

EXCAVATION DIRECTOR APPLICATION
MIKE HINCKS, SENIOR HISTORIC HERITAGE CONSULTANT
AMBS ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE



1. A TERTIARY PASS DEGREE WITH SUBJECTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY OR A RELATED DISCIPLINE AND FOUR YEARS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY OR A RELATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD

Tertiary Pass Degree:

2003: University of Sydney Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology (Prehistoric and Historical) and Art History/Theory)

12 Years Professional Experience in Historical Archaeology:

November 2020-present: Senior Historical Heritage Consultant, AMBS Ecology & Heritage

January 2016-November 2020: Senior Archaeologist, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd

October 2014-January 2016: Sub-contractor Archaeologist (various projects and roles)

July 2014-October 2014: Senior Archaeologist, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd

October 2013-May 2014: Senior Archaeologist, Artefact Heritage Services Pty Ltd

August 2008-October 2013: Archaeologist/Senior Archaeologist, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd

I have had 11 years' experience at a supervisor level or above in historical archaeology in NSW. I have managed the excavation of a range of site types including residential, industrial, institutional, and land-creation sites. I have been primary Excavation Director for open area excavation at locally significant sites and secondary Excavation Director at State significant sites.

2. A DEMONSTRATED UNDERSTANDING OF NSW HERITAGE LEGISLATION ASSESSING HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA AND RELEVANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL GUIDELINES/BEST PRACTICE METHODS AND STANDARDS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RELEVANT ARCHAEOLOGY PUBLICATIONS ISSUED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW.

In my 12 years' experience in historical archaeology in NSW I have written many excavation reports, managed and directed excavations, and contributed to a variety of heritage reports including archaeological assessments, management strategies, impact statements, CMPs, and built heritage assessments. I have also reviewed and edited archaeological and heritage reports of all types. I understand that assessing the significance of archaeology in NSW requires the recognition of values that contribute to the cultural significance of a place, as defined by the Burra Charter 2013. I also understand that the values-based principles and processes outlined in the Burra Charter and expanded upon in *Assessing Heritage Significance* and *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* remain the foundation of a significance assessment regardless of the development pathway in NSW.

The significance of a site is the defining quality that determines how the Heritage Act applies to it, and which will also guide the recommendations under the relevant state planning instrument if applicable.

While a significance assessment is most commonly associated with an initial archaeological assessment for any given project, I understand that significance is assessed before, during and after an excavation. The cultural significance of a place may be both tangible and intangible, and any assessment of significance must take this into consideration. A key example of my understanding of assessing archaeological significance throughout the archaeological process concerns objects that were found beneath the basement floor of the former Parramatta Girls Industrial School (SHR 00811, Archaeological Testing 2016-2017 Casey & Lowe). The objects were demonstrated to have multiple meanings that defied a traditional artefactual analysis and were only revealed through oral histories and interviews. I had a key role in this process. As the secondary ED I was managing the excavation of the site on a day-to-day basis. I recognised the limits of a traditional type/function analysis of the objects that were being recovered from the trench. With permission from the client and the Primary ED, I contacted former resident Bonnie Duric and invited her to visit the location of the excavation with an artefact specialist present.

The contradictions that became apparent in the competing interpretations of modified ceramic objects and combs between the artefact specialist and the former resident emphasised the importance of understanding significance through multiple value systems. In this case they were social values (as represented by Criterion [d]), and established comparative archaeological artefact analysis techniques developed in line with Criterion (e). It highlighted the need to recognise other sources of knowledge outside of the discipline and, most importantly, to recognise the limits of my knowledge and know when to engage other voices during the archaeological process to get the best outcome for the archaeology.

Only a significance assessment process that is values-based, and allows for significance to be expressed through competing but equally valid meaning systems (such as historical, aesthetic, and social), can ensure that all aspects of the cultural significance of an archaeological assemblage or site are accounted for and represented. The assessment of the finds during the excavation resulted in the site being recognised as containing State significant archaeology, which had been considered locally significant during the baseline assessment process. The re-assessment occurred in the field during excavation and was a response to the archaeological context, an awareness of the ongoing Royal Commission that involved former residents of the site, and new information from interviews with stakeholders. Understanding significance and how it is properly assessed was critical, and it guided the way that I managed the test excavation and was able to recommend changes in excavation and research strategy to the primary ED.

3. DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF COMPARABLE OR RELEVANT HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES (ESPECIALLY AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY) PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PREPARING WRITTEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS/SITE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.

My career in archaeology has been built on my skills as a field archaeologist and my ability to manage and direct sites, trenches, and large, complex investigations. Since 2008 I have worked almost exclusively on historical archaeological sites in the greater Sydney area, and have worked mostly on State significant archaeological sites in the Sydney CBD and Parramatta. These sites have been residential, industrial, institutional, and maritime in nature and have ranged from monitoring slot trenches in the course of a single night through to large-scale open area investigations covering 22,000m² that have been excavated over months and years.

When I worked at Artefact Heritage, I was the most senior historical archaeologist in the company and was responsible for project management, excavation direction, mentoring early-career archaeologists, budgets and timeframes and management recommendations.

Since then, on the projects I have been involved in, I have been the most senior archaeologist on site most if not all of the time. The day-to-day running of the site, excavation strategy and execution, safety audits and protocols, weekly client reports and summaries, and accountability for time and staff has all been my responsibility.

My extensive field experience augments my significance assessment skills and legislative knowledge. In 2019 I wrote the impact statement, s140 application and research design for 7 Parramatta Square (7PS). This had been a drawn-out project for the client and they had been unable to obtain approval. I was responsible for the renewed assessment strategy which involved extensive services location, in-depth consideration of the nature of the archaeology and its survivability, and I also negotiated the redesign of services and a commitment to conservation areas which I identified. I was wholly responsible for this report and strategy, which had a foundation in field experience and understanding significance.

4. ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WORK UNDER ANY APPROVALS PREVIOUSLY GRANTED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF THAT APPROVAL AND THE FINAL REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL.

All reports for which I have been nominated Primary Excavation Director have been submitted within the time stipulated in the approval. I have written many other reports as Secondary Excavation Director which are still awaiting review by the Primary ED (Dr Mary Casey, Director Casey & Lowe).

