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Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project

Historical Archaeological Research Design and Test Excavation
Methodology

Prepared for Colliers



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Report Reference:

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EVERICK HERITAGE PTY LTD

ABN: 78 102 206 682

Head Office: Level 17, Matisse Tower

110 Mary Street Brisbane 4000

Sydney Office: L2 61 Renwick Street NSW 2016

T: 1300 124 356

E: info@everick.com.au

www.everick.com.au

Ver.	Author(s)	Sections Edited	Date	Authorised
1	J. Madden; C. Cole; B. Calvert	All	08.11.24	K. Christian
2	J. Madden; C. Cole; B. Calvert	All	14.11.24	K. Christian
3	B. Calvert	All	31.11.25	K. Christian
4	B. Calvert	All	11.02.25	K. Christian

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Definitions and abbreviations

Term	Meaning
Archaeological Site	A place that contains evidence of past human activity. Below ground sites include building foundations, occupation deposits, features and artefacts.
ARD	Archaeological Research Design
Burra Charter	The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013
Conservation	All the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance (as defined in the Burra Charter)
DA	Development Application
EM	Excavation Methodology
Everick Heritage	Everick Heritage Pty Ltd
Excavation permit	A permit to disturb or excavate a relic issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales under Section 60 or Section 140 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977
HAA	Historical Archaeological Assessment
Heritage Act	<i>Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)</i>
Heritage NSW	Heritage NSW, Environment and Heritage Group, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
LGA	Local Government Area
NSW	New South Wales
Site	The Liverpool Boys and Girls High School and part of Gulyangarri Public School (see Figure 1-1).
the Proposal	Construction of the temporary school and new coeducational High School
Relic	Any archaeological deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that is of State or local heritage significance
Research Design	A set of questions that can be investigated using archaeological evidence and a scientific methodology. A research design is intended to ensure that archaeological investigations focus on genuine research needs. It is an important tool which ensures that when archaeological resources are

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Term	Meaning
	destroyed by excavation, their information content can be preserved and can contribute to current and relevant knowledge.
Research Potential	The ability of a site or feature to yield information through archaeological investigation. The significance of archaeological sites is assessed according to their ability to contribute information to a substantive research question.
SHR	NSW State Heritage Register. A list of places and items of importance to the people of NSW. Only places of State heritage significance are listed on the State Heritage Register. The State Heritage Register protects these items and their significance
SI	School Infrastructure
SoHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
Testing	The intention behind archaeological testing is to excavate places likely to contain archaeological remains, as identified in earlier archaeological assessment. Testing is often an integral step in the research and investigation process and is used to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological resources. It is important to have a testing strategy that addresses the predictive model and not one that simply locates former structures.

1. Test Excavation Archaeological Research Design

1.1. Project Introduction

This Historical Archaeological Test Excavation and Excavation Methodology has been Prepared by Everick Heritage on behalf of the NSW Department of Education (The Applicant) to assist in the assessment of potential environmental impacts that could arise from the redevelopment of the Liverpool Boys High School and the Liverpool Girls High School, at 18 Forbes Street, Liverpool NSW, 2170 (the site).

This report has been prepared to establish research questions and a methodology for the proposed test excavation at Liverpool Boys and Girls High School, as per the recommendations of *Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project: Historical Archaeological Assessment. Unpublished report for Colliers.*

This report accompanies a Review of Environmental Factors that seeks approval for redeveloping the Liverpool Boys and Girls High School into a single co-educational school, including:

- [REDACTED]
- Construction and operation of a six-storey school building, including school hall and gymnasium;
- Associated parking and building services;
- Tree removal;
- Associated landscaping and play spaces;
- Augmentation of service infrastructure; and
- Associated off-site infrastructure works to support the school, including (but not limited to) services, kiss and drop point and pedestrian crossings.

Refer to the Review of Environmental Factors prepared by Ethos Urban for a full description of works.

1.2. Site Description

The site is located at 18 Forbes Street, Liverpool, within the Liverpool Local Government Area (LGA). The Site is legally described as Lot 1 DP1137425 and has a total area of approximately 74,973m².

