

Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park

Heritage Impact Assessment

Report to Inner West Council c/o
Ernst and Young

July 2026



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Document history and status

Revision	Date issued	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date approved	Revision type
1	30.06.2026	Jenny Winnett	Jenny Winnett	30.06.2026	Draft
2	30.06.2026	Ernst and Young	Ernst and Young	30.06.2026	Draft
3	01.07.2026	Chamathya Gunawardena	Chamathya Gunawardena	01.07.2026	Final
4					

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Project number:	260287
Name of organisation:	Artefact Heritage and Environment
Document version:	Final

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artefact Heritage and Environment have been engaged by Inner West Council to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed plantings and vegetation landscaping within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park.

Leichhardt Oval is proposed to be refurbished which would include upgrades to the existing western grandstand and seating bowl, a new northern grandstand, and an increase in the number of fixed seating (no change to overall spectator capacity). The project was declared a State Significant Development (SSD–85149458) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Artefact Heritage prepared a Statement of Heritage Impact for the project to satisfy schedule 19 of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued on 23 June 2025. In the Response to Submissions, to compensate for tree removals needed at Leichhardt Oval to accommodate the new Northern Grandstand, replacement tree planting was proposed within Hawthorn Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. A Heritage Impact Assessment of the tree planting sites was requested to cover this additional area, not addressed in the previously prepared Statement of Heritage Impact (originally dated November 2025, and revised in April 2026 to realign the site area to the boundaries shown on architectural and landscape drawings). This report has been prepared by Artefact to address the potential heritage impacts of this portion of the project.

Overview of findings

The study area incorporates Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park, located in Leichhardt, New South Wales 2040, and forms a separate study area portion within the broader Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment Proposal.

The study area is in the vicinity of the following heritage items, listed on multiple statutory registers:

- Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt branch) (Sydney Water s170 register, State Heritage Inventory #000140)
- Haberfield Conservation Area (nominated area of State significance) (Inner West Local Environment Plan 2022 #C54)
- Street trees - avenue of Brush Box (Inner West Local Environment Plan 2022 #I1083)
- Former corner shop and residence, including interiors (Inner West Local Environment Plan 2022 #I1117)

Based on the landscape drawings for the Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park planting works which were issued on 14 April 2026, the proposed works have the potential to result in the following:

- **Little to no** physical or visual impact on Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt branch). The works are limited to adjacent landscape planting within parkland and do not involve any excavation or modification of the canal, its retaining walls, or infrastructure. The canal would remain the dominant and clearly legible engineered landscape feature.
- **Little to no** physical or visual impact on Haberfield Conservation Area. The proposal is physically separated from the conservation area by the canal corridor and Richard Murden

Reserve, with no works within its curtilage or setting. Existing view separation is maintained, and no built form is introduced that could affect the area's streetscapes or visual character.

- **Little to no** physical or visual impact on avenue of Brush Box street trees. The avenue is outside the proposal area, with no works affecting its curtilage. It would remain visually distinct within its streetscape context and would not be obscured, dominated, or altered by the proposed planting.
- **Little to no** physical or visual impact on the former corner shop and residence, including interiors. The item is already screened by intervening development and vegetation, and no works occur within its setting or view corridors. The proposal would not change its visibility or heritage appreciation.
- Construction-related vibration impacts would be **little to no** as works are expected to be temporary, and unlikely to be perceptible at nearby heritage items due to the small scale of works and distance.
- The works are consistent with existing landscape management, introduce no built form or structural elements, and would only result in incremental increases in canopy cover without affecting heritage significance or setting. As such there would be **little to no** cumulative impacts.

Approval pathway

The Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment project was declared a State Significant Development (SSD–85149458) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Artefact Heritage prepared a Statement of Heritage Impact for the project to satisfy Condition 19 of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued on 23 June 2025. The Response to Submissions identified that the southern portion of the project area, including proposed planting and vegetation works within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park, also required heritage assessment. These works were not addressed in the previously prepared Statement of Heritage Impact.

This report has been prepared by Artefact Heritage and Environment to assess the heritage impacts of the Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park component of the project and to support the Response to Submissions.

Recommendations and mitigation measures

- If works other than those discussed in this report are proposed, then additional assessment would be required to assess the potential impacts. This is in addition to the mitigation measures recommended in the previously prepared Statement of Heritage Impact which was originally dated November 2025, and revised in April 2026 to realign the site area to the boundaries shown on architectural and landscape drawings.

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Project background.....	1
1.2	Study area	1
1.3	Methodology	2
1.4	Authorship.....	3
1.5	Limitations.....	3
2.0	Legislative Context.....	4
2.1	Overview.....	4
2.2	Identification of heritage listed items	4
2.3	The World Heritage Convention	4
2.4	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	5
2.4.1	Commonwealth Heritage List	5
2.4.2	National Heritage List	5
2.5	Heritage Act 1977	5
2.5.1	State Heritage Register	6
2.5.2	Conservation management plans.....	6
2.5.3	Section 170 registers	6
2.6	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).....	6
2.6.1	Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 (IW LEP).....	7
2.6.2	Leichhardt Development Control Plan 2013.....	7
2.7	State Significant Development	7
2.8	Non-statutory considerations.....	7
2.8.1	Register of the National Estate	7
2.8.2	National Trust of Australia (NSW)	8
2.9	Summary of heritage listings	8
2.9.1	Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park.....	8
3.0	Historical Background.....	10
3.1.1	Wangal people.....	10
3.2	Post-contact history	12
3.2.1	Early settlement around Long/Iron Cove	12
3.2.2	Development of Haberfield, west of Long Cove Canal.....	12
3.2.3	Long Cove Creek to Hawthorne Canal.....	13
4.0	Physical Context.....	32
4.1	Site Inspection	32

4.1.1	Context	32
4.1.2	Study area	32
5.0	Significance Assessment.....	37
5.1	Methodology	37
5.2	Integrity	38
5.3	Existing heritage assessments	39
5.3.1	Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch) – (Sydney Water s170 SHI #000140)	39
5.3.2	Haberfield Conservation Area (nominated area of State significance) – (IW LEP #C54)	40
5.3.3	Street trees - avenue of Brush Box (IW LEP #I1083).....	41
5.3.4	Former corner shop and residence, including interiors (IW LEP #I1117)	41
5.4	Significant views and vistas	41
6.0	The Proposed Works	43
6.1	The proposed works	43
7.0	Heritage Impact Assessment	46
7.1	Overview.....	46
7.1.1	Physical heritage impacts	47
7.1.2	Visual heritage impacts	47
7.1.3	Potential heritage impacts	48
7.1.4	Summary of impacts to relevant heritage items	49
7.1.5	Cumulative impacts	50
7.2	Questions to be considered in a statement of heritage impact	50
7.3	Assessment against relevant policies	52
7.3.1	Leichhardt DCP 2013	52
8.0	Conclusion	54
8.1	Conclusion	54
8.2	Approval pathway	55
8.3	Recommendations and mitigation measures	55
9.0	References	56

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of study area (Source: Artefact, 2026)	2
Figure 2: Heritage curtilages at study area (Source: Artefact, 2026)	9
Figure 3: Parramatta River, Slade, George Penkivil, 1867 (Source: National Library Australia)	11
Figure 4. 1800s Parish of Petersham (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer)	13
Figure 5. Land grant to Hugh Piper dated 17 th October 1800 (Historical Land Records Viewer, Serial and Page Number 7-28)	14
Figure 6. Sketch showing proposed reclamation works for Long Cove Creek, 24 August 1889. (Source: State Library NSW, Newspaper Cuttings File Q352.09N)	16
Figure 7. Subdivision Plan of Leichhardt, n.d, showing areas reserved for recreation (Source: State Library of New South Wales, F.H. Reuss, n.d. '165 – Z/SP/L5/153 – [Plan of Leichhardt])	17
Figure 8. Construction of Hawthorne Canal at Haberfield, c.1926-1929 (Source: Sydney Water via ABC News, accessed online https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-21/what-happened-to-sydneys-grand-plans-for-a-system-of-canal/9859904)	18
Figure 9. Leichhardt Subdivision plan first showing Canal Road, 1901 (Source: State Library of New South Wales)	19
Figure 10. Modifications to Hawthorne Canal in 1922 (Source: NSW State Records, Hawthorne Canal file, via Sabolch, M., 2006. <i>Hawthorne Canal</i> , p. 84)	22
Figure 11. 1930 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)	23
Figure 12. 1940 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)	24
Figure 13. 1951 serial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)	25
Figure 14. Sediment and base of Hawthorne Canal and merging point of old and new walls (Source: Sabolch, M., 2004. 'Sediment and rubbish at the base of Hawthorne Canal is visible at low tide.' In Sabolch, M., 2006. <i>Hawthorne Canal</i> , p. 97)	26
Figure 15. 1971 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)	27
Figure 16. Hawthorne Canal Resumed, 1978 (Source: Peter Reynolds, 1978, 'Hawthorne Canal Resumed, 1891', Inner West Council Library: Peter Reynolds Collection. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at: https://innerwest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/BIBENQ/3343933/1007900,3?FMT=IMG)	28
Figure 17. 1986 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)	29
Figure 18. 1994 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)	30
Figure 19. 2002 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)	31
Figure 20: View of Darley Road Reserve and informal path leading to the light rail, looking north from street verge	33
Figure 21: Figure 22: View of Darley Road Reserve from pathway, looking north	33
Figure 23: View of Darley Road Reserve and informal path leading to the light rail, looking east	33
Figure 24: Figure 25: View of Darley Road Reserve, looking south	33
Figure 26: Hawthorne Lightrail stop, looking south	33
Figure 27: Southernmost pathway at Hawthorne Canal Reserve, leading to Hawthorne Canal overbridge and the Greenway, looking west	33

Figure 28: Hawthorne reserve study area, looking north, towards proposed tree planting area	34
Figure 29: Hawthorne reserve study area, looking north, towards proposed tree planting area	34
Figure 30: Looking west towards the canal retaining walls and Richard Murden Reserve, from western boundary of study area.....	34
Figure 31: Looking northwest towards the canal retaining walls and Richard Murden Reserve, from western boundary of study area	34
Figure 32: Hawthorne Canal, from overbridge and the Greenway, looking north.....	34
Figure 33: Hawthorne Canal, looking east the Greenway, with study area in the foreground	34
Figure 34: Hawthorne Canal, looking south from Greenway	35
Figure 35: Hawthorne Canal and row of trees along western boundary of the study area reserve, looking east	35
Figure 36: Hawthorne Canal and northern portion of Hawthorne reserve study area in the background, looking northeast	35
Figure 37: Looking west towards Richard Murden Reserve from the Greenway.....	35
Figure 38: Looking west from Richard Murden Reserve to Hawthorne Parade and Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area	35
Figure 39: View Darley Road, from eastern boundary of Darley Road Park, looking north.....	35
Figure 40: View of locally listed Street trees-avenue of Brush on Allen Street, looking east from southern boundary of Darley Road Park	36
Figure 41: Tree offset plan (Source: Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment, Cox Architecture, LOR CTX SD SI DRG LA 1100).....	44
Figure 42: Tree offset plan: detailed (Source: Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment, Cox Architecture, LOR CTX SD SI DRG LA 1101)	45

TABLES

Table 1: Results of register searches for the study area and heritage items within buffer zone	8
Table 2. NSW heritage assessment criteria	37
Table 3: Levels of Integrity	38
Table 4: Terminology for assessing the magnitude of heritage impact	46
Table 5: Terminology for heritage impact types	47
Table 6. Recommended minimum working distances for vibration intensive plant from sensitive receivers	48
Table 7: Assessment of heritage impact.	49
Table 8: Heritage considerations for project (Source: NSW DPE, 2023).....	50
Table 9. Considerations for specific types of works	52
Table 10: Assessment of proposal against Leichhardt DCP policies.....	52

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

Artefact Heritage and Environment (Artefact) have been engaged by Inner West Council (IWC) to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed plantings and vegetation landscaping within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park.

Leichhardt Oval is proposed to be refurbished which would include upgrades to the existing western grandstand and seating bowl, a new northern grandstand, and an increase in the number of fixed seating (no change to overall spectator capacity). The project was declared a State Significant Development (SSD–85149458) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Artefact Heritage prepared a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) for the project to satisfy schedule 19 of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued on 23 June 2025. In the Response to Submissions, to compensate for tree removals needed at Leichhardt Oval to accommodate the new Northern Grandstand, replacement tree planting was proposed within Hawthorn Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. A Heritage Impact Assessment of the tree planting sites was requested to cover this additional area, not addressed in the previously prepared Statement of Heritage Impact which was originally dated November 2025, and revised in April 2026 to realign the site area to the boundaries shown on architectural and landscape drawings.

Therefore, Artefact has been engaged by IWC to assess this additional portion of the project through a HIA. This report has been prepared by Artefact to address the heritage impacts of the proposed tree planting. The study area is therefore limited to Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park.

1.2 Study area

The study area relates to Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park located in the suburb of Leichhardt NSW 2040 and forms a separate study area portion within the broader Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment Proposal.

The study area is within the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA), the Parish of Petersham and County of Cumberland.

The Hawthorne Canal Reserve portion of the study area is located within an open corridor associated with the Hawthorne Canal which is bounded by the canal and The Greenway pedestrian/cycling route to the west and the Hawthorne light rail to the east. The Darley Road Park is a recreation park, and is bounded by Hawthorne light rail to the west and Darley Road and residential development to the east. The study area includes a mix of landscaped parkland, recreational open space, pedestrian and paths, dog parks and scattered tree canopies. The location of the study area is illustrated in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Location of study area (Source: Artefact, 2026)

1.3 Methodology

This report has been prepared in consideration of relevant state and federal heritage legislation, including the following:

- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- NSW *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act)
- NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The methodology and terminology used in the preparation of this report has been informed by the relevant heritage guidelines and standards, including:

- *Burra Charter* (Australian ICOMOS)
- *Assessing heritage significance: Guidelines for assessing places and objects against the Heritage Council of NSW criteria* (Department of Planning and Environment, 2025)
- *Guidelines for preparing a statement of heritage impact* (Department of Planning and Environment, 2023)
- *Material Threshold Policy* (Department of Planning and Environment, 2022)
- *Conservation Plan* (J. S Kerr, rev. edn National Trust of Australia [NSW], 1996)
- *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture* (Apperly, R.; Irving, R. and Reynolds, P, 1989).