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: PERMITS HELD UNDER THE HERITAGE ACT 1977:

Primary Excavation Director:

- S140/2021/012 Excavation Permit- S140 for archaeological monitoring and testing at Mudies Creek, Golden Highway Upgrade, Wittingham.
- 2018/s140/035 Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment, Casey & Lowe
- 2014/s140 Ascham School Redevelopment; Artefact Heritage Services
- 2014/s140 2 Morton Street, Parramatta; Artefact Heritage Services
- 2013/s139 2 Morton Street, Parramatta; Artefact Heritage Services
- 2014/s139 Church Street Mall Redevelopment, Parramatta; Artefact Heritage Services
- 2013/s57 Oatley Station Redevelopment; Artefact Heritage Services

Secondary Excavation Director:

- S140/2020/004 85-97 Macquarie Street, Parramatta NSW 2150, Casey & Lowe
- 2019/s140/026 7PS & Parramatta Square Parramatta, Casey & Lowe
- 2019/S140/018 37-39 Smith Street Parramatta, Casey & Lowe
- s60/2019/038 (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 000811), Casey & Lowe
- s60/2019/037 (Cumberland District Hospital Group SHR 000820), Casey & Lowe
- 2018/s140/019 47-53 Wentworth Ave, Surry Hills, Casey & Lowe
- 2017/s60/31 (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 00811), Casey & Lowe
- 2016/s65a/30B (Cumberland District Hospital Group SHR 00820), Casey & Lowe
- 2016/s65a/31B (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 00811), Casey & Lowe
- 2016/s65a/32B (Parramatta Correctional Centre SHR 00812), Casey & Lowe
- 2016/s140/11 Mount Pleasant Farm, Soling Crescent, Cranebrook; Casey & Lowe
- 2015/s140/29 Darling Harbour Live - Darling Square South East Plot, cnr Hay and Haymarket Streets, Haymarket, Casey & Lowe
- 2014/s140/04 Bicentennial Square (Church Street Mall), 188 Church Street Parramatta, Artefact Heritage Services

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: SELECTED REPORTS

The following are reports that have either been authored solely by me, or to which I have made a significant and meaningful contribution (synthesis, analysis, assessment of potential and significance, recommendations or reporting of results). This list is not exhaustive, but provides a selection of reports from the last 10 years.

AMBS (2021a) *Addendum to Mudies Creek Golden Highway Upgrade Historical Archaeological Assessment S140 Application, Statement of Heritage Impact and Archaeological Research Design*, Report to SMEC on behalf of Transport for NSW.

AMBS (2021b) *Barangaroo Metro Station Construct Only Package (COP) Historical Archaeological Method Statement*, Report to BESIX Watpac May 2021.

AMBS (2021c) *Golden Highway Upgrade, Mudies Creek, Historical Archaeological Assessment*, Report to SMEC on behalf of Transport for NSW.

AMBS (2021d) *Sydney Gateway Road Project, Historical Archaeological Assessment & Research Design*, Report to John Holland.

AMBS (2021e) *Sydney Gateway Road Project Non-Aboriginal Heritage Management Sub Plan*, Report to John Holland Seymour Whyte Joint Venture on behalf of Transport for NSW.

AMBS (2021f) *Sydney Metro Barangaroo COP Works Heritage Sub Management Plan*, Report to BESIX Watpac on behalf of TfNSW.

AMBS (2021g) *Sydney Metro Barangaroo COP Works Aboriginal Archaeological Method Statement*, Report to BESIX Watpac May 2021.

AMBS (2021h) *The Rocks Police Station, Historical Archaeological Assessment*, Report to Tanner Kibble Denton Architects (TKD).

Artefact Heritage (2014) *2 Morton Street Parramatta Non-Indigenous Archaeological Excavation*, Report to RCP.

Artefact Heritage (2015a) *Ascham School Redevelopment: Non-Indigenous Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring*, Report to EPM.

Artefact Heritage (2015b) *East Balmain Wharf Turning Circle Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment*, Report to Transport for NSW.

Artefact Heritage (2015c) *Old Parramatta Gaol Switching Station Archaeological Monitoring Report*, Report to Endeavour Energy.

Artefact Heritage (2015d) *Statement of Heritage Impact for CR0685 Wollie Creek to Banksia 702 and 690 Feeder Relocation*, Report to Rail NSW.

Casey & Lowe (2011a) *Archaeological Investigation 710-722 George Street, Haymarket, Sydney*, Report to Inmark.

Casey & Lowe (2011b) *Archaeological Testing Report Discovery Point Stage 1 Gardener's Cottage and Pine House, Tempe House, Wollie Creek*, Report to Australand.

Casey & Lowe (2011c) *Macquarie Lightstation South Head Remediation Monitoring Report*, Report to Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Casey & Lowe (2012a) *Archaeological excavation of structural remains within the Cookhouse at the Convict Precinct, Cockatoo Island*, Report to Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Casey & Lowe (2012b) *Archaeological Monitoring Report Richard Johnson Square, Corner of Bligh and Hunter Streets, Sydney*, Report to Ausgrid.

Casey & Lowe (2013a) *Archaeological Investigation Darling Quarter (formerly Darling Walk), Darling Harbour, Sydney*, Report to Lend Lease Development.

Casey & Lowe (2013b) *Archaeological Monitoring of Alterations to the Turning Circle, Old Government House, Parramatta*, Report to Government Architects Office.

Casey & Lowe (2013c) *Archaeological Testing, George Street Gatehouse, Parramatta Park, Parramatta*, Report to Government Architects Office on behalf of Parramatta Park Trust.

Casey & Lowe (2014) *Non-Indigenous Archaeological Testing: Darling Square East & Boulevard*, Report to Lend Lease Development Pty Ltd.

Casey & Lowe (2016a) *Archaeological Testing Report 30-42 Oxford Street, Epping*, Report to Greaton Epping Holdings Pty Ltd.

Casey & Lowe (2016b) *Archaeological Testing Report Mount Pleasant Homestead Site, Soling Crescent, Cranebrook*, Report to Penrith City Council.

Casey & Lowe (2016c) *Historical (Non-Aboriginal) Archaeology Impact Statement: Development Application (Subdivision, Public Domain, Infrastructure and Demolition DA1) Parramatta North Urban Transformation*, Report to UrbanGrowth NSW.

Casey & Lowe (2018a) *Parramatta North Growth Centre (PNGC) Cumberland Hospital East Campus Site & Norma Parker Centre/Kamballa Site Historical Archaeology Testing Report*, Report to UrbanGrowth NSW Development

Corporation.

Casey & Lowe (2018b) *Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment Stages 1 & 2 Historical Archaeology Assessment, Archaeological Research Design & S140 Application, NSW Heritage Act 1977*, Report to Lendlease Building on behalf of Health Infrastructure NSW.

Casey & Lowe (2019a) *Parramatta North Growth Centre, Parramatta North: Archaeological Management Strategy and Archaeological Research Framework*, Report to UrbanGrowth Development Corporation.

Casey & Lowe (2019b) *Sydney Metro City & Southwest - TSE Works Barangaroo Station, SSI 15_7400 Preliminary Report*, Report to John Holland CPB Ghella JV.

Casey & Lowe (2020a) *North East Plot, Darling Square, Haymarket SSD 6626 Historical Archaeological Investigation*, Report to Lendlease & Infrastructure NSW.

