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URBIS

BASELINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home
120 High St, Hunters Hill, NSW
Wallumedegal Country

Prepared for
MONTEFIORE
19 November 2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urbis has been engaged by Montefiore ('the proponent') to conduct a Baseline Archaeological Assessment (BAA) of the Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home at 120 High St, Hunters Hill NSW, legally referred to as Lots 50 to 63 DP 16119, Lots 1 and 2 DP 325793, Lot 2 DP 312298 and Lots 9 and 10 DP724017 ('the subject area') (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The purpose of the BAA is to investigate the Aboriginal and historical archaeological context of the subject area and to identify any potential constraints to development. The BAA included the following:

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register.
- Searches of statutory and non-statutory heritage listings.
- Searches for previously conducted archaeological assessments of the subject area.
- Historical research to establish past land use within the subject area.
- Assessment of historical archaeological potential.

The BAA has concluded the following in relation to the subject area:

- Heritage controls relating to the subject area are provided by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (the Heritage Act), Hunters Hill Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Hunters Hill LEP) and *Hunters Hill Local Consolidated Development Control Plan 2013* (Hunters Hill DCP).
- There is one built heritage item within the curtilage of the subject area (Item 472 of Hunters Hill LEP - Garden, "Montefiore Home"), which is addressed under separate cover (Urbis 2021).
- There are no registered Aboriginal objects or places within the curtilage of the subject area.
- An absence of registered Aboriginal sites may indicate a lack of previous archaeological investigation rather than an absence of Aboriginal archaeological remains.
- A World War II blast-proof communications bunker is extant within the subject area, retaining high historical archaeological potential.
- There is high potential for archaeological remains associated with the original Montefiore Home building, such as footing and other subsurface remains.

In view of the above conclusions, Urbis makes the following recommendations:

- An **Aboriginal Objects Due Diligence Assessment** should be undertaken as a minimum prior to any works within the subject area to determine the likelihood of unknown Aboriginal archaeological remains being present and to determine whether further assessment is required.
- A **Historical Archaeological Assessment** should be undertaken as a minimum prior to any works within the subject area to assess the significance of any potential historical relics within the subject area and to determine the potential impact of the proposed works on those relics.
- Although further detailed archaeological investigation needs to be undertaken to inform detailed design of buildings and/or any retention of or interpretation of possible archaeological remains, this baseline assessment has determined that it is appropriate to progress the masterplanning of the subject area and the preparation of future controls for the subject area.
- Further archaeological investigation of the subject area may be undertaken at the Development Application stage.

1. INTRODUCTION

Urbis has been engaged by Montefiore ('the proponent') to conduct a Baseline Archaeological Assessment (BAA) of the Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home at 120 High St, Hunters Hill NSW, legally referred to as Lots 50 to 63 DP 16119, Lots 1 and 2 DP 325793, Lot 2 DP 312298 and Lots 9 and 10 DP724017 ('the subject area') (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The purpose of the BAA is to investigate the Aboriginal and historical archaeological context of the subject area and to identify any potential constraints to development. The BAA included the following:

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register.
- Searches of statutory and non-statutory heritage listings.
- Searches for previously conducted archaeological assessments of the subject area.
- Historical research to establish past land use within the subject area.
- Assessment of historical archaeological potential.

It is understood this baseline assessment will be used to inform the preparation of draft controls enabling the future redevelopment of the subject area. In particular, this assessment has sought to identify the location the WWII-era communications bunker (discussed in further detail in Section 4) so that future development of the subject area can consider this matter.

1.1. SUBJECT AREA

The subject area is located at 120 High St, Hunters Hill NSW, approximately 7km north-west of the Sydney CBD. It is legally referred to as Lots 50 to 63 DP 16119, Lots 1 and 2 DP 325793, Lot 2 DP 312298 and Lots 9 and 10 DP724017 and is within the Municipality of Hunters Hill local government area (Hunters Hill LGA) and the boundaries of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC).

The subject area encompasses approximately 4.05ha and is zoned R2 Low Density Residential. It has frontages to High Street to the south-west, Gaza Avenue to the north-west and Barons Crescent to the north-east and east. It includes various improvements associated with its use as an aged care home, including building complexes, gardens and access driveways, in addition to a number of separate residential building on Gaza Avenue.

1.2. AUTHORSHIP

The present report has been prepared by Aaron Olsen (Urbis Consultant Archaeologist), with review and quality control undertaken by Sam Richards (Urbis Senior Consultant, Archaeology) and Balazs Hansel (Urbis Associate Director, Archaeology).

