



Heritage Advice Report

BWC2/25 Blacktown Workers Sports Club

Site A: Outdoor Sports Facilities – 221 Walters Road, Arndell Park

Site B: Seniors Living Village – 170 Reservoir Road, Arndell Park

Client: **Paynter Dixon Constructions Pty Ltd**

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1 Background

Eco Logical Australia (ELA) has been engaged to provide heritage advice for the Blacktown Workers Sports Club Masterplan (BWSCM) Reservoir Road, Arndell Park. The masterplan comprised of two main components – Site A will comprise outdoor sporting facilities and Site B a seniors living residential development (approximately 800 units). These areas are identified on **Figure 1**.

Given the integrated nature of the master plan this report has been prepared for all three components as needed to facilitate the development:

- Planning Proposal to include ‘recreation facility (outdoor)’ on Lot 14 Sec 4 DP6796 and Lot 10 DP818679,
- Development Application for the outdoor sports facilities on Lot 14 Sec 4 DP6796 and Lot 10 DP818679, and
- Site Compatibility Certificate for a Seniors Living Village on Lot 201 DP880404.

A previous archaeological report for Lot 14 Section 4 DP818679 at Walters Road, Arndell Park was prepared in July 2001 by Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management. This land is now part of “Site A proposed outdoor sporting facilities” within the BWSCM.

In light of legislative changes since 2001 and the revised scope and type of development proposed, the heritage advice for Component A and B of the BWSCM provided by ELA included the following:

- A review of the previous reports for the site;
- An Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search to determine if any Aboriginal sites have been listed within or near the study area;
- A search of the Australian Heritage Database, State Heritage Inventory and Blacktown LEP Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage in relation to the site;
- A brief site inspection to verify any listed heritage sites and assess the areas previously considered to be PADs.

This advice has been prepared by Taryn Gooley, Archaeologist of ELA and reviewed by Lyndon Patterson, Principal Archaeologist of ELA.

2 Review of previous reports for the site

The 2001 report “*Archaeological Survey for Aboriginal Sites: Lot 14 Section 4 DP 818679 Walters Road Blacktown, NSW*” by Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd (JMCHM), included a thorough assessment of the regional and local Aboriginal archaeological context of the Blacktown Area as well as a well-structured predictive model. The assessment also included a site inspection which was conducted with Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council representative, Steve Randell.

The report recommended the following in relation to development of this land:

- No surface Aboriginal sites were recorded during the field visit;
- Two areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD) were identified as having moderate archaeological potential. These areas would cause a constraint to any development that would impact upon the ground surface.
- These areas of moderate sensitivity occur within the woodland areas along the northern edge of Lot 14.
- Any impacts to these areas will require sub-surface investigation to enable the appropriate management of their Aboriginal heritage values.
- The remainder of the site has low to no archaeological potential.

3 AHIMS Search

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database was conducted on 4 November 2015 from Lat, Long: -33.7984, 150.8858 to Lat, Long -33.7887, 150.9011 with a buffer of 50 metres (**Attachement A**).

One AHIMS site was identified approximately 600m to the south of the study area (**Figure 1**). Site 45-5-2362 (EC 2[5]) was recorded by Navin Officer and is listed as an open site/artefact scatter.

The proposed works will not have any impact on site 45-5-2362 as it is located outside the area of proposed impact.

4 Heritage Database Searches

Searches of the Australian Heritage Database, State Heritage Inventory and Blacktown LEP Schedule 5 were conducted on the 4 November 2015. No registered items of Aboriginal or historic significance were identified.

5 Site Inspection Results

A site inspection of the BWSCM area was conducted by ELA archaeologist Taryn Gooley on 3 November 2015. Prior to the site inspection the JMCHM (2001) report was reviewed. As noted above the report found much of the site had been moderately-highly disturbed by previous farming and industrial activities. Two areas were identified as having low levels of disturbance; remnant Cumberland woodland was also identified within these areas of low disturbance (**Figure 1**).

The site inspection found that the original assessment of the moderate-high and highly disturbed areas to be valid. Proposed Site B, in the south eastern portion of the study area has been modified in order to accommodate a sports field (**Plate 1** and **Plate 2**). Large amounts of fill have been imported in order to create a level surface as evidenced by the artificial terrace now present, running adjacent to the second order creek line which transects the study area (**Plate 3**).

The north eastern portion of the study area (proposed Site A) contained one of the two areas of low disturbance identified by JMCHM in 2001. The site inspection conducted by ELA found that this area has been highly disturbed since 2001 due to land clearing and dumping of fill (**Plate 4** and **Plate 5**). A drain located in the north eastern most corner feeds into an area of standing water (**Plate 6** and **Plate 7**). As a result much of the vegetation in this area is waterlogged. Due to the recent disturbance within this area it is unlikely that intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits remain within this area.

The second area of low disturbance identified by JMCHM in the north western portion of the site was found to be in much the same state as described by JMCHM (**Plate 8** and **Plate 9**). A review of historic aerial imagery does however indicate that this area was subject to moderate disturbance from farming activities from the 1930's (**Figure 2 - 4**). This area has therefore been classified as an area of moderate disturbance. The soils within this area were found to be clayey (**Plate 10**) indicating that this area has a shallow A soil horizon; this combined with the level of disturbance in the area indicates that the potential for intact Aboriginal Archaeological deposits is low.