Casey & Lowe (2020b) *Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment Historical Archaeology Excavation Report*, Report to Lendlease Building on behalf of Health Infrastructure NSW.

Casey & Lowe and Hincks, M. (2009) *Trench Report Area 8: Workers' Housing Darling Walk, Darling Harbour, Sydney*.

Casey & Lowe and Hincks, M. (2012) *Trench Report: Area M Barangaroo South*.

Casey & Lowe, Hincks, M., Dusing, A., Spry, B. and Cryerhall, A. (2011) *Trench Report: Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation, Public Domain Civil Works, darling Walk, Darling Harbour, Sydney*.

Casey & Lowe, Hincks, M. and Harrop, N. (2013a) *Trench Report Lot 6, 15 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, Sydney*.

Casey & Lowe, Hincks, M. and Harrop, N. (2013b) *Trench Report Lot 7, 15 Macquarie Street, Parramatta*.

Narrativ Archaeology and Hincks, M. (2015) *168-190 Day Street, Sydney: Analysis of Archaeologically Excavated Animal Bone and Shell*, Report to Artefact Heritage Services.

TEST EXCAVATION

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING (DATE, TYPE, COMMON APPLICATION IN THE PAST) OF BASIC FABRIC TYPES LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED

I have managed and directed the excavation of a variety of historical archaeology sites in NSW including institutions, residences, industries, and convict sites. These site types all have different material signatures, and in practice many of them overlap in their own idiosyncratic way.

I understand that structural fabrics and techniques can be critical to dating a site, particularly in identifying modifications to a building or separating phases of construction. During archaeological testing at SHR 00820 Cumberland Hospital (2016-2017 Parramatta North Program), identification of building fabric was key to distinguishing early female factory remains from later institutions. Understanding the re-use value of certain fabrics was also critical in explaining their absence in an institutional environment that went through several phases of structural change and reconfiguration. The testing report which I wrote for this site demonstrates my knowledge of a variety of fabrics and construction and engineering techniques, which had to be recognised in small test trenches that contained multi-phase remains.

I understand that artefact types and uses can also be critical in the interpretation of a site, and can affect significance assessments during excavation as described in the example from item 2 above. This case demonstrates that the relationship between fabric/type and context must be considered because traditional analyses of fabric, function and type alone may exclude some values. This was equally true for objects recovered

from the sub-floor cavity of the former Criminal Ward of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum/Hospital for the Insane at SHR 00820 during the same testing program. The institutional and penal nature of the building meant that objects had to be considered in terms of their contraband/dual use value which transcended traditional type/function analysis.

2. EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER ABILITY TO RECOGNISE AND INTERPRET TAPHONOMIC PROCESSES AND HIS/HER MEANING.

I have managed and directed many sites for which an understanding of site formation processes is critical. At Darling Square, South East Plot, which I managed and wrote the excavation report for (2020), this involved interpretation of estuarine mudflats including the synthesis of RXF data, artefact dating and stratigraphic relationships to create a new narrative for land creation and residential subdivision at the site. These were large scale processes over long time periods that were discussed along with the day-to day data of the residential archaeology. My synthesis was able to incorporate a discussion of dramatic environmental change side by side with the relatively micro-timescales of decades and years that were discernible in the formation of underfloor deposits and building alterations.

I have also demonstrated the value of experimental archaeology on taphonomic processes for specific conditions, as at Cuddie Springs megafauna site, Brewarrina for Dr. Judith Field, University of Sydney, in 2003-2005. The site contains the remains of megafauna accumulated over several thousand years. The site showed negative selection against the preservation of certain skeletal elements, as well as unusual orientation of some bones. I conducted an archaeological experiment to test taphonomic processes at nearby Brewon Station, where a considerable number of native and domesticated animals had died in similar conditions. The experiment considered the varying morphology of the animals whose remains were preserved at the tank, the positions of the bones, known scavengers in the area, as well as desiccation and articulation. The experiment showed that the skeletal morphology of the animal often affected what elements were preserved, and in what position. Scavenger preference for certain body parts also contributed significantly to the results of the taphonomic process.

3. EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER ABILITY TO COMPLETE ADEQUATE RECORDING OF STRATIGRAPHY, SOILS, FEATURES WITHOUT NEEDING TO RE- EXCAVATE PREVIOUS TRENCHES;

AND

4. EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER ABILITY TO PREPARE A REPORT THAT CLEARLY IDENTIFIES WHAT WAS DONE, WHY, WHAT NEW INFORMATION WAS RECOVERED AND WHAT IT MEANS.

I have written many testing reports which demonstrate this. The best example is 2 Morton Street, Parramatta (Artefact Heritage 2014), because the testing strategy was written by me, the testing was directed by me, the testing report was written by me, the research design for open area excavation was written by me, the open area excavation was directed by me (primary ED), and the final excavation report was written by me. The whole process and combined reports demonstrate my ability to design a testing strategy, undertake testing, recognise what the results mean and design an appropriate open area excavation strategy based on the results.

STATE SIGNIFICANCE

1. EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER ABILITY TO MANAGE/WORK WITHIN A MULTI-FACETED TEAM OF HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS;

Parramatta North Program, North Parramatta (Testing, AMS)

- Working closely with heritage architects, ecologists, arborists and engineers to manage the archaeological resource.

Barangaroo Metro Station (Open Area Excavation)

- Recovery of an 1830s boat with teams of maritime archaeologists, conservators and interpretation specialists.

Old Government House, Parramatta (Testing and Monitoring)

- Working closely with Government Architects Office to achieve suitable outcomes regarding heritage aesthetics and conservation of vegetation at the site
Graythwaite House (Monitoring)
- Working with the Shore School and Robyn Stocks to create an interpretive environment incorporating archaeology from the site
MCA (Monitoring)
- Liaising with Monique Galloway and Wayne Johnson of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority regarding conservation of building materials on and off site
Cockatoo Island (Excavation) and Macquarie Lightstation (Monitoring)
- Liaising with Libby Bennett of Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to achieve suitable interpretation outcomes
Cuddie Springs (Open Area Excavation)
- Working with conservators and paleontologists of The Australian Museum to effectively manage excavation of sensitive and poorly preserved items

2. EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER COMMITMENT TO OPERATING WITHIN THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN RELEVANT HERITAGE COUNCIL'S GUIDELINES AND POLICIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY CODE OF PRACTICE AND THE BURRA CHARTER

The example of managing the project at 2 Morton Street Parramatta (Artefact Heritage 2014), from assessment through research design, testing and excavation, writing all reports, liaising with client, the NSW Heritage Office, designing and executing budget, and directing all excavation demonstrates a commitment to the principles of the Historical Archaeology Code of Practice and the Burra Charter.

