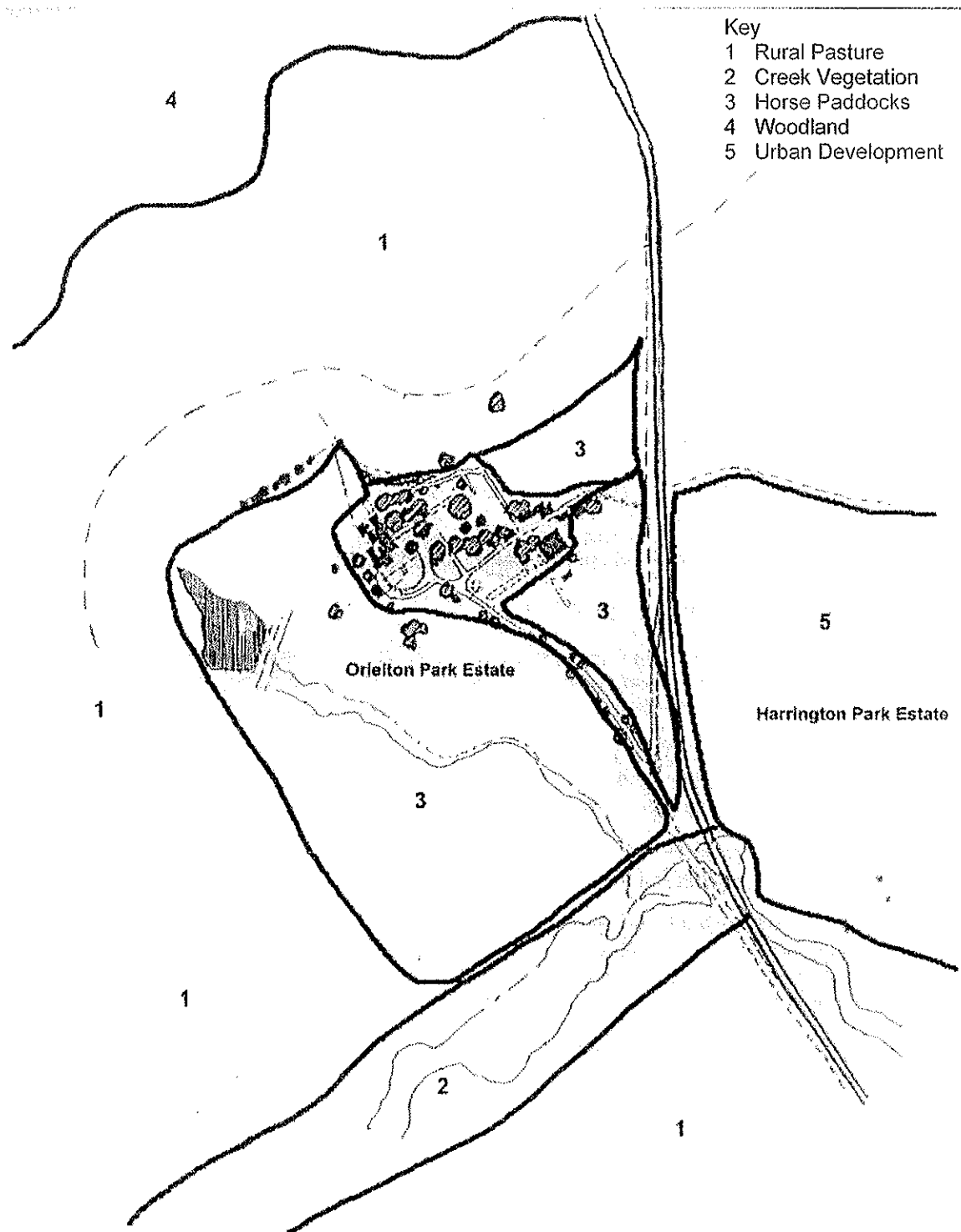


Figure No.11: This figure shows the ecological corridor to the northern section of the Orielton property. (Source: This figure is a section of the *Ecologically Significant and Environmentally Sensitive Land* figure in Camden Council's Natural Assets Policy, Camden Council website).



N↑

Figure No.12: This figure shows the cultural landscape components of the Orielson Estate.

### 3.2 Archaeology

This is part of a report by Jim Kelton, Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd<sup>53</sup> prepared for Harrington Park 2.

An archaeological field survey was carried out over a three day period, 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June 2004, by archaeological consultant Jim Kelton of Central West Archaeological & Heritage Services Pty Ltd over Orielson Estate from Narellan Creek to Cobbitty Road. Jim Kelton was assisted in the field by Mrs Glenda Chalker, a representative of the Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants (Mrs Chalker is also believed to be a member of the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council). Ms Robynne Syme attended the survey as a representative of Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

This preliminary study was designed to identify any obvious or potential Aboriginal archaeological heritage or anthropological constraints by combining the results of a preliminary desktop study with a brief field inspection. Prior to commencement of the field survey it was anticipated that such constraints might include known Aboriginal 'sites' listed on the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) National Parks & Wildlife Service Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (NPWS AHIMS), sites known to the local Aboriginal community or others, and any archaeologically sensitive survey area landforms or areas of potential archaeological deposit (PADs) that may be identified during the field survey.

The northern area field survey was conducted as a series of mainly parallel on-foot transects walked across representative samples of survey area landform units.

#### 3.2.1 Aboriginal Community Consultation

Jim Kelton consulted with the Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants and Tharawal LALC prior to, during and upon completion of the field survey. Prior to the commencement of the field survey, neither group was aware of the existence of Aboriginal archaeological 'sites' within the Estate.

Following the field survey the LALC and native title claimant field survey representatives indicated the Estate may reveal further sites.

#### 3.2.2 Aboriginal Heritage Survey Results

A search of DEC's AHIMS Aboriginal site database indicated that at the time of the field survey there were no known Aboriginal sites located within the Estate. The known sites listed comprised entirely of open campsite-stone artefact scatter sites and isolated stone artefacts within the existing Harrington Park housing estate (along permanent and ephemeral creeks).

Aboriginal sites were found on parts of the estate. These included isolated stone artefacts and camp site stone artefact scatter sites.

