

artefact

...discover

9 September 2013

Andrew Harvey
Director – Planning
Urbis
Tower 2, Level 23
201 Sussex Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Harvey,

**Re: Summary Report for the proposed Macarthur Memorial Park at St Andrews Road,
Varroville.**

Urbis on behalf of Catholic Cemeteries has engaged Artefact Heritage to prepare an Aboriginal heritage summary report for the proposed Memorial Park at St Andrews Road, Varroville (the study area, shown in Figure 1). This report provides a summary of Aboriginal heritage values within the study area, including environmental context, an overview of previous Aboriginal heritage assessments and recorded Aboriginal sites in the local area. As a summary report, this report does not meet the requirements of a Due Diligence assessment in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 2010 *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.

This report was written by Joshua Madden, Archaeologist at Artefact Heritage, with input from Senior Archaeologist Josh Symons and Project Director Dr Sandra Wallace.

Legislative Context

The minimum legislative requirements for Aboriginal heritage assessment in NSW are laid out in the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, which was introduced in October 2010 by OEH (formerly the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water). The aim of the guidelines is to assist individuals and organisations to exercise due diligence when carrying out activities that may harm Aboriginal objects and to determine whether further archaeological investigation is required.

A due diligence assessment should take reasonable and practicable steps to ascertain whether there is a likelihood that Aboriginal sites will be disturbed or impacted during the proposed development. If it

is assessed that sites exist or have a likelihood of existing within the development area and may be impacted by the proposed development, further archaeological investigations may be required in accordance with the OEH *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (2010). If a due diligence assessment determines that it is unlikely that Aboriginal sites exist within the study area and the due diligence assessment has been conducted according to OEH due diligence guidelines, work may proceed with caution.

Proposed Development

Catholic Cemeteries are proposing to re-develop the study area as a Memorial Park with an area of 1.13 km² (the proposal) (see Figure 2). The proposal is still in the Planning Proposal Stage and as such detailed design and submissions have yet to be undertaken. The proposal, at this stage, will involve the development of vehicle access ways, roads and a car park, multiple buildings and associated facilities to service the Memorial Park as well as general landscaping and planting. It is further proposed that the study area be subject to on-going small scale excavation (for individual plots) over the course of the Memorial Parks operation.

Figure 1: Study Area (Source: © Sinclair Knight Merz 2013 c/o Google with Artefact Heritage Inclusions 2013)

