

# EXTENT



## 600–660 ELIZABETH STREET REDFERN

### HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

Prepared for Hickory

August 2023 — Final



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (Extent Heritage) was commissioned by Hickory on behalf of Land and Housing Corporation to prepare a historical archaeological excavation report to present the findings of the historical archaeological excavation undertaken at 600–660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern between 18 April and 21 April 2023.

The excavation was carried out based on recommendations made by Extent Heritage following the results of the previous historical archaeological test excavation program undertaken in November 2021. Extent Heritage advised that the site of 11 Alderson Street, briefly occupied by the late nineteenth century 'baby farmers' John and Sarah Makin, should undergo further investigation to determine if notifications under the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW) and *Public Health Regulation 2022* (NSW) were required. The investigation of this specific allotment was designed to provide greater surety regarding the need for such notifications before site works commenced.

The proposed redevelopment of the study area was designated a State Significant Development (SSD-51274973) on 16 December 2022 and consequently approvals under the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) including a section 140 Excavation Permit were not required. As such, the approach to excavation work was guided by the findings of the Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report (Extent Heritage 2022) and the previous Historical Archaeological Research Design (Extent Heritage 2021).

This report describes the results of the historical archaeological investigations undertaken by Extent Heritage at the site of 11 Alderson Street between 18 April and 21 April 2023 and sets out recommendations for the future management and mitigation of heritage issues within the study area. It expands upon previous post-excavation reporting regarding the site of 11 Alderson Street that was partially exposed during 2021 test excavations (Extent Heritage 2022). The report has been prepared as an adjunct to existing archaeological reports for the site that may assist in framing the Conditions of Approval for the proposed development of the site.

### Key findings

- Excavation exposed the remains of the pre-1883 terrace and detached toilet in the rear yard, consisting of shallow footings constructed using bricks and reused timber beams.
- Earlier features associated with the construction of the residence and the Albert Ground were also exposed.
- Sealed artefact deposits, underfloor deposits, and yard surfaces did not survive, most likely disturbed by post-1949 phases of development and demolition.
- No evidence of human remains was uncovered, nor any structural or artefactual evidence that could be clearly tied to the Makin family.



## Recommendations

- No notifications under the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW) and *Public Health Regulation 2022* (NSW) are required.
- Future management of the site's archaeological resources would be most efficiently carried out under an unexpected finds procedure.
- We recommend that this report is made publicly available.



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Project initiation

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (Extent Heritage) was commissioned by Hickory on behalf of Bridge Housing and NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) to prepare a Historical Archaeological Excavation Report for 600–660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern (hereafter the ‘study area’).

Following the results of the historical archaeological test excavation program undertaken in November 2021, Extent Heritage made recommendations to further investigate the site of 11 Alderson Street to determine if relics within this allotment, specifically human skeletal remains, would require notifications under the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW) and *Public Health Regulation 2022* (NSW) and trigger specific management of such remains.

The proposed development of the study area was designated a State Significant Development (SSD-51274973) on 16 December 2022 and consequently approvals under the Heritage Act including a section 140 Excavation Permit were not required. As such, the approach to excavation work was guided by the findings of the Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report (Extent Heritage 2022) and the previous Historical Archaeological Research Design (Extent Heritage 2021).

The following report provides a detailed analysis of the results of the historical archaeological investigations undertaken by Extent Heritage at the site of the former 11 Alderson Street between 18 April and 21 April 2023.

## 1.2. Study area location and identification

The study area is located at 600–660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern and lies within the City of Sydney local government area (LGA). The study area is an LAHC owned and managed property comprising Lot 1 DP 1249145 and encompassing an area of approximately 1.1 ha. It is located 4 km southwest of the Sydney CBD and is bound to the north by Kettle Street, to the east by Walker Street, to the south by Phillip Street, and to the west by Elizabeth Street (Figure 1). The study area is largely vacant except for a single storey building and outdoor basketball court in the southern portion of the site, currently leased by PCYC South Sydney. Archaeological excavation was limited to the site of the former 11 Alderson Street (also referred to as the ‘area of investigation’), located in the northern portion of the study area.



Figure 1. Location of the study area, with the extent of archaeological excavations undertaken within the 11 Alderson Street allotment outlined in red. .

### 1.3. Objectives

The following report describes the results from the historical archaeological investigations undertaken by Extent Heritage at the site of 11 Alderson Street located at 600–660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern between 18 April and 21 April 2023. Following the designation of the project as a State Significant Development (SSD-51274973) on 16 December 2022, approvals under the Heritage Act including a section 140 Excavation Permit were not required. The report has been prepared as an adjunct to existing archaeological reports for the site that may assist in framing the Conditions of Approval for the proposed development of the site.

### 1.4. Relevant reports and investigations

The study area has been subject to the following heritage reports and investigations. This report mainly draws on the following documents:

- 600–660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, NSW – Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report (Extent Heritage 2022)
- 600–660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, NSW – Historical Archaeological Research Design (Extent Heritage 2021)
- 600–660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, NSW – Historical Archaeological Assessment (Extent Heritage 2018)

### 1.5. Limitations

This report presents the results of historical archaeological investigation of the 11 Alderson Street allotment only.

### 1.6. Author identification and excavation team

This report was prepared by Clare Fitzpatrick (heritage advisor) and Francesca McMaster (senior heritage advisor), with technical input and quality assurance review provided by Graham Wilson (principal heritage advisor). Photogrammetry was undertaken by Brian Shanahan (senior associate, geospatial and digital heritage specialist), and mapping was prepared by Richard Tuffin (senior GIS specialist).

The excavation team included:

- Francesca McMaster, site director and archaeologist
- Clare Fitzpatrick, archaeologist
- Catherine Fenech, archaeologist
- Brian Shanahan, photogrammetry and survey



## 1.7. Acknowledgements

Extent Heritage acknowledges the assistance of George Gelberidis from Hickory and would like to thank PCYC South Sydney for providing access to their facilities during the excavation program.



## 2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### 2.1. Introduction

The following Part provides a concise summary of historical events across the study area, arranged in accordance with the major phases of site development. It has been supplemented by additional research into the events associated with John and Sarah Makin at 11 Alderson Street, Redfern.

### 2.2. Phases of historical development

Four phases of historical development have been identified across the study area, reflecting the changing pattern of use over time (Table 1). By the mid-nineteenth century, the study area was transformed from a resource rich swamp into a cricket ground, before being subdivided and developed in the late nineteenth century. During the mid-twentieth century, the high-density terrace housing was cleared from the study area, and new public housing was constructed, before that too was eventually demolished in 2013.

Table 1. Overview of historical phases of development, with key events summarised

Phase	Year	Description
<b>Early Land Grants and Albert Ground (1822–1879)</b>	1822	185 acres granted to Edward Smith Hall, with development limited to land clearance, fencing, and survey markers.
	1854	After the land was sold to Cooper and Levey in 1829, the street grid was laid out in preparation for subdivision.
	1864	Boxley's Lagoon was developed into a privately owned cricket ground, Albert Ground. This required a subsurface drainage system, as well as the deposition of sand to level the ground.
<b>Subdivision and pre-1883 terraces (1879–1949)</b>	1879	The Albert Ground was closed and subdivided.
	Pre-1883	The newly subdivided study area comprised three rows of small, single-storey terraces, and two internal streets, Alderson Street and Billiston Street.
<b>Public housing development (1949–2013)</b>	1949	The study area is cleared.
	1954	The study area is divided into two portions, a PCYC structure is built in the southern portion, and nine low-density blocks are constructed in the northern portion.
<b>Public housing demolition and redevelopment (2013–present)</b>	2013	The nine public housing blocks in the northern portion of the site are demolished.

## 2.3. Area of Investigation: 11 Alderson Street

### 2.3.1. John and Sarah Makin

Often overshadowing the diverse late nineteenth century history of the study area in general is its association with John and Sarah Makin, infamous for their involvement in baby farming and the murder of at least thirteen infants between 1890 and 1892 in a number of locations across Sydney (Figure 2). The term ‘baby farming’ was used to describe private and for-profit foster care arrangements, whereby a lump sum or periodic payments were received in exchange for the temporary or long-term care of an infant.

The Makins likely began the practice of baby farming in 1888, often using aliases when responding to newspaper advertisements written by desperate mothers, shown in Figure 3 below. (Cossins 2013, 61). The Makins moved from house to house across the inner-city suburbs of Sydney, including Redfern, to avoid rental payments and to evade the mothers of children in their care, who often wanted ongoing visitation as part of their arrangements (Cossins 2013, 274).



Figure 2. Photographs of John and Sarah Makin, taken in December 1892 (Gaol Inmates / Prisoners Photos Index 1870-1930. INX-84-15057 and INX-84-15058. New South Wales State Archives and Records).



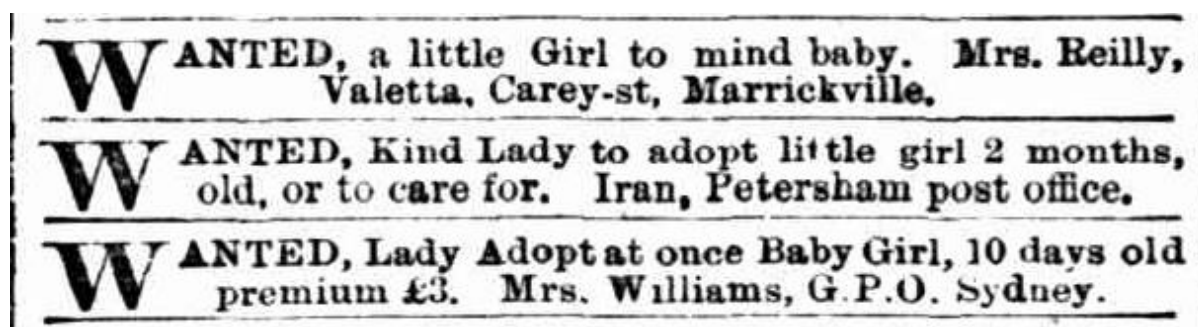


Figure 3. Examples of advertisements placed in newspapers that would attract the attention of baby farmers (Evening News 1892a, 1).

*Note: The middle advertisement was placed by Mary Stacey under the pseudonym 'Iran', who received a reply from the Makins under the alias of Mr and Mrs Ray. Although the body of her child Daisy was never identified, the remains of her clothes were presented in evidence at the coronial inquests.*

The discovery of the remains of two infants in the rear yard of 25 Burren Street, Macdonaldtown (Figure 4), brought to light the illicit activities of John and Sarah Makin and laid bare the unregulated practice of baby farming (Illustrated Sydney News 1892b, 4). In the weeks that followed, police investigated eleven properties the Makins had inhabited during the previous two years, with a further eleven bodies discovered.

Reports on their arrests, as well as the ensuing trial, coronial inquests, and convictions became a fixture in newspapers across the country, with sensationalised articles of their illicit activities and theories on their methods of killing infants making waves internationally (Cossins 2013, 153). John Makin was executed at Darlinghurst Gaol on 15 August 1893, while Sarah Makins sentence was commuted to life in prison (Sydney Morning Herald 1893, 7). She was released in 1911 at her children's request, and died in 1918 (Geelong Advertiser 1911, 4).

The introduction of the *Children's Protection Act 1892* (NSW) in March 1892 displayed an attempt by the New South Wales Government to regulate baby farming, however the practice continued to be poorly policed long after the Makins were sentenced:

An epidemic of infanticide seems to be sweeping over the colonies at the present time. For weeks and months revolting cases have been brought to light, most of them having been due to the pernicious system of baby-farming, which seems to have taken such a strong root in Australia that it flourishes under the very eyes of the police. (Illustrated Sydney News 1892b, 4)

The regular use of the headline 'How the Babies Go' in Sydney newspapers between 1889 and 1904, highlights the continued practice of baby farming alongside instances of child abandonment and infanticide during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (e.g. Evening News 1892b, 6; Evening News 1898, 3).



Figure 4. Depictions of John and Sarah Makin and the police investigators, as well as the house and yard of 25 Burren Street, Macdonaldtown where the first discoveries were made (Illustrated Sydney News 1892b, 4).

### **2.3.2. 11 Alderson Street**

The Makin family rented at least seven properties across Redfern between 1888 and 1892, including 55 Botany Street, 16 East Street, 109 George Street, 113 Bullanaming (now Renwick) Street, 6 Wells Street, 2 Kettle Street, and 11 Alderson Street (Cossins 2013, 274). The Makins resided at 11 Alderson Street, located within the study area, for less than two months between 7 December 1891 and 28 January 1892 (The Australian Star 1892, 5).

The first known occupation of 11 Alderson Street is recorded in the 1883 Sands Directory, with the street consisting of a row of single-storey terraces likely constructed between 1880 and 1882 following the 1879 subdivision (John Sands Ltd 1883, 106). The terraces and outbuildings were constructed with bricks, as illustrated in the 1889 building survey (Figure 5 and Figure 6). This plan also shows a sewer line running along Billiston Street that would have serviced the toilet outbuildings located in the rear yards of Alderson Street. By the time the Makins occupied the property, the terraces along Alderson Street had been sewered for at least three years. The toilet outbuilding of 11 Alderson Street was shared with 13 Alderson Street, the adjoining terrace to the south, and was accessible from both yards.

Two photographs capture the streetscape and rear yards of the properties along either side of Alderson Street. A 1913 photograph shows Alderson Street and the rear yards of the Elizabeth Street facing properties and was likely taken standing in front of 3 Alderson Street, facing southwest (Figure 7). A photograph, dating to 1900, was also taken from the northern end of Alderson Street and shows the rear yards of the Alderson Street properties (Figure 8). This photograph was likely taken atop the structure in the rear yard of 9 Alderson Street and although it misses the yard of 11 Alderson Street, the bottom left of the image captures the edge of the corrugated roof of the shared toilet outbuilding.



**EXTENT**  
HERITAGE ADVISORS  
600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern Stage 2

**Study area**  
**11 Anderson Street**

Historic map: 1889  
*'Plan of the Municipality of Redfern', 1889*

Drawn by: Richard Tuffin  
Checked by: Clare Fitzpatrick  
Date: 19 June 2023  
Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56  
Data sources: Extent, Nearmap, ABS, Geoscience AU, NSW Spatial Services

0 25 50 Metres

0 25 50 Metres

The figure is a historical map of Redfern, Sydney, from 1889. It shows a grid of streets and building footprints. A green rectangle highlights the 'Study area' (600-660 Elizabeth Street), and a red rectangle highlights '11 Anderson Street'. A large inset map shows the location of Redfern within the Sydney metropolitan area, with labels for North Sydney, Westmead, Sydney, Wollahra, Waverley, Randwick, and Bayville. A scale bar indicates 0 to 50 metres.

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Figure 7. *Alderson Street showing backyards*, 1913 (New South Wales State Archives and Records, Government Printing Office 1 – 31164).



Figure 8. *Rear of Alderson Street*, 1900. Photograph was taken by John Degotardi Jnr, a photographer from the Department of Public Works and comes from a series of images showing the areas in Sydney affected by the outbreak of Bubonic Plague in 1900 (New South Wales State Archives and Records, NRS-12487-1-[5/3260]-Vol III-9).



### 2.3.3. Police investigations

Following the arrest of John and Sarah Makin in 1892, 11 Alderson Street was subject to forensic investigation as part of the court case. On 11 November 1892 the rear yard was excavated by police for evidence of human remains. During the search, the body of an infant wrapped in black cloth was unearthed, buried at a depth of two feet (600 mm) below the yard surface (Figure 9). The police proceeded to excavate the entirety of the yard, presumably to a similar depth, however no further evidence of human remains was found (Cossins 2013, 150; Australian Town and Country Journal 1892, 13).

Although some newspapers initially reported there were two bodies recovered by the police at 11 Alderson Street, only one was found and was referred to as 'E' during the coronial inquest (Australian Town and Country Journal 1892, 13; Evening News 1892c, 6). The cause of death could not be determined; however the doctor did conclude that the infant, aged between two to six weeks old, had been buried for approximately six to twelve months, corresponding with the period during which the Makins were residing at the property (Australian Town and Country Journal 1892, 13).

