



Western Sydney University- Indigenous Centre of Excellence

Historical Archaeological Assessment

April 2024

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Cover Image

View of the Female Orphan School, Near Parramatta by Joseph Lycett, 1825. Source. State Library of Victoria 30328102131561/13.

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Executive Summary

Project Summary

The Applicant seeks development consent for the construction of a new state-of-the-art Indigenous Centre of Excellence as a new tertiary education facility on campus. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence project is funded by the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program in association with Western Sydney University. The new Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be an important asset for both the University and local community alike, providing a space for the commitment to advancing Indigenous education, leadership, and reconciliation. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will stand as a symbol of recognition of Indigenous land and the University's relationship with Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will represent a celebration of tens of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledges and histories, a legacy that the University is honoured to nurture and promote through further education opportunities for students and communities.

Through the Indigenous Centre of Excellence, the University will aim to drive positive change, increase Indigenous participation in higher education, and contribute to the preservation and sharing of Indigenous cultures.

This State Significant Development Application (SSDA) specifically seeks detailed approval for the following works:

- Site preparation including demolition of the existing car park, tree removal and installation of inground utility infrastructure services.
- Construction of a four-storey Indigenous Centre of Excellence encompassing:
 - Ground level facilities, including but not limited to; a dedicated arrival area, outdoor amphitheatre, cinema and lecture theatre, performance space, artist studios and exhibition space. Associated workspaces, meeting areas, lounge areas and other amenities are to be provided throughout the ground floor.
 - First floor level upwards comprising dedicated educational facilities including library facilities, learning areas and teaching spaces.
 - Second floor level comprising staff / student foyer, offices, meeting rooms and collaboration spaces.
 - Third floor level comprising a multi-functional recreational sports court, with associated ancillary amenities, alongside an astronomy garden.
 - Roof level plant and services.
- Construction of internal driveway with hardstand area to provide 13 car parking spaces.
- Landscaping works to provide outdoor educational and recreational spaces.

This report responds to the SSD-64916225 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) number 20 which was issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 21st November 2023. The purpose of this HAA is to identify the potential heritage impact that the proposed development may have on the potential archaeological resources identified within the study area.

The site is listed as *the 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)'* (SHR No.00749) within the NSW State Heritage Register, and listed as *'WSU Parramatta Campus, formerly Rydalmere Hospital and Female Orphan School' (I661)* within Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2023. The site comprises numerous items listed within the S170 Heritage Conservation Register. The study area is also located within the vicinity of a several local heritage items listed within the Parramatta LEP 2023.

Conclusions

This HAA has determined the following conclusions:

- The study area is situated within the curtilage of State Heritage Register (SHR No. 00749) *'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)'*.
- The study area has been subject to the following key post-1788 historical phases of use:
 - Phase 1: Arndell's Farm 1791 to 1810
 - Phase 2: Female Orphan School 1810 to 1850
 - Phase 3: Protestant Orphan School 1850 to 1887
 - Phase 4: Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane 1888 to 1945
 - Phase 5: Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital 1945 to 1989
 - Phase 6: Site unoccupied 1989 to 1993
 - Phase 7: University of Western Sydney 1993 to current
- The study area has been assessed to have a low to moderate potential to contain significant archaeological resources associated with the earliest phases of its use, including as part of Arndell's Farm and the Female Orphan School (Phases 1-2).
- The study area has been found to have a low to moderate potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with later phases of use, namely, the Protestant Orphan School, Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane and Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital (Phases 3, 4 and 5).
 - The potential archaeological resources associated with these phases of the site's history if discovered, have been assessed to meet the threshold for Local heritage significance, and depending on level of intactness, integrity and extent, resources associated with the Female Orphan School may be of State Significance.
- Archaeological resources associated with these phases have the potential to be preserved below localised historical disturbances; In particular, the formalised drainage line, culvert and pond in the centre of the study area are likely to have disturbed earlier deposits.
- Overall, the subsurface disturbance within the study area is, however, considered to be low, with potential for localised surviving archaeological remains.

Recommendations

In accordance with the above conclusions, the following recommendations are made:

Recommendation 1: Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology

An Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology (ARD +EM) should be developed and submitted to Department of Planning and referred to Heritage NSW for approval to guide the works.

The ARD should contain an excavation methodology (i.e. test trenches, open area excavation, monitoring or a combination of techniques), nominate an historical archaeological Excavation Director, identify Research Design questions, and provide recommendations for post-excavation reporting and management of the artefacts recovered from the works.

Recommendation 2: Test Excavation

An archaeological test excavation trench should be excavated in the area of archaeological sensitivity, focused on the location of the culvert, drainage line and pond.

An additional targeted, 2-3 sample test trenches using machine excavation, to test the integrity, intactness and extent of any potential early phases of site use should be undertaken prior to bulk excavation works in areas identified as having potential to contain relics of local or State significance, in order to confirm the predicted intactness of the archaeological resource.

The test excavation should be guided by the ARD + EM and in consultation with Heritage NSW.

Recommendation 3: Archaeological Monitoring

All ground disturbing works should be subject to archaeological monitoring to identify any ephemeral archaeological features that may be impacted during works.

Recommendation 4: Unexpected Finds Procedure

An Unexpected Finds and Stop Works Procedure should be developed and implemented for all other works within the study area.

Recommendation 5: Additional Works

Any additional subsurface impacts not presented in Section 6 of this document may need to be assessed in an addendum to this report.

1. Introduction

1. 1. Introduction

1.1. The Purpose of this Report

The Applicant seeks development consent for the construction of a new state-of-the-art Indigenous Centre of Excellence (ICoE) as a new tertiary education facility on campus. The ICoE project is funded by the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program in association with Western Sydney University. The new ICoE will be an important asset for both the University and local community alike, providing a space for the commitment to advancing Indigenous education, leadership, and reconciliation. The ICoE will stand as a symbol of recognition of Indigenous land and the University's relationship with Indigenous communities. The ICoE will represent a celebration of tens of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledges and histories, a legacy that the University is honoured to nurture and promote through further education opportunities for students and communities.

Through the ICoE, the University will aim to drive positive change, increase Indigenous participation in higher education, and contribute to the preservation and sharing of Indigenous cultures.

This State Significant Development Application (SSDA) specifically seeks detailed approval for the following works:

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2023. The site comprises numerous items listed within the S170 Heritage Conservation Register. The study area is also located within the vicinity of a several local heritage items listed within the Parramatta LEP 2023.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the relevant Heritage NSW guidelines, the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2023, and the specific requirements outlined within the Part 7 (Heritage and Archaeology) Parramatta Development Control Plan (DCP) 2023. This report has also been prepared in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Australia ICOMOS, 2013, *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance and The Burra Charter*
- Heritage Branch, 1996, *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines*
- Heritage Branch, 2009, *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*

1.2. Site Identification

The Western Sydney University South Parramatta Campus is located within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA), at 171 Victoria Road Parramatta.

The site comprises one (1) singular allotment, which is legally described as Lot 100 in DP 816829. The project site is known as the P1 Car Park in the northern portion of the wider site campus. The project site is approximately 12,150m² in size and is broadly rectangular in shape. It currently comprises of a hardstand area that accommodates approximately 284 car parking spaces. There is an existing single storey Central Energy Plant to the west of the development area which serves the wider campus; it remains outside of the scope of this SSDA.

The site is strategically positioned to the northern boundary of the Western Sydney University (University) South Parramatta Campus, fronting Victoria Road (the A40). The wider campus comprises a significant landholding size of approximately 20ha containing a series of buildings of differing heights and massing forms which are used for educational purposes. The buildings contained within the wider campus site are dissected by a series of open, at grade car parks, internal roads, pathways, and landscaped areas. The Campus sits to the north of the Parramatta River.

The site is located approximately 3km east of the Parramatta CBD, which is an area undergoing a process of significant transformation. It is also located approximately 500m to the Parramatta Light Rail Corridor, with the construction of new Yallamundi Light Rail now completed and awaiting operation by TfNSW.

The site location is identified in Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2.

1.3. Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs)

The SEARs relevant to this assessment are presented in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: SEARs

SEAR	Where addressed
20. Environmental Heritage Where there is potential for direct or indirect impacts on the heritage significance of environmental heritage, provide a Statement of Heritage Impact and Archaeological Assessment (if potential impacts to archaeological resources are identified), prepared in accordance with the relevant guidelines, which assessed any impacts and outlines measures to ensure they are minimised and mitigated.	This document meets this SEAR in regard to preparation of an Archaeological Assessment. A separate Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared by Curio to meet the further requirements of this SEAR.¹



Figure 1-1: Plan of Parramatta campus with Building EN study area marked in yellow. Source: WSU, 2024

¹ Curio Projects, 2024, Indigenous Centre of Excellence Statement of Heritage Impact, report for Western Sydney University

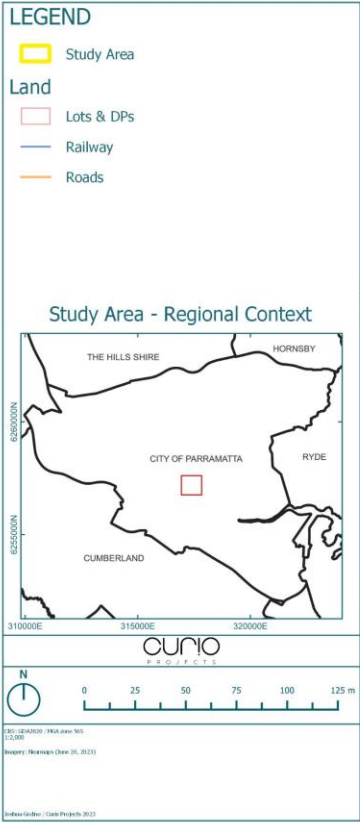


Figure 1-2: Study Area. Source: Curio 2024

1.4. Limitations and Constraints

This report has been prepared using the available historical data and documentation available for the study area and surrounds including relevant archaeological reports and assessments. This report does not include assessment of Aboriginal heritage values or archaeology, nor any non-heritage related planning controls or requirements.

1.5. Authorship

The Historical Archaeological Assessment has been prepared by Elanor Pitt, Archaeologist and Cultural Heritage Specialist and Sarah McGuinness, Principal Archaeologist and Cultural Heritage Specialist, with senior review and input undertaken by Natalie Vinton, CEO, Curio Projects. Mapping has been prepared by Elanor Pitt, Curio Projects.

2. Statutory Context

2. Statutory Context

In NSW, heritage items and known or potential archaeological resources (non-Aboriginal) are afforded statutory protection under two principal pieces of legislation:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EPA Act); and
- Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) (Heritage Act).

2.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) administers the EP&A Act, which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments made to legislate and guide the processes of development and land use. Local heritage items, including known archaeological items, identified Aboriginal Places and heritage conservation areas are protected through listings on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), Regional Environmental Plans (REPs), and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). The EP&A Act also requires that potential historical archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, in accordance with the requirements of the Heritage Act (see relevant sections below for further on the Heritage Act).

2.1.1. State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)

The study area falls within the Foreshores & Waterways Area boundary of SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 and is subject to its associated planning controls and requirements.

No heritage items within or close to the study area are listed on the SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 heritage register.

2.1.2. Parramatta Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2023

The study area is located within the City of Parramatta LGA and is subject to the statutory controls of the City of Parramatta LEP 2023. Clause 5.10 of the Parramatta LEP 2023 sets out objective and planning controls for the conservation of heritage in the Council area, including the conservation of built heritage and archaeological sites.

The study area is located within one item listed on the Parramatta LEP 2023. A number of items are also situated adjacent to the study area. These are presented in Table 2-2 and Figure 2-1.

2.1.3. GML, 2000, Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study (PHALMS)

The Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study (PHALMS) was prepared for the Parramatta area. The area was divided into Archaeological Management Units (AMUs) based on known historical use, archaeological sensitivity, and disturbances. The WSU Rydalmere campus was designated as AMU #2999 and considered to be of State significance and High research potential.

The PHALMS recommended archaeological assessment for any works within AMU #2999.²

Parramatta Development Control Plan 2023

The Parramatta Development Control Plan (DCP) 2023 is a non-statutory development control plan that provides detailed design guidelines to support the Parramatta LEP 2023. The DCP provides guidance on how development may occur and includes primary objectives to ensure that items of environmental heritage are conserved, respected and protected.

² GML, 2000, Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study (PHALMS), Vol1, p3

Part 7 of the DCP relates to Heritage and Archaeology. Parts 7.7 and 7.8 of the DCP relate to Archaeology and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage respectively and comprises a comprehensive list of objectives and controls. These objectives are outlined within Table 2-1 below:

Table 2-1: Objectives for Archaeology and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage within Parramatta DCP, with provisions relevant to historical archaeology indicated in bold.³

DCP Section	Objectives
Archaeology (Part 7.7)	<i>0.01 To provide appropriate conservation and management of the archaeological resources to the City.</i> <i>0.02 Ensure that development is undertaken in a manner that protects sites of archaeological significance and minimises the likelihood of disturbance to archaeological relics.</i>
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Part 7.8)	<i>0.01 To ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the impact of development on known or potential Aboriginal archaeological sites or sites of cultural or historical significance to Aboriginal people in the City.</i> <i>0.02 Minimise the likelihood of disturbance to protect Aboriginal sites and archaeological relics.</i>

2.2. NSW Heritage Act 1977

In NSW, heritage items are afforded statutory protection under the Heritage Act. Heritage places and items of particular importance to the people of NSW are listed on the NSW SHR. The Heritage Act defines a heritage item as a 'place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. It is responsible for the conservation and regulation of impacts to items of State heritage significance, with 'State Heritage Significance' defined as being of 'significance to the state in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item'.

Excavation permits are issued by the Heritage Council of NSW, or its Delegate, under Section (s) 140 of the Heritage Act for relics not listed on the SHR or under Section 60 for relics listed on the SHR. An application for an excavation permit must be supported by an Archaeological Research Design and Archaeological Assessment prepared in accordance with the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (NSW Heritage, DPC) archaeological guidelines. Minor works that will have a minimal impact on archaeological relics may be granted an exception under s139 (4) for items/landscapes not listed on the SHR or an exemption under s57 (2) of the Heritage Act for items/landscapes on the SHR.

The site is identified as an item listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR No. 00749) '*Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)*'.

2.2.1. Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register

Under Section 170 (s170) of the Heritage Act, government instrumentalities must keep a s170 Register which contains items under the control or ownership of the agency and which are or could be listed as heritage items (of State or Local significance).

The study area is located within and close to a number of heritage items listed on the Sydney University s170 Heritage Conservation Area. These are presented in Table 2-2 below. While no mapping data is available on the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI) for these items, the 2008 CMP includes a map of built assets occupying the site and their significance. This is shown in Figure 2-1.

2.3. Non-Statutory Heritage Registers

³ City of Parramatta Council, 2022. *Draft Development Control Plan. Part 7*.

