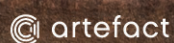


600 Woodstock Avenue, Rooty Hill

Statement of Heritage Impact and
Non-Aboriginal (Historic)
Archaeological Assessment

Report to Project Strategy

August 2021



Artefact Heritage
ABN 73 144 973 526
Level 4, Building B
35 Saunders Street
Pyrmont NSW 2009
Australia

+61 2 9518 8411
office@artefact.net.au

Document history and status

Revision	Date issued	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date approved	Review type	Revision type
Draft	26 August	Elizabeth Bonshek	Sandra Wallace	26 August		Draft
Final	30 August		Sandra Wallace	30 August		Final

Author: Sammuel Sammut

Project manager: Elizabeth Bonshek

Name of organisation: Artefact Heritage Services

Name of document: 600 Woodstock Avenue,
Rooty Hill, Statement of Impact and Non-Aboriginal
(Historic) Archaeological Assessment.

Document version: Final

© Artefact Heritage Services

This document is and shall remain the property of Artefact Heritage Services. This document may only be used for the purposes for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the Terms of the Engagement for the commission. Unauthorised use of this document in any form whatsoever is prohibited.

Disclaimer: Artefact Heritage Services has completed this document in accordance with the relevant federal, state and local legislation and current industry best practice. The company accepts no liability for any damages or loss incurred as a result of reliance placed upon the document content or for any purpose other than that for which it was intended.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artefact Heritage has been engaged by Project Strategy (the proponent) to complete a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) and a non-Aboriginal (Historic) Archaeological Assessment for the construction of a Western Sydney Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located at 600 Woodstock Avenue, Rooty Hill.

The proposed development would involve the demolition of a significant proportion of the site, although the current office building will be maintained.

The proponent intends submitting an application for status as a State Significant Development (SSD) to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). Secretaries Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) have not been issued. However it is standard for SEARs to require a Statement of Heritage Impact and Non-Aboriginal (Historic) Archaeological Assessment for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Conclusions

This report concludes that:

- No listed heritage items are to be impacted by the proposed works.
- There is nil potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains within the study area due to the amount of disturbance that has previously occurred and the lack of evidence for occupation that would have resulted in relics.

Recommendations

During construction works, it is recommended that:

- An Unexpected Finds Policy is developed to be implemented in the unlikely event that relics are identified during ground disturbing works.
- All relevant staff, contractors and subcontractors should be made aware of their statutory obligations for heritage under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* and best practice as outlined in The Burra Charter 2013. This may be implemented as a heritage induction.

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Background and study area location	1
1.2	Report limitations.....	2
1.3	Authorship and acknowledgements	2
2.0	Legislative Context	3
2.1	Heritage Act 1977 (NSW).....	3
2.1.1	State Heritage Register	3
2.1.2	Section 170 Registers.....	3
2.2	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.....	3
2.2.1	State Significant Development.....	4
2.2.2	Local Legislation	4
2.3	Non-Statutory Considerations	5
2.4	Heritage Listings.....	5
3.0	Environmental and Historical Context	6
3.1	Environmental Context.....	6
3.2	Aboriginal land use.....	6
3.2.1	Aboriginal ethno-historic context.....	6
3.3	Early British settlement and pastoralism (1789-1859).....	7
3.4	Mid-19 th to early 20 th centuries development (1859-1906).....	8
3.5	20 th and 21 st centuries urban growth (1906-Present).....	10
4.0	Non-Aboriginal (Historic) Archaeological Assessment.....	12
4.1	Methodology.....	12
4.2	Physical site description	12
4.3	Previous Archaeological Studies.....	12
4.4	Land use summary	13
4.5	Assessment of archaeological potential	13
4.5.1	Phase 1: Early British settlement and pastoralism (1789 – 1859).....	13
4.5.2	Phase 2: Mid-19 th to early 20 th centuries development (1859 – 1906)	13
4.5.3	Phase 3: 20 th and 21 st centuries urban growth (1906-present).....	13
5.0	Impact Assessment.....	14
5.1	Introduction.....	14
5.2	Proposed works.....	14
5.3	Heritage impact assessment	15
5.3.1	Direct (physical) impact assessment	15
5.3.2	Indirect (visual) impact assessment.....	15
5.4	Cumulative impacts assessment.....	15

5.5	Summary	15
6.0	Conclusions and Recommendations	16
6.1	Conclusions	16
6.2	Recommendations	16
7.0	References	17

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of the study area.....	1
Figure 2: Section of Minchin Estate subdivided by Dr. McKay, c.1890 (Source: State Library NSW, ...	8
Figure 3: Parish of Rooty Hill, 1835 (Source: NSW Land Registry Service, Historical Land Records Viewer, Historical Parish Maps)	8
Figure 4: Rooty Hill Parish, 1917 (source: NSW Land Registry Service, Historical Land Records Viewer, Historical Parish Maps). Study area outlined in red.	10
Figure 5: 1985 Aerial photograph of Rooty Hill area demonstrating increased development. Study area outlined in red (Source: Google Earth).....	11
Figure 6: 1943 Aerial photograph of parts of Rooty Hill, demonstrating largely agrarian nature of land. Location of study area (not photographed) outlined in red (Source: SIX Maps).	11
Figure 7: Proposed plans for the Western Sydney Material Recycling Facility (Source: Time Farrell Pty. Ltd.).	14

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and study area location

Artefact Heritage has been engaged by Project Strategy to complete a non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment for an MRF facility located at Lot 67 DP 804292, 600 Woodstock Avenue, Rooty Hill.