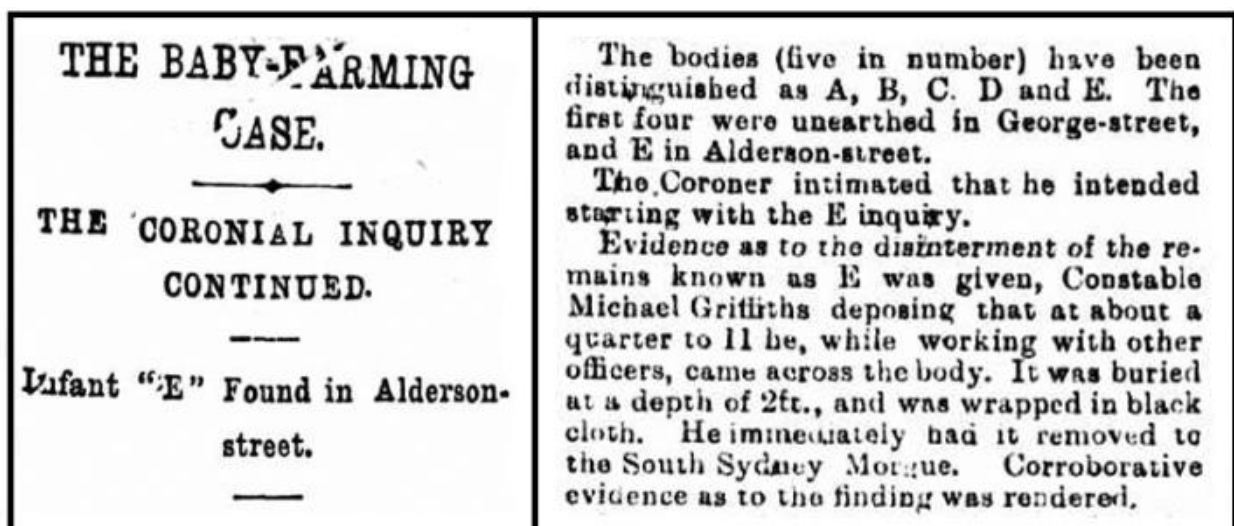


Figure 9. Details of the police investigations at 11 Alderson Street on 11 November 1892 (The Australian Star 1892, 5).

## **3. EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1. Introduction**

The approach to excavation work was guided by the previous test excavation program undertaken in 2021, in addition to the findings of the Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report (Extent Heritage 2022) and the previous Historical Archaeological Research Design (Extent Heritage 2021). The excavation methodology is outlined below.

### **3.2. Excavation strategy**

The historical archaeological excavation program undertaken between 18 April and 21 April 2023 consisted of one trench in the northern portion of the study area, targeting the site of 11 Alderson Street (Figure 10). The area was partially excavated in 2021 as Test Trench 2 (TT2) as part of the test excavation program, with the investigations exposing structural remains associated with the pre-1883 terraces, as seen in Figure 11 (Extent Heritage 2022). The excavated area measured 21 m by 6.5 m and was orientated east to west, with the trench dimensions inclusive of a 1 m buffer around the lot boundary in order to capture the entire 11 Alderson Street allotment. Due to a number of constraints, namely the large tree in the north-western corner and the sewer main running alongside the eastern boundary, there were minor adjustments made to the size and shape of the trench.

#### **3.2.1. Results of previous archaeological investigations**

The results of the 2021 test excavations in TT2 provided insight into the depth, extent, and form of the archaeological remains, as well as the stratigraphy of the area (Figure 11). The results identified the extant remains of the pre-1883 terraces, comprising wooden and brick footings. They were uncovered below a thick layer of twentieth century demolition fill at a depth of approximately 1,000 mm and were overlying a levelling fill sitting on the natural peat. Additionally, a small artefact assemblage associated with the pre-1883 terrace phasing was expected as the majority of the artefacts recovered during the testing program related to the later twentieth century public housing phase of development.

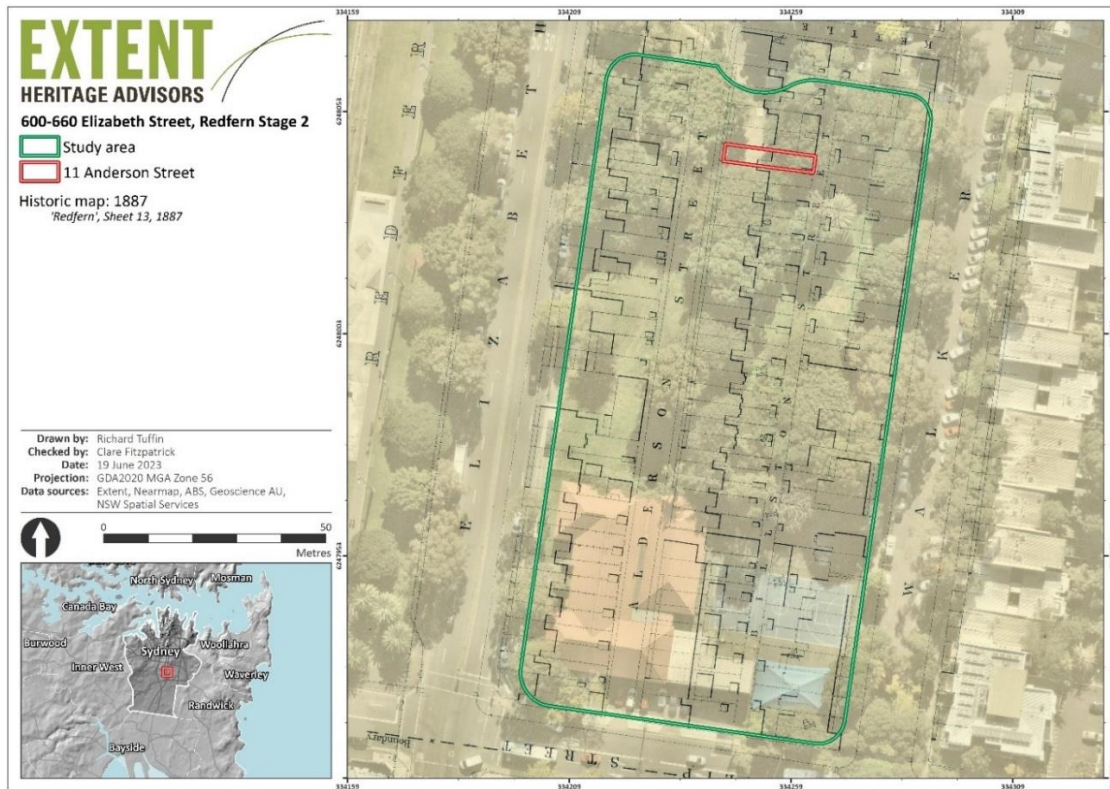


Figure 10. Aerial photograph of the study area overlaid with the 1887 plan showing the pre-1883 terraces. The area of historical archaeological investigation targeting the site of 11 Alderson Street is outlined in red.

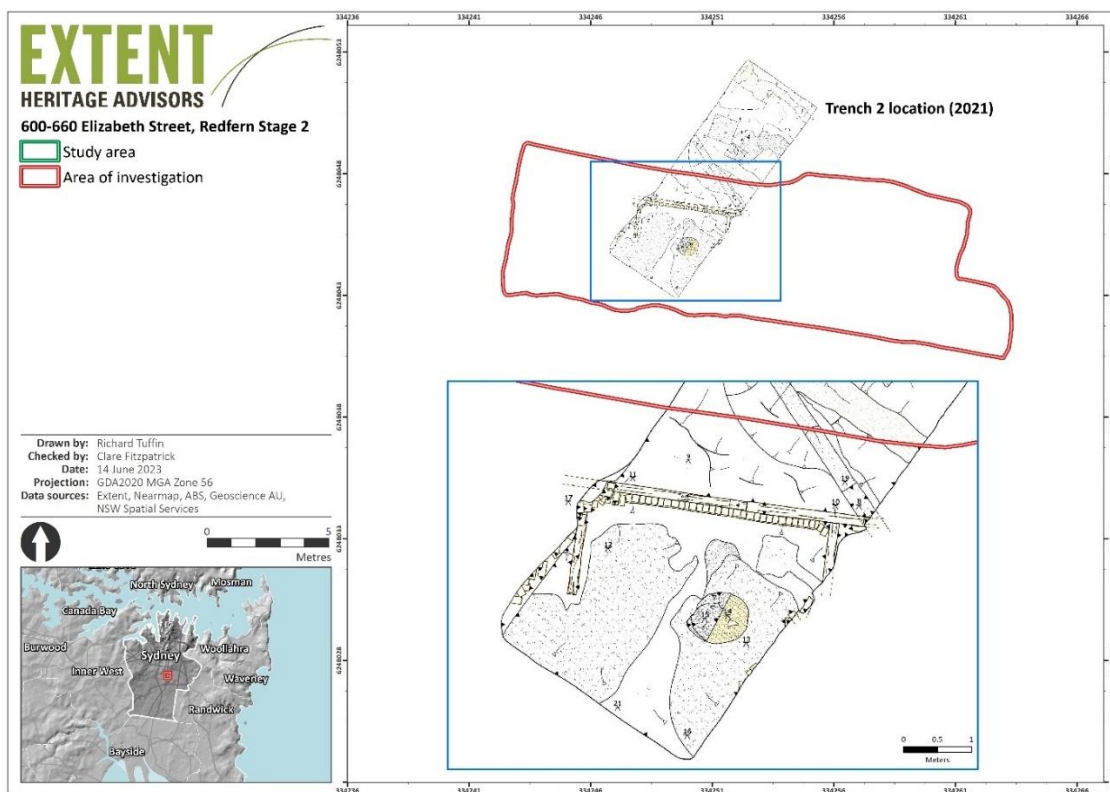


Figure 11. The extent of excavations at the site of 11 Alderson Street, overlaid with the results of the 2021 test excavations.



### 3.3. Excavation process

The removal of twentieth century demolition overburden using a five-tonne mechanical excavator was monitored by an archaeologist until structural remains associated with the pre-1883 terraces were identified. This included the removal of overlying topsoil dressing, demolition rubble created in 2013, and earlier fills associated with the preparation of the site between 1949 and 1954. Once the level associated with the pre-1883 terraces was reached, the area was cleared by hand excavation. Due to the size of the trench, the area was opened incrementally in 5 m sections from west to east.

The pre-1883 terrace footings and associated features were all photographed and recorded in accordance with standards that would normally be required under a section 140 Excavation Permit. Archaeological recording included context sheets, photographs with scale bar and north arrow, field notes, and photogrammetry of exposed features. Once excavation was complete, including full recording, the area was backfilled using the spoil from the material removed during trenching.

#### 3.3.1. Site contamination

The results of the geotechnical investigations conducted in 2019 (Extent Heritage 2020) revealed the presence of potential acid sulphate soils (PASS) occurring across the study area as peat. These investigations were supplemented in 2023 by EI Australia who conducted further environmental testing in the study area. Specialist advice from a qualified environmental consultant was obtained prior to excavation to discuss the management of PASS, including the disturbance and stockpiling of excavated soils. The following protocol was implemented during excavation:

- When PASS was encountered (peat) the excavation team were equipped with appropriate PPE including impervious Tyvek overalls, nitrile gloves, P2 masks, and protective eyewear. The Tyvek overalls, nitrile gloves, and P2 masks were changed regularly (minimum twice daily) and disposed of in a sealed garbage bag. Peat was encountered on the second day of excavation and consequently all members of the excavation team wore the appropriate PPE listed above for the remainder of the excavation program.
- The excavated PASS was stockpiled separately on plastic, with all PASS stockpiles covered with plastic to prevent further contamination, before being reburied at the end of the excavation program at the level from which it was recovered.
- Weather and radar information was actively monitored for storm and rain events. Excavation in PASS was halted during rain.
- Artefacts recovered from PASS deposits were handled using appropriate PPE and sealed in plastic airtight bags clearly labelled with 'Recovered from Potential Acid Sulphate Soil Deposit'.

### **3.3.2. Site recording**

Once exposed, archaeological remains were recorded in accordance with archaeological best practice as follows:

- All archaeological features and deposits were allocated a unique context number and recorded in detail on pro-forma context sheets. Additional site documentation included a context register and photograph register.
- Photographic recording of all archaeological features and phases of onsite works was undertaken, using a scale bar and north arrow.
- Archaeological survey using RTK was undertaken, with relative levels and GPS locations recorded.
- Digital recording was undertaken using photogrammetry and the RTK survey to generate georeferenced orthoimages and plans.

### **3.3.3. Artefact management**

- A small artefact assemblage was uncovered during excavation. Retrieved artefacts were provenanced according to their contexts and bagged in suitable polyethylene bags. Leather artefacts were transferred to cold storage.
- The collected artefacts were cleaned, catalogued, and photographed, and retained for analysis by an artefact specialist.
- At the conclusion of the project, the artefacts recovered from all phases of site work will be handed over to the land owner (LAHC) for retention and/or lodgement in an appropriate storage facility.

## **3.4. Post-excavation analysis and reporting**

This excavation report provides the results of the second phase of historical archaeological investigation of 11 Alderson Street and incorporates the relevant results from the 2021 test excavation program that triggered this stage of archaeological investigation. The report includes the written results of the excavation illustrated with photographs and photogrammetry of all significant remains exposed, an assessment of their extent, condition and archaeological significance, and recommendations for their management prior to or in conjunction with the construction phase of the site's redevelopment.

## 4. EXCAVATION RESULTS

### 4.1. Introduction

This Part includes a detailed description of the archaeological contexts (structural remains, features, and deposits) identified during the historical archaeological excavation program, and their spatial and chronological relationship. Each archaeological context described in the text below is accompanied by a unique context number allocated during excavation and provided in square brackets '[0.000]'. The context register and photograph register are provided in Appendix B, and the archaeological site plan and orthoimage are provided in Appendix C.

Excavation of the 11 Alderson Street allotment also involved the re-excavation of the southern portion of trench TT2 created during the 2021 test excavation program (Figure 11). This re-excavated area comprised the middle room of the pre-1883 terrace structure. New context numbers were assigned to the previously identified features in this area.

### 4.2. 11 Alderson Street

The excavated area measured 21 m by 6.5 m and was orientated east to west, with a maximum excavated depth of 1,200 mm (Figure 12 to Figure 14). The trench dimensions were inclusive of a 1 m buffer around the lot boundary in order to capture the entire 11 Alderson Street allotment. The proposed area of excavation was adjusted to accommodate a large tree in the north-eastern corner of the trench and the sewer main running along the eastern boundary.

The stratigraphy of the upper deposits across the area consisted of sandy loam topsoil [1.001] above a demolition rubble fill [1.002] and in the western half of the trench varied in thickness from 350 mm in the north and 950 mm in the south. In the eastern half of the trench, the thickness of these upper deposits ranged 400 mm to 700 mm. This sequence of deposits was formed in 2013 following the demolition of the twentieth century public housing structures. The upper deposits overlay a sequence of sand fills [1.003 and 1.004] created during site clearance for the construction of the public housing in 1954, with a maximum surviving thickness of 450 mm in the northern and eastern areas of the trench. Below this, a sand levelling fill [1.008], associated with the construction of the pre-1883 terraces, was observed and had a maximum thickness of 200 mm. The levelling fill [1.008] overlay a light grey sand [1.025] associated with the 1864 Albert Ground phase and lastly the undulating basal peat deposit [1.009], present at a depth of 1,000 mm.



Figure 12. Orthoimage of the area of investigation, overlaid with plan of excavated archaeological features.

