
Appendix BB

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

Sydney Olympic Park Over Station Development and Adjacent Station Development

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Assessment Report

October 2022



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Document history and status

Revision	Date issued	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date approved	Revision type
1. Draft		Sandra Wallace	Sandra Wallace		First draft
2. Draft	28 July 2022	Elizabeth Bonshek	Sandra Wallace		Revision 1
3. Draft	5 September 2022	Elizabeth Bonshek	Sandra Wallace		Revision 2
4. Final	5 October 2022	Elizabeth Bonshek	Sandra Wallace		Final.

Project name:	Sydney Metro West, Sydney Olympic Park, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
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Project number:	22112
Name of organisation:	Artefact Heritage
Document version:	Revision 2

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) supports a Concept State Significant Development Application (Concept SSDA) submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The Concept SSDA is made under section 4.22 of the EP&A Act.

Sydney Metro is seeking to secure concept approval for an over station development (OSD) and adjacent station development (ASD) on an area defined as Site 47 within the Central Precinct of Sydney Olympic Park (referred collectively as the 'proposed development'). The proposed development will comprise of one new commercial and retail building (Building 1) above the Sydney Olympic Park metro station and two residential accommodation buildings (Buildings 2 and 3) with retail and commercial space, adjacent to the Sydney Olympic Park metro station.

The Concept SSDA seeks consent for a building envelope and mixed-use purposes, maximum building height, a maximum gross floor area (GFA), pedestrian and vehicular access, circulation arrangements and associated car parking and the strategies and design parameters for the future detailed design of development.

This ACHAR responds specifically to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), dated 18 February 2022.

The aim of this ACHAR is to identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the study area, conduct consultation with registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) and to assess impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage that may result from the proposed development.

This ACHAR draws upon the work carried out for the Sydney Metro West – Sydney Metro West Stage 1 Technical Paper 4: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Parramatta, Cumberland, Canada Bay, Burwood, and Inner West Local Government Areas. This represents a larger planning process underway to develop new rail links between the Sydney CBD and the western suburbs terminating at Westmead.

The study area is located within the suburb Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127 and is located 13 km west of the Sydney Central Business District. It lies within the City of Parramatta (Figure 2) and within the boundaries of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

Consultation with registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) has been completed.

Overview of findings

The following results and recommendations are based on consideration of:

- The requirements of Aboriginal heritage guidelines including:
 - The Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010a) – known as The Code of Practice.
 - Guide to investigating and assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales (OEH 2011) – known as ACHAR guidelines.
 - The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (OEH 2010b) – known as Consultation Guidelines.

- Practice Note Engaging with Aboriginal Communities. Social Impact Assessment Practice Notes (DPE 2022)
- The SEARs issued for the proposal (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) on 18 February 2022.
- The results of Sydney Metro West – Sydney Metro West Stage 1 Technical Paper 4: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Parramatta, Cumberland, Canada Bay, Burwood, and Inner West Local Government Areas, November 2020 which included background research and an archaeological survey.

The assessment found that:

- No previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified within the study area during the archaeological survey undertaken for the Stage 1 Technical Paper 4.
- After archaeological survey, undertaken as part of the works of the Stage 1 Technical Paper 4, the study area was assessed as having low potential to retain intact archaeological deposits.
- After background research, including the results of Stage 1 Technical Paper 4, the proposal has been assessed as having no impact on any Aboriginal archaeological values in the study area.
- The study area was assessed as having no scientific/archaeological significance as there is no known Aboriginal objects or areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential. Through the consultation process it was established that the RAPs supported the ACHAR and the area held high significance for Aboriginal people through their ongoing connection to land.

Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment and in accordance with Aboriginal heritage guidelines mandated in the SEARs issued on 18 February 2022, the following recommendations are made:

- As the proposed development is Concept SSDA and does not include excavation, there would be no impact on any Aboriginal archaeological heritage values and it is recommended that further assessment is not required until the Detailed SSDA stage.
- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impacts to areas not assessed by this ACHAR further assessment would be required.
- If Aboriginal objects, or potential objects, are uncovered during the proposed development, all work in the vicinity must cease immediately and The Sydney Metro Unexpected Heritage Finds Procedure followed. A qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the find.
- If human remains, or suspected human remains, are found during the proposed development, all work in the vicinity should cease, the site should be secured, and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW should be notified, and The Sydney Metro Unexpected Heritage Finds Procedure and Exhumation Management Procedure should be followed.

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Sydney Metro West	1
1.2	Background and planning context	1
1.2.1	Critical state significant infrastructure.....	1
1.2.2	State significant development application	2
1.3	Purpose and scope of the report	2
1.4	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement	3
1.5	Project background.....	3
	Significance Values: Results of the Stage 1 Technical Paper 4.	4
2.0	The site and proposal.....	5
2.1	Site location and description.....	5
2.2	Overview of this proposal	7
3.0	Legislative context	10
3.1	Introduction	10
3.2	NSW <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	10
3.2.1	National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019	10
3.3	NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979	11
3.3.1	Local Environmental Plan	11
3.4	NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.....	12
3.5	NSW Native Title Act 1994	12
3.6	Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.....	12
3.6.1	National Heritage List	13
3.6.2	Commonwealth Heritage List	13
4.0	Aboriginal community consultation	14
4.1	Aboriginal consultation	14
4.2	Identification of stakeholders and registrations of interest	14
4.3	Review of assessment methodology	15
4.4	Review of draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.....	16
5.0	Environmental context	18
5.1	Geology and soils	18
5.2	Landforms and hydrology	20
5.3	Vegetation.....	22
5.4	European history and land use.....	22
6.0	Archaeological and ethnographic context.....	24
6.1	Ethnographic and historical evidence.....	24
6.2	Archaeological evidence.....	24

6.3	Registered Aboriginal sites	25
6.3.1	AHIMS sites in proximity to the Study Area	26
6.4	Previous archaeological investigations	28
6.5	Predictive model	33
7.0	Site survey methodology	34
7.1	Aboriginal site definition	34
7.2	Archaeological survey methodology	34
7.2.1	Site inspection	34
7.2.2	Aims of archaeological survey	35
7.3	Archaeological survey coverage	35
7.3.1	Survey results	36
7.3.2	Assessment of archaeological potential in 2019	36
8.0	Significance assessment	38
8.1	Significance assessment methodology	38
8.2	Socio/cultural significance	39
8.3	Historic significance	39
8.4	Scientific significance	40
8.5	Aesthetic significance	40
8.6	Statement of significance	40
9.0	Avoiding and minimising harm	41
9.1	Proposed works	41
9.2	Impact assessment methodology	41
9.3	Aboriginal heritage impact assessment	41
9.4	Ecologically Sustainable Development principles	42
9.4.1	The integration principle	42
9.4.2	The precautionary principle	42
9.4.3	The principle of intergenerational equity	42
9.5	Cumulative impacts	42
10.0	Management and mitigation measures	43
10.1	Ongoing consultation with registered Aboriginal parties	43
10.2	Unexpected finds	43
11.0	Conclusions and recommendations	44
11.1	Overview of findings	44
11.2	Recommendations	44
12.0	References	46
13.0	Appendix	49
	Sydney Olympic Park Consultation Log.	49

FIGURES

Figure 1. Sydney Metro West station locations.	1
Figure 2. The study area and Concept SSDA site	5
Figure 3. The study area.	6
Figure 4. Client's plan of study area in 500m radius	7
Figure 5. Plan of proposed building envelopes	9
Figure 6. The soilscape of the study area.	19
Figure 7. Study area in relation to surrounding hydrology	21
Figure 8. AHIMS sites in proximity to the study area. The current study area is located within the area marked as the construction site, in blue.	27
Figure 9. View across remaining abattoir structures, northern portion of the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site.....	35
Figure 10. View across commercial development within the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site.....	35
Figure 11. View north across modified landform associated with commercial development.....	35
Figure 12. View across modified landform associated with commercial development	35

TABLES

Table 1. Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	3
Table 2. Site legal description	7
Table 3. Sydney Olympic Park proposed development overview	8
Table 4. Groups or individuals registered as RAPs.	15
Table 5: Summary of RAP comments on the Assessment Methodology	16
Table 6. Summary of RAP comments on the draft ACHAR	17
Table 7: Previous archaeological studies close to the proposal	28
Table 8. Effective survey coverage	36
Table 9: Survey coverage summary - landforms.....	36
Table 10. Burra Charter Heritage significance criteria	38
Table 11. Scientific significance assessment	40
Table 12. Summary of impacts.....	41

1.0 INTRODUCTION

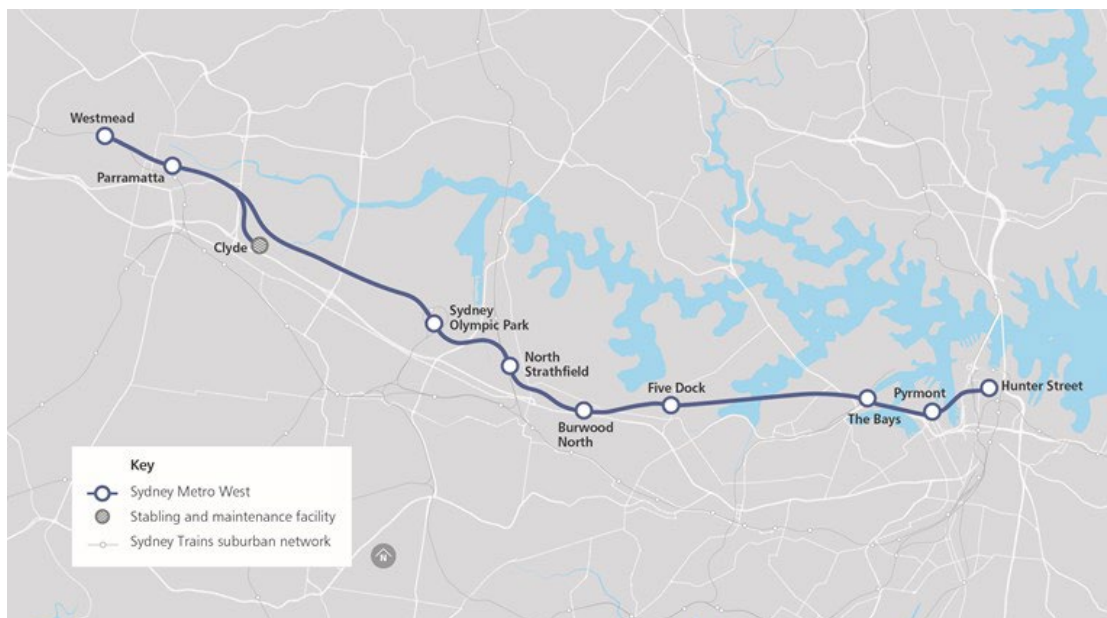
1.1 Sydney Metro West

Sydney Metro West will double rail capacity between Greater Parramatta and the Sydney Central Business District (CBD), transforming Sydney for generations to come. The once in a century infrastructure investment will have a target travel time of about 20 minutes between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD, link new communities to rail services and support employment growth and housing supply.

