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# **HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

Ryde Hospital Redevelopment  
(Concept and Stage 1)

Prepared for

**HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND NORTHERN SYDNEY  
LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

29 July 2022

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urbis has been engaged by Health Infrastructure and Northern Sydney Local Health District ('the Proponents') to conduct a Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) of the 'Ryde Hospital Campus'. The Ryde Hospital Campus is located at 1 Denistone Road, Denistone, NSW, legally referred to as Lots 10-11 in DP1183279 and Lots A-B in DP 323458 ('the subject area').

The HAA has been undertaken to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) seeking approval for the establishment of a maximum building envelope and gross floor area for the future new hospital buildings, in addition to physical Stage 1 Early Works to prepare the site for the future development.

The HAA has been undertaken as an investigation of historical archaeological potential within the subject area, to assess the significance of any identified or potential historical archaeological resources and to investigate the potential impact of the proposed works on those archaeological resources. The HAA included the following:

- Historical research on the subject area including analysis of historic mapping and imagery.
- Searches of statutory and non-statutory heritage listings.
- A physical survey of the subject area.
- Analysis of relevant archaeological assessments.
- Assessment of archaeological potential.
- Assessment of archaeological significance.

The HAA has concluded the following in relation to the historical archaeological potential and significance of the subject area and the impacts of the proposed works:

- The historical development and use of the subject area is broadly categorised according to the following development and use phases:
  - Phase 1: Early Land Grants (1795 – 1830)
  - Phase 2: Original 'Deniston House' (1830 – 1872)
  - Phase 3: Rebuilt 'Denistone House' (1872 – 1913)
  - Phase 4: Convalescent Hospital for Men (1913 - 1928)
  - Phase 5: The Ryde District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (1928 – 1975)
  - Phase 6: The Ryde Hospital (1975 – Present)
- Moderate archaeological potential has been identified for retention of footings of the original Deniston House (Phase 2) and deeper sub-surface features (e.g. wells, cisterns and pits) within the area east of the extant Denistone House.
- Any archaeological resources associated with Phase 2 would have Local historical heritage significance for their research potential.
- Archaeological remains associated with other phases are identified as having either nil to low potential to be retained due to subsequent constructions and use phases or no historical heritage significance.
- The proposed Stage 1 early works are unlikely to impact any archaeological resources having either Local or State historical heritage significance.
- Works undertaken in the area to the east of the extant Denistone House in fulfilment of the proposed concept design may impact archaeological resources associated with the original Deniston House, which would have Local heritage significance.

In view of the above conclusions, Urbis makes the following recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1 – Submission of Report**

A copy of this report should be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in support of the SSDA.

## ▪ **Recommendation 2 – Archaeological Investigation**

In view of the potential for subsurface archaeological remains having Local historical heritage significance to be retained in the area between the extant Denistone House and Denistone Road, including within the footprint of extant Building 6, an archaeological program should be developed to investigate the nature, extent and significance of the potential archaeological resource. The program should be detailed in an Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology and should include archaeological monitoring of the demolition of Building 6 and removal of hardstand and test excavation to be undertaken prior to any ground disturbing activities in that area.

## ▪ **Recommendation 3 – Updating HAA for Future Work**

In the event that works are to be undertaken within the subject area that fall outside the scope of the currently proposed works, the HAA should be updated to reflect the amended scope of works and their potential impact on archaeological resources.

## ▪ **Recommendation 4 – Unexpected Finds Procedure**

If any archaeological deposits or features are unexpectedly discovered during any site works, a chance find procedure must be implemented. The following steps must be carried out:

1. All works within the vicinity of the find must immediately stop. The find must not be moved 'out of the way' without assessment. The find must be cordoned-off and signage installed to avoid accidental impact.
2. The site supervisor or another nominated site representative must contact either the project archaeologist (if relevant) or Heritage NSW (Enviroline 131 555) to contact a suitably qualified archaeologist.
3. The nominated archaeologist must examine the find, provide a preliminary assessment of significance, record the item and decide on appropriate management measures. Such management may require further consultation with Heritage NSW, preparation of a research design and archaeological investigation/salvage methodology and notification of the discovery of a relic to Heritage NSW in accordance with S.146 of the *Heritage Act 1977*.
4. Depending on the significance of the find, reassessment of the archaeological potential of the subject area may be required and further archaeological investigation undertaken.
5. Reporting may need to be prepared regarding the find and approved management strategies.
6. Works in the vicinity of the find would only recommence upon receipt of approval from Heritage NSW.

## ▪ **Recommendation 5 – Human Remains Procedure**

In the unlikely event that human remains are uncovered during any site works, the following must be undertaken:

1. All works within the vicinity of the find must immediately stop. The find must be cordoned-off and signage installed to avoid accidental impact.
2. The site supervisor or other nominated manager must notify the NSW Police and Heritage NSW (Enviroline 131 555).
3. The find must be assessed by the NSW Police, which may include the assistance of a qualified forensic anthropologist.
4. Management recommendations are to be formulated by the NSW Police, Heritage NSW and site representatives.
5. Works are not to recommence until the find has been appropriately managed.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Urbis has been engaged to prepare a Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) report to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the proposed Ryde Hospital Redevelopment (Concept & Stage 1 Early Works). The Ryde Hospital Redevelopment is being delivered by Health Infrastructure and the Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) ('the Proponents'), on behalf of the NSW Government.

The Ryde Hospital campus is located at 1 Denistone Road, Denistone, NSW, legally referred to as Lots 10-11 in DP1183279 and Lots A-B in DP 323458 ('the subject area'). It has an area of approximately 7.69Ha and currently accommodates the existing Ryde Hospital.

The HAA report accompanies a SSDA that seeks approval for the establishment of a maximum building envelope and gross floor area for the future new hospital buildings, in addition to physical Stage 1 Early Works to prepare the site for the future development. For a detailed project description refer to the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Ethos Urban.

The proposed redevelopment responds to a future high-level vision for the future of Ryde Hospital and Health Services, that includes:

- A comprehensive health care hub that meets most of the secondary health needs of the local population.
- A vibrant hospital and health service that has clear and specific roles within the network of Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) hospitals.
- A provider of effective treatment delivered with compassion by clinicians in partnership with patients and their carers, as well as with GPs and other primary care providers.
- A hospital of the future taking advantage of new models of care, new technologies and new approaches to sustainability.
- A focus for education, training and research in collaboration with education institutions to develop the current and future health workforce.

The HAA has been undertaken as an investigation of historical archaeological potential within the subject area, to assess the significance of any identified or potential historical archaeological resources and to investigate the potential impact of the proposed works on those archaeological resources. The current report presents the results of the HAA.

## 1.1. SUBJECT AREA

The subject area is the 'Ryde Hospital Campus' at 1 Denistone Road, Denistone, NSW, legally referred to as Lots 10 and 11 in DP1183279 and Lots A and B in DP 323458. It is located approximately 13km north-west of the Sydney CBD, within the City of Ryde Local Government Area (LGA) and within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC).

The subject area encompasses approximately 77,000 square metres. It has frontages on Fourth Avenue to the north, Ryedale Road to the west, Florence Avenue to the south and Denistone Road to the east. The subject area occupies the majority of the block bounded by these streets, with only the north-west and north-east corners of the block omitted from the curtilage of the subject area.

An escarpment running from north-west to south-east divides the subject area into a northern portion and southern portion. The 'northern portion' of the subject area has been developed as part of Ryde Hospital, with improvements (including buildings, parking areas, retaining walls, landscaping and gardens) extending to the edge of the escarpment. The 'southern portion' of the subject area consists of undeveloped bushland on a steep slope.

## 1.2. PROPOSED WORKS

The concept proposal under SSD-36778089 seeks approval for the establishment of a maximum building envelope and gross floor area to facilitate the development of a new hospital services development, carpark and refurbishment works (Appendix A, Figure 3 and Figure 4). The concept proposal primarily encompasses the northern portion of the subject area, with proposed future works involving the demolition of most existing buildings and the construction of a new hospital building and associated infrastructure. The only aspect of the concept proposal that relates to the southern portion of the subject area is the establishment of a managed

Asset Protection Zone (APZ). It is understood that any future works associated with the Asset Protection Zone will be limited to removal of exotic plant species by hand (EcoLogical 2022).

