

Concord Hospital precinct

Archaeological Survey Report

LGA: Canada Bay

Report to Bd Infrastructure

September 2023



 artefact

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Document history and status

Revision	Date issued	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date approved	Revision type
1	14/09/2023	R. Taddeucci	J. Symons	14/09/2023	First Draft
2					

Printed:	
Last saved:	14 September 2023
File name:	ASR-230765-Concord Hospital-14.09.2023
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Name of organisation:	Artefact Heritage Services Pty Ltd
Name of project:	Concord Hospital ASR
Name of document:	Concord Hospital Precinct ASR report to Bd Infrastructure
Document version:	Draft 1

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artefact Heritage Services Pty Ltd has been engaged by Bd Infrastructure, to provide an Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) for the proposed construction of a new health building at the Concord Hospital Precinct. The new development is part of the Forensic Mental Health Unit project under the State Wide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP).

The street address for the study area is 1H Hospital Road Concord West, and is located within Lot 2/DP1280788. The study area encompasses a sealed car park space and existing original hospital building and is located within the eastern portion of the larger Concord Repatriation General Hospital campus.

Artefact Heritage (2023b) have previously provided Bd Infrastructure with a Preliminary Assessment of Aboriginal Heritage Constraints for the proposed works. Artefact Heritage (2023b) assessed that the potential shallow impact of the car park in the current study area and the potential shallow nature of some of the fill layers identified in geotechnical testing suggested that remnant natural landform may still be present beneath the asphalt. The possibility of this soil surface preservation required that a higher level of archaeological assessment (this report) be undertaken to more accurately examine the study area, and in particular to do so in consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

Artefact Heritage has prepared this ASR in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, hereafter *the Code of Practice* (DECCW 2010a (now Heritage NSW)). The aim of the ASR will be to determine whether the project is likely to harm Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places, and whether further detailed archaeological investigation and consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders is required.

This report was completed in accordance with the requirements of *The Code of Practice* (DECCW 2010a) and includes:

- Review of existing knowledge: Review of previous archaeological works and AHIMS search results.
- Review of the landscape context: Desktop assessment of the archaeological implications of the landscape features (soil landscapes, historic land use, geomorphic character, and natural resources) relevant to the study area.
- Summary and discussion of the local and regional archaeological character of Aboriginal land use and its material traces based on the finds of the previous two steps
- Development of a predictive model for the nature and distribution of archaeological evidence of Aboriginal land use based on the previous three steps.
- Completion of an archaeological survey to test the predictions developed in the previous step. A representative of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) participated in this survey.
- Discussion of the results of the archaeological survey and re-evaluation of the regional and local archaeological character.
- Assessment of likely impacts to Aboriginal objects and Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) based on the current proposed development.

- Consideration of any practical measures that may be required to protect and conserve identified Aboriginal objects and places identified within the study area.

The archaeological survey of the study area was conducted by Michael Lever (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage Services), Jonathan Bennett (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage Services) and Joshua Marr (Cultural Heritage Officer, Metropolitan LALC) on 28 August 2023.

Overview of findings

The assessment found that the study area is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects based on:

- An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) which did not reveal any listed Aboriginal sites in the study area
- Sample survey of the study area, which did not identify any Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD
- Consultation with Joshua Marr (Cultural Heritage Officer, Metropolitan LALC) during the survey
- Comparison between the study area against the regional and archaeological character

Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment, the following recommendations are made:

- As no sites or areas of PAD were identified within the study area, further archaeological assessment within the study area is not recommended.
- An unexpected finds procedure must be prepared ahead of the proposed works commencing. This procedure must be reviewed by a heritage professional. If an unexpected find is encountered while the proposed works are undertaken, further assessment, reporting, consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, and approvals under the *NPW Act 1974* may be required prior to works recommencing.
- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impacts to areas not assessed by this ASR, further assessment would be required.
- It is recommended that Bd Infrastructure send a copy of this report to Metropolitan LALC.

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NOTE ON LANGUAGE IN QUOTES

A number of quotes used in this report come from documents written in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by European observers. They have been included because they provide information on the lives of Aboriginal people in the region, through the language used and views expressed by these writers can be offensive and distressing.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project brief

Artefact Heritage Services Pty Ltd has been engaged by Bd Infrastructure, to provide an Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) for the proposed construction of a new health building at the Concord Hospital Precinct. The new development is part of the Forensic Mental Health Unit project under the State Wide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP). This forms part of the \$700 million capital works component of a broader series of reforms across the state's mental health services. This project focuses on patient-centric models of care, engagement with consumers, carers and staff, and best practice service delivery with improved outcomes for consumers, carers, families and stakeholders (NBRS & Partners Pty Ltd 2023). This new health building, known as the Concord Forensic Mental Health Unit, will replace an existing carpark area and original hospital building.

Artefact Heritage (2023b) have previously provided Bd Infrastructure with a Preliminary Assessment of Aboriginal Heritage Constraints for the proposed works. Artefact Heritage (2023b) assessed that the potential shallow impact of the car park in the current study area and the potential shallow nature of some of the fill layers identified in geotechnical testing suggested that remnant natural landform may still be present beneath the asphalt. The possibility of this soil surface preservation required that a higher level of archaeological assessment (this report) be undertaken to more accurately examine the study area, and in particular to do so in consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

Following these recommendations, Artefact Heritage has prepared this ASR in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, hereafter *the Code of Practice* (DECCW 2010a (now Heritage NSW)).

1.2 Description of the study area

Bd infrastructure has been engaged to deliver a new health building within the Concord Hospital Precinct. The street address for the study area is 1H Hospital Road Concord West and is located within Lot 2/DP1280788. The study area encompasses a sealed car park space and existing original hospital building and is located within the eastern portion of the larger Concord Repatriation General Hospital campus.

The study area is bounded by the two storey Bernie Banton building to the north and Manning Building to the east, a one storey building to the south, which has wings to the ECT Suite and Mental Health Unit 7 (JARA Older Persons Unit), the two storey University of Sydney Medical Education building to the west, and the one storey Animal Holding and Learning Facility to the north-west. The location of the proposed new building (the study area) (Figure 1) measures approximately 3,300 square metres (m) and is located in the Canada Bay Local Government Area (LGA), and within the lands of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

1.3 Aims and objectives

The aim of this ASR is to determine whether the project is likely to harm Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places, and whether further detailed archaeological investigation and consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders is required.

To address the aims listed above, the objectives of this report are:

- Review of existing knowledge: Review of previous archaeological works and AHIMS search results.
- Review of the landscape context: Desktop assessment of the archaeological implications of the landscape features (soil landscapes, historic land use, geomorphic character, and natural resources) relevant to the study area.
- Summary and discussion of the local and regional archaeological character of Aboriginal land use and its material traces based on the finds of the previous two steps
- Development of a predictive model for the nature and distribution of archaeological evidence of Aboriginal land use based on the previous three steps.
- Completion of an archaeological survey to test the predictions developed in the previous step. A representative of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) participated in this survey.
- Discussion of the results of the archaeological survey and re-evaluation of the regional and local archaeological character.
- Assessment of likely impacts to Aboriginal objects and Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) based on the current proposed development.
- Consideration of any practical measures that may be required to protect and conserve identified Aboriginal objects and places identified within the study area.

1.4 Limitations and constraints

The scope of this ASR is based on information provided by the proponent to date. Land located outside the study area boundary has not been assessed (Figure 1).

Background research completed to inform the development of this report was limited to existing and publicly accessible sources of information. The findings of archaeological assessments cited in the report were not independently verified except where inconsistencies within the documents were identifiable. This report does not consider intangible Aboriginal heritage values.

This report excludes historical heritage assessment and excludes provision of any advice under the *Heritage Act 1977*. A separate Non-Aboriginal Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) has been prepared by Artefact Heritage Services. The SoHI assesses the potential built heritage and historical archaeological impacts of the proposed works within the study area.

1.5 Authors and contributors

This report was prepared by Michael Lever (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage Services), and Jonathan Bennett (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage Services), with mapping by Mike Douglas (GIS Officer, Artefact Heritage Services) and management input and review from Ryan Taddeucci (Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader, Artefact Heritage Services) and Josh Symons (Technical Executive, Artefact Heritage Services).

A list of the contributors to this report and their appropriate qualifications is provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Contributors

Contributor	Qualification	Experience	Role
Josh Symons (Technical Executive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology 	+20 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical reviewer
Ryan Taddeucci (Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Archaeology Master of Museum Studies Graduate Certificate in Maritime Archaeology 	+10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical reviewer
Mike Douglas (GIS Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts North American Archaeology Master of Science Geology Masters Certificate in GIS Science 	+20 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS and Mapping
Michael Lever (Heritage Consultant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts, Archaeology, Sydney & McGill Universities Bachelor of Arts, Archaeology (Hons), La Trobe University Aboriginal Worldviews and Education: University of Toronto Grad Dip Ed, Melbourne University PhD University of Sydney 2023 	+12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report author Site survey
Jonathan Bennett (Heritage Consultant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Archaeology, Major in Landscape Processes, Macquarie University Certificate III Business, Success Strategies for Team Leaders and Supervisors 	+1 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report author Site survey

Figure 1 Study Area



2.0 PROJECT FRAMEWORK

2.1 Commonwealth legislation

2.1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Act (No.1) 2003* amends the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to include 'national heritage' as a matter of National Environmental Significance and protects listed places to the fullest extent under the Constitution. It also establishes the National Heritage List (NHL) and the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).

The *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* (AHC Act) establishes a new heritage advisory body - the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) - to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and retains the Register of the National Estate (RNE).

The *Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2003* repeals the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*, amends various Acts as a consequence of this repeal and allows the transition to the current heritage system.

Together the above three Acts provide protection for Australia's natural, Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage. The features include:

- a NHL of places of national heritage significance
- a CHL of heritage places owned or managed by the Commonwealth
- the creation of the AHC, an independent expert body to advise the Minister on the listing and protection of heritage places
- continued management of the Register of the National Estate (RNE).

Register searches were undertaken on 16 August 2023. A summary of register searches is outlined below:

- No items registered on the NHL were identified within the study area;
- No items registered on the CHL were identified within the study area;
- No items registered on the RNE were identified within the study area. The following items are listed on the RNE in vicinity of the study area (Table 2).

Table 2 RNE items in vicinity of the study area

Place ID	Name	Address	Significance
3391	Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital Group	Hospital Rd, Concord West	Registered Place
3392	Garden of Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital	13ha, at the end of Hospital Road, Concord West, comprising the whole of the grounds of the hospital.	Registered Place

Place ID	Name	Address	Significance
17043	Brays Bay Wetland	About 5ha, at Concord West, bounded by the Concord Hospital carpark and Rivendell Adolescent Unit on the north.	Registered Place
19259	Yaralla Bay Wetlands	About 6ha, comprising the areas identified as wetlands and regenerating mangroves which lie on the southern side of the Parramatta River within or near the entrance of Yaralla Bay.	Registered Place

2.1.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

The Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (ATSIHP Act), deals with Aboriginal cultural property (intangible heritage) in a wider sense. Such intangible heritage includes any places, objects and folklore that 'are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition'. These values are not currently protected under the NPW Act.

There is no cut-off date and the ATSIHP Act may apply to contemporary Aboriginal cultural property as well as ancient sites. The ATSIHP Act takes precedence over state cultural heritage legislation where there is conflict. The Commonwealth Minister who is responsible for administering the ATSIHP Act can make declarations to protect these areas and objects from specific threats of injury or desecration. The responsible Minister may make a declaration under Section 10 of the Commonwealth Act in situations where state or territory laws do not provide adequate protection of intangible heritage.

Where an Aboriginal individual or organisation is concerned that intangible values within the proposal are not being adequately protected, they can apply to the Minister for a declaration over a place.

A search of the Federal Gazette for declarations under the ATSIHP Act was completed on 16 August 2023. The search did not identify current declarations under the ATSIHP Act relevant to the study area.

2.1.3 Native Title Act 1993

The main purpose of the *Native Title Act 1993* is to recognise and protect native title. Native title is the rights and interests in land and waters that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have under their traditional laws and customs.

The following list is indicative of the type of land, which might be subject to native title:

- vacant Crown land and any other public or Crown lands including oceans and inland waterways, beaches and foreshores, State forests, national parks and public reserves
- pastoral leases

- land held by government agencies
- land held in trust for Aboriginal communities.

Under the amended *Native Title Act 1993*, Native Title is extinguished by the following:

- private freehold land, valid grants of private freehold land or waters
- residential, commercial or exclusive possession leases
- mining dissection leases
- community purpose leases (e.g. religious, sporting or charitable purposes)
- scheduled interests that give exclusive possession
- public works (e.g. schools, public amenities, hospitals etc.).

Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993*, requires that native title claimants are notified of any 'future act' which may result in a change in land use for Crown lands affected by claims. A 'future act' is defined in section 233 of the Act as a proposed activity or development on land and/or waters that may affect native title, by extinguishing (removing) it or creating interests that are inconsistent with the existence or exercise of native title. If, after one month, there were no response to the notification, then the proponent will be deemed to have fulfilled their obligations under the Act.

The Consultation Requirements stipulate that consultation must be conducted with Native Title holders or registered Native Title claimants. A search of the National Native Title Tribunal database was completed on 16 August 2023. The search did not identify any Native Title claims in or around the study area.

2.2 State legislation

2.2.1 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), administered by Heritage NSW, DPC provides statutory protection for all Aboriginal 'objects' (consisting of any material evidence of the Aboriginal occupation of NSW), and for 'Aboriginal Places' (areas of cultural significance to the Aboriginal community).

The protection provided to Aboriginal objects applies irrespective of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure. However, areas are only gazetted as Aboriginal places if the Minister is satisfied that sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that the location was and/or is of special significance to Aboriginal culture.

There are no gazetted Aboriginal places in the study area. All Aboriginal objects, whether recorded or not, are protected under the NPW Act.

Section 86 of the NPW Act identifies that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object and/or an Aboriginal place. Section 86 outlines penalty units applicable where it is identified that a person or corporation is in breach of Section 86.

The NPW Act defines harm to an object or place as any act or omission that:

- (a) destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or
- (b) in relation to an object moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or
- (c) is specified by the regulations, or

- (d) causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c)

A section 90 permit is the only Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) available under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and is granted by Heritage NSW, DPC. Various factors are considered by Heritage NSW, DPC in the AHIP application process, such as site significance, Aboriginal consultation requirements, Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) principles, project justification and consideration of alternatives. The penalties and fines for damaging or defacing an Aboriginal object were increased in 2010.

2.2.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act establishes the framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in the land use planning, development assessment and environmental impact assessment processes. Part 3, Division 3.4 deals with the development of Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). Planning decisions within Local Government Areas (LGAs) are guided by LEPs. Each LGA is required to develop and maintain an LEP that includes Aboriginal and historical heritage items which are protected under the EP&A Act and the *Heritage Act 1977*. The study area is located within the boundaries of the Canada Bay LGA and is covered by the Canada Bay LEP 2013.

Part 5.10 of the LEP sets out the following Objectives and Requirements with regard to Aboriginal Heritage:

(1) *Objectives*

- (a) *to conserve the environmental heritage of Canada Bay,*
- (b) *to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,*
- (c) *to conserve archaeological sites,*
- (d) *to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.*

(2) *Requirement for consent Development consent is required for any of the following—*

- (a) *demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)—*
 - (i) *a heritage item,*
 - (ii) *an Aboriginal object,*
 - (iii) *a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,*
- (b) *altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,*

- (c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,*
 - (d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*
 - (e) erecting a building on land—*
 - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
 - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*
 - (f) subdividing land—*
 - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
 - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.*
 - (3) When consent not required However, development consent under this clause is not required if—*
 - (a) the applicant has notified the consent authority of the proposed development and the consent authority has advised the applicant in writing before any work is carried out that it is satisfied that the proposed development—*
 - (i) is of a minor nature or is for the maintenance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place of heritage significance or archaeological site or a building, work, relic, tree or place within the heritage conservation area, and*
 - (ii) would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place, archaeological site or heritage conservation area, or*
 - (b) the development is in a cemetery or burial ground and the proposed development—*
 - (i) is the creation of a new grave or monument, or excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of conserving or repairing monuments or grave markers, and*
 - (ii) would not cause disturbance to human remains, relics, Aboriginal objects in the form of grave goods, or to an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, or*
 - (c) the development is limited to the removal of a tree or other vegetation that the Council is satisfied is a risk to human life or property, or*
 - (d) the development is exempt development.*
-

An LEP search was performed on: 16 August 2023. The Concord Repatriation Hospital—original main building, grounds and layout (I256) is identified as a local heritage item under Schedule 5 of the Canada Bay LEP 2013 and encompasses the study area.

2.2.3 Canada Bay Development Control Plan 2023

The relevant DCP for the study area is the Canada Bay DCP 2023. The Canada Bay DCP 2023 is a supporting document that compliments the provisions contained within the Canada Bay LEP 2013 and provides specific design detail in regard to sympathetic development on, or in the vicinity of, items listed on Schedule 5 of the Canada Bay LEP 2013.

Part C of the DCP 2023 provides sympathetic considerations for development that is in the vicinity of a heritage listed item. These considerations include ensuring that the character, bulk, scale and height of new development does not unreasonably overshadow a nearby heritage item, that colouring and texture of new materials of a new development is sympathetic to a heritage item, and that views of a heritage item should not be obscured from the point of view of areas of public domain.

2.2.4 State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 (the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP) aims to facilitate the effective delivery of transport and infrastructure across NSW. The Transport and Infrastructure SEPP assists local government, the NSW Government and the communities they support, by simplifying the process for providing essential infrastructure in areas such as education, hospitals, roads and railways, emergency services, water supply and electricity delivery.

Generally, where there is conflict between the provisions of the TISEPP and other environmental planning instruments, the TISEPP prevails. While the TISEPP overrides the controls included in the LEPs and DCPs, the proponent is required to consult with the relevant local councils when development “is likely to have an impact that is not minor or inconsequential on a local heritage item (other than a local heritage item that is also a State heritage item) or a heritage conservation area”.

When this is the case, the proponent must not carry out such development until it has (TISEPP 2021 Clause 2.11.2):

(a) had an assessment of the impact prepared, and

(b) given written notice of the intention to carry out the development, with a copy of the assessment and a scope of works, to the council for the area in which the heritage item or heritage conservation area (or the relevant part of such an area) is located, and

(c) taken into consideration any response to the notice that is received from the council within 21 days after the notice is given.

The planning pathway will follow a Part 5 (Development without Consent) Approval process provided for under the TISEPP (2021). Therefore, this ASR will support a Review of Environmental Factors, in line with Section 4.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

2.2.5 NSW Native Title Act 1994

The *Native Title Act 1994* was introduced to ensure that the laws of NSW are consistent with the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*. Native Title claims, registers and Indigenous Land Use Agreements are administered under the Act. The search conducted on 16 August 2023 did not identify any Native Title claims in or around the study area.

2.2.6 Aboriginal Lands Right Act 1983

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) established Aboriginal Land Councils (at State and Local levels). These bodies have a statutory obligation under the ALR Act to:

(a) take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area, subject to any other law, and

(b) promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area.

The study area is within the boundary of the Metropolitan LALC.

3.0 ABORIGINAL HISTORIES OF THE LOCALITY

NOTE: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware this report may contain words and terms in quotations from works written by non-Indigenous people in the past that may be confronting and considered inappropriate today. Artefact does not endorse these views or the use of these terms. These historical sources have been included because they provide information on the lives of Aboriginal people in the region.

Many Aboriginal people, like other Indigenous or First Nations people around the world, say they have been living on Country for ‘time immemorial’ – that they have always been here and their origins lie in the creation of the land and animals. Over the last few decades, archaeologists’ knowledge of deep human time in Australia has expanded from just a few thousand years in the 1950s, to 25,000 years in the 1960s, then 40,000 years, to now around 60,000 years or more (Belshaw, Nickel & Horton, 2020, Griffiths 2018: 112, Karskens, 2009).

Archaeological evidence of Aboriginal people living in the Sydney region from Shaw’s Creek west of the Dyarubbin (Nepean) River is dated at around 14,000 years ago and numerous other sites in the area have been dated at around 15,000 ago. While Cranebrook Terrace, near Penrith in Western Sydney, has been dated to 41,700 years and a site near Parramatta at 30,000 years old, there is growing consensus among archaeologists and historians that people have lived across the Sydney region from around 50,000 years ago (Attenbrow, 2010: 18-20; Nanson, Young & Stockton, 1987: 77; Williams, et al. 2017: 100-109; Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management, 2005a: 4, 87-94).

More ancient sites may lie off the coast and in drowned river valleys, now deep under water. Before the major sea level rise event at the end of the last ice age around 17,000 years ago, Aboriginal people living along the Parramatta River could have walked downstream along the riverbanks to the sea about 30 kilometres beyond the current day coastline. Over generations they would have watched and told stories about the gradual change as the sea rose to fill the ‘drowned river valley’ of what is now Sydney Harbour until it reached present levels around 6,000 years ago (Nunn & Reid, 2016: 11; Attenbrow: 2010: 154-155; Birch, 2007: 217-219).

Given the devastating impact of violent dispossession and disease upon Aboriginal people in the Sydney region during colonisation, the precise identification of language groups and historical traditional lands or Country for a given area is often difficult today. Early colonial observer Watkin Tench believed there was at the least coastal and inland dialects of the same language and, while this is challenged by some historians who prefer less distinction between what were all ‘canoe cultures’ around Sydney’s coast and waterways, there seems to have been an alignment with inland economies of the rivers, creeks and open forests of the Cumberland Plain, and coastal ‘saltwater’ focused groups

Prior to colonisation, Aboriginal people in the relatively resource rich Sydney region lived in extended family groups estimated at around 30 to 50 people. These groups were associated with certain territories or places that gave clan members particular social and economic rights and obligations. Each of the estimated 30 clans in the Sydney region had a name often associated with a place or resource such as the Cabro (Gabra) gal (people) at modern day Cabramatta. Clan groups moved around a defined area in response to changing seasons and the availability of food and other resources. European observers mistakenly took this as a nomadic lifestyle, when in fact they moved around a ‘limited and deeply known’ area. There were also forms of more sedentary agriculture and aquaculture, and villages such as those described by early colonial diarists at Kamay-Botany Bay and later accounts of ‘70 huts’ at Bent’s Basin on the Nepean River west of Sydney (Gapps 2010, Attenbrow 2010, Karskens 2009, Gammage 2012).

Present-day Canada Bay was at the centre of the Wangal clan's Country. Wangal lands were described to the colonists by one of their most famous – a man called Bennelong. He told them the Wangal lived on the southern shore of the harbour and river from Gomora (Darling Harbour) west toward the Burramattagal lands at Parramatta. Bennelong also had traditional ties to Me-mel or Goat Island in the harbour (Aboriginal Heritage Office n.d.; Smith 2005).

The landscape and environment before Europeans arrived was a finely managed one. In 1790 John Hunter observed people 'burning the grass on the north shore opposite to Sydney, in order to catch rats and other animals'. In 1804 Henry Waterhouse described the land around Cowpastures as 'a beautiful park, totally divested of underwood, interspersed with rich, luxuriant grass ... except where recently burnt' (Bladen, 1897: 359). These forests that had been managed by many generations of Aboriginal people through such methods as what is known as 'firestick farming'. Fire was an important tool and also used to open up tracks, to 'clean country', drive animals into the paths of hunters, cooking, warmth, treating wood, cracking open stones and for a place to gather, dance and share stories and knowledge (White, 1790 [2003]: 163; Gammage, 2012: 163-185; Griffiths, 2018: 240).

The Wangal first met the British colonists very early – in February 1788 Captain John Hunter travelled up the Parramatta River and while the party was resting, were met by a group of Wangal at 'Breakfast Point' or Booridiow-ogule. The first encounters between the British colonists and the Sydney people were initially based in curiosity, with both sides attempting to comprehend each other. However, misunderstandings or transgressions of Aboriginal law and protocol soon escalated into violence and retribution. Unarmed convicts outside the encampment at Sydney Cove were increasingly targeted during 1788. However, in April 1789, what Sydney Aboriginal people called galgala or smallpox broke out and more than half - possibly even 80 percent - of the population around Sydney Harbour were dead within a month. Captain John Hunter wrote that 'it was truly shocking to go round the coves of this harbour [seeing] men, women and children, lying dead'. David Collins wrote that those who witnessed the Sydney man Arabanoo's grief and agony could never forget either – on being taken on a boat around the harbour Arabanoo 'lifted up his hands and eyes in silent agony [and exclaimed] "All dead! All dead!" Undoubtedly, the foreshores of Canada Bay around present day Concord would have seen similar scenes of Aboriginal people dying from smallpox and numbers of dead (Gapps, 2019; Karskens, 2009: 50).

Despite such massive death and disruption to Aboriginal lives across Sydney, in 1794 resistance warfare against the colonisers began in earnest along the new settlements on the Dyarubbin (Hawkesbury) River and was to carry on through the 1790s, largely under the leadership of the famous warrior Pemulwuy. This 'constant sort of war' as one colonist described it, continued until Governor Macquarie ordered the now infamous military campaign across the Sydney region that ended in the Appin Massacre of April 17th, 1816 (Gapps, 2018: 125-155, 226-255).

