

Heritage Assessment



HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORY ▼ ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT INTERPRETATION



PROSPECT SOUTH PLANNING PROPOSAL

Historic (European) Heritage Assessment

Report to the NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Office of Strategic Lands

Friday 2 March 2018

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
History	7
First People	7
Incursion	7
Settlement	8
Prospect	13
Study Area	16
Heritage	24
Legislation	24
Listings	25
Survey	28
Significance	38
Conclusions	41
History	41
Heritage	41
Considerations	41
Recommendations	42
References	43
Glossary	45
Attachments	46
A1. Great Western Road (SHR)	47
A2. Great Western Road (SHI)	48
A3. Bridestowe (SHI)	49

Introduction

The Office of Strategic Lands (OSL) on behalf of the NSW Minister for Planning are investigating options for the rezoning and future use of land at Prospect South in Western Sydney, NSW. The subject land (the study area) is set below the M4 Motorway: between Reconciliation Road and Warmuli Reserve, with the Greystanes Release Area of SEPP 2009 (Western Sydney Employment Lands) bordering to the immediate south. The study area is within the Blacktown LGA and accounts for approximately 12.2 hectares: 11 hectares of which is owned by OSL and the remainder (including small allotments, roadways and easements) owned variously by NSW Roads & Maritime Services (RMS), Blacktown City Council (BCC) and two private landholders.¹ The lands are zoned RU4 (Primary Production Small Lots) and feature former farmland; a cleared paddocks; rural-residential blocks; a small number of residences and incidental buildings; and a haulage business. All are set about Reservoir Road and/or Thornley Road, which effectively divide the land into three distinct areas.

Background

The study area is no longer used for the primary production purposes for which it is zoned. As it has ready access to major arterials (M4) and immediately adjoins the Greystanes Industrial Area (to the immediate south), OSL are seeking to have the entire land area rezoned for industrial purposes (IN1 or IN2). If successful, the rezoning will see the site developed as a northern extension of the Greystanes Industrial Area that takes advantage of existing favourable accessibility and infrastructure.

Project

In order to meet the requirements of Blacktown City Council (BCC) in relation to the proposal, and inform rezoning planning and support future planning proposals, OSL has engaged Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists (MDCA) to conduct European and Aboriginal heritage investigations into the study area: the main objectives of which, are to provide an historical overview of the place; identify heritage items within (or adjacent to) it; and develop interim strategies for the management of any identified heritage items.²

Report

This document addresses the historic (European) heritage of the study area and is a companion document to the Aboriginal (indigenous) Heritage Assessment.³ It presents an assessment of the historic heritage and archaeology of the place and combines a review of relevant heritage legislation and listings; collation and appraisal of previous reporting; archival research as required; and the results of a field survey/site inspection.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Dan Tuck (MDCA historical archaeologist). The author would like to thank Dr Paul Irish (MDCA) and DBL Property Pty Ltd for providing background information and facilitating site access.

Refer **figures 1 - 8**.

¹ OSL: Lot 3/DP1152914; Lots 10-15/DP448744; Lot 18/DP802723; Lots 24 & 26/DP181210. RMS Lot 25/DP181210. Evenden: Lots A & C/DP374323; Lot D/DP374324. Siddique/Sahid: Lots 10 & 11/DP801209. Reservoir Developments Pty Ltd Lot 10/DP374325

² OSL Consultant Brief. Prospect South Lands: European & Aboriginal Heritage Services. September 2017; Letter of Advice from Blacktown City Council 17 March 2017 (detailing studies & information required in relation to the proposal)

³ MDCA 2017. Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Rezoning of Prospect South Lands, NSW