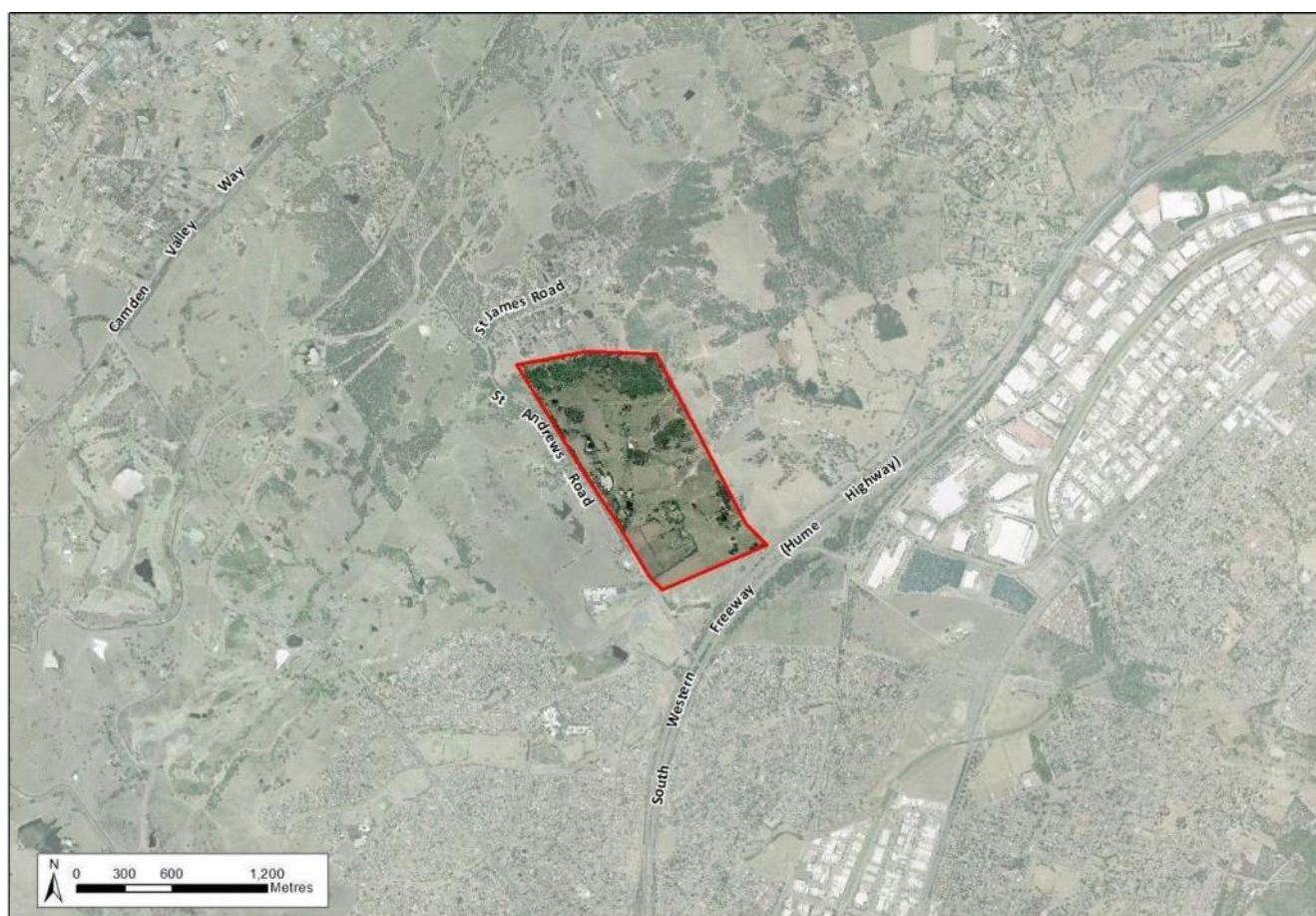


Figure 2: Concept Master Plan (Source: Urbis)



Study Area

The study area is approximately 113.4ha or 1.13 km² and is located at 166–176, St Andrews Road, Varroville. The study area is located directly west of the Hume Highway at the intersection with Campbelltown Road. The study area is comprised of Lots 22/564065, B/370979, 1/218016A and 1/218016B.

The State Heritage Register (SHR) listed 'Varroville' (SHR number 00737) is located within the bounds of Lot 166–176 DP564065. The SHR curtilage area around the farmstead will not be directly affected by the proposal.

The study area is located within the City of Campbelltown Local Government Area, County Cumberland and, is within the boundary of the Tharrawal Local Aboriginal Land Council (TLALC).

Geologically, the study area is underlain by the Wianamata Group which is underlain by the Liverpool sub group, which is comprised of Bringelly Shale, Minchinbury sandstone and Ashfield shale and is made up of shale with some sandstone beds.

The western portions of the study area are generally associated with the residual Blacktown soil landscape. The Blacktown soil landscape is characterised by shallow, poorly drained soils. The eastern half of the study area is associated with the erosional Luddenham soil landscape, which is

characterised by shallow and highly erodible soils. The northern portion of the study area is associated with the Picton soil landscape, which is characterised by shallow to deep soils.

