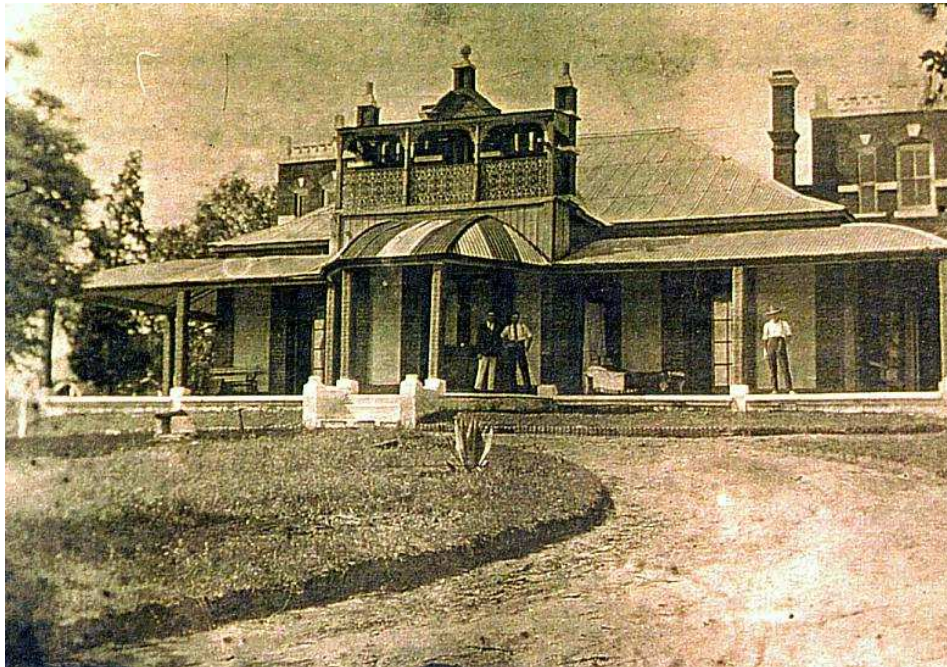


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NORTH PENRITH ARMY LANDS
THORNTON HALL SUBDIVISION AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS
STAGE 2A WORKS

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION



Prepared for
LANDCOM

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Issue B

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ISSUE STATUS

ISSUE	DATE	PURPOSE	WRITTEN	APPROVED
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

A Heritage Interpretation Strategy was commissioned by Landcom to form part of the Part 3A Project Application for the redevelopment of the North Penrith Defence Lands site. The report was written by Tanner Architects and completed in October 2010.

This Heritage Interpretation Strategy for the Stage 2A Works evaluates the proposed interpretation that forms part of the project against the recommendations of the 2010 report.

1.2 Scope of the Report

The main objective of the 2010 Interpretation Strategy was to guide the interpretation of the cultural significance of the place, including its history and development. Its scope is to:

- Identify the themes that are considered significant to the site;
- Develop a conceptual approach to the interpretation of the site, using a variety of media;
- Propose locations for specific interpretive devices to enhance the understanding of the site;
- Recommend methods and media appropriate to the interpretation of the values of the site.

In general, the story of the North Penrith Defence Lands Site and its wider contextual relationships will be evident through the retention of, and views to, key elements on the site and explained through graphic and sculptural interpretive displays in publicly accessible areas. The key values of the North Penrith Defence Lands site to be communicated are:

- Early Aboriginal occupation
- Its associations with historically significant individuals;
- The layers of past use, which have included agriculture, sport and recreation, and aviation;
- The significance of Thornton Hall.

Several of these key values have been integrated into the 2A Works:

- Early Aboriginal occupation
- The layers of past use, particularly sport and recreation;
- The significance of Thornton Hall.

1.3 Author

This document was prepared by Dr Roy Lumby, Senior Heritage Specialist of Tanner Architects. It was reviewed by Megan Jones, Director of Tanner Architects.

2 STAGE 2A WORKS

The Stage 2A Works are situated at the eastern end of the North Penrith Army Lands site, as shown in Figure 3.1 below. This section of the site includes the heritage listed dwelling known as Thornton Hall. The project entails earthworks, construction of roads, infrastructure and servicing, the creation of the Thornton Hall lot, creation of a superlot and public domain works associated with Thornton Hall.