As the Cumberland Plain became more closely settled during the 1800s, Aboriginal people continued to live close to their traditional country where they could. Some managed to live in the centre of the growing city of Sydney such as groups of families who caught and sold fish at Circular Quay and others at Rose Bay, while other families continued to live on the outskirts of populated areas such as at La Perouse and at Salt Pan Creek on the Georges River. From the 1880s, others moved to or were forced on to reserves such as Sackville in the northwest. Families such as the Locks, descendants of Maria Lock, continued to live near Blacktown and descendants of Lucy Leane at Liverpool. All carried knowledge of their ancestors and their Country down to this day. During the 1800s many Aboriginal women married European men. Some families knew of their heritage but often kept it hidden. Others only found out much later through family history work from the 1980s (Johnson 2003, Kohen 2009, Goodall & Cadzow 2009: 41).

Many Sydney Aboriginal people regrouped to form new communities. The Wangal man Bennelong's last wife Boorong's clan lands were around Kissing Point on the Parramatta River, and this proved to be a safe place for what was an amalgamated extended family group that probably included other

Wangal people. Bennelong died in 1813 and was buried in the grounds of the beer brewer James Squire's Kissing Point estate. People continued living in the area as the 'flats' around Homebush Bay and the river were good fishing and food gathering locations. A Gweaegal man Bidgee Bidgee became leader of the 'Kissing Point Tribe' but by the 1830s there are few references to Aboriginal people living in the Ryde-Concord area (Smith 2013, Irish 2017, Smith 2005).

Government policies of removing Aboriginal children from their parents in order to assimilate them into white society effectively began in 1814. William Shelley, a former missionary from London, proposed to Governor Macquarie a plan for the education of Aboriginal people in 'useful skills', including religion and morals, and domestic duties for women and girls in preparation for marriage. Macquarie enthusiastically agreed and established the 'Black Native Institution of NSW' at Parramatta, installing Shelley as the manager. Some children were 'selected', others coerced and others sent by their families – until they realised they could only visit them once a year at the Annual Feast. Macquarie even ordered that any children captured or orphaned during his 1816 military campaign were to be brought to the school.

Macquarie's efforts to as he called it 'civilise' Aboriginal people also centred on the Annual Feast that began in the same year as the Institution, and with the hope of attracting parents from across the Sydney region to hand their children over to the school. People were recorded having travelled from the south coast and southern highlands in 1843 to attend the feast, which proved a more enduring institution in Parramatta than the school. By the 1830s the practice of issuing blankets at the feast had turned into a kind of census of Aboriginal people (Hassall 1902: 17-20, Gapps 2010).

Throughout the 19th century Aboriginal people continued to attend the feast and an Aboriginal population of considerable size remained in the surrounding locality well into the 1830s. Large gatherings of several hundred people regularly occurred to the south at The Cowpastures near Camden and at the 1833 Annual Feast at Parramatta, apparently 800 Aboriginal people attended. From 1833 it was moved from December to March in order to issue blankets and clothing to Aboriginal people before winter. People travelling to the feast from the west would apparently camp at Clay Cliff Creek, others would camp near the Toll house on the Western Road. John Taylor recalled that after the feast, hundreds of Aboriginal people would 'gather for an evening corroboree on the vacant ground on the corner of Macquarie and Marsden streets' in Parramatta. Even in the 1860s and 1870s ceremonial occasions still brought people together across the region. Thomas Fowlie recalled two campsites at Granville at this time where people stopped en route to receive blankets at Parramatta, and performed 'corroborees by night, until by the close of the seventies they ceased to come'. James Hassall noted a camp near Prospect, where in the 1830s traditional combats occurred prior to attending the feast (Hassall 1902: 17-20, Fowlie 2001).

Between 1828 and 1834 the so-called 'blanket returns' noted a 'Parramatta Tribe' with around 40 people. Many of these were from the wider districts including Duck River, Ryde and Concord, showing that people were still able to survive in and around the present-day Concord area. However, by 1841 there were only 11 people from the Weymaly or Prospect area. By the 1840s, closer settlement between Parramatta and Sydney had pushed many Aboriginal people away from their traditional lands (Kass & Liston 1996: 106).

Much language spoken across the Sydney region was in effect stolen from Aboriginal people forced to learn English and not speak traditional languages at school or in public under threat of their children being taken away. Still, a number of early colonial word lists such as those given by Sydney woman Patyegarang to William Dawes, form the basis of language revival today. Some Sydney words became widespread across Australia such as corroboree, dingo, cooe, waratah and woomera. In many suburbs across Sydney, Aboriginal placenames were incorporated into suburbs or street names such as Maroubra, Bondi, Turramurra, Cabramatta and Bunnerong to name a few (Dawes 2009: v-vii; Troy, 1992; Karskens, 2009: 33).

Many of Sydney's roads and streets today follow the original tracks and pathways that had been used for millennia by Aboriginal people. Indeed, the shape of the city's road networks and the city itself owes a great deal to the early colonists simply taking the easiest and most practical solution in building roads along pre-existing trackways. When the colonists arrived in 1788 and began journeying out from Sydney Cove they often followed pathways, or as Surgeon John White wrote in May 1788, 'we fell in with an Indian path'. As Sydney language expert Jakelin Troy notes, it often made sense the colonists would use established pathways particularly in avoiding dense forest areas and rugged terrain. Troy has noted how these pathways were used for 'visiting family, collecting food or conducting ceremonies'. According to Paul Irish, the Europeans pronounced the local Sydney Aboriginal word for a pathway or track as 'Maroo' (White, 1790 [2003], Daniel, 2018).

In more recent times, with the lessening of restrictions on movement, especially after the citizenship referendum of 1967, many Aboriginal people came to Sydney looking for work and opportunities. While most went to the established Redfern community in the city, the western suburbs of Sydney also saw a significant growth in numbers of Aboriginal people. While numbers of descendants of Darug people were also now able to assert their heritage, other Aboriginal people moving into the area began to form new attachments to places such as the Parramatta River and harbour foreshores. These ongoing and new attachments to Country as well as a shared culture and history, unites Aboriginal communities across Sydney today (Kohen, 2009: 2).

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

4.1 AHIMS search

NOTE: The location of Aboriginal sites is considered culturally sensitive information. It is advised that this information, including the AHIMS data appearing on mapping below must be removed from this report if it is to enter the public domain.

An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information System (AHIMS) was undertaken 28 April 2023 (Client Service ID 783289), during Artefact's AHA (2023) to determine the location of Aboriginal sites in relation to the current study area. The search included a square two kilometre by two-kilometre buffer around the centroid of the study area to inform the characterisation of the local archaeological context. The AHIMS search parameters were as follows:

GDA 1994 MGA 56	E 321670.0 – 325670.0 N 6252325.0 – 6256325.0
Buffer	0
Number of sites	23

The search determined that there were no AHIMS registered sites within the study area and 23 registered sites within 2 km of the study area. The results of the search are summarised in Table 3. One restricted site (AHIMS ID 45-6-3022) was included in these results. Consultation with Heritage NSW had confirmed by email that this site was not within the study area (Section 15.2).

Table 3 Frequency of site features from AHIMS data

Site Types	Frequency	Percentage
Artefact & Shell	12	52.3
Artefact	5	21.7
Shell	3	13
Art (rock engraving)	2	8.7
Restricted	1	4.3
Total	23	100%

Aboriginal occupation covered the whole of the landscape, though the availability of fresh water and resources was a significant factor in repeated and long-term occupation. Certain site types, such as culturally modified trees, are particularly vulnerable to destruction through historical occupation. As a result, more resilient site types, such as stone artefacts, are predominant in the archaeological record. Because of this, the nature and location of registered Aboriginal sites is an imperfect reflection of past Aboriginal occupation. Furthermore, the surviving archaeological record is also a reflection not only of historical land-use, disturbance, and the post-depositional events, but also reflects the sampling bias of previous archaeological investigation. The overlay of the AHIMS data against aerial imagery, provided in Figure 2, indicated that Aboriginal objects are present within the wider area despite extensive landscape modification.

The nature of AHIMS registered sites listed in Table 3 indicates a preference for marine resource utilisation surrounding the study area. The preservation of such sites, predominantly along foreshores

also reflects the general lower levels of soil disturbance characteristically present in such locations, which often include reserves and beaches that have not been subject to the same rates of development as further inland. The nearest registered sites (Figure 3) to the study area are both located over 350m to the south east, across Yaralla Bay. These are sites AHIMS ID 45-6-2324, and 45-6-2300, two separate shell middens containing artefacts. To the north east, over 500m from the study area, on Rocky Point, two additional sites are present. These are site AHIMS ID 45-6-1894, a rock engraving, and site AHIMS ID 45-6-1937, a shell midden containing artefacts.

Figure 2 Distribution of AHIMS sites in relation to broader study area

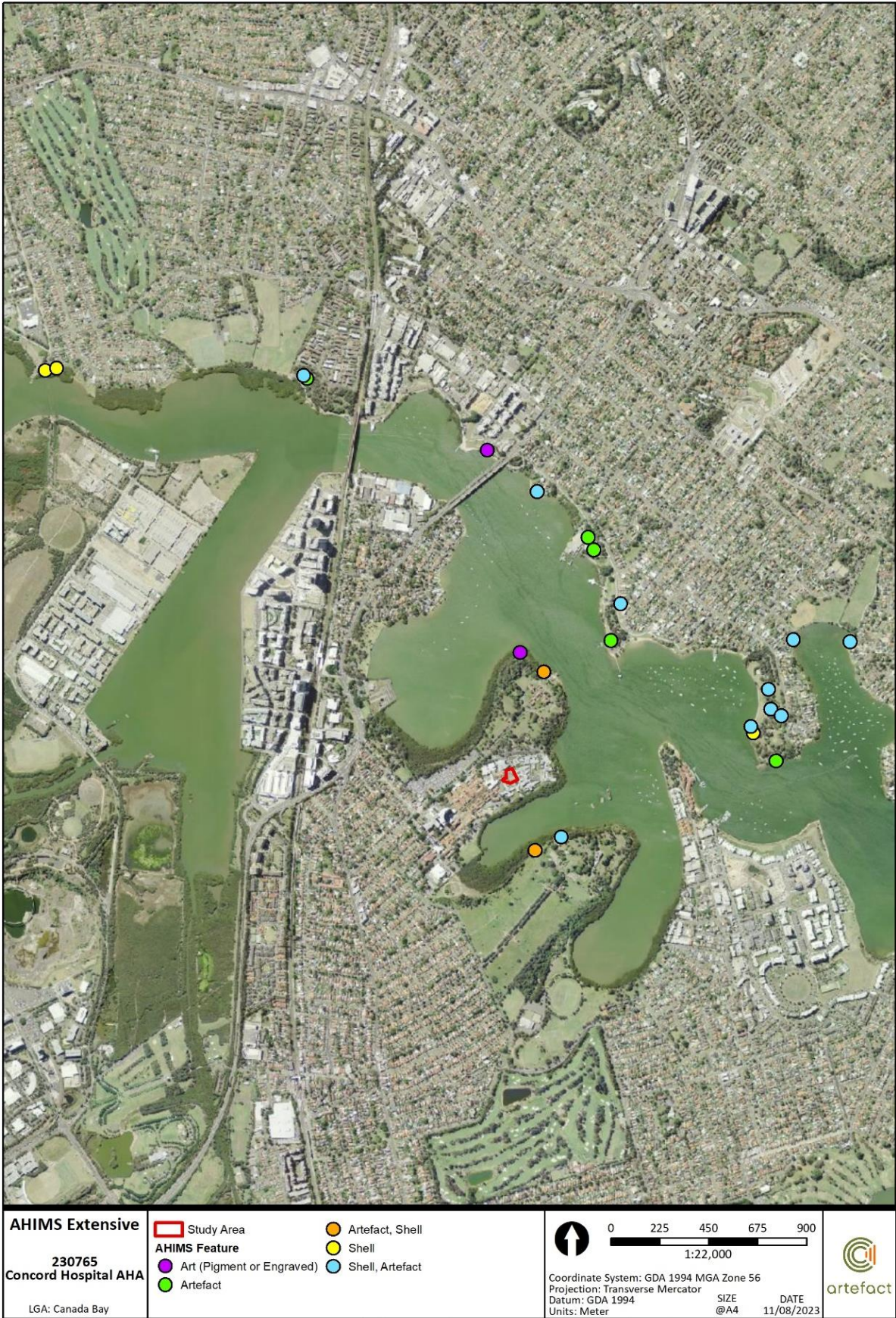
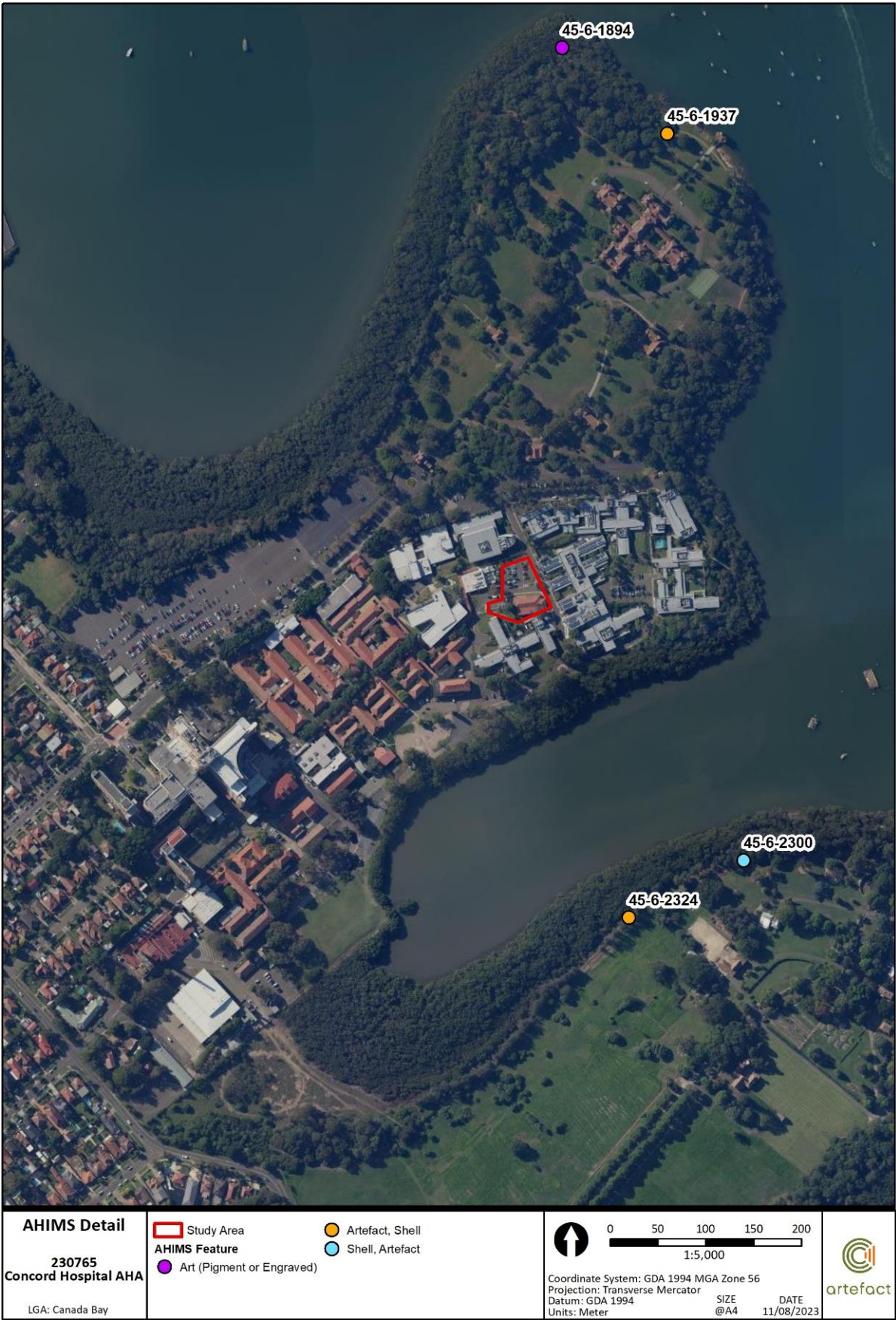