1.4 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Chamathya Gunawardena (Heritage Consultant) with input and review provided by Jenny Winnett (Principal), all from Artefact Heritage.

1.5 Limitations

This report provides an assessment of built heritage and their values only and does not assess historical archaeological values and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

This report only assesses impacts to listed heritage items located within a 200 metre (m) buffer zone of the study area (illustrated below in Figure 2).

2.0 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

2.1 Overview

This section discusses the heritage management framework, notably legislative and policy context, applicable to the proposed development and study area.

2.2 Identification of heritage listed items

Heritage listed items were identified through a search of relevant state and federal statutory and non-statutory heritage registers:

- World Heritage List (WHL)
- Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL)
- National Heritage List (NHL)
- State Heritage Register (SHR)
- Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers
- NSW State Heritage Inventory database
- Inner West Local Environmental Plan (LEP) (2022)
- Register of the National Estate (RNE)
- National Trust of Australia (NSW) register.

Items listed on these registers have previously been assessed against the heritage assessment guidelines relevant to their peak governing body. Items that are of Commonwealth, National and World heritage significance have been assessed in accordance with the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act). Items of state or local significance have been assessed against the NSW Heritage Assessment guidelines. Assessments of heritage significance as they appear in relevant heritage inventory sheets and documents, are provided in this assessment.

There are several items of legislation that are relevant to the current study area. A summary of the relevant Acts and the potential legislative implications are provided below. Section 2.9 below includes a tabulated summary of register searches for heritage curtilages both in the study area, and in its vicinity. For the purposes of this report, 'in the vicinity' indicates a radius of 200 metres around the study area which captures heritage items that may experience visual impacts as a result of the proposed works.

2.3 The World Heritage Convention

The Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and National Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on 16 November 1972, and came into force on 17 December 1975. The World Heritage Convention aims to promote international cooperation to protect heritage that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations. It sets out the criteria that a site must meet to be inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHL) and the role of State Parties in the protection and preservation of world and their own national heritage.

There are **no items** listed on the World Heritage List within the study area or its vicinity.

2.4 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a legislative framework for the protection and management of matters of national environmental significance, that is, flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places of national and international importance. Heritage items are protected through their inscription on the World Heritage List, Commonwealth Heritage List, or the National Heritage List. The EPBC Act stipulates that a person who has proposed an action that will, or is likely to, have a significant impact on a World, National or Commonwealth Heritage site must refer the action to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (hereafter Minister). The Minister will then determine if the action requires approval under the EPBC Act. If approval is required, an environmental assessment would need to be prepared. The Minister would approve or decline the action based on this assessment.

A significant impact is defined as “an impact which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context or intensity.” The significance of the action is based on the sensitivity, value and quality of the environment that is to be impacted, and the duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impact. If the action is to be undertaken in accordance with an accredited management plan, approval is not needed and the matter does not need to be referred to the Minister.

2.4.1 Commonwealth Heritage List

The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) has been established to list places of outstanding heritage significance to Australia. Established under the EPBC Act, the CHL comprises natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places on Commonwealth lands and waters or under Australian Government control.

There are **no items** listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List within the study area or its vicinity.

2.4.2 National Heritage List

The National Heritage List (NHL) has been established to list places of outstanding heritage significance to Australia, including places overseas. There are nine matters of national environmental significance, these include Australia’s world heritage properties (as listed on the World Heritage List [WHL]), national heritage places, wetlands of international importance (listed under the Ramsar Convention), migratory species, listed threatened and ecological communities, Commonwealth marine areas, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, nuclear actions including uranium mining, and water resources in relation to coal seam gas developments and large coal mining developments.

There are **no items** listed on the National Heritage List within the study area:

2.5 Heritage Act 1977

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 SHR and cannot be demolished, altered, moved or damaged, or their significance altered without approval from the Heritage Council of NSW.

2.5.1 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 1,500 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. For works to an SHR item, a Section 60 application must be prepared for works that are not exempt under Section 57(2) of the Heritage Act.

However, where projects are managed under a State Significant Development (SSD) or State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) approval pathway, the normal requirements for approval under Section 60 of the Heritage Act are not applicable, with the exception of notification requirements.

There are **no** items listed on the State Heritage Register within the study area.

2.5.2 Conservation management plans

Under Section 38A of the Heritage Act, if a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is prepared for an item listed on the SHR, the Heritage Council of NSW may endorse the plan, and use the CMP to make regulations or provisions in relation to the SHR item. A CMP is not required under the Heritage Act, however the Heritage Council of NSW continues to recommend the preparation of CMPs as best practice heritage management documents for places of State Heritage significance and to consider suitable site-specific exemptions.

There is **no** conservation management plan for the study area.

2.5.3 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.

There is **one** heritage item listed on a Sydney Water s170 register adjacent the study area:

- Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt branch) (SHI #000140)

2.6 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)

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 requires that environmental impacts are considered prior to land development; this includes impacts on cultural heritage items and places as well as archaeological sites and deposits.

The EP&A Act also requires that local governments prepare planning instruments (such as Local Environmental Plans and Development Control Plans [DCPs]) in accordance with the EP&A Act to provide guidance on the level of environmental assessment required. The study area falls within the boundaries of the Inner West Council local government areas. Schedule 5 of the *Inner West Local*

Environmental Plan 2022 (IW LEP) includes a list of items/sites of heritage significance within this LGA.

2.6.1 Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 (IW LEP)

Heritage items listed on the IW LEP are managed in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.10 Heritage Conservation of this LEP. Under Clause 5 of this section of the IW LEP:

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

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.

There are **no** heritage items listed on Schedule 5 of the IW LEP within the study area.

The following items in the vicinity of the study area are listed on Schedule 5 of the IW LEP:

- Haberfield Conservation Area (nominated area of State significance) (IW LEP #C54)
- Street trees - avenue of Brush Box (IW LEP #11083)
- Former corner shop and residence, including interiors (IW LEP #11117)

2.6.2 Leichhardt Development Control Plan 2013

The Leichhardt DCP 2013 is a supporting document that compliments the provisions contained within the Inner West Council LEP 2022 and provides specific design detail in regard to sympathetic development on, or in the vicinity of, items listed on Schedule 5 of the LEP.

2.7 State Significant Development

When a project is approved as a SSDA under Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act, the conditions and provisions of most other State and local instruments are turned off and approved works are undertaken in accordance with relevant Instruments of Approval.

2.8 Non-statutory considerations

2.8.1 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** non-statutory heritage items listed on the RNE in the study area.

2.8.2 National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Listing on the National Trust Heritage Register (NTHR) does not impose statutory obligations and is more an indication of the heritage esteem held by the community.

There are **no** non-statutory heritage items listed on the NTHR in the study area.

2.9 Summary of heritage listings

2.9.1 Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park

The study area is located in the vicinity of heritage items, listed on multiple statutory registers. The curtilages of these items are illustrated in Figure 2.

No s170 curtilage for Hawthorne Canal is mapped in the SHI inventory. The operational curtilage of Hawthorne Canal is described by Sydney Water as the channel beds, walls and coping of the canal.¹ The study area is directly adjacent the canal to the east.

Table 1: Results of register searches for the study area and heritage items within buffer zone

Register	Study Area/Item	Other items within buffer zone
Sydney Water Section 170 Registers	No items	Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt branch) (SHI #000140)
Inner West LEP 2022	No items	Haberfield Conservation Area (nominated area of State significance) (IW LEP #C54) Street trees - avenue of Brush Box (IW LEP #I1083) Former corner shop and residence, including interiors (IW LEP #I1117)

¹ SHI Inventory, Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch), accessed via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=4570001>



Figure 2: Heritage curtilages at study area (Source: Artefact, 2026)

3.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 Wangal people

The traditional landowners of the study area are the clan or group known as the Wangal (Wann-gal, Wanngal). They were one of around 30 clan groups across the Sydney region. The lands of the Wangal stretch along the southern shore of the Parramatta River between Gadigal land at Gomora (Darling Harbour), the Wategora at Duck River, and Burramattagal land centred on modern day Parramatta. To the north, across the Parramatta River, was Wallumedegal Country. The Wangal people have cared for the land and waters of this area for tens of thousands of years.

The mudflats, mangroves and saltmarshes here once teemed with plants, shellfish, fish, and wetland birds. The estuaries were surrounded by ancient, open forests of tall turpentine and ironbark trees that gave life to a rich diversity of animals and plants. Wangal men and women fished in the waters, hunted in the forests and collected resources sustainably for tens of thousands of years. They travelled the waters of Homebush Bay and the Parramatta River in nawi or tied-bark canoes that were made from bark gathered in the surrounding forests.

Wangal women, like the rest of the coastal or saltwater groups in the Sydney region, were important food providers for their families. One of the staple food sources was fish. While men speared fish from the shoreline with multi-pronged spears or *mooting*, the women fished from their nawi with lines and hooks. They made their fishing lines or carr-e-jun by twisting together strands of fibre from kurrajong trees, cabbage trees or flax plants. Animal fur and grass 'nearly as fine as raw silk' were also used to make lines. One colonist described them as 'nicely shredded and twisted very close and neatly'. The distinctively crescent-shaped fishhooks or burra were crafted from the turban shell.²

As the seasons changed, the Wangal people moved throughout their Country to access resources, set up camps and hold ceremonies. Songlines passed down through the generations guided the Wangal on their travels. They navigated the woodlands using a network of trackways that crisscrossed through Country. These tracks wove through kurrajong trees, Port Jackson fig trees and paperbarks. Many of these tree species can still be seen today in the bushland nearby.

Wangal women had extraordinary skills in fishing, swimming, diving and using watercraft. They sang as they fished and were seen fishing for long periods during the day, in all weathers, and often at night with small fires on board.

As one of the early colonists Lieutenant William Bradley observed in 1788;

'The Natives strike fish with their barbed Spears from the rocks & sometimes from the Canoe in with they stand up: in general we observe the Canoe occupied by the Women who fish with hook & line, which I never noticed any of the Men to use or that the women use the Spear. The line appears to be made from the inside / bark of the Cabbage tree, it is laid of two strands well twisted & strong. Their hooks seem to be made both from the claws of Birds & the inside of a shell resembling the pearl Oyster Shell, from the latter I have seen a hook made, they rub it down on the rocks until fit for their purpose & then shape the hook in a curve with a sharp

² Bradley, 'A Voyage to New South Wales, Dec 1786–May 1792', (1802) SLNSW, Safe 1/14, p. 133; Tench in *Sydney's First Four Years*, p. 284

*shell or stone; we found vast quantities of Oysters & other shell fish in the Harbour & Oysters of an amazing size in the uppermost Coves.*³

Although the resource rich foreshores of the harbour were the focus for Wangal, the areas inland around what is today's Drummoyne and surrounding suburbs were used as well. Here there were fruits, seeds, nuts and grains. Nectars, rhizomes and tubers were also harvested. Some parts of plants would have required special preparation to remove any poisons, but the seeds of all native grasses are edible. David Collins noted the difference between the inland areas and the foreshores, although did not observe the use of plants as closely as he might have;

*'The woods, exclusive of the animals which they occasionally find in their neighbourhood, afford them but little sustenance; a few berries, the yam and fern-root, the flowers of different banksia, and at times some honey, make up the whole vegetable catalogue'*⁴

Men used wooden spears and women wooden digging sticks - two of the most important possessions of Aboriginal people in the pre-colonial past. The Melaleuca tree's paper-like bark was used as shelter, wrapping, containers and for fire lighting. In 1791 John Hunter described how Aboriginal burning of grasslands was a practice 'constantly' done when the weather was dry. 'Firestick farming' was the practice of burning land to create new green shoots and thereby attract kangaroos and other animals for hunting, but fire was also used to control undergrowth and prevent larger bushfires.⁵

Due to the predominance of relatively soft sandstone around Sydney Harbour, hard stone used for axes and scrapers in particular, was traded from areas such as the basalt gravel beds along the Nepean River. Trading was extensive and far-reaching. Silcrete from an outcrop near present day Plumpton Ridge on the Cumberland Plain in Sydney's west and mudstone from the Hunter Valley or near Warragamba dam have been found around Sydney Harbour.⁶



Figure 3: Parramatta River, Slade, George Penkivill, 1867 (Source: National Library Australia)

³ Bradley, W., 'A Voyage to New South Wales', p. 133

⁴ Collins, *An Account*, 1789

⁵ Hunter, *An Historical Transaction*, 1793, p. 361; Tench, *An Account*, 1789, p. 284

⁶ Currie *Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go*, 2008, pp. 10-15

3.2 Post-contact history

3.2.1 Early settlement around Long/Iron Cove

At the time of European colonisation in 1788, the area around Iron Cove and what is now Hawthorne Canal would have been estuarine swamp and wetland areas. Early charting maps of Sydney, surveyed and drawn by members of the First Fleet, show that immediately west of the Balmain Peninsula, a wide body of water extended south from what is now Sydney Harbour and the Parramatta River. This river was named Long Cove Creek and would eventually become the Hawthorne Canal.

By the 1830s several land grants had been issued around Iron Cove and along Long Cove Creek, including those made to John Austen (1819 – 100 acres), John Darbyshire (30 acres), Hugh Piper (270 acres), Nicholas Bayly (480 acres) and William Thomas (38 acres), whose land grant was bordered on the southern side by Parramatta Road. On the eastern side of Long Cove Creek, Hugh Piper's 1811 land grant was purchased from by Walter Beames in 1846. Beames renamed the estate Leichhardt, after his friend and explorer Ludwig Leichhardt.⁷ In 1849 Beames began to subdivide the estate and development occurred rapidly.