Aaron Olsen holds a Diploma of Arts (Archaeology) from the University of Sydney, a Bachelor of Science (Honours - First Class in Chemistry) and PhD (Chemistry) from the University of Newcastle and a Masters (Industrial Property) from the University of Technology Sydney. Sam Richards holds a Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology) from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom. Balazs Hansel holds a Masters (History) and Masters (Archaeology and Museum Studies) from the University of Szeged (Hungary).

1.3. LIMITATIONS

The present BAA does not meet the requirements of an Aboriginal Objects Due Diligence Assessment, as set out in the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010), or an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, in accordance with Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW ACT) and Part 5 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009* (NPW Reg).

The present BAA does not meet the requirements of a formal Historical Archaeological Assessment in accordance with the principles and guidelines set out in *The Burra Charter*, *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Australia ICOMOS Incorporated, 2013) ('Burra Charter').

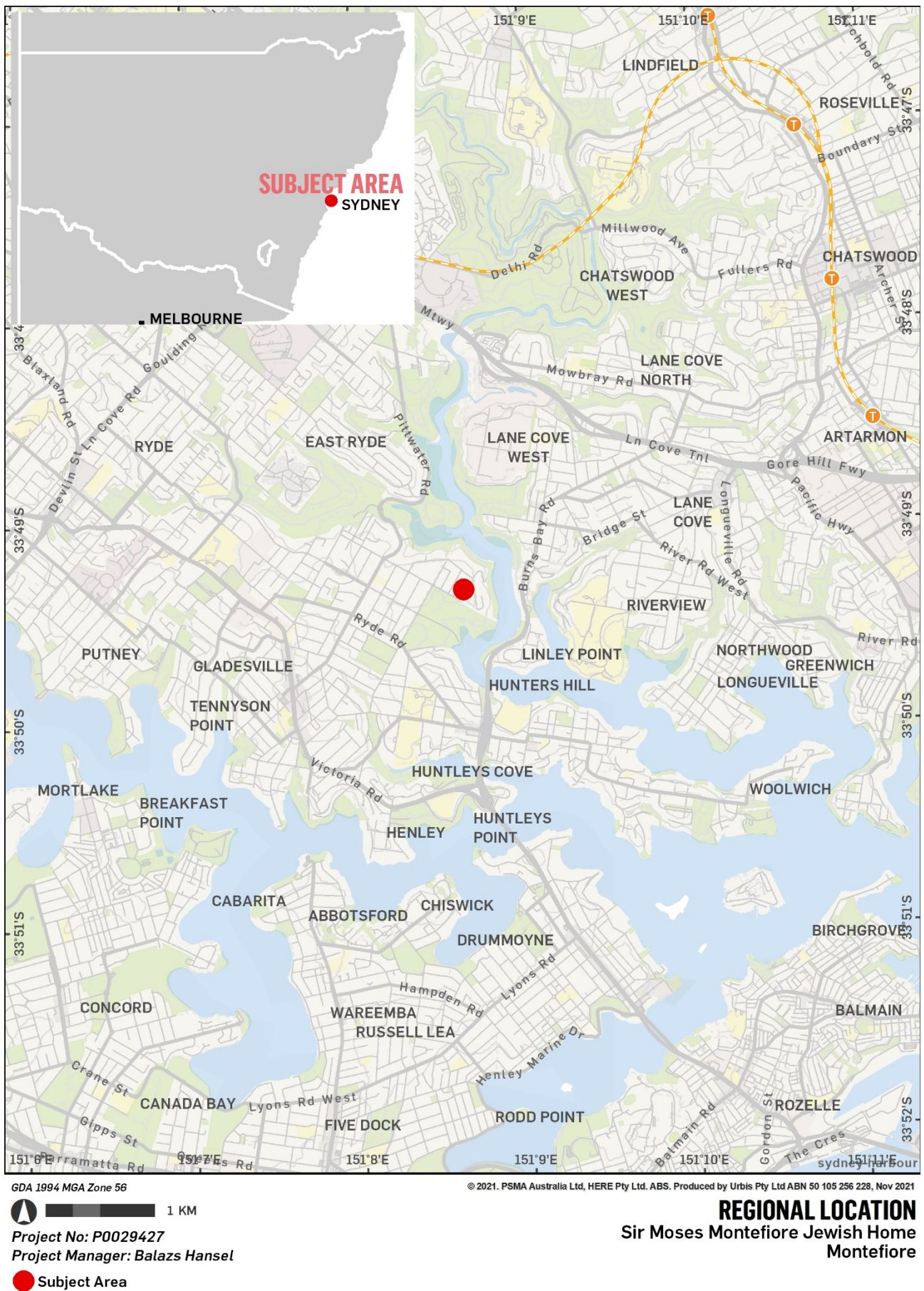


Figure 1 – Regional location of the subject area



GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56



Project No: P0029427

Project Manager: Balazs Hansel

▮ Subject Area
 — Contours
 — Hydrology
 - - Ephemeral

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Location of the Subject Area

Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home Montefiore

Figure 2 – Location of the subject area

2. STATUTORY CONTEXT

2.1. HERITAGE CONTROLS

The protection and management of heritage items, places and archaeological sites within New South Wales is governed by the relevant Commonwealth, State or local government legislation. These are discussed below in relation to the present subject area.