It is understood that the Stage 1 Early Works encompassed by SSD-36778089 will include (Figure 5):

- Establishing access to the Project site and general establishment.
- Site preparation including environmental clearing.
- Bulk earthworks, including cut and fill, to a maximum depth of approximately 2.4 m in the south-east corner of the Stage 1 impact area.
- Establishment of construction access roads.
- Relocation and upgrades of in-ground building services works and utility adjustments to facilitate bulk earthworks
- Demolition of buildings 11, 17 and 18 including removal of footings.
- Installation of temporary concrete shoring adjacent existing operational buildings.
- Movement of machinery and equipment via the driveway to the Camelia Cottage carpark on Ryedale Road.

### 1.3. METHODOLOGY

The Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the proposed development were issued on 14 March 2022. The present HAA report addresses SEARs Item 18 for the concept proposal, which is recited in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – SEARs requirements and relevant report sections

Item	SEARs Requirement	Response
18	<p><i>Environmental Heritage</i></p> <p>Where there is potential for direct or indirect impacts as a result of the concept development on the heritage significance of items of environmental heritage, provide a Statement of Heritage Impact and Archaeological Assessment (if potential impacts to archaeological resources are identified), prepared in accordance with the relevant guidelines, which assesses any impacts and outlines measures to ensure they are minimised and mitigated.</p>	Requirement for historical Archaeological Assessment addressed by current HAA report

The HAA has been undertaken in accordance with the principles and guidelines of *The Burra Charter*, *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Australia ICOMOS Incorporated, 2013) ('Burra Charter') and as described in the following publications:

- *NSW Heritage Manual* (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996).
- *Archaeological Assessments* (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996).
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* (Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning, 2009).
- *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Office of the Department of Planning, 2006).

The HAA included the following:

- Historical research on the subject area including analysis of historic mapping and imagery.
- Searches of statutory and non-statutory heritage listings.
- A physical survey of the subject area.
- Analysis of relevant archaeological assessments.



- Assessment of archaeological potential.
- Assessment of archaeological significance.

## **1.4. AUTHORSHIP**

The present report has been prepared by Aaron Olsen (Urbis Consultant Archaeologist), with review and quality control undertaken by Sam Richards (Urbis Senior Archaeologist) and Balazs Hansel (Urbis Associated Director, Archaeologist).

Aaron Olsen holds a Diploma of Arts (Archaeology) from the University of Sydney, a Bachelor of Science (Honours - First Class in Chemistry) and PhD (Chemistry) from the University of Newcastle and a Masters (Industrial Property) from the University of Technology Sydney. Sam Richards holds a Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology) (Honours - First Class) from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom. Balazs Hansel holds a Masters (History) and Masters (Archaeology and Museum Studies) from the University of Szeged (Hungary).

## **1.5. LIMITATIONS**

The HAA was undertaken to investigate historical archaeological heritage within the subject area. It does not consider Aboriginal sites or objects or built heritage items.

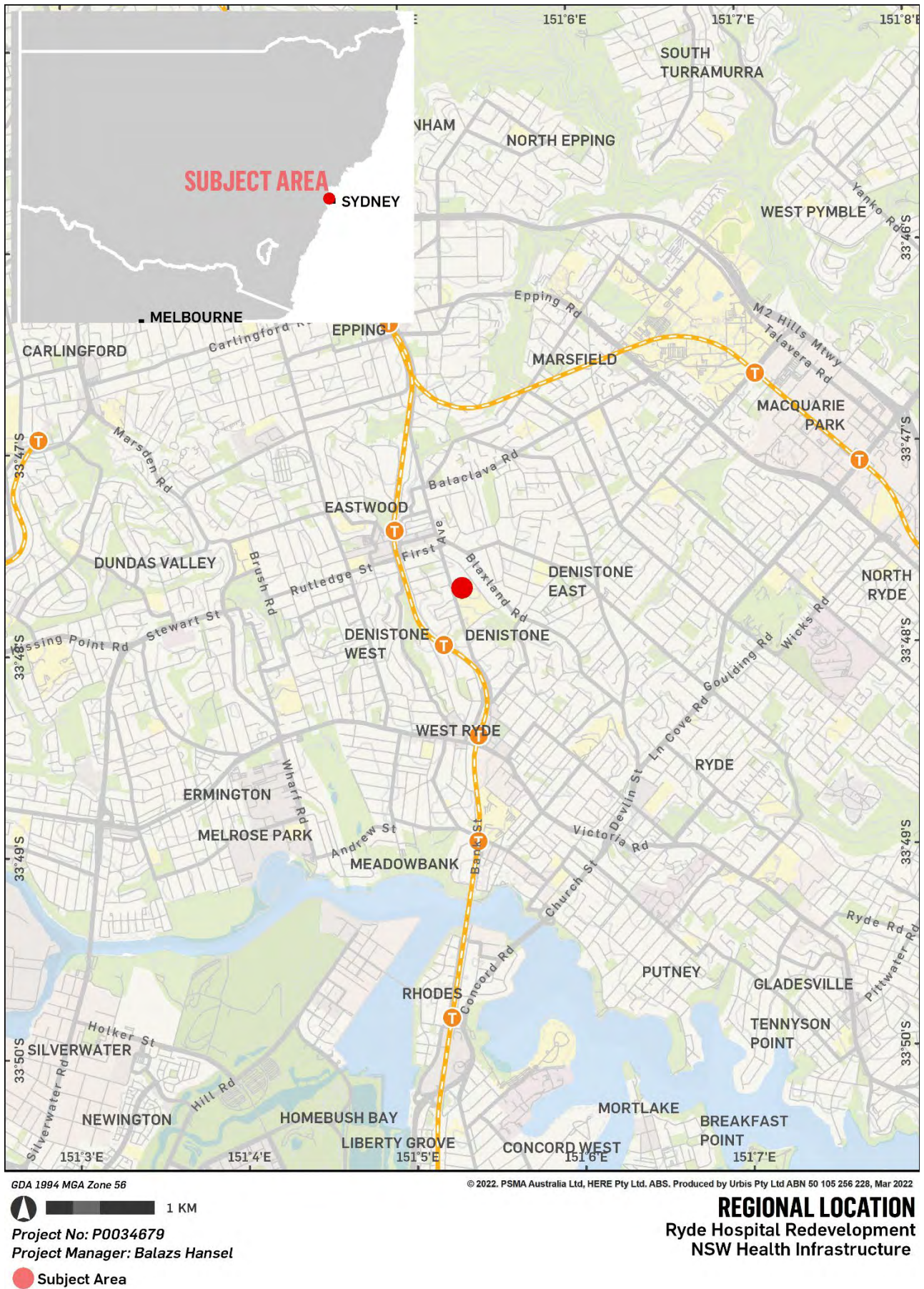


Figure 1 – Regional location of the subject area





GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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Project No: P0034679

Project Manager: Balazs Hansel

Subject Area     Contours

## SUBJECT AREA

### Ryde Hospital Redevelopment

### NSW Health Infrastructure

Figure 2 – Location of the subject area (internal lot boundaries indicated by dashed lines)





- LEGEND**
- DEMOLISHED
  - ROAD TO BE DEMOLISHED
  - PROPOSED EXTENT OF BUILDING ENVELOPE
  - EPIC ACT - EEC ALIGNMENT AS CONFIRMED BY ECOLOGICAL AUSTRALIA
  - EXTENT OF MANAGED A/E

Item No.	Description
1	APPLY OUTPATIENT CLINIC CARE
2	ADULT PATIENTS CLINIC
3	CONTRACT LANE UNIT (COL)
4	HIGH-DEPENDENCY UNIT (HCU)
5	RESIDENTIAL CARE
6	ADULT PATIENTS CLINIC
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**Concept Proposal - Indicative Demolition Plan**  
 RYDE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

Figure 3 – Stage 2 proposed demolition works  
 Source: STH



Figure 4 – Stage 2 Concept Design  
Source: STH

Legend	Description
1	APRIL COTTAGE CHALCONE
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## Concept Proposal - Proposed Site Layout Plan

RYDE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

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Project Number: 10520 | Scale: 1:1 (see sheet 1.000) | Date: 03/05/2022 | Drawing Number: RYDE-HOSP-CP-1522\_007 | Rev: 4



ISSUED FOR INFORMATION





## 2. STATUTORY CONTEXT

### 2.1. HERITAGE CONTROLS

The protection and management of heritage items, places and archaeological sites within New South Wales is governed by the relevant Commonwealth, State or local government legislation. These are discussed below in relation to the present subject area.

