



Historic Self-Guided Walk
Beaumont

BEAUMONT

The district was named Beaumont in 1846 by Samuel Davenport (1818 - 1906) (knighted in 1884). He subdivided some of his land (Section 296) in 1849 in the style of an English village and laid it out around a 'common' which still exists as public land. 'Beaumont' means 'beautiful mount' in French. The Davenport home was renamed Beaumont House in about 1857 when Samuel and his wife first occupied it.

The wider district was originally rural in character, with a scatter of named properties such as Gleeson's Farm on which the family home of 'Gleeville' (see Item 5) was established by Edward B Gleeson, from whom Davenport purchased it. Gleeson's Farm was later owned by J F Cleland. Other nearby properties were Belle Vue and Sunnyside, both established in about 1848.

Davenport's land was bounded by the following modern suburban roads: Glynburn Road, Dashwood Road, Devereux Road, and Cooper Place. The modern suburb known as Beaumont covers more than double that area, including hilly lands to the east and south of the original holding.

'Glynburn' is a composite name applied first in 1964 to provide a single name for the whole length of the road which formerly had three names: Beaumont Road, Burnside Road, and Glynde Road.

'Dashwood Road' was named after Captain G F Dashwood RN (1806 - 1881) Commissioner of Police, who leased 'Gleeville' in 1852.

Davenport was one of South Australia's great pioneers - a scholar and a gentleman. He held many leading public offices and duties, as well as heading various significant voluntary organisations. In 1846 he was appointed a member of the Legislative Council when that body consisted of the Governor and four nominee members. He twice held office as a Minister of the Crown after responsible government was established in 1851. He was a remarkably successful promoter of South Australian trade especially through the many international exhibitions held in major cities during the 19th century. He was also a vigorous experimenter with a range of agricultural activities including various livestock, grapes, olives, and tobacco; and mulberry trees for the raising of silk worms to supply an embryonic silk industry.

The walk begins and ends at Beaumont House, at Stop 20, 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont. A public bus service terminates a few hundred metres north on Glynburn Road and there is usually car parking outside Beaumont House.

For more information on bus routes and timetables please refer to www.adelaidemetro.com.au The distance covered by this walk is 2.5 km and takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete. There is a moderately steep uphill grade on the return from the Beaumont Common to Beaumont House.

1 Beaumont House - 631 Glynburn Road

The dwelling on this Glynburn Road site began as a small five-roomed cottage around 1848.



In 1851 Bishop Augustus Short (1802 - 1883), the first Anglican Bishop of Adelaide, moved into the cottage, extended it and called it 'Claremont'. In 1855, when Bishop moved to the new Bishop's Court at North Adelaide, Sir Samuel Davenport bought and occupied the house which he then renamed 'Beaumont House'. They lived there until close to his death in 1906. Other additions were made by Major Vincent between 1907 and 1911. In 1967 the Brock family gave Beaumont House to the National Trust of South Australia.

The design and construction of the building is unusual, especially the flat roof hidden by the decorative brick parapets. Inside the roof are thick insulating tiles.

Beaumont House is owned by the National Trust of South Australia and is open to the public on the first Sunday of every month from 2 pm - 4.30 pm.

Walk south along Glynburn Road towards the hills and on your right pass and observe Item 2.

2 A replica post and rail fence

Like those erected by Bishop Short and an olive grove planted by Samuel Davenport in the 1860s. This grove is but a tiny remnant of the thousands of trees of earlier times.

Ahead of you are the Beaumont Hills. Turn right into Dashwood Road.

3 Site of former winery and olive press - near 43 Dashwood Road

On the western side of Short Crescent (named after Bishop Short), Samuel Davenport established a winery and also produced olive oil with the help of his nephew G F Cleland, then living at 'Gleeville'.

Continue west down Dashwood Road.

