

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

Al Faisal College, Austral, NSW

Liverpool LGA

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Executive Summary

The proponent, Al Faisal Colleges is preparing a development application for the expansion of the existing primary school located on Lot 9 DP1207216 and Lot 14 DP831988 including additional buildings and sporting areas, and the addition of a new middle and senior school with sporting fields on Lot 37 DP3403 and Lot 1 DP1243351. The proposed development is considered state significant development and the application under the Planning Secretaries Environmental Requirements is SSD-10445. The environmental assessment requirements include the completion of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).

Tocomwall was commissioned by Al Faisal Colleges to complete an historical archaeological investigation and assessment of the study area in accordance with the conditions of the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements. This report describes the archaeological site survey inspection and assessment for the study area.

An archaeological survey was conducted at the site of the proposed new development on Friday the 24th of July 2020. The survey was supervised by Tocomwall archaeologists Will Moon and Danielle Mitchell. No historical artefacts or objects were identified during the survey.

Historical research for the study area location was undertaken. The research found that there are no items or features of historical significance, and very low potential for historical archaeological deposits within the development footprint and within the lot and DP numbers referenced.

It was concluded that the study area has very low to nil archaeological potential and there are no historical heritage constraints for the proposed development.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Scope

Tocomwall Pty Ltd have been engaged by Al Faisal College to provide a statement of significance and an assessment of the impact on the heritage significance of the heritage items on the site in accordance with the guidelines from NSW Heritage, and to address any archaeological potential and significance on the site and the impacts the development may have on this significance.

The scope of this study of the proposed development of the Al Faisal College located at Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351, Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216, Lot 14 in D.P. 831988 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403 at Austral, includes an assessment of the history of the land, and an assessment of the potential for historical archaeology on the site. The objective is to determine the cultural heritage significance of the study area and the existing structures on the site, and to make recommendations for further investigation and management of the cultural heritage values of the site as appropriate to their significance.

1.2 Investigation Contributors

This report is prepared by William Moon MA Archaeology and Heritage Management, Flinders University, Adelaide, SA. William has 5 years experience as a consulting archaeologist plus 7 years experience as a lead assessor and designer of environmental, heritage and quality management systems. The investigation was undertaken by William Moon and Danielle Mitchell. Danielle has a Bachelor of Science from Macquarie University, majoring in Geology, Palaeobiology, Ancient Mediterranean Cultures. Graduate Diploma in Archaeology and Heritage Management from Flinders University, Adelaide, SA. She has 16 years experience working as an archaeologist.

1.2.1 Research Objectives

The research objectives for the study area include:

- Through desktop research and site inspection gather information that is useful for furthering our understanding of the history of use of the study area, including past development, past land use, and potential for buried archaeological deposit.
- Determine whether archaeological deposits and features associated with the former use of the study area could inform a future more detailed cultural heritage assessment, should they be justified.
- Assess the degree of modification of the landscape to determine if any intact soil profiles are likely to be present or whether past land use activities have caused the pre-existing soil horizons to have been removed or disturbed.
- Determine whether there is a need for a Historical Archaeological Assessment and Research Design (HAARD).

1.2.2 Research Questions

The research questions include:

- What evidence exists for all periods of site use that contributes to our understanding of the historical use and development of the study area?
- Are there likely to be any buried archaeological features or deposits present in the study area?
- Does sufficient archaeological evidence potentially survive to answer more detailed research questions about how the study area was used in the past?

1.2.3 Applicable Legislation and Guidelines

The New South Wales Heritage Act 1977 (as amended) affords automatic statutory protection for all 'relics' that form archaeological deposits or part thereof.

This Act defines a 'relic' as:

any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprises NSW, not being an Aboriginal settlement, and which is 50 or more years old.

The Heritage Act 1977 contains provisions relating to the protection of items of heritage significance or items of potential significance. Section 139 of the Act requires that a person must not disturb or excavate any land 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 unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.

Further applicable guidelines:

Guidelines for the preparation of Archaeological Management Plans, Heritage Branch Department of Planning 2009.

The State Heritage Register pursuant to the NSW Heritage Act 1977.