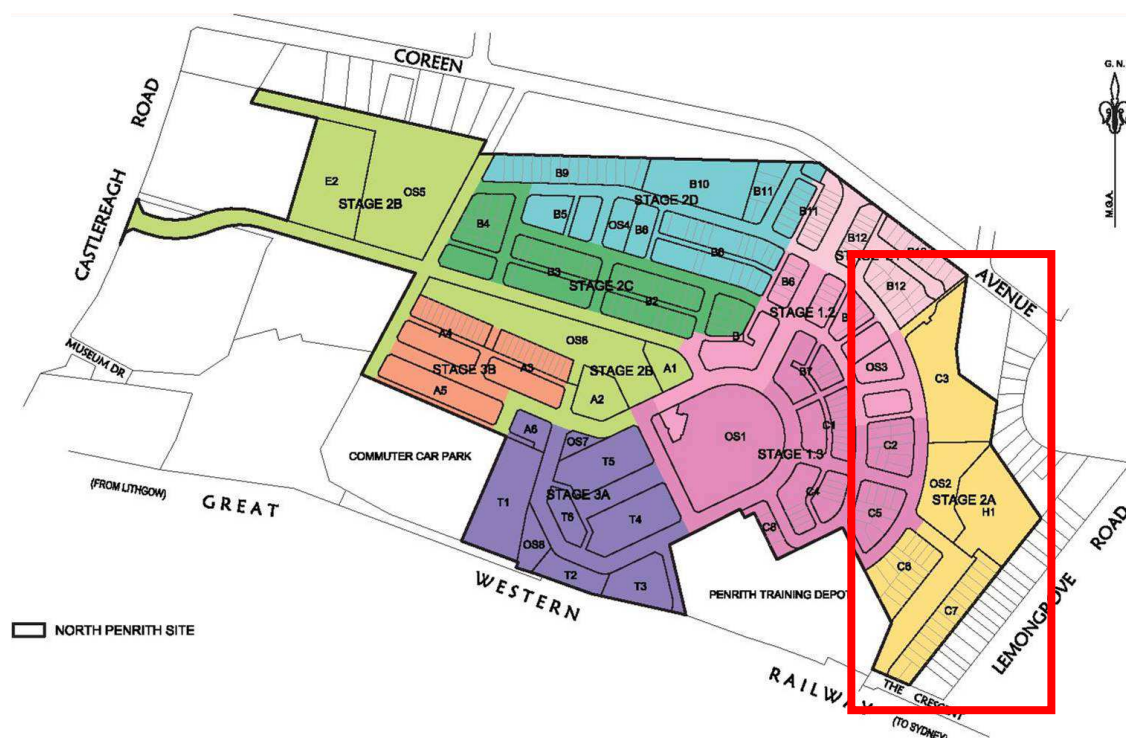


Figure 2-1 Location of the Stage 2A Works within the North Penrith Army Lands site – not to scale.
Source: Landcom.

3 INTERPRETATION PARAMETERS

3.1 Heritage Design Parameters

The heritage design parameters in the Concept Plan Application included:

- The presence of Aboriginal people on the site, evidence of which still remains. Interpretation needs to be carefully considered in terms of archaeological remains and in deference to the Aboriginal community (refer also to Section 5.2 below);
- The historic associations of the Smith family and Thornton Hall, which can be appropriately interpreted through sensitive adaptive reuse of Thornton Hall, interpretation of the early driveway leading to the house and street names;
- Former agricultural, recreational and aviation-related activities, which took place in open parts of the site and Belmore Park. The proposed oval and remnant speedway track provide opportunities for interpretation that can be reinforced by landscaping and public art;

- Respect the visual connections across the whole site, especially those relating to views to and from Thornton Hall.

These parameters have been incorporated into the 2A Works.

3.2 Public Art Concept Plan

The Concept Plan Application included a public art strategy that identified key locations and identifiers across the site. Components of the land included in the Stage 2A Works were nominated for public art and interpretation, specifically related to Thornton Hall and the Aboriginal history of the place.