2.3.1. Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) is a list of natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage places throughout Australia. It was originally established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975. Under that Act, the Australian Heritage Commission entered more than 13,000 places in the register. Following amendments to the Australian Heritage Council Act 2003, the RNE was frozen on 19 February 2007 and ceased to be a statutory register in February 2012. The RNE is now maintained on a non-statutory basis as a publicly available archive and educational resource.

There are a number of items in and close to the study area included in the RNE. These are outlined in Table 2-2.

2.4. Heritage Items and HCAs in the Vicinity of the Study Area

Table 2-2 provides a summary of all statutory heritage listings both included within, as well as in the vicinity of, the study area, illustrated in Figure 2-1.

Table 2-2: Summary of heritage listings within and in the vicinity of the subject site.

Register	Item name	Item No.	Address	Significance	Relationship to the study area
<i>Within the study area</i>					
State Heritage Register	<i>Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)</i>	00749	171 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	Within
Parramatta LEP 2023	<i>WSU Parramatta Campus, formerly Rydalmere Hospital and Female Orphan School</i>	1661	171 Victoria Road, Parramatta	State	Within
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>UWS Parramatta South Campus</i>	4730036	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	Within
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Archaeological Potential - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730035	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	Within
NHL	<i>Sydney Cultural Crescent Rock Art</i>	106369	Sydney, NSW	Nominated for National Significance	Within
<i>In the Vicinity</i>					
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Ed - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730012	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	80m S
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>The Avenue Stone Bridge - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730033	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	118m W

Register	Item name	Item No.	Address	Significance	Relationship to the study area
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Ef - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730014	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	155m S
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Eg - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730015	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	170m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Eh - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730016	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	175m S
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Landscape - Orphan School Precinct; Avenue Planting; 1900 Ward Range - Rydalmere</i>	4730034	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	177m W
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Ei - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730017	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	218m S
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Eja - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730018	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	237m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Ejc - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730019	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	267m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Ejd - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730020	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	268m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Ek - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730021	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	297m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Eka - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730022	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	280m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Boiler House and Stack - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (Ekb)</i>	4730032	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	257m SSW

Register	Item name	Item No.	Address	Significance	Relationship to the study area
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Em - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730023	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	290m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Eo - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730024	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	302m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Eq - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730025	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	326m SW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Es - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730026	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	359m SW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Ez Main - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730029	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	365m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Eza - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730030	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	381m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Et - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730027	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	434m SW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Building Ev - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730028	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	431m SSW
WSU s170 Heritage Conservation Register	<i>Boat House and Adjacent Stonework - Rydalmere Hospital Precinct</i>	4730031	171-179 Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	495m SW
Parramatta LEP 2023	<i>Wetlands</i>	I011	Parramatta River	Local	477m S
Parramatta LEP 2023	<i>Clyde Carlingford Rail Bridge abutments</i>	I695	Adjacent to 171 Victoria Road, Parramatta	Local	480m S
PHALMS	<i>AMU 2999</i>	2999	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	State	Within
Landscape Management Plan 2003	<i>Remaining Lands Conservation Area 4</i>	4	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	Within

Register	Item name	Item No.	Address	Significance	Relationship to the study area
RNE	<i>Female Orphan School Precinct</i>	3058	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	250m S
RNE	<i>Boat House</i>	3061	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	495m SW
RNE	<i>Chief Attendants Cottage (former)</i>	3062	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	431m SSW
RNE	<i>Dispensary (former)</i>	3063	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	381m SSW
RNE	<i>Hostel (former) now Administration Building</i>	3064	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	434m SW
Landscape Management Plan 2003	<i>Institutional Complex Conservation Area 1</i>	1	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	50m S
Landscape Management Plan 2003	<i>Cricket Ground & Venues Conservation Area 2</i>	2	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	0m S
Landscape Management Plan 2003	<i>Vinyard Creek Conservation Area 3</i>	3	Victoria Road, Rydalmere	N/A	20m E



Figure 2-1: SHR (blue hatch) and LEP (brown) Heritage Listed items in the vicinity of the study area. Source: Curio 2023

3. Historical Summary

3. Historical Development of the Study Area

This chapter provides a brief timeline summary of the historical phases of use and development activity at the subject site to provide historical context.

3.1. Aboriginal Ethnohistory

3.1.1. Pre-European Environment

Prior to European occupation of the region Aboriginal people had inhabited the wider region of the Sydney basin for thousands of years. The Darug, the traditional owners of the Parramatta area, are part of a language group that originally extended from the eastern suburbs of Sydney as far south as La Perouse, west as far as Bathurst and north as far as the Hawkesbury River. The Darug clan group, that occupied modern day Parramatta, were the Barramattagal after whom that place is named. Much of the evidence of traditional Aboriginal lifestyle and economy was disturbed in the early years of European settlement and much of our information on the local people is based on ethnohistorical sources.

The Barramattagal people enjoyed an abundant and uniquely varied food resource created by the convergence of fresh water and salt water within the river. Fresh water species included mullet, crayfish, shellfish and turtles while the saltwater species included eels, fish, shell fish and molluscs, and large shell middens were created by Aboriginal people along the majority of the main waterways in the region. Post-1788, Aboriginal shell middens were excavated for a myriad of uses by the Europeans. Much of the disturbance of shell middens occurred early in the post-contact period, particularly in areas of the river close to settlement building activity such as Parramatta and Sydney.⁴

3.1.2. Post Contact History

At the time of the arrival of the First Fleet in January 1788, it is estimated that at least 1,500 Aboriginal people may have lived along the coastal region between Broken Bay and Botany Bay. The arrival of the First Fleet devastated the lives and activities of Aboriginal people in the Sydney area, restricting access to areas traditionally used for hunting and gathering, shelter, and ceremonial purposes, while also introducing devastating diseases such as smallpox. It is estimated that almost half of Sydney's Aboriginal population died in the first smallpox epidemic recorded in the colony in 1789.⁵

The local Aboriginal inhabitants of Parramatta would have been some of Australia's first traditional owners to experience the detrimental impacts, social dislocation and disturbance which resulted from European arrival. Parramatta was the second settlement established in New South Wales, intended to supply the Sydney settlement with agricultural resources. Soon after the First Fleet reached Sydney Cove in January 1788, it became apparent that the surrounding land was not suitable for agriculture.

Following the arrival of the Second Fleet in 1790, Parramatta was officially founded by Governor Phillip as the second city on the Australian mainland. Following the success of the farming at Rose Hill, the decision was made to expand the settlement, with a town plan being laid out by Phillip in 1790 with High Street (George Street) running from the planned site of Government House to the wharf at the eastern end of Parramatta (near Harris Street). The initial planning of Parramatta saw

⁴ Curio Projects, 2020. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Charles Street Square Upgrade, 38 Charles St, Parramatta*. Prepared for Spackman Mossop Michaels & City of Parramatta Council.

⁵ Hinkson, M. & Harris, A., 2010, *Aboriginal Sydney: a guide to important places of the past and present*, 2nd ed, Aboriginal Studies Press Canberra.

wide streets and large land allotments, with the early population of the city predominantly consisting of convicts. The first permanent dwellings and structures in the city were generally focused along the main streets of George, Macquarie and Church Streets. Parramatta was renamed in 1791, after the Aboriginal name for the area (Burramatta, which is reported to loosely translate to 'the place where the eels lie down').⁶ During this time, the study area was situated within the Field of Mars Common, used as a free pasture for farmers within the Sydney region (Figure 3-1).



Figure 3-1: Detail of <1859 map Parish of St. John, County of Cumberland / printed & published by W. Meadows Brownrigg, Surveyor, with study area indicated in red. Source: NLA MAP G8971.G46 svar

3.2. Arthurs Hill: 1791 to 1810

The study area has been under continuous known European occupation since 1791 when it was acquired by assistant surgeon Thomas Arndell. Arndell named the property Arthur's Hill and cultivated part of his land and built a small hut and outbuildings for his small family by 1792.⁷ These buildings were destroyed by a bushfire in late 1792,⁸ and their exact location within the grant is unknown.

An archaeological assessment for the site prepared by Casey & Lowe in 1997 noted that while there was some potential for evidence of these buildings to surviving in the broader landscape, it would be highly ephemeral and difficult to distinguish if exposed during subsurface excavations.⁹ However, a

⁶ Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists, 2003. *Parramatta City Council Aboriginal Heritage Study*, prepared for Parramatta City Council.

⁷ Casey and Lowe, 2007. *Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus*, p. 6.

⁸ Collins, D., 1798. *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, Vol. I, p.189.

⁹ Casey and Lowe, 1997. *Archaeological Assessment: University of Western Sydney, Nepean. Parramatta Campus (Old Rydalmere Hospital), Infrastructure Works*. Report to Howard Tanner and Associates on behalf of the University of Western Sydney, p. 19.

description of the hut's construction notes that bricks were used for a fireplace,¹⁰ the remains of which may have survived in the landscape today.

3.3. The Female Orphan School: 1810 to 1887

In 1810, Governor Lachlan Macquarie acquired Arndell's land for the purposes of a Female Orphan Institution (Figure 3-2). The building's foundation stone was laid in 1813 and the orphanage opened for pupils in 1818 (Figure 3-3). The school and its immediate grounds sat almost 200 meters west of the study area, which was occupied by open eucalyptus forest at the time.¹¹

Throughout this early period of the orphan school's development, land in and around the study area was occupied by a Eucalyptus forest and bordered to the west and south by a kitchen garden.¹² A history prepared for the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital in 1988 identified that the broader landscape may have been occupied by unrecorded structures such as a gardener's and superintendent's hut and accommodation for male and female convicts between c1818 and 1821.¹³

In 1850, a Male Protestant Orphan School was constructed to the north of the Female Orphan School. Following a push towards residential care referred to as 'boarding out', the schools were closed in 1887.¹⁴ During this later period of land use, the study area was used as an orchard.¹⁵

¹⁰ Collins, D., 1798. Vol. I, p.205.

¹¹ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 28.

¹² Tanner & Associates, 2000. *UWS Female Orphan School CMP*.

¹³ Public Works Department, 1988. *Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital evolution with a statement of its significance*, Section 3.2.3.

¹⁴ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 5.

¹⁵ Tanner & Associates, 2000.



Figure 3-2: Detail of 1844 Plan of the Town of Parramatta and the adjacent properties as surveyed by W. Meadows Brownrigg, Surveyor with study area indicated in red. Source: City of Parramatta PRS102/099



Figure 3-3: View of the Female Orphan School, Near Parramatta by Joseph Lycett, 1825. Source. State Library of Victoria 30328102131561/13.

3.4. Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane and Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital: 1888-1989

In 1888 the former Female Orphan School property was transferred to the Department of Lunacy and the site taken over by the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital (Figure 3-6). The hospital moved into the original orphanage buildings and soon developed land to the north and west of the study area in the late 1890s and throughout the 20th century (Figure 3-7). The hospital was renamed the Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane in 1891 after being granted independent status by the NSW government.¹⁶ During this period, the study area was occupied by a vegetable and fruit garden (Figure 3-7).¹⁷

Development of the site throughout the late 19th and early 20th century reflected changing attitudes towards landscape design and patient care. This included the formation of new gardens, bridges, a plantation, cricket ground and construction of Ha-Ha walls within the hospital grounds. Ha-Ha walls are characterised by an open ditch with concrete retaining walls on either side. A metal fence would have run around the ground level of the wall to prevent patients and employees from falling into the ditch.¹⁸ Plantings for new gardens across the landscape were established using trees and shrubs from the Royal Botanic Gardens.¹⁹ Additional landscaping occurred in the 1960s and 70s, although this was more informal.²⁰

The study area does not appear on the 1893 survey plan of the Psychiatric Hospital grounds, as it is cut off in the available copy of the plan (Figure 3-7). The plan does, however, show the line of the creek known to have run through study area (Figure 3-7). Two undated, but likely c.1897-1934, plans of the Psychiatric Hospital grounds show an excavated ditch running along the line of the former creek, formalising the line of the creek for drainage purposes (Figure 3-8 and Figure 3-9). A c.1897-1934 detailed plan shows the pond in the south-western corner of the study area and the excavated ditch following the line of the former creek running E-W through the southern section of the study area. Conservation Studies prepared in 1982/1984 and 2008 for the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital suggest that the creek was infilled as a drainage line in c.1899 and the pond excavated in 1900; however, the pond and ditch are dated to the earlier Protestant Orphan School phase in the 2003 Landscape Management Plan.²¹ A culvert is shown at the junction of the pond and ditch, while a fence runs SW-NE from the culvert to the line of Victoria Road, as well as along the southern side of the ditch (Figure 3-9). Plantings and a paling fence are shown along the northern boundary along Victoria Road; these plantings may have been the 1870s Moreton Bay Figs and Stone Pines donated to the Protestant Orphan School. The southern section of the study appears to have been used as a grazing paddock (Figure 3-9). In the centre of the southern boundary of the study area is a pit, which may have been used for dumping waste products (Figure 3-9). The study area, in association with the cricket ground to the west, appears to have been used for recreational and agricultural pursuits in line with the changing attitudes towards patient care and landscape design.

Parish maps dating from 1899 to 1922 show no details of the study area other than its inclusion in the grounds of the 'Hospital for the insane' (Figure 3-10 to Figure 3-11). By 1943, the pond had been infilled and the drainage ditch extended across the full extent of the study area (Figure 3-12). A path ran roughly N-S through the study area with a small bridge crossing the ditch near the centre of the study area (Figure 3-12). A tennis court had been constructed near the north-western corner of the

¹⁶ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 5.

¹⁷ Tanner & Associates, 2000.

¹⁸ Public Works Department, 1988. *Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital evolution with a statement of its significance*.

¹⁹ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 5.

²⁰ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 6.

²¹ Conybeare Morrison, 2008, p. 16; CAB Consulting & The Tree School, 2003, pp. 8-9.

study area (Figure 3-12). A fence also appears to have been installed to the south of the ditch in the south-eastern corner (Figure 3-12). At this time, it appears that the 1870s Moreton Bay Figs and Stone Pines were still intact along the fenced northern boundary. Mature trees were also present along the western boundary and the southern side of the ditch in the eastern section of the study area. The north-western section of the study area appears to have been used for agricultural purposes, as remnant lines of crops/plantings are visible in this area (Figure 3-12). The former paling fence along the northern boundary appears to have been replaced with a more substantial, likely brick, fence by this time. The aerials indicate the continued use of the study area for recreational and agricultural purposes for the patients of the Psychiatric Hospital.

By the time of the 1950 aerial, the drainage ditch had been partially infilled, the tennis courts extended, a lawn bowling green installed in the north-western corner and a new rectilinear building constructed in the centre of the northern side of the study area (Figure 3-13). A 1958 photograph shows that the tennis court had been further extended to three courts, with timber posts and a likely asphalt, acrylic or concrete surface (Figure 3-14). By 1960, the remaining trees in the southern section and western side of the study area had been removed. The drainage ditch had been replaced with underground stormwater piping and the land in the southern section levelled (Figure 3-15). A playing field had been established in the south-eastern corner of the study area, while driveways had been established along the eastern and northern boundaries from Railway Street and Victoria Road respectively, leading to a parking area in the centre (Figure 3-15).