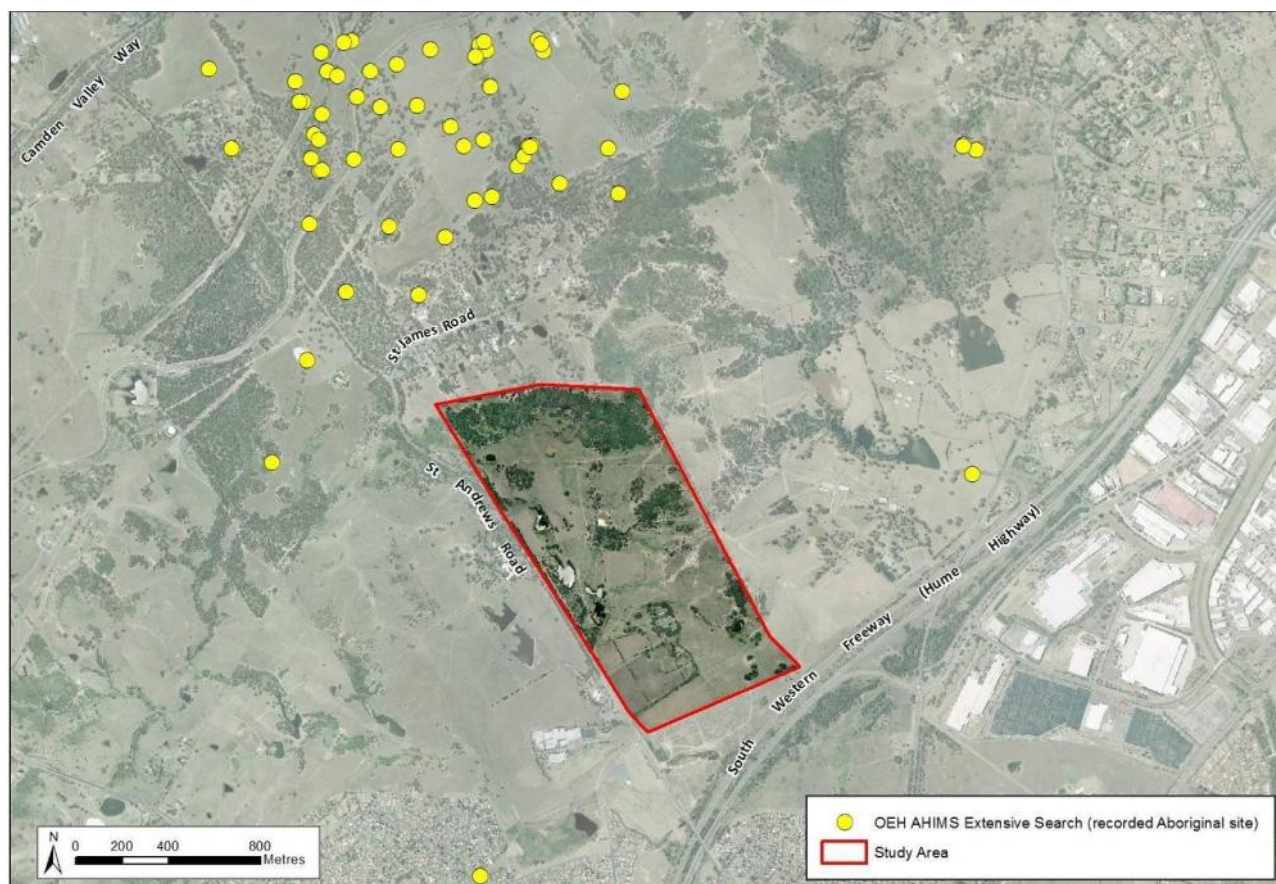
Local vegetation in the region can broadly be defined as Cumberland Plain Woodlands. The rolling hill woodland is comprised of Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*), Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) and Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus creba*). Undergrowth across the Plain are made up of natural grasses.

The study area is located approximately 700 metres west of Cottage Creek — a second order tributary of Bunbury Curan Creek — 350 metres north of the permanent fourth order watercourse of Bunbury Curan Creek and approximately 1500 metres north west of the fourth order Bow Bowing Creek. A series of artificial dams and watercourses are located within, and directly to the west of, the current study area. The study area is also approximately 800 metres south east of the Sydney Water Supply Channel.

Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System search

A search of the OEH Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database, was undertaken on 23 August 2013. A search of approximately 1.5 kilometres by 2.5 kilometres around the study area identified a total of 63 previously registered Aboriginal sites (see Figure 3). All the recorded Aboriginal sites consisted of open site artefact scatters or isolated artefact finds.

Figure 3: AHIMS sites (Source: Google Earth with Artefact Heritage inclusions 2013)



Historical and Archaeological Context

In 1810, 1000 acres were granted to Dr Robert Townson. The current study area is situated within this original land grant within the SHR listed 'Varro Villa' (Varroville) set in its current location in 1859. The existing outbuildings of the farmstead are considered to pre-date the earliest sections of the current dwelling. Since the earliest times of the grant, the study area has been used as a farm, running sheep and cattle, and as a vineyard, with a kitchen garden and sculptured garden (which is still extant) also within close proximity to the farmstead. As such, the study area has been disturbed by historical grazing, planting and land modifications. The study area is still utilised as a residential dwelling and farmhouse. Initial and early landscape modifications, including; vineyard terracing and dam construction, are still noticeable and play a key role in the layout of the land right across the study area.

Over the past three decades, complex predictive modelling has been developed for the Cumberland Plain. The most recent research of White and McDonald (2010) provides spatial analysis of previously excavated archaeological deposits. This model has become the standard for assessing the potential for Aboriginal archaeological sites across the Cumberland Plain. Using this model, the following predictive statements have been identified for the study area:

- In the headwaters of first order creeks (tributaries), archaeological evidence will represent little more than a background scatter (material will be sparse).
- Creek junctions may provide foci for site activity; with stream size affecting the potential size and complexity of the sites identified. Although creek junctions are not within the bounds of the current study area, the confluence of Cottage Creek and Bunbury Curan Creek are within close proximity.
- Ridge top locations between drainage lines will usually contain limited archaeological evidence although isolated knapping floors; other forms of one-off occupation may be evident in such a location.

