

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGY

Preamble

The New South Wales Heritage Act 1977 affords automatic statutory protection to "relics" which form part of archaeological deposits. The Act defines a "relic" as:

"any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement and which is 50 or more years old"

Sections 139 to 145 of the Act prevent the excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of discovering, exposing or moving a relic, except by a qualified archaeologist to whom an excavation permit has been issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales. As a consequence of this legislation, it is necessary for potential archaeological features to be investigated during the early stages of planning for development of a site.

5.1 Significance

At this stage, no significant archaeological deposits or features are known.

It should be stressed that no historical information was available when this archaeological assessment was completed. When a history is available it is expected that much of the area classified as 'Areas of possible archaeological sensitivity' will be categorised as 'Areas of no archaeological deposits'.

The following sections provide a procedure for dealing with the potential archaeological resources of the site. If archaeological features are present, their significance should be assessed and management decisions should be made in accordance with the requirements of the Heritage Act.

5.2 Methodology and Survey

The area was surveyed using standard survey techniques. No historical study was made. Following assessment, the area was divided into four archaeological management units and zones. The methodology and zones adopted are consistent with the archaeological zoning plans used in recent studies for the Department of Planning.

This study defines the following Units: (Fig 16)

- I Known archaeological sites
- II Areas of probable archaeological sensitivity
- III Areas of possible archaeological sensitivity
- IV Areas of no archaeological deposits

Unit I in the report encompasses all areas where relics which are over 50 years old are known to exist.

Units II and III are areas where relics may occur and include all areas covered by fill.

Unit IV encompasses areas which are known to be devoid of European archaeological deposits.

This study does not remove the need for site specific consideration of the archaeological sensitivity of Units II and III. It does provide the initial assessment, which is equivalent to the baseline action recommended in the archaeological assessment procedures, (eg Draft City of Sydney LEP99).

5.3 Archaeology

Areas marked as Unit I category, known archaeological sites, should be subject to site specific historical research and should have any excavation monitored by an archaeologist.

Areas marked as Unit II category, that is areas of probable archaeological sensitivity, should be subject to site specific historical recording and should have any excavation monitored by an archaeologist.

Areas marked as Unit III category, that is areas of possible archaeological sensitivity should have any excavation monitored by an archaeologist.

(It should be noted that Historical research may place areas in Unit II category or Unit III category into Unit IV category and vice-versa).

5.4 Site Overview

The general topography of the site can best be described as a raised area gently sloping to the north and north east with an ill defined watercourse roughly bisecting it and a second watercourse at the eastern end.

The study area can be divided into three distinct categories. The first is the natural areas where the original surface of the land is visible, the second is the areas where fill has been deposited and the third is the flat shelves which were formed by the cut and fill method to allow construction of the workshops. In general the areas where the original surface is visible had no archaeological deposits, while the areas of fill and those formed by cut and fill are areas where archaeological deposits could be found.

5.5 Procedures

Figure 17 presents a procedural chart which is consistent with the requirements of the NSW Heritage Act.

The sites in Unit I should have conservation action taken in accordance with recommendations elsewhere in this report. These vary from conservation to recording and disposal. In relation to subsurface features not specifically covered by this document, site specific historical research should be conducted and excavation should be monitored by an archaeologist.

Areas in Unit II should be the subject of site specific historical research and should have any excavation monitored by an archaeologist.

Areas in Unit III should have excavation or earthworks monitored, with a view to further action if features are discovered.

It is important that any works program, in the areas of Unit II or III, include provision for the required research and interruption to work in order to allow archaeological excavation and recording if that becomes necessary. (It is possible, but highly unlikely, that archaeological features of heritage value warranting consideration of in situ conservation will be discovered).

No action is required with respect to areas within Unit IV.

