

JUNE 2011

PASCOE PLANNING SOLUTIONS

NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Lot 32 DP 635271 MACARTHUR ROAD

SPRING FARM NSW



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DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

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Title: Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report - Lot 32 DP 635271 Macarthur Road Spring Farm. Author: Anne Bickford. Synopsis: An archaeological historic heritage assessment of the study area in which historical research and a field survey of the site revealed no evidence of any artefacts or historical remains. Therefore there are no historical or historical archaeological reasons why the proposed development should not take place.
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History

Version	Date	History
1	April 2011	First Draft
2	June 2011	2 nd Draft
3	June 2011	3 rd Draft

Distribution

Destination	Version	Method
Chris Betteridge	1	Microsoft Word document sent over the internet.
Chris Betteridge	2	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is no historical evidence of any historic occupation of the Study Area with a hut, dwelling, sheds, or farmyard structures or any other structure.

No evidence of the above or any small artefacts were found in the field survey.

Therefore the site has no historical archaeological potential.

There is no need for any further action to be taken in regards to the non Aboriginal heritage of the site. No relics were found and it has no archaeological potential.

CONTENTS	PAGE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	
1.2 Site Location	
1.3 Department of Planning Context	8
1.4 Authorship	
1.5 Acknowledgements	
2.0 HISTORICAL ANALYSIS	10
2.1 Land Grants and Early Settlement	
2.2 Viticulture	11
2.2.1 Martin Thurn	
2.3 Implication of farming and viticulture on the Study Area	
3.0 IMPACT OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – FLOODS – ON THE STUDY AREA	12
4.0 HISTORIC MAP EVIDENCE OF BUILDINGS AND TRACKS ADJACENT TO THE STUDY AREA	13
5.0 FIELD SURVEY	20
6.0 SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	20
7.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	20
8.0 NEARBY HERITAGE ITEMS	21
9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	22

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Archaeology And Heritage Pty Ltd was engaged by Musecape Pty Ltd as part of the Musecape team for Pascoe Planning Solutions to undertake a non-Aboriginal heritage assessment of the site at Lot 32 DP 635271 Macarthur Road Spring Farm. The locality is known as Spring Farm. This report documents the historical research and field survey and its conclusions and results. There have been no previous such evaluations of the study area.

The investigation was carried out with the site being a grassed paddock from which chardonnay grape vines have been recently removed. Most of the historical research was carried out in the Archives of the Camden Historical Society, 40 John Street Camden.

1.2 Site Location

The Study Area is located just to the south of the Camden Bypass next to its junction with the Nepean River at Spring Farm (See Figure 1.1).

