

Pacific Waste ENS, vol 2, working paper 2

**Working Paper Number Two
An Archaeological Survey at
Lot 2 Elizabeth Drive, Badgerys Creek**

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Volume Two: Working Papers
An Archaeological Survey at Lot 2 Elizabeth Drive, Badgerys Creek

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This report details the results of an archaeological survey conducted over a property at Lot 2 Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek, southwest of Sydney. The area is proposed for a landfill development by Pacific Waste Management Ltd, and one of the conditions specified by Penrith Council in the Development Notice (No. 451/89) was as follows:

45. *Archaeological site monitoring is to continue throughout all excavation phases and if any archaeological deposits are revealed, work in that particular area is to cease and the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Council are to be notified immediately.*

As the first step in this process, Pacific Waste Management commissioned me to undertake an archaeological survey to identify any sites which may occur in the proposed development area, and to make recommendations regarding the appropriate action to be taken.

The survey was undertaken on 24th and 25th August 1991 prior to the start of any activities associated with landfilling.

1.2 Aims

The aims of this inspection were as follows:

- Identify any Aboriginal artefacts which may be present in the proposed development area.
- Ascertain the local and regional significance of sites located during the survey.

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The only other possible site type which may exist is a burial, but these are exceedingly rare now in the greater Sydney area, with probably only one or two surviving (Kohen et al 1984; Kohen 1986b).

The location of the sites shows clear evidence of clustering along the creeks. Rhoads (1984) concentrated his investigations in Penrith on deflated surfaces, and noted that *sites do cluster towards seasonal streams* (Rhoads 1984: 20). He went on to suggest that *The survey has resulted in the expected discovery of most sites along streams or gullied rises* (ibid: 26). In relation to Wianamatta Hill country, he concluded *The sites of this district are characteristically low intensity, specialised activity foci, of an indeterminate age.*

On the basis of the previous archaeological investigations, it can be predicted that sites will tend to occur along creek lines and rises, and will be exposed where there is some form of surface disturbance. Most sites are likely to be low density scatters of stone artefacts, dominated by silcrete, with the possibility of scarred tree also being present.

4. Survey Results

4.1 Sites Identified

Only one archaeological site was identified during the survey. This was a surface scatter of stone artefacts located near the northwestern corner of the development area, adjacent to Badgerys's Creek. It has been coded KC/1 (Kemps Creek 1), and the location is shown on Figure 2.3.

At this point, the creek formed a meander and created a small billabong, an area cut off from the main channel. This is immediately south of a slight rise, and the site is situated on this rise, approximately 30 metres east of Badgerys Creek.

The total of 22 stone artefacts were found exposed over an area 35 metres long and 20 metres wide. This rise had been cleared, and three shallow excavations a few centimetres deep and approximately three metres wide had been carried out, almost certainly by a front end loader or some similar piece of machinery. Artefacts were found in these shallow excavations, on a small track, and on the eroding slope on the south side of the site, immediately beside the billabong. The first artefacts were found 20 metres east of a white marker peg labelled STN B which marks the fence line running parallel with the creek. Eighteen of the 22 artefacts were made on the red silcrete which dominates sites in this region, two small chips were yellow chert, probably

from the Nepean River, and there were also two small quartz fragments. Only four of the silcrete pieces retained all the characteristics of human manufacture; flakes, striking platform and bulb of percussion. One of these was a transversely snapped blade, and the others were non-descript flakes. None of the artefacts showed any sign of secondary retouch or usewear, and all would fall into the category of waste flakes and debitage.

Most of the artefacts were tiny chips less than one centimetre long, and could therefore be classified as micro-debitage. In any event, none of the artefacts are diagnostic, with the possible exception of a snapped blade. The blade suggests that the site probably belongs to the technological complex known as the Australian Small Tool Tradition, which, in this area, spanned the period from about 4,000 years ago until possibly as recent as the last five hundred years. One site in the City of Blacktown has microblade technology dating to 650 years BP (Kohen 1984c).

