

HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT - 269 LANE COVE ROAD, MACQUARIE PARK

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Urbis has been engaged by NEXTDC to prepare this Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) to assess the potential heritage impacts of the proposed development at 269 Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park (hereafter referred to as 'the site' or 'the subject site').

This HIS has been prepared to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) (SSD-63168959) on heritage grounds, which seeks approval for redevelopment of the subject site to provide a new data centre. The proposal seeks consent for construction and operation of a data centre with ancillary office and innovation space and includes site preparation works, bulk earthworks and infrastructure, excavation and construction of the buildings, ancillary facilities, and associated site works. The application also includes the delivery of two retail premises at ground level.

Ongoing site investigations have been undertaken by NEXTDC to identify an appropriate location for their S5 data centre. These investigations have involved a review of multiple potential sites across Sydney, with the land at 269 Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park being selected as the most appropriate option.

The subject site does not comprise any items which are listed on any statutory heritage instrument. This HIS is required under item 20 of the Industry Specific SEARs. The HIS includes a desktop review of the history and heritage significance of the place, to determine whether any elements of significance which are not listed are present, and to determine whether the subdivision pattern in the subject site is significant.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at 269 Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park on Darug Land. The site is located within the City of Ryde Local Government Area (LGA).

The subject site contains two 1980s warehouse structures, warehouse 1 located to the north at the principal entrance off Waterloo Road, and warehouse 2 located to the south (rear). The warehouses sit on masonry foundations raised from the ground, comprising masonry facades with glass and metal sheeting inserts. There is a central two storey driveway located between the warehouses providing onsite vehicle parking for the subject site and a secondary vehicle parking at the front and rear. Warehouse 1 is currently comprising a commercial tenancy premise for Work Arena. Warehouse 2 is currently a vacant building but was previously used as office for Foxtel.

The location of the subject site is shown below in the below images.