2.1.1. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

In 2004, a new Commonwealth heritage management system was introduced under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act protects any items listed in the National Heritage List (NHL) and the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).

The National Heritage List (NHL) is a list of natural, historic and Indigenous places of outstanding significance to the nation. It was established to protect places that have outstanding value to the nation.

The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) was established to protect items and places owned or managed by Commonwealth agencies. The Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) is responsible for the implementation of national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia's environment and heritage and to promote Australian arts and culture. Approval from the Minister is required for controlled actions which will have a significant impact on items and places included on the NHL or CHL.

2.1.2. The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Management of Aboriginal objects and places in NSW falls under the statutory control of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). Application of the NPW Act is in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Reg).

Section 5 of the NPW Act defines Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places as follows:

Aboriginal object means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.

Aboriginal place means any place declared to be an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the NPW Act.

The NPW Act provides statutory protection for Aboriginal objects, defining two tiers of offence against which individuals or corporations who harm Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places can be prosecuted. The highest tier offences are reserved for knowledgeable harm of Aboriginal objects or knowledgeable desecration of Aboriginal places. Second tier offences are strict liability offences - that is, offences regardless of whether or not the offender knows they are harming an Aboriginal object or desecrating an Aboriginal place - against which defences may be established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009* (NSW) (the NPW Regulation).

It is an offence under section 86 of the NPW Act to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or place. Section 87 of the NPW Act establishes the following defences against prosecution under s.86:

- The harm was authorised by an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) (s.87(1)).
- Due diligence was exercised to establish Aboriginal objects will not be harmed (s.87(2)).

2.1.3. NSW Heritage Act 1977

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 (the Heritage Act) provides protection to items of environmental heritage in NSW. Heritage items protected under the Heritage Act include places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, social, aesthetic, scientific, archaeological, architectural, cultural or natural values.

State significant items are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) and are given automatic protection under the Heritage Act against any activities that may damage an item or affect its heritage significance. Under

Section 57(1) of the Heritage Act, Heritage Council approval is required to move, damage, or destroy a 'relic' listed in the SHR, or to excavate or disturb land which is listed on the SHR and there is reasonable knowledge or likelihood of relics being disturbed.

Section 4 of the Heritage Act defines a 'relic' as:

Any deposit, object or material evidence

(a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being an Aboriginal settlement, and;

(b) is of State or local heritage significance.

Under section 139(1) of the Heritage Act, an excavation permit is required to disturb or excavate land "knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit".

The Heritage Act requires government agencies to identify and manage heritage assets in their ownership and control. Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, Government agencies must keep a register which includes all local and State listed items or items which may be subject to an interim heritage order that are owned, occupied or managed by that Government body. Under Section 170A of the Heritage Act all government agencies must also ensure that items entered on its register are maintained with due diligence in accordance with State Owned Heritage Management Principles.

2.1.4. Hunters Hill Local Environmental Plan 2012

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) requires each LGA to produce a Local Environment Plan (LEP). The LEP identifies items and areas of local heritage significance and outlines development consent requirements.

The subject area falls within the Municipality of Hunter's Hill Local Government Area (Hunters Hill LGA) and is subject to the *Hunters Hill Local Environmental Plan 2012* (Hunters Hill LEP). Under Section 5.10(2) of the Hunters Hill LEP, development consent is required for:

(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)—

(i) a heritage item,

(ii) an Aboriginal object,

(iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,

(b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,

(c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,

(d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,

(e) erecting a building on land—

(i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or

(ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,

(f) subdividing land—

(i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or

(ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.

2.1.5. Hunters Hill Local Consolidated Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013

The EP&A Act requires each LGA to produce a Development Control Plan (DCP). Not all LGAs provide information regarding Aboriginal cultural heritage and specific development controls to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The subject area is encompassed by the *Hunters Hill Local Consolidated Development Control Plan 2013* (Hunters Hill DCP). Section 2.4 of the Hunters Hill DCP addresses heritage conservation. Development requirements are detailed in Sections 2.4.3 for heritage items and heritage conservations areas.