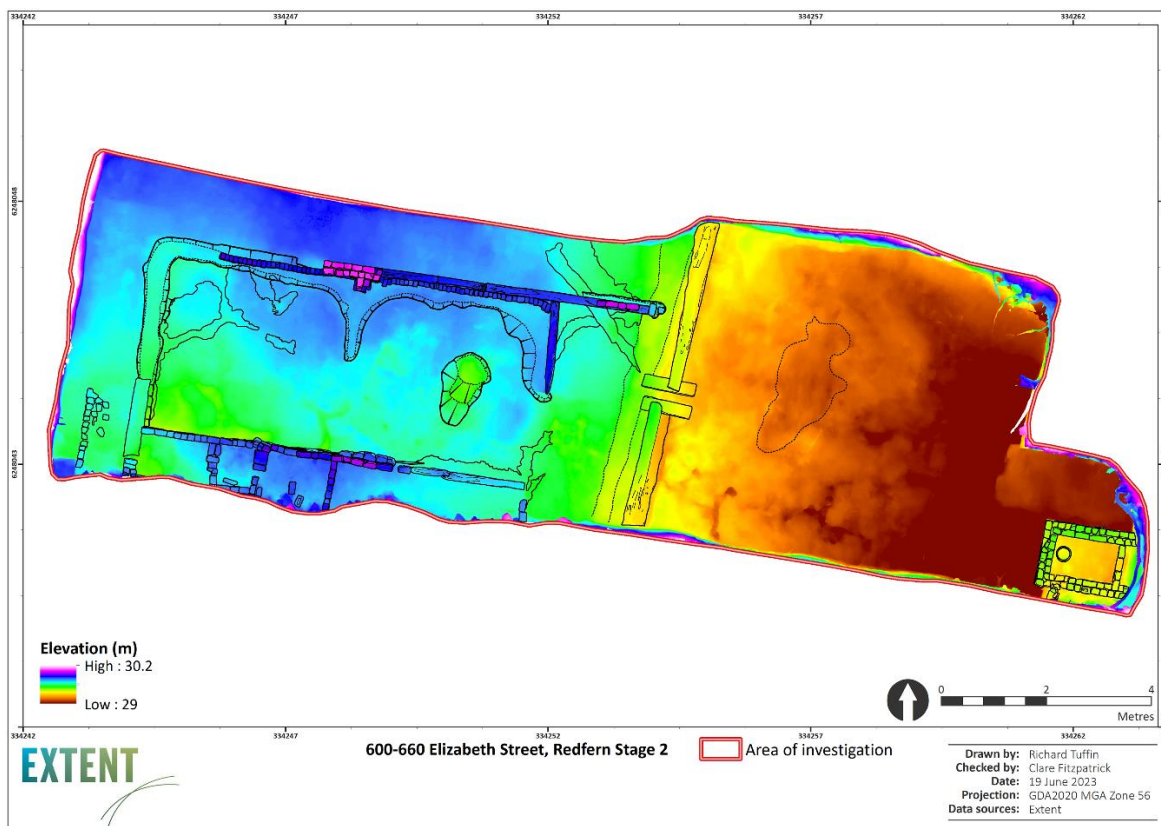


Figure 13. Digital elevation model showing the depth of excavation across the area of investigation.

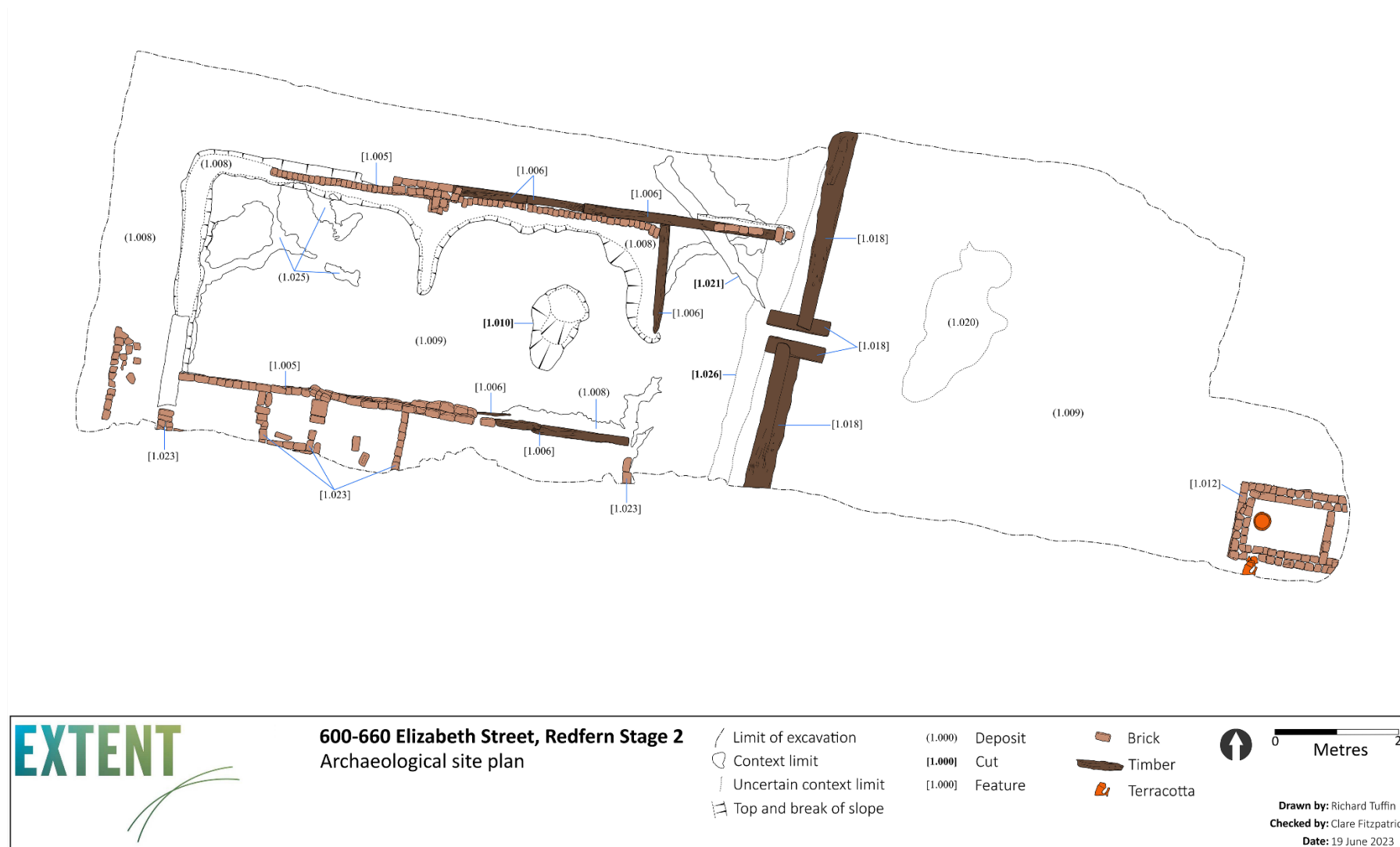


Figure 14. Archaeological site plan showing the exposed archaeological features in the area of investigation.



## 4.2.1. Pre-1883 terrace structure

Cut into the sand levelling fill [1.008] and above the peat [1.009] were the footings of the 11 Alderson Street residence, comprising brick footings [1.005] and timber footings [1.006] (Figure 15). The footings were identified at a depth of 800 mm and were located in the western half of the trench, aligning with the survey of the properties undertaken in 1887. Overall, the terrace structure measured 9,640 mm by 3,750 mm, and consisted of three internal rooms.

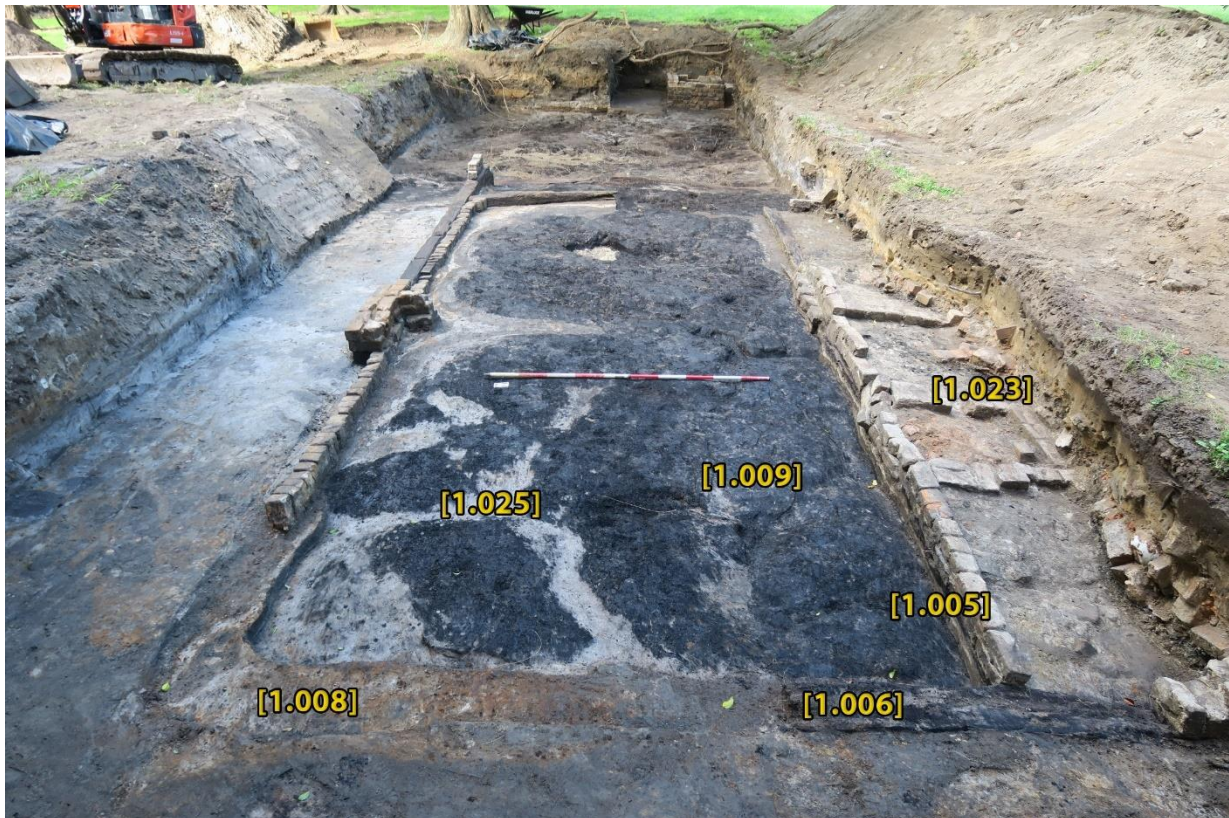


Figure 15. Overview of the area of investigation, 11 Alderson Street, looking east. Showing terrace footings [1.005 and 1.006] cut into the levelling fill [1.008] overlying the grey sand pockets [1.025] and basal peat [1.009]. Brick foundations [1.023] of the adjoining terrace (13 Alderson Street) can be seen to the south.

### 4.2.1.1. Western footings

Along the western footing at the front of the terrace, a 1,740 mm length of timber beam [1.006] measuring 280 mm in width was exposed, extending further south into the trench wall (Figure 16). The northern 800 mm portion of this timber beam formed part of 11 Alderson Street, with the southern portion belonging to 13 Alderson Street. A shallow cut [1.024] into the levelling fill [1.008] for the missing northern portion of the footing was observed continuing along the same alignment and measuring 420 mm in width.



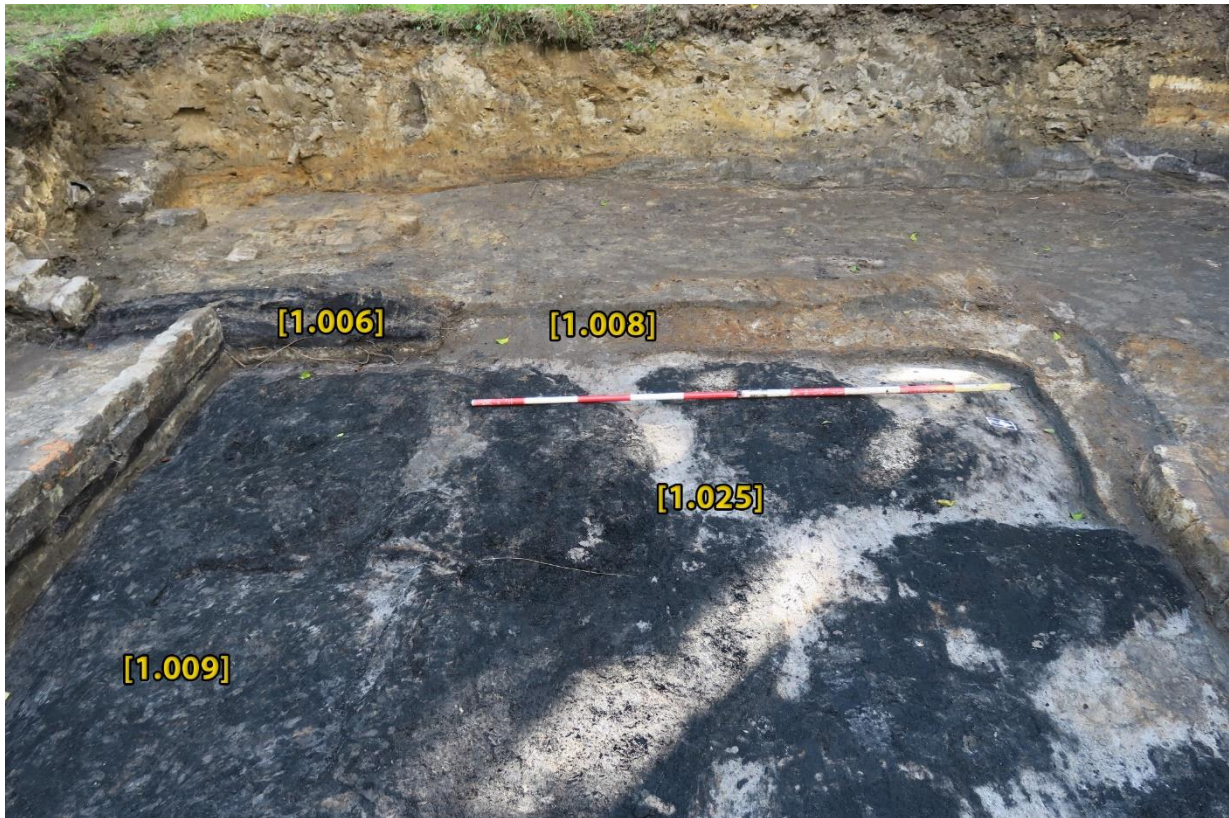


Figure 16. Western footings at the front of 11 Alderson Street, survived only by a portion of timber beam [1.006], looking west. A shallow cut [1.024] was observed in the levelling fill [1.008] for the missing northern portion of the footings.

#### 4.2.1.2. Northern footings

The northern footings consisted of lengths of re-used timber beams [1.006] abutted in part by a course of brickbats [1.005], with the total dimensions measuring 8,400 mm in length (Figure 17). The surviving portions of timber footings comprised two lengths of timber beams, measuring 3,060 mm and 3,100 mm, with both beams showing evidence of re-use in the form of bolt holes, notches, and joints (Figure 18). The northern footings had been impacted in the past resulting in the western portion missing a 2,700 mm length of timber beam and an 800 mm length of bricks. Similar to the western footings, a shallow cut [1.024] for the footing was observed, measuring 300 mm wide. The internally abutting course of brickbats were present in the front and middle rooms of the terrace. The combined width of the timber beams and abutting bricks were wide enough (300 mm) to support a header course of bricks. Structural remains of the wall foundations survived along the northern footings at the internal wall return between the front and middle rooms, comprising three courses of whole and half-bricks, reaching a height of 300 mm (Figure 19). Additional wall foundation remains comprising two courses of bricks were identified in the back room of the terrace at the eastern extent of the northern footings (Figure 20). No evidence of 9 Alderson Street, the adjoining terrace to the north, was uncovered during excavations.