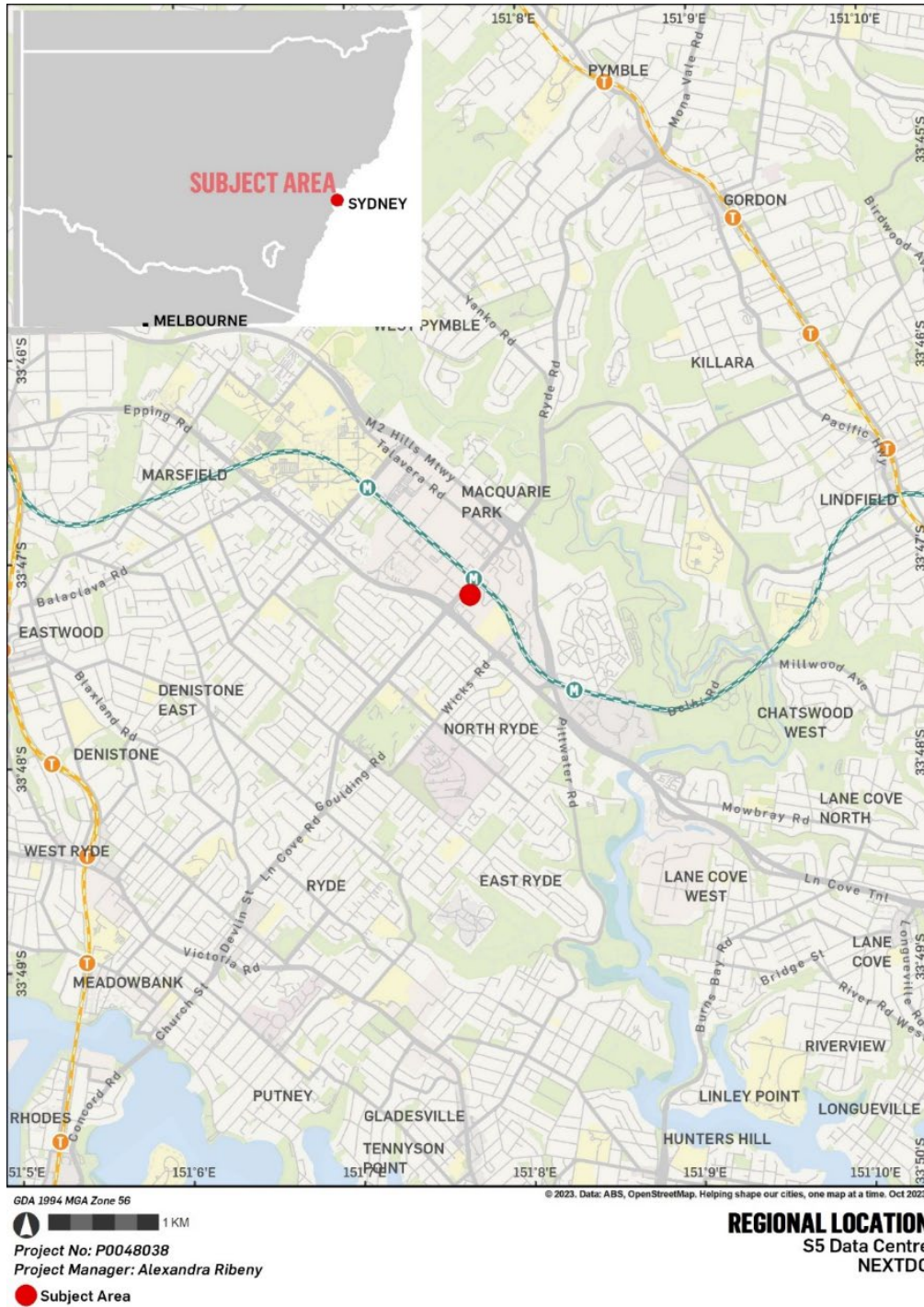


Figure 1 – Regional location of the subject area



GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56



Project No: P0048038
Project Manager: Alexandra Ribeny

Subject Area — Contours

© 2023. Data: ABS, OpenStreetMap, Neurmap. Helping shape our cities, one map at a time. Oct 2023

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT AREA
S5 Data Centre
NEXTDC

Figure 2 – Location of the subject area.



Figure 3 – Aerial map showing the subject site outlined in red indicating the warehouse structures on the site.

Source: SIX Maps 2023



Figure 4 – The exterior of the subject site as viewed from Waterloo Road, looking south.

Source: Urbis



Figure 5 – Views towards the subject site from the footpath of Waterloo Road, looking south.

Source: Urbis



Figure 6 – Views south from within the eastern boundary driveway, looking south.

Source: Urbis



Figure 7 – Views west towards warehouse 1.

Source: Urbis



Figure 8 – Views towards warehouse 2 from within the subject site, looking southwest.

Source: Urbis



Figure 9 – Views towards warehouse 2 from the rear of the subject site, looking northeast.

Source: Urbis

3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

3.1. AREA HISTORY (POST EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT)

The following area history is extracted in-part from the Dictionary of Sydney entry for North Ryde.¹

North Ryde

North Ryde, situated wholly within the local government area of the City of Ryde (established in 1871), is surrounded by the suburbs of East Ryde, Macquarie Park, Marsfield and Ryde, and is situated on the southern side of the Lane Cove River. The suburbs of Chatswood West, East Ryde, and Macquarie Park were formerly part of the larger North Ryde area.

Building bridges

By the 1840s, the common had gained a reputation for harbouring many unsavoury characters, sly grog and other illegal activities. There was also unauthorised timber-cutting and squatting. Many residents of the district felt the common no longer fulfilled its original purpose, while others objected to any change in 'the people's land'. A parliamentary select committee sat in 1861 but its recommendations were never followed. By 1874 the proposal to resume the common won out. The slowly increasing population of the district highlighted the growing need for a direct road link to the city and the need for bridges to be built at Iron Cove and across the Parramatta River. The money from the sale of the common was to be used to finance the building of the Iron

¹ North Ryde. The Dictionary of Sydney. Accessed: <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/ryde>.

Cove and Gladesville bridges. The building of the bridges commenced in 1878, but the actual sale of the common lands did not commence until 1885 and continued until 1900.

The subdivision and sale of the common caused dramatic change as streets were laid out and allotments of one to four acres (.4 to 1.6 hectares) were offered for sale. These were not designed for farming or orchards, and attracted a new type of resident. Sections were also set aside as space for reserves for recreation – the largest being the Field of Mars Wildlife Reserve – and for the Field of Mars cemetery.

Education and services

In 1878, a public school called City View was opened with 45 pupils in one classroom on land donated by Robert Wicks. By the end of the following year, the school had changed its name to North Ryde, thus beginning the formal use of that name for the district. The original school building is still in use today as the New South Wales Schoolhouse Museum of Public Education. Wicks also donated land for a church, and St John's Church of England was built and opened in 1879 as a branch of Ryde's St Anne's church. It did not become a separate parish in its own right until 1967.

By 1885 residents petitioned for a postal service, complaining that they were not within the Ryde post office delivery area. A North Ryde post office was established in September 1885, attached to the Adams's home on Lane Cove Road, near Trevitt Road. In 1908, the post office moved to the western end of Coxs Road, which became the focus of the North Ryde village after the establishment of a School of Arts and literary institute in 1891. From 1904, two small stores had also opened nearby. A School of Arts hall was erected in Coxs Road in 1901, and extended in 1930. It was regularly used as a meeting place for the scattered community and for dances, parties and concerts on a Saturday night. The nearby Methodist church was completed in 1920.

North Ryde retained its rural orchard and poultry farming focus for the duration of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. There were few roads or services for the small population. The produce was carried to market by cart to the Lane Cove and Parramatta rivers. Strawberry growing was also popular along the river flats of the Lane Cove River, and weekend boating to, and picnicking at, the orchards and farms of the area became very popular. Fairyland Pleasure Grounds was one such farm, part of the original Field of Mars common. It had been purchased by the Swan family in 1896 and developed as a pleasure resort. A dance hall was added in 1930. It was also home to boat swings, flying foxes and a razzle-dazzle roundabout. It was a popular venue for Sunday schools, clubs and sports groups. After its demise in the 1960s, its site was added to the Lane Cove National Park.