MONITORING

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

- 1. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH AND DEMONSTRATED UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO USE A MACHINE EXCAVATOR EFFECTIVELY AND SAFELY;
AND**
- 2. DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND WHEN IT IS NECESSARY TO CHANGE FROM MACHINE TO MANUAL INVESTIGATION.**

- 30-tonne excavator – has the advantage of being very stable, giving more accuracy under certain conditions (able to remove 100mm steadily in compact industrial fills). Used at Darling Walk Area 6, Area 8, Area 4
- 4-tonne excavator – easy to communicate with the operator. High manoeuvrability. Low impact. Used at many sites including Old Government House, Parramatta where it was able to perform sensitive work around the portico.
- 13-tonne excavator – facilitates good communication and reasonable stability and manoeuvrability. Able to remove reasonably large volumes without having the power to damage large structures. Used in the vicinity of the 1850s sea wall at the MCA among other locations.

Knowing when to change from machine to manual investigation is different for every site, and can also depend on non-archaeological factors such as services or toxic contaminants. However, it is always best achieved through effective communication with the operator. I always discuss with the operator prior to excavation:

- the fabric we are likely to encounter
- the power of the excavator
- how the operator understands different types of resistance in terms of different deposits
- the type of bucket to be used
- how I will communicate to the operator when I want him or her to stop excavation
- where I will stand
- what he or she can see from the cab

- the manoeuvrability of the arm and bucket head

This ensures that I know the limitations of the machine and can make a call before it is too late. Many operators have a good sense of the fabric or the nature of the deposit they are excavating by the resistance that they get from the machine. This can often be an effective tool in informing when to change from machine to manual excavation as the operator is often aware of a change in resistance before the result is visible to the archaeologist.

LARGER SCALE / COMPLEX EXCAVATION

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THE NOMINEE HAS BEEN APPROVED AS EXCAVATION DIRECTOR ON FIVE (5) OR MORE PRIOR PERMITS FOR EXCAVATION OF LESSER SCOPE SUCH AS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING OR MONITORING PERMITS (AND/OR SECTION 63 APPROVALS)

I have been primary ED for 3 open area investigations of Local significance and one test excavation:

- 2018/s140/035 Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment, Casey & Lowe (local significance, open area excavation)
- 2014/s140 Ascham School Redevelopment; Artefact Heritage Services (local significance, open area excavation)
- 2014/s140 2 Morton Street, Parramatta; Artefact Heritage Services (local significance, open area excavation)
- 2013/s139 2 Morton Street, Parramatta; Artefact Heritage Services (local significance, testing)

All reports for the above excavations have been submitted to Heritage NSW within the timeframe stipulated in the approval.

I have been secondary ED for the following State significant sites:

- S140/2020/004 85-97 Macquarie Street, Parramatta NSW 2150, Casey & Lowe
- 2019/s140/026 7PS & Parramatta Square Parramatta, Casey & Lowe
- 2019/S140/018 37-39 Smith Street Parramatta, Casey & Lowe
- s60/2019/038 (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 000811), Casey & Lowe
- s60/2019/037 (Cumberland District Hospital Group SHR 000820), Casey & Lowe
- 2018/s140/019 47-53 Wentworth Ave, Surry Hills, Casey & Lowe
- 2017/s60/31 (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 00811), Casey & Lowe
- 2016/s65a/30B (Cumberland District Hospital Group SHR 00820), Casey & Lowe
- 2016/s65a/31B (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 00811), Casey & Lowe
- 2016/s65a/32B (Parramatta Correctional Centre SHR 00812), Casey & Lowe

EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER EXPERIENCE AND/OR CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A CAPACITY TO:

(A) MANAGE PROJECT TIMEFRAMES, BUDGETS, CLIENT'S REQUIREMENTS;

The 2016-2017 PNUT testing program was delivered within the predicted timeframe in co-ordination with testing for heritage repairs, maintaining access to hospital buildings, avoiding live services, taking road possession, and working with NSW Health to ensure full operation of the facility. I was secondary Excavation Director on this project and was responsible for the excavation timeframes and co-ordination, interpretation of the archaeology, and the day to day running of the site.

AS WELL AS

(B) MANAGE COMMUNITY INTEREST/PUBLIC RELATIONS ISSUES;

At Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment I initiated and facilitated community involvement in the interpretation process while the excavation was in progress. This had a few immediate and positive effects. It diffused negative sentiment by the community towards the development, it raised the profile of the developer in the community generally, and it was a rewarding experience for the local historical society.

MANAGE AND IMPLEMENT PERMIT CONDITIONS (WHEN TRIGGERED) INCLUDING RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS (E.G. ABORIGINAL HERITAGE LEGISLATION AND WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION)

At Randwick Campus Redevelopment (2019) I was an Excavation Director on a site where the historical archaeology was assessed as being locally significant. The site was located within a dune environment, which had been assessed as being a highly sensitive landscape for Aboriginal archaeology. Another consultant was managing the Aboriginal archaeology. There were several legislative considerations that influenced the way that the site was to be excavated:

- The project was awaiting SSD determination
- The Aboriginal archaeology was intended to be managed under the conditions of the SSD, eliminating the need for approval under the NPW Act
- The investigation and removal of the historical archaeology was covered by an s140 approval
- An AHIP (for testing only) had been issued for one part of the site
- An early works DA for demolition and excavation of peripheral areas had been approved by Council and did not require an AHIP

This meant that early works could proceed, and the historical archaeological excavation could get under way. However, the Aboriginal archaeological investigations were limited to testing in one part of the site.

The historical archaeology that I was managing was situated on the dune sands. The location of the historical archaeology corresponded to the part of the site for which the AHIP had been issued, and our works were able to proceed and be managed under the conditions of the AHIP where parts of the dune risked being disturbed. This project required me to be highly aware of the various statutory controls and planning instruments in place and how the Acts related to the planning pathway.

AND

EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER ABILITY TO SYNTHESISE EXCAVATION AND POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS/HISTORICAL RESEARCH INTO A REPORT THAT RESPONDS TO IDENTIFIED RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND MAKES A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE.

I have written many excavation reports for sites that in themselves lack self-evident meaning, or lack easily interpretable archaeology. However, my ability to synthesise historical records, environmental data, theoretical concepts and shifts in social attitudes has resulted in successful outcomes that are able to bring new perspectives to sites through the interpretation of the archaeology. A recent example of this is the excavation report for Darling Harbour Live: Darling Square South East Plot. Excavation revealed that most of the anticipated residential and industrial archaeology had been removed from the site. However, synthesis of the artefact data from the reclamation and interpretation of the environmental results from boreholes and excavation combined with historical accounts of the area resulted in a change in the narrative of subdivision and reclamation at the site, contradicting contemporary map and survey records and revealing clues to the squalid living conditions and piecemeal approaches to foreshore reclamation that occurred at the head of the bay.