The site comprises a broadly rectangular portion of land which currently contains the existing Liverpool Boys High School, Liverpool Girls High School, and the Gulyangarri Public School, which commenced operations in January 2024 and is located to the east of the wider site.

The site’s western portion contains Liverpool Boys High School and Liverpool Girls High School. Liverpool Girls High School in the site’s southwest comprises three, two storey buildings, Liverpool Boys High School in the site’s northwest, comprises approximately four, two-storey buildings, with adjacent at0grade carparking and various sports courts.

A Satellite image of the site is shown at Figure 1-1 below.

1.3. Statement of Significance (Planning)*

Based on the identification of potential issues, and an assessment of the nature and extent of the impacts of the proposed development, it is determined that:

- The extent and nature of potential impacts are significant and will have a significant adverse impact on the locality, community and the environment;
- Potential impacts can be appropriately mitigated or managed to ensure that there is minimal effect on the local community.

1.4. REF Review Checklist

The following table provides an overview of requirements for REF reporting when preparing an HAA, ARD or Test Excavation report for the Department of Education.

Requirements	Y	N	N/A	Comments
Environmental Heritage				
Archaeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See Section 5 of <i>Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade</i>
Does the REF and/or HIS:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the potential for archaeological relics either in a HIS or				

* A statement of significance (as used in this context for planning purposes) is not to be confused with a cultural statement of significance. A cultural statement of significance for historical archaeology within the site can be found in the Statement of Heritage Impact for the project: *Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project: Statement of Heritage Impact. Unpublished report prepared for Colliers*

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Requirements	Y	N	N/A	Comments
through existing regional planning documentation or similar?				<i>Project: Statement of Heritage Impact.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include an evidence-based archaeological assessment, including a clear grading of the potential for archaeological remains to be identified, and what their archaeological significance is? 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See Section 5 of <i>Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project: Statement of Heritage Impact.</i>
If an archaeological assessment was undertaken has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the assessment been informed by historic archaeological test excavation (where necessary)? 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See Section 5 of <i>Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project: Statement of Heritage Impact.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment identified impacts to archaeological relics? 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See Section 5 of <i>Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project: Statement of Heritage Impact.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological monitoring or test excavation been proposed under a self-approved s139(4) Exemption, and if so, has an Exception Records of Use Form been submitted and signed? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>It has not been completed at 31 January 2025, but it will be completed.</p> <p>See Section 9 of <i>Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project: Historical Archaeological Assessment.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is a permit under the Heritage Act (s140 / s60), approved by Heritage NSW, required to authorise impacts to relics? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relics were identified during test excavation of the site, further investigation is required to ascertain whether a permit to impact the potential relics. See Section 9 of <i>Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project: Statement of Heritage Impact.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out appropriate mitigation measures required to give effect to any mitigations from the archaeological assessment? 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See Section 9 of <i>Everick Heritage. 2025. Liverpool Boys and Girls High School Upgrade Project: Statement of Heritage Impact.</i>