Entering the twentieth century

Early in the twentieth century, a religious community, the House of David, moved their headquarters to 20 acres (8 hectares) of land situated northeast of the corner of Lane Cove and Waterloo Roads. Initially they installed a sawmill and cleared the land for market gardens and a poultry farm. After the 1930s their timber business was phased out and the area opened to the public as Eden Park picnic grounds. A shop was opened to cater for the needs of picnickers as well as sell produce from the farm. The grounds also included a small native zoo, tennis courts and a music bowl for concerts. By the

1960s, the district's increasing commercial expansion led to the farming and picnicking areas being developed into shops, showrooms and an industrial park.

During the 1940 and 1950s, a group of Sydney landscape artists known as the Northwood Group regularly visited North Ryde to sketch and paint the rural and village scenery still so close to the city. Among the group were Roland Wakelin, Lloyd Rees, George Lawrence and John Santry. The group was not united in style, but by their enjoyment of landscape painting.

The 100 acre block bounded by Wicks, Epping, Blenheim and Coxs roads was mostly vacant or orchard land until World War II. In 1942, the army began to use the Epping Road end for parking tanks and by 1943 the whole block became a substantial heavy vehicle park and transport workshop. Living quarters and parade grounds were built on the eastern side of Blenheim Road. After the army vacated them at the end of the war, the living quarters were used to accommodate migrants for a number of years.

Another large orchard block bounded by Wicks, Coxs, Badajoz and Twin roads was resumed by the state government in 1952 to build a mental health facility originally named North Ryde Psychiatric Centre. It has had a number of name changes and is now called Gladesville Macquarie Hospital. By 1999, the southern grounds of the hospital were returned to the community as parkland and named North Ryde common, reflecting the original use of the land in the area. A natural amphitheatre feature at the common has led it to be used for the local Australia Day concerts, fireworks shows and carols by candlelight.

Suburbia takes over

During the postwar years the character of the district underwent a major change, from rural to suburban residential. The former army vehicle park was subdivided into lots for war service housing, and the New South Wales Housing Commission resumed a substantial quantity of land within the district, subdividing it for housing. Many streets in these subdivisions were named to reflect the area's connection with war service, as many of the earlier streets in the Field of Mars were named for the great English battles.

The orchards on the northern side of the suburb were retained from subdivision as a green belt under the County of Cumberland planning scheme, but the growing need for more land for residential, commercial and industrial uses across Sydney was becoming urgent. By 1965 the release of land in North Ryde for industrial purposes began to take place, and by 1968 a large tract was set aside for the establishment of Sydney's third university, Macquarie University.

Macquarie University

The underlying principle behind the development of the university and the surrounding industrial area was based on the concept associated with Stanford University in San Francisco. Stringent planning controls were used to regulate both the industrial uses and physical setting of each development. Industries had to be compatible and have an affinity with the curricular activities of the newly established university. In 1972, the responsibility for determining the criteria was transferred to Ryde Council, which required that industries be 'light industry, based on a scientific process and include facilities for scientific research and development'. At the north-eastern end,

the CSIRO established a large facility housing a number of divisions, and Channel Ten built television and recording studios.

Soon, housing units and town houses were being erected in the residential areas near the university. In 1981, Macquarie Centre, a major regional shopping centre opened on a 9.4 hectare site adjoining the university. In 1999, Macquarie Park was assigned as a separate suburb in the northern part of North Ryde, removing the university, shopping centre and high-tech industries from the suburb of North Ryde.

In 1999, East Ryde was also declared a suburb. East Ryde is a residential area that was subdivided in the 1950s as the Dress Circle Estate on a ridge of land above the Lane Cove River and the Field of Mars Reserve.

Education

North Ryde Public School was the only school in the area until 1958, but postwar housing developments brought many families to the area, creating a rapid increase demand on educational facilities. The Catholic parish of the Holy Spirit, established in 1956, opened its Spiritus Sanctus school (now called Holy Spirit Primary School) in 1958. Additional public primary schools opened in Truscott Street in 1958, Kent Road in 1960, and East Ryde in 1961. Two high schools were also built, but were short-lived due to the decreasing teenage population towards the end of the twentieth century. Ryde High School, in Smalls Road, opened in 1960 and closed in 1986, and North Ryde High School operated from 1962 until 1985. Both were progressively merged at the North Ryde High School site and renamed Peter Board High School. The school closed permanently in 1999.

3.2. SUBJECT SITE HISTORY

Development of the Ryde area began as early as 1792, when ex-marines were granted land on the northern banks of the Paramatta River (Phippen 2008). The subject area was part of a common grant allotment which, owing to its military associations, became known as the Field of Mars (Figure 10). Commons throughout the 19th century were exploited to varying degrees and were used for agricultural, grazing and firewood procurement purposes.

In 1874 the Field of Mars Common was resumed by the Crown and subdivided under the *Field of Mars Resumption Act*. By the mid-1880s most of the surrounding area had been sold for small farms and villas.² The 1943 aerial illustrates farming land bounded by distinct subdivision curtilage, which remained relatively similar in character until the mid-1950s. This is evident in the aerial photograph from 1943 (Figure 11) and 1955 (Figure 12).