Figure 3 Detailed distribution of AHIMS sites in proximity to the study area



4.2 Review of existing archaeological literature

4.2.1 Regional area

Traditional Aboriginal tribal boundaries within Australia have been reconstructed, primarily, based on surviving linguistic evidence and are therefore only approximations. Social interaction, tribal boundaries and linguistic evidence may not always correlate, and it is likely boundaries and interaction levels varied and fluctuated over time. The language group spoken on the Cumberland Plain is known as Darug (Dharruk – alternative spelling). This term was used for the first time in 1900 by Matthews and Everitt (Matthews and Everitt 1900: 265). The Darug language group is thought to have extended from Appin in the south to the Hawkesbury River, west of the Georges River, Parramatta, the Lane Cove River and to Berowra Creek (Attenbrow 2010: 34). This area was home to a number of different clan groups.

Aboriginal people have lived in the Sydney region for up to 30,000 years, as indicated by radiocarbon dating undertaken in Parramatta (Jo McDonald CHM 2005b: 87-94). Evidence of Aboriginal occupation has been found dated to 50-60,000 BP at Lake Mungo in NSW suggesting a likelihood that Aboriginal people have lived in the Sydney region for even longer than indicated by the oldest recorded dates known at present. The archaeological material record provides evidence of this long occupation, but also provides evidence of a dynamic culture that has changed through time. The existing archaeological record is limited to certain materials and objects that were able to withstand degradation and decay. As a result, the most common type of Aboriginal objects remaining in the archaeological record are stone artefacts. Over 4,000 Aboriginal sites are registered across the Cumberland Plain on the AHIMS database.

4.2.2 Local Area

Several previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the vicinity of the study area. Summaries of relevant, publicly accessible studies, and unpublished reports are provided below. Biosis (2018) have previously conducted an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence report for proposed redevelopment within Concord Hospital, including the current study area. Several of the results within Biosis (2018) have been included in this section.

City of Ryde: Aboriginal Site Management Report (Aboriginal Heritage Office 2011)

In 2011, the Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO) undertook a broad assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage for the City of Ryde Council. The report included land on the foreshores bounding Parramatta River, directly opposite the study area. An AHIMS search was conducted, which determined that middens along the Parramatta River foreshore were the most common site type, followed by shelters containing midden deposits. The results of the AHIMS search conducted by AHO are therefore comparable to those included within the present study. The report stated that within the sandstone-dominated landscape, tidal marine subsistence resources would have provided an integral part of daily life within the area. The shell middens typically present along the foreshores of the Parramatta River were stated as containing evidence of the consumption of Sydney oyster, cockle shells and other edible sized shellfish.

Glades Bay Park, Gladesville: Aboriginal Archaeological Test Excavation Report (Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology 2015)

In 2015, Steele prepared an Aboriginal Archaeological Test Excavation Report for Glades Park Bay, Gladesville, on the banks of the Parramatta River, located approximately 2 kilometres east of the study area. The test excavation investigated AHIMS Site #45-6-0531, a small foreshore open shell midden. The aim of the test excavation program was to determine the extent of AHIMS 45-6-

0531. The results of the test excavation program determined that the extent of AHIMS 45-6-0531 was limited to a rocky outcrop, slightly above the high-water mark of the Parramatta River. The report concluded that it was unlikely for any further subsurface archaeological material associated with the shell midden to be present within the immediate area. As middens were determined to be the most common site type within the current study, these results are significant to understanding the extent of midden deposits in mangrove areas surrounding the Parramatta River foreshore.

Concord Hospital Redevelopment: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment (Biosis 2018)

Biosis (2018) undertook an Aboriginal Due Diligence assessment for the Concord Hospital, including the current study area. An AHIMS search identified 70 Aboriginal sites within 4 kilometres of the study area but did not return any results within the study area. A site survey of the study area was undertaken, and previous areas of disturbance noted. Visibility was found to be low throughout the study area due to standing structures and associated infrastructure, including roads, pavements, and carparks. No previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified during the survey, and the study area was assessed as having low archaeological potential. These results were contrasted against geotechnical testing undertaken by Coffey (2018), who had reported significant sub-surface modification to the soil profiles, notably layers of fill at depths of up to 1.4 metres, overlying geological formations. Recommendations were that no further archaeological work was required in the study area due to the entire study area being assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Meadowbank Education Precinct - Multi-Trades & Digital Technology Hub: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (AMBS 2019)

In 2019, AMBS conducted an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Meadowbank Education Precinct - Multi-Trades & Digital Technology Hub, located approximately 2.5 kilometres north west of the study area. The assessment included a predictive model which identified that middens, and shelters with middens were the most common site types to be present, and that these site types would be located in proximity to the Parramatta River, in association with shellfish resources. An archaeological survey of the study area was undertaken, where no Aboriginal sites, places or objects, or areas of potential Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity were identified. The survey identified that the study area had been subjected to significant disturbance, associated with initial land clearing, alteration of the natural landform, and construction of the car park, Children's centre, electrical substation, and associated infrastructure. The assessment therefore concluded that it was unlikely for Aboriginal objects, or subsurface archaeological deposits to be present within the study area.

Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct Schools Project: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Urbis 2019)

In 2019, Urbis conducted an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct, located approximately 2.7 kilometres northwest of the study area. An extensive AHIMS search was undertaken as part of the assessment, which found that all archaeological sites were located south of the Schools Precinct study area, in close proximity to the Parramatta River. A preliminary geotechnical investigation was undertaken in the form of 16 boreholes in 2018. The results demonstrated that the TAFE site had been constructed on fill, likely deposited during the 1940s. The depth of fill was found to vary across the subject site, ranging from 0.5m deep to 4.4m deep, depending on the site topography. Based on analyses of the environmental context, geology, archaeological investigations undertaken in the local area, and historical ground disturbance, a predictive model was prepared which suggested that low to no-potential existed for intact, in-situ archaeological material to be present. Historical site use and development suggested there had been extensive disturbance including buildings, landscaping and

surfaces such as hardstand and carparks. Therefore, the assessment considered that undisturbed deposits were unlikely.

Meadowbank Public School: Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment. Report (Artefact Heritage Services. 2022)

In 2022, Artefact conducted an Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence report for Meadowbank Public School, located approximately 2km north of the study area. The results of the AHIMS search were consistent with the search results within this report, which found the most abundant site feature to be “Artefact, Shell”, representing locations where a stone artefact was found within a shell midden. Sites were also noted as being predominantly located adjacent to the Parramatta River, on undeveloped land. The site inspection found that the mid and southern parts of the Meadowbank study were subject to less previous ground disturbance. These areas were assessed as having the potential to yield unimpacted natural soils beneath the concrete and asphalt surfaces, and under the topsoil in the playing field. However, it was concluded that as the Meadowbank study area was not adjacent to the Parramatta River, had been subject to development, and contained no sensitive landforms, Aboriginal objects were unlikely to be present within the study area.

6 Grand Avenue, Rosehill: Archaeological Technical Report (Artefact Heritage Services 2023a)

In May 2023, Artefact prepared an Archaeological Technical Report for 6 Grand Avenue, Rosehill, located approximately 6 kilometres west of the study area. The report prepared a predictive model, which correlated archaeological sensitivity with relatively undisturbed areas where natural landforms still existed; and where natural vegetation remained extant. The Rosehill study area was found to be heavily disturbed, which supported the conclusions of the background research and predictive model. It was found that despite the proximity of the Parramatta River and the Aboriginal potential usually associated with watercourses, the level of disturbance indicated that there was little potential for Aboriginal sites or objects to be present within the study area. It was therefore concluded that the study area contained nil-low archaeological potential to retain intact archaeological deposits.

4.3 Historic records of Aboriginal material cultural

Aboriginal people have lived in the Sydney region for up to 30,000 years, as indicated by radiocarbon dating undertaken in Parramatta (Jo McDonald CHM 2005b: 87-94). Stone tools found within the broader Parramatta region provide insight into the area's long-term occupation by Aboriginal people.

The City of Canada Bay is part of the traditional lands of the Wangal clan, one of the 29 tribes of the Eora nation. The Wangal were a clan of the Darug (sometimes spelt Dharug) tribe or language group. They called themselves the Eora, meaning ‘the people’. The Wangal clan’s territory is thought to have originally extended from Darling Harbour, around the Balmain Peninsula (including Goat Island (called Me-mel or Memill) almost to Parramatta in the west, the Parramatta River formed the northern boundary although it is uncertain how far south their land extended. The Wangal are believed to have occupied the area for over 20,000 years (City of Canada Bay n.d).

Some areas, particularly resource rich ones, had shared boundaries or reciprocal rights with bordering and neighbouring groups. With appropriate permission and protocols, people could travel through and hunt on other groups’ lands. On special occasions such as feasts associated with the beaching of a whale; a kangaroo hunt on the open forests of southwestern Sydney; trading or exchanging stone, tools and other items, as well as ceremonial occasions, people would often travel long distances around and from outside the Sydney region (Gammage, 2012).