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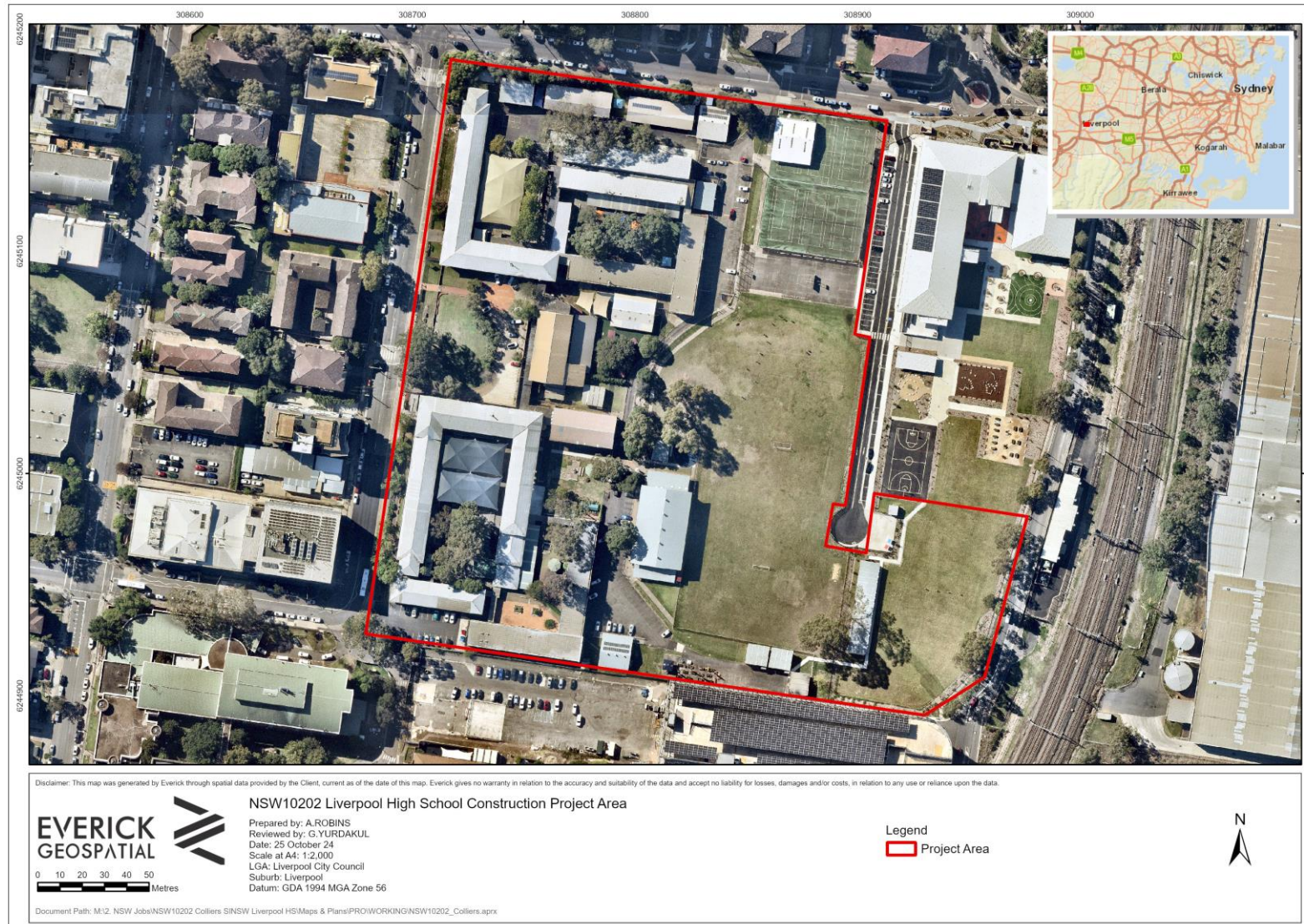


Figure 1-1. Satellite image of the site.

1.5. Purpose of an Archaeological Research Design

The development of an Archaeological Research Design (ARD) is an important prerequisite for archaeological test excavation in NSW. This report has been prepared as a supporting document for an archaeological test excavation inside the site, in accordance with the *Relics of local heritage significance: A guide for archaeological test excavation*. The guide establishes requirements for undertaking test excavation to relics of local heritage significance.

Exception 2(d), published in Government Gazette 59 on 18 February 2022, explicitly provides an exception from the requirement to hold an excavation permit for:

Any disturbance or excavation of land for archaeological test excavation of relics of local heritage significance completed in accordance with the guideline ‘Relics of local heritage significance: a guide for archaeological test excavation’ published by Heritage NSW.²

In addition, research design questions for this test excavation have been developed inside a broad framework to ensure that, when archaeological resources are uncovered, information is appropriately recorded and analysed at both generalist and specialist levels. The design of research questions in this way is a management measure to ensure that future management, investigation and excavation is undertaken in relation to an appropriately assessed level of significance.