#### 3.2.3 European Archaeology

The 1947 aerial photograph (Figure No.13, pg.35) shows evidence of military occupation closely linked to the aerodrome in Camden. Roads are structured within the boundaries of Orielson directly off Cobbitty Road. The military occupation does not present adverse effects on the landscape apart from woodland clearing. Evidence of occupation has been limited to the north-east corner of the site, suggesting little impact on the homestead and surrounding pastures. While the revegetated wood land may have reduced the likely level of remains relating to the military use, there is potential for further archaeological investigation. The intersection of Cobbitty Road and The Northern Road has changed to its present form. Archaeological evidence may filter into adjoining properties.

<sup>53</sup> Section 3.2 of this report is from Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd, op cit, pp.1-2.

An early photograph labelled "My grandfather Peisley's country home" c1860 is taken from the western ridge looking east to the homestead (refer to Figure No.9, pg.19). The photograph depicts early buildings on the site which still remain and those that no longer remain.

To the east of the site a substantial two storey barn is situated within the working areas of the farm. South of the barn a single storey workers cottage is closely aligned to The Northern road. Within the north-west corner of the orchard boundaries a small shed can be seen. Presently there is no evidence of their survival. North of the homestead boundaries the early photograph portrays a linear building with simple hipped roof. There is no evidence of the building to date, but a faint track on the site leads to where the remains would lie. The building is considered locally to be the operation of the commercial spirits distillery operated by Ephraim Cross which burnt down in 1928.

The two main precincts considered to be archaeologically sensitive are the Military and Homestead precincts identified in Figure No.14, pg.36. Physical evidence indicates some archaeological remnants however more relics may lie beneath the sub-surface or beyond the identified areas.

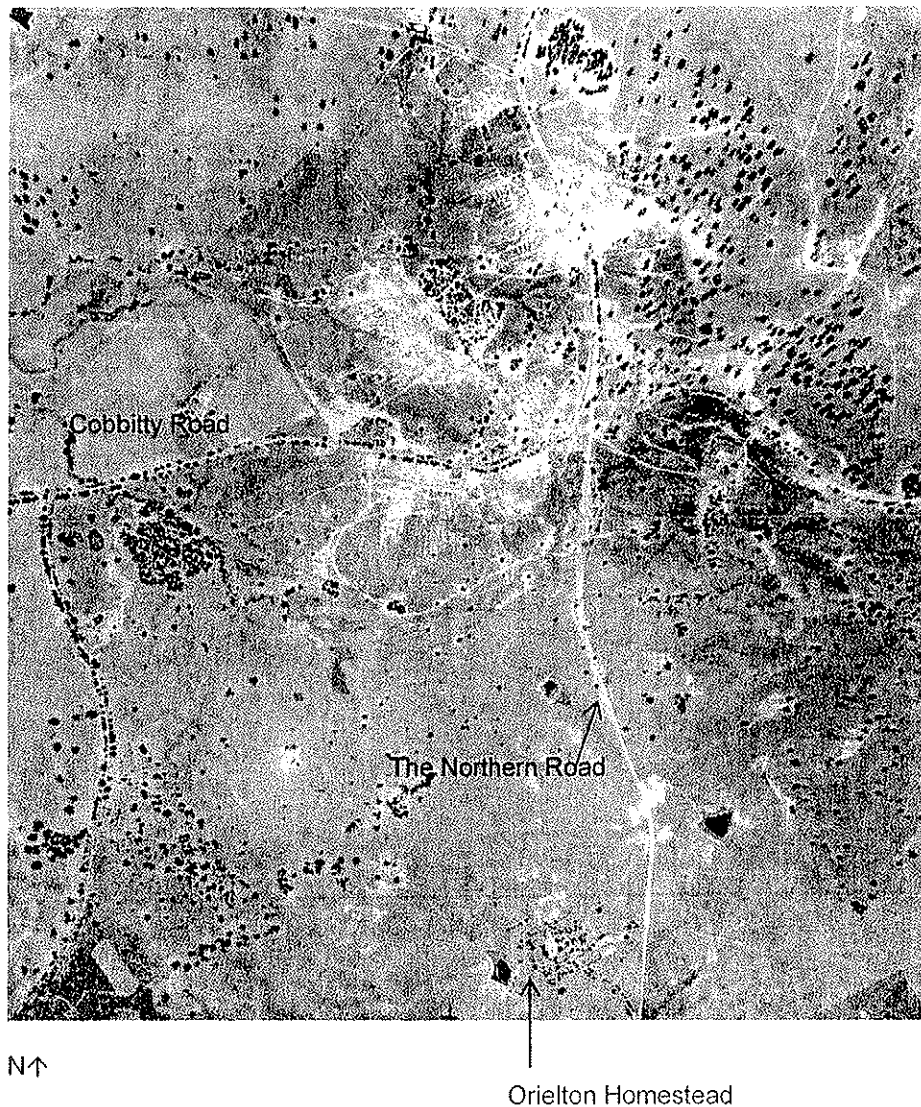
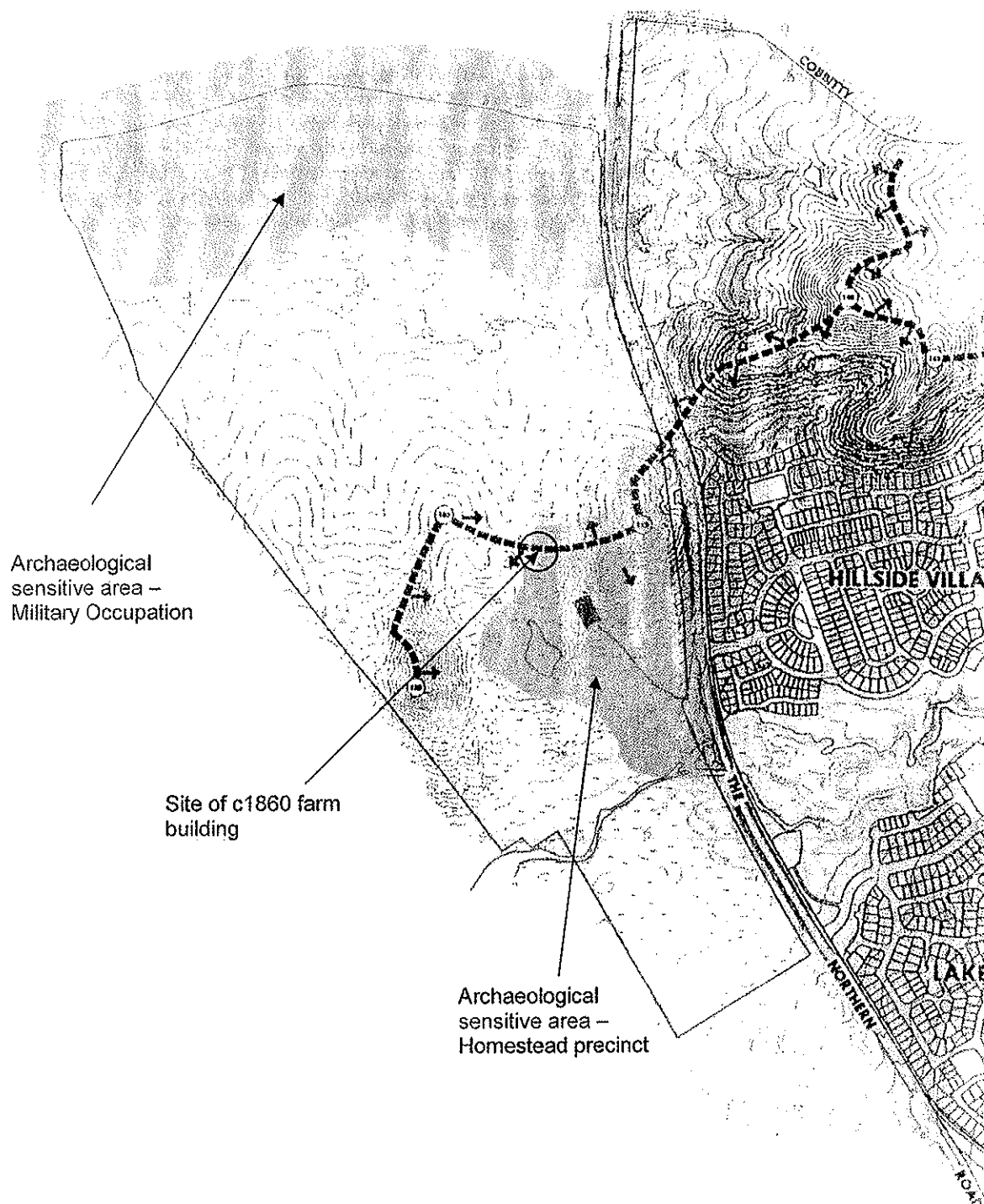