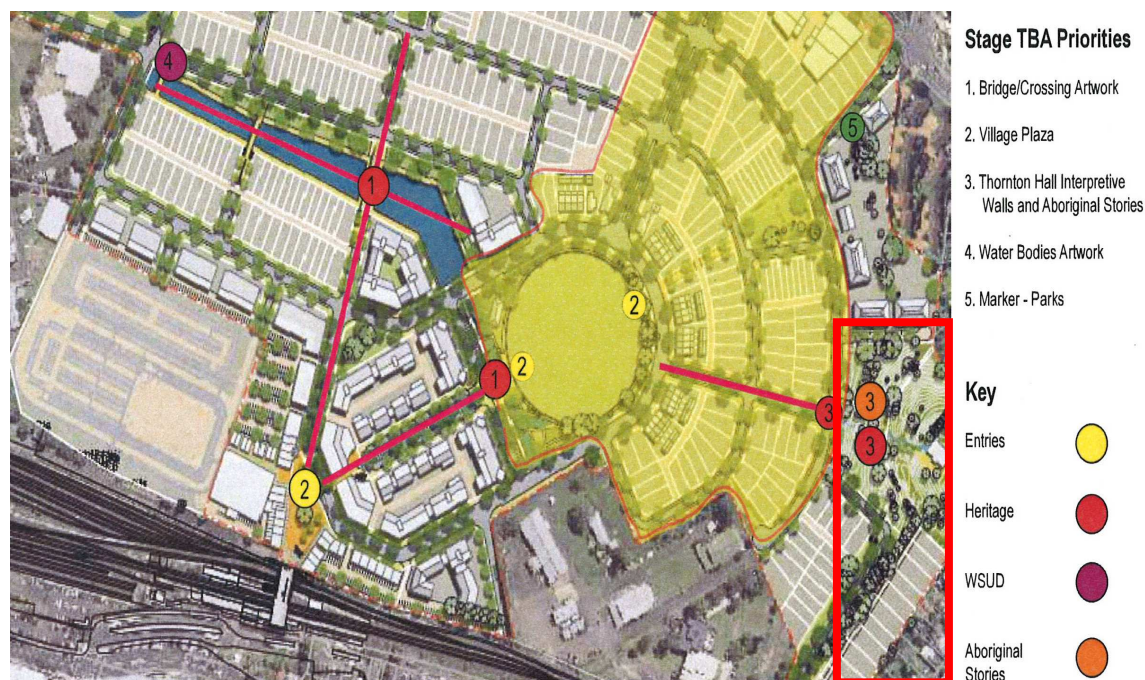


Figure 3-1 Section of the Public Art Strategy for the North Penrith Defence Site. Nominated locations within the area of the 2A Works are highlighted.

Source: Milne & Stonehouse, Landcom: North Penrith Public Art Strategy, p.26.

4 STAGE 2A WORKS INTERPRETATION

The interpretation associated with the Stage 2A Works conforms to the requirements and guidelines included in the Part 3A Project Application's Heritage Interpretation Strategy. The ways in which this has been achieved are outlined in the following section.

4.1 Themes

A number of interpretation themes were developed in the Part 3A Project Application's Heritage Interpretation Strategy. Relevant themes that have been utilised for interpretation in the Part 2A Works are summarised in the following table.

Australian Theme		NSW Theme	Interpretation Theme
2	Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures	There are archaeological remains of Aboriginal presence on the North Penrith Army Lands site.
4	Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation	Thornton Hall is a local landmark and associated with significant individuals and site uses.
8	Developing Australia's cultural life	Sport	The Stage 2A site has associations with historically significant recreational and sporting activity as it is located on the periphery of the former motor speedway.

