

1 July 2026

Inner West Council c/o Ernst & Young
PO Box 14
Petersham NSW 2049

Dear Inner West Council,

Re: Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment Report – Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park.

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

This report outlines the results of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) which meets the requirements of the [Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales](#) (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010a), hereafter the Due Diligence Code of Practice, and includes recommendations as to whether further archaeological investigation may be required.

This report has been prepared by Lily Hackett (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage) with management input and review provided by Josh Symons (Technical Director, Artefact Heritage).

1.1 Project information

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 an Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) for the project to satisfy schedule 18 of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued on 23 June 2025.

In the Response to Submissions (RtS), to compensate for trees removal needed at Leichhardt Oval to accommodate the new Northern Grandstand, replacement tree planting was proposed within Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. A further heritage assessment of the tree planting sites was requested to cover this additional area not covered in the previously prepared ATR and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).

Artefact has been engaged by IWC to assess this additional portion of the project through an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA), this report. A separate Historical Impact Assessment (HIA) has been prepared by Artefact to address the non-Indigenous (historical) impacts of the project.

The study area for this report is limited to Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. The study area is within the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA), the Parish of Petersham, County

of Cumberland and within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). The study area comprises recreational parks, a dog park and open green spaces.

1.2 Housing SEARs and Due Diligence Process

The proponent has applied for the project to be assessed as SSD under Division 4.7 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (SSD–85149458). The Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) have been issued for the project and include the provisions for Aboriginal Heritage as outlined in Table 1. The SSDA for this project has been submitted and the subsequent RtS has proposed replacement tree planting in areas not assessed in the original ACHAR and ATR submitted for SSD–85149458, proposing planting at Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park. This report aims to address Condition 18 for the study area at Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park in response to comments from Heritage NSW following RtS.

Table 1: SEARs relating to Aboriginal Heritage for SSD–85149458

SEAR	Supporting Documentation
18. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	
- Where there is known, or reasonably likely, to be Aboriginal cultural heritage on or near the site demonstrate that impacts have been adequately investigated and assessed by: - Identifying that an appropriate prior planning process has already considered these impacts, e.g. a rezoning or development application, or - Providing an initial assessment of the potential impacts. - If potential impacts are significant, provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) which: - Identifies, describes and assesses any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the site. - Is prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines.	If required: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

This assessment follows the standards for initial assessment of potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage set out in the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010; Henceforth the Due Diligence Code of Practice).

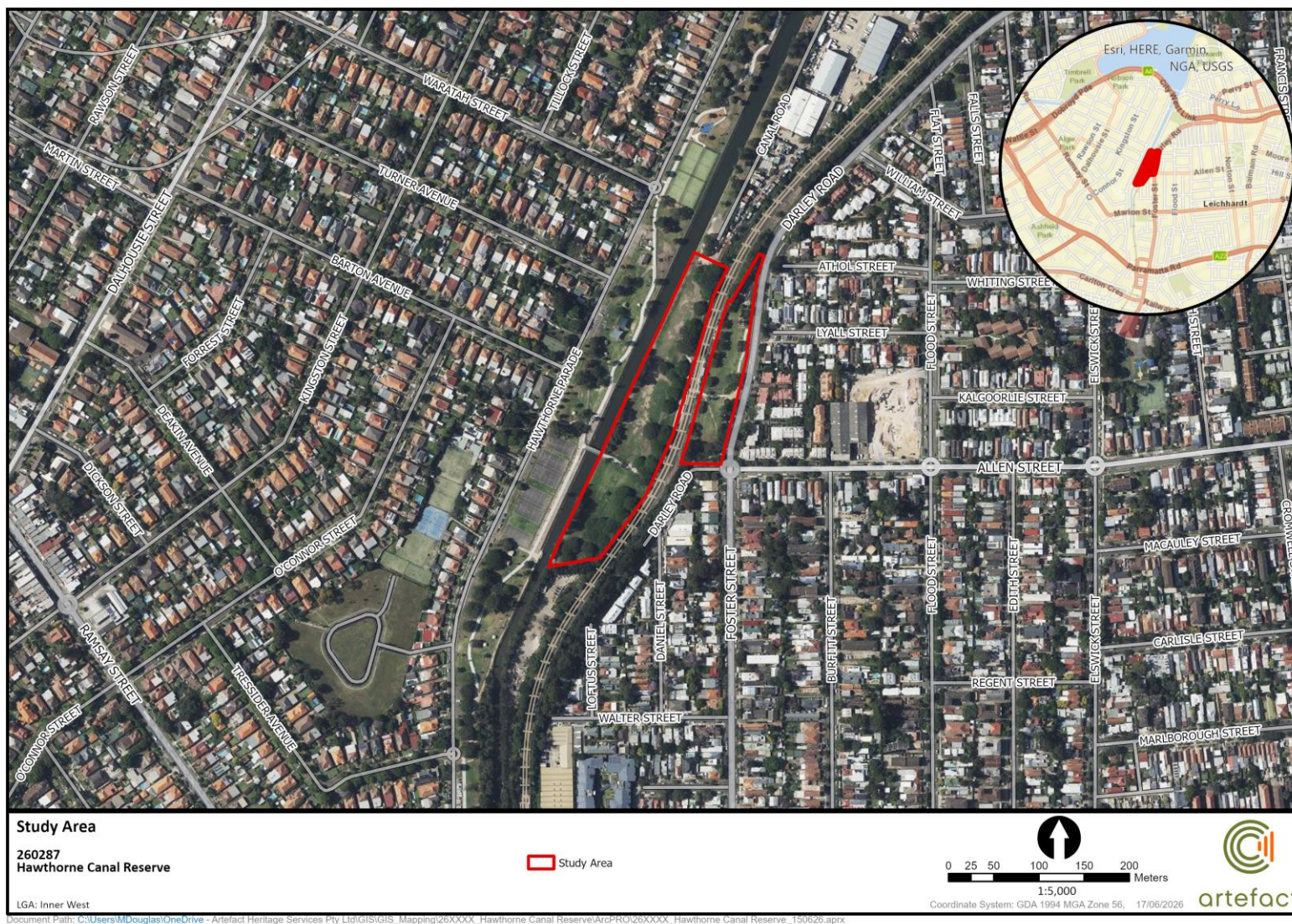
Undertaking Due Diligence involves reasonable and practical steps to:

1. Identify whether or not Aboriginal objects are, or are likely to be, present in an area
2. Determine whether or not their activities are likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present)
3. Determine whether further assessment is required

Undertaking Due Diligence does not constitute consent to harm Aboriginal objects, nor are they a 'site clearance' mechanism to allow activities to occur in an area where Aboriginal objects are likely or known to be present. Consultation with the Aboriginal community is not a formal requirement of the Due Diligence process, however, consideration of undertaking some form of consultation should

occur, particularly if it will assist in informing any decision-making. If an ACHAR will be required, consultation must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 60 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019*, as described in the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010b).