With several rivers and estuarine coastal areas, the Sydney region sustained a comparatively large population, unlike more arid inland areas. Fish and shellfish were a major part of Saltwater peoples’ diets. The nawi (tied-bark canoe) was a common sight both day and night in rivers and creeks and

was even dexterously paddled off the coast. There are many accounts by early colonists of Aboriginal people in canoes fishing and cooking their catch on small fires on hearth stones within the vessels. Women were the primary fishers from nawi (men usually fished with spears). Women were highly skilled with shell hooks and twine fishing lines and thus played an important economic role in Sydney. They were noted as cradling their children while fishing, as their songs floated across the waters of Sydney Harbour (Banks, 1770 [2005]; Attenbrow, 2010: 38).

During the summer months, the Wangal gathered much of their food from along the Parramatta River (City of Canada Bay n.d). Parramatta River would have facilitated ample subsistence resources, including fish, eel, ducks, crayfish, shellfish, molluscs, and turtles. Shell middens, typically found along the historic foreshores of the Parramatta River also provide evidence that Sydney oyster, cockle shells and other edible sized shellfish were consumed (AHO 2011). Woodland areas surrounding the river would have also facilitated resources through foraging and hunting, including wallabies, kangaroos, possums, flying foxes, goannas and other reptile species (Steele 2002, p.19).

The lands behind the foreshores of Canada Bay were open forest. Here, people focused on hunting small animals, gathering plants and catching freshwater fish and eels. Banksia flowers, wild honey, varieties of yam and burrawang nuts (macrozamia - a cycad palm with poisonous seeds that require processing to remove toxins) were recorded as important food sources. Xanthorrhoea, also known as the grass tree, had many uses - the nectar was eaten, the stalk used as a spear and the resin as a glue. Small animals such as bandicoots and wallabies were hunted with traps and snares. Watkin Tench noted the skill in cutting toeholds in trees to swiftly climb to hunt possums (Tench, 1793 [2004]: 82, 230; Kohen, 1986: 77; Kohen, 1985: 9; Brook & Kohen, 1991: 3; Attenbrow, 2010: 41).

The source materials required to manufacture stone tools such as adzes, axes and blades were available within the local area (Biosis 2018). Just one kilometre east of the study area at Homebush Bay, silcrete and other fine-grained siliceous material were available. Duck River is also located approximately seven kilometres west of the study area and would have provided Quaternary alluvium and Tertiary laterites (Biosis 2018). Approximately ten kilometres to the northwest, The St Mary's formation, near Blacktown, may have also provided a silcrete source (Artefact 2014, p. 22).

The Sydney region was a landscape rich with the imprints of activity, art and culture such as rock engravings and paintings, scarred and carved trees, ceremonial rock and mound structures, cooking ovens, villages of bark huts, stone tool quarries, grinding grooves and tool-making sites, burial and other shell middens, and other artefacts. All this activity had a lasting impact on the landscape, and many elements such as rock engravings in particular survive or have been kept intact or cared for by community members. Over time, many Aboriginal pathways were taken up by the colonists and made into roads, some such as the Parramatta Road, still on the same routes today. 'Kangaroo grounds' (such as Petersham) became colonial estates, fishing creeks became drains, hills and peaks used for communication became signalling stations and lookouts, and shell middens became the limestone for the bricks and mortar of early colonial buildings. Some surviving middens can still be seen at places such as Rodd Point (Griffiths, 2018: 241).

The large swathes of Hawkesbury sandstone across the Sydney region were the canvas for what has been likened to an enormous open air art gallery – engravings of the outlines of spirit creatures, marsupials, birds, fish, weapons, footprints and even European boats alongside people, showing a continuity that carried on beyond the arrival of British colonisers in 1788. This Sydney art tradition was distinctive from other regions such as inland New South Wales where carved trees were more prominent, or further south where painting dominates. There are more than 4,000 known rock art sites and more than 3,000 rock shelters with pigment or painted art, often featuring hand stencils. The Sydney Basin has been compared to Kakadu National Park in terms of the vast numbers of Aboriginal sites that remain today (Karskens, 2009: 32; Griffith, 2018: 188; Mulvaney & Kamminga, 1999: 284, 376-381, McDonald, 2007).

Sydney Aboriginal society was not static and did not cease after contact with Europeans. Both material and cultural traditions of Aboriginal Sydney continued after the devastation to Aboriginal society, sometimes for example, by incorporating non-Aboriginal materials in traditional elements such as using glass and ceramics to make spear points and other tools. Twenty-nine engraved and pigment art sites have been dated to the period after European arrival. Some creation and other stories told to R. H. Mathews by Gundungurra (Gandangarra) people in 1901 were carried on for generations and survive today (Irish & Gowan, 2013: 61).

5.0 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

5.1 Soils and Geology

The study area is located within the Residual Blacktown Soil Landscape (Figure 4), which occurs extensively on the Cumberland Lowlands between the Georges and Parramatta Rivers. The geology of the Blacktown soil landscape is categorised as the Wianamatta Group, which consists of Ashfield and Bringelly Shales and Minchinbury Sandstone. Soils within the Blacktown soil landscape tend to be shallow to moderately deep (>1m), hard setting, mottled texture contrast soils. They typically comprise shallow to moderately deep red and brown podzolic soils, grading to yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and drainage lines (DPE 2023a). The characteristics and depth of the Blacktown soil landscape are conducive to the preservation of subsurface archaeological objects, such as lithics, which are likely to be present above the B Horizon. However, historic, and modern land use and clearance will have significantly impacted the survivability of Aboriginal objects within the study area.

The study area is also located on the boundary of the Erosional Lambert soil landscape (Figure 4). Soils within the Lambert soil landscape tend to be shallow (<500 mm) discontinuous Earthy Sands and yellow earths on crests and insides of benches; shallow (<200 mm) Siliceous Sands/Lithosols on leading edges; shallow to moderately deep (<1500 mm) Leached Sands, Grey Earths and Gleyed Podzolic Soils in poorly drained areas; localised Yellow Podzolic Soils associated with shale lenses (DPE 2023b). The four AHIMS sites located in proximity to the study area are all situated within the Lambert soil landscape (Figure 3). However, these sites were all recorded within relatively undisturbed locations, and on the banks of the Parramatta River. In contrast, the study area is located approximately 115 metres from the Parramatta River estuary, and in an area of extensive development, associated with the Concord Hospital Precinct. As the Lambert soil landscape exhibits a very high soil erosion hazard, historic, and modern land use and clearance may have impacted the survivability of Aboriginal objects within the Lambert soil landscape.

Coffey (2018) undertook a program of geotechnical testing within the Concord Hospital precinct. Coffey's report describes the soils underlying the current study area as being primarily fill at depths of 200 millimetres to 500 millimetres, with some sections up to 1.4 metres deep in some places. The fill layer is underlain by a layer of clay up to depths of 2.6 metres, with shale and laminate beneath this. The results of this study suggest that there is a high likelihood of soil disturbance resulting from historical activities in the study area. However, given the significant depths encountered during geotechnical testing, and the limited nature of test coring, natural soils also have the potential to be preserved beneath fill.

5.2 Hydrology and Landform

The landforms of the Blacktown soil landscape are predominantly gently undulating rises on Wianamatta Group shales. The maximum local relief tends to extend to 30m, with slopes typically greater than 5%. Ridges and crests are typically broad and rounded, with gently inclined slopes. The study area is located along a low ridgeline, which slopes gently towards Brays Bay to the northwest, and Yaralla Bay to the southeast, both parts of Port Jackson (Figure 5). While land clearing and development have altered the natural landforms, the relatively flat, and gently sloping topography within the study area would have provided preferable terrain en-route to the estuarine resources of Parramatta River.

The study area is located within approximately 115 metres of the Parramatta River estuary (Figure 5). The nearest known permanent freshwater sources are likely Archer Creek, located approximately 2.5 kilometres northwest of the study area, and Hallams Creek, located approximately 5 kilometres west of the study area. These creeks both drain into the Parramatta River's estuarine, salt water. Estuaries

are regarded by Aboriginal people as significant gathering places, and as mixing zones, facilitating ample foods and resources for toolmaking (Australian Museum 2022).

The underlying geology of the study area is sandstone which tends to facilitate the formation of pools and streams which may not be mapped, but would have provided water potentially closer to the study area than the waterways listed above. The presence nearby of sites such as middens and rock shelters likely reflect targeted utilisation of coastline resources.

5.3 Vegetation

Despite extensive modification to the natural landscape following European colonisation, previous archaeological research has indicated that from the Pleistocene onwards, the Parramatta floodplain was subject to long term, and repeated occupation by Aboriginal people (Steele 2002 p. 22). From historic records, the study area is described as containing large, well-spaced trees, with an understory dominated by grasses, and some Acacia species. Benson and Howell (1990, pp. 13-14) suggest that these large trees likely comprised grey box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) and forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*). They also note that along the river margins, above the tidal extremes, paperbarks (*Melaleuca linariifolia*), native apples (*Angophora floribunda*) and common reeds (*Phragmites australis*) would likely have been present. Below this point, Mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) would have been common. Many of these species would have provided food, medicine and resources for tool making to Aboriginal people (Artefact 2014, p. 21).

5.4 Historic land disturbance

Early to mid nineteenth century Concord remained largely undeveloped, heavily wooded and sparsely populated and featured the rudimentary dwellings of the few, early colonial grantees. Some of the land had been cultivated to produce vegetables, fruits and others cleared to facilitate the grazing of sheep, cattle and pigs. However, much of the area remained virgin forest. Although Concord was originally envisioned as an agricultural settlement, by the mid-1820s, it became apparent that the soil in the area was ill-suited for farming. Land use in the area, therefore, primarily consisted of land clearing, grazing and timber-getting (Coupe 1983) Such uses were sustained until the turn of the century (Coupe 1983).

The latter half of the nineteenth century saw the establishment of numerous 'gentlemen estates' including 'Yarralla House' (1840). Small land grants were gradually consolidated into large estates. This resulted in the construction of several grand residences in Concord during the mid to late nineteenth century (Coupe 1983). Of particular significance to the development of the study area and Concord district, was the establishment of the Thomas Walker Estate. The homogenous quality of present day Concord's suburban development and residential architecture is in large part due to the consolidation of such land by Walker.

On the site encompassing the study area, Concord Hospital was erected in 1941–1942 by the Department of the Army and was known as the '113th Australian General Hospital'. It was designed to cater for the treatment of members of the armed forces and received its first patient in March 1941. From inception the hospital was a large item of infrastructure, and ongoing development within the study area is evident in Figure 6 and Figure 7.

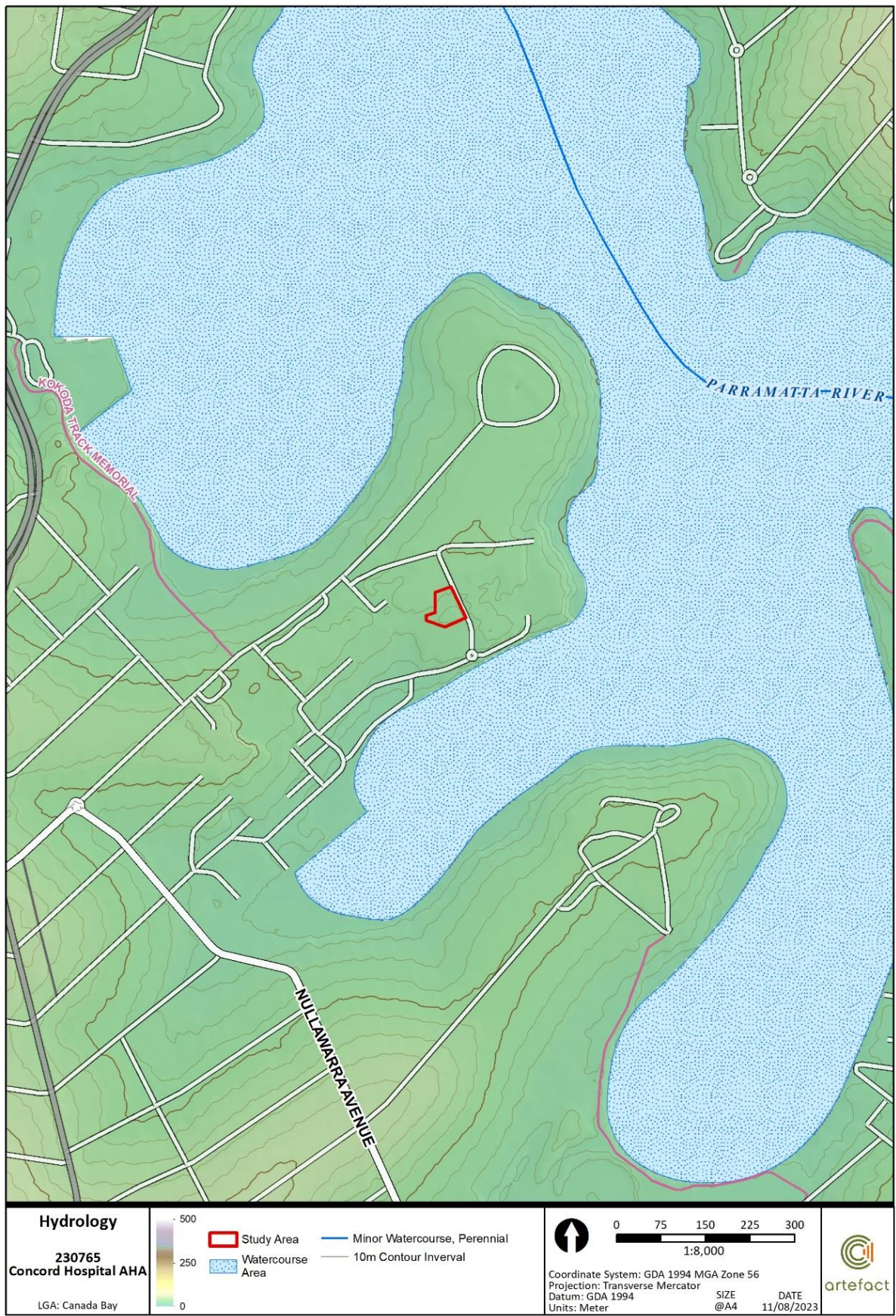
The administration of the Hospital was handed over to the Repatriation Commission in 1947. The Hospital, which is operated by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Veterans Affairs, at present has a patient capacity of 731; a total of 2,356 full-time and 193 part-time staff are employed. The study area now encompasses a small original hospital building constructed in 1941 and a carpark area.