4.2 Interpretive Media

Options for interpretive media and the benefits of their adoption were discussed in the Part 3A Project Application's Heritage Interpretation Strategy. A number of these have been adopted in the Stage 2A Works. They are summarised in the following table:

Options for Interpretive Media	Benefits of Adoption
Sculptural Display Incorporation of significant or representative objects or material into a public display in nominated passive recreation areas. The display should work in conjunction with the proposed cultural/artistic plan for the site.	Art walls with Aboriginal motifs in Thornton Park: • Provide tangible interpretation of the pre-European history of the overall site and demonstrates these links with the site's past. • Contributes to a three dimensional interpretive display to activate the publicly accessible areas. • Readily interprets themes and messages. • Creates high visual impact.
Retention of significant elements Natural, built or metaphysical elements, such as use or views, of the site can be retained and included as inherent qualities in a new proposal.	View corridors to Thornton Hall in Thornton Park and Mountain View Crescent: • Significant values effectively communicated through tangible physical evidence; • Retained elements are incorporated into a new proposal for the site, creating interest and providing physical evidence of the past. • Resourceful and sustainable option
Place-naming Street names, park names and names of other important site features.	Street naming – Speedway Circuit: • Celebrates an aspect of the history of the site. • Commemorates important events associated with the place. • Develops awareness and valuing of the site. • Cost effective.

Options for interpretive media were also outlined in the Part 3A Project Application. The selected options for interpretation are outlined as follows:

Interpretation Theme	Potential Interpretive Media
Thornton Hall	Reconstruction/interpretation of the original driveway, which will establish view corridors to and from Thornton Hall and establishment of a view corridor in Thornton Park. The selection of species along Mountain View Crescent interprets the nineteenth century carriageway to Thornton Hall.
Sport and Recreation	Public artworks interpreting sporting and recreational activities, in this case within the pavement associated with Speedway Circuit. The name "Speedway Circuit" also interprets and aspect of the site's sporting past.
Aboriginal Occupation	According to the recommendations of the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment Report, "It may be more appropriate to acknowledge the presence of this site – and more importantly – the Aboriginal history of this place – in a landscape context somewhere else within the North Penrith development area. For instance, the proposed Open Space around the Thornton Park provides various opportunities to include interpretative elements – in a space which is more conducive to the small open space which will remain between existing houses and the proposed medium density housing around site #45-5-2491. The Stage 2A Works reflect these recommendations by the incorporation of Aboriginal art work and/or graphics into the low concrete walls being constructed as an entry statement up the hill to the viewing terrace in Thornton Park;

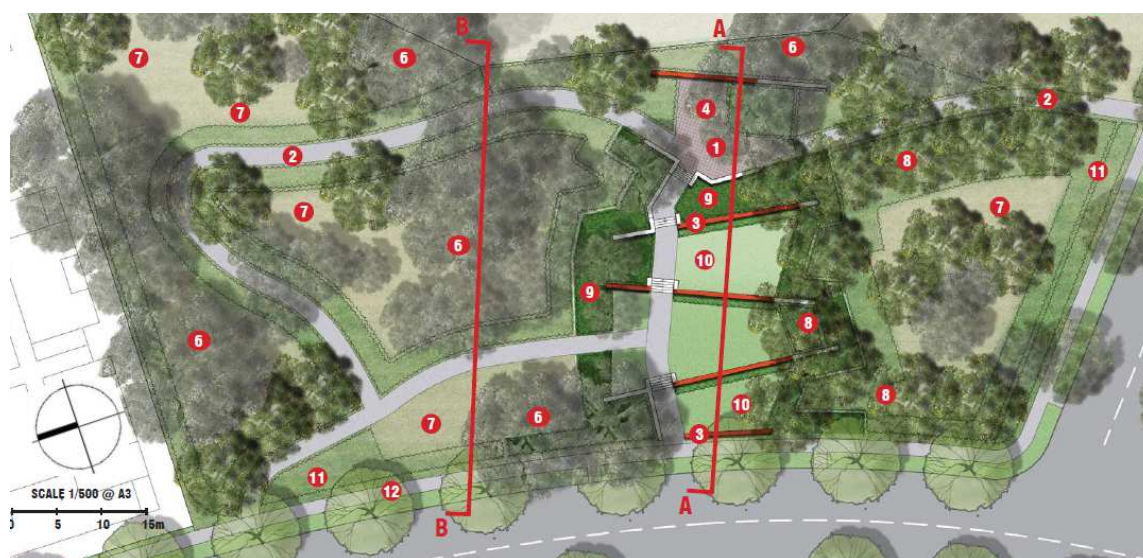


Figure 4-1 Location of interpretive devices in the Stage 2A Works includes the art walls indicated by the number 3 and the pavement alongside Speedway Circuit, indicated by the number 12.
Source: Place Design Group Thornton Park Landscape Concept, p.5.

