



**Memo: SYD086 Glendenning: 2 Glendenning
Road – Addendum Historical
Archaeological Assessment**

Project: SYD086 Glendenning: 2 Glendenning Road	Date: 29 October 2025
To: LCI Artelia Group	From: Artefact Heritage and Environment

Project introduction

Artefact Heritage (Artefact) have been engaged by LCI Consultants to respond to Response to Submission (RtS) comments made by Heritage NSW as part of SSD application SSD-73761707. This addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment functions as an updated historical archaeological assessment and methodology for project. This report considers additional landscape and disturbance analysis to revise the assessment of historical archaeological potential and significance for the site prepared in 2024.¹

Virtus Heritage previously produced the following reports addressing the historical archaeological potential and management of 2 Glendenning Road, Glendenning NSW 2761 (Lot 2 DP1137162) for an SSD (SSD - 73761707) submission in 2024 and 2025:

- Historical Heritage Assessment (HHA)
- Historical Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methods

These reports were produced for LCI Consultants for the proposed development of the Glendenning Road Data Centre, including the construction and operation of three (3) data centre buildings and associated vegetation clearance, access changes, landscaping, fencing and infrastructure, services and utilities.

The study area is located at Woodstock Avenue at Lot 2 DP1137162 and extends across the suburbs of Glendenning and Rooty Hill. The study area is within the Blacktown Local Government Area (LGA) and the Parish of Rooty Hill within the County of Cumberland. The study area is within the boundaries of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). The study area is currently located across undeveloped land and within the road surface of Woodstock Avenue.

Authors and contributors

This report was prepared by Jenny Winnett (Technical Director and Archaeologist, Artefact). Management and review were provided by Dr Samantha Higgs (Archaeology Team Leader, Artefact). Mapping was provided by Mike Douglas (Geographic Information System Officer, Artefact).

¹ Virtus Heritage, 2 Glendenning Road, Blacktown Historical Heritage Assessment for Glendenning Road Data Centre (SSD-73761707) for LCO Consultants, November 2024

Study area context

A site visit was conducted on 3 October 2024, in attendance was Katherine Douglas (Graduate Heritage Consultant, Artefact) and Samuel Sammut (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact). The study area was surveyed under the same six survey area units as conducted by Virtus in 2024 for ease of comparison. The area of historical archaeological potential identified by Virtus in 2024 (see Figure 16) spans the eastern extents of survey units 3, 4 and 5 – see results below.

Survey unit 3

Survey unit 3 was only partially accessible due to high grasses on the rise of the area. The eastern portion is extensively impacted with mounds of debris visible which is connected to the Kohen 2001 bulldozed area. This area also includes underground electrical works. The uneven terrain matches the level of destruction visible in the historical 2007 aerial. This area is a potential cut and fill for the levelling of the greater study area and is disturbed in its proximity to the access way.

Figure 1: View north of the eastern boundary exposed earth



Figure 2: View north of powerline alignment and western elevation



Figure 3: View of artificial mound at the most northeastern corner of the study area



Figure 4: view of disturbed ground which appears to be the path for water runoff from the elevated survey unit 4 and 5



Survey Unit 4

Survey unit 4 has the most potential for intact soil deposits of the study area. As it is the highest point on the ridgeline it has been less visibly impacted in comparison to the rest of the site.

Figure 5: visible soil on the ridge line



Figure 6: View of existing trees within the ridgeline – view east



Figure 7: View from outside of the study area northwest towards the grassed survey unit 4



Figure 8: View from outside of the study area north towards the grassed survey unit 4



Survey Unit 5

This survey unit extends from the ridge line and slopes down. Underlying clay is exposed throughout much of the study area. Gouges in the clay further indicate the lack of a soil profile within this survey unit.

Figure 9: View north from the ridge line to the transmission tower slope



Figure 10: View southeast towards gravelled mound of transmission line tower



Figure 11: view of potentially imported gravels and clay



Figure 12: View of gravel types including non-artefactual silcrete



Figure 13: View of clay exposure and extensive sub surface impact within proximity to the transmission tower and in proximity to survey unit 4.



Figure 14: Artefact personnel indicating location of artefact from 2005 survey. No artefacts were relocated on site



Figure 15: view of baked clay on western side of the transmission tower in location of slope run off. Minimal potential for artefacts, no artefacts were identified during the site visit.