Metro stations have been confirmed at Westmead, Parramatta, Sydney Olympic Park, North Strathfield, Burwood North, Five Dock, The Bays, Pyrmont and Hunter Street (Sydney CBD).

Sydney Metro West station locations are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Sydney Metro West station locations.



1.2 Background and planning context

Sydney Metro is seeking to deliver Sydney Olympic Park metro station under a two-part planning approval process. The station infrastructure is to be delivered under a Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) application subject to provisions under division 5.2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), while the over and adjacent station developments are to be delivered under a State Significant Development (SSD) subject to the provisions of part 4 of the EP&A Act.

1.2.1 Critical state significant infrastructure

The state significant infrastructure (SSI) planning approval process for the Sydney Metro West metro line, including delivery of station infrastructure, has been broken down into a number of planning application stages, comprising the following:

- Concept and Stage 1 CSSI Approval (SSI-10038) – All major civil construction works between Westmead and The Bays including station excavation, tunnelling and demolition of existing buildings (approved 11 March 2021).
- Stage 2 CSSI Application (SSI-19238057) – All major civil construction works between The Bays and Hunter Street Station (under assessment).
- Stage 3 CSSI Application (SSI-22765520) – Tunnel fit-out, construction of stations, ancillary facilities and station precincts between Westmead and Hunter Street Station, and operation and maintenance of the Sydney Metro West line (under assessment).

1.2.2 State significant development application

The SSD will be undertaken as a staged development with the subject Concept State Significant Development Application (Concept SSDA) being consistent with the meaning under section 4.22 of the EP&A Act and seeking conceptual approval for a building envelope, land uses, maximum building heights, a maximum gross floor area, pedestrian and vehicle access, vertical circulation arrangements and associated car parking. A subsequent Detailed SSD/s is to be prepared by a future development partner which will seek consent for detailed design and construction of the development.

1.3 Purpose and scope of the report

Artefact Heritage has been engaged to prepare an ACHAR for inclusion in the proposal EIS. This ACHAR considers the construction impacts of the proposed development on Aboriginal cultural heritage and potential archaeological resources within the study area and includes:

- Assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the study area and identification of any specific areas of cultural significance
- Assessment of archaeological potential for the study area
- Aboriginal community consultation

The ACHAR has been undertaken in accordance with the following guidelines:

- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010a)
- *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011)
- *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW 2010b)
- *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Australia ICOMOS 2013)

1.4 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement

The SEARs were issued for the proposal (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) on 18 February 2022. The SEARs require that an ACHAR be undertaken following the appropriate guidelines:

Provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, identifying, describing and assessing any impacts for any Aboriginal cultural heritage values on the site.

The requirements for the SEARs are addressed within this document at the following locations (Table 1).

Table 1. Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Item	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Where addressed in this report
		This report
1	Identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the development and document	Section 6, 7, 8
2	Consultation with Aboriginal people	Section 4
3	A description of the impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage	Section 9, 10

1.5 Project background

Sydney Metro (the Proponent) has engaged Artefact to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) to support the proposed development on the Sydney Metro site at Sydney Olympic Park (SOP) within the Central Precinct and defined as Site 47 in the SOP Master Plan 2030 (Interim Metro Review). The development is a concept proposal submitted by Sydney Metro for assessment as a State Significant Development (SSD) under part 4.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The aim of this ACHAR is to identify, describe and assess Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the study area, conduct consultation with Aboriginal stakeholder groups and to assess impacts to Aboriginal heritage that may result from the proposal.

This ACHAR draws upon the work carried out for the Sydney Metro West, Stage 1. Technical Paper 4: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Parramatta, Cumberland, Canada Bay, Burwood, and Inner West Local Government Area, April 2020 (henceforth Stage 1 Technical Paper 4) which represents part of the larger planning process underway to develop new rail links between the Sydney CBD and the western suburbs terminating at Westmead.

The Stage 1 Technical Paper 4 assessed the major civil construction work between Westmead and The Bays. It focused on surface and subsurface impacts along the proposed route to assess the impact on Aboriginal heritage values at sites proposed for new stations as well as the proposed route

of tunnel construction and associated installation of infrastructure. The report includes demolition, utility supply and excavation of stations proposed for Parramatta Station and Sydney Olympic Park metro station.

Stage 1 Technical Paper 4 was undertaken with full consultation with RAPs in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Department of Environment Climate Change & Water [DECCW] 2010b) and 60 Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were consulted.

This ACHAR focuses on the proposed development at Sydney Olympic Park and draws upon the work presented in Stage 1 Technical Paper 4 which investigated and assessed the potential impacts on any Aboriginal cultural heritage values at the site as a result of the major civil construction work for Stage 1 which will involve ground surface and subsurface works.

As the proposed development is Concept SSDA and does not include excavation, it will not create any additional ground impacts not already discussed and assessed in Stage 1 Technical Paper 4. This ACHAR draws upon the research and conclusions of that report.

In addition, because Stage 1 Technical Paper 4 carried out, and completed all stages of the consultation process, this ACHAR draws upon the RAP list established. In accordance with statutory requirements governing consultation, Stage 1 Technical Paper 4 carried out a significance assessment (Section 9). Elements from the significance assessment (Technical Report 4) are summarised here as the RAP comments are pertinent to the study area and proposed development at Sydney Olympic Park metro station which is the specific subject of this ACHAR. This ACHAR will conduct a significance assessment and open opportunity for further comments.

Significance Values: Results of the Stage 1 Technical Paper 4.

Consultation has shown that the study area is part of a wider cultural landscape of high cultural significance to many of the RAPs.

While there is no evidence to identify specific people, events or memories within the study area, the consultation carried out in association with the Stage 1 Technical Paper 4 demonstrated that the study area held high significance for individual people in terms of social movements, aspects of the landscape.

Darug people expressed the importance of land, culture and place: especially their association with the landscapes and landforms which contain information, connection and evidence of the lifestyle of past Aboriginal people.

Darug people also expressed that their connection to place was also evident in the location of towns and transport routes, including the existing train line, which follow the locations of former Aboriginal camping locations and travel routes.

Consultation with registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) has been completed.

2.0 THE SITE AND PROPOSAL

2.1 Site location and description

The site is located within Sydney Olympic Park and is situated within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area. The site is in the Central Precinct of Sydney Olympic Park and defined as Site 47 in the Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030 (Interim Metro Review). The broader metro site is bound by Herb Elliott Avenue to the north, Olympic Boulevard to the west and Figtree Drive to the south (see study area Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4).

The study area is within the boundaries of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

Figure 2. The study area and Concept SSDA site



Figure 3. The study area.



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Figure 4. Client's plan of study area in 500m radius



As described in Table 2 the site comprises part of Lot 59 in DP 786296 and Lot 58 in DP 786296, and comprises approximately 11,407m² of land.

Table 2. Site legal description

Street address	Legal description
5 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park	Lot 58 in DP 786296
7 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park	Lot 59 in DP 786296