The south western portion of the study area (within proposed Site A) was found to be moderately to highly disturbed as determined by JMCHM in 2001 (**Plate 11** and **Plate 12**). Evidence of contouring within the landscape from farming activities was visible during the site inspection and in subsequent aerial imagery reviews. The remains of buildings and other foundations were also identified during the site inspection (**Plate 13** and **Plate 14**). The potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits being present within this area is therefore low.

The preliminary investigations of the building foundations mentioned above have found that the study area was within the Rooty Hill Government Farm established by Governor King in 1802. The Rooty Hill Farm was subsequently subdivided from c.1815 and portions of the land were granted to settlers. The study area formed part of the original 2000 acre land grant taken up by John Campbell in 1822 (**Figure 5**). Campbell called his estate Bungaribee and built the Bungaribee Homestead, located approximately 2 km north west of the study area. The Bungaribee Homestead complex is listed on the state heritage register as an item of archaeological and terrestrial significance (OEH Bungaribee Homestead Complex Archaeological Site, State Heritage Register Inventory Sheet). Campbell built a temporary dwelling in 1822 which later became the servants quarters. The main homestead was started in 1825 (Bungaribee Homestead Complex Archaeological Site SHR listing).

The historic aerial imagery shown in **Figure 2 – 4** indicates that one of the farm houses and its associated outbuildings within in the study area was built prior to 1930. An early undated, presumably nineteenth century, parish plan shows John Campbell's land grant of 2000 acres on the north side of the Great

Western Highway and Bungarribee Homestead and two outbuildings. No buildings are shown within the current study area on the parish plan, demonstrating that the farm house post-dates the construction of Bungarribee Homestead. The farm house may relate to the post subdivision of Bungarribee Estate. The estate east of Doonside Road was subdivided off in 1913 (Bungarribee Homestead Complex Archaeological Site SHR listing).

Further historical research is required to determine the age of this farm house and who it was built for or lived there.

The foundations and potential archaeological remains of the pre 1930 farm house which are located within the study area, may be protected under the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)* if they are found to be relics or local or state significance. As such further assessment is recommended in order to determine if there is historic significance of the house and associated outbuildings by establishing who built the house and outbuildings and what date they were constructed. Further historical research of key state archives and past studies including the Blacktown Heritage Study (Jonathan Falk Planning Consultants, 1988) can be used to determine a site chronology. A significance assessment can then be undertaken of the remains using the guide *Assessing Significance Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* (Heritage Branch 2009).

6 Recommendations

- The study area (both Site A and Site B) has been determined to have low potential for intact subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits due to high levels of historic and recent disturbance.
- No further Aboriginal archaeological assessment is required.
- If Aboriginal objects are identified during works, works must cease immediately and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) must be notified under section 89A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.
- In the unlikely event that human remains are identified, work must cease and the police contacted immediately. If the remains are suspected to be of Aboriginal origin then OEH should be contacted for advice.
- Within proposed Site A - The building foundations identified during the site inspection and confirmed through examination of 1930's aerial imagery may provide evidence of pre 1930's life within the Blacktown area. These structures will require further investigation in the form of a Historic Heritage Assessment in order to determine if they hold archaeological or heritage significance and therefore protection under the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*. If found to be of local or state heritage significance relics the Heritage Division must be notified under section 146 of the *Heritage Act 1977* and avoidance of the area, or approval under the *Heritage Act 1977* would be required.



Figure 1 Study area showing AHIMS site, and areas previously determined to have moderate archaeological sensitivity



Figure 2 Historic aerial imagery dating to 1930 showing farm house in western section of study area (Image © NSW Department of Land and Property Information).



Figure 3 Historic aerial image dating to 1951 showing level of disturbance in study area due to farming activities. The house pictured in the 1930 aerial still remains (Image © NSW Department of Land and Property Information).



Figure 4 Historic aerial image dating to 1970 showing level of disturbance in study area due to farming activities. The house pictured in the 1930 aerial still remains (Image © NSW Department of Land and Property Information).



Figure 5 Historic map of the Arndell Park area dating to 1894 showing the study area within the original 2000 acre land grant to John Campbell (Image © NSW Department of Land and Property Information).



Plate 1: Overview of sports field in north eastern portion of the study area facing NW



Plate 2: Overview of sports field in north eastern portion of the study area facing E



Plate 3 Artificial terrace formed during the construction of the sports field in northern eastern portion of study area facing W



Plate 4: Area of low disturbance in north eastern corner of study area identified by JMCHM facing SE



Plate 5: Area of low disturbance in north eastern corner of study area identified by JMCHM facing SW



Plate 6: Area of low disturbance in north eastern corner of study area identified by JMCHM facing NW



Plate 7: Drain located in area of low disturbance in north eastern corner of study area identified by JMCHM



Plate 8: Area of low disturbance in north western corner of study area identified by JMCHM facing W



Plate 9: Area of low disturbance in north western corner of study area identified by JMCHM facing SE



Plate 10: Soil within the area of low disturbance in north western corner of study area identified by JMCHM



Plate 11: South western portion of the study area facing S



Plate 12: South western portion of the study area facing N



Plate 13 Stone footings in the south western portion of the study area



Plate 14: Cement curbing in the south western portion of the study area



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