Figure 1: Study area



2.0 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

2.1 Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search

NOTE: The location of Aboriginal sites is considered culturally sensitive information. It is advised that this information, including the AHIMS data appearing on the heritage map for the proposal be removed from this report if it is to enter the public domain.

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database (Client ID 1142482) was completed on 27 March 2025 for a search area measuring approximately 8 km x 8 km that encompasses the study area Figure 2. The parameters of this search were:

GDA 1994 MGA 56 324632.0 - 332592.0m E
6245692.0 – 6253647.0 m N

A total of 44 registered Aboriginal sites were identified within the extensive search area (Figure 2 and Figure 3). There were no registered Aboriginal sites within the study area or within 200 m of the study area. The closest AHIMS site identified in the search is located approximately [REDACTED] northwest of the study area [REDACTED].

The majority of the AHIMS sites within the extensive search are located along the bank and foreshore areas of the Paramatta River. The extensive search results are also dominated by shell midden and rock shelter sites with midden, artefact and art (pigment or engraved) which is reflective of their topographical context situated along the foreshore areas and undulating steep banks where Hawkesbury sandstone outcroppings are frequent. These results are also consistent with previous archaeological investigations in the area and ethnographic historical accounts that indicate the Paramatta River and its surrounding tributaries, bays and banks was a vast cultural landscape rich in food resources (Collins 1788, Attenbrow 2010). One of the early colonists Lieutenant William Bradley observed in 1788 Wangal people striking fish with barbed spears and women using canoes and fishing with shell hooks (Bradley, W., 1788 133).

The regional cultural landscape is also reflected in the variety of less frequent AHIMS site types within the extensive search including two burials, a waterhole, Aboriginal Resource and Gathering and a Habitation Structure which is suggestive of the intense subsistence activities and deep time occupational history along the river (Owen, et al 2024). Table 2 below provides a summary of these sites within the extensive search.

Table 2: Frequency of site features in AHIMS search results

Site Types	Frequency	Percentage
Art (Pigment or Engraved) and/or shelter with shell midden	16	36.36
Shell midden and artefact	8	18.18
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	7	15.91
Shell midden, artefact and burial	2	4.55
Art (Pigment or Engraved) and artefact	5	11.36
Grinding groove	1	2.27
Waterhole	1	2.27

Site Types	Frequency	Percentage
Aboriginal Resource and Gathering	1	2.27
Habitation Structure	1	2.27
Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)	1	2.27
Earth mound (not a site)	1	2.27
Total	44	100.00%

2.2 Public AHIP register search

A search of the AHIP Public Register was completed to determine whether any portion of the study area is within the boundaries of an active AHIP. No active permits were found within the study area or its vicinity.

Figure 2: AHIMS extensive search

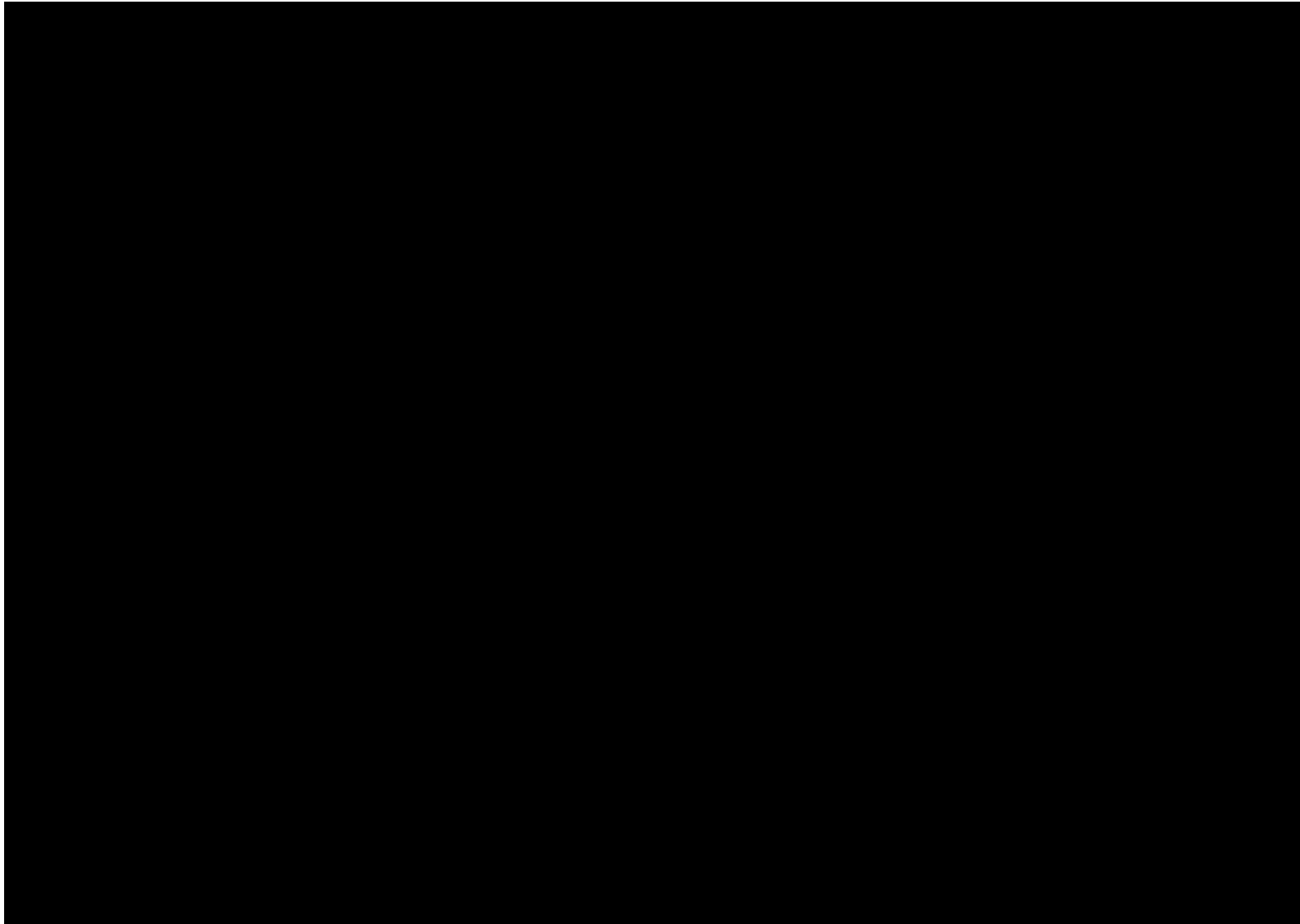
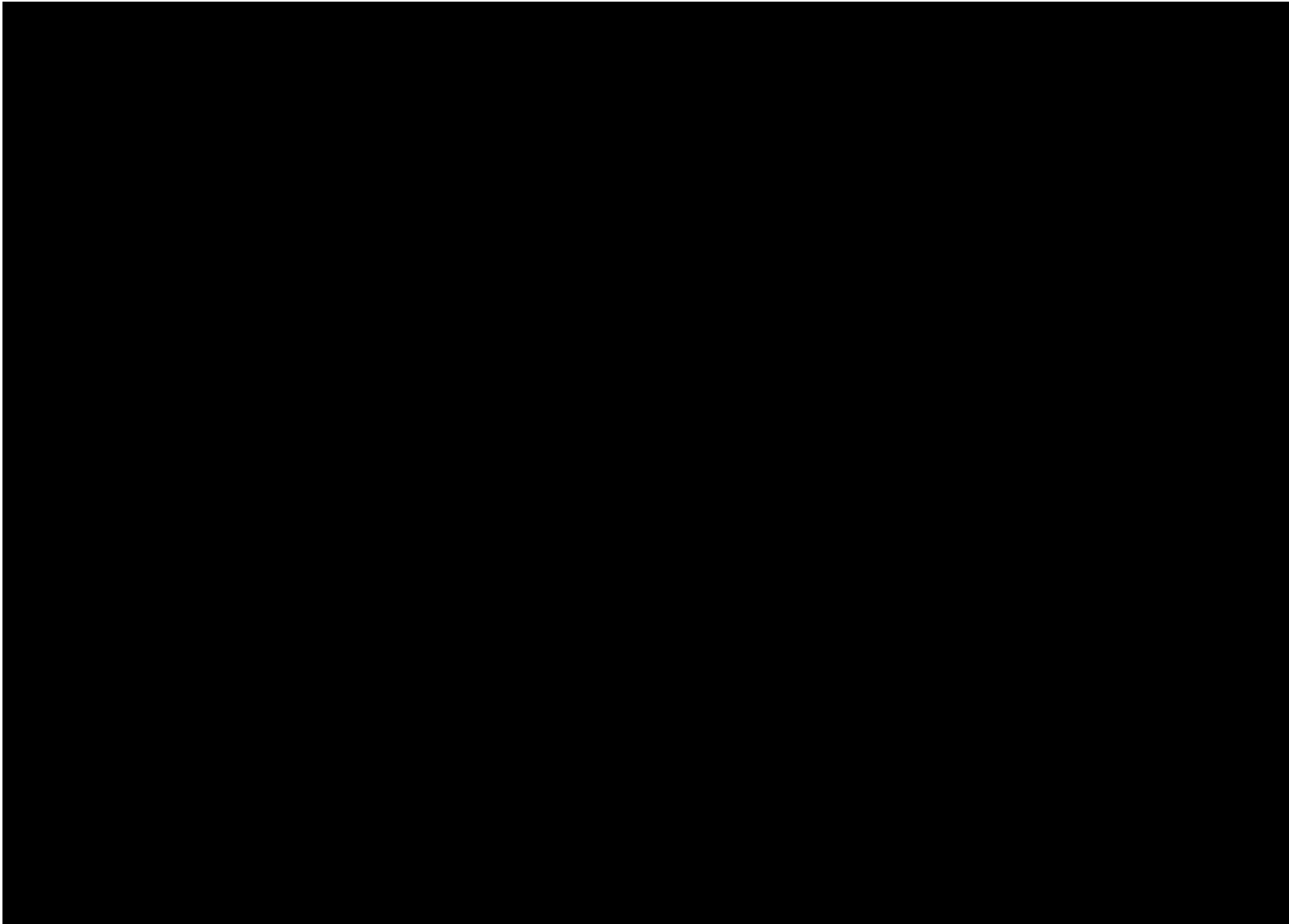