#### 2.1.1. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

In 2004, a new Commonwealth heritage management system was introduced under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act protects any items listed in the National Heritage List (NHL) and the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).

The National Heritage List (NHL) is a list of natural, historic and Indigenous places of outstanding significance to the nation. It was established to protect places that have outstanding value to the nation.

The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) was established to protect items and places owned or managed by Commonwealth agencies. The Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) is responsible for the implementation of national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia's environment and heritage and to promote Australian arts and culture. Approval from the Minister is required for controlled actions which will have a significant impact on items and places included on the NHL or CHL.

#### 2.1.2. NSW Heritage Act 1977

*The NSW Heritage Act 1977* (the Heritage Act) provides protection to items of environmental heritage in NSW. Heritage items protected under the Heritage Act include places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, social, aesthetic, scientific, archaeological, architectural, cultural or natural values.

State significant items are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) and are given automatic protection under the Heritage Act against any activities that may damage an item or affect its heritage significance. Under Section 57(1) of the Heritage Act, Heritage Council approval is required to move, damage, or destroy a 'relic' listed in the SHR, or to excavate or disturb land which is listed on the SHR and there is reasonable knowledge or likelihood of relics being disturbed.

Section 4 of the Heritage Act defines a 'relic' as:

*Any deposit, object or material evidence*

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

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

Under section 139(1) of the Heritage Act, an excavation permit is required to disturb or excavate land "knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit".

The Heritage Act requires government agencies to identify and manage heritage assets in their ownership and control. Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, Government agencies must keep a register which includes all local and State listed items or items which may be subject to an interim heritage order that are owned, occupied or managed by that Government body. Under Section 170A of the Heritage Act all government agencies must also ensure that items entered on its register are maintained with due diligence in accordance with State Owned Heritage Management Principles.

The current HAA has been undertaken to determine the likelihood of any local or State archaeological resources being retained within the subject area.

### 2.1.3. Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) requires each LGA to produce a Local Environment Plan (LEP). The LEP identifies items and areas of local heritage significance and outlines development consent requirements.

The subject area falls within the City of Ryde Local Government Area (Ryde LGA) and is subject to the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014 (Ryde LEP). Under Section 5.10(2) of the Ryde LEP, development consent is required for:

- (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.*

The terms 'heritage item' and 'heritage conservation area' refers to items and area listed and described in Schedule 5 of the Sydney LEP. These are included in the State Heritage Inventory (SHI), a search of which was conducted as part of the HAA (see Section 2.2.2 below).

### 2.1.4. Ryde Development Control Plan 2014

The EP&A Act requires each LGA to produce a Development Control Plan (DCP). The subject area is encompassed by the Ryde Development Control Plan 2014 (Ryde DCP), which does not identify any controls relating to historical archaeology.

## 2.2. HERITAGE LISTS & REGISTERS

A review of relevant heritage lists and registers was undertaken to determine whether any items are located within the curtilage of, or in proximity to, the subject area.

### 2.2.1. Australian Heritage Database

The Australian Heritage Database is a database of heritage items included in the World Heritage List, the National Heritage List (NHL), the Commonwealth Heritage list (CHL) and places in the Register of the National Estate. The list also includes places under consideration, or that may have been considered, for any one of these lists.

A search of the Australian Heritage Database was undertaken on 23 December 2021. The search did not identify any heritage items within, or near to, the curtilage of the subject area.



### 2.2.2. NSW State Heritage Inventory

The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a database of heritage items in NSW which includes declared Aboriginal Places, items listed on the SHR, listed Interim Heritage Orders (IHOs) and items listed of local heritage significance on a local council's LEP.

A search of the SHI was undertaken on 23 December 2021. The search identified one heritage item within the curtilage of the subject area (Figure 6):

- Item 47 of Ryde LEP (Local Significance): "Denistone House" and "Trigg House" (Ryde Hospital) at 1 Denistone Road (also listed as Item 48 on the SHI).

No historical archaeological items were identified within the subject area.

## 2.3. SUMMARY

The statutory context of the subject area is summarised as follows:

- In view of the protections afforded to heritage items by the EPBC Act, Heritage Act and *Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014*, the current HAA has been undertaken to determine the likelihood of historical archaeological remains being retained within the subject area.
- No registered or listed historical archaeological items have been identified within the subject area.







### 3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The historical context of the subject area provides the basis for assessing what may be retained in the ground as archaeological evidence of past development. The following description is based on archival source material and provides an overview of the phases of site development, which includes the nature, character and distribution of historical land use and associated ground disturbance.

The historical context is discussed according to the following development and use phases:

- Phase 1: Early Land Grants (1795 – 1830)
- Phase 2: Original 'Deniston House' (1830 – 1872)
- Phase 3: Rebuilt 'Denistone House' (1872 – 1913)
- Phase 4: Convalescent Hospital for Men (1913 - 1928)
- Phase 5: The Ryde District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (1928 – 1975)
- Phase 6: The Ryde Hospital (1975 – Present)

#### 3.1. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

##### 3.1.1. Phase 1: Early Land Grants (1795 – 1830)

Development of the area between the Eastwood-Ryde area began as early as 1792, when two ex-marines, John Colethred and Isaac Archer, were granted land on the northern banks of the Paramatta River in the modern-day suburb of Melrose Park (Phippen 2008). The area became known as the 'Field of Mars', possibly owing to its early military associations. The present subject area is located approximately 2.5 km north-east of Colethred and Archer's grants, within a 120-acre parcel of land granted on 22 July 1795 to William Ternan (30 acres), Humphrey Evans (45 acres) and John Parnice (45 acres) (Figure 7).



Figure 7 – Detail of Hunters Hill Parish Map, 1907; approximate location of subject area outlined in red  
Source: NSW LRS

On 24 August 1795, the land was acquired by Reverend Richard Johnson (Phippen 2008), a *Chaplain of the First Fleet*. Upon leaving the colony in 1800, Johnson sold the land to Michael Connor, who then transferred the land to Roger Connor on 12 June 1816 (Phippen 2008). The property was known as 'Porteus Mount' at this time and was used for farming (The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 1920). Land grants in the area were numerous at the time and typically used for grazing horses, cattle, sheep and goats (Campbell, 1927).

### 3.1.2. Phase 2: Original 'Deniston House' (1830 – 1872)

By 1830, the Porteus Mount farm was owned by Doctor Thomas Foster, surgeon to the 46th Regiment and son-in-law of the explorer Gregory Blaxland (Phippen 2008). Forster purchased the property as an expansion to the Brush Farm Estate, which Blaxland transferred to him in 1929 (Phippen 2008). Forster renamed the property 'Deniston' after his birthplace in England (Phippen 2008) and built a two-storey, eight-room house on the property during the 1830s (The Australian, 1845).

The exact location of the original 'Deniston House' is not known. However, a newspaper article from 1884 states that the lawn in front of the rebuilt (extant) 'Denistone House' is "the site of the old homestead erected in the early days of the colony" (The Cumberland Mercury, 1884). A photograph of the lawn from the ca. 1920s shows rectilinear marks in the grass (Figure 8), possibly corresponding to the location of remnant subsurface footings of the original house. An aerial photograph from 1943 also shows faint rectilinear feature on the lawn in front of Denistone House (Figure 9 and Figure 10), with north-east and south-west corners marked by small trees. The rectilinear feature is of a similar size to the footprint of the later Denistone House. If the location of the original Deniston House corresponds to the observed rectilinear features, the location of the original building would fall partly under existing hospital building 6 and partly under the paved area separating this building from Denistone House (Figure 11). It may therefore be impacted under works associated with the proposed concept design (see Section 6 below).