Historical timeline

A historical timeline for the site based on Virtus 2024 and additional research undertaken by Artefact is included in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Disturbance and overall impact to the study area

Year	Disturbance/ history of the site
1835-1872	The project area is within grazing land of the Rooty Hill Station, which was transferred into the Church and School Corporation by 1829, then put up for sale in 1865. The project area was leased to Edward Weston around the mid-1800s.
1872	The project area fell within land sold to Walter Lamb, a grazier, around 1872. The description on the parish map of the time notes "Box Forest". This was later sold to his brother. A subdivision advertisement c.1894 depicts structure located in or near the project area. A 'cottage' is depicted on the creek side of Lot 60 (Virtus Heritage 2024: 22). The Lambs were known for grazing and orcharding.
1929	By the early 1920s, Hugh Williams Owen owned Lot 58, Lot 59 and the western portion of Lot 60. By 1929, a marker representing a structure and access way can be seen in the centre of the project area on maps of Glendenning. Probate packages indicated the property comprised a weatherboard cottage, three rooms and kitchen, iron roof, poultry houses, fencing and land clearing (Virtus Heritage 2024:28)
1942	The earliest aerial photograph of the project site depicts a dwelling and numerous outhouses and sheds, located in Lot 59 and the western portion of Lot 60. An access way can be seen linking the buildings to Glendenning Road. This corresponds with the structure and accessway depicted on the 1929 map (Figure 8) and is the property owned by Hugh Williams Owen. There is no visible evidence of a cottage in the eastern portion of Lot 60, which appears unused. Agricultural infrastructure is present including fences, access tracks, plantings, a dams and modified drainage line. Minimal vegetation present within the project area around the eastern and southern perimeters towards Eastern Creek.
1956	A house and agricultural infrastructure is present including fences, access tracks, plantings, a dam and modified drainage line. Further modification and earthworks have occurred. Minimal vegetation present within the project area around the eastern and southern perimeters towards Eastern Creek.
1965	By 1965, a dam has been built in Lot 59 however there appears to be less structures in the cluster of buildings associated with the Owen family. The main structure, which was likely the weatherboard cottage is now not visible. A high-voltage transmission tower has been built in the centre of the eastern portion of Lot 60.
1970	By 1970, the dam and a few sheds remain, and the access track appears less prominent, suggesting that the property is not being regularly used as a residence.
c. 1970	The project area is depicted c.1970 from a slightly different aerial angle. The dam is apparent in the centre of the photo, with a scattering of sheds remaining from the Owen family. The transmission tower can be seen in the back, right-hand corner of the property and Glendenning Road runs along the foreground of the picture.
1978	Towards the end of the 1970s, fewer sheds remain, and the access track is less prominent.
1986	Built structures have decreased since 1956. Three structures appear to remain on the site alongside the telecommunications tower and the dam. There is some evidence of material, possible dumping, in the far southeast corner of the project area. Continued increase in urbanisation in the surrounding landscape.

2 Glendenning Road

Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT

Year	Disturbance/ history of the site
1998	The project area exhibits signs of land clearing and earthworks, including extensive modification of drainage lines on the margins of the project area. Parts of the project area, particularly the southern and western parameters, appear unchanged from 1956. Increased urbanisation can be identified within the surrounding landscape.
2000	Construction works have commenced in the project area. With the creation of new access tracks and earthworks associated with the construction of warehouse structures. Vegetation has covered some areas that have previously been cleared. Subsequent to this historical aerial, Kohlen (2001) completed a site inspection, obtained an AHIP for investigations and undertook partial archaeological salvage.
2004	Historical aerial shows that north of the property is very disturbed.
2005	The project area appears to have been subject to extensive earthworks and almost cleared in full, the exception of the southern boundary. Commercial infrastructure has also been established on the project area. Vegetation is only present along the southern boundary and minimally long the eastern boundary of the project area
2006	Between 2005 aerial and 2006 the first warehouse structure is built and there is disturbance ranging down in the southwest corner and the southeast corner disturbance
2007	This is the clearest definition of the level of levelling and impact to the site there is now further paving surrounding the initial warehouse and there is an additional small warehouse structure visible in the southwest corner.
2009	Between 2008 and 2009 the new warehouse and landscaping is visible to the northeast of the area with all of the cementing and carparking and potential water or septic tank to the north available around it.
2011	The current warehouses on the site have been constructed, with concrete carparks and surfaces. The eastern part of the project area appears to have experienced further earthworks and vegetation loss. Additional road works have occurred along Woodstock Avenue.
2025	The middle warehouse and the southern smaller warehouse have both been removed with the base fill still present. The area has been relatively tracked over again on the eastern side of the whole study area.

Archaeological assessment

The following section summarises the archaeological assessment prepared by Virtus in 2024² and provides a revised assessment based on additional information obtained by Artefact.

See Virtus 2024 for the complete historical context of the study area.