By From 1956 the subject area was developed for the North Ryde Skyline Drive-in which operated until 1986 (Figure 13 to Figure 15) (Cinema Treasures online). Onsite development was primarily conserved to the ongoing development of landscaping works, including subdivision lot changes, and the removal of planting to facilitate the industrialisation of the site and immediate surrounding area, facilitating the development of the cinema to the west of the site.

² *Field of Mars Common*, The Dictionary of Sydney, accessed 8 December 2023, available at https://dictionaryofsydney.org/place/field_of_mars_common

Historical aerial photographs provide a visual representation of changes in land use from agriculture to industry since the first half of the 20th century and are summarised below.

Table 1 – Historical aerials

Year	Description of subject area
1930	The subject area is partially cleared and contains small structures, likely to be residential properties, and appears to be utilised for agriculture. The southern portion of the subject area appears to contain orchard plantings.
1951	The northern portion of the subject area has been further cleared and planted more extensively for agricultural purposes. The structure in the southern portion appears to have been demolished.
1977	The subject area has been amalgamated with adjacent lots and developed into a drive-in cinema. The majority of vegetation appears to have been removed and replaced with regular plantings. The northern portion of the subject area appears to be relatively untouched by this phase of development.
1985	Currently extant structures have been constructed along with hardstand and tree plantings.
2023	The site appears to have undergone only superficial changes in the period from 1985 until present.

Historical aerials reveal that the subject site has been utilised for agricultural, commercial, and industrial purposes since at least 1930.

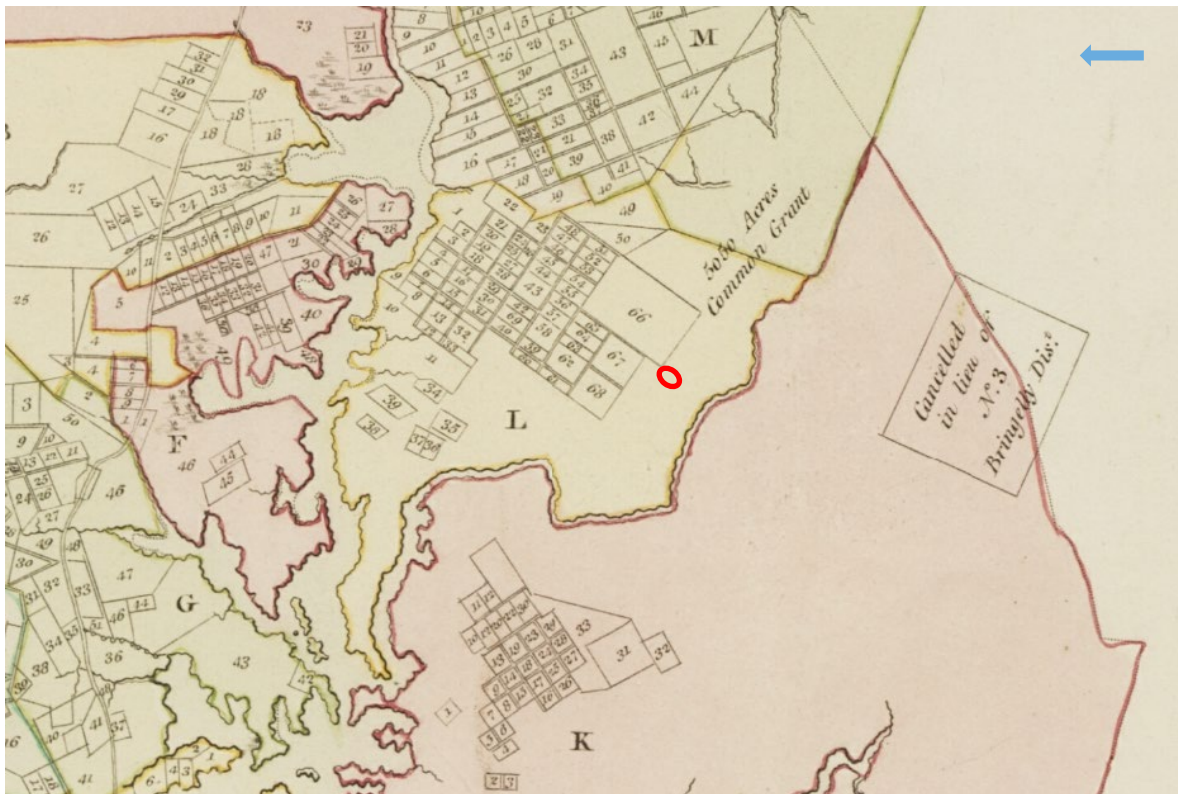


Figure 10 – Early land grants circa 1815. Approximate location of the subject area in red. Blue arrow points north.

Source: State Library NSW, <https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/74VKq23JdjAM>



Figure 11 – c.1943 aerial image of the subject site within the context of its immediate locality. The extant subject boundary curtilage is outline in red.

Source: NSW Historical Imagery Viewer



Figure 12 – c.1955 aerial image of the subject site within the context of its immediate locality. The extant subject boundary curtilage is outline in red.

