

# EXTENT

HERITAGE ADVISORS  
TO AUSTRALIA AND  
THE ASIA PACIFIC



## 211 Pacific Highway, St Leonards

### Historical Archaeological Assessment and Impact Statement

Prepared for NBR Architecture

June 2019 - Final

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## Executive summary

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (Extent Heritage) has been commissioned by NBRS Architecture, on behalf of Anglo Australian Christian and Charitable Trust, to prepare a Historical Archaeological Assessment and Impact Statement for 211 Pacific Highway, St Leonards (hereafter the 'subject area') in advance of a change of use from office premises to school, and minor associated works.

The project is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (Application Number: SSD-10260). Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued on 18 April 2019 and included requirement 9. Heritage requesting that a Historical Archaeological Assessment be prepared. This report has been prepared in satisfaction of this requirement.

The subject area is partly within the curtilage of the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery (Lot 101 DP791327), which is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR # 01491), and is included on the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012 as an item of State significance (#1148). The proposal also involves works within Lot 1 DP1191604 ("The Avenue") and Lot 7083 DP93642 (Gore Hill Park).

### Key Findings

The subject area did not form part of the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery reserved for burial purposes and thus graves or cemetery-related items are unlikely to be encountered. The recreation reserve associated with Gore Hill Oval has been subject to disturbance and modification from the 1920s to the present day.

Potential historical archaeological resources in the subject area largely consist of late nineteenth and twentieth century former road surfaces and landscape modifications. On the balance of probabilities, the archaeological potential of the site is assessed as low; however, this potential has limited archaeological research significance, and as such does not meet the threshold of 'relics' within the meaning of the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW).

### Recommendations

The following recommendations should be followed regarding the subject area and its archaeological potential and research significance.

- During the course of the development work, an Unexpected Finds Procedure should be put in place and a briefing for contractors undertaking ground works should be prepared detailing the type of material that may be encountered. Should archaeological features or potential relics not described in this report be exposed or excavated then the works should cease and a qualified historical archaeologist consulted regarding the find(s), its significance and any further actions that should be taken;

- As a result of unexpected find discovery of significant archaeological relics, the NSW Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage should be notified in accordance with S146 of the *Heritage Act* 1977 (NSW); and
- The requirement to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act does not apply to developments that are approved SSDs under Division 4.7, Section 4.41 (previously s.89J) of the EPA Act. The potential heritage impact is instead managed by the environmental assessment process.

DRAFT

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project initiation

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (Extent Heritage) has been commissioned by NBRS Architecture, on behalf of Anglo Australian Christian and Charitable Trust (the proponent), to prepare a Historical Archaeological Assessment and Impact Statement for 211 Pacific Highway, St Leonards (hereafter the 'subject area') in advance of a change of use from office premises to school, and minor associated works.

Due to the change of use, the project is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (Application Number: SSD-10260). Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued on 18 April 2019. The requirements relating to heritage are as follows:

### 9. Heritage

- Include a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultant in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual. The HIS is to address the impacts of the proposal on any heritage significance of the site and adjacent areas and is to identify the following:
  - all heritage items (state and local) within the vicinity of the site
  - the impacts of the proposal on heritage items including visual impacts
  - attempts to avoid or mitigate impacts on the heritage significance or heritage values of the site and the surrounding heritage items
- Identify any areas with historical archaeological potential within the proposed site that could be impacted by the works. If impact on potential archaeology is identified, a Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) should be prepared by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist in accordance with the Heritage Council Guidelines for Archaeological Assessment (1996) and Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics' (2009).

NBRS Architecture is preparing the HIS for the project as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report has been prepared to satisfy the requirement for a HAAIS.

## 1.2 Site location and identification

The subject area is located at 211 Pacific Highway, St Leonards, in the Willoughby Local Government Area (LGA), and comprises Lot 101 DP791327 within the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery. The proposal also involves works within Lot 1 DP1191604 ("The Avenue") and Lot 7083 DP93642 (Gore Hill Park).

Existing site features include a former office “Former Sexton’s Cottage” (to be upgraded) that have been partially demolished to ground level, former garden areas that are to be retained and freshly planted, a portion of The Avenue that transects the cemetery that is paved and guttered with dry pressed bricks, the entrance gates to the cemetery, a portion of the council carpark and vehicle access.

### 1.3 Development description

The Anglo Australian Christian and Charitable Trust propose to relocate the International Chinese School to 211 Pacific Highway, St Leonards. The proposed development includes a change of use from office premises to school; as well as minor associated works, which include 7 classrooms, associated administration facilities and shared resource areas; provision of a new vehicular access point for drop off and pick up of students; and landscape works (Figure 1-Figure 3).