Figure No.13: 1947 aerial photograph (military occupation) at junction of The Northern Road and Cobbitty Road. (Source: LPI).



N↑

Figure No.14: Archaeological Potential.

### 3.3 Context

The subject site is located within the Municipality of Camden. The area is characterised by cleared rural pastures subject to recent subdivision and development. To the east the site is bound by The Northern Road which historically linked Sydney's western regions. The homestead and stockyards are located near The Northern Road with open vistas towards Harrington Park and recent residential development. Distant glimpses are characterised by rural pastures and beyond, a glimpse of the prominent Badgally Hill.

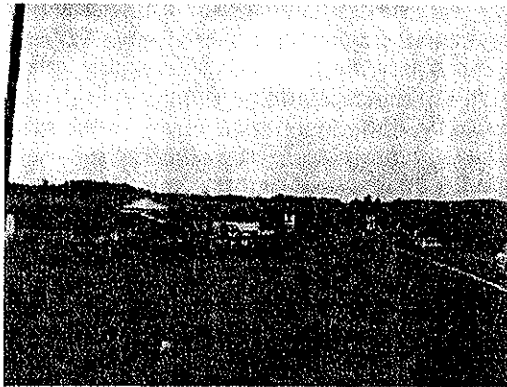


Figure No. 15:  
View of Orielson looking north from Narellan  
on The Northern Road.



Figure No. 16:  
View of Harrington Park and Badgally Hill  
looking east.

The Northern Road corridor leads south to the township of Narellan. This area is subject to increased development of both a commercial and residential nature. Among this distinct setting rests Studley Park House which can be seen from Orielson Homestead. The undulating rural pastures to the west present evidence of increased subdivision/development. Beyond, the township of Camden is well established. The Northern Road continues north and beyond Cobbitty Road which forms the rear boundary of the site. The area is largely composed of rural properties with associated open pastures and regenerating open forest.



Figure No. 17:  
View of Narellan from Orielson's watertank hill  
looking south.

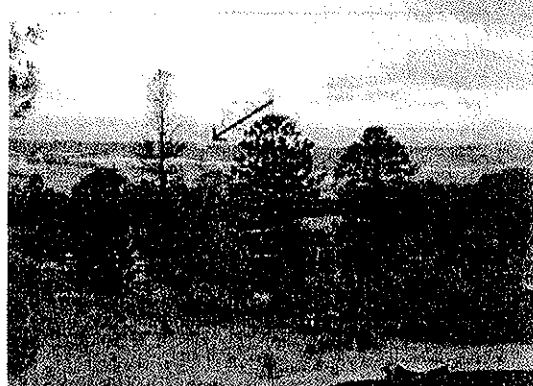


Figure No. 18:  
View of Studley Park from Orielson House  
Looking south-west.

### 3.4 Subject Site

Refer to Figure No.28, pg.43.

#### 3.4.1 General

The subject site is known as Orielson Park Homestead Estate and is located at 179 The Northern Road, Narellan in the Municipality of Camden. The site is rural in character, with varying topography. To the north the site has revegetated woodland with concentrated pockets in the north-west corner. The southern part of the site is subject to flooding by Narellan Creek which extends across the property and flows to the Nepean River. The buildings that constitute the homestead are located on the south side of a knoll in close proximity to The Northern Road. The site is approximately 205 hectares in size. A curved access road lined with pine trees leads from The Northern Road to a carriage loop in front of what was the original entry to the homestead. Remnants of gardens appear at the redirected southern entry as well as at the original eastern entry. A secondary road extends from the main driveway and moves towards the east of the property to the working area of the homestead. Utility/outbuildings on the site include stables, silo, milking sheds and stockyards. To the west of the house lay remnants of the picking garden and orchard with a row of European olive trees suggesting its northern boundary. Close to this, a dam rests in the saddle of the ridge. A large dam is also located to the west in a gully adjacent to the picking garden.