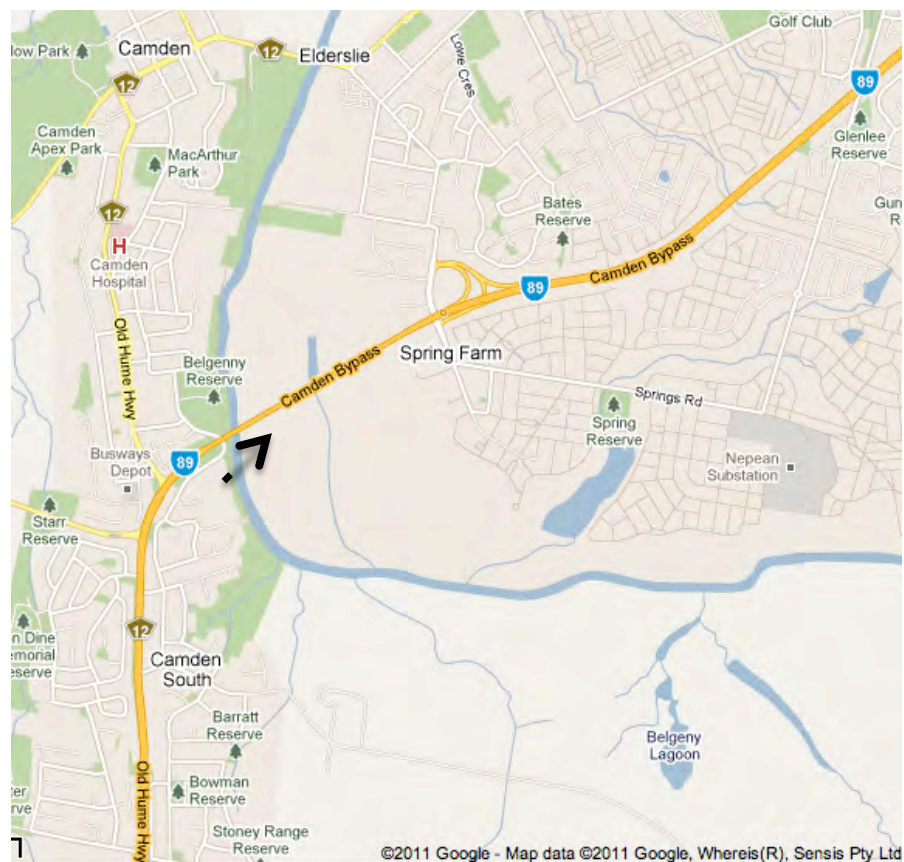


Figure 1.1 Location Map. Arrow points to Study Area

The Study Area is a skewed rectangle shape of low green vegetation. An anabranch exists along the eastern edge of the area.

Being adjacent to the Nepean River which floods very readily, the site has been and is often covered by floodwaters, and rich topsoils have been laid down.

The proposed development is to continue the extraction of sand and soil by M. Collins and Sons, who are currently excavating the area directly to the south of the site known as Lot 22 DP 833317.

Figure 1.2, directly below, shows the study area in dark green, and the area being mined as the buff-coloured sand and soil to the south and southeast.



Figure 1.2 Aerial Photograph. Arrow points to the Study Area (Source: Google Earth)



Figure 1.3 Study Area on 1949 air photo



Figure 1.4 1949 Air photo with current location information overlaid on it.

1.3 Department of Planning Context

In this proposal the Proponent has requested an amendment to the consent issued by the Department of Planning (DOP) in respect of the adjoining extraction activity in Lot 22, under Section 75W of the EP&A Act 1979 and the EP& Assessment Regulation 2000.

Following receipt of this the Director General of the DOP has requested from the Proponent an Environmental Assessment Report (Letter of 23/12/2010).

In this letter **non-Aboriginal heritage** is listed as one of the key issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment Report. Under 'References' it states that the key issues must take into account relevant 'guidelines, policies, and plans'. And lists some which may be relevant as the *NSW Heritage Manual* and the *Burra Charter*. This Report is also in accordance with the standard guideline for reports such as this produced by the Heritage Office of DUAP in 1996 - *Archaeological Assessments*.

1.4 Authorship

This report was written and compiled by Anne Bickford, Director of Archaeology and Heritage Pty Ltd (AAH). The overlays and indication on the historic maps and air photos of the Study Area were produced by Franz Reidel, Senior Archaeologist of AAH.

1.5 Acknowledgements

The historical and map research for this project was carried out with the generous assistance of John Wrigley OAM, Vice President of the Camden Historical Society. The author was assisted by him in the Archives of the Camden Historical Society (ACHS) for four hours on one day and one hour on another. His detailed knowledge of the whole collection – maps, air photos, and written records meant that the historical research for this project was extensive and detailed.