While estates and agricultural proprietries were established on many of these land grants, overall, residential development in Lilyfield, Leichhardt and Haberfield was slow compared to other areas in Inner Sydney. The region had been utilised for noxious trades, dairy industries, pig and sheep farms, abattoirs and orchards and as a result subdivision did not occur until after these industries relocated to Botany Bay.⁸

3.2.2 Development of Haberfield, west of Long Cove Canal

On the western side of Long Cove Creek, the Iron Cove Peninsula formed part of a land grant given to Nicholas Bayly in 1806. By unknown means the land was acquired by Simeon Lord and formed part of his daughter's dowry upon her marriage to Dr David Ramsay.⁹ The estate was renamed Dobroyde and Dr Ramsay, a botanist, pursued his work there. In the 1880s, Ramsay's children sold the property to Richard Stanton, the mayor of Ashfield. Stanton was a town planning advocate and subdivided the estate. The suburb, known as Haberfield, was the first planned 'model suburb' in Australia and embodied international garden suburb principles.¹⁰ The area, particularly the Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area which borders the study area to the west, features significant architecture which represents much of the twentieth century, and greenspace associated with residential welfare and suburban beautification ideologies at the beginning of the twentieth century.¹¹ The garden suburb layout of Haberfield was a direct rejection of the overcrowded suburbs in Sydney and London that had become polluted and slumlike that had led to health problems.¹²

⁷ Inner West Council, n.d. 'Inner West Council suburb history'. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at: <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore/libraries/community-history/making-history/land-and-suburbs/inner-west-council-suburb-history#leich>

⁸ Sabolch, M., 2006, *Hawthorne Canal: the history of Long Cove Creek*, p.43.

⁹ Jackson-Stepowski, 2008. 'Haberfield', *Dictionary of Sydney*. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at: <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/haberfield>

¹⁰ Jackson-Stepowski, S., 2008. 'Haberfield', *Dictionary of Sydney*. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at: <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/haberfield>

¹¹ *Op. Cit.*

¹² Inner West Council, 2016. Comprehensive Inner West DCP 2016, 'Chapter 42 Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area.'

3.2.3 Long Cove Creek to Hawthorne Canal

Throughout the 1880s, a process of reclamation for settlement began to occur around Iron Cove, where foreshore areas were extended by transported fill including demolition rubble, industrial and household waste, and cement. However, when comparing Long Cove and Long Cove Creek on the map from c.1800 (Figure 4), Long Cove Creek appears to have been narrowed through reclamation already, although this is not historically documented. The c.1800 map shows that the study area was originally part of the 270-acre Crown grant to Hugh Piper on 17th October 1800.



Figure 4. 1800s Parish of Petersham (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer)

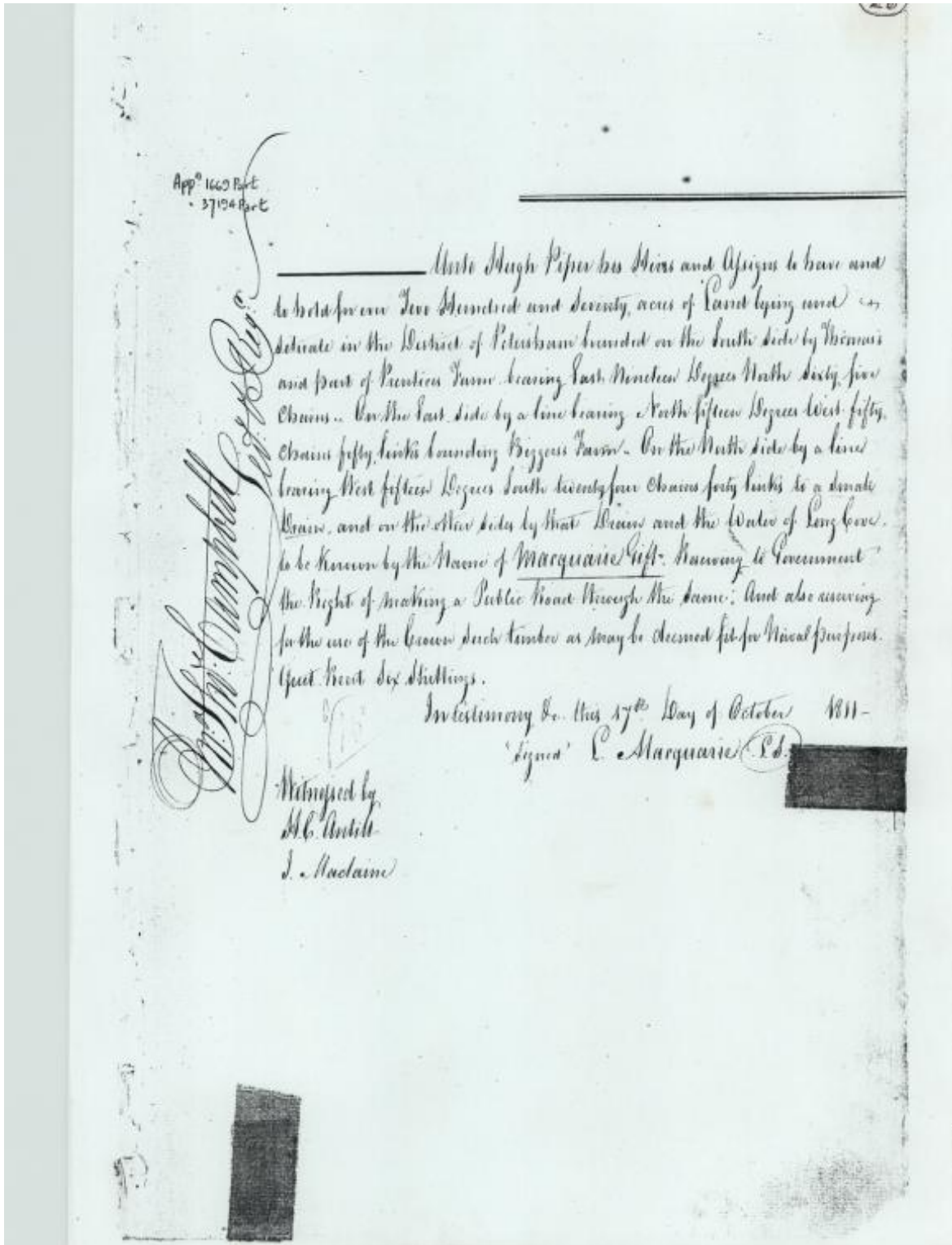


Figure 5. Land grant to Hugh Piper dated 17th October 1800 (Historical Land Records Viewer, Serial and Page Number 7-28)

By the 1890s, as a result of noxious industries in the area, sewerage run off, poor waste disposal, and land reclamation, Long Cove Creek had become heavily polluted and was seen as a health hazard.¹³ Furthermore, the idea of establishing a navigable canal from the Parramatta River to Parramatta Road was popular among locals and some politicians.¹⁴ The construction of a canal along Long Cove Creek was supported by John Hawthorne – member for Balmain and Leichhardt - in the NSW Parliament. Bruce Smith, the NSW Minister of Public Works in 1890, established a system of stormwater drains throughout Sydney to improve hygiene, including Hawthorne Canal.¹⁵ These works were significant as they were associated with ideas forming at the time regarding safe and healthy suburban areas for residents, as well as efforts to beautify many inner western Sydney suburbs.

Land was reclaimed on either side of the canal, (Figure 6) and was designated to be public reserves (Figure 7). The study area locations are within these areas dedicated for public reserve purposes. Construction on the Canal, first called Long Cove Canal but known as Hawthorne Canal by locals, began in 1890 and approximately two thirds of the canal was completed by 1896.¹⁶ Historic photographs suggest that the original lining walls of the canal were sandstone blocks, which are still evident today beneath the coatings of concrete. Following the construction of the Long Cove Canal in 1890, Canal Road was established by 1901, and is evident on a subdivision plan for lots on reclaimed land (Figure 9).

¹³ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, 2002. *Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch)*. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4570001>

¹⁴ Sabolch, M., 2006. *Hawthorne Canal*, p. 63.

¹⁵ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, 2002. 'Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch)'. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4570001>

¹⁶ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, 2002. 'Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch)'. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4570001>



Figure 6. Sketch showing proposed reclamation works for Long Cove Creek, 24 August 1889. (Source: State Library NSW, Newspaper Cuttings File Q352.09N)

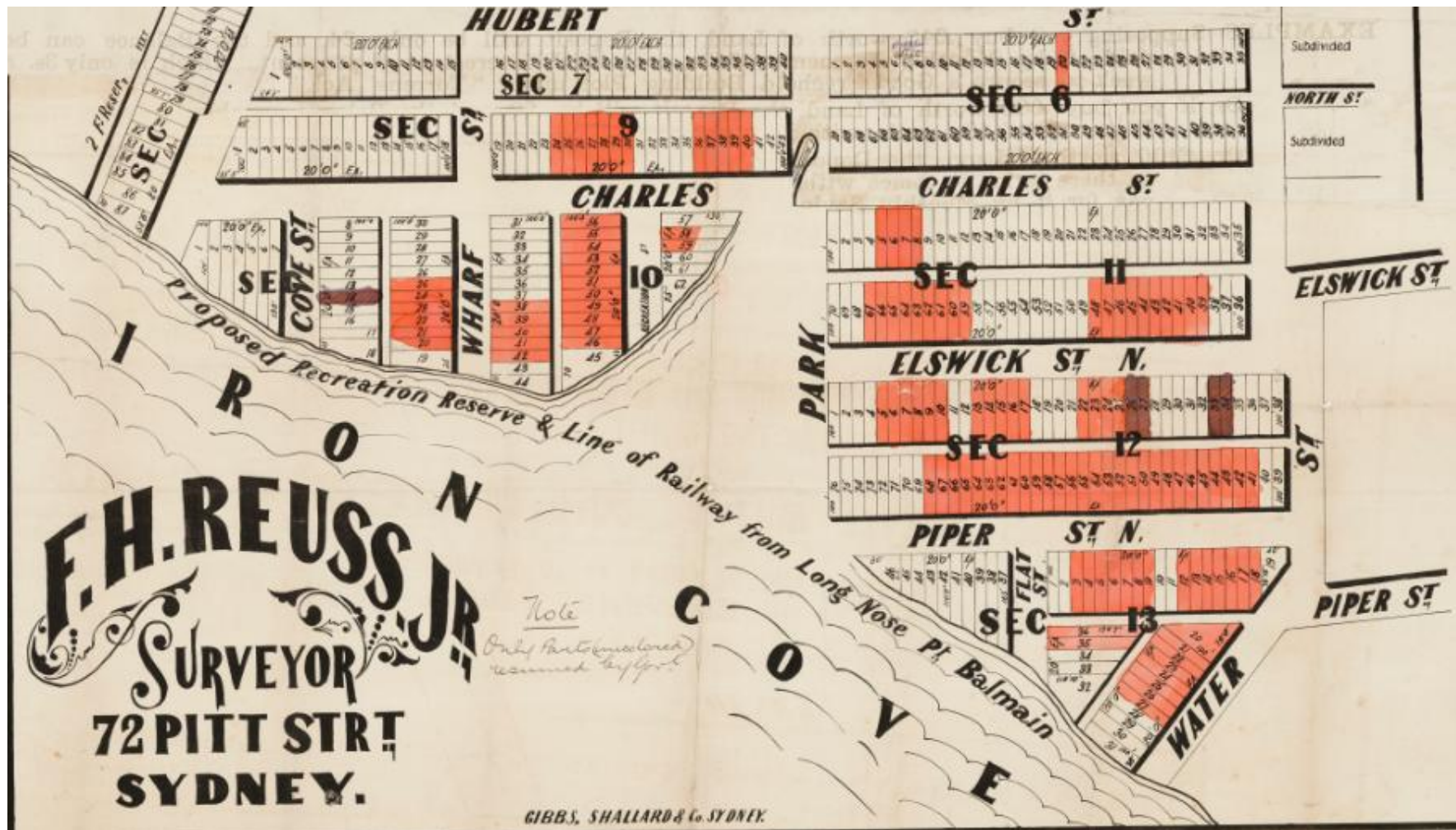


Figure 7. Subdivision Plan of Leichhardt, n.d, showing areas reserved for recreation (Source: State Library of New South Wales, F.H. Reuss, n.d. '165 – Z/SP/L5/153 – [Plan of Leichhardt])



Figure 8. Construction of Hawthorne Canal at Haberfield, c.1926-1929 (Source: Sydney Water via ABC News, accessed online <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-21/what-happened-to-sydneys-grand-plans-for-a-system-of-canals/9859904>)

