

Darling Walk – Public Domain - Archaeological Issues

In this brief report Dr Mary Casey, Casey & Lowe, has reviewed the archaeological issues associated with the proposed works within the Public Domain, Darling Walk, Darling Harbour.

Analysis of impacts is based on Bulk Earthworks Plan 1 and 2 – Public Domain and Public Domain Floor Plan (Figs 1, 2, 3). These proposed impacts were overlaid onto various historic plans (Figs 2, 3, 6, 7). From these plans and discussions with Lend Lease Development the following impacts have been identified:

- Two areas of bulk excavation in the playground (RL 0.5 and RL 0.85)
- Bulk excavation for a water storage tank (RL -0.5)
- Excavation for pipe works for the children's playground
- Excavation for footings for children's play equipment

The majority of proposed works are within three archaeological areas: Area 4: Peter Nichol Russell foundry, Area 5 and Area 6. There have been a number of changes to the design since Casey & Lowe wrote the Archaeological Management Strategy & Research Design (AMS&RD) in August 2008. In the AMS&RD we identified that potential archaeological remains would probably be found between RL1 and RL3. The archaeological program conducted over 5 months between November 2008 and April 2009 allowed us to refine our understanding of the levels at which the archaeology will be found - most archaeology occurs around RL 1.6 but we need to start being cautious by RL 1.8.

Western Area

This covers the Peter Nichol Russell foundry (Area 4) which is considered to have State significant archaeology. Potential archaeological remains which may survive in this area include:

- 1840s reclamation
- c1860s operation of the P.N. Russell Foundry until 1880s
- continued use as wharfage and stores
- 20th century demolition and use as goods yard

Proposed Impacts

- General ground level will be between RL 2.5 down to RL 2.17. Therefore in general there will be no impact on archaeology due to the 400mm+ protection of fill above the potential archaeology. **No Impact**
- Pipe works throughout this area will typically be 1m in width and 1.6m below bulk excavation or ground levels (Fig. 4). This means for the trenches in the northern area, where the ground is RL 2.3, the base of these trenches will be approx. RL 0.7m. **This will impact on the archaeology.**
- Where the pipe works are in the eastern pathway the ground is RL 3.11 which means the base of the trenches will be RL 1.5. **This will be some limited impact on the archaeology.**
- Water feature pipe work - this is closely placed pipe work with the pale blue water feature (Fig. 4). The base of bulk excavation in this area is RL 1.9. The pipe work will be placed 0.2m below this level, at RL 1.7. This means the pipes will sit just above or in the top of the archaeology. There are 24 pits placed along the line of the pipe works, these are no deeper than the excavation lines but are *mm x **m. **These proposed works may have some impact on the archaeology.**
- Playground equipment is illustrated in pink. It extends no more than 0.7m below bulk excavation levels. As noted above these range between RL 2.5 down to RL 2.17. The base of excavation for the playground equipment will go down to between RL 1.8 to 1.47. In general the playground equipment is located within the yard areas of the foundry and not within the footprint of the buildings (Fig. 6). One of the larger playground features will be just above the archaeology. Where this is within the building the footings will generally go

down to RL 1.7, likely to be just above the archaeology is there are no structural remains in this area. **These proposed works may have some impact on the archaeology.**

- Bulk excavation for the Kiosk Plant Room, 8.2m x 6m, down to RL 0.85. This excavation extends into the PN Russell northern foundry building but is mostly within the yard area (Fig. 6). **This will impact on the archaeology.**
- Bulk excavation for the Balance Tank, down to RL 0.5. It is L-shaped and approx. 14m x 4m. This excavation extends into the PN Russell eastern foundry building but is mostly within the yard area (Fig. 6). **This will impact on the archaeology.**

Eastern Area

Potential archaeological remains which may survive in this area include:

- Barker's jetty (Fig. 2)
- Reclamation (1830s) which includes wharfage
- Early sewerage line along Thomas Street
- Steam sawmill and sheds (1870s-1900)

Proposed Impacts

- General ground level will be between RL 3.9 down to RL 2.3. Therefore in general there will be no impact on archaeology due to the 400mm+ protection of fill above the potential archaeology. **NO Impact**
- Pipe works throughout this area will be 1m in width and 1.2m below bulk excavation. This means the bottom of the trenches in the northwestern area, where the ground level RL is 3.25 the base of these trenches will be approx. RL 2, about 400mm above the archaeology. **NO impact**
- Specific impacts from the rain water tank of 5m x 2.5m with bulk excavation down to RL - 0.5. This will remove all archaeology within its footprint. Potential remains to be found within the water tank:

Area 6 Archaeology

- This area is beyond the high water mark and is completely within reclaimed ground.
- The footprint of the tank is possibly within the area of Barker's Jetty
- Remains built on the reclamation include a small structure associated with wharfage and the steam timber sawmill.
- 1860s sewer which we did not find in the main excavation.