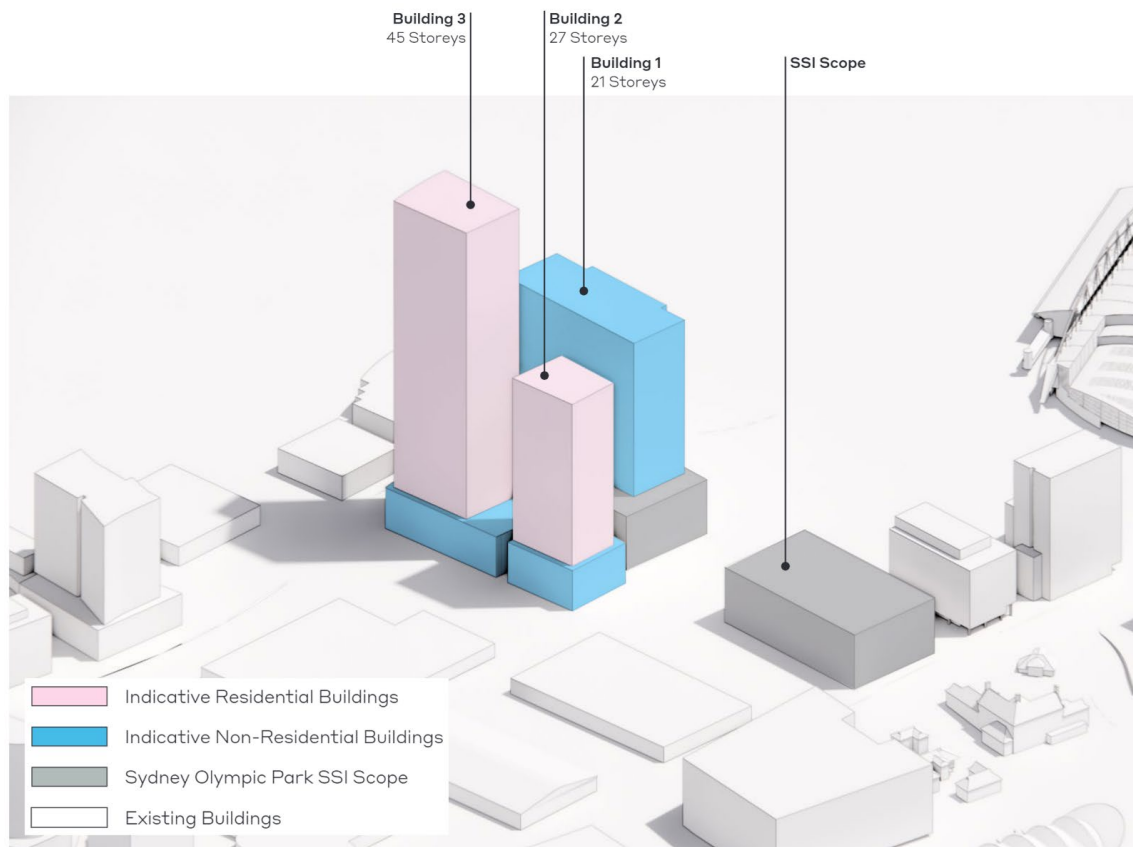
2.2 Overview of this proposal

The Concept SSDA will seek consent for three building envelopes and the delivery of Precinct Street A as detailed in Table 3 and Figure 5.

Table 3. Sydney Olympic Park proposed development overview

Item	Description
Land use	Building 1: Commercial and retail Building 2: Commercial, retail and residential Building 3: Commercial, retail and residential
Building height (RL) / Number of storeys	Building 1: 120.20 / 21 storeys Building 2: 116.90 / 27 storeys Building 3: 171.50 / 45 storeys
Gross Floor Area (m ²)	Building 1: 28,517 Building 2: 12,089 Building 3: 27,384 TOTAL: 68,000
Car parking spaces	358

Figure 5. Plan of proposed building envelopes



3.0 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

There are several pieces of legislation that are relevant to the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage for the proposal. This chapter provides a summary of these Acts and the potential implications for the proposal.

3.2 NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal places and objects. An Aboriginal Place is declared by the Minister, under Section 84 of the NPW Act in recognition of its special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. Under Section 86 of the NPW Act Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal Places are protected. An Aboriginal object is defined as:

any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains.

The protection provided to Aboriginal objects applies irrespective of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure. However, areas are only gazetted as Aboriginal places if the Minister is satisfied that sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that the location was and/or is of special significance to Aboriginal culture.

There are no gazetted Aboriginal places in the study area. All Aboriginal objects, whether recorded or not, are protected under the NPW Act.

However, as the proposed development will be subject to assessment under Section 4.1 of EP&A Act, Schedule 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 permits allowing harm to Aboriginal objects.

3.2.1 National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019

Under the authority of the NPW Act, the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 provides regulations for Aboriginal heritage assessment and consultation with registered Aboriginal parties.

Part 5 (Division 2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation sets out the requirements of a due diligence assessment process and provides requirements for more detailed assessment and consultation with registered Aboriginal parties for activities that may result in harm to Aboriginal objects. This includes:

- Clause 60 – consultation process to be carried out before application for Aboriginal heritage impact permit
- Clause 61 – application for Aboriginal heritage impact permit to be accompanied by cultural heritage assessment report.

In order to comply with Clause 60 and 61 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019, preparation of an ACHAR and consultation with RAPs must be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Code of Practice (DECCW 2010a)
- ACHAR guidelines (OEH 2011)
- Consultation guidelines (DECCW 2010b).

The current assessment has been carried out in accordance with the above guidelines in order to meet the SEARs which refer to them.

3.3 NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) provides planning controls and requirements for environmental assessment in the development approval process. The EP&A Act consists of three main parts of direct relevance to Aboriginal cultural heritage: Part 3 which governs the preparation of planning instruments; Part 4 which relates to development requiring consent; and Part 5 which relates to activity that does not require consent.

The project is subject to assessment and approval by the NSW Minister for Planning under Part 4 Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act, which establishes an assessment and approval regime for SSD.

An EIS supported by the current assessment has been prepared to assess the impacts of the proposal, in accordance with SEARs.

Section 4.12(8) of the EP&A Act provides that environmental planning instruments (such as local environmental plans and SEPPs) do not, with some exceptions, apply to SSD projects. Notwithstanding, the environmental planning instruments that are relevant to the proposal have been considered for consistency, as described below.

3.3.1 Local Environmental Plan

Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) are prepared by councils in accordance with the EP&A Act to guide planning divisions for LGAs. The aim of LEPs in relation to heritage is to conserve the heritage significance listed within this schedule.

Schedule 5 of each LEP lists items of heritage significance within each LGA. If agreement is reached with the Aboriginal community, items or Aboriginal places of heritage significance are also listed within this schedule.

State Significant Development projects are not subject to environmental planning instruments (such as LEPs),

The proposal would fall within the boundary of the Parramatta LGA. The proposal would fall within the area of the following environmental planning instruments:

- Parramatta Local Environment Plan 2011

No Aboriginal places of heritage significance were identified on the Parramatta LEP within the vicinity of the proposal.

3.4 NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

The NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* 1983 is administered by the NSW Department of Human Services – Aboriginal Affairs. This Act established Aboriginal Land Councils (at State and local levels). These bodies have a statutory obligation under the Act to:

- Take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area, subject to any other law
- Promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area.

The proposal is located within the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council.

3.5 NSW Native Title Act 1994

The *Native Title Act* 1994 was introduced to work in conjunction with the Commonwealth Native Title Act. Native Title claims, registers and Indigenous Land Use Agreements are administered under the Act.

The main objects of the Native Title Act 1993 are:

- To provide for the recognition and protection of native title; and,
- To establish ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed, and to set standards for those dealings; and
- To establish a mechanism for determining claim to native title; and,
- To provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts, and intermediate period acts, invalidated because of the existence of native title.

A search of the Native Title Vision by Elizabeth Bonshek on 30 May 2022 did not identify any Native Title claims in or around the study area.

3.6 Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003* amends the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to include 'national heritage' as a matter of national environmental significance and protects listed places to the fullest extent under the Constitution. It also establishes the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List.

The *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* establishes a new heritage advisory body – the Australian Heritage Council – to the Minister for the Environment and Energy and retains the Register of the National Estate.

The *Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2003* repeals the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*, amends various Acts as a consequence of this repeal and allows the transition to the current heritage system.

The *Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* can protect areas and objects that are of particular significance to Aboriginal people by allowing the Environment Minister, on the application of an Aboriginal person or group of persons, to make a declaration to protect an area, object or class of objects from a threat of injury or desecration.

Together these Acts provide protection for Australia's natural, Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage. The new framework includes:

- A new National Heritage List of places of national heritage significance
- A new Commonwealth Heritage List of heritage places owned or managed by the Commonwealth
- The creation of the Australian Heritage Council, an independent expert body to advise the Minister on the listing and protection of heritage places
- Continued management of the non-statutory Register of the National Estate.

3.6.1 National Heritage List

The National Heritage List is a list of places with outstanding heritage value to our nation, including places overseas. So important are the heritage values of these places that they are protected under the EPBC Act. This means that a person cannot take an action that has will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the national heritage values of a national heritage place without the approval of the Australian Government Minister for the Environment.

There are no items listed on the National Heritage List located within the study area for this assessment.

3.6.2 Commonwealth Heritage List

The Commonwealth Heritage List is a list of places managed or owned by the Australian Government. The Commonwealth Heritage List includes natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places which the Minister is satisfied have one or more Commonwealth Heritage values.

There are no items listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List located within the study area.

4.0 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

As a result of the consultation process one RAP raised the need for connecting with Country to be undertaken as part of this proposal.

Although the physical remains are not there the intangible aspects should be considered. Connecting to country is much more than art and interpretation, it's about caring for country spiritually, physically and allowing mother earth to be healthy and full life.

Phil Khan, Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group commented:

Sydney Metro West has established a Connecting with Country Working Group. This has been established in accordance with the Government Architect NSW Connect with Country Framework. This is a separate process to the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process undertaken as part of this ACHAR.

4.1 Aboriginal consultation

Aboriginal community consultation has been conducted in accordance with the Consultation Requirements of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW 2010a).

A consultation log has been maintained which details all correspondence with the registered Aboriginal parties for the project.

Consultation has been completed.

4.2 Identification of stakeholders and registrations of interest

The consultation process undertaken to support the ACHAR Sydney Metro West Stage 1 Technical Paper 4. Parramatta, Cumberland, Canada Bay, Burwood, and Inner West Local Government Areas (Artefact 2020) has been extended for this proposal. The list of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) established for 2020 report is being used in this ACHAR.

A total of 60 RAPs registered their interest in the ACHAR Sydney Metro West Stage 1 Technical Paper 4. Parramatta, Cumberland, Canada Bay, Burwood, and Inner West Local Government Areas and are listed in (Table 4).

Documentation of the consultation process is provided in the Appendix.

Table 4. Groups or individuals registered as RAPs.

Contacts

4.3 Review of assessment methodology

A copy of the ACHAR methodology for the project was distributed to the RAPs on 16 June 2022 with a 28-day period for review and comment. The document included details of the proposal and a summary of the proposed ACHAR assessment methodology.

A summary of comments received from four (4) RAPS is provided in Table 5.