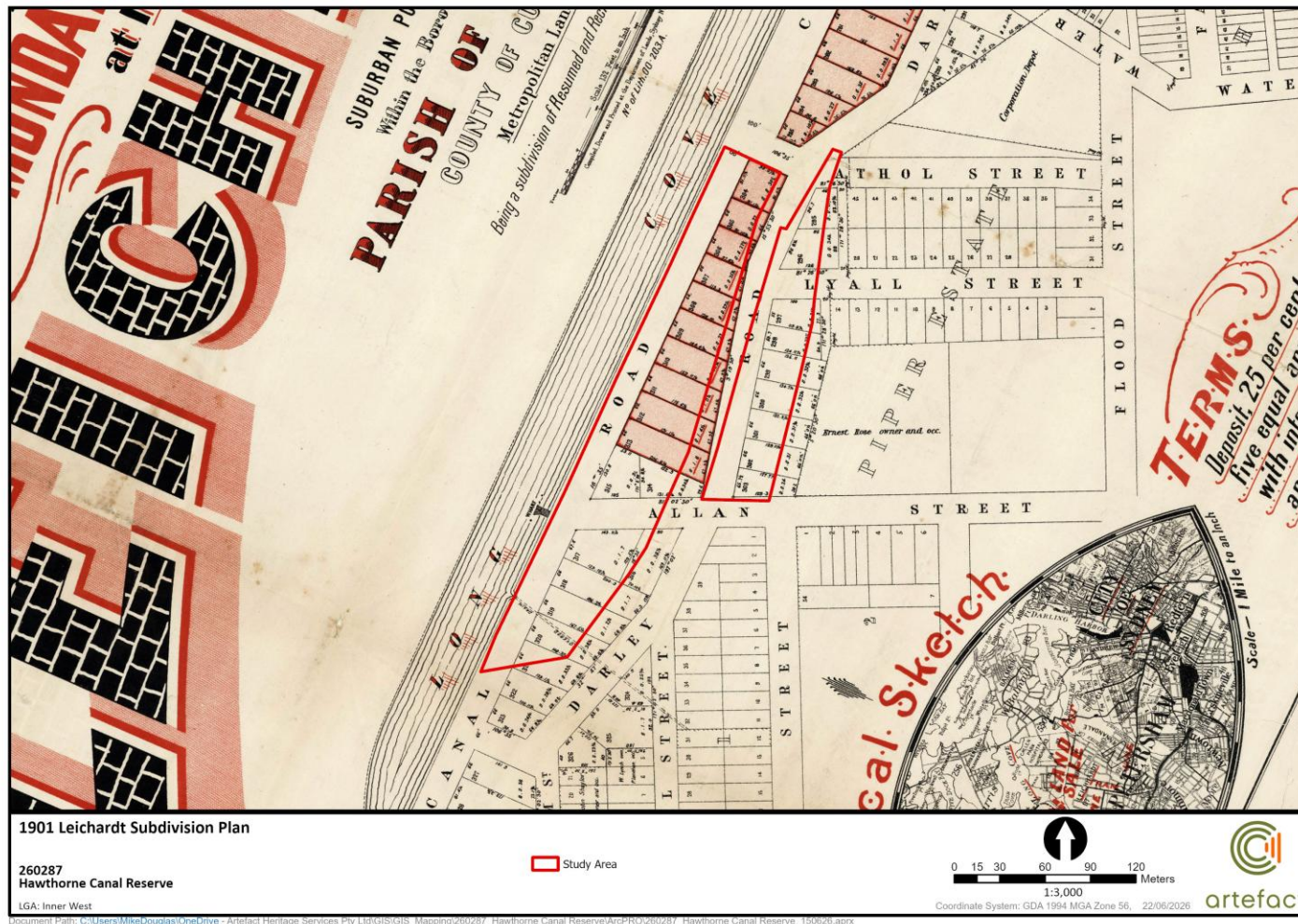


Figure 9. Leichhardt Subdivision plan first showing Canal Road, 1901 (Source: State Library of New South Wales)

Construction of Long Cove Canal continued until 1938 in some parts,¹⁷ with photographs showing works at Haberfield occurring in the late 1920s.

Figure 8 shows the construction methodology of the canal, which included the construction of a brick dam wall, excavation and flattening of the banks and base of the creek, and construction of shoring and framework on the banks of the canal prior to concreting of the sides.

Many upgrades and alterations have occurred to Hawthorne Canal. In 1915 part of the canal was realigned in association with the construction of the goods railway line through the area.¹⁸ Sedimentation had also been a serious issue in the canal, and throughout the early twentieth century various ways of fixing the issue were discussed by various government bodies. It was decided in 1939 that the canal would be narrowed by up to 40 feet for the whole length, so that it would function as a stormwater channel and sediment would not be able to settle at the base.

In 1941 it was announced in the Government Gazettes that the canal would be converted into a Stormwater Channel “commencing at an existing stormwater channel near the western extremity of Allen Street and extending northerly along Long Cove Canal’ to a jetty and then ‘downstream to Long Cove’.¹⁹ Historic aerial imagery of Sydney from 1930 (Figure 11) shows that at the time, the canal was wider than its current form, and was bordered on the western and eastern sides by narrow strips of greenspace where the study area is located. The 1930 aerial photograph shows that the areas now occupied by the Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Reserve were established as open spaces. At that time, Darley Road appears to have been a relatively undeveloped informal pathway or track, while the surrounding reserve is depicted as open vacant land. Similarly, Hawthorne Canal Reserve is shown as open space. The 1940s aerial (Figure 12) imagery indicates minimal change within the study area, apart from several likely temporary sheds or structures within the Hawthorne Canal Reserve.

The canal works were delayed as a result of World War 2, however throughout the 1950s many public complaints were made and completion of the works demanded.²⁰ A 1951 aerial image shows that at this time the canal is the same width as it was in the 1930s -1940s. The existing reserves in the study area appear to have still been vacant land, with minimal planting. Some established trees are visible towards the northern and eastern boundary of Hawthorne Canal Reserve. The temporary structures seen in previous aerials have been removed by this time.

It was likely by the 1960s/1970s the canal had been narrowed, primarily along the western side, with new reclaimed land and a new retaining wall created. Figure 14 shows the merging point of the old sandstone wall with the new concrete wall, and it is possible that remains of the sandstone wall are still buried. A 1971 aerial shows minimal change to the study area, with some informal dirt pathways running across the study area reserves.

The 1978 photograph by Peter Reynolds (Figure 16) shows that the narrowing of the canal had certainly occurred by this date, and clearly shows the difference between the sloping eastern canal wall and the new vertical western wall.

¹⁷ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, 2002. ‘Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch). Accessed online 11/6/2019 at:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4570001>

¹⁸ Sabolch, M., 2006. *Hawthorne Canal*, p.80.

¹⁹ *The Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*, 21 November 1941. ‘Public Works Act, 1912, As Amended. Hawthorne Canal: Conversion into Stormwater Channel.’ Accessed online 11/6/2019 at:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/225484169?searchTerm=hawthorne%20canal&searchLimits=-availability=y>

²⁰ Sabolch, M., 2006.

The alignment of Canal Road does not appear to have changed since its original establishment and the road corridor and reserve land between Hawthorne Canal and Canal Road have both been constructed on reclaimed land from the 1880s. From the 1970s up until the early 2000s, widespread community efforts to revegetate and beautify the reserves on either side of the canal including the study area occurred and resulted in the planting of hundreds of native plants and trees.²¹ A 1986 aerial shows the introduction of planting to the northernmost corner of Darley Road Reserve. By 1994 a variety of planting appears to have been planted across the study area reserves including the informal paths across Hawthorne Canal reserve.

The 2002 aerial photograph (Figure 19) indicates that most of the trees within the reserves bordering the study area were established by this time. Vegetation along the reserve boundaries had become well developed, while only a limited number of trees were evident along the western boundary of Hawthorne Canal Reserve.

²¹ Sabolch, M., 2006. *Hawthorne Canal*, p.100-5.

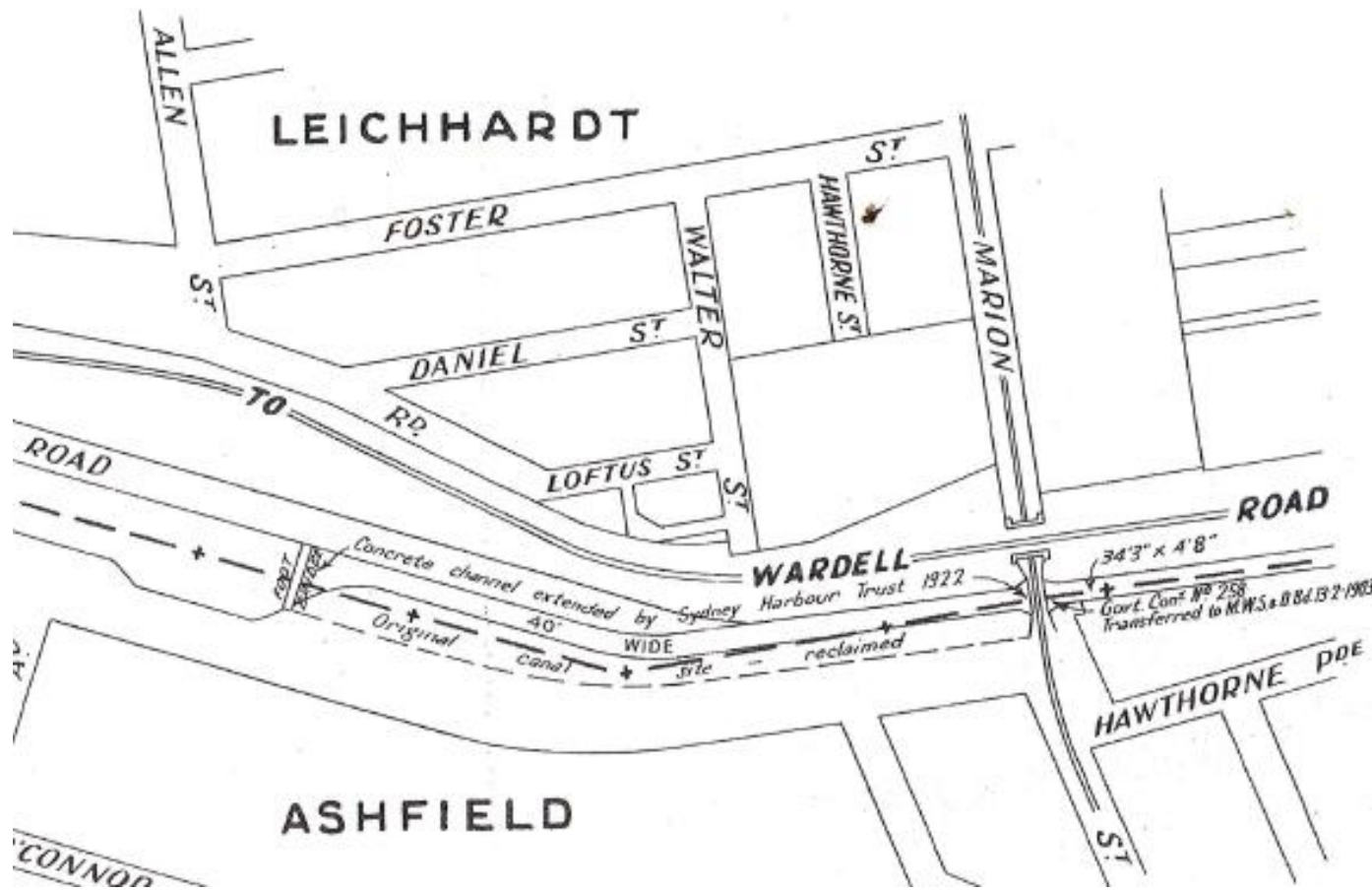


Figure 10. Modifications to Hawthorne Canal in 1922 (Source: NSW State Records, Hawthorne Canal file, via Sabolch, M., 2006. *Hawthorne Canal*, p. 84)

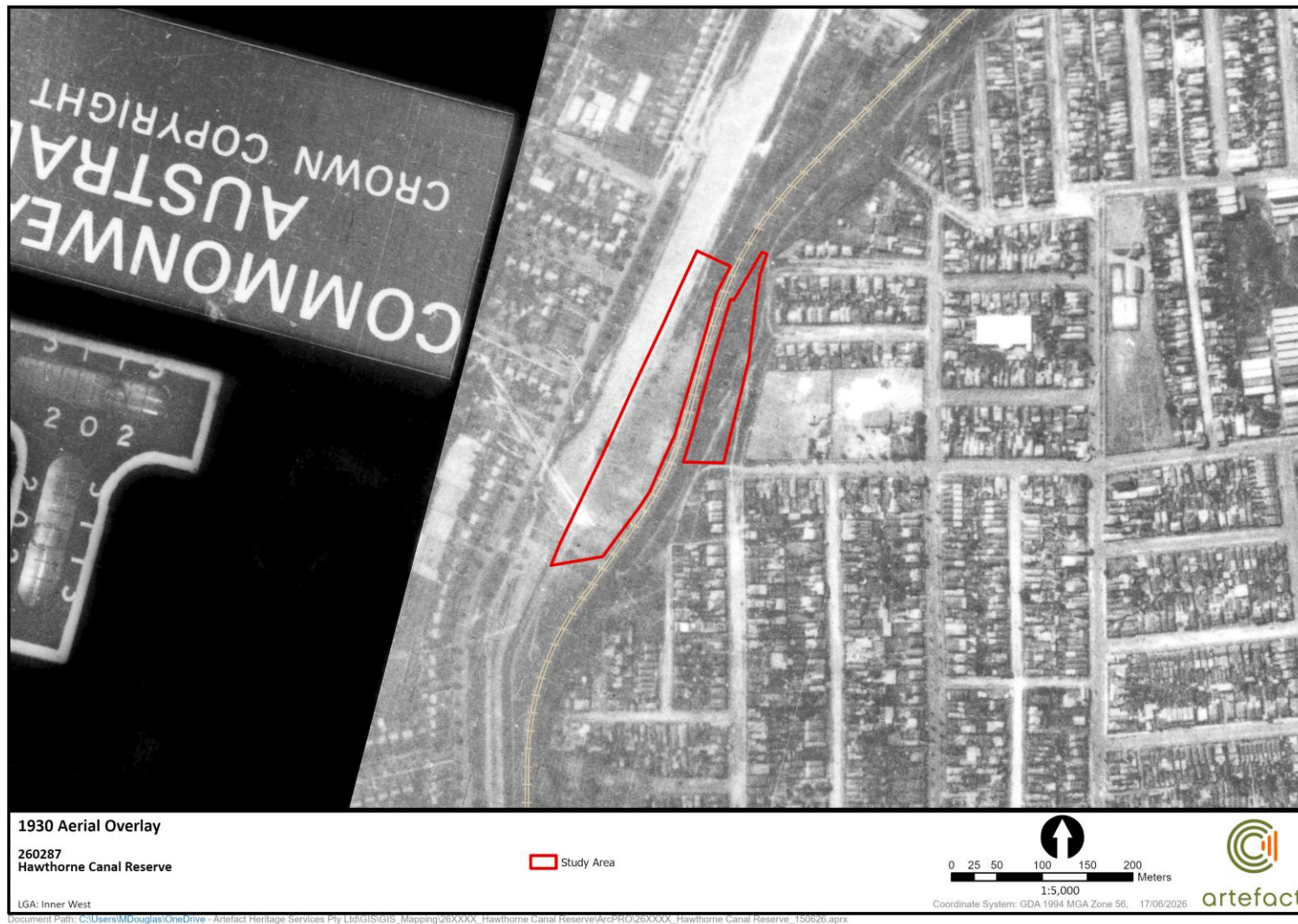


Figure 11. 1930 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)