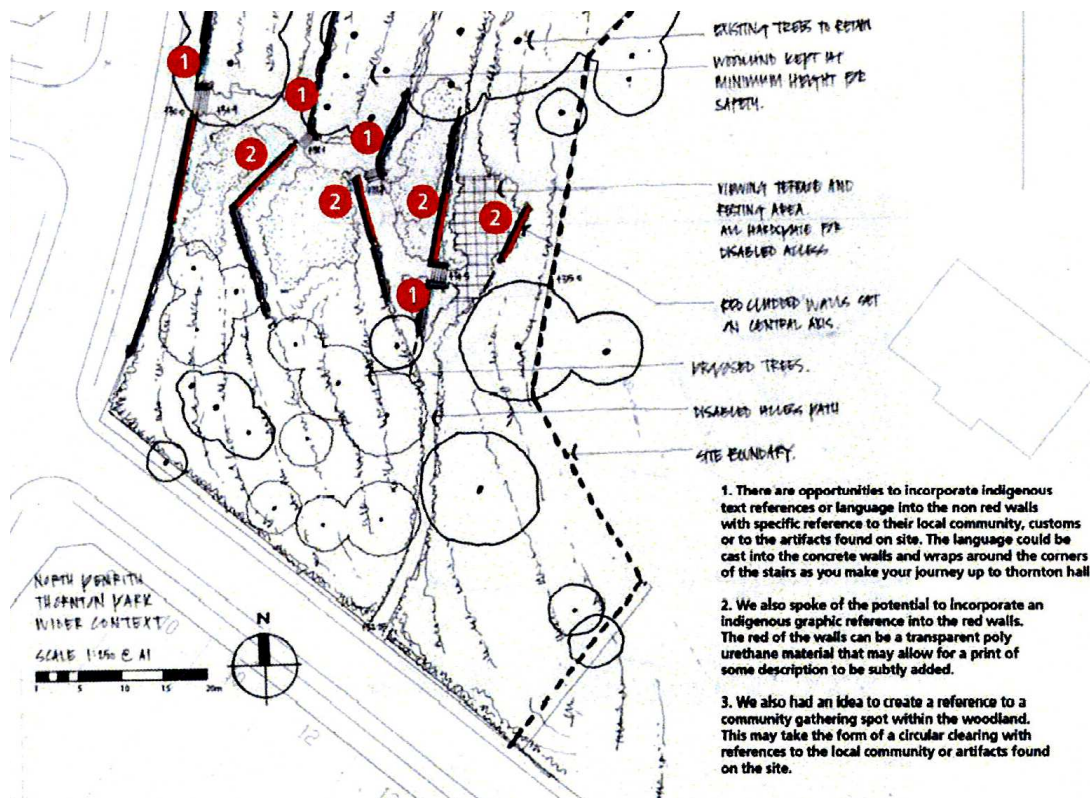


Figure 4-2: Options for the interpretation of Aboriginal Heritage included in the Part 3A Project Application in the open space now designated Thornton Park.
Source: Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment Report, p.21.

A strategy was also developed for street naming. The Stage 2A Works specifically comply with this strategy by naming the open parkland near Thornton Hall, Thornton Park. This was originally suggested because of its proximity to Thornton Hall. The Defence Site has also been known as Thornton Park in the past.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The interpretive devices that are incorporated into the Stage 2 Works are considered to be appropriate and conform to the various requirements and recommendations contained within the Part 3A Project Application Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

The use of relevant site-specific heritage themes, location of interpretive devices and artworks and reinforcement of the driveway axis and view corridor to Thornton Hall will contribute to an enhancement of the place and greater public appreciation and understanding of its layers of heritage significance.