Area 5 Archaeology

- Structure associated with wharfage and storage area

Archaeological Management

Deeper Excavations

Preliminary testing to examine the remains and undertake archaeological recording. If substantial remains of Barker's Jetty are found the water tank should be relocated to avoid the jetty. All other remains within the deeper areas of excavation will be archaeologically excavated and recorded as outlined in the AMS&RD.

Pipe Works and Playground Equipment

In general, there are limited impacts from the playground footings. At a minimum these works will be monitored but further recommendations may be made based on the results from the deeper excavations. Archaeological results in this area may suggest a different strategy if substantial remains of the PN Russell foundry are found. It would also be desirable that playground footings be shallower to avoid significant archaeological areas.

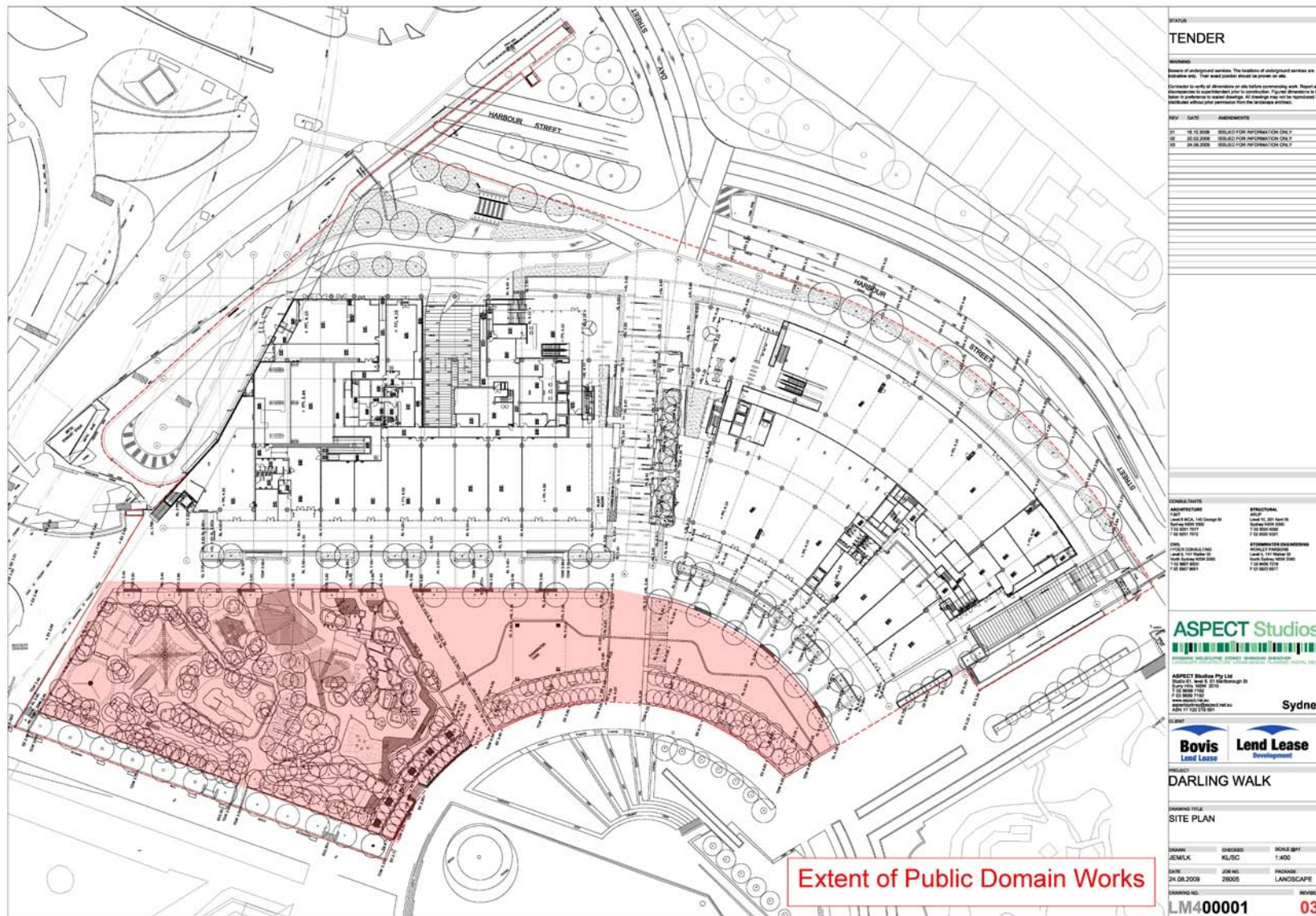


Figure 1: Plan showing the position of the Public Domain footprint within Darling Walk redevelopment.