1.6. Liverpool Historical Archaeological Assessment 2024

This ARD must be read in conjunction with the Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) previously prepared for the Project (Everick Heritage 2024). In relation to the HAA, this ARD aims to ensure that:

- the excavation of the site focuses on the identification of the presence and/or absence of potential archaeological resources associated with the historical areas of Lot 3, Lot 3A and Lot 4 (see Figure 2-1);
- the significance, research potential and integrity of any identified archaeological resources are re-assessed; and

² Exception 2(d) made under Section 139(4) of the *Heritage Act 1977*, published in the NSW Gazette on 18 February 2022.

- future management of any identified archaeological resources is appropriate for the level of assessed significance and research potential.

Phases of historical development at Liverpool Boys' High School and Liverpool Girls' High School have previously been identified, based on historical research undertaken in Section 2 of the HAA. They are presented in the following table.

Table 1-1: Historical phases of development as identified within the HAA (Everick Heritage 2024).

Phase	Activity	Time period
Phase 1	Pre-township exploration and early landholders	1795-1810
Phase 2	Formation of Liverpool and convict buildings	1811-1839
Phase 3	Post convict land transfers	1840-1875
Phase 4	Speculation and residential construction	1876-1922
Phase 5	Resumption and market gardening	1922-1945
Phase 6	Liverpool Junior Technical School and Home Science School	1946-present

1.7. Investigative Framework

A fundamental requirement of any ARD is to produce a research framework for archaeological investigation. This framework should identify questions that can be addressed, based on both research presented in the HAA and the results of the test excavation itself.

A Test Excavation ARD can be used to understand if important substantive research questions might be addressed by data recorded during test excavation.

The following questions explore avenues of research for this Test Excavation ARD:

- What contexts, phases, and activities are evident, and how are these demonstrated within various excavation units (trench/square/context/feature)?
 - Were the potential archaeological resources, articulated in the HAA, evidenced during test excavation?
 - Were archaeological resources not identified in the HAA uncovered and how do these relate to the phases of occupation expected because of the HAA?
- Where were relics located?
- When were these features or deposits created? How are they phased against the historical analysis of the site?

- What site formation processes have occurred and how does this compare to written records of the site?
- How does this site compare to other local sites?

2. Test Excavation

2.1. Test Excavation Rationale

An archaeological test excavation methodology has been prepared to identify the primary phases of occupation, as outlined above in Table 1-1, and to determine if future archaeological excavation management is required, prior to redevelopment.

As a part of answering the research questions posed above, the aim of the historical archaeological test excavations is to:

- Identify and record any potential archaeological relics, remains, features and artefacts of local significance.
- Determine the presence of domestic activity in Lot 3, Lot 3A and Lot 4 (from the Phase 3, Phase 4 and Phase 5 periods of occupation).
- Ensure the project design considers the in-situ conservation of any intact archaeological resources that may be of significance to the local area or to the State of NSW.
- Inform future archaeological investigations (if required) and any heritage interpretation or project designs, as required.

2.2. Excavation Methodology

The following Excavation Methodology (EM) supports the recommendation for test excavation made in the HAA, in accordance with exception 2(d) made under section 139(4) of the *Heritage Act 1977* (exception 2(d)). The HAA has outlined historical activities that have occurred at the site and the archaeological potential associated with those activities.

The test excavation methodology includes:

- One 10m long by 2m wide historical archaeological test trench within historical Lot 3.

- One 20m long by 2m wide historical archaeological test trench within historical Lot 3A.
- One 6m long and 2m wide historical archaeological test trench within historical Lot 4.
- One provisional 12m long and 2m wide historical archaeological test trench within historical Lot 3A. The excavation of this provisional test excavation trench would be dependent on the extent of any archaeological resources identified in the first trench excavated in Lot 3A and would be at the discretion of the Primary Excavation Director.

