



Mark Steglick
Gowings Brothers Limited
Level 8 Gowings Building
45 Market Street,
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mark,

**RE : BENEDICT SAND & GRAVEL 146 NEWBRIDGE ROAD, MOOREBANK
ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

In September 2004 we undertook an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of Lot 1 in DP 515738 Newbridge Road Moorebank. The land is owned by Meron Investments Pty Limited and comprises approximately 15ha [See Figure 1]. The site is bound in the east by e Flower Power nursery and retail outlet and the Georges River, in the west end south by Boral Brickworks end in the north by Newbridge Road. The site is currently used by Benedict Sand Gravel for sand extraction, inert landfill and recycling.

Site Condition

The site is located within the Berkshire Park Soil Landscape [Bannermen and Hazelton 1990] comprising gently undulating rises on Tertiary clayey quartzose sand and clay terraces. Reference to the Penrith Geological 1:100,000 sheet indicates these deposits are located in the northern portion of the site. Quaternary alluviums, comprising medium grained sand, silt and clay, form the flank the Georges River in the east of the site. The bulk of these alluviums including topsoils have been removed by sand extraction.

The northern portion of the site has been filled to between 6 and 8m and contains a bitumen access road, weighbridge and Site Office [see Figures 2 and 3]. Topsoil had been removed, by the previous owner for sale, in the mid 1970s.

An open cut drain was constructed along the western site boundary in 1994 [see Figure 4].

The southern portion of the site has been sand mined by dredge to depths of 15m and currently contains three settling ponds covering the majority of the southern lands.

The site is largely cleared of vegetation. Older trees remain along the immediate shore line of the River along south eastern boundary [see Figure 5]. Portions of the riverbank are flood scoured and retained by rubble and earth fill.

Archeeological Background

No previous Aboriginal archaeological survey has been conducted over the Lot [Refer Department of Environment and Conservation Register of Aboriginal Sites and Catalogue of Archaeological Reports]. Nearest Known sites were identified 1.5km to the south near the confluence of Williams Creek and the Georges River. These sites were open artefact scatters which have subsequently been destroyed under a DEC Permit.

Previous archaeological investigations in the general area have focused on lands proposed for housing development, in particular the suburbs of Wettle Grove, Holsworthy Village and Voyager Point, or the redevelopment of Department of Defence lands to the south. The discovery of the majority of sites has been the result of systematic archaeological site survey carried out prior to subdivision and the development. Archaeological surveys have been conducted in areas situated immediately to the south west and south of the present study area (for example Haglund 1995; Boot 1990, 1992, 1994; Dallas 1998a, 1998b 1998c; McDonald 1996). These studies have located a number of Aboriginal sites along the banks and flanks of Harris Creek and Williams Creek. These largely consist of open campsites in variously disturbed contexts, along with scarred trees.

Painted and drawn rock art sites dominate the recorded evidence that has been located to date south of the Georges River. The distribution of these types of sites necessarily relates to the presence of suitable exposures of sandstone surfaces and overhangs.

On the basis of previous archaeological survey in the general area and the landform contained within the study area, the types of sites which might be expected to occur on the study area in undisturbed areas would include open camp sites and scarred trees.

Survey Results

The survey was conducted in consultation with the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council [GLALC]. Mr Jamie Thomas, the Land Council Sites Officer assisted in the survey and has been commissioned to prepare a report on the GLALC's interest in the land [see Attachment 1].

Mr Ernest Dupre, of Benedict Sand and Gravel, assisted in identification of site boundaries, information on land use history and aerial photography.

The survey covered the entire Lot and concentrated on areas subject to least prior disturbance. The survey noted that over 90% of the Lot has been subject to past land use disturbance inclusive of deep sand mining, top soil removal and land fill. The western, southern and parts of the eastern perimeter of the site contains built up road surfaces to gain access to a series of settling ponds and fill areas. Any surface Aboriginal site as may have been located in these areas would not have survived such activities. None of these lands retain archaeological potential for buried undisturbed land surfaces or subsurface potentially artefact bearing deposits.