Assessing Heritage Significance. New South Wales Heritage Manual 2. NSW Heritage Office 2001.

2 Description of the Study Area

2.1 Location and Proposed Development

The proposed development of the Al Faisal College is location at Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351, Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216, Lot 14 in D.P. 831988 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403 at Austral. The street addresses for the development are 79, 80 and 83-87 Gurner Ave, Austral, within the Liverpool LGA. The proposed development includes the expansion of the existing Primary School together with playing grounds and parkland at Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216 and Lot 14 in D.P. 831988. The proposed development is shown from Figure 5 to Figure 7. A Secondary School, playing fields and sporting areas are proposed for construction at Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403. The proposed development is shown from Figure 8 to Figure 10.



Figure 1: Al Faisal College, Austral. Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351, Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216, Lot 14 in D.P. 831988 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403 Image source Nearmap (7/7/2020).



Figure 2: Al Faisal College, Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351, Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216, Lot 14 in D.P. 831988 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403. Image source © Department Finance, Services and Innovation (1/7/2020) and Open Street Map contributors.



Figure 3: Aerial image of Al Faisal College property Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351, Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216, Lot 14 in D.P. 831988 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403 (source PMDL).

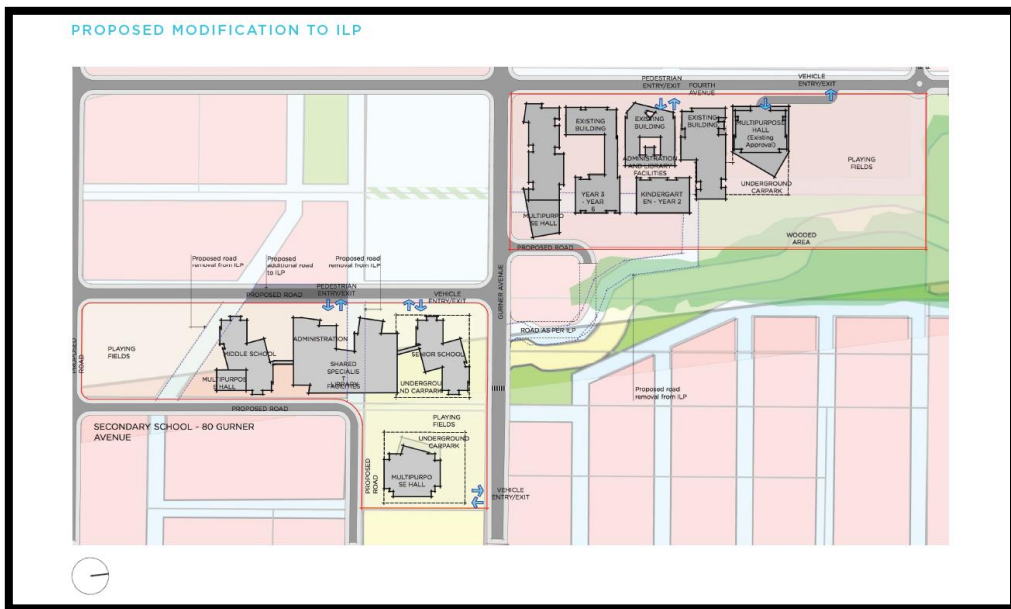


Figure 4: Layout of the proposed Al Faisal College (source PMDL).