A 1970 aerial shows little change within the study area over the 1960s, other than an informal extension of the driveway from the northern boundary along Victoria Road to the south along Fifth Street (Figure 3-16). However, by this time, the overhead road of Bridge Street directly to the west of the study area was constructed over Victoria Road (Figure 3-16). By 1985, the northern driveway along Victoria Road had been removed and replaced with an informal driveway from the southern boundary along Fifth Street (Figure 3-17). Shade structures had additionally been constructed along the northern and southern ends of the eastern two tennis courts, while an additional rectilinear structure was installed to the south of the main central building, likely toilets (Figure 3-17). The aerials indicate that the use of the study area moved away from agricultural uses and towards only recreational purposes for the patients of the Psychiatric Hospital. It is likely that this area was used by patients until the closure of the hospital in 1989.²²

3.5. Vacant: 1989-1993

The site of the former Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital was vacant for four years following the closure of the hospital in 1989.²³ No formal or informal activities are recorded for the study area during this period.

3.6. University of Western Sydney: 1993-Present

In 1993, the University of Western Sydney proposed to reuse the vacant site and acquired the site in 1995.²⁴ As part of the redevelopment works, new buildings were erected, existing buildings were updated and landscaping works were undertaken for the site's new use as a university.²⁵ The

²² Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 6.

²³ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 6.

²⁴ Western Sydney University, 2016. 'The Female Orphan School: Dereliction and Restoration: 1980s to Present'. *Western Sydney University*. Accessed online on 09 August 2023 at:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/femaleorphanschool/home/dereliction_and_restoration_1989_to_present

²⁵ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 10.

following summary has been taken directly from the 2008 CMP prepared by Conybeare Morrison International:

In March 1998, The Parramatta Campus of the University of Western Sydney opened its classrooms to students. The former psychiatric hospital buildings were adapted to the new use and an award winning restoration of the Female Orphan School was carried out by Tanner and Associates. New services were installed and new buildings erected including the Ian and Nancy Turbott Auditorium, Whitlam Library, and more recently, the Teaching Building.²⁶

Although the CMP states that the Co-generation Plant Building was constructed in c.2000,²⁷ based on aerial photography, the Co-generation Plant Building, carpark and brick retaining wall in the study area were constructed in c.1997 (Figure 3-18). During this time, the brick fence along the northern boundary was demolished, leaving only the foundation bricks along its former alignment. No further changes are apparent until 2004, when the carpark was extended to the north-west and east to its current extent (Figure 3-20 and Figure 3-21). The trees along the boundaries appear to have been planted in two stages prior to 2008 and c.2009. Small scale changes have occurred in the study area since this time, including the north-western entrance sign in 2014 and the installation of ticketing machines and wayfinding signage.

²⁶ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 6.

²⁷ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 10.

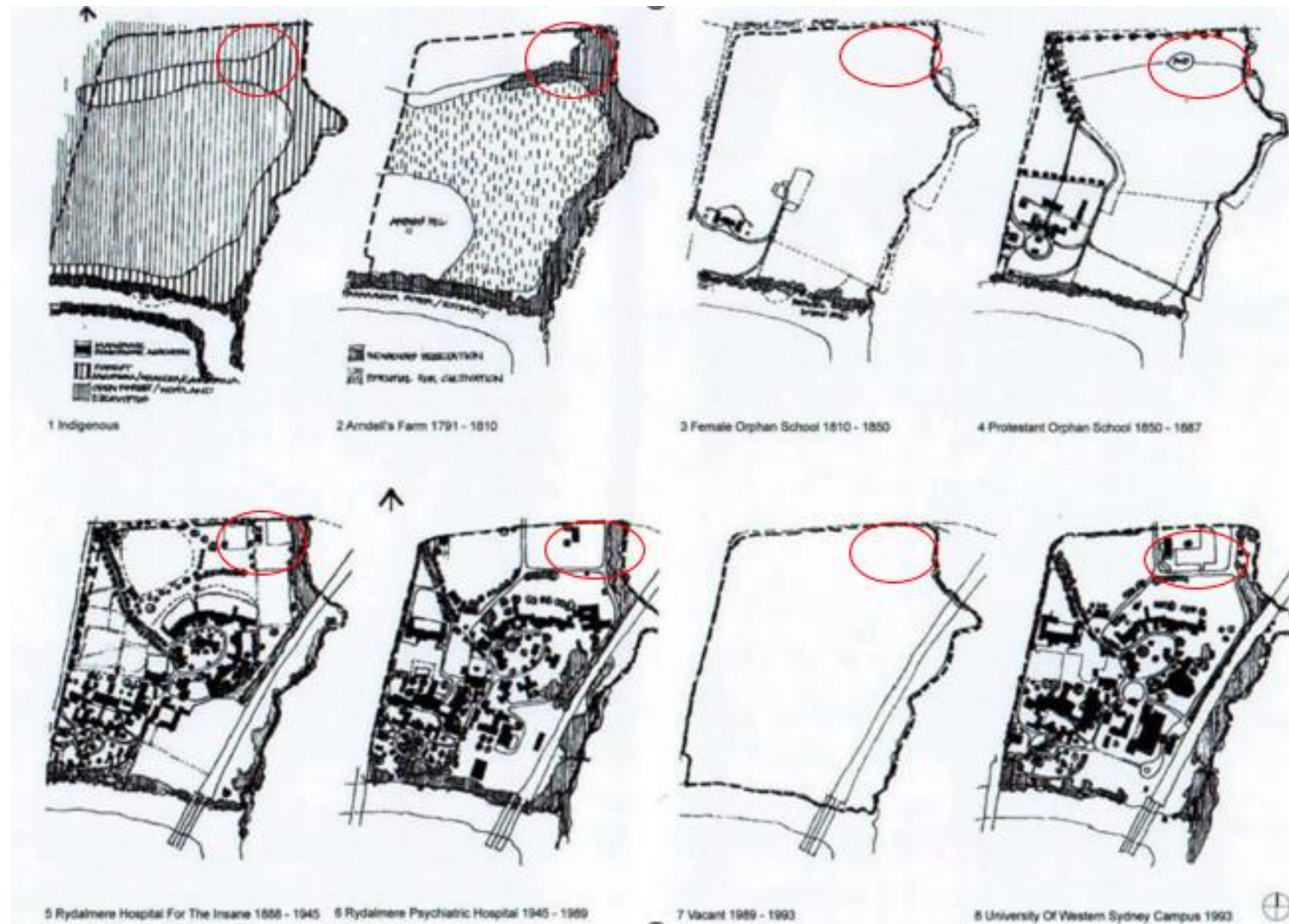


Figure 3-4: Indicative phases of occupation of the WSU Parramatta South Campus. Source: Source CAB Consulting Pty Ltd & The Tree School, 2003, p 7.



Figure 3-5: View of the Female Orphan School, Near Parramatta by Joseph Lycett, 1825. Source. State Library of Victoria 30328102131561/13.



Figure 3-6: Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital, around 1890. Source. State Records NSW, NRS 5598.

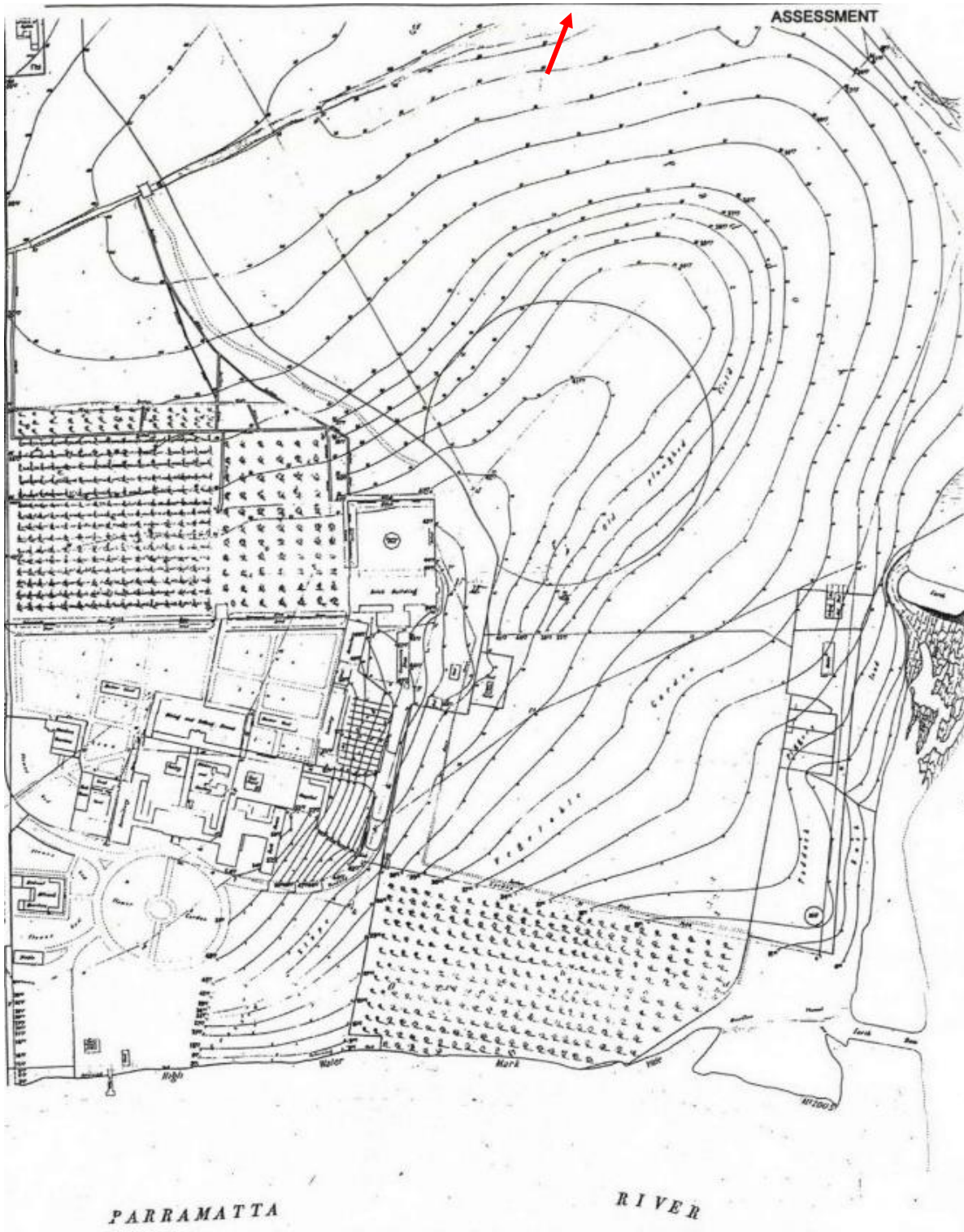


Figure 3-7: 1893 Surveyor's plan showing 'Contours features, and buildings within the area dedicated for the hospital for the Insane, Rydalmere'. Indicative location of the study area is shown by the red arrow. Source. Land Titles Office 682-3000.

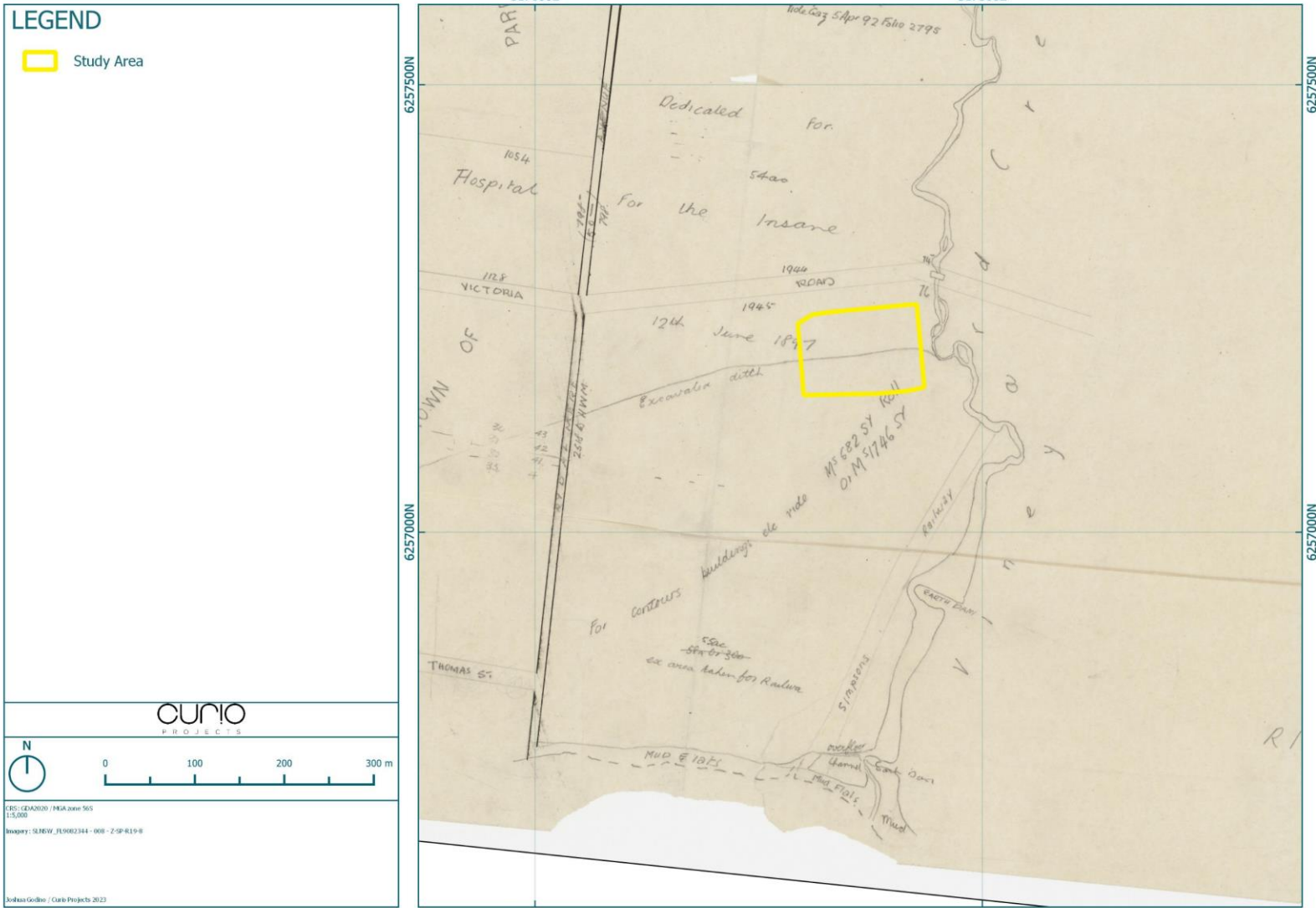


Figure 3-8: Undated sketch plan of Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital, likely dating to c.1897-1924, showing an excavation ditch running through the study area. Source. SLNSW, FL9082344, 008 - Z-SP-R19-8.