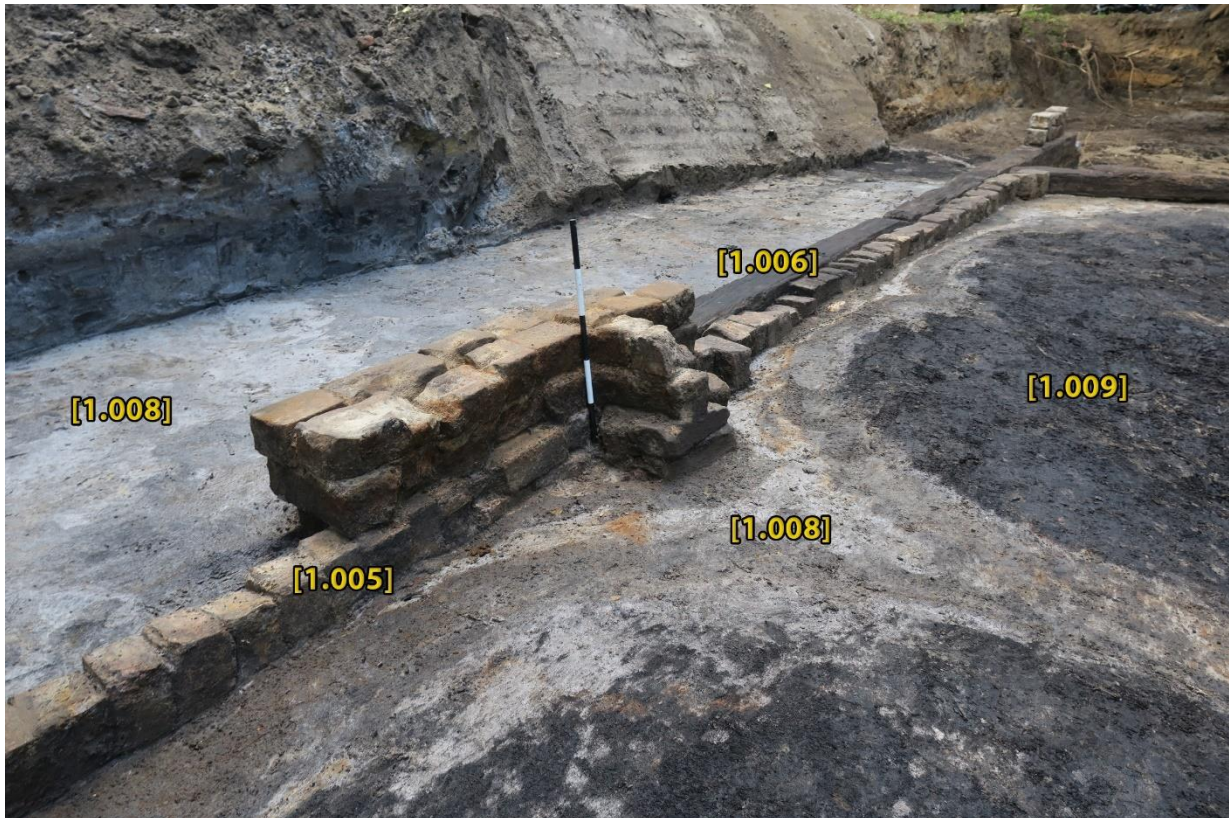


Figure 17. The surviving portion of the northern footings [1.005 and 1.006], cut into the levelling fill [1.008], looking northeast.



Figure 18. Detail of the timber beams [1.006] showing evidence of reuse in the form of bolt holes, notches, and joins, and the abutting brickbats [1.005], looking north.





Figure 19. Structural remains of wall foundations and internal wall return along the northern footings between the front and middle rooms, looking north.

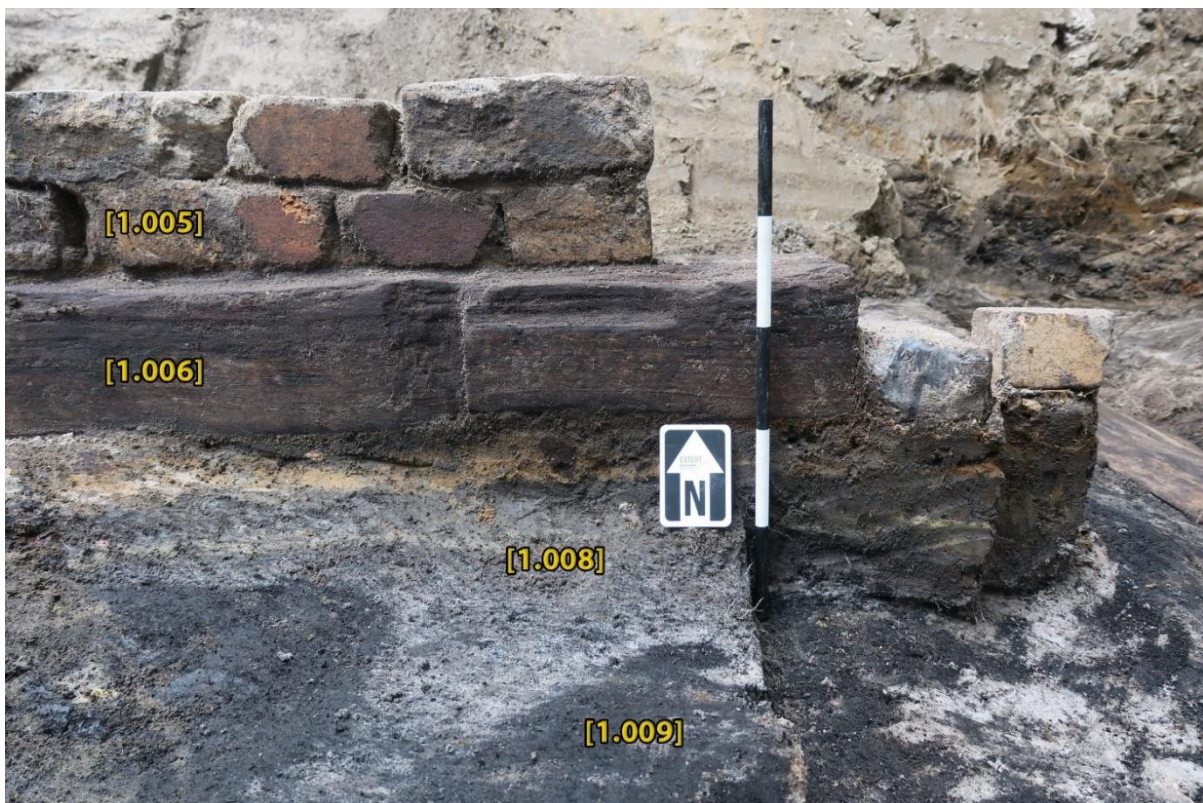


Figure 20. Structural remains of wall foundations at the western end of the northern footings, looking north.



#### 4.2.1.3. Southern footings

Unlike the northern footings, the southern footings consisted solely of lengths of adjoining re-used timber beams [1.006] with no abutting course of brickbats. The southern footings were exposed directly under the demolition rubble fill [1.002] at a depth of 650 mm. Wall foundations consisting of two courses of whole and half bricks survived along the top of the timber footings in the front room and partially into the middle room. The southern footings were also cut into a levelling fill [1.008] that had a maximum thickness of 150 mm. As seen in Figure 21, the levelling fill consisted of bands of irregular orange and white sands and greyish brown clay deposited above pockets of light grey sand [1.025] and undulating basal peat [1.009].



Figure 21. Southern footings, showing the levelling fill [1.008] in section, looking south. The timber and brick footings [1.005 and 1.006] can be seen above the levelling fill [1.008] that is overlying the basal peat.

#### 4.2.1.4. Eastern footings

No evidence regarding the location and length of the rear terrace wall was encountered during excavation.

#### 4.2.1.5. Internal walls

The partial structural remains of two internal walls were also uncovered below the demolition rubble fill [1.002]. The westernmost internal wall that divided the front and middle rooms of the terrace survived only as a brick wall return measuring 250 mm in length, with no evidence of timber beams. A shallow cut [1.024] was observed in the levelling fill [1.008] above the peat [1.009] to the south of the wall return, measuring 300 mm wide. This cut in the levelling fill extended across the



width of the terrace (3,300 mm). The southern half of the levelling fill was excavated to understand the depth and its relationship with the underlying peat. The easternmost wall dividing the middle and rear rooms extended only 1,750 mm south from the northern footing (Figure 22). The remains of the easternmost wall dividing the middle and rear rooms consisted of a length of reused timber beam [1.006], splintered at the southern end, and roughly aligned with the wall of the adjoining property to the south.

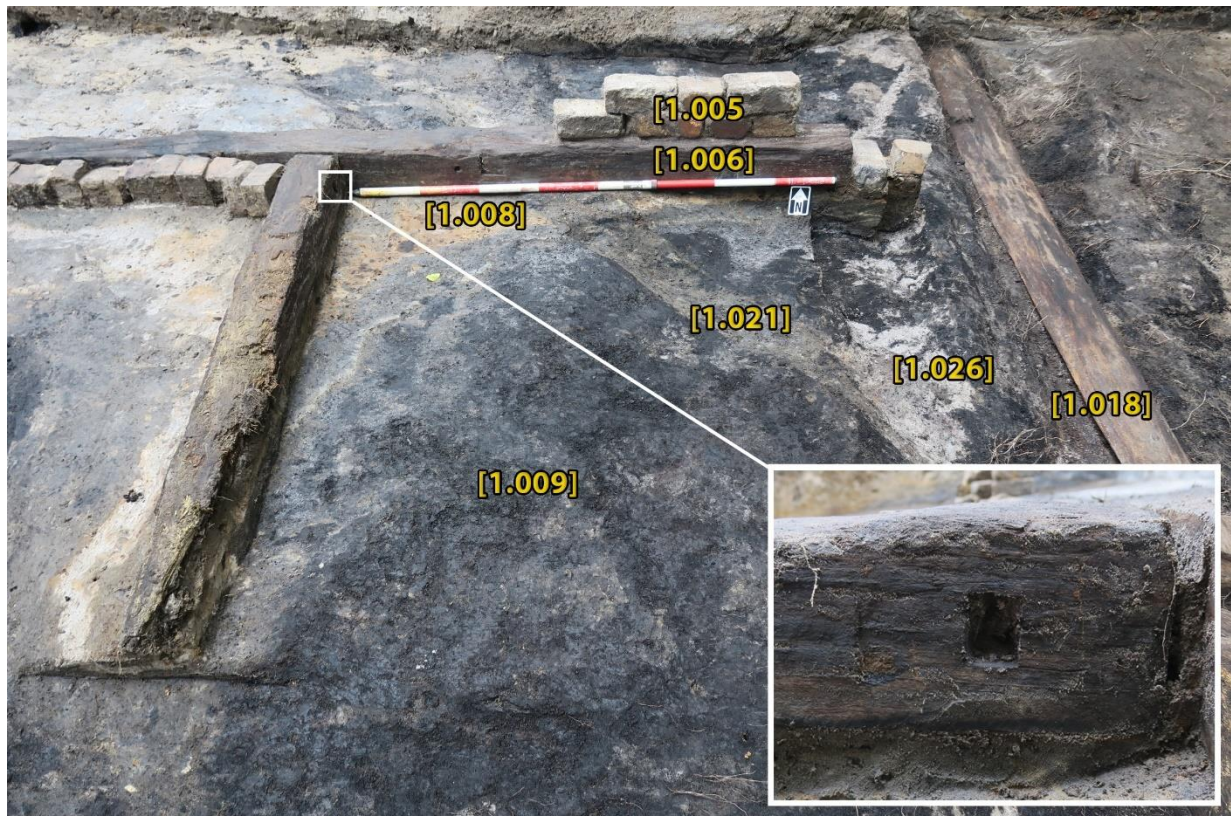


Figure 22. The structural remains of the easternmost internal wall abutting the northern footing, looking north. The timber beam [1.006] also showed evidence of reuse. Also note the drainage channel [1.021] running northwest, underlying the northern footing [1.005 and 1.006] and the drainage channel [1.026] running north, also underlying the northern footing.

#### 4.2.1.6. Internal rooms

No occupation or underfloor deposits were observed during the excavation of the internal rooms of 11 Alderson Street. The interior space of the front room measured 3,400 mm by 3,300 mm (Figure 23). The levelling fill [1.008] and the light grey sand [1.025] in the southern half of the front room were excavated down to the undulating basal peat [1.009] to confirm the absence of any further deposits overlying the basal peat [1.009]. Three buttons were recovered from the excavation of the internal levelling fill abutting the southern footings. A leather shoe was also found in the internal levelling fill abutting the northern footings. The artefact assemblage is discussed further in Part 4.3.

The timber footings of a fireplace [1.007] were uncovered at a depth of 800 mm in the front room of 11 Alderson Street (Figure 24). The fireplace footings abutted the southern terrace footings and were cut into the levelling fill [1.008]. They consisted solely of two parallel timber slabs 670 mm



apart and measured between 1270 mm and 1800 mm in length, and 250 mm in width. Two bricks were located on top of the westernmost timber slab. No further evidence associated with the fireplace such as a hearth were present. The timber fireplace footings were removed during excavation to further reduce the internal level of the terrace and expose the underlying basal peat [1.009]. The intact brick foundations of a fireplace were also exposed in the adjoining terrace 13 Alderson Street, mirroring the location of the timber slab fireplace footings in 11 Alderson Street. Here, the fireplace foundations measured 1,200 mm by 1,000 mm.

The middle room was previously excavated during the 2021 test excavation, and also measured 3,400 mm by 3,300 mm (Figure 25). The reinvestigation of this internal room revealed no additional information. The sub-circular pit [1.010] cut into the basal peat [1.009] was re-exposed to a depth of 180 mm but no further investigations were undertaken. Previous results from the artefact analysis showed the fill [1.011] comprised twentieth century artefacts likely associated with the demolition of the public housing in 2013.

No features associated with the pre-1883 terraces were exposed in the rear room of the terrace (Figure 25). The rear room was smaller than the two front rooms, extending back only 2,000 mm.



Figure 23. 11 Overview of the front room of the terrace showing the brick [1.005] and timber [1.006] footings, looking south. Light grey sand pockets [1.025] can be seen above the black peat [1.009].





Figure 24. Detail of the remains of the fireplace [1.007] in 11 Alderson Street (*left*), and the more substantial remains of the adjacent fireplace [1.023] in the neighbouring 13 Alderson Street (*right*), looking south.



Figure 25. Overview of the middle and rear rooms of the terrace, looking south. The middle room was partially excavated during 2021 test excavations, including the northern footing and the sub-circular feature [1.010]. The levelling fill [1.008] can be observed around the northern footing [1.005 and 1.006].

#### 4.2.1.7. 13 Alderson Street

Structural remains [1.023] of 13 Alderson Street, the adjoining terrace to the south, were uncovered below the demolition rubble fill [1.002] at a depth of 550 mm. These included the previously mentioned adjoining western footings at the front of the building, as well as two walls and the fireplace foundations abutting the southern footing. The westernmost wall was the internal wall between the first and middle rooms, while the easternmost wall formed part of the rear of the structure. This aligns with the 1887 survey plans that illustrate that the shared wall between the



terraces did not continue into the rear room of the structure, instead creating a recess that was mirrored on either side of the boundary. These structural features were exposed and cleaned but no further investigation was undertaken as they were found outside the area of primary investigation.

#### 4.2.2. Rear yard

No yard surfaces were observed during the excavation of the yard area of 11 Alderson Street (Figure 26 and Figure 27). Beneath the sandy loam topsoil dressing [1.001] and demolition rubble fill [1.002], a sand fill sequence [1.003 and 1.004] approximately 450 mm thick was observed. The sand fills were overlying the basal peat deposit [1.009], with the entire area excavated to a maximum depth of 1,200 mm (Figure 29). Unlike the terrace structure, the yard appears to have been significantly disturbed by later demolition events. Excavation revealed disturbance [1.020] associated with the public housing phase of development not only in the upper fills, but in patches of the peat [1.009] below, consisting of yellow fine-grained sand, bricks, building tiles, and window glass. Additionally, the basal peat [1.009] had been heavily impacted by environmental processes. The compaction and expansion of the peat from moisture fluctuations, as well as the bioturbation from tree root activity created cavities within the deposit (Figure 28).



Figure 26. Rear yard of 11 Alderson Street showing the toilet outbuilding [1.012 and 1.014], basal peat [1.009], and the timber beams [1.018], looking west.





Figure 27. Rear yard of 11 Alderson Street showing the toilet outbuilding [1.012 and 1.014], basal peat [1.009], and public housing demolition disturbance [1.020], looking east.



Figure 28. Detail of peat [1.009] in rear yard of 11 Alderson Street showing environmental disturbances to basal peat layer [1.009] caused by moisture processes in the soil and bioturbation from root activity.