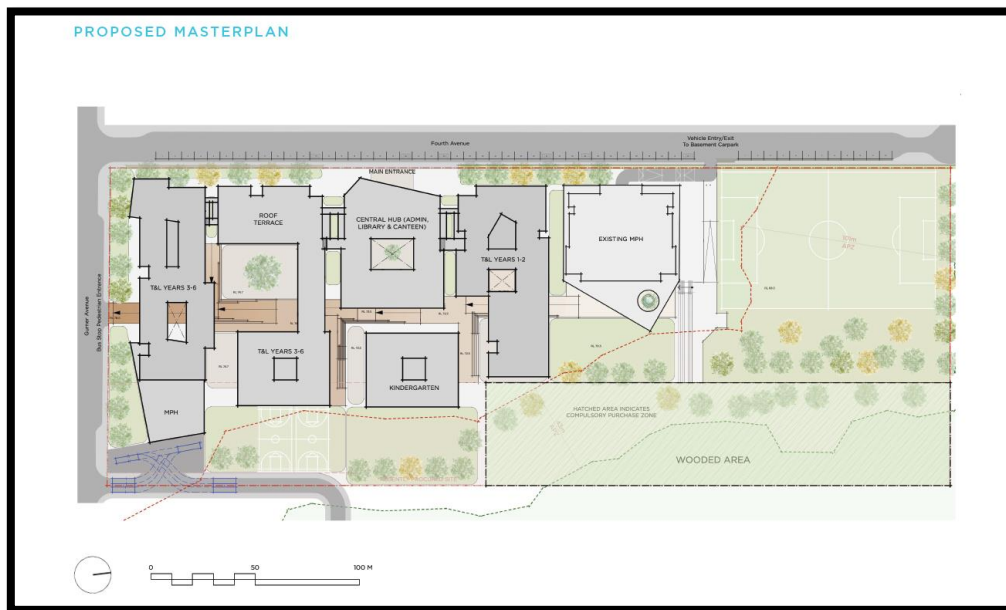


Figure 5: Proposed masterplan for the Primary School located at Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216, and Lot 14 in D.P. 831988 (source PMDL).

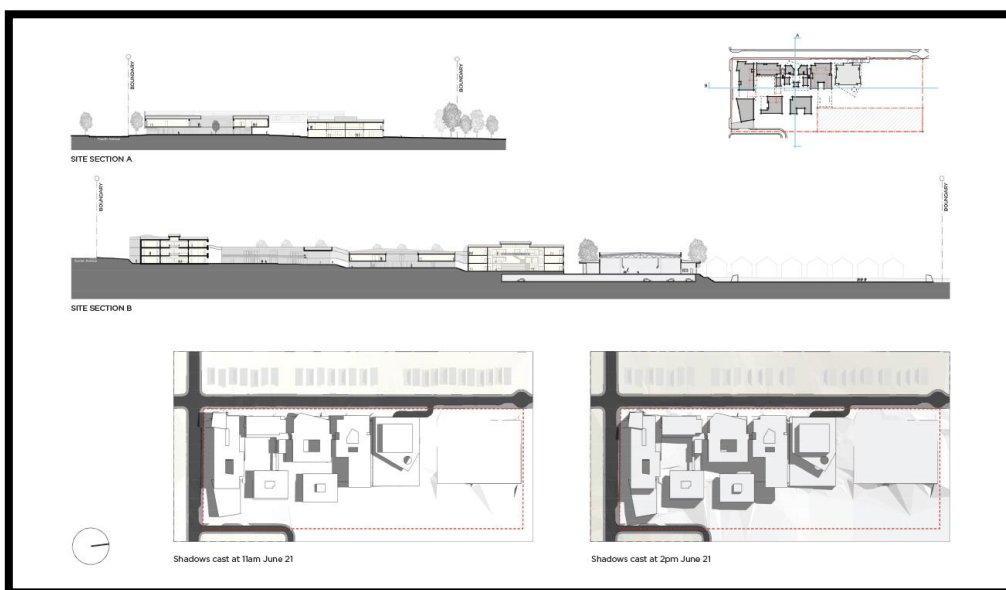


Figure 6: Section views of the Primary School at Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216 and Lot 14 in D.P. 831988 (source PMDL).

