

# EXTENT

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## Eastern Creek Quarter Stage 3 Historical Archaeological Assessment

Prepared for Frasers Property Australia

December 2020—Final

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## Executive summary

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd has been commissioned by Frasers Property Australia to undertake an update of a 2012 Baseline Historical Archaeological Assessment (BHAA) for Eastern Creek Quarter, Rooty Hill Road South, Eastern Creek (the study area). The proposed development involves the construction of a retail factory outlet centre and has been identified as State Significant Development (SSD) (SSD-10457).

The 2012 BHAA was prepared by AHMS (now Extent Heritage) to identify the potential for historical archaeological resources at the site. However, the concept plan has changed and further requirements have been set out by the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). Condition 10 relates to heritage and archaeology and requires preparation of a Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) considering the site's historical archaeological potential and significance, including its potential for historical archaeological resources relating to Rooty Hill Run and the Government Depot site. This HAA has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Condition 10 of the SEARs.

## Key findings

- The study area was formerly part of the Rooty Hill Run, a 38,728-acre parcel of land reserved by Governor King in 1802 for use in breeding and grazing government livestock.
- There is nil-low potential for archaeological evidence associated with Rooty Hill Run or the associated Government Depot within the study area.
- There is high potential for archaeological remains associated with post-1917 use of the site for poultry farming, rural residences and an equestrian centre. These remains are unlikely to meet the threshold for local significance.
- The study area is unlikely to contain significant historical archaeological remains or 'relics', as defined by the Heritage Act.

## Recommendations

- The proposed development of a direct factory outlet and associated carpark is unlikely to impact on significant historical archaeological remains.
- No further mitigation or intervention with regard to historical archaeology is recommended in association with redevelopment of the site.
- In the unlikely event of the discovery of unexpected historical archaeological remains not identified in this report, all works in the affected area should stop and a qualified historical archaeologist contacted to undertake an inspection and assessment of the find. If the find is assessed to be a 'relic' in the meaning of the Heritage Act, Heritage NSW must be notified in accordance with section 146 of the Heritage Act.
- In the event that evidence of the Aboriginal occupation of the site is identified during any phase of onsite works, all works in the affected area should stop, the area be adequately

protected and Heritage NSW informed about the discovery under section 89(A) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project initiation

This Historical Archaeological Assessment has been prepared for Frasers Property Australia to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) relating to Lot 3 of the Eastern Creek Quarter Site at Rooty Hill Road South, Eastern Creek. The application seeks Concept Plan approval for the staged construction of a new retail outlet centre at Lot 3 with supporting food and beverage tenancies, and ancillary entertainment and recreation usages.

This report addresses Condition 10 of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs):

A historical archaeological assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced Historical archaeologist in accordance with the guidelines *Archaeological Assessment* (1996) and *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics* (2009). This assessment should:

- identify what relics, if any are likely to be present, with analysis to address potential in the study area which may be associated with the former Rooty Hill Depot and stock farm
- assess their significance, potential resource, and consider the impacts from the proposal on this potential archaeological resource
- where impact is likely to occur, include recommendations to manage the significance. Test excavation may be necessary and appropriate to inform the EIS for the concept proposal
- address what impacts are anticipated to the resource and what options and commitments may be possible at detailed design stage to avoid in whole or part the archaeological resource including archaeological mitigation if appropriate.

In accordance with the requirements set out in Condition 10 of the SEARs, this report assesses the site's historical archaeological potential, the significance of its potential archaeological resources, evaluates development impacts, and provides recommendations for mitigation of such impacts.

## 1.2 Site location and identification

The 34ha Eastern Creek Quarter site is situated to the north of the Great Western Highway between Rooty Hill Road South and the M7 Motorway. Church Street marks the site's northern boundary. The site forms part of the Western Sydney Parklands and is located within the Blacktown Local Government Area. It is located approximately 1.5km south east of Rooty Hill Station.

This SSDA relates to Lot 3 of the ECQ site, which is the final lot proposed to be developed. It is located in the northern part of the site and has an area of approximately 7.29ha (Figure 1).





Figure 1. Site location. Source: Nearmap, Ethos Urban

### 1.3 Overview of the proposed development

The proposed SSDA seeks Concept Plan approval for a new retail outlet centre at Lot 3 of the Eastern Creek Quarter site. The Concept Plan will establish the following framework to guide the future detailed design of the Lot 3 development:

- Land uses, including retail (factory outlet), food and drink premises, amusement centre and indoor recreation facility;
- Building footprints, including basement, with a maximum height of 12m;
- A maximum GFA of 39,500m<sup>2</sup> at Lot 3 which will be staged as follows:

- Phase A: 29,500m<sup>2</sup>
- Phase B: 10,000m<sup>2</sup>
- Upgrade of Church Street for vehicular access, including traffic signals at the Church Street/Rooty Hill Road South intersection;
- Modifications to the Cable Place/Rooty Hill Road South/Site Access intersection; and
- Modifications to the Francis Street/Eastern Road/Rooty Hill Road South intersection.

It is also proposed to seek consent for a series of early works including:

- Removal of up to 0.73 ha of Cumberland Plains Woodlands in the south west corner of the site;
- Bulk earthworks within Lot 3; and
- Extension of the internal access road to connect to the basement car park.

The proposed outlet centre at Lot 3 will necessitate the inclusion of conditions of consent which requires the modification of SSD 5175 (the existing Concept Plan for the broader ECQ site) to amend the overall allocation of GFA and associated uses, relevant Concept Plans and the existing Design Guidelines.

This report is based on the Concept Plan prepared by i2C, shown at Figure 2 below.





Figure 2. Structure plan for the Eastern Creek Quarter. Source: i2C

## 1.4 Statutory context

### 1.4.1 NSW Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (the Heritage Act) is designed to conserve the environmental heritage of New South Wales and regulate development impacts on the state's heritage assets. While the requirements of the Heritage Act are 'turned off' for SSD, they still provide guidance for the management of the state's heritage resources. Significant historical archaeological features are afforded automatic statutory protection by the 'relics' provisions of the Act. A 'relic' is defined as:

*any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:*

*a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and*

*b) is of State or local heritage significance.*

In accordance with Section 139(1) of the Heritage Act, it is an offence to disturb or excavate land, where this may affect a relic, without an approval or excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW, or an endorsed 'exemption' or 'exception' to disturb or expose and destroy a relic. Sites which may contain archaeological relics are usually managed under Section 140 (application) and 141 (approval) of the Heritage Act. Sites with potential archaeology, listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), are managed under sections 60 (application) and 63 (approval) of the Heritage Act.

The study area does not contain any items listed on the SHR.

### 1.4.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Environmental planning instruments made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW)* (EPA Act) include State Environment Planning Policies (SEPPs), which deal with matters of State or regional environmental planning significance, and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), which guide planning decisions for local government areas. The study area falls within City of Blacktown LGA. Currently, the relevant environmental planning instrument is the *Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015* (Blacktown LEP 2015). As the proposed development is SSD, the provisions of the Blacktown LEP 2015 are 'switched off', but they still provide a framework for the expected management of heritage resources in the LGA.

#### 1.4.2.1 Blacktown Local Environmental Plan

The objectives of the Blacktown LEP 2015 with respect to environment and heritage are provided in the following clauses:

*5.10 Heritage conservation*

*(1) Objectives*

*The objectives of this clause are as follows—*

- (a) *to conserve the environmental heritage of Blacktown,*
- (b) *to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,*
- (c) *to conserve archaeological sites,*
- (d) *to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.*

*(2) Requirement for consent*

*Development consent is required for any of the following—*

*(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)—*

- (i) a heritage item,*
- (ii) an Aboriginal object,*
- (iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,*

*(b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,*

*(c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,*

*(d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*

*(e) erecting a building on land—*

- (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
- (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*

*(f) subdividing land—*

- (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
- (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.*

*(7) Archaeological sites*

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act 1977 applies)—*

- (a) notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and*

(b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

The study area is not listed under schedule 5 (Environmental heritage) of the Blacktown LEP.

## 1.5 Heritage items in the vicinity

The study area is located in proximity to several heritage listings associated with significant historical archaeological resources. Immediately north of the study area, on the opposite side of Church Street, is the SHR listed item 'The Rooty Hill' (SHR No. 01756) (Figure 3). The statement of significance for the Rooty Hill is as follows:

The Rooty Hill is of State heritage significance as a remnant of one of the four Government Depots and stock farms first selected by Governor King in 1802 and further developed by Governor Macquarie after 1810. Under Macquarie, Rooty Hill Depot and stock farm developed as the second most important of the stock farms in colonial NSW. It functioned to provide an important reserve food supply for the colony during its establishment when it frequently faced crop failures, drought and other difficulties. The stock farm also enabled the government to control livestock prices and so prevent exploitation of the market by private graziers and contributed to the establishment of colonial breeding herds. An open stone artefact scatter has been located on the site indicating the site's potential as a research resource for Aboriginal history in the area. The hill also has significance to the Aboriginal community as a post contact camping and meeting place for those travelling over the Blue Mountains and into Parramatta and Sydney.<sup>1</sup>

North of the Rooty Hill is the 'Government Depot Site (former)' (SHR No. 00345), which consists of the ruins of the original Superintendent's residence for the Rooty Hill Government Depot. (Figure 3) The item is also listed on Schedule 5 of the Blacktown LEP as an archaeological site, 'Ruins of the Government Depot' (Item A123). The statement of significance for the Government Depot site is as follows:

The Government Depot site has potential State significance for its association with Governor Macquarie and is certainly of regional significance as the former residence of the Superintendent of the stock farm. The site also has local significance through its association with early travellers and settlers in the district (HO).