Figure 4 Soil landscapes of the study area



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Figure 5 Topography and hydrology of the study area



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Figure 6 1943 Aerial imagery



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Figure 7 1960 Aerial imagery



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6.0 SUMMARY AND PREDICTIONS

6.1 Regional and local archaeological character

Artefact conducted a search of publicly accessible databases, historic records, publicly accessible studies, and unpublished reports which resulted in the retrieval of the information summarised in this report.

A contributing factor to the present study, and archaeology of the broader region is the nature and level of disturbance, and its impacts on Aboriginal heritage. Artefact's (2022) report concluded that as the Meadowbank study area had been subject to development, was not adjacent to the Parramatta River, and contained no sensitive landforms, Aboriginal objects were unlikely to be present within the study area. An additional report by Artefact (2023) found that despite proximity of the Rosehill study area to the Parramatta River and the Aboriginal potential usually associated with watercourses, the level of disturbance indicated that there was little potential for Aboriginal sites or objects to be present within the study area. The report by Biosis (2018) on the Concord Hospital Precinct incorporated Geotechnical investigations by Coffey (2018), which had recorded significant sub-surface modification to the soil profiles. Biosis' (2018) therefore assessed the entire study area being as having low archaeological potential.

Artefact Heritage (2023b) assessed that the potential shallow impact of the car park in the current study area and the potential shallow nature of some of the fill layer suggested that remnant natural landform may still be present beneath the asphalt. The possibility of this soil surface preservation required that a higher level of archaeological assessment (this report) be undertaken to more accurately examine the study area, and in particular to do so in consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

6.2 Predictive model

The predictive model comprises a series of statements regarding the nature and distribution of evidence of Aboriginal land use that is expected in the study area. These statements are based on the information gathered regarding:

- Landscape context and landform units
- Ethno-historical evidence of Aboriginal land use
- Distribution of natural resources
- Results of previous archaeological work within, and in vicinity of the study area
- The Cumberland Plain predictive model

The predictive statements are as follows.

- Shell middens, containing artefacts will be the most likely Aboriginal site types, per the AHIMS search results and Biosis (2018). It is likely these sites provide archaeological evidence of targeted utilisation of coastline resources. However, given the distance of the study area to the foreshore, it is unlikely midden deposits would extend into the study area, per Steele (2015).
- Identification of sites will be dependent on visibility, which is expected to be low per Artefact (2023b) and Biosis (2018)

- Sites are more likely to be located in areas of relatively minimal disturbance, per Biosis (2018), Artefact (2022) and Artefact (2023a).
- Areas of nil-low archaeological potential will be associated with extensive disturbance, per Biosis (2018), Artefact (2022) and Artefact (2023a).
- Higher density sites are more likely to occur in proximity to permanent freshwater sources, typically third order tributaries or higher, per the Cumberland Plain predictive model (White & McDonald 2010). Despite the proximity of the Parramatta River estuary, the nearest known permanent freshwater source is Archer Creek, located approximately 2.5 kilometres northwest of the study area. Therefore, due to the distance to permanent freshwater, higher density sites are unlikely to be present within the study area.
- Vegetation clearance associated with extensive development of the study area is likely to have affected the survival of any mature native trees, therefore the potential for Culturally modified trees is nil-low, as indicated by an AHIMS search of the surrounding area.
- Desktop research indicates the study area is unlikely to contain exposed rock surfaces. Therefore, the potential for shelter sites, rock engravings and axe grinding grooves is considered nil-low.

7.0 METHODOLOGY

7.1 Aims and objectives

The aims of archaeological survey are to:

- test the predictive model by ground truthing the findings of the desktop assessment
- identify and record all Aboriginal objects visible within the study area
- identify and define areas of PAD (as defined by the predictive model)
- gather enough information to assess scientific values of identified Aboriginal objects

7.2 Constraints and limitations

Visibility was found to be low throughout the study area during archaeological survey due to extensive coverage of asphalt surfaces and the original hospital building. The interior of the hospital building was not accessed.

7.3 Survey personnel

The archaeological survey of the study area was conducted by Dr Michael Lever (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage Services), Jonathan Bennett (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage Services) and Joshua Marr (Cultural Heritage Officer, Metropolitan LALC) on 28 August 2023.

7.4 Sample strategy

Archaeological survey of the study area was carried out as a pedestrian sample survey, limited to areas outside of the existing hospital building. This building's interior was excluded due to cover of the ground surface beneath it. Archaeological survey was completed utilising a single survey unit reflecting the study units' small size and consistent landform.

7.5 Survey procedure

Archaeological survey was conducted in accordance with the *Code of Practice*. All ground exposures were examined for Aboriginal objects and old growth trees were examined for signs of cultural scarring and marking.

The perimeter of the study area was walked, then the central portion of the study area, outside the hospital building was walked in parallel transects. A handheld GPS was used to track the path of the survey team and record coordinates of any identified Aboriginal sites or areas of interest. The coordinate system projection used for all recording was GDA94 MGA 56. Some inaccuracies in the GPS tracks were found, likely due to the surrounding buildings in the study area. A map of the actual transects as walked is provided in Figure 8. A photographic record was kept during the site inspection and scales were used for photographs where appropriate.

7.6 Site recording procedure

An Aboriginal site is generally defined as an Aboriginal object or place. An Aboriginal object is the material evidence of Aboriginal land use, such as stone tools, scarred trees or rock art. Some sites, or

Aboriginal places can also be intangible and although they might not be visible, these places have cultural significance to Aboriginal people.

Heritage NSW guidelines state, regarding site definition that one or more of the following criteria must be used when recording material traces of Aboriginal land use:

- The spatial extent of the visible objects, or direct evidence of their location
- Obvious physical boundaries where present, e.g., mound site and middens (if visibility is good), a ceremonial
- Identification by the Aboriginal community on the basis of cultural information.

No previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential were recorded during archaeological survey.

Figure 8 Survey path



8.0 RESULTS

No Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential were identified during the survey.

8.1 Description of survey units

The total study area covered a footprint of approximately 2600 m². The majority of the northern, central and western boundaries of the study area comprised the carpark, which limited visibility in these areas to nil, due to asphalt surfaces (Figure 9). Underground services and drainage were also found to be present, surrounding the hospital building, and perimeters of the carpark (Figure 10 and Figure 11). The northeastern boundary of the carpark was bounded by a grassed area containing two eucalypts, and areas of soil exposure, which included weathered shale (Figure 12). The hospital building was found to be elevated above the adjacent carpark ground surface by approximately 900 mm towards the northern boundary, and approximately 1300 mm towards the southern boundary (Figure 13 and Figure 14).

It is likely that this raised area was formed through scalping of local soils from surrounds, including areas of the car park and surrounds. Soils viewed in this raised area match descriptions of upper-unit Blacktown soils. Soils within levelled surrounds of car park asphalt included elements of shattered shale, suggesting that grading and excavation here had extended to bedrock below local soils.

An area of exposure associated with the elevated surface, located within the northeastern boundary of the hospital building was inspected, and found to be comprised predominantly of fill (Figure 16), including shattered ceramics, glass and gravel. The presence of fill suggests that landscape modification associated with the hospital building has been additive in nature, effectively raising the ground surface above the adjacent ground surface level. It is also likely that soils outside the hospital building have been lowered relative to soils associated with the building footprint, as suggested above.

A mature melaleuca tree was also located towards the southern boundary of the hospital building (Figure 15). Analyses of historic imagery confirmed that the tree was not present in 1943 (Figure 6). This, and the general absence of mature vegetation in historical images would indicate that the area had been extensively graded and cleared prior to construction, no signs of cultural scarring and marking were present on this tree.

During survey, Joshua Marr (Cultural Heritage Officer, Metropolitan LALC) advised that it was evident that the study area had been subject to significant disturbance. Further, that although in his opinion limited local soils may be located beneath the asphalt surfaces, nevertheless this would not warrant further formal archaeological investigation

Figure 9 Overview of car park and study area, facing south west



Figure 10 Southern study area boundary showing services, facing north west



Figure 11 Car Park from northeast corner old building, facing north west



Figure 12 Characteristic level of vegetation (grass) cover, facing down and north



Figure 13 Raised soil levels at rear of hospital building, facing south



Figure 14 Raised soil levels at front of hospital building, facing northwest



Figure 15 Mature tree, at southern study area boundary, facing north



Figure 16 Fill in northeast corner of old hospital building, facing south



8.2 Analysis of survey coverage and effectiveness

The Code of Practice (DECCW 2010a) specifies that survey coverage should be assessed to the nearest 10%, and provides the following definitions:

Visibility:

is the amount of bare ground (or visibility) on the exposures which might reveal artefacts or other archaeological materials. It is important to note that visibility, on its own, is not a reliable indicator of the detectability of buried archaeological material. Things like vegetation, plant or leaf litter, loose sand, stony ground or introduced materials will affect the visibility. Put another way, visibility refers to 'what conceals'

Exposure:

is different to visibility because it estimates the area with a likelihood of revealing buried artefacts or deposits rather than just being an observation of the amount of bare ground. It is the percentage of land for which erosion and exposure was sufficient to reveal archaeological evidence on the surface of the ground. Put another way, exposure refers to 'what reveals'

The survey unit comprised approximately 2,600m². Overall, visibility was assessed as being low, estimated at 3% and overall exposure being very low, estimated at 2%. Effective survey coverage is outlined in Table 4, and landform survey coverage is outlined in Table 5. Survey coverage is calculated as being nil as ground visibility and exposure must be calculated in increments of 10% in accordance with the *Code of Practice*.

Table 4: Effective survey coverage

Survey Unit	Landform	Survey unit area (m ²)	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Survey Coverage (m ²)	Effective Coverage (%)
1	Level land	2,600	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Landform survey coverage

Landform	Landform area (m ²)	Area effectively surveyed (m ²)	% of landform surveyed	Number of sites
1	Level land	2,600	0	0

8.3 Summary of Results

In summary, the effective survey area was nil, and the landform effectively surveyed was nil. No previously recorded sites were located within the study area. No additional sites or areas of PAD were identified during the survey undertaken.

The landforms considered likely to contain Aboriginal objects, as defined by this ASR's predictive model were not identified within the study area. Areas of nil-low archaeological potential were predicted to be associated with extensive disturbance, per Biosis (2018), Artefact (2022) and Artefact (2023a) which was consistent with the results of this survey.

9.0 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Estuaries themselves are regarded by Aboriginal people as significant gathering places, and as mixing zones, facilitating ample foods and resources for toolmaking (Australian Museum 2022). The results of the extensive AHIMS search found the majority of AHIMS sites to be middens, containing artefacts located along the banks of the Parramatta River, which support these statements. However, given the distance of the study area to the foreshore, it is unlikely midden deposits would extend into the study area (Steele 2015).