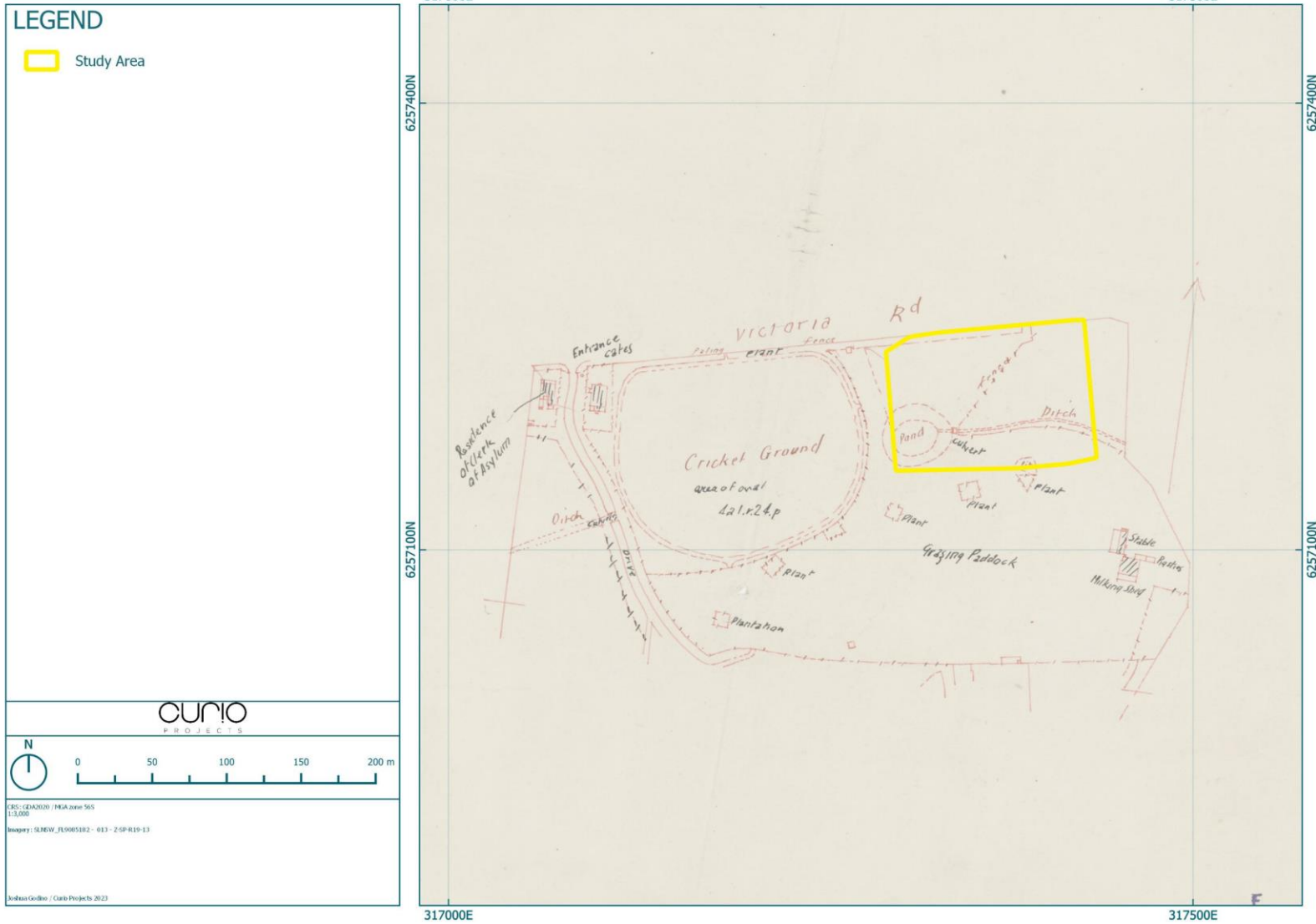


Figure 3-9: A c.1897-1924 plan of the northern end of the Hospital grounds, showing a pond, ditch, culvert, pit and fencing in the study area. Source. SLNSW, FL9085182, 013 - Z-SP-R19-13.

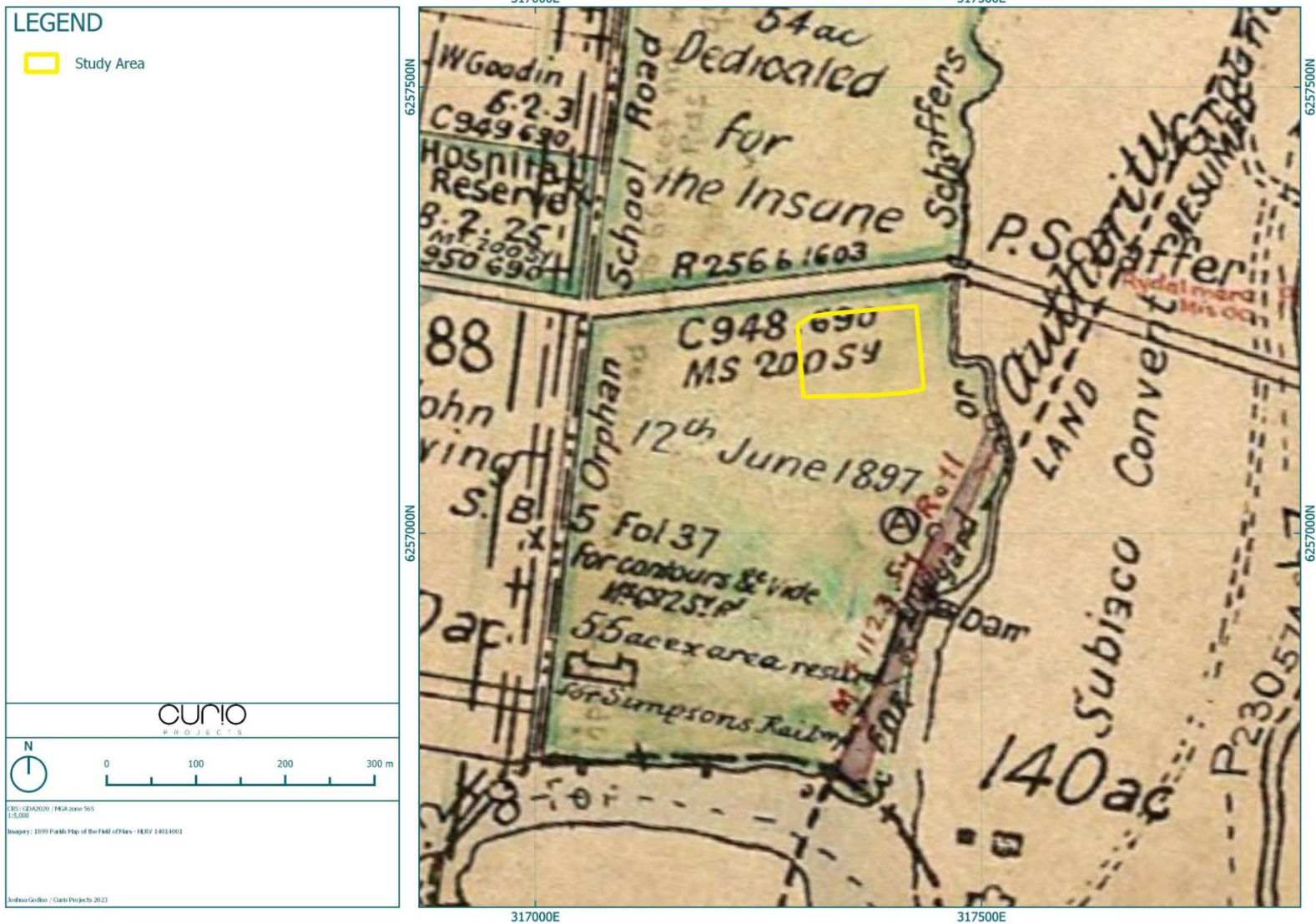


Figure 3-10: An 1899 Parish Map of the Field of Mars, showing the study area within the land dedicated for the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital. Source. HLRV, 14014001.

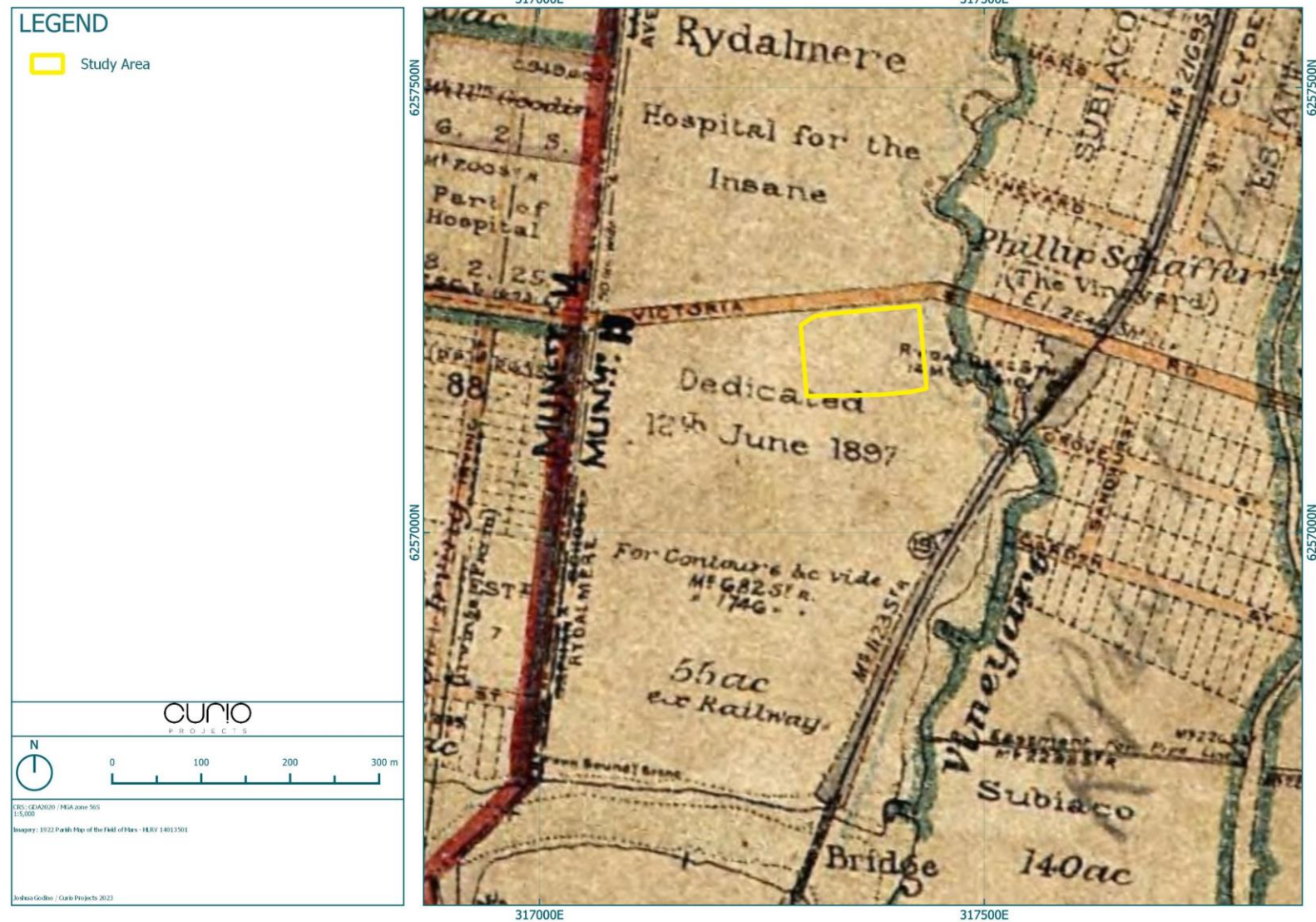


Figure 3-11: A 1922 Parish Map of the Field of Mars, showing the study area within the land dedicated for the Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane. Source. HLRV, 14013501.

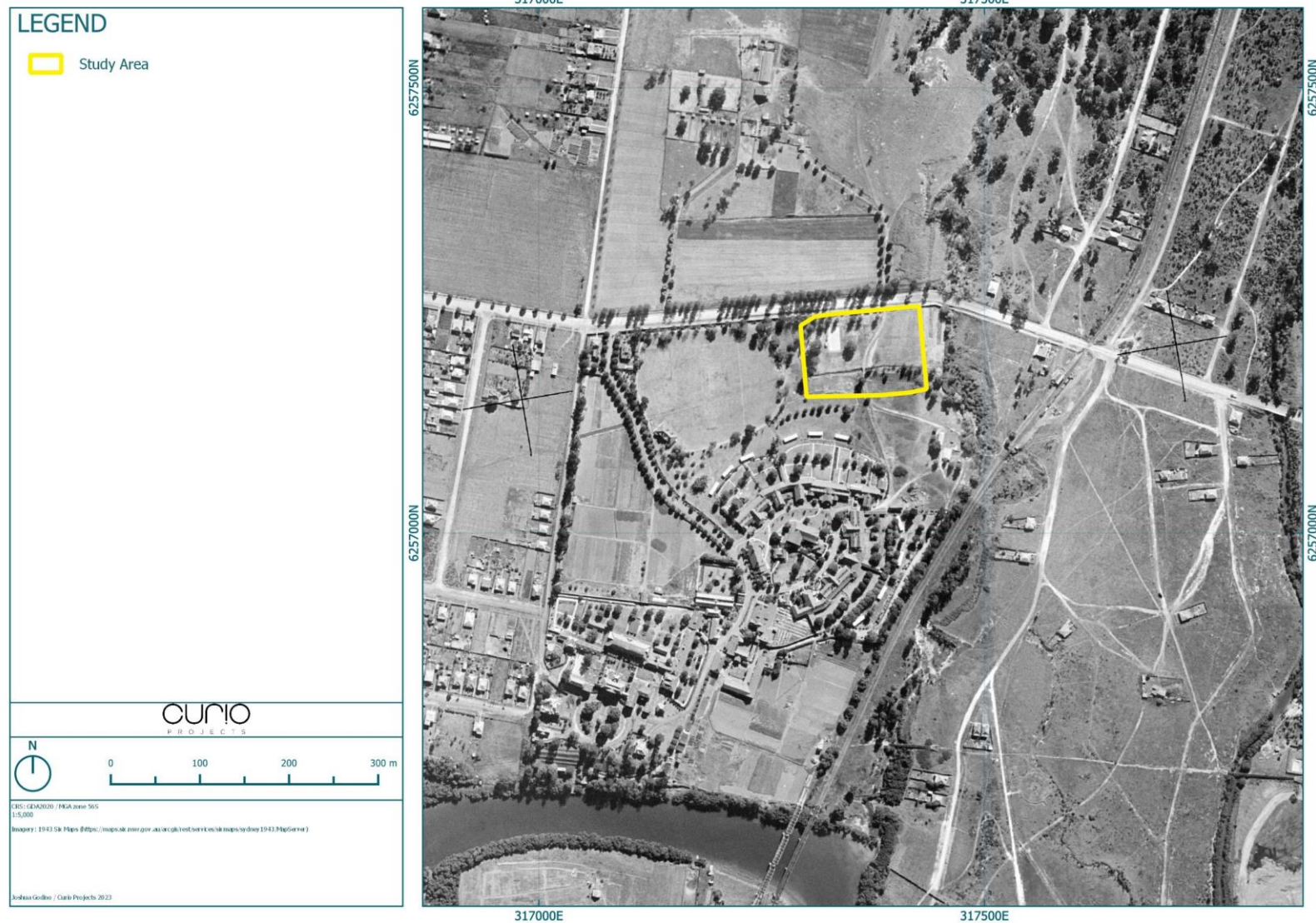


Figure 3-12: 1943 aerial photograph showing the study area to have been mostly cleared, with a road running roughly N-E, a tennis court, a fence along the north boundary, the drainage line discernible and trees visible. Note the retained tree near the centre of the study area. Source: SIX Maps.