The study area is located in the City of Blacktown Local Government Area (LGA) and within the Parish of Rooty Hill located in Cumberland County (Figure 1). A visual buffer of 200m has been included in order to account for any listed items that may be subject to visual impacts by the proposal.

The proposed development would involve the demolition of a significant proportion of the site, although part of the current structure, acting as an office building, would be retained.

Project Strategy have engaged Artefact Heritage to complete this SoHI and non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment for the study area to indicate if the proposed works will impact listed items, affect any areas of archaeological potential or impact relics.



Figure 1: Location of the study area

1.2 Report limitations

This report assesses non-Aboriginal (historical) archaeological and built heritage resources only and does not provide a review of the potential for Aboriginal archaeological evidence in the area. A separate report (*Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment for 600 Woodstock Avenue, Rooty Hill*) was prepared by Artefact to assess whether the study area contained Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity.

A site visit could not be conducted because of restrictions related to the Covid-19 Delta strain outbreak at the time of preparing this report.

1.3 Authorship and acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by Sammuel Sammut (Graduate Heritage Consultant). Management input and review was provided by Dr Sandra Wallace (Director).

2.0 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

2.1 Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

The NSW *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) provides protection for items of 'environmental heritage' in NSW. 'Environmental heritage' includes places, buildings, works, relics, movable objects or precincts considered significant based on historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic values. Items considered to be significant to the State are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) and cannot be demolished, altered, moved or damaged, or their significance altered without approval from the Heritage Council of NSW.

2.1.1 State Heritage Register

The SHR was established under Section 22 of the *Heritage Act* and is a list of places and objects of particular importance to the people of NSW, including archaeological sites. The SHR is administered by Heritage NSW and includes a diverse range of over 1500 items, in both private and public ownership. To be listed, an item must be deemed to be of heritage significance for the whole of NSW.

The study area for the current assessment does not contain any items listed on the SHR. There are no SHR items within 200m of the study area.

2.1.2 Section 170 Registers

Under the Heritage Act all government agencies are required to identify, conserve and manage heritage items in their ownership or control. Section 170 (s170) requires all government agencies to maintain a Heritage and Conservation Register that lists all heritage assets and an assessment of the significance of each asset. They must also ensure that all items inscribed on its list are maintained with due diligence in accordance with State Owned Heritage Management Principles approved by the Government on advice of the NSW Heritage Council. These principles serve to protect and conserve the heritage significance of items and are based on NSW heritage legislation and guidelines.

The study area for the current assessment does not contain any items listed on Section 170 registers. There are no s170 items within 200m of the study area.

2.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) establishes the framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in the land use planning and development consent process. The EP&A Act consists of three main parts of direct relevance to Aboriginal cultural heritage; Part 3 which governs the preparation of planning instruments, Part 4 which relates to development assessment processes for local government (consent) authorities, and Part 5 which relates to activity approvals by governing (determining) authorities.

Planning decisions within LGAs are guided by Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). Each LGA is required to develop and maintain an LEP that includes Aboriginal and historical heritage items which are protected under the EP&A Act and the *Heritage Act 1977*. The study area is located in the City of Blacktown LGA and is subject to consents under the Blacktown LEP 2015.

Under Part 5, Clause 5.10 (2), development consent is required for:

(c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed

(d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.

2.2.1 State Significant Development

The proposed development approval is being sought under Section 4.22 of the EP&A Act and would be classified as SSD. As the project has not yet been accepted as an SSD by the Minister of Planning in line with requirements set out in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (EP&A Regulation) SEARs have not been issued.

2.2.2 Local Legislation

Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015

The environmental planning instrument that applies to the study area is the Blacktown LEP 2015 (BLEP 2015). The instrument is relevant in relation to the control of development with regard to heritage within the City of Blacktown LGA. The relevant clauses of the BLEP 2015 state (NSW Government 2015):

(1) Objectives. *The objectives of this clause are as follows—*

(a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Blacktown,

(b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,

(c) to conserve archaeological sites

(2) Requirement for consent. *Development consent is required for any of the following—*

(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)—

(i) a heritage item,

(4) Effect of proposed development on heritage significance. *The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause in respect of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item or area concerned. This subclause applies regardless of whether a heritage management document is prepared under subclause (5) or a heritage conservation management plan is submitted under subclause (6).*

(5) Heritage assessment. *The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development—*

(a) on land on which a heritage item is located, or

(b) on land that is within a heritage conservation area, or

(c) on land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.