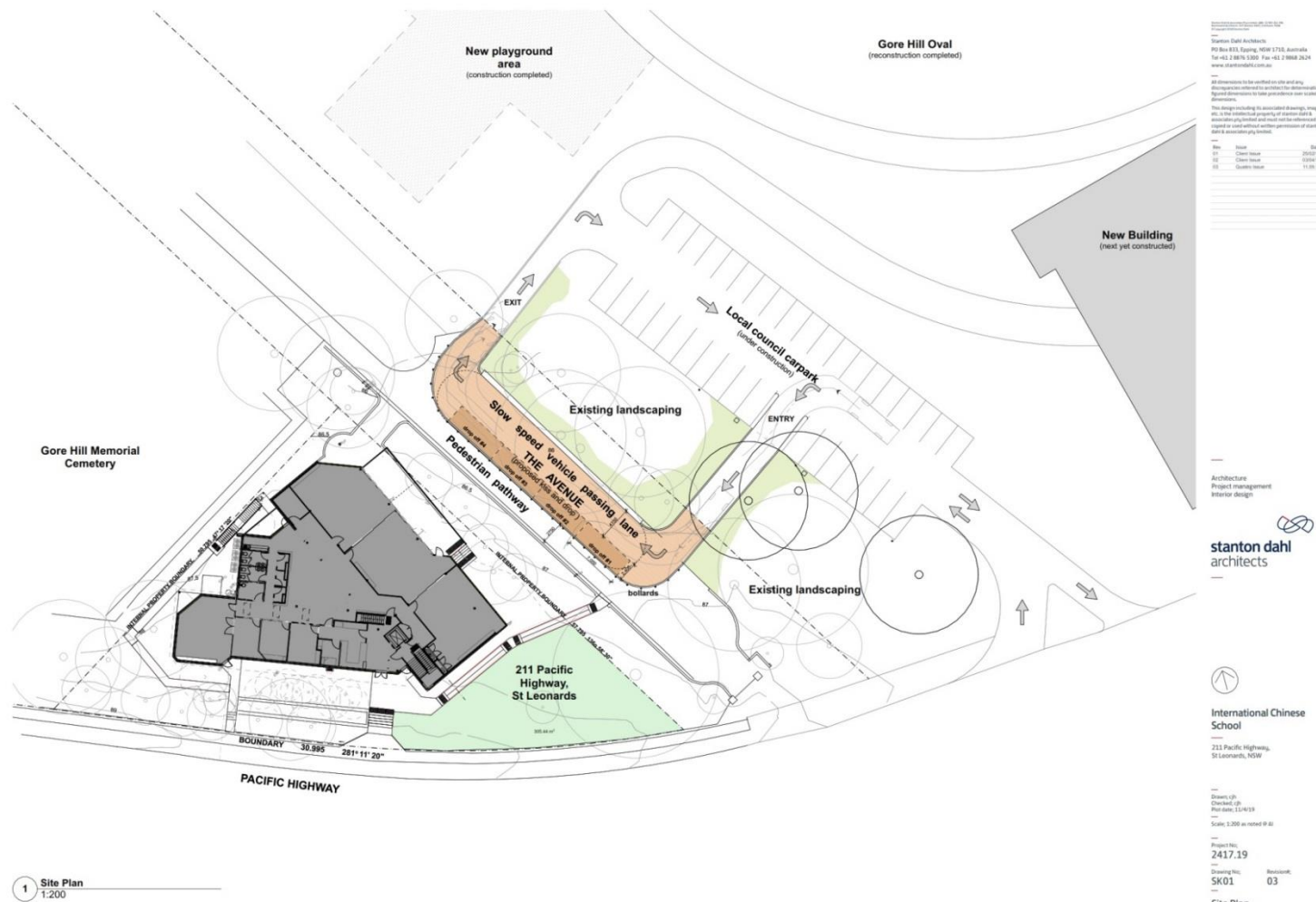


Figure 1. International Chinese School, Site Plan. Source: Stanton Dahl Architects, Drawing SK01, 11/4/2019.



Figure 2. International Chinese School, Basement Floor Plan. Source: Stanton Dahl Architects, Drawing SK02, 11/4/2019.



Figure 3. International Chinese School, Ground Floor Plan. Source: Stanton Dahl Architects, Drawing SK03, 11/4/2019.

## 1.4 Statutory context

Historical archaeological relics in New South Wales are protected by Commonwealth and State legislation, and environmental planning instruments provided by local government. Of relevance to the project are the:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW)
  - Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012
- *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW)

### 1.4.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EPA Act) requires that environmental impacts are considered by consent authorities prior to granting development approvals, including impacts on cultural heritage. The relevant sections of the EPA Act are:

- Part 4 (Division 4.3): Development that needs consent under consideration of environmental planning instruments.
- Part 4 (Division 4.7): An approval pathway for State Significant Development (SSD) projects.
- Part 5 (Division 5.2): An approval pathway for State Significant Infrastructure (SSI).

Division 4.7, Section 4.38 Consent for State Significant Development (previously s89E) of the EPA Act, is employed for determination of a development application (DA).

The EPA Act also controls the making of environmental planning instruments, including State Environment Planning Policies (SEPPs), which deal with matters of State or regional environmental planning significance; and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), which guide planning decisions for local government areas. The site falls within the Willoughby Local Government Area (LGA). The relevant environmental planning instrument is the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Willoughby LEP 2012).

#### Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012

The objectives of Willoughby LEP 2012 with respect to heritage conservation are provided in clause 5.10 which (amongst other objectives) aims to conserve archaeological sites and requires development consent to for disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed. Additionally, it requires the consent authority to notify the Heritage Council before granting consent to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site and take into consideration any response.

Schedule 5 of the Willoughby LEP 2009 lists items of environmental heritage within the LGA. These items (that may include archaeological sites, buildings and conservation areas) may be of National, State or local heritage significance.

There is one heritage item partly within the subject area listed on the LEP (Figure 6):

Suburb	Item Name	Address	Property description	Significance	Item No
St Leonards	Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery	211 Pacific Highway	Lots 101 and 102, DP 791327	State	I148

### 1.4.2 Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act) is designed to conserve the environmental heritage of New South Wales and regulate development impacts on the state's heritage assets. Significant historical archaeological features are afforded automatic statutory protection by the 'relics' provisions of the Heritage Act. A relic is defined as:

any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and
- is of State or local heritage significance.

In accordance with Section 139, it is an offence to disturb or excavate land, where this may affect a relic, without the approval/excavation permit of the NSW Heritage Council, unless an endorsed 'Exemption' under Section 57(2) or 'Exception' under Section 139(4) is issued for works that are minor in nature or with minimal impact onto the heritage significance of the place. In general, sites which may contain archaeological relics are managed under Sections 140 and 141 of the Heritage Act. However, sites with archaeological potential that are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) are dealt with under Sections 60 and 63 of the Heritage Act.

The Heritage Act also establishes the State Heritage Register (SHR) that comprises a list of heritage items of State heritage significance; including places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts. In addition to the SHR, the Heritage Act requires State government agencies to establish and maintain registers of heritage assets within land that they own and/or manage. These listings form a State Agency Heritage and Conservation Register.

The potential for the subject area to contain relics is addressed below (Section 4).

There is one heritage item partly within the subject area listed on the SHR (Figure 5):

Item Name	Primary Address	Property Description	Type	Listing Number
Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery	Pacific Highway, Gore Hill, NSW 2065	Lots 101-102, DP 791327	Landscape	01491

The southern entry gates of the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery form part of the SHR listing for the cemetery but are located outside the SHR curtilage.

The requirement to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act does not apply to developments that are approved SSDs under Division 4.7, Section 4.41 (previously s.89J) of the EPA Act. The potential heritage impact is instead managed by the environmental assessment process.

## 1.5 Previous reports and investigations

The Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery, Plan of Management, prepared for Council in 2016 outlines the heritage, landscape, infrastructure and community strategies for the Cemetery as a whole and includes all bar a small portion of the subject area. However, it does not outline any site history prior to 1864.

This report is listed in the references in Part 7 of this report.

The site has not been subject to any known physical archaeological investigations.

## 1.6 Objectives and methodology

The main objectives of this HAAIS are to:

- assess if the site has potential to contain historical archaeological remains and to evaluate their significance;
- identify any archaeological impacts of the redevelopment works; and
- provide recommendations for management strategies to mitigate any adverse impacts,

This report has been developed in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1996, *Archaeological Assessments: Archaeological Assessment Guidelines*, Heritage Office, Sydney.
- Heritage Branch, Department of Planning 2009, *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, Parramatta.

## 1.7 Limitations

This assessment is restricted to an examination of the potential impacts on the site's historical archaeological resources associated with the proposed works outlined above. This report does not include an examination of impacts on built heritage or Indigenous cultural heritage values.

This report is based on existing and publicly available environmental and archaeological information and reports about the subject area, and the results of a site inspection. The background research did not include any independent verification of the results and interpretations of externally sourced reports.

## 1.8 Author identification

This report was prepared Graham Wilson (Senior Archaeologist), and with input from Lorna Cooper and Ben Calvert (Heritage Advisors).

It was reviewed by Ngaire Richards (Senior Archaeologist).