4 Occasional remnant olive trees - in the general area

When Beaumont was first sub-divided the original blocks were each of about two acres. Davenport planted olives in 1852 around the verges of most blocks. A few occasional trees have survived and may still be noted by the casual observer. However, the vines which filled the allotments are now gone.

Take care crossing at the round-about at Dashwood Road/Devereux Road.

5 Site of first house - 1 Dashwood Road

In 1838 Edward Gleeson erected the first house, 'Gleeville'. This timber cottage was pulled down in 1903 because of damage by white ants. Gleeson also built the surviving stone stables on the wall of which is a National Trust plaque which reads: 1839 (sic). *The barn of Gleeville-Under-the-Hills. Restored after the fire 1942.*



6 New plaque (2002)

Generations of the Cleland family have occupied this property ('Gleeville') since 1852. At first they leased it and later purchased it from Samuel Davenport whose wife Margaret was the sister of John Fullerton Cleland. The Cleland's added to the original wooden cottage in stone and it is these rooms which are still standing. Over generations the family has been prominent in several professions in more than one state of Australia.

7 House - 'The Croft', Sunnyside Road

The house at the western end of Dashwood Road on Sunnyside Road was built by Malcom Tweedie around 1903. His apricot orchard stretched to Portrush Road. It was established around 1909 but by the early 1920s the orchard was abandoned and the land was subdivided by two separate plans.

Enter the walkway, on the corner of Sunnyside and Dashwood Roads and go to Inverness Avenue. Turn right (east) then left through a narrow entry to the Davenport Olives.

8 The Davenport Olives (and memorial plaque)

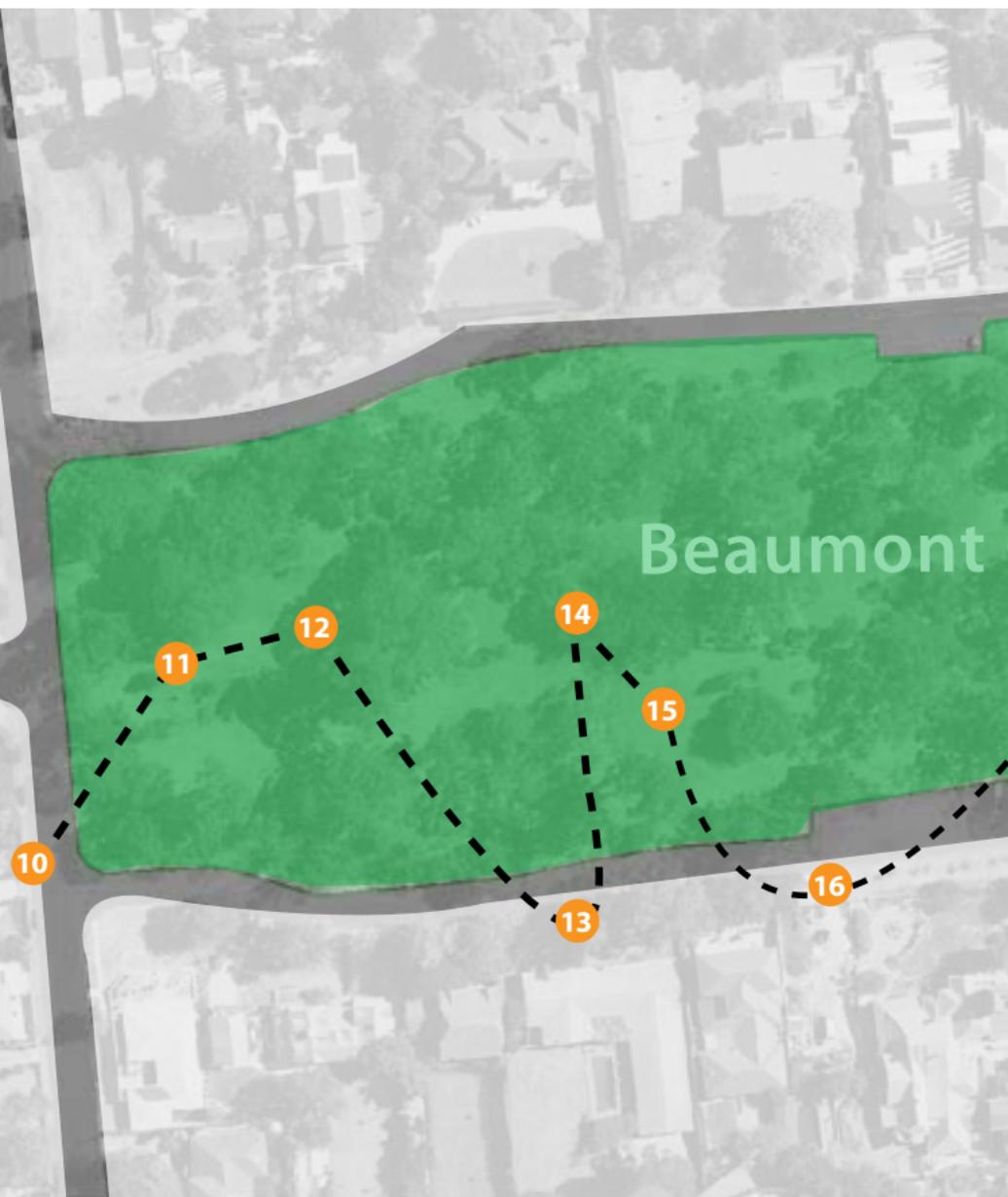
This remnant grove planted in 1864 was given to the City of Burnside by Sir John Cleland's family to commemorate Davenport's contribution to the olive oil industry. The grove was established from cuttings brought to South Australia in 1845. The plaque provides further information.