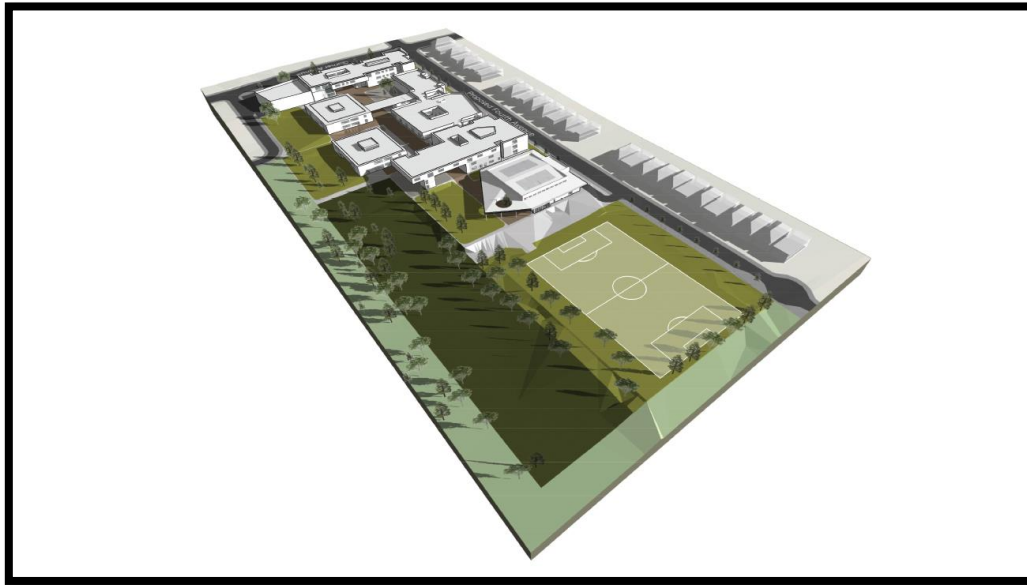


Figure 7: Three dimensional view of the Primary School at Lot 9 in D.P. 1207216 and Lot 14 in D.P. 831988 (source PMDL).

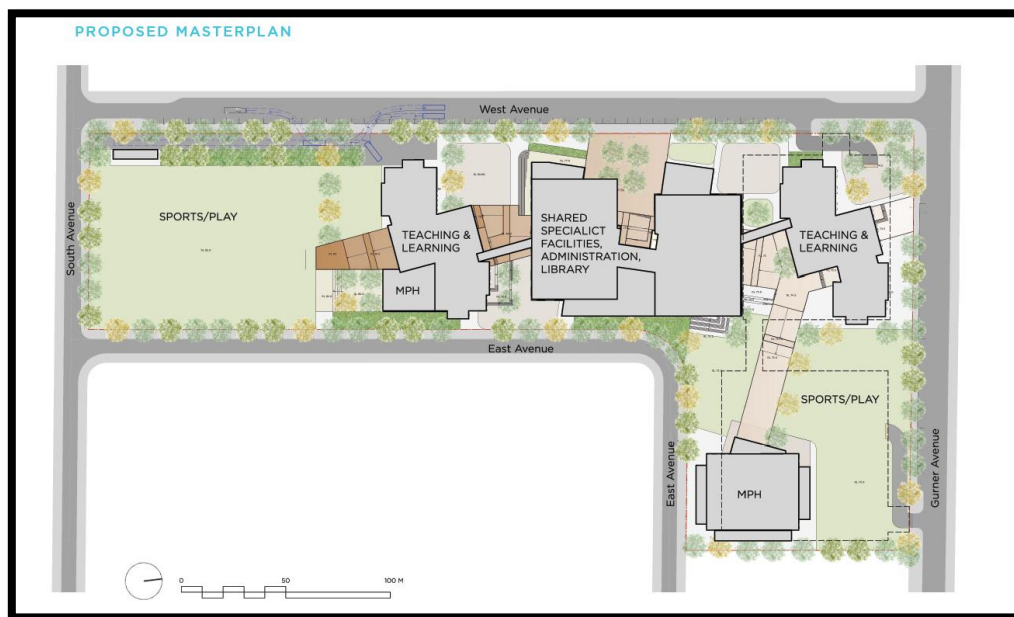


Figure 8: Proposed masterplan for the Secondary School at Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403 (source PMDL).



Figure 9: Shadow drawing of the Secondary School at Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403 (source PMDL).



Figure 10: Three dimensional view of Secondary School at Lot 1 in D.P. 1243351 and Lot 37 in D.P. 3403 (source PMDL).

2.2 Site Description

The study area is location on gently sloping low hills of the Blacktown residual soil landscape with an elevation of from 70 to 80 metres above sea level and slopes typically less than 5

degrees (Bannerman and Hazelton 1990). The original forest was most likely Shale Plains Woodland and Shale Hills Woodland.