Assessment of archaeological potential and significance (from Virtus 2024)

Statement of archaeological potential (Virtus 2024)

It is unlikely that archaeological remains exist at the site relating to Phase 1 to 3. There is no indication in the historical record that specific features relating to the Government Farm or the Church and School Estate existed in the project area. Taking into consideration the general disturbance across the site, and the subsequent historical periods of small-scale agriculture, the potential for relics relating to Phase 1 to 3 would be low to nil.

There is moderate potential for archaeological evidence relating to Phase 5 and 6, however determining this would require mechanical removal of imported fill to reach the original ground surface. Stone or brick foundations relating to the c. 1894 cottage may be extant, alongside evidence of wells, rubbish pits, bottle dumps, post holes and other items relating to agriculture and domestic life in a workers cottage in the late nineteenth century. Such structures do not appear to have been well researched in the Rooty Hill area, therefore such finds would have reasonable research potential. If the c.1894 cottage is, in fact, the same cottage referred to in the 1928 will of Mathew Johnson, then there is the potential for archaeological elements relating to the continuous occupation of a nineteenth century workers cottage and at least 40 years of small-scale farming on the project area. Considering Mathew Johnson's 1928 will also mentioned the possession of a horse and cart, it can be assumed that more traditional equipment and methods were being used at the farm of Mathew Johnson, and the archaeological record would likely reflect that.

Alternatively, if the 1928 will of Mathew Johnson is referring to a different cottage on the eastern portion of Lot 60, then there is moderate potential across that area for artefacts relating to a cottage constructed post-1909. Archaeological elements relating to the farming life of an immigrant family could be expected.

In relation to the Owen family farm, it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains would survive from this phase of occupation due to the substantial earthworks and construction which have occurred at 2 Glendenning Road. Footings, services and building materials relating to the demolition of the weatherboard cottage and the poultry sheds may be extant, however these items are unlikely to have research potential.

² Virtus Heritage, 2 Glendenning Road, Blacktown Historical Heritage Assessment for Glendenning Road Data Centre (SSD-73761707) for LCO Consultants, November 2024

2 Glendenning Road Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment



Figure 16: Overview of areas of archaeological potential. Source: Virtus 2024

2 Glendenning Road Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment

Assessment of archaeological significance (Virtus 2024)

The assessment of significance for potential remains of the c.1894 workers cottage has been extracted from the 2024 archaeological assessment prepared by Virtus and included in Table 2.

The archaeological resources that are potentially in the project area relating to the c.1894 cottage meet the significance threshold for local on many of the criteria; as a result, relics, as defined by the Heritage Act, may survive in the project area.

Archaeological investigations of workers cottages in the outskirts of Sydney are less common, therefore relics relating to a workers cottage at Rooty Hill would provide an excellent opportunity to investigate this early period of the area's history, especially as it related to orcharding and the fruit preservation industry.

Most of the potential physical evidence in the project area relating to the cottage would likely date to between 1872 and 1894 and would inform the types of farming methods and equipment utilised during that time period. Relics relating to domestic life in nineteenth century rural Sydney would also be significant from a historical and research perspective.

Table 2: Significance Assessment for potential relics relating to the c.1894 Cottage

Criteria	Significance
SHR Criteria a) - [Historical significance]	<p>The c.1894 cottage is associated with the Lamb family's Woodstock Homestead Estate and, subsequently, the establishment of the fruit canning industry in Plumpton, which was a notable enterprise in food preservation. The cottage may have been a caretaker's cottage, or the home of a family involved in fruit growing to supply Lamb's cannery. It may also have been used in the early twentieth century by a Danish immigrant family who farmed the site.</p> <p>Relics relating to the c.1894 cottage would meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria b) - [Associative significance]	<p>Relics associated with this cottage would have a connection to the agricultural estate of Walter Lamb, a prominent grazier and businessman, largely responsible for the development of the Rooty Hill area.</p> <p>Relics relating to the c.1894 cottage would meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria c) - [Aesthetic significance]	<p>Aesthetic significance would be unable to be assessed until uncovered.</p> <p>Potential relics relating to the c.1894 cottage do not currently meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
HR Criteria d) - [Social significance]	<p>Fruit growing and preservation formed an integral part of the social fabric of Plumpton and Rooty Hill in the late nineteenth century.</p>