STATE SIGNIFICANCE

EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH POTENTIAL OF SITES OF STATE SIGNIFICANCE AND OF THE LOSS OF INFORMATION THAT CAN BE INCURRED BY APPLICATION OF LESS THAN BEST PRACTICE AND/OR RIGOROUS METHODS BOTH ON-SITE AND DURING PREPARATION OFF SITE (INCLUDING REVIEWS OF THE SITE ASSESSMENT).

AND

EXCAVATION DIRECTOR NEEDS TO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE HIS/HER EXPERIENCE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF ON-SITE INTERPRETATION.

As discussed above, I have a demonstrated understanding of the need to constantly re-assess significance and strategy during excavation, and have shown that I understand the loss that can occur if a reflexive and adaptive attitude is not adopted by the ED. I have shown that I understand when to change tactic and methodology to ensure the best archaeological outcomes. I have also demonstrated that I understand archaeological significance to be values-based and highly contextual, and have shown this in the context of the excavation of a State significant site.

I have been secondary excavation director on 6 testing permits in SHR items 00811 and 00820, which contain State and nationally significant archaeology. Conditions of all of the permits for these sites indicated that State significant archaeology was not to be disturbed. The Primary ED was on call but was not present on site during excavation. This required me to identify and interpret State significant archaeology in each case without disturbing it, which I was able to do and which is demonstrated most clearly in the PNUT Testing Report (2017). I have shown that I can identify, interpret and understand significance in the field, and understand how significance is represented in archaeological contexts and objects. This has been demonstrated in previous sections, particularly item 2, page 1.

At Cockatoo Island (2009-2010) I worked on site with Libby Bennett of Sydney Harbour Trust during excavation of the convict solitary cells, tanks and cookhouse to achieve good interpretation outcomes. This required an excavation strategy that responded to the exposure of contemporary phases across the three features that were evocative and that also satisfied research and conservation requirements.

Independently I have provided historical and archaeological interpretation advice to renowned Australian contemporary artist Mikala Dwyer on a number of projects including her work *An Apparition of a Subtraction (2010)* at the 17th Biennale of Sydney on Cockatoo Island, which incorporated waste material from the excavation of the solitary cells.

MIKE HINCKS
SENIOR HISTORICAL HERITAGE
CONSULTANT



QUALIFICATIONS Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology and Art History/Theory) – The University of Sydney, 2003

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2020 - Present AMBS Ecology & Heritage - Senior Historic Heritage Consultant
2016-2020 Casey & Lowe Archaeology and Heritage - Senior Archaeologist/Manager
2014-2016 Self Employed - Heritage Consultant
2013-2014 Artefact Heritage Services - Senior Heritage Consultant
2009-2013 Casey & Lowe Archaeology and Heritage - Senior Archaeologist
2008 Casey & Lowe Archaeology and Heritage - Archaeologist
2003-2008 Self-Employed - Field Archaeologist

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA)

Select Bibliography & Presentations

2018 Hincks, M. *The Archaeology of Idleness*. Presented to the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Conference at the University of New England, Parramatta.

2017 Hincks, M. *Interpreting Transience at Cumberland hospital, north Parramatta*. Presented at the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Conference at Brickendon Estate, Tasmania.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mike Hincks is a Senior Heritage Consultant with over 16 years' experience in commercial heritage management in NSW, including over 10 years' experience as a Senior Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant in historical archaeology in Sydney and over 5 years' experience in Aboriginal archaeology across NSW. Mike has managed complex archaeological sites for large scale infrastructure including Secondary Excavation Director on the Chatswood to Sydenham Metro TSE works and managed large teams at Barangaroo South, Darling Square and Darling Quarter. Mike has been Primary Excavation Director for locally significant projects in Sydney and Parramatta, and Secondary Excavation Director for state significant projects in Western Sydney and Parramatta including testing at the Female Factory site, Cumberland Hospital, North Parramatta, and open area excavation of the 1813 Market/Annual Feasts site at 7PS, Parramatta. Mike has managed excavations at World Heritage listed Cockatoo Island and Old Government House. Mike has written excavation reports, assessments, SoHIs, management plans, and interpretive works for many archaeological and built heritage sites in NSW.

SELECT KEY PROJECTS

Large Scale Archaeological Excavations Sydney Metro City and Southwest – Tunnel, Stations and Excavation works. Secondary Excavation Director, open area archaeological excavation of Barangaroo Station site for JHCPBG Joint Venture, 2018.

Darling Harbour Live – Darling Square North East Plot, South East Plot and Boulevard. Secondary Excavation Director for State

significant archaeological site including Dixon's 1815 dam and mill pond, for LendLease, 2016.

7 Paramatta Square, Parramatta. Secondary Excavation Director, open area excavation of the State significant 1813 Market site for City of Parramatta Council, 2020.

Prince of Wales Hospital: Randwick Campus Redevelopment. Primary Excavation Director,

open area archaeological excavation of a locally significant 1850s homestead and grounds for NSW Health/Lend Lease, 2019.

Paramatta North Program, North Parramatta. Secondary Excavation Director, archaeological testing for the State significant 1821 Female Factory, 1803 Mill Race, Parramatta Girls Industrial School and Parramatta Lunatic Asylum, for NSW DPIE, 2016-2020.

Barangaroo South Development, Barangaroo, Sydney. Site Director, complex residential and maritime infrastructure site, for LendLease, 2011-2012

47-53 Wentworth Ave, Surry Hills. Secondary Excavation Director, archaeological testing for the State significant Leak Pottery site for Time and Place, 2019.

Ascham School Redevelopment. Primary Excavation Director, open area excavation of late 19th-century estate house and grounds for EPM, 2014.

2 Morton Street, Parramatta. Primary Excavation Director, open area excavation of 1830s homestead and grounds, for RCP 2014.

Specialist Artefact Analysis

Cataloguing, analysis and reporting of faunal material from *Day Street, Haymarket*, for Artefact Heritage Services, 2016.

Report Writing

AMBS (2021) *Addendum to Mudies Creek Golden Highway Upgrade Historical Archaeological Assessment S140 Application, Statement of Heritage Impact and Archaeological Research Design*, Report to SMEC on behalf of Transport for NSW.

AMBS (2021) *Barangaroo Metro Station Construct Only Package (COP) Historical Archaeological Method Statement*, Report to BESIX Watpac May 2021.

AMBS (2021) *Golden Highway Upgrade, Mudies Creek, Historical Archaeological Assessment*, Report to SMEC on behalf of Transport for NSW.

AMBS (2021) *Sydney Gateway Road Project, Historical Archaeological Assessment & Research Design*, Report to John Holland.

AMBS (2021) *Sydney Gateway Road Project Non-Aboriginal Heritage Management Sub Plan*, Report to John Holland Seymour Whyte Joint Venture on behalf of Transport for NSW.

