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## Memo: Aboriginal Salvage Excavation and Surface Collection - Summary and Clearance

<b>Project:</b> Aspect Industrial Estate	<b>Date:</b> 8 August 2022
<b>Client:</b> Mirvac Projects Pty Ltd	<b>Contact:</b> Alexandra Chung (Mircvac)

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### Introduction

#### Project information

The Aspect Industrial Estate project involves development of Lots 54-58 DP 259135, Mamre Road Kempas Creek (the study area). The development includes the construction of industrial buildings, internal road network layout, building locations, gross floor area, car parking, concept landscaping, building heights, setbacks and built form parameters.

In January 2019, Mirvac Projects Pty Ltd [Mircvac] (the proponent) commissioned Artefact Heritage Services Pty Ltd (Artefact Heritage) to prepare a combined Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage assessment (Artefact Heritage 2019a) for the study area. The assessment identified one previously unregistered Aboriginal site, Mamre Road Artefact Scatter 1901 [MAM AS 1901] (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186), and an associated area of archaeological potential. That assessment recommended that further investigations occur to assess the nature and extent of the area of Aboriginal archaeological potential and impacts to MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186) and the identified area of archaeological potential.

Archaeological survey of the study area was completed in October 2019 and resulted in the identification of additional Aboriginal objects associated with MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186) and an area of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD), which incorporated and revised the area of archaeological potential identified in the initial assessment (Artefact Heritage 2019b). The Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) recommended that archaeological test excavation should be conducted within MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186) to investigate the nature and extent of potential subsurface archaeological deposits and inform an assessment of archaeological significance.

On 30 April 2020, the project was declared a State Significant Development (SSD). The Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) application no. SSD-10448 were issued for the project. The SEARs specific to Aboriginal heritage include:

- Identifying and describing the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the study area in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR)
- Consultation with Aboriginal people undertaken and documented in the ACHAR

- A description of the impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

In accordance with the recommendations provided in the ASR a test excavation program was carried out June 2020. The test excavation program recovered 25 additional Aboriginal objects to those identified during surface survey in 2019, and identified one area of subsurface artefact concentration, A3. The findings of the test excavation program were documented in an Archaeological Test Excavation Report (ATER) (Artefact Heritage 2020a).

A revised ACHAR was prepared for Mirvac in January 2022 (Artefact Heritage 2022) which included recommendations for a program of archaeological salvage excavation collection of surface artefacts in conjunction with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). In accordance with these recommendations and the conditions of Development Consent (SSD-10448), salvage excavation and surface collections were carried out in the study area in June and August 2022.