2.2. HERITAGE DATABASES

A review of relevant heritage lists and registers was undertaken to determine whether any items are located within the curtilage of, or in proximity to, the subject area.

2.2.1. Australian Heritage Database

The Australian Heritage Database is a database of heritage items included in the World Heritage List, the National Heritage List (NHL), the Commonwealth Heritage list (CHL) and places in the Register of the National Estate. The list also includes places under consideration, or that may have been considered, for any one of these lists.

A search of the Australian Heritage Database was undertaken on 4 November 2021. The search did not identify any heritage items within the subject area.

2.2.2. NSW State Heritage Inventory

The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a database of heritage items in NSW which includes declared Aboriginal Places, items listed on the SHR, listed Interim Heritage Orders (IHOs) and items listed of local heritage significance on a local council's LEP.

A search of the SHI was undertaken on 4 November 2021. The following heritage item was identified as being located within the subject area:

- Item 472 Hunters Hill LEP (Local Significance) – Garden, “Montefiore Home” (Lot 2, DP 312298; Lots 1 and 2, DP 325793; Lots 9 and 10, DP 724017)

The above heritage item is not an archaeological item and therefore is not within the scope of the present assessment. This item is addressed under separate cover (Urbis 2021).

2.3. SUMMARY

The statutory context of the subject area is summarised as follows:

- Heritage controls relating to the subject area are provided by the EPBC Act, Heritage Act, Hunters Hill LEP and Hunters Hill DCP.
- There is one built heritage item within the curtilage of the subject area (Item 472 of Hunters Hill LEP - Garden, “Montefiore Home”), which is addressed under separate cover (Urbis 2021).