Early photographs and aerials suggest buildings and road networks no longer evident. The east of the site had a substantial two storey barn associated with John Dickson. An early photograph shows evidence of a shed north of the homestead area (refer to Figure No.10, pg.19). The well (header tank) that rests on the northern ridge still remains largely intact. A 1947 aerial photograph (refer to Figure No. 24, pg.40) depicts strong road alignments to the northern extents of the site bound by Cobbitty Road. This is evidence of the military occupation. These areas are subject to further investigation.

The homestead consists of a number of buildings that are clustered together with the two primary residential buildings forming an L-shape which overlook the valley. The homestead consists of a layering of styles ranging from the original homestead of the late 1820s through to the later Italianate additions from the Victorian period. The building retains its basic form since its Victorian additions but little remains of the fabric and detailing.

Georgian elements are found to the rear of the house. The front single storey structure has a grand scale, rectangular footprint and associated symmetrical façade. The medium pitch hipped roof and associated chimneys are typical of the mid-Victorian style. The original verandah that wrapped around to the south of the building has been removed. Historical photographs suggest typical slender posts were later replaced with metal posts and associated balustrades ornately detailed (refer to appendix B).

The Italianate addition is focused to the south of the property and is characterised by a three faceted bay window. The asymmetrical façade is two storeys and has a low pyramidal roof and larger chimney tops. A 1940s fibro addition to the south connects the original building to the east with the Italianate addition to the south.



Figure No.19:  
View of pastures  
looking north.



Figure No.20: View of paddocks and western ridge from orchards.

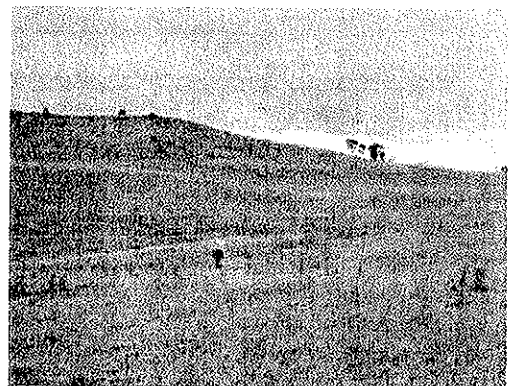


Figure No.21: View of north-west paddock from orchards.

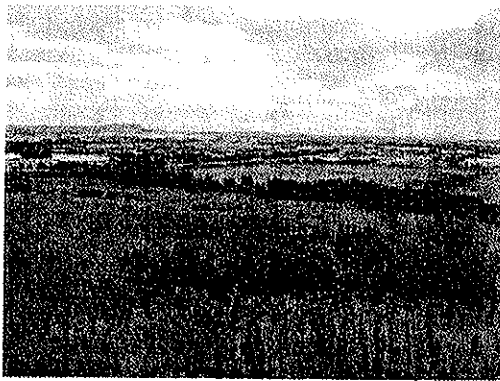


Figure No.22: View of south paddock and Narellan Creek from western ridge looking to Badgally Hill.



Figure No.23: View of homestead and picking garden looking east from west paddocks.

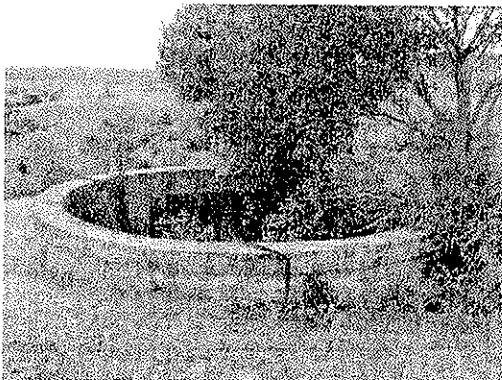


Figure No.24: Well on the northern ridge looking west.



Figure No.25: Victorian addition and mid-Victorian design connected with fibro corridor.

### 3.4.2 Functional relationship within the precinct

Orielton has a functional relationship to its surrounding rural landscape. Old photographs and aerials show that the homestead operated as a whole precinct of functional spaces and buildings. Despite minor changes to garden settings and access ways, the estate was divided into 5 areas including:

- The main house
- Workers building
- Picking gardens/orchards
- Working areas
- Grazing pastures

Within the precinct there are important functional relationships between: the main house pleasure gardens and entry, the picking garden, workers building and homestead, working areas (including mills, silos) and access roads (The Northern Road), stables and grazing pastures.

The change in entry was a result of the change in ownership and subsequent design style and period. It is suggested the Victorian Italianate style was influenced by the Picturesque movement. Homes were set in their extensive gardens and entry to these landed gentries resulted in a formal procession to the house. The change in driveway access does not suggest a negative impact on the original functional relationship of the precinct.