### Salvage excavation program

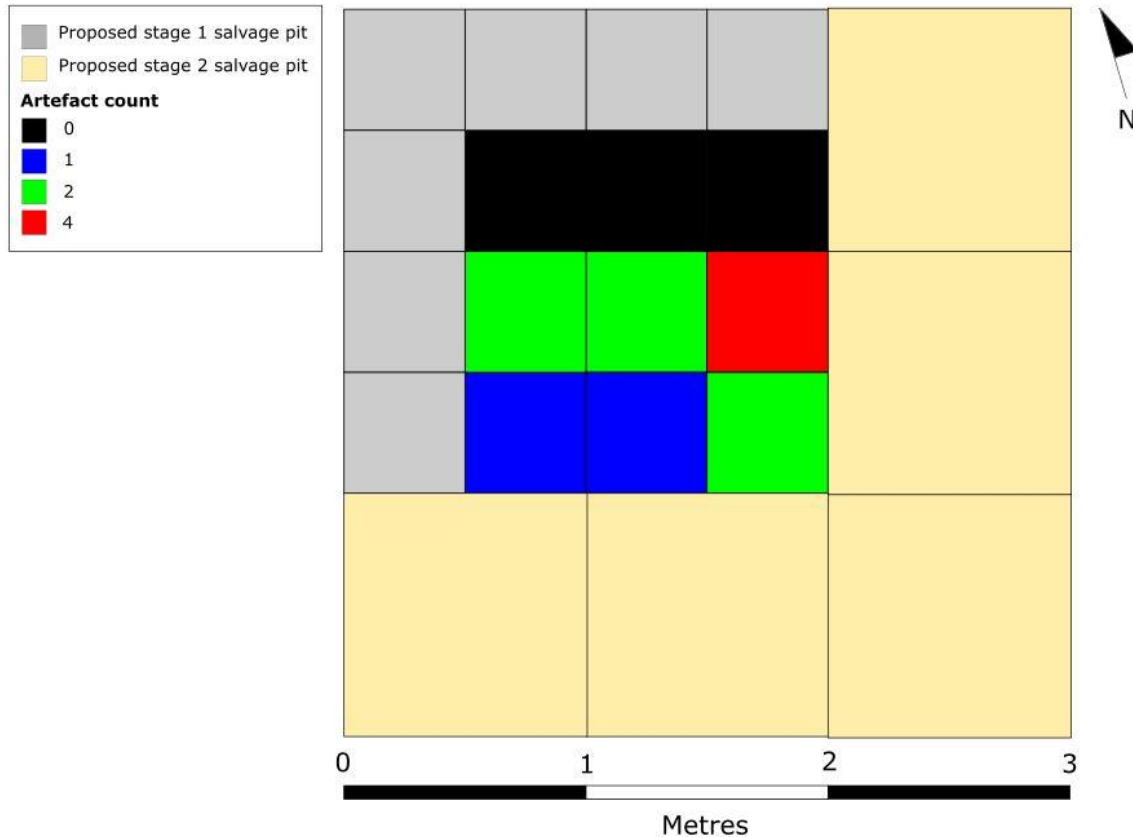
The archaeological salvage excavation programme was carried out over 4 days, 14-17 June 2022. The salvage excavation was supervised by Brye Marshall (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage), and included participation of the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). The excavation was conducted around the previously identified area of subsurface artefact concentration (A3) within the recorded extent of MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186).

The salvage excavation program was undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in the ACHAR (Artefact Heritage 2022) and the Conditions of Consent for the project (SSD-10448). A total of seven 0.5m x 0.5m Stage I pits were excavated immediately north and west of the original A3 test excavation unit followed by five 1m x 1m Stage II pits immediately east and south of the A3 excavation unit (Figure 1). Further Stage III excavations were determined to not be required based on the results of Stage I and Stage II. The below 'triggers' for further Stage III excavations were outlined in the excavation methodology but were not encountered during Stage I or Stage II excavations.

- Relative density of artefacts retrieved during Stage I and Stage II excavations
- Rare or unusual artefact types
- Unusual raw material types and changes in raw material types
- Archaeological features such as hearths and/or middens
- Cultural material with potential for scientific dating
- Any other features identified by the supervising archaeologist and the Aboriginal stakeholder representatives.

The archaeological salvage excavation involved hand excavation of pits in 100mm arbitrary spits to an archaeological sterile depth. An excavation recording form for each pit was completed in the field. Details recorded included date of excavation, name of excavators, depth, and soil description. A photographic record was also made for each section wall and base for all pits and a scale drawing was completed of a representative section of each pit. All retrieved deposits from each spit were placed in buckets and transported to a sieve area. All retrieved deposits were wet sieved using 3mm sieves.

Figure 1: Proposed Stage I and Stage II pits



### Surface collection program

The archaeological surface collection programme was carried out over 2 days, 6 June and 3 August 2022. The surface collection was supervised by Nicola Simpson (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage) and Brye Marshall (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage), and included participation of the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). The surface collection was conducted across the extent of MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186) and any visible surface artefacts were collected. Surface collection was undertaken using the following method:

- Artefact collection was undertaken by a team comprising archaeologists and RAP representatives.
- Artefact locations were marked on the ground and recorded with a hand-held GPS prior to collection.
- Collected artefacts were briefly catalogued on site by the team and will be subject to detailed analysis for the final report, with recorded attributes as listed for the test excavation analysis.
- Artefacts were labelled and bagged with location information, and will be managed with the assemblage retrieved from salvage excavation.

## Archaeological results

A summary of the archaeological results for the salvage excavation and surface collection is provided below. Representative photos of the salvage excavation and surface collection are shown in Figure 3 to Figure 6.