Excavation of the trench locations specified above is dependent on access being made available to the project team, in accordance with the program. Access to all areas will be required to fulfill the excavation methodology. The methodology has been developed to allow for the identification of archaeological resources relating to historical uses in Phase 3, Phase 4 and Phase 5 of the site. It specifically addresses:

- Cottage remains, sub-floor deposits, wells and cesspits remains that are potentially present in Lot 3 (from Phase 3 and Phase 4) (Figure 2-2).
- Cottage remains, sub-floor deposits, wells and cesspits remains potentially present in Lot 3A (from Phase 3, Phase 4 and Phase 5) (Figure 2-3).
- Cottage remains, sub-floor deposits, wells and cesspits remains potentially present in Lot 4 (from Phase 4) (Figure 2-4).

The test excavation program may be reduced, where sufficient information has been gathered, to answer the investigative framework and ascertain whether further archaeological management is required.

2.3. Nominated Archaeologists

The following table includes contact information for the nominated archaeologists.

Table 2-1: Contact details for the nominated archaeologists

Name and Credentials	Role	Contact details
Joshua Madden (BA[Hons], Grad Cert EMS) Principal Heritage Consultant	Excavation Director	Email: j.madden@everick.net.au Mobile: 0449 196 040
Ben Calvert (B AH, MA.HerCon) Senior Heritage Consultant	Secondary Excavation Director	Email: b.calvert@everick.net.au Mobile: 0487 259 144
Caitlin Cole (BA [Hons])	Secondary Excavation Director	Email: c.cole@everick.net.au

2.4. Excavation Program and Site Recording Methodology

The three (3) historical archaeological test excavation trenches (and 1 provisional test trench) will initially be undertaken by a mechanical excavator of 3.5/5 ton (Figure 2-1). The excavator will be fitted with a variety of flat edge buckets of varying sizes, to be used in response to ground conditions and archaeological remains. Modern fill material will be mechanically removed under the supervision of the Primary Excavation Director (Joshua Madden) and Secondary Excavation Directors (Ben Calvert or Caitlin Cole). Upon the identification of archaeological relics, remains, features, landform alterations, artefacts, and site formation processes, manual excavation will commence. All excavations will be conducted in stratigraphic sequence. There will be no reduction of occupational/natural deposits, unless required to determine form and significance of a given resource.

The following processes will be undertaken for excavation:

- All deposits, including both modern fill and archaeological resources, will be recorded.
- Each stratigraphic unit, feature, relic etc will be given a context number for the appropriate recording of the site.
- All archaeological resources (whether cuts, fills, features or relics etc.) will be defined, manually excavated, recorded and given either an appropriate feature or context number as outlined below:
 - All archaeological remains will be recorded on individual recording sheets, electronically.
 - All archaeological remains will be drawn to scale with scaled plan and section drawings. This will be supplemented by survey recordings for each archaeological context, feature and resource to ensure accurate spatial and temporal recording.
 - A photographic record would be undertaken across the site. All photographs associated with each context, cut, feature and/or relic will also be recorded on the corresponding electronic recording sheet.
 - A Harris matrix will be developed incorporating all context, cut, fill, feature, relics and surfaces identified and recorded.
 - All recovered artefacts will be cleaned, bagged and archived according to the contexts from which they were recovered.
 - An artefact catalogue would be prepared in accordance with best practice guidelines.

- Where practicable, additional spatial, temporal and 3D recording will be undertaken to record significant archaeological resources.

If relics are found, notification of the relic's location under section 146 of the *Heritage Act 1977* is required. Work within the trench will cease, the archaeological resource will be recorded and remains will be preserved under geofabric or other conservation measures, as appropriate. If test excavation identifies that further archaeological work is required, e.g. a salvage excavation, then a Section 140 excavation permit may be necessary.

In order to meet the conditions for test excavation under exception 2(d), a short document outlining the results and the reasoning behind the requirement for no further works will be required. A separate test excavation report will be prepared which records the full results and interpretation of any archaeological relics. The excavation report will include updated assessment of significance and impact assessment and will provide feedback on the requirement for further archaeological investigation in the form of salvage excavation or archaeological monitoring as appropriate.

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Figure 2-1: Historical archaeological test excavation location within Liverpool Boys High School.