Table 5: Summary of RAP comments on the Assessment Methodology

Person/ RAP group	Comment
	" I have read the assessment methodology ACHAR for the above project, I endorse the recommendations made. Kind regards"
	"I have read the project information, ACHAR, and methodology for the above project, and I agree with the recommendations made".
	I have reviewed the document and support the Information and Methodology.
	<p>"We would like to agree to your methodology and we look forward to further consultation [sic] on this project."</p> <p>Summary of full comment: The area is highly significant because Aboriginal people have occupied, cared for and walked the land for thousands of years. Aboriginal people have abided by lore, kinship and customs, and created thriving environments; water is important and Aboriginal people have followed waterways tens of thousands of years and are connected through them.</p>

4.4 Review of draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

On 5 August 2022, the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report was emailed to the RAPs for comment (28 days review period).

There was one response to the draft Aboriginal Heritage Assessment which was supportive of the report's recommendations. The response is included in full in Table 6.

Table 6. Summary of RAP comments on the draft ACHAR

Person/ RAP group	Comment	Response
	<p>"The study areas is close by to many water ways run near by the study areas. These water ways would have been utilised and the surrounding area full of flora and fauna allowing Aboriginal people to thrive. Mother earth cares and provides for us and in return we care for her. We would like to see the project regenerated flora and fauna where possible, allow room for interpretation and connecting to county in an culturally appropriate way.</p> <p>Although the physical remains are not there the intangible aspects should be considered. Connecting to country is much more then art and interpretation, it's about caring for county spiritually, physically and allowing mother earth to be heathy and full life. Aboriginal people in fact all people have a responsibly; philosophy, law and religion, home, county family, kinship, spirt, soul and psyche, as Uncle Bob Randall said.</p> <p>We agree to your recommendations, and we support your ACHA We would like to be involved in furthering consultation in regard to the project".</p>	<p>Sydney Metro has piloted the Government Architect Office's Connect with Country Draft Framework. It is suggested this framework is referred to during the design development for OSD.</p>

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

5.1 Geology and soils

The proposal is located within the Blacktown soil profile (Figure 6). This profile occurs on the Cumberland Lowlands between the Georges and Parramatta Rivers and includes suburbs as Strathfield, Auburn and Belmore.

The underlying geology consists of the Wianamatta Group, which is predominately consisting of Ashfield Shale and Bringelly Shale. The shale is overlaid by Gymea soil landscape. The Gymea soil landscape is generally associated with undulating to rolling rises and low hills. Soils within the Gymea soil landscape vary with underlying landform with crests and side slopes generally associated within a quartz sandy loam directly overlying bedrock. Shale lenses are documented to occur within this landscape which are generally associated with a clay deposit underlying the A horizon sand deposit (eSpade 2021).

Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site has been subject to substantial landform modification which make interpretation of the former landscape challenging. The Sydney Olympic Park study area has been heavily modified for commercial development.

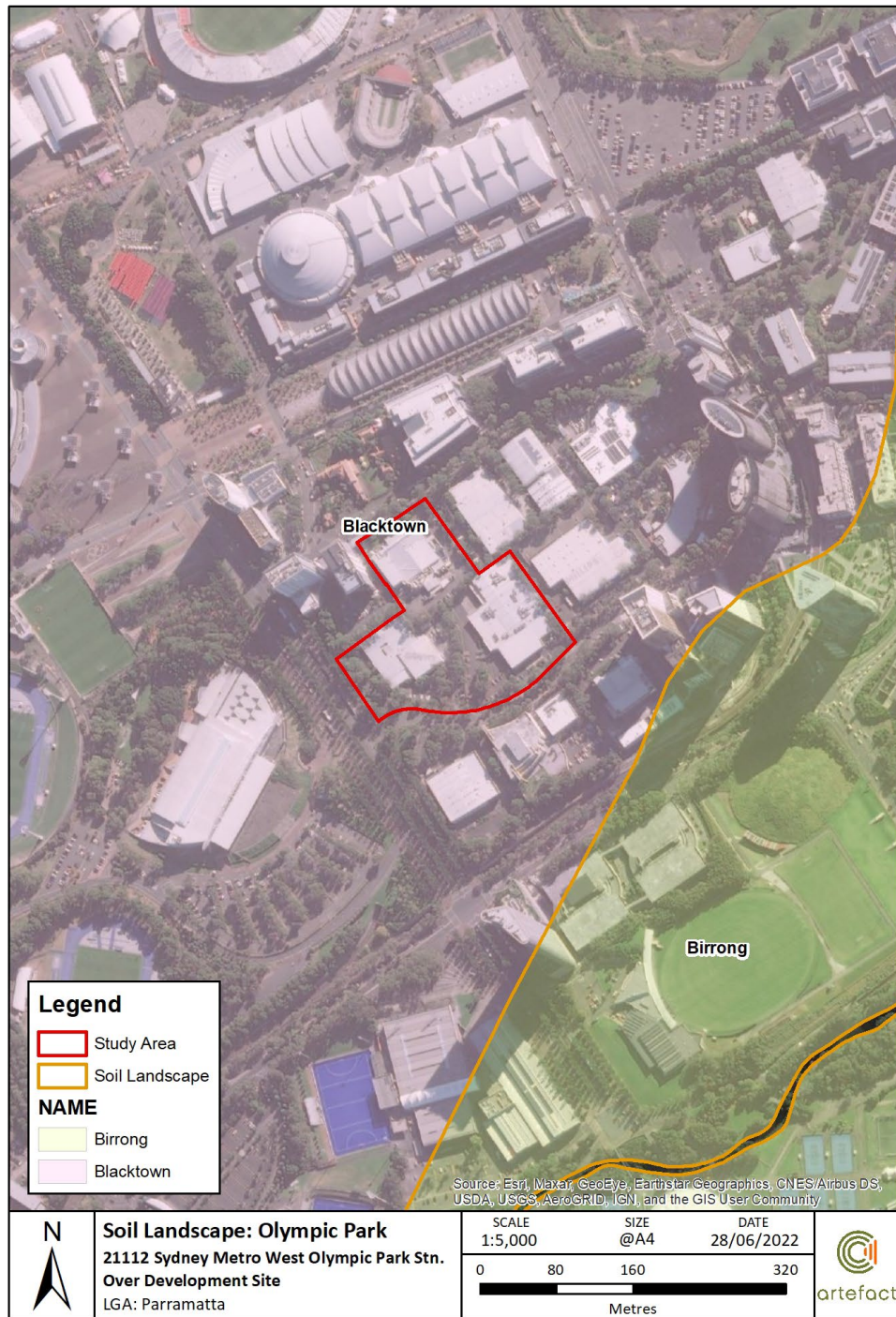
Portions of three large commercial offices and educational facilities are located within the Sydney Olympic Park study area. Large-scale landform modification is evident around the periphery of these structures, with raised accessways and gardens/car park set-backs from Herb Elliott Avenue and Figtree Drive for each building.

The archaeological implications of the soil landscape for the study area is that the residual Blacktown soils represent a moderately deep (less than one metre) soil with limited erosion characteristics in areas with ground cover. Unless removed or disturbed through commercial/road/infrastructure development or extreme erosion events, archaeological material is likely to remain relatively *in situ* (subject to bioturbation).

Four boreholes for geotechnical investigation were placed within, and in the vicinity of, the Sydney Olympic Park study area. These boreholes show:

- Concrete road surface to a depth of 50 millimetres over 'fill' silty sandy gravel and cobbles to a depth of 1.2 metres. Siltstone bedrock encountered at 1.2 metres
- Concrete road surface and base layer to a depth of 0.27 metres. 'Fill' clay and gravel to a depth of 2.1 metres, including concrete cobble identified at 1.1 metres and a brick fragment at 1.3 metres. Siltstone bedrock encountered at 2.1 metres
- Concrete to a depth of 180 millimetres, over 'fill' (gravel, clay, igneous rock, clay, gravelly clay) to a depth of 3.1 metres. Siltstone bedrock encountered at 3.1 metres
- Road surface to a depth of 50 millimetres over 'fill' gravel, clay, to a depth of 850 millimetres.
- 'Residual soil' gravelly clay to a depth of 950 millimetres. Siltstone bedrock encountered at 950 millimetres.

Figure 6. The soilscape of the study area.



Document Path: D:\GIS\GIS_Mapping\21112 Sydney Metro West Overstation Development\GIS\MXD\Olympic Park_Soil Landscape.mxd