### Stage I excavation

Stage I excavation consisted of seven 0.5m x 0.5m pits excavated immediately north and west of the original A3 test excavation unit. 11 Aboriginal stone artefacts were identified during Stage I excavations and the sieving process with predominant raw material being chert. The stratigraphy of Stage I pits typically consisted of:

- 0-100mm: Topsoil with grass roots transitioning to moist brown silty soil
- 100-200mm: Brown silty soil with bioturbation
- 200-300mm: Brown silty soil transition to reddish/yellow clay

### Stage II excavation

Stage II excavation consisted of five 1m x 1m pits excavated immediately east and south of the original A3 test excavation unit. 32 Aboriginal stone artefacts were identified during Stage II excavations and the sieving process with predominant raw material being silcrete. The stratigraphy of Stage II pits typically consisted of:

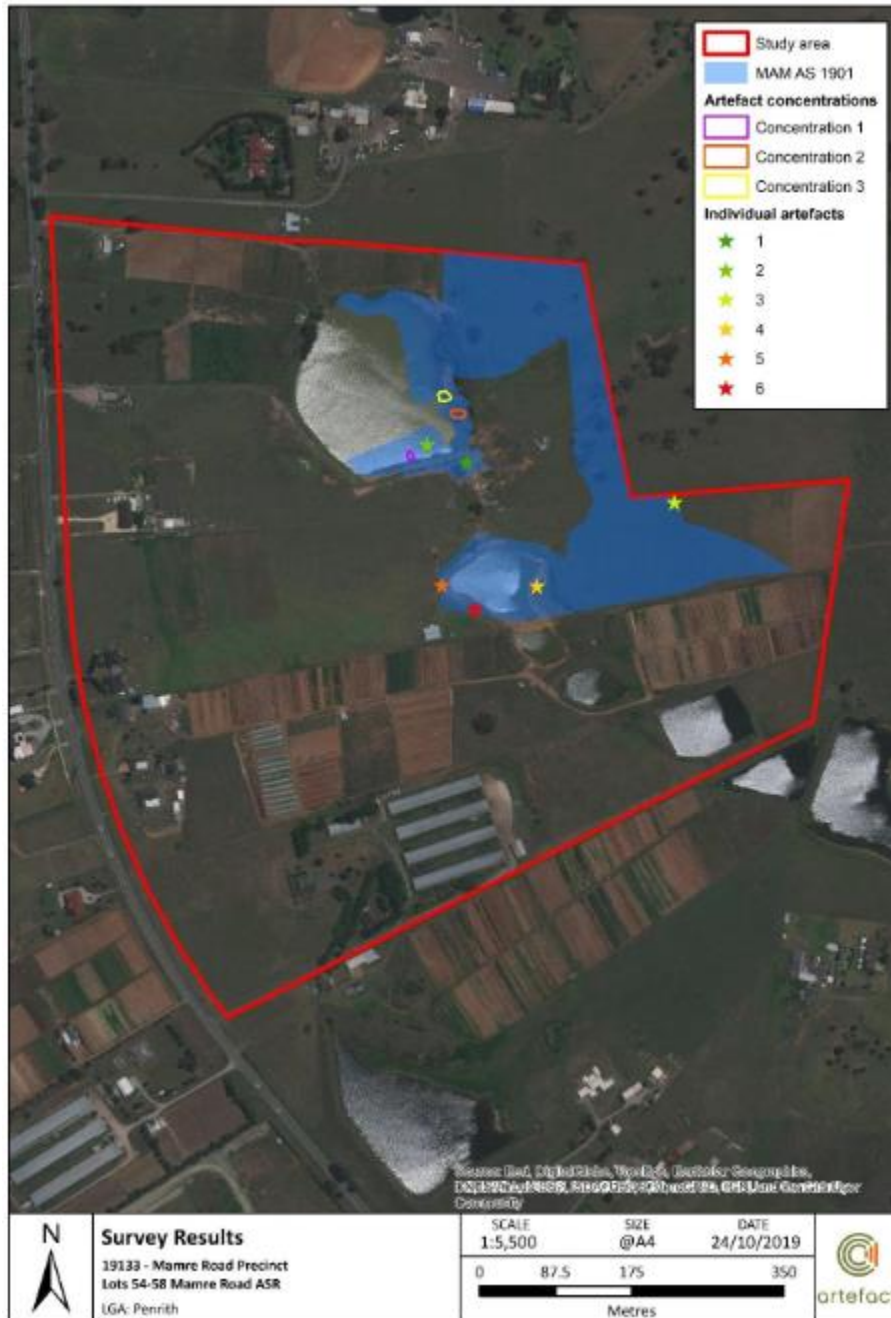
- 0-100mm: Topsoil with grass roots transitioning to moist brown silty soil
- 100-200mm: Brown silty soil with bioturbation
- 200-300mm: Brown silty soil transition to reddish/yellow clay