Although the site had been cleared of trees in the past, a number of food plants are still to be found in the area. The ground berry, *Astroloma humifusum*, was common and widespread, and was in fruit when the survey was conducted. Another plant with abundant tubers, tentatively identified as *Gymnostachys anceps* (Settler's flax), was found growing only in the immediate vicinity of the site. Both of these plants have been recorded as being eaten by Aboriginal people in southeastern Australia (Kohen 1986a).

4.2 Site Evaluation

The artefacts scatter found at KC/1 is typical of other Aboriginal sites in the region. The number and type of artefacts is as would be expected for a surface campsite close to a permanent creek in this area. There is potential for more artefacts to be buried, but the shallow nature of the deposit and its relatively small size indicates that it is unlikely to be of great scientific or educational value. However, should the site be under threat, it would certainly require further investigation by test excavation to determine its full potential.

Under the proposed plan for the development of the landfill project by Pacific Waste Management, the site would lie outside the development area, between the boundary fence and Badgerys Creek. As a result there is no threat to the site.

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974), it is an offence to remove, disturb or destroy any Aboriginal relic without prior consent of the Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The survey identified a single Aboriginal site adjacent to Badgerys Creek. This is the area most likely to contain sites, on the basis of both the present

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survey results are based on other surveys in the region. The other parts of the proposed development area are concentrated on the ridge slope, where it is highly unlikely that any sites exist. Most of the area is grossly disturbed, and even those undisturbed areas appear to have been ploughed at some time in the past.

5. Aboriginal Comment

The development at Kemps Creek falls within the boundaries of the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council, which has its offices at 15 Delamere Street, Canley Vale. After making several unsuccessful attempts to contact the Gandangara Land Council, I contacted the State Land Council, who directed me to Warren Carroll.

Mr Carroll expressed the view that the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council members would probably wish to inspect the site, in order to decide that action is appropriate. He requested a copy of the report which he will present to the next meeting of the Land Council, and arrange a suitable time to conduct an inspection of the area.

Once the site has been examined, the Land Council will decide whether the site needs further investigation, or whether the development can proceed, providing the site is not disturbed.

6. Recommendations

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974), it is an offence to remove, disturb or destroy any Aboriginal relic without prior consent of the Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The survey identified a single Aboriginal site adjacent to Badgerys Creek. This is the area most likely to contain sites, on the basis of both the present survey results and other surveys in the region. The other parts of the proposed development area are concentrated on the ridge slope, where it is highly unlikely that any sites exist. Most of the area is grossly disturbed, and even those undisturbed areas appear to have been ploughed at some time in the past.

The site KC/1 falls in an areas which will not be affected by the development. The closest impact will be the construction of the fence line on the western boundary of the site, which will be 20 metres to the east of the western boundary of the site. I would therefore make the following recommendations:

- No further archaeological investigation is necessary. The likelihood of identifying undisturbed archaeological sites during the construction of the landfill project is so slight as to make it impractical to carry out further monitoring.
- The site which was identified during the survey should be protected from further disturbance. When the wire fence is constructed in this area, care should be taken to avoid any unnecessary activity close to the site. The site will be left on a thin strip of land between the fence and the creek. Since this is the area most likely to contain sites, this procedures should ensure that any unidentified sites are protected.
- Should the development plan change so that there is a threat to this site, further investigation by a qualified archaeologist will be required.
- Three copies of this report should be forwarded to National Parks and Wildlife Service for their records, along with a site card for site KC/1.
- One copy of the report should be forwarded to Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council for their information.
- If, during the construction of the development, any Aboriginal relic or site is identified, the National Parks and Wildlife Service archaeologist for the region, Bronwyn Conyers, should be notified immediately.