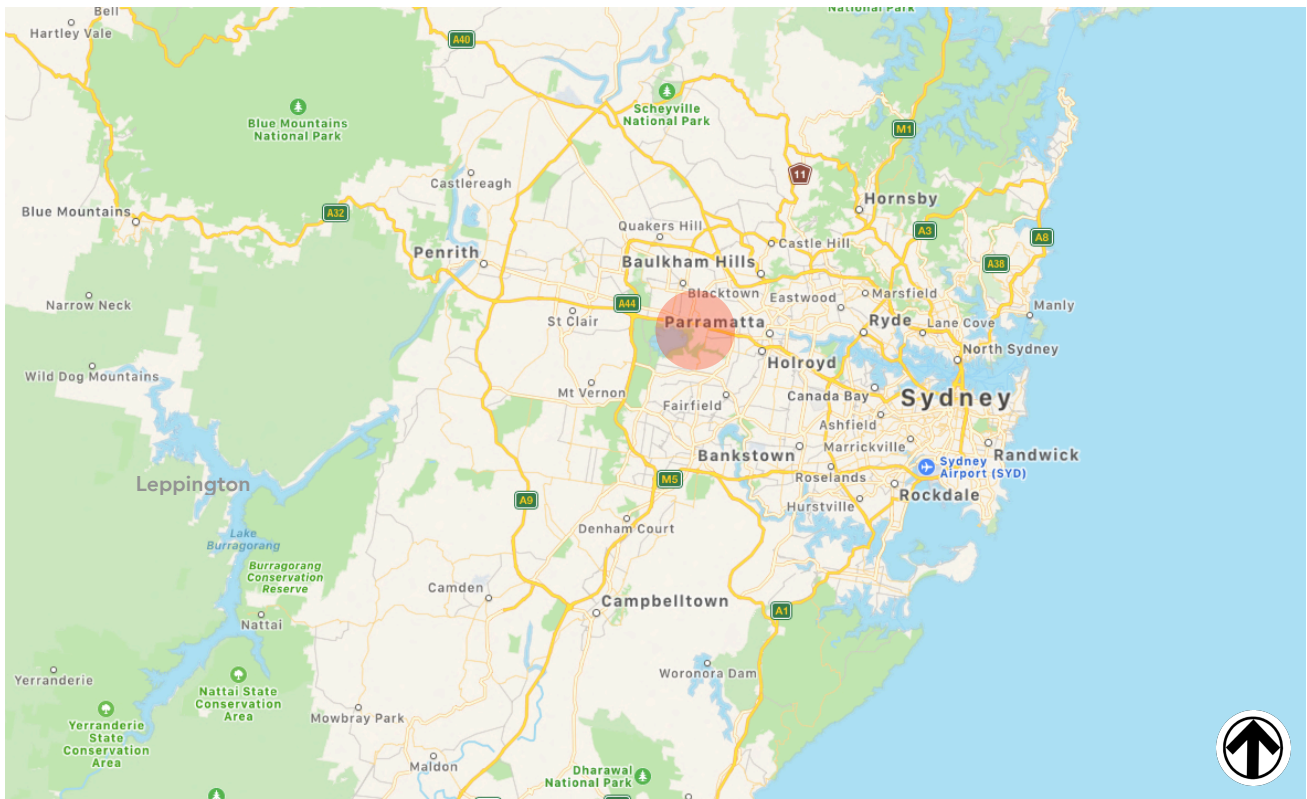


Figure 1: Sydney Region

Maps 2018

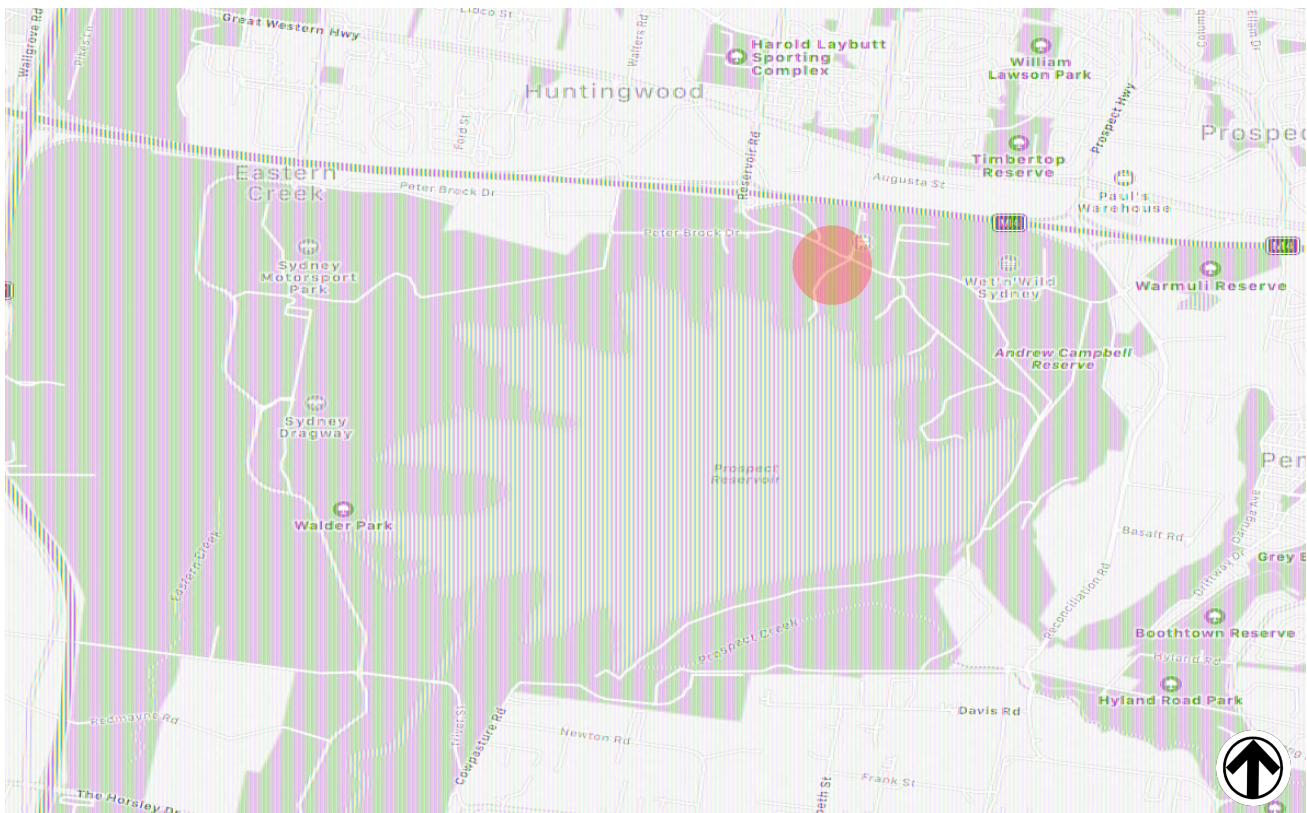


Figure 2: Prospect Area

Maps 2018

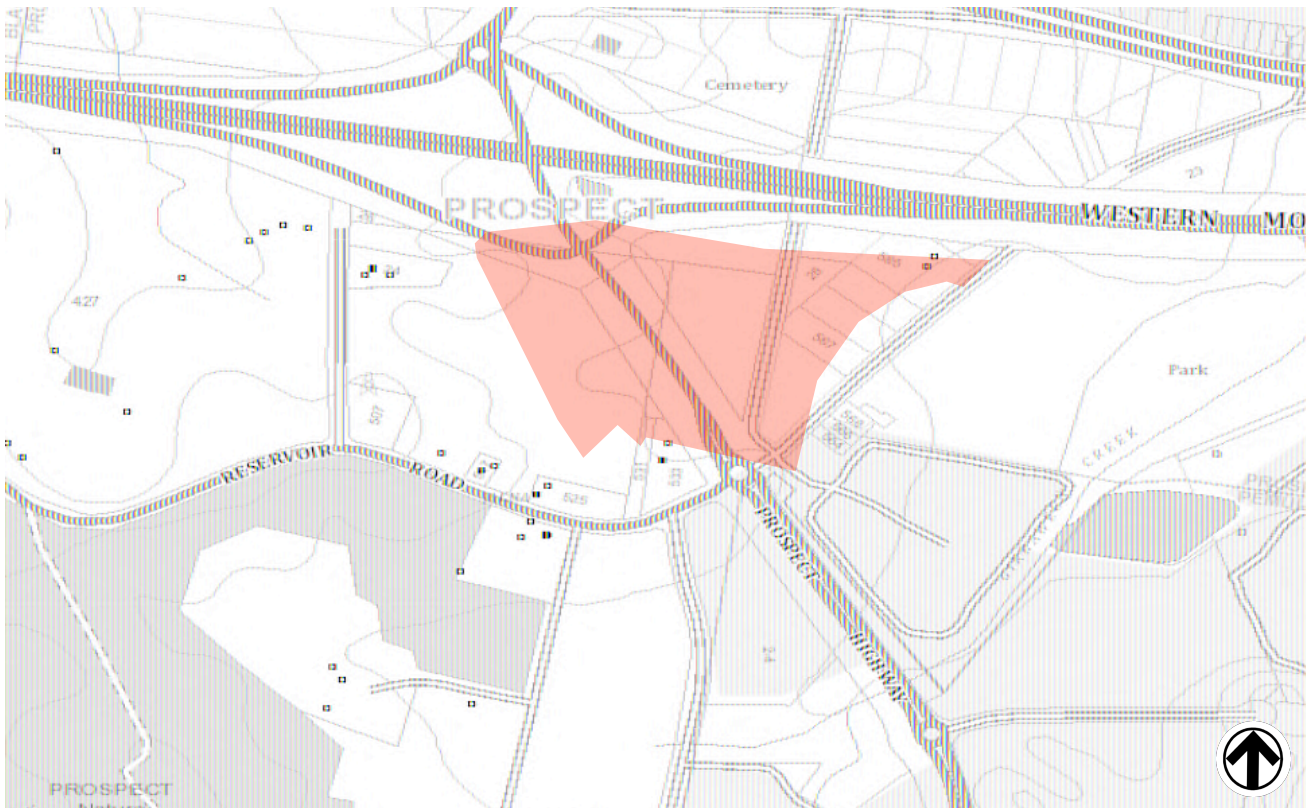


Figure 3: Prospect South Study Area

LPI SIX Viewer 2018

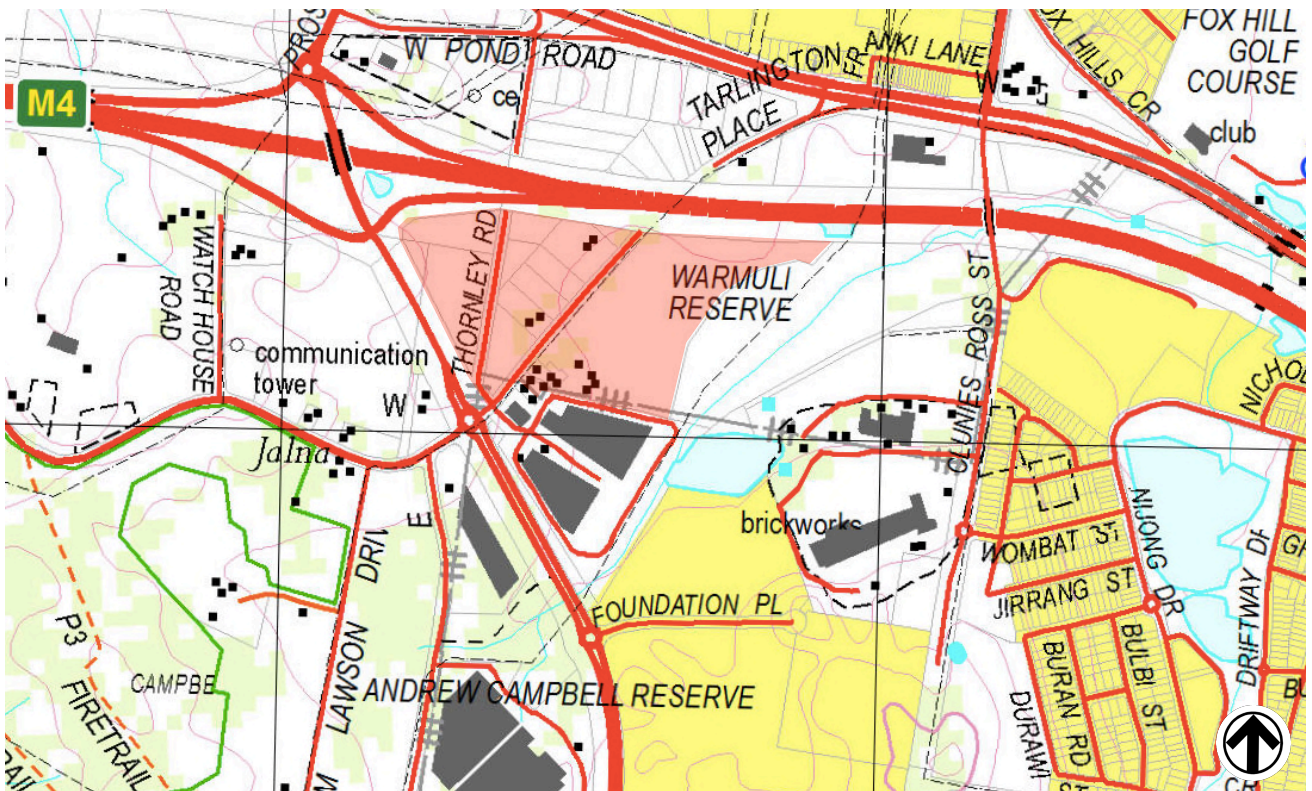


Figure 4: Prospect South Study Area

LPI SIX Viewer 2018



Figure 5: Study Area (Satellite)

LPI SIX Viewer 2018

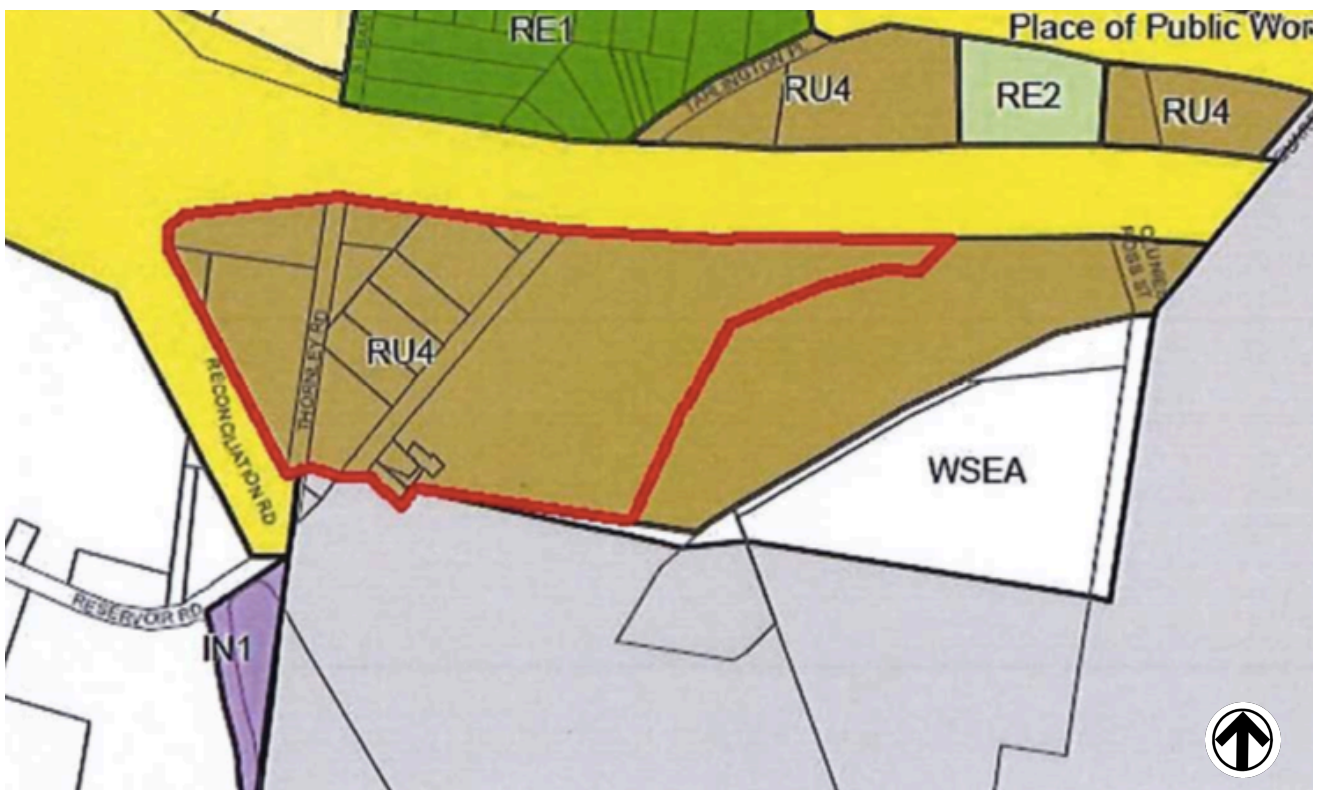


Figure 6: Study Area (Current Zoning)