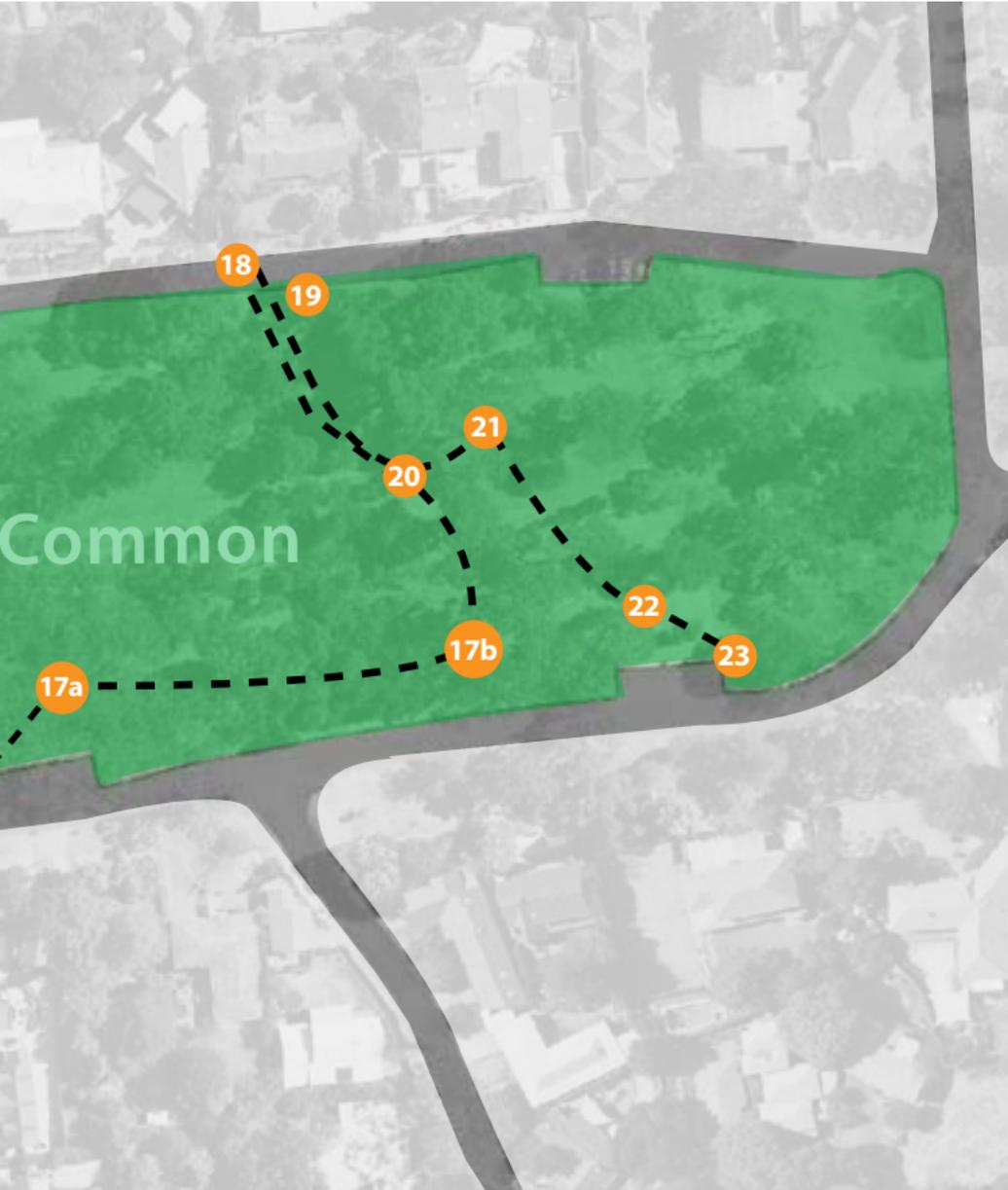
Walk to the northern end of this grove into John Cleland Drive, then turn left into Devereux Road.