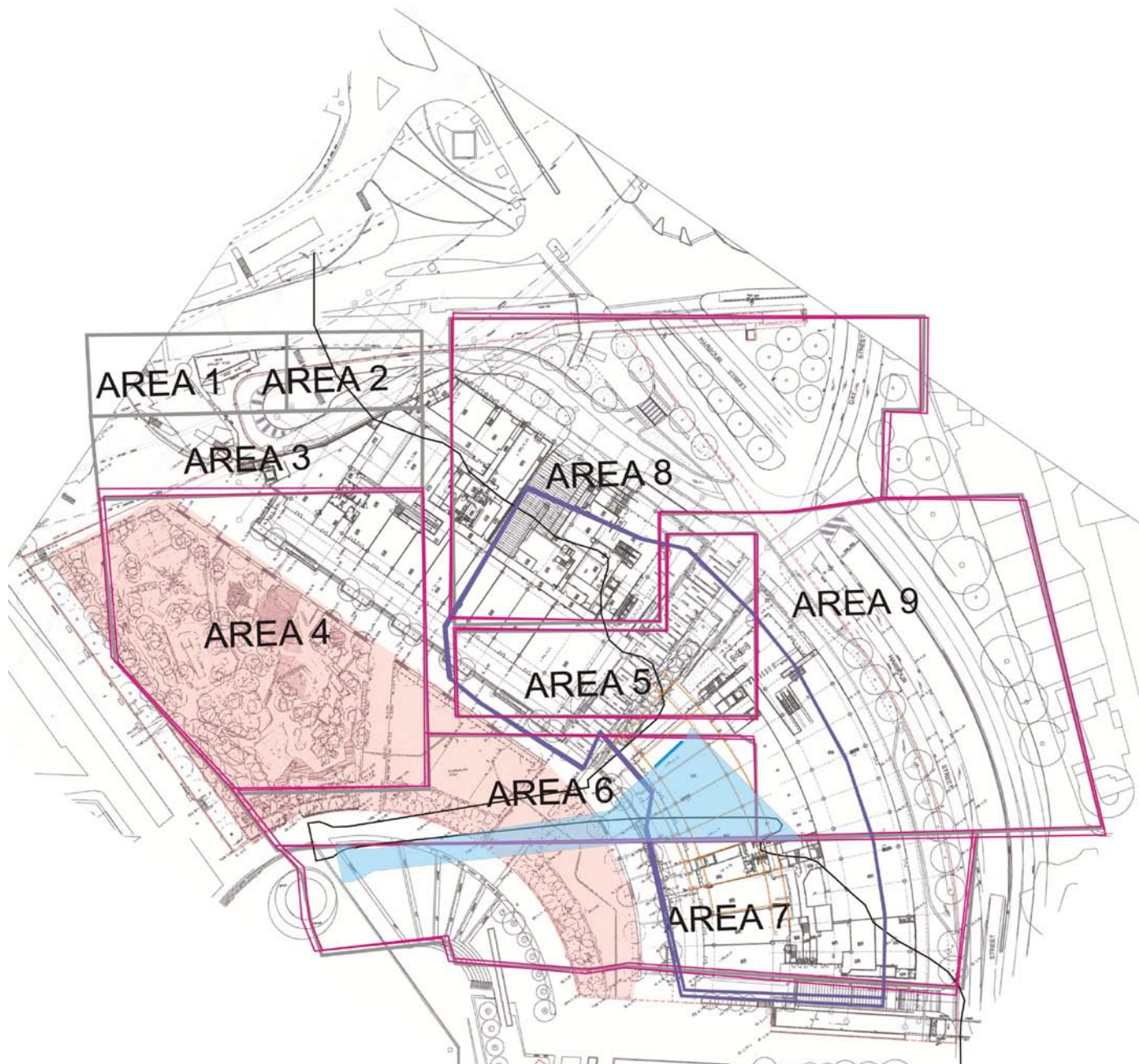
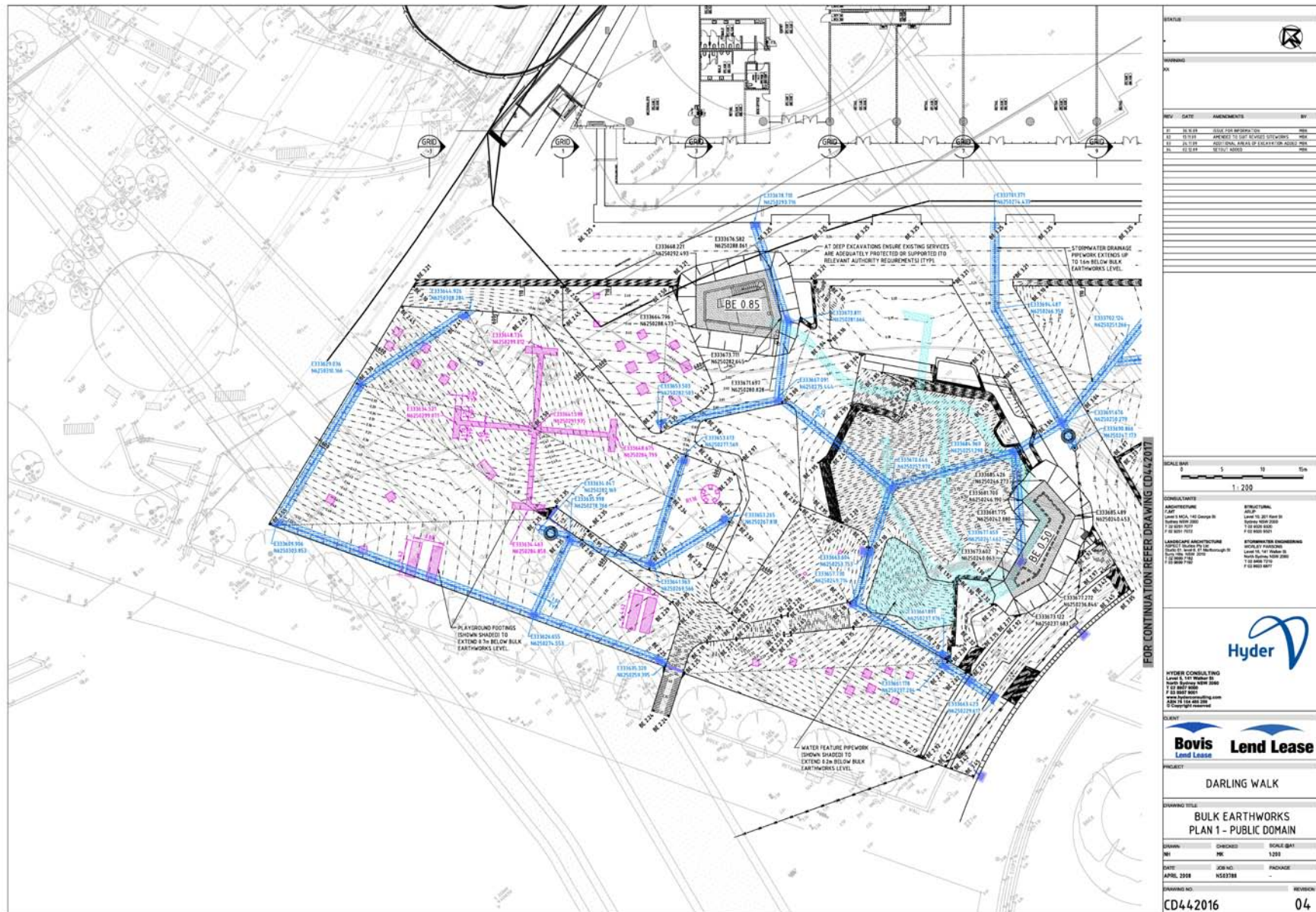


Figure 2: Overlay of the two possible locations of Barker's jetty. The solid blue line indicates the actual position of the section of jetty wall found and the black line is the position of the jetty on Hallam's 1830 plan.