5.2 Landforms and hydrology

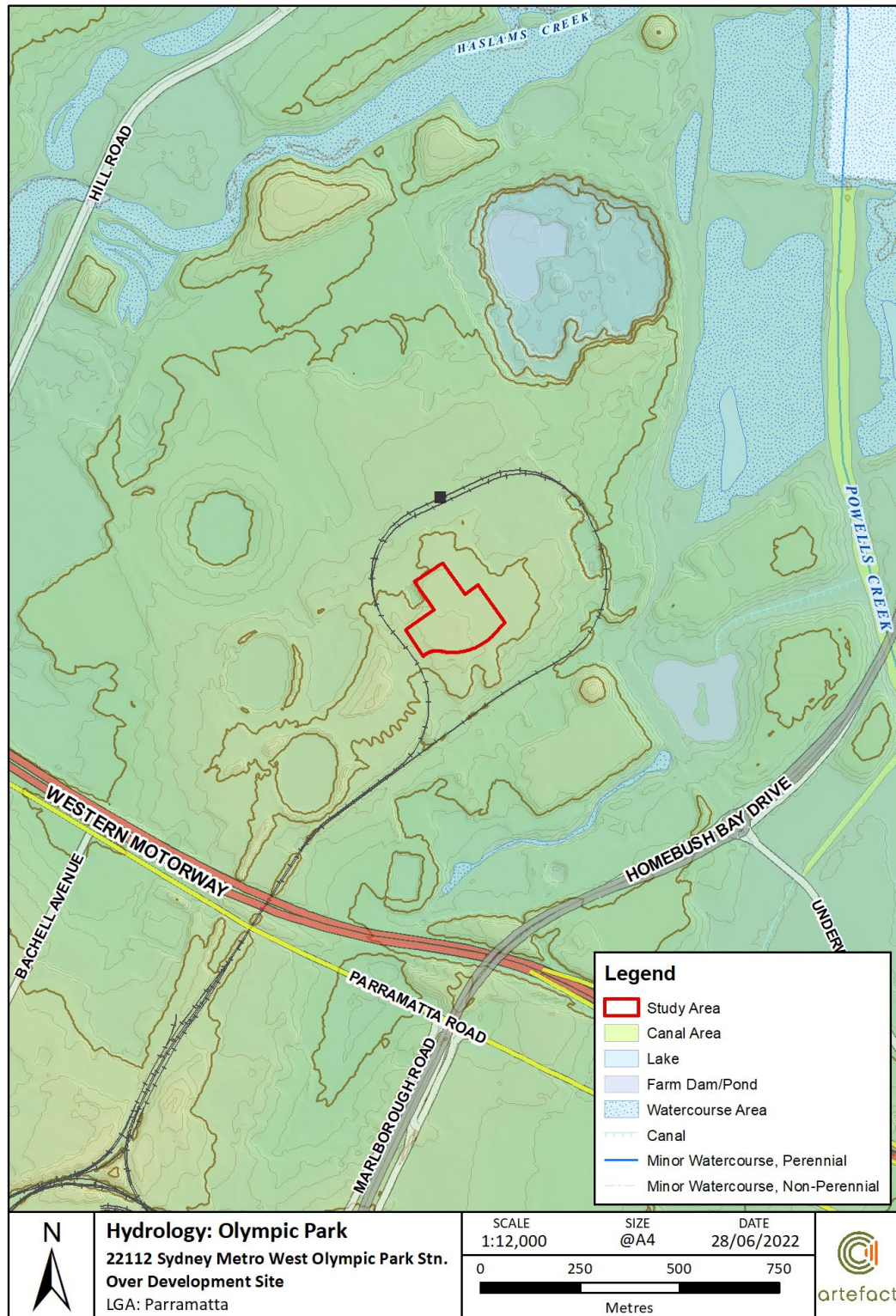
There are two watercourses which bound Sydney Olympic Park. From the north-west, Haslam Creek, flows into Parramatta River via Homebush Bay. From the east is Powells Creek, which is a tributary of the Parramatta River, via Homebush Bay. A third tributary, Saleyards Creek, connects to Powells Creek (Figure 7).

Powells Creek was partially concreted to create a channel in the 1930s. Powells Creek is a natural channel surrounded by dense mangrove vegetation.

Salesyard Creek is also a concreted channel creek which connects to Powells Creek and flows out to Parramatta Creek.

Haslam Creek flows through Sydney Olympic Park and joins Parramatta River at Homebush Bay. Haslam Creek is part of the Parramatta River catchment zone (Cardno Lawson Treloar 2008)

Figure 7. Study area in relation to surrounding hydrology



5.3 Vegetation

The vegetation of the study area originally would have consisted of a combination of Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forest and Coastal Heaths. The Dry Sclerophyll Forest grows on sandstone landscapes in areas below 700 metres elevation, where rainfall average varies from 1,000 to 1,300 millimetres per annum. This vegetation type encompasses a wide range of related forest and woodland communities. The eucalypt canopy includes Sydney red gum, red bloodwood and Sydney peppermint, brown stringybark, broadleaved scribbly gum and old man banksia. The prominent and diverse sclerophyll shrub understory is shorter and more open on ridges than in gullies, while the open ground layer is dominated by sclerophyll sedges (Keith 2004).

5.4 European history and land use

Following colonisation, the land around Homebush Bay and the subject site was known as 'The Flats' due to the extensive wetlands and mud flats present. It was near 'The Flats' that Ballooderry, a Burramattagal man, speared a convict as vengeance for the destruction of his nawi in 1791. The first land grant in the area was allotted to Thomas Laycock in 1794; originally named 'Liberty Plains', it was purchased by D'Arcy Wentworth in 1810 and renamed 'Home Bush'.

The site was cleared, though much of the wildlife, including dingoes, possums, flying foxes, goannas, lizards and snakes were present in the mangroves and wetlands around the subject site. It is likely that the Wann-gal people continued to utilise the land around the subject site at this time, with most estates around 'Home Bush' remaining largely uncleared. The other major estate in the area was 'Newington' founded in 1807 by wealthy owner John Blaxland. The Newington estate covered the area north of the subject site, stretching from the banks of the Parramatta River and Parramatta Road, Duck River and Haslam's Creek.

By the early 1800s, historical reports indicate that Aboriginal people were working for the Blaxland family at Newington as well as continuing their traditional lifeways by fishing on the Parramatta River. The fish caught were then traded to families like the Blaxlands.

Blaxland's relations with the Wanngal are largely unknown, though a memoir by his granddaughter Anna Francis Walker recorded her observations of the communities around Homebush Bay in the 1840s, including an unfortunate incident where a nawi and its occupants were attacked by a shark in the Parramatta River.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, Aboriginal people were continuously pushed to the fringes of the colony and little historical records exists of any activity around Homebush Bay or the subject site.

In the early to mid-1900s, few records of Aboriginal habitation near the subject site are available. In 1907, the land around the subject site was resumed for the establishment of the State Abattoir. A Brickworks was also constructed north of the subject site in 1911. These industries continued to grow throughout the mid-twentieth century, with Aboriginal people finding employment at the abattoir, nearby Silverwater Prison and the Newington naval base.

With most Aboriginal migration focusing on inner city areas like Redfern, it is unlikely that large numbers of Aboriginal people worked or settled at Homebush. The Brickworks was used until its closure in 1940, when it was taken over by the Naval Armament Depot as ammunitions store. It was later reopened following the end of the Second World War.

As industrial development in Sydney expanded following the war, Homebush was chosen as a dumping location for toxic waste from factories such as Timbrol and Union Carbide that were located

nearby in Rhodes. The area near Homebush Bay became a shipbreaking yard in 1966, with many of the wrecks still visible today.

Following the successful bid for the Olympics in 1993, a large-scale remediation of the land around the subject site began for the construction of the Sydney Olympic Park. Part of this development was the construction of sports facilities, competitor housing, roads, and rejuvenation of parklands and streetscapes. Rehabilitation and stabilisation of the area was conducted due to the contamination from prior industrial use.

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

6.1 Ethnographic and historical evidence

The Aboriginal people of this area and across the Sydney region are part of the Eora Nation. The word Eora, meaning 'here' or 'of this place', is not a term traditionally used by Aboriginal communities' pre-contact but arose during the first encounters with non-Aboriginal settlers (City of Sydney 2013). It is now accepted as an appropriate term for the coastal Aboriginal peoples in the broader Sydney area.

As mentioned above, traditional fishing practices were still being practiced around the subject site into the nineteenth century. By the 1830s, records of Aboriginal occupation near the subject site are scarce; most of the land around the subject site having been cleared or fenced off, displacing the Wann-gal from their traditional lands. Historical records indicate that small pockets of communities continued to live near the Parramatta River in scattered groups, likely including Wann-gal. It is likely that extensive intermarriages with groups like the Wallumetta-gal occurred following the initial waves of disease that devastated the population of Aboriginal people around Sydney Harbour, and the resulting 'tribes' were family groups bound together for survival.

A tribe called the 'Kissing Point' people lived near landowner James Squire's estate across the other side of the Parramatta River during the 1820s, with a report by Revered Samuel Leigh stating that members of this tribe were 'related to the chief Bennelong, who had died a short time before'. It was also reported that this community could speak English, readily conversing with local missionaries who had known Bennelong.

Other tribes reported in the local area included the 'Concord' tribe and the 'Duck River' tribe, which may have also included Wann-gal survivors.

6.2 Archaeological evidence

Aboriginal people have lived in the Sydney area for more than 36,000 years. The oldest dated site in the greater Sydney region is Cranebrook Terrace which was dated at approximately 41,700 years Before Present (BP) with an error range of 5,000 years (Attenbrow 2010, 37; Karskens 2020). Evidence of Aboriginal occupation has been found dated to 50-60,000 BP at Lake Mungo in NSW, so it is likely that Aboriginal people have lived in the Sydney region for even longer than indicated by the oldest recorded dates we have at present. The archaeological material record provides evidence of this long occupation, but also provides evidence of a dynamic culture that has changed through time.

The existing archaeological record is limited to certain materials and objects that were able to withstand degradation and decay. As a result, the most common type of Aboriginal objects remaining in the archaeological record are stone artefacts. Archaeological analyses of these artefacts in their contexts have provided the basis for the interpretation of change in material culture over time. Technologies used for making tools changed, along with preference of raw material. Different types of tools appeared at certain times, for example ground stone hatchets are first observed in the archaeological record around 4,000 BP in the Sydney region (Attenbrow 2010). It is argued that these changes in material culture were an indication of changes in social organisation and behaviour.

After 8,500 BP silcrete was more dominant as a raw material, and bifacial flaking became the most common technique for tool manufacture. From about 4,000 BP to 1,000 BP backed artefacts appear more frequently. Tool manufacture techniques become more varied and bipolar flaking increases (McDonald 2006). It has been argued that from 1,400 to 1,000 years before contact there is evidence of a decline in tool manufacture. This reduction may be the result of decreased tool making, an increase in the use of organic materials, changes in the way tools were made, or changes in what

types of tools were preferred. The reduction in evidence coincides with the reduction in frequency of backed blades as a percentage of the assemblage.

6.3 Registered Aboriginal sites

NOTE: The location of Aboriginal sites is considered culturally sensitive information. It is advised that this information, including the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) data appearing on the heritage map for the proposal be removed from this report if it is to enter the public domain.