9 Devereux Road

Was named after Jane Devereux, mother of Samuel Davenport.

Turn right into West Terrace and walk east to the open parkland known as Beaumont Common ('the Common').





10 House - 15 Sturt Place



Formerly owned by the Cleland family, this house is built on a sloping block facing the Common. Notable landscaping features include the mature olives which border the property. These trees are probably part of the Cleland family's early olive groves and are important for this association with the family.

11 Plaque on Beaumont Common

Mounted on a rock at the western end of the Common, the plaque commemorates the centenary of Samuel Davenport's 1849 vesting of this land 'in perpetuity for the enjoyment of the inhabitants of the village of Beaumont.' It was passed to the City of Burnside in 1973.

Beaumont Common vegetation

The numerous survivors of the original pre-European vegetation make this public space an important conservation area. Over the years Beaumont Common has been regarded as a park and has therefore been planted with ornamental trees, both native and exotic. Most of the supplementary planting has taken place around the edges, perhaps with the object of improving the outlook for residents in the neighbouring area. Some exotics have also been planted along the creek line.

Among the survivors are remnants of the original 'Black Forest' which covered part of the Adelaide Plains from south-east of central Adelaide, extending roughly from the current suburb of Black Forest to Greenhill Road and up to, and including, Beaumont Common. The name 'Black Forest' derived from the dark trunks of the numerous rough-barked gum trees known as the grey box, *Eucalyptus microcarpa*. Despite the name, the Black Forest was a grassy woodland of mixed species. The largest specimen on Beaumont Common is probably over 500 years old.

The City of Burnside works to protect all indigenous remnant vegetation as part of its biodiversity initiatives. In places it has encouraged the understorey of local native grasses and planted local shrubs and wild flowers. Mulch is used to suppress weeds and to stop further compaction of the soil. Mulch under trees indicates that the specimens are almost certainly remnants from before 1849. In two areas there are fenced enclosures around damaged old trees. The soil in the enclosures has a fungal disease whose spread can be controlled by exclusion of walkers.