AMBS (2021) *Sydney Metro Barangaroo COP Works Heritage Sub Management Plan*, Report to BESIX Watpac on behalf of TfNSW.

AMBS (2021) *Sydney Metro Barangaroo COP Works Aboriginal Archaeological Method Statement*, Report to BESIX Watpac May 2021.

AMBS (2021) *The Rocks Police Station, Historical Archaeological Assessment*, Report to Tanner Kibble Denton Architects (TKD).

Casey & Lowe (2020) *North East Plot, Darling Square, Haymarket SSD 6626 Historical Archaeological Investigation*, Report to Lendlease & Infrastructure NSW.

Casey & Lowe (2020) *Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment Historical Archaeology Excavation Report*, Report to Lendlease Building on behalf of Health Infrastructure NSW.

Casey & Lowe (2019) *Parramatta North Growth Centre, Parramatta North: Archaeological Management Strategy and Archaeological Research Framework*, Report to UrbanGrowth Development Corporation.

Casey & Lowe (2019) *Sydney Metro City & Southwest - TSE Works Barangaroo Station, SSI 15_7400 Preliminary Report*, Report to John Holland CPB Ghella JV.

Casey & Lowe (2018) *Parramatta North Growth Centre (PNGC) Cumberland Hospital East Campus Site & Norma Parker Centre/Kamballa Site Historical Archaeology Testing Report*, Report to UrbanGrowth NSW Development Corporation.

Casey & Lowe (2018) *Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment Stages 1 & 2 Historical Archaeology Assessment, Archaeological Research Design & S140 Application*, NSW Heritage Act 1977, Report to Lendlease Building on behalf of Health Infrastructure NSW.

Casey & Lowe (2016) *Archaeological Testing Report 30-42 Oxford Street, Epping*, Report to

Greaton Epping Holdings Pty Ltd.

Casey & Lowe (2016) *Archaeological Testing Report Mount Pleasant Homestead Site, Soling Crescent, Cranebrook*, Report to Penrith City Council.

Casey & Lowe (2016) *Historical (Non-Aboriginal) Archaeology Impact Statement: Development Application (Subdivision, Public Domain, Infrastructure and Demolition DA1) Parramatta North Urban Transformation*, Report to UrbanGrowth NSW.

Artefact Heritage (2015) *Ascham School Redevelopment: Non-Indigenous Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring*, Report to EPM.

Artefact Heritage (2015) *East Balmain Wharf Turning Circle Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment*, Report to Transport for NSW.

Artefact Heritage (2015) *Old Parramatta Gaol Switching Station Archaeological Monitoring Report*, Report to Endeavour Energy.

Artefact Heritage (2015) *Statement of Heritage Impact for CR0685 Wollie Creek to Banksia 702 and 690 Feeder Relocation*, Report to Rail NSW.

Casey & Lowe (2014) *Non-Indigenous Archaeological Testing: Darling Square East & Boulevard*, Report to Lend Lease Development Pty Ltd.

Artefact Heritage (2014) *2 Morton Street Parramatta Non-Indigenous Archaeological Excavation*, Report to RCP.

Casey & Lowe (2013) *Archaeological Investigation Darling Quarter (formerly Darling Walk), Darling Harbour, Sydney*, Report to Lend Lease Development.

Casey & Lowe (2013) *Archaeological Monitoring of Alterations to the Turning Circle, Old Government House, Parramatta*, Report to Government Architects Office.

Casey & Lowe (2013) *Archaeological Testing, George Street Gatehouse, Parramatta Park, Parramatta*, Report to Government Architects Office on behalf of Parramatta Park Trust.

Casey & Lowe (2012) *Archaeological excavation of structural remains within the*

Cookhouse at the Convict Precinct, Cockatoo Island, Report to Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Casey & Lowe (2012) *Archaeological Monitoring Report Richard Johnson Square, Corner of Bligh and Hunter Streets, Sydney*, Report to Ausgrid.

Casey & Lowe (2011) *Archaeological Investigation 710-722 George Street, Haymarket, Sydney*, Report to Inmark.

Casey & Lowe (2011) *Archaeological Testing Report Discovery Point Stage 1 Gardener's Cottage and Pine House, Tempe House, Wollie Creek*, Report to Australand.

Casey & Lowe (2011) *Macquarie Lightstation South Head Remediation Monitoring Report*, Report to Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Primary Excavation Director

S140/2021/012 Excavation Permit- S140 for archaeological testing at Mudies Creek, Golden Highway Upgrade, Whittingham.	This site contains potentially State significant archaeology including Aboriginal glass artefacts which have been collected from surface survey at the site. The testing program is an integrated Aboriginal and historical investigation designed by Mike Hincks and Chris Langeluddecke of AMBS and approved by both branches of HNSW. The excavation is scheduled for January 2022.
2018/s140/035 Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment, Casey & Lowe	This site was an open area excavation of locally significant archaeology including an 1850s cottage and associated underfloor. The project included involvement of the local historical society in research and artefact analysis, which was instigated by Mike Hincks and conducted by Mike Hincks and LendLease. The site was located on a dune landscape which was highly sensitive in terms of Aboriginal archaeology. Mike worked in tandem with MDCA and LaPerouse LALC to ensure that all data was captured by both teams where contexts overlapped and interacted
2014/s140 Ascham School Redevelopment; Artefact Heritage Services	This was an open area excavation of locally significant residential archaeology dating to the late 19th and early 20th century. Analysis of the limited structural remains by Mike led to an interpretation of the site in terms of shifting architectural and social values and styles at an important junction in Australian and NSW history.
2014/s140 2 Morton Street, Parramatta; Artefact Heritage Services; and 2013/s139 2 Morton Street, Parramatta; Artefact Heritage Services	This testing program and open area excavation investigated the remains of an 1830s residence on the left bank of Parramatta River below Morton Street. Remains of the basement, well and ancillary structures were interpreted in terms of their position in the landscape, orientation, contemporary views, and the 19th century social implications and motivations behind those decisions. A synthesis of the site by Mike included analysis of paintings and depictions of the landscape and house in art historical terms.
2014/s139 Church Street Mall Redevelopment, Parramatta; Artefact Heritage Services	Monitoring of services in Church St Mall, Parramatta
2013/s57 Oatley Station Redevelopment; Artefact Heritage Services	Monitoring for underfloor archaeology within the SHR listed station buildings

Secondary Excavation Director

2019/s140/026 7PS & Parramatta Square Parramatta, Casey & Lowe	This was an open area excavation at the site of the Annual Feasts (Parramatta Town Hall Archaeological Site) which was State significant and had the potential to contain archaeological evidence of European and Aboriginal contact and interaction. The first phase of open area investigation was directed by Mike, who was responsible for the day-to-day management of the site, including the identification of State significant archaeology, the interpretation of soil profiles and potentially artefact-bearing horizons from the contact period, and the integration of Aboriginal archaeological
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Secondary Excavation Director