Figure 3: Overlay plan of the proposed Public Domain onto the 1865 plan. The Public Domain is above Area 4 - Peter Nichol Russell Foundry and Area 6 and Area 7.



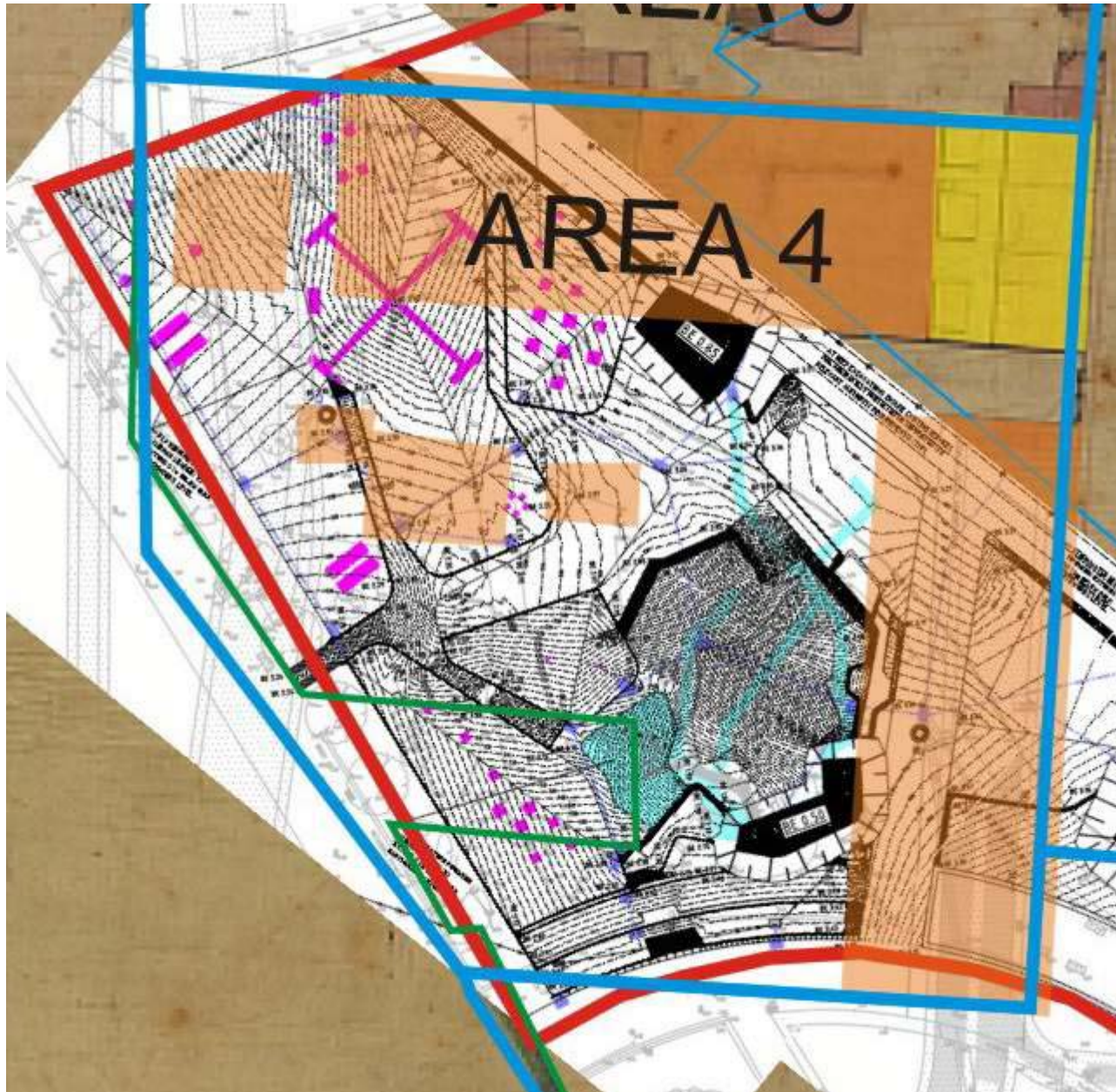


Figure 6: Overlay of proposed works on the northern section of the Public Domain.