The following descriptive list of species is presented in suggested walking sequence from west to east citing the identification numbers shown on the map. By following the map it should be possible to find the correct specimens described in the text.

12 Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*)



Is wide-spread across the Common. This particular specimen is unusual and is the largest and oldest here, perhaps over 500 years old. Its swollen base is a lignotuber. A lignotuber produces new stems which become new trunks to replace the central trunk as it gradually ages.

13 Blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*)

This tall pair is situated either side of the road on the south edge of the Common. There are others on the Common.

14 Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)

Although this shady tree is not native to the area, it is of historical importance because it is said to have been planted in 1857 to commemorate the visit of the then Duke of Edinburgh.

15 Wilga (*Geijera parviflora*)

A solitary graceful tree from the range lands of South Australia.

16 Tower House - 14 The Common

This is one of the enduring landmarks beside Beaumont Common. The first rooms were built before 1850 by William Vansittart. The tower was added in about 1880 by a later owner (probably St. Barbe Miller).



17 Vegetation typical of the original

This is one of the two small patches (17a and 17b on the map) on the Common where the City of Burnside has recreated a sample of the original 'Black Forest' plant community once widespread across the Adelaide Plains. Under the Blue Gums and Golden Wattles have been planted at least 15 different grasses, herbs, lilies and small shrubs. All of these would have grown here originally as native ground cover. In their season they provide a diversity of colours and important shelter and food for small animals - birds, lizards and insects. It now also provides the observer with insight into how the woodlands have changed. More information is available on the Council's signboard (Item 19) at the northern edge of the Common near the only River Red Gum (Item 18).

18 River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)

This is the only specimen on the Common and stands at the downhill end of a creek line. It is of moderate size and age, and may have grown since European settlement.

19 City of Burnside Information board

This explains the conservation and restoration project, and lists species of special interest. (Some of these names are included at the end of these notes - see appendix).

20 The creek line

This usually dry drainage hollow carries a mix of introduced eucalypts along with native Swamp Wattle (*Acacia retinodes*), a variety of sedges and Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*). The creek line carries a lot of water from street run-off at times of rain.

21 Aleppo pines (*Pinus halepensis*)

A pair on the eastern side of the creek line. These are fast-growing weedy trees that are damaging the original Grey Box trees near them.

22 Native or Slender Pine (*Callitris gracilis*)

Tall and slender, this is the only specimen on the Common and certainly pre-dates settlement. It carries no cones and the young ones around it have been planted from seed collected from other remnant trees in Burnside.

23 Plaque near the eastern car park (on the south side)

This acknowledges an award made in 2000 by the Civic Trust of South Australia to the City of Burnside for its work in conservation of remnant Grey Box woodland.

24 Site of the former Lodge - 30 The Common (south west corner)

By 1852, Samuel Davenport had built a house in which he lived until 1857, after which it became 'The Lodge' when he transferred to Beaumont House. A driveway connected the two houses.

To conclude, walk east up East Terrace to Glynburn Road and turn right (south) to Beaumont House.

An electronic copy of this historic self-guided walk and other historic walks within the City of Burnside can be found on www.burnside.sa.gov.au

Every effort has been made to ensure the content of this brochure is accurate. If you have any feedback about the content, please contact us via the Burnside Council website at www.burnside.sa.gov.au

APPENDIX

Names of some of the original species in the rich understorey of Beaumont Common/Black Forest.

Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*
Wallaby Grass *Danthonia spp.*
Short-leaved Bluebush *Maireana brevifolia*
Kangaroo Thorn *Acacia paradoxa*
Gold Dust Wattle *Acacia acinacea*
Clasping Goodenia *Goodenia amplexans*
Christmas Bush *Bursaria spinosa*
Twiggy Daisy-bush *Olearia ramulosa*
Creeping Saltbush *Atriplex semibaccata*
Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*
Hopbush *Dodonaea viscosa*
Spreading Flax-lily *Dianella revoluta*



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