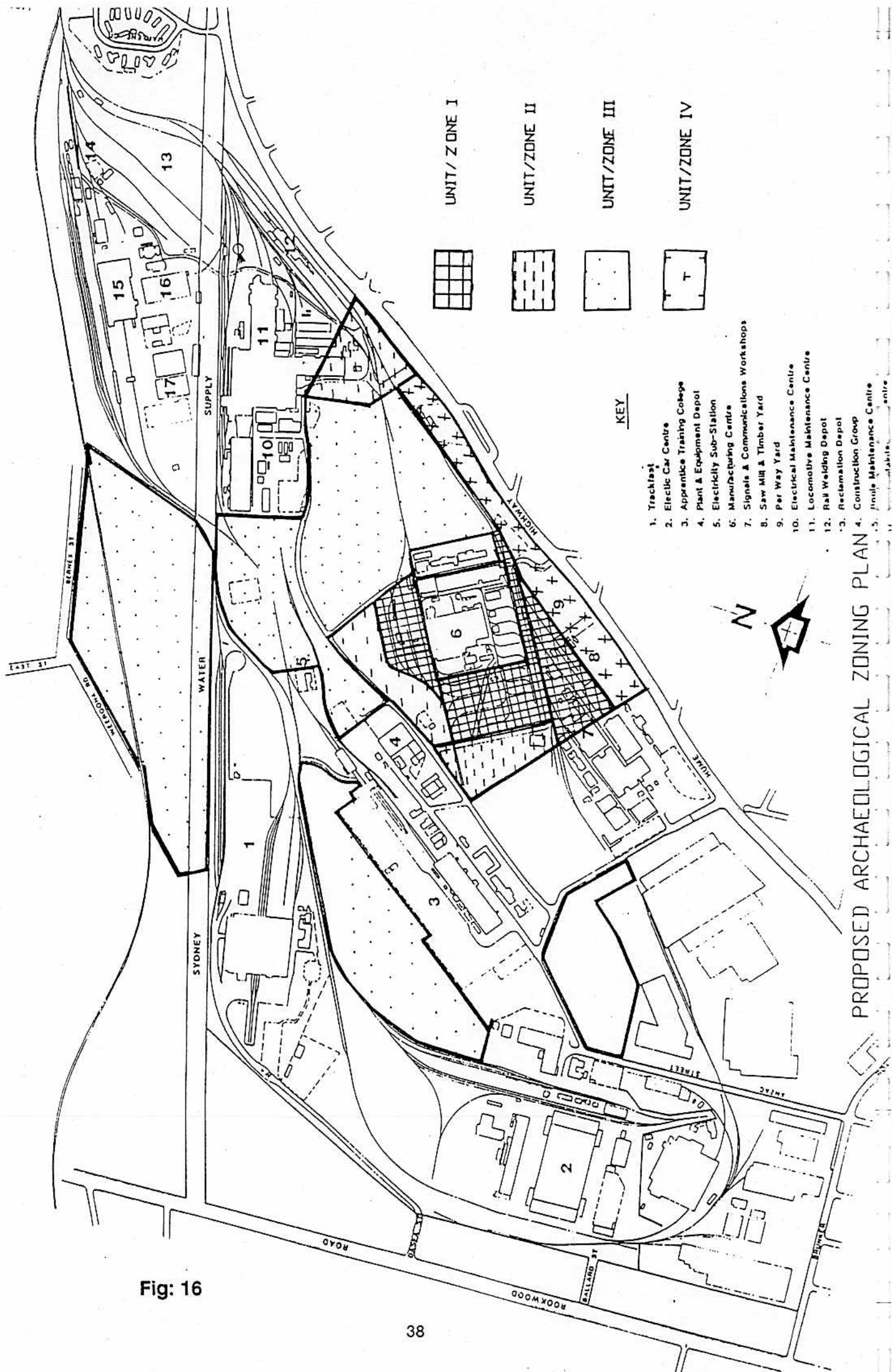


Fig: 16

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT UNIT PROCEDURES

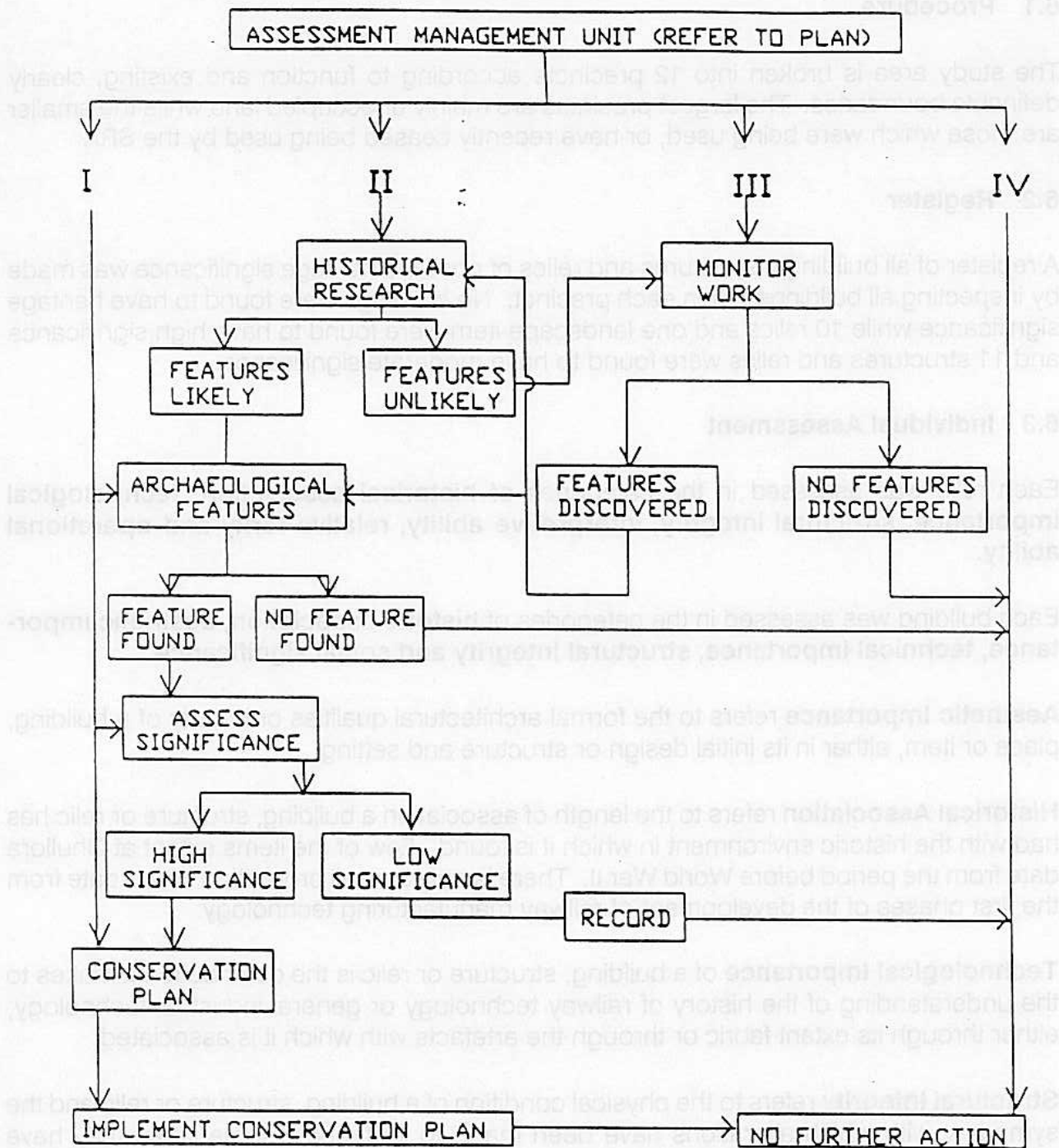


Fig: 17

6.0 ASSESSMENT

6.1 Procedure

The study area is broken into 12 precincts according to function and existing, clearly definable boundaries. The largest precincts are mainly unoccupied land while the smaller are those which were being used, or have recently ceased being used by the SRA

6.2 Register

A register of all buildings, structures and relics of possible heritage significance was made by inspecting all buildings within each precinct. No buildings were found to have heritage significance while 10 relics and one landscape item were found to have high significance and 11 structures and relics were found to have moderate significance.

6.3 Individual Assessment

Each relic was assessed in the categories of **historical association, technological importance, structural integrity, interpretive ability, relative rarity and operational ability.**

Each building was assessed in the categories of **historic association, aesthetic importance, technical importance, structural integrity and social significance.**

Aesthetic Importance refers to the formal architectural qualities or beauty of a building, place or item, either in its initial design or structure and setting.

Historical Association refers to the length of association a building, structure or relic has had with the historic environment in which it is found. Few of the items extant at Chullora date from the period before World War II. There is only a small proportion which date from the first phases of the development of railway manufacturing technology.

Technological Importance of a building, structure or relic is the contribution it makes to the understanding of the history of railway technology or general industrial technology, either through its extant fabric or through the artefacts with which it is associated.

Structural Integrity refers to the physical condition of a building, structure or relic and the sympathy with which alterations have been made to its fabric. Some items may have remained unchanged since they were installed or erected while others may have been altered or dismantled.