Coffey (2018) had previously undertaken a program of geotechnical testing within the Concord Hospital precinct. Coffey's report described the soils underlying the current study area as being primarily fill at depths of 200 millimetres to 500 millimetres, with some sections up to 1.4 metres deep in some places. These results had suggested there was a high likelihood of soil disturbance resulting from historical activities in the study area. The results of the site survey were found to be consistent with the geotechnical testing results, as fill, and elevated surfaces were recorded in association with the old hospital building (Figure 16). Given the amount of disturbance associated with the building works, carpark, services, and the shallow depth of archaeological deposits associated with the Blacktown Soil landscape, it has been assessed that Aboriginal objects are unlikely to be present within the study area.

Overall, the survey did not identify any Aboriginal objects and has found that there are no registered sites within the study area, and no evidence for archaeological potential within the study area. The findings of this survey were informed by input from Joshua Marr (Cultural Heritage Officer, Metropolitan LALC)..

Given the feedback received from the Metropolitan LALC and the results of more detailed analysis and site inspection carried out for this report, Artefact has assessed that the study area is of nil-low likelihood to contain Aboriginal objects. These results are consistent with the predictive statements developed in Section 6.2 and the results of previous archaeological investigations within the local and regional area.

10.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

10.1 Significance assessment criteria

In accordance with the Code of Practice, an assessment of the scientific value of an Aboriginal object is required in order to form the basis of its management. The Guide provides the following criteria for the assessment of scientific value:

- Research potential - does the evidence suggest any potential to contribute to an understanding of the area and/or region and/or state's natural and cultural history?
- Representativeness - how much variability (outside and/or inside the subject area) exists, what is already conserved, how much connectivity is there?
- Rarity - is the subject area important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?
- Education potential - does the subject area contain teaching sites or sites that might have teaching potential?

It is important to note that heritage significance is a dynamic value.

10.2 Statement of scientific value

The study area is located along a low ridgeline and also located within approximately 115 metres of the Parramatta River estuary. Site survey has demonstrated that the study area has been subject to disturbance associated with the building works, carpark, services and services. The results of the site survey were found to be consistent with the geotechnical testing results, as fill, and elevated surfaces were recorded in association with the old hospital building. When these impacts are considered alongside the shallow depth of archaeological deposits associated with the Blacktown Soil landscape, it has been assessed that Aboriginal objects are unlikely to be present within the study area.

No Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD were identified during the survey. Consequently, the study area contains no research potential, representativeness, rarity and educational values. While cultural values are not addressed within this assessment, during the site survey, Joshua Marr (Cultural Heritage Officer, Metropolitan LALC) advised that while tangible values had not been identified within the study area, the intangible values were noteworthy. Joshua drew attention to the nearby AHIMS sites as providing material evidence associated with these intangible values.

11.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11.1 Description of likely impacts

The proposed project is a new purpose-built Low and Medium secure forensic mental health unit within the Sydney Local Health District. The proposal incorporates the *Functional Brief* and Model of care principles and is planned to have 18 Medium secure forensic beds, 24 low secure forensic beds, as well as clinical support spaces, outdoor secure courtyard spaces and amenities.

The proposed new development contains three levels and replaces an existing sealed car park space and original hospital building. This new mental health secure facility features a contemporary aesthetic. Externally, the building features red face brick, custom orb cladding, exposed concrete, and aluminium battens. The proposal also contains two integrated courtyard spaces and two terrace spaces overlooking the courtyards.

The infrastructure Master plan (NBRS, 2023) lists the following potential early and enabling works to be considered (Figure 21):

- Demolition of Building 29
- Existing underground conduits (low and high voltage power) to be relocated outside of the new building footprint
- Existing substation fuses to be upgraded
- Existing stormwater main to be relocated outside of the new building footprint
- Existing water main to be relocated outside of the new building footprint
- Internal road works (ensuring existing Building 28 access is retained)

Relevant design drawings for the proposal are provided below (Figure 17 - Figure 22):

Figure 17 Proposed building footprint and access, not to scale (Source: NBRIS, 2023)

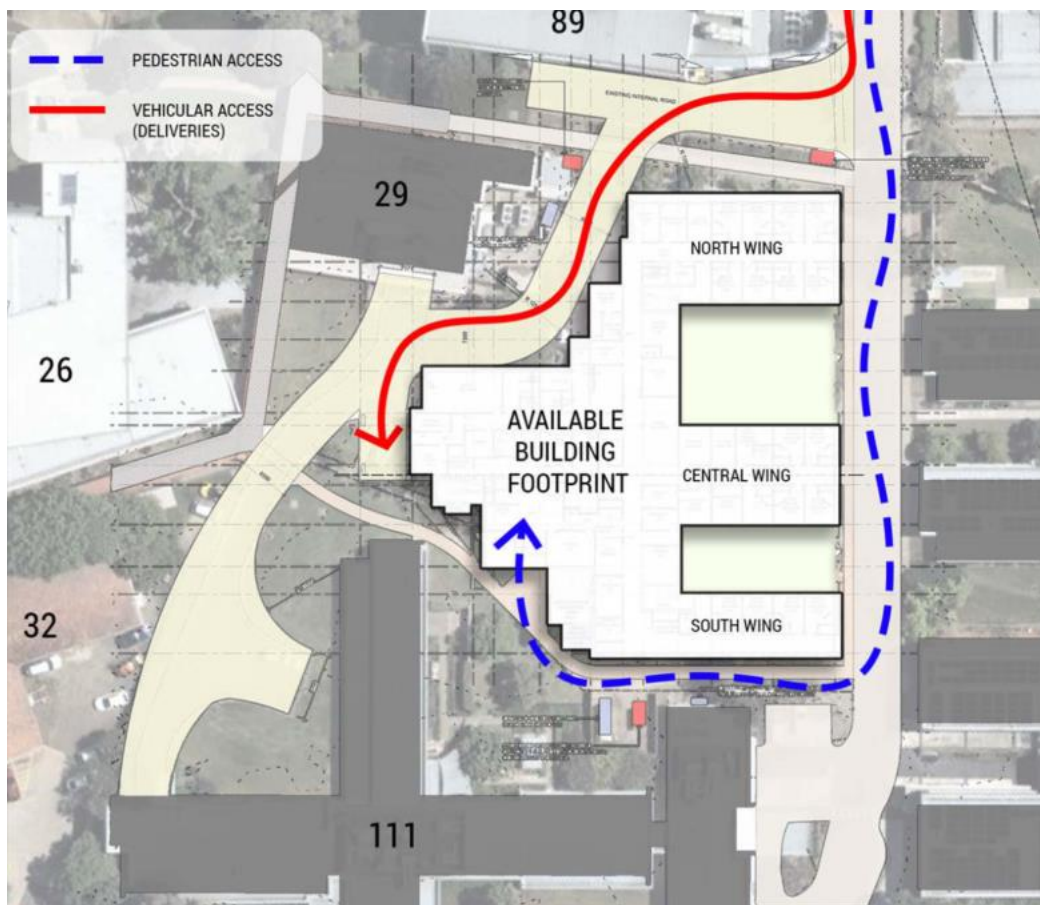


Figure 18 Proposed landscaping, not to scale (Source: NBRIS, 2023).



[illegible]

Figure 20 Proposed western and southern elevations (Source: NBRs, 2023)



Figure 21 Infrastructure Master Plan (Source: NBRs, 2023)



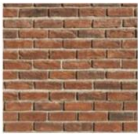
Figure 22 Renders of the new development with proposed exterior material palette (Source: NBRs, 2023).



CUSTOM ORB - DARK



CUSTOM ORB - LIGHT



FEATURE BRICK



EXPOSED CONCRETE



ALUMINIUM WINDOW SHROUD



TIMBER-LOOK ALUMINIUM BATTENS



ALUMINIUM BATTENS

11.2 Potential harm to Aboriginal heritage

The study area is located along a low ridgeline and also located within approximately 115 metres of the Parramatta River estuary. Site survey has demonstrated that the study area has been subject to disturbance associated with the building works, carpark, services and services. The results of the site survey were found to be consistent with the geotechnical testing results, as fill, and elevated surfaces were recorded in association with the old hospital building. When these impacts are considered alongside the shallow depth of archaeological deposits associated with the Blacktown Soil landscape, it has been assessed that Aboriginal objects are unlikely to be present within the study area.

There are no previously recorded sites within the study area and the archaeological survey undertaken did not identify any Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD. Therefore, the proposed works are unlikely to impact any Aboriginal objects.

12.0 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

12.1 Guiding principles

The overall guiding principle for cultural heritage management is that where possible Aboriginal sites should be conserved.

Where unavoidable impacts occur then measures to mitigate and manage impacts are proposed. Mitigation measures primarily concern preserving the heritage values of sites beyond the physical existence of the site. The most common methods involve detailed recording of Aboriginal objects, archaeological test and salvage excavations, artefact analysis and, where appropriate, reburial of Aboriginal objects in a location determined by the RAPs.

Mitigation measures vary depending on the assessment of archaeological significance of a particular Aboriginal site and are based on its research potential, rarity, representatives and educational value. In general, the significance of a site would influence the choice of preferred conservation outcomes and appropriate mitigation measures, usually on the following basis:

- Low archaeological significance – conservation where possible. An AHIP would be required to impact the site before work can commence.
- Moderate archaeological significance – conservation where possible. If conservation was not practicable, further archaeological investigation would be required such as salvage excavations or surface collection in accordance with the AHIP.
- High archaeological significance – conservation as a priority. Where all other practical alternatives have been discounted mitigation measures such as comprehensive salvage excavations in accordance with the AHIP.

Sites of unknown scientific value should be conserved where possible. Where conservation is not practical further investigation under the Code of Practice will be required to confirm the presence of Aboriginal objects and gather enough information to assess significance. Test excavation is not a mitigation measure, it is an investigatory action required to gather enough information to inform the development of appropriate mitigation measures.

As no Aboriginal objects were identified and it is considered unlikely that Aboriginal objects will be present within the study area, works may proceed with caution without mitigation. Unexpected finds of Aboriginal objects are protected under the NPW Act and an unexpected finds policy should be implemented to manage Aboriginal objects that may be encountered during works. During the site visit, Joshua Marr (Cultural Heritage Officer, Metropolitan LALC) advised that if monitoring of works were required as part of the project, that a Cultural Heritage Officer from Metropolitan LALC should be present.

12.2 Unexpected finds procedure

Unexpected Aboriginal objects remain protected by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. An unexpected finds procedure must be prepared for the project which outlines requirements for consultation, reporting and management of unexpected finds. An unexpected finds procedure must take into consideration the following:

Aboriginal Objects

- An unexpected finds procedure must be prepared ahead of the proposed works commencing. This procedure must be reviewed by a heritage professional. If an unexpected find is encountered while the proposed works are undertaken, further assessment, reporting, consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, and approvals under the *NPW Act 1974* may be required prior to works recommencing.

Human Skeletal Remains

If human remains, or suspected human remains, are discovered during project works, the following actions will be taken:

- All ground-disturbing works in the area of the remains will cease immediately following the discovery. The discoverer of the remains will notify machinery operators in the area to ensure work is halted.
- The remains will not be removed from the area or disturbed in any other way.
- The area will be secured by use of protective barriers to ensure no harm can occur to the remains.
- The site supervisor, the project manager, and the client will be immediately informed of the discovery.
- The project archaeologist will be informed of the discovery. The project archaeologist will determine if further assessment of the suspected remains is required. A specialist in the identification of human remains will need to be engaged to undertake this assessment.
- If it is determined that the suspected remains are not human, work can recommence.
- If it is determined that the suspected remains are human, or are likely to be, the following steps must occur, in accordance with the relevant legislation (including the Coroners Act 2009, the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, and the Heritage Act 1977).
- Notify the following organisations:
 - NSW Police
 - Heritage NSW – 1300 361 967
- The NSW Police will determine if the suspected human remains are human and if they represent a crime scene. If the human remains are determined to represent a criminal act, the NSW Police will direct proceedings, including deciding when works may continue.
- If the NSW Coroner and NSW Police determine that the suspected human remains are human and are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, or non-Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, Heritage NSW will be responsible for determining the next course of action.
- All activities will be directed by Heritage NSW.
- Works cannot proceed on site until Heritage NSW determine that it is appropriate to do so.

12.3 Changes to the project area

Advice provided within this report is based upon the most recent information provided by the proponent at the time of writing. Any changes made to the project should be assessed by an

archaeologist in consultation with the RAPs. Any changes that may impact on Aboriginal sites not assessed as part of the project may warrant further investigation and result in changes to the recommended management and mitigation measures.