Aboriginal occupation covered the whole of the landscape, though the availability of fresh water and resources was a significant factor in repeated and long-term occupation. Certain site types, such as culturally modified trees, are particularly vulnerable to destruction through historical occupation. As a result, more resilient site types, such as stone artefacts, are predominant in the archaeological record. Because of this, the nature and location of registered Aboriginal sites is an imperfect reflection of past Aboriginal occupation. Furthermore, the surviving archaeological record is also a reflection not only of historical land-use, disturbance, and the post-depositional events, but also reflects the sampling bias of previous archaeological investigation.

A basic search of the AHIMS database covering each of the Lot numbers (four searches) included in the study area was undertaken by Brye Marshall on 18 May 2022 (Client ID numbers 683647, 683639, 683640 and 683642). The aim of the AHIMS site register search was to identify Aboriginal sites registered within, or in the vicinity of, the study area.

Searches were undertaken using the following parameters:

- AHIMS Search
- 1 GDA 1994 MGA 56.
Number of sites
Buffer
AHIMD Search ID
 - 2 GDA 1994 MGA 56.
Number of sites
Buffer
AHIMD Search ID
 - 3 GDA 1994 MGA 56.
Number of sites
Buffer
AHIMD Search ID
 - 4 GDA 1994 MGA 56.
Number of sites
Buffer
AHIMD Search ID



The AHIMS database records sites using a list of twenty standard site types (Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 2012). No Aboriginal artefacts or places were found in the study area or within 1 km of the search area.

6.3.1 AHIMS sites in proximity to the Study Area.

An earlier AHIMS search undertaken by Artefact (2021) found the nearest recorded Aboriginal site AHIMS ID [REDACTED] (an artefact site) was located approximately [REDACTED] in Phillips Park, Lidcombe (Figure 8). Four other sites, all PAD, were located further away to the north.

Figure 8. AHIMS sites in proximity to the study area. The current study area is located within the area marked as the construction site, in blue.

Removed for public viewing.

6.4 Previous archaeological investigations

There have been many archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposal. Table 7 below summarises those most pertinent based on proximity to the construction sites or similar landform contexts.

Assessments in a similar landform context to the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site include an assessment at Murray Rose Avenue by Artefact Heritage in 2018 (Artefact 2018), approximately 675 metres east of the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site. This assessment concluded that although the site was within an archaeologically sensitive landform, previous studies in the area and observations in the field indicate that all potential archaeological deposits would have been removed as a result of previous impacts to the area (Artefact 2018, 30).

Urbis assessed 2 Figtree Avenue in 2016 for Mirvac, approximately 120 metres south-east of the Sydney Olympic Park study area (Urbis 2016). Soils across that investigation area were described as residual Blacktown soils, similar to the likely original soil context across the Sydney Olympic Park metro study area. Urbis concluded that investigation area demonstrated low archaeological potential due to extensive disturbance. Similarly, at Site 9 (south-eastern corner of Sarah Durack Avenue and Olympic Boulevard) approximately 20 metres south of the study area was assessed as unlikely to contain archaeological deposits due to the highly disturbed nature of that area (Artefact 2018, 34).

Archaeological assessment of the Fig Tree Circuit and Australia Avenue was undertaken in 1997 and prior to construction of the existing buildings across the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site (Dominic Steele & Martin Carney 1997). That assessment concluded that although there was disturbance, including introduced fill, across the area, that original ground surface contexts were likely to remain *in situ*. However, the area has subsequently been subject to extensive landform modification for construction of the extent buildings across the construction site, which is likely to have resulted in significant disturbance to any remaining natural ground surface contexts.

Previous archaeological investigations in the area indicate the potential for generally high levels of surface disturbance to former natural ground surface contexts from historical land use activities, including extensive bulk earthworks and construction of built infrastructure.

Table 7: Previous archaeological studies close to the proposal

Author, title of study	Summary	Distance from closest construction site
Kelleher Nighthingale Consultants (KNC), 2014 WestConnex M4 Widening Pitt Street Parramatta to Homebush Drive Homebush: ASR	KNC prepared an ASR in 2014 to inform the Environmental Impact Statement for the WestConnex M4 Widening. The study area of this report includes the M4 motorway from Homebush Drive to Pitt St, Parramatta. Geotechnical Testing within the assessed area encountered a fill layer to a depth of 700mm, beneath which was an underlying layer of clay alluvium two to three metres deep. No previously registered Aboriginal places were located within the KNC study area, however several sites were located within one kilometre of the WestConnex construction footprint. The most common registered site types was open artefact scatters, followed by Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs, isolated	██████████ south of Sydney Olympic Park metro station.

Author, title of study	Summary	Distance from closest construction site
	<p>finds, and modified trees). the low number of sites in the area was attributed to heavy disturbances. The low number of sites in the area was attributed to heavy disturbance. KNC determined that the study area exhibited no signs of undisturbed soils or landforms that may be archaeologically significant. It was assessed that there was no likely impact to Aboriginal archaeological or cultural remains and no further investigation was recommended.</p>	
Artefact Heritage, 2018. 1 & 2 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park Archaeological Survey Report.	<p>Artefact Heritage was engaged by Austino Property Group in 2018 to prepare an Archaeological Survey Report and ACHAR in order to identify any cultural heritage values, impacts and mitigation measures within Sydney Olympic Park. During the site inspection no Aboriginal archaeological sites or areas of potential archaeological deposits were located within the study area and no further Aboriginal archaeological investigations recommended. Geotechnical investigations were undertaken and determined that the subsurface deposits within the study area was a sandy clay fill overlying natural sediments of residual clay silt and bedrock to a depth of one to 3.3 metres. The report concluded that it is possible that archaeological material may be located within the fill layer, however it would be considered removed from its original stratigraphic context and would therefore hold limited research/scientific potential, although it would be culturally significant.</p>	<p>██████████ north- east of Sydney, Olympic Park metro Station.</p>
Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS), 2012. <i>Newington Armament Depot & Nature Reserve, Sydney Olympic Park</i> . Report prepared for Tanner Architects Pty Ltd.	<p>AMBS undertook an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment at the Newington Armament Depot & Nature Reserve which aimed to verify the location of previously recorded sites and to inspect the area for new archaeological sites and potentially archaeologically sensitive areas. The eastern portion of the Newington study area was located on an Ettalong soil landscape which is typically represented in coastal swamps and the western portion was disturbed soil indicative of reclaimed land. Given the extent of disturbance to the original land surface within the study area, it was considered that only the woodland area of the Newington Nature Reserve has any archaeological potential for Aboriginal objects.</p> <p>There are five registered Aboriginal sites within the Newington Armament Depot & Nature Reserve study area registered by Paul Irish. These sites were not re-located during the survey for that assessment and were assessed as being of low significance. No new Aboriginal sites or areas of Aboriginal heritage sensitivity were identified during the survey. This confirmed AMBS' prediction that European construction and</p>	<p>██████████ north of Sydney Olympic Park metro station</p>

Author, title of study	Summary	Distance from closest construction site
	<p>use of the Armoury in the area has strongly impacted Aboriginal archaeological potential.</p>	
<p>Paul Irish, 2004. Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment Report, Newington Armoury Adaptive Re-use and Rail Extension Project Sydney Olympic Park. Report to the Sydney Olympic Park Authority.</p>	<p>Irish surveyed the woodland and nature reserve buffer zone of the Newington Armoury Precinct in 2003. He established that the trees within the woodland were of insufficient age to contain scars of Aboriginal cultural origin and he determined that the scarred trees identified in previous studies were not Aboriginal in origin. Surface visibility was generally low, but during the survey three isolated silcrete and chert artefacts and two PADs were identified. Possible silcrete manuports (stone material thought to have been transported to the area by Aboriginal people) were also identified. However, the Aboriginal origin of the presence of these silcrete pieces could not be confirmed. The soil types in the study area are Ettalong coastal swamps in the east, and disturbed reclaimed land in the west. Irish states that the lack of Aboriginal archaeological material is likely to be a reflection of the early urban development of the Parramatta River, which would have precluded the preservation of sites and the necessity for archaeological assessment, rather than an indication of less intense Aboriginal occupation of the area. Irish also identified two PADs during this assessment within a woodland conservation zone.</p>	<p>██████████ north of the Sydney Olympic Park metro station.</p>
<p>Brayshaw, 1997 Olympic Village Site. Newington, Homebush Bay. Aboriginal Archaeology. Report to Mirvac.</p>	<p>Brayshaw surveyed the Olympic Village Site and Newington in 1997. No Aboriginal sites were located and previously identified artefacts were unable to be located. Some unmodified silcrete was identified in the area of sensitivity. A high level of disturbance was noted on the lower slopes west of Haslams Creek and near armament stores, with landfill seen on the flat adjacent to the creek. The soil landscape identified in that area was identified as the Birrong soil type, an alluvial floodplain which overlies deep (greater than 250 centimetres) podzolic soils and solodic soils,²⁸ which contrasts with the shallower residual soils across the underlying siltstone bedrock of the Olympic Park metro station construction site.</p> <p>Brayshaw stated that the lack of silcrete over the entire Olympic Village and Newington site suggests the material may have not been an accessible source to Aboriginal people occupying the area and has only been exposed by disturbance. Brayshaw concluded the area was not archaeological sensitive, as the disturbance was too great to allow any meaningful interpretation of Aboriginal use of the area, or to offer the</p>	<p>██████████ north of Sydney Olympic Park metro station.</p>