Blacktown LEP 2015

MDCA Page 5

DEM (Australia) Pty Ltd 9 February 2018

History

The study area is set within a broad physiographic region to the west of Sydney known as the Cumberland Plain.⁴ This expansive landscape is dominated by alternating low hills and ridges set above lowlands and floodplains incised with shallow creek valleys. For the most part, elevation is moderate and mostly ranges between 90 and 100 metres ASL. The geology underlaying this landscape is of the Wianamatta Group, which comprises Triassic-era shale, sandstone, carbonaceous claystone, laminate and coal. Local soil landscapes overtopping the Wianamatta series include the residual, friable loams and clays of the Blacktown Soil Landscape (evident in the flat to undulating central and western parts of the study area) and the alluvial-fluvial sediments of with the South Creek Soil Landscape (notable in the flatter areas of Warmuli Reserve, approaching Girraween Creek).⁵

First People

Prior to European settlement, the Cumberland Plain featured vast woodlands and forests, interspersed with open grasslands and swamplands. Within the study area, it is likely that the vegetation regime was once dominated by eucalyptus woodland and forest wherein Red Gum, Narrow-Leafed Iron Bark, Grey Box and Spotted Gum were prominent above an understory of grasses and shrubs.⁶ The forests, rangelands, swamps and creeks of Western Sydney harboured innumerable resources and supplied the traditional Aboriginal people with an array of food stuffs and raw materials. Occupation and use of the Cumberland Plain by Aboriginal people is considerable and is understood to predate European settlement more than 20,000 years.⁷

Incursion

Sydney Cove was founded by the Colony's first governor Arthur Phillip and the First Fleet in 1788. The more arable, agricultural satellite of Parramatta (Rose Hill) was founded soon after. Exploration to the west of Parramatta commenced thereafter, with expeditions lead by Governor and his retinue visiting the Blacktown area and near-parts of the Nepean River district and naming Bellevue Hill and Prospect. In 1791, Phillip established a settlement for emancipated convicts in a semi-circle around the arable eastern and southern margins of Prospect Hill. The settlement featured small holdings of between 30 and 70 acres, separated by driftaways (small parcels of Crown land). Among the original grantees were John Silverthorn and Thomas Martin (weavers); John Nichols (gardener); William Butler and William Parish (seaman); George Lisk (watchmaker); William Kilby (farm labourer) and Edward Pugh (carpenter).⁸ Additional grants were made in 1792 and included those to a series of Johns (namely Brown, Limeburner, Trace, Baugham and Ocraft).⁹

The arrival of the first ex-convict settlers lead to the active exclusion of Aboriginal people from their lands and pre-empted the first organised Aboriginal resistance to the spread of European settlement. Incidences of

⁴ Bannerman & Hazelton 1990

⁵ Hazelton et. al. 1989; MDCA 2007; 2017

⁶ Benson & Howell 1995

⁷ Australian Museum Consulting 2014

⁸ Conybeare Morrison 2005

⁹ Conybeare Morrison 2005

violent discord between settlers, military overseers and Aborigines (including the legendary Pemulwuy and his son Tedbury) were common features of the early frontier wars that plagued the Prospect district.¹⁰

Settlement

After Phillip's departure in 1794, later Governors granted additional land in the district to others, effectively in a north-south strip between Prospect and Parramatta. These grants were typically to free settlers and ex-military personal of means who established farmsteads and large pastoral runs.¹¹

In 1810, NSW Corps officer William Lawson was granted 500 acres of land to the west of the study area, including what later became Prospect Reservoir and its immediate catchment. It was from this location that Lawson, in the company of Gregory Blaxland and William Wentworth, embarked on the historic crossing of the Blue Mountains. Lawson went on to establish the elaborate 40-roomed seat of *Veterans Hall* (1822), one of a number of significant estate properties that counterbalanced the more modest homes of the ordinary settler to Sydney's west in the early nineteenth century.

Other notable holdings in the greater Prospect area included Nelson Simmons Lawson's 75-acre *Greystanes*; John Campbell's 2000-acre *Bungarabee*; and Charles Whalen's 700-acre *Macquarie Park*.¹² The main thoroughfare that connected these estates and linked Sydney Town to the west was the Great Western Road.

The Great Western Road

The Great Western Road was established as a broadly east-west thoroughfare leading away from Sydney Town in the early 1800s. It is associated with the early pioneering expeditions of the late eighteenth century and most likely followed age-old Aboriginal pathways, that linked Sydney to the Blue Mountains and beyond. It was formalised by Governor Macquarie in 1813-1815: one of three Great Roads built in the colony before the mid-1840s (the others being Great North Road (1826-36) and the Great South Road (1819-mid 1840s).

The roadway was utilised from the early 1800s but became widely used from the 1850s when the gold rushes in the district of Orange saw considerable traffic over the Blue Mountains from Sydney. Originally known also as simply the Western Road, it was improved/realigned by Surveyor Mitchell in the 1830s; metalled in the 1860s; became the Western Highway in the 1930s; and was transformed into the Great Western Highway after WWII.

The road has been the subject of numerous works and improvements over the years including pavement improvements and the widening of the sections between Sydney and Granville in the 1930s, and between Granville and the Northern Road in the 1960s/70s. It was during the latter period that the portion of road skirting the Prospect Reservoir lands was re-routed to the north. Redundant sections of the Western Road became Honeman Close, Boiler Close, Tarlinglington Place, Yallock Place and Reservoir Road.

Reservoir Road passes through the study area, a stub of roadway dislocated from the original Great Western Road alignment. It's northern end has been further truncated by the construction and upgrade of the M4 Motorway in the 1980s/1990s. The southern end further effected by road widening and resurfacing (2013) and the construction of a new roundabout linking it to Reconciliation Road-Prospect Highway, which links the M4 to Blacktown (2015).

Refer Conybeare Morrison 2005; Kass 2006; Department of Main Roads 1976

Refer figures 9 - 11.

¹⁰ Conybeare Morrison 2005

¹¹ Sharpe 2000: 72

¹² Freame 1923: 30; Sharpe 2000: 72 - 74

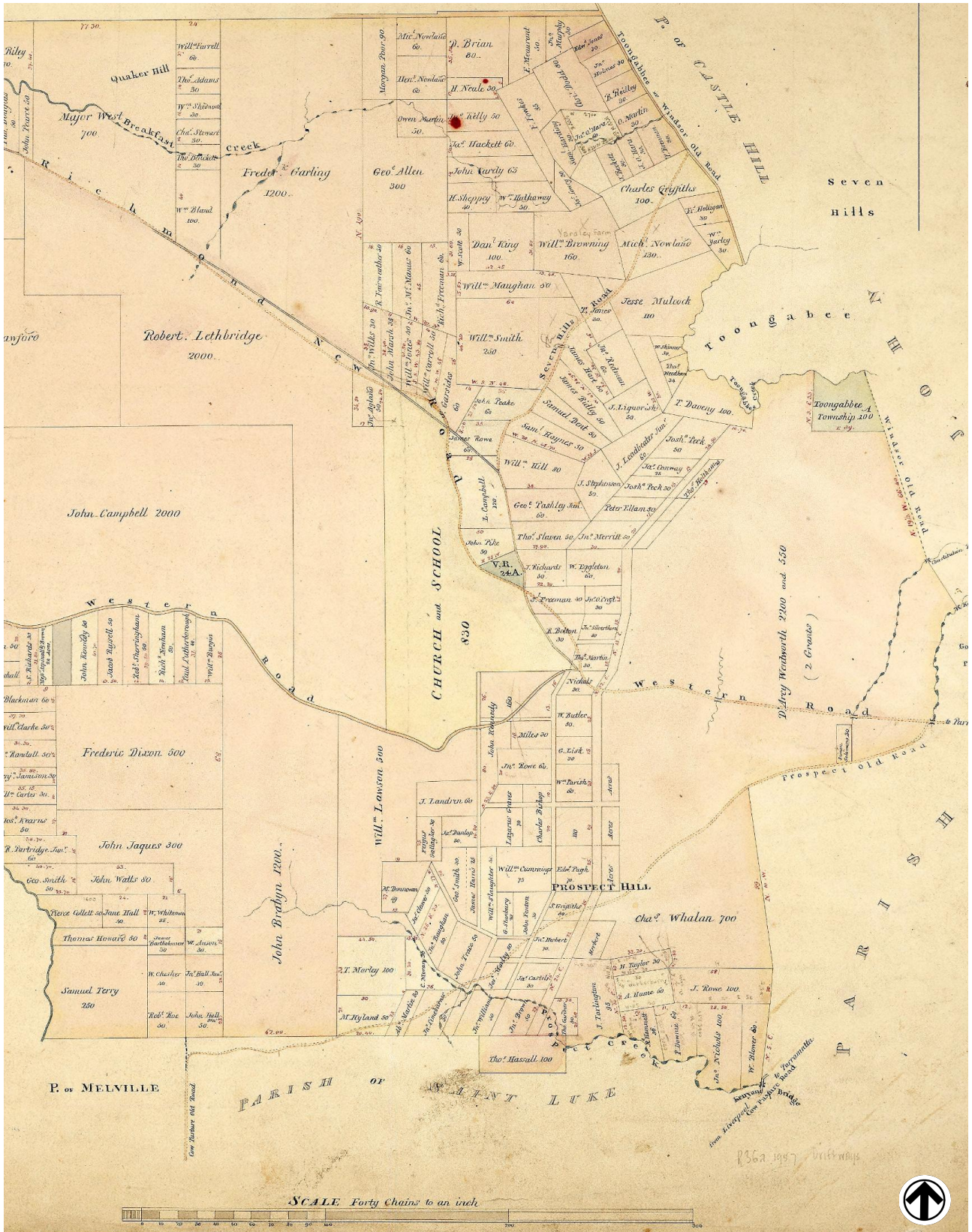


Figure 9: Map of the Parish of Prospect (Nd)

Early nineteenth century parish map showing early grantees and principal landscape features. The study area is in the centre of the image, where it spans the Western Road below the Church and Schools Estate.