A narrow strip of Georges River foreshore [see Figure 5] marks the eastern boundary of sand dredging. A number of older trees are located in this area. None shows signs of scarring which could be ascribed an Aboriginal origin. Inspection of the river banks along this strip showed flood scoured bank sections and sections of introduced stone rubble and concrete fill. No undisturbed sections were noted. The likelihood of Aboriginal sites surviving past flood action and bank stabilisation works is minimal.



Conclusions and Recommendations

No Aboriginal archaeological sites are located on Lot 1 in DP 515738, Newbridge Road, Moorebank. The past land use disturbances and major subsurface disruption on the Lot indicate there is little or no likelihood that buried deposits, not visible during the archaeological survey, would retain undisturbed or significant Aboriginal sites.

It is recommended that:

1. No further Aboriginal archaeological assessment is warranted or required for Lot 1 in DP 515738.
2. Copies of this report should be forwarded to the Manager, Department of Environment and Conservation, Central Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Unit:

The Manager,
C/o Dr Katherine Pryzwolnik
Central Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Unit
Department of Environment and Conservation
P.O. Box 1967
Hurstville NSW 2220

3. A copy of this report should be forwarded to the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council:

The Chairperson,
Gandangara LALC
P.O. Box 1038
Liverpool Business Centre
Liverpool NSW 1871

Yours sincerely,

Mary Dallas
Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists

1.10.04

References

- Bannerman, S.M. & Hazelton, P.A. 1990 Soil Landscapes of the Penrith 1:100,000 Sheet. Soil Conservation Service of NSW.
- Boot, P. 1990. Archaeological Survey of Proposed Defence Housing Authority Subdivision at Holsworthy, NSW. Report to Kinhill Engineers.
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- Dallas, M. 1998a. Archaeological Survey at Holsworthy Kakoda Ovals. Report to Fitzwelter & Associates on behalf of Department of Defence.
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- Haglund, L. 1995. Wattle Grove Option 3. Aboriginal Archaeological Sites WG03-1 and WG03-2: Test Excavations. Report to Wattle Grove Development.
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- McDonald, J.J. 1996. Archaeological Survey for Prehistoric Sites at Voyager Point, NSW. Report Prepared for Delfin Management Services Pty Ltd.
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Figure 1: Lot 1 in DP 515738



Figure 2 : Northern portion of sites showing weighbridge, office and car park



Figure 3 : View to south on eastern side of land showing sand stock piles and settling pond



Figure 4: Cut drain along western boundary



Figure 5 : Filled sand excavation areas and stock piles along edge of Georgas River



Figure 6: Perimeter road in western portion of Lot, adjacent to cut drain and settling pond



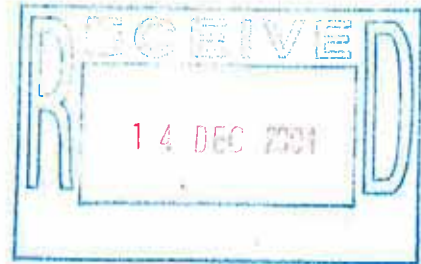
ATTACHMENT 1 : GANOANGARA LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL



GANDANGARA

local aboriginal land council

Our commitment is to serve the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community with our expertise in cultural, economic, social and spiritual services in order to achieve a better future for Indigenous Australians.



Mary Dallas
31 Waterview St
Balmain NSW 2041

Re: Aboriginal Assessment of Benedict Sand & Gravel Newbridge Rd Moorebank.

I wish to submit comment on the above mentioned survey in September 2004.

As per our discussion on sites. The study area has been highly disturbed with previous land clearing and the removal of all topsoil over the study area. The Gandangara LALC believe that the potential of any Cultural material present in the study area is low and have no objections to any development over the study area.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please call Jamie on 0413737208

Thank you

Jamie Thomas
Sites Officer
Gandangara LALC