## **3.5 Subject landscape**

### 3.5.1 Topography and Landscape

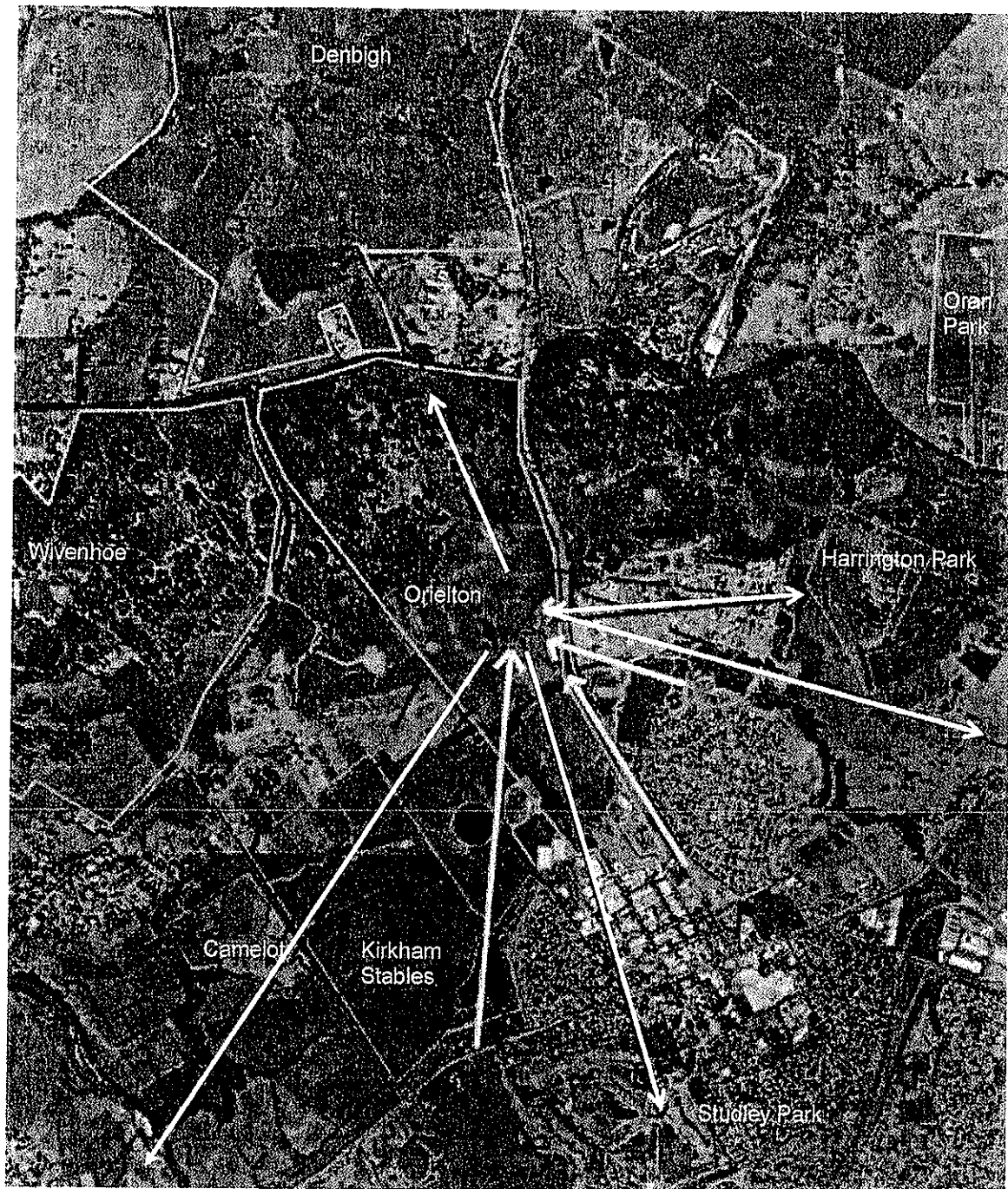
Orielton is situated at the side of a knoll and commands sweeping views of Narellan which have been arranged to give the occupant commanding views over the working paddocks and fields and to take account of principles of 18<sup>th</sup> Century English landscape design. The sublime qualities of the area's landscape were understood by the educated English settlers. Designed in the Arcadian manner, Orielton was laid out to look out over the landscape and to be seen and to convey the importance of the occupants of the house. Important views to landmarks are incorporated which include direct links to estates such as Harrington Park and Studley Park. The house is located high enough to be seen on approach and the rising ground behind the site and associated plantings is used to create both visual framing effect and shelter. Pastures are created among areas which can be accessed by horse and cattle. Areas subject to flooding (particularly towards Narellan creek) are dominated by lush grazing paddocks. The well high on the northern ridge was to provide greater water pressure to the house and at this point a clear visual relationship with Harrington Park and Badgally Hill to the east, St Johns spire and Studley Park towards the south, and Denbigh to the north is available.

### 3.5.2 Visual links

There are important visual links between the Orielton Homestead and the following:

- Orielton House is located so that there is full view of grazing pastures in front of the homestead for management
- Studley Park for contact
- The Northern road which linked to Sydney for contact
- From the well there are 360 degree views including that of Harrington Park and Badgally Hill to the east, Narellan and Camden to the south and west, and Denbigh and pastures to the north.
- From the hill on the western boundary of the site there are 360 degree views as above.
- St Johns church

Refer Figure No.26 & 27, pp.41 & 42.



N↑

Figure No.26: Broad views and vistas to and from Orielson Homestead.