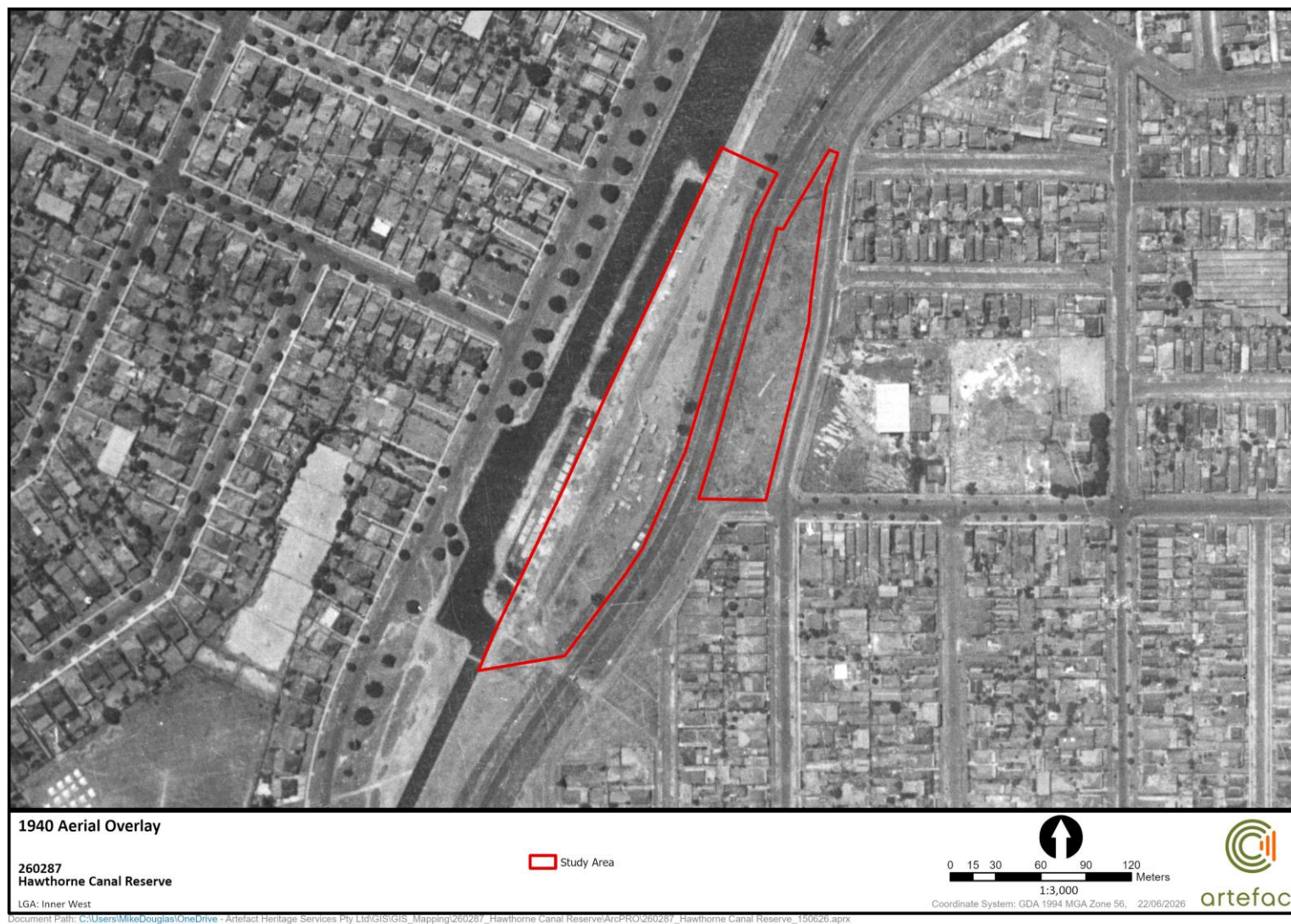


Figure 12. 1940 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)

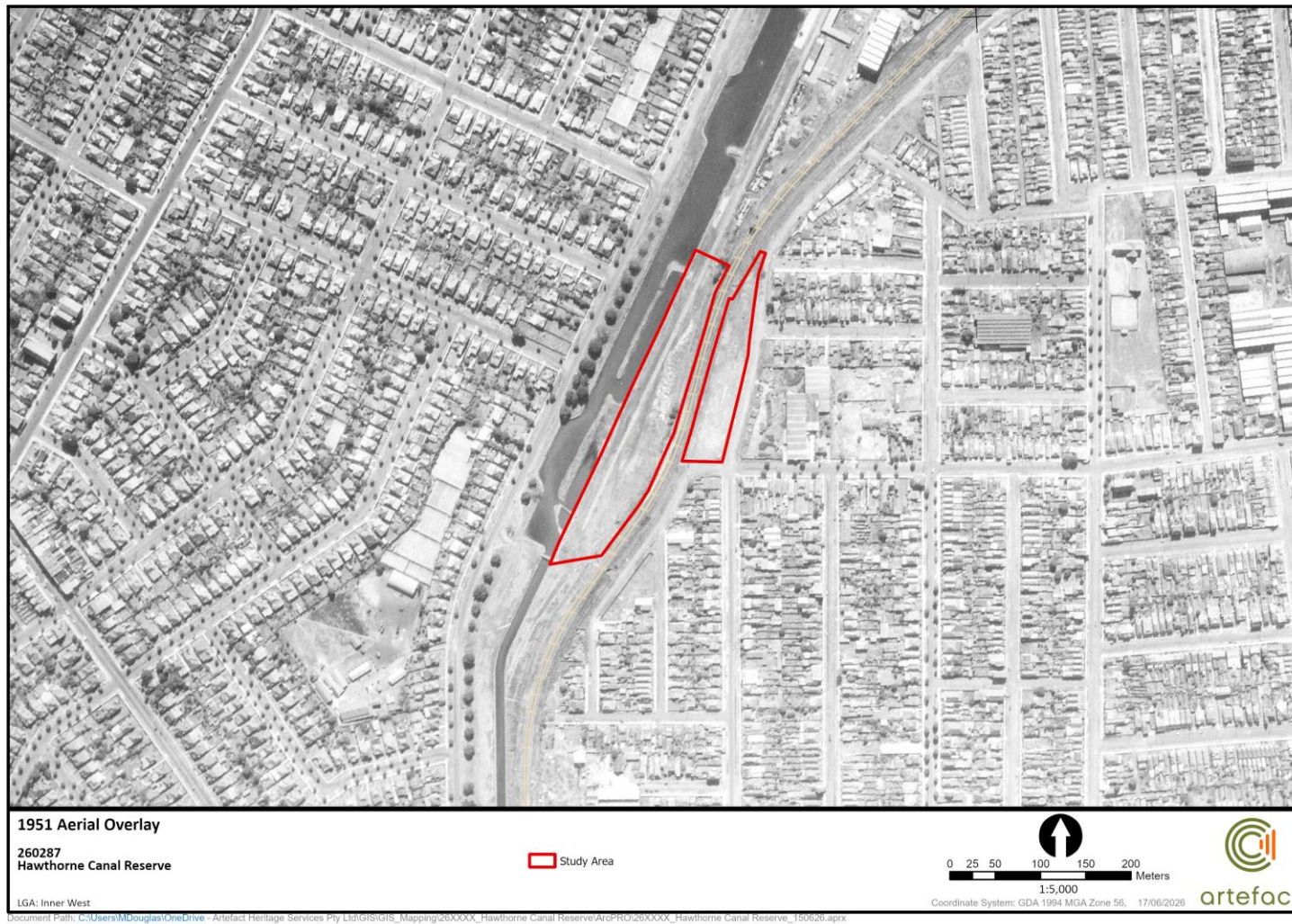


Figure 13. 1951 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)



Figure 14. Sediment and base of Hawthorne Canal and merging point of old and new walls (Source: Sabolch, M., 2004. 'Sediment and rubbish at the base of Hawthorne Canal is visible at low tide.' In Sabolch, M., 2006. *Hawthorne Canal*, p. 97)

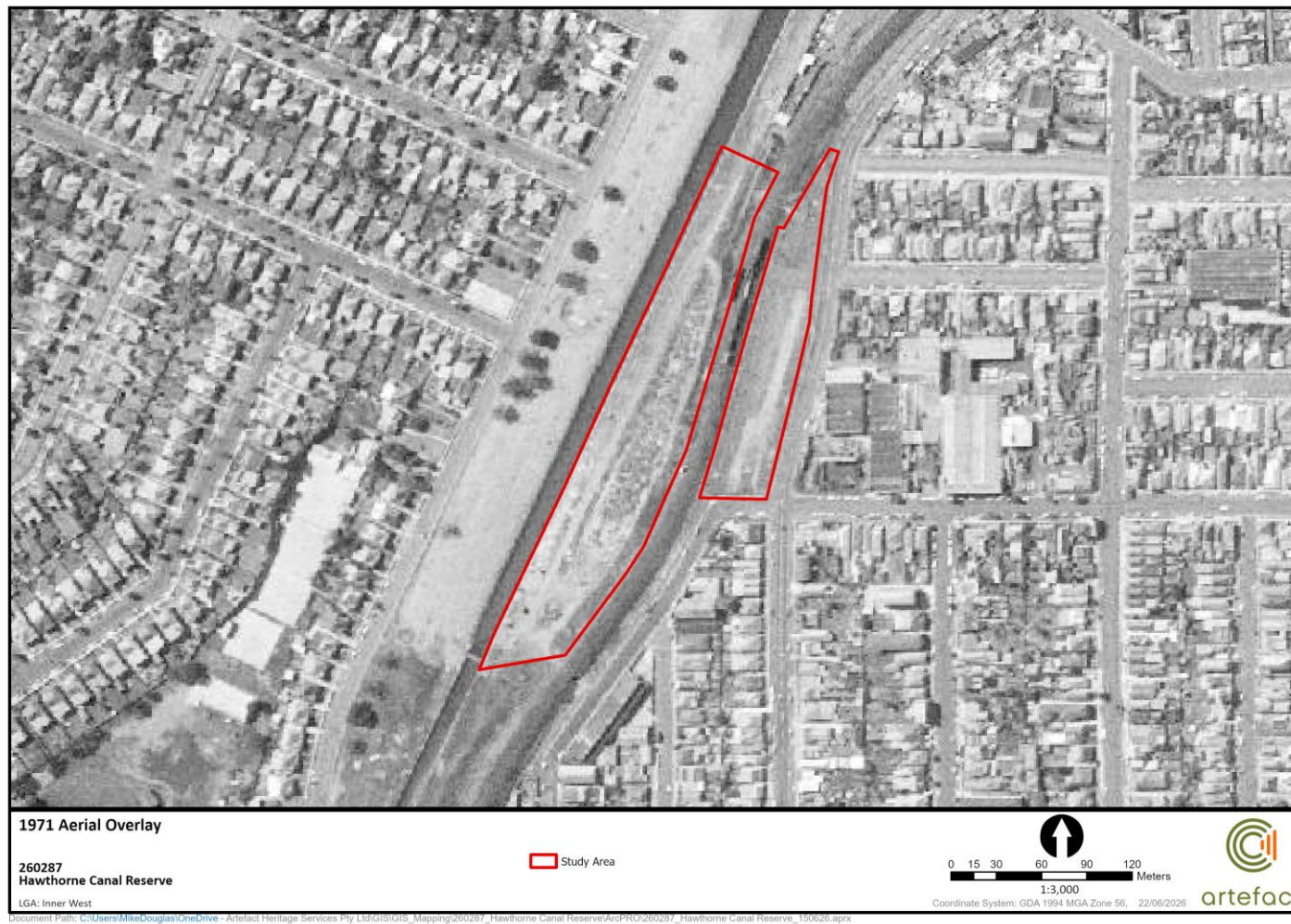


Figure 15. 1971 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)



Figure 16. Hawthorne Canal Resumed, 1978 (Source: Peter Reynolds, 1978, 'Hawthorne Canal Resumed, 1891', Inner West Council Library: Peter Reynolds Collection. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at: <https://innerwest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/BIBENQ/3343933/1007900,3?FMT=IMG>)



Figure 17. 1986 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)