2 Glendenning Road Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT

Criteria	Significance
	<p>Workers cottages would have been a familiar form of housing for the workforce of families who moved to the area to cultivate orchards for the cannery.</p> <p>Potential relics in the project area would meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria e) - [Research potential]	<p>Much of the potential archaeology and structures relating to the c.1894 cottage would have the potential to reveal important information about local rural life in outer Sydney, the fruit growing, industry and the general construction of a workers cottage. It would likely provide information about the construction method and materials used in workers cottages of the time and may also include relics specific to orcharding/food preservation. Additionally, such cottages are often associated with sheds, outhouses, rubbish pits, bottle dumps and other important archaeological resources that hold significant research value for understanding nineteenth century farming practices and rural life. Potential relics in the project area would meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria f) - [Rarity]	<p>While cottages dating from the second half of the nineteenth century would not be considered rare in Sydney, archaeological investigations of workers cottages in more rural settings on the outskirts of Sydney are less common. There is no record of an archaeological investigation of a worker's cottage within the Rooty Hill/Plumpton area, especially relating to the fruit growing and canning industry of that time. Potential relics in the project area would meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria g) - [Representative]	<p>Depending on the type and intactness of relics uncovered, it is likely that such relics would be a good representative example of a mid to late nineteenth century workers cottage from the outer areas of Sydney, particularly involved in orcharding.</p> <p>Potential relics in the project area would meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>

The assessment of significance for potential remains of the c.1909/1918 Owens family farm and cottage has been extracted from the 2024 archaeological assessment prepared by Virtus and included in Table 3.

The archaeological resources that are potentially in the project area relating to the c.1909 cottage meet the significance threshold for local on some of the criteria; as a result, relics, as defined by the Heritage Act, may survive in the project area.

Potential relics relating to an immigrant's cottage at Rooty Hill would inform research into the lives and farming practices of European immigrant families in the early part of the twentieth century in western Sydney. It is likely that potential physical evidence in the project area relating to the c.1909 cottage would provide a good representative example of farming equipment, tools and everyday domestic items.

Furthermore, such cottages are often associated with sheds, outhouses, rubbish pits, bottle dumps and other important archaeological resources that hold significant research value for understanding early twentieth century farming practices and rural life.

2 Glendenning Road

Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT

Table 3: Significance Assessment for potential relics relating to the Owen Family Farm c. 1918

Criteria	Significance
SHR Criteria a) - [Historical significance]	<p>The first structures relating to the Owen Family property may have been constructed as early as 1918, therefore the Owen Family farm would hold heritage significance as one of the original twentieth century Glendenning farms. From the 1940s, there is evidence of agricultural activity, most likely, poultry production, which was the key industry of Rooty Hill at the time.</p> <p>Relics relating to the Owen family farm would meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria b) - [Associative significance]	<p>The farm was owned by the Owen family of Rooty Hill, however there is no known associative significance.</p> <p>Relics relating to the Owen family farm would not meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria c) - [Aesthetic significance]	<p>Records indicate that a twentieth century weatherboard cottage with an iron roof was situated at the property, alongside poultry sheds. It is unlikely that these items would hold aesthetic significance.</p> <p>Relics relating to the Owen family farm would not meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
HR Criteria d) - [Social significance]	<p>There is no known social links or associations between the Owen family farm and the broader community of Rooty Hill.</p> <p>Relics relating to the Owen family farm would not meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria e) - [Research potential]	<p>It is unlikely that the potential archaeological resource relating to the Owen family farm would contain new information that is not already present in the archival record. While artefacts may provide information about poultry farming and domestic life on a small-scale farm in Rooty Hill in the mid twentieth century, it would not be classed as significant new information.</p> <p>Relics relating to the Owen family farm would not meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>
SHR Criteria f) - [Rarity]	<p>Weatherboard cottages would not be considered archaeologically rare in the Sydney area. While some of the potential relics relating to farming and domestic life may hold significant historical value, the site as a whole does not present an archeologically rare resource.</p> <p>Relics relating to the Owen family farm would not meet local heritage significance for this criterion.</p>

Criteria	Significance
SHR Criteria g) - [Representative]	Depending on the type and intactness of relics uncovered, it is likely that such relics would be a good representative example of an early twentieth century farmhouse in rural Sydney. Relics relating to the Owen family farm would meet local heritage significance for this criterion.

Statement of significance for the Owen family farm

The archaeological resources that are potentially in the project area relating to the Owen family farm meet the significance threshold for local on some of the criteria; as a result, relics, as defined by the Heritage Act, may survive in the project area.

As rural areas of Sydney modernised later than their urban counterparts, the relics relating to farming and domestic life at the Owen family farm may predate the early twentieth century. However, regarding research potential, small-scale agriculture and poultry farming in Rooty Hill is well documented and it is unlikely that artefacts relating to the weatherboard cottage, the poultry sheds and the various other outbuildings evident in aerial photography would provide significant, new information not already contained in the historical record.

Revised assessment of archaeological potential and significance

Landform analysis and disturbance

The project area has been extensively modified through vegetation clearance, poultry farming and agricultural work, substantial earthworks and landform modification, creek line modification, transmission lines, service and utility installation and industrial development.

