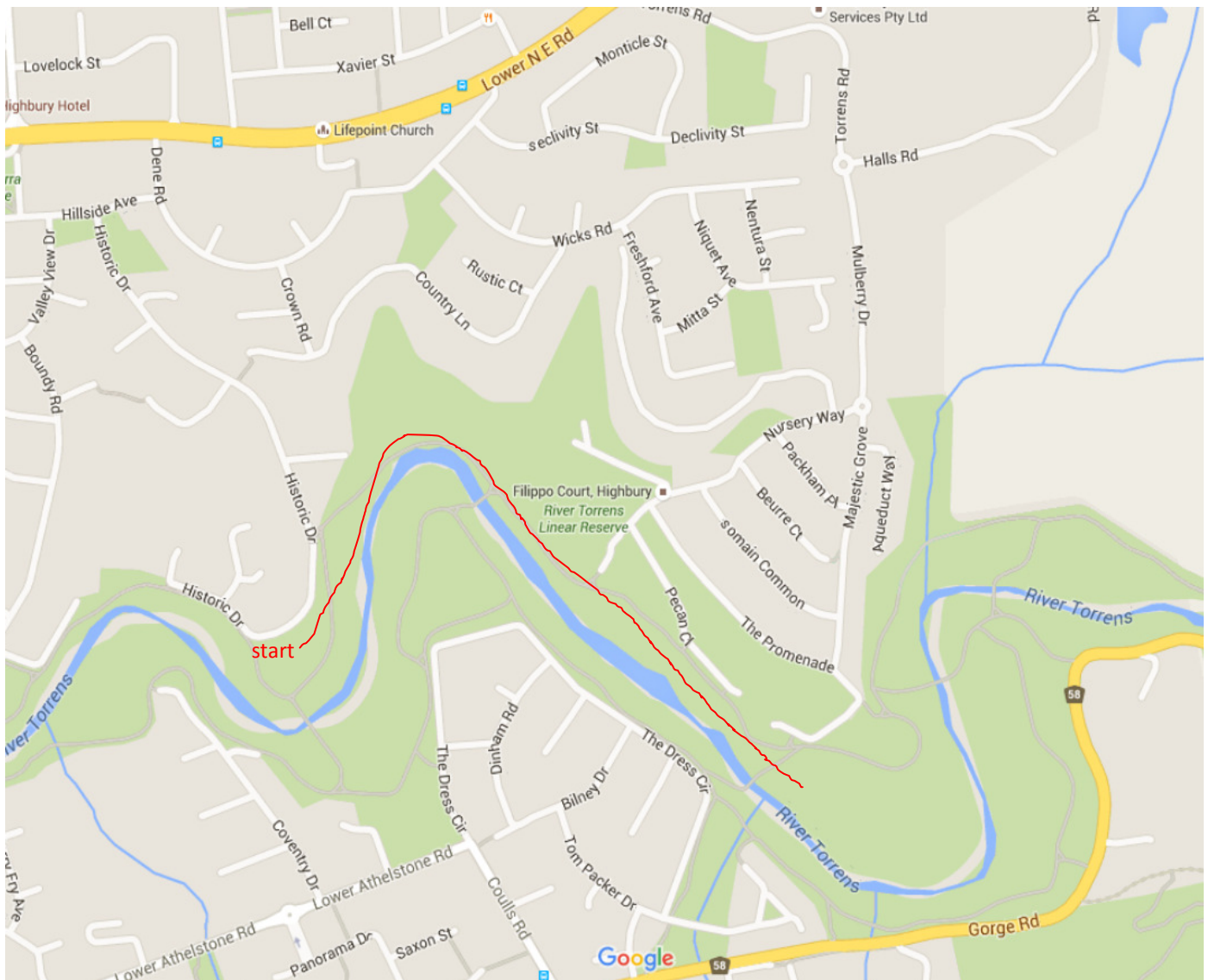


River Torrens Linear Park Highbury Walking Tour Notes



River Torrens Linear Park Highbury Map

Start at the park by Athelstone House, Historic Drive, Highbury



Stop 1: Athelstone House



Athelstone house was built between 1843-1845 from stone quarried from the river banks. Charles Dinham brought it for 250 pounds. The Dinham brothers were wheat farmers and they grew a considerable area of wheat here.



Photo: original image of Athelstone House

Stop 2: Old Mill



The Dinham brother's Old Mill was also built in 1843-1845 from local stone.