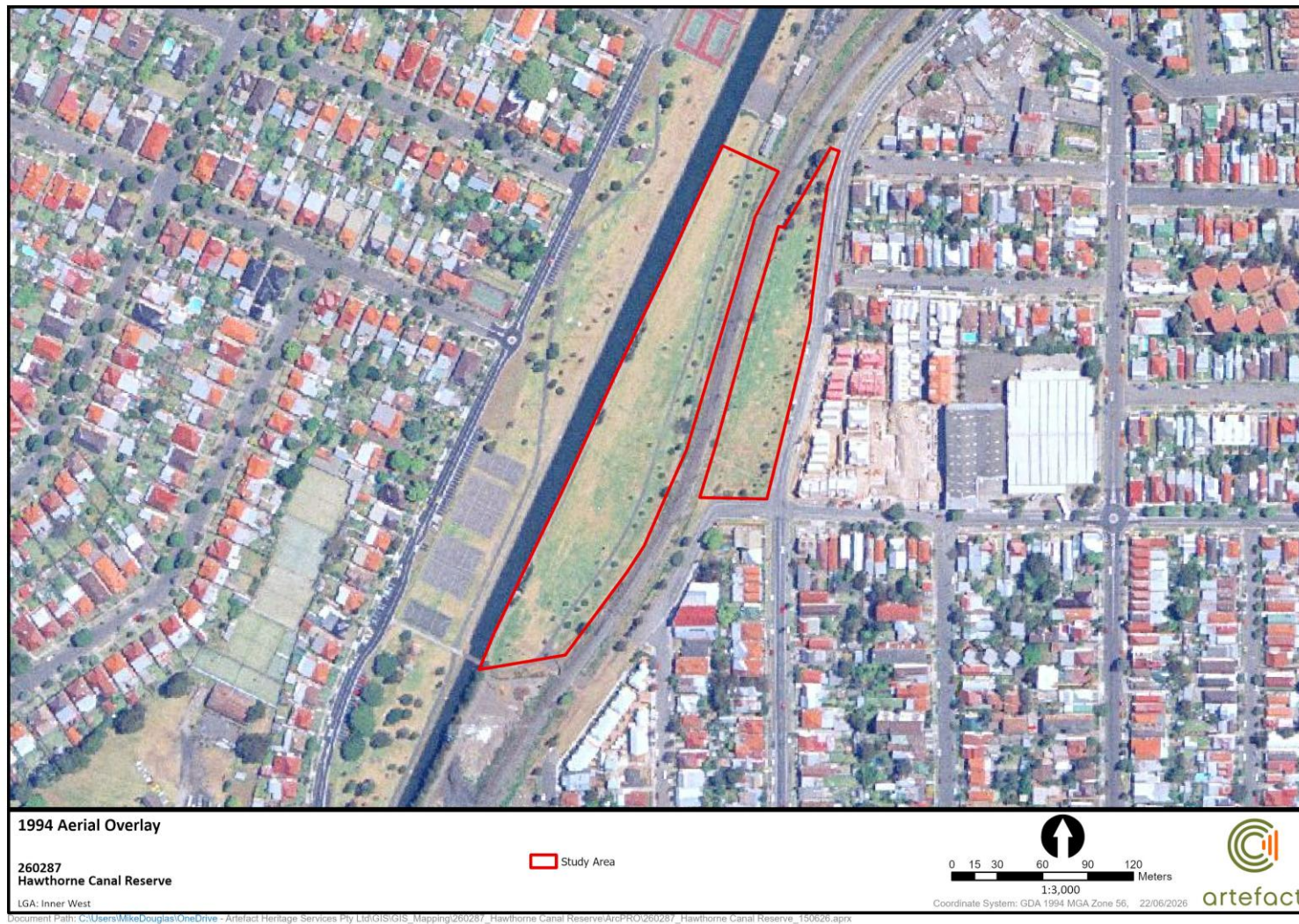


Figure 18. 1994 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)

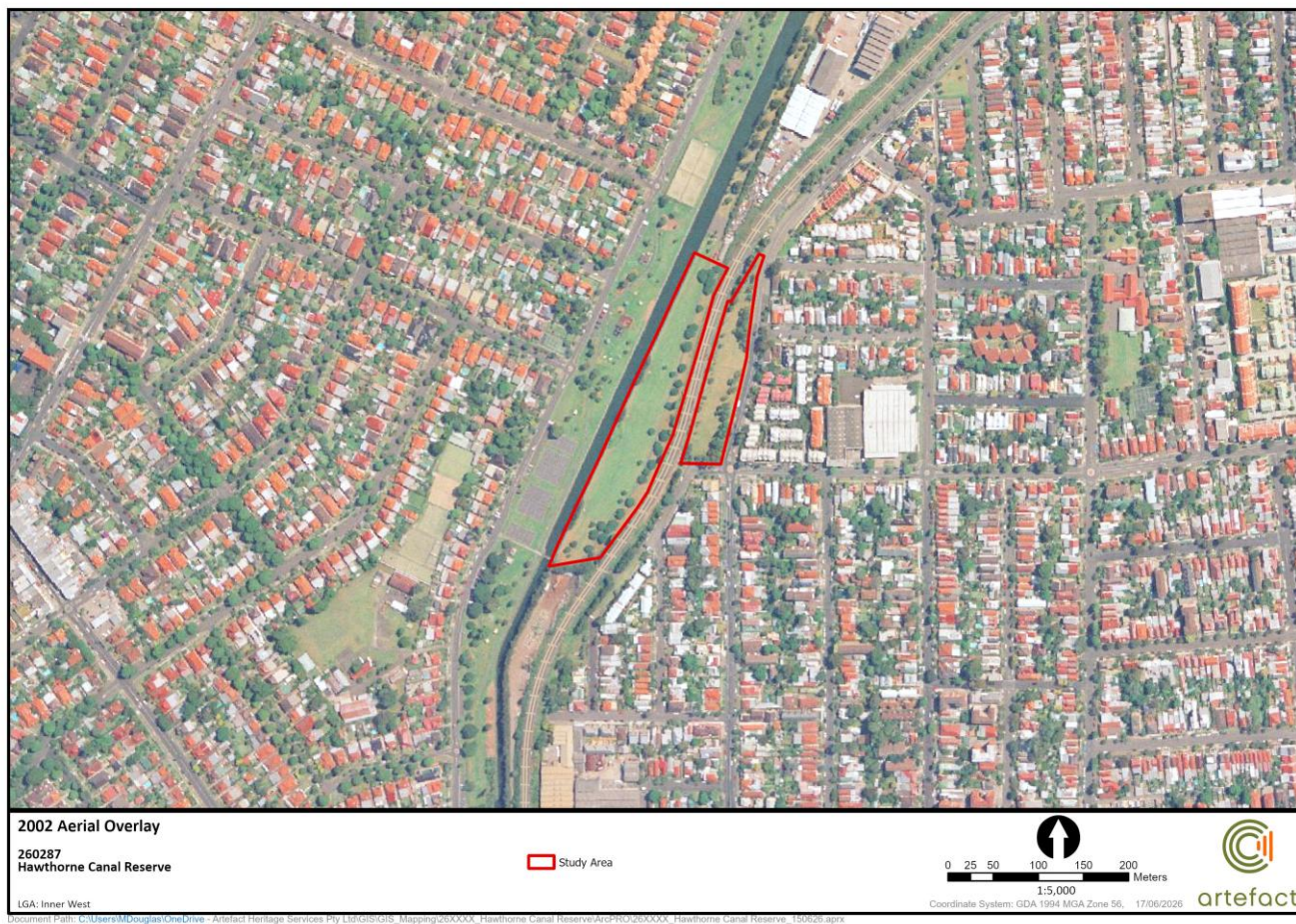


Figure 19. 2002 aerial of study area (Source: NSW Spatial Viewer)

4.0 PHYSICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Site Inspection

A site inspection was conducted on 17 June 2026 by Eunice Wong (Heritage Consultant) and Lily Hackett (Heritage Consultant) of Artefact Heritage. The aim of the site inspection was to inspect the area of proposed impacts, and to identify heritage items and heritage fabric in the vicinity that may be affected by the project. The inspection was undertaken on foot and a photographic record was made. The following photographs were taken by Artefact staff on 17 June 2026 unless otherwise indicated.

4.1.1 Context

The study area comprises a linear open space corridor extending along Hawthorne Canal Reserve (Figure 28) and Darley Road Park (Figure 21). It is characterised by a combination of passive recreation areas, established vegetation, shared pedestrian and cycle paths, and open grassed spaces.

The study area is generally bounded by the Hawthorne Canal and Richard Murden Reserve and Greenway (Figure 32) to the west, which extends in a north–south direction and separates the study area from the suburb of Haberfield. To the east, the study area adjoins residential development fronting Darley Road and surrounding local streets within Leichhardt (Figure 39). Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park are separated by the Inner West Light Rail corridor and Hawthorne Light Rail Station, which run north–south through the area.

The heritage listed avenue of Brush Box street trees are visible from the eastern side of the study area from Darley Road (Figure 40). The Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area is located west of Hawthorne Canal (Figure 38). The canal corridor, associated vegetation, and adjoining reserves provide a substantial physical and visual buffer between the study area and the conservation area.

4.1.2 Study area

The study area is characterised by open grassed recreation spaces bordered by clusters of mature and established trees (Figure 35). A network of formal and informal pedestrian pathways traverses the site, including paths connecting Darley Road to Hawthorne Light Rail Station (Figure 20). A further pathway and overbridge within the southern portion of Hawthorne Canal Reserve provides access to the GreenWay corridor and Richard Murden Reserve to the east (Figure 27).

Pedestrian access is available from Darley Road and surrounding residential streets, with multiple east–west connections linking the reserve to the adjacent neighbourhood. Hawthorne Canal is adjacent the western edge of the study area and is the dominant landscape feature (Figure 32–Figure 34) and is mainly visible from the western boundary of the study area. The canal contributes to a sense of visual openness while providing a clear physical and visual separation between Leichhardt to the east and Haberfield to the west. The canal retaining walls are highly visible along the western edge of the study area, although some views are partially filtered by existing vegetation in some areas (Figure 37).



Figure 20: View of Darley Road Reserve and informal path leading to the light rail, looking north from street verge



Figure 21: Figure 22: View of Darley Road Reserve from pathway, looking north



Figure 23: View of Darley Road Reserve and informal path leading to the light rail, looking east



Figure 24: Figure 25: View of Darley Road Reserve, looking south



Figure 26: Hawthorne Lightrail stop, looking south

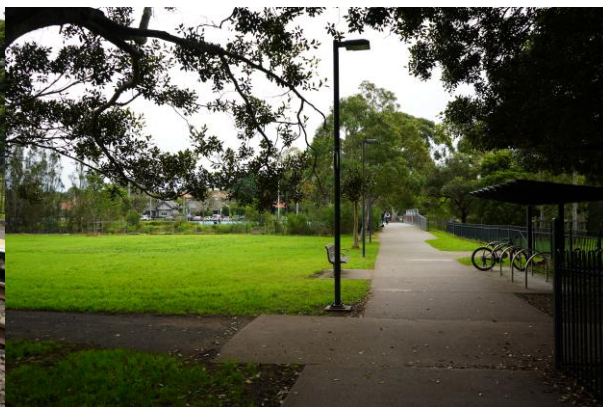


Figure 27: Southernmost pathway at Hawthorne Canal Reserve, leading to Hawthorne Canal overbridge and the Greenway, looking west



Figure 28: Hawthorne reserve study area, looking north, towards proposed tree planting area



Figure 29: Hawthorne reserve study area, looking north, towards proposed tree planting area



Figure 30: Looking west towards the canal retaining walls and Richard Murden Reserve, from western boundary of study area



Figure 31: Looking northwest towards the canal retaining walls and Richard Murden Reserve, from western boundary of study area



Figure 32: Hawthorne Canal, from overbridge and the Greenway, looking north



Figure 33: Hawthorne Canal, looking east the Greenway, with study area in the foreground



Figure 34: Hawthorne Canal, looking south from Greenway



Figure 35: Hawthorne Canal and row of trees along western boundary of the study area reserve, looking east



Figure 36: Hawthorne Canal and northern portion of Hawthorne reserve study area in the background, looking northeast



Figure 37: Looking west towards Richard Murden Reserve from the Greenway



Figure 38: Looking west from Richard Murden Reserve to Hawthorne Parade and Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area



Figure 39: View Darley Road, from eastern boundary of Darley Road Park, looking north



**Figure 40: View of locally listed Street trees-
avenue of Brush on Allen Street, looking east
from southern boundary of Darley Road Park**

5.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

5.1 Methodology

Determining the significance of heritage items or a potential archaeological resource is undertaken by utilising a system of assessment centred on the *Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS 2013). The principles of the charter are relevant to the assessment, conservation and management of sites and relics. The assessment of heritage significance is outlined through legislation in the *Heritage Act* and implemented through the *NSW Heritage Manual, Assessing Heritage Significance*²² and the document *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*.²³

If an item meets one of the seven heritage criteria and retains the integrity of its key attributes, it can be considered to have heritage significance (see Table 2). The significance of an item or potential archaeological site can then be assessed as being of local or State significance. If a potential archaeological resource does not reach the local or state significance threshold, then it is not classified as a relic under the *Heritage Act*.

'*State heritage significance*', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to the State in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.

'*Local heritage significance*', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to an area in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.²⁴

Table 2. NSW heritage assessment criteria

Criteria	Description
A – Historical Significance	An item is important in the course or pattern of the local area's cultural or natural history.
B – Associative Significance	An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the local area's cultural or natural history.
C – Aesthetic or Technical Significance	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area.
D – Social Significance	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
E – Research Potential	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local area's cultural or natural history.

²² Heritage NSW 2025.

²³ NSW Heritage Branch 2009.

²⁴ This section is an extract based on the Heritage Office Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics 2009:6.

Criteria	Description
F – Rarity	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the local area's cultural or natural history.
G - Representativeness	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places of cultural or natural environments (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

5.2 Integrity

Integrity relates to whether all the attributes that convey heritage significance are extant within the subject site and not eroded or under threat²⁵. Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the place and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, therefore requires assessing the extent to which the subject site or element:

- a) includes all elements necessary to express its heritage significance;
- b) is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's heritage significance;
- c) suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

Table 3: Levels of Integrity

Level	Definition
High	The physical fabric of the property and/or its significant features is in good condition, and the impact of deterioration processes controlled. A significant proportion of the elements necessary to convey the totality of the heritage significance conveyed by the property is included ²⁶ .
Moderate	The physical fabric of the property and/or its significant features have undergone some modifications. The changes may be reversible.
Low	The physical fabric of the property and/or its significant features have undergone substantial modifications and the original is irretrievable
N/A	Modern and / or intrusive fabric
Unknown	Elements that cannot be evaluated (ie. natural ventilation systems where their continued operation cannot be determined, fabric that cannot be inspected)

²⁵ Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, ICOMOS 2011, p10.

²⁶ Sheridan Burke, The long and winding road: a challenge to ICOMOS members, in *Changing World, Changing Views of Heritage: heritage and social change* ICOMOS, 2010

5.3 Existing heritage assessments

The study area subject to this assessment is located in the vicinity of several heritage items and a heritage conservation area curtilage. There are no heritage items within the study area boundaries. The nearby heritage items are summarised in Table 1. The following section provides the statements of significance for items in the vicinity of the study area.