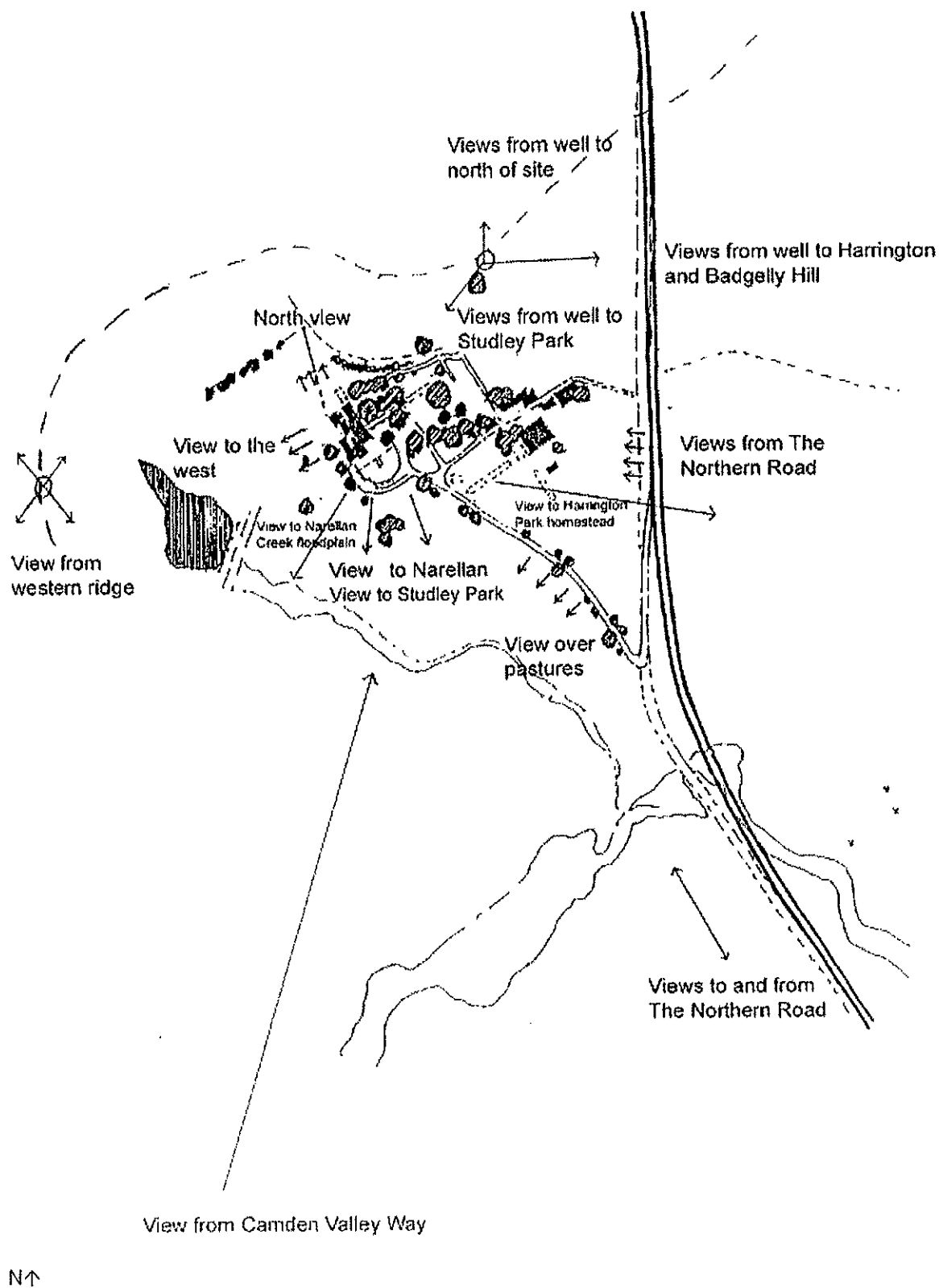


Figure No. 27: Views and vistas to and from Orielson Homestead

3.5.3 Landscape areas

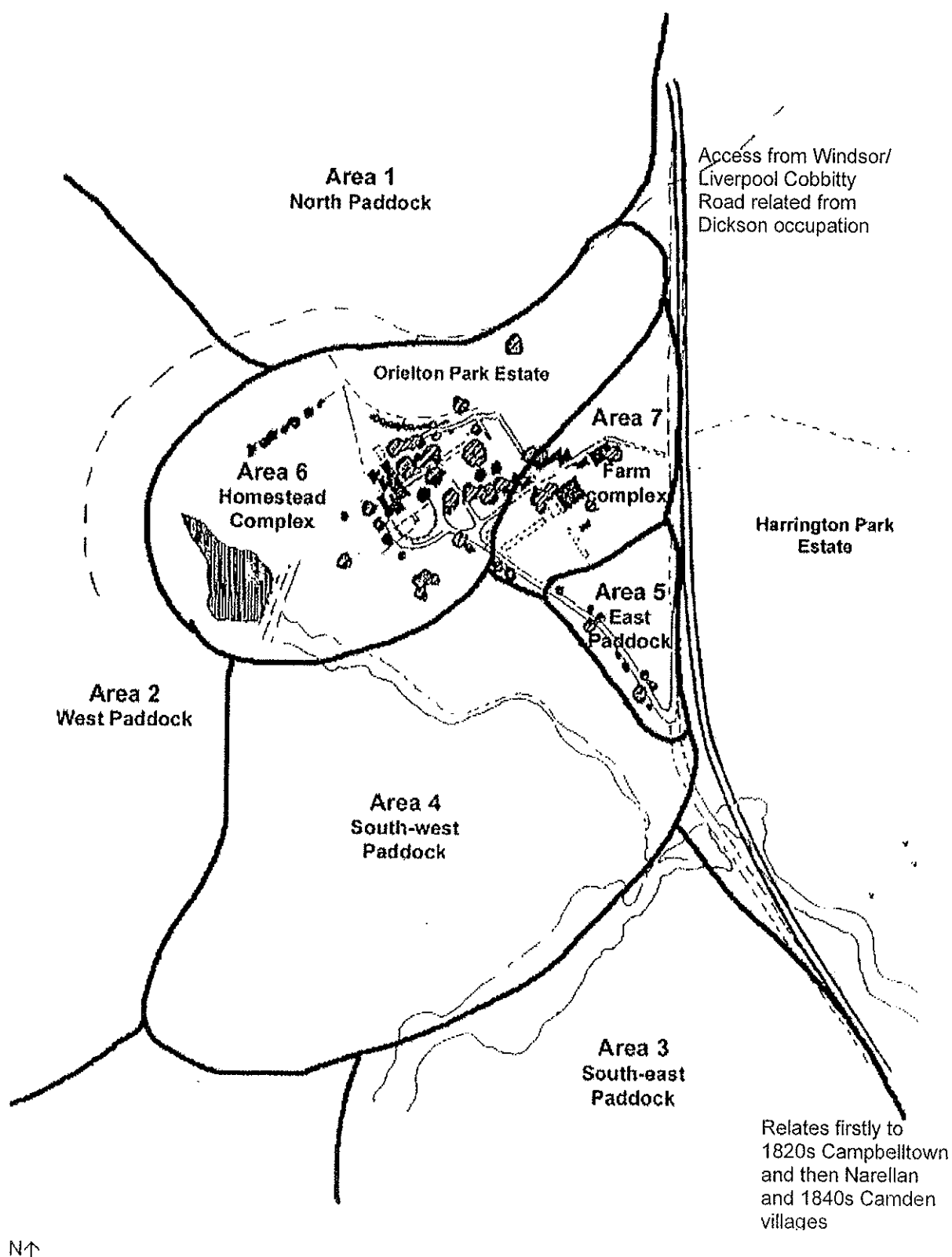


Figure No. 28: Subject Site – Landscape areas.

## 3.5.3.1 Area 1 – North paddock

Refer Figure No.28, pg.43.

The north paddock is a section of grazing land between the homestead and Cobbitty road. This area covers the greater area of the site and is obscured from the house by the northern ridgeline. The central saddle creates a viewing corridor that can be seen from the orchard area of the homestead complex.

The majority of the area is grassed for the grazing of cattle with a north east pocket of revegetated wood land. The area has evidence of remnants from previous buildings that existed on the land. Towards the Cobbitty road boundary the site has potential for archaeological finds. During World War II this part of the site was once occupied by the air force, but the revegetated wood land and clearing of the site has limited the potential for discovery. The site was also used for dump deposits by previous occupants of the property and there are scattered pits throughout this area. This part of the estate has numerous riding trails associated with the equestrian centre at the farm complex.

The south east corner of this area closely bound by the farm complex is thought to be the original entry area into the property. The area is now used for the horse stabling.



Figure No.29: View of the north ridge looking south from the north paddock. Distant glimpses of the homestead trees begin to appear.