2.3 History of the Study Area

The study area is part of land that was originally land of the Darug people (Attenbrow 2002:23-25). During the colonisation of the Cumberland Plain, the Darug were dispossessed of their land and the study area was first granted to John Gurner as part of a 400acre grant. In 1826, Gurner claimed to have cleared and cultivated 40 acres, and cleared and fenced a further 80 acres for running cattle and horses (Walsh 1966). John Gurner left the land grant to his family in his will. The land was later sold as smaller properties to various individuals including Henry Gorman and Hardinge Gifford King. Hardinge Gifford King procured the land of the present study area in 1897 and then proceeded to sell the land as smaller lots of 10 acres each during the years 1897 to 1906 (NSW Land Registry Services Vol 1230 Folio 237).

In 1901 Lots 9 and 8 (location of present Lot 14) was transferred to Jessie Templeman. The lots were further on-sold to Berrie in 1922; Anderson in 1927; Black in 1946; Sutherland and wife in 1949; followed by further sales and subdivision (NSW Land Registry Services Vol 1347 Folio 86). Lot 37 was transferred to John Wilkinson a Sergeant of Police in 1900, and then transferred to the Public trustee in 1920; to Harvey Trotter in 1921; Mary Lollback in 1929; and to market gardeners Rako and Borwich Gojnich in 1950 (NSW Land Registry Services Vol 1307 Folio 25 and Vol 4157 Folio 234). Lot 38 (which contains the location of present Lot 1) was transferred to William Irwin in 1903; then to Colwell in 1922; John Dunshea in 1922; Claude Dunshea, Larry Drive and Horace Dunshea in 1930; Richard and Mary Hodgeson in 1933; William and Mary Hudson in 1935; and Liverpool farmer Stanley Smith 1945 (NSW Land Registry Services Vol 1479 Folio 235). More recent land transfers are not included in this report.

A search of the records for the study area does not indicate that there were any early buildings or structures on the site. The earliest aerial image of the site, Figure 11, is from 1930. This image shows that the site was mostly covered with vegetation. Whether this is natural vegetation or regrowth following earlier clearing is uncertain. In Figure 12, an image from 1955 some vegetation has been cleared from the lots where they front onto Gurner Avenue and a house and shed is present on Lot 9, and a small building is also present on Lot 1. Soil cultivation for market gardens is evident on Lots 9, 14 and 37. In Figure 13 from a 1998 aerial image, additional sheds appear on Lots 1, 9 and 14. Figure 14 shows a new house built on Lot 14 in this 2002 image. Figure 15 shows an aerial image from 2020 showing the Al Faisal College on Lot 9. The earlier buildings and sheds that were present on the 1955 image for Lot 1 and 9 are no longer present.



Figure 11: 1930 Aerial Image of the study area. This image shows that the lots remained largely vegetated, with the exception of Lot 1 at the time. There are no buildings or other structures visible within the study area. Source Historical Imagery © Department Finance, Services and Innovation.



Figure 12: 1955 Aerial image of the study area showing evidence of cultivation on lots 9, 14 and 37. A small house and shed are visible on Lot 9 and a small building is present on Lot 1. Source Historical Imagery © Department Finance, Services and Innovation.