1.0 HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Land Grants and Early Settlement

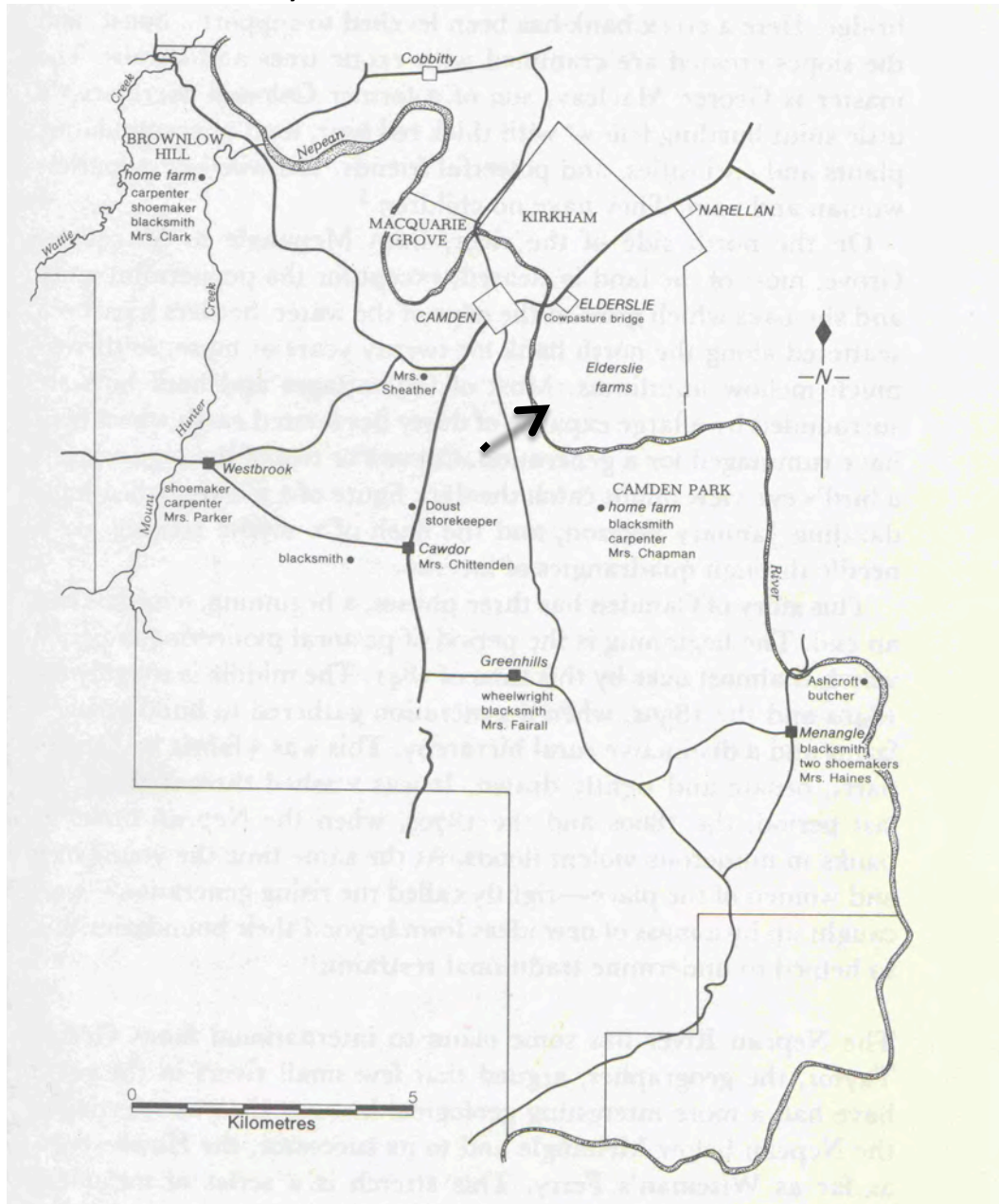


Figure 2.1 Camden, showing original land grants. Arrow points to The Study Area.
(Source: Atkinson 1988:3)

Governor Lachlan Macquarie (1811-1821) ordered the first general survey of land in the area around the Nepean near Camden. The Acting Surveyor General James Meehan surveyed the 13 farms to the north of the Nepean, of which the Study Area is a part, between 1811 and 1815 (Atkinson: 12) and after survey they were granted by Macquarie. Robert Higgins, who had been a sergeant in the New South Wales Corps, was granted 50 acres which includes the Study Area land. By 1815 most of these 13 small farms were going well and the settlers had formed more or less a community. Of

these original grantees only two of them lived on their grants for more than 12 years and Higgins was not one of these (Atkinson: 14).

Atkinson records that the 1823 muster shows that on Higgins' grant lived Elijah Stephens a Jewish ex convict who leased 10 acres on which he had 8 ½ acres of wheat, 1 ½ of maize, a large bed of potatoes, and a pig (: 29).

There is no further information about the grant until the late 1860s when Martin Thurn buys the land.