The study area for the current assessment does not contain any items listed on the Blacktown LEP 2015 registers. There are no s170 items within 200m of the study area.

2.3 Non-Statutory Considerations

Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) is no longer a statutory list; however, it remains available as an archive.

There are no items listed on the RNE within the study area nor within 200m of the study area that would be affected by the proposed activity.

National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Listing on the National Trust Heritage Register does not impose statutory obligations but it provides an indication of the heritage importance of the item for the community.

There are no items listed on the National Trust within the study area nor within 200m of the study area that would be affected by the proposed activity.

2.4 Heritage Listings

A search of the National Heritage List, Register of the National Estate, s170 registers, State Heritage Register, and the Blacktown LEP registers was undertaken on 3 August 2021. This search revealed that the study area includes no heritage listed items. Furthermore, there are no heritage listed items within 200m of the study area.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.1 Environmental Context

The major geological elements of the Cumberland Plain are Wianamatta Group shales and sandstones, predominantly Ashfield and Bringelly Shales and Minchinbury Sandstone. Significant portions of the soil in this region lie on top of clay sheets, and are known as the Blacktown Soil Landscape. The study area is located in this soil scape. The Blacktown Soil Landscape greatly limits the potential for the presence of subsurface archaeological items. It is also moderately erodible and hence is susceptible to disturbance.

Vegetation at the time of first British colonisation would have been dominated by forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), narrow-leaved ironbark (*E. crebra*), grey box (*E. moluccana*) and spotted gum (*E. maculate*). Currently, the area is almost completely a cleared open-forest and open-woodland (dry sclerophyll forest)¹.

Australian sea levels have varied markedly over the past 10,000 years, from a low point of 15m below current sea levels at approximately 7,900 years ago, to a high point of approximately 1.5m above current sea level. This higher level lasted until about 2,000 years ago². This has resulted in considerable coastline variation over time. Many coastal and riverside areas that are currently dryland were inundated during the time that Aboriginal people have inhabited the continent.

The study area is located less than 1km to the west of Eastern Creek, on the northern side of the suburb of Rooty Hill, abutting this suburb's border with Glendenning. It is approximately 35km to the northwest of Sydney's CBD.

3.2 Aboriginal land use

Assumptions about land use patterns are made on the basis of archaeological information gained from the local area, from observations made by the British after settlement of the area, and from information known about available natural resources.

As Aboriginal people were mobile hunter-gatherers, it is likely that they moved across the landscape between resources. It is also likely that movement was related to socio/cultural factors such as gatherings and ceremonial obligations. As they moved across the landscape people would have camped and used bark shelters for protection from the weather. These temporary campsites would have been ephemeral and it is difficult to ascertain whether a campsite existed at any given location. However, archaeologists have assumed a correlation between stone artefact density and the likely presence of Aboriginal campsites. While it is likely that knapping would have occurred at a campsite, it is also likely that knapping would have occurred during movement across the landscape, as tools were prepared or repaired during hunting and gathering activities.

3.2.1 Aboriginal ethno-historic context

The study area falls within the traditional lands of the Darug people. Aboriginal people were highly mobile hunter-gatherers, utilising different landform units and resource zones. Different resources may have been available seasonally, necessitating movement or trade across the landscape.³ British

¹ OEH, 'ESpade: Soil Landscapes'. p40.

² Sloss, Jones, and Murray-Wallace, 'Holocene Sea Level Change on the Southeast Coast of Australia'.

³ Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*.

expansion throughout the Sydney region displaced Aboriginal people from their traditional land and effectively cut off access to many resources.

The effect of British settlement was devastating for the Aboriginal people of the Cumberland Plain. Land was cleared for farms and forests were cut down to provide fuel and building materials. Aboriginal people lost access to their camping and food gathering areas and were forced into neighbouring groups' country. The Darug people of the Cumberland Plain were also seriously affected by smallpox, which they were exposed to from contact with British colonists. Estimates suggest that this outbreak caused the death of up to 90% of the Darug population from this region during an outbreak in 1798⁴.

The Darug were also subjected to programs of assimilation by the British colonial administration and British culture. For example, 'Black's Town', located in the modern suburb of Plumpton, was a "Native Institution" opened in 1823 aimed at educating Aboriginal children in a British manner and instilling British cultural values in them⁵. Although the institute closed in 1833, it has since become central in discussions surrounding attempts to eradicate Aboriginal culture.

Due to British occupation and agricultural activities, some evidence of Aboriginal occupation in this region has likely been lost. However, the Cumberland Plain is still considered to have high archaeologically sensitive, particularly the areas surrounding the region's creeks and rivers.