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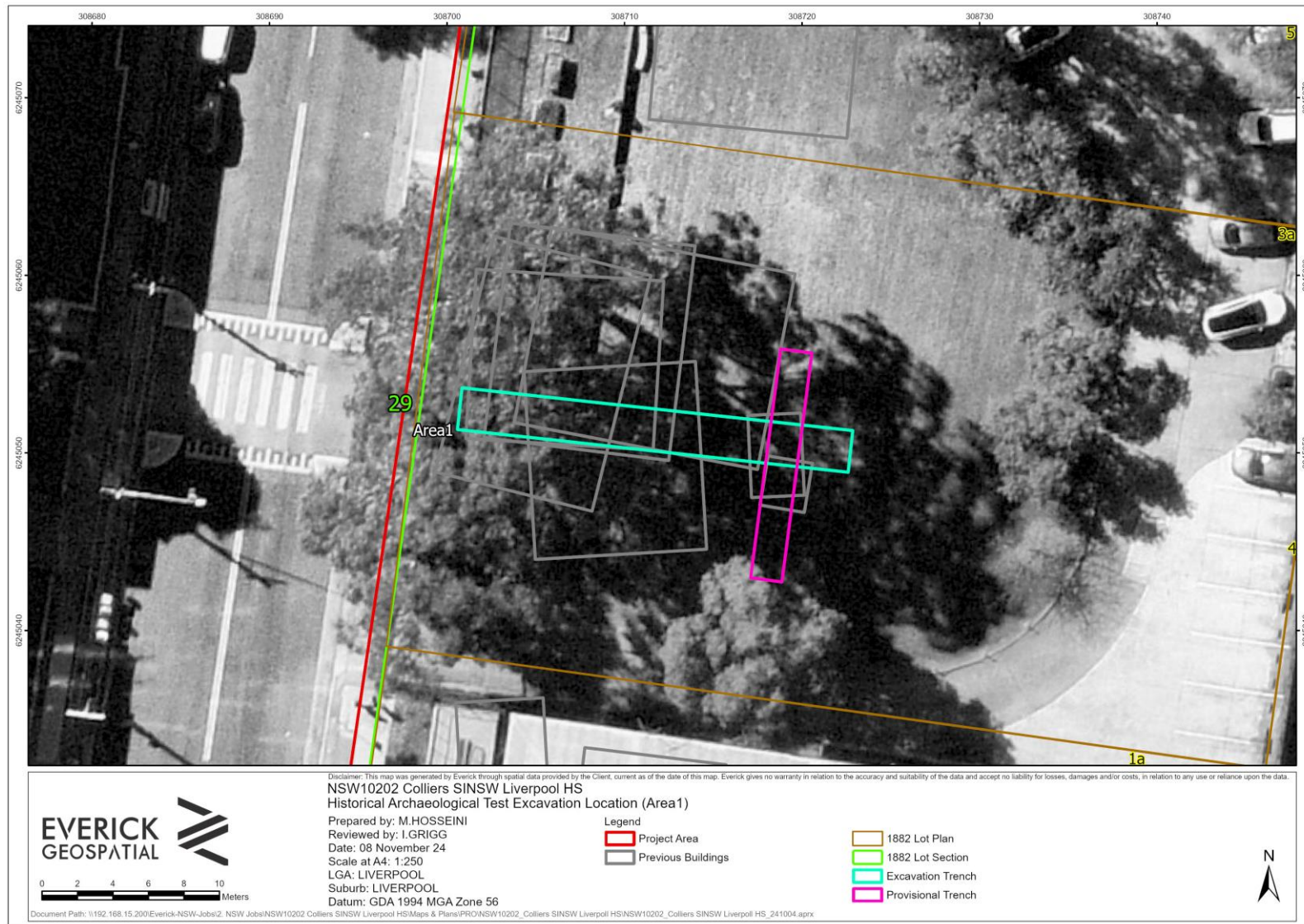


Figure 2-2: Indicative Area 1 trench location.

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Figure 2-3: Indicative Area 2 trench location.

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Figure 2-4: Indicative Area 3 trench location.