The mill was used to grind wheat into flour. Water was dammed upstream then led by aqueduct to the water wheel. The mill was originally 3 stories high.

John Coulls bought the mill in 1845 and converted it for grape crushing.



Photo: Artists interpretation of The Old Mill

Stop 3: Wall for canvas aqueduct



The river was diverted around a canvas aqueduct laid on a stone wall still visible.

(Aqueducts move water through gravity alone, being constructed along a slight downward gradient within conduits of stone, brick or concrete.)



Photo: Example of a local aqueduct feeding the Hope Valley Reservoir

Stop 4: The Caves



The Aboriginal name for the valley is Karra Wirra Parri (translated is river of the red gum forest) .

The river provided a great resource for the Aboriginal people who lived here. What do you think the River was used for? Washing, food source (fish, water birds), large trees grow around rivers creating homes for possums (possum skins used). Wood used to make tools.

Caves may have provided shelter for groups of people who lived near the river.



Native plants were also a food source. Can you see any

Nardoo on the ground? (Botanical name: *Marsilea drummondii*).

Aboriginal people knew how to make bread from this plant. It is toxic to animals.

Stop 5: Boord Family Home (situated behind Council shed)



Boord family home with thatched roof. Built in 1840's from stone taken out of river. The original cottage had 6 main rooms. Two remain. The Boord family had lived in South Africa prior to coming to Australia and were amongst the early farmers of this area.



Locals believe that rifle slits exist in the walls which were a supposed result of the original owners, who had come from South Africa, and who had feared the first Australians based on their experiences with the Zulus. More recently archaeologists have cast doubt on the rifle slits, believing the slits to have been unworkable for that purpose.

Photo: Stone wall at Boord's Family Home

Stop 6: Cold Store and pump



Owned by the Wick's family, the cold store was used to store locally grown fruit and vegetables until they were ready for sale. The pump, which was used as a part of the refrigeration process, was the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere until the late 1940's.

Stop 7: Market Gardens - Fruit and Nut Orchard



This area is well known historically for being market gardens.

What was grown here commercially?

Celery fields and vegetables were grown by the Fry family. Strawberry fields were on the other side of the river.

Remnants of the old fruit and nut orchard remain with trees still producing pecans, pistachios, walnuts, almonds, figs, avocados, loquats and more.

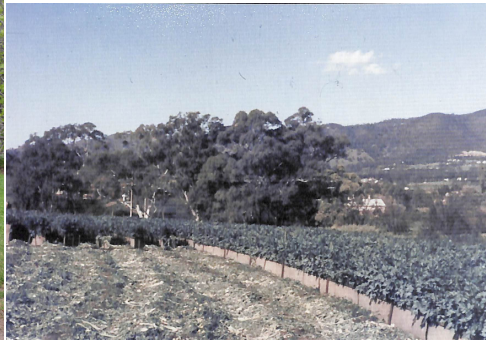


Photo: Celery fields grown by the Fry Family



Photo: Celery fields grown by the Fry Family



Walking Tour Note: Force Pumps

Force pumps can be seen dotted along the river. They were used to irrigate the crops in the market gardens.

For a more comprehensive report on this area please see Archaeology Flinders University student Nicole Monk's report here

http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/fms/archaeology_files/dig_library/directed_studies/Monk%20N%20-%20Torrens%20Linear%20Park.pdf

Walking Tour Note: Wildlife



Photo: Moorhen

The River Torrens provides valuable habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. There is an assortment of trees and shrubs to provide cover for many species of birds including yellow tailed black cockatoos, blue wrens, parrots, galahs, corellas, sulphur crested cockatoos, ducks, water hens and moorhens to name a few. The waterway and its lower life forms provide a valuable source of food.

Koalas, kangaroos, echidnas, snakes and lizards including some endangered species may be spotted in this area.



Photo: Pacific Black Duck



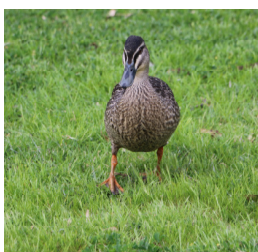
Photo: Yellow tailed black cockatoo

Walking Tour Note: What types of birds did you spot today?

Circle your answers below.



Yellow Tailed Black Cokatoo



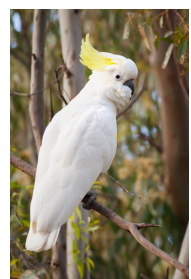
Pacific Black Duck



Moorhen



Galah



Sulphur Crested
Cookatoo