DRAFT

## 221 Pacific Highway 2019 Aerial

 Subject Area

**Drawn by:** Ngaire Richards  
**Checked by:** Graham Wilson  
**Date:** 12 June 2019  
**Projection:** GDA94 / MGA Zone 56  
**Data sources:** Extent, NearMap, OpenStreetMap  
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0 1 2 3 4 5  
Kilometres



Figure 4. Current Aerial. Source: Near Maps 2019.

## 221 Pacific Highway Subject Area


- Subject Area
- Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery SHR Curtilage

**Drawn by:** Ngaire Richards  
**Checked by:** Graham Wilson  
**Date:** 12 June 2019  
**Projection:** GDA94 / MGA Zone 56  
**Data sources:** Extent, NearMap, LPI, OpenStreetMap  
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Figure 5. Map of the subject area in relation to the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery SHR curtilage.

**221 Pacific Highway  
Willoughby Local  
Environmental Plan 2012**

 Subject Area

**Drawn by:** Ngaire Richards  
**Checked by:** Graham Wilson  
**Date:** 12 June 2019  
**Projection:** GDA94 / MGA Zone 56  
**Data sources:** Extent, NearMap, LPI, OpenStreetMap  
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0 1 2 3 4 5  
Kilometres



Figure 6. Detail from Willoughby LEP 2012 Heritage Map – Sheet HER\_005 showing the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery (Item I148) in brown.

## 2. Historic context

### 2.1 Introduction

The subject area has been the subject of several heritage reports and studies. This report relies largely on the historical research contained in *Gore Hill Cemetery 1868-1974 A History*, written by Edith A. Sims for the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery, as well as detailed analysis of historical plans and aerials. Where other sources have been used, they are identified. This part of the report provides a summary of the main phases of development and is presented in the history timeline below.

### 2.2 Gore Hill Cemetery

Gore Hill Cemetery was named after early landowner Provost Marshall William Gore, who was granted 150 acres on the north shore of Sydney Harbour in 1810. By 1843, this had increased to 600 acres forming the Artarmon Estate (*Sydney Morning Herald* 16 June 1843, 6). The properties were heavily mortgaged and were subject to legal dispute following Gore's death in 1845. Gore's residence, Artarmon House, was located immediately north of the present cemetery, but it is unclear if the subject area was located within Gore's St Leonard holdings. An undated parish map indicates that a 99-acre block containing Artarmon House included part of the later cemetery (Figure 7). By 1857, the Artarmon Estate was described as containing 940 acres (*The Empire* 7 April 1857, 8). The property containing Artarmon House was occupied by prominent businessman Richard Hayes Harnett in 1861. Harnett cut an access track to Lane Cove Road – this later became the line of The Avenue.<sup>1</sup>

By the 1860s, much of this area was incorporated into the Municipality of North Willoughby, and was represented in the NSW Legislative Assembly as the electoral district of St Leonards. In 1864, William Tunks, a prominent landowner, was elected as member for St Leonards. Tunks moved to the area and, though not a notable in the State legislature, had begun to take an interest in the general development of the suburb (*Sydney Morning Herald* 3 April 1883, 7). Several cemeteries existed on the north side of Sydney Harbour at that time, though these were strictly denominational. It was Tunks' intention to open a general cemetery. Tunks wrote to the Minister for Lands urging him to acquire land for this purpose.

In 1867, the Surveyor General instructed surveyor John Armstrong to cooperate with Tunks and examine suitable locations for a general cemetery. A plan was submitted by John Armstrong for approximately fourteen acres area of Crown Land at Gore Hill, with burial areas for religious denominations allocated in proportion to demographics extracted from a municipal survey. The total plan included provision for a general cemetery along a central carriageway with further provision for future expansion of the site to the south (Figure 9).

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<sup>1</sup> Artarmon House was replaced in 1869 by Harnett's 'Valetta'. This building was demolished in 1939.

The orientation of the cemetery was designed according to the separation of denominations and to take advantage of Harnett's existing track. The new cemetery, including the reserve for future expansion, was bounded by Westbourne Street to the north, Lane Cove Road to the west and south, and Crown land to the east. Land used in the creation of the cemetery was Crown land that had previously been subdivided – though it appears the subdivisions were not gazetted (Figure 8).

The first section of the general cemetery was dedicated on the 19 May 1868 (Government New South Wales 1868, 1424). To operate the cemetery, a cemetery Trust was established consisting of representatives from Willoughby Council and the various religious denominations. Tunks was named the first chairman of the Trust. One of his first actions, following an early incident of land clearing on the site, was to write to the Minister for Lands asking for means to protect trees within the cemetery.