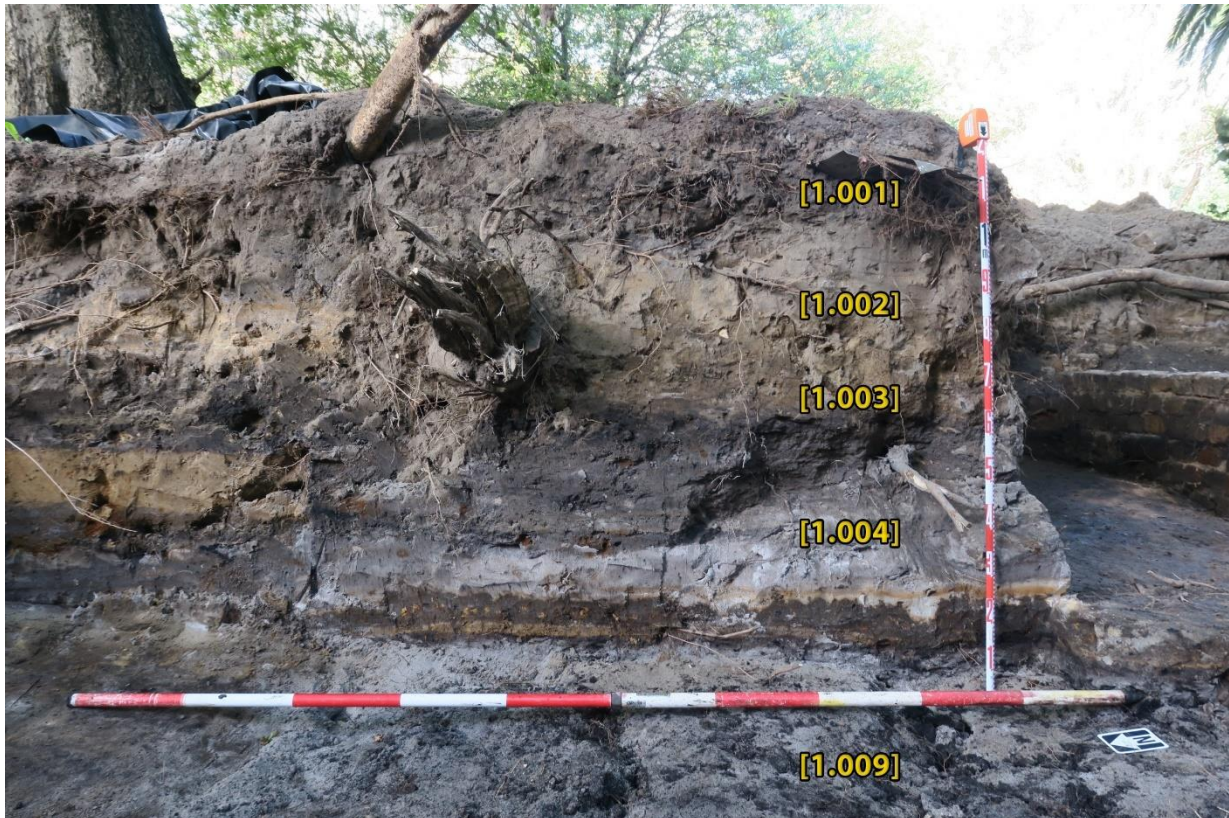


Figure 29. West section of trench in the rear yard, looking west. Showing topsoil [1.001] overlying demolition fill [1.002] and sand sequence [1.003 and 1.004], above the basal peat [1.009].

#### 4.2.2.1. Toilet [1.012]

An outbuilding [1.012] was partially excavated in the rear yard of 11 Alderson Street, measuring 1,260 mm in width and exposed to a length of 1,770 mm (Figure 30 and Figure 31). Located in the southeast corner of the trench, the structure, identified as a toilet, was exposed below the demolition deposit [1.002] at a depth of 650 mm below current ground level. The structure had been less impacted by later demolition events, with six courses of bricks surviving to a height of 550 mm, as well as the sewer line and closet bend intact [1.014]. Similar to the terrace structure, a mixture of whole and half dry-pressed bricks were used for the construction of the toilet foundations. Only one complete room and a portion of a section room were excavated, due to the reconfiguration of the eastern trench boundary to account for the existing sewer main. The interiors of both rooms were lined, measuring 770 mm by 1,200 mm. A construction cut [1.016] and fill [1.015] for the toilet foundations was identified in the levelling fill [1.008]. The external face of the surviving foundations were not rendered or sealed indicating that they were below ground level at the time of construction.





Figure 30. Toilet outbuilding [1.012] in the rear yard with sewer line and closet bend intact [1.014], looking east. A construction cut [1.016] and fill [1.015] for the foundations was identified on the northern side, cut into the levelling fill [1.008]. The internal rooms of the toilet were both lined.

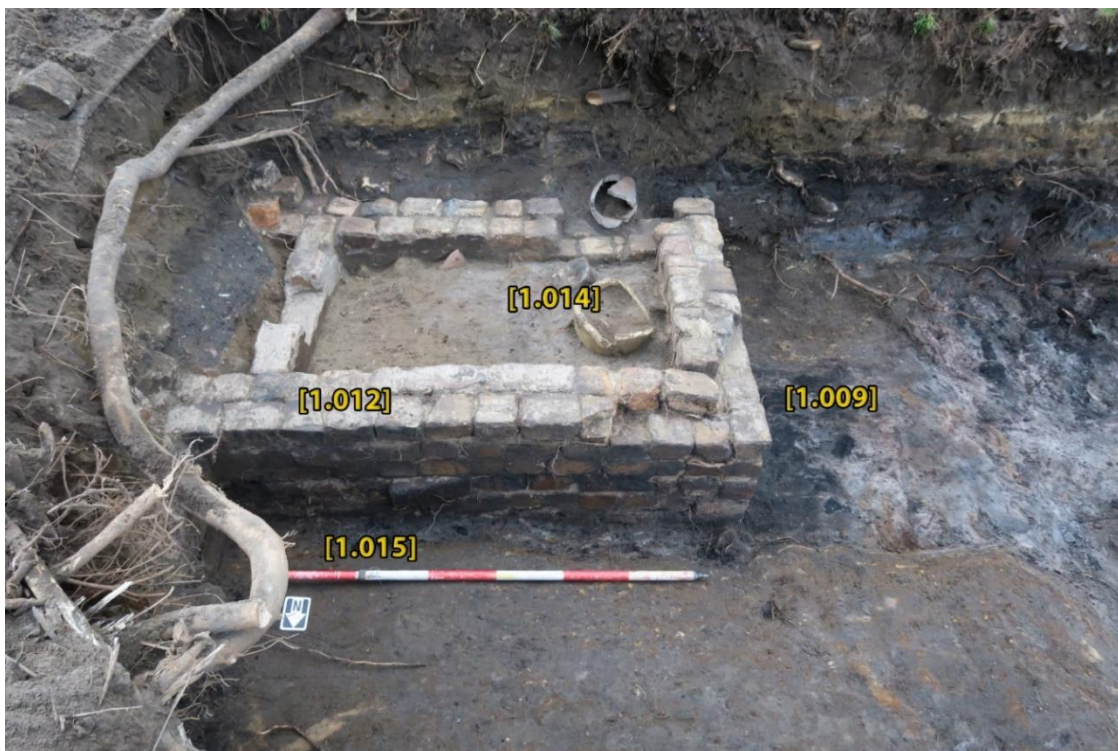


Figure 31. Toilet outbuilding [1.012] in the rear yard with sewer line and closet bend intact [1.014], looking south. A construction cut [1.016] and fill [1.015] for the foundations was identified on the northern side, cut into the levelling fill [1.008]. The internal rooms of the toilet were both lined.



#### 4.2.2.2. Pre-1883 timber slabs [1.018] and construction drainage channel [1.026] east of terrace

In the yard at the rear of the terrace structure, five timber slabs [1.018] were uncovered at a depth of 1,200 mm (Figure 32 to Figure 34). Three of the timber slabs were orientated north to south and had exposed lengths between 2,160 mm and 3,740 mm, continuing into both the south and north trench walls. Two additional slabs orientated east to west were located in the middle, measuring 960 mm in length. The timber slabs were all slightly curved in section and varied in widths from 250 mm to 310 mm. A shallow cut [1.017] for the timber slabs was observed in the basal peat [1.009]. The slabs were not load-bearing and did not form part of the finished structure. They appear to have functioned as barrow-runs or duckboards during construction of the terraces. This may have been a response to weather conditions encountered during construction in which the peat substrate was waterlogged.

A parallel linear feature [1.026] underlying the northern terrace footings was observed west of the timber slabs and interpreted as a construction drainage channel, with a maximum width of 380 mm.



Figure 32. Rear of the terrace and yard, looking southeast, showing timber beams [1.018] and associated parallel drainage cut [1.026] cut into the peat [1.009]. Additional drainage cut associated with Albert Ground phasing [1.021] can be seen running southeast below the timber and brick footings.





Figure 33. Detail of timber beams [1.018] at the rear of the terrace.



Figure 34. Timber beams [1.018] cut into the peat [1.009] at the rear of the terrace, looking southwest. The timber beams continue into both south and north trench walls.

#### **4.2.2.3. Pre-1864 Albert Ground drainage channel [1.021]**

Another linear drainage feature [1.021], previously uncovered during 2021 test excavations, was located in the north of the trench at a depth of 1,200 mm, measuring 220 mm wide (Figure 32). The drainage channel was orientated northwest to southeast and was underlying both the terrace footings [1.005] and the construction drainage channel [1.026].



### 4.3. Artefact analysis

A small assemblage of artefacts was unearthed during the excavation of 11 Alderson Street, comprising three buttons and one leather shoe (Figure 35.). Two of the buttons were made of nacre (mother of pearl) and one was made from glass, with all three recovered during the excavation of the internal levelling fill [1.008] abutting the southern footings. The buttons all had two holes within recessed wells, measuring 10 mm, 13 mm, and 15 mm in diameter and were likely used for undergarments or shirts. The leather shoe, with wooden heel and outer sole and midsole intact, was found in the internal levelling fill [1.008] abutting the northern footings. Table 2 presents a summary of the artefact assemblage.

During the 2021 test excavation program in TT2, a smaller leather shoe with inner sole and foxing intact was recovered from the equivalent context to the levelling fill [1.008], south of the northern footings in the middle room. Other artefacts recovered during the 2021 investigations were limited to the mid-twentieth century assemblage excavated from the fill [1.001] of the sub-circular pit [1.010], comprising brick fragments, nails, floor tile, and window glass.



Figure 35. Three buttons and one leather shoe were recovered from the levelling fill [1.008] in the front room of 11 Alderson Street.



Table 2. Artefact assemblage recovered from 2023 excavations at the site of 11 Alderson Street

Catalogue Number	Context	Material	Function	Portion	Qty	%
#ESR23 00001	1.008	Nacre	Clothing: Closure, Button	Whole	1	100
Technique: Cut. Colour: White. Form: 2-hole, recessed well. Shape: Round. Diam: 10 mm. Hole diam: 1 mm						
#ESR23 00002	1.008	Nacre	Clothing: Closure, Button	Whole	1	95
Technique: Cut. Colour: White. Form: 2-hole, recessed well. Shape: Round. Diam: 15 mm.						
#ESR23 00003	1.008	Glass	Clothing: Closure, Button	Whole	1	100
Technique: Pressed. Colour: Cream. Form: 2-hole, recessed well, convex (base). Shape: Round. Diam: 13 mm. Hole diam: 2 mm.						
#ESR23 00004	1.008	Leather, wood	Footwear: Shoe / boot	Heel, sole,	1	20
Colour: Brown. L: 247 mm. W: 75 mm. Heel height: 40 mm.						

## 4.4. Summary

Historical archaeological excavation of the 11 Alderson Street allotment exposed the structural remains of the pre-1883 terrace and detached toilet in the rear yard, with structural remains consisting of brick and timber footings. No associated underfloor deposits and yard surfaces were observed. Excavation also exposed earlier features associated with the construction of the pre-1883 terraces and the 1864 Albert Ground in the form of drainage channels and timber beams that were used in response to environmental conditions. A small assemblage of domestic artefacts was recovered during excavation consisting of three buttons and one leather shoe.

## 5. DISCUSSION

### 5.1. Introduction

The following part considers the results of the excavation and the historical analysis to provide an interpretative discussion of the results.

### 5.2. Discussion

Historical archaeological excavations at the site of 11 Alderson Street revealed the extension of features partially uncovered during the 2021 test excavation program. Excavation exposed the remains of the pre-1883 terrace and detached toilet in the rear yard, as well as earlier features associated with the construction of the terraces and the Albert Ground (Figure 37). Sealed artefact deposits, underfloor deposits, and yard deposits did not survive, most likely disturbed by post-1949 phases of development and demolition.

The terrace at 11 Alderson Street was a single-storey building, consisting of three small internal rooms. The excavated remains of the terrace aligned with the survey of the property undertaken in 1887 (Figure 37). Physical evidence associated with the structure was present in the form of timber and brick footings, levelling fills, and construction cuts. The structural remains uncovered during excavations reveal how 11 Alderson Street and the neighbouring terraces were constructed using re-used building materials in the cheapest possible manner. The absence of solid foundations and the use of second-hand timber beams as bedding for brick walls may have been a response to the damp and sandy substrate on which the buildings were constructed. The timber footings displayed evidence of prior use in the form of bolt holes, notches, and joins, and were likely sourced from a pre-1883 building. No evidence of any modifications or extensions to the terrace structure was found, according with the c.1900 photograph of the Alderson Street terraces and yards.

No yard surfaces were present, with excavations in the rear yard of 11 Alderson Street revealing significant disturbance associated with later demolition events and environmental processes. There was no evidence of human remains present in the yard, nor evidence associated with the 1892 police investigations in the form of shovel marks. Accounts of these police investigations state that the remains of the infant were uncovered at a depth of two feet (600 mm) below ground level. Based on the location of the sewer line and closet bend within the toilet foundations in the rear yard, the floor level of the toilet was at least 30 mm to 50 mm higher than the top surviving course of bricks, lying approximately 600 mm above the maximum excavated depth of the rear yard. Consequently, the yard of 11 Alderson Street was excavated to a depth great enough to expose any potential evidence associated with the Makins' illicit activities or the subsequent police investigations.

No sealed artefact bearing deposits associated with underfloor deposition, yard surfaces, or refuse deposits were identified during excavation. Only four artefacts were recovered, including three buttons and one leather shoe, that can be broadly attributed to the late nineteenth to early

twentieth century. Due to its size, the artefact assemblage recovered cannot provide substantive information regarding the lifeways of the occupants of 11 Alderson Street.

The results of the excavation also provide insight into the site preparation works undertaken after the closure of the Albert Ground in 1879 and prior to the construction of the pre-1883 terraces. The five timber slabs located at the rear of the terrace, together with the adjacent drainage channel, were employed to allow ease of access across the swampy ground during construction. These timber slabs also displayed evidence of reuse.

An additional drainage channel was identified underlying both the pre-1883 terrace footings and construction drainage channel and was likely associated with the construction of the Albert Ground in 1864. This channel would have formed part of a wider array of drainage channels designed to remove any standing water from the area. The channel was formed prior to the deposition of sand fills used to level the ground and transform the swampy ground into a cricket field.

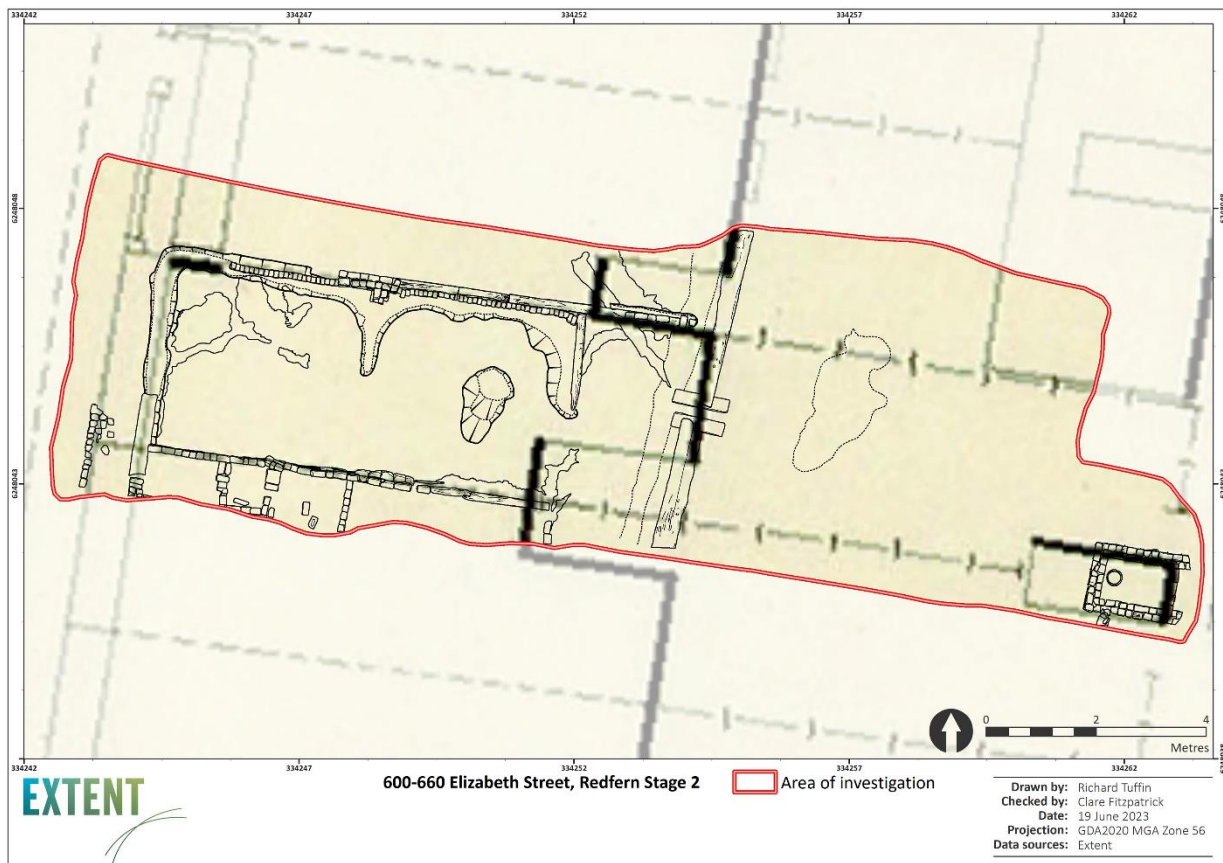


Figure 36. 1887 plan of the study area, overlaid with results of the archaeological excavations.