The station at Rooty Hill was the next principal one to that at Camden for the grazing of the Government horned cattle and horses in the early 1800s. (Bertie, 1935).<sup>2</sup>

## 1.6 Previous reports and investigations

The study area has previously been in the following report:

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<sup>1</sup> Heritage NSW, 'Government Deposit Site (former)', *State Heritage Inventory*, <https://apps.environment.nsw.gov.au/dpcheritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045415>, viewed 7 September 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Heritage NSW, 'Rooty Hill, The', *State Heritage Inventory*, <https://apps.environment.nsw.gov.au/dpcheritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5054842>, viewed 7 September 2020.

- AHMS 2012, 'Baseline Historical Archaeological Assessment, proposed Eastern Creek Business Hub, Western Sydney Parklands', prepared for Cadence Australia Pty Ltd

## 1.7 Approach and methodology

This report was prepared in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the following documents:

- *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013 (the Burra Charter)* (Australia ICOMOS 2013);
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* (Heritage Branch, formerly Department of Planning [NSW] 2009); and
- 'Historical Archaeology Code of Practice' (Heritage Council 2006).

## 1.8 Limitations

This report deals with the historical archaeology of the study area only. The Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage values of the study area are not addressed in this report.

The site inspection was undertaken as a visual study only, and no physical investigation was carried out to inform this report.

## 1.9 Author identification

This report was prepared Francesca McMaster (heritage advisor) and Tom Sapienza (senior heritage advisor and GIS specialist).

It was reviewed by Dr Jennifer Jones-Travers (senior associate) and Anita Yousif (associate director and national technical lead, historical archaeology).

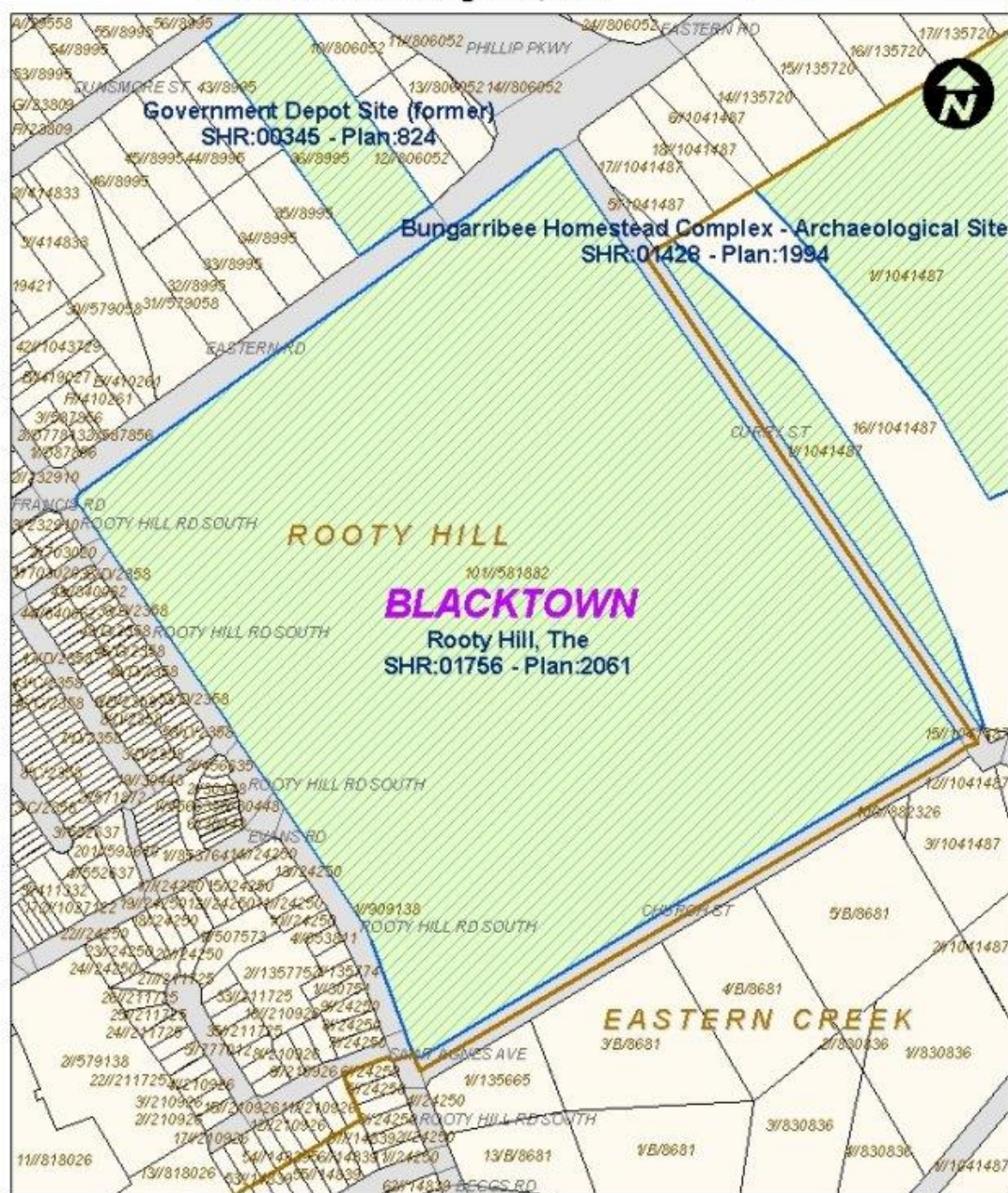
## 1.10 Acknowledgements

Extent Heritage acknowledges the assistance of Angela Wang, Frasers Property Australia.



## Heritage Council of New South Wales

Plan under the Heritage Act, 1977



### State Heritage Register

Gazettal Date: 15 June 2007

0 37.5 75 150 225 300 Meters

Scale: 1:5,000

Produced by: Stewart Watters

### Legend

- SHR Curtilage
- Historic Regions
- LGAs
- Suburbs
- Land Parcels
- Water
- Roads
- Railways
- NSW Reserves

Figure 3. SHR curtilage of the Rooty Hill and the Government Depot Site (former). Source: Heritage NSW.



## 2. Historical context

### 2.1 Introduction

This site history draws on the 2012 BHAA and includes detailed analysis of historical plans and aerials to establish a more detailed history of development within the study area.

### 2.2 History of the area

Following the colonial push into inland NSW in search of fertile farming lands, large farms and areas of land were granted to ex- military and free settlers throughout the land to the west of Sydney. The granting of land to Corps members may have been part of a strategy by Governor King who, in 1801, ordered that the local Aboriginal population around Prospect be pushed back to protect the growing colony. It is likely that Corps members were granted land in this area as part of this protection strategy.

In 1802, Governor King reserved a large area as a government reserve for the breeding and grazing of government livestock. This area became known as the 'Rooty Hill Run' (Griffith 1976, 3). The study area was located in a part of the Rooty Hill Run known as the 'Sheep Paddock', which suggests that it was reserved for pastoral uses. In 1810, Governor Macquarie ordered the 'Rooty Hill Run' to be subdivided and issued as land grants to new settlers. A large portion of the Run was reserved as part of the Church and School Lands.

Initially, the main route west for the colonists was the Parramatta River. A land route was soon cut between Sydney and Parramatta, between 1789 and 1791. By 1797, the road had been extended to the west to give access to the new settlements at Toongabbie and Prospect (Griffith 1976, 5). Eventually the road would branch in two; one route leading to the south past the Prospect Hill grants to the Nepean River and the Cowpasture settlement; the second leading to the north to the Hawkesbury River and the Richmond settlement. In 1813, the road was extended across Ropes Creek and Eastern Creek, becoming a gateway to the Blue Mountains and to western Sydney. New land grants were issued along the Western Road, principally in the vicinity of permanent water courses (such as Eastern Creek). Lands were cleared and farms developed where wheat and corn were cultivated and livestock (such as cattle and poultry) were bred to be sold at market.

By the 1830s and 1840s, small population centres were located at Prospect, Eastern Creek and South Creek along the Western Road with smaller settlements between the Western Road and Richmond Road.

In 1861 the Western Railway was extended to Rooty Hill and in 1862 the line was extended to St Marys (South Creek). The establishment of the railway was a turning point for the district as it provided more efficient transport to move the local produce to the city for sale and also increased land values in the area.

Between the 1860s and 1880s, the original land grants in the Rooty Hill district were subdivided and sold. Many of these smaller allotments were used for agricultural purposes. Vineyards,

market gardening and poultry farming were common in the area. Other industry, such as canneries and tanneries, began operation at Rooty Hill from the 1880s.

In 1906 the Shire of Blacktown was formed. By the 1920s, an increase in land sales, subdivision and population increase led to what is known today as the Blacktown district.

## 2.2.1 Site specific history

### 2.2.1.1 Early grants

The study area is located on what was part of the 'Rooty Hill Run', reserved by Governor King in 1802 for the breeding and grazing of government livestock. The southern portion of the Rooty Hill Run, in the general location of the study area, was known as the sheep paddock (Nicolaidis 2000, 11). The original Rooty Hill Run covered an area of 38,728 acres. At the core of the Rooty Hill Run was an approximately 6,000-acre Government Stock Farm and associated superintendent's residence, constructed in 1815. Between January 1810 and November 1821, the following structures were built at Rooty Hill:

- A two-storey brick house for residence and accommodation of the superintendent and principal overseer of Government stock at the station, reserving one room for use of the Governor (Macquarie), with kitchen, stables, and other necessary out-offices and kitchen garden enclosed.
- Temporary log huts or barracks for the accommodation of 20 stockkeepers, with small kitchen garden attached.
- Four enclosed 50 acre paddocks for grazing young cattle and growing wheat and maize for use by the stockkeepers.<sup>3</sup>

Most of this concentrated development was located approximately 700m north of the study area.