Source: NSW Historical Imagery Viewer



Figure 13 – c.1965 aerial image of the subject site within the context of its immediate locality. The extant subject boundary curtilage is outline in red.

Source: NSW Historical Imagery Viewer



Figure 14 – 1977 aerial photograph of the subject area. The extant subject boundary curtilage is outline in red.

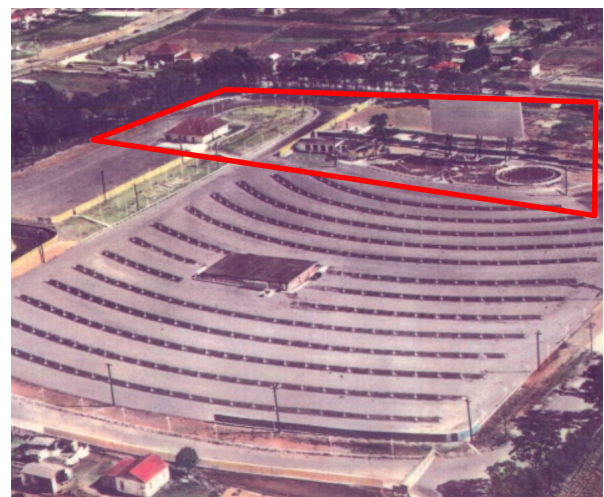


Figure 15 – North Ryde Skyline Drive-in which operated from 1956 to 1986. View west. Approximate location of the s The extant subject boundary curtilage is outline in red..

Source: <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/53120>

The site was redeveloped in 1986 with the removal of the cinema and contained at the time an empty lot comprising ongoing construction and groundworks (Figure 16). The extant warehouses were constructed by this time. By 1991 (Figure 17) the central carpark was constructed furthering onsite use for the commercial tenancies within the extant warehouses. The surrounding suburb continued to develop with the site to the immediate east being redeveloped and fully constructed by 2004 (Figure 18).



Figure 16 – c.1986 aerial image of the subject site within the context of its immediate locality. The extant subject boundary curtilage is outline in red.

Source: NSW Historical Imagery Viewer



Figure 17 – c.1991 aerial image of the subject site within the context of its immediate locality. The extant subject boundary curtilage is outline in red.

Source: NSW Historical Imagery Viewer



Figure 18 c.2004 aerial image of the subject site within the context of its immediate locality. The extant subject boundary curtilage is outline in red.

Source: NSW Historical Imagery Viewer

4. HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. WHAT IS HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE?

Before undertaking change a listed heritage item, a property within a heritage conservation area, or a property located in proximity to a listed heritage item, it is important to understand the heritage values of the place and its broader heritage context. This understanding will underpin the approach to any proposed changes and identify what is important and why, and how these values can be protected. Statements of heritage significance summarise the heritage values of a listed heritage item – why it is important and why a statutory listing was made to protect these values.

4.2. HERITAGE LISTINGS

4.2.1. Subject Site Heritage Listings

The subject site is not listed as a heritage item under Schedule 5 of the *Ryde LEP 2014* nor comprises any statutory heritage listings as identified in the heritage map below (Figure 19). The site is not within the vicinity of any heritage items or heritage conservation areas.

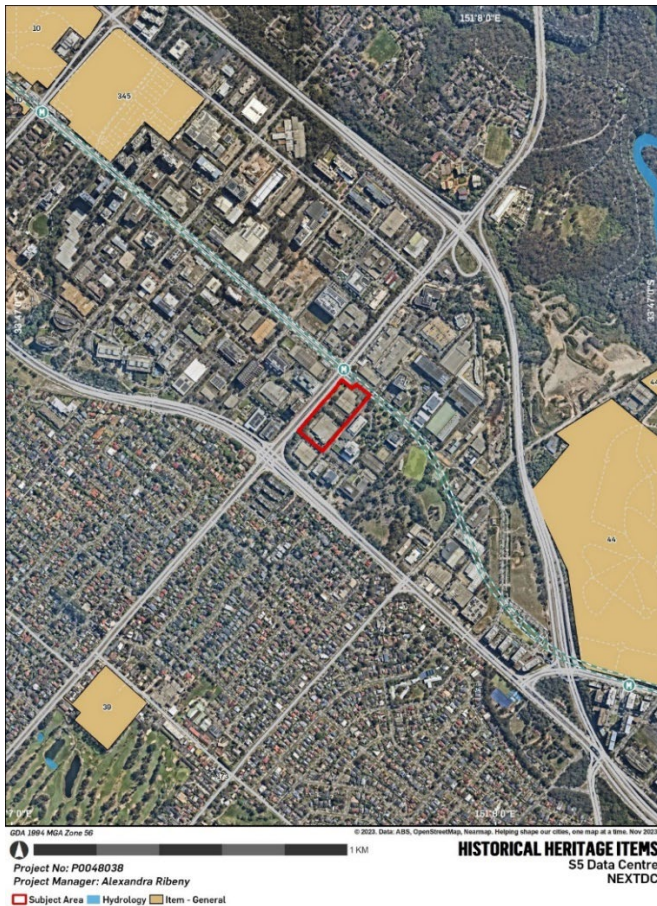


Figure 20 – Heritage items in broad proximity to the subject area.