3.3 Early British settlement and pastoralism (1789-1859)

The earliest recorded exploration of the Rooty Hill area by British colonists was performed by Captain Watkin Tench in 1789, with the expedition seeking out more fertile lands for cultivation after Sydney's coast proved unsuited for agricultural purposes. The name Rooty Hill was bestowed by Governor King, who reserved 6000 acres of land in this area to build up the colony's stock supplies. Between 1815 and 1817, the Great Western Road (which would later become the Great Western Highway) was constructed between Emu Plains and Parramatta, and this served as an increasingly important thoroughfare for Rooty Hill⁶.

In 1819, Captain William Minchin was granted 1000 acres of land in Rooty Hill, which lay within the vicinity of the Great Western Road. Minchin used this grant to construct the Minchinbury Estate, and the settlement of Rooty Hill began to spring up around it. By 1859, the Minchinbury Estate was sold to Dr. Charles McKay, and over the ensuing decades the area was subdivided and sold off (Figure 2).

While the development occurring at this time was focused around the Minchinbury Estate, which was located approximately a kilometre to the south of the study area, some properties were being established approximately 3 kilometres to the west towards Ropes Creek. However, parish maps from this time do not give any indication of structures being developed within the study area (Figure 3).

⁴ Petersen, Chen, and Schlagenhauf-Lawlor, *Infectious Diseases*. p5.

⁵ Lennon, 'Troy Lennon Looks At The History Of Blacktown From Home Of The Darug People To One Of Australia's Most Ethnically Diverse Cities'.

⁶ Artefact Heritage, 2018, p6.

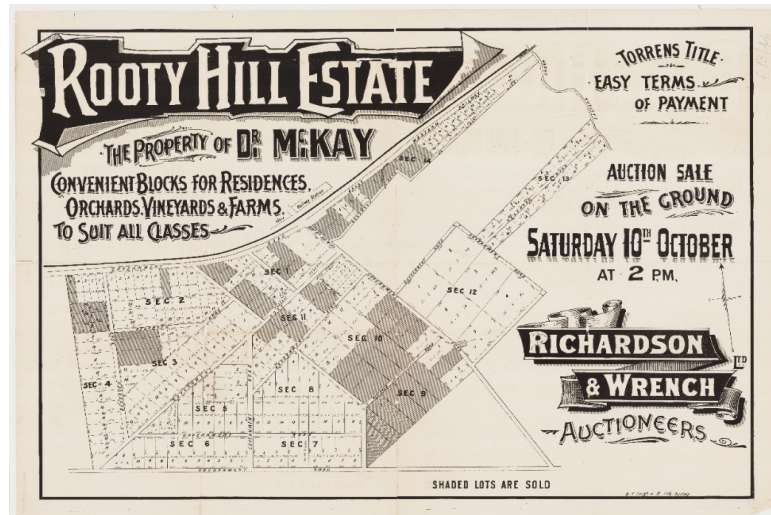


Figure 2: Section of Minchin Estate subdivided by Dr. McKay, c.1890 (Source: State Library NSW, Digital Collections)



Figure 3: Parish of Rooty Hill, 1835 (Source: NSW Land Registry Service, Historical Land Records Viewer, Historical Parish Maps)

3.4 Mid-19th to early 20th centuries development (1859-1906)

The subdivision of McKay's land led to a substantial increase in development in Rooty Hill during this period. The available plots of land were developed into residential, commercial and industrial estates

to meet the growing demands of Rooty Hill and its surrounding areas, which were developing at a comparable rate. In fact, much of Rooty Hill's significant built heritage can be attributed to this period.

The Rooty Hill Station was first opened in 1863 to support the growth of railway systems across the greater Sydney region. The Station served as a focal point around which the fledgling settlement gradually developed. Furthermore, it allowed for the transportation of local timber and agricultural products to markets within the wider Sydney region. The significant volume of these local exports and the Station's inability to effectively facilitate them is attested to in a newspaper article from 1870:

*"there are some hundred of tons of billet wood and sleepers piled up right along the line, so that it is impossible to get near the trucks, either for loading or unloading; and as there is no shed or place for stowing away goods, we are obliged to do the best we can at our own risk."*⁷

The Imperial Hotel, another important local landmark, was constructed in 1890 on the northern side of the train station. Whilst it serviced the immediate Rooty Hill area, it was also catered to visitors to the nearby greyhound races at Lamb's Woodstock Coursing Track in Plumpton. The Rooty Hill School of Arts was also constructed between 1902-1903, having been partially funded by the community for the purposes of community activities⁸. Crucially, it also served as the site of the first council meeting for the newly formed Blacktown Shire in 1906. However, despite the increase in development focused around the Station, parish maps demonstrated that the majority of the surrounding area / were still being used for agrarian purposes, including the study area (Figure 4).

⁷ 'Rooty Hill Station, Letter to the Editor', 14 July 1870, p2.