The most common site type across the Cumberland Plain is open area artefact sites. These sites will range from isolated finds or multiple finds within one location and will primarily be located a couple hundred metres from permanent freshwater. As such it is predicted that, the most likely potential site type within the study area will be artefacts scatters and/or isolated finds.

Previous studies within Varroville

In 2008 Kayandel Archaeological Services undertook an opportunities and constraints assessment for the proposed South-West Business Park at Varroville. The Kayandel study area covered 3.99 km², with the current study area of 1.14 km² forming the western portion of the assessment.

The opportunities and constraints report (only a portion of which is available) provided a predictive model, Aboriginal archaeological site prediction and recommendations (recommendations are missing

from the available report). The predictive model and site predictions were guided by an AHIMS search, a search of State and Federal heritage registers and listings and an analysis of existing report datum. The assessment did not include a site visit to determine areas of sensitivity and potential.

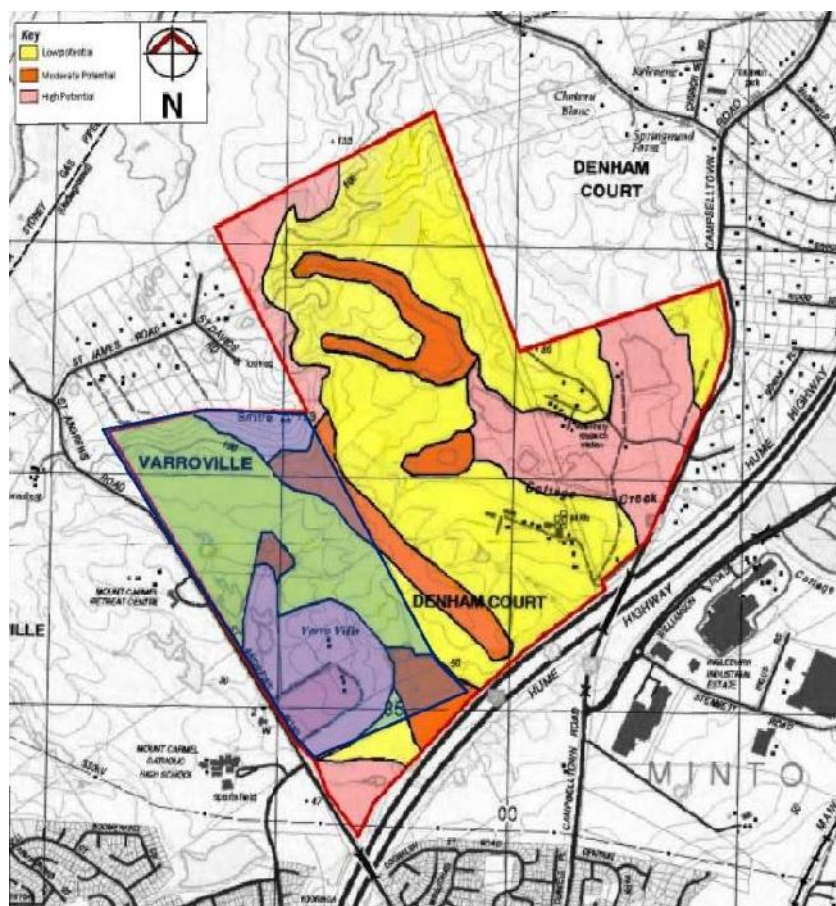
The predictive model of the assessment correlates with White and McDonald's 2010 analysis of sites in relation to permanent watercourses on the Cumberland Plain, with the assertion of an increase in site frequency and density with greater stream orders (as discussed above). The Kayandel report asserted that the likely potential sites (within the study area) would be stone artefact scatters and/or isolated finds across the landscape in zones of prior disturbance and scarred trees on remnant trees older than 100 years. As the current AHIMS results have confirmed the previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the immediate locality of the study area are all either artefact scatters or isolated finds, this analysis and site prediction appears to be in unison with the current data available.

Figure 2 of the Kayandel report (2008: 10) shows the assessed areas of archaeological potential across the site based on predictive modelling. A summary of archaeological potential within the current study area as determined by Kayandel (2008) is outlined below, and Kayandel's archaeological potential map with the current study area overlaid is shown in Figure 4:

- Zones of high potential have been identified:
 1. within close proximity to the farmstead and associated outbuilding buildings;
 2. along the remnant vineyard terracing;
 3. around the dams from the Charles Sturt occupation period within areas associated with riparian zones; and
 4. along the escarpment in the north eastern corner of the study area.
- Zones of moderate potential have been identified:
 1. across the south eastern corner of the study area bordering the edge of the Hume Highway;
 2. in a lower slope context running from the escarpment area (an area of high potential) along the eastern border of the study area associated with drainage lines and riparian zones; and
 3. in a small zone associated with a dam constructed during the Charles Sturt occupation period within a riparian zone.
- Zones of low potential have been identified:
 1. across the majority of the study area running from the north west corner, across the central areas of the study area and down toward the south eastern corner; and

2. a small zone along the southern border between an area of high potential and the area of moderate potential in the south eastern corner.