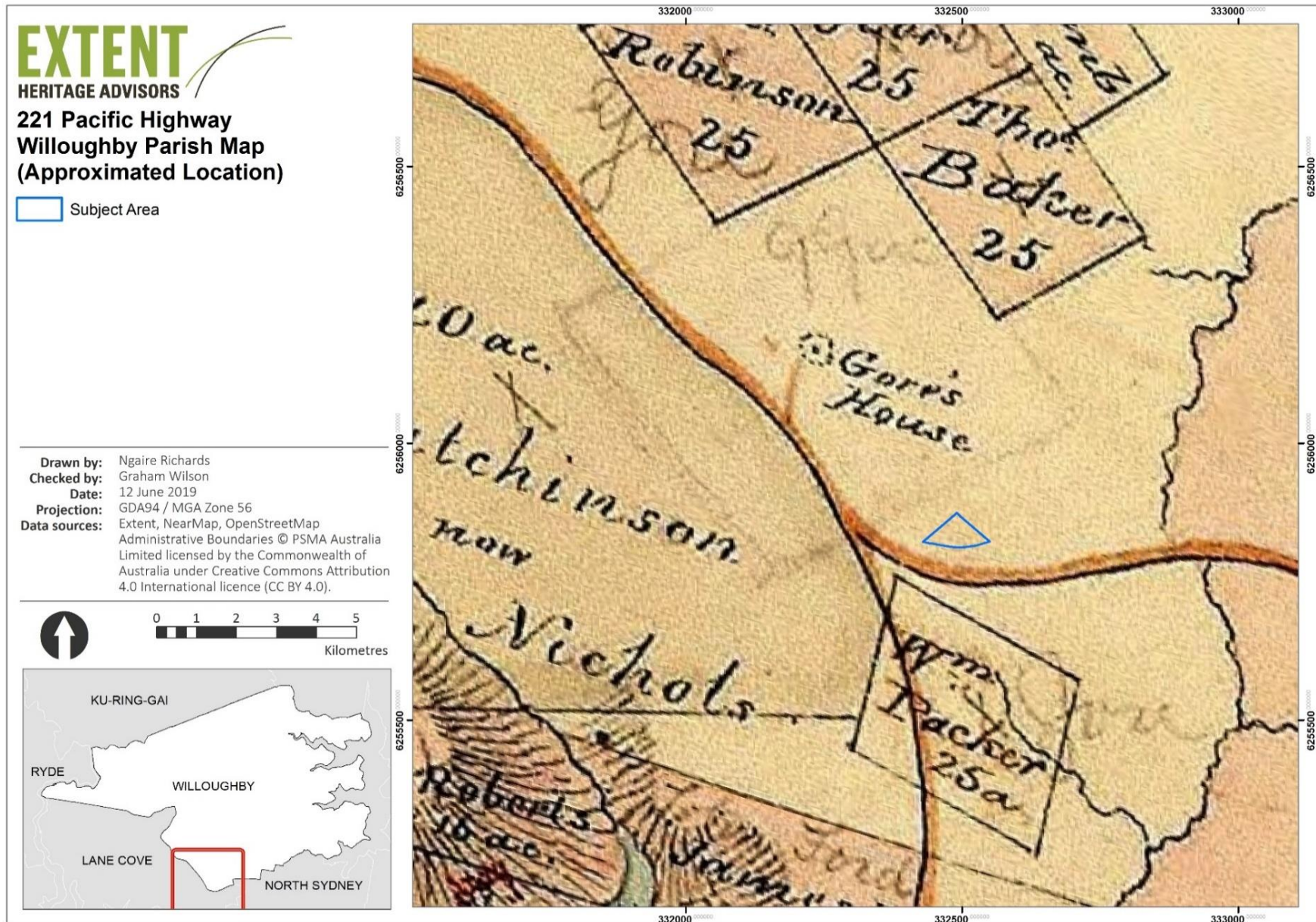



Figure 7. Detail from map of the Parish of Willoughby in the County of Cumberland showing indicative location of Gore's House (n.d.). Source: Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV), NSW Land Registry Services (NSW LRS), file 14061301.jp2.



# 221 Pacific Highway 1864 Cemetery Map (Reproduced)

 Subject Area

**Drawn by:** Ngaire Richards  
**Checked by:** Graham Wilson  
**Date:** 12 June 2019  
**Projection:** GDA94 / MGA Zone 56  
**Data sources:** Extent, NearMap, OpenStreetMap  
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0 1 2 3 4 5

Kilometres

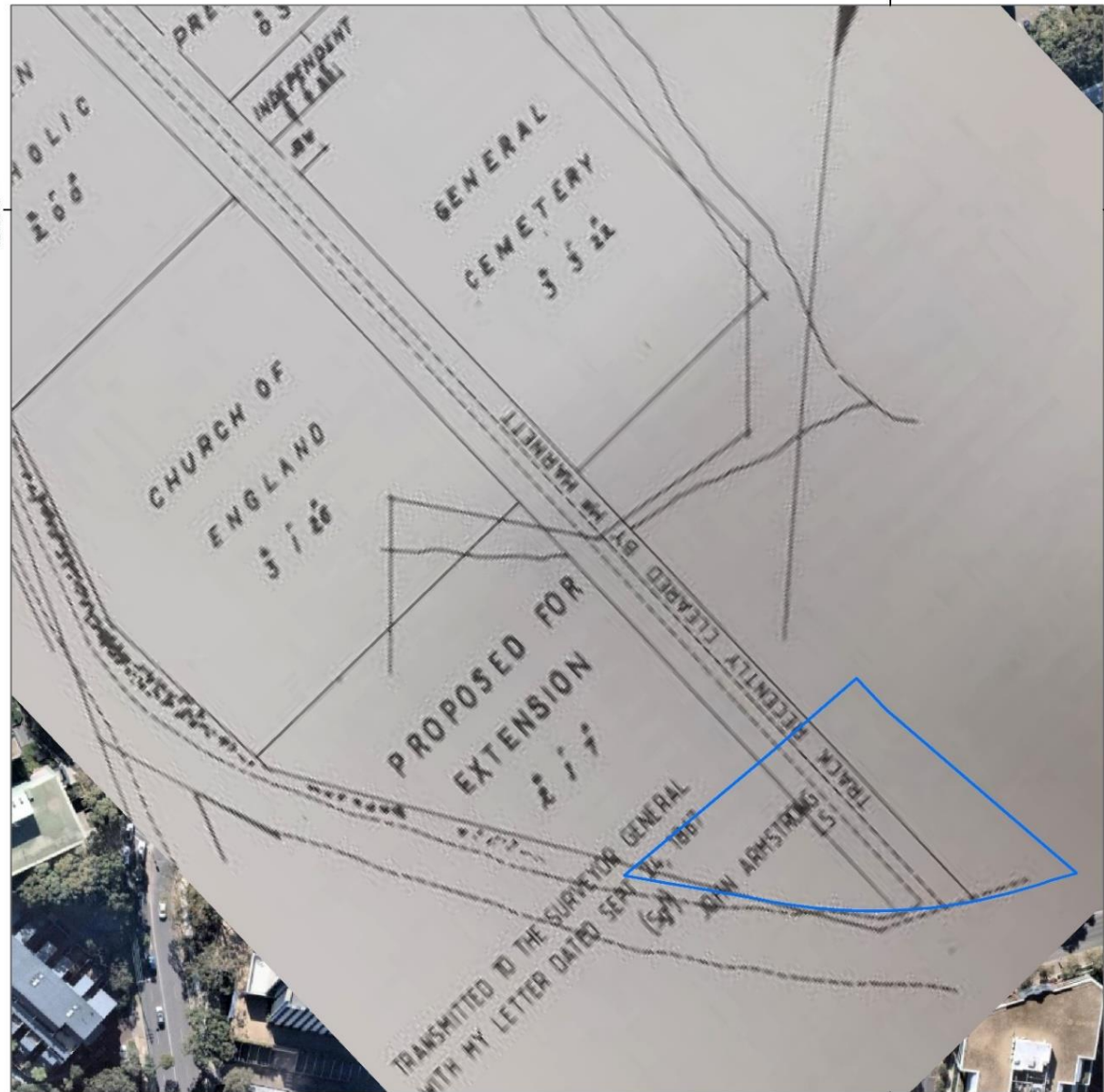


Figure 9. General cemetery plan 1868 showing the track cleared by Harnett. Source: Sim 1984, 12.

**DIAGRAM A**  
**General Cemetery.**

CHAIN SCALE CHAINS

" GORE HILL "

275

R 29836

WESTBOURNE LANE

Re

C 997 110 #

Roman Catholic

Ded 15th May '68

200

C 997 110 #

Church of England

Ded 15th May '68

31.26

10 Church of England

Ded 15th May '68

As 275 St

Baptist

Ded 15th May '68

1.0.43

Unsectarian

Ded 15th May '68

Ms. 1712.5y

17.2.10

COVE

ROAD

322

320 ac.

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The Westbourne Street entrance to the cemetery was probably the main entrance for some years. However, by 1902 the Combined Committee of Trustees had erected the main gateway off Lane Cove Road. By 1914, the Westbourne Street entrance was closed to vehicular traffic. By 1926, a dividing fence was established between the public recreation area and the general cemetery and later that year, some land was transferred from the cemetery reserve for the widening of Lane Cove Road. Shortly after this, but some time prior to 1930, the carriageway was upgraded with a tar macadam surface. In 1949 the Sexton's cottage was demolished and replaced by a new structure.