⁸ 'Rooty Hill School of Arts.', 8 November 1902, p2.



Figure 4: Rooty Hill Parish, 1917 (source: NSW Land Registry Service, Historical Land Records Viewer, Historical Parish Maps). Study area outlined in red.

3.5 20th and 21st centuries urban growth (1906-Present)

From 1906 onwards, Rooty Hill continued to expand and develop apace with the surrounding suburbs, which were growing increasingly urbanised and industrialised, and decreasingly agrarian. Aerial photographs demonstrate that whilst the area was still predominantly agrarian in 1943⁹, by at least 1985 the balance had shifted towards an urban/industrial environment (Figures 5 & 6)

After being incorporated into the Blacktown Shire in 1906, Rooty Hill came under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Blacktown when it received that title in 1961, and then ultimately the City of Blacktown in 1979 when it was granted this status.

From 1999 onwards, the area's heritage significance was acknowledged, with several items like the Rooty Hill Station being recognised as being of local heritage significance, whilst others, including the Imperial Hotel and the Rooty Hill itself, were acknowledged as being of state significance.

⁹ NSW Land and Property Information, 'SIX Maps'.

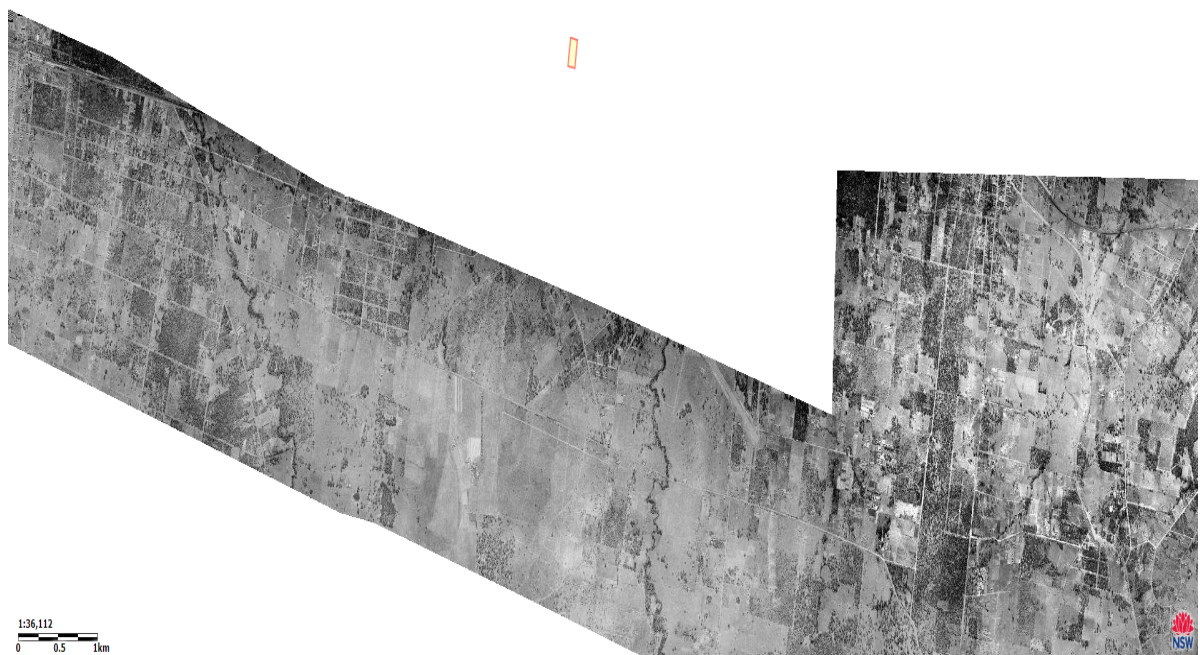


Figure 6: 1943 Aerial photograph of parts of Rooty Hill, demonstrating largely agrarian nature of land. Location of study area (not photographed) outlined in red (Source: SIX Maps).