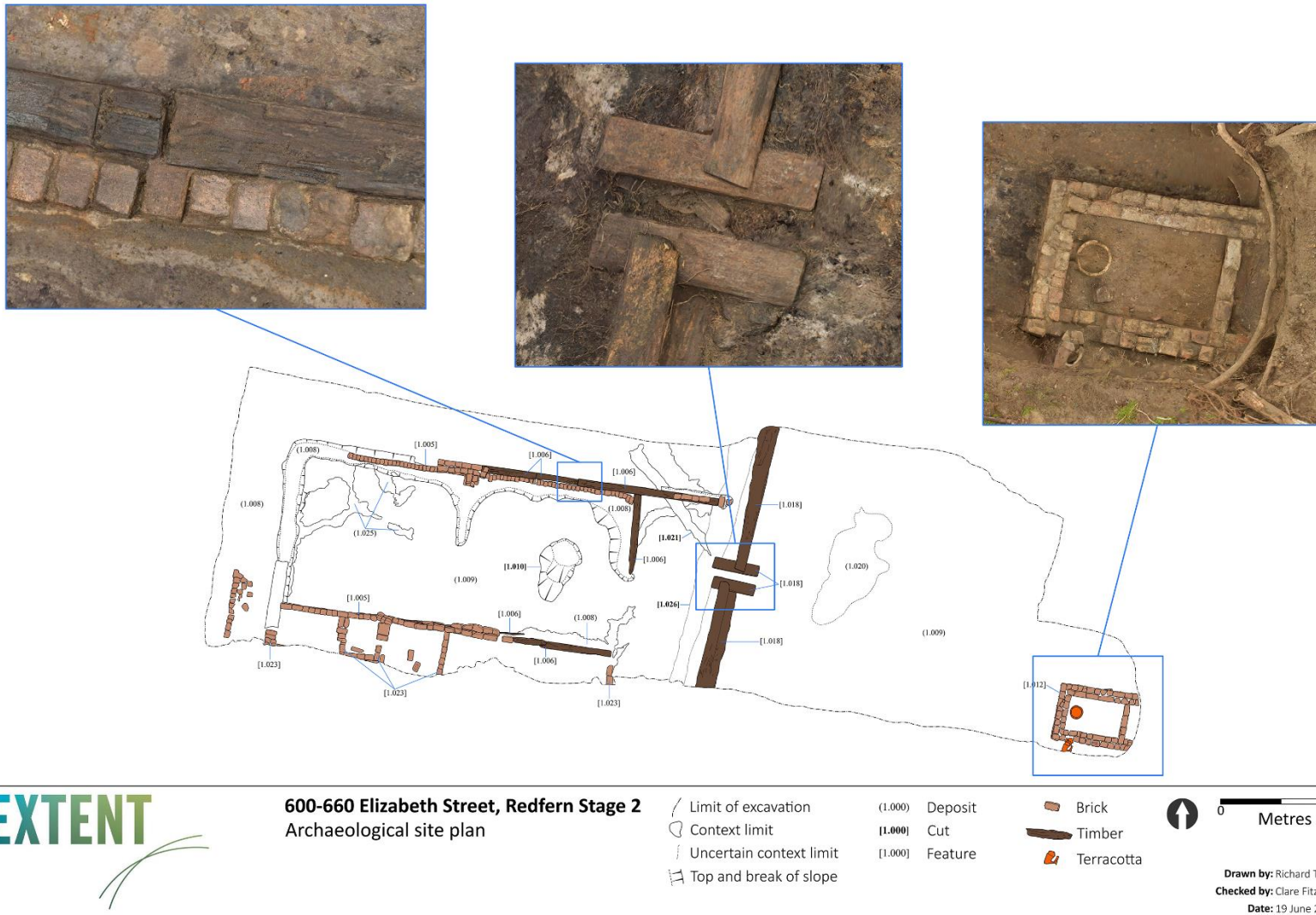


Figure 37. Archaeological site plan with orthophoto insets, displaying the key archaeological features discussed in Part 5.



## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1. Conclusions

Historical archaeological excavations at the site of 11 Alderson Street exposed the remains of the pre-1883 terrace and detached toilet in the rear yard, as well as earlier features associated with the construction of the terraces and the Albert Ground. Structural remains of the pre-1883 terrace that was briefly inhabited by John and Sarah Makin comprised footings constructed from reused timber beams and bricks. The shallow footings, as well as the earlier features relating to the construction of the terraces, illustrate the variety of responses to the sandy and waterlogged conditions of the former swamp known as Boxley's Lagoon.

Sealed artefact deposits, underfloor deposits, and yard deposits did not survive, mostly likely disturbed by post-1949 phases of development and demolition. There was no evidence of human remains uncovered, nor any structural or artefactual evidence that could be clearly tied to the Makin family's brief occupation of 11 Alderson Street. The surviving stratigraphy suggests that any deposits with the potential to be used by the Makins for the disposal of human remains had been entirely removed during the public housing construction program between 1949 and 1954.

### 6.2. Recommendations

Investigations were carried out under the recommendations made by Extent Heritage following the results of the 2021 test excavations. These recommendations included the further investigation of the site of 11 Alderson Street. The purpose of this was to investigate the entire property including the residence and yard for human remains, of which none were found. As such, no notifications under the Health Act and Coroners Act are required.

The survival of deposits containing significant artefact deposits was found to be nil in the case of 11 Alderson Street. Additionally, the physical remains of structural elements were fragmented and sporadic. Future management of the site's archaeological resources would be most efficiently carried out under an unexpected finds procedure.

This report has been prepared according to best practice and may provide supporting documentation for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently in progress. We recommend that this report be made publicly available.

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## APPENDIX A. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The following is a revised version of the historical overview provided in the Historical Archaeological Assessment (Extent Heritage 2018) and the Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report (Extent Heritage 2022).

### Introduction

The Gadigal, also known as the Cadigal, are the traditional owners of the land on which inner city Sydney is located, including the study area. Prior to British colonisation, the land sustained lives and communities for countless generations, from not only the coastline, harbours, and rivers, but also the freshwater wetlands and dunes. For the Gadigal and other Aboriginal groups in the Sydney region, every facet of life changed dramatically following British colonisation. Dispossession of traditional lands, restrictions to resources, the environmental impacts of clearing and settlement, diseases, and violence resulted in a complete disruption for Aboriginal groups.

At the time of colonisation, the study area fell within Boxley's Lagoon, a water body that included the area now occupied by Redfern Park and the 'vacant paddocks opposite Elizabeth Street', providing a reliable supply of fresh water as well as a storehouse of resources (Marriott 1998, 46). Obed West, who documented much of early Sydney, described the extensive and dynamic Aboriginal presence around Boxley's Lagoon in present-day Redfern, including feasting grounds, meeting places, campsites, and the location of battles (Marriott 1988, 46).

### Phases of historical development

Four phases of historical development have been identified across the study area, reflecting the changing pattern of use over time. By the mid nineteenth century, the study area was transformed from a resource rich swamp into a cricket ground, before being subdivided and developed in the late nineteenth century. During the mid-twentieth century, the high-density terrace housing was cleared from the study area, and new public housing was constructed, before that too was eventually demolished in 2013.

### Early land grants and Albert Ground (1822–1879)

By the early nineteenth century, land grants were being made throughout the Sydney region. The study area lies within a 185-acre land grant made to Edward Smith Hall in 1822, with development during this period likely limited to land clearing and property fences or survey marker (Jervis and Kelly 1960, 105). After a failed attempt at farming and a turbulent beginning to his career in publishing, Hall was convicted of libel in 1829, and consequently sold his land grant at Redfern to Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levey (Kenny 1966). Flour mills and wool washing industries were established in the swampy areas of neighbouring Waterloo, Randwick, and Moore ~~Park, Park:~~ however, Boxley's Lagoon appears not to have been used for similar industrial pursuits (Figure 38)

(Marriott 1988, 45). In 1843 the area was described as 'lying waste and unproductive' and 'a pestiferous bog of an actually dangerous nature'. Boxley's Lagoon was eventually 'drawn off by means of a large drain' to reclaim the swampland and draw away surface water (Marriott 1988, 46).

Between 1854 and 1857, the current street grid of the surrounding area was laid out in preparation for subdivision. This subdivision had been realised in part by the early 1860s, with residential development primarily undertaken in most of the allotments, however the study area was located within Albert Ground, a privately-owned cricket ground (Figure 39).

Opening in 1864, Albert Ground contained a large field, grandstand, and pavilion, as well as a drainage system for the playing fields (Figure 40). Sand was imported to level the ground after the drainage system had been put in place and the playing field was turfed (Sydney Mail 1864, 5). The cricket ground was surrounded by a post and wire fence. The pavilion erected in the northeast corner of the ground comprised a wooden structure with a verandah along three sides, and contained a club room, dressing and bathrooms, a parlour, kitchen, and bar. The grounds saw continual improvements in the following years including re-dressing the playing field with loam, and the construction of additional buildings and replacement of fences (Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle 1866, 2).

Albert Ground was host to the Australian Native XI cricket team in 1867 (Figure 41). The team, consisting of thirteen Aboriginal men, were the first Australian cricket team to play internationally, travelling to England in 1868 (National Museum of Australia 2022).

In addition to cricket, the Albert Ground was used for a variety of other activities, including hosting circuses and royal birthdays, carnival sports, horticultural exhibitions, and school picnics (The Sydney Morning Herald 1869, 5). Among the more popular events was the Highland Gathering undertaken on New Year's Day and grand bicycle steeplechase (Figure 42 and Figure 43).



Figure 38. Map dated between 1820 and 1840, showing the study area (outlined in red) located within a swamp (SLNSW Maps/0586).

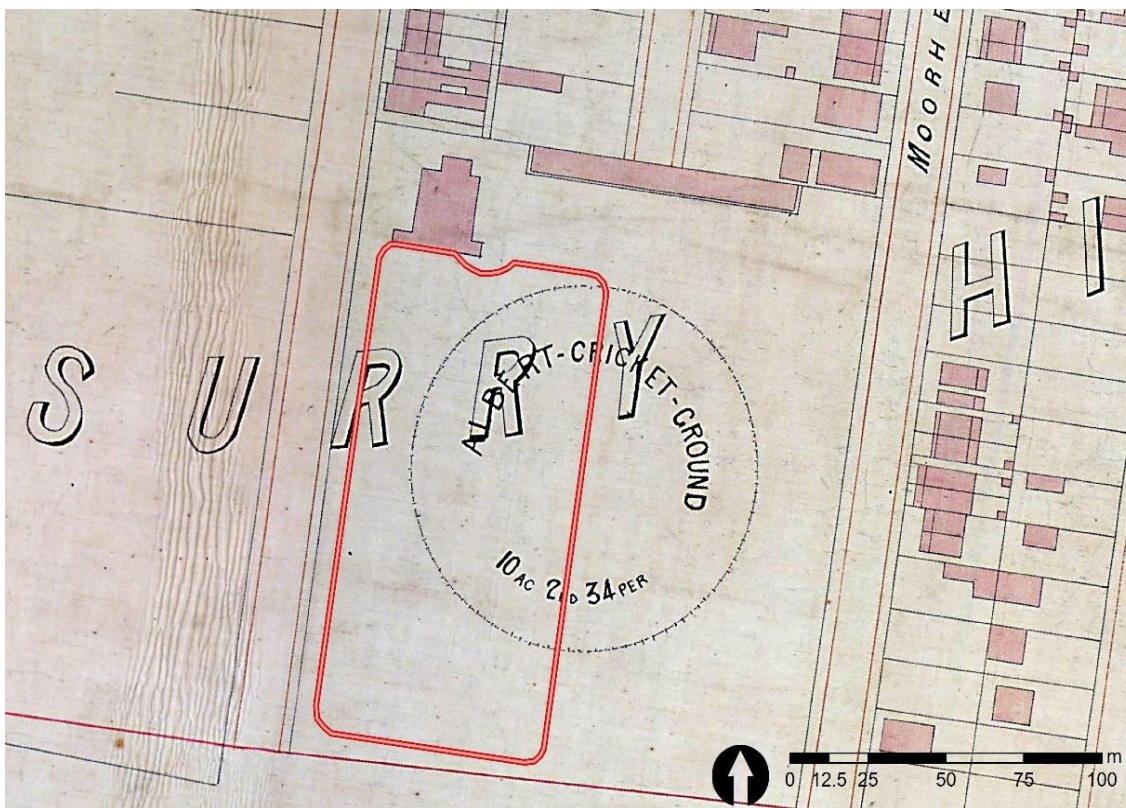


Figure 39. Trigonometric Survey of Sydney 1864 overlaid with the study area location in red. The Albert Ground encompassed a large part of the study area (City of Sydney, Historical Atlas of Sydney, Block 152, Map 50).





Figure 40. Photograph of Albert Ground, 1874 (SLNSW SPF/1570).

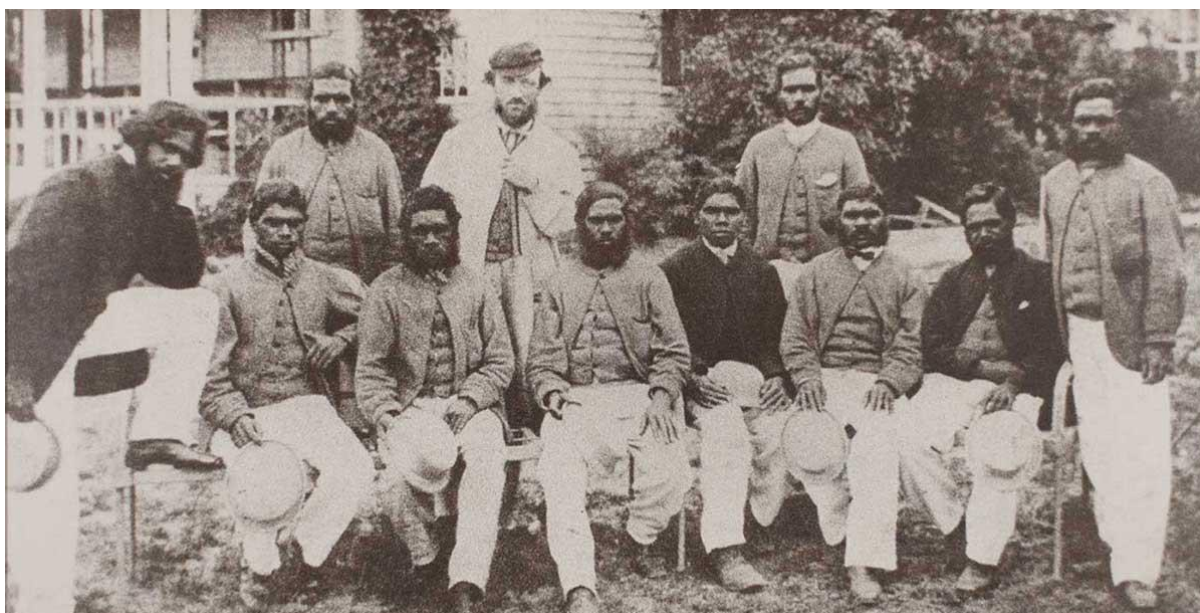


Figure 41. Australian Native XI cricket team, 1866 (National Museum of Australia 2022).