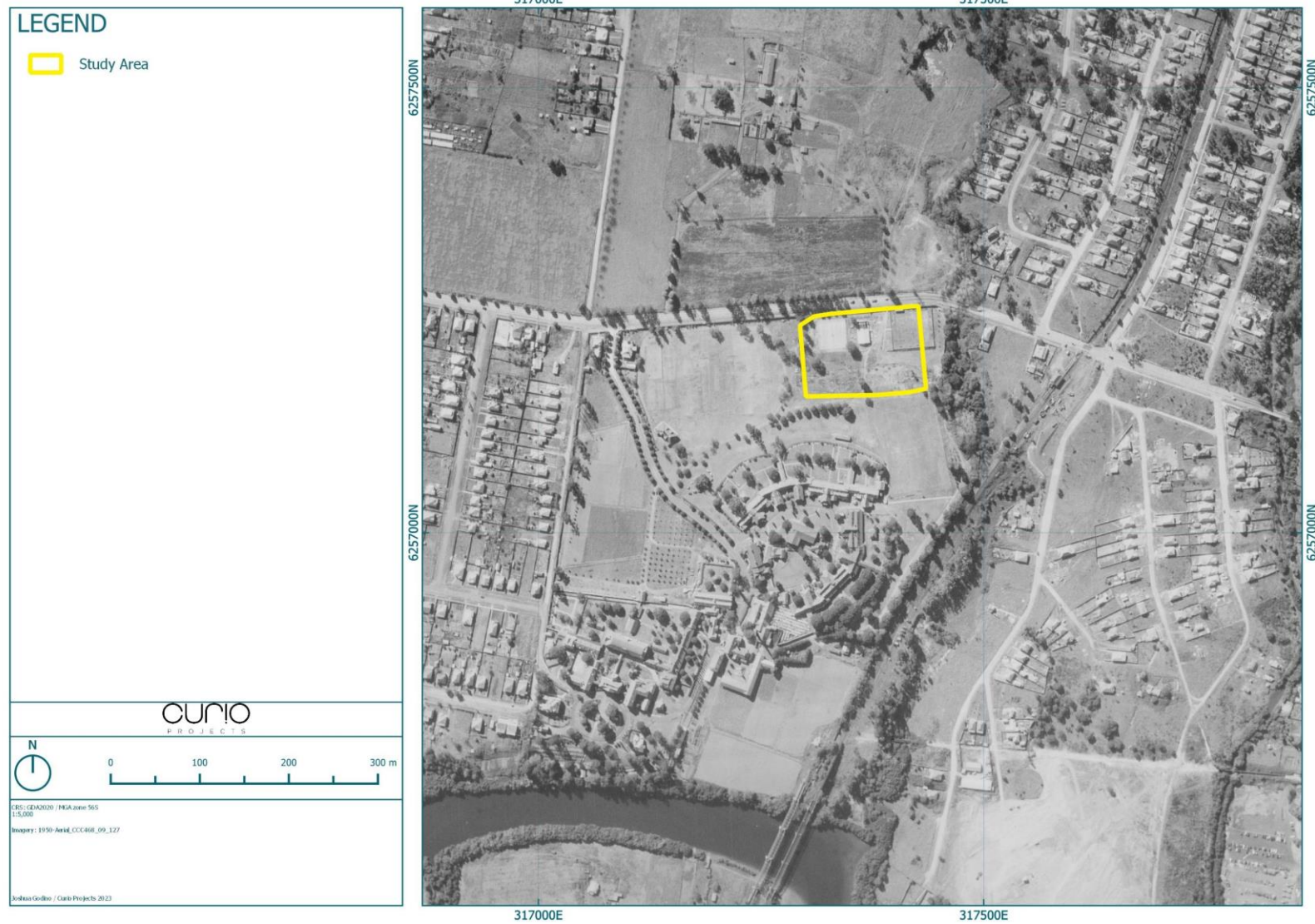


Figure 3-13: 1950 aerial photograph showing the study area with new buildings, fenced areas, tennis court and paths, with the drainage line partially infilled. Source. NSW Government Spatial Data Historical Imagery (SDHI).

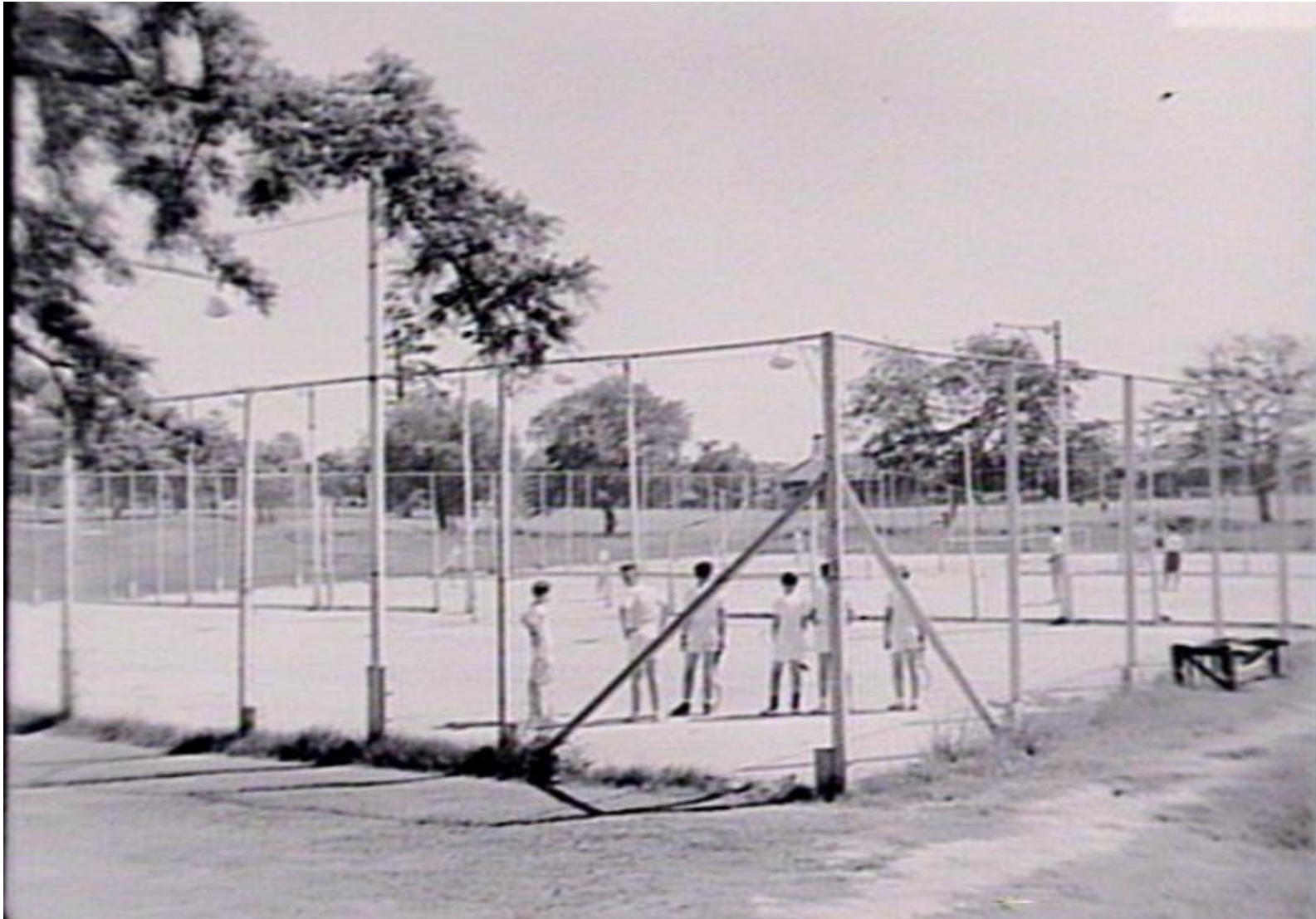


Figure 3-14: 1958 photograph of the former tennis court within the study area, comprising a paved surface with tall timber posts. View from north-eastern corner of the tennis court, looking south-west, with the cricket field in the background. Source. <https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/nX60pN8Y>

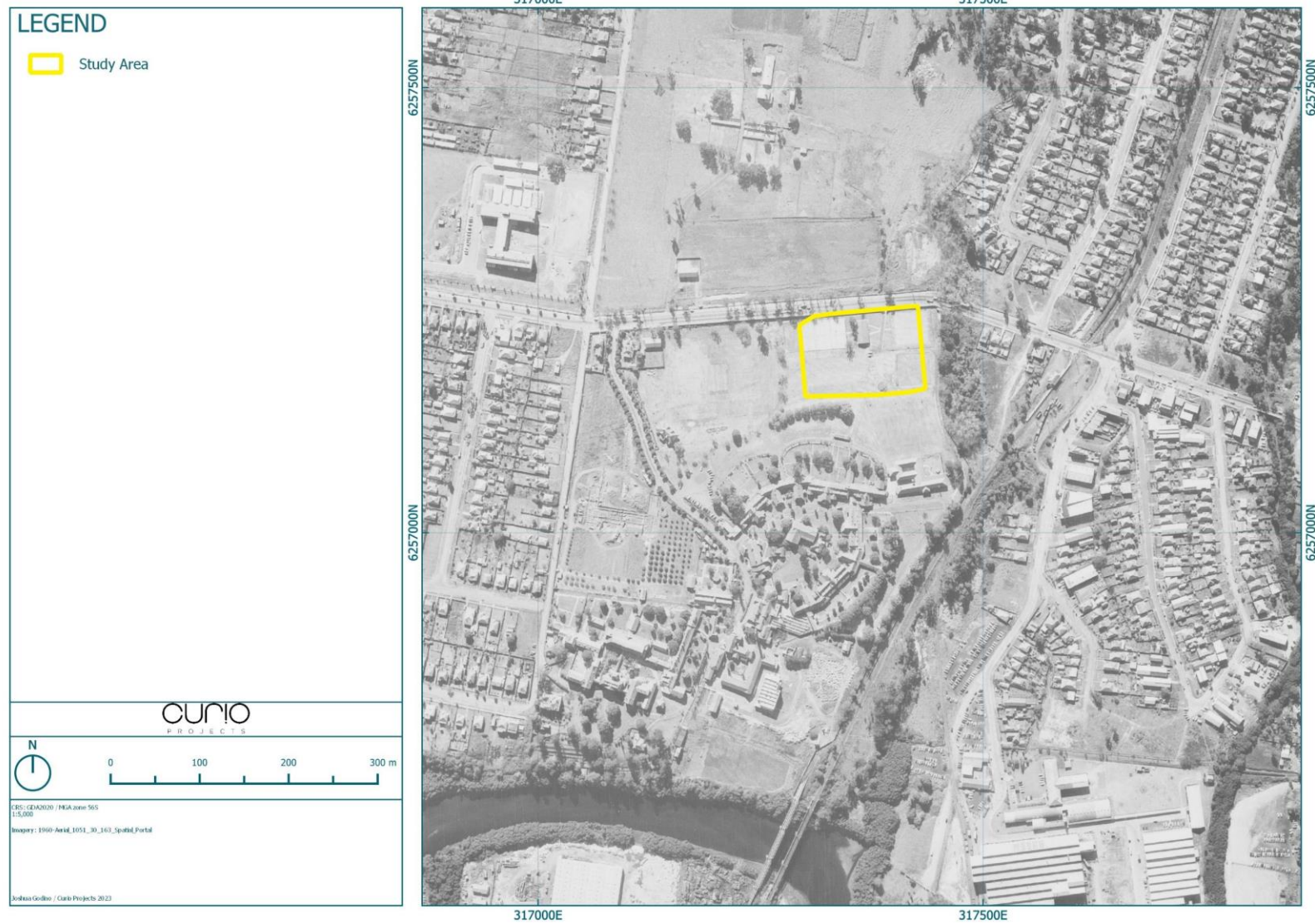


Figure 3-15: 1960 aerial photograph showing the study area to have been further cleared, the drainage line fully infilled, the tennis court extended, a paddock delineated in the south-eastern corner and the path realignment to have been completed. Source. NSW Government SDHI.



Figure 3-16: 1970 aerial photograph showing the extension of the path to the southern boundary of the study area, as well as the construction of the roads bounding the study area, including the overbridge access at the western end of the study area along Fifth Street. Source. NSW Government SDHI.



Figure 3-17: 1985 aerial photograph showing the addition of shade structures along the northern and southern sides of the tennis courts, the use of the area to the south of the courts for parking and an informal driveway between the southern boundary and the tennis courts. Source: NSW Government SDHI.



Figure 3-18: 1997 aerial photograph of the study area showing the recent construction of the carpark, the Co-Generation Plant Building (Eda) and landscaping. Source. NSW Government SDHI.



Figure 3-19: 2001 aerial photograph of the study area showing the completed carpark, the Co-Generation Plant Building (Eda) and landscaping. Source. NSW Government SDHI.



Figure 3-20: A c.2004 oblique aerial photograph showing the completed carpark, the Co-Generation Plant Building (Eda), grassed areas and small number of trees. The general location of the study area is shown highlighted in yellow. Source. Conybeare Morrison, 2008, Figure 1.1.



Figure 3-21: 2004 aerial photograph of the study area showing the extension of the carpark. Source. NSW Government SDHI.

3.7. Summary of Historical Context

As a result of the above historical summary, the following key post- 1788 historical phases for the study area have been identified:

- Arndell's Farm 1791 to 1810
- Female Orphan School 1810 to 1850
- Protestant Orphan School 1850 to 1887
- Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane 1888 to 1945
- Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital 1945 to 1989
- Site unoccupied 1989 to 1993
- University of Western Sydney 1993 to current

4. Physical Analysis

4. Physical Analysis

This chapter provides a detailed summary and physical analysis of the existing structures and features within the study area, as well as context and overview of the immediate surroundings, including places of importance essential to the understanding of the physical context of the site.