Artefact has undertaken additional analysis of the landform and historical aerials to determine the integrity of the study area. This found that the study area has been extensively impacted since 2001 up to 2025. The most extensive impacts are visible in the 2004 and 2007 historical aerials (Figure 17 and Figure 18).

Aboriginal heritage salvage reporting prepared by Kohen and Knight in 2001³ also indicates that the area identified by Virtus as having moderate potential to contain remains of the c.1894 Workers Cottage has been bulldozed (see Figure 19) under a consent to destroy issued by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services. See the below section for more information regarding the work undertaken by Kohen and Knight.

Additional geotechnical investigations completed by Martens for LCI Consultants provides further evidence that the study area has been disturbed. See a summary of these results below.

Kohen 1999, 2000 and Salvage 2001

The Kohen and Knight 2001 Aboriginal heritage salvage report was commissioned by Lovegrove Oxley consultants Pty. Ltd. Three studies of the study area occurred between 1985 and 2001 they were as follows:

- Kohen J.L. 1985. An archaeological survey of industrial land in the City of Blacktown.

³ Kohen and Knight for Lovegrove Oxley consultants Pty. Ltd on behalf of transit management 2001

2 Glendenning Road Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT

Report for Blacktown City Council

- Kohen J.L. 1989. An archaeological study of an Aboriginal Site Complex at Glendenning Road, Plumpton. Report prepared for Mr R. Rowe
- Kohen 1997. Aboriginal Site at Glendenning Road, Plumpton: a review. Report prepared for transit

Kohen states that with consent from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services, Aboriginal sites within the study area (SEP/4, SEP/5 and SEP/6 (NPWS 45-5—456, 45-5-484 and 45-5-473)) were destroyed. The process of salvage and monitoring procedures was listed as follows,⁴ and were included in plans within the report, a combination of the plans and written description of works have been replicated in Figure 19.

- An east-west transect 250 metres long was established between transmission line towers on north side as far as batter and extending down the slope. Artefacts were collected every 5 metres along transect ie. 0-5 metres, 5-10 metres, etc.
- An examination of stockpiled earth at the western end of the area, as it was being redistributed, was carried out.
- Surface collections were undertaken over the bulldozed area at south-eastern end of the site.
- Surface collections were undertaken in the grassed areas at south-western corner of the study area (site SEP/6 covered over by earthworks).
- Monitoring and collection was carried out after spreading of the stockpile of soil at the eastern end of the study area.

Martens 2025, Detailed Site Investigation Proposed Glendenning Road Data Centre 2 Glendenning Road, Glendenning NSW

Martens and Associates were engaged by LCI consultants to completed a detailed site investigation (DSI) of land in connection with a proposed data centre development at 2 Glendenning Road, Glendenning NSW.

“Subsurface conditions: fill material was observed at most test pit location, except for several locations in the southern IA where residual soils were present at the ground surface. Fill soils typically consisted of red brown to orange or grey brown silty clay, with grey brown clayey silt at several locations, extending to depths ranging between 0.3m to >3.1m. Additionally, it was noted that the overall thickness of the fill horizon appeared to increase in northerly direction across the IA. Natural soils, either at the ground surface or directly underlying fill, consisted of residual clay soils comprising of red brown to orange silty clay.”

Martens stated that previous studies reporting on site history by AECOM (2023) indicated that there was imported fill introduced to the site between 2000 and 2005, and the entire site area was cleared of all vegetation and likely filled.

Historic aerials from that period indicate clearance and distribution of fill particularly in the eastern portion of the property (in proximity to the current study area and proposed works).

⁴ Kohen and Knight 2001, p.7

2 Glendenning Road Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT

The boreholes within the boundary of the works are all silty clay and clay soil types and medium sized included gravels. Two of the boreholes within and in proximity of the works boundary had trace metal, concrete and plastic. As discussed above the majority of the test areas within the northeastern corner of 2 Glendenning Road, Glendenning had inclusions (e.g. terracotta brick, asphalt, concrete etc) which indicate the fill and level of disturbance at the site as plastics are not all on the surface but are located a few metres under the surface level indicating the low likelihood of intact relics or footings within the study area.

