



22nd May 2023

Report on the Due Diligence Process regarding Aboriginal Heritage at Hadley Park

In the process of developing the works package for the Hadley park heritage buildings, JPA&D undertook an assessment of the likelihood of the presence of Aboriginal heritage on the site by following the method set out in "The generic due diligence process" flow chart on page 10 of the *NSW Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.

The initial step was to determine if the activity will disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees?

The works will cause a minor disturbance to the ground surface in the area around the main house and cottage where the stormwater drainage is being improved. No culturally modified trees will be affected by the works.

Given that the ground surface will be disturbed, step two involved checking to find any:

- Relevant confirmed site records or other associated landscape feature information on AHIMS.
- Other source of information of which a person is already aware.
- Landscape features that are likely to indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects.

Researching to confirm the above was undertaken as follows:

- The AHIMS was searched and returned no results.
- Past residents of the property were contacted and were not aware of any Aboriginal heritage on the site.
- The Deerubin Local Aboriginal Lands council were contacted via their website but no response was received.
- The section on Pre-European Occupation by Muru Cultural Heritage Services in the 2013 Conservation Management Plan was reviewed and whilst it provides historical information on the people of the Hawkesbury River generally and identifies some by name it notes that "There is no evidence that any of these people had any particular connection with Hadley park". (Godden Mackay Logan, *Hadley Park Conservation Management Plan for Penrith Lakes Development Corporation*, September 2013, P22.)
- Neither the 2013 Conservation Management Plan by Godden Mackay Logan or the 2020 Conservation Management Plan by JPA&D contains any evidence of Aboriginal Objects having been found in the area.
- The site was visited on many occasions by JPA&D and other members of the client and consultant team and no landscape features were noted that are likely to indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects.

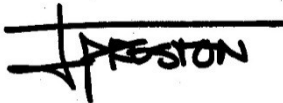
Whilst it is known that the Nepean river valley is part of a broader Aboriginal cultural landscape, the river is approximately 750m away from the area of proposed ground surface disturbance. There is nothing to suggest that there are any Aboriginal objects within the vicinity of the proposed drainage works.

We have reviewed the *NSW Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* and although activity will cause minor disturbance to a small area of ground surface in the location of the main house and cottage, there is no record of Aboriginal heritage in the vicinity of the proposed works or evidence to suggest that Aboriginal objects are likely to be present.

Therefore, a AHIP (Aboriginal heritage Impact Permit) application is not required. The following procedures will be followed on site:

- An archaeologist will be on site during the excavation works.
- Works will proceed with caution.
- If any Aboriginal objects are found, work will stop and DECCW (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW) will be notified.
- If European objects are found, work will stop pending the advice of the archaeologist.
- If human remains are found, work will stop, the site will be secured and Police and DECCW notified.
- These matters will be expressly pointed out to the contractor.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J PRESTON', with a horizontal line drawn above the letters.

Dr Jennifer Preston

B.Arch (Hons.1), B.A. (Int. Des.), Dip. Bldg. Sci., PhD, FRAIA

Director

Dr Jennifer Preston is a registered architect and the founding director of JPA&D. She has qualifications in Architecture, Interior Design, Building Science and a PhD in the field of Architecture. Jennifer is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects and is currently Chair of the Heritage Committee of the NSW chapter of the AIA. Jennifer began her career working for the well-known Sydney heritage Architect Howard Tanner. Jennifer has worked for Cliveden Conservation in England on projects that included The London Guildhall, Slindon Estate West Sussex, and the documentation and restoration of Chimneypieces at Uppark House, West Sussex following a devastating fire at the National Trust property. A highlight of her heritage work in Britain was the design of the pedestals based on historic descriptions, for statues in the Rose Garden of Hampton Court Palace, Middlesex.

Since establishing JPA&D in 2002 Jennifer has been the director in charge of projects to develop Conservation Management Plans for numerous buildings including The Fernhill Estate, Hadley Park Estate and Cecil Hills Farm and undertaken remedial heritage works projects at The Gunner, Carriageworks and at the historic Gladesville Hospital campus. Jennifer has also been responsible for the Heritage Management Asset Plan for the NSW Department of Planning. Jennifer has over thirty years' experience.

Jennifer holds a Doctor of Philosophy in the field of Architecture. Her dissertation *Social Climbing: The architectural, cultural and heritage significance of Sydney's public stairs*, examined an element of the city's pedestrian infrastructure from architectural, cultural and heritage viewpoints. A copy of the thesis was requested by the archives of the City of Sydney Council and is held in their collection. Jennifer has written several journal articles including "Edward Bell and the interdisciplinarity of engineering and architecture in Victorian Sydney" published in *Fabrications: the journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand* in 2013. She has written many entries for the *Dictionary of Sydney* and written and presented papers at the Society of Architectural Historians on a variety of subjects related to architectural history and heritage.