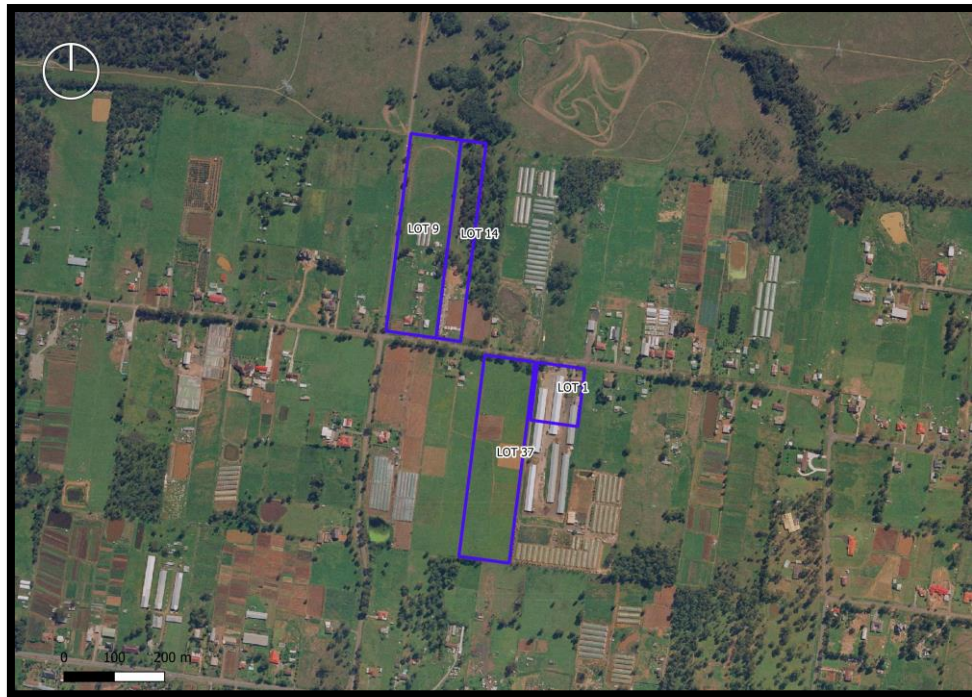


Figure 13: 1998 Aerial Image showing houses and sheds on Lot 9, sheds on Lot 14 and sheds on Lot 1. Source Historical Imagery © Department Finance, Services and Innovation.

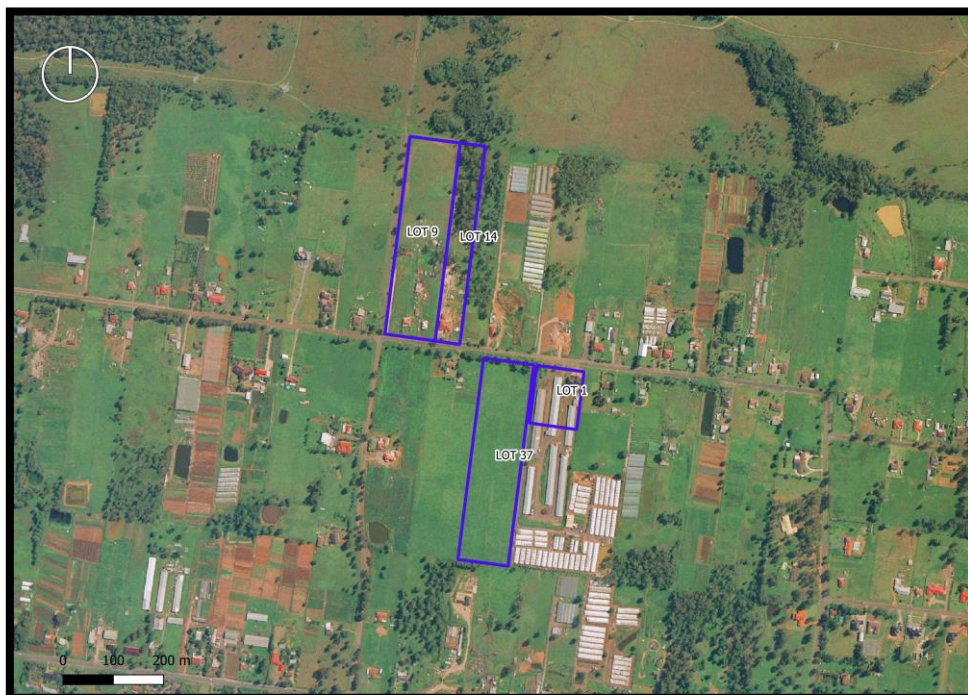


Figure 14: 2002 Aerial image showing a new house on Lot 14. Source Historical Imagery © Department Finance, Services and Innovation.

