

Roads and Traffic Authority

Pacific Highway Upgrade -
Oxley Highway to Kempsey
Aboriginal Heritage Working Paper

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Appendix F

Sub-surface investigation – research questions

Through the excavation and subsequent analysis of the evidence retrieved, the research hypotheses listed below were proposed to be addressed to the extent that is possible given the nature of the evidence and present limitations of methodological and theoretical knowledge. This list was not intended to be prescriptive or preclusive:

- What Aboriginal activities occurred on-site?
- What types of Aboriginal occupation occurred within the study area (for example, camping, hunting / gathering, transitory movement, etc)?
- Were the types of activity and nature of occupation related to environmental factors (for example, landform element, slope, proximity to resources)?
- Does spatial patterning of activity areas occur?
- Did single or multiple episodes of occupation occur?
- Did episodes of occupation occur at different times over the entire time-span of occupation of the region?
- What duration of time did each episode of occupation last?
- Is there potential for older (ie early Holocene or late Pleistocene) evidence?
- How intensive was occupation of the sites, in both a local and regional context?
- Did microblade and microlith (backed artefact) production and/or retooling of spears occur on-site?
- Were other stone tools manufactured on-site?
- Was maintenance of stone tools conducted on-site?
- Was knapping of flakes largely casual and opportunistic, meeting requirements on an 'as needed' basis?
- Were wooden implements produced and/or maintained on-site?
- What stone materials were favoured for use and why?
- Where were the stone materials procured?
- How does the evidence and human behaviour represented in the study area compare with evidence from other locations in the region?
- How does the evidence from the study area relate to the elements of a regional model of occupation proposed above?