Figure 3: AHIMS detailed



2.3 Existing archaeological works relevant to understanding the archaeological context of the study area

Existing Aboriginal heritage studies relevant to the study area are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of existing Aboriginal heritage studies relevant to the study area

Report	Summary
Clegg, J. K., 1998. Work on the Engravings at Callan Point.	In 1998, John Clegg was engaged to prepare a summary report on the rock engravings at Callan Point, located approximately 2 km north east of the study area. The report was prepared to support the Callan Point Conservation Management Plan prepared by Context Pty Ltd with Greening Australia NSW Inc and Kate Sullivan & Associates Pty Ltd (2002). Overall, the report outlines the results of an Aboriginal archaeological survey of Callan Point carried out in 1998, which identified multiple rock engravings including three portrait heads, a boat and several letters. While the sites identified in the report are Non-Aboriginal in origin, two fish carvings also identified at Callan Park demonstrate motifs visible in other confirmed Eora Art sites and could be of Aboriginal origin. The study stages it was evident that the rock engravings are reflective of the geological context where sufficient surface expressions of sandstone for rock engravings are present. The report also comments on the cumulative natural and human-made impacts which threaten the preservation of such engravings at Callan Park and within the surrounding urban expanse. The site's sandstone geology influences how rock engravings have survived, with natural cracks supporting vegetation that can damage the surface. Human activities—construction, dumping, and vehicle use—have altered the landscape, covering or damaging engravings and middens. Erosion and vegetation growth contribute to soil buildup over engravings. Foot traffic is another key factor in the loss of midden material. Some engravings remain protected under soil, while others are at risk from cycles of exposure and covering. Altogether, the report demonstrates the importance of the underlying geological landscape to the distribution of archaeological sites in the local area. While the sites identified in the report are Non-Aboriginal in origin, other likely Aboriginal Art sites have been identified at Callan Park which demonstrate potential for further similar sites to occur nearby. The report also notes the cumulative natural and human-made impacts which threaten the preservation of historical and Aboriginal rock engravings.
Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists, 2000. Callan Point Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan.	Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists prepared an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan, for the same Callan Park in 2000, which aimed to protect four registered shell midden sites in the area. Three of four sites at Callan Park are middens within shelters, and each of the sites are located in close proximity to the foreshore. The sites have been impacted by tidal action as well as erosion of the ground surface due to visitors in the park walking close by to the sites. The report provides insight on the preservation issues of many Indigenous sites and that seemingly low-impact activities can cause considerable damage. The sites were scientifically studied by Val Attenbrow in the late 1980s however no subsurface archaeological investigations were undertaken.

Report

Summary

**Artefact Heritage,
2013. Rozelle Rail
Yard, Preliminary
Aboriginal
Heritage
Assessment.
Prepared for NSW
Department of
Planning and
Infrastructure.**

Artefact Heritage was engaged in 2013 to complete a preliminary Aboriginal heritage assessment of the Rozelle Rail Yards approximately 1.90 km north east of the study area. The assessment identified areas of remnant sandstone and elevated crests. The possibility of these being remnant intact landforms was discussed. Areas of crests or remnant sandstone were assessed as having moderate archaeological potential, however much of the study area had been extensively disturbed and had low archaeological potential. The elevated landforms in the area may have been a suitable area for occupation and could have provided a vantage point for identifying surrounding resources in the area.

While no geotechnical investigation occurred as part of the project, the underlying geology was Hawkesbury sandstone while parts of the Rozelle/White Bay area have been subject to infill. The report recommended that if works were to impact the areas of remnant sandstone, further investigation should occur. Overall the assessment highlighted the importance sandstone and elevated crests as potential areas of occupation based on the areas proximity to resources associated with surrounding bays, where it was a particularly suitable location for rock shelters.

**Artefact Heritage,
2014. Bays
Precinct;
Preliminary
Aboriginal
Heritage
Assessment.
Prepared for Urban
Growth NSW**

Artefact Heritage was engaged in 2014 to complete a preliminary Aboriginal heritage assessment of The Bays approximately 3 km northeast of the study area. The assessment included the Rozelle Rail Yards, Glebe Island and the land bordering White Bay, Rozelle Bay and Blackwattle Bay. The Bays Station construction site was assessed as part of the White Bay Power Station and Glebe Island Assessment areas.

The majority of the White Bay Power Station area was identified as reclaimed land and introduced land. This portion of the White Bay Power Station was identified as containing no archaeological potential. The south-western portion of the White Bay Power Station was identified as the location of the original shoreline. This portion of the assessment area was considered unlikely to have been subject to deep subsurface disturbance and subsequently identified as containing moderate archaeological potential (AHIMS ID 45-6-3826).

**Artefact
Heritage. 2019.
Westconnex M4-
M5 Link –
Grouting at
Hawthorne Canal
Heritage Advice
Memo.**

Artefact Heritage were engaged by Lendlease Samsung Bouygues Joint Venture in 2019 to prepare heritage advice from geotechnical investigations and grouting works within Hawthorne Canal Reserve as part of the part of the M4-M5 Link project. The advice was limited to historical (non-Indigenous) impacts as the works are within the curtilage of Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt branch, Sydney Water s170) and the Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area (Ashfield LEP 2013). However, the memo discussed the significant ground disturbances regarding the reclamation of the land and construction of the canal suggesting aboriginal objects are unlikely to be present within the study area.

**Urbis 2023.
Aboriginal
Archaeological
Salvage
Excavation Report:
Redevelopment of
Concord Oval.
Prepared for
ADCO**

Urbis was engaged in 2023 to undertake salvage excavation at Concord Oval approximately 3.50 km west of the study area. The excavation investigated 32 1m x 1m salvage pits and recovered 28 Aboriginal lithic artefacts (AHIMS ID [REDACTED]).

It was found that natural soils were identified only within the area to the north of the oval in the area defined as AHIMS ID [REDACTED]. A total of 15 artefacts were recovered during the salvage excavation and the remaining 13 artefacts were recovered during historical archaeological monitoring and excavation. Urbis assessed that the overall assemblage was small and recovered from a highly disturbed context. Disturbance across the salvage

Report	Summary
Construction Pty Ltd.	excavation area was observed as high. The site was interpreted to be a record of transient, low intensity use by Aboriginal people.
Artefact Heritage, 2025, Error! No text of specified style in document., Archaeological Technical Report, prepared for Inner West Council.	Artefact Heritage were engaged by Inner West Council (the proponent) to prepare an Archaeological Technical Report for the proposal at Leichhardt Oval 68 Mary Street, Lilyfield SSD 85149458). No Aboriginal objects were identified within the study area, nor was any potential for Aboriginal objects observed. Although the project area was located in an area of Aboriginal heritage sensitivity, being located within 200 m of water and within proximity to sandstone resources significant historical ground disturbance would have likely removed or destroyed any Aboriginal objects that may have once been present.

2.4 Landscape features that indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects

Aboriginal objects are often associated with particular landscape features as a result of Aboriginal people's use of those features in their everyday lives and for traditional cultural activities. Therefore, it is likely that Aboriginal objects will be present on land that is:

- Within 200m of water, or
- Located within a sand dune system, or
- Located on a ridge top, ridge line, or headland, or
- Located within 200m below or above a cliff face, or
- Within 20m of or in a cave, rock shelter, or cave mouth

and is on land that has not been subject to human activity that has changed the lands surface, in a clear and observable manner.

A summary of the study area's context in relation to key landscape features is outlined in Table 4. This summary is based on a review of aerial imagery and topographic maps.

Table 4: Landscape features relevant to the study area

Landscape Feature	Presence in study area
Within 200m of water	Yes. The Hawthorne Canal runs through the centre of the study area.
Located within a sand dune system	No. The study area is not located within a sand dune system.
Located on a ridge top, ridge line, or headland	No. The study area is not located within a ridge top, ridge line or headland.

Landscape Feature	Presence in study area
Located within 200m below of a cliff face	No. The study area is not located within 200 m below a cliff face.
Within 20m of or in a cave, rock shelter, or cave mouth (Environment 2010)	No. The study area is not located within 20m of or in a cave, rocks shelter or cave mouth.

A summary of key environmental context information, including soil types and nearby watercourses, is summarised in Table 5.

Table 5: Key environmental context information relevant to the study area

Environmental Context	Description
Soil	The study area is located within an area mapped as 'disturbed terrain' (eSPADE, see Figure 4). 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. Space reserved for government reclamation is indicated on subdivision maps of Leichhardt, which likely date to the late 19th century. However, when comparing Long Cove and Long Cove Creek on the 1788 map (Figure 6) and a map from 1833 (Figure 7), Long Cove Creek appears to have been narrowed through reclamation already. However historical accounts discuss the construction on the Canal, first called Long Cove Canal but known as Hawthorne Canal by locals did not begin until 1890 (Artefact 2019)
Geology	The study area is located within the eastern extent of the Cumberland Plain, a large low-lying and gently undulating landform in the Sydney Basin. The formation of the basin began between 300 to 250 million years ago when river deltas gradually replaced the ocean that had extended as far west as Lithgow (Pickett and Alder 1997). The oldest, Permian layers of the Sydney Basin consist of marine, alluvial and deltaic deposits that include shales and mudstone overlain by Coal Measures. Surrounding the study area comprises the GyMEA soil landscape where Hawksbury sandstone outcrops of minor shale and laminate lenses are common. Such outcropping may have once been present on the sloped and undulating surroundings of the original Iron Cove Creek (Figure 5).
Watercourse	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

Environmental Context	Description
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river was named Long Cove Creek and would eventually become the Hawthorne Canal (Figure 5).

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 (2002). Furthermore, the idea of establishing a navigable canal from the Parramatta River to Parramatta Road was popular among locals and some politicians (Sabolch 2006, 63). 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.

Land was reclaimed on either side of the canal and the canal itself was constructed and completed in 1896. Various upgrades to the canal have occurred since its initial construction (see section 2.4.1.1 below).

Figure 4: Soil context

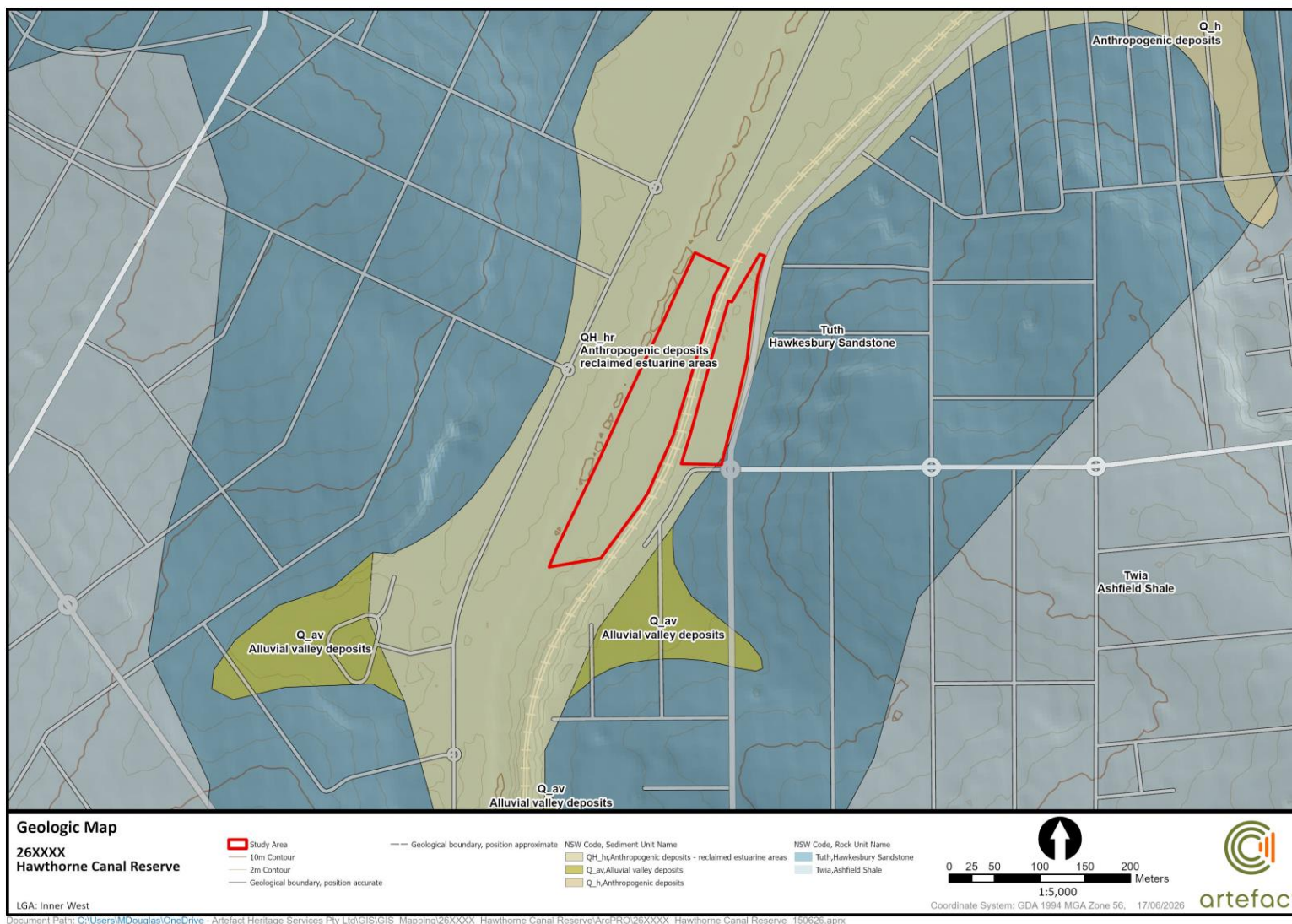
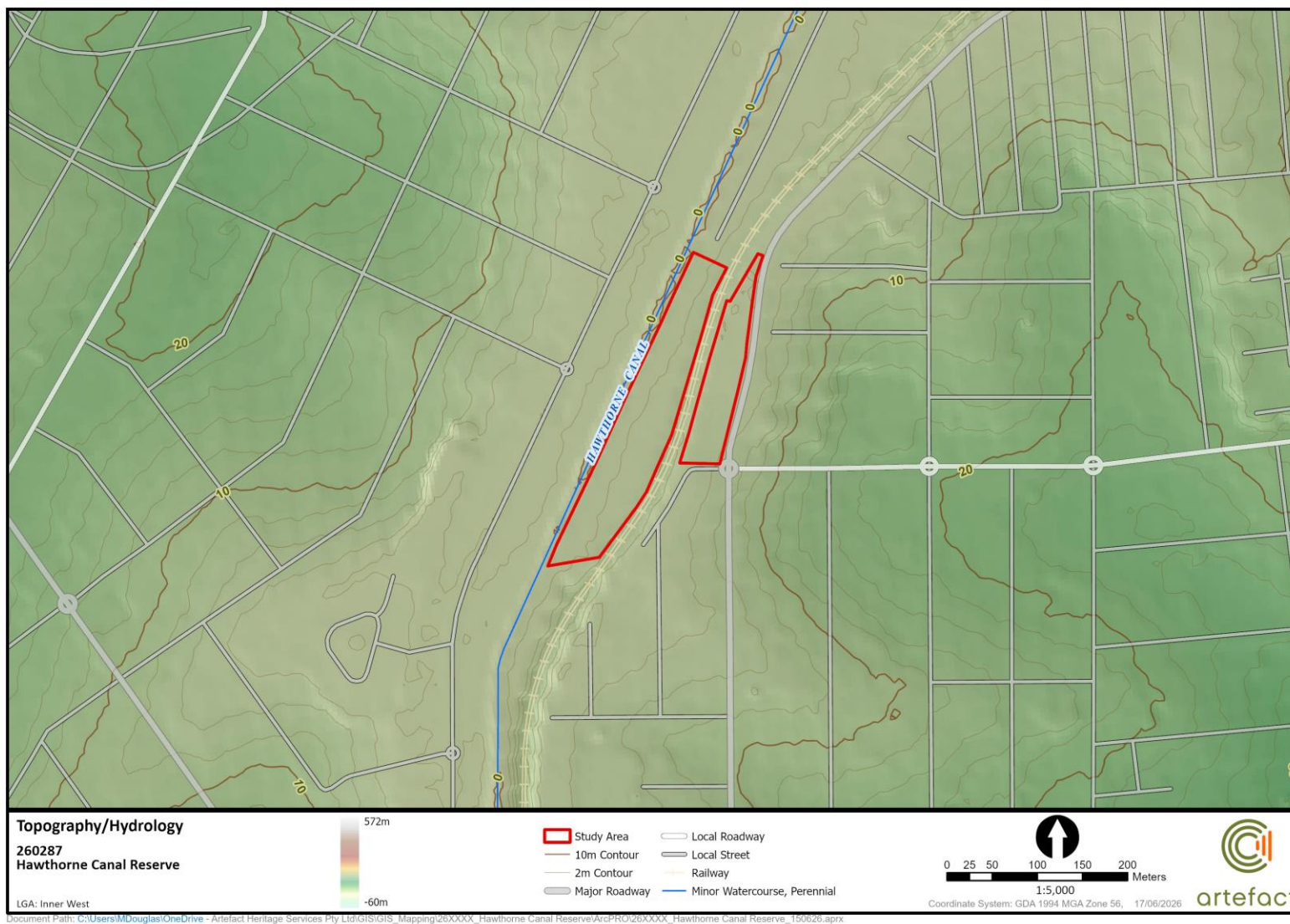


Figure 5: Topographic and hydrological context



2.4.1.1 Disturbance

The [Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales](#) provides the following definition of disturbed land:

Land is disturbed if it has been the subject of a human activity that has changed the land's surface, being changes that remain clear and observable. Examples include ploughing, construction of rural infrastructure (such as dams and fences), construction of roads, trails and tracks (including fire trails and tracks and walking tracks), clearing vegetation, construction of buildings and the erection of other structures, construction or installation of utilities and other similar services (such as above or below ground electrical infrastructure, water or sewerage pipelines, stormwater drainage and other similar infrastructure) and construction of earthworks.

The entirety of the study area has been extensively disturbed through land reclamation and channelisation of the original Iron Cove Creek, now Hawthorne Canal. A summary of the history of the study area is as follows:

- **Pre colonisation – 1788:** the area around Iron Cove and what is now Hawthorne Canal would have been estuarine swamp and wetland areas.
- **1830s:** By the 1830s several land grants had been granted around Iron Cove and along Long Cove Creek, including grants 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. 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 (Figure 7).¹
- **1833-1890s:** Long Cove Creek had been artificially narrowed and land either side reclaimed (Figure 7).
- **Early 1900s:** Upgrades and ongoing construction of the Canal continued in some parts. Rail/tram tracks constructed and used during WWII (Figure 8, Figure 9 and Figure 10).
- **1941:** It was announced in the Government Gazettes that the would be converted into a Stormwater Channel (The Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales 1941) (Figure 11).
- **1950s - onwards:** The study area has gradually been revegetated and the extant trees planted with contemporary park recreational infrastructure built (pathways, subsurface drainage, park benches, fences etc..) (Figure 12 and see section 2.4.1.1).

It is therefore unlikely Aboriginal objects have survived the significant historical ground disturbances and landform modification.

¹ Sabolch, M., 2006. *Hawthorne Canal*, p.43.

Figure 6. 'Chart of Port Jackson, New South Wales, surveyed by Captain John Hunter of the HMAS Sirius.' 1788. Source: State Library of New South Wales²



² George Raper, 1788. 'Chart of Port Jackson New South Wales [cartographic material]: as survey'd by Capt.n John Hunter, second captain of His Majesties Ship the Sirius 1788 / drawn from the original by George Raper Midn.' Accessed online 7/6/2019 at: https://search.slnsw.gov.au/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=SLNSW_ALMA21127968040002626&context=L&vid=SLNSW&lang=en_US&tab=default_tab

Figure 7. 'Alexandria and Petersham parishes', detail. 1833 or 1834. (Source: State Library of New South Wales)³



³ State Library of New South Wales. 'Alexandria and Petersham parishes' [cartographic material]. 1833 or 1834.' Accessed online 7/6/2019 at: http://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3711144

Figure 8. Construction of Hawthorne Canal at Haberfield, c.1926-1929. (Source: Sydney Water via ABC News).⁴



Figure 9. Sediment and base of Hawthorne Canal and merging point of old and new walls, 2004. (Source: Mark Sabolch).⁵



⁴ Laura Brierly Newton, 21 June 2018. 'Curious Sydney: What happened to Sydney's grand plans for a canal from Botany Bay to Sydney Harbour?', ABC News. Accessed online 11/6/2019 at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-21/what-happened-to-sydneys-grand-plans-for-a-system-of-canal/9859904>

⁵ 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 10: Historical aerial photograph from 1930 showing the western portion of the study area still comprising of flooded wetland (Source: Historical imagery viewer).

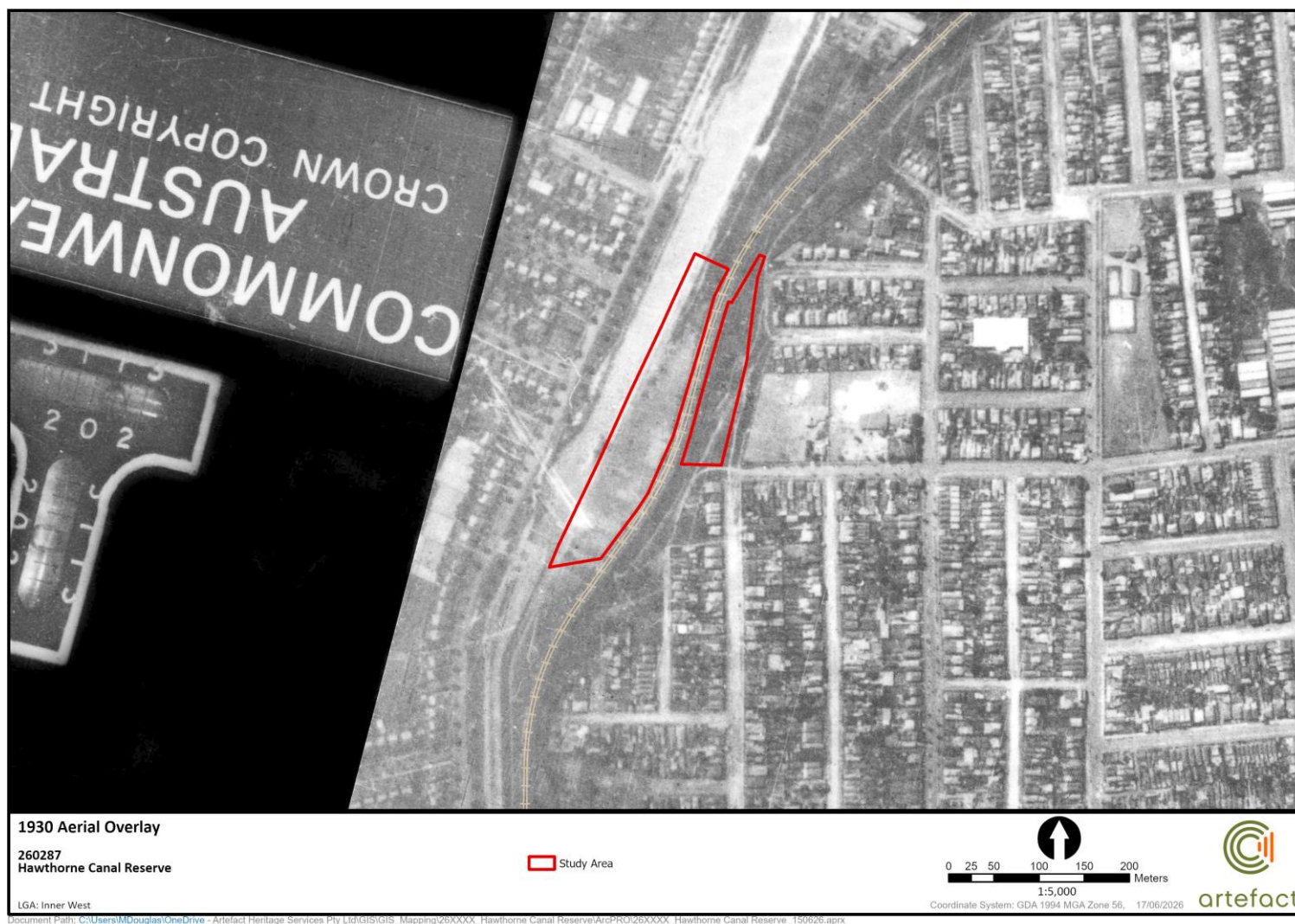


Figure 11: Completion of reclaimed land within the entirety of the study area and beginnings of extant tree plantings from 1951 (Source: Historical imagery viewer).

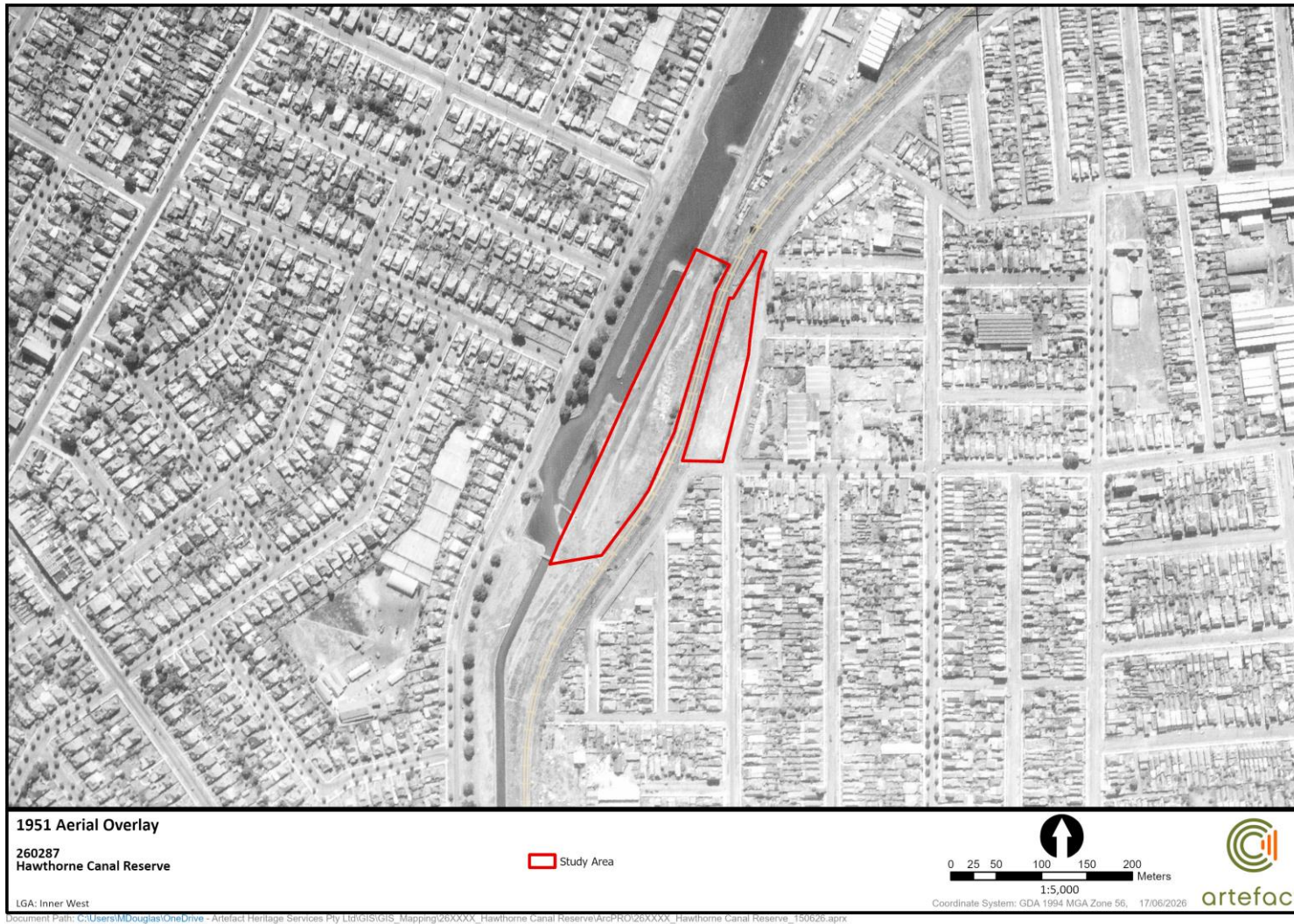
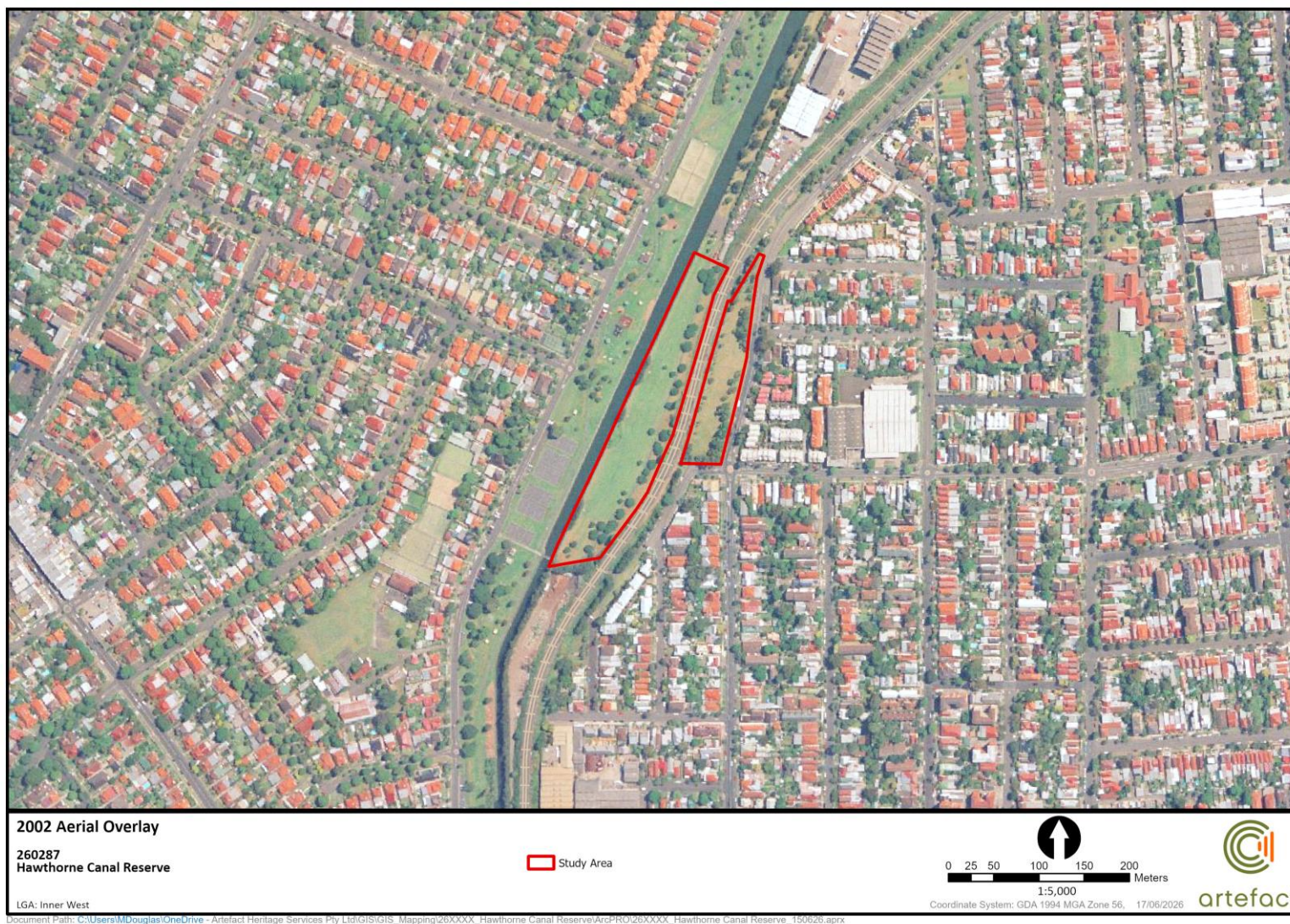


Figure 12: Revegetation of the study area from 2001 (Source: Historical imagery viewer).



3.0 SITE INSPECTION

3.1 Visual inspection

A visual inspection of the study area was completed on 17 June 2026 by Lily Hackett (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage) and Eunice Wong (Graduate Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage). Also in attendance were Deborah Lennis (D'harawal woman, local Elder, and primary Cultural Advisor Inner West Council) and Simon Watts (Social and Cultural Planning Manager, Inner West Council). Photographs were taken and survey scales were used where appropriate. Observations regarding soil exposures, land form context, ground disturbances and vegetation were taken to inform the assessment.

The study area comprised a relatively flat landform of a recreational park and dog park of open green space (Figure 13 and Figure 14). Several extant eucalyptus, paper bark and fig trees were present within the study area (Figure 15 and Figure 16). No cultural modification or scarring were identified on any of the extant trees, nor would they likely to be present as most of the trees were young (post-1950s).

Portions of the flat landform were undulating and had been significantly disturbed through land reclamation, the construction of pathways, landscaping, fences and subsurface drainage (Figure 18 Figure 19). Large patches of exposed soil were present throughout the park around tree trunks and patches that had been mixed and churned through digging from dogs, the soil of which comprised humic stained dark-medium brown silty sandy commercial soil and fill (Figure 20 and Figure 22). Significant landform modification was also observed from the construction of Hawthorne Canal and along the fence line of the light rail tracks (Figure 17 and Figure 21).

No Aboriginal surface artefacts were identified during the visual inspection. Due to the high levels of ground disturbance and disturbed terrain, no areas of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD) were identified. This was discussed with Auntie Deborah Lennis who agreed with the assessment of no Aboriginal archaeological potential.

Figure 13: Hawthorne Canal Reserve, view south towards Hawthorne light rail station.



Figure 14: Hawthorne Canal Reserve extant trees, view south.



Figure 15: Extant fig tree within the dog park, Figure 16: Extant paper bark trees, view west.
view northeast.



Figure 17: Hawthorne Canal, view north.



Figure 19: New concrete pathway and exposed commercial soil.

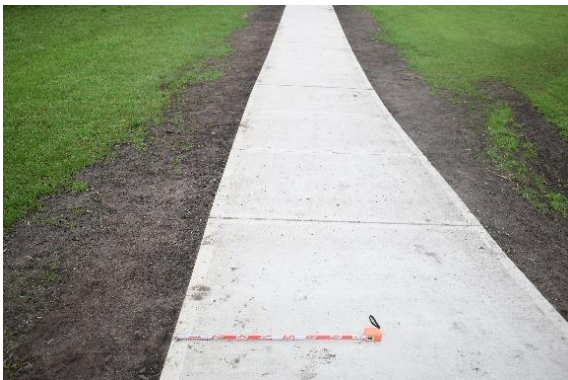


Figure 18: Subsurface drainage infrastructure.



Figure 20: Exposed soil surrounding extant tree trunk.



Figure 21: Disturbed land adjacent the light rail tracks, view south.



Figure 22: Exposed and mixed soil within dog park



3.2 Summary

The study area is located within an area of intensive and long-term Aboriginal occupation along the Parramatta River where a large amount and variety of archaeological evidence recorded within the AHIMS database of this occupation remains preserved. Much of the land in the local area, particularly in slightly more inland areas have been subject to intense landform modification and development post-colonisation, subsequently redepositing or destroying Aboriginal objects that may have once been present. The study area itself is reflective of this local and regional context where land reclamation and channelisation of the Long Iron Creek, now Hawthorne Canal has caused significant ground disturbance and likely destroyed any Aboriginal archaeological evidence. Observations made during the visual inspection resulted in no Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential being identified.

4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A summary of the responses to the Due Diligence questions are provided below (Table 6).

Table 6: Due Diligence questions and responses

Question	Answer	Comment
Will the activity disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees	Yes	The proposed works will impact the ground surface through tree plantings. None of the extant trees within the study area were identified to have cultural modification.
Are there any: - Confirmed AHIMS records - Other sources of information - Landscape features	Yes	What was once Iron Cove Creek traverses through the study area however this has been formally channelized into Hawthorne Canal and the land reclaimed. No other landscape features of archaeological potential are present within the study area. No AHIMS sites were identified within the study area.
Can harm to Aboriginal objects be avoided	Yes	No Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential have been identified within the study area therefore no Aboriginal objects will be harmed through the proposed works.
Does a desktop assessment and visual inspection confirm the presence of Aboriginal objects, or that they are likely to be there	No	No Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential have been identified within the study area therefore no Aboriginal objects will be harmed through the proposed works.
Is further assessment required	No	No Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential have been identified within the study area therefore no further archaeological assessment is required.

The study area does not contain and is not likely to contain any Aboriginal objects. It is recommended that:

- No further Aboriginal heritage assessment or investigations are required, and the proposed works (comprising of tree planting in Hawthorne Canal Reserve and Darley Road Park) can proceed with caution.
- This AHIA does not constitute consent to harm Aboriginal objects, nor it is a 'site clearance' mechanism to allow activities to occur in an area where Aboriginal objects are likely or known to be present.

- If Aboriginal objects are discovered during the proposed works, works must stop immediately and an assessment must be undertaken in accordance with Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. If the activity cannot avoid harm to Aboriginal objects, works cannot proceed until further investigation is undertaken and correct approvals in place.
- Prior to works commencement an Aboriginal Heritage Induction should be undertaken by all workers and any potential archaeological resources be managed through an Unexpected Finds Procedure.
- A copy of this report should be provided to Metropolitan LALC for their records.

5.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A - AHIMS RECORDS