4.3. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

The subject site has been briefly assessed against the Heritage Council of NSW's seven criteria for assessing heritage significance. The subject site has been assessed to not meet the requisite threshold for heritage listing. The site constitutes as a contemporary commercial site of industrial use within a similarly characterised contextual setting. There is no significant evident original subdivision pattern.

5. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks consent for construction and operation of a data centre development and includes site preparation works, bulk earthworks and infrastructure, and construction of the buildings, ancillary facilities, and associated site works. The application also includes the delivery of two internal roads and an urban plaza adjacent to the Macquarie Park Metro Station entrance.

Specifically, the Project comprises the redevelopment of the site as summarised below:

- Site preparation works including demolition and removal of existing structures, tree removal and bulk earthworks.
- Staged construction and operation of two data centre buildings (Building A and Building B), each with a maximum height of 65 metres and a combined total gross floor area (GFA) of 46,935m² comprising 33,643m² of technical data hall floor space and 13,292m² of office, retail and innovation hub floor space.
- Building A will be delivered in Stage 1, comprising:
 - Basement parking for 105 cars including four accessible spaces and 10 EV spaces.
 - Two retail tenancies at ground level: 335m².
 - Lobby and innovation hub including auditorium and training rooms: 3,192m².
 - NEXTDC and mission critical (MCX) office floor space: 9,765m².
 - Seven storeys of technical data floor space accommodating seven data houses: 17,258m²
 - Utilities including diesel generators (2MWe), above-ground water tanks for industrial water (460kL each), above-ground diesel storage tanks (110kL each) and an above-ground water tank for fire water (350kL each).
 - Business identification signage facing Waterloo Road and Lane Cove Road.
- Building B will be delivered in Stage 2, comprising:
 - Seven storeys of technical data floor space accommodating seven data halls: 16,385m².
 - Construction of a sky bridge which will connect with Building A, providing direct access between the data halls.
 - Utilities including diesel generators (2MWe), above-ground water tanks for industrial water (460kL each), above-ground diesel storage tanks (110kL each) and an above-ground water tank for fire water (350kL each).
 - Business identification signage on the western and southern building facades.

- Landscaping across the site in accordance with the project staging, delivering a mix of native and endemic plant species, shrubs and grasses, including 93 additional trees within a total area of 4,835m² deep soil and a resultant tree canopy cover of 6,211m².
- Staged delivery of public domain works, including:
 - Stage 1: construction of the northern extent of Road 13 from Waterloo Road and urban plaza between Building A and Waterloo Road.
 - Stage 2: construction of the remaining southern extent of Road 13 and the full extent of Road 5.
- Delivery of 90 megawatts of power (via a separate application with Ausgrid) with a 33kV switching station to be accommodated on site, as well as other site services, including stormwater infrastructure.

Plans of the proposed development can be seen below:

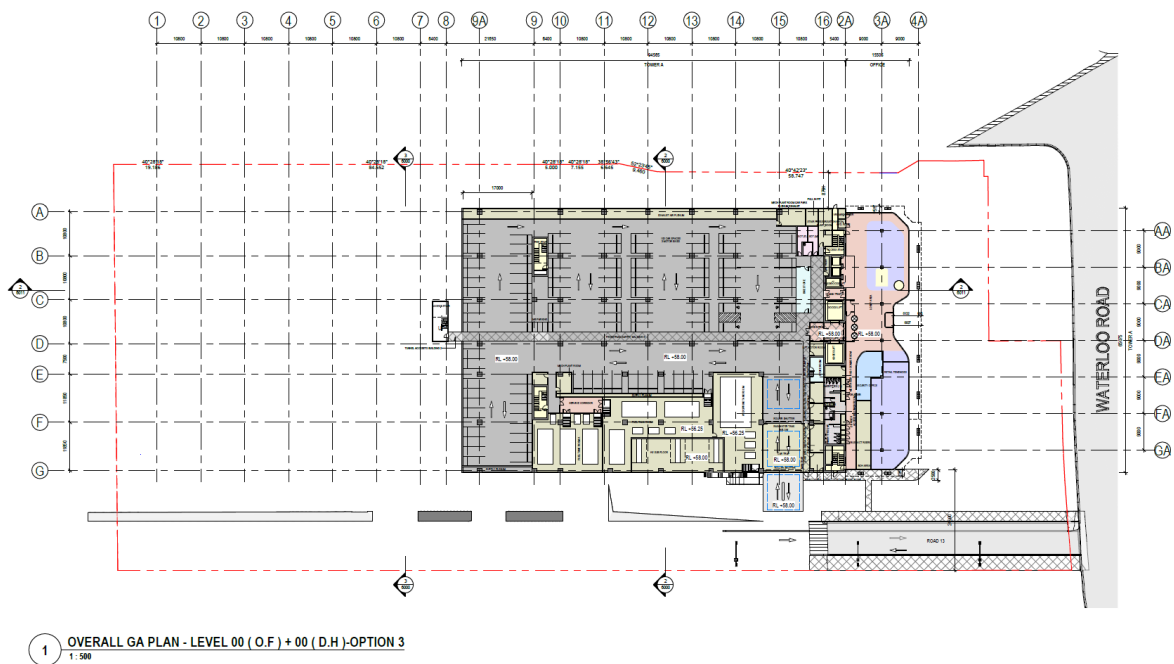
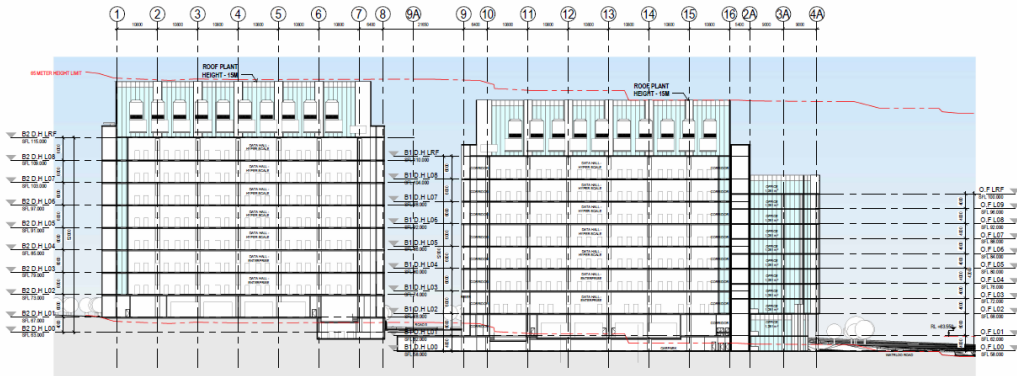
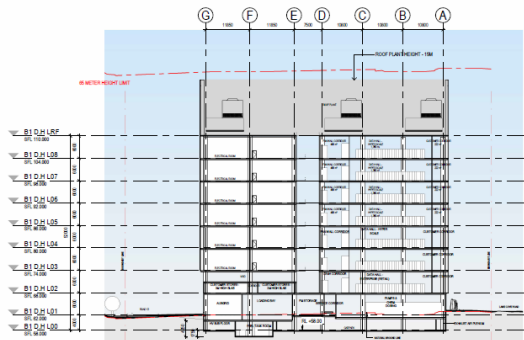