In 1817, 50 acres of the Rooty Hill Run was granted to William Dean, an emancipated convict who had arrived in the colony in 1799. Dean's grant was bounded by Western Road to the south and Eastern Creek to the south, outside of the present-day study area (Figure 4). A section of Belmore road would form its western boundary in later years. In 1819 Dean established a pub and half-way house on his property, fronting on the Western Road.

In 1827 over 8,000 acres of the Rooty Hill Run were granted to the Church and School Lands Corporation by Governor Darling. With the abolishment of the Church and School Lands Corporation in 1833, the ownership of the lands reverted to the Crown. Portions of the 8,000 acre grant were leased between the 1830's and 1860's with parish maps indicating the names of some leases, including Burtlett, John Wright, Thomas Dean (William Dean's son), Patrick Curry, Robert Crawford Jnr and James Roberts (Nicolaidis 2000, 78). Figure 5 illustrates that the study area remained outside of the core Rooty Hill Government Depot site.

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<sup>3</sup> Heritage NSW, 'Government Deposit Site (former)', *State Heritage Inventory*, <https://apps.environment.nsw.gov.au/dpcheritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045415>, viewed 7 September 2020.

It is likely that activities undertaken by lessees were principally pastoral in nature, and there is no indication of significant or substantial structures having been constructed at this time.

#### *2.2.1.2 Early subdivision*

In the 1860s and 1870s the Church and School lands were subdivided into large allotments and sold at public auctions. The allotments making up the present-day study area was bought by Henry Lintern, neighboured by John Beggs to the south and John Wright to the east (Figure 6).

Henry Lintern was a stonemason from Devonshire England. He and his wife, Mary, and their two children immigrated to Victoria in 1853. They lived in Victoria, Queensland and Sydney before moving to Eastern Creek in 1871 (Nicolaidis 2000, 106). The Linterns purchased the allotment in the 1871 Church and School lands auction. The allotment was bound by Church Street, Rooty Hill Road South and Eastern Creek to the east. It is unclear how Lintern utilised the property, however upon his death at his Sydney residence in 1887 he owned several properties (*Sydney Morning Herald* Government Notices, 21 May 1887). The Eastern Creek property passed onto his son, Henry Lintern Jnr, who later sold the property to George Sale and Robert Hume in 1897. In 1907 it changed hands again, purchased by Ernest Victor Finckh.

At this time, to the south of the study area, a school was established along the Western Road for the local children. In the 1870s further land was purchased for the school from John Beggs for the construction of a new school building. The school, known as Wallgrove Public School, was opened in c.1873.

#### *2.2.1.3 The Eastern Creek Farms*

Along with the land originally purchased by Henry Lintern, Ernest Victor Finckh also purchased surrounding lands in the area, including 25 acres of William Dean's original land grant. Finckh, born in Sydney, was a businessman and property investor. He lived on the land he purchased at Eastern Creek part time, presumably the former Beggs residence to the south of the present study area, living at his Sydney residence the rest of the time. During his ownership of the land, Finckh bred fowls, pheasants and cattle. During this time, he constructed poultry sheds with incubators on his land. It is unclear where these structures were built, or if any other structures were built at the time.

In 1917-1918 Finckh subdivided his lands as the 'Eastern Creek Farms' subdivision. The 1917 auction plan shows no structures within the study area (Figure 7). Seven allotments of the subdivision were located in the study area, though there is no indication of who purchased each lot, or if they were all taken up. No development is shown within the study area on the 1917 subdivision plan, though several adjacent structures are marked, including a church to the north, a range of privately owned structures to the south and west, and public school and post office to the south. At the time of the 'Eastern Creek Farms' subdivision auction, land to the south-east of the study area was sold to Joseph Craven Bottomly, a poultry farmer.



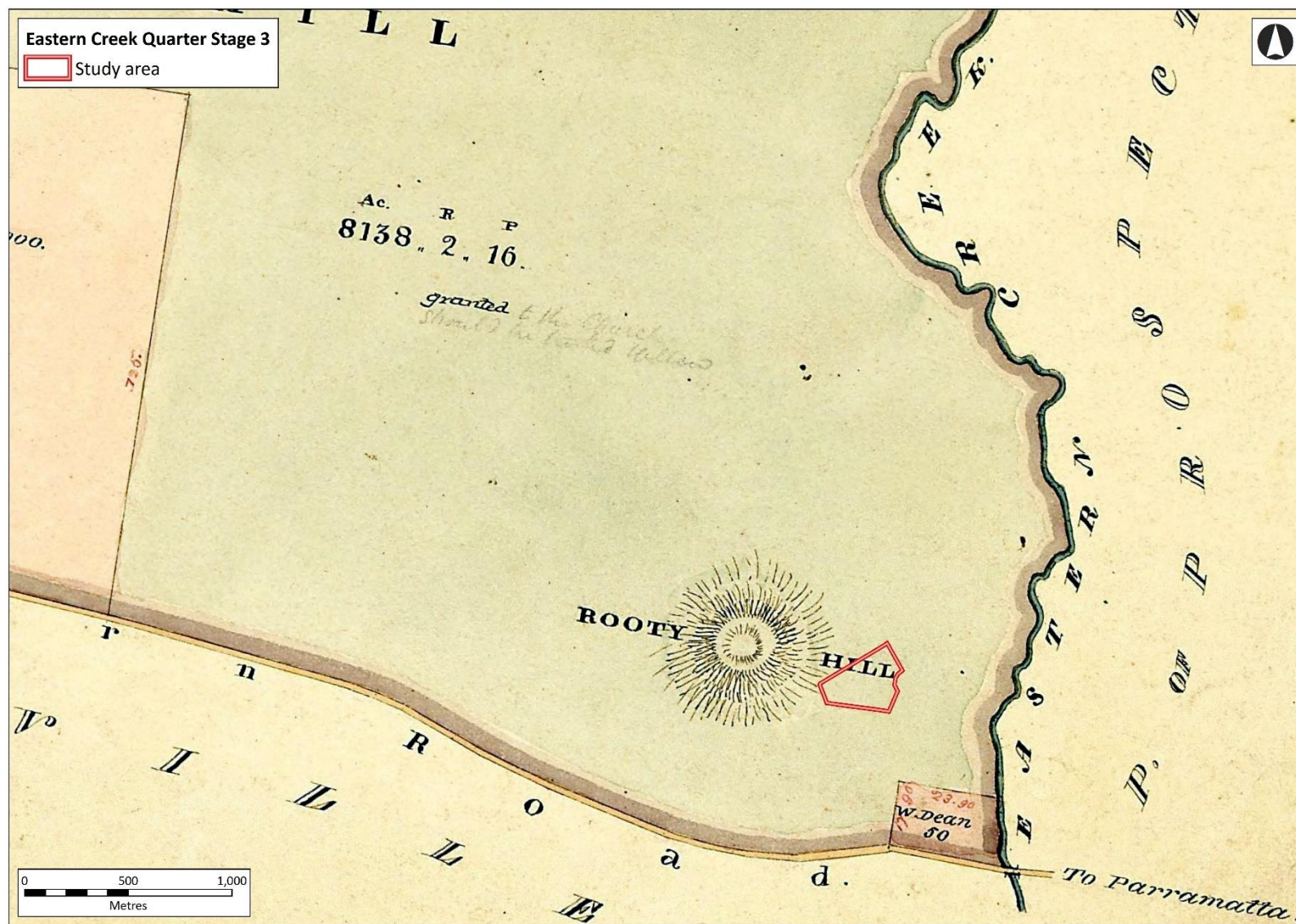


Figure 4. Parish map from c1817 showing the study area within Rooty Hill Run and land granted to W. Dean to the south. (Source: LPI, Extent)