5.3.1 Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch) – (Sydney Water s170 SHI #000140²⁷)

Of particular historical significance as one of the first nine purpose built stormwater drains constructed in Sydney in the 1890's. Prior to this period the water courses which served to carry stormwater were entirely in their natural state and were receptacles of sewage from the large population which had settled in the suburbs. In 1890, the then minister for Public Works, the Hon. Bruce Smith, MLA., appalled at the extremely unhealthy conditions prevailing at the time, proposed a separate system of stormwater drains be built to help alleviate the problem. By 1897 nine had been built including Hawthorne Canal. Of the nine stormwater channels Hawthorne Canal is the best example as it is the most intact. It provides a good representative example of the early stormwater drains built in Sydney in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

The operational curtilage of Hawthorne Canal includes the channel beds, walls & coping. The visual curtilage of the channel will vary along the length of the channel depending on the surrounding landuses. The visual curtilage will vary along the length of the channel depending on the surrounding landuse. To formulate a specific curtilage statement that includes details of surrounding landuse and encroachment of various developments would require further investigations and is beyond the scope of this study. However, the general visual curtilage can be described as follows:

- 1) The stormwater channel west of Parramatta Road is an underground structure. Therefore the upper reaches of the stormwater channel has no visual curtilage.*
 - 2) North of Parramatta Road through to Marion Street Leichhardt, the open cut section is flanked by urban and industrial development and can only be observed by the general public from the roadways*
 - 3) From north of Marion Street to the discharge point at Iron Cove the curtilage is defined by the streetscape of Hawthorne Parade, Canal Road and The Lilyfield/Leichhardt Goods Railway Line. The Richmond Marden Reserve flanks the canal and adds to the visual curtilage.*
-

Summary for significant criteria

The Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch) has heritage significance at the local level for its historic, aesthetic, social, research, rarity and representative values.

²⁷ SHI Inventory, Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch), accessed via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=4570001>

5.3.2 Haberfield Conservation Area (nominated area of State significance) – (IW LEP #C54)

A Statement of Significance for the Haberfield Conservation Area is not available in the SHI. However, a description of the conservation area and its significance is provided in the Heritage Conservation Area statement published on the Inner West Council website and reproduced below.²⁸

Haberfield is widely recognised as Australia's first successful, comprehensively planned and marketed Garden Suburb. Developed at the turn of the twentieth century and influenced by the international Garden City movement, Haberfield predates garden cities such as Letchworth (1904) and Hampstead Garden Suburb (1907). It helped shape NSW town planning practice and guided later model suburbs including Daceyville and Rosebery. The area retains its original character of single-storey brick houses on generous garden lots with consistent setbacks and a shared range of forms and materials. These qualities are central considerations when designing new development in the Heritage Conservation Area.

Key Features:

- *Planned as a Garden Suburb with uniform setbacks, generous garden allotments, and low front fences creating park-like street views*
 - *Intact street pattern and original allotment proportions*
 - *Federation period houses of high craftsmanship, predominantly Queen Anne and Arts and Crafts styles, with distinctive motifs such as the rising sun, waratah, and flannel flowers*
 - *Consistent use of high-quality materials including brick, stone, slate, and tiles*
 - *Integrated landscape design with remnant garden fabric, historical plantings, and early street tree plantings*
 - *Carefully detailed civic works including stone kerbs and gutters, nature strips, timber tree guards, and original street lighting*
 - *Strong historical associations with Richard Stanton and The Bunyas, and notable figures such as John Spencer Stansfield, Dr David Ramsay and the Yasmar estate, Joseph Neal Grace (Grace Bros), and Peter Dodds McCormick, composer of Advance Australia Fair*
 - *Cultural significance through Italian traditions and culinary influence along Ramsay Street, reflecting post-war migration patterns*
 - *Key period of significance: c. 1900 to the 1940s*
-

²⁸Inner West Council, Haberfield Conservation Area, accessed via <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2026-05/C54%20Haberfield%20Heritage%20Conservation%20Area%20.pdf>

5.3.3 Street trees - avenue of Brush Box (IW LEP #I1083)²⁹

The group of Brush Box trees in Allen Street are of local historic and aesthetic significance as a good and reasonably intact group of mature specimen trees. Despite the removal and replacement of some trees, the remnant group make a positive contribution to the streetscape character and enhance the built context.

Summary for significant criteria

The Street trees - avenue of Brush Box has heritage significance at the local level for its historic, associative, aesthetic and representative values.

5.3.4 Former corner shop and residence, including interiors (IW LEP #I1117)³⁰

No. 212 Flood Street is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance as a good representative example of a Federation period former corner shop and dwelling constructed in 1907. Despite some alterations and additions the building retains its original form, character and details including brick facades, splayed corner, roof form and chimney, posted balcony and a sense of the original pattern of openings including separate residence entry on the side street. The building occupies a prominent corner site and is a townscape element and makes a positive contribution to the Flood and Allen Street streetscapes and intersection.

Summary for significant criteria

The former corner shop and residence, including interiors has heritage significance at the local level for its historic, aesthetic, social, and representative values.

5.4 Significant views and vistas

The study area is characterised by a series of open views along the linear north–south open space corridor formed by Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. The combination of open grassed areas, mature tree planting and the adjoining canal corridor provides a relatively open visual environment with long distance views available throughout the reserve network. Open views to and from the study area are available from Darley Road to the east, the GreenWay and Richard Murden Reserve to the west, and internal views within the reserve itself.

A portion of the heritage-listed avenue of Brush Box street trees along Allen Street (IW LEP Item No. I1083) is visible from sections of the south-eastern portion of the study area adjoining Darley Road. The trees form a recognisable landscape element within the surrounding streetscape and provide a limited visual connection between the study area and nearby heritage fabric. Direct views to the former corner shop and residence (IW LEP Item No. I1117) are not available due to screening by intervening residential development and vegetation.

Views westward from the western boundary of the study area, within Hawthorne Canal Reserve, are focused on the Hawthorne Canal waterway, including its retaining walls, associated vegetation and

²⁹ SHI inventory, Street Trees- avenue of Brush Box, accessed via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1940642>

³⁰ SHI Inventory, Former corner shop and residence, including interiors , accessed via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1940679>

Richard Murden Reserve. The canal corridor forms a prominent landscape feature and provides a strong visual edge to the study area. Although the Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area is located further west beyond the canal and Richard Murden Reserve, direct views to contributory heritage buildings, streetscapes and other heritage elements within the conservation area are generally limited due to the intervening open space reserves, mature vegetation and separation distance.

6.0 THE PROPOSED WORKS

6.1 The proposed works

The proposed works involve planting, and vegetation works within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park as offset planting to compensate for canopy loss resulting from the removal of fig trees within the Leichhardt Oval project area.

This includes a total of 33 trees planted across Darley Road Park and Hawthorne Canal Reserve consisting of:

- 10 × *Tristaniopsis laurina*
- 3 × *Melaleuca ericifolia*
- 2 × *Melaleuca linariifolia*
- 3 × *Melaleuca styphelioides*
- 5 × *Eucalyptus botryoides*
- 5 × *Syncarpia glomulifera*
- 5 × *Eucalyptus tereticornis*

The proposal includes avenue planting along the existing informal pathway connecting Darley Road Park to the light rail station, together with grouped tree plantings within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park to increase shade provision within currently exposed lawn areas. The proposed species have been selected from the Sydney Coastal Enriched Sandstone Forest and Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest plant communities.

The proposed works are described in the landscape drawings issued on 14 April 2026 and provided below:



Figure 41: Tree offset plan (Source: Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment, Cox Architecture, LOR CTX SD SI DRG LA 1100)

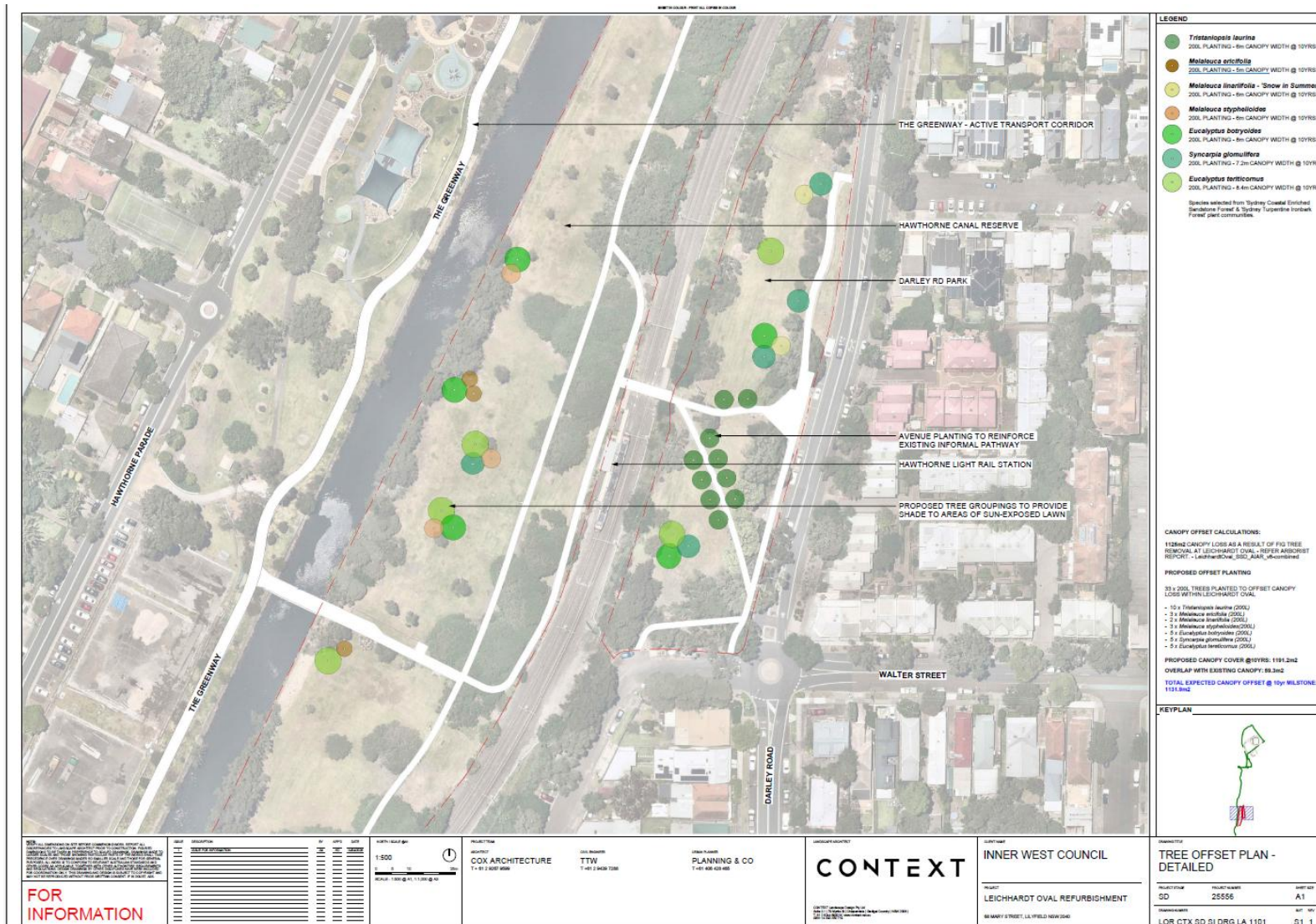


Figure 42: Tree offset plan: detailed (Source: Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment, Cox Architecture, LOR CTX SD SI DRG LA 1101)

7.0 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Overview

This section assesses the heritage impact of the proposed works at the study area on heritage values within the study area. Justifications are also provided for the proposed works.

Within this approach, the objective of a heritage impact assessment is to evaluate and explain how the proposed works will affect the heritage value of the study area and/or place. A heritage impact assessment should also address how the heritage value of the site/place can be conserved or maintained, or preferably enhanced by the proposed works.

In order to consistently identify the impact of the proposed works, the terminology contained in the following table has been references throughout this document. The terminology and definitions are based on those contained in guidelines produced by Heritage NSW³¹ and are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Terminology for assessing the magnitude of heritage impact.

Grading	Definition
Total loss of significance	Major adverse impacts to the extent where the place would no longer meet the criteria for heritage listing.
Adverse impact	Major (that is, more than minor or moderate) adverse impacts to heritage significance, defined as removing significant features, obscuring key views, or removing evidence of significant historical associations, which require substantial changes to the scope of works or design to sufficiently reduce those impacts. The material threshold applies when substantial changes to the application are required to reduce the adverse impacts to a moderate or minor level. Moderate adverse impacts to heritage significance. Actions in this category would include removal of an important part of a heritage item's setting or temporary removal of significant elements or fabric. The impact of these actions could be reduced through appropriate mitigation measures. Minor adverse impacts to heritage significance, defined as impacts to heritage significance that are minor enough that they are outweighed by other benefits of the application, for example sympathetic alterations to an original non-compliant balustrade to enable continued public use.
Little to no impact*	An alteration to heritage significance that is so minor that it is considered negligible. * Little to no impact (as opposed to no impact) acknowledges that any change will result in some level of impact/alteration to heritage significance.
Positive impact	Alterations that enhance the ability to demonstrate the heritage significance of a listed place.

³¹ Heritage NSW, *Material Threshold Policy*, 2020

Table 5: Terminology for heritage impact types

Impact	Definition
Physical	Impacts resulting from works located within or outside the curtilage boundaries of the heritage item, caused by removing or altering the item or fabric of heritage significance
Visual	Impact to views, vistas and setting of the heritage item resulting from proposed works within or outside the curtilage boundaries of the heritage item.
Potential	Impacts resulting from increased noise, vibrations and construction works located within or outside the curtilage boundaries of the heritage item.
Archaeological	Impacts to potential archaeological remains located within the curtilage boundaries of the heritage item.

7.1.1 Physical heritage impacts

The proposed works are limited to landscape planting within existing parkland and reserve areas and do not involve any excavation, modification, or works within the operational channel, retaining walls, or channel infrastructure of the adjacent Hawthorne Canal. Accordingly, there would be **little to no** direct physical impact on the fabric, structural integrity, or curtilage elements of the canal.