Figure 2.2 Parish of Narellan 1939 showing original grants by Macquarie on the north side of the Nepean. Arrow points to Higgins' 50 acre grant on which is the Study Area. The mauve addition to the Parish Map is the future Macarthur Road and Bridge (Source: Archives of the Camden Historical Society)

2.2 Viticulture

2.2.1 Martin Thurn¹

Martin Thurn and his wife Anna Maria Fuchs of Frauenstein on the Rhine were one of the 12 families recruited in Germany and brought to Australia in 1852 by the Macarthur family to work on their vineyards at Camden Park.

In 1868 Thurn purchased two of the early Spring Farm grants which were adjacent to each other. These were Thomas Trotter's grant of 95 acres Portion 15, and Portion 16 the 50 acres granted to Robert Higgins. On this land he grew grapes, made wine, had a dairy and an orchard. After his death in 1897 his son Anton took over the vineyard and farm.

As stated above the Study Area is on the Higgins grant, and it is likely that grapes have been continuously grown on it since Thurn first planted them after 1868.

The Thurn family donated an early hand-used wooden grape crusher and wine press from their vineyard to the Camden Museum where they can be seen on display. To my eyes they both look very small.

2.3 Implication of farming and viticulture on the Study Area

The effect of farming and viticulture on the Study Area would have been to churn over the top 30-50cm of topsoil with ploughing, planting, and digging up crops. This would have disturbed the remains of any historic buildings or artefacts if they had been in the area.

¹ This information taken from: Calderwood, M. no date, *Pioneers of Camden: Martin Thurn & Anna Maria Fuchs*. Typescript in Archives of Camden Historical Society.
And: *Grape-growers and wine makers Martin and Anna Maria Thurn*. Museum interpretation label at the Thurn winemaking artefacts.

3.0 IMPACT OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – FLOODS – ON THE STUDY AREA

Floods were very prevalent along the Nepean River. The Camden Flood Inundation Map of the NSW Water Resources Commission (WRC) dated 1982 was accessed at the ACHS. This Map shows the many floods which were over the critical height limit recorded at Cowpasture Bridge by the WRC.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of May 1919 recorded the effect of one such flood on the town of Camden:

The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842-1954), Friday 30 May 1919, page 7

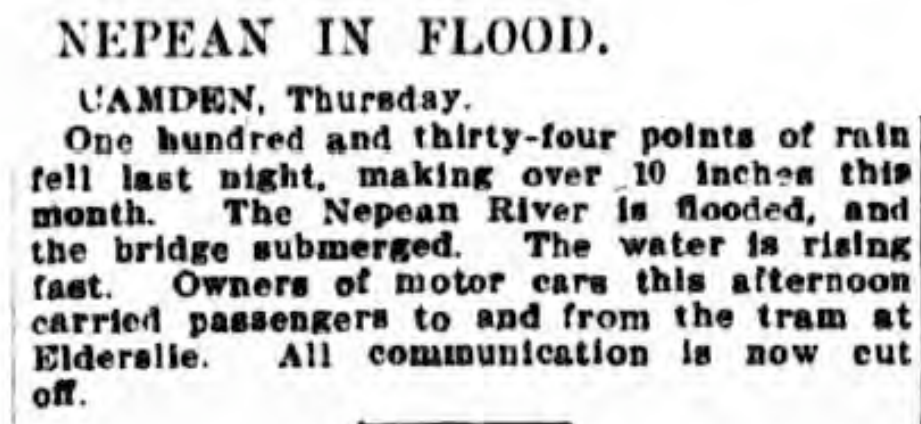


Figure 3.1 The Flooded Nepean May 1919 (Source: Trove website National Library of Australia)

The implication for the archaeology of the Study Area is that it has been covered by much floodborne topsoil and the remains of any historic buildings or artefacts which were there would be moved, turned, and damaged by the raging floodwaters.

4.0 HISTORIC MAP EVIDENCE OF BUILDINGS AND TRACKS ADJACENT TO THE STUDY AREA

A number of topographical maps were found in the Archives of the Camden Historical Society. These have been placed here in chronological order from earliest to latest to demonstrate that at no time from about 1930, when the first map would have been surveyed, were there any buildings, huts, sheds, or any other structures on the Study Area.