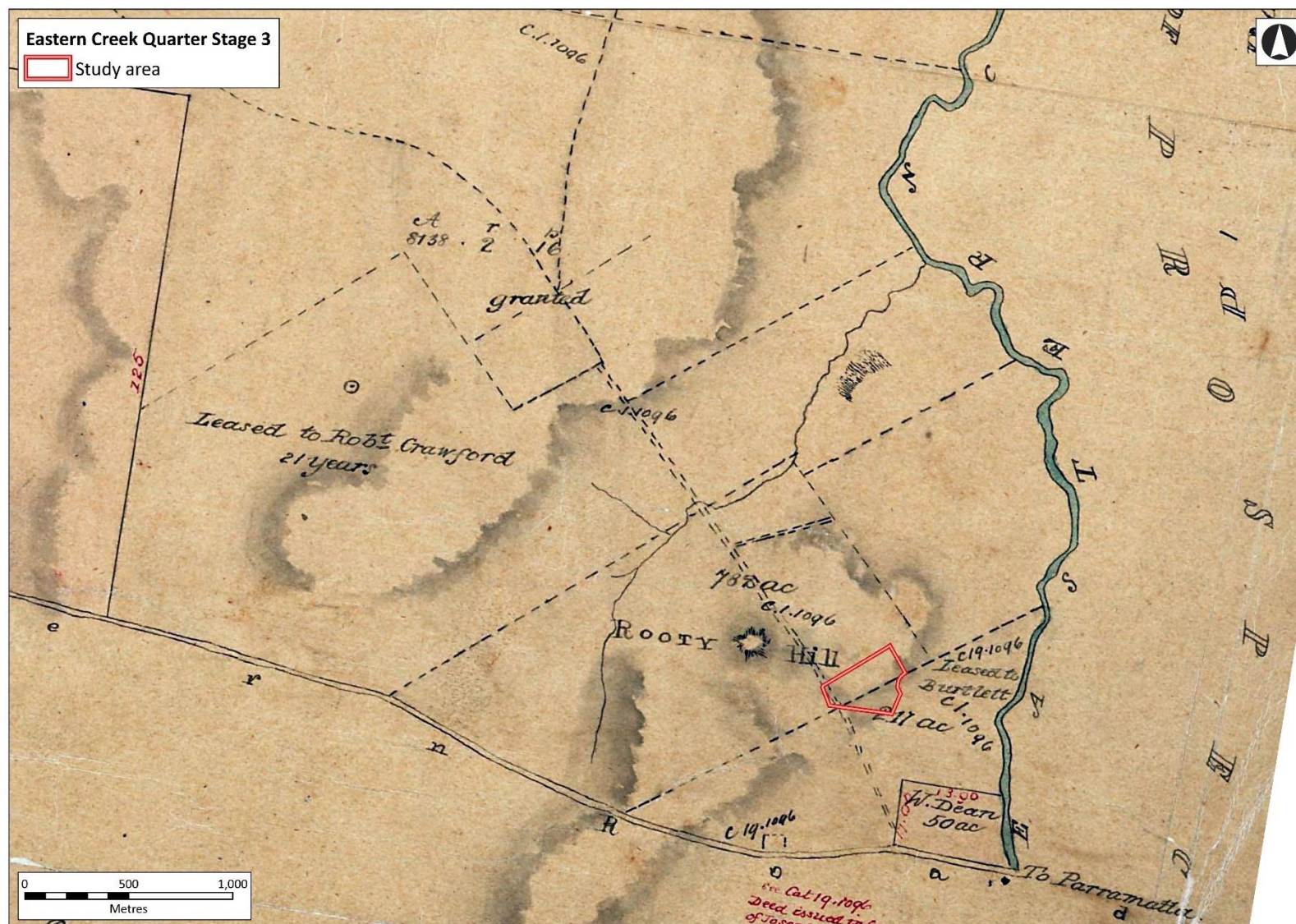


Figure 5. Parish map from c1850 showing division of Rooty Hill Run into allotments for lease. (Source: LPI, Extent)



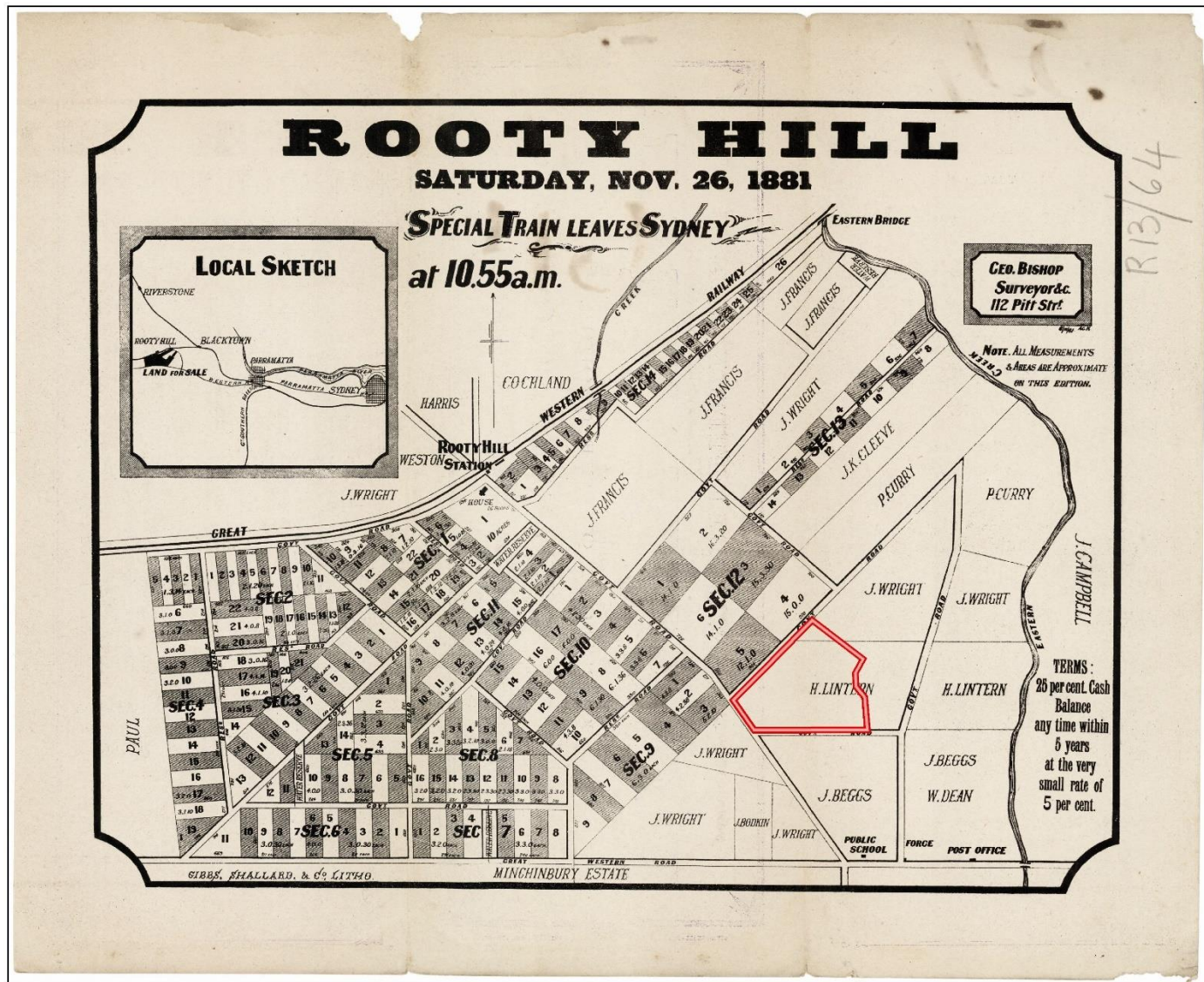
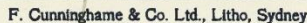


Figure 6. Subdivision plan from 1881 showing the study area as being in the possession of H Lintern and J Wright. Source: NSW Archives





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#### *2.2.1.4 Twentieth century land use and occupation*

The study area appears to have been principally used for poultry farming and other agricultural activities during the twentieth century. A 1943 aerial photograph shows a small shed or residence fronting Church Street, as well as a second structure similar in scale towards the northeast corner of the study area (Figure 8). Two residences with several large sheds are visible at the southeast corner of the study area fronting Beggs Road, while a second farm with large, linear sheds is located near the centre of the study area fronting Beggs Road. Much of the site appears to be uncleared, or features regrowth, and large trees are spotted across the study area.

By 1953, a house had been constructed at the northwest corner of the study area, while the small structure or shed formerly at the northeast corner of the study area had been demolished (Figure 9). The two farms fronting Beggs Road remained relatively unchanged, though one of the large sheds at the rear of the property at the southeast corner of the site had been demolished. By 1956, a large shed had been constructed within the study area fronting Rooty Hill Road, with the land behind it under preparation for construction of long linear sheds (Figure 10). All of the sheds behind the residence at the centre of the study area fronting Beggs Road were demolished, leaving only the house and one outbuilding.

The configuration of the study area had changed substantially again by 1961 (Figure 11). Several large linear sheds were constructed at the northwest corner of the study area, in association with the residence at the corner of Rooty Hill Road and Church Road. The small house or shed fronting Church Road had been demolished, as had all structures behind the two residences at the southeast corner of the site fronting Beggs Road. A strip of land in the northeast corner of the study area was under cultivation.

A 1970 aerial photograph indicates several further changes in the study area (Figure 12). The site had been nearly entirely cleared of trees, with large areas of cultivation covering most of the study area. The cultivated areas appear to be associated with a new house that had been constructed fronting Church Street on the northern boundary, along with three large linear sheds and other outbuildings. Further large shed structures had been constructed in association with the property at the corner of Rooty Hill Road and Church Street. The large sheds and possible residential structures visible in the 1970 aerial photograph remain in the 1986 aerial photograph, although the house at the centre of Beggs Road has been demolished and cultivation is less evident (Figure 13). An aerial photograph of the site in 1994 indicates the demolition of all the structures fronting Beggs Road and most of the linear sheds (Figure 14). The property fronting Church Street at the northeast corner of the study area had been converted from fields under cultivation to horse paddocks with separate stable boxes/shelters (likely as part of an agistment facility or equestrian centre).

In the late 1990s the study area was acquired by the NSW Government for future uses. By 2002 the sheds at the northwest corner of the site had been demolished, with the residence demolished by 2010 (Figure 15 and Figure 16). When the site inspection was undertaken for the 2012 BHAA the study area contained horse paddocks, a horse arena, a house and several ancillary sheds for the residence. The house, constructed between 1961 and 1970, faced on to Church Street. These structures were demolished in 2016.