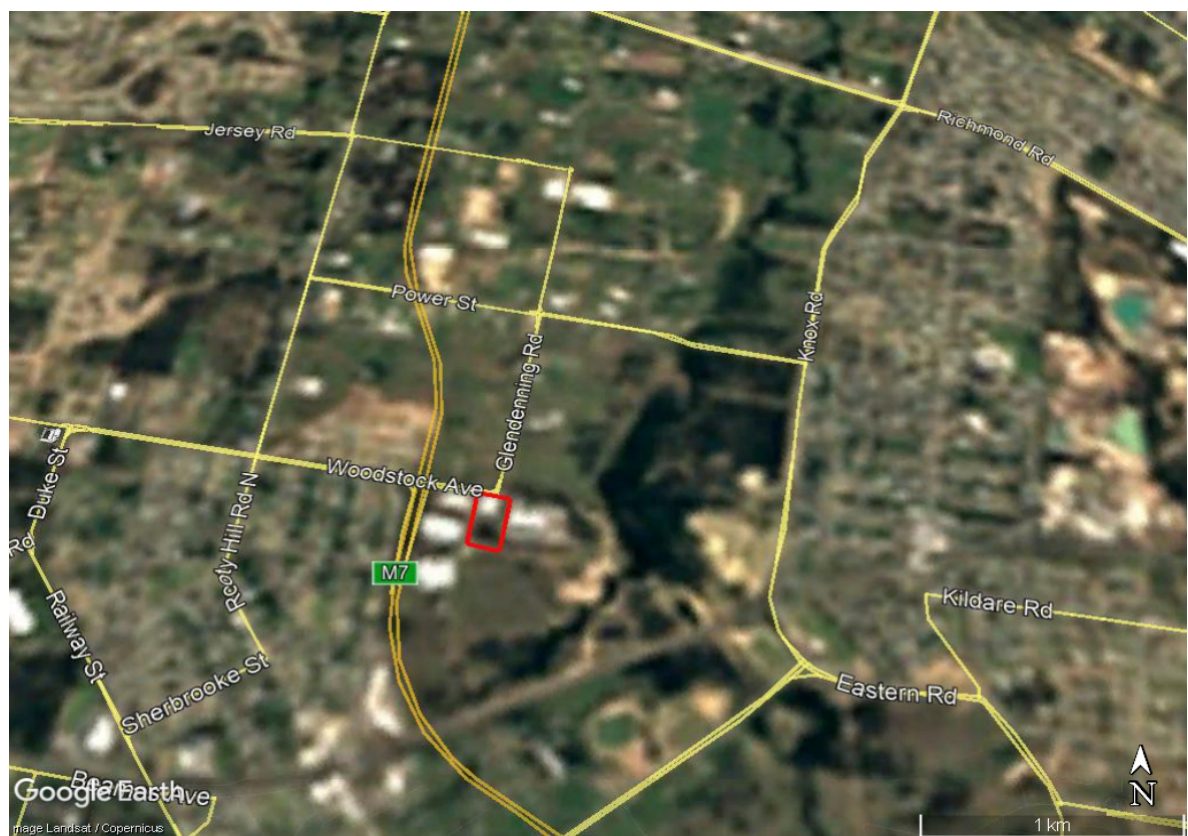


Figure 5: 1985 Aerial photograph of Rooty Hill area demonstrating increased development. Study area outlined in red (Source: Google Earth).

4.0 NON-ABORIGINAL (HISTORIC) ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 Methodology

Historical archaeological potential is assessed by identifying former land uses and associated features through historical research and evaluating whether subsequent actions (either natural or human) may have impacted on evidence for these former land uses.

Consideration of archaeological research potential is required when undertaking a significance assessment of an historical archaeological site. Bickford and Sullivan developed three questions to assess the research potential of an archaeological resource¹⁰.

- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can?
- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?
- Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?

The Heritage Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH now Heritage NSW) issued a new set of guidelines in 2009: *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*. These guidelines call for broader consideration of multiple values of archaeological sites beyond their research potential. The following section presents a discussion of the potential archaeological resource's research potential and an assessment against the NSW heritage significance criteria.

4.2 Physical site description

The study area is a block flanked on the northern side by Woodstock Avenue, and on the western and southern sides by Kellogg Road. It is bordered on its eastern side by an abutting property. The site is situated in an industrial area with the surrounding area being occupied by industrial and office buildings. The site itself contains an industrial building that covers most of the block, with some space set aside for parking. The northeast and southwest corners of the block feature trees which predate the current structure, having been unaffected by previous developments.

No site visit was undertaken as part of this Archaeological Assessment due to Covid-19 restrictions. Instead, a desktop assessment was carried out on 4 August 2021 by Sammuel Sammut (Graduate Heritage Consultant).

4.3 Previous Archaeological Studies

Previous archaeological studies have been undertaken around Rooty Hill, including but not limited to:

Rooty Hill Station Precinct – Accessibility and Commuter Parking Upgrade – Historical Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology, Artefact report to DesignInc, September 2018.

Rooty Hill Station is approximately 1km away from the study area. This report concluded that there were items of local heritage significance associated with the first Rooty Hill Station. However, these

¹⁰ Bickford and Sullivan, 'Assessing the Research Significance of Historic Sites'.

items are located within the immediate vicinity of the current Station and have no impact upon the Woodstock Avenue study area.

Rooty Hill Station Precinct – Accessibility and Commuter Carpark Upgrade – Statement of Heritage Impact, Artefact Report to Transport for NSW, November 2017

This report also focused on the Rooty Hill Station and its surroundings. It ascertained that whilst upgrades to the Station would cause moderate physical and visual impacts to items associated with the Station, these would have neutral physical impacts and negligible visual impacts to the State Heritage Register listed Imperial Hotel, which is also approximately 1km from the study area.