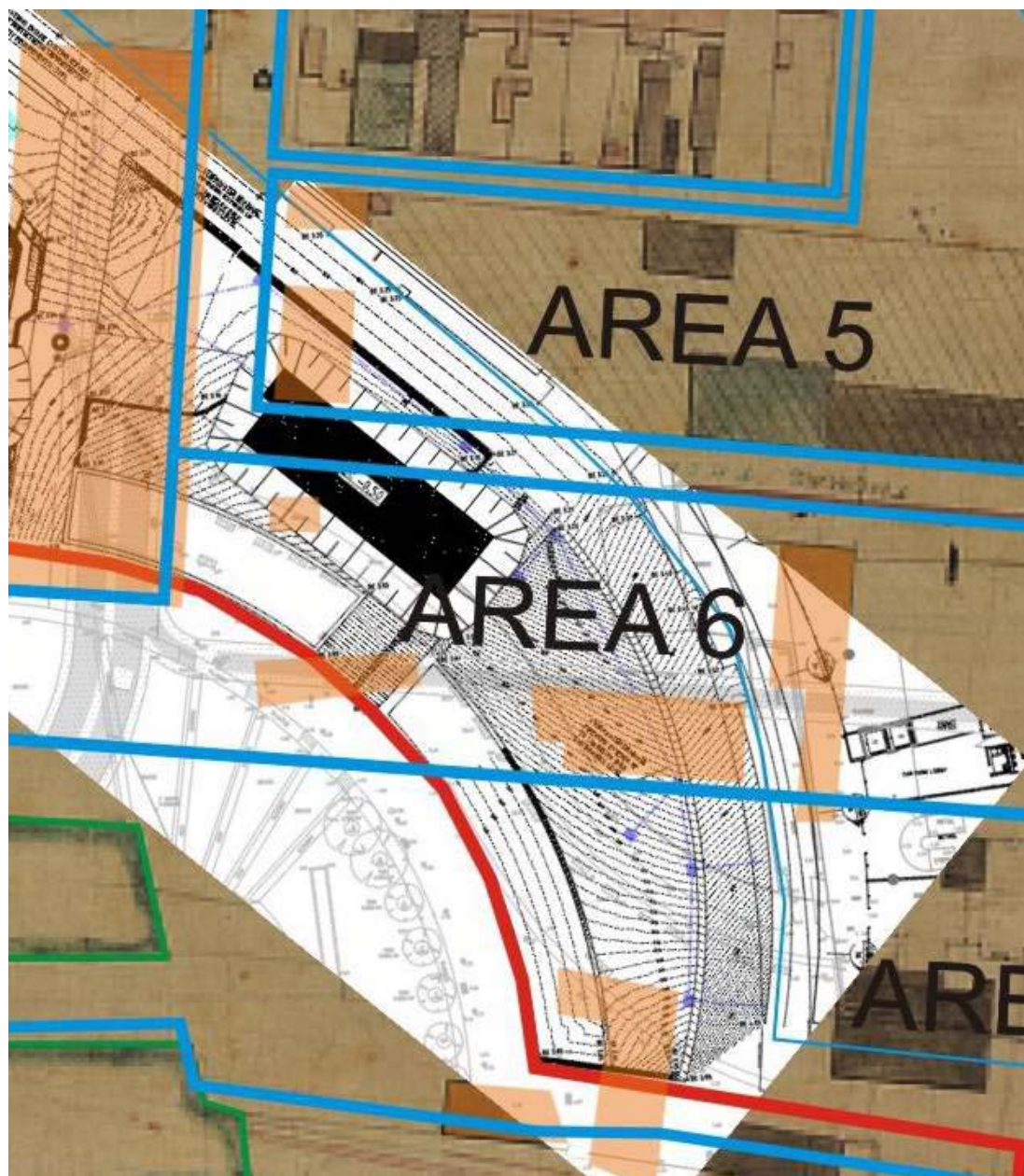


Figure 7: Overlay of proposed works on the southern section of the Public Domain.