

Protecting Survey Marks in Queensland

What are survey marks?

Survey infrastructure is a significant and valuable asset to Queensland as it underpins the ongoing accuracy and integrity of the cadastral (legal boundary) framework, property rights, mapping infrastructure, and the economic development of the State. Survey infrastructure is made up of a variety of individual survey marks across the State.

Types of survey marks

Cadastral Survey Marks

Cadastral survey marks have been surveyed and shown on a plan of survey lodged with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME). Cadastral survey marks include corner marks (typically pegs) which define property boundaries and reference marks which aid in the reinstatement of those property boundaries by a Cadastral Surveyor. They may be buried or visible (painted or unpainted). All marks should be treated as cadastral survey marks until confirmed otherwise. Examples include:



Peg & FINDER Stake



Iron Pin (Buried)



Nail



Screw



Drill Hole



Spike



Survey Post



Reference Tree



Rock Cairn

Permanent Survey Marks

All Permanent Survey Marks (PSMs) in Queensland have a numeric identifier and are registered in the Survey Control Database (SCDB), administered by DNRME. Information registered against a PSM may include coordinates, height, cadastral connections and other administrative details. PSMs may be buried or visible. Examples include:



Old Brass Plaque



Brass Plaque



Mini Mark



Deep Driven Mark



Star Picket



Trig Station

Why protect survey marks?

Survey marks are critical for the successful completion of any project across the State that requires the accurate marking or reinstatement of property boundaries, together with any project that requires accurate geodetic position or height. The loss of such marks can adversely affect construction and development costs, the accuracy and integrity of the cadastral framework and the efficiency of a surveyor to carry out their professional duties.

Legal obligation under Act

Interfering with survey marks is an offence under Section 42 of the [Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003](#), and non-compliance may prove costly to you, your project, the community, the surveying profession and the image of your organisation.

How survey marks are lost?

It is inevitable that survey marks may be disturbed or destroyed through various activities, but they should never be taken for granted. The value and legacy of a survey mark needs to be considered on an individual basis rather than purely considering the size of the project and number of marks affected.

Survey marks can be disturbed or destroyed by any construction or development work, particularly works undertaken within a road corridor.

Typical activities which can interfere with survey marks include but not limited to footpath and driveway upgrades and installations, utilities and service work, restoration of kerb and channel, vegetation clearing, landscaping and road widenings.

How to protect survey marks?

Before works commence

Engage a Consulting Cadastral Surveyor to carry out a cadastral search and review the extent of proposed works and potential impact on any survey marks and the cadastre in the vicinity.

If marks will be interfered with

An Identification Survey may need to be completed well in advance of any works commencing to accurately locate existing survey marks within the road corridor and place additional survey marks in various safe locations surrounding the site to preserve the legal traceability and legacy of any survey marks and the corresponding property boundaries.

If the project impacts a cul de sac, road intersection and/or the full width of a considerable length of road corridor then it may be necessary for an additional Identification Survey to be undertaken on completion of all site works. This Identification Survey will replace any survey marks destroyed during construction and will facilitate future reinstatement of property boundaries.

What can you do right now?

Don't delay, be pro-active today! Contact your local Consulting Cadastral Surveyor for further information on the protection and preservation of survey marks for your next project. For more information refer to the [DNRME website](#).