The two buildings with tracks to them are shown by the overlay of the Study Area on them in the detail maps, that these two buildings and tracks are outside the Study Area.

It therefore is concluded that it is highly unlikely that any historic buildings or sites were constructed in the study area.



Figure 4.1 1934 Earliest Topographical Map in ACHS research collection. Arrow points to the Study Area.



Figure 4.2 1934 Study area in colour block. 'ORCH' indicates the presence of an orchard



Figure 4.3 1949 This is an air photo taken in 1949. It shows in the Study Area a few small patches of light coloured growth and the rest of the area is growing another crop.



Figure 4.4 1951 Military Map showing huts and tracks just outside the study area.

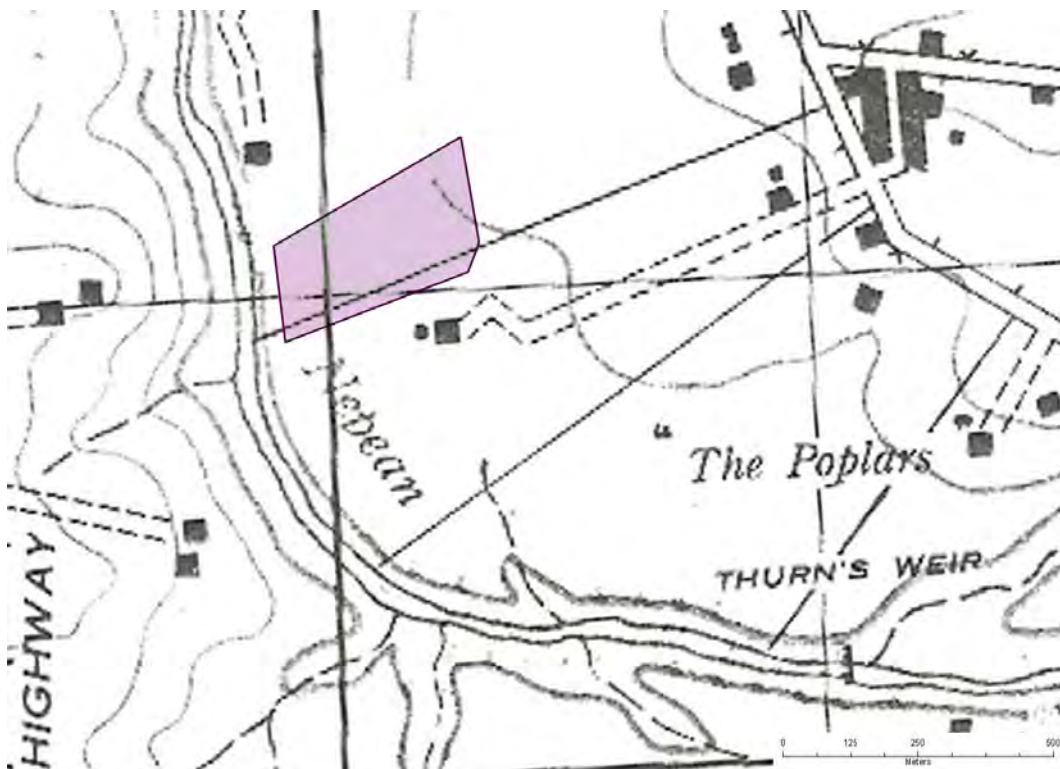


Figure 4.5 1951 Detail of Military Map. There is a smaller structure to the west of the building with the track in Lot 22.