AO Map 265/LPI Historic Lands Record Viewer

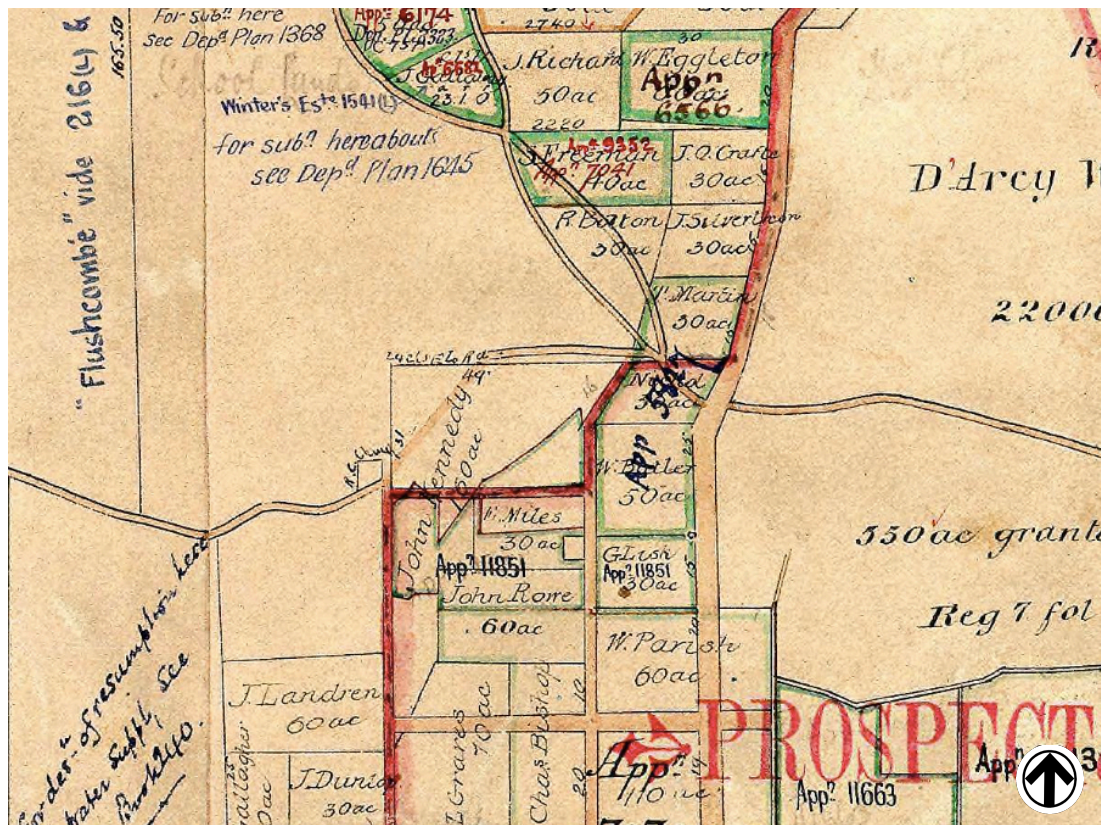


Figure 10: Part Map of the Parish of Prospect (Nd)

A0 Map 343/LPI Historic Lands Record Viewer



Figure 11: Part Map of the Parish of Prospect (Nd)

A0 Map 237/LPI Historic Lands Record Viewer

By the 1830s, most of the land with agricultural or grazing potential between Sydney and the Blue Mountains had been alienated. Despite this, the greater Prospect area remained sparsely settled for much of the nineteenth century. This was largely a consequence of the abandonment of some the original small grants, the relative enormity of the post-1794 grants and the giving over of considerable parcels of Crown Land to the estates of Churches and Schools. One of the few notable constructions in the Prospect area in the first half of the nineteenth century was St Bartholomew's Church, constructed at elevation to the northwest of the study area on the northern side of the Great Western Road.

St Bartholomew's Church

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church and Cemetery was constructed to the north-northwest of Prospect Hill on Crown Land that was given over to the Church in the c.1810s. Built largely with the aid of donor contributions (including those from the Lawson family), the church was constructed in the period 1838-1841 and became the centre of the Parish of Prospect: an area covering 67 miles and including locations such as Toongabbie, Blacktown, Seven Hills, and Wentworthville. The building itself is of Georgian style and is a plain, rectangular brick structure built on an east/west axis with a nave, chancel and vestries. The tower at the west features a square base with an octagonal belfry.



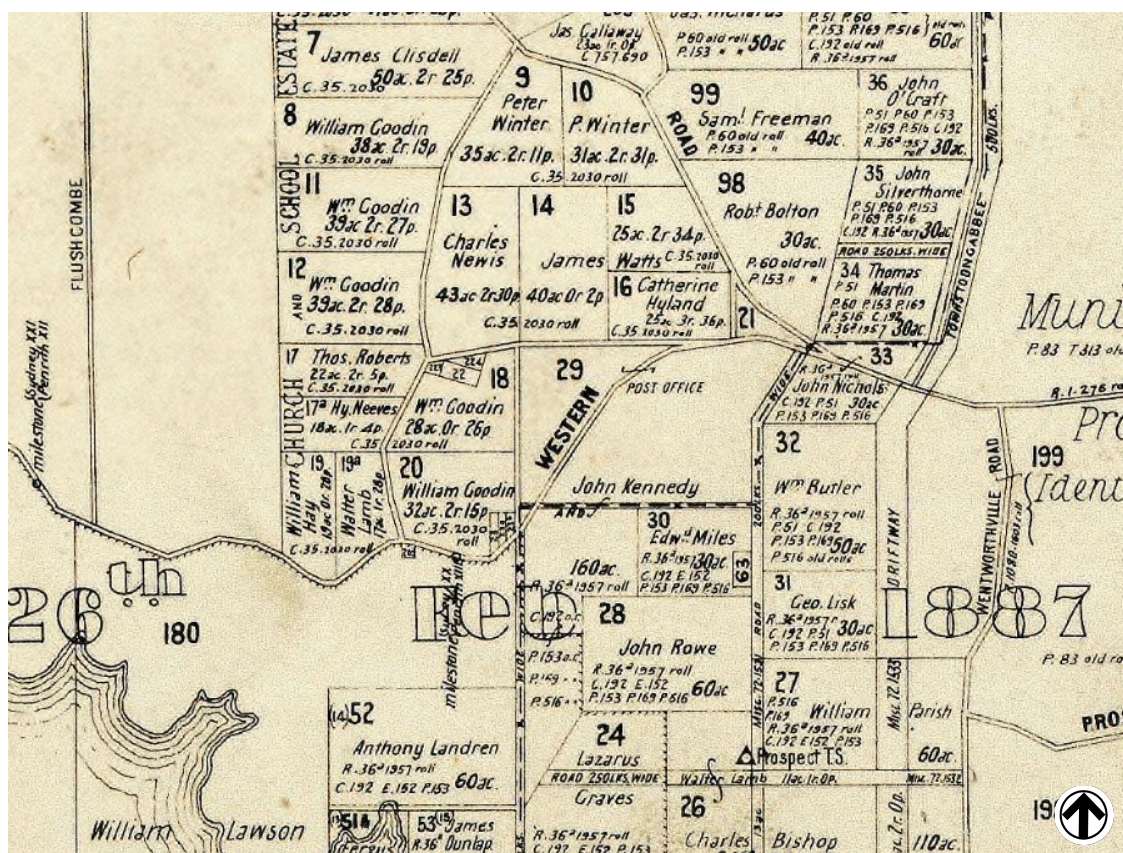
On Christmas Eve 1967, after well over 100 years of use, the Church was closed and put under the protection of a Trust. Various restoration works were undertaken over several decades until fire destroyed much of the contents of the church and severely damaged the roof in November 1989. In 1991 work commenced to repair the roof and brickwork and in 2000/2001 the Church was completely restored courtesy of Federation Funding.

The cemetery accompanying the Church was well utilised throughout the nineteenth century and by 1891 over 360 burials had been recorded in the parish registry. The church hall (relocated from Wetherill Park) was added to the grounds church and cemetery grounds in 1908 and rounds out the complex.

Refer Tanner Architects 2004; Heritage Group 1994; Heritage Buildings Group 1991

Refer **figures 12 & 13.**

AO Map 266/LPI Historic Lands Record Viewer



LPI Historic Lands Record Viewer

Prospect

Generally, it was the start of blue metal (road base) quarrying at Prospect in the 1870s and the construction of the Prospect Reservoir (completed in the 1880s) that drew people to the general area and kick started its rural and early suburban development.¹³ In association with these major enterprises, Prospect grew from a workers shantytown surrounded by largely undeveloped farmland in the early 1880s to a fledgling rural township by the early 1900s. This growth was reflected by the establishment of the Prospect school and police station, as well as the rise of a number of local hotels and businesses (predominantly along the Western Road).¹⁴

Prospect Reservoir

The Prospect Reservoir complex was Sydney's fourth major water supply system: following on from the Tank Stream, Busby's Bore, and the utilisation of the Botany Swamps. The Reservoir was the storage facility for the Upper Nepean Catchment Scheme and conveyed water to the locality via 57 kilometres of channels and canals from the Upper Nepean and Cataract Rivers. The Reservoir and its ancillary buildings including the Lower Valve House, were constructed in the 1880s on resumed land, much of which had previously been in the possession of the Lawson family. Lawson's famous *Veterans Hall* was home to the Sydney Water Board engineer until 1912. The water supply system was amplified in the period 1945 to 1960 by the addition of the Warragamba Dam to the cities water storage network.¹⁵

Prospect Quarries & CSIRO

The quarrying of volcanics from Prospect Hill commenced in the early years of settlement and became notable in the 1880s when basalt slabs were excavated to wall part of Prospect Reservoir. In 1901, modern quarrying commenced with The Emu and Prospect Gravel and Road Metal Company (a forerunner of Blue Metal Industries Limited and later Boral). Operations at Prospect have expanded over time and allied industries remains significant today. The area to the east of the study area was owned by quarrying companies and used for grazing until 1947, when it was acquired by the Commonwealth for the CSIRO. For a brief period prior, in the closing years of WWII, a US Military Camp made use of site.¹⁶

Roadworks

The post-war population increase and the rise of the personal motor vehicle lead to a major increase in motor traffic and increasing congestion along Parramatta Road and the major Sydney arterials. Planning for a Western Expressway began in 1947, with first section of the M4 Western Motorway - between Prospect and Penrith - completed by the Department of Main Roads during the 1960s/1970s. The roadway was converted to a tollroad and upgraded variously in the 1980s and 1990s. The proximity of Prospect to the motorway and its major connections and the redundancy of much of the quarry site, have been part of the reason why the locale has morphed from a semi-rural enclave to a bustling industrial area over the course of the last decade.