	<p>methods of excavation and recording within the parameters of the historical archaeological program. The parts of the excavation methodology and research design concerned with the identification and excavation of potentially contact-period deposits and features was written by Mike Hincks. The re-analysis of potential and the design of conservation areas prior to the excavation was also written by Mike. Mike was responsible for close consultation and daily collaborative excavation with Niche Ecology & Heritage who were conducting the Aboriginal investigation.</p>
<p>s60/2019/038 (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 000811), Casey & Lowe; and s60/2019/037 (Cumberland District Hospital Group SHR 000820), Casey & Lowe</p>	<p>These permits were for archaeological testing adjacent to perimeter walls at the site of the former Parramatta Female Factory and the Parramatta Girls Industrial School and Roman Catholic Orphan School. Testing within SHR 00820 was at the location where the Parramatta Female Factory moat (c.1821) passed beneath the 1839 Solitary Cell Block extension to the Factory. Both of these features embody State significant values. Decisions during excavation, and later analysis of the results required the recognition of landscape modifications, construction features and natural changes in the soils brought about by the water management measures across the landscape. It also required the integration of data from other small testing locations that were concerned with the same themes across the site.</p>
<p>2018/s140/019 47-53 Wentworth Ave, Surry Hills, Casey & Lowe</p>	<p>This investigation involved the exposure and ultimate conservation of the State significant remains of a pottery kiln owned and operated by Jonathan Leak.</p>
<p>2017/s60/31 (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 00811), Casey & Lowe; and 2016/s65a/30B (Cumberland District Hospital Group SHR 00820), Casey & Lowe; and 2016/s65a/31B (Norma Parker Correctional Centre SHR 00811), Casey & Lowe; and 2016/s65a/32B (Parramatta Correctional Centre SHR 00812), Casey & Lowe</p>	<p>These four permits were for the testing and investigation of State significant archaeology at the Parramatta North Precinct, which included the archaeological remains of the Parramatta Female Factory (1819), the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum (1848), the Parramatta Hospital for the Insane (1870), the Parramatta Mental Hospital (1916), the Roman Catholic Orphan School (1844), the Parramatta Girls Industrial School (1880), and the Government Mill Race (1804). This testing program was managed on a day-to-day basis by Mike Hincks, who was responsible for the identification and interpretation of State significant archaeology on this complex and multiphase site. Volume 1 of the testing report was written by Mike, which included the analysis and synthesis of historical material to interpret the landscape engineering, water management, institutional spaces and the interrupted equilibrium which characterises such long-term institutional sites and places occupied by marginalised peoples. At ASHA 2017 and 2018, Mike presented additional research on these themes that had been developed and instigated during the excavations.</p>
<p>2016/s140/11 Mount Pleasant Farm, Soling Crescent, Cranebrook; Casey & Lowe</p>	<p>This project included testing and monitoring for potentially State significant archaeology of a residential site on the fringes of 19th century Sydney.</p>
<p>2015/s140/29 Darling Harbour Live - Darling Square South East Plot, cnr Hay and Haymarket Streets, Haymarket, Casey & Lowe</p>	<p>This project involved the targeted open area excavation of residential, industrial, and commercial archaeological remains, including residential underfloor deposits. The 19th century structures had been built on reclaimed land, which was once a part of Dixon's mill pond. The pond was constructed with a 216m-long earthen dam which had been assessed as State significant and was conserved as part of the design review. Mike was responsible for all aspects</p>

Secondary Excavation Director

	of the day-to-day management of the excavation. The project involved the analysis of two sedimentary cores taken from either side of the dam and Mike used this and the archaeological evidence of the pond and infill to reinterpret the timeline and character of the neighbourhoods that bordered the mudflats at the head of the bay in the mid-19th century.
2014/s140/04 Bicentennial Square (Church Street Mall), 188 Church Street Parramatta, Artefact Heritage Services	This project involved monitoring of new services in Church Street Mall, Parramatta.
2019/S140/018 37-39 Smith Street Parramatta, Casey & Lowe	This open area excavation permit for a potentially State significant site was approved with Mike as secondary ED but was later varied.
S140/2020/004 85-97 Macquarie Street, Parramatta NSW 2150, Casey & Lowe	This open area excavation permit for a potentially State significant site was approved with Mike as secondary ED but was later varied.

Site Director

Cockatoo Island Solitary Cells and Cookhouse (2010-2011, Casey & Lowe for Sydney Harbour Federation Trust)

Mike was responsible for the excavation of the convict-period Solitary Cells and Cookhouse (1839) and the management of an excavation crew that consisted entirely of non-archaeologists engaged by SHFT. The project included consultation with Libby Bennett of SHFT regarding the interpretation opportunities of the excavation, and with contemporary artist Mikala Dwyer on the execution of the artwork An Apparition of a Subtraction (2010) at the 17th Biennale of Sydney on Cockatoo Island, which incorporated waste material from the excavation of the solitary cells. Mike conducted a tour of the Island and Cells as part of National Archaeology Week 2011, which highlighted the archaeology and interpretation.

North East Plot, Darling Harbour Live (2016, Casey & Lowe for LendLease)

Day-to-day management of open area targeted excavation of mid to late 19th century residential, industrial and commercial structures, as well as reclaimed land and remains of the 1815 earthen dam constructed by John Dixon.

Macquarie Lightstation Remediation Works, South Head (2011)

Exposure and recording of the State-significant remains of the original Francis Greenway Lightstation for SHFT.

AMBS Ref: MH SHR Reference

28 October, 2021

Heritage Council of NSW
6/10 Valentine Ave,
Parramatta NSW 2150



Attention: Dr Siobhán Lavelle, Senior Team Leader Specialist Services
Heritage NSW, Department of Premier & Cabinet

Reference for Mike Hincks

I am writing to support the nomination of Mike Hincks as a Primary Excavation Director on state significant archaeological sites. I have always been impressed by Mike's professionalism and the quality of his work and he was employed by AMBS in November 2020.

I am aware that Mike has worked at Casey & Lowe Heritage Consultants for a number of years where he was Excavation Director on a number of locally significant sites and secondary excavation director on state significant sites, in particular the Sydney Metro Barangaroo site, which I visited on a number of occasions. The Barangaroo station site was one of the Sydney Metro City & Southwest project sites for which I was the Primary Excavation Director and responsible for all historic heritage aspects of the project, including managing Casey & Lowe, subcontracted by AMBS to excavate three of the new station sites, including Barangaroo. Mike's professionalism and interactions with staff and the primary excavation director, Mary Casey impressed me at the time. I believe he was a valued member of the Casey & Lowe team.