13.0 CONCLUSION

This report was completed in accordance with the requirements of and The Code of Practice (DECCW 2010a) and includes:

- Review of existing knowledge: Review of previous archaeological works and AHIMS search results.
- Review of the landscape context: Desktop assessment of the archaeological implications of the landscape features (soil landscapes, historic land use, geomorphic character, and natural resources) relevant to the study area.
- Summary and discussion of the local and regional archaeological character of Aboriginal land use and its material traces based on the finds of the previous two steps
- Development of a predictive model for the nature and distribution of archaeological evidence of Aboriginal land use based on the previous three steps.
- Completion of an archaeological survey to test the predictions developed in the previous step. A representative of the Metropolitan LALC participated in this survey.
- Discussion of the results of the archaeological survey and re-evaluation of the regional and local archaeological character.
- Assessment of likely impacts to Aboriginal objects and Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) based on the current proposed development.
- Consideration of any practical measures that may be required to protect and conserve identified Aboriginal objects and places identified within the study area

13.1 Summary of findings

The assessment found that the study area is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects based on:

- An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) which did not reveal any listed Aboriginal sites in the study area
- Sample survey of the study area, which did not identify any Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD
- Consultation with Joshua Marr (Cultural Heritage Officer, Metropolitan LALC) during the survey
- Comparison between the study area against the regional and archaeological character

13.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment, the following recommendations are made:

- As no sites or areas of PAD were identified within the study area, further archaeological assessment within the study area is not recommended.
- An unexpected finds procedure must be prepared ahead of the proposed works commencing. This procedure must be reviewed by a heritage professional. If an unexpected find is encountered while the proposed works are undertaken, further assessment, reporting,

consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, and approvals under the *NPW Act 1974* may be required prior to works recommencing.

- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impacts to areas not assessed by this ASR, further assessment would be required.
- It is recommended that Bd Infrastructure send a copy of this report to Metropolitan LALC.

14.0 REFERENCES

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15.0 APPENDICES

15.1 Appendix 1 – AHIMS records and results of database searches



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 230765

Client Service ID : 783289

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
45-6-3849	20Waterview Street_TU8	GDA	56	324244	6255463	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-		
	Contact	Recorders				Curio Projects Pty Ltd,Mx.Sam Conling		Permits		
45-6-2031	Putney park 1; RYDE 210	GDA	56	324969	6254650	Closed site	Valid	Shell :-, Artefact :-	Shelter with Midden	102489
	Contact	Recorders				Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office		Permits		
45-6-3137	Putney Park 6 RYDE235	GDA	56	324980	6254620	Open site	Valid	Shell :-		
	Contact	Recorders				Mr.Phil Hunt		Permits		
45-6-2556	Jetty Road RYDE 213	GDA	56	325164	6255050	Open site	Valid	Shell :-, Artefact :-	Midden	102142,102489
	Contact	Recorders				Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office		Permits		
45-6-2033	Morrison's Bay park; RYDE 214	GDA	56	325424	6255040	Closed site	Valid	Shell :-, Artefact :-	Shelter with Midden	102489
	Contact	Recorders				Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office		Permits		
45-6-2324	Yaralla Bay;Concord West Hospital;	AGD	56	323870	6253890	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-, Shell :-	Midden	
	Contact	Recorders				Michael Guider		Permits		
45-6-2557	Waterview Street - RYDE 205	GDA	56	323984	6255730	Open site	Valid	Shell :-, Artefact :-	Midden	102489
	Contact	Recorders				Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office		Permits		
45-6-2300	Rivendell 2;Concord West;	AGD	56	323990	6253950	Open site	Valid	Shell :-, Artefact :-	Midden	
	Contact	Recorders				Michael Guider		Permits		
45-6-4079	Ermington SHL 02	GDA	56	321720	6256287	Open site	Valid	Shell : 1		
	Contact	Recorders				Miss.Noni Ross		Permits		
45-6-4078	Ermington SHL 01	GDA	56	321771	6256298	Open site	Valid	Shell : 1		
	Contact	Recorders				Miss.Noni Ross		Permits		
45-6-2032	Bennelong park; RYDE 206	GDA	56	324369	6255215	Open site	Valid	Shell :-, Artefact :-	Midden	102489
	Contact	Recorders				Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office		Permits		
45-6-0534	Charity Point;Meadowbank Park;	GDA	56	322909	6256265	Open site	Valid	Shell :-, Artefact : 14	Midden,Open Camp Site	1308,2047,102196,102489
	Contact	Recorders				Val Attenbrow,Elizabeth Rich,Laura-Jane Smith,Miss.Lisa Smith,Aboriginal Heritage		Permits		
45-6-0031	Ryde;Ryde Bridge; RYDE 204	GDA	56	323754	6255920	Open site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) :-	Rock Engraving	102489
	Contact	Recorders				Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office		Permits		
45-6-3022	Restriction applied. Please contact ahimsa@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact	Recorders				Aboriginal Heritage Office		Permits		
45-6-3050	Charity Point 2 - Ryde 202	GDA	56	322924	6256250	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 14		
	Contact	Recorders				Aboriginal Heritage Office		Permits		
45-6-1894	Rivendell;	AGD	56	323800	6254800	Open site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) :-	Rock Engraving	
	Contact	Recorders				Rivendell School Students		Permits		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 18/05/2023 for Michael Lever for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 321670.0 - 325670.0, Northings : 6252325.0 - 6256325.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 23

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AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 230765

Client Service ID : 783289

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
45-6-1937	Rocky Point;Concord West;	AGD	56	323910	6254710	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Shell : -	Midden,Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider					<u>Permits</u>		
45-6-2029	Putney park 3; RYDE 208	GDA	56	325049	6254820	Closed site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Shelter with Midden	102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office					<u>Permits</u>		
45-6-2030	Putney park 2; RYDE 209	GDA	56	325059	6254730	Closed site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Shelter with Midden	102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office					<u>Permits</u>		
45-6-2028	Putney point 4; RYDE 212	GDA	56	325084	6254490	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office					<u>Permits</u>		
45-6-3746	20Waterview St,JSF1	GDA	56	324218	6255521	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		104349
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Curio Projects Pty Ltd,Curio Projects Pty Ltd,Mx.Sam Cooling,Mx.Sam Cooling					<u>Permits</u>	4643	
45-6-2545	Putney Park 5;PP 5; RYDE 211	AGD	56	325004	6254510	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office					<u>Permits</u>		
45-6-2677	Kissing Point Park - RYDE 207	GDA	56	324324	6255045	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 8		102142,102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office					<u>Permits</u>		

** Site Status

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 18/05/2023 for Michael Lever for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 321670.0 - 325670.0, Northings : 6252325.0 - 6256325.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 23

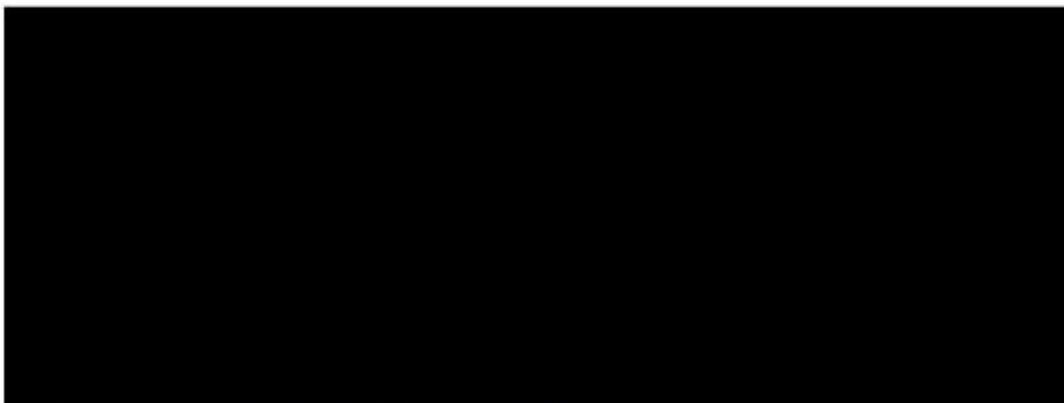
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15.2 Correspondence regarding location of Restricted AHIMS sites

Michael Lever

From: HollyMae Steane Price
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 2:03 PM
To: Michael Lever
Subject: FW: Request #6734: How would you rate the support you received?
Attachments: 45-6-3022.PNG



From: Heritage NSW <support@zendesk.environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 4:03 PM
To: Gareth Holes <Gareth.Holes@artefact.net.au>
Subject: Request #6734: How would you rate the support you received?

Hello Gareth Holes,

We'd love to hear what you think of our customer service. Please take a moment to answer one simple question by clicking either link below:

How would you rate the support you received?

[Good, I'm satisfied](#)

[Bad, I'm unsatisfied](#)

Here's a reminder of what this request was about:



Genna Mateni (Heritage NSW)

3 July 2023, 17:57 GMT+12

Hi Gareth,

Please find attached map displaying the approximate location of the restricted site as per our data release protocols below:

AWSS users are not able to see restricted site information in their search reports (obtained using AHIMS Web Services) beyond the site ID. However, Heritage NSW has a legal responsibility to release this information for legitimate purposes such as due diligence. Therefore if requested, Heritage NSW will release this information under the following conditions or prerequisites:

- AWSS users must provide a written statement of why they need the information and the intended use of the information. AWSS users must also indicate what measures will be taken to ensure sensitive data will be protected and will not be passed on to third parties including publication in print or the internet.

Information will be released showing only the location of the site buffered by 100 meters and displayed against a Topographic map base. No further information about site features or contents will be released.

Kind regards,

Genna Mateni

Genna Mateni

Kind Regards

Genna Mateni

Customer Services Officer, Customer Concierge

Environment and Heritage Group

Department of Planning and Environment

T: 02 9873 8500 E: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

<https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/>

Locked Bag 5020, NSW 2124

Working days Monday to Friday, 09:00am - 05:00pm

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

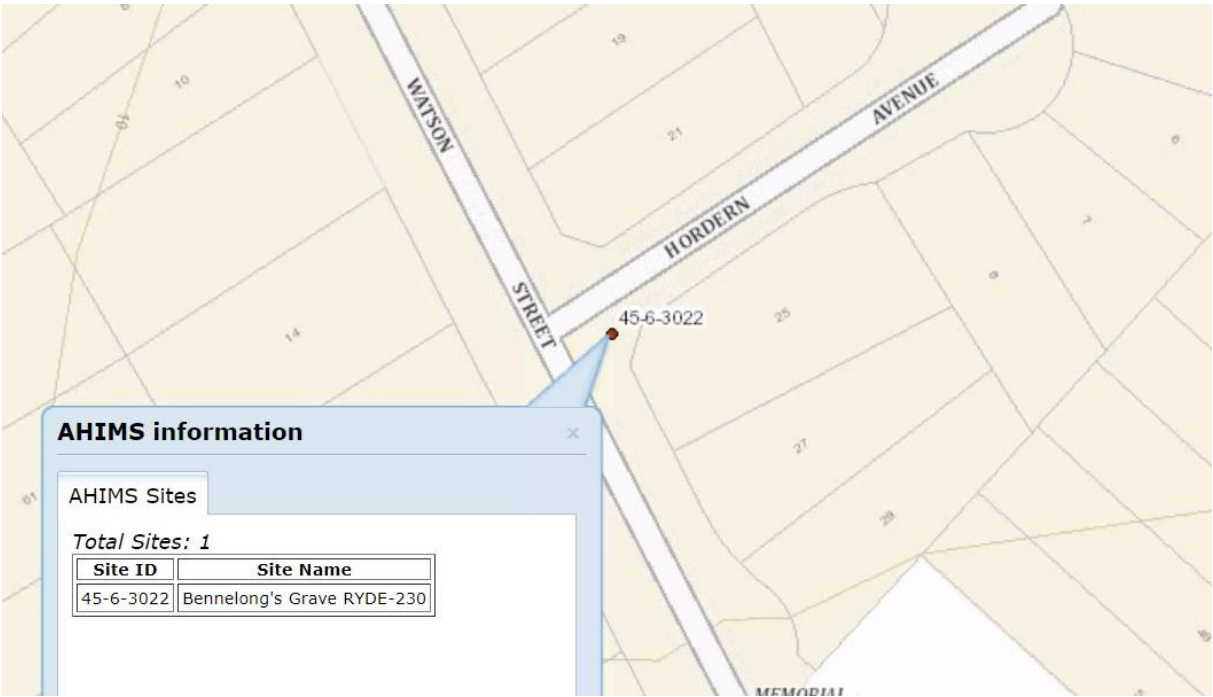


Gareth Holes

14 June 2023, 15:37 GMT+12

Hi,

One of my colleagues undertook an AHIMS search and came up with a restricted site (AHIMS ID: 45-6-3022) are you able to confirm whether the site is within the attached study area?





artefact

Artefact Heritage
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