Author, title of study	Summary	Distance from closest construction site
	possibility of further information being gained from subsurface investigation	
Dominic Steel & Martin Carney Archaeological Management and Consulting Group, 1997. Aboriginal Heritage, Australia Avenue, Fig Tree Circuit, 2000 Olympic Site, Homebush, NSW Report to the Olympic Co-Ordination Authority.	Steele and Carney surveyed the future Olympic Park site in 1997 prior to its construction. The site was at that time functioning as a truck parking area. No evidence for Aboriginal use of the site was identified during the field survey, however, archaeological visibility within the surveyed areas was poor. The investigations found the natural ground surface was likely to have survived within the surveyed areas obscured by introduced fills. It was recommended that any impact to these subsurface areas be monitored for the presence of Aboriginal artefacts. Subsequent development works on the site to construct the current buildings involved site clearance and preparation, cut and fill excavation, levelling and grading, and subsequent construction works and service installation. These works are likely to have disturbed or destroyed any natural ground surface.	[REDACTED] west of Sydney Olympic Park metro station
Umwelt, 2017. Heritage Desktop Assessment Wave Park Group.	Umwelt were contracted to prepare a Heritage and Archaeological Assessment covering both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage as part of the proposal to develop URBNSURF Sydney, a sport and leisure centre at Sydney Olympic Park. The assessment determined that during the construction of Sydney Olympic Park in the late 1990s, deposits of fill between five to nine metres deep were deposited throughout the study area in order to create a stable and level surface. Geotechnical investigations found that beneath the fill, alluvial and estuarine deposits were present, preserved by the fill. The Umwelt study area had initially formed part of extensive mangrove flats along the Parramatta River and would have contained many valuable resources that would have been utilised by Aboriginal people, the swampy landscape would not have been suitable for living or retaining intact. The assessment did not recommend any further archaeological investigation.	[REDACTED] north of Sydney Olympic Park metro station.
Urbis, 2016. Historic and Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment, 2 Figtree Drive	Urbis were engaged in 2016 by Mirvac to prepare a Historic and Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment to accompany the Development Application at 2 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park. The Urbis study area was located on Wianammatta Group Shale and Quaternary alluvial deposits of sand, silt and clay, which are deposited along Haslams and Powells Creeks.	[REDACTED] south-east of Sydney Olympic Park metro station.

Author, title of study	Summary	Distance from closest construction site
Sydney Olympic Park	<p>The soil was identified to be Blacktown Soil, a red/brown podzolic soil with low fertility and poor drainage. Homebush Bay would have been an important resource centre for the Wangal Aboriginal People who lived in the area, as the estuarine landscape was abundant with marine life for food and timber for construction resources. Haslams and Powells Creeks would also have been a valuable and reliable freshwater source. Numerous shell middens were known to have been in the Homebush Bay area however they were destroyed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries through limekilns and reclamation of the land. This report concluded that due to the extensive disturbance of the study area it is considered to have no archaeological potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits or artefacts. No further investigation was recommended.</p>	

6.5 Predictive model

Archaeological data has demonstrated the widespread and varying use of the region by Aboriginal people which includes a broad range of contexts, including areas within close proximity to marine and estuarine resources, fresh water, varying terrestrial subsistence resources, and areas where sandstone platforms and overhangs may have originally occurred.

Previous archaeological investigations of the greater Sydney area in general demonstrate the distribution of recorded Aboriginal sites as reflecting the use of the landscape by Aboriginal people, including movement between resources and activity areas. The distribution of recorded Aboriginal sites in particularly built environments, such as the Parramatta CBD area, is largely limited to areas that have been subject to archaeological excavation and/or not impacted by development.

The distribution of identified and recorded instances of overlapping and higher concentrations of stone artefacts in the region tends to be associated with high order watercourses and creek confluences, whilst lower density and more isolated activity areas in other parts of the landscape represented different and varying activities important to the understanding of overall landscape use (White & McDonald 2010).

The distribution of Aboriginal sites also demonstrates the association of recorded Aboriginal sites with sandstone outcrops similar landforms in the locality of Stage 1. These site types include sandstone platforms where engravings are typically identified, and sandstone overhangs that were utilised for art, subsistence activities and artefact manufacture.

The predictive statements for the region are:

- The survivability of Aboriginal objects would be largely dependent on the extent and nature of subsequent phases of historical construction activities
- Sub-surface artefact sites tend to consist of lower density isolated occurrences in areas away from major watercourses such as freshwater, marine and estuarine areas
- More frequent and higher concentrations of sub-surface artefact sites are likely to occur in the vicinity of major watercourses such as freshwater, marine and estuarine areas
- Shell midden sites are more likely to be identified in close proximity to marine and estuarine areas. Due to land reclamation in many areas, former marine and estuarine areas may be set-back from contemporary shoreline areas
- Sandstone shelters suitable for archaeological deposit and outcrops suitable for engravings may be preserved in ridge crest and ridge slope landform contexts
- Surviving portions of deeper soil profiles (such as the Parramatta Sand Body), may provide stratified evidence of occupation.

7.0 SITE SURVEY METHODOLOGY

7.1 Aboriginal site definition

An Aboriginal site is generally defined as an Aboriginal object or place. An Aboriginal object refers to any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft) relating to Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales (DECCW 2010a). Aboriginal objects may include stone tools, scarred trees or rock art. Some sites, or Aboriginal places, can also be intangible and although they might not be visible, these places have cultural significance to Aboriginal people.

The Code of Practice states, in regard to the definition of a site and its boundary, that one or more of the following criteria must be used when recording material traces of Aboriginal land use:

- The spatial extent of any visible Aboriginal objects, or direct evidence of their location
- Obvious physical boundaries where present, for example mound site and middens (if visibility is good), a ceremonial ground
- Identification by the Aboriginal community on the basis of cultural information

7.2 Archaeological survey methodology

The study area was surveyed in 2019 as part of the Stage 1 Technical Paper 4, and the results are summarised here.

A visual survey was undertaken on foot and a photographic recording of the landscape and built environment conducted. The survey was carried out by Alyce Haast on 24 January 2019. Selina Timothy and Cecil Heron, site officers with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, also attended. The aim of the survey was to identify any Aboriginal cultural values associated with the study area. In addition, the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council was invited to conduct a survey on behalf of the RAPs as a continuation of the consultation process.

7.2.1 Site inspection

The Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site is located across a built environment between Dawn Fraser Avenue to the north and Figtree Drive to the south. The study area is situated across a flat to gentle slope. Areas of surface visibility were observed within modified garden areas in the vicinity of commercial premises (Figure 9, Figure 10, Figure 11 and Figure 12). The existing buildings on the Concept SSDA site have since been demolished and the site cleared.

Figure 9. View across remaining abattoir structures, northern portion of the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site



Figure 10. View across commercial development within the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site



Figure 11. View north across modified landform associated with commercial development



Figure 12. View across modified landform associated with commercial development



7.2.2 Aims of archaeological survey

The aims of the archaeological survey undertaken in 2019 were to:

- Inspect the site
- Record any surface or potential subsurface Aboriginal sites that have not been recorded in AHIMS
- Identify areas of PAD that may be present in areas that have had no or minimal disturbance
- Engage with Metropolitan LALC regarding the proposed works and the archaeological potential of the study area
- Collect information to ascertain whether further archaeological investigation is required.

7.3 Archaeological survey coverage

A summary of the survey coverage of all survey units, according to the methodology outlined in the Code of Practice, is provided in Table 8 and Table 9. Note that as ground surface visibility was zero

per cent, effective survey unit coverage was also zero per cent. The study area was approximately 33,050 m². Of this area, approximately 13,394 m² was covered by buildings. The area surveyed comprised the remaining area of approximately 19,666 m².

Table 8. Effective survey coverage

Survey unit	Survey unit area (m ²)	Landform	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective coverage (m ²)	Effective coverage (%)
1	19,666	Flat/gentle slope	0	0	0	0

Table 9: Survey coverage summary - landforms

Landform	Landform area (m ²)	Area effectively surveyed (m ²)	Percentage of landform effectively surveyed (%)	Number of sites	Number of PADs
Flat/gentle slope	33050	19666	59%	0	0

7.3.1 Survey results

The results of the survey undertaken in 2019 concluded that due to the level of commercial development and landscape modification, the study area was considered to demonstrate low Aboriginal archaeological potential. No Aboriginal sites or Potential Archaeological Deposits were identified.

7.3.2 Assessment of archaeological potential in 2019

Several archaeological investigations undertaken prior to 2019 in the vicinity of the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site had identified extensive landform modification and disturbance to natural ground surface contexts. No recorded Aboriginal sites on the AHIMS site register were located within one kilometre of the Sydney Olympic Park metro station construction site.

The relatively shallow residual soils associated with the underlying shale and sandstone geology was reported to have been susceptible to the minor surface disturbance associated with building or road construction. The construction of commercial structures across the construction site, as well as associated road and underground services, is likely to have significantly impacted or removed the former ground surface context.

The study concluded that the study area was located on a crest landform away from major watercourses. The combination of landform context and likely disturbance or removal of A horizon

contexts indicated that the overall archaeological potential of the Sydney Olympic Park study site was **low**.

8.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

8.1 Significance assessment methodology

An assessment of the cultural heritage significance of an item or place is required in order to form the basis of its management. *The Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011) provides guidelines for heritage assessment with reference to the *Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS 2013). The assessment is made in relation to four values or criteria (Table 10). In relation to each of the criteria, the significance of the subject area should be ranked as high, moderate, or low.

Cultural heritage consists of places or objects, that are of significance to Aboriginal people. Cultural heritage values are the attributes of these places or objects that allow the assessment of levels of cultural significance.

Assessing the cultural significance of a place or object means defining why a place or object is culturally important. It is only when these reasons are defined that measures can be taken to appropriately manage possible impacts on this significance. Assessing cultural significance involves two main steps, identifying the range of values present across the study area and assessing why they are important.

Social/cultural heritage significance should be addressed by the Aboriginal people who have a connection to, or interest in, the site. As part of the consultation process the Aboriginal stakeholders were asked to provide information on the cultural significance of the study area. Responses are included in the Appendix.