4.4 Land use summary

British occupation of the study area has been divided into three general phases of historical activity, which are summarised below:

- Phase 1: Early British settlement and pastoralism (1789 – 1859)
- Phase 2: Mid-19th to early 20th centuries development (1859-1906)
- Phase 3: 20th and 21st centuries urban growth (1906 – Present)

4.5 Assessment of archaeological potential

4.5.1 Phase 1: Early British settlement and pastoralism (1789 – 1859)

Archaeological remains relating to this early phase of settlement would be minimal due to the area being used predominantly for running livestock. Any archaeological remains would likely be ephemeral resources related to these agricultural activities. The construction activities taking place at this time were focused approximately 1km to the south on the Minchin Estate and The Rooty Hill itself, so it is unlikely that physical remains would be present within the study area.

The archaeological potential for recovering remains related to this historical phase is considered **nil**.

4.5.2 Phase 2: Mid-19th to early 20th centuries development (1859 – 1906)

Few specific details regarding the use of the land around the study area could be obtained, however what information could be found indicates that the area continued to be used for agrarian purposes. As none of the available plans or maps indicate whether structures were present in the study area during this period, it cannot be ascertained whether such structures were present, although their presence in the study area is considered unlikely. Furthermore, later construction activities within the study area are likely to have impacted any archaeological remains.

The archaeological potential for recovering remains related to this historical phase is considered **nil**.

4.5.3 Phase 3: 20th and 21st centuries urban growth (1906-present)

The available parish maps and aerial photography suggests that the study area continued to be used for agrarian purposes up until at least 1943. At some point between then and 1985, the area was developed into an industrial zone. While it is unclear whether structures associated with this phase were present in the study area, it is considered unlikely. Ensuing development within the study area is also certain to have disturbed any archaeological remains.

The archaeological potential for recovering remains related to this historical phase is considered **nil**.

5.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

This section will assess the impacts, both direct (physical) and indirect (visual), that the proposed works may have on heritage items in the vicinity of the study area.

5.2 Proposed works

The current design for the proposal will comprise the construction of:

- One Material Recovery Facility
- Three awnings across the site
- Two weigh bridges
- Thirty car spaces
- Two new access points from Kellogg Road
- One pump house and two fire water tanks
- Landscape clearing

The extent of the proposed works are illustrated in the preliminary architectural plans in Figure 7:

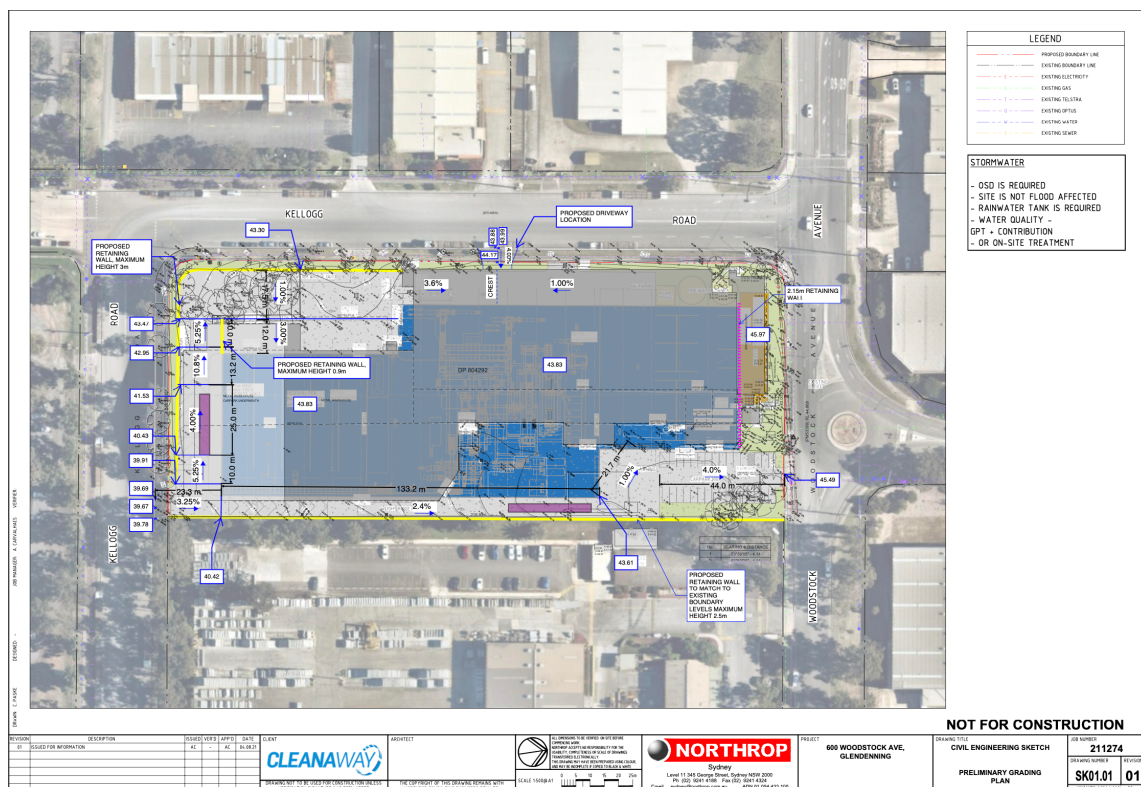


Figure 7: Proposed plans for the Western Sydney Material Recycling Facility (Source: Time Farrell Pty. Ltd.).