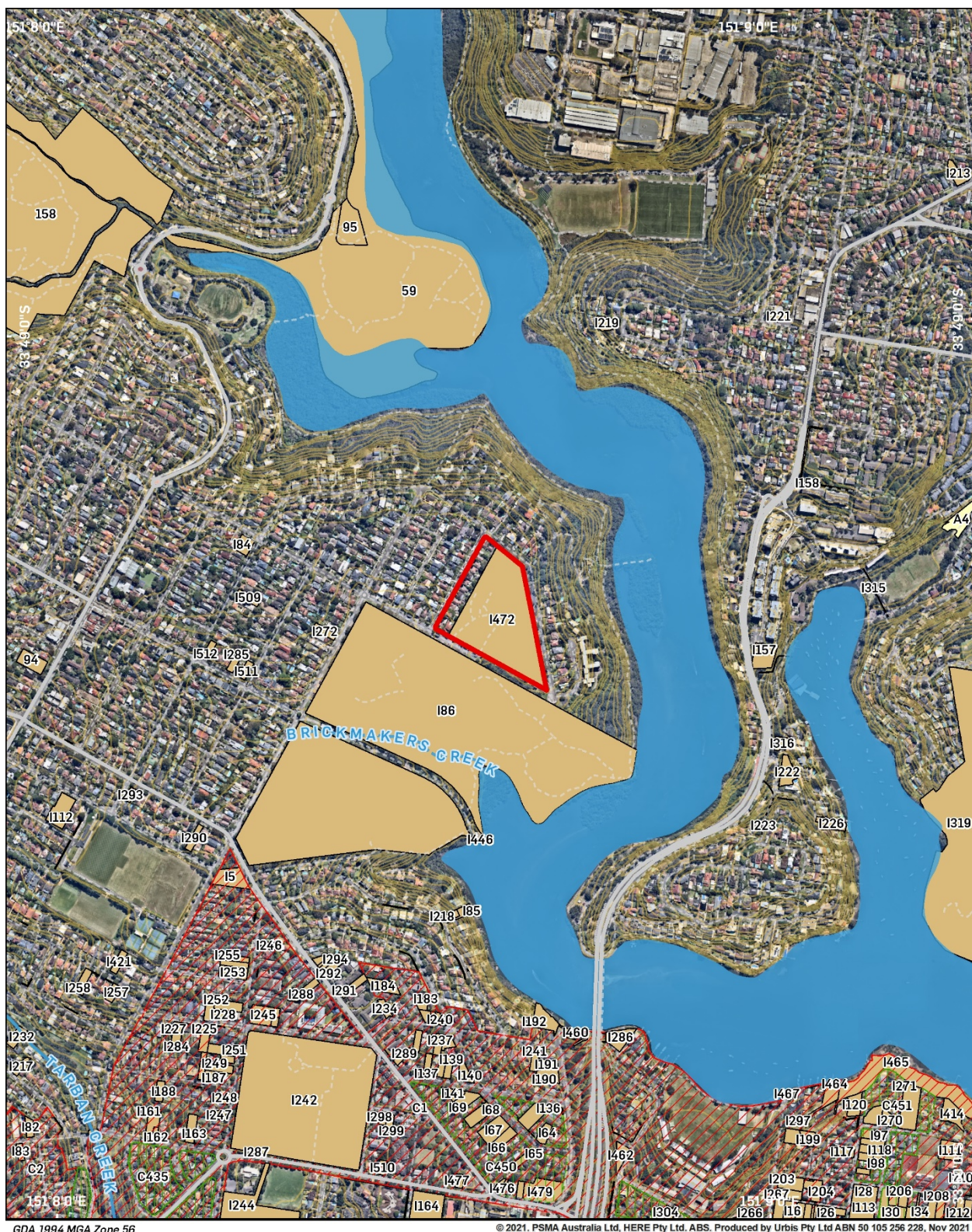


Figure 3 – Heritage items near the subject area

3. ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

A preliminary assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage resources within the subject area is provided below, including search results from the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) and consideration of previous archaeological investigations pertinent to the subject area.

3.1. PAST ABORIGINAL LAND USE

Due to the absence of written records, much of our understanding of Aboriginal life pre-colonisation is informed by the histories documented in the late 18th and early 19th century by European observers. These histories provide an inherently biased interpretation of Aboriginal life both from the perspective of the observer but also through the act of observation. The social functions, activities and rituals recorded by Europeans may have been impacted by the Observer Effect, also known as the Hawthorne Effect. According to the Observer/Hawthorne Effect, individuals will modify their behaviour in response to their awareness of being observed. With this in mind, by comparing/contrasting these early observations with archaeological evidence is possible to establish a general understanding of the customs, social structure, languages and beliefs of Aboriginal people (Attenbrow 2010).

The archaeological record provides evidence of the long occupation of Aboriginal people in Australia. Current archaeological investigations establish occupation of the Australian mainland by as early as 65,000 years before present (BP) (Clarkson et al. 2017). The oldest date for a site in the Sydney region is at Pitt Town on the Hawkesbury River, which is dated to around 36,000 BP (Williams et al. 2014). Older occupation sites along the now submerged coastline would have been flooded around 10,000 years BP, with subsequent occupation concentrating along the current coastlines and rivers (Attenbrow 2010).

Given the early contact with Aboriginal people in the Sydney region, more is known about these groups than those that inhabited regional areas. The Aboriginal population in the greater Sydney region is estimated to have been between around 4000 and 8000 people at the time of European contact (Attenbrow 2010). The area around the present subject area was inhabited by the Wallumedagal (or Wallumettagal) clan (Smith 2005). The lands occupied by the Wallumedgal are believed to have extended from the Lane Cove River west along the north shore of the Parramatta River (Smith 2005).

The archaeological record is limited to materials and objects that were able to withstand degradation and decay. As a result, the most common type of Aboriginal objects remaining in the archaeological record are stone artefacts. Flaked artefacts are typically the most common type of stone artefact encountered, in part due to their long and ubiquitous use, but also due to their high discard rate and the large amount of waste produced during manufacture. However, ground edged tools are also known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the Sydney region (Tench 1791). Stone technology and raw material utilisation changed over time. Until about 8,500 BP, stone tool technology remained relatively static. Unifacial flaking was the dominant method of stone tool manufacture and silicified tuff, quartz and some unheated silcrete were the preferred materials. After about 4,000 BP, bipolar flaking and backed artefacts appear more frequently and ground stone axes are first observed (Attenbrow 2010:102; JMCHM 2006). From about 1,500 BP, there is evidence of a decline in stone tool manufacture, possibly due to an increase in the use of organic materials, changes in the way tools were made or changes in tool preferences (Attenbrow 2010). After European contact, Aboriginal people of the Sydney region continued to manufacture tools, sometimes with new materials such as bottle glass or ceramics (e.g. Ngara Consulting 2003).

Other materials, such as shell and bone, also survive in the archaeological record under certain conditions. The 'Wallumattagal' is likely derived from the word 'wallumai', the local name for the snapper fish (*Pagrus auratus*), which were abundant in Sydney's waterways (Smith 2005). There is significant evidence of reliance on river resources in the form of shell middens in the lands occupied by the Wallumettagal clan.

Based on the above background, it is possible that similar evidence of Aboriginal occupation is present within original and/or intact topsoils within the present subject area.

