

4 July 2022

General Manager
Cumberland Council
PO Box 42
Merrylands NSW 2160

Dear General Manager,

Heritage Impact Memorandum—25 South Parade, Auburn

1 Introduction

Touring the Past has been engaged by the property owner of 25 South Parade, Auburn (subject place) to prepare this Heritage Impact Memorandum. It accompanies a development application (DA) to modify the permitted uses under the current zoning overlay. This document provides the consent authority, Cumberland Council, with an expert assessment of the appropriateness of the proposal from a heritage management perspective.

The author of this report is an experienced heritage consultant and accredited professional historian, and the assessment is made pursuant to the Expert Witness Code of Conduct in Schedule 7 of the *Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005* (NSW). Terminology and principles in this document are informed by good heritage practice, namely as expressed by *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, *The Burra Charter* (rev. 2013).

2 Heritage Management Framework

The subject place—Lot 2, DP 806999—comprises an elongated triangular property on the north side of South Parade Road. The Main Suburban railway line abuts the place at the rear.

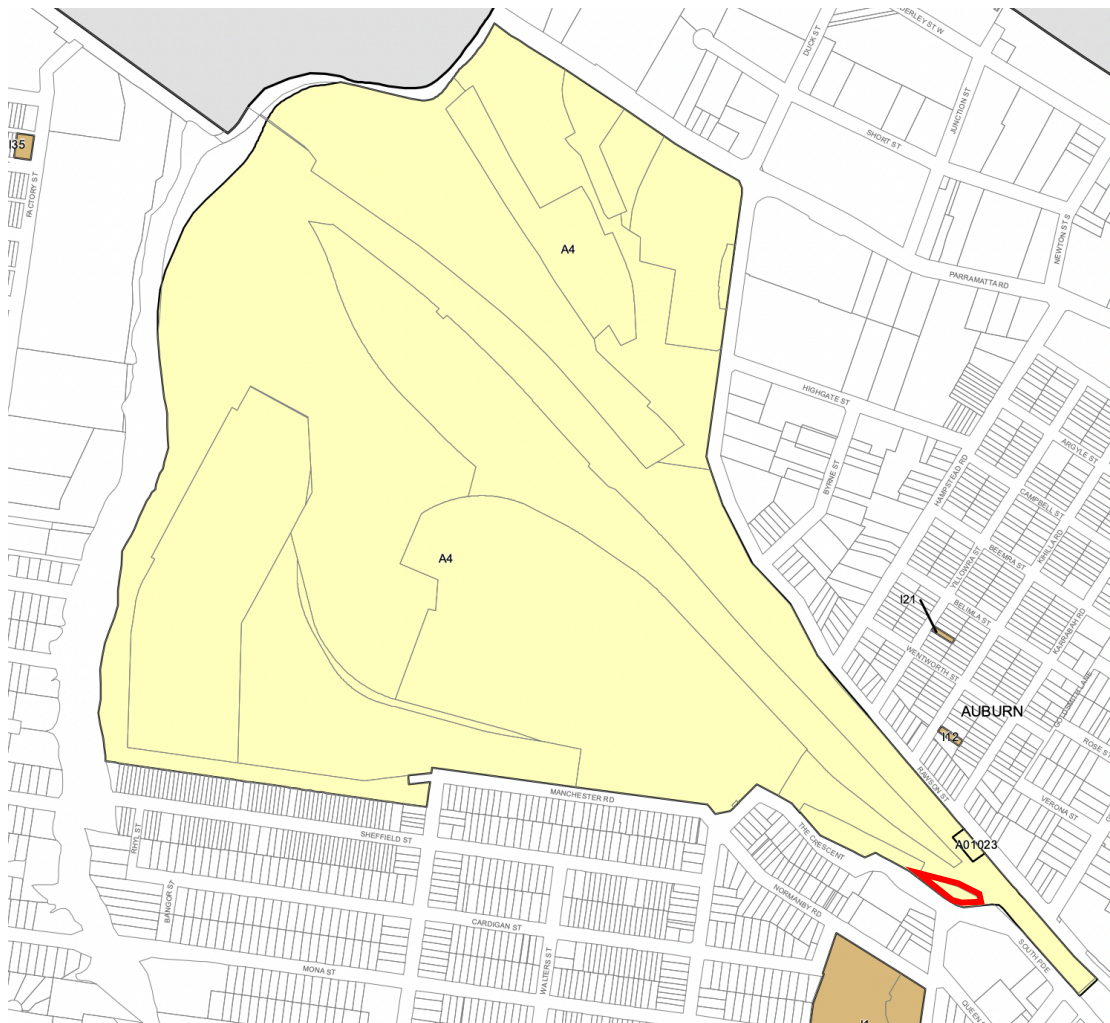
The place forms a small part of an extensive overlay associated with an archaeological site included in Schedule 5 of the *Cumberland Local Environmental Plan 2021* (CLEP). Its listing details follow:



Item name	Address	Property Description	Significance	Item no.
Clyde Marshalling Yards	Rawson	Part Lot 52, DP 1097362; Lots 1–4, DP 1007656; Lot 6, DP 1007656; Lot 2, DP 806999; Part Lot 1, DP 833989; Lot 3, DP 833989; Lot 2, DP 827674; Lots 1 and 2, DP 775808; Lot 201, DP 100768	Local	A4

A Statement of Significance for the *Clyde Marshalling Yards*, extracted from the NSW Heritage Inventory, follows:

The Clyde Marshalling Yard is significant in demonstrating the large volume of railway goods traffic generated by the Sydney metropolitan area, both in historical and current terms. It also demonstrates the close relationship between local industry and rail transport.