Refer **figures 14 - 17**.

¹³ Brown 1972

¹⁴ Sharpe 2000

¹⁵ Sydney Water Corporation 2005; Sharpe 2000: 77 - 78; Brown 1972

¹⁶ Conybeare Morrison 2005

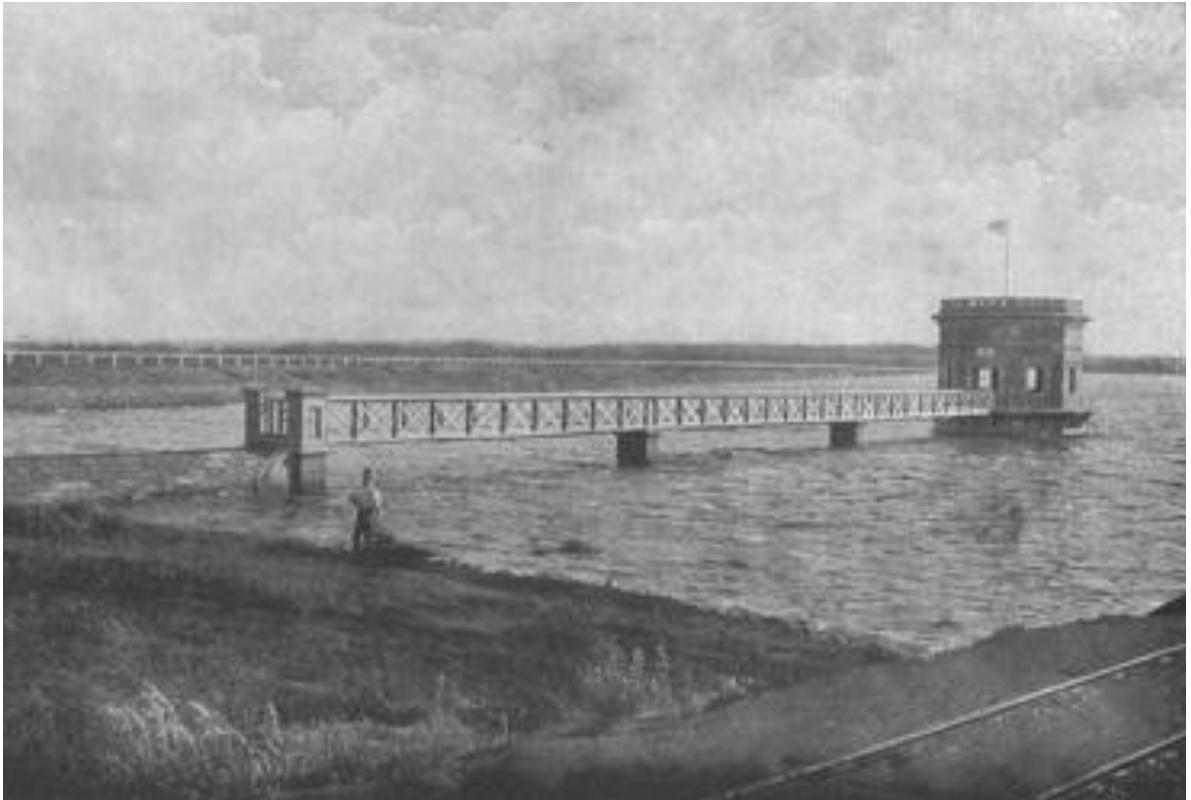


Figure 14: Prospect Reservoir (1900)

City of Sydney Archives



Figure 15: Prospect Reservoir (1900)

City of Sydney Archives



Figure 16: Prospect Quarrying (1960)

City of Sydney Archives



Figure 17: Western Motorway under construction (1968)

Prospect Heritage Trust

Study Area

The eastern part of the study area is within an early land grant in the Parish of Prospect attributable to John Kennedy (portion 29; 160 acres), which was traversed by the Western Road.

John Kennedy

Jonathan Kennedy arrived in the Colony aboard the ship *Surprise* in 1794. He was joined by his father James, aunt Elizabeth and several sisters who arrived via the Royal Sovereign in 1795. It appears that he (perhaps in association with his family) was granted portion 29 of 160 acres of land (as two adjoining portions) at Prospect Hill on 3 May 1799. Referred to as Nettlestead Farm, the property was cleared and worked by John and his family who lived in a small, two-room, wattle and plaster hut. The hut was simple, to say the least, with no windows, a front door that had holes in it that were big enough to put a fist through, and a mice-infested thatch roof.

It appears that the family operated a mixed farm at Prospect, wherein initial attempts at growing wheat, maize, potatoes and onions under the direction of patriarch James were a dismal failure. The 1799 and 1800 season crops were destroyed by wet weather; the 1803 wheat and maize harvests affected by blight and drought respectively. This early bad fortune forced the family to sell their small flock of sheep and goats to cover debt and lead to the Kennedy sisters being placed in the Orphan School in Parramatta under Mrs. Hume (their aunt).

Despite, poor beginnings, the Kennedy clan persevered and by late 1808 patriarch James had developed a strong interest into the raising and culture of hops, having planted out 1000 or more plants. It is unknown if this was at Nettlestead, or at Windsor where the family held other land and appeared to have moved to by the 1820s. Kennedy's land was ultimately subdivided, with much of it acquired by William Goodin.

Refer <http://www.spathaky.name/prospecthill/history/settlers.htm>

The western part of the study area takes in the southeastern corner of the 830-acre Church and Schools estate lands established in the early nineteenth century (to the north and west of Kennedy's grant). Most of this estate (excepting St Bartholomew's and associated lands) was subdivided and sold off during the second half of the nineteenth century, with that part of the study area west of Thornley Road acquired by the aforementioned William Goodin as part of portions 18 & 20.

Little is known about of the general occupation and use of the study area between the early enterprises of the Kennedy family (the precise location of which is unknown) and sale of Goodwin's lands in the 1880s. It is likely that the intervening years saw the site remain partly cleared, farmed and grazed, but beyond this, it is was probably undeveloped.

A simplistic picture of greater Prospect area in the early twentieth century - beyond the township, reservoir and quarry - would be that of a semi-rural landscape dotted with dairies, orchards, stockyards and the occasional slaughterhouse. Of the local dairies, one of the most notable was **Hick's Dairy**, which appears to have made use of much of the study area from the mid-1880s until the 1940s (see **text box** overleaf).

Hick's Dairy

On 31 July 1884, William Edward Goodin sold various parcels of land that had been carved out of John Kennedy's grant to his niece Lucy's husband James Hicks for £700. Hicks was a pastor and dairy farmer from Ryde, who immediately mortgaged the property for £500 and got to work establishing a farm on lands bordering the Western Road (to the south of the Prospect Post Office). The Prospect property became known as *Bridestowe*, after a town in Hick's native homeland of Devon, England.

After buying the property, James & Lucy split their time between their Ryde orchards and Prospect Farm. James also carrying on his church work for the Baptist Churches at Ryde and in Sydney as well as preaching two Sundays a month at the Smithfield Church. The couple had sixteen children. Lucy Goodin died at Prospect in 1897 and was buried in the Baptist Private Cemetery at Ryde. Seven months later, James married his widowed sister-in-law, Elizabeth Ann Goulding, with the couple living predominantly in Burwood. James Hicks died 26 February 1903, aged 81 and like his first wife was buried at the Baptist Private Cemetery, Ryde.

Yewen's Directory of 1900 indicates that at the turn of the century in the years prior to his death, Hicks was engaged in mixed farming at the Prospect farm, growing barley, oats, maize and grapes as well as tending an orchard. On Hick's death in 1903 the property went over to his youngest son Joseph. Valuations at the time of his death detailed the property as containing *Bridestowe* house (an eight-roomed residence known as *Bridestowe*), along with a barn, stables, dairy, piggery, coach house and fowl shed. The house is thought to have been built in c.1894 by Joseph Hicks after his marriage to Ethel Hibbard Hayes on 18 July 1894 at Smithfield, wherein his father officiated. The ancillary farm buildings were (according to family records) constructed of timber with iron roofs in c.1899.

Joseph Hicks had first come to Prospect as a young man and is known to have driven a team of horses at the Prospect Blue Metal Quarry. It appears to have been Joseph who developed the dairy farm proper with a prize-winning herd of Jersey cows. In 1908, he won Reserve Champion milking cow at the Royal Agricultural Show in Sydney and the *Bridestowe* Dairy held many Australian records for milk and butterfat production. He is known to have supplied milk to both Parramatta Mental Hospital and Parramatta Hospital. Joseph was a foundation member of the Blacktown Agricultural Society, and then President of the Society for 15 years, he was also a Patron of the Prospect School of Arts, the Blacktown RSL Association and the Blacktown Hardcourt Tennis Association. Joseph was also a member of the Royal NSW Lancers and a member of the Metropolitan and Suburban Dairymen's Association and the Australian Jersey Herd Society.

When the Valuer-General valued farm in December 1922, it accounted for 26 acres 3 roods and 25 perches. In addition to the house there was a dairy, hay shed, milking sheds and a stable noted, with Joseph Hicks identified as the owner and occupier. At that date, there were two dairies in this area plus another further north on the other side of the Great Western Road. By the 1930s, another dairy was operating on land west of the Reservoir.

Joseph Hicks died on 1 May 1939; his wife Ethel 8 September 1947. They were both buried at St Bartholomew's cemetery, Prospect. The couple's children were Theo James born (b.1896; d.1985); Norman 'Ken' Kenneth (b.1898; d.1968); Leslie Gordon (b.1903; d.1973); Dulcie Patience (b.1906; d.1976) and Milford Roy (b.1910; d.1971). Theo and Ken carried on the dairy farm business at Prospect for many years after their father's death. In the 1940s, they were running a dairy herd of 90 to 95 cows and owned 188 acres, further leasing 170 acres of land from the Water Board and 99 acres from adjacent owners. Ken was the President of the Blacktown Agricultural Society for 30 years.