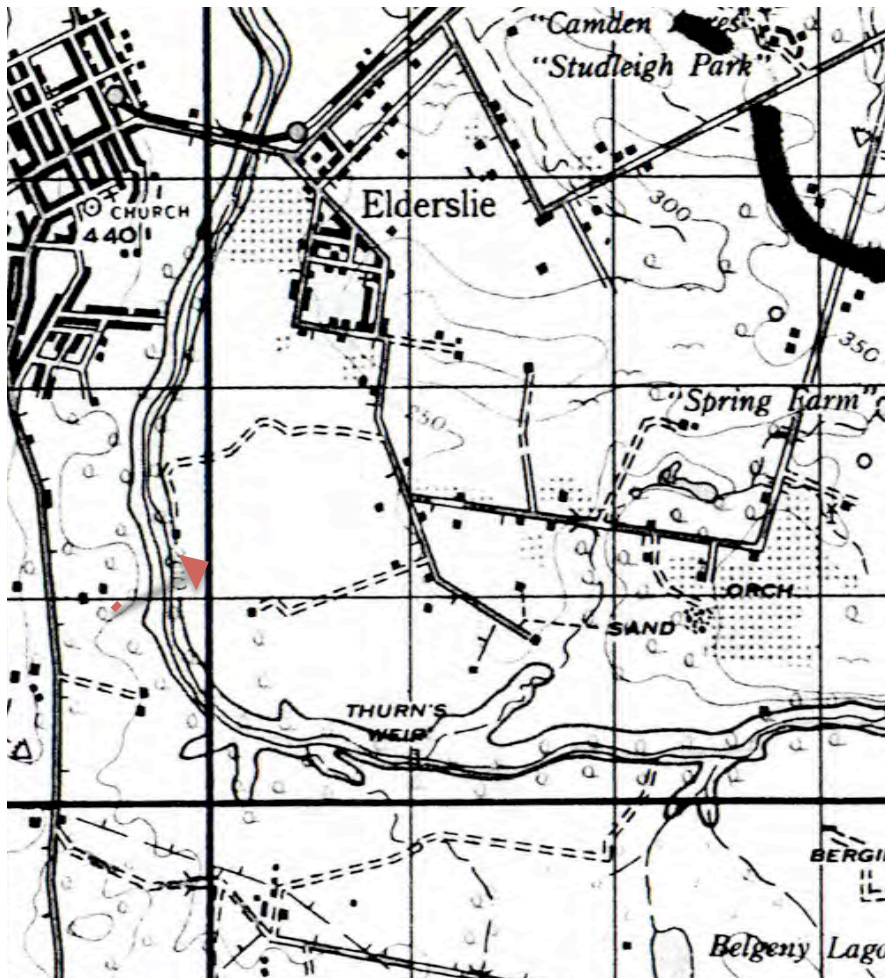


Figure 4.6 1954 This Map shows orchards, as patches of dots, in the Spring Farm area.



Figure 4.7 1954 Detail of Map above showing Study Area. THURN'S WEIR was built by Martin Thurn.