3.2. PREVIOUS ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Previous Aboriginal archaeological investigations may provide information on the potential nature and distribution of archaeological resources in a given area. No previous Aboriginal archaeological reports related directly to the subject area have been identified.

3.3. ABORIGINAL HERITAGE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) is a database of previously registered Aboriginal archaeological objects and cultural heritage places in NSW. It is managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) under Section 90Q of the NPW Act.

A basic search of AHIMS was undertaken on 4 November 2021 (Client ID: 636007). The results of the search or presented in Appendix A. The search did not identify any previously registered Aboriginal objects or places within the subject area.

It should be noted that the AHIMS register does not represent a comprehensive list of all Aboriginal objects or sites in a specified area as it lists recorded sites only identified during previous archaeological survey effort. Most registered sites have been identified through targeted, pre-development surveys for infrastructure and maintenance works, with the restrictions on extent and scope of those developments. An absence of registered Aboriginal sites may therefore indicate a lack of previous archaeological investigation rather than an absence of Aboriginal archaeological remains.

3.4. SUMMARY

The following conclusions are drawn from the above assessment of the subject area:

- There are no registered Aboriginal objects or places within the curtilage of the subject area.
- An absence of registered Aboriginal sites may indicate a lack of previous archaeological investigation rather than an absence of Aboriginal archaeological remains.
- An Aboriginal Objects Due Diligence Assessment should be undertaken as a minimum prior to any works within the subject area to determine the likelihood of unknown Aboriginal archaeological remains being present and to determine whether further assessment is required.

4. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

A preliminary assessment of historical archaeological resources within the subject area is provided below, including consideration of previous archaeological investigations pertinent to the subject area and an assessment of archaeological potential based on land use history.

4.1. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

4.1.1. Field of Mars Common (1804 – 1874)

Development of the area between the Parramatta River and Lane Cove River began as early as 1792 with the granting of land to a number of ex-marines (Phippen 2008). Owing to its military associations, the area was named the 'Field of Mars' (Phippen 2008). Further land grants followed and, by 1802, numerous small allotments in the area were being used for grazing horses, cattle, sheep and goats (Campbell, 1927). In 1804, a large area of public land along the Lane Cove River was set aside for public use as grazing land and for limited timber-getting (Phippen 2008). The Field of Mars Common encompassed an area of approximately 5,050 acres (Phippen 2008), including the present subject area (Figure 4).

The Field of Mars Common remained a public reserve for 70 years, until it was resumed under the *Field of Mars Common Resumption Act 1874* (*The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 1895). Subdivision of the land that constituted the former common followed, with streets being laid out and small parcels of land of one to four acres offered for sale (Phippen 2008). The first sale of the newly laid out allotments proceeded by auction in 1885 (*Daily Telegraph*, 1907).

4.1.2. Land Grants (1874 – 1929)

The present subject area comprises four complete land grants and two partial land grants dating to the 1880s (Figure 5). The original grants were made to John James Wood and Alexander Cole, Charles Tennant, James Lawson and Charles Edward Jeanneret. Evidence of land use during this time is sparse. However, an aerial photograph of the subject area from 1930 (Figure 6) shows that a large portion of the subject area, outside that associated with the early development of the Montefiore Home (see below), remained largely undeveloped during this phase. However, some small structures are visible along Gaza Avenue and Barons Crescent.

4.1.3. Early Montefiore Home (1929 – 1942)

The foundation stone of the Montefiore Home Hunters Hill campus was laid on the 21 May, 1929 by the former Governor General, Sir Isaac A. Isaacs. Significant landscaping works had taken place and at the time of opening in 1939, The Montefiore Home Hunters Hill campus catered for 26 adults.

4.1.4. Army Occupation (1942 – 1946)

Between 1942 and 1946 the aged care residents were relocated and the Australian armed forces repurposed the Montefiore Home Hunters Hill campus for the war effort (Urbis 2021). The subject area was occupied in its entirety by the 12th Australian Lines of Communication Signals. During that time, various temporary structures were built within the subject area (Figure 7). In addition, a blast-proof communications bunker was constructed in 1943 (National Archives of Australia SP155/1, DEF34465F). Many of the former army buildings, including the mess and kitchen, showers and a workshop, were sold by auction to the public in early 1946 (*The Sydney Morning Herald* 1946). However, as discussed in Section 4.3 below, the blast-proof bunker was left in place.