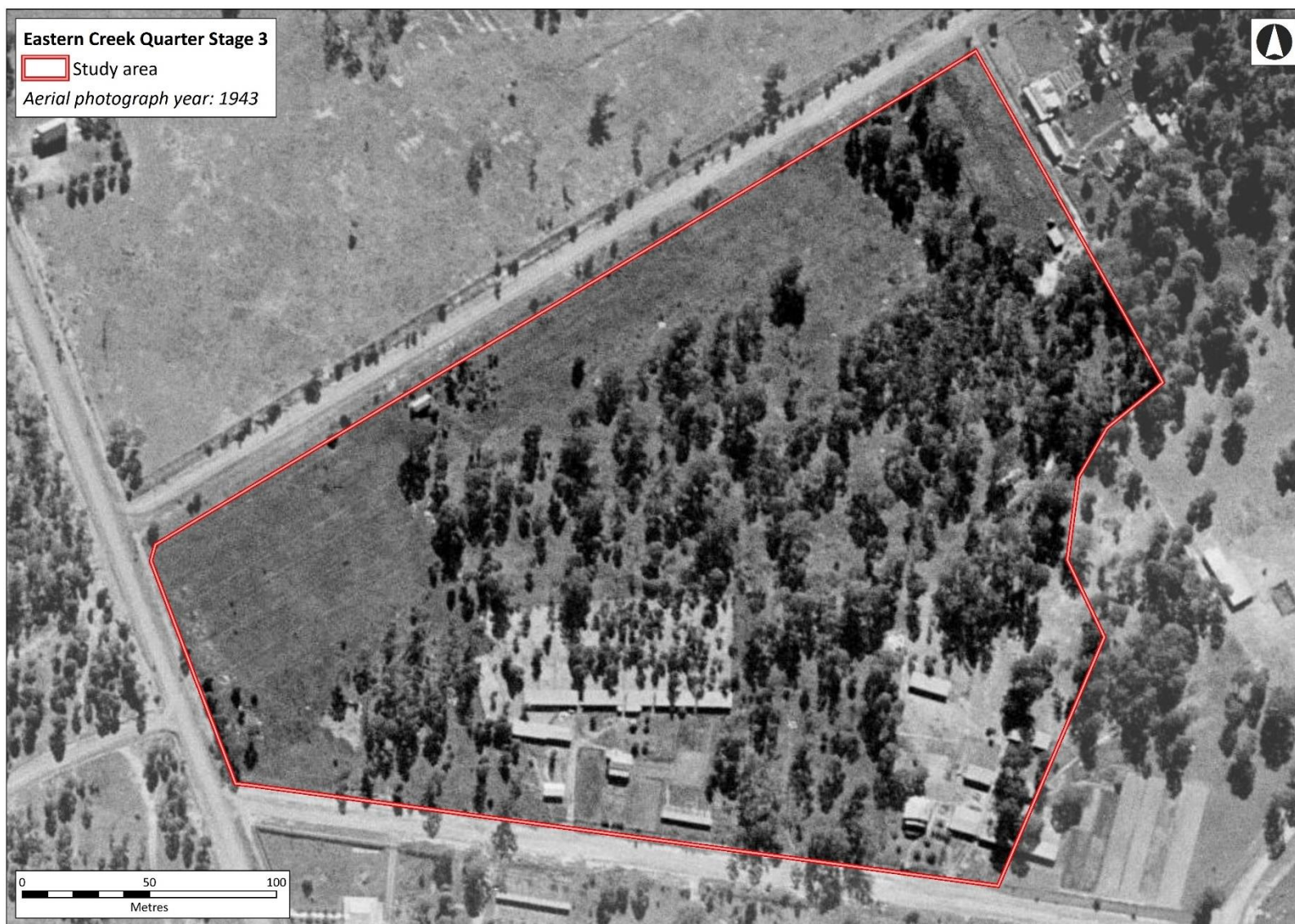


Figure 8. Aerial photograph of the study area in 1943. Source: LPI, Extent

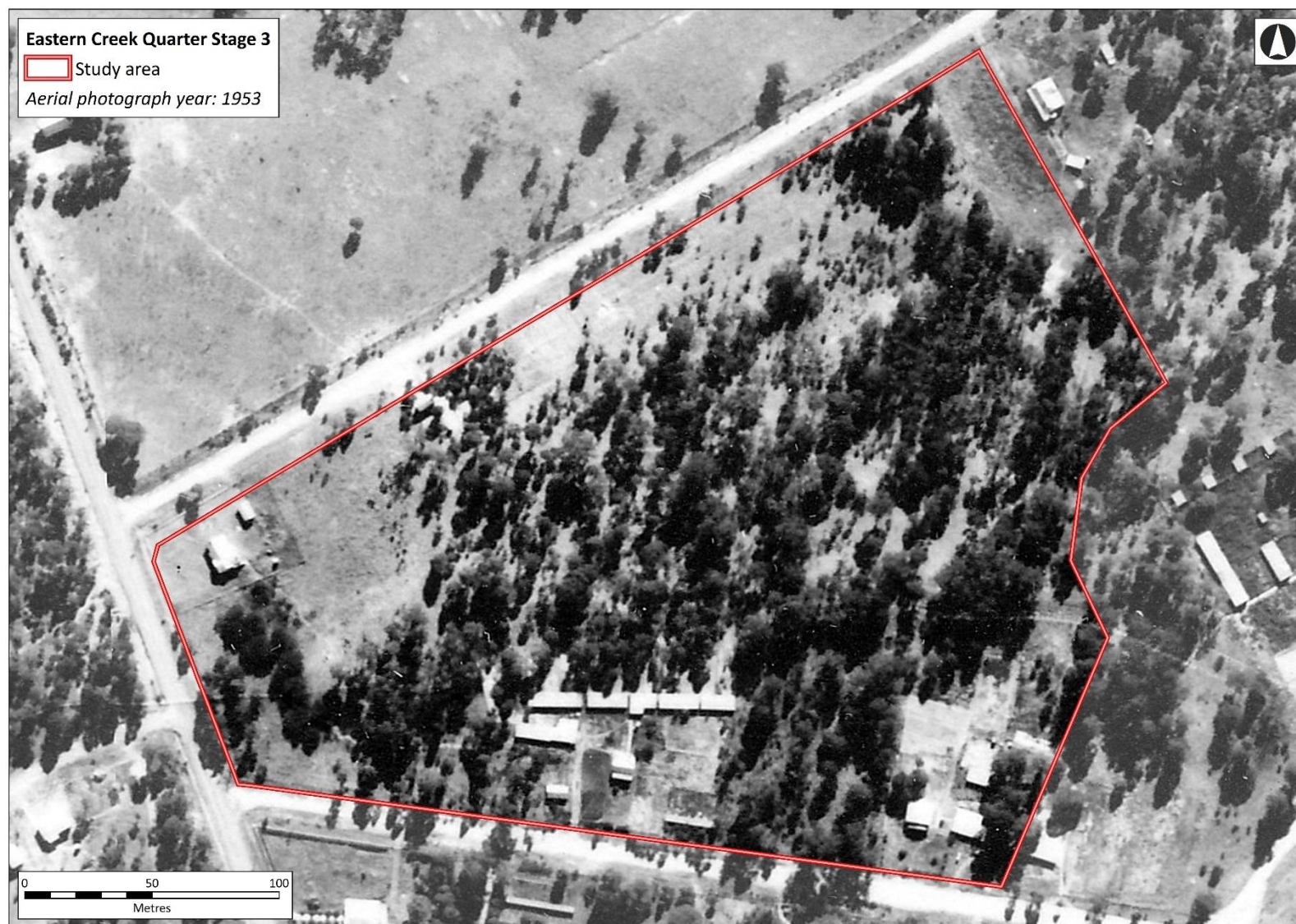


Figure 9. Aerial photograph of the study area in 1953. Source: LPI, Extent



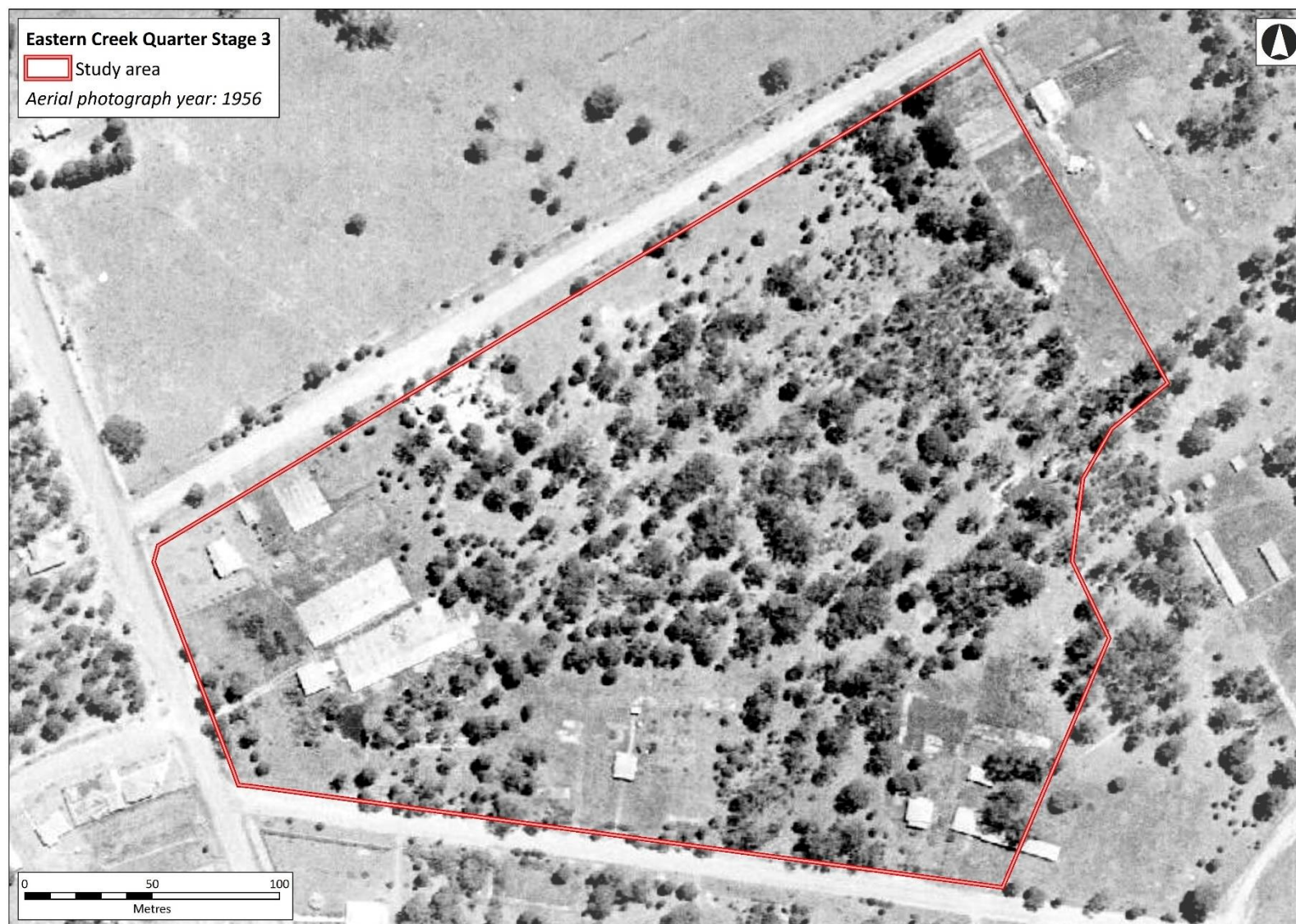


Figure 10. Aerial photograph of the study area in 1956. Source: LPI, Extent



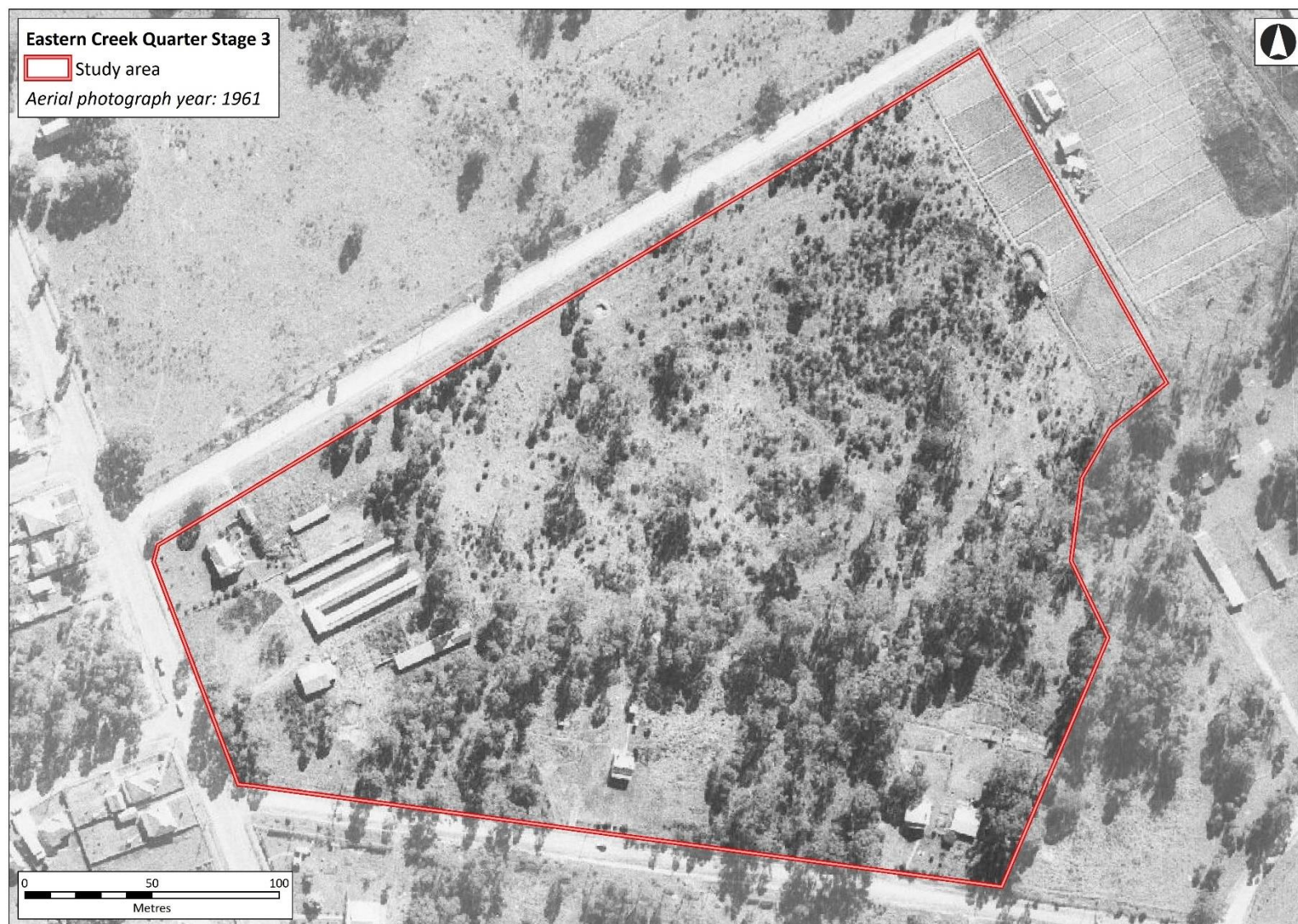


Figure 11. Aerial photograph of the study area in 1961. Source: LPI, Extent





Figure 12. Aerial photograph of the study area in 1970. Source: LPI, Extent



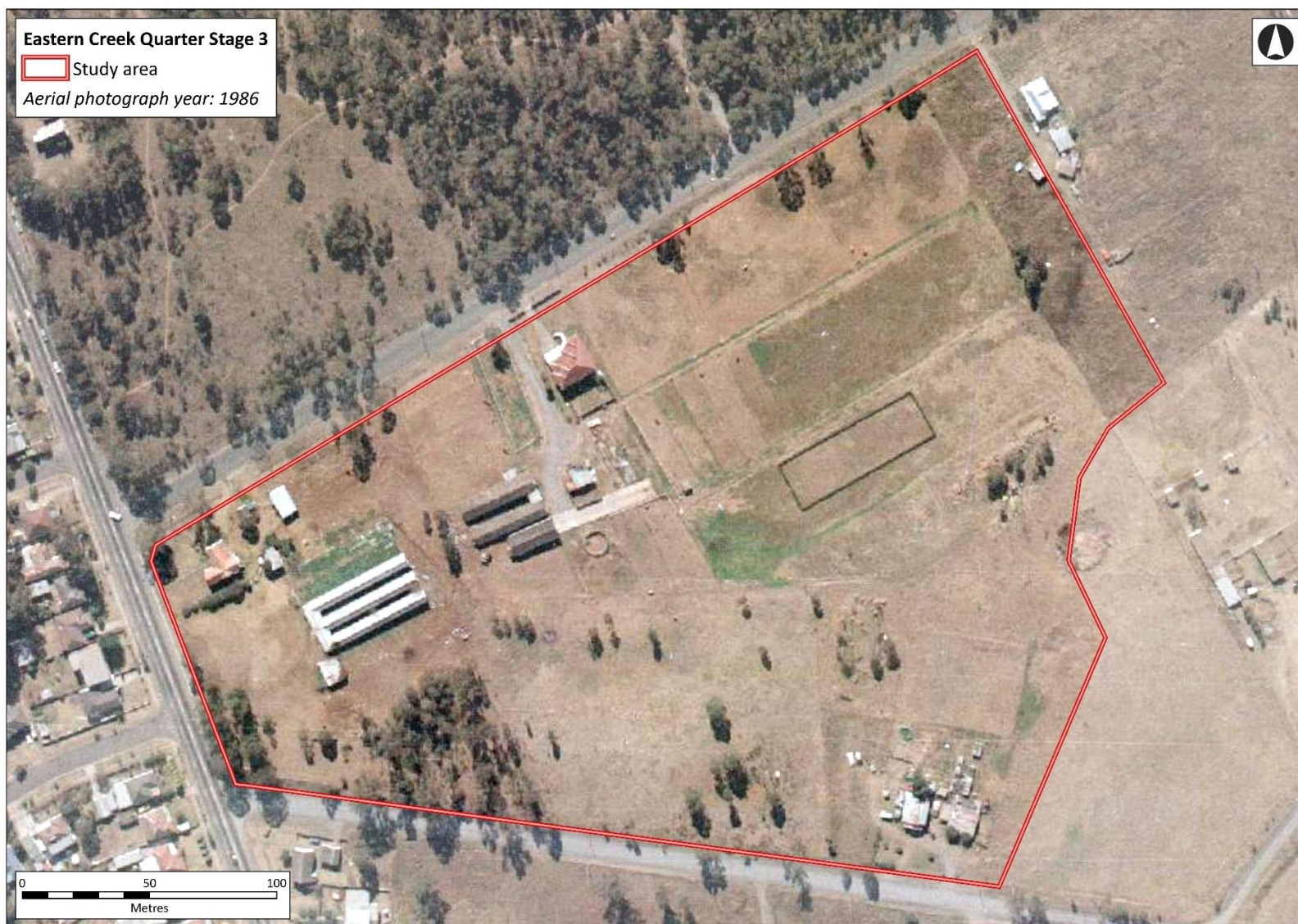


Figure 13. Aerial photograph of the study area in 1986. Source: LPI, Extent





Figure 14. Aerial photograph of the study area in 1994. Source: LPI, Extent





Figure 15. Aerial photograph of the study area in 2002. Source: LPI, Extent



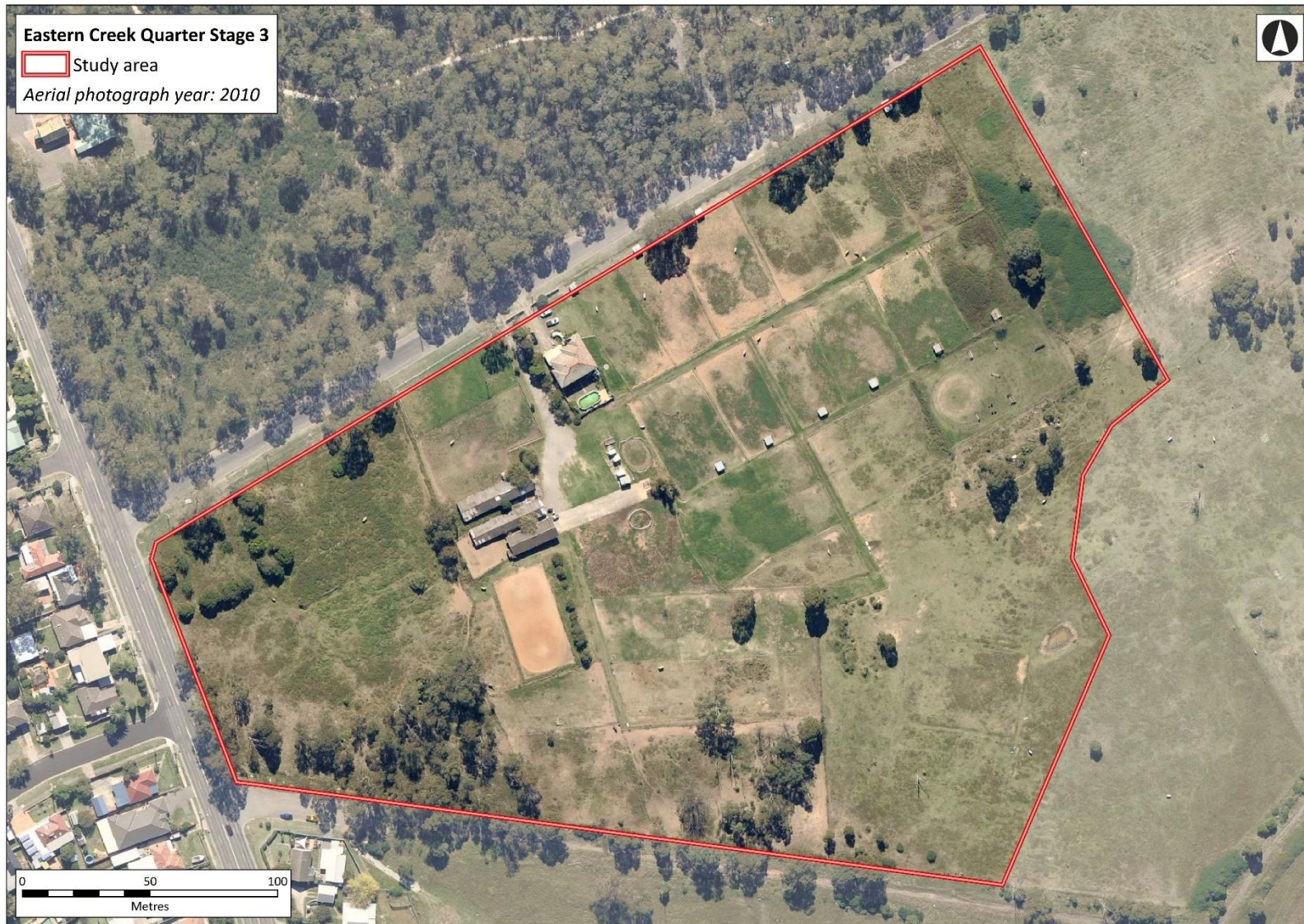


Figure 16. Aerial photograph of the study area in 2010. Source: LPI, Extent



## 3. Physical description

### 3.1 Site inspection

A site inspection was undertaken by Francesca McMaster (Extent Heritage, heritage advisor) on 2 September 2020.

The study area is generally flat with areas of undulation due to earth moving, demolition and previous construction platforms. Dense grass covers the study area, making visibility low, with some copses of trees and shrubs in the south eastern corner and along the southern boundary, facing Beggs Road (Figure 17, Figure 18, Figure 19).

Earth working in areas of the study area, recent and more overgrown activity, was visible. A raised section of ground on the western side of the study area was easily identifiable as the remnants of the horse arena with plantings along the eastern side (Figure 20). Other, small, irregular piles covered in vegetations were visible across the study area (Figure 21). Depressions in the ground, potentially for drainage, were visible on an east to west orientation crossing the study area. On the south-eastern boundary of the study area significant earth working has taken place, possibly associated with the construction of the Eastern Creek Quarter Stage 1 and 2 to the south. The earth working has involved the dumping of a significant amount of soil and demolition material in the south-east corner, creating a platform approximately 5 metres high (Figure 22, Figure 23).

Several surviving fence lines, of different designs and materials, are visible across the study area. Several are constructed from wooden posts while others are star picket and wire (Figure 24). No structural remains, such as footings for the houses and sheds, concrete pads,



Figure 17. View north of the dense vegetation.



Figure 18. View west of dense vegetation.



Figure 19. Copse of trees in south west corner.



Figure 20. View north of machined area of land with plantings along eastern side.



Figure 21. View to the north west showing an overgrown mound.