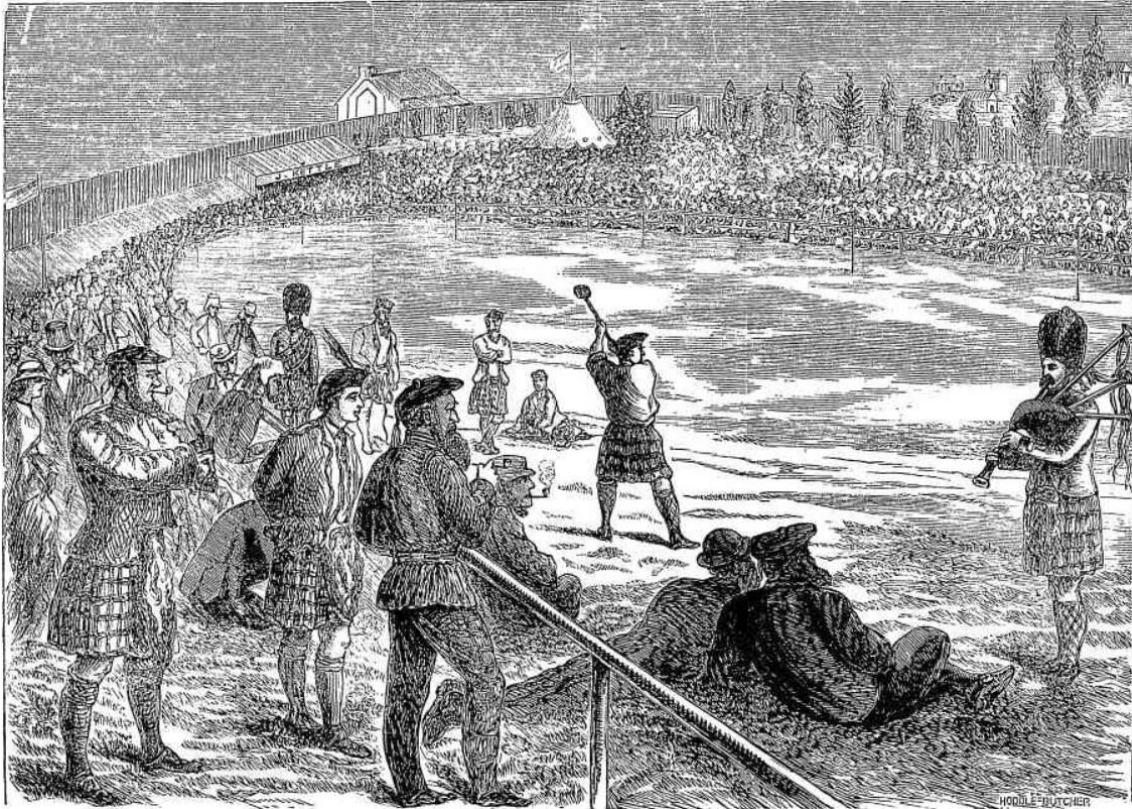


Figure 42. Highland sports on New Year's Day 1872 at the Albert Ground (Australian Town and Country Journal 1872).

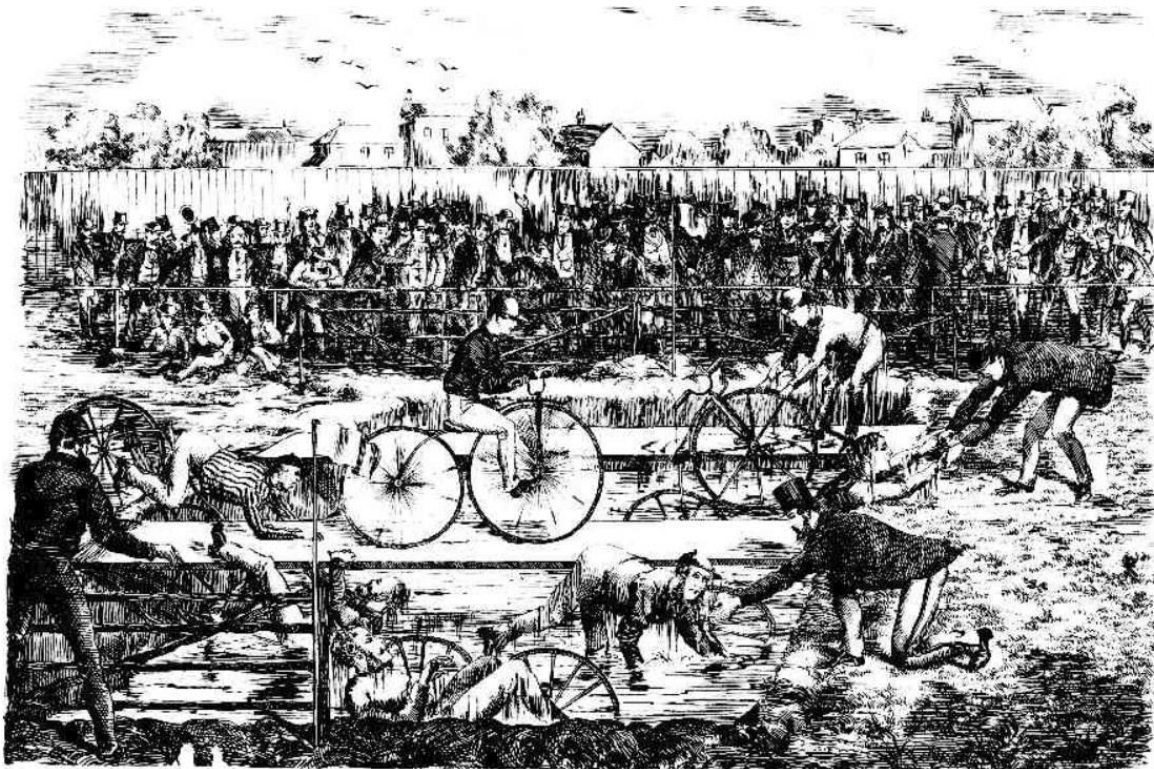


Figure 43. The Grand Bicycle Steeplechase racing at the Albert Ground in 1870, depicting the water jump. (Illustrated Sydney News 1870, 4).

## Subdivision and pre-1883 terraces (1879–1949)

In 1879, the Albert Ground was closed and subsequently subdivided. The first mention of the newly subdivided streets in the study area, including Alderson and Billiston Streets, is found in the 1883 Sands Directory (John Sands Ltd 1883, 106). During this phase the study area comprised three rows of small, single-storey terraces, constructed cheaply from brick, stone, and wood, as seen in the 1887 and 1889 plans (Figure 44 and Figure 45).

Most notable is the study area's association with John and Sarah Makin who resided at 11 Alderson Street and were infamous for their involvement in late nineteenth century baby farming. John and Sarah Makin were convicted of murder after the bodies of thirteen infants were discovered at their past residences across MacDonalddtown and Redfern, including one in the rear yard of 11 Alderson Street. See Part 2.3 of this report for a more detailed history of the Makins and 11 Alderson Street.

Alderson Street in Redfern was noted for a high rate of crime and poverty and known as 'one of the most notorious of back streets' in Redfern (The Daily Telegraph 1900, 7; Evening News 1893, 6; The Maitland Weekly Mercury 1929, 16). Drunkenness was a common occurrence in the area and several fires occurred along Alderson Street during this period (The Australian Star 1903, 6; The Sydney Morning Herald 1904, 4). Many properties within the study area were in poor condition, as seen in photographs below (Figure 46 to Figure 48), with one man fined for the unsanitary state of his residence (The Daily Telegraph 1900, 7; Evening News 1909, 2). In 1913 Albert Kurtz, a career criminal who had occupied the Makins old property at 11 Alderson Street and later moved to number 27, refuted claims that his residence was an opium den though admitted that he had been convicted in the past (Kurtz 1913, 2).

The study area was also home to a large number of Syrian, Lebanese, and Indian immigrants who had shops and boarding houses along Alderson Street. These communities were often the subject of racist attacks from newspapers, who attributed the poor state of the area to the community (Evening News 1900, 5; Illustrated Sydney News 1892a, 4). Mohamed Shah, a storekeeper residing at 59 Alderson Street, was a prominent member of Sydney's Indian Islamic community (Figure 49). As there was no mosque or imam in Sydney at the beginning of the twentieth century, he was elected by his community to establish a prayer room located above a shop at 79 Alderson Street (Akbarzadeh and Saeed 2001, 21). By 1910, Alderson Street had at least twelve households listing a name of Arabic or North Indian origin (John Sands Ltd 1910).

Many properties across Redfern, as well as neighbouring Surry Hills, were deemed unfit for human habitation (The Daily Telegraph 1900, 7). Such dwellings were often overcrowded and located in or near industrial areas, creating public health issues. The bubonic plague epidemic of 1900 saw much of Sydney placed under quarantine, with two cases recorded within the block formed by Elizabeth, Phillip, Walker, and Kettle Streets (Figure 50). Consequently, a movement began in the 1920s and 1930s that called for housing to be considered a social service and to receive financial support from the government.



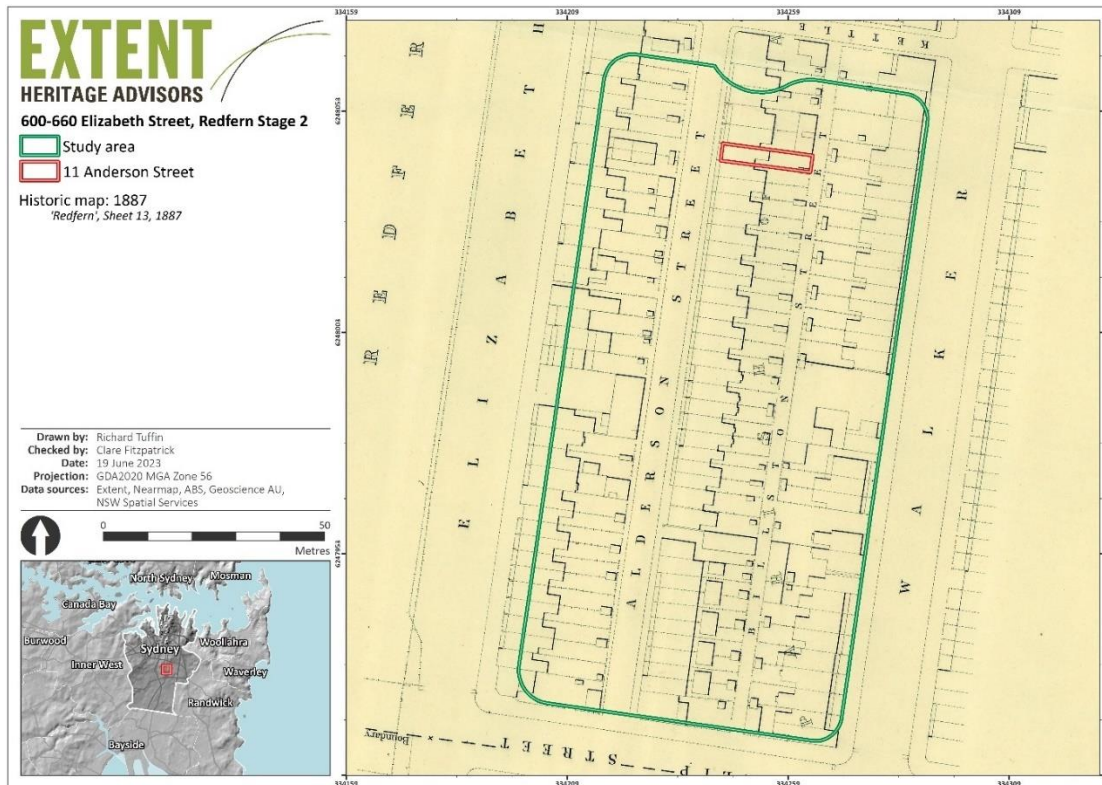


Figure 44. 1887 map showing the Alderson and Billiston Streets and terrace comprising the study area. The lot of 11 Alderson Street is outlined in red (SLNSW Metropolitan Detail Series, Sheet 13).

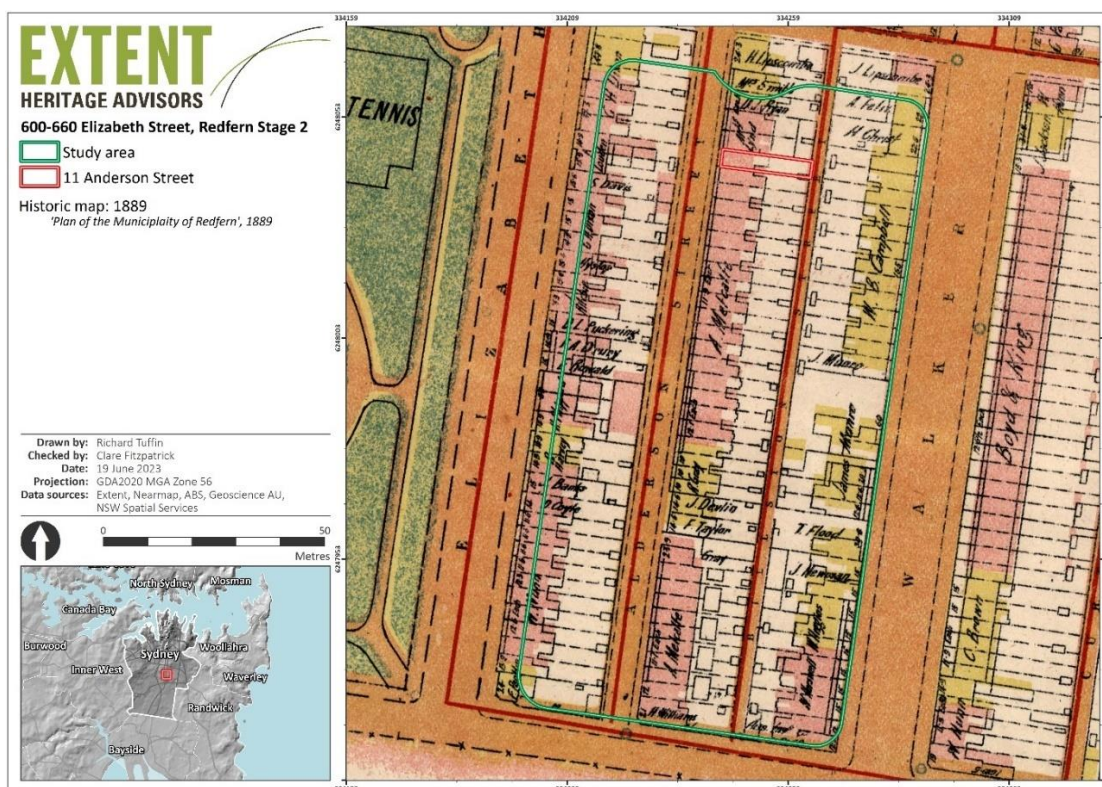


Figure 45. 1889 map of the study area showing the building materials they were constructed with (red denoting brick or stone, yellow denoting wood) (SLNSW: Map Z M3 811, 1819/1889/1).



Figure 46. *Alderson Street showing backyards*, 1913 (New South Wales State Archives and Records. Government Printing Office 1 – 31164).



Figure 47. *Rear of Alderson Street*, 1900 (New South Wales State Archives and Records, NRS-12487-1-[5/3260]-Vol III-9).





Figure 48. Photograph taken from the rear yard of 55 Alderson Street, Redfern, 1900, Department of Public Works. These buildings were made from timber and correspond with those in the 1889 plan in Figure 45 (New South Wales State Archives and Records, NRS-4481-4-369-[AF00216036]).



Figure 49. Photograph of Mohamed Shah of 59 Alderson Street, 1909 (National Archives of Australia).





Figure 50. Plague cases recorded in 1900, denoted by red squares. Two cases were recorded within the study area along Walker Street (Department of Public Health – Map of Sydney and Adjacent Municipalities 1903).