4.1. The Study Area

The study area is bounded by Victoria Road to the north, Railway Street to the east, Fifth Street to the south and the overbridge of Bridge Street to the west (Figure 4-1 to Figure 4-6). Further to the north of the study area is low-density disability housing run by the Department of Family and Community Services, to the east is a tributary of Parramatta River named Vineyard Creek, and to the south and west is the rest of the WSU Parramatta South Campus.

Concrete pedestrian paths run along the outside of the boundaries of the study area, with three concrete-lined pedestrian entrances at the north-eastern corner, south-western corner and southern side of the study area (Figure 4-1 to Figure 4-6). Two asphalted driveways along the southern boundary provide vehicular access to the study area from Fifth Street to the south. The foundation courses of a brick fence appear to run along the northern boundary (Figure 4-2).

The study area is approximately 1.33 ha in area and contains a carpark for the university, a Co-Generation Plant Building, concrete paths, curved brick wall, grassed areas and mature trees (Figure 4-1 to Figure 4-12). The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are lined with semi-mature c.2009 *Waterhousia floribunda* (weeping lilly pilly) and *Ficus microcarpa* var *hillii* (hills fig) trees; gaps in the boundary treeline are located in the north-eastern and north-western corners of the carpark and the centre of the southern boundary in the location of the access driveways. A remnant native woodland tree, a mature *Melaleuca decora* (white feather honey myrtle), is located within the centre of the study area, within the carpark, within a concrete-lined garden bed (Figure 4-11).

The western boundary of the study area is lined by an undulating curved stretcher-bonded brick retaining wall, raised grassed area and the c.2000 Co-Generation Plant Building (Figure 4-3). The Co-Generation Plant Building comprises an industrial single-storey, flat-roofed, metal-clad structure with two turbines partially screened by a metal fence to the south (Figure 4-3). The building is screened by semi-mature *Pittosporum undulatum* (sweet daphne) and *Acmena smithii* (lilly pilly) trees in raised garden beds along its northern, eastern and southern elevations, but is visible along its western elevation (Figure 4-2 and Figure 4-3). Access to the building is via the western driveway.

The grassed areas lining the boundaries of the study area are slightly raised above the surface of the asphalt carpark surface, forming a levelled shallow depression in the location of the carpark (Figure 4-7 to Figure 4-12). Although the roots of the semi-mature weeping lilly pilly and hills fig trees lining the boundaries have partly contributed to the raising of the grassed areas, it is unclear as to whether the carpark area has been excavated or if the boundaries have been raised, or a combination of the two. Aside from the raised borders, the landform is generally flat and characterised by a former alluvial plain adjacent to Vineyard Creek (Figure 4-1). The western boundary appears to have been artificially raised and excavated in the vicinity of the Co-Generation Plant Building, likely in association with the cricket ground and the abutments of the Bridge Street overbridge to the west (Figure 4-2 and Figure 4-3). Where ground surfaces are exposed in the grassed areas, soils are characterised by red-brown silt (Figure 4-10).

A sandstone and metal-clad Western Sydney University sign lined with river pebbles and brick paving is located in the north-eastern corner of the study area, while telegraph poles and lights line the northern boundary (Figure 4-1). Services cupboards and bins are located just to the south of the north-eastern corner of the study area (Figure 4-1).



Figure 4-1: View of the north-eastern corner of the study area from the northern side of Victoria Road, looking south-west. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.



Figure 4-2: View of the north-western corner of the study area from the southern side of Victoria Road, looking ESE. Source: Google, 2023.



Figure 4-3: View of the Co-Generation Plant Building from the south-western corner of the study area at the intersection of Bridge Street and Fifth Street, looking NNE. Source: Google, 2023.



Figure 4-4: View of the southern side of the study area from the southern side of Fifth Street, view north-east. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.



Figure 4-5: View of the south-eastern corner of the study area from the intersection of Railway Street and Fifth Street, view north-west. Source: Google, 2023.



Figure 4-6: View of the eastern boundary of the study area from the eastern side of Railway Street, view west. Source: Google, 2023.



Figure 4-7: View of the carpark within the study area from the north-eastern corner of the study area, view south-west. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.



Figure 4-8: View of the carpark from the south-western corner of the study area, view north-east. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.



Figure 4-9: View south-west towards the south-western corner of the carpark, showing the trees lining the study area boundary. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.



Figure 4-10: View along the southern boundary of the carpark within the study area, showing the trees lining the boundary. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.



Figure 4-11: The significant remnant woodland paperbark *Melaleuca decora* (white feather honey myrtle) tree near the centre of the study area towards the north-eastern entrance to the carpark. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.

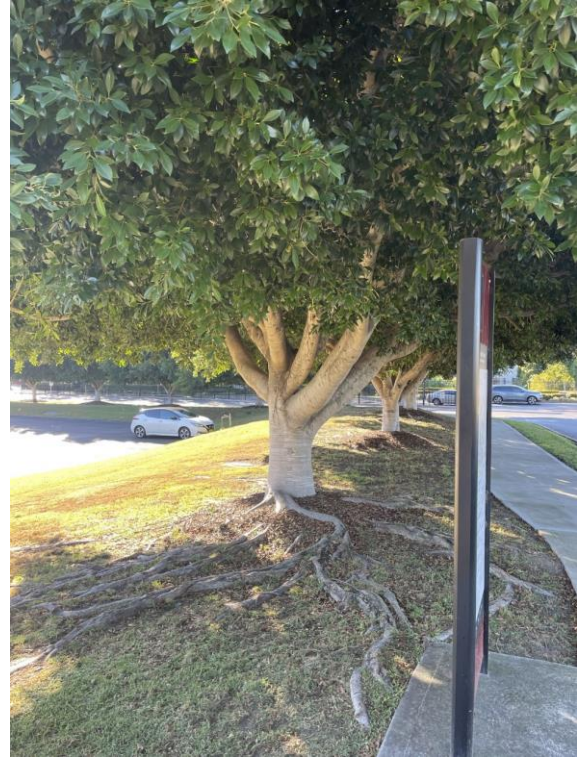


Figure 4-12: The c.2009 *Ficus microcarpa* var *hillii* (hills fig) trees lining the southern study area boundary, view east. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.

5. Historical Archaeological Assessment

5. Historical Archaeological Assessment

5.1. Introduction

The extent to which physical remains of past occupation may survive across any site is dependent on two main factors: firstly, the nature of the archaeological resource; and secondly, the nature and extent of subsequent development and modifications at a site that may have impacted the deposition or conservation of the archaeological resource. While each subsequent phase of development and occupation may contribute new deposits and features to the archaeological record, it may also remove or disturb deposits and features associated with previous phases of occupation.

5.1.1. Methodology

Archaeological potential

The potential for archaeological resources to survive in a landscape is significantly affected by the historical use of a site past ground disturbing activities. The following assessment of archaeological potential is based on the definitions presented in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2.

Table 5-1: Definitions of Archaeological Potential

Archaeological potential	Definition
High	A site where there is known occupation associated with the historical phase and proceeding ground disturbance has been minimal
Moderate	A site where there is some potential for archaeological relics associated with the historical phase to survive, though they may have been subject to some disturbance
Low	A site that has either been subject to little or no known historical development, or where levels of disturbance are so high that they may have removed all evidence of former structures. Unexpected or highly truncated/disturbed archaeological resources may survive, though this is unlikely
Nil	A site where there has been no known historical development or where impacts are significant, such as the construction of deep basements

Table 5-2: Definitions of Levels of Historical Disturbance

Level of Disturbance	Definition
Low	The site or feature has not been subject to activities that would have a major impact on the survival of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence may be largely intact.
Moderate	The site or feature has been subject to some activities that may have impacted on the survival of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence may survive, however it may be disturbed.
High	The site or feature has been subject to activities that are likely to have impacted on the survival of archaeological remains. Little archaeological evidence may survive, or it may be substantially destroyed.

Archaeological Significance

Determining the significance of a potential archaeological resource is carried out by utilising a system of assessment under seven criteria outlined in the 2013 *Burra Charter of Australia*.²⁸ In 2009, the Heritage Council of NSW endorsed criteria developed specifically to assist archaeologists determine the significance of archaeological sites and relics in consideration of the thresholds of significance at a local or State level.²⁹ Definitions of archaeological significance are presented in Table 5-3.

Table 5-3: Definitions of Archaeological Significance

Criterion	Definition
Archaeological Research Potential NSW Heritage Criterion E	Archaeological research potential is the ability of archaeological evidence, through analysis and interpretation, to provide information about a site that could not be derived from any other source, and which contributes to the archaeological significance of that site and its 'relics'.
Associations with individuals, events, or groups of historical importance NSW Heritage Criteria A, B, D	Archaeological remains may have associations with individuals, groups and events which may transform mundane places or objects into significant items through their relationship with important historical occurrences.
Aesthetic or technical significance NSW Heritage Criterion C	Whilst the technical value of archaeology is usually considered as 'research potential' aesthetic values are not usually considered to be relevant to archaeological sites. This is often because until a site has been excavated, its actual features and attributes may remain unknown. It is also because aesthetic is often interpreted to mean attractive, as opposed to the broader sense of sensory perception or 'feeling' as expressed in the Burra Charter.
Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F & G	Archaeological remains have an ability to demonstrate how a site was used, what processes occurred, how work was undertaken and the scale of an industrial practice or other historic occupation. They can demonstrate the principal characteristics of a place or process that may be rare or common.

5.2. Relevant Assessments

The following archaeological, management and heritage assessments have been carried out that are inclusive of the study area and will be used to inform this assessment of archaeological potential:

- Casey and Lowe, 2007. *Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus*
- Conybeare Morrison International, 2008. *University of Western Sydney Parramatta South Campus, CMP*. Prepared for Campus Development Unit, University of Western Sydney.
- Conybeare Morrison International, 2008. *University of Western Sydney Parramatta South Campus, Heritage Asset Management Strategy*. Prepared for Campus Development Unit, University of Western Sydney

²⁸ Australia ICOMOS, 2013, Burra Charter

²⁹ Heritage Branch Department of Planning, 2009, p11

- Godden Mackay Logan, 2000, *Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study*, Report for NSW Heritage Office

5.2.1. Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd, 2007, Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus

Casey & Lowe prepared an archaeological assessment of the WSU campus in 2007. The assessment identified two areas of differing archaeological potential and significance on the campus, namely, the Orphan School Precinct and the Surrounding Farmland (Figure 5-1). The ICoE study area is situated within the Surrounding Farmland precinct.

Relevant to this precinct, the assessment found that:

- *The surrounding farmlands associated with the Schools and Hospital are likely to contain remains such as cultivated/ploughed soils, field drains/ditches/gullies, field boundaries and pathways. These remains are not likely to be substantive and therefore are considered to have low archaeological potential.*
- *The potential remains within the Orphan School Precinct of the study area are considered to have State heritage significance. The remains in the surrounding farmlands are considered to be of lesser significance- high Local- because they are likely to be disturbed and/or ephemeral.³⁰*

³⁰ Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd, 2007, *Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus*, p i.



Figure 5-1: Detail of archaeological precinct map from Casey & Lowe 2007, p12, with Curio markup. Green indicated Orphan School Precinct, Yellow indicates Surrounding Farmland Precinct and ICoE study area shown in red.

5.2.2. Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus Rydalmere Conservation Management Plan

Conybeare Morrison prepared a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Rydalmere campus in 2008. Section 2.8 of the CMP included a consideration of the identified archaeological resources on the campus. The CMP drew on previous archaeological assessments for the Orphan School Precinct in particular, situated to the west of the current LoTF study area. The CMP noted that:

...each of the buildings, especially those within the Orphan School precinct, are potentially an archaeological site and are likely to contain relics that should be recorded prior to disturbance.³¹

The archaeology specific policies of the CMP are outlined in detail in Section 7.1.1.

5.2.3. Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus Rydalmere Heritage Asset Management Strategy

In 2008, Conybeare Morrison prepared a Heritage Asset Management Strategy for the Rydalmere campus. The high archaeological significance of the campus was summarised as follows:

³¹ Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus Rydalmere Conservation Management Plan, p17

The Orphan School site is one of the most important surviving sites of early British Settlement in Australia. It has been almost continuously occupied since 1792 and it has potential to retain remains from all phases of its use. Its design and function as a female orphanage is closely connected to Governor Macquarie and Mrs Macquarie, and also to early ecclesiastical and ruling elites.

Archaeological analysis and interpretation can provide evidence about the use and development of the place, the more information about the daily lives of the children, and conditions in which they lived and were educated. The original buildings and their immediate surroundings have the potential to provide more information about their original design and subsequent development and usage, and the changing attitudes to institutional care. The gardens within the precinct retain evidence of their original and changing design.

The old farmland surrounding the Orphan School precinct has limited ability to retain substantive archaeological remains, although any remains would contribute to knowledge about the development of the place.³²

The management strategy detailed that WSU are responsible for preparation of heritage assessments including consideration of archaeological resources for any future works.

5.2.4. Summary of findings in relation to the study area

Previous assessments inclusive of the study area have identified the following findings of relevance to archaeological potential:

- The location of the study area is likely to have low to moderate potential for locally significant archaeological relics, with potentially disturbed and/or ephemeral remains.
- There is some potential, albeit low, for undocumented State significant relics associated with the nearby Orphan School precinct.

5.3. Historical Overlays

An assessment of the historical context and identified occupation and building phases of the study area, as well as a detailed examination of historical maps, plans and aerials can aid in the preparation of an archaeological predictive model for an area. Table 5-4 below outlines any relevant features shown on historic plans and aerials, as shown in Section 3.

Table 5-4: Historical Overlays

Source	Year	Notes
Parish of St John County of Cumberland Figure 3-1	unknown	The study area is situated within the Field of Mars Common that comprises most of the area north of the Parramatta River. The common was used as open pasture and didn't contain any major development. No structures or features are indicated in the study area at this time.

³² Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, *University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus Rydalmere Heritage Asset Management Strategy*, p31

Source	Year	Notes
Plan of the Town of Parramatta-Brownrigg Figure 3-2	1844	The area surrounding the study area at this time is shown to be occupied by the Orphan School. The main school building is situated in the far-southwestern corner of the current WSU campus, approximately 130m west of the study area. No development, structures or features are indicated within the study area on this map.
Surveyor's Plan Figure 3-7	1893	The 1893 surveyors plan shows significant detail including contours, watercourses and site features associated with the Rydalmere school. The study area is situated just outside the boundary of the map.
Plan of northern end of Hospital Grounds Figure 3-9	1897-1924	This plan shows the northern end of the hospital grounds, with a drainage ditch, pond, culvert and fence line marked on the map within the study area. The area appears to be in use generally for animal grazing.
Aerial photograph Figure 3-12	1943	The 1943 aerial shows increased development across the school campus surrounding the study area, with several buildings constructed along the western boundary. The study area has been largely cleared by this time, with a tennis court situated in the north-western corner, a road running north-to south through the centre. The drainage line running east-west across the bottom of the site is visible at this time. Some mature trees dot the study area.
Aerial photograph Figure 3-13	1950	There have been further minor changes to the study area by 1950. These include the enlargement of the tennis court and the creation of a large fenced area in the north-eastern corner. A small rectangular structure is situated to the west of the road. The drainage line appears to have been partially filled in by this time.
Aerial photograph Figure 3-15	1960	By 1960, the study area had been further cleared and the drainage line fully infilled. The tennis court had been extended by this time and the surrounding area appears more landscaped.
Aerial photograph Figure 3-16	1970	Little had changed in the study area by 1970, but the surrounding roads had been constructed or formalised, including the Fifth Street overbridge outside the western boundary of the study area.
Aerial photograph Figure 3-17	1985	By the mid-1980s, new additions included shade structures along the northern and southern sides of the tennis courts, the use of the area to the south of the courts for parking and an informal driveway between the southern boundary and the tennis courts.
Aerial photograph Figure 3-18	1997	By 1997, the form of the study area resembled that of its current makeup. The majority of the site was comprised of an asphalted carpark, with a small structure to the west (Co-Generation Plant Building) and the extant melaleuca tree in the centre.
Aerial photograph Figure 3-21	2004	By 2004, the study area is in much the same formation as it exists today.

5.4. Known Impacts

As noted in the history and mapping of the study area, the ground surface of the area has been subject to general minimal deep ground disturbances throughout its historical use, with areas of localised higher impact. The site is located in an area that has been subject to landscape impacts associated with farming activities, which serve both as archaeological evidence associated with the

early farming use of land, and also may have lightly impacted undocumented historical archaeological activities.

Key site uses that may have impacted, removed or truncated archaeological deposits include:

- Ploughing and cultivation of fields
- Formalisation and infill of drainage line
- Ground levelling for construction of tennis courts and carpark
- Construction of plant building
- Excavation for services

Overall, the past disturbances within the study area may have had an impact on the extent, intactness and survivability of archaeological resources, although the site still retains potential for deeper resources and/or truncated archaeological remains below the known historical disturbances.

5.5. Summary of post-1788 land use

As illustrated in the historical context and mapped historical overlays, the study area has been subject to seven primary post-1788 land use phases, as presented in Table 5-5. Potential archaeological evidence of these post-1788 land use development and activities are also summarised in the table.

Table 5-5: Summary of development in the study area and associated potential archaeological resources.

Occupation phase	Period	Known land use and development	Potential archaeological resources
Phase 1 Arndell's Farm	1791 to 1810	Unknown exact uses. Presumed farming and land clearing activities, including possible vegetation clearance for grazing and informal development on the outskirts of the primary Sydney settlement.	Ephemeral evidence of informal land use such as clearing of vegetation (tree boles), landscape modification, fencelines, postholes, pathways, informal drainage systems, development and animal grazing. Potential for ancillary informal structures associated with Arndell's Farm not captured on historic plans. May include brick or stone footings, brick or stone cesspits, yard surfaces comprising of compacted earth, stone or brick flagging or paving, discreet refuse pits, or postholes associated with fencing, sheds or informal structures.
Phase 2 Female Orphan School	1810 to 1850	Used for orchards and vegetable garden.	Ephemeral evidence of informal land use such as clearing of vegetation (tree boles), landscape modification, informal development, field cultivation/ploughing, drainage (drains, ditches etc), fences and boundaries and pathways. Archaeological artefact deposits and/or refuse pits associated with the use of the study area and surrounds. Some potential for unrecorded structures such as a gardener's and superintendent's hut and accommodation for male and female convicts.

Occupation phase	Period	Known land use and development	Potential archaeological resources
Phase 3 Protestant Orphan School	1850 to 1887	Used for orchards and vegetable garden.	Ephemeral evidence of informal land use such as clearing of vegetation (tree boles), landscape modification, informal development, field cultivation/ploughing, drainage (drains, ditches etc), fences and boundaries and pathways. Archaeological evidence of construction/formalisation of the drainage line that runs E-W across the study area. Archaeological artefact deposits and/or refuse pits associated with the use of the study area and surrounds. Some potential for unrecorded structures such as a gardener's and superintendent's hut and ancillary structures.
Phase 4 Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane	1888 to 1945	Formalisation of drainage line/creek. Possible infill of drainage line and construction of pond. Significant landscaping at this time.	Archaeological resources may include earthworks including formalisation of the drainage line/creek that ran E-W through the centre of the study area. Archaeological evidence may also include the infilling of the drainage line and construction of a pond in the south-western corner of the study area, as well as a culvert leading into the pond. Archaeological artefact deposits and/or refuse pits associated with the use of the study area and surrounds. Ephemeral evidence of informal land use such as clearing of vegetation (tree boles), landscape modification, planting of crops, informal development, drainage (drains, ditches etc), fences and boundaries and pathways.

Occupation phase	Period	Known land use and development	Potential archaeological resources
Phase 5 Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital	1945 to 1989	Recreational use, construction of tennis courts, playing fields and bowling green. Partial infill of the drainage line and later construction of underground stormwater services. Construction of small building (possible shed) in northern half of study area.	Archaeological evidence of recreational use of the study area through construction and use of tennis courts, bowling green and playing field. Archaeological artefact deposits and/or refuse pits associated with the use of the study area and surrounds. Archaeological evidence may also include the infilling of the drainage line and construction of stormwater services. Ephemeral evidence of informal land use such as clearing of vegetation (tree boles), landscape modification, informal development, drainage (drains, ditches etc), fences and boundaries and pathways.
Phase 6 Site unoccupied	1989 to 1993	Site unoccupied.	Archaeological evidence of site dereliction including rubbish accumulations, building demolition and/or disrepair.
Phase 7 Western Sydney University	1993 to current	Carpark and plant building	Archaeological evidence of construction of carpark and plant building, including ground levelling and preparation, excavation for services, retaining and landscaping.

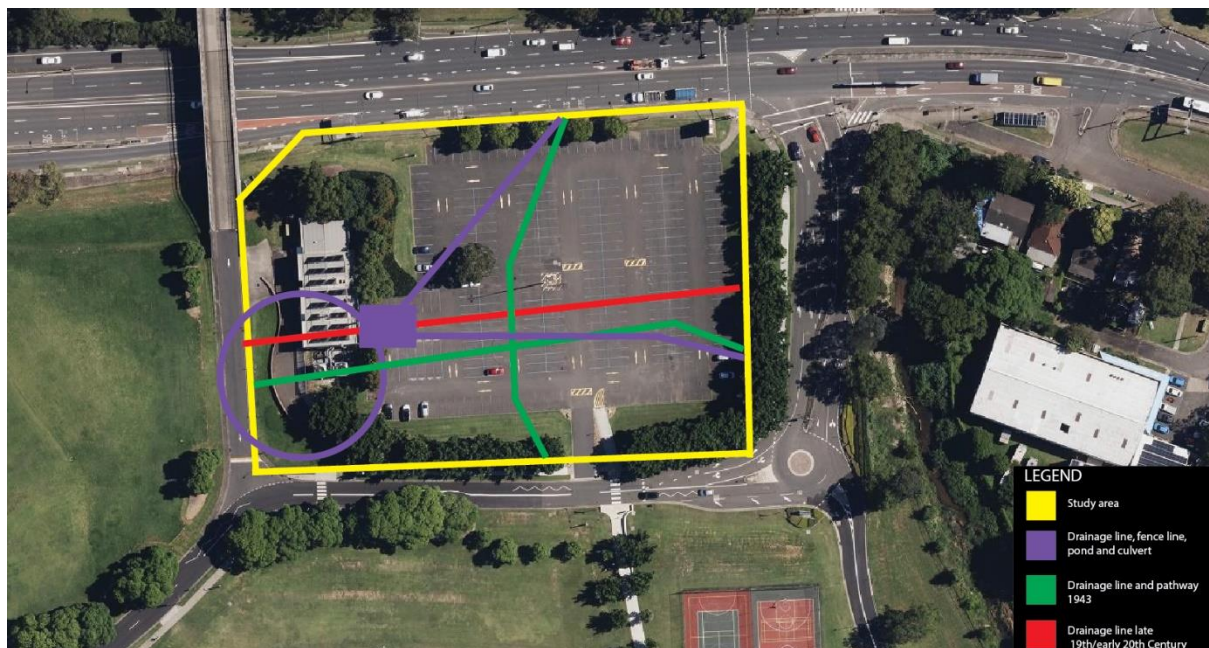


Figure 5-1: Compilation overlay showing phased developments within the study area based on archived maps. Yellow boundary represents study area, red indicates drainage line as shown on late 19th/early 20th Century plan of the Hospital grounds, purple represents drainage line, fence line, pond and culvert as shown on a late 19th/early 20th Century plan and green represents drainage and pathway as shown on 1943 aerial. Source: Curio 2024

5.6. Archaeological Potential

5.6.1. Assessment of Archaeological Potential

Table 5-6 presents an assessment of archaeological potential, guided by previous investigations, known occupation and impacts in the study area.

Table 5-6: Archaeological assessment

Occupation phase	Period	Assessment of Archaeological Potential
Phase 1 Arndell's Farm	1791 to 1810	Based on known land use and development, there is low potential for archaeological evidence of Phase 1 occupation to survive in the study area. Archaeological resources associated with this period would be highly ephemeral and fragile, for example tree boles associated with land clearing and are unlikely to have survived later development activities.
Phase 2 Female Orphan School	1810 to 1850	Based on known land use and development, there is low potential for archaeological evidence of Phase 2 occupation to survive in the study area. Archaeological resources associated with this period would likely be highly ephemeral and fragile, for example tree boles associated with land clearing, evidence of land cultivation, postholes, fence lines and informal drainage networks. There is a low potential for evidence of unrecorded structures and associated material culture from this phase. Overall, given it's likely fragile nature, archaeological evidence associated with Phase 2 is likely to have been disturbed and/or removed by modern land use and construction within the study area.
Phase 3 Protestant Orphan School	1850 to 1887	Based on known land use and development, there is low to moderate potential for archaeological evidence of Phase 3 occupation to survive in the study area, primarily, evidence of the formalisation of the drainage line that runs E-W across the study area, pathways, fencelines and other associated farming activities.. Generally, archaeological resources associated with this period would be highly ephemeral and fragile, similar to the features noted in Phase 1 and Phase 2. There is a low potential for evidence of unrecorded structures and associated material culture from this phase. Overall, given it's likely fragile nature archaeological evidence associated with Phase 3 is likely to have been disturbed by modern land use and construction within the study area but has the potential to remain truncated below historical disturbance levels.
Phase 4 Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane	1888 to 1945	Based on known land use and development, there is a low to moderate potential for archaeological evidence of Phase 4 use (in particular the culvert, pond and drainage line) to survive within the study area below levels of modern disturbance.

Occupation phase	Period	Assessment of Archaeological Potential
Phase 5 Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital	1945 to 1989	Based on known land use and development, there is a low to moderate potential for archaeological evidence of Phase 5 use (in particular infill of the pond and drainage line and construction of recreational features) to survive within the study area below levels of modern disturbance.
Phase 6 Site unoccupied	1989 to 1993	Based on known land use and development, there is a low potential for archaeological evidence of Phase 6 use to survive within the study area.
Phase 7 Western Sydney University	1993 to current	Phase 7 buildings and features are still present and in use within the study area.

5.7. Assessment of Archaeological Significance

The following assessment of archaeological significance is based on known occupation and development in the study area.

Table 5-7: Consideration of Questions of Research Potential after Bickford and Sullivan 1984

Research Potential	Assessment
Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?	The study area has the potential to contribute unique historic archaeological information, which can complement previous archaeological work in the Parramatta area. The study area will contribute archaeological information that may be compared and contrasted to these sites already investigated. This information has the potential to contribute towards answering questions about the initial establishment and development of agriculture in the colony. If archaeological remains associated with the school and hospital phases of the study area survive in intact archaeological contexts within the study area, they would be considered to provide information that may illustrate or contribute knowledge associated with the historic themes of religion, social institution, sport, education and health.
Can the site contribute knowledge which no other site can?	

Research Potential	Assessment
Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?	The potential archaeological information gathered from the study area may be able to demonstrate address general research questions relating to occupation patterns, agricultural pursuits, medical treatment and schooling, expressed through the material culture, typical of the early nineteenth to early twentieth century colony, but also unique to the study area, with potential to supplement the existing knowledge of the Parramatta area and provide new insight into the past. Comprehensive research questions would be developed in preparation of a research design, however such research questions may include: *Is there any evidence of early farming practices or occupation within the study area? *Is there evidence of land modification of the study area beyond that of the formalisation of the drainage line? *What is the manner of formalisation or construction of the drainage line and pond? *Is the formalisation of drainage within the study area representative of other known land modification in the Parramatta area? *Is there evidence that the formalisation of the drainage line and construction of the pond was for aesthetic, as well as practical drainage purposes? *Does the material culture at the site specifically reflect any relevant historical themes? *Does evidence of material culture, artefacts or archaeological contexts show association with a particular group or behaviour within the study area?

Table 5-8: Assessment of Archaeological Significance

Occupation phase	Period	Assessment of Archaeological Significance
Phase 1 Arndell's Farm	1791 to 1810	In the unlikely event that potential archaeological resources associated with the Phase 1 were encountered in the study area, they may meet the threshold for local or State significance under NSW Heritage Criteria A, B and D. Potential archaeological resources would be highly ephemeral in nature and represent ubiquitous land use activities such as vegetation clearing and the erection of fences. Potential Phase 1 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local or State significance.

Occupation phase	Period	Assessment of Archaeological Significance
Phase 2 Female Orphan School	1810 to 1850	In the unlikely event that potential archaeological resources associated with the Phase 2 were encountered in the study area, they may meet the threshold for local or State significance under NSW Heritage Criteria A, B and D. Potential archaeological resources would be highly ephemeral in nature and represent ubiquitous land use activities such as vegetation clearing and the erection of fences. Potential Phase 2 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local or State significance.
Phase 3 Protestant Orphan School	1850 to 1887	Archaeological resources associated with Phase 3 may meet the threshold for local significance under NSW Heritage Criteria A, B and D. Potential archaeological resources may be highly ephemeral in nature and represent ubiquitous land use activities such as vegetation clearing and the erection of fences or may be distinct features of high integrity such as culverts and formalised drainage. Potential Phase 3 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local significance.
Phase 4 Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane	1888 to 1945	Potential archaeological resources associated with Phase 4 may meet the threshold for local significance under NSW Heritage Criteria A, B and D. Potential archaeological resources may be in the form of infill of the drainage line and pond and associated material culture. Potential Phase 4 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local significance.
Phase 5 Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital	1945 to 1989	Potential archaeological resources associated with Phase 5 may meet the threshold for local significance under NSW Heritage Criteria A, B and D. Potential archaeological resources may be in the form of infill of the drainage line and pond, use of the site for recreational purposes and associated material culture. Potential Phase 5 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local significance.
Phase 6 Site unoccupied	1989 to 1993	Potential Phase 6 evidence of site use/activity would not meet the threshold for local or State significance.
Phase 7 Western Sydney University	1993 to current	Phase 7 buildings and features are still present and in use within the study area and are not considered in this assessment of significance. Potential Phase 7 evidence of site use/activity would not meet the threshold for local or State significance.