Figure 22. View to the south across study area to the large stockpile, brown pile at the back of image.



Figure 23. view from top of stockpile looking south east



Figure 24. View of timber fence post line in south east corner of study area, looking to the south west.



## 4. Historical archaeological potential

### 4.1 Previous archaeological reports

In 2012, the study area, including the remainder of the Eastern Creek Quarter development to the south, was subject to a BHAA by AHMS (now Extent Heritage). The previous assessment identified that the site had low archaeological potential resulting from historical use, but as a baseline report did not undertake a detailed assessment of archaeological potential or significance. It also did not consider the potential for historical archaeological evidence associated with the Rooty Hill Run. This HAA represents an update of the 2012 BHAA developed to meet the requirements of Condition 10 of the SEARs for SSD-10457.

### 4.2 Phases of development

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

Phase 1: Early use and grants (1802-1860)

Phase 2: Early subdivision (1860-1906)

Phase 3: Finckh's poultry farm (1907-1917)

Phase 4: Twentieth century subdivision (1917-1970)

Phase 5: Late twentieth century development (1970-present)

#### 4.2.1 Phase 1 'Rooty Hill Run', early grants and leases (1802-1860)

During Phase 1 the study area was part of the 'Rooty Hill Run', a pastoral run for government sheep and cattle established in 1802. The portion of Rooty Hill Run where the study area is situated was known as the Sheep Paddock. It is likely that some land clearing took place during this time as well as the establishment of fence lines dividing the run. In 1833 8,000 acres of the run, including the study area, were granted to the Church and School Lands Corporation who in turn leased portions of the grant. It is not clear if any structures were built on the study area by the lessees, however it is likely that pastoral activities continued at this time.

Archaeological evidence associated with phase is limited likely to be limited to evidence of land clearing, landscaping (specifically establishment of fence lines and paddocks), temporary/ephemeral structures associated with animal husbandry, and isolated artefacts resulting from loss or discard.

#### 4.2.2 Phase 2 Early subdivision (1860-1906)

By 1860 the Church and School lands were subdivided into large allotments. Henry Lintern purchased the land. He owned several properties across the Sydney region and there is no

evidence he built a residence or any other structures on the property during his or his son's ownership.

No development was identified within the study area during this phase. Archaeological evidence associated with this phase is likely to be limited to evidence of changing landscape configurations (fence lines) and isolated artefacts resulting from loss or discard.