2 Glendenning Road
Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment



Figure 17: 2004 aerial overlay

2 Glendenning Road
Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT



Figure 18: 2007 aerial overlay

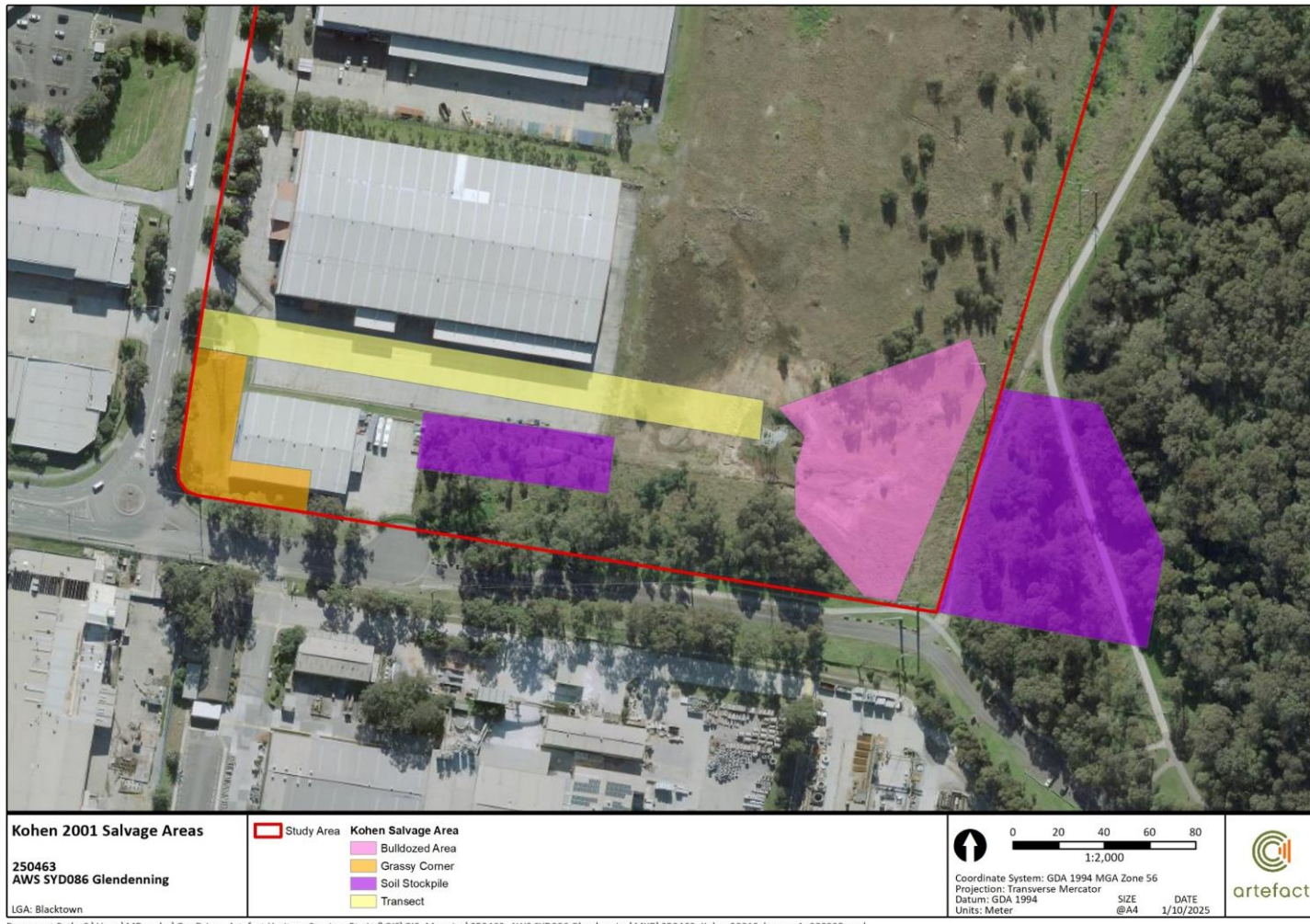


Figure 19: Kohen 2001 salvage areas

Revised assessment of historical archaeological potential

It is unlikely that archaeological remains exist at the site relating to Phases 1 to 3. There is no indication in the historical record that features associated with the Government Farm or the Church and School Estate extended into the project area. Considering the extent of modern disturbance across the site and the later phases of small-scale agricultural use, the potential for relics relating to these early phases is assessed as low to nil.

For Phases 5 and 6, which encompass the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century rural occupation of the site, archaeological potential is considered low. The area identified as the location of the c.1894 cottage has been subject to substantial disturbance during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, including the importation and removal of fill. Any archaeological remains that once existed, such as footings, wells, postholes or refuse deposits, are likely to have been truncated or removed. Consequently, the likelihood of intact, *in situ* relics surviving is low.

Even if fragmentary evidence of the workers' cottage were to remain, such deposits would have limited research potential. Late nineteenth-century workers' dwellings and associated agricultural features are relatively common within the archaeological record of NSW and are represented by other, more intact examples. As such, the archaeological remains at this site are unlikely to yield new or unique information sufficient to meet the threshold for local significance under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

In relation to the Owen Family Farm, the site has experienced widespread disturbance associated with twentieth-century rural and industrial activities. While footings, service trenches or remnants of demolished structures (such as the weatherboard cottage or poultry sheds) may survive, these are unlikely to be intact or to hold independent research value. The archaeological potential for this phase is therefore also assessed as low, and any remains are not expected to meet the threshold for archaeological significance.