Figure 21 – Overall GA Plan – Level 00 (O.F) + 00 (D.H.)

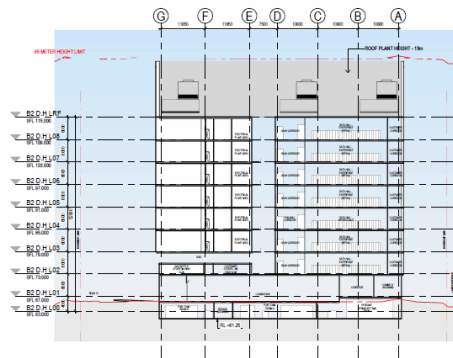
Source: HDR Architects, Drawing no. AR-0100-DRG-NXT-3000



1 SITE SECTION - B-OPTION 3
1:500



2 SITE SECTION A, BLDG 1-OPTION 3
1:500



3 SITE SECTION B, BLDG 2-OPTION 3
1:500

Figure 22 – Master Plan - Sections

Source: HDR Architects, Drawing no. AR-0000-DRG-NXT-6000

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The potential impact of the proposed development has been considered against the relevant provisions and controls of the Council's statutory and non-statutory planning controls as well as the Heritage NSW 'Statement of Heritage Impact' assessment guideline.

The site is not listed on any statutory heritage list, and it is not located in the vicinity of any heritage listed item. Further, this report finds that it does not comprise any significant heritage values. There is therefore no potential for the proposed works to have any detrimental heritage impacts.

7. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The following assessment of historical archaeology has been prepared to comply with Item 20 of the SEARs for SSD-63168959, issued on 8 November 2023. That item reads as follows:

Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – a non-Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (including both cultural and archaeological significance) which must detail potential impacts on heritage assets and any proposed management and mitigation measures.

In the context of historical archaeology, relevant (i.e. significant) archaeological resources are termed 'relics'. Section 4 of the *Heritage Act 1977* 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.

The heritage significance of potential historical archaeological resources is assessed against the criteria outlined in Section 3 above.

7.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Different phases of historical use and development of a subject area are likely to be associated with different archaeological resources, to have different degrees of integrity and to have different degrees of heritage significance. It is therefore useful to consider different historical phases separately when assessing archaeological potential and significance.