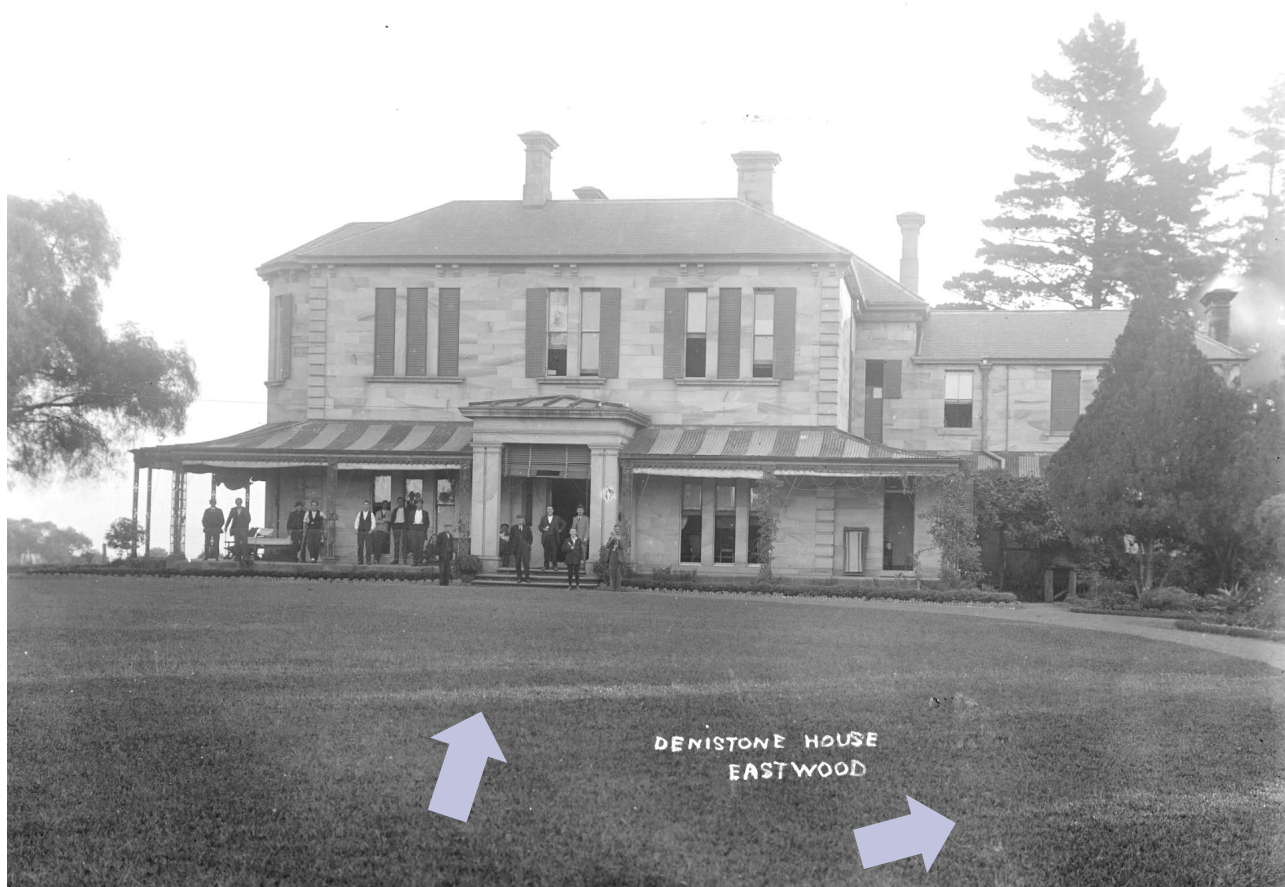


Figure 8 – Photograph of eastern facade of extant Denistone House ca. 1920s, showing rectilinear features in lawn (arrows)  
Source: State Library NSW, Call No. ON 165/657-682



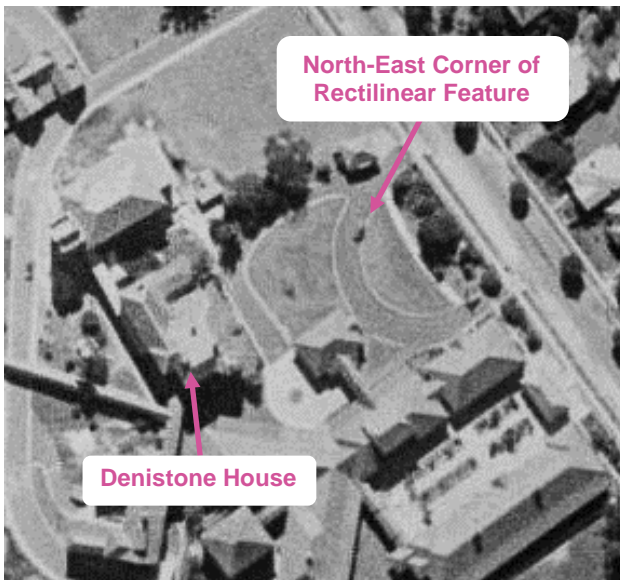


Figure 9 – Aerial photograph from 1943, showing area around Denistone House and location of rectilinear feature on lawn

Source: NSW Government Spatial Services, Historical Imagery Viewer

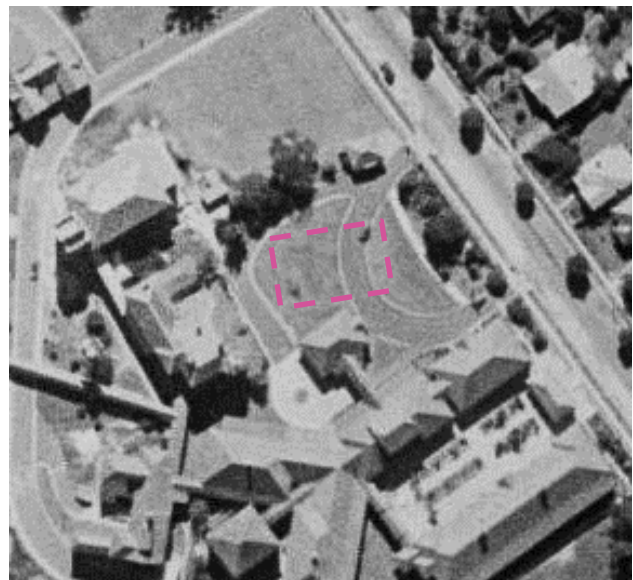


Figure 10 - Aerial photograph from 1943, showing area around Denistone House with rectilinear feature on lawn outlined (dashed polygon)

Source: NSW Government Spatial Services, Historical Imagery Viewer



Figure 11 – Possible location of original Denistone House (blue polygon) within subject area (red line)

Source: STH

Between 1840 and 1845, the house and land were occupied by Major Edward Darvall (The Sydney Herald, 1840; The Australian, 1845). During the following decade, the house and land were either leased to various occupants or advertised 'to let' (The Sydney Morning Herald, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853). By 1854, the property was occupied by a Mr McCulloch (The Sydney Morning Herald, 1855). In December of that year, a bushfire destroyed or severely damaged the house (The Sydney Morning Herald, 1855). After Forster's death in 1856, ownership of the property appears to have passed to his brother-in-law, the Hon. John Blaxland M.L.A (The Sydney Morning Herald, 1857). The property appears to have been used for illegal grazing of horses and cattle until the early 1870s (The Sydney Morning Herald, 1857, 1863).