Revised assessment of historical archaeological significance

The significance assessment of historical archaeological sites and items requires a specialised framework in order to consider the range of values associated with each site/item. This because of the challenges associated with the often-unknown nature and extent of buried archaeological remains and judgment is usually based on anticipated attributes. To facilitate assessment of archaeological significance, the NSW Heritage Branch (now Heritage NSW) arranged the seven heritage criteria into four groups (see below).

The value of archaeological sources primarily lies in their research potential or the ability to provide additional information about site/item that is not contained in historical records. The assessment of archaeological research potential is augmented by additional three questions posed by Bickford and Sullivan⁵. The following significance assessment of the study area's potential archaeological remains has been carried out by using these criteria as outlined in the *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*.

NSW Heritage criteria for assessing significance related to archaeological sites and relics:

Archaeological research potential (NSW Criterion E)

Archaeological evidence associated with the former c. 1894 workers' cottage and its outbuildings would, if substantially intact, potentially yield information that contributes to an understanding of rural

⁵ Anne Bickford and Sharon Sullivan, 'Assessing the Research Significance of Historic Sites', in *Site Surveys and Significance in Australian Archaeology*, ed. Sharon Sullivan and Sandra Bowdler (Canberra: Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU, Canberra, 1984), 19–26.

2 Glendenning Road Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT

working-class domestic life in outer Sydney during the late nineteenth century. Such evidence may illuminate local construction practices and materials, household organisation, and subsistence activities such as orcharding or food preservation that reflect the broader economic and social development of the district.

However, archaeological sites of this date and type are relatively common across the region, and comparable examples have already been well documented through excavation and historical sources. To reach the threshold of local significance under this criterion, a site of this nature would need to retain a substantial degree of intactness and contextual integrity, allowing for meaningful interpretation of spatial and functional relationships between features and deposits.

In this instance, available evidence indicates that the site has undergone extensive disturbance during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, resulting in substantial loss of integrity. Any surviving archaeological remains are therefore likely to be fragmentary, displaced, or out of context, and would not be capable of yielding substantial new information beyond that already available from other, better-preserved examples.

Accordingly, while an intact site of this type could reasonably be expected to reach the threshold of local archaeological significance under Criterion E, the degree of disturbance has severely diminished its research potential.

The potential archaeological resource is unlikely to reach the local significance threshold under this criterion.

Association with individuals, events or groups of historical importance (Criteria A, B & D)

The former c. 1894 workers' cottage appears to have been associated with the broader Woodstock Homestead Estate owned by the Lamb family, whose agricultural ventures contributed to the development of the fruit-growing and canning industries in the Plumpton and Rooty Hill districts during the late nineteenth century. The cottage may have served as accommodation for workers or caretakers associated with the operation of the estate and the nearby cannery, which played a role in shaping the local rural economy and community.

Archaeological evidence relating to the cottage would therefore have the potential to demonstrate connections with the early agricultural and industrial development of the locality and, indirectly, with Walter Lamb, a figure of local historical interest. Workers' cottages of this type formed part of the social and physical landscape of the area, representing the lived experiences of those employed in local fruit-growing and processing enterprises.

However, such associations are broadly representative of rural settlement and industry across western Sydney during this period and are not unique to this site. Furthermore, the demonstrated extent of later disturbance has significantly reduced the likelihood that any archaeological evidence would retain integrity sufficient to illustrate these associations in a meaningful way.

Accordingly, while the site has an historical association with themes important to the development of the local area under Criterion A (Historical Significance), and indirect associations with the Lamb family under Criterion B (Associative Significance), these associations are representative rather than exceptional. The site does not appear to demonstrate a high degree of aesthetic or technical achievement that would warrant consideration under Criterion D (Social or Technical Significance). Given the loss of integrity and representativeness of the associations, the potential archaeological resource is unlikely to reach the local significance threshold under Criteria A, B, and D.

Aesthetic or technical significance (Criterion C)

Aesthetic or technical significance is generally ascribed to archaeological sites that exhibit a high degree of creative, technical, or design achievement, or that demonstrate distinctive construction techniques, materials, or craftsmanship.

At this site, any potential remains associated with the former c. 1894 workers' cottage or the later

2 Glendenning Road Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT

Owen family occupation are unlikely to demonstrate exceptional design, workmanship, or technical innovation. Such domestic structures were typically utilitarian in form and construction, reflecting the modest means and functional requirements of rural working households of the period.