Figure No.30: View of the north paddock into the revegetated woodland. In the foreground remnant bricks of a former building appear.



Figure No.31: Southern view of Cobbitty Road. To the left is the original alignment of Cobbitty Road with the current boundary of Oriellon to the right.



Figure No.32: View of the north paddock from Cobbitty Road looking south.

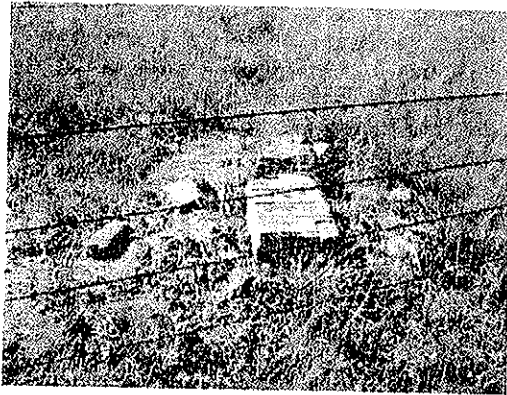


Figure No.33: Remnant footings from the military occupation closely located at the Cobbitty Road boundary of Orielson.

### 3.5.3.2 Area 2 – West paddock

Refer Figure No.28, pg.43.

Located west of the homestead, this area is dominated by the northern ridge that forms the western boundary of the site. This area of the site helps form the picturesque setting of Orielson by creating a ridgeline that forms the backdrop to the rural setting of the property. The ridgeline can be viewed on approach from The Northern Road and has clear outlooks to places such as Badgally Hill, Denbigh, St Johns Church Camden, Harrington Park and Studley Park. The gentle undulation in the west paddock created a topographic landmark that appears to have been valued by the occupants of Orielson.

The west paddock is mainly an aesthetic element to the setting of the homestead. Grazing mainly occurs at the base of the ridge, on the slopes and southern knoll. The abundance of thistles, lack of shelter and topography still maintains the western paddock as an element of 18<sup>th</sup> Century English Landscape practices rarely represented on remaining homesteads.



Figure No.34: View of dam looking south-west towards Kirkham



Figure No.35: View looking west towards the northern ridge.

## 3.5.3.3 Area 3 – South east paddock

Refer Figure No.28, pg.43.

Located south of Narellan Creek, the south east paddock is an open area of grazing pasture. This area is closely located to the recent industrial development of Narellan and is the beginning of the rural setting for Orielson. The area was prone to flooding because of its close proximity to the creek and its relatively flat topography, resulting in lush grounds for grazing but subject to limited or no development. This area has Kirkham as its neighbour to the west and is bound by The Northern Road to the east.



Figure No.36: View of Narellan creek looking east.

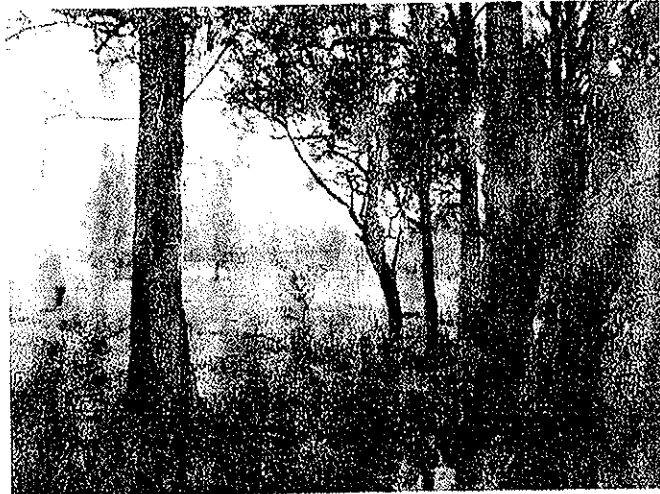


Figure No.37: View of the south east paddock from Narellan creek.

## 3.5.3.4 Area 4 – South paddock

The south paddock is a section of grazing land between the homestead and Narellan Creek. This low landscape to the south of the site provides an outlook from the homestead over its holdings towards the town of Narellan. It also provides the appropriate setting for a grazing property as viewed from the driveway that accesses the house from The Northern Road.

This area of land is generally open paddock with lush grasses because of its close proximity to the creek. The area is defined by the creek and the She oaks treeline and by fencing to its east and west boundaries. Documentary evidence suggests there were small structures on this part of the pastures however no substantial buildings were constructed due to frequent flooding of the creek. Water pump heritage technology may remain along the creek. Fords remain.

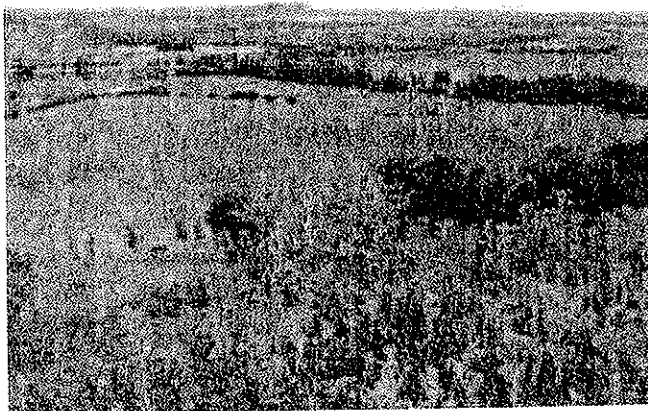


Figure No.38: View of the south paddocks and Narellan Creek from the north-west ridge.

3.5.3.5 *Area 5 – East paddock*

Refer Figure No.28, pg.43.

Located close to The Northern Road, this paddock forms part of the farm complex. The area originally housed a workers cottage that no longer exists, but the essential function of the area for horse agistment remains the same. The west boundary is formed by the road that leads up to the house which establishes its rural setting. The east boundary (The Northern Road) has moved slightly to allow for a buffer zone between the site and the traffic flow.