There will be **little to no** physical impact on the Haberfield Conservation Area, as the proposed works are located entirely within the Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park, separated from the conservation area by the canal corridor and Richard Murden Reserve.

Little to no physical impacts would occur to other heritage items in the vicinity (avenue of Brush Box street trees and former corner shop and residence) as they are located outside the proposal area and no works are proposed within its curtilage or immediate setting.

7.1.2 Visual heritage impacts

The proposed tree groupings would be located within an existing landscape setting characterised by established and mature tree canopies within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. The proposed new tree groupings to Hawthorne Canal would be positioned behind existing vegetation layers. The canal and its retaining walls would remain clearly legible as the dominant landscape feature along the western edge of the study area and existing views to the canal would be preserved. Accordingly, the proposal would result in a **little to no** visual impact on the Hawthorne Canal

The Haberfield conservation area derives significance from its intact Federation-era streetscapes, garden suburb layout, and consistent low-scale built form. The Hawthorne Canal corridor already provides a strong physical and visual separation between the study area and the conservation area. The proposed planting would increase vegetation density along the canal corridor but would not introduce built form, vertical elements, or structures that could compete with or dominate heritage streetscapes within Haberfield. Views to Haberfield are restricted from the study area, so no significant views would be impacted. Accordingly, the proposal would result in a **little to no** visual impact on the Haberfield Conservation Area.

The heritage listed Brush Box tree avenue is primarily appreciated from Darley Road and adjoining streets, forming part of the eastern visual interface of the study area. However, the Brush Box avenue would remain visually distinct as a linear street tree planting forming part of Allen Street's streetscape structure. The proposal is not expected to compete with, obscure, or dominate views of the tree avenue.

The former corner shop and residence is already largely screened from the study area by intervening residential development and vegetation. There are no direct or significant view corridors between the site and the heritage item. Accordingly, the proposal would have a **little to no** visual impact on the above two heritage items.

7.1.3 Potential heritage impacts

Potential impacts refer to impacts caused by construction-related vibrations. The minimum distance for cosmetic damage from construction related vibration has been established to be items located less than 25 m away from the construction work as outlined in Table 6 below:

Table 6. Recommended minimum working distances for vibration intensive plant from sensitive receivers

Plant item	Rating / Description	Minimum working distance		
		Cosmetic damage (BS 7385) Light-framed structures	Cosmetic damage (DIN 4150) Heritage and other sensitive structures	Human response (EPA's Vibration guideline)
Vibratory Roller	< 50 kN (Typically 1-2 tonnes)	5 m	14 m	15 m to 20 m
	< 100 kN (Typically 2-4 tonnes)	6 m	16 m	20 m
	< 200 kN (Typically 4-6 tonnes)	12 m	33 m	40 m
	< 300 kN (Typically 7-13 tonnes)	15 m	41 m	100 m
	> 300 kN (Typically 13-18 tonnes)	20 m	54 m	100 m
	> 300 kN (> 18 tonnes)	25 m	68 m	100 m
Small Hydraulic Hammer	(300 kg - 5 to 12t excavator)	2 m	5 m	7 m
Medium Hydraulic Hammer	(900 kg – 12 to 18t excavator)	7 m	19 m	23 m

Plant item	Rating / Description	Minimum working distance		
		Cosmetic damage (BS 7385) Light-framed structures	Cosmetic damage (DIN 4150) Heritage and other sensitive structures	Human response (EPA's Vibration guideline)
Large Hydraulic Hammer	(1600 kg – 18 to 34t excavator)	22 m	60 m	73 m
Vibratory Pile Driver	Sheet piles	20 m	50 m	100 m
Pile Boring	≤ 800 mm	2 m (nominal)	40 m	4 m
Jackhammer	Hand held	1 m (nominal)	2 m	2 m

Indirect vibration impacts are expected to be **little to no**, limited to minor and short-term construction activity associated with small-scale excavation for tree planting. These activities are not expected to generate perceptible vibration at nearby heritage items due to the small scale of works and separation distances.

7.1.4 Summary of impacts to relevant heritage items

This section summarises the assessment of physical and visual impacts of the proposed works on heritage items within the study area, and in its vicinity. The heritage impacts of the proposed works are outlined in Table 7.

Table 7: Assessment of heritage impact.

Item Name	Item/Listing Number	Potential physical impacts	Potential visual impacts
Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt branch)	SHI #000140	The works have been assessed as having little to no adverse physical impacts to the item.	The works have been assessed as having little to no adverse visual impacts to the item.
Haberfield Conservation Area (nominated area of State significance)	IW LEP #C54	The works have been assessed as having little to no adverse physical impacts to the item.	The works have been assessed as having little to no adverse visual impacts to the item.
Street trees - avenue of Brush Box	IW LEP #1083	The works have been assessed as having little to no adverse physical impacts to the item.	The works have been assessed as having little to no adverse visual impacts to the item.

Item Name	Item/Listing Number	Potential physical impacts	Potential visual impacts
Former corner shop and residence, including interiors	IW LEP #1117	The works have been assessed as having little to no adverse physical impacts to the item.	The works have been assessed as having little to no adverse visual impacts to the item.

7.1.5 Cumulative impacts

Cumulative impacts refer to the combined or overlaid or added actions and interactions within a particular place associated with the past, present and the reasonably foreseeable future.

The proposed works are consistent with ongoing landscape management within the Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. While the proposal will contribute incrementally to increased canopy cover over time, it does not introduce built form or structural elements and therefore does not compound adverse impacts on the setting or significance of nearby heritage items. As such, the proposed works would result in **little to no** cumulative impact.

7.2 Questions to be considered in a statement of heritage impact

Heritage guidelines³² prepared by Heritage NSW outline design considerations for projects that involve works in the vicinity of heritage items or conservation areas.

Design considerations are discussed in Table 8.

Table 8: Heritage considerations for project (Source: NSW DPE, 2023).

Heritage Consideration	Discussion
General considerations for the proposal	
<i>Do the proposed works include removal of unsympathetic alterations and additions? How does this benefit or impact the heritage item and its significance?</i>	The proposal does not involve any demolition, or removal works within any heritage items. There would be little to no impact on heritage fabric or significance.
<i>Do the proposed works affect the setting of the heritage item, including views and vistas to and from the heritage item and/or a cultural landscape in which it is sited? Can the impacts be avoided and/or mitigated?</i>	The existing views to and from the study area would be largely retained; any changes are minor and landscape based. Any visual impacts to heritage items within the buffer zone are inherently avoided due to planting within an existing vegetated corridor.
<i>Are the proposed works part of a broader scope of works?</i>	The works form part of the Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment works addressed in the previously prepared SoHI (originally dated November 2025, and revised in April 2026 to realign the site area to the boundaries shown on architectural and landscape drawings).

³² 'Guidelines for preparing a statement of heritage impact', Department of Planning and Environment, 2023

Heritage Consideration	Discussion
General considerations for the proposal	
<i>Does this proposal relate to any previous or future works? If so, what cumulative impact (positive and/or adverse) will these works have on the heritage significance of the item?</i>	The proposed works are consistent with ongoing landscape management within the Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. While the proposal would contribute incrementally to increased canopy cover over time, it does not introduce built form or structural elements and therefore does not compound adverse impacts on the setting or significance of nearby heritage items.
<i>Are the proposed works to a heritage item that is also significant for its Aboriginal cultural heritage values? If so, have experts in Aboriginal cultural heritage been consulted?</i>	Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values is outside the scope of this report. An Aboriginal Due Diligence has been undertaken by Artefact for the planting works.
<i>Has the applicant checked if any other approvals or a separate process to evaluate the potential for impacts is required?</i>	This report contains advice pertaining to the relevant approvals pathway for the proposed works in Section 8.2.
<i>Do the proposed works trigger a change of use classification under the National construction code that may result in prescriptive building requirements? If so, have options that avoid impact on the heritage values been investigated?</i>	The proposed works do not trigger a change of use classification.
<i>If the proposed works are to a local heritage item, are the requirements of the development control plans or any local design guidelines that may apply to the site considered?</i>	The design guidelines from the Leichhardt DCP are applicable and have been assessed in Section 7.3.1 of this report.
<i>Will the proposed works result in adverse heritage impact? If so, how will this be avoided, minimised or mitigated?</i>	Little to no adverse physical and visual heritage impacts are expected to heritage items in the vicinity. The works are minor in scale, confined to existing parkland areas, and do not involve any modification to heritage fabric, structures, or curtilages.

A statement of heritage impact has been prepared according to Heritage NSW guidelines for assessing specific types of works in Table 9 below.

Table 9. Considerations for specific types of works

Development	Discussion
Works adjacent to a heritage item or within the heritage conservation area (listed on an LEP)	
<i>Will the proposed works affect the heritage significance of the adjacent heritage item or the heritage conservation area?</i>	The proposed works would not affect the heritage significance of the adjacent Hawthorne Canal or the Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area. The works are confined to existing parkland and do not involve any physical alteration to heritage fabric or curtilage. Any changes are limited to minor landscape planting within an established vegetated corridor.
<i>Will the proposed works affect views to, and from, the Interpretation heritage item? If yes, how will the impact be mitigated?</i>	No significant impacts to views to or from nearby heritage items are expected. Existing view relationships are already heavily filtered by vegetation, topography, and intervening development. The proposed planting is located within existing landscape structure and would be absorbed into the broader canopy over time, avoiding obstruction of key sightlines.
<i>Will the proposed works impact on the integrity or the streetscape of the heritage conservation area?</i>	The proposed works would not impact the integrity or streetscape of the Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area. The canal corridor provides a strong physical and visual buffer, and the works do not introduce built form or elements that would be visible from or within the conservation area. The established garden suburb character and streetscape consistency will remain unchanged.

7.3 Assessment against relevant policies

7.3.1 Leichhardt DCP 2013

The following table records the DCP policies that are assessed as being directly relevant to the proposed works.

Table 10: Assessment of proposal against Leichhardt DCP policies

Policy #	Overarching policy	Policy detail	Comments
C1.4 HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS AND HERITAGE ITEMS	O1 Development	a. does not represent an unsympathetic alteration or addition to a building;	The proposed works do not involve any alteration or addition to any built fabric of nearby heritage items. The development is limited to landscape planting within public open space. Accordingly, the proposal does not introduce any built form and is not unsympathetic to existing heritage buildings in the vicinity.
C1.4 HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS AND HERITAGE ITEMS	O1 Development	e. conserves and enhances the fabric and detail of a building that contributes to the cultural significance of the building in its setting;	The proposal does not physically affect any heritage building fabric or architectural detail. It provides additional planting within the Hawthorne Canal and parkland corridor. This is consistent with the established vegetated character of the area and assists in maintaining an appropriate landscape context in which heritage items are experienced.

Policy #	Overarching policy	Policy detail	Comments
C1.4 HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS AND HERITAGE ITEMS	O1 Development	h. protects and enhances views of the existing building from the public domain; and	The proposal does not obstruct or significantly alter views to nearby heritage items from the public domain. Existing views are either already screened or filtered by vegetation and intervening development. The proposed planting is located within an established landscape framework and is designed to integrate with existing vegetation, ensuring that key view corridors and the visual prominence of heritage items are maintained.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 Conclusion

This report assesses the heritage impact of tree planting within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park, which are proposed to offset the removal of trees at Leichhardt Oval to accommodate the new Northern Grandstand.

The study area relates to Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park located in the suburb of Leichhardt NSW 2040 and forms a separate study area portion within the broader Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment Proposal.

The study area is located in the vicinity of the following heritage items, listed on multiple statutory registers:

- Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt branch) (Sydney Water s170 register, SHI #000140)
- Haberfield Conservation Area (nominated area of State significance) (IW LEP #C54)
- Street trees - avenue of Brush Box (IW LEP #I1083)
- Former corner shop and residence, including interiors (IW LEP #I1117)

Based on the landscape drawings for the Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park planting works which were issued on 14 April 2026, the proposed works comprising of tree planting in Hawthorn Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park would result in the following heritage impacts:

- **Little to no** physical or visual impact on Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt branch). The works are limited to adjacent landscape planting within parkland and do not involve any excavation or modification of the canal, its retaining walls, or infrastructure. The canal will remain the dominant and clearly legible engineered landscape feature.
- **Little to no** physical or visual impact on Haberfield Conservation Area. The proposal is physically separated from the conservation area by the canal corridor and Richard Murden Reserve, with no works within its curtilage or setting. Existing view separation is maintained, and no built form is introduced that could affect the area's streetscapes or visual character.
- **Little to no** physical or visual impact on avenue of Brush Box street trees. The avenue is outside the proposal area, with no works affecting its curtilage. It will remain visually distinct within its streetscape context and will not be obscured, dominated, or altered by the proposed planting.
- **Little to no** physical or visual impact on the former corner shop and residence, including interiors. The item is already screened by intervening development and vegetation, and no works occur within its setting or view corridors. The proposal will not change its visibility or heritage appreciation.
- Construction-related vibration impacts would be **little to no** as works are expected to be temporary, and unlikely to be perceptible at nearby heritage items due to the small scale of works and distance.

- The works are consistent with existing landscape management, introduce no built form or structural elements, and will only result in incremental increases in canopy cover without affecting heritage significance or setting. As such there would be **little to no** cumulative impacts.

8.2 Approval pathway

The Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment project was declared a State Significant Development (SSD–85149458) under the EP&A Act. Artefact heritage prepared a SoHI for the project to satisfy Condition 19 of the SEARs issued on 23 June 2025. The RtS identified that the southern portion of the project area, including proposed planting and vegetation works within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park, also required heritage assessment. These works were not addressed in the previously prepared SoHI.

This report has been prepared by Artefact to assess the heritage impacts of the Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park component of the project and to support the Response to Submissions.

8.3 Recommendations and mitigation measures

If works other than those discussed in this report are proposed, then additional assessment would be required to assess the potential impacts. This is in addition to the mitigation measures recommended in the previously prepared SoHI which was originally dated November 2025, and revised in April 2026 to realign the site area to the boundaries shown on architectural and landscape drawings.

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