Ultimately, dairying ceased in the locality and much of the farm land was sold off. The house and some remnants of the original slab dairy, were sold to Peter & Beverley Evenden who kept the house in its original condition. Two of Theo Hicks' sons were living on the property until relatively recent times.

Today the house remains standing, but little else is evident. The old timber slab dairy collapsed progressively from the 1980s, with the last remnant brought down during a storm in c.2010. It could not be repaired.

Refer <http://www.prospectheritagetrust.org.au/page65.html>

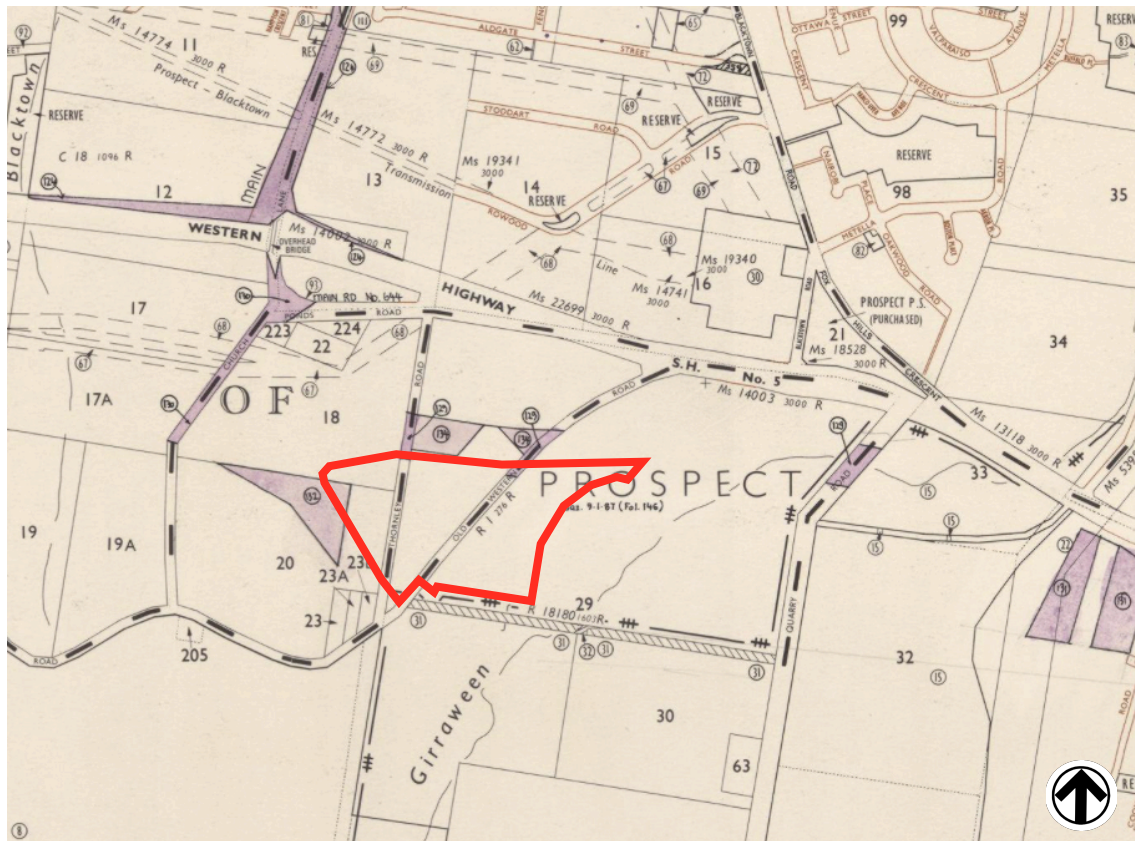


Figure 18: Status Branch Charting Map of the Parish of Prospect (1980)

This map shows the study area prior to the construction of the M4 , when the land was operating as Hick's dairy farm

LPI Historic Lands Record Viewer



Figure 19: Joseph Hicks & Sulky

Prospect Heritage Trust



Figure 20: Joseph Hicks
Prospect Heritage Trust



Figure 21: Funeral procession of Joseph Hicks in front of Bridestowe
Prospect Heritage Trust



Figure 22: Air Photo of the Study Area (1943)

LPI SIX Viewer



Figure 23: Detail of Hick's Dairy Farm Main Buildings (1943)

LPI SIX Viewer



Figure 24: Detail of Hick's Dairy Farm Main Buildings (1977)

Blacktown City Council



Figure 25: Detail of the former Hick's Dairy Farm Main Buildings (2007)

Google Earth Pro



Figure 26: Detail of former Hick's Dairy Farm Main Buildings (2009)

Google Earth Pro



Figure 27: Detail of former Hick's Dairy Farm (2013)

Google Earth Pro



Figure 28: Detail of former Hick's Dairy Farm (2017)

Google Earth Pro

Heritage

The following section details heritage legislation and listings schedules (statutory and non-statutory) as they relate to the study area. It also presents the results of a recent site inspection/field survey and an appraisal of the historic heritage significance of the locale.

Legislation

NSW Heritage Act 1977

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 is the principal document governing the management of heritage items (relics and places containing relics) in NSW.

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/ha197786/

The Act defines a relic as:

any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, &
- (b) is of State or local heritage significance.

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/ha197786/s4.html

All relics are afforded automatic statutory protection by the relic's provisions of the Act. Sections 139 to 145 within Division 9 of The Act prevent the excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of discovering, exposing or moving a relic, except by a qualified archaeologist to whom an excavation permit from the Heritage Council of NSW has been issued. Section 146 of The Act requires that the inadvertent discovery of relics be reported to the Heritage Council in a timely and appropriate manner.

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment administers the EPA Act, which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments to be made to legislate and guide the process of development and land use. Local heritage items, including known archaeological items, identified Aboriginal Places and heritage conservation areas are protected through listings on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) or Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). The EPA Act also requires that potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, in accordance with the requirements of the NPW Act and the Heritage Act.

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/epaaa1979389/

Listings

The following statutory and non-statutory registers and planning documents were reviewed during preparation of this report:

- Blacktown LEP 2015
- NSW Heritage Office's State Heritage Inventory (SHI)
- NSW Heritage Office's State Heritage Register (SHR)
- Australian Heritage Database (AHD) incorporating the National Heritage List (NHL); Commonwealth Heritage list (CHL) & Register of the National Estate (RNE).

Refer **attachments A - C**.

Blacktown LEP 2015

The *Blacktown Local Environmental Plan* (LEP) as amended, is the primary local government planning instrument. Part 5.10 *Heritage Conservation* provides objectives for heritage conservation and identifies when development consent is required (or not required) for heritage items, archaeological sites and Aboriginal places, or locations in the vicinity thereof.

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2015/239>

Schedule 5 list items of *Environmental Heritage* consecutively under Heritage Items (part 1) and Archaeological Sites (part 2).

Two items of local significance listed within the study area:

Blacktown LEP 1025: Schedule 5 Heritage Items within Study Area					
Suburb	Name	Location	Property	Significance	Item
Prospect	Great Western Highway (former alignment)	Reservoir Road	Section between the M4 & Reconciliation Road - Prospect Highway roundabout	Local	60
Prospect	House - Bridestowe	568 Reservoir Road	Lot C/DP 374323	Local	64

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2015/239/sch5>

The LEP heritage map relative to these listings is shown on the ensuing page. Nearby listings include St Bartholemews Church and Cemetery (I63) and the former Prospect Post Office at 23 Tarlington Place (I65). Both are distant to the study area and separated from it by the M4 Motorway.

Refer **figure 29**.

https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maps/fd087124-6056-4082-b88c-eca5ac6484ab/0750_COM_HER_014_020_20150122.pdf

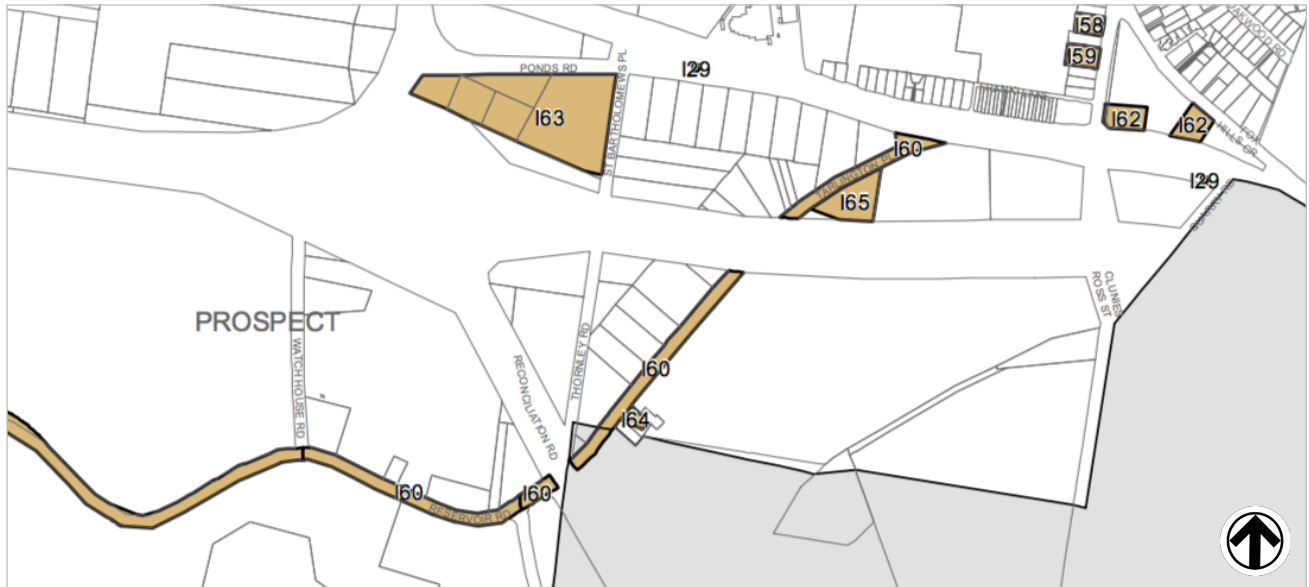


Figure 29: Blacktown LEP 2015 Heritage Map
BLEP 2015 Map Sheet HER_014

State Heritage Register & Inventory

The *State Heritage Register* (SHR) is a list of heritage items that have been assessed and acknowledged as having state heritage significance. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's Heritage Council maintains the register, and any development proposal that is likely to affect items on the register generally requires NSW Heritage Council approval (s.60).