Figure 11. Image of carriageway prior to surfacing with tar macadam. Source: Willoughby Council, 'Picture Willoughby' database File No. 003/003846.

On 24 April 1974, the Minister for Lands informed the Chairman of the Cemetery Trust that the Governor had given his assent to the *Gore Hill Cemetery Act 1974*, and that the cemetery would be closed to burials from that point on. One month later, the site was dedicated as a public park under the name of Gore Hill Memorial Rest Park. As a part of the process of converting the cemetery to a rest park, Willoughby Council was required to erect a memorial indicating the importance of the former cemetery, as well as retain any monuments identified as having historical significance. To meet these requirements, Willoughby Council developed a landscaping plan known as the Rest Park Plan, which proposed the removal of headstones and conversion of burial land to open grass.

When the Rest Park Plan was proposed, heritage advocacy organisations and local community groups organised to lobby against its implementation. In 24 June 1975, a public

meeting was held at the Crows Nest Presbyterian Church that was attended by 140 citizens. The meeting resolved to request Willoughby Council rescind its motion adopting the present plan for Gore Hill Cemetery. At this meeting the group was also formalised as the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery.

In 1976, a new Minister for the Department of Lands was petitioned by the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery, who submitted a document called 'Gore Hill Cemetery: a case for conservation'. This document, based on a prior plan developed by the National Trust, outlined a strategy to provide for the partial retention of graves in the cemetery. By 1978, the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery had changed their direction and called for the complete conservation of the cemetery. The resolution of this desire was submitted to the Lands Department, the Heritage Council and the National Trust. Ultimately, the cemetery was preserved, and funds were made available for its restoration.

From 1982, restoration works were planned and supervised by the Gore Hill Cemetery Working committee, in consultation with the National Trust, Lane Cove Council and the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery. These projects included:

- The repair of the fence on the Pacific Highway boundary.
- The resurfacing of the carriageway with grass and the provision of a wide brick footpath.
- The restoration of the main gate and improvements to the entrances on the Pacific Highway and Westbourne Street.
- The removal of dead trees, replanting of shrubs and the clearing of paths and restoration of brickworks.
- The restoration of brickwork in the plantation of the Church of England Section and its carriageway retaining wall.

In 1984 the Minister for Planning and Environment approved land rezoning over the former Sexton's cottage to allow for commercial and community use, and it was converted into offices. This was a policy used to generate money for the maintenance and restoration of the cemetery.

## 2.3 Gore Hill Park

As with the Gore Hill Cemetery, land in Gore Hill Park was Crown land though, at one point, it had been measured for subdivision. The park was part of the area that was formally gazetted as a water and recreation reserve in 1869. The trustee for the reserve was Willoughby Municipal Council. Over the next few decades some attempt was made to provide amenity for the reserve. £400 worth of fences were installed, though it was reported that many of these fences were 'chopped up' by local residents, and eventually the program was discontinued (*The Australian Star* 9 July 1896, 8).

Portions of the reserve were subsequently resumed by the Department of Lands at various times to implement various State objectives including the construction of St Leonards Station and St Leonards Public School. Though ostensibly reserved for recreation, the land was used for various purposes over the next few decades. In 1896 it was noted that several squatters

had taken up residence on the public recreation grounds, and concerns were raised by the general public over the sanitation and the danger posed by structures that were not soundly made. In 1896, the Department of Lands instructed that the encamped men be removed from the reserve (*The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser* 18 July 1896, 122). However, it is not clear where within the park these structures were located.

On 28 October 1899, the reserve was named Gore Hill Park, and was reserved from sale for the purpose of public recreation. In the following decades the park became a dumping ground for residents, though, part of the land had been cleared and was being used infrequently for cricket in 1927 (*The Daily Telegraph* 27 August 1927, 3).

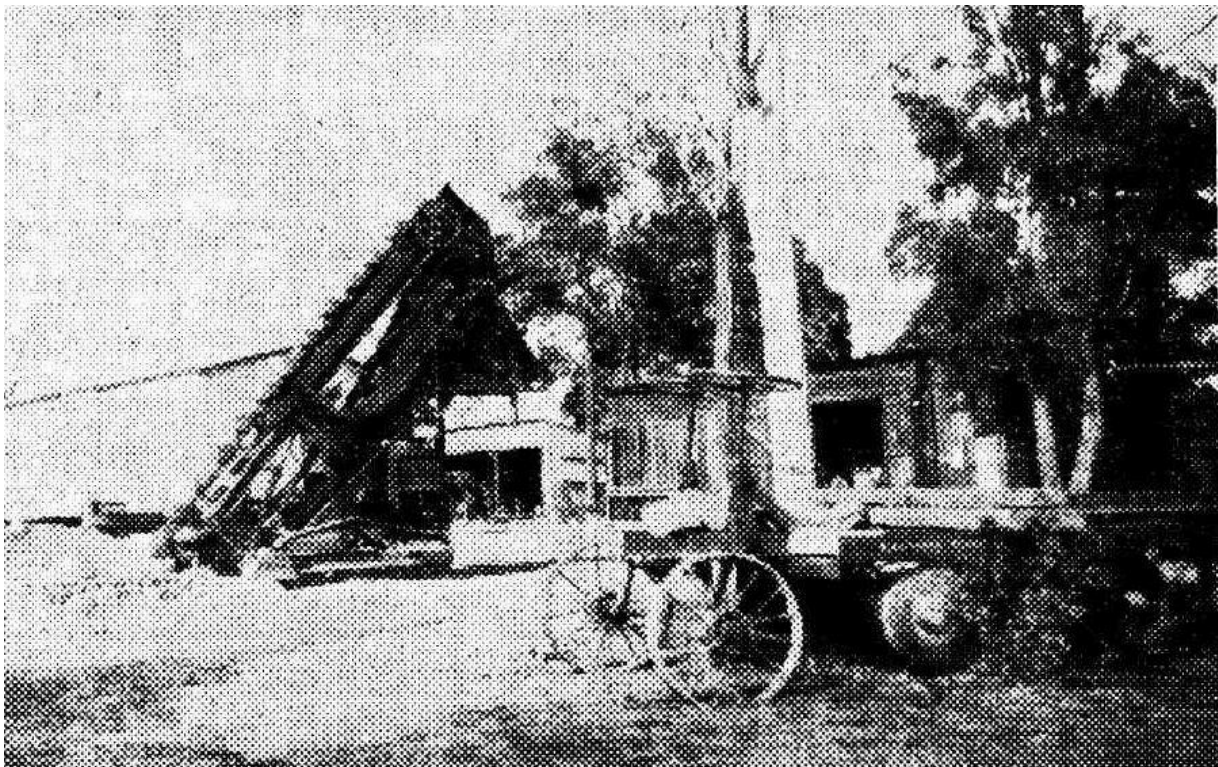


Figure 12. Image showing the condition of dumping at Gore Hill Park. Source: *The Daily Telegraph*, 23 August 1927, 3.