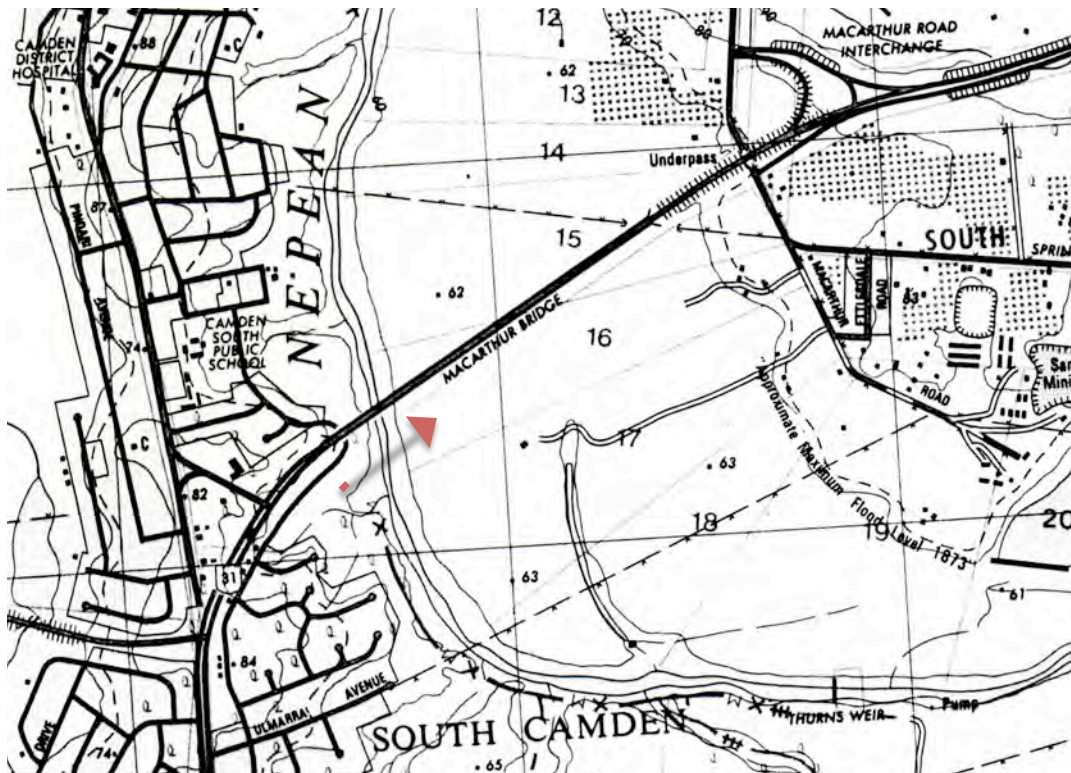


Figure 4.8 1977 By the time of this Map the hut and track to the north of the Macarthur Bridge has gone, but the hut near the anabranch is still there, with the track to it passing over the end of the anabranch.



Figure 4.11 2011 This is the Spring Farm region in 2011 showing the Study Area in the darkest green. The Nepean River and the anabranch which forms the eastern boundary of the Study Area can be clearly seen with trees growing on either side of them.

5.0 FIELD SURVEY

The detailed survey of the Study Area on foot took place on Wednesday 31 March 2011. The survey was conducted accompanied by Chris Betteridge.

No historic artefacts or structures were found.

6.0 SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

There is no historical evidence of any historic occupation of the study area with a hut, dwelling, sheds, or farmyard structures or any other structure.

No evidence of the above or any small artefacts were found in the field survey.

Therefore the site has no historical archaeological potential.

7.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

There is no need for any further action to be taken in regards to the non Aboriginal heritage of the site. No relics were found and it has no archaeological potential.

8.0 NEARBY HERITAGE ITEMS

There are two listed heritage items to the east of the Study Area. These are the farms on Macarthur Road. Their farmhouse and outbuildings can be seen marked on the topographical maps above and in the photo below.



Figure 8.1 The two heritage sites to the east of the Study Area listed on the Camden LEP. The arrow on the left of the picture points to the eastern end of the Study Area. (Source: Chris Betteridge)

8.1 Camden Local Environmental Plan 2010 – Schedule 5 – Environmental Heritage lists:

8.1.1 Item Number 1141: 176 Macarthur Road Lot 4, DP542867 is listed as of Local Significance. This is the Thurn family's farm and these were the former owners of the Study Area as it used to be part of their vineyard (See above 2.2 Viticulture).

8.1.2 Item Number 1142: 196 Macarthur Road Lot 1, DP625278 is listed as of Local Significance. This site is known as Galvin's Cottage (or more recently 'Nesbitt').

8.2 NSW Heritage Council Listing

8.2.1 Database Number 1280046: 'Nesbitt' is also listed on the Heritage Branch database. It states that it was built for R.J. Nesbitt in the latter half of the 19th century on his property which was then known as 'Fairholme'.

8.3 No Impact of the Proposed Development on these Heritage Items

The proposed development will have no physical impact on these two heritage items as it is too far distant from them to create any issue.

The cultural landscape impacts in respect of the subject items have been addressed in the *Cultural Landscape and Visual Assessment* report by Chris Betteridge of *Musecape Pty Ltd*, June 2011. It is noted in the report that the proposal would not adversely impact the immediate cultural landscape setting of either of these heritage items.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atkinson, Alan. 1988. *Camden: farm and village life in early New South Wales*. OUP.

Calderwood, Maurice. Nd. *Pioneers of Camden*: Martin Thurn & Anna Maria Fuchs. ACHS.

Topographical Maps. ACHS.

Water Resources Commission NSW. 1982. *Camden Flood Inundation Map*. ACHS.