### **3.1.3. Phase 3: Rebuilt 'Denistone House' (1872 - 1913)**

In 1872, the property was acquired by Richard Rouse Terry. In 1874, Terry built a new 'Denistone House' near the original residence and accompanying stables to the north (Heritage 21, 2016). According to a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared for Denistone House in 2016, "[t]he stone from the first house was used in the foundations of the new residence" (Heritage 21, 2016). The two-storey stone buildings, which remain extant and are located within the present subject area (Lot 11 in DP1183279), are registered as Item 47 of Ryde LEP (see Section 2.2 above). Terry also built a number of associated structures, with external WCs installed in 1875 (Heritage 21, 2016) and a water tank "about twenty feet long by about twelve inches width and thirty feet deep" present by 1884 (The Cumberland Mercury, 1884). Both the WCs and water tank have since been demolished.

Terry lived in Denistone House until his death in 1898 (Phippen, 2010), at which time ownership of the property passed to his son John Edgar Terry (Certificate of Title Vol. 1115 Fol. 59). John Edgar Terry let the property to a number of tenants until he offered it for sale commencing in 1913 (Phippen, 2010).

### **3.1.4. Phase 4: Convalescent Hospital for Men (1913 - 1928)**

The first of three subdivisions of the Denistone Estate was offered for sale in 1913. In 1914, the NSW Government purchased 17-acres (approximately 6.9 hectares) of the Denistone Estate for use as a convalescent hospital for men (The Daily Telegraph, 1914). The purchased land encompassed most of the present subject area, including Denistone House and stables. The remainder to the present subject area, consisting of a number of lots along Ryedale Road and Fourth Avenue, which were offered for sale later in 1914 as part of the second subdivision of the Denistone Estate (Figure 12).

The convalescent hospital utilised the existing buildings, with Denistone House accommodating up to 27 patients (Heritage 21, 2016). The convalescent hospital also retained its own small dairy herd and a large vegetable garden (Heritage 21, 2016). The first patients moved into the convalescent hospital moved in August 1914, although it was not officially opened until 25 February 1915 (Heritage 21, 2016).

An aerial photograph of the subject area taken in 1930 shows Denistone House and stables surrounded by landscaped gardens, with two houses (including the extant Building 19 - 'Camelia Cottage') along Ryedale Road and four houses along Fourth Avenue (Figure 13). With the exception of Camelia Cottage, all of the houses along Ryedale Road and Fourth Avenue have since been demolished.



**EASTWOOD  
- RYDE**

**DENISTONE ESTATE  
SUB<sup>DN</sup> NO 2.**

*Estate of the Late Richard Rouse Terry.*

**AUCTION SALE  
ON THE GROUND  
SATURDAY  
DEC. 5<sup>TH</sup>  
1914.  
AT 3 O'CLOCK.**

*Torrens Title.*

*Hawkinson & Hamilton,  
Solicitors to the Estate,  
28 Castlereagh St Sydney.*

**Building Covenant  
£300.**

**J.E. GREEN & CO**  
*Auctioneers  
28 MOORE ST. SYDNEY.*

**Terms.** *One Tenth Deposit,  
Balance in quarterly payments  
extending over 5 years, Interest 5%.  
Right to pay off with interest to date  
of payment.*

*Chapman & Fennell,  
Licensed Valuers, 41-43 St James St Sydney.*

*Smith & Lane, Printers.*

*E3/3*

Figure 12 – Flyer advertising Denistone Estate Subdivision no. 2, 1914 (subject area outline in red)  
Source: State Library of NSW, Call No. Z/SP/E3



Figure 13 – Aerial photograph of the subject area (outlined in red) from 1930, showing location of extant buildings (arrows) and demolished buildings (yellow outline)

Source: NSW Government Spatial Services, *Historical Imagery Viewer*

### 3.1.5. Phase 5: The Ryde District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (1928 – 1975)

Following a decade of community lobbying, the NSW Government confirmed in 1928 that the property would be converted to a Soldiers Memorial Hospital (Evening News, 1928). An aerial photograph of the subject area taken in 1943 shows the construction of a number of new buildings over the following 15 years, in addition to formalisation of roads and other landscaping (Figure 14).

In 1934, a number of new buildings were constructed (Figure 14), including a kiosk (extant Building 4), the administration block/executive offices (extant Building 5), the kitchen/laundry (extant Building 12) and former wards (extant Buildings 13 and 14) (Urbis 2022). Also constructed was an operating theatre adjacent Buildings 13 and 14, which has since been demolished (Figure 14). Denistone House was converted to nurses' accommodation and the stables were converted to accommodation for domestic staff, with addition of a western wing which has since been demolished (Urbis 2022). The grounds featured a vegetable garden and poultry run which provided food for the kitchens and a kiosk, which was provided by the hospital auxiliary and served refreshments at a nominal cost (Urbis 2022). The hospital was opened on 12 May 1934 (The Sydney Morning Herald, 1934).

In 1937 a proposal was drawn up for Denistone House to be converted into a maternity block, with a new nurses' home (extant Building 18) being opened in 1937. Around this time, the extant stone fence along Denistone Road was built, replacing an earlier wooden fence (Urbis 2022). Spooner House (extant Building 3), the intermediate and private block, was opened in 1938 (Urbis 2022) and tennis courts were added adjacent Camelia Cottage (now replaced by the western car park) in 1940 (The Sun, 1940). Trigg House (extant Building 9) was opened in 1943 in response accommodation shortages during the war (Urbis 2022).





Figure 14 – Aerial photograph of the subject area (outlined in red) from 1943, showing location of newly added extant buildings (arrows) and demolished buildings (yellow outline)

Source: NSW Government Spatial Services, *Historical Imagery Viewer*

In 1945, Denistone House a brick extension with basement was added to Denistone House, which included a new nursery area, new labour wards and new consulting and examination rooms (Urbis 2022). A number of buildings were constructed in the 1960s (Figure 16), included the mortuary (extant Building 15) and the cleaner's store (Building 11) and several prefabricated houses on Fourth Avenue, resulting in the demolition of one of the original residential houses (Urbis 2022). In 1969, the Patients Services Block (Building 6) was opened. It is located immediately in front of Denistone House, potentially overlapping partially or fully with the location of the original Deniston House (see Section 3.1.2 above). Elevation plans of Building 6 (Figure 15) show that it is raised on footings above the ground surface, rather than being built on ground that has been levelled by cut-and-fill. This indicated a moderate impact on the underlying ground, with the potential for subsurface structural remains associated with the original Deniston House to be retained.

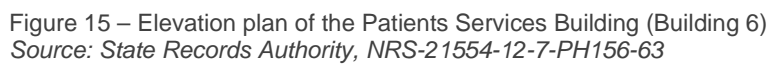






Figure 16 – Aerial photograph of the subject area (outlined in red) from 1970, showing location of newly added extant buildings (arrows) and demolished buildings (yellow outline)

Source: NSW Government Spatial Services, Historical Imagery Viewer

### 3.1.6. Phase 6: The Ryde Hospital (1975 – Present)

On 22 January 1975, The Ryde District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital was renamed 'The Ryde Hospital' (Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales, 1975). In view of increasingly inadequate facilities, a grant of \$300,000 was announced in 1976 to provide new labour wards and nurseries as well as shower and toilet facilities (Urbis 2022). A further the two-storey brick extension to Denistone House was built to the east of the old building and its 1945 extension (Urbis 2022).

In 1983 the 'Ryde Hospital' underwent a further name change, becoming the 'Ryde Hospital and Ryde Hunters-Hill Area Health Service' (Heritage 21, 2016). The 1980s and 1990s saw the construction of Apple Cottage (Building 1), the new operating theatres (Building 2), the engineering workshop (Building 16) and the Community Mental Health Building (Building 7) (Urbis 2022). Construction of the Community Mental Health Building resulted in demolition of two more of the original houses on Fourth Avenue, with levelling of the ground surface to street level by cut and fill likely destroying any remains of these former buildings.

In ca. 2008, the original house adjacent Camelia Cottage on Rydeale Road was demolished and replaced with a carpark. The Aged Care and Rehabilitation building (Building 17) was built at this time. In ca. 2013, the Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre (Building 20) was built on Fourth Avenue. This involved the demolition of the last of the remaining original houses on Fourth Avenue and the earlier prefabricated houses, with cut and fill activities likely destroying any remains of these buildings.