To improve the land and provide work for unemployed men during the depression, in 1934, a cricket oval was planned. The centre of the park was excavated and surrounding sections levelled (Figure 13 and Figure 14). Concrete drainage was installed, and rubbish that had previously been deposited on the site was capped under a layer of red loam and clay, under direction from Council Engineer Mr Robb (*Sydney Morning Herald* 8 July 1932, 12).

In 2016, the Gore Hill Oval was redeveloped as part of a government program to realign the oval and provide a synthetic surface. The program required the relevening of the oval and surrounding boundary slopes, and the reconstruction of pedestrian pathways, cycleways, to facilitate access to outdoor facilities including the nearby hospital and outdoor sports courts.



Figure 13. Image showing excavation works for the Gore Hill Oval Image. Source: Willoughby Municipal Library, 'Picture Willoughby' Database File No. 004/004662.



Figure 14. Image showing the results of excavation and levelling around Gore Hill Oval. North Shore Hospital buildings in the background. Source: Willoughby Municipal Library, 'Picture Willoughby' database File no. 004/004786.

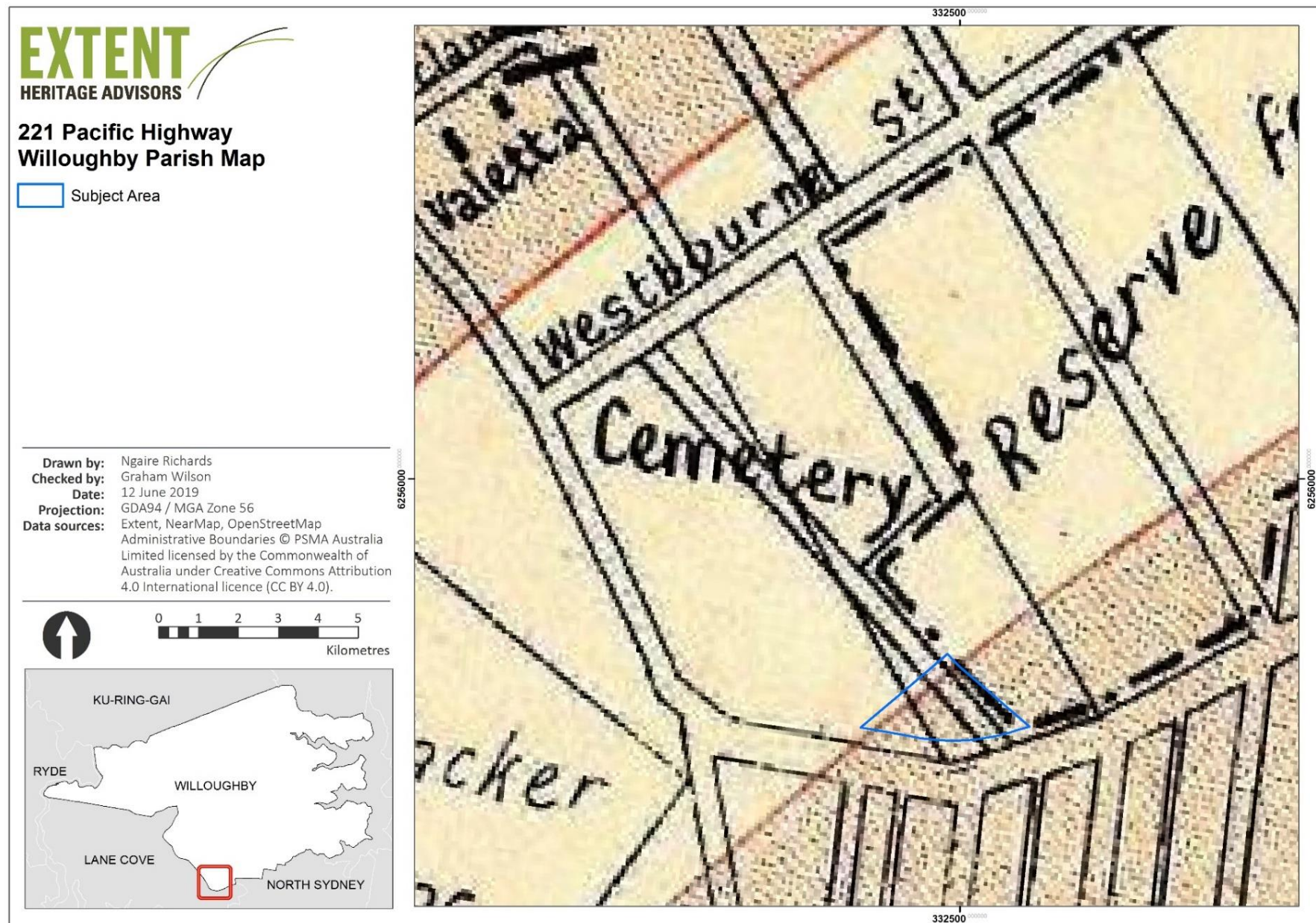


Figure 15. Detail from map of the Parish of Willoughby showing the western part of the Reserve for Public Recreation (n.d.). Source: HLRV, NSW LRS, file 14074601.jp2.

**221 Pacific Highway  
1943 Aerial**

 Subject Area

Drawn by: Ngaire Richards  
Checked by: Graham Wilson  
Date: 12 June 2019  
Projection: GDA94 / MGA Zone 56  
Data sources: Extent, NearMap, SiX, OpenStreetMap  
Administrative Boundaries © PSMA Australia  
Limited licensed by the Commonwealth of  
Australia under Creative Commons Attribution  
4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0).