Figure 51. 1943 aerial photograph of the study area (Land and Property Information, Six Maps).

## Public housing development (1949–2013)

The Housing Commission of New South Wales, established in 1942, was responsible for the provision of post-war housing, as well as the clearance and redevelopment of poorly and cheaply built nineteenth century housing. During this process of redevelopment, the study area was cleared in 1949, with the southern section becoming the site of the NSW Police-Citizens Boys Club (Figure 52). The central and northern portions of the study area were redeveloped into nine low-density public housing blocks (Figure 53).



Figure 52. 1949 aerial photograph showing the study area cleared and levelled with introduced fills (Land and Property Information, Six Maps).



Figure 53. 2009 aerial photograph of the study area (Nearmaps, November 2009).



## Public housing demolition and redevelopment (2013–present)

The most recent development on the study area includes the demolition of the nine public housing blocks to ground level by May 2013 (Figure 54). Whilst the NSW Police-Citizens Boys Club is still extant, the northern portion of the site has remained unchanged since this time. Evidence of the demolition of the public housing buildings is still present across the study area, in the form of concrete footings on the surface and landscaping consisting of mature trees and decorative plantings.



Figure 54. Nearmaps imagery from May 2013, showing structures being demolished. The site is now vacant except for the large mature trees and the remaining PCYC building (Nearmaps, May 2013).





## APPENDIX B. SITE RECORDS



**Project Number** 0223028

**Project Name**

600-660 Elizabeth Street Redfern  
11 Alderson Street Historical  
Archaeological Investigations 2023

## Context Register

**Date: 18.04.2023 – 21.04.2023**

Context No.	Area	Description	Above	Below
1.001	11 Alderson St	Grey brown sandy loam topsoil	1.002	
1.002	11 Alderson St	Loam and dry pressed brick rubble fill	1.003	1.001
1.003	11 Alderson St	Mixed yellow sandy fill	1.004	1.002
1.004	11 Alderson St	Mixed light and dark grey sandy fill	1.009	1.003
1.005	11 Alderson St	Brick footings	1.006	1.002
1.006	11 Alderson St	Timber beams, terrace footings	1.008	1.005
1.007	11 Alderson St	Timber beams, fireplace footings	1.008	1.002
1.008	11 Alderson St	Levelling fill across trench	1.009 1.025	1.002
1.009	11 Alderson St	Basal peat		1.008 1.002 1.025
1.010	11 Alderson St	Sub-circular cut in middle room, identified during 2021 testing program	1.009	1.011
1.011	11 Alderson St	Yellow sand and sandstock brick rubble fill of cut (1.010)	1.010	1.002
1.012	11 Alderson St	Brick foundations of toilet, rear yard	1.008	1.002
1.013	11 Alderson St	Interior fill of toilet foundations		1.002
1.014	11 Alderson St	Sewer line and closet bend of toilet	1.013	1.002
1.015	11 Alderson St	Fill of construction cut (1.016), north toilet foundation	1.016	1.002
1.016	11 Alderson St	Construction cut, north toilet foundation	1.008	1.015
1.017	11 Alderson St	Cut for timber slabs, east end of building	1.009	1.019
1.018	11 Alderson St	Timber slabs at east end of building	1.009	1.004
1.019	11 Alderson St	Fill for cut (1.017)	1.017	1.004
1.020	11 Alderson St	Twentieth century public housing disturbance fill	1.009	1.004
1.021	11 Alderson St	NW by SE drainage cut	1.009	1.021
1.022	11 Alderson St	Fill for drainage cut (1.021)	1.021	1.008

Context No.	Area	Description	Above	Below
1.023	11 Alderson St	Brick walls- adjoining neighbouring structure to south	-	1.002
1.024	11 Alderson St	Shallow cuts in levelling fill (1.008) for timber beams (1.006)	1.008	1.004
1.025	11 Alderson St	Light grey sand pockets in peat (1.009)	1.009	1.008
1.026	11 Alderson St	Construction drainage channel associated with timber beams (1.018)	1.009	1.004





<b>Project Number</b>	0223028
<b>Project Name</b>	600-660 Elizabeth Street Redfern 11 Alderson Street Historical Archaeological Investigations 2023

### Photo Register

**Date: 18.04.2023 – 21.04.2023**

**Camera: Canon G3X**

Photo No	Date	Direction Facing	Initials	Description
3526	18/04/23	W	CF	Pre-excavation of area
3527	18/04/23	W	CF	As above
3528-3536	Deleted			
3537-40	18/04/23	E	CF	Mid-excavation shot of west end of area
3541-43	18/04/23	E	CF	Overview of footings and timber beams, west end of area
3544	18/04/23	S	CF	Timber beams uncovered to the north of southern boundary wall
3545-6	18/04/23	S	CF	Overview of western end of area
3547-8	18/04/23	S	CF	View to south of footings atop timber beams
3549-50	18/04/23	S	CF	Northern brick boundary wall atop timber beam
3551-2	18/04/23	W	CF	Western section, northern end
3553-4	18/04/23	N	CF	Northern section, western end
3555	18/04/23	W	CF	Western section, southern end
3556-7	18/04/23	S	CF	Southern section, western end
3558-64	19/04/23	S	CF	Southern section, with brick footing atop timber beam in foreground
3565-68	19/04/23	S	CF	West end of southern side of trench, on south side of south boundary wall
3569	19/04/23	SW	CF	Oblique view of southern side of trench
3570-3	19/04/23	S	CF	Overview and section of interior walls of southern property, on south side of south boundary wall
3574	19/04/23	S	CF	Overview of western end of southern side of area with southern boundary wall
3575-80	19/04/23	S	CF	Detail shots of southern side of area
3581	19/04/23	SW	CF	Oblique view of southern side of trench
3582-88	19/04/23	S	CF	Eastern end of southern side of area, cleared to date

Photo No	Date	Direction Facing	Initials	Description
3589	19/04/23	SW	CF	Oblique view of southern side of trench
3590-2	19/04/23	W	CF	Southern side of trench exposed to date
3593	19/04/23	E	CF	Western end of area, mid-ex shot
3594-5	19/04/23	S	CF	Same as above
3596-7	19/04/23	E	CF	Western end of area, mid ex shot
2598-601	19/04/23	E	CF	Detail of cut for timber beam, west end of area
3602-4	19/04/23	S	CF	Northern boundary wall, western end
3605-14	19/04/23	N	CF	Same as above
3615-20	19/04/23	S	CF	Same as above
3621	19/04/23	W	CF	Oblique of southern boundary wall and front wall
3622-32	19/04/23	S	CF	Overview of southern boundary wall, eastern end, mid-ex
3633-4	19/04/23	E	CF	Brick feature at eastern end of area, mid ex
3635-7	19/04/23	W	CF	Eastern end of area, mid ex
3638-9	19/04/23	E	CF	Eastern end of area, mid ex
3640-1	20/04/23	N	CF	Brick toilet foundations from above, eastern end of area, post ex
3642-3	20/04/23	E	CF	Brick toilet foundations, eastern end of area
3644-6	20/04/23	E	CF	Brick toilet foundations, west wall detail
3647	20/04/23	E	CF	Brick toilet foundations,
3648	20/04/23	S	CF	Brick toilet foundations,
3649-50	20/04/23	S	CF	Brick toilet foundations, north wall detail
3651	20/04/23	S	CF	Brick toilet foundations,
3652	20/04/23	W	CF	Brick toilet foundations,
3653-4	20/04/23	S	CF	Brick toilet foundations, construction cut along north wall
3655-6	20/04/23	S	CF	Southern section, eastern end, next to brick toilet foundations,
3657-8	20/04/23	E	CF	Eastern section, eastern end, next to brick toilet foundations,
3659-60	20/04/23	E	CF	Brick toilet foundations, west wall detail with scale
3661-3	20/04/23	N	CF	Brick toilet foundations, showing interior fill and toilet piping

Photo No	Date	Direction Facing	Initials	Description
3664-5	20/04/23	E	CF	Brick toilet foundations, showing interior fill and toilet piping, detail
3666-9	20/04/23	E	CF	Brick toilet foundations interior wall with lining detail
3670	20/04/23	S	CF	Brick toilet foundations, interior wall detail
3671	20/04/23	E	CF	Brick toilet foundations, interior wall detail
3672-5	20/04/23	S	CF	Yard area, eastern end of trench, post ex
3676-82	20/04/23	E	CF	Yard area, eastern end of trench, post ex
3683-5	20/04/23	W	CF	Yard area, eastern end of trench, post ex
3686-9	20/04/23	S, W	CF	Yard area, eastern end of trench, detail of peat voids
3690-7	20/04/23	W	CF	Timber beams at east end of building
3698-700	20/04/23	W	CF	Trench overview, eastern end of trench, post ex
3701-3	21/04/23	W	CF	Trench overview, post ex
3704-11	21/04/23	W	CF	Timber beams at east end of building
3712-5	21/04/23	E	CF	Middle and east room of building, including sub-circular cut
3716-7	21/04/23	N	CF	East room of building, detail
3718-20	21/04/23	N	CF	East room of building, north wall detail
3721-8	21/04/23	N	CF	East room of building, timber beam detail
3729-31	21/04/23	W	CF	East room of building, interior wall detail
3732	21/04/23	W	CF	East room of building
3733-36	21/04/23	W	CF	Detail of south timber and brick footing, east end
3737	21/04/23	E	CF	Middle room of building, showing sub-circular pit and levelling fill and peat
3738-9	21/04/23	E	CF	Middle room of building, detail of timber beam
3740-3	21/04/23	N	CF	Middle room of building, showing sub-circular pit (1.010) and levelling fill (1.008) and peat (1.009)
3744-6	21/04/23	N	CF	Middle room of building, detail of northern wall
3747-8	21/04/23	N	CF	Middle room of building, showing sub-circular pit and levelling fill and peat
3749-50	21/04/23	N	CF	West and middle room of building, north wall footings.
3751-3	21/04/23	N	CF	Detail of north wall footings between west and middle room

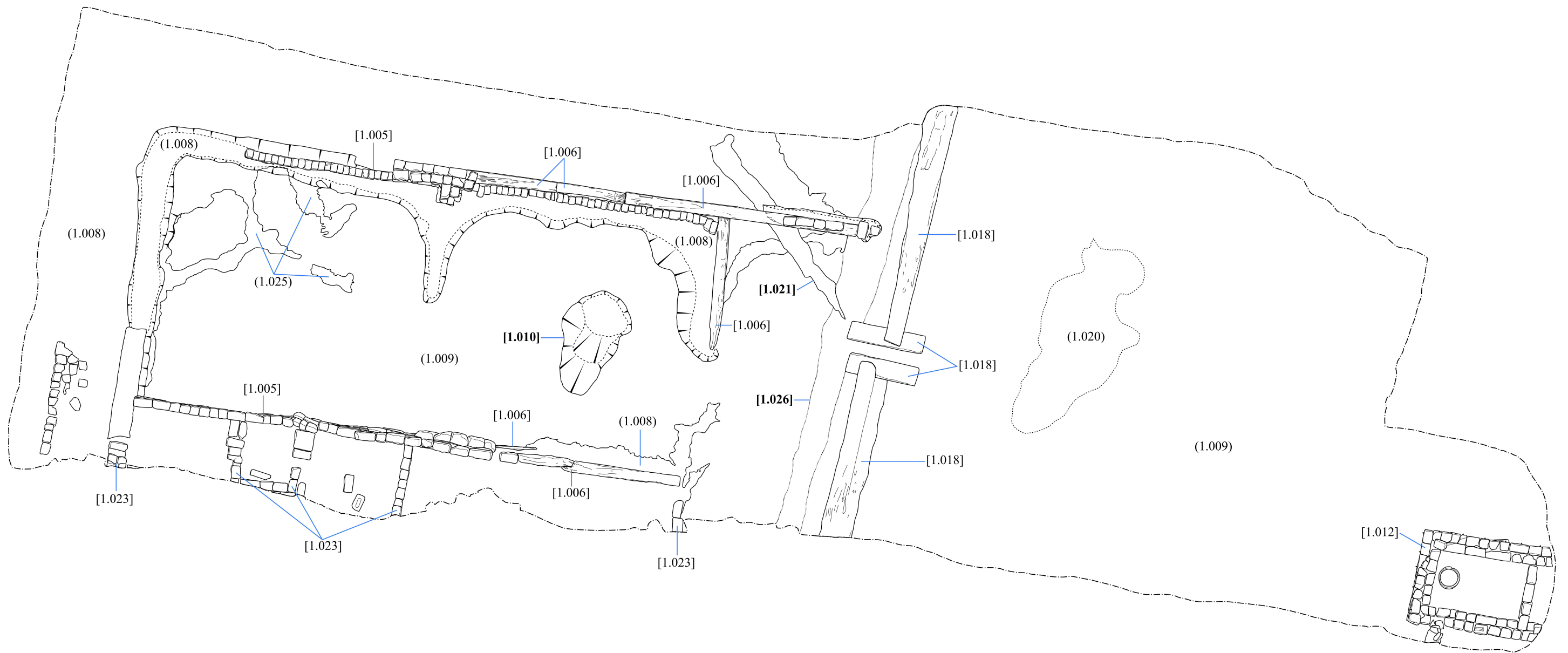


Photo No	Date	Direction Facing	Initials	Description
3754-5	21/04/23	NE	CF	Oblique detail of north wall footings between west and middle room
3756	21/04/23	N	CF	East room, north footing, showing peat with light grey sand pockets and levelling fill
3757-8	21/04/23	N	CF	East wall, detail of north footing
3759	21/04/23	E	CF	Trench overview
3760	21/04/23	E	CF	East room of building
3761	21/04/23	E	CF	Trench overview
3762	21/04/23	E	CF	Building overview
3763-4	21/04/23	E	CF	East room of building
3765-6	21/04/23	E	CF	Footings east of building
3767-8	21/04/23	E	CF	Adjoining neighbouring structure, south of 11 Alderson St building
3769-72	21/04/23	N	CF	Adjoining neighbouring structure, south of 11 Alderson St building
3773	21/04/23	N	CF	Middle room of building, showing subcircular cut
3774	21/04/23	N	CF	Middle room and neighbouring building, detail of south timber beam (shared footing)
3775-7	21/04/23	N	CF	Overview of building
3778	21/04/23	S	CF	West room of building
3779	21/04/23	S	CF	West room of building, detail of south footing
3780-1	21/04/23	S	CF	West room of building, detail of south footing section with scale
3782	21/04/23	S	CF	West room of building
3783-4	21/04/23	S	CF	West room of building, detail of south footing
3785-6	21/04/23	S	CF	West room of building, detail of south footing section with scale
3787	21/04/23	S	CF	Middle room of building
3788-9	21/04/23	S	CF	West room of building, detail of south footing
3790-3	21/04/23	E	CF	Sub circular cut and partially excavated fill in middle room
3794-5	21/04/23	W	CF	West room of building, west wall
3796-807	21/04/23	S	CF	North footing of building
3808-10	21/04/23	SE	CF	Oblique shot of rear of building and yard

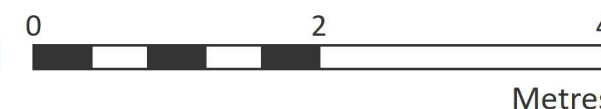
Photo No	Date	Direction Facing	Initials	Description
3811-7	21/04/23	SW	CF	Oblique shot of rear of building and yard, eastern timber slabs
3818-20	21/04/23	S	CF	Southern section, east end of trench
3821-4	21/04/23	E	CF	Eastern section of trench, north half of east trench wall
3825-32	21/04/23	SW, NW	CF	Oblique shot of eastern timbers slabs, detail shots.

## APPENDIX C. SITE PLANS AND ORTHOIMAGE










Metres

600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern Stage 2

 Area of investigation

Drawn by: Richard Tuffin  
Checked by: Clare Fitzpatrick  
Date: 19 June 2023  
Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56  
Data sources: Extent





## APPENDIX D. HARRIS MATRIX

				1.001					
1.020					1.002				
1.022									
1.021	1.011		1.003			1.007	1.013	1.023	1.015
	1.010						1.014	1.005	1.016
		1.004		1.019					
							1.012	1.006	
			1.017		1.018			1.024	
				1.026			1.008		
							1.025		
				1.009					