In November 2021 it was announced that the Ryde Hospital would be redeveloped, transforming it into a state-of-the-art facility. The redevelopment will feature expanded and improved emergency, critical care, medicine and surgery, community and ambulatory care (outpatient) services, while preserving Denistone House, retaining the rehabilitation services at Graythwaite and making best use of the current services already available at Ryde.

## 3.2. VISUAL INSPECTION

A visual inspection of the subject area was conducted by Aaron Olsen (Urbis Archaeologist) on 7 February 2022. The visual inspection was undertaken to investigate whether there was any observable physical evidence of the historical development, such as exposed features of earlier buildings and changes to topography.

The inspection was undertaken in overcast and rainy conditions. Visibility was low across subject area due to the presence of buildings and roads in the northern portion and thick vegetation in the southern portion. Ground Surface Visibility (GSV) was estimated to be less than 5% across the subject area.

No archaeological remains were identified during the visual inspection, other than the fabric and fittings of the extant buildings.

The visual inspection confirmed that the entire subject area has been subjected to moderate to high levels of ground disturbance associated with construction of the existing and earlier buildings. Evidence of ground disturbance was observed across the northern portion of the subject area. Buildings, roads and landscaping were observed across the northern portion of the subject area, indicating widespread ground disturbance (Figure 17 to Figure 22). Evidence of cut and fill activities was observed around buildings (Figure 23 and Figure 24) and in carparks (Figure 25 and Figure 26Figure 24).

The visual inspection confirms the findings of the desktop assessment that historical activities have been largely concentrated in the northern portion of the subject, with moderate to high levels of ground disturbance observed in that area.



Figure 17 – View west of building and garden on eastern boundary of subject area



Figure 18 – View south of building and hardstand near eastern boundary of subject area





Figure 19 – View west of former stable building and hardstand near eastern boundary of subject area



Figure 20 – View east of buildings and road at boundary of southern and northern portions of subject area



Figure 21 – View east of buildings and road near boundary of southern and northern portions of subject area



Figure 22 – View east of carpark near eastern boundary of subject area



Figure 23 – View west of retaining wall of cutting behind Building 7 on northern boundary of subject area



Figure 24 – View west of retaining wall of cutting behind Building 20 on northern boundary of subject area



Figure 25 – View west of embankments of cutting for carpark on western boundary of subject area



Figure 26 – View of soil profile section in cut and fill embankment of carpark

### 3.3. SUMMARY

The historical context of the subject area is summarised as follows:

- Historical activities in the subject area extend to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, with the subject area being forming part of some of the earliest land grants in the area.
- Construction phases began in the 1830s with the development of a two-storey stone residence (the original Deniston House), which was destroyed by fire in 1854.
- The extant Denistone House was built near the original residence in 1874, with the extant stables being built to the north.
- Subsequent phases of development saw a shift towards utilisation of the subject area as a hospital, with construction of numerous buildings and associated infrastructure during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- A visual inspection found no physical evidence of development phases other than the extant buildings but did find evidence of significant ground disturbance.
- Ground disturbance associated with later construction phases is likely to significantly impact the integrity of archaeological remains associated with earlier phases.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

### 4.1. FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSMENT

The *NSW Heritage Manual* (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996) defines historical archaeological potential as:

*The degree of physical evidence present on an archaeological site, usually assessed on the basis of physical evaluation and historical research.*

Archaeological research potential of a site is the extent to which further study of relics likely to be found is expected to contribute to improved knowledge about NSW history which is not demonstrated by other sites, archaeological resources or available historical evidence. The potential for archaeological relics to survive in a particular place is significantly affected by later activities that may have caused ground disturbance. These processes include the physical development of the site (for example, phases of building construction) and the activities that occurred there.

The archaeological potential of the subject area is assessed based on the background information presented in Section 3 and graded according to the following scheme:

- **Nil Potential:** the land use history demonstrates that high levels of ground disturbance have occurred that would have destroyed any archaeological remains; or archaeological excavation has already occurred and removed any potential resource.
- **Low Potential:** the land use history suggests limited development or use, or there is likely to be quite high impacts in these areas; however, deeper sub-surface features such as wells, cesspits and their artefact bearing deposits may survive.
- **Moderate Potential:** the land use history suggests limited phases of low to moderate development intensity, or there have been some impacts in the area. Some archaeological remains are likely to survive, including building footings and shallower remains, in addition to deeper sub-surface features.
- **High Potential:** substantially intact archaeological deposits could survive in these areas.

The potential for archaeological remains or 'relics' to survive in a particular place is significantly affected by land use activities that may have caused ground disturbance. These processes include the physical development of the site (e.g. phases of building construction) and the activities that occurred there. The following definitions are used to consider the levels of disturbance:

- **Low Disturbance:** the area or feature has been subject to activities that are likely to have had a minor effect on the integrity and survival of archaeological remains.
- **Moderate Disturbance:** the area or feature has been subject to activities that may have affected the integrity and survival of archaeological remains. While archaeological evidence may be present, they are likely to have been disturbed.
- **High Disturbance:** the area or feature has been subject to activities that would have had a major effect on the integrity and survival of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence are likely to be significantly disturbed or destroyed.

The following assessment of archaeological potential of the present subject area has been undertaken based on the above framework.

### 4.2. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Previous archaeological investigations may provide information on the potential nature and distribution of archaeological resources in a given area. No previous historical archaeological reports were readily available for the subject area.



## 4.3. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

An assessment of archaeological potential associated with each phase of development of the subject area is provide in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Assessment of Archaeological Potential

Phase	Potential Archaeological Resource	Integrity	Archaeological Potential
<b>1. Early Land Grants</b> <b>(1795 – 1830)</b>	Archaeobotanical evidence of native vegetation communities, evidence of land clearance (e.g. tree boles and areas of burning), evidence of farming (e.g. fence postholes and earthen ditches) and casual finds (e.g. discarded artefacts).	Owing to the ephemeral nature of evidence associated with this phase of development and use, later construction phases are likely to have effectively removed/destroyed any archaeological resources associated with this phase.	<b>Nil – Low</b>
<b>2. Original ‘Deniston House’</b> <b>(1830 – 1872)</b>	Structural features of the original Deniston House and deeper sub-surface features (e.g. wells, cisterns, pits).	Later construction and use phases may have impacted structural evidence of this phase. However, subsurface footings may be retained, particularly outside the footprint of existing buildings.	<b>Moderate</b>
	Evidence relating to the early residential development of the property, including structural features of outbuildings (e.g. footings and postholes), underfloor deposits and casual finds (e.g. discarded artefacts).	Later construction and use phases would have had a major impact on evidence of this phase, significantly reducing the likelihood of any archaeological remains being retained.	<b>Nil – Low</b>
<b>3. Rebuilt ‘Denistone House’</b> <b>(1872 – 1913)</b>	Extant buildings: Denistone House and stables.	Intact.	<b>High</b>
	Evidence relating to the residential use of the property, including underfloor deposits, deeper sub-surface features (e.g. wells, cisterns, pits) and casual finds (e.g. discarded artefacts).	Later construction phases would have had a major impact on evidence of this phase, significantly reducing the likelihood of any archaeological remains being retained.	<b>Nil - Low</b>
	Extant building: Camelia Cottage	Intact.	<b>High</b>



Phase	Potential Archaeological Resource	Integrity	Archaeological Potential
<b>4. Convalescent Hospital for Men (1913 – 1928)</b>	Evidence relating to the early use of the property as a hospital and residential use along Fourth Avenue and Ryedale Road, including structural features of buildings (e.g. footings), underfloor deposits, deeper sub-surface features (e.g. wells, cisterns, pits) and casual finds (e.g. discarded artefacts).	Later construction and use phases would have had a major impact on evidence of this phase, significantly reducing the likelihood of any archaeological remains being retained.	<b>Nil - Low</b>
<b>5. The Ryde District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (1928 – 1975)</b>	Extant buildings	Intact.	<b>High</b>
	Evidence of mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century development of the property, including structural features of demolished buildings (e.g. footings), sub-surface features (e.g. original services) and casual finds (e.g. discarded artefacts).	Later construction and use of the subject area would have had a major impact on evidence of this phase, significantly reducing the likelihood of any archaeological remains being retained.	<b>Nil - Low</b>
<b>6. The Ryde Hospital (1975 – Present)</b>	Extant buildings.	Intact.	<b>High</b>

## 4.4. SUMMARY

A summary of the above archaeological potential assessment is provided below:

- Moderate archaeological potential has been identified for retention of footings of the original Deniston House (Phase 2) and deeper sub-surface features (e.g. wells, cisterns and pits) within the area east of the extant Denistone House.
- High archaeological potential has been identified for the extant buildings associated with historical Phases 3, 5 and 6.
- Nil to low archaeological potential has been identified for all other archaeological resources.