Since joining AMBS, Mike has prepared a number of Archaeological Assessments and Research Designs and has reviewed reports by other members of staff, for whom he has proven to be a valued mentor. He also has a good work ethic and a high professional standard in his understanding of archaeological features, formation processes and phasing. I have always been able to depend on him to be able to discuss issues and logistics in a helpful and informed manner. In addition, his interactions with clients have always been calm and professional.

In conclusion, I regard Mike as being eminently qualified to be a primary excavation director on applications for sites of State significance. He has an excellent grasp of archaeological techniques and methodologies and has excellent writing skills. In addition, his interactions with clients and on-site staff on a number of projects has been faultless. Should you require any additional information or if I can be of assistance in any way please contact me on 0405 186 482 or email jenniel@ambs.com.au.

Yours sincerely

Jennie Lindbergh
Director Historic Heritage
AMBS Ecology & Heritage

01 November 2021

Dr Siobhán Lavelle, OAM
Senior Team Leader, Specialist Services
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 6, 10 Valentine Avenue
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Re: Excavation Director Nomination—Reference for Mike Hincks

Dear Siobhán,

I am writing this letter to support Mike Hincks' nomination as the Primary Excavation Director for a state significant archaeological site in NSW. Mr Hincks is currently employed by AMBS and I understand the nomination relates to a permit application for one of their projects.

Mr Hincks and I worked together at Casey & Lowe for five years (2008-2013). I am also familiar with his work since this time as an Archaeological Advisor for Sydney Metro (2018-2019) when he was directing excavations at the Barangaroo station site.

At Casey & Lowe we worked on several large-scale historical archaeological excavations where I was the site director; 710 George Street, Sydney, 15 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, Darling Quarter and Barangaroo South, Darling Harbour. These projects involved multi-phased urban and foreshore archaeology, of both local and state significance, within a complex construction environment. As a senior supervisor for these projects, Mr Hincks was responsible for the archaeological investigation and recording of large areas, management of large archaeological teams, and coordination with construction contractors and the Aboriginal archaeological teams. In these roles, he demonstrated his exceptional fieldwork and management skills, his commitment to best practice in archaeology, and ability to strategize and respond to challenges while keeping focused on the bigger picture and research objectives.

During our time at Casey & Lowe, we also worked on the post-excavation analysis and reporting for these projects. Mr Hincks demonstrated his knowledge of historical archaeology and theory, and abilities in critical analysis, research and interpretation of archaeological data. This is further demonstrated as he was a major contributing author of the Darling Quarter report which won the ASHA Judy Birmingham award for Best Historical Archaeology Report in 2014.

I understand that Mr Hincks has previously been approved as a Primary and Secondary Excavation Director for permits issued under the *Heritage Act 1977*. He has been a Secondary Excavation Director for open area excavation, and test excavation with conservation outcomes, for state

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GML Heritage Victoria P/L

(trading as Context)

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significant archaeological sites. He has also been a Secondary Excavation Director for large-scale excavations as part of State Significant Infrastructure projects, under the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, with state significant archaeology involving multi-disciplinary teams and conservation outcomes.

Mr Hincks is an excellent archaeologist with a depth of experience in managing complex archaeological sites, including those of state significance. I have no hesitation in recommending Mr Hincks and supporting his application as a Primary Excavation Director for state significant archaeological sites.

Yours sincerely,



Abi Cryerhall
Principal, GML Heritage

31 October 2021

Dr Siobhan Lavelle, OAM
Senior Team Leader, Specialist Services
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 6, 10 Valentine Avenue
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

**Re: Statement of Relevant Professional Experience for Section 60 Excavation
Director Application—Mr Mike Hincks**

Dear Dr Lavelle,

This letter is prepared in support of Mike Hincks' application as Primary Excavation Director for a program of archaeological testing and salvage excavation at an SHR site. Mr Hincks is currently employed as Senior Historic Heritage Consultant at AMBS Ecology & Heritage and has been working in Australian Archaeology for almost 18 years. He has submitted his CV and a response to the Excavation Director criteria. This letter is submitted as one of the required written professional references.

I worked with Mr Hincks between 2016 - 2018 while both employed at Casey & Lowe Archaeology and Heritage. At that time, I held the position of Senior Associate, Archaeologist and Mr Hincks as a Senior Archaeologist. During that time, we carried out many historical archaeological excavation projects, archaeological assessments, research designs and post excavation reports. Mr Hincks was responsible for the archaeological excavation direction, methodology development and reporting on several projects, some on which we worked together. We regularly appreciated a collaborative relationship, discussing our projects together, seeking each other's perspective and feedback on matters of significance, proposed methodologies and findings.

Resulting from his more than 18 years of experience, Mr Hincks has a well-rounded skill set in many components of archaeological consultancy—including project management, advice and assessment, site investigation and excavation, and post-excavation reporting. In addition, he demonstrates a strong understanding of historical archaeological theory and practice as well as analytical and scientific approaches to interpretation of archaeological sites and relics. This is also evident in the quality of his writing and contributions/enquiries to presenters during archaeological conferences and presentations.

Mr Hincks has demonstrated his practical capabilities as a specialist historical archaeologist and Secondary Excavation Director on several State significant excavations to date. These include Darling Harbour Live (2016), the State significant 1813 market place site at 7 Parramatta Square, Parramatta (2020) and the complex

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investigation of the State significant 1821 Female Factory, 1803 Mill Race, Parramatta Girls Industrial School and Parramatta Lunatic Asylum for DPIE (2016-2020). During his involvement in these projects his responsibilities included liaising between the client, contractors and the archaeology team, site wide archaeological management and the supervision of teams of archaeologists undertaking testing and excavation. He has completed numerous investigation reports on completion of archaeological excavations.

Mr Hincks is also experienced in assessing archaeological significance and appropriate application of the assessment criteria to archaeological potential in compliance with heritage significance guidelines including *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, Heritage Branch December 2009 and best practice cultural heritage management guidelines of the Burra Charter (2013).

In my experience Mr Hincks is a principled, considered and independent thinker who undertakes archaeological research and excavation work with regard for the best outcome for the resource in mind. He also understands the importance of communication and co-operation on projects -- with his team, contractors and clients. As his CV and Excavation Director criteria response demonstrates, his archaeological skill set is more than adequate to undertake competent and independent management of State significant sites within NSW.

Mr Hincks is an intelligent, talented archaeologist who continues to demonstrate his abilities and commitment to the profession and to contributing to historical archaeology research and practice in NSW. Being a nominated Primary Excavation Director on a State Significant permit is the next step in his professional development. I fully support his nomination as Primary Excavation Director for this project.

**Yours sincerely,
GML Heritage Pty Ltd**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadia Iacono', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dr Nadia Iacono
Senior Associate, Archaeology**