### Surface collection

The archaeological surface collection programme was conducted across the extent of MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186) and any visible surface artefacts were collected. Particular attention was paid to areas of previously recorded surface artefact concentrations (Figure 2). Surface visibility was limited due to dense grass coverage, but discrete areas around the recorded concentrations were subject to grass trimming prior to inspection. Due to extensive rains between the original survey recording (Artefact Heritage 2019b) and surface collection, water levels in both dams had risen considerably and as a result several previously identified concentrations were underwater on 6 June 2022 when the first day of surface collection was carried out. To ensure that RAPs were given the opportunity to collect artefacts across the extent of MAM AS 1901, Dam 1 was partially dewatered ahead of the second day of surface collection. The area exposed following dewatering was inspected on 3 August 2022, but the ground surface was found to be obscured by a dense layer of silt and mud that heavily restricted visibility. No Aboriginal artefacts were identified in this newly exposed area, and it was determined that further dewatering at Dam 1 or Dam 2 would not result in identification of additional Aboriginal artefacts.

A total of 14 Aboriginal stone artefacts were collected during surface collection with predominant raw materials being quartz.

Figure 2: Areas of surface artefact concentration across MAM AS 1901 (Artefact 2022)



### Summary

A total of 12 pits were excavated, comprising Stage I and Stage II salvage excavation. No Aboriginal artefacts, cultural materials or archaeological features which would trigger Stage III excavations were encountered during the archaeological program. Surface collection was undertaken in conjunction with RAPs across two days and covered the visible extent of MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186).

A total of 57 Aboriginal stone artefacts were retrieved during salvage excavation and surface collection with raw materials including chert IMT (n=4), chert (n=13), quartz (n=16) and silcrete (n=24).

## Archaeological management and clearance

The archaeological salvage program for the Aspect Industrial Estate project included salvage excavation of test excavation area A3, within the identified area of MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186). Salvage excavations and surface collection have now been completed in accordance with the archaeological methodology outlined in the ACHAR and condition D60 and D60(b) of the project Conditions of Consent (SSD-10448). The Aboriginal artefacts retrieved during excavation did not meet Stage III triggers and was concluded following completion of Stage I and Stage II excavations.

Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were provided with the opportunity to collect Aboriginal objects across the site, both during salvage excavation and surface collection, in accordance with condition D60(b) of the conditions of Development Consent (SSD-10448).

As salvage excavation and surface collection have been conducted in accordance with the ACHAR and an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form (ASIRF) has been lodged with AHIMS following authorised impacts, this report provides written clearance that **no further on-site archaeological management is required for the proposed work area within MAM AS 1901 (AHIMS ID 45-5-5186)**. Works can proceed under the Unexpected Finds Procedure provided in the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) for the project.

Following the completion of construction works to restore the riparian corridor in the reburial area, artefacts will be reburied in accordance with condition of Development Consent D60(a) and the reburial methodology prepared by Artefact on 26 February 2021. In accordance with condition of Development Consent D61, the results of the archaeological salvage program will be included in the final Aboriginal Salvage Excavation and Surface Collection Report and this letter is provided as an interim report.

Yours sincerely,



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**Figure 3: Section of Pits 3, 4 and 5. View looking north.**



**Figure 4: Post-excitation of Pits 9 and 10. View looking south.**



**Figure 5: Surface collection area**



**Figure 6: Surface collection area**