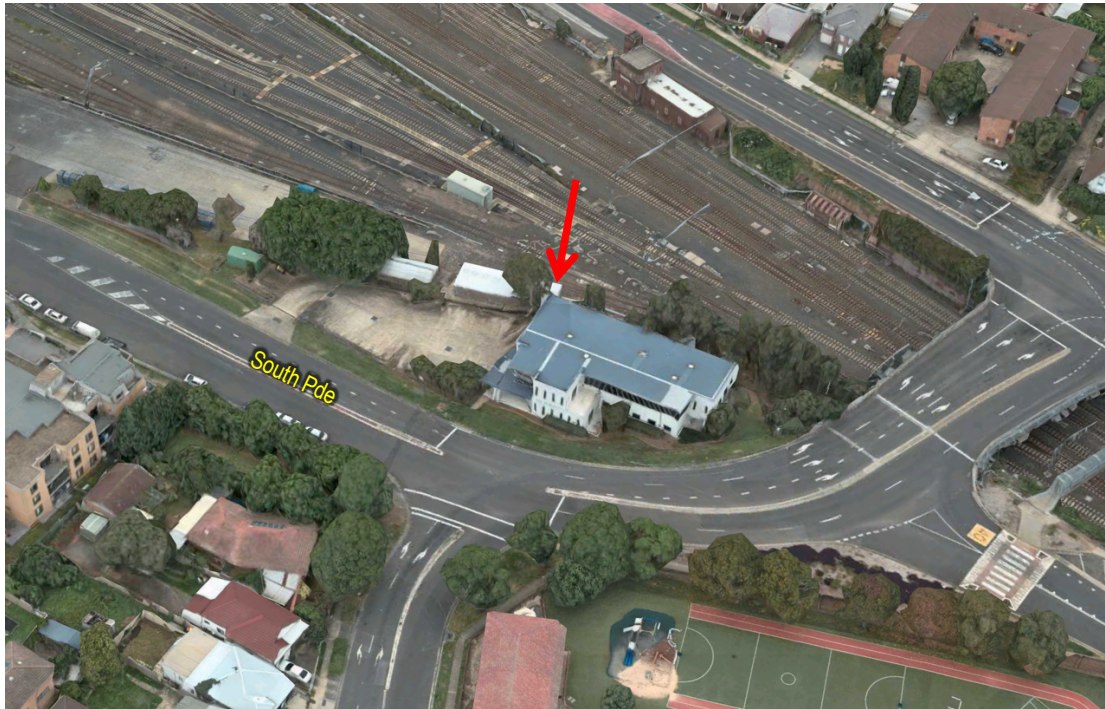


Extract from HER_012 with the yellow (Archaeological) shading indicating the extent of the *Clyde Marshalling Yards* listing (A4). The subject place is approximately outlined in red.
(Source: CLEP)

The key objective for heritage management, as per the CLEP (at cl. 5.10), is to sustain a place's assessed cultural heritage value. Accordingly, the Statement of Significance reproduced above and further discussion throughout the document concerning the site provides an essential baseline for understanding the likely impact of the new work on the archaeological asset—an approach in line with Article 27 ('Managing Change') of the *Burra Charter*.

3 Place Summary

The eastern part of the subject place accommodates a two-storey contemporary office building with a hardstand car parking area in the east. Scattered trees and lawn sections characterise the boundaries of the site, which are defined by a tall metal fence. A pair of gabled brick sheds are situated against the northern boundary of the place but form part of the railway line.



Subject place (red arrow), north is top of frame.
(Source: Apple Maps)

The NSW Heritage Inventory provides the following physical description of the *Clyde Marshalling Yards*:

- Complex of railway sidings beside the main suburban lines.
- Site of former marshalling yard offices, marked by concrete slab and tiled floor.
- Pedestrian bridge, steel girder frame with concrete deck.
- Employees platform with shelter. Water tower and stand for watering steam locomotives (at E. End of yards, S. Side of main lines).

None of the above-described elements are present at the subject place. A review of historical aerial photographs from 1930 to 2022 illustrates that the subject place remained undeveloped until the late 1960s when a T-shaped building and hardstand area appeared.¹ This building was heavily modified or replaced in the early 2000s, resulting in the extant large-scale commercial building.

4 Review of Archaeological/Heritage Impact

The proposal is restricted to the provision of new permitted uses under the current zoning overlay at the place. No physical intervention, including sub-surface disruption, is proposed.

¹ Aerial photographs reviewed where from Australian Aerial Photograph (Australian Government, Geoscience), Historical Imagery Viewer (NSW Government), and Metromap.

As the new work would affect an individual archaeological item, the CLEP at cl. 5.10(2) (a)(iii) requires that the consent authority, Cumberland Council, consider the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the place—as identified by its Statements of Significance—particularly its ‘associated fabric, settings and views’.

Accepting that the proposed action would not directly equate with any tangible changes at the place, its heritage/archaeological impact is non-existent.

Hypothetically, if the altered zoning led to a proposed physical intervention at the place, then that application would be subject to statutory heritage/archaeological assessment. At that stage, a satisfactory outcome could be managed through established review protocols and appraisal.

In my view, the proposal is supportable from a heritage impact perspective.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Wilson

PATRICK WILSON

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