

## U3A Highbury Aqueduct from Wicks Gates – directions and information



Park along Nursery Way close to the roundabout

Meet at the eastern Wicks Gate

Start

1. Go to the information board (behind the eastern Wicks gate) to look at the view of the hills (to your right you will see three hills referred to as the Sugarloaves) and then cross Mulberry Drive to continue west on the gravel path
2. After crossing a creek look for a **“Self-hugging leafless tree” \*1** on your left
3. Leave the gravel path here and take a sharp left into a narrow path to look at the **historic drain \*2** with a grey fence around it. Follow the narrow path to the right walking on top of the embankment between the creek and the aqueduct ditch
4. Cross over the fallen tree (easy to straddle) and continue to the intersection with the gravel path
5. At the fork continue straight on (there is a path to your left and to your right, ignore these)
6. Take a left turn to **The Pioneer Court Community Garden \*3** and take a walk through it. If anyone needs a toilet (emergency only) use the garden toilet (to unlock the toilet the code is 1012)
7. The gate on the other end of the garden opens with a metal hook
8. Cross Historic Drive and follow the gravel path to the creek crossing. Cross the creek (it is usually not flowing) and keep left on the gravel path. The path does a loop.
9. Follow the path to your right until you reach the houses on the short dead end street
10. At the cul-de-sac take the cement path that connects it to another dead end street
11. Cross Historic Drive again and take a cement path (on the right of the house) to Country Lane (asphalt). Follow this road.
12. Leave Country Lane where it turns left sharply by entering the Aqueduct gate (with a chain across it) and turn left into the gravel path.
13. Walk along the gravel path

14. Leave the gravel path and walk across the grass, turn right and follow the road to the intersection with Mitta Street
15. Turn left into Mitta Street
16. Enter the little park with trees and a playground and keep to your right
17. When the path gets to a dead end street take the gravel path on your left and walk towards the creek crossing
18. After crossing the creek turn right and follow the gravel path to Nursery Way  
FINISH

## Annotations

### \*1 Self-hugging leafless tree



### \*2 Historic drain on Highbury aqueduct



Back in 1870, work began on the construction of an aqueduct to supply water to Hope Valley Reservoir from the River Torrens. The aqueduct included an open channel, above-ground pipe and two tunnels totalling approximately five kilometres in length. Water flowed until 2008 when the aqueduct was decommissioned and replaced with underground pipes along the Linear Park. Consequently, a 50-hectare linear reserve was left behind. This reserve, now known as Highbury Aqueduct Reserve, has been developed into a park for community recreation. Its landscape is being restored with local flora species to create habitat for native wildlife. Revegetation efforts are ongoing. Work continues to remove Aleppo pines that are growing close to native trees such as South Australian blue gums to allow for healthier growth of these native species. Whilst Aleppo pines are a declared pest plant under the Landscape SA Act 2019, it is important that the removal of these is staged over many years to allow alternative habitat and food sources for native animal and bird species such as the yellow tail cockatoos to be re-introduced.

**Commencing in early 2023, a 4-month project will involve replacing an eroded dam wall with a rock chute and stabilising the channel to better manage water flows. A security fence will be in place for the safety of park users and detours for pedestrians will be established around the site until the work is completed.**

Works will include:

- removing approximately 23 *Pinus Halepensis* (Aleppo Pine) trees within the stormwater channel where the channel banks will be re-contoured
- removing the eroded earthen dam wall structure and replacing it with rock chute and armouring to better manage flows and provide better structure to the channel. The dam is also no longer needed and hasn't been used for many years. Originally it was built to supply a local orchard, but rainfall over time eroded the earthen dam wall, creating a hole, so for several years, flows have been moving through the dam wall and downstream.
- contouring the banks upstream to re-instate the aligned channel profile to address sedimentation deposits and erosion heads that have developed
- installing an additional rock chute structure upstream of the existing dam wall to slow the flow rate and assist in reducing sediment mobilisation
- revegetating the channel with appropriate sedge and rush species to provide additional erosion control, sediment stabilisation and filtration services and improved habitat for local native fauna
- remediating banks with geofabric, while revegetation becomes established.



**\*3 The Pioneer Court Community Garden**

The Pioneer Court Community Garden was established by local residents over 20 years ago, when the land was owned by SA Water. These intrepid gardeners created a productive and beautiful garden with an orchard of 400 fruit and nut trees, and vegetables growing in over 30 individual allotments. It is also home to several bee hives with more than 30,000 bees.