## 5. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

### 5.1. FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSMENT

The concept of archaeological significance is independent of archaeological potential. For example, there may be 'low potential' for certain relics to survive, but if they do, they may be assessed as being of (State) significance.

Archaeological significance has long been accepted as linked directly to archaeological (or scientific) research potential: a site or resource is said to be scientifically significant when its further study may be expected to help answer questions. Whilst the research potential of an archaeological site is an essential consideration, it is one of a number of potential heritage values which a site or 'relic' may possess. Recent changes to the *Heritage Act 1977* (Section 33(3) (a)) reflect this broader understanding of what constitutes archaeological significance by making it imperative that more than one criterion be considered.

The below assessment of archaeological significance considers the criteria, as outlined in the NSW Heritage Branch publication *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*. Sections which are extracted verbatim from this document are italicized.

For the purposes of this assessment, significance is ranked as follows:

- **No Significance** – it is unlikely that any archaeological resources recovered will be attributed significance in accordance with the assessment criteria on a state or local level.
- **Local Significance** – it is likely that archaeological resources recovered will be significant on a local level in accordance with one or more of the assessment criteria.
- **State Significance** – it is likely that archaeological resources recovered will be significant on a state level in accordance with one or more of the assessment criteria.

The significance assessment criteria are defined in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Significance Criteria

Criterion Letter	Criterion	Definition
E	Archaeological Research Potential	<i>Archaeological research potential is the ability of archaeological evidence, through analysis and interpretation, to provide information about a site that could not be derived from any other source and which contributes to the archaeological significance of that site and its 'relics'.</i>
A, B & D	Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance	<i>Archaeological remains may have particular associations with individuals, groups and events which may transform mundane places or objects into significant items through the association with important historical occurrences.</i>
C	Aesthetic or technical significance	<i>Whilst the technical value of archaeology is usually considered as 'research potential' aesthetic values are not usually considered to be relevant to archaeological sites. This is often because until a site has been excavated, its actual features and attributes may remain unknown. It is also because aesthetic is often interpreted to mean attractive, as opposed to the broader sense of sensory perception or 'feeling' as expressed in the Burra Charter. Nevertheless, archaeological excavations which reveal highly intact and legible remains in the form of aesthetically attractive artefacts, aged and worn fabric and remnant structures, may allow both professionals</i>

Criterion Letter	Criterion	Definition
		<i>and the community to connect with the past through tangible physical evidence.</i>
A, C, F & G	Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains	<i>Archaeological remains have an ability to demonstrate how a site was used, what processes occurred, how work was undertaken and the scale of an industrial practice or other historic occupation. They can demonstrate the principal characteristics of a place or process that may be rare or common.</i>

## 5.2. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An assessment of archaeological significance associated with each phase of development of the subject area is provide in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Assessment of Significance

Criterion	Discussion	Assessed Significance
<b>Archaeological Research Potential</b>	<p>Any surviving historical archaeological resources associated with the early land grants (Phase 1) and 'Deniston House' (Phase 2) may have significance at a local level for their ability to yield new information, not available through other sources, about the early historical development of the subject area and the broader Eastwood-Ryde area, the people who lived there at that time and their use of the land.</p> <p>Resources associated with the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards (Phases 3-6) have low research potential. They are unlikely to provide information about the subject area that could not be derived from historical records or which is important at a Local or State level.</p>	<p>Archaeological resources associated with Phases 1 and 2: <b>Local Significance</b></p> <p>Archaeological resources associated with Phases 3 to 6: <b>No Significance</b></p>
<b>Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance</b>	No significant associations have been identified with individuals, groups or events relevant to this criterion.	<p>Archaeological resources associated with Phases 1 to 6: <b>No Significance</b></p>
<b>Aesthetic or technical significance</b>	Given the moderate to high levels of disturbance to the subject area preceding and during construction of the extant buildings, it is unlikely that any archaeological resources associated with earlier phases of development would be sufficiently intact or legible to retain any aesthetic or technical value.	<p>Archaeological resources associated with Phases 1 to 6: <b>No Significance</b></p>
<b>Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains</b>	Any surviving archaeological remains associated with later phases of development are unlikely to be well-preserved (with the exception of extant buildings) and/or are unlikely to be rare examples of occupation.	<p>Archaeological resources associated with Phases 1 to 6: <b>No Significance</b></p>

### **5.3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The subject area is located in the Field of Mars, an area first settled in the final decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as for grazing and agriculture. Evidence of the early residential and agricultural use of the subject area may have historical heritage significance for its ability to yield new information in relation to the early development of the Eastwood-Ryde area, early agricultural practices and the people who inhabited the area at that time, such as diet, pastimes and occupations. However, subsequent development and use of the subject area is likely to have removed most archaeological resources dating to the earliest phases of development of use of the subject area, with the exception of structural remains of the original Deniston House. Built in the 1830s and destroyed by fire in 1854, any remains of the original Deniston House would be of Local historical heritage significance for the information they would provide in relation to the design and construction of the building itself, early building practices more generally and the lives of its occupants. Archaeological remains associated with later development phases of the subject area, from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present, are not considered to hold any significance at either a State or Local level.

## 6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The following is an assessment of the likely impact of the proposed works on potential archaeological resources within the subject area.

As established in Section 4 above, the only part of the subject area that has at least moderate potential to retain archaeological remains of historical heritage significance is the area to the east of the extant Denistone House, where structural remains of the original Denistone House may survive (Figure 11). The proposed works includes Stage 1 Early Works and a concept proposal for works to be undertaken in under a second SSDA. The impact zones of the proposed works in relation to area of moderate archaeological potential are described below.

The Stage 1 Early Works encompassed by SSD-36778089 will include bulk earthworks, construction of access roads, demolition of Establishment of construction access roads, relocation and upgrade of in-ground building services, demolition of buildings 11, 17 and 18 including removal of footings and installation of temporary concrete shoring adjacent existing operational buildings (see Section 1.2 above). As shown in Figure 11, the zone of Stage 1 Early Works does not overlap with the possible location of the original Denistone House identified in Section 3.1.2 above. Demolition of the existing buildings, which are associated with historical Phases 5 and 6, is unlikely to impact the heritage values of the subject area as these buildings are assessed as holding no historical heritage significance at either a Local or State level. The bulk earth works would destroy any archaeological resource associated with phases of development and use of the subject preceding the existing buildings. However, either the potential for archaeological resources associated with these earlier phases is assessed to be nil to low or any such remains are assessed as having no historical heritage significance. The Stage 1 early works are therefore unlikely to impact any archaeological resources having either Local or State historical heritage significance.