ATTACHMENTS

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| Figure | 2.1: | Location Plan |
| | 2.2: | Known Aboriginal Sites in the Vicinity of the Landfill |
| | 2.3: | Location of Site KC/1 |

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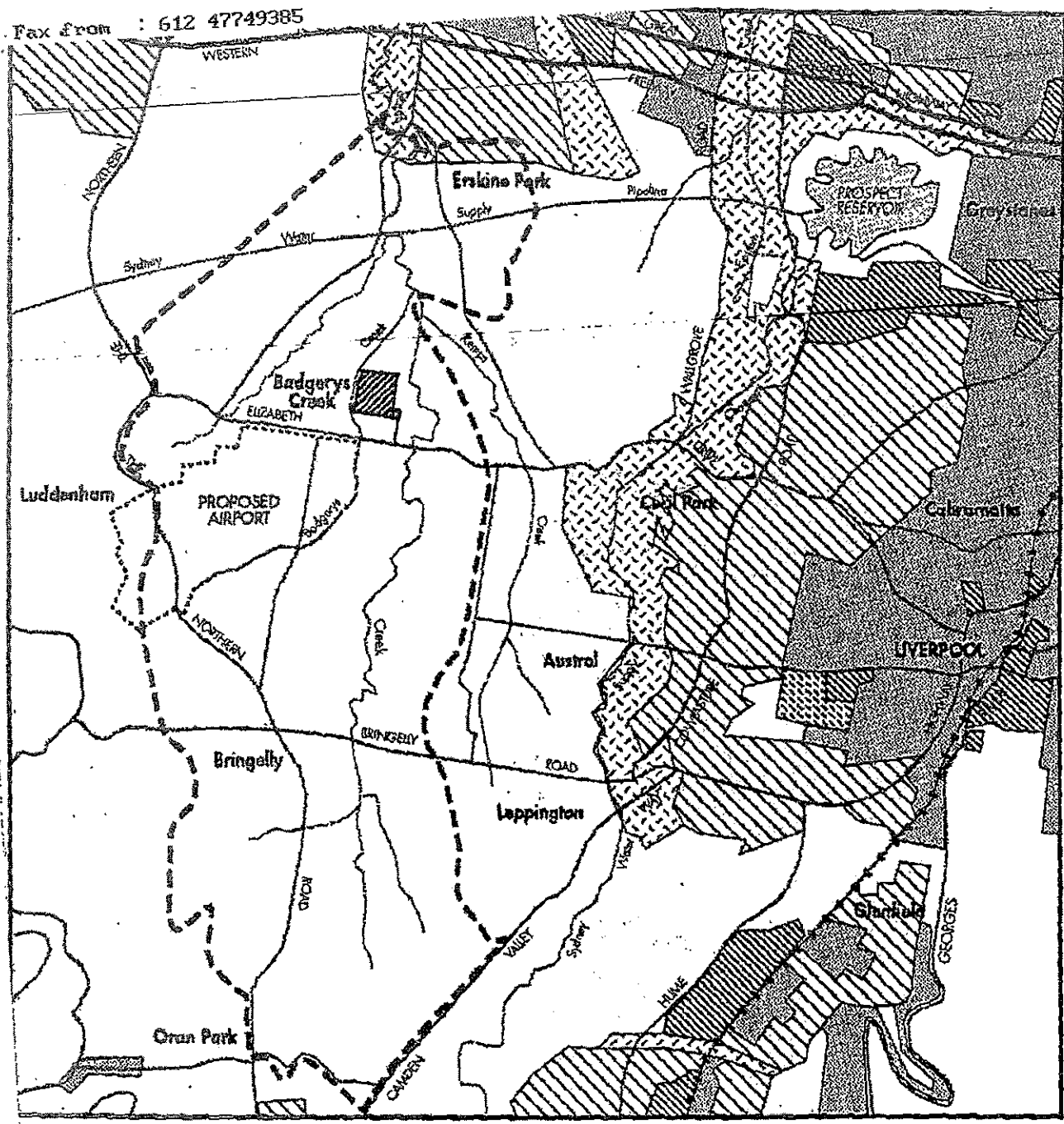
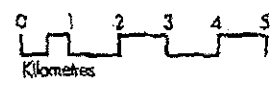
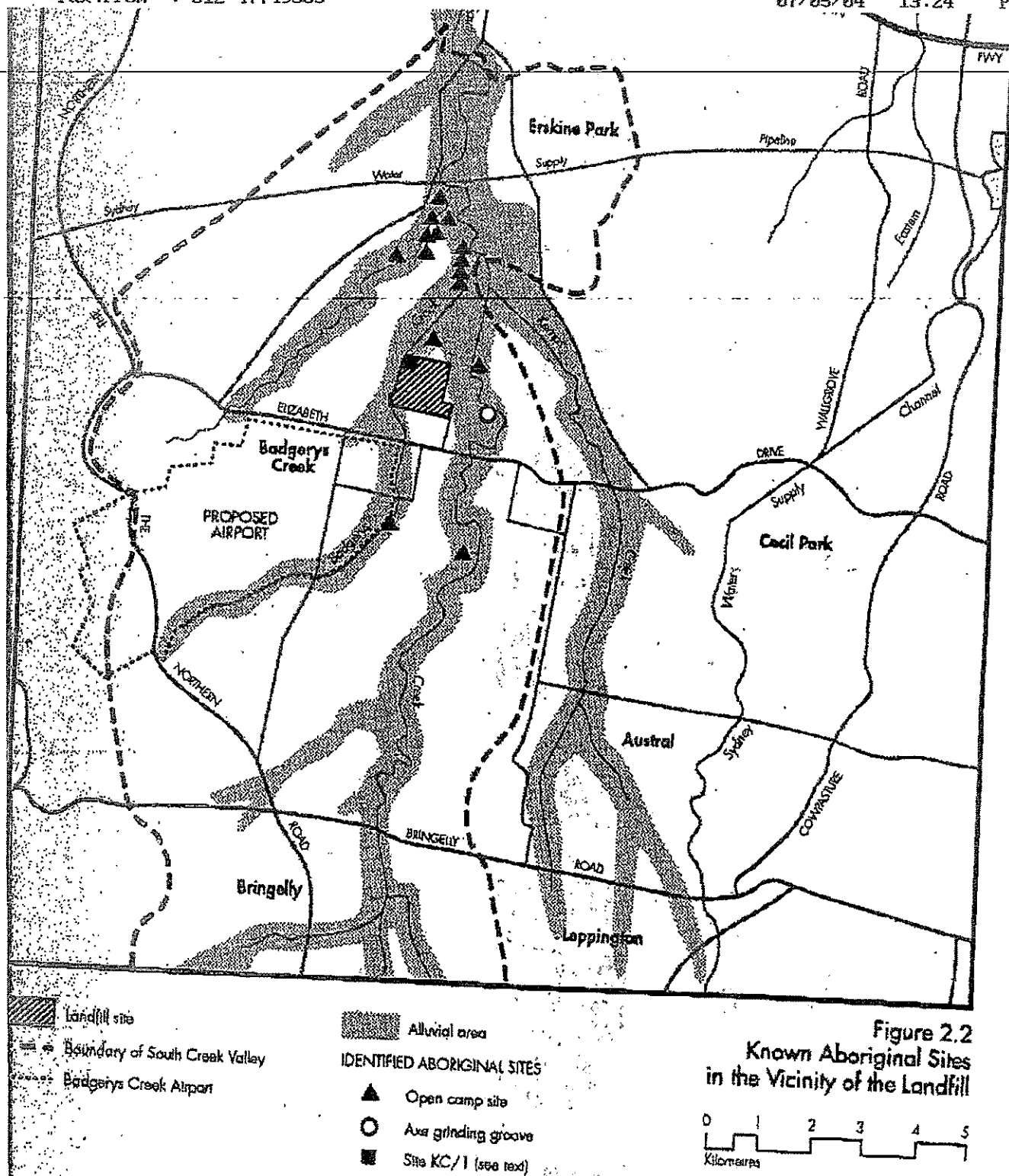