0 1 2 3 4 5  
Kilometres

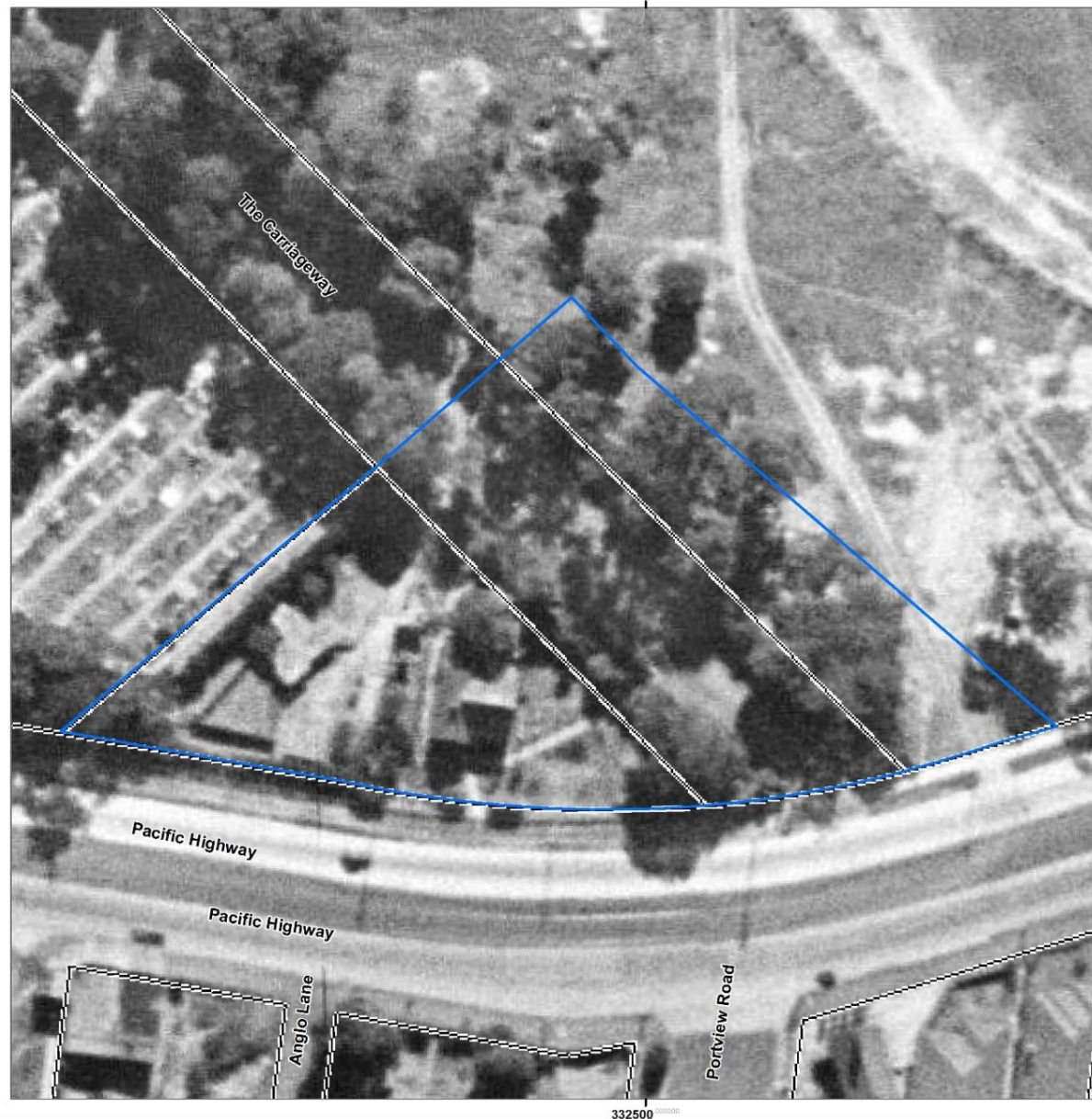


Figure 16. 1943 aerial showing the location of the second Sexton's cottage, The Carriageway, and western part of Gore Hill Park. Source: SiX Maps.

## 2.4 Timeline

Date	Event
1861-1867	Richard Harnett clears a track between Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway) and Artarmon House and grounds.
1867	Land for a general cemetery was surveyed by John Armstrong.
1868	40 acres dedicated for Gore Hill Cemetery.
1869	Land of which Gore Hill Park is a part formalised as a public water and recreation reserve, consisting of 140 acres between Gore Hill and east Artarmon Reserve (Gore Hill Park is in the southwest corner of this reserve)
1885	The track cleared by Harnett is formed into a road.
1886	The Sexton's cottage is constructed to the south of the denominational burial areas in an area proposed for extension of the cemetery.
1898	Use of Gore Hill Park by squatters, followed by dumping on site.
1898-1900	Construction of a shelter shed in the carriageway and regrading of the carriageway.
1900-1901	Surfacing of the carriageway with blue metal 20 feet wide.
1902	Construction of new iron gates and stone piers at the main entrance to the cemetery off Lane Cove Road.
1930s	Construction of the Gore Hill Oval as a part of depression works. Land excavated and dumped rubbish capped.
1949	The Sexton's cottage is demolished and replaced by new structure.
1976	The Gore Hill Rest Park is proclaimed.
1982	Carriageway resurfaced with grass and a wide brick footpath constructed.
1982	Restoration of the gates off Lane Cove Road, and improvements to the entrances on the Pacific Highway and Westbourne Street.
1984	Willoughby Council rezones the Sexton's cottage for commercial purposes and issues a 40 year lease.
2016	Upgrade of the Gore Hill Oval.

## 3. Physical description

### 3.1 General

The site was inspected by Lorna Cooper (Heritage Advisor, Extent Heritage) on 17 June 2019.

The central 'Avenue' is generally accessible to pedestrians and is used a thoroughfare to from the Pacific Highway (Figure 17). The Avenue comprises a cambered surface with a brick lined footpath on the southern side, and is otherwise grassed (Figure 18). The grass cover is patchy due to traffic and has been repaired with gravel in some areas (Figure 19). Running along both sides is a brick-lined box drain constructed of various materials including bricks and in one area adjacent to the Baptist burials, sandstone slabs (Figure 20) which discharges into a drainage channel (Figure 21). The bricks are of various types, all machine-made dry-pressed (Figure 22). The Avenue is lined with mature trees including Cocos palms (*Cocos sp.*), coral trees (*Erythrina x sykessi*), Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*), Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*) and various other plantings. A number of these would have been planted during the life of the cemetery (Figure 23 - Figure 26).

In the east of the subject area, there is evidence that during landscaping and grading of the playing fields oval, excess material directed into a swale along the eastern boundary (Figure 27).

In the west of the subject area, within the gardens surrounding the former offices, the soil is considerably higher than the surrounding areas and is putting considerable pressure on the retaining walls (Figure 28). The plantings are all recent and there is evidence of significant disturbance (Figure 29) associated with the building footings (Figure 30), former pathways (Figure 31) and buried services (Figure 32). There is no evidence of any former structural elements, early plantings or former road surfaces or guttering predating the cemetery works.



Figure 17. The brick box drain along the Avenue facing northwest



Figure 18. The Avenue is a mixture of brick paving and unpaved surface.



Figure 19. Former gravel surface



Figure 20. Sandstone curbing in Baptist area of the cemetery



Figure 21. The edging of the brick guttering runs into drainage



Figure 22. Variety of bricks used in paving



Figure 23. Large mature Port Jackson Fig along path to the northwest of the study area



Figure 24. Felled trees situated north west of the study area



Figure 25. Garden area adjacent proposed school within the study area facing south (fig tree to be retained)



Figure 26. Mature Sydney Red Gum adjacent to council car park on the eastern side of the study area



Figure 27. Evidence of former landscaping in the area west of the council car park within the study area facing south west



Figure 28. Soil putting pressure on the retaining wall that borders the former offices, facing south west



Figure 29. Former plantings and grassed area south east of the former offices facing west



Figure 30. Demolition and concreting works of the former offices, facing north



Figure 31. Former pathway south of the former offices, currently used as a site access



Figure 32. Existing ground surface above retaining wall surrounding the former offices, facing north showing planting and service impacts

## 4. Historical archaeological potential

### 4.1 Introduction

This section of the report discusses the site's potential to contain archaeological evidence of the previous phases of occupation. The potential for the archaeological resource to reveal useful information about the previous uses or activities that shaped its history depends on its extent, nature and level of intactness. Disturbed archaeological features and deposits in the form of fragmentary structural remains and random artefacts may be evidence of previous occupation, but their use or value in reconstructing the past though providing meaningful information is limited. This is because such features and deposits are disassociated from the stratigraphic sequence that establishes their provenance and secured date of deposition.