Based on the history provided in Section 3 above, the historical development and use of the present subject area is broadly categorised according to the following phases:

- Phase 1: Early Settlement (1788–1874)
- Phase 2: Initial Structures (1874–1956)
- Phase 3: Drive in Cinema (1956–1985)
- Phase 4: Modern Commercial Use (1985–Present)

The archaeological resources likely to be associated with each of the above phases and the likely integrity of those archaeological resources are summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Assessment of Archaeological Potential

Phase	Potential Resource	Integrity	Potential
<p>Phase 1: Early Settlement (1788–1874)</p>	<p>Archaeobotanical evidence of vegetation clearance, evidence of agricultural and husbandry activities including post holes and casual finds.</p>	<p>During Phase 1, the subject site was incorporated within the Field of Mars Common.</p> <p>Land in the Field of Mars Commons was exploited to differing degrees for purposes such as agriculture, grazing and firewood resourcing. Therefore, the site has the potential to retain ephemeral archaeological evidence of land clearance, agricultural and husbandry activities. However, these remains are likely to have been disturbed or truncated during subsequent construction works.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Phase 2: Initial Structures (1874–1956)</p>	<p>Archaeobotanical evidence of vegetation clearance, structural remains, material from early roads, and general discard items.</p>	<p>By 1930 several residential structures had been established within the subject site. Aerial photographs also reveal that roads had been established in association with these structures.</p> <p>Archaeological evidence of Phase 2 is therefore anticipated to include structural remains and material from early roads. These are likely to have been impacted or removed by subsequent construction works associated with Phases 3 and 4.</p> <p>Given the late date of these structures, which post-dates the introduction of sewerage services and tongue-and-groove flooring, there is low potential for <i>in situ</i> archaeological deposits, such as wells and cesspits, to occur</p>	<p>Structural remains: Low</p> <p><i>In situ</i> archaeological deposits: Low</p> <p>Evidence of vegetation clearance: Low</p>

Phase	Potential Resource	Integrity	Potential
		<p>throughout the site. Potential for these is further reduced by the high degree of subsequent disturbance.</p> <p>Historic aerials show further land clearance occurred during this period. However, the potential for ephemeral archaeological evidence of land clearance is likely to have been disturbed or removed during subsequent construction works.</p>	
<p>Phase 3: Drive in Cinema (1956–1985)</p>	<p>Structural remains and material from road surfaces.</p>	<p>During Phase 3, the subject site was partially occupied by the North Ryde Skyline Drive-in cinema. The south-eastern portion of the subject site corresponded with the area which housed the cinema screen. The construction of the cinema involved levelling, significant concreting works and further land clearance.</p> <p>Structural remains of the screen and buildings associated with the North Ryde Cinema, as well as material from road surfaces, may therefore be present within the subject site. However, it is likely that subsequent demolition and construction works associated with Phase 4 have removed these potential archaeological resources.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Phase 4: Modern Commercial Use</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>The current site configuration was reached during Phase 4 and includes two large multi-story commercial buildings as well as</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Phase	Potential Resource	Integrity	Potential
(1985– Present)		<p>carparks, driveways and landscaping.</p> <p>Disturbance associated with this phase is moderate-high and includes extensive cut and fill activities for the purpose of creating a series of level surfaces which ascend from Waterloo Road.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that archaeological resources would occur from Phase 4, due to the contemporaneity of the buildings.</p>	

7.2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* (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. Common units for describing archaeological potential are: known archaeological features/sites (high archaeological potential); potential archaeological features/sites (medium archaeological potential); no archaeological features/sites (low archaeological potential).

The term ‘archaeological feature’, as used in the above definition, is defined as:

Any physical evidence of past human activity.

However, in practice ‘archaeological potential’ is typically limited to assessing the likelihood of evidence of past human activity being present that meets the requirements of a ‘relic’.

Archaeological material associated with Phase 1 may have local heritage significance under criterion (e) at least. Such materials have the potential to yield information about the earliest historical and agricultural use of the Field of Mars Common which cannot be obtained through other sources. However, the likelihood of the subject area retaining any such materials is low due to the subsequent phases of human activity, including land clearance, construction of buildings, landscaping, cut and fill works. Therefore, while archaeological materials from Phase 1 may meet the threshold requirements to be considered relics, they are unlikely to be retained within the subject area.

Archaeological resources relating to Phases 2 and 3 is unlikely to satisfy any of the criteria for local or state significance. While there were structures present by the early - mid-20th century, they relate to a period which is well documented and understood. Materials are also unlikely to be retained with high integrity due to the landscaping and cut and fill activities undertaken in Phase 4.

Evidence of Phase 4 remains extant within the subject site and no associated archaeological potential has therefore been identified.

The archaeological potential of the subject area is therefore assessed to be low. It is unlikely to retain any historical archaeological materials which meet the threshold requirements for relics.

7.3. MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Although the likelihood of the subject area retaining any historical relics is low, it is recommended that unexpected finds and human remains procedures be implemented as harm mitigation measures.

If any archaeological deposits or features are unexpectedly discovered during any site works, 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.

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.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. BUILT HERITAGE

This HIS has assessed examined and addressed the potential impacts of the proposed development at 269 Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park, in order to support a SSDA (SSD-63741210) on heritage grounds, which seeks approval for a proposal relating to development works prepared by HDR Architects.

It has been found that there is no potential for works to have any detrimental heritage impacts. Therefore, the proposed works are recommended for approval from a heritage perspective.

8.2. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The historical archaeological assessment determined that the subject area has low potential for retaining historical relics. No further historical archaeological assessment is therefore recommended prior to commencement of works.

It is recommended that the present assessment be submitted with the SSDA and that the archaeological chance finds and human remains procedures outlined in Section 7.3 be implemented as harm mitigation measures.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allie Cornish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allie Cornish
Associate Director
+61 2 8233 7624
acornish@urbis.com.au