#### 4.2.3 Phase 3 Finckh's poultry farm (1907-1917)

In 1907 the property comprising the study area and surrounding lands were purchased by Finckh who established pastoral runs and poultry farms on the property.

Archaeological evidence associated with this phase is likely to be limited to evidence of changing landscape configurations (fence lines), and early twentieth-century agricultural infrastructure (poultry sheds, outbuildings, and dams).

#### 4.2.4 Phase 4 Twentieth century subdivision (1917-1970)

Throughout the early half of the twentieth century the study area was principally used for poultry farming and other agricultural pursuits. By 1943 residences and several sheds have been established on the study area. The long linear sheds were likely used for housing poultry. A 1956 aerial photograph shows the sheds and trees still present across the study area. By 1970 a new house was constructed fronting Church Street, and most of the trees within the site were cleared.

Archaeological evidence associated with this phase might include evidence of land clearing, structural remains of residences fronting Beggs Road and Church Street, domestic and agricultural outbuildings (poultry sheds, garages, stores, stables, etc), landscaping evidence (fence lines, gardens and dams), services (water, sewerage) and other infrastructure associated with the operation of the farms.

#### 4.2.5 Phase 5 Late twentieth century development (1970 – present)

From 1970 to 1986 the study area transformed into an area mostly under cultivation with multiple crops likely established. Extensive cultivation of the site during this phase is likely to have disturbed evidence of land clearing and establishment of the Rooty Hill Run 'Sheep Paddock' in Phase 1 (1802-1860). Most of the residences and ancillary sheds constructed in the mid-to-late nineteenth century were demolished by the early 2000s. All that remained by 2010 was a single house fronting Church Street with several ancillary sheds and a horse arena within the study area. These structures were demolished in 2016.

Archaeological evidence associated with this phase might include demolition deposits, structural remains of equestrian-related outbuildings, and services (water, sewer, electrical).

### 4.3 Summary of historical archaeological potential

The study area has low-nil historical potential for archaeological evidence associated with the Rooty Hill Run and former Government Depot. Key activity areas associated with these sites

are located to the north of the study area, generally within the two SHR-listed sites. Any evidence of early pastoral activities, including evidence of land clearing, fence lines, ephemeral temporary structures, or isolated artefacts, is likely to have been disturbed through extensive cultivation and construction of large agricultural sheds in the later part of the twentieth century.