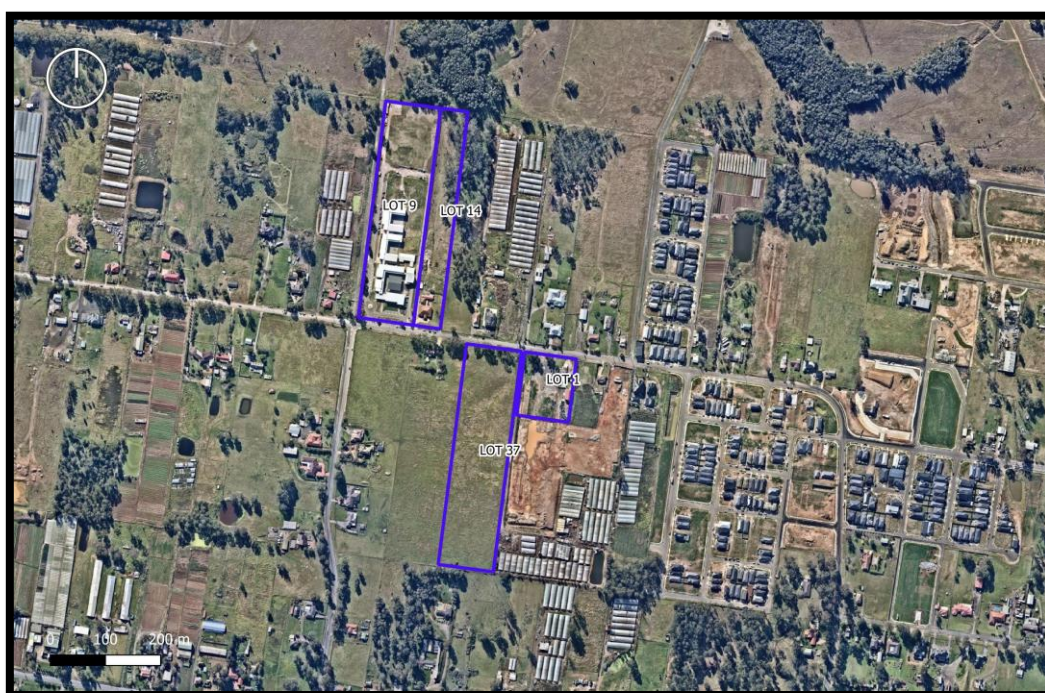


Figure 15: 2020 Aerial image of the study area showing the Al Faisal College on Lot 9. Image source Nearmap (7/7/2020).

2.3.1 Heritage Searches

A search of the NSW State Heritage Register, Australian Heritage Database and the Liverpool Shire LEP 2008 has revealed that there are no heritage items listed within the study area.

2.3.2 Site Survey

The archaeological survey was carried out on the 14th of July 2020. The archaeological survey team consisted of Tocomwall archaeologists Danielle Mitchell and Will Moon. There were no historical items or areas identified with potential archaeological deposit during the survey.

2.3.3 Archaeological Sensitivity and Significance

A review of the historical records and aerial imagery for the study area indicates that there is unlikely to be surviving archaeological deposit and there are no archaeological features present at the study area. By 1955 a small building and some sheds were present on Lot 9 and a small building was present on Lot 1. There have been significant earthworks undertaken on Lot 1 and in the 1998 aerial image, the building from the 1955 image is no longer present. Given the nature of the levelling and earthworks associated with more recent development activity on Lot 1, there is not expected to be any surviving archaeological deposit on this lot. The buildings and sheds that were present on Lot 9 have since been demolished and replaced with the existing Al Faisal College buildings. There is not expected to be any surviving archaeological deposit on this lot. The original sheds that were present on Lot 14 in the 1998 aerial image have since been demolished and a new dwelling was built on the site between 1998 and 2002. Demolition waste from the original sheds is still present in some soil exposures on Lot 14 including asbestos fibro contamination. Aerial imagery of Lot 37 indicates that this lot has only been used for market gardening. There are no locations within the study area that are considered to be archaeologically sensitive or significant.

2.4 Summary and Recommendations

An assessment of the site, including a field survey, and a review of the existing heritage data has revealed that there is unlikely to be historical archaeological deposits within the study area. There are no locations within the study area that are considered to be archaeologically sensitive or significant. There are no historical features present within the study area. It is therefore recommended that there should be no historical archaeological heritage constraints for the study area.

3 References

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Walsh, G. P. 'Gurner, John (1792–1882)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/gurner-john-2137/text2715>, published first in hardcopy 1966, accessed online 17 June 2020.