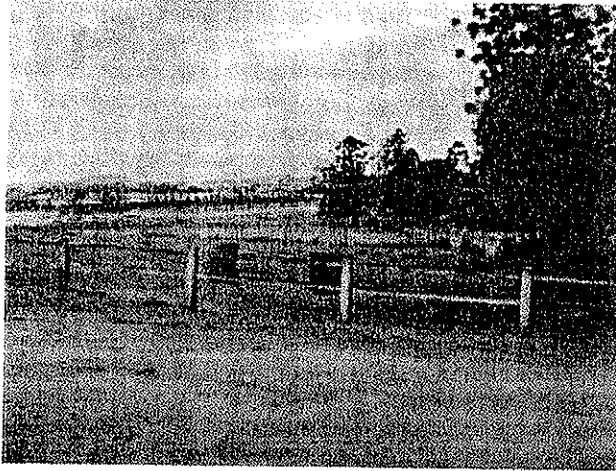


Figure No.39: View of farm complex access looking east towards The Northern Road.



Figure No.40: View of east paddock looking towards the south drive and paddock.

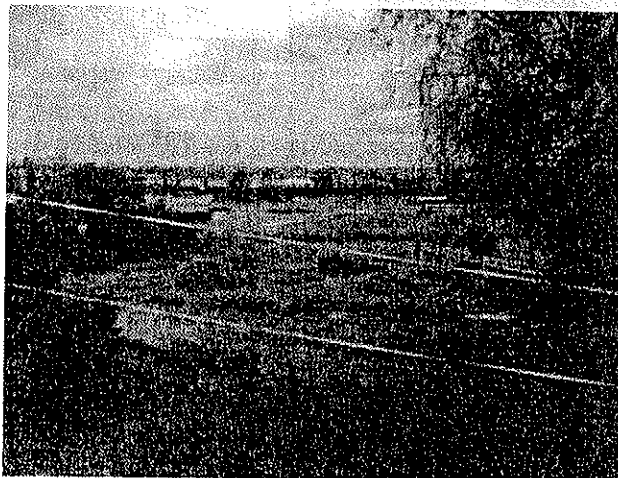


Figure No.41: View of east paddock looking towards The Northern road

3.5.3.6 Area 6 - Homestead and garden complex

Refer Figure No.28, pg.43.

This section of the property is delineated by a combination of fence lines, gardens features, dams, vegetation and topographical features. It contains some of the earliest structures on the Orielson property.

To the east of the homestead the gardens are composed of a carriage loop with densely planted species including Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and a Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*). The area is delineated by timber post and wire strand fencing that leads into paddocks. The original entry originated from the north east of this area and physical evidence shows how it linked to the current carriage loop. The levelled portion of land directly east of the carriage loop was recently filled by spoil from RTA roadworks on the Northern Road. This area is currently used for horse agistment. Evidence of formal gardens appears in the 1947 aerial with remnant hedges forming the line of formal gardens. Presently there is little found evidence of the original gardens.

The southern entry relating to Narellan, Campbelltown and Camden resulted in the formal garden being relocated. Like the early garden, little remains. The current entry drive passes the formal gardens and links to the early carriage loop. The drive is lined with the prominent Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria excelsa*). 1947 aerials reveal semi circular gardens in front of the Italianate portion of the homestead with associated planting and arrangements (refer to Figure No.122, pg.90). The stone steps leading up to the 'front' of the garden are still intact however little garden arrangement and vegetation remain. A tennis court appears at the foot of the stone steps. Scattered plantings including Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), Mulberry (*Morus*), Peppercorn (*Schinus ariera*) and Privet (*Ligustrum*) trees remain.

The west of the homestead was the working area and included the picking garden and orchard. While structures within this area have been lost, the line of European Olive trees and aerials reveal the boundaries of the area. Eileen Cummings (daughter of owner William Pilling) reveals that the orchard was still in use during their 1930 occupation and included fruits and nuts. The space is currently used for grazing. While the productive gardens are no longer in use there is a tip with remnants from the homestead. This tip is important as a repository of past life styles and conditions.

The large dam built by Warwick Fairfax in c1958 has been constructed across the western boundary of the former picking garden and orchard. The dam wall is not structurally sound.

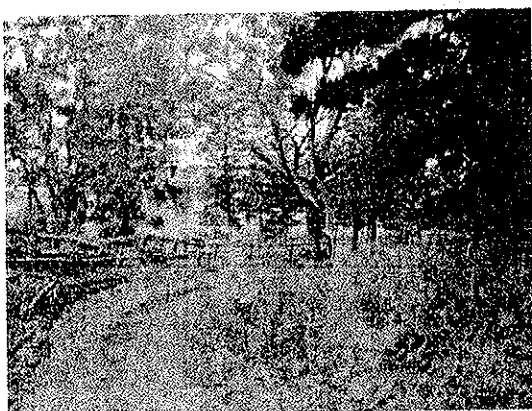


Figure No. 42: Part of Orielson carriage loop looking east.



Figure No.43: View of homestead from the dam looking east across former orchard.



Figure No.44: Orielson Homestead and orchard looking south

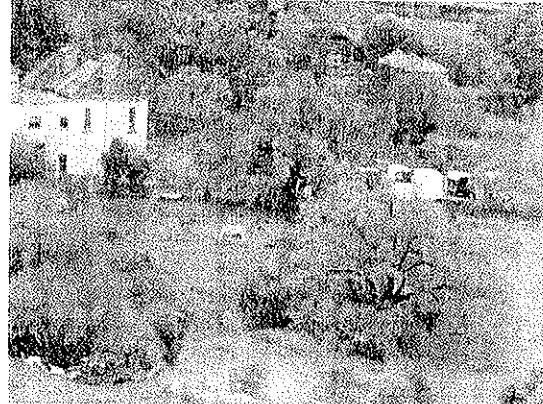


Figure No.45: View of orchard and east over to the farm complex

#### 3.5.3.7 Area 7 - Farm complex

Refer Figure No.28, pg.43.

The farm complex is located to the east of the homestead and was laid out along an access drive that ran straight from The Northern road coupled to the redirected southern entry. The area is no longer accessed from The Northern road but rather accessed from within the Orielson site. Early hedging that appears on aerial photographs no longer exists and the substantial barn and cottage from the Peisley occupation have long since been removed (although probable remnants of the barn remain.)

The farm complex once used for wheat and dairy production is currently used as a horse agistment area. When entering the complex three metal sheet silos are located to the right and an early brick structure (probable out building) is to the left. Further within the complex there are timber stables that are in use and a disused milking shed sits behind. Potential footing remnants of the early barn appear. The current stables appear to be built on the former barn footprint. Many of the existing structures appear to date from the Swan occupation.



Figure No.46: View of farm complex access looking east towards The Northern road