Table 10. Burra Charter Heritage significance criteria

Criterion	Description
Social	The spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments the place or area has for Aboriginal people. Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them. Does the subject area have strong or special association with the Aboriginal community for social, cultural or spiritual reasons?
Historic	Historic value refers to the associations of a place with a historically important person, event, phase or activity in an Aboriginal community. Is the subject area important to the cultural or natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state?
Scientific	This refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information. Information about scientific values will be gathered through any archaeological investigation carried out. Does the subject area have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state?

Criterion	Description
Aesthetic	<p>This refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place. It is often linked with the social values. It may consider form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use.</p> <p>Is the subject area important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics in the local area and/or region and/or state?</p>

In addition to the four criteria, Heritage NSW (OEH 2011, 10) requires consideration of the following:

- Research potential: does the evidence suggest any potential to contribute to an understanding of the area and/or region and/or state's natural and cultural history?
- Representativeness: how much variability (outside and/or inside the subject area) exists, what is already conserved, how much connectivity is there?
- Rarity: is the subject area important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land use, function or design no longer practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?
- Education potential: does the subject area contain teaching sites or sites that might have teaching potential?

8.2 Socio/cultural significance

Socio/cultural heritage values should be addressed by Aboriginal people who have a connection to, or interest in, the area.

One RAP commented that the area was highly significant to Aboriginal people because Aboriginal people have taken care of the land for thousands of years and are connected to the land through their lore, kinship and customs and connected with each other through waterways. Aboriginal people have a long oral history of knowledge about the land and caring for country. The response requested that where possible, flora and fauna are regenerated through the project and opportunities included to allow for interpretation and connecting to country in a culturally appropriate way.

On this basis the socio/cultural significance was interpreted to be high.

8.3 Historic significance

Historic values refer to the association of place with aspect of Aboriginal history. Historic values are not necessarily reflected in physical objects, but may be intangible and relate to memories, stories, or experiences.

No comment was made on the historical values specific to the study area however continuous connection to land over thousands of years was stated as significant as outlined above in 8.2.

On this basis the historical significance was interpreted to be high.

8.4 Scientific significance

Scientific values refer to a site's potential to contribute to our current understanding and information. As there are no AHIMS sites in the study area, there is no archaeological values in the site, and therefore there is no scientific significance.

Table 11. Scientific significance assessment

Site Name (AHIMS ID)	Research potential	Representativeness	Rarity	Education potential	Overall significance assessment
No AHIMS sites	None	None	None	None	None

8.5 Aesthetic significance

Aesthetic values refer to the sensory, scenic, architectural, and creative aspects of the place. These values may be related to the landscape and are often closely associated with social/cultural values.

While no comment was made on the aesthetic values specific to the study area, connection to the land was stated to be of high significance as were intangible values, as outlined above (8.2).

On this basis the aesthetic significance was interpreted to be high.

8.6 Statement of significance

The consultation process has been completed.

The study area does not hold any archaeological scientific values.

The socio/cultural, historic and aesthetic significance of the study area was interpreted to be high.

9.0 AVOIDING AND MINIMISING HARM

9.1 Proposed works

The Concept SSDA seeks consent for building envelopes above and adjacent to the Sydney Olympic Park metro station, including:

- a maximum GFA of 67,370m² for the OSD and ASD components, which is in addition to the station CSSI GFA (approximately 630m²), resulting in a maximum overall GFA of 68,000m².
- maximum building envelopes for three buildings (Building 1, 2 and 3) incorporating commercial, residential and retail uses, and
- car parking for up to 358 vehicles in a basement below Buildings 2 and 3

The proposed development is Concept SSDA and does not include excavation, so there would be no surface or subsurface impacts. Details of the proposed development will be formulated and impacts will be further assessed through future Detailed SSDAs.

9.2 Impact assessment methodology

The definition of harm to an object or place under the NPW Act (Section 5) includes any act or omission that 'destroys, defaces or damages the object or place or in relation to an object or ... moves the object from land on which it had been situated.'

Direct harm may occur as a result of activities which disturb the ground surface including site preparation activities, earthworks and ground excavation, and the installation of services and infrastructure.

Indirect harm for Aboriginal heritage refers to impacts that may affect sites or features located immediately beyond or within the area of the proposed works. Indirect harm may include impacts from vibration, increased visitation, or increased erosion, including ancillary project activities (construction and/or operation) that are not located within the study area.

9.3 Aboriginal heritage impact assessment

No Aboriginal objects were identified in the survey area and no sites identified in the AHIMS database.

Drawing upon Stage 1 Technical Paper 4, this report has assessed that intact archaeological deposits are not likely to be present below the ground surface. Further, because there is no ground disturbance as part of the proposed development the proposal is unlikely to impact any Aboriginal objects (Table 12).

Table 12. Summary of impacts

Site	Type of harm	Degree of harm	Consequence of harm
Study area	None	None	No loss of value

9.4 Ecologically Sustainable Development principles

In accordance with the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales* (OEH 2011), the principles of ecologically sustainable development have been considered in preparation of this Aboriginal heritage assessment, including options to avoid impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage, assessment of unavoidable impacts, identification of mitigation and management measures, and taking account of Aboriginal community views. The principles of ecologically sustainable development are detailed in the NSW *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*. Principles of ecologically sustainable development relevant to the assessment of the project as it relates to Aboriginal cultural heritage are considered below.

9.4.1 The integration principle

Decision making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations (the 'integration principle'). The preparation of this ACHAR demonstrates regard for the integration principle by considering Aboriginal heritage values and impacts to these from the proposal during its planning phase. The nature of the proposal is in itself one that contributes to the long term economic and social needs of current and future residents of the area.

9.4.2 The precautionary principle

If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific confidence should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation (the 'precautionary principle').

As no archaeological sites were identified in the study area, no further archaeological investigation is recommended. Further, because there is no ground disturbance as part of the proposed development the proposal is unlikely to impact any Aboriginal objects.

9.4.3 The principle of intergenerational equity

The proposed works would adhere, as close as possible, to the principle of intergenerational equity by collating scientific and cultural information on former Aboriginal occupation of the study area through the previous investigations and this ACHAR.

This report has assessed that no further archaeological investigations need be conducted. However, see Section 9.2: Unexpected Finds below for further provisions.

9.5 Cumulative impacts

A cumulative impact is an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage resulting from the incremental impact of the action/s of a development when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

As no archaeological finds have been discovered in the study area, the impact of the proposed development has been assessed as having no harm and no cumulative impacts to the Aboriginal heritage of the region.

A draft of the ACHAR was provided to RAPS for commentary and feedback.

10.0 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

10.1 Ongoing consultation with registered Aboriginal parties

Following the Unexpected finds policy below, consultation with Aboriginal parties will continue at completion of the ACHAR and also according to the results of the consultation process which is currently ongoing.

10.2 Unexpected finds

In the event of any unexpected finds of Aboriginal sites, objects, or archaeological deposits being found during construction the Sydney Metro Unexpected Heritage Finds Procedure should be implemented.

The Sydney Metro Unexpected Heritage Finds Procedure requires the following actions:

- Stop work within the affected area, protect the potential archaeological find, and inform Sydney Metro Environment Manager. Contact the Excavation Director or a suitably qualified archaeologist or Aboriginal cultural heritage consultant to assess the potential archaeological find and complete a preliminary assessment and recording of the item. Provide advice
- Formally notify the regulator by letter if required. The regulator is Heritage NSW
- Further archaeological mitigation may be required prior to works recommencing.

If human remains are found:

- If human remains, or suspected human remains, are found in the course of the activity, all work in the vicinity should cease, the site should be secured, and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW should be notified and the Sydney Metro Unexpected Heritage Finds Procedure and Exhumation Management Procedure should be followed.

11.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Overview of findings

The following results and recommendations are based on consideration of:

- The requirements of Aboriginal heritage guidelines including:
 - The Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010a) – known as The Code of Practice
 - Guide to investigating and assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales (OEH 2011) – known as ACHAR guidelines.
 - The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (OEH 2010b)- known as Consultation Guidelines)
 - Practice Note Engaging with Aboriginal Communities. Social Impact Assessment Practice Notes (DPE 2022)
- The SEARs issued for the proposal (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) on 18 February 2022.
- The results of Sydney Metro West – Sydney Metro West Stage 1. Technical Paper 4: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Parramatta, Cumberland, Canada Bay, Burwood, and Inner West Local Government Areas, November 2020 which included background research and an archaeological survey

The assessment found that:

- No previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified within the study area during the archaeological survey completed in 2019 for Stage 1 Technical Paper 4.
- After archaeological survey, undertaken as part of the works of Stage 1 Technical Paper 4, the study area was assessed as having low potential to retain intact archaeological deposits
- After background research, including the results of Stage 1 Technical Paper 4, the proposal has been assessed as having no impact on any Aboriginal archaeological values in the study area.
- The study area was assessed as having no scientific/archaeological significance as there is no known Aboriginal objects or area of Aboriginal archaeological potential.
- Through the consultation process it was established that the RAPs supported the ACHAR and the area held high significance for Aboriginal people through their ongoing connection to land.

11.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment and in accordance with Aboriginal heritage guidelines mandated in the SEARs, the following recommendations are made:

- As the proposed development is Concept SSDA and does not include excavation, there would be no impact on any Aboriginal archaeological heritage values and it is recommended that further assessment is not required until the Detailed SSDA stage.
- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impacts to areas not assessed by this ACHAR further assessment would be required.
- If Aboriginal objects, or potential objects, are uncovered during the proposed development, all work in the vicinity must cease immediately and The Sydney Metro Unexpected Heritage Finds Procedure followed.
- If human remains, or suspected human remains, are found during the proposed development, all work in the vicinity should cease, the site should be secured, and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW should be notified, and The Sydney Metro Unexpected Heritage Finds Procedure and Exhumation Management Procedure should be followed.

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