The Great Western Highway is listed on the State Heritage Register (01911)

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5061510>

The *State Heritage Inventory* (SHI) lists items of both state and local heritage significance. Generally the listing of items on the SHI results from their inclusion in local and regional planning instruments or heritage studies. Any development proposal that is likely to affect items on the inventory generally requires NSW Heritage Council approval (s.140).

Both Bridestowe and the former alignment of the Great Western Highway (Reservoir Road section) are listed on the State Heritage Inventory, as a consequence of their respective listings in the Blacktown LEP 2015.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1140066>

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1140283>

Australian Heritage Database

The Australian Heritage Database is a heritage database managed by the Commonwealth Department of Environment. The database contains information about more than 20,000 natural, historic and Indigenous places and includes locations and items listed (or formerly listed) on the World Heritage List; the National Heritage List; the Commonwealth Heritage list; and the Register of the National Estate.

Neither the study area, nor any items within it, are listed in the AHD.

Heritage Council of New South Wales



State Heritage Register - SHR:01911 - Plan: 2535

Former Great Western Road, Prospect

Reservoir Road, Prospect

Gazettal Date: 27/06/2014

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Meters

Scale: 1:27,000 @A4

Datum/Projection: GCS GDA 1994



- SHR Curtilage
- Land Parcels
- Railways
- Roads
- LGAs
- Suburbs

Figure 30: Former Great Western Road SHR Map

NSW Heritage Council

Summary

The study area contains two statutorily listed heritage items. These are the former Hick's Dairy homestead of Bridestowe and a remnant of the former Great Western Road (Reservoir Road). Both are listed as items of local heritage significance within the environmental heritage schedule of the Blacktown LEP 2015 (and by default on the NSW State Heritage Inventory/SHI). The roadway is also listed as an item of State-level heritage significance on the NSW State Heritage Register/SHR.

Survey

A survey of the study area was undertaken on the morning of 13 September 2017. The following dot points highlight the main observations:

- The study area is characterised by a gently to moderately undulating landscape to the west of Girraween Creek and its associated reserve lands.
- The entirety of the study area has been cleared of its original vegetation and comprises open pastureland interspersed with regrowth and residential allotments. Whilst much of the vegetation is exotic, there are some stands of Eucalyptus regrowth along road and drainage line margins.
- Construction within the study area includes a number of residences dating from the c.1950s-1980s with associated shed/garages and driveways; animal enclosures including kennels, and redundant market gardens (notably Lot 3 DP 1192514, Lot 26 DP801210 & Lots 10-12 DP448744).
- There is some fencing within the study area (predominantly post and wire) that denotes former land subdivision and internal paddock arrangements.
- Construction activities associated with construction of the M4 Motorway (and the intersection with Prospect Highway) have involved considerable disturbance to the western, northern and eastern margins of the subject land.

Bridestowe

Bridestowe is a single storey, late Victorian weatherboard house. It features a pyramidal, hipped, galvanised iron roof with a gabled section facing the road frontage. A separately roofed verandah on the northern and southern sides of the house is supported on turned timber posts with decorative brackets. The house is in relatively good condition, but the verandah boards are warped and require replacement or repair.

Once part of a notable dairy complex, this association is now largely historical and the house presents as isolated on a suburban allotment with a freestanding garage and shed and a swimming pool to the rear and additional suburban housing to the immediate south. A once notable elongated, rectangular slab dairy constructed in the late 1890s collapsed with disuse over time and has been removed. The only notable reminders of the farming past is some miscellaneous post and rail fencing adjacent to the homestead; a mid-century brick dairy building; and a nondescript timber and iron shed. Visually, the locale is dominated by the large warehousing complex to the immediate southwest and the refrigerated trucks and semi-trailers clustered on hardstand and compacted, metallised ground to the rear and north of the homestead.

Western Road

The former Western Road (now Reservoir Road) passes through the study area and is a sealed, relatively narrow roadway with improvements limited to very minor verge, shoulder and drainage works. It is disarticulated from Tarlington Place by the M4 Motorway (to the north) and connects to the road network to the south via a heavily modified intersection/roundabout that supplies Prospect Highway-Reconciliation Road.

Refer **figures 31 - 51**.

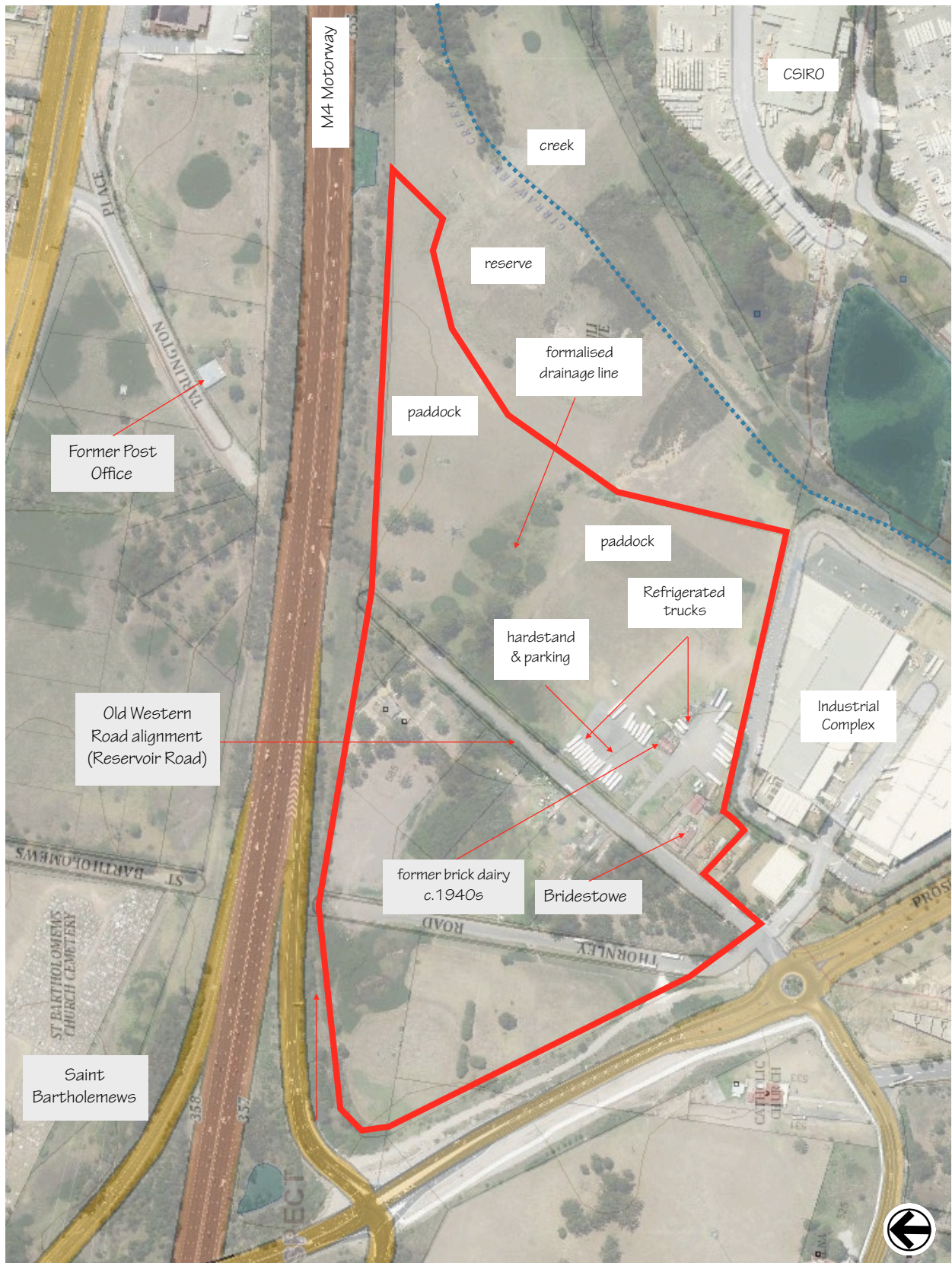


Figure 31: Annotated Plan of the Study Area

LPI SIX Viewer as amended



Figure 32: Plan showing the Study Area in the vicinity of Bridestowe

Google Earth Pro as amended



Figure 33:
Reservoir Road/Former Western Road
View NE - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 34:
Bridestowe (568 Reservoir Road)
View E - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 35:
Bridestowe (568 Reservoir Road)
View SSE - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 36:
Bridestowe Driveway + Shed
View E - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 37:
Bridestowe
View NW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 38:
**Property entrance
to the north of Bridestowe**
View SE - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 39:
Truck parking area at rear of
Bridestowe
View S - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 40:
Former mid-century
brick dairy building
View SE - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 41:
Former mid-century timber
& iron dairy shed
View S - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 42:
View towards Bridestowe
across truck parking & manoeuvring area
View SW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 43:
Truck parking & manoeuvring area
View W - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 44:
Truck parking & manoeuvring area
View NW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 45:
View from the SE corner of study area
View SW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 46:
Drainage line in central part of study area
View NW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 47:
View towards warehousing & Bridestowe
View SSW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 48:
Northern end of former Western Road
(Reservoir Road)
View SW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 49:
View along former Western Road
(Reservoir Road)
View SW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 50:
Housing, sheds & detritus on the
west side of the former Western
Road (north end)
View NW - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 51:
View along Thornley Road
View N - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 52:
**View across northern end of the study area
from Reconciliation Road**
View E - Dan Tuck 2017



Figure 53:
View along western side of study area
View S6E - Dan Tuck 2017

Significance

This following section provides an appraisal the heritage significance of the study area. The first part outlines the principles and criteria under which a significance appraisal is made; the second provides an assessment under the established criteria and presents a summary statement of significance.

Heritage significance and *cultural significance* are terms used to describe an item's value or importance to our society. The Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter defines cultural significance as,

Aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

This value may be contained in the fabric of the item, its setting and relationship to other items, the response that the item stimulates in those who value it now, or the meaning of that item to contemporary society.