4.1.5. Later Montefiore Home (1946 – Present)

In March 1946, the Montefiore Home was re-dedicated as an aged care facility. The subject area underwent significant transformation during the late 20th century, including the demolition of the original Montefiore Home building between 1986 and 1991 (Urbis 2021). Numerous additional buildings were constructed during that time, likely causing significant ground disturbance across much of the subject area,



Figure 4 – Detail of map of Parish of Hunters Hill, ca. 1860s; approximate location of subject area indicated by red dot
Source: NSWLRS

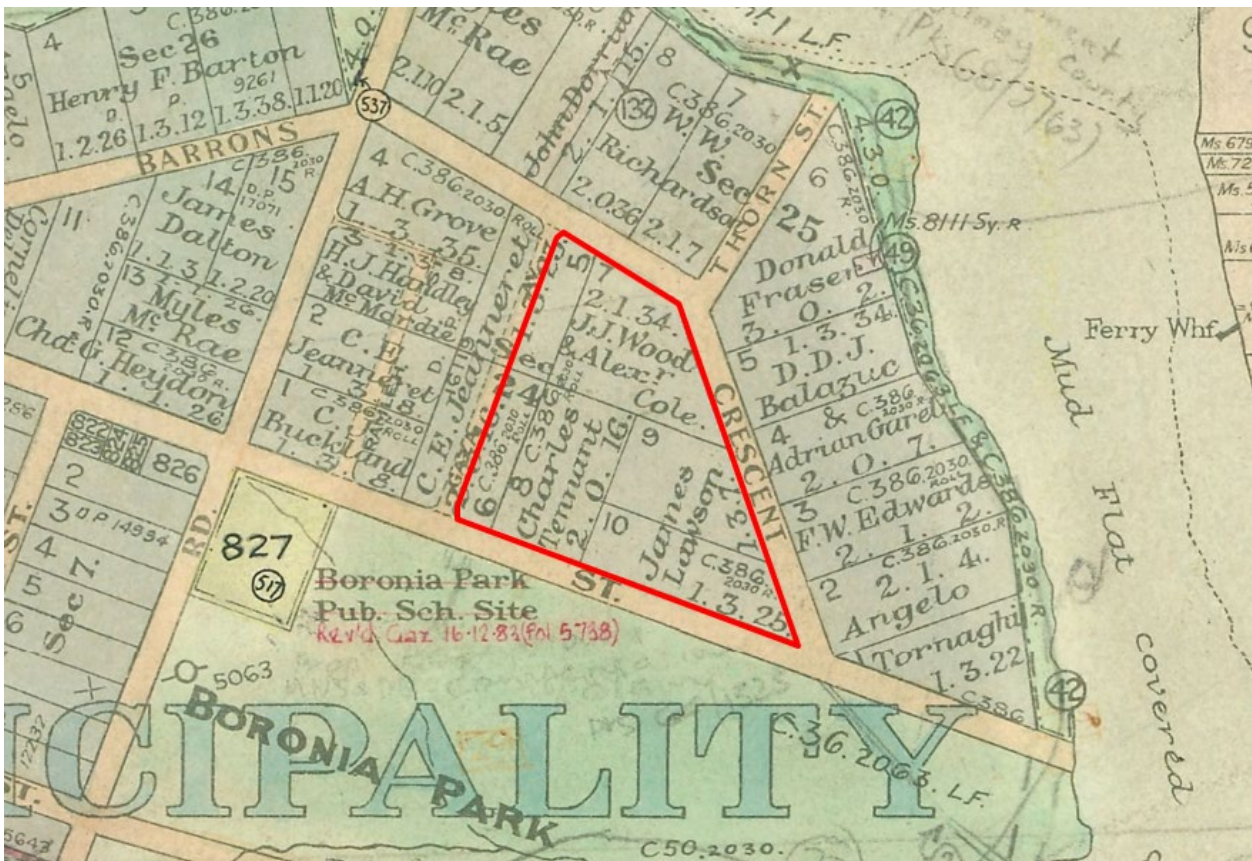


Figure 5 – Detail of map of Parish of Hunters Hill, 1907; subject area outline in red
Source: NSWLRS



Figure 6 – Aerial photograph of subject area (outlined in red), 1930
 Source: NSW Government Spatial Services, Historical Imagery Viewer



Figure 7 – Aerial photograph of subject area (outlined in red), 1943; blue arrow indicates location of communications bunker and yellow arrow indicates original Montefiore Home building (now demolished)
 Source: NSW Government Spatial Services, Historical Imagery Viewer

4.2. PREVIOUS HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Previous historical archaeological investigations may provide information on the potential nature and distribution of archaeological resources in a given area. No previous historical archaeological reports related directly to the subject area have been identified.