5.3 Heritage impact assessment

A desktop assessment revealed that there are no listed heritage items or elements of significant fabric located in the area. The findings of this report also suggest that there is nil potential for archaeologically significant items to be present.

5.3.1 Direct (physical) impact assessment

The proposed works within the study area include the construction of an MRF, three awnings across the site, two weigh bridges, thirty car spaces, two new access points from Kellogg Road, one pump house and two fire water tanks, and landscape clearing. Listed heritage items are positioned outside the study area at a distance of more than 1km and will not be physically altered as a result of the works. There would be no direct impacts to heritage items.

Due to the significant distance of the heritage items from the study area, it is not expected that significant fabric would be impacted by vibration associated with the construction works within the study area.

Overall, the proposal would result in a **nil** direct (physical) impact to surrounding heritage items.

5.3.2 Indirect (visual) impact assessment

The proposed works within the study area include the construction of an MRF and associated structures. The provided plans did not indicate the height of the MRF, although the offices being retained in the study area are two-storeys.

The study area and its surrounds have become increasingly industrialised and developed since the 1980s. Due to this, sight lines between surrounding heritage items and the study area have previously been obstructed. As the surrounding heritage items are located approximately 1km away from the study area and the proposed construction does not appear to be of a significantly greater height than the existing structure, no visual impacts will occur.

Overall, the proposal would result in a **nil** indirect (visual) impact to surrounding heritage items.

5.4 Cumulative impacts assessment

Cumulative impacts represent the incremental loss of, or modifications to, a heritage item or archaeological resource over time. These can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions and must therefore be considered within the wider development context in order to minimise impacts.

As the proposal has been assessed as having nil impacts to surrounding heritage items, there are no cumulative impacts as a result of the proposed works.

5.5 Summary

Overall, the project will have **nil** impacts to the surrounding heritage items.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusions in this report refer to non-Aboriginal heritage. Any conclusions and recommendations regarding Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity are included in a separate report: *Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment for 600 Woodstock Avenue, Rooty Hill* undertaken by Artefact Heritage in conjunction with this report.

6.1 Conclusions

This report concludes that:

- No listed heritage items are to be impacted by the proposed works.
- There is nil potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains within the study area due to the amount of disturbance that has previously occurred and the lack of evidence for occupation that would have resulted in relics.

6.2 Recommendations

During construction works, it is recommended that:

- An Unexpected Finds Policy is developed to be implemented in the unlikely event that relics are identified during ground disturbing works.
- All relevant staff, contractors and subcontractors should be made aware of their statutory obligations for heritage under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* and best practice as outlined in The Burra Charter 2013. This may be implemented as a heritage induction.

7.0 REFERENCES

- Attenbrow, V. *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*. Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 2010.
- Bickford, Anne, and Sharon Sullivan. 'Assessing the Research Significance of Historic Sites'. In *Site Surveys and Significance in Australian Archaeology*, edited by Sharon Sullivan and Sandra Bowdler, 19–26. Canberra: Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU, Canberra, 1984.
- Lennon, Troy. 'Troy Lennon Looks At The History Of Blacktown From Home Of The Darug People To One Of Australia's Most Ethnically Diverse Cities'. *Daily Telegraph*, 1 July 2016.
- NSW Land and Property Information. 'SIX Maps'. <http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>, n.d.
- OEH. 'ESpade: Soil Landscapes', 2014. www.environment.nsw.gov.au/eSpadeWebapp/.
- Petersen, Eskild, Lin Hwei Chen, and Patricia Schlagenhauf-Lawlor. *Infectious Diseases: A Geographic Guide*. John Wiley & Sons, 2017.
- 'Rooty Hill School of Arts.' *Nepean Times*. 8 November 1902. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article100914058>.
- 'Rooty Hill Station, Letter to the Editor'. *Empire*. 14 July 1870.
- Sloss, C.R., B.G. Jones, and C. V. Murray-Wallace. 'Holocene Sea Level Change on the Southeast Coast of Australia'. *The Holocene* 17 (2007): 999–1014.



artefact

Artefact Heritage

ABN 73 144 973 526
Level 4, Building B
35 Saunders Street
Pyrmont NSW 2009
Australia

+61 2 9518 8411
office@artefact.net.au
www.artefact.net.au