Given the high level of ground disturbance and the absence of visible or in situ remains, aesthetic or technical values cannot presently be identified or assessed. Should relics be uncovered in the future, they would need to display a rare or particularly well-preserved example of construction technique or material use to meet the local significance threshold under this criterion.

On the basis of current evidence, the potential archaeological resource is unlikely to reach the local significance threshold under Criterion C.

Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains (NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F & G).

The ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains is ascribed to remains that have an ability to demonstrate how a site was used, what processes occurred, how work was undertaken and the scale of an industrial practice or other historic occupation.

The study area is not well-preserved and are not rare in the local context and are therefore unlikely to be considered representative of farming or agricultural processes. As the remains have been heavily impacted by any remains will not be intact and therefore won't provide much additional information for the greater study area.

Revised statement of significance for the c.1894 cottage

The Virtus report assessed the study area as having moderate potential to contain locally significant relics associated with the c.1894 workers cottage.

Additional research and site analysis indicates that the area identified as having potential to contain archaeological remains associated with the c.1894 workers' cottage has been subject to substantial disturbance during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. As a result, any surviving archaeological material is likely to be considerably impacted, truncated, or removed. This level of disturbance has significantly reduced the site's potential to contain intact or in situ archaeological relics.

While workers' cottages dating to the late nineteenth century are of historical interest, they are relatively common within the archaeological record of New South Wales. Consequently, the potential remains at this location are unlikely to yield information that would make a notable or representative contribution to the broader understanding of workers' housing or associated agricultural practices in the region.

On this basis, the archaeological potential of the site is assessed as low, and any surviving remains are unlikely to retain sufficient integrity, rarity, or research potential to meet the threshold of local significance under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

Revised statement of significance for the Owen family farm

The Owen Family Farm site has historical associations with early twentieth-century rural settlement and agricultural activity in the district. However, additional investigation indicates that the area has undergone widespread disturbance from later industrial uses throughout the mid to late twentieth century. These activities are likely to have considerably impacted or removed any archaeological deposits that may once have been present.

Archaeological material from farmsteads of this period is relatively common within NSW and is generally well represented in the archaeological record. As such, any surviving remains at this location are unlikely to provide new or distinctive information about early twentieth-century farming, domestic life, or rural adaptation.

2 Glendenning Road Addendum Historical Archaeological Assessment DRAFT

Given the extent of ground disturbance and the commonplace nature of comparable archaeological evidence, the site's potential to contain intact in situ relics of research value is considered low. The archaeological resource does not meet the threshold for local significance under the *Heritage Act 1977* and the study area is therefore unlikely to contain 'relic,' as defined by the Act, for this period of occupation.

Revised archaeological impact assessment

It is understood that the study area would be subject to considerable excavation impacts through the proposed works, including the construction and operation of three (3) data centre buildings and associated vegetation clearance, access changes, landscaping, fencing and infrastructure, services and utilities.

Based on additional analysis undertaken for this addendum report, it is determined that the proposed excavation works have limited potential to impact on archaeological relics. The proposed works would involve substantial excavation and ground disturbance across the project area, including areas formerly associated with the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century rural occupation and farmsteads.

Based on the revised assessment of archaeological potential and significance in this addendum report, the site has experienced extensive disturbance from late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century activities, including bulk excavation. This process is likely to have removed or severely truncated any earlier archaeological deposits or features that may once have been present.

Archaeological material relating to workers' cottages or small-scale agricultural use of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is common within the archaeological record of NSW and is well documented elsewhere, by archaeological remains and extant structures. As such, even if fragmentary remains were to survive, they would not be expected to yield information of research value beyond that already available from comparable sites. The potential archaeological resource does not meet the threshold for local significance under the *Heritage Act 1977* and the site is therefore unlikely to contain archaeological 'relics' as protected by the Act.

Accordingly, the proposed excavation works are not anticipated to result in impacts to archaeological relics or deposits of heritage significance. Any material that may be encountered would be of low interpretive or research value and is unlikely to warrant further archaeological investigation. Standard due-diligence measures and unexpected finds procedures should nevertheless be implemented to ensure that any unanticipated discoveries are appropriately managed in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines.

In conclusion, the proposed works will not result in adverse impact to archaeological relics of local or State heritage significance. The level of archaeological potential is low, and any disturbance associated with the works is considered to represent a neutral archaeological impact.

Proposed mitigation measures

Based on the revised assessment of archaeological potential and significance outlined in this report, it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be implemented prior to and during site excavation works:

- Implement an Unexpected Heritage Items Procedure during all ground disturbing works
- Conduct a heritage induction for workers before commencing groundworks, including procedures for reporting unexpected archaeological finds.