4.3. VISUAL INSPECTION

A visual inspection of the subject area was undertaken on 22 October 2021 by Aaron Olsen (Urbis Consultant Archaeologist) and Balazs Hansel (Urbis Associate Director, Archaeology). The aim of the visual inspection was to confirm the location of the blast-proof communications bunker built in 1943.

The visual inspection confirmed the location of the bunker, as shown in (Figure 12). The bunker is located in a garden within Lot 2 DP 312298 near the boundary with Lot 61 DP 16119. It is heavily overgrown with vegetation and the entrance is covered with wood to prevent access (Figure 8 to Figure 11). The bunker appears to be entirely intact, with no obvious signs of damage.



Figure 8 – View of southern end of communications bunker showing wooden covering of entrance



Figure 9 – View into entrance of communications bunker at southern end



Figure 10 – View of western facing side of communications bunker



Figure 11 – View of western facing side of communications bunker



Figure 12 – Aerial photograph of subject area (outlined in red), 2021, showing locations of communications bunker and original Montefiore Home building
Source: NearMap

4.4. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The *NSW Heritage Manual* (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996) defines historical archaeological potential as:

The degree of physical evidence present on an archaeological site, usually assessed on the basis of physical evaluation and historical research.

The potential for archaeological remains or 'relics' to survive in a particular place is significantly affected by land use activities that may have caused ground disturbance. These processes include the physical development of the site (e.g. phases of building construction) and the activities that occurred there.

In view of these factors, a preliminary assessment of historical archaeological potential has found that the subject area retains high potential for historical archaeological remains in relation to:

- The extant World War II blast-proof communications bunker.
- The original Montefiore Home building, which is now demolished.

The potential for archaeological remains outside these areas is considered to be low due to the likely impacts of later development phases. The archaeological potential for earlier phases of development of the subject area, including its use as part of the Field of Mars Common and early land grants, are also considered to be low for the same reason.

4.5. SUMMARY

The following conclusions are drawn from the above assessment of the subject area:

- A World War II blast-proof communications bunker remains extant within the subject area.
- There is high potential for archaeological remains associated with the northernmost original Montefiore Home building.
- A Historical Archaeological Assessment should be undertaken as a minimum prior to any works within the subject area to assess the significance of any potential historical relics within the subject area and to determine the potential impact of the proposed works on those relics.

5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The BAA has concluded the following in relation to the subject area:

- Heritage controls relating to the subject area are provided by the EPBC Act, Heritage Act, Hunters Hill LEP and Hunters Hill DCP.
- There is one built heritage item within the curtilage of the subject area (Item 472 of Hunters Hill LEP - Garden, "Montefiore Home"), which is addressed under separate cover (Urbis 2021).
- There are no registered Aboriginal objects or places within the curtilage of the subject area.
- An absence of registered Aboriginal sites may indicate a lack of previous archaeological investigation rather than an absence of Aboriginal archaeological remains.
- A World War II blast-proof communications bunker is extant within the subject area, retaining high historical archaeological potential.
- There is high potential for archaeological remains associated with the original Montefiore Home building, such as footing and other subsurface remains.

In view of the above conclusions, Urbis makes the following recommendations:

- An **Aboriginal Objects Due Diligence Assessment** should be undertaken as a minimum prior to any works within the subject area to determine the likelihood of unknown Aboriginal archaeological remains being present and to determine whether further assessment is required.
- A **Historical Archaeological Assessment** should be undertaken as a minimum prior to any works within the subject area to assess the significance of any potential historical relics within the subject area and to determine the potential impact of the proposed works on those relics.
- Although further detailed archaeological investigation needs to be undertaken to inform detailed design of buildings and/or any retention of or interpretation of possible archaeological remains, this baseline assessment has determined that it is appropriate to progress the masterplanning of the subject area and the preparation of future controls for the subject area.
- Further archaeological investigation of the subject area may be undertaken at the Development Application stage.

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This report has been prepared with due care and diligence by Urbis and the statements and opinions given by Urbis in this report are given in good faith and in the reasonable belief that they are correct and not misleading, subject to the limitations above.

APPENDIX A

AHIMS RESULTS

Urbis Pty Ltd - Angel Place L8 123 Pitt Street

Date: 04 November 2021

Level 8 123 Angel Street
Sydney New South Wales 2000

Attention: Aaron Olsen

Email: aolsen@urbis.com.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lat, Long From : -33.83, 151.14 - Lat, Long To : -33.82, 151.15, conducted by Aaron Olsen on 04 November 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

26	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the [NSW Government Gazette \(https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette\)](https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

Important information about your AHIMS search

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Heritage NSW and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date. Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings,
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.