The study area has high to extant potential for evidence of twentieth century poultry farming, horse agistment and residential occupation following subdivision of the study area in 1917.

Table 1 below lists the potential archaeological remains from all phases of historical development with summarised formation process which may have affected the survival of those relics. Their likelihood of survival is graded in accordance with the following classification: Nil, Low, Moderate, High and Extant.

Table 1. Summary of Historical Archaeological Potential

Phase	Site Feature	Potential Remains	Likelihood of survival
Phase 1: 1802-1860	Land clearing and establishment of the Sheep Paddock	Land clearing (tree boles, wash deposits) Landscape evidence (postholes) Ephemeral structures associated with animal husbandry (sheds, stores, etc) Isolated artefacts resulting from loss or discard	Low-nil
Phase 2: 1860-1906	Pastoral activities	Landscape evidence (postholes) Isolated artefacts resulting from loss or discard	Low-nil
Phase 3: 1907-1917	Finckh's poultry farm	Structural remains of poultry sheds (brick, concrete or timber footings, floor surfaces) Agricultural outbuildings (stores, garages, stables, etc) Waste or water management (well, cistern, septic tank)	Moderate
Phase 4: 1917-1970	Twentieth-century farms	Structural remains of sheds and ancillary agricultural structures (brick and/or concrete footings, concrete flooring, drainage) Structural remains of residences (brick, stone, timber or concrete footings) and domestic outbuildings (sheds, garages, laundries, etc) Landscaping evidence (kitchen gardens, access drives, paved working areas, fence lines) Services (water, sewerage, electrical)	High
Phase 4: 1970-present	Modern farms and demolition	Structural remains (concrete and brick walls and footings, floor surfaces and services)	High

Phase	Site Feature	Potential Remains	Likelihood of survival
		Landscaping evidence (paved surfaces, fence lines, kitchen gardens, access drives) Demolition rubble deposits associated with removal of former structures Services (water, sewerage, electrical)	
	Equestrian facility	Structural remains of sheds (concrete and brick walls and footings, concrete slabs, pathways, services) Hillocks and fence lines	High-extant

## 5. Assessment of historical archaeological significance

### 5.1 Basis for assessment

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

### 5.2 NSW heritage criteria

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

Table 2 outlines the assessment of potential historical archaeological remains with regard to the NSW Heritage Criteria.

Table 2 Assessment of potential archaeological remains against the NSW Heritage Criteria.

Criterion	Assessment
<p><i>Criterion (a)</i></p> <p><i>An item is important to the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area).</i></p>	<p>While the development of the study area does demonstrate the process of early land granting and continuous occasions of subdivision, none of the identified twentieth-century farms or residences has been identified as holding any significance in the course of the cultural history of the region.</p> <p>The anticipated historical archaeological resource <b>would not meet the threshold for local significance</b> under this criterion.</p>
<p><i>Criterion (b)</i></p> <p><i>An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance to NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area).</i></p>	<p>No significant associations were identified with regard to the twentieth century domestic and agricultural archaeological evidence that may remain within the study area.</p> <p>The anticipated historical archaeological resource <b>would not meet the threshold for local significance</b> under this criterion.</p>
<p><i>Criterion (c)</i></p> <p><i>An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree</i></p>	<p>While it is difficult to ascertain the aesthetic characteristics of archaeological items prior to excavation, poultry sheds and agistment boxes are functional structures, unlikely to demonstrate significant aesthetic characteristics.</p> <p>No evidence of technical achievement or likely aesthetic characteristics was identified in the assessment of the study area.</p>



Criterion	Assessment
<i>of technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).</i>	The anticipated historical archaeological resource <b>would not meet the threshold for local significance</b> under this criterion.
<p><i>Criterion (d)</i></p> <p><i>An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (or the local area).</i></p>	<p>Community consultation has not been undertaken as part of preparing this HAA. The review of existing documents and site history has identified no community or cultural groups with social, cultural or spiritual associations with the study area.</p> <p>The anticipated historical archaeological resource <b>would not meet the threshold for local significance</b> under this criterion.</p>
<p><i>Criterion (e)</i></p> <p><i>An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area).</i></p>	<p>Twentieth century residences, poultry farms and horse agistment facilities remain extant in the greater Sydney region. There is little new information to be gained with regard to spatial patterning, construction techniques and activities occurring on site.</p> <p>As twentieth-century elements, they are unlikely to contain sealed artefact deposits due to the introduction of municipal services for the disposal of waste (rubbish and sewerage). Residences and structures with raised floors are unlikely to contain underfloor floor deposits (due to tongue and groove or otherwise continuously covered floors). There are unlikely to be artefact deposits with the potential to provide new information relating to NSW's cultural or natural history.</p> <p>The anticipated historical archaeological resource <b>would not meet the threshold for local significance</b> under this criterion.</p>
<p><i>Criterion (f)</i></p> <p><i>An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area).</i></p>	<p>The anticipated historical archaeological resource would not be considered rare in the region, and poultry farms with large linear sheds remain extant in western Sydney.</p> <p>The anticipated historical archaeological resource <b>would not meet the threshold for local significance</b> under this criterion.</p>
<p><i>Criterion (g)</i></p> <p><i>An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or the local area).</i></p>	<p>Similar facilities and twentieth-century residences remain extant in the region and would provide better representative examples of agricultural sites in the greater Sydney region.</p> <p>The anticipated historical archaeological resource <b>would not meet the threshold for local significance</b> under this criterion.</p>

### 5.2.1 Bickford and Sullivan's questions

The above assessment criteria are supplemented by the established assessment framework that has been developed by Anne Bickford and Sharon Sullivan (1984), who set three fundamental questions to assist in determining the research potential of an archaeological site. These questions are as follows:

**Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?**

The site cannot contribute knowledge that no other resource can. The anticipated archaeological resource reflects use of the study area for residences, poultry farms and an equestrian centre post-dating 1917. Similar facilities remain operational in the greater Sydney region and their operations are well understood in the agricultural community. Changes in animal management strategies or general lifeways the site's occupants could also be captured through oral history, as most of the sites identified would remain within living memory.

**Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can?**

The site cannot contribute knowledge that no other site can. Twentieth-century poultry farms, equestrian centres and rural residences are common elements in the greater Sydney region.

**Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?**

The site is unlikely to contribute knowledge that no other site or resource can. The anticipated historical archaeological resource is unlikely to provide information required to answer general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history.

### 5.3 Summary statement of significance

Historical archaeological remains of twentieth-century rural residences, poultry farms and an equine centre are unlikely to provide any new knowledge of these site types or historical lifeways in the region. No significant associations, personal or social, were identified, and the anticipated resource is unlikely to display technical achievement or aesthetic characteristics. Similar site types remain extant within the greater Sydney region, and archaeological remains of poultry farms, twentieth-century residences and an equine centre are not rare and would not be good representative examples. The anticipated historical archaeological resource would not meet the threshold for local significance and as such would not be considered 'relics', as defined by the Heritage Act.

## 6. Impact assessment

### 6.1 Proposed development

The proposed development includes an L-shaped direct factory outlet extending along the eastern and southern site boundary, with loading areas at each end and a plaza near the centre of the development. The northern and central portions of the site will include a carpark and landscape setback to Church Street and part of Rooty Hill Road South. Undercroft parking is indicated at the northwest corner of the site, suggesting at least one basement level beneath part of the structure.

While the plans have only progressed to full scope of work is not indicated, potential impacts can be drawn from the concept plan (Figure 2). These works are likely to require (at a minimum) removal of topsoil deposits across the footprint of the development, localised excavation for services and beam footings, further excavation to prepare the site for slab (or other) construction, and deep subsurface excavation to accommodate an undercroft parking level.

### 6.2 Archaeological impacts

This assessment has identified that the study area is unlikely to contain significant historical archaeological remains. The proposed works will not impact on significant historical archaeological remains or relics.

### 6.3 Proposed mitigation

As the works will not impact on significant historical archaeological remains or relics, no further archaeological management or mitigation is recommended.



## 7. Conclusions and recommendations

### 7.1 Conclusions

- The study area was formerly part of the Rooty Hill Run, a 38,728-acre parcel of land reserved by Governor King in 1802 for use in breeding and grazing government livestock.
- There is nil-low potential for archaeological evidence associated with Rooty Hill Run or the associated Government Depot within the study area.
- There is high potential for archaeological remains associated with post-1917 use of the site for poultry farming, rural residences and an equestrian centre. These remains are unlikely to meet the threshold for local significance.
- The study area is unlikely to contain significant historical archaeological remains or 'relics', as defined by the Heritage Act.

### 7.2 Recommendations

- The proposed development of a direct factory outlet and associated carpark is unlikely to impact on significant historical archaeological remains.
- No further mitigation or intervention with regard to historical archaeology is recommended in association with redevelopment of the site.
- In the unlikely event of the discovery of unexpected historical archaeological remains - not identified in this report - all works in the affected area should cease and a qualified archaeologist contacted to undertake an inspection and assessment of the find. If the find is assessed to be a 'relic' in the meaning of the Heritage Act, Heritage NSW must be notified in accordance with section 146 of the Heritage Act.
- In the event that evidence of the Aboriginal occupation of the site is identified during any phase of onsite works, all works in the affected area should stop, the area adequately protected and Heritage NSW informed about the discovery under section 89(A) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

## 8. References

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Griffith, P.A. 1976. *The Roadmakers: A History of Main Roads in New South Wales*, Department of Main Roads, New South Wales, Sydney.

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