Figure 2.1
Location Plan

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | Landfill site |  | Existing urban |
|  | Boundary of South Creek Valley |  | Committed urban release |
|  | Badgerys Creek Airport |  | Zoned industrial land |
| | |  | Committed industrial land |
| | |  | Corridors |





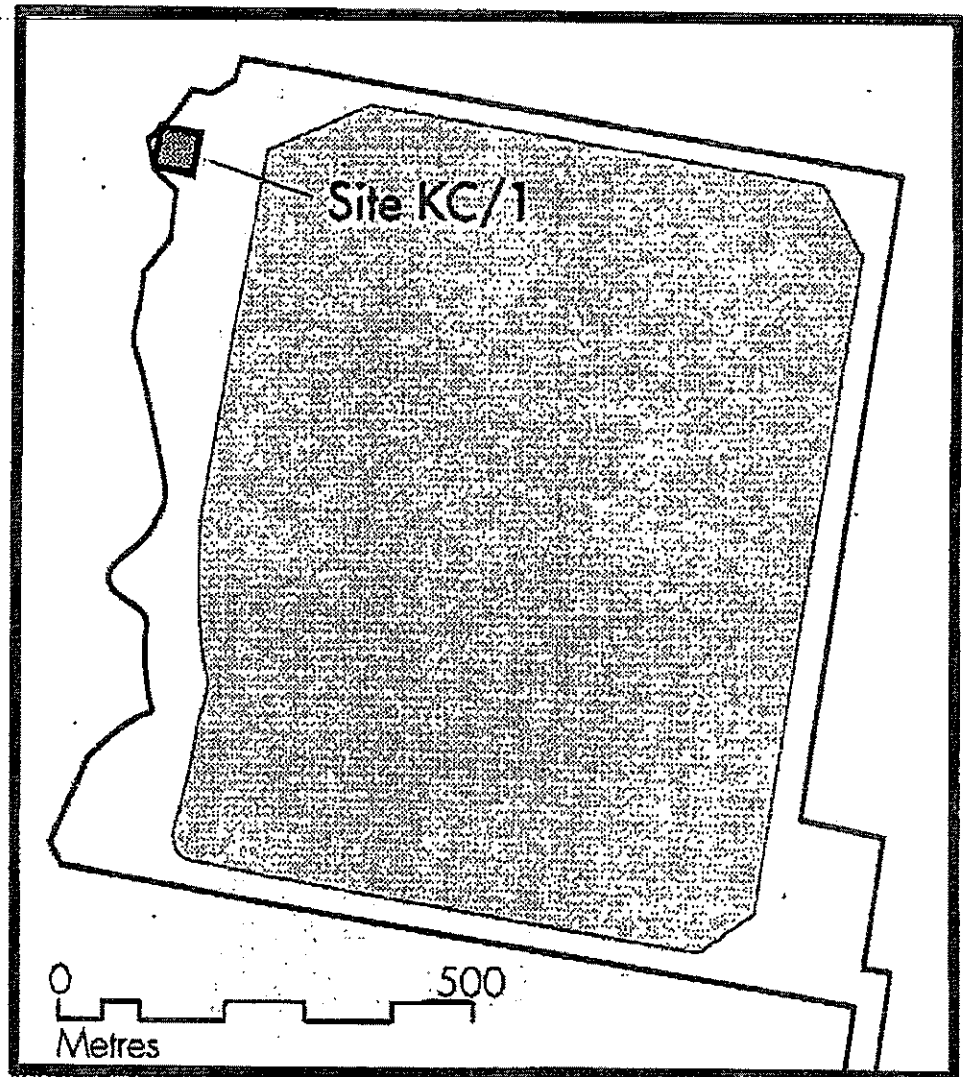


Figure 2.3
Location of Site KC/1