Figure 4: Archaeological potential map with the current study area outlined in blue (Source: Kayandel, 2008 with Artefact Heritage inclusions, 2013).



Discussion

The findings of this summary report are that:

- the local area contains a large number of recorded Aboriginal objects;
- the study area does not contain any recorded Aboriginal sites and/or places;
- the closest recorded Aboriginal site is approximately 500 metres north of the study area;
- Kayandel (2008) identified that two zones within the study area demonstrate high potential for Aboriginal sites – one within the escarpment area in the north eastern portion of the study area and the other associated with the landform around the SHR listed Varro Ville homestead (the Varro Ville homestead is not a part of the current study area but is set within the study area boundary see Figure 2.)
- Kayandel (2008) identified two zones of moderate potential for Aboriginal sites in association with areas of riparian zones; and

- Kayandel (2008) assessed the remainder of the study area as demonstrating low potential for Aboriginal sites.

The predictive model prepared by Kayandel (2008), identified various levels of potential for the likelihood of Aboriginal archaeological sites and/or places within the current study area. Due to the various levels of potential — ranging from low–high — more in-depth archaeological assessment is required. Future archaeological assessment would need to be undertaken to confirm the levels of potential identified during the desktop assessment and, to ensure the proponent has undergone appropriate due diligence steps in regard to the legislative processes set out by OEH.

Recommendations

It is recommended that, in order to appropriately identify the archaeological values of the study area and assess whether further archaeological investigation is required, an Aboriginal heritage Due Diligence assessment should be conducted in accordance with OEH guidelines. The Due Diligence assessment would present appropriate recommendations for future investigation and Aboriginal stakeholder consultation where required. In order to properly undertake the due diligence processes, a site inspection to visually assess the archaeological values of the study area, is required.

As a guide, Artefact Heritage has identified three potential outcomes of the Due Diligence assessment. These potential outcomes are based on requirements of legislation and guidelines generally and not on an in-depth assessment of the current study area. These potential outcomes are not recommendations for the current assessment and are only indicators of potential outcomes of a future assessment of the study area that would be required to meet legislative guidelines.

Outcome 1—No sites or areas of archaeological potential are identified during the Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment

If no Aboriginal objects (sites) or areas of archaeological potential are identified by the Due Diligence assessment, works may proceed with caution and OEH must be notified if any unexpected finds are identified during the proposed works.

Outcome 2—Aboriginal sites and/or areas of archaeological potential are identified during the Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment – Potential for impact

If the Due Diligence assessment identified Aboriginal objects (sites) or areas of archaeological potential within the study area, the following would likely be recommended based on legislative requirements:

Step 1: Archaeological Survey Report (ASR). Prepare an ASR including an assessment of archaeological significance in consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Step 2: Archaeological Test Excavations (if required). If significance assessments for Aboriginal sites cannot be made based on the information obtained during the preparation of the ASR or areas of

archaeological potential are to be impacted, archaeological test excavation may be required. If test excavation is required a process of Aboriginal consultation must first be undertaken.

Step 3: Application for an Aboriginal heritage impact permit (AHIP). If Aboriginal objects are to be impacted by the proposal an AHIP would be granted prior to works commencing and after DA approval. As part of an AHIP application Aboriginal consultation according to OEH guidelines would be required along with the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (CHAR). The process of consultation, reporting and preparing an AHIP application would take a minimum of three months. It would take a further two months for the AHIP application to be processed by OEH.

Step 4: Further archaeological work (if required). The management and mitigation measures stipulated as a condition of the AHIP would depend on the assessment of archaeological significance detailed in the ASR, results of the test excavation and the cultural significance of the sites as assessed in the CHAR. Further archaeological work may include surface collection or salvage excavation. These works would be completed prior to impacts occurring.

Outcome 3–Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological potential are identified during the Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment – No impact

Conservation of Aboriginal sites is best practice cultural heritage management. Retaining Aboriginal archaeological material within a natural landscape setting enables the continuation of past cultural associations with the landscape.

If Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological potential can be avoided, their location and required management measures would be detailed in an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the study area, or would be included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Yours sincerely,



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