Interpretive Ability is the ease with which a building, structure or relic can demonstrate the part it played in a process or in the development of a site. Purpose-built structures on these sites and associated plant and machines lend themselves to interpretation of methods employed in the railway and associated industries.

Operational Ability is the ability of a machine to be operated in its present condition, with a minimum amount of work being done to it and providing normal facilities such as a power source or other materials are available.

Relative Rarity is the measure of the number of similar items existing now as compared to the number originally made.

Social Significance refers to the importance a building or relic may have to a social group as part of a spiritual, political, national or cultural sentiment or development.

Each of the above categories were given a rating from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). From these ratings a **Significance Assessment** is determined which reflects the total significance that a building or relic may have.

The different categories should not be regarded as being equivalent in considering the total significance assessment. The final weighting for each relic given in the assessment, though is very closely allied to the assigned ratings in the five or six categories, is dependent to a certain extent on the experience of the assessor.

The Significance Assessment raw score corresponds to the following categories:

- 5 exceptional significance
- 4 high significance
- 3 moderate significance
- 2 slight significance
- 1 little significance

Buildings, structures or artefacts which have exceptional significance or high significance should be conserved and should be the subject of a conservation plan.

A relic or building which is regarded as having moderate significance may be considered for conservation if it ranks highly in one particular category or it forms part of a complex.

Buildings, structures or relics which rate as having some or little significance should have their form, construction, function and other relevant details fully recorded before they are modified or moved.

It should be stressed that the rating of a building or relic may change over time and that the report is relevant only for the period in which it was written.