

Appendix Q

Non-Indigenous archaeology

Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd

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27 January, 2012

Peter Carson
Senior Environmental Planner
GHD
133 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Carson,

**Re: Sydney CityGrid Project - City East Zone Substation Stage 2A
Non-indigenous Archaeology**

I refer to the proposed construction of Stage 2A of the Sydney CityGrid Project. Stage 2A is understood to cover the construction and operation of the City East Zone Substation at 33 Bligh Street. This stage includes:

- Stage 2A(i) – demolition of the existing building on the site (Kindersley House);
- Stage 2A(ii) – involves subsurface construction works (incl. bulk excavation) and construction and operation of the City East Zone Substation and the associated commercial tower located above the substation.

The City East Zone Substation site is presently occupied by Kindersley House, defined as Lot 1 DP 626651, and 20-26 O'Connell Street and 33-35 Bligh Street. The property is presently occupied by a 17 storey and a connected 10 storey commercial building. The building is listed on the Register of the National Estate for architectural and engineering merit, and by the National Trust.

The basement level of the building is approximately three metres below the O'Connell Street frontage and up to nine metres below the Bligh Street frontage. The property is zoned in the City of Sydney's Archaeological Zoning Plan (1992) as having no archaeological potential. This finding usually reflects the presence of basements of sufficient depth to have removed most if not all of the site's archaeological remains.

In terms of potential impact on archaeological remains, the excavation involved for the existing structures and their basements is considered to have removed all except for possibly the bases of wells if they were deeper than three metres in the area off O'Connell Street. All other structural remains and features relating to the nineteenth-century land-use of the property will have been removed.

Excavation for the substation will also involve excavating two shafts for cable risers. These shafts would extend beyond the current building footprint into the O'Connell and Bligh Street footpaths. While the shaft in O'Connell Street is not expected to have any implication for archaeological remains, the Bligh Street side borders Richard Johnson Square. While the footpath area is likely to have been disturbed previously by a variety of services, there is the potential for the work to disturb archaeological remains belonging to structures previously present in the square.

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As well as the excavation associated with the new substation building, Stage 2A(ii) also includes the following:

- Subsurface construction works, including construction of the stub tunnel under Bligh Street that would link with the City East Cable Tunnel below the intersection of Bent and Bligh Streets
- An indicative scheme to improve Richard Johnson Square. Richard Johnson Square is owned by the City of Sydney and the landscape plan will be subject to further design and consultation with Council.

The excavation of the stub tunnel from 33 Bligh Street to the intersection with Bent Street will be carried out by road header at depth. The stub tunnel would commence from a shaft extending from the basement of the City East Zone Substation at a depth of about RL -23.6 and decline to about RL -34.41 beneath the intersection of Bent Street and Bligh Street. Being excavated through rock, it will not involve any surface excavation and therefore will not disturb any archaeological remains.

There are, however, branches of the 1857 brick oviform Bennelong Stormwater Channel (aka Bennelong Drain and Fort Macquarie Sewer; listed on Sydney Water's S170 register) under the adjacent roadways, including one under O'Connell Street and the Castlereagh Street branch crosses Bligh Street and continues under the buildings immediately north of the Kindersley House site. While the excavation of the Bligh Street stub tunnel will pass under the drain, its depth is such that there should be no impact on its structure, although its depth should be confirmed prior to works commencing. It is recommended that the drain branches be marked on all key engineering drawings, especially where the drain is adjacent to excavation shoring where rock anchors might be used. It is understood that, in consultation with Sydney Water, condition surveys of the Bennelong Drain will be undertaken pre- and post construction to determine if construction has impacted on the asset, and if so, measures will be implemented to address the impact.

The construction of the City East Zone Substation will also require the adjacent section of Richard Johnson Square up to Bligh Street to be enclosed within a work zone for the duration of the demolition and construction phase, after which extensive cabling associated with the substation will run underneath the Square. The installation of this cabling may impact on archaeological remains. The Square marks the approximate location of Sydney's first church (and later used as the first school), built by Rev. Richard Johnson in 1793. Although the available historical record is unlikely to be able to determine the exact location of the timber church building (pers. com. Dr Rosemary Annable, historian), works within the area may encounter remains that could belong to the church. It is recommended that an archaeological impact statement be prepared once the nature of impacts in the Square is known.

In conclusion, the initial bulk excavation of the City East substation site may impact on deeper archaeological remains, namely the bases of any wells sunk in the early decades of the use of the property, and excavation for cabling through Richard Johnson Square might impact on archaeological remains connected with Australia's first church building. It is recommended that the initial bulk excavation of the substation site be monitored by an experienced historical archaeologist. Archaeological testing may be recommended within Richard Johnson Square to determine whether remains associated with the early church are or may be present, depending on the extent of the proposed cabling works. Mitigation of impacts within the Square might be achieved by underboring, if this is feasible and can be done at an appropriate depth. The excavation of the cable riser shaft on the Bligh Street side of the substation should be monitored to indicate the nature of the strata above bedrock in the area. This may serve as guidance for the possible nature of remains in the adjacent Richard Johnson Square.

In September 2009 Concept Approval was obtained under Part 3A of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for all stages of the CityGrid project. The above findings should be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment for this stage.

Please contact me on 9568 5375 to discuss any aspect of the above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Lowe', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tony Lowe
Casey & Lowe