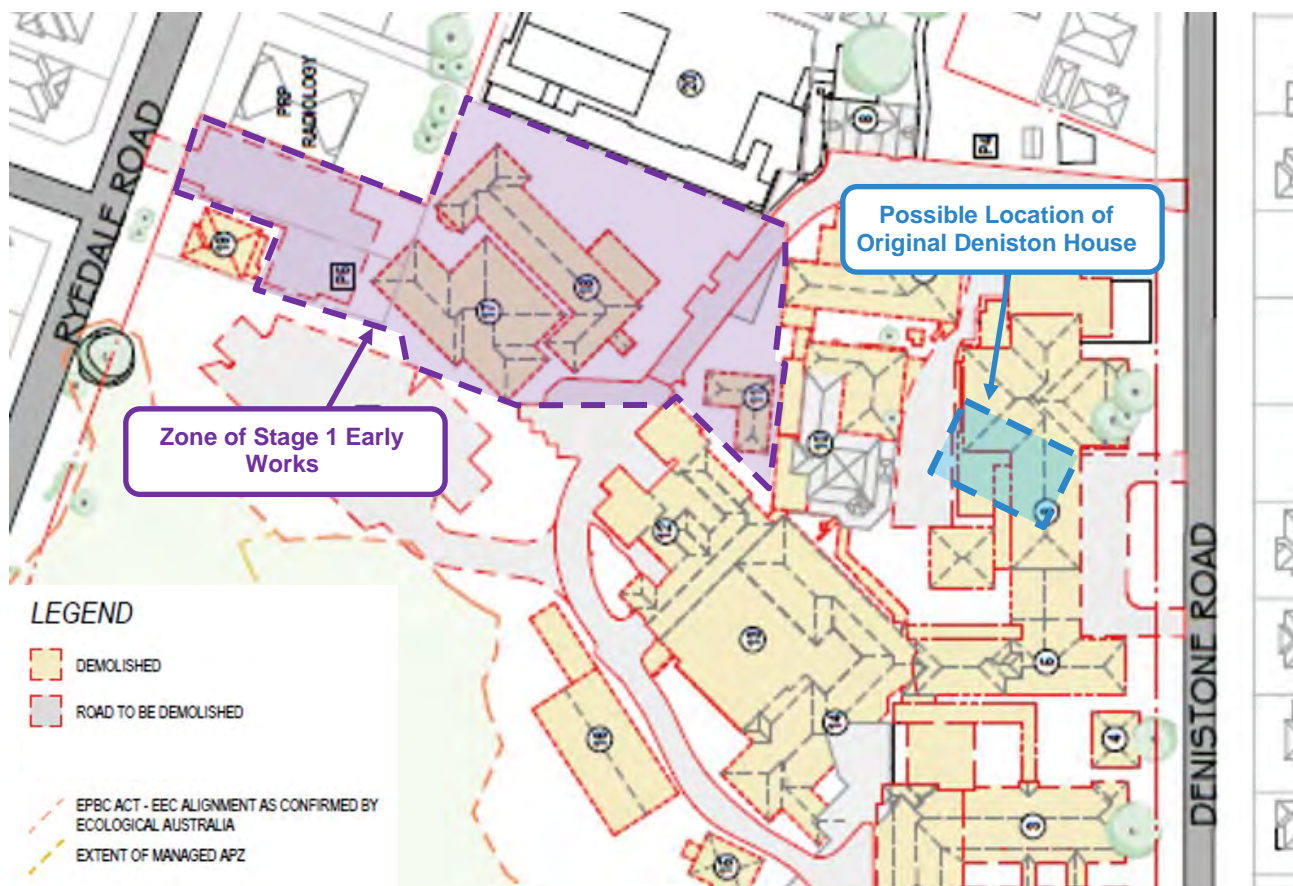


Figure 27 – Possible location of original Denistone House (blue polygon) relative to proposed works  
Source: STH

The proposed Stage 2 future works, as described by the concept proposal, involve the demolition of most of the remaining extant buildings not removed during Stage 1 and the construction of a new hospital building and associated infrastructure (Appendix A, Figure 3 and Figure 4). The zone of Stage 2 Early Works encompasses most of the northern portion of the subject area, with impacts in the southern portion being limited to establishment of a managed Asset Protection Zone (APZ). The proposed Stage 2 future works include demolition of Building 6 and removal of the road between Building 6 and the extant Denistone House. As shown in Figure 11, these proposed works overlap with possible location of original Deniston House identified in Section 3.1.2 above. As it is understood that these works would impact the ground surface, they would likewise impact any surviving archaeological remains of the original Deniston House. The proposed Stage 2 future works may therefore impact archaeological remains having Local historical heritage significance.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The HAA has concluded the following in relation to the historical archaeological potential and significance of the subject area and the impacts of the proposed works:

- The historical development and use of the subject area is broadly categorised according to the following development and use phases:
  - Phase 1: Early Land Grants (1795 – 1830)
  - Phase 2: Original 'Deniston House' (1830 – 1872)
  - Phase 3: Rebuilt 'Denistone House' (1872 – 1913)
  - Phase 4: Convalescent Hospital for Men (1913 - 1928)
  - Phase 5: The Ryde District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (1928 – 1975)
  - Phase 6: The Ryde Hospital (1975 – Present)
- Moderate archaeological potential has been identified for retention of footings of the original Deniston House (Phase 2) and deeper sub-surface features (e.g. wells, cisterns and pits) within the area east of the extant Denistone House.
- Any archaeological resources associated with Phase 2 would have Local historical heritage significance for their research potential.
- Archaeological remains associated with other phases are identified as having either nil to low potential to be retained due to subsequent constructions and use phases or no historical heritage significance.
- The proposed Stage 1 early works are unlikely to impact any archaeological resources having either Local or State historical heritage significance.
- Works undertaken in the area to the east of the extant Denistone House in fulfilment of the proposed concept design may impact archaeological resources associated with the original Deniston House, which would have Local heritage significance.

In view of the above conclusions, Urbis makes the following recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1 – Submission of Report**

A copy of this report should be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in support of the SSDA.

- **Recommendation 2 – Archaeological Investigation**

In view of the potential for subsurface archaeological remains having Local historical heritage significance to be retained in the area between the extant Denistone House and Denistone Road, including within the footprint of extant Building 6, an archaeological program should be developed to investigate the nature, extent and significance of the potential archaeological resource. The program should be detailed in an Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology and should include archaeological monitoring of the demolition of Building 6 and removal of hardstand and test excavation to be undertaken prior to any ground disturbing activities in that area.

- **Recommendation 3 – Updating HAA for Future Work**

In the event that works are to be undertaken within the subject area that fall outside the scope of the currently proposed works, the HAA should be updated to reflect the amended scope of works and their potential impact on archaeological resources.

- **Recommendation 4 – Unexpected Finds Procedure**

If any archaeological deposits or features are unexpectedly discovered during any site works, a chance find procedure must be implemented. The following steps must be carried out:

1. All works within the vicinity of the find must immediately stop. The find must not be moved 'out of the way' without assessment. The find must be cordoned-off and signage installed to avoid accidental impact.

2. The site supervisor or another nominated site representative must contact either the project archaeologist (if relevant) or Heritage NSW (Enviroline 131 555) to contact a suitably qualified archaeologist.
3. The nominated archaeologist must examine the find, provide a preliminary assessment of significance, record the item and decide on appropriate management measures. Such management may require further consultation with Heritage NSW, preparation of a research design and archaeological investigation/salvage methodology and notification of the discovery of a relic to Heritage NSW in accordance with S.146 of the *Heritage Act 1977*.
4. Depending on the significance of the find, reassessment of the archaeological potential of the subject area may be required and further archaeological investigation undertaken.
5. Reporting may need to be prepared regarding the find and approved management strategies.
6. Works in the vicinity of the find would only recommence upon receipt of approval from Heritage NSW.

▪ **Recommendation 5 – Human Remains Procedure**

In the unlikely event that human remains are uncovered during any site works, the following must be undertaken:

1. All works within the vicinity of the find must immediately stop. The find must be cordoned-off and signage installed to avoid accidental impact.
2. The site supervisor or other nominated manager must notify the NSW Police and Heritage NSW (Enviroline 131 555).
3. The find must be assessed by the NSW Police, which may include the assistance of a qualified forensic anthropologist.
4. Management recommendations are to be formulated by the NSW Police, Heritage NSW and site representatives.
5. Works are not to recommence until the find has been appropriately managed.



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