Accurate assessment of the cultural significance of sites, places and items, is an essential component of the NSW heritage assessment and planning process. A clear determination of a site's significance allows informed planning decisions to be made, in addition to ensuring that heritage values are maintained, enhanced, or at least minimally affected by development.

Assessments of significance are made by applying standard evaluation criteria. These criteria can be used to assess both Aboriginal and European items and landscapes. These criteria are as follows:

- (a) An item is important in the course or pattern of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*
- (b) An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW' cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*
- (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)*
- (d) An item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons*
- (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*
- (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*
- (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural and natural environments.*

The above criteria were established under Part 3A of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 for the listing of items of environmental heritage (defined as 'buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts') that are of state heritage significance. These criteria are commonly used to assess all items of heritage significance whether state or local.

Appraisal

The following provides an appraisal of the overall significance of the study area as it presents today. The individual significance of particular heritage-listed elements (notably Bridestowe/Hicks Dairy and the former Great Western Road) has been assessed elsewhere and is reproduced in the heritage listings annexed as **attachments A1 - A3**.

(a) An item is important in the course or pattern of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The study area comprises land that was cleared and developed for grazing and agriculture and accessed via one of the Colony's earliest and most important roadways (the Great Western Road) from as early as the late eighteenth century. From the late-nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century, the bulk of the study area was a notable and award-winning dairy farm operated by the Hicks family (one of several in the broader Prospect area). As such, the study area has a cultural history that is reflective of important aspects of the evolution of Western Sydney: namely the establishment of effective road networks and locales of primary production.

The study area is considered significant under this criterion at a local level.

(b) An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The former Great Western Road likely reflects, in part, pre-settlement Aboriginal pathways that were formalised and exported by early explorers and settlers, and thereafter linked and formalised by the early colonial administration.

More broadly, study area is linked to early free-settler grants at Prospect (notably portion 29 of 160 acres granted to John Kennedy in 1799). Bridestowe and the former dairy farm that dominated the locality from the late 1890s, are associated with notable district dairy framers and orchardists the Hicks family, who were associated with the property for well over 60 years.

The study area is considered significant under this criterion.

(c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

The study area has been significantly impacted by major roadworks (to the north, west and southwest) and by encroaching industrial development (to the south and southeast). Collectively, these have denigrated the former rural character of the locality and of the Great Western Road remnant that runs through it. Bridestowe remains an appealing, rustic rural homestead but its integrity and setting has been compromised by developments and subdivision over the last several decades and the loss of contributory items such as the farmyard buildings that rounded out the former Hicks dairy complex.

The study area has some limited, local significance under this criterion.

(d) An item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The study area is still remembered as the site of Hicks Dairy Farm and both the Hicks family and the homestead are locally well-known to previous generations. This situation is however changing rapidly with increased generational change, population movement and local industrialisation.

The study area is considered to have some, minor significance under this criterion.

(e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The study area has been significantly impacted by a range of processes in the distant and more recent past, such that it is not particularly demonstrative of the rural settlement area that it once was. Formerly important dairy buildings associated with Bridestowe have been largely removed/demolished and the site is unlikely to contain ground-borne relics that will provide significant information about past use of the place.

The historical archaeological potential of the Great Western Roadway is uncertain. Although the alignment has remained unchanged for many years, episodic repair and/resurfacing may have either covered over evidence of past surfacing, or alternately, removed it.

The study area is not considered significant under this criterion at the present time.

(f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Farmland and semi-rural landscapes are becoming less common in Sydney's west. Increasing rarity is not restricted to this site however and is reflected across much of greater Sydney between the city and the Blue Mountains. Major historic roadways that have remained largely undeveloped and unimproved - like the stub of the former Great Western Road within the study area - are decidedly rare.

The study area as a whole is not considered significant under this criterion. That said, the former Great Western Roadway is considered significant under this criterion.

(g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural and natural environments

The study area is not significant under this criterion.

Summary Statement of Significance

The study area has a history of clearing and grazing superseded by rural-residential landuse from the late nineteenth century. This history and the resultant landscape are replicated across Western Sydney and other examples exist both locally and across the broader region - though they are becoming increasingly rare with increased urbanisation and industrialisation. Bridestowe is a notable vestige of local dairy farming and is locally significant. The Great Western Roadway remnant (Reservoir Road) is largely unremarkable but is none-the-less significant as a remnant of one of Sydney's earliest and most significant thoroughfares.

Conclusions

History

- The study area comprises a number of allotments that were cleared and grazed in the nineteenth century.
- Notable development within the study area were the formalisation of a portion of the Great Western Road from the c.1810s and the establishment of Hicks Dairy Farm in the late 1890s, which saw much of the area utilised for grazing until the 1950s.
- The most significant developments to impact the study area have been construction of M4 motorway and Reconciliation Road corridors the general industrialisation of the locale (particularly to the south and southeast). These have changed both the setting and character of the locale.

Heritage

- Evidence of past landuse in association with the Hicks dairy is limited to the farm homestead (Bridestowe) and two mid-century dairy buildings (a timber shed and a brick dairy building). Earlier farm buildings have collapsed and/or been demolished over time and the site given over for transportation purposes.
- The historical archaeological survey/site inspection undertaken on 13 September 2017 did not identify any items or areas of historical archaeological potential or significance
- Two heritage items are listed within statutory heritage lists, databases and schedules within the study area. These are Bridestowe/Hicks dairy and the state-listed Former Great Western Road (Reservoir Road).
- Nearby heritage items that are separated from the study area by both distance and major road infrastructure and will not be affected by the proposed rezoning are the former Prospect Post Office and St Bartholemews Church and Cemetery.

Considerations

- The study area is generally unremarkable and heavily impacted by cumulative site uses, however, some distinct elements have historical significance and cultural heritage value and require consideration in advance of rezoning and ahead of any redevelopment.
- The **Former Great Western Road** alignment is a significant though visually unremarkable feature of the cultural landscape that traverses the study area. While the proposed rezoning will not directly affect the roadway, future use associated with the rezoning may require upgrading of this roadway. This may necessitate additional, redevelopment-specific heritage impact assessment as well as approval by both Council and the NSW Heritage Council.
- **Bridestowe** is the only notable remnant of a once locally important dairy farm. Rezoning will not directly impact this heritage listed building, but industrial redevelopment may impact the structure's setting and values.

Refer **recommendations**.

Recommendations

The following recommendations acknowledge the history and heritage of the study area, NSW Heritage Council guidelines, local planning controls, and Blacktown City Council requirements.

It is concluded herein, that the subject land is suitable for industrial redevelopment, inline with recent neighbouring redevelopment. In developing detailed plans for this future use, it is recommended that:

Bridestowe/Hicks Dairy

1. The Bridestowe farm house should be subject to a **Conservation Management Study** by a suitably qualified heritage architect. The plan should lay out an effective process for the practical management of this heritage-listed building into the future. Specifically, the conservation study - which may be prepared at, or in advance of, the DA stage - should address:
 - Appropriate future use of the place within the context of any new development
 - Practical building management & maintenance
 - Conservation initiatives & options
 - Review of the existing heritage curtilage (to determine if it requires adjustment beyond the existing cadastral boundaries to better present the homestead in a new context and effectively buffer it from neighbouring, future industrial development.

Great Western Road (Reservoir Road)

2. Subsequent to rezoning, when a redevelopment planning is advanced to the point where a roadworks plan is available, a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) should be prepared that address the potential impacts of any works (upgrades or otherwise) on the heritage values of this vestigial section of the State-listed Great Western Road. This process should receive input with both Council and RMS heritage staff.

The SoHI should consider the following:

3. In any future industrial redevelopment, consideration should be given to the **naming** of thoroughfares and/or places in a way that reflects past historical associations. Street naming using Kennedy, Goodin and Hicks for example - the names of the early grantees and the family most responsible for farming within the study area - would acknowledge and memorialise the history of the locale in an appropriate manner.
4. Consideration should also be given to **interpreting** both the Great Western Road and Hicks Dairy Farm within any planned industrial redevelopment. Interpretation (using plaques, signage or other suitable media) within the redevelopment would be a way of informing new occupants and precinct users about the history and heritage of the place and connecting them with the locale more broadly.

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Glossary

Archaeology

The study of material evidence of the human past. Historical Archaeology is the sub-discipline concerned with studying the past using physical evidence in conjunction with other types of historical sources such as documents, maps, illustrations, photographs and oral history. In Australia, historical archaeology is that branch of archaeology that deals with material culture (relics) relating to the post-contact period - the period commencing with the incursion of non-indigenous fishermen, explorers and European settlers.

Archaeological features & deposits

Archaeological features usually exist at or below ground level and relate to structural evidence of the past - they include such things as footings, in-ground services, wells, and sub-floor deposits. Archaeological deposits are materials (usually soils) containing relics.

Archaeological Potential

A comparative measure of the likelihood of a site (or part of site) to contain relics of significance. The nature of actual or potential relics, and the history of the development and disturbance of a site, all affect the potential of a site to preserve relics.

Archaeological Site

A place containing evidence of past human activity.

Archaeological Significance

An assessment of the relative importance or value of archaeological features or deposits. Archaeological significance is an aspect of broader cultural heritage significance and is generally

assessed under criterion e of the NSW standard assessment criteria:

Criterion (e) An item as potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Context

a). The specific character, quality, physical, historical and social characteristics of a building's setting. b) The situation in which a relic is located; its find place.

Excavation Permit

A permit issued by the NSW OEH Heritage Division (or delegated authorities) under section 60 (for items on the State Heritage Register) or section 140 (for items not on the State Heritage Register) of the NSW Heritage Act 1977. These permits allow for the disturbance or excavation of relics subject to the conditions stipulated.

Excavation Permit Exception/Exemption

A permit issued by the NSW OEH Heritage Division (or delegated authorities) that negates the need for an excavation permit. Such notifications are given in a variety of circumstances - generally where proposed works are minor, of low impact or are occurring in locations where archaeological potential has been previously identified as low.

In situ

An item that is in its original position or primary context.

Attachments

A1. Great Western Road (SHR)

Refer link:

[http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/
ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5061510](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5061510)

A2. Great Western Road (SHI)

Refer link:

[http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/
ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1140283](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1140283)

A3. Bridestowe (SHI)

Refer link:

[http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/
ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1140066](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1140066)