5.7.1. Summary of Archaeological Potential and Significance in the Study Area

Table 5-9 summarises the non-Aboriginal potential and significance of the study area as assessed in this document.

Table 5-9: Summary of Archaeological Potential and Significance

Occupation phase	Period	Archaeological Potential	Archaeological Significance
Phase 1 Arndell's Farm	1791 to 1810	Low	Potential Phase 1 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local or State significance.
Phase 2 Female Orphan School	1810 to 1850	Low	Potential Phase 2 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local or State significance.
Phase 3 Protestant Orphan School	1850 to 1887	Low to Moderate	Potential Phase 3 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local significance.
Phase 4 Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane	1888 to 1945	Low to Moderate	Potential Phase 4 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local significance.
Phase 5 Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital	1945 to 1989	Low to Moderate	Potential Phase 5 archaeological resources may reach the threshold for local significance.
Phase 6 Site unoccupied	1989 to 1993	N/A	N/A
Phase 7 Western Sydney University	1993 to current	N/A	N/A

5.8. Statement of Archaeological Research Significance

The study area retains the potential to contribute unique historic archaeological information should it be present, which can complement previous archaeological work in Parramatta. The study area may contribute archaeological information that may be compared and contrasted to these sites already investigated.

The potential archaeological information gathered from the study area may be able to demonstrate practices relating to occupation patterns, agricultural pursuits, medical treatment and schooling,

expressed through the material culture, typical of the early nineteenth to early twentieth century colony, but also unique to the study area, with potential to supplement the existing knowledge of the Parramatta area and provide new insight into the past.

6. Proposed Works

6. Proposed Works

6.1. Proposed Development

The proposal involves demolition of the existing carpark and construction of a four-storey Indigenous Centre of Excellence building encompassing:

- Ground level facilities, including but not limited to; a dedicated arrival area, outdoor amphitheater, cinema and lecture theatre, performance space, artist studios and exhibition space. Associated workspaces, meeting areas, lounge areas and other amenities are to be provided throughout the ground floor.
- First floor level upwards comprising dedicated educational facilities including library facilities, learning areas and teaching spaces.
- Second floor level comprising staff / student foyer, offices, meeting rooms and collaboration spaces.
- Third floor level comprising a multi-functional recreational sports court, with associated ancillary amenities, alongside an astronomy garden.
- Roof level plant and services.
- Construction of internal driveway with hardstand area to provide 13 car parking spaces.

The works are illustrated within the architectural drawings prepared by Jackson Clements Burrows Architects and the scope of works relevant to an assessment of potential archaeological impact are summarised in more detail below. Plans relevant to potential archaeological impact are shown in Figure 6-1.

6.1.1. Earthworks

The proposed works involve bulk excavation of much of the study area for:

- Ground levelling
- Drainage
- Site preparation
- Installation of new services

6.1.2. Construction

The proposed construction scope of works comprises:

- Construction of new four-storey structure
- Construction of internal driveway

6.1.3. Landscaping

The scope of landscaping works comprises:

- Landscaping works to provide outdoor educational and recreational spaces.
- Hard and soft landscaping with entirely indigenous plants.
- Nature play areas.
- Wetland areas

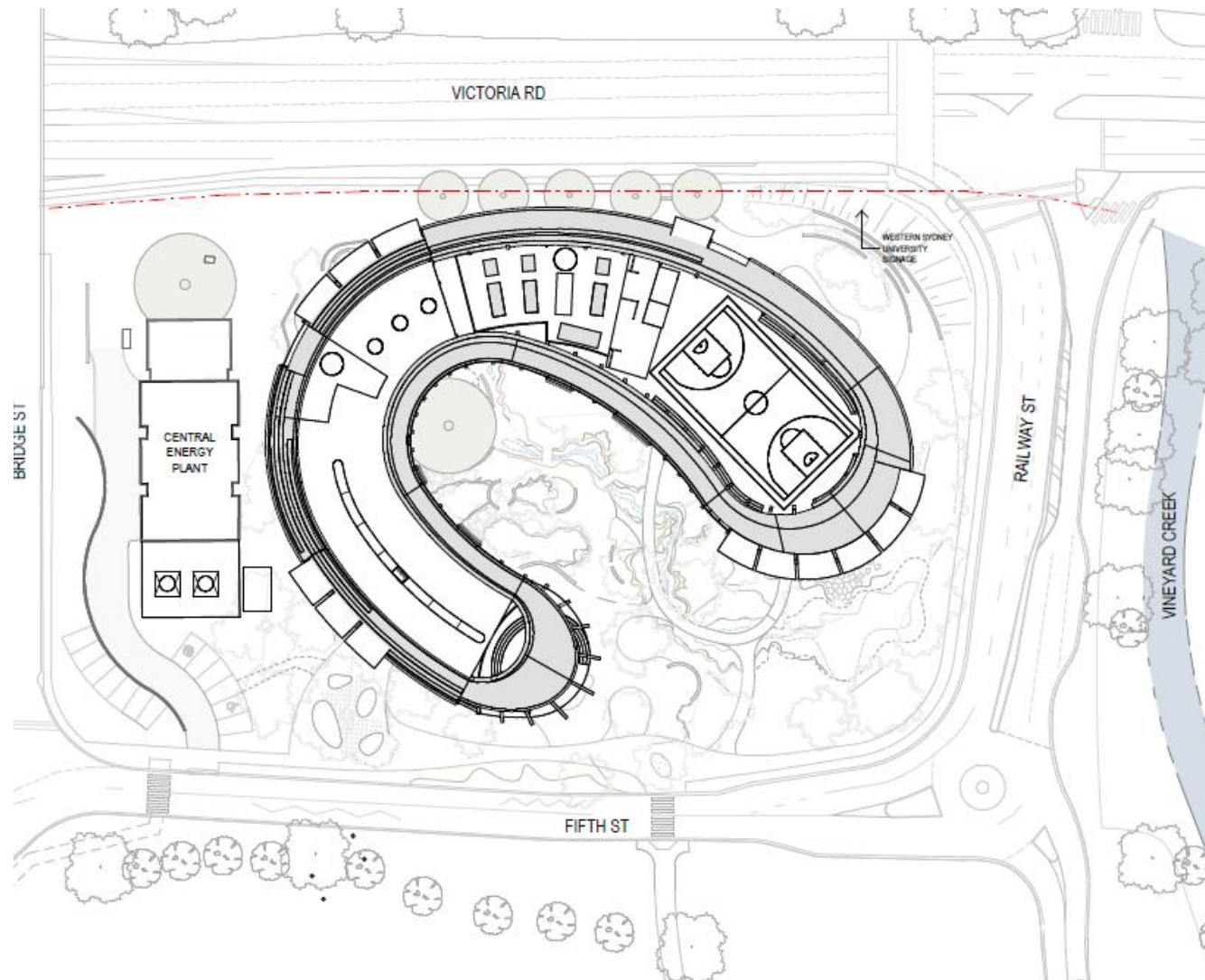


Figure 6-1: Proposed site plan, with bulk excavation across entire study area for site preparation. Source: Jackson Clements Burrows Architects



Figure 6-2: Aerial view of the proposed building. Source: Jackson Clements Burrows Architects

7. Archaeological Impact Assessment

7. Archaeological Impact Assessment

7.1. Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment

The following sections assess the potential impact of the proposed works against relevant considerations and policies.

7.1.1. Conservation Management Plan Policies

The potential of the proposed works to impact an archaeological resource is assessed below in consideration of the relevant policies of the CMP for the campus (Table 7-1).

Table 7-1: Relevant CMP Policies from Conybeare Morrison 2008

CMP Policies ³³	Detail	Discussion
2.17	<i>Heritage Council policy required sites of State significance to be retained in situ. Therefore, impacts should be designed as much as possible to avoid disturbing significant archaeological remains.</i>	As identified in this assessment, the potential for State significant archaeological remains is considered to be generally low due to limited historical development within the study area. Where archaeological remains are considered likely to be present, these have been assessed to be likely to meet threshold of local heritage significance. Accordingly, the proposed works are considered unlikely to impact State significant archaeological remains.
2.19	<i>A s60 approval from the NSW Heritage Council should be obtained before the commencement of site works that might disturb areas of parts of building fabric within the Orphan School precinct or buildings associated with the orphanage period. The application will need to include an archaeological research design and identify appropriate methodology to record any archaeological remains.</i>	The study area is situated outside of the identified Orphan School Precinct, and within an area that has assessed low potential to contain ephemeral remains associated with this phase of historic use.
2.20	<i>The works should be monitored by the archaeologist, especially where the works include disturbance of the ground levels under or around the original Orphan School buildings, particularly those buildings not yet refurbished. Localised stop work provisions may be necessary.</i>	As above, the study area is situated outside of the identified Orphan School Precinct, and within an area that has assessed low to moderate potential to contain ephemeral remains associated with this phase of historic use. Archaeological monitoring and localised testing is recommended for the study area.

³³ Conybeare Morrison, 2008a, p52

CMP Polices ³³	Detail	Discussion
2.21	<i>Any excavation proposed within the State Heritage Register curtilage will require prior approval under section 57 (1) of the Heritage Act 1977, depending on the archaeological potential of the subject site and heritage significance.</i> <i>The site works associated with the new buildings situated within the 'Surrounding Farmland' areas should be subject to the following:</i> <i>*Works associated with new building SB12 and SB13 will impact on agricultural areas associated with the Orphan School. These areas should be subject to a sampling methodology which allows for the layout for the vineyards and orchards to be recorded. This would involve test trenching, particularly for SB12 and 13, to reveal evidence of plantings, fencing, drainage etc. Soil samples should be taken for pollen analysis and other soil properties.</i> <i>*works associated with other new buildings SB1 to 9 do not appears to impact on known archaeological remains and therefore do not require monitoring unless possible archaeological remains are exposed during site works.</i>	This assessment has found a low potential for State significant archaeological relics, and a generally low to moderate potential for locally significant resources. The study area is situated around previously proposed buildings 1 and 2 which as per the CMP, does not require archaeological monitoring unless unexpected finds are identified. However, Curio recommend that a monitoring and sampling methodology be implemented to attempt to identify early farming practices and early use of the site. Further, Curio recommend that archaeological test excavation to any ground disturbing works in the area of the culvert, where the drainage line and pond meet. As the works are being assessed under an SSDA, a s60 is not required (following SSDA approval), however an Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology should be prepared and submitted to Heritage NSW for approval to guide the works.
2.22	<i>Results of archaeological recording must be submitted in a written report to the Heritage Office. Standard conditions require the cataloguing of all artefacts recovered during the archaeological program and their long-term storage, a response to the identified research questions and an archival photographic record.</i> <i>As archaeological discovery and monitoring will involve time and money, it is essential for the University to allow for contingency in terms of budgets and construction programming.</i>	Results of any archaeological work undertaken within the study area would be documented and submitted to Heritage NSW. Any material culture would be collected, analysed and archived appropriately.
2.24	<i>If the archaeological remains associated with Aboriginal occupation of the area are discovered then the National Parks and Wildlife Service will need to be informed.</i>	The potential Aboriginal archaeological resources and cultural value of the study area is assessed in Curio Projects, 2024, <i>Indigenous Centre of Excellence, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report</i> (ACHAR), currently in preparation.

7.1.2. Statement of Heritage Impact Questions

The potential of the proposed works to impact an archaeological resource is assessed below in consideration of the relevant questions from the Heritage Division's (now Heritage NSW, DPC) *Guidelines for Statements of Heritage Impact* (2023) (Table 7-2).

Table 7-2: Statement of Heritage Impact Questions

Heritage consideration	Discussion
Is the addition sited on any known, or potentially significant archaeological deposits?	Yes. The study area has been assessed to have a low potential to contain significant archaeological resources associated with the earliest phases of its use, including as part of Andell's Farm and the Female Orphan School (Phases 1-2). The study area has been found to have a low to moderate potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with later phases of use, namely, the Protestant Orphan School, Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane and Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital (Phases 3, 4 and 5). Archaeological resources associated with these phases have the potential to be preserved below historical disturbance, in particular, the formalised drainage line, culvert and pond in the centre of the study area. Overall, the subsurface disturbance within the study area is considered to be low, with potential for surviving archaeological remains below localised levels of impact.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1. Conclusions

Overall, the subsurface disturbance within the study area is considered to be low, with potential for surviving archaeological remains below localised levels of impact.

In summary, the study area has been assessed to have a low potential to contain significant archaeological resources associated with the earliest phases of its use, including as part of Andell's Farm and the Female Orphan School (Phases 1-2).

The study area has been found to have a low to moderate potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with later phases of use, namely, the Protestant Orphan School, Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane and Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital (Phases 3, 4 and 5). Archaeological resources associated with these phases have the potential to be preserved below historical disturbance, in particular, the formalised drainage line, culvert and pond in the centre of the study area.

The significance of archaeological resources likely to be found, if found, ranges from local to State level as detailed in the report. As a result, there is a recommendation for further archaeological consideration and investigation as outlined in Section 8.2 Recommendations.

8.2. Recommendations

In accordance with the above conclusions, the following recommendations are made:

Recommendation 1: Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology

An Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology (ARD +EM) should be developed and submitted to Department of Planning and referred to Heritage NSW for approval to guide the works.

The ARD should contain an excavation methodology (i.e. test trenches, open area excavation, monitoring or a combination of techniques), nominate an historical archaeological Excavation Director, identify Research Design questions, and provide recommendations for post-excavation reporting and management of the artefacts recovered from the works.

Recommendation 2: Test Excavation

An archaeological test excavation trench should be excavated in the area of archaeological sensitivity, focused on the location of the culvert, drainage line and pond.

An additional targeted, 2-3 sample test trenches using machine excavation, to test the integrity, intactness and extent of any potential early phases of site use should be undertaken prior to bulk excavation works in areas identified as having potential to contain relics of local or State significance, in order to confirm the predicted intactness of the archaeological resource.

The test excavation should be guided by the ARD + EM and in consultation with Heritage NSW.

Recommendation 3: Archaeological Monitoring

All ground disturbing works should be subject to archaeological monitoring to identify any ephemeral archaeological features that may be impacted during works.

Recommendation 4: Unexpected Finds Procedure

An Unexpected Finds and Stop Works Procedure should be developed and implemented for all other works within the study area.

Recommendation 5: Additional Works

Any additional subsurface impacts not presented in Section 6 of this document may need to be assessed in an addendum to this report.

References

References

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