This section identifies where intact archaeological evidence is likely to be found at the site, and to what extent it may be preserved. The level of significance of archaeological evidence (known or potential) is discussed in Section 5.

### 4.2 Phases of development

Based on the historical research undertaken to date the following broad historical phases of site development could be identified:

- Phase 1: Aboriginal occupation (pre-1788)
- Phase 2: Early European occupation (1788-1860) - William Gore (possible occupancy of paddocks in association with Artarmon House)
- Phase 3: Richard Harnett's modifications (1861-1867) – landscape modifications undertaken by Richard Hartnett to provide access to Artarmon House (later 'Valetta')
- Phase 4: Gore Hill Cemetery and Recreation Reserve (1868 to 1930) – creation of the cemetery (1868), creation of water and recreation reserve (1869)
- Phase 5: Gore Hill Oval and Sexton's Cottage (1931-present) - Landscaping and sports field construction and use, removal of Sexton's cottage and construction of new cottage (1949) with subsequent modifications.

### 4.3 Evaluation of potential

The subject area has been subject to a low level of development except for the area occupied by the Sexton's Cottage. The subject area did not form part of the cemetery reserved for burial purposes and thus graves or cemetery-related items are unlikely to be encountered. The recreation reserve associated with Gore Hill Oval has been subject to disturbance and modification from the 1920s to the present day. These activities may have resulted in the deposition of artefacts, particularly during the use of the site as a tip in the 1920s. These artefacts, if they exist, are likely to be of limited research potential.

## 4.4 Summary of historical archaeological potential

Table 3 below lists the potential archaeological remains from all phases of historical development with summarised formation process which may have affected the survival of those relics. Their likelihood of survival is graded in accordance with the following classification: Nil, Low, Moderate, High and Extant.

Table 1. Summary of historical archaeological potential

Phase	Site feature or site activities	Potential remains	Level [or likelihood] of survival
1: pre-1788	Aboriginal occupation	Open campsites	Low
2: 1788-1860	Early European occupation - William Gore (possible occupancy of paddocks in association with Artarmon House to the north)	Position of fence posts	Nil-Low
3: 1861-1867	Richard Harnett's modifications including clearance of the line of The Avenue between 1861 and 1867 to service Artarmon House (later 'Valetta')	Early track surface	Nil-Low
4: 1868-1930	Gore Hill Cemetery and Recreation Reserve - Creation of Cemetery Reserve (1868), creation of Recreation Reserve (1869) Surfacing of The Avenue Gore Hill Oval works	Former road surfaces Landscape modification	Low
5: 1931 to present	Gore Hill Oval and Sexton's Cottage – oval construction 1930s, removal of Sexton's cottage and construction of new cottage (1949)	Landscape modification	Low

## 5. Assessment of historical archaeological significance

### 5.1 Basis for assessment

Archaeological significance refers to the heritage significance of known or potential archaeological remains. While they remain an integral component of the overall significance of a place, it is necessary to assess the archaeological resources of a site independently from aboveground and other heritage elements. Assessment of archaeological significance is more challenging as the extent and nature of the archaeological features is often unknown and judgment is usually formulated based on expected or potential attributes.

The following significance assessment of the subject area's archaeological resource is carried out by applying criteria expressed in the publication 'Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics', prepared by the Heritage Branch, formerly Department of Planning (NSW) (now the Heritage Division, Office of Heritage and Environment) in December 2009.

### 5.2 Existing statement of significance

The existing statement of significance for the Gore Hill Cemetery applies to the cemetery and the block formerly allotted to the sexton only. The statement of significance does not list archaeology as a contributory element to the cemetery's cultural significance.

### 5.3 NSW Heritage Criteria for Assessing Significance related to Archaeological Sites and Relics

#### 5.3.1 Archaeological Research Potential (current NSW Heritage Criterion E)

The subject site has been affected by European occupation of the district from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. The level of impact has been associated primarily with land clearance, landscaping, construction of The Avenue and possible fencing for paddocks. The archaeological evidence associated with these activities is likely to be ephemeral for the agricultural/pastoral use of the site and variations in deposits associated with landscaping of the oval. This type of evidence, if it exists has limited research potential and is unlikely to provide any substantive addition to our knowledge regarding the historical development of the place.

#### 5.3.2 Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance (NSW Heritage Criteria A, B & D)

Although there are peripheral associations with prominent figures such as William Gore and Richard Harnett there is no firm evidence to link activities that will leave remains in the archaeological record that can be reliably linked to these individuals. The primary link to

Harnett for example is the line of The Avenue. This was a track that was not formalised until after the creation of the cemetery. There are no known significant events or groups that potential archaeological remains could be associated with. Therefore, these criteria cannot be satisfied.

### 5.3.3 Aesthetic or technical significance (NSW Heritage Criterion C)

The documented history of the site does not indicate activities were undertaken that would leave remains within the archaeological record that would have aesthetic or technical significance. This criterion cannot be satisfied.

### 5.3.4 Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains (NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F & G)

These criteria are dependent upon the nature and degrees of preservation of the potential archaeological resources within the subject area. Given the low potential for such remains to exist, their ability to make a substantive contribution to our knowledge of the area's nineteenth-century development is limited. These criteria cannot be satisfied.

## 5.4 Summary Statement of Significance

The cultural significance of the subject area is vested primarily in its landscape elements. There is a low potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the proposed work area. These remains are unlikely to meet local or State significance thresholds.

## 6. Assessment of impacts

### 6.1 Introduction

The proposed development includes a change of use of existing structures within the former Sexton's Cottage extension reserve and modifications to the Avenue, landscaping works and road remodelling. Most impacts will be relatively shallow in nature.

### 6.2 Potential development impacts

The principal works that may have an impact on any potential archaeological resources are those associated with remodelling works on the line of The Avenue.

### 6.3 Recommended mitigation measures

The following recommendations should be followed regarding the subject area and its archaeological potential and research significance:

- Given the low potential for the presence of relics of local or State significance no formal program of test excavation or monitoring of works is warranted.
- During works an unexpected finds procedure should be put in place, and included in a briefing for contractors undertaking ground works should be prepared detailing the type of material that may be encountered. Any item that is uncovered that is suspected of requiring archaeological input should be reported in the first instance to the site manager. Contact should then be made with the project's designated archaeologist for appropriate management. This usually takes the form of an email with photographic images. In most cases a decision regarding the significance and appropriate means of management can be determined from images sent directly from site. If necessary, a stop work followed by a site visit may be required.
- As a result of the unexpected find discovery of significant archaeological relics, the NSW Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage should be notified in accordance with S146 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW).
- The requirement to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act does not apply to developments that are approved SSDs under Division 4.7, Section 4.41 (previously s.89J) of the EPA Act. The potential heritage impact